

The Role of Magnetic Reconnection in the Late-Phase Acceleration and Expansion of the 2013 February 27 CME

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Magnetic Reconnection in CME Dynamics









Continuous Acceleration of Moderately Fast CME



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-1200 -800 X (orcsec) -1000

-1000

-800 X (prosec)

Acceleration, Expansion and Reconnection





- Two acceleration phases: (1) impulsive (initiation, $\sim 60 \text{ m/s}^2$) + gradual (late-phase, $\sim 10 \text{ m/s}^2$).
- CME is moderately fast, with speed ~600 to 700 km/s, and faster than the solar wind (~300 km/s).
- Acceleration in the late-phase lasts for a long time in the high corona (e.g., 10-25 Rs), leading to an increase of ~170 km/s in speed.
- Apparent acceleration of the front may be due to (additional) expansion.
- Signatures of long-lasting magnetic reconnection.
- Additional expansion in lateral direction is comparable to that in radial direction.



CME expansion in lateral direction





Assume the deceleration caused by the solar wind drag force is compensated by the acceleration due to magnetic reconnection.

$$a_{drag} = \frac{F_{drag}}{m_{CME}} = -\frac{C_D A_{CME} n m_p}{2m_{CME}} (V_{CME} - V_{SW}) |V_{CME} - V_{SW}|$$

Magnetic reconnection not only leads to apparent acceleration (expansion) but also compensates the deceleration due to the solar wind drag. The contribution of magnetic reconnection to CME expansion is comparable to or even larger than that to CME acceleration (in the high corona).

To be discussed:

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- Acceleration of fast CME.
- Structure of the CME bright core (Gibson et al. 2006; Howard et al. 2017; Veronig et al. 2018).
- Reconnection contribution to expansion and acceleration in the low solar corona.
- How does reconnection influence CME dynamics when CME is at large distance (e.g., rate)?