

– 1 –

## Turbulent Pinch & Laboratory Magnetospheres

– 2 –

“Economic Viability” is the 2nd Frontier of Fusion Research

Mike Mauel  
Columbia University  
PPPL Theory Talk May 9, 2013

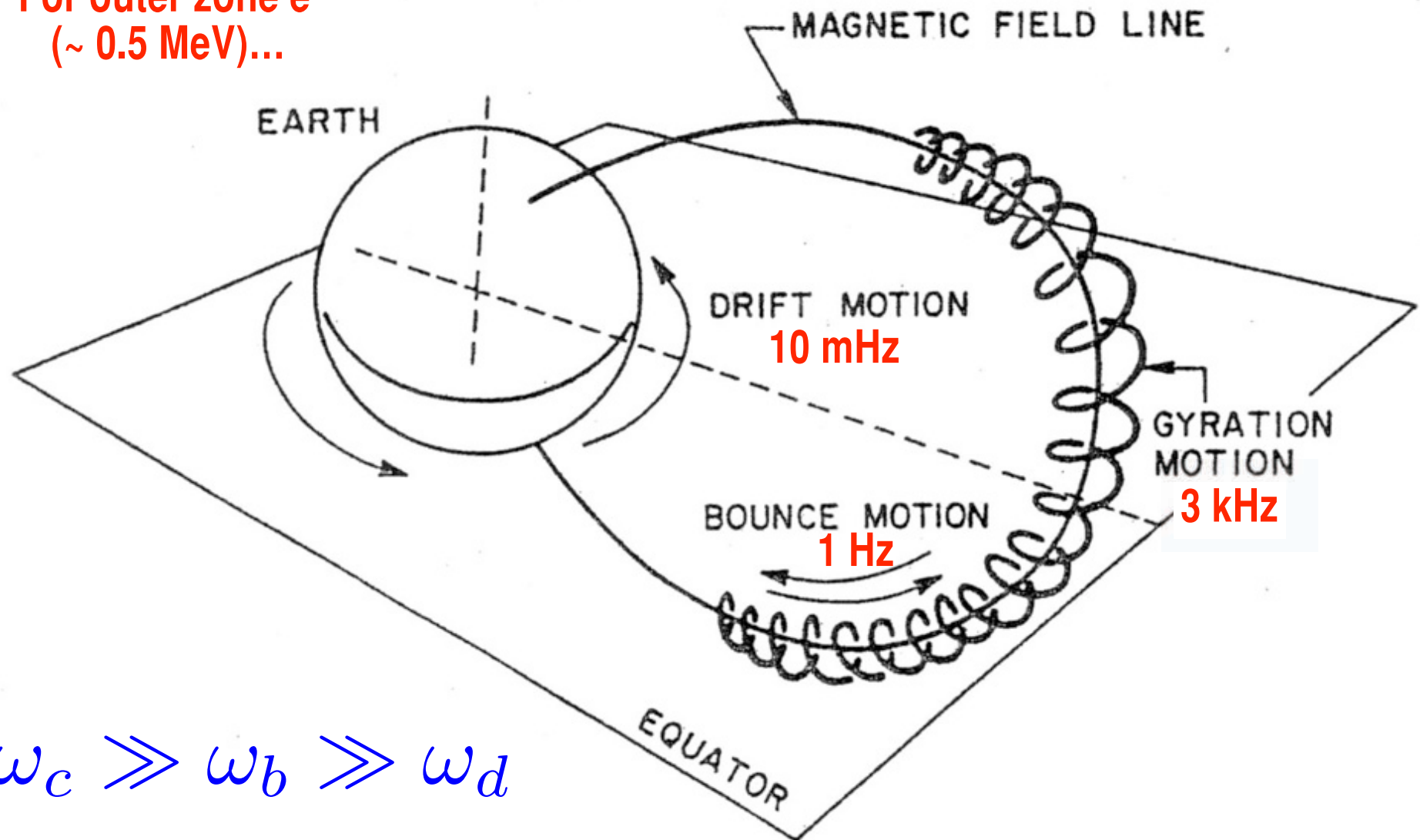
# Turbulent Pinch

- Among the **most remarkable** phenomena of strongly magnetized plasma
- **Self-organization**: turbulent diffusion that is *counter to gradients* and creates highly peaked profiles
- First seen in **magnetospheres** (relatively *simple* to understand)
- Now, seen “*everywhere*” in high-temperature magnetically-confined plasma: like tokamaks & stellarators (relatively *difficult* to understand), gyrokinetic codes, ...
- Particles, momentum, heat (!)
- ***We do not yet understand*** self-consistent, non-local, off-diagonal turbulent transport flux in magnetized plasma

# The First "Pinch":

## Adiabatic Response of Trapped Radiation to Low-Frequency Fluctuations

For outer zone  $e^-$   
( $\sim 0.5$  MeV)...



$$\omega_c \gg \omega_b \gg \omega_d$$

# An Important Paper ...

**GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH LETTERS, VOL. 19, NO. 9, PAGES 941-944, MAY 4, 1992**

**ON ARNOL'D DIFFUSION IN A PERTURBED MAGNETIC DIPOLE FIELD**

**Harry P. Warren, A. Bhattacharjee, and Michael E. Mauel**

**Department of Applied Physics, Columbia University**

# Chaotic Transport Maintains Adiabaticity

Adiabatic  $\rightarrow (\dot{\mu}, \dot{J}) \approx 0$

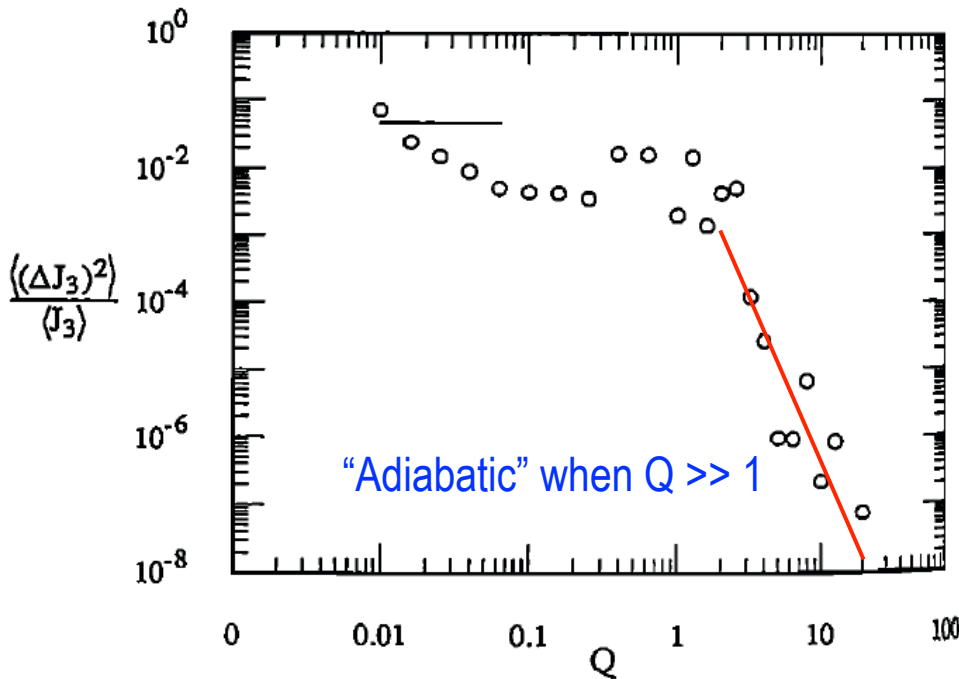


Fig. 2. Thick-Layer Arnol'd diffusion as a function of  $Q$  for  $\epsilon = 0.01$  and  $\eta = 1.1$ . Each dot represents the value of  $\langle(\Delta J_3)^2\rangle/\langle J_3\rangle$  at  $t = 35,000$ . The solid line represents the predictions of the stochastic pump model. Note the attenuation of diffusion at large values of  $Q$ .

$$Q \equiv \omega_b/\omega_d$$

Chaotic Radial Motion Due to Drift-Resonance

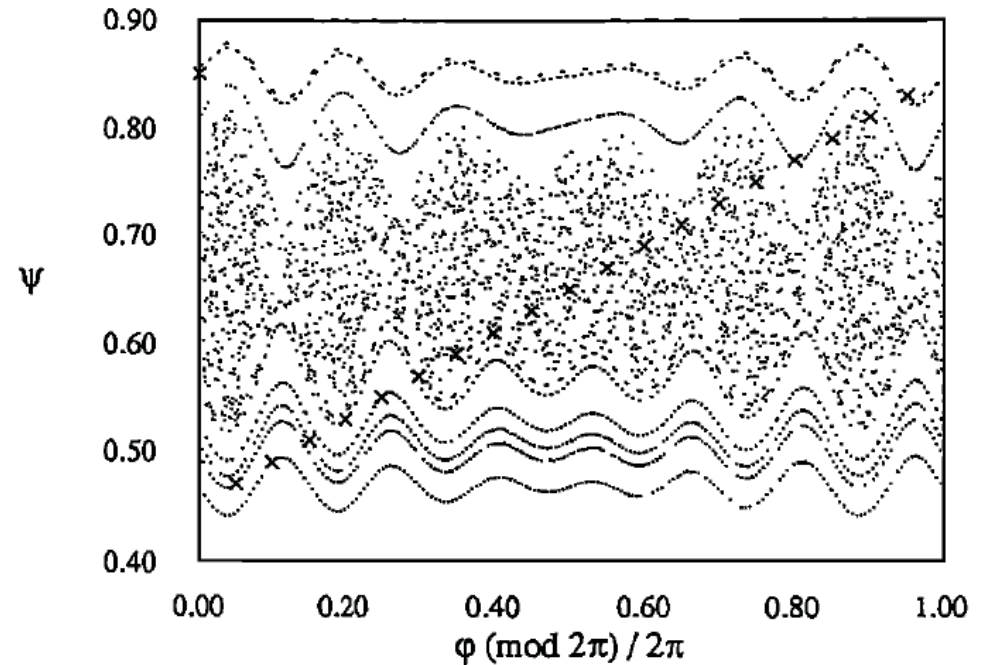


Fig. 3. Poincaré surface of section for energetic protons interacting with two waves. The integers  $m_1 = 7$ ,  $l_1 = 3$ ,  $m_2 = 6$ , and  $l_2 = 3$  are chosen so that the primary resonances of the waves overlap.

$$\omega - m\omega_d(\mu, J) \approx 0$$

# Low-Frequency Dynamics is **One-Dimensional**

(1D,  $k_{\perp} \rho \ll 1$ , Gyro/Bounce/Kinetics, with  $(\mu, J)$  constant)

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{m_e c}{2e} \rho_{\parallel}^2 B_0^2 + \mu \frac{c}{e} (B_0 + \delta B) - c \delta \Phi$$

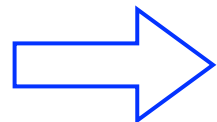
$$B_0 \gg \delta B, \quad \delta \mathbf{B} = \nabla \times \delta \mathbf{A}, \quad \text{and } \delta \mathbf{E} = -\nabla \delta \Phi - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \delta \mathbf{A}}{\partial t}$$

Adiabatic

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{\mu} = 0 \quad (\omega \ll \omega_c) \\ \dot{J} = 0 \quad (\omega \ll \omega_b) \end{array} \right.$$

2D Phase Space

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{\psi} = -\frac{\partial \mathcal{H}}{\partial \phi} = -c \frac{\partial \delta \Phi}{\partial \phi} + L \frac{\partial \delta A_{\phi}}{\partial t} \quad (\propto \delta \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}) \\ \dot{\phi} \approx \mu \frac{c \partial B}{e \partial \psi} - c \frac{\partial \delta \Phi}{\partial \psi} \approx \frac{3\mu}{e M^2} \psi^2 = \omega_d(\mu, \psi) \end{array} \right.$$



A. Chan, L. Chen, R. White, *GRL* (1989)  
R. White and M. Chance, *Phys Fluids* (1984).

Adiabatic  $\rightarrow (\dot{\mu}, \dot{J}) \approx 0$

## Convection Electric Fields and the Diffusion of Trapped Magnetospheric Radiation

Collisionless Random Electric Convection

THOMAS J. BIRMINGHAM

$$\frac{\partial \langle \bar{Q} \rangle(\alpha, M, J, t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha} \left[ \overline{D_{\alpha\alpha}} \frac{\partial \langle \bar{Q} \rangle}{\partial \alpha} \right] \quad (5)$$

$$\overline{D_{\alpha\alpha}} \approx \frac{c^2 \mu^2}{4\alpha^2} (\pi)^{1/2} \tau_c \mathcal{Q} \quad (18)$$

$\alpha$  = magnetic flux,  $\Psi$

dipole field. We describe  $\mathbf{E}$  by the potential  $V$

$$V = \frac{A(t)r}{\sin^2 \vartheta} \sin \phi \quad (2)$$

$A$  being a positive, time-dependent amplitude. The form equation 2 is the fundamental ( $m = 1$ ) asymmetric mode in *Fälthammar's* [1965] Fourier expansion of a general longitudinally dependent potential. Since  $r \sin^{-2} \vartheta$  and  $\phi$  are both constant on dipole field lines,  $\mathbf{B}$  lines are equipotentials, and  $\mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B}$  is zero. In the  $\vartheta = \pi/2$ , equatorial plane

