

Definition of a Planet

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A planet is a celestial body that (a) is by far the largest object in its local population[1], (b) has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a hydrostatic equilibrium (nearly round) shape (c) does not produce more energy than it absorbs from the sun over the life of the object.(d) The object must lie close to the plane of the elliptic.

Some people want to have a requirement that the body does not produce energy by any nuclear fusion mechanism. The problem with that is 2 billion years ago in Oklo, Gabon, Africa natural nuclear reactor was formed when a uranium-rich mineral deposit became inundated with groundwater that acted as a neutron moderator, and a strong chain reaction took place.

I think we need a condition that prevents wandering celestial objects from being considered planets.which is the object must lie close the plane of the elliptic. That lets Pluto out. I like Pluto because when I was young it was the most distant planet from the sun and now Neptune is.

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