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First results from NASA's
Magnetospheric Multiscale
(MMS) Mission

Key Points:

- Magnetosheath electrons enter magnetosphere and magnetospheric electrons escape due to reconnection
- Field-aligned heating of magnetosheath electrons at the high-density edges of the jets
- Gradual ion mixing across the magnetopause

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Kinetic evidence of magnetic reconnection due to Kelvin-Helmholtz waves

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Abstract The Kelvin-Helmholtz (KH) instability at the Earth's magnetopause is predominantly excited during northward interplanetary magnetic field (IMF). Magnetic reconnection due to KH waves has been suggested as one of the mechanisms to transfer solar wind plasma into the magnetosphere. We investigate KH waves observed at the magnetopause by the Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) mission; in particular, we study the trailing edges of KH waves with Alfvénic ion jets. We observe gradual mixing of magnetospheric and magnetosheath ions at the boundary layer. The magnetospheric electrons with energy up to 80 keV are observed on the magnetosheath side of the jets, which indicates that they escape into the magnetosheath through reconnected magnetic field lines. At the same time, the low-energy (below 100 eV) magnetosheath electrons enter the magnetosphere and are heated in the field-aligned direction at the high-density edge of the jets. Our observations provide unambiguous kinetic evidence for ongoing reconnection due to KH waves.

1. Introduction

The magnetic reconnection process was long believed to be more significant and provide stronger solar wind-magnetosphere coupling during southward than northward interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) [Perreault and Akasofu, 1978]. However, substantial evidence was reported that more solar wind particles enter the magnetopause during northward IMF [Wing et al., 2014]. These solar wind particles generally lead to a thicker low-latitude boundary layer (LLBL), characterized by tailward moving plasma with intermediate properties between the magnetosheath and the plasma sheet [Mitchell et al., 1987], and a cold and dense plasma sheet (CDPS) [Terasawa et al., 1997], compared to a more common hot and tenuous plasma sheet. Possible mechanisms to transfer solar wind plasma from open magnetic field lines into closed geomagnetic field lines include high-latitude reconnection [Song and Russell, 1992], Kelvin-Helmholtz instability [Nykyri and Otto, 2001; Nakamura et al., 2008], and kinetic Alfvén waves [Chaston et al., 2007].

The Kelvin-Helmholtz instability can be excited at the boundary of two plasma regions if the velocity shear across the interface is large enough [Chandrasekhar, 1961; Miura and Pritchett, 1982], such as the low-latitude magnetopause situated between the magnetosheath, characterized by an antisunward flow of shocked solar wind, and the nearly stagnant magnetosphere. The excitation and evolution of the KH instability along the magnetopause boundary have been studied extensively with in situ observations [Sckopke et al., 1981; Hasegawa et al., 2004], localized simulation models [Ma et al., 2014; Nakamura and Daughton, 2014],

and global simulation models with a magnetosphere-ionosphere coupling system [Li *et al.*, 2012, 2013]. The Kelvin-Helmholtz waves or vortices tend to be formed more frequently during northward than southward IMF along the low-latitude magnetopause [Hasegawa *et al.*, 2006; Lin *et al.*, 2014] and have been suggested to play an important role in the formation of the LLBL and CDPS [Hasegawa *et al.*, 2004; Taylor *et al.*, 2008].

The role of KH waves to generate LLBL and CDPS requires efficient entry of collisionless solar wind plasma into the magnetosphere; thus, there must be a process invoked by KH waves to break the frozen-in condition of ideal magnetohydrodynamics (MHD). MHD and particle-in-cell (PIC) simulations under various boundary conditions suggested two types of magnetic reconnection driven by KH waves. Type I reconnection occurs when the magnetic field components along the wave vector of KH waves are antiparallel across the velocity shear layer (antiparallel model) [Pu *et al.*, 1990; Knoll and Chacón, 2002; Nakamura *et al.*, 2008]. KH waves can increase the magnetic shear even if the boundary starts from a small magnetic shear angle and compress the current sheet down to the electron inertial scale [Nakamura *et al.*, 2013]. Type I reconnection is commonly excited at the trailing or sunward edge of the KH wave and leads to direct plasma mixing across the shear layer. Here a trailing edge is represented by a crossing from the magnetosphere to the magnetosheath, and a reversed crossing indicates a leading edge. Three-dimensional (3-D) PIC simulations show that flux ropes can be generated by type I reconnection at the boundary, and their size and magnetic field structure are in agreement with THEMIS (Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions) observations at Earth's low-latitude magnetopause [Nakamura *et al.*, 2013].

