



# *SECRETS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM*

## *S<sup>3</sup>-05*

*Wladimir (Wlad) Lyra*  
*Brian Levine*

*AMNH After-School Program*

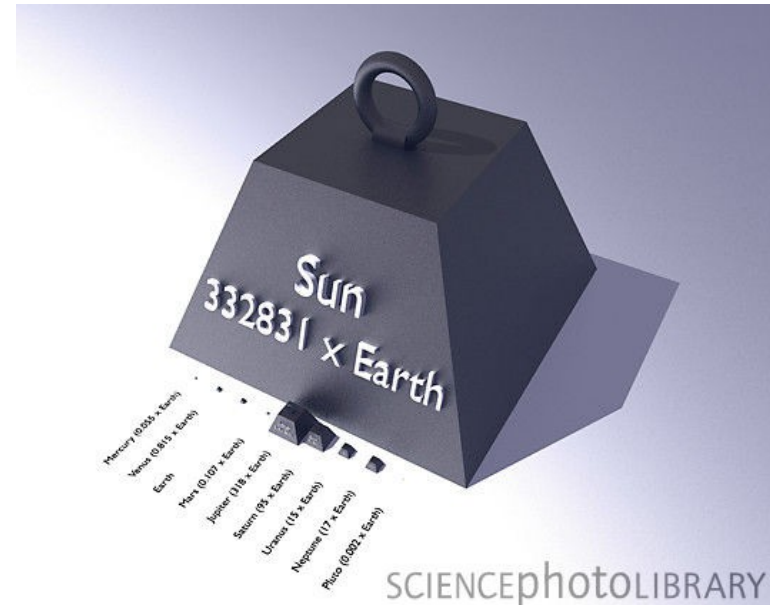
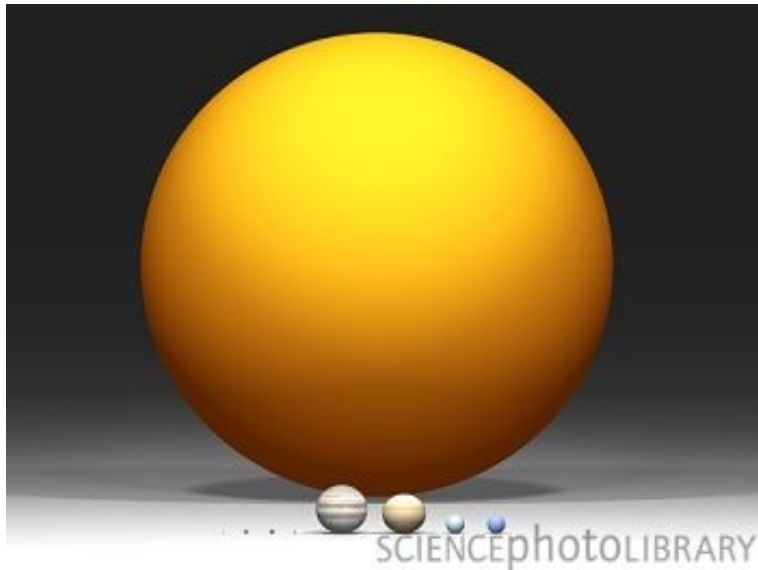
AMERICAN  
MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL  
HISTORY



# From last class

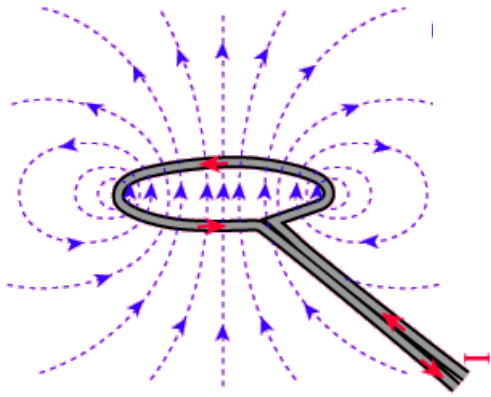
## The Sun

The Sun is by far the dominant object of the Solar System



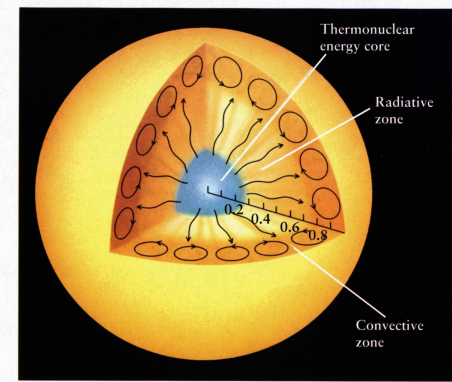
Jupiter has more than twice the mass of all planets combined.  
And the Sun is more than 1000x more massive than Jupiter.

The Sun accounts for 99.9% of the mass of the solar system



# From last class

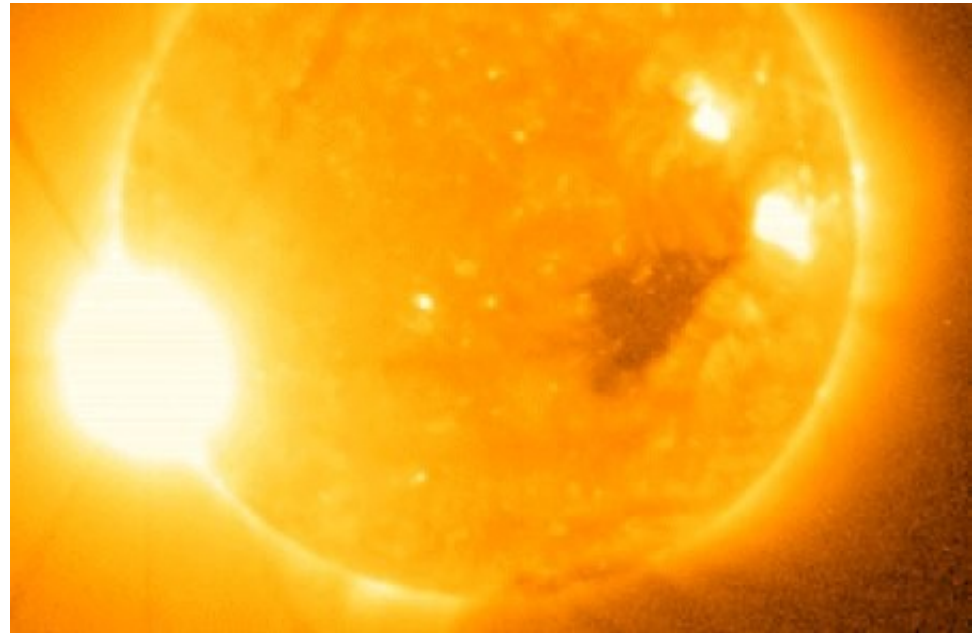
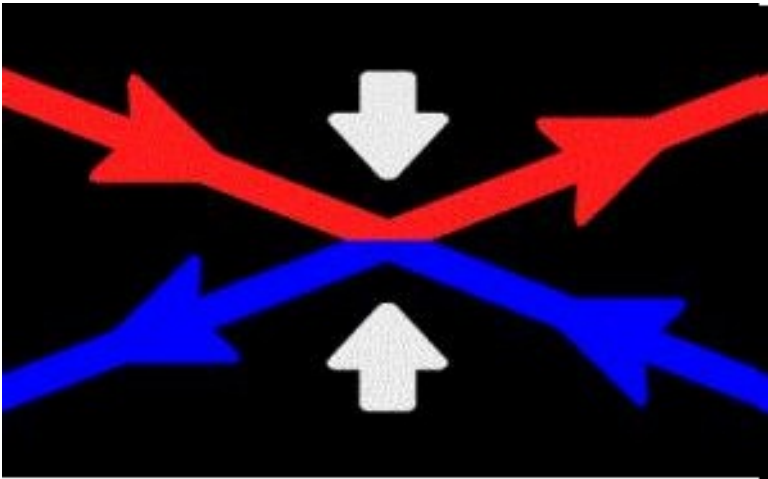
## Magnetic Fields



From last class

## Magnetic Reconnection

Magnetic Field lines store energy

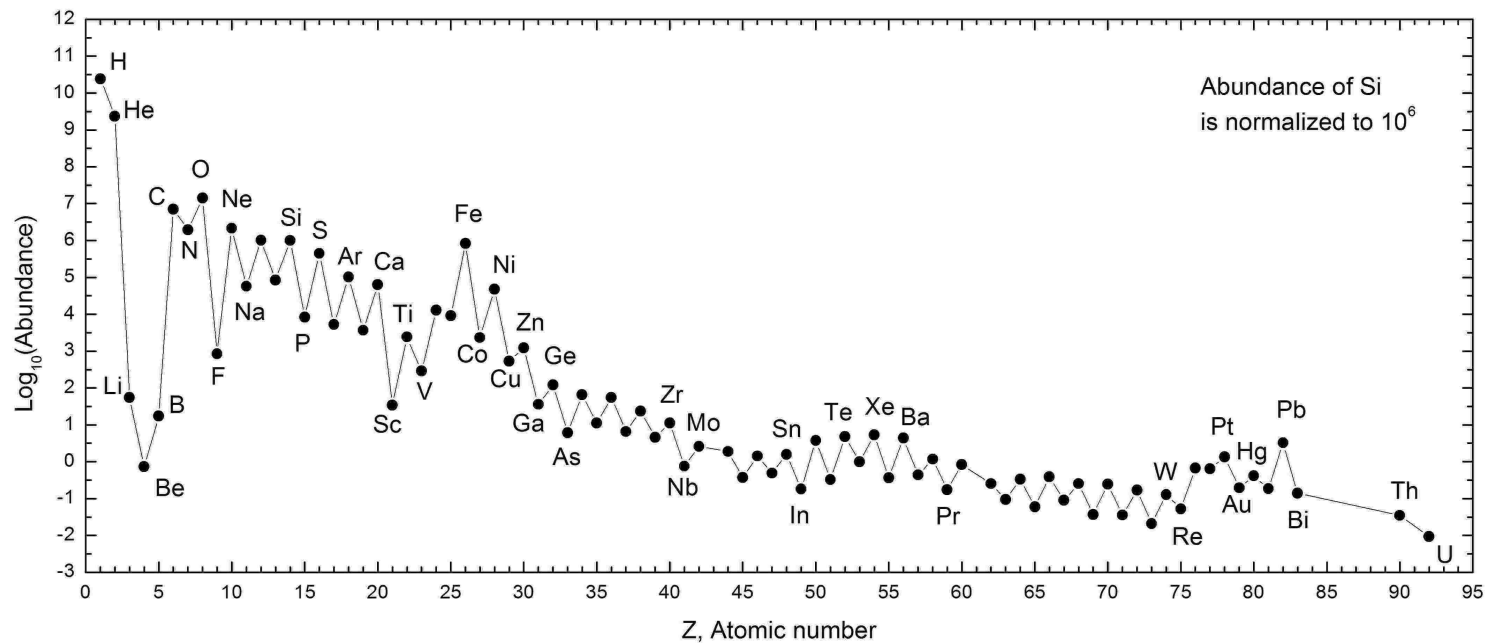


Upon cancellation, the energy is explosively released

# From last class

## Chemical Composition

### The chemical composition of the Sun



Most abundant elements, in order:

H (71%) He (27%)

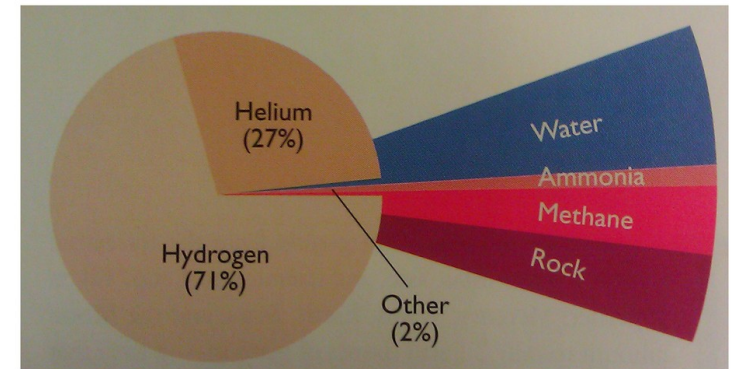
O (1.04%) C (0.46%)

Ne (0.13%) Fe (0.11%) N (0.1%)

Si (0.06%), Mg (0.05%), S (0.04%)

# From last class

# Chemistry

[illegible]
$$H_2$$

He

## Gas

$$H_2O$$
$$CH_4$$
$$\text{NH}_3$$

## Ices

Fe, Si

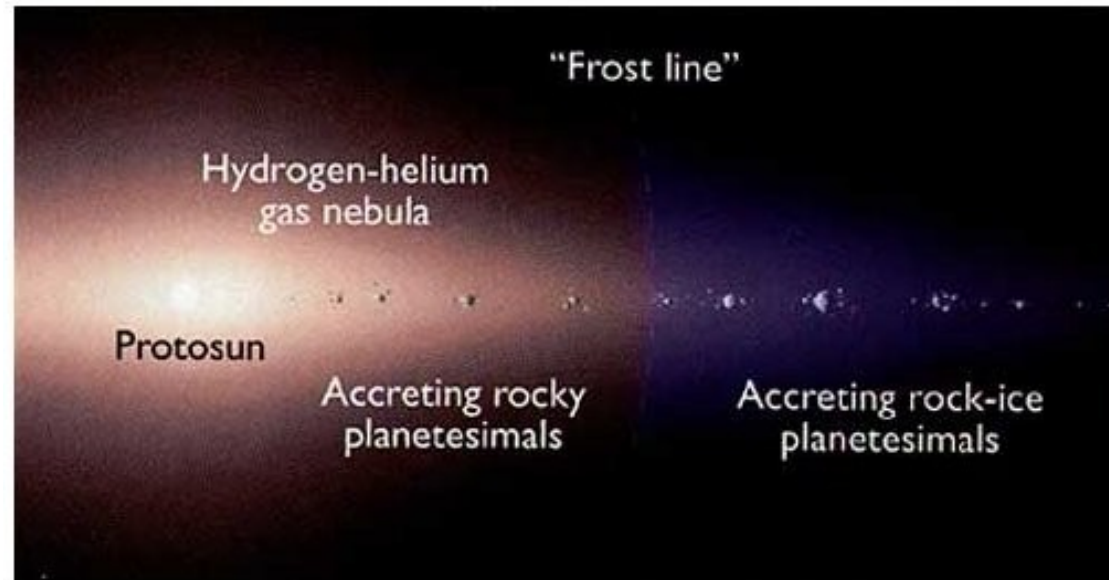
## Rock

# From last class

## Formation

### Inward of snowline

Accreting  
rocky cores  
(small)



### Outward of snowline

Ice comes to aid!  
Growing big  
icy/rocky cores.

# Outline

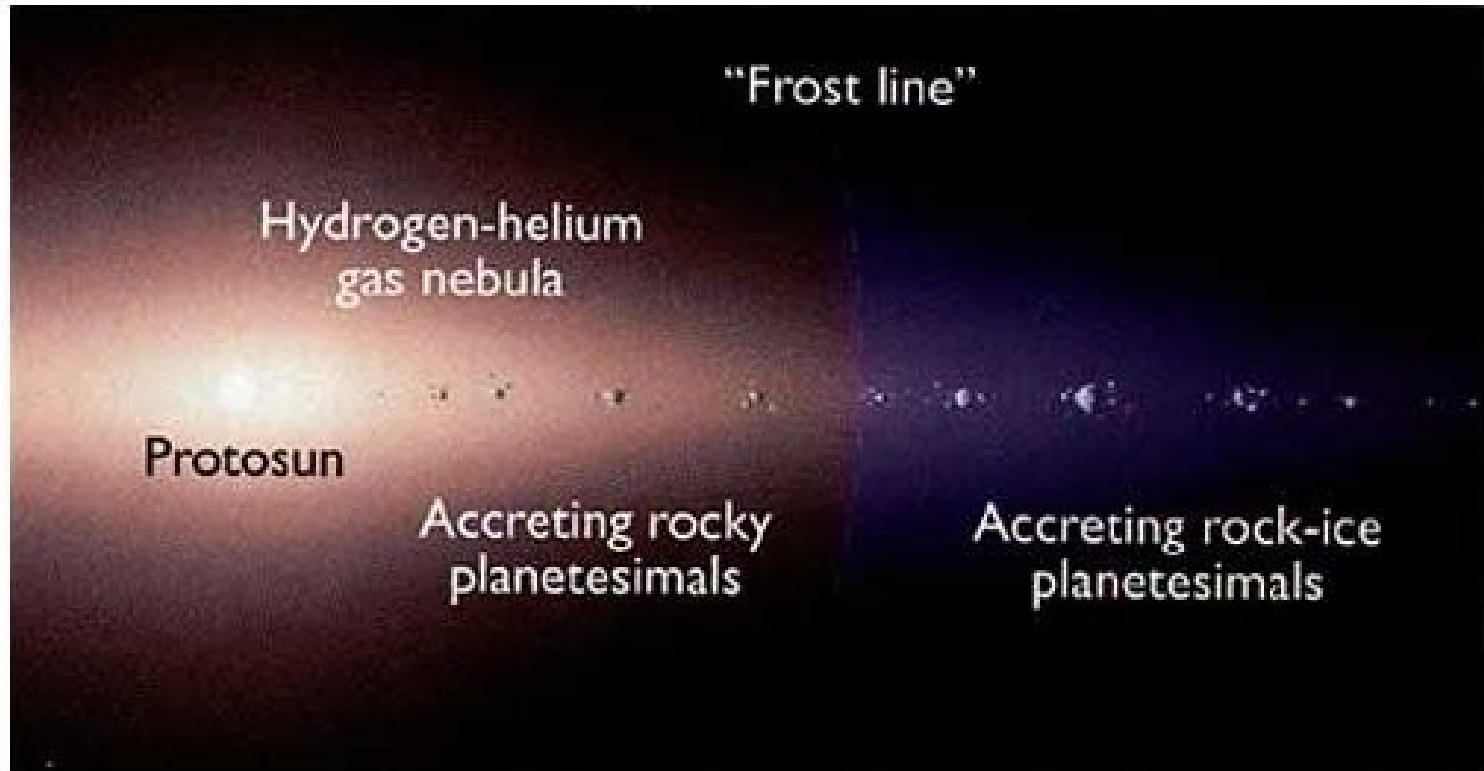
## Classes of Planets

### Giant Planets

- Interiors
- Atmospheres
  - Rings



# The Snowline



Volatiles in gas phase

Volatiles in solid phase

Colder than  $\sim 150\text{K}$ , the volatiles ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CH}_4$ ,  $\text{NH}_3$ )

condense into **ices**.

