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## Spacecraft Radiation Shielding by a Dispersed Magnetic Field Array

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# Spacecraft Radiation Shielding Using Dispersed Superconducting Loops



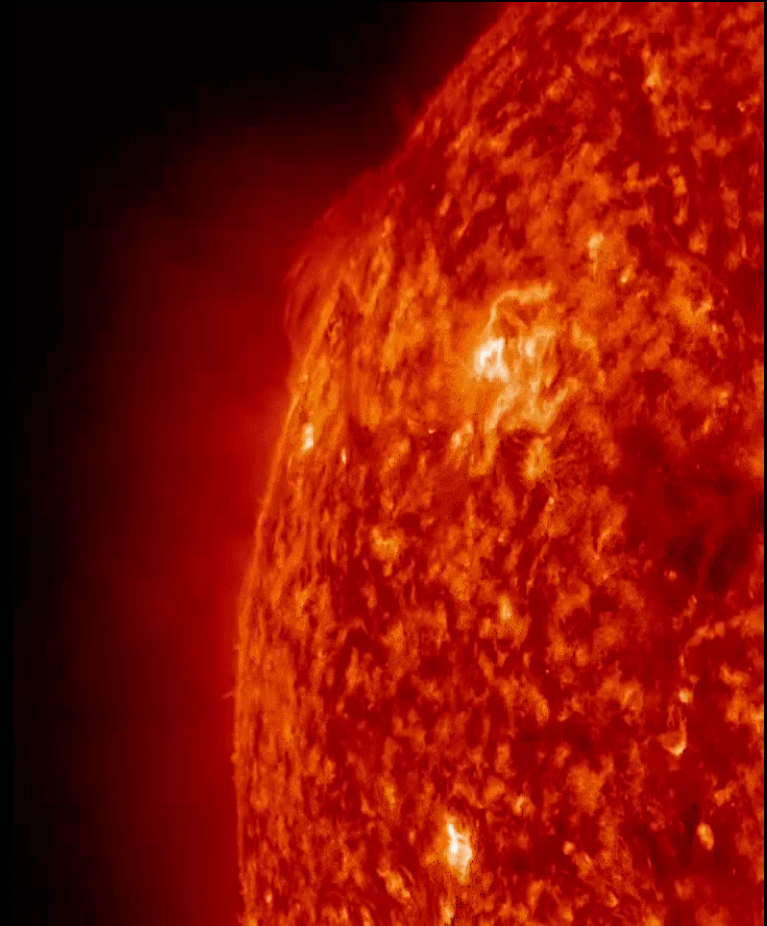
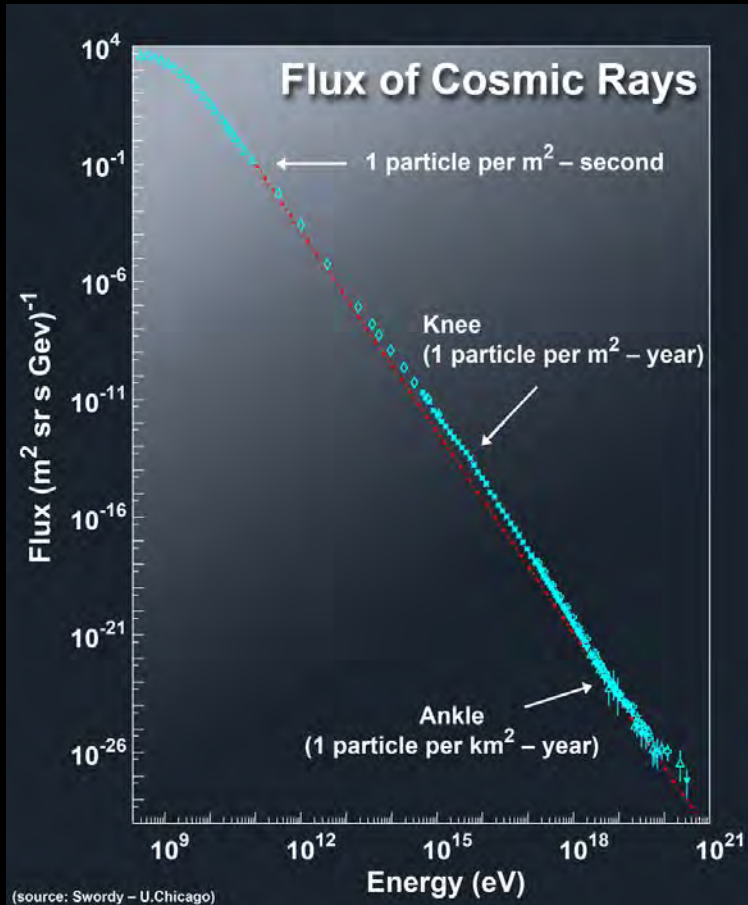
D. L. Chesny<sup>1</sup>, S. T. Durrance<sup>2</sup>, G. A. Levin<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*OrangeWave Innovative Science, LLC*

<sup>2</sup>*Florida Institute of Technology*



# Interplanetary Radiation Environment



## Galactic Cosmic Rays (GCRs)

Isotropic and *constant*  
1—1000 GeV  
Protons  $\longleftrightarrow$  Fe

## Solar Particle Events (SPEs)

Isotropic and *intermittent*  
1—1000 MeV  
protons, H, He, C, Si, Fe

# Radiation Threat

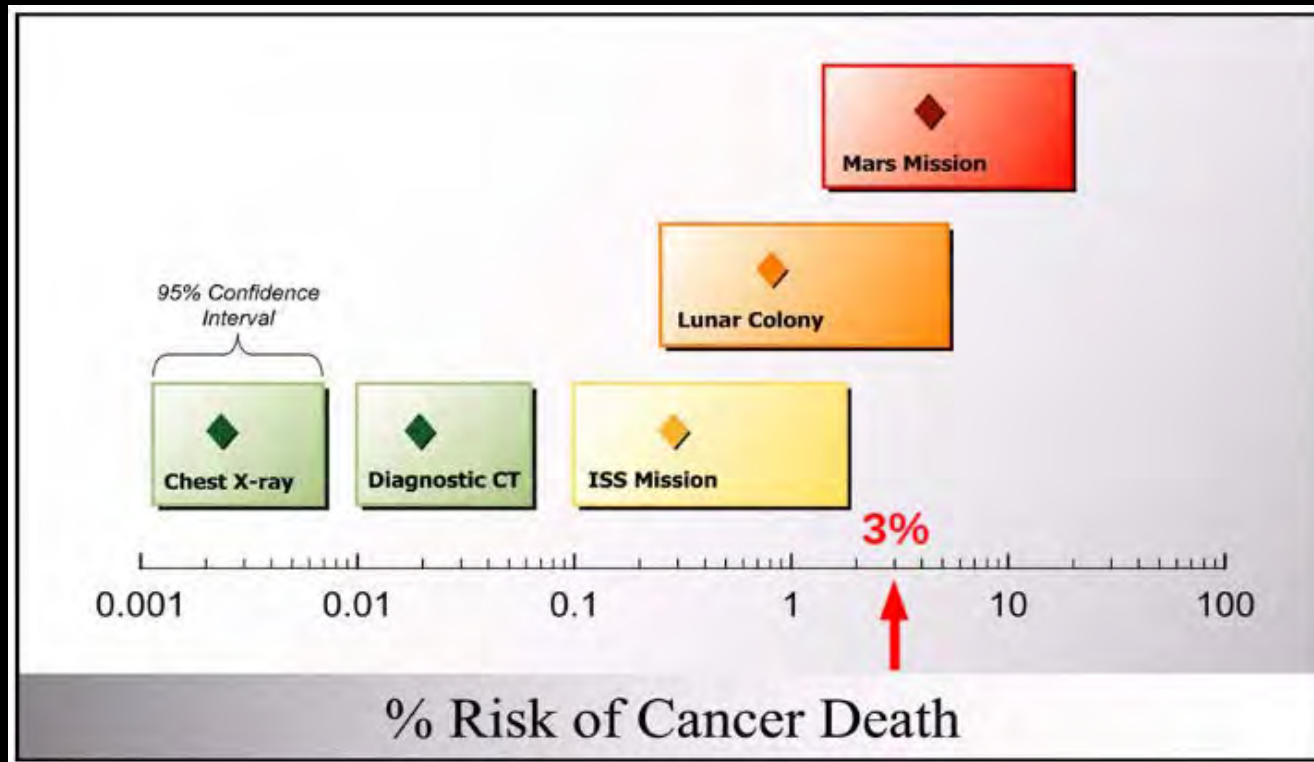
## Radiation Exposure Induced Death (REID)

NASA Standard of **<3%** increase (95% confidence)

**Table 4-1. Example Career Effective Dose Limits in Units of mill-Sievert (mSv) for 1-year Missions and Average Life-loss for an Exposure-Induced Death for Radiation Carcinogenesis (1 mSv = 0.1 rem)**

Age, yr	E(mSv) for 3% REID (Ave. Life Loss per Death, yr)	
	Males	Females
25	520 (15.7)	370 (15.9)
30	620 (15.4)	470 (15.7)
35	720 (15.0)	550 (15.3)
40	800 (14.2)	620 (14.7)
45	950 (13.5)	750 (14.0)
50	1,150 (12.5)	920 (13.2)
55	1,470 (11.5)	1,120 (12.2)

# Radiation Threat



“The NASA PELs for fatal cancer risk **may be exceeded for several lunar scenarios** including a large SPE, cumulative career exposure, and mission length dependent on crew age and gender. In addition, the **NASA PELs for fatal cancer risk are projected to be violated under all possible Mars scenarios at this time.**”

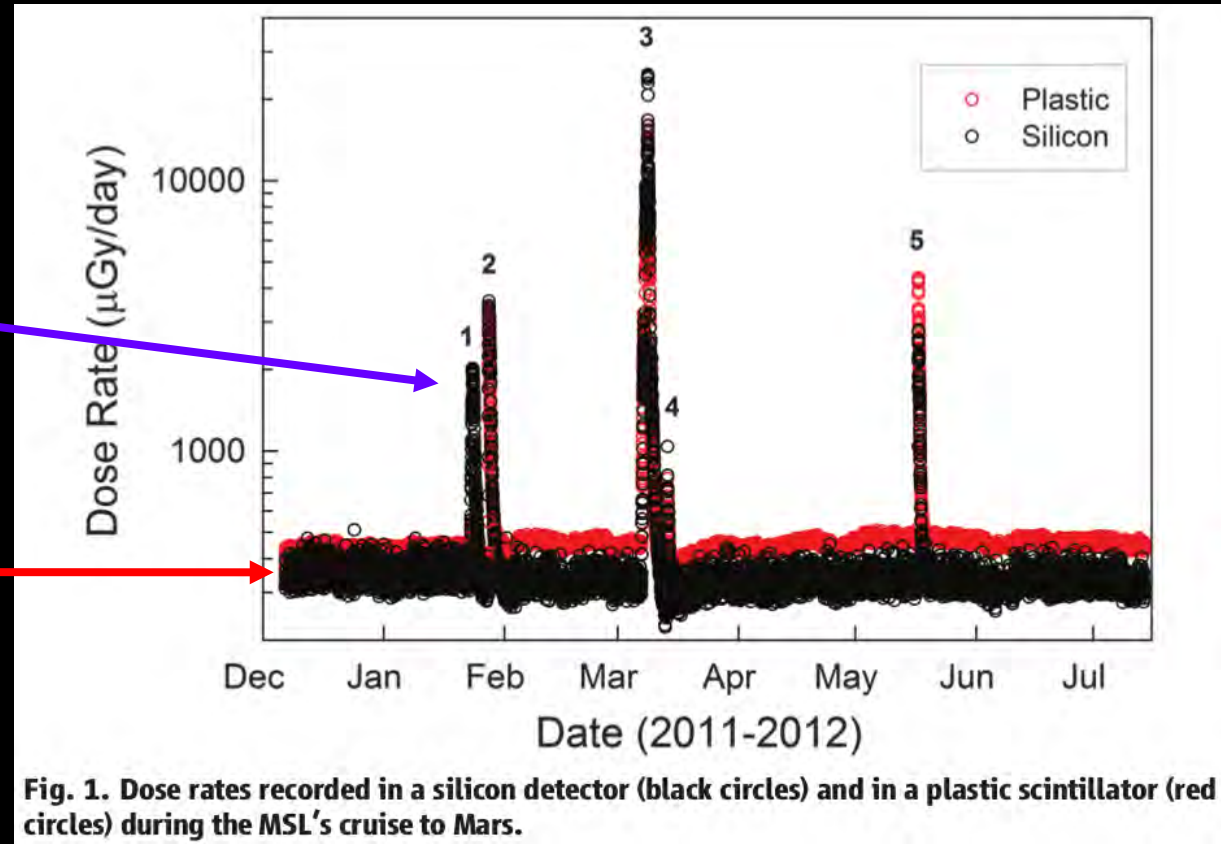


# Curiosity Rover

253-day cruise to Mars

SPEs

GCRs



Shortest round-trip:  $660 \pm 120$  mSv

**Why magnetic shielding?**

# Threat Mitigation

## Deal with consequences

- Molecular/DNA level
- Enterade
- Not a “showstopper”

