The Ghostship Mathematica

1.
An alien world.
Young Marble Jones hides in his father's tavern every night - listening to the stories told by space sailors (of all shapes, sizes and exotic races) passing through the port world. He loves hearing tales about pirates but he's never actually seen one.

His favourite stories are those about the legend of the long-lost Ghostship Mathematica – said to be carrying a mysterious treasure. Some say it was the last ship to be sailed by humans, but few believe that humans *ever* existed.

One night a one-legged robot appears in the tavern – Marble instantly knows he's a pirate and finds a good hiding spot to eavesdrop. The pirate has arranged to meet someone that night, to trade gold coins for a map. But when the other party arrives and realises that he's dealing with a pirate – and one who used to sail with The Marauders, judging by his ink-markings – he's less than happy. A brawl erupts and tables, chairs and tankards fly through the air. When Marble's hiding place is discovered his father is furious and sends him home, where he is to stay indoors for the remainder of the warm season.

Instead, Marble tracks down the pirate's ship and stows away, only coming out when he knows they're too far from the port planet to turn back. When he emerges from hold he's disappointed to discover that the deadly pirate ship he'd expected is manned by just the old one-legged Captain and a robotic Blacksmith.
'Just... just the two of you?'
'What else do you need to sail the stars, boy?' the Blacksmith says, and tells Marble that he can stay on board as long as he makes himself useful.

The Captain tells Marble that he stole the map during the brawl. And (of course) it is a map to the final resting place of The Ghostship Mathematica!
'But if that sailor had a map to The Mathematica, why didn't he use it?'
'The same reason an antmonkey can't fire a lasergun when he finds one beneath his tree. He dun't know what it was!'
'Brains. The capn's got em!' the Blacksmith says while he flattens out the Captain's battered hide with a red-hot mallet.

After months of sailing they find the legendary Ghostship – Marble is delirious! He climbs aboard with The Captain and immediately starts filling his satchel with gold.
'You going to carry that heavy, boring gold all the way home, kid?'
'If we're not here for the gold then what we after?'
'You know where The Ghostship got its name, kid?'
'Cos all its crew are dead?'
'No. You see – the Ghostship *is* the treasure...'
The Ghost Mathematica was the last great achievement of the human race – a revolutionary scientific process. The idea that a mind can be stored, safely and perfectly, in the form of a long and complex mathematical equation. The Ghostship's treasure is in its computers: the minds of a million dead humans.
The last humans in the universe.