Interplanetary dust modeling: Applications to New Horizons

Andrew R. Poppe NH Science Team Meeting January 25, 2024 poppe@berkeley.edu



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All models are wrong, but some models are useful.

G. Box, British statistician (1919-2013)

The Lifecycle of Interplanetary Dust



IDP Sources

Jupiter-family comets



Oort cloud comets



Edgeworth-Kuiper Belt



Asteroids



Halley-type comets





Now, integrate these forces over the lifetime of the grain

An Example Dust Grain: 10 μ m EKB Classical



EKB Initial Conditions



Model Results: Optical Depths



Poppe et al. [2019]

Model Results: Total Mass Flux



IDP Model Application to NH/SDC Measurements

Model/SDC Comparison as of ~55 au



Doner et al. [2024]

Model/SDC Comparison as of ~55 au



- Radiation pressure "blowing out" EKB dust
- Ice grain photo-desorption
- Presence of an additional, >55 au parent EKBO population

Radiation Pressure



Ice Grain Photodesorption

Survival of icy grains in debris discs

The role of photosputtering

A. Grigorieva¹, Ph. Thébault^{1,2}, P. Artymowicz³, and A. Brandeker¹



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