

cartographic perspectives

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cartographic perspectives on the news

SCIENTISTS EXCHANGE NEW VIEWS OF SOLAR SYSTEM

At the 21st Lunar and Planetary Science Conference held March 12-16 at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, new views of the solar system from its origin as a gas-dust nebula to the current state of Venus, Mars, Earth's moon and other solid bodies, attracted more than 700 planetary scientists. The conference occurred at a time when data from a host of planetary spacecraft missions are being analyzed and at a time of preparation for a new generation of extraterrestrial mapping missions and experiments.

Future activities include the Magellan mission to Venus to complete the surface map of that planet; Galileo, the Jupiter-bound spacecraft that will aim its instruments at the moon as it swings by Earth this winter to pick up energy for its outward journey; the Mars observer, to be launched in 1992 to obtain global geochemical and geophysical data; and the Hubble Space Telescope, which will be aimed mainly at objects of astrophysical interest, but which will make new planetary observations as best it can with its defective