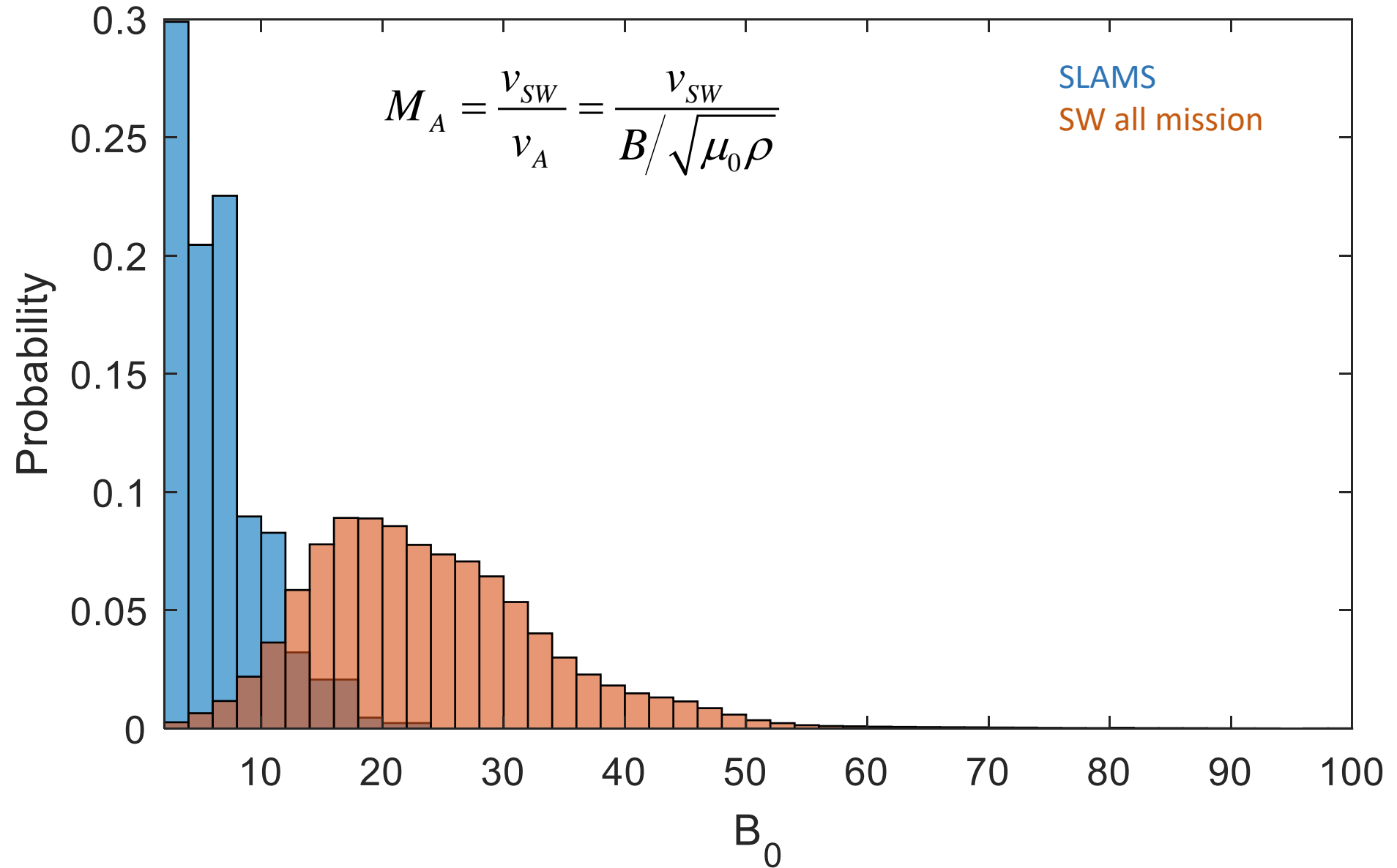


Mercury - MESSENGER



Evaluating the de Hoffmann-Teller cross-shock potential at real collisionless shocks

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Objectives

Q1: Do proposed “adaptive” dHT frame transformations work in real life?

