



Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Plasma Science & Fusion Center

Magnetic Fusion Reactor Design & The Role of Technology

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*Plasma Science and Fusion Center
Nuclear Science and Engineering*

*Frontiers in Fusion
York, April 2016*

psfc.mit.edu

Summary

- Magnetic fusion needs technology advances to make fusion energy practical to develop and economically viable.
 - The fact that we know this is a “good” sign...we have to speculate very little on the physics of magnetic confinement.
 - The key requirements are power density & gain & availability.
- Disruptive technological solutions are available, but require both integrated knowledge of fusion systems + imagination / cleverness/ “un-knowledge” e.g.
 - New high-field, high-temperature superconductor magnets
 - Jointed, demountable toroidal field coils
 - Immersion liquid blanket
 - 3-D printed components for heat removal
- Your generation will be key in developing these choices

ITER provides a valuable lesson in the features of a viable fusion power plant

ITER

$P_{fusion} = 500 \text{ MW}$ $S_{area} = 700 \text{ m}^2$ Cost $\sim 20 \text{ G\$}$ $T_{wall} \sim 450 \text{ K}$ $f_{on} \sim 0.1$ (duty factor)

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ITER example

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$$\frac{\$ \text{cost}}{\$/\text{electric yr}} = \frac{20 \times 10^9 \$}{P_f \eta_{th}(f_{on})(8760 \text{ hr / year}) 0.1 \$ / kW \text{ hr}} \simeq 1800 \text{ yr}$$

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$$\frac{\$ \text{cost}}{\$/\text{electric yr}} = \frac{20 \times 10^9 \$}{P_f \eta_{th}(f_{on})(8760 \text{ hr / year}) 0.1 \$ / kW \text{ hr}} \simeq 360 \text{ yr}$$



$P_f / \$ \rightarrow \times 5$

Power density

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$$\frac{\$ \text{cost}}{\$/\text{electric yr}} = \frac{20 \times 10^9 \$}{P_f \eta_{th}(f_{on})(8760 \text{ hr / year}) 0.1 \$ / \text{kW hr}} \simeq 180 \text{ yr}$$

$P_f / \$ \rightarrow \times 5$

$\eta_{th} \times 2 \rightarrow 0.5$

Power density

High gain &
Thermal efficiency

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ITER example

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$$\frac{\$ \text{cost}}{\$/\text{electric}/\text{yr}} = \frac{20 \times 10^9 \$}{P_f \eta_{th}(f_{on})(8760 \text{ hr / year}) 0.1 \$/\text{kW hr}} \approx 18 \text{ yr}$$

$P_f / \$ \rightarrow \times 5$

$\eta_{th} \times 2 \rightarrow 0.5$

$f_{\text{on}} \times 10 \rightarrow 1$

Power density

Energy gain &
Thermal efficiency

High Availability

ITER provides a valuable lesson in the features of a viable fusion power plant

The immediate and obvious conclusion (to me anyway) is that in the absence of very new physics, “disruptive” technology options are required for these order-of-magnitude improvements

Power density

**Energy gain &
Thermal efficiency**

High Availability

Let's focus on power density: $P_{\text{fusion}} / S_{\text{blanket}}$ what is the ideal?

- Because neutron slowing distances are \sim constant, P_{fusion} per unit blanket/wall area (S) is effectively the blanket volume power density
- The lifetime of the blanket solid components (dpa or He accumulation) is inversely dependent on P_f/S

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$$\left(P_f / S \right)_{\text{avg}} = \left(P_f / S \right)_{\text{op}} U = \left(P_f / S \right)_{\text{op}} \left(1 - \frac{0.8 \left(P_f / S \right)_{\text{op}} F_{\text{dpa}}}{L_{\text{dpa}}} \Delta t_{\text{rep}} \right) = \left(P_f / S \right)_{\text{op}} \left(1 - \left(P_f / S \right)_{\text{op}} X_{\text{wall}} \right)$$

Maximize time-averaged power output for economics

$$F_{\text{dpa}} \sim 10 \text{ dpa} / (\text{MW}_n \cdot \text{year}/\text{m}^2)$$

$L_{\text{dpa}} \equiv$ dpa limit of blanket

$\Delta t_{\text{rep}} \equiv$ blanket replacement time

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Maximize function

$$\left(P_f / S \right)_{op} = \frac{1}{2 X_{wall}} \rightarrow \left(P_f / S \right)_{avg} = \frac{1}{4 X_{wall}}$$

Only depends on

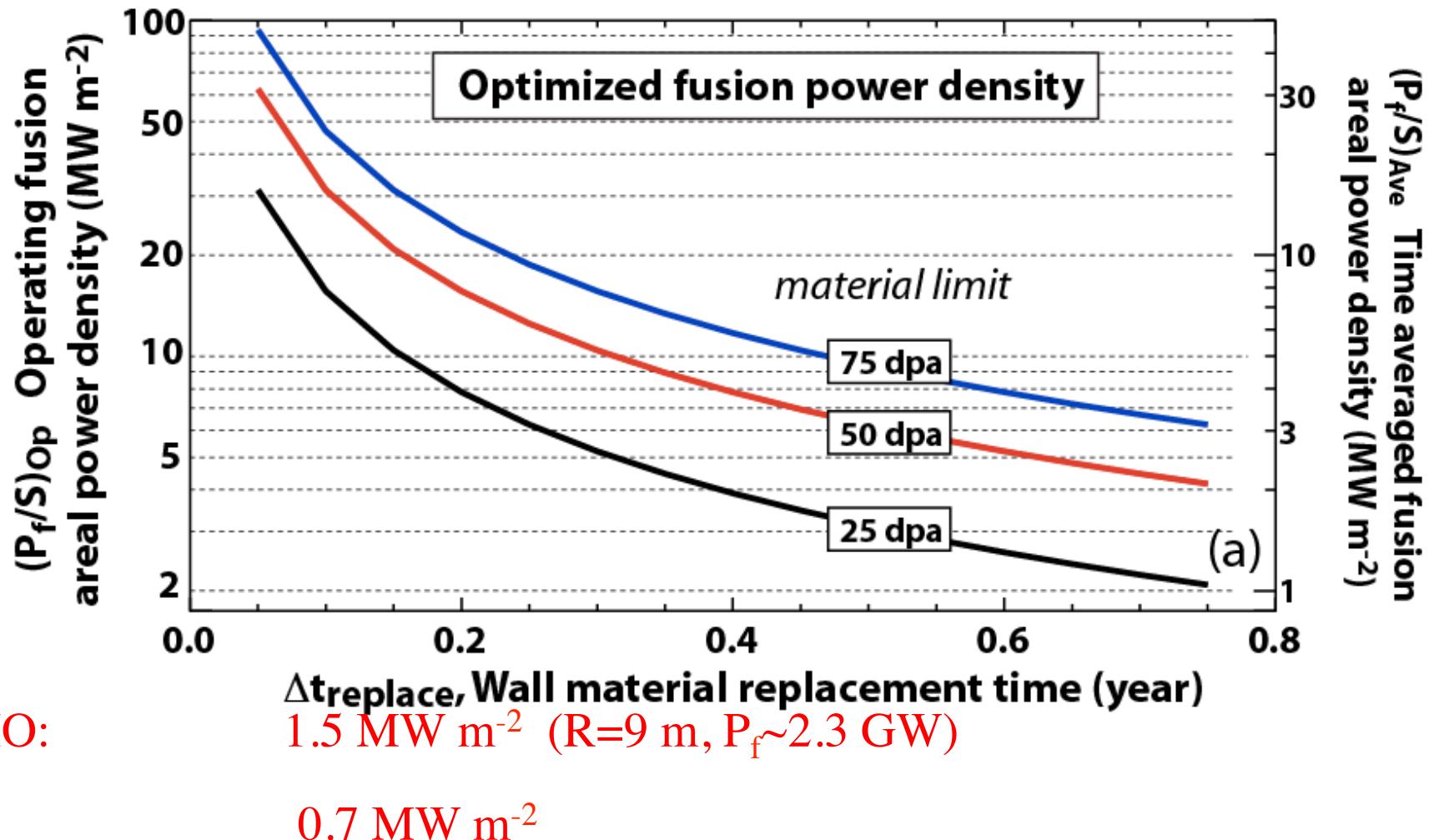
$$X_{wall} \equiv 0.8 F_{dpa} \Delta t_{rep} / L_{dpa} \quad (m^2 / MW)$$

$$F_{dpa} \sim 10 \text{ dpa} / (\text{MW}_n \text{-year}/m^2)$$

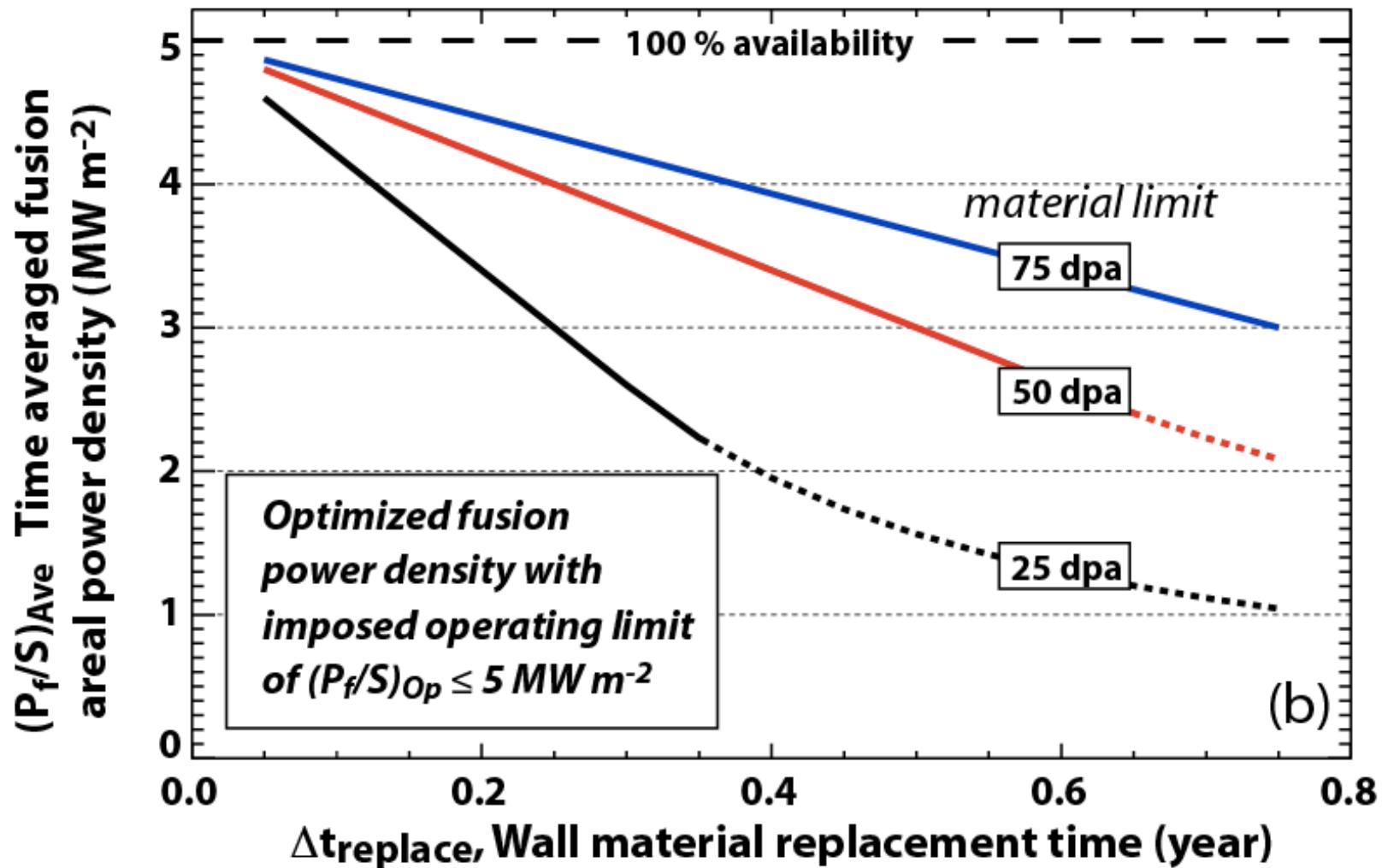
L_{dpa} \equiv dpa limit of blanket

Δt_{rep} \equiv blanket replacement time

With reasonable blanket replacement times (~ 2-3 months) the ideal fusion power density should be order-of-magnitude higher than ITER or Demo



P_f / S is limited by heat removal...setting ceiling at US reactor design target of $P_f/S=5 \text{ MW/m}^2$ reveals that blanket replacement time, not dpa, is most critical



So how do you make a fusion power plant economically viable? Sell lots of electricity, quickly

$$C_{Gain} \left[\frac{M\$}{m^2 year} \right] = 10^{-6} \frac{8760 \text{ hr}}{\text{year}} POE_{[\$/MW-hr]} \times \left(P_f / S \right)_{op} \left(1 - \left(P_f / S \right)_{op} X_{wall} \right) \eta_e$$

Electrical conversion efficiency

$$C_{fixed} \left[\frac{M\$}{m^2 year} \right] = \left(\$_{overnight} / S \right) \frac{i (1+i)^n}{(1+i)^n - 1}$$

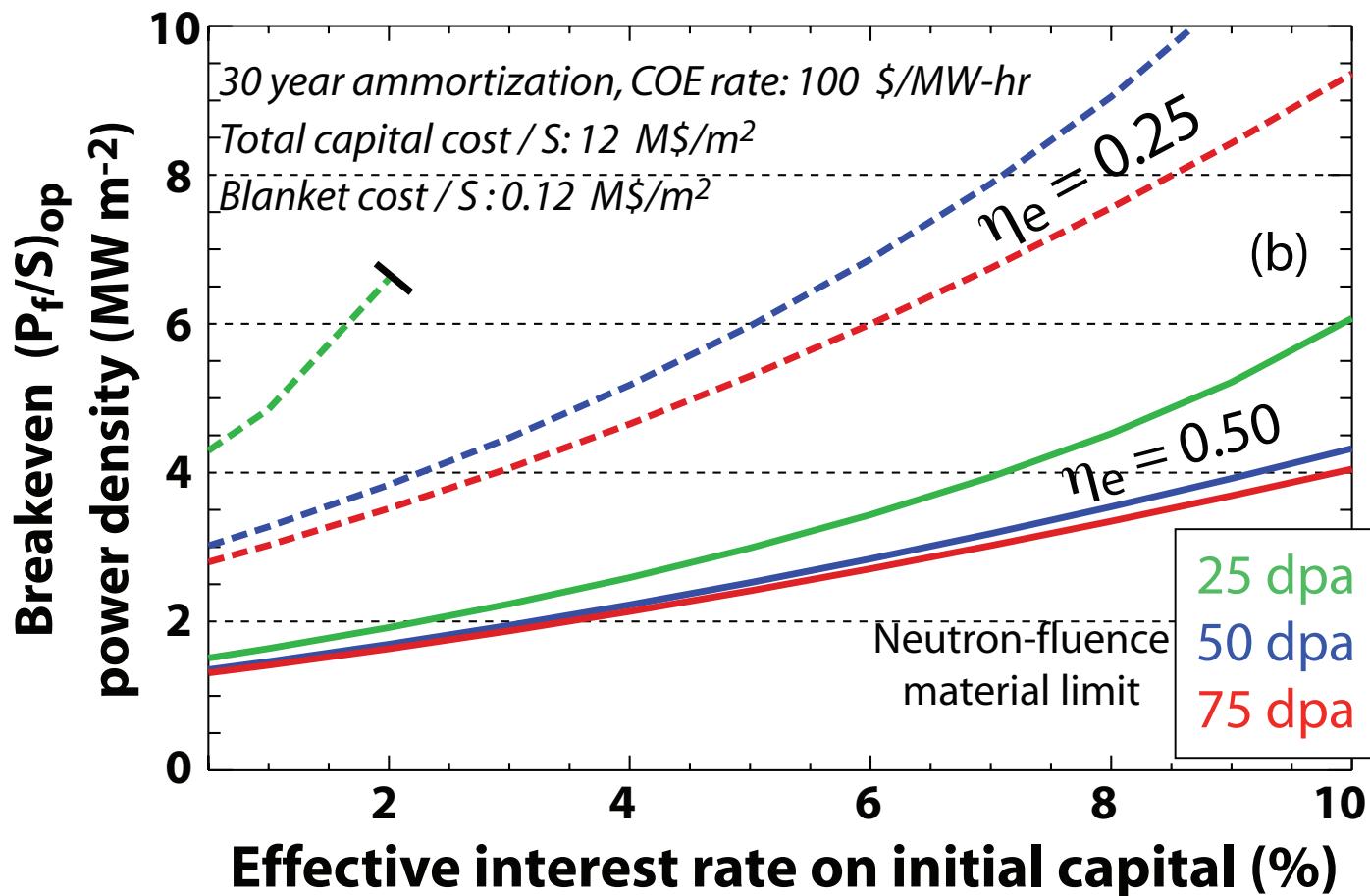
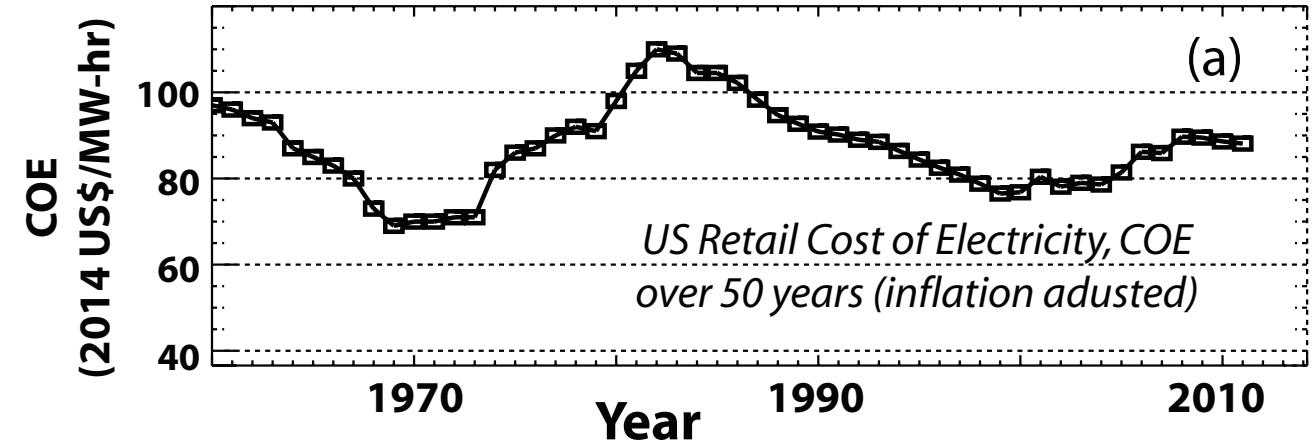
i: interest rate

$$C_{blanket} \left[\frac{M\$}{m^2 year} \right] = \left(\$_{blanket} / S \right) \frac{0.8 \left(P_f / S \right)_{op} F_{dpa}}{L_{dpa}}$$

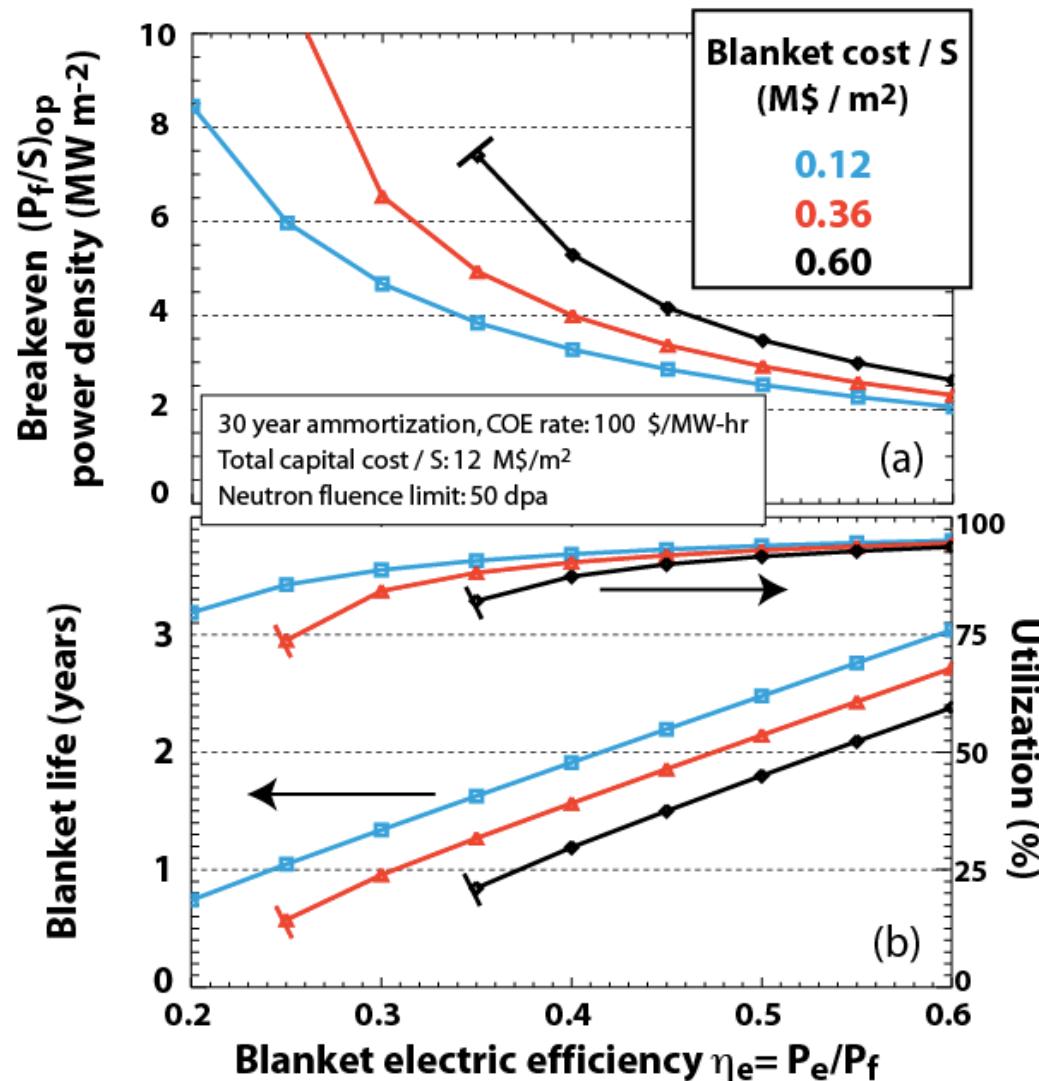
Blanket replacement costs

$$C_{gain} - C_{fixed} - C_{blanket} = 0$$

Economic breakeven



And the blanket has to be cheap (< cost/weight of modern car) AND reliable AND efficient



