

Topological changes associated with magnetic reconnection during Kelvin-Helmholtz instability at the Earth's Magnetopause

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http://science.nasa.gov

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One hour of high resolution data from MMS 1, 2, 3, and 4, during a Kelvin-Helmholtz event New physics: KH with the accuracy of MMS



Orbits visualization: 3D view http://3dview.cdpp.eu

Reconnection and KH

- Signature of reconnection in rolled-up KHI (Hasegawa et al., 2004, 2009)
- Type I and II: tailward and forward edges reconnections (Nakamura et al, 2011)
- Mid-latitude (Faganello et al., 2014)



MMS direct evidence of reconnection by exhaust signature (Type I)

22 exhausts signature out of 42 current sheets

Eriksson et al., 2016



Mid-latitude reconnection:

Tearing of field lines at the equatorial plane triggers reconnection at mid-latitude



Local KH Reconnection Geometry



Parallel or Anti-parallel electrons boundary layer measured depending on the relative position of the SC to the X-line









Example 3/4 : Exhaust with V_L > 0 , anti-parallel electron boundary layer and simultaneous parallel population





Example 4/4 : Exhaust with V_L < 0 , parallel electron boundary layer and later bidirectional populations



Magnetosphere





Example 4/4 : Exhaust with V_L < 0 , parallel electron boundary layer and later bidirectional populations



Statistical results

- 86% of ion exhaust observed by Eriksson et al. (29 over 42), 2016 confirmed with leaking out electrons (25 over 29)
- 87% (34 over 39 magnetosheath crossings) presented secondary electron boundary layer in the magnetosheath
- 59% (20 over 34) presented secondary ion boundary layers

Conclusion

- Confirmation of observed exhaust with the electron boundary layer
- Confirmation of reconnection at mid-latitude with ions and electron signatures
- Multiple field line topologies around the KHI, including mixing of multiple population due to reconnection