Type II reconnection is driven at the leading or tailward edge when the velocity shear is sufficiently strong to generate highly rolled-up KH vortices, for parallel magnetic field conditions across the boundary (parallel model) [Nykyri and Otto, 2001; Nakamura and Fujimoto, 2006; Karimabadi *et al.*, 2013]. Type II reconnection forms magnetic islands in 2-D simulation models both at the shear velocity boundary [Faganello *et al.*, 2008] and inside KH vortices [Henri *et al.*, 2012], and plasma can be transferred across the shear layer. The simulation study by Nakamura *et al.* [2008] indicates that both type I and type II reconnection may play a substantial role in plasma transfer and mixing across Earth's magnetopause, while linear theory analysis shows that type I reconnection is more likely to be generated during the KH wave evolution.

In a Cluster case study by Hasegawa *et al.* [2009], a current sheet of thickness a few times the ion-inertial length was found at a trailing edge of the KH wave, with a magnetic shear of $\sim 60^\circ$. Direct signatures of local reconnection were identified in the current sheet. The most remarkable evidence is an Alfvénic outflow jet parallel to the magnetosheath flow (positive jet) from both the ion instrument and the perpendicular drift velocity from electric and magnetic field measurements. Other signatures include a nonzero magnetic field component normal to the sheet and a field-aligned beam of accelerated electrons. However, a several second resolution for particle data (e.g., 3 s for THEMIS and 4 s for Cluster) was not sufficient to resolve detailed kinetic processes in the current sheet. At this point, there is no direct evidence of KH waves-induced reconnection based on particle data.

Unlike the reconnection process near the subsolar magnetopause, KH waves and possible reconnection processes propagate tailward at a speed about 200 km/s in the spacecraft rest frame, implying the time duration of a cross of an ion scale reconnection region is ~ 1 s or shorter. The high-resolution Fast Plasma Investigation (FPI) onboard the MMS mission [Burch *et al.*, 2015; Pollock *et al.*, 2016; Fuselier *et al.*, 2014; Burch *et al.*, 2016] provides the first opportunity to directly investigate particle evidence of reconnection due to KH waves. We study a long-duration Kelvin-Helmholtz wave event observed by MMS on 8 September 2015. This event is associated with reconnection jets and asymmetric magnetic and electric Hall fields [Eriksson *et al.*, 2016]. Here we focus on the kinetic evidence of reconnection due to KH waves [Gosling *et al.*, 1990].

2. Overview of Kelvin-Helmholtz Waves

An overview is presented in Figure 1 which shows the identified Kelvin-Helmholtz waves along the duskside magnetopause on 8 September 2015. Figures 1a–1d show a prolonged steady solar wind plasma and IMF conditions in GSE (Geocentric Solar Ecliptic) coordinates from 09:15 to 11:40 UT, which is shifted to the bow shock, obtained from the OMNI data product at 1 min resolution. The solar wind velocity and the IMF direction are steady during the whole interval, while the dynamic pressure fluctuates slightly due to solar wind density variations. The IMF is northward with a nonzero B_x component. The averaged solar wind parameters are: 10.0 cm^{-3} for number density, $[-509, -4, -11] \text{ km/s}$ (GSE) for ion velocity, 5.18 nPa for dynamic pressure, and $[12.7, 2.9, 16.3] \text{ nT}$ (GSE) for IMF.

