

The NASA Lucy mission and its newest target

Simone Marchi

Southwest Research Institute

Lucy Deputy Project Scientist



Science Motivation

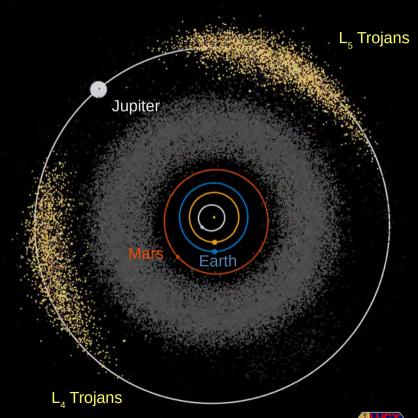


Lucy is the first mission to explore the Trojan asteroids!

Trojans are not a homogeneous population: different colors, albedos, sizes, evolution;

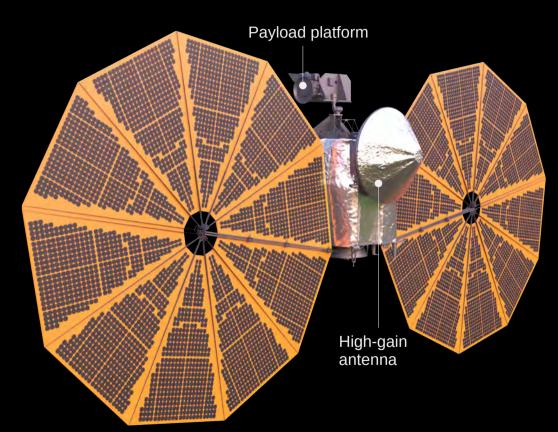
The Trojan asteroids present an opportunity to constrain models of giant planet migration by studying planetesimals that may have formed in different parts of the protoplanetary disk;

The large number of Trojans (7) to be studied by Lucy allows for comparative investigations!



Payload and Investigations





Payload:

1. L'LORRI:

High spatial resolution imager

2. L'Ralph:

Color visible imager and infrared spectrometer

3. L'TES:
Thermal emission spectrometer

- 4. T2Cam:
 Visible imager for tracking
- 5. High-gain antenna: Doppler measurements

Investigations:

Surface Geology (1,2,4)

Surface Color & Composition (2,3)

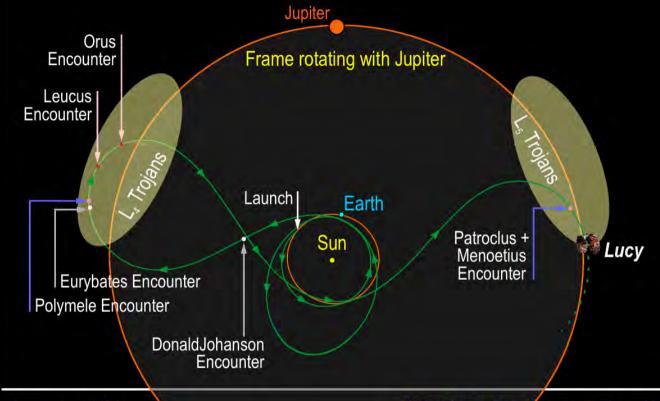
Interiors (1,2,4,5)

Satellites & Rings (1,2,4)



An Amazing Trajectory





Launch: 10/21

Flyby 1: DonaldJohanson, C-type Main Belt, 4/25

Flyby 2: Eurybates, C-type Trojan, 8/27

Flyby 3: Polymele, P-type Trojan, 9/27

Flyby 4: Leucus, D-type Trojan, 4/28

Flyby 5: Orus, D-type Trojan, 11/28

Flyby 6: Patroclus & Menoetius,

P-type Trojan Binary, 3/33



Trojan Asteroids to be Visited





Eurybates C-type



Polymele P-type



Leucus D-type



Orus D-type



L₄ Trojans



Patroclus Binary & P-type



Menoetius Binary & P-type

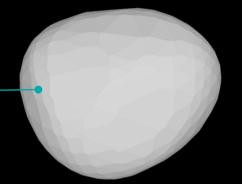




Discovery of Eurybates' Satellite!



Eurybates' shape model based on available photometric data; Average diameter ~ 64 km

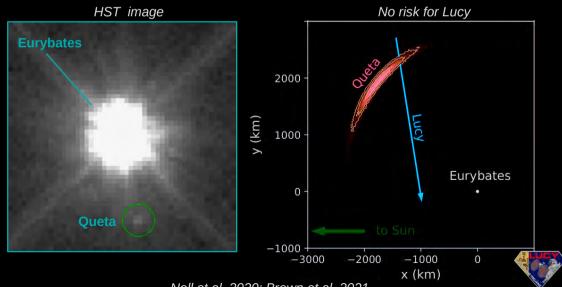


What's new?

- → The Lucy Science Team used HST to discovered a small satellite, named Queta, about 1 km in size;
- → Semi-major axis: ~2300 km, eccentricity: 0.09, orbital period: ~83 days;
- → Queta is a target of opportunity, Lucy will observe it as possible.

What do we know about Lucy's target Eurybates?

- → It is the parent body of an asteroid family, formed in an ancient large catastrophic collision;
- → It belongs to an uncommon spectral type among Trojan asteroids.



Spacecraft Encapsulation





In early October Lucy was encapsulated in the Atlas V 401 fairing!

All is on track for a October 16 launch.

When Lucy will leave the fairing, it will be space-born headed for its 12-years, 4 billion miles journey...



