

Status of Systems Code Studies

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ARIES Meeting

June 14, 2005



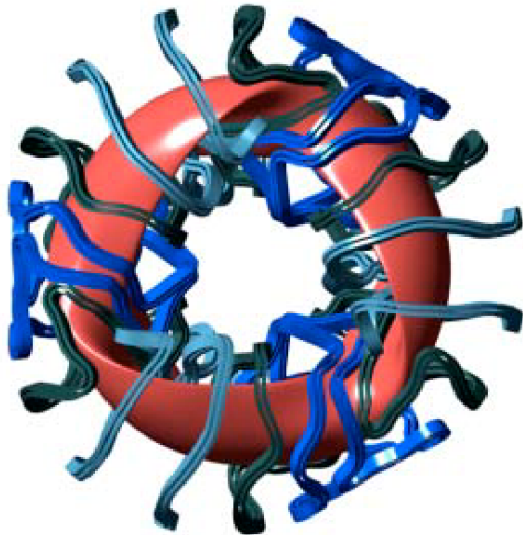
Topics

- **Revisions to Systems Code and component models**
- **NCSX-1 reference case results**
- **Comparison of NCSX-1 results with ARIES-AT, ARIES-RS and SPPS results**
- **Parameter scans and variations**
- **Detailed results for NCSX-1 reference case**
- **Next steps and questions**

Systems Code Changes since Feb. Meeting

- **Code convergence to a solution much improved**
 - had been a significant problem
- **Coil parameters**
 - revised coil cost calculation
 - added 2 new NCSX and 3 new MHH2-16 coil configurations
- **Blanket/shield designs**
 - added (revised) manifolds, corrected back wall calculations
- **Output lists**
 - checked volumes, masses and costs for all components
 - revised some cost accounts, added new lists for components
- **Varied constraints on β , α loss, $B_{\max}$, C & Fe %, P_{elect}**

