Dr. Gary M. Erickson

Biography:

Gary Erickson received his B.S. (1976) and M.S. (1978) degrees in physics from Florida Atlantic University, and his Ph.D. (1985) in space physics from Rice University. After a post-doctoral appointment at Rice University (1985–1986), he was an NRC Resident Research Associate at Goddard Space Flight Center (1986–1987), a Geophysics Scholar at the Air Force Geophysical Laboratory (1987–1989), and Senior Scientist at Massachusetts Technological Laboratory (1989–1990). He came to Boston University as a Research Associate (1990–1991), taught a graduate course in magnetospheric physics, and became a member of the Research Faculty in the Department of Space Physics and Astronomy and Center for Space Physics (1991–2003). He held Visiting Faculty appointments at the Air Force Research Laboratory under the Air Force Summer Faculty Research Program (1997, 2001, 2002). He is now a Research Scientist at the Solar Observatory and Visiting Associate Professor of Physics at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU).

Research has included both theoretical and data-analysis projects. Theoretical projects include convection in Earth's plasma sheet, the physics of the Harang discontinuity, the generation of magnetic-field-aligned currents, magnetospheric structure, and magnetopause reconnection and turbulence. The problem of the magnetospheric substorm has been a particular research focus since he elucidated the "pressure-balance inconsistency" as a graduate student. For his Ph.D. project, he developed the first computer code to model force-balanced, adiabatic, magnetospheric convection, which established the structure of the substorm growth phase. Data-analysis projects include use of data from the CRRES and Geotail satellites to describe magnetospheric substorms. The CRRES project resulted in the discovery and description of a near-Earth mechanism for the onset of magnetospheric substorms.

From 1994 until his move to PVAMU, he was a member of the science team involved in the development of the Integrated Space Weather Prediction Model (ISM) by Mission Research Corporation. The ISM code seamlessly solves for the dynamics and chemistry of Earth's ionosphere and magnetosphere from ionospheric altitudes (80 km) to 40 Earth radii sunward, 300 Earth radii anti-sunward of Earth, and 60 Earth radii in cross-section. Development of the ISM code is sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, while its scientific applications are funded by NASA and NSF. Use of ISM by the science team has led to revolutionary new ideas about magnetospheric structure and dynamics that have been validated by ground and satellite observations.

As author or co-author, Dr. Erickson has published 47 articles in magnetospheric physics, given over 100 presentations at scientific meetings and over 20 seminars at universities and government laboratories. As a principal investigator he has overseen $1.4M in research grants since 1991.

Education:

Rice University, Houston, Texas
Ph.D. (Space Physics and Astronomy), March, 1985

Thesis: Modeling of Plasma-Sheet Convection: Implication for Substorms
Advisor: Richard A. Wolf

Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida
B.S. (Physics), June, 1976
M.S. (Physics), December, 1978

Thesis: Time Evolution of Truncated Solitons
According to the Korteweg-deVries Equation
Advisor: Joseph R. Cox

Professional Employment:

Visiting Associate Professor, September '05 – present
Adjunct Associate Professor, Jan '05 – May '05
and Research Scientist, May '03 – present
Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, TX

Consultant, June '05 – present
Rice University, Houston, TX

Consultant, July '94 – June '04
Mission Research Corporation, Nashua, NH

Research Assistant Professor, June '91 – Feb '03
Center for Space Physics, Boston University, Boston, MA

Visiting Faculty, June '02 – Aug '02
Visiting Faculty, July '01 – Sept '01
Summer Faculty Fellowship Program
Air Force Research Laboratory, Hanscom AFB, MA

Consultant, June '96 – June '98
Rice University, Houston, TX

Visiting Faculty, June '97 – Aug '97
Summer Faculty Research Program
Phillips Laboratory, Hanscom AFB, MA

Research Associate, Feb '90 – May '91
and Lecturer, Spring Term, 1991
Center for Space Physics, Boston University, Boston, MA

