

# Plasma Heating & Acceleration in Collisionless Magnetic Reconnection

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Solar & Stellar Flare, Magnetosphere, Accretion Disks, Pulsar Wind-Nebula, Astrophysical Jets,...

> **Rapid Energy Dissipation & Nonthermal Particle Acceleration**

Magnetoluminescence, Blandford+, SSR, 2017

# Magnetic Reconnection



magnetic field energy (B)

Inflow and outflow around Xtype region, associated with inductive electric field (*E*)  $E = B \times \frac{V_{in,out}}{c}$ 

Giovaneli, Nature, 1949; Sweet 1958; Parker 1957; Petschek 1964; Furth, Killeen & Rosenbluth (FKR)1964;... Alfvénic outflow jet  $(V_A)$ 

$$V_{out} = V_A$$

magnetic energy dissipation at X-type region

$$E = \eta J$$



#### **Reconnection signatures**

- flow reversal (Vx)
- weak magnetic field (Bx)
- hot electron & ion plasmas (Te,Ti)

#### Oieroser et al. 2002

# Observations of Ti/Te

magnetosphere

$$T_i/T_e = 5 \sim 10$$

Hot ions are believed to be generated during magnetic reconnection...



(cf. Baumjohann+ JGR 1989; Eastwood+ PRL 2013; Phan+ GRL 2013)

Wang+ JGR 2012

# $T_i \& T_e$ Heating in PIC simulation



# Motion of flux tube in 2D

$$\vec{B}(x,y) = \nabla \times A_z(x,y)\vec{e}_z + B_z(x,y)\vec{e}_z$$
$$\frac{dx}{B_x(x,y)} = \frac{dy}{B_y(x,y)} \Leftrightarrow dA_z(x,y) = 0$$

If 
$$\vec{E} + \frac{1}{c}\vec{v} \times \vec{B} = 0$$
,  
then  $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial t} + \vec{v} \cdot \nabla\right) A_z(x, y, t) = 0$ .

# Time History of N in Flux Tube



before reconnection

25

ל ∧

35

V

с Т

25

35

t V





## **T-V** Relations





(V : Volume of Flux Tube)

### Plasma Heating (Equation of State)

$$\frac{D}{Dt}\left(\frac{p}{\gamma-1}\right) = \left(\frac{p}{\gamma-1}\right)\frac{\gamma}{\varrho}\frac{D\varrho}{Dt} + Q_{heat}$$
Adiabatic Non-Adiabatic

$$Q_{heat} = \eta J^2 + \text{others}$$
  
Ohmic Heating Slow Shock, Turbulence etc.



(V : Volume of Flux Tube)

# Time history of Ti and Te



# Mass dependence



# Thermodynamics of Reconnection



# Effective Ohmic heating model



$$\frac{\Delta T_i}{\Delta T_e} = \frac{Ion \, Heating}{Electron \, Heating} = \frac{E \cdot J_i \Delta_i d_i}{E \cdot J_e \Delta_e d_e}$$

#### meandering motion in diffusion region



# Joule heating model (I)



 $\frac{\Delta T_{i}}{\Delta T_{e}} = \frac{Ion \, Heating}{Electron \, Heating} = \frac{E \cdot J_{i} \Delta_{i} d_{i}}{E \cdot J_{e} \Delta_{e} d_{e}} = \frac{J_{i} \Delta_{i}}{J_{e} \Delta_{e}} \left(\frac{m_{i}}{m_{e}} \frac{T_{i0}}{T_{e0}}\right)^{1/4}$ 

# Joule heating model (II)



$$\frac{\Delta_i}{\Delta_e} = \left(\frac{\nu_{ix}}{\Omega_i} \frac{\Omega_{ce}}{\nu_{ex}}\right)^{1/2} \quad \therefore \quad \frac{J_i \Delta_i}{J_e \Delta_e} = 1$$

# Joule heating model (III)



$$\frac{\Delta T_i}{\Delta T_e} = \frac{Ion \,Heating}{Electron \,Heating} = \frac{E \cdot J_i \Delta_i d_i}{E \cdot J_e \Delta_e d_e} = \left(\frac{m_i}{m_e} \frac{T_{i0}}{T_{e0}}\right)^{1/4}$$

. .

## Initial temperature dependence



# Thermodynamics of Reconnection



### Summary (Plasma Heating)

Energy Partition of Ion & Electron during Magnetic Reconnection

Two distinct heating stages:
 Effective Ohmic heating

$$\frac{\Delta T_i}{\Delta T_e} = \left(\frac{m_i}{m_e} \frac{T_{i0}}{T_{e0}}\right)^{1/4}$$

Adiabatic Compression

$$\frac{D}{Dt}(TV^{\gamma-1}) = 0$$



## Energetic particles in Solar flares

(GOES class X4.8)



Emslie+ JGR 2004

electrons up to tens of MeV, ions up to tens of GeV Lin+ ApJ 2003





# Gamma ray flares in Crab



Enhancement of gamma ray flux ( $E_{\gamma} > 100 \text{MeV}$ )





Fermi LAT/R. Buehler

### Radiation-reaction limit for synchrotron photon energy

Acceleration 
$$F_e = eE$$
  
Radiation loss  $F_{rad} \approx \frac{2}{3}r_e^2\gamma^2 B_{\perp}^2$   
 $F_e = F_{rad}$   $\gamma_{rad} = \left(\frac{3eE}{2r_e^2 B_{\perp}^2}\right)^{1/2}$   
Synchrotron photon energy  
 $\varepsilon_{max} = \frac{3he}{4\pi mc}B_{\perp}\gamma_{rad}^2 = \frac{9}{4}\frac{mc^2}{\alpha_F}\frac{E}{B_{\perp}}$   
 $E = B_{\perp} \rightarrow \varepsilon_{max} = 160 \text{ MeV}$   
 $a_F \approx 1/137$   
fine structure const.

