ECOFUSION – A Cellular, Electron Cooled Approach to Fusion Energy Generation

Del Larson

Larson Technical Solutions, Inc.

Outline

- Overall Goals of Fusion Production System
- Introduction of the ECOFusion Concept (Review of Electron Cooling)
- Setting Initial Parameters
- Ion Beam Physics
- Ion Beam Optics
- Electron Beam Physics
- Component Designs
- Summary Predictions on Device Operation

Overall Goals of Fusion Production System

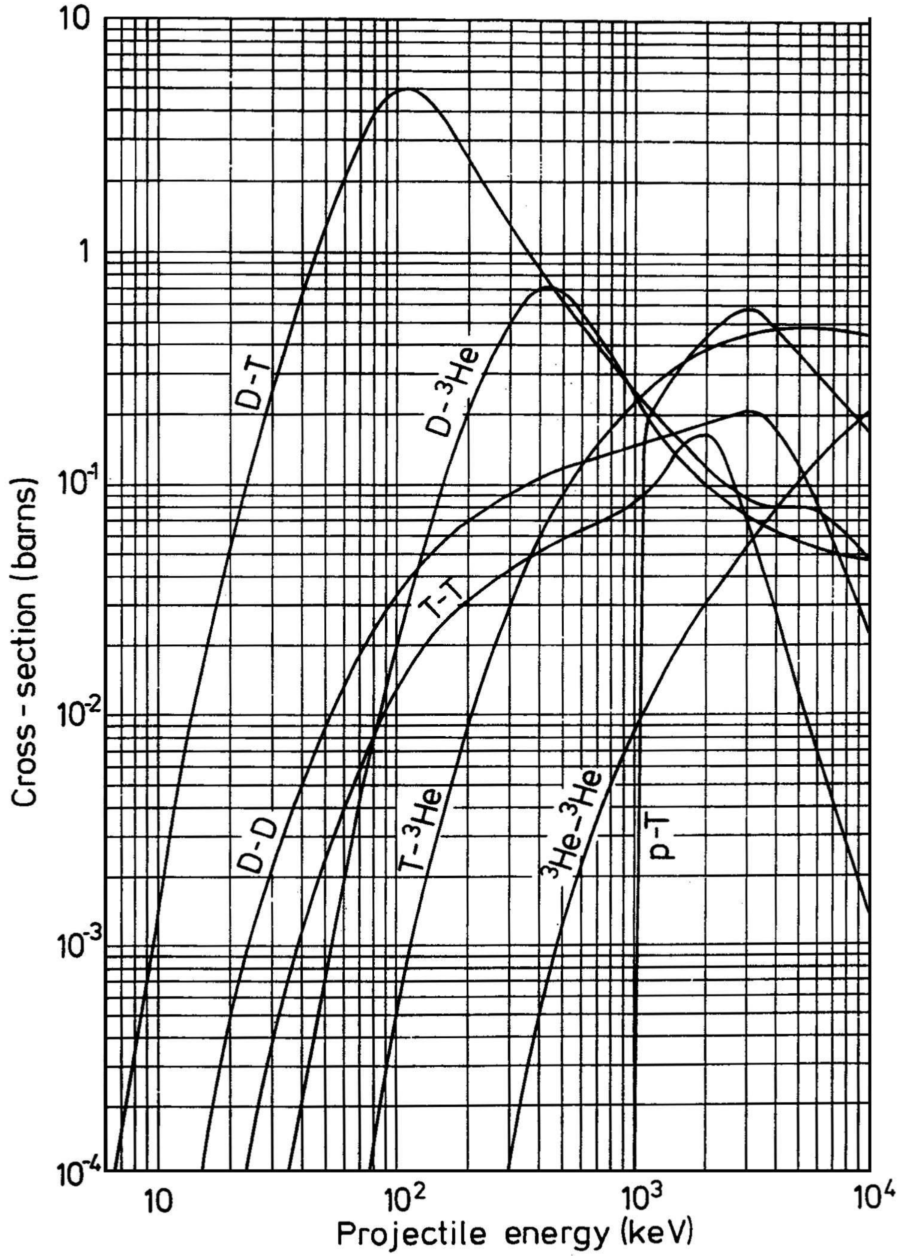
What is the Goal? (I)

- We Wish to Produce Clean, Essentially Limitless Power:
- D + T -> He4 + n + 17.6 MeV
- n + Li6 -> T + He4 + 4.8 MeV
- Seems simple enough, just bring enough D and T into collision at the right energy and fuel the world.
- However three problems exist:
  - – Space Charge Repulsion
  - – Appropriate Energy for Reaction to Occur
  - – Most particles will not fuse, even at the right energy

What is the Goal? (II)

- We Must have a Device that achieves:
- Q = (Power Out)/(Power In) > 2-3
- To Maximize Q, Three Attributes Needed:

1. Maximize Power Out by Overcoming Space Charge Repulsion
    - Introduce electrons to neutralize space charge
2. Maximize Power Out by Getting Particles to the Appropriate Energy for Reaction to Occur
    - Try to get center of mass energy as close to the peak of the cross section as possible
3. Minimize Power In by Recycling Particles
    - Give particles many chances at fusing; supply the input power only once


10
1
10^{-1}
10^{-2}
10^{-3}
10^{-4}
Cross - section (barns)
10
10^2
10^3
10^4
Projectile energy (keV)
D-T
D-^{3}He
T-T
D-D
T-^{3}He
^{3}He-^{3}He
p-T

Why Not Easy Way? – dE/dx

- Easiest approach – make polymer film with high Tritium content
- Impinge Deuterium Beam on film
- Recover Energy of spent beam
- Or use electron cooling to recycle spent beam
- Problem is that much more power is lost to dE/dx than is gained by fusion
- dE/dx losses rule out controlled beam/solid, beam/liquid and beam/gas approaches
- Aside: Inertial Confinement and Bombs work by having fusion happen so fast that particle densities remain high for a short period of time – a burn

What About Beam/Plasma?

- Problem here is that beam must get into and out of plasma, and confining apparatus must be passed
- Either the holes penetrating the apparatus must be large, or single scattering losses will be large (beam particles will intercept apparatus)

What About Pure Plasma?