# Classes of planets

## Rocky Planets

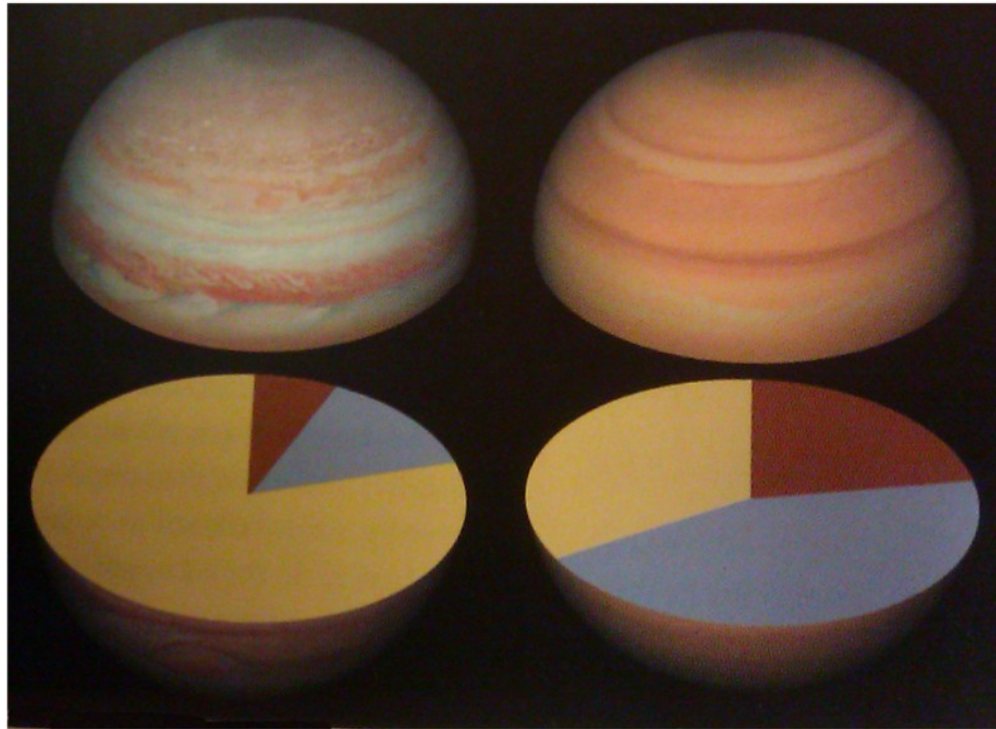
Earth



## Gas Giants

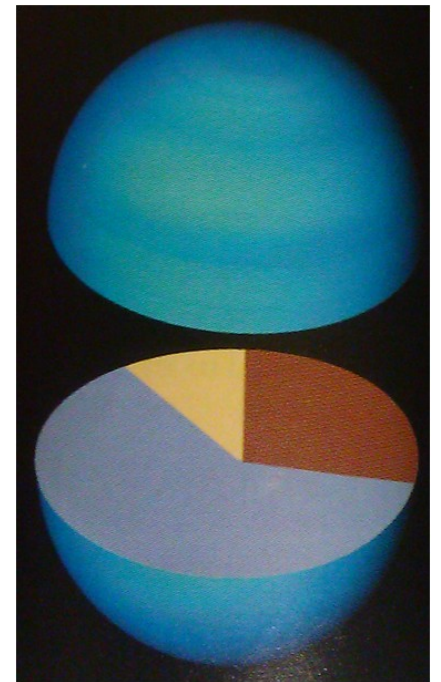
Jupiter

Saturn



## Ice Giants

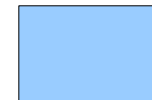
Uranus/Neptune



Rock

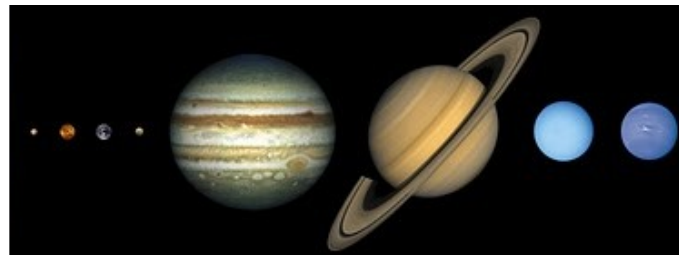
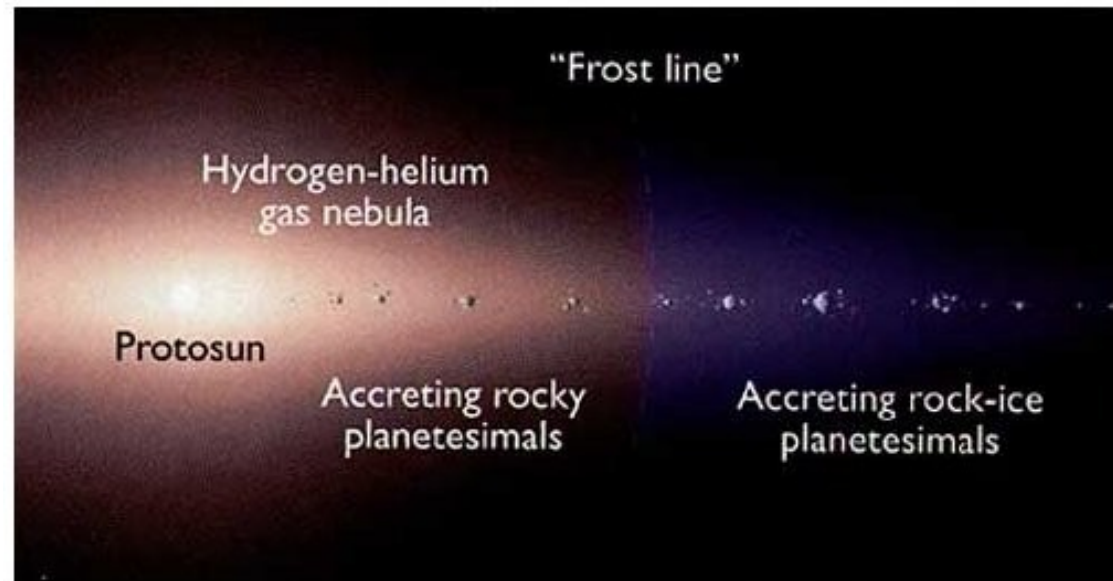


Gas



Ice

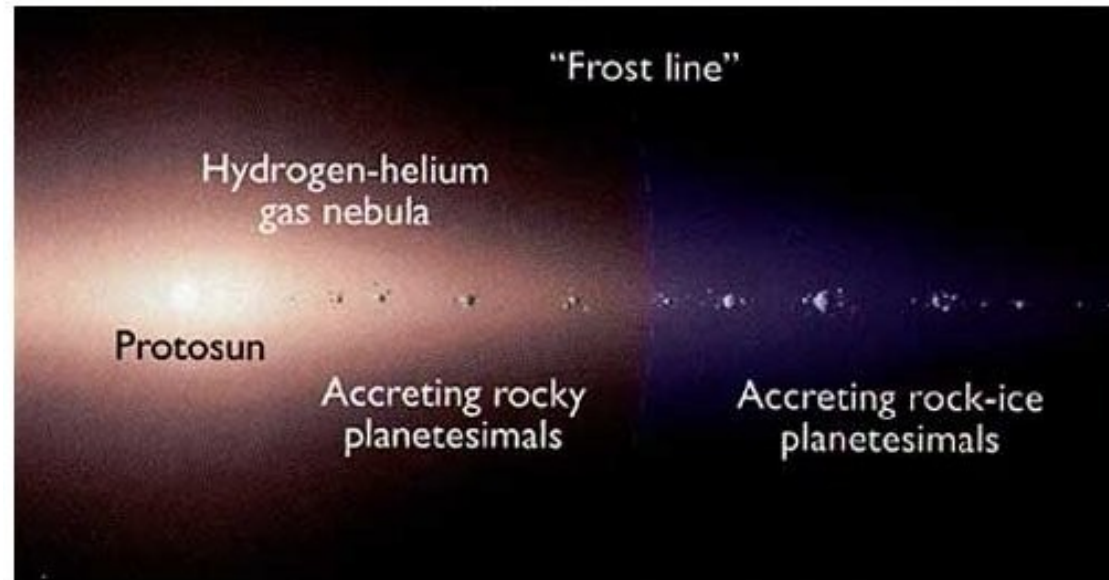
# Formation



# Formation

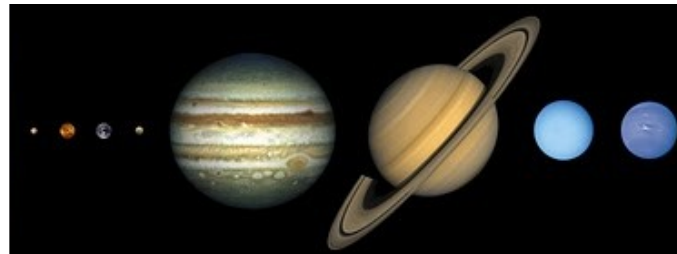
## Inward of snowline

Accreting  
rocky cores  
(small)



## Outward of snowline

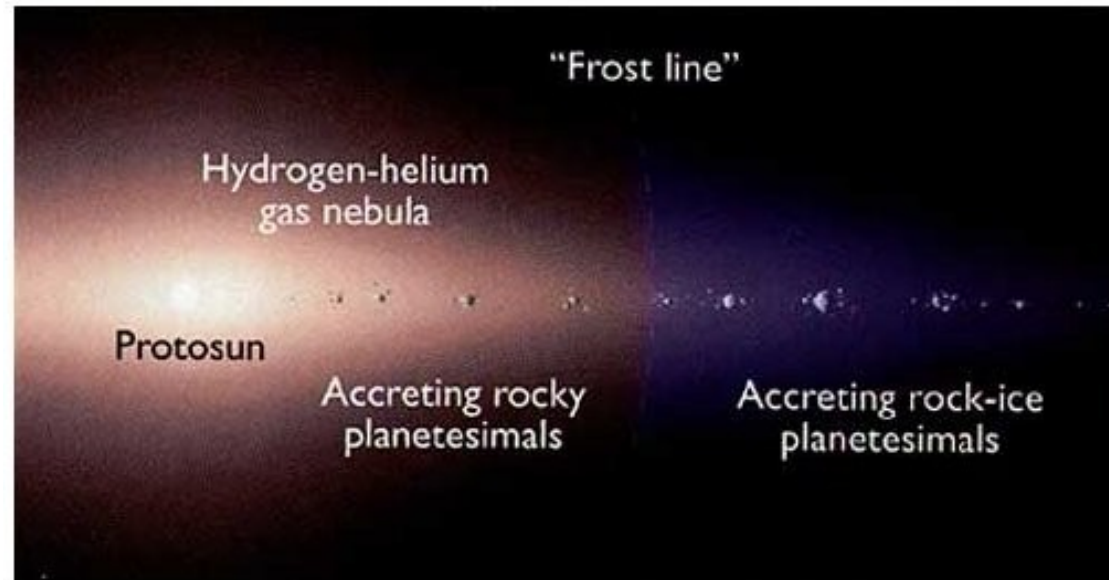
Ice comes to aid!  
Growing big  
icy/rocky cores.



# Formation

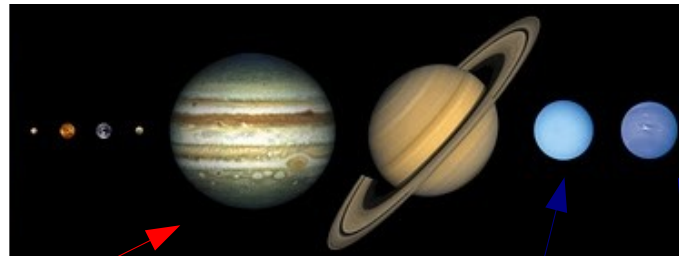
## Inward of snowline

Accreting  
rocky cores  
(small)



## Outward of snowline

Ice comes to aid!  
Growing big  
icy/rocky cores.



These guys got so big  
they started accreting  
gas from the nebula!

These ones never did.  
They are just the icy/rocky cores.

