

**Ball Aerospace Tech Talk**  
**6 March 2015**

**Geopolitical Reality & Planetary Defense**  
**-**  
**Some Technical Consequences**

**Rusty Schweickart**  
B612 Foundation

# What I'll Address

**What Options do we have re Mitigation**

**Civil Defense or Impact Prevention**

**How and Who Decides**

**What are the Likely Key Drivers**

**A Closer Look at Deflection**

**What are the Technical Implications**













# Deflection

## Kinetic Impact

Pushes the asteroid via direct impact  
(KI = robust but imprecise)

## Nuclear Explosion

Explodes surface off NEO to create impulsive push

## Gravity Tractor

Pulls the asteroid using mutual gravity as a tow-rope  
(GT = weak but precise)



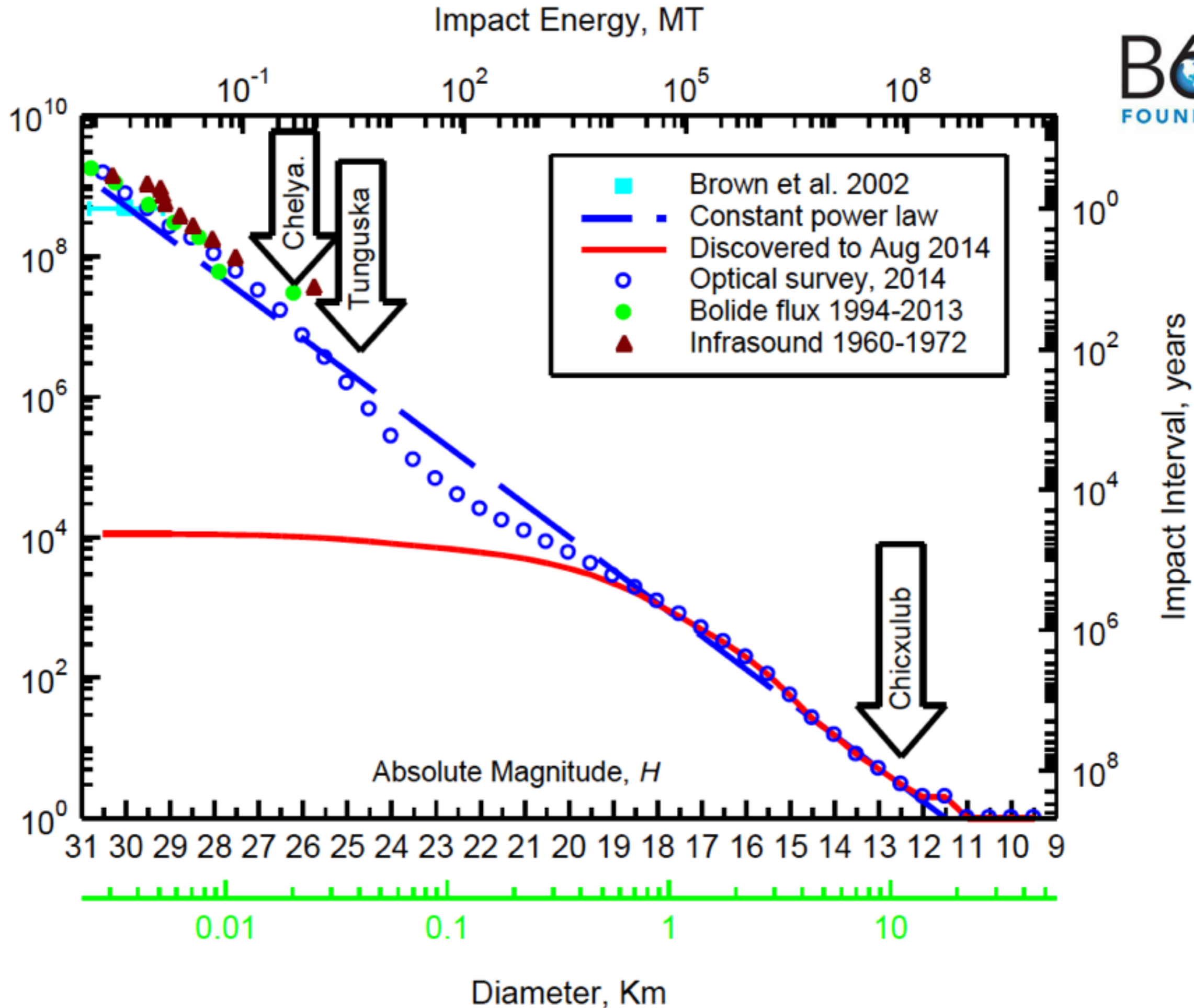
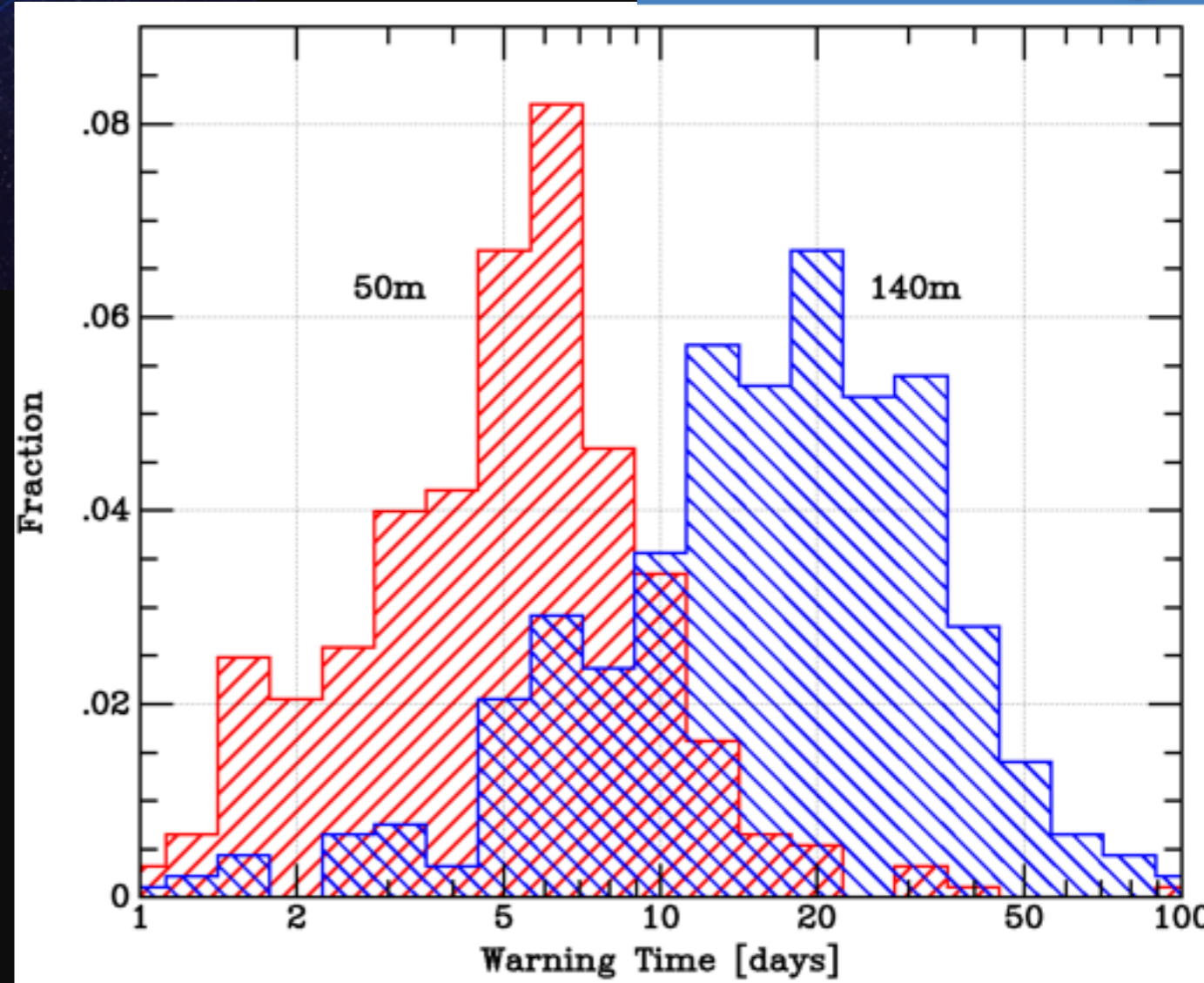
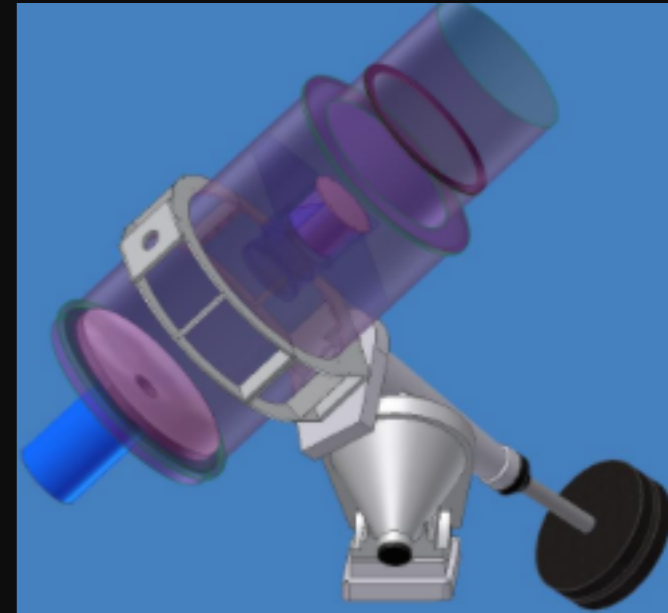
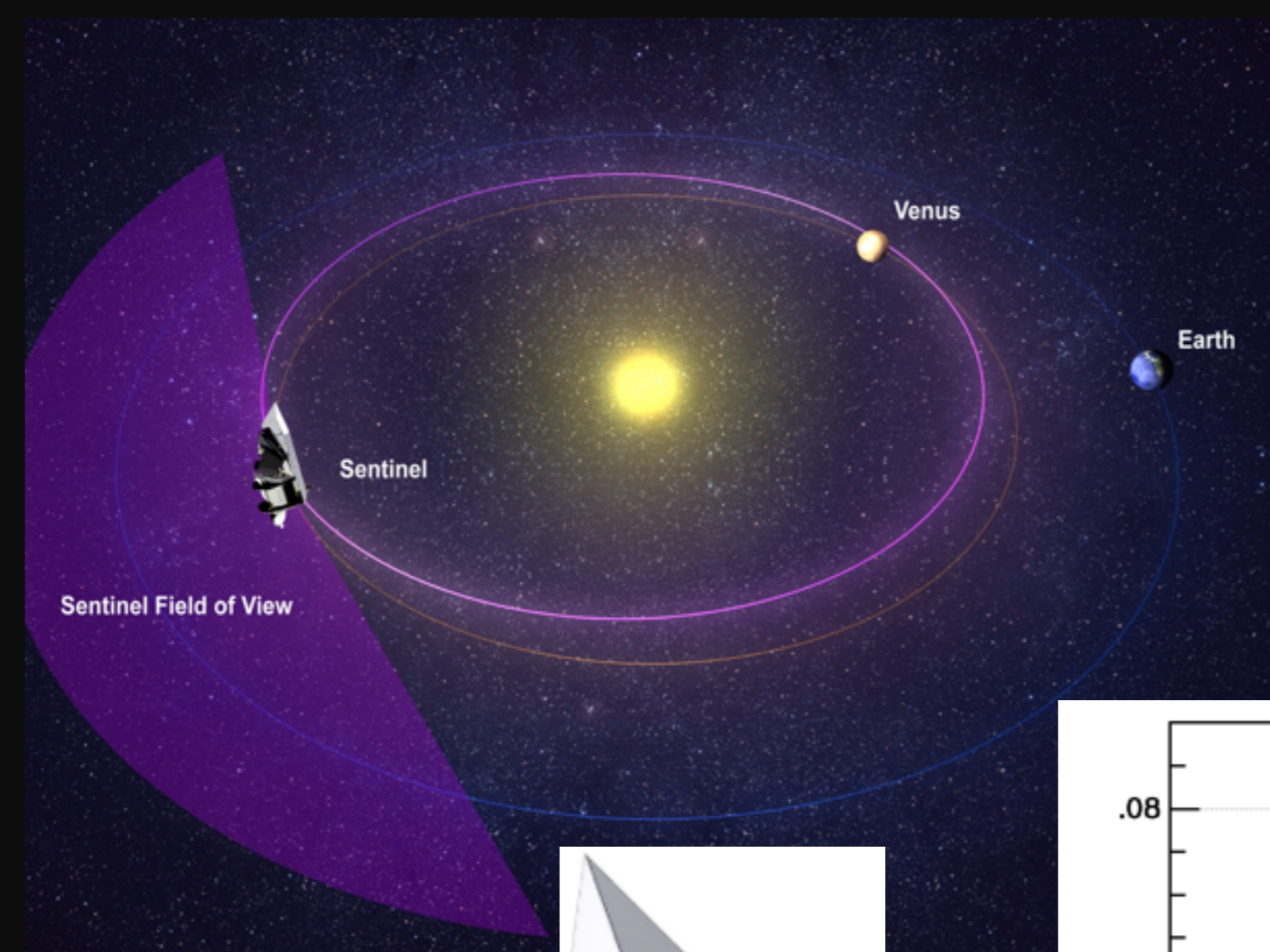