Senior Scientist, July '89 – Feb '90
Massachusetts Technological Laboratory, Belmont, MA

Geophysics Scholar, July '87 – June '89
Air Force Geophysics Laboratory, Hanscom AFB, MA

NRC Resident Research Associate, July '86 –June '87
Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD

Research Associate, March '85 – June '86
Department of Space Physics and Astronomy
Rice University, Houston, TX

Research Assistant, Sept '82 – March '85
Department of Space Physics and Astronomy
Rice University, Houston, TX

Instructor, Jan '78 – May '78
Palm Beach Junior College (South Campus)
Lake Worth, FL

Professional Activities:

Member, American Geophysical Union
Member, NASA ITM Proposal Review Panel, 1994
Member, NASA SSM Proposal Review Panel, 1995, 2000
Reviewer for NASA and NSF
Reviewer for *Journal of Geophysical Research–Space Physics*, *Annales Geophysicae*, and *Geophysical Research Letters*

References:

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Funded Proposals:

NASA-SR&T, "Configuration of the Near-Earth Plasma Sheet," $212.8K, 6/1/91 – 5/31/94.

NASA-SR&T, "The Influence of Global Convection on Region-1 Birkeland Current Structure," $168.5K, 4/1/92 – 3/31/95.

NASA-SR&T, "The Physical Elements of Onset of the Magnetospheric Substorm," $145K, 6/1/94–9/30/96.

Mission Research Corporation (NASA-SR&T prime, Nelson Maynard, PI), "Energy Coupling Between the Ionosphere and Inner Magnetosphere Related to Substorm Onset", $99.1K, 6/1/96 – 11/1/99.

Boston College (AFOSR prime, Cheryl Huang, PI), "Solar Wind-Magnetosphere-Ionosphere Coupling", $223K, 10/1/97–9/30/00.

NASA-SECTP (Co-I), "Signatures of Magnetopause Reconnection" (PI: George Siscoe, BU), 2 mm/yr, 4/1/99–3/31/02.

NASA-SR&T (Co-I), "Nonlocal Coupling by Magnetospheric Currents: A Systematic MHD Study" (PI: Keith Siebert, MRC), 0.05 MY, 10/16/99–10/15/02.

NASA-SR&T, "Substorm Evolution in the Near-Earth Plasma Sheet", $279.7K, 3/1/00–2/28/03.

NASA-SR&T, "Substorm Evolution in the Near-Earth Plasma Sheet", $49K, 5/14/03–5/14/04.

Rice University (NASA/Theory prime, Richard Wolf, PI), "Empirical Estimate for the Particle Distribution in the Substorm Current Wedge", $22K, 10/1/03 - present.

NSF, "REU Site: Research Experiences for Undergraduates in the Sun-Earth Space Environment" (PI: Tian-Sen Huang), 1.5 mm/yr through 1/1/08.

NASA-Geospace Science SR&T, "The Role of Interchange in Geomagnetic Activity", $335K, 5/1/06-4/30/08.

Refereed Publications:

Erickson, G. M., and R. A. Wolf, Is Steady Convection Possible in the Earth's Magnetotail?, *Geophys. Res. Lett., 7*, 897, 1980.

Erickson, G. M., On the Cause of X-line Formation in the Near-Earth Plasma Sheet: Results of Adiabatic Convection of Plasma-Sheet Plasma, in *Magnetic Reconnection in Space and Laboratory Plasmas, Geophys. Monogr. Ser.*, vol. 30, edited by E. W. Hones, Jr., pp. 296–302, American Geophysical Union, Washington, D.C., 1984.

Erickson, G. M., R. W. Spiro, and R. A. Wolf, The Physics of the Harang Discontinuity, *J. Geophys. Res., 96*, 1633, 1991.

