

NEOWISE STUDIES OF SPECTROPHOTOMETRICALLY CLASSIFIED ASTEROIDS: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

A. MAINZER¹, T. GRAV², J. MASIERO¹, E. HAND¹, J. BAUER^{1,3}, D. THOLEN⁴, R. S. McMILLAN⁵, T. SPAHR⁶, R. M. CUTRI³,
 E. WRIGHT⁷, J. WATKINS⁸, W. MO², AND C. MALESZEWSKI⁵

¹ Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91109, USA

² Department of Physics and Astronomy, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

³ Infrared Processing and Analysis Center, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125, USA

⁴ Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, HI 96822-1839, USA

⁵ Lunar and Planetary Laboratory, University of Arizona, Kuiper Space Science Bldg. 92, Tucson, AZ 85721-0092, USA

⁶ Minor Planet Center, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

⁷ Division of Astronomy and Astrophysics, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1547, USA

⁸ Department of Earth and Space Sciences, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA

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ABSTRACT

The NEOWISE data set offers the opportunity to study the variations in albedo for asteroid classification schemes based on visible and near-infrared observations for a large sample of minor planets. We have determined the albedos for nearly 1900 asteroids classified by the Tholen, Bus, and Bus–DeMeo taxonomic classification schemes. We find that the S-complex spans a broad range of bright albedos, partially overlapping the low albedo C-complex at small sizes. As expected, the X-complex covers a wide range of albedos. The multiwavelength infrared coverage provided by NEOWISE allows determination of the reflectivity at 3.4 and 4.6 μm relative to the visible albedo. The direct computation of the reflectivity at 3.4 and 4.6 μm enables a new means of comparing the various taxonomic classes. Although C, B, D, and T asteroids all have similarly low visible albedos, the D and T types can be distinguished from the C and B types by examining their relative reflectance at 3.4 and 4.6 μm . All of the albedo distributions are strongly affected by selection biases against small, low albedo objects, as all objects selected for taxonomic classification were chosen according to their visible light brightness. Due to these strong selection biases, we are unable to determine whether or not there are correlations between size, albedo, and space weathering. We argue that the current set of classified asteroids makes any such correlations difficult to verify. A sample of taxonomically classified asteroids drawn without significant albedo bias is needed in order to perform such an analysis.

Key words: catalogs – minor planets, asteroids: general – surveys

Online-only material: color figures

1. INTRODUCTION

Determining the true compositions of asteroids would significantly enhance our understanding of the conditions and processes that took place during the formation of the solar system. It is necessary to study asteroids directly as weathering and geological processes have tended to destroy the oldest materials on Earth and the other terrestrial planets. The asteroids represent the fragmentary remnants of the rocky planetesimals that built these worlds, and asteroids in the Main Belt and Trojan clouds are likely to have remained in place for billions of years (subject to collisional processing) (Gaffey et al. 1993). Many attempts have been made to determine the mineralogical composition of asteroids by studying variations in their visible and near-infrared (VNIR) spectroscopy and photometry (Bus & Binzel 2002; Tholen 1984, 1989; Zellner 1985; Binzel et al. 2004; DeMeo et al. 2009). Efforts have been made to link asteroid spectra with those of meteorites (e.g., Thomas & Binzel 2010). However, as noted by Gaffey (2010) and Chapman (2004), space weathering can complicate the linkages between observed asteroid spectra and meteorites. In addition, VNIR spectroscopic and photometric samples of higher albedo objects are generally more readily attainable, as these bodies are brighter as compared with low albedo bodies with similar heliocentric distances and sizes. An important element in the development of asteroid taxonomic schemes has been albedo. For example, in the classification system developed by Tholen (1984), the E, M, and P classes have degenerate Eight-Color Asteroid Survey (ECAS; Zellner 1985)

spectra and can only be distinguished by albedos. All of these issues point to the need to (1) obtain a large, uniform sample of asteroid albedos (and other physical properties such as thermal inertia) that can be compared with VNIR classifications and (2) expand the number of asteroids with VNIR classifications in order to bracket the full range of asteroid types and compositions.

With the *Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer's* (WISE) NEOWISE project (Wright et al. 2010; Mainzer et al. 2011a), thermal observations of more than 157,000 asteroids throughout the solar system are now in hand, a data set nearly two orders of magnitude larger than that provided by the *Infrared Astronomical Satellite* (IRAS; Matson 1986; Tedesco et al. 2002). Thermal models have been applied to these data to derive albedos and diameters for which taxonomic classifications are available. In this paper, we examine the NEOWISE-derived albedos and diameters for near-Earth objects (NEOs) and Main Belt asteroids (MBAs) of various classification schemes based on visible and NIR spectroscopy and multiwavelength spectrophotometry. In a future work, we will compare NEOWISE albedos to classifications and visible/NIR colors found photometrically, such as with the Sloan Digital Sky Survey or *BVR* photometry. The taxonomic classes and NEOWISE-derived albedos of the Trojan asteroids are discussed in Grav et al. (2011). While many different asteroid classification schemes have been created, we turn our focus initially to three commonly used schemes, those defined by Tholen (1984), Bus & Binzel (2002), and DeMeo et al. (2009).

Table 1
Median Values of p_V and p_{IR}/p_V for Various Taxonomic Types Using NEOWISE Cryogenic Observations of NEOs and Main Belt Asteroids

Class	$N(p_V)$	Med. p_V	SD	SDOM	Min	Max	$N(p_{IR}/p_V)$	Med. p_{IR}/p_V	SD	SDOM	Min	Max
Bus A	14	0.234	0.084	0.022	0.110	0.410	13	1.943	0.697	0.193	0.926	3.244
Bus B	79	0.075	0.087	0.010	0.016	0.720	60	0.970	0.441	0.057	0.363	3.387
Bus C-complex	367	0.058	0.086	0.004	0.018	0.905	312	0.994	0.411	0.023	0.390	3.934
Bus C	128	0.059	0.073	0.006	0.031	0.725	107	1.088	0.379	0.037	0.448	3.934
Bus Cb	53	0.055	0.154	0.021	0.018	0.905	44	1.124	0.385	0.058	0.528	2.167
Bus Cg	27	0.067	0.134	0.026	0.037	0.769	22	0.844	0.531	0.113	0.511	3.281
Bus Cgh	15	0.065	0.032	0.008	0.044	0.137	13	0.848	0.149	0.041	0.804	1.286
Bus Ch	163	0.056	0.036	0.003	0.031	0.353	143	0.939	0.398	0.033	0.390	3.814
Bus D	44	0.075	0.055	0.008	0.026	0.257	37	1.974	0.631	0.104	0.773	3.653
Bus K	34	0.157	0.067	0.011	0.054	0.370	32	1.248	0.432	0.076	0.628	2.704
Bus L	72	0.176	0.082	0.010	0.030	0.405	63	1.583	0.600	0.076	0.631	4.829
Bus O	3	0.227	0.067	0.039	0.178	0.339	1	2.084	0.000	0.000	2.084	2.084
Bus Q	1	0.214	0.000	0.000	0.214	0.214	0	0.000	0.000	nan	0.000	0.000
Bus R	0	nan	0.000	nan	0.000	0.000	2	1.309	0.046	0.032	1.264	1.355
Bus S-complex	531	0.234	0.088	0.004	0.085	0.830	433	1.554	0.446	0.021	0.467	3.664
Bus S	312	0.227	0.078	0.004	0.085	0.635	256	1.557	0.432	0.027	0.557	3.664
Bus Sa	39	0.230	0.099	0.016	0.092	0.557	30	1.563	0.498	0.091	0.689	2.613
Bus Sk	22	0.215	0.059	0.013	0.133	0.365	19	1.490	0.292	0.067	0.956	1.907
Bus Sl	102	0.230	0.087	0.009	0.120	0.669	94	1.616	0.442	0.046	0.586	3.244
Bus Sq	54	0.282	0.127	0.017	0.097	0.830	36	1.329	0.546	0.091	0.467	3.627
Bus Sr	14	0.282	0.072	0.019	0.210	0.438	7	1.478	0.350	0.132	1.122	2.217
Bus T	42	0.086	0.095	0.015	0.036	0.641	38	1.500	0.407	0.066	0.762	2.384
Bus V	24	0.350	0.109	0.022	0.146	0.653	16	1.463	0.625	0.156	1.170	3.676
Bus X,Xc,Xe,Xk	313	0.074	0.153	0.009	0.024	0.896	279	1.297	0.394	0.024	0.413	2.587
Bus X	178	0.062	0.115	0.009	0.028	0.896	163	1.323	0.419	0.033	0.413	2.587
Bus Xc	54	0.086	0.162	0.022	0.024	0.848	47	1.170	0.366	0.053	0.472	2.578
Bus Xe	31	0.174	0.238	0.043	0.043	0.841	26	1.270	0.221	0.043	0.906	1.781
Bus Xk	53	0.079	0.119	0.016	0.027	0.862	46	1.361	0.347	0.051	0.801	2.498
Bus-DeMeo A	5	0.191	0.034	0.015	0.110	0.207	5	2.030	0.416	0.186	1.943	3.010
Bus-DeMeo B	2	0.120	0.022	0.015	0.098	0.142	1	0.575	0.000	0.000	0.575	0.575
Bus-DeMeo C-complex	32	0.058	0.028	0.005	0.036	0.204	32	1.014	0.535	0.095	0.548	3.814
Bus-DeMeo C	9	0.050	0.006	0.002	0.047	0.063	9	1.180	0.122	0.041	0.926	1.404
Bus-DeMeo Cb	1	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043	0.043	1	1.528	0.000	0.000	1.528	1.528
Bus-DeMeo Cg	1	0.063	0.000	0.000	0.063	0.063	1	0.950	0.000	0.000	0.950	0.950
Bus-DeMeo Cgh	8	0.065	0.048	0.017	0.051	0.204	8	0.929	0.250	0.088	0.548	1.416
Bus-DeMeo Ch	13	0.058	0.009	0.003	0.036	0.073	13	0.961	0.790	0.219	0.557	3.814
Bus-DeMeo D	13	0.048	0.025	0.007	0.029	0.116	11	2.392	0.533	0.161	1.484	3.375
Bus-DeMeo K	11	0.130	0.058	0.018	0.080	0.291	11	1.278	0.326	0.098	0.628	1.899
Bus-DeMeo L	19	0.149	0.066	0.015	0.054	0.304	16	1.220	0.315	0.079	0.631	1.885
Bus-DeMeo O	1	0.339	0.000	0.000	0.339	0.339	0	0.000	0.000	nan	0.000	0.000
Bus-DeMeo Q	1	0.227	0.000	0.000	0.227	0.227	0	0.000	0.000	nan	0.000	0.000
Bus-DeMeo R	1	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.148	1	1.264	0.000	0.000	1.264	1.264
Bus-DeMeo S-complex	121	0.223	0.073	0.007	0.114	0.557	105	1.666	0.469	0.046	0.689	3.627
Bus-DeMeo S	66	0.211	0.068	0.008	0.114	0.456	59	1.602	0.312	0.041	0.724	2.288
Bus-DeMeo Sa	1	0.367	0.000	0.000	0.367	0.367	1	1.183	0.000	0.000	1.183	1.183
Bus-DeMeo Sq	6	0.243	0.039	0.016	0.160	0.276	6	1.867	0.695	0.284	1.573	3.627
Bus-DeMeo Sqw	7	0.231	0.043	0.016	0.195	0.311	7	1.763	0.365	0.138	0.956	2.064
Bus-DeMeo Sr	10	0.266	0.055	0.018	0.163	0.352	7	1.541	0.383	0.145	1.165	2.424
Bus-DeMeo Srw	2	0.279	0.051	0.036	0.227	0.330	0	0.000	0.000	nan	0.000	0.000
Bus-DeMeo Sv	1	0.309	0.000	0.000	0.309	0.309	0	0.000	0.000	nan	0.000	0.000
Bus-DeMeo Svsw	0	nan	0.000	nan	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	nan	0.000	0.000
Bus-DeMeo Sw	28	0.221	0.094	0.018	0.119	0.557	25	1.790	0.632	0.126	0.689	3.244
Bus-DeMeo T	2	0.042	0.004	0.003	0.037	0.046	2	1.843	0.195	0.138	1.648	2.038
Bus-DeMeo V	8	0.362	0.100	0.035	0.242	0.526	7	1.335	0.553	0.209	0.558	2.400
Bus-DeMeo Vw	0	nan	0.000	nan	0.000	0.000	0	0.000	0.000	nan	0.000	0.000
Bus-DeMeo X-complex	17	0.111	0.143	0.035	0.036	0.676	17	1.440	0.334	0.081	1.054	2.498
Bus-DeMeo X	3	0.047	0.060	0.035	0.036	0.168	3	1.736	0.217	0.125	1.360	1.874
Bus-DeMeo Xc	2	0.129	0.077	0.055	0.051	0.206	2	1.337	0.088	0.062	1.249	1.424
Bus-DeMeo Xe	4	0.136	0.238	0.119	0.111	0.676	4	1.377	0.170	0.085	1.152	1.626
Bus-DeMeo Xk	8	0.095	0.038	0.013	0.050	0.170	8	1.527	0.416	0.147	1.054	2.498
Tholen S	502	0.210	0.084	0.004	0.037	0.830	465	1.598	0.449	0.021	0.467	3.591
Tholen C-complex	406	0.057	0.072	0.004	0.020	0.769	358	1.065	0.405	0.021	0.124	3.934
Tholen C	323	0.055	0.079	0.004	0.020	0.769	291	1.062	0.412	0.024	0.390	3.934
Tholen B	52	0.082	0.035	0.005	0.034	0.204	36	0.904	0.308	0.051	0.563	1.674

Table 1
(Continued)

Class	$N(p_V)$	Med. p_V	SD	SDOM	Min	Max	$N(p_{IR}/p_V)$	Med. p_{IR}/p_V	SD	SDOM	Min	Max
Tholen F	39	0.046	0.013	0.002	0.027	0.091	38	1.172	0.367	0.059	0.124	2.100
Tholen G	12	0.067	0.040	0.011	0.035	0.200	12	1.032	0.840	0.242	0.390	3.814
Tholen V	12	0.309	0.075	0.022	0.146	0.417	9	1.781	0.699	0.233	1.276	3.676
Tholen X-complex	77	0.099	0.161	0.018	0.026	1.000	74	1.575	0.350	0.041	0.887	2.498
Tholen M	33	0.125	0.037	0.006	0.064	0.224	33	1.623	0.291	0.051	1.108	2.498
Tholen E	9	0.430	0.229	0.076	0.204	1.000	8	1.501	0.448	0.158	0.960	2.400
Tholen P	35	0.044	0.014	0.002	0.026	0.112	33	1.511	0.375	0.065	0.887	2.423
Tholen Q	1	0.165	0.000	0.000	0.165	0.165	1	1.897	0.000	0.000	1.897	1.897
Tholen D	90	0.053	0.049	0.005	0.025	0.253	81	2.098	0.670	0.074	0.773	3.653
Tholen A	27	0.224	0.076	0.015	0.110	0.410	26	1.746	0.568	0.111	0.926	3.244
Tholen R	1	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.148	0.148	1	1.264	0.000	0.000	1.264	1.264
Tholen T	34	0.094	0.067	0.011	0.036	0.413	30	1.529	0.389	0.071	0.762	2.384

Notes. The medians, standard deviations of the mean (SDOM) and standard deviations (SD) given were computed simply by taking the median and standard deviation of all the objects with a particular classification; however, a more complete picture of the distribution and full range of albedos within a taxonomic class is given in the figures, which show the shapes of the distributions. Note that while p_V was fitted for all objects in the table, if an asteroid did not have a sufficient number of observations in $W1$ or $W2$, p_{IR}/p_V could not be fit. Therefore, not all taxonomic types have the same number of objects with p_V and p_{IR}/p_V . Only objects with fitted p_{IR}/p_V were used in the computation of median p_{IR}/p_V given here.

2. OBSERVATIONS

WISE is a NASA Medium-class Explorer mission designed to survey the entire sky in four infrared wavelengths, 3.4, 4.6, 12, and 22 μm (denoted by $W1$, $W2$, $W3$, and $W4$, respectively) (Wright et al. 2010; Liu et al. 2008; Mainzer et al. 2005). The final mission data products are a multi-epoch image atlas and source catalogs that will serve as an important legacy for future research. The survey has yielded observations of over 157,000 minor planets, including NEOs, MBAs, comets, Hildas, Trojans, Centaurs, and scattered disk objects (Mainzer et al. 2011a).

