

NASA's Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) Mission

2015 University of North Dakota Space Studies Colloquium

Craig Tooley - MMS Project Manager NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Today's Presentation

- ✿ Who your speaker is
- ⇔ The purpose of the MMS mission
- ⇔ The Spacecraft we built to execute the mission
- ☆ How the development was executed
- ☆ The launch and operation of the mission
- ♦ Status of the mission now
- ♦ Questions & discussion

Your Speaker Today – Craig Tooley

- BSME from University of Evansville 1983
	- Co-op Engineer at Regional Power Plant & GE Plastics Factory
- MSME From University of Maryland 1990
- Employed by NASA at the Goddard Space Flight Center since 1983…
	- Primarily have worked as engineer, systems engineer, and as a manager on numerous Space Shuttle payloads and missions, including Hubble Space Telescope servicing missions.
	- Deputy Project Manager for original Triana (later renamed DSCOVR) mission. Also Lead Engineer for the new Upper Stage required for *planned* Shuttle launch of Triana.
	- Project Manager for the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), launched in April 2009 and now in its 5th year of lunar operations
	- 1st Project Manager for the Joint Polar Satellite System (JPSS) Flight Segment, the next generation of NOAA/NASA weather and climate satellites which replaced the NPOESS Program.
	- **Project Manager for the MMS mission since May 2011**

Why MMS? - Solar and Space Physics Decadal Survey Highest Priority

National Academy of Sciences Decadal Survey in Solar and Space Physics, 2002

MMS Mission Overview

Mission Team

NASA SMD Southwest Research InstScience Leadership Instrument Suite Science Operations Center Science Data Analysis NASA GSFCProject Management Mission System Engineering Spacecraft Mission Operations Center NASA KSCLaunch services

Science Objectives

Discover the fundamental plasma physics process of reconnection in the Earth's magnetosphere

Temporal scales of milliseconds to seconds

Spatial scales of 10s to 100s of km

Mission Description

4 identical satellites

Formation flying in a tetrahedron with separations as close as 10 km

2 year operational mission

Orbit

Elliptical Earth orbits in 2 phases

Phase 1 day side of magnetic field 1.2 R_E by 12 R_E Phase 2 night side of magnetic field 1.2 R_E by 25 R_E Significant orbit adjust and formation maintenance **Instruments**

Identical *in situ* instruments on each satellite measure Electric and magnetic fields

Fast plasma with composition

Energetic particles

Hot plasma composition

Spacecraft

Precision spin stabilization $($ \sim 3 rpm) Magnetic and electrostatic cleanliness

Launch Vehicle

4 satellites launched together in one Atlas V

Mission Status

Launched 3/18/2015 – Commissioning ongoing

NASA MMS Mission Trailer Video

Universal Process of Magnetic Reconnection

Throughout the universe, we find that magnetic energy is explosively released in a fundamental, but poorly understood process called "reconnection."

Jets in Crab Nebula

Reconnection plays an important role in heliophysics (solar flares,magnetic storms,aurora), astrophysics (magnetar flares, accretion disks) and laboratory plasma physics (sawtooth oscillations in Tokamaks).

MMS Science Overview

Scientific Objective: Understand the microphysics of magnetic reconnection by determining the kinetic processes occurring in the electron diffusion region that are responsible for collisionless magnetic reconnection, especially how reconnection is initiated.

NASA's Polar and ESA's Cluster missions have advanced the science of reconnection at the MHD and ion scales. However, probing the reconnection process itself requires detailed measurements at the electron scale with spatial and temporal resolutions far higher than achieved by Polar or Cluster.

Measurement Strategy: Obtain 3D samples of *plasmas, E and B fields, waves and energetic particles* with four-identically instrumented spacecraft separated by distances spanning the ion and electron scales \sim 100 km down to 10 km at the dayside magnetopause and \sim 100 km to 30 km in the neutral sheet of the geomagnetic tail).

