

# Welcome

## Science Update: Parker Solar Probe Close Up View of the Sun's Environment

November 18, 2021  
7:00 PM ET

# NSTA Virtual Program Norms



The National Science Teaching Association strongly supports diversity, equity and inclusion in the classroom, and in all of our programs. We are committed to providing a welcoming, safe, productive, harassment-free environment for all participants of our events and programs, regardless of their gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, ethnicity, race, color, age, marital status, veteran status, socioeconomic status or religion.

We ask that all attendees be mindful of their surroundings and of their fellow participants. All participants are expected to exercise consideration and respect in their speech and actions, and to refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech.

NSTA does not allow promotion of other products in our chats during web seminars. We ask that attendees keep the conversation on topic, use positive language and remain courteous of others throughout the event, and allow everyone time to participate in the chat.

# Meet Today's Presenter...

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**Dr. Nour E. Raouafi**

Project Scientist

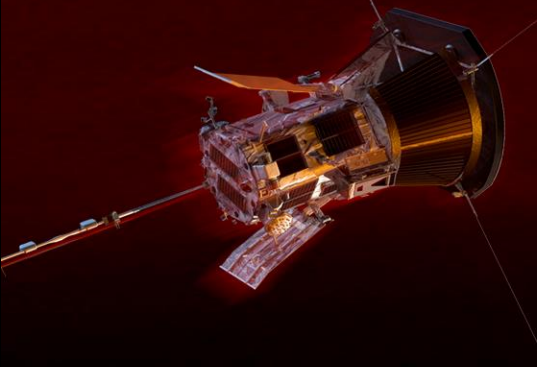
NASA Parker Solar Probe

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory



# PARKER SOLAR PROBE

A MISSION TO TOUCH THE SUN



## Parker Solar Probe

### Ushering a New Frontier in Space Exploration

**NOUR E. RAOUAFI**

**Parker Solar Probe – Project Scientist**

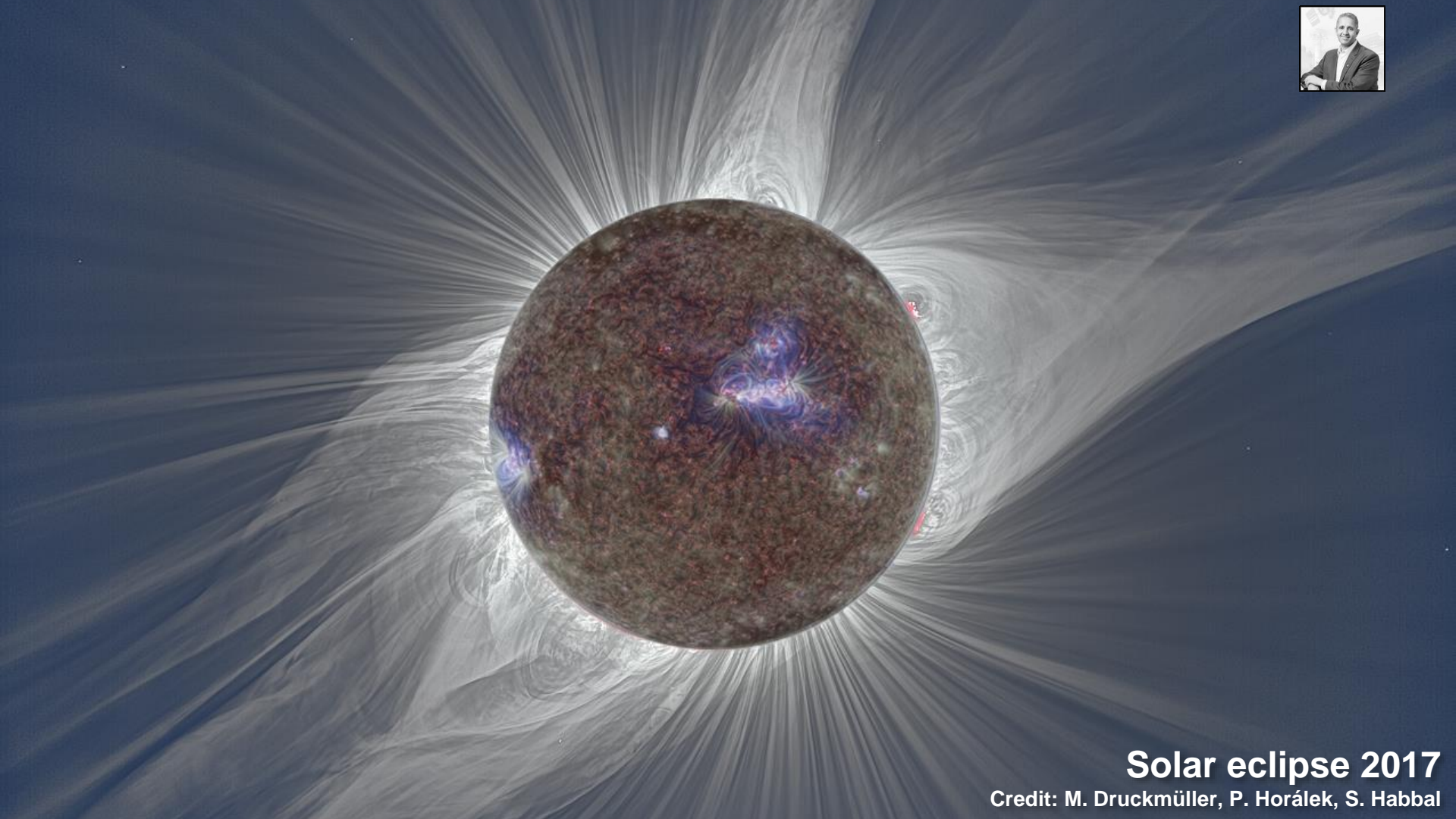
**Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory**

[Nour.Raouafi@jhuapl.edu](mailto:Nour.Raouafi@jhuapl.edu)



NASA/Hubble





# Solar eclipse 2017

Credit: M. Druckmüller, P. Horálek, S. Habbal

# Why do we need to understand how the solar corona works?



2000/04/28 00:18



**Because we live  
in the extended  
solar atmosphere**







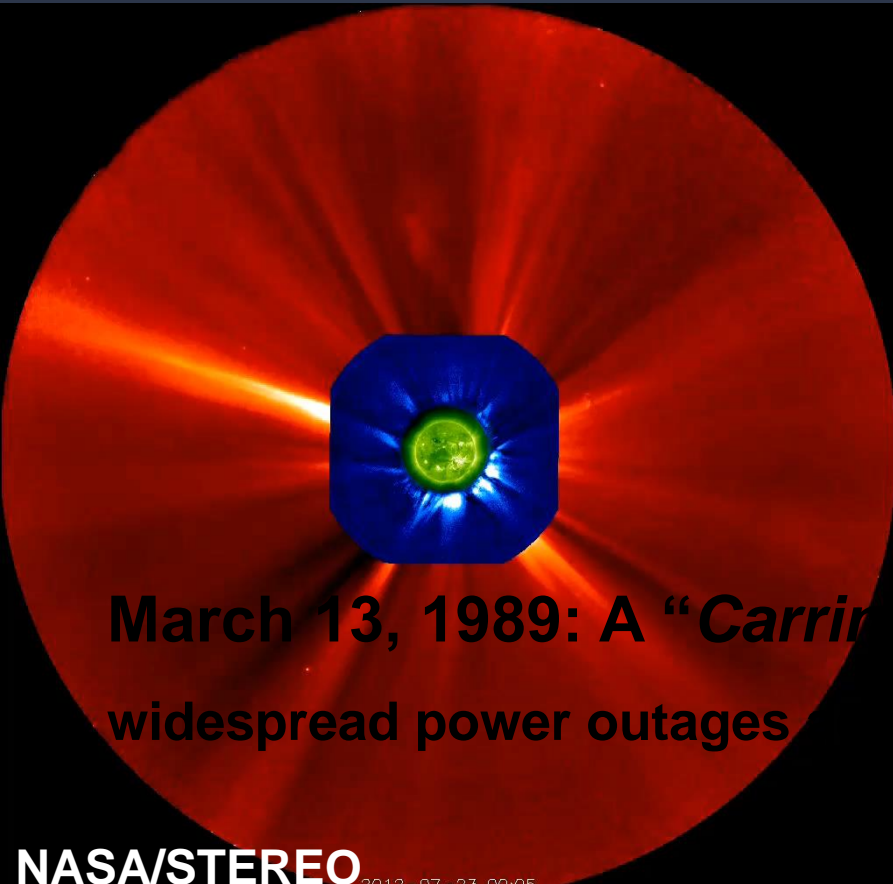
# Why Do We Care?



Physics of the corona and inner heliosphere connect the activity of the Sun to the environment and technological infrastructure of the Earth

- Drive the fundamental physics of the heliosphere, aurora, and magnetosphere of the Earth and other planets
- Satellite communications, power grid issues, pipeline erosion, radiation exposure on airline flights, astronaut safety
- Until we can explain what is going on up close to the Sun, we will not be able to accurately predict space weather effects that can cause havoc at Earth

# Importance of Space Weather



March 13, 1989: A “Carrington”-like event

widespread power outages across the Northeast USA and Canada

➤ \$2 trillion loss to us all

- The most intense
-

# Long-Standing Mysteries of Solar Physics

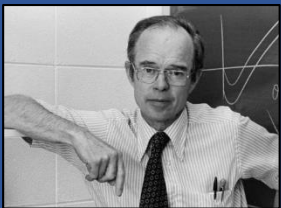


- Why is the corona much hotter than the solar surface?
- Where does the solar wind originate and how is it accelerated?
- How are solar energetic particles accelerated and transported?



