The Apollo spacecraft reached the Moon in three days. New Horizons reached the moon in nine hours! At that speed New Horizons could travel to New York from Los Angeles in four minutes!

The propulsion system on New Horizons is used for course corrections and pointing the spacecraft, not for speed.

New Horizons’ speed was set entirely by the launch vehicle and a boost from Jupiter’s gravity. Flying around Jupiter in 2007 flung New Horizons like a slingshot and added 9,000 mph to its speed. These “gravity assists” are used to get spacecraft to their targets in less time using less fuel.