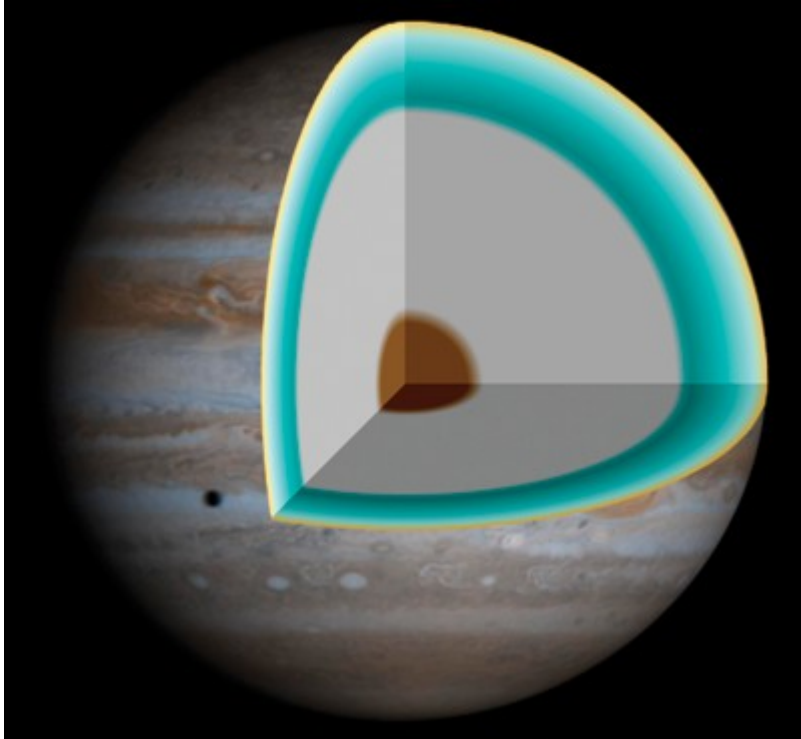
# Gas Giants



*Activity*



# Interior of Jupiter



Pressure = weight/area

Pressure at center

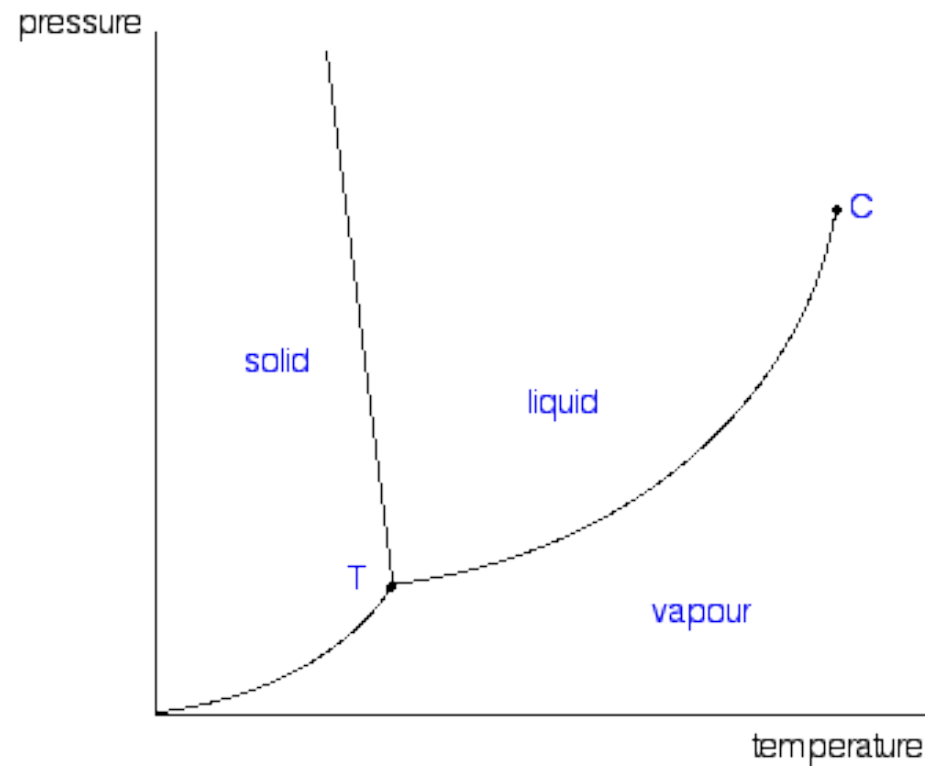
**70 million atmospheres**

Temperature at center

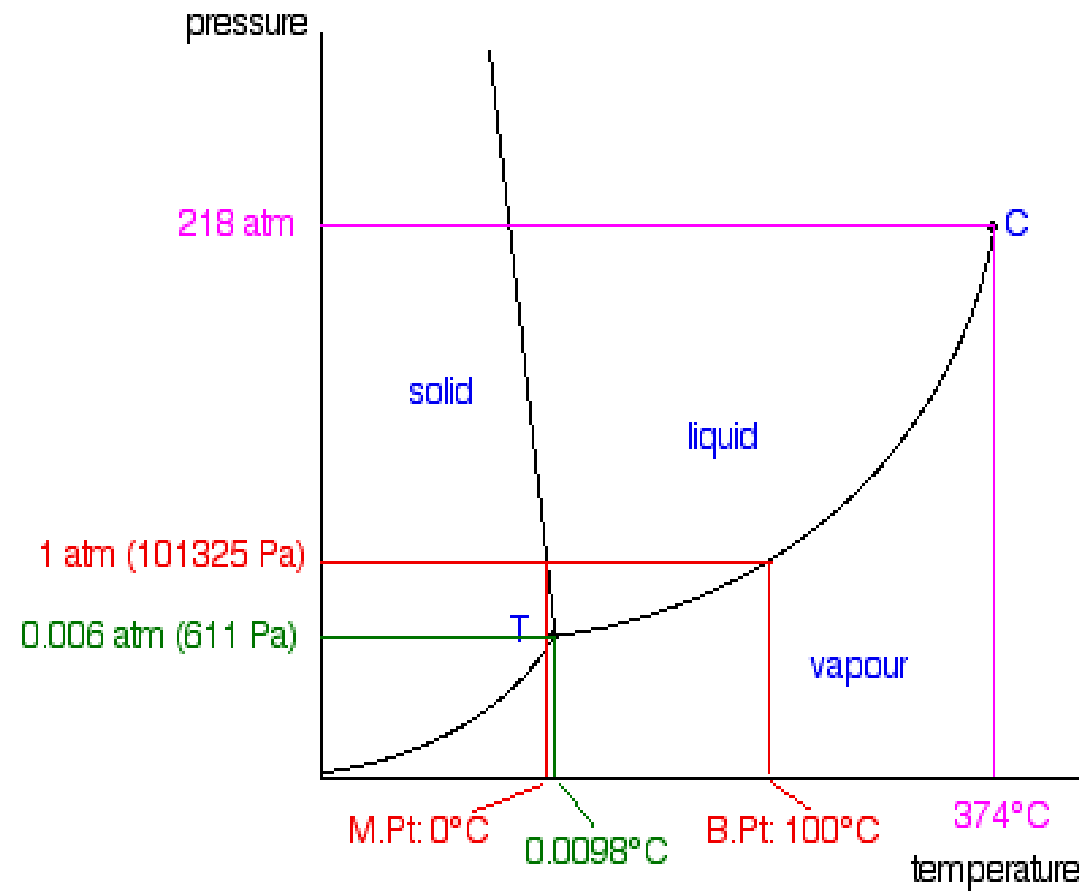
**17.000 K**



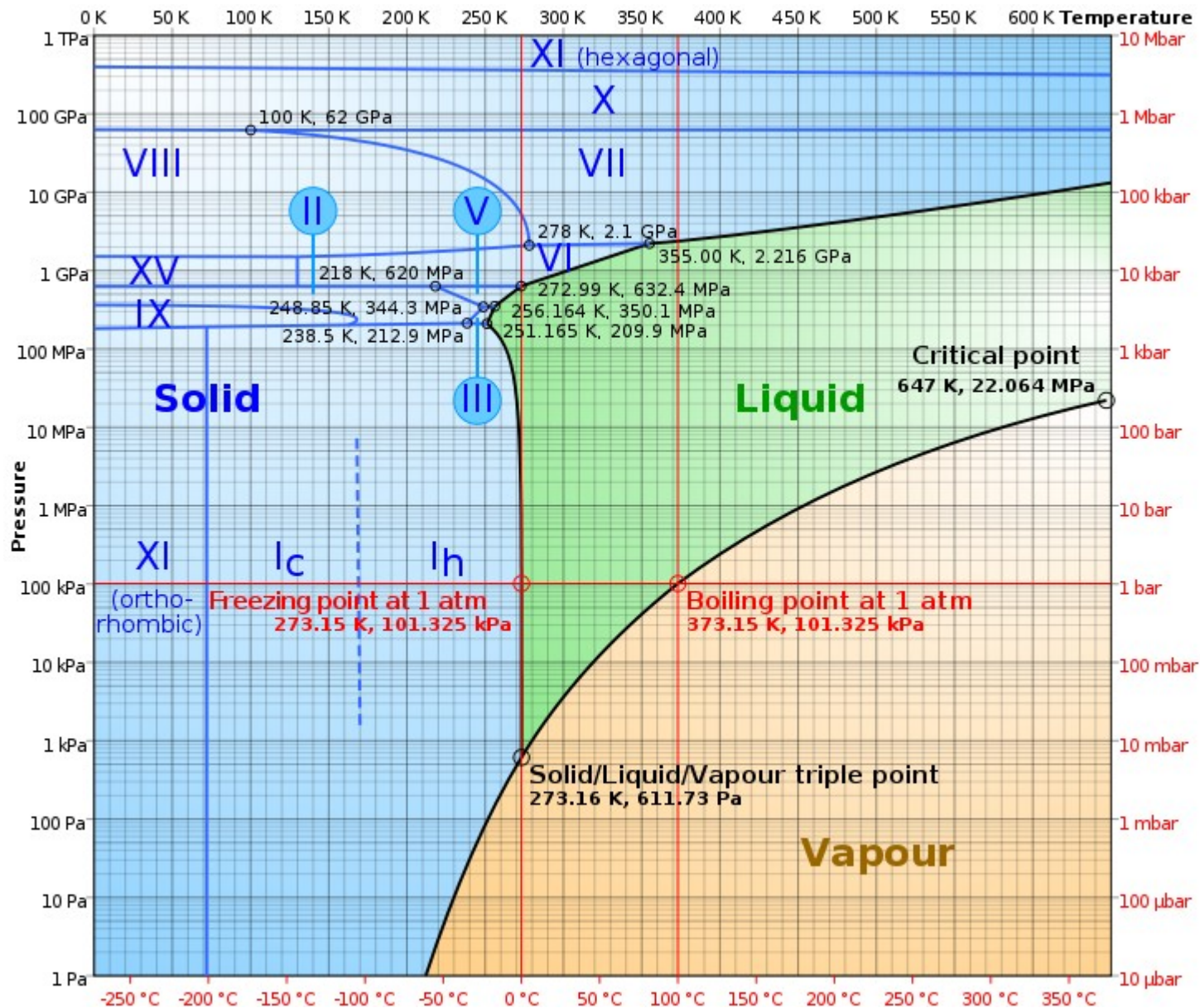
# Phase diagram



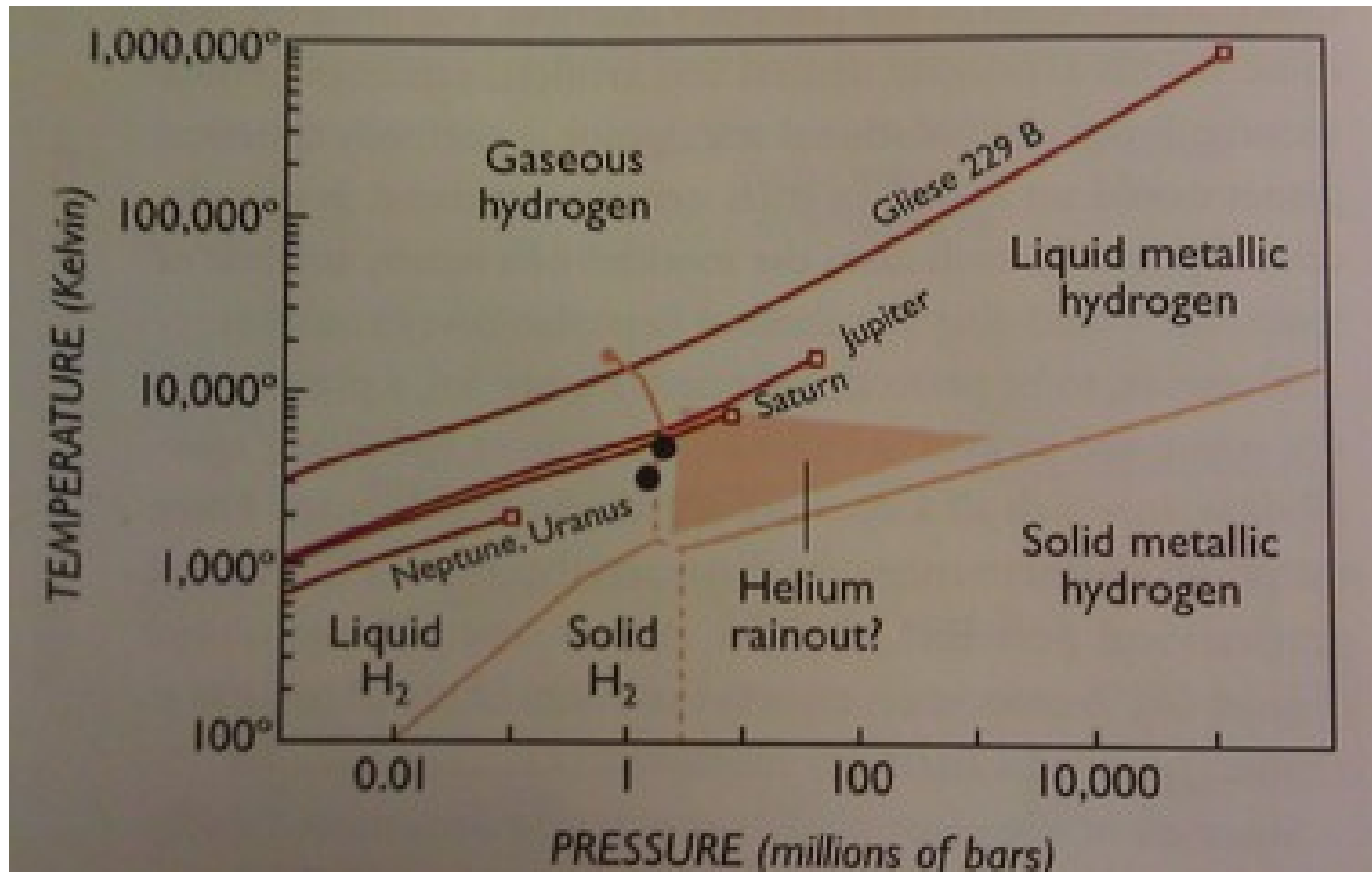
# Phase diagram



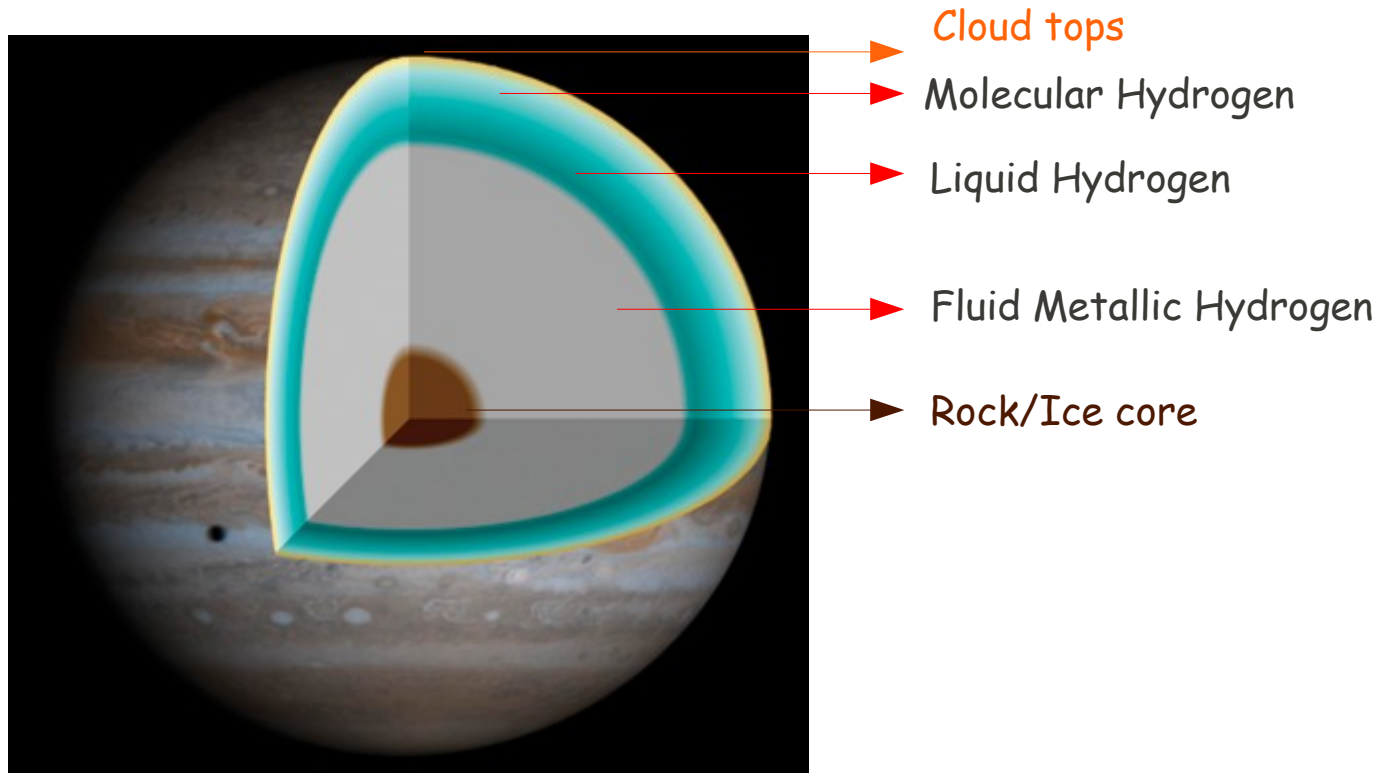
# A lot more happens at high pressures



# Hydrogen under pressure



# Interior of Jupiter

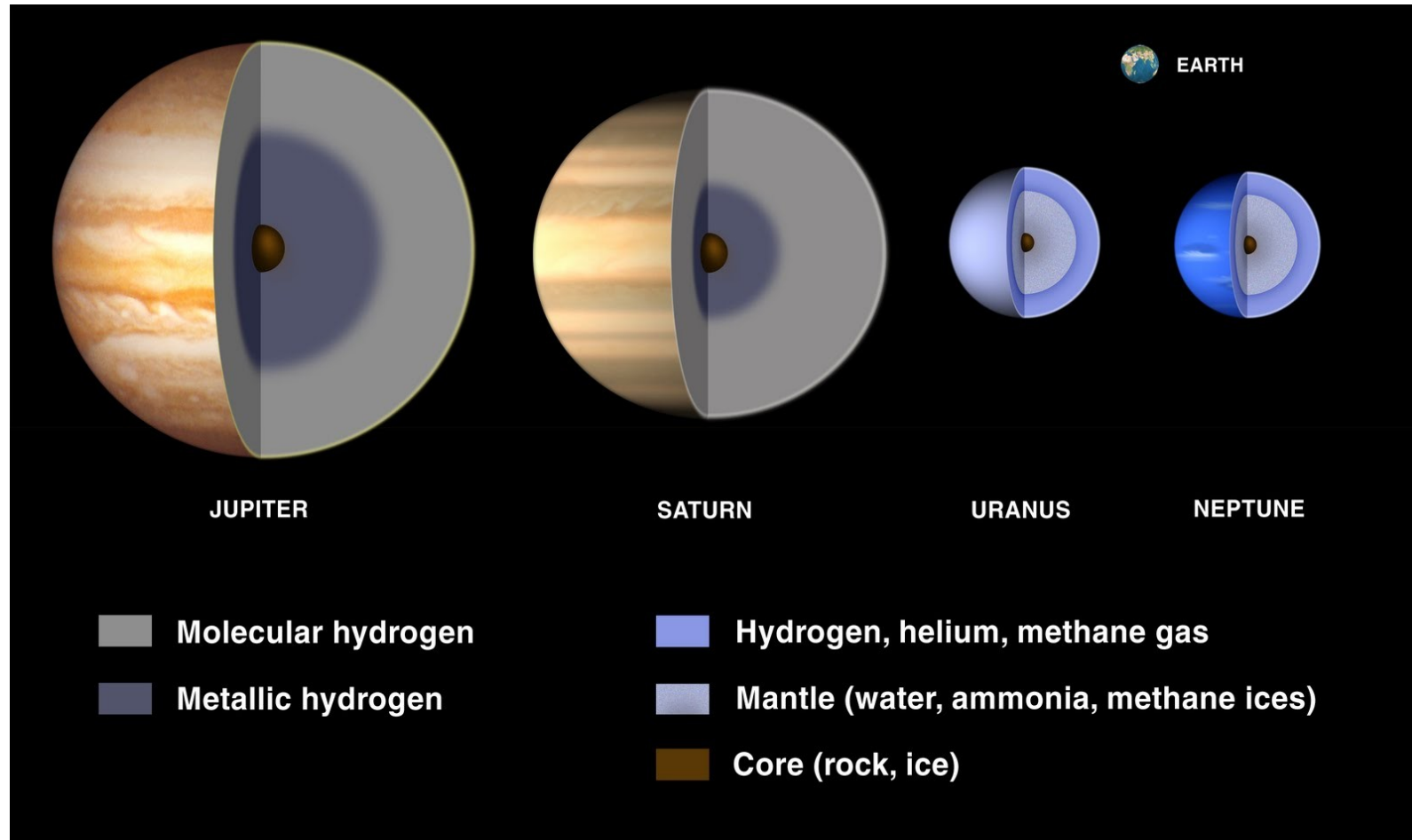


Pressure = weight/area

Pressure at center  
**70 million atmospheres**

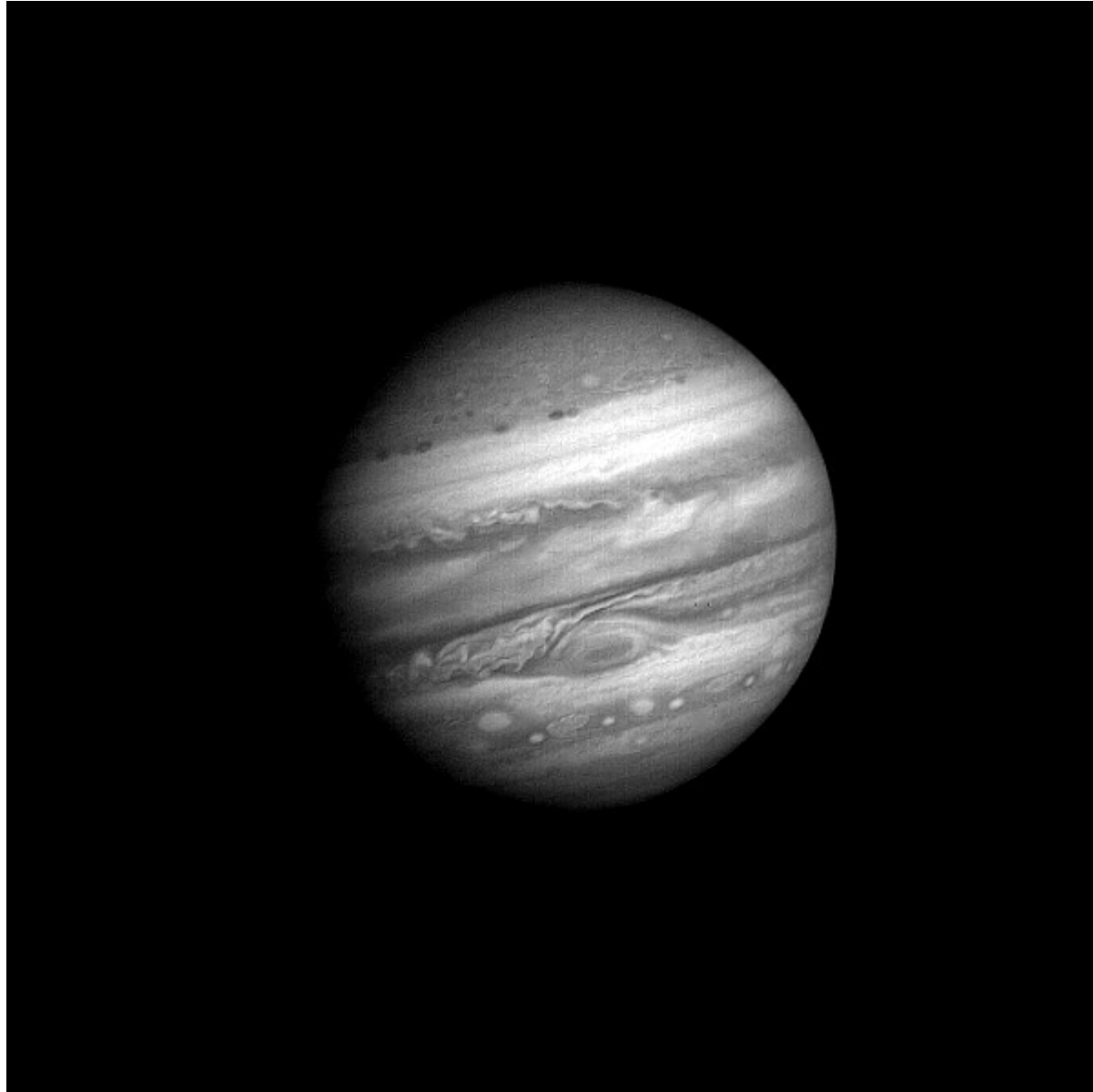
Temperature at center  
**17.000 K**

# Interior of the giant planets



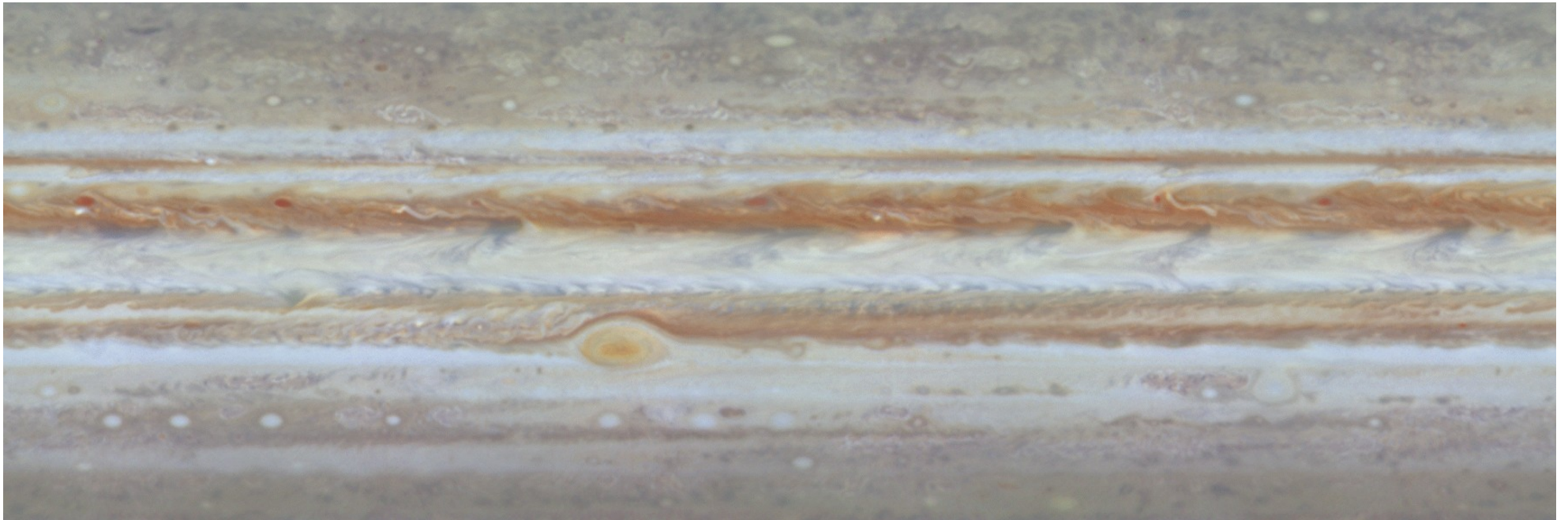
*Activity*

# Atmospheres of the Giant Planets





# Atmospheres of the Giant Planets

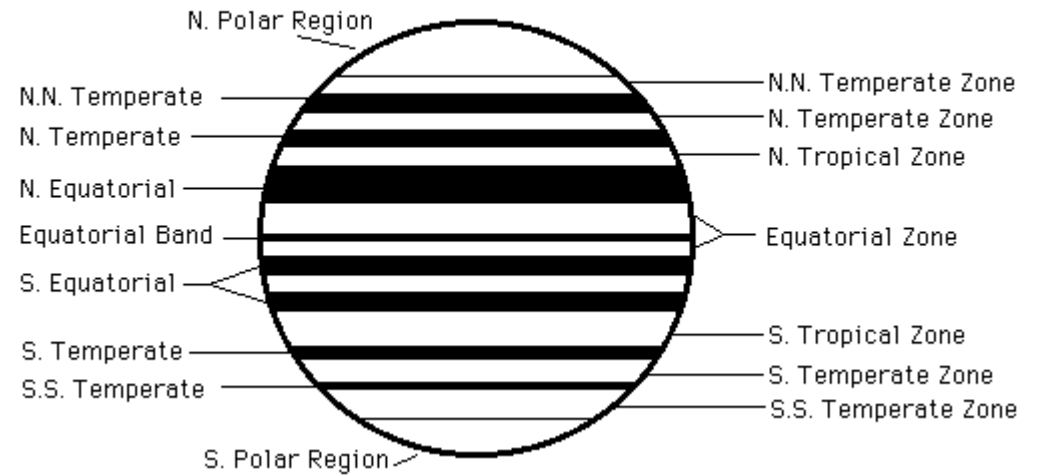


# Atmospheres of the Giant Planets



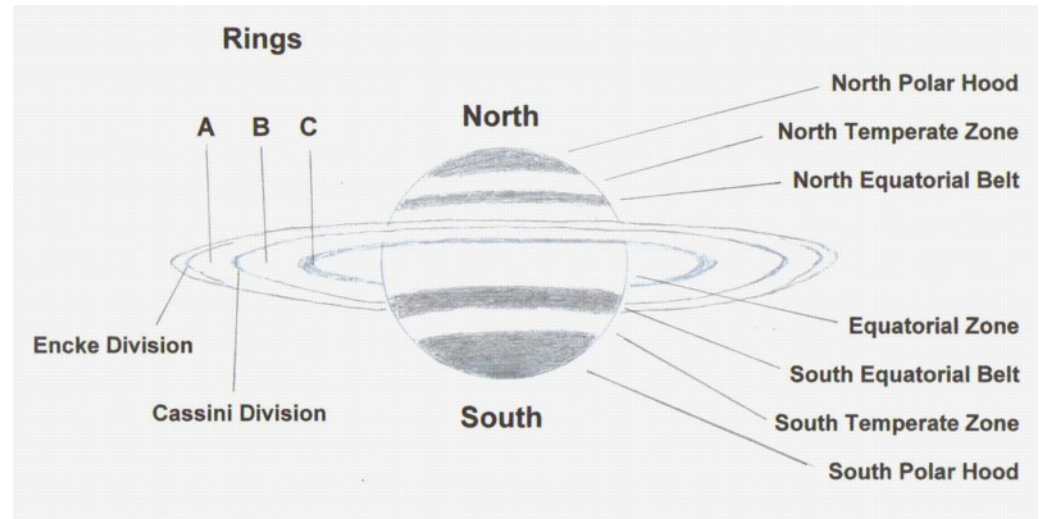
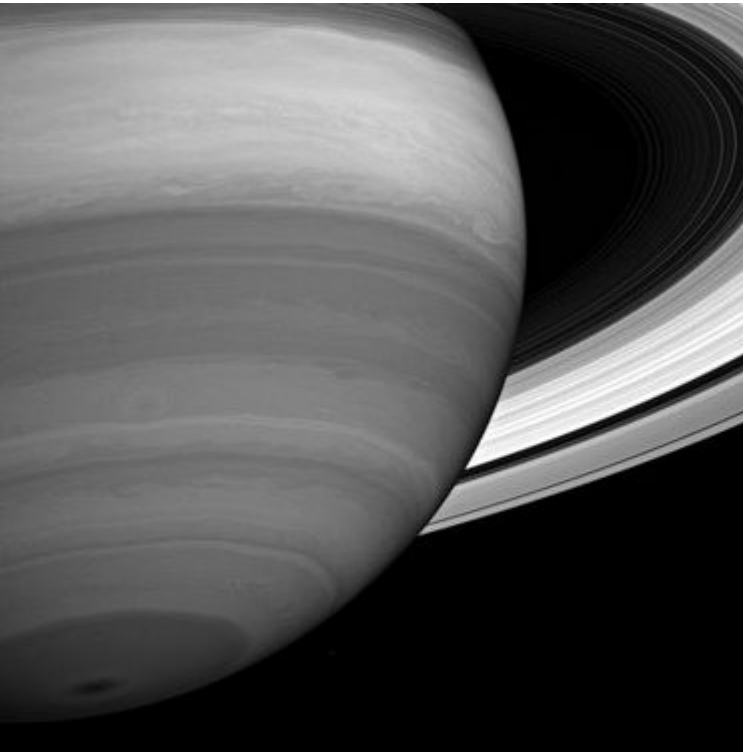
## DARK BELTS

## BRIGHT ZONES



Bands and Storms

# Atmospheres of the Giant Planets

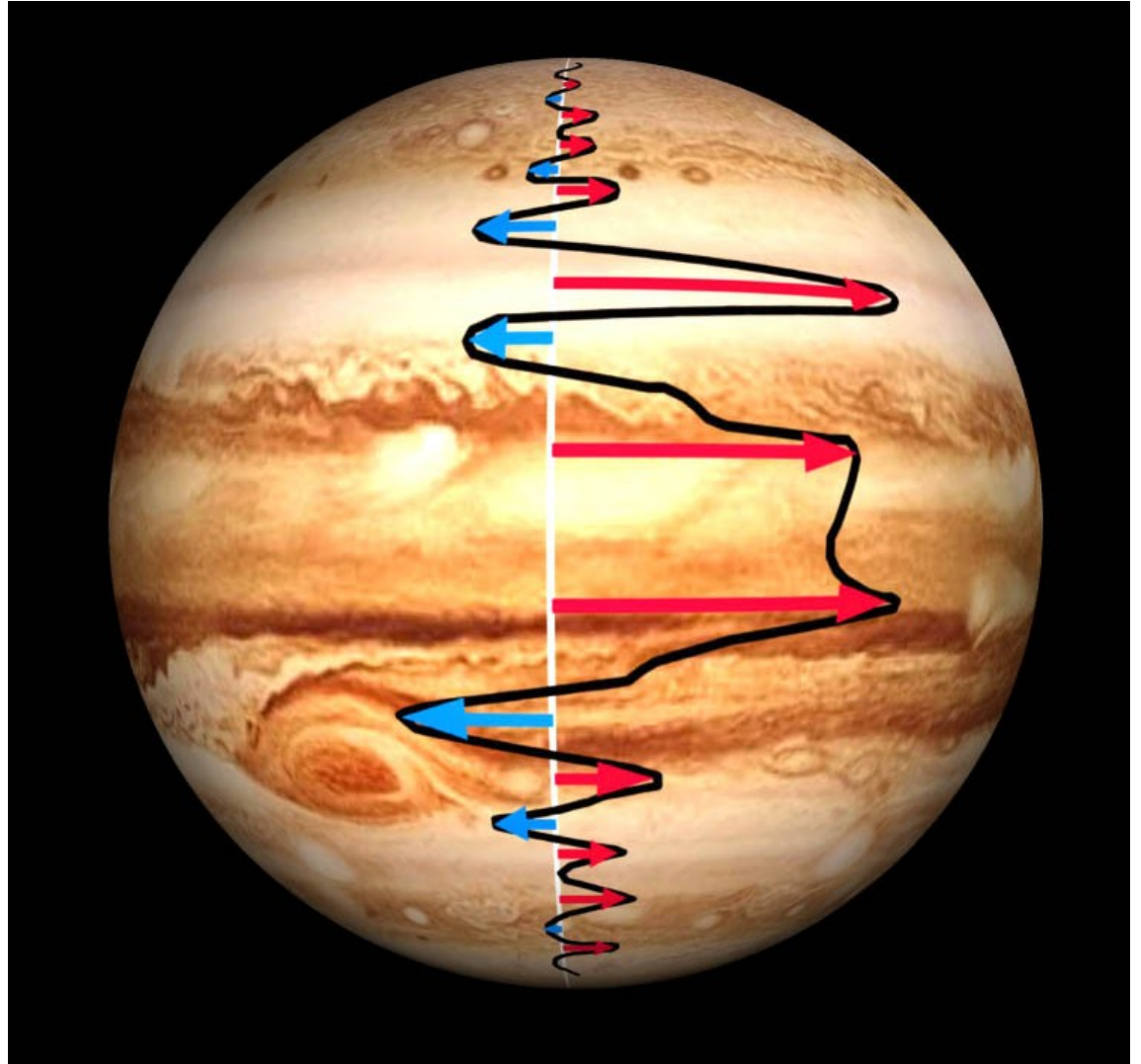


Bands and Storms