## Prevention

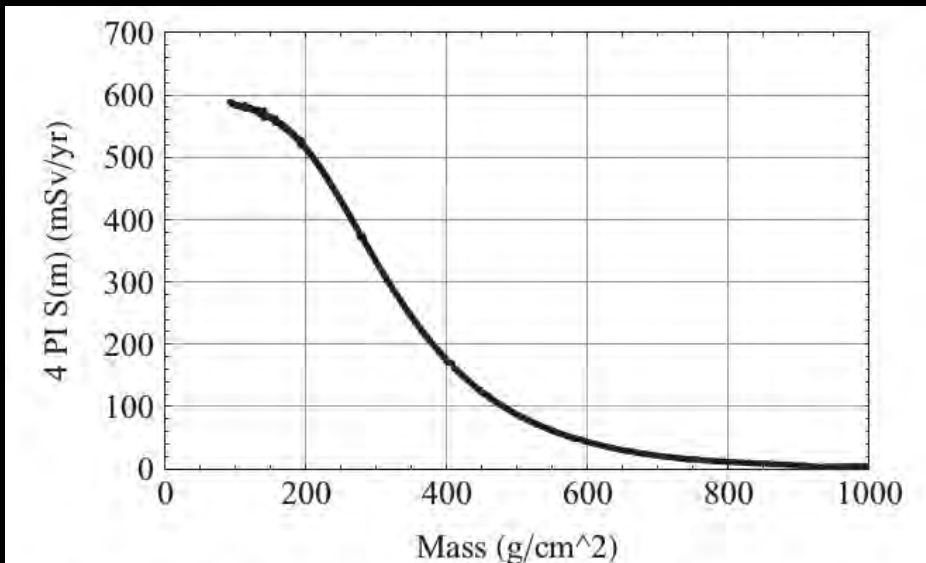
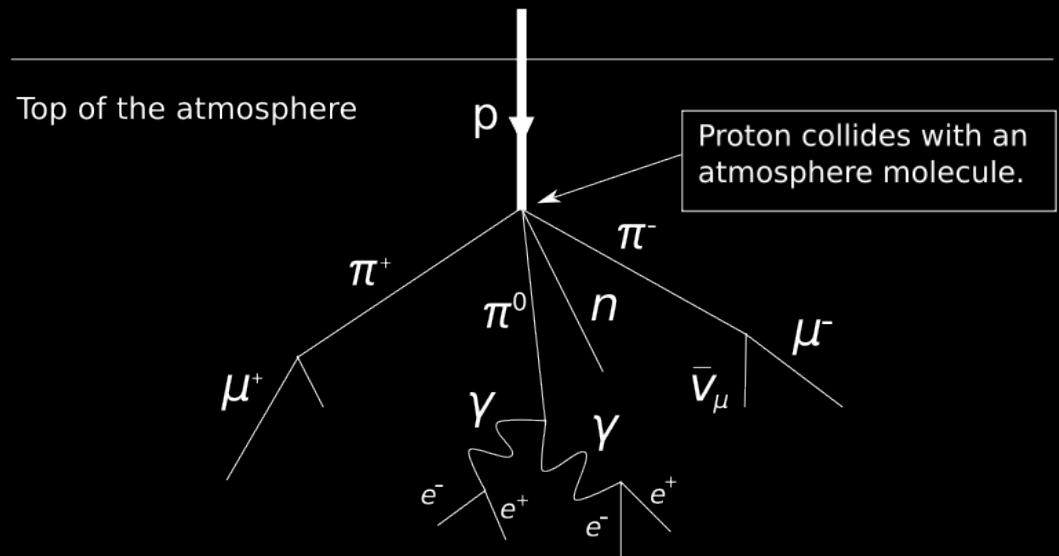
- Absorption
- Deflect





# Absorption - Material Shielding

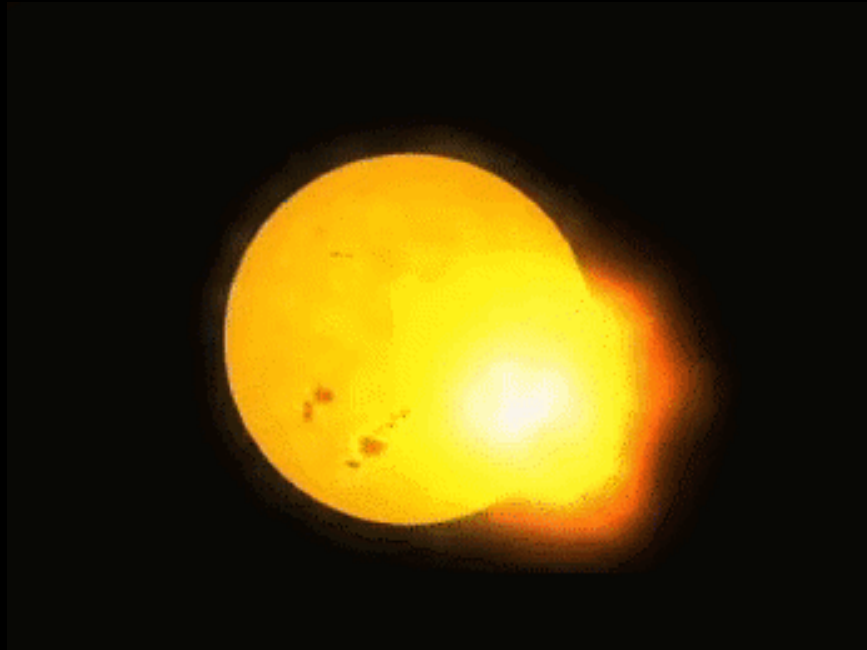
**Secondary particles  
increase exposure**



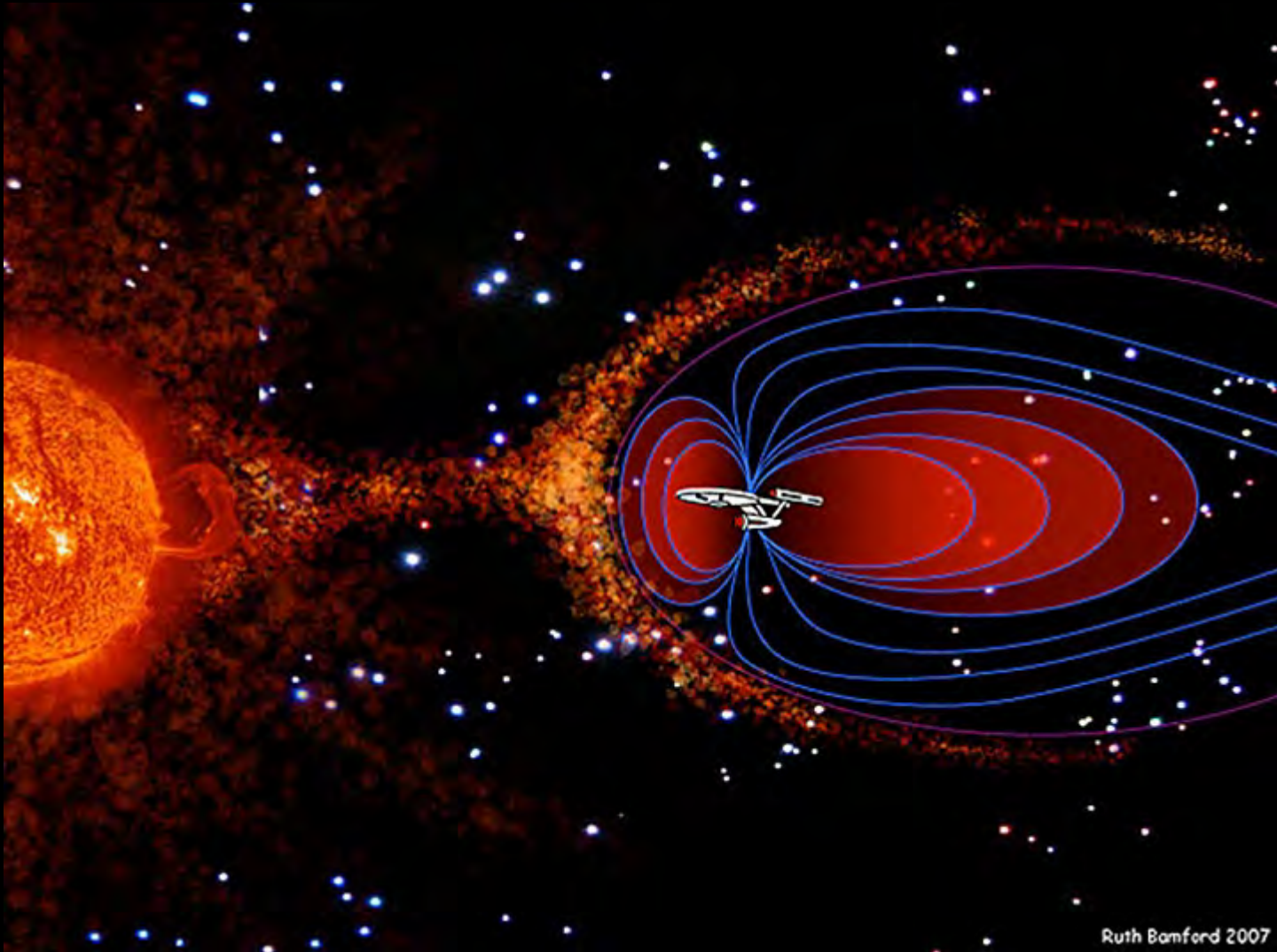
**Fig. 5.** This plot shows the atmospheric radiation shielding function at the 06/09 solar minimum,

Youngquist et al. (2014)