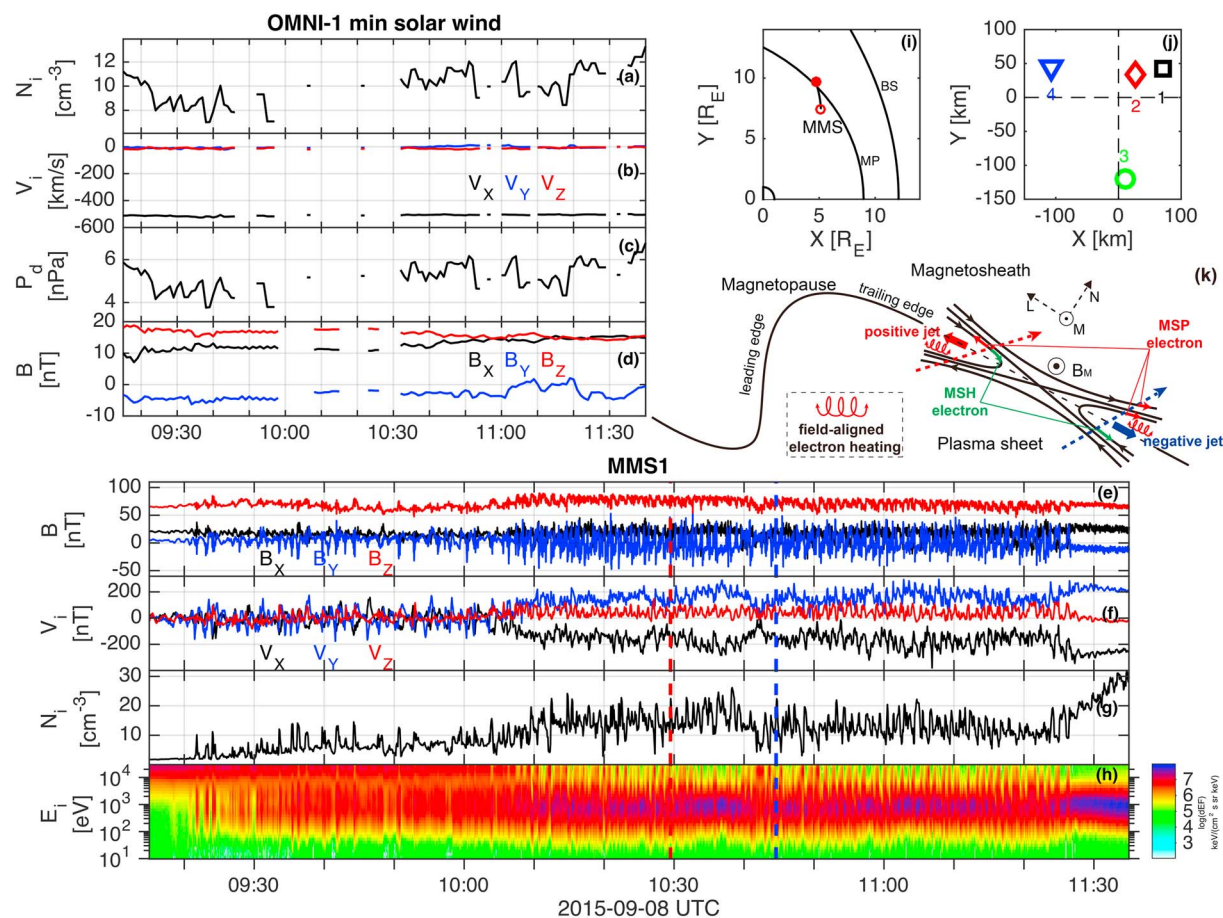


Figure 1. Solar wind conditions from the OMNI 1 min resolution database and observation of Kelvin-Helmholtz waves during the outbound trajectory of MMS1 on 8 September 2015. (a) Solar wind number density, (b) ion bulk velocity in GSE coordinates, (c) dynamic pressure, and (d) interplanetary magnetic field. MMS1 data of (e) magnetic field, (f) ion bulk velocity at 4.5 s time resolution, (g) ion number density, and (h) ion omnidirectional differential energy flux. The two dashed lines in the bottom part highlight two intervals for detailed analysis. (i) Location of the MMS spacecraft in GSE X-Y plane and (j) separation of the four spacecraft. (k) A schematic of one trailing edge of the KH wave with reconnection. The two dashed lines with arrows (red and blue) denote the two MMS magnetopause crossings highlighted in Figures 1e–1h.

During the extended northward IMF period, the four MMS spacecraft traversed the duskside magnetopause from the dayside plasma sheet to the magnetosheath, as shown in the overview of MMS1 (Figures 1e–1h). This is clear from the increase in plasma density and velocity (Figures 1f and 1g), and the ion energy flux, which changes from tens of keV at the beginning of the interval to around 1 keV in the end (Figure 1h). Figure 1i shows the outbound trajectories of MMS in the GSE X-Y plane from 09:15 to 11:40 UT; the separation of the four spacecraft is about 100–150 km (Figure 1j). The MMS magnetic field data is from the Fluxgate Magnetometer [Russell *et al.*, 2014] at 16 Hz resolution, and particle data are from the FPI instrument [Pollock *et al.*, 2016] at 4.5 s resolution in this overview figure. We also use the energetic electron data at 0.3 s resolution from the Fly's Eye Energetic Particle Spectrometer (FEEPS) instrument [Blake *et al.*, 2015] for the detailed study.

There are no significant fluctuations in the intervals of plasma sheet (09:15–09:20 UT) and magnetosheath (11:27–11:35 UT). The magnetic field is persistently northward with $\sim 13^\circ$ magnetic shear between the steady plasma sheet and magnetosheath. Figure 1f shows that magnetosheath ions stream tailward ($V_x = -260$ km/s) and duskward ($V_y = 220$ km/s) along the magnetopause, whereas the plasma sheet ions are almost stagnant. During the interval 09:20–11:25 UT, MMS1 observed quasi-periodic perturbations of the plasma and magnetic field parameters during the boundary layer crossing. The boundary layer can be separated into an inner boundary layer (09:20–10:05 UT) with overall stagnant ion flow and an outer boundary layer (10:05–11:25 UT) with magnetosheath-like flow. Since the boundary conditions are steady, these perturbations should be due to local instabilities. We identify these perturbations as surface waves excited by the KH instability due to the large velocity shear and small magnetic shear, and Eriksson *et al.* [2016]

identified the KH instability in detail using the linear criterion [Chandrasekhar, 1961]. The dominant period of the KH waves is about 68 s based on fast Fourier transform (FFT) analysis of the density and magnetic field data [Paschmann and Daly, 1998]. The phase velocity of the waves $[-220, 186, -11]$ km/s is estimated from 90% of the center-of-mass velocity in the spacecraft rest frame, computed from parameters on both sides of the boundary [Hasegawa et al., 2009]. The wavelength along the magnetopause is $3 R_E$ (Earth radius), which is comparable to results from previous observations and simulations [Hasegawa et al., 2006; Li et al., 2012; Lin et al., 2014].

