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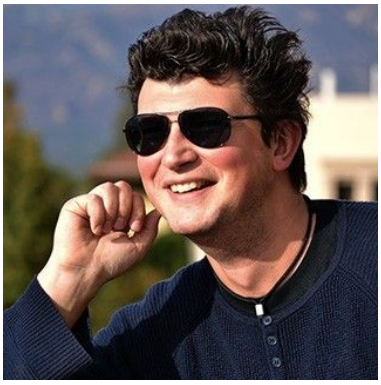
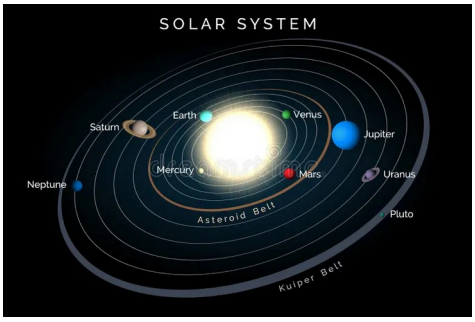
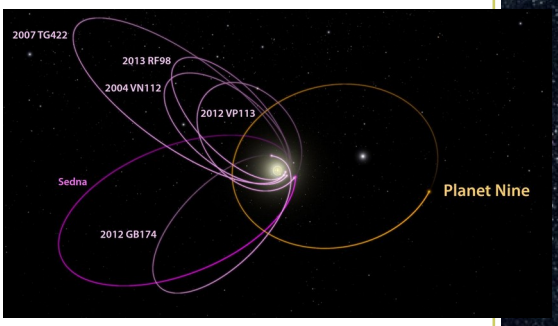


Dr. Konstantin Batygin



The classic 8 planet solar system. (Credit:NASA)



A possible orbit for Planet 9 .(Credit: NASA)

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Spring 2025

Harcourt "Ace" Vernon Memorial Lecture

April 16, 2025
7:30 pm Clayton Hall
University of Delaware

Featuring Guest Speaker

Dr. Konstantin Batygin

California Institute of Technology

The Planet 9 Hypothesis

Over the past twenty years, observational surveys have revealed the complex orbital structure of Kuiper belt objects. The most distant objects have orbits that pose challenges to the conventional Solar System model. The peculiar dynamics of these distant solar system objects points to the presence of an undetected planet. The planet is estimated to have a mass about 5 times that of the Earth. Planet 9's orbit is predicted to be inclined and eccentric, with a period of approximately 10,000 years. Dr Batygin will show us the evidence for Planet 9, and present new results that further substantiates the case for Planet 9.

An artist's rendition of Planet 9. Planet 9 is predicted to be very distant from the Sun, making it very faint and difficult to detect with current technology. We see its effects on the orbits of distant Kuiper Belt objects. (Credit: NASA)