Announcements

- Midterm 2 results
 - Median score 34 (76% / 68% without bonus)
 - Mean 32.55 (72 / 65%)
 - Maximum 46, minimum 11
- All extra credits entered to D2L \rightarrow check
- Today: Highlights of the solar system
- Monday: Extrasolar planets, midterm discussion
- Wednesday: Start with galaxies



The distance between earth and moon is large enough to fit all planets in the solar system between them.

Mars

Radius ~ 3400 km – $\frac{1}{2}$ radius of earth

Mass ~ 10% of Earth

Density ~ 3900 kg/m3 – smaller than Earth – density of rock.

Thin atmosphere

Extinct volcanoes



Mars

- Called the red planet because of its red color – due to rust, iron oxide
- Has nearly a 24 hour day very similar to earth
- Atmosphere is made mainly of carbon dioxide, but it is very thin – 1/150 that of earth. Remember Venus is 90x that of earth
- Has seasons tilt of Mars is close to that of earth.

Mars: Panorama view of Mars Science Lab/Curiosity Rover Landing site



Source: http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/multimedia/videoarchive

Mars: Atmosphere

- Atmosphere is mainly CO₂ (carbon dioxide) with some nitrogen and argon.
- It is so cold that the atmosphere freezes onto the poles as frozen CO₂ depending on the season



Seasons on Mars



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Mars: Southern Pole Cap in 2000

Source: NASA/JPL/MSSS - http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/catalog/PIA02393 http://www.msss.com/mars_images/moc/4_27_00_spcap EARTH COMPARISON

0.016

Ar

MARS

24 h 40 m

23.989

Mars, courtesy P. James and NASA

© U.Washington,Live from Earth and Mars (K.Dewar, J. Tillman)

Water on Mars – maybe in the past

The atmosphere of Mars might have been thicker in the past, so thick as to support liquid water on the surface. There is evidence of liquid water on the past Martian surface.

Evidence for water on Mars

September 2012: Curiosity rover finds ancient streambed, pebbles moved and smoothed by water, present for thousands to millions of years

Opportunity found hematite rich "blueberries" that are very different from the rock underneath. The growing consensus is that these small, strange, gray orbs were slowly deposited from a bath of dirty water.

Olympus Mons

Volcanism on Mars – Olympus Mons

Has huge volcanoes – now extinct. Olympus Mons is the largest volcano in the solar system, 3 x the size of Mount Everest!

These are also shield volcanoes. They are much larger than ones on Earth and Venus because of lower gravity.

Life on Mars

The idea of life on Mars is a very old one.

The fact that Mars was so similar to Earth drove a lot of the early speculation.

Life on Mars

In the 19th century astronomers believed that they saw canals on Mars – evidence of intelligent life

Life on Mars

Meteor ALH840001 is a Martian meteorite with possible indications of early Martian life.

Very controversial – shows both mineral deposits of magnetite and possible fossils of nanobacteria

Radius ~ 10 x Earth's

Mass ~ 300 x Earth's

Density ~ 1300 kg/m3 – about same as water

Compose of mainly hydrogen and helium

No surface

Strong magnetic field

Rapid rotation ~ 10 hrs

Jupiter as seen from Cassini Source: http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/factsheet/jupiterfact.html

Jupiter

- Multicolored bands in atmosphere
- Bands are caused by convective cells that are stretched by rotation
- Most prominent feature is the Great Red Spot – a hurricane that has persisted for at least 300 years

A convective cell in Jupiter's outer atmosphere

Zonal wind patterns

Jupiter's outer atmosphere

These belts are high and low pressure regions, as we also have on Earth

However, because of the Jupiter's rapid rotation and thick atmosphere, these belts stretch around the planet rather than being localized

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHwkdcppsuo

Jupiter's Great Red Spot

Structure of Jupiter

- Inner core rocky, like Earth
- Mantle is **liquid metallic hydrogen**: under very high pressures, hydrogen becomes liquid and acts like a metal – able to conduct electricity
- Outer mantle is molecular hydrogen
- Atmosphere very convective with large, persistent weather features

Magnetic field of Jupiter

The rapid rotation, strong convection and conducting metallic hydrogen in Jupiter give it a very strong magnetic field, 20,000 times stronger than that of Earth

Magnetic field of Jupiter

The interaction with the solar wind produces aurora on Jupiter like the aurora on Earth

Internal Heating

- Jupiter gives off twice as much heat as it receives from the Sun
- This heat is from its formation 4.5 billion years ago – it is still cooling!
- Transport of this heat drives convection in the metallic hydrogen mantle – produces strong magnetic field

Active Volcanos on Io

Video of eruptions on Io

Io — Tvashtar Catena

I25 (26 Nov 1999)

+ C21 low-resolution color + fire fountain sketch

I27 (22 Feb 2000)

visible wavelength data + IR data of active lava flow

Europa – True and False color

Europa is the next closest moon. It has an icy surface with large cracks and no craters! This means that craters are filled in somehow. This suggests liquid (probably water) under the icy surface.

Europe close up

Europa – Liquid water ocean under ice

Potential for underwater volcanos to sustain life underneath the Io ice crust

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iron-rich core silicate mantle ocean ice

Ganymede

Rings of Saturn Fly-through

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgxWkOXcdZU

Saturn

- Radius ~ 10 times Earth, mass ~ 100 times Earth
- Density ~ 700 kg/m3 less than water, Saturn would float!
- Composed of mainly hydrogen and helium No surface
- Strong magnetic field

Saturn eclipses the Sun, from the Cassini spacecraft

Saturn's Rings

Saturn's Rings

- Made of icy particles from 1 cm to a few meters in size
- The many divisions in the rings are due to tiny moons between the divisions known as **shepherd moons**

Real footage of Saturn & Jupiter

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8_ISgn_gTk

Moons of Saturn: Titan

- Saturn's largest moon 2nd largest in solar system (Jupiter's Ganymede is largest)
- Only other body in solar system with stable surface liquid: seas and lakes of methane
- Nitrogen-rich (98%) atmosphere, thicker and denser than Earth's
- Evidence for methane rain

False color image of Titan

Video of Descent through Titan's atmosphere

The Lakes of Titan

Kraken Mare Radar mosaic of Titan's north polar region. Blue coloring shows areas of low reflectivity caused by lakes of liquid ethane and methane.

Sun glinting of the Kraken Mare on Titan

Source: NASA (Cassini)/JPL-Caltech/University of Arizona/University of Idaho http://phys.org/news/2014-10-cassini-sunny-seas-titan.html / http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/spaceimages/details.php?id=pia18432

Saturn's Moons: Enceladus

