EPSC Abstracts Vol. 6, EPSC-DPS2011-1882, 2011 EPSC-DPS Joint Meeting 2011 © Author(s) 2011



Planetary obliquities of the Solar System

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Abstract

This talk will review our ideas concerning the origin and evolution of planetary obliquities, i.e. the tilt of a planet's spin axis to it's orbit pole. Processes that affect the obliquity include impacts during planet formation, tidal dissipation, atmospheric torques, spin axis precession, orbital variations and spin-orbit resonances. Each planet has a unique history involving how these various mechanisms come into play. I will attempt to outline the main elements of these histories for each planet in the solar system.