

1 **THEMIS multi-spacecraft observations of a reconnecting magnetosheath**
2 **current sheet with symmetric boundary conditions and a large guide field**

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12 **SHORT TITLE: GUIDE FIELD MAGNETOSHEATH RECONNECTION**

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14 **Key points**

- 15 • First multi-spacecraft observations of oppositely directed reconnection exhausts in the
16 magnetosheath
- 17 • First observations of two colliding reconnection jets wrapped around each other
- 18 • Asymmetric plasma and field profiles in the exhaust due to large guide field

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20 **Abstract** We report three spacecraft observations of a reconnecting magnetosheath current sheet
21 with a guide field of unity, with THD and THE/THA observing oppositely directed reconnection
22 exhausts, indicating the presence of an X-line between the spacecraft. The near constant
23 convective speed of the magnetosheath current sheet allowed the direct translation of the
24 observed time series into spatial profiles. THD observed asymmetries in the plasma density and
25 temperature profiles across the exhaust, characteristics of symmetric reconnection with a guide
26 field. The exhausts at THE and THA, on the other hand, were not the expected mirror image of
27 the THD exhaust in terms of the plasma and field profiles. They consisted of a main outflow at
28 the center of the current sheet, flanked by oppositely directed flows at the two edges of the
29 current sheet, suggesting the presence of a second X-line, whose outflow wraps around the
30 outflow from the first X-line.

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33 **Index Terms**

34 7835 Magnetic reconnection (2723)

35 2728 Magnetosheath

36 7845 Particle acceleration

37

38 **1. Introduction**

39 Magnetic reconnection is a universal energy conversion process that converts magnetic
40 energy into particle energy. In-situ observations in the Earth's magnetosphere have provided
41 unambiguous evidence for the occurrence of reconnection by detecting the reconnection exhaust
42 as well as the diffusion region [e.g. Paschmann et al. 1979, 2013; Burch et al., 2016]. However,
43 many key questions concerning the fundamental spatial and temporal nature of reconnection
44 have not been answered by observations in the magnetosphere, where both the boundary
45 conditions and the motion of current sheets can be highly varying.

46 Current sheets in the solar wind [e.g., Gosling et al., 2005, 2007; Phan et al., 2006, 2009;
47 Eriksson et al., 2015; Mistry et al., 2016] and in the magnetosheath [e.g., Phan et al., 2007a,b;
48 Retino et al., 2007] provide ideal environments for reconnection studies. These current sheets
49 convect at nearly constant speeds past a spacecraft, conditions that are rare in the magnetosphere.
50 The constant speed allows the direct translation of the observed time series into spatial profiles.
51 Furthermore, the magnetosheath contains current sheets with symmetric boundary conditions and
52 large guide fields. Such current sheets are rare in the magnetosphere, where reconnection is
53 typically highly asymmetric at the magnetopause, while reconnection in the magnetotail is
54 normally symmetric with small ($\ll 50\%$) guide fields.

55 In this paper we present a magnetosheath event where three THEMIS spacecraft observed
56 diverging reconnection jets on opposite sides of an X-line in a nearly symmetric current sheet
57 with a guide field near unity. The two sides of the X-line displayed significant differences, and
58 we attribute the differences to the presence of a magnetic island/flux rope on one side of the X-
59 line, and a regular (open-ended) exhaust on the other side.

60 The paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we describe the spacecraft instrumentation.
61 In sections 3-6 we present detailed observations of the exhaust profile on each side of the X-line.
62 In section 7 we qualitatively compare the observations with a 2.5-D particle-in-cell (PIC)
63 simulation. The results are summarized and discussed in section 8.

64

65 **2. Instrumentation**

66 We use 3 s resolution ion and electron data from the electrostatic analyzer (ESA)
67 [McFadden et al., 2008] and 128 samples/s data from the fluxgate magnetometer (FGM) [Auster
68 et al., 2008] and the electric field instrument (EFI) [Bonnell et al., 2008] onboard the THEMIS
69 spacecraft [Angelopoulos, 2008]. The THEMIS high resolution burst mode [Phan et al., 2016]
70 was triggered onboard all three spacecraft by the sharp variations in the GSE-z component of the
71 magnetic field across the current sheet. The data are presented in the geocentric solar ecliptic
72 (GSE) coordinate system and in the LMN boundary normal coordinate system of the
73 magnetosheath current sheet, with positive N directed along the current sheet normal and
74 sunward, M along the X-line, and L along the reconnecting field direction.

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76 **3. Overview of Three-Spacecraft Observations**

77 On October 31, 2010, between 16:49 UT and 16:52 UT, THEMIS-A (THA), THEMIS-D
78 (THD), and THEMIS-E (THE) were in the magnetosheath upstream of the Earth's magnetopause
79 (Fig.1a).