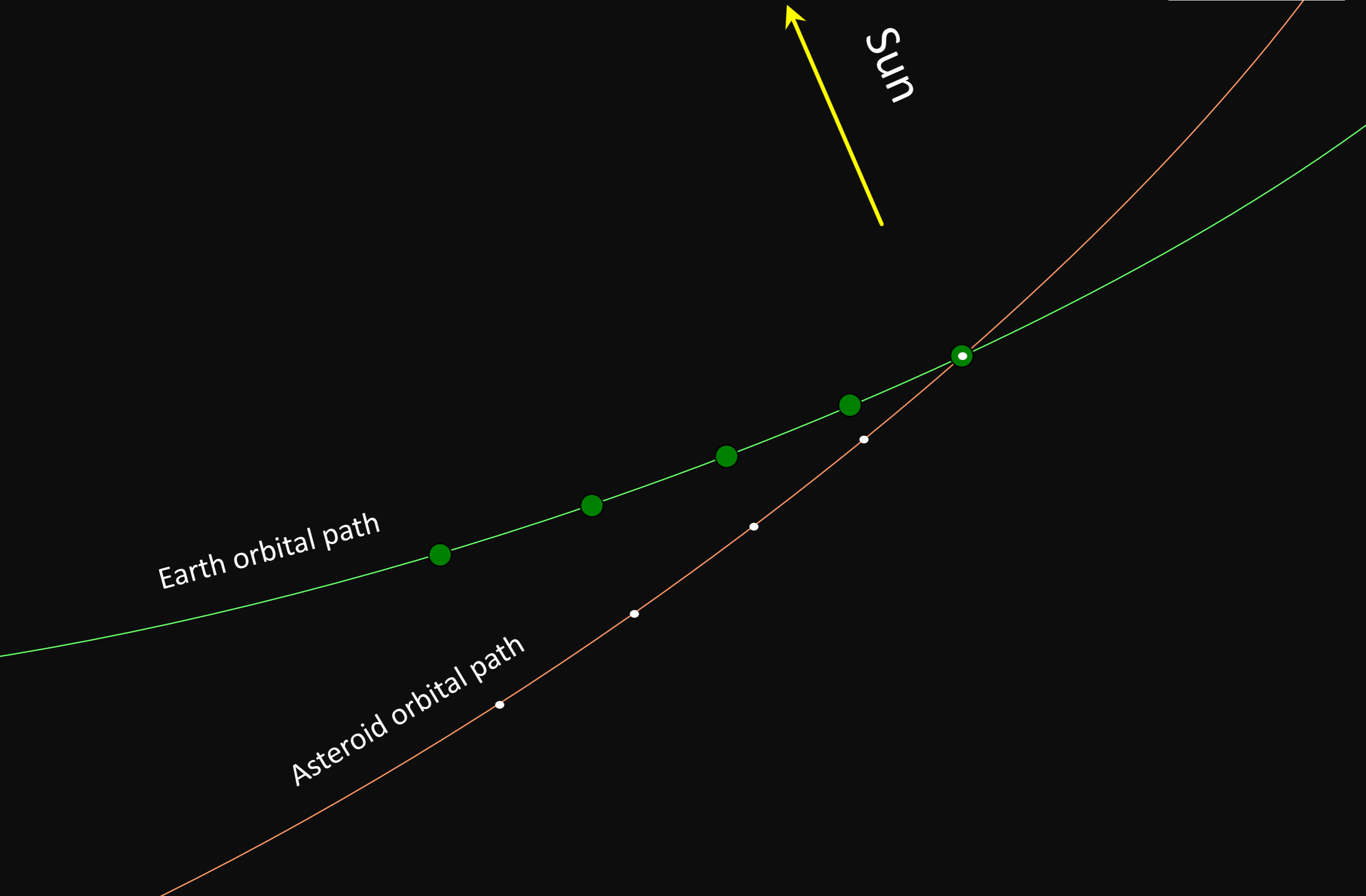
Figure 5 – Estimated cumulative population of NEAs.







