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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Zeta Notso Ridiculouso

From: Loy Pressley <lpressle@webwide.net>
Date: Thu, 16 Oct 1997 13:22:49 -0700
Fwd Date: Fri, 17 Oct 1997 00:29:18 -0400
Subject: Re: Zeta Notso Ridiculouso

> This is a response to many of the posts on this thread. The main
> thread seems to have been lost. The point was, is it possible for
> someone over there to get over here, when 'there' is a very long
> way away.

> The answer is yes.

Sure it is possible...you just have to take most the mass in the universe and use it to accelerate yourself to some reasonable percentage of the speed of light and then use the remaining mass to shield yourself from the atoms in space that become deadly missiles at that speed.

You know one tenth of the speed of light in a vacuum is 18,600 miles per second. So far we've got up to about 10 or 15 miles per second. Looks like we have a long way to go to me...

What's the time dilation effect of moving at 1/10th the speed of light anyway? Is it enough to make it practical for a race that lives, say, a thousand years.

> We as society are already technologically
> capable of building interstellar craft. And in fact have already
> done so, both of the voyager probes and the one that came before
> them (can't remember the name) (??? Pioneer ???) are going
> interstellar within our lifetimes.

Yep, in seventy five thousand years or something they will reach the vicinity of the nearest star.

> We can build much faster
> propulsion systems than are already in use. Only logistics and
> the chance to experiment have prevented us from doing so
> already.

I'll wager that what we say we can do and what we finally determine to be possible to do are entirely different things. And we aren't even proceeding in the directions it takes to make it possible for us to develop drives powerful enough to make any semblance of practical interstellar travel possible. We are so terrified of anything nuclear that we can't even launch a very slow probe to Saturn without worldwide protests.

> As to speed, well yes at present such missions would be slow.

So slow as to make it impractical, I'll wager.

> Project Daedalus, which was once a front runner, had projected

> speeds of up to 25% SPEOL, Stellar Ram Jets could possibly travel
> faster still.

Let's see; 25% of the speed of light in a vacuum is approximately 46,500 miles per second. That's moving on out... Since the nearest star is approximately 4 light years away (and a light year is approximately 6 trillion miles; a number I can't even imagine) it would take 16 years to get there assuming (not likely) instant acceleration and deceleration. And 16 years to get back to report. Or, 20 years to receive a report about what was found there.

Doesn't sound very practical to me...

> All without resorting to Warp Engines. Okay so you
> probably would not want to send people at first, but where
> machines lead people shortly follow.

That doesn't seem to be the case at the moment. In fact, it looks like everyone wants to just stick to sending machines if anything is sent at all.

> The speed of light in a vacuum is seen to be a universal speed
> limit. There are certain quantum events to which this limitation
> does not apply.

I don't understand...which quantum events? I thought all these 'events' were thought to be aberrations of observation.

> The Quantum Tunneling effect is one of these. This
> is okay, its accepted.

Please explain.

> Nothing gets violated unless information
> can be transmitted from one point to another. As I understand it,
> Mozart (thats his music not the composer) has already been
> transmitted at 3.7 c i.e. 3.7 times faster than the supposed
> speed limit.

If Mozart's music has been transmitted then information has been transmitted from one point to another. Unless Mozart's music isn't considered to be information.

> This may however be down to experimental errors and
> work is going on at present to show that information can be
> coherently transmitted at faster than c.

Could you expand on the above.

> If this continues to be the case, we may well have to ask a lot
> of new questions that science, at present, is ill equipped to
> answer. You should never rest on your proverbial scientific
> laurels as you can never tell when someone will come along and
> pull them from under you.

Agree 100%!

> So there we go, sermon over. It's possible we can do it so why
> can't they. Don't get me wrong I'm still a sceptic, but I won't
> dismiss an idea out of hand just because I'm Sceptical.

I'm not even skeptical. I think that they are doing it right now. If flying saucer's do, in fact, shield themselves and their occupants from the effects of gravity, then they have a practical means to exceed the speed of light by just about as much as they want too. It doesn't take much to accelerate zero mass.

It may not sound like it from my comments above but I do think that interstellar travel at less than light speed is possible. I just don't think it will ever, under normal circumstances, be practical for a species like us with a life span of three score and ten. Americans couldn't even maintain focus for ten years for the Viet Nam war much less over the several decades it would take to complete an interstellar mission. And most countries are less favorable to space exploration than America. Even with the time dilation effect, the crew of an interstellar spacecraft is likely to return to earth and find that no one cares or everyone moved to Mars to protest that we're polluting interstellar space or something even more exotic.

Loy

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