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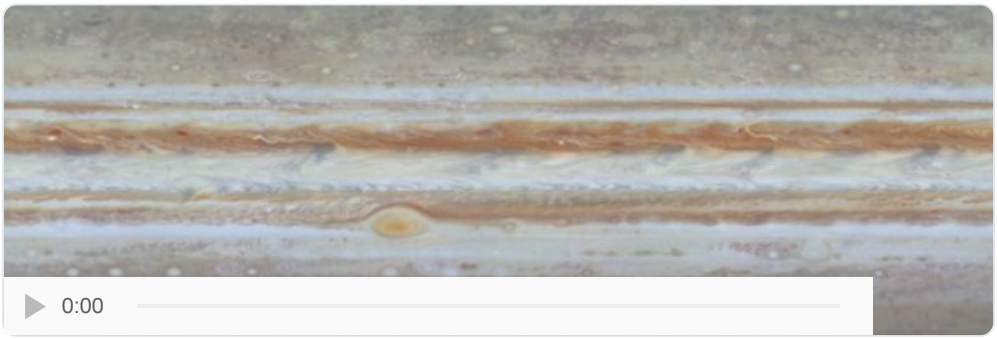
171 tweets
09 Sep 2017 11:55

T-6 days until @CassiniSaturn burns up in the upper atmosphere of #Saturn. It's has flown for 13 years, and will take pics to #GrandFinale

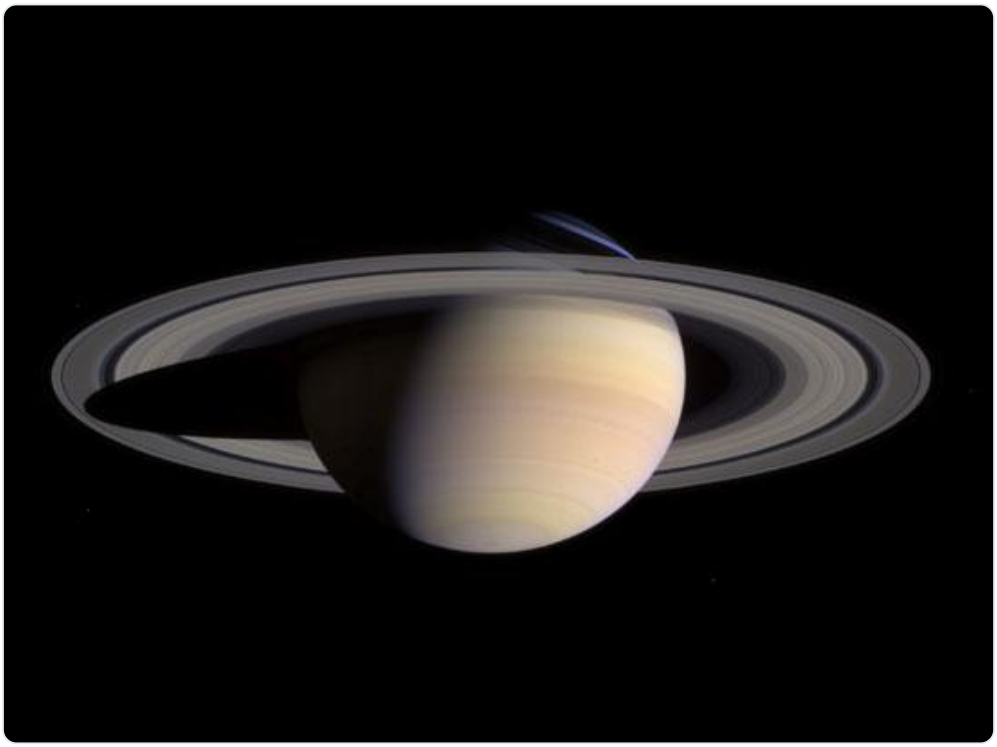
I'll be highlighting my fav images from @CassiniSaturn over the next week in anticipation of the #GrandFinale on Sept 15. Starting with...

1/ @CassiniSaturn launched aboard a Titan IVB/Centaur in a spectacular night-time launch. Oct 15, 1997. 7 year trip to #Saturn #Grandfinale

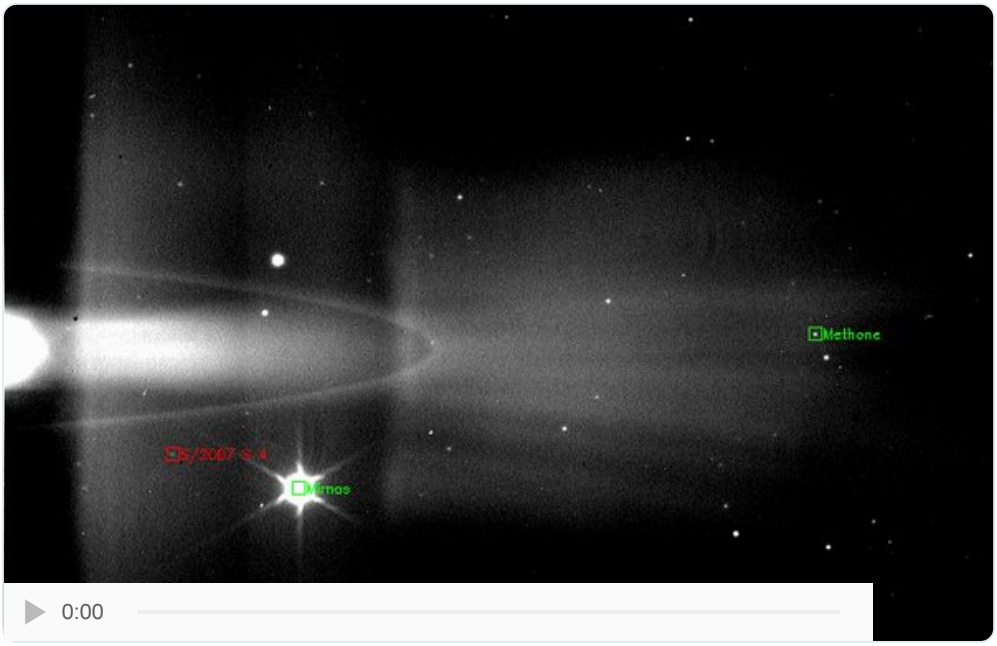
2/ En-route to #Saturn, Cassini flew-by Jupiter and took some of the best images to date including this animation of the clouds #Grandfinale



3/ @CassiniSaturn took this image on May 7, 2004, just a few months before orbital insertion at #Saturn on July 1, 2004. #Grandfinale

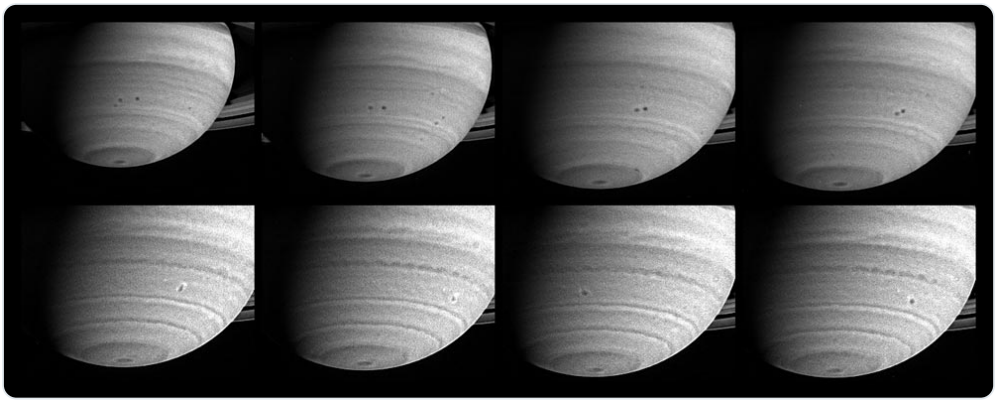


4/ A month before insertion into #Saturn's orbit, @Cassini discovered two new moons: Methone and Pallene, June 1, 2004

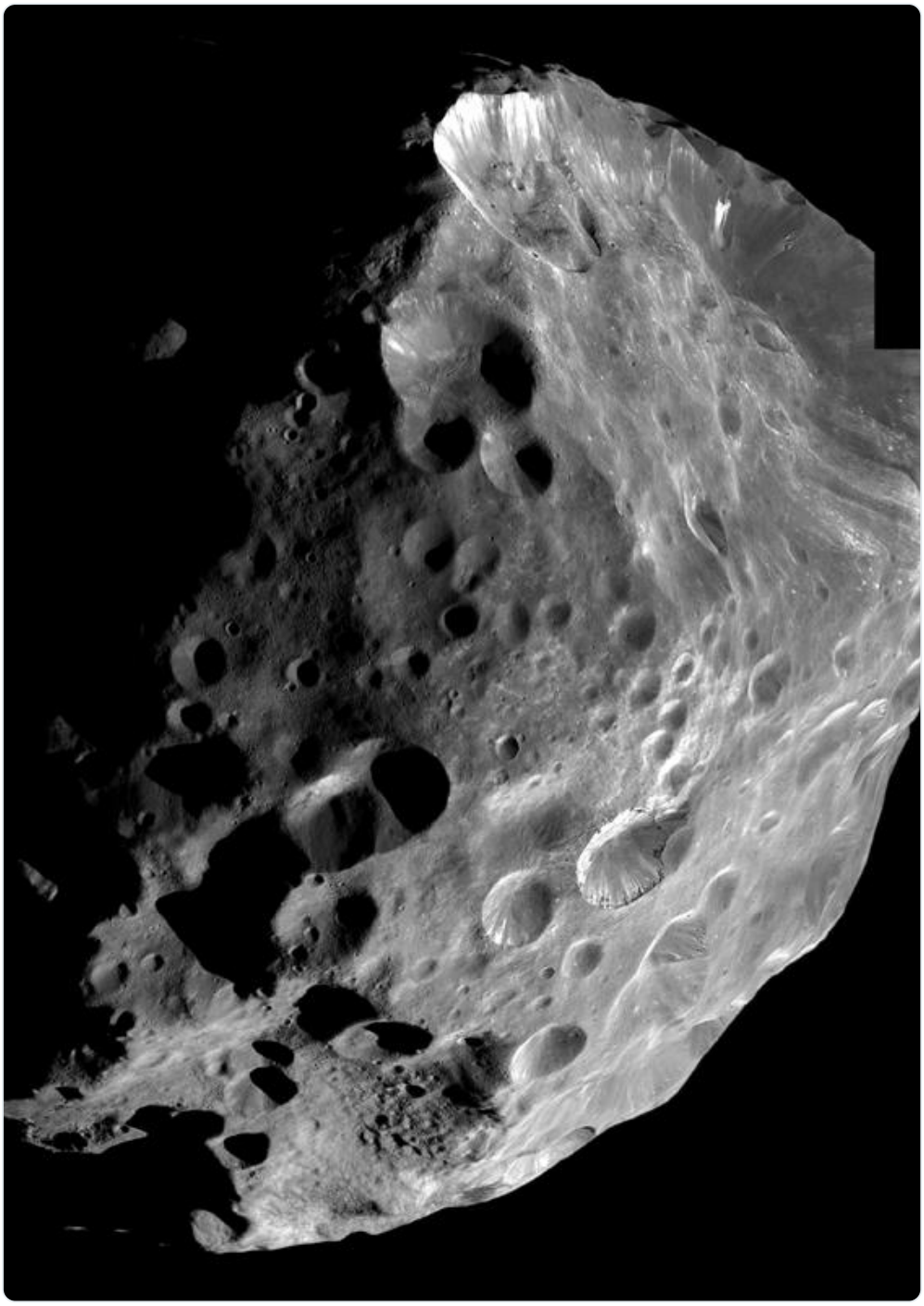


5/ Back in 2004, only 18 moons were known, now there are 60... a combination of @CassiniSaturn imaging and ground based work has found them

6/ Again, before arriving at #Saturn, @CassiniSaturn caught two storms merging. both 1000 km wide, moving 5ish m/s. March 2004 #GrandFinale

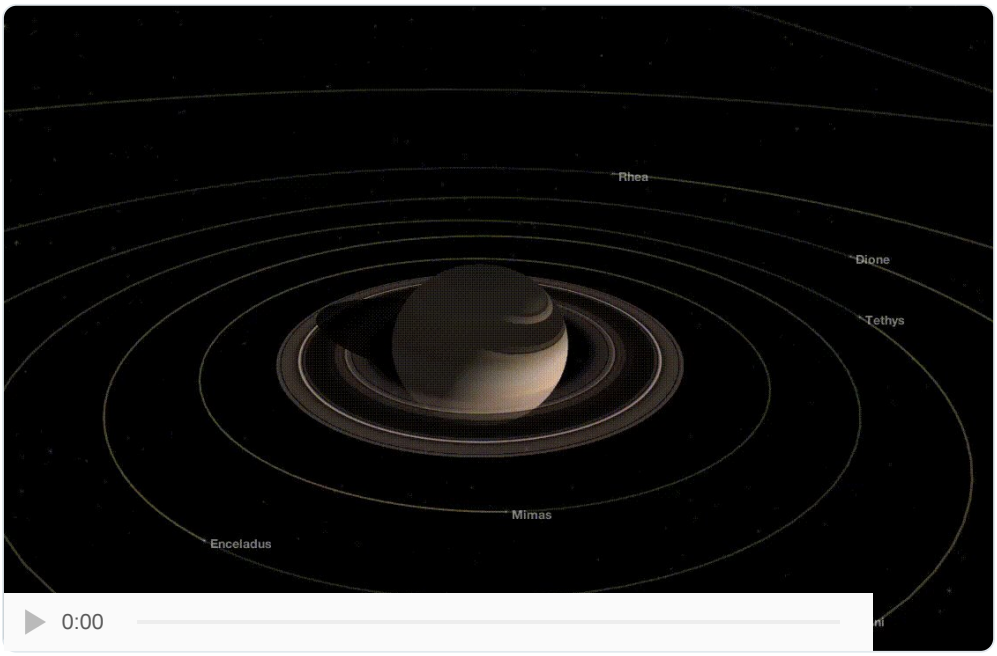


7/ A close flyby of the moon #Phoebe on June 10, 2004 reveals a very irregular topology. Looks like an asteroid! @CassiniSaturn #Grandfinale

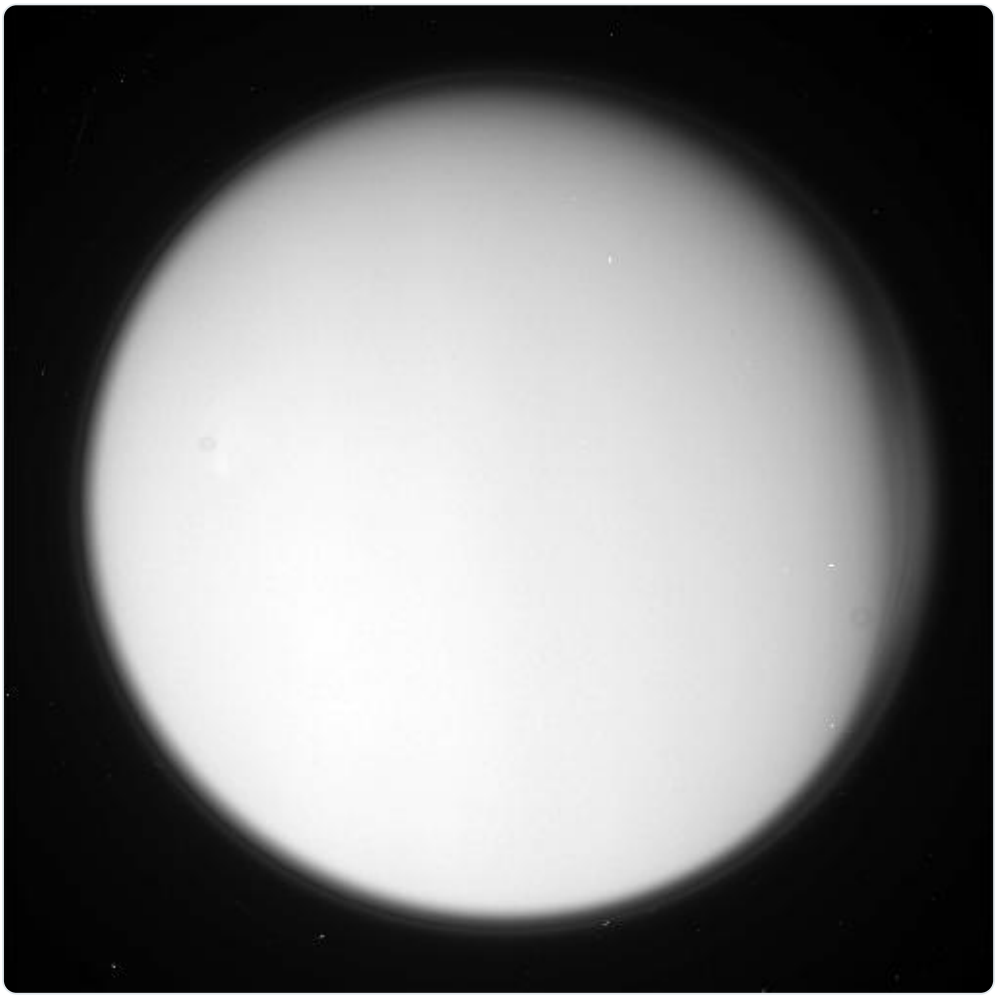


8/ Btwn June 30-July 1, 2004, @CassiniSaturn performed an engine burn that

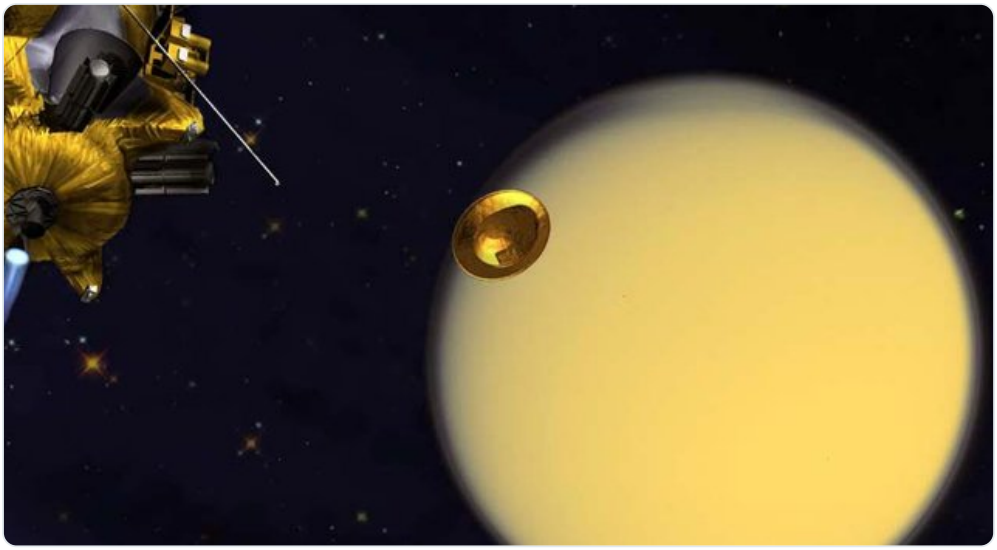
made it the first human-made object to orbit #Saturn #Grandfinale



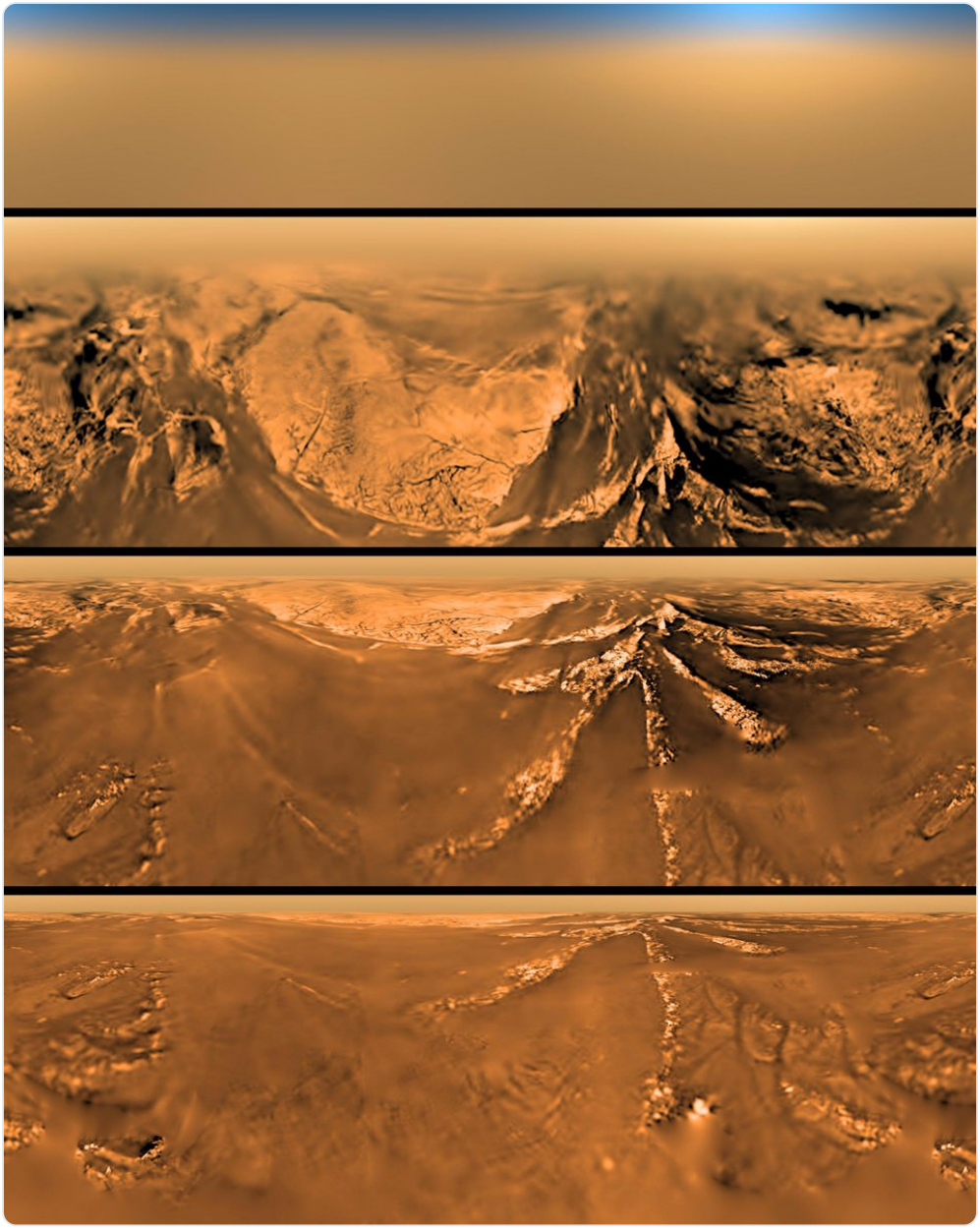
9/ In Oct 2004, @CassiniSaturn flew by #Titan within 1200km. This shot from the flyby suggests a stratified atmo. 1of127 flybys #Grandfinale



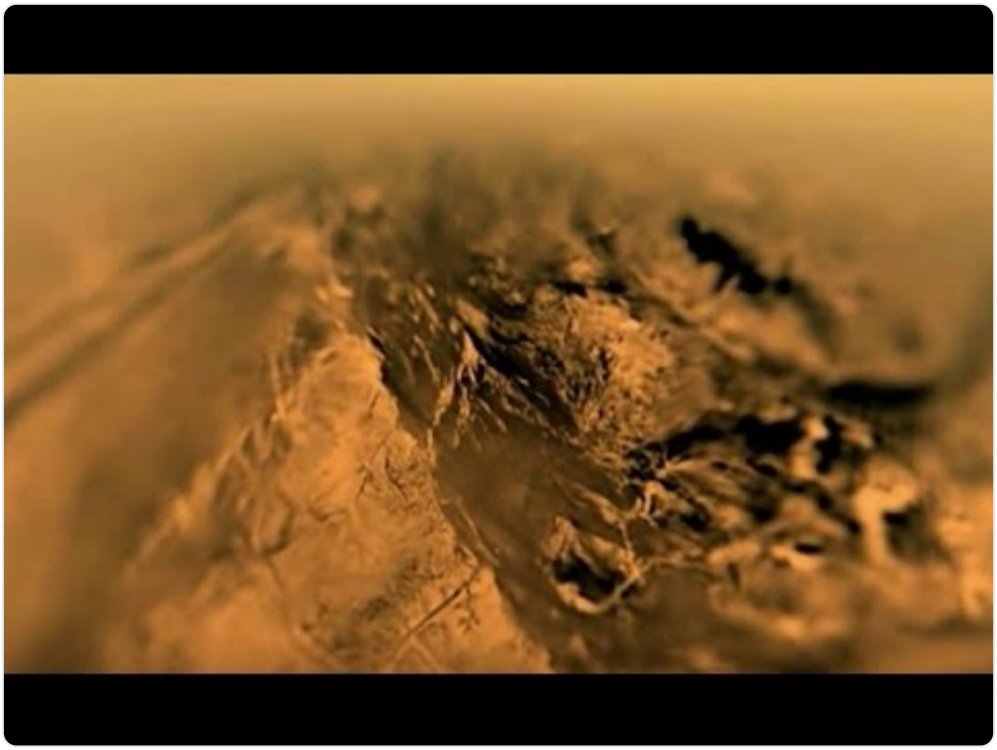
10/ on Dec 23, 2004, @CassiniSaturn released the #Huygens probe, which will eventually land on the surface of #Titan. #Grandfinale