### Particle acceleration in X-type region

#### Pritchett PoP 2005



- Linear X-line acceleration
  - Direct resonance of particle with inductive electric field in weak magnetic field region
  - Almost free from radiation loss
  - Energetic particle flux is low because of the limited size of Xline

Speiser 1965

# Acceleration in magnetic field pileup region



- Acceleraton in B-file pileup region
  - gradB & curvB drift acceleration around the magnetic field 2pileup region
  - If adiabatic,  $p_{\perp}^2/B=const$ .
  - Energetic particle flux is high



### Acceleration inside magnetic island



Drake+ Nature 2006

- Shrinking Island Acceleration
  - trapped particles inside the magnetic island
  - If adiabatic, p<sub>//</sub>L=const.

Maximum attainable energy 
$$E_{max} = eEL$$

# Relativistic Reconnection (electron & positron)



Non-thermal particle acceleration due to relativistic Speiser motion

Zenitani & MH, ApJ 2001

### Large-Scale Evolution of MRX



### Power-Law Spectrum in Reconnection

#### • Acceleration rate

 $\frac{d\varepsilon}{dt} \approx eEc$ 

• Loss rate

$$\frac{1}{N}\frac{dN}{dt} \approx -\frac{1}{\tau(\varepsilon)} \approx -\frac{m_0 c^2}{\varepsilon} \frac{eB}{m_0 c}$$

• Energy Spectrum

$$N \propto \varepsilon^{-s}$$
  $s \approx E / B \approx 1$ 



#### **Plasmoid-dominated Reconnection**



Sironi & Spitkovsky ApJL 2014

#### Harder Energy Spectrum for large $\sigma$



Sironi & Spitkovsky ApJL 2014

(cf. Cerutti+ ApJ 2012; Melzani+ AA 2014; Guo+ ApJ 2015,....)

Main Acceleration occurs around X-type neutral point,

In addition, stochastic acceleration during the interaction with many plasmoids

# Acceleration in many magnetic islands



### Acceleration in Many Magnetic Islands



### **Reconnection in Striped Pulsar Wind**

0.4

0.2

0.0



 $\sigma$  problem: High  $\sigma$  (inner magnetosphere) -> Low  $\sigma$  (Nebula) , magnetic field dissipation is necessary

Simulation Setup: 2D PIC, Split-Monopole B model, Radiation reaction,



Cerutti & Philippov AA 2017

### **Reconnection in Accretion Disk**



Courtesy of Kato

### MRI and Reconnection in PIC simulation



β=1536, Kepler rotation Ω
300^3 grids 40 particles/cell,
periodic shearing box, electron-positron plasma

MH ApJ 2013, Shirakawa & MH ApJ 2014, MH PRL 2015

# **Basic Equations**

Local, non-inertia frame rotating with angular velocity  $\Omega$ 

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} &= -\nabla \times \vec{E}, \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{B} &= 0, \\ \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( \vec{E} - \frac{\vec{v}_0}{c} \times \vec{B} \right) &= \nabla \times \vec{B}^* - \frac{4\pi}{c} \vec{J}, \\ \nabla \cdot \left( \vec{E} - \frac{\vec{v}_0}{c} \times \vec{B} \right) &= 4\pi \rho_c, \\ & \text{where } \vec{v}_0(r) = \Omega_0 \vec{e}_z \times \vec{r} \\ \frac{d\vec{x}}{dt} &= \vec{v}, \\ \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt} &= e(\vec{E} + \frac{\vec{v}}{c} \times \vec{B}) - m\gamma(2\vec{\Omega}_0 \times \vec{v} - 2q\Omega_0^2 x \vec{e}_x). \end{aligned}$$

Keplerian disk with a tidal expansion

### Particle Acceleration in Accretion Disks



## **Energy and Stress Tensor Evolutions**



Initial plasma  $\beta = 1540$ , active phase  $\beta \sim O(1)$ quasi-steady-state  $\beta \sim O(10)$ 



 $\alpha$ (kinetic) ~ O(0.1)  $\alpha$ (kinetic)/ $\alpha$ (MHD) > 10 -100



# Summary (Particle Acceleration)

- Many astrophysical objects suggest that magnetic reconnection can generate nonthermal particles
- Plasmoid-dominated reconnection with many magnetic islands (X-type acceleration, 1<sup>st</sup> order Fermi acceleration, rapid energy dissipation,...)
- Reconnection in global astrophysical systems such as accretion disks & pulsar wind (nonthermal particles, enhanced angular momentum transport,...)

