The Cosmos

Planets & Life

PHYS 214

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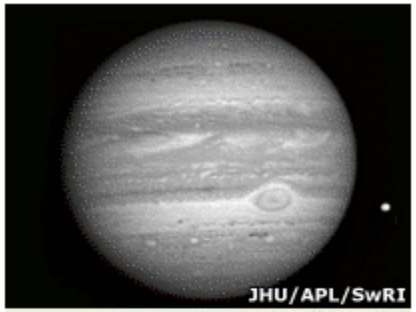
New Horizons targets Jupiter kick

The New Horizons probe is bearing down on Jupiter and a flyby that will swing the spacecraft out to Pluto.

The US mission was already the fastest ever launched, but the extra kick from the gas-giant's gravity will ensure it arrives at the dwarf planet by 2015.



New Horizons will take hundreds of pictures of Jupiter

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So far, New Horizons has taken more than 20 images of Jupiter; hundreds more will have been obtained by the end of a late February flyby.

The encounter will be an important examination of the probe's systems.

"This is a big test for our mission," said Alan Stern, from the Southwest Research Institute, Boulder, Colorado, and the principal investigator on

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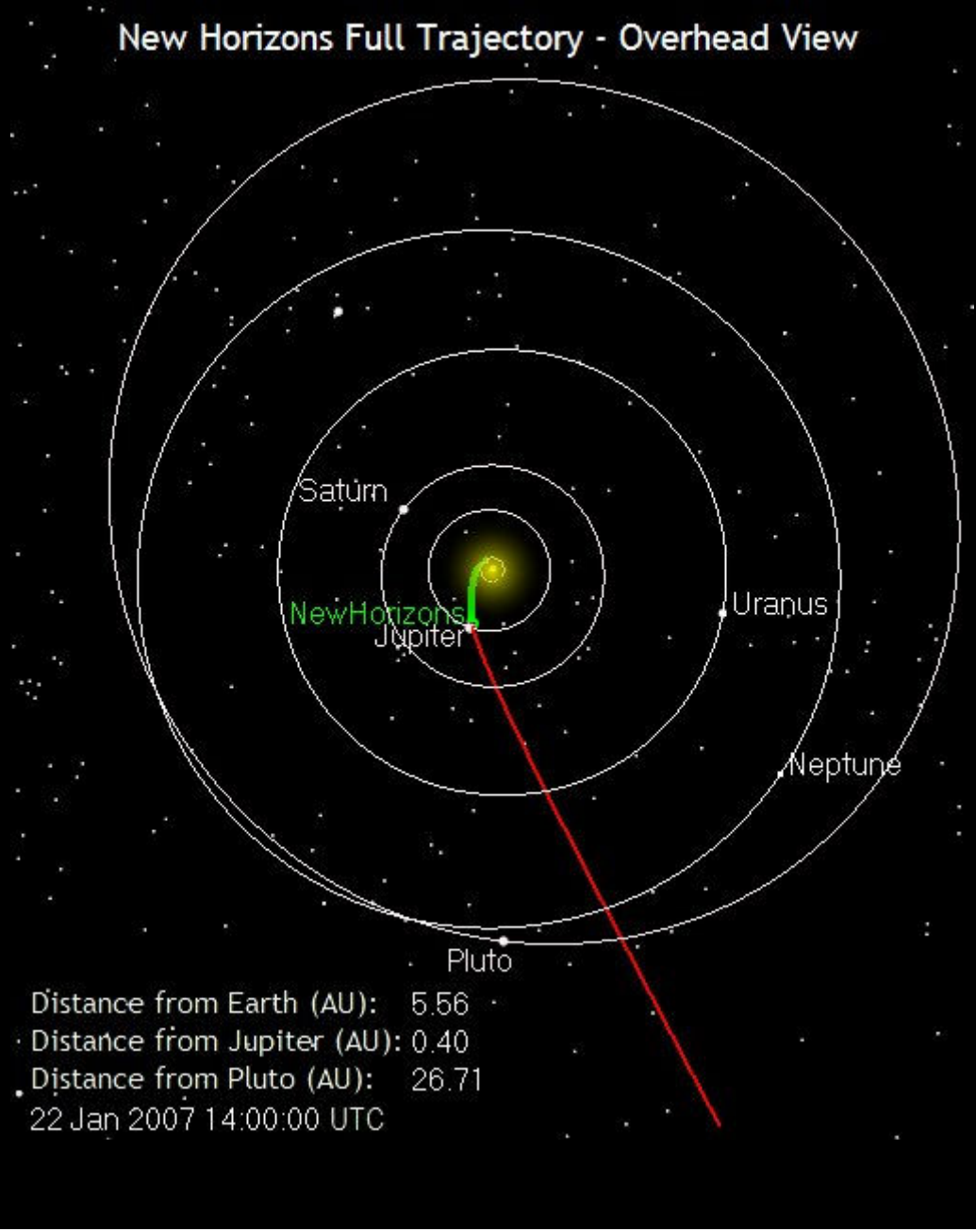

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Today's Lecture

- Origins: Back to the Beginning
  - Video covering much of what was discussed in previous lectures

Next lecture

- Stars (book: p 236)