The observations for the objects listed in Table 1 were retrieved by querying the Minor Planet Center’s (MPC) observation files to look for all instances of individual NEOWISE detections of the desired objects that were reported during the cryogenic portion of the mission using the *WISE* Moving Object Processing System (WMOPS; Mainzer et al. 2011a). The data for each source were extracted from the *WISE* First Pass Processing archive following the methods described in Mainzer et al. (2011b). The artifact identification flag `cc_flags` (which specifies whether or not an instrumental artifact was likely to have occurred on top of a given source) was allowed to be equal to either 0, p, or P, and the flag `ph_qual` (which describes whether the source was considered a valid detection) was restricted to A, B, or C (a comprehensive explanation of these flags is given in Cutri et al. 2011). As described in Mainzer et al. (2011b), we used observations with magnitudes close to experimentally derived saturation limits, but when sources became brighter than $W1 = 6$, $W2 = 6$, $W3 = 4$, and $W4 = 0$, we increased the error bars on these points to 0.2 mag and applied a linear correction to $W3$ (Cutri et al. 2011).

Each object had to be observed a minimum of three times at signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) > 5 in at least one *WISE* band, and to avoid having low-level unflagged artifacts and/or cosmic rays contaminating our thermal model fits, we required that observations in more than one band appear with $S/N > 5$ at least 40% of the number of observations found in the band with the largest number of observations (usually $W3$). If the number of observations exceeds the 40% threshold, *all* of the detections in that band are used. Although this strategy could possibly cause us to overestimate fluxes and colors, the fact that we use all available observations when the minimum number of

observations with $S/N > 5$ has been reached gives us some robustness against this. This problem was identified with *IRAS*; see <http://irsa.ipac.caltech.edu/IRASdocs/exp.sup/ch12/A.html#1> for details. We recognize this potential issue and will revisit it in a future work, particularly when we have the results from final version of the *WISE* data processing pipeline in hand. Artifact flagging and instrumental calibration will be substantially improved with the final version of the *WISE* data processing pipeline and we will re-examine the issue of low- S/N detections and non-detections when these products are available.

The WMOPS pipeline rejected inertially fixed objects in bands $W3$ and $W4$ before identifying moving objects; however, it did not reject stationary sources in bands $W1$ and $W2$. To ensure that asteroid detections were less likely to be confused with stars and background galaxies, we cross-correlated the individual Level 1b detections with the *WISE* atlas and daily co-add catalogs. Objects within 6.5 arcsec (equivalent to the *WISE* beam size at bands $W1$, $W2$, and $W3$) of the asteroid position which appeared in the co-added source lists at least twice and which appeared more than 30% of the total number of coverage of a given area of sky were considered to be inertially fixed sources; these asteroid detections were considered contaminated and were not used for thermal fitting.

In this paper, we consider only NEOs or MBAs that were observed during the fully cryogenic portion of the NEOWISE mission. Results from the NEOWISE Post-Cryogenic Mission will be discussed in a future work. For a discussion of *WISE* colors and physical properties derived from NEOWISE data for the bulk population of NEOs, see Mainzer et al. (2011d). Masiero et al. (2011) and Grav et al. (2011) give *WISE* colors and thermal fit results for the MBAs and Trojan asteroids observed during the cryogenic portion of the mission, respectively.

3. PRELIMINARY THERMAL MODELING OF NEOs

We have created preliminary thermal models for each asteroid using the First-Pass Data Processing Pipeline (version 3.5) described above; these thermal models will be recomputed when the final data processing is completed. As described in Mainzer et al. (2011b), we employ the spherical

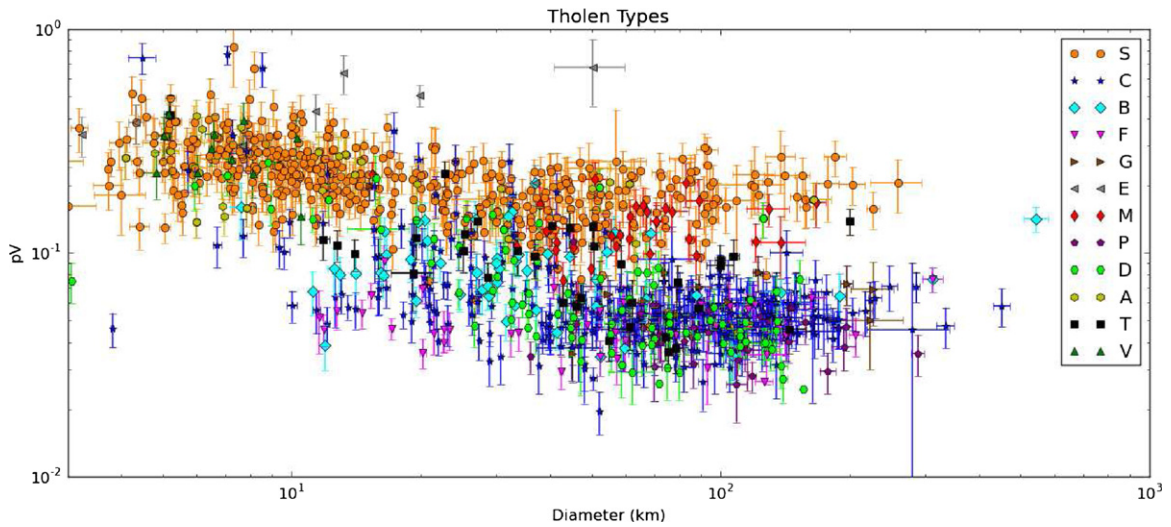


Figure 1. NEOWISE-derived diameters vs. albedos of asteroids observed and classified according to the Tholen system. The Tholen system preserves the albedo distinctions between its different spectral classes very well down to ~ 30 km, at which point selection biases begin to become apparent in that low albedo objects are missing. Furthermore, this bias is likely to be at least partially, if not entirely, responsible for the apparent increase in albedo with decreasing diameter for all taxonomic types.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

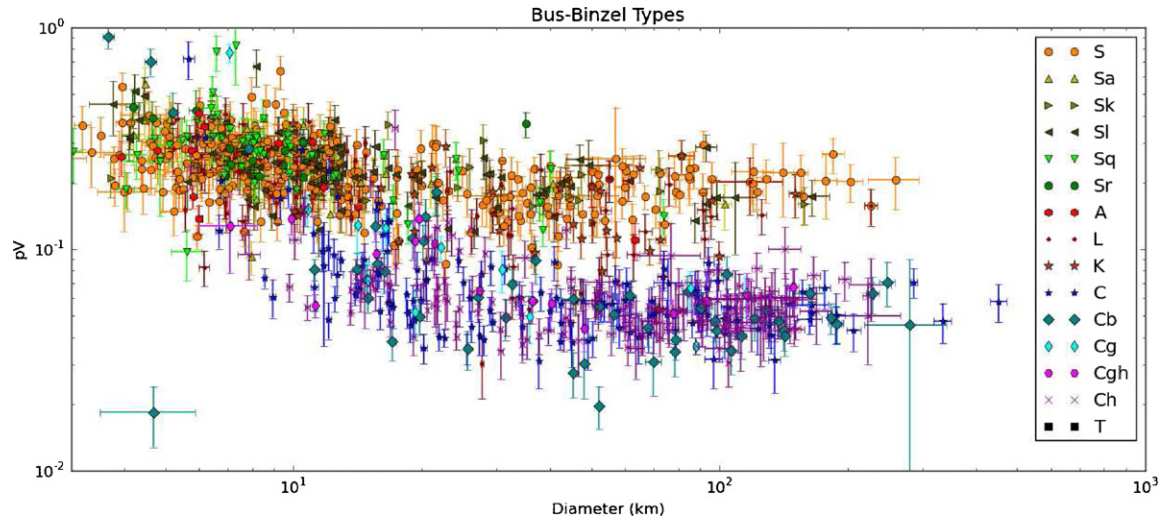


Figure 2. NEOWISE-derived diameters vs. albedos of asteroids observed and classified according to the system of Bus & Binzel (2002). The S- and C-complexes are shown; the X-complex has been omitted for clarity. There are a few albedo distinctions evident among the subtypes in both the S- and C-complexes in the Bus-Binzel taxonomic system. As with the Tholen system shown in Figure 1, selection biases become apparent below ~ 30 km and may be entirely responsible for the trend of increasing albedo with decreasing diameter.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

near-Earth asteroid thermal model (NEATM) of Harris (1998). The NEATM model uses the so-called beaming parameter η to account for cases intermediate between zero thermal inertia (the Standard Thermal Model, STM; Lebofsky & Spencer 1989) and high thermal inertia (the Fast Rotating Model, FRM; Lebofsky et al. 1978; Veeder et al. 1989; Lebofsky & Spencer 1989). In the STM, η is set to 0.756 to match the occultation diameters of (1) Ceres and (2) Pallas, while in the FRM, η is equal to π . With NEATM, η is a free parameter that can be fit when two or more infrared bands are available (or with only one infrared band if diameter or albedo are known a priori as is the case for objects that have been imaged by visiting spacecraft or observed with radar).

Each object was modeled as a set of triangular facets covering a spherical surface with a variable diameter (c.f. Kaasalainen et al. 2004). Although many (if not most) asteroids are non-

spherical, the *WISE* observations generally consisted of ~ 10 – 12 observations per object uniformly distributed over ~ 36 hr (Wright et al. 2010; Mainzer et al. 2011a), so on average, a wide range of rotational phases were sampled. Although this helps to average out the effects of a rotating non-spherical object, caution must be exercised when interpreting the meaning of an effective diameter in these cases. All diameters given are considered effective diameters, where the assumed sphere has a volume close to that of the actual body observed. Tests with non-spherical triaxial ellipsoid models show that even for objects with peak-to-peak brightness variations of ~ 1 mag, the derived diameter is found to have a 1σ error bar of $\sim 20\%$ compared to the effective diameter of the ellipsoid, provided that the rotational period is more than the average sampling frequency of 3 hr and less than the average coverage of ~ 1 day (Grav et al. 2011).

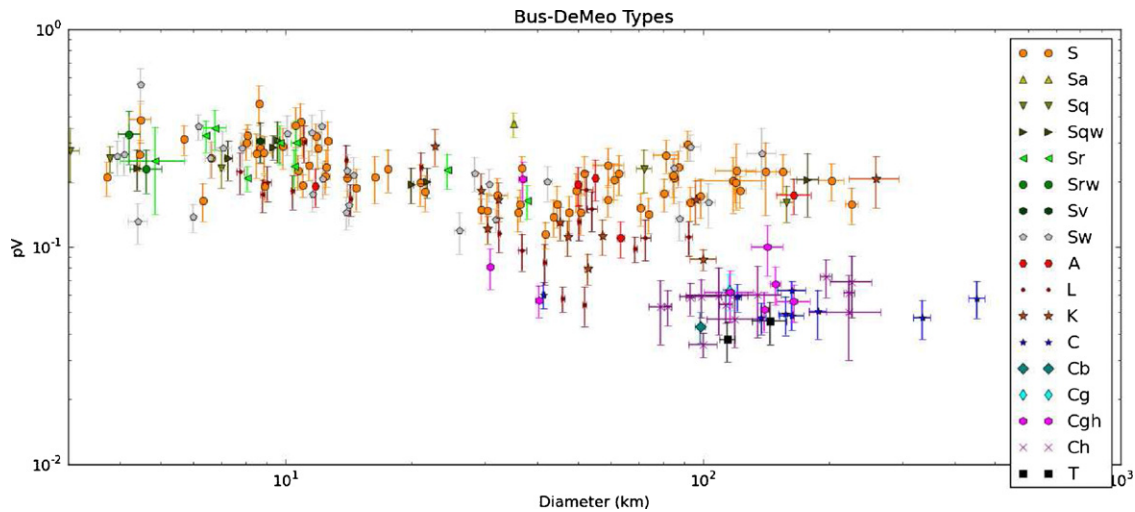


Figure 3. NEOWISE-derived albedos of S- and C-complex asteroids observed and classified according to the taxonomic system of DeMeo et al. (2009), which supercedes the system of Bus & Binzel (2002). In this system, subtypes with a “w” have redder VNIR slopes and are supposed to be weathered versions of the original types; for example, Sw is the more reddened version of S. However, no difference in albedo between the Sw and S types can be seen at all size ranges. No differences among the C subtypes can be observed, although the comparison suffers from small number statistics.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

Thermal models were computed for each *WISE* measurement, ensuring that the correct Sun–observer–object distances were used. The temperature for each facet was computed and the Wright et al. (2010) color corrections were applied to each facet. In addition, we adjusted the *W3* effective wavelength blueward by 4% from $11.5608\ \mu\text{m}$ to $11.0984\ \mu\text{m}$, the *W4* effective wavelength redward by 2.5% from $22.0883\ \mu\text{m}$ to $22.6405\ \mu\text{m}$, and we included the -8% and $+4\%$ offsets to the *W3* and *W4* magnitude zero points (respectively) due to the red–blue calibrator discrepancy reported by Wright et al. (2010). The emitted thermal flux for each facet was calculated using NEATM; nightside facets were assumed to contribute no flux. For NEOs, bands *W1* and *W2* typically contain a mix of reflected sunlight and thermal emission. The flux from reflected sunlight was computed for each *WISE* band as described in Mainzer et al. (2011b) using the IAU phase curve correction (Bowell et al. 1989). Facets which were illuminated by reflected sunlight and visible to *WISE* were corrected with the Wright et al. (2010) color corrections appropriate for a G2V star. In order to compute the fraction of the total luminosity due to reflected sunlight, it was necessary to determine the relative reflectivity in bands *W1* and *W2*. This step is discussed in greater detail below.

In general, absolute magnitudes (H) were taken from the MPC’s orbital element files. The assumed H error was taken to be 0.3 mag. Updated H magnitudes were taken from the Light Curve Database of Warner et al. (2009a) for about two-thirds of the asteroids that were detected by NEOWISE that are considered herein. Emissivity, ϵ , was assumed to be 0.9 for all wavelengths (c.f. Harris et al. 2009), and G (the slope parameter of the magnitude–phase relationship) was set to 0.15 ± 0.10 based on Tholen (2009) unless a direct measurement from Warner et al. (2009a) or Pravec et al. (2006) was available. Accurate determination of albedo is critically dependent on the accuracy of the H and G values used for each asteroid; the albedos determined with the NEOWISE data will only be as accurate as the H and G values used to compute them. We describe some instances in which we suspect that the assumption of $G = 0.15$ is inappropriate below. These objects will benefit from improved measurements of G .

For objects with measurements in two or more *WISE* bands dominated by thermal emission, the beaming parameter η was determined using a least-squares minimization but was constrained to be less than the upper bound set by the FRM case (π). As described in Mainzer et al. (2011c), the median value of the NEOs that had fitted η was 1.41 ± 0.5 , while the weighted mean value was 1.35. The beaming parameter could not be fitted for NEOs that had only a single *WISE* thermal band; these objects were assigned $\eta = 1.35 \pm 0.5$. For MBAs, the median value of the objects with fitted η was 1.00 ± 0.20 as discussed in Masiero et al. (2011). For MBAs with observations in only a single *WISE* thermal band, η was set equal to 1.00 ± 0.20 .