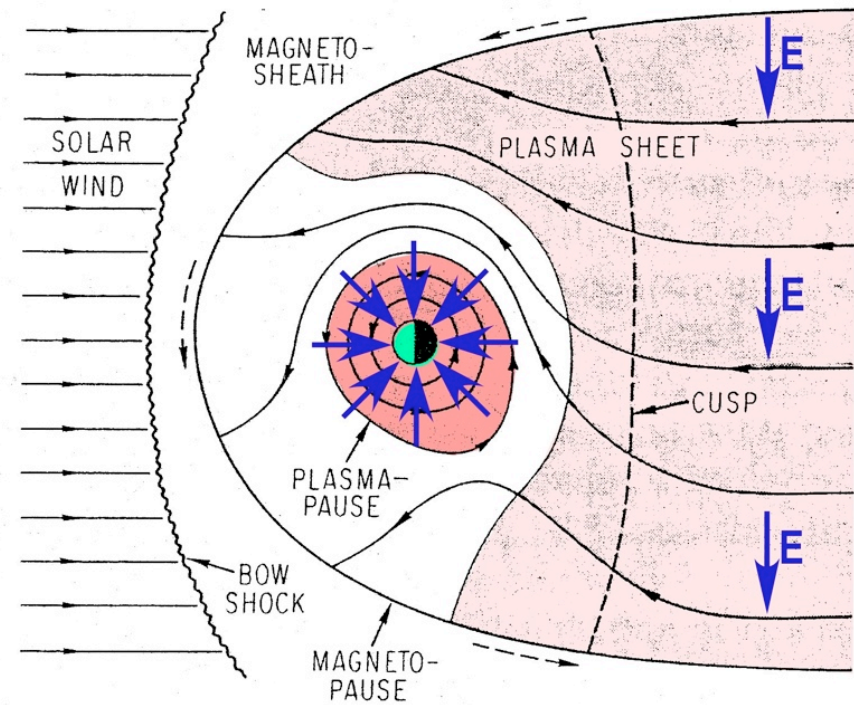
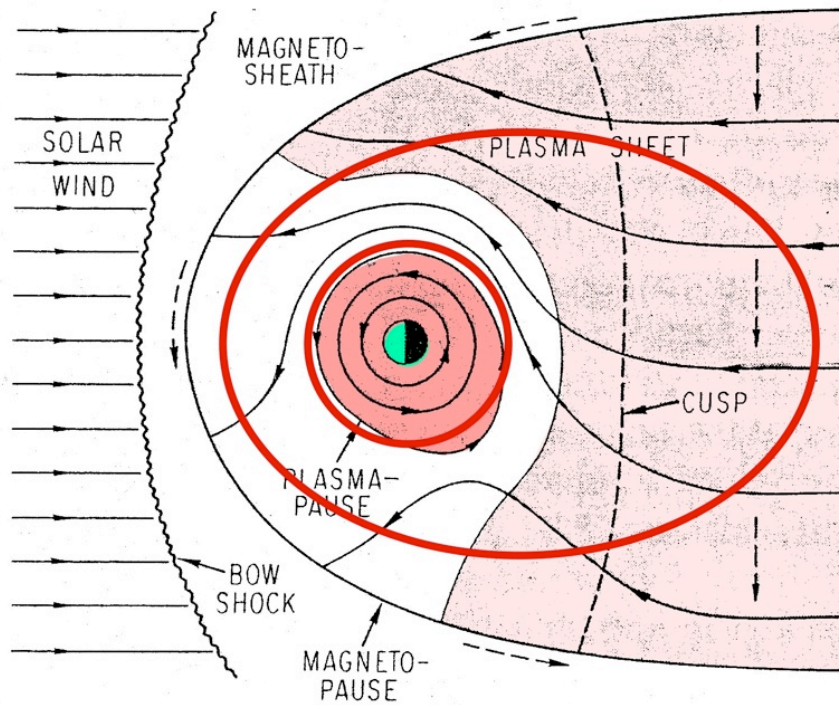
A reasonable direction to proceed, in view of the paucity of direct experimental evidence of electric fields and their time variations, is to assume that the autocorrelation  $\langle \delta A(t - \tau) \delta A(t) \rangle$  has the form

$$\langle \delta A(t - \tau) \delta A(t) \rangle = \mathcal{Q} \exp - \frac{\tau^2}{\tau_c} \quad (16)$$

from dawn to dusk, and is random on the time scale on which the solar wind executes time variations of large spatial extent. (The correlation time  $\tau_c$  is thus typically one hour.)



# Measured Non-axisymmetric Perturbations of Geomagnetic Cavity Determine $D_{\psi\psi}$



Axisymmetric

$$\delta A_{\phi} \sim \frac{L}{4} \left( \frac{R_e}{R_m} \right)^3 - \underbrace{\frac{4 L^2}{30 R_e} \left( \frac{R_e}{R_m} \right)^4}_{m=\pm 1} \cos \phi + \dots$$

Nakada and Mead, *JGR* (1965)

Axisymmetric

$$\delta \Phi \sim - \frac{E_c}{L} \left( \frac{R_e^2}{L} \right) + \underbrace{E_c L \sin \phi}_{m=\pm 1} + \dots$$

T. Birmingham, *JGR* (1969)



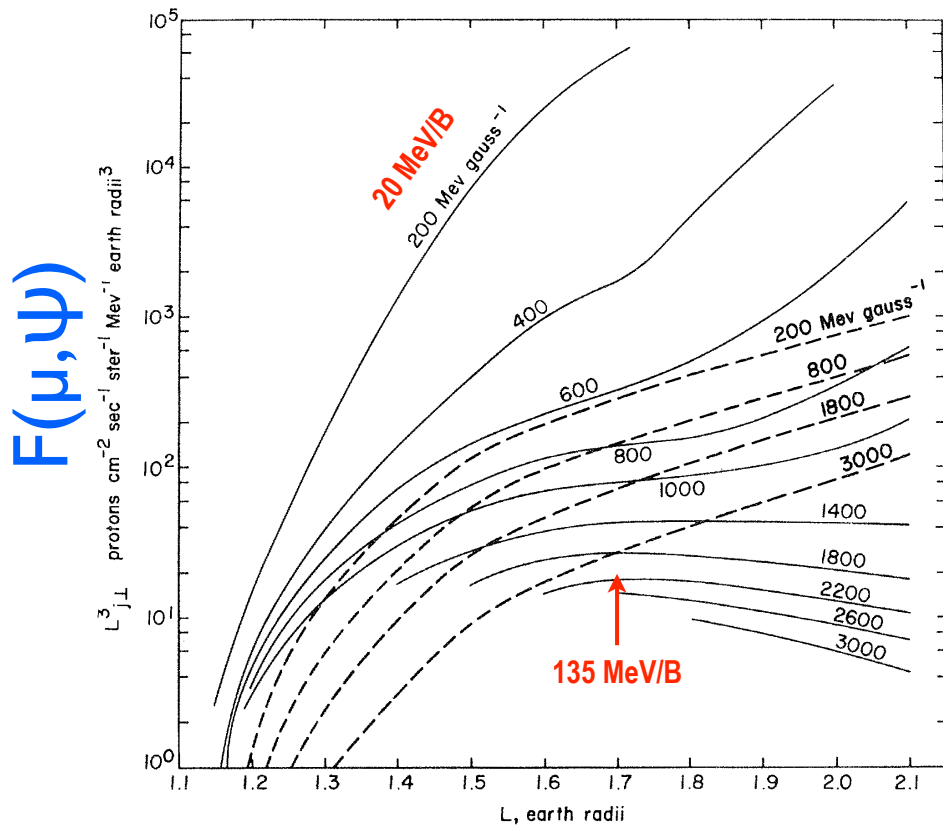
# First Report of Inward Particle Pinch

(Farley, Tomassian, Walt)

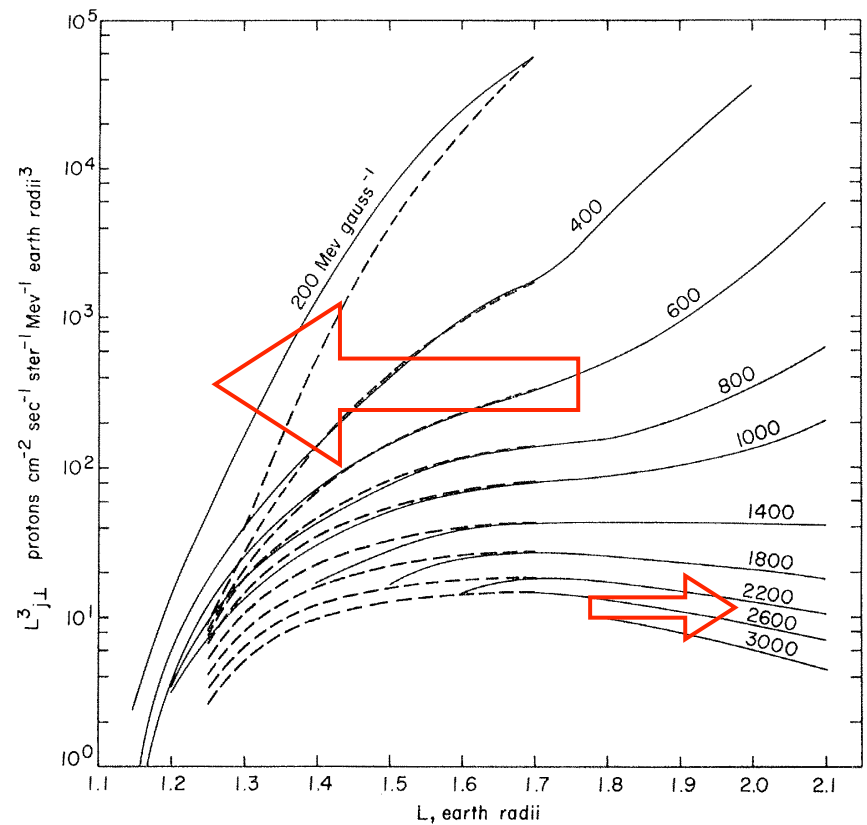
VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

