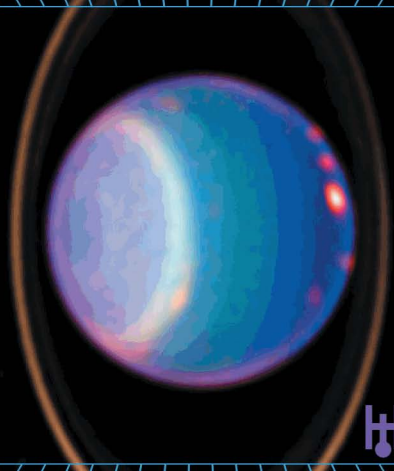


URANUS



"THE TILTED PLANET"



Uranus, the third largest planet in our solar system, may be the strangest because it spins on its side. That severe tilt to its rotational axis may result from a great collision long ago. As the seventh planet from the Sun, Uranus takes 84 years to complete an orbit. It is a "gas giant" with no solid surface. Methane gas above the cloud layers gives it a blue-green color.

The only spacecraft to visit Uranus, Voyager 2, saw few features in the planet's atmosphere when it flew by in 1986. It did discover 10 moons and two rings in addition to studying moons and rings previously seen from Earth.



Four of Uranus's moons.



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

<http://solarsystem.nasa.gov>

JPL 400-1147L
Rev. 1, 9/04
EB-2004-04-027