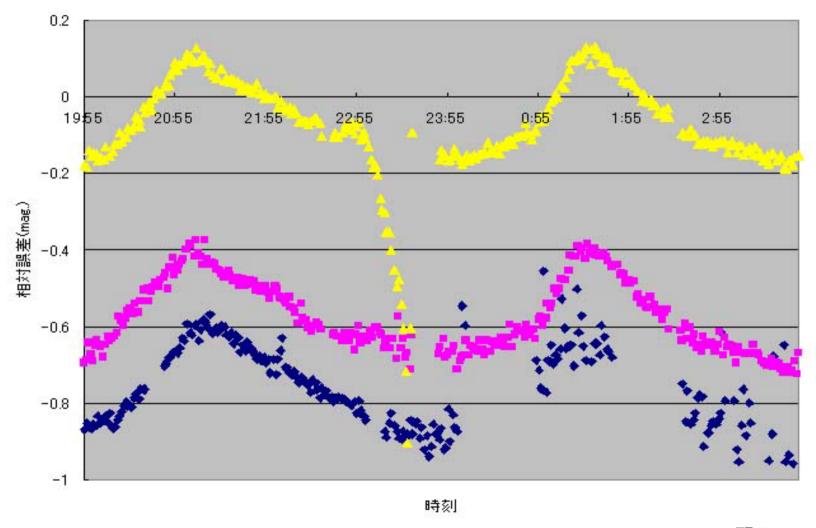
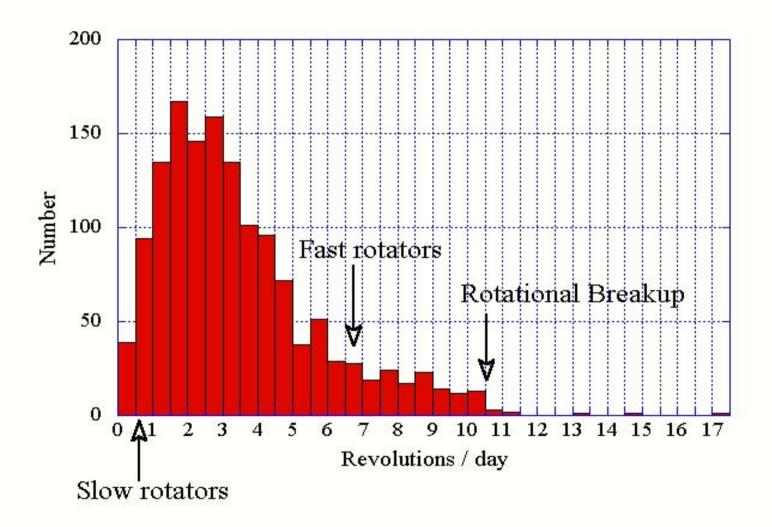
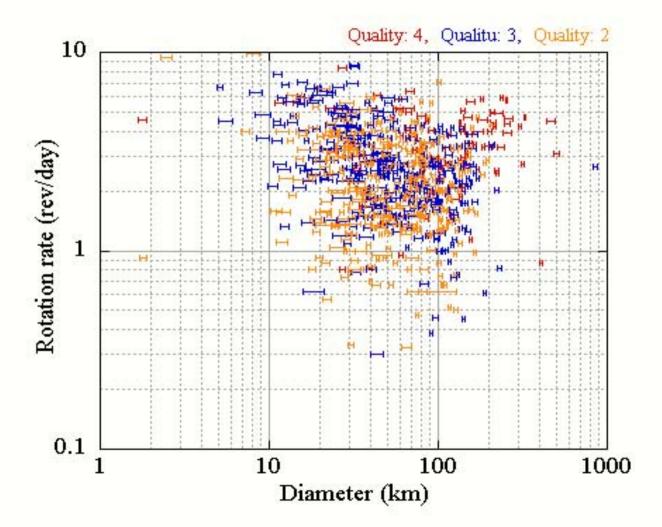


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Angular Momentum Drain: A Mechanism for Despinning Asteroids

