

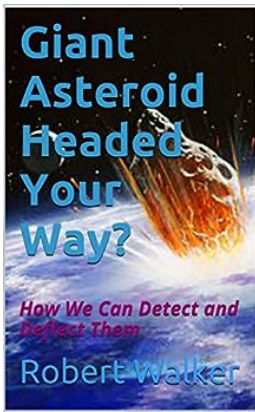
Giant Asteroid Headed Your Way: Brace Yourself for the Cosmic Threat!

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to witness a giant asteroid hurtling towards Earth? Well, brace yourself, because a massive celestial object is currently on a collision course with our planet, and experts are calling it the most significant cosmic threat in recent history!

The Discovery

Scientists from renowned observatories across the globe have recently detected a gargantuan asteroid hurtling through space, heading straight towards Earth. With a diameter of over 10 kilometers and an estimated mass of billions of tons, this asteroid has grabbed the attention of astronomers and space agencies worldwide.





Giant Asteroid Headed Your Way?: How We Can Detect and Deflect Them by Robert Walker (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 9184 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 119 pages
Lending : Enabled



The Potential Impact

The potential impact of this giant asteroid cannot be understated. It is predicted that if it were to collide with Earth, it could cause unimaginable devastation, wiping out entire cities and causing tsunamis that would ravage coastal areas. The energy release from such an impact would be equivalent to thousands of nuclear bombs exploding simultaneously.

Tracking and Predictions

Despite the grim outlook, scientists and space agencies are keeping a close eye on the trajectory of the asteroid. Advanced tracking systems have been employed, providing continuous updates on its position and speed. While the asteroid is still several years away from Earth, precise calculations and predictions allow us to understand the potential consequences and develop contingency plans.

Contingency Plans and Defense Strategies

Various contingency plans and defense strategies are currently being discussed by experts. One proposed solution involves redirecting the asteroid's path using gravitational forces to avert a direct collision with Earth. This method, known as a gravity tractor, would involve sending spacecraft to hover near the asteroid, utilizing their gravitational pull to gradually deviate its course.

International Collaboration

Given the gravity of the situation, international cooperation is crucial. Space agencies worldwide are actively working together to share data, expertise, and resources to maximize our chances of effectively mitigating the threat posed by this colossal asteroid. The scale of the problem necessitates the combined effort and collaboration of the global scientific community.

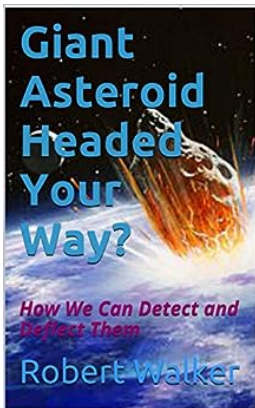
Public Awareness and Preparedness

While scientists and experts are taking proactive measures to safeguard our planet, it is also important for the general public to be aware and prepared for such eventualities. The potential impact of a giant asteroid requires individuals and communities to stay informed about ongoing developments and heed emergency preparedness guidelines provided by their respective national authorities.

The Role of Space Exploration

The discovery of this giant asteroid highlights the importance of space exploration and research. By expanding our knowledge of the cosmos, we gain a deeper understanding of the threats and opportunities that exist beyond the confines of our planet. Investment in space science and technology plays a crucial role in protecting humanity from potential cosmic catastrophes.

The looming threat of a giant asteroid heading our way serves as a stark reminder of the delicate balance we maintain on Earth. While the possibility of such an impact is concerning, it also unifies global efforts to mitigate the potential consequences. By acting collectively and investing in scientific advancements, we can turn this cosmic threat into an opportunity to further our understanding of the universe and safeguard our home planet.



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We get many sensational news stories, saying a giant asteroid will hit Earth, or will nearly miss us. Several so far this year. Many of us worry about these things. So what is the truth behind them?