Bands *W1* and *W2* consist of a mix of reflected sunlight and thermal emission for NEOs, and bands *W3* and *W4* consist almost entirely of thermal emission. In order to properly model the fraction of total emission due to reflected sunlight in each band, it was necessary to determine the ratio of the infrared albedo p_{IR} to the visible albedo p_V . We make the simplifying assumption that the reflectivity is the same in both bands *W1* and *W2*, such that $p_{\text{IR}} = p_{3.4} = p_{4.6}$; the validity of this assumption is discussed below. The geometric albedo p_V is defined as the ratio of the brightness of an object observed at zero phase angle (α) to that of a perfectly diffusing Lambertian disk of the same radius located at the same distance. The Bond albedo (A) is related to the visible geometric albedo p_V by $A \approx A_V = qp_V$, where q is the phase integral and is defined such that $q = 2 \int \Phi(\alpha) \sin(\alpha) d\alpha$. Φ is the phase curve, and $q = 1$ for $\Phi = \max(0, \cos(\alpha))$. G is the slope parameter that describes the shape of the phase curve in the $H - G$ model of Bowell et al. (1989) that describes the relationship between an asteroid’s brightness and the solar phase angle. For $G = 0.15$, $q = 0.384$. We make the assumption that p_{IR} obeys the same relationship, although it is possible that it varies with wavelength, so what we denote here as p_{IR} for convenience may not be exactly analogous to p_V . We can derive p_{IR}/p_V for the *WISE* objects that have a significant fraction ($\sim 50\%$ or more) of reflected sunlight in bands *W1* and *W2* as well as observations in *W3* or *W4*. As discussed in Mainzer et al. (2011d), for the NEOs for which p_{IR}/p_V could not be fitted,

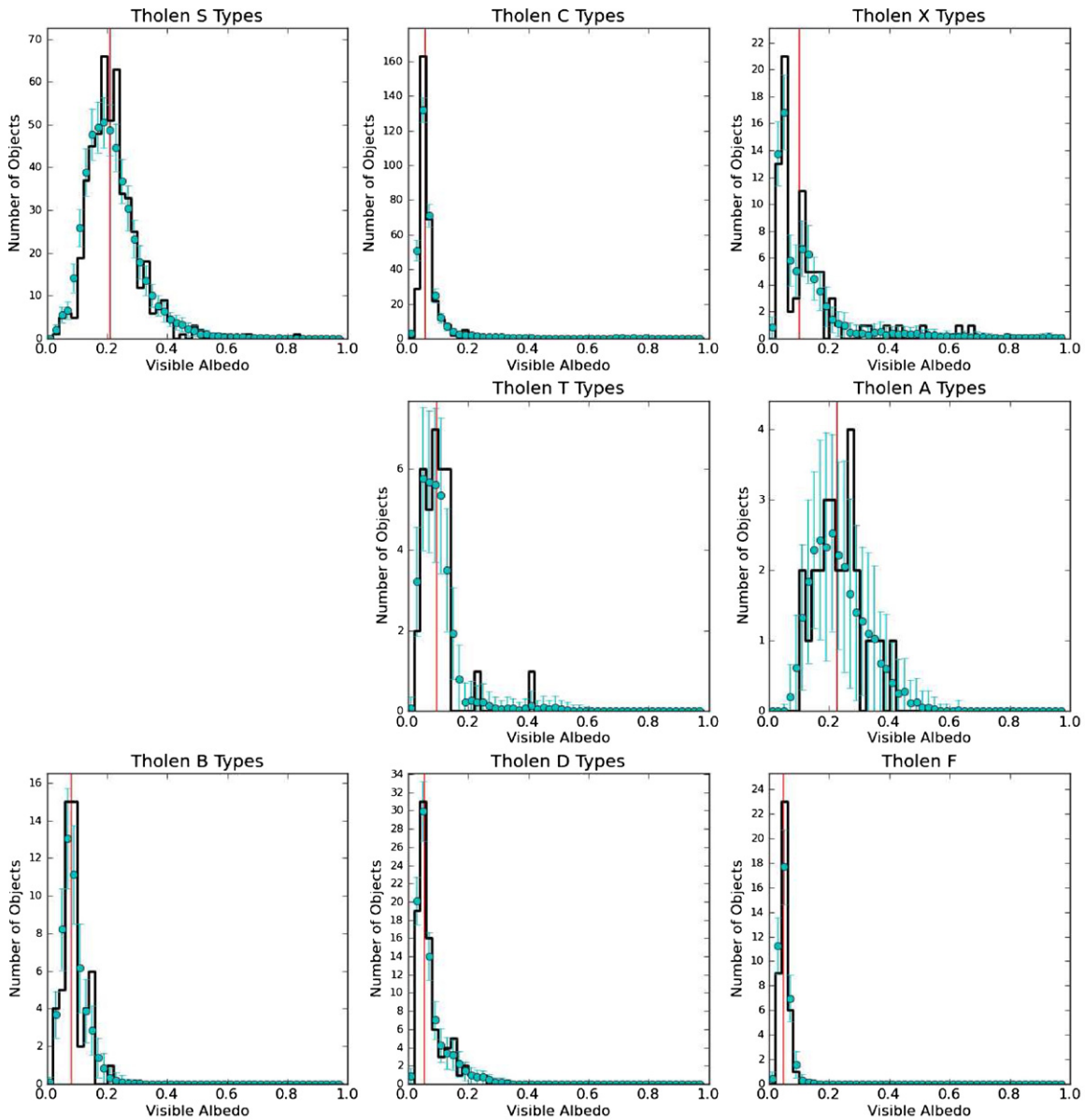


Figure 4. NEOWISE-derived albedos of asteroids observed and classified by Tholen (1984) with diameters >30 km. The dots with error bars represent the results of a 100 Monte Carlo simulation of the histogram using the error bars for each individual albedo measurement. The vertical red line represents the median p_V for each type.

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we used $p_{\text{IR}}/p_V = 1.6 \pm 1.0$; as per Masiero et al. (2011), we set $p_{\text{IR}}/p_V = 1.5 \pm 0.5$ for MBAs. For the objects with fitted p_{IR}/p_V , we can begin to study how reflectivity changes at 3.4 and $4.6 \mu\text{m}$, and this can be compared to taxonomic types.

Where available, we used previously measured diameters from radar, stellar occultations, or in situ spacecraft imaging and allowed the thermal model to fit only p_{IR}/p_V when $W1$ or $W2$ was available. For a more complete description of the methodology and the sources of the diameter measurements, see Mainzer et al. (2011b).

As described in Mainzer et al. (2011b) and Mainzer et al. (2011c), the minimum diameter error that can be achieved using *WISE* observations is $\sim 10\%$ and the minimum albedo error is $\sim 20\%$ of the value of the albedo for objects with more than one *WISE* thermal band for which η can be fitted. For objects with large amplitude light curves, poor H or G measurements,

or poor S/N measurements in the *WISE* bands, the errors will be higher.

3.1. High Albedo Objects

We note that among the asteroids considered here, there are ~ 20 that have $p_V > 0.65$. Approximately two-thirds of these objects have large peak-to-peak $W3$ variations, indicating that they are likely to be highly elongated or even binary. In these cases, a spherical model is not likely to produce a good fit; these objects should be modeled as non-spherical shapes. Almost all of the extremely high albedo objects are known to be members of the Vesta family or Hungarias. It is possible that for these objects, the standard value of $G = 0.15$, i.e., a fixed q of 0.393 , is not appropriate. Harris & Young (1988) and Harris et al. (1989) noted that E- and V-type asteroids can have slope values as high as $G \sim 0.5$. The assumption of $G = 0.15$ for an object like this would cause an error in the computed H for

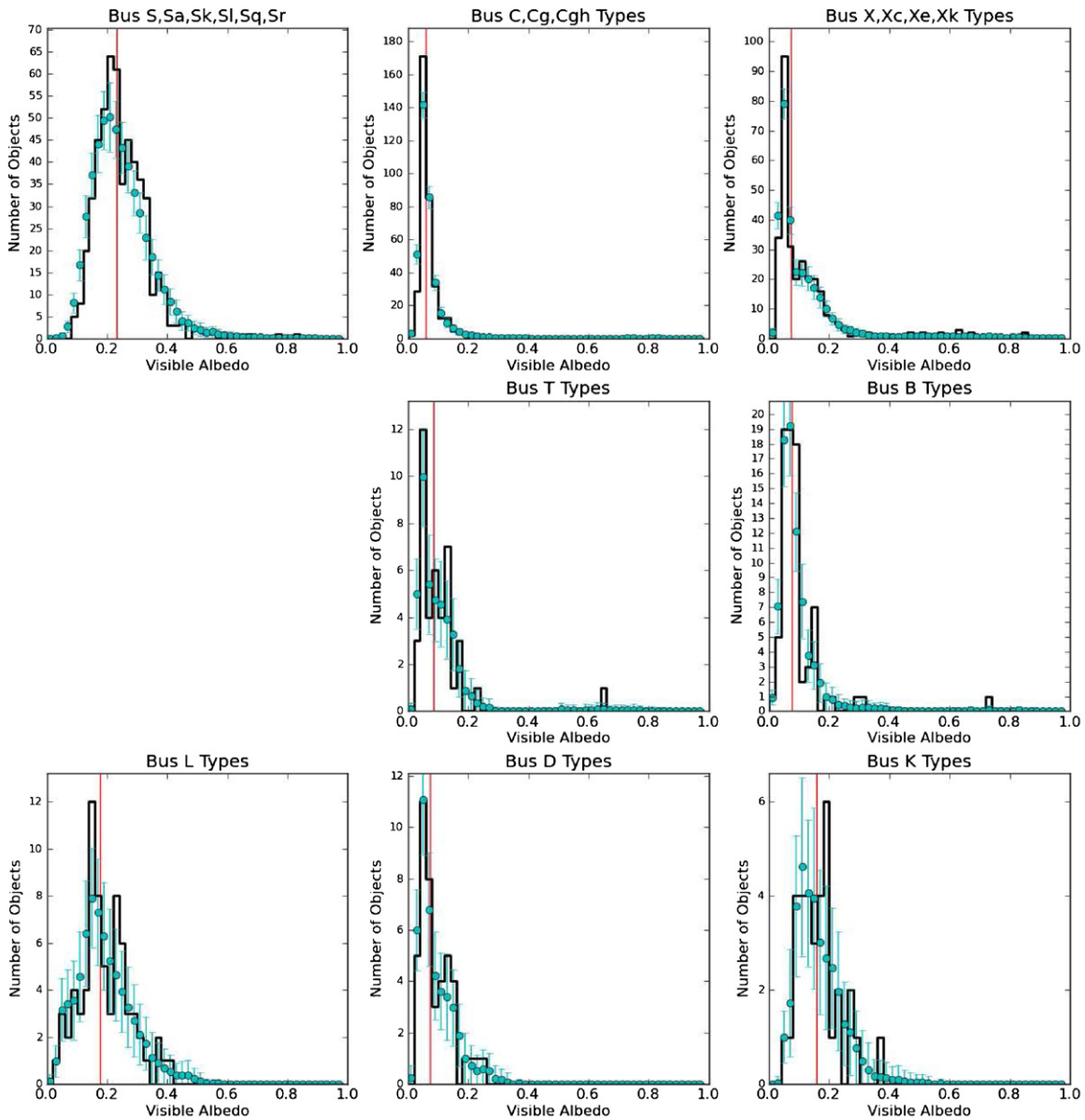


Figure 5. NEOWISE-derived albedos of asteroids observed and classified by Bus & Binzel (2002) with diameters > 30 km. The dots with error bars represent the results of a 100 Monte Carlo simulation of the histogram using the error bars for each individual albedo measurement. The vertical red line represents the median p_V for each type.

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observations at a 20° phase angle of ~ 0.3 mag; this would drive the albedo derived using such an H value up by 0.3, for example. Albedos larger than 0.65 should be considered suspect; only a direct measurement of G (and therefore H) for these objects will improve the reliability of the albedo determination for these objects. These objects would greatly benefit from additional study and more ground-based follow-up to improve their H and G values.

4. DISCUSSION

We have examined the taxonomic classifications of NEOs and MBAs provided by a number of groups. Chapman et al. (1975) proposed a series of letter-based taxonomic classes: S for stony or silicate-rich objects, C for carbonaceous asteroids, and U for asteroids that did not fit either class neatly. Tholen (1984) defined seven major classes (A, C, D, E, M, P, and S)

along with three subclasses of the C-complex (B, F, and G), the minor class T, and the single-member classes R, Q, and V based on ECAS (Zellner 1985). Objects in the E, M, and P classes could only be separated by their albedos as they were spectrally degenerate in the ECAS system; together, they form the X class. The Tholen classification scheme relied upon ECAS; ECAS used a photometer with filters ranging from $0.34 \mu\text{m}$ to $1.04 \mu\text{m}$. The ultraviolet wavelengths used by ECAS became more difficult to obtain when CCDs became widely available. Visible CCD spectroscopy of asteroids was undertaken and subsequent revisions to the taxonomic systems were made that no longer relied upon ultraviolet wavelengths.

The Small Main-belt Asteroid Spectroscopic Survey (Xu et al. 1995) and its second phase (SMASSII; Bus & Binzel 2002; Burbine & Binzel 2002; Bus 1999) has produced visible spectroscopy for nearly 3000 asteroids. From this data set, Bus & Binzel (2002) defined three major groupings similar

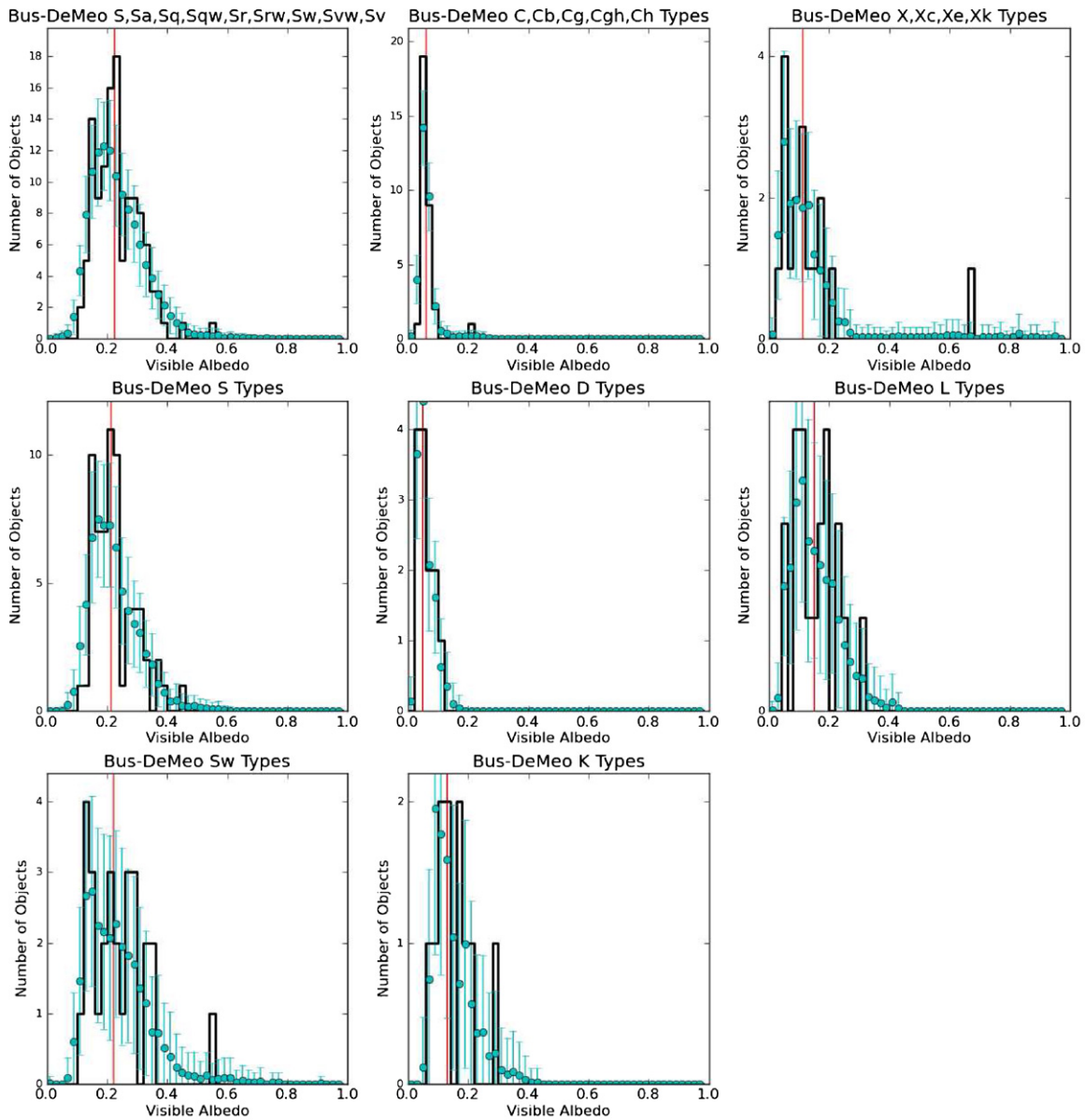


Figure 6. NEOWISE-derived albedos of asteroids observed and classified by DeMeo et al. (2009) with diameters >30 km. The dots with error bars represent the results of a 100 Monte Carlo simulation of the histogram using the error bars for each individual albedo measurement. The vertical red line represents the median p_V for each type.

