Solar generator blows up Mercury

Overview

According to data from the The Fast Imaging Plasma Spectrometer (FIPS) onboard NASA's MESSENGER spacecraft, the solar wind is "sandblasting" the surface of Mercury at its polar regions. Mercury, the smallest planet in our solar system, revolves around the sun once every 88 Earth days and is known for its extreme temperatures, ranging from -173 degrees Celsius at night to 427 degrees Celsius during the day. However, what is not widely known is how the planet's environment is. Many theories have been proposed to explain how Mercury ended up as the planet with the largest core compared to its size. One idea is that Mercury formed with a silicate mantle that was blasted away by asteroid impacts. These three conditions result in a direct coupling between the plasma emitted from the Sun and Mercury's surface. 58 million mi) at perihelion to 69.

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The Solar Wind Whistles as it Passes Mercury

Beginning with the *Mariner 10* mission in 1974, robotic explorers have been sent to Mercury to measure how solar wind interacts with Mercury's magnetic field to produce whistler-mode ...

"Extreme" Solar Wind Blasts Mercury's Poles

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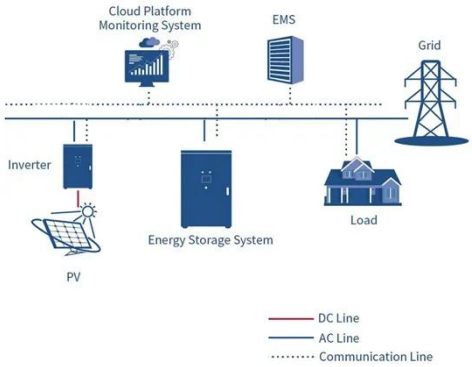
Was Mercury stripped away by a colossal impact and the solar wind?

In fact, the solar wind streaming off the young Sun was likely to be 10 to 100 times more intense than today. With such a strong flow of solar wind, the material blasted off Mercury would ...

Mapping the Sun's Interaction with Mercury's Surface

A new study maps the infall of protons and electrons from the solar wind to geographical location on the surface of Mercury, giving scientists new insight into how interactions with the Sun

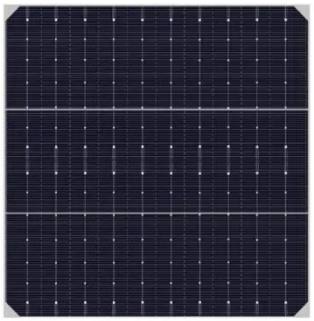


Mercury gets powerful solar storms every day

But on Mercury you get extremely powerful solar storms every day. We're still trying to figure out what that does to the planet. It has a weak magnetic field, and it's very close to the sun. Is ...

Solar Wind Takes up Mercury's Mantle

To test whether the solar wind could be responsible for facilitating the loss of Mercury's mantle, the authors first looked for an analytical solution by directly solving equations of motion.



Why blowing up Mercury might be the insane key to saving ...

At the extreme edge of serious astrophysics sits an idea that sounds like science fiction: dismantling Mercury to

build a vast solar power machine around the Sun.

Solar Flares and Mercury: A Looming Environmental Crisis

Mercury is one of our closest neighbors in space and is constantly bombarded by intense radiation from the sun. This radiation can cause significant changes in Mercury's environment, ...

The Solar Wind Prevents Reaccretion of Debris after Mercury's Giant

We carry out simulations, both with and without the solar wind-induced drag in order to compute the efficiency with which the solar wind may remove debris from Mercury's vicinity.

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