



## ● Announcements

### ■ HW6 due on Thursday

- ▶ Use Kevin as the TA for this one
- ▶ Office hours are today 2-4pm

### ■ HW6 typo

- ▶ Question 4 said Neptune's orbital period was ~165 days!
- ▶ Should have read ~165 years

### ■ TA award nominations

- ▶ Optional – if you think one of the TAs should get special recognition
- ▶ Don't just check the boxes, you need to write a few words about what the TA did that you liked.
- ▶ Forms and submission box are on the table outside

# Solar System Formation



PTY5/ASTR 206 – The Golden Age of Planetary Exploration

Shane Byrne – [shane@lpl.arizona.edu](mailto:shane@lpl.arizona.edu)

**In this lecture...**

- **Review of the solar system**
  - Structure
  - Composition
  - Dynamics
- **Giant Molecular Clouds**
  - The raw material
- **Formation steps**
  - Stars and Disks
  - Planetesimals
  - Terrestrial Planets
  - Giants Planets
- **Small Bodies and Planet Migration**
- **Cleaning up the Mess**





- Overall solar system structure

- Inner rocky planets

- ▶ Mercury 0.39 AU
- ▶ Venus 0.72 AU
- ▶ Earth 1.00 AU
- ▶ Mars 1.52 AU

- Asteroid belt (2-4 AU)

- ▶ Hundreds of members
- ▶ Several groups
- ▶ Sizes from dust to ~950 km (Ceres)

- Giant planets

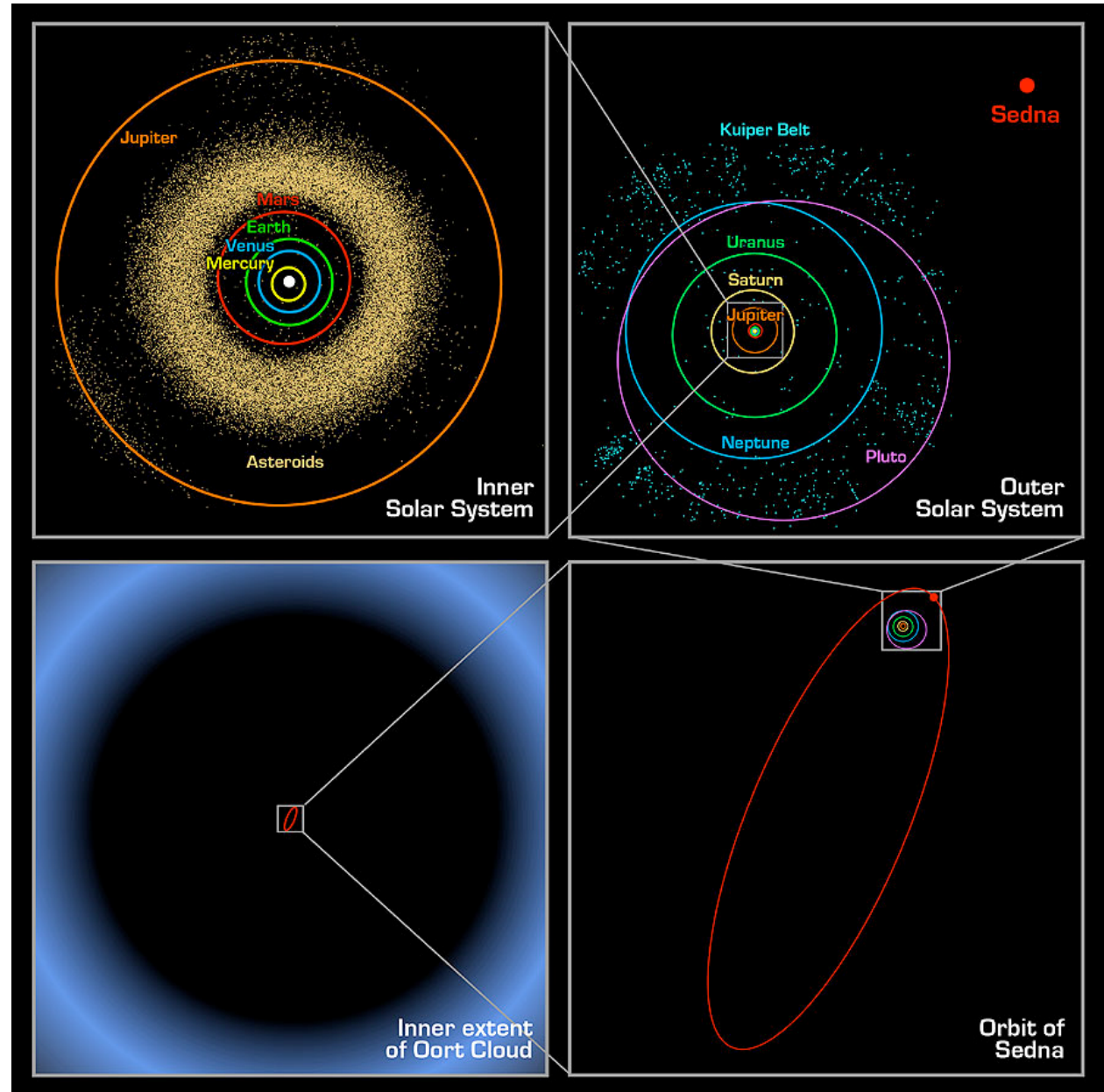
- ▶ Jupiter 5.2 AU
- ▶ Saturn 9.6 AU
- ▶ Uranus 19.2 AU
- ▶ Neptune 30.1 AU

- Kuiper Belt (30-50 AU)

- ▶ Contains Pluto
- ▶ Several groups
- ▶ Sizes from dust to >2400 km (Eris)

- Oort cloud

- ▶ Long period comet reservoir
- ▶ Affected by passing stars



- **Solar composition**

- Bulk composition of the solar system system
- Jupiter still has roughly solar abundances
- Saturn is helium deficient at its surface
- Other planets are highly enriched in heavier elements

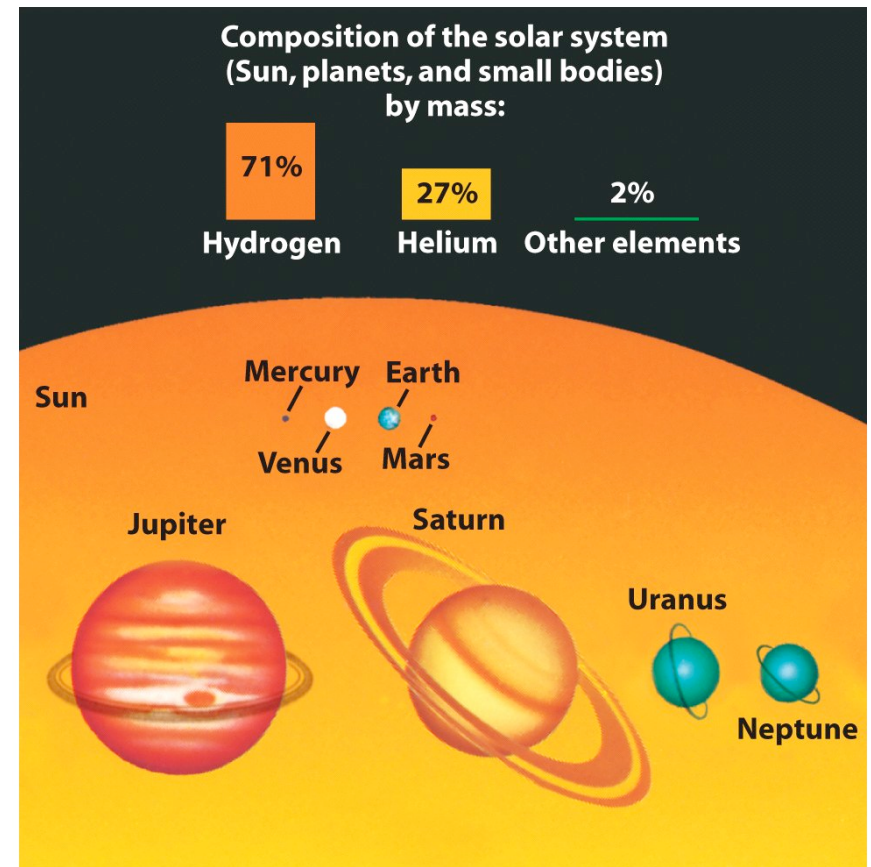
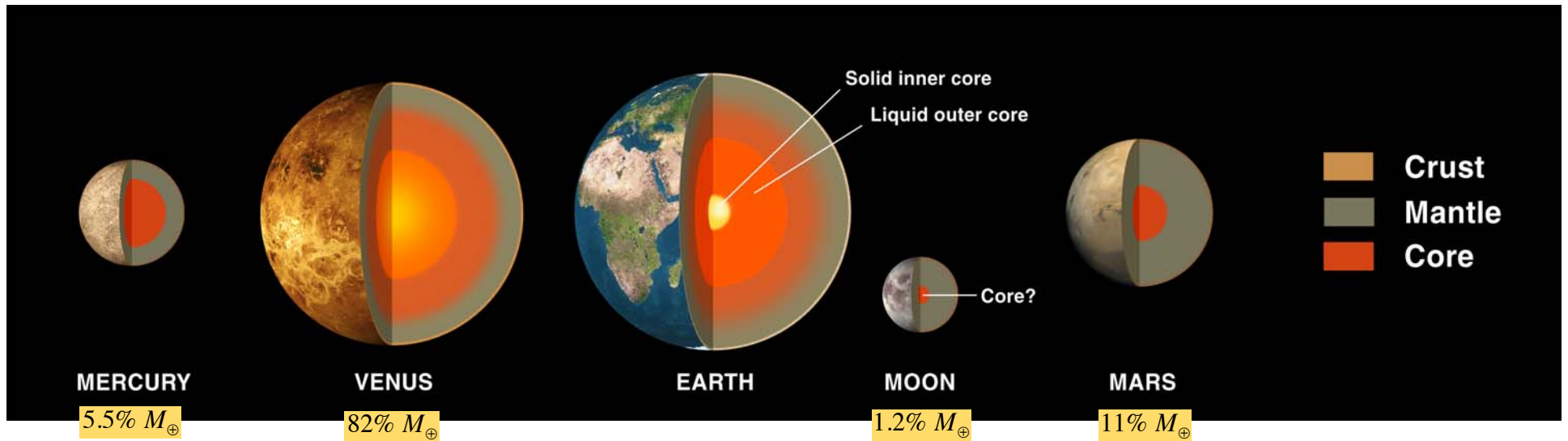
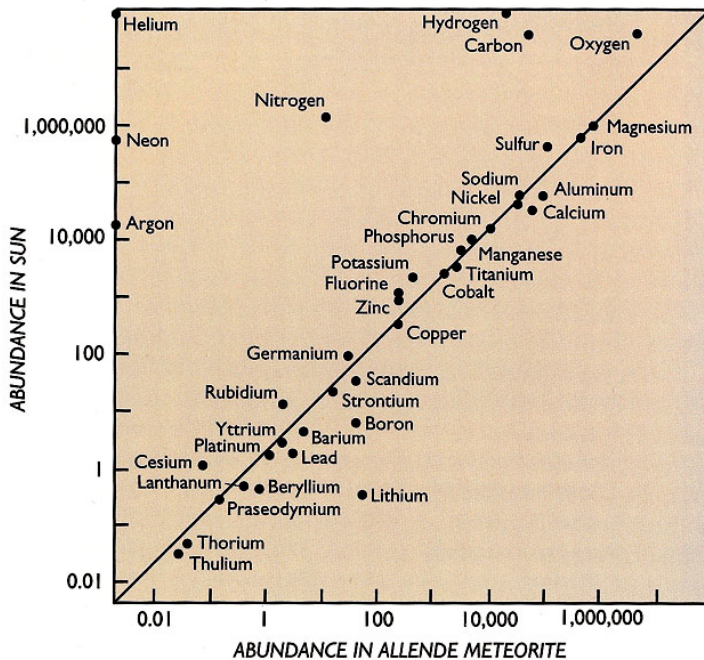


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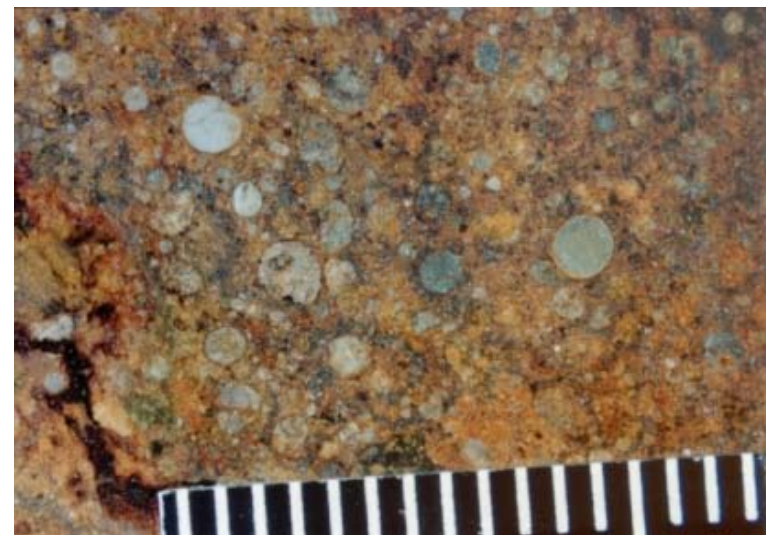
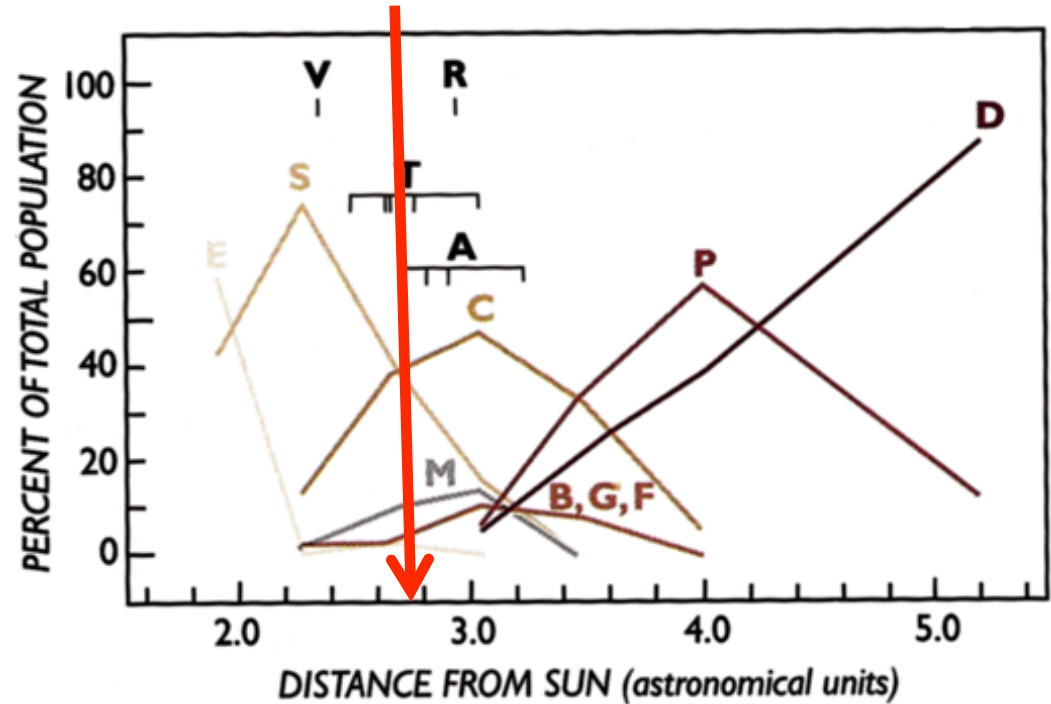
- Inner planets are composed of rock and iron
  - Heated by radioactive decay



