## Planetary Science Conference

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## The various definitions of ,planet'

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[POSTER]

The term 'planet' currently does not have a unanimously agreed upon definition. The most widely accepted criteria proposed by the IAU in 2006 are not undisputable. Perhaps the most controversial topic is the idea of determining an object's planetary status not only by its own physical properties, such as mass or roundness, but also its environment, such as the nature or existence of its orbital parent and the object's gravitational dominance. Then there is the difficulty of where exactly to draw the boundaries. Another issue is developing a definition that is universal and useful in classifying objects such as TNOs or extrasolar bodies, for which there is only a limited amount of data available. In the wake of an era of discovery where new objects in the Solar System and exoplanets are being detected, it may be beneficial or even necessary to reconsider and possibly redefine what exactly a planet is.



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