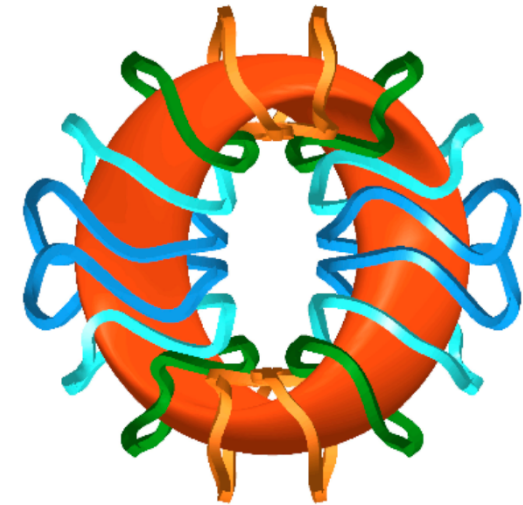
Five New Coil Configurations Were Added



2 NCSX

3 MHH2

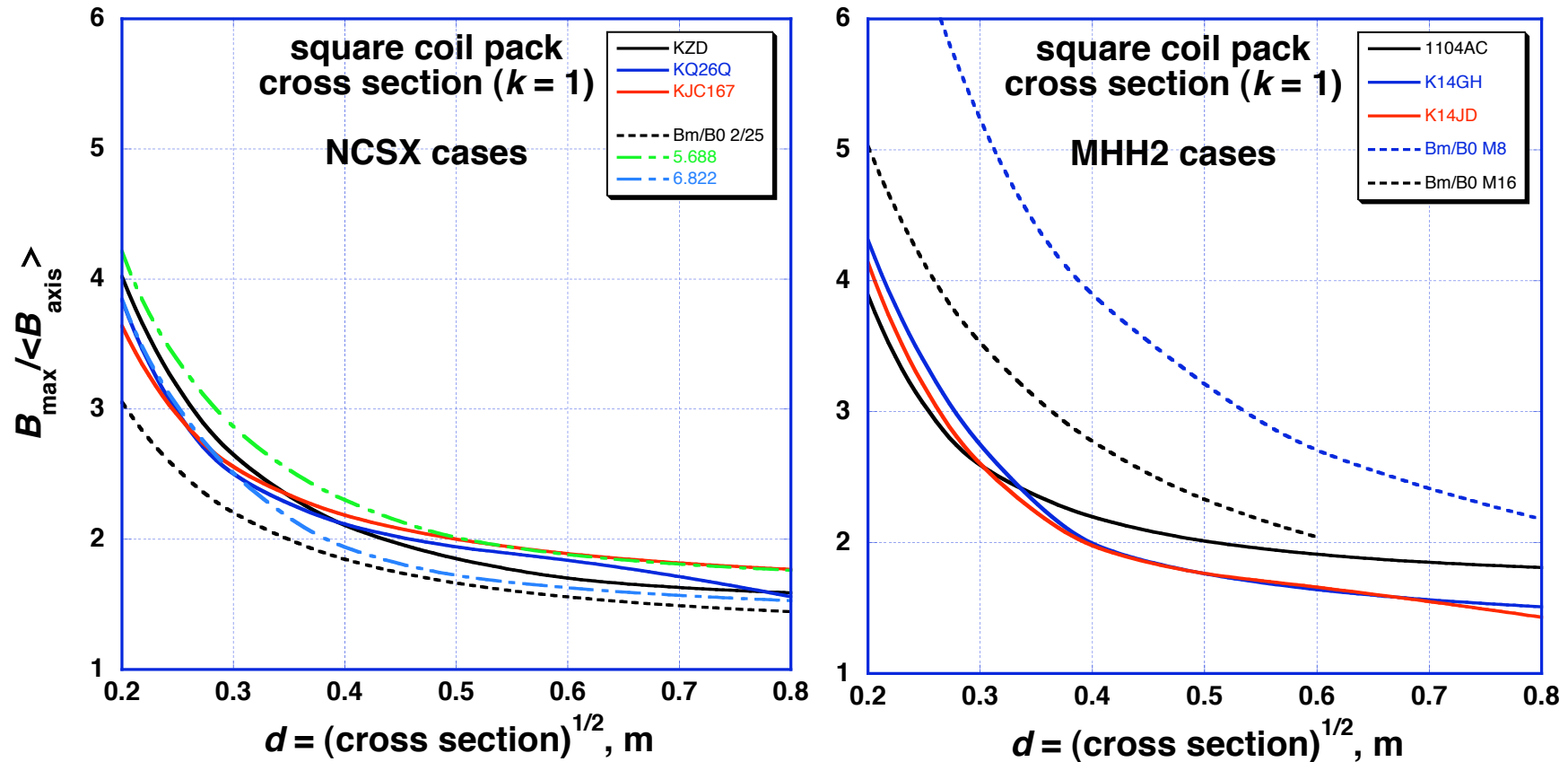
all quasi-axisymmetric



old

Key Configuration Properties	NCSX-1: KZD	NCSX KQ26Q	NCSX KJC167	MHH2 1104AC	MHH2 K14GH	MHH2 K14JD
Plasma aspect ratio $A_p = \langle R \rangle / \langle a \rangle$	4.48	4.62	6.00	2.65	2.69	2.69
Wall (plasma) surface area / $\langle R \rangle^2$	11.74	10.89	8.99	17.60	18.20	17.64
Min. pl-coil dist. ratio $A_\Delta = \langle R \rangle / \Delta_{\min}$	5.89	5.80	6.02	5.34	5.40	5.54
Min. coil-coil dist. ratio $\langle R \rangle / (c-c)$	10.03	10.2	9.8	12.53	12.18	12.62
Total coil length / $\langle R \rangle$	89.9	83.3	63.5	91.8	90.3	96.1
$B_{\max} / \langle B_{\text{axis}} \rangle$, 0.4 m x 0.4 m coil pack	2.10	2.11	2.18	2.19	1.97	1.96

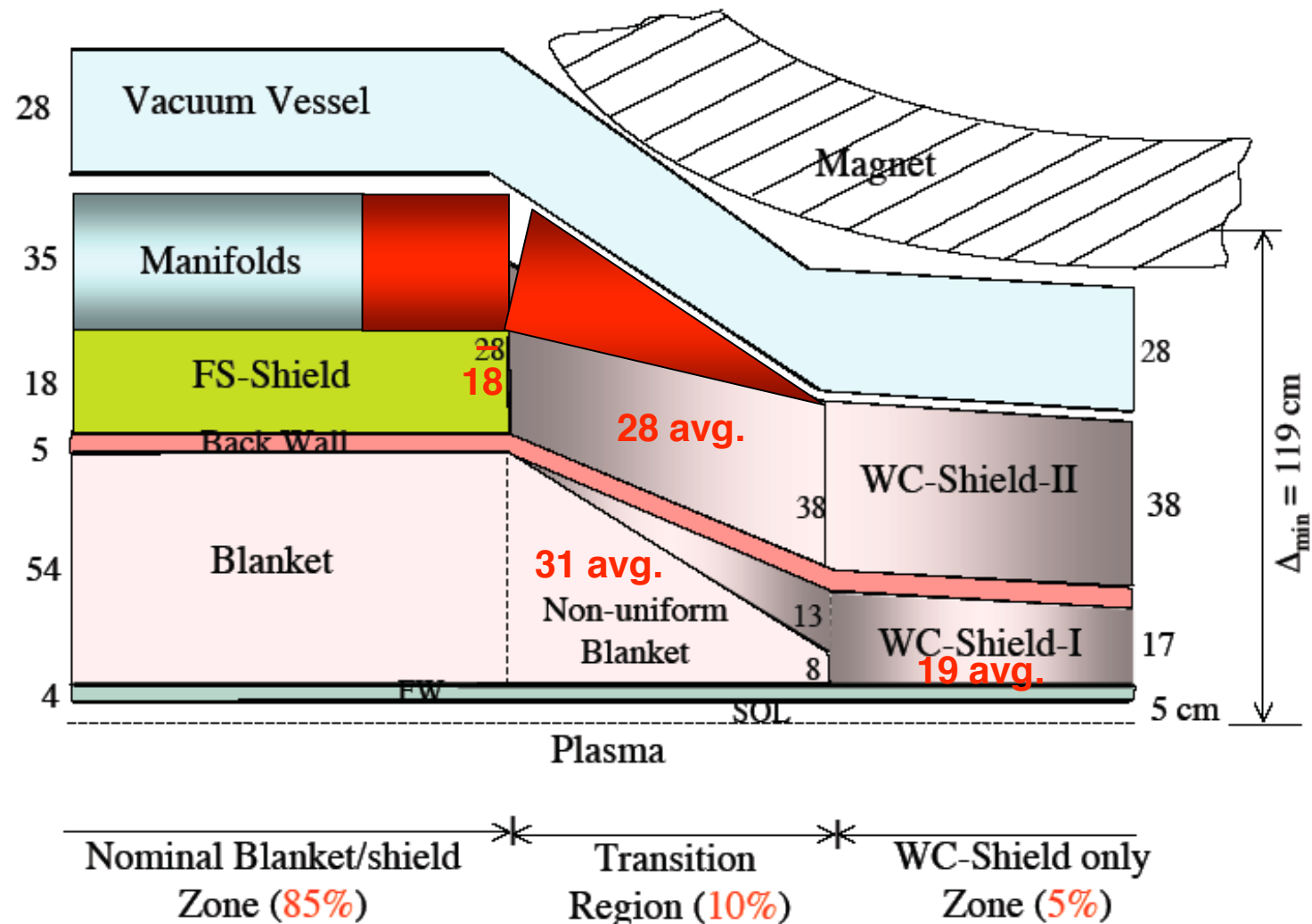
Larger Change in $B_{\max}/\langle B_{\text{axis}} \rangle$ for New MHH2 Cases



- Still only have $B_{\max}(k)/B_{\max}(1)$ curves from NCSX-2 (2/25/03) coil case to calculate $B_{\max}(k)/B_{\max}(1)$ for all plasma and coil cases

Revised Radial Build Model

- Incorporated blanket/transition model from Laila + manifold guidance from Xueren
 - added a manifold (extended and tapered)