# Deflection Geometry

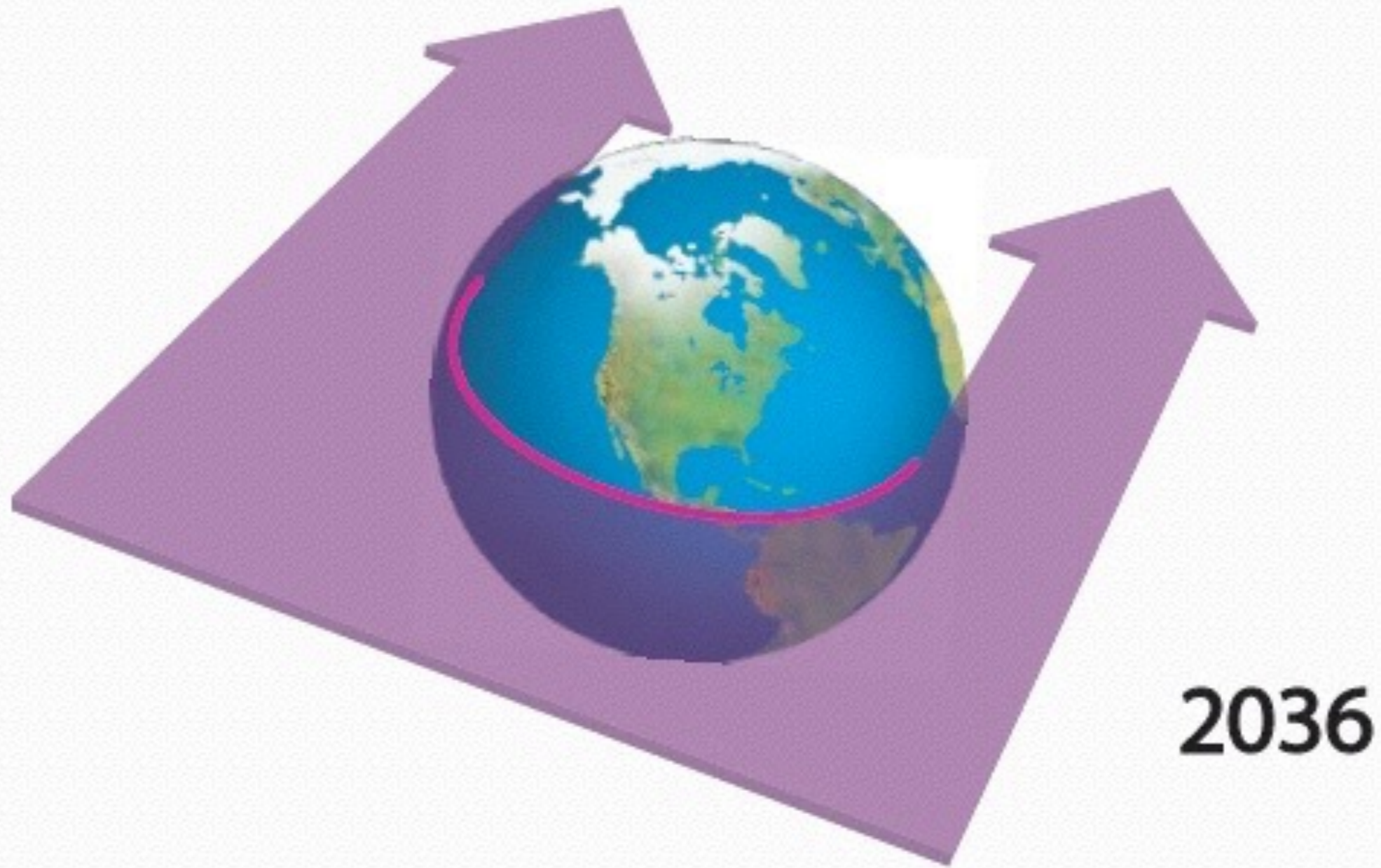


Earth orbital path

Asteroid orbital path

Sun







# Association of Space Explorers (ASE)

[www.space-explorers.org](http://www.space-explorers.org)