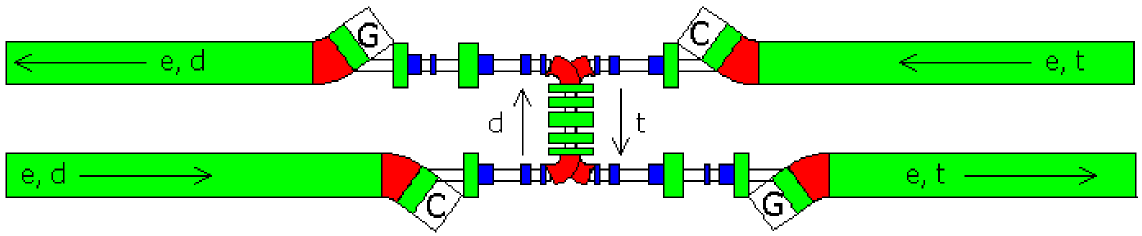
- Tokamak has held promise for decades
- To date, particles escaping the magnetic bottle have proved too problematic to achieve commercial fusion

Beam-Beam is the Remaining Choice

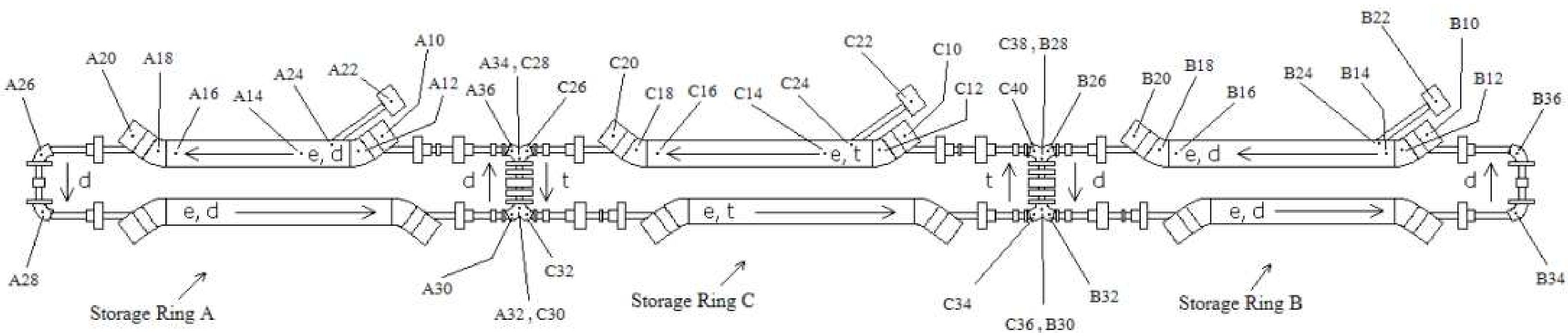
- Hence, one remaining possibility to explore is beam/beam fusion

Introduction of the ECOFusion Concept and a Review of Electron Cooling

Confinement from Magnetic Beam Focusing; Cooling Takes Away Imperfections and Allows Stacking



- The Interaction Region of ECOFusion Cell



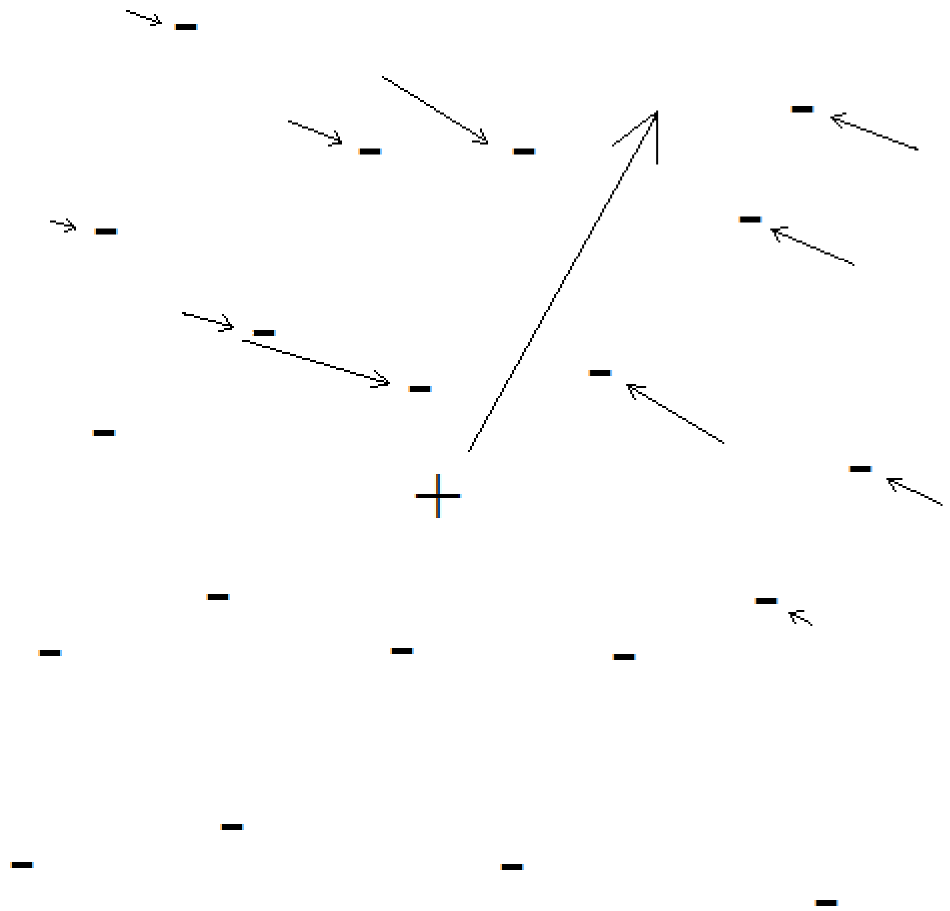
- A Three Ring ECOFusion Configuration

Meeting The Three Needs

1. Maximize Power Out by Overcoming Space Charge Repulsion
   - Tokamak – Trapped Plasma Electrons
   - ECOFusion – Electrons Trapped by Space Charge of Beams in non-cooling regions; Beam-beam overlap in cooling regions
2. Maximize Power Out by Getting Particles to the Appropriate Energy for Reaction to Occur
   - Tokamak – Thermal Distribution (10%?)
   - ECOFusion – Direct Acceleration (100%)
3. Minimize Power In by Recycling Particles
   - Tokamak – Magnetic Confinement
   - ECOFusion – Confinement Standard for Particle Beams; Electron Cooling of Strays