# Atmospheres of the Giant Planets

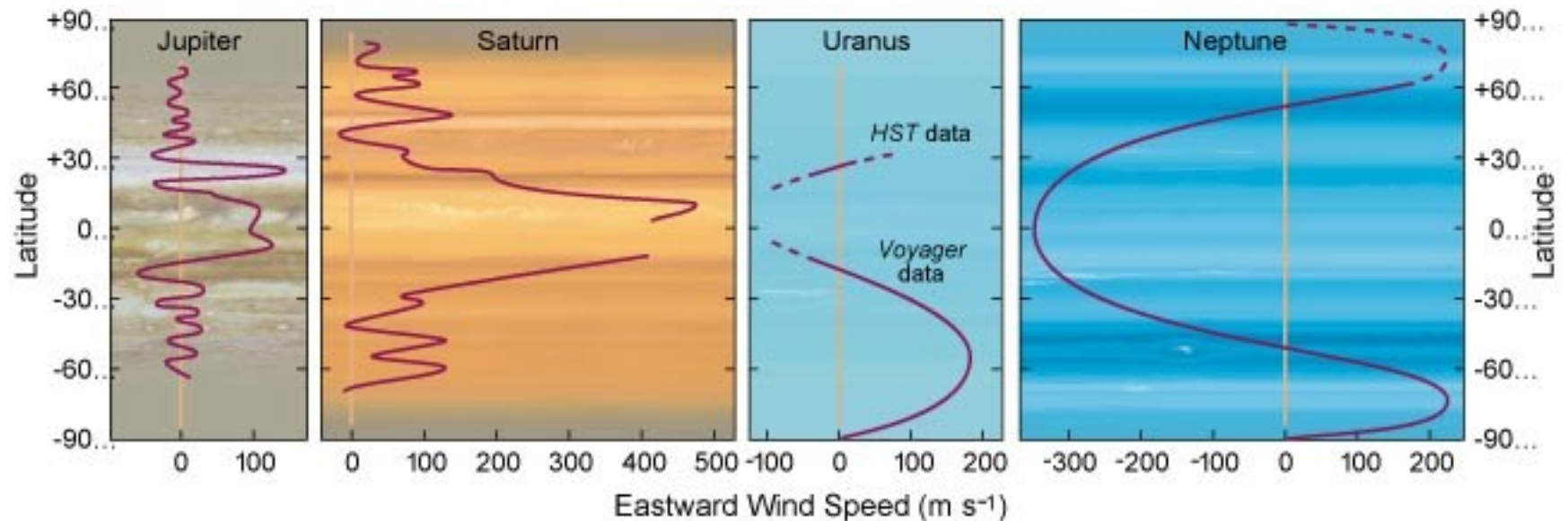
## Bands and Zones

Large scale winds  
of alternate direction



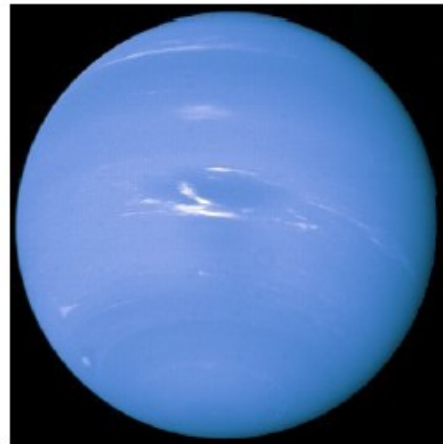
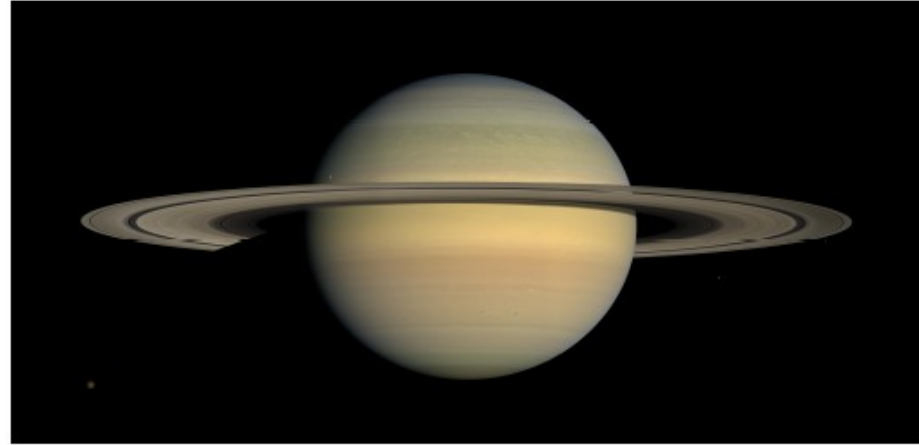
# Atmospheres of the Giant Planets

## Wind Speeds





# Clouds of the Giant Planets



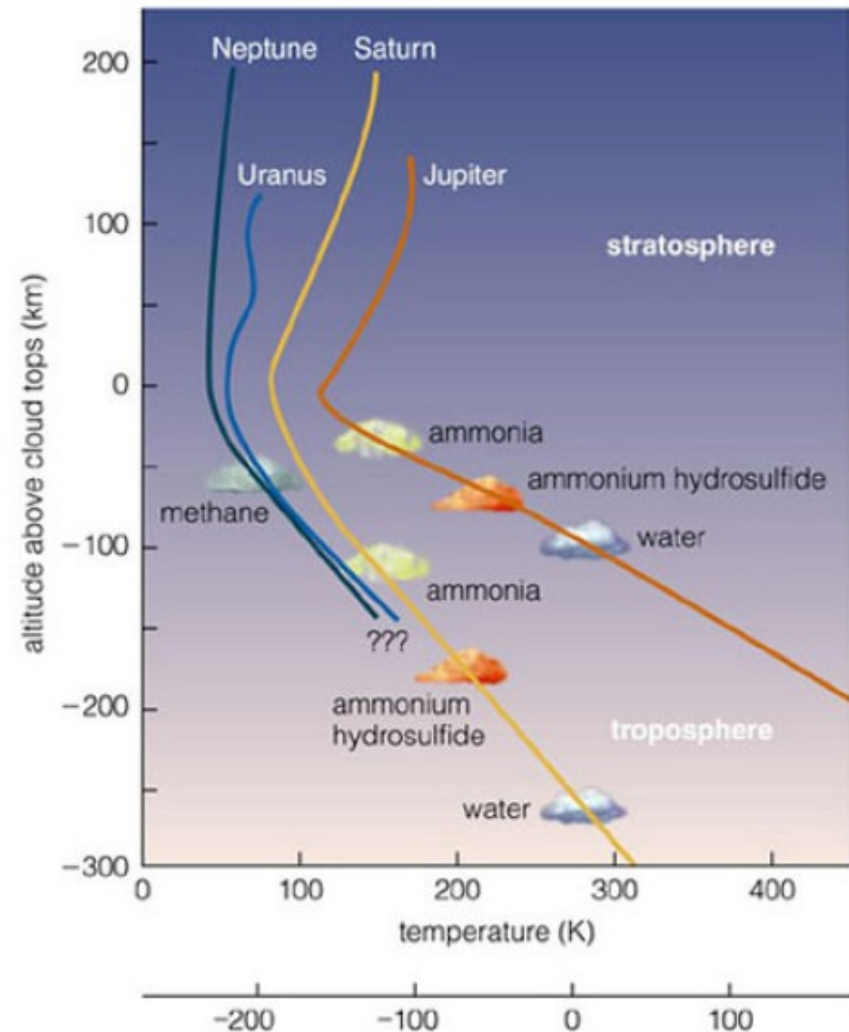
# Molecules condense at different temperatures

## Atmospheric Temperatures

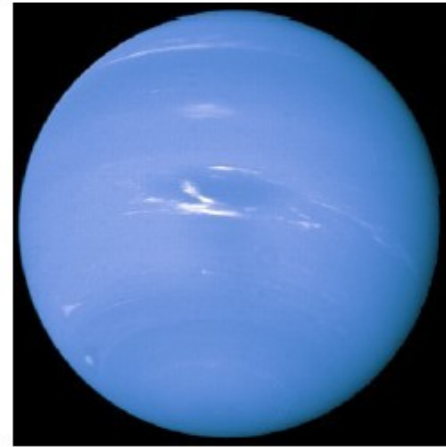
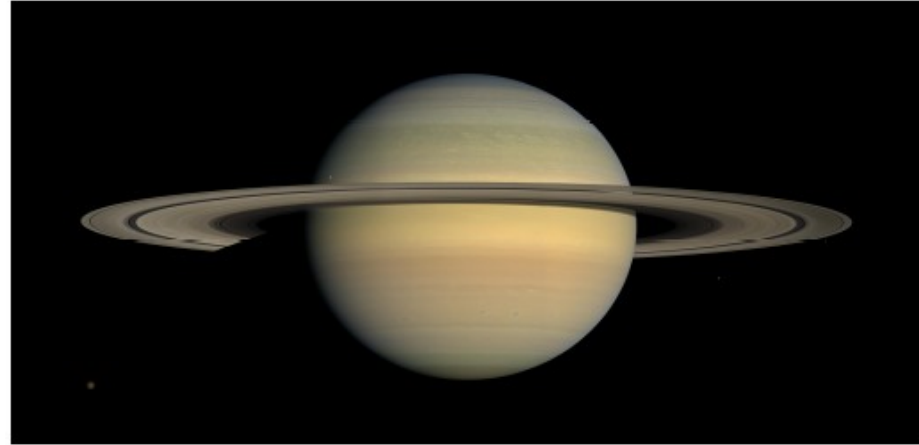
$\text{H}_2\text{O}$  ~300K

$\text{NH}_3$  ~140K

$\text{CH}_4$  ~80K



# Ammonia and Methane Clouds



Jupiter and Saturn have **ammonia clouds**  
Colder Uranus and Neptune have **methane clouds**



# Clouds of Jupiter



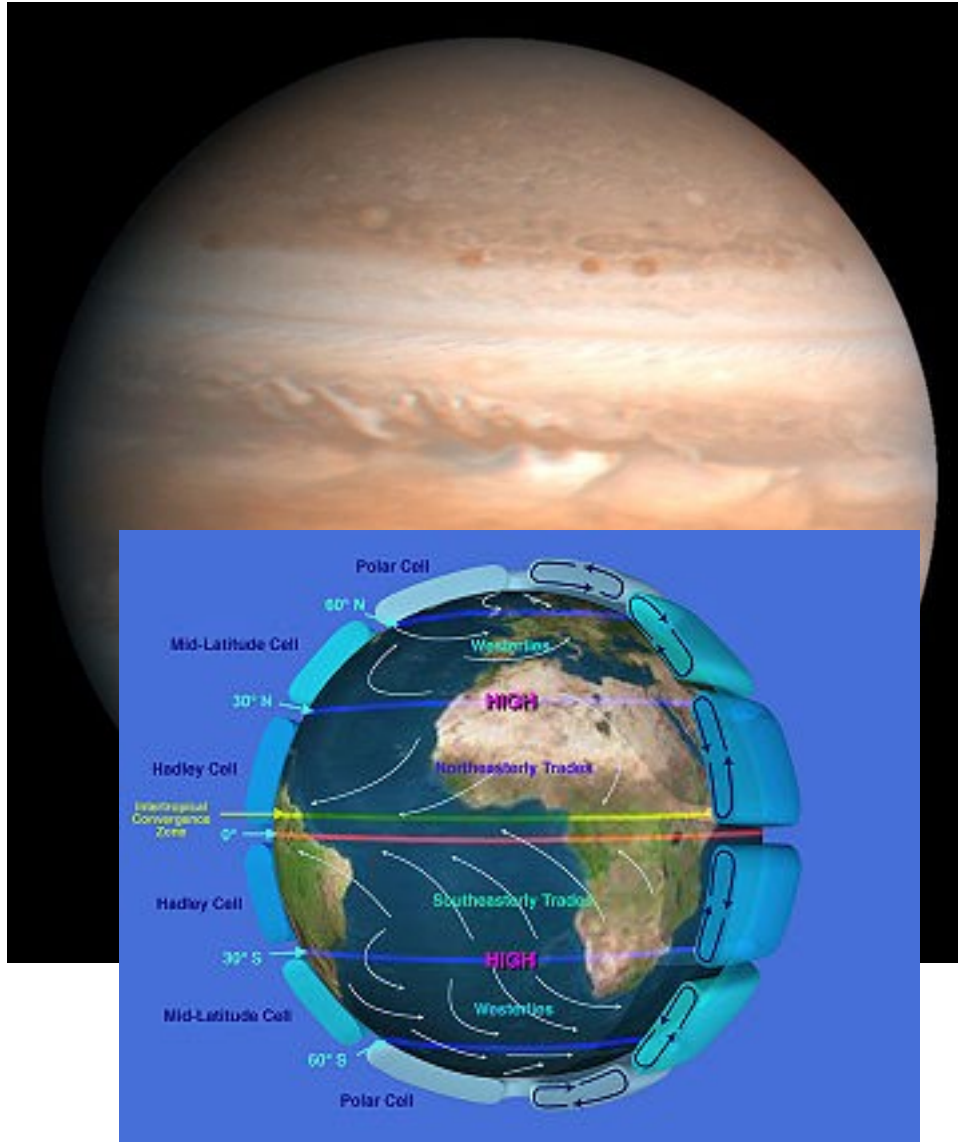
Bright *Zones*

Dark *Belts*

Dark brown color:  
compounds of sulfur (S) and phosphorus (P)

Bright zones:  
High ammonia clouds  
shielding brown stuff below

# Clouds of Jupiter



Bright *Zones*

Dark *Belts*

Dark brown color:  
compounds of sulfur (S) and phosphorus (P)

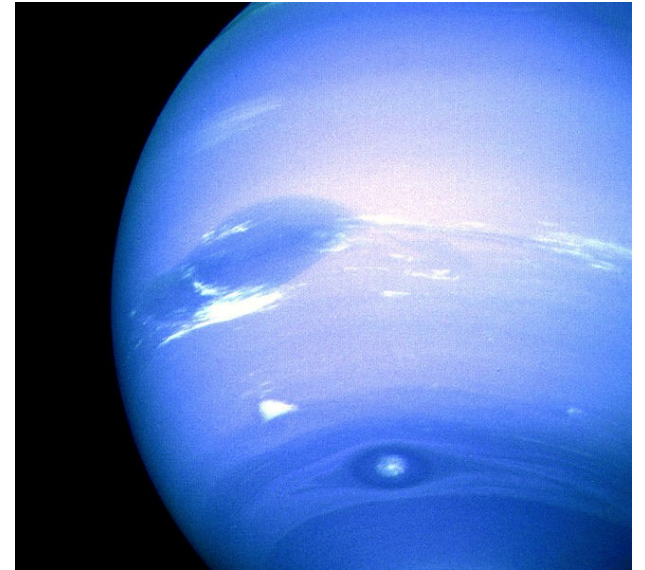
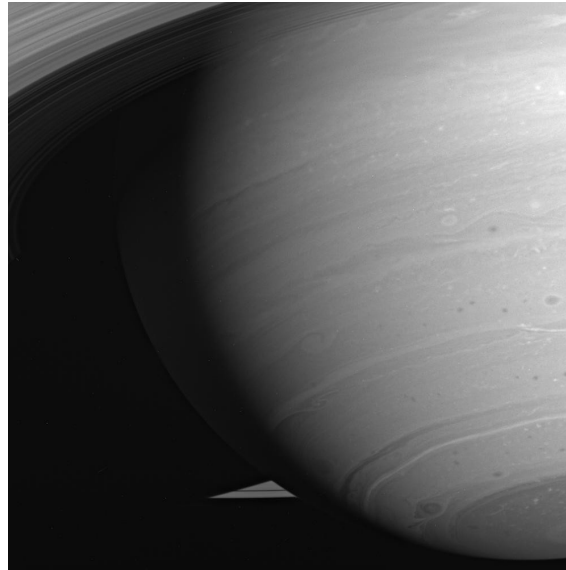
Bright zones:  
High ammonia clouds  
shielding brown stuff below

In Jupiter

Hot gas rises, **cools**,  
ammonia condenses -> **Zones**.