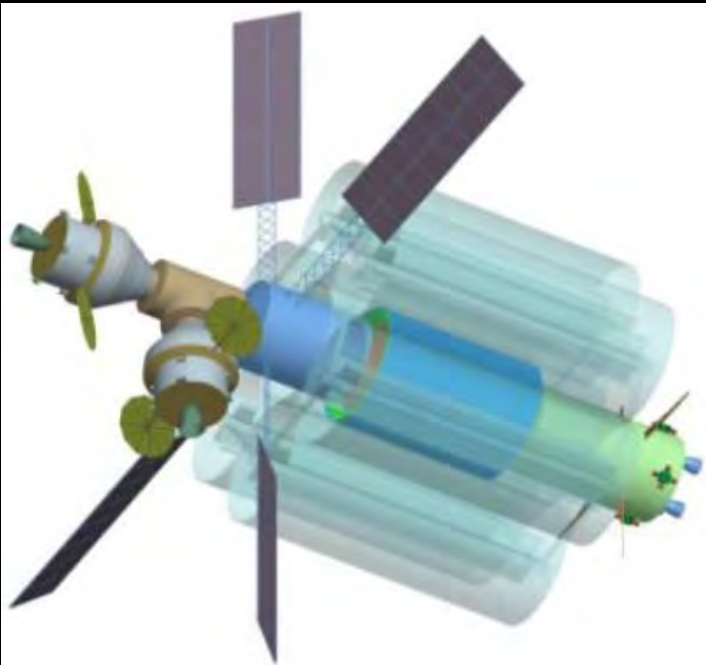
# Deflection - Mimic Earth's Shield



# Magnetic Shielding

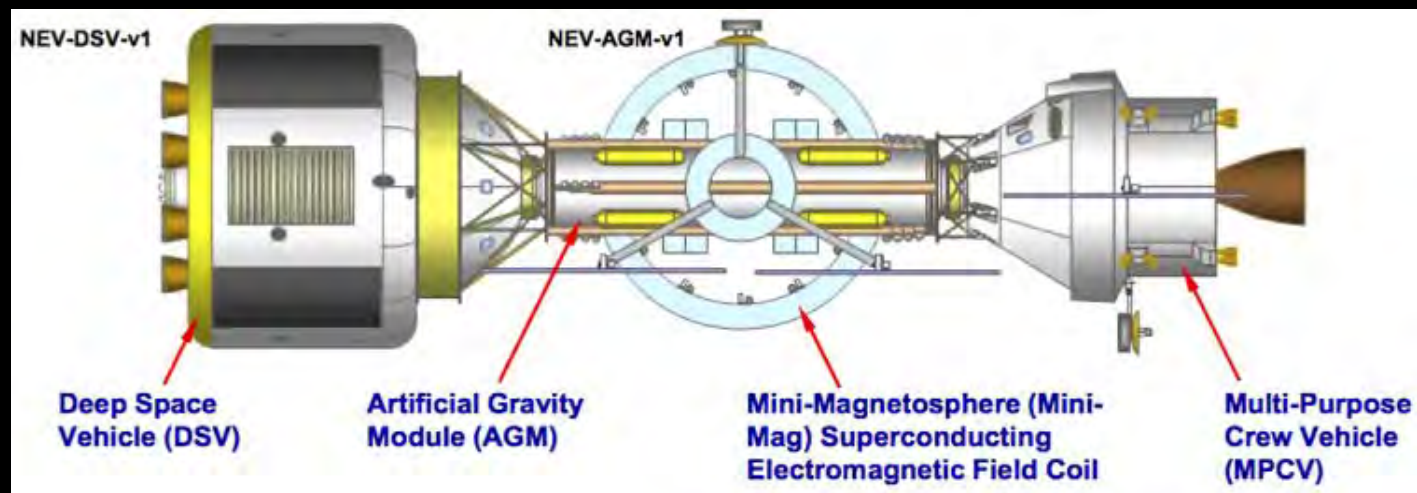


# Previous Designs



Superconducting magnets  
attached directly to spacecraft

Kervendal, E., Kirk, D., Meinke, R. (2006)

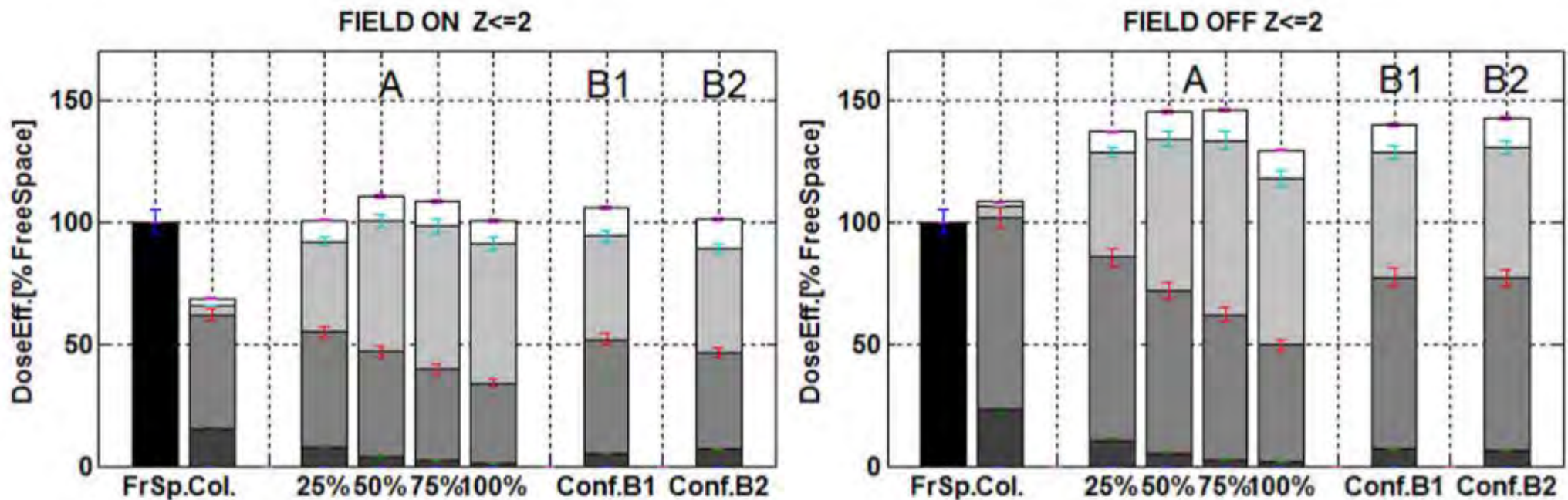


Bamford, R. A., et al. (2014)

# Drawbacks

- Thermal management of superconductors
- Danger of quench in proximity of habitat
- Hinders EVAs
- Re-designing Orion

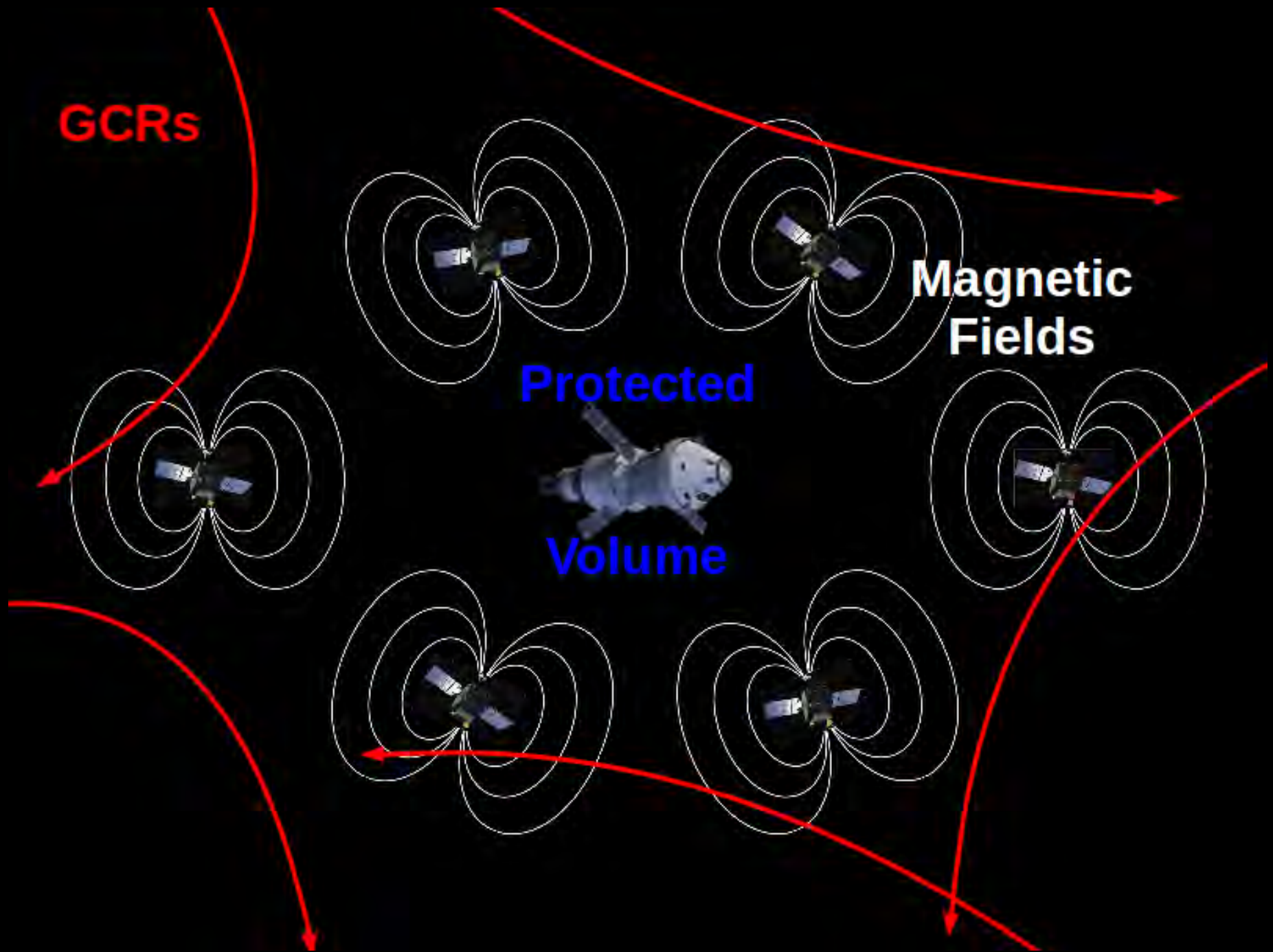
**Increase of secondary radiation!** (Vuolo et al. 2014)