11/ Jan 14, 2005 #Huygens entered upper atmosphere of #Titan taking 2.5 hrs to reach ground. Measuring atmos all the way down #grandfinale

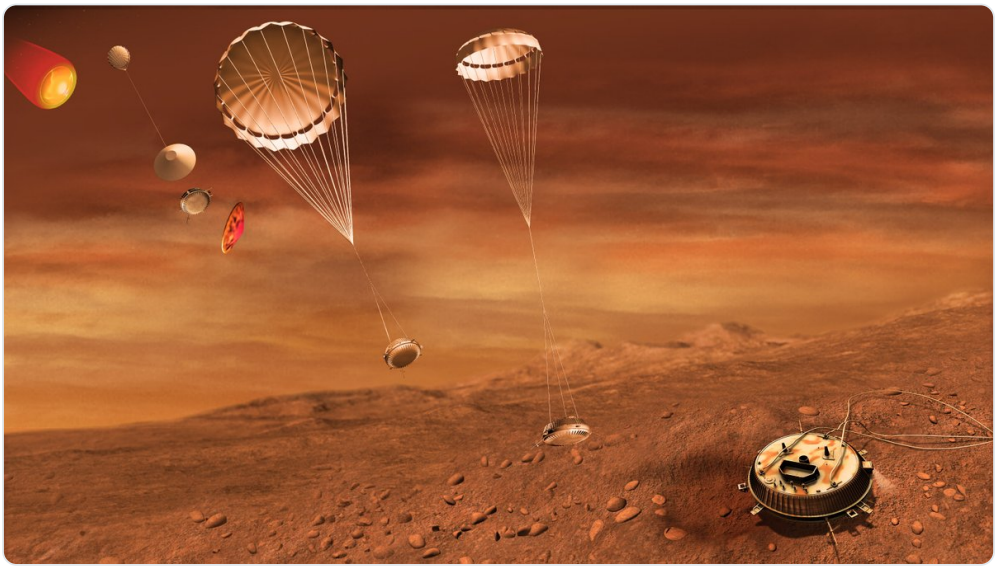


12/ Here's a great video of the landing using real imagery #GrandFinale

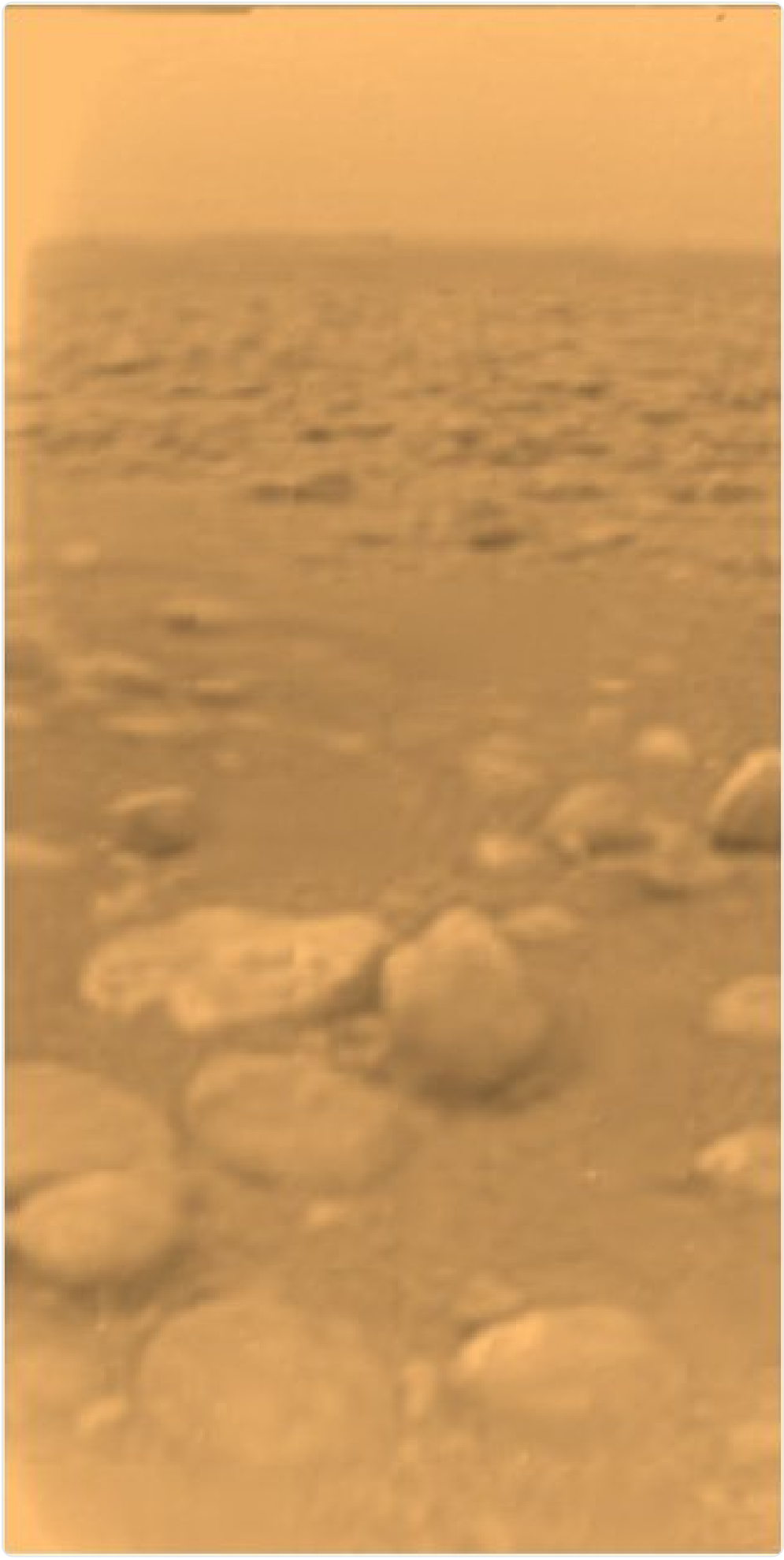


https://www.youtube.com/embed/msiLWxDayuA

13/ At 12:43UTC on Jan 14, 2005 the #Huygens probe landed on #Titan, becoming the furthest soft-landing ever achieved by humans #grandfinale

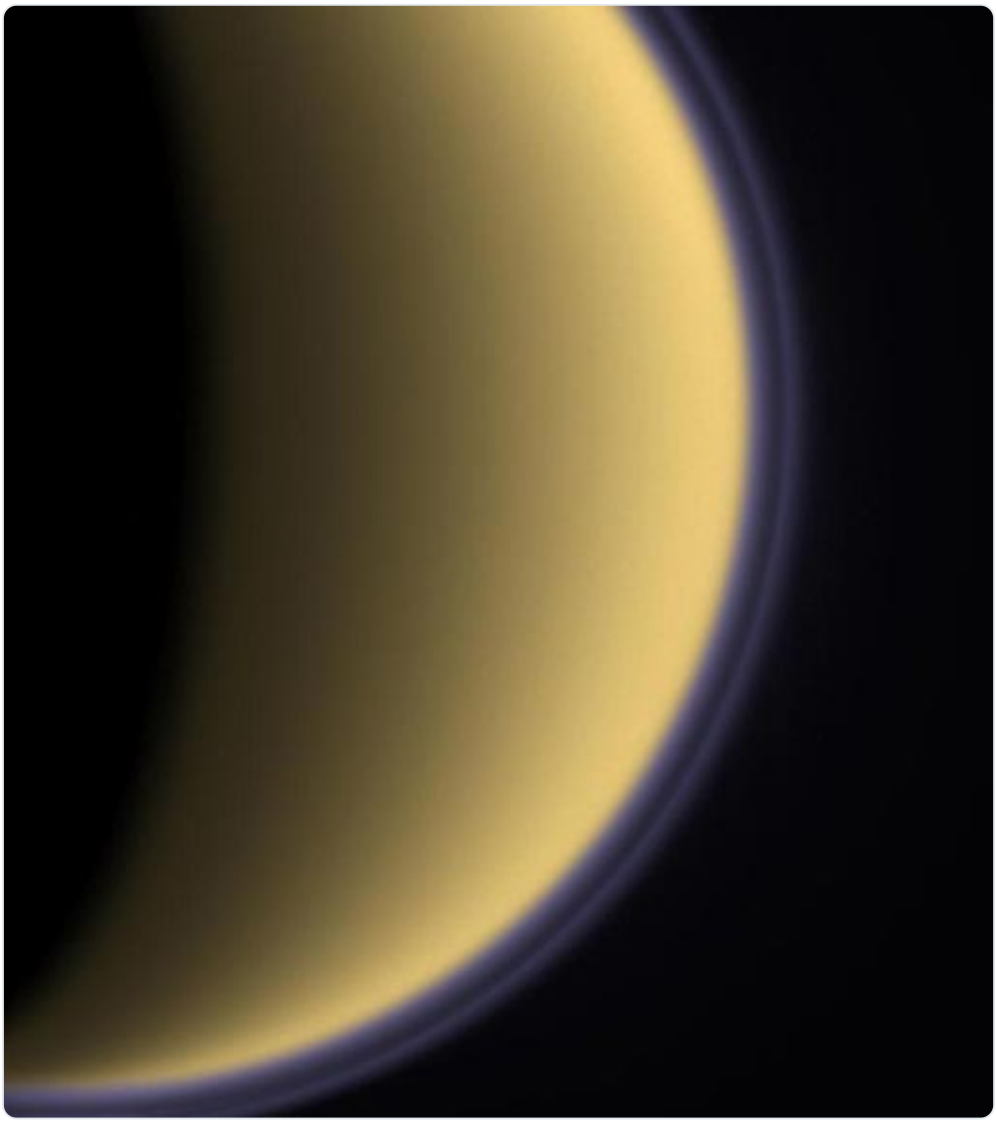


14/ #Huygens operated for abt 90min before it lost contact w @CassiniSaturn. Here's an infamous image from a surreal world #grandfinale

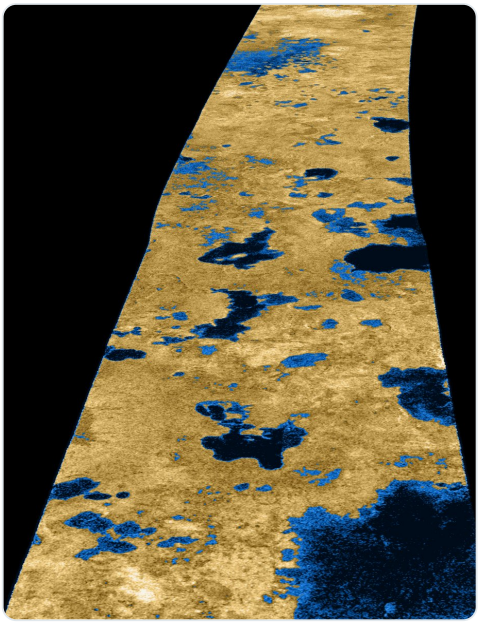


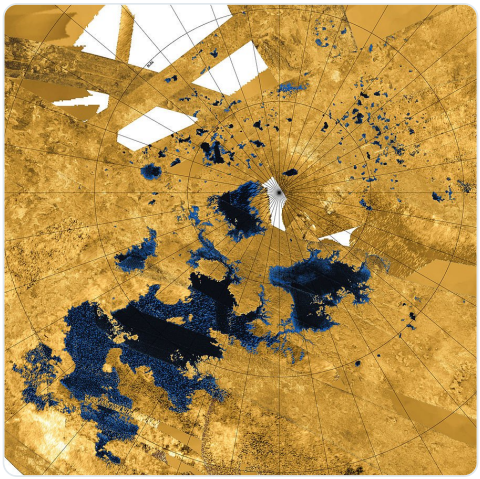
15/ @CassiniSaturn went on to make 127 more flybys of #Titan, which is the only

Moon in the solar system with an atmosphere #grandfinale

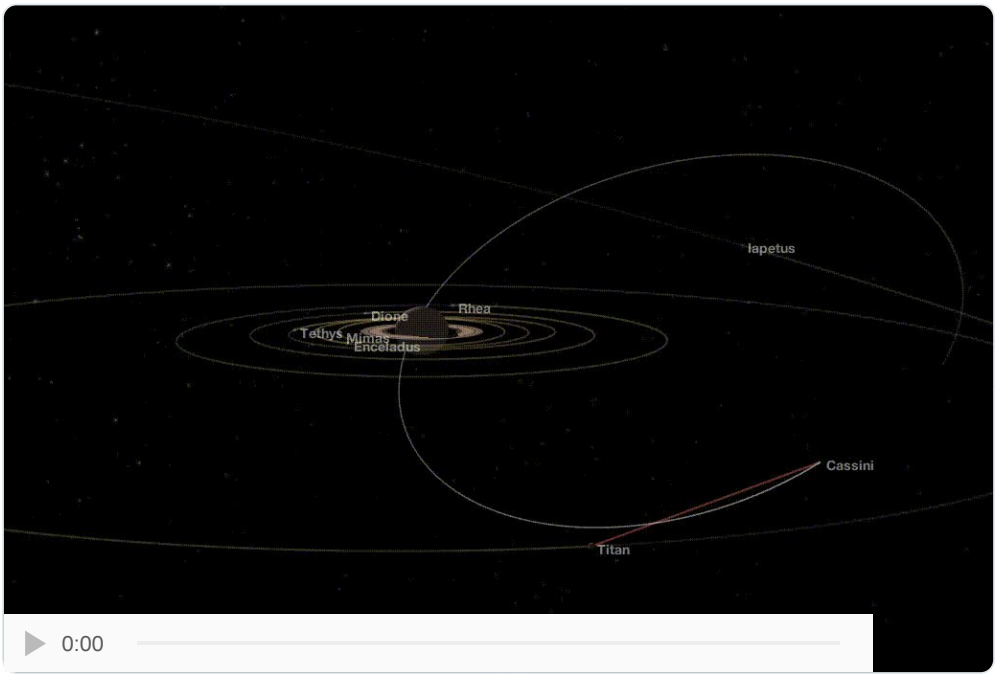


16/ @CassiniSaturn confirmed there are lakes of Methane/Ethane on #Titan. The only other body in Solar System that has liquids #grandfinale

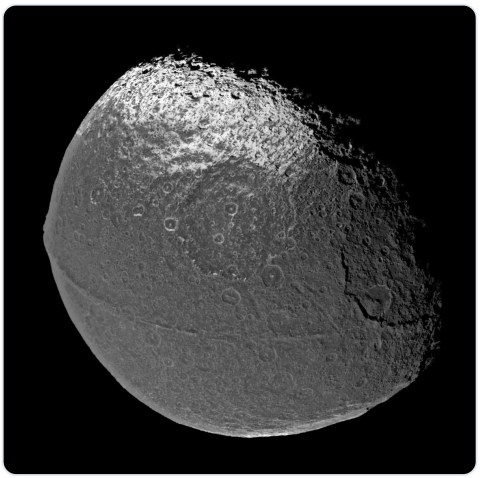




17/ RIGHTNOW @CassiniSaturn is receiving a "Goodbye Kiss" frm #Titan a final distnt flyby of #Saturn's largst moon at 119,049km #GrandFinale



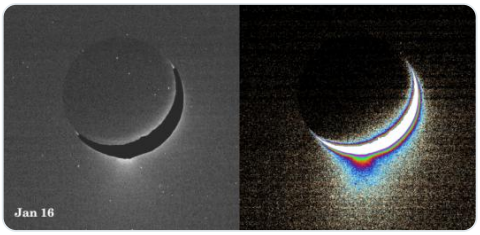
18/ Iapetus, a 1500km-wide moon of #Saturn, famous for its dramatic two-tone colouration and 1300km-wide equatorial ridge #GrandFinale

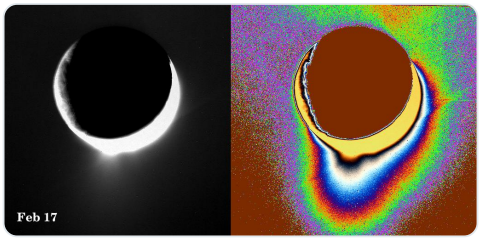


19/ it's funny, this equatorial ridge business was weird when they discovered it back in 2005. That's just the tip of the iceberg, though

20/ Much later on, @CassiniSaturn started finding moons embedded in the rings that sported a similar feature to Iapetus. We'll get to that..

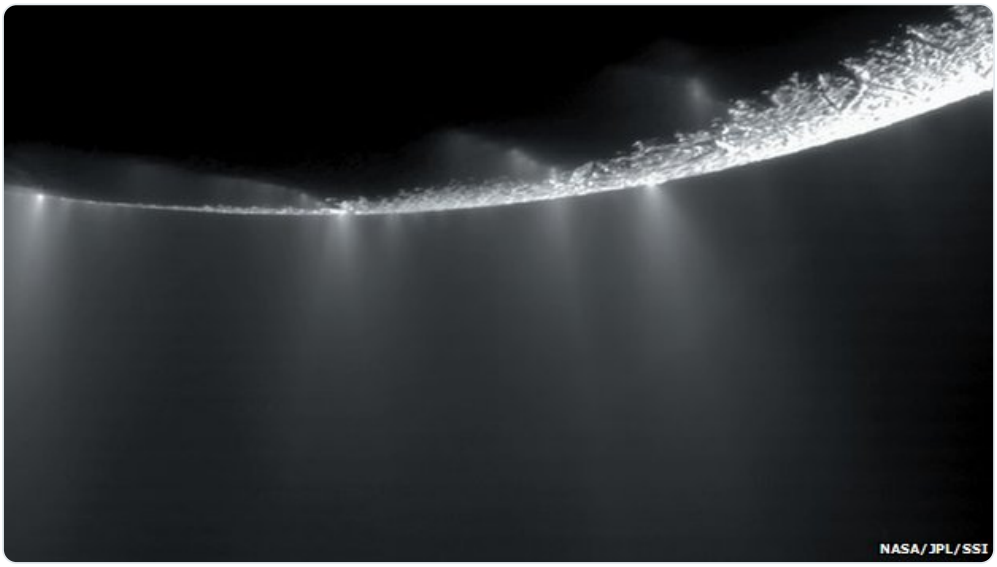
21/ @CassiniSaturn detects geysers on #Enceladus in early 2006, confirming a massive liquid water ocean below the ice surface #GrandFinale



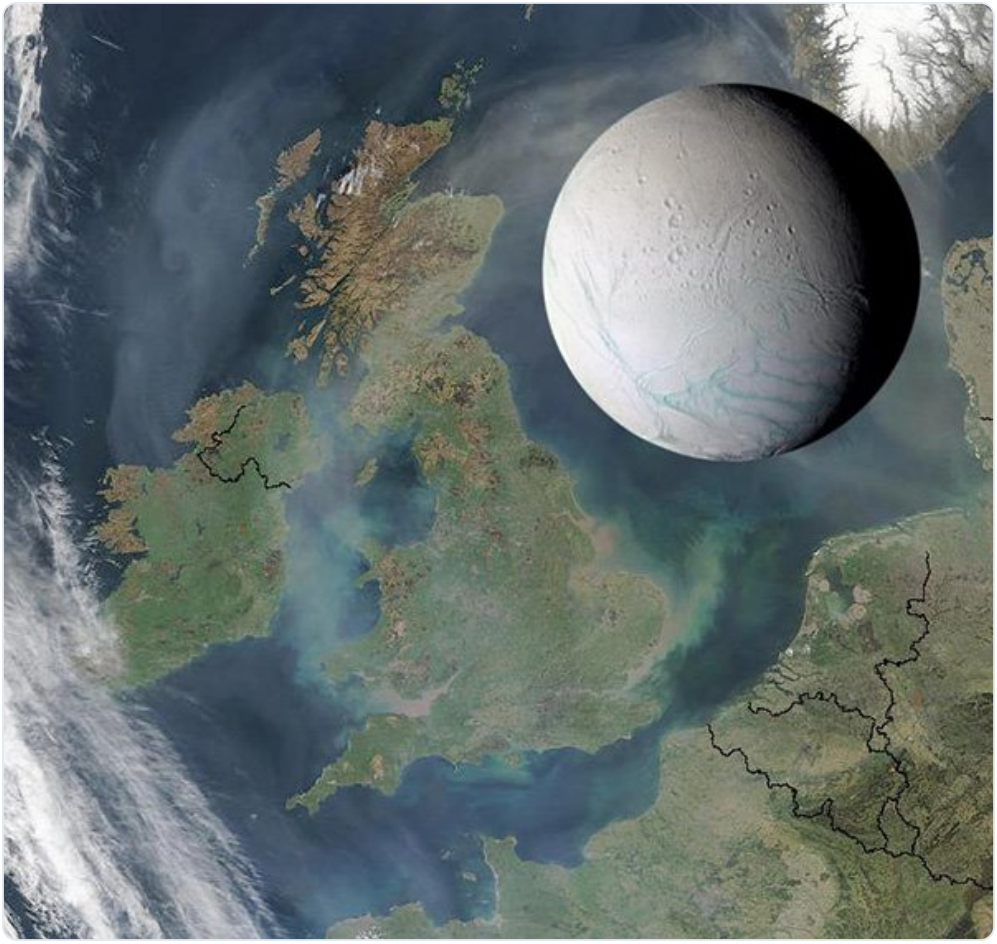


22/ #Enceladus became a major focus of the @CassiniSaturn mission after that. Liquid water is an important ingredient for life here on Earth

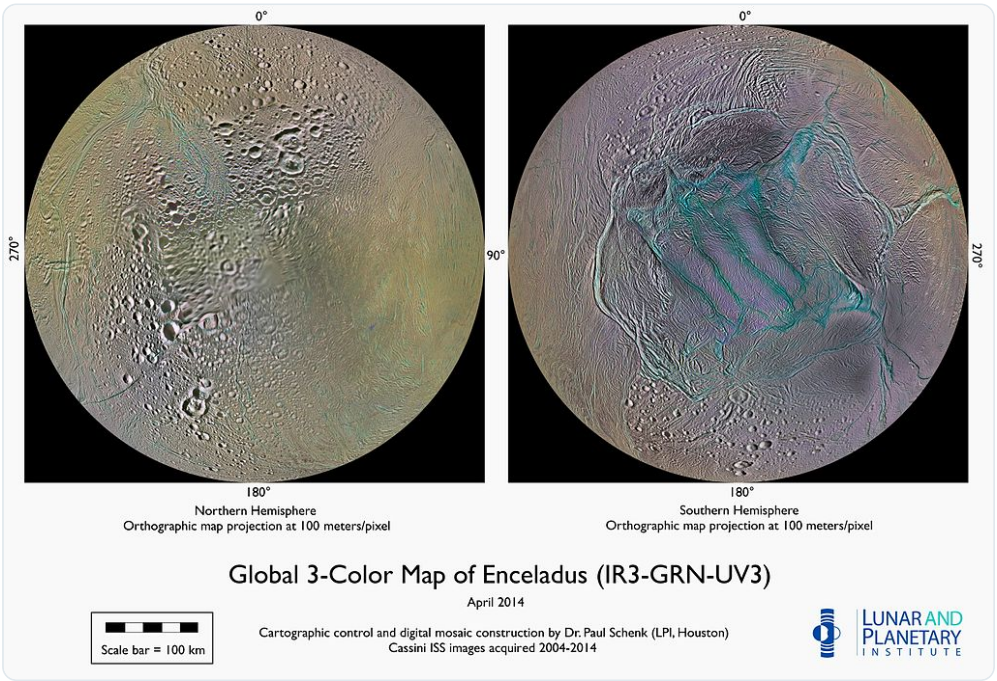
23/ In 2008, @CassiniSaturn gets close to the plumes, even flying through them. Analysis of the water flying into space begins #GrandFinale



24/ #Enceladus is only 500km-wide but contains MORE water than the entire Earth! Here it is next to Great Britain for scale #GrandFinale



25/ the "tiger stripes:" the locations on #Enceladus where the Geysers shoot into space. Composed of: salts, organic compounds #GrandFinale



26/ This iconic image is perhaps my favourite one of #Enceladus. Its plumes are so large and frequent they are CREATING #Saturn's E ring

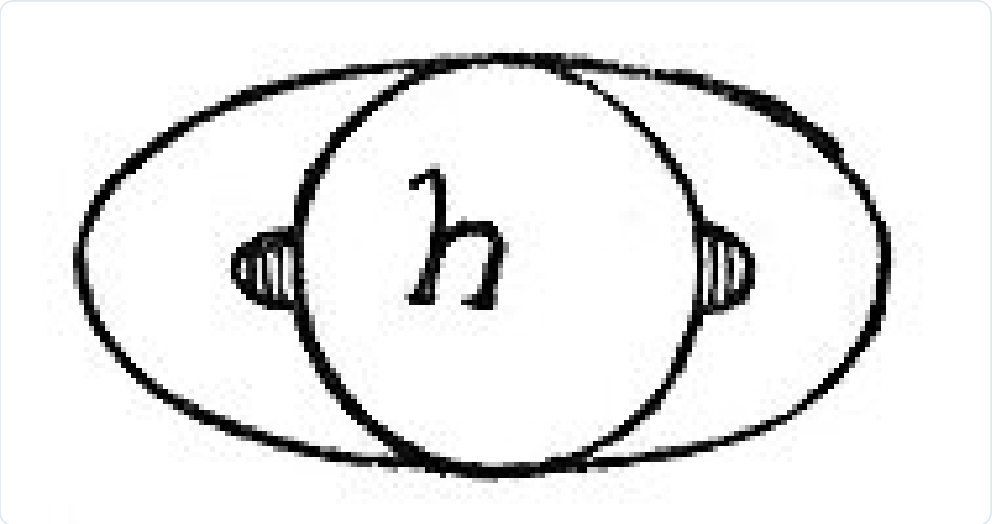
27/ Not only is #Enceladus perhaps the best place to go looking for life in our Solar System, it also influences the entire Saturnian system

28/ #Enceladus is contributing to the ring structures of #Saturn. An impressive feat for a moon the size of England #GrandFinale

29/ I'm almost 30 tweets into this #GrandFinale recap and I haven't even talked about the rings or the #Saturn itself!