Challenges: Obtain 3D plasma distributions at 150 ms (ions) and 30 ms (electrons) compared to 4 s and 2 s, respectively on Cluster. Separate O⁺ and protons at the magnetopause for the first time. Obtain accurate 3D Electric Field measurements. Select the optimum 2% of the total high-rate data for transmission to the ground. Operate the mission as an in-situ laboratory with scientists-in-the-loop during the entire mission.

Where MMS Explores Magnetic Reconnection

Magnetic reconnection occurs in two main regions of Earth's magnetosphere: (1) the dayside magnetopause and (2) the night side magnetotail. MMS will employ a two-phase orbit strategy to explore each of these regions in turn

In **Phase 1,** MMS will probe reconnection sites at the mid-latitude dayside magnetopause. Here the interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) merges with the geomagnetic field, transferring mass, momentum, and energy to the magnetosphere. The solar wind flow transports the merged IMF/geomagnetic field lines toward the night side, causing a build up of magnetic flux in the magnetotail.

In **Phase 2**, the MMS constellation will investigate reconnection sites in the night side magnetotail, where reconnection releases the magnetic energy stored in the tail in explosive events known as magnetospheric substorms and allows the magnetic flux stripped away from the dayside magnetopause by the solar wind/magnetosphere interaction to return to the dayside.

Flying MMS- Orbits & Regions Of Interest (ROI)

- The 4 MMS Observatories are launched into a elliptical orbit (red) which moves through the magnetopause boundary ROI as the Earth orbits the Sun. Shown in Geocentric Solar Ecliptic (GSE) coordinates.
- MMS Observatories will be maneuvered into a higher orbit the second year which will pass thru the magnetotail ROI
- On-board GPS and ground tracking data will be used in conjunction with closed-loop maneuver executions to maintain required spacecraft tetrahedron formations. Formation accuracy maintained to 100m.

MMS Mission Simulation Video

The MMS Observatory *Four Identical Observatories*

Observatory #1 - Mass Properties Test & Balancing

Observatory #1 - Lift Prior to Orbital Debris Shield Installation

MMS Deployed Booms – to scale

MMS Observatory Layout *Modular Design for Ease of Integration*

MMS Science Instruments

MMS Observatory Block Diagram

MMS Project Lifecycle

- **Lifecycle Cost includes:** All labor and overhead (civil servant and contractor), all equipment and hardware ,testing, launch vehicle procurement, ground systems and operations, and science data analysis.
- **The MMS Mission was executed (thus far) on-budget and on-schedule** with the caveat (*there is always a caveat!)* that the mission had a ~ \$34M overrun (3%) beyond NASA's baseline budget due to the impacts of the Federal Government Shutdown. Total cost is \$1.1B

Executing the MMS Project *History via Gantt Chart*

Executing the MMS Project *The Most Important Element for Success*

MMS TEAM AT NASA GODDARD

MMS Project Execution *Who built it and are now flying it*

MMS is an in-house NASA Goddard mission, meaning a Goddard team of civil servants and contractors built and tested the spacecraft, integrated the instruments, and operates the mission. Southwest Research Institute was selected as the Instrument Suite provider and lead a team with members many different institutions who together built the 100 MMS instruments, integrated them as a suite to the MMS Observatories, and operate them on-orbit.

Launching MMS *Payload Processing at Launch Site*

After the completion of integration and environmental testing at NASA Goddard MMS began a four month launch site campaign preparing for launch on the Atlas V rocket at CCAFS in Florida.

