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MAGNETIC RECONNECTION AND FLUX TRANSFER EVENTS OBSERVED IN THE EARTH'S DAYSIDE MAGNETOPAUSE

Silveira, M. V. D. [1,2]; Sibeck, D. G. [1]; Hee-Lee, S. [1]; Gonzalez, W. [3];
Koga, D. [3,4]; Souza, V. M. [3]

[1] NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (NASA/GSFC),

8800 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, MD – ZIP Code: 20771, United States of America;

[2] Catholic University of America (CUA),

620 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC – ZIP Code: 20064, United States of America;

[3] National Institute for Space Research (INPE),

Av. dos Astronautas, 1.758, Jardim da Granja, São José dos Campos, SP – ZIP Code: 12227-010, Brazil;

[4] State Key Laboratory of Space Weather (NSSC/CAS),

NO.1 Nanertiao, Zhongguancun, Haidian District, Beijing – ZIP Code: 100190, China.

ABSTRACT

Magnetic reconnection is a fundamental phenomenon in plasma physics and it is defined as a topological restructuring of magnetic fields due to changes in its magnetic connectivity. Magnetic reconnection is responsible for fast magnetic energy release in large scales, particle acceleration and heating. At the Earth's dayside magnetopause, reconnection plays a very important role in the space weather as changing the plasma convection pattern, injecting particles into high-latitude ionosphere, and disturbing magnetic field observed on the ground. According to in situ observation and numerical simulation, magnetic reconnection at the dayside always occurs somewhere. The location and the interaction efficiency (geoeffectiveness) of the reconnection has a dependency on the solar wind conditions. Dayside reconnection can occur as *steady* or *transient*, *localized* or *extended*, *forced* or *spontaneous*. Flux transfer events (FTEs) are considered as a result of transient magnetic reconnection and are often observed in the vicinity of the Earth's magnetopause. Space physics community has been interested in FTEs since their discovery. Recently, computational simulations, and multi-point observations have provided advances to FTE generation and structure formation studies. We will present general aspects about Earth's dayside magnetic reconnection and a survey of FTEs observed in situ.