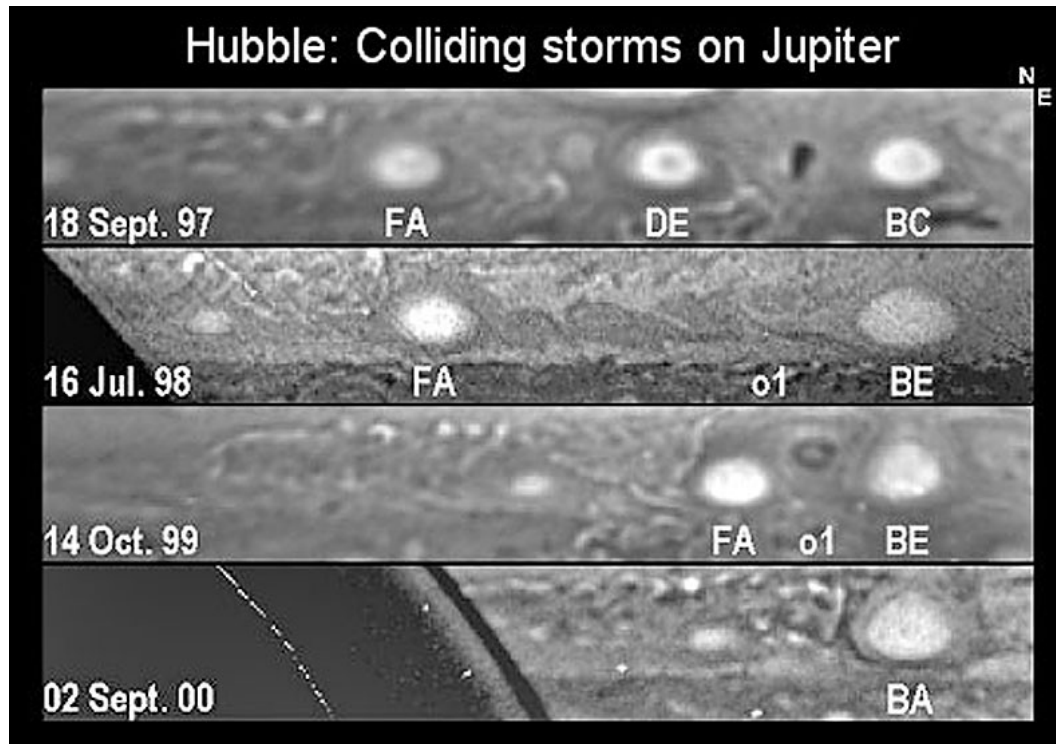
Cold air sinks, **heats**,  
dry in ammonia - > **Belts**.

# Atmospheres of the Giant Planets



*Storms !!*

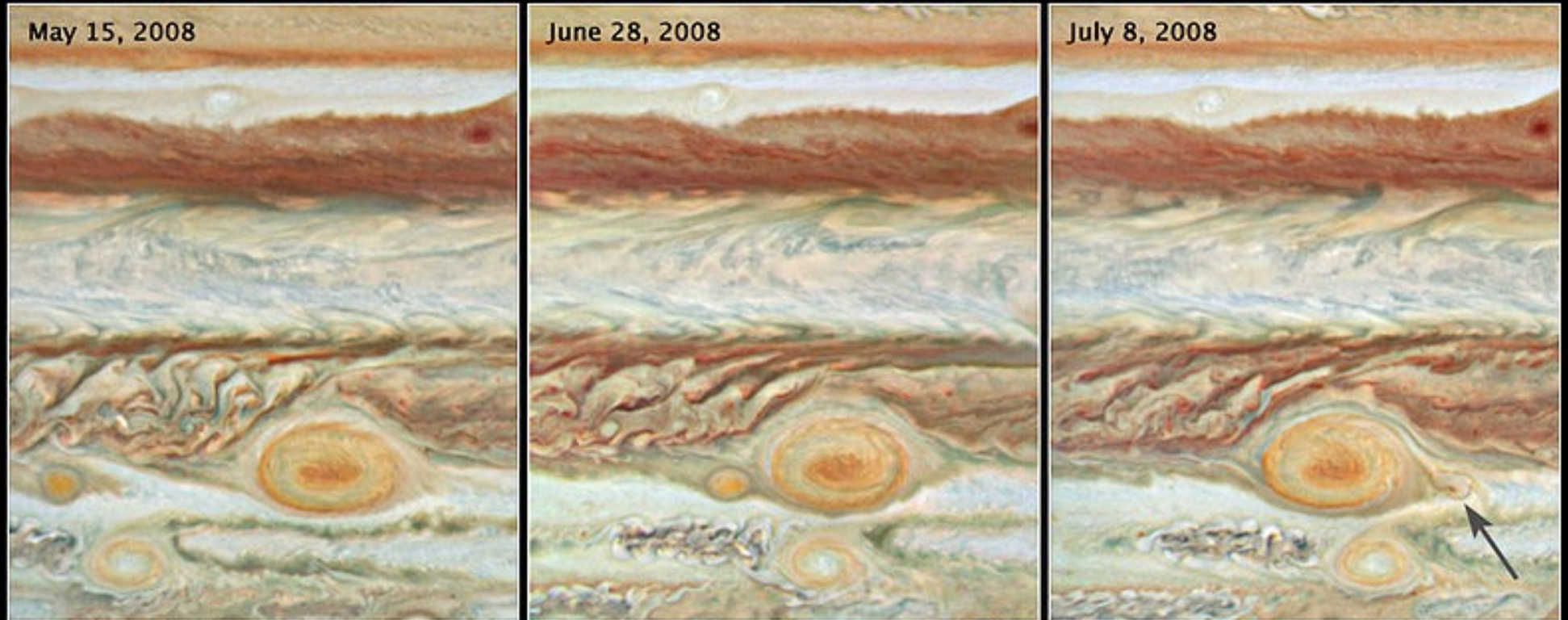
# Merging Storms





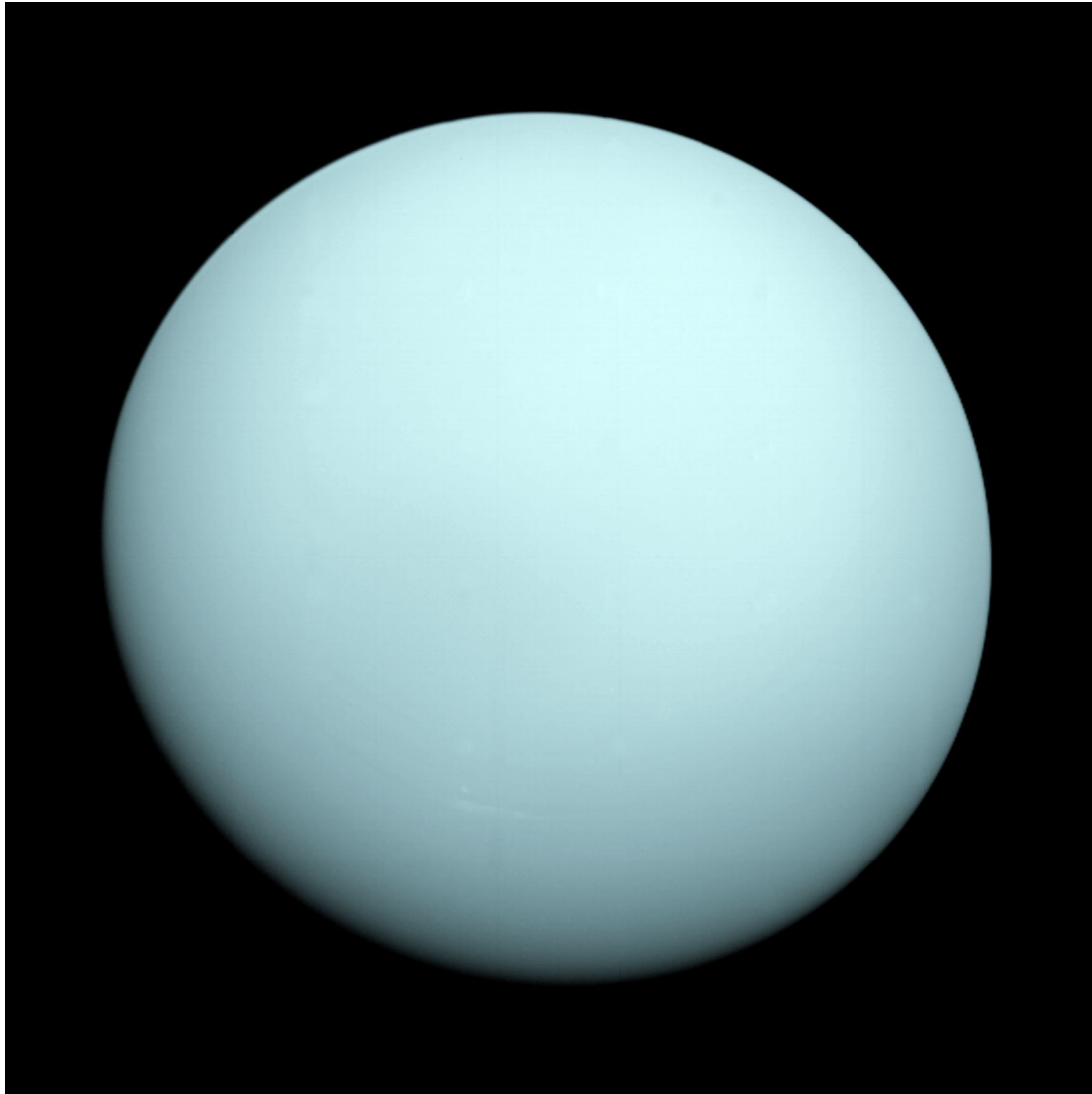
# Jupiter's Red Spots

Jupiter's Red Spots ▪ *Hubble Space Telescope* WFPC2



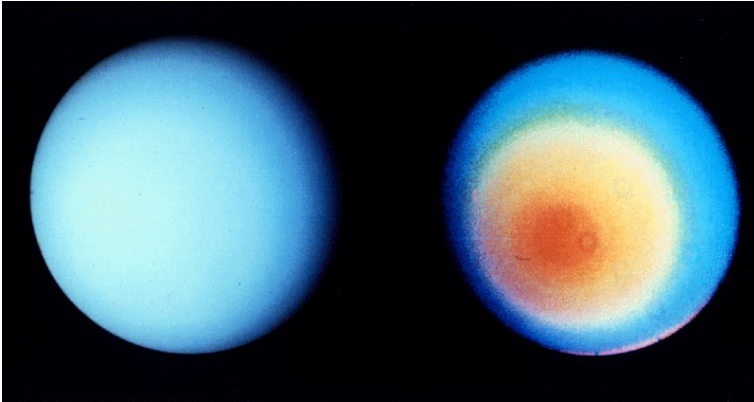
NASA, ESA, and A. Simon-Miller (NASA Goddard Space Flight Center) ▪ STScI-PRC08-27

# Uranus

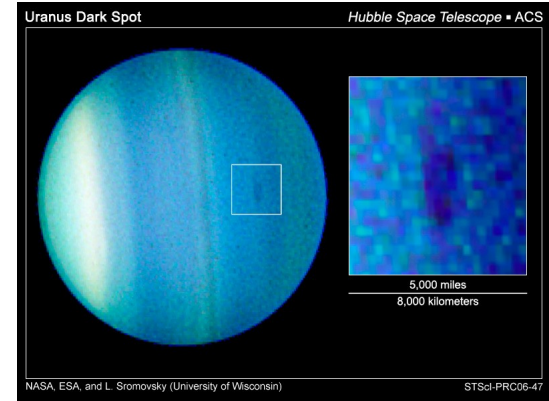


*Featureless...*

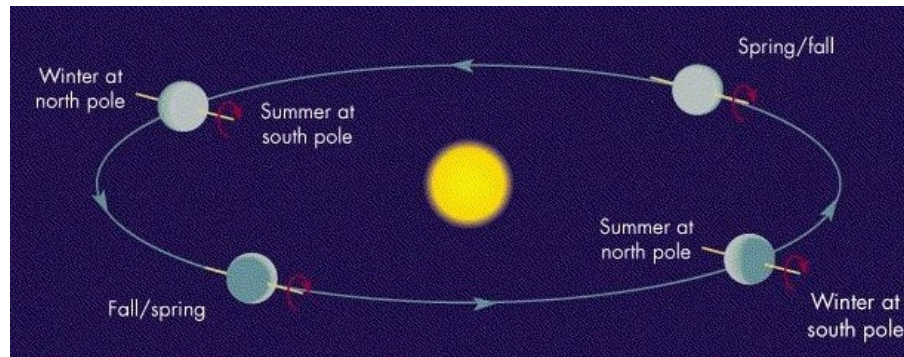
# Not quite featureless...



Uranus in false color: **Bands !**



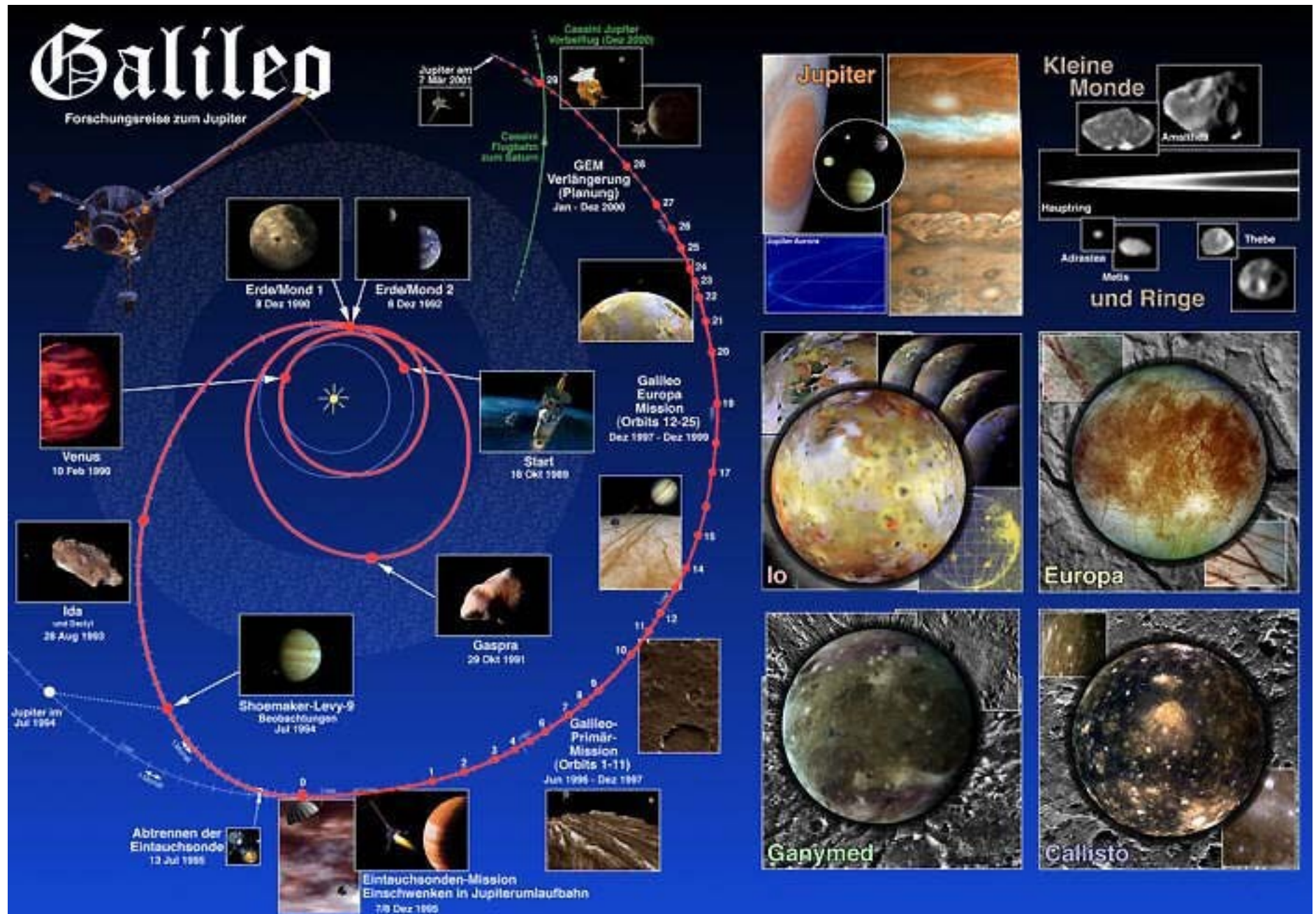
Recently seen by Hubble: **Storms !**



Due to the extreme axial tilt,  
weather in Uranus may be **highly seasonal**,  
being more Neptune-like in the equinoxes.