MMS Team performing stacking and final check-outs at AstroTech Payload Processing Facility

MMS Observatories being encapsulated in Atlas 4m Fairing

MMS at the Launch Pad

MMS at SLC 41 Launch Pad

Launching MMS *Launch Day*

Separation of MMS #1 from Centaursensible of the sensible of the MMS-3 Spacecraft MMS-1 Spacecraft Separation Separation MECO2 $t = 1.37:12.4$ $1 = 1.47 - 12.4$ $t = 1:18.12.3$ **PLF** Jettison Orbit Orbit Orbit Obit = $316.0 \times 37,869.3$ nmi $t = 273.7$ sec Orbit = $316.0 \times 37,849.9$ nmi $Orbit = 315.2 x$ Alt = 73.2 nmi at 28.8 deg Inclination at 28.8 deg Inclnation 37,922.8 nmi $\text{Range} = 271.8 \text{ nm}$ at 28.8 deg Indination MES₁ $V = 18,304.8$ ft/s MES2 End CCAM $t = 265.7$ sec $t = 1, 12, 32, 1$ $t = 1.48:12.4$ $At = 69.5$ nm **MMS-4 Spacecraft MMS-2 Spacecraft** Orbit $Range = 250.2$ nmi Orbit Separation Separation Orbit = 100.4×314.1 nmi $Orb{t} = 316.0 \times 37.844.6$ nmi $V = 18,284.0$ ft/s $1 = 1:32:12.4$ $1 = 1:42:12.4$ at 28.7 deg Incination at 28.8 deg Inclination Orbit Orbit **Centaur Separation** MECO1 Orbit = 315.9 x 37,883.9 nmi Orbit = $316.0 \times 37,859.2$ rmi $1 = 255.7$ sec $t = 0.1333.6$ at 28.8 deg Inclination at 28.8 deg inclination At $= 64.7$ nmi Orbit $Range = 223.2$ nmi $Orbit = 90.0 X 318.8$ nmi $V = 18,333.2$ ft/s **End of Mission** at 28.7 deg Inclination Launch: $1 = 2.50:12.3$ **BECO** Flight Azimuth: 99.0 deg $t = 249.7$ sec Orbit Alt = 61.7 nmi 0 bł = 213.0 x 35,961.4 nmi Range = 207.0 nmi at 28.5 deg Inclination **Spacecraft Mean Orbit at** $V = 18,260.7$ ft/s **MMS-4 Separation** SRB Jettison Apogee Altitude 37,883.2 nmi $t = 138.2$ sec. $\text{Alt} = 25.6$ nm Perigee Altitude 315.9 nmi Range = 32.0 nmi **Inclination** 28.8° $V = 6.014.4$ ft/s $19.0°$ Argument of Perigee MMS LaunchApproximate Values \leftarrow Liftoff T/W > 1.0 $t = 1.1$ sec

MMS Launch Video

Mission Operations - Flying MMS

MMS Spacecraft and overall mission operations are controlled from NASA Goddard while the Instrument Suite is controlled from the Payload/Science Operations Center at LASP in Boulder Colorado. LASP in turn coordinates with the individual instrument teams at their institutions.

MMS Mission Operations Center (MOC) at NASA Goddard

Flying MMS

Typical Orbit (day) in the life during 1st year

- •The MMS mission is in its 5th week of flight operations. The mission is proceeding extremely well! 4½ more months of commissioning activities remain ahead of us, then we enter the science region-of-interest.
	- Instrument activation and calibrations are proceeding on schedule with no significant instrument problems.
	- • Boom deployments have been in progress for the past 3 weeks and will be completed in a week.
	- • All spacecraft systems are performing perfectly. Of particular note are:
		- • The simultaneous nutation-precession-spin controller and the PWM closed loop thruster control systems are exceeding expectations in their accuracy.
		- • The Navigator weak-signal GPS system is significantly exceeding its performance requirements. Tracking more GPS SV and performing onboard orbit determination at higher than expected altitudes.
		- • Power and thermal systems are exhibiting robust performance and will yield revised power margins that will enable additional science operations.