80 Figures 1c-h show the THD, THE, and THA magnetic field and ion velocity observations in
81 GSE coordinates. All three spacecraft observed a rotation in B_Z and B_Y accompanied by plasma

82 jetting (relative to the magnetosheath flows outside the current sheet), indicating the passage of a
83 reconnecting current sheet.

84 We determined the current sheet normal (LMN) coordinate system by the minimum
85 variance analysis of the magnetic field (MVAB) [Sonnerup and Cahill, 1967] across the current
86 sheet. The resulting LMN directions determined separately for the three spacecraft differ by less
87 than 7° for any component. To describe the overall geometry of the current sheet and the relative
88 locations of the spacecraft we use a common LMN coordinate system, which we choose to be
89 that of THE. However, for the determination of the reconnection inflow velocity and the
90 reconnection rate at each spacecraft, which requires more accurate knowledge of the current
91 sheet normal, we use the normal determined at each spacecraft.

92 Fig.1b displays the spacecraft positions at 16:50:00 UT projected onto the L-N plane. The
93 current sheet convected anti-sunward, in the negative N direction. Relative to THD, THE was
94 located 803 km ($15 d_i$) in the -N direction and 2361 km ($44 d_i$) in the -L direction, whereas THA
95 was located 682 km ($13 d_i$) in the -N direction and 2960 km ($55 d_i$) in the -L direction, where d_i
96 $=54$ km based on the observed magnetosheath ion density of 18 cm^{-3} . The maximum spacecraft
97 separation along M was 2631 km ($49 d_i$).

98 Fig.1i-n show the observations in LMN coordinates. The guide field B_M (measured outside
99 the current sheet) was ~ 1.2 times the reconnecting magnetic field B_L . During the current sheet
100 crossing THD observed a positive V_L jet, while both THA and THE observed a negative V_L jet at
101 the current sheet midplane ($B_L=0$). The relative positions of the spacecraft and the oppositely
102 directed jets seen at THD and THE/THA imply that the jets were diverging, indicating the
103 presence of an X-line between THD and THE/THA. This scenario is illustrated in Fig.2a. Fig.2
104 (simulation) will be discussed in detail in section 7.

105 The V_L jet speed at midplane (relative to the average external magnetosheath flow of $V_L \sim 35$
106 km/s) was different at the three spacecraft, with peak jet speed ~ 100 km/s at THD, ~ 90 km/s at
107 THE, and 70 km/s at THA.

108 The V_L jet structures were also different on the two sides of the X-line: While the THD jet
109 was unidirectional throughout the exhaust, the dominant, negative V_L jet at the midplane
110 observed by THE and THA (Fig.2l,n) was flanked by two weaker, positive V_L flows at the edges
111 of the exhaust. This tripolar jet profile suggests that a second X-line could be present, giving rise
112 to positive V_L flows (relative to the asymptotic magnetosheath V_L) at the exhaust edges at
113 THE/THA. The slower jet speed at THE and THA at the midplane would also be consistent with
114 the presence of a second X-line providing an obstacle to the flow.

115 The current sheet midplane ($B_L=0$) was encountered first by THD at 16:49:56 UT, followed
116 by THA at 16:50:24 UT, and by THE at 16:50:48 UT. Assuming a planar structure, the current
117 sheet propagation speed in the normal direction based on when $B_L=0$ at each spacecraft was 15.4
118 km/s from THD to THE, 24.4 km/s from THD to THA, and 5.0 km/s from THA to THE. We
119 found similar inconsistencies in the propagation speeds using other markers such as the time of
120 the exhaust leading edge and the sudden changes in B_M or density. Thus timing the structures
121 does not work in this case, likely because the structures are too different at each spacecraft. As
122 will be discussed below (section 6) the results are more consistent if one infers the current sheet
123 propagation speed from the average V_N measured on the two sides of the current sheet.

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128 4. THEMIS-D observations: Open-ended exhaust?

129 4.1. Overview

130 Fig.3 shows THD observations in and around the current sheet. Because the estimation of
131 the reconnection rate locally requires accurate determination of the boundary normal, we
132 determined the LMN coordinates in Fig.3 using MVAB of the local THD crossing (16:49:42 –
133 16:50:24 UT).

134 The leading edge of the exhaust (solid vertical line L) is marked by sudden changes in the
135 magnetic field (Fig.3a), density (Fig.3d,e), temperatures (Fig.3f,g), and velocity (Fig.3c). The
136 trailing edge is less well defined since the locations where the plasma and fields reached their
137 asymptotic magnetosheath values were not the same. However, 16:50:01 UT (the vertical solid
138 line marked T1) is a likely location of the trailing edge. This is where the ion V_L jetting (Fig.4c)
139 and strong electric field (Fig.3l) stopped, as well as where the ion and electron temperatures
140 (Fig.3f,g), ion and electron spectrograms (Fig.3h-k), and electron distributions (not shown) are
141 essentially the same as in the magnetosheath proper to the right. The only feature which seems
142 inconsistent with this location being the exhaust edge is the value of B_L not being the same as in
143 the asymptotic magnetosheath. The field rotation across the current sheet is 65° at this location
144 versus 80° for the full rotation to the asymptotic state at 16:50:25 UT (vertical dashed line T2).
145 The precise location of the trailing edge does not affect our discussion below of the asymmetries
146 of the plasma and field profiles in the exhaust (Section 4.2). However, it does affect the estimate
147 of the distance to the X-line.