# A New Opportunity 1958

**Eugene Parker (1958)**  
Predicts the existence of the supersonic solar wind



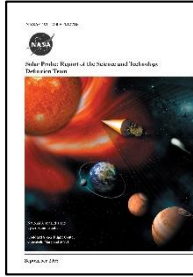
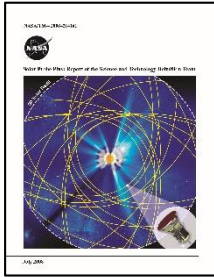
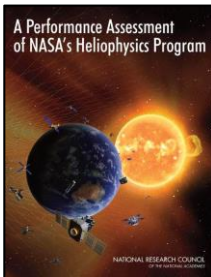
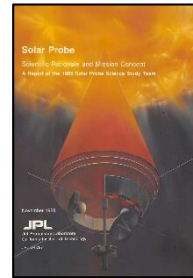
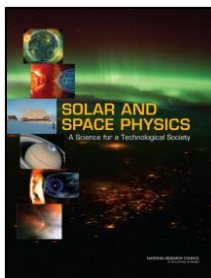
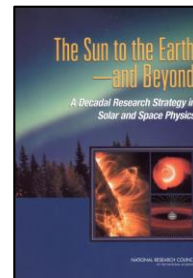
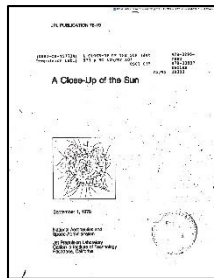
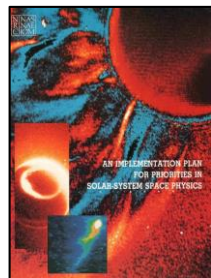
## Simpson Committee Report to Space Studies Board (1958)

*“Solar Probe: specially designed payload, capable of withstanding high temperatures; to be aimed close to the Sun.”*

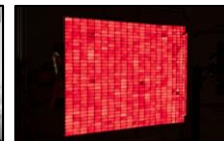
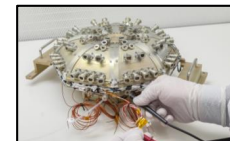
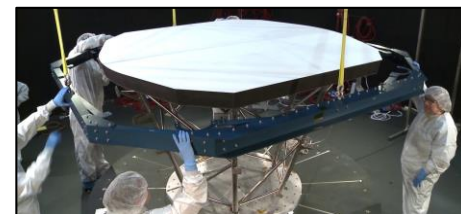
### Special Probes

- a. Solar probe: specially designed payload, capable of withstanding high temperatures; to be aimed close to the Sun.
  - Experiments:
    - Payload Group 1 (whole group)
      - " 2 part of the experiments
      - " 7a nuclear processes
      - " 4a gamma rays
      - " 4b primary neutrons
      - " 6e transport of particles and fields from the Sun
      - " 3c solar magnetic field
  - Stabilization is required
- b. Outer solar system probe: to be aimed away from the Sun in the plane of the ecliptic. (It is hoped that motion away from the Sun to the extent of 5 or 6 astronomical units per year could be accomplished by 1965)
  - Experiments:
    - Payload Group 6c scale size of the 11 year cosmic ray modulation
    - " 6e transport of particles and fields from the Sun (whole group)
    - " 1 (whole group)
    - " 2 (whole group)
  - Stabilization is required
- c. Probe "perpendicular" to the ecliptic. Here an increased velocity is needed and it may be necessary to compromise and accept a trajectory which has a strong component perpendicular to the field and thus moves in a spiral out of the plane of the ecliptic. This is probably the most difficult shot.

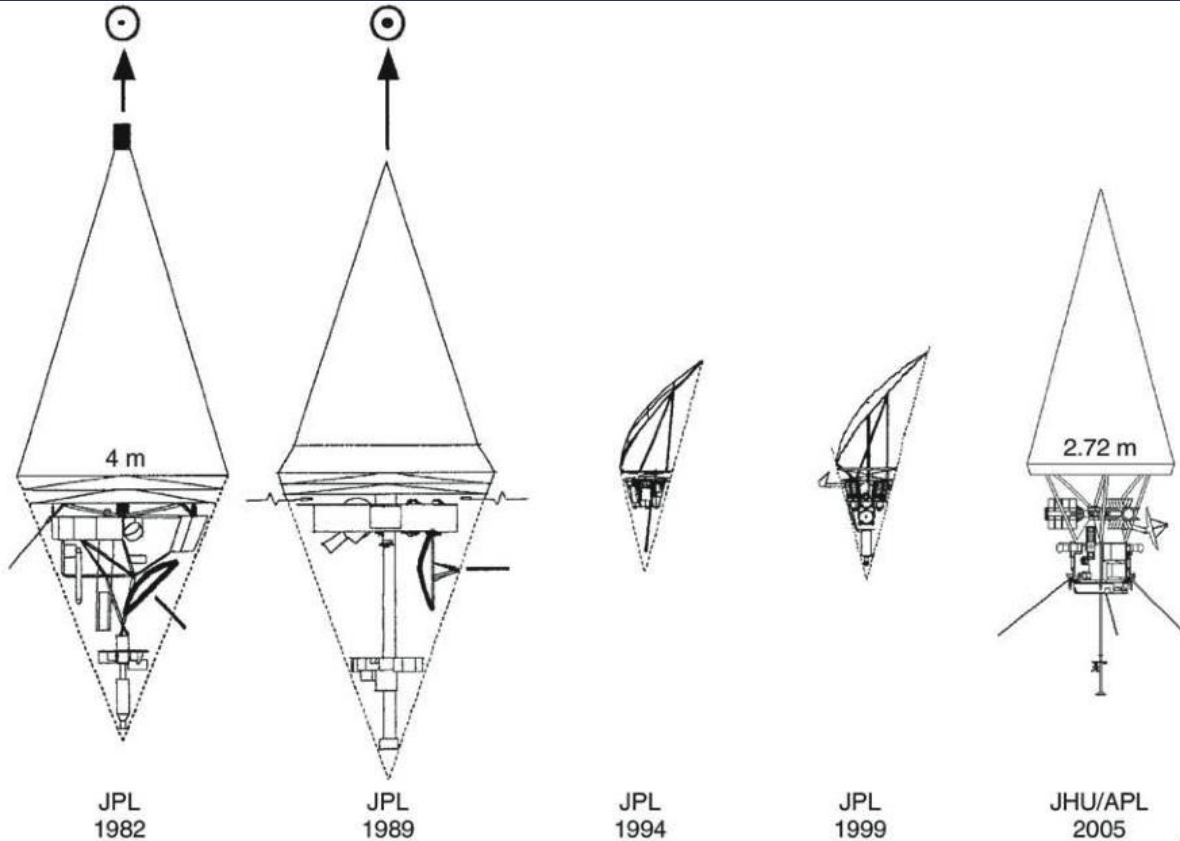
# 50 Years of Studies 1959 – 2007



# APL Led Innovation 2008 – 2018



# Solar Probe Concepts



JPL  
1982

JPL  
1989

JPL  
1994

JPL  
1999

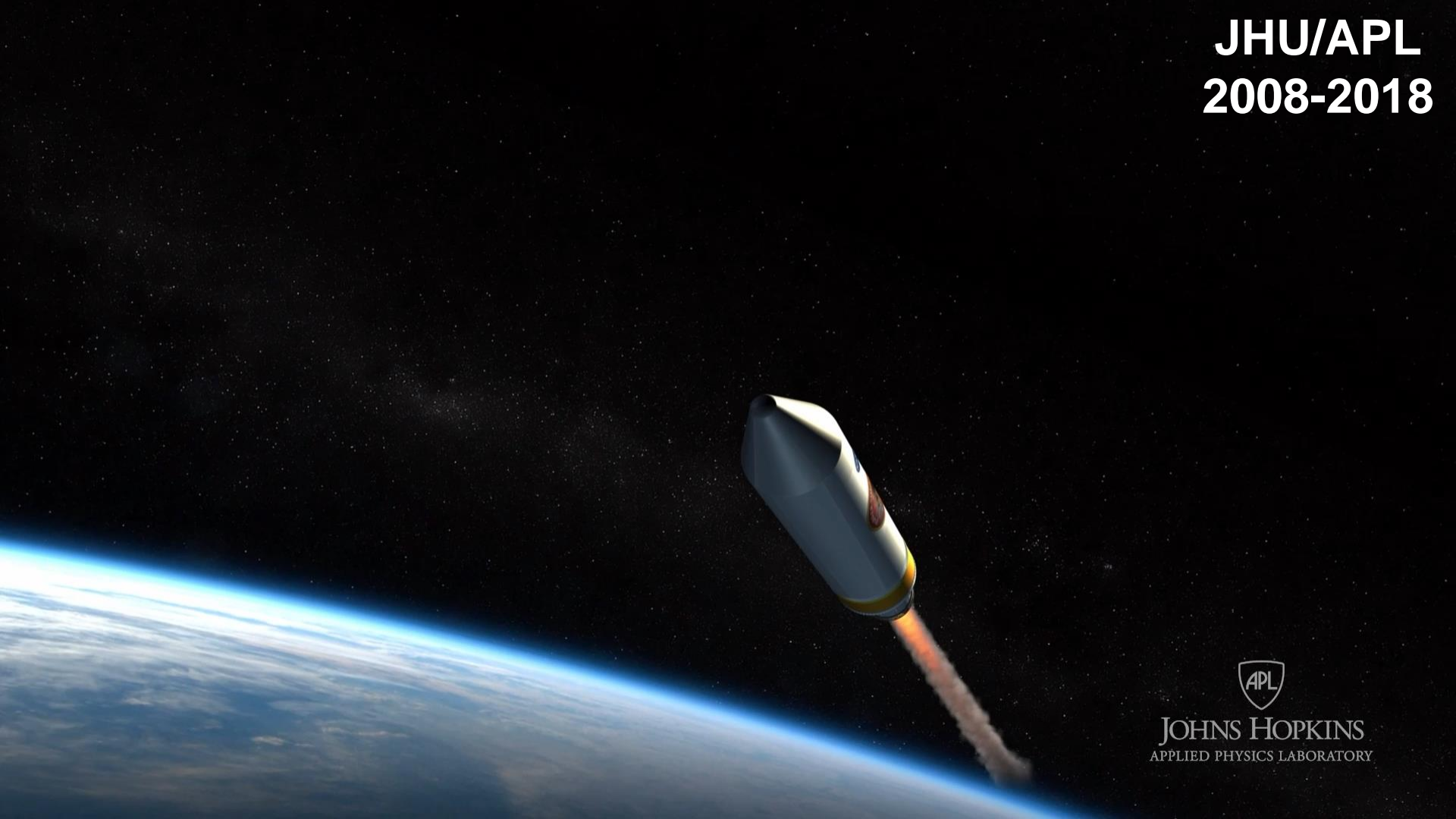
JHU/APL  
2005

05-01481-00

Solar Probe design evolution, 1982–2005.



