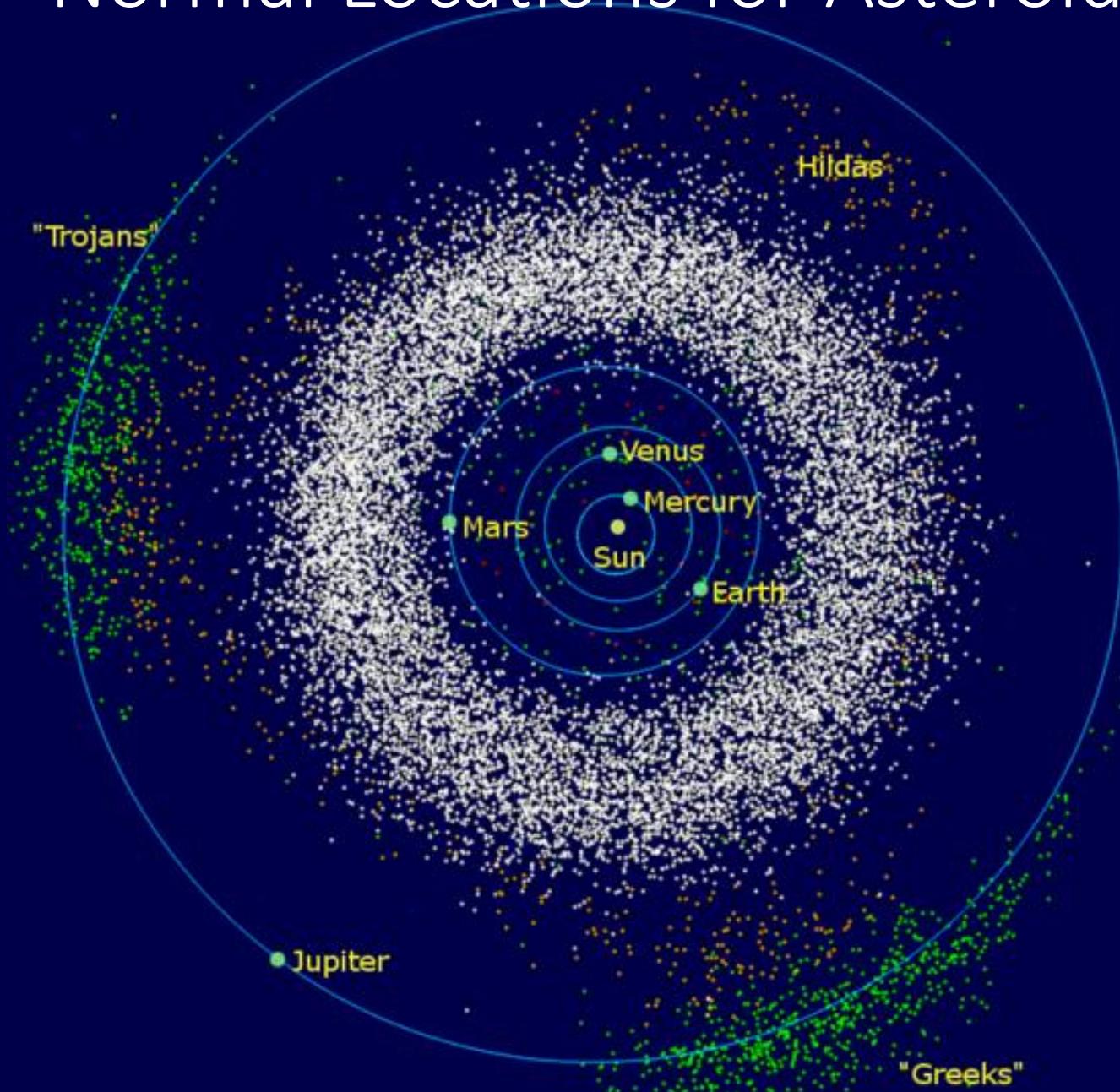


The First-Ever Confirmed Interstellar Body to Visit our Solar System

Tom Mozdzen
November 22, 2017

Normal Locations for Asteroids



Oumuamua - the messenger from afar arriving first (early on mistakenly called Comet 2017 – U1)



