

# Asteroid tracking array: new fifth-force and ultralight dark sector tests

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[arXiv:2107.04038](https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.04038), submitted to *PRL*

# OUTLINE

- **Precessions and general relativity**
- **Introductions to asteroids**
- **Ultralight new physics & fifth forces**
- **Outlook & future projects**

## **Theme of this talk:**

Using **asteroid astrometry** to study **new physics**

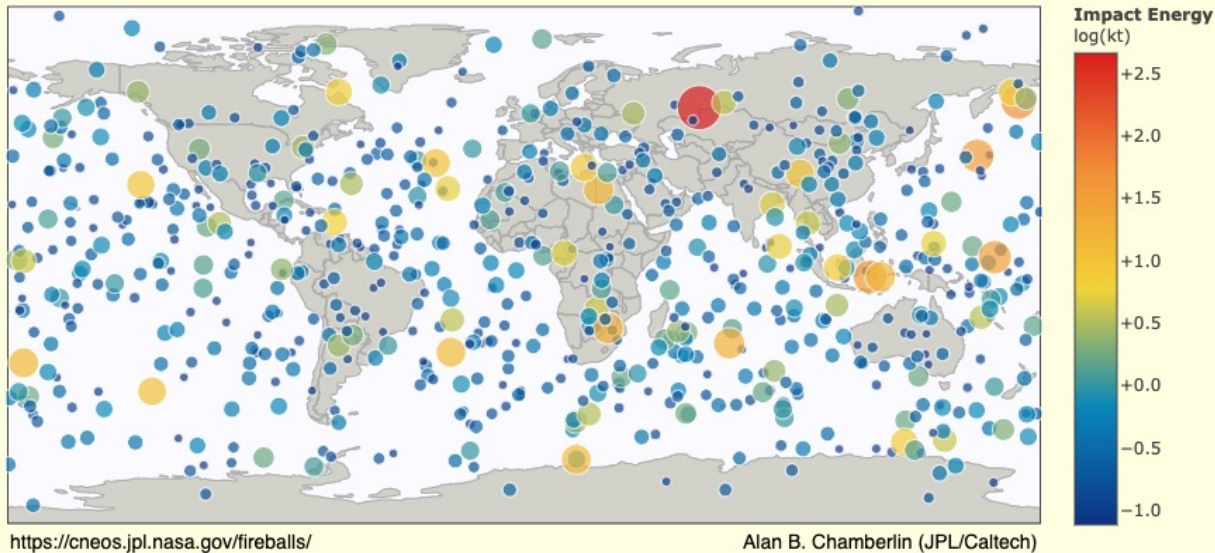
**Warning: this talk may have real-life consequences!**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dpmXyJrs7iU>  
(Tuvix72, Youtube video on asteroid hitting Earth)



# Asteroids hitting the earth

Fireballs Reported by US Government Sensors  
(1988-Apr-15 to 2021-Jul-30)



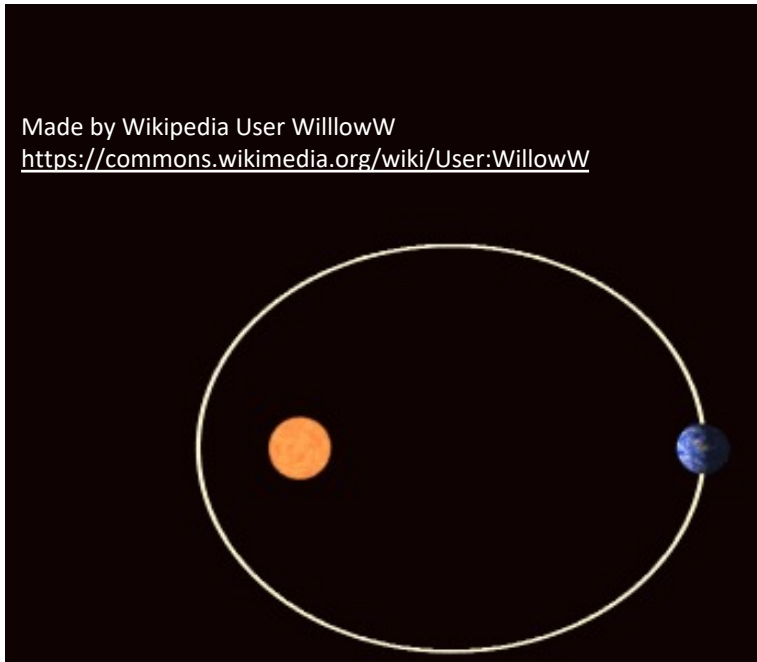
~ 65 million years ago

Tracking asteroids is extremely important



# Theoretical Breakthrough: Einstein's Success

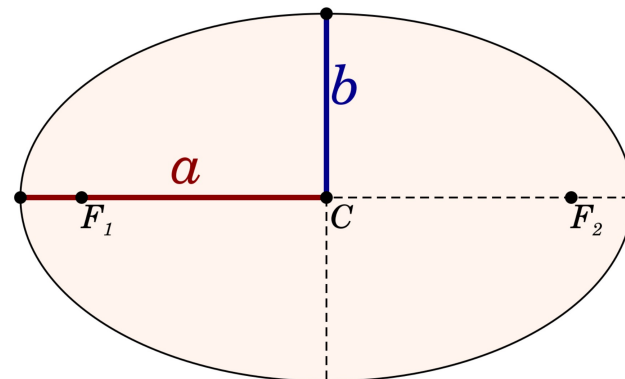
## Precession of Mercury's perihelion (closest point to the Sun)