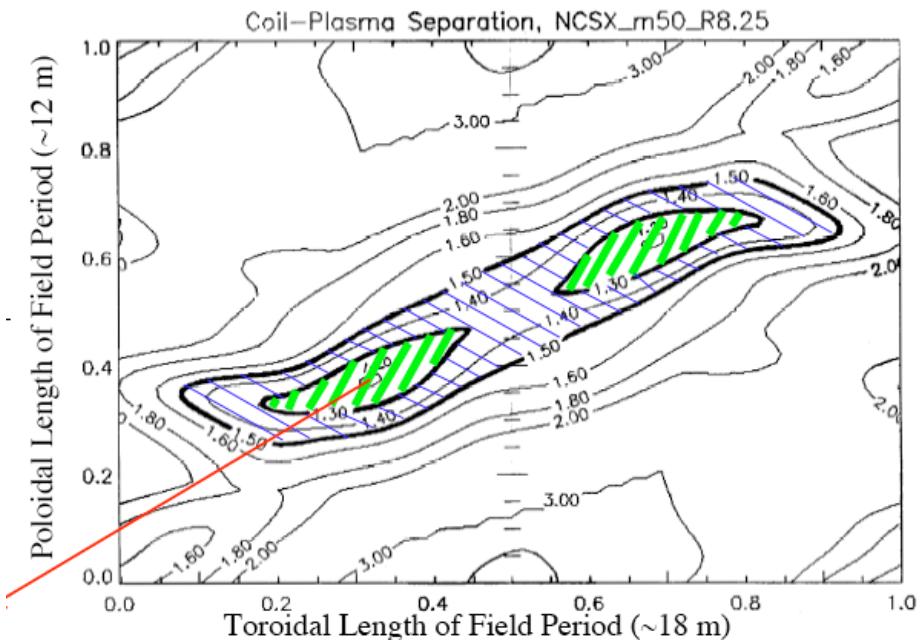
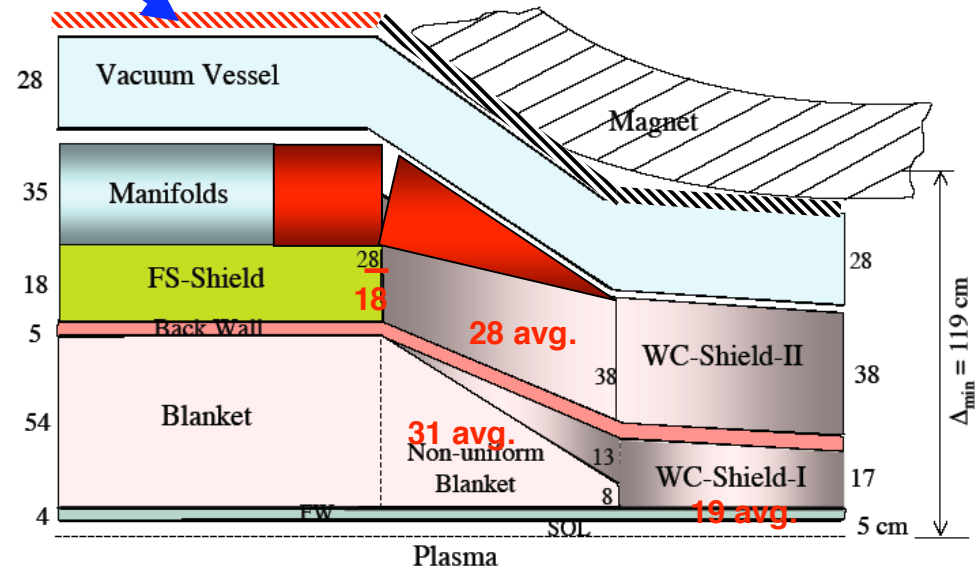


All Volume Calculations are Approximate

- 3 approaches, all approximate due to poloidally elongated components (using #1, shift to #3 when available)
 - 1 mid-radius surface (scaled radially from plasma surface) x thickness -- underestimates
 - 2 difference in volumes from r_{outer} and r_{inner} (scaled radially from plasma volume) -- overestimates
 - 3 mid-radius surface normalized from CAD calculation (*but* for $R = 8.25$ m) x thickness -- overestimates
- All approaches should be close; need to do CAD for $R \sim 7.5$ m

Need to Check $\Delta(\phi, \theta)$ for Vacuum Vessel to Coil Winding Surface

- Only done so far for no-blanket region
- Is there sufficient clearance for other regions?
 - 59 cm difference
- OK for NCSX cases?



Revised Calculation of Coil Costs

- **Earlier guidance**

- **coil cost = \$1.27/kA-m x 3 (for winding cost)**

$$\text{cost} = 3.81 \times I_{\text{coil}} l_{\text{coil}} = k_1 k_2 B_{\text{axis}} \langle R \rangle^2 [3.81]$$

- **Revised guidance**

- **conductor cost varies rapidly with B_{max} : \$1.43/kA-m at 5 T, \$10.7/kA-m at 15 T** (could be reduced factor of 3 by developing advanced manufacturing and increased billet size)

- * $\text{cost} = I_{\text{coil}} l_{\text{coil}} f(B_{\text{max}}) = k_1 k_2 B_{\text{axis}} \langle R \rangle^2 [f(B_{\text{max}})]$

- **cost of winding coil: mass of conductor x \$80/kg**

- * $\text{cost} = 80 \rho I_{\text{coil}} l_{\text{coil}} / j = k_1 k_2 B_{\text{axis}} \langle R \rangle^2 [80 \rho / j (B_{\text{max}})]$

- **Coil structure cost is unchanged**

- **volume = area of coil winding surface x 10-cm thickness (per Leslie Bromberg)**

- **cost = volume x 7800 kg/m³ x \$56/kg = $k_3 \langle R \rangle^2$**

Revised Calculation of Coil Costs

- Earlier guidance

- coil cost = $3.81 \times I_{\text{coil}} l_{\text{coil}} = k_1 k_2 B_{\text{axis}} \langle R \rangle^2 [3.81]$