6 JULY 1970



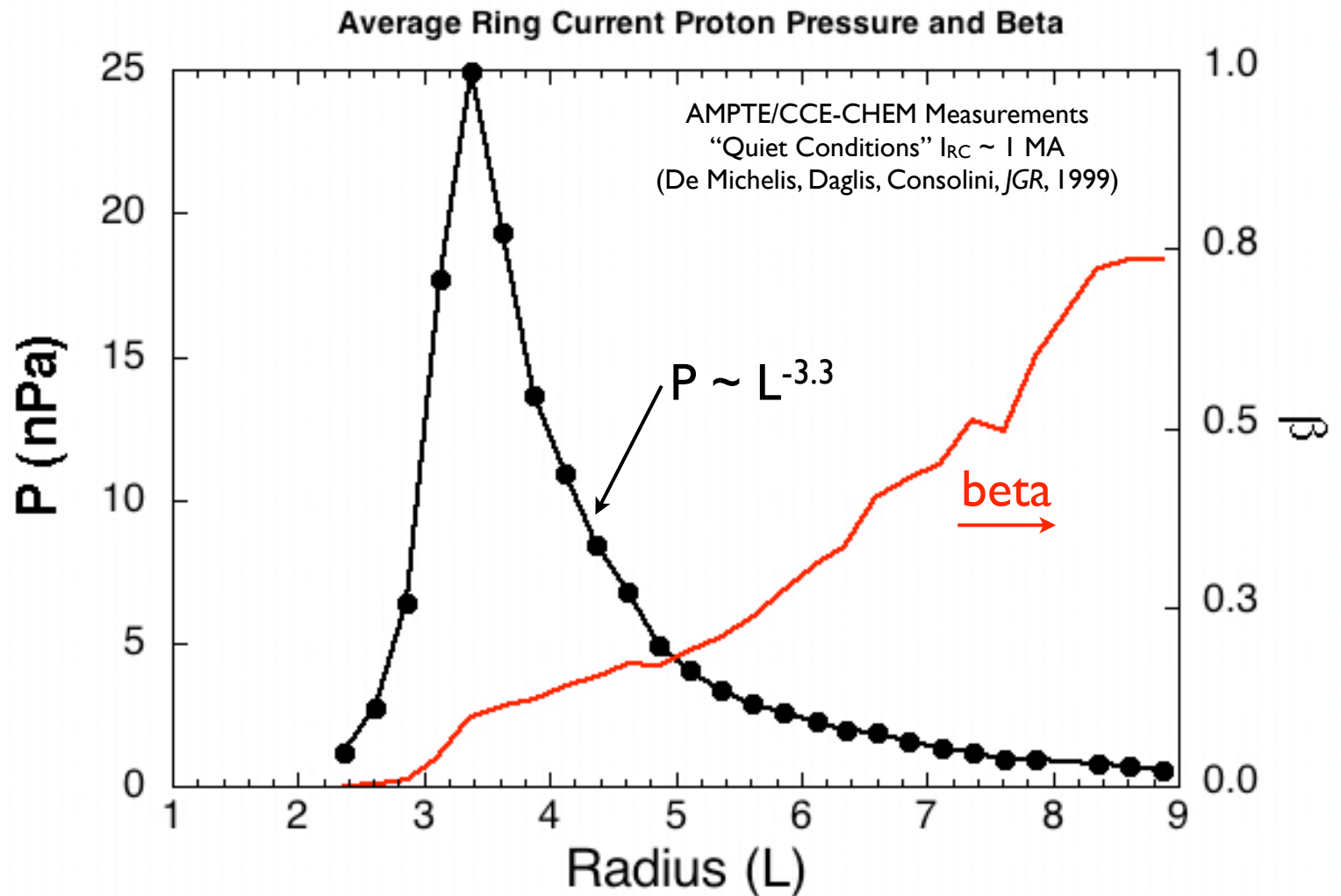
Cosmic Ray Source & Polar Losses

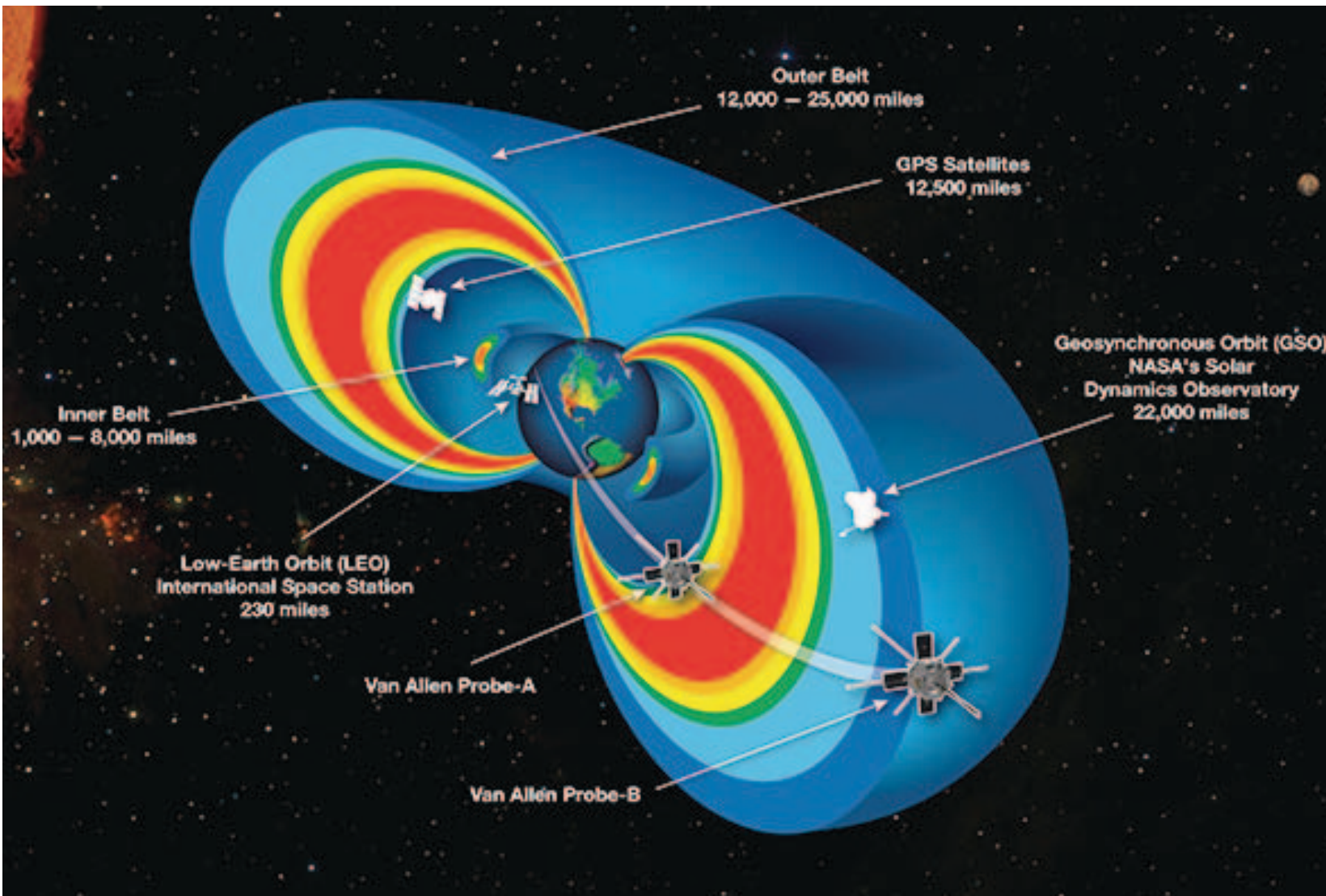


Driven Pinch with Adiabatic Diffusion

$$\text{Adiabatic} \rightarrow (\dot{\mu}, \dot{J}) \approx 0$$

# Naturally Peaked Pressure from Outer, Plasma Sheet Source illustrates “Self-Organization”





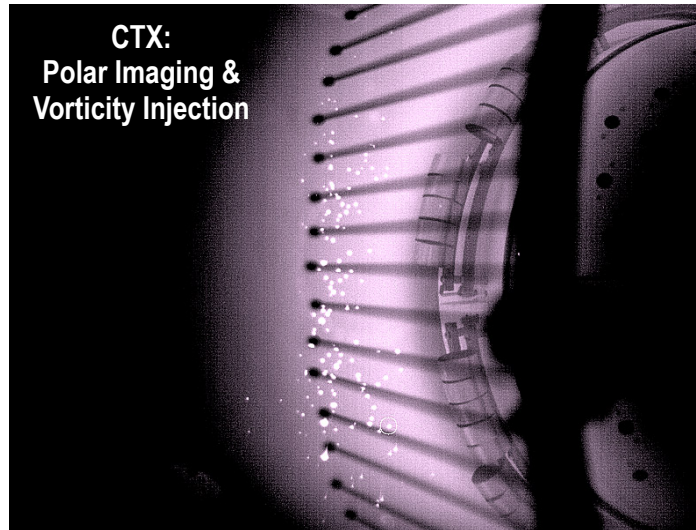
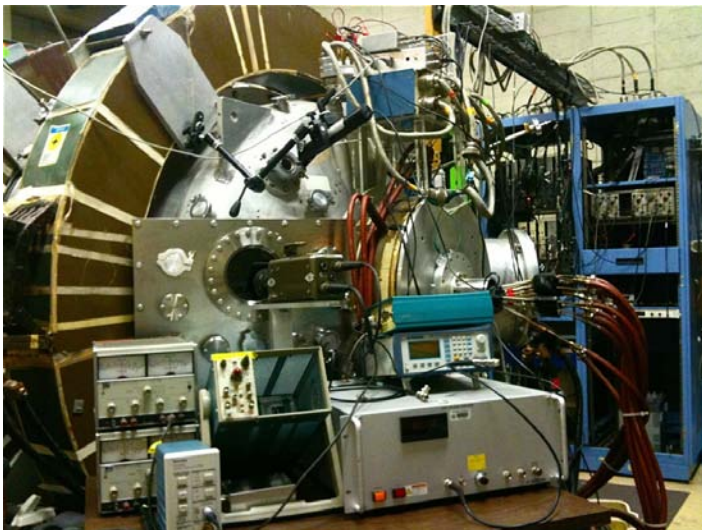
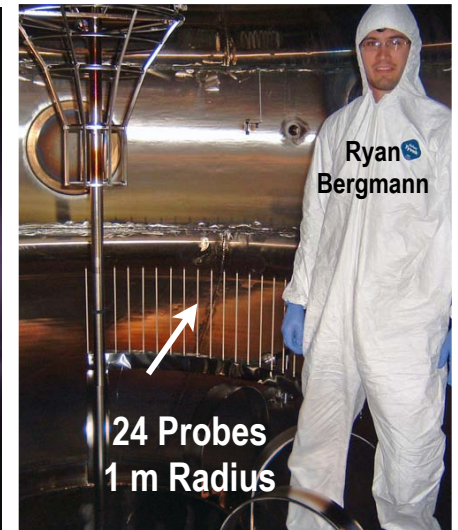
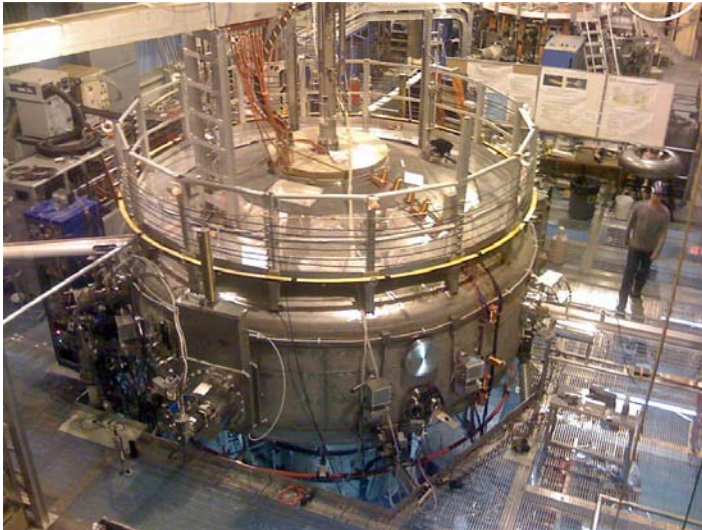
# Van Allen Probes

ScienceExpress, Baker, *et al.*, 28 Feb 2013

New 3rd Radiation Belt (2 MeV  $e^-$ ) Discovered  
(then annihilated by passage of interplanetary shock)



# The Physics of Laboratory Magnetospheres



**Levitated Dipole Experiment (LDX)**  
**Collisionless Terrella Experiment (CTX)**

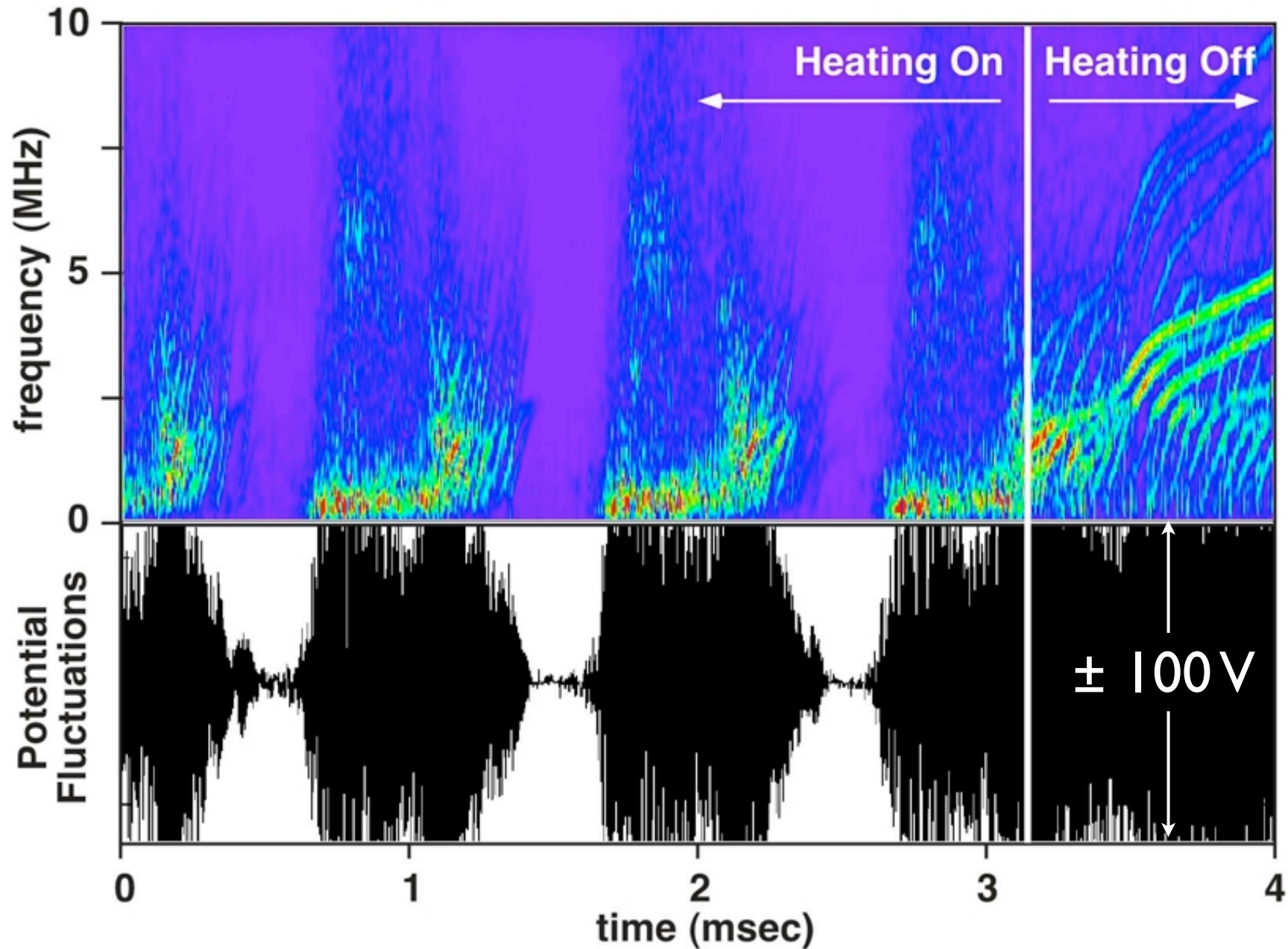
# What Has Been Discovered...

(Over 15 years of research from four laboratory magnetospheres)

- Low-frequency interchange-like instabilities dominate plasma dynamics  
*showing 2D physics, inverse-cascade, etc... in the laboratory magnetosphere*
- The structure and dynamics of drift-resonant and MHD turbulence are well reproduced by bounce-averaged gyrokinetic simulations  
*producing quantitative predictions of the laboratory magnetosphere*
- Levitated dipole can achieve  $> 50\%$  peak beta with levitation  
*showing key connection between laboratory and planetary magnetospheres*
- Turbulence drives plasma to very steep profiles and creates strong inward pinch  
*confirming “first principle” transport prediction based on measured fluctuations*
- High-beta dipole confinement supports advanced fusion energy concepts  
*showing space physics may have applications to fusion science development*

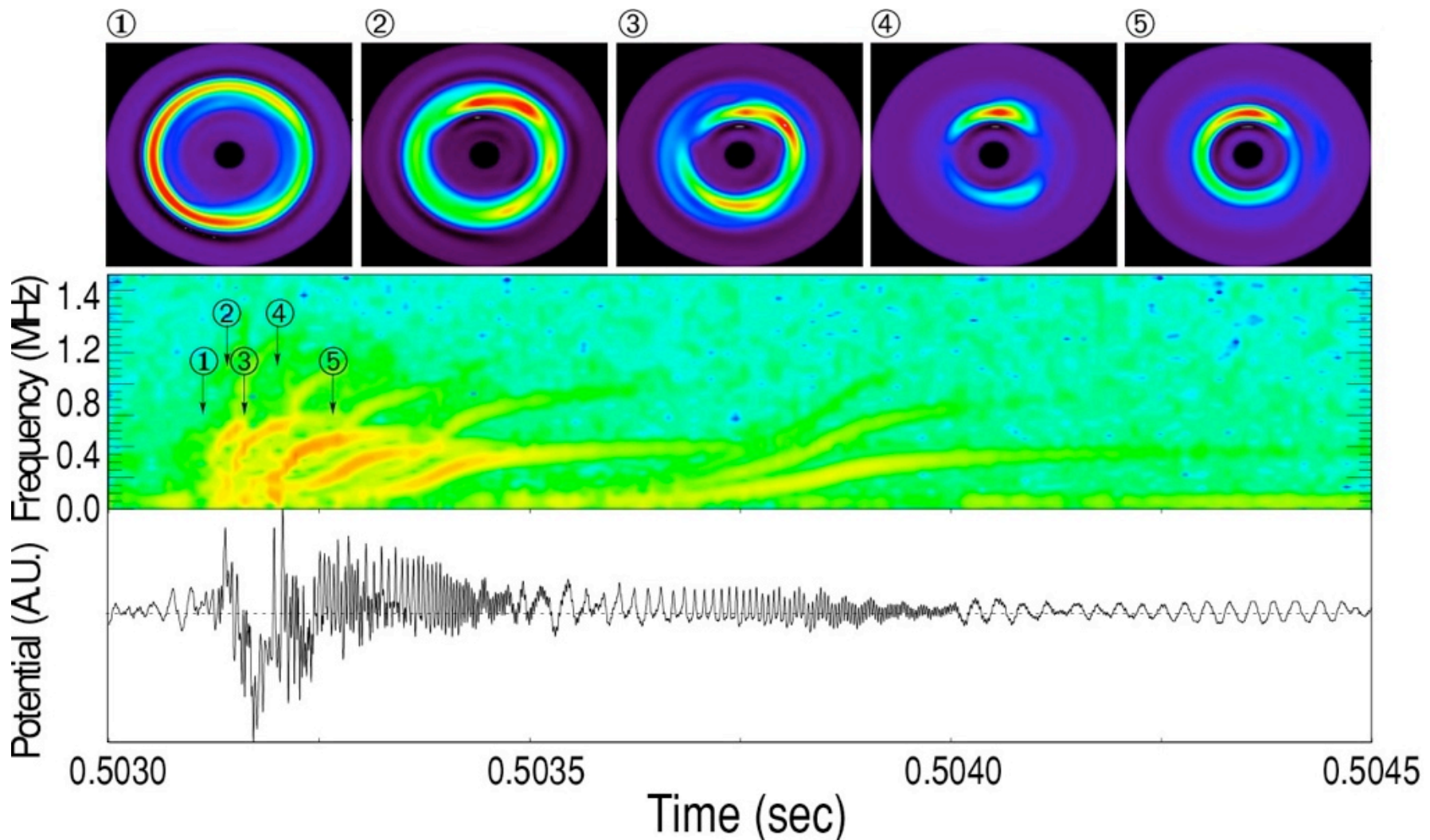
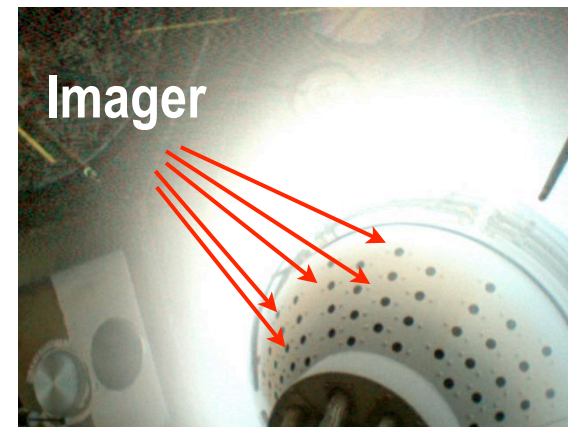


