

Real and Scaled Sizes of Dwarf Planets

| | Real Diameter | Scaled Diameter | Earth Diameters |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ceres | 930 km | | |
| Pluto | 2,370 km | 0.24 mm | 0.19 |
| Eris | 2,326 km | | |

The *scale factor* is 1 to 10 billion. Every millimeter in this scale model solar system represents 10 billion millimeters in the real solar system!

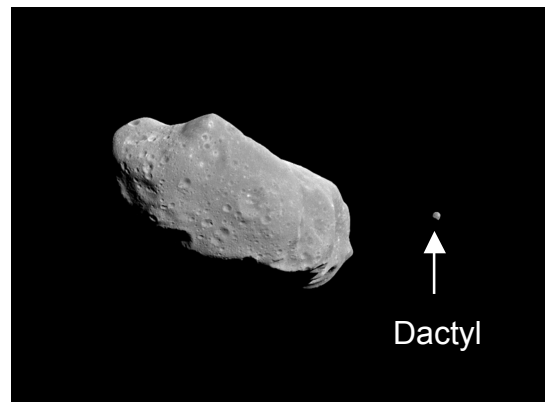
Ceres is the largest object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. The asteroid belt is the home of most, but not all, of the rocky asteroids in the solar system. Asteroids we can see from telescopes on Earth are about the size of a mountain or larger.

Pluto and Eris are, as of 2006, the largest known objects in the Kuiper Belt. The Kuiper Belt is filled with icy objects, and is the original home of some comets that visit the inner solar system where they can be seen from Earth.

Did you know? Moons don't make a planet. Pluto and Eris both have moons, but so can much smaller asteroids!

On the right is a picture of the asteroid Ida with its tiny moon, Dactyl. Dactyl is only 1.4 km across!

Image Credit: NASA



* As designated by the International Astronomical Union, the group responsible for classifying and naming objects in the sky, in August 2006. At that time a dozen additional candidate dwarf planets were awaiting official designations.