Particle acceleration at a reconnecting magnetic separator

James Threlfall, Thomas Neukirch, Clare Parnell, and Solmaz Eradat Oskoui
United Kingdom (jwt9@st-andrews.ac.uk)

We present first results of test particle orbit calculations in a time-dependent electro-magnetic field configuration which models separator reconnection in three dimensions. The test particle orbits are calculated using the relativistic guiding-centre approximation. The test particles are accelerated to high kinetic energies by the parallel electric field generically associated with three-dimensional magnetic reconnection, with the final energy depending on the choice of model parameters. We will discuss how the test-particle orbits and the energy gain depend on the initial conditions, and how observations (for example, of solar flares) may be used to constrain our model parameters.