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apsidal\\_precession#/media/File:Precessing\\_Kepler\\_orbit\\_280frames\\_e0.6\\_smaller.gif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apsidal_precession#/media/File:Precessing_Kepler_orbit_280frames_e0.6_smaller.gif) under CC BY 3.0

$$\frac{d^2u}{d\varphi^2} + u - \frac{GM_{\odot}}{L^2} = \boxed{\frac{3GM_{\odot}}{c^2}u^2}. \quad (\text{GR})$$

- Consider planar motion and fix  $\theta = \pi/2$ .
- Define inverse radius variable  $u \equiv 1/r = u(\varphi)$
- $a = \frac{L^2}{M_{\odot}(1-e^2)}$ ,  $a$  is the semi-major axis



M. W. Toews (CC0)

# Precession by General Relativity (GR)

## Precession of Mercury's perihelion

$$\Delta\varphi_0 = \frac{6\pi GM_\odot}{a(1-e^2)c^2} \left[ \frac{2-\beta+2\gamma}{3} \right]$$

**(GR)**

- $a$  is the semi-major axis
- $e$  is the eccentricity
- $\beta, \gamma$  are the two parameterized post Newtonian parameters, both **equal to 1 in GR** tightly constrained by Solar System probes
- $\beta$  represents the amount of nonlinearity in the superposition law for gravity
- $\gamma$  represents the amount of curvature produced by a unit mass

# Asteroids



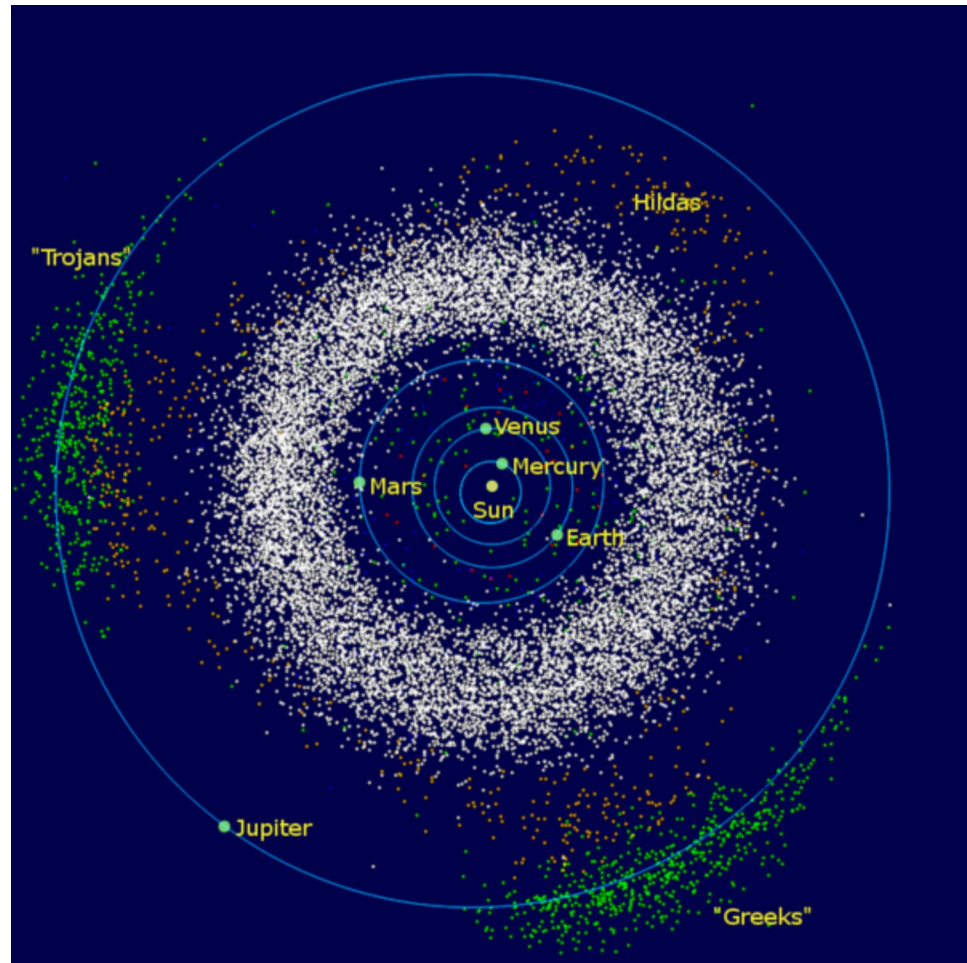
By Sidney Paget

"PROFESSOR MORIARTY STOOD BEFORE ME."

"Professor Moriarty stood before me"

"Is he not the celebrated author of *The Dynamics of an Asteroid*, a book which ascends to such rarefied heights of pure mathematics that it is said that there was no man in the scientific press capable of criticizing it?"