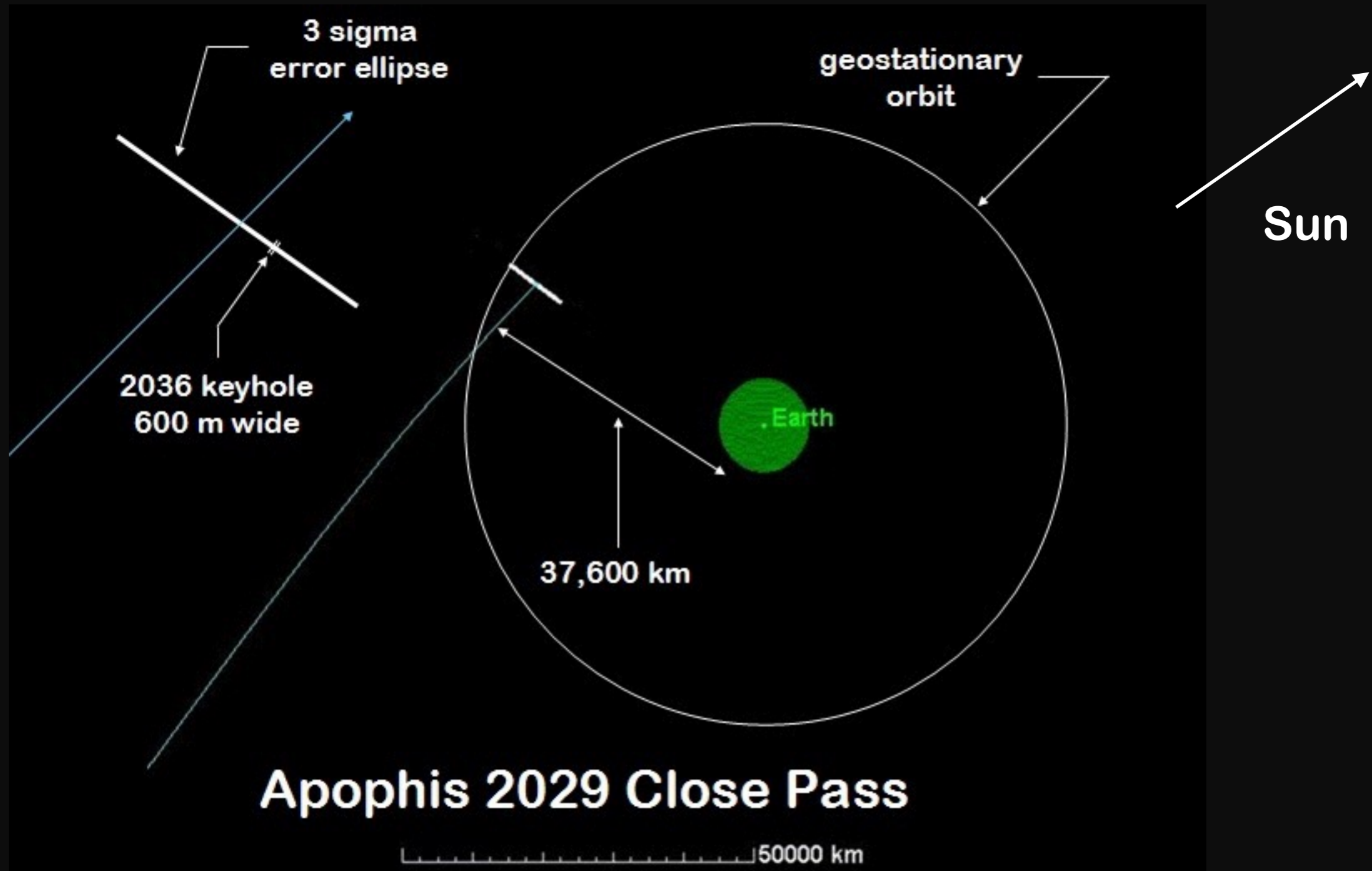


## Geopolitical Decision







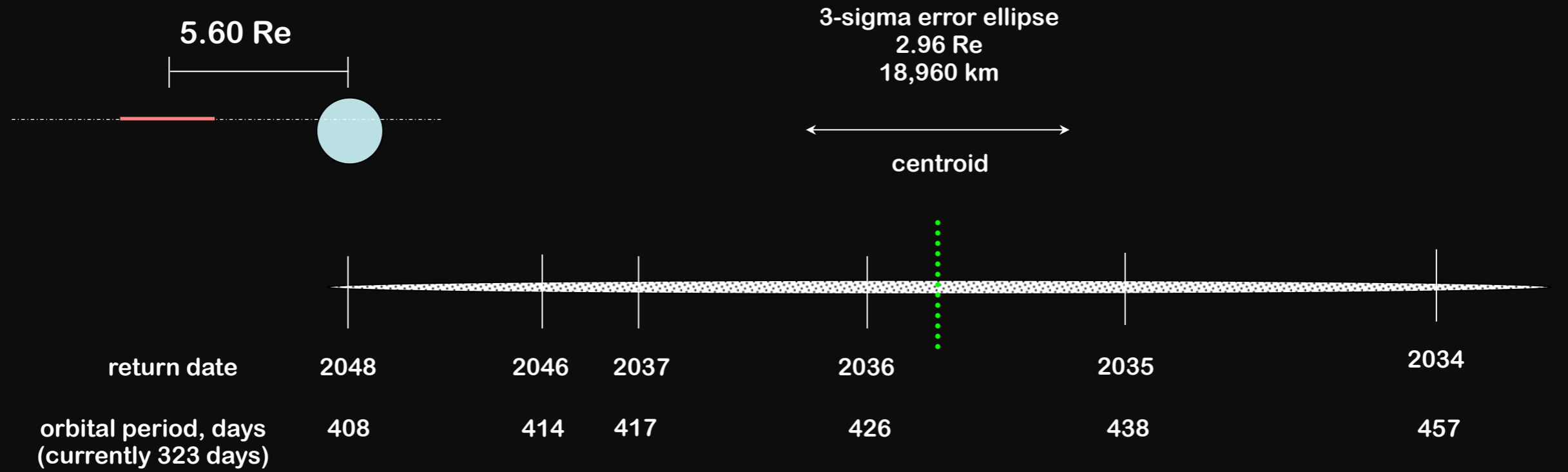




# Apophis 2029 close pass

## Resonances & Keyholes

Note: all calculations based on JPL data as of 4/11/05.

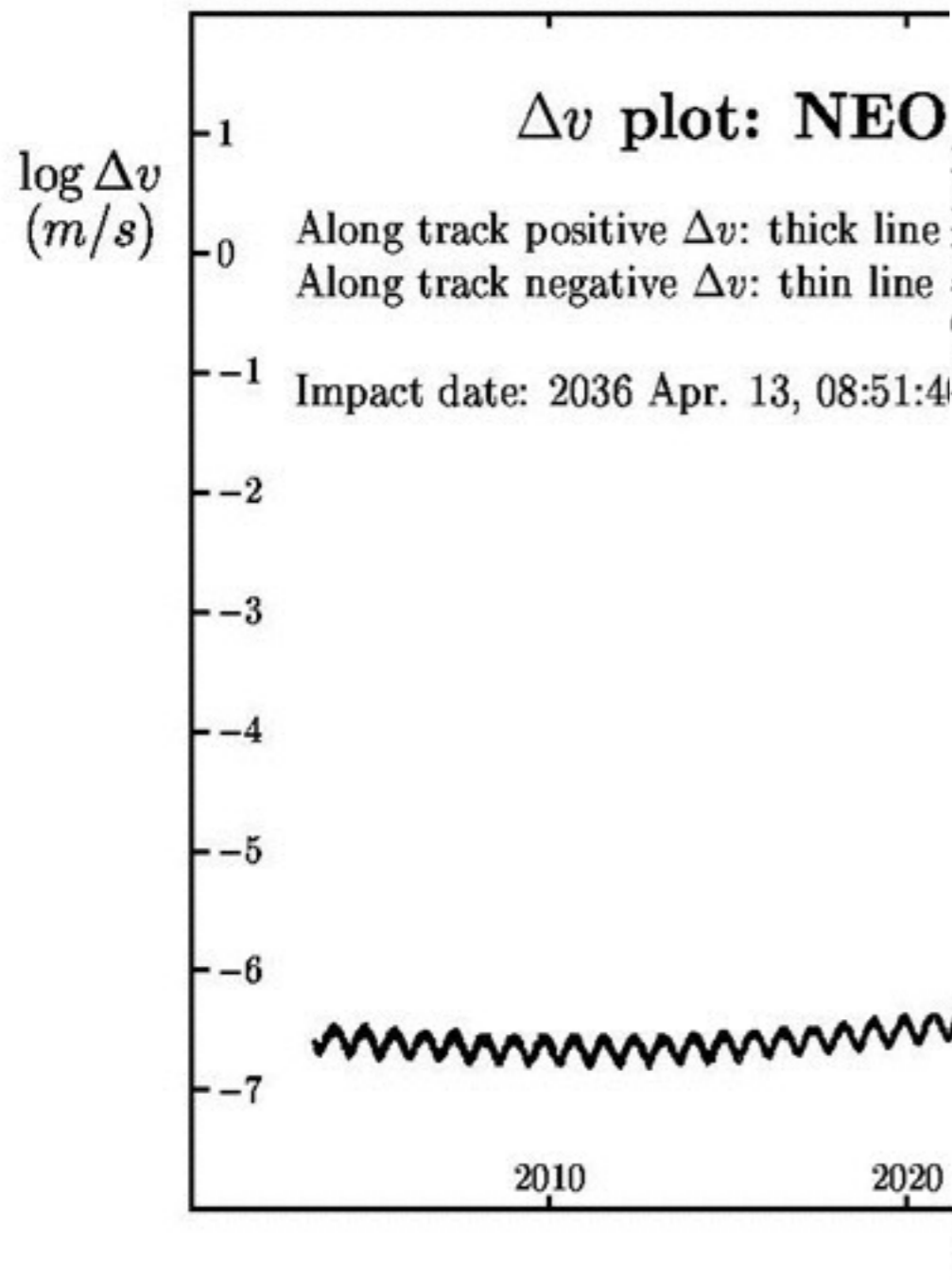


Earth center = 5.78 Re  
LOV centroid = 0.18 Re (1149 km)