- Asteroid belt is compositionally zoned
  - Ice-free asteroids close to the sun
  - Icier asteroids further out
- Meteorites
  - Chondrites mostly reflect solar composition
  - Provide the timing constraints



Ceres ~25% water ice



● Giant planet satellites get icier with increasing distance from the Sun

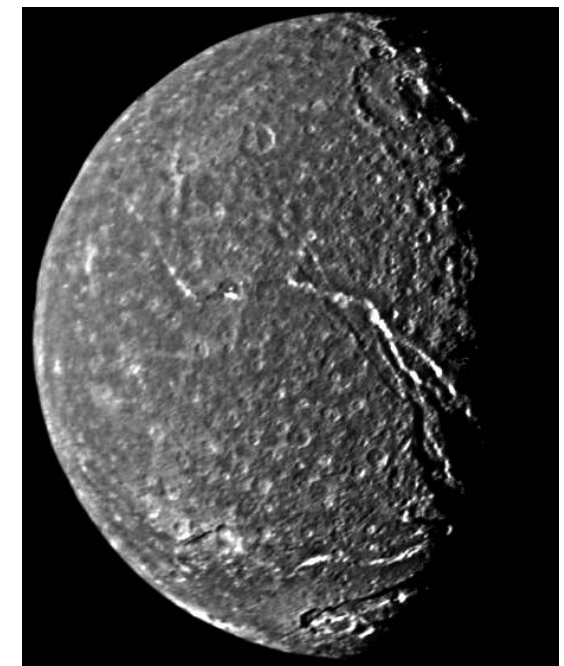
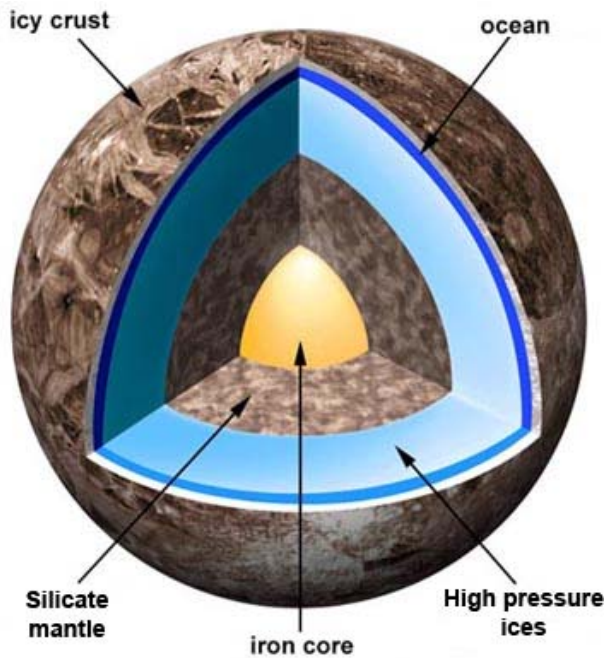
- Saturn’s satellites are very ice rich

But...

- This trend is reverses at Uranus

▶ Preference of oxygen for carbon monoxide vs. water ice

	<u>Warmer</u>	<u>Cooler</u>
	Jupiter ~ 5AU Saturn ~10 AU	Uranus ~19 AU Neptune ~30 AU
C	CH <sub>4</sub>	CO
O	H <sub>2</sub> O	CO
N	NH <sub>3</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>



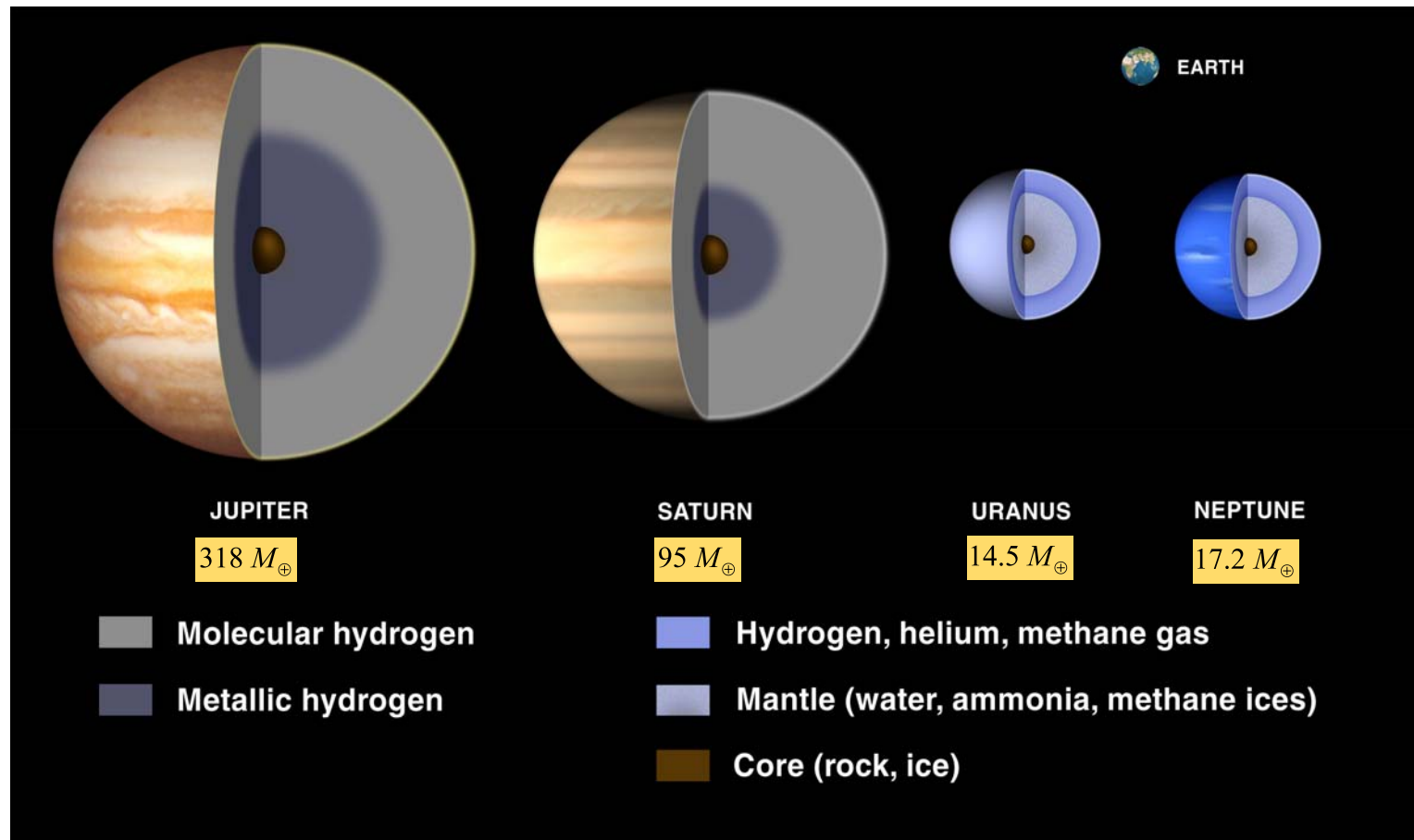
Ganymede 1940 kg m<sup>-3</sup>  
(Jupiter)

Iapetus 1030 kg m<sup>-3</sup>  
(Saturn)

Titania 1700 kg m<sup>-3</sup>  
(Uranus)



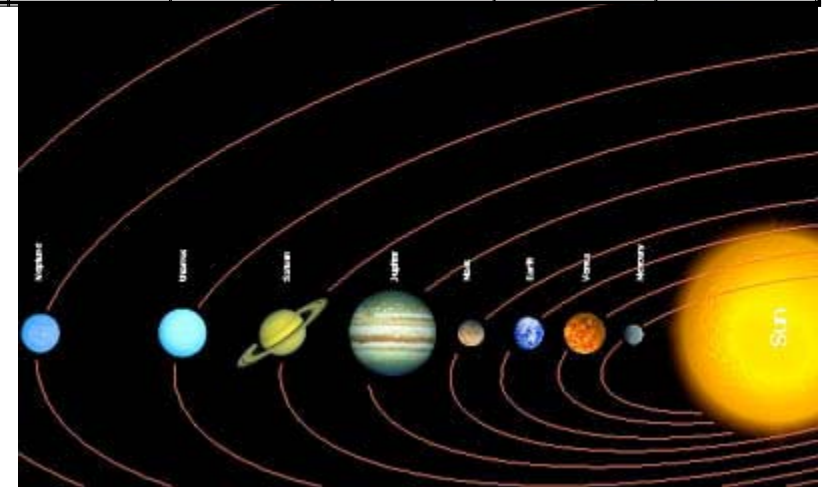
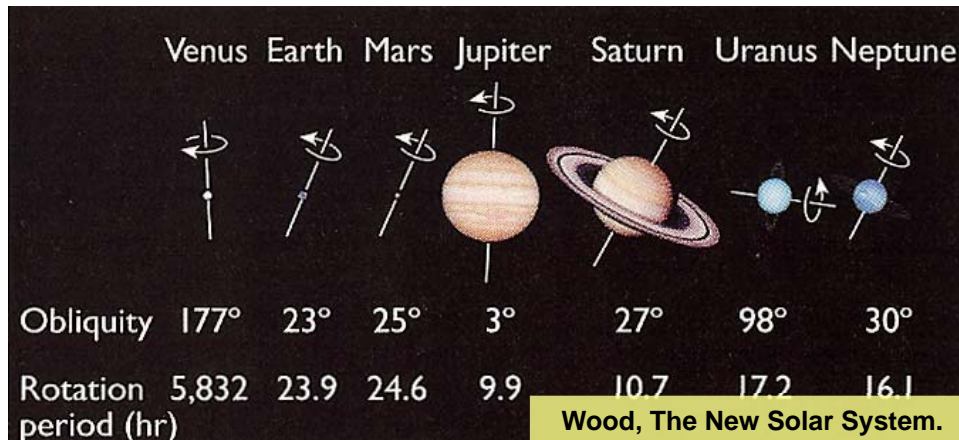
- **Gas giant planets: Jupiter and Saturn**
  - Similar rock/ice cores of about 10 earth masses
  - Large hydrogen envelopes – molecular and metallic
- **Ice Giant Planets: Uranus and Neptune**
  - Rocky cores
  - Water and Ammonia interiors
  - Large hydrogen molecular envelopes



- **Dynamical state of the solar system**
  - **Low inclinations and eccentricities – very disk like**

	Planetary Inclinations and Eccentricities							
	Mercury	Venus	Earth	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus	Neptune
<i>i</i>	7°	3.4°	0°	1.85°	1.3°	2.49°	0.77°	1.77°
<i>e</i>	0.2	0.0068	0.0167	0.0934	0.0485	0.0532	0.0429	0.01

- **Sun and most planetary bodies orbiting and (mostly) spinning in the same direction**



- **Theories of solar system formation involving a disk of material...**
  - ▶ Starting with Kant in 1755!

A lot of active research involving astrophysics, geochemistry, computer modeling etc  
 Here's what happened (or at least here's our current best guess)...

## The raw material

- Solar systems form from large clouds of gas and dust
  - Giant Molecular clouds