— *Sherlock Holmes, The Valley of Fear*



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:InnerSolarSystem-en.png>, public domain, granted usage for any purposes



# **Asteroids:**

New targets for fundamental  
new physics

# Nine Near-Earth Objects/Asteroids

**Table 1.** Selected asteroids and orbital elements: Semimajor Axis ( $a$ ), Eccentricity ( $e$ ), and Inclination with Respect to the Ecliptic ( $i_{ec}$ ) and Sun's equator ( $i_{eq}$ ).

| Target      | $a$ (au) | $e$   | $i_{ec}$ (deg) | $i_{eq}$ (deg) | $\dot{\omega}$ (″ cy <sup>-1</sup> ) |
|-------------|----------|-------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1566 Icarus | 1.078    | 0.827 | 22.9           | 15.8           | 10.1                                 |
| 1998 TU3    | 0.787    | 0.484 | 5.41           | 3.41           | 9.11                                 |
| 1999 KW4    | 0.642    | 0.688 | 38.9           | 46.0           | 22.1                                 |
| 1999 MN     | 0.674    | 0.665 | 2.02           | 5.25           | 18.5                                 |
| 2000 BD19   | 0.876    | 0.895 | 25.7           | 28.0           | 26.9                                 |
| 2000 EE14   | 0.662    | 0.533 | 26.5           | 26.1           | 15.0                                 |
| 2001 YE4    | 0.677    | 0.541 | 4.82           | 11.0           | 14.4                                 |
| 2004 KH17   | 0.712    | 0.499 | 22.1           | 14.9           | 12.0                                 |
| 2006 CJ     | 0.676    | 0.755 | 10.3           | 16.1           | 23.7                                 |

The ecliptic is the plane of Earth's orbit around the Sun.

- **Radar astronomy** help reduce the uncertainty of near-Earth distance to **30 m – 1 km!**

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doppler\\_effect#/media/File:Dopplerfrequenz.gif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doppler_effect#/media/File:Dopplerfrequenz.gif)

- Utilizing Mission Operations and Navigation Toolkit Environment (MONTE) simulation from JPL

**Nine NEOs with excellent radar observations**

**Verma, Margot, Greenberg, arXiv:1707.08675, APJ 17**

# Analysis

- Verma, Margot, Greenberg, arXiv:1707.08675, APJ '17
- **Dynamical Modeling + MONTE to simulate the trajectories**; Dynamical model includes gravitational forces from the Sun, 8 planets, and 21 minor planets with well-determined masses (Konopliv et al. 2011), general relativistic effects, and perturbations due to the oblateness of the Sun
- Construct a covariant matrix analysis, with the observed data from optical and radar observations
- Determine the allowed range from the nominal (Standard Model) values of the  $\beta$  parameter considering the diagonal elements of the covariant

$$\sigma_{\beta} = 5.6 \times 10^{-4}, \quad \sigma_{\beta} \sim 2 \times 10^{-4},$$

(Optimal 2022 results)



# Ultralight Dark Sector

# 5<sup>th</sup> force and Yukawa Potential

YUKAWA POTENTIAL

$$V(r) = \tilde{\alpha} \frac{GM_{\odot} M_*}{r} \exp\left(-\frac{r}{\lambda}\right),$$

$$V(r) = \mp \frac{g^2}{4\pi} \frac{Q_{\odot} Q_*}{r} \exp\left(-\frac{mc^2}{\hbar c} r\right),$$

$$\frac{d^2 u}{d\varphi^2} + u - \frac{GM_{\odot}}{L^2} = \frac{3GM_{\odot}}{c^2} u^2 + \tilde{\alpha} \frac{GM_{\odot}}{L^2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\lambda u}\right) e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda u}},$$

**(fifth force)**

- Gauge boson, dark photon of  $U(1)_B$  or scalar coupled to baryon number
- $g$  is new physics coupling constant, and  $m$  is the mediator mass
- See, e.g., Poddar et al, <https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.02935>

# Ultralight Bosons

1. **Dark photon of gauged  $U(1)_B$** , with coupling  $g_A$ , charging all baryons equally

charge:  $q_p = q_n = 1$

- $U(1)_B$  has chiral anomaly, so extra heavy particle is needed, and there may be additional constraints & model building needed for those constraints  
(Constraints: Dror, Lasenby, Pospelov, arXiv:1705.06726, arXiv:1707.01503)  
(Models to alleviate bounds: Green, Schwarz, PLB 87, Kaplan, NPB 91)

2. **Baryon-coupled ultralight scalars**

$$\mathcal{L}_\phi = (g_p \bar{p}p + g_n \bar{n}n) \phi.$$

$$g_p = g_n = g_\phi.$$

3. Our study can also be applied to  $U(1)_{B-L}$ ,  $L_e - L_{\mu,\tau}$ , etc. ,  
Need to understand the asteroid compositions for these.



# Low-Mass/Ultra Long-Range Force Limit

$$|\Delta\varphi_{\phi,A'}| \simeq \frac{2\pi}{1 + \frac{g^2}{4\pi G m_p^2}} \frac{g^2}{4\pi G m_p^2} \left(\frac{amc}{\hbar}\right)^2 (1 - e).$$

(fifth force)

- $m_p$  is proton mass
- for low mass,  $m \ll 1/a$
- The term gets larger with  $a$
- That's why we should explore **objects further away from the Sun:**  
not just Mercury or other planets
- **Not depending on target celestial bodies' mass**

$$\Delta\varphi_0 = \frac{6\pi G M_\odot}{a(1 - e^2)c^2} \left[ \frac{2 - \beta + 2\gamma}{3} \right]$$

(GR)

