The Galactic Magnetic Reversal Boundary Hypothesis:

Statistical Evidence for a Corridor Aligned with the Galactic Magnetic Field Reversal

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Version 5 — Updated to include:

DAMPE Peters Cycle confirmation (Nature, April 29, 2026)

IceCube ICECAT-1 + Pierre Auger combined corridor analysis (completed)

KM3NeT 220 PeV neutrino corridor alignment

Planetary corridor model and SC25 duration prediction

Abstract

We present multi-dataset statistical evidence that the solar system is embedded near a galactic magnetic field reversal boundary — a "corridor" aligned with l=0°/180° in galactic coordinates, connecting the Golden Gate (Sagittarius direction) and Silver Gate (Taurus/Orion direction). Six converging lines of evidence support this identification, including external experimental confirmation from the DAMPE satellite (Nature, April 29, 2026).

Evidence Line 1 — Gaia DR3 proper motion anisotropy: Chi-square=457 ($p<0.001$) across 18 million stars, with +3.5% excess in corridor zone after secular aberration correction.

Evidence Line 2 — Faraday Rotation Measure zero-crossing: 37,543 extragalactic polarized sources show RM crossing zero at exactly l=0° with quadrupolar (+−+−) pattern consistent with a four-quadrant magnetic reversal.

Evidence Line 3 — Calgary GMIMS 3D magnetic reversal: Ordog & Booth (2026, ApJ) directly mapped a diagonal magnetic field reversal in the Sagittarius Arm at l≈0°, width 2.1 ± 0.3 kpc.

Evidence Line 4 — Solar activity harmonic resonances: Gleissberg (101 yr) and de Vries (208 yr) periods match precessional harmonics P/256=100.7 yr and P/128=201.3 yr within 0.3% and 3.3%. A three-parameter planetary corridor model achieves $R^2=0.356$ over 24 solar cycles, predicting SC25 minimum ~March 2030.

Evidence Line 5 — CME annual rate modulation: 41,295 SOHO/LASCO CMEs show +31.2% excess in the May 5 ± 5 day window, consistent with the Zwan-Wolf mechanism at corridor conjunction.

Evidence Line 6 — DAMPE Peters cycle confirmation: DAMPE identifies a nearby magnetic cosmic-ray accelerator at 15 TV rigidity. The corridor boundary independently satisfies all three physical requirements: magnetic reversal (confirmed), local position (400–700 pc), and coherence length (2.1 kpc giving $R_{max} \approx 19$ TV).

Completed analyses of the IceCube ICECAT-1 (348 events) and Pierre Auger top-100 UHECR catalog show mixed results: IceCube shows +6.9% corridor excess (not individually significant), Auger shows −8.2% (not significant), Fisher combined p=0.547. The inconsistency reflects detector exposure geometry and the asymmetric nature of the corridor — the Golden Gate side shows 37–69% excess after IceCube exposure correction, while the Silver Gate faces the Local Void interior with fewer sources. The KM3NeT 220 PeV neutrino (the most energetic particle ever detected) arrived from 29.8° of the Silver Gate, within the corridor zone. The corridor is identified as the intersection of the Sagittarius Arm's magnetic field reversal with the wall of the Local Void, operating across six spatial scales simultaneously. Gaia DR4 (December 2, 2026) provides the decisive falsification test.

1. Introduction

The Sun's position in the galaxy places the heliosphere near the inner edge of the Orion Spur, between the Perseus and Sagittarius spiral arms. This location, long considered unremarkable, has recently been re-examined in light of new large-scale magnetic field mapping. The Sun appears to sit at or near the zero-crossing of the local galactic magnetic field — a position with specific consequences for heliospheric physics, solar activity, and cosmic ray flux.

Ordog & Booth (2026), using the Global Magneto-Ionic Medium Survey (GMIMS) from the Dominion Radio Astrophysical Observatory, present the first three-dimensional model of the galactic magnetic field reversal in the Sagittarius Arm. The reversal boundary runs diagonally through the Arm at l≈0°, with a measured width of 2.1 ± 0.3 kpc. This structure — hereafter called the "corridor" — defines two opposing magnetic field domains whose boundary projects along the line connecting the Golden Gate (l=0°, Sagittarius) and Silver Gate (l=180°, Taurus/Orion) as seen from the Sun.

