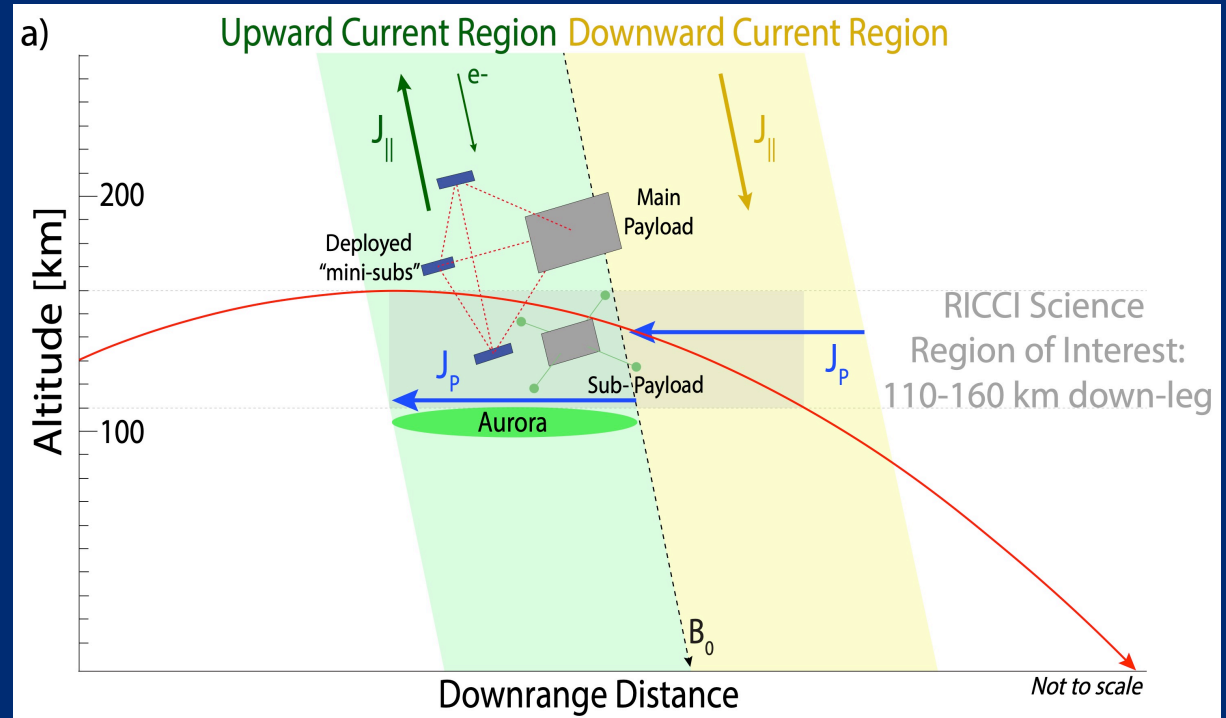


Rocket Investigation of Current Closure in the Ionosphere (RICCI): A novel application of CubeSats from a sounding rocket platform

- “Closure currents” at ~100-150 km in the ionosphere are a critical link between the Earth’s ionosphere and magnetosphere
- Despite their importance, they are extremely difficult to measure *in-situ*, therefore much of what we know about them has been estimated from ground-based measurements
- The RICCI mission concept directly addresses the technical challenges necessary to achieve these measurements by deploying multiple CubeSat payloads from a sounding rocket



The RICCI mission concept uses the novel deployment of multiple CubeSats as miniature sub-payloads to obtain the first direct *in-situ* measurement of ionospheric closure currents.