Links for Additional MMS Information & Media Resources

NASA Goddard MMS Website: http://mms.gsfc.nasa.gov NASA HQ MMS Website: http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/mms MMS Facebook:Southwest Research Institute MMS Website:University of New Hampshire MMS Website: http://mms-fields.unh.edu Magnetic Reconnection Physics Forum: http://heliogeophysics.ning.com/

 https://www.facebook.com/MagMultiScale http://mms.space.swri.edu

MMS Resources for Photos, Videos, & Animations

http://mms.gsfc.nasa.gov/images_multimedia.html http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/mms/multimedia/index.html#.VQhRNmNTf5w https://www.flickr.com/photos/nasakennedy/sets/72157649836241016/with/16616462548/ http://www.ulalaunch.com/file-library.aspx

- • **Before discussing how NASA is building and flying the MMS mission some explanation of what Magnetic Reconnection is in order.**
- • **The MMS mission may be renamed** *Maxwell Explorer* **or something akin to that in honor of James Clerk Maxwell who is most famous for his equations which unified electricity and magnetism in the 19th century.**

MMS Background- The Magnetosphere

- • The **magnetosphere** of Earth is a region in space whose shape is determined by the Earth's internal magnetic field, the solar wind plasma, and the Sun's interplanetary magnetic field. The boundary of the magnetosphere ("magnetopause") is roughly bullet shaped, about 15 Earth Radii (RE) abreast of Earth and on the night side (in the "magnetotail" or "geotail") approaching a cylinder with a radius 20-25 RE. The tail region stretches well past 200 RE. For reference the Moon orbits at about 60 Re.
- • Activity in the magnetosphere causes auroras near the Earth's poles
- • The interaction of the Earth and Solar activities (Space Weather) and can affect satellites, astronauts, and terrestrial power grids and communication systems.
- • Earth's magnetosphere protects the ozone layer from the solar wind. The ozone layer protects the Earth (and life on it) from dangerous ultraviolet radiation

Magnetospheric Multiscale Mission Objective

MMS Objective: *Finding out how Magnetic Reconnection works*

Solar flare with overlay of magnetic reconnection simulation

Magnetic Reconnection:

• **connects and disconnects** plasma regions and taps energy stored in their magnetic fields, converting it into flow acceleration and heat, it is the primary mechanism transferring energy from the Sun's magnetic filed into the Earth's magnetosphere

• **unleashes** explosive phenomena ranging from solar flares on the Sun to high-energy cosmic rays to x-ray emissions from neutron star and black hole accretion disks

- **drives** severe "space weather" impacting communications, navigation, power grids, spacecraft and astronaut health and safety
- **reduces** the performance of fusion reactors- an obstacle for achieving fusion power on earth
- **impossible** to create on a significant scale on earth, our magnetosphere is the closest laboratory

Solving magnetic reconnection will unlock understanding of a fundamental and universal energetic plasma process that drives our space weather and affects and limits our use of technologies on Earth

What is Magnetic Reconnection?

• **Magnetic Reconnection is a Fundamental Universal Process**

- Magnetic Reconnection is an energy transfer mechanism of enormous magnitude that is occurring in our near-space environment as well as throughout the universe. *It's physics are not fully understood.*
	- \bullet Magnetic fields pointing in opposite directions in a plasma tend to annihilate each other in a diffusion region, releasing their magnetic energy and heating the charged particles in the surrounding environment.
	- • The fast release of magnetic energy requires that oppositely pointing magnetic fields be torn apart and reattached to their neighbors in a alled magnetic reconnection.

Simulation of the Interaction of the Earth's Magnetosphere, the Sun's Magnetic field and the Solar Wind

10_{km}

Understanding Magnetic Reconnection & what MMS needs to measure

Magnetic Reconnection is a phenomena that occurs as moving electrons and ions (a plasma) interact in the presence of time varying magnetic and electric fields. The expression below⁽¹⁾ termed the "Generalized Ohm's Law" relates the electromagnetic (Maxwell's Eq.s) and the kinetic (Newton/Einstein's laws) behavior of particles and fields in the plasma, written for electrons in this case. In an ideal perfectly conducting plasma the entire right side of the equation equals zero. In a situation involving magnetic reconnection in which the ions and electrons are moving at different speeds (not one fluid) and the magnetic filed lines are not frozen in the plasma but are changing and breaking/reconnecting the right side of the equation represents the departure from the simple ideal case. The terms on the right involve the electrical resistivity, the Hall effect current, and the particle inertia and particle pressure effects. Understanding the conditions that initiate magnetic reconnection and how the energy is both transferred from the magnetic fields to the kinetic energy of the particles as well as how it is dissipated is the fundamental goal of the MMS mission. We understand the equations of reconnections but not, yet, the solutions to them.