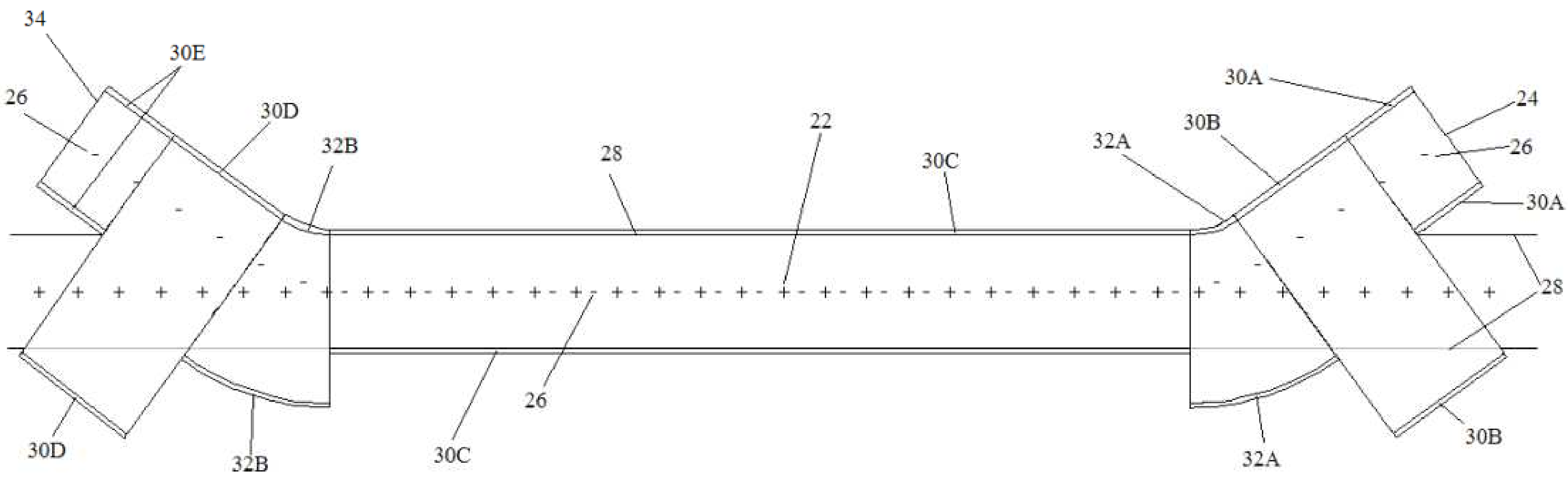
What Is Electron Cooling?

- Spitzer, 1956: Warm Ions Come to Equilibrium with Cooler Electrons in a Plasma



What Is Electron Cooling?

- Budker, 1966: Electron Beam is Simply a Moving Electron Plasma. Superimpose electron beam on ion beam to cool:



Electron Cooling Formulas

- $dv/dt = -[4\pi n c^4 r_e r_i / v^2] \ln(B)$ ->
- $d\mathbf{v}/dt=$

  $-[4ILc^3 r_e r_i \ln(B)/Ca^2 e\beta]\iiint[\mathbf{u}\, g_e(\mathbf{v_e})/(\mathbf{v}-\mathbf{v_e})^2]d\mathbf{v_e}$
- For perfectly cold electrons, $g_e(\mathbf{v_e}) \to \delta$, and integrating leaves: to

  $t_{coolcolde} = v_{initial}^3 a^2 eC\beta/[12ILc^3 r_e r_i \ln(B)]$
- dominant dp/p:

  $t_{coolcolde}=(dp/p)^3 a^2 eC\beta/[12ILr_e r_i \ln(B)]$
- dominant ε_n:

  $t_{coolcolde}=\varepsilon_n^3 a^2 eC\beta/[12ILx^3\pi^3 r_e r_i \ln(B)]$
  - (often expressed with $\varepsilon_n^3 = \beta^3\gamma^3\varepsilon_n^3$; an exaggeration.)
- dominant θ:

  $t_{coolcolde}=\theta^3 a^2 eC\beta^4/[12ILr_e r_i \ln(B)]$

An Overview of Needed Analysis and Setting Some Initial Parameters

Needed Calculations:

- Three Regions of Analysis: Colliding Beams; Cooling Section; Free Transport
- Many Entities: One or More Beams; Background Gas; Trapped, Charged, Neutralizing Particles; Walls; Superimposed Magnetic Fields
- Forces: Gravity (neglected); Electromagnetism; Strong and Weak (wrapped into fusion cross section)
- Electromagnetic Forces break down into Scattering and Collective Behavior Categories
- Scattering: dE/dx; Single Scattering; Multiple Scattering; Intrabeam Scattering
- Collective: Beam Steering and Focusing (Ion Optics); Space Charge; Resonances; Instabilities
- Scattering and Collective Effects have been Analyzed For All Entities in Each Region; Only Highlights will be Presented today

Some Initial Calculations

- To Keep Optics the Same: $m_D v_D = m_T v_T$
- Because of Electron Cooling Beam Single Scattering: $(1/2)m_D v_D^2 + (1/2)m_T v_T^2 = 400$ keV

- Hence, $\sigma_F = 0.85$ barn
- $E_T = (1/2)m_T v_T^2 = 160$ keV, $E_D = 240$ keV

- Possible parameters: L = 1.2 mm, $I_D = I_T =$ 10,000 A, r = 90μ -> $n_D=5.12\times10^{17}$ cm^{-3}, $n_T=7.66\times10^{17}$ cm^{-3}, power output = 29.2 kW per focus region

A 1 GW Power Plant:

- Each ECOFusion cell one meter high, three meters wide and 22 meters long

- Each ECOFusion cell produces 58.4 kW of Power (2 IRs per cell)

- A 1 GW Power Plant would then be 220 meters wide by 219 meters long by 24 meters high.

Ion Beam Physics

Ion Beam Physics

- Neutralizing Self Space Charge
  - Electron Beam Neutralizes in Overlap Region
  - Trapped Neutralizing Electrons in Other Regions
- dE/dx
  - IR Equilibrium Estimate is a 5625 V Trap
  - IR Equilibrium Estimate is a 1000 eV electron plasma
  - IR Equilibrium Estimate is 750 W dE/dx loss per IR
  - IR Halo Production 2 Amp T, 3 Amp D
  - Trapping Fields Lead to Halo
  - Non–IR Equilibrium Estimate is ~300 V Trap
  - IR Equilibrium Estimate is a ~50 eV electron plasma
  - IR Equilibrium Estimate is ~15 W dE/dx loss per beam
  - IR Halo Production 0.083 Amp T, 0.21 Amp D
- Remnant Self Field Effects
  - Need about 1 micron steering at IR
  - Focal properties of self magnetic field acceptable
  - Effects of Merge Reason Acceptable

Ion Beam Physics (2)

- Single Scattering
  - 200 mRad Assumed Limit
  - Leads to 10 barn cross section for losses
- Multiple Scattering
  - Negligible in comparison to IBS
- Intrabeam Scattering
  - Leading Cause of dp/p heating:
  - Analysis shows that longitudinal growth in focal region is dp/p = 9.8×10^{-4} for Tritium case
  - Analysis shows that longitudinal growth in focal region is dp/p = 4.2×10^{-4} for Deuterium case
- Injection
  - 20 mRad Injection Angle for D Cooled in Single Turn
  - 33 mRad Injection Angle for T Cooled in Single Turn
- Instabilities and Resonances
  - Single Turn Cooling Implies no Problems here
- Recombination and Charge Exchange (small)