# Our Estimation of New Physics Parameter

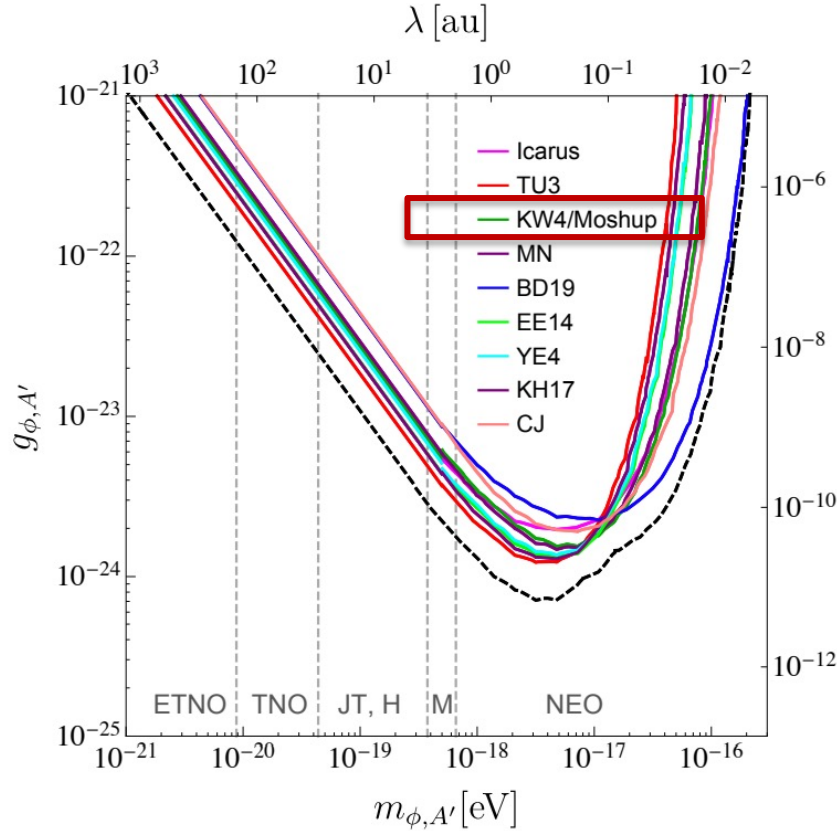
$$\frac{d^2u}{d\varphi^2} + u - \frac{GM_\odot}{L^2} = \frac{3GM_\odot}{c^2}u^2 + \tilde{\alpha}\frac{GM_\odot}{L^2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\lambda u}\right) e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda u}},$$

Solving full differential equation

$$\Delta\varphi_{\phi,A'}^2 < \left| \frac{\partial\Delta\varphi_0}{\partial\beta} \right|^2 \sigma_\beta^2 + (\text{Solar Oblateness Contributions}).$$

Tsai, Wu, Vagnozzi, Visinelli, [arXiv:2107.04038](https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.04038), submitting to *PRL*

# Results for the new physics



$$\sigma_\beta = 5.6 \times 10^{-4},$$

**Optimal 2022 results**

$$\sigma_\beta \sim 2 \times 10^{-4},$$

**Best reach:**

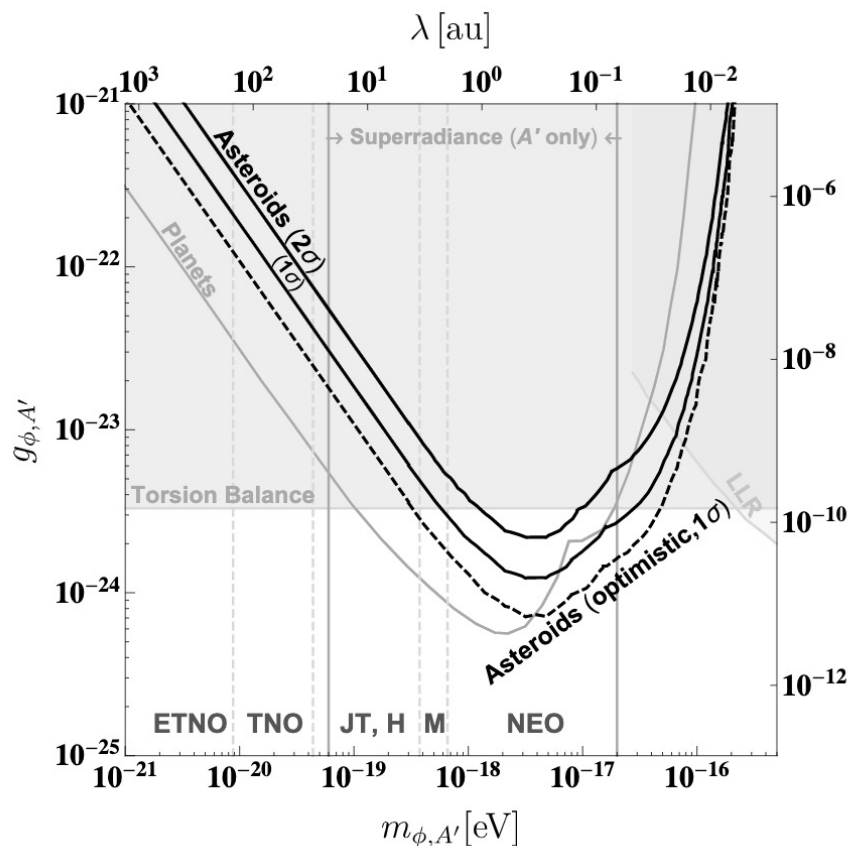
**TU3, MN, BD19**

$$\frac{d^2 u}{d\varphi^2} + u - \frac{GM_\odot}{L^2} = \frac{3GM_\odot}{c^2} u^2 + \tilde{\alpha} \frac{GM_\odot}{L^2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{\lambda u}\right) e^{-\frac{1}{\lambda u}}, \quad (3)$$

$$\Delta\varphi_{\phi, A'}^2 < \left| \frac{\partial \Delta\varphi_0}{\partial \beta} \right|^2 \sigma_\beta^2 + (\text{Solar Oblateness Contributions}).$$