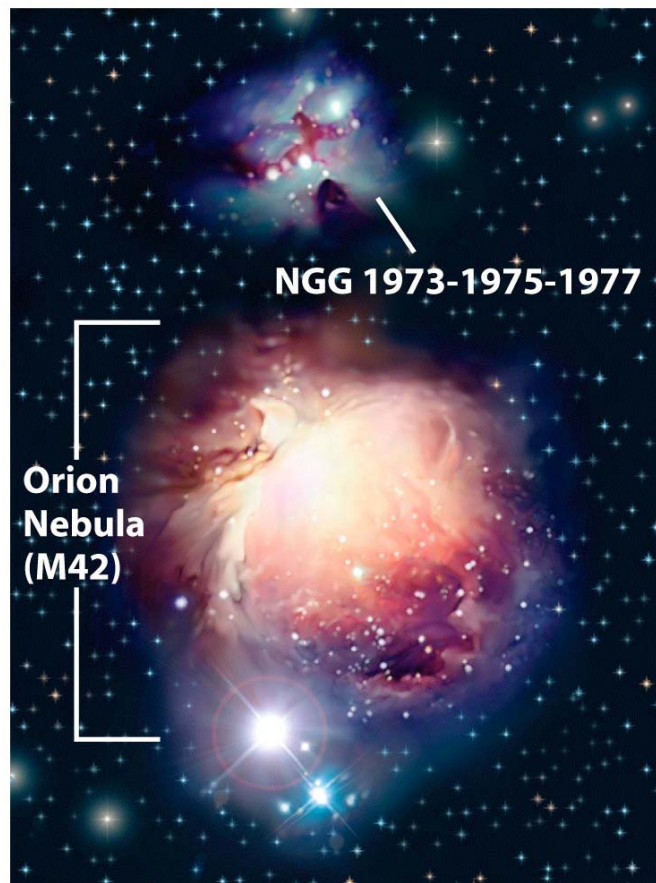


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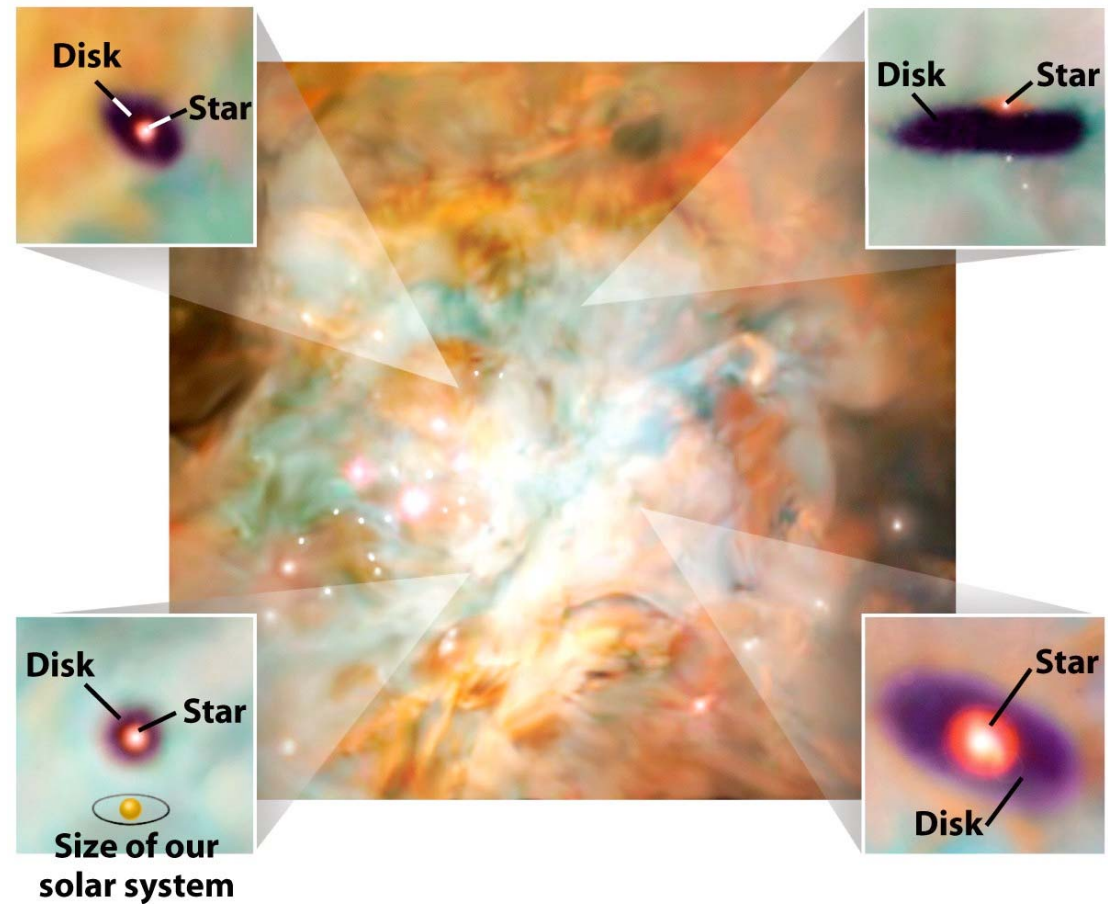
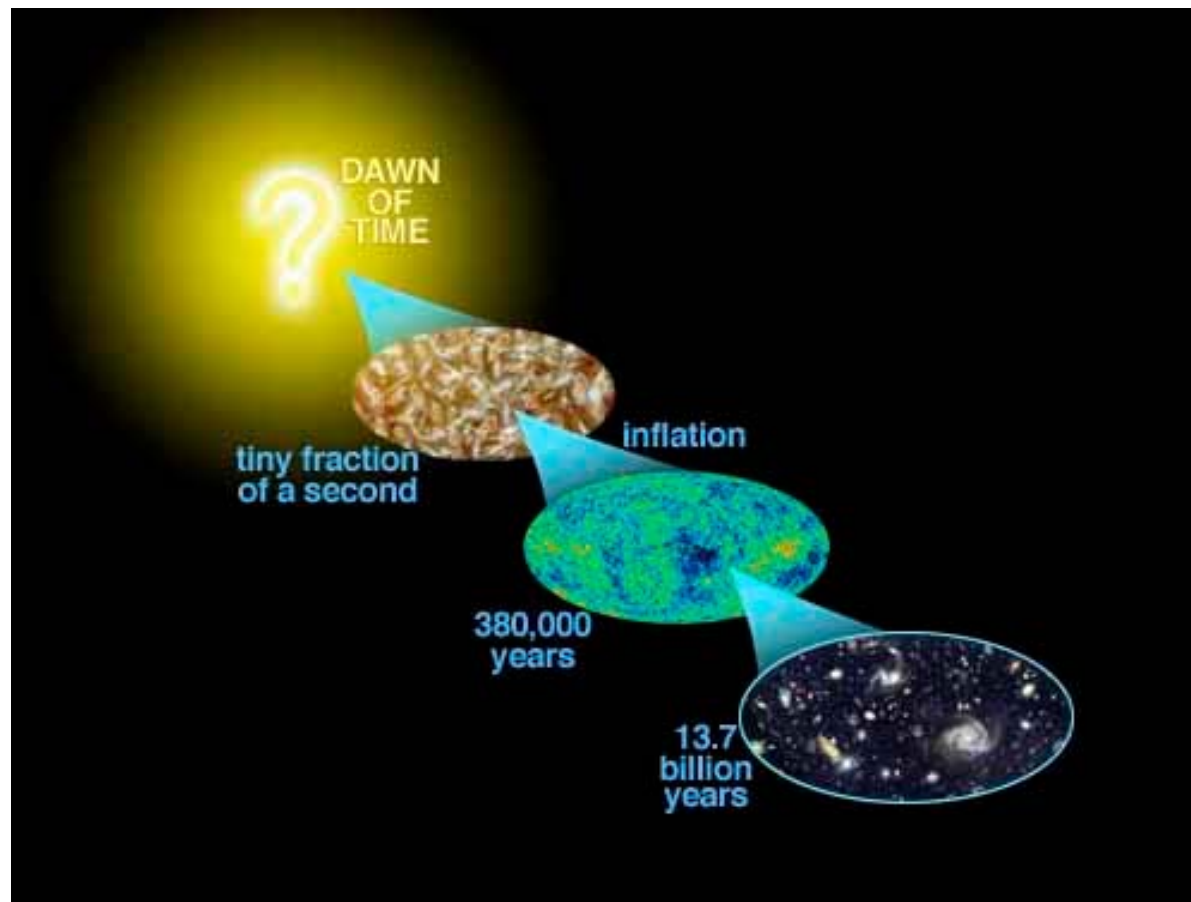


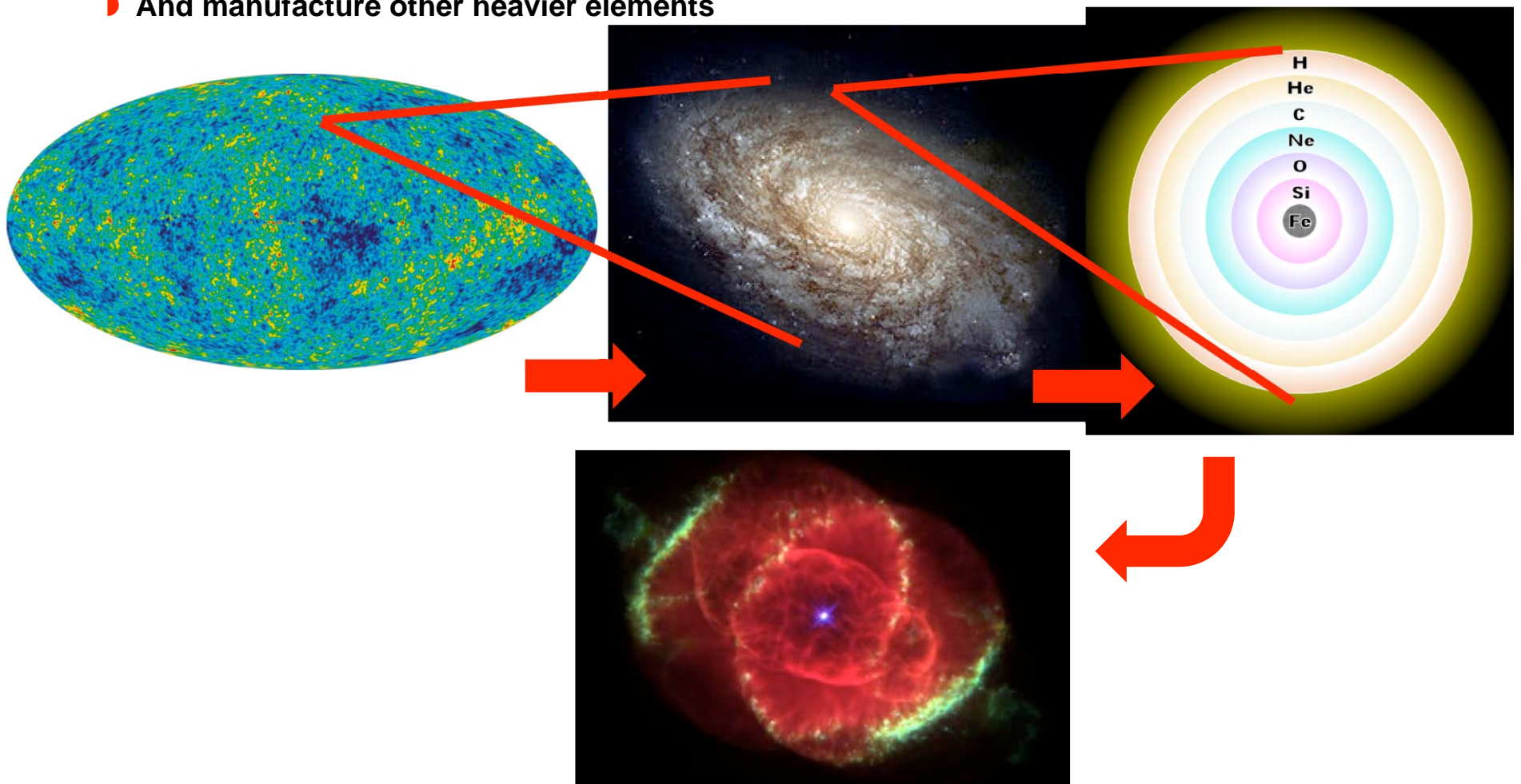
Figure 8-8b  
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- So where did these clouds come from?
- Universe formed 10-15 billion years ago
  - Process generated all of today's hydrogen and most of the helium
  - Small amounts of other elements produced



- **Early universe almost featureless**

- Primordial material breaks up to form galaxies
- Clouds in galaxies collapse to form the first stars – starts nuclear fusion
- These stars manufacture heavy elements up to iron
- Supernovae spread these elements through the galaxy
  - ▶ And manufacture other heavier elements



- **Material in giant molecular clouds**
  - **Cycled through stars already**
  - **Still dominated by Hydrogen and Helium**

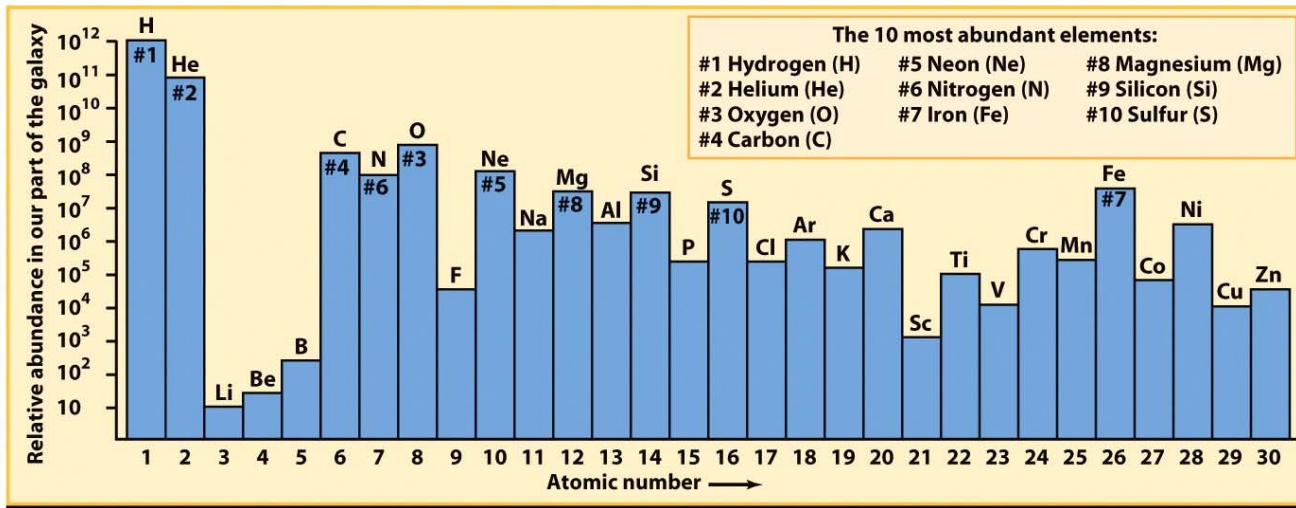
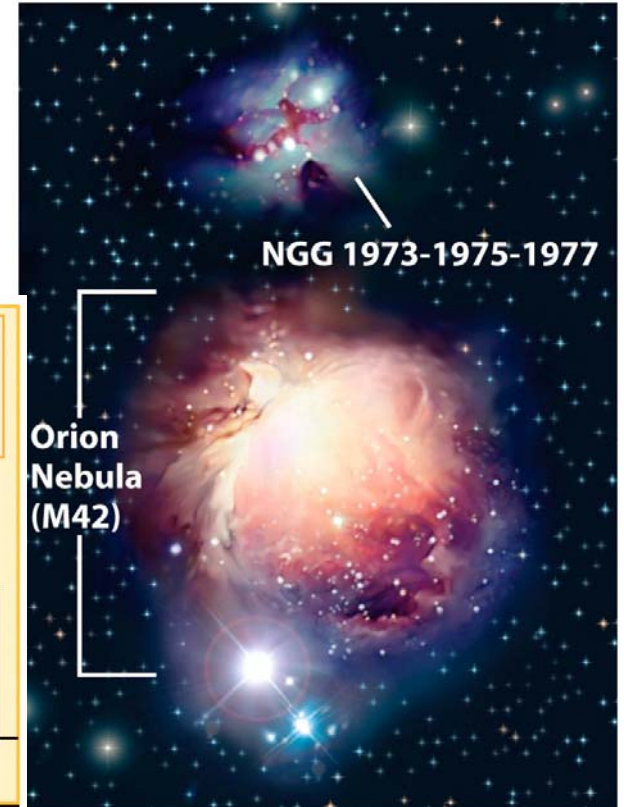


Figure 8-4  
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- **Contains solid material in small grains**
- **Densities of a few 1000 molecules cm<sup>-3</sup>**
  - ▶ Room air has  $\sim 2.4 \times 10^{19}$  molecules cm<sup>-3</sup>
- **Temperatures of 10-30 K**

