TerraVirtualE

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Effects of electron particle physics in global planetary models

Giovanni Lapenta

KU LEUVEN

D. Schriver, H. Baeke, N. Echterling, R.J. Walker, M. El-Alaoui, P. Travnicek





EGU General Assembly, Vienna, April 25, 17:50 CEST

We modelled Mercury but can we model the Earth?



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Electron Temperature in keV

Lapenta, et al., JGR 127, e2021JA030241 (2022).



Electron total kinetic energy



Electron Current

Hybrid model (fluid electrons)



Full PIC (kinetic electrons)

-2.0e+02

- 180

- 160

- 140

- 120

- 100

Magnitud





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North-South fly through



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Lapenta, et al., JGR 127, e2021JA030241 (2022).



Lapenta, et al., JGR 127, e2021JA030241 (2022).



Reconnection regions

We use a precise reconnection identifier that is capable of including more complex 3D reconnection topologies, like tangling magnetic filed lines



Ergun, R. E., et al. PRL (2016): 235102.

Lorentz Reconnection indicator [Lapenta, ApJ 911.2 (2021): 147].

Lapenta, Nature Physics, January 2023.

Vicinity of one 3D reconnection

Electron flow lines

Lapenta, Nature Physics, January 2023.

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Conclusions

- Mercury-scale full PIC global models capturing both electron and ion scales are possible using **iPic3D-ECsim**.
- The electron scale particle physics induces:
 - ✓ Stronger and more localized currents at interfaces
 - ✓ Stronger energization of the electrons and the ions
 - ✓The processes of energization are linked with streaming instabilities and the formation of high energy populations
 - Reconnection and turbulence interplay forming a myriad secondary reconnection sites
- Future work will need to use heterogeneous computers to model Earth (new TerraVirtualE ERC Advanced Grant)