Equilibrium Ion Beam Emittance

- Non-Magnetized Electron Cooling predicts Equilibrium emittances of
  - dp/p = β^*/β_{beam}: 4.23×10^{-3} (T) 2.93×10^{-3} (D)
  - $\varepsilon_{nx}=\varepsilon_{nz}=\beta\varepsilon_z$: 4.98×10^{-6} m-r (T) 5.68×10^{-6} m-r (D)
- Magnetized Electron Cooling predicts Equilibrium emittances of
  - dp/p = β^*/β_{beam}: 7.45×10^{-4} (T) 5.16×10^{-4} (D)
  - $\varepsilon_{nx}=\varepsilon_{nz}=\beta\varepsilon_z$: 5.64×10^{-9} m-r (T) 1.02×10^{-8} m-r (D)
- Optics Studies Use Equilibrium Emittances:
  - dp/p = β^*/β_{beam}: 7×10^{-4} (T) 7×10^{-4} (D)
  - $\varepsilon_{nx}=\varepsilon_{nz}=\beta\varepsilon_z$: 2.11×10^{-7} m-r (T) 2.11×10^{-7} m-r (D)

Sanity Check – FEL Operation

- MeV, kiloamp electron beams have been produced for free electron laser experiments
- Electrons are much more susceptible to instability (due to their light mass).
- The ECOFusion device is proposed to use 10,000 A, ~200 keV ion beams – momentum rigidity is about twice what it is for the FEL electron beams.
- The path length traveled by the ions is shorter, and the particle beam currents similar.
- Hence, there should be no instability in the short path that the ions are required to traverse in the ECOFusion cell.

Ion Beam Optics

- Core Optics with Various Design Currents
- Halo Optics
- Aberrations
- Sanity Check
- Redundancy Check Against TRACE 3-D

Core Ion Optics

- Deuterium Studied at Zero Current
- Deuterium Studied at Full Current (10 kA)
- Deuterium Studied at Half Current (5 kA)
- Tritium Studied at Zero Current
- Tritium Studied at Full Current (10 kA)
- All Current States Possible With Magnetic Field Adjustments
- Magnetic Changes were continuous and smooth (tuning possible)

Deuterium Core Optics

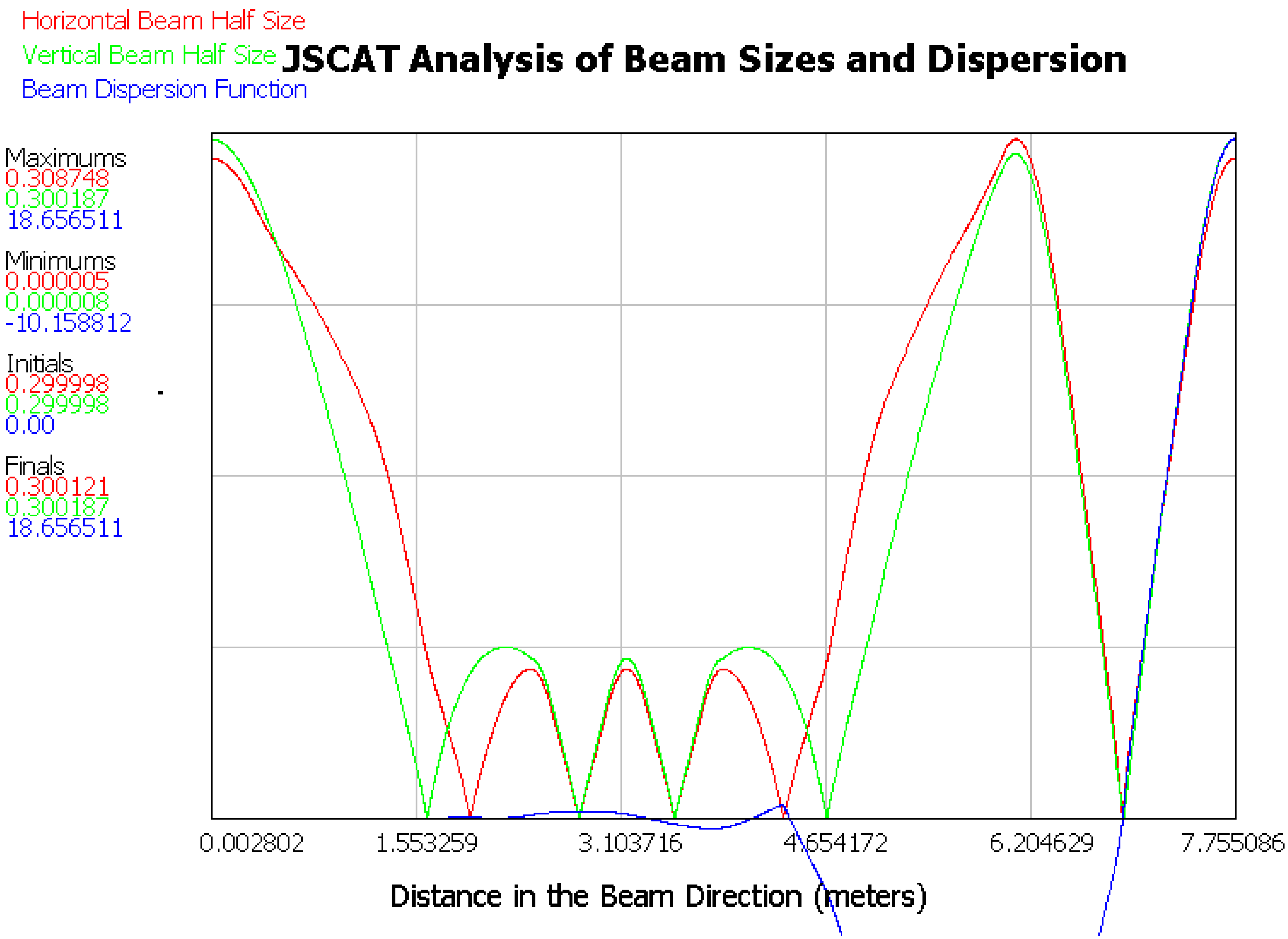


Table 14.1. Magnetic Excitations For Various Conditions.

Element	Deuterium, full current	Deuterium, half current	Deuterium, no current	Tritium, full current	Tritium no current
S1	2.19 kG	2.60 kG	2.95 kG	2.18 kG	3.00 kG
Q1	-6.40 G/cm	-9.07 G/cm	-12.2 G/cm	-6.74 G/cm	-12.1 G/cm
Q2	27.7 G/cm	45.8 G/cm	82.5 G/cm	32.4 G/cm	81.6 G/cm
Q3	-251 G/cm	-205 G/cm	-322 G/cm	-278 G/cm	-324 G/cm
S2	10 kG	10.5 kG	11 kG	10 kG	11 kG
S3	6 kG	6 kG	6 kG	6 kG	6 kG
S4	10 kG	10 kG	10 kG	10 kG	10 kG
S5	6 kG	6 kG	6 kG	6 kG	6 kG
S6	10 kG	10.5 kG	11 kG	10 kG	11 kG
Q4	-299 G/cm	-187 G/cm	-355 G/cm	-210 G/cm	-333 G/cm
Q5	29.3 G/cm	38.2 G/cm	82.9 G/cm	13.9 G/cm	80.2 G/cm
Q6	-6.35 G/cm	-9.07 G/cm	-12.2 G/cm	-6.74 G/cm	-12.1 G/cm
S7	4.45 kG	4.67 kG	4.94 kG	4.30 kG	5.02 kG
Q7	2.06 kG/cm	2.06 kG/cm	2.06 kG/cm	1.56 kG/cm	1.56 kG/cm
Q8	-2.97G/cm	-2.02 G/cm	-2.76 G/cm	0.1 G/cm	-2.02 G/cm
S8	4.36 kG	4.50 kG	4.63 kG	4.37 kG	4.69 kG