- Revised guidance

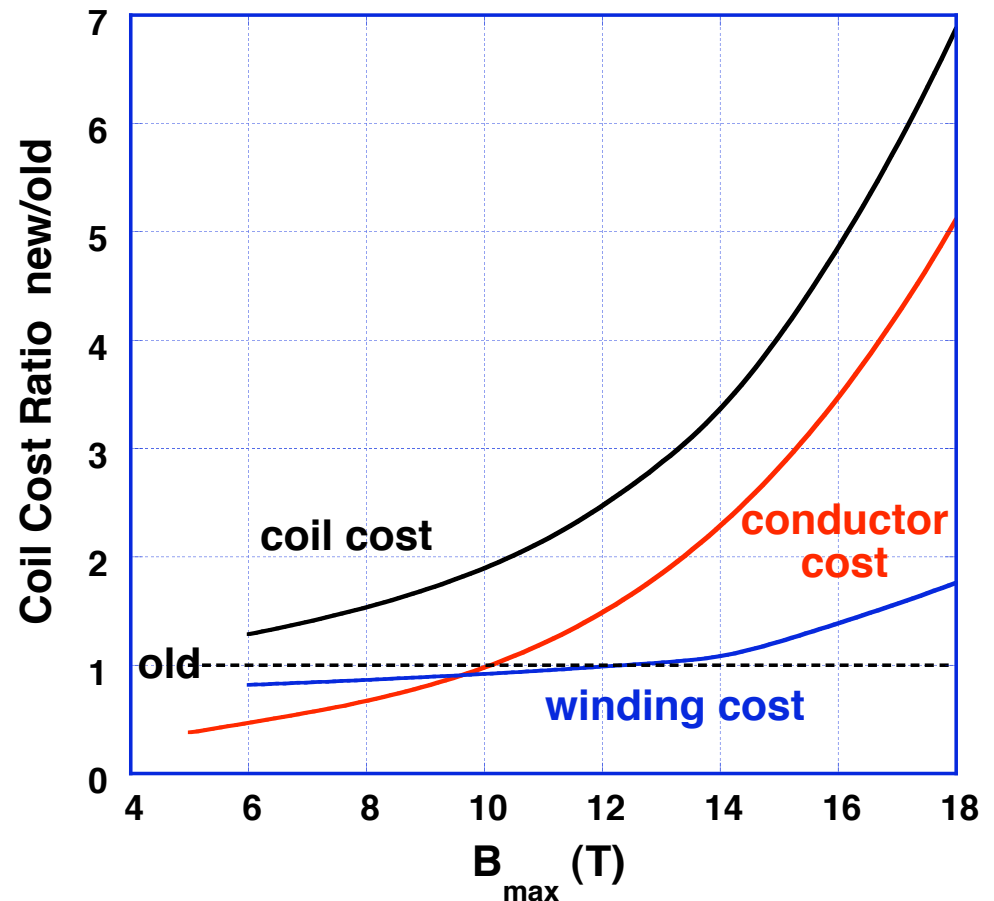
- conductor cost =

$$I_{\text{coil}} l_{\text{coil}} f(B_{\text{max}}) = k_1 k_2 B_{\text{axis}} \langle R \rangle^2 [f(B_{\text{max}})]$$

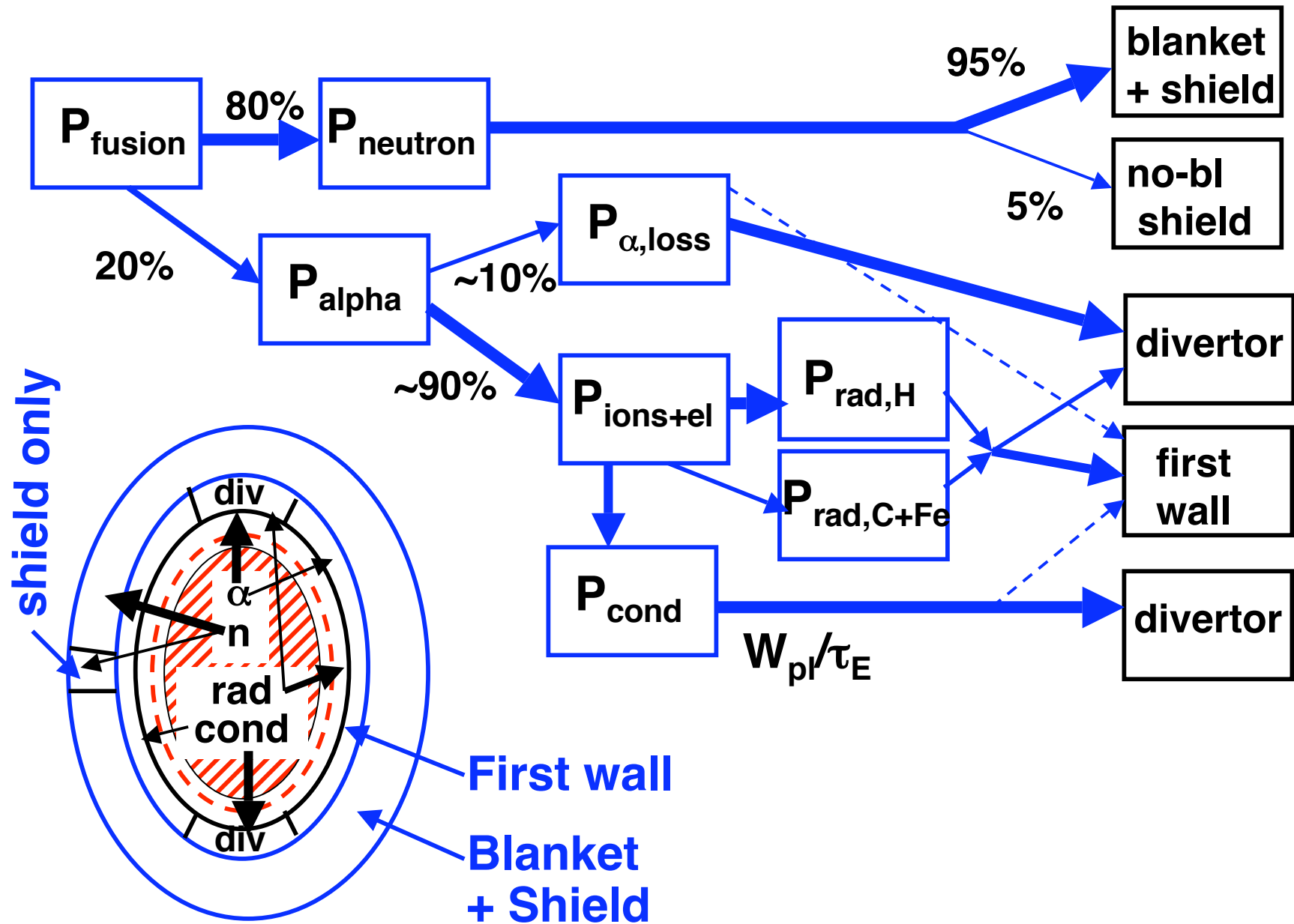
- cost of winding coil =

$$80 \rho I_{\text{coil}} l_{\text{coil}} / j = k_1 k_2 B_{\text{axis}} \langle R \rangle^2 [80 \rho / j (B_{\text{max}})]$$

- coil cost = $k_1 k_2 B_{\text{axis}} \langle R \rangle^2 [f(B_{\text{max}}) + 80 \rho / j (B_{\text{max}})]$



Power Flows



System Code Convergence

VARIABLES selected for iteration and ranges

major radius	5.0 to 20.0 m;	field on axis	3.0 to 10.0 T
ion density	1.0 to $10.0 \cdot 10^{20} \text{m}^{-3}$;	ion temperature	1.0 to 50.0 keV
half coil depth	0.01 to 5.0 m;	calculated H-ISS95	0.1 to 9.0

CONSTRAINTS	value	target
ignition margin	0.9999	1.0
electric power (GW)	1.00	1.00
volume averaged beta (%)	6.00	6.00
mag field at coil (T)	16.00	< 16.00
ave neut wall load (MW/m^2)	2.741	< 3.086
average/maximum density	0.743	< 1.0
radial build margin $A_{\Delta} d_{\min}/R$	1.00	< 1.0
confinement mult. H-ISS95	2.540	< 6.00
maintenance port width (m)	2.546	> 2.00
$j_{\text{coil}}/j_{\text{max}}(B_{\text{max}})$	0.468	< 1.0

- **convergence to a solution where all constraints were satisfied had been a problem for some cases**

Typical Systems Code Summary

MHHOPTNEW code NCSX-1 case (KZD)

modified LiPb/FS/He H₂O-cooled internal
vacuum vessel with SiC inserts and
tapered blanket

inflation factor 2004 year

following CONSTRAINTS were selected:

ignition = 1 target	1.00
max. volume averaged beta	0.06
sufficient radial build	
max. magnetic field at coil	16.00
max. ave. neutron wall load	3.09
maximum density = 2 x nSudo	
Electric Power (GW)	1.00
max. confinement multiplier	6.00
min. port width	2.0