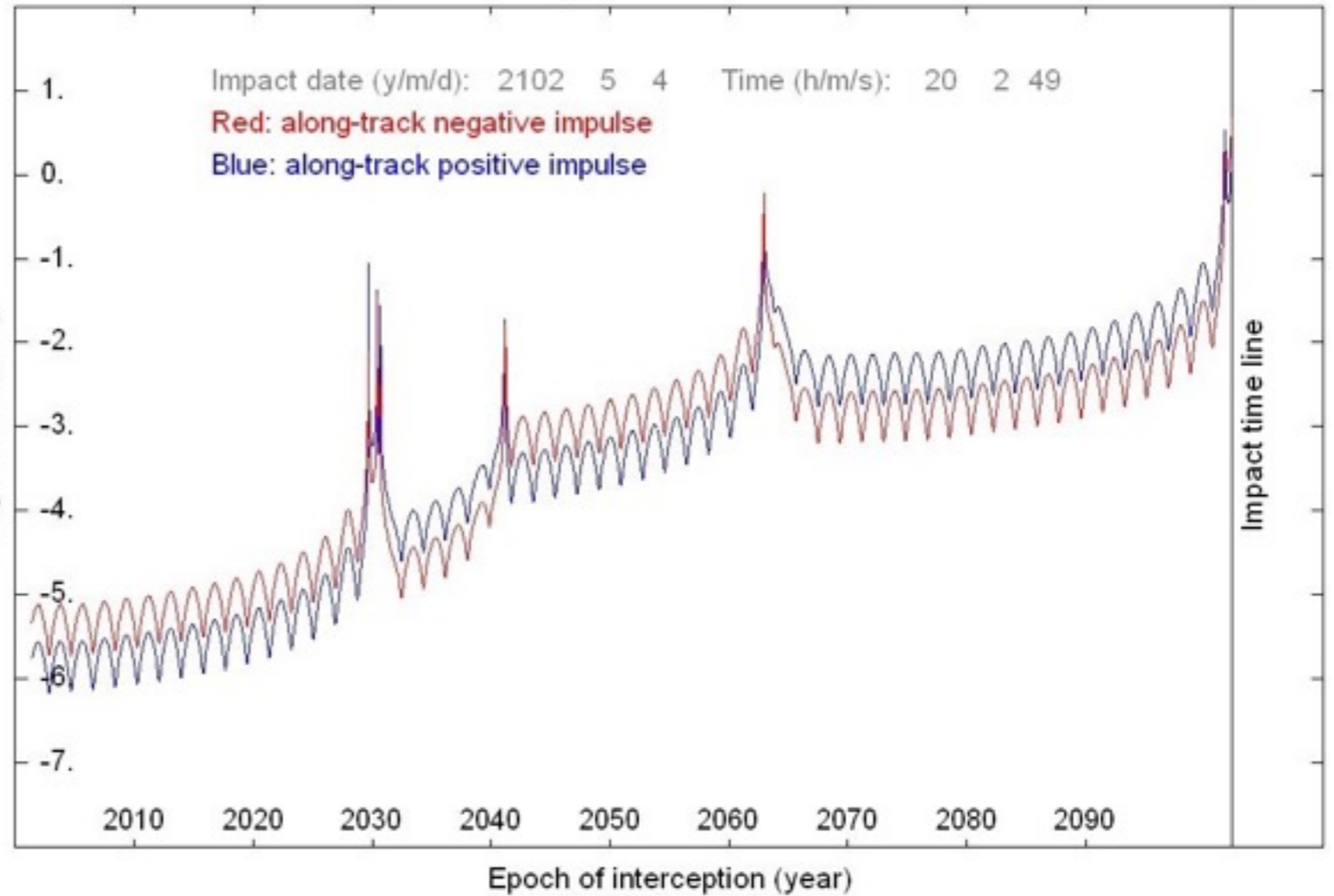
7/6 resonance = 885 meters



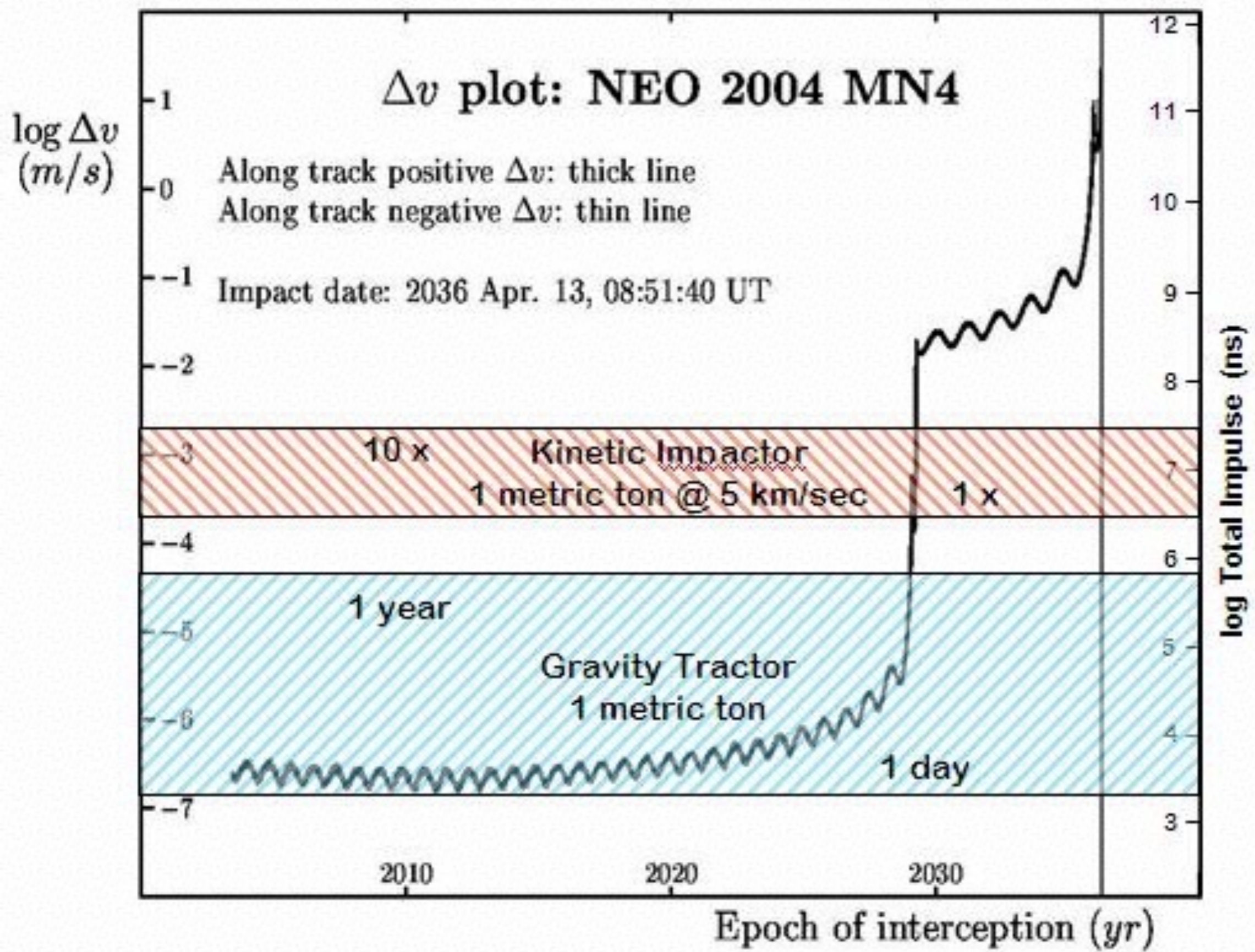
$(426.125 \text{ days} - 3.4 \text{ minutes}) = \text{Period} = 426.125 \text{ days}$



