

News & Stuff

25 April 2012

The Milky Way galaxy is only one of some hundred billion galaxies in the observable Universe, and the Sun is only one of some hundred billion stars in the Milky Way.
How does that make you feel?

1. Insignificant
2. Special
3. Both Insignificant and Special
4. I don't know

Secrets of the Sun

With new tools, scientists are striving to better grasp our star and its potentially widely destructive solar storms. **Airs April 25, 2012 on PBS**

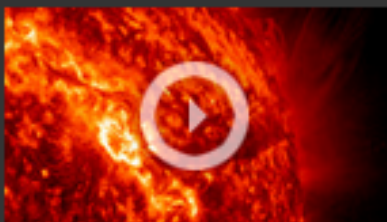
Posted 01.24.12

NOVA



NOVA
9PM Wednesday
(that's tonight!)
on PBS

Featuring
Dr. Luc Peterson
(Vassar
and Princeton,
and LLNL)



Watch a Preview

00:30

Airs April 25, 2012 on PBS | [Check Local Listings](#)

[DVD](#) [Buy the DVD](#)

Telescope Diffraction patterns

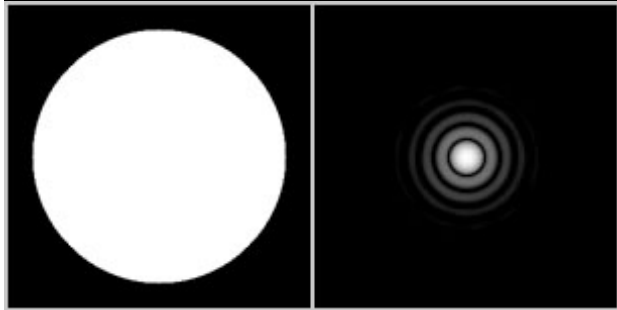
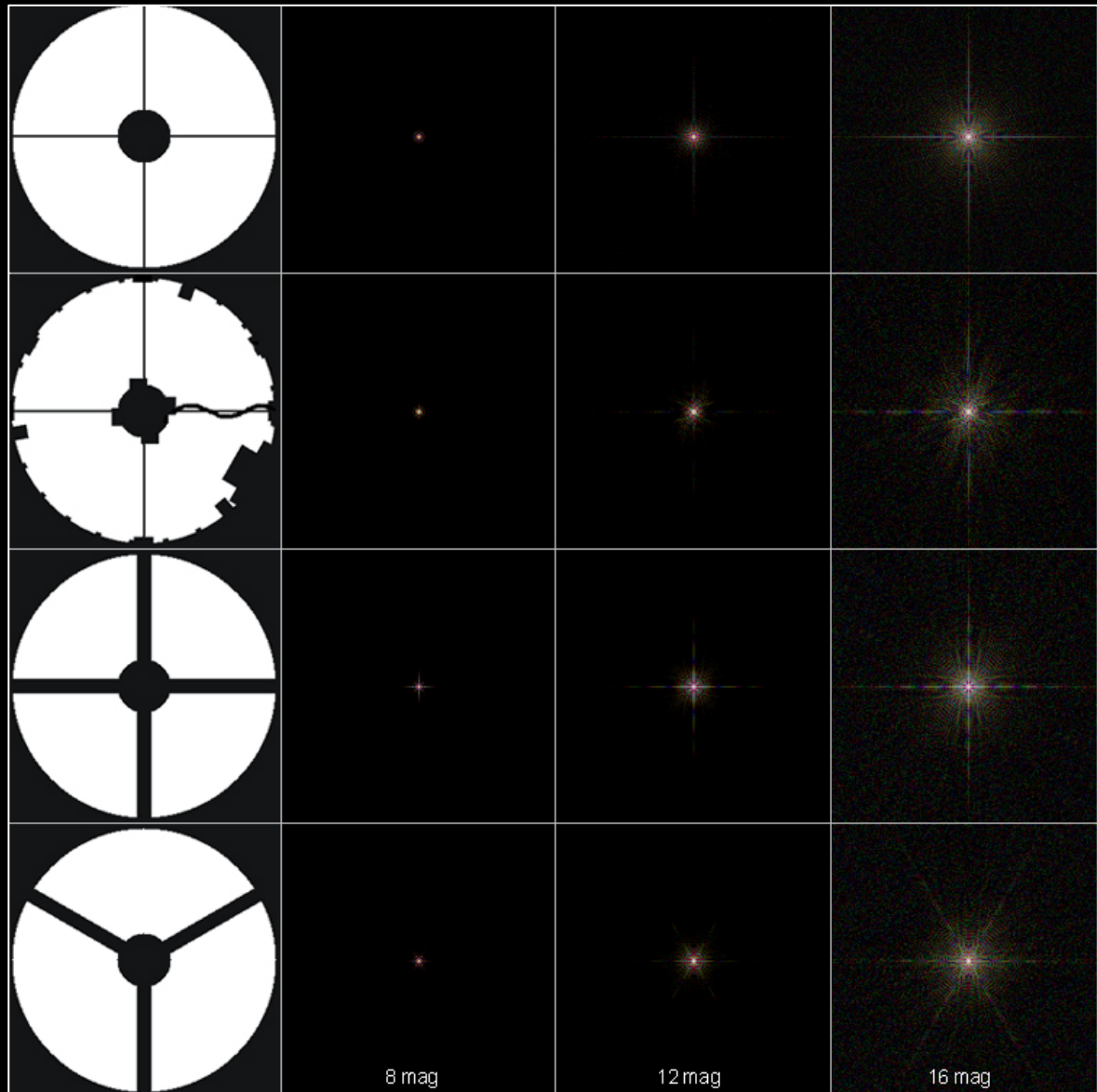