VARIABLES selected for iteration

major radius	5.00	20.00
field on axis	3.00	10.00
ion density	1.00	10.00
ion temperature	1.00	50.00
coil width	0.010	5.00
confinement multiplier	0.10	9.00

FIGURE OF MERIT

70.4 Cost of Electricity

FINAL VALUES OF CONSTRAINTS:

ignition margin	1.00
volume averaged beta (%)	6.00
radial build margin	1.00
magnetic field at coil (T)	16.00
ave. neutron wall load (MW/m ²)	2.74
average/maximum density	0.74
Electric Power (GW)	1.00
ratio of tauE to conf. multiplier	4.24
maintenance port width (m)	2.55
jcoil/jmax	0.47

FINAL DESIGN

major radius (m)	7.38
field on axis (T)	5.03
volume avg. density (10 ²⁰ m ⁻³)	2.36
density averaged temp (keV)	8.26
coil dimensions (m x m)	0.41 x 0.72
current density (MA/m ²)	39.0

Typical Systems Code Summary

Plasma Parameters

central ion temp (keV)	12.44
central ion density (10^{20} m^{-3})	4.97
central elec. density (10^{20} m^{-3})	5.34
fraction fuel to electrons	0.88
confinement time, τ_{aue} (sec)	1.14
stored plasma energy (MJ)	358
volume averaged beta (%)	6.00
beta star (%)	9.85
fraction carbon impurity	0.5 %
fraction iron impurity	0.022 %
fraction helium	4.09 %
Z effective	1.27

Mass Summary

total nuclear island (tonnes)	7,171
mass LiPb coolant (tonnes)	3,840
total mass (tonnes)	11,011

Power Balance

net electric power (MW)	1000
gross electric power (MW)	1054.9
fusion power (MW)	2258.5
thermal power (MW)	2511.6
α heating power (MW)	450.9
power in neutrons (MW)	1807.6
radiated power (MW)	177.1
fuel bremsstrahlung (MW)	129.1
carbon radiation (MW)	25.9
iron radiation (MW)	21.0
synchrotron radiation (MW)	1.2
conduction power (MW)	138.5
fusion power to plasma (MW)	315.6
fraction alpha power lost	30.0 %
radiated power fraction	56.1 %
neutron wall load (MW/m^2)	2.43
radiated wall load (MW/m^2)	0.27

CoE Components for CS, AT, RS & SPPS

mills/kW _e h	CS	AT	RS	SPPS
CoE (in 1992 \$)	57.41	56.61	75.66	74.92
Cap. Return	47.62	43.95	61.34	63.34
O & M	8.18	8.34	9.16	9.16
FW/BI replace.	0.96	3.79	4.63	1.90
Decomm.	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Fuel costs	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03

- Largest CoE component is Capital Return
- Cap. Return $\propto$ Total Cap. Cost $\propto$ Total Direct Cost

Comparison of General Plant Costs (1992 \$)

Parameter	CS	AT	RS	SPPS
$\langle R \rangle$, m	7.38	5.20	5.52	13.95
$\langle B_{\text{axis}} \rangle$, T	5.03	5.86	7.98	4.94
$\langle \beta \rangle$, %	6.0	9.2	5.0	5.0
FPC Mass, tonnes	7,170	5,226	12,679	21,430
CoE, mills/kW _e h (1992 \$)	57.4	56.6	75.7	74.9
90 Total Direct Cost (M\$)	1902	1757	2189	2261
20 Land	10.4	10.6	10.4	10.4
21 Structure	318.0	335.5	331.0	332.5
<i>22 Reactor Plant Equip.</i>	<i>999.3</i>	<i>900.3</i>	<i>1386</i>	<i>1487</i>
23 Turbine Plant Equip.	259.9	243.0	284.4	254.0
24 Electric Plant Equip.	103.6	110.3	110.6	103.6
25 Misc. Plant Equip.	51.9	50.1	56.2	51.9
26 Special Materials	159.4	83.8	11.1	21.1

Heat Rejection System

+23.3

22+26 Reactor Plant + LM

1159

984.1

1397

1508

- Only Reactor Plant Equip. contains stellarator costs

Comparing % Costs with AT, RS & SPPS

% of Total Direct Cost	CS	AT	RS	SPPS
20 Land	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
21 Structure	16.7	19.1	15.1	14.7
22 Reactor Plant Equip.	52.5	51.2	63.3	65.8
23 Turbine Plant Equip.	13.7	13.8	13.0	11.2
24 Electric Plant Equip.	5.4	6.3	5.1	4.6
25 Misc. Plant Equip.	2.7	2.9	2.6	2.3
26 Special Materials	8.4	4.8	0.5	0.9

- Reactor Plant Equipment is largest part of Total Direct Cost, but structure and turbine plant equipment are also significant

Comparison of General Plant Costs (1992 \$)

Cost (M\$)	CS	AT	RS	SPPS
21 Structure	318.0	335.5	331.0	332.5
21.2 reactor building	129.1	n. a.	n. a.	141.6
21.6 misc. buildings	112.6	n. a.	n. a.	112.7
22 Reactor Plant Equip.	999.3	900.3	1386	1487
<i>22.1 reactor equipment</i>	<i>656.8</i>	<i>519.9</i>	<i>966.4</i>	<i>1115</i>
22.2 heat transport	192.8	209.9	258.3	217.8

- While the reactor equipment is the largest cost component, the costs of structure (buildings) and heat transport are also large

Comparing Costs with AT, RS & SPPS

Cost (M\$)	CS	AT	RS	SPPS
22.1 Reactor Equipment	656.8	519.9	966.4	1115
Cost of stellarator parts	448.5 68%	274.9 53%	516.3 53%	750.9 67%
22.1.1 blanket & 1 st wall	54.1	67.9	74.3	71.5
22.1.2 shield, BW, man.	233.1	73.3	168.0	289.8
22.1.3 coils	161.3	133.7	274.0	389.6
22.1.4 heating	53.7	41.0	164.2	54.2
22.1.5 primary structure	52.3	29.8	53.4	152.9
22.1.6 vacuum systems	46.9	109.2	159.2	85.4
22.1.7 power supplies	55.3	56.1	55.3	55.3
22.1.8 impurity control	0	4.5	13.6	12.0
22.1.10 ECH startup	0	4.4	4.3	4.3