# Drift-Resonant (Hot Electron) Interchange Instability



# Polar Imager: Direct Measurement of **Adiabatic** Drift-Resonant Transport due to Energetic Particle Interchange Instability

$$\text{Adiabatic} \rightarrow (\dot{\mu}, \dot{J}) \approx 0$$





# Turbulent $E \times B$ Diffusion from MHD Interchange Fluctuations

T. Birmingham, *JGR* (1969)

$$D = R^2 \langle E_{\varphi}^2 \rangle \tau_c$$

$N = n\delta V =$  Flux  
tube particle  
number

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial t} = \langle S \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} D \frac{\partial N}{\partial \psi}$$

$P\delta V^{\gamma} \sim$  Entropy  
Density

$$\frac{\partial(P\delta V^{\gamma})}{\partial t} = \langle H \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} D \frac{\partial(P\delta V^{\gamma})}{\partial \psi}$$

QL equations low-frequency turbulence  $E \times B$  transport:  
Single "D" and geometry  $\delta V$  define particle and heat pinch

# LDX: The World's Largest Laboratory Magnetosphere

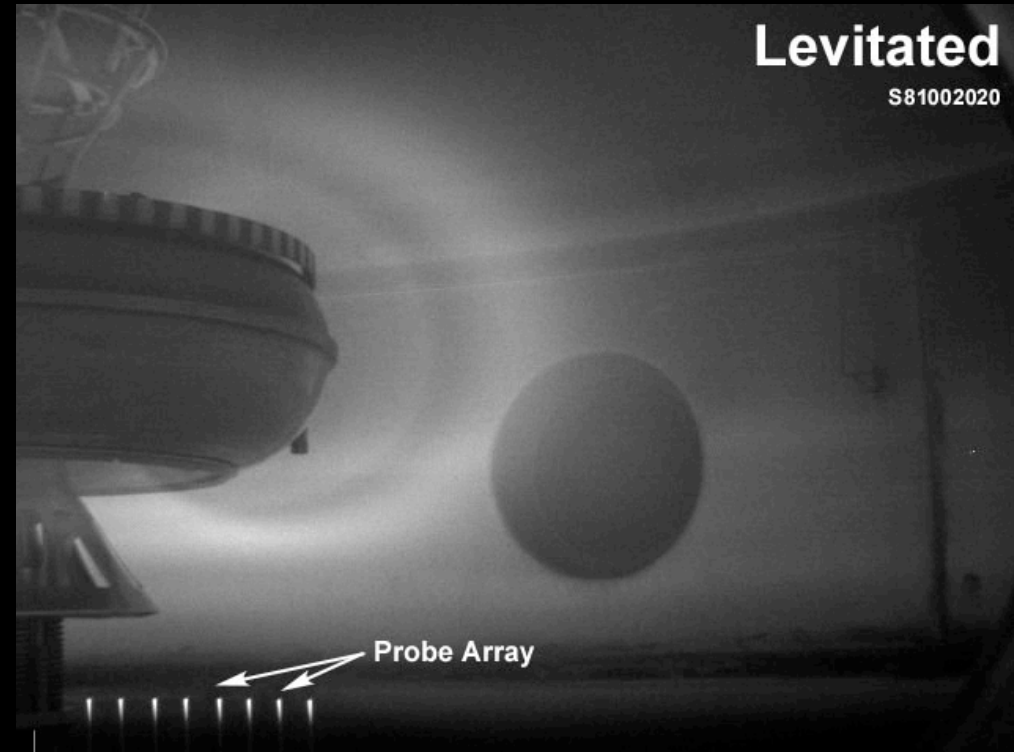
**Supported**

S81002027



**Levitated**

S81002020

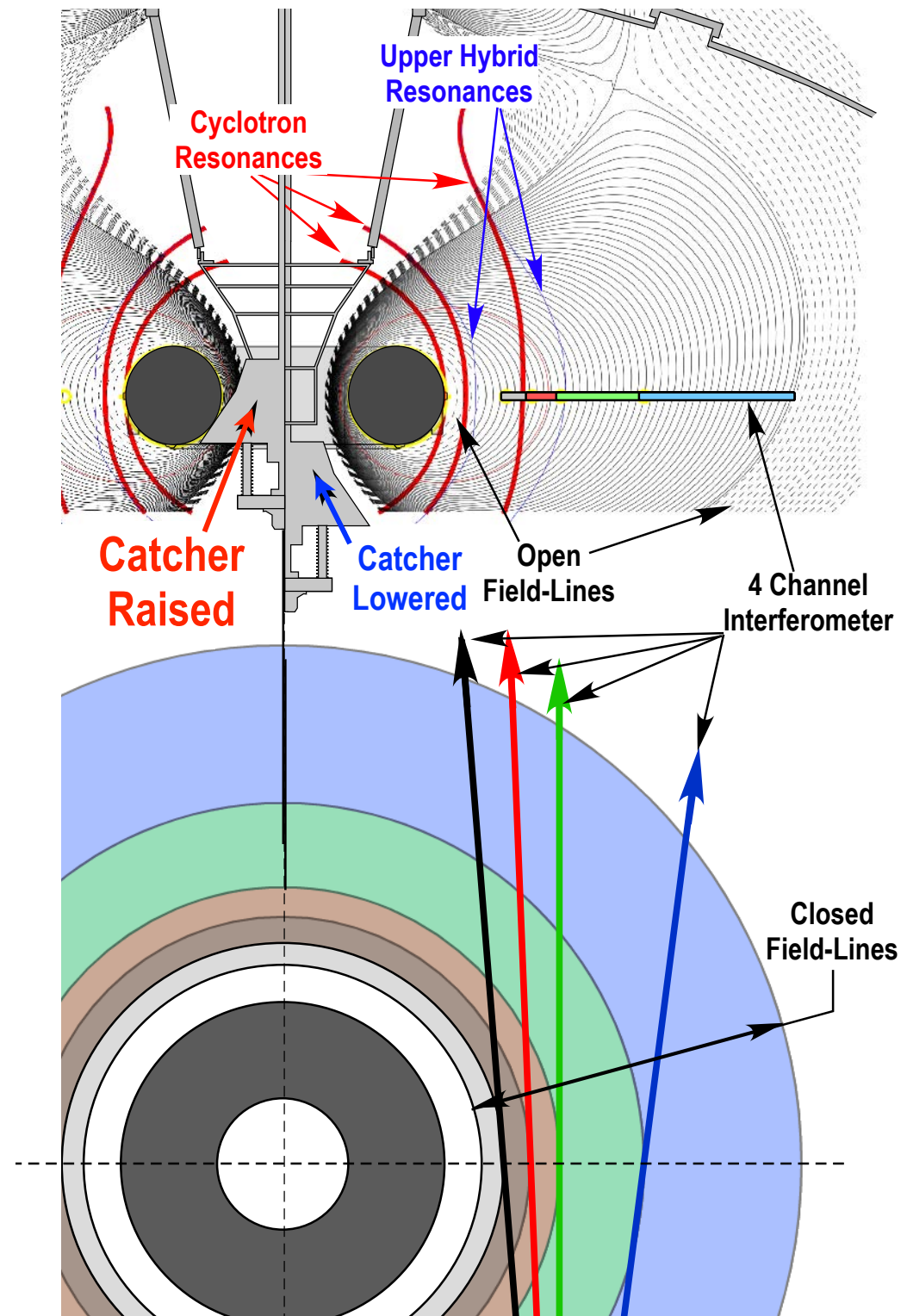


**Steady-State, High- $\beta$ , High-Temperature**

# Density Profile with/without Levitation

- **Procedure:**
  - ▶ Adjust levitation coil to produce equivalent magnetic geometry
  - ▶ Investigate multiple-frequency ECRH heating
- **Observe:** Evolution of density profile with 4 channel interferometer
- **Compare:** Density profile evolution with supported and levitated dipole

*Alex Boxer, MIT PhD, (2008)  
Nature-Physics (2010)*



# Turbulence drives plasma to very steep profiles and creates strong inward particle pinch in dipole geometry

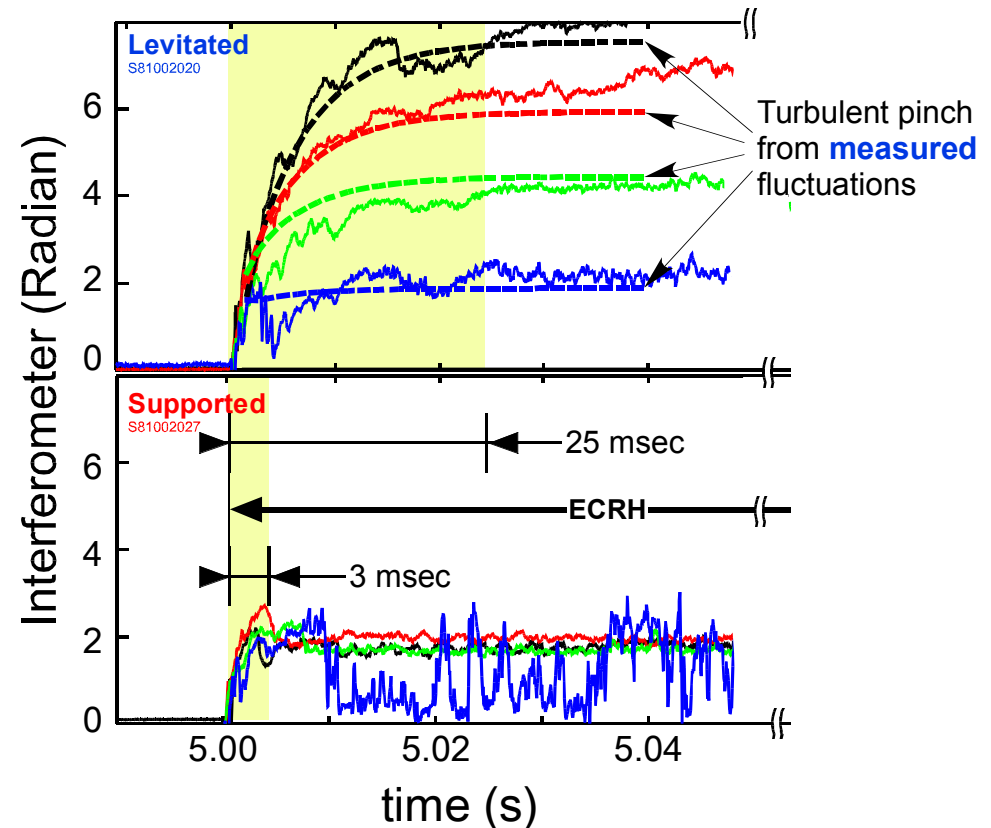
- **Dipole:**  $\delta V \sim R^4$ , creates strongly peaked profiles and **ideal conditions** for study of turbulent pinch effects: **particles, impurities, momentum, energy**

$$\frac{\partial N}{\partial t} = \langle S \rangle + \frac{\partial}{\partial \psi} D \frac{\partial N}{\partial \psi}$$

$$D = R^2 \langle E_{\varphi}^2 \rangle \tau_c$$

D measured from edge fluctuations

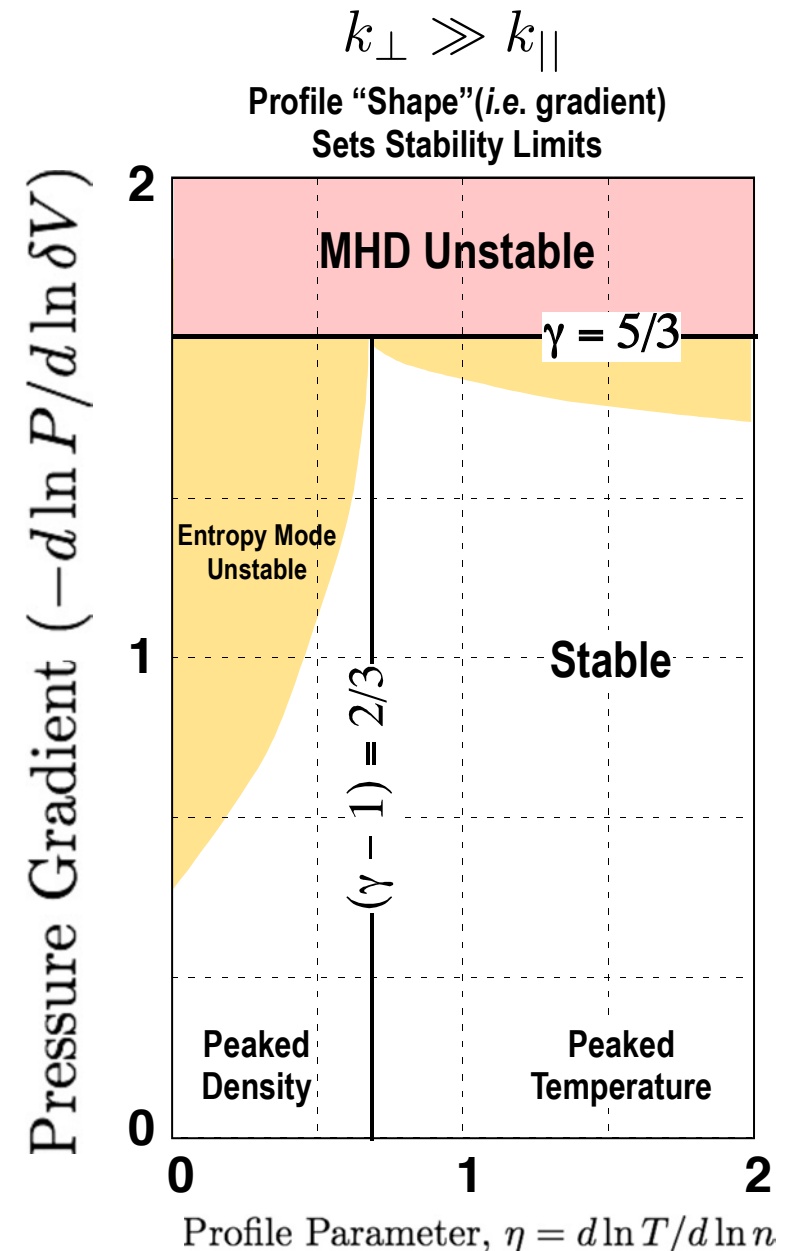
Line Density Shows Strong Pinch Only with a Levitated Dipole



Boxer, *Nature-Physics* (2010)