148 The plasma density (Fig.3d,e), temperatures (Fig.3f,g) and the B_L strength (Fig.3a) in the
149 two inflow regions were similar, except for the ion temperature which was about 40% higher on

150 the trailing edge. Thus this is essentially symmetric reconnection (with a guide field of near
151 unity).

152 There was a velocity shear of 21 km/s across the current sheet in the L direction, which is
153 14% of the inflow Alfvén speed (154 km/s) based on B_L (assuming that all ions were protons).
154 The velocity shear in the M direction was 29 km/s.

155 The THD reconnection jet reached a maximum speed of $\Delta V_L \sim 100$ km/s (relative to the
156 average external magnetosheath V_L of -35 km/s) at 16:49:53 UT. This is 65% of the inflow
157 Alfvén speed based on B_L .

158 **4.2. Plasma and field profiles**

159 The plasma and field structures in the exhaust displayed large asymmetries. Left of
160 midplane (marked M in Figure 3) the plasma density was enhanced, and to the right it was
161 depressed (Fig.3d,e). Asymmetries were also seen in the perpendicular and parallel ion
162 temperatures, with $T_{i\parallel}$ enhanced on the side of the exhaust where the density was depressed and a
163 local peak in $T_{i\perp}$ on the high-density side (Fig.3f). Furthermore, the parallel electron
164 temperature was strongly enhanced on the high density side while $T_{e\perp}$ displayed slight cooling
165 throughout the exhaust (Fig.3g). The electron temperature effects can also be seen in the
166 enhancements of thermal (~ 40 -200 eV) electron fluxes at 0° and 180° pitch angles inside the
167 exhaust, accompanied by a decrease in thermal electron flux at 90° (Fig.3i-k).

168 The out-of-plane magnetic field B_M displayed a bipolar perturbation relative to the guide
169 field and is shunted away from the mid-plane (Fig.3b). The normal component of the electric
170 field E_N was predominantly negative at the center of the current sheet, and positive at the exhaust

171 edges. These asymmetries are likely associated with guide field effects [Eastwood et al., 2010;
172 Mistry et al., 2016; Oieroset et al., 2016].

173 **5. THEMIS-A and THEMIS-E observations: Evidence for a second X-line?**

174 With THE/THA being on the opposite side of the X-line from THD, one would expect that
175 the guide field associated plasma and field asymmetries across the exhaust detected at THE/THA
176 would be opposite to those of THD. However, the profiles at THE and THA are more complex.

177 One would expect that on this side of the X-line, E_N should be predominantly positive, the
178 parallel electron heating, ion perpendicular heating, and density compression should be shifted to
179 the right of the midplane, while parallel ion heating would be shifted to the left. Such behaviors
180 were indeed seen at THE (Fig.4a-l) and THA (Fig.4m-x). However, there were additional
181 features in the density and temperature profiles that are not expected: There were enhancements
182 of $T_{e\parallel}$, $T_{i\perp}$ and density to the left of the midplane at both THE and THA. Furthermore, the
183 negative V_L jet did not span the entire current sheet. A negative V_L jet was seen near midplane,
184 flanked by slower positive V_L flows close to the two edges of the current sheet. At THE the
185 negative V_L jet occupied a bigger portion of the current sheet than at THA, which was located
186 further from the main X-line. At THA, the flanking positive V_L jets were broader.

187 The observed flow pattern at THE and THA suggests the presence of a second X-line
188 beyond THA (in the negative L direction), such that THE and THA were located between two
189 active X-lines. In this scenario, the negative V_L near the midplane originated from the first X-
190 line, while the positive V_L near the edges of the current sheet come from the second X-line. In
191 addition to explaining the unusual flow pattern, the second X-line scenario could also account for
192 the unexpected parallel electron heating and density compression seen on the left side of
193 midplane.

194 The two X-line scenario may also be consistent with the observed out-of-plane B_M profile.
195 B_M observed by both THE and THA displayed negative to positive variations near the left edge
196 of the exhaust (Figures 4b and 4n), similar to the B_M observed by THD on the opposite side of
197 the X-line (Fig.3b). This is inconsistent with the single X-line picture where the polarities of the
198 Hall magnetic fields should flip from one side of the X-line to the other. In the two X-line
199 scenario, the observed B_M dip near the leading edge seen at THE and THA would be associated
200 with the second X-line.

