

Observing the Observers

Ryan Felton¹ and Thomas Fauchez²

¹Catholic University of America

²USRA

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Abstract

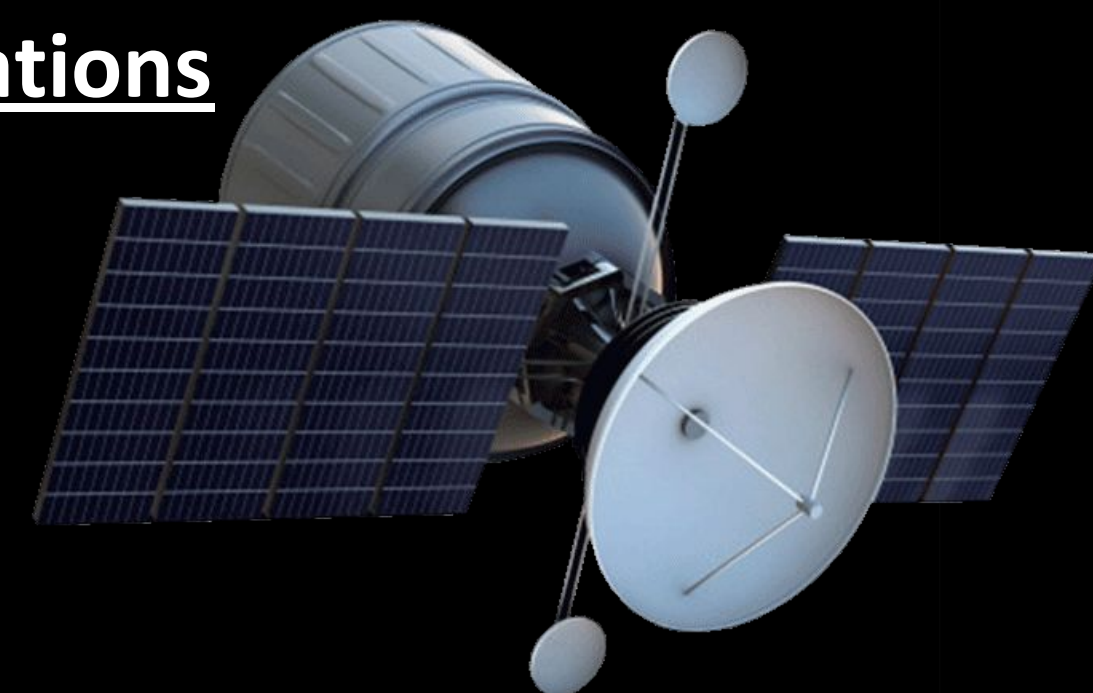
Our ability to detect extraterrestrial life may be impeded by both: our level of technology and actively prevented by those we want to observe. To overcome this barrier we must be able to probe further into interstellar space. We discuss the issue while making analogies to isolated tribes on Earth and how we may be the isolated tribes of the galaxy until we can travel out into space.

Hypothesis: *Our ability to detect extraterrestrial life is impeded by our level of technology and actively prevented by those we want to observe*

- Too far away to observe with current technology
- Alien life is advanced enough to know we are here and hide themselves
- To find them we must explore

• **Are we the isolated tribe of the galaxy?**

- Isolated tribes on Earth cut off by choice and/or environment from modern society
- Advanced tech allows us to observe them but they are likely not aware (i.e. satellites, drones, camouflaged personnel)
- If these tribes traveled far enough, we could not prevent them from finding evidence of modern society (this happens)
- We may be the isolated tribes due to travel limitations**