# Low frequency fluctuations dominate plasma dynamics: interchange & entropy modes

- MHD interchange modes set pressure and density gradient limits in dipole-plasma (*not ballooning*)
- Entropy mode (Kesner, Hastie, *POP*, 2002) **changed our thinking**: not just pressure and density gradients, but also  $\eta = d(\ln T)/d(\ln n)$
- Entropy modes generate zonal flows and **nonlinearly self-regulate transport levels** (Ricci, Rogers, Dorland, *PRL*, 2006)
- **Fluctuations disappear** with flat density profiles (Garnier, *JPP*, 2008; and Kobayashi, Rogers, Dorland, *PRL*, 2009)
- Measurements show fluctuations throughout plasma (*Nature-Physics*, 2010); inverse energy cascade (*POP*, 2009); intermittency (*PRL*, 2010)



# Turbulence drives plasma to very steep profiles and creates *either* particle or heat pinch in dipole geometry

*Gyrokinetic (GS2) simulations show turbulence drives particles or heat to maintain uniform entropy density:*

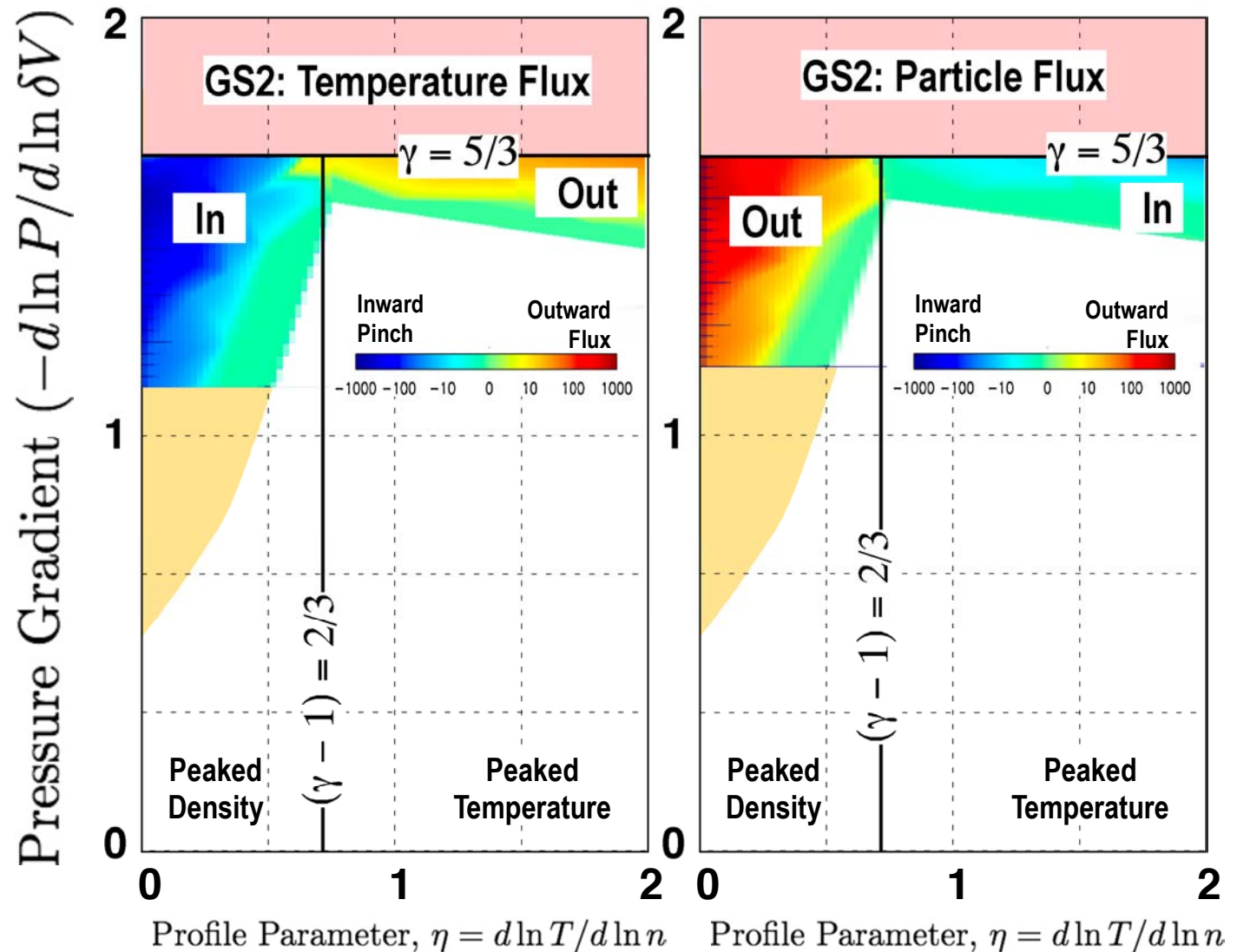
Kobayashi, Rogers, Dorland, *PRL* (2010)

- (1) Turbulent self-organization
- (2) Independent  $(n, T)$  flux

$$\eta = \frac{d \ln T}{d \ln n} \rightarrow \frac{2}{3}$$

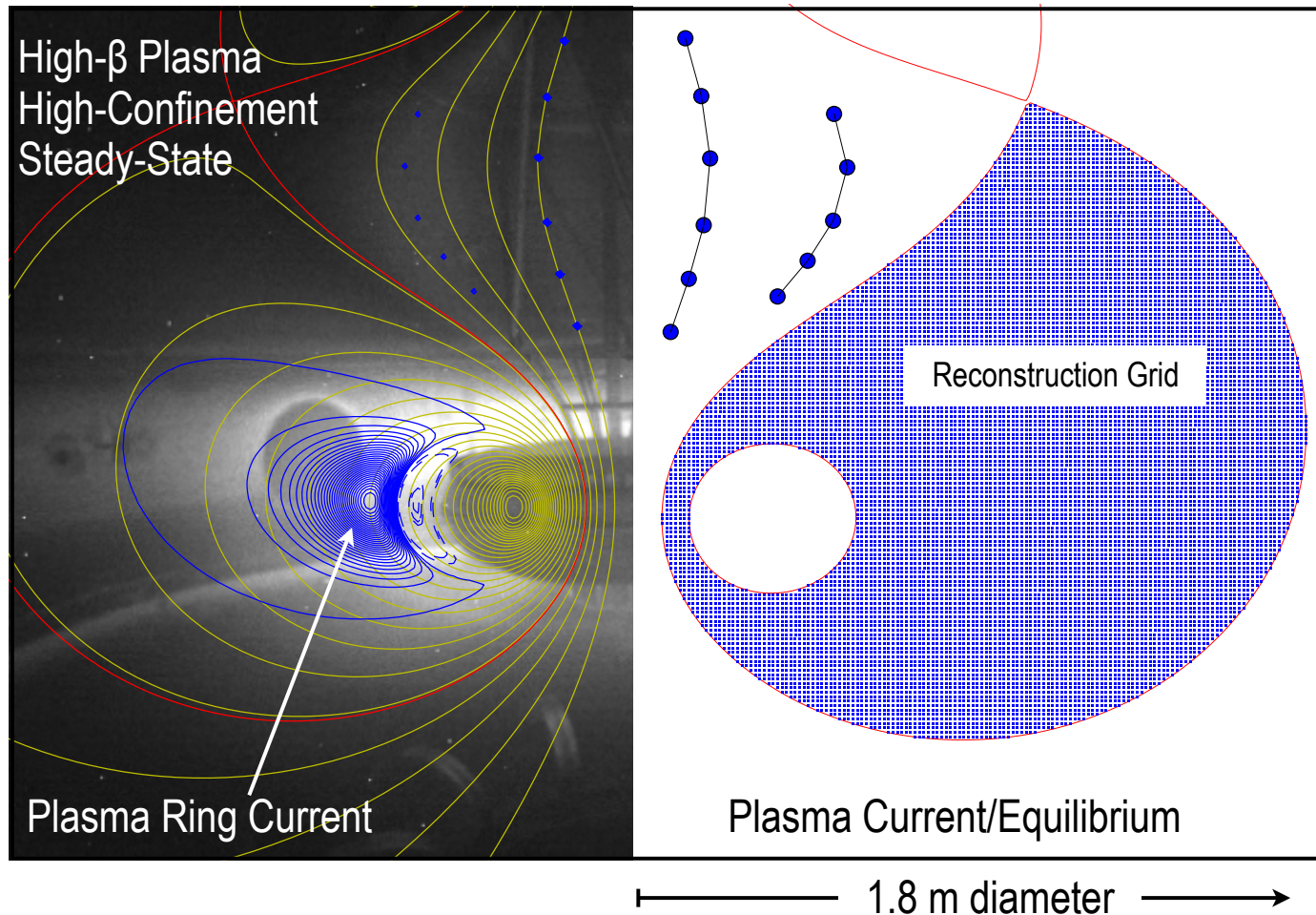
$$-\frac{d \ln n}{d \ln \delta V} \rightarrow 1$$

$$-\frac{d \ln P}{d \ln \delta V} \rightarrow \frac{5}{3}$$





# Accurate Pressure Profile Reconstruction Show Expected “Invariant” Pressure Profile

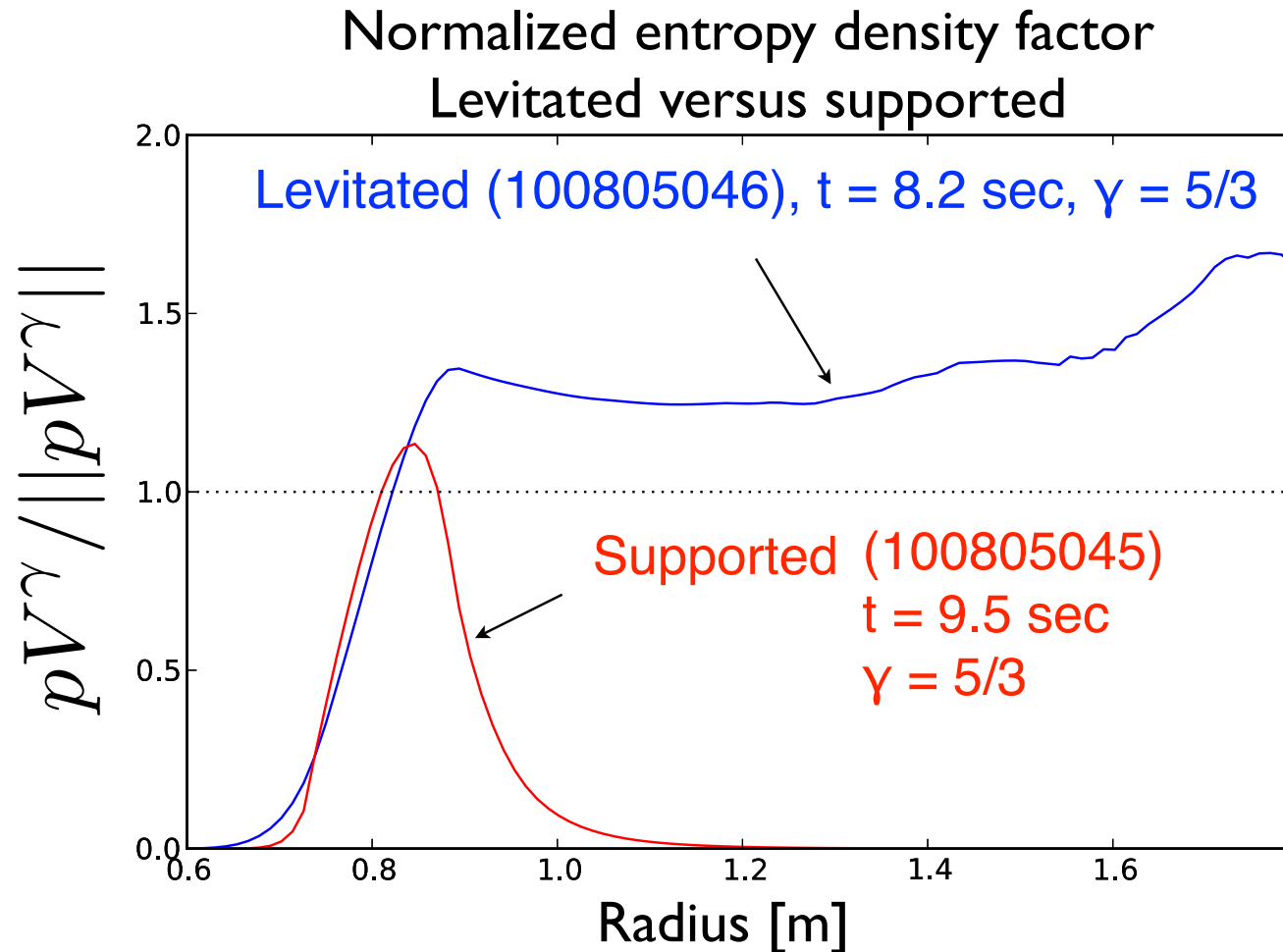


Last week:

Matt Davis, *Measurements the electron pressure profile in the Levitated Dipole Experiment (LDX)*,  
Columbia Dissertation, 2013



# Accurate Pressure Profile Reconstruction Show Expected “Invariant” Pressure Profile



Last week:

Matt Davis, *Measurements the electron pressure profile in the Levitated Dipole Experiment (LDX)*,  
Columbia Dissertation, 2013

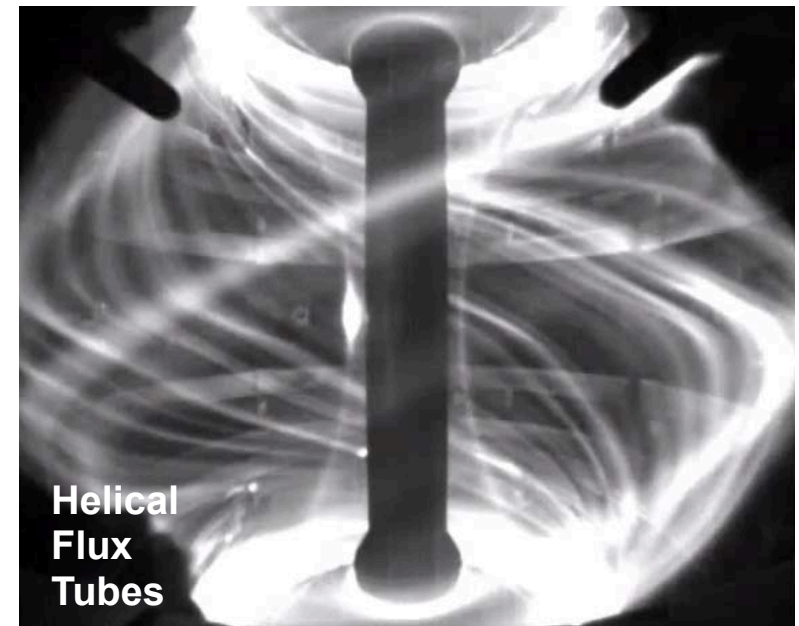
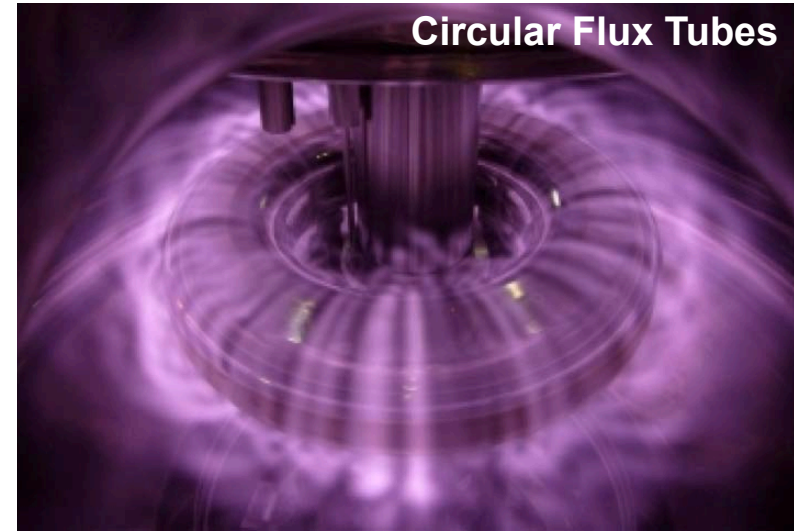
# Dipole is Toroidal Confinement **without Toroidal Field**

