Cold ion heating in the vicinity of the Hall field region in dayside magnetic reconnection

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Magnetic reconnection is a plasma process that enables exchange of mass and energy between the solar wind and the Earth' s magnetosphere. The magnetospheric side of the subsolar magnetopause is often populated by cold (10 eV) plasma of ionospheric origin, in addition to the common hot (10 keV) magnetospheric plasma. We present MMS observations of magnetic reconnection with the presence of ionospheric cold plasma and investigate the heating mechanisms as well as their implications for the global energy budget. It is found that cold ions are pre-heated already inside the magnetospheric separatrix region before entering the exhaust, in the vicinity of the Hall electric field. The temperature increases one order of magnitude and the heating is mainly perpendicular to the magnetic field.

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