# New Concept



# New Concept

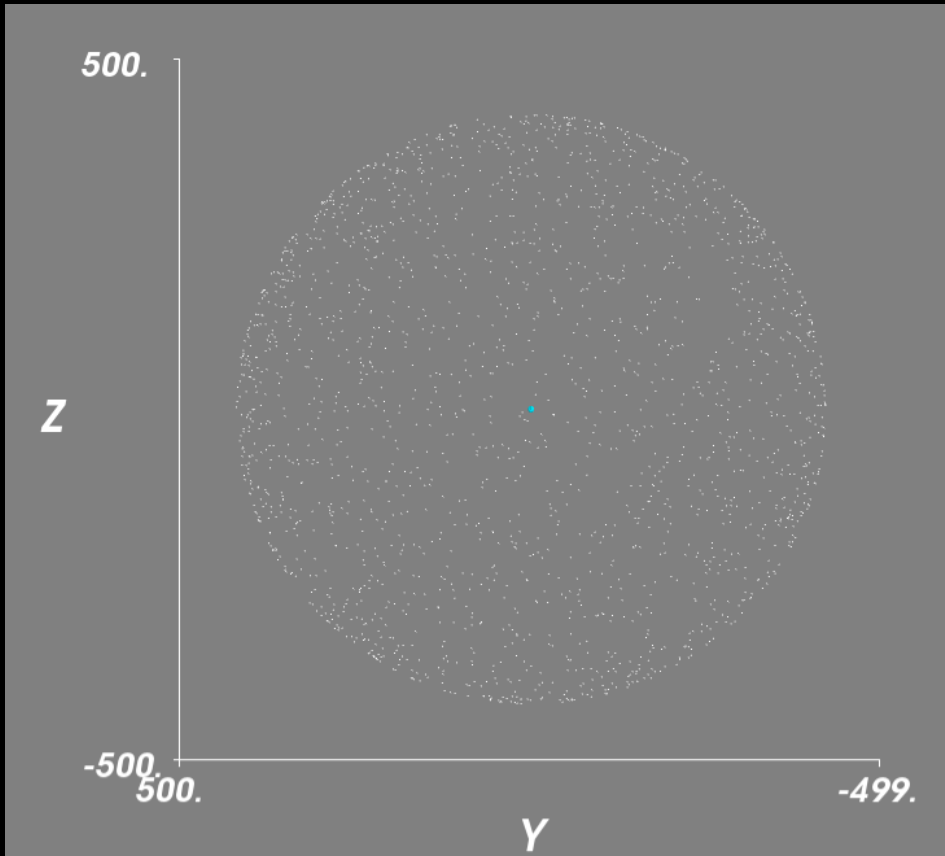


# Goals

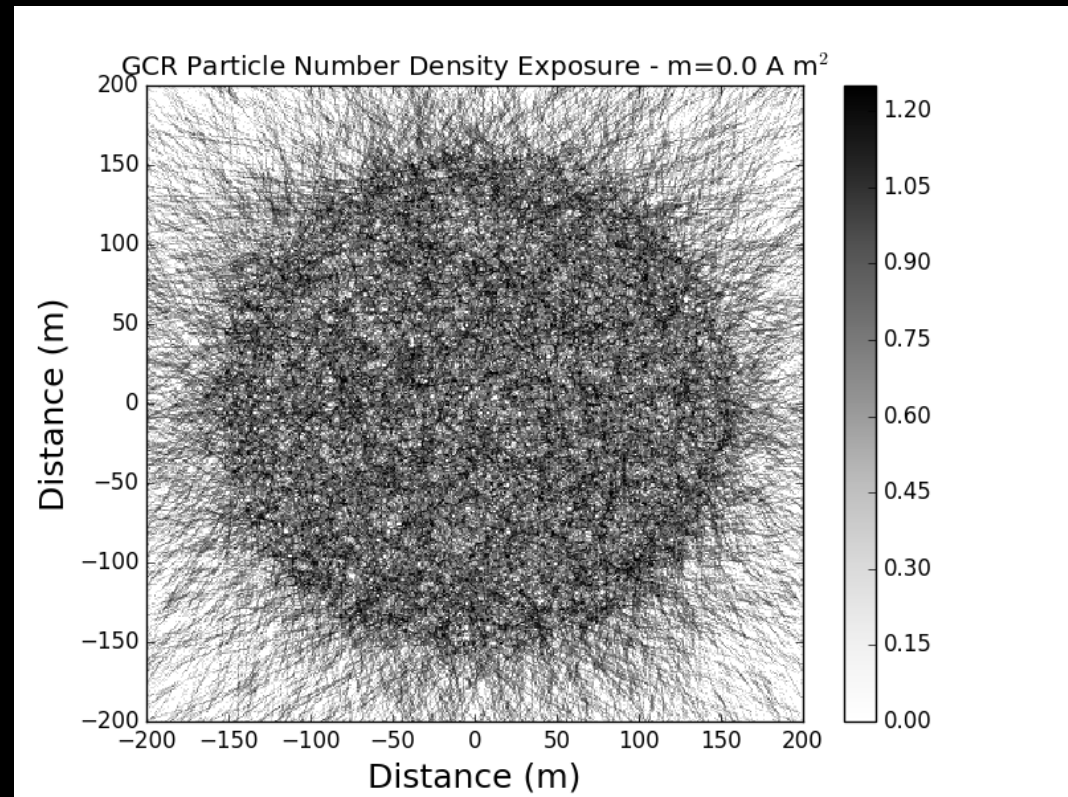
1. Optimize Design
  2. First approximation
  3. Good News
  4. Great News
  5. Bad News
- Better solution?



# Create Isotropic Environment



$$-1 < \cos \theta < 1$$
$$0 < \phi < 2\pi$$



# Equation of Motion

$$\frac{d\vec{u}}{dt} = \frac{300}{E_n[\text{MeV}]} \frac{Z}{A} (\vec{u} \times \vec{B}[T])$$

Energy space

## Particle Advancement

$$u[n + 1] = u[n] + a \cdot dt$$

$$r[n + 1] = r[n] + u[n + 1] \cdot dt$$

4<sup>th</sup> order  
Runge Kutta

# Form of the Magnetic Shield

$$B_x = \frac{Cxz}{2\alpha^2\beta\rho^2} [(a^2 + r^2)E(k^2) - \alpha^2 K(k^2)]$$

$$B_y = \frac{Cyz}{2\alpha^2\beta\rho^2} [(a^2 + r^2)E(k^2) - \alpha^2 K(k^2)]$$

$$B_z = \frac{C}{2\alpha^2\beta} [(a^2 - r^2)E(k^2) + \alpha^2 K(k^2)]$$

**CIRCULAR CURRENT LOOPS**  
**Exact magnetic field solutions**  
**outside conductor**

(Simpson et al. 2001)

**magnetic moment**  $\mu = IA$

**Remove particles that hit loops**

$$r_{cs} < R^2 + a^2 - 2a(R^2 - z^2)^{1/2}$$

**Energy loss**

$$P = \frac{dE_n}{dt} = \frac{\mu_0 q^2 \gamma^6 u_0^2}{6\pi c} [c^4 a'^2 + |\vec{n} \times c^2 \vec{a}'|^2]$$

# High Temperature Superconductors



**YBCO**

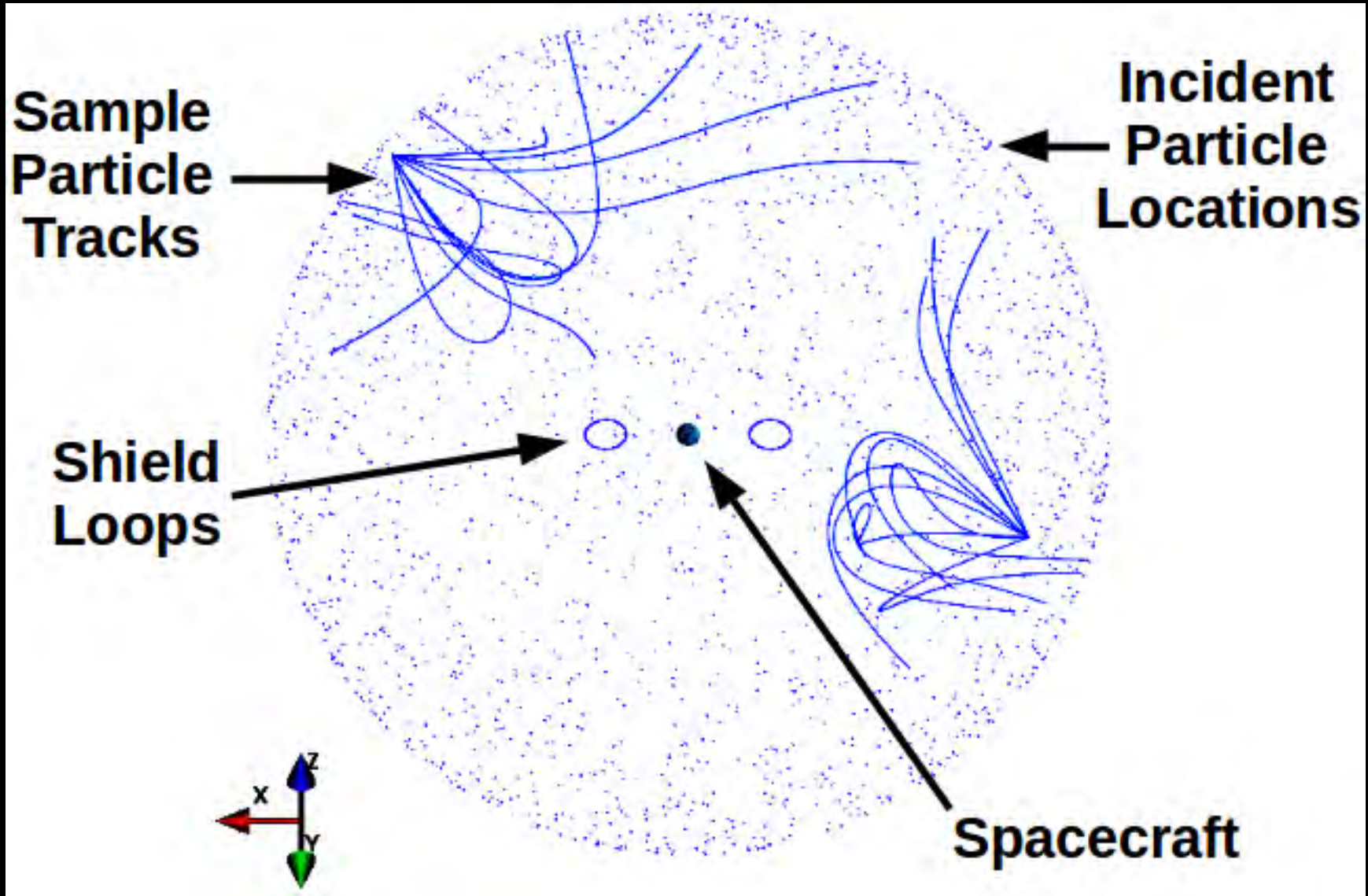
$I = 300 \text{ A}$   
 $J_e = 50 \text{ kA/cm}^2$   
 $T_c = 90 \text{ K}$   
 $T_o = 40\text{-}50 \text{ K}$

**Loop dimensions**

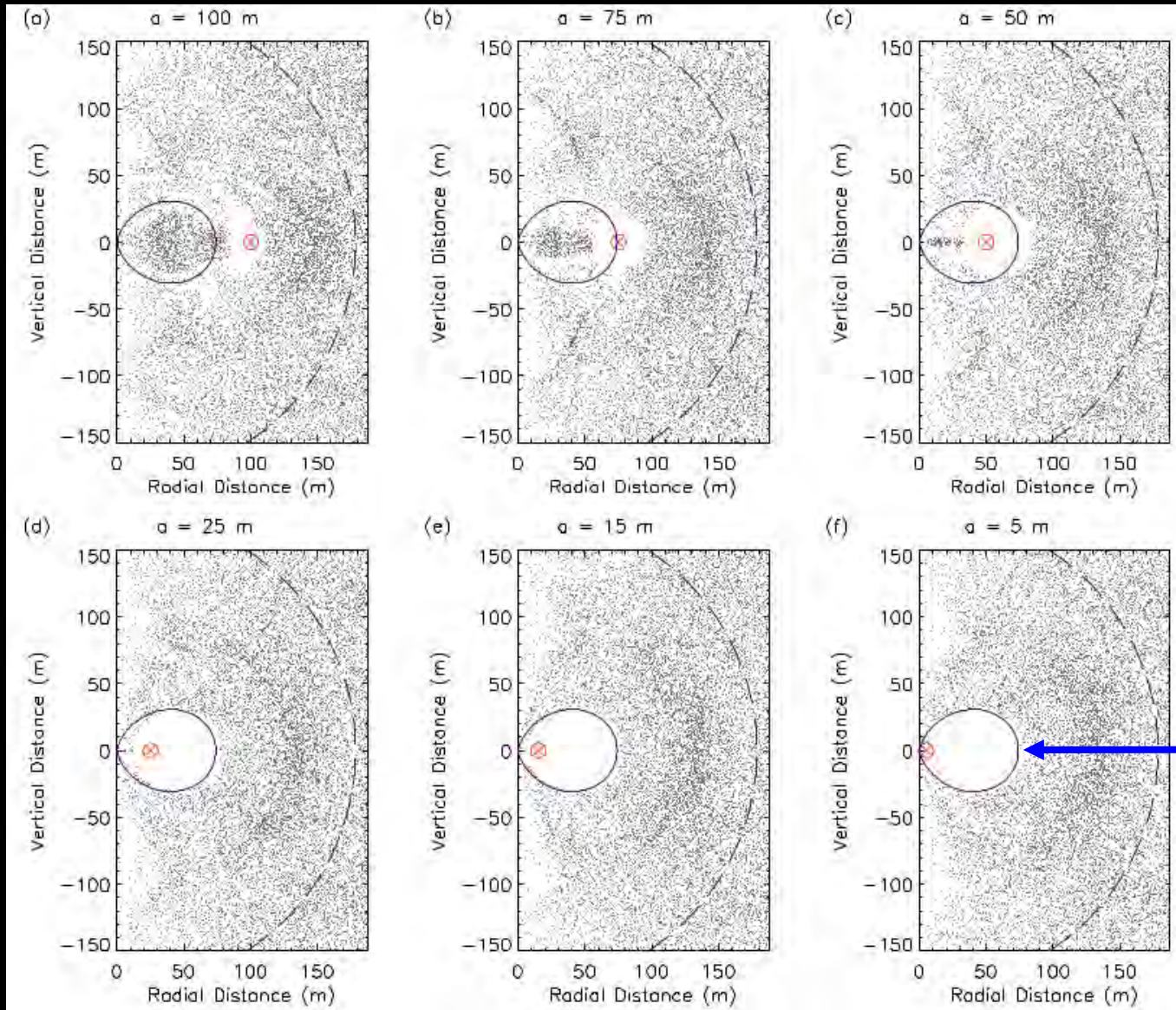
$$r_{cs} = \sqrt{\frac{\mu}{\pi^2 a^2 J_e}}$$