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to Tholen (1984) (the S-, C-, and X-complexes) and split them into 26 classes depending on the presence or absence of particular spectral features or slopes in visible wavelengths. In the system of Bus & Binzel (2002), albedo is not used, and the short wavelength definition of the taxonomy extends only to $0.44 \mu\text{m}$. Thus, limitations arise in that, for example, C and X types can be difficult to distinguish without albedo and without measurements over UV wavelengths. DeMeo et al. (2009) and DeMeo (2010) extended the system of Bus & Binzel (2002) by using near-infrared spectral features as well as visible, creating a system of 24 taxonomic types. Neither the Bus & Binzel (2002) nor DeMeo et al. (2009) systems use albedo as a means of taxonomic classification.

Taxonomic classification systems can provide some understanding of the compositional nature of asteroids, but they have limitations. Reflected colors may in some cases reveal mineral absorption bands that provide diagnostic information on com-

position, but the appearance of these spectral features can be influenced by other materials with similar absorption features, material states, particle sizes, illumination angles, etc. Furthermore, some bodies' spectra are generally featureless. For all of these reasons, other physical parameters such as albedo become important for further interpreting composition. We have used the classification data compiled in the Planetary Data System Small Body Node by Neese (2010), which aggregates taxonomic types for ~ 2600 minor planets from various sources. Table 1 gives the average albedos that we have computed from the asteroids we have observed with NEOWISE for each of the various taxonomic classes in the Tholen, Bus, and Bus-DeMeo schemes. A discussion of the biases that must be considered when comparing the albedos between classes is given below.

In Figure 1, we show the diameter compared to p_V for 1247 asteroids observed and classified according to the Tholen scheme (Tholen 1989; Xu et al. 1995; Lazzaro et al. 2004),

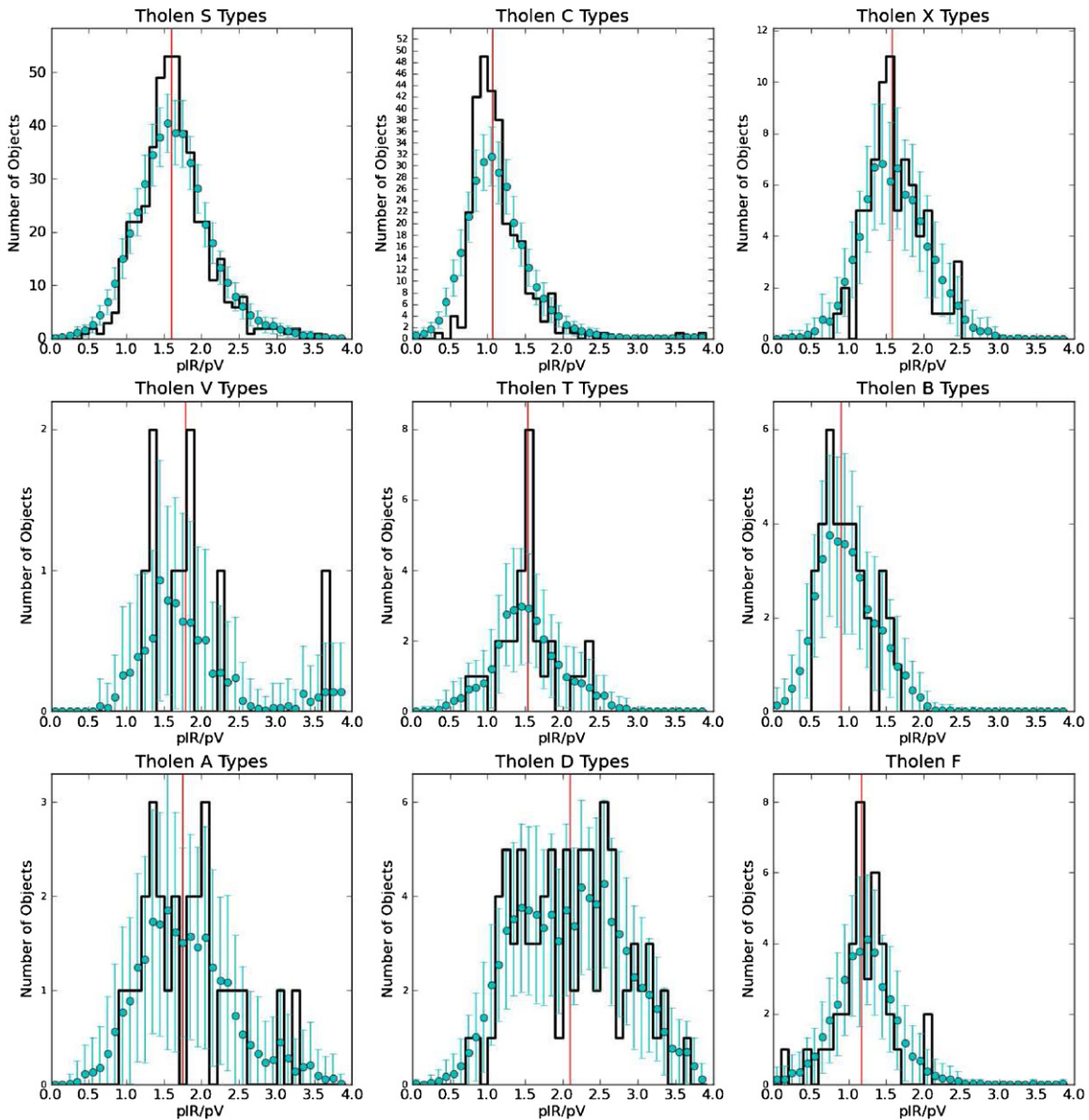


Figure 7. NEOWISE-derived ratio p_{IR}/p_V for asteroids observed and classified by Tholen (1984). Only asteroids for which p_{IR}/p_V could be fitted are included in this plot. The dots with error bars represent the results of a 100 Monte Carlo simulation of the histogram using the error bars for each individual albedo measurement. The vertical red line represents the median p_V for each type.

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including 15 NEOs and 1232 MBAs. Figure 2 shows diameter versus p_V for the 1524 objects classified according to the Bus scheme (Bus & Binzel 2002; Lazzaro et al. 2004), including 21 NEOs and 1503 MBAs. Finally, Figure 3 shows the 233 asteroids classified according to the DeMeo scheme (14 NEOs and 219 MBAs), which is based heavily on that of Bus. It should be noted that the same objects can have different classifications according to multiple schemes. Since so few NEOs have been observed relative to the numbers of MBAs, we have included the NEOs in our plots; there are not enough to significantly change the statistics. In all three schemes, an uptick in the average value of p_V for smaller diameters (<30 km) can be observed, regardless of spectral class. There is a notable absence of small, dark objects, particularly among the C-complex types, yet numerically low albedo objects represent the majority of the asteroids in the Main Belt (Masiero et al. 2011). Although Delbó et al. (2003), Harris (2005), and Wolters et al. (2008)

have asserted that there is a real change in albedo with size, these studies are all based upon very small numbers of asteroids that are selected from visible light surveys. If there is a correlation between albedo and size, it is best studied using the full NEOWISE data set rather than the relatively small population that has been selected from visible light surveys for spectroscopic study to date. When we compare diameter to p_V for the entire NEOWISE set selected by the WMOPS pipeline (Mainzer et al. 2011a), we find no strong trend of increasing p_V with decreasing diameter. The selection bias in the population with taxonomic classifications acts twice. Objects with higher albedos are more likely to have been discovered by visible light surveys; a 5 km object with a 40% albedo is nearly a full magnitude brighter than a 5 km object with a 20% albedo. Similarly, the 40% albedo object is more likely to have been selected for the spectroscopic studies necessary for taxonomic classification because it is more likely to be bright

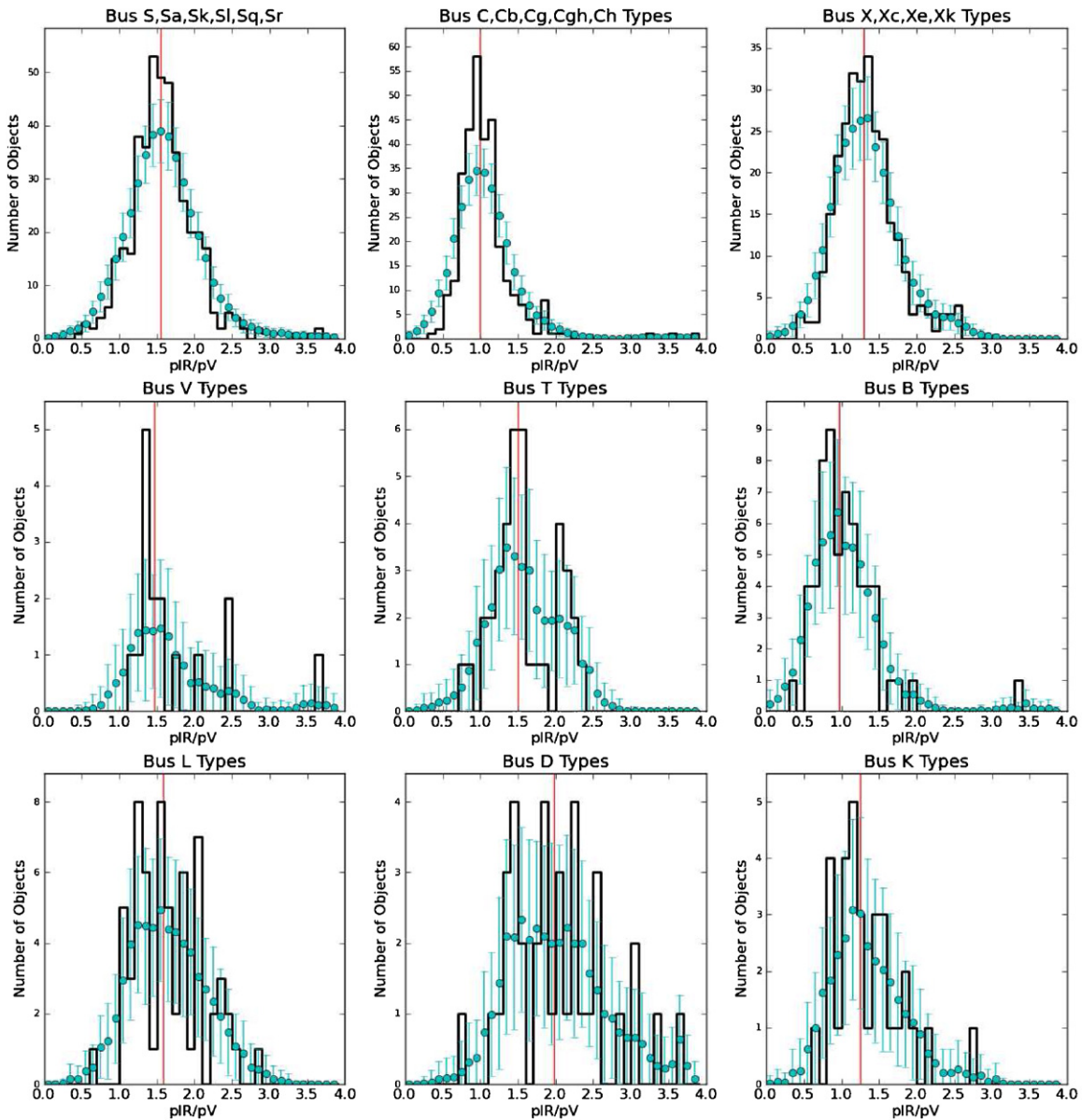


Figure 8. NEOWISE-derived ratio p_{IR}/p_V for asteroids observed and classified by Bus & Binzel (2002). Only asteroids for which p_{IR}/p_V could be fitted are included in this plot. The dots with error bars represent the results of a 100 Monte Carlo simulation of the histogram using the error bars for each individual albedo measurement. The vertical red line represents the median p_{IR}/p_V for each type.

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enough to observe. We observe 11 out of 14 objects with a Bus–Binzel C-complex classification with diameters between 6 and 10 km that have $p_V > 0.09$, compared to 47 C types with diameters between 80 and 110 km with a median $p_V = 0.053 \pm 0.002$ and standard deviation of 0.014. However, these 11 small diameter outlier objects are entirely consistent with the number expected when we consider that the total population of low albedo small MBAs numbers at least in the high tens of thousands (Masiero et al. 2011). We cannot make reliable claims about possible relationships between size, albedo, and space weathering without assembling a sample of asteroids in which the albedo biases are clearly understood. As discussed below, what is needed is a spectroscopically classified sample that is unbiased with respect to albedo. This study will be the subject of future work.

From Figures 1–3, we can see that there is generally good separation of p_V between S- and C-complex objects for diam-

eters > 30 km; we conclude that this is approximately the size down to which the visible light surveys are roughly complete. In Figures 4–6, we show the visible albedo distributions for objects with diameters > 30 km for the various spectral types in each of the three taxonomic systems. In the Tholen system, 172 S-type objects with diameters > 30 km have a median $p_V = 0.166 \pm 0.004$ with a standard deviation of 0.050 and 250 C-type objects have a median $p_V = 0.053 \pm 0.002$ with a standard deviation of 0.024. In the system of Bus & Binzel (2002), 106 S-complex objects with diameters > 30 km (including S, Sa, Sk, Sl, Sq, and Sr) have a median $p_V = 0.182 \pm 0.004$ with a standard deviation of 0.043 and 222 C-complex objects (including C, Cb, Cg, Cgh, and Ch) have a median $p_V = 0.053 \pm 0.001$ with a standard deviation of 0.014. As discussed in Mainzer et al. (2011b), the average albedo error is $\sim 20\%$ of the albedo value. We suggest that those attempting to use spectral type as a proxy for p_V use these values when converting between H and diameter, although

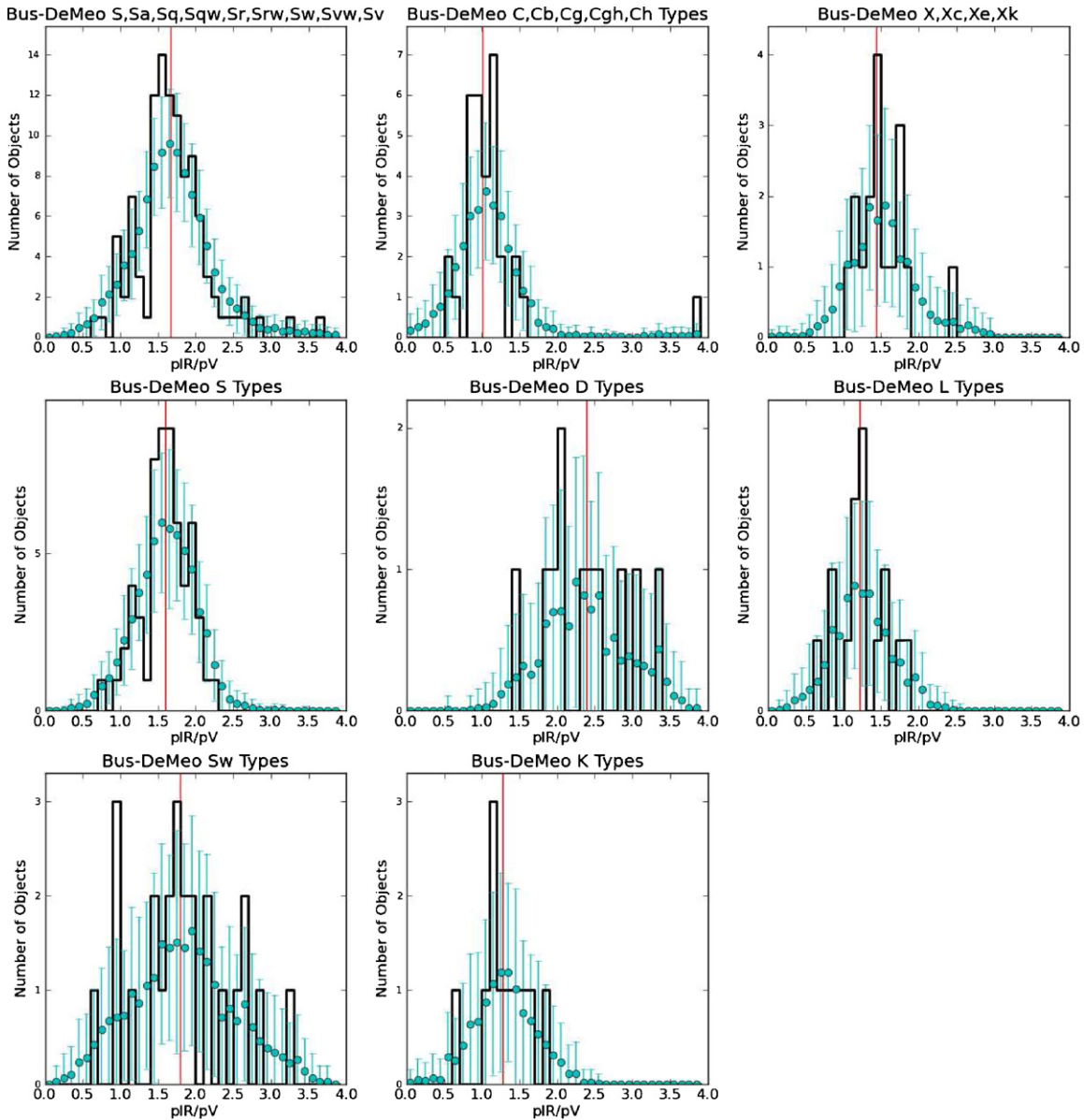


Figure 9. NEOWISE-derived ratio p_{IR}/p_V for asteroids observed and classified by DeMeo et al. (2009). Only asteroids for which p_{IR}/p_V could be fitted are included in this plot. The objects have been separated broadly into S-, C-, X-complexes with S, Sw, D, and L types separated out since they each have more than a handful of objects. The dots with error bars represent the results of a 100 Monte Carlo simulation of the histogram using the error bars for each individual albedo measurement. The vertical red line represents the median p_{IR}/p_V for each type.