We examine each crossing of the boundary layer for evidence of magnetic reconnection. The dashed lines in Figures 1e–1h mark two events with one positive (red) and one negative (blue) jet at the magnetopause. The schematic in Figure 1k shows spacecraft crossings of both the positive and negative jets, with the magnetic field configuration and kinetic signatures of ongoing reconnection. A detailed study of these two events is presented in the next section.

3. Reconnection Due to KH Waves

We use the high-resolution ion (0.15 s) and electron (0.03 s) data from the FPI instrument for detailed analysis of reconnection due to KH waves. The particle energy flux and pitch angle distributions are computed directly from the three-dimensional particle distribution function. In this section, two events are investigated, one on either side of the reconnection X line at the KH waves active magnetopause.

Figure 2 shows MMS1 time series of a KH wave trailing edge crossing from the inner boundary layer to the magnetosheath in the LMN frame during the interval 10:29:26–10:29:33 UT (red dashed line in Figures 1e–1h). The inner boundary layer is characterized by low number density ($< 10 \text{ cm}^{-3}$, Figure 1c) and several keV energy electrons (Figure 1e), while the denser ($\sim 20 \text{ cm}^{-3}$) magnetosheath includes colder electrons. The timing analysis of the magnetic field data [Paschmann and Daly, 1998] between 10:29:25 and 10:29:35 UT leads to the direction normal to the boundary $\mathbf{N} = [0.95, 0.24, -0.22]$ in GSE, and the boundary normal velocity $\mathbf{V}_N = -110 \text{ km/s}$. The negative sign of \mathbf{V}_N means tailward motion of the boundary, which is consistent with the outbound traversal of MMS.

A preliminary \mathbf{L} is the average maximum variance direction over four spacecraft, using the minimum variance analysis (MVA) of the magnetic field data from each spacecraft [Paschmann and Daly, 1998]. The \mathbf{M} direction is defined as the cross product of \mathbf{N} (from the timing method) and \mathbf{L} , and the final \mathbf{L} completes the right-handed orthogonal system. Here \mathbf{N} from timing analysis is close to the minimum variance directions from all four spacecraft's MVA results. The \mathbf{L} and \mathbf{M} directions for the magnetopause event in Figure 2 are $\mathbf{L} = [-0.25, 0.97, -0.02]$ and $\mathbf{M} = [0.21, 0.07, 0.98]$ in GSE. \mathbf{L} , \mathbf{M} , and \mathbf{N} are closely aligned with the GSE \mathbf{Y} , \mathbf{Z} , and \mathbf{X} directions, respectively.

The local configuration of the magnetic field can change during the evolution and propagation of KH waves [Takagi et al., 2006; Hasegawa et al., 2009]. In Figure 2a, the \mathbf{B}_L component varies from positive to negative when MMS crosses a density boundary. The local magnetic shear $\sim 51^\circ$ is larger than the average shear ($\sim 13^\circ$), and most of the other trailing edge crossings have a similar magnetic configuration as shown here. The ion flow increases in the \mathbf{L} direction during the boundary interval 10:29:28.45–10:29:30.20 UT, marked by a yellow bar in Figure 2. The width of the boundary 170 km is about three ion-inertial lengths ($\sim 50 \text{ km}$) of the magnetosheath side, smaller than average width of the dayside magnetopause [Berchem and Russell, 1982]. The maximum \mathbf{V}_L is about 350 km/s, about 150 km/s faster than the adjacent magnetosheath flow.

We perform the Walén test to check if the enhanced flow is a reconnection jet [Sonnerup et al., 1981]. The tangential stress balance test for a rotational discontinuity is achieved by comparing the two vectors $\Delta \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{V}_j - \mathbf{V}_{\text{MSH}}$, and $\Delta \mathbf{V}_A = \mathbf{V}_{A,j} - \mathbf{V}_{A,\text{MSH}}$. Here $\mathbf{V}_A = \sqrt{(1-\alpha)/(\mu_0 \rho)} \mathbf{B}$ is the Alfvén velocity, μ_0 is the permeability in vacuum, ρ is the mass density of the plasma, $\alpha = (P_{\parallel} - P_{\perp})\mu_0/B^2$ is a pressure anisotropy factor, P is the ion pressure, and MSH and j denote the magnetosheath and ion jet, respectively. The two vectors are evaluated in the local (\mathbf{L} , \mathbf{M}) plane tangential to the magnetopause. For the event in Figure 2, the red and blue bars denote the magnetosheath and jet reference regions (Figure 2b), and the result of the Walén test is presented in Table 1. The ratio $R = |\Delta \mathbf{V}|/|\Delta \mathbf{V}_A|$ and the shear angle θ between these two vectors are also reported for the reconnection jet. The averaged $R = 0.96$ and $\theta = 32^\circ$ from the four spacecraft indicate good agreement with the theoretical predictions for the positive reconnection jet in Figure 2 [Sonnerup et al., 1981].