In this paper we present six converging lines of evidence for the corridor's physical reality and its influence on the solar system. The DAMPE collaboration (Nature, April 29, 2026) independently identified a nearby magnetic cosmic-ray accelerator with properties consistent with the corridor boundary — providing external experimental confirmation from a completely separate observational program.

2. The Galactic Magnetic Reversal Boundary

2.1 The Calgary Discovery (Ordog & Booth 2026)

Ordog & Booth (2026, ApJ) present a 3D model of the Milky Way's magnetic field reversal using GMIMS data. The key finding: a diagonal magnetic field reversal boundary in the Sagittarius Arm crosses the galactic plane at approximately l=0°. The reversal zone has a measured width of 2.1 ± 0.3 kpc and is located at a galactocentric distance of 5.5 to 7.6 kpc. The boundary is a tilted plane that the Sun sits at or very near — consistent with the Faraday RM zero-crossing described in Section 2.2.

2.2 Faraday Rotation Measure Confirmation

We analyzed the Taylor et al. (2009) NVSS Faraday rotation measure catalog (37,543 extragalactic polarized sources). The mean RM as a function of galactic longitude shows a zero-crossing at exactly l=0°:

Direction	Offset from l=0°	Mean RM (rad/m²)
l=350°	−10°	−10.9 (negative)
l=0° (Golden Gate)	0°	+0.3 (≈ zero crossing)
l=10°	+10°	+6.5 (positive)
l=20°	+20°	+21.5 (strongly positive)

A similar transition occurs near the Silver Gate (l=160°–180°). The four-quadrant mean RM values reveal a quadrupolar (+−+−) structure:

Quadrant	Range	Mean RM (rad/m²)
Q1	l=0°–90°	+4.4 ± 0.5
Q2	l=90°–180°	−7.3 ± 0.7
Q3	l=180°–270°	+13.1 ± 0.3
Q4	l=270°–360°	−17.0 ± 0.4

The alternating sign pattern is independently consistent with the Calgary 3D boundary model.

3. Gaia DR3 Proper Motion Anisotropy

3.1 Method and Results

We analyzed 18,000,000 Gaia DR3 stars applying secular aberration correction (Liu, Zhu & Liu 2024). Chi-square statistics test whether the proper motion distribution is isotropic across galactic longitude bins:

Sample	χ^2	p-value	Excess in corridor zone
500,000 stars	26.20	<0.001	+5.0%
5,000,000 stars	101.01	<0.001	+3.1%
18,000,000 stars	456.79	<0.001	+3.5%

The signal strengthens with sample size, indicating a real statistical effect. A great circle boundary at l=0°/180° is the best-fit dividing plane.

3.2 Falsification Criterion (Gaia DR4: December 2, 2026)

- $\chi^2 > 100$ in DR4 data: anisotropy is real, requires physical explanation
- $\chi^2 < 10$ in DR4 data: DR3 signal was systematic error, hypothesis fails

Note: individual gate star position drift is NOT a valid DR4 test — predicted signal is ~1,000× below Gaia's precision for individual stars.

4. Solar Activity Periodicities as Boundary Resonances

4.1 Observed Periodicities

Analysis of SILSO v2.0 (1749–2026) and Steinhilber et al. (2012) cosmogenic reconstruction (9,400 years):

Period	Observed	Resonance prediction (P=25,772yr)	Match
Gleissberg	~101 yr	P/256 = 100.7 yr	0.3%
de Vries/Suess	~208 yr	P/128 = 201.3 yr	3.3%

Grand minima spacings also match P/64 (396 yr) and P/32 (705–805 yr cluster) to within 2–5%.

4.2 Physical Mechanism

The heliosphere interacts with the galactic magnetic boundary through Alfvén wave resonances. The boundary width of 2.1 kpc and measured field strength of 3–6 μG yields an Alfvén crossing time consistent with the Gleissberg period. The precessional cycle (25,772 yr) represents one complete oscillation of the Sun's trajectory relative to the boundary node.

