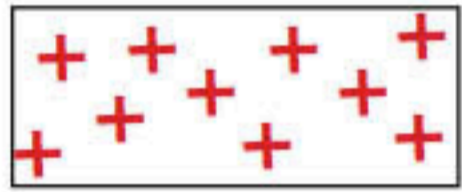


Comet Hale-Bopp

Comets are called “dirty snowballs” because they are made of ice, rock and dust. When a comet comes near the Sun, it heats and forms a gas tail and a dust tail. The Sun’s energy flows toward the comet, forcing the tails to point away from the Sun. Once the comet moves away from the Sun, the tails shrink until the comet returns to an icy ball in space.

KEY



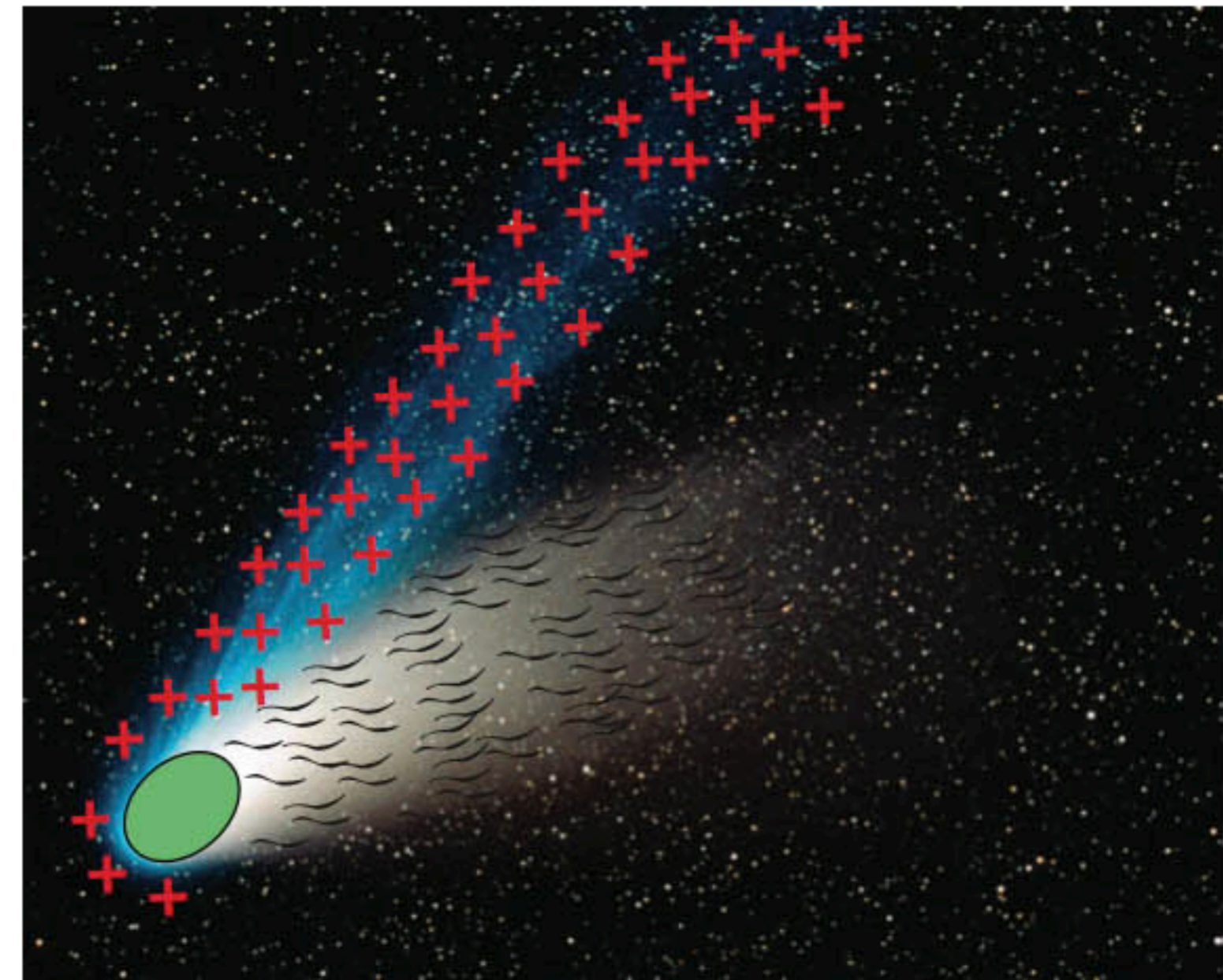
gas tail of comet



dust tail of comet



comet head



To Sun