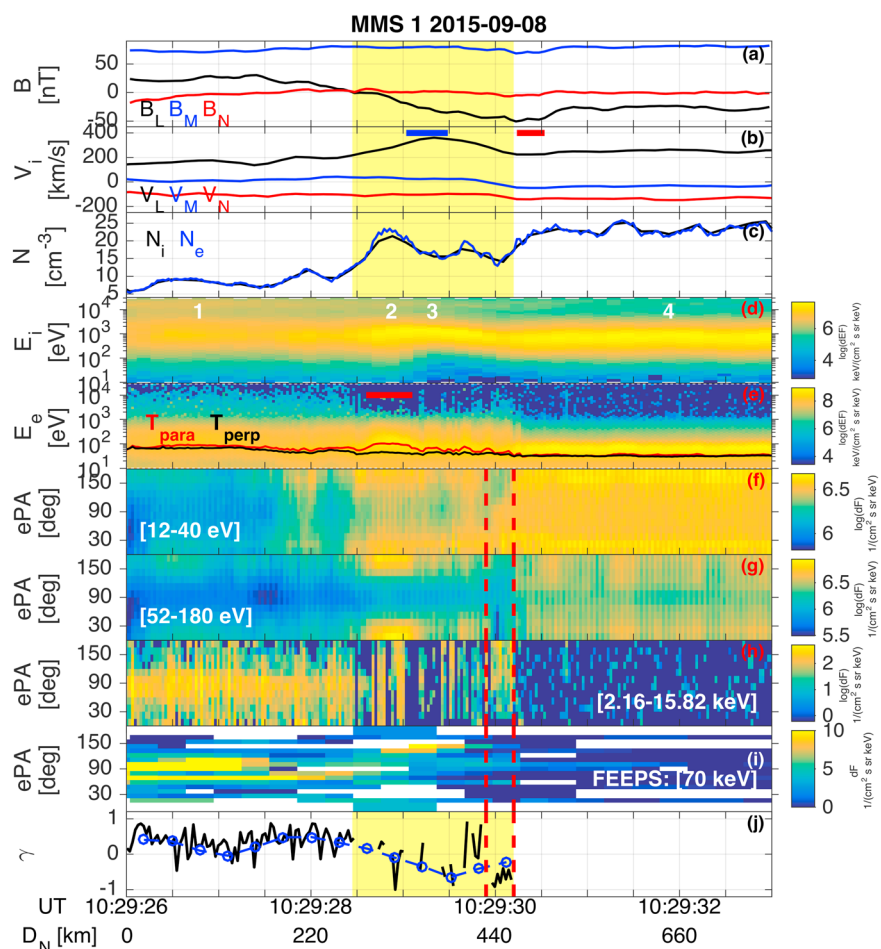


Figure 2. A positive reconnection jet during the KH wave observation by MMS1. (a) magnetic field in LMN coordinates ($\mathbf{L} = [-0.25, 0.97, -0.02]$, $\mathbf{M} = [0.21, 0.07, 0.98]$, and $\mathbf{N} = [0.95, 0.24, -0.22]$ in GSE), (b) ion bulk velocity with marker for jet (thick blue bar) and magnetosheath (thick red bar) used for the Walén test, (c) ion and electron number densities, (d) ion omnidirectional energy flux, (e) electron omnidirectional energy flux with temperature, (f–i) pitch angle distributions of low-energy (12–40 eV), middle-energy (52–180 eV), high-energy (2.16–15.82 keV), and energetic (70 keV) electrons. (j) Asymmetry factor of high-energy and 70 keV electrons. The yellow shaded region indicates a positive jet, and the thick red bar in Figure 2e denotes the region with strong electron temperature anisotropy. The region within the two red dashed lines has strong evidence of inward moving cold magnetosheath electrons and escaping keV magnetospheric electrons. The four numbers in Figure 2d represent the inner boundary layer, the ion density peak in the boundary, the reconnection jet, and the magnetosheath, respectively.

