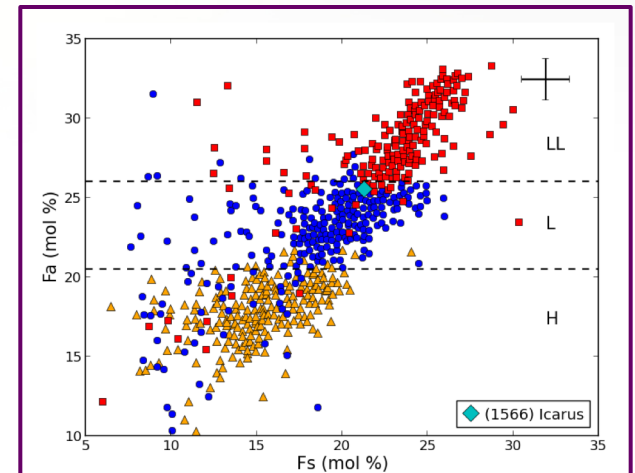
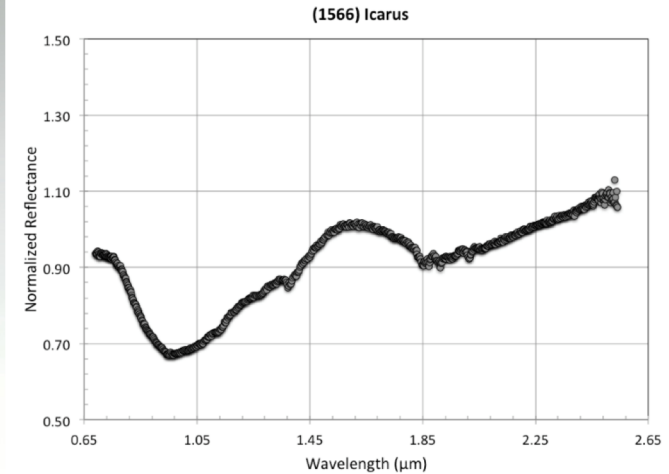
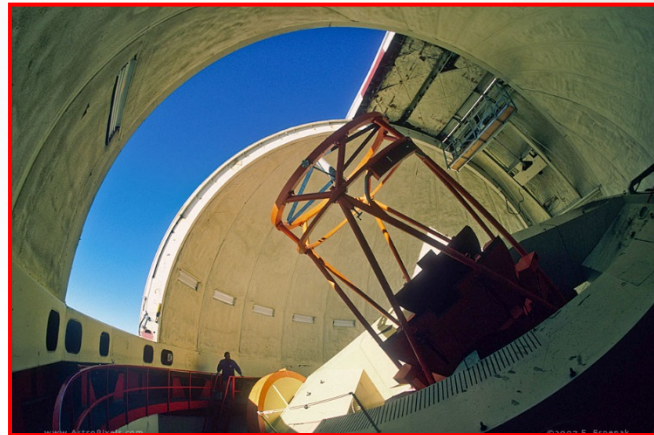


Close Pass of Potentially Hazardous Asteroid Icarus

On June 16, Potentially Hazardous Asteroid (1566) Icarus passed by the Earth at a distance of just over 8M km (~5M miles) – its closest approach in 47 years. During its close pass in 1968, Icarus was the first minor planet to be observed with radar. Astronomers funded by NASA's Near-Earth Object Observation program took full advantage of this latest opportunity to observe and characterize this 1.3-km-diameter object because the next close pass like this won't occur until 2043.



Iron in two common minerals (Fayalite and Ferrosilite) on the surface of near-Earth asteroid Icarus is similar to L and LL (ordinary) chondrite meteorites.



Spectroscopic observations by astronomers operating the NASA's Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF) on Maunakea, Hawai'i, indicate that Icarus is a Q-type asteroid that has a surface composition similar to L/LL ordinary chondrite meteorites. (Reddy et al., In preparation.)



L-type ordinary chondrite

G. Fujihara



LL-type ordinary chondrite

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