201 In summary, the exhaust profiles observed by THE and THA did not simply display the
202 opposite asymmetries as those observed by THD. Instead, the THE and THA exhaust profiles
203 may be the results of the combined effects from two converging reconnection exhausts forming a
204 magnetic flux rope.

205

206 **6. Current sheet speed, thickness, reconnection rate and estimated distance to X-line**

207 In Section 3 we pointed out that the current sheet propagation speed was not well
208 determined by the timing analysis using pairs of spacecraft. Here we estimate the normal motion
209 of the current sheet at each spacecraft individually based on the average of V_N on the two sides
210 of the current sheet. The average V_N was ~ 14.7 km/s for THD, ~ 16.8 km/s for THE and ~ 17.7
211 km/s for THA, where the V_N values on each side of the current sheet were calculated using a 60 s
212 interval starting 15 s away from each exhaust edge (to avoid structures around the exhaust
213 boundaries).

214 Using these V_N speeds, the exhaust widths at THD, THE and THA were estimated to be 220
215 km ($4.1 d_i$), 689 km ($13 d_i$) and 956 km ($18 d_i$) based on the exhaust crossing times of 15s, 41s,
216 and 54s, respectively.

217 At all three spacecraft, there was a negative shift in V_N across the current sheet. In the frame
218 of the convecting current sheet, the negative ΔV_N is consistent with reconnection inflows from
219 the two sides of the current sheet. The measured inflow speed ($\Delta V_N/2$) were ~ 6.6 km/s at THD,
220 ~ 8.0 km/s at THE, and ~ 8.2 km/s at THA. The corresponding dimensionless reconnection rate,
221 $V_N/V_{AL,inflow}$, was 0.043 at THD, 0.052 at THE and 0.053 at THA based on the inflow B_L of 30
222 nT and a density of 18 cm^{-3} .

223 The good agreements between the reconnection rates determined independently at the three
224 spacecraft may suggest that the measured rate of ~ 0.05 is reliable. However, with the
225 reconnection rate of 0.043 and an exhaust thickness of $4.1 d_i$, the estimated distance from THD
226 to the X-line is $48 d_i$, which places the X-line past THE, which was located $44 d_i$ from THD
227 along the $-L$ direction. This is inconsistent with the location of an X-line between THE and
228 THD based on the detection of diverging jets. Similarly, at THE and THA, the $13d_i$ and $18 d_i$
229 thick current sheets together with a reconnection rate of 0.05 place the estimated location of the
230 X-line tens of d_i beyond THD (in the $+L$ direction), again inconsistent with the observed positive
231 V_L detected at THD.

232 An alternative approach to calculate the reconnection rate is to use the multipoint
233 measurements to reconstruct the opening angle of the exhaust. If it is assumed that the
234 reconnection exhausts expand linearly on both sides of the X-line, the reconnection rate has to be
235 ~ 0.2 to be consistent with the distances between the three spacecraft and the X-line being located
236 between THE and THD. However, the assumption of a linearly expanding (constant angle)
237 exhaust may not be consistent with the presence of a magnetic island/flux rope at the THE/THA
238 location as the plasma and field profiles suggest (section 5).

239 If one were to use the canonical reconnection rate of 0.1 instead, the estimated X-line
240 location would be 20.5 d_i from THD, between THD and THE. This would be consistent with the
241 diverging jet observations. However, using the THE or THA data with an assumed reconnection
242 rate of 0.1, and assuming linear expansion, still places the X line beyond THD. However, if THE
243 and THA were in a flux rope/island flanked by two X-lines, the bulging of the field lines
244 associated with the flux rope would lead to substantial widening of the exhaust and could
245 account for the thick current sheet at THE and THA, as we discuss below with the help of a
246 simulation.

247 The multi-spacecraft analysis above illustrates that reconnection rates must be calculated
248 with care. Local measures were shown to be inconsistent with the large-scale picture, and simple
249 geometrical calculations can also be wrong if the exhaust is distorted by the presence of an
250 island. Thus the determination of the reconnection rate experimentally continues to be a
251 challenge.

252

253 **7. Comparison with simulation**

254 We now compare the THEMIS observations with a 2-D particle-in-cell simulation involving
255 symmetric reconnection with a guide field of unity (Fig.2). The simulation parameters are similar
256 but not identical to the observations, especially the lack of observed inflow ion temperature
257 anisotropy in the simulation. Figure 2a shows V_{iL} in the L-N plane. The plot is periodic in L,
258 thus the island is surrounded by two X-lines. The comparison is intended to be qualitative and
259 serves mainly to illustrate the presence of colliding jets (from two X-lines) that wrap around each
260 other and the bulging of the exhaust due to the presence of an island.

261 First we examine the plasma and field profiles to the right of the X-line at a location ($L=18.9$
262 d_i) far from the magnetic island and its associated jet pileup region. At this location the exhaust
263 profile displays magnetic field B_M , density and temperature asymmetries that resemble those at
264 THD, namely the enhancements of density (Fig.2l), ion perpendicular heating (Fig.2m), electron
265 parallel heating (Fig.2n) on the left side of the exhaust, and ion parallel heating (Fig.2m) and
266 density depression (Fig.2l) shifted to the right side.

