

Chapter 8

Welcome to the Solar System



8.1 The Search for Origins

- Our goals for learning
- What properties of our solar system must a formation theory explain?
- What theory best explains the features of our solar system?

What properties of our solar system must a formation theory explain?

1. Patterns of motion of the large bodies
 - Orbit in same direction and plane
2. Existence of two types of planets
 - Terrestrial and jovian
3. Existence of smaller bodies
 - Asteroids and comets
4. Notable exceptions to usual patterns
 - Rotation of Uranus, Earth's moon, etc.