

'Oumuamua, interstellar object: what we know so far

it came from above, and we didn't see it coming: down onto **the orbital plane**, the big implicit disc of our Solar System. down into the whirling inner Orrery.

in a NASA/JPL-CalTech gif, it almost hits us, twice.¹ trails us in our circumsolar motion for some days. gains on us then blows us by.

it has no readable heat. emits no beep, yet itself is a winking pixel: a brightness phasing ten-to-one, transiting our interface.

it has no message but its own improbability. a luminous anomaly says **look at me / solve me**.

gives no sign but comes from the direction of Vega. draws an epic V on the Ecliptic.

all agree: an **interstellar alien**. a proper **UFO**, unidentified. it's **Interstellar Object 1I**: first of a mysterious Kind.

'Oumuamua is the first foreigner you've had at your dinner table and we never got to ask them about Panama & damnit there they go, down the driveway.²

a deep-UFO, a Vallee UFO, a **Hermetic entity**. its wake is eidetic, a binary trail of **our own affirmations & denials**.³ comet/asteroid; natural/artificial; warning us / laughing on its fly-by; a whale saying Hi / a ballistic flung by trebuchet; et cet.

the name, on our mumming lips, is childish, subjectivized. the second **mua** is the speaker's own exuberance, a redundancy.

the signal, for me, is motherly. like Sagittarius A*, the dense dark heart of the Milky Way: where Scorpius & the Archer meet: like November 22nd, my own mother's birthday.

zoom out from our local star, take into your wider view a circumsolar sphere of a few hundred systems: relative to this **Local Standard**, 'Oumuamua seems to be *stationary*.⁴ we pass *it*, then loop a hard left, seem crazy.

¹ <https://www.wired.com/story/is-oumuamua-an-alien-spaceship-sure-except-no/>

² Robert Reid, the After On podcast. Nov 28 2018

³ see Erik Davis, "The Alien Call" in **Techgnosis**, 2004.

⁴ Avi Loeb, the After On podcast.