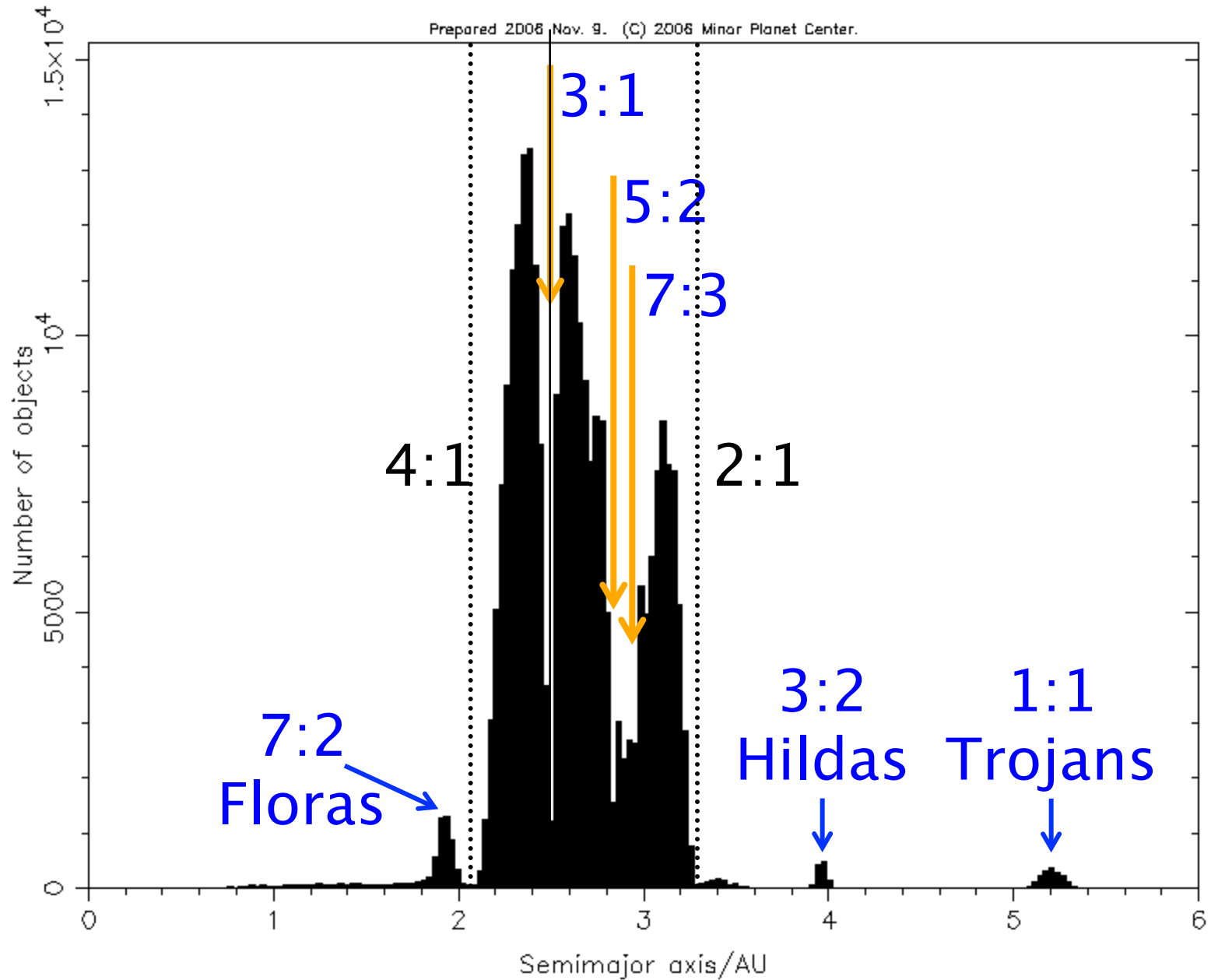


Plot prepared by the Minor Planet Center (2006 Nov.20).

# Distribution of the Minor Planets: Semimajor axis

Prepared 2006 Nov. 9. (C) 2006 Minor Planet Center.



# Some Named Asteroids

1 Ceres

2 Pallas

3 Juno

4 Vesta

5 Astrea

439 Ohio

1814 Bach

1815 Beethoven

1818 Brahms

4147 Lennon

4148 McCartney

4149 Harrison

4150 Starr

4305 Clapton

4442 Garcia

6433 Enya

10185 Gaudi

110393 Rammstein

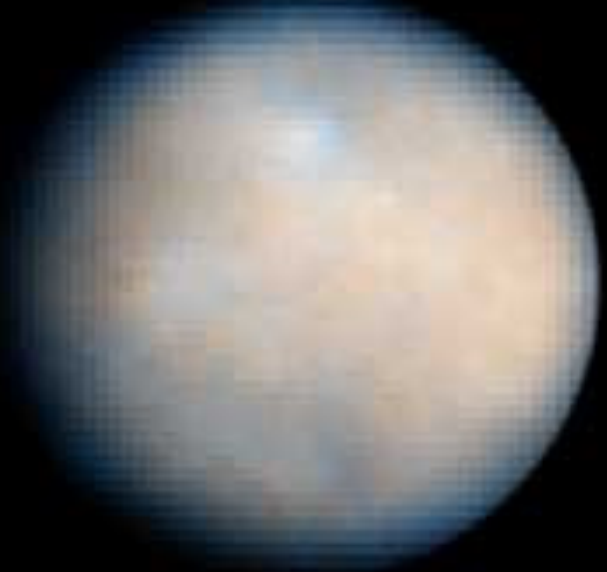
# Sizes of Asteroids

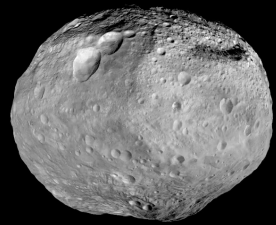
Largest asteroid is Ceres:

- 914 km across
- Mass of  $0.0002 M_{\text{Earth}}$
- Dwarf Planet

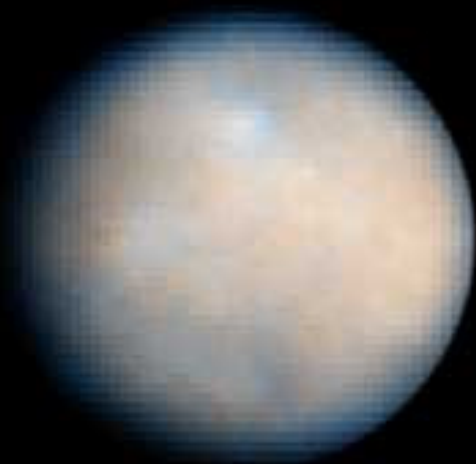
Most are much smaller:

- Only  $\sim 100$  are  $> 140$  km across.
- $\sim 1.2$  Million are  $> 1$  km across.
- Total mass in asteroids is only  $\sim 0.0006 M_{\text{Earth}}$  enough for a small rocky body
- Half the mass is in the largest 4 asteroids.