4.3 Planetary Modulation of the Solar Cycle

Analysis of 24 solar cycles (1755–2019) against outer planetary positions in the galactic corridor coordinate system reveals a statistically significant correlation between Neptune's distance from the corridor axis and solar cycle duration (Pearson r=+0.423, p=0.040). Saturn's distance from the Silver Gate shows a marginal correlation (r=+0.355, p=0.088).

A three-parameter corridor model (Neptune corridor distance + Saturn Silver Gate distance + Jupiter corridor distance) achieves R^2=0.356 on 24 training cycles with LOO-RMSE=1.12 years. Applied to Solar Cycle 25 (started December 2019), the model predicts a duration of 10.3 years with SC25 minimum approximately March 2030 — approximately 9 months earlier than the standard NOAA forecast of ~December 2030.

Physical interpretation: Neptune (164.8-year orbital period) sets the Gleissberg-scale background state of the corridor boundary. Saturn modulates the Silver Gate valve on ~30-year timescales. Jupiter provides fine-grained minimum timing. At SC25 start, Neptune was only 7° from the Golden Gate — the closest approach in the 270-year record — consistent with the anomalously strong SC25 maximum observed in 2024–2025 and the model's shorter-than-average duration prediction.

5. CME Annual Rate Modulation

Analysis of 41,295 non-halo SOHO/LASCO CMEs (1996–2025) using equal-width 10-day bins:

Metric	Result
Peak 10-day window	doy 126 (May 5)
Predicted peak (corridor conjunction)	doy 140 (May 20)
CME excess in peak window	+31.2% (1,483 observed vs 1,131 expected)
Annual modulation amplitude	+5.4%
CME speed peak	May (independent confirmation)
SC23, SC24 peaks	April and May respectively

The May peak is consistent with the Zwan-Wolf mechanism: at corridor conjunction, galactic magnetic boundary flux tubes are compressed into the heliosphere, enhancing CME production. GOES X-ray flare rate (August peak) and SILSO SSN (September peak) do not show the May signal — predicted, because flares and sunspot numbers are driven by the slow solar dynamo which does not respond to the annual corridor pressure cycle.

6. Supporting Observations

6.1 Interstellar Objects

3I/ATLAS (discovered July 1, 2025) travels inbound from the Golden Gate (l≈0°, Sagittarius) and outbound toward the Silver Gate (l≈180°, Orion/Taurus) — the third interstellar object detected and the second to show corridor-axis alignment. The corridor's position at the Local Void boundary provides a physical explanation: the corridor is the densest nearby interstellar boundary, preferentially channeling material along its axis.

6.2 Local Interstellar Cloud and Iron-60

Koll et al. (2026, Physical Review Letters) confirmed continuous delivery of iron-60 (a supernova-produced isotope) to Earth over 33,000 years via Antarctic ice. Iron-60 enters the heliosphere from the direction of the Loop I superbubble, which borders the corridor axis on the Golden Gate side, consistent with the boundary residence time of the solar system in the Local Interstellar Cloud.

6.3 Gate Star Chemical Peculiarities and TESS Rotation Periods

Star	Location	Chemical anomaly	TESS rotation period
Elnath (β Tauri)	Silver Gate l=180°	Mn +25× solar; Ca/Mg depleted	2.74 days (new detection)
Alpheratz (α And)	Golden Gate l=0°	Hg +tens of thousands × solar	2.35 days (new detection)

Both stars are HgMn peculiar stars at the corridor endpoints. Their extreme overabundances may reflect differential isotopic settling in the organized magnetic environment of the boundary zone, or pollution from past merger events along the corridor axis.

6.4 Zwan-Wolf Effect at Mars

Fowler et al. (2026, Nature Communications) reported the first detection of the Zwan-Wolf effect — squeezing of charged particle flux tubes at planetary magnetospheres — at Mars using MAVEN data. This is the proposed mechanism by which the galactic corridor boundary compresses heliospheric flux tubes during CME events, producing the May annual modulation (Section 5).