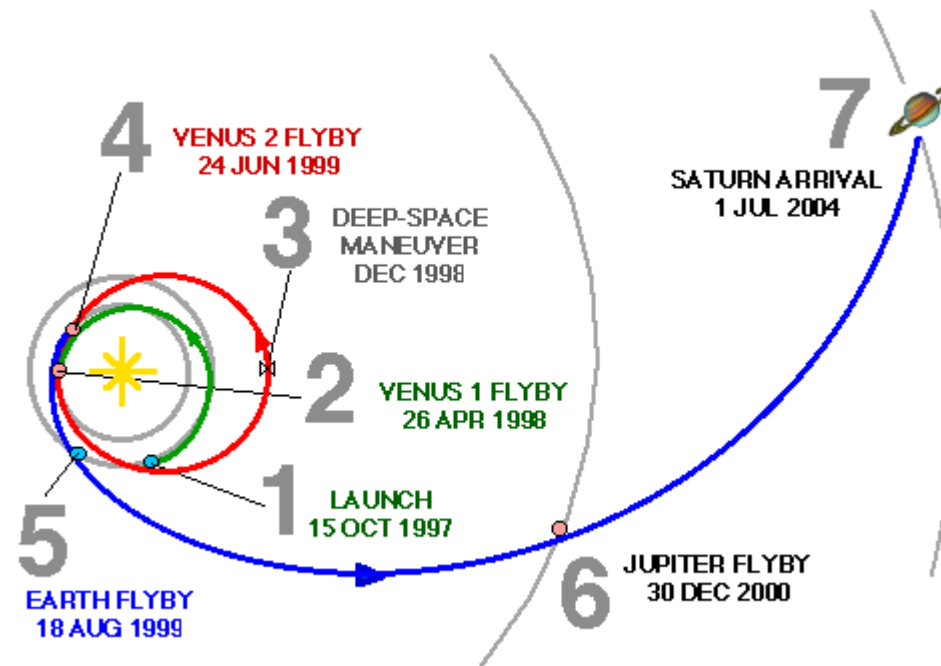
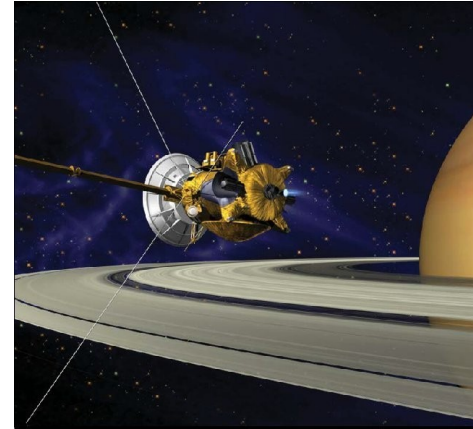
# Mission to Jupiter: Galileo







# Mission to Saturn: Cassini





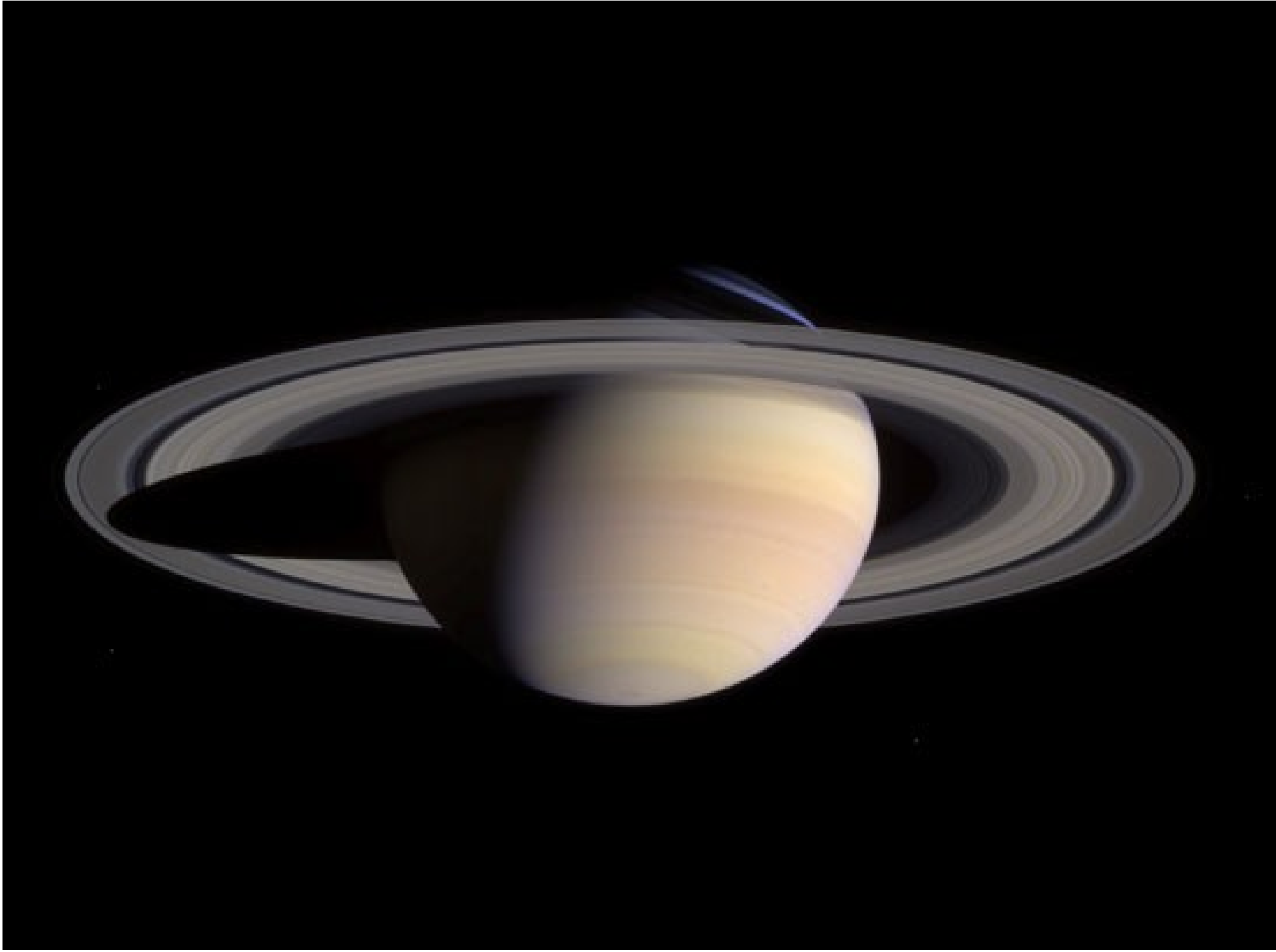
**IO WITH JUPITER  
BACKDROP**

YEAR: 2001

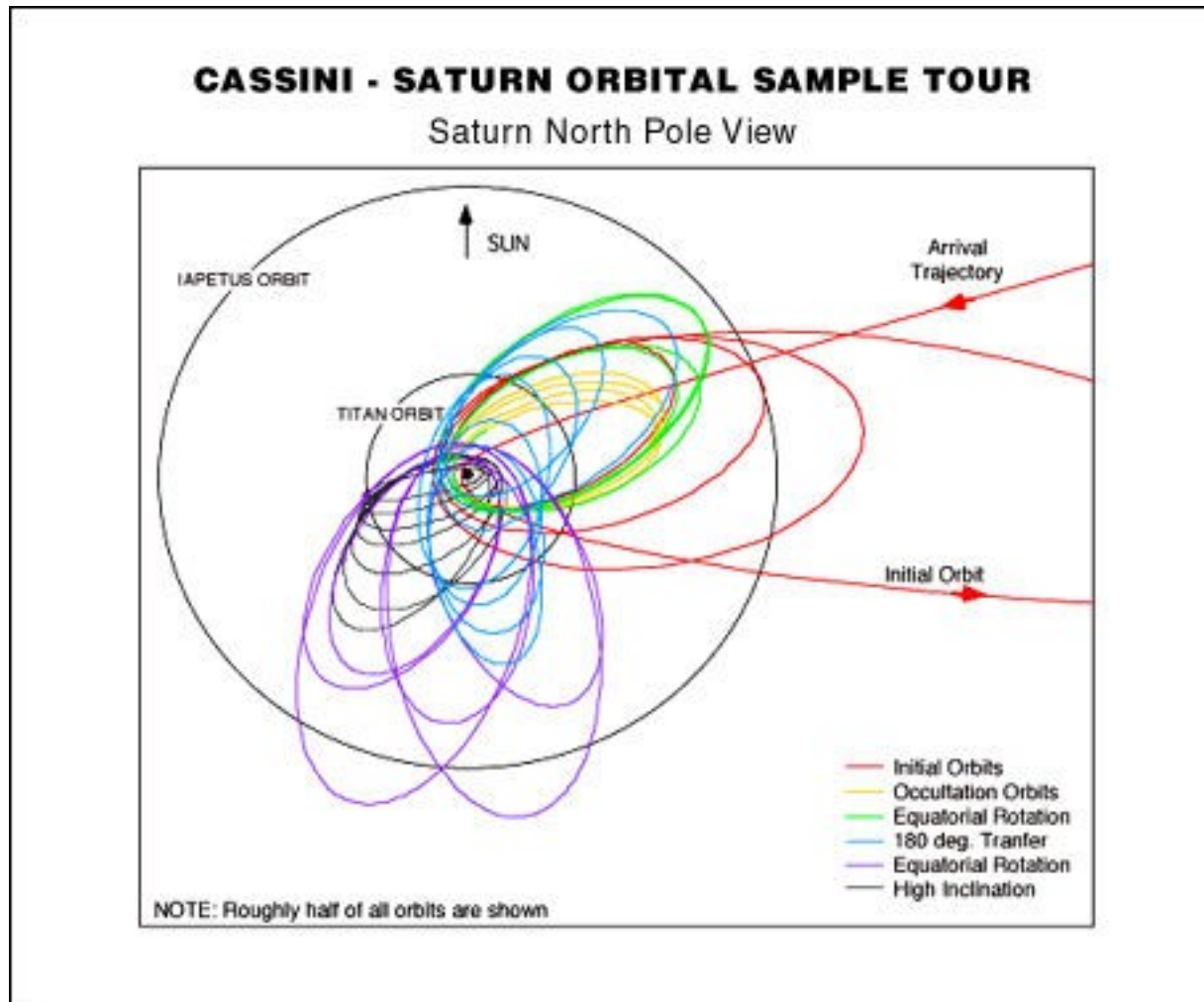
MISSION: CASSINI

TARGET: JUPITER / IO

The moon Io captured against Jupiter and crossing into  
Jupiter's night side.

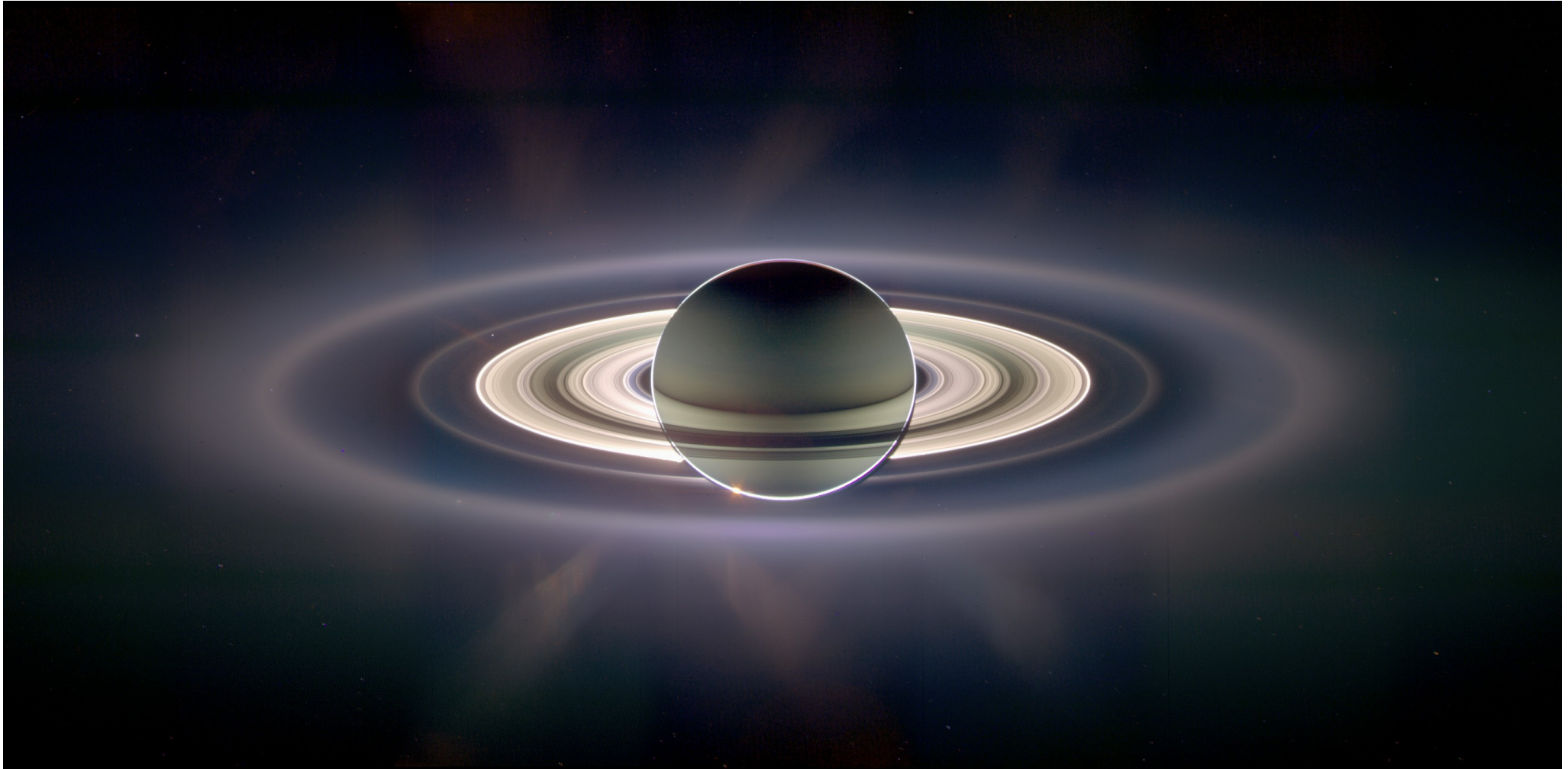


# Cassini orbiting Saturn

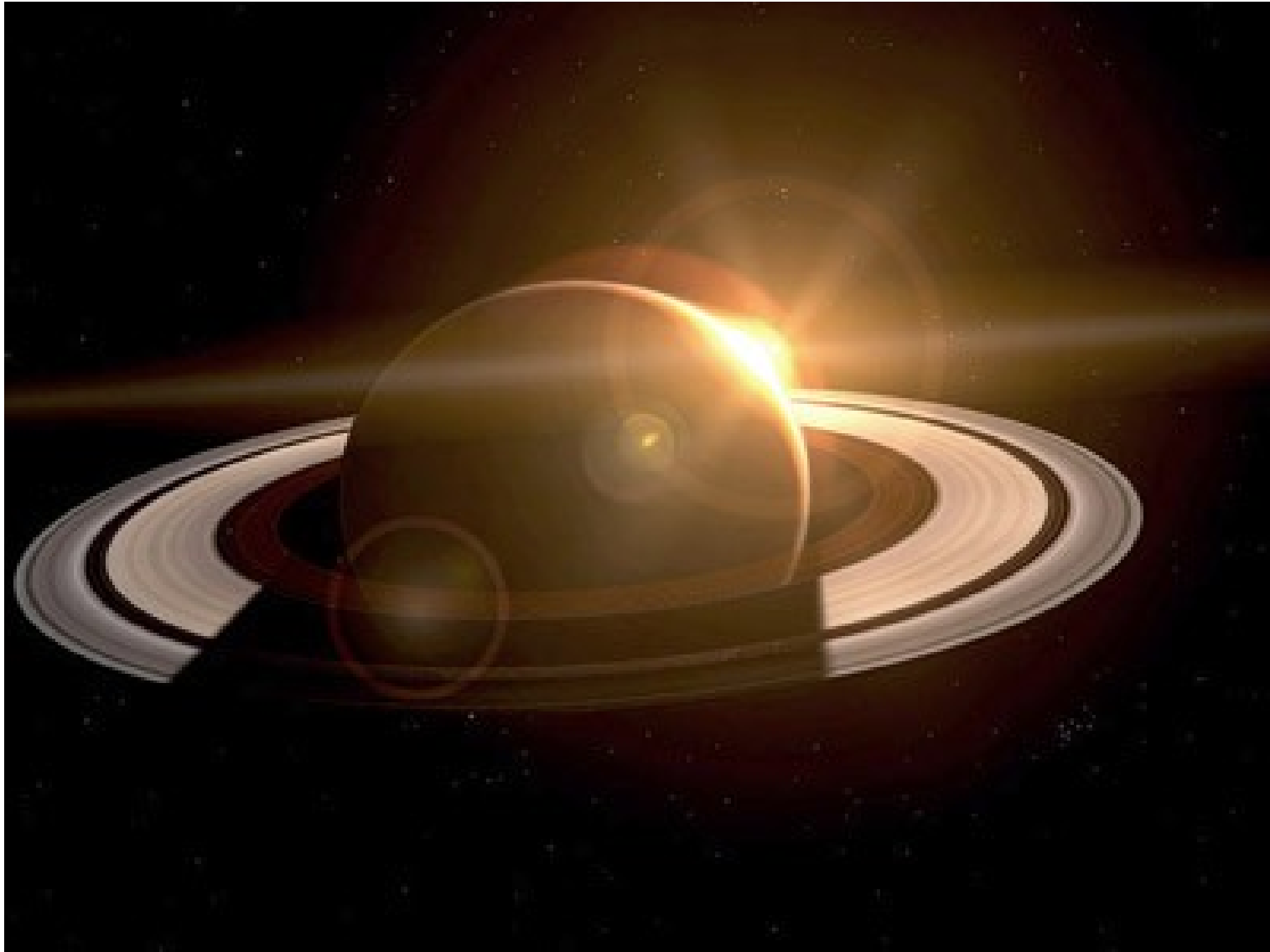




# Ringshine



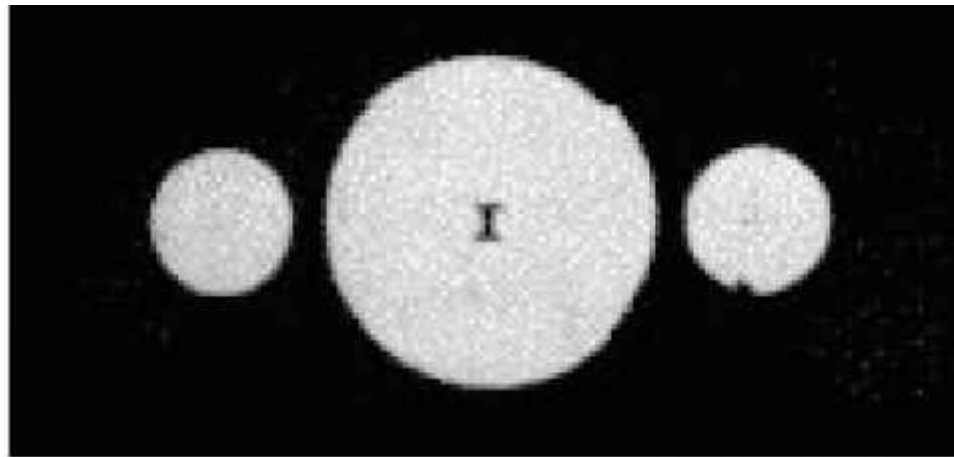
# Planetary Rings





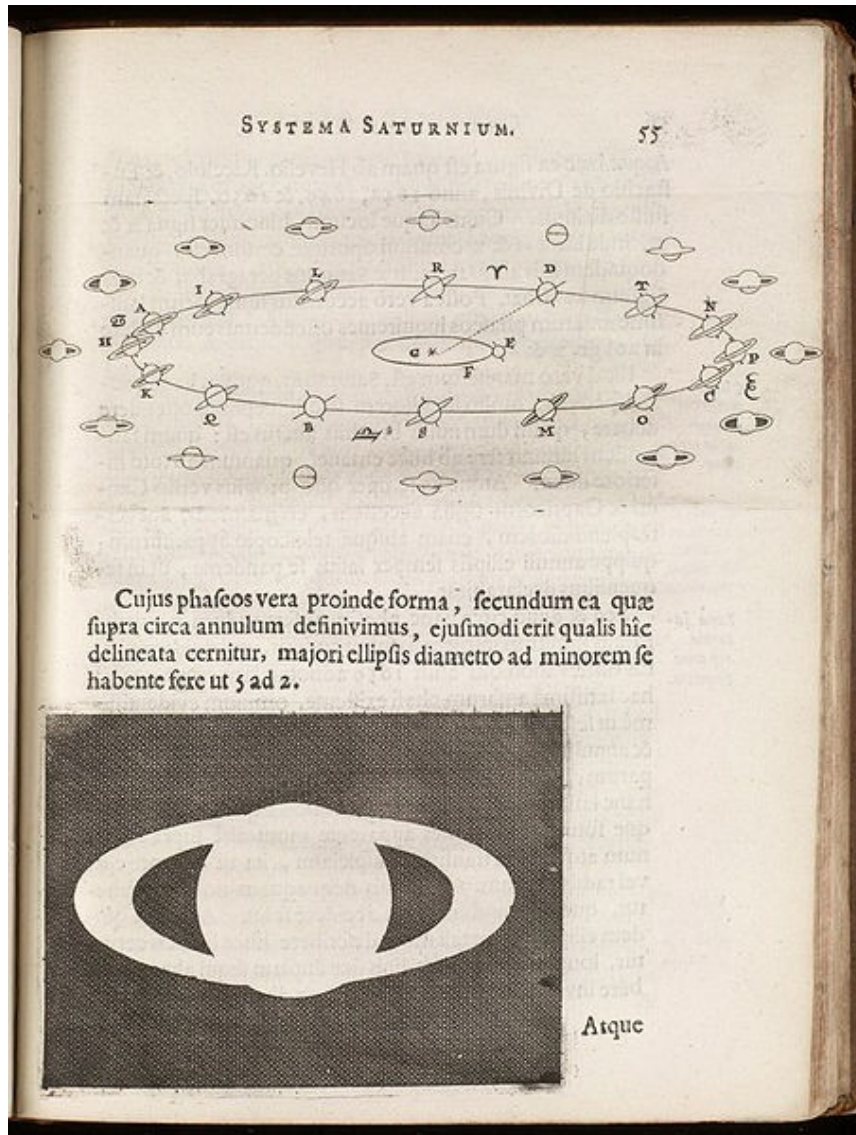
# Planetary Rings

*Galileo's drawing, 1610.*

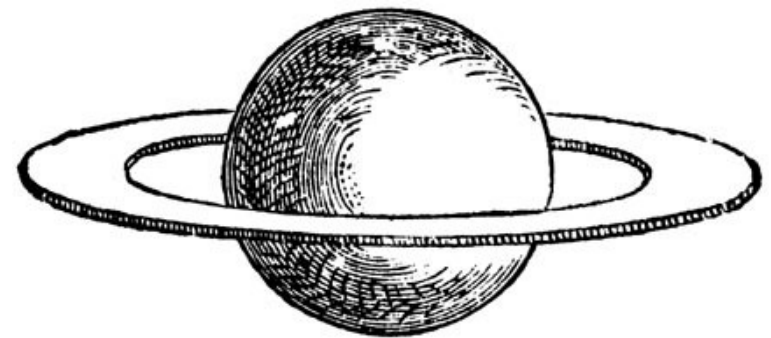


"I do not know what to say in a case  
so surprising, so unlooked for, so novel."

