Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 21, EGU2019-8701, 2019 EGU General Assembly 2019 © Author(s) 2019. CC Attribution 4.0 license.



Electron acceleration in the reconnection outflow region using MMS data

Andris Vaivads (1), Elin Eriksson (1,2), Love Alm (1), Daniel B. Graham (1), Yuri V. Khotyaintsev (1), Mats André (1), Barbara L. Giles (3), Christopher T. Russell (4), Roy B. Torbert (5), Robert E. Ergun (6), Per-Arne Lindqvist (7), and James L. Burch (8)

(1) Swedish Institute of Space Physics, Uppsala, Sweden (andris.vaivads@gmail.com), (2) Space and Plasma Physics, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden, (3) NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA, (4) University of California, Los Angeles, California, USA, (5) University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, USA, (6) Laboratory of Atmospheric and Space Physics, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, USA, (7) KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, (8) Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, Texas, USA

We analyze in details Magnetospheric MultiScale observations from a single reconnection outflow region in magnetotail. We estimate the power of three fundamental electron acceleration mechanisms: Fermi acceleration, betatron acceleration, and acceleration due to parallel electric fields. The dominant acceleration mechanism is Fermi acceleration with a peak value of 210 pW m-3. Betatron acceleration has a peak value of 72 pW m-3, but on average it is close to zero and slightly negative. The acceleration due to parallel electric field is significantly smaller than Betatron and Fermi, but the large error in the parallel electric field measurement does not allow any further conclusions. There is a strong variation in the acceleration power of the order of seconds. The curvature during the most intense Fermi acceleration is comparable to electron gyroradius, consistent with efficient electron scattering.