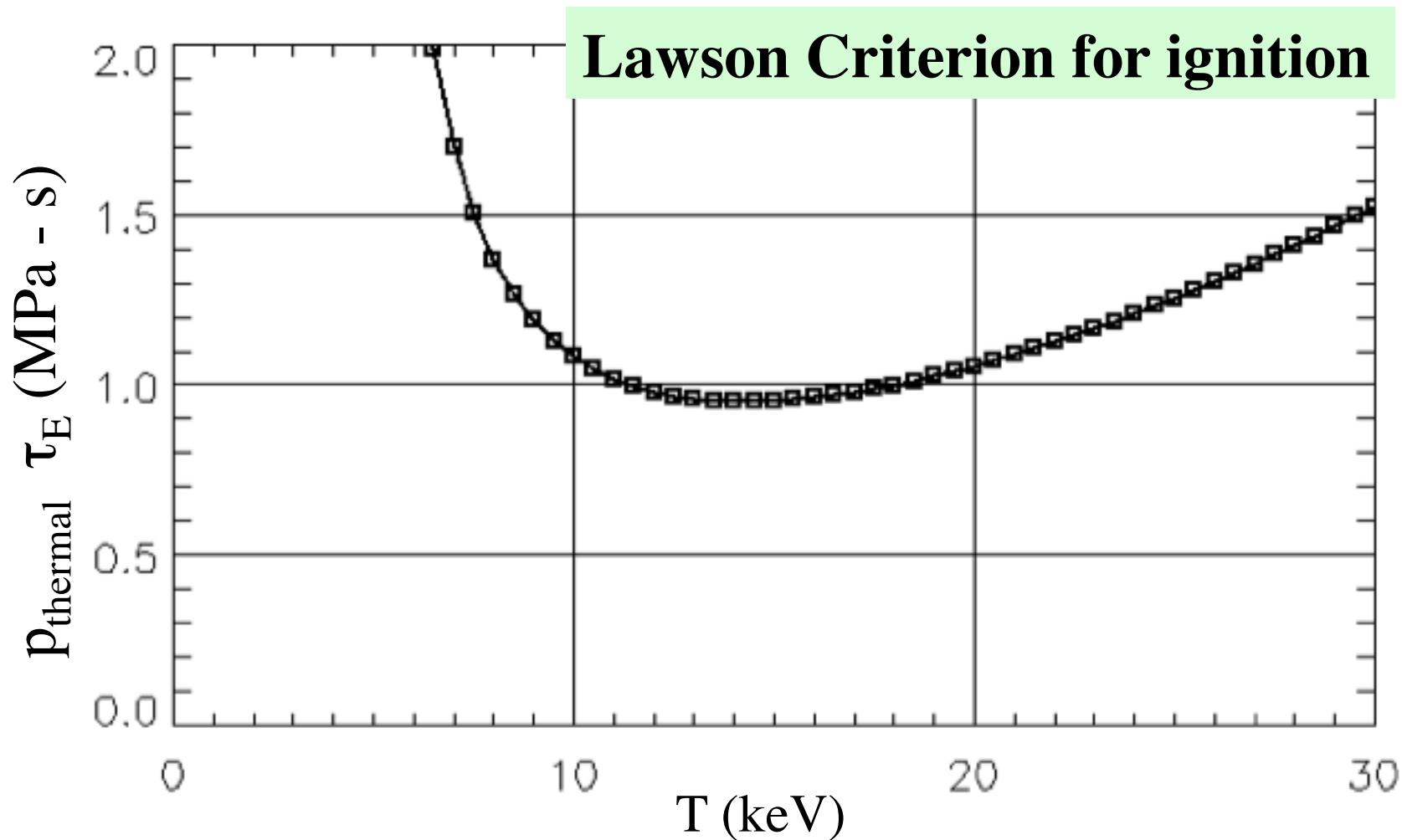
Pressure links power density, plasma stability and obtaining energy gain

$$\frac{P_f}{V} \sim n^2 T^2 \simeq 8 p_{th}^2$$

$$p_{th} \sim \beta B^2 \sim \frac{\beta_N \epsilon}{q} B^2$$

$$\frac{P_{fusion}}{S_{wall}} \sim \frac{\beta_N^2 \epsilon^2}{q_*^2} R B^4$$

How to get high gain and power density is well known from nuclear and plasma science



How to get high gain and power density is well known from nuclear and plasma science

$$p_{th} = 10^{-2} \frac{\beta_N \epsilon (1 + \kappa^2)}{q} B^2$$

Thermal pressure

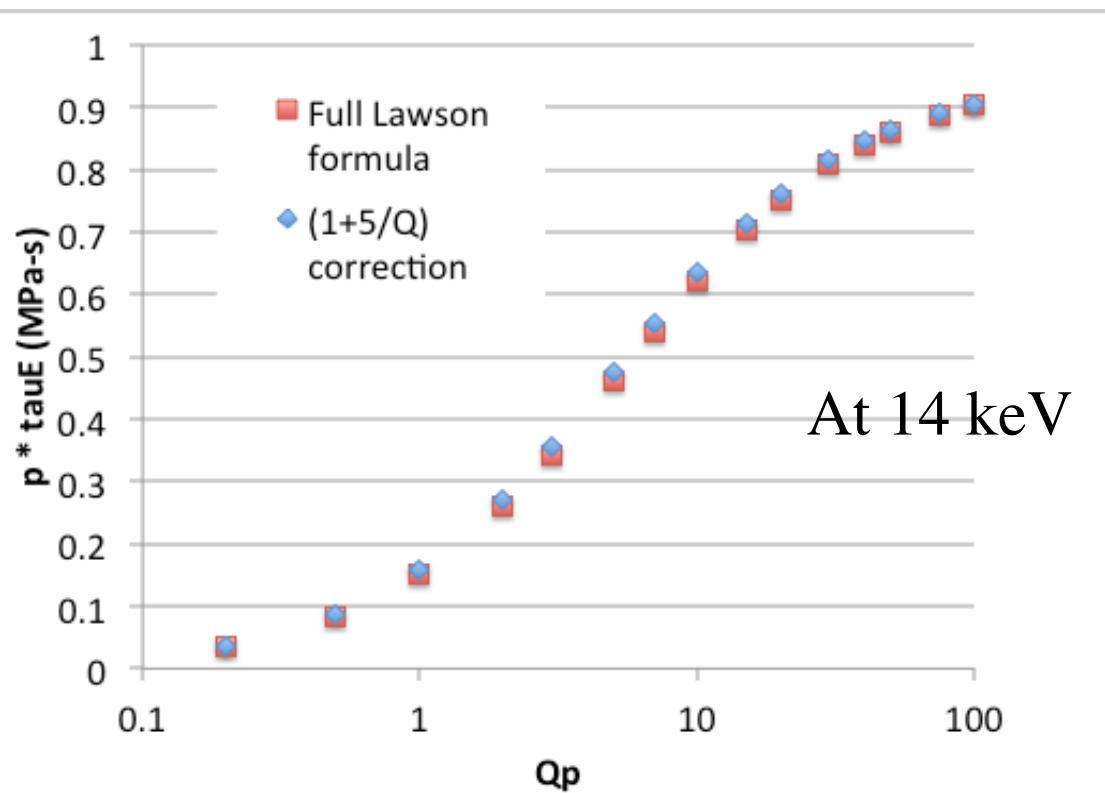
$$\tau_E = 0.08 H n_{20}^{0.1} I_{p,MA}^{0.85} R^{1.5} \epsilon^{0.3} \kappa^{0.5} B^{0.2} P^{-0.5}$$

$$P_{heat} = \frac{P_f}{5} (1 + 5 / Q_p)$$

$$\tau_E = \frac{0.072 H n_{20}^{0.1} B^{1.05} R^{1.35} \epsilon^{1.5} \left\{ \kappa^{0.5} (1 + \kappa^2)^{0.6} \right\}}{q^{0.85} \left(\frac{P_f}{S} \right)^{1/2} (1 + 5 / Q_p)^{0.5}}$$

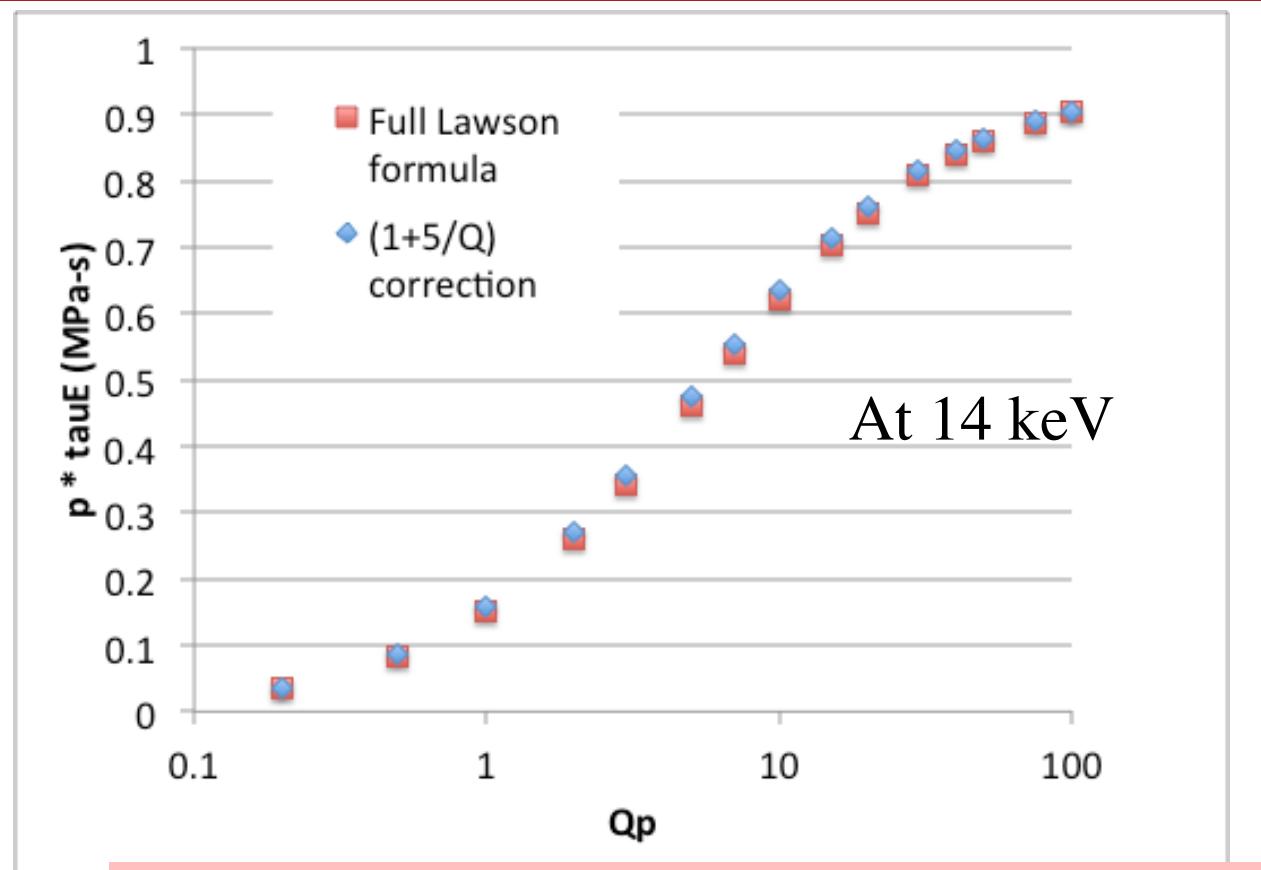
Energy confinement

How to get high gain and power density is well known from nuclear and plasma science



$$10^{-2} \frac{\beta_N \epsilon (1 + \kappa^2)}{q} B^2 \frac{0.072 H n_{20}^{0.1} B^{1.05} R^{1.35} \epsilon^{1.5} \left\{ \kappa^{0.5} (1 + \kappa^2)^{0.6} \right\}}{q^{0.85} \left(\frac{P_f}{S} \right)^{1/2} \left(1 + 5 / Q_p \right)^{0.5}} = \frac{0.95}{\left(1 + 5 / Q_p \right)}$$

How to get high gain and power density is well known from nuclear and plasma science



$$H_{89} \left(1 + 5 / Q_p\right)^{0.5} \left(\frac{P_f}{S}\right)^{-0.5} \beta_N \frac{R^{1.35} B^{3.05}}{q_*^{1.85}} \geq \text{constant}$$

**With fixed plasma stability and confinement,
magnetic field is biggest and best lever**

Gain

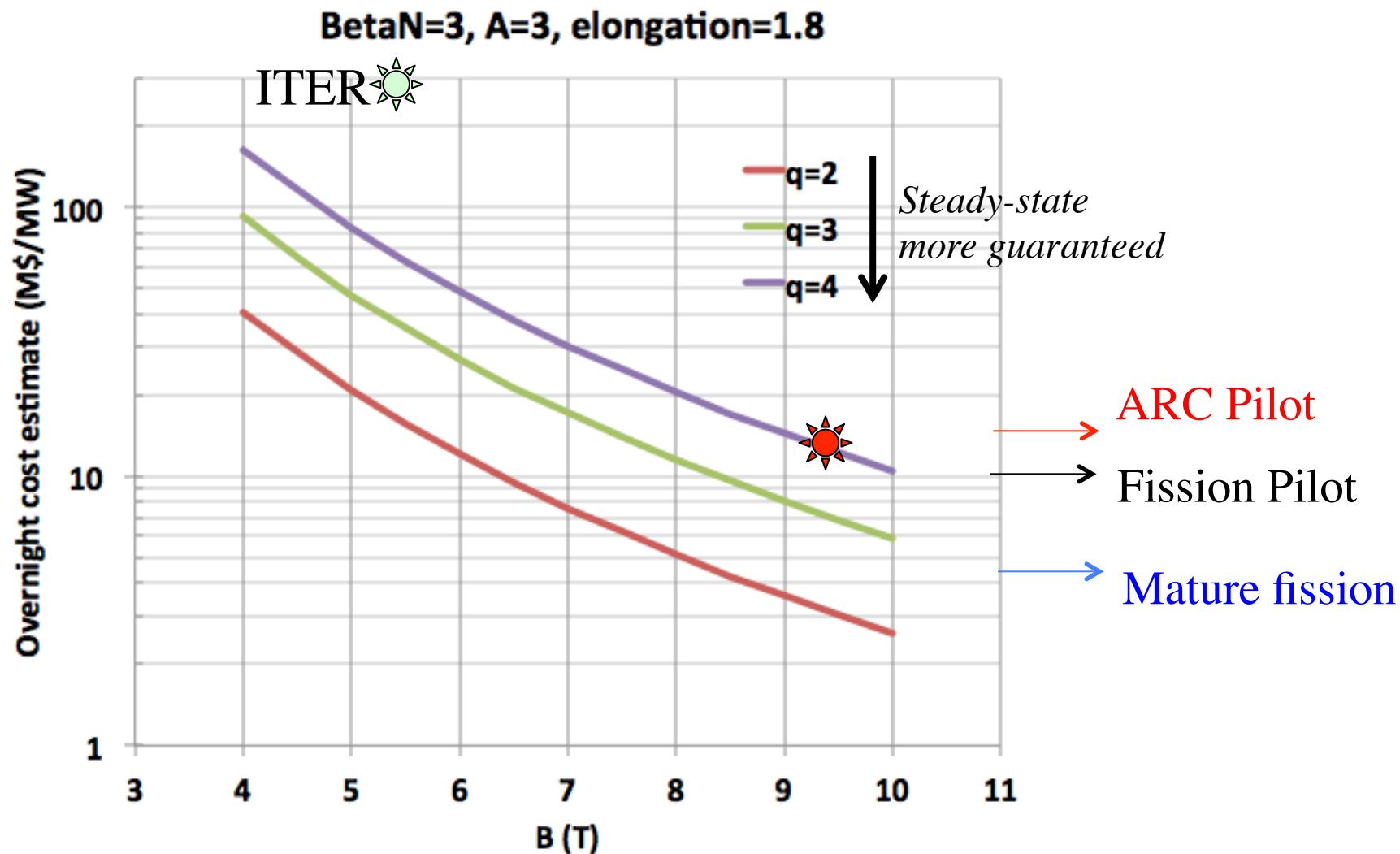
$$p_{th} \tau_E \sim \frac{\beta_N H}{q_*^2} R^{1.3} B^3$$

**Power
density**

$$\frac{P_{fusion}}{S_{wall}} \sim \frac{\beta_N^2 \epsilon^2}{q_*^2} R B^4$$

$$V \propto R^3 \propto \$$$

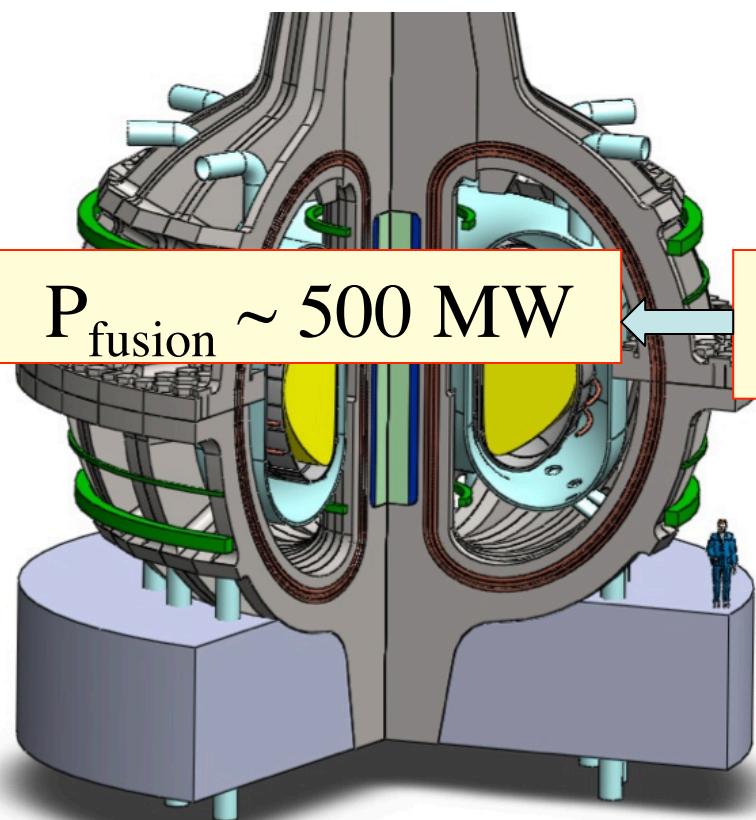
“Smaller, sooner” fusion → Competitive fusion energy through high B + high power density



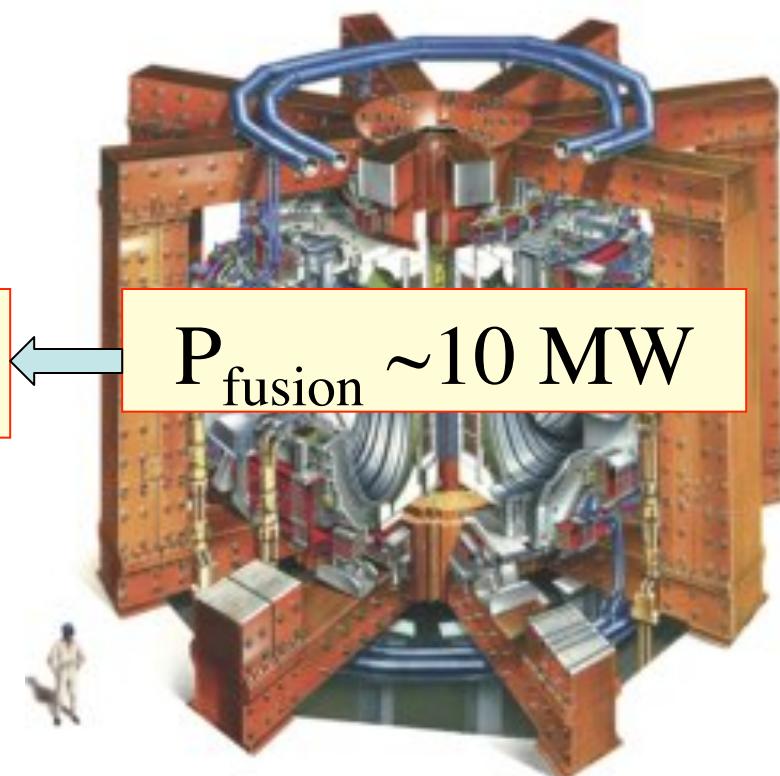
ARC conceptual design example of “smaller, sooner” fusion device using new technology

REBCO superconductor $B_0 = 9.2 \text{ T}$
Peak Field on coil B $\sim 23 \text{ T}$

Copper, $B_0 = 3.5 \text{ T}$

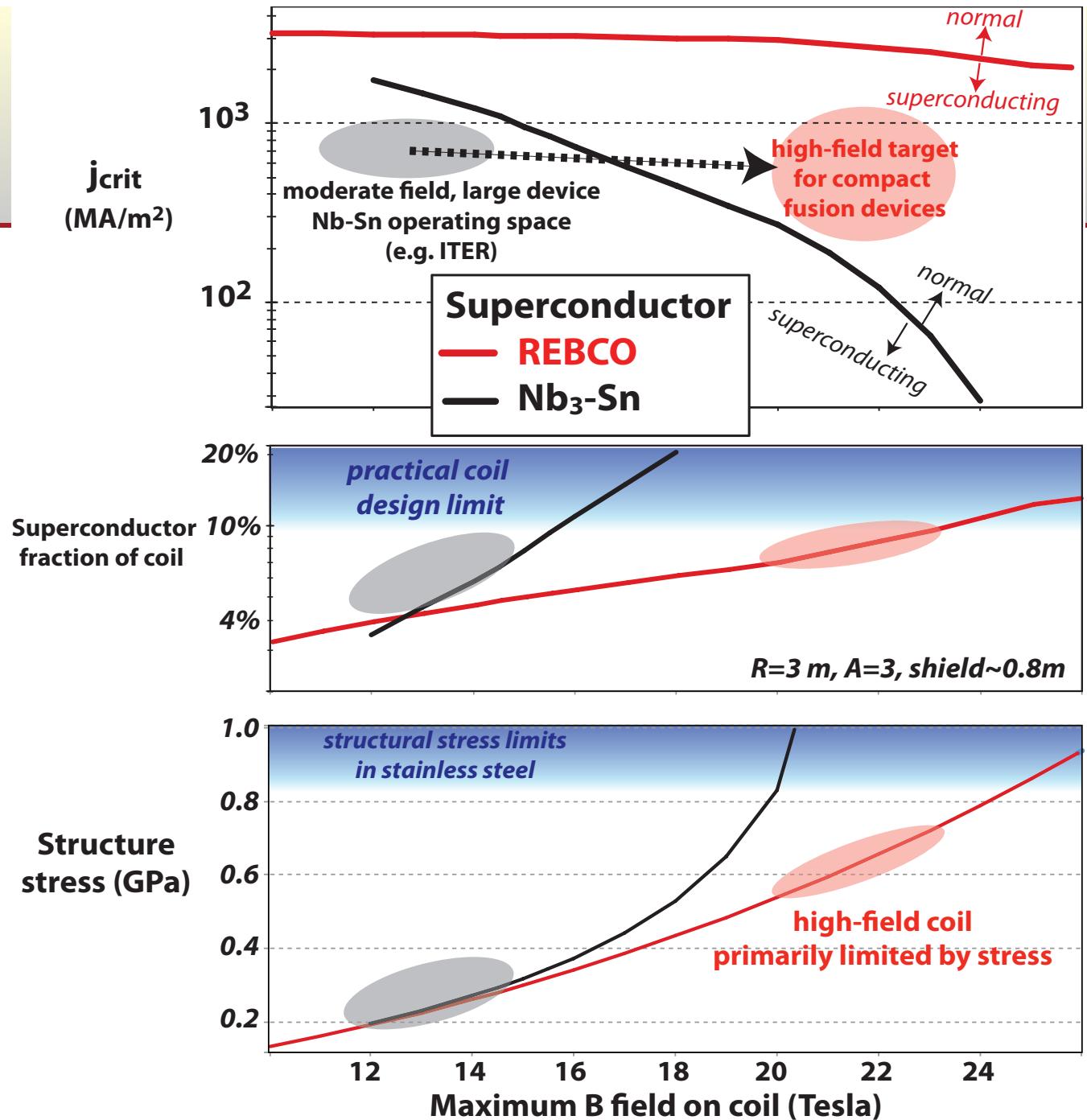


ARC: $R \sim 3.2 \text{ m}$



JET: $R \sim 3 \text{ m}$
~4 years construction

A revolution in superconductors in last 5 years:
REBCO
(Rare-Earth Barium Cu Oxide) remain superconducting at **VERY** high B-field and above liquid He temperatures