# Planetary Rings



Huygens's drawings, 1659.

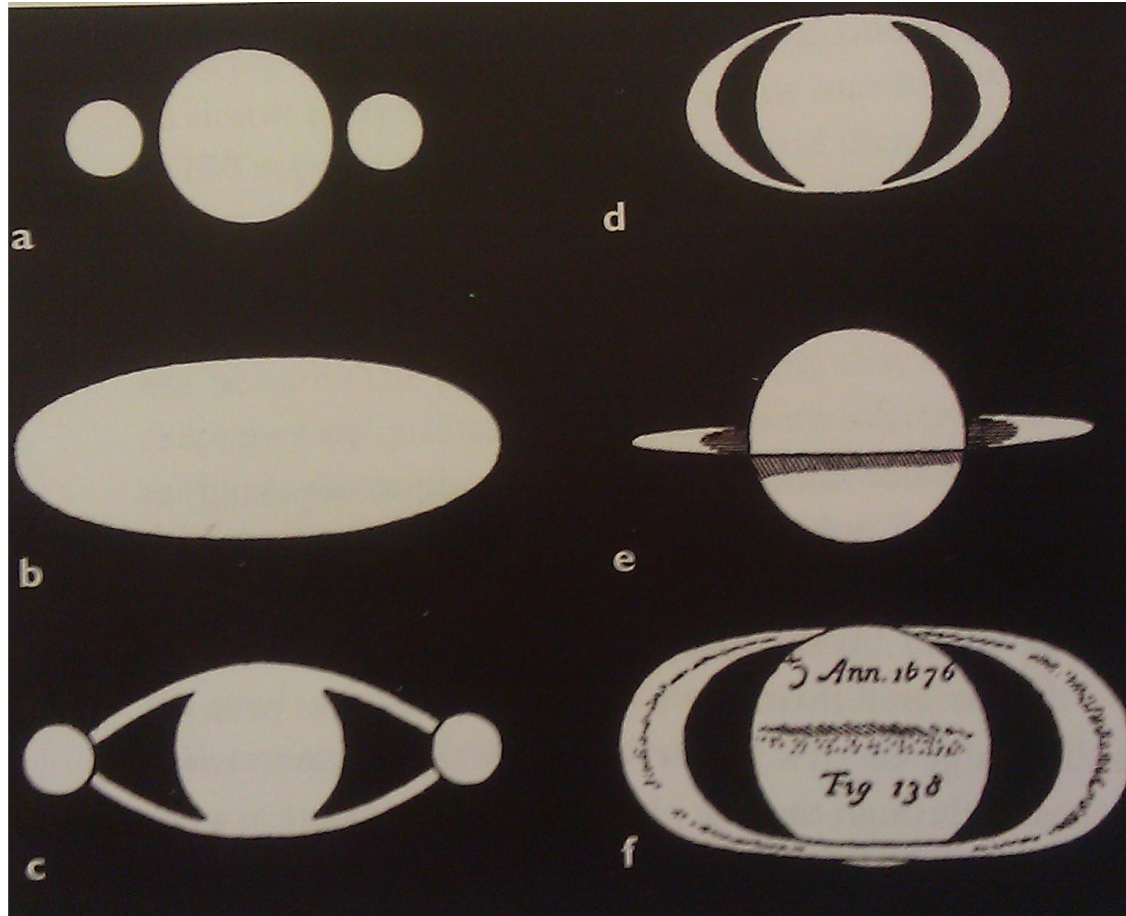


"Saturn is surrounded by a thin flat disk,  
nowhere touching the planet"

# Planetary Rings

Other drawings from the 17<sup>th</sup> century

Galileo, 1610



Riccioli, 1648

Gassendi, 1634

Huygens, 1655

Fontana, 1646

Cassini, 1676

# Planetary Rings

What are these rings???

Solid? Liquid? Particulate?

# Planetary Rings

## Maxwell's proof



James Clerk Maxwell  
(1831-1879)



# Planetary Rings

## Maxwell's proof

There are some questions in Astronomy, to which we are attracted rather on account of their peculiarity, [...] than from any direct advantage which their solution would afford to mankind.

[...] I am not aware that any practical use has been made of Saturn's Rings [...]

But when we contemplate the Rings from a purely scientific point of view, they become the most remarkable bodies in the heavens. [...] When we have actually seen that great arch swung over the equator of the planet without any visible connection, we cannot bring our minds to rest. [...] We must explain its motion on the principles of mechanics.

[...]

60 pages of calculations

[...]

[...] We conclude, therefore, that the rings must consist of disconnected particles; these may be either solid or liquid, but they must be independent. [...] The final result, therefore, of the mechanical theory is, that the only system of rings which can exist is one composed of an indefinite number of unconnected particles, revolving around the planet with different velocities according to their respective distances.

*Prof. Maxwell, on the Stability of Saturn's Rings.* 297

By A. Hall.

T	1859, May 29 <sup>h</sup> 00 <sup>m</sup> 77 <sup>s</sup>	Washington M.S.T.
Log $q$	9.303310	
$\mu$	281 58' 10.7" or $\pi = 75^{\circ} 9' 46.1''$	
$\Omega$	357 7 56.8	
$i$	95 50 56.8	$i = 84^{\circ} 9' 3.2''$

Motion Retrograde.

The comet will probably be visible after its perihelion passage.

*On the Stability of the Motion of Saturn's Rings; an Essay which obtained the Adams' Prize for the Year 1856, in the University of Cambridge.* By J. Clerk Maxwell, M.A. late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge: Professor of Natural Philosophy in the Marischal College and University of Aberdeen. Cambridge: Macmillan and Co., 1859.

The following abstract of an important paper has been kindly drawn up by the Astronomer Royal for the use of the readers of the *Monthly Notices*:—

The remarkable essay of which we have given the title was published in the beginning of the present year. The subject of it is so interesting, the difficulty of treating it in its utmost generality so considerable, and the results at which the author arrives so curious, that we think a brief abstract of it will be acceptable to the readers of the *Monthly Notices*. We shall commence with a very imperfect reference to preceding investigations on the same subject.

The first to which we shall allude is Laplace's, in the *Mécanique Céleste*, livre III. chapitre vi. Laplace considers a ring of *Saturn* as a solid, the form of which is investigated as if it were fluid (a mode of treatment whose result, in respect of the form of equilibrium, is evidently good for a solid), and finds, that if the breadth and thickness of the ring are very small in comparison with its distance from *Saturn*, its section may be an ellipse; and it appears that the formula for the proportion of the axes of the ellipse admits of its being considerably flattened. But Laplace rather inclines to the supposition that there are several rings, each existing by its own proper theory. Then remarking on the appearances noticed by some observers which seem to indicate irregularities in the rings, he adds, "J'ajoute que ces inégalités sont nécessaires pour maintenir l'anneau en équilibre autour de *Saturne*," and gives an in-

C

# Planetary Rings

Why only Saturn has rings?

Carl Sagan

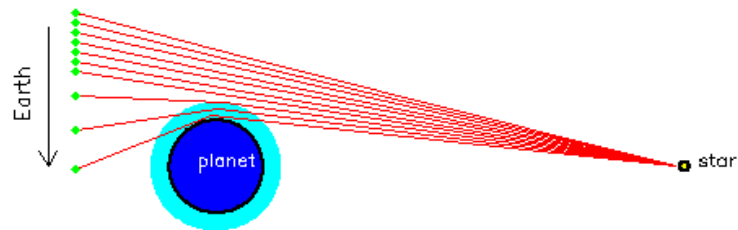


# Rings of Uranus

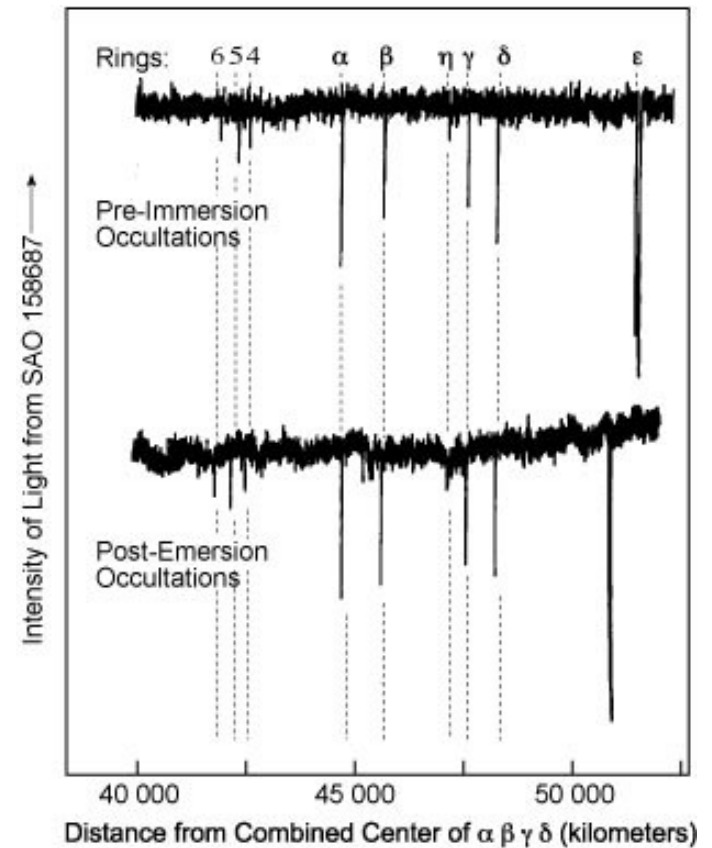
## Occultations



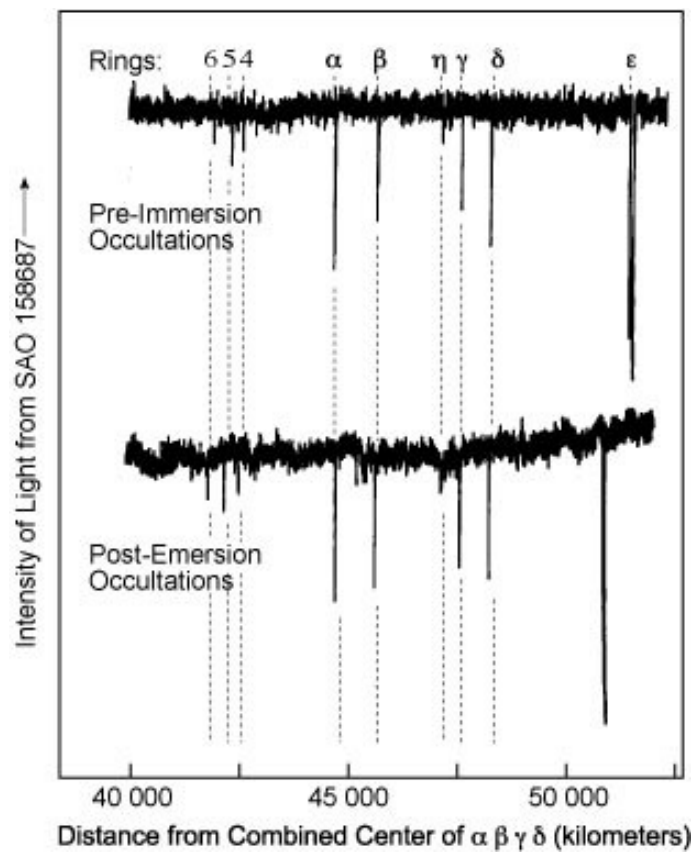
stellar occultation



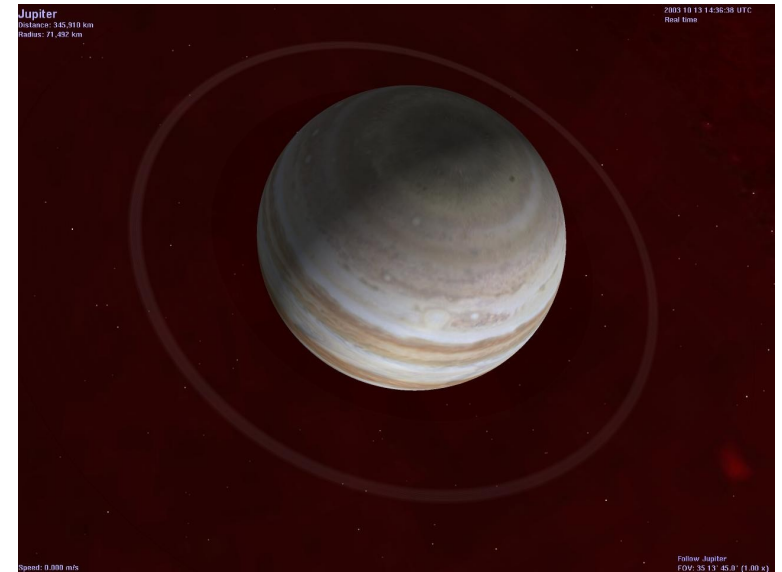
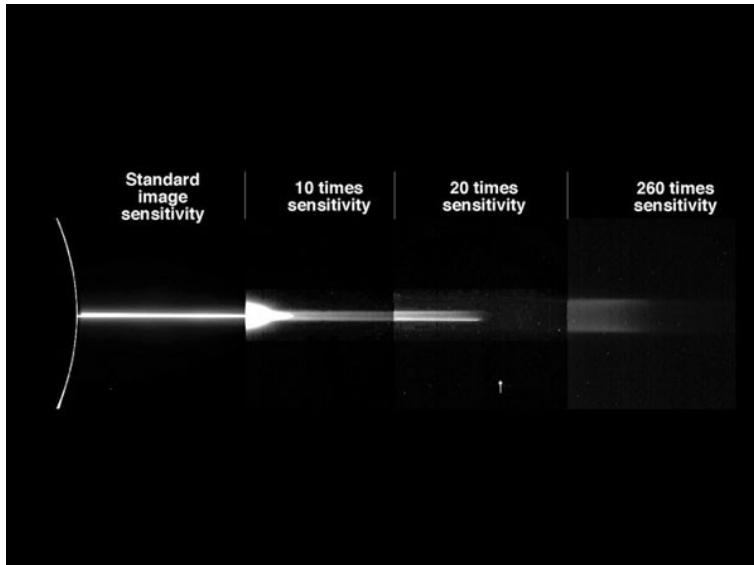
## Uranus occults a star