$$m = \frac{2\mu\rho}{aJ_e}$$

# Configuration



# Dispersed Shield – Large Loops



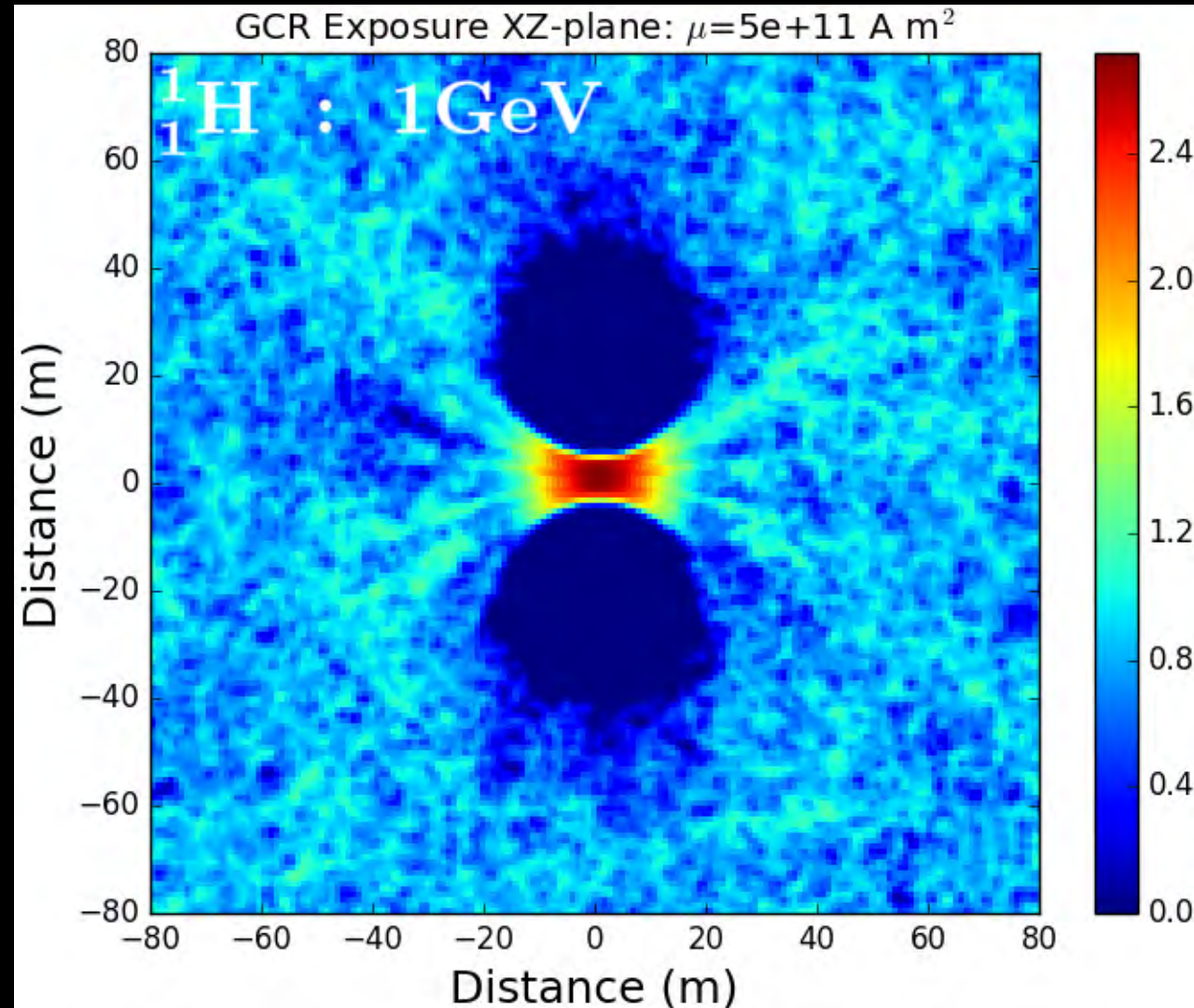
Shepherd & Kress (2007)

$$\mu = 1.1 \times 10^{13} \text{ A m}^2$$

“Forbidden Zone”