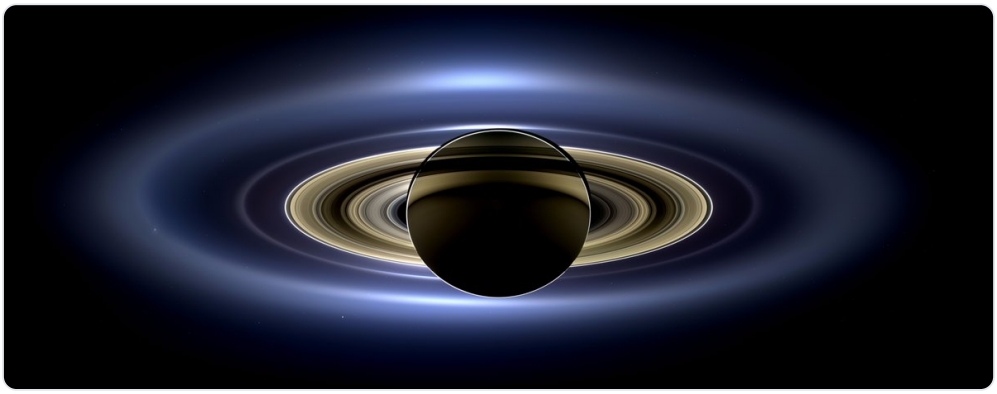
30/ I mean, the rings are easily the most iconic thing abt #Saturn. They're huge, impressively thin, bright, with insanely complex structure

31/ Funny story: Galileo "discovered" the rings in 1610 but he didn't know what they were. In fact, he called them #Saturn's "Ears"

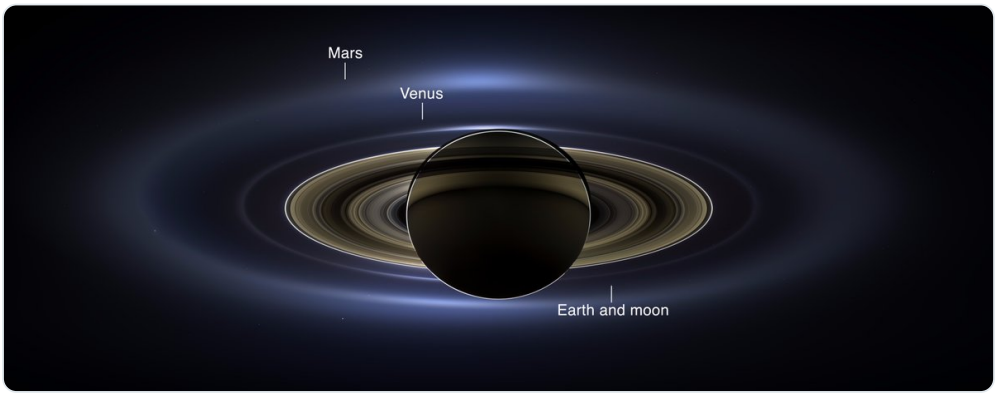


32/ Anther funny story: every time I google "Rings of Saturn" I get links to an american deathcore metal band. They have some cool album art

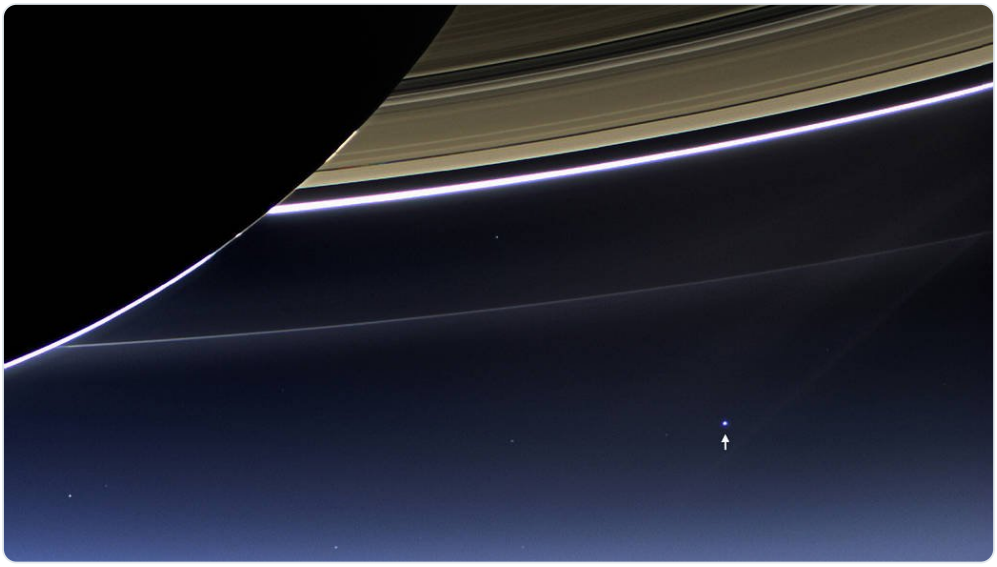
33/ This image was taken when the Sun was on the other side of #Saturn, illuminating the rings from @CassiniSaturn's POV #GrandFinale



34/ taken July 19, 2013 it's AKA "The Day the #Earth Smiled" because we're all visible in the picture! Also #Mars and #Venus are there too!

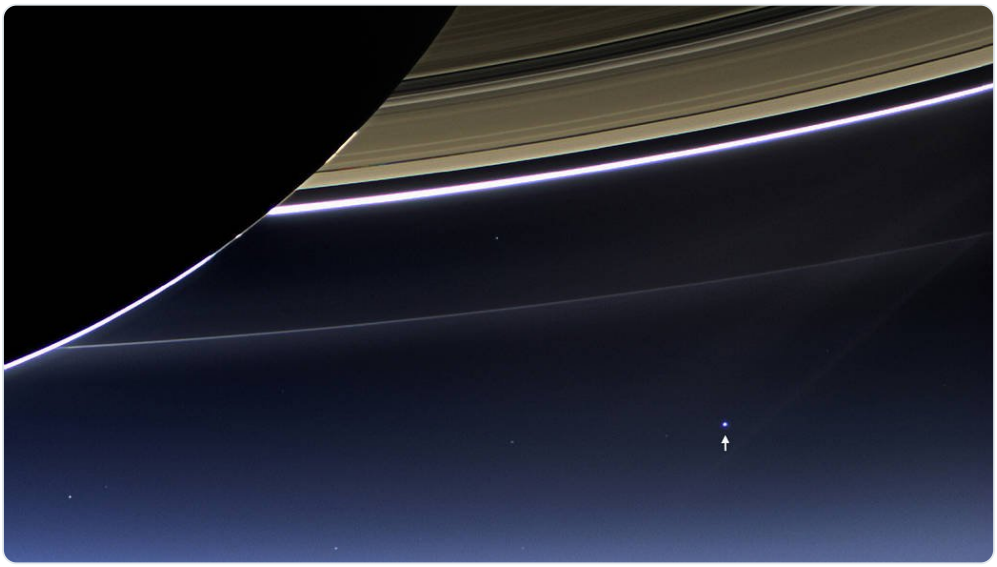


35/ "That's here. That's home. That's us ... on a mote of dust, suspended in a sunbeam." This image makes me think of Sagan #GrandFinale



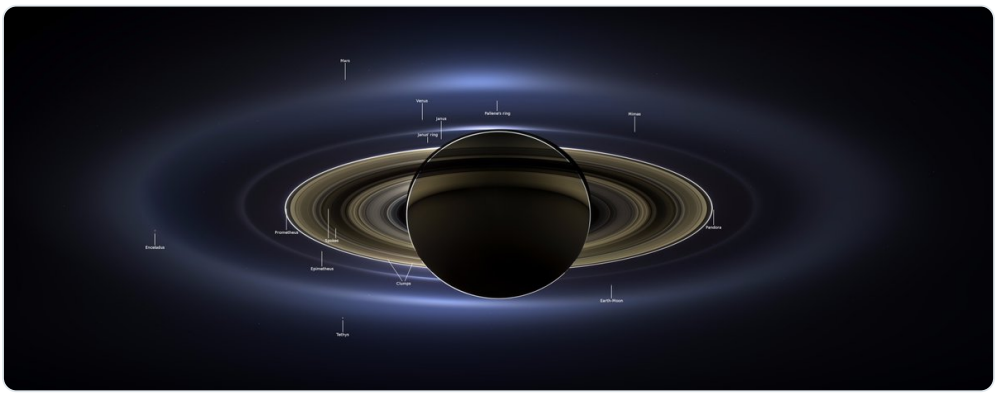
36/ It was only the 3rd time #Earth had been imaged frm the outer solar system, and the first time we new in advance it was going to happen!

37/ Hence, "The Day the Earth Smiled." It's worth posting again. I think this is my favourite image @CassiniSaturn took #GrandFinale



38/ Beautiful #GrandFinale

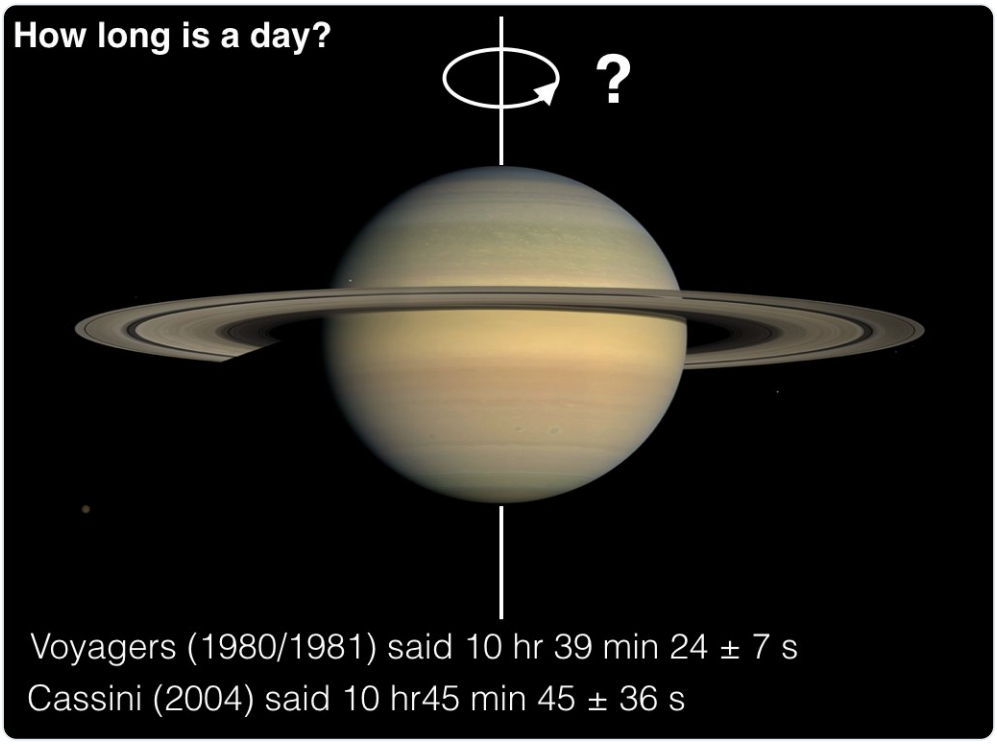
39/ As one can imagine, this picture ALSO had a bunch of #Saturn's moons in it, as well as impressive details on the rings. #GrandFinale



40/ The @CassiniSaturn imaging team has a detailed rundown of the image. Definitely worth a read #GrandFinale ciclops.org/view/7699/The-…

41/ Believe it or not, we still don't know exactly how long a day is on #Saturn. You would think it's an easy planetary property to measure

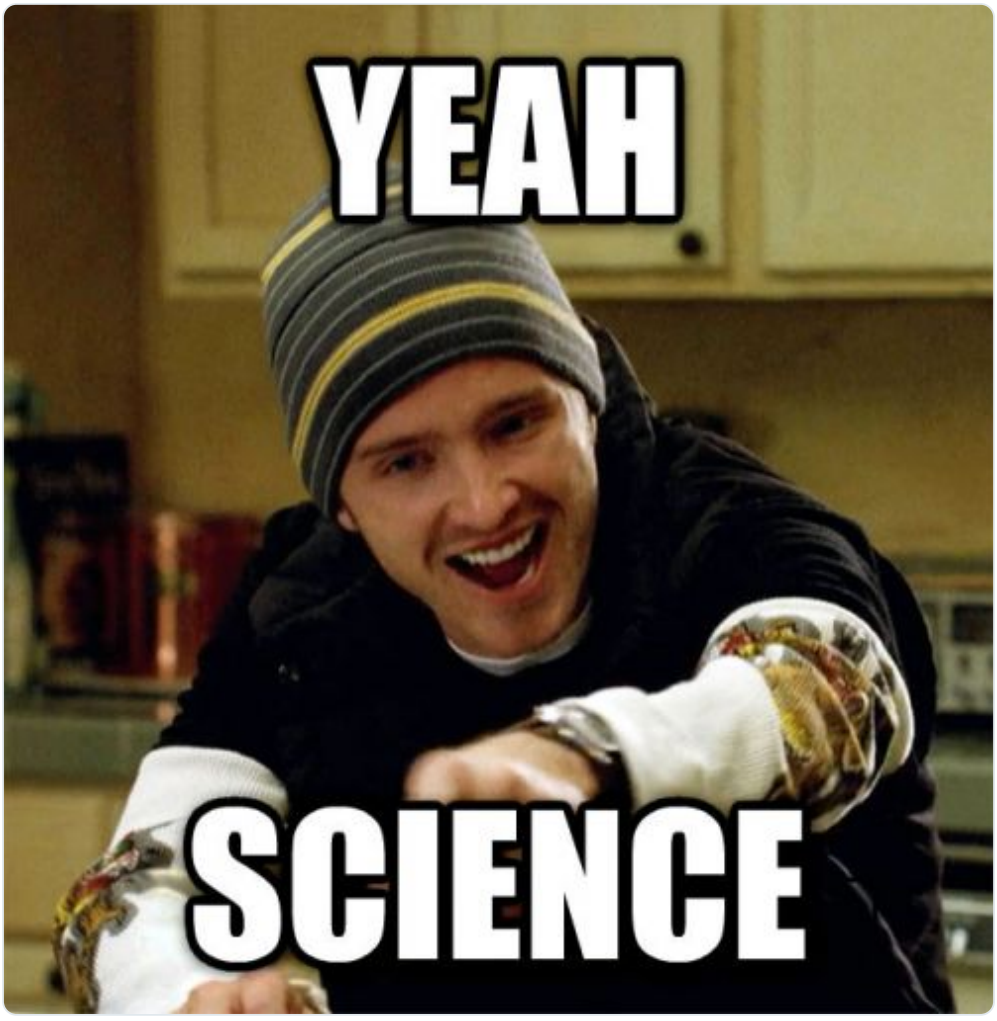
42/ @NASAVoyager measured 10h39m24s in 1980/81, but upon arrival @CassiniSaturn measured 10h45m45s. They can't both be right? #GrandFinale



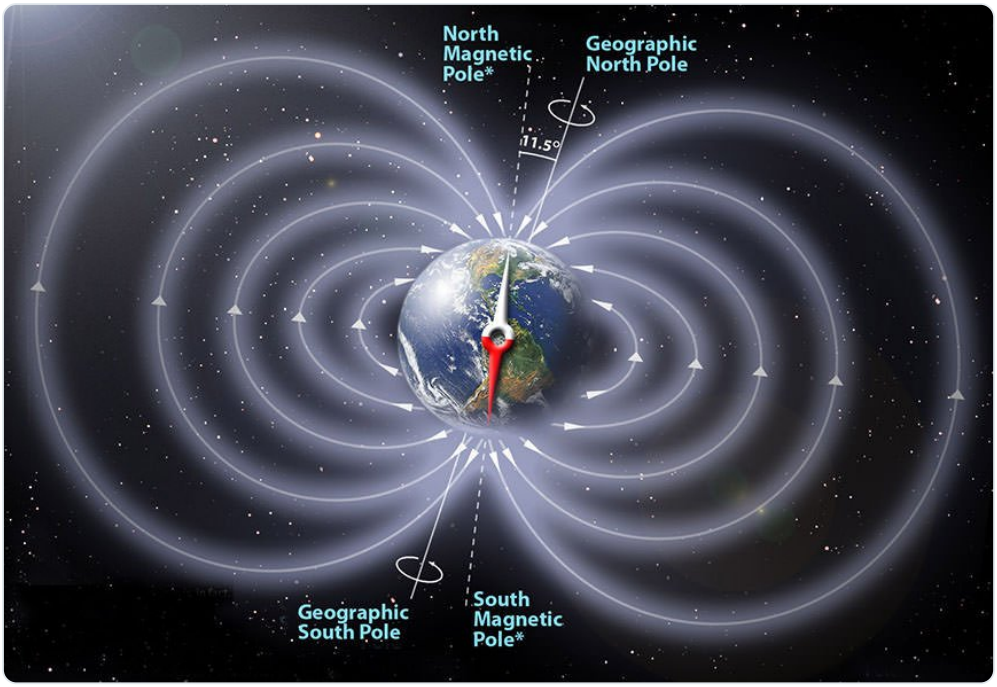
43/ this begs the question: how do we measure a planet's day? Can't you just count how long it takes for a surface feature to go around?

44/ historically this has been tough with #Saturn, because its surface is so damn uniform there's nothing to track! (image viaBjörn Jónsson)

45/ planetary scientists have found a way around this, however, by simply measuring the rotation of a planet's magnetic field. #grandfinale

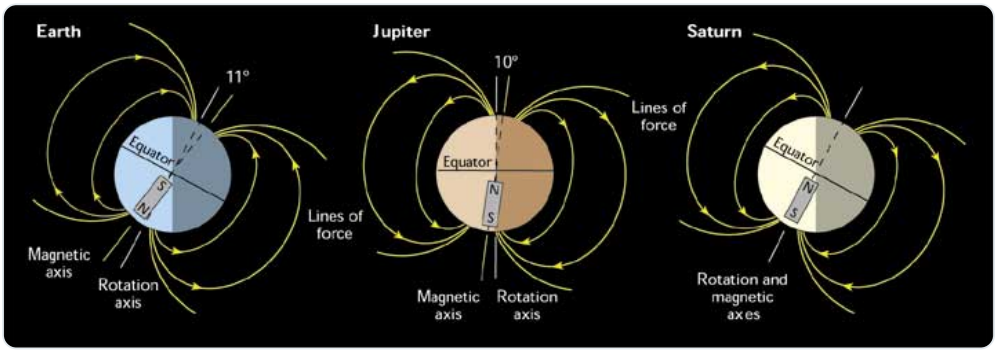


46/ On Earth, our mag field is not aligned with our geo axis, thus, every time the Earth spins once, the mag field "wobbles" #grandfinale



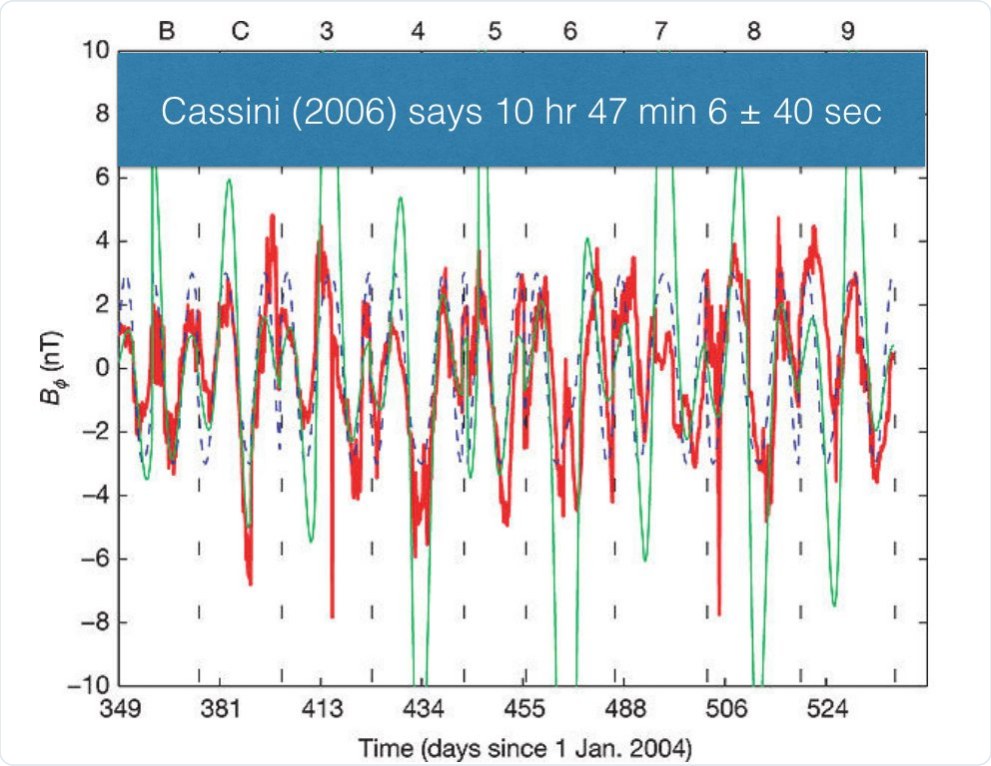
47/ Apply this same theory to #Saturn and we should be able to measure the day, right? WRONG. Saturn isn't going to make it that easy

48/ #Saturn's Magnetic field is almost perfectly aligned with its rotation axis. That means no mag field wobble while it spins #GrandFinale



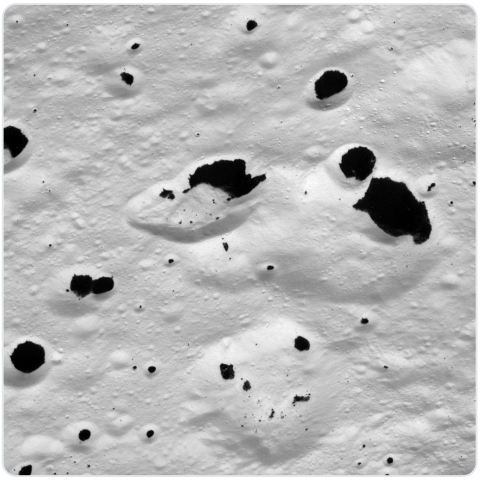
49/ Nevertheless, attempts were made with @CassiniSaturn and the length of day turned out to be 6 min longer than measured by @NASAVoyager

50/ Another unexpected result! After @CassiniSaturn took data for two more years, a more refined measurement: 10h47m6s #GrandFinale

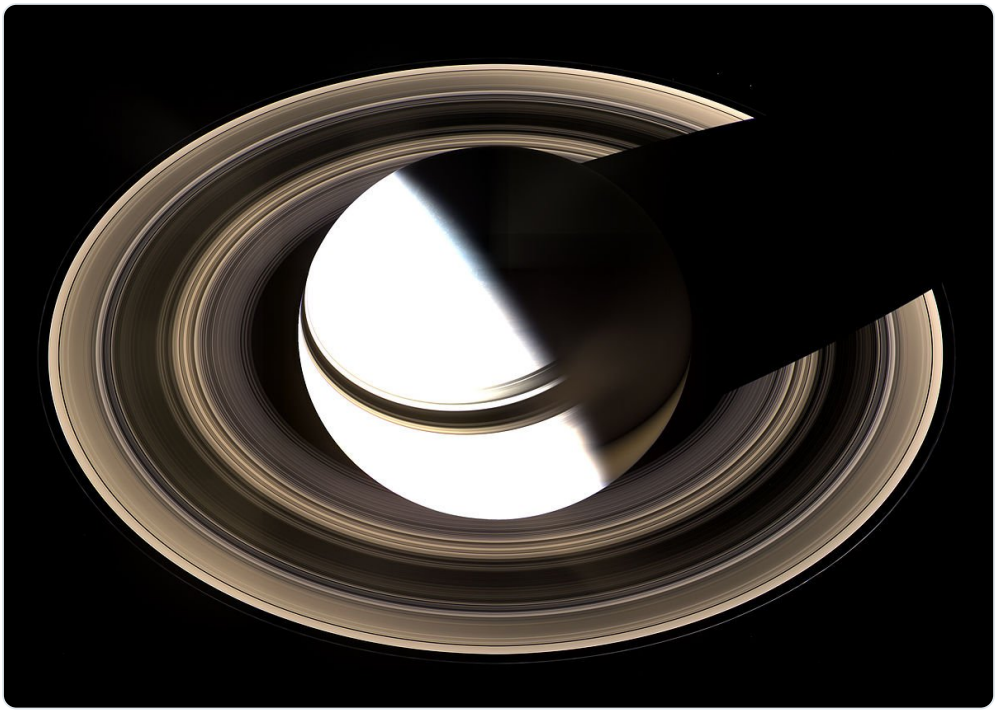


51/ I honestly don't know how long #Saturn's day is, but I've heard times ranging from 10h 30 m up to 10 h 50 m. #GrandFinale