Multiple, linked engineering design challenges to smaller, modular path

Challenges

$B_{coil} > 20 \text{ T}$

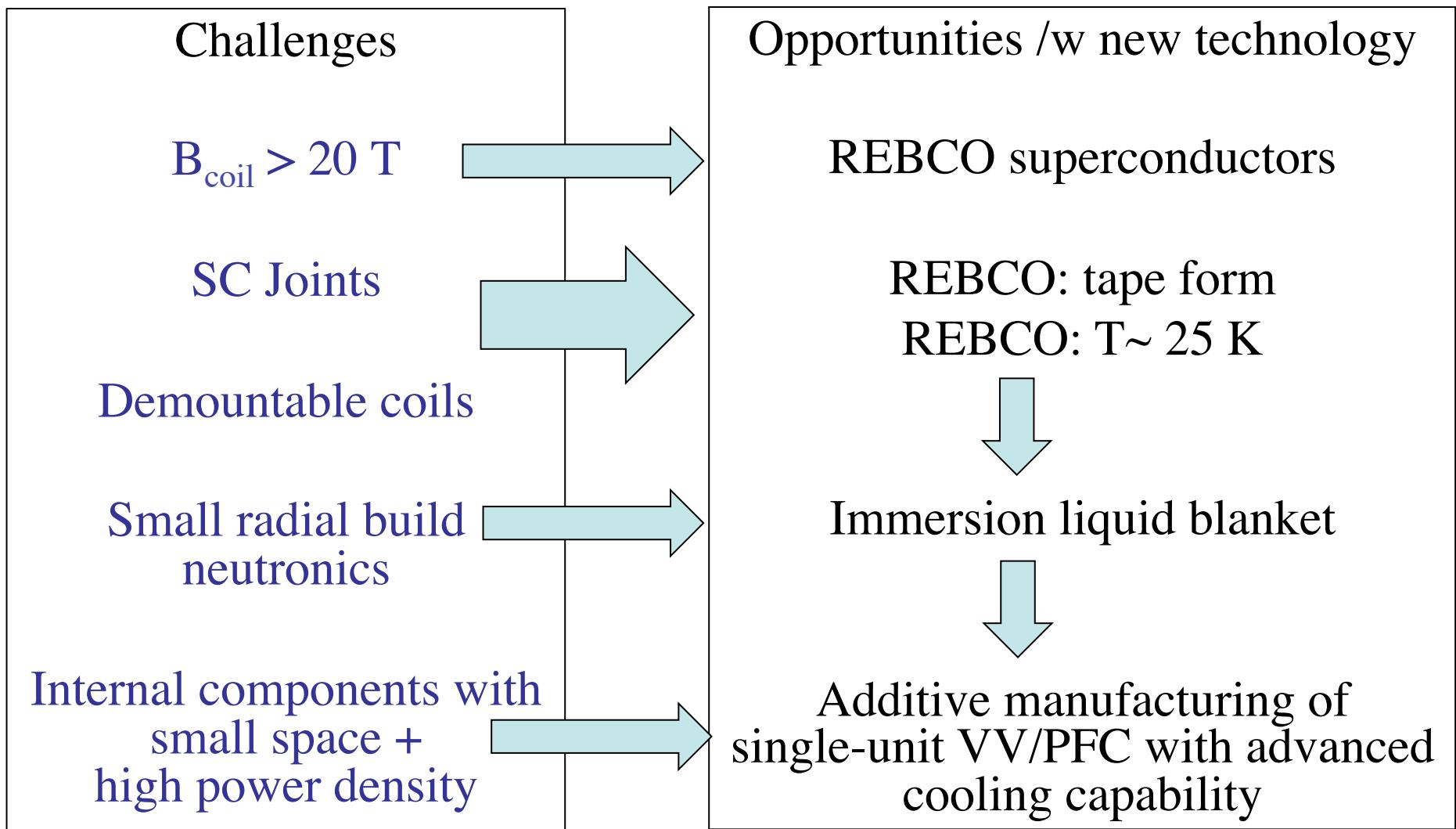
SC Joints

Demountable coils

Small radial build
neutronics

Internal components with
small space +
high power density

Multiple, linked engineering design challenges to smaller, modular path



Analytic assessment of magnet coil provides insight to limit in B field

jxB force

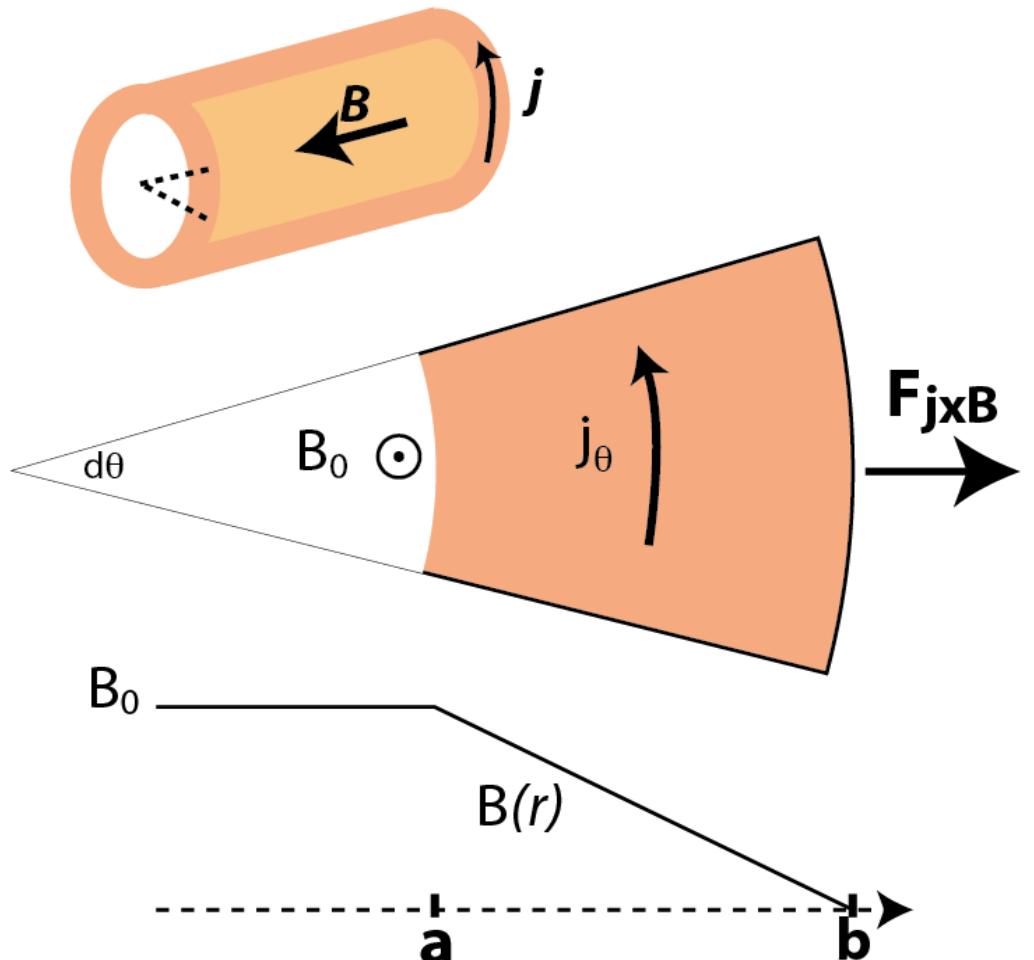
$$F_{jxB} = \int_a^b j_\theta B_z r d\theta dr dz$$

Amperes law /w uniform j

$$B_z(r) = \mu_0 j(b - r)$$

Outward force per segment

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{F_{jxB}}{d\theta dz} &= j^2 \int_a^b (b - r) r dr \\ &= \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0} \frac{2}{(b-a)^2} \int_a^b (b - r) r dr \end{aligned}$$



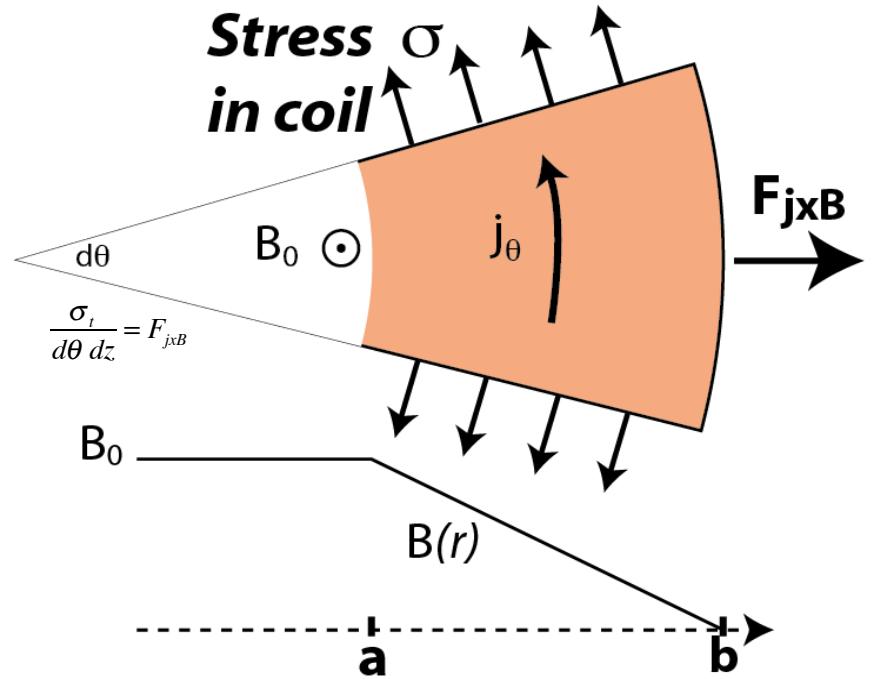
jxB forces must be taken by the stress in the coil, which has intrinsic limits

Tensile stress must balance jxB force

$$\int_a^b \sigma_t \sin\theta \, d\theta \, dr \, dz = F_{jxB}$$

$$\sigma_t = \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0} \frac{\int_a^b (b-r)r \, dr}{(b-a)^3}$$

$$\sigma_t = \frac{B^2}{2\mu_0} \left[\frac{2a+b}{3(b-a)} \right]$$



Fusion: want large bore for plasma Coils: want small bore to reduce stress

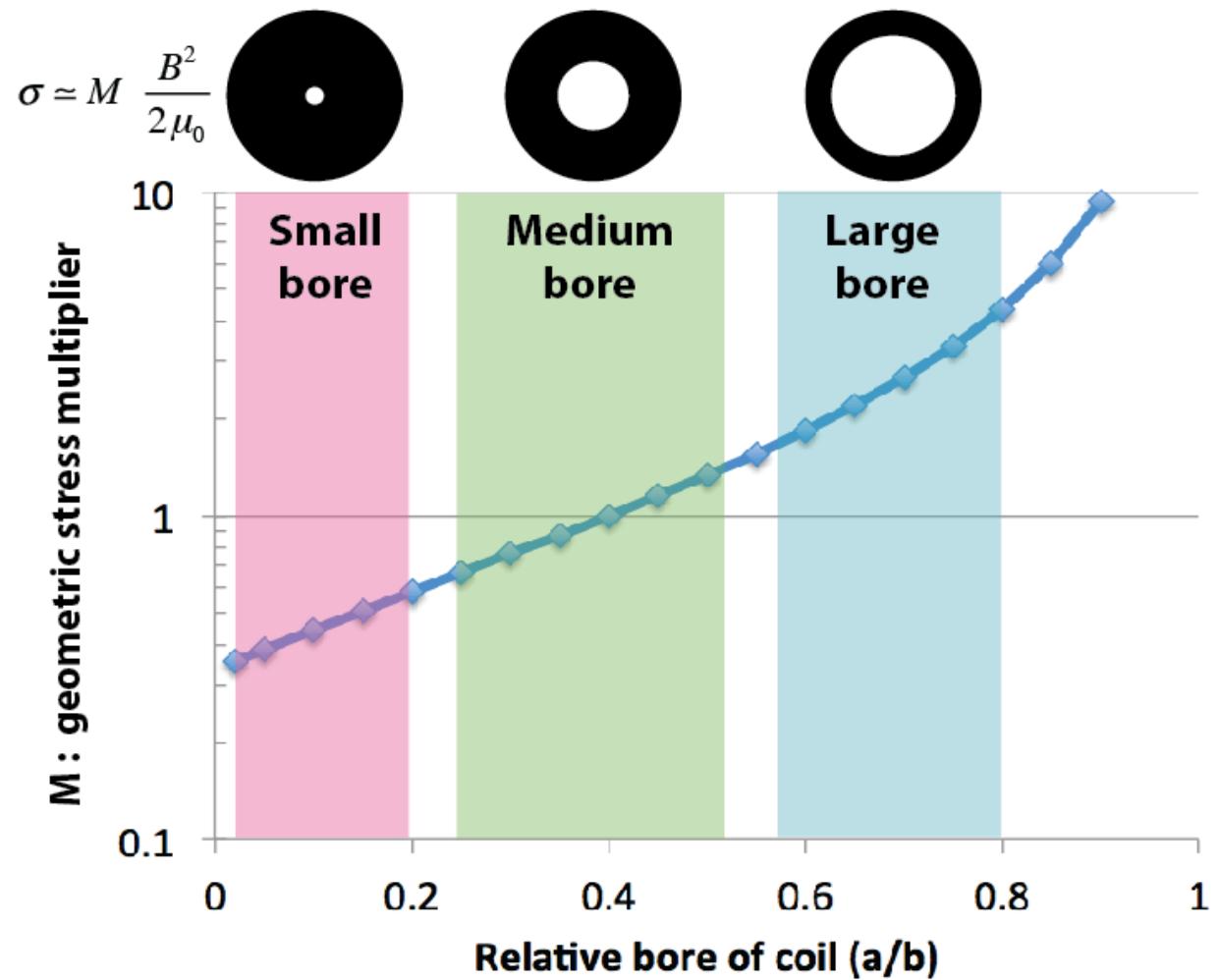
$$x \equiv \frac{a}{b}$$

$$M = \frac{2x+1}{3(1-x)}$$

$B = 22.5 \text{ T} \rightarrow$

$B^2/2\mu \sim 200 \text{ MPa}$

SS yield strength $\sim 1000 \text{ MPa}$



Stress + Cooling eliminates copper for $B > 20$ T steady-state coils

Stress limit

$$B = 22.5 \text{ T}$$

$$B^2/2\mu \sim 200 \text{ MPa}$$

$$\sigma \sim 3 \times 200 \text{ MPa}$$

$$\text{SS yield} \sim 1100 \text{ MPa}$$

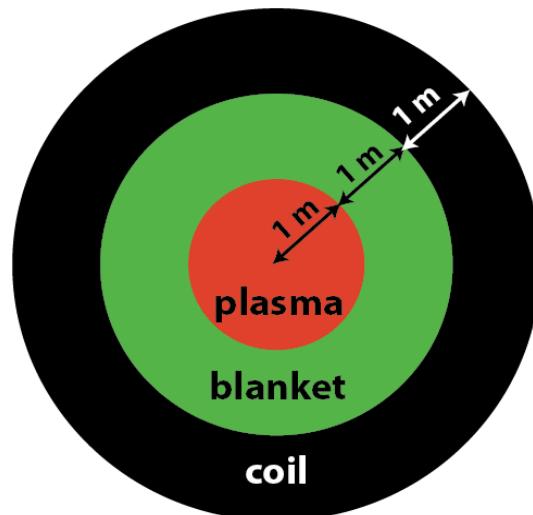
Copper cooling limit

$$B = 22.5 \text{ T}$$

$$j \sim 18 \text{ MA/m}^2$$

$$\eta \sim 15 \text{ n}\Omega \text{ m}$$

$$P_{\text{cool}} \sim 5 \text{ MW/m}^3$$



Superconductors eliminate cooling & P_{electric} but are limited by critical current at high B (and still by the stress)

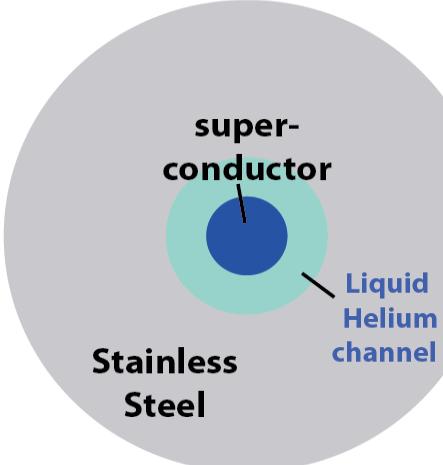
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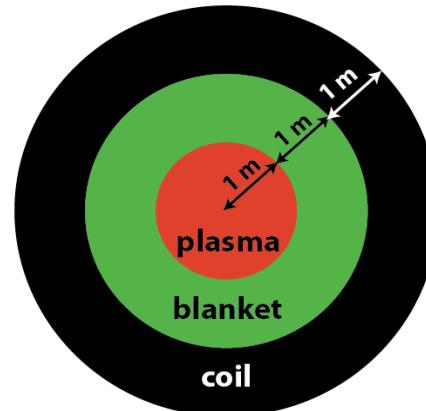


Cooling

$$B = 22.5 \text{ T}$$

$$j_{\text{coil}} \sim 18 \text{ MA/m}^2$$

$$\eta = 0$$



$$B = 22.5 \text{ T}$$

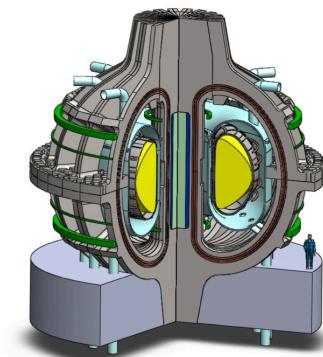
$$j_{\text{Superconductor}} \sim 10 \times j_{\text{coil}} > 200 \text{ MA/m}^2$$

$$j_{\text{critical}} @ 22.5 \text{ T} < 100 \text{ MA/m}^2$$

High-field, high-temperature demountable B coils would lead to much smaller options for MFE

Modest size
Modular replacement

Fusion power: 500 MW
Electrical power: 200 MW

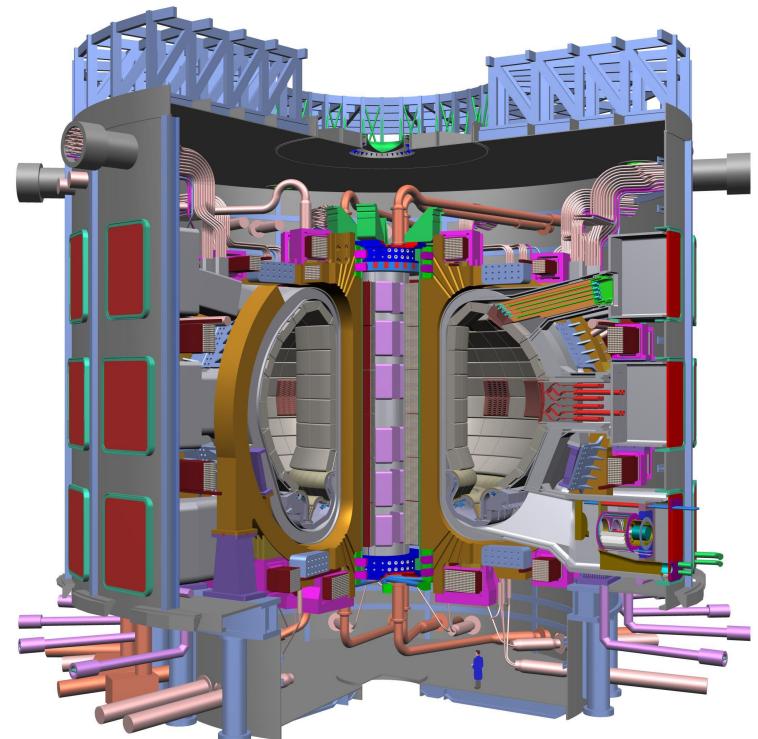


Same
Science!

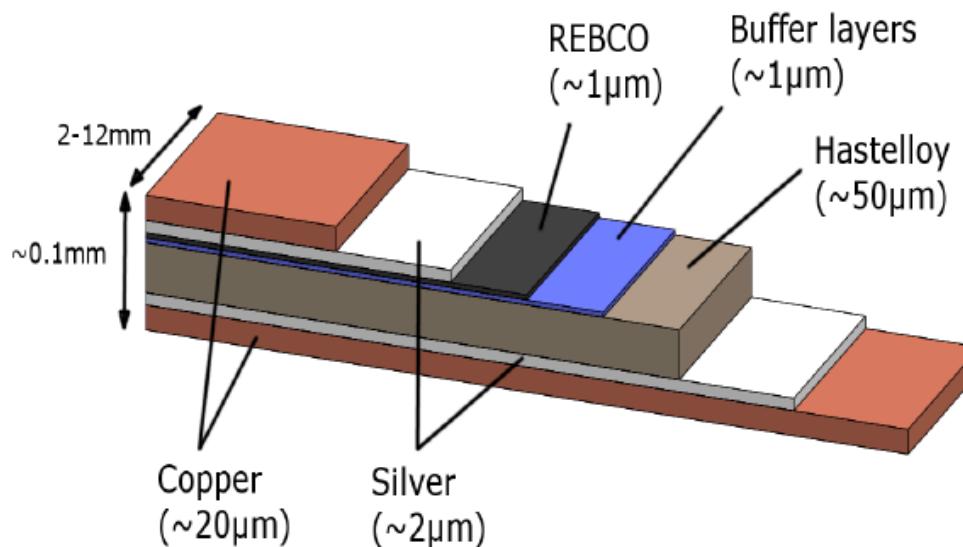
$$\frac{P_{fusion}}{S_{wall}} \sim \frac{\beta_N^2 \epsilon^2}{q_*^2} R B^4$$

Large size
Sector replacement

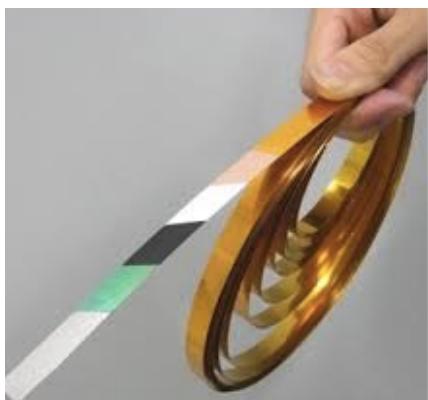
Fusion power: 500 MW



REBCO: coated superconductors in robust tape form, commercially available



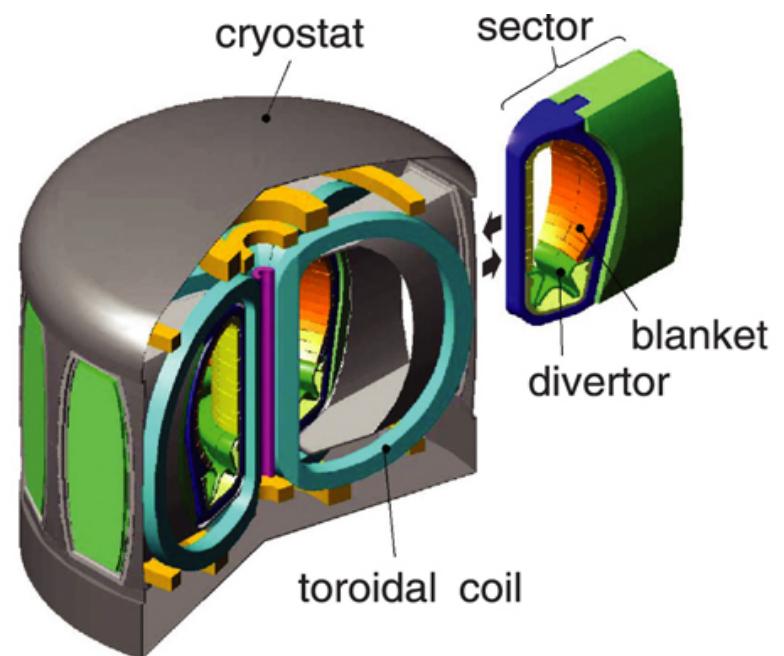
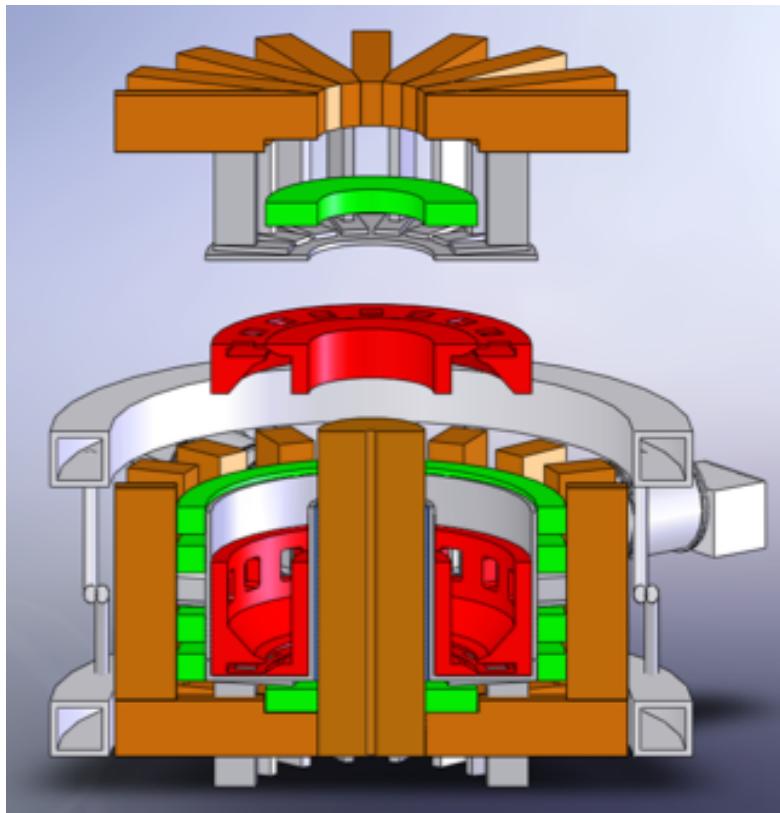
REBCO tape composition
(not to scale)



- Strong in tension due to steel
- Flexible
- Outer Cu coating → simple solder low-resistance joint
- Stark contrast with NbSn superconductor strand & CIC!

