

The Editors,  
Physical Review Letters  
APS

Dear Editor,

We would like first to thank the Referees for reading our last submission. We would like to request a third round of referral of our manuscript. Our request is based on the following points.

- Referee A, has been very positive about our work. In the first report, Referee A said “*While this finding is intriguing, several issues must be addressed before a recommendation for publication can be made.*” In the second review, Referee A concluded with “*This stage is premature to recommend to Physical Review Letters*”, which is not a rejection per se, but rather a request for further improvements. In their second report, there are only minor issues left, that we have now carefully addressed in our answers. Moreover, in this newly revised version of the manuscript we have included an analysis of about fifty new reconnection events having a different initial topology. The new set of simulations confirms our original results and makes our results extremely robust.

- Referee B has shown bias and non-professional behavior from their first report. The Referee has tried to build a complete case against our work based on a single sentence in our conclusion section, which was only intended to open a possible question leading to a new research project. We explained this issue in our first revision, but the Referee unprofessionally ignored it. Furthermore, it seems to us that the Referee has tried to bring new arguments simply in order to push down the manuscript, confirming our belief that there is some conflict of interest. For professional sake, we answered the last report of Referee B, but we doubt that their bias could change.

We therefore think that referral process has not been entirely fair: we would like thus to request that our revised version is sent back to Referee A and third Referee is solicited.

Thank you for considering this manuscript; we look forward to your response.

**Piotr Stasiak**  
**Andrew Baggaley**  
**Carlo Barenghi**  
**Giorgio Krstulovic**  
**Luca Galantucci**