52/ Check out this super close-up of #Saturn's moon Iapetus (36 m/pix). The tones are overlapping, dark soil covered by lighter #GrandFinale



53/ By mid 2008, @CassiniSaturn had completed its mission! 4 years orbiting the ringed world. This image was taken Jan 2008 #GrandFinale

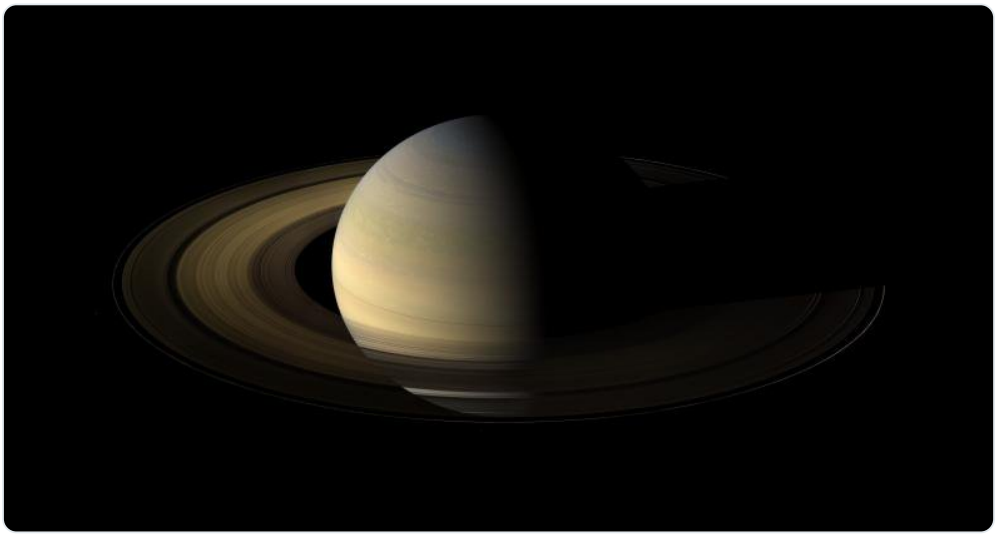


54/ Of course story doesn't end there. @CassiniSaturn's mission was extended to 2010, which would take us through #Saturn's equinox

55/ It was officially renamed to the Cassini Equinox Mission, and would include 60 more orbits of #Saturn, flybys of many moons #GrandFinale

56/ #Saturn's axis is tilted like Earth, so it has solstices/equinoxes. At Equinox, the rings are parallel to the plane of Saturn's orbit

57/ @CassiniSaturn was there in Aug2009 at the moment of Equinox and snapped this image. Can you find the shadow of the Rings? #GrandFinale

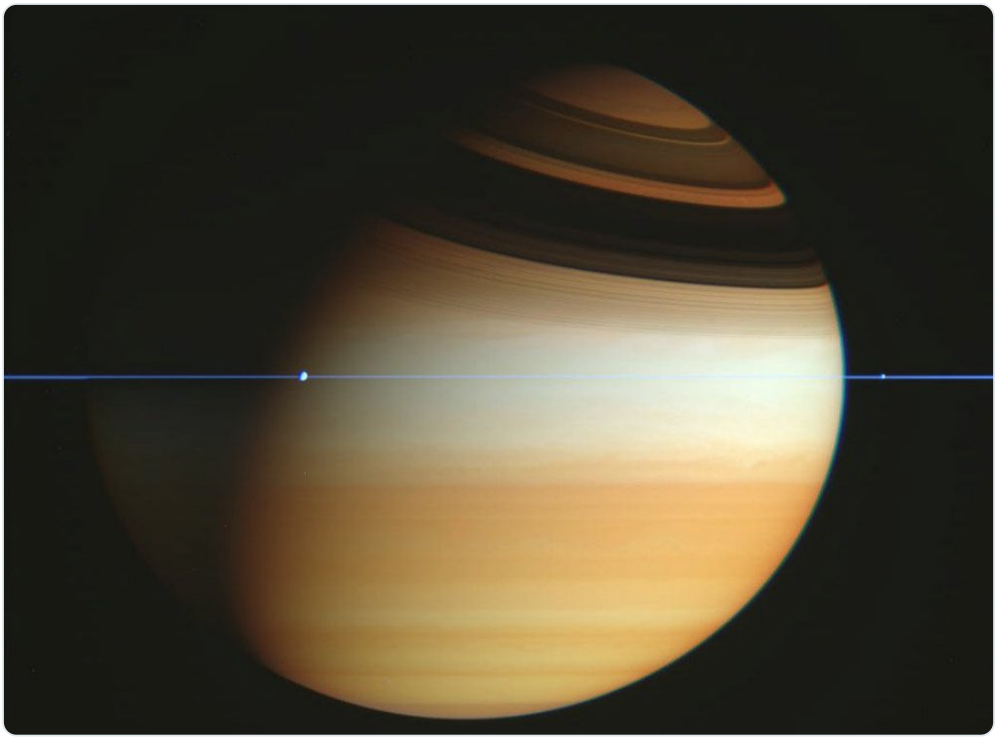


58/ With #Saturn at Equinox, the rings were seen as edge-on. And the rings are insanely flat. It's incredible how flat they actually are

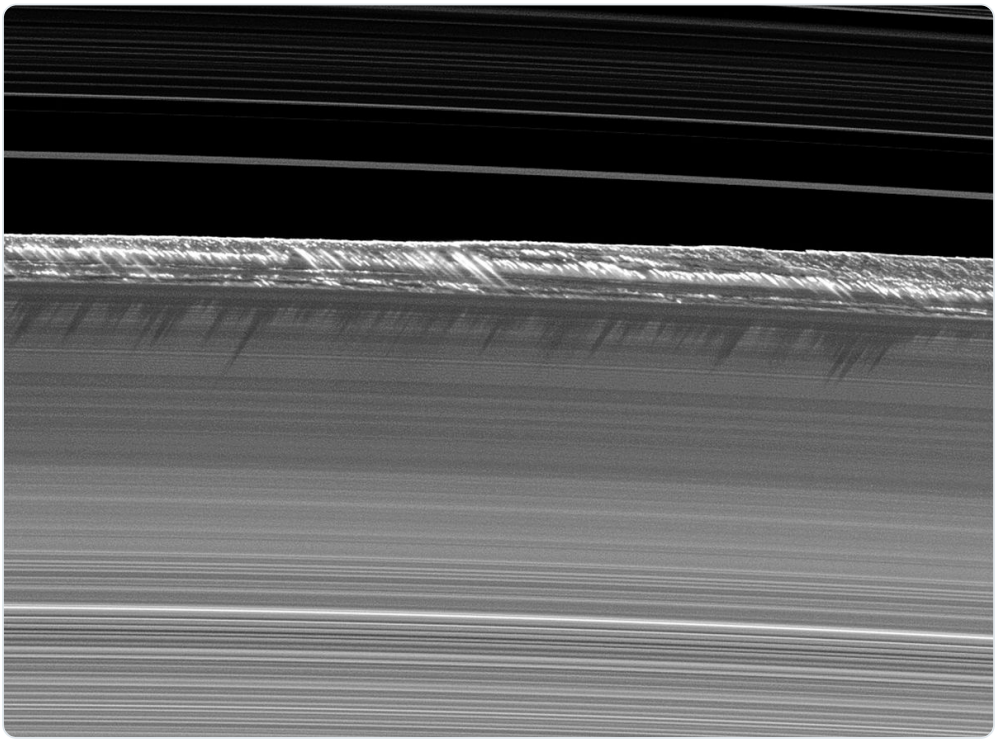
59/ The rings are 160,000 km wide and less than 1km thick, even as little as 10m thick at some points. 10 metres! #grandfinale

60/ That's a 1:160000 ratio. regular paper has a ratio of 1:2794. Making the #rings of #saturn technically flatter than a piece of paper

61/ Look at that! The rings are SO flat. During Equinox, Earth can see this but @CassiniSaturn was able to do many ring crossing orbits

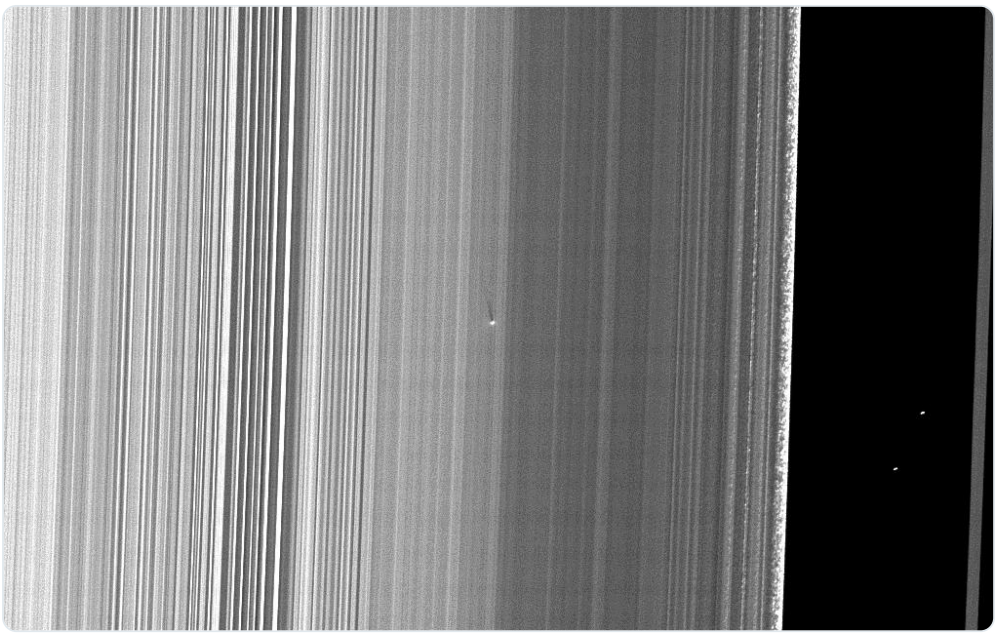


62/ Since #Saturn's rings are so flat, even small irregularities are easily visible at #Equinox, because they cast long shadows #GrandFinale

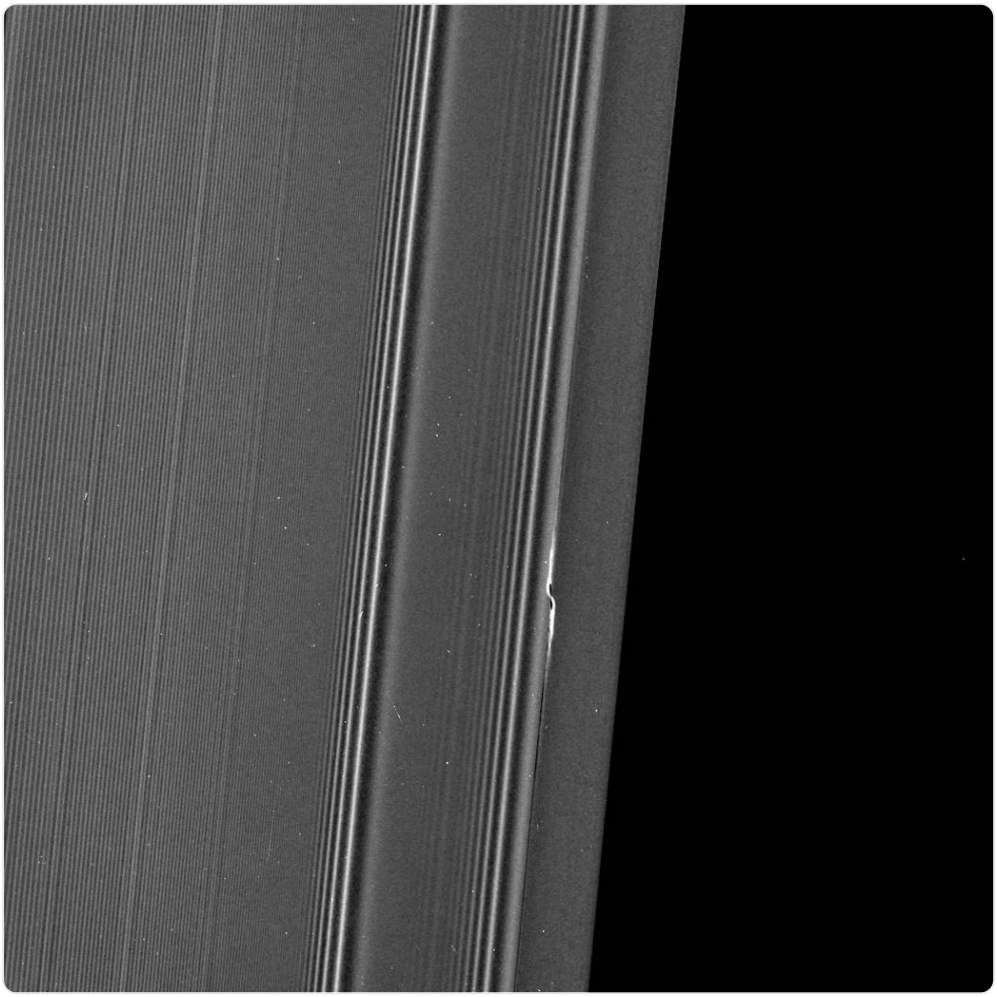


63/ in the previous image, the shadows cast on the rings are being created by structures within the rings that are 2.5 km high #GrandFinale

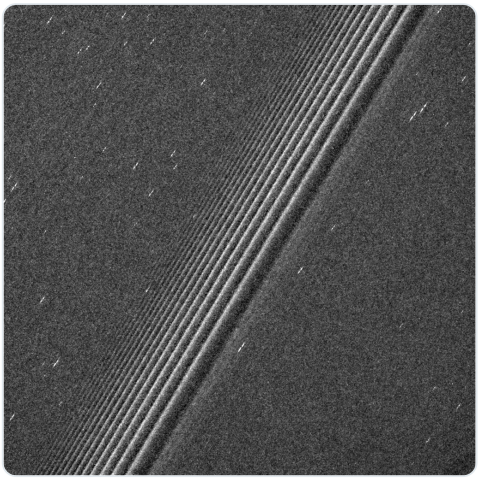
64/ Look at THIS one! Holy. The shadow is 36 km long cast by an object about 300 metres in diameter embedded within the rings #GrandFinale

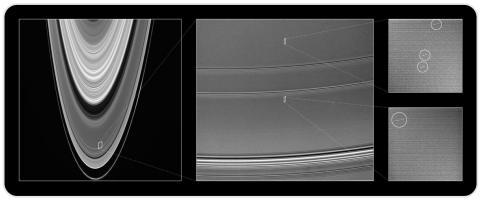


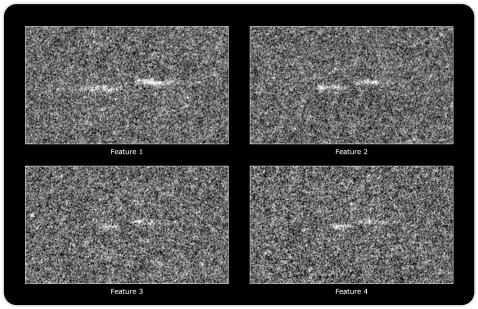
65/ One of the coolest things @CassiniSaturn found in the rings were propeller features. Like the "Earhart Propeller" #GrandFinale



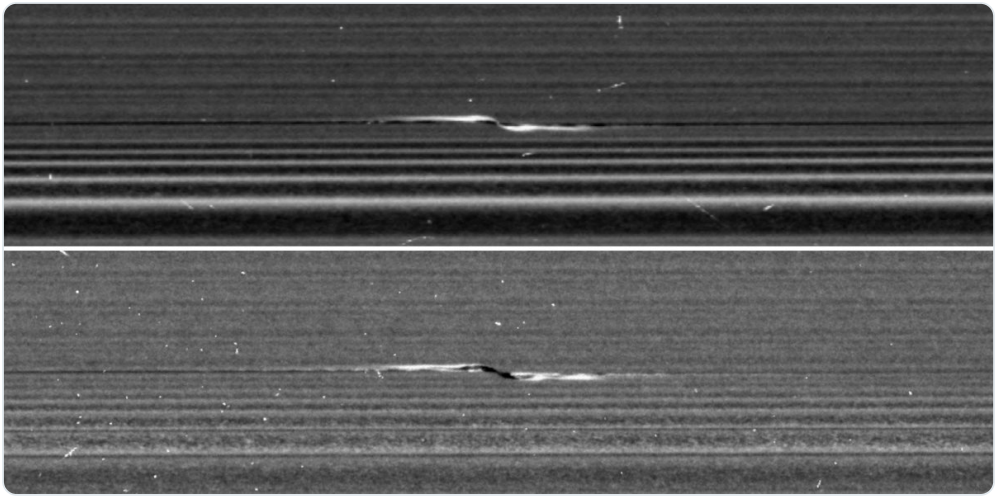
66/ There are so many of them! propellers everywhere #GrandFinale



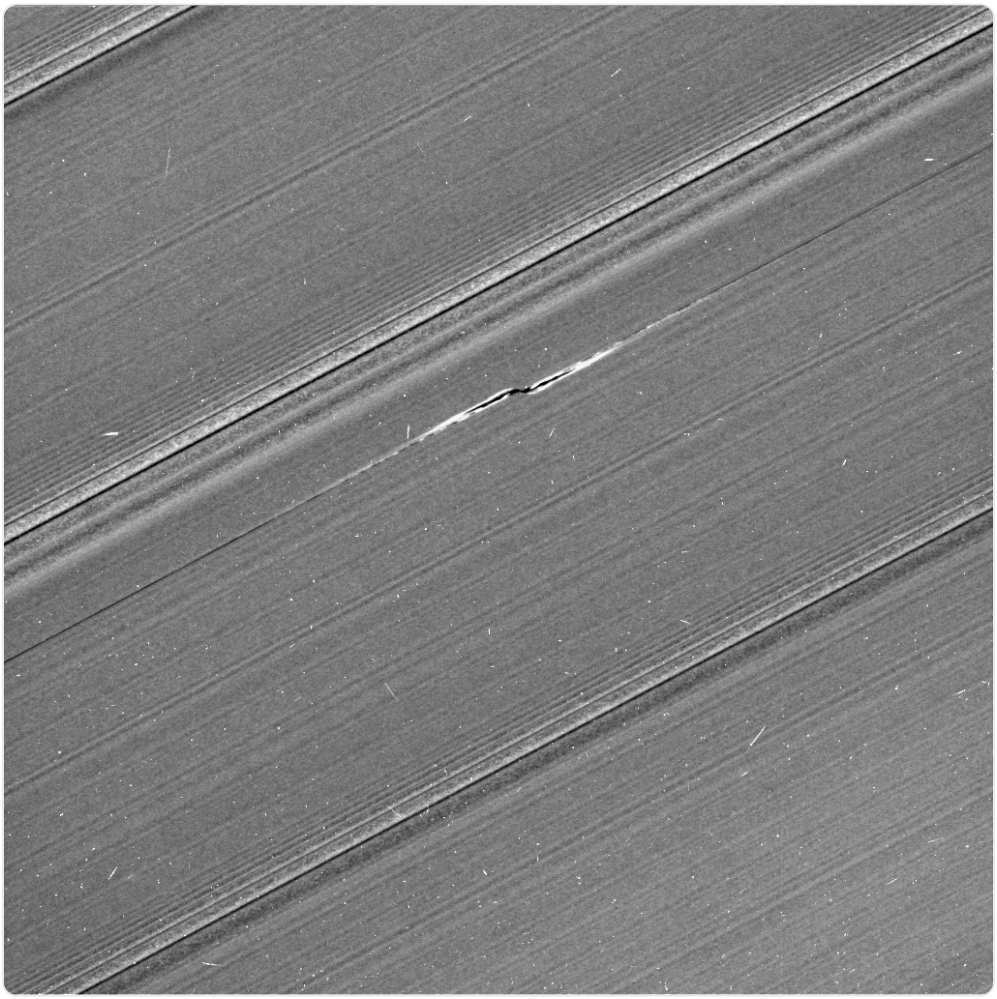




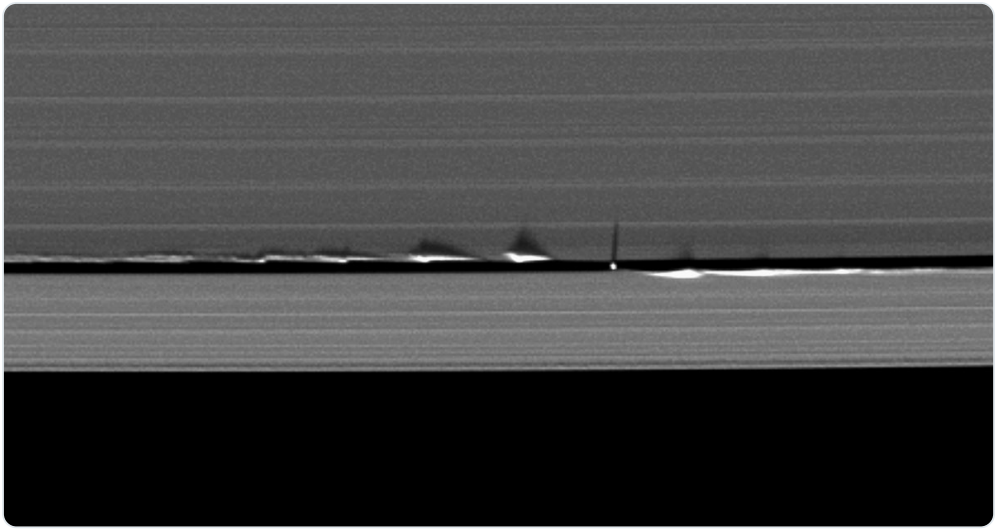
67/ This one is called the "Santos-Dumont" after the Brazillian-French aviator



68/ Celui-ci porte le nom "Blériot;" l'aviateur français. Mais, quelle sont leur origine? #GrandFinale

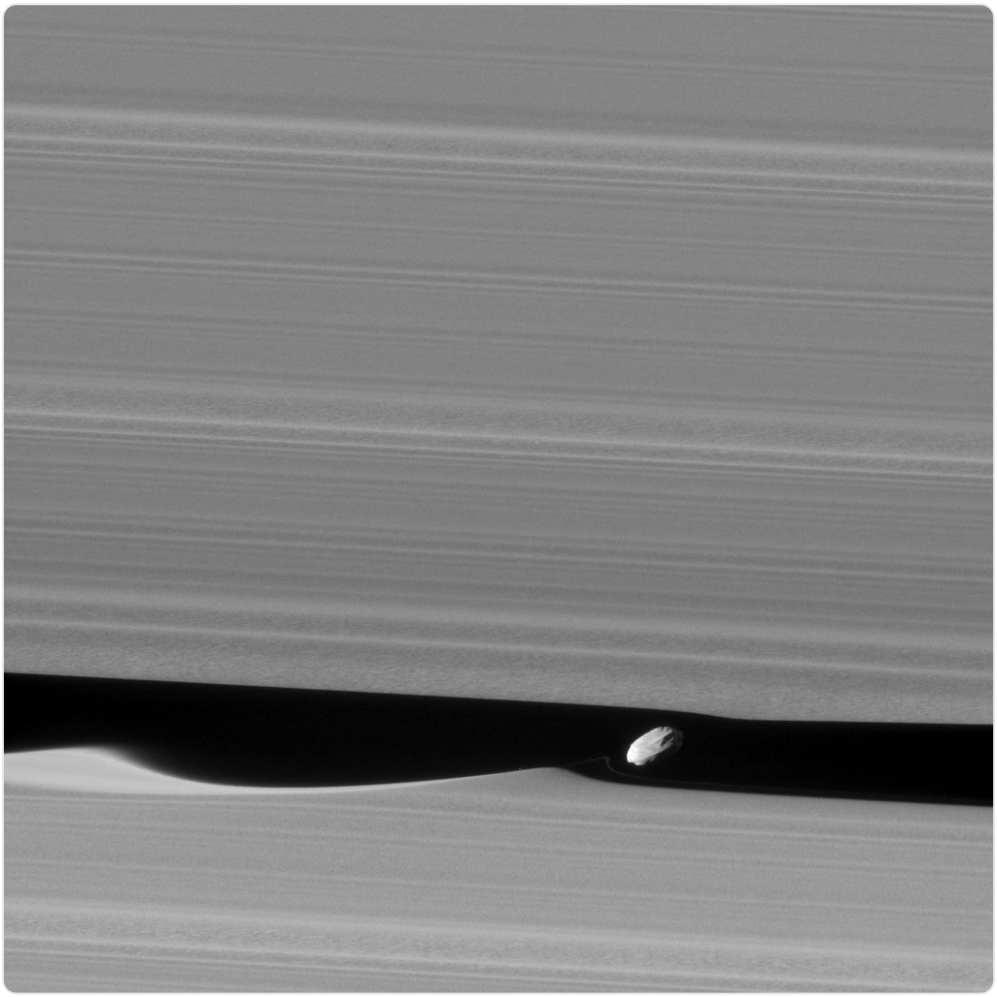


69/ Here's a much larger and more dramatic example that @CassiniSaturn found, hinting at the origins of all the propellers #GrandFinale