Comparing Masses with AT, RS & SPPS

Mass (tonnes)	CS	AT	RS	SPPS
FW/Blanket/BW	898	255	585	251
Shield, BW, man.	2360	882	4235	9453
Coils	3049	1525	3280	4191
Structure	1148	----	1627	5365
Vacuum Vessel	1287	1415	1357	2171
Fusion Power Core	7,170	5,226	12,679	21,430
LM Coolant	3,840	5,269	223	175
FPC + Coolant	11,010	10,495	12,902	21,605

Weak Variation of Reactor Parameters with β

NCSX-1 $\langle\beta\rangle$, %	$\langle R \rangle$ m	$\Gamma_{n,wall}$ MW/m ²	$\langle B_{axis} \rangle$ T	CoE	H-ISS95
2.5	7.85	2.43	7.45	74.73	1.82
3	7.67	2.54	6.90	73.18	1.92
4	7.53	2.64	6.11	71.85	2.24
5	7.44	2.70	5.48	70.96	2.37
6	7.38	2.74	5.03	70.37	2.54
8	7.30	2.80	4.39	69.58	2.84
10.1	7.25	2.84	3.97	69.08	3.26

- Increasing $\langle\beta\rangle$ allows reduced $\langle B_{axis} \rangle$ and $\langle R \rangle$ but requires larger H-ISS95
- Relatively small change in CoE for $\langle\beta\rangle = 4-8\%$

Typical Cost Summary (2004 \$)

COST SUMMARY (M\$)			% of 99	% of 22.1
20	Land	12.822	0.284	
21	Structure	390.613	8.663	
	22.1.1 Bl. & 1st wl.	66.516	1.475	8.245
	22.1.2 Shield	286.334	6.350	35.492
	22.1.3 Magnets	198.160	4.395	24.563
	22.1.4 Supp. Heating	65.915	1.462	8.171
	22.1.5 Primary Str.	64.288	1.426	7.969
	22.1.6 Reactor Vac. S	57.579	1.277	7.137
	22.1.7 Power Supply	67.954	1.507	8.423
	22.1.8 Impurity Cont	4.523	0.125	1.043
	22.1.9 Direct En. Conv	0.000	0.000	0.000
	22.1.1 ECH breakdown	0.000	0.000	0.000
22.1	Total	806.747	17.891	100.00
22.2	Heat transport	236.882	5.253	
22	Reactor Plant Eq.	1227.446	27.221	
23	Turbine Plant Eq.	319.188	7.079	
24	Electric Plant Eq.	127.284	2.823	
25	Misc. Plant Eq.	63.770	1.414	
26	Special Material	195.851	4.343	

Typical Cost Summary (2004 \$)

Cost 90	Total Dir Cost	2336.975	51.827	percentages
Cost 91	Construction	280.437	6.219	of total
Cost 92	Home office	121.523	2.695	
Cost 93	Field office	140.218	3.110	
Cost 94	Owner's costs	431.873	9.578	
Cost 96	Proj. Contingency	558.771	12.392	
Cost 97	Constr Interest	639.936	14.180	
Cost 98	Constr Escalation	0.000	0.000	
Cost 99	Total Capital	4509.193	100.000	

[90]	Unit direct cost, UDC	2336.975
[94]	Unit base cost, UBC	3869.797
[99]	Unit total cost, UTC	4509.193

	Capital return	58.500
[40-47,51]	O&M costs	10.045
[50]	B/FW replacement	1.174
	Decomissioning allow.	0.614
[02]	Deuterium fuel	0.037

Cost of Electricity, COE 70.369 in 2004\$, 57.288 in 1992\$

Component Cost Summary (2004\$)

total mod coil + str cost	198.16
mod coil SC cost	91.29
rest mod coil pack cost	42.58
coil structure cost	64.29
total VF coil cost	0.00
divertor coil cost	0.00
total coil cost	198.16
bucking cylinder cost	0.00

total blanket, first/back wall	66.52
first wall cost	6.92
front full blanket cost	29.00
front blanket back wall cost	28.75
second blanket cost	0.00
transition blanket cost	1.84

total vacuum vessel cost	57.58
full blanket vac vessel cost	49.64
shield-only vac vessel cost	2.43
transition vac vessel cost	5.50

shield cost and back wall	115.11
ferritic steel shield cost	39.18
1st shield-only WC shield cost	3.04
shield-only back wall cost	24.36
2nd shield-only WC shield cost	7.50
1st transition WC shield cost	2.54
trans shield back wall cost	26.73
2nd transition WC shield cost	11.77

cost of manifolds	171.22
full manifold cost	115.40
transition manifold cost	55.82

cost of liquid metal coolant	195.85
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Component Mass Summary (tonnes)

total modular coil mass	3276.99	shield mass and back wall	1720.33
conductor mass	1064.50	ferritic steel shield mass	1008.85
rest winding pack mass	1064.50	1st shield-only WC shield mas	94.80
coil structure mass	1148.00	shield-only back wall mass	11.82
total VF coil mass	0.00	2nd shield-only WC shield mas	204.55
divertor coil mass	0.00	1st transition WC shield mass	79.39
total coil mass	3276.99	trans shield back wall mass	25.95
bucking cyl mass	0.00	2nd transition WC shield mass	320.92
total blanket, first, back wall	897.63	mass of manifolds	1329.17
first wall mass	67.22	full manifold mass	1257.61
front full blanket mass	557.80	transition manifold mass	71.56
front blanket back wall	237.25		
second blanket mass	0.00	total nuclear island	7170.52
transition blanket mass	35.36	mass of liquid metal coolant	3840.22
 		mass of nuclear island + coolant	11010.74
total vacuum vessel mass	1287.38		
full blanket vac vessel mass	1109.94		
shield-only vac vessel mass	54.43		
transition vac vessel mass	123.01		

Component Volumes Summary (m³)

total modular coil volume	534.27	total shield + back wall volume	203.25
conductor volume	193.54	ferritic steel shield volume	143.71 2.418
rest winding pack vol	193.54	1st shield-only WC shield vol	6.76 1.831
coil structure volume	147.18	shield-only back wall volume	1.89 1.951
		2nd shield-only WC shield vol	15.99 2.166
total FW, blanket, BW volume	445.31	1st transition WC shield vol	5.66 2.081
first wall volume	25.35 1.717	trans shield back wall vol	4.16 2.141
front full blanket volume	359.18 2.007	2nd transition WC shield vol	25.08 2.306
front blanket back wall vol	38.02 2.303		
second blanket volume	0.00 2.328		
transition blanket volume	22.77 1.891	volume of manifolds	323.63
		full manifold volume	279.02 3.018
total vacuum vessel volume	541.22	transition manifold volume	13.68 2.516
full blanket vac vessel vol	364.78 2.683		
shield-only vac vessel vol	176.44 2.596	volume of liquid metal in core	431.63
transition vac vessel vol	30.92 2.843		

