ET Might Write, Not Radiate

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A truck filled with storage media, driven across town, is a very reliable high bit rate channel.

–*Comm. Theory Collective Subconscious*

Ten Years of Wireless Research

- Spectrum Management

  Interference hurts, so deal with it!

- Delay tolerance
  - Transmit when channel good!
- Mobility
  - Is not anathema $\Rightarrow$ it helps!

GO POSTAL!

- **Radio interference is bad**
  - Mutual interference is a network killer
- **Mobility is good**
  - Can often tolerate delay
  - Channel especially good when nearby
- **Storage density is increasing**
  - Faster than Moore!
- Forget Radio! **Write** message down! **Toss** it to recipient!

Completely ridiculous!!

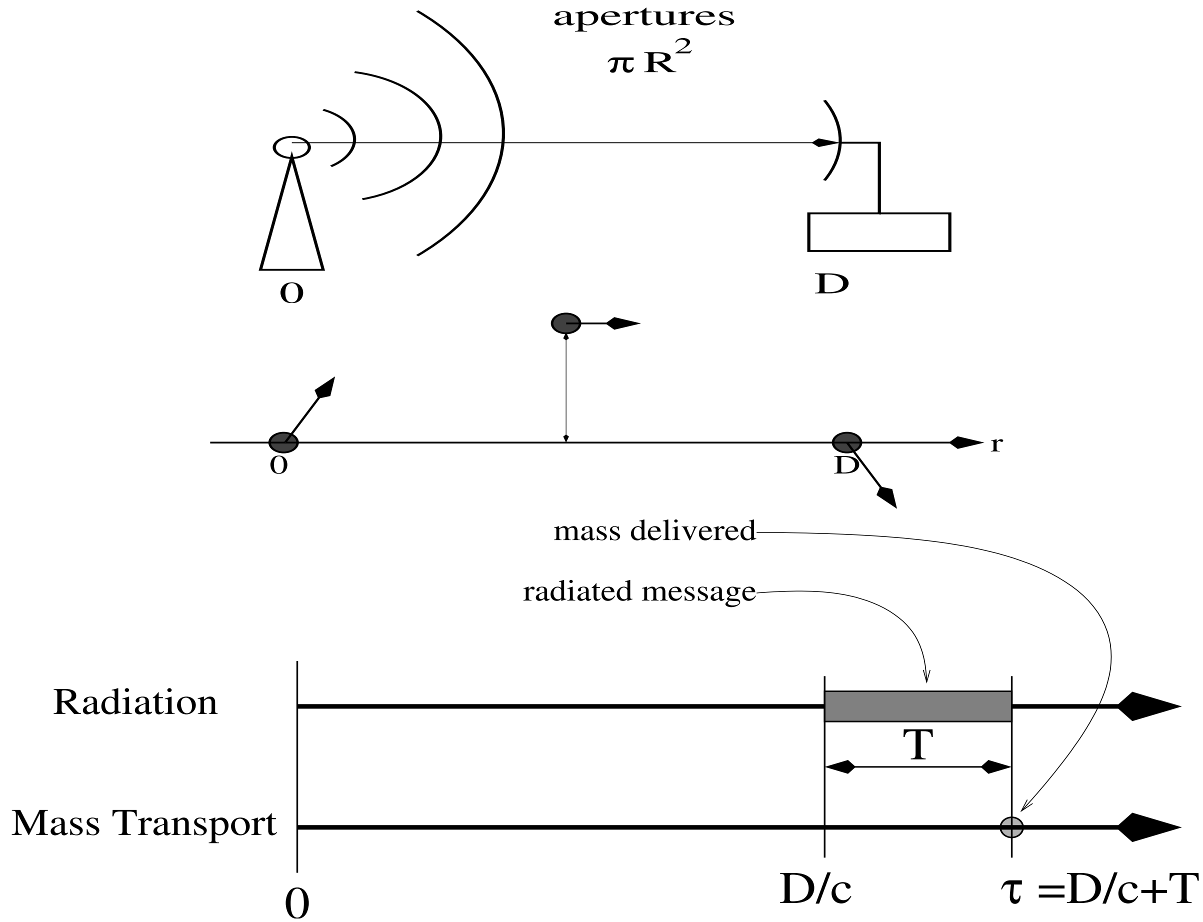
(right?)