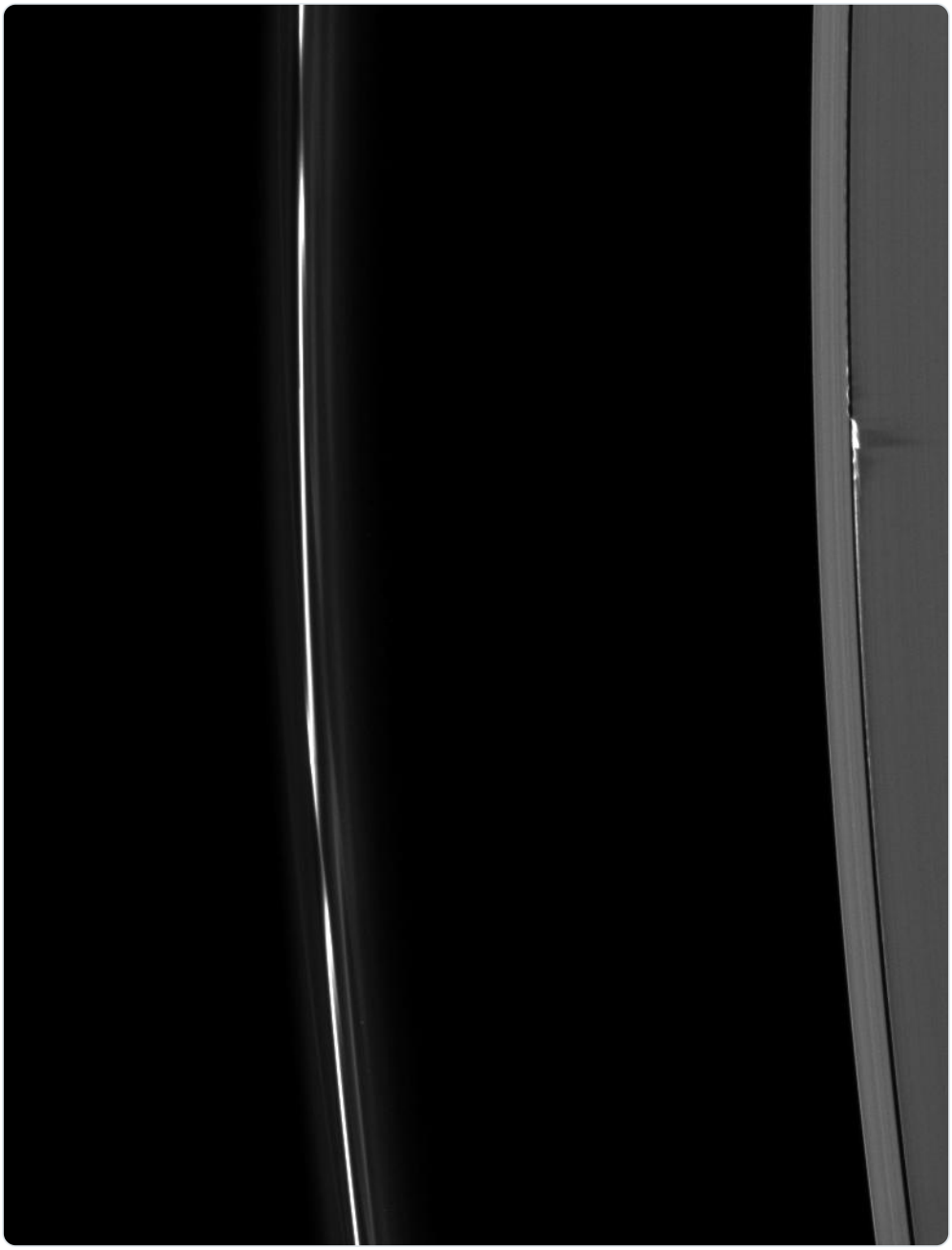


70/ They're Moonlets! Tiny little moons that live in the rings of #Saturn. The previous image is that of the moon Daphnis #GrandFinale

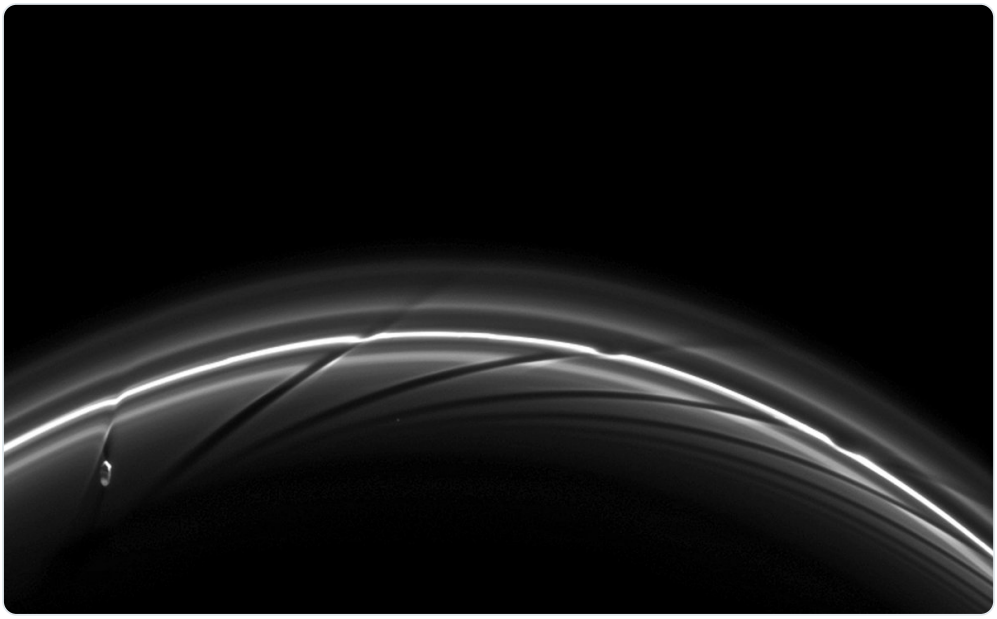
71/ A closer image of Daphnis. Its gravitational influence has carved out the Keeler Gap and continues to influence the edges #GrandFinale



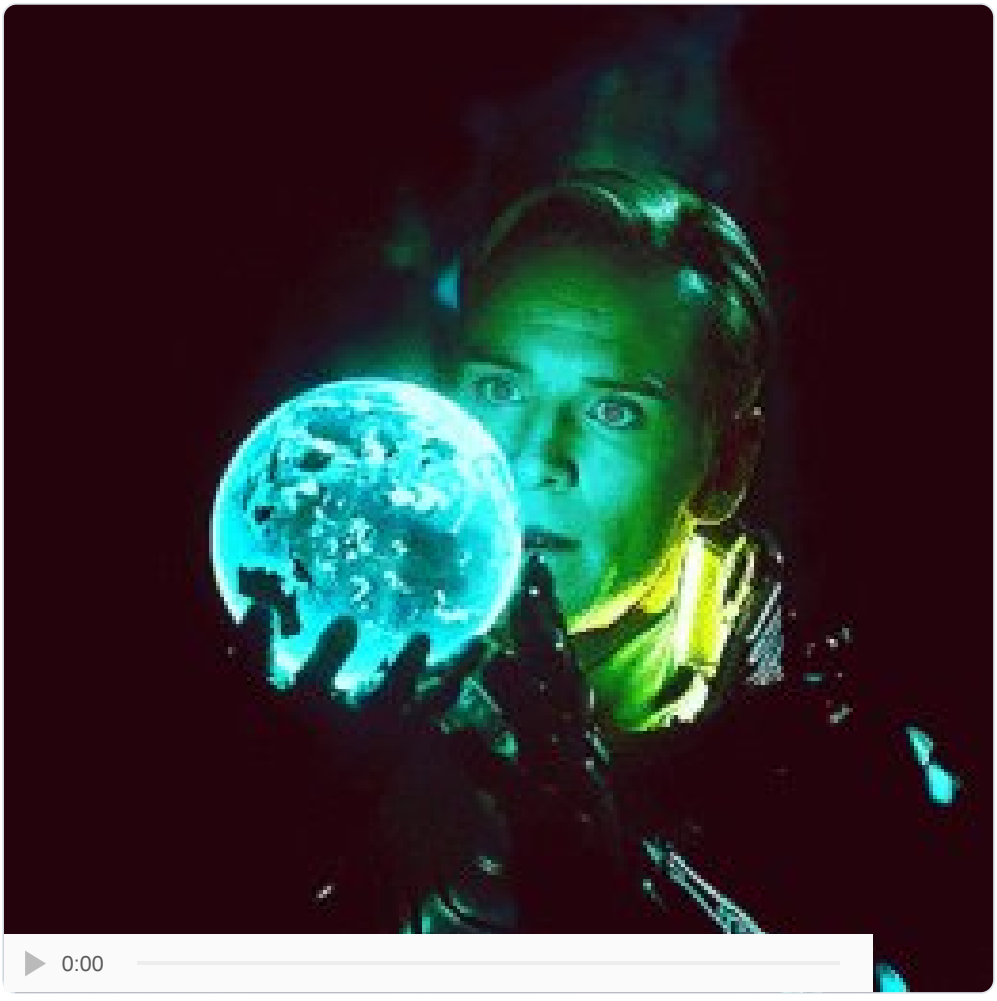
72/ A zoom-out of Daphins. It is next to the F ring, which ALSO sports gravitational perturbations by the moon Prometheus #GrandFinale



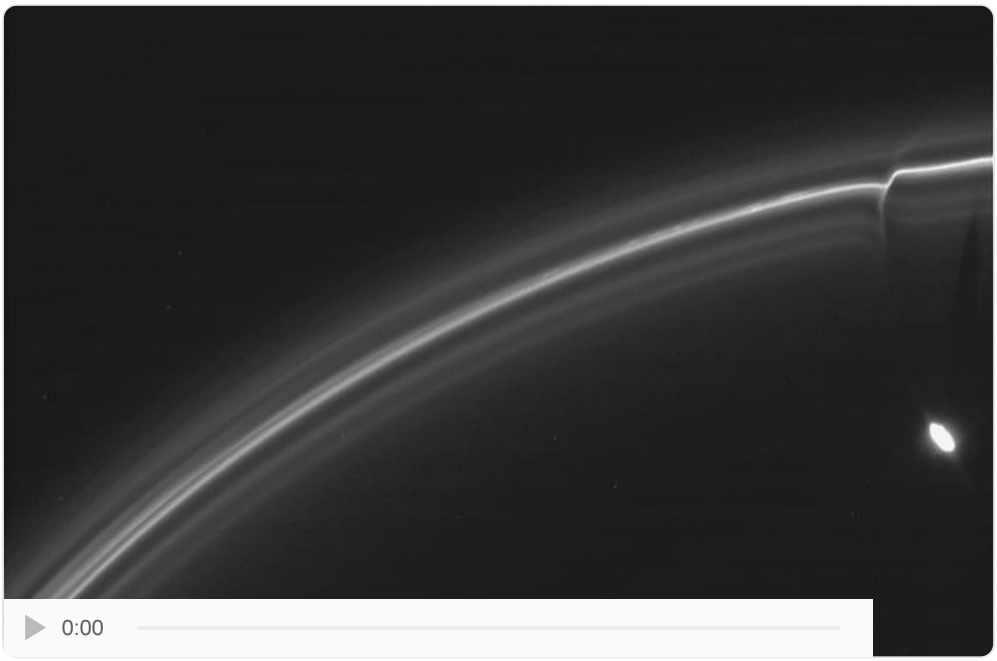
73/ Here's Prometheus making its mark on the wispy F ring. Look at that! It's beautiful! #GrandFinale



74/ also, is it just me, or when you hear 'Prometheus' do you think...

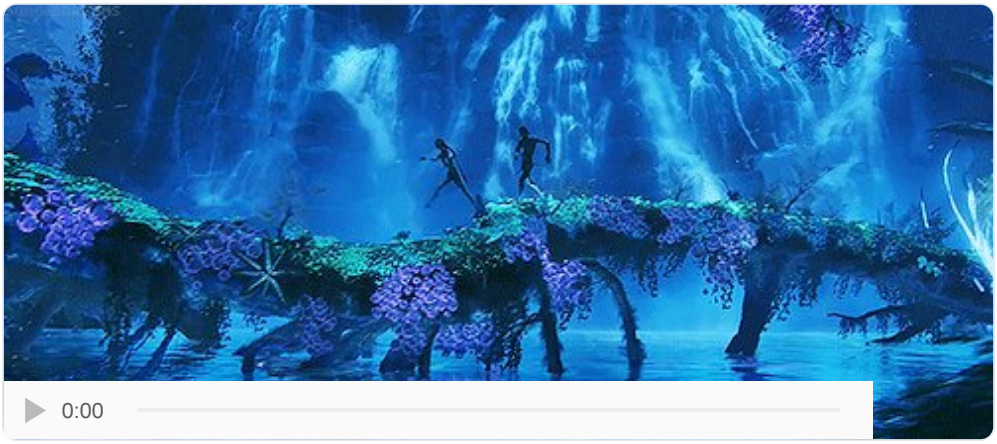


75/ ...back to the MOON Prometheus, here's an awesome gif of the little moon 'Shepherding' the F ring @CassiniSaturn #GrandFinale



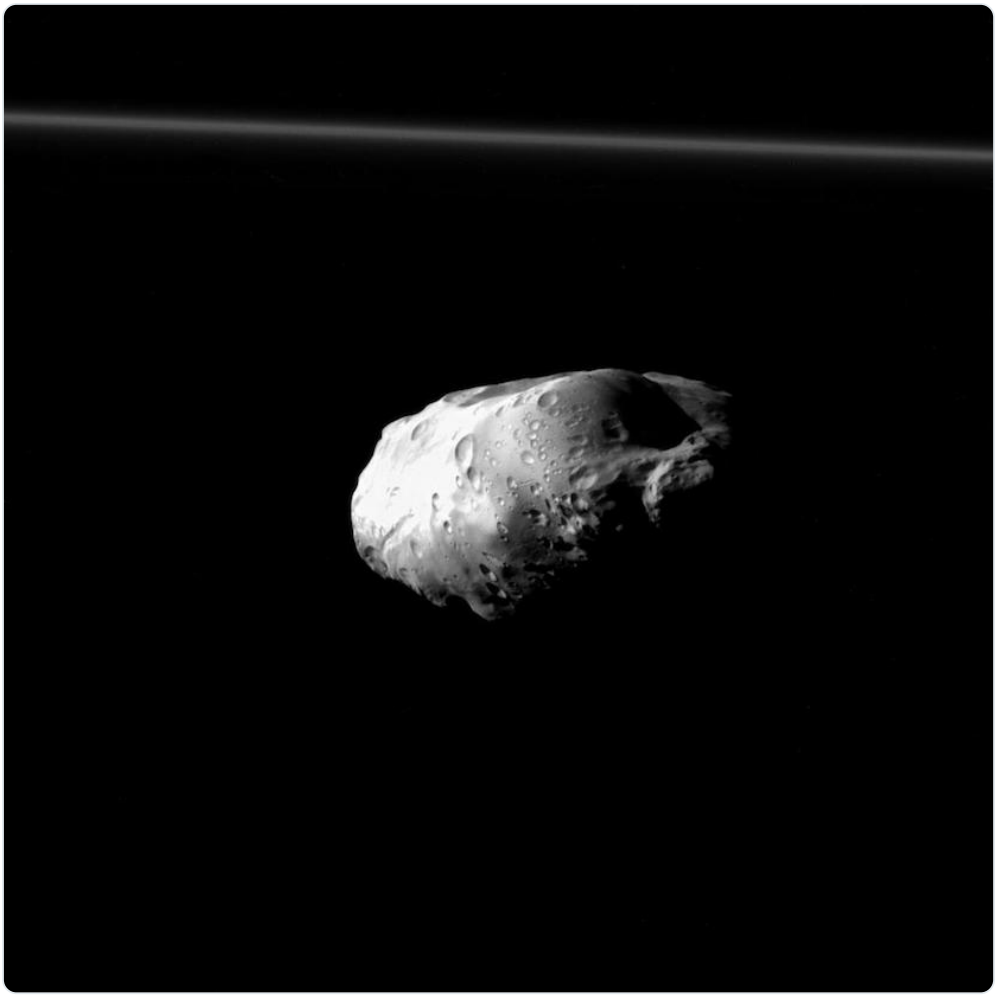
76/ Here's another, Prometheus on the right, and the moon Pandora is on the left. The F ring in the middle #GrandFinale

77/ yup you read that right, Prometheus and Pandora both orbit Saturn. Bet you didn't know Aliens and Avatar were set in the same universe..

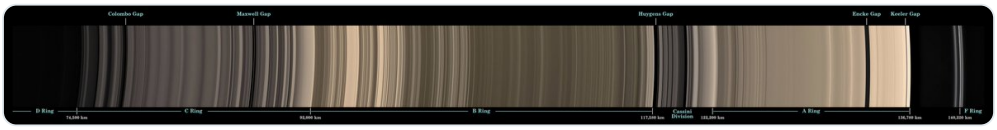


78/

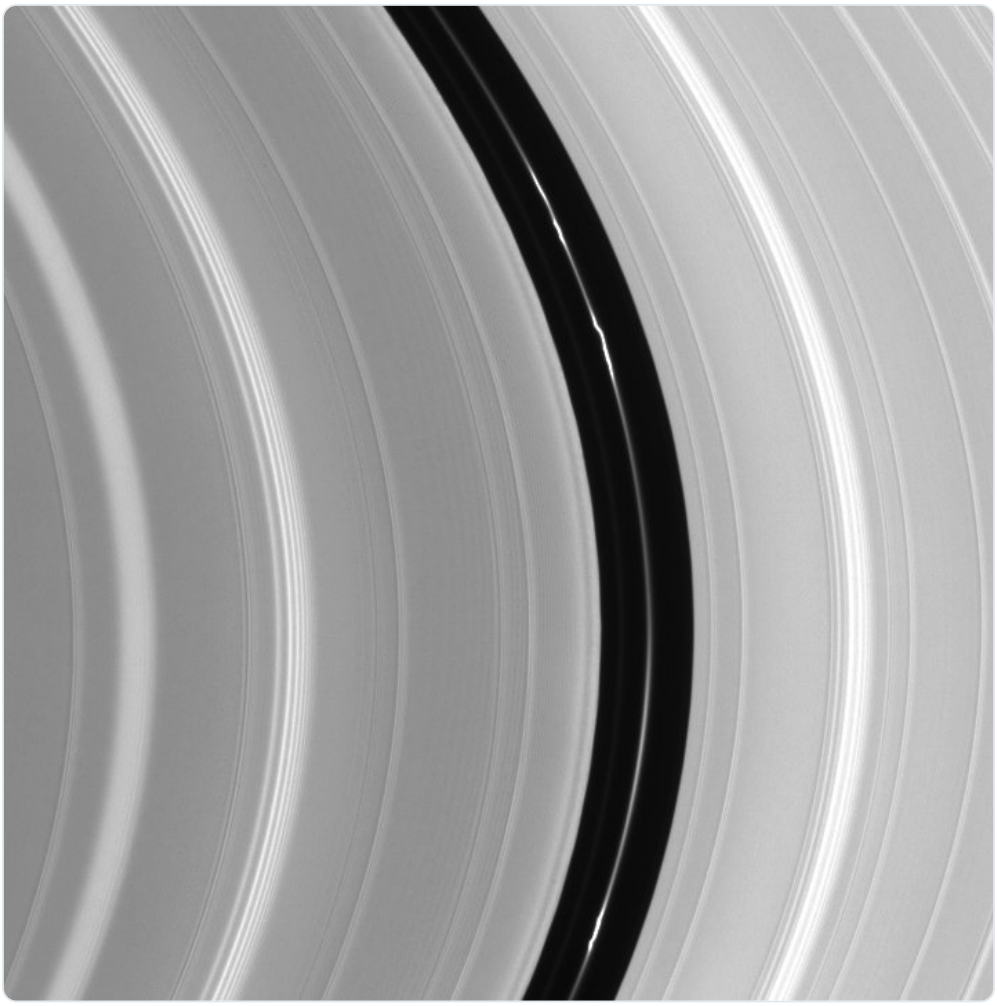
79/ My movie sleuthing powers aside, here's a close up image of Prometheus. It's a tiny moon just 86x53km, F ring in background #GrandFinale



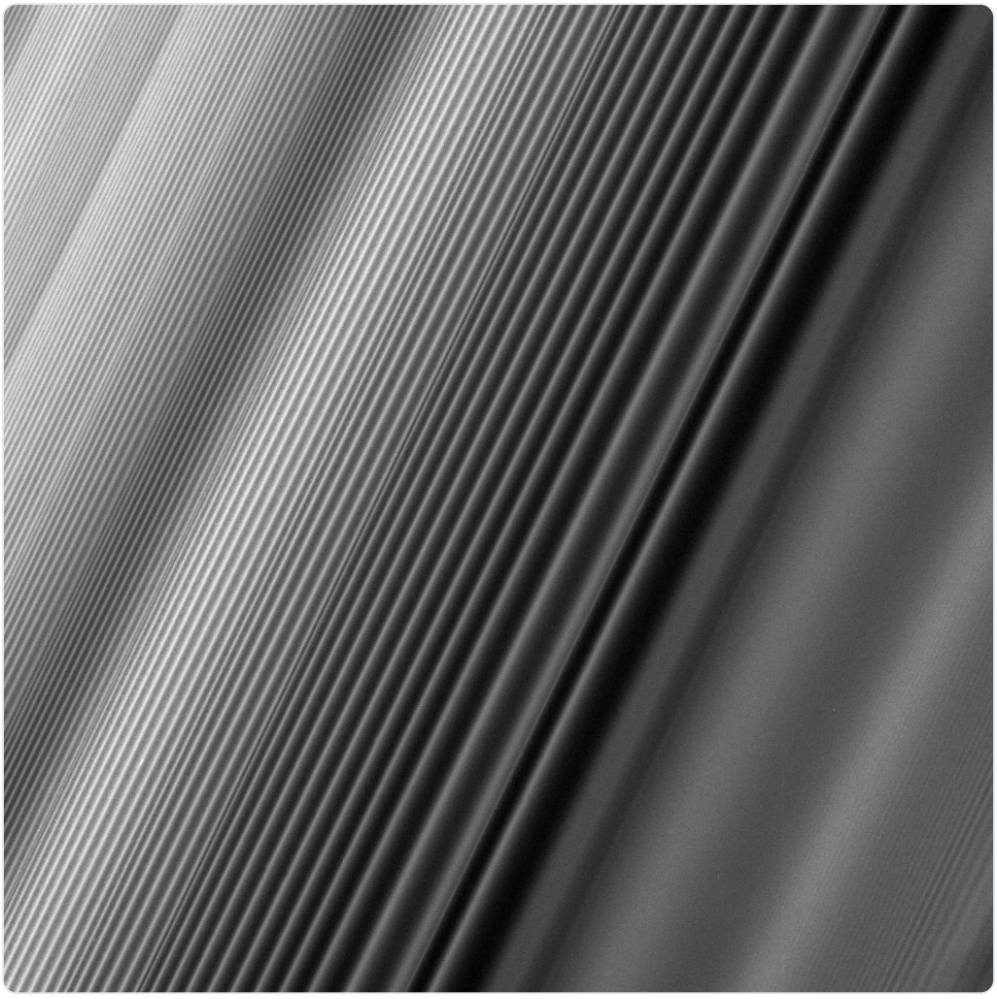
80/ Here's the entire ring structure... A mosaic with every ring, gap, and the distance scale along the bottom #GrandFinale