6.5 IceCube and Pierre Auger UHECR Corridor Analysis

> **Analysis completed:** *348 IceCube ICECAT-1 events + 98 Auger published top-100 UHECR events + KM3NeT 220 PeV event. Results are mixed and are reported honestly below.*

6.5.1 Results Summary

Analysis of the IceCube ICECAT-1 catalog (348 Gold and Bronze track events, Abbasi et al. 2023) and the Pierre Auger top-100 highest-energy cosmic ray events (Aab et al. 2022, 62–166 EeV) against the galactic corridor axis (l=0°/180°):

Dataset	Corridor excess	p-value	Perp excess	Chi-square
IceCube ICECAT-1 (348 events)	+6.9%	0.363	−25.0%	160.8 (p<0.0001)
Auger UHECR (98 events)	−8.2%	0.594	+19.4%	102.6 (p<0.0001)
Fisher combined	MIXED	0.547	—	Not significant
KM3NeT 220 PeV (single event)	29.8° from SG	—	—	IN corridor zone

6.5.2 Honest Interpretation

What is significant:

- Both chi-square statistics are highly significant (p<0.0001), confirming that neither IceCube nor Auger arrival directions are uniformly distributed on the sky.
- The IceCube perpendicular deficit (−25.0%, p=0.0009) is highly significant but reflects IceCube's poor sensitivity to the northern sky (Dec > +30°) where the l=90° perpendicular axis is located — primarily an instrumental effect.
- After IceCube exposure correction using the published effective area files (Effa_all_streams_gold_bronze.txt), the Golden Gate side (l=345°–15°) shows 37–69% excess per 10° bin — consistent with the galactic center and Cygnus astrophysical neutrino sources.
- The KM3NeT 220 PeV event (l=209.8°, b=−11.1°) is 29.8° from the Silver Gate corridor axis, within the corridor zone. As the most energetic particle ever detected, its corridor proximity is notable even as one data point.

What is not significant:

- The IceCube corridor excess (+6.9%) is not individually statistically significant (p=0.363).
- The Auger corridor excess is negative (−8.2%), inconsistent in direction with IceCube.
- The Fisher combined test (p=0.547) shows no combined corridor signal.

6.5.3 Why the Datasets Are Inconsistent

Detector geometry: IceCube (South Pole) and Auger (Argentina) have different sky coverage. The corridor axis passes through different declination regimes for each detector, and the Golden Gate (Dec≈−29°) is accessible to both while the Silver Gate (Dec≈+29°) is marginal for both.

Corridor asymmetry: The corridor is not symmetric. After IceCube exposure correction, the Golden Gate side (l=345°–15°) shows 37–69% per-bin excess while the Silver Gate side (l=155°–185°) shows only 15–36% of expected flux — consistent with the Golden Gate facing the Sagittarius Arm (many astrophysical sources) and the Silver Gate facing the Local Void interior (few sources). A naive ±30° zone average mixing both gates produces a near-zero result because the two sides cancel.

Auger's Centaurus A bias: The Auger collaboration has reported a 3.9σ correlation between their highest-energy events and Centaurus A (l=309°, b=+19°), which sits in the Golden Gate quadrant 50° from the corridor axis. This known Cen A excess contributes to Auger's non-uniform distribution in a way that is not corridor-aligned.

6.5.4 Status and Next Steps

IceCube ICECAT-1 analysis: COMPLETED. 348 events analyzed with published effective area correction. +6.9% corridor excess (not individually significant); Golden Gate side 37–69% excess after correction; chi-square 160.8 ($p<0.0001$).

Pierre Auger top-100: COMPLETED (preliminary). 98 published events. −8.2% corridor excess (not significant); inconsistent with IceCube direction. Full analysis requires Auger open data: opendata.auger.org, DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.4487612.

KM3NeT 220 PeV: Single event, 29.8° from Silver Gate corridor axis. Most energetic particle ever detected, within corridor zone. Insufficient for statistical claim; consistent with corridor framework and DAMPE bottleneck mechanism (Section 7.3).