**JHU/APL**  
**2008-2018**

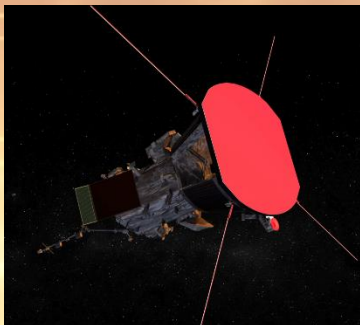


**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY

# Transformational Innovations



## Thermal Protection System



8ft-wide and 4.5in-thick Carbon composite shield Reaches 2,500 deg F

## Actively Cooled Solar Panels

2 – 17 sq ft

Water cooled thermal management  
First system used on a space mission



## Venus Flyby #1



## Navigation Technology

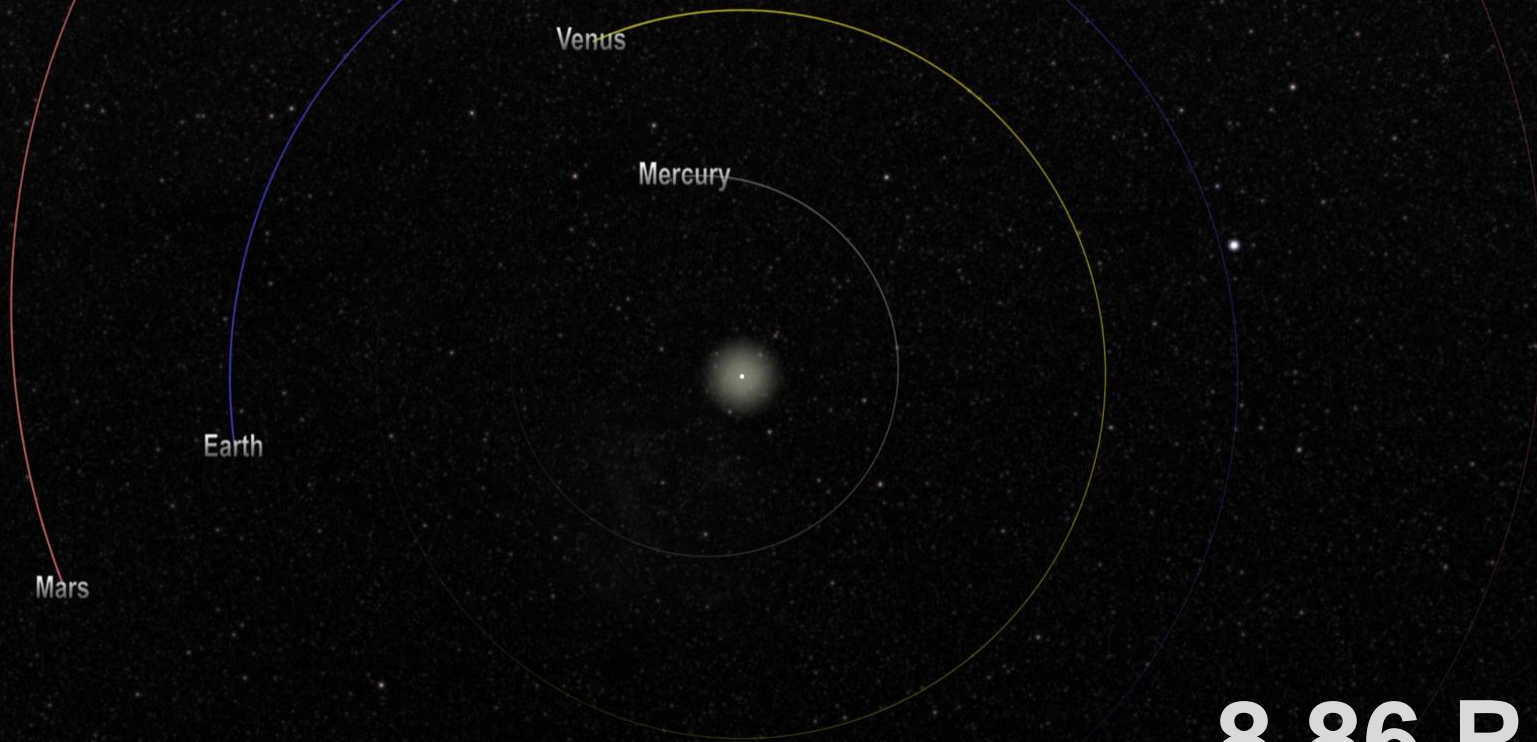
VFB-1: 350 m from ideal target point



## State of the Art Instrumentation

Exposed Solar Probe Cup  
Special material w/ M.P. 4,260 deg F  
Wiring suspended in sapphire crystal tube

# The Journey to Touch our Star



2018 Jun 30

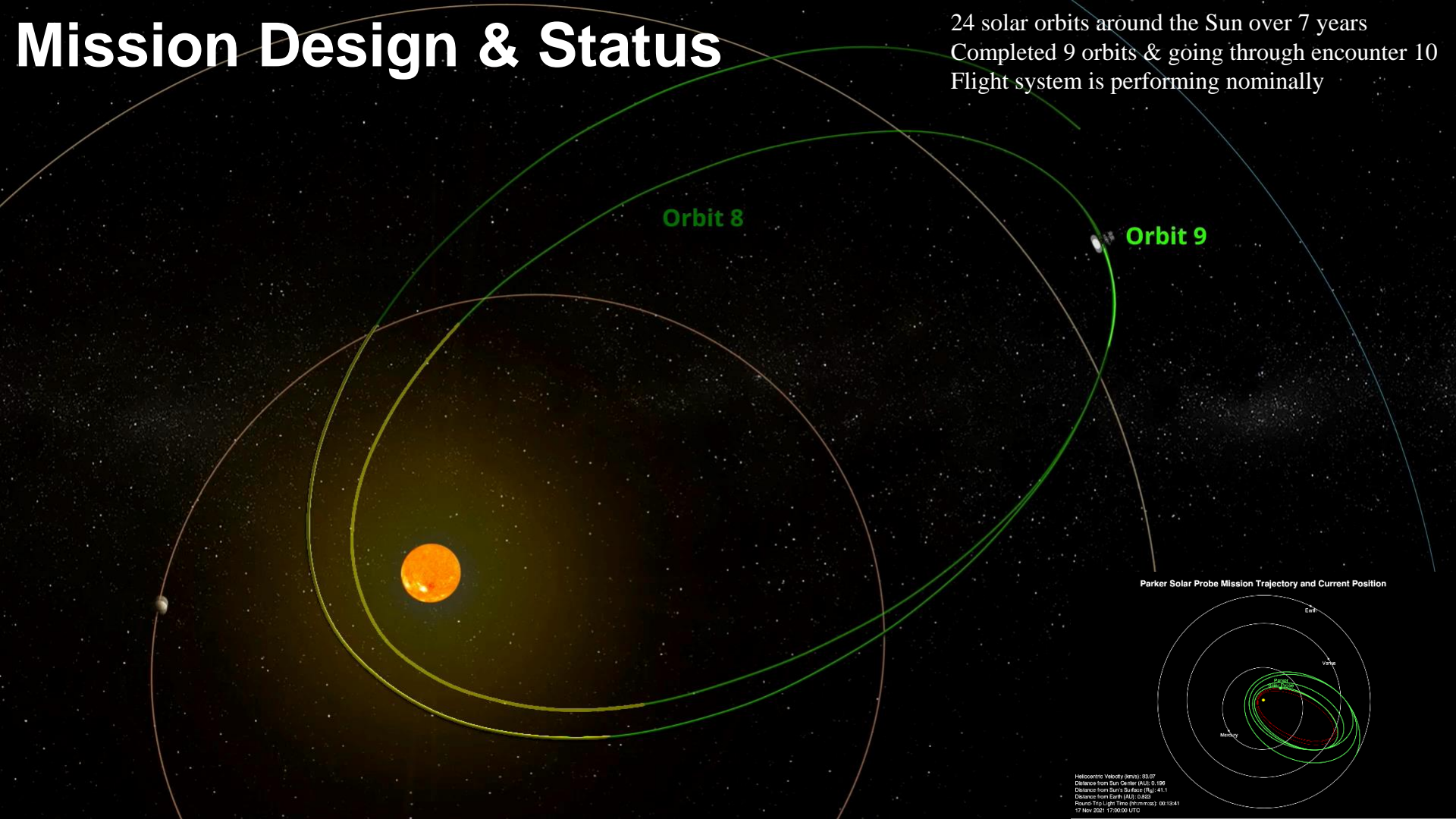
**2024**

**8.86 R<sub>☉</sub>**  
3.8M Miles from  
the solar Surface

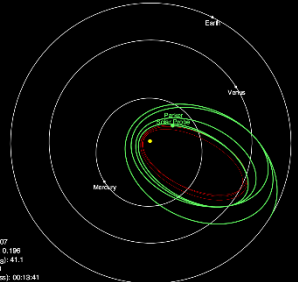


# Mission Design & Status

24 solar orbits around the Sun over 7 years  
Completed 9 orbits & going through encounter 10  
Flight system is performing nominally



Parker Solar Probe Mission Trajectory and Current Position

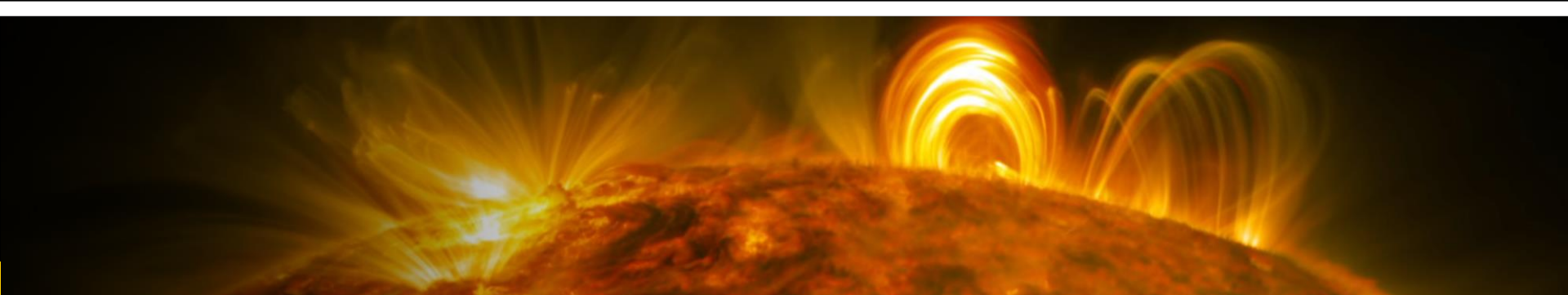


Heliospheric Velocity (km/s): 83.07  
Distance from Sun Center (AU): 0.199  
Distance from Sun's Surface (R<sub>s</sub>): 41.1  
Distance from Earth (AU): 0.263  
Round Trip Light Time (minutes): 00:18:41  
17 Nov 2021 17:00:00 UTC