- **Dipole...**

- ▶ Interchange (**not ballooning**) sets pressure and density gradient limits in dipole-plasma (*compressibility not average good curvature*) with  $\beta \sim 100\%$
- ▶ Flux-tubes can interchange globally without bending (**no magnetic shear**)
- ▶ No toroidally circulating particles: all particles have similar response to low-frequency turbulence
- ▶ Flux tube volume increases rapidly with radius,  $\delta V \sim 1/L^4$ , allowing steep profiles

- **Tokamak...**

- ▶ Ballooning and kinks set pressure limit with  $\beta \sim \epsilon/q \approx 5\%$  (shear stabilizes interchange)
- ▶ Short radial scale of fluctuations, drift waves
- ▶ Passing and trapped particles different
- ▶ Flux tube volume nearly constant with radius,  $\delta V \sim q$ , mixing creates flat profiles



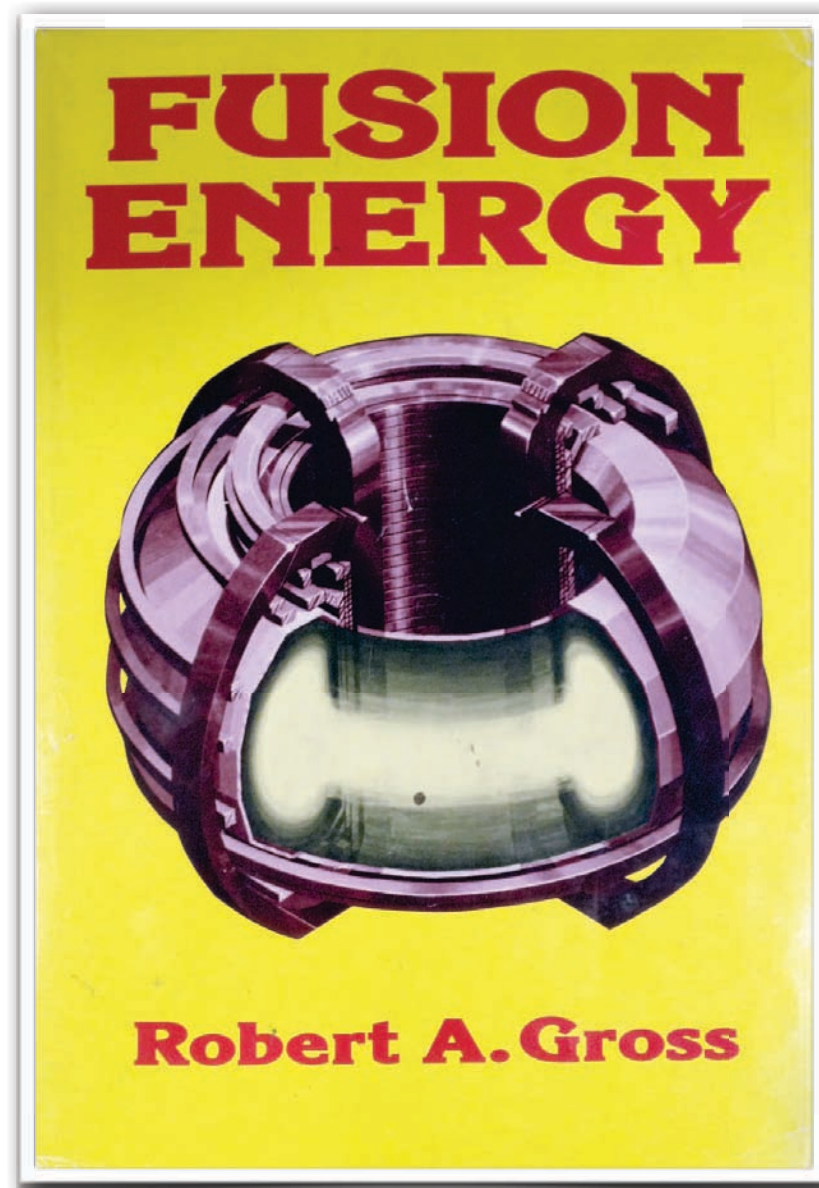


Robert Gross  
Columbia  
*Fusion Energy*  
(1984)

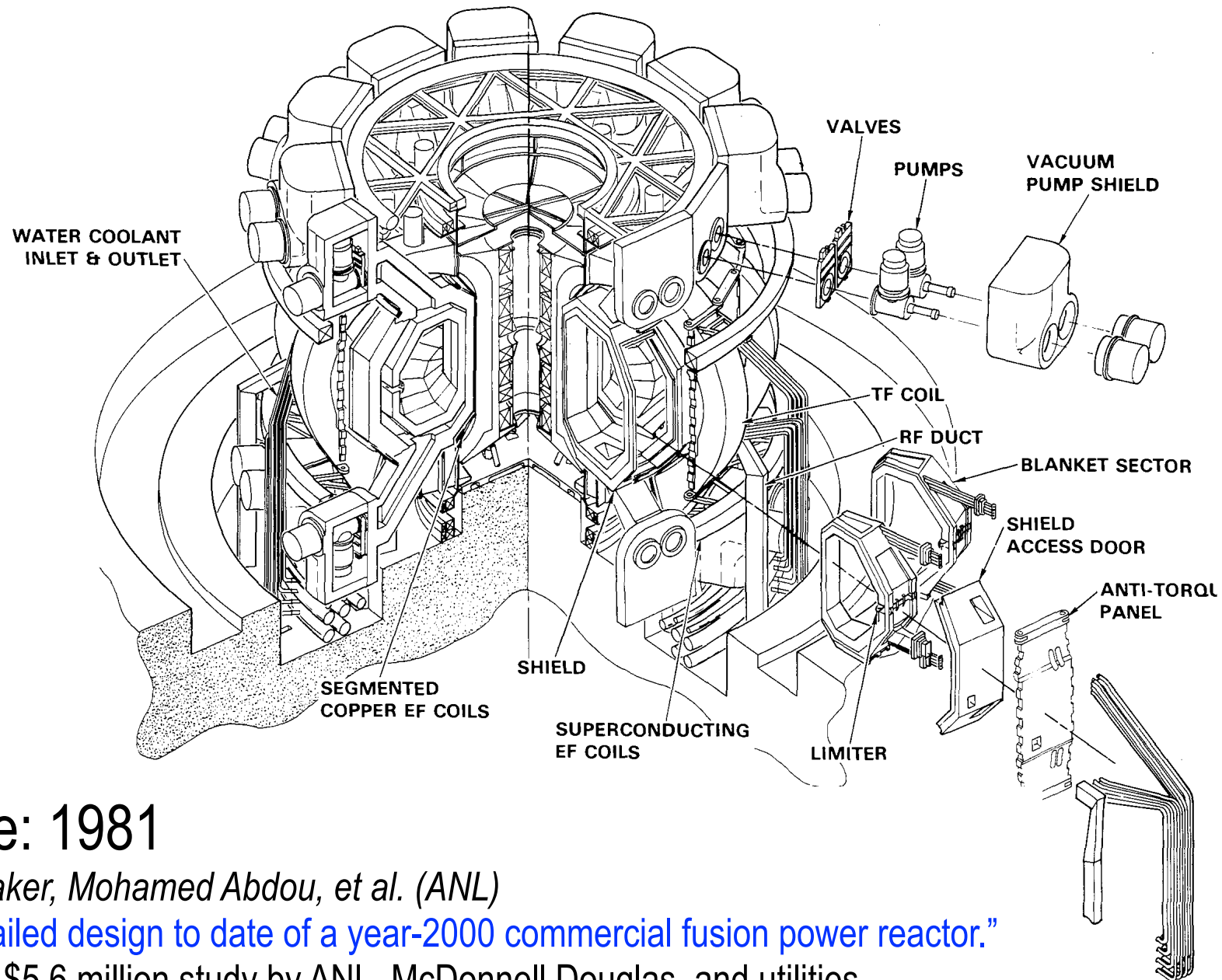
“Fusion has proved to be a very difficult challenge.

The early question was—Can fusion be done, and, if so how? ...

Now, the challenge lies in whether fusion can be done in a reliable, an economical, and socially acceptable way...”



# Starfire Represented Optimism of early 1980's



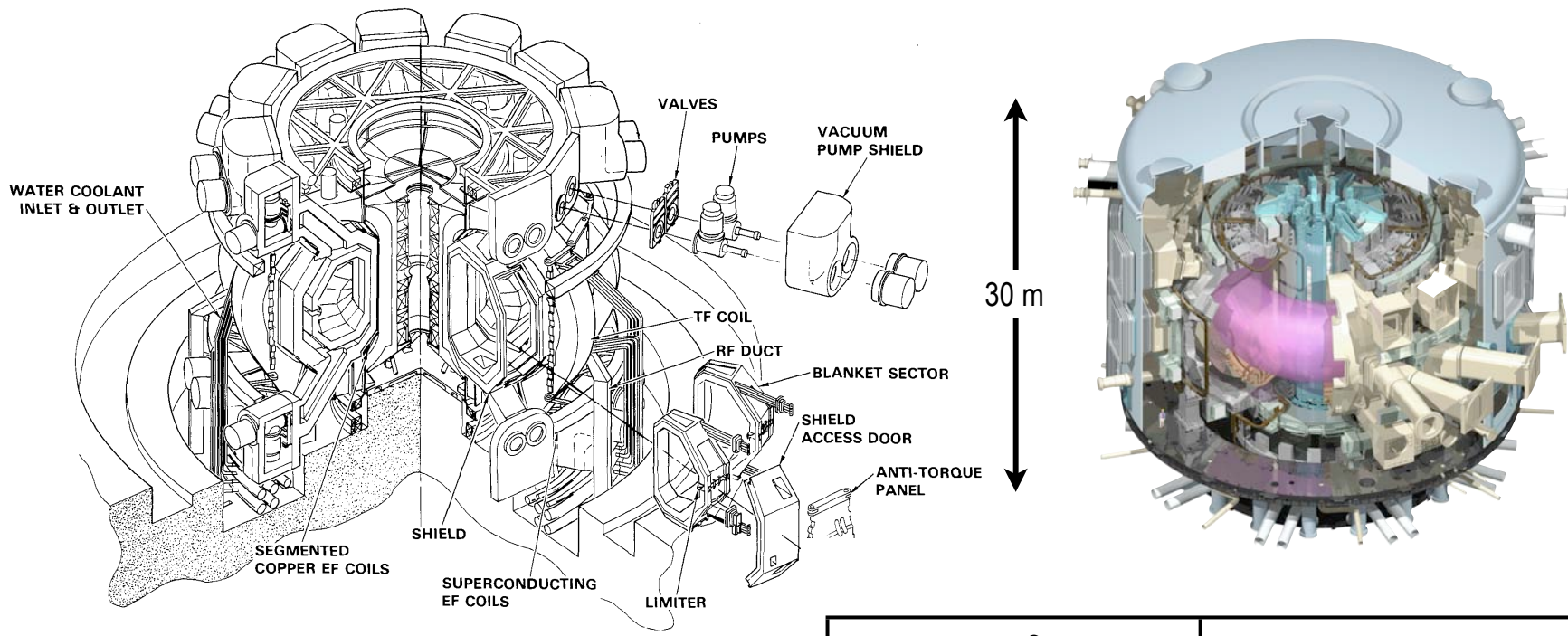
## Starfire: 1981

*Charlie Baker, Mohamed Abdou, et al. (ANL)*

*"Most detailed design to date of a year-2000 commercial fusion power reactor."*

Two-year, \$5.6 million study by ANL, McDonnell Douglas, and utilities





13-4259

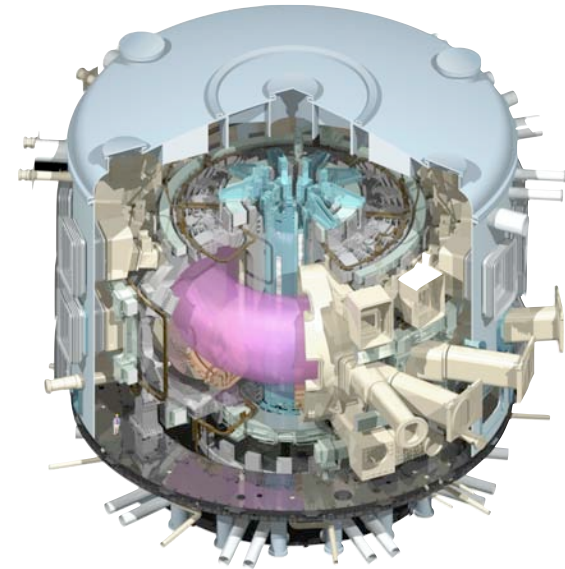
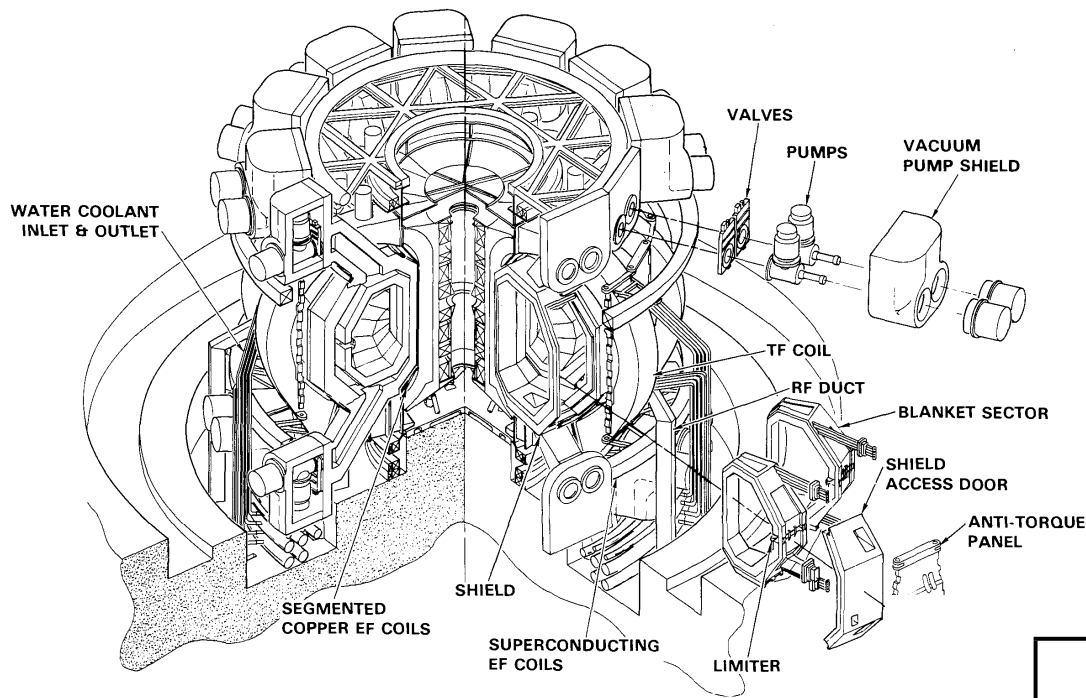
|                          | Starfire<br>(1981) | ITER<br>(2027) |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| R, a (m)                 | 7.0, 1.9           | 6.2, 2.0       |
| I <sub>p</sub> (MA)      | 10.1               | 15.0           |
| B (T)                    | 5.8                | 5.3            |
| Duration                 | continuous         | 6000 x 7 min   |
| P <sub>fusion</sub> (MW) | 3510               | 410            |
| P <sub>e</sub> (MW)      | 1200               | -250           |
| W <sub>mag</sub> (GJ)    | 55                 | 51             |
| Tokamak (tonne)          | 24,000             | 23,000         |
| Cost (\$M)               | 6,800              | > 27,000       |