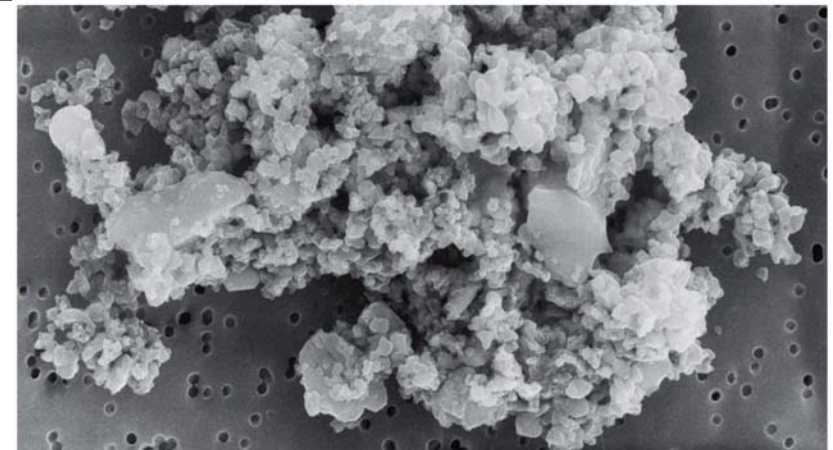
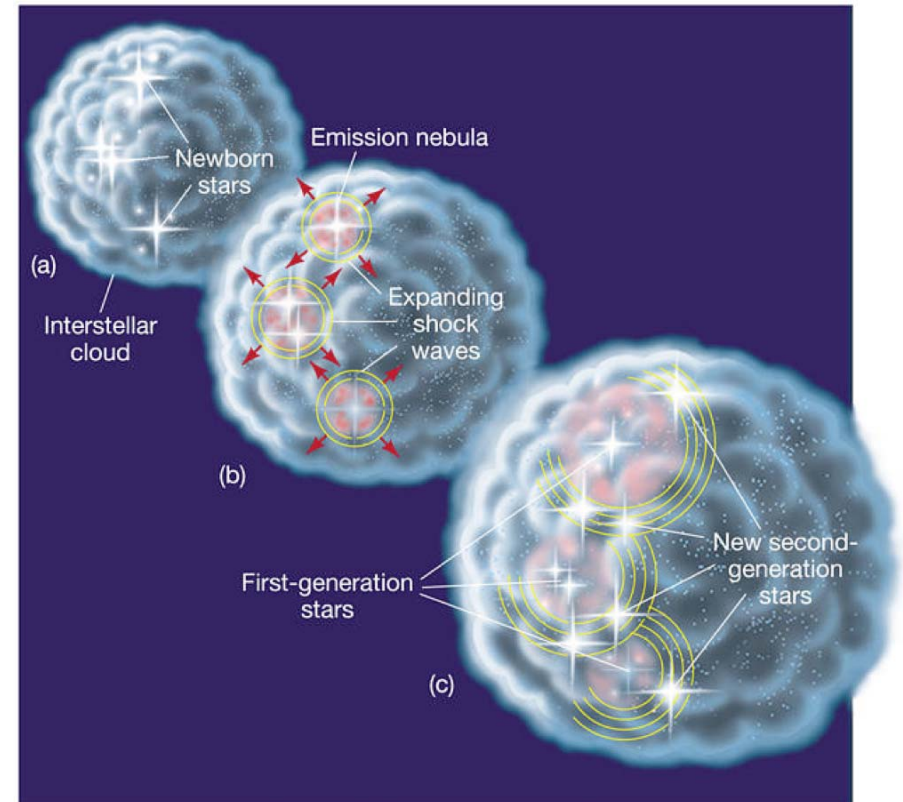


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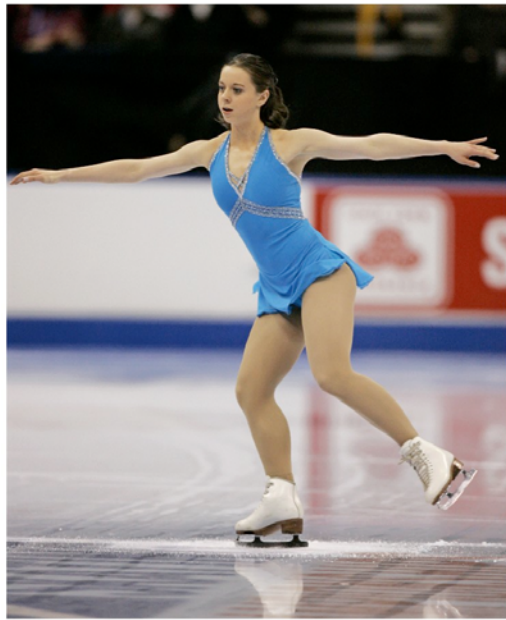
## Forming the Sun

- The giant molecular clouds are barely stable
  - Supported by pressure, magnetic fields and slow rotation
  - In competition with self-gravity
  
- Give the system a little shove...
  - Collapse starts – gas heats up
  - Collapse continues? – yes, if the cloud is big enough
  - The ‘shove’ can come from
    - ▶ A nearby supernova
    - ▶ Passing through a galactic spiral arm
  
- Clouds collapse from the inside out
- Cloud fragments into many small protostars
  - ▶ Sun probably formed in a cluster of stars



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- Angular momentum is conserved
  - Size of the cloud is reduced so its rotation rate goes up



(a)

Figure 8-7  
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(b)

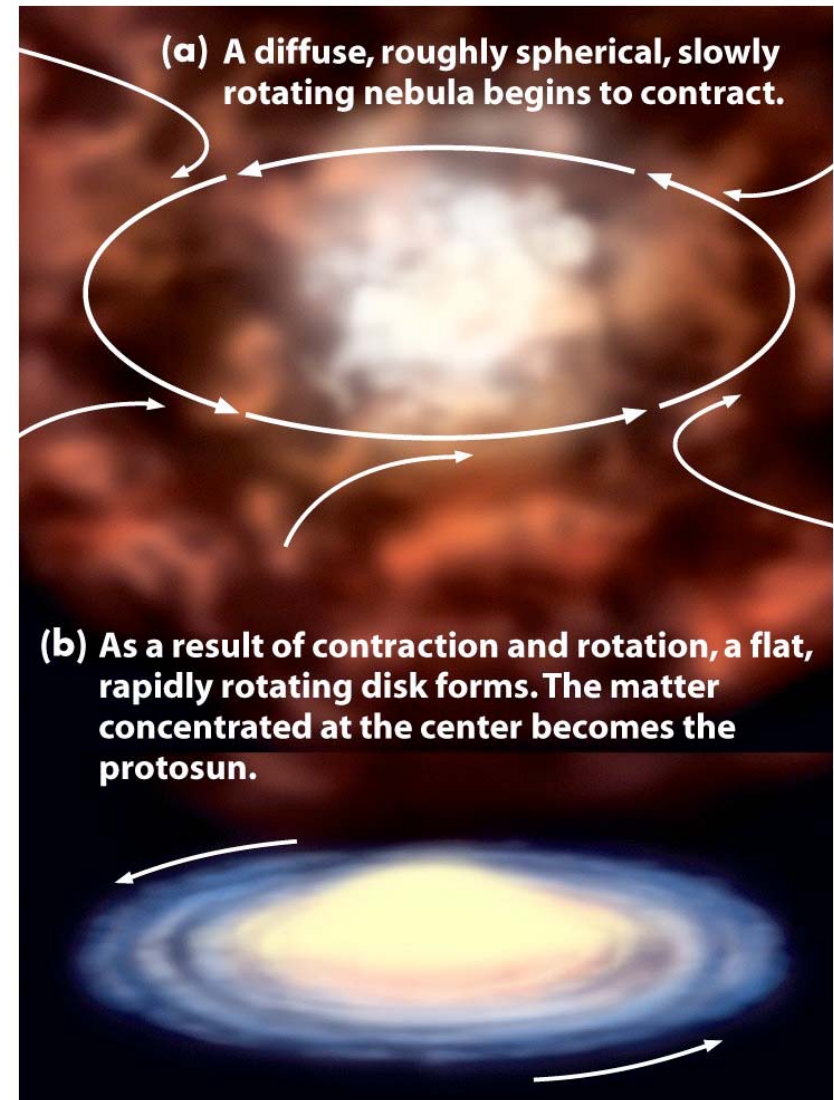
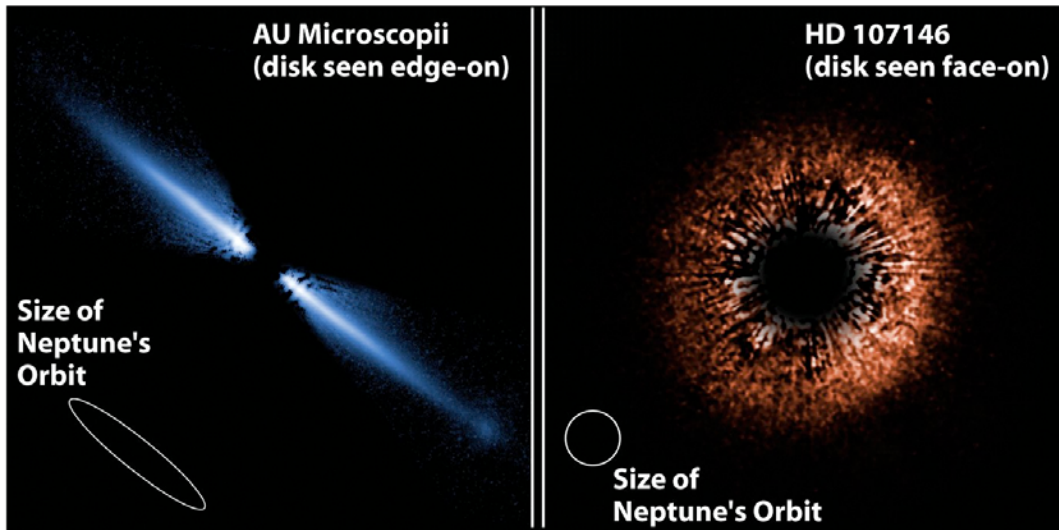
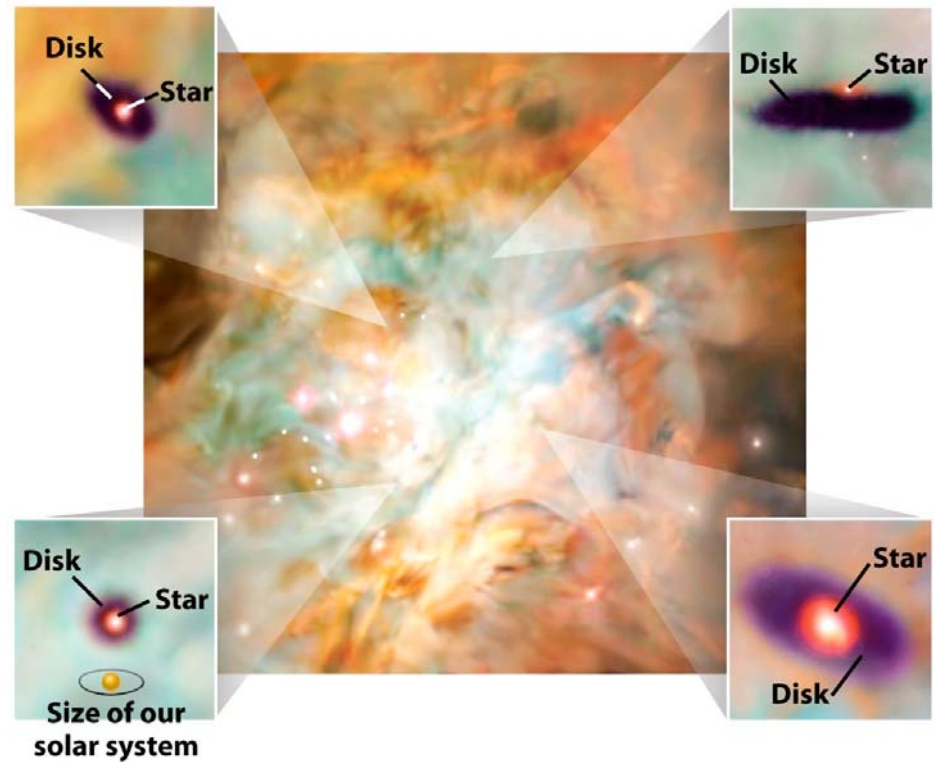


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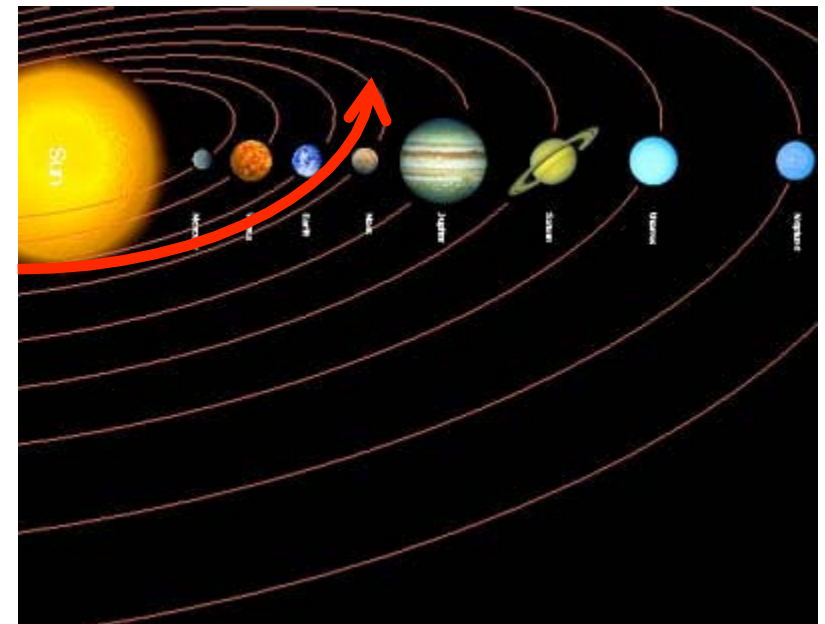
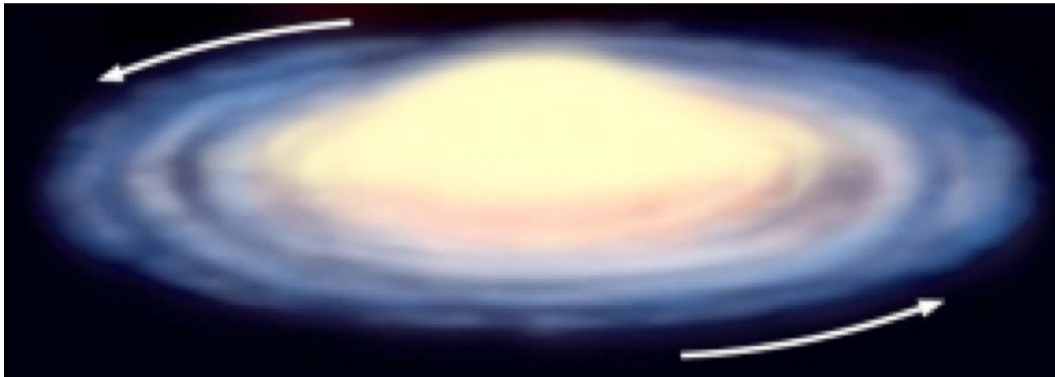


- **These disks are a common occurrence**
  - **Disk material is much hotter and denser than the giant molecular cloud**
- **Proto-star at center**
  - **Contraction generates heat**
  - **Heat and pressure allow nuclear fusion**
  - **Star switches on and generates its own energy**