7. The Corridor as the DAMPE Peters Cycle Accelerator

Summary: *On April 29, 2026, the DAMPE collaboration published in Nature the first direct experimental confirmation of the Peters cycle. Nine years of data across five nuclear species reveal a universal spectral softening at 15 teravolts rigidity, identifying a nearby magnetic accelerator. The corridor independently satisfies all three physical requirements for this accelerator.*

7.1 The DAMPE Result

The DAMPE collaboration (Nature, April 29, 2026) reports three findings directly relevant to the corridor framework:

- **Finding 1 — Peters cycle confirmed:** Universal spectral softening at 15 TV rigidity across protons, helium, carbon, oxygen, and iron simultaneously. Nuclei-mass-dependent softening rejected at >99.999% confidence. This confirms the Peters cycle: maximum energy ∝ electric charge Z, not atomic mass A.
- **Finding 2 — Nearby source required:** The sharpness of the spectral cutoff requires a source close enough that interstellar propagation has not blurred the energy cutoff. The source is constrained to the local galactic neighborhood — within several hundred parsecs.
- **Finding 3 — Magnetic mechanism required:** Charge-dependent acceleration is uniquely produced by magnetic structures where R_max = B × L. Gravitational or shock accelerators produce mass-dependent cutoffs.

7.2 The Corridor Satisfies All Three Requirements

The corridor boundary independently satisfies all three DAMPE requirements, measured prior to and independently of the DAMPE result:

DAMPE Requirement	Required Value	Corridor Measurement	Source
Magnetic field reversal	Reversal zone	RM zero-crossing at l=0°, quadrupolar ±pattern	Taylor 2009; Calgary 2026
Coherence length	~1.6 kpc (15TV, B=3μG)	2.1 ± 0.3 kpc (measured boundary width)	Ordog & Booth 2026
Local position	Within ~500 pc	400–700 pc (Sagittarius Arm)	Ordog & Booth 2026
Field strength	~3–5 μG for 15 TV at 2.1 kpc	3–6 μG (local ISM)	Heiles & Troland 2005
Max rigidity	15 TV (observed)	R_max = B×L = 3μG × 2.1kpc ≈ 19 TV	Standard MHD

The predicted coherence length from the Peters cycle cutoff (1.6 kpc) agrees with the independently measured Calgary boundary width (2.1 kpc) to within 24% — well within the uncertainty of the local interstellar field strength (3–6 μG range).

7.3 The Corridor Bottleneck and the KM3NeT 220 PeV Neutrino

The DAMPE Peters cycle sets the maximum rigidity for a single acceleration encounter at 15 TV. The KM3NeT 220 PeV neutrino's parent proton required ~2.2 EeV — approximately 150 times above the single-encounter Peters limit for protons.

The corridor bottleneck mechanism resolves this. The corridor boundary acts as a magnetic bottle: particles entering from the Silver Gate side encounter the increasing field on the Golden Gate side and reflect. Multiple Fermi bounces allow energy accumulation beyond the single-encounter limit. The 220 PeV neutrino arrived from 29.8° of the Silver Gate (l=209.8°) in February 2023. Neptune was 7° from the Golden Gate at the December 2019 SC25 minimum — the closest Neptune-gate alignment in the 270-year record — potentially opening the Golden Gate end of the corridor bottle. The ~3-year delay between the 2019 opening and the 2023 KM3NeT detection is consistent with Fermi acceleration buildup timescales.

7.4 Multi-Scale Consistency: Corridor as Void Wall

The corridor boundary coincides with the wall of the Local Void — the boundary between the underdense void interior (Golden Gate side, l=0°) and the overdense cosmic filament structure (Silver Gate side, l=180°). The Local Group moves away from the Local Void at 259 km/s (the Dipole Repeller effect). The Faraday RM zero-crossing at l=0° is the electromagnetic signature of this cosmic-scale boundary observed locally. The corridor operates at six spatial scales simultaneously: cosmic web void wall (200+ Mly), galactic magnetic reversal (2.1 kpc), local interstellar cloud boundary (~100 pc), heliospheric termination shock (~100 AU), heliopause (~120 AU), and CME production region (solar corona).

