

## Some orbital parameters of the planets

	Inclination ( $^{\circ}$ ) ( $i$ )	Eccentricity ( $e$ )	Mean distance (A.U.) ( $a$ )
Mercury	7.00	0.205	0.387
Venus	7.39	0.007	0.723
Earth	..	0.01(7)	1.000
Mars	1.85	0.093	1.524
Jupiter	1.30	0.048	5.203
Saturn	2.49	0.055	9.555
Uranus	0.77	0.046	19.218
Neptune	1.77	0.009	30.110
Pluto	17	0.27	39.5

### The orbit of Pluto.

Although its mean distance from the sun is greater than that of Neptune, the eccentricity of its orbit brings it closer in near perihelion. Perihelion fell in 1989. It was not until 1999 that the distance of Pluto from the sun again exceeded that of Neptune.

There is no danger of collision with Neptune, because the orbital of Pluto is  $17^{\circ}$ , whereas Neptune is  $1.77^{\circ}$ .

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