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

as discussed above, it is unclear whether these values are still appropriate for objects at sizes smaller than ~ 30 km. Figures 2 and 3 show that little distinction can be observed between the various subtypes in the S- and C-complexes in the Bus and Bus-DeMeo schemes at all size ranges. The albedo differences between various spectral types are best preserved in the system of Tholen (1984). Figures 7–9 give the ratio of the reflectivity in bands W1 and W2 compared with p_V for the Bus, Bus-DeMeo, and Tholen schemes, respectively. The mean, standard deviation of the mean, standard deviation, and minimum/maximum values of p_V and p_{IR}/p_V for each class (including objects at all size ranges) are given in Table 1.

S-complex. As expected from Stuart & Binzel (2004) and others, the S types observed by NEOWISE tend to have systematically higher albedos than the C types for the Bus, Tholen, and DeMeo classification schemes, although they span

a fairly wide range. The Bus and Bus-DeMeo taxonomic classification schemes split the S-complex into a number of different subclasses based on their visible and/or near-infrared slopes and absorption features. Figures 10 and 11 show the breakdown of p_V and p_{IR}/p_V , respectively, for the subtypes with diameters larger than 30 km within the Bus S-complex: S, Sa, Sk, Sl, Sr, and Sq along with the K, L, and A types. The distribution of p_V is similar for all of these subtypes; any subtle differences are likely attributable to statistically small numbers of objects for some of the subtypes, with the exception of the K types, which appear to have a somewhat lower albedo as noted in Tedesco et al. (1989). In the distribution of p_{IR}/p_V , however, we note some slight differences among subclasses, with the S, Sl, and L types showing a slightly higher mean value of p_{IR}/p_V than the Sq, Sk, and K types. According to Bus & Binzel (2002), the S, Sl, and L types have redder slopes

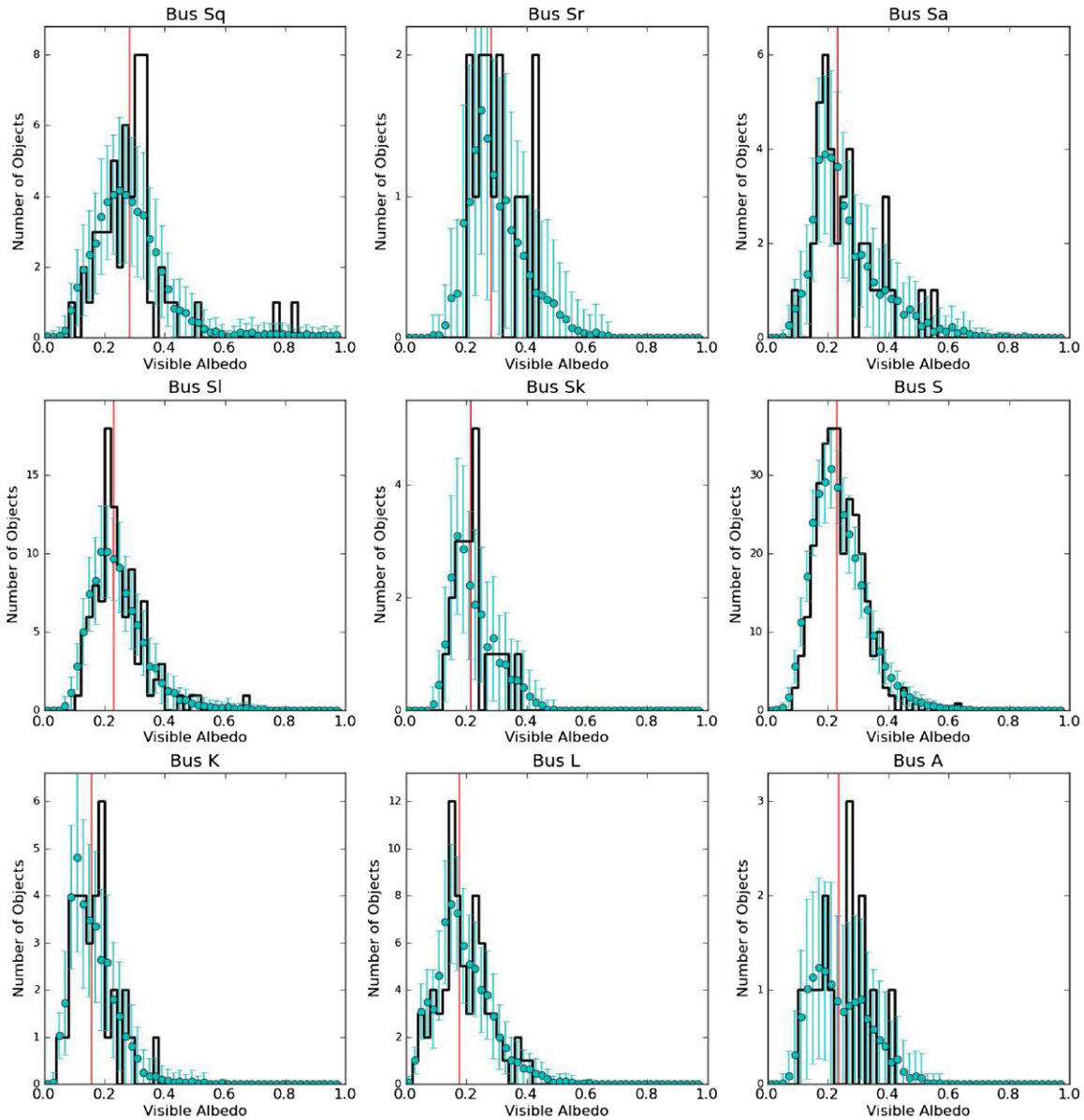


Figure 10. NEOWISE-derived p_V for S-complex asteroids with diameters larger than 30 km classified using the Bus system are separated into S, Sa, Sk, Sl, Sq, and Sr classes; we also show the albedos of objects in the K, L, and A classes here. All S-type asteroids have fairly similar albedo distributions. In DeMeo et al. (2009), the Sa, Sk, and Sl classes have been superseded and are no longer used.

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than the Sk, Sq, and K types. As with the C, D, and T types, redder VNIR slopes correlate with higher p_{IR}/p_V , possibly indicating that the red slope continues out to 3–4 μm . However, in general, p_V and the p_{IR}/p_V ratio of most of the Bus S-complex subtypes are similar. DeMeo et al. (2009) create a new spectral sequence for the S-complex that supercedes the Bus S-complex; in the Bus–DeMeo scheme, the Bus Sa disappears, the Bus Sr is converted to the Bus–DeMeo Sa, and the Bus Sl and Sk classes are eliminated. In the future, all of the ~ 230 asteroids with these classifications may be redesignated according to the newer Bus–DeMeo system. Figures 6 and 9 show the albedo and p_{IR}/p_V distributions for objects with diameters larger than 30 km and more than a handful of objects per taxonomic class.

It has been asserted that Q-type asteroids are the un-space-weathered cousins of the S-type asteroids, with the Bus–DeMeo Sq subtype representing an intermediate state between S and Q types (DeMeo et al. 2009). In the Bus–DeMeo system, types

with a w (e.g., Sw, Sqw, Srw) are versions of types with steeper and redder VNIR slopes; DeMeo et al. (2009) attribute this reddening to the effects of space weathering. Space weathering is thought to darken and redden surfaces of airless bodies exposed to radiation; Chapman (2004) and Clark et al. (2002) give overviews of the subject. We have observed 65 Main Belt S types classified according to the Bus–DeMeo system and 26 MBAs classified as Sw. The S types have a median $p_V = 0.224 \pm 0.013$ with a standard deviation of 0.068, while the Sw types have a median $p_V = 0.239 \pm 0.012$ with a standard deviation of 0.095 (see Figure 3). This result suggests that if space weathering is at work on the Sw types, it does not make their surfaces darken; it is also possible that these objects are not actually weathered or that compositional or surface morphology variations such as differences in regolith particle size creates problems in the comparison between these two groups. We observed two NEOs classified as Q type, (2102) and (5143), and

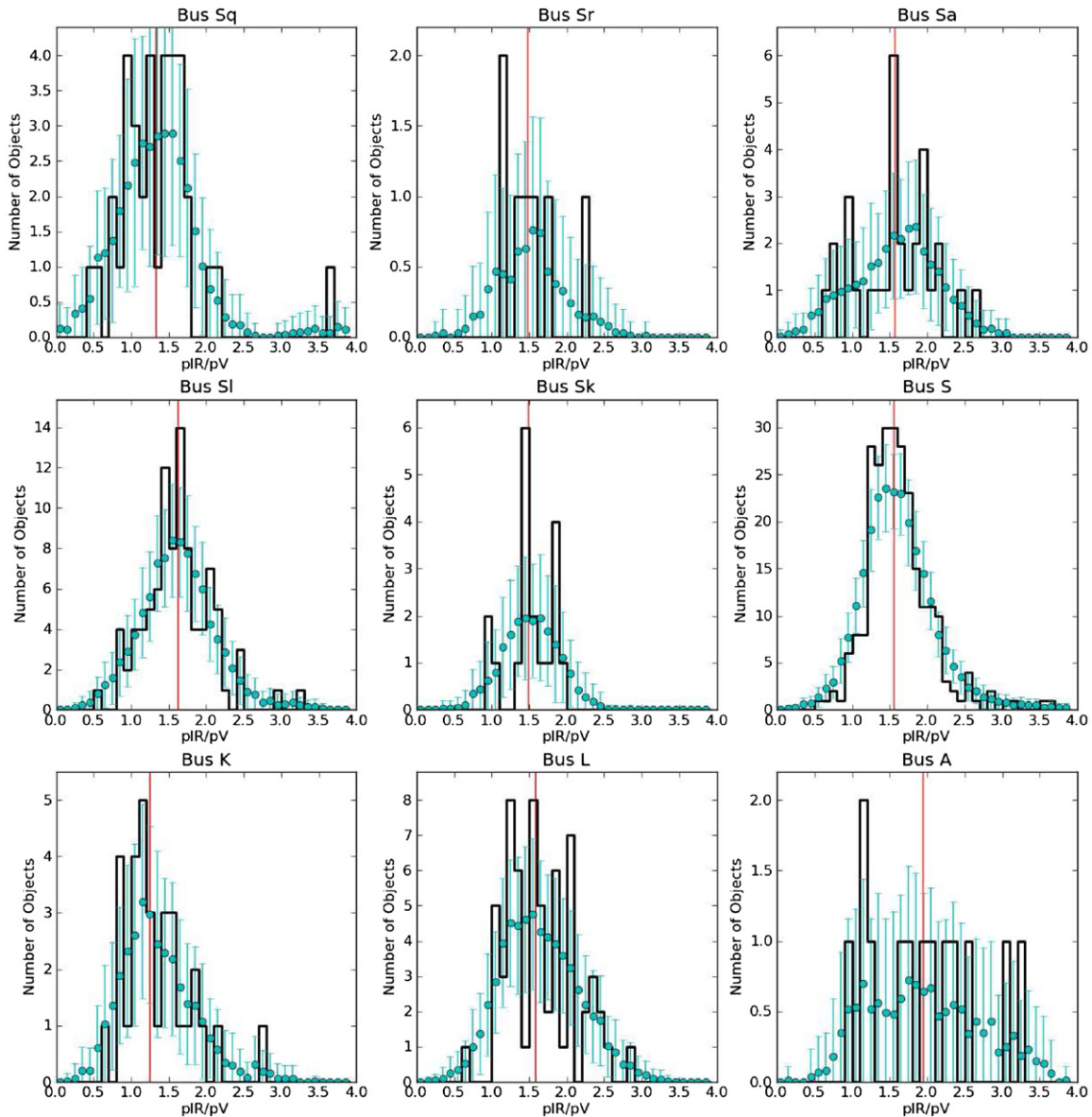


Figure 11. NEOWISE-derived p_{IR}/p_V for S-complex asteroids classified using the Bus system. Classes with steeper, redder VNIR slopes tend to have somewhat higher p_{IR}/p_V values.

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these objects' albedos are 0.214 ± 0.095 and 0.227 ± 0.054 , respectively. With a sample of only two objects, it is difficult to make a statistically meaningful comparison to the S types, although the albedos are entirely consistent with them. We have only three and six Bus–DeMeo Sq and Sqw types, respectively, but their albedos are similar to the S types (see Table 1). If the Sw and Q types that we observed are space weathered, the process is not affecting their albedos in the predicted manner. Furthermore, in Masiero et al. (2011), we found that asteroids in the 5.8 Myr old Karin family have lower albedos than the much older Koronis family, from which the Karin family is thought to originate (Nesvorný et al. 2002). Determination of asteroid VNIR spectral slopes used by the Bus and Bus–DeMeo systems can be complicated by instrumental effects as described in Gaffey et al. (2002) and by reddening of the observed VNIR slopes due to phase effects (Gradie & Veverka 1986). All of these results suggest that the picture of space weathering is

complicated, either by compositional variation, variable surface properties, or observational effects.