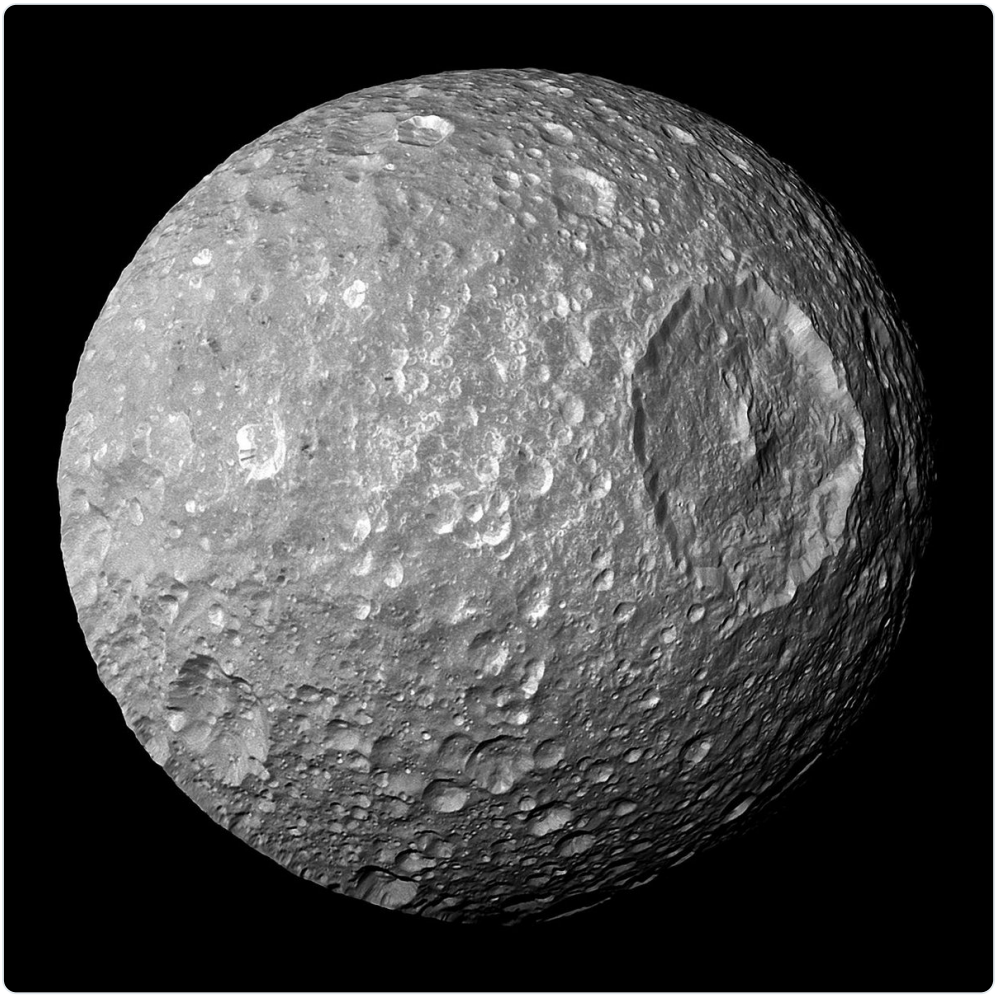
81/ The Encke Division is 300 km wide and has a tiny moon named Pan (20 km wide) within it. More gravitational perturbations #GrandFinale



82/ Perhaps my *favourite* image of the rings is this one: showing waves in the rings produced by the moon Janus' 2:1 orbital resonance

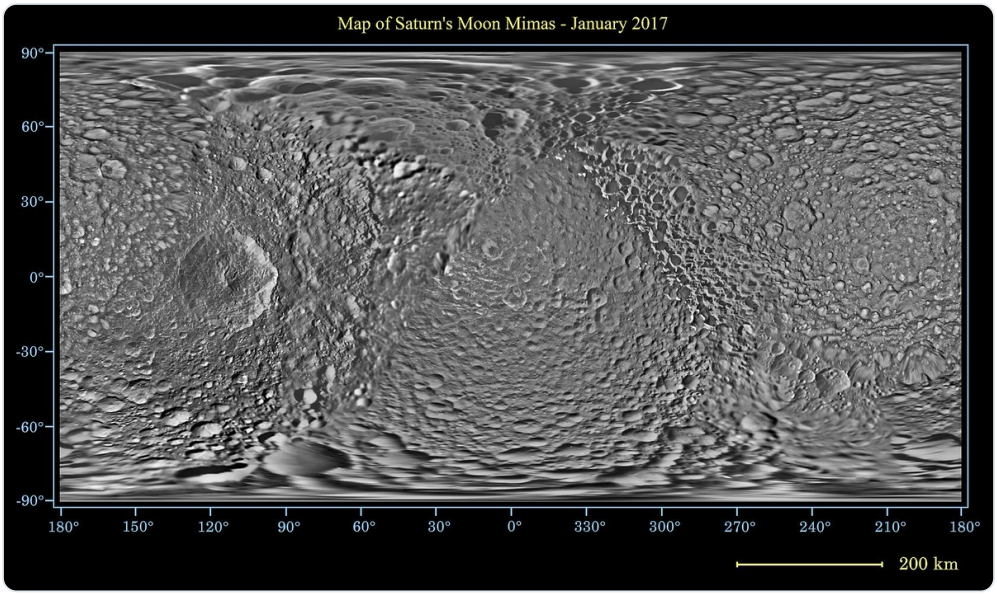


83/ Okay onto some other stuff. How about Mimas, the "Death star Moon." @CassiniSaturn snapped this shot in 2010 #GrandFinale

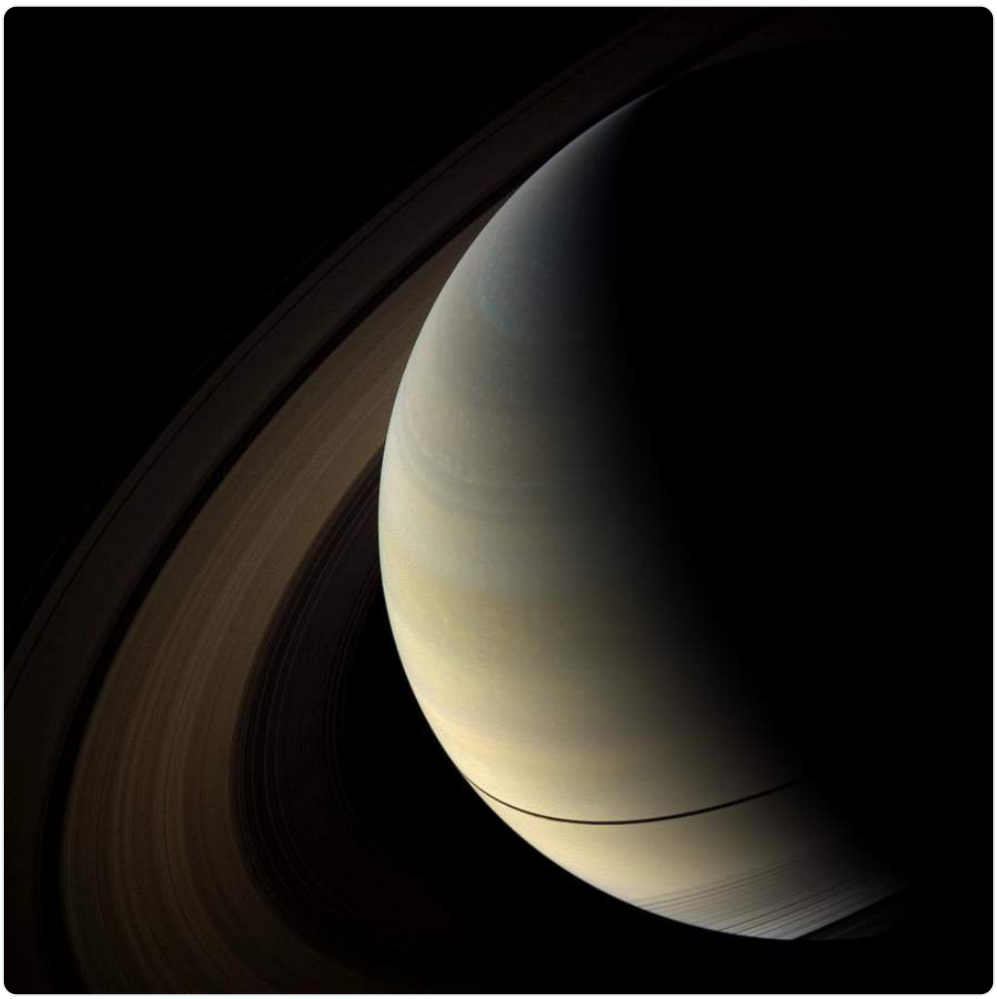


84/

85/ Mimas, roughly 400km wide, sports a *massive* impact crater, called Herschel, 140 km wide. It's 30% the width of the Moon! #GrandFinale

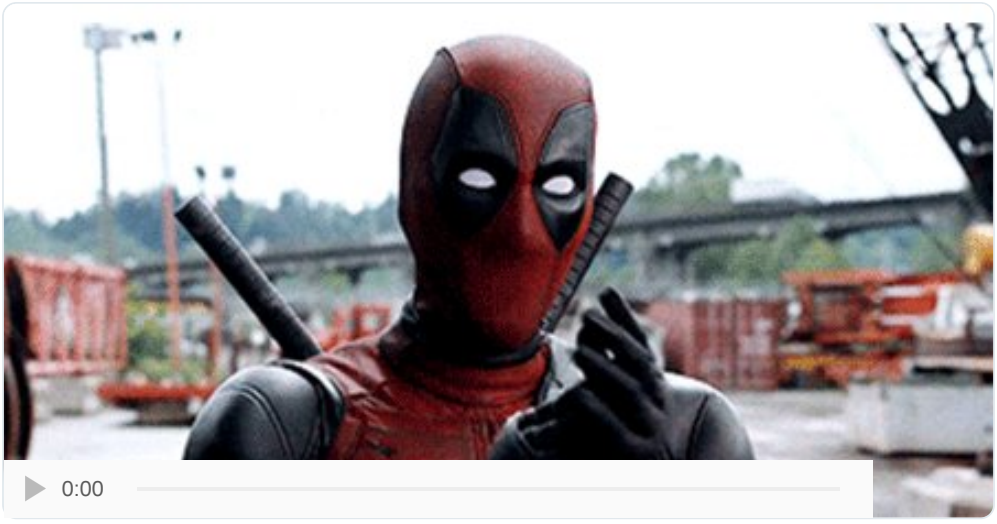


86/ The @CassiniSaturn Equinox Mission wrapped up in 2010, but have no fear, the mission was extend to Sept 2017 #GrandFinale

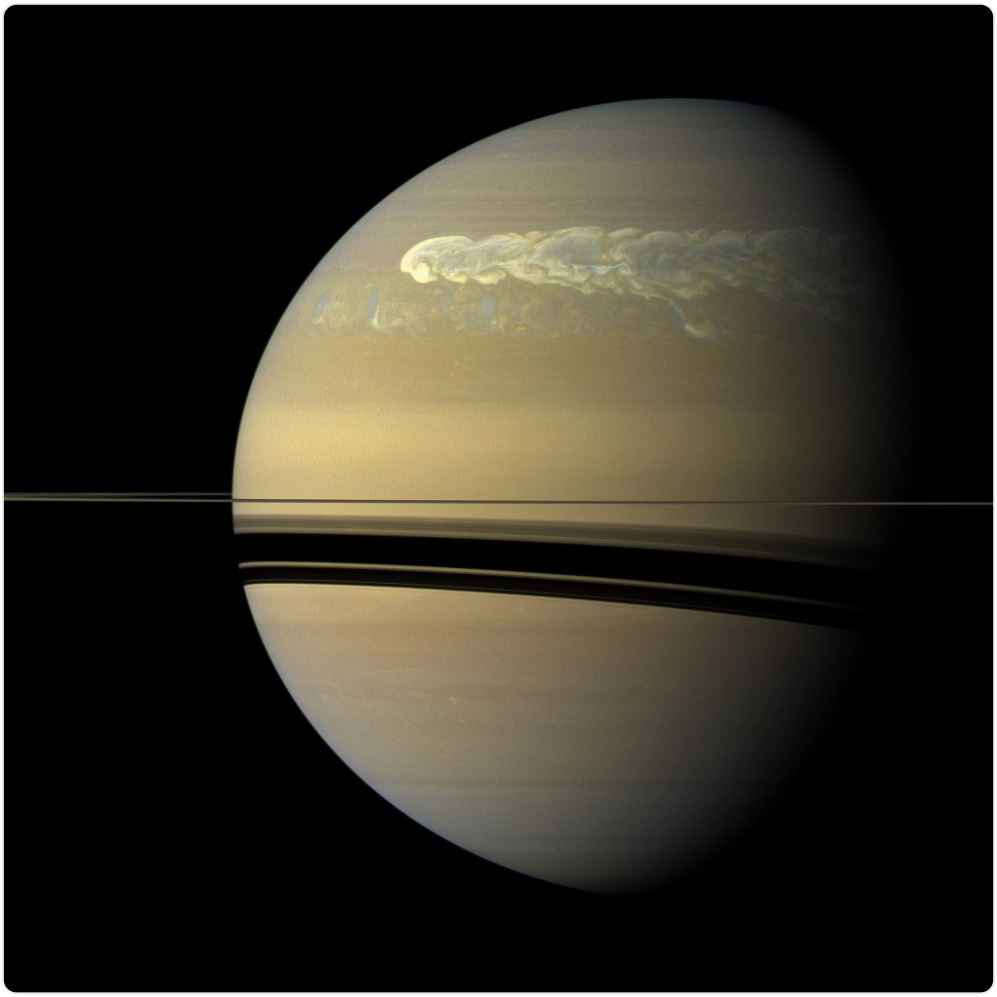


87/ This would take @CassiniSaturn through to summer solstice in the northern hemisphere, making the mission last a half a Saturnian year

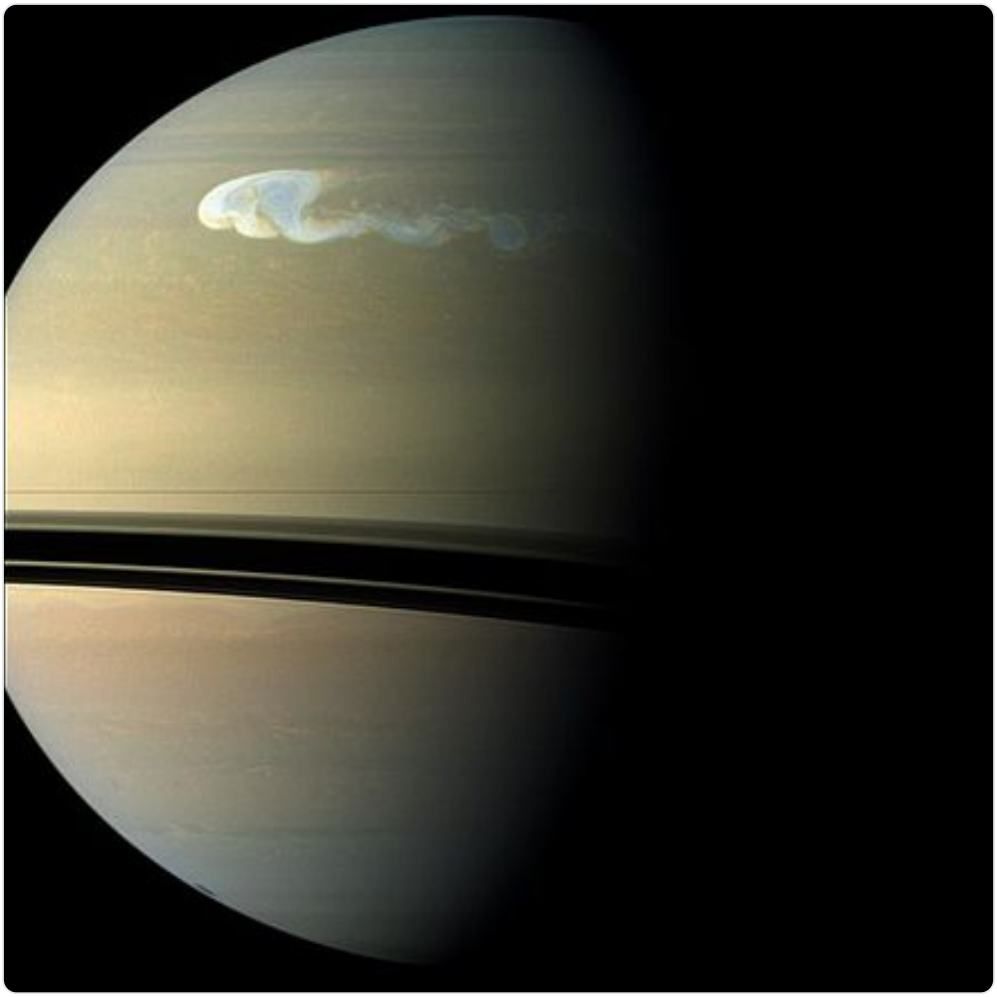
88/ After hearing @CassiniSaturn was extended for another 7 years, planetary scientists were reached for comment:
#GrandFinale



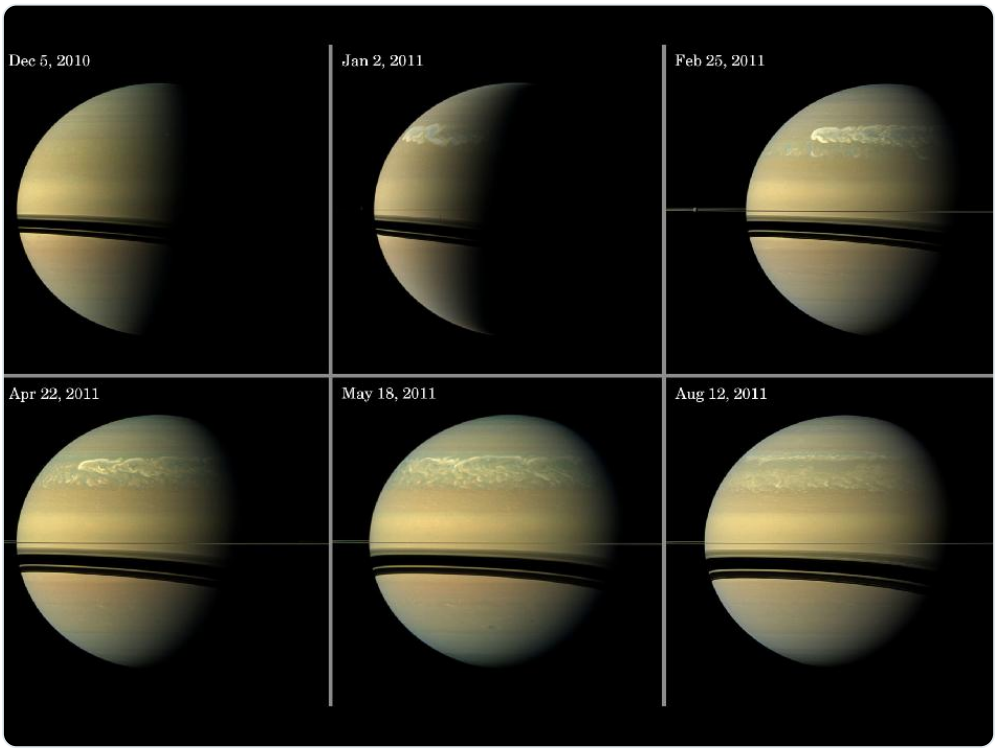
89/ Just AFTER the mission extension in 2010, now officially called the Cassini Solstice Mission, THIS HAPPENED: #GrandFinale



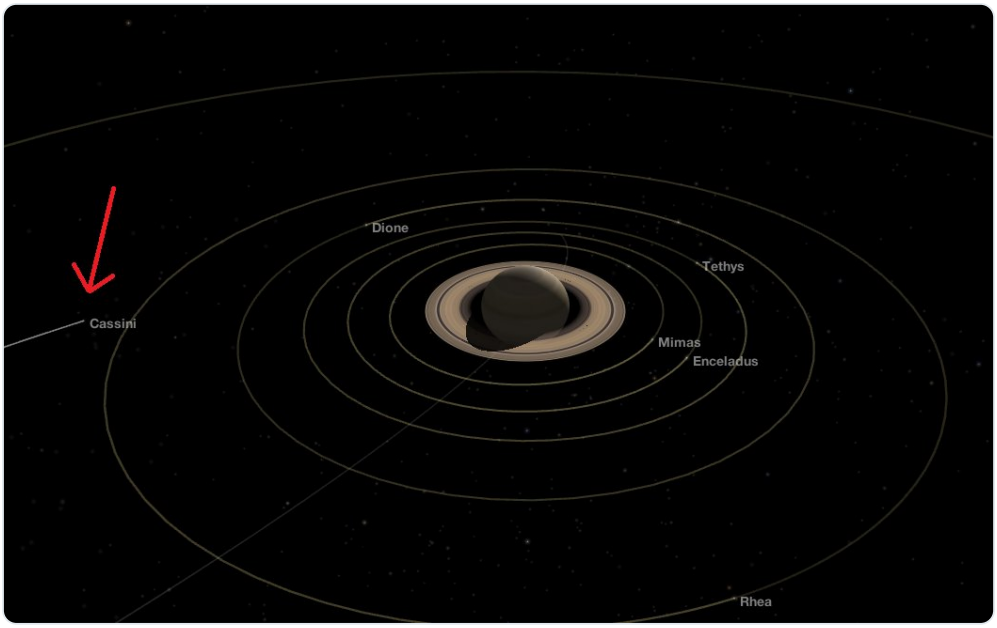
90/ known as the Great White Spot, this storm is larger than Earth, and appears on #Saturn semi-periodically every 28.5 years #GrandFinale



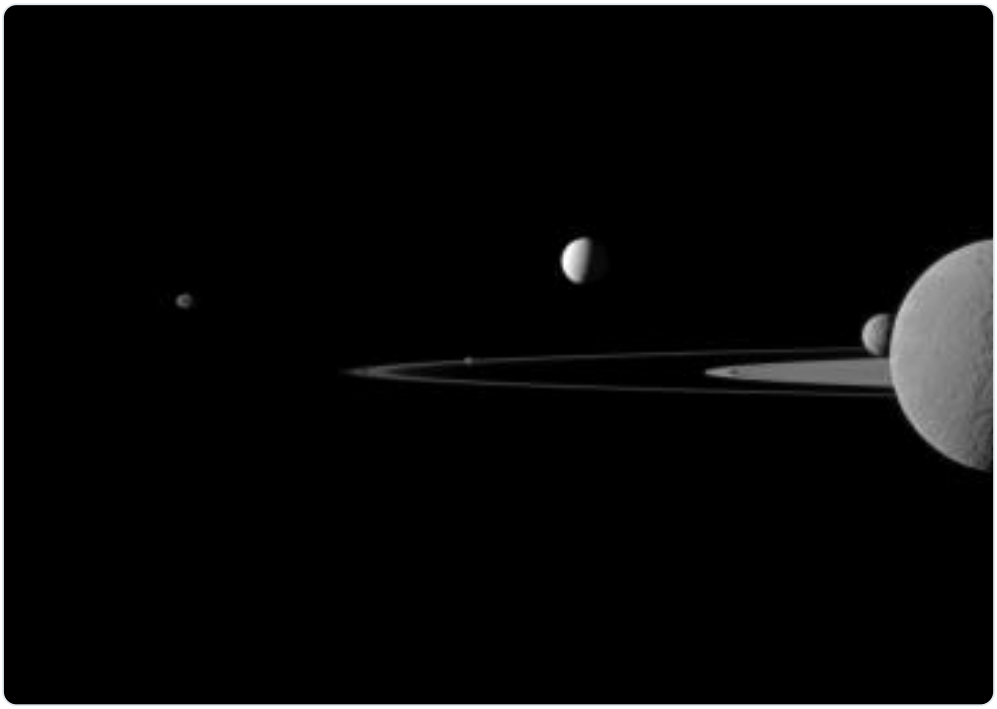
91/ As #Saturn rotated, the storm stretched around the planet and, after a year, eventually engulfed itself in late 2011 #GrandFinale



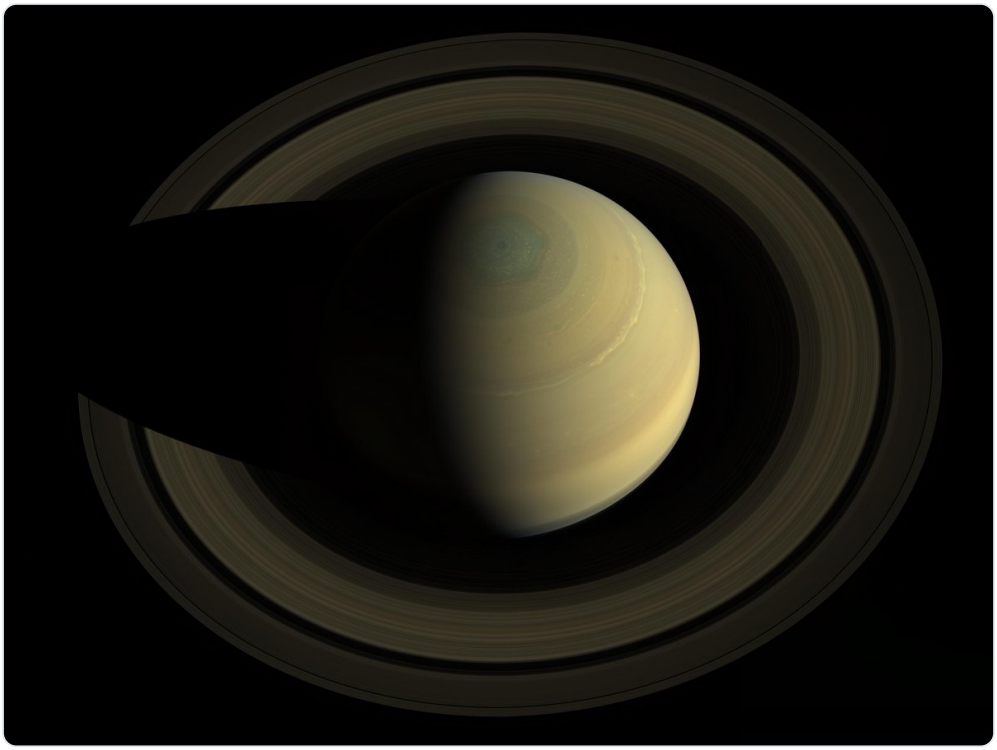
92/ FYI, @CassiniSaturn is only 630000km frm #Saturn right now. 15 hrs away from burning up in the atmosphere #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale



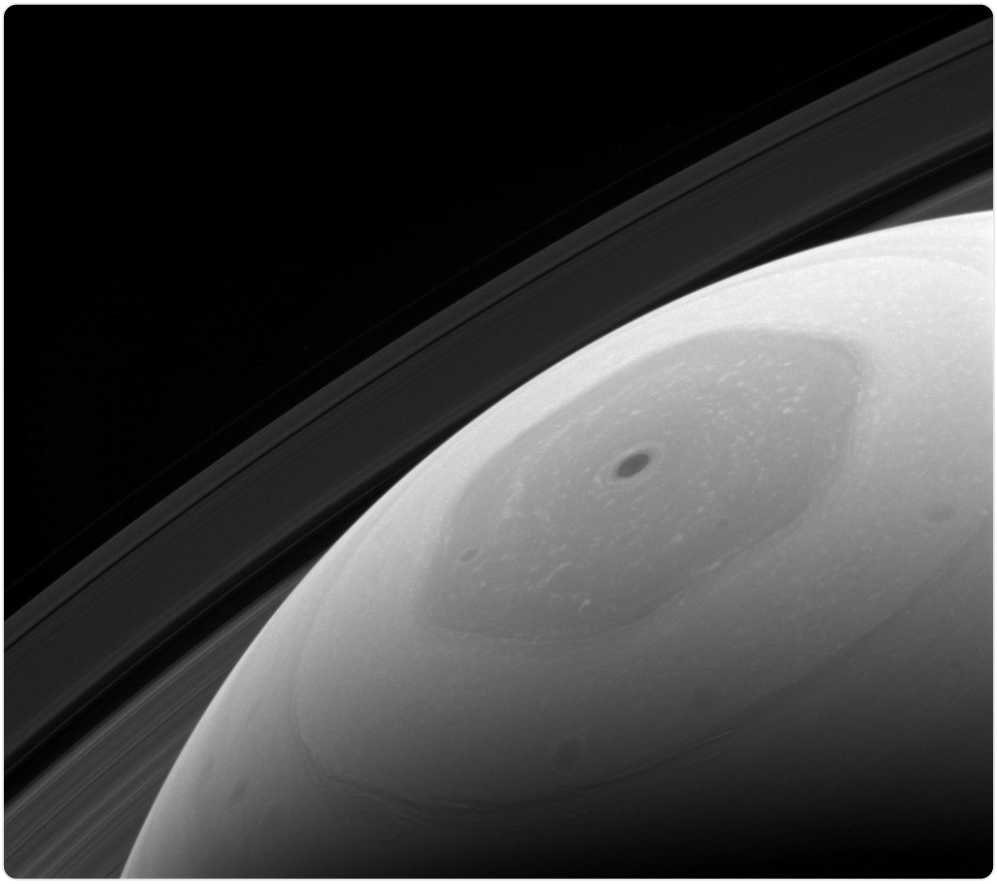
93/A beautiful quintet of moons: Janus, Pandora, Enceladus, Rhea, and Mimas floating in the gravity of Saturn #GrandFinale #GoodbyeCassini



94/ This image was the result of the "Scientist for a Day" contest @NASA ran in Oct 2013. A high orbit over the north pole #GrandFinale

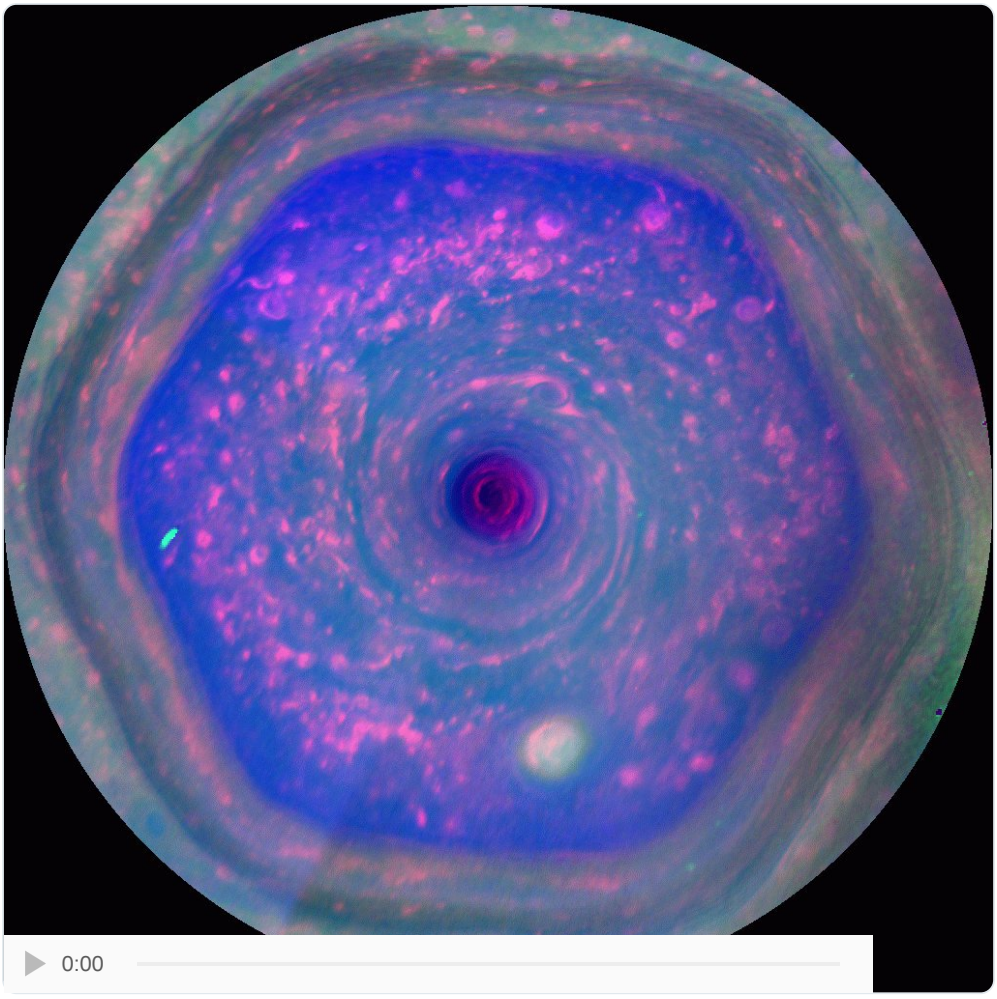


95/ because it was getting closer to summer solstice, the entire north pole is now visible. And LOOK at wind pattern #GrandFinale

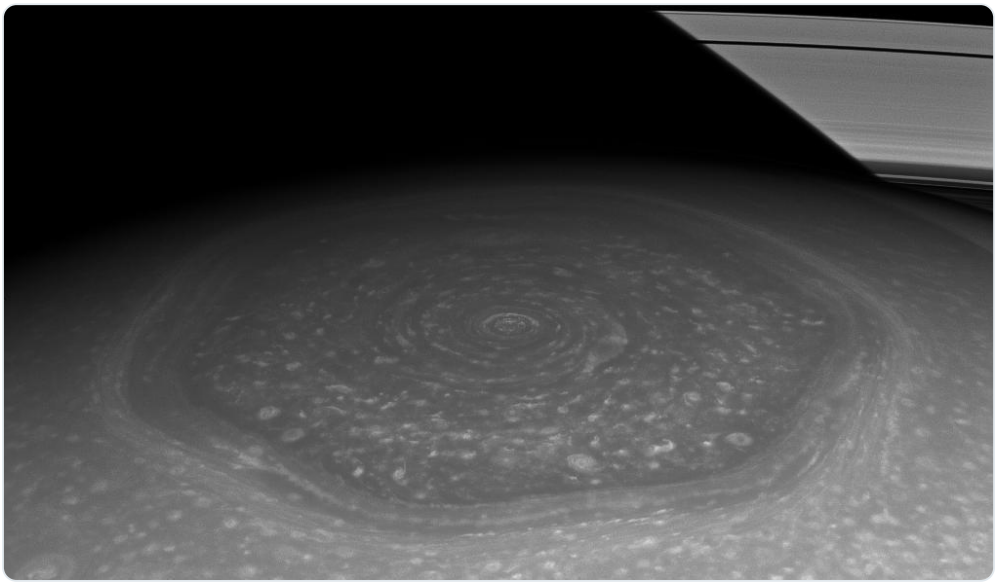


96/ It's a hexagon! ... like... the wind seems to turn at sharp angles.... does wind do that? ... Power Rangers, what do you think?

97/ Here's a full top-down video of the pattern at the north pole. There are some good working hypotheses on why the wind does this, but



98/ ... Planetary scientists are still working it out. #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale



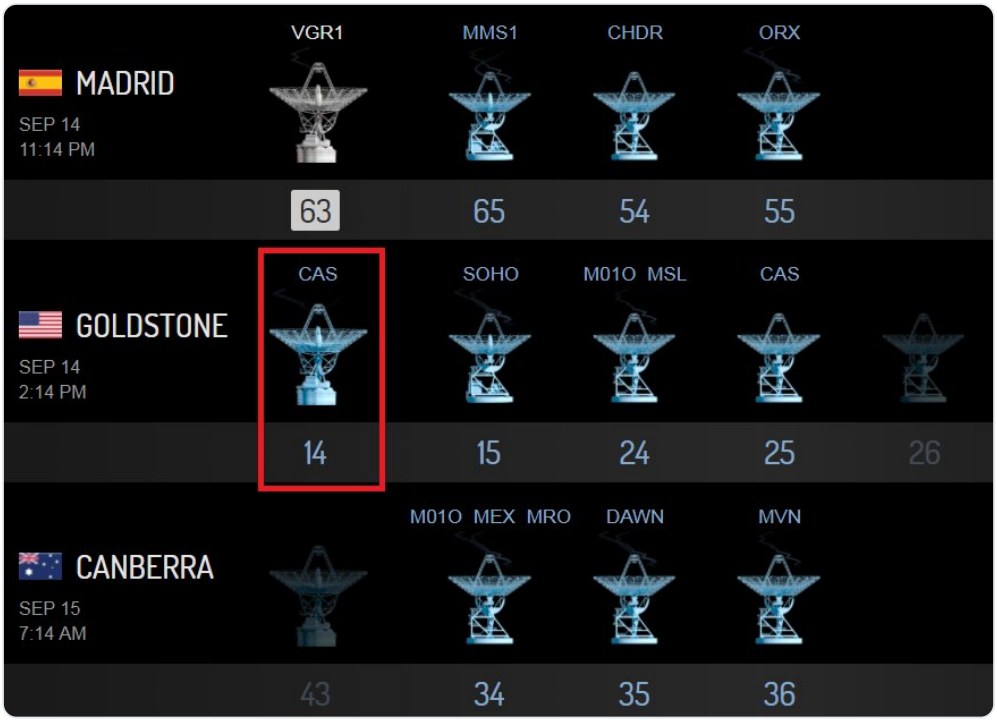
99/ On June 21, 2010 @CassiniSaturn made its closest flyby of #Titan to date, travelling to within 880km of the surface #GrandFinale

100/ I stacked a set of R,G,B images @CassiniSaturn took of that flyby to make this true colour image of #Titan #GrandFinale

101/ FYI, @CassiniSaturn has now taken its last images EVER of #Saturn and we're downloading the data via the DSN

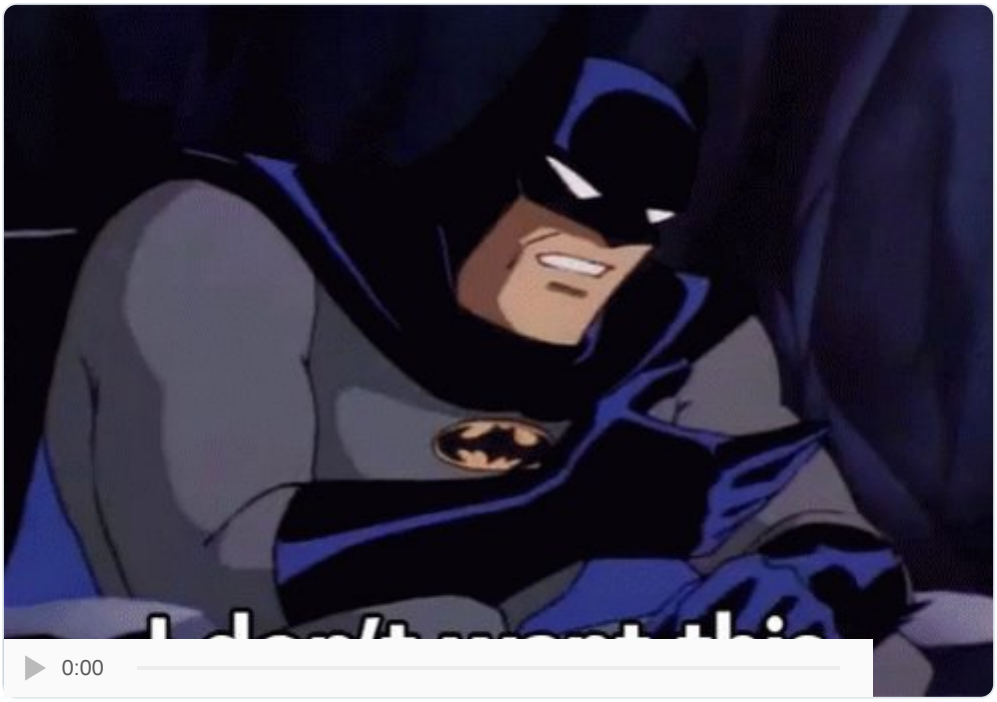
Home Page - Deep Space Network
NASA's Deep Space Network is the largest and most sensitive scientific telecommunications system in the world.
https://deepspace.jpl.nasa.gov/

https://deepspace.jpl.nasa.gov/



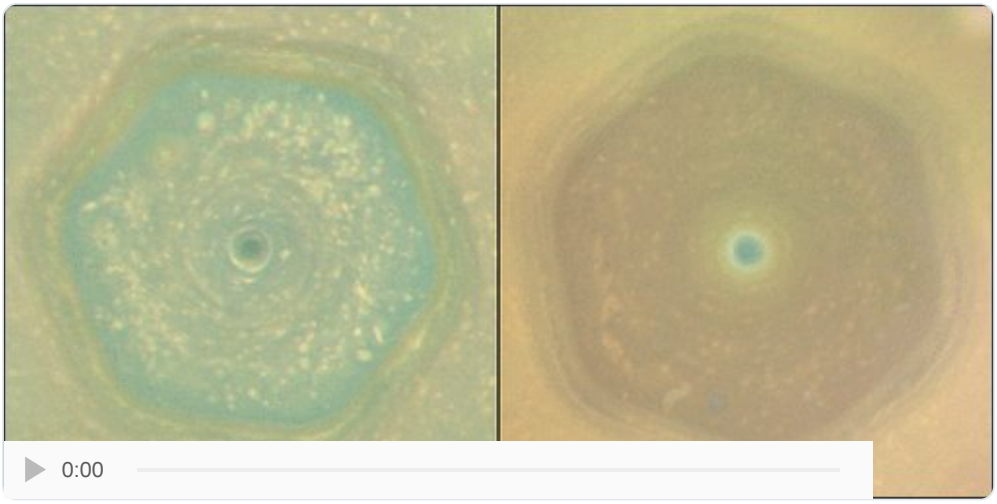
102/ From now until it burns up (abt 12 hrs from now) @CassiniSaturn will continuously broadcast back to Earth #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale

103/ people, It's starting to set in now... @CassiniSaturn is almost gone #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale

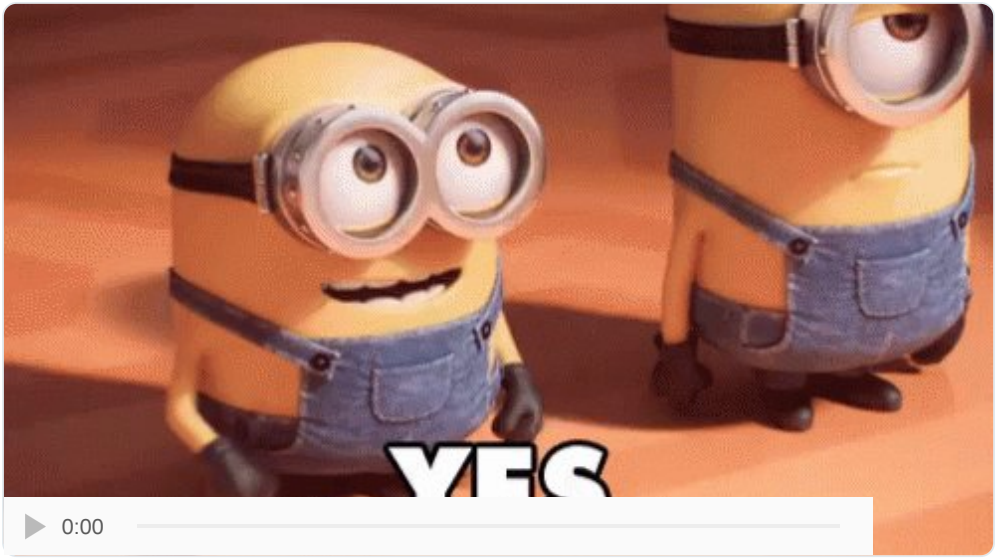


104/ So anyway, Summer solstice finally arrived for the Northern Hemisphere on #Saturn in May of this year! #GrandFinale #GoodbyeCassini

105/Now check this out, the north polar region COMPLETELY changed colour. Left: 2017, Right: 2013. More sunlight changes things!#GrandFinale

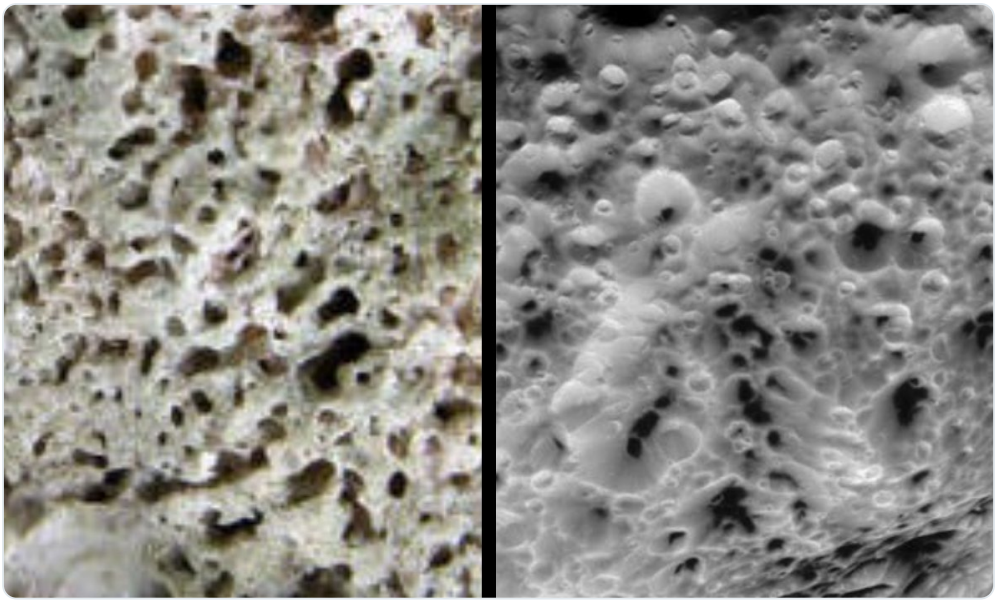


106/ okay #Saturn fans, want to see a really weird moon? (of course you do) #GrandFinale #GoodbyeCassini

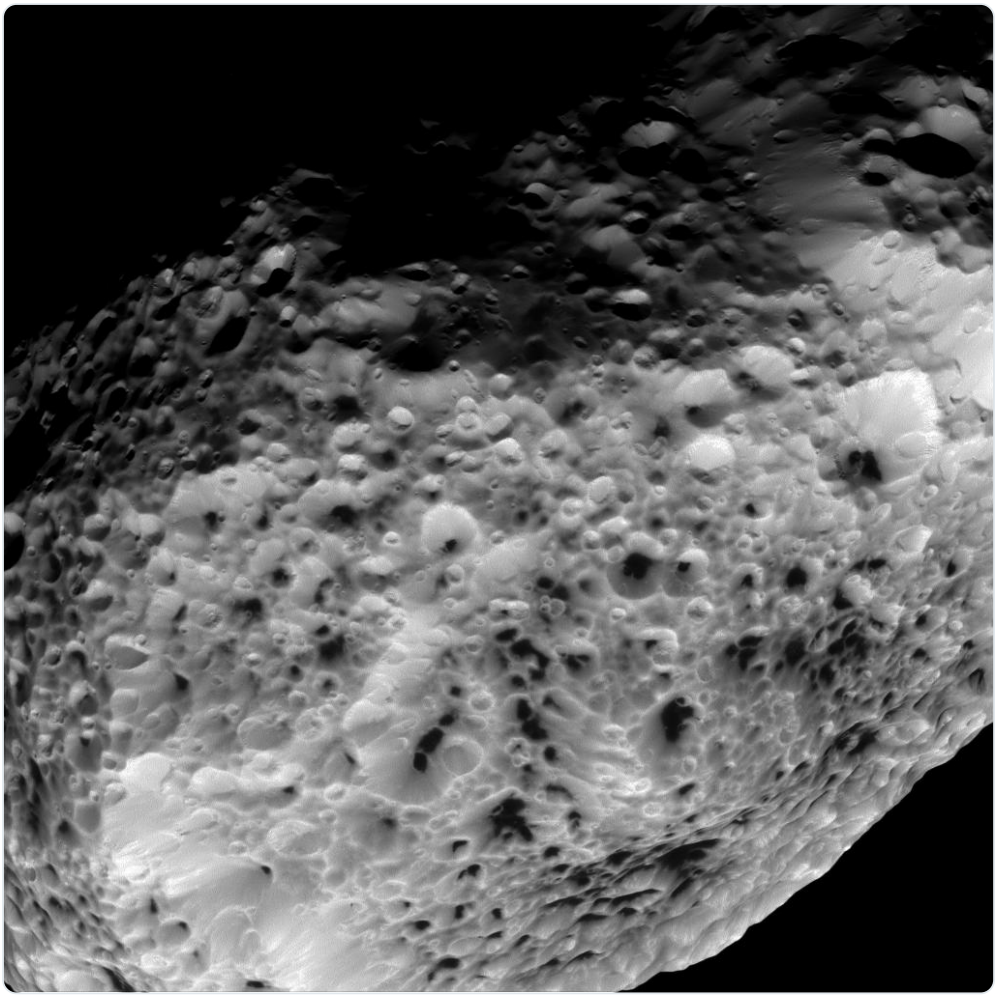


107/ twitter, meet Hyperion. One of #Saturn's moons about 300 km in size . @CassiniSaturn did a couple flybys of it, most recent in 2015

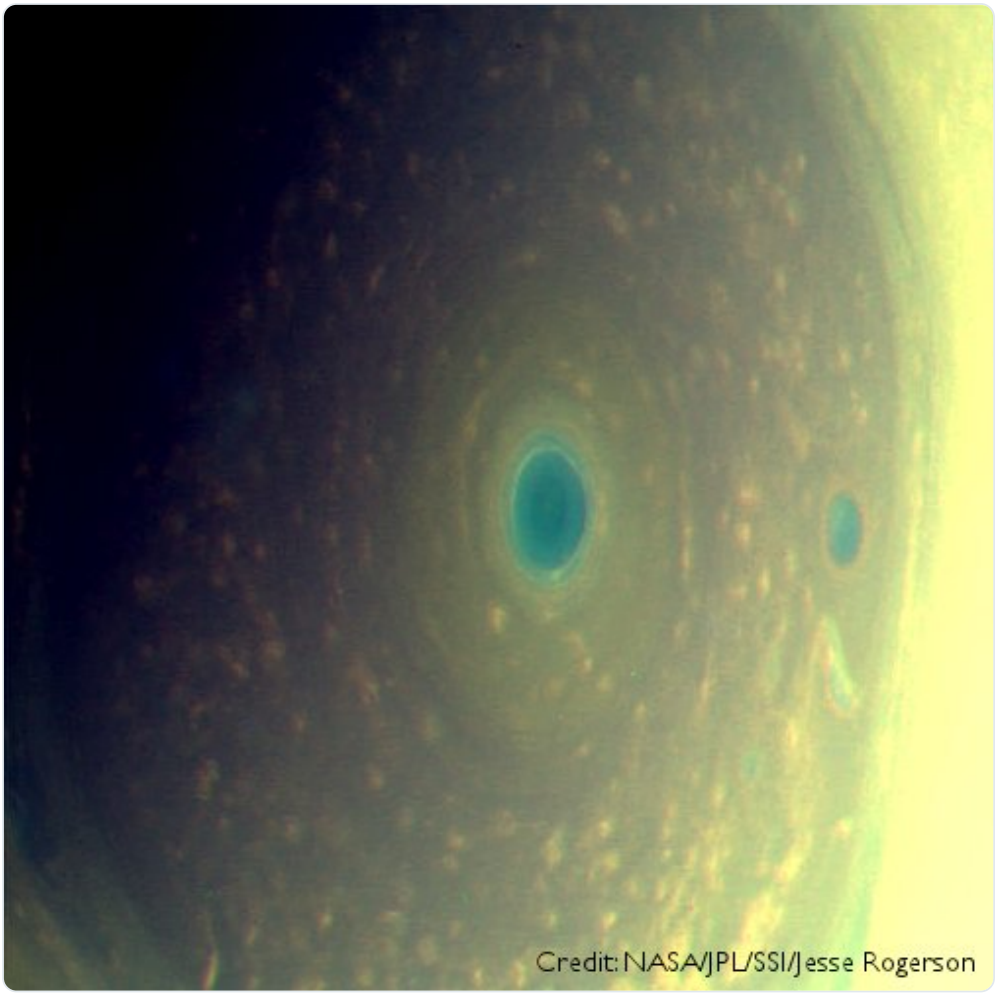
108/ #Hyperion looks more like a chunk of coral than a moon. Seriously, here it is next to a piece of coral, can you tell which is which?



