ID de Contribution: **21** Type: **Talk**

Probing the Oort Cloud with Centaurs

mardi 17 mai 2016 10:15 (45 minutes)

The Oort cloud has previously been invoked to explain observations of centaurs with very high inclinations and/or very large semimajor axes since such orbits are difficult to generate from the scattered disk. However, the known sample of centaurs has been detected with a combination of surveys with different observational biases, some more well-characterized than others. Consequently, it is difficult to compare the centaur production in numerical simulations with the orbital distribution of detected centaurs. Here we use the centaur sample of the Outer Solar Systems Origins Survey (OSSOS), along with a survey simulator, to determine if the Oort cloud is a significant source of centaurs. These results can provide additional constraints on the population and mass of the Oort Cloud.

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Classification de Session: The dynamic of comets

Classification de thématique: The dynamic of comets