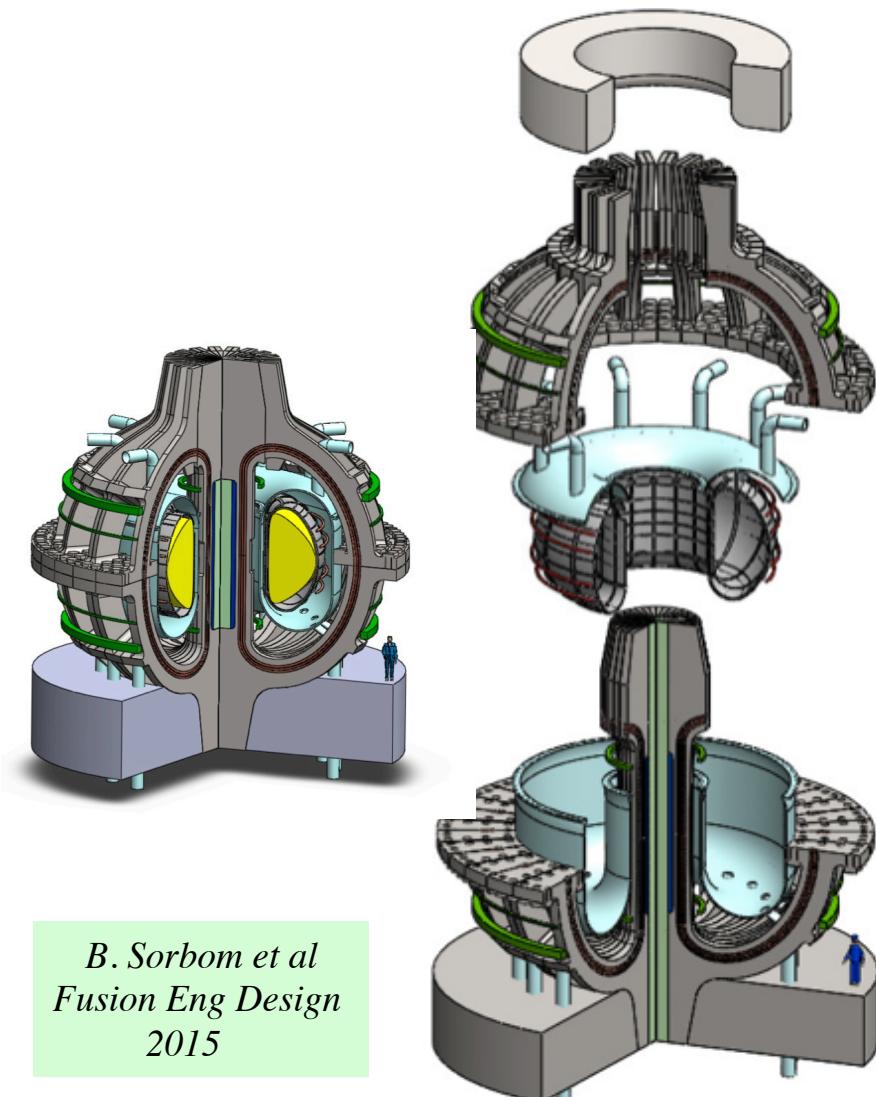


Basic geometry favors demountable magnets to provide modularity for internal components



FNSF-AT V. Chan et al NF 2011

ARC conceptual design example of “smaller, sooner” modular fusion electricity pilot plant using newly available superconductors



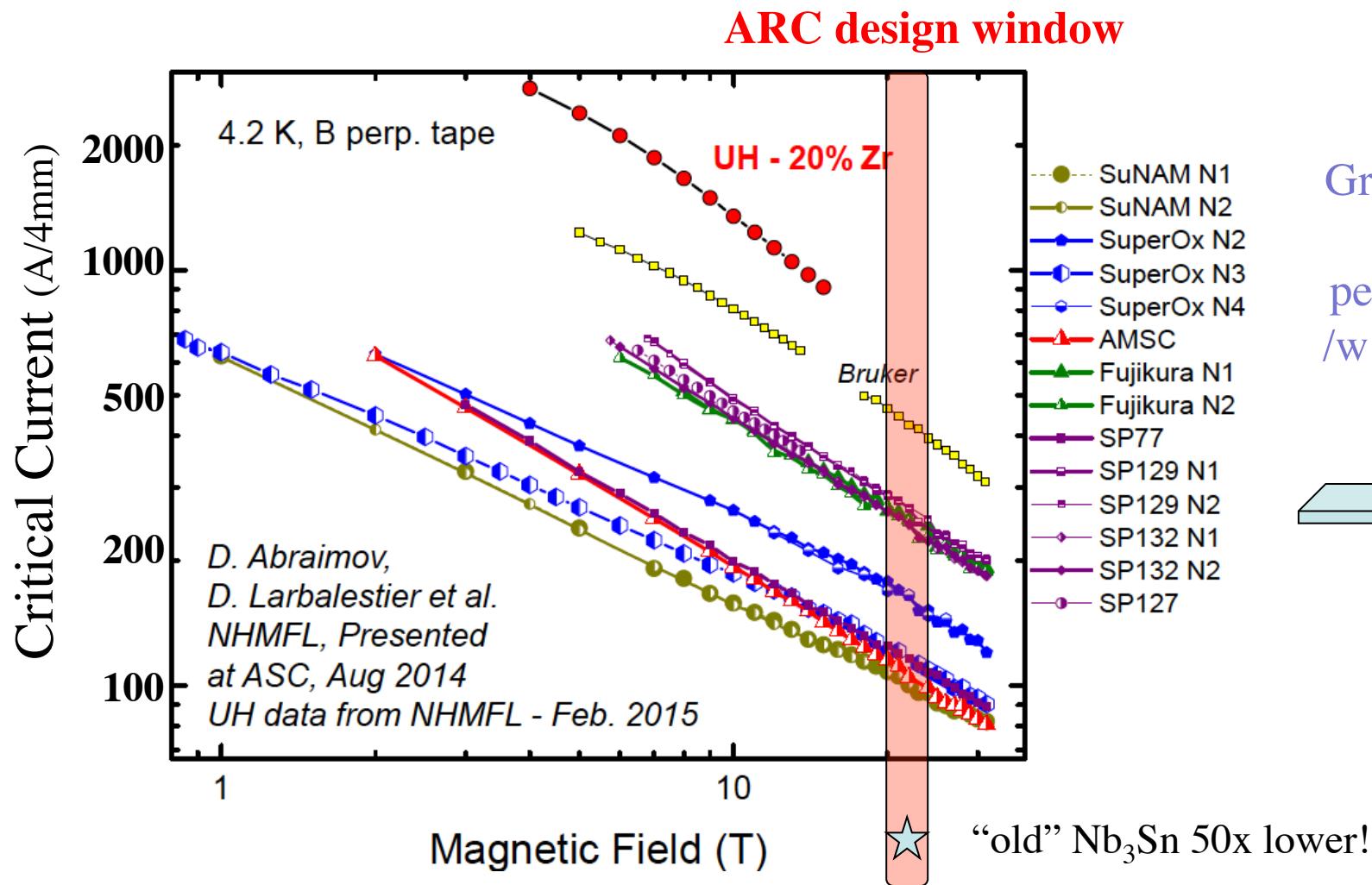
B. Sorbom et al
Fusion Eng Design
2015

Affordable Robust Compact

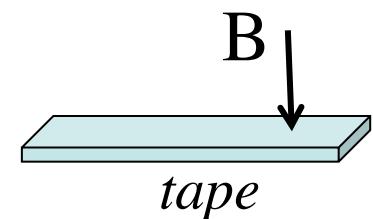
- Demountable magnetic field coils
- Single-unit vertical lift
- Net electricity ~ 200-250 MW

*Small, modular design
features generically attractive
to your favorite MFE choice:
ST, stellarator, etc.*

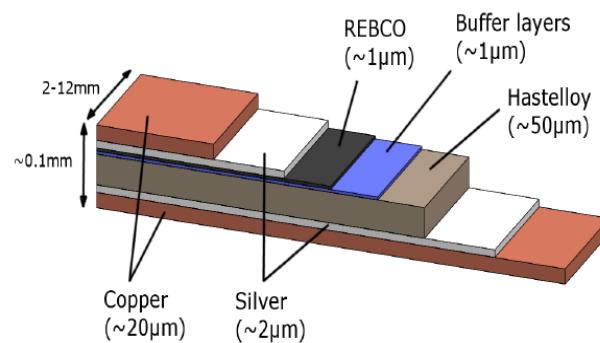
REBCO superconductor performance for high-field applications has remarkably increased over the last few years



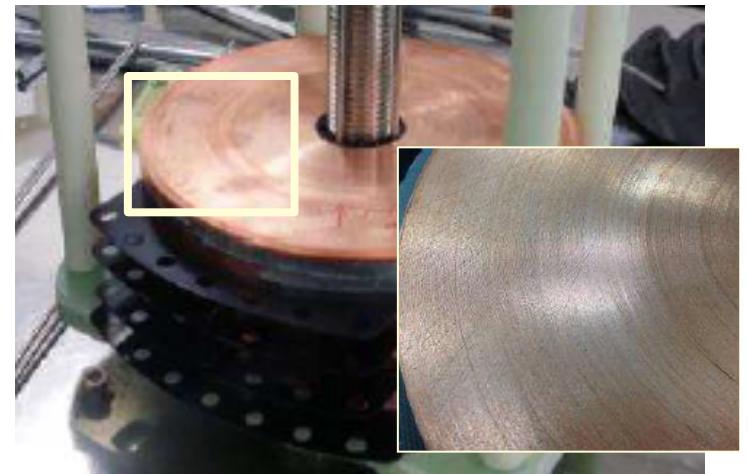
Graph shows
worst
performance
/w $B \perp$ tape!



Making coils from REBCO: “No-insulator” tape winding highly attractive



- Steel is “internal” insulator for each turn
- Benefits
 - Simple
 - Improved mechanical strength
 - Radiation resistance (insulators weakest link)
 - Self-protecting in quenches

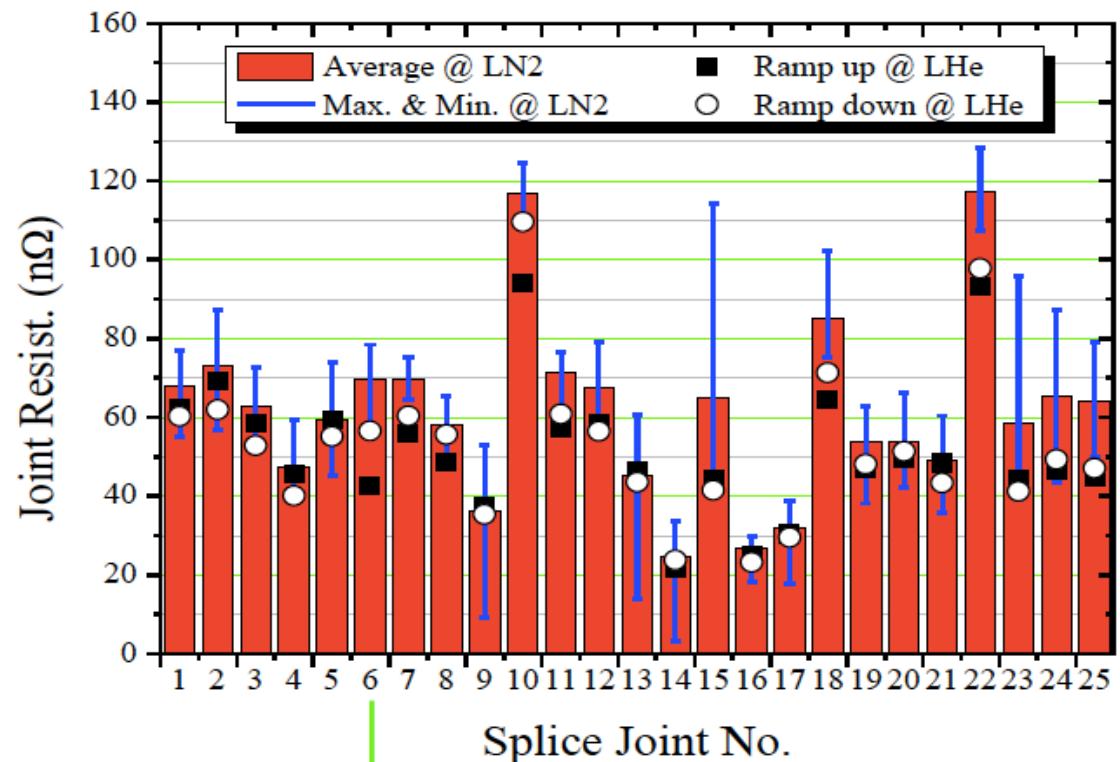


S. Hahn et al. App Phys Lett 173511 (2013)

Large coils made with REBCO actually *require* joints: Contact resistance at low-T is acceptable



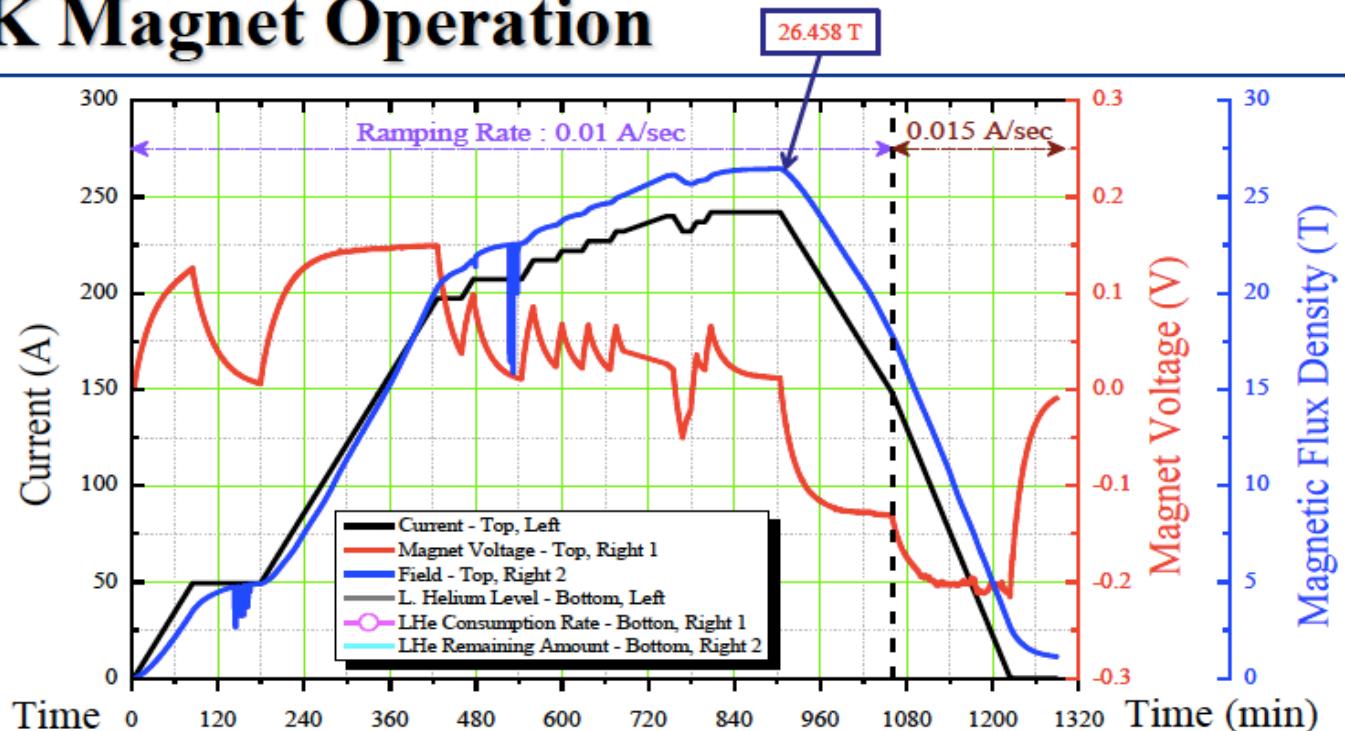
26 stacked coils
~300 m/coil consistent
with maximum
continuous length of
high-performance tape



- Soldered joints!
- Mechanical attachment lowers resistance

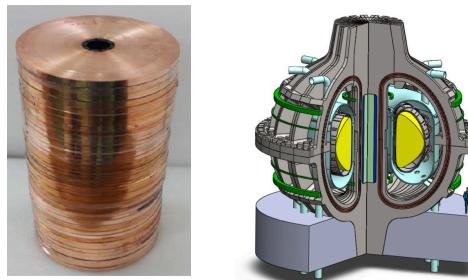
2015: New record of 26.5 Tesla with REBCO-only, “no-insulation” coil

4.2K Magnet Operation



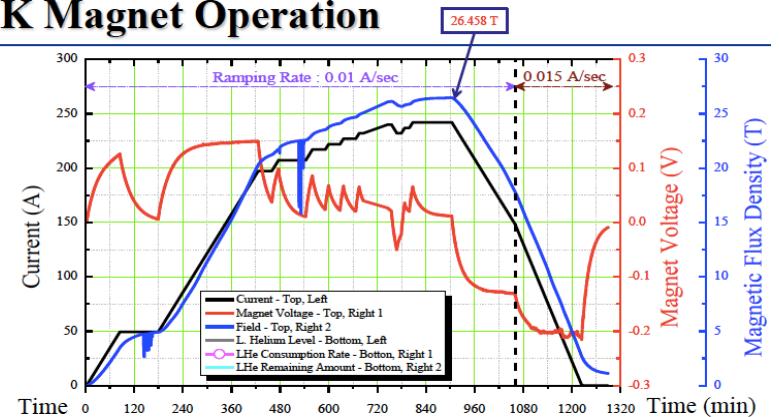
S. Yoon, J. Kim, H. Lee, S. Han, S-H.Moon "26 T 35 mm all-Gd₂Ba₂Cu₃O_{7-x} multi-width no-insulation superconducting magnet" Supercond. Sci. Technol. 2016

Small REBCO coil for NMR science matches most local requirements for ARC design

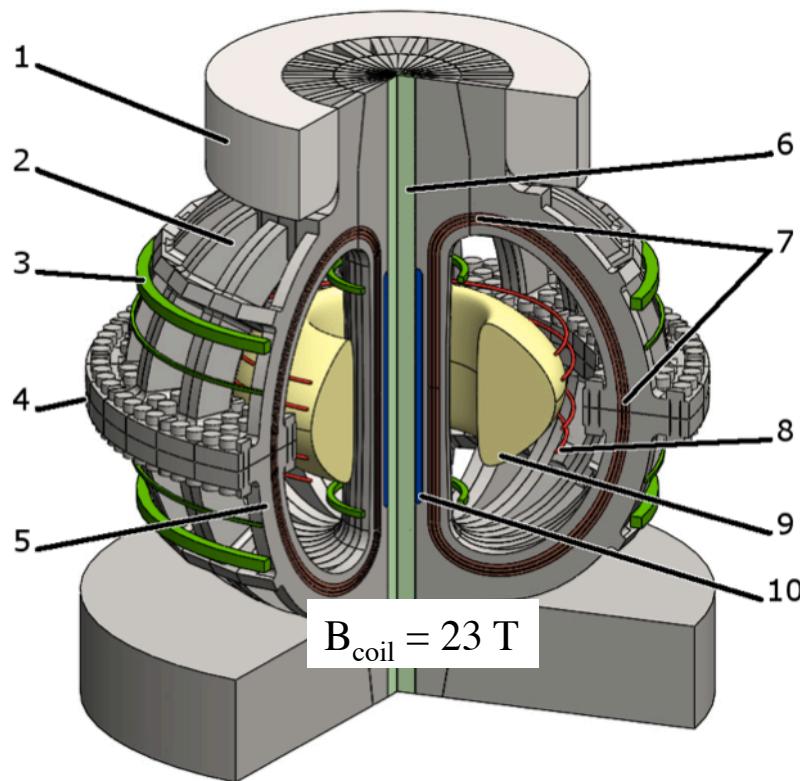


B_{coil}(T)	26.5	23
J _e (A/mm ²)	400	400-500
T (K)	4.2	25
Materials	REBCO, SS316L	
σ _{max} (MPa)	593	660
Diameter (m)	0.03	~ 6

4.2K Magnet Operation

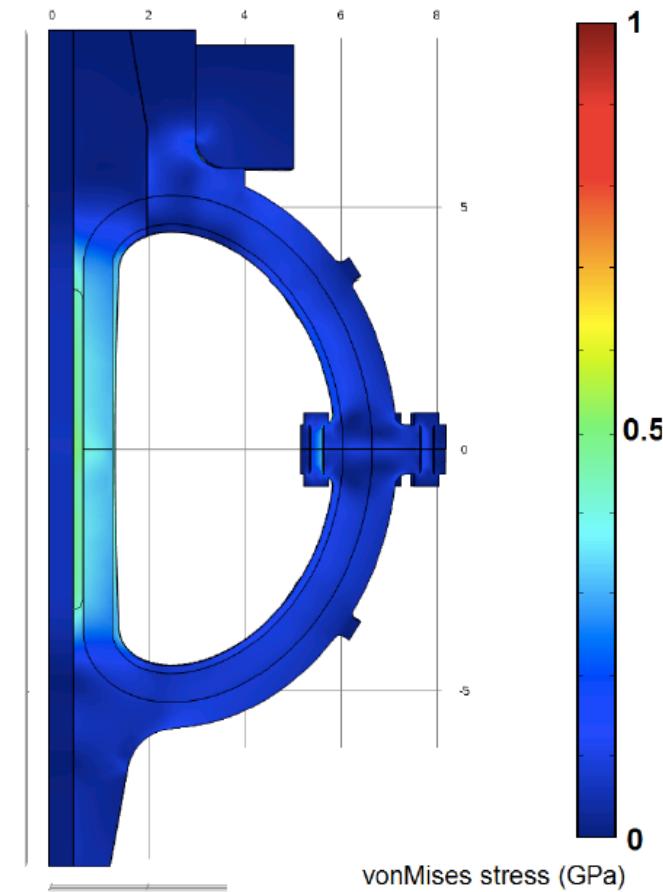


Large-bore challenge for high-B MFE magnet: requires optimized geometry & superstructure