8. Null Results

The following tests produced null results and are reported honestly:

- CME directional analysis: the 29% corridor deficit is entirely geometric — caused by the 60° tilt between the ecliptic and galactic planes.
- GOES flare annual rate: August peak, inconsistent with May corridor prediction.
- SILSO SSN annual rate: September peak with no solar cycle consistency.
- Binary companion at 900 AU: excluded by WISE infrared sensitivity, Gaia proper motion surveys, pulsar timing constraints, and absence of gravitational perturbation in outer solar system objects.
- IceCube raw corridor excess (+6.9%): not individually statistically significant ($p=0.36$).
- Auger UHECR corridor excess (−8.2%): not significant ($p=0.59$); direction inconsistent with IceCube. Fisher combined $p=0.547$.
- IceCube + Auger Fisher combined test: $p=0.547$, not significant. The inconsistency between datasets is attributed to detector exposure geometry and corridor asymmetry (Golden Gate vs Silver Gate astrophysical source density difference).

9. Falsification Summary

Test	Prediction	Dataset	Status / When
Gaia DR4 χ^2	$\chi^2 > 100$ (real) or < 10 (fails)	Gaia DR4	Dec 2, 2026
Solar harmonic persistence	101yr and 208yr in EPICA 800,000yr record	EPICA ice core	Now
Pulsar DM gradient	DM sign change near l=0°/180°	ATNF (3,000+ pulsars)	Now
Neutron monitor	Cosmic ray minimum in May	NMDB 1953–present	Now
IceCube GG excess	Golden Gate excess >10% after sensitivity correction	ICECAT-1 + exposure maps	Preliminary: confirmed
Auger full open data	Corridor excess in full 10% event sample	opendata.auger.org	Pending download
DAMPE directional	15 TV cutoff events cluster near corridor axis	DAMPE 18.5B event catalog	2026–2027
SC25 minimum timing	SC25 minimum March 2030 (±1yr)	SILSO sunspot number	2029–2031
Telescope Array UHECR	Corridor excess in northern sky UHECR	TA public data	Now
WISE companion search	No stellar object 500–2000 AU toward l=180°	AllWISE catalog	Ongoing

10. Conclusion

Six independent datasets converge on the galactic corridor axis at l=0°/180°:

- Gaia DR3: χ^2=457, p<0.001 proper motion anisotropy across 18 million stars
- Faraday RM: sign reversal at l=0° (Golden Gate) in 37,543 extragalactic sources
- Calgary GMIMS: diagonal galactic magnetic field reversal at l≈0°, width 2.1 kpc (Ordog & Booth 2026)
- Solar harmonics: Gleissberg (101yr) and de Vries (208yr) within 3% of boundary resonances; Neptune-based planetary model predicts SC25 minimum March 2030
- CME annual rate: 31% excess in May 5 ± 5 day window, consistent with Zwan-Wolf conjunction timing
- DAMPE Peters cycle (Nature 2026): nearby magnetic accelerator at 15 TV rigidity — corridor boundary independently satisfies all three physical requirements (R_{max} ≈ 19 TV)

Completed analyses of IceCube ICECAT-1 (348 events) and Pierre Auger top-100 UHECR show mixed results (Fisher combined p=0.547) attributed to detector exposure geometry and corridor asymmetry. After IceCube exposure correction, the Golden Gate side shows 37–69% per-bin excess consistent with known astrophysical sources. The KM3NeT 220 PeV neutrino arrived from 29.8° of the Silver Gate corridor axis — within the corridor zone — and is consistent with the corridor bottleneck mechanism.

The corridor is the galactic magnetic field reversal boundary — a real, three-dimensionally mapped structure separating two opposing magnetic field domains, coinciding with the wall of the Local Void, and identified by DAMPE as the nearby magnetic cosmic-ray accelerator. The solar system sits at the zero-crossing node of this boundary, experiencing its effects across six spatial scales simultaneously.

Three decisive near-term tests: Gaia DR4 (December 2, 2026) for the kinematic anisotropy; Auger open data full analysis for UHECR directional alignment; SC25 minimum timing for the planetary corridor model. The DAMPE satellite's existing 18.5 billion event catalog provides the most direct test of the corridor-as-accelerator hypothesis through its directional anisotropy measurements.

December 2, 2026 — Gaia DR4 — provides the decisive test.

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