267 On the other side of the X-line the two converging jets (from the two X-lines) wrap around
268 each other (Fig.2a). The profiles near the center of the island (Fig.2b-h) show some features that
269 are similar to those observed at THE/THA, namely the presence of tripolar V_{iL} , with a negative
270 V_{iL} jet near midplane flanked by positive V_{iL} flows near the exhaust edges (Fig.2d), and the
271 presence of two enhancements in the electron parallel temperature and a dip near the midplane
272 (Fig.2g). The B_M , density and ion temperature profiles, on the other hand, are less similar to the
273 observations (Fig.2c,e,f). The bulging of the exhaust due to the island formation leads to a non-
274 linear expansion of the exhaust, which could be consistent with THE/THA detecting a thicker
275 than expected exhaust. Some disagreements between the observations and the simulation are not
276 unexpected, especially since the island in the simulation is continuously evolving. Furthermore,
277 the “two X-lines” in the simulation are the same X-line (due to periodic boundary conditions),
278 thus they were formed simultaneously. In reality, the two X-lines could have formed at different
279 times (Fig.2p), in which case outflows from the left X-line could wrap around the outflows from
280 the right X-line, further contributing to a tripolar V_{iL} profile as observed by THA and THE.

281

282 **8. Summary and discussion**

283 We have presented an event where three THEMIS spacecraft crossed a reconnecting
284 magnetosheath current sheet with near-symmetric inflow conditions and a guide field of 1.2,
285 conditions that are rare in the magnetosphere. The three THEMIS spacecraft recorded detailed
286 exhaust profiles, with THD observing a positive V_L jet and THE and THA observing a main jet
287 in the negative L direction. The oppositely directed V_L jets observed by THD and THE/THA
288 indicate that THD and THE/THA were located on opposite sides of an X-line.

289 The two diverging exhausts displayed significant differences. THD observed a
290 unidirectional jet, resembling an open-ended exhaust, while THE and THA observed return
291 flows along the exhaust edges, suggesting that THE and THA crossed a magnetic island/flux
292 rope between two active X-lines.

293 The open-ended exhaust was characterized by large asymmetries in plasma profiles. Ion
294 perpendicular heating, electron parallel heating, and density compression were observed on one
295 side of the exhaust, while ion parallel heating and density depression were shifted to the other
296 side. The key to these asymmetries is the guide field. The large guide field and the outflow lead
297 to a normal electric field that span across the exhaust. Entering ions move in the direction of the
298 electric field in cusp-like orbits [Drake et al., 2009 Drake et al., 2014; Pritchett and Coroniti,
299 2004], resulting in the perpendicular temperature and density being larger on the side where E_N
300 points toward the inflow. Furthermore, in guide field reconnection, electron are accelerated
301 toward the X-line along two of the four separatrices and ejected out along the opposite sides of
302 the exhaust, leading to quadrupolar density structures in the exhausts [Pritchett and Coroniti,
303 2004] and enhanced electron temperature on the high density side of the exhaust where
304 accelerated and inflowing electrons are mixed [Drake et al., 2005]. Such asymmetries were
305 recently observed in a thin reconnection layer at the center of a magnetopause flux rope by MMS

306 [Øieroset et al., 2016]. The quadrupolar density behavior was also seen in a laboratory
307 experiment [Fox et al., 2017].

308 The asymmetries in the plasma and field profiles were expected to reverse on the opposite
309 side of an X-line, but the density, temperature, and B_M profiles at THE and THA were more
310 complex, and largely consistent with the combined effects of two X-lines flanking THE/THA,
311 forming a magnetic island/flux rope.

312

313 **Acknowledgements**

314 This research was supported in part by NSF grant AGS-1103303, NASA grants NNX13AD72G,
315 NNX08AO83G, NNX15AW58G, and STFC(UK) grant ST/N000692/1. Simulations performed
316 at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Data source: THEMIS Data Center at
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397

398 Figure 1. (a) THEMIS spacecraft positions at 17:50 UT on 2010-10-31, projected onto the GSE
399 x-y plane. The dashed line indicates the model magnetopause. THD was located at
400 $(x,y,z)_{\text{GSE}}=(11.14, -1.22, 2.65)R_E$, THA at $(11.07, -1.77, 2.35)R_E$, and THE at $(11.05, -1.61,$
401 $2.39)R_E$. (b) Spacecraft positions projected onto the L-N plane in a common current sheet normal
402 coordinate system (LMN) determined by MVAB at THE (16:50:21-16:51:12 UT). $L=\text{GSE}[-$
403 $0.146,0.348,0.926]$, $M=\text{GSE}[0.130,0.935,-0.330]$, and $N=\text{GSE}[0.981,-0.072,0.182]$. (c)-(h) THD,
404 THE, and THA magnetic field and ion velocity in GSE, (i)-(n) THD, THE, and THA magnetic
405 field and ion velocity in LMN.