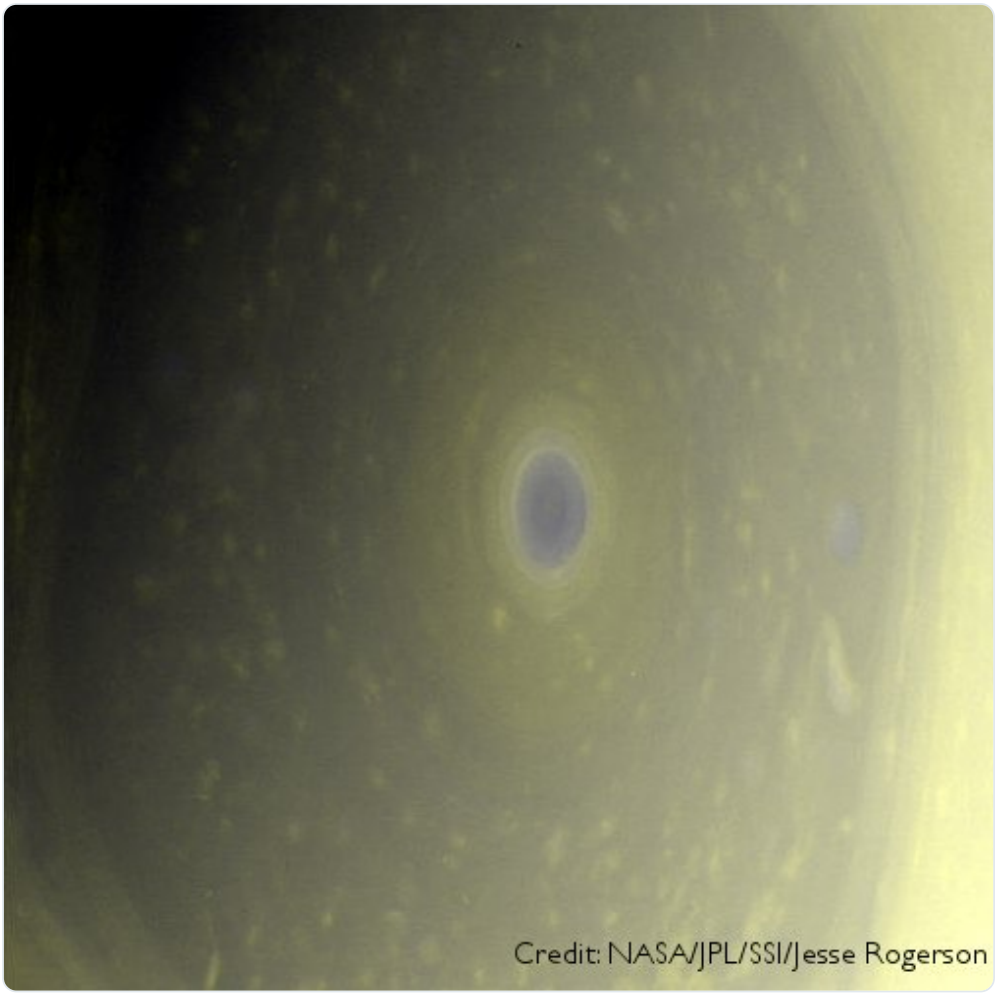
109/ Hyperion has a porosity of 40%. That means 40% of its total volume is ... empty. It's likely a conglomeration of smaller moonlets



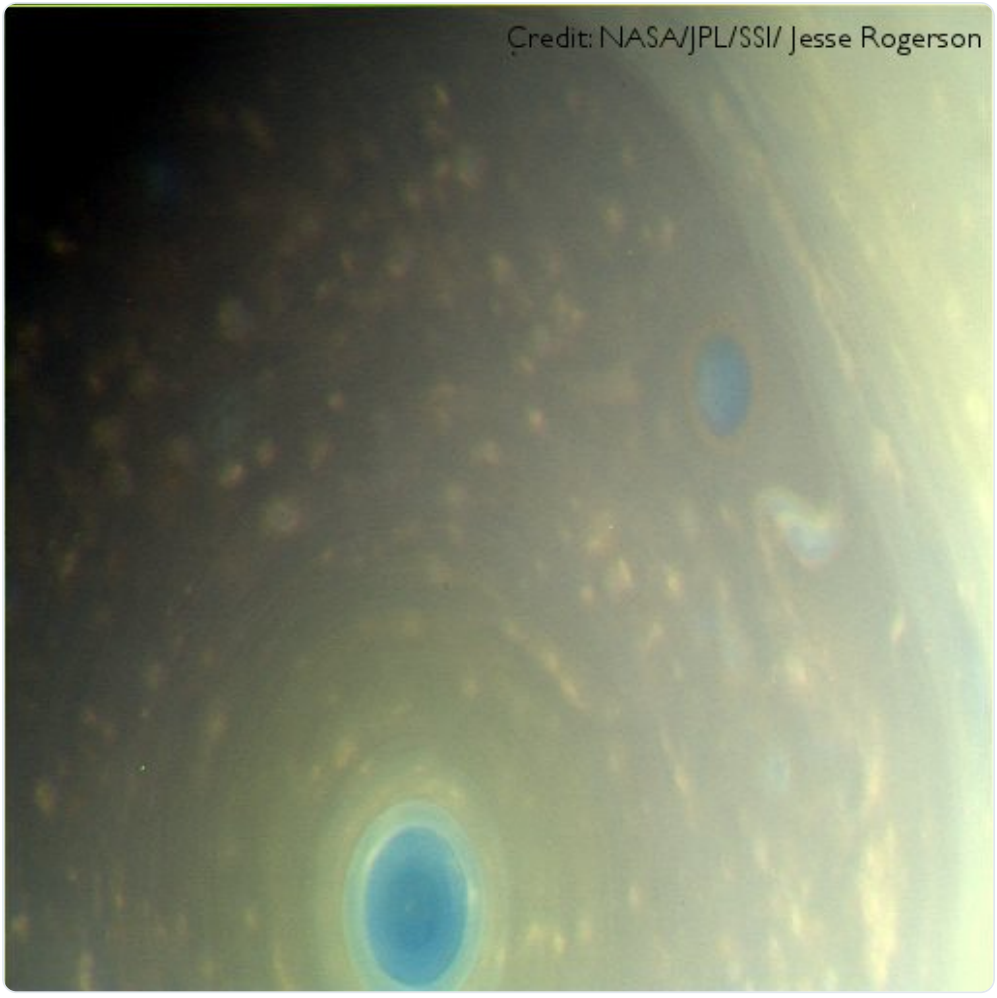
110/ Over the summer, @CassiniSaturn flew over the North/South pole of #Saturn. Here's an RGB stack I did of the North Hexagon #GrandFinale



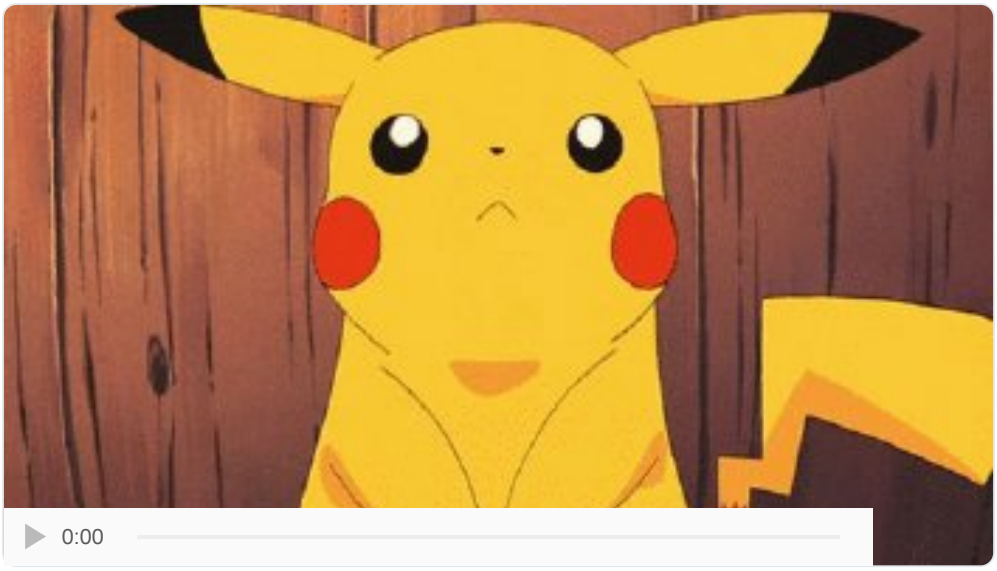
110/ Here's the same image stack, but closer to what the eye would see if you were there #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale



111/ This is another angle of the North Polar Hexagon. There's so much texture. So many clouds, storms.. #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale

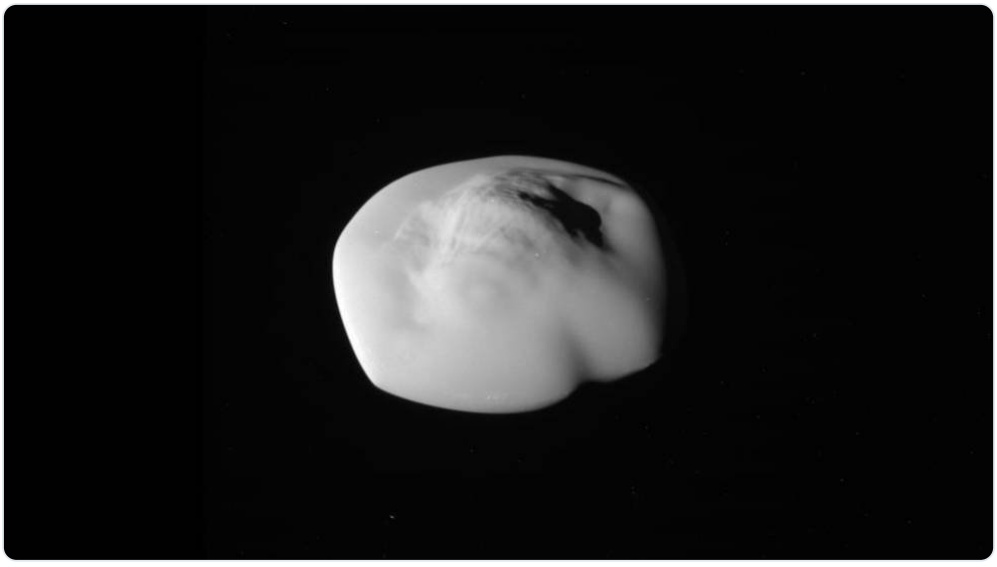


112/ okay want to see another weird moon?



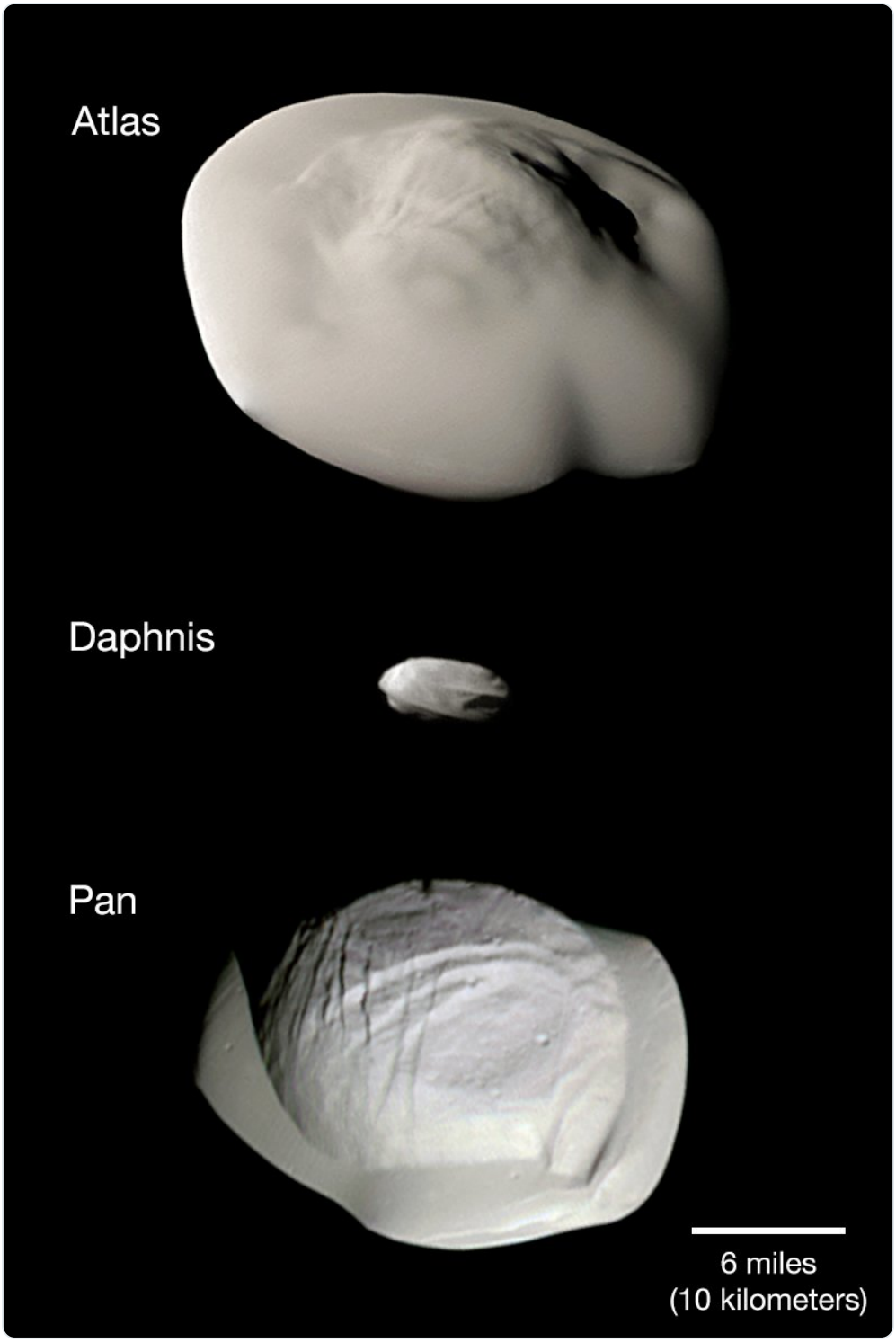
113/ For those following this thread since the beginning (clearly everyone), I said Iapetus' equatorial ridge feature will come back 'round

114/ Whelp.. BEHOLD the mother of all equatorial ridges. Atlas: the moon that is just one big equatorial ridge #GrandFinale #GoodbyeCassini



115/ Yes, that is what Atlas looks like. It's being affectionately called one of #Saturn's "Walnut Moons" (yes... plural)

116/ Meet the rest of the gang: Atlas (the big bro), Pan (the wild one), and Daphnis (the baby). They are the "Walnut Moons" of #Saturn



117/ yes... I gave the Walnut Moons Boy Band personalities.... What of it?

118/ Look at THIS image. It's insane. The differing colours of the hemispheres and paper-thin rings dissecting at the equator. #GrandFinale

119/ Okay now's the time to talk about why the #GrandFinale. Why destroy the @CassiniSaturn spacecraft?

120/ First off, @CassiniSaturn has run out of fuel. Very soon it would be impossible to change the trajectory of the craft.

121/Second, both #Enceladus and #Titan have VERY interesting chemistry happening on them. The former is a great place to go looking for LIFE

122/ Third, it's possible, however unlikely, that @CassiniSaturn could have Earth bacteria still aboard. Now let's add this up #GrandFinale

123/ You don't want your possibly contaminated spacecraft, that's dead in the water, to accidentally crash into Enceladus/Titan

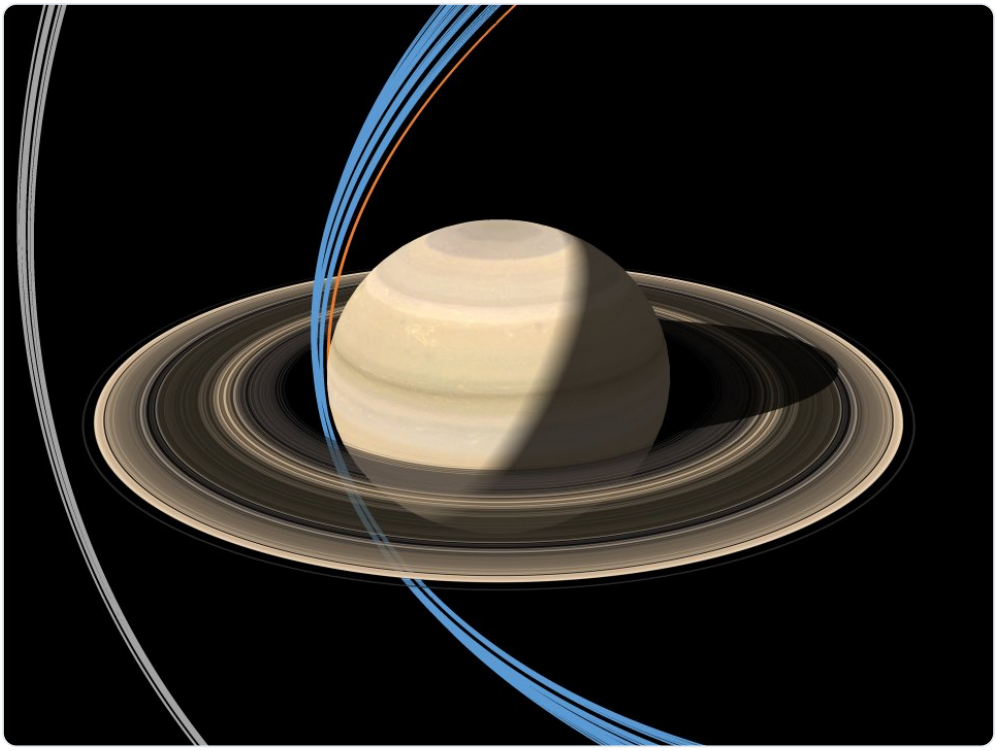
124/ because it's possible, however unlikely, that you could contaminate/destroy any extraterrestrial life that exists there

125/ Thus, you have only one choice. The spacecraft must be destroyed. #ElrondWouldBeProud #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale

126/ The best way to destroy your spacecraft is by purposefully burning it up in the atmosphere of #Saturn. À la Galileo and #Jupiter

127/ And if you're going to destroy your spacecraft anyway, why not take some risks?

128/ Hence, the #GrandFinale: 22 orbits that dive between the Saturn and the rings. A gap that is only 8000 km wide, previously unexplored



129/ The @CassiniSaturn team didn't know what to expect, and on the first dive through the gap they found it to be completely empty!

130/ They measured the number particles that hit @CassiniSaturn as it passed through the gap. The result: very few!

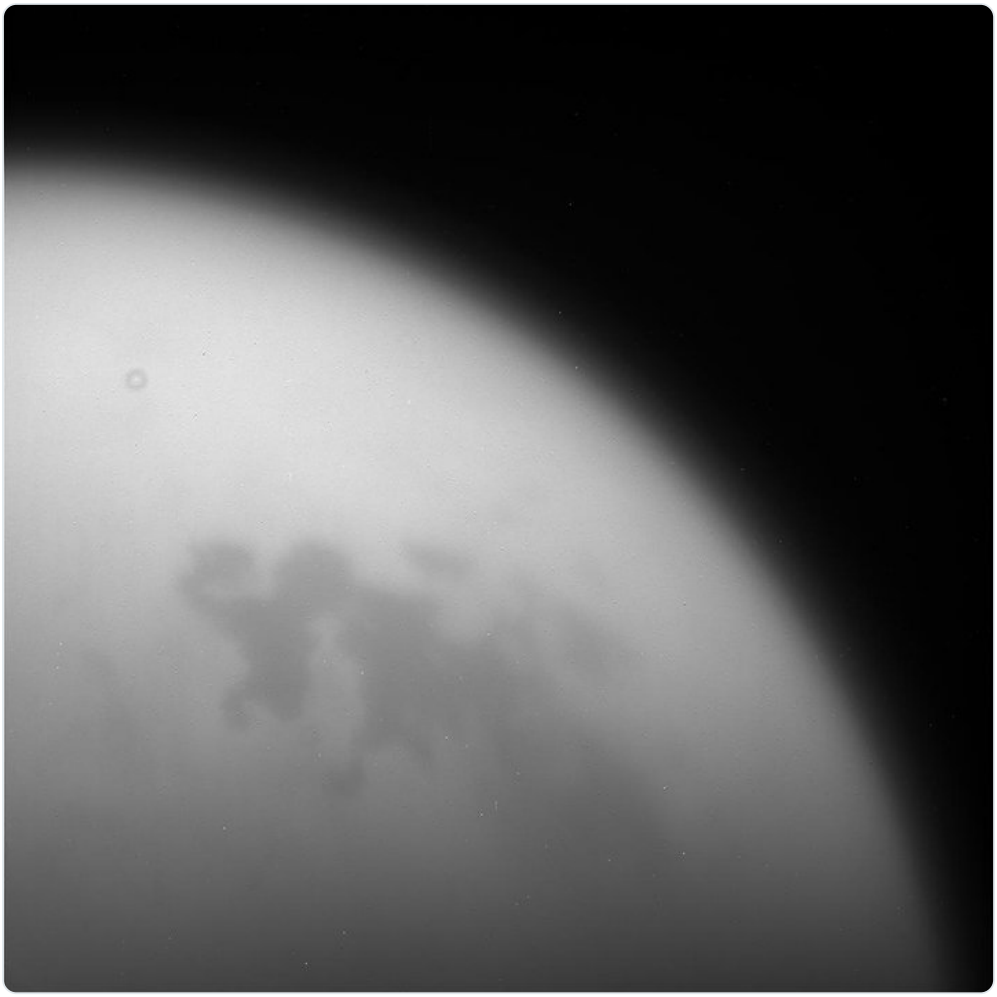
The Sound of Science: Comparison of Cassini Ri…
Comparison of data from NASA's Cassini's radio and plasma science instrument, which can detect ring particles striking the spacecraft as it crosses the plane of the rings, on Dec. 18, 2016 (at top) a…

https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/spaceimages/details.php?id=pi…

https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/spaceimages/details.php?id=pia21446

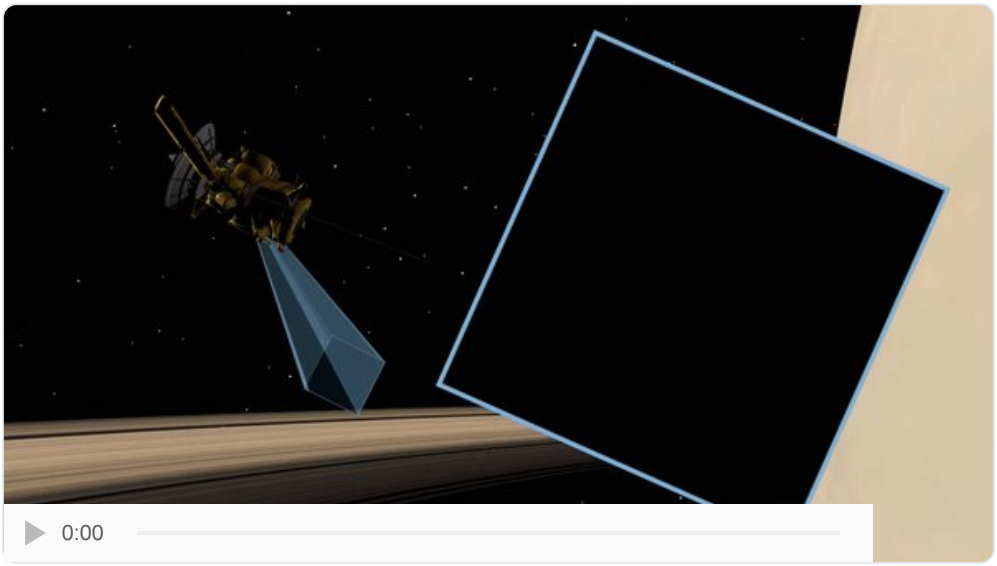
131/ And in the last few orbits, @Cassini has been so close to the clouds of #Saturn, it has actually been able to SAMPLE it #GrandFinale

132/ A few days ago, #Titan gave @CassiniSaturn a "Goodbye Kiss," a final distant flyby. Here's an image from that flyby. #GoodbyeTitan