Halo Optics

• Halo Produced for IR and Non-IR regions for both Deuterium and Tritium

• Magnitude of Halo determined by dE/dx and particle loss equilibrium, which determines trap potential and trap source magnitude

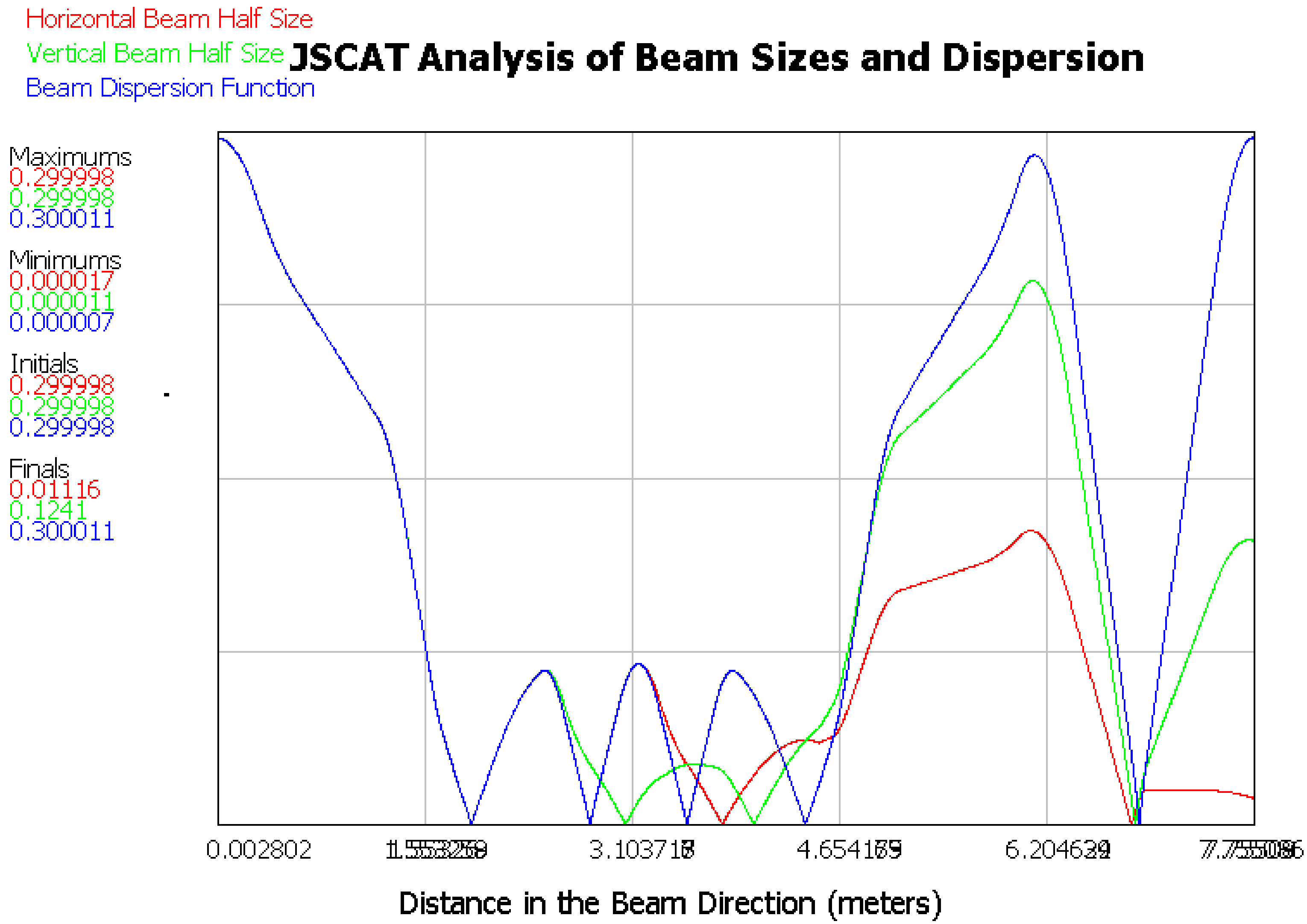
• IR Currents of 2 A (Tritium) and 3 A (Deuterium) provide necessary trap in IR region

• Non-IR Currents of 0.083 A (Tritium) and 0.21 A (Deuterium) provide necessary trap in IR region

• Halo will be produced for incoming beam only in IR, as outgoing beam is immersed in oncoming beam's halo after the waist is passed

• All Halo must be Transported to the Cooler with Trajectories that can be Cooled, and Single Turn Cooling is Desired