406

407 Figure 2. Results from a 2D PIC simulation. Details of the simulation are in the Supplementary
408 Material section. (a) 2D plot of V_{iL} in the L-N plane. Red and blue denote flows in the positive
409 and negative L direction, respectively. (b)-(h) plasma and field parameters along a cut at $L=-$
410 $41.7 d_i$, near the center of the island, showing tripolar V_L flows and double enhancements of $T_{e\parallel}$
411 similar to the THE/THA observations. (i)-(o) Plasma and field parameters along a cut at $L= 18.9$
412 d_i , showing “open exhaust” profiles that are similar to THD observations. The direction of the
413 virtual spacecraft trajectories from -N to +N mimics the +N spacecraft motion through the
414 current sheet (as depicted also in Fig.1b). (p) Cartoon showing how reconnection jets can wrap
415 around each other when two X-lines form at different times.

416

417 Figure 3. THD observations in LMN coordinates determined by MVAB at THD. (a) magnetic
418 field, (b) out of plane magnetic field, (c) ion velocity, (d) density derived from the spacecraft
419 potential, (e) ion density, (f) ion temperatures, (g) electron temperatures, (h) ion energy
420 spectrogram, (i)-(k) electron energy spectrogram at 180° , 90° , and 0° pitch angles, and (l)

421 electric field. The solid vertical lines mark the current sheet edges, where L marks the leading
422 edge and T1 and T2 marks two candidates for the trailing edge. The dashed vertical line denotes
423 $B_L=0$ time.

424

425 Figure 4. THE (a-l) and THA (m-x) observations in LMN, using the same formats as in Fig.3.

426 The solid vertical lines mark the edges of the current sheet and the dashed vertical line denotes

427 $B_L=0$ time. LMN coordinates determined by MVAB of the local THE and THA crossings (at

428 16:50:21–16:51:12UT and 16:49:58–16:51:05UT, respectively).

429

Figure 1.

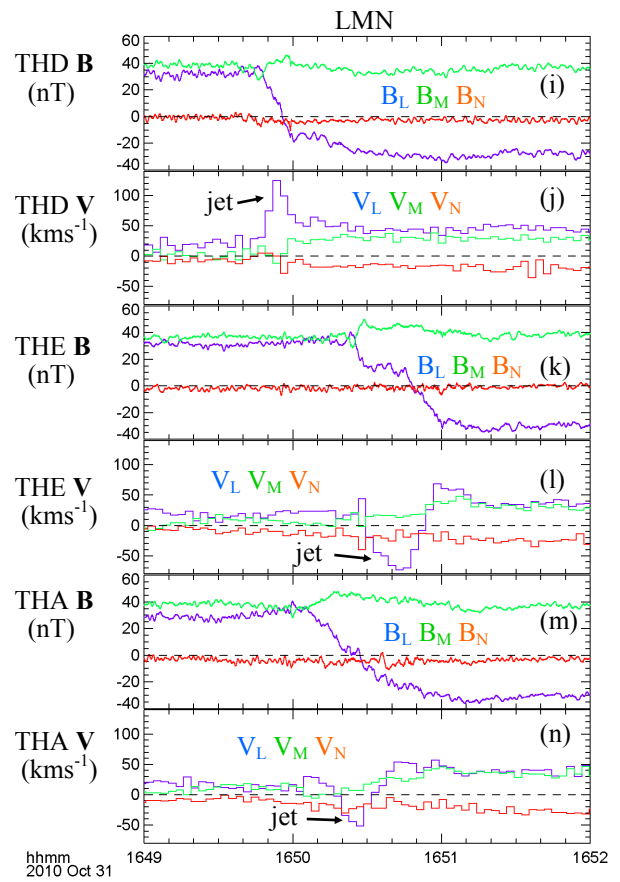
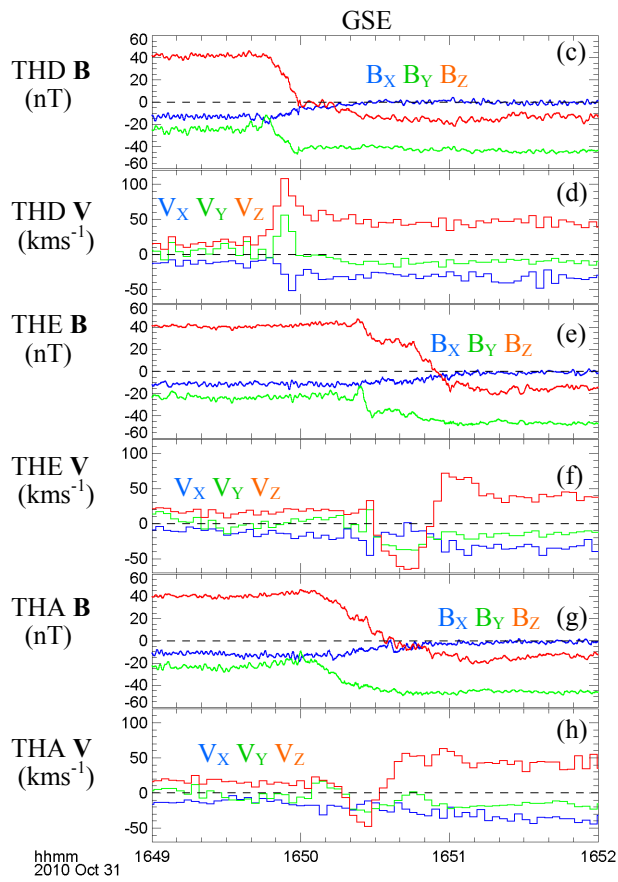
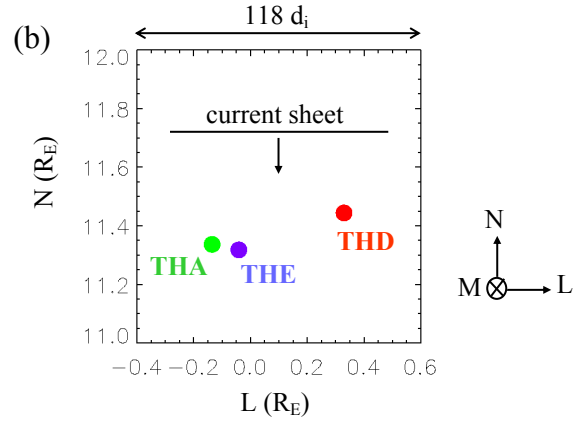
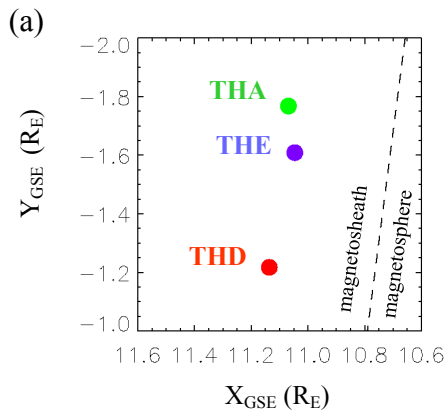