Nope, Not Ridiculous

- **NYC/Boston Matter Transport Energy**
  - 200 miles at 20 miles per gallon
  - 1.2×10^8 Joules per gallon
  - 100kg DVDs: $\approx 2.5 \times 10^5$ bits/joule
- **Equivalent Radiation Energy**
  - Satellite: 5660 bits/joule
    (3.5×10^4km uplink, D^2 propagation, 1m^2 dish)
  - Terrestrial (320km, D^4 propagation): MUCH lower efficiency

But ad hoc comparisons are unsatisfying

A Little Analytic Rigor



Information Density, $\tilde{\rho}$

How About Black Holes?

- Schwarzschild Radius: $r = 2GM/c^2 = 1.5X10^{-27}M$
- Info content goes as event horizon *surface area*: $10^{72}r^2$ bits

$$\tilde{\rho} = 1.5 \times 10^{45} r \text{ bits/kg}$$

- Microhole (1μm radius): 1.5×10^{39} bits/kg
- Donut-hole sized hole (1cm radius): 1.5×10^{43} bits/kg

A wee bit impractical (and antisocial)

Empirical Mass Information Densities I

Voyager Spacecraft: 10^6 bits/kg

Empirical Mass Information Densities II

- **20 lb paper** @ 1000dpi: 2×10^{10} bits/kg
- **DVD**: 3×10^{12} bits/kg
- **Magnetic Storage** with FeO_2: 2×10^{17} bits/kg
- **Optical Lithography** with SiO_2: 3.85×10^{18} bits/kg
- **E-beam Lithography** with SiO_2: 1.54×10^{21} bits/kg
- **STM** with Xe on Ni: 1.74×10^{22} bits/kg
- **RNA**: 3.6×10^{24} bits/kg
- **LiBe**: 7.5×10^{25} bits/kg

Minimum Transport Energy, E^*

Just the initial kinetic energy:

$$E^* \approx \frac{1}{2} m \bar{v}^2$$

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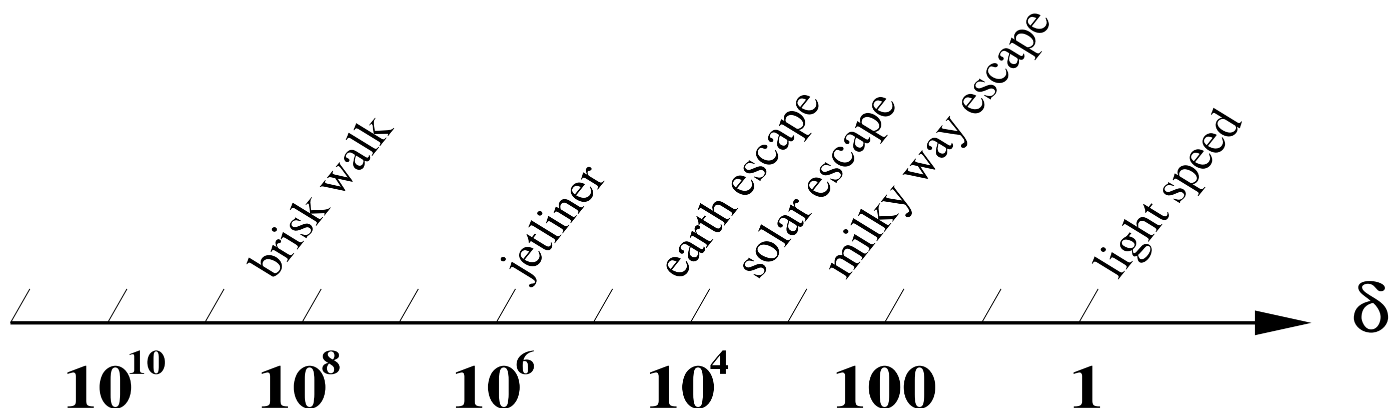
Inscribed Matter Energy Requirements

- Message size B, mass information density $\tilde{\rho}$

$$E_w \approx \frac{1}{2}\frac{B}{\tilde{\rho}}\bar{v}^2 = \frac{1}{2}\frac{B}{\tilde{\rho}}\left(\frac{c}{\delta}\right)^2$$