- 1. Support ring, 2. Top TF leg
- 4. Mechanical joint
- 6. Epoxy enforcement

Peak stress $\sim 0.67 \text{ Gpa}$
 $\sim 65\%$ of limit for 316SS LN

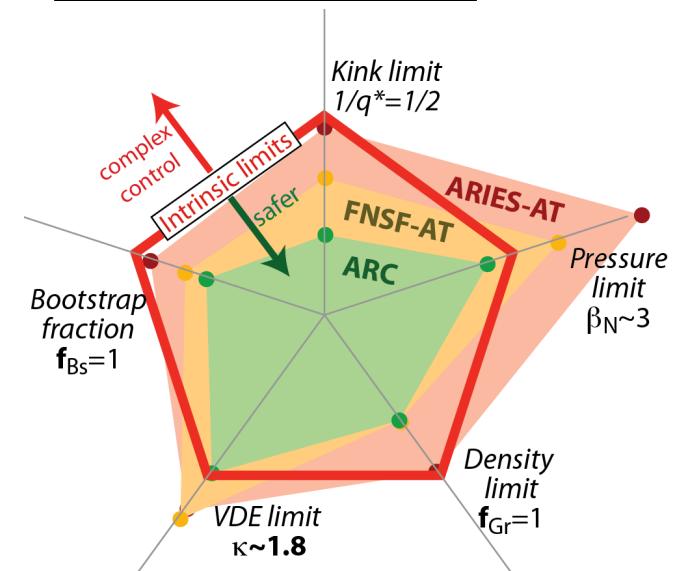


New technologies provide access to synergistic design advantages at high-B and small size: Robust steady-state far from disruptive limits

	DIII-D	ARIES-AT	ARC
q_{95}	6.3	3	7.2
H_{98}	1.5	1.7	1.7
β_N	3.7	5.4	2.6
$G = \beta_N H_{98} / q^2$	0.14	0.90	0.09
$f_{\text{bootstrap}}$	0.65	0.91	0.63
$n / n_{\text{Greenwald}}$	0.5	0.9	0.65

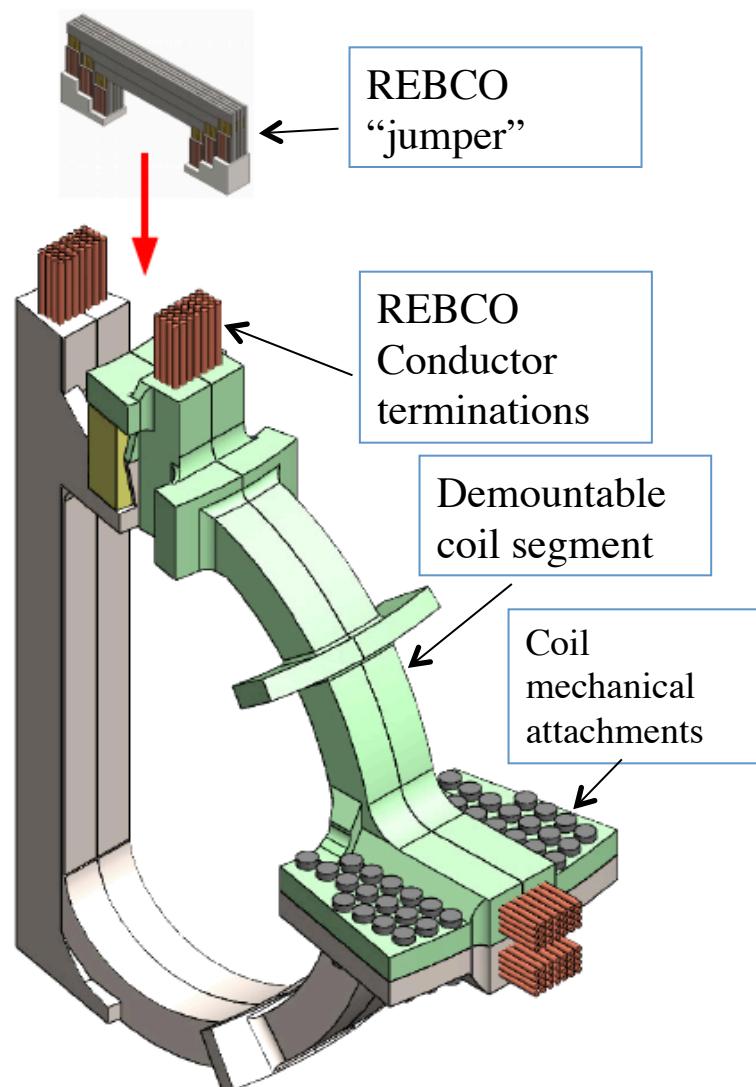
$$P_{\text{fusion}} \sim \frac{\beta_N^2 \epsilon^2}{S_{\text{wall}}} R B^4$$

$$n T \tau_E \sim \frac{\beta_N H}{q_*^2} R^{1.3} B^3$$



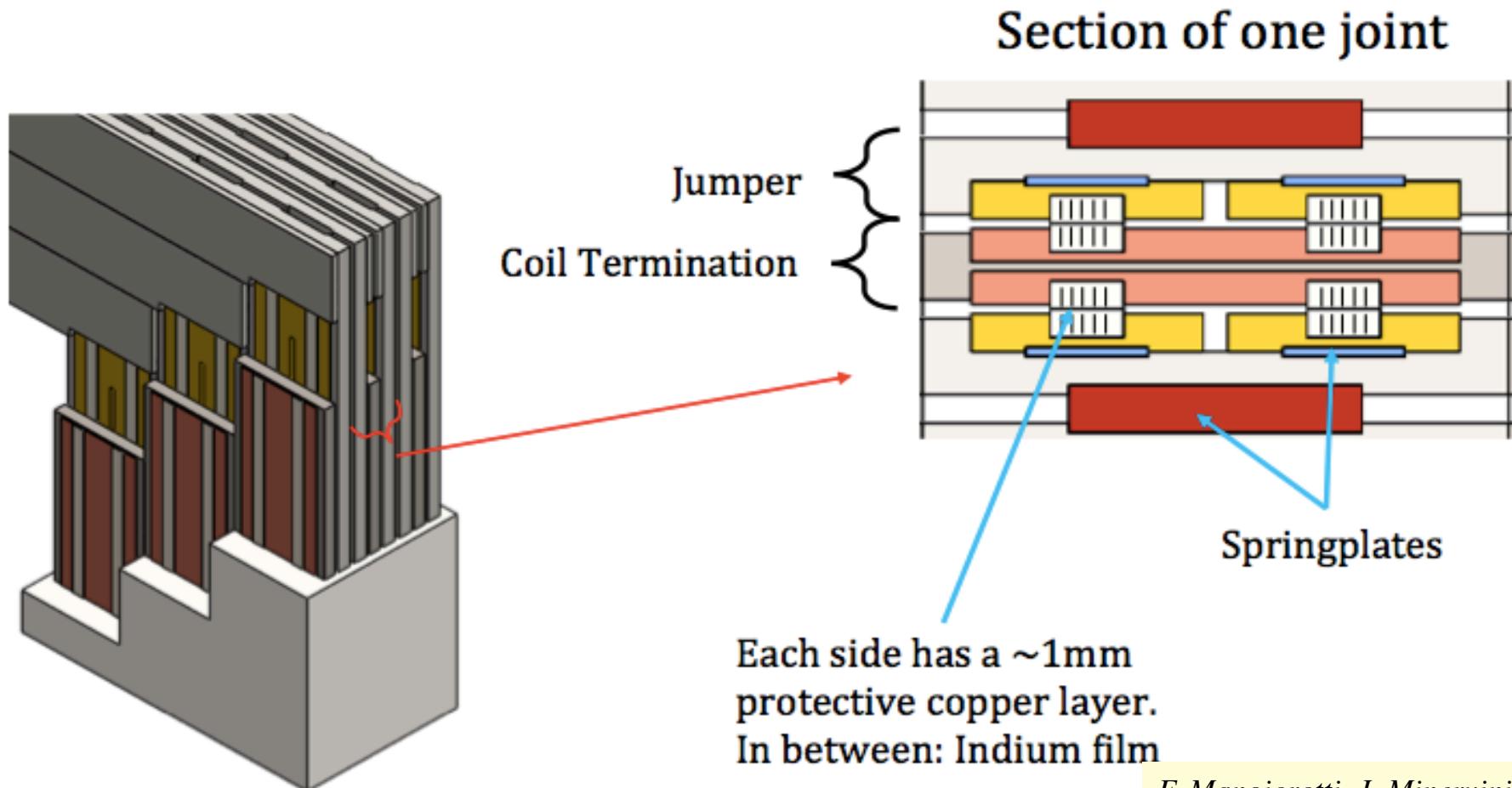
- Steady-state scenario using high safety-factor, moderate Beta approach
- Scenario ACHIEVED in present moderate-B devices (e.g. DIII-D)

Demountable TF coil: Evolving strategy → Separation of mechanical and electrical joints



*F. Mangiorotti,
MIT Ph.D. thesis*

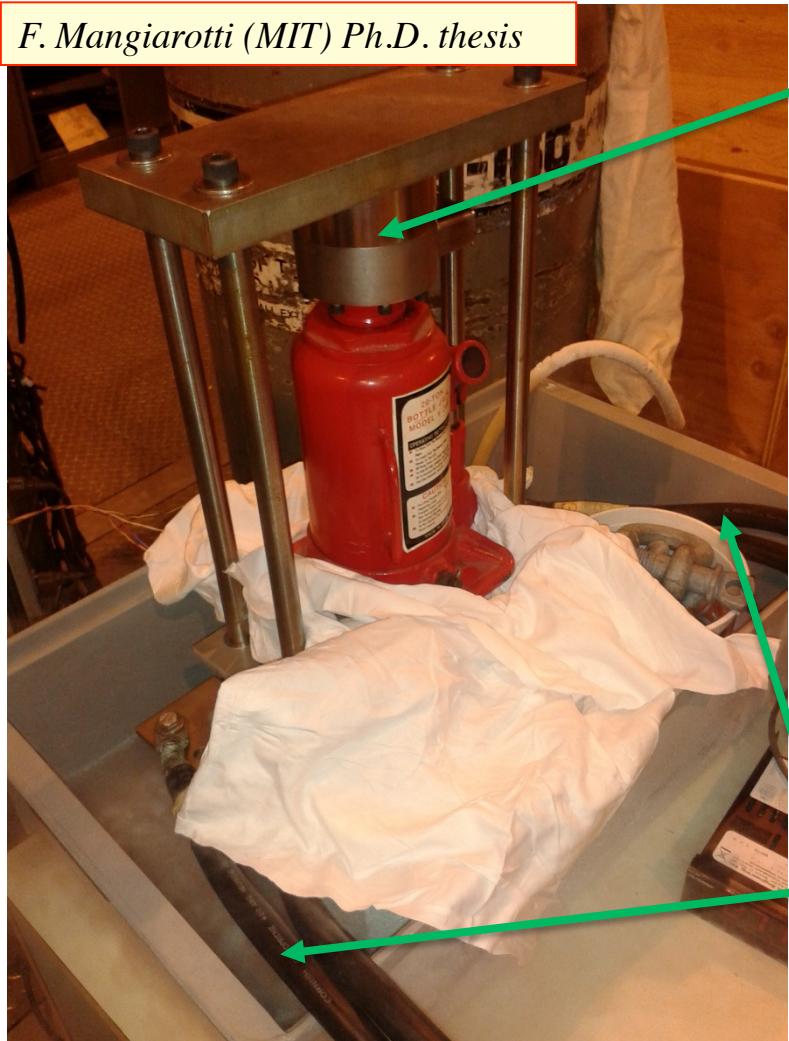
One design example: Plate terminations with edge joints



*F. Mangiorotti, J. Minervini
MIT Ph.D. thesis*

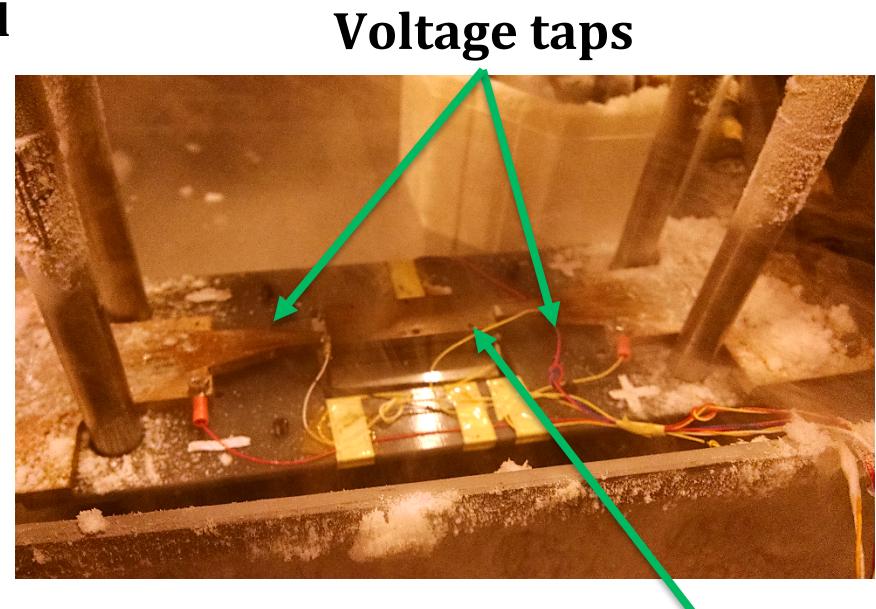
REBCO joint experiment: 80 tape, 3 kA cable \leftrightarrow 3kA cable

F. Mangiarotti (MIT) Ph.D. thesis



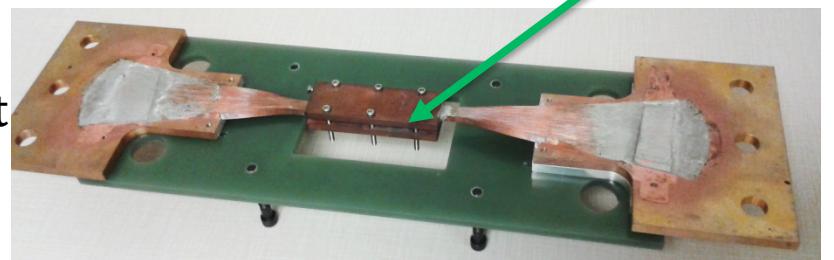
Load
cell

Current
leads



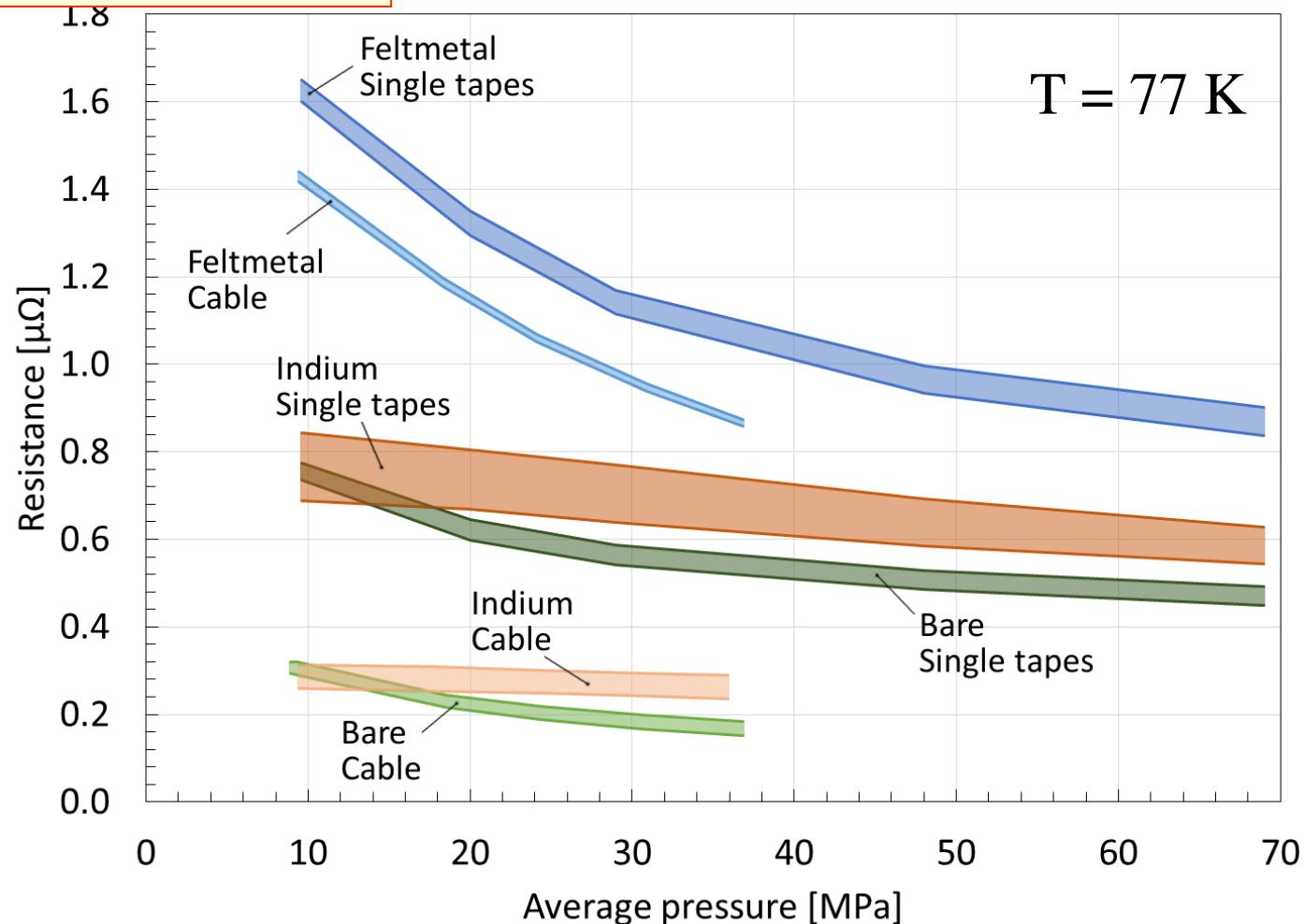
Voltage taps

Joint samples



Acceptable resistance found in 80 tape cable-to-cable joint

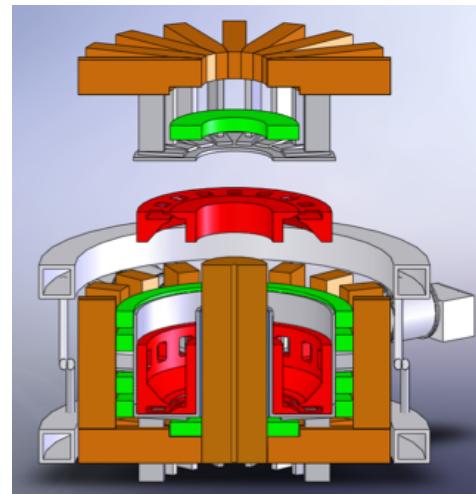
F. Mangiarotti (MIT) Ph.D. thesis



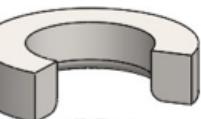
Operation of joints above 4 K liquid He temperatures is highly advantageous

- Greatly reduces required cooling power (Carnot).
- Thermal stability due to higher heat capacity.
- Operation or ARC at $T \sim 25$ K
 - Small power to joints
 - Liquid H or Ne for cooling options

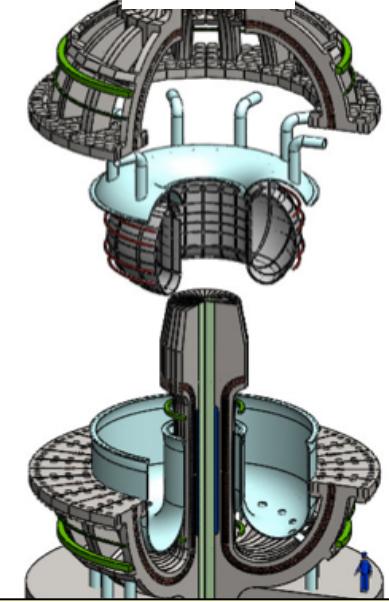
$R/a=3.5$



Copper FNSF-AT
Coil $P_{coil} \sim 500$ MW



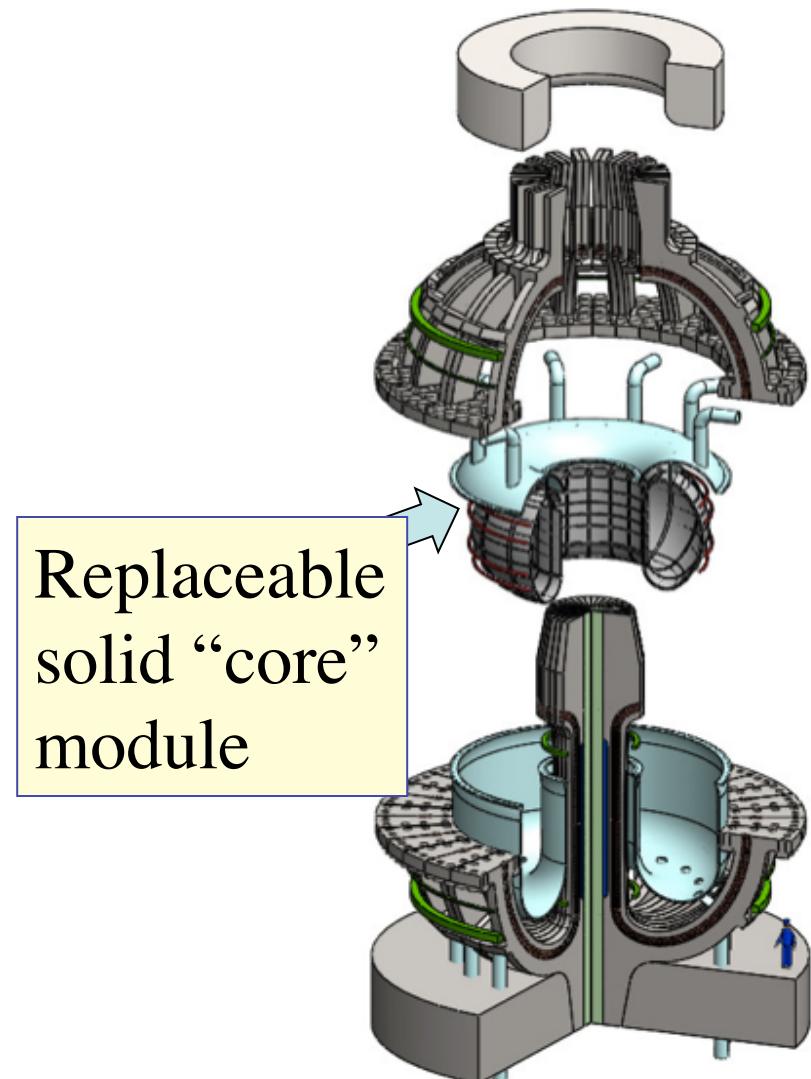
$R/a=3$



ARC: Resistive joints /w REBCO superconductors
Coil $P_{coil} \sim 1$ MW

Demountable coils have a profound effect on modularity and design of interior fusion “core”

- Core is designed as a single integrated unit
 - Synergy with keeping design of small total mass and volume
- **Fabrication + qualification done completely off-site**
 - Vacuum
 - Heating
 - Cooling
- No connections made inside reactor volume!

