

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [4th known interstellar object ~ Polar-IM was not from our solar system](#)

Hackers - June 5, 2026, 5:22 am

Before anyone gets their panties in a bunch, this news relates to a past event and is based on the data analysis completed since then. It's just a rock, but a cool rock because we only know of a few similar to it. It should be noted that we haven't always had the ability to track these, and there are likely a handful of interstellar objects coming through our solar system every few years, but we'll need to continue tracking to know if that's true or not.

This is a very robust study into Polar-IM, the meteor that was seen burning up in the atmosphere. Nothing crazy happened, nobody died, and it broke up over the ocean at a high altitude with a relatively low amount of energy.

It's interesting though because tracking interstellar objects is still relatively new (3i/atlas, 2I/Borisov, 1I/'Oumuamua), with only 3 really official sightings in the past. This would make Polar-IM the fourth interstellar object we've been able to track.

The research is based on the velocity, size analysis, etc. The gist of it is that it was traveling faster than the escape velocity of our solar system, and so we can predict within a tiny decimal point of error that it came from outside.

[Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOXi98H9JHQ>]

here's the relevant arxiv paper: <https://arxiv.org/html/2606.04379v1>

Here's a write-up version of the YT video:

<https://avi-loeb.medium.com/discovery-of-a-polar-interstellar-meteor-polar-im-from-april-1-2026-0fbc0726059b>

Unfortunately due to how it broke up in the atmosphere over the ocean, recovering parts of this is far more difficult than other objects. Avi Loeb gained some notoriety for saying "we can't rule out X, Y, Z" and is a highly respected scientist in this field. His focus on pure data rather than speculation shouldn't be missed just because he presented questions related to 3i/ATLAS in the past.