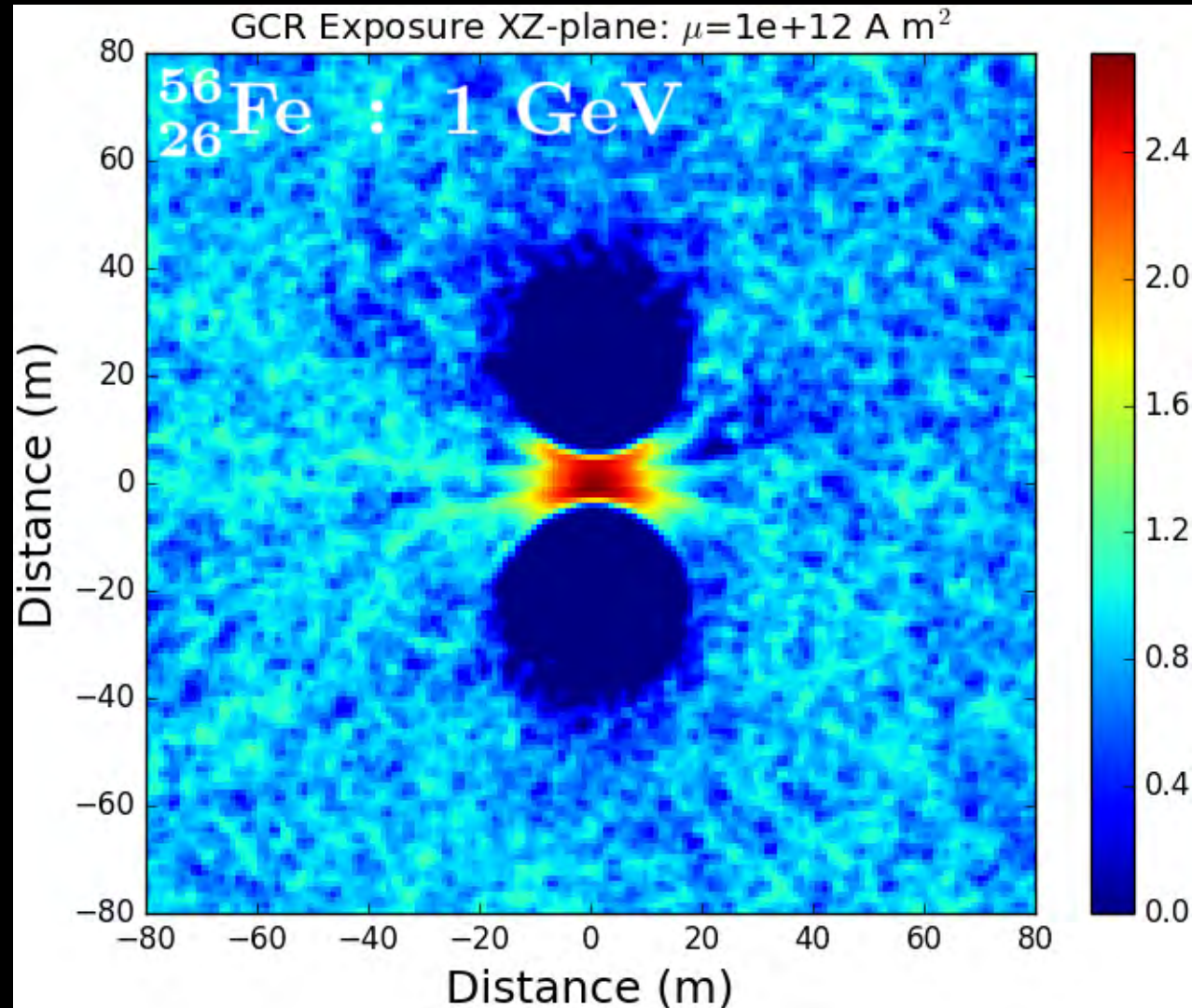
# Single Loop Simulations

1 GeV  
protons  
 $a = 10$  m



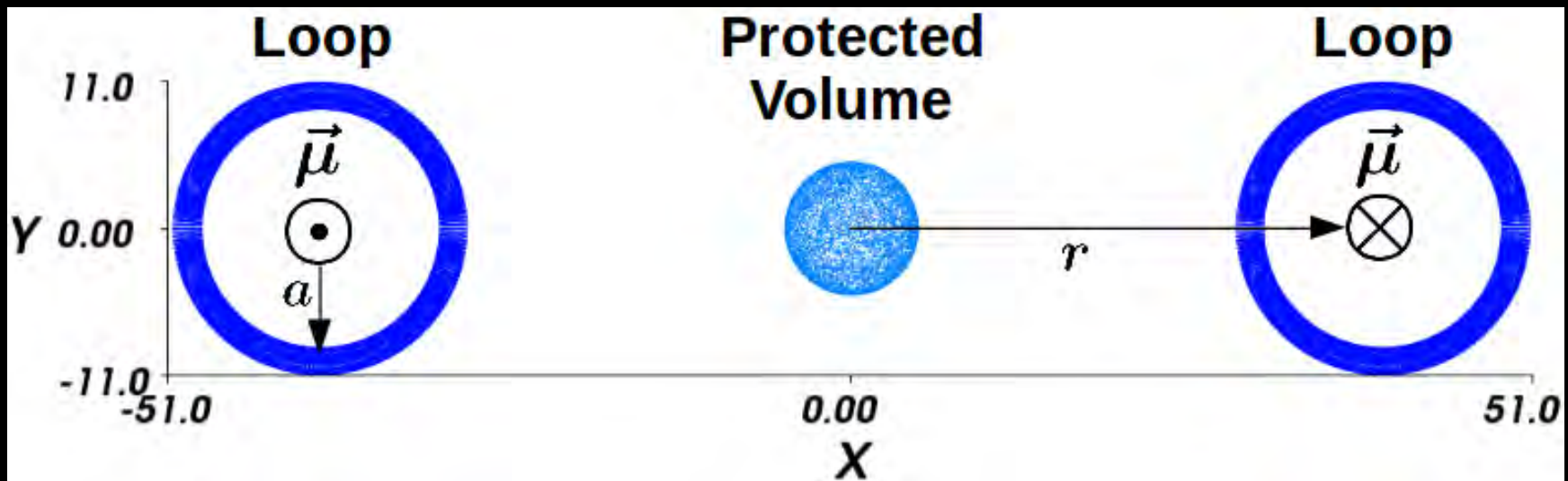
# Single Loop Simulations

1 GeV  
iron nuclei  
 $a = 10$  m



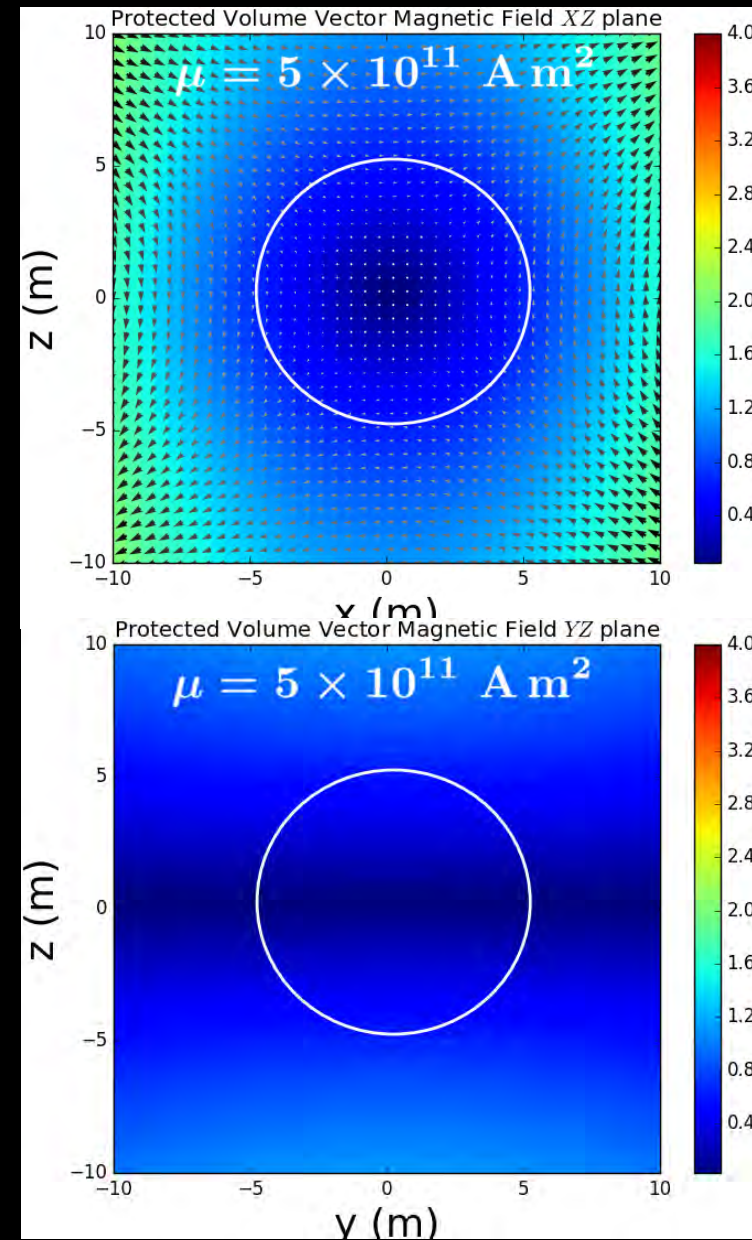


# First Approximation



Two-loop magnetic “null”