C-complex. The NEOWISE p_V and p_{IR}/p_V for the Bus and Bus–DeMeo C-complex asteroids are shown for the B, C, Cb, Ch, Cg, and Cgh types in Figures 12 and 13. In all three taxonomic schemes, the B, C, D, and T types all have similarly low p_V values, ~ 0.05 . In the VNIR, C-type asteroids are characterized by relatively flat spectra between 0.4 and $1.0 \mu\text{m}$ with a few, if any, absorption features. In the Bus and Bus–DeMeo taxonomic schemes, the C-complex is differentiated by the presence or absence of a broad absorption feature near $0.7 \mu\text{m}$; Bus & Binzel (2002) divided objects with and without this feature into five further subclasses (C, Cb, Cg, Ch, Cgh) depending additionally on the slope of the spectrum shortward of $0.55 \mu\text{m}$. By contrast, the T and D types have featureless spectra that are nevertheless characterized by moderate and steep red VNIR slopes, respectively, whereas the

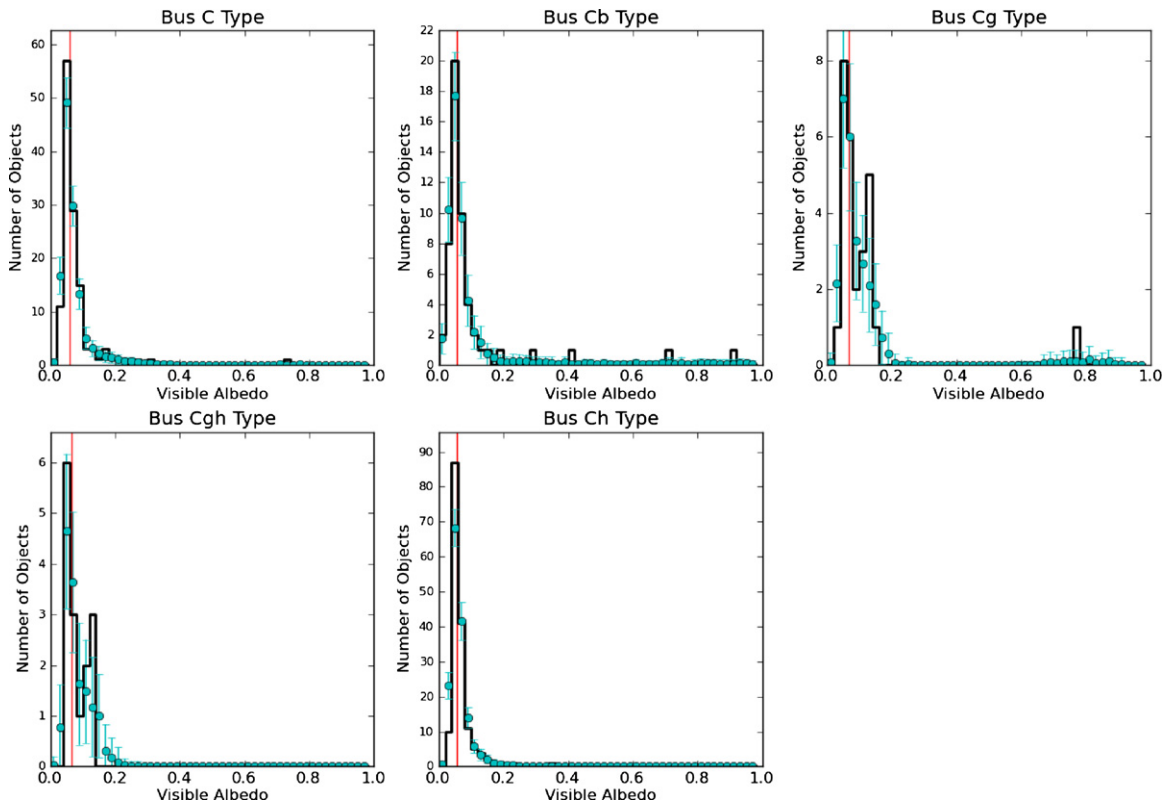


Figure 12. NEOWISE-derived p_V for C-complex asteroids with diameters larger than 30 km classified using the Bus system are separated into B, C, Cb, Cg, Cgh, and Ch classes.

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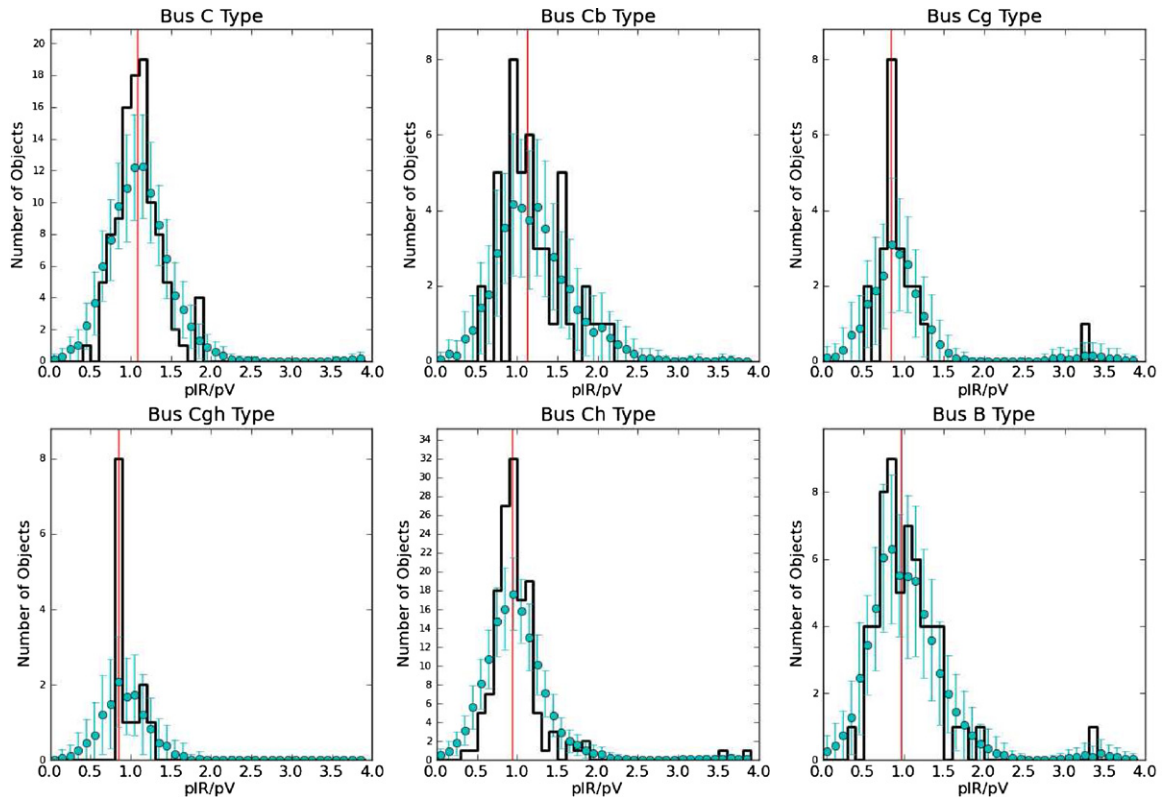


Figure 13. NEOWISE-derived p_{IR}/p_V ratio for C-complex asteroids classified using the Bus system are separated into B, C, Cb, Cg, Cgh, and Ch classes. The B-type asteroids show a somewhat lower p_{IR}/p_V ratio than the C-type asteroids, and this is possibly caused by their somewhat blue VNIR slope extending out to 3–4 μm .

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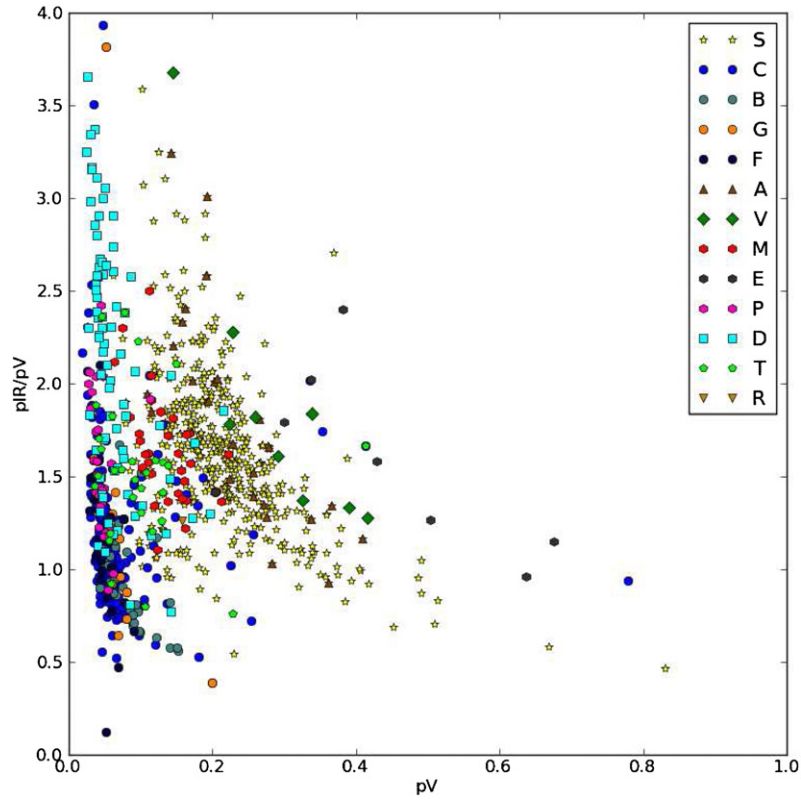


Figure 14. NEOWISE-derived ratio p_{IR}/p_V vs. p_V for asteroids observed and classified according to the Tholen taxonomic classification scheme. Only asteroids for which p_{IR}/p_V could be fitted are included in this plot.

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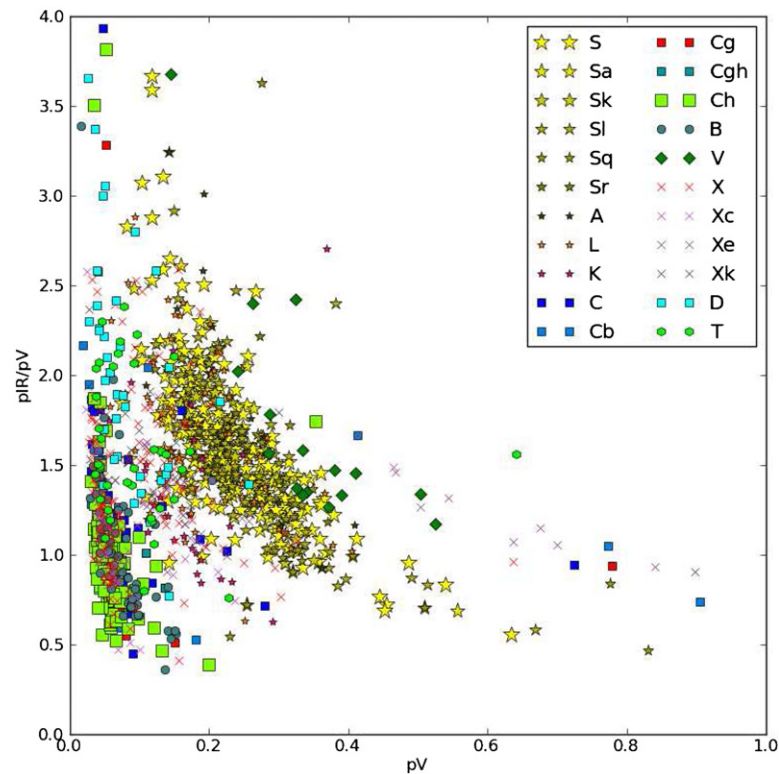


Figure 15. NEOWISE-derived ratio p_{IR}/p_V vs. p_V for asteroids observed and classified according to the system of Bus & Binzel (2002). Only asteroids for which p_{IR}/p_V could be fitted are included in this plot.

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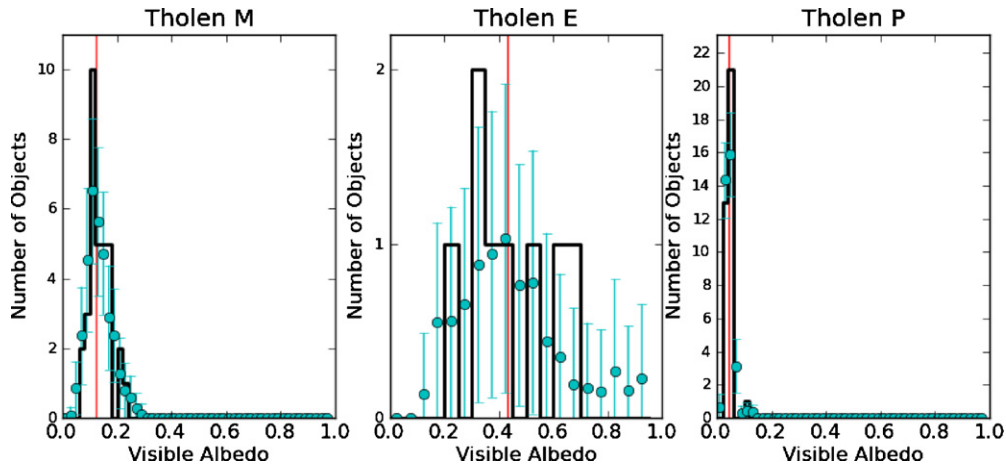


Figure 16. E, M, and P classes that make up the Tholen X type are distinguishable by albedo, as expected from Tholen’s definition.
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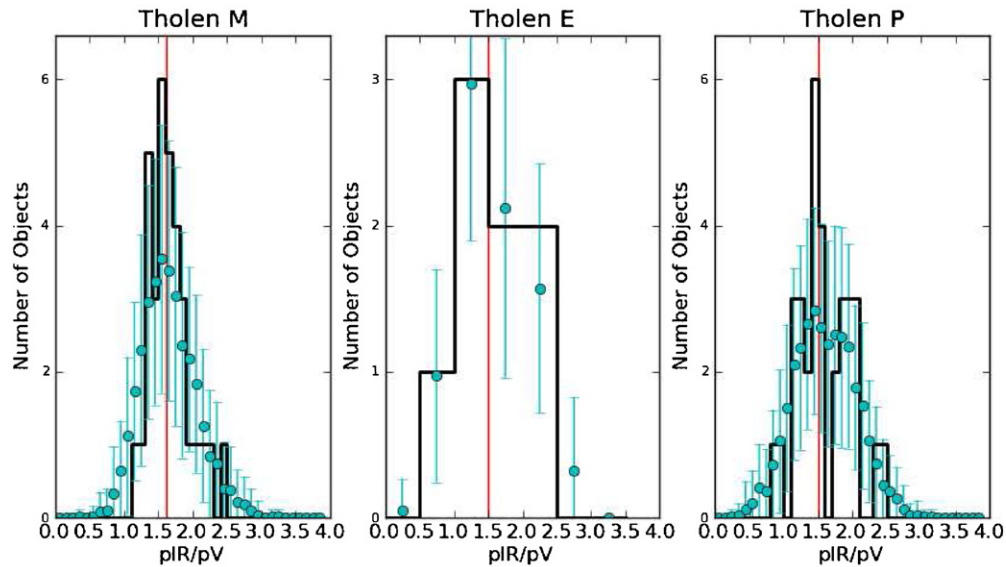


Figure 17. E, M, and P classes that make up the Tholen X type are not distinguishable by p_{IR}/p_V .
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B types have a slightly blue slope. The quantity p_{IR}/p_V can be extremely useful for differentiating asteroids. While the B, C, D, and T types all have extremely similar p_V , their p_{IR}/p_V ratios are significantly different. As shown in Table 1, the T and D types have increasingly larger values of p_{IR}/p_V , indicating that the steep slopes observed between VNIR wavelengths are likely to continue through the 3.4 and 4.6 μm WISE bands. A discussion of the possible materials responsible for the spectral appearance of the primitive Trojan asteroids out to 4 μm can be found in Emery & Brown (2004). Figures 14 and 15 illustrate the utility that p_{IR}/p_V can provide for distinguishing various taxonomic types (including the many subclasses within each complex) from one another in both the Tholen and Bus schemes.

X-complex. The Tholen, Bus, and Bus–DeMeo X types span a wide range of albedos, from ~ 0.07 to > 0.6 . This wide range is to be expected, as the Tholen X type (from which the Bus and Bus–DeMeo X types are derived) is comprised of E, M, and P asteroids which are distinguished on the basis of their albedos (Figure 16; Figure 17 shows the ratio p_{IR}/p_V for the Tholen X types). The albedo distribution of the asteroids with Tholen X classifications and Bus X types follow a distribution that reflects

the distribution observed in the Main Belt (Masiero et al. 2011). Since neither the Bus nor the Bus–DeMeo taxonomic systems use albedo for classification, it is perhaps unsurprising that when their X-complex objects are broken down into the X, Xc, Xe, and Xk subclasses (Figure 18 and 19), p_V and p_{IR}/p_V appear to be similar for all of them. However, both Bus and Bus–DeMeo recognize the Xe class as being indicative of the high albedo E types in the Tholen taxonomy. In Table 2, we assign Tholen-style E, M, and P classifications to X-complex objects that do not already have E, M, or P classification based on their NEOWISE preliminary albedos.

Others. The V-type asteroid class was first proposed by Tholen (1984); since then, a number of Vestoids have been identified both dynamically and spectroscopically as being related to the parent body (4) Vesta. As expected, V-type asteroids have higher albedos, on average, than the S-complex asteroids. The few asteroids classified as O types by Bus & Binzel (2002) fall within the broad range of the S-complex.

