

Discussion of Blog Post: The Continuing Vitality of Epicurean Physics

Post by “Martin” of April 28, 2026 at 1:12 PM

Quote

We still cannot say with certainty, even with our modern instruments that have measured it with extraordinary precision, because the question of the sun’s “true” size is entangled with questions about the physical definition of the sun’s boundary that even twenty-first-century solar physics has not fully resolved. Epicurus did not know the number. Neither, in some sense, do we.

This is nonsense.

Every measurement of a continuous variable has an uncertainty but that does not make the measurement untrue.

Our senses indicate that the Sun has a well-defined size. At times when it is reasonably safe to observe the Sun, we can easily see it as a sphere (apparent circle when using no other information) that is sharp within the resolution which our eyes provide. That means there is a way to define what the size of the Sun means and how to measure it.

The radius of the Sun has been measured to be 696,342 km with an uncertainty of 65 km, at the time of the measurements.

Other than that, I found no obvious error in the text.

The text seems to be based more on Stenger than anyone else.