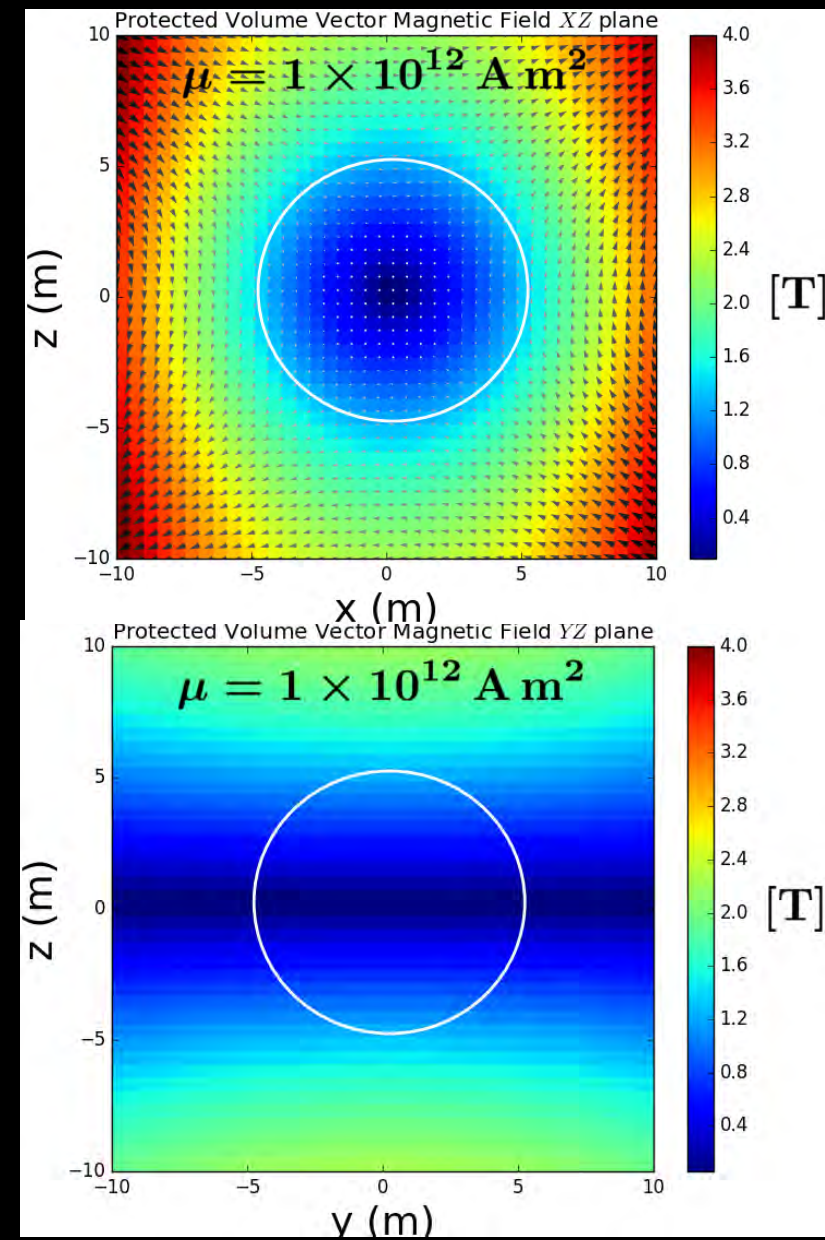
# Magnetic Field Environment



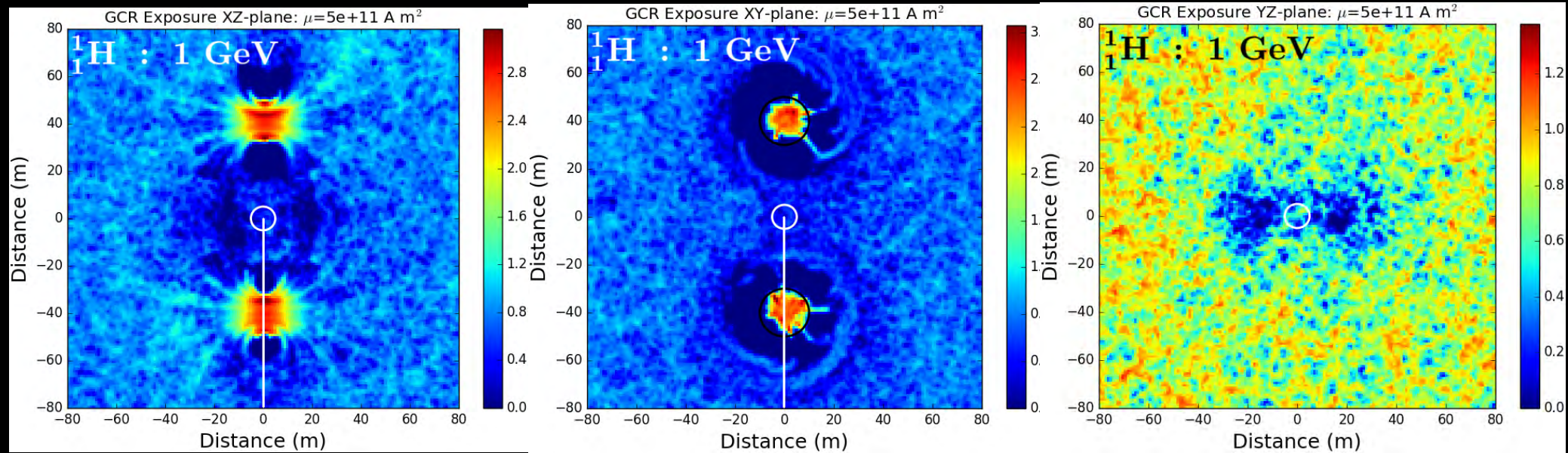
**Deflect protons**



**Deflect iron nuclei**

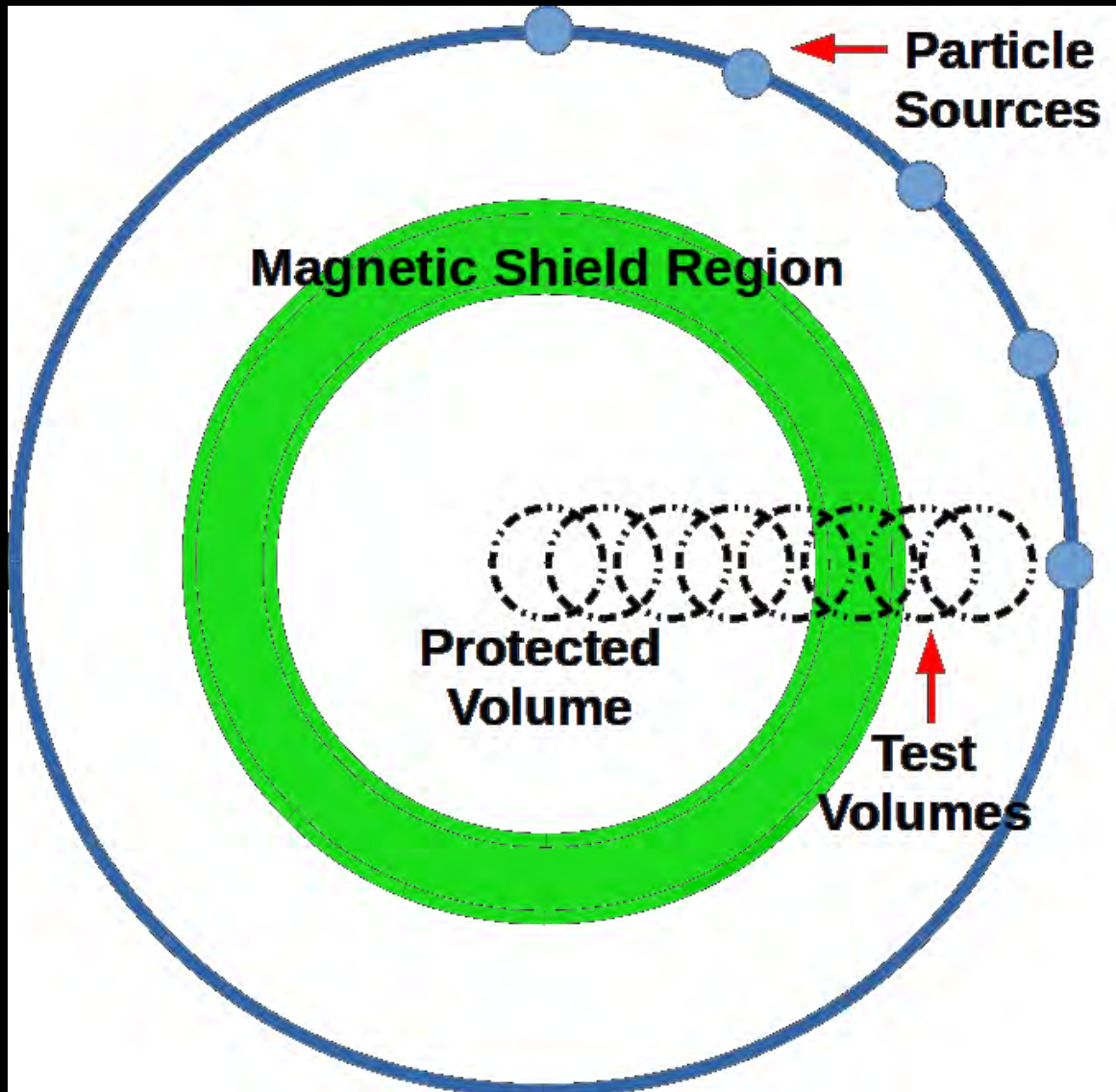


# Simulations



**Good news!**

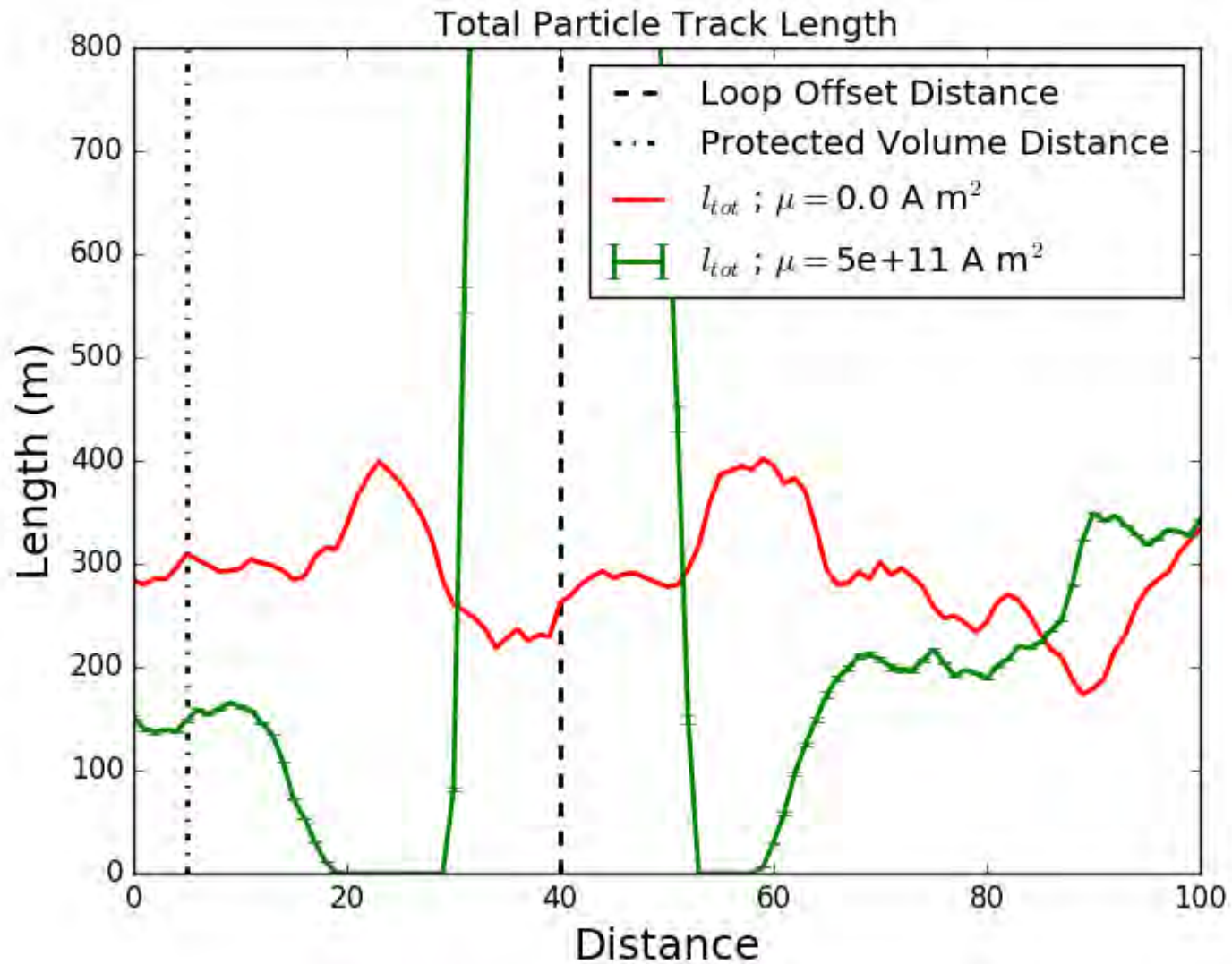
# Diagnosics



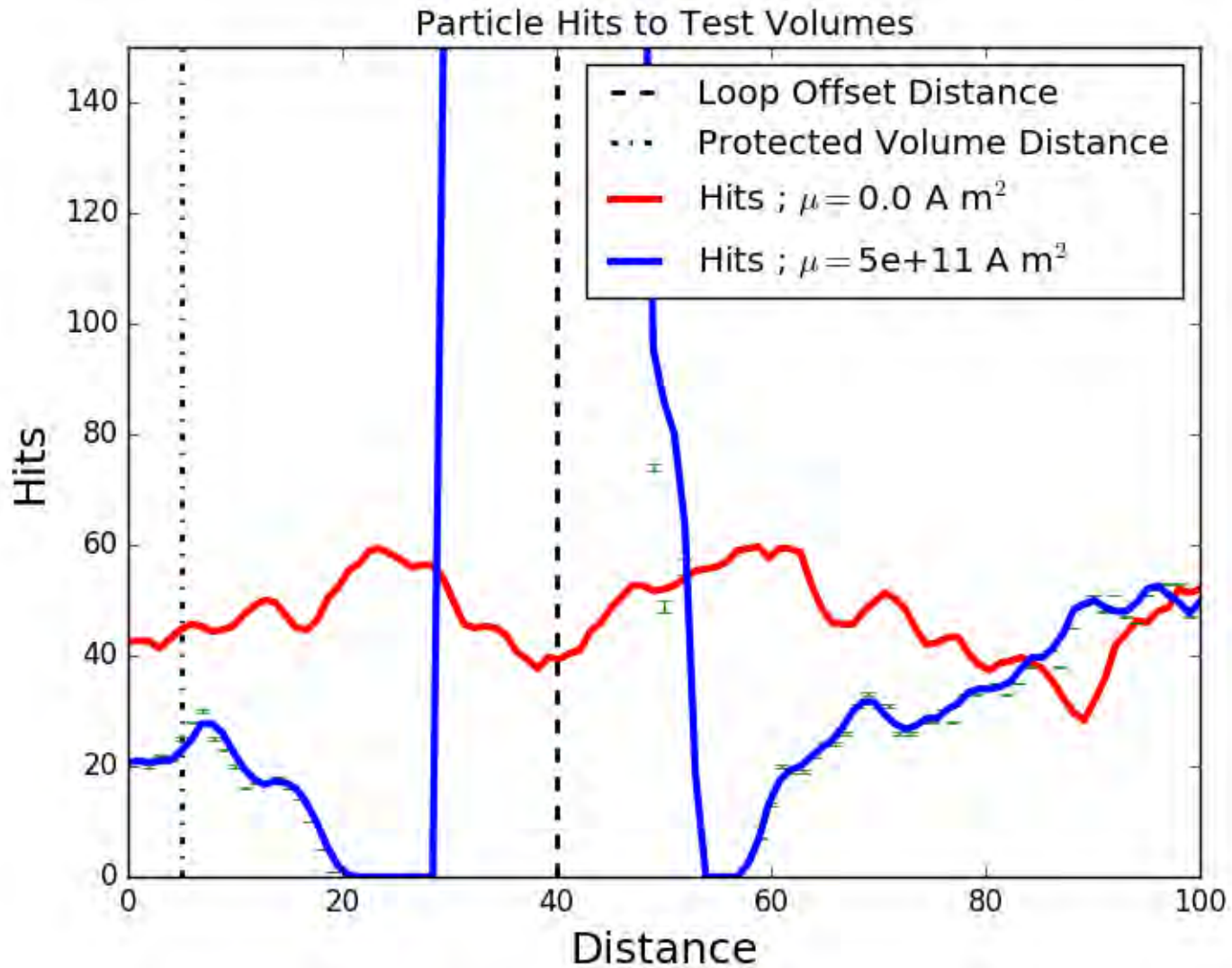
## Track

- Number of entering particles
- Total track length

# Diagnostics



# Diagnostics



# Diagnostics

## Protected Volume

Ion	$\mu$ (A m <sup>2</sup> )	$n_{avg}$	% Reduction	$l_{tot-avg}$ (m)	% Reduction
$^1_1\text{H}$	0	$44 \pm 0$	–	$290 \pm 0$	–
$^1_1\text{H}$	$5 \times 10^{11}$	$22 \pm 0$	$50 \pm 0\%$	$142 \pm 1$	$51 \pm 1\%$
$^{56}_{26}\text{Fe}$	0	$55 \pm 0$	–	$349 \pm 0$	–
$^{56}_{26}\text{Fe}$	$1 \times 10^{12}$	$15 \pm 0$	$73 \pm 0\%$	$100 \pm 1$	$71 \pm 1\%$

**Great news!**

# Superconducting Loop Properties

## Simulation Loops

$\mu$ (A m <sup>2</sup> )	$a$ (m)	$r_{cs}$ (m)	Mass (kg)	I (A)	$B_{max}$ (T)
$5 \times 10^{11}$	10	1.02	$1.84 \times 10^6$	$1.59 \times 10^9$	323
$1 \times 10^{12}$	10	1.44	$3.67 \times 10^6$	$3.18 \times 10^9$	559

**NASA SLS Block 2 Payload = 130,000 kg**

Bad news :(

## Alternative Loop Properties

$\mu$ (A m <sup>2</sup> )	$w$ ( $\mu$ m)	$J_e$ (A m <sup>-2</sup> )	$r_{cs}$ (m)	Mass (kg)	I (A)	$B_{max}$ (T)
$5 \times 10^{11}$	3.50	$7.14 \times 10^9$	0.27	$1.26 \times 10^5$	$1.59 \times 10^9$	1068
$1 \times 10^{12}$	1.75	$14.29 \times 10^9$	0.27	$1.26 \times 10^5$	$3.18 \times 10^9$	2136



# Optimization

1. “Decentralize” magnetic energy
  - more dispersed = more loops
2. Reduce overall loop  $I$ ,  $B$ , mass
3. Maximize the use of “forbidden zones”

Further use of superconductors?