Deuterium IR Horizontal Halo Optics



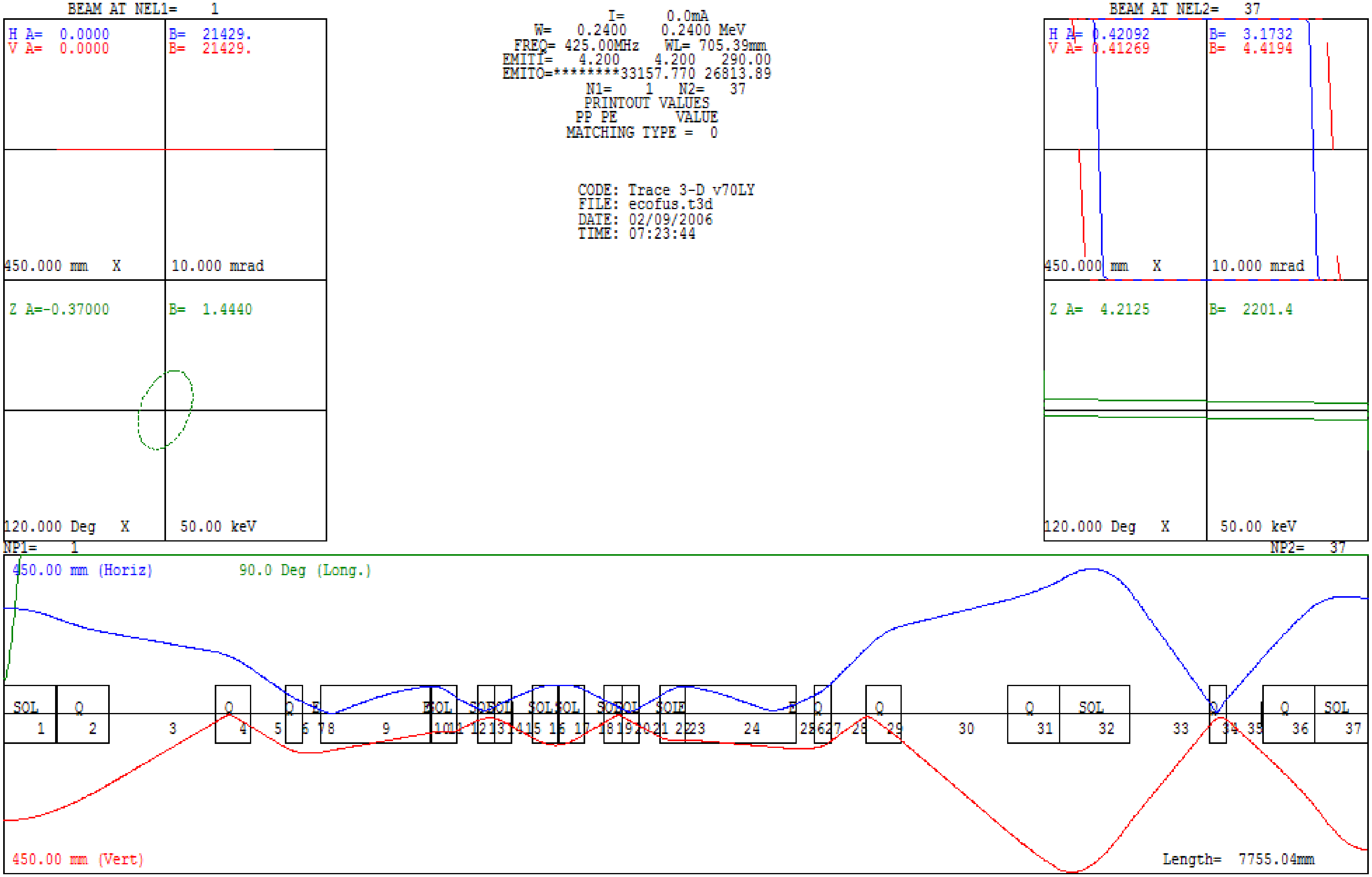
Aberrations

- Chromatic Aberrations
  - introduced by Solenoids
  - with dp/p = 0.07% -> 90 micron spot
- Spherical Aberrations
  - $dr_{min} = |dr_{si}|/4 = |M\ f\ \tan 3\gamma_o|/24$
  - $dr_{min} << 90$ microns

Dispersion

- Nominal Design has 40 micron contribution – could reduce this

TRACE 3-D Redundancy Check



Sanity Check – FNAL 1 MeV He-3 PET Accelerator Comparison:

- PET 200 micron spot ; ECOFusion 90 micron spot
- PET 50 mr convergence; ECOFusion 250 mr convergence
- PET 4.25 cm max beam size; ECOFusion 30 cm max beam size
- PET 1 MeV He-3; ECOFusion 0.4 MeV Tritium & 0.6 MeV Deuterium
- PET 40 milliAmps pulsed; ECOFusion 10 kiloAmps continuous

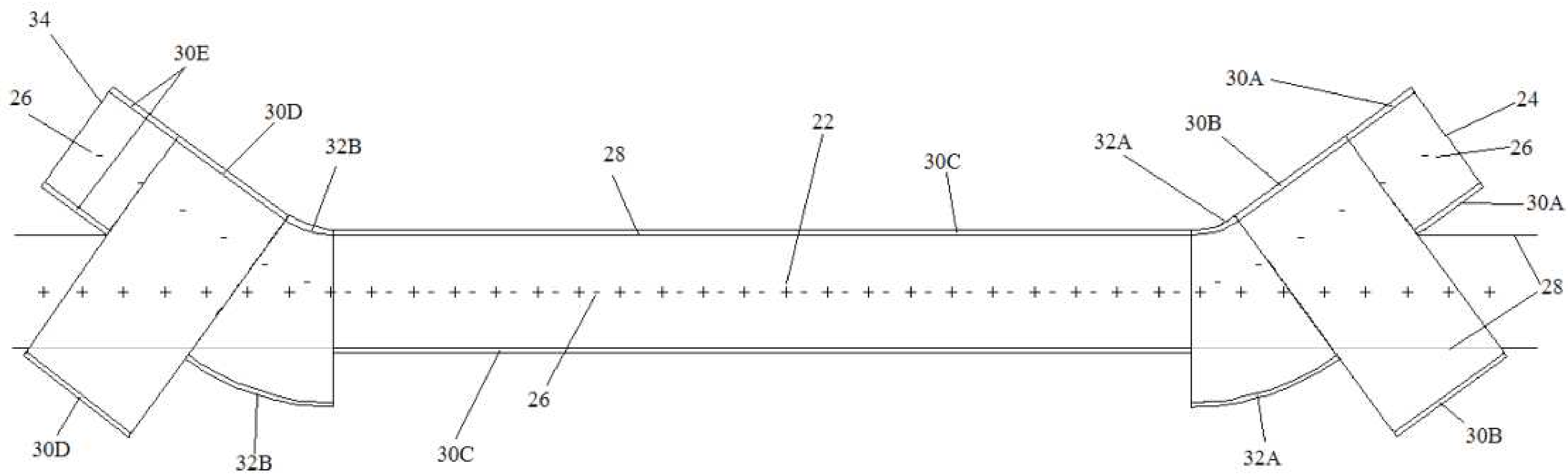
Electron Beam Physics

- Electron Beam Parameters
- Interaction with the Solenoidal Guide Field
- Interaction with the Background Gas
- Interaction with the Ion Beams
- Electron Beam Self Interactions
- Interaction with Trapped Ions

Electron Beam Parameters

- Electron Beam Current – 10,000 A
- Cathode Emission – 10 A/cm^2
- Cathode Radius – 17.8 cm
- Cathode Temperature – 0.1 eV
- Electron Beam Emittance
  - $\varepsilon_{n6\sigma} = \pi$(178 mm)(1.09 mr) = 193 π mm-mr
- Electron Beam Momentum Spread
  - $(\Delta p/p)_{ed} = 1/2(0.1/67.3) = 7.42\text{x}10^{-4}$
  - $(\Delta p/p)_{et} = 1/2(0.1/30.5) = 1.64\text{x}10^{-3}$

The Electron Cooler



Electron Beam Interaction with the Solenoidal Guide Field

- Electron Optics – Electrons Follow Solenoidal Guide Field
- 100 Gauss Solenoidal Field in Cooler Straight Section
- Electron Gyro Radius in Solenoidal Field is 0.107 mm (both cases)
- Gyro Motion Reduces Solenoidal Guide Field by 0.003 Gauss (plasma β is < 10-4)

