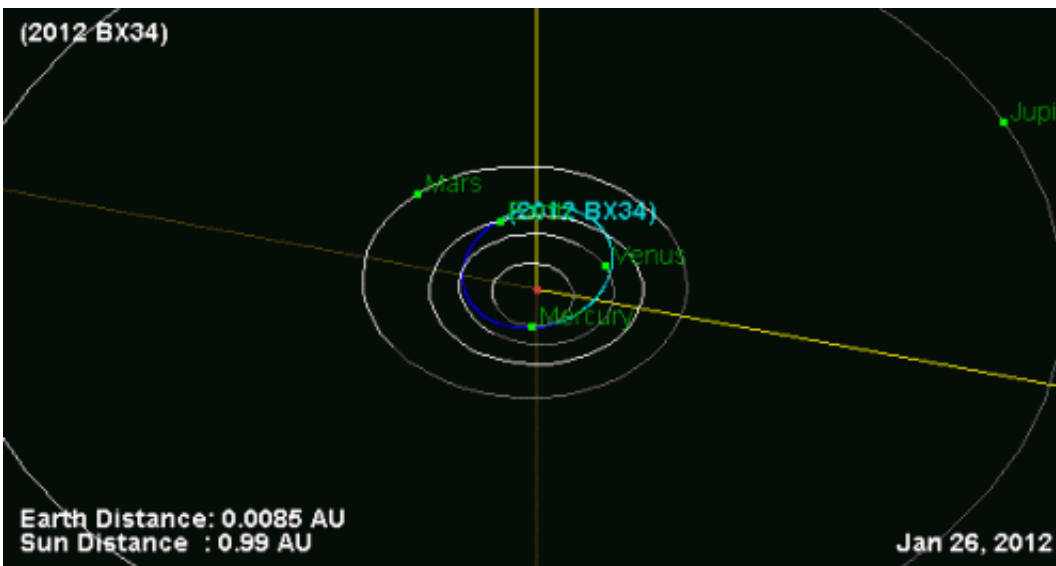


8-meter-wide asteroid will pass close to Earth today

January 27 2012, By Nancy Atkinson



Orbital parameters of Asteroid 2012 BX34 from JPL's Small Body Database.

A small asteroid will pass extremely close to Earth tomorrow (January 27, 2012). Named 2012 BX34, this 11 meter- (36 feet-) wide ~~8-meter-~~ (~~26-foot-~~) space rock (astronomers have updated their estimates of the size) will skim Earth less than 60,000 km (37,000 miles, .0004 AU)>, at around 15:30 UTC, (10:30 am EST) according to the Minor Planet Center. The latest estimates have this small bus-sized asteroid it traveling at about about 8,900 meters/second (about 20,000 miles per hour). 2012 BX34 has been observed by the Catalina Sky Survey and the Mt. Lemmon Survey in Arizona, and the Magdalena Ridge Observatory in

New Mexico, so its orbit is well defined and there is no risk of impact to Earth.

Via the [@AsteroidWatch](#) Twitter feed, scientists from JPL said “It wouldn’t get through our atmosphere intact even if it dared to try.”

Amateur [astronomers](#) in the right place and time could view this object, as it should be about magnitude 14 at the time of closest approach. Click [here](#) to see a current orbit diagram, and [here](#) to view the ephemeris data. Nick Howes, with the Faulkes Telescope Project said his team is hoping to observe and image the asteroid, — although they aren’t sure if they will be able — but we hope to share their images later.

Source: [Universe Today](#)

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