Q2: Can MMS do this, i.e., can we integrate DC electric fields?

Basics

$$\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{V}_e \times \mathbf{B} = -\frac{1}{n_e e} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{P}_e + \dots$$

$$\phi = -\int \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{n} \, dn$$

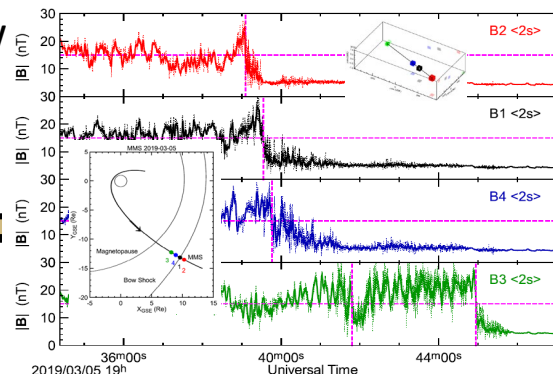
- dHT frame has $\mathbf{V} \parallel \mathbf{B}$
- Not obvious in 3D non-stationary
- Gold standard comes from integrating ambipolar or using e- Liouville mapping

Method

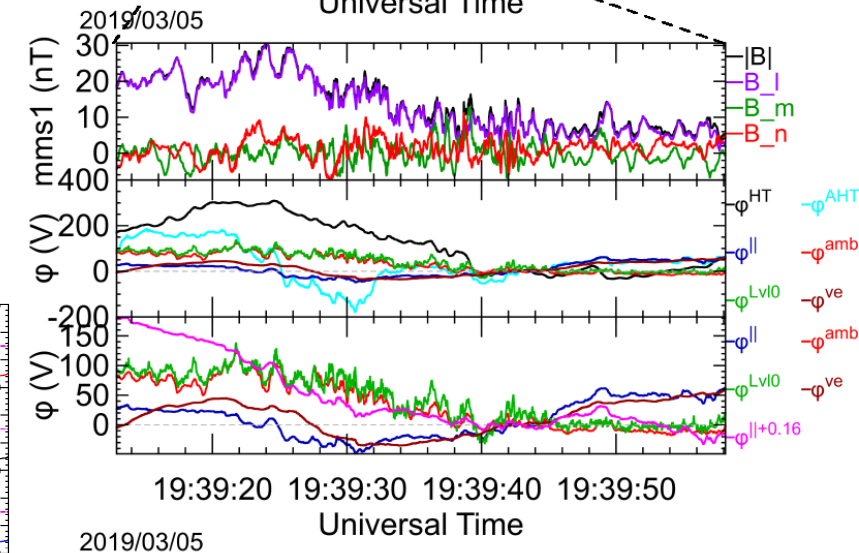
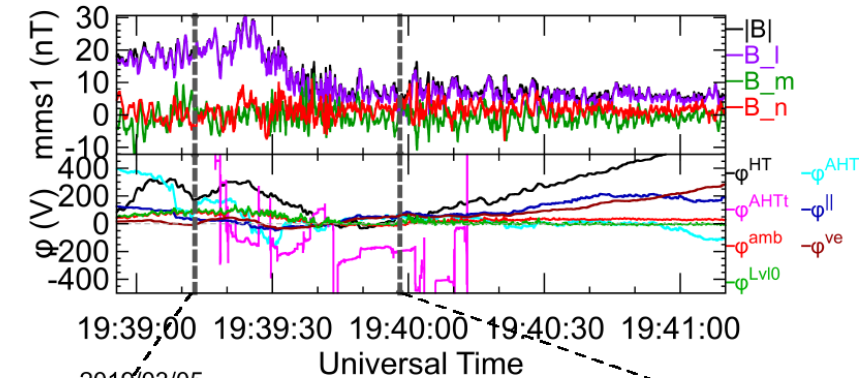
- MMS string of pearls (to facilitate $x \leftrightarrow t$)
- Compare various alternatives