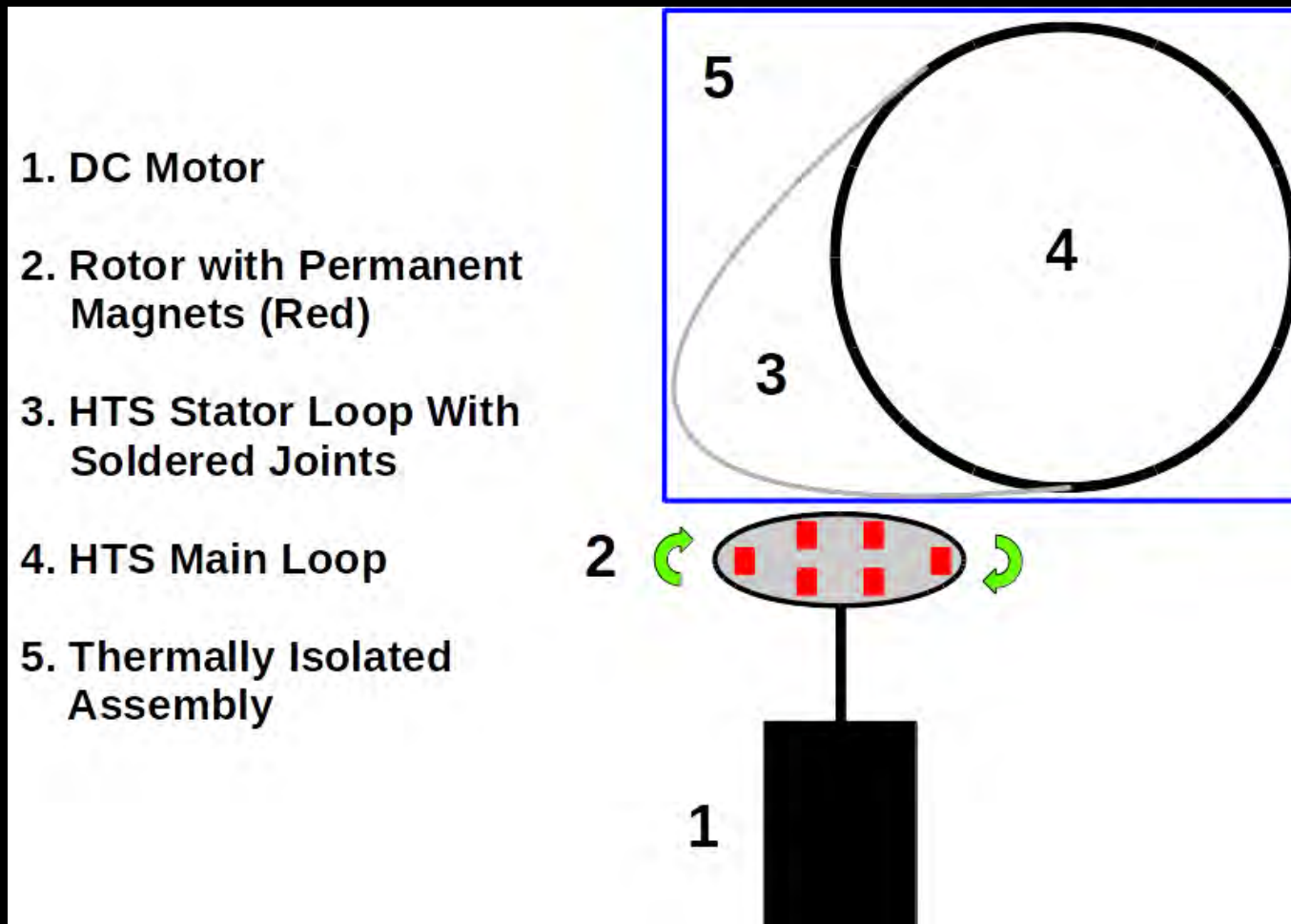
# Superconductors in Space

- Superconducting magnetic energy storage (SMES)
- Docking and stability (magnetic levitation)
- Motors and MRIs



# Charging Superconductors

## Flux pumps



# Conclusions

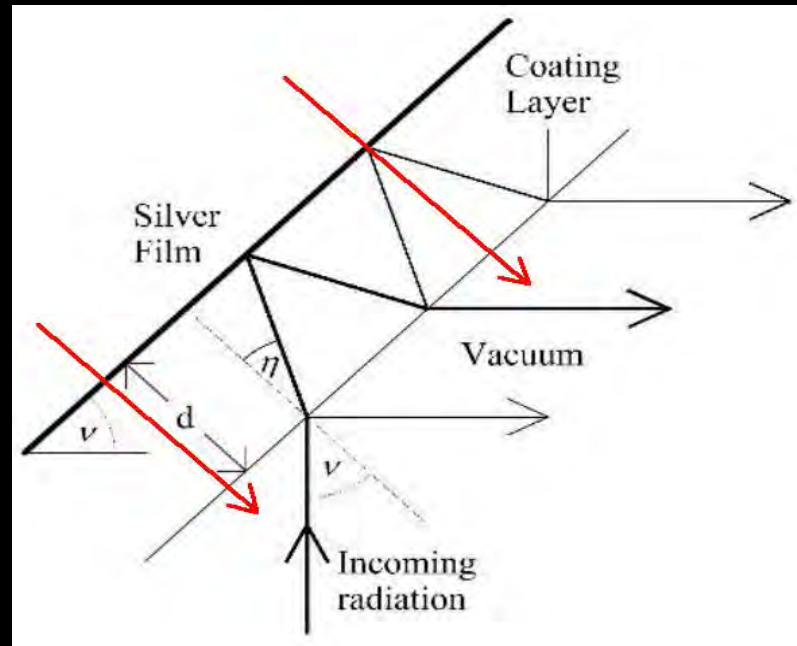
- Radiation mitigation is required for long duration exploration of space by humans
- Dispersed magnetic shield concept works, but needs *optimization*
- Synergistic combination of material shielding, magnetic shielding, and efficient propulsion

# Thank You

[orangewavedc@gmail.com](mailto:orangewavedc@gmail.com)



# Thermodynamics



Youngquist & Nurge (2016)

$$J = \sigma A(T^4 - T_0^4)$$

## Cryogenic Select Surfaces

Reflects 99.9% solar irradiance

Transmits long infrared radiation from interior

**Result: Cryogenic temperatures below 50K**

$$\Delta E = C\Delta T + \sigma A(T^4 - T_0^4)\Delta t$$

Attenuation coefficient  $\alpha = \frac{J}{J_0}$

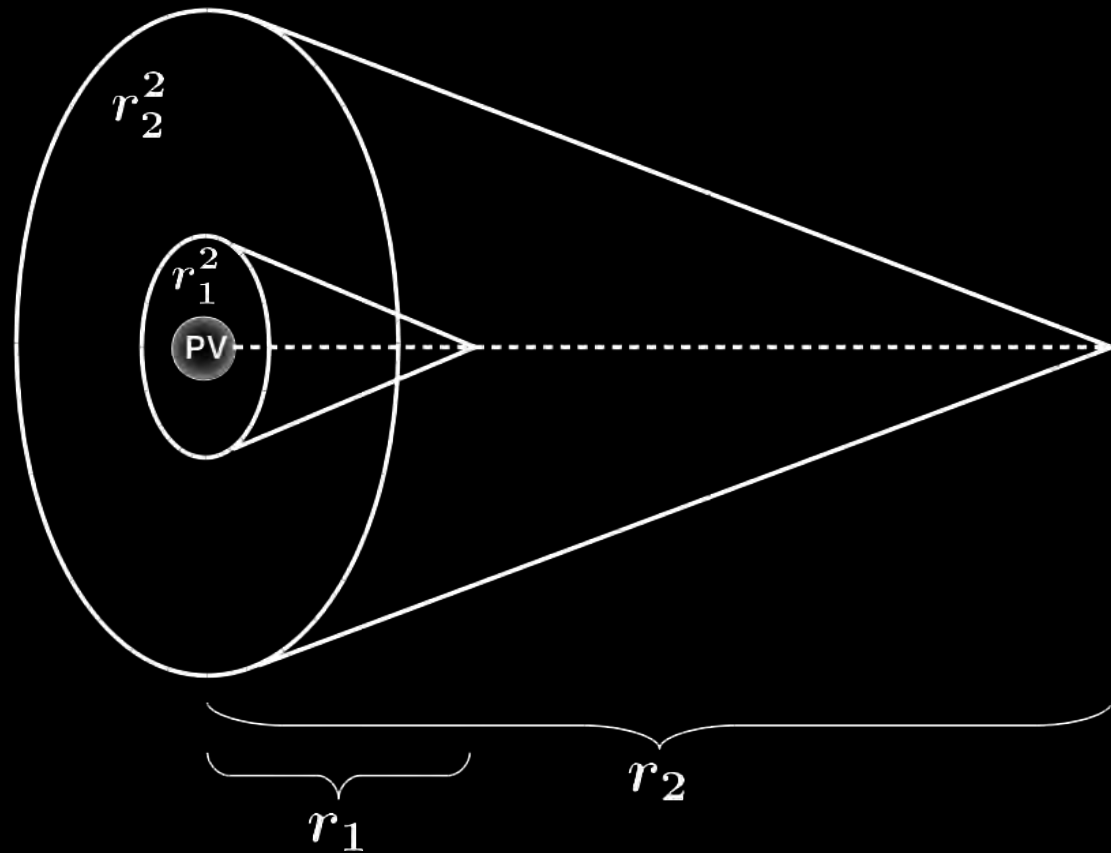
$$J = \frac{\Delta E}{\Delta t}$$

**Limits of passive cooling**

# Secondary Particle Threat

$$\Omega_{PV} = \oint F_{\Omega} d\phi$$

$$\Omega_{PV} = \frac{A_{PV}}{r_{off}^2} \oint d\phi$$



# Other Solution?

In the absence of a radiation shield – reduce exposure time

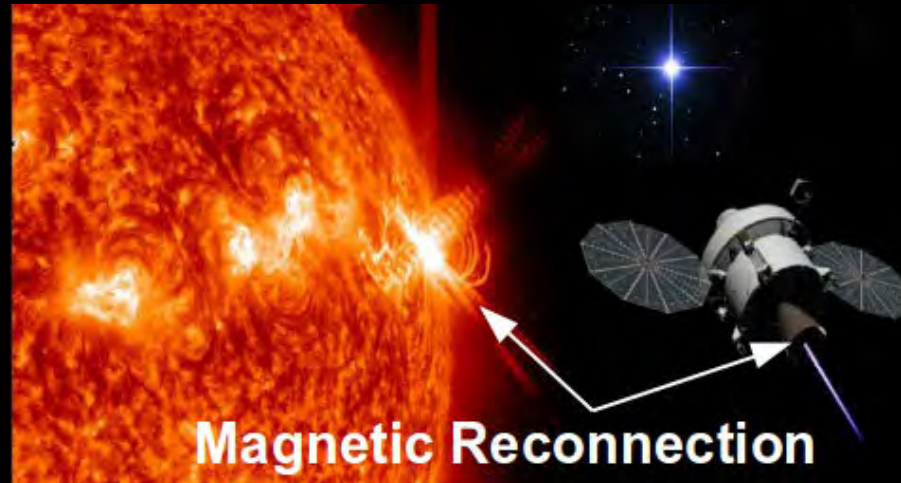
**Increase thrust!**

$$T = \dot{m}v_{ex}$$

**What is the most efficient particle acceleration process in the solar system?**



# Magnetic Reconnection



Journal of Plasma Physics

Article

Metrics

Volume 83, Issue 6 December 2017, 905830602

## Toward laboratory torsional spine magnetic reconnection

David L. Chesny  (a1), N. Brice Orange (a1), Hakeem M. Oluseyi (a2) and David R. Valletta (a1) 

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