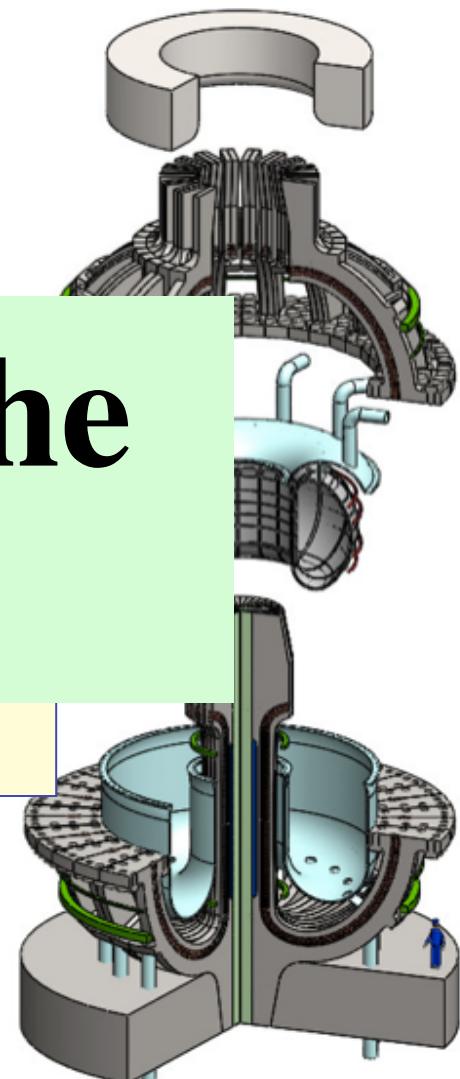


Demountable coils have a profound effect on modularity and design of interior fusion “core”

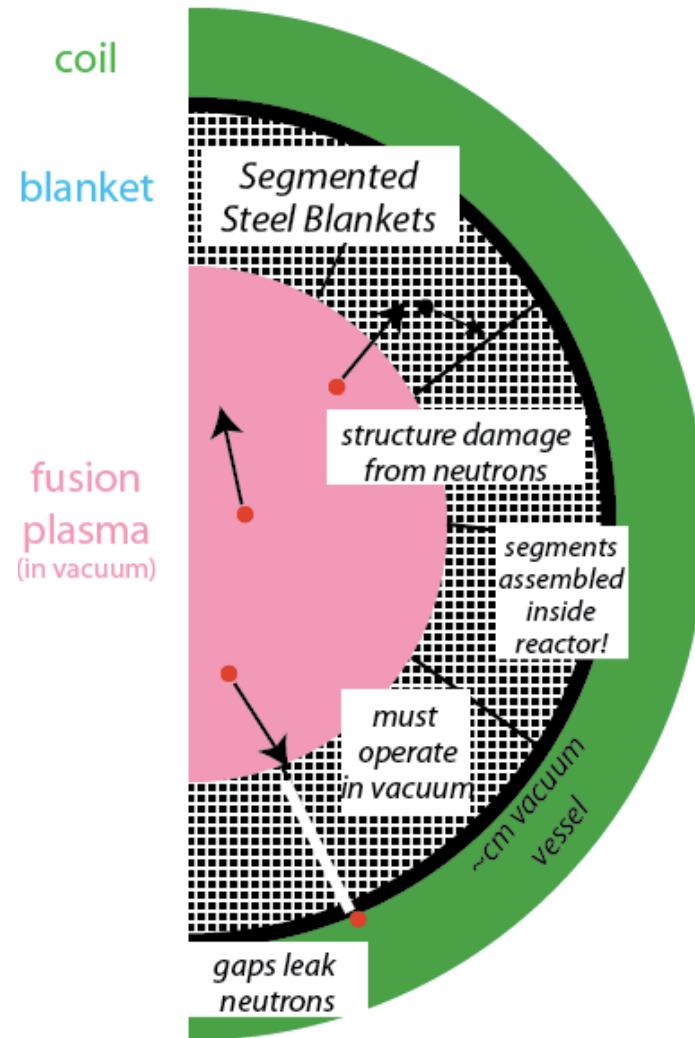
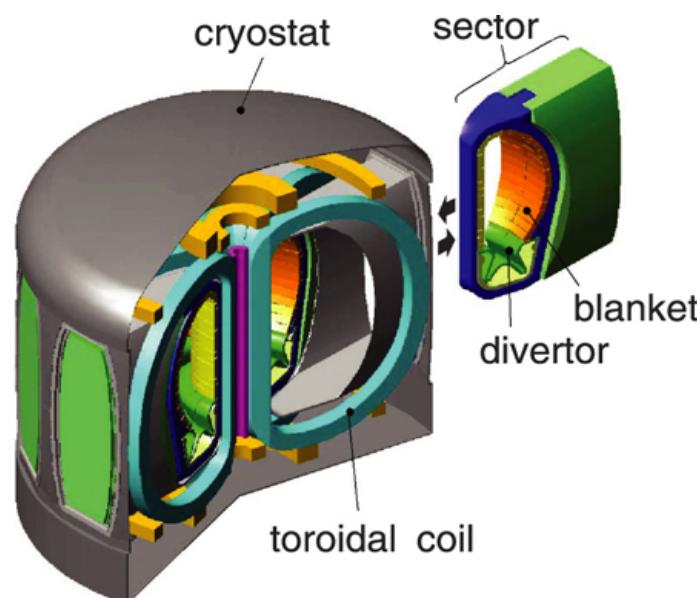
- Core is designed as a single integrated unit
 - Synergy with keeping design of small total mass and volume
- Fabrication done completely
 - Vacuum
 - Heating
 - Cooling
- No connections made inside reactor volume!

**But where's the
blanket?**

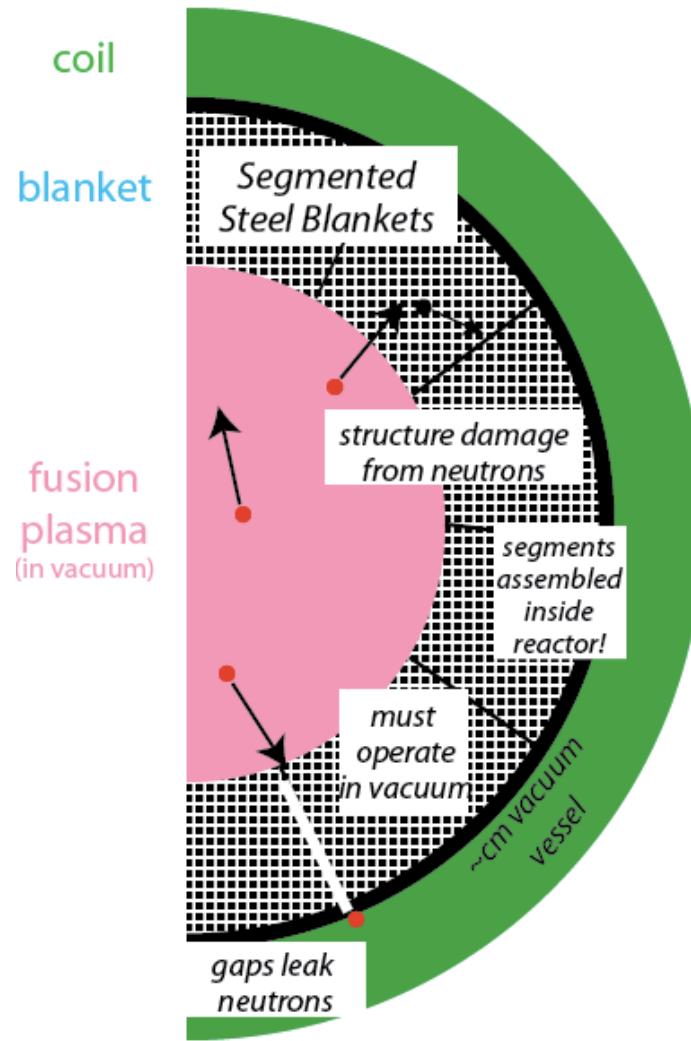
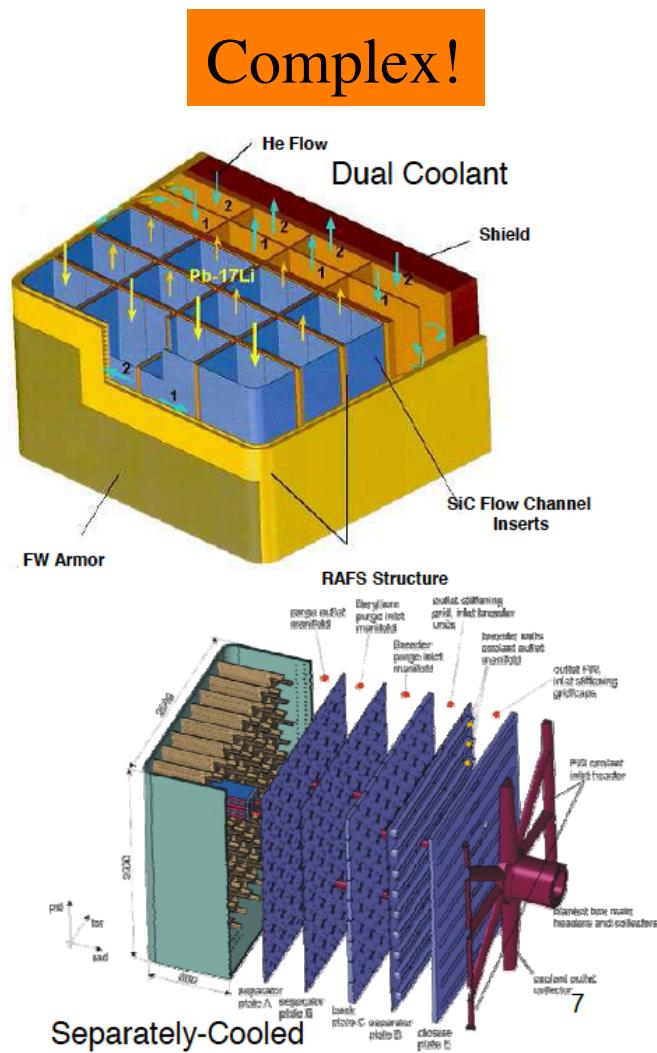
module



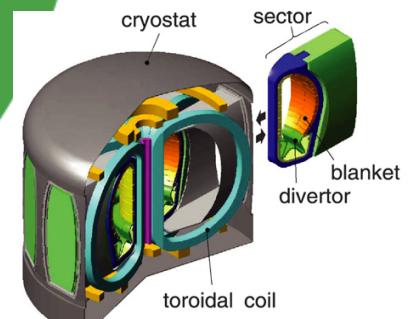
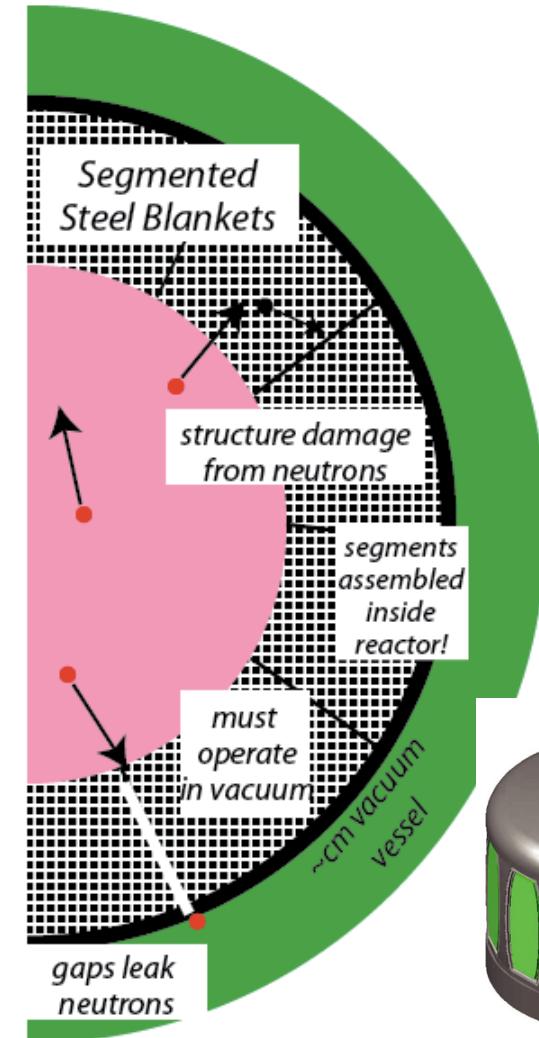
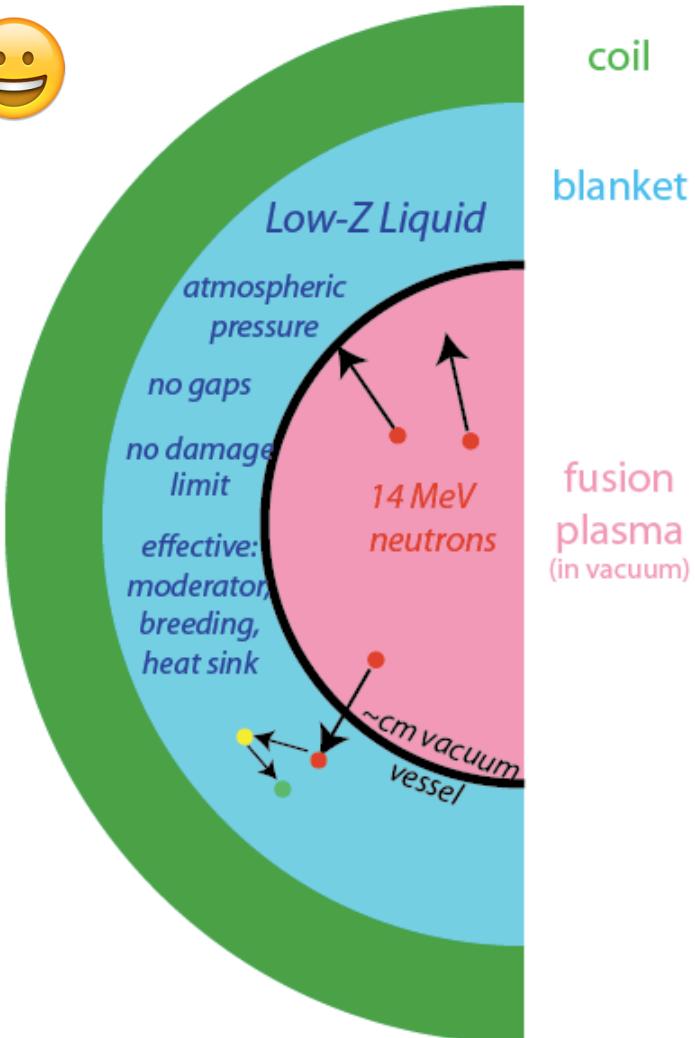
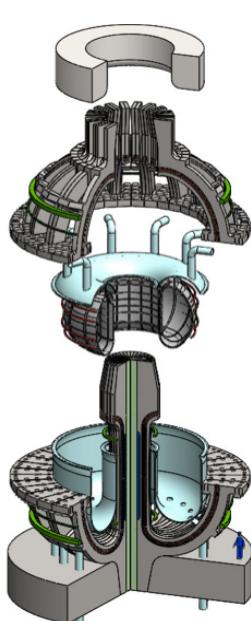
Standard fusion blankets are a daunting nuclear technology challenge: sector insertion/removal, severe D-T neutron damage, must work in vacuum



Standard fusion blankets are a daunting nuclear technology challenge: sector insertion/removal, severe D-T neutron damage, must work in vacuum



Demountable coils allow for much more robust and attractive nuclear technology for D-T neutrons: The Immersion Blanket

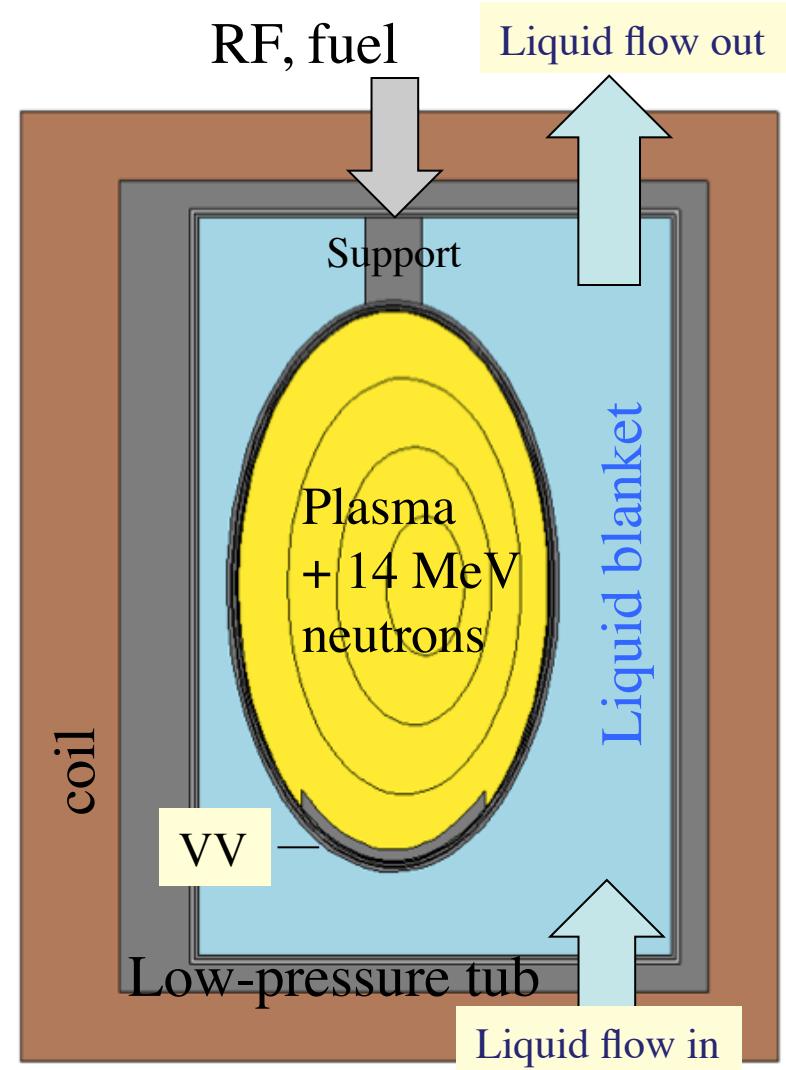


Demountable coils allow for much more robust and attractive nuclear technology for D-T neutrons: The Immersion Blanket

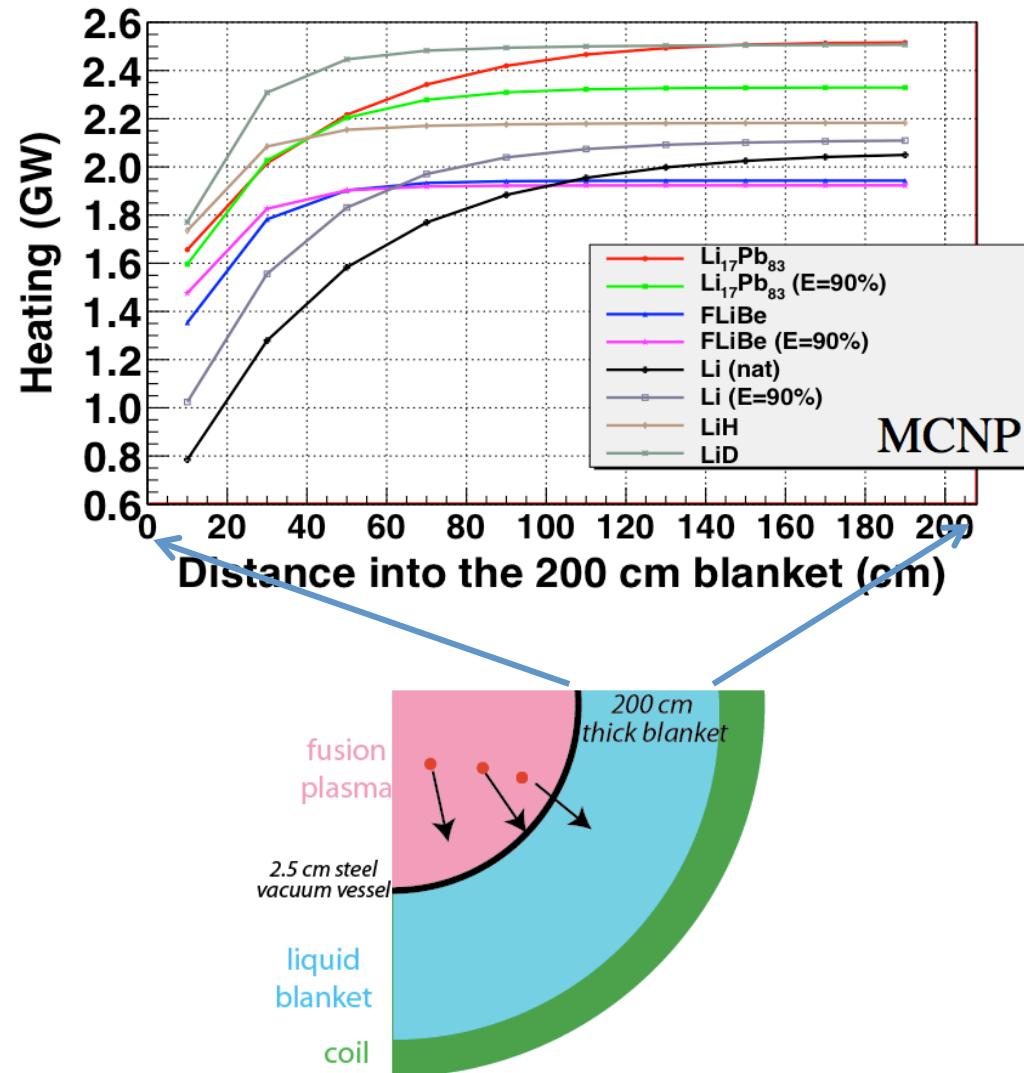
- Replaceable Vacuum Vessel is immersed in liquid blanket:

