

An updated review on the interiors of small solar system bodies

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The overall knowledge on asteroids and comets has changed remarkably in the two last decades, due to Earth-based observations, theoretical and numerical work, and to probe missions. One of the most intriguing and interesting features regarding these objects is related to their internal composition. Small-scale composition is partly revealed by the meteorites found on the Earth surface, but nothing similar is available for large-scale composition. Unfortunately, inspecting the interior of any celestial body is an issue only to be tackled in the future, if ever. At present, the only evidences that we can handle on the internal composition of small solar system bodies are necessarily indirect: close encounters between asteroids, or between asteroids and probes, rotational periods, and rare disintegration events due to close encounters with the planets and the Sun.