- **Artillery:** adds a factor of 2 to energy
- **Escape:** small penalty if $\bar{v} > 2 \times$ escape velocity

Radiation Energy Requirements

- Energy capture

$$\nu(D) = \frac{AG}{4\pi D^2}$$

- Bits a la Shannon:

$$B = TC = TW \log_2 \left(\frac{P \frac{GA}{4\pi D^2}}{N_0 W} + 1 \right)$$

- $E_r = PT$,

$$E_r = BN_0 \frac{4\pi D^2}{AG} \frac{TW}{B} \left[2^{\frac{B}{TW}} - 1 \right]$$

- Large TW:

$$E_r \geq BN_0 \left(\frac{4\pi D^2}{AG} \right) \ln 2$$

Radiation to Transport Energy Ratio

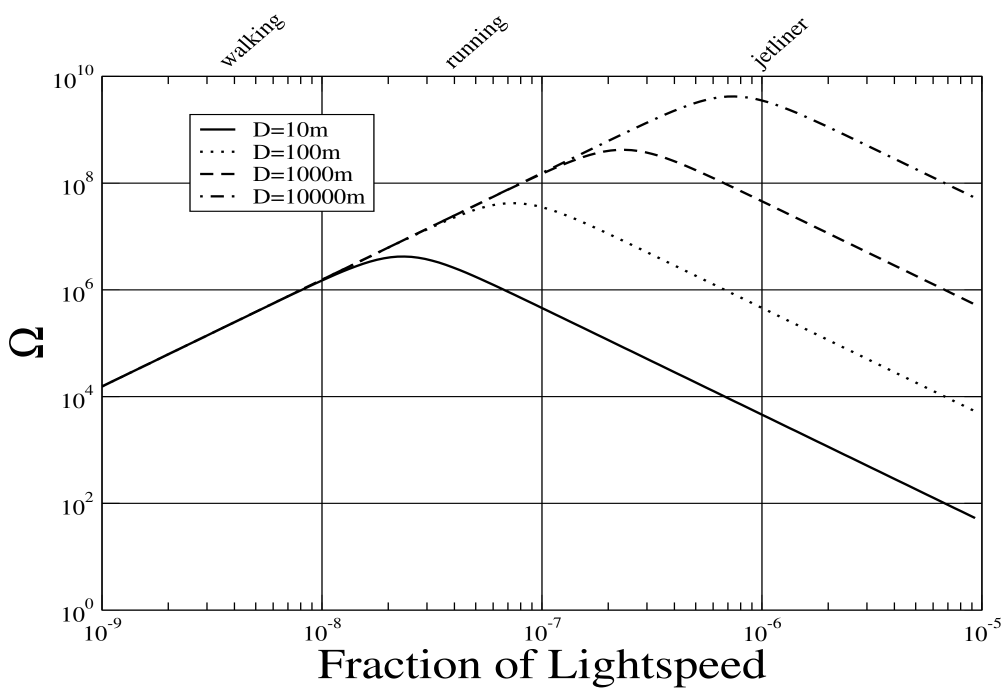
$$\Omega = \frac{E_r}{E_w}$$

$$\text{Normalized Aperture} \equiv \mathcal{A} = \frac{2R}{\lambda}$$
$$\text{Normalized Distance} \equiv \mathcal{D} = \frac{D}{2R}$$

$$\Omega \geq \left[\frac{\tilde{\rho} N_0}{c^2}\right] \left[\frac{8}{\pi^2}\left(\frac{\mathcal{D}}{\mathcal{A}}\right)^2\right] (2\ln 2)\delta^2$$