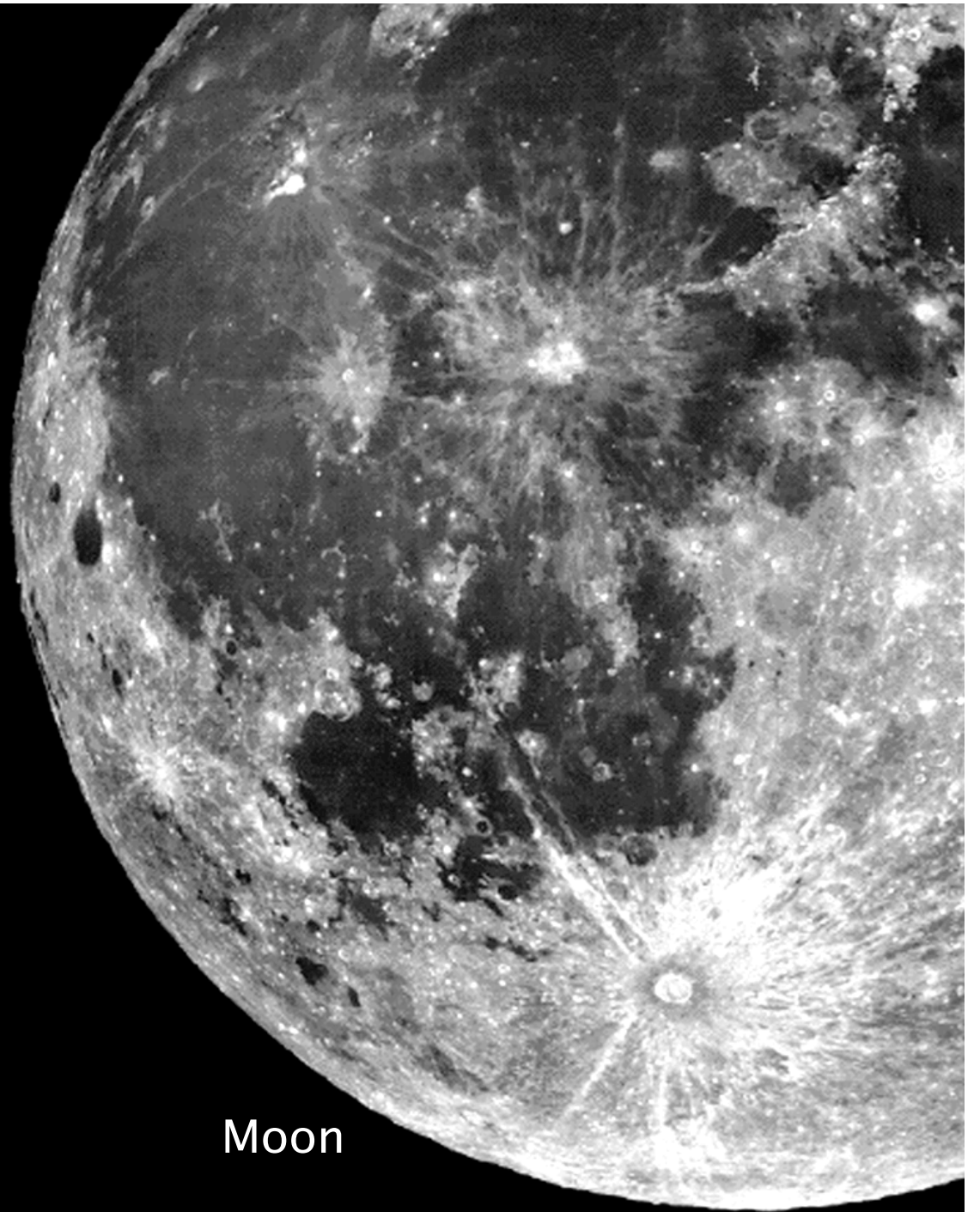




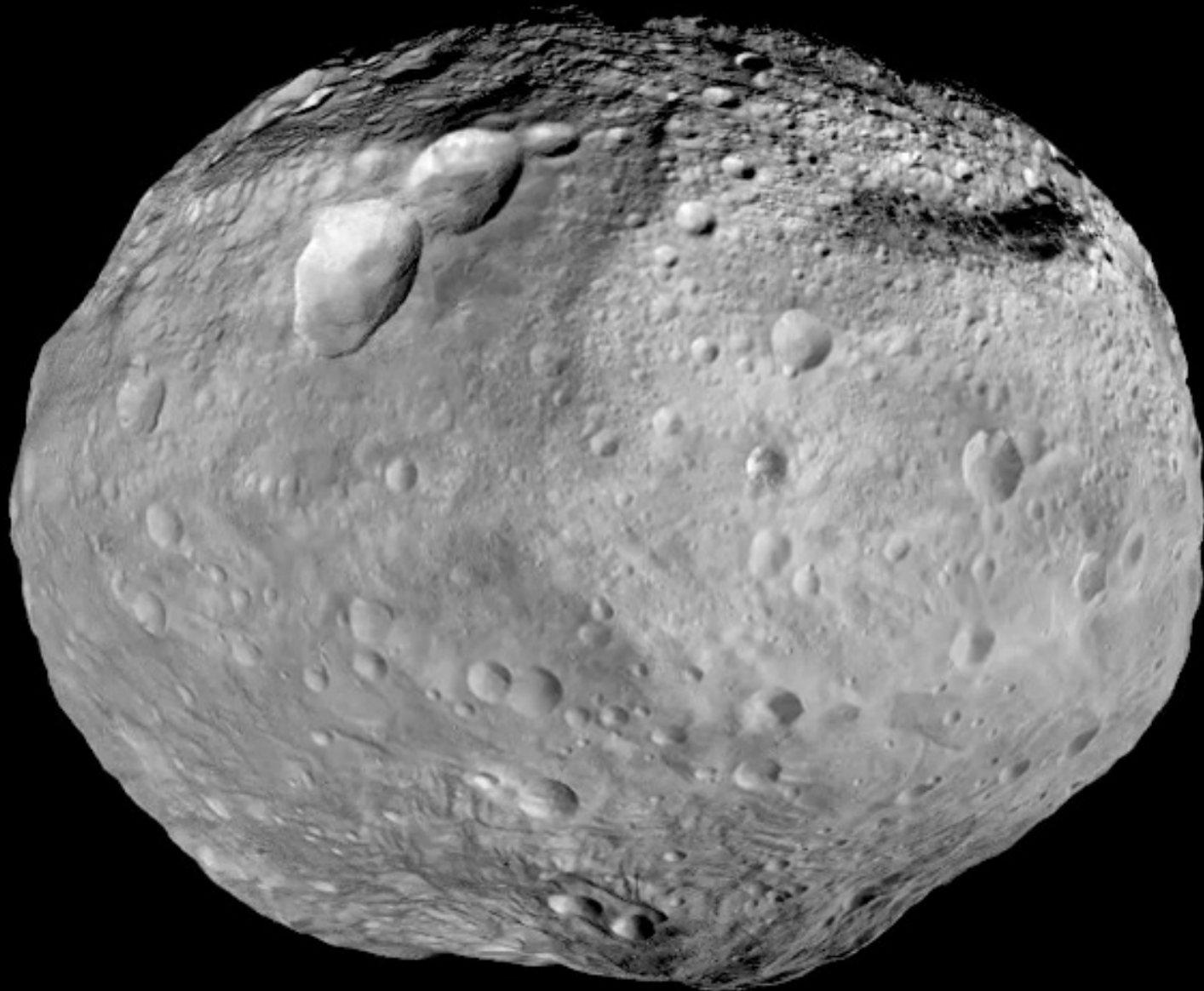
Vesta



Ceres



Moon



Vesta from the Dawn Spacecraft

# Moons of Asteroids



Ida and Dactyl



# Composition

Classify asteroids by their colors

- **C-type: Carbonaceous** – dark in color, composed of carbonaceous materials (~75%)
- **S-type: Silicaceous** – reddish in color, stony or stony iron (~16%)
- **M-type: Metallic** – bluer than S-type & probably iron-rich

Rest are oddball types.