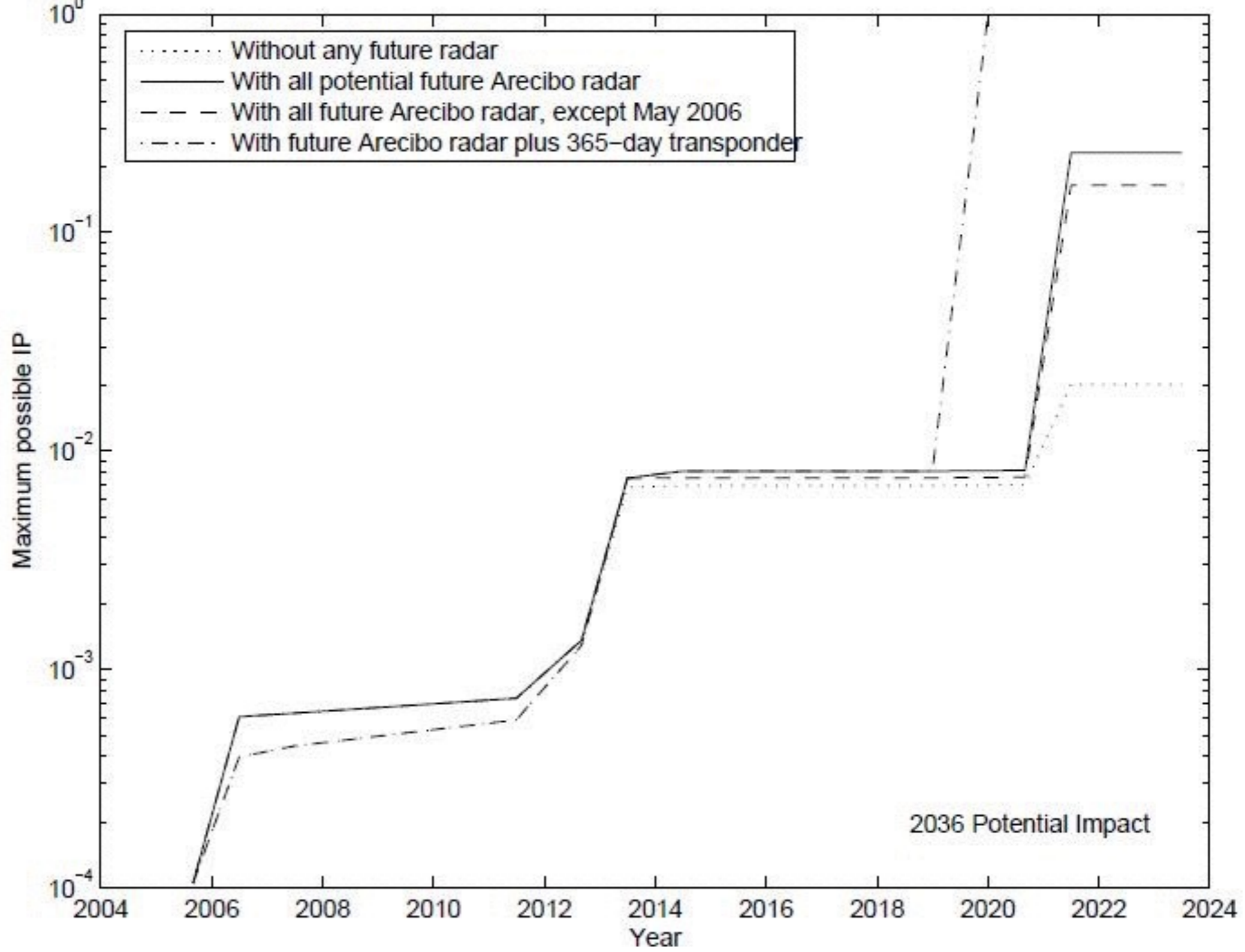
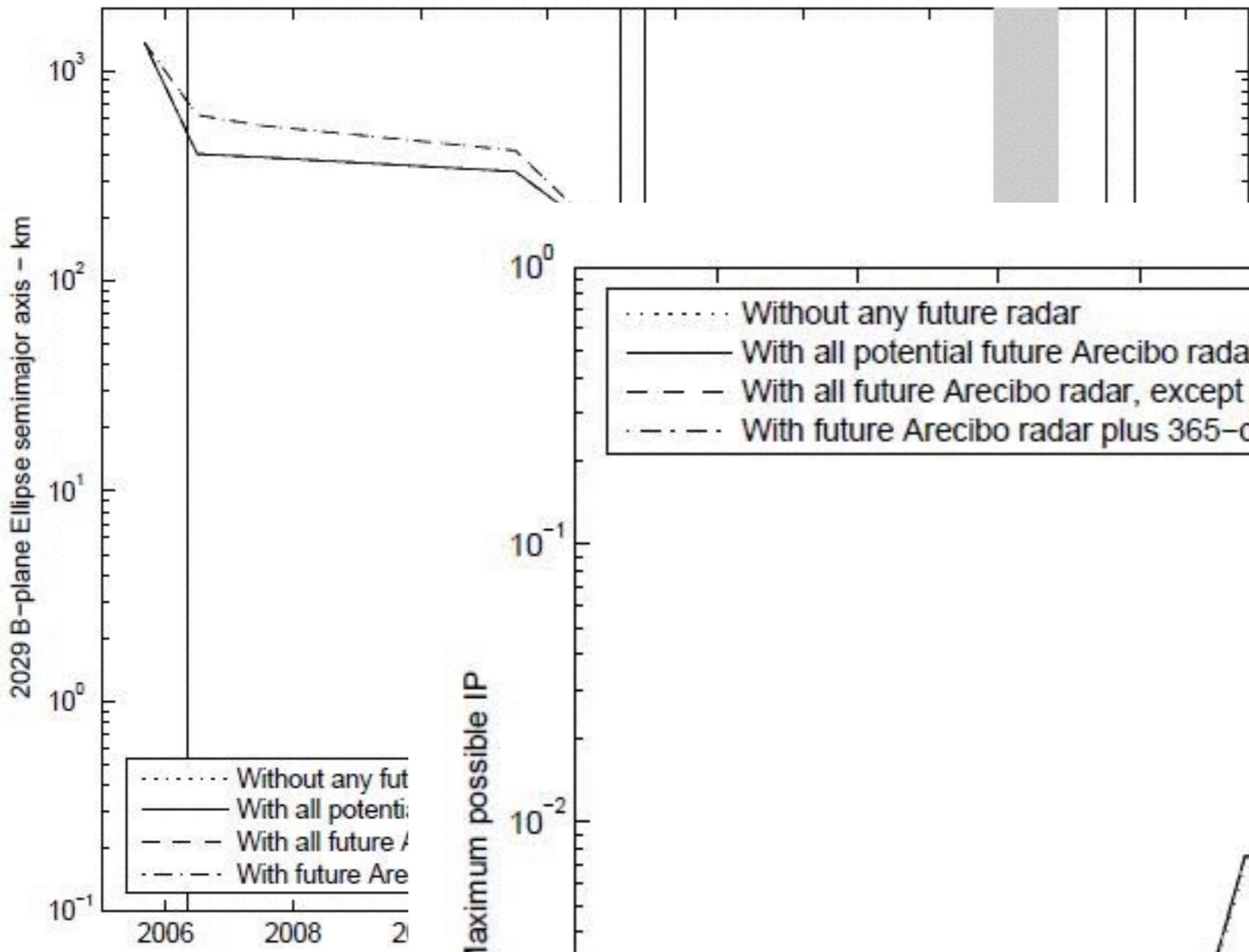
Delta V plot for 2004 VD17







