

A study of the past dynamics of comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko with fast Lyapunov indicators

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On the basis of backward numerical integrations of a large set of simulated comets whose initial conditions were obtained from small variations of the orbital parameters of comet 67P, and using the analysis of suitable chaos indicators, we detect the phase-space structure of the past close encounters of the comet with Jupiter. On the basis of these computations we find that the probability that the comet could have been injected into the inner solar system from distances larger than 100 AU from the Sun in the past 150000 years is about 60 percent.

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