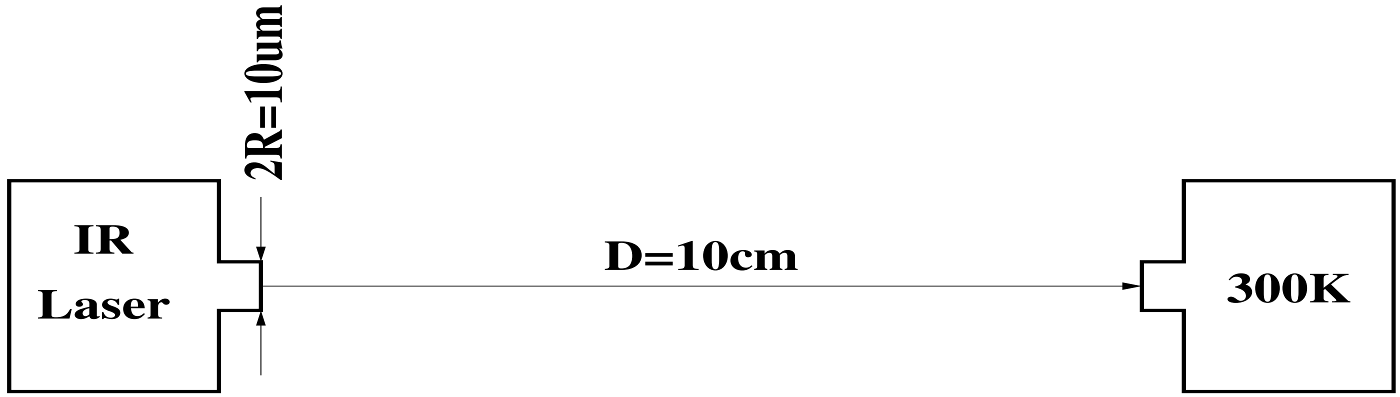
Isotropic Radiation vs. Terrestrial Artillery

$\tilde{\rho} = 3 \times 10^{24}$, $R = 5$cm, Temperature $300K$



Aside: ≈ 250 seconds between NYC and Boston ballistically

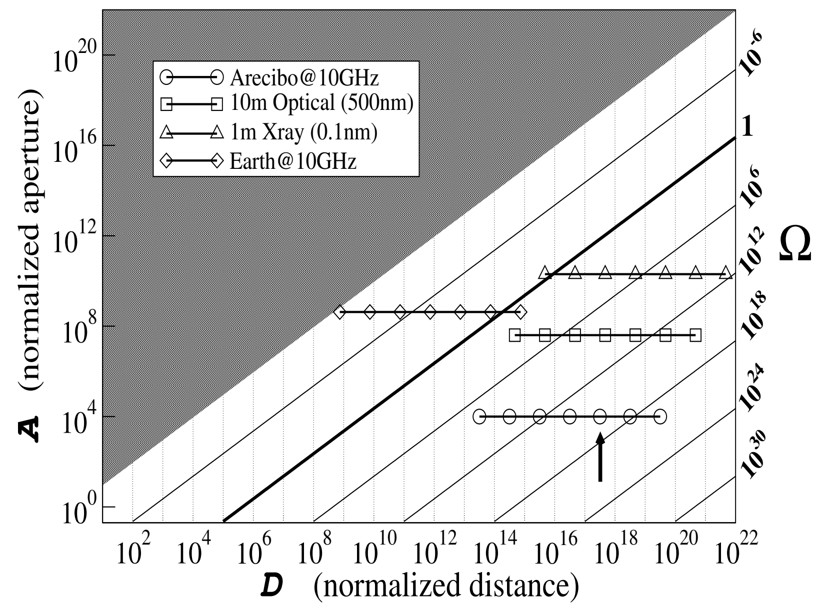
Chip to Chip Laser Links



- Delay: $\delta = 10^9$
- Wavelength: $\lambda = 1\mu$m
- Magnetic storage: $\Omega \geq 10^4$
- STM inscription: $\Omega = 5 \times 10^8$

Interstellar

($\tilde{\rho} = 10^{22}$, $\delta = 10^3$, Temperature $3K$)



- 10k LY, Arecibo-Arecibo: $\Omega = 5 \times 10^{15}$
  - Radiation/Matter: (2 megaton blast) / (Shelve 5 lb sugar bag)

Voyager

- 10^9 bit payload
- 900 kg mass
- Catapult launch: about 800 joules/bit

Breakeven Distance: 2000 light years

- Asides:
  - Rocket Launch: distance up $\times 9$.
  - Use 3 DVDs (instead of gold disc): distance down $\times 10$

