Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 19, EGU2017-10753, 2017 EGU General Assembly 2017 © Author(s) 2017. CC Attribution 3.0 License.



Observation of Parallel Electric Fields in a Reconnecting Magnetosheath Current Sheet

Frederick Wilder (1), Robert Ergun (1,2), Stefan Eriksson (1), Narges Ahmadi (1), Katherine Goodrich (1,2), Tai Phan (3), David Newman (4), Karlheinz Trattner (1), James Burch (5), Roy Torbert (6), Barbara Giles (7), and Robert Strangeway (8)

(1) Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, United States (frederick.wilder@lasp.colorado.edu), (2) Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, United States, (3) UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, United States, (4) Department of Physics, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, United States, (5) Southwest Research Institute, Space Science and Engineering Division, San Antonio, TX, United States, (6) University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, United States, (7) NASA/GSFC, Greenbelt, MD, United States, (8) UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, United States

We present observations of symmetric reconnection in the Earth's magnetosheath by the Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission. The observed event has a guide field of 0.5 times the reconnecting magnetic field. The observations suggest that three of the four spacecraft encountered an electron jet in the direction of the magnetic field reversal, as well as hall magnetic field and electric field signatures. Coincident with the electron jet is enhanced dissipation of approximately 8 nW/m² and a parallel electric field of -4 mV/m. The parallel electric field is associated with electron phase space holes, suggesting that it is accelerating electrons in the electron jet.