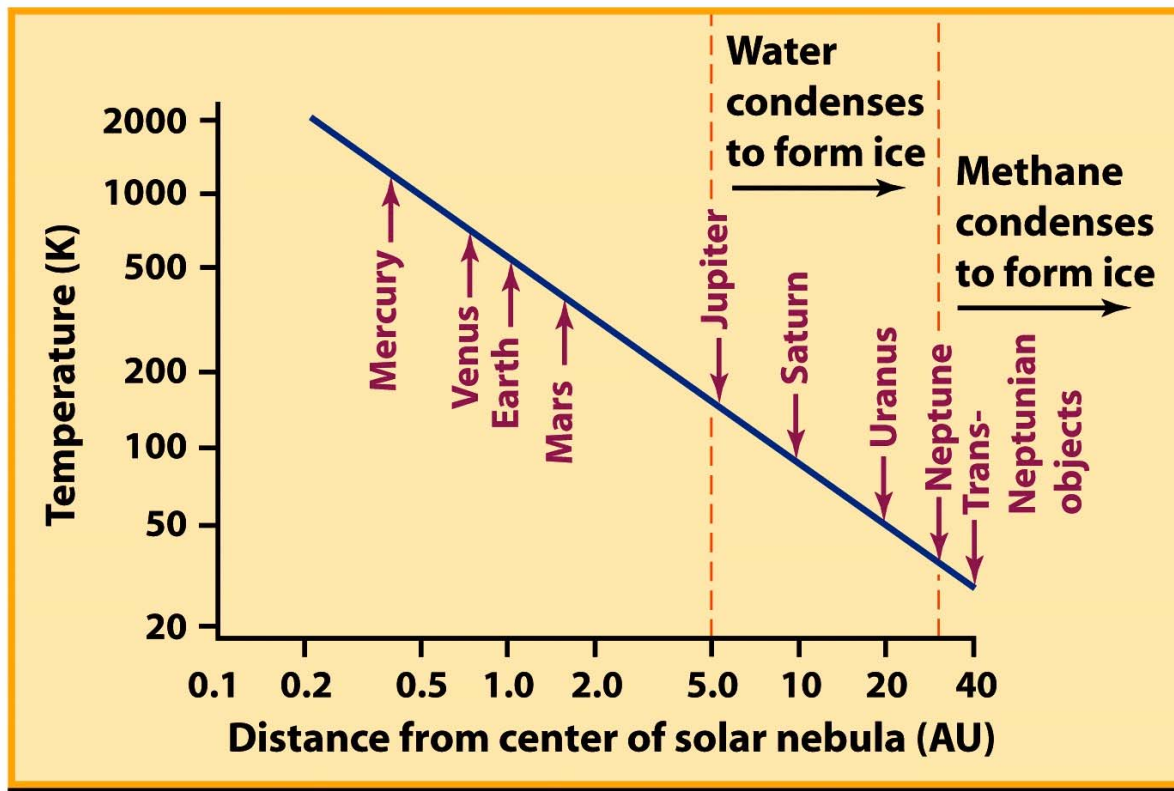


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- **Rotation direction of our disk is stamped on every solar system object**
  - All planets orbit the sun in the same direction
  - Almost all planets rotate in the same direction



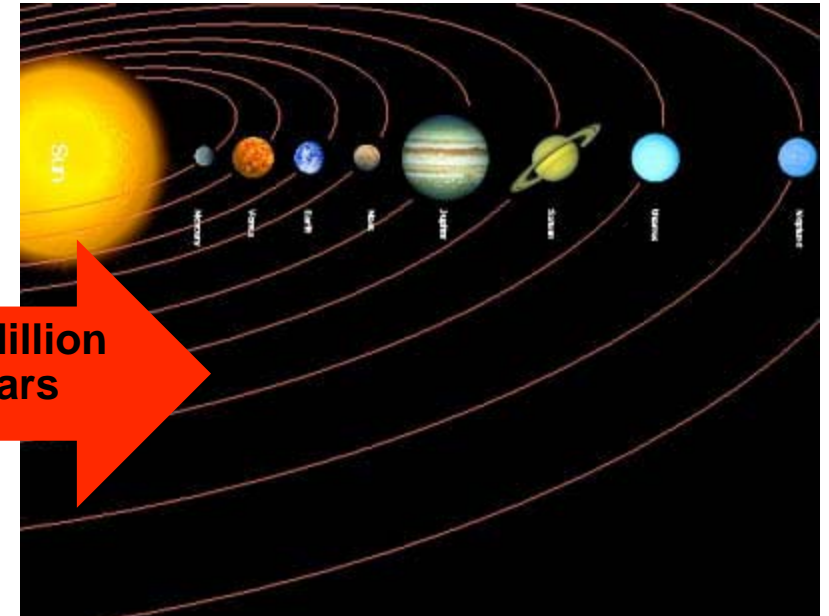
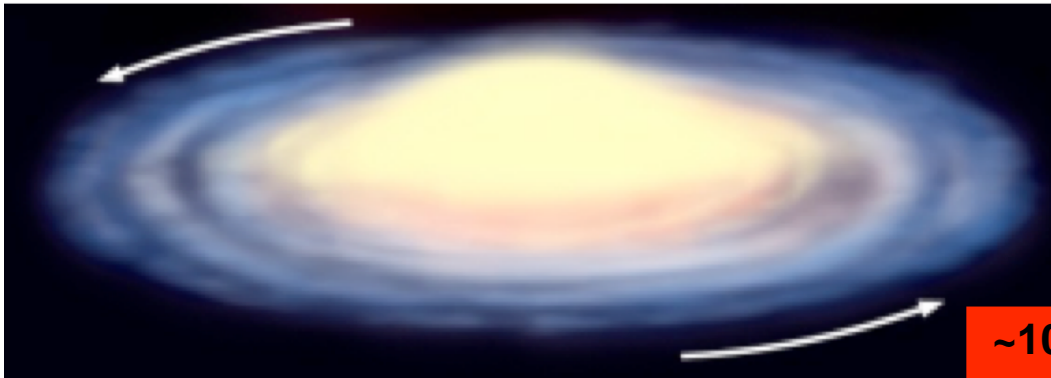
- Disk gets colder with increasing distance from the sun
  - Inner disk is hot from extra contraction
  - Young sun very luminous and heating the inner disk
    - ▶ Astronomy majors: look out for this in your star formation courses - T Tauri stage
- The water ice stability line has a profound effect on the way things will turn out



**The clock is ticking...  
The disk will only last ~10 Myr  
(~ 0.2 % of solar system history)**



- **Building a solar system from a disk in three parts**
  - **Forming planetesimals**
    - ▶ Gets particles up to asteroid sized bodies
    - ▶ Too slow to build big planets
  
  - **Forming solid planets and giant-planet cores**
    - ▶ Uses gravity to speed things up
  
  - **Forming giant planets**
    - ▶ Captures gas from the disk



~10 Million  
years

## Forming Planetesimals

- In this stage we go from dust grains to objects 1km in size
  - The hardest stage to explain in the whole process
  
- Within a few AU of the proto-sun
  - Silicates and metals condense out of the gaseous disk
  - Other material stays as a gas
  
- A few AU from the sun
  - It's cold enough for water ice to condense
  - More solid material

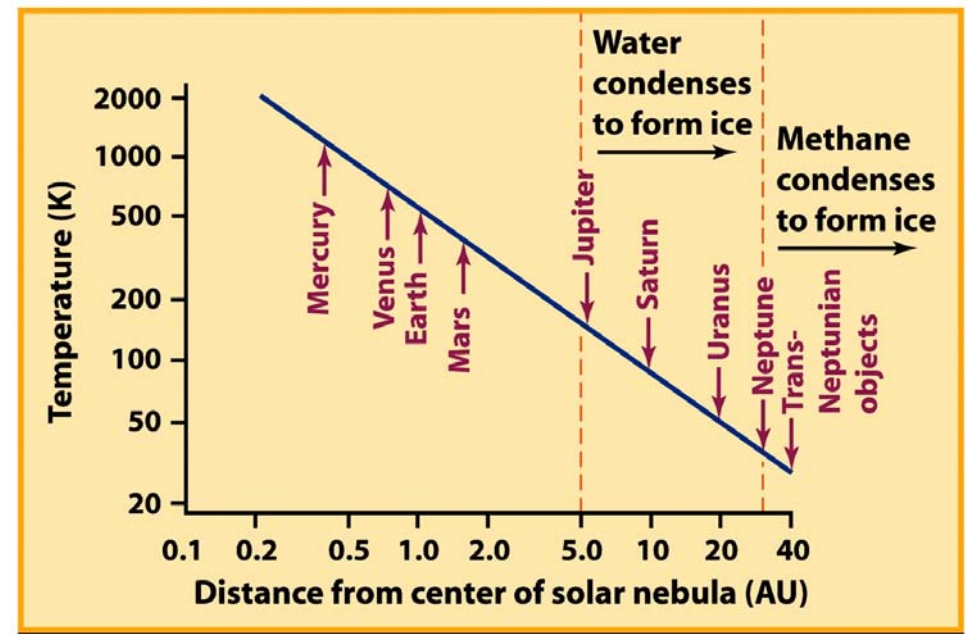
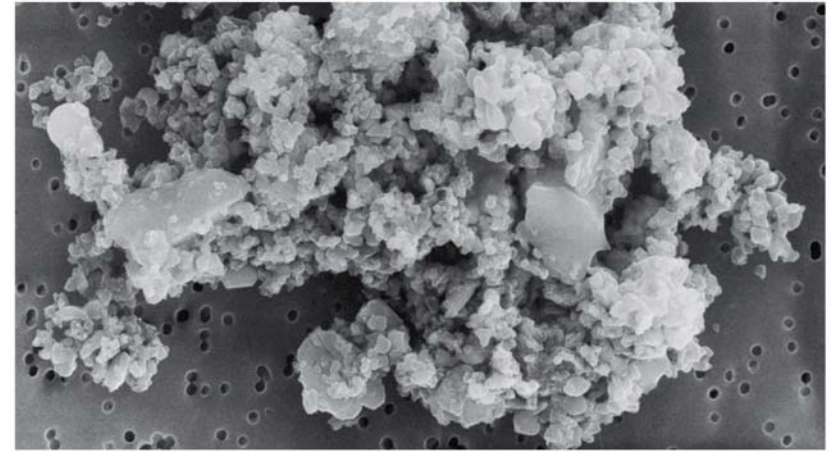


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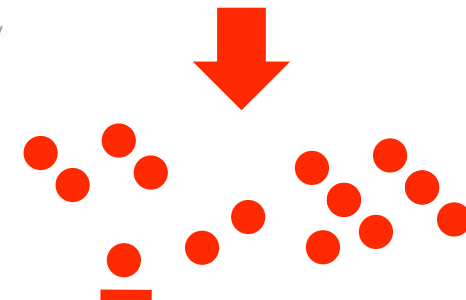
- **Particles suspended in gas**
  - Collide and join together to form clumps
  - Grow to 1cm in size



10  $\mu\text{m}$  = 0.01 mm

Figure 9-9  
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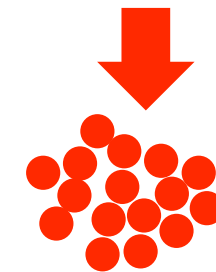
- **Particles >1cm in size grow by collisions**
  - Decoupled from the gas motions
  - Suffer gas drag
  - Start spiraling into the sun



1cm ~1000 grains across

**The weak link in the story goes here.  
Getting to kilometer-size before falling into the sun  
is still an unsolved problem...**

- **Particles eventually grow to 1km**
  - Gas drag becomes irrelevant



1km  
~100,000 particles across

- **These 1km planetesimals go on to form planets**
  - **Within but unaffected by the gas disk**
  - **Close to sun material is iron and rock**
    - ▶ **Makes terrestrial planets**
  - **Far from the sun the material is ice and rock**
    - ▶ **Makes giant planet cores**
    - ▶ **Makes moons of giant planets**
    - ▶ **Kuiper belt objects, comets etc...**

- **Some meteorites are basically samples of this material**

- **Chondrules are the oldest solar system solids**
- **Material that was flash-heated and quenched**
- **Can be dated from remaining radioactive elements**
- **Solar system is 4.56 billion years old!**

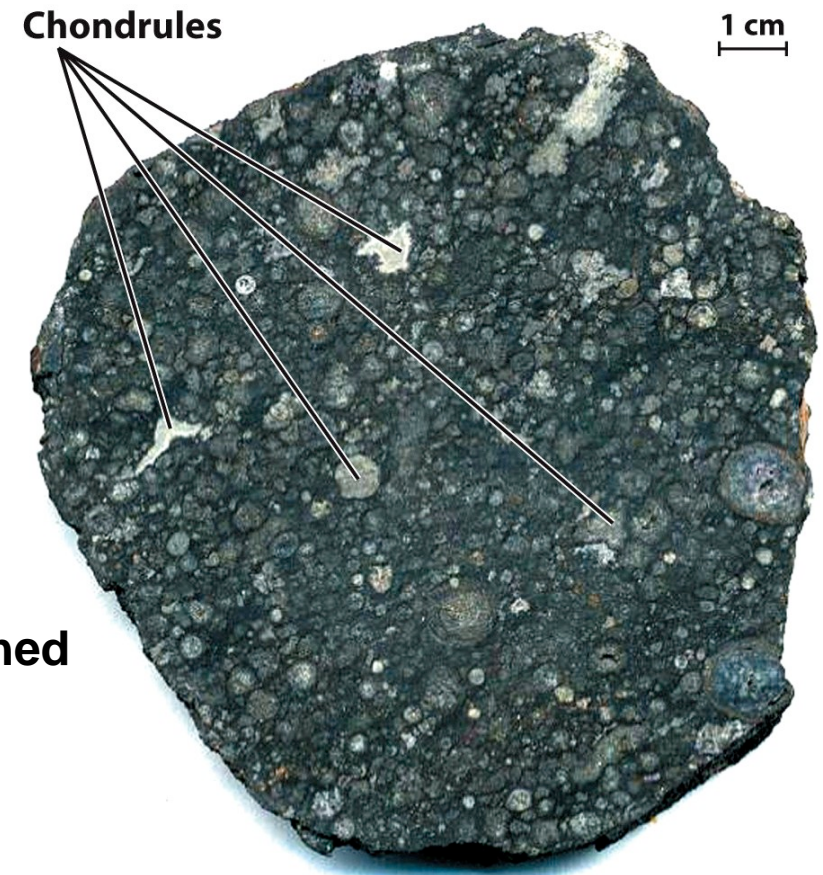
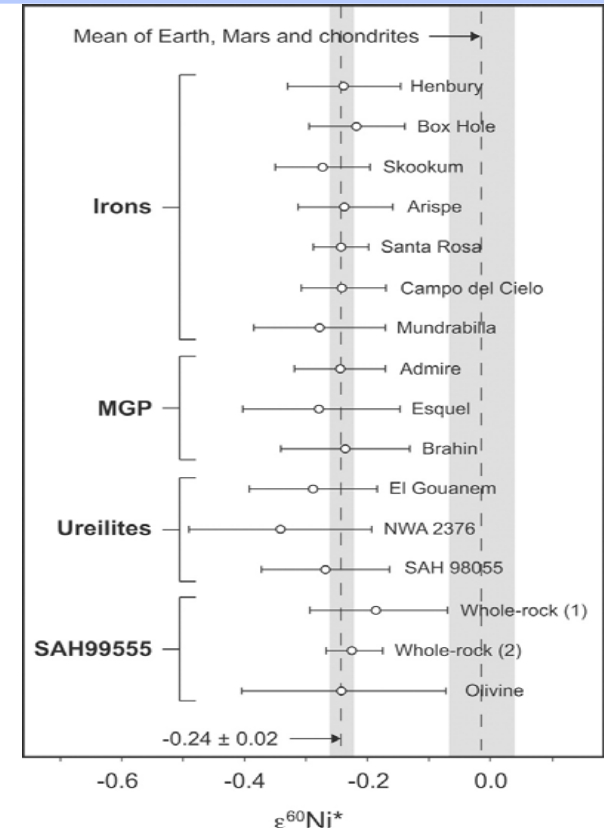
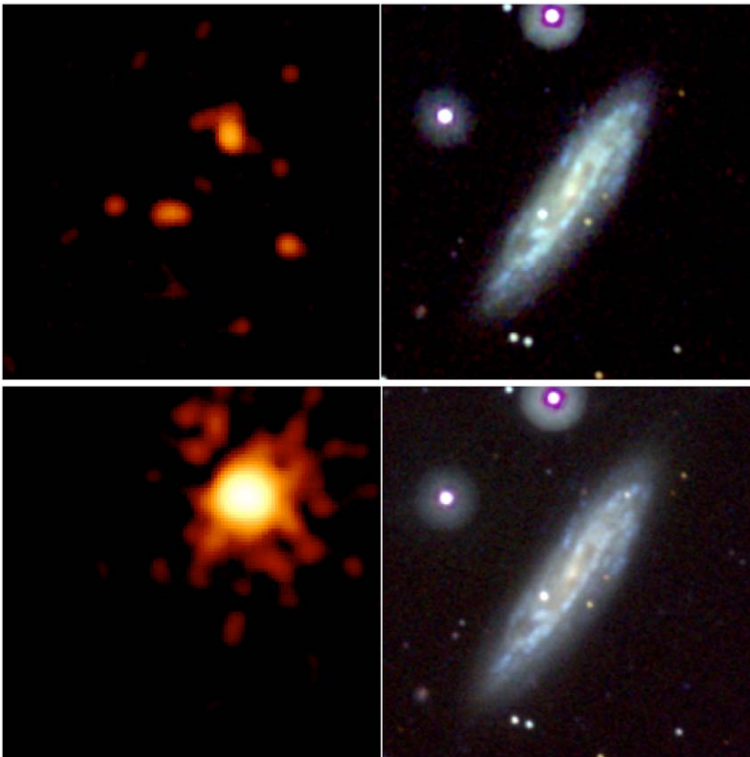


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- **New results – the early sun’s rough neighborhood...**
  - $^{60}\text{Fe}$  decays to  $^{60}\text{Ni}$  –  $T_{\text{half}} \sim 1.5 \text{ Myr}$
  - Excess  $^{60}\text{Ni}$  is due to this process
  - Major planets formed later and have more  $^{60}\text{Ni}$
  
- **So...**
  - Solar system had an injection of  $^{60}\text{Fe}$ , ~1 million years after first bodies formed.