The Physics Has Spoken

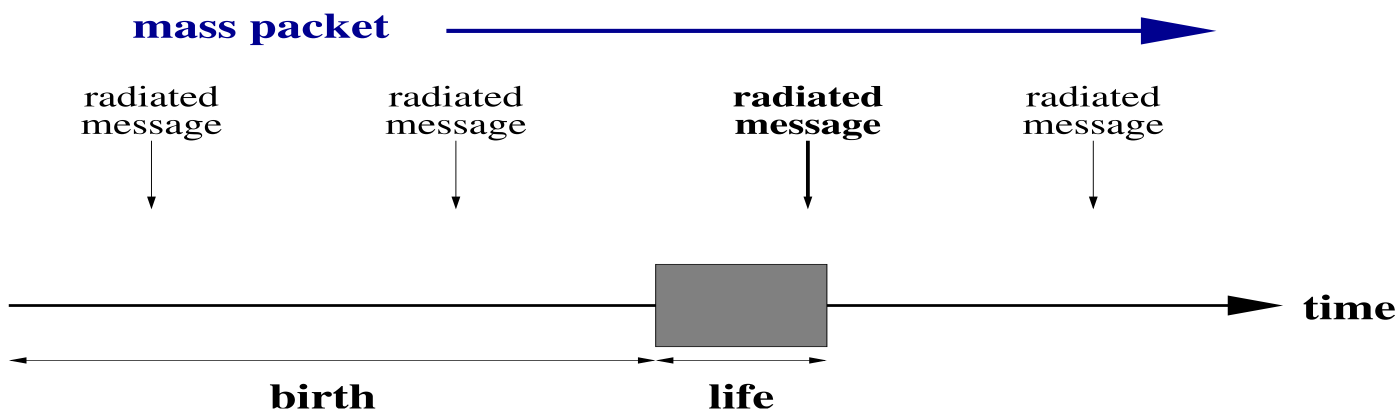
Matter is *stunningly* more efficient for a wide range of distances and methods of radiated communications.

But what about ...

Matter and Radiation Penalties

- **Radiation**
  - Impermanence and Repetition
- **Matter**
  - Broadcast
  - Inscription Energy
  - Deceleration At Target
  - Preservation
  - Advertisement

Matter Persists – Radiation Vanishes



- Civilization Birth Rate: $\alpha = 1/10^9$ per year
- Civilization Extinction Rate: $\beta = 1/10^6$ per year
- Success criterion $0 \leq \Phi \leq 1$
- **How many radiated repetitions?**
  - $\Phi = 0.99 \rightarrow 2 \times 10^5$
  - $\Phi = 0.9999 \rightarrow 2 \times 10^7$

Is Radiation Better for Broadcast?

- Radiation illuminates many $\rightarrow$ matter penalty
- Milky Way stellar density 2.8×10^{-2} stars $(\mathrm{LY})^{-3}$
- Spherical galaxy, isotropic radiation, Arecibo-Arecibo
  - $R = 10^4$ LY: 1.13×10^{11} stars (but $\Omega = 10^{28}$)
  - $R = 10^6$ LY: 1.13×10^{17} stars (but $\Omega = 10^{32}$)

No, inscribed matter still wins!

Inscription Energy/Speed

- **Matter Inscription/Readout Energy and Time**
  - Can be reversible and abitrarily fast (R. Landauer)
- **Empirical energy calc:**
  - 60000 ATP/second for 20 minutes: 4639 Kbase of E-coli
  - 8×10^{-20}J per ATP molecule
  - 6.2×10^{-19}J bit^{-1}.
  - E^* at earth escape: 1.68×10^{-17} J bit^{-1}.