# Monoliths or Rubble Piles?

Some asteroids are clearly solid:

- Densities of 3–5 g/cc, like solid rock/metals
- Heavily cratered surfaces & dusty regoliths

Others appear to be rubble piles:

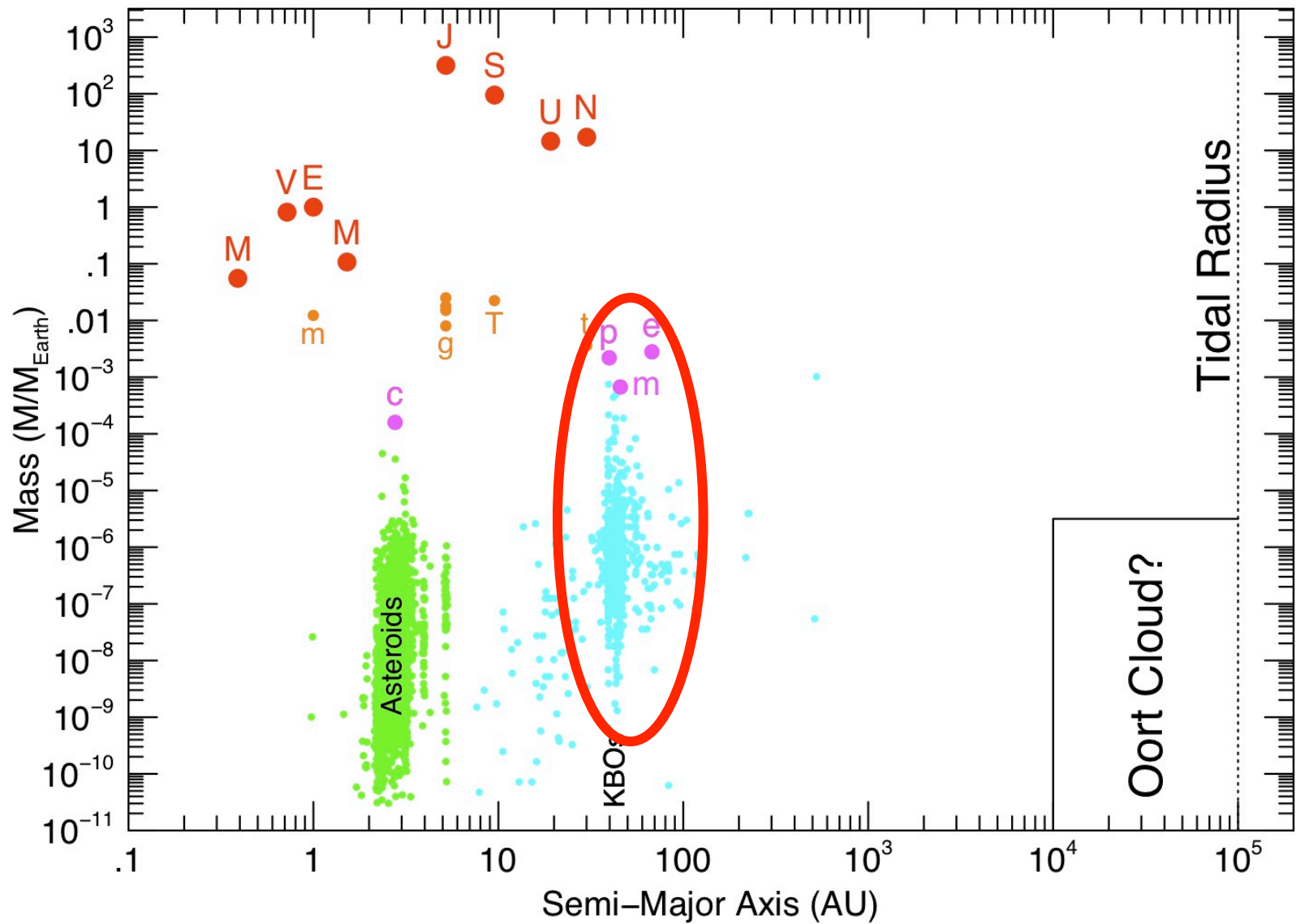
- Lower in density (1–2 g/cc)
- Loose aggregates of rock held together by mutual gravity
- Formerly solid but shattered by impacts?



**253 Mathilda**  
density  $\sim 1.3$  g/cc



**25143 Itokawa**  
density  $\sim 2.3$  g/cc



# Trans-Neptunian Objects

Class of icy bodies that orbit beyond Neptune:

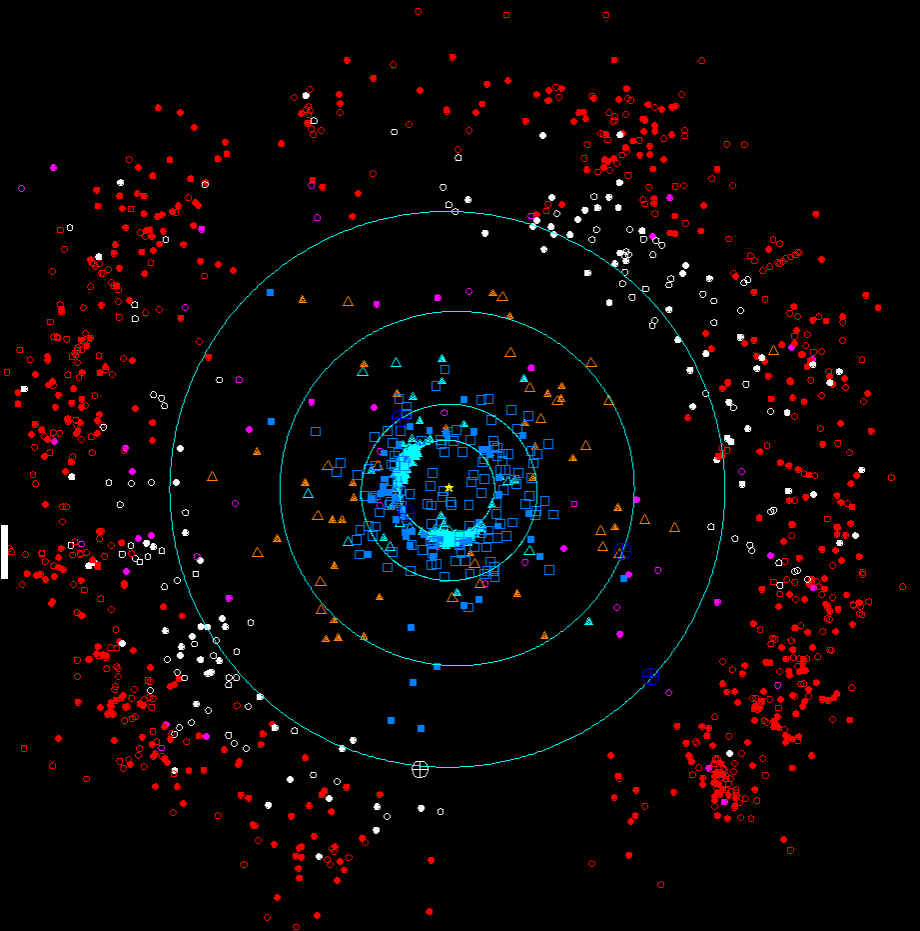
- Range from 30 AU outward

Dwarf planets:

- Pluto, Eris, Haumea, Makemake

Divided into various orbital classes:

- Kuiper Belt Objects
- Plutinos ("little Plutos")
- Scattered Disk Objects

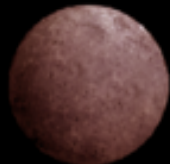


Plot prepared by the Minor Planet Center (2005 Nov.28).