Figure 1: Diffraction Pattern (right) of an unobstructed circular entrance pupil (left), like from a Refractor.



Asteroid Mining may get real

Planetary Resources, Inc.
Held a press conference
on Tuesday April 24th.

Investors include:

- Larry Page
- Eric Schmidt
- James Cameron
- Peter H. Diamandis

In Pursuit of Riches, and Travelers' Supplies, in the Asteroid Belt



Planetary Resources


COMING SOON Planetary Resources says it will first launch a spacecraft — a telescope to find small nearby asteroids.


By **KENNETH CHANG**


Published: April 23, 2012


Perhaps it will be a platinum rush that finally opens up the final frontier.


On Tuesday, a new company called Planetary Resources Inc. will unveil its plans to mine asteroids that zip close by [Earth](#), both to provide supplies for future interplanetary travelers and to bring back

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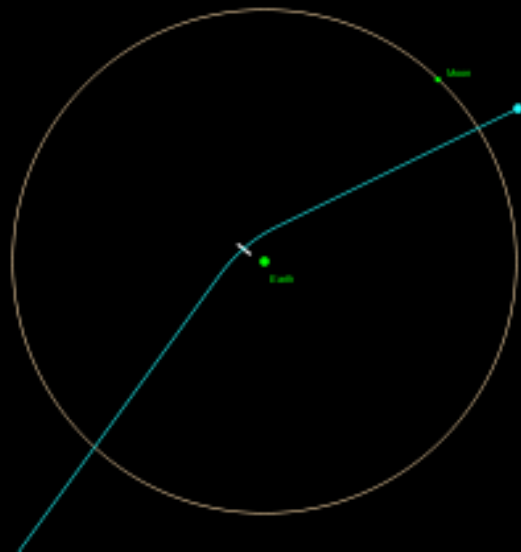
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<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/24/science/space/in-pursuit-of-riches-and-travelers-supplies-in-the-asteroid-belt.html>

<http://io9.com/5904599/its-official-james-cameron-and-google-unveil-plans-for-asteroid-mining>

99942 Apophis

Apophis is a near-Earth asteroid with a diameter of about 350 meters which will make a close approach on Friday, 13 April 2029. It will not strike the Earth or Moon then.



If Apophis passes through a small “gravitational keyhole” in 2029 (which is unlikely) then it will strike the Earth on a future pass on 13 April 2036.

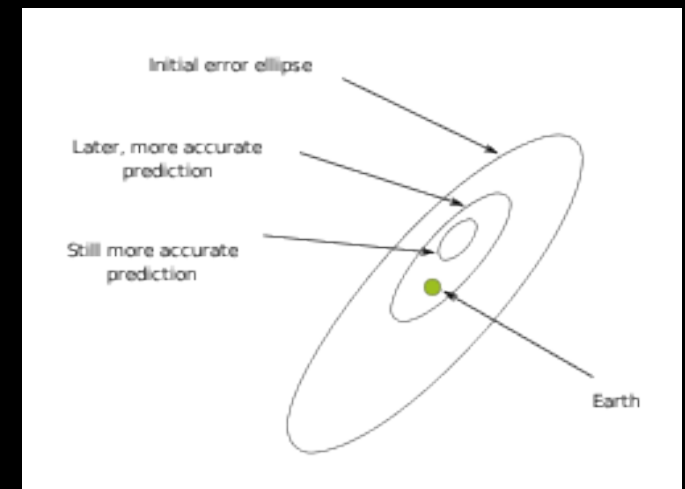


Illustration of a common trend where progressively reduced uncertainty regions result in an asteroid impact probability increasing followed by a sharp decrease.