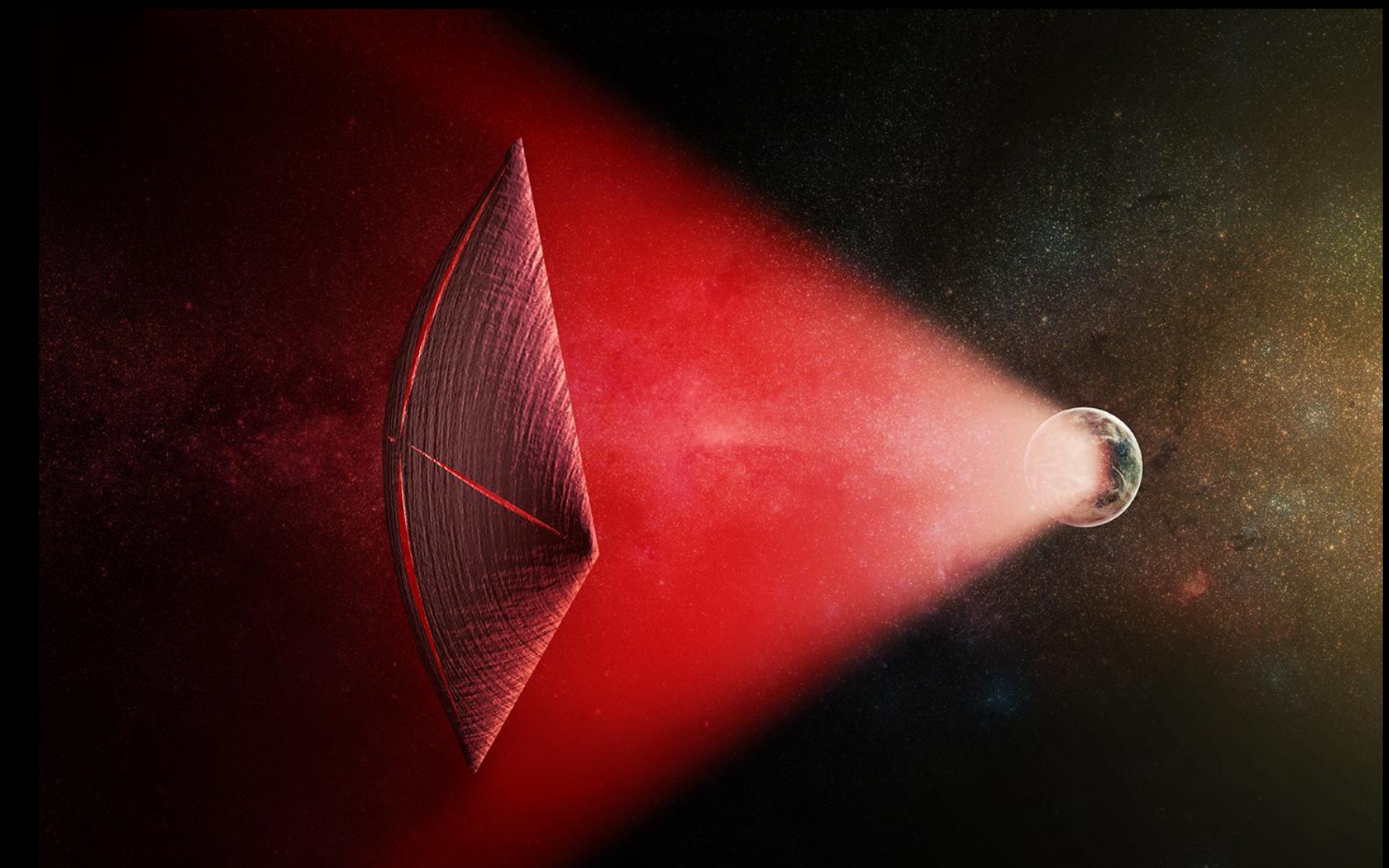


Unable to see past the “trees”