Advantages

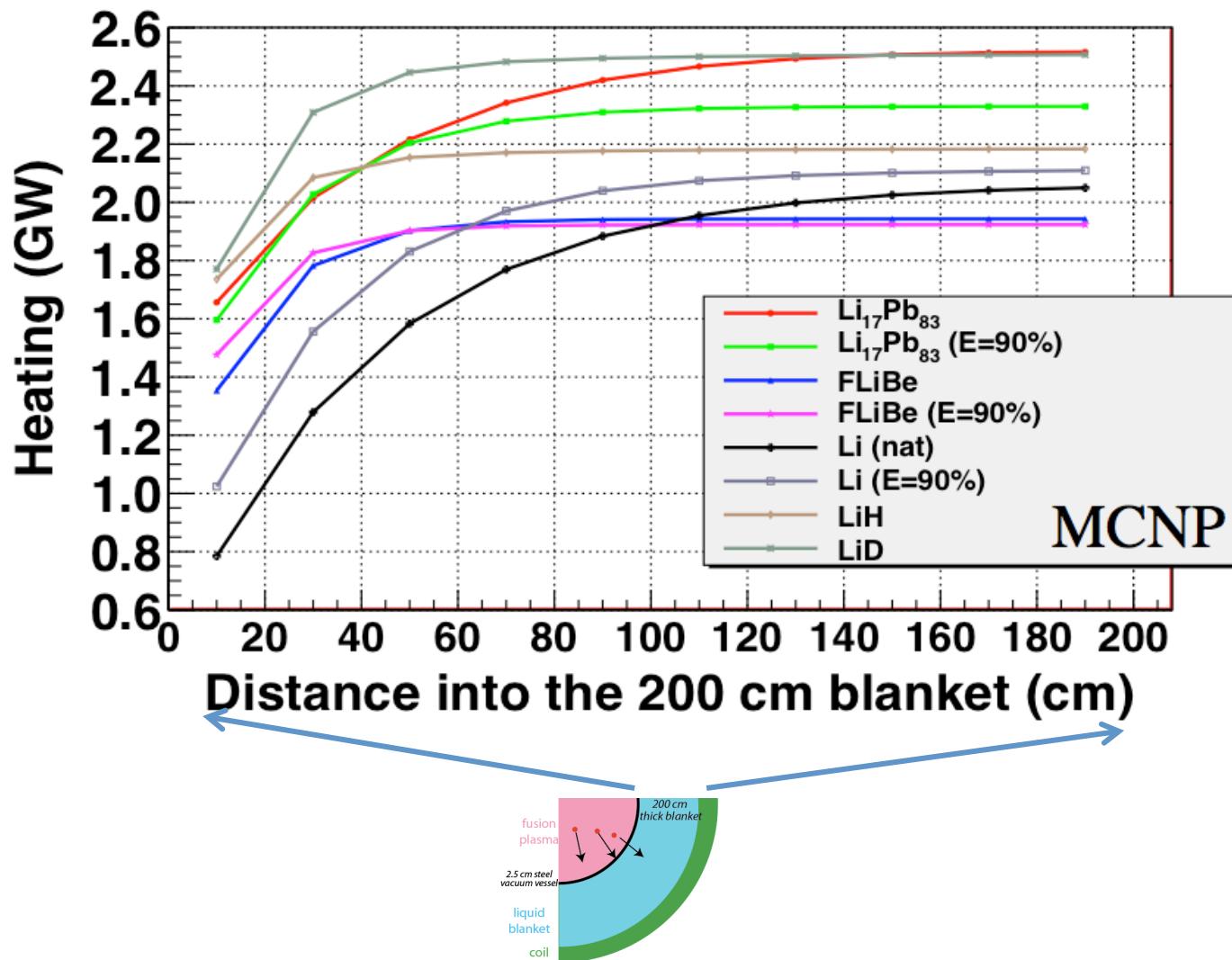
- Simple
- Neutronics/nuclear engineering at atmospheric pressure.
- No gaps
- Energy & tritium extraction with single-phase low-velocity flow
- No damage limits in blanket
- Minimized solid waste
- Tub is robust safety boundary



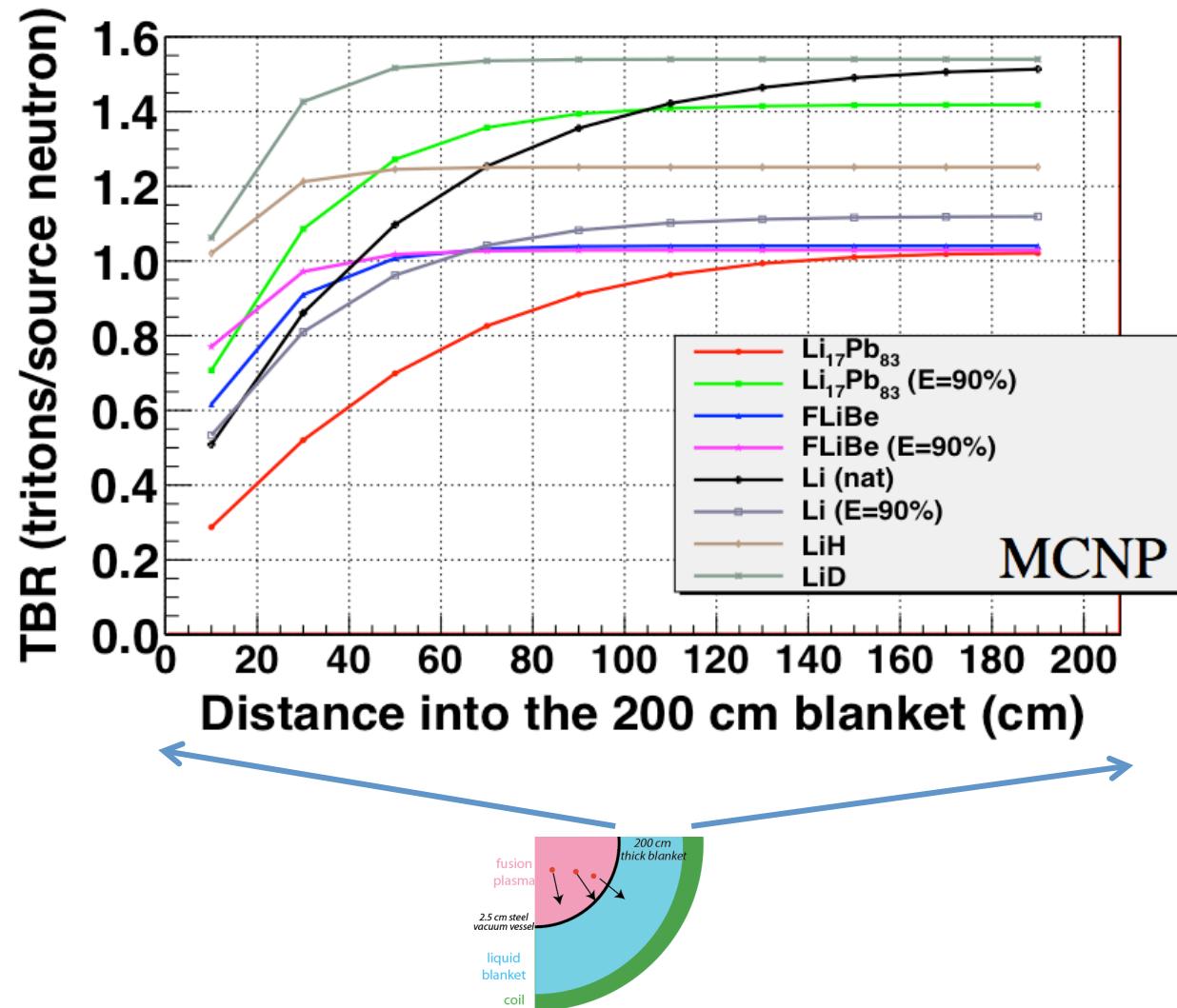
“Ideal” immersion fusion blanket explored



Immersion blanket: Many liquid choices & lack of internal structure optimizes neutron thermalization, energy capture and tritium breeding → Small radial build



Immersion blanket: Many liquid choices & lack of internal structure optimizes neutron thermalization, energy capture and tritium breeding → Small radial build

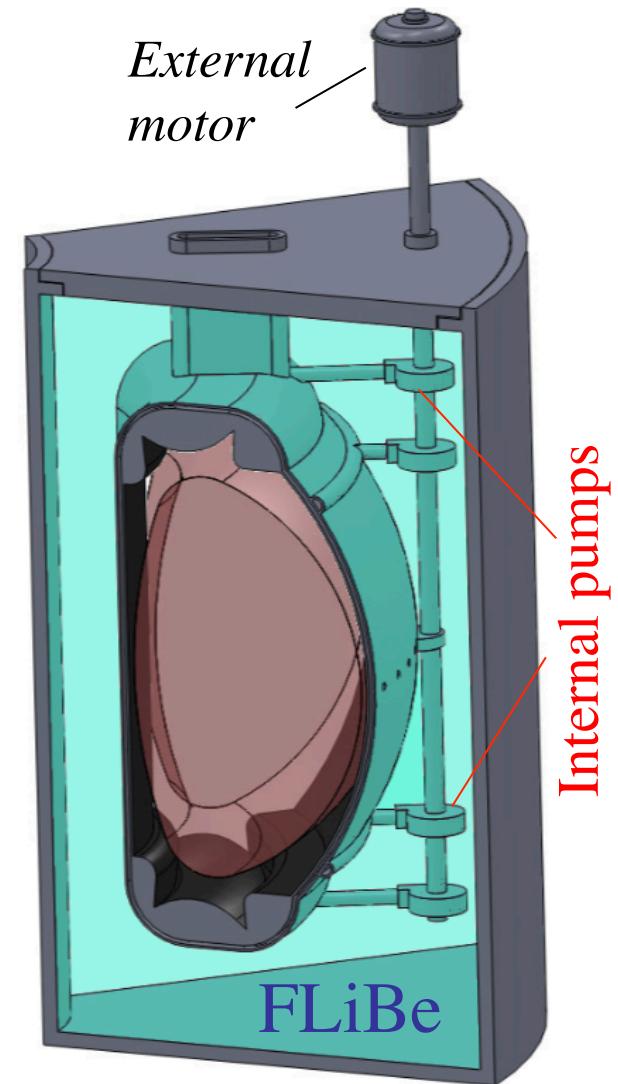


Immersion blanket: high-T molten salt FLiBe

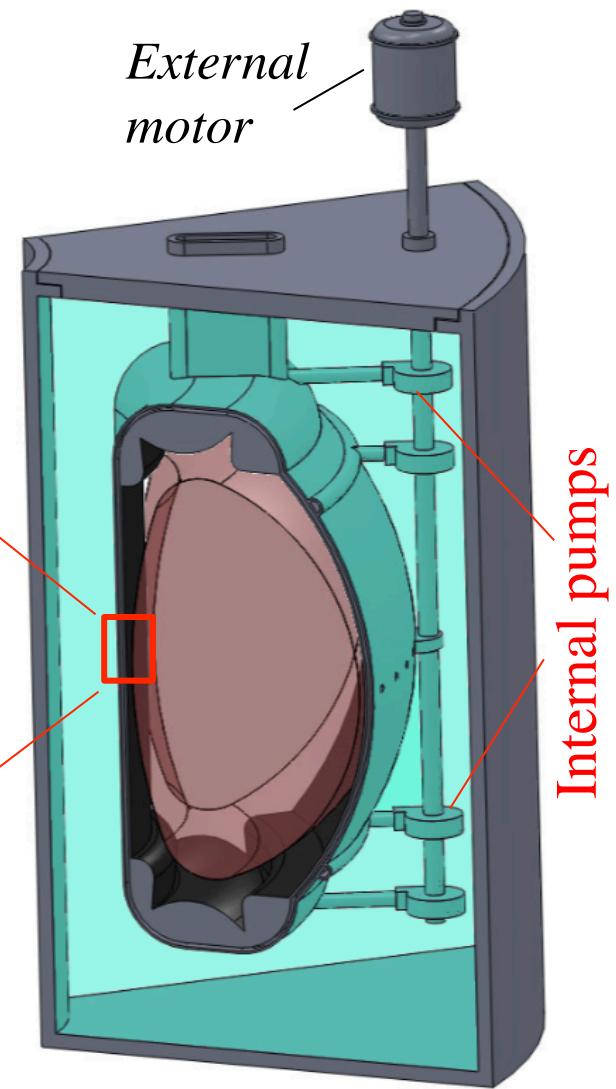
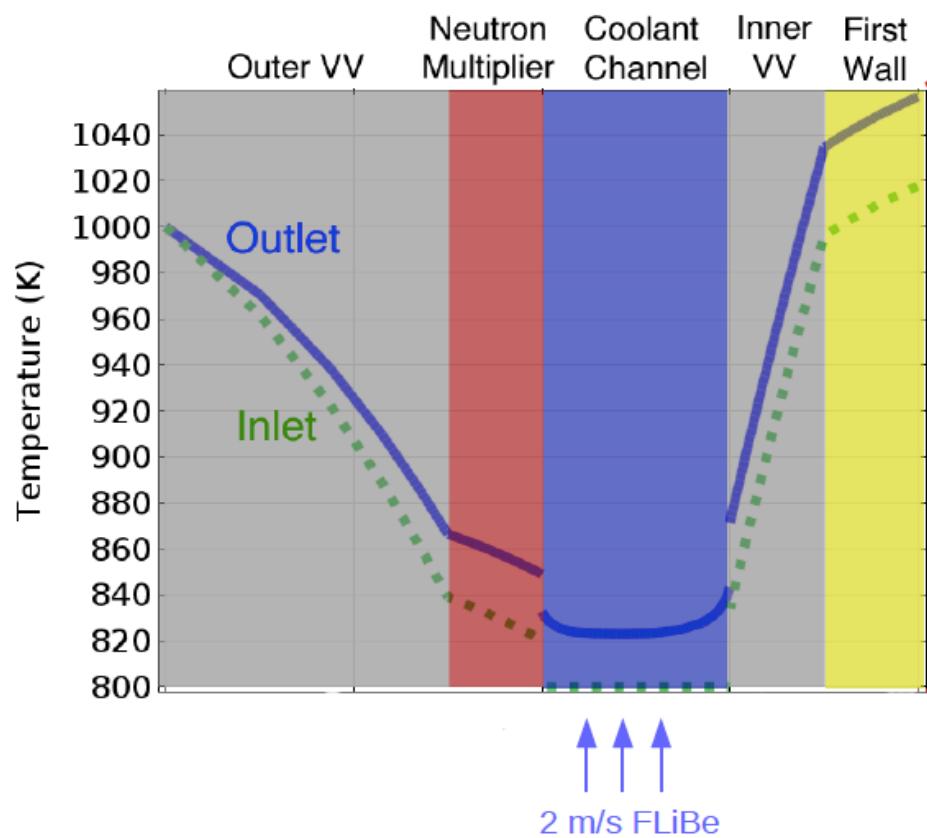
Single-phase, low-pressure flow with minimum MHD effects

Property	FLiBe [7]	Water
Melting Point (K)	732	273
Boiling Point (K)	1700	373
Density (kg/m ³)	1940	1000
Specific Heat (kJ/kg/K)	2.4	4.2
Thermal Conductivity (W/m/K)	1	0.58
Viscosity (mPa-s)	6	1

- TBR ~ 1.14
- High thermal efficiency ~ 0.4 - 0.5
- Shielding: ~10 FPY coil lifetime

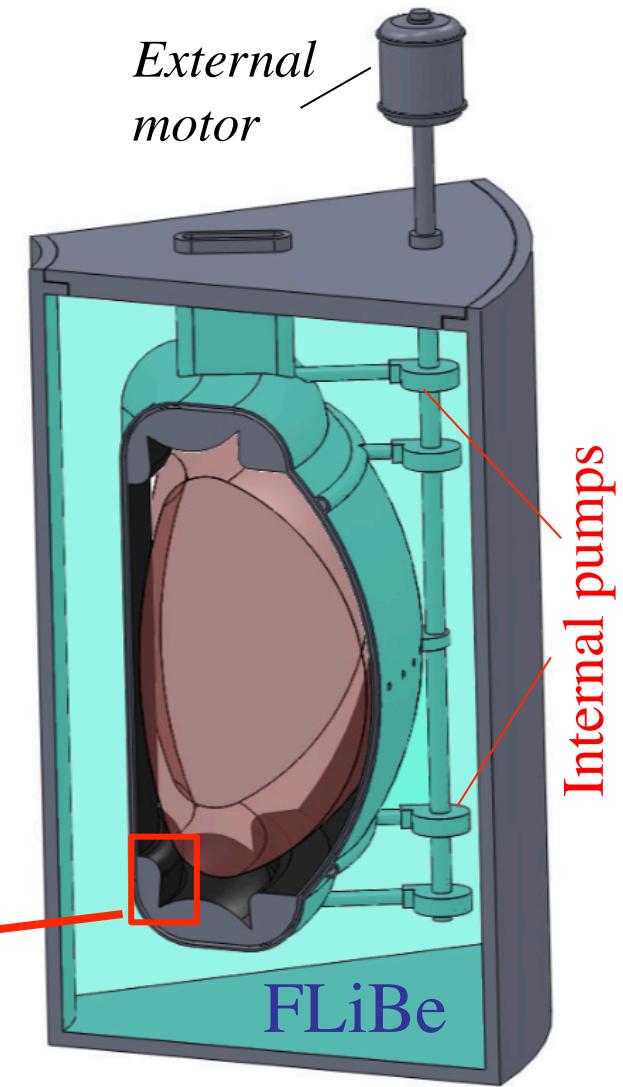


Immersion blanket: Very large heat sink in close proximity to internals provides fundamental improvement in heat exhaust



Immersion blanket: high-T molten salt FLiBe

Single-phase, low-pressure flow with minimum MHD effects



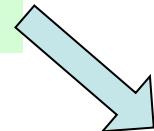
- TBR ~ 1.14
- High thermal efficiency $\sim 0.4 - 0.5$
- Shielding: 10 full-power coil lifetime
- Exploit FLiBe + Immersion blanket + Additive manufacturing to address high heat flux regions?

Student: “Ah ha! Now you’re in trouble...power exhaust much harder in high-field, compact tokamak.”

Well, not really...

- Work by Eich, Goldston, et al showed that outer midplane heat flux only scales like local poloidal magnetic field... not size.

$$q_{\parallel} \sim \frac{P_{SOL}}{R \lambda} \frac{B}{B_{pol}} \sim \frac{P_{SOL} B_{pol}}{R} \frac{B}{B_{pol}} \sim \frac{P B}{R}$$



But $P/S \sim P/R^2$ is a requirement

$$q_{\parallel} \sim \left(\frac{P}{S} \right) B R \sim B R$$

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But $P/S \sim P/R^2$ is a requirement

$$q_{\parallel} \sim \left(\frac{P}{S} \right) B R \sim B R$$

But gain is also requirement

$$p_{th} \tau_E \sim R^{1.3} B^3$$

$$q_{\parallel} \sim B \frac{1}{B^{3/1.3}} \sim B \frac{1}{B^{2.3}} \sim \frac{1}{B^{1.3}}$$

Student: “Ah ha! Now you’re in trouble...power exhaust much harder in high-field, compact tokamak.”

Well, not really...

$$q_{\parallel} \sim \frac{1}{B^{1.3}}$$

$$n_e \leq \frac{I_p}{\pi a^2}$$

Greenwald
density
limit

$$n_e \sim \frac{B}{q R}$$

Atomic physics + 2 point-model

$$P_{rad, \text{divertor}} \sim n_{div}^2 \sim n_e^4$$

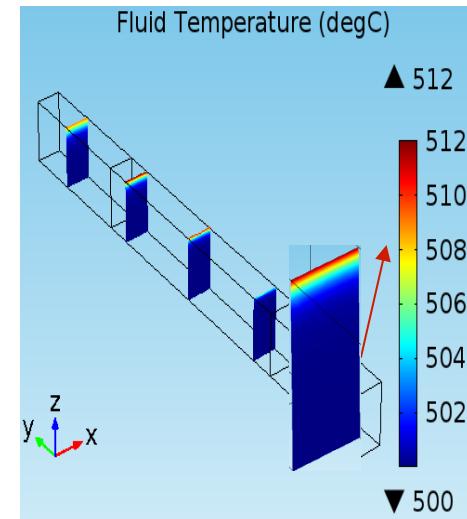
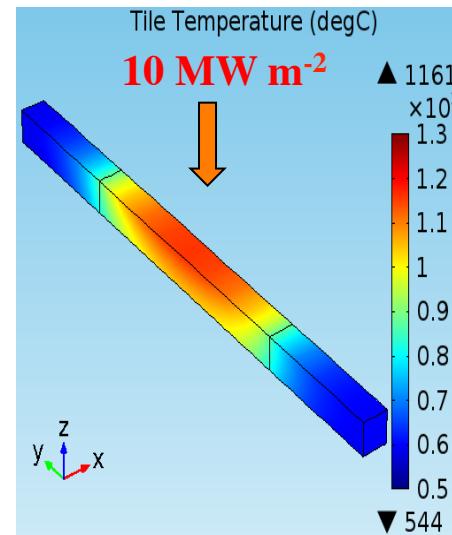
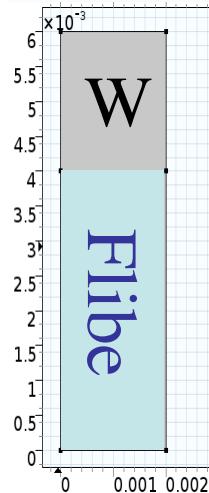
$$\frac{P_{rad}}{q_{\parallel} / R} \sim \frac{B^4 / R^4}{B^{-1.3} R^{-1}} \sim \frac{B^{5.3}}{R^3}$$

Divertor dissipation

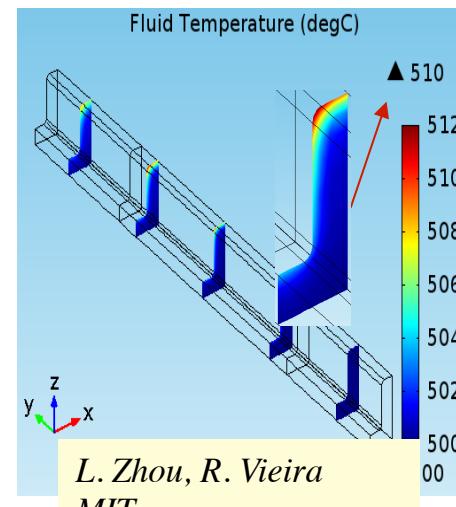
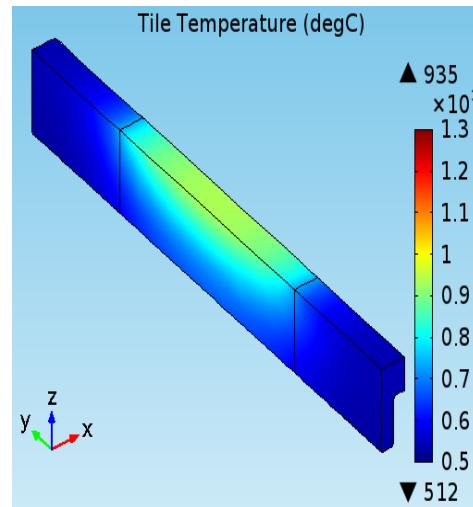
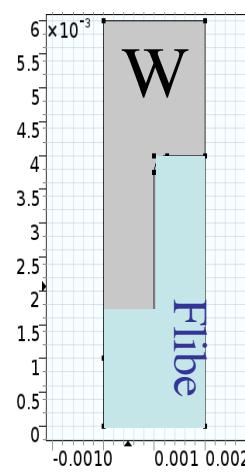
Preliminary study: Improved surface heat removal with FLiBe + 3-D printed cooling channels