Tsai, Wu, Vagnozzi, Visinelli, [arXiv:2107.04038](https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.04038), submitting to *PRL*

# Comparing to the bounds

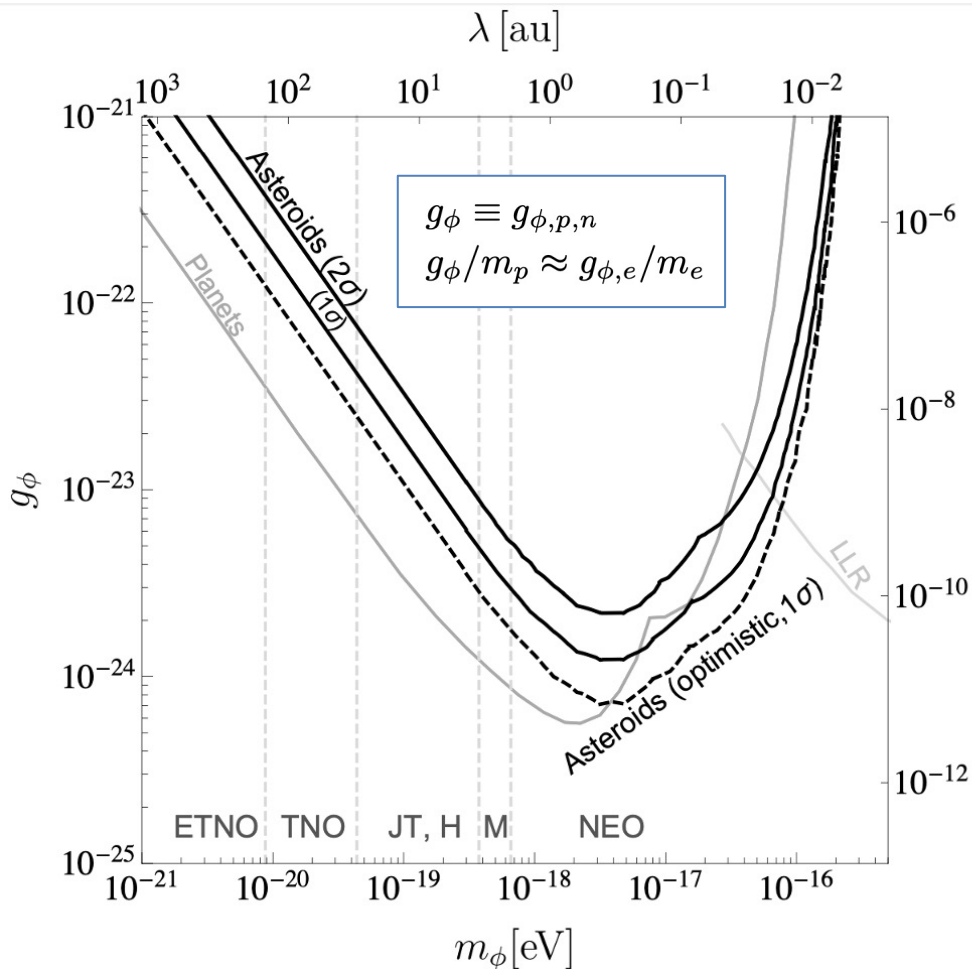


- **Best reach: TU3, MN, BD19**
- **Torsion Balance Exp:**  
Schlamminger, Choi, Wagner, Gundlach, Adelberger, PRL 08
- **Superradiance:**  
Baryakhtar, Galanis, Lasenby, and Simon, PRD 21
- **LLR: Lunar Laser Ranging**  
Williams, Turyshev, Boggs, PRL 04
- **Planets:**  
Poddar, Mohanty, Jana, EPJC 21

Tsai, Wu, Vagnozzi, Visinelli, [arXiv:2107.04038](https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.04038), submitting to *PRL*

**We are conducting a detailed study with people from JPL & ESA for this study**

# Comparing to the bounds



- **Torsion Balance Exp is like Pisa experiment: measuring the difference of acceleration**  
Schlamminger, Choi, Wagner, Gundlach, Adelberger, PRL 08
- **Superradiance:**  
Baryakhtar, Galanis, Lasenby, and Simon, PRD 21
- **LLR: Lunar Laser Ranging**  
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- **Planets:**  
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# Future objects of interest

| Minor Planets                | $a$ [au]     | $\sim$ Numbers   |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Near-Earth Object (NEO)      | $< 1.3^*$    | $> 25000$        |
| Main-Belt Asteroid (M)       | $\sim 2 - 3$ | $\sim 1$ million |
| Hilda (H)                    | $3.7 - 4.2$  | $> 4000$         |
| Jupiter Trojan (JT)          | $5.2$        | $> 9800$         |
| Trans-Neptunian Object (TNO) | $> 30$       | $2700$           |
| Extreme TNO (ETNO)           | $> 150$      | $12$             |

TABLE I. Targets for our future studies, for which exciting opportunities are provided by sheer numbers and observational programs, classified roughly based on their typical semi-major axes.