# Science Investigations

## Four Suites of Instruments





**PI: R. Howard – NRL**

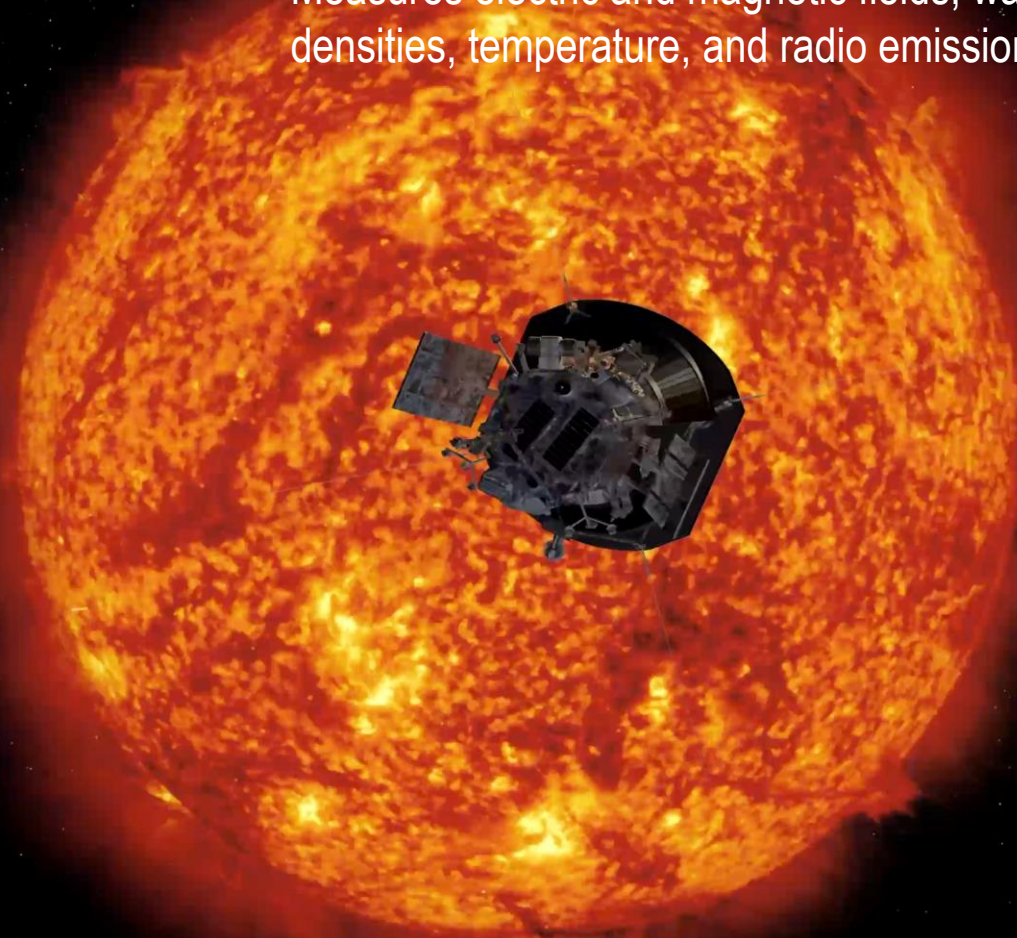
Images of the solar wind, CMEs, shocks and other structures as they approach and pass the spacecraft.

*Vourlidas+ 2016*

**PI: S. Bale – UC Berkeley**

Measures electric and magnetic fields, waves, Poynting flux, densities, temperature, and radio emissions.

*Bale+ 2016*





**PI: J. Kasper – U. Michigan**

Measures velocities, densities, & temperatures of electrons, protons, alphas, (and heavy ions) of the thermal solar wind.

*Kasper+ 2016*

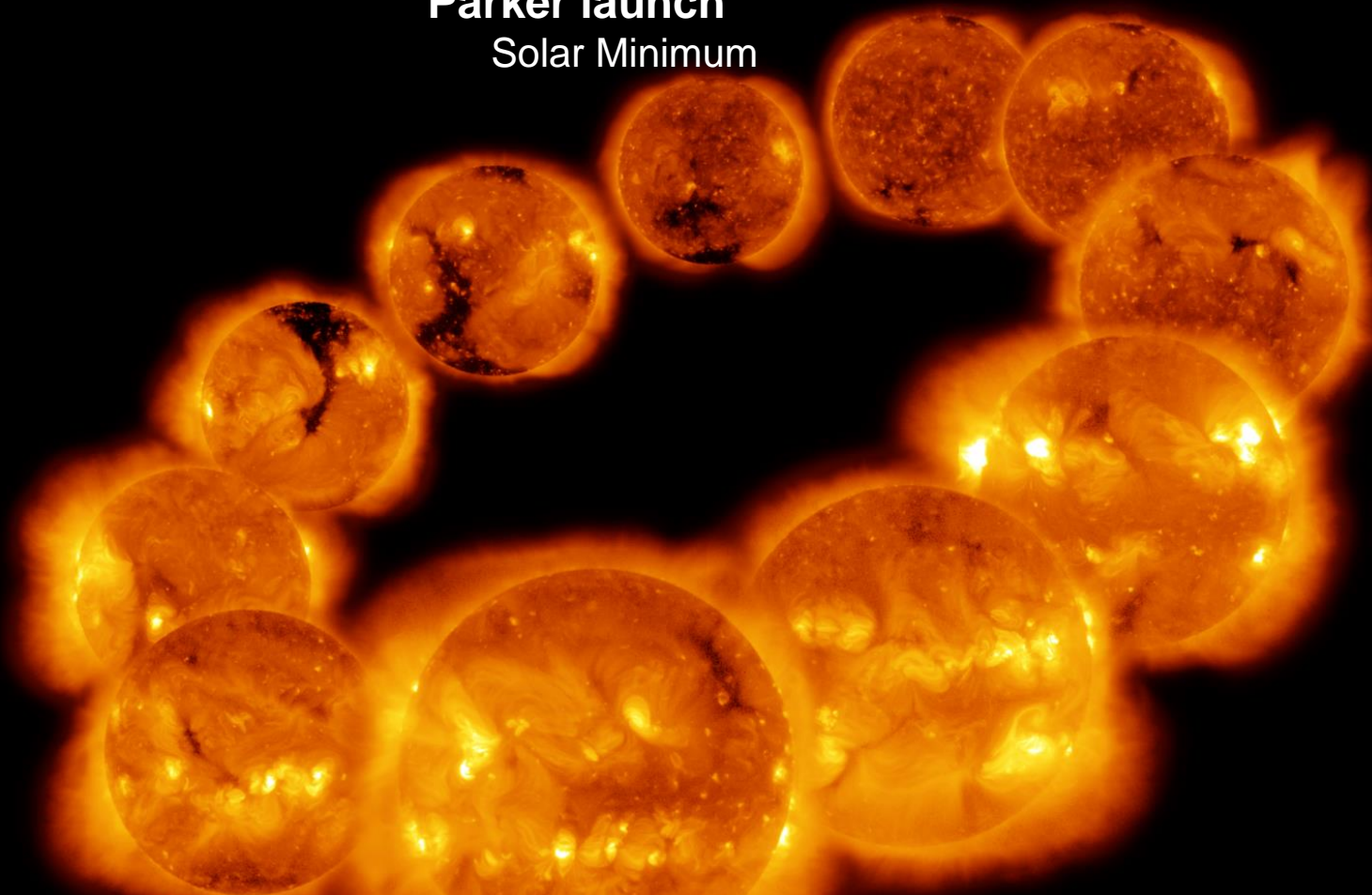


**PI: D. McComas – Princeton U.**

Measures energetic electrons, protons and heavy ions within the energy range 10 keV to 100 MeV.

*McComas+ 2016*

**Parker launch**  
Solar Minimum



**End of prime mission**  
Solar Maximum



# Let's pause...



Let's pause for two questions  
from the audience.