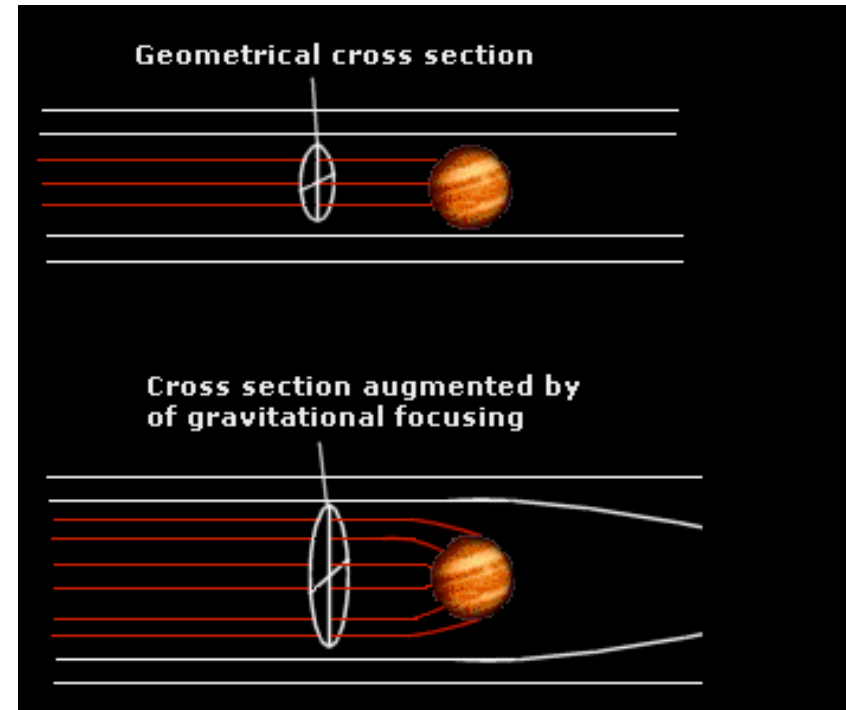
Bizzarro et al., Science 2007.

The main suspect...

- **Wolf-Rayet Stars**
  - Extremely massive
  - Lifespans of 1-2 Myr
  - Ends in a supernova
    - Supernova can supply large amounts of  $^{60}\text{Fe}$

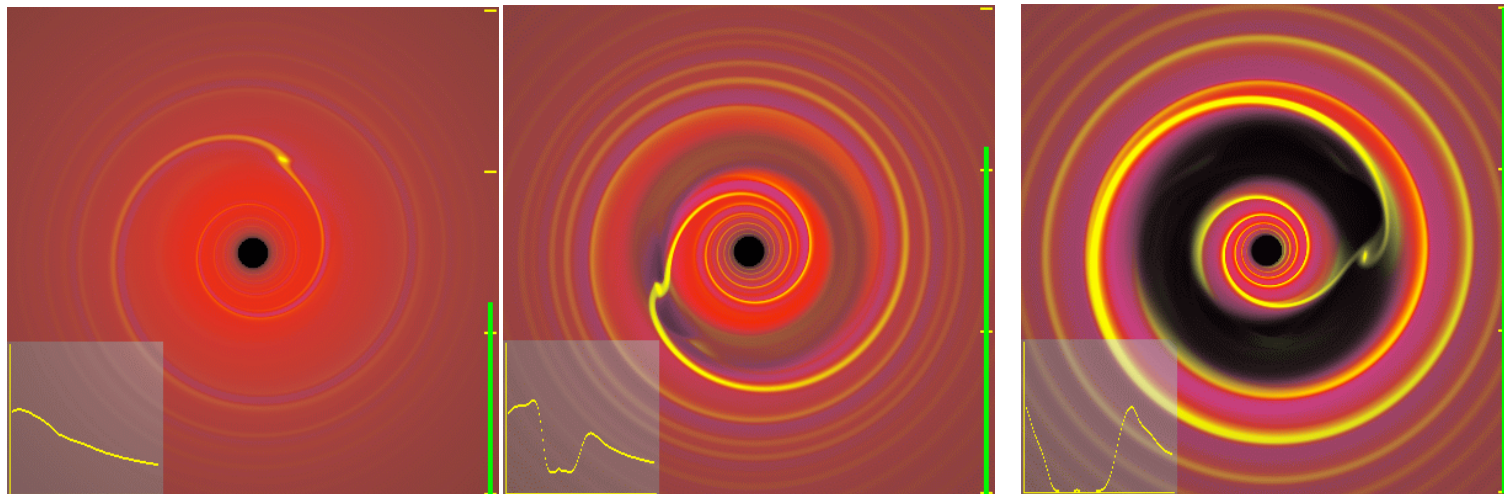


- 1km sized planetesimals are a long way from planets
- Objects bigger than 1km start to have appreciable gravity
  - Gravitational focusing speeds up accumulation of material
  - Planetesimals start to grow very fast
- The biggest objects grow the fastest
  - Oligarchic growth where the big guys absorb the small guys
  - Planets develop ‘feeding zones’ within the disk
  - Eventually they exhaust the ‘food’ supply
- At this point a few million years have passed



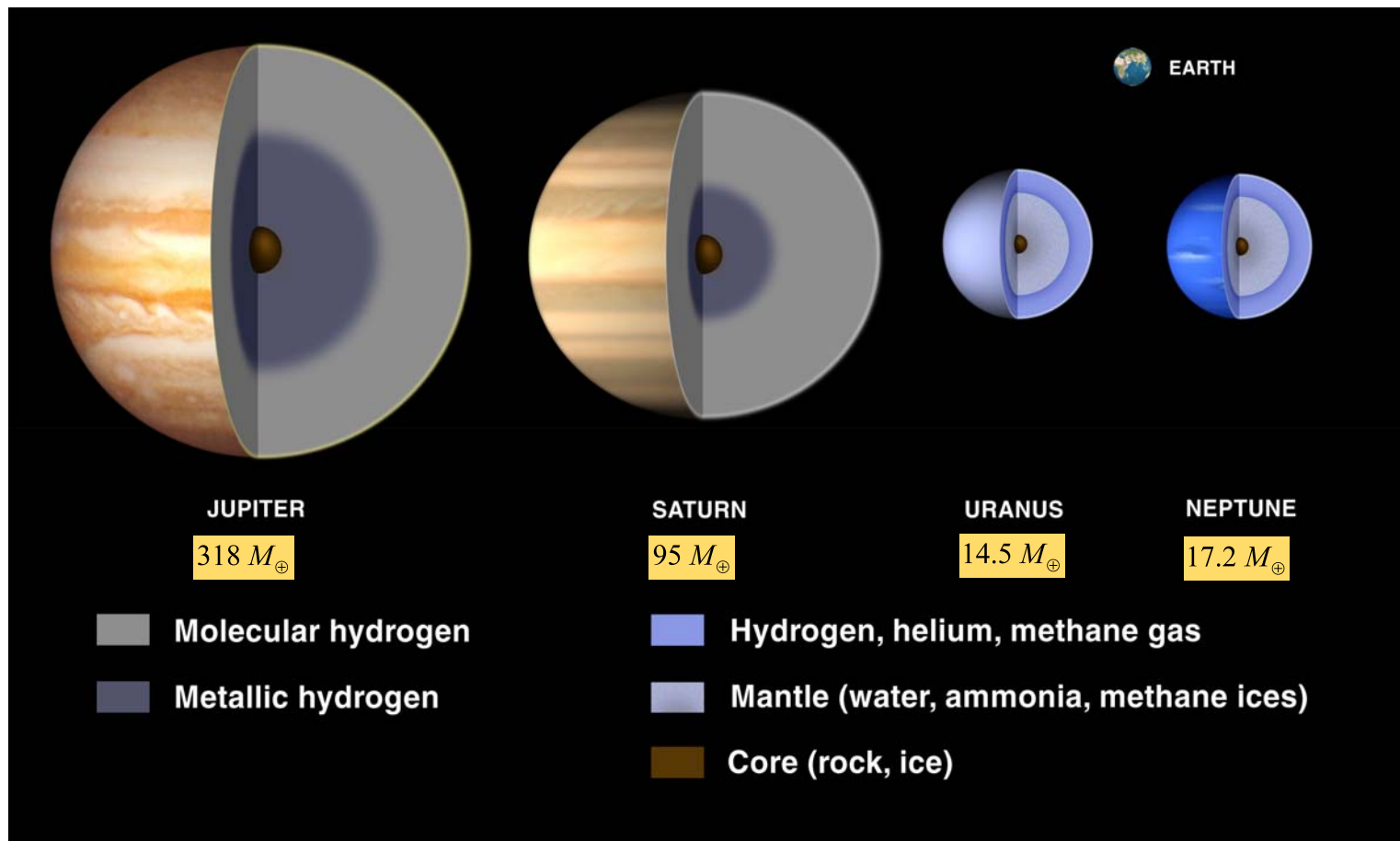
## Giant planet Atmospheres

- In the outer solar system
  - Availability of water ice leads to much faster growth of solid bodies
  - Ice/rock cores can grow to 10 Earth Masses
  
- Gravity of these objects becomes high enough to capture hydrogen and helium directly from the disk
  - These planets can clear a gap in the gas disk
  - Gravitational interactions with the disk can cause them to drift inwards



● Time's up!

- The gas disk dissipates in about 10 million years
- Jupiter and Saturn successfully grabbed a large Hydrogen and Helium atmosphere
- Neptune and Uranus grew too slowly and didn't accumulate as much gas



● **What's left?**

- **A debris disk flooded with many small objects**
- **Where did all these smaller objects end up**
- **What about?**
  - ▶ **The asteroid belt**
  - ▶ **The Kuiper belt**
  - ▶ **The Oort cloud**