Design class: ARC divertor & cooling

2 mm
thick
W tile



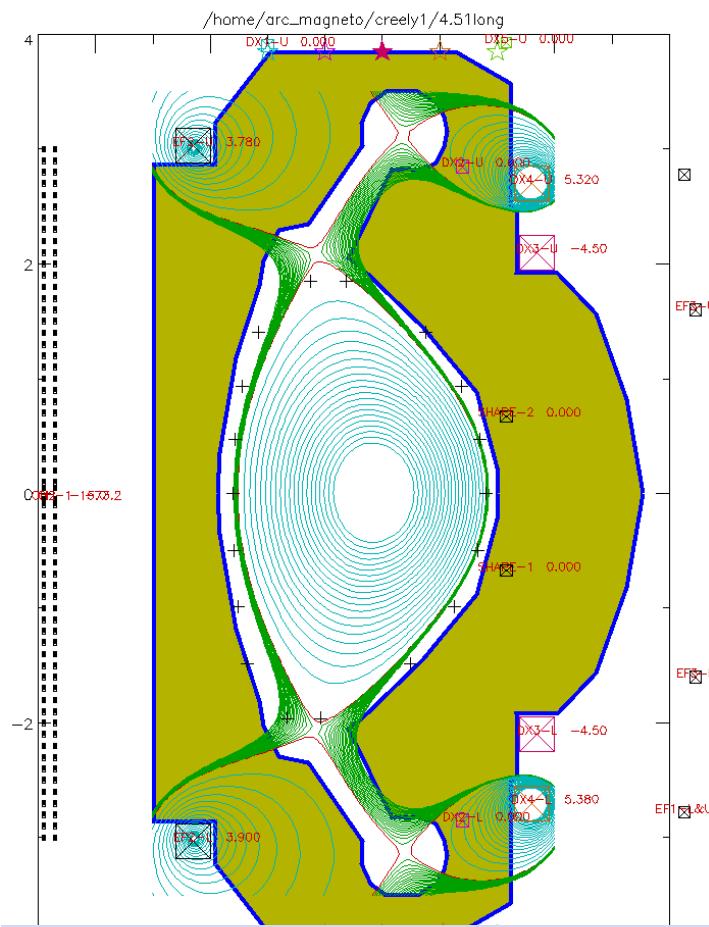
2 mm
thick
W tile
+
Internal
Fin



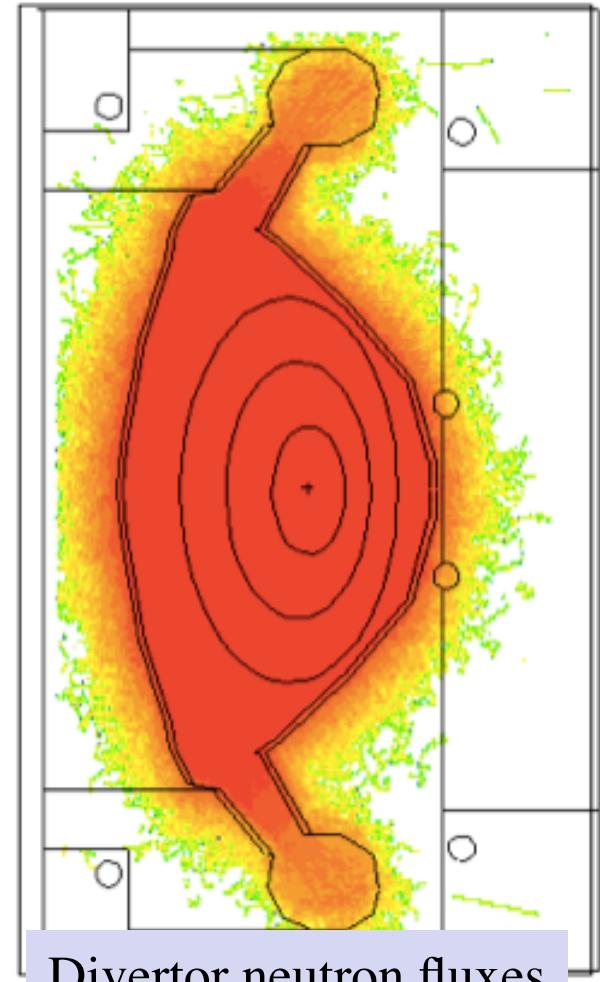
10 m/s
~ 1 bar
pressure
drop

L. Zhou, R. Vieira
MIT

Preliminary results of ARC divertor design using modular + FLiBe technology

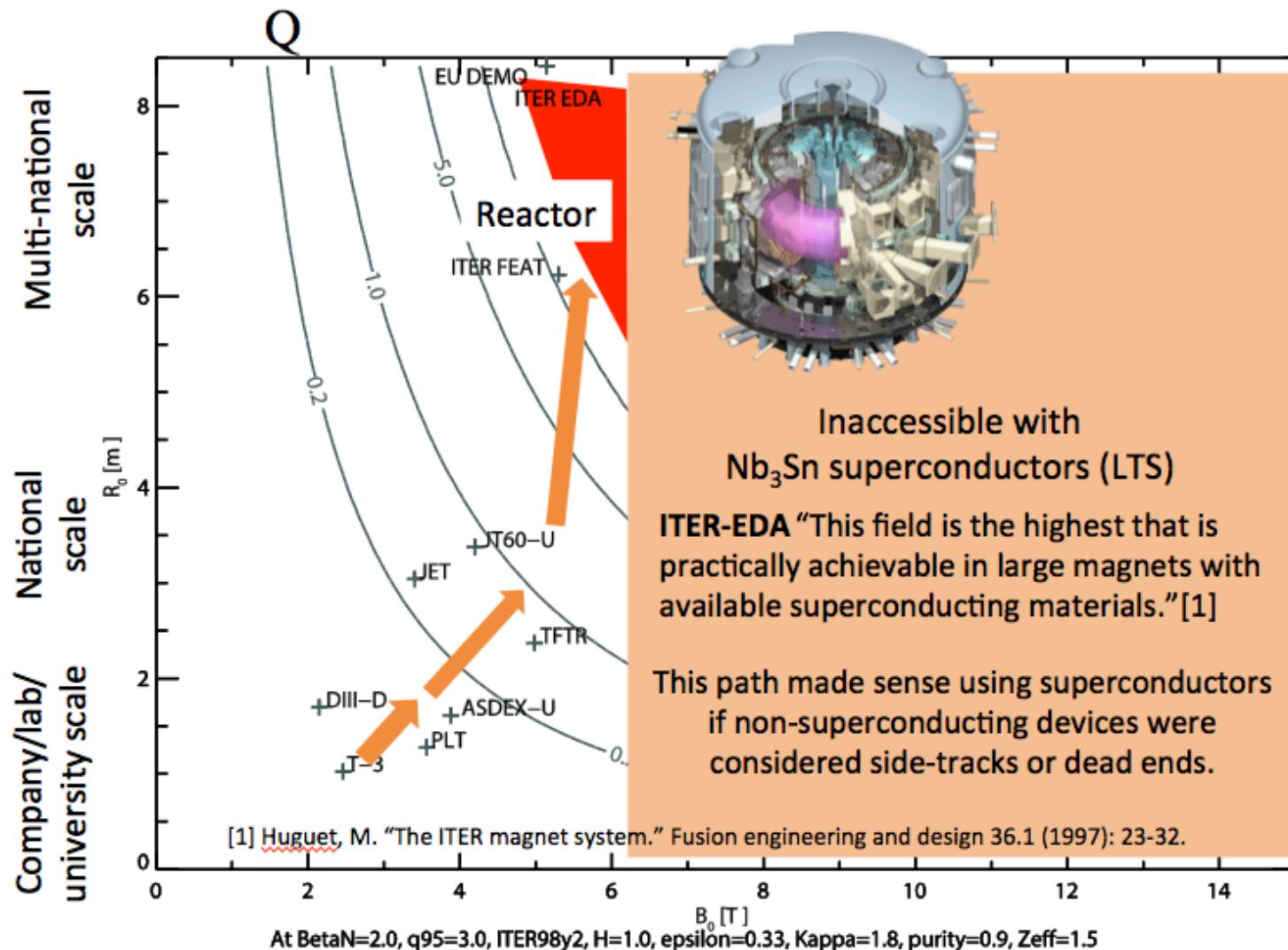


Advanced divertor equilibrium
with PF coils inside TF

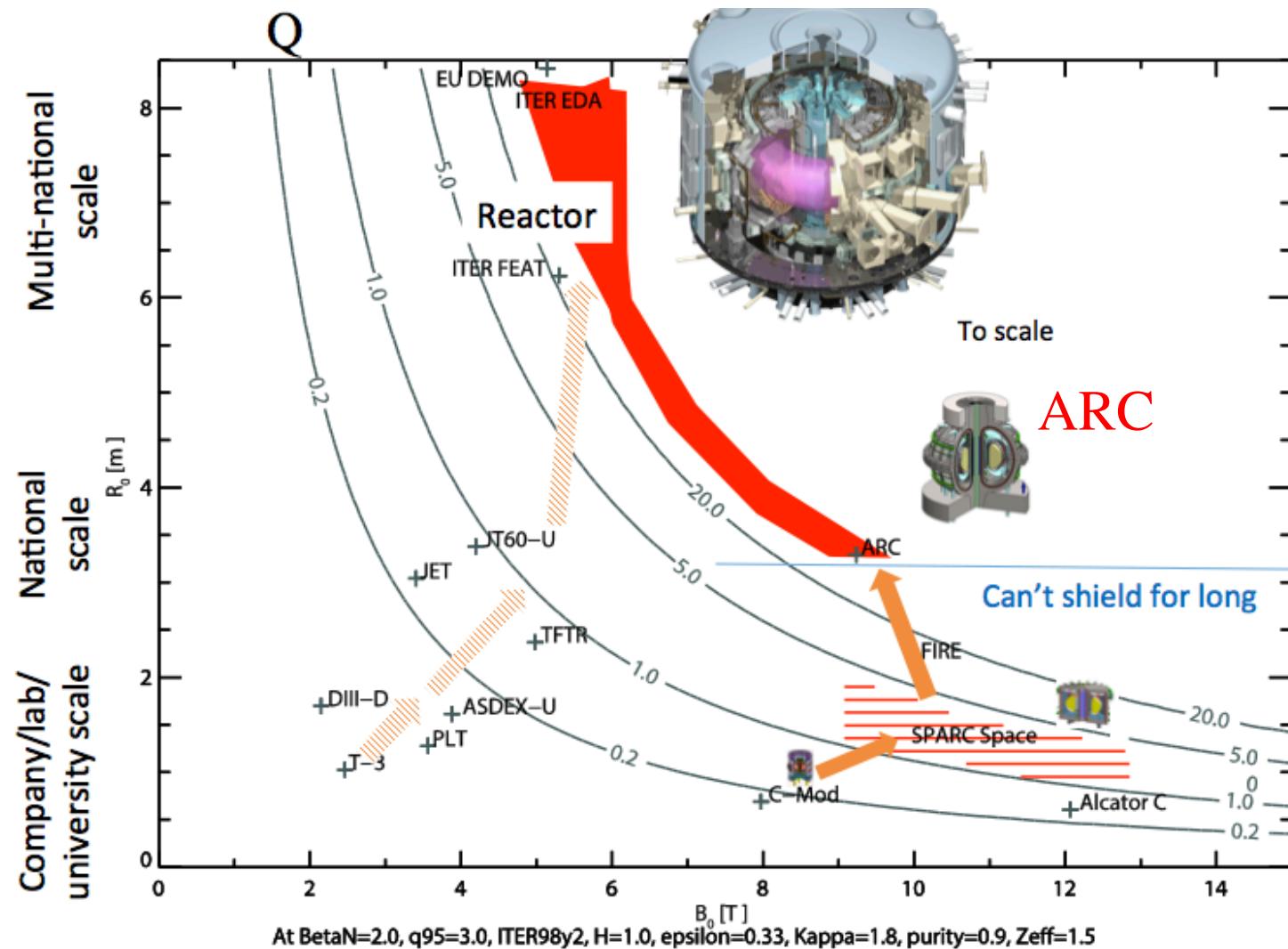


Divertor neutron fluxes
greatly reduced

The 20+ year-old magnet technology forces ITER to be large

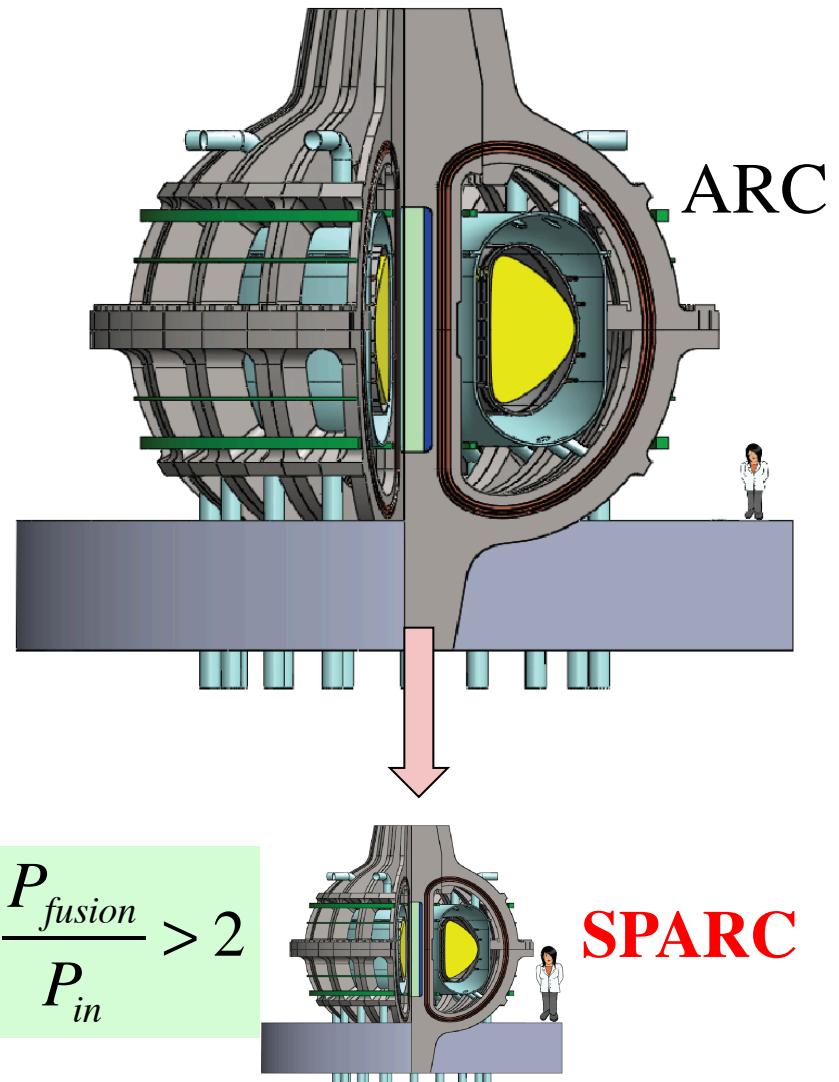


REBCO opens up fusion energy gain at very small scale for short time periods

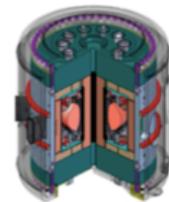


Smaller/sooner Privately-funded ARC: SPARC

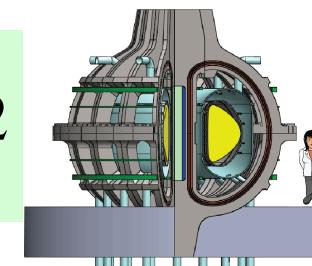
- REBCO superconductor coils
 - High B ~ 10 tesla
- Fusion energy gain in compact high-field field torus



High-B copper
Alcator at MIT
(existing)



$$\frac{P_{fusion}}{P_{in}} > 2$$



SPARC

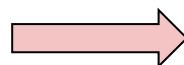
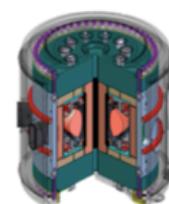
Soon as Possible ARC: SPARC

- REBCO superconductor coils
 - High $B \sim 10$ tesla
- Fusion energy gain in compact high-field field torus

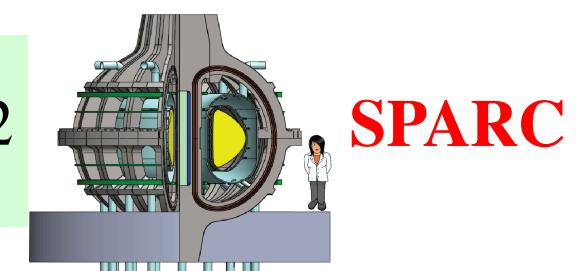
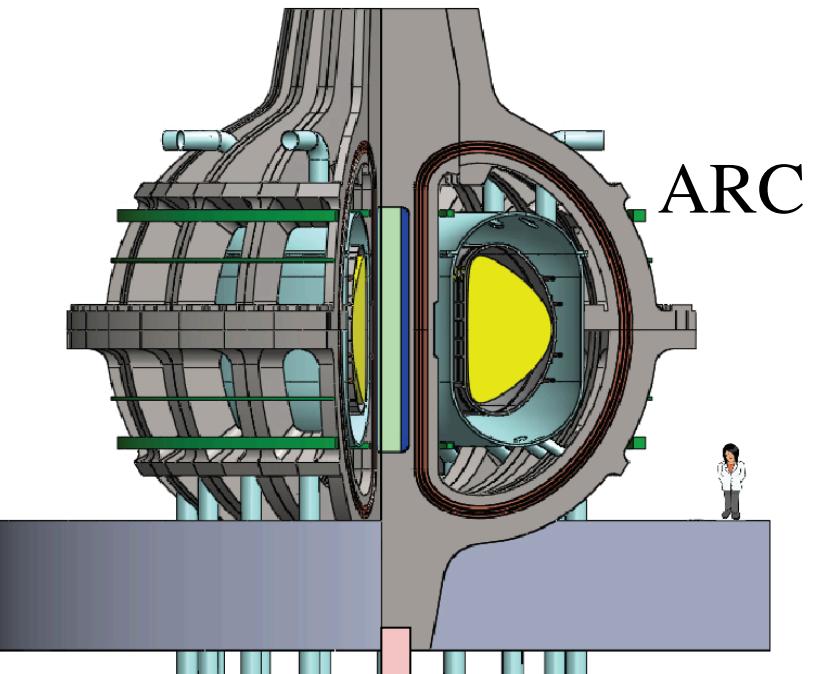
How small?

- Can afford it / sell it:
 $\sim 1\% \text{ volume of ITER} \rightarrow \sim 250 \text{ M\$}$
- Can build it quickly:
Sited at MIT
- Achieves D-T gain /w Alcator physics for ~ 10 seconds:
 $R \sim 1.5 \text{ m}$ ✓

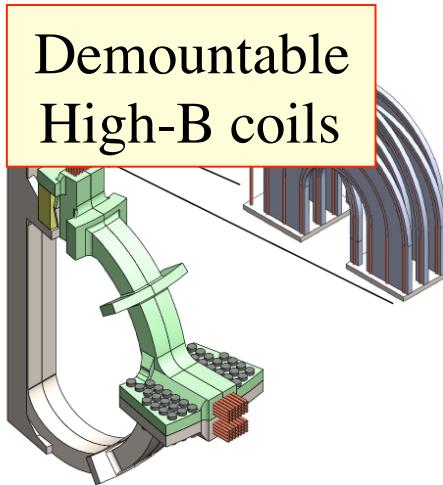
High-B copper
Alcator at MIT
(existing)



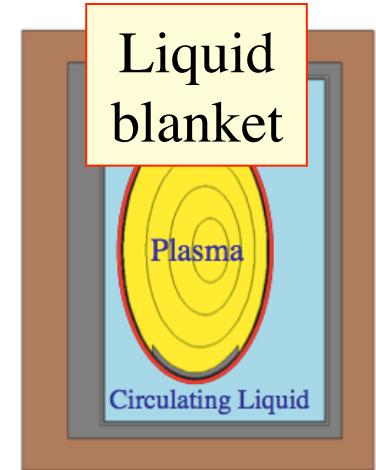
$$\frac{P_{fusion}}{P_{in}} > 2$$



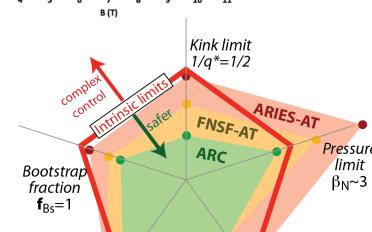
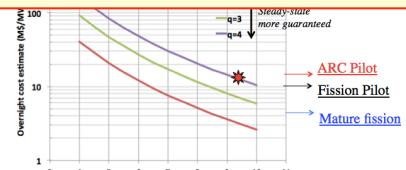
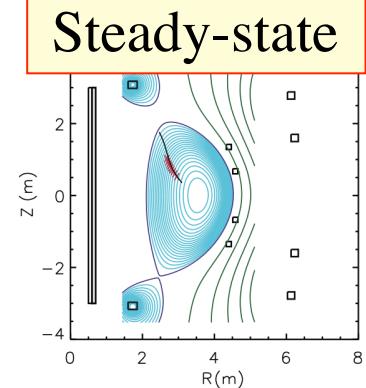
The disruptive innovation of high field, high-T superconductors



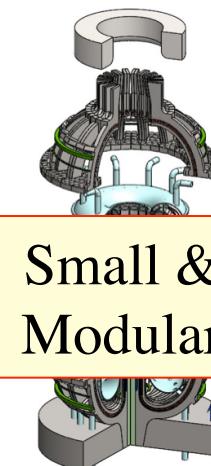
Superconductor



Smaller, sooner
Viable fusion energy

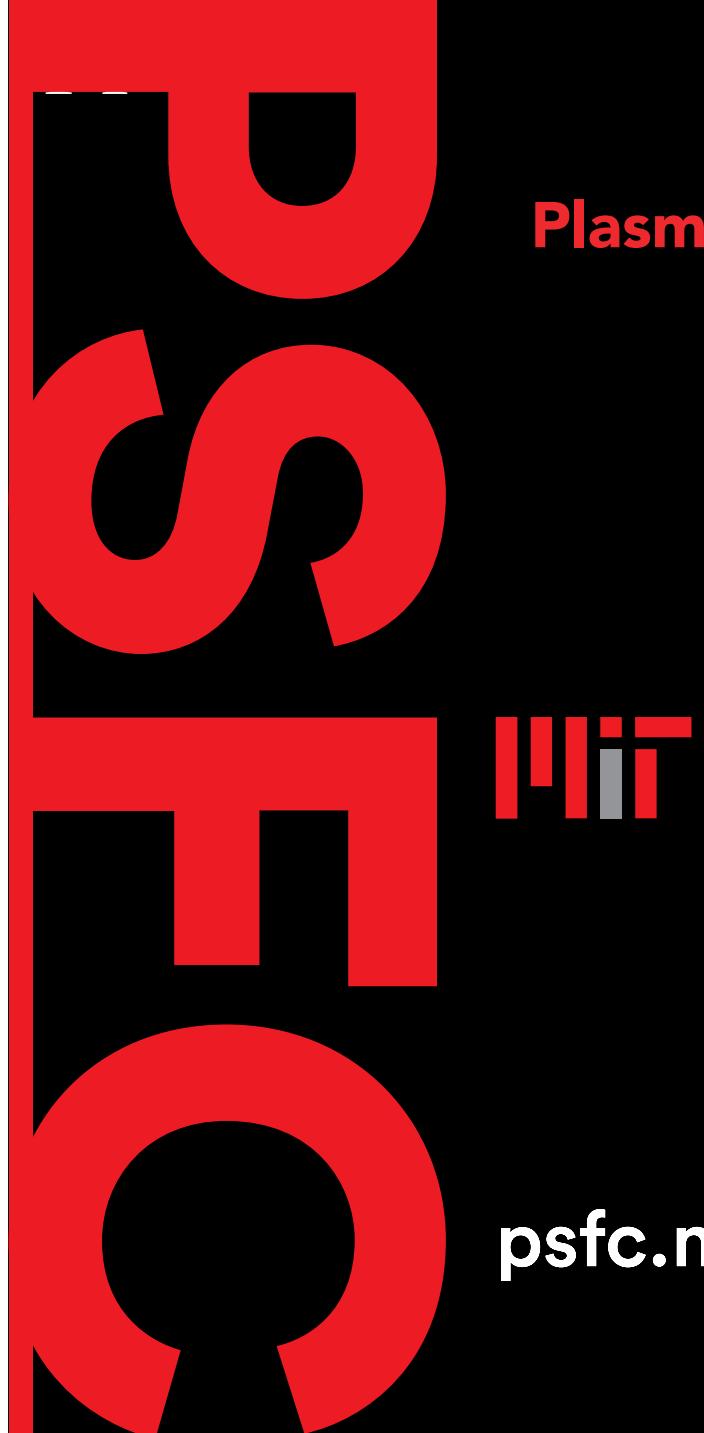


Operation robustness



Summary

- Magnetic fusion needs technology advances to make fusion energy practical to develop and economically viable.
 - The fact that we know this is a “good” sign...we have to speculate very little on the physics of magnetic confinement.
 - The key requirements are power density & gain & availability.
- Disruptive technological solutions are available, but require both integrated knowledge of fusion systems + imagination / cleverness/ “un-knowledge” e.g.
 - New high-field, high-temperature superconductor magnets
 - Jointed, demountable toroidal field coils
 - Immersion liquid blanket
 - 3-D printed components for heat removal
- Your generation will be key in developing these choices



Plasma Science & Fusion Center

Thank you

psfc.mit.edu