Results

- Q1: No. Issues with non-constant n and/or B_n
- Q2: ALMOST! Basic $\int E_{\parallel}$ and direct \int of e- momentum eqn best, but only with addition of arb E-field offset (within errors)
- See poster for details
- Under review



Estimates of shock HT potential

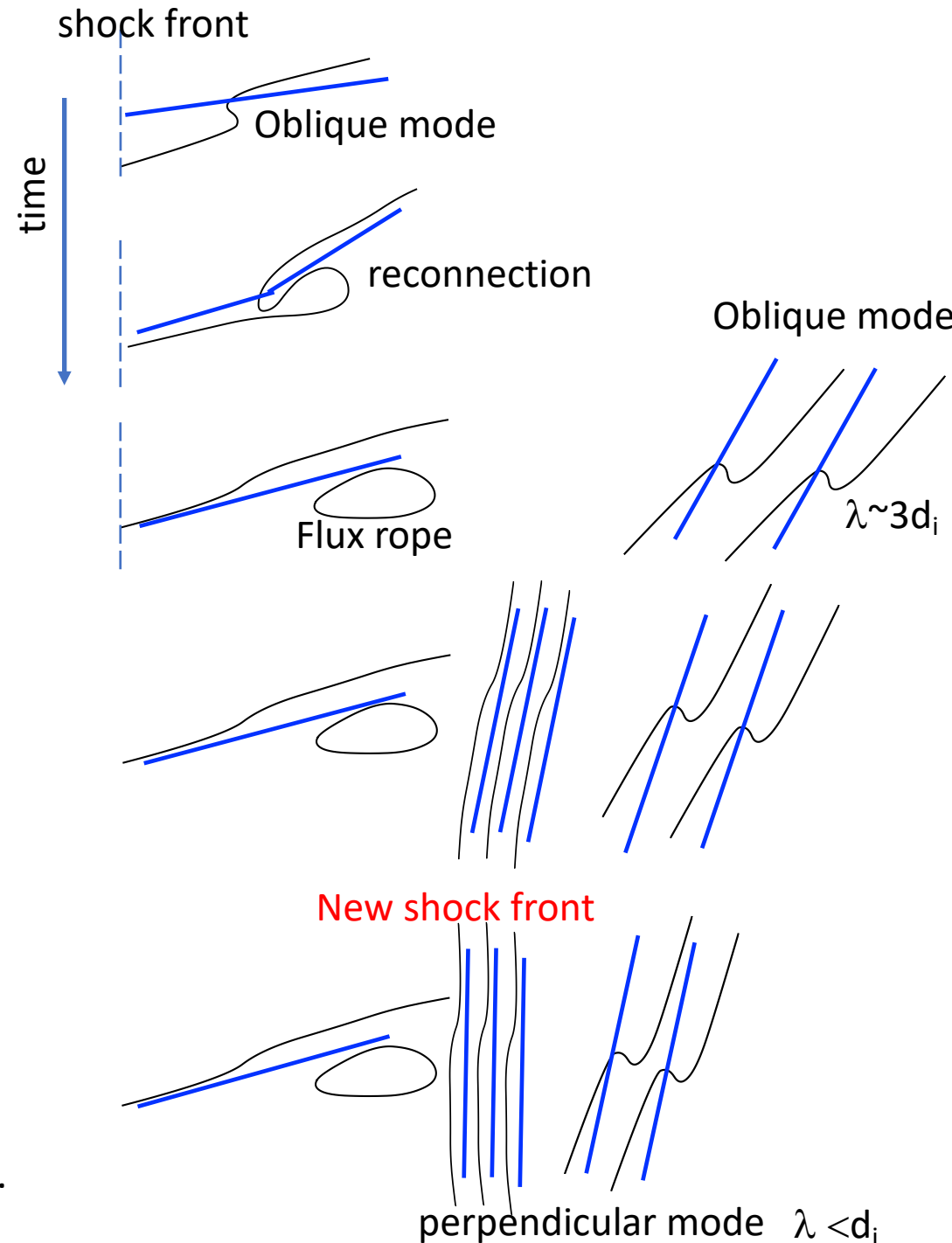
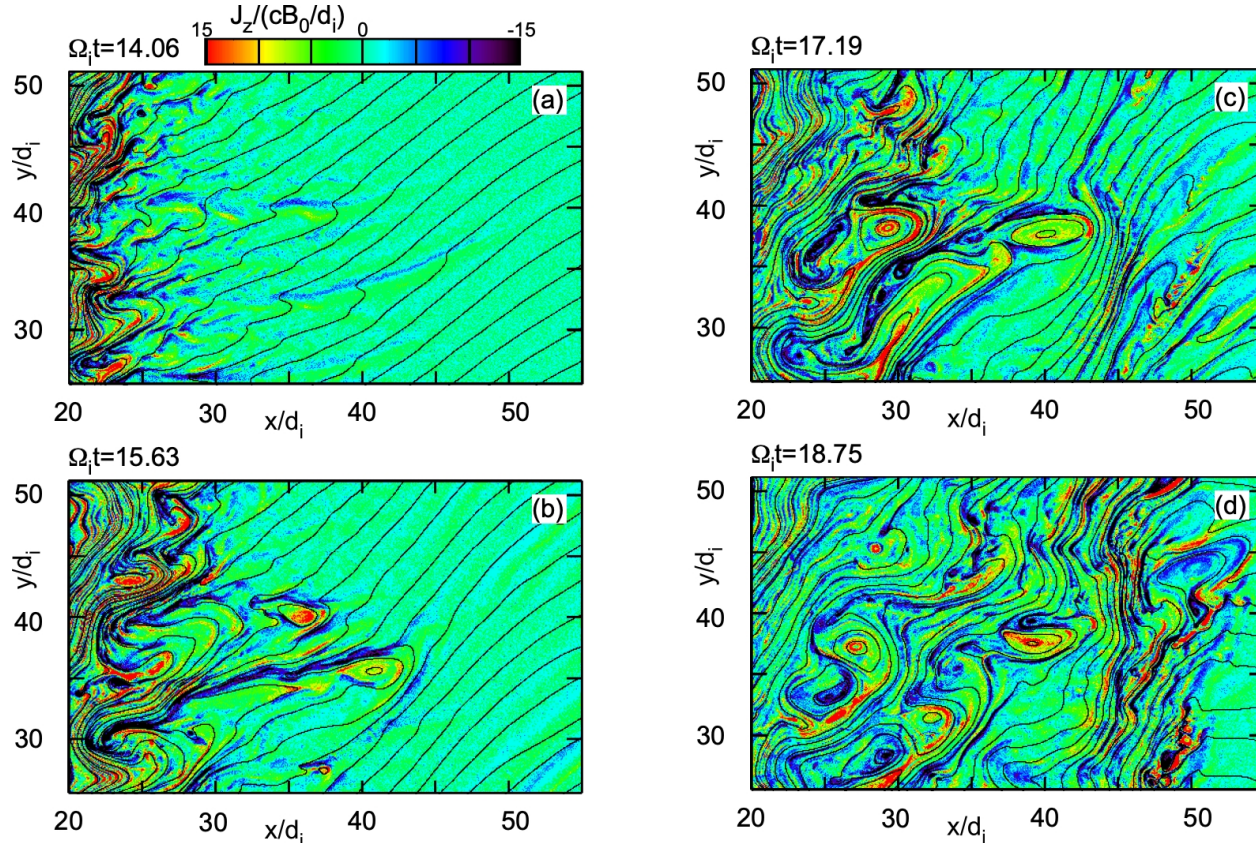


Shock reformation and a mode conversion in a quasi-parallel shock

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1. UMD, 2. NASA GSFC, 3. NASA ARC

2D PIC simulation, $\theta=25$ degrees, $M_A=11.4$ Bessho et al. 2020



The shock reformation looks due to the formation of flux ropes, which can compress the plasma to form the new shock front.

Mode conversion (oblique to perpendicular) plays an important role. The quasi-parallel shock becomes a perpendicular shock.