As noted above, we have assumed that $p_{W1} = p_{W2}$; future work will attempt to determine whether or not the albedo at 3.4 and 4.6 μm really is the same. To test the degree to which

Table 2
Asteroids Classified as X Types under Either the Tholen, Bus, or Bus–DeMeo Taxonomic Schemes Can Be Assigned Tholen-style M, E, and P Classes Based on Their Visible Albedos

Name	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5	p_V	New Tholen EMP Category
22	X				X	0.168 ± 0.038	M
46	Xc					0.052 ± 0.011	P
56	Xk	X	X		Xk	0.050 ± 0.010	P
64	Xe				Xe	0.676 ± 0.223	E
71	Xe					0.247 ± 0.051	M
75	Xk					0.099 ± 0.019	P
76	X				C	0.049 ± 0.010	P
77	Xe				Xe	0.153 ± 0.027	M
83	X					0.086 ± 0.021	P
87	X	X	X		X	0.036 ± 0.008	P
97					Xc	0.206 ± 0.046	M
99	Xk				Xk	0.058 ± 0.010	P
107	X	X	X			0.055 ± 0.013	P
110	X				Xk	0.170 ± 0.042	M
114	Xk				K	0.088 ± 0.010	P
117	X	X	X			0.039 ± 0.007	P
125	X					0.115 ± 0.022	M
129	X					0.157 ± 0.026	M
131	Xc			CX	K	0.164 ± 0.033	M
132	Xe				Xe	0.119 ± 0.022	M
135	Xk					0.153 ± 0.028	M
136	Xe					0.164 ± 0.033	M
139	X					0.045 ± 0.023	P
143	Xc					0.053 ± 0.011	P
153	X				X	0.047 ± 0.010	P
164	X	X	X			0.043 ± 0.007	P
166	Xe	Xk	X			0.066 ± 0.014	P
181	Xk	X	X		Xk	0.079 ± 0.015	P
184	X	X	X			0.106 ± 0.020	M
190	X					0.038 ± 0.008	P
191	Cb	X	X		Cb	0.043 ± 0.007	P
199	X	X	X		D	0.116 ± 0.026	M
201	X				Xk	0.098 ± 0.021	P
209	Xc					0.058 ± 0.010	P
214	Xc	B	B		Cg	0.204 ± 0.041	M
216	Xe				Xe	0.111 ± 0.034	M
217		X	X			0.043 ± 0.009	P
220		Xk	X			0.057 ± 0.011	P
223		Xc	X			0.034 ± 0.006	P
224		T	X			0.161 ± 0.031	M
227		X	X			0.060 ± 0.017	P
231				X		0.066 ± 0.014	P
233	K	T	T		Xk	0.092 ± 0.016	P
242	Xc					0.160 ± 0.027	M
247	Xc					0.060 ± 0.011	P
248				X		0.048 ± 0.019	P
250	Xk				Xk	0.113 ± 0.022	M
255		X	X			0.033 ± 0.008	P
256				X		0.060 ± 0.011	P
259	X	X	X			0.042 ± 0.009	P
260		X	X			0.063 ± 0.011	P
261	X					0.101 ± 0.015	M
268		X	X			0.046 ± 0.010	P
272	X					0.127 ± 0.018	M
273		Xk	K			0.118 ± 0.021	M
279	X				D	0.039 ± 0.006	P
304	Xc					0.043 ± 0.007	P
307		X	X			0.040 ± 0.011	P
309		X	X			0.058 ± 0.016	P
317	Xe					0.505 ± 0.056	E
319				X		0.078 ± 0.014	P
322	X				D	0.074 ± 0.008	P
336	Xk					0.046 ± 0.005	P
338	Xk					0.163 ± 0.032	M
372	B	X	C			0.065 ± 0.016	P

Table 2
(Continued)

Name	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5	p_V	New Tholen EMP Category
373		Ch	X			0.047 ± 0.011	P
381	Cb	X	C			0.053 ± 0.007	P
388	C	X	X			0.044 ± 0.010	P
396	Xe					0.139 ± 0.026	M
409	Xc					0.050 ± 0.009	P
413	X					0.107 ± 0.016	M
415		Xk	X			0.086 ± 0.016	P
417	Xk	X	X			0.083 ± 0.014	P
418		X	X			0.106 ± 0.018	M
424		Xc	X			0.040 ± 0.011	P
426		X	X			0.056 ± 0.009	P
429		Xk	X			0.043 ± 0.014	P
436		Xk	X			0.046 ± 0.008	P
437		Xc	X			0.466 ± 0.086	E
441	Xk					0.139 ± 0.024	M
447		X	X			0.057 ± 0.012	P
455		Xk	X			0.045 ± 0.008	P
457		Xk	X			0.174 ± 0.046	M
461		X	X			0.048 ± 0.008	P
468		Xk	X			0.050 ± 0.010	P
469		Xk	X			0.043 ± 0.012	P
474				X		0.069 ± 0.012	P
491	C	X	X			0.051 ± 0.010	P
493		X	X			0.060 ± 0.008	P
504	X	X	X			0.251 ± 0.040	M
506		X	X			0.040 ± 0.007	P
507	X					0.133 ± 0.026	M
508		X	X			0.063 ± 0.012	P
511	C	X	X			0.071 ± 0.011	P
516	X					0.158 ± 0.030	M
522		X	X			0.057 ± 0.013	P
536		X	X			0.038 ± 0.006	P
543	Xe					0.152 ± 0.020	M
547	Xk	T	T			0.107 ± 0.030	M
558		Xk	X			0.120 ± 0.018	M
564	Xc					0.054 ± 0.009	P
567		X	X			0.053 ± 0.006	P
581	Xk	X	X			0.060 ± 0.010	P
589		X	X			0.040 ± 0.008	P
604	Xc					0.082 ± 0.015	P
607		Ch	X			0.040 ± 0.007	P
626	Xc	Cb	C			0.054 ± 0.008	P
627	X					0.094 ± 0.016	P
628		Xc	X			0.130 ± 0.024	M
629	X					0.089 ± 0.017	P
663		X	X			0.047 ± 0.012	P
671	Xk					0.046 ± 0.015	P
678	X					0.327 ± 0.083	E
680		X	X			0.046 ± 0.007	P
687	X					0.072 ± 0.014	P
696		X	X			0.056 ± 0.011	P
702	B	X	C			0.054 ± 0.009	P
705	C	X	X			0.046 ± 0.010	P
712	X					0.059 ± 0.014	P
713	C	Ch	X			0.043 ± 0.008	P
718	X					0.041 ± 0.007	P
731	Xe					0.257 ± 0.051	M
734		X	X			0.046 ± 0.006	P
739	X	X	X		Xc	0.051 ± 0.012	P
752		Ch	Caa	X		0.045 ± 0.006	P
757	Xk					0.110 ± 0.015	M
759	X					0.033 ± 0.005	P
768		X	X			0.141 ± 0.029	M
771	X					0.129 ± 0.014	M
779	X	X	X			0.174 ± 0.056	M
781	Xc					0.042 ± 0.008	P

Table 2
(Continued)

Name	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5	p_V	New Tholen EMP Category
789	X				Xk	0.139 ± 0.027	M
792	X					0.032 ± 0.008	P
796	X	X	X			0.205 ± 0.041	M
814	C	X	X			0.048 ± 0.006	P
816		Xc	X			0.044 ± 0.008	P
834		X	X			0.061 ± 0.010	P
844	X					0.126 ± 0.022	M
850		X	X			0.071 ± 0.012	P
859		X	C			0.060 ± 0.011	P
860	X					0.076 ± 0.015	P
866	X					0.041 ± 0.008	P
872	X					0.111 ± 0.020	M
882		X	X			0.064 ± 0.009	P
892		X	X			0.043 ± 0.007	P
894		X	X			0.115 ± 0.022	M
899		X	X			0.145 ± 0.026	M
907	Xk					0.027 ± 0.007	P
917		X	X			0.050 ± 0.009	P
928		X	X			0.038 ± 0.007	P
941	X					0.131 ± 0.026	M
943		Ch	X			0.047 ± 0.007	P
949		Xk	X			0.051 ± 0.011	P
952		X	X			0.047 ± 0.004	P
965	Xc					0.036 ± 0.006	P
972		X	X			0.037 ± 0.005	P
973	Xk	X	X			0.066 ± 0.013	P
977		X	X			0.054 ± 0.009	P
983		Xk	X			0.028 ± 0.006	P
1005		Xk	X			0.050 ± 0.010	P
1013		Xk	X			0.139 ± 0.026	M
1014	Xe					0.083 ± 0.017	P
1015	Xc					0.046 ± 0.008	P
1024	Ch	X	Caa			0.039 ± 0.012	P
1030		X	X			0.028 ± 0.004	P
1032	X					0.031 ± 0.007	P
1039	X					0.056 ± 0.007	P
1042		X	Caa			0.049 ± 0.010	P
1046	Xe					0.110 ± 0.024	M
1051		Xc	X			0.048 ± 0.006	P
1098	Xe					0.174 ± 0.037	M
1103	Xk					0.300 ± 0.059	E
1104	Xk					0.048 ± 0.008	P
1107	Xc					0.054 ± 0.010	P
1109		X	D			0.039 ± 0.010	P
1127		X	X			0.032 ± 0.008	P
1135	Xk					0.059 ± 0.011	P
1146		X	X			0.144 ± 0.022	M
1149		X	X			0.033 ± 0.009	P
1154		X	X			0.034 ± 0.008	P
1155	Xe					0.225 ± 0.053	M
1171		X	X			0.039 ± 0.007	P
1180		Xe	X			0.044 ± 0.008	P
1181	X					0.091 ± 0.019	P
1187	X					0.048 ± 0.009	P
1201	Xc					0.033 ± 0.005	P
1212	X					0.040 ± 0.007	P
1214	Xk					0.055 ± 0.011	P
1222	X					0.164 ± 0.042	M
1226		Xk	D			0.172 ± 0.029	M
1244		X	X			0.059 ± 0.010	P
1251	X					0.638 ± 0.125	E
1261		X	X			0.056 ± 0.010	P
1281		X	X			0.060 ± 0.008	P
1282		Xe	X			0.043 ± 0.008	P
1283		X	X			0.155 ± 0.027	M
1304	X					0.196 ± 0.040	M

Table 2
(Continued)

Name	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5	p_V	New Tholen EMP Category
1317		Xk	X			0.181 ± 0.036	M
1318		Xe	X			0.173 ± 0.034	M
1319		X	X			0.096 ± 0.019	P
1323	Xc					0.024 ± 0.006	P
1327	X					0.050 ± 0.008	P
1337		Xk	X			0.030 ± 0.009	P
1351	Xk	Xc	X			0.067 ± 0.013	P
1352	X					0.145 ± 0.019	M
1355		Xe	X			0.467 ± 0.114	E
1356		X	X			0.054 ± 0.011	P
1373	Xk					0.152 ± 0.024	M
1420	X					0.096 ± 0.018	P
1424	X					0.062 ± 0.011	P
1428	Xc					0.025 ± 0.008	P
1436		X	X			0.033 ± 0.005	P
1463				X		0.071 ± 0.015	P
1469		X	X			0.074 ± 0.014	P
1490	Xc					0.104 ± 0.024	M
1493	Xc					0.069 ± 0.010	P
1517	X					0.039 ± 0.006	P
1541	Xc					0.097 ± 0.019	P
1546		X	X			0.115 ± 0.016	M
1548	Xk					0.045 ± 0.008	P
1571		Xc	X			0.128 ± 0.020	M
1585		X	X			0.029 ± 0.006	P
1592	X					0.220 ± 0.039	M
1605		X	X			0.187 ± 0.034	M
1628				X		0.049 ± 0.007	P
1638	X					0.117 ± 0.018	M
1653	X			C		0.668 ± 0.117	E
1693		X	X			0.047 ± 0.008	P
1712				X		0.050 ± 0.010	P
1730	Xe					0.189 ± 0.035	M
1765		X	X			0.136 ± 0.025	M
1796	Cb	X	X			0.044 ± 0.008	P
1819		X	X			0.058 ± 0.009	P
1841		X	X			0.057 ± 0.010	P
1847	Xc					0.231 ± 0.040	M
1860	X					0.100 ± 0.015	P
1919		Xe	X			0.701 ± 0.034	E
1936	Ch	X	X			0.057 ± 0.004	P
1992		Xk	X			0.145 ± 0.031	M
1995				X		0.063 ± 0.051	P
1998	Xc					0.107 ± 0.021	M
2001	Xe	Xe	X			0.841 ± 0.145	E
2065	Xc					0.084 ± 0.013	P
2073	X					0.154 ± 0.030	M
2103		X	X			0.139 ± 0.021	M
2104		X	X			0.104 ± 0.019	M
2140				X		0.053 ± 0.007	P
2194	Xc					0.183 ± 0.031	M
2204		X	X	X		0.050 ± 0.006	P
2303		X	X			0.295 ± 0.058	M
2306	X					0.132 ± 0.014	M
2349	Xc	Xk	X			0.166 ± 0.031	M
2390	X					0.042 ± 0.007	P
2407		X	X			0.150 ± 0.029	M
2444	C			X		0.053 ± 0.007	P
2489		X	Caa			0.059 ± 0.009	P
2491		Xe	X			0.544 ± 0.102	E
2507	Xe					0.133 ± 0.022	M
2559	Xk					0.049 ± 0.006	P
2560	Xc					0.102 ± 0.014	M
2567	Xc					0.156 ± 0.024	M
2606	Xk					0.176 ± 0.031	M
2634		X	X			0.108 ± 0.021	M

Table 2
(Continued)

Name	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5	p_V	New Tholen EMP Category
2681	Xk					0.228 ± 0.090	M
2736	Xc					0.848 ± 0.236	E
2861	Xc					0.069 ± 0.011	P
2879	X					0.067 ± 0.013	P
2996	Xc					0.069 ± 0.012	P
3007	X					0.147 ± 0.024	M
3109				X		0.064 ± 0.017	P
3169	Xe	Cb	C			0.413 ± 0.095	E
3256	X					0.047 ± 0.007	P
3262	X					0.138 ± 0.025	M
3328		Xc	K			0.148 ± 0.030	M
3330		X	X			0.048 ± 0.008	P
3367	X					0.303 ± 0.059	E
3381				X		0.517 ± 0.124	E
3406	X					0.158 ± 0.025	M
3440	X					0.174 ± 0.030	M
3445		X	X			0.055 ± 0.007	P
3451	X					0.049 ± 0.012	P
3483		Xk	X			0.862 ± 0.088	E
3567	Xc					0.087 ± 0.017	P
3575	X					0.201 ± 0.039	M
3615		X	C			0.086 ± 0.016	P
3670	X					0.064 ± 0.013	P
3686	X					0.064 ± 0.011	P
3691	Xc					0.672 ± 0.158	E
3704	Xk					0.181 ± 0.035	M
3740				X		0.071 ± 0.012	P
3762	X					0.513 ± 0.113	E
3789		Xk	T			0.099 ± 0.016	P
3832		X	C			0.069 ± 0.016	P
3865	Xc					0.238 ± 0.041	M
3880		Xe	X			0.574 ± 0.130	E
3915		Xc	C	C		0.049 ± 0.005	P
3939		X	X			0.042 ± 0.009	P
3940		T	X			0.641 ± 0.108	E
3958	Xc					0.574 ± 0.085	E
3976	X					0.038 ± 0.010	P
3985	X					0.152 ± 0.027	M
4006				X		0.070 ± 0.002	P
4031				X		0.398 ± 0.092	E
4165				XS		0.123 ± 0.025	M
4201		X	X			0.061 ± 0.013	P
4256	Xc					0.210 ± 0.024	M
4342	Xc					0.068 ± 0.010	P
4353	Xe			X		0.138 ± 0.024	M
4369	Xk					0.120 ± 0.024	M
4424	Xk					0.073 ± 0.014	P
4440				X		0.567 ± 0.033	E
4460		X	X			0.041 ± 0.008	P
4461	X					0.135 ± 0.025	M
4483		X	X			0.215 ± 0.038	M
4547	X					0.039 ± 0.007	P
4548	Xc					0.206 ± 0.042	M
4613		Xe	S			0.284 ± 0.036	M
4701	Xe					0.053 ± 0.005	P
4750	X					0.087 ± 0.010	P
4764		X	X			0.896 ± 0.118	E
4786	Xc					0.534 ± 0.104	E
4838	Xc					0.105 ± 0.020	M
4839	Xc					0.204 ± 0.039	M
4845	X					0.181 ± 0.018	M
4942	X					0.631 ± 0.135	E
4956				XT		0.167 ± 0.034	M
5087	X					0.064 ± 0.007	P
5294	X					0.175 ± 0.042	M
5301		X	C			0.070 ± 0.012	P

Table 2
(Continued)

Name	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5	p_V	New Tholen EMP Category
5343		X	X			0.276 ± 0.042	M
5467	X					0.115 ± 0.023	M
5588	X					0.163 ± 0.031	M
5632	Xc					0.192 ± 0.036	M
6051		X	X			0.324 ± 0.044	E
6057		X	X			0.043 ± 0.011	P
6249	Xe					0.786 ± 0.147	E
6394		Xe	X			0.637 ± 0.131	E
8795		X	C			0.136 ± 0.018	M
10261		Xk	X			0.079 ± 0.004	P
11785	Xc					0.101 ± 0.021	M
12281	X					0.040 ± 0.006	P

Notes. We assign the P type to objects with $p_V < 0.1$, E to asteroids with $p_V > 0.3$, and the rest to M type. The various X types are listed from the following sources: (1) Bus & Binzel 2002, denoted as Type 1; (2) Lazzaro et al. 2004, denoted as Type 2; (3) Lazzaro et al. 2004, denoted as Type 3; (4) Xu et al. 1995, denoted as Type 4; and (5) DeMeo et al. 2009, denoted as Type 5.