r_{mid} (m) in blue

Cost Element Breakdown

COST COMPONENTS in 2004 year M\$

Cost 20 (Land) =	12.822	constant
Cost 21.1 (site improvements) =	22.651	constant
Cost 21.2 (reactor building) =	158.606	$V_{\text{reactor building}}^{0.62}$
Cost 21.3 (turbine building) =	38.997	$(\eta_{\text{th}} P_{\text{th}})^{0.75} + \text{constant}$
Cost 21.4 (cooling system) =	9.708	$(\eta_{\text{th}} P_{\text{th}})^{0.3}$
Cost 21.5 (PS building) =	12.269	constant
Cost 21.6 (misc. buildings) =	138.299	constant
Cost 21.7 (vent. stack) =	2.424	constant
Cost 21 (Structure) =	390.613	

$$P_{\text{th}} = P_n \times \text{gloem} + P_{\alpha}$$

Cost Element Breakdown

COST COMPONENTS

Cost 22.1.1.1 (FW)	6.923	
Cost 22.1.1.3 (BL + BW)	59.593	
Cost 22.1.1 (BI/BW & 1st wl.)	66.516	8.245%
Cost 22.1.2 (Sh/BW/man)	286.334	35.492%
Cost 22.1.3 mod coils + str	198.160	
Cost 22.1.3 VF coils	0.000	
Cost 22.1.3 divertor	0.000	
Cost 22.1.3 (coils + str)	198.160	24.563%
Cost 22.1.4 (Heating)	65.915	constant 20 MW
Cost 22.1.5 (Primary Str.)	64.288	coil winding surface
Cost 22.1.6 (Vac. Sys.)	57.579	vacuum vessel only
Cost 22.1.7 (Power Sup.)	67.954	constant
Cost 22.1.8 (Imp. Control)	0	divertor area
Cost 22.1.9 (Dir. Ener. Conv.)	0	
Cost 22.1.10 (ECH) =	0	
Cost 22.1 (Core) =	806.747	

Cost Element Breakdown

Cost 22.2.1 prim. coolant	236.882	$P_{th}^{0.55}$
Cost 22.2.2 interm. coolant	0.000	
Cost 22.2.3 sec. coolant	0.000	
Cost 22.2 (Heat transport)	236.882	
Cost 22.3 aux. cooling	3.190	P_{th}
Cost 22.4 rad. waste	5.684	P_{th}
Cost 22.5.1 fuel injection	14.017	constant
Cost 22.5.2 fuel processing	16.453	constant
Cost 22.5.3 fuel storage	7.009	constant
Cost 22.5.4 atm T recover.	3.325	constant
Cost 22.5.5 H2O T recover.	7.009	constant
Cost 22.5.6 BL T recover.	7.009	constant
Cost 22.5 fuel handling	54.821	constant
Cost 22.6 other plant equip	51.865	P_{th}
Cost 22.7 I&C	44.189	constant
Cost 22 (Reactor Plant)	1227.446	

Cost Element Breakdown

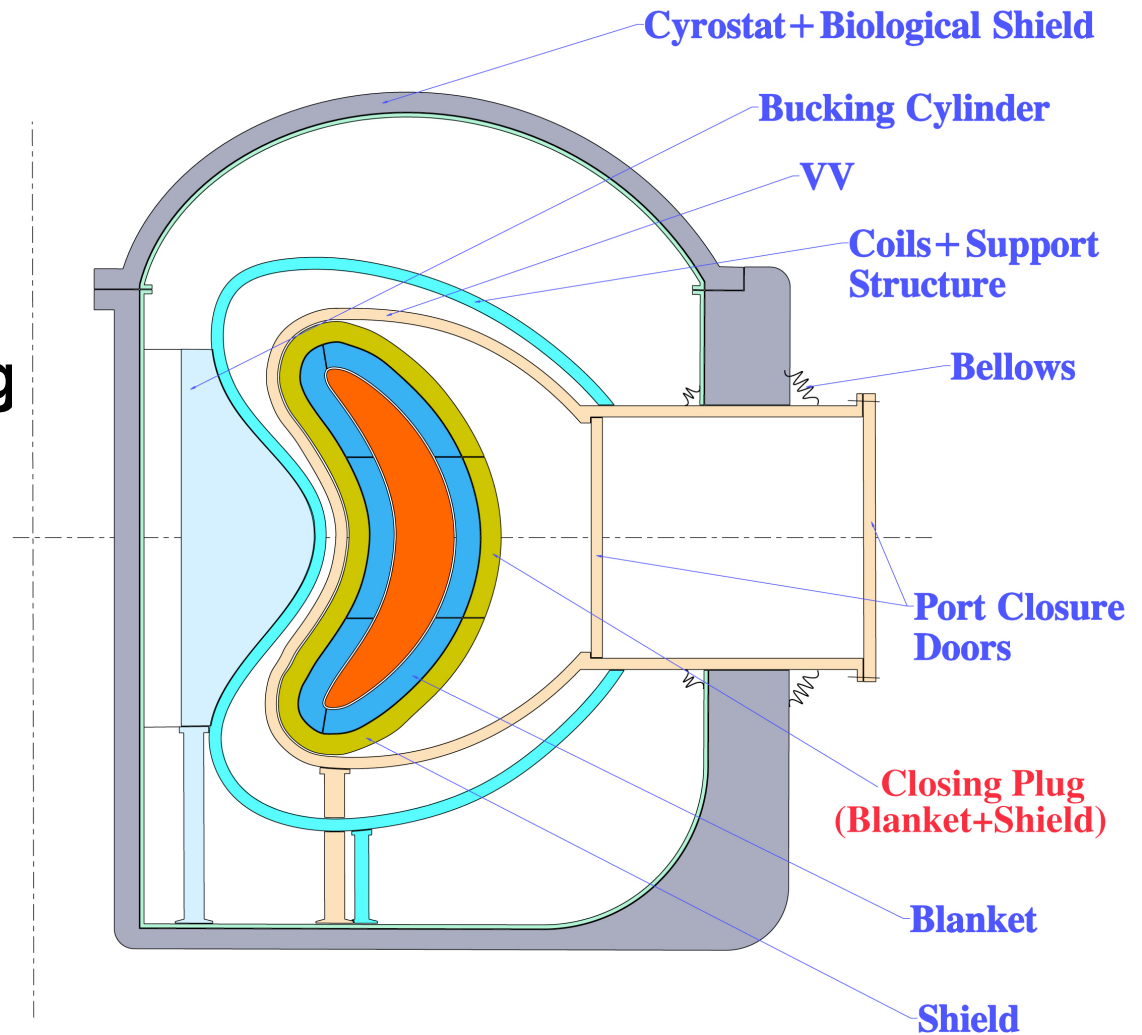
Cost 23 (Turbine Plant)	319.188	$(\eta_{th} P_{th})^{0.83} + \text{constant}$
23.3 heat reject.	47.752	$P_{th} - (\eta_{th} P_{th})$
Cost 24 (Electric Plant)	127.284	$(\eta_{th} P_{th})^{0.49}$
Cost 25 (Misc. Plant Eq.)	63.770	$(\eta_{th} P_{th})^{0.59}$
26.4 other materials	192.011	V_{LiPb}
Cost 26 (Spec. Matls.)	195.851	