The typical energy of magnetosheath electrons is about 100 eV, and we observe a mixture of plasma sheet (>1 keV) and magnetosheath electrons in the inner boundary layer (Figure 2e). On the magnetospheric side of the positive jet 10:29:28.6–10:29:29.1 UT (thick red bar), the electrons have a strong temperature anisotropy T_{\parallel}/T_{\perp} , with a maximum factor of 2.4. Figures 2f–2h present electron pitch angle distributions for three different energy ranges. The low-energy (12–40 eV) electrons are located mostly in the magnetosheath, and they appear mainly in the field-aligned direction in the boundary. The middle-energy (52–180 eV) electrons occur mostly in the boundary where the strong temperature anisotropy is observed and exhibit clear field-aligned heating, compared with the magnetosheath electron population. The feature of field-aligned electron heating is consistent with ongoing reconnection at the magnetopause [Graham *et al.*, 2014]. The high-energy (2.16–15.82 keV) electrons in the inner boundary layer occur mostly close to 90° pitch angle.

In Figure 2h, the interval between two red dashed lines 10:29:29.9–10:29:30.2 UT shows dominance of high-energy (2.16–15.82 keV) electrons closer to the antiparallel over the parallel direction. Figure 2i shows the pitch angle distributions of the 70 keV energetic electrons, computed from the FEEPS instruments onboard MMS1 and MMS2. The antiparallel flux is higher than the parallel flux around 10:29:29.5 UT.

Table 1. Results of Walén Test for the Positive and the Negative Jets by Four MMS Spacecraft^a

	Positive Jet				Negative Jet			
	$\Delta \mathbf{V}$ (km/s)	$\Delta \mathbf{V}_A$ (km/s)	R	θ	$\Delta \mathbf{V}$ (km/s)	$\Delta \mathbf{V}_A$ (km/s)	R	θ
MMS1	[128, 72]	[75, 94]	1.22	22°	[-104, 17]	[243, 48]	0.42	160°
MMS2	[120, 62]	[64, 107]	1.08	32°	[-101, 12]	[221, -11]	0.46	176°
MMS3	[137, 56]	[85, 134]	0.94	35°	[-134, 9]	[239, 14]	0.56	173°
MMS4	[107, 37]	[97, 158]	0.61	39°	[-145, 5]	[242, -2]	0.60	178°

^aThe tangential stress balance test for a rotational discontinuity is achieved by comparing the two vectors ($\Delta \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{V}_j - \mathbf{V}_{\text{MSH}}$, and $\Delta \mathbf{V}_A = \mathbf{V}_{A,j} - \mathbf{V}_{A,\text{MSH}}$) in the local (\mathbf{L} , \mathbf{M}) plane tangential to the magnetopause. Here $\mathbf{V}_A = \sqrt{(1-\alpha)/(\mu_0 \rho)} \mathbf{B}$ is the Alfvén velocity, μ_0 is the permeability in vacuum, ρ is the ion mass density of the plasma, $\alpha = (P_{\parallel} - P_{\perp})\mu_0/B^2$ is a pressure anisotropy factor, P is the ion pressure, and MSH and j denote the magnetosheath and ion jet, respectively. The ratio $R = |\Delta \mathbf{V}|/|\Delta \mathbf{V}_A|$ and the shear angle between these two vectors are also computed. The positive and negative jets are from interval 10:29:26–10:29:33 UT (Figure 2) and 10:44:32–10:44:38 UT (Figure 3), respectively.

We define a factor $\gamma = (F_{0^\circ-60^\circ} - F_{120^\circ-180^\circ})/(F_{0^\circ-60^\circ} + F_{120^\circ-180^\circ})$ to quantify this asymmetry in the pitch angle distribution. Here $F_{0^\circ-60^\circ}$ and $F_{120^\circ-180^\circ}$ denote the keV electron fluxes in the pitch angle range $0^\circ-60^\circ$ and $120^\circ-180^\circ$, respectively. The black curve in Figure 2j represents the γ ratio of the high-energy (2.16–15.82 keV) electrons, while the blue curve with circles is the ratio of the 70 keV energetic electrons. The value of γ (~ -0.75) in the interval 10:29:29.9–10:29:30.2 UT confirms that high-energy electrons occur