Construction energy probably not a problem

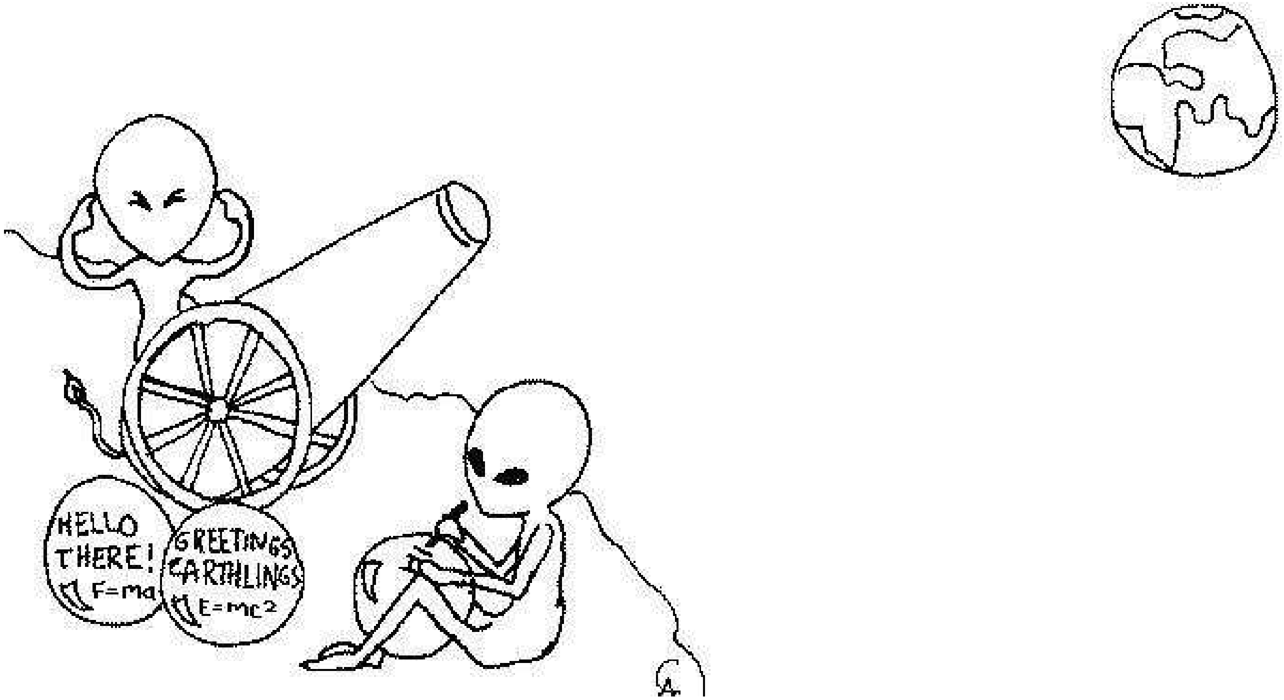
Parking the Package

- Assume exhaust braking
- Energy penalty (excess mass): $e^{\frac{c}{\delta g I_{sp}}}$
- $I_{sp} \equiv$ Specific Impulse
  - Chemical: 10^2
  - Nuclear Electric: 10^4
  - Fusion: 10^6
- $I_{sp} = 20,000$, $\delta = 1000 \rightarrow$ penalty 4.6
- $\delta = 100$ or $I_{sp} = 2000 \rightarrow$ penalty 4.4×10^6

Cosmic Insults

- **Insults:**
  - High energy particle bombardment
  - Heating (diffusion)
  - Ion tracks, dislocations, subatomic cascades
- **Shielding:**
  - 10 million years at 10% bacteria viability: 3 m radius rock (3g cm^{-3} density)
  - 3.4×10^6 penalty
- **Clever Composition, Coding and Correction?**

Overall Implication



ET might write not radiate

Solar Space is BIG

Message Advertisement?