Actually astronomers have this well in hand for the largest asteroids. They have found 90% of the largest asteroids likely to hit Earth. This is mainly due to Pan-STARRS, which takes a 1.4 gigapixel image of a three degrees span of the night sky several times a minute. It continues to find a new large asteroid about once a month, and will find most of the remaining 10% by the 2020s.

The focus has started to turn to smaller asteroids, ones large enough to destroy a city. These are harder to spot, especially if they approach Earth from the direction of the sun. Our asteroid search telescopes on the ground can't operate in daylight. We hope to find 99% of the asteroids larger than 300 meters in the near future. Below that, however, the B612 foundation's Sentinel space telescope or similar may be needed to complete the survey.

Sentinel can get down to 20 meters diameter, and surveys the hard to spot asteroids between us and the Sun. They hope to launch it in 2018-9, if they can raise the funding. But progress is slow, and the main problem is funding. They have only raised around 5% of their annual funding goal of 30 - 40 million dollars. Without its help, the search for the smaller asteroids may take several decades.

We also know how to deflect asteroids, if it is needed, especially if they are discovered well in advance. This is one of the few natural disasters we can actually prevent. With enough warning, the tiniest change in the speed, sometimes by as little as a millionth of a meter per second, can prevent an asteroid from hitting Earth decades later.

Many people must worry about this, as we get asked questions over and over on Quora, in the Asteroid Scares topic. I thought it might help to make some of these answers into a booklet.

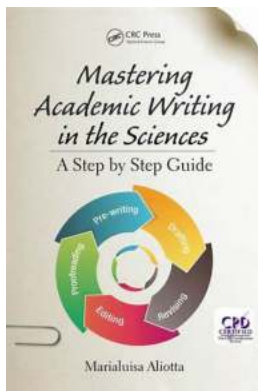
Some of the questions I answer here are:

- * What is the truth behind these stories?

- * How likely is it that we will be hit by a giant impact?

- * How do we detect them, and why do the probabilities keep changing after the first detection?
- * Can we destroy them or deflect them before they hit?
- * What is the largest size of asteroid that could hit Earth?
- * Could it hit us by surprise, with just a few weeks notice or a few months notice?

Includes material from my Science20 blog and several of my Quora answers



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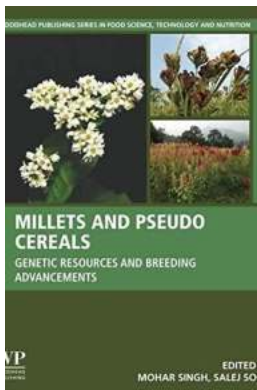
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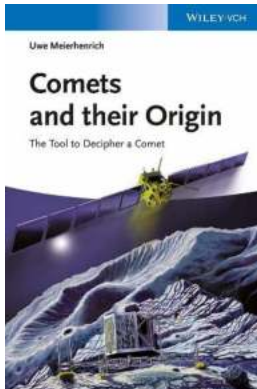
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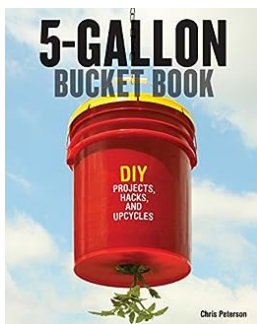
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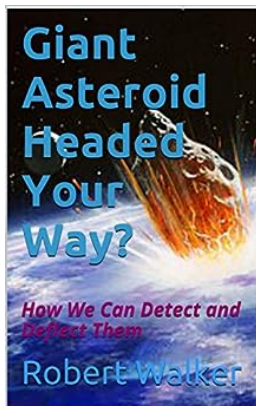
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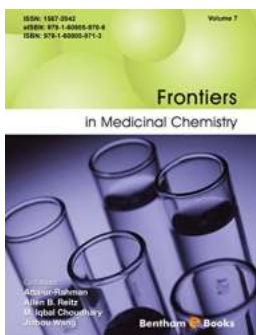
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