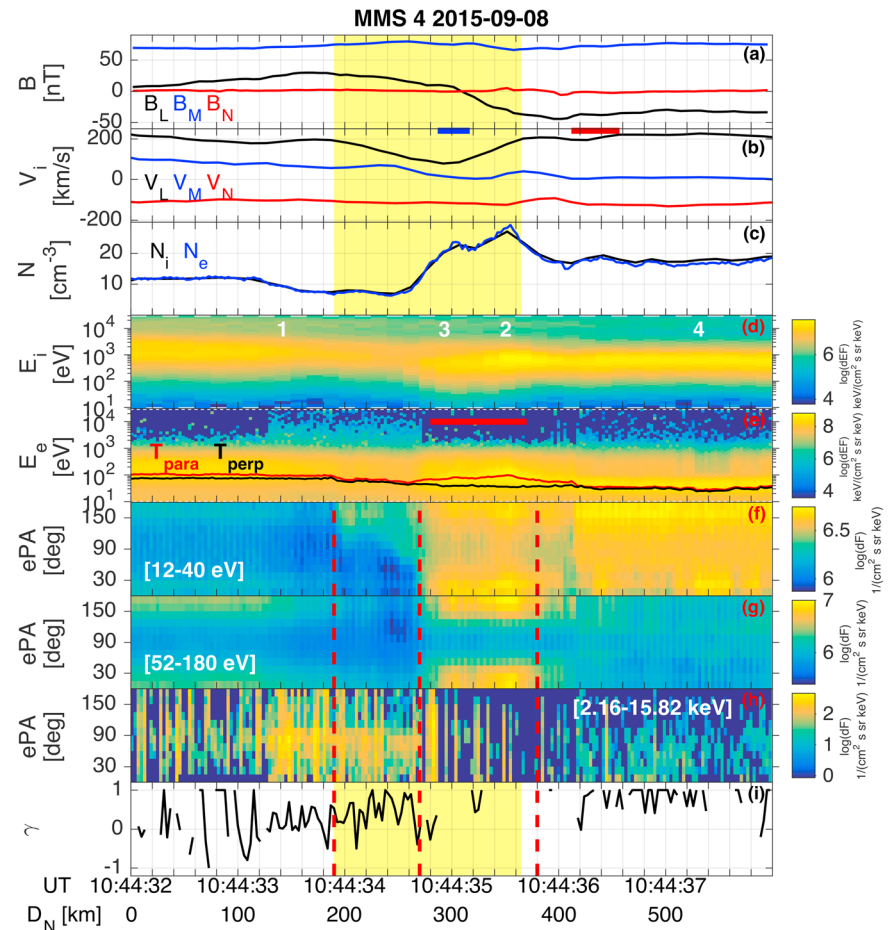


Figure 3. A negative reconnection jet during the KH wave observation by MMS4. The figure is presented in a similar manner as Figure 2, except for the pitch angle distributions of 70 keV energetic electrons. The local LMN coordinates of this magnetopause crossing are $\mathbf{L} = [-0.34, 0.93, -0.10]$, $\mathbf{M} = [0.18, 0.17, 0.97]$, and $\mathbf{N} = [0.92, 0.31, -0.23]$ in GSE. (i) The ratio is computed for the electron flux of parallel to antiparallel population.

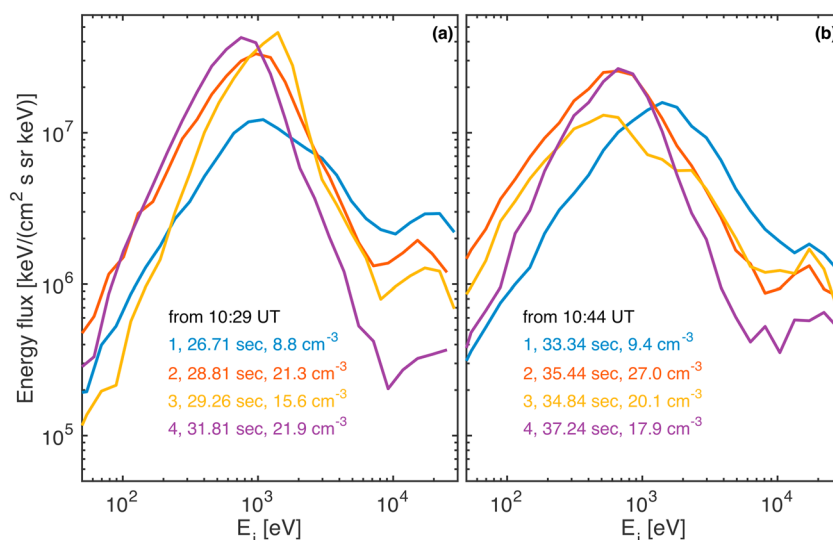


Figure 4. Ion omnidirectional differential energy flux profiles of four points from the (a) positive and (b) negative jets. As shown in Figures 2d and 3d, the four points denote the inner boundary layer (1), ion density peak in the boundary (2), reconnection jet (3), and magnetosheath (4), respectively. The inner boundary layer (curve 1 in each panel) is a combination of low-energy magnetosheath and high-energy magnetospheric ions. The low-energy ion population increases gradually during the outbound trajectory, with decreasing high-energy densities. Their signatures are consistent with ion transfer and mixing during ongoing reconnection.

dominantly along the antiparallel direction. The energetic electrons show similar antiparallel pitch angle distributions around 10:29:29.5 UT in the boundary. Also, the highlighted interval coincides with a low-energy electron beam occurring dominantly along the parallel direction (Figure 2f). A schematic of the positive jet crossing is shown in Figure 1k. The directions of low-energy and keV electron beams demonstrate that the magnetosheath electrons move toward the X line along the reconnected magnetic field lines, and the magnetospheric electrons escape into the magnetosheath [Khotyaintsev *et al.*, 2006].