# Largest known trans-Neptunian objects (TNOs)

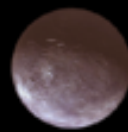


**Sedna**



**2007 OR<sub>10</sub>**

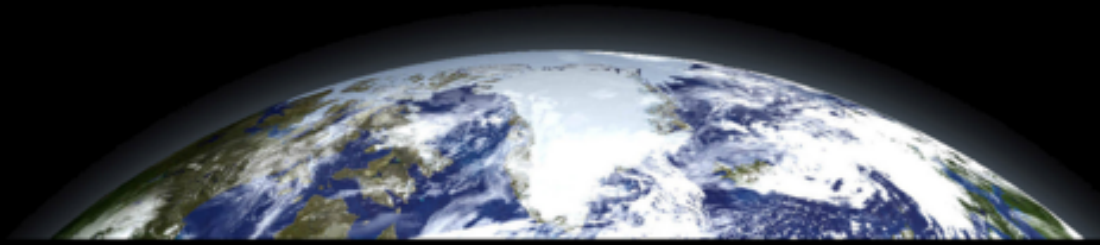
**Weywot**



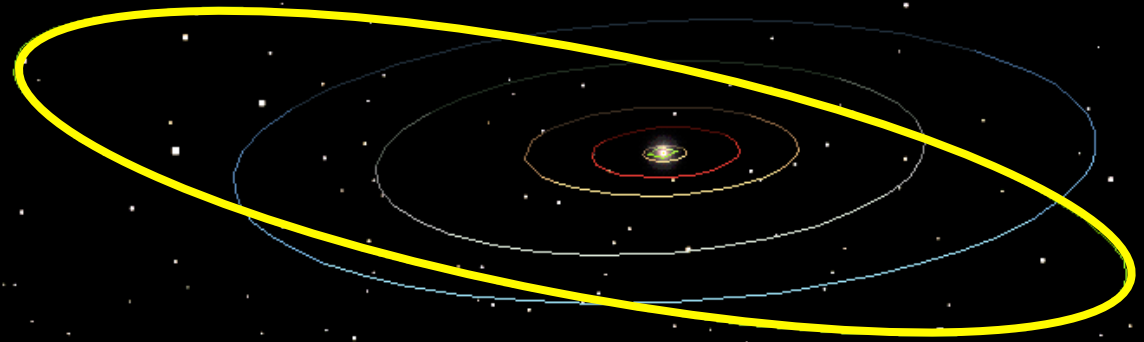
**Quaoar**



**Orcus**



# Pluto

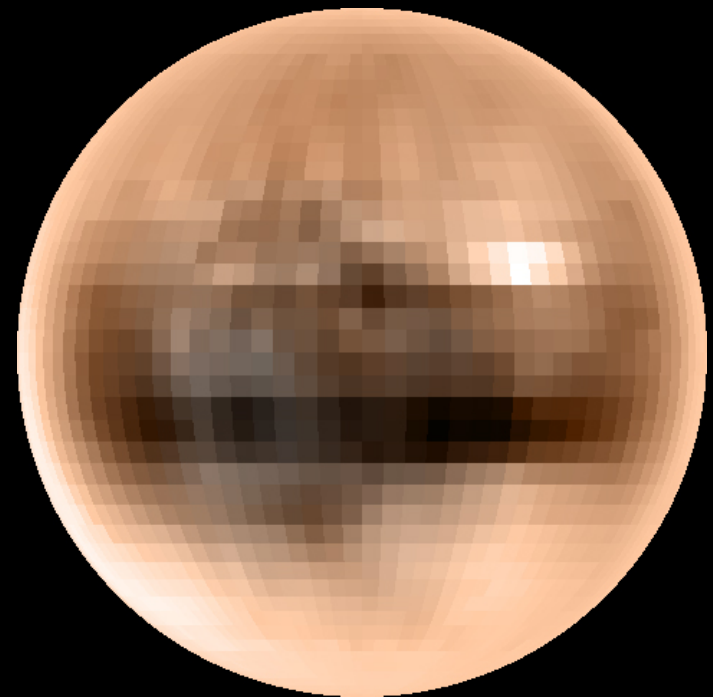


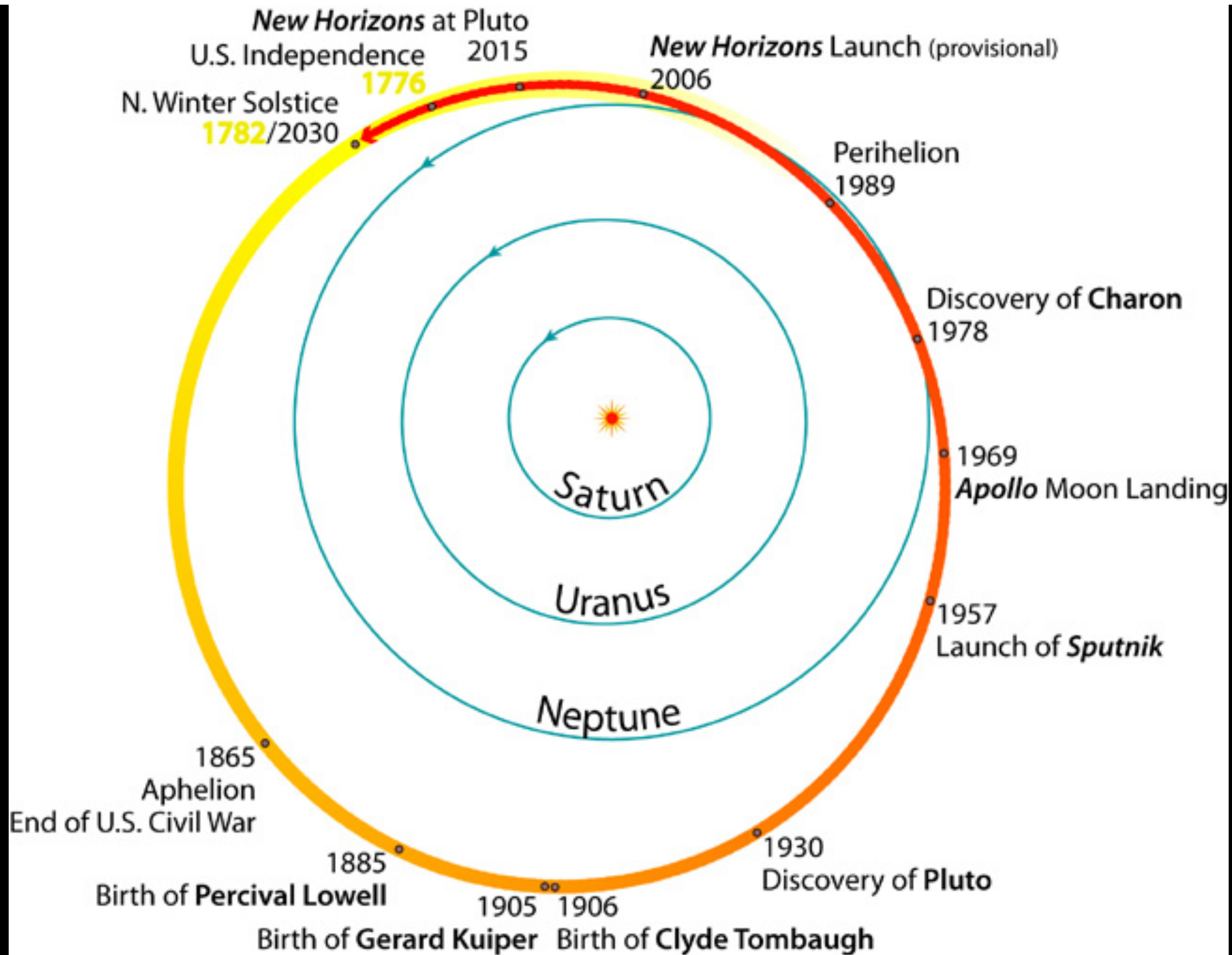
## Orbit

- $a=39.48$  AU,  $P=366.7$  yr
- Orbit is very tilted ( $17^\circ$ ) & very elliptical ( $e=0.249$ )

