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Satellites are changing the night sky as we know it

人造卫星正改变着我们所熟知的夜空

Expect the night sky to start changing fast. One day soon, the stars we can see from Earth could be **outnumbered** by a vast swarm of satellites.

等着看吧，这片夜空将快速发生变化。在不久的将来，大批的人造卫星在数量上可能会超过我们在地球上看到的星星。

outnumber /aʊtˈnʌm.bəʊ/: v. 比...多，在数量上超过相关词汇：number (n. 数量) 词根词缀：out- (超过，超越)

派生词：outgrow (v. 比...长得高、长得快)

派生词：outlive (v. 比...活得长)

搭配短语：A outnumbered B (A 的数量超过 B)

例句：Women outnumber men.

搭配短语：B is outnumbered by A (B 的数量被 A 超过)

例句：Men are outnumbered by women.

a swarm of: 一大批；一大群（昆虫）

搭配短语：a swarm of tourists

Some professional astronomers raised alarms last spring, and again in November, after SpaceX launched batches of 60 **Starlink** satellites. These don't present a big problem yet, but when thousands more shine down on us, they could **interfere** with our ability to **detect** the farthest, **faintest** objects in the universe – the ones that give us a **portal** into the distant past.

早在去年春天，就有一些专业天文学家对此发出警告；今年十一月，在 SpaceX 推进“星链”计划，发射了第二批的 60 颗卫星后，这一担忧被再次提出。到目前为止，这些卫星还没有造成什么大问题。不过，当我们再发射数以千计的卫星上去，它们反射的光可能会干扰我们去探测宇宙中最远、（光线）最微弱的天体，而这些天体正是我们探寻遥远过去的一个窗口。

astronomer/ə'strɒn.ə.mə/: n. 天文学家

词根词缀：astro-（与星星或者天体有关的）

相关词汇：astronaut（n. 宇航员）

相关词汇：astronomy（n. 天文学）

相关词汇：astronomical（adj. 天文的）

搭配短语：astronomical objects（天体）

batches of: 批次

batches of 60: 分批发射，每一批60个

Starlink: “星链”计划是 Space X（太空探索技术公司）的一个项目，计划的构想是在 2019-2024 年这五年间向太空发射 1.2 万颗卫星，组成一个庞大的卫星星座，向全世界的人提供高速、便宜的上网服务。

shine down: 照耀；反射

interfere/ˌɪn.t̪ ə'fɪr/: v. 干扰，扰乱

搭配短语：interfere with

例句：Anxiety could interfere with our performance at an interview.

detect/dɪ'tekt/: v. 发现，识别；察觉（细微或不易察觉的东西）

相关词汇：detective（n. 侦探）

例句：They could always detect a hint of sadness in your voice. 他们总能在你的声音中发现一丝悲伤。

例句：New techniques can better detect cancer. 新技术可以更好地检测癌症。

faint/feɪnt/: adj. 微弱的，不清楚的

搭配短语：a faint trace of smoke

搭配短语：a faint smell of perfume

portal/'pɔ:t(ə)l/: n. 入口，门；门户网站

近义词：gate

搭配短语：a news portal

SpaceX has plans to launch 30,000 more satellites, in addition to the 12,000 already approved by the FCC and FAA. Jonathan MacDowell, space historian and **astrophysicist** of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, predicts that other companies are likely to launch “**mega constellations**” of their own satellites. The result could be cheap or free high speed Internet access for everyone on the planet, at the price of our view of timeless constellations.

SpaceX 已有 1.2 万颗由联邦通信委员会（FCC）及美国联邦航空管理局（FAA）批准的可发射卫星，除此之外，SpaceX 还计划再发射 3 万颗卫星。乔纳森·麦克道威尔是哈佛-史密松森天体物理中心的一位天文史学家、天体物理学家，他预测其他公司可能也会发射自己的卫星，组成所谓的“巨型人造星座”。尽管这样能为地球上的每个人提供便宜、甚至免费的高速网络，可代价却是我们要失去那亘古不变的星座夜景了。

in addition to：此外；除了

space historian：天文史学家

astrophysicist/'æ.s.troʊ'fɪz.I.sɪst/: n. 天体物理学家

词根词缀：astro-（与星星或者天体有关的）

相关词汇：physics（n. 物理学）→ physicist（n. 物理学家）

mega/'me.gə/: adj. 极大的，巨大的

派生词：megacity（特大城市）

派生词：megastar（明星、大腕儿）

搭配短语：a mega deal 一笔大买卖

constellation/'kɒn.stə'leɪ.ʃən/: n. 星座

at the price of：以...为代价

Is it selfish to want to keep our night sky, knowing some people still don't have Internet access? Maybe. But many of the disconnected surely feel a connection to the night sky, too.

明明知道现在仍然有一些人上不了网，可我还是想留住我们熟悉的那片夜空，这种想法是不是很自私？也许是吧。但是有很多还不能上网的人，肯定也感受到了他们与这片夜空是相连的。

the disconnected：还不能上网的人

MacDowell says one good **compromise** solution would be an international agreement, similar to a space junk **pact negotiated** through the **Interagency Space Debris Coordination Committee**. Through that agreement, companies with plans to launch satellites now design them so they fall to Earth after 25 years. A similar agreement might encourage people to design satellites with minimal impact on our view.

麦克道威尔说，一个权宜之计将是制定一份与“太空垃圾协议”相似的国际协议，“太空垃圾协议”由机构间空间碎片协调委员会协商制定，在它的约束下，凡是有卫星发射计划的公司，现在都需要将卫星设计成会在 25 年后返回地球。那么，一份类似的协议可能会激励人们优化卫星设计，使其对我们的视觉影响最小。

compromise/'kɒ:m.prə.maɪz/: n. 妥协，让步；v. 妥协，让步

搭配短语：reach/make a compromise 达成协议

搭配短语：compromise on

例句：We'll not compromise on taste. 我们不会在口味上妥协。

pact/pækt/: n. (正式的) 条约，协议

近义词：agreement

英文释义：a formal agreement

negotiate/nɪ'gəʊʃieɪt/: 协商；谈判

Interagency Space Debris Coordination Committee: 机构间空间碎片协调委员会

机构间空间碎片协调委员会 (IADC) 是由美国、欧洲、日本和俄罗斯的航空/天局于 1993 年发起成立的。1995 年，中国国家航天局正式加入该组织。

Interagency: adj. 机构间的

相关词汇：agency (n. 机构)

词根词缀：inter- (...之间)

相关词汇：international (adj. 国际的)

space debris (太空垃圾)

近义词：space junk

相关词汇：debris (n. 碎片，残骸)

Committee: n. 委员会

While the satellites themselves can help connect people to one another, the stars can also help us feel a connection – to others around the world and to people throughout history who have gazed upwards and been inspired.

尽管人造卫星能帮助人们彼此建立联系，星星也能让我们感受到某种联系，这种联系不仅建立在我们与世界上的其他人之间，也将我们与整个历史脉络中，曾仰望星空且深受启发的人连在一起。

gaze upward: 仰望星空

be inspired: 受启发

原文：

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