# Rings of Uranus

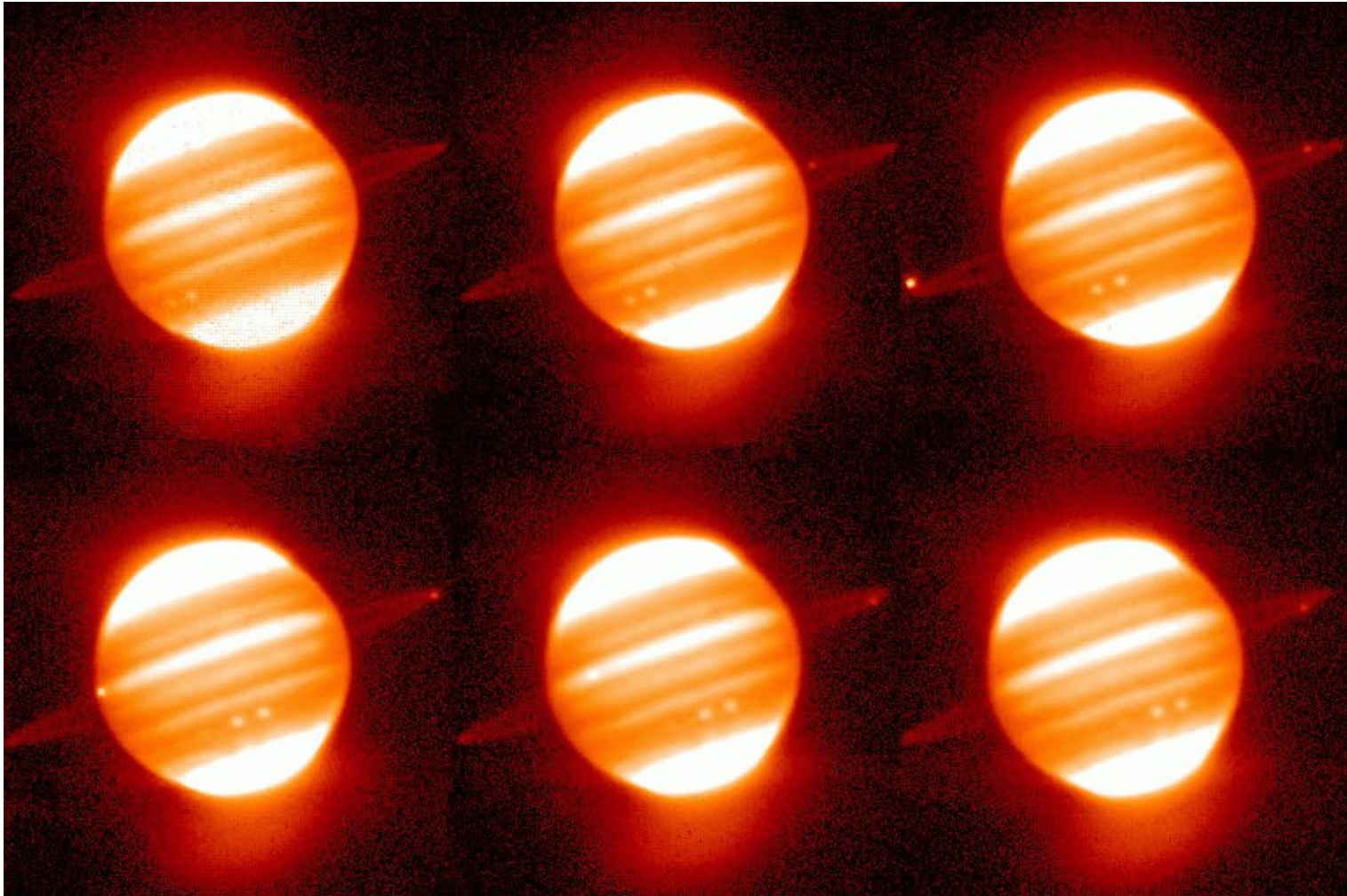


# Rings of Jupiter



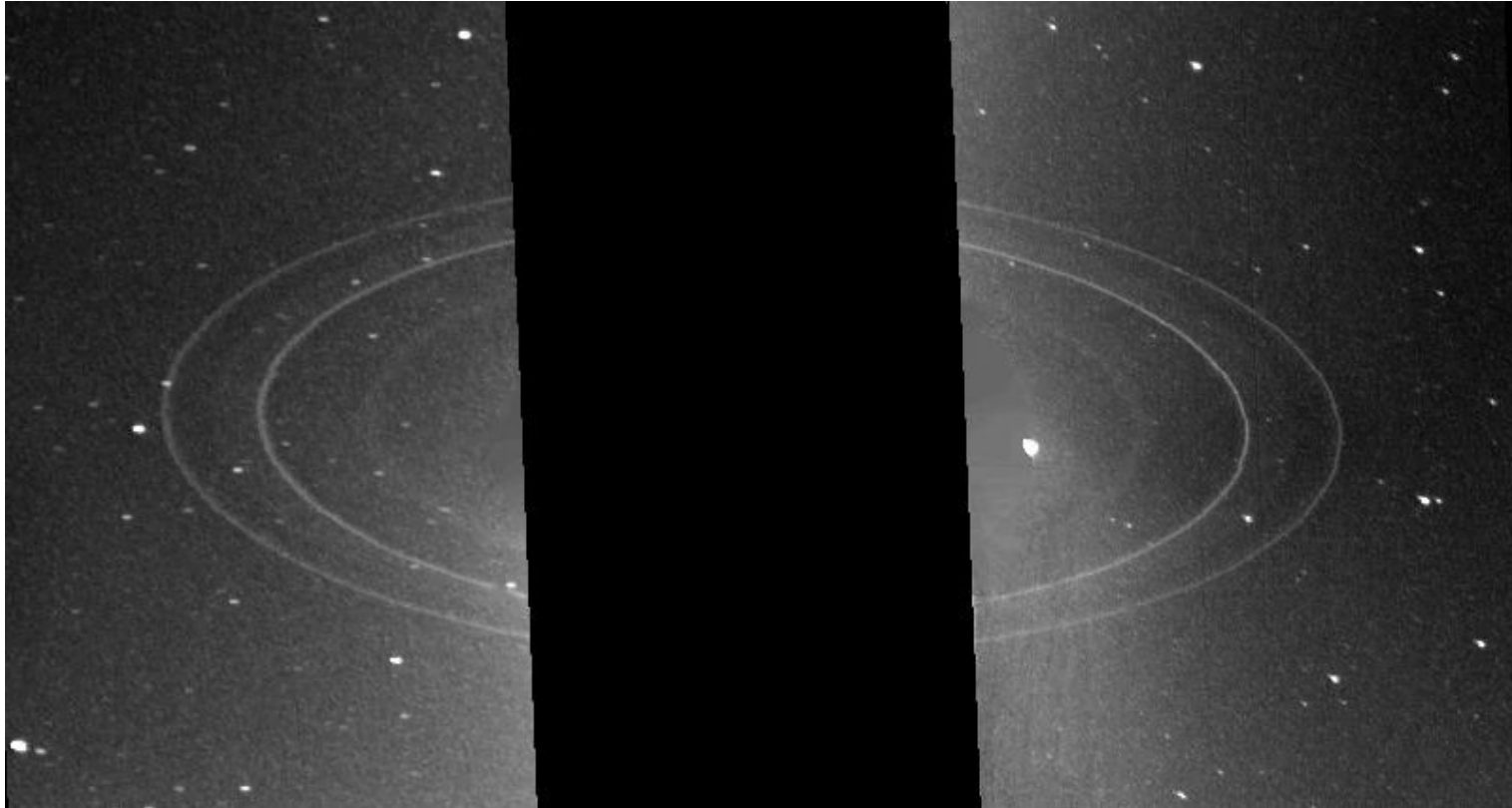
A **very faint** ring system  
discovered by Voyager 1.

# Rings of Jupiter



Viewed with Keck,  
with a methane filter.

# Rings of Neptune



A **very faint** ring system,  
similar to Jupiter's rings  
discovered by Voyager 2.



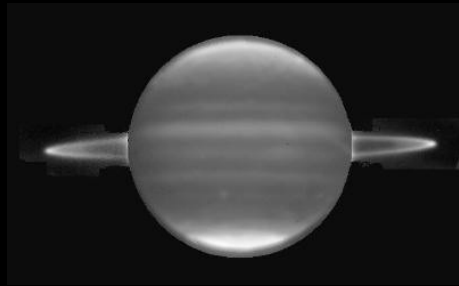
# Rings of Neptune



*Arcs!!!*

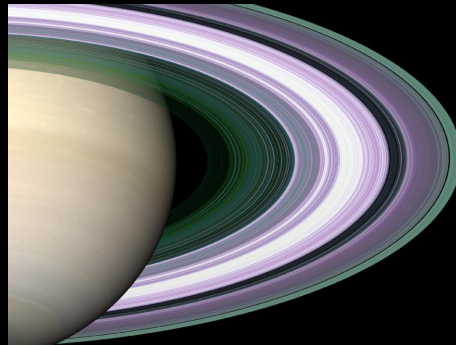
# Ring Systems

Jupiter



Fine, diffuse dust,  
very dark.

Saturn



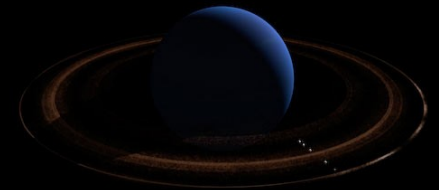
Icy boulders,  
very bright.

Uranus



Rocky boulders,  
dark.

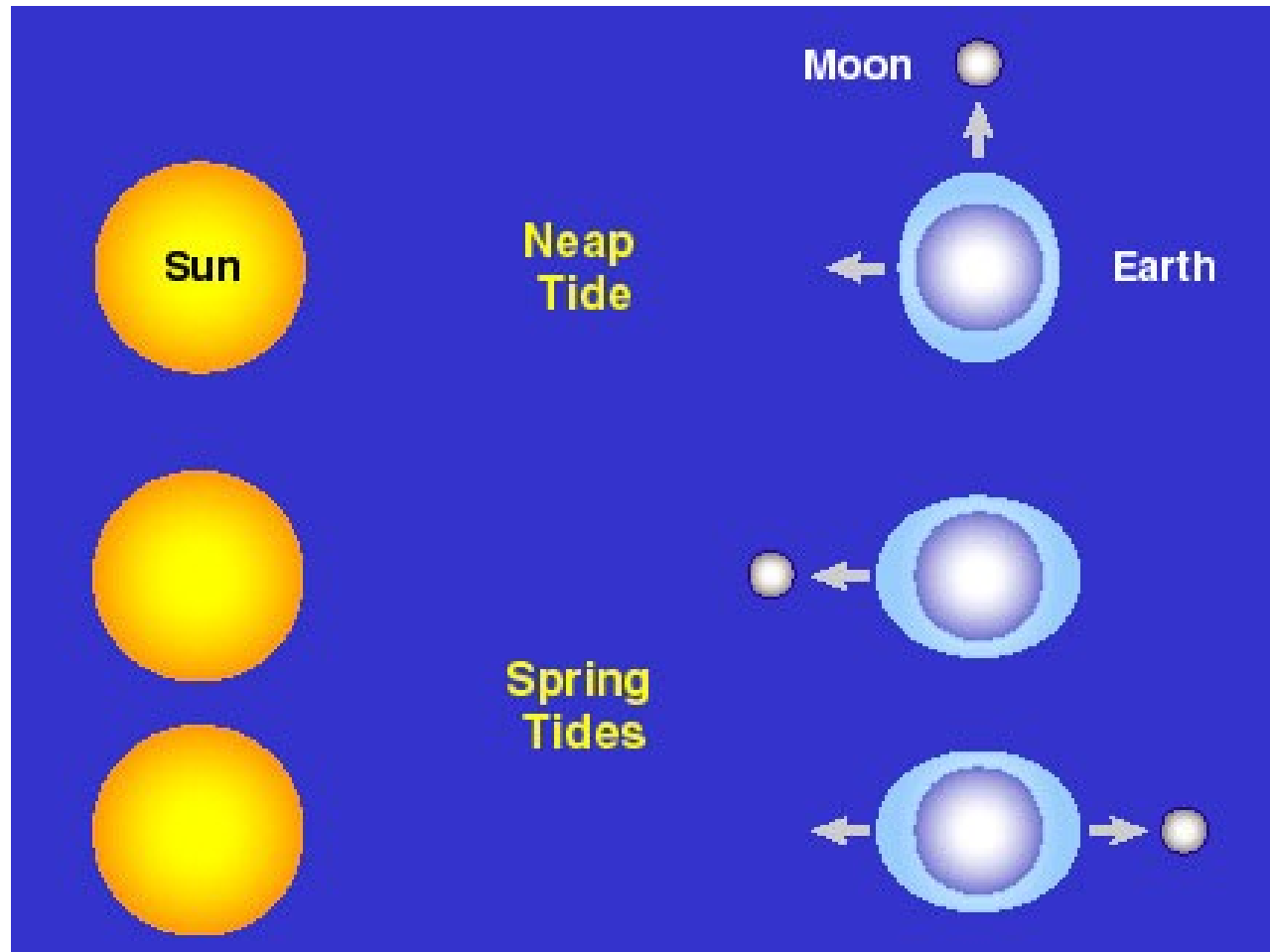
Neptune



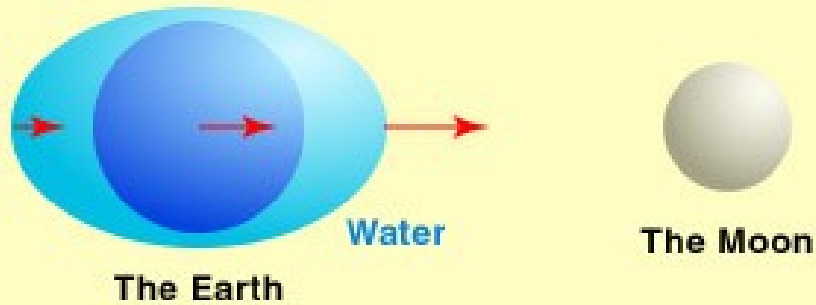
Pebbles (?)  
Dark and reddish (?)



# Tides



# Tides



(a) Attractive Forces Exerted by the Moon



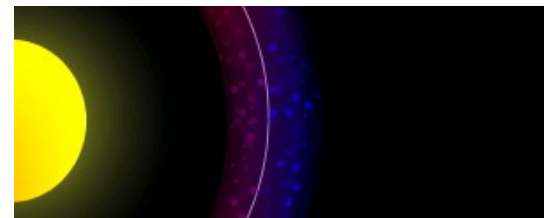
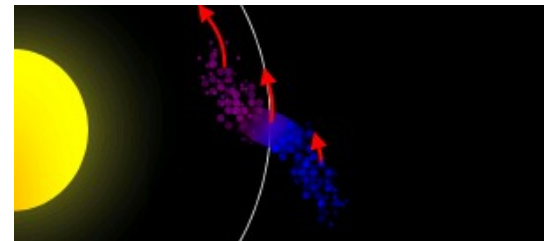
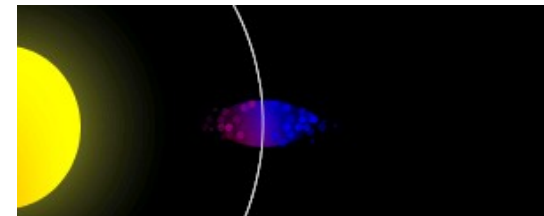
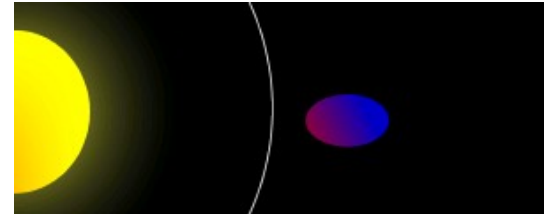
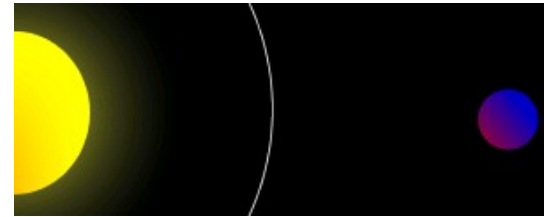
(b) Effective Forces Relative to the Earth Center

The side closer to the Moon experiences a greater pull than the side further out.

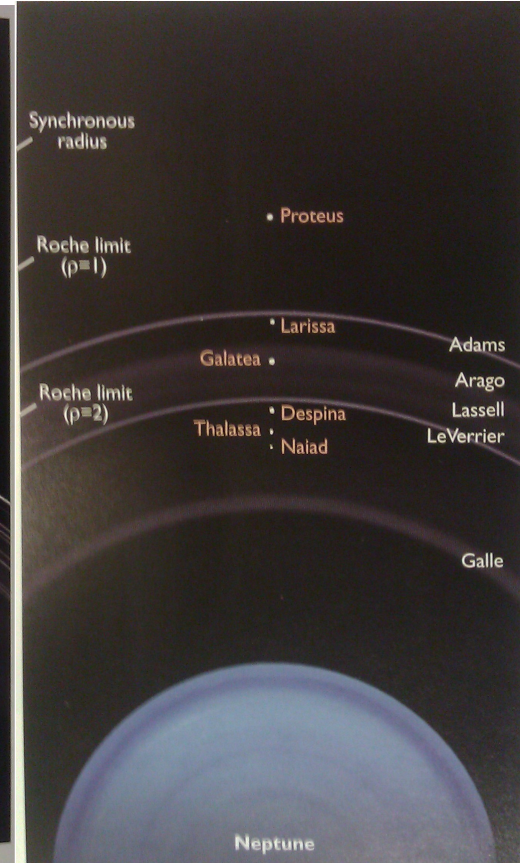
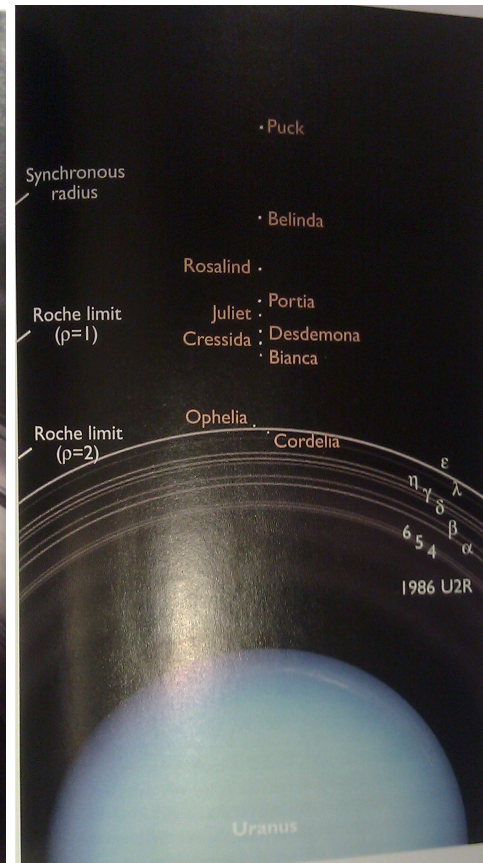
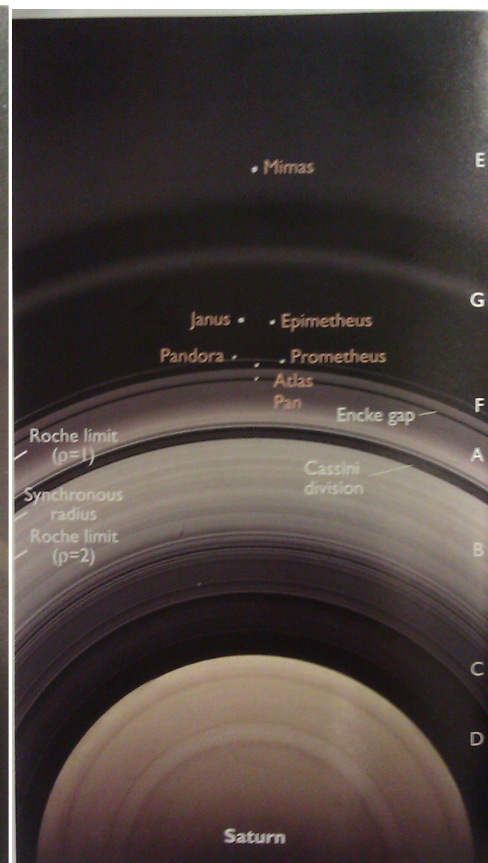
The effective result is a *differential force* we call **Tidal Force**.

# Roche Limit

Limit where the  
**tidal force** is **stronger** than the **internal forces**  
holding the body together

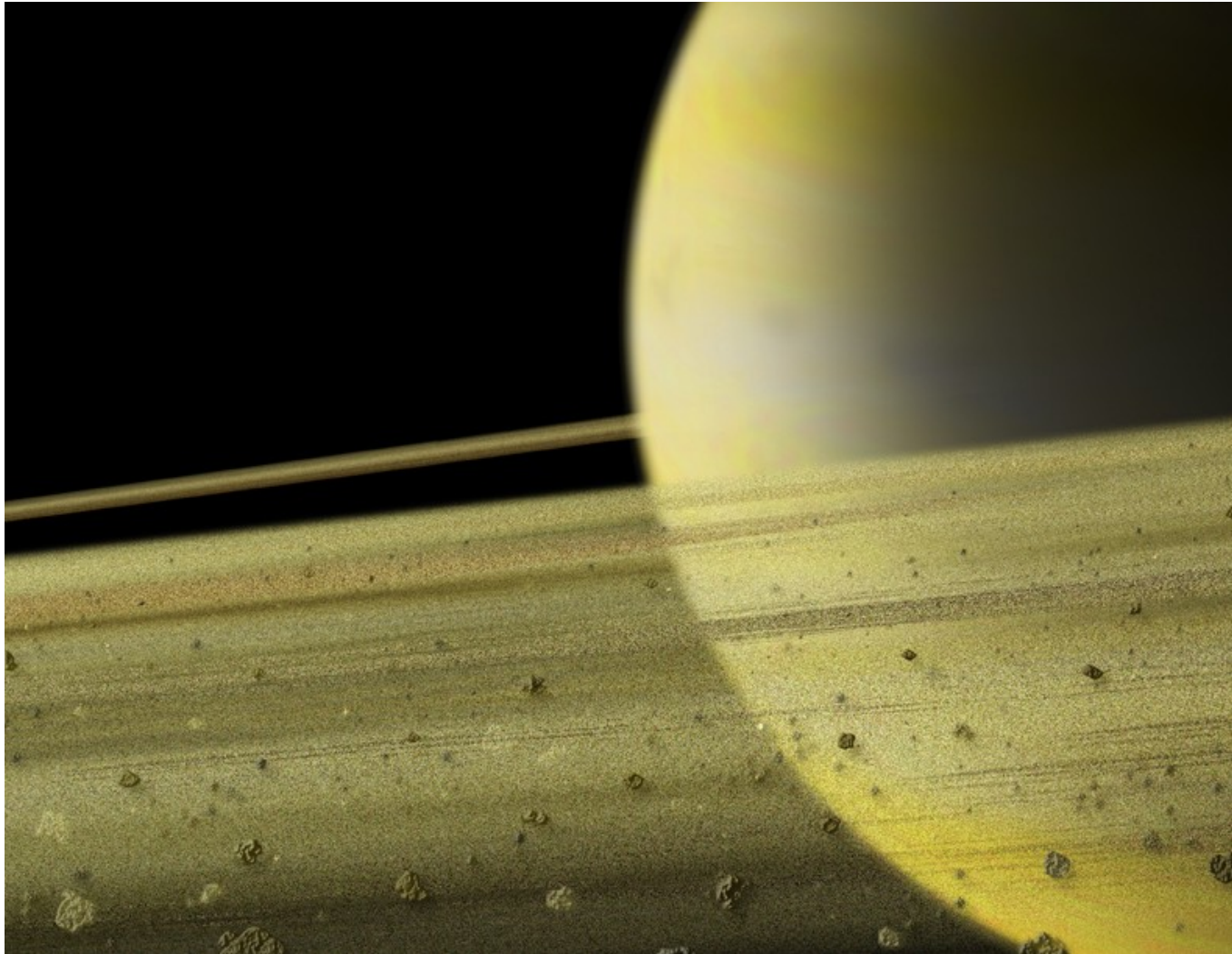


# All ring systems are inside their planet's Roche limit





# Ring formation: Competing theories



1). Moon that got too close

2). Leftover material that could not  
coalesce into moons