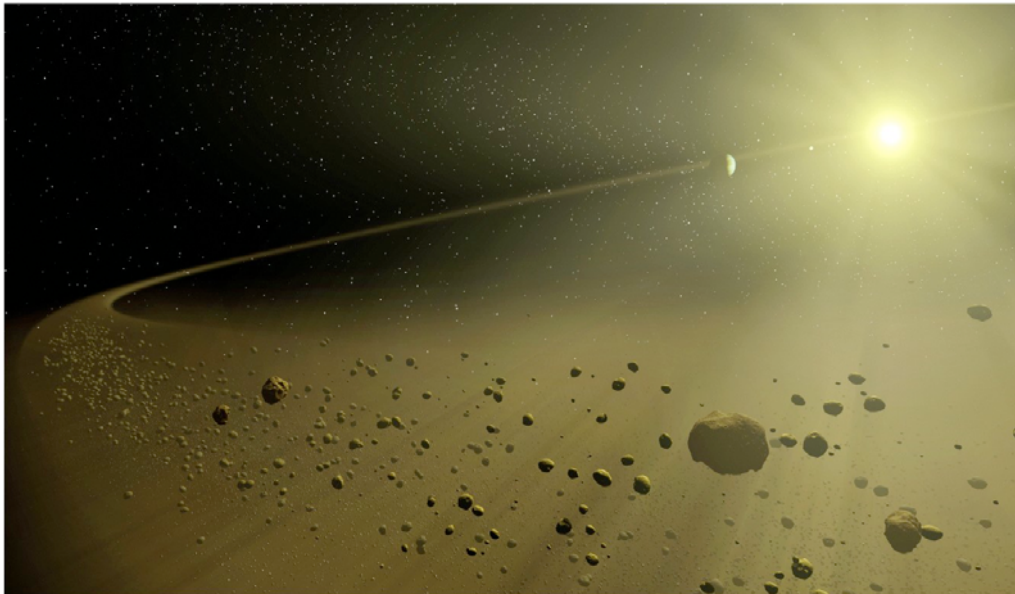
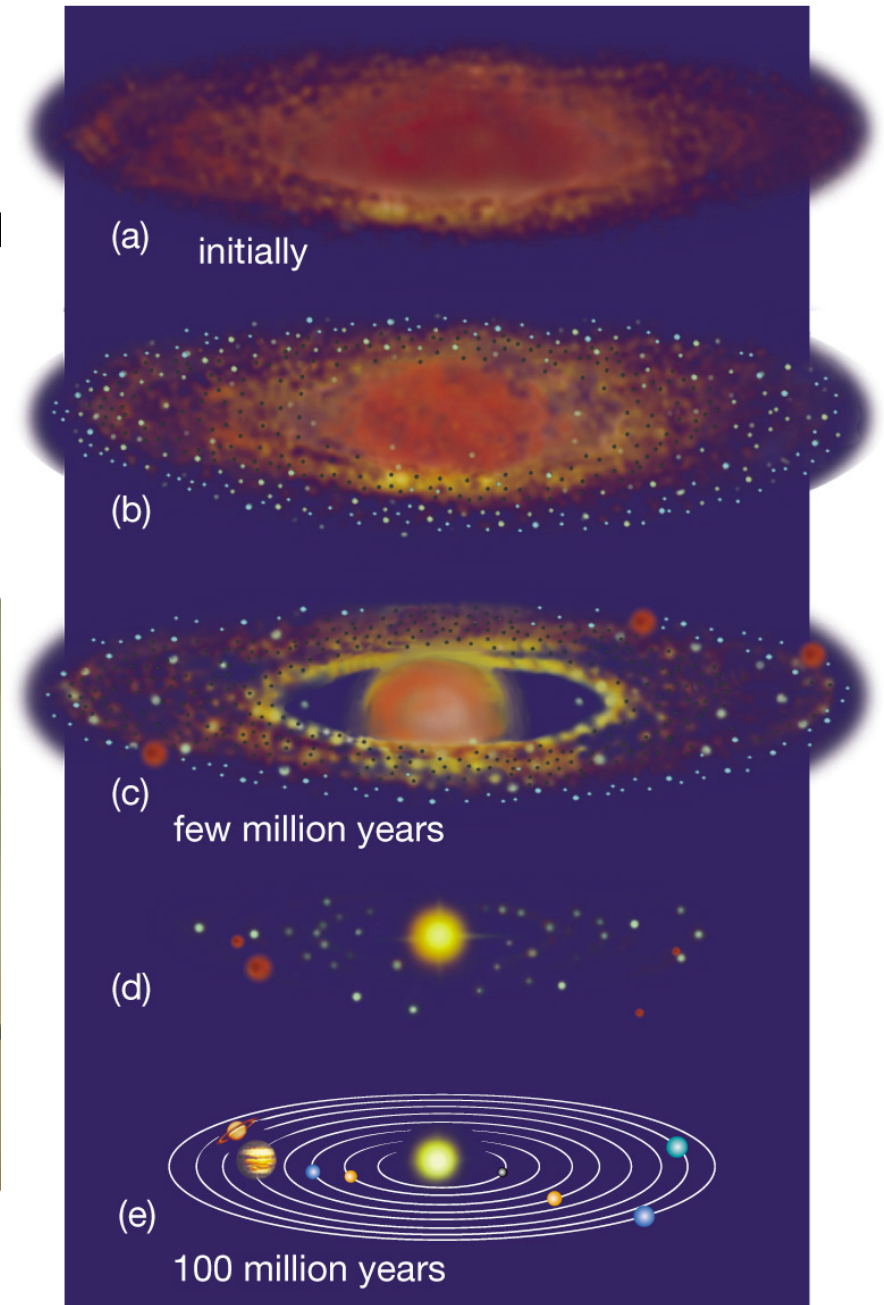
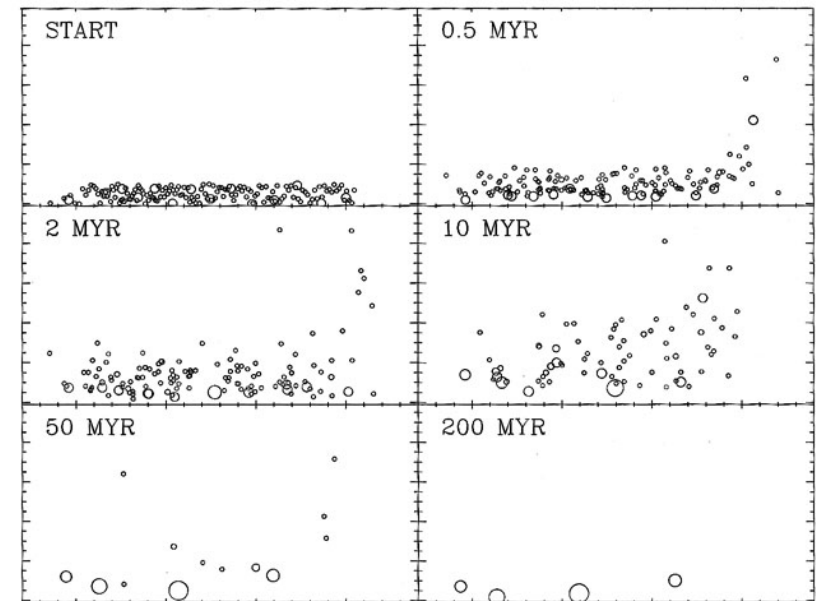


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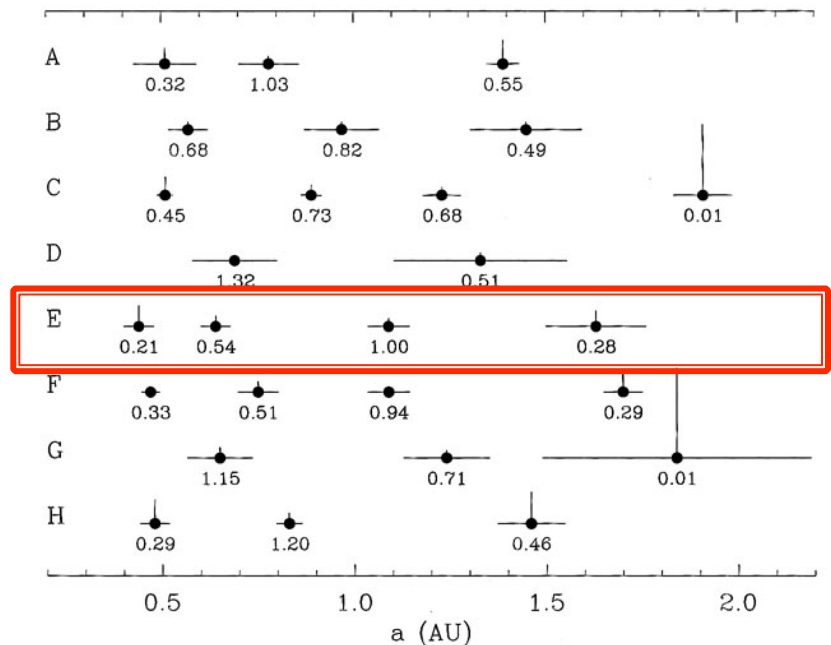


## Cleaning up the mess

- This stage takes 100s of millions of years
- Many proto-planets left in the terrestrial planet zone
  - These impact the big four
    - ▶ Mercury, Venus, Earth & Mars
  - Gradually get removed
- The last few impacts are the biggest ones
  - Formation of Earth's Moon
  - Mercury's oversized core?
  - Mars' hemispheric dichotomy??



(b)



- In the outer solar system the giant planets are surrounded by a sea of small icy bodies
  - Some collide with the gas giants
  - Some perform a gravitational slingshot and are thrown out to great distances
  - Some are thrown out of the solar system completely
  
- Giant planets are also affected by this
  - Giant planet also moved (in the opposite direction to small object)
  - ..but by a tiny amount each time
  
- This is the reverse of the case where Jupiter ‘captures’ a new comet into the inner solar system

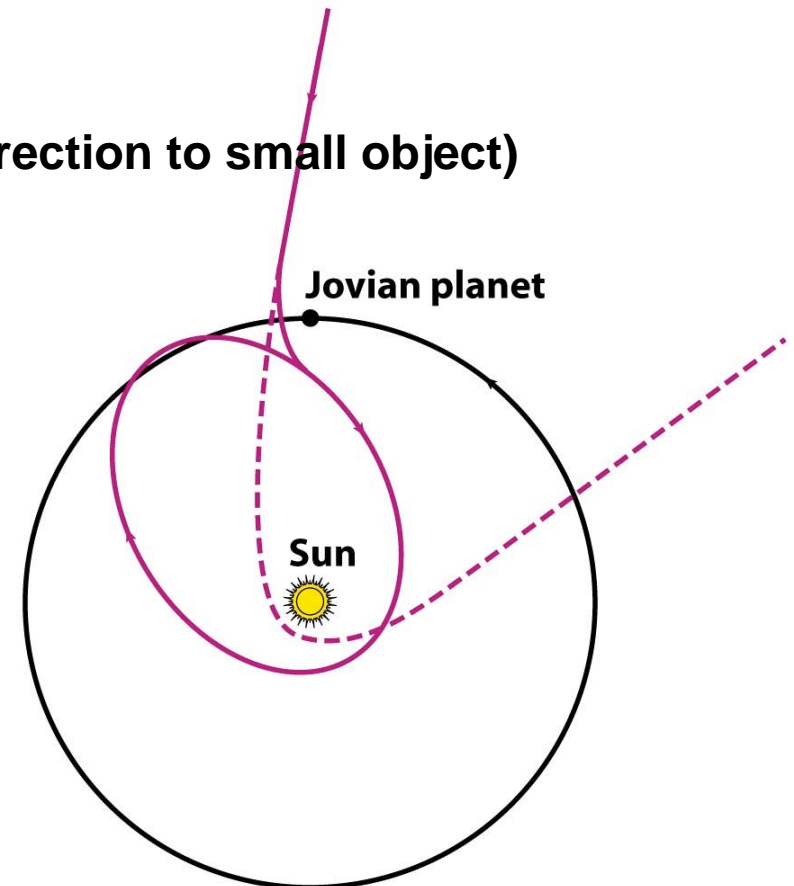
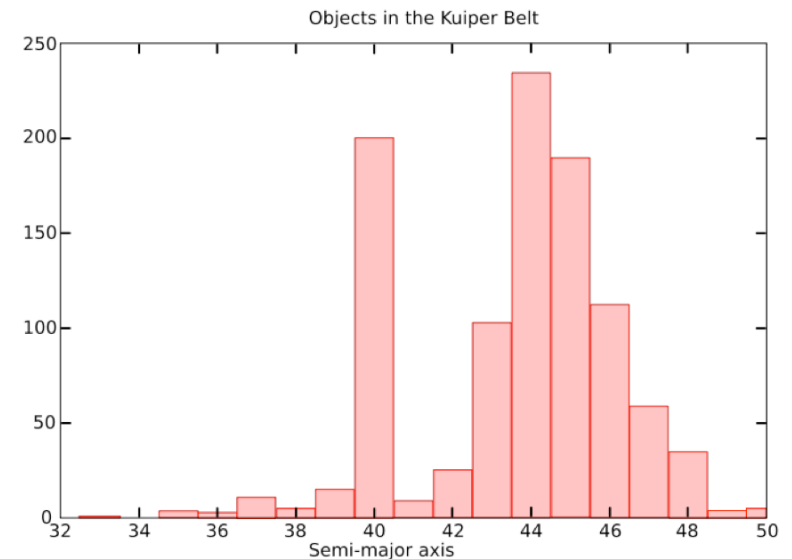
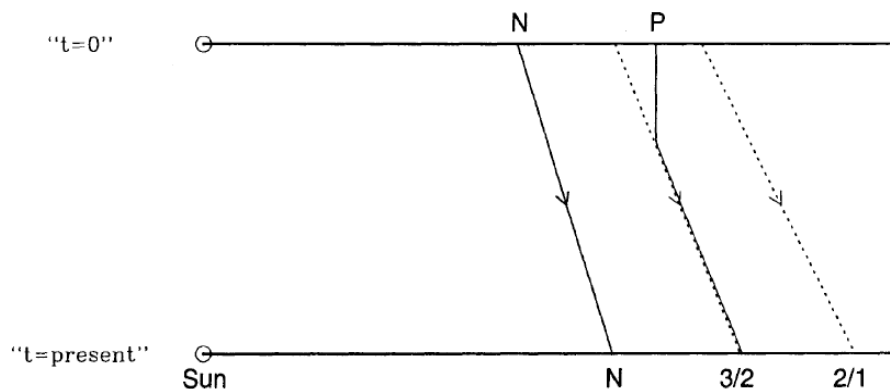


Figure 15-28  
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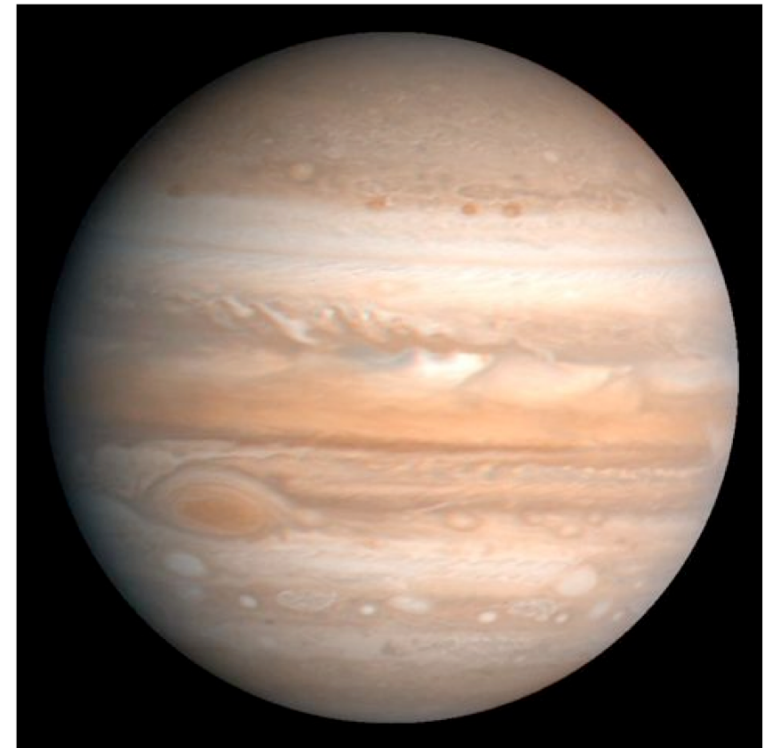
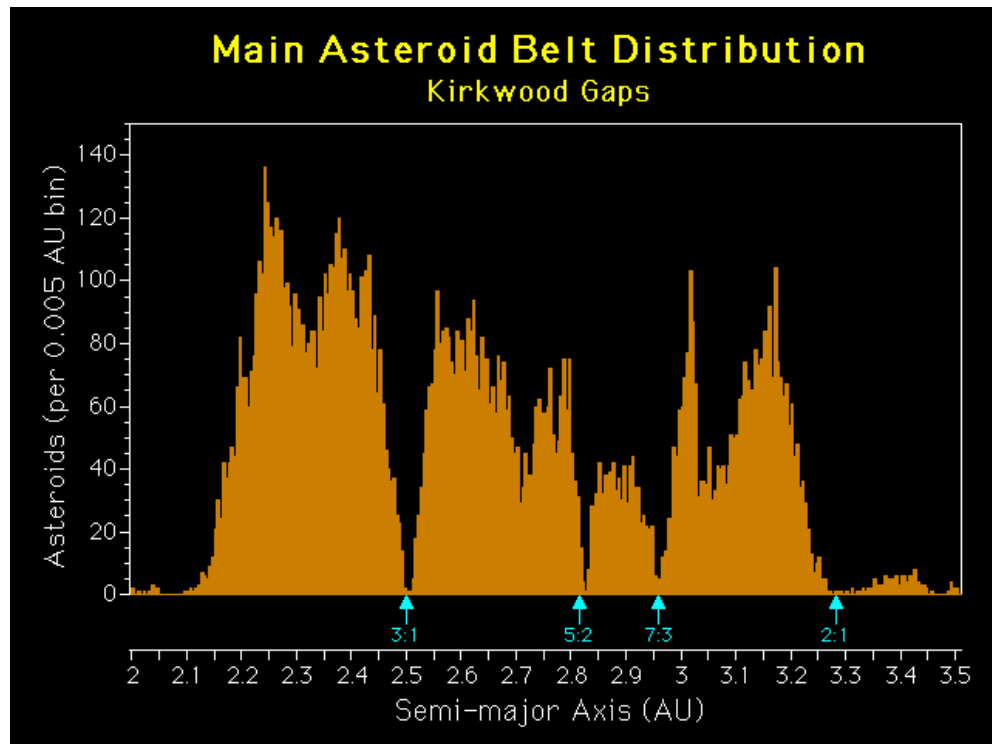
## ● The Kuiper belt