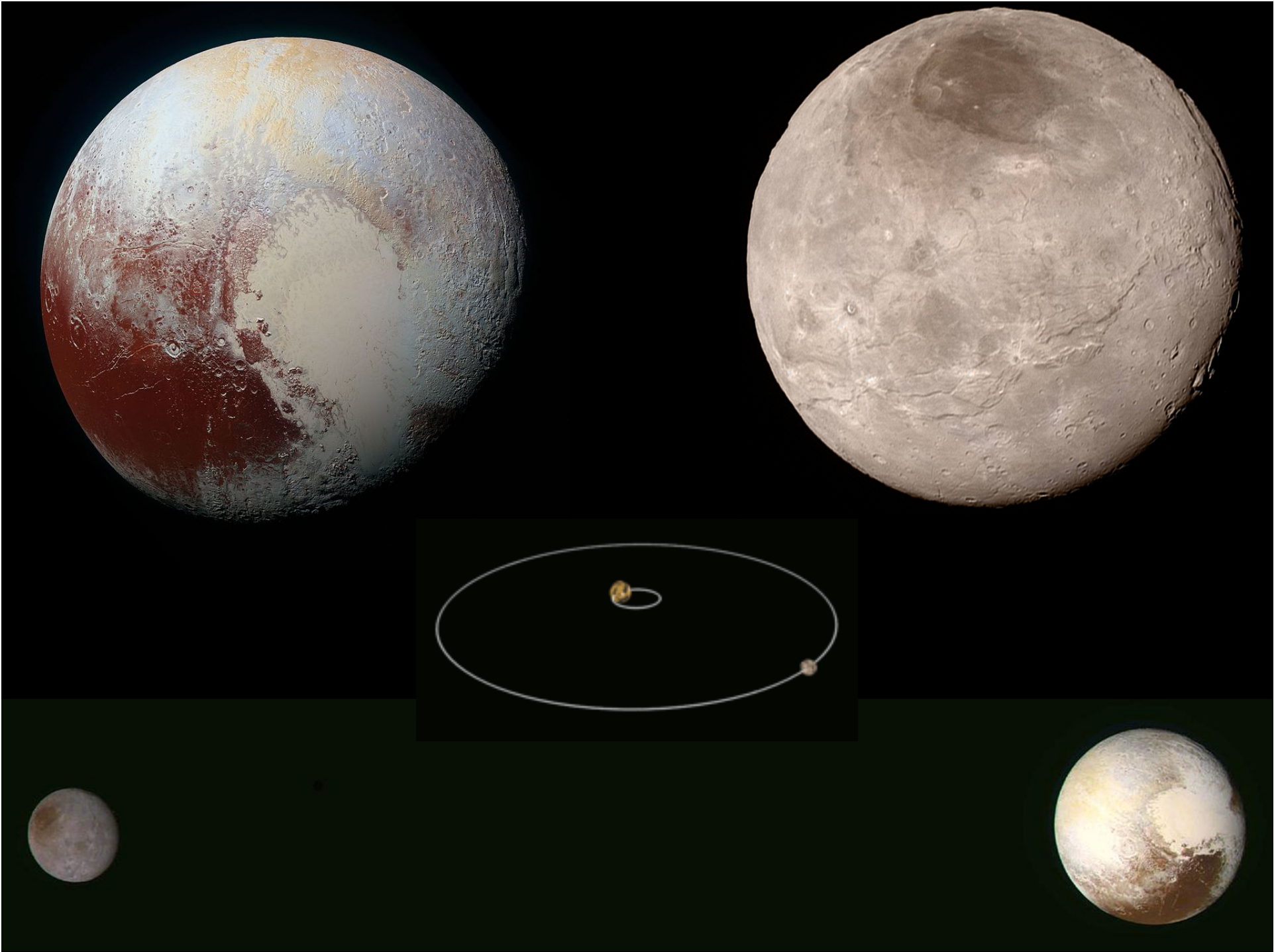
## Surface

- Barely resolved even with HST
- Best resolution from eclipses









# Charon and the Small Moons of Pluto

Styx

Nix

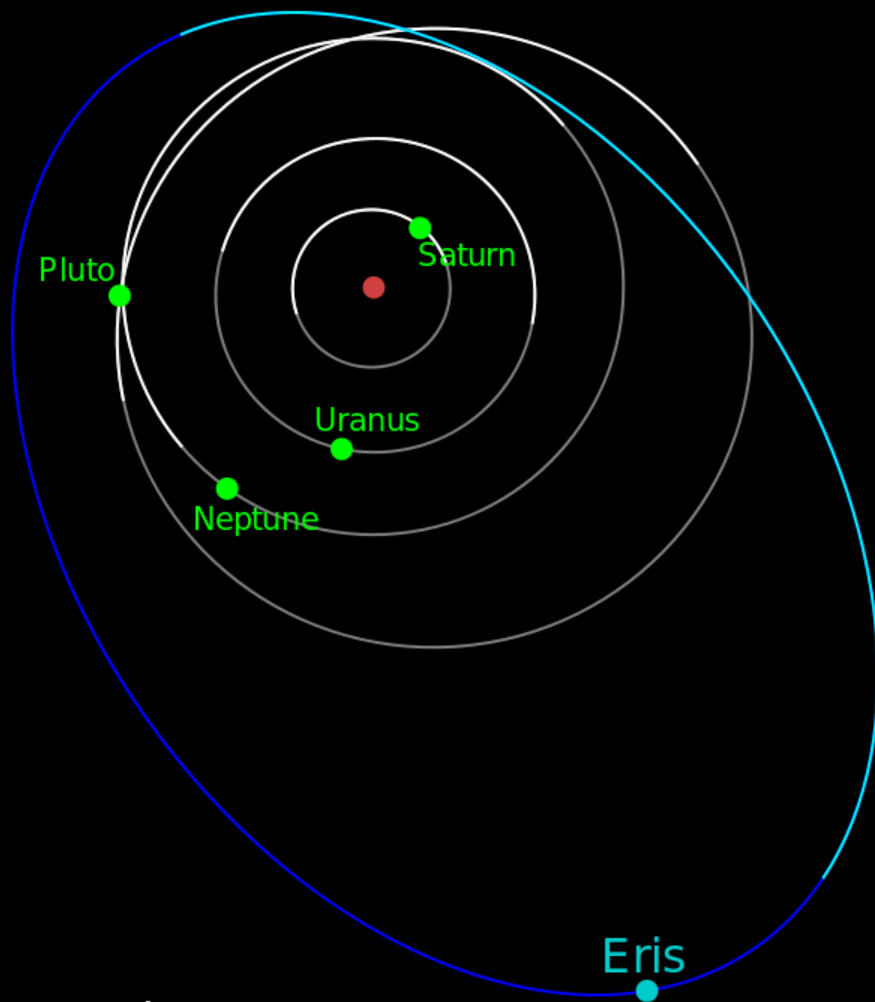
Kerberos

Hydra

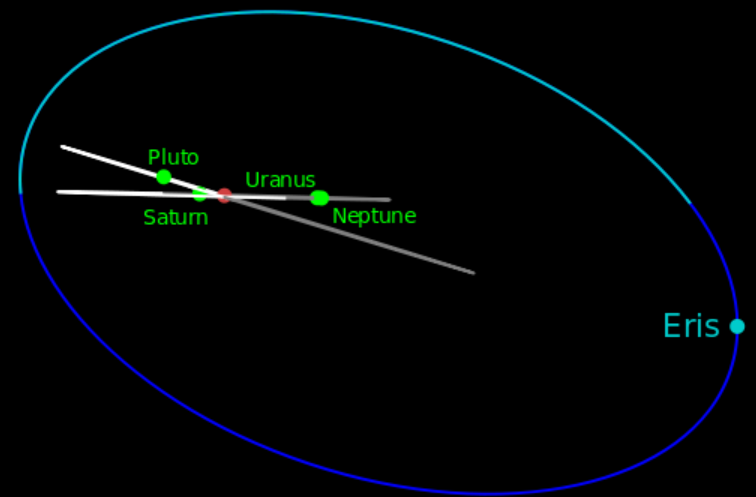
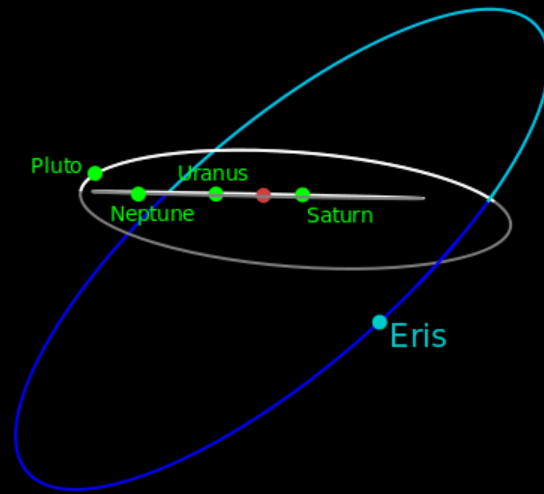
Charon

10 miles  
10 km





11 October 2006



# Orbit of Eris

(136199 Eris)