Starfire = \$5.7/W<sub>e</sub>

ITER ≥ 34 × Starfire

# 1984: A great year for tokamak physics and Turning-point for understanding tokamak limits

- P. H. Rebut, “Status and Programme of JET,” *Plasma Phys Contr F*, **26**, 1 (1984).
- R.J. Goldston, “Energy confinement scaling in tokamaks: some implications of recent experiments with ohmic and strong auxiliary heating,” *Plasma Phys Contr F*, **26**, 87 (1984).
- F. Troyon, *et al.*, “MHD Limits to Plasma Confinement,” *Plasma Phys Contr F*, **26**, 209 (1984).
- B. Kadomtsev, “Behavior of disruptions in tokamaks,” *Plasma Phys Contr F*, **26**, 217 (1984).
- M. Greenwald, *et al.*, “Energy Confinement of High-Density Pellet-Fueled Plasmas in the Alcator C Tokamak,” *Phys Rev Lett*, **53**, 352 (1984).
- F. Wagner, *et al.*, “Development of an edge transport barrier at the H-mode transition of ASDEX,” *Phys Rev Lett*, **53**, 1453 (1984). (and Wagner, *et al.*, *PRL*, **49**, 1408 (1982).)



Today's 1st frontier for fusion...

“to demonstrate the scientific and technological **feasibility** of fusion energy for peaceful purposes”

*should not supersede  
Gross's 1984 challenge...*

“the challenge is whether fusion can be done in a reliable, an economical, and socially acceptable way”

|                                     | Starfire<br>(1981) | ITER<br>(2027) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| $\beta$ (%), $\beta_N$              | 6.7, 7.3           | 2.5, 1.8       |
| $\tau_E$ (s), H                     | 3.6, 5.5           | 3.7, 1.0       |
| $n$ ( $10^{20}\text{m}^{-3}$ ), nG  | 1.0, 1.1           | 1.0, 0.85      |
| T (keV)                             | 24                 | 9.0            |
| $\lambda_{sol}$ (mm)                | 100                | ~ 1            |
| Max Flux ( $\text{MW}/\text{m}^2$ ) | 4                  | > 20           |
| Neutrons ( $\text{MW}/\text{m}^2$ ) | 3.6                | 0.6            |
| Material                            | Low-Activation SS  | B-doped 316L   |



# ITER and advances in Alternate Energy Technology have made the issue of fusion's cost unavoidable

- EIA (April 2013) Utility-scale Cost and Generation:

|                | Capital Cost         | 1984              | 2013               |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Fission:       | \$5.5/W <sub>e</sub> | 37 GWy (96 units) | 88 GWy (104 units) |
| Solar PV:      | \$3.9/W <sub>e</sub> | 0                 | 2.5 GWy            |
| Solar Thermal: | \$5.1/W <sub>e</sub> |                   |                    |
| Onshore Wind:  | \$2.2/W <sub>e</sub> | 0                 | 16 GWy             |
| Offshore Wind: | \$6.2/W <sub>e</sub> |                   |                    |

- Fusion research must address “economic viability” and show cost competitiveness
- Holdren (*Science*, 1978): “Fusion, like solar energy, is not one possibility but many... The most attractive forms of fusion may require greater investment of time and money, but they are real reasons for wanting fusion at all.”

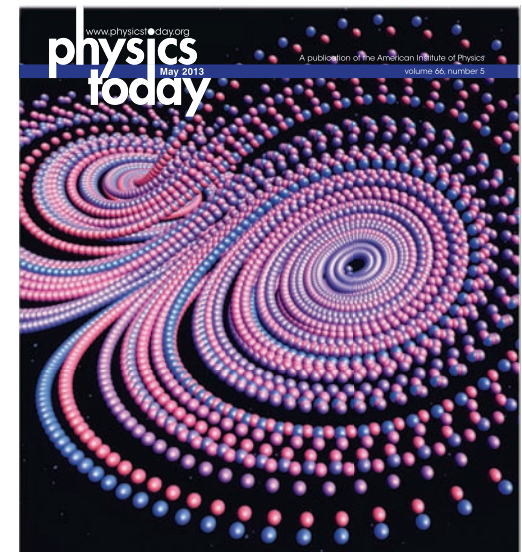
# Carbon capture may be a ways off, but ARPA-E is working on it

Several technologies are aimed at minimizing the cost of removing CO<sub>2</sub> during coal burning. But their deployment will require subsidies or a price on carbon emissions.

The goal of ARPA-E's \$40 million, three-year Innovative Materials and Processes for Advanced Carbon Capture Technologies (IMPACCT) program is to **dramatically reduce the cost of extracting CO<sub>2</sub> from flue gases so it can be sequestered from the atmosphere.** All carbon capture technologies consume energy; the current benchmark technology, an absorber-desorber process that uses a monoethanol amine (MEA) solvent, costs around \$90 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> captured—which would add as much as 50% to the cost of producing electricity from coal.

According to ATK claims, the company's process would cost \$48 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>. Other grantees claim similar costs. But Karma Sawyer, IMPACCT program manager, cautions that extrapolating cost-per-ton figures from bench-scale demonstrations—the current status of most CO<sub>2</sub> capture projects—“is not a trivial calculation to make.” **Her program adopted a goal set by DOE's Office of Fossil Energy in 2008: to limit the cost increase for electricity generated with coal to 35%.** “I can say that our technologies have compelling arguments to make” on reducing the costs, she says.

- Alliant Techsystems (ATK)
- LLNL
- GE Global Research
- University of Notre Dame
- Texas A&M
- Columbia University



The trajectory of chaos  
also:  
Getting a grip on the electric grid ◀  
Megascience in China ◀  
Bohr's atomic theory ◀

# A Strategy for Fusion's 2nd Frontier: "Economic Viability"

How to reduce fusion's cost per Watt by more than an order of magnitude?

- Fusion research must resolve its "science rich" feasibility issues, *but the costs of this research should be commensurate with our target*
- Strengthen efforts to improve performance of the baseline, *e.g. the advanced tokamak, Li walls, novel divertors, stellarators, ...*
- Broaden study to include new fusion concepts *that promise **significant cost reductions and system simplifications***
- "Economically viable" fusion faces many simultaneous challenges, and ***wise policy will move research forward on multiple pathways***



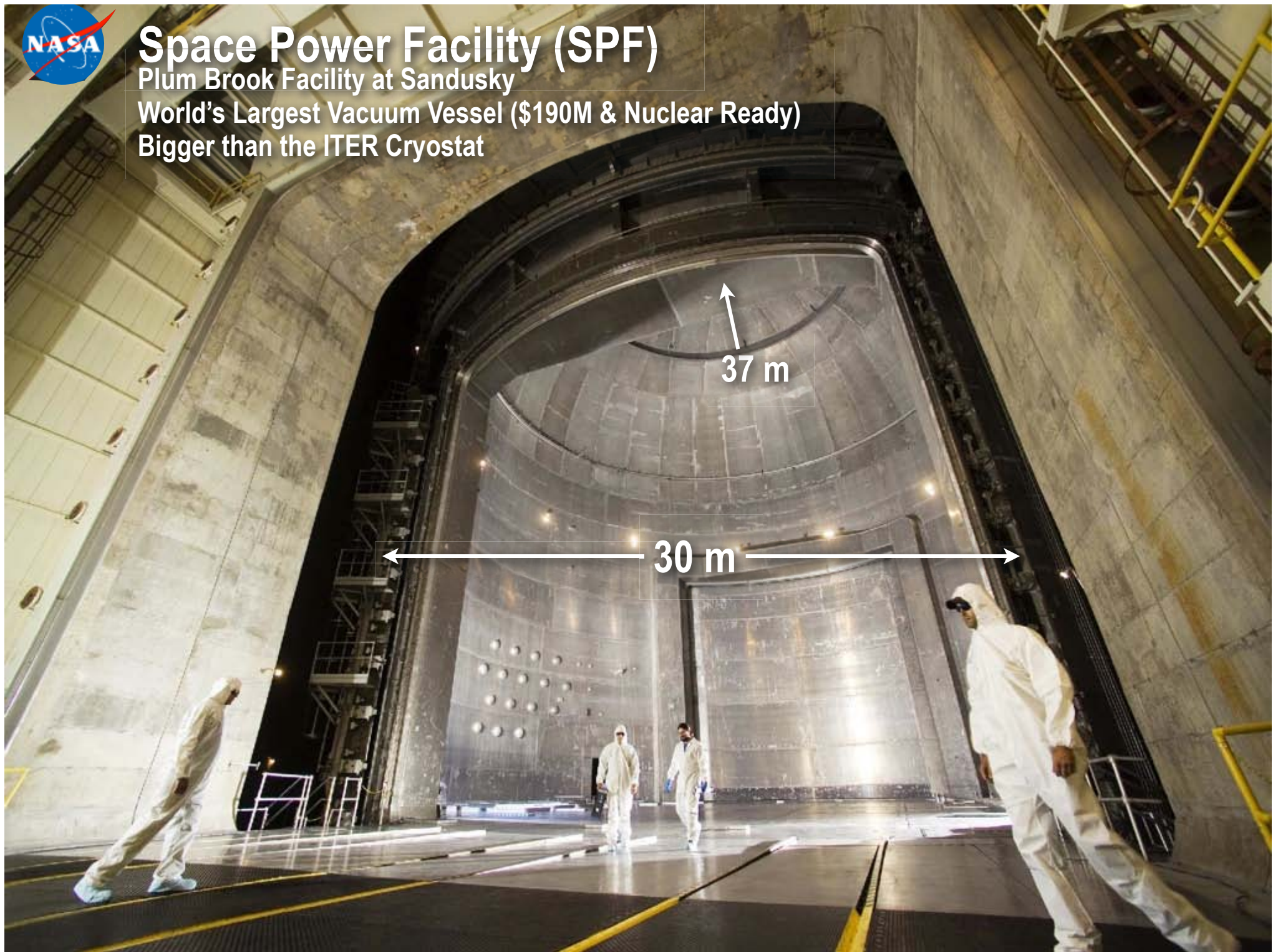


# Space Power Facility (SPF)

Plum Brook Facility at Sandusky

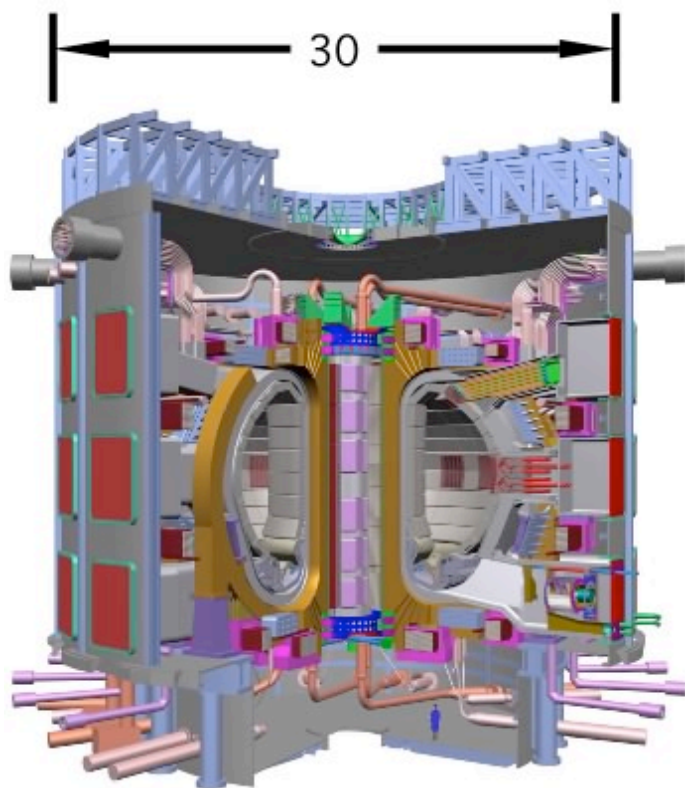
World's Largest Vacuum Vessel (\$190M & Nuclear Ready)

Bigger than the ITER Cryostat



# Levitated Dipole may Make Possible Tritium Suppressed Fusion

Dipole T-suppressed fusion is an **alternate technology pathway** that avoids the need to develop **breeding blankets** and **structural materials compatible with 14 MeV neutrons**.