- Neptune migrates outwards by as much as 7 AU
- Captures some Kuiper Belt Objects in the 3:2 resonance (like Pluto)
- Captures one as a moon (Triton)
- Gives the Kuiper belt a sharp outer edge at 50 AU
- Ejects the other into the inner solar system
  - ▶ Where Jupiter tosses them into interstellar space (or the Oort cloud)
  - ▶ Allows Jupiter to migrate inwards



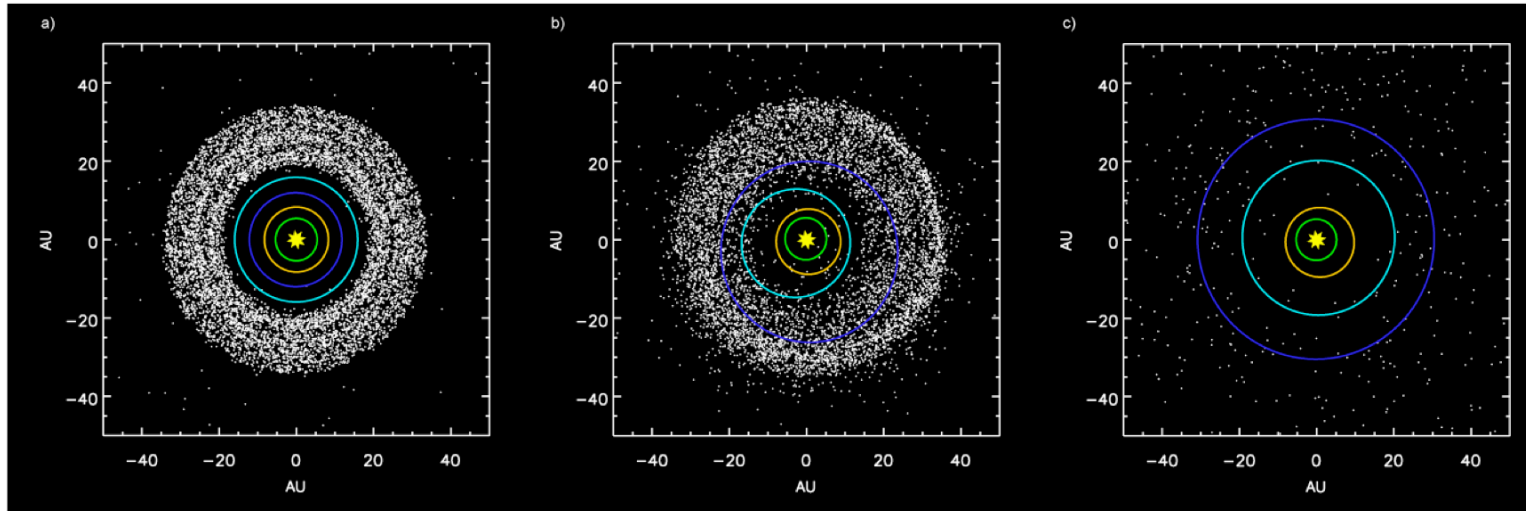
## ● The asteroid belt

- Jupiter migrates towards the sun (so it threw more small bodies outwards)
- Truncates the outer edge of the asteroid belt
- Speeds up asteroid collisions – stops a fifth terrestrial planet forming
- Creates the Kirkwood gaps





- **Planets drift slowly at first**
  - **Until Jupiter and Saturn get into a resonance**
  - **Dramatic changes occur that spread the planets apart**



- **Jupiter migrated inwards**
- **This thinned out the asteroid belt and sent a rain of impacting bodies into the inner solar system**
  - **The late heavy bombardment**



- **The Oort cloud**

- **Icy bodies form closer to the giant planets**
- **Gravitational encounters with Jupiter**
  - ▶ **Fling them into very distant orbits**
- **Passing stars randomize the orbital inclinations**
  - ▶ **Less so for objects closer to the sun**
- **Only a small fraction of the original objects survive**

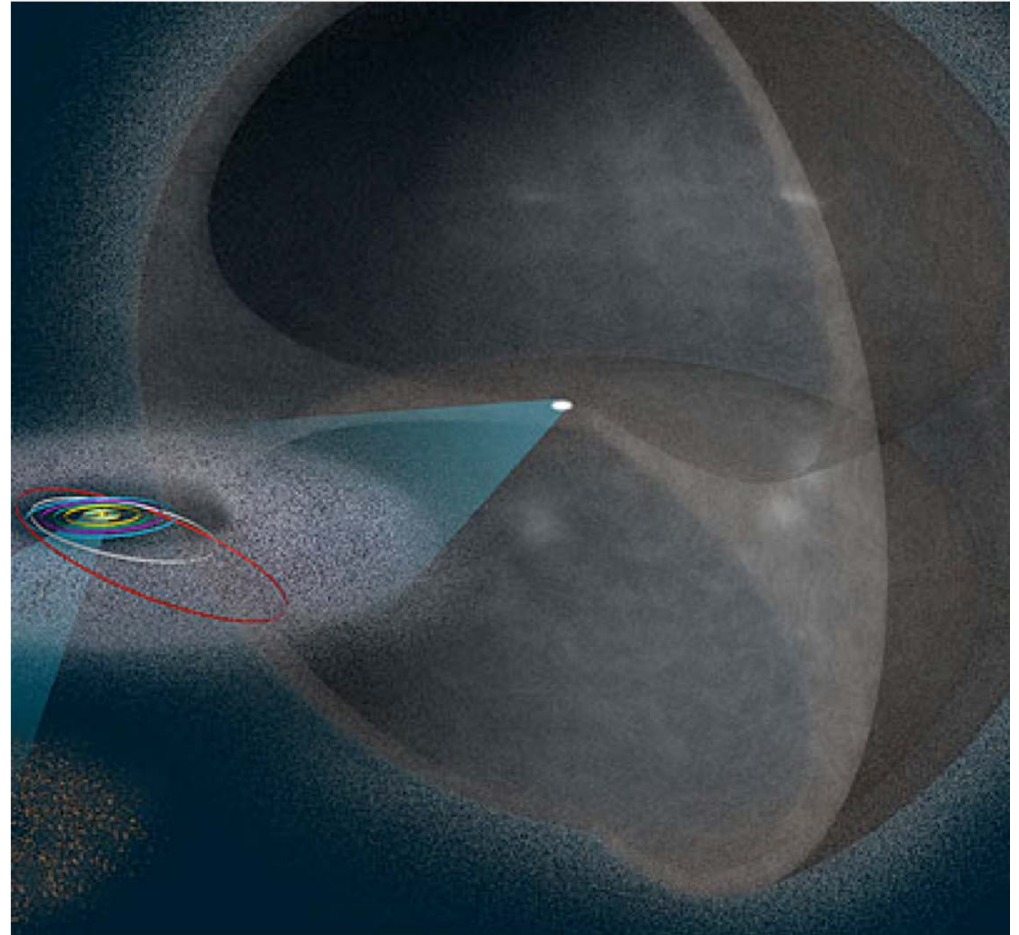
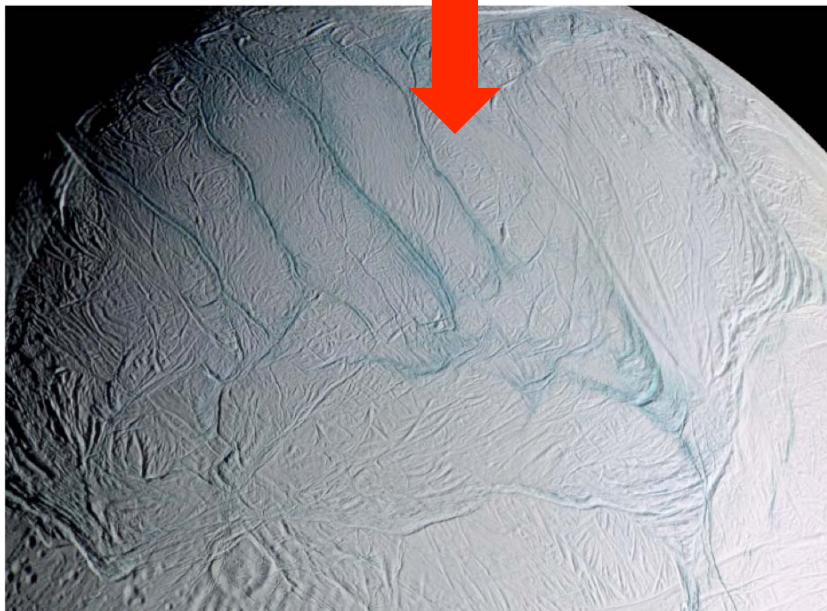
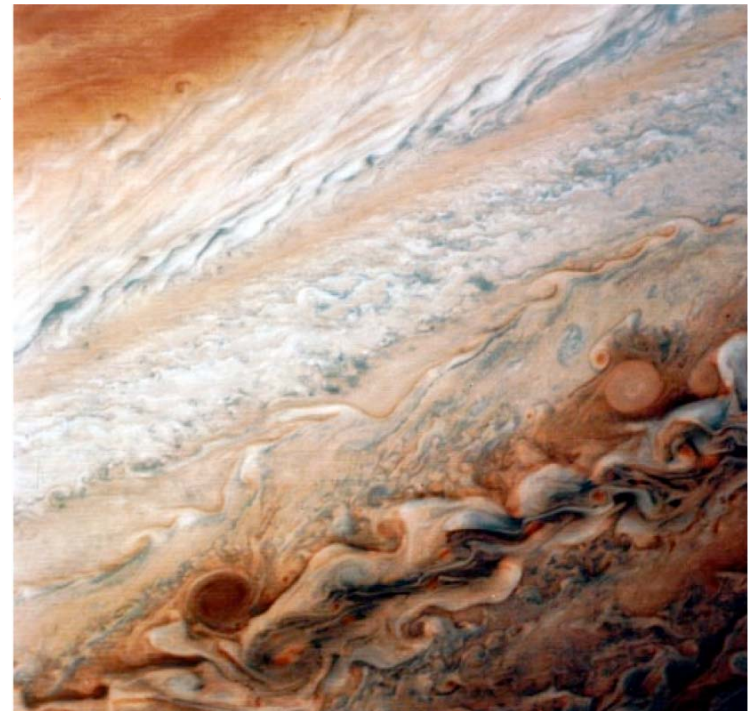
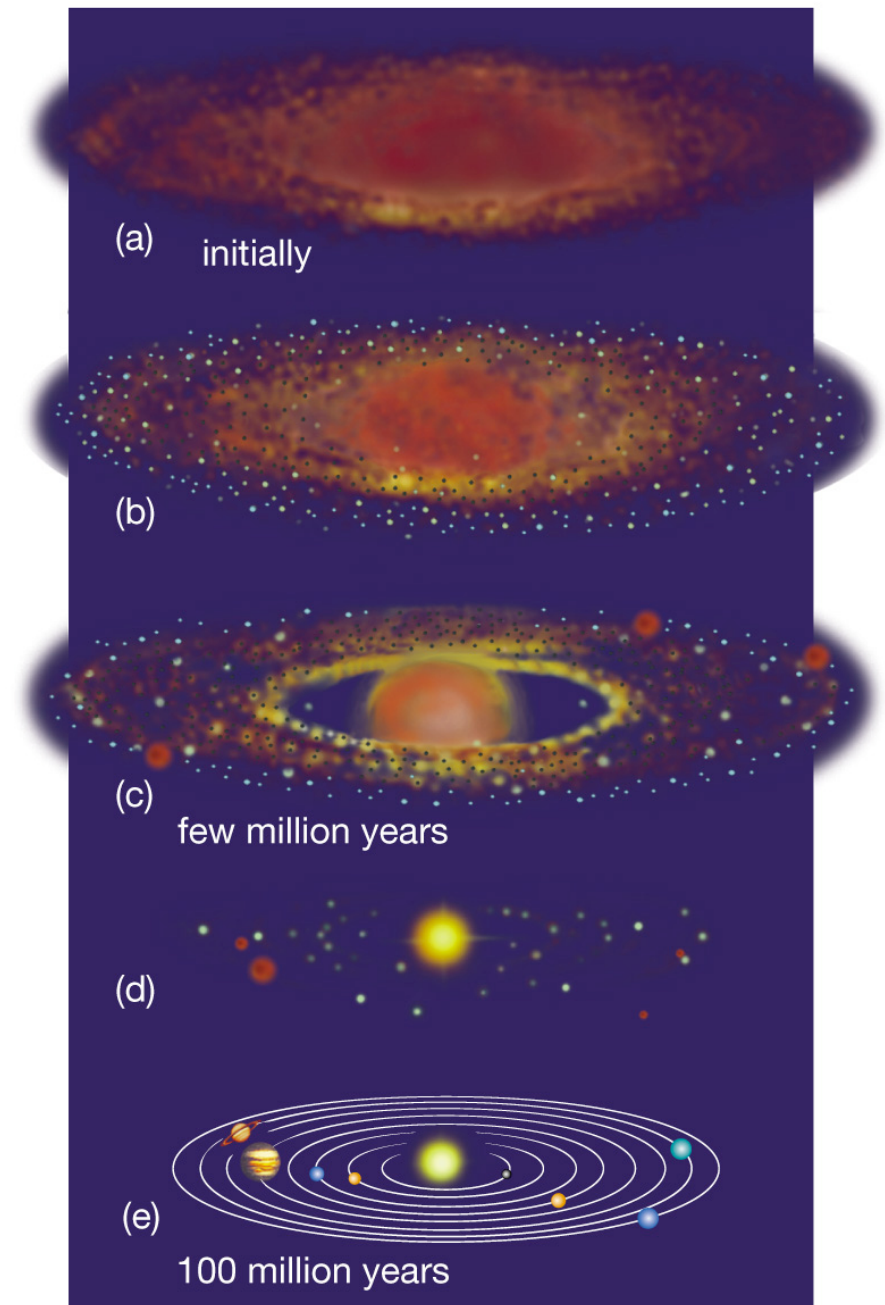




Figure 8-3  
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- **Giant molecular clouds collapse**
  - Forms a quickly spinning disk with the Sun at the center
  - Temperature decreases with distance from the Sun
    - ▶ Water ice stable a few AU from the center
- **Interstellar dust grains form 1km planetesimals**
- **Planetesimals grow quickly through gravitational attraction**
  - Proto-planets are bigger where water ice is stable
- **Giant planet cores capture gas from the disk**
- **Remaining protoplanets coalesce through collisions**
- **Scattering of small bodies allows gas giants to migrate**
  - Sets asteroid and Kuiper belt structure
  - Forms the Oort cloud
  - Results in late heavy bombardment





## In this lecture...

- **Giant molecular clouds collapse**
  - Forms a quickly spinning disk with the Sun at the center
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## Next: Extrasolar Planets

- **Reading**
  - **Chapter 8 to revise this lecture**
  - **Chapter 8-7 for next lecture**