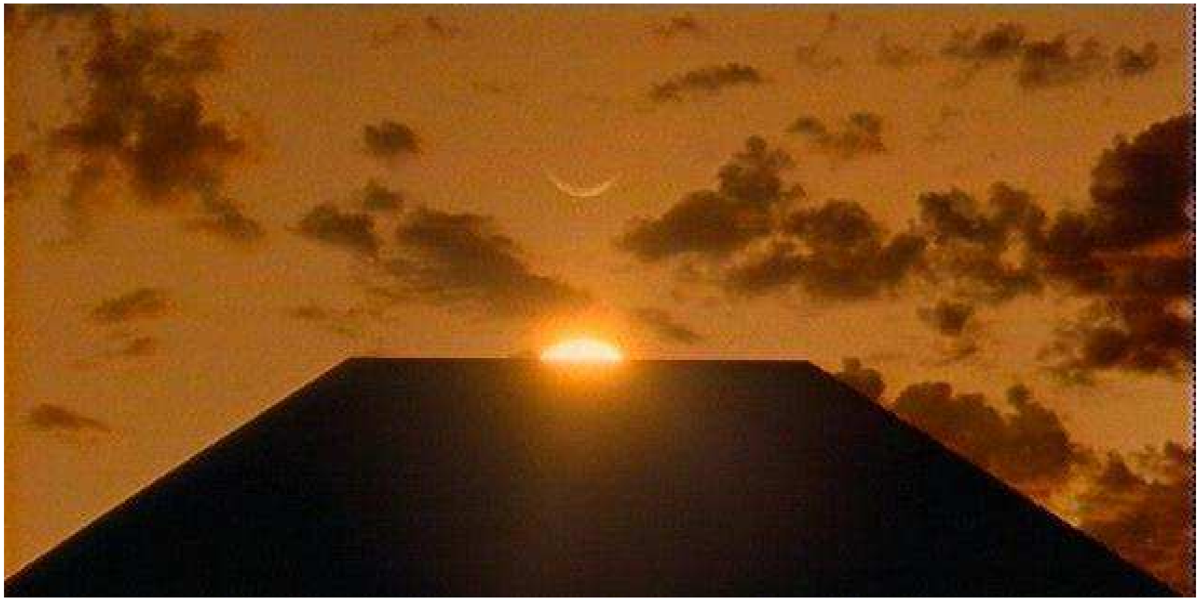
Big Rock?

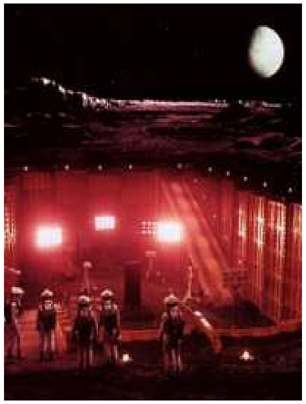
Somewhat antisocial

Odd Rock?

Seeded Comet?

Active Probe?





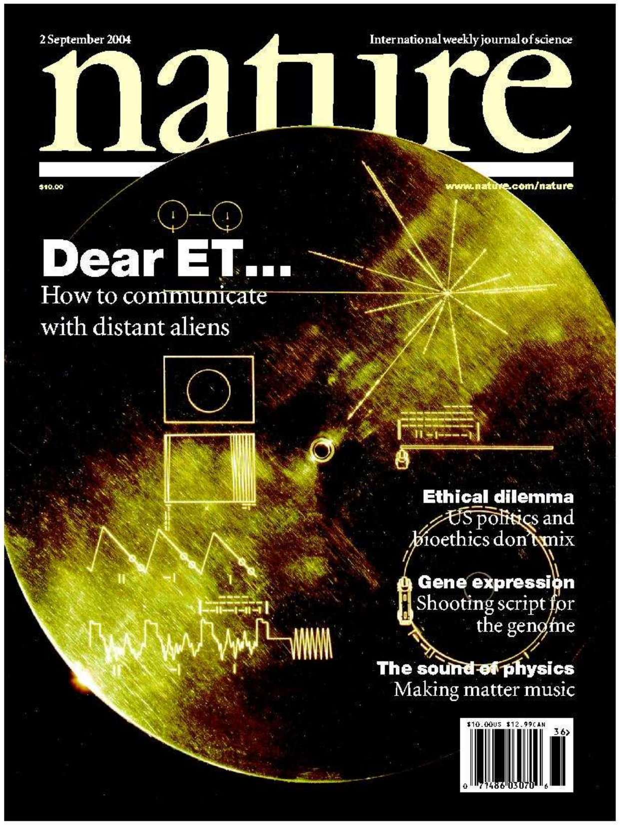
Life Boat?

CONCLUSIONS

If Delay Acceptable

- Inscribed matter messaging is efficient
  - FedEx and Netflix
- Might even finesse Gupta-Kumar *ad hoc* nets $\sqrt{N}$ problem
  - little data missiles
- Chip-to-chip or mote-to-mote communication
  - smart dust tossing inscribed dust
- **Should start looking for extraterrestrial artifacts**

Learn More



Nature 431, pp.47–49, September 2, 2004

Web Site: http://www.winlab.rutgers.edu/∼crose/cgi-bin/cosmic19.html