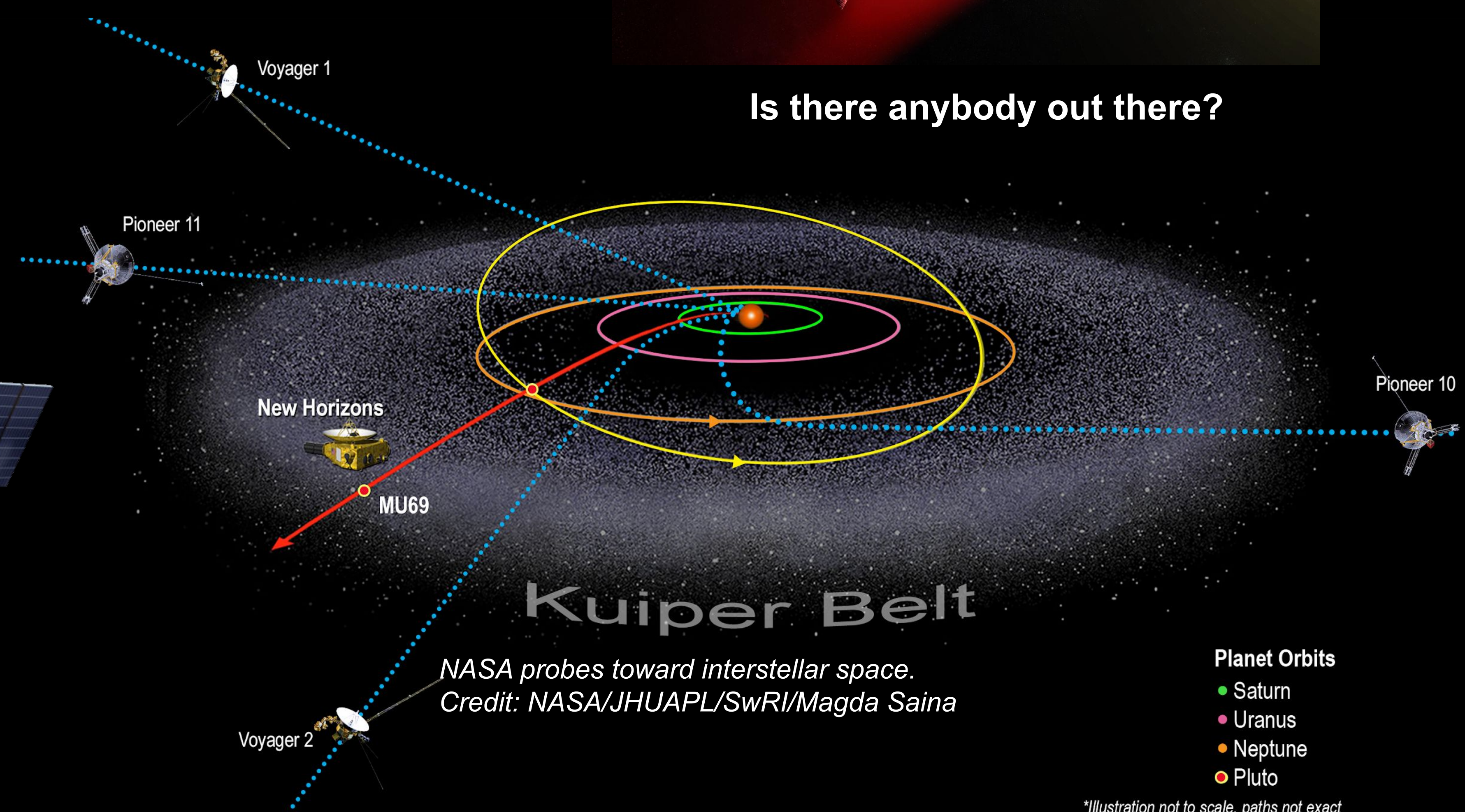


• **Possible Solutions**

- Dedicated government funded probe missions
- Micro probes (faster (?), cheaper) i.e. Breakthrough Starshot



Is there anybody out there?



NASA probes toward interstellar space.
 Credit: NASA/JHUAPL/SwRI/Magda Saina

Planet Orbits
 ● Saturn
 ● Uranus
 ● Neptune
 ● Pluto

*Illustration not to scale, paths not exact

• **Conclusions**

- Interstellar probes may be the unique way to detect a more advanced civilization
- How to quantify this problem?
- What do you think? Collaborate (email at the top)?