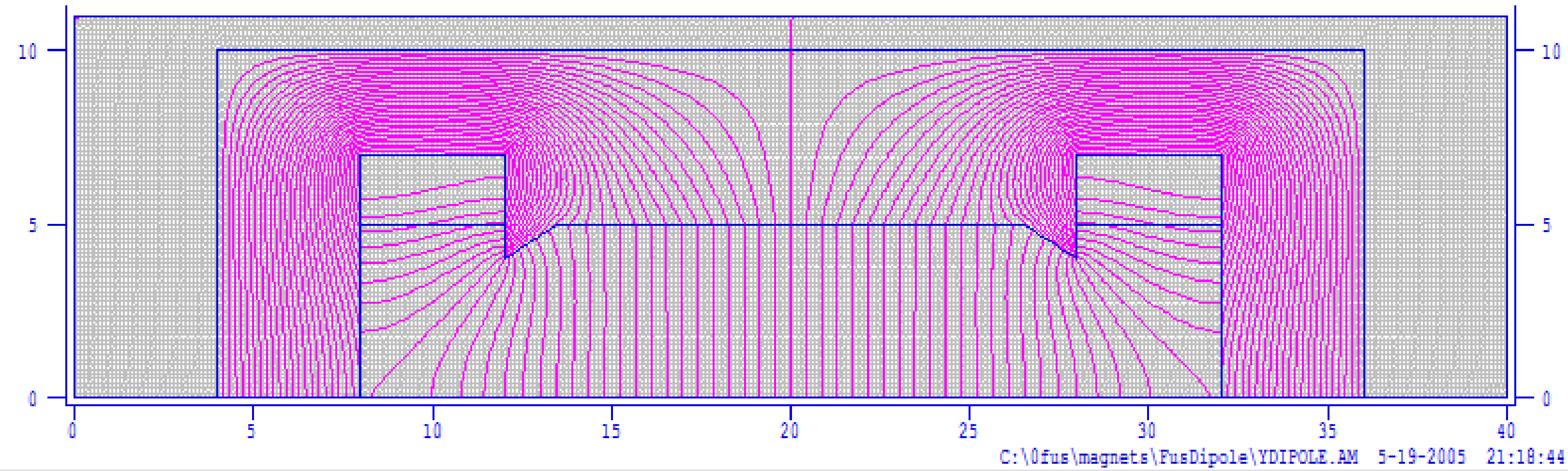
Electron Interaction with Trapped Ions

- Single Scattering
  - Tritium case, 4.7% of electrons scatter at > 100 mr in 1 m
  - Deuterium case, 0.7% of electrons scatter at > 100 mr in 1 m
- Multiple Scattering
  - Tritium case, 20% Emittance Growth in 10 cm
  - Deuterium case, 7.3% Emittance Growth in 10 cm
- These Values not a problem at 400 keV design, but scaling with velocity is strong and at 100 keV problems are significant

Component Designs

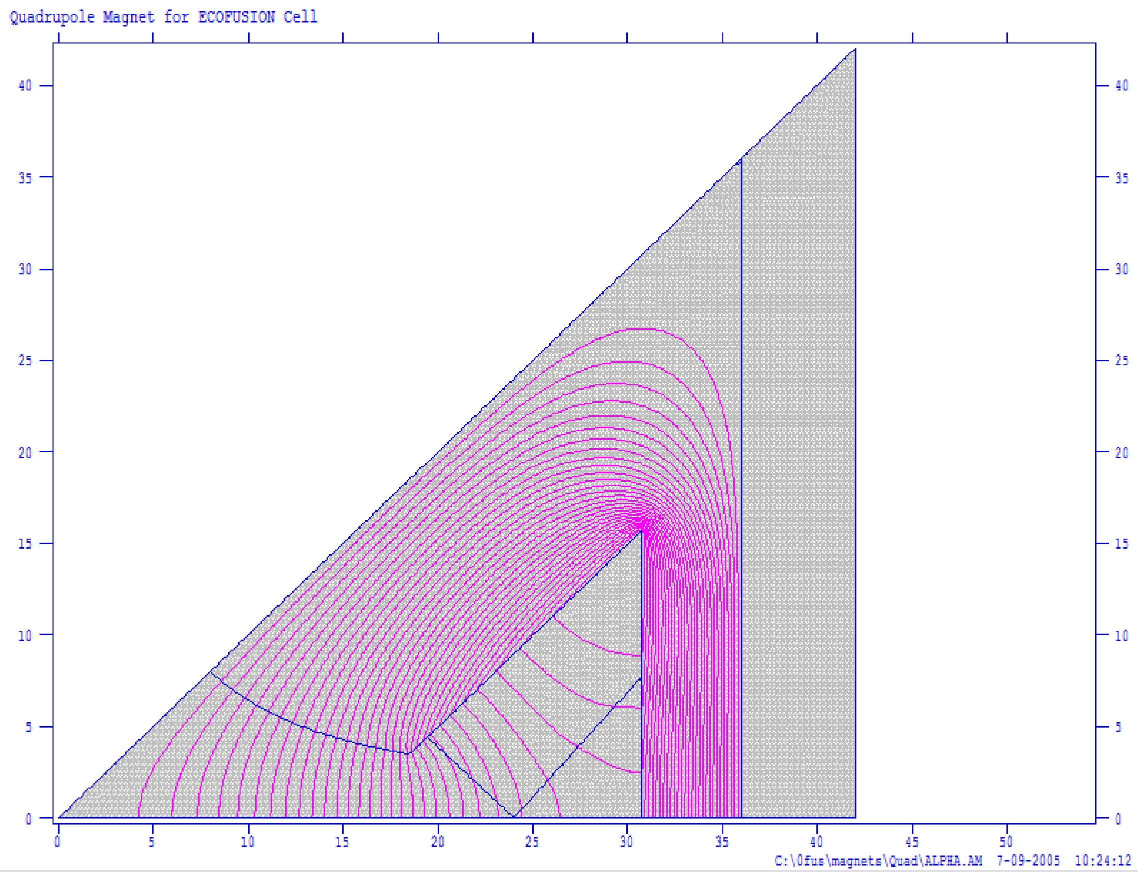
- Dipole Design
- Quadrupole Design
- Solenoid Design
- Electron Beam Components
- Power Estimates