\*NEOs are defined as having perihelia  $a(1 - e) < 1.3$  au.

$$|\Delta\varphi_{\phi,A'}| \simeq \frac{2\pi}{1 + \frac{g^2}{4\pi G m_p^2}} \frac{g^2}{4\pi G m_p^2} \left( \frac{amc}{\hbar} \right)^2 (1 - e).$$

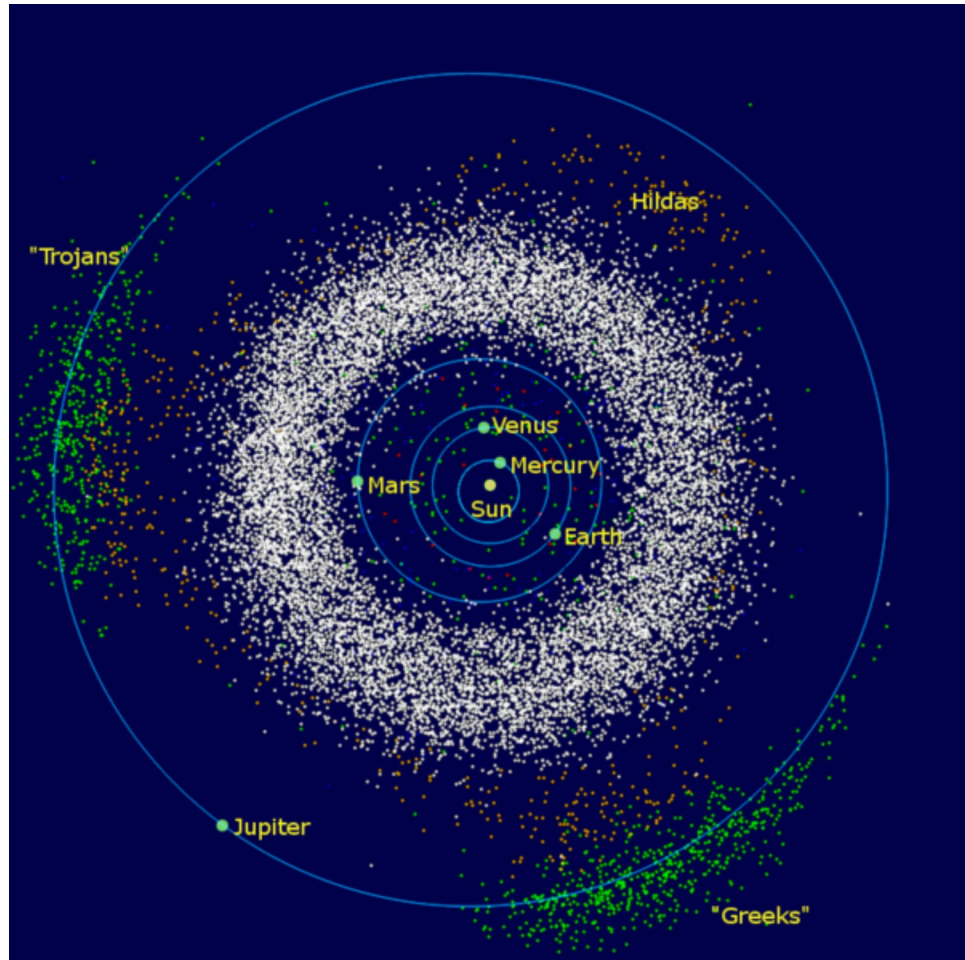
Tsai, Wu, Vagnozzi, Visinelli, [arXiv:2107.04038](https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.04038), submitting to *PRL*