ITER  
500-700 MW  
D-T Fusion

**51 GJ**

$W_B$

**31 GJ**

**0.3GJ**

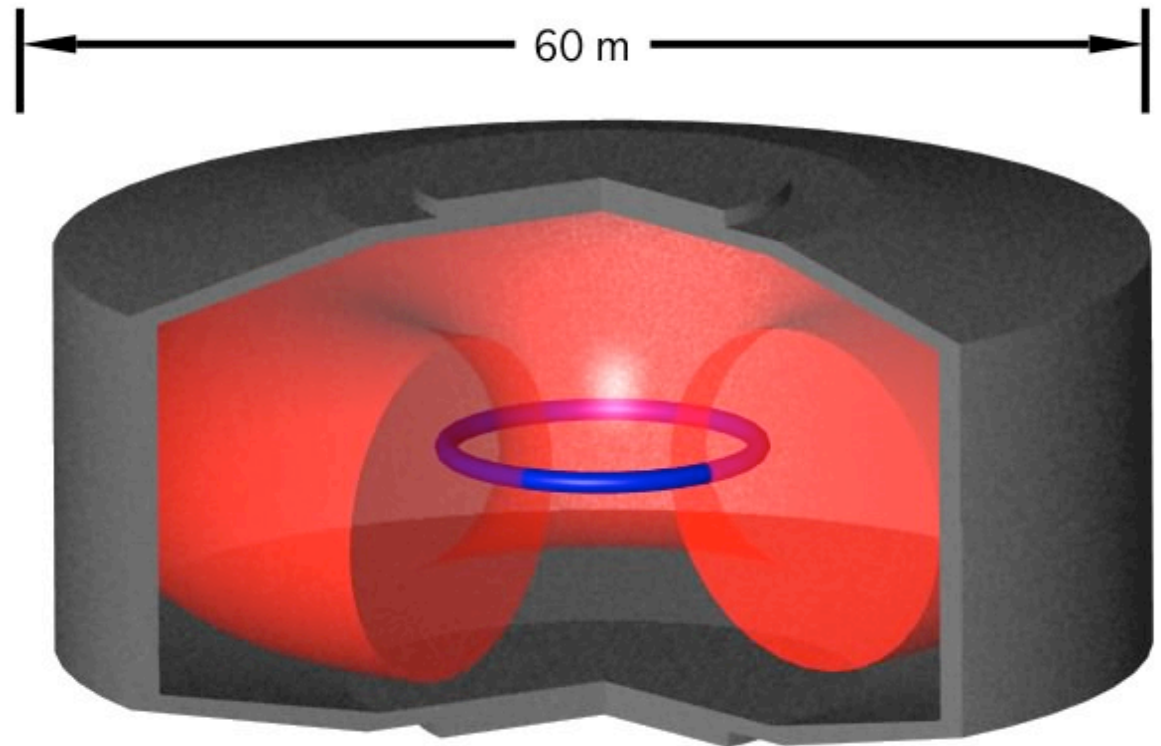
$W_p$

**3 GJ**

**>400 MW**

14 MeV Power

**14 MW**



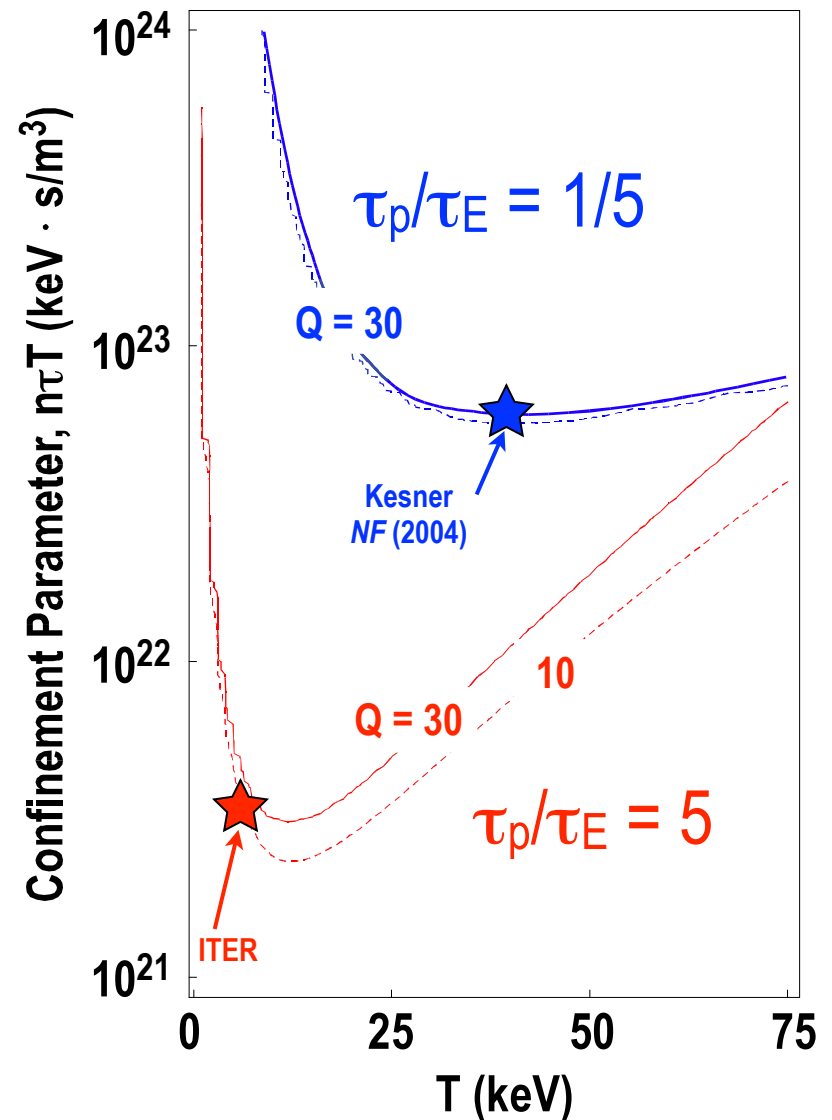
Levitated Dipole  
600 MW  
D-D( $^3\text{He}$ ) Fusion

Kesner, et al., NF (2004)



# Turbulent Pinch in a Levitated Dipole may Make Possible Tritium Suppressed Fusion

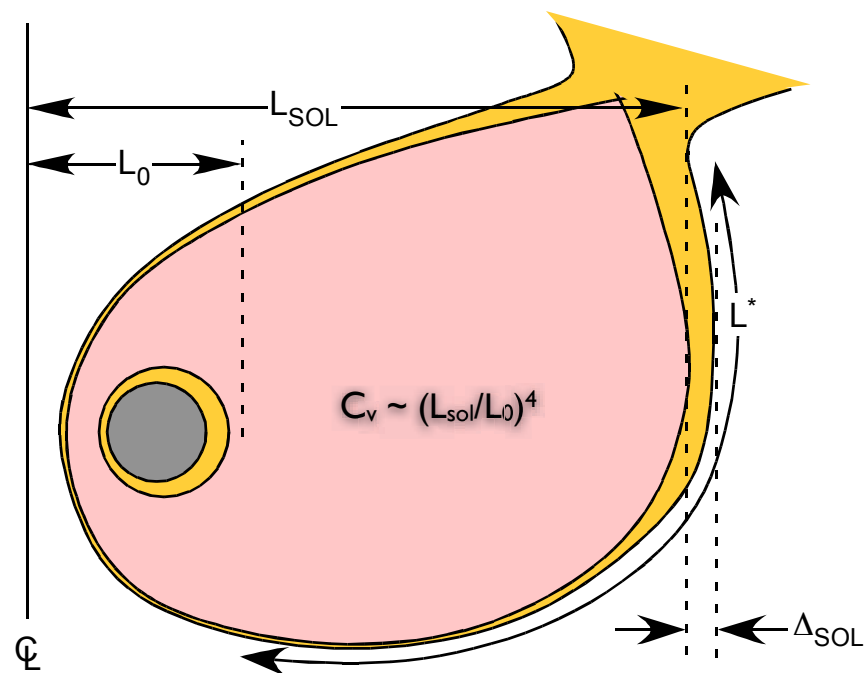
- Sheffield, Zinkle, Sawan (2002-06)
- No tritium breeding blankets
- No 14 MeV neutrons
- No structural materials problem
- Requires  $\tau_p/\tau_E < 1$
- Requires 35 keV
- Requires 10 fold confinement improvement
- Requires stronger, higher-field superconducting magnets



# Turbulent Pinch in a Levitated Dipole may Make Possible Tritium Suppressed Fusion

- Sheffield, Zinkle, Sawan (2002-06)
- No tritium breeding blankets
- No 14 MeV neutrons
- No structural materials problem
- Requires  $\tau_p/\tau_E < 1$
- Requires 35 keV
- Requires 10 fold confinement improvement
- Requires stronger, higher-field superconducting magnets

$(N, P\delta V) \sim \text{constant}$  implies peaked density and pressure profiles (if  $\gamma > 1$ )



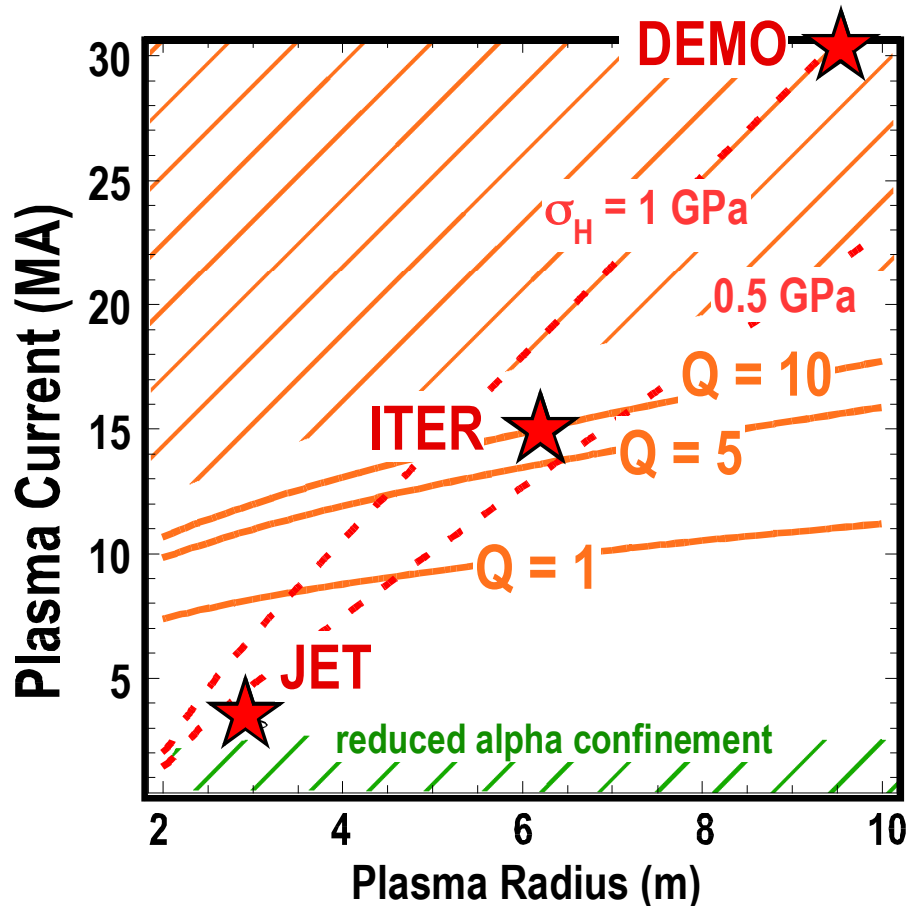
Adiabatic mixing implies core parameters determined by edge & compressibility:

$$\tau_e/\tau_p \sim (4\gamma-3)C_v^{\gamma-1} > 50$$

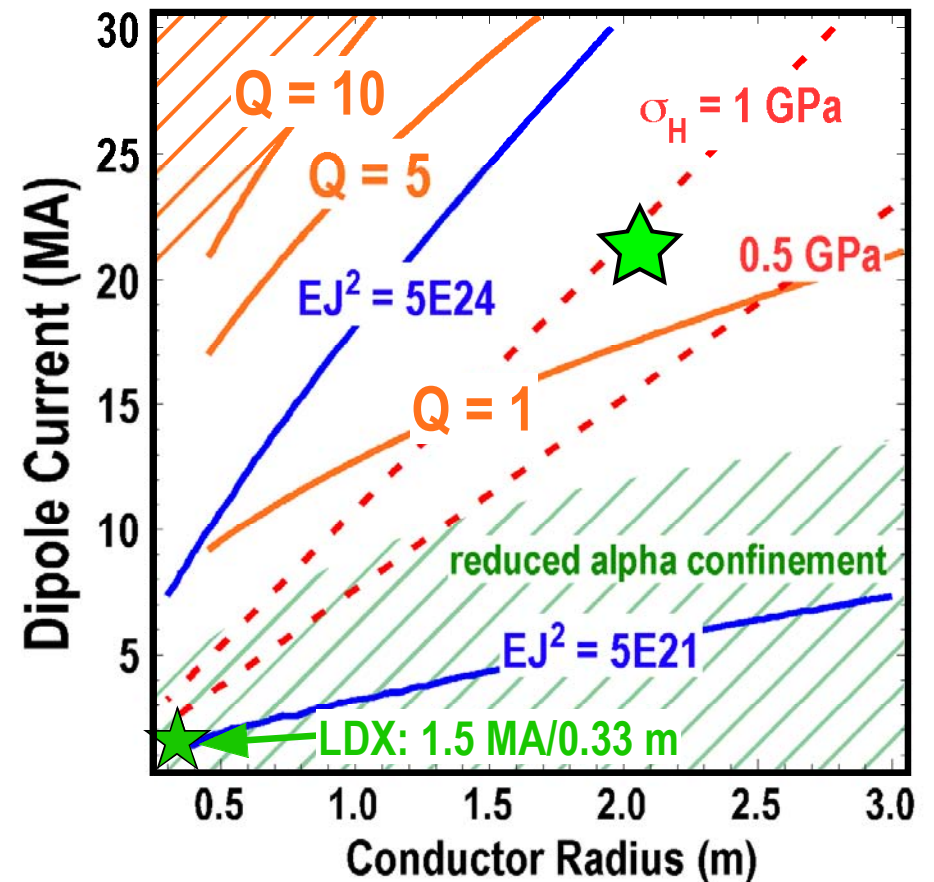


# Dipole Proof of Performance Scaled from LDX to fit in NASA's SPF

(a) ITER-Like D-T Tokamak Scaling



(b) LDX-Like D-T Dipole Scaling



Fusion Gain - Magnet Stress - Quench Safety Parameter - Alpha Confinement



## Nuclear fusion is the 'perfect energy source'

By **Steven Cowley**, Special to CNN  
updated 9:40 AM EDT, Tue March 12, 2013

But what about our second objective of economic viability? ITER isn't meant to achieve that goal. In addition to clearing our last remaining scientific hurdle, we need to advance a parallel engineering agenda into key reactor technologies that will enable commercial fusion power plants to reliably deliver electricity in a highly competitive market.

This means technological advances in areas such as structural and functional materials, power conversion, and reliability.

*Mike Mauel:*

*“**Economic viability**” is the second frontier of fusion science and engineering.*

*This means integrating technology advances with **advancements in fusion plasma physics** to engineer and test fusion confinement concepts that **significantly simplify, reduce capital costs, and improve maintainability.***