Figure 2.

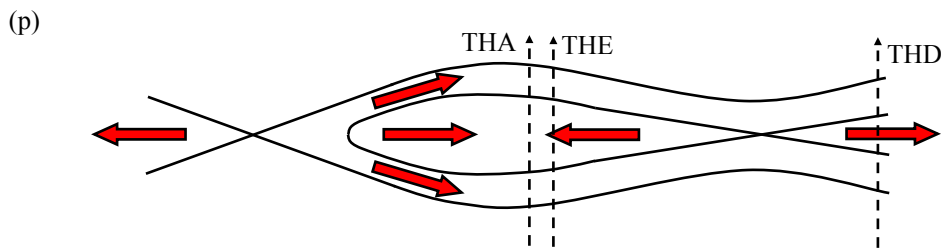
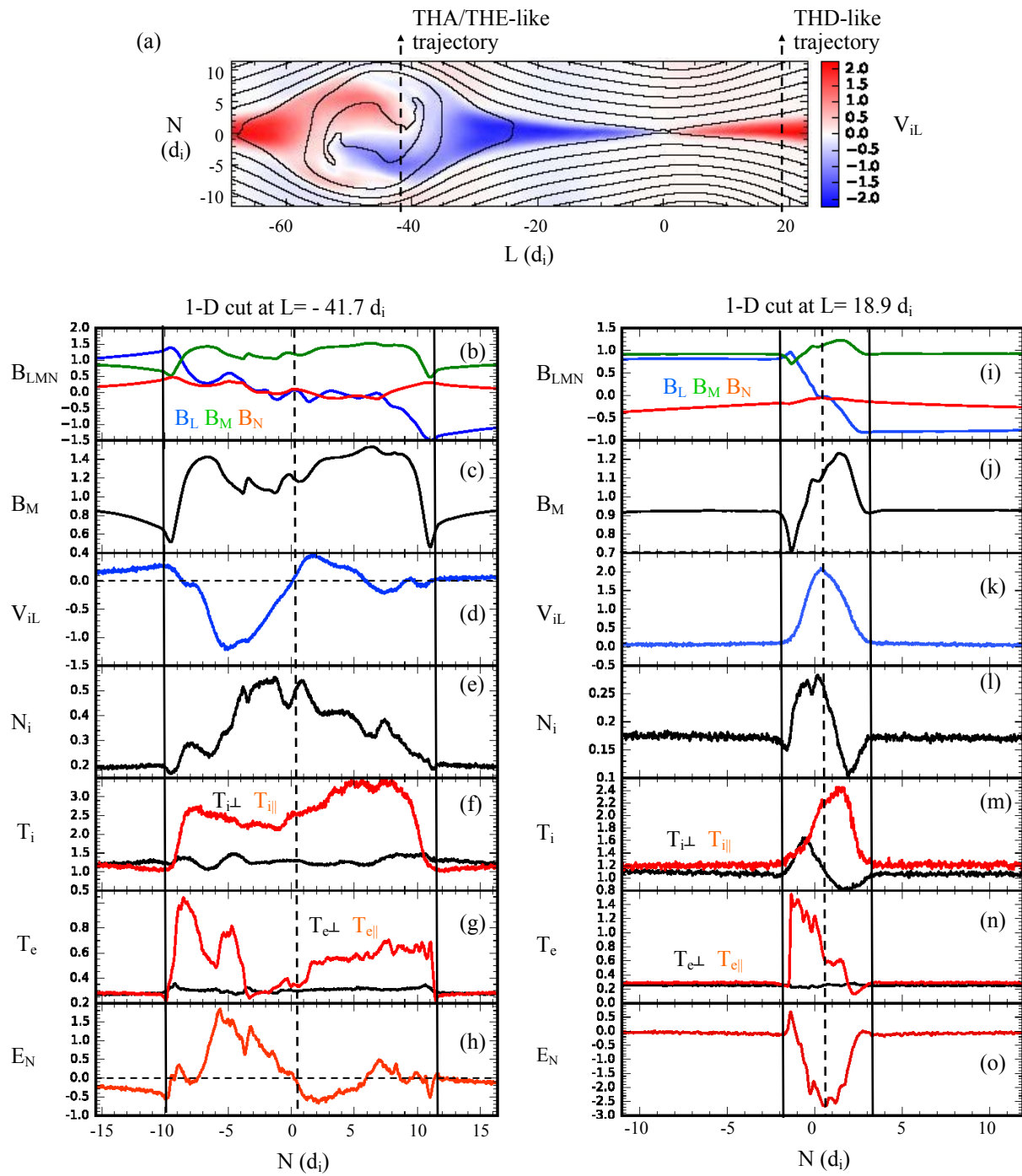