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Smith, M. F., F. Herrero, M. Hesse, D. N. Baker, P. Bochsler, P. Wurz, H. Balsiger, S. Chakrabarti, G. Erickson, D. Cotton, T. S. Stephen, C. Jamar, J. C. Gerard, S. A. Fuselier, A. G. Ghielmetti, S. B. Mende, W. K. Peterson, E. G. Shelly, R. R. Vondrak, D. L. Gallagher, T. E. Moore, C. Pollock, R. Arnoldy, M. Lockwood, and R. Gladstone, The High-Latitude Ion Transport and Energetics (HI-LITE) Explorer: A mission to investigate ion outflow from the high-latitude ionosphere, in *Instrumentation for Magnetospheric Imagery II*, SPIE, vol. 2008, 1993.

Burke, W. J., J. S. Machuzak, N. C. Maynard, E. M. Basinska, G. M. Erickson, R. A. Hoffman, J. A. Slavin, and W. B. Hanson, Electrodynamic Signatures of the Plasma Sheet Boundary Layer in the Evening Ionosphere, in *Physical Signatures of Magnetospheric Boundary Layer Processes*, Vol. 425, NATO Advanced Science Institute Series, edited by J. A. Holtet, and A. Egeland, pp. 111–123, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, 1994.

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Heinemann, M., G. M. Erickson, and D. H. Pontius, Jr., Inertial Currents in Isotropic Plasma, *J. Geophys. Res., 99*, 8635, 1994.

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Hau, L.-N., and G. M. Erickson, Penetration of the Interplanetary Magnetic Field B_y Into Earth's Plasma Sheet, *J. Geophys. Res., 100*, 21,745, 1995.

Maynard, N. C., W. J. Burke, E. M. Basinska, G. M. Erickson, W. J. Hughes, D. A. Hardy, H. J. Singer, A. Yahnin, and F. S. Mozer, Dynamics of the Inner Magnetosphere Near Times of Substorm Onsets, *J. Geophys. Res., 101*, 7705, 1996.

Maynard, N. C., W. J. Burke, G. M. Erickson, M. Nakamura, T. Mukai, S. Kokubun, T. Yamamoto, B. Jacobsen, A. Egelane, J. C. Samson, D. R. Weimer, G. D. Reeves, and H. Lühr, GEOTAIL Measurements Compared With the Motions of High-Latitude Auroral Boundaries During Two Substorms, *J. Geophys. Res., 102*, 9553, 1997.

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Erickson, G. M., G. L. Siscoe, D. R. Weimer, K. D. Siebert, M. A. Heinemann, B. U. Ö. Sonnerup, N. C. Maynard, and W. W. White, Prediction of Alfvénic Turbulence Near the Magnetospheric Sash, *Planet. Space Sci., 50*, 627, 2002.

Maynard, N. C., B. U. Ö. Sonnerup, G. L. Siscoe, D. R. Weimer, K. D. Siebert, G. M. Erickson, W. W. White, J. A. Schoendorf, D. M. Ober, and G. R. Wilson, and M. A. Heinemann, Predictions of Magnetosheath Merging Between IMF Field Lines of Opposite Polarity, *J. Geophys. Res., 107* (A12), 1456, doi: 10.1029/2002JA009289, 2002.

Siscoe, G. L., N. C. Crooker, G. M. Erickson, B. U. Ö. Sonnerup, N. C. Maynard, J. A. Schoendorf, K. D. Siebert, D. R. Weimer, W. W. White, and G. R. Wilson, MHD Properties of Magnetosheath Flow, *Planet. Space Sci., 50*, 461, 2002.

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Siscoe, G. L., G. M. Erickson, B. U. Ö. Sonnerup, N. C. Maynard, J. A. Schoendorf, K. D. Siebert, D. R. Weimer, W. W. White, and G. R. Wilson, Flow-Through Magnetic Reconnection, *Geophys. Res. Lett.,29*(13), 1626, doi: 10.1029/2001GRL013536, 2002.

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Wolf, R. A., V. Kumar, F. R. Toffoletto, G. M. Erickson, A. M. Savoie, C. X. Chen, and C. L. Lemon, Estimating Local Plasma Sheet $PV^{5/3}$ from Single-Spacecraft Measurements, *J. Geophys. Res.*, Submitted, 2006.

