If anyone is receiving this this transmission, I am on planet J1407B 434 light years away from earth. The mission has gone horribly wrong and my crew and I need immediate assistance.

I am using receiver number 69420

We are taking cover…

They’re getting closer…

Everything we thought about this planet is completely wrong

Diegetic vs non-diegetic

Muscle sounds

Hi fi lo fi

Keynotes

Signals and what they convey

Our soundscape depicts a failing transmission from the leader of a crew of astronauts seeking help. They crash landed on a planet where the environment is endangering their lives and they fear that alien life may lurk nearby. Their communications equipment is damaged, and they desperately need help getting off of the planet. By the end of the transmission attempt, the equipment fails. An unknown ship can be heard taking off in the distance, and our heroes are left behind.

This video score depicts stranded astronauts attempting to communicate with Earth so they can be rescued from certain death. Throughout this score, there are distorted background chimes created by a set of keys that acts as a keynote for the planet. It also simulates a type of atmospheric distortion that would affect communication equipment. Additionally, there is constant static that fades in and out during the whole score. This static is a signal to the listener that there is a sense of distress and urgency among the astronauts. Broken up statics over a radio transmission almost always means that something has gone wrong.

On top of the background effects lies two muscle sounds that take over the soundstage for a few moments. The first muscle sound is an echoing crash that signals the start of the distress. After this moment the speaker begins repeating his location and continues to ask for help. The second and most important muscle sound is the slow rocket launch at the very end. This launch is meant to be ambiguous and leave the viewer wondering if the astronauts are being left behind or if something dangerous or evil has just started to pursue them.

The video of pole vectors is very abstract, and this allowed us to make most of the sound diegetic. This includes the voice, static, and keynote ringing which all appear to be coming from the failing broadcast. The distorted video matches up with the distorted voice and garbled static underneath it. The only non-diegetic sound comes from the rocket launch in the distance. This makes it more impactful and mysterious because it is the only sound to not come from the broadcast and it leaves the interpretation up to the viewer. In addition to being mostly diegetic, the score is also mostly hi-fi. The constant static and warped voice make it hard to pick out any one sound. This creates a sense of chaos and urgency for the viewer since so many sounds are warping in different ways at the same time. However, there are brief moments where the static and ringing die down to create a lo-fi atmosphere which allows the voice to be understood more clearly. These sections of low-fi stress the importance of the voice and the intentions of the astronauts trying to survive.