Dipole Design



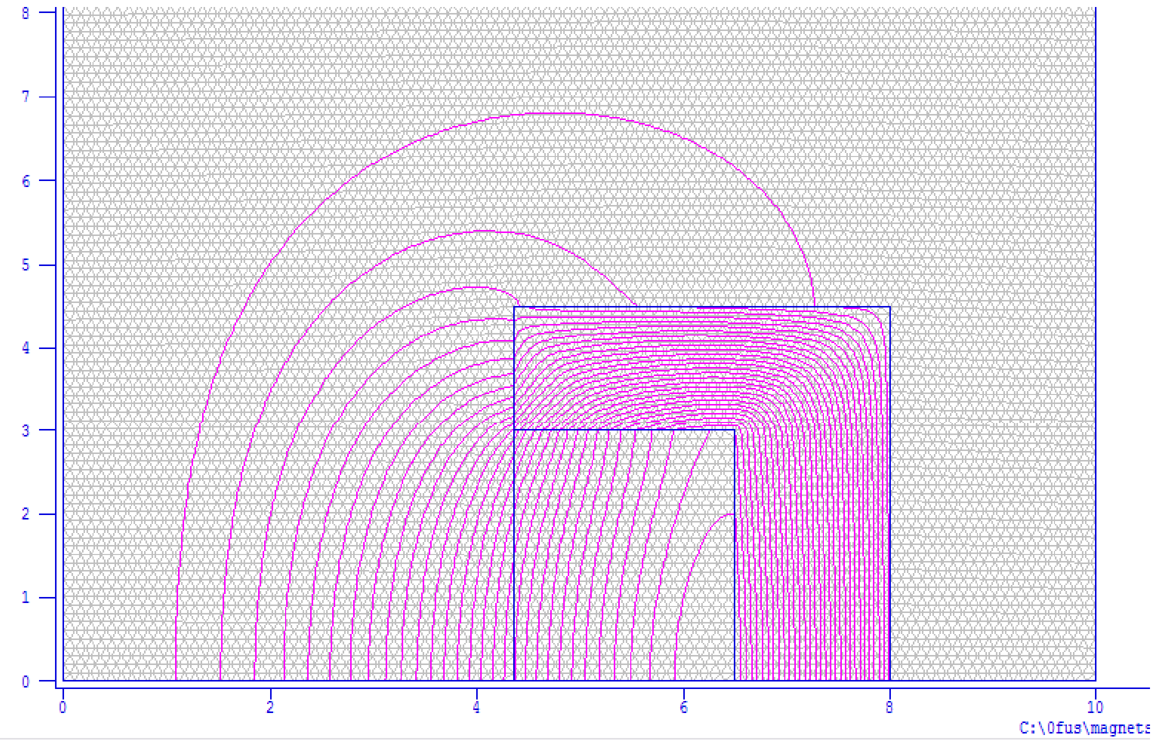
- POISSON Design Above
- power required for the coils I^2R = 15.3 kW

Quadrupole Design



- POISSON Design Above – meets Required Specs

Solenoid Design



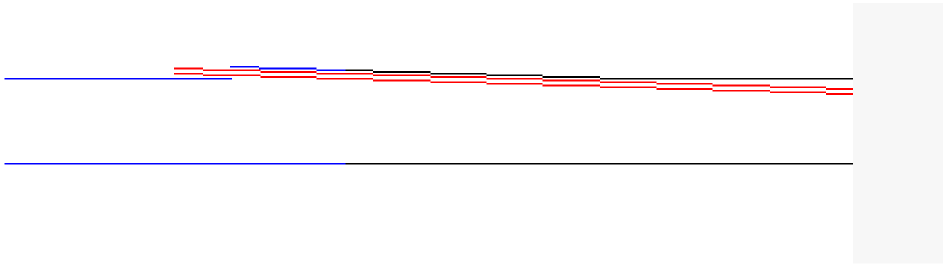
- POISSON Design Above – meets Required Specs

Electron Beam Components

• Standard Cathode Surface for Emission

• Magnetic Solenoid and Torroid have simple wire windings yielding 100 Gauss Fields

• Collector will Suppress Secondaries



• Simple Injection System Above

Table 28.17. Hardware Power Estimates.

Parameter		Value	See Section
Electromagnetic Dipole Power		15.3 kW	22.3
Electromagnetic Quadrupole Power (Medium Quads – Q2 and Q5)		0.467 kW	23.3
Electromagnetic Quadrupole Power (Large Quads – Q1, Q6 and Q8)		0.361 kW	23.4
Electromagnetic Quadrupole Power (Small Quads – Q3 and Q4)		0.245 kW	23.4
Electromagnetic Quadrupole Power (Very Small Quad – Q7)		0.169 kW	23.4
Electromagnetic Solenoid Power (8.7 Inch ID Solenoids – S2, S3, S4, S5 and S6)		143 kW	24.5
Electromagnetic Solenoid Power (32 Inch ID Solenoids – S1, S7 and S8)		166 kW	24.3
Electron Cooler Solenoid Power		18.4 kW	26.1
Electron Cooler Toroid Power		3.12 kW	26.2
$\Delta I/I$ Requirement of Power Supplies		1 part in 10^6	14.15

Summary

- Predictions on Q
- Path to Improvements
- The Dream of D-D -> He^4
- Summary Comments

Predictions on Q

- Q scientific = 58.4/(12.7+4.94+2.744) +1 = 2.86 + 1 = 3.86
- Q engineering = 58.4/(12.7+4.94+2.744+5+5+4+4+2+2+10)+1 = 1.11+1 = 2.11
- 12.7 – ion beam drive power
- 4.94 – electron beam drive power (T)
  - IBS dominant contributor; power recovery assumed
- 2.744 – electron beam drive power (D)
  - IBS dominant contributor; power recovery assumed
- Remaining factors are various inefficiencies
- Note that Permanent Magnet Solenoids Are Needed

Path to Improvements

- Electron scattering in merge regions a problem at lower velocity
- Self magnetic fields limit currents
- However, gains could be made by moving somewhat toward lower energy, higher currents
- Also, efforts at ion microscopy could increase power output by lowering the radius
- One IR instead of Two Immediately leads to 4X Smaller r, which leads to Two times output power and less halo

The Dream of D-D -> He^4

- The design presented herein is appropriate also for a D – He^3 reactor
- Cross section about the same, but more problems with space charge, recombination and charge exchange
- D – He^3 will be good for initial testing; no neutrons; no Tritium – very, very safe
- The Dream: D – D reactor could be used to produce T and He^3 at central location with D –T reactor providing power for the D – D reactor;

D – He^3 situated in communities due their safety

- The Dream involves only D going eventually to He^4
  - No Lithium Limit

Summary Comments

- ECOFusion, a new approach toward fusion energy generation, has been proposed to you today
- Proposal uses colliding beam devices that can be built with materials and technologies that are available today
- On paper, the predicted engineering Q is marginally good enough to consider its use in a power plant
- Output power per cell of about 50 kW is predicted from present design, but improvements in spot size (2) and lower energy (3) could increase this to 300 kW
- While device may seem expensive now, $300,000 is a lot of material – cars are built for $10,000; first transistor was quite large and expensive too
- ECOFusion holds out the promise of using a pure Deuterium source as fuel – a limitless supply
- The theoretical analysis has been extensive, although only by one man – it is time for serious review
- It is also time to begin work on prototype construction and testing