# Asteroids

- Different new physics can be studied in different groups of asteroids

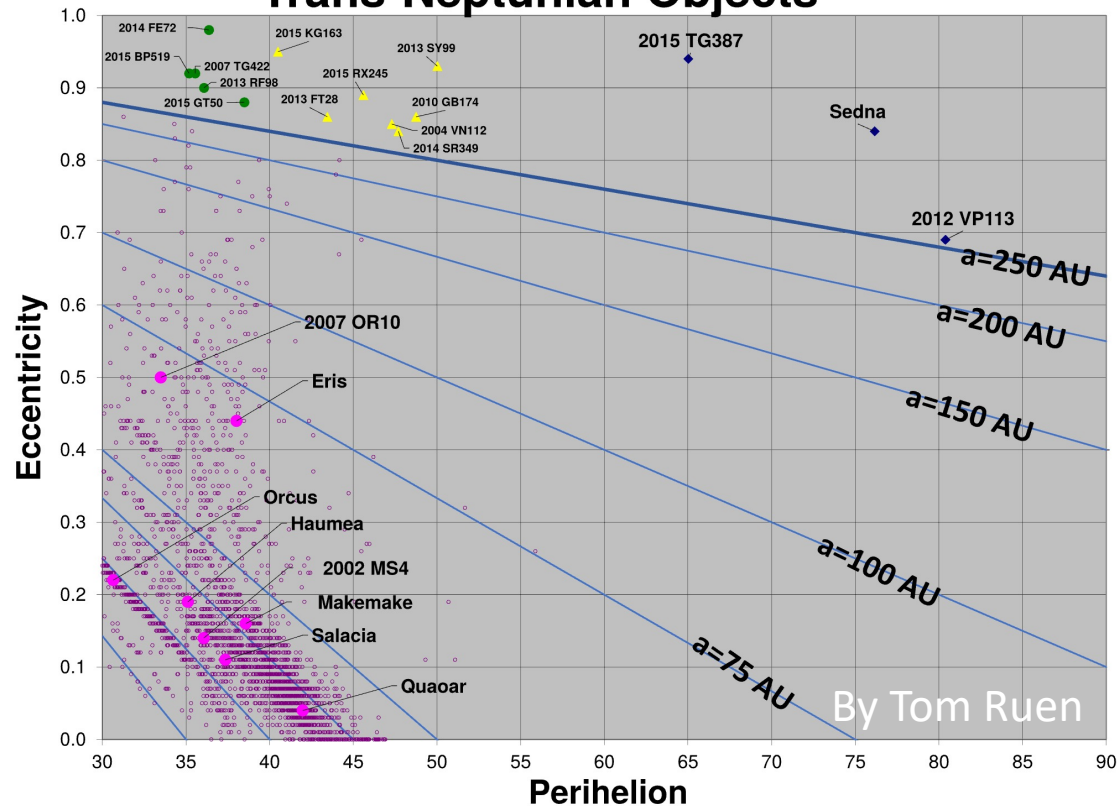
$$|\Delta\varphi_{\phi,A'}| \simeq \frac{2\pi}{1 + \frac{g^2}{4\pi G m_p^2}} \frac{g^2}{4\pi G m_p^2} \left( \frac{amc}{\hbar} \right)^2 (1 - e).$$



<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:InnerSolarSystem-en.png>, public domain, granted usage for any purposes

# TNO / ETNO

## Trans-Neptunian Objects

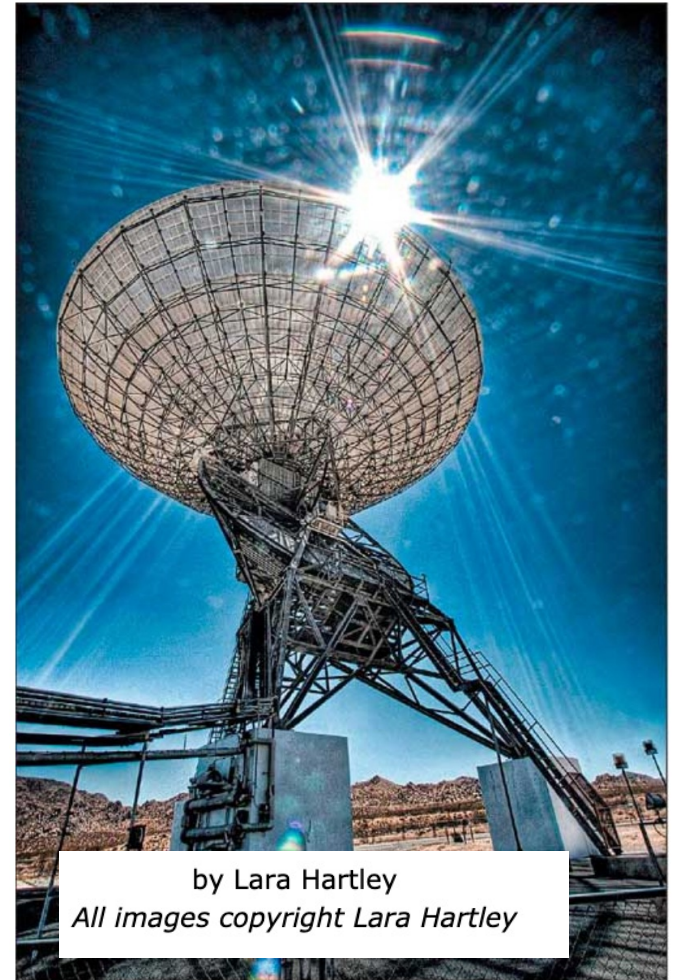


[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extreme\\_trans-Neptunian\\_object#/media/File:Extreme\\_trans-Neptunian\\_objects\\_eccentricity\\_vs\\_perihelion.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extreme_trans-Neptunian_object#/media/File:Extreme_trans-Neptunian_objects_eccentricity_vs_perihelion.svg), CC BY-SA 4.0  
<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1810.00013.pdf>

- Much less solar thermal effects or gravitational objects to affect their trajectories

# Observations

- Radar – **Goldstone Observatory:**  
Provide very precise location and velocity information of the asteroids
- Radar astronomy is a technique of observing nearby astronomical objects by reflecting microwaves off target objects and analyzing the reflections.
- Radar astronomy differs from radio astronomy in that the latter is a passive observation and the former an active one.