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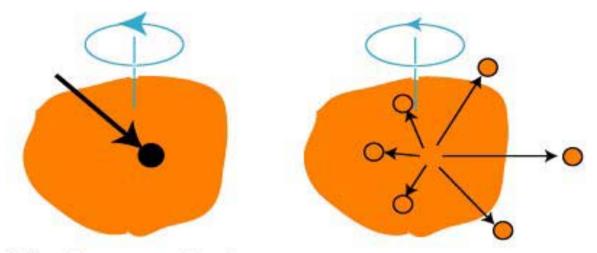
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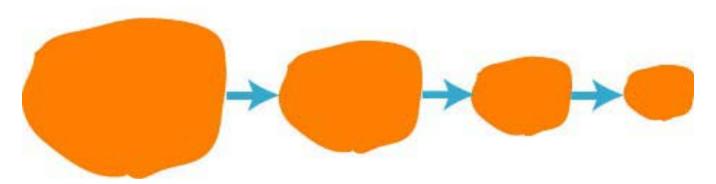
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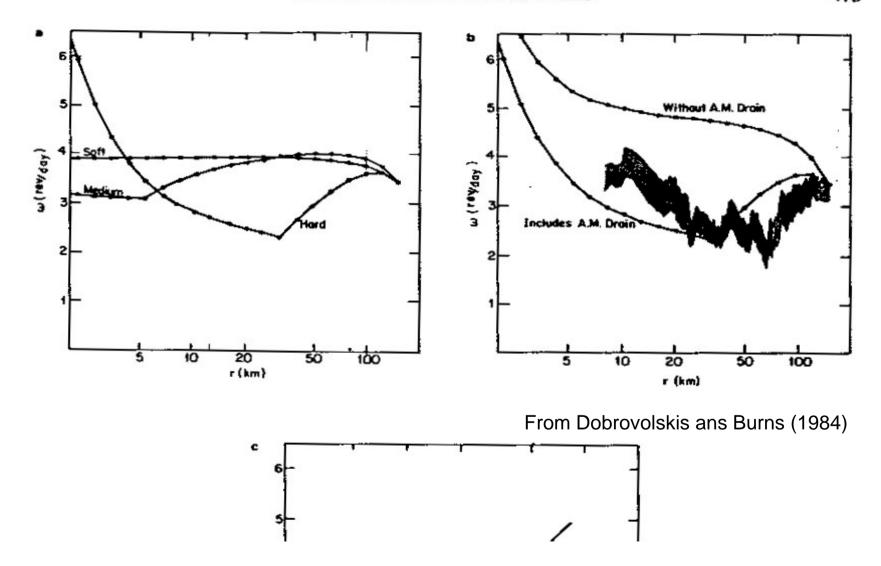
It is proposed that a new mechanism—angular momentum drain—helps account for the relatively slow rotation rates of intermediate-sized asteroids. Impact ejecta on a spinning body preferentially escape in the direction of rotation. This material systematically drains away spin angular momentum, leading to the counterintuitive result that collisions can reduce the spin of midsized objects. For an asteroid of mass M spinning at frequency ω , a mass loss δM corresponds to an average decrease in rotation rate $\delta \omega \approx \omega \delta M/M$. A. W. Harris' (1979, Icarus 40, 145–153) theory for the collisional evolution of asteroidal spins is significantly altered by the inclusion of this effect. While the modified theory is still somewhat artificial, comparison of its predictions with the data of S. F. Dermott, A. W. Harris, and C. D. Murray (1984, Icarus 57, 14–34) suggests that angular momentum drain is essential for understanding the statistics of asteroidal rotations.



- (1) Angular momentum impulse (2) Mass absorption

- (3) Escape of some ejecta
- (4) Escaping ejecta drain angular momentum





今後の課題

- 1. 小惑星が成長している可能性はないのか?
- 2.破壊によってサイズが大きく変化するとき自転に変化はないのか?
- 3. 最新の衝突のモデルではどうなるか?