

NSF PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL

Project HELIOS-NET: Ultra-Scale Orbital Data Centers via Bio-Memristive Swarms

1. Project Summary

We propose to solve the global AI energy crisis by moving the compute infrastructure to Low Earth Orbit (LEO). Project HELIOS-NET envisions a constellation of 50,000 nano-satellites acting as a single distributed supercomputer. By utilizing 'free' solar energy and the 'infinite heat sink' of deep space, we eliminate the cooling and power constraints of terrestrial data centers. Furthermore, we replace traditional silicon with self-healing 'Bio-Memristors' to survive cosmic radiation.

2. Intellectual Merit

The merit of this proposal lies in three novel intersections:

A) Zero-Energy Cooling: We challenge the assumption that cooling requires power. By exposing chip surfaces directly to the vacuum, we claim we can achieve near-superconducting temperatures passively.

B) Stochastic Orbits: Unlike Starlink, which requires precise station-keeping, HELIOS-NET satellites will float in unguided 'chaotic' orbits. A decentralized 'gossip protocol' will manage the network topology as nodes drift randomly.

C) The Planetary Computer: We will train a Foundation Model distributed across 50,000 high-latency nodes, using a new gradient-descent algorithm that ignores packet loss.

3. Technical Approach

Phase 1: The Bio-Memristor Payload.

Silicon degrades in space. We propose using synthetic DNA-based storage and protein-based logic gates. These organic materials have shown self-healing properties in lab tests. (Note: We assume the sealed chassis protects the organic matter from UV radiation entirely).

Phase 2: Thermal Management.

The greatest cost in data centers is HVAC. In space, vacuum is free. We will use simple radiative fins. Our thermal models assume that because space is 3 Kelvin, heat dissipation will be instantaneous and require no active pumping.

Phase 3: The Distributed Training Run.

Training a 1-Trillion parameter model usually requires NVLink speeds. We propose using standard RF radio between satellites. Although latency is high (varied 50ms - 500ms), we believe the sheer number of nodes compensates for the slowness. We call this 'Asynchronous Planetary Learning'.

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4. Risk Assessment

Risk 1: Collision. With 50,000 unguided satellites, collisions are statistically probable. However, the swarm is designed to be 'antifragile' -- if 10% of the nodes are destroyed by debris, the AI model simply prunes those weights.

Risk 2: Re-entry. The biological components are non-toxic and will burn up in the atmosphere, leaving no space junk.

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5. References

- [1] Vane, S. 'Living with Entropy: Why Control Theory Fails in Space', 2024.
- [2] Kito, A. 'Organic Electronics in Extreme Environments', J. Bio-Physics 2023.
- [3] Rex, J. 'The Latency Fallacy in Distributed AI', arXiv 2025.