



COLLOQUIUM

The Detection of the Distant Planet Sedna – Instrumentation and Implications

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Recently the first object in our solar system with an orbit completely outside the planetary region was detected with Yale's QUEST camera at Palomar Observatory. At three times Pluto's current distance from the sun, the discovery of this small planet, called 2003 VB12 or "Sedna," has doubled the size of the observed solar system.

In this talk, Dr. Rabinowitz will address the significance of the observation: How does Sedna fit in with the population of other distant bodies, such as Pluto, with orbits in the Kuiper Belt beyond Neptune? He will also discuss the design and construction of the QUEST camera — one of the world's largest digital cameras.

Wednesday, October 13, 2004

4:15 p.m. (Refreshments at 4:00 p.m.)

Lyman Spitzer Building, M. B. Gottlieb Auditorium