



Properties and Periodicities of Reconnection Events in the Jovian Magnetotail

Marissa Vogt (1,2), Margaret Kivelson (1,2), Krishan Khurana (1), Steven Joy (1,2), Raymond Walker (1,2)

(1) Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, UCLA, United States (marissav@ucla.edu), (2) Department of Earth and Space Sciences, UCLA, United States

Dynamics at Jupiter, including flow bursts, reconfiguration events, and auroral polar dawn spots, have been observed to occur with a 2-3 day periodicity. Is this periodicity always present? Is the 2-3 day timescale characteristic of internal processes driving reconnection in the Jovian magnetotail? To address these questions we have searched for a statistically significant periodicity in reconnection events identified in magnetometer data from the Jovian magnetotail. These events were identified with a set of quantitative criteria requiring an increase to B_{θ} , the north-south component of the magnetic field, over background levels. We will summarize the properties of our reconnection events, including their location and frequency and the likely location of a reconnection x-line. We have also examined our events for evidence of statistically significant periodic signals by using the Rayleigh power spectrum, which can be used to determine whether a statistically significant periodic signal is present among the occurrence times of discrete events. The 2-3 day recurrence period is visually evident in our events for specific intervals or orbits, and in some cases the Rayleigh power spectrum also peaks for periods between 2 and 3 days. However, we will show that there is no statistically significant periodicity at the 2-3 day time scale in the complete Galileo dataset. The 2-3 day periodicity is therefore not a dominant characteristic of internal processes driving reconnection in the Jovian magnetotail.