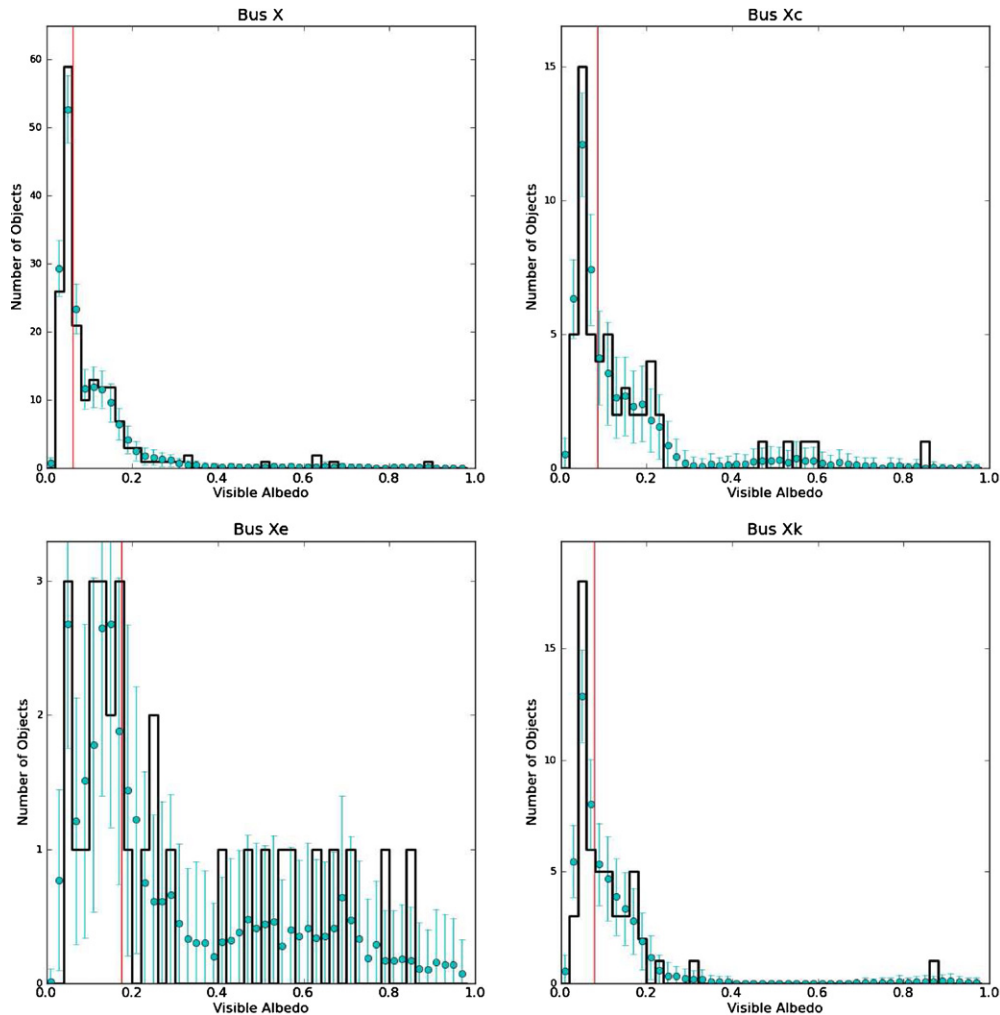


Figure 18. X-complex asteroids classified using the Bus system are separated into X, Xc, Xe, and Xk classes; unlike the Tholen X classification, the Bus and Bus–DeMeo schemes do not use albedo. This ambiguity with respect to albedo is reflected in the similarity in the average albedos for the X, Xc, Xe, and Xk classes, although Xe is somewhat higher (see Table 1).

(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

this assumption affects the resulting diameters, p_V , and p_{IR}/p_V values, we recomputed the thermal fits without using band W2. This analysis resulted in no significant changes to either diameter, p_V , or p_{IR}/p_V ; almost all fits agreed to within $\pm 10\%$

of their original values. This result is perhaps not surprising. The diameter is most strongly influenced by the thermal emission-dominated bands W3 and W4 for MBAs, which make up the vast majority of our sample. Visible albedo and p_{IR}/p_V are

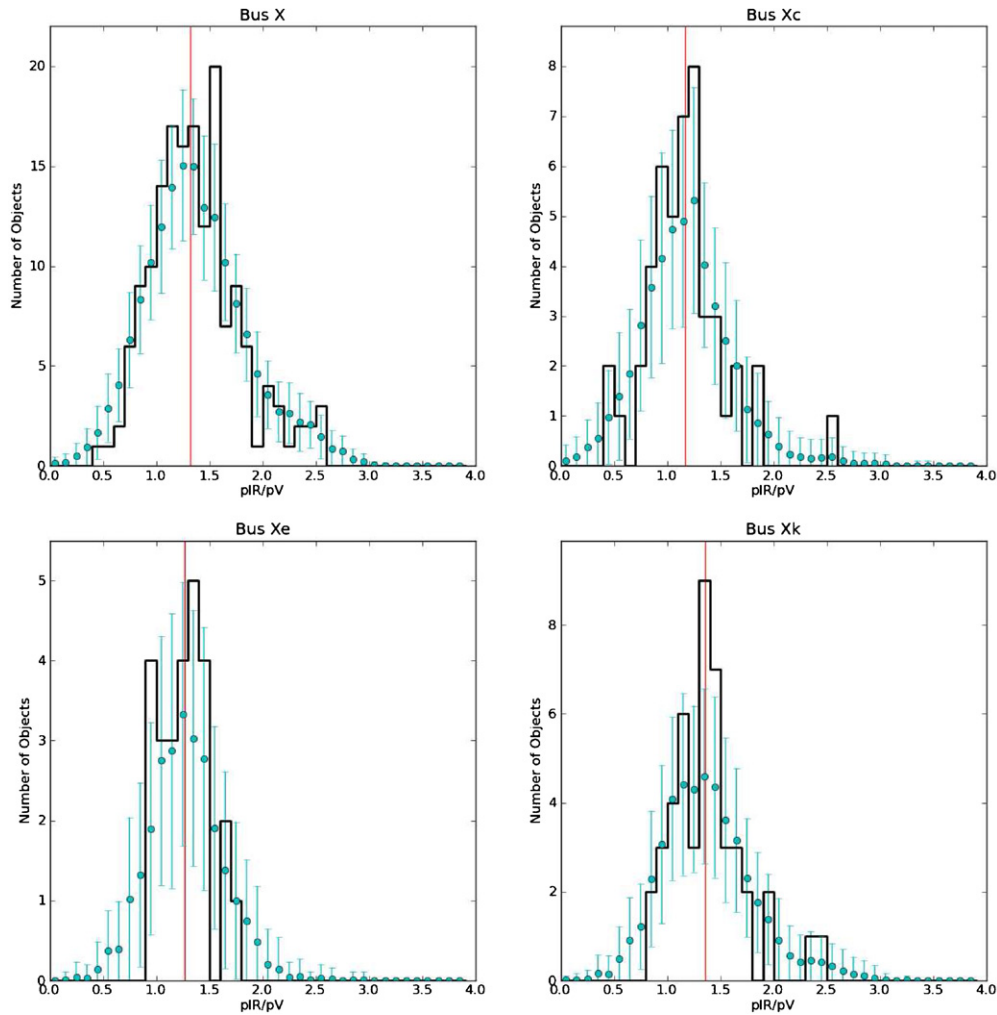


Figure 19. X, Xc, Xe, and Xk Bus classes within the X-complex have similar values of p_{IR}/p_V .
(A color version of this figure is available in the online journal.)

more heavily influenced by band $W1$ than $W2$, since this band consists almost entirely of reflected sunlight, while band $W2$ most always has less reflected light than thermal emission.

There are a number of different possible causes of the variations we observe in p_{IR}/p_V for different objects. Even a cursory examination of mineralogical and meteorite databases yields a wealth of different materials with features in wavelengths covered by bands $W1$ and $W2$. Gaffey et al. (2002) and references therein summarize some of the possible causes of features in these wavelength regimes: a $3\ \mu\text{m}$ feature indicating the presence of hydration caused by the fundamental O–H stretch bands of H_2O ; anhydrous assemblages of mafic silicates containing structural OH; possible fluid inclusions; or the presence of troilite. Rivkin et al. (2000) carried out spectrophotometric observations of asteroids in the $1.2\text{--}3.5\ \mu\text{m}$ region and found evidence of absorption at $3\ \mu\text{m}$; they conclude that these are produced by hydrated minerals. Of the 27 M-type asteroids studied in Rivkin et al. (2000), 10 showed evidence of an absorption feature at $3\ \mu\text{m}$. With NEOWISE, we observed seven of these: (22) Kalliope, (77) Frigga, (110) Lydia, (129) Antigone, (135) Hertha, (136) Austria, and (201) Penelope. As Rivkin et al. (2000) report that the depth of the absorption band at $3\ \mu\text{m}$ is only $\sim 10\%\text{--}20\%$ of the continuum flux over a fairly narrow range of wavelengths, we conclude that it would be unlikely to show a detectable change to p_{IR}/p_V given that the $W1$ band-

pass extends from 2.8 to $3.8\ \mu\text{m}$ (Wright et al. 2010). These seven objects have a median $p_V = 0.157 \pm 0.010$ and their median $p_{\text{IR}}/p_V = 1.572 \pm 0.050$. This latter matches the p_{IR}/p_V found for the 33 M-type asteroids shown in Figure 17, which have a median p_{IR}/p_V of 1.623 ± 0.051 and standard deviation of 0.291. Merényi et al. (1997) show a number of additional asteroids with evidence of absorption at $3\ \mu\text{m}$, including the C-type asteroid (1467) Mashona, which is given as having a band depth of 88%. We find that this asteroid has $p_{\text{IR}}/p_V \sim 0.9$; however, this value is entirely in line with the rest of the C-type asteroids. It is possible, even likely, that the spread in p_{IR}/p_V that we observe could represent nothing more than the natural variation in spectral slope within the various spectral classes.

As discussed above and demonstrated by Figures 1 and 2, caution must be exercised when attempting to generalize the fractional population results presented herein to all NEOs or MBAs. The objects selected for taxonomic classification were chosen on the basis of their discovery by visible light surveys, so the selection is inherently biased in favor of high albedo objects. Although Stuart & Binzel (2004) compute the relative fractions of asteroids of various taxonomic types observed throughout the solar system, we do not attempt such an undertaking here. C. Thomas et al. (in preparation) compare the albedo distributions of NEOs found using 3.6 and $4.5\ \mu\text{m}$ imaging from the *Spitzer Space Telescope* to the albedo distributions of MBAs;

while they find that the NEO albedos are higher than Main Belt albedos for various spectral types, this result is perhaps not surprising given that the Warm *Spitzer* sample was drawn from optically selected NEOs. We have observed relatively few NEOs with taxonomic classifications with *WISE* and will have to wait until more taxonomic classifications are in hand before making comparisons between NEOs and MBAs. The point of such an exercise would be to determine the relative numbers, compositions, sizes, and distribution of asteroids of various populations throughout the solar system. We have computed the debiased size and albedo distributions of the NEOs in Mainzer et al. (2011d) and we are computing similar distributions for the MBAs, Trojans, and comets. By working with the entire NEOWISE data set, these works can provide a more direct accounting for the distribution of asteroid albedos and sizes for different populations.

5. CONCLUSIONS

With the advent of a large, thermal infrared survey of asteroids throughout the solar system, the NEOWISE data set offers the opportunity to study the relationship between albedo and various spectral features with unprecedented clarity. We have computed the preliminary observed range of possible albedos for the various classes using ~ 1800 NEOs and MBAs we observed with NEOWISE. This may allow important physical parameters to be used in the refinement of existing taxonomic classification schemes or perhaps to allow objects of different types to be more readily distinguished from one another. Although reasonably good separation between the two main S and C taxonomic complexes can be observed for diameters > 30 km, where the visible light surveys that found them are largely complete, all taxonomic types and subtypes show an uptick in average albedos at smaller sizes. We attribute this uptick to strong selection biases against finding and classifying small, dark objects with VNIR spectroscopy. For objects > 30 km, it is clear that a median albedo can be used based on taxonomic classification. One could assume that the median albedos for smaller sizes are similar, but the strong selection biases against small, low albedo objects in this study preclude us from deriving or verifying that these median albedos extend to smaller sizes. Due to the same selection biases, we are thus unable to comment on the relationship between size, albedo, and space weathering, although comparison between S and Sw Bus–DeMeo types shows no evidence that the Sw types are darker at any observed size scales. The two Q-type objects we observed have nearly identical albedos to the S types, but a larger number of classified Q types from our data set is needed to confirm this result. We do not observe any major distinctions in albedo among the S subtypes and C subtypes in the Bus and Bus–DeMeo systems. From an albedo perspective, Figures 1–3 make the Tholen system stand out as the cleanest. While the Tholen system uses albedo to separate the X types into E, M, and P classes, albedo is not used to define the remainder of the classes in the Tholen system.

There is a strong selection bias in the taxonomic classification schemes and average albedos presented here (clearly in Figures 1–3) and by other observers. First, since all the objects selected for taxonomic classification have been drawn from visible light surveys, the relative fractional abundance of objects with particular taxonomic types is biased toward higher fractions of high albedo objects. Second, within a particular taxonomic class, lower albedo objects are less likely to have been observed because they tend to be fainter in visible light: this will skew

the average albedo for a particular taxonomic type higher. Because of these biases, when the average albedo is used to convert from absolute H magnitude to size, artificially smaller sizes for asteroids will be found. This speaks to the need to assemble a sample of objects with taxonomic classifications that are drawn from the NEOWISE thermal infrared survey to mitigate biases against low albedo objects.

With the four infrared wavelengths given by the *WISE* data set, we are able to derive the ratio of the albedo at 3.4 and 4.6 μm to the visible albedo. We have shown that taxonomic types with steeply red spectral slopes in VNIR wavelengths tend to have higher p_{IR}/p_V values. We hypothesize that this is caused by the fact that the spectral slopes continue to rise from visible through the near-infrared to the W1 and W2 wavelengths for these objects. For example, we have shown that spectral types T and D can be distinguished from the C types by examining their p_{IR}/p_V , even though they have virtually identical p_V . Subclasses within the S- and C-complexes generally have similar visible albedos and largely similar p_{IR}/p_V ratios. However, p_{IR}/p_V can only be computed when a sufficiently high fraction of reflected sunlight is present in either bands W1 or W2. The bias against low albedo objects is present in the determination of p_{IR} , in that dark objects are less likely to have enough reflected sunlight in bands W1 or W2 to allow p_{IR} to be computed. As before, we caution against generalizing the average p_{IR}/p_V values we have given here to entire populations or classes of objects in light of the presence of these biases.

This work shows that the NEOWISE data set offers a new means of exploring the connections between taxonomic classifications derived from VNIR spectroscopy and spectrophotometry. Future work will explore the relationship between visible albedo and the 3–4 μm albedo to VNIR spectroscopic properties in greater detail. The value of the NEOWISE data set will only be enhanced by the acquisition of additional VNIR ancillary data. More data would be beneficial for two reasons. First, we require a measurement of H in order to determine p_V and p_{IR}/p_V , so more accurate H and G values will result in more accurate albedos. Second, by obtaining taxonomic classification of low albedo objects drawn from the NEOWISE sample, we can reduce the bias within each taxonomic class against lower albedo objects. With the NEOWISE data set, we now have access to a means of directly computing debiased size and albedo distributions that are not as subject to the biases against low albedo objects as objects selected for classification and study by visible light surveys.

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