Characteristic of Narrow Bipolar Events from Broadband Interferometric and Electric Field Observations

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On the afternoon of 5 August 2013, small thunderstorms near Langmuir Laboratory in central New Mexico produced several energetic Narrow Bipolar Events (NBEs) which were a few kilometers from the New Mexico Tech broadband digital interferometer and several slow antennas. Using broadband intererometric data together with data from the Langmuir Laboratory Lightning Mapping Array (LMA), we can resolve the NBEs with a three-dimensional spatial accuracy of a few tens of meters on a microsecond time scale. The angular resolution of the interferometer is sufficient to resolve vertical propagation within the NBEs. Three slow antennas show static field changes produced by the NBEs, from which we can calculate the charge transfers during these events.

All of the NBEs were the first RF-emitting sources of otherwise normal intracloud (IC) flashes. The NBEs occurred in the strong field region between the midlevel negative and upper positive charge regions of the thunderstorms. We will discuss the sizes, propagation velocities, and charge transfers in these NBEs.