Potential Impact Detection





## Assumptions and Implications

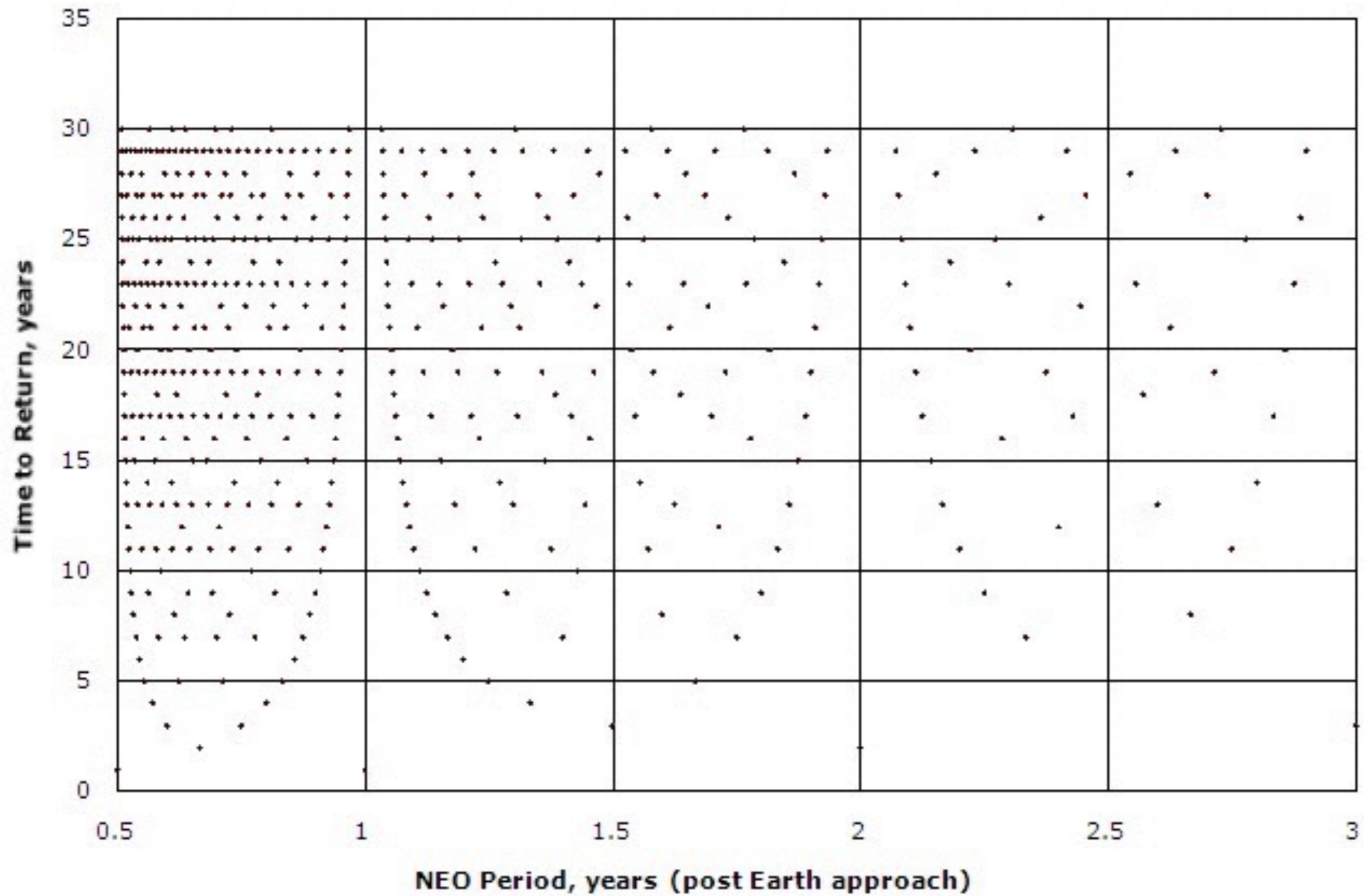
**A commitment to deflect will only be made for a direct impact, i.e. after a keyhole passage is confirmed**

**The likelihood of mounting a successful deflection campaign is critically dependent on immediate response post keyhole passage**

**Radar confirmation of keyhole passage is essential to maximize success potential**

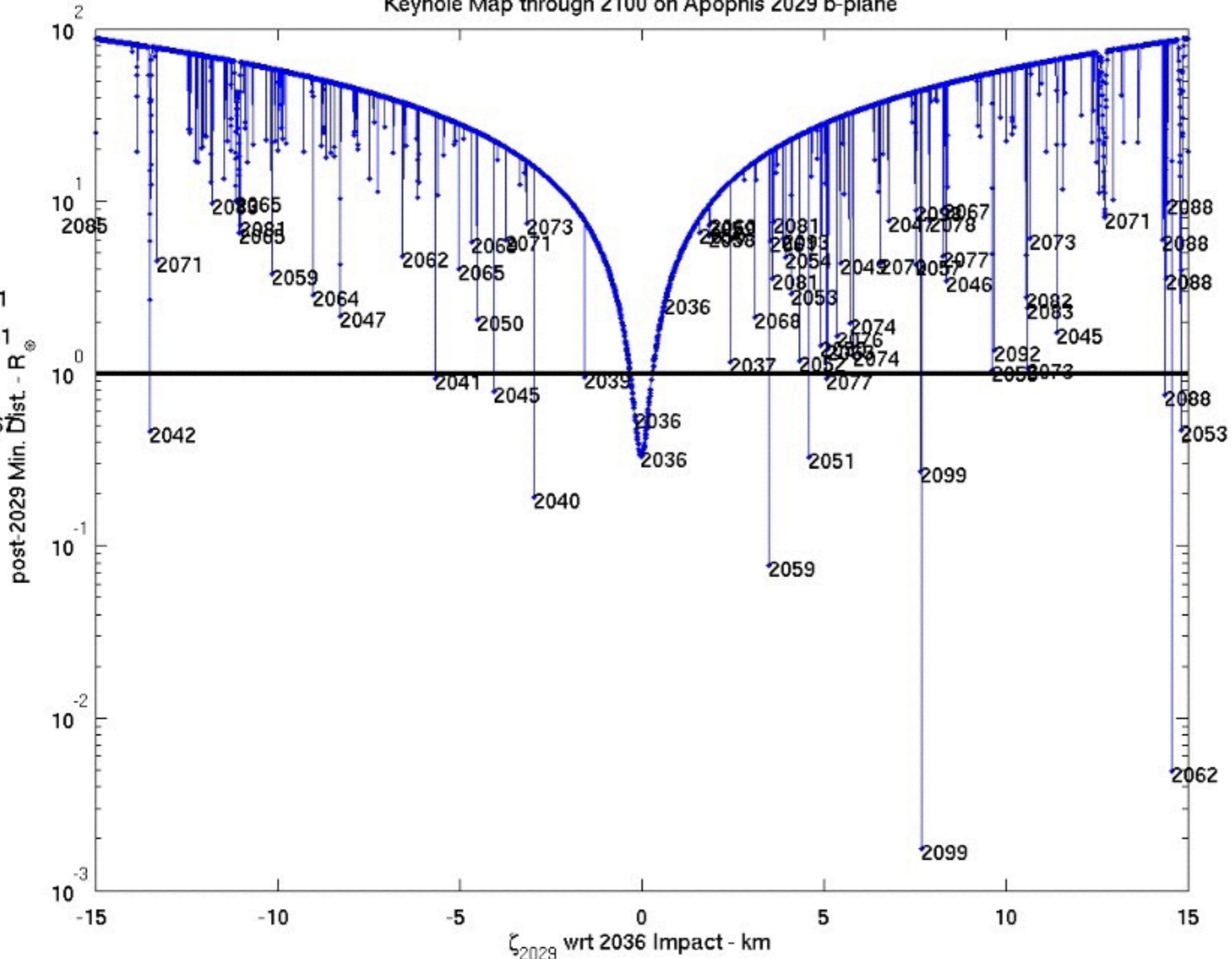
**The likelihood of the need for the use of nuclear explosives is maximized by this geopolitical reality**

