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Subject: Re: Navigation.

Posted by [Berkut](#) on Mon, 13 Dec 2010 09:12:00 GMT

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Actually, I'm curious as to how NASA plots courses in space with no fixed object to gauge movement. Is it all relative to the sun? It seems like even the sun would be a bad choice given its movement within the galaxy, but perhaps because this movement isn't so readily apparent within the solar system we pretend it is a fixed object and make coordinates based off distances between the sun and individual objects?

Only reason I ask is because someone tells me you can't just plow right into Earth's atmosphere, there's a narrow margin you have to slip through lest you either skip off or burn up in reentry. It seems like it would be impossible to convey this to someone with no knowledge of our astronautics.

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