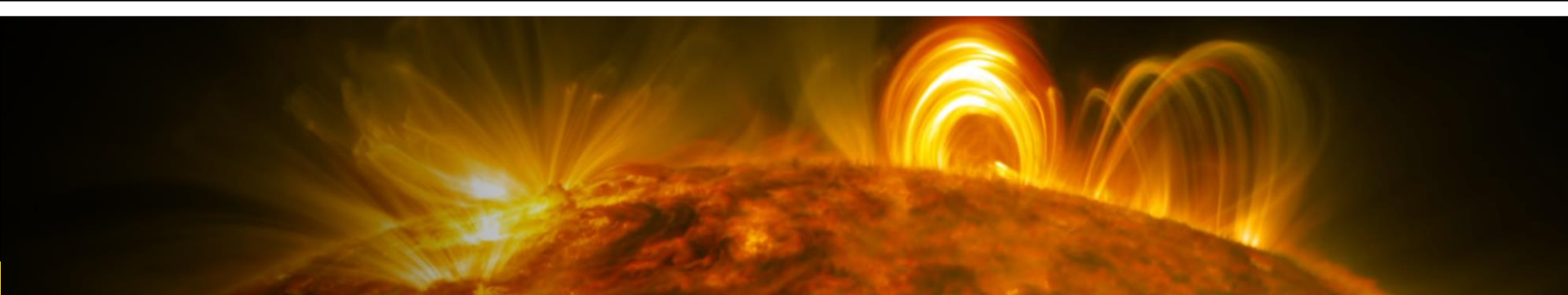


*Please share your questions in the chat window.*



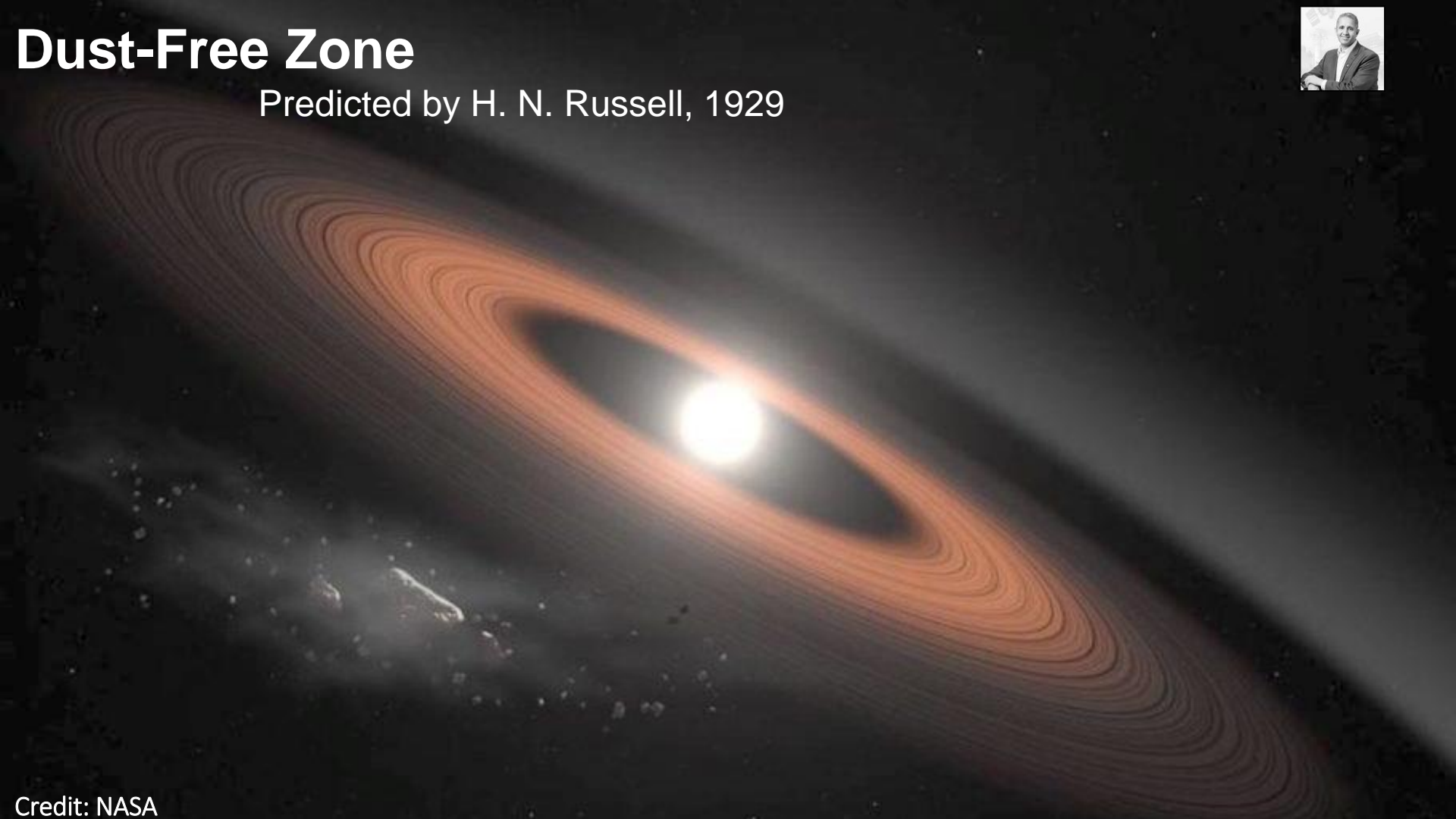


# Parker Solar Probe Science Discoveries



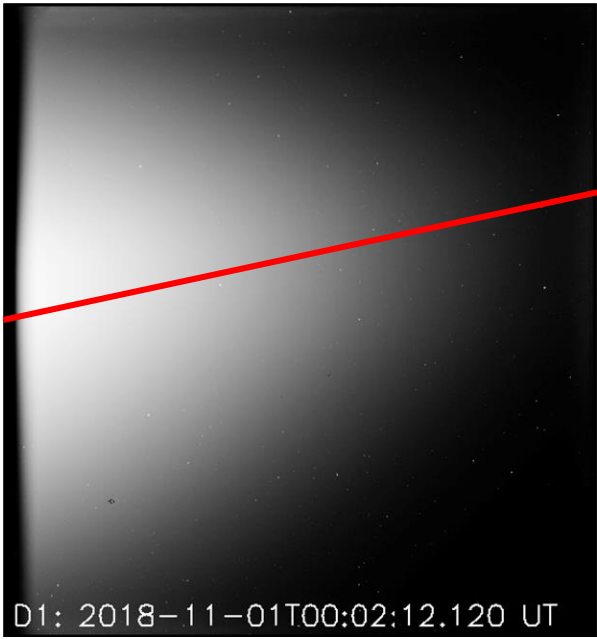
# Dust-Free Zone

Predicted by H. N. Russell, 1929

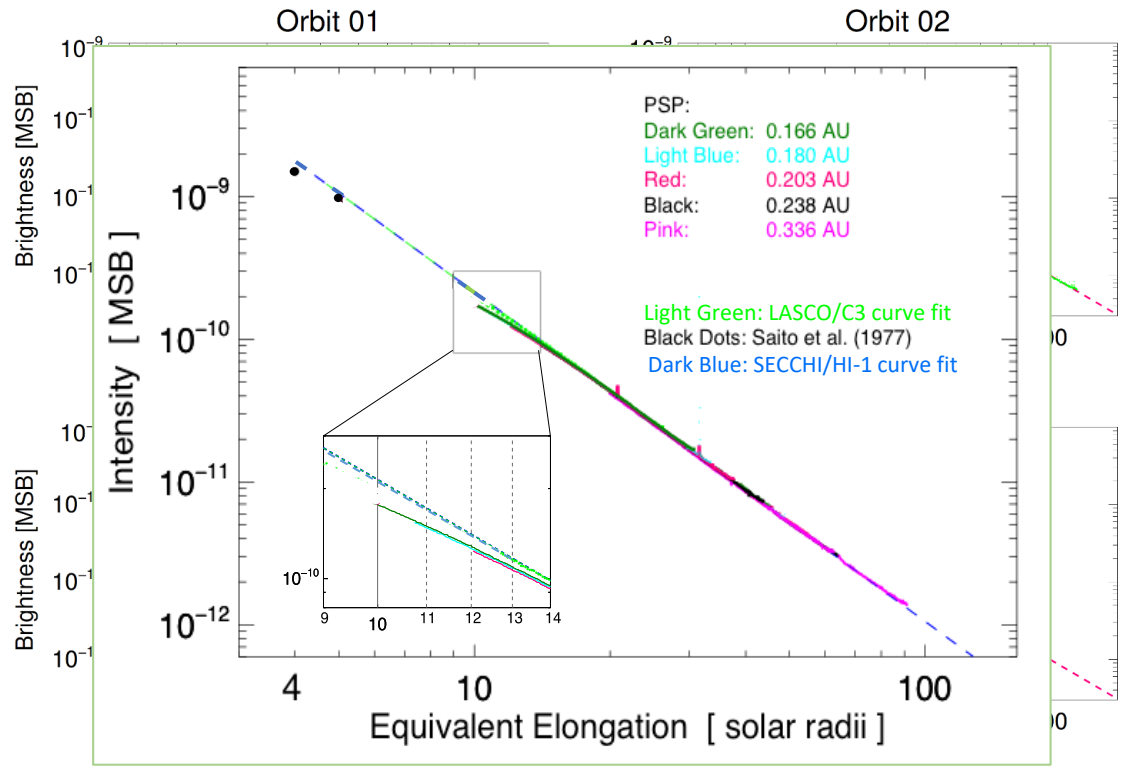




# Evidence for the Existence of the Dust-Free Zone



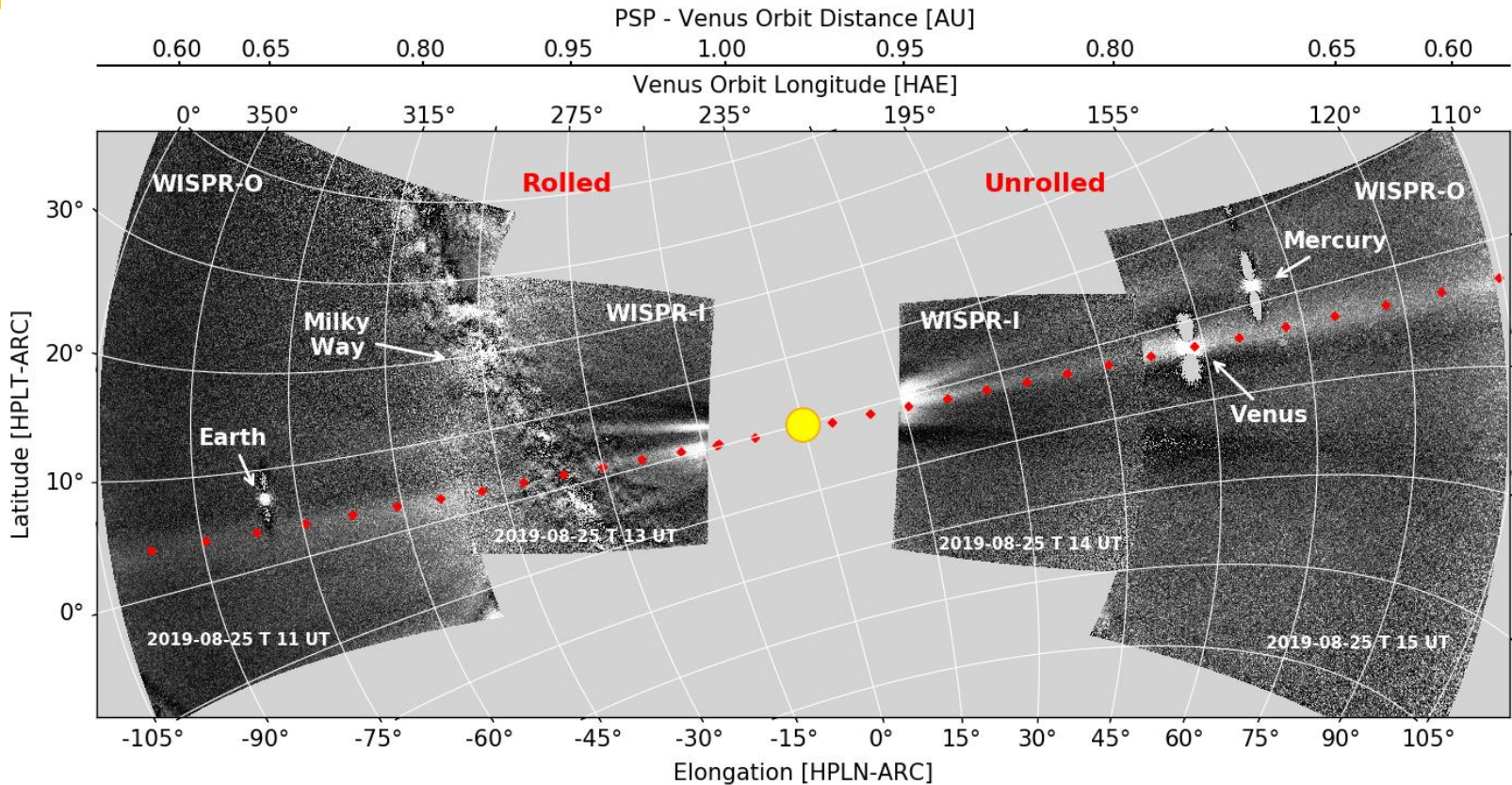
Encounter 1



Howard et al. (2019) & Stenborg et al. (2020)



