

Astro 14

Class 13: 6 March 2018

Questions to think about and answer during class

What affects the appearance of a (terrestrial) planet's surface? What is the "era of early bombardment"?

Why does Earth have so much less carbon dioxide than Venus does?

Why does the Mars have an atmosphere but Mercury doesn't?

Jovian planets:

Why is there rock at the center of each of the four Jovian planets? What is the formation history of these planets?

How does having a *hot* interior (see Fig. 10.11 on p. 245) help hold Jovian planets up against the force of their own gravity?

Why does the *rapid rotation* of the gas giant planets lead to them having larger equatorial diameters and smaller polar diameters? Is this related to the physics of the formation of the protoplanetary disk orbiting the forming Sun?