Figure 3.

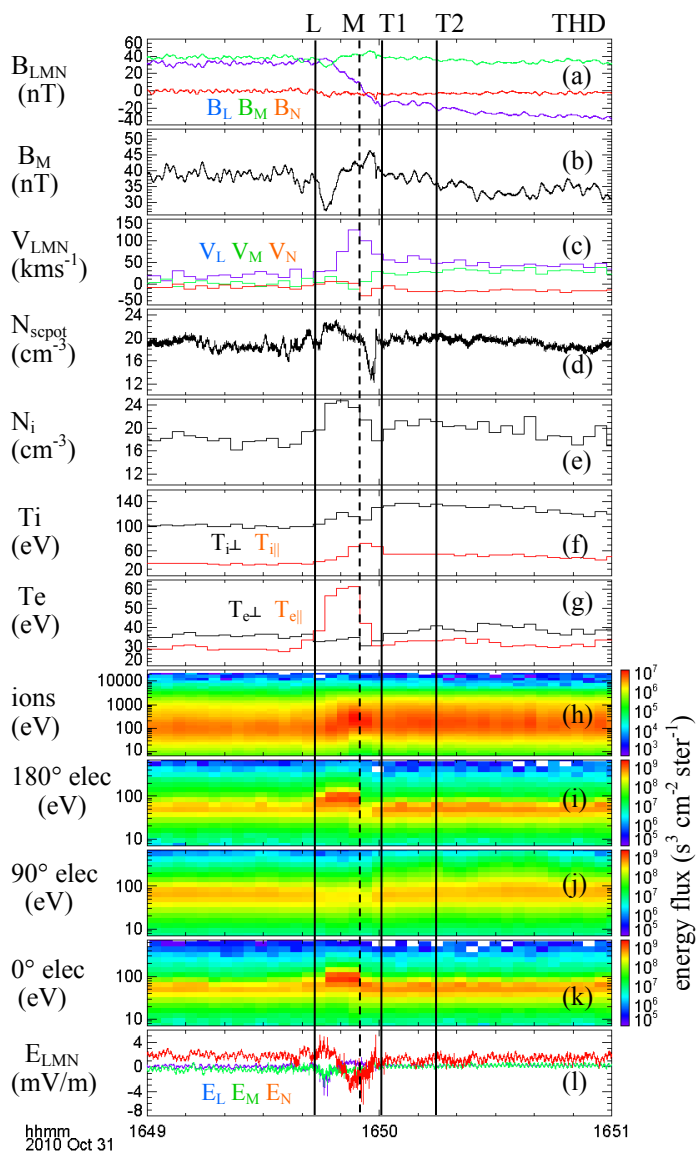


Figure 4.