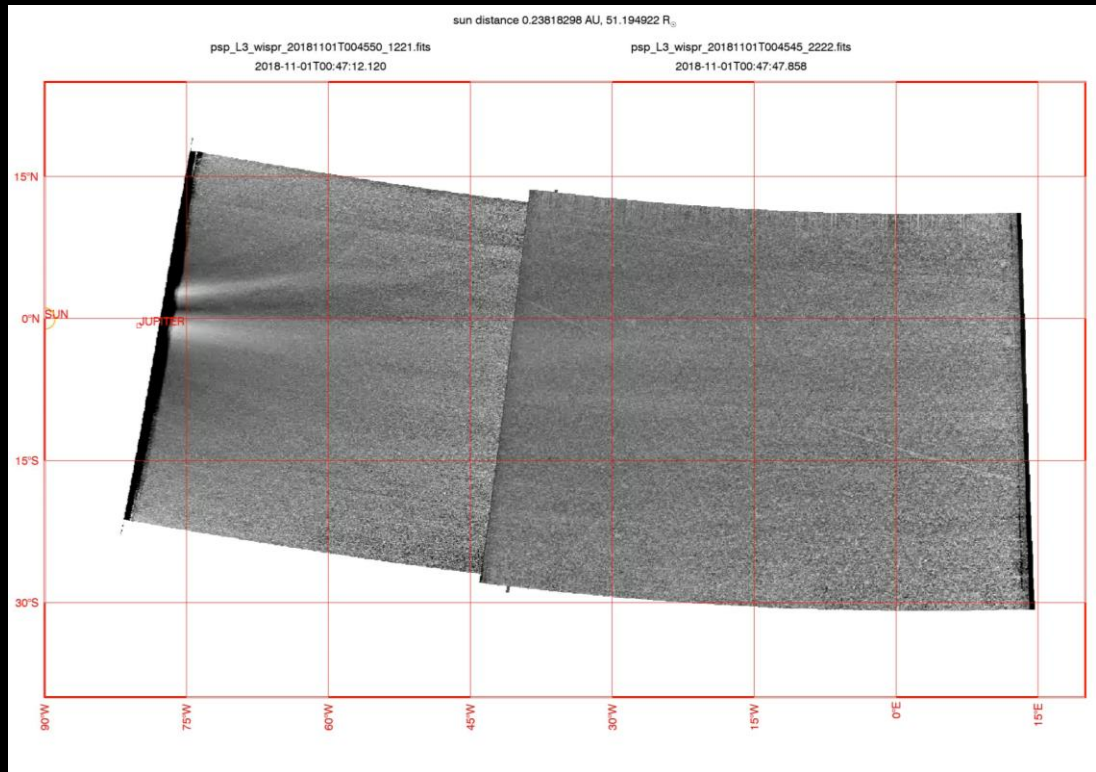
# Dust Ring Along the Orbit of Venus



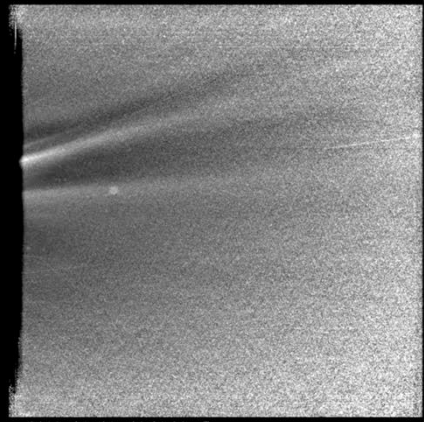




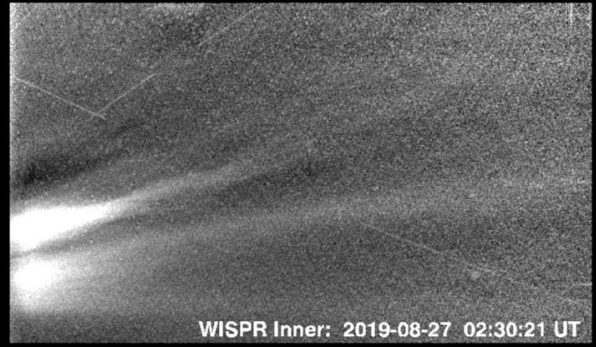
# Gallery of CMEs in WISPR



E1



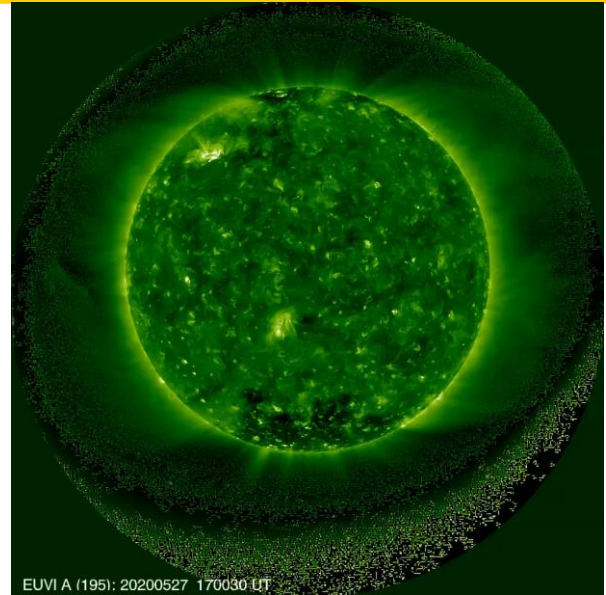
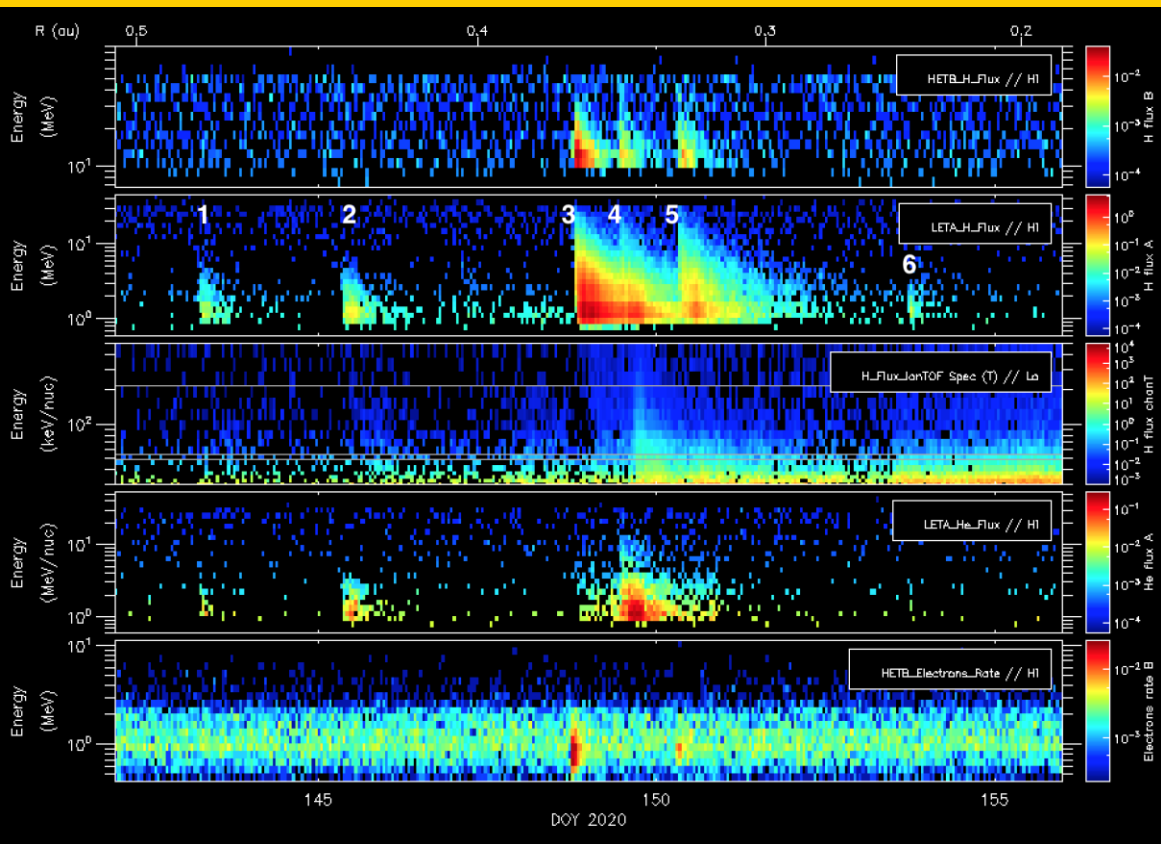
E2



E3



# Energetic Particle Environment



SEP events 3-5 separated by <24 hours

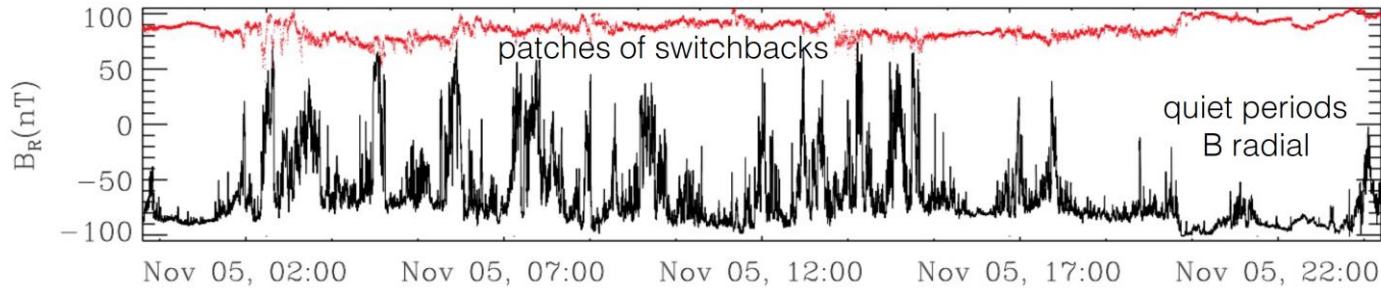
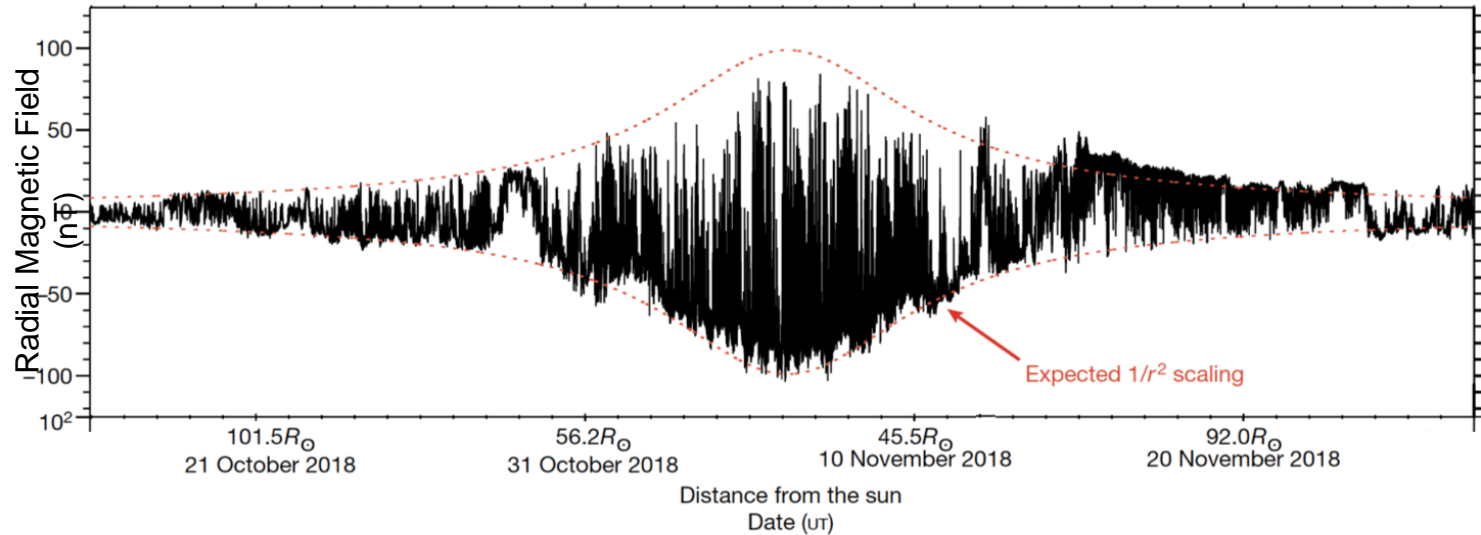
- May have the same source
- Have different composition

