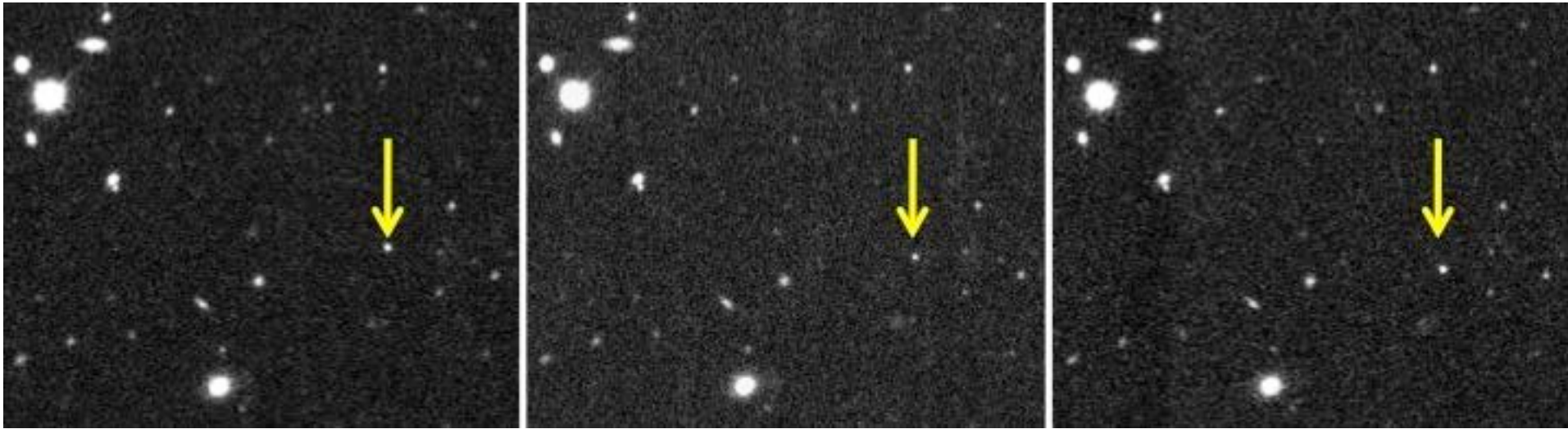




# Object Discovered with the Most Distant Known Orbit in the Solar System



Scientists using ground based observatories have discovered an object that is believed to have the most distant orbit found beyond the known edge of our solar system, designated 2012 VP113. Until now, Sedna was the only other object found beyond the the Kuiper Belt edge. At its furthest, Sedna's is further from the Sun than this new object, but Sedna's closest approach, or perihelion, is closer to the Sun, giving 2013 VP113 the distinction of being the most distant orbit in the solar system. 2012 VP113 is estimated to be 450 km in diameter and is likely one of hundreds of thousands of distant objects thought to inhabit the region in our solar system referred to as the inner Oort cloud. The similarity in the orbits found for 2012 VP113, Sedna, and a few other objects near the edge of the Kuiper Belt suggests the object's orbit might be influenced by the potential presence of a yet unseen planet, perhaps up to 10 times the size of Earth.

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Images credit: Sheppard/Carnegie