### Keyhole Locations (returns < 30 years)

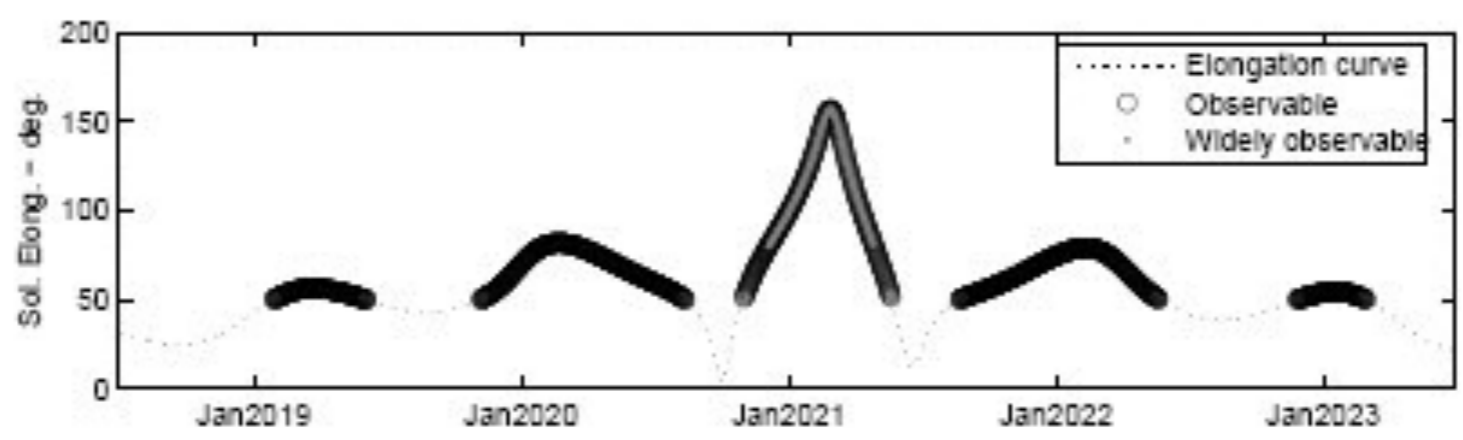
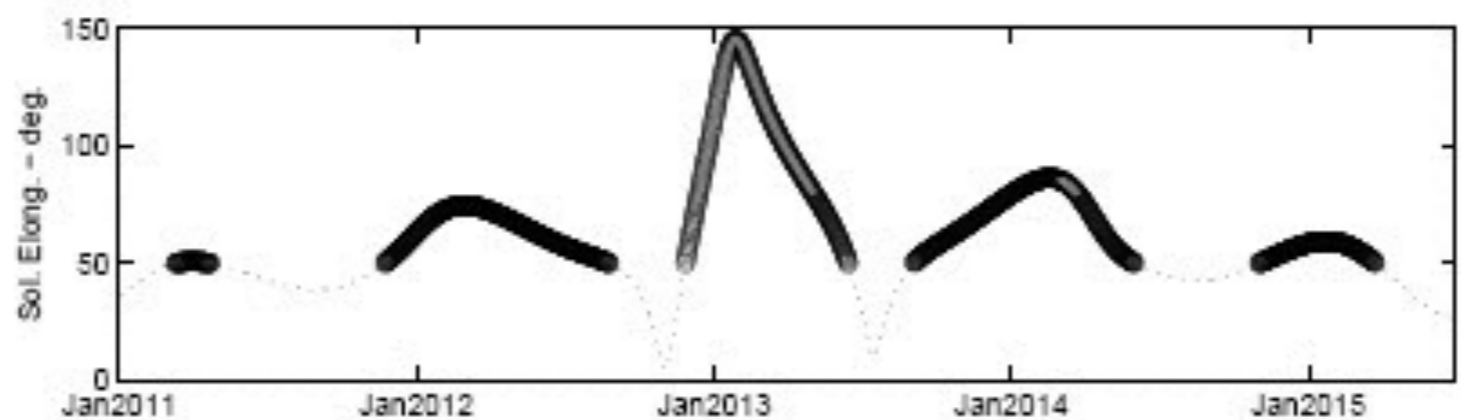
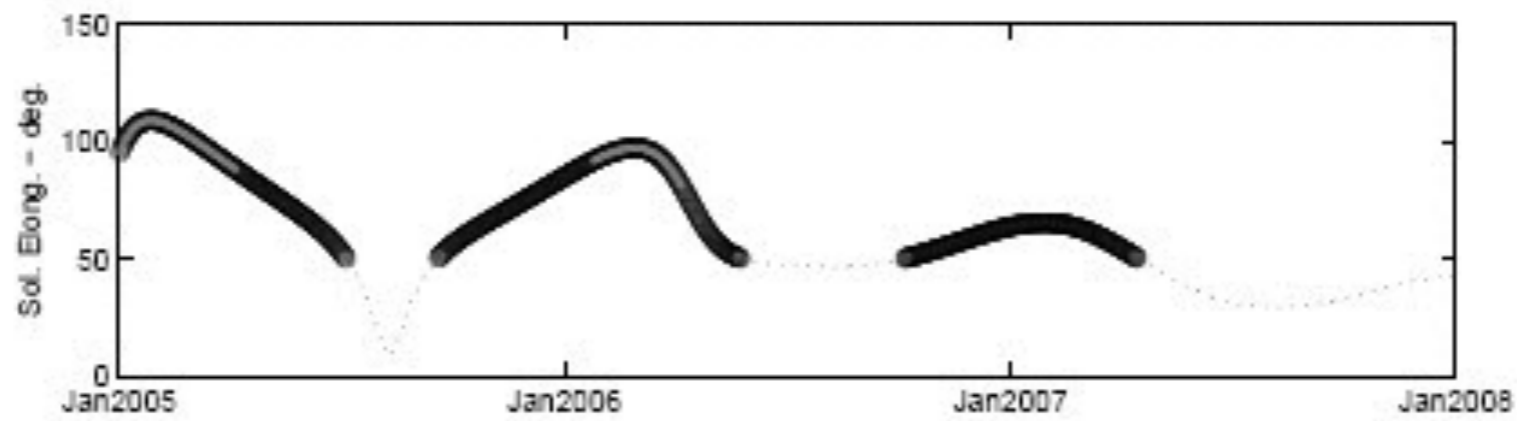
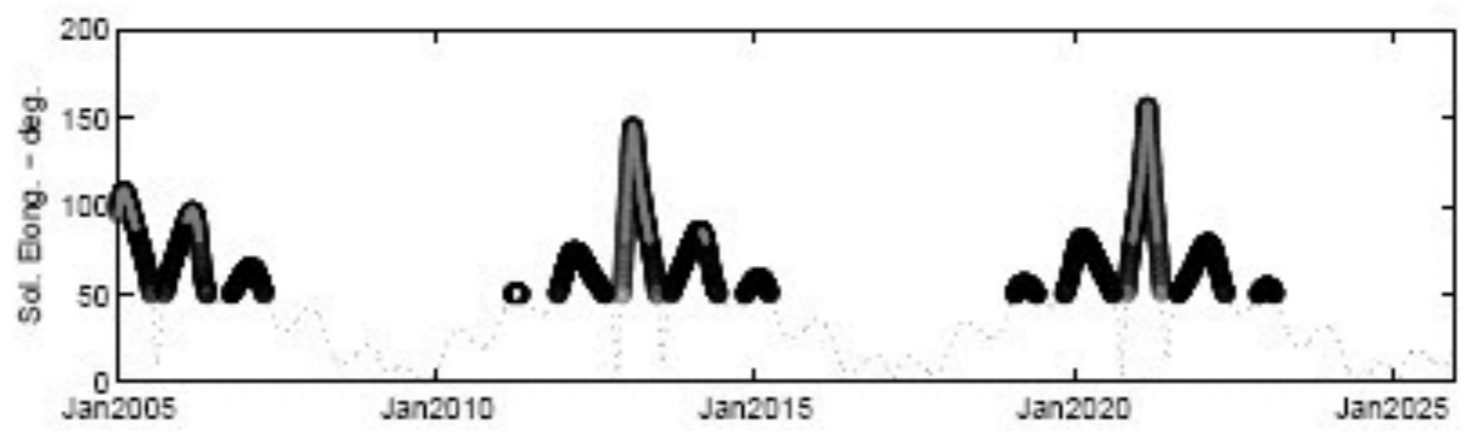




Keyhole Map through 2100 on Apophis 2029 b-plane

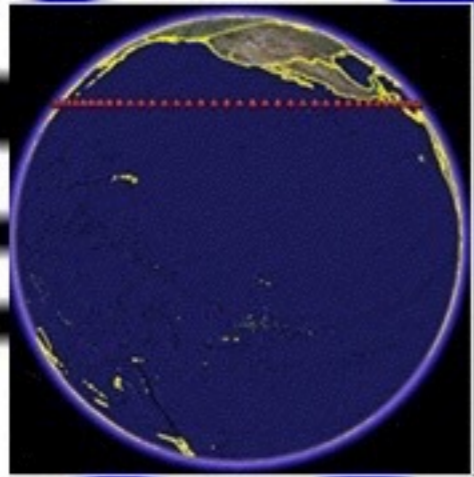


# Potential Impact Detection





Earth to left in b-plane



Earth to left in b-plane