Cohen et al., A&A, 2020



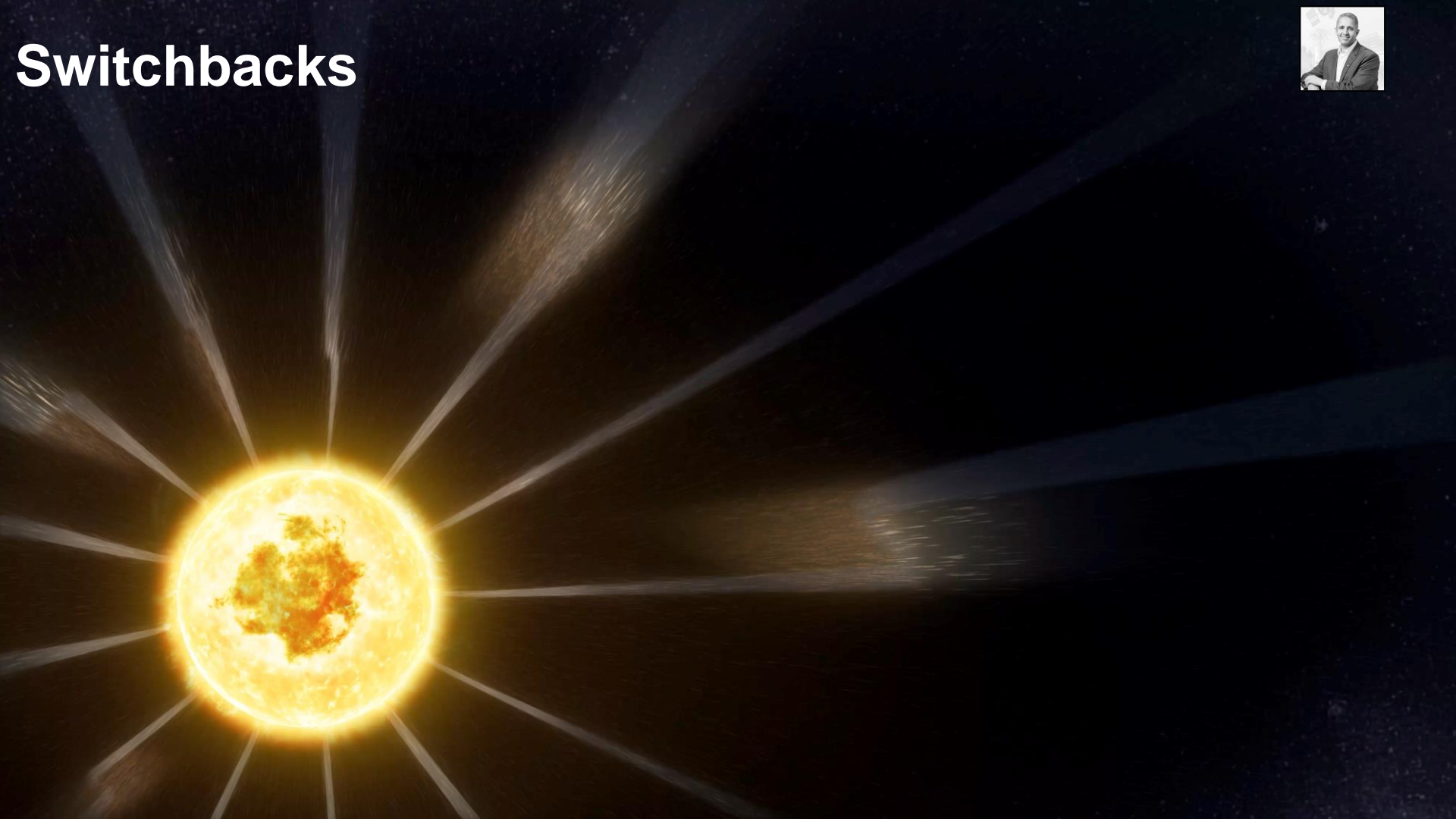
# Switchbacks: Energy Source for the Corona Heating

Bale et al., Nature (2019); Kasper et al., Nature (2019)



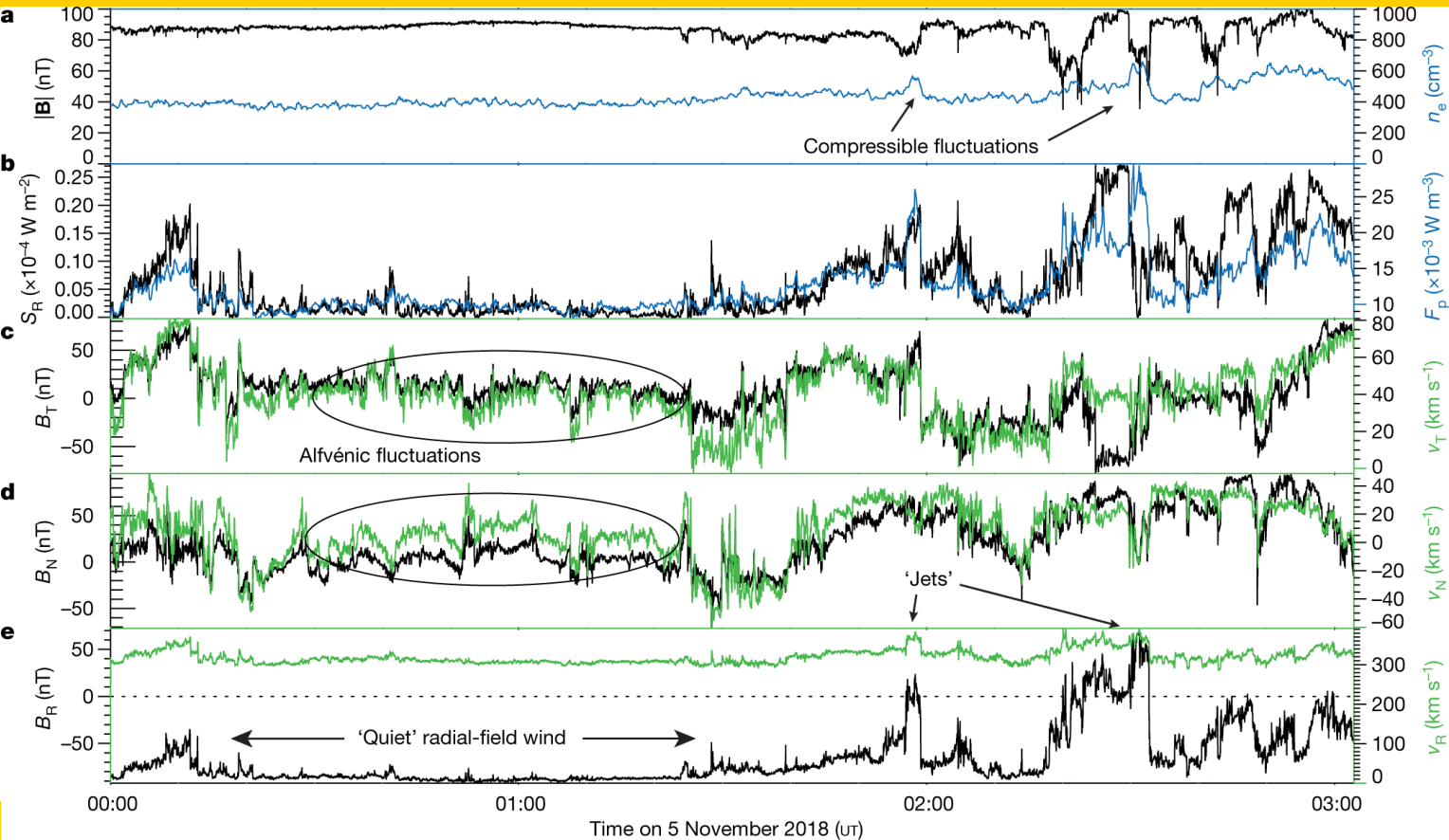


# Switchbacks



# Switchbacks

## Energy Source for the Corona Heating

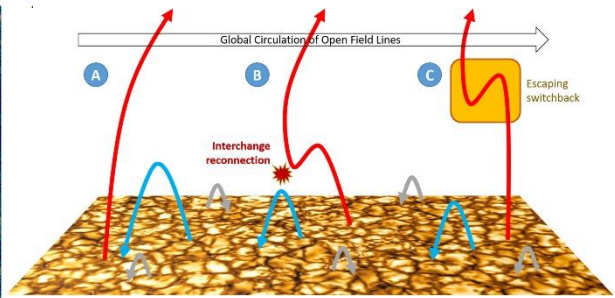
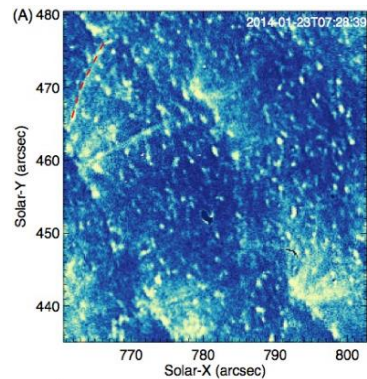


Bale et al. (2019)

# Switchbacks: Reconnection vs. Turbulence

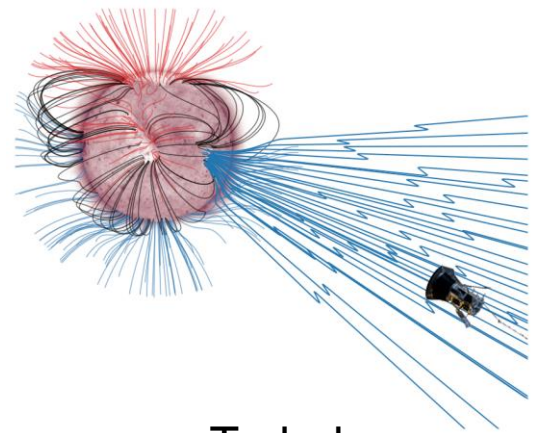
Where how do switchbacks form?