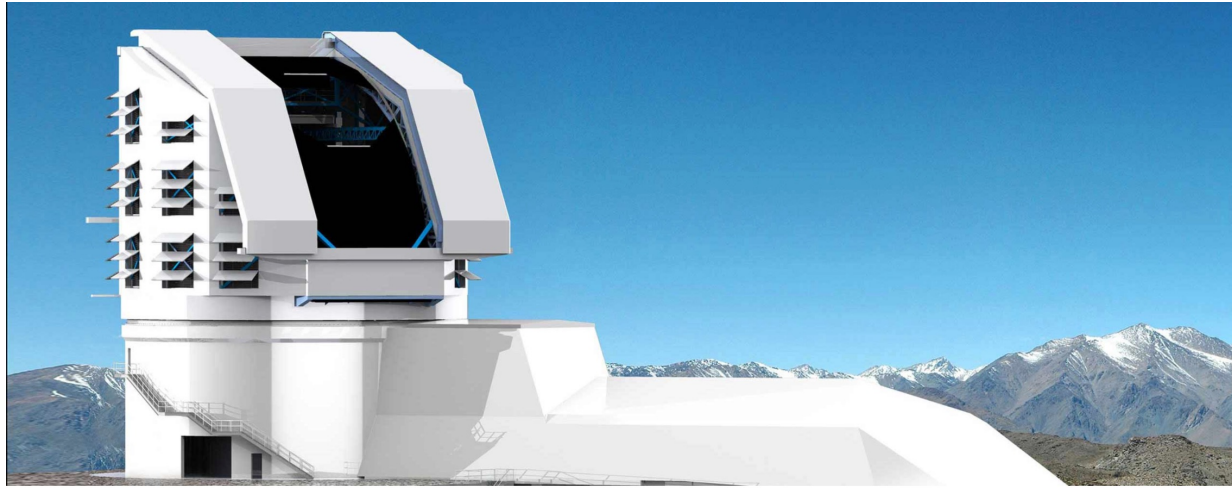
by Lara Hartley  
*All images copyright Lara Hartley*

Students can control the huge Echo radio telescope to collect data from objects in the universe at which the antenna is pointed.

<https://www.desertusa.com/desert-california/goldstone-deep-space.html>

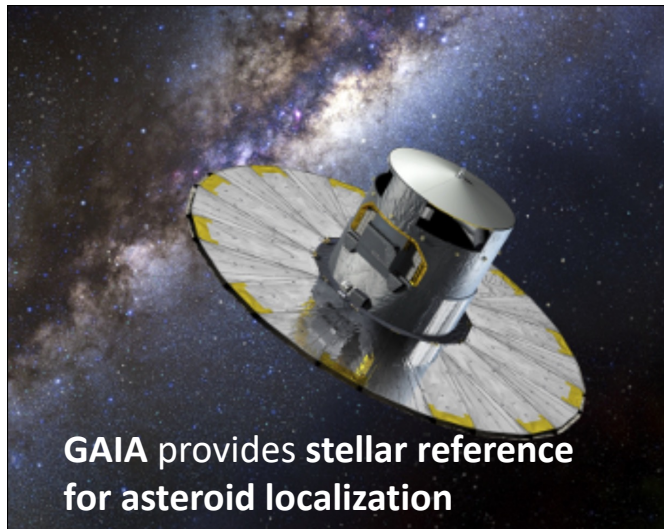


# Optical Observations, GAIA, Space Mission



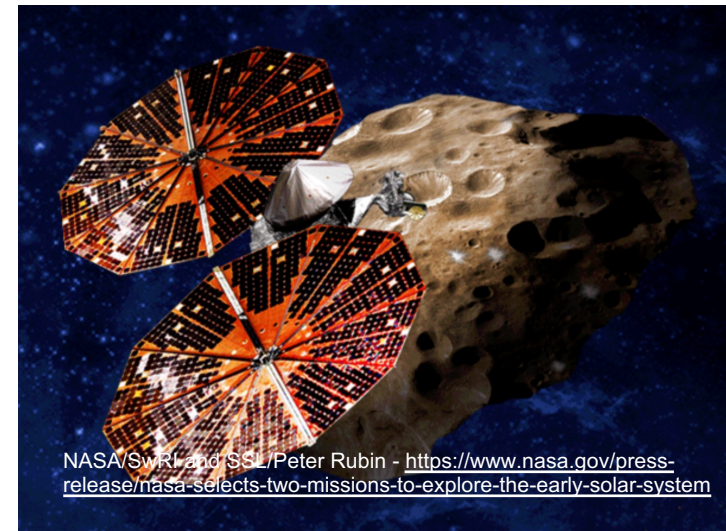
A photograph and rendering mix of the exterior of the Vera C. Rubin Observatory building on Cerro Pachón in Chile. Image credit: Rubin Obs./NSF/AURA  
<https://www.aura-astronomy.org/centers/nsfs-oir-lab/rubinobservatory/>

- Optical – **Vera Rubin Observatory**: increase the discovered number of solar-system objects by 5 times.



**GAIA provides stellar reference for asteroid localization**

**Lucy** is a planned NASA space probe that will complete a 12-year journey to seven different **asteroids**.



NASA/SwRI and SSL/Peter Rubin - <https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-selects-two-missions-to-explore-the-early-solar-system>

An artist's impression of the Lucy spacecraft performing a flyby of a Jupiter trojan.

# Big Picture & Outlook

- Planetary astrometry is a strong new tool to study new physics: **many more models and related new techniques**
- **Asteroid tracking array as a probe for gravitational waves!**

For background, see Fedderke, Graham, Rajendran, PRD21

- Planetary studies has **defense purposes**; also **made significant discovery** ('Oumuamua)
- **Our result is exciting now and has significant potential given the future measurements:**  
**radar, optical, and space missions** will bring tremendous progress!
- **Space Quantum Technologies:** new projects with Prof. Safranova

Thank you!

Yu-Dai Tsai, Fermilab, '21