



Dust measurements by the Student Dust Counter - report from 32 AU

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The Student Dust Counter (SDC) is an impact dust detector on board the New Horizons Mission to Pluto. SDC is capable to resolve the mass of dust grains in the range of $10^{-12} < m < 10^{-9}$ g, covering an approximate size range of 0.5 - 10 μm in particle radius. The measurements can be directly compared to the prediction of a grain trajectory tracing model of dust originating from the Edgeworth-Kuiper Belt (EKB). Through December 2014, the New Horizons spacecraft reached beyond 32 AU, enabling SDC to map the dust density distribution along its path across the solar system. This talk will present our latest data, a comparison with current models of the dust distribution in the outer solar system, and our expectations for the journey beyond Pluto.