Recent Discovery Only One Month Ago

- First seen on October 19, by the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy postdoctoral researcher [Rob Weryk](#).
 - That was 5 days after the closest approach to Earth
- His colleague [Marco Micheli](#), also saw the object using a European Space Agency telescope in the Canary Islands.
- They shared their observations and, combined with observations from other astronomers, on October 26 determined its speed and trajectory to be
 - 56,000 mph before entering our solar system
 - 98,000 mph upon exit
 - Hyperbolic orbit – meaning it is not orbiting the sun – just came for a visit
 - Too fast to be in orbit around the sun

Recent Discovery Only One Month Ago

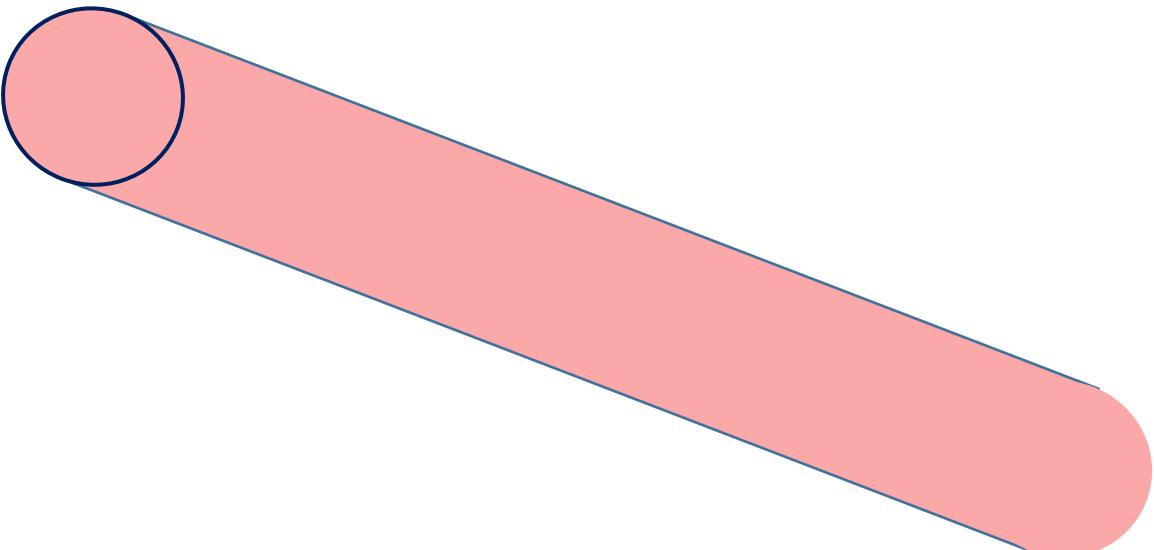
- Originally thought to be a comet (C/2017 – U1), but there was no gas or dust tail
 - Thus reclassified as an asteroid (A/2017 – U1) after one week
 - Then determined it wasn't one of "our" asteroids due to its speed and position
 - Given the Hawaiian name of Oumuamau – or "first visitor from a far-away place"
- By Nov 3 it was too far away and faint to be seen
- We observed it for two weeks and then it was gone

Oumuamua - the messenger from afar arriving first (early on mistakenly called Comet 2017 – U1)



Very Odd Shape

- Cylindrical in shape and light pink
- 600 ft by 100 ft x 100 ft (600 m x 30 m x 30 m)
- Similar to a fire extinguisher
 - or a cigar
 - or a raw sausage



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Artist's Concept

Sources

- <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/10/interstellar-solar-system-asteroid-comet-space-science/>
- <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5101171/Comet-solar-shaped-like-CIGAR.html>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1I/%CA%BBOumuamua>

Fun Stuff

- <https://xkcd.com/1919/>
- <https://youtu.be/EQrQjNNZCAo>