E+ **v**×**B** = *ηs* **j**+ *(***j**×**B***)/ne* + *me/e(∂***v***e/∂t* ⁺**v***e* · **v***e)*[−] · **P***e/ne.*

Thus the suite of instruments on MMS will measure the electric fields (**E**), magnetic fields (**B**), and the abundance, species, and energy levels of the electrons and ions (**j**, **v**, **v**e, **P**e). It will do this in 3 dimensions on the temporal and spatial scales involved in magnetic reconnection events. The links below are good entry points for anyone desiring to better understand magnetic connection

> http://ulysses.phys.wvu.edu/~pcassak/parkerlecture2008.pdf http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnetic_reconnection http://www.scholarpedia.org/article/MHD_reconnection http://sci.esa.int/science-e/www/object/index.cfm?fobjectid=36447

April 20, 2015 MMS for UND Space Studies Colloquium ³⁴ 1) M. Yamada, *Understanding the Dynamics of Magnetic Reconnection Layer*, Space Sci Rev (2011) 160:25-43

Mission Success CriteriaBaseline Science

- **4.1.1 Baseline Science Requirements**
- • **For the Baseline Mission, the following requirements must be met:**
	- **STP-MMS-M10 through STP-MMS-M80 [Section 4.1.3]**
	- − **STP-MMS-I10 through STP-MMS-I90 [Section 4.1.4]**
	- − **STP-MMS-P10 through STP-MMS-P150 [Section 4.2]**
- • **Achieve four (4) functional satellites in specified orbits**
	- **Conduct science measurements in a 12 RE dayside magnetopause orbit (Phase 1)**
	- **Conduct science measurements in a 25 RE nightside neutral sheet orbit (Phase 2)**
- \bullet **Obtain sixteen (16) quality1 reconnection events at specific magnetic shear orientations and density levels, shown in the Table 2:**

Table 2 Magnetic Shear Orientation and Density Level Requirements for Baseline Mission

- **1 Quality events are those for which the science observables S10-S150 can be determined**
- **2 Change in plasma density across the shear boundary**
- **3 Total magnetic field rotation across the current sheet**

Baseline – Full Mission Success – Fly 4 Observatories for 29 months meeting Instrument requirements and Instrument failure criterion

Mission Success CriteriaThreshold Science

- **4.1.2 Threshold Science Requirements**
- • **For the Threshold Mission, the following requirements must be met:**
	- −**STP-MMS-M10R, M20, M30, M40R, M50R, M60R** [Section 4.1.3; 4.5]
	- −**STP-MMS-I10 through STP-MMS-I50, I60R, I70, I80R** [Section 4.1.4; 4.5]
	- −**STP-MMS-P10R, STP-MMS-P30 through STP-MMS-P70** [Section 4.2; 4.5]
- \bullet **Achieve three (3) functional satellites in specified orbits**
	- −**Conduct science measurements in a 12 R_E dayside magnetopause orbit (Phase 1)**
- • **Obtain six (6) quality1 reconnection events at specific magnetic shear orientations and density levels, shown in the Table 3 below:**

Table 3 Magnetic Shear Orientation and Density Level Requirements for Threshold Mission

1 Quality events are those for which the science observables S10-S150 can be determined

- **2 Change in plasma density across the shear boundary**
- **3 Total magnetic field rotation across the current sheet**

Threshold – Minimum Mission Success – Fly 3 Observatories for ~11 months meeting Instrument requirements and Instrument failure criterion

MMS Mission Phase Timeline Summary NASA

MMS Flight Overview Summary

481-PROJ-REF-0133

Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) Project