How do they evolve? → Dissipation: plasma heating and acceleration.



Magnetic field reconnection  
at the base of the solar corona

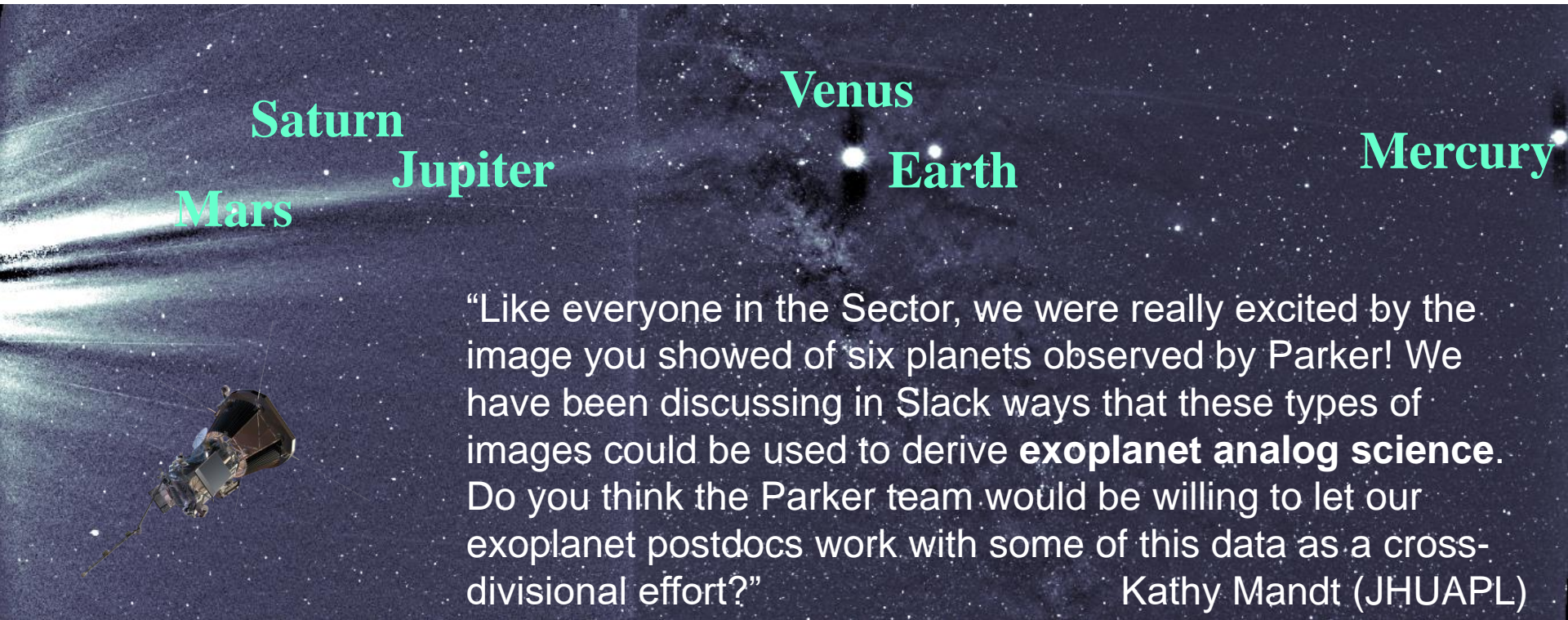
vs.



Turbulence  
In situ

**Switchback phenomenon: a discriminator between solar wind theories**

# The Family Portrait: An Incredible Image PSP/WISPR – June 7, 2020



“Like everyone in the Sector, we were really excited by the image you showed of six planets observed by Parker! We have been discussing in Slack ways that these types of images could be used to derive **exoplanet analog science**. Do you think the Parker team would be willing to let our exoplanet postdocs work with some of this data as a cross-divisional effort?”  
Kathy Mandt (JHUAPL)



# Let's pause...



Let's pause for additional questions from the audience.



*Please share your questions in the chat window.*

# Thanks to Today's Presenter...

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**Dr. Nour E. Raouafi**

Project Scientist

NASA Parker Solar Probe

Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory

# Thank you for participating!



# Collection of Resources



**This collection includes the slides (as PDF),  
handouts and other resources.**



**Link to the collection:**

[https://my.nsta.org/collection/t!plus!nCq9Jg7dg\\_E](https://my.nsta.org/collection/t!plus!nCq9Jg7dg_E)





# Post Program Survey



We value your feedback!

Please stay with us to the end of the program. The post-program survey link will be shared after the recording is stopped.

Your completed survey confirms your attendance which allows us to award you a certificate of participation.



# NSTA Web Seminars



**Transforming Science Learning:** Part 2: Building Science Ideas Using Multiple Modalities and Talk (*Member Web Seminar*)

December 1, 7:00 PM ET

**Science Update:** Protecting the Elusive & Endangered Hawaiian False Killer Whale

December 2, 7:00 PM ET

**Sponsored Web Seminar:** Preparing Students for Engineering Careers

December 7, 7:00 PM ET

**Science Update:** Unfold the Universe with NASA's Webb Space Telescope

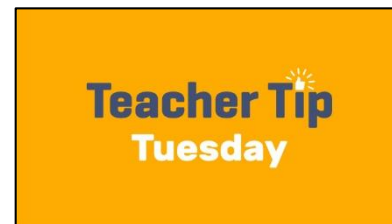
January 20, 7:00 PM ET

**Teacher Tip Tuesday:** Elevating Science Learning through Read Alouds!

January 25, 7:00 PM ET

**Transforming Science Learning:** Part 1: Multilingual Learners in Science Classrooms: Theory and Policy Foundations (*Member Web Seminar*)

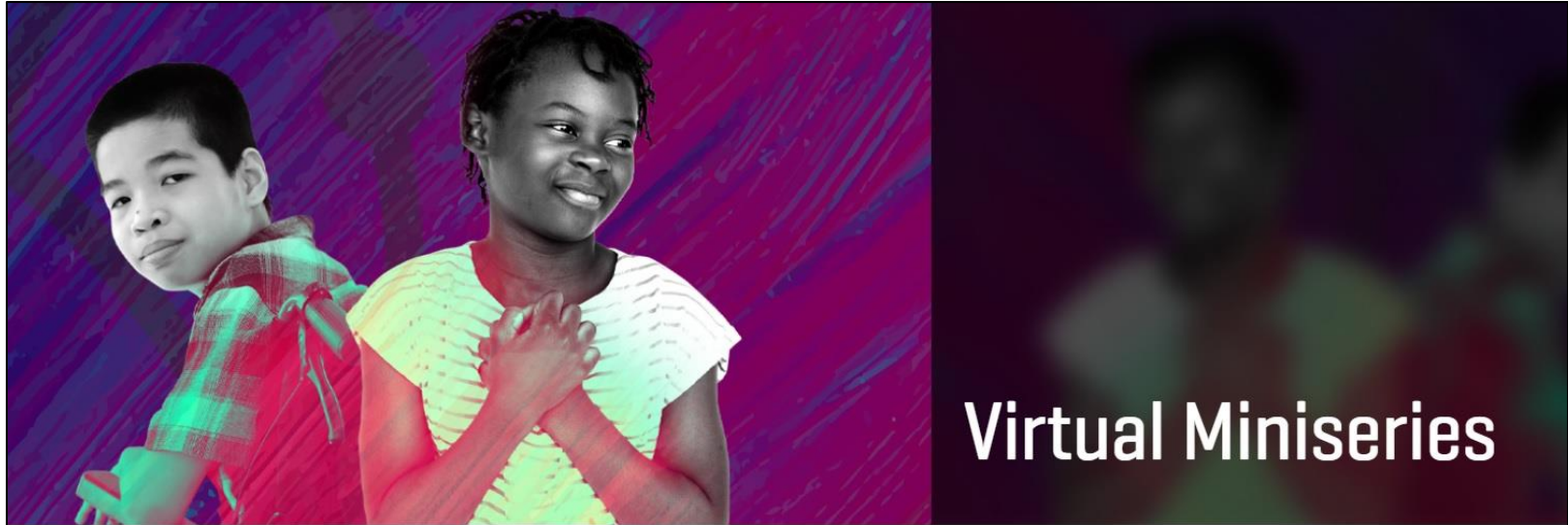
January 26, 7:00 PM ET



<https://my.nsta.org/webseminars>



# NSTA Virtual Miniseries



## Virtual Miniseries

Promoting Equity/Diversity/Inclusion Through Science and STEM Teaching

Nov. 6 · Nov. 20 · Dec. 4 · Dec. 18

<https://my.nsta.org/event/equity-diversity-inclusion-series>





## Web Seminar Series



### Web Seminar Series

Tue Feb 08, 2022 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Eastern  
Tue Feb 15, 2022 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Eastern  
Tue Feb 22, 2022 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Eastern  
Tue Mar 01, 2022 | 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Eastern

### Presenters



Kate Soriano



Tricia Shelton

### Sponsors



<https://my.nsta.org/event/nsta-web-seminar-series-prioritizing-relationships-and-equity-leveraging-studen>



# Thanks to the NSTA Virtual Learning Team

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## **National Science Teaching Association**

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Flavio Mendez, Assistant Executive Director

Kate Soriano, Standards Implementation Specialist

Wendy Binder, Program Director

Laura Jackson, Project Manager

Michelle Phillips, eLearning Engagement Specialist

Patrice Scinta, Curriculum Writing Specialist

Eddie Hausknecht, Senior Manager Web Development

Don Boonstra, Technical Coordinator

***This concludes today's program.***

