



Is there a planetary influence on solar activity?

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Recently Abreu et al. have put forward the hypothesis of a planetary influence on solar activity.

They developed a simple physical model for describing the time dependent torque exerted by the planets on a non-spherical tachocline and compared the corresponding power spectrum with the one obtained from a 9300 y long reconstruction of solar activity.

They found an excellent agreement between the long-term cycles in proxies of solar activity and the periodicities in the planetary torque

If correct, this hypothesis has important implications for solar physics and the solar-terrestrial relationship.