

New horizons in astronomy

W. H. Freeman - New Horizons: what next for the Kuiper Belt mission?



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Front Matter

Read more in these features from the and This artist's illustration shows NASA's New Horizons spacecraft in the outer solar system. Flybys in the Kuiper Belt From what we know of the Kuiper Belt via long-range observations, Arrokoth is much more typical of other KBOs in terms of its size and colour than Pluto.

New Horizons: what next for the Kuiper Belt mission?

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Can New Horizons help us find Planet Nine?

By traveling beyond the inner solar system and its accompanying light pollution, New Horizons was able to answer the question: How dark is space? Extrapolating to extremely faint magnitudes, he and his colleagues concluded that Hubble had missed 90% of the galaxies in the visible universe, which they estimated. Notably, some of New Horizons' 2017 photographs included images of objects 2012 HZ84 and 2012 HE85. Although located in space, Hubble orbits Earth and still suffers from light pollution.

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. Most of the craters are surprisingly large, with few mid-sized or small craters scarring Arrokoth.

Long After Historic Flybys, NASA's New Horizons Is Still Pioneering Science in the Kuiper Belt

The hibernation will begin just two hours before another milestone for New Horizons: reaching the halfway point between closest approaches to Pluto and MU69.

New Horizons: what next for the Kuiper Belt mission?

So Olber's paradox is not a paradox after all. On April 3, 2017, the spacecraft was halfway from Pluto to its new target. This would mean that the

smooth distribution of galaxy sizes measured to date rises steeply just beyond the faintest systems we can see—just as there are many more pebbles on a beach than rocks.

New Horizons hit a milestone

To try to detect the faint glow of the universe, researchers went through images taken by the spacecraft's simple telescope and camera and looked for ones that were incredibly boring. At lower right are background stars of the Milky Way. Given New Horizons' great distance from Earth at the time 3.

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