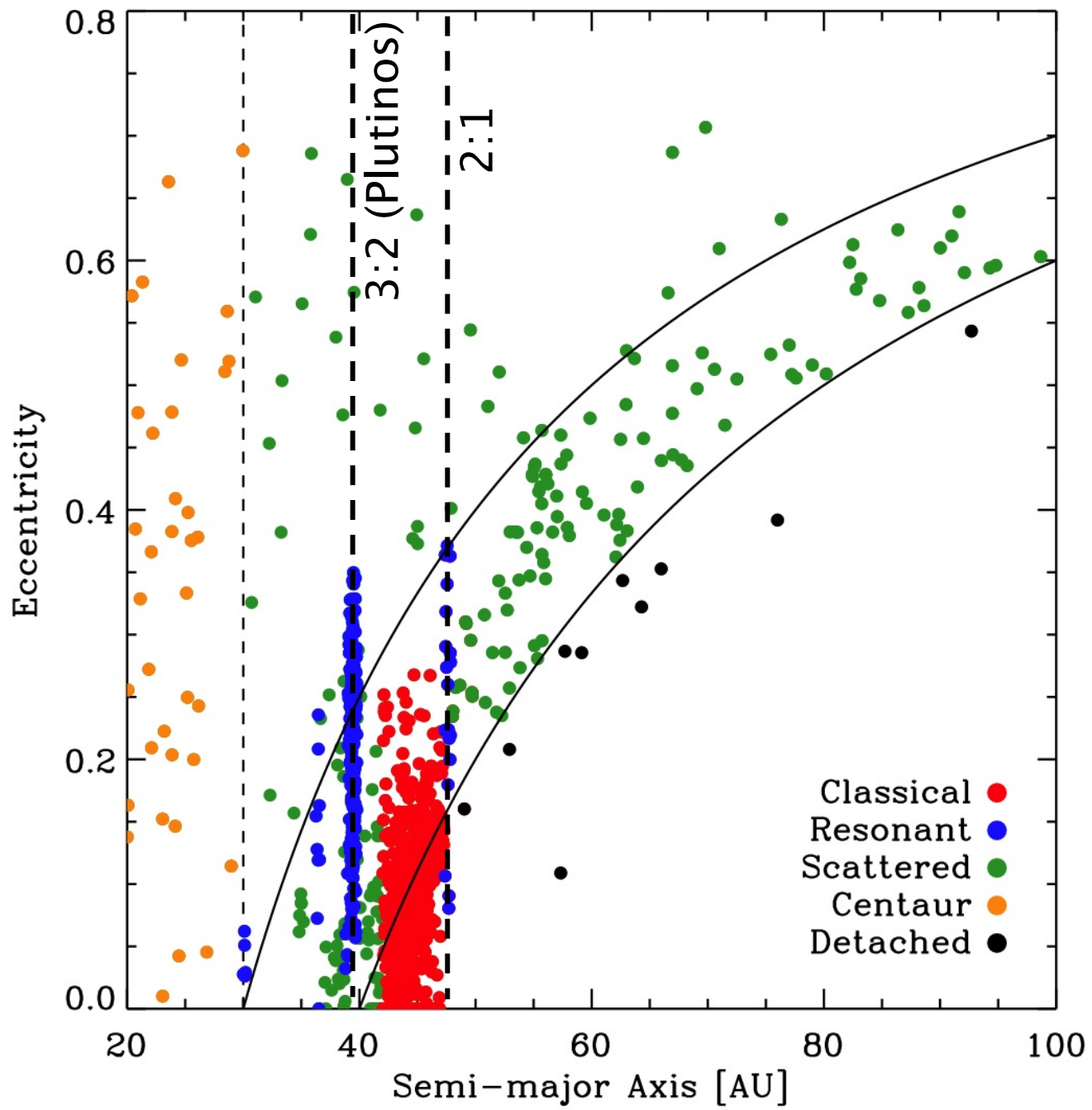
Perihelion: 37.77 AU

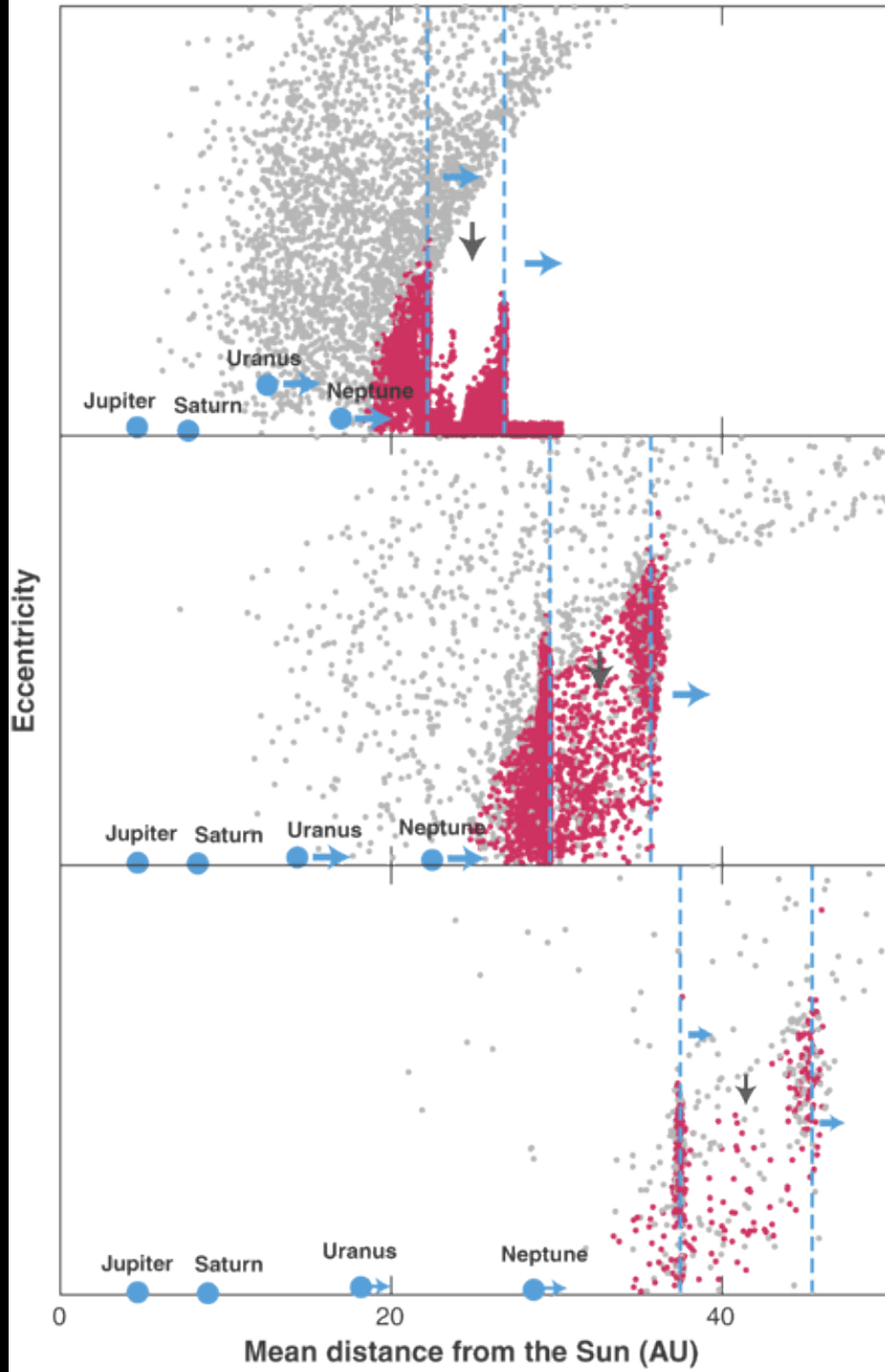
Aphelion: 97.56 AU

Orbital period: 557 years

Eccentricity: 0.44

Inclination: 44°