Remaining Code Improvements

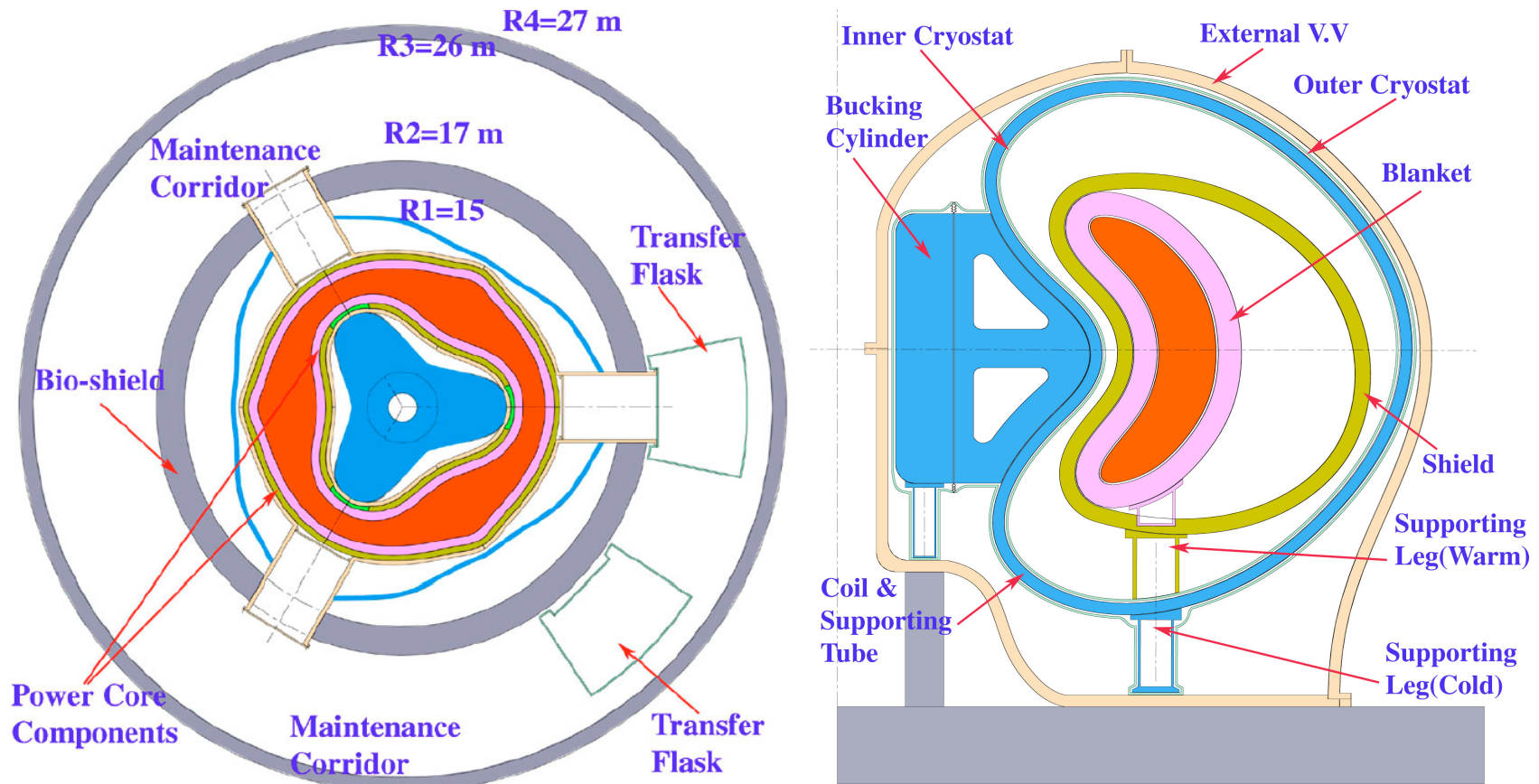
- **Divertor treatment**
 - areas, thicknesses, costs not included yet
- **Need better calculation of coil support structure?**
 - 10-cm-thick shell, no bucking cylinder
- **Need to improve vacuum systems (22.1.6) cost**
 - only includes vacuum vessel cost; need to include other systems (pumping, gas useage/day)
- **Need to add $\ln(p_{\text{wall}}/2)$ correction to shield thickness**
- **No vertical field or control coils**
 - needed for flexibility and startup
- **Cryostat, vacuum vessel & port values for port maintenance approach**
- **Shield/vacuum vessel geometry for field period maintenance approach**
- **External vacuum vessel approach?**

Need to Refine Treatment of Port Maintenance Approach

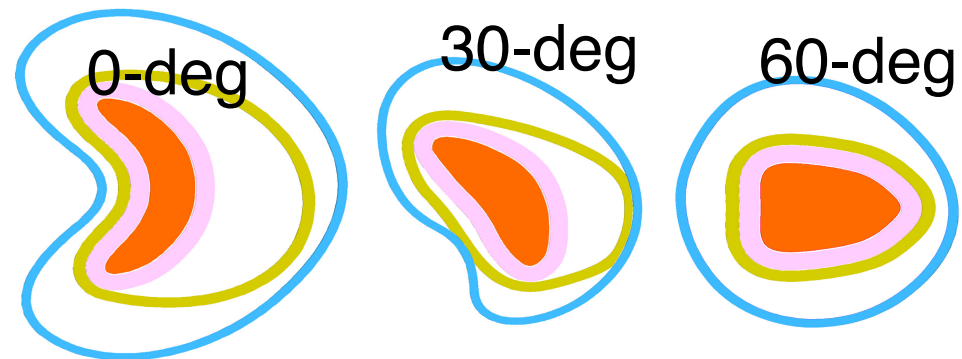
- Dimensions of cryostat and biological shield
- Volume of bucking cylinder
- Refine shape of vacuum vessel and add ports?



Field Period Maintenance Approach



- Requires area of shield surface and external vacuum vessel



Summary

- Added 2 new NCSX and 3 MHH2 coil configurations
- Modified blanket/shield model
 - added modified manifolds
- Checked costing algorithms
- Added more output information
- CoE is relatively insensitive to assumptions for a plasma/coil configuration; variation is in H-ISS95
- Need data to analyze sector maintenance approach
 - ⇒ essential for September selection process