Other Publications:

Erickson, G. M., and M. Heinemann, A Mechanism for Magnetospheric Substorms, in *Substorms 1*, pp. 587–592, ESA SP-335, May 1992.

Erickson, G. M., Substorm Theories: Are They Converging, in *Strategies for the Tail and Substorm Campaign*, edited by W. J. Hughes, pp. 45–64, Boston University Center for Space Physics, Boston, 1993.

Erickson, G. M., and M. Heinemann, The Stability of Sunward Convection: A Triggering and Operative Mechanism for Substorms, prepared for the *GEM Workshop on the Tail and Substorms*, Snowmass, 1994.

Erickson, G. M., and M. Heinemann, A Mechanism for the Onset of Magnetospheric Substorms, in *Substorms 2*, edited by J. R. Kan, J. D. Craven, and S.-I. Akasofu, pp. 333–339, University of Alaska Geophysical Institute, Fairbanks, 1994.

Erickson, G. M., W. J. Burke, M. Heinemann, J. C. Samson, and N. C. Maynard, Towards a Complete Conceptual Model of Substorm Onsets and Expansions, in *Substorms 3*, pp. 423–428, ESA SP-389, October 1996.

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Hill, T. H., F. R. Toffoletto, G. M. Erickson, and M. A. Heinemann, Final report on the contract "GGCM: A Modular-Progressive Approach" from NSF to Rice University, 1998.

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Burke, W. J., and G. M. Erickson, Bursty Bulk Flows: Some Electrodynamic Considerations, in *Substorms 5*, pp. 153–156, ESA SP-443, July 2000.

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Siebert, K. D., W. W. White, J. A. Shoendorf, D. R. Weimer, N. C. Maynard, G. R. Wilson, B. U. Ö. Sonnerup, G. L. Siscoe, and G. M. Erickson, Test Report: Integrated Space Weather Prediction Model (ISM) Simulation of the Magnetic Cloud Event of October 1995, Technical Report MRC/NSH-R-00-005 to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, September 28, 2000.

Siebert, K. D., W. W. White, J. A. Shoendorf, D. R. Weimer, N. C. Maynard, G. R. Wilson, B. U. Ö. Sonnerup, G. L. Siscoe, and G. M. Erickson, Test Report: Integrated Space Weather Prediction Model (ISM) Simulation of Average Shock Event of November 1997, Technical Report MRC/NSH-R-00-006 to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, September 28, 2000.

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Erickson, G. M., Modeling of Adiabatic Convection in the Earth's Plasma Sheet: Implications for Magnetospheric Substorms (Poster), The Second International School for Space Simulations, Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii, 4–15 February 1985.

Erickson, G. M., Modeling of Plasma-Sheet Convection: Implications for Substorms, Chapman Conference on Magnetotail Physics, Laurel, Md, 28–31 October 1985.

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Voigt, G.-H., R. W. Spiro, and G. M. Erickson, A Mechanism to Explain the Semi-Annusl Variation of Geomagnetic Activity, AGU Spring Meeting, Baltimore, 19–22 May 1986. [*EOS Trans. AGU, 67*, no. 16 supplement, 351, 1986]

Erickson, G. M., Effects of Magnetopause Motion on Inner-Plasma-Sheet Magnetic Structure During Earthward Convection (Poster), AGU Spring Meeting, Baltimore, 18–22 May 1987. [*EOS Trans. AGU, 68*, no. 16 supplement, 386, 1987]

Erickson, G. M., and M. Heinemann, Physical Stability Limit on Sunward-Convection Models, AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, 5–9 December 1988. [*EOS Trans. AGU, 69*, no. 44 supplement, 1393, 1988]

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Erickson, G. M., Global MHD Stability of the Magnetosphere During Earthward Plasma-Sheet Convection, Rice Theoretical Workshop on Space Plasma Physics, Houston, 25–26 May 1989.

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