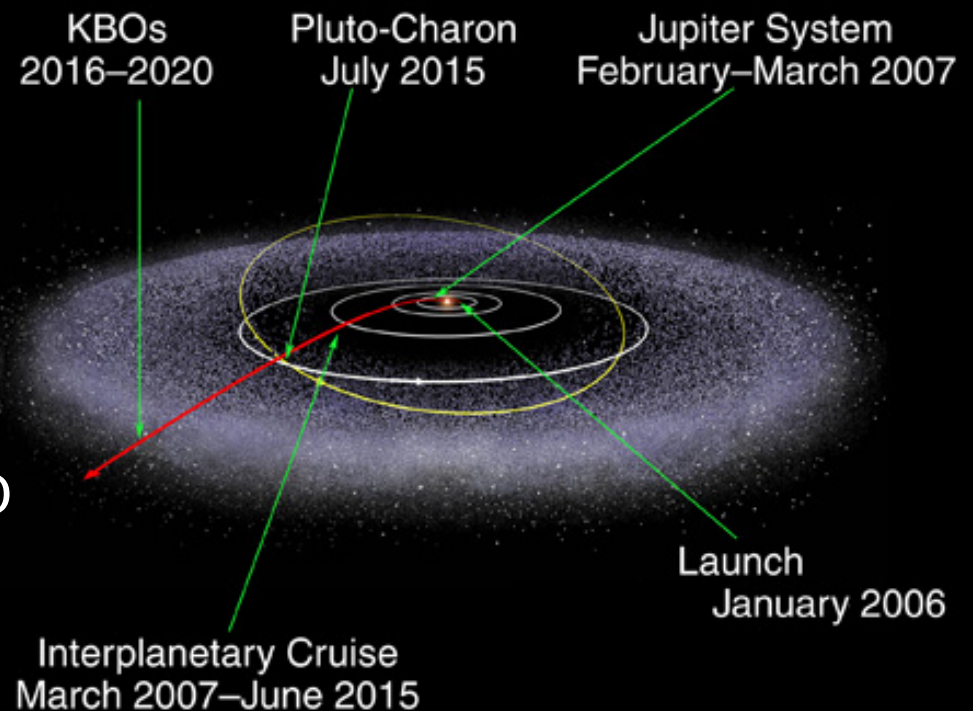
# Leftover Raw Materials

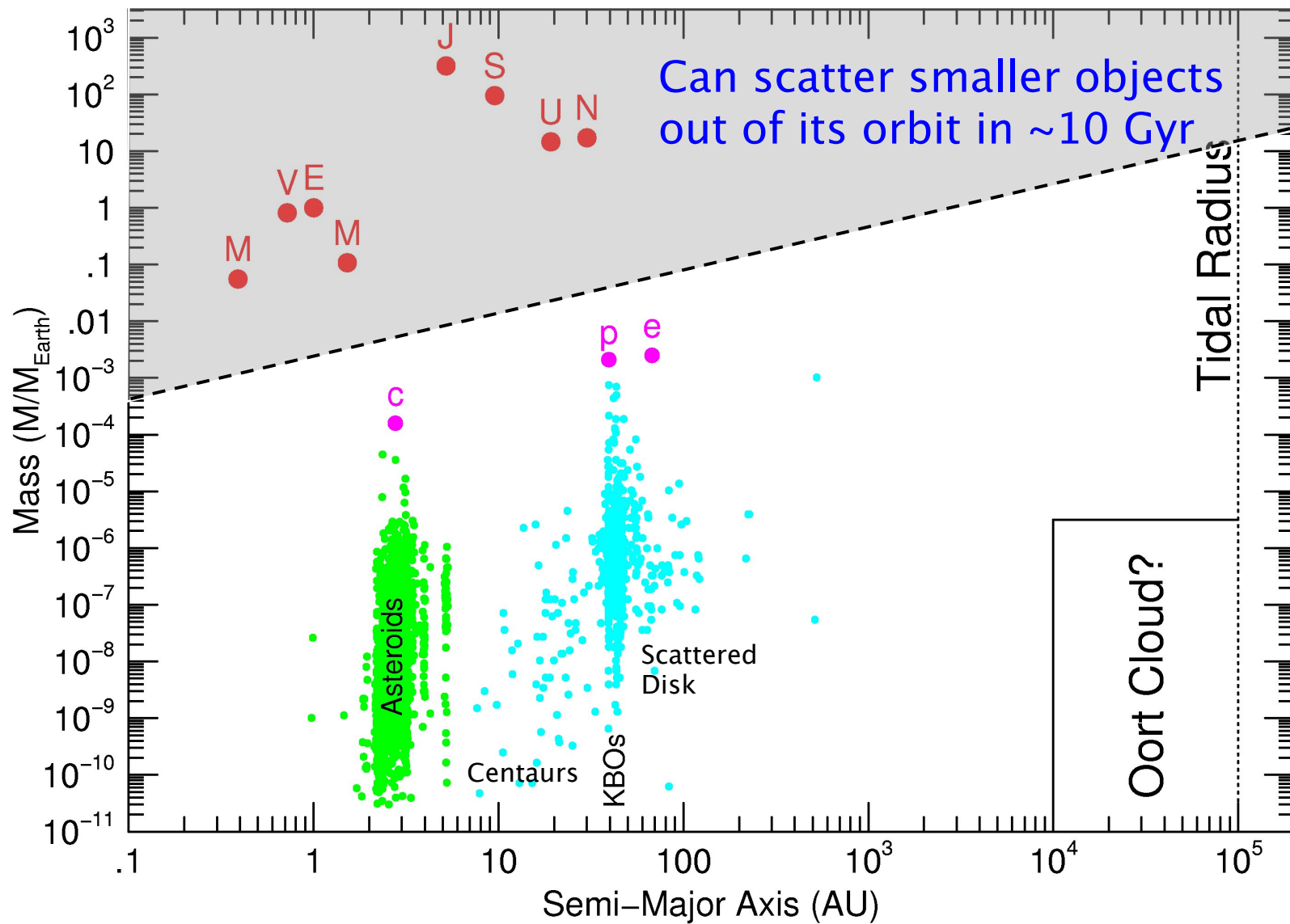
Trans-Neptunian Objects are the icy planetesimals leftover from the formation of the Solar System.

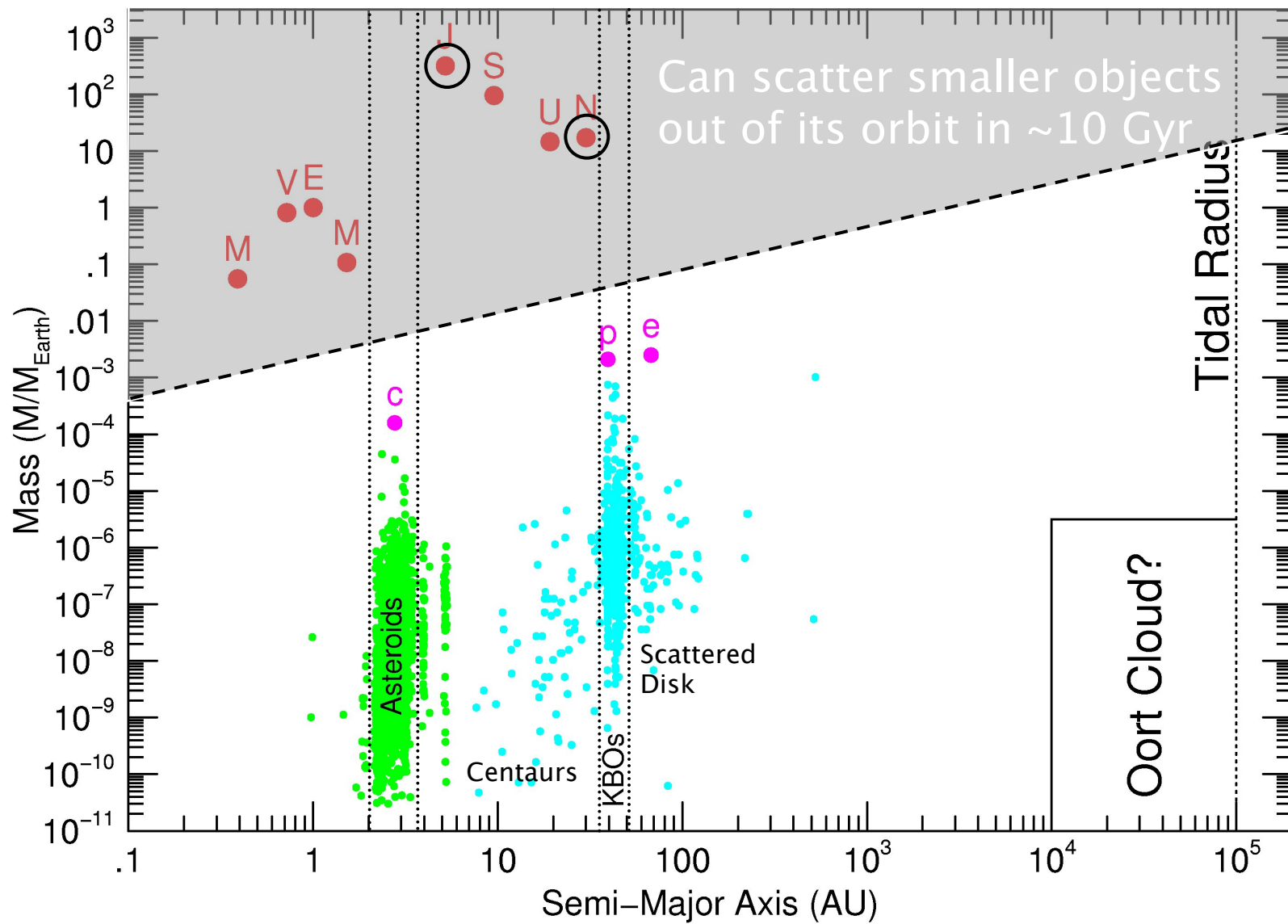


## *New Horizons* Mission:

- January 2006 Launch
- 2015 Pluto fly-by
- Rendezvous with another KBO in 2019



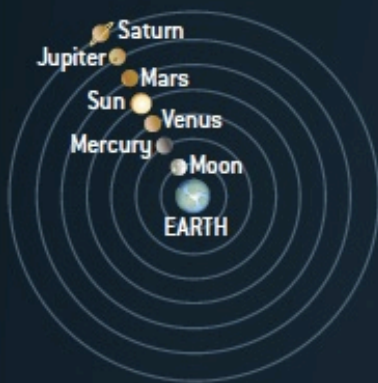




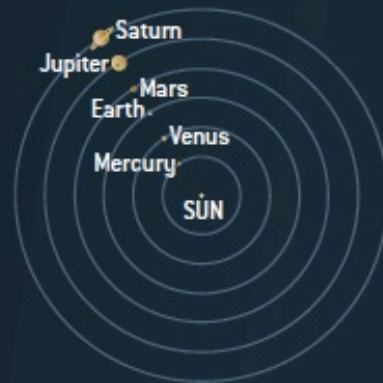


# HISTORICAL COUNT OF PLANETS

Planets come, planets go as a result of new discoveries and changing conceptions of what a "planet" is. The decision to recategorize Pluto is simply another step in this historical progression.



Classical (pre-1543)



1543



1825

DATE	PLANETS
Pre-1543	Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, sun, moon
1543	Earth <b>added</b> sun, moon <b>deleted</b>
1781	Uranus
1801	Ceres
1802	Pallas
1804	Juno
1807	Vesta
1845	Astraea
1846	Neptune
1847	Hebe, Iris, Flora
1848	Metis
1849	Hygiea
1850	Parthenope, Victoria, Egeria
1851	Irene, Eunomia
1852	Asteroids <b>deleted</b>
1930	Pluto
2006	Pluto <b>deleted</b>