In a similar manner as Figure 2, Figure 3 presents an example of a negative reconnection jet observed by MMS4 (blue dashed line in Figure 1) at another KH wave trailing edge crossing 10:44:32–10:44:38 UT. The 70 keV energetic electron data is not presented in Figure 3 because of the lower counts during this event. The LMN coordinate system determined with timing analysis and the MVA method is $\mathbf{L} = [-0.34, 0.93, -0.10]$, $\mathbf{M} = [0.18, 0.17, 0.97]$, and $\mathbf{N} = [0.92, 0.31, -0.23]$, still close to the GSE Y, Z, X directions, respectively, as in the previous case. The boundary normal velocity is about -100 km/s, and the local magnetic shear angle is about 56° . The interval 10:44:32–10:44:33.2 UT is the outer boundary layer, characterized by intermediate plasma densities between the inner boundary layer and the magnetosheath and a lack of high-energy electrons (Figures 2e and 2h) [Sckopke *et al.*, 1981]. The yellow shaded region indicates an interval of decreased ion velocity, with a scale of three ion-inertial lengths. The Walén test in Table 1 shows that the decreased flow (thick blue bar) is an Alfvénic negative jet, with a smaller R than the positive jet. The sunward interval 10:44:34.8–10:44:35.7 UT (thick red bar in Figure 2e) of the negative jet exhibits strong electron temperature anisotropy (T_{\parallel}/T_{\perp}) with a maximum factor 2.8, due to the field-aligned heating (Figure 2g).

The low-energy electrons have a pitch angle distribution closer to the antiparallel direction in the interval (10:44:33.9–10:44:34.7 UT, Figure 2f) within the first two red dashed lines. In Figures 2h and 2i, the pitch angle distributions and the factor γ show that the high-energy (2.16–15.82 keV) electrons are dominant in parallel direction in the outer edge of the boundary and magnetosheath. The pitch angle feature of the negative jet further confirms that the magnetosheath electrons cross the magnetopause along the reconnected magnetic field lines, and the magnetospheric electrons escape into the magnetosheath (as illustrated in Figure 1k).

Magnetosheath plasma is found in the inner boundary layer near the interval of positive and negative jets shown in Figures 2 and 3. We select four points around the jets to illustrate the ion transfer and mixing: 1 for the inner boundary layer, 2 for the density peak in the boundary, 3 for the reconnection jet, and 4 for magnetosheath (indicated in Figures 2d and 3d). The ion omnidirectional differential energy fluxes at these points are presented in Figure 4. The ion distribution (curve 1) of the inner boundary layer combines high-energy

(>10 keV) magnetospheric ions and low-energy (100 eV–5 keV) magnetosheath ions originating from solar wind for both events. The density of high-energy ions decreases gradually along the outbound trajectory, with increasing low-energy magnetosheath population. Curve 3 in Figure 4a shows the accelerated ion distribution of the positive jet, compared with the magnetosheath ion distribution (curve 4). The negative jet ion has a broader distribution of low-energy ions, with a main peak around 500 eV (curve 3 in Figure 4b). For the positive jet, the maximum ion density (21.3 cm^{-3}) in the boundary reaches the density level of the magnetosheath. For the negative jet, the maximum density is about 50% larger than the adjacent magnetosheath. For these two jets, the density maximum is on the magnetospheric side for the positive jet and on the magnetosheath side for the negative jet.

4. Summary and Conclusion

The high-resolution particle instruments FPI and FEEPS on board the four MMS spacecraft provide the first opportunity to study the kinetic signatures of ongoing reconnection due to KH waves. We investigate the magnetopause during northward IMF when KH waves are observed by MMS on 8 September 2015, which is associated with reconnection [Eriksson *et al.*, 2016]. In the trailing edges of the KH wave, the local magnetic shear angle is increased and the magnetopause boundary is as thin as three ion-inertial lengths. We study electron distributions around two Alfvénic ion jets in the trailing edges of KH waves. One of the jets propagates with the magnetosheath flow and the other against the flow. Both jets show similar kinetic properties. The electron pitch angle distributions show that the magnetosheath electrons cross the magnetopause and the magnetospheric electrons escape into the magnetosheath along the reconnected field lines. The magnetosheath electrons are heated at the high-density edge of the jets, predominantly in the field-aligned direction, which gives a strong temperature anisotropy. The gradual change in ion fluxes at characteristic magnetospheric and magnetosheath energies across the boundary indicates mixing of the two ion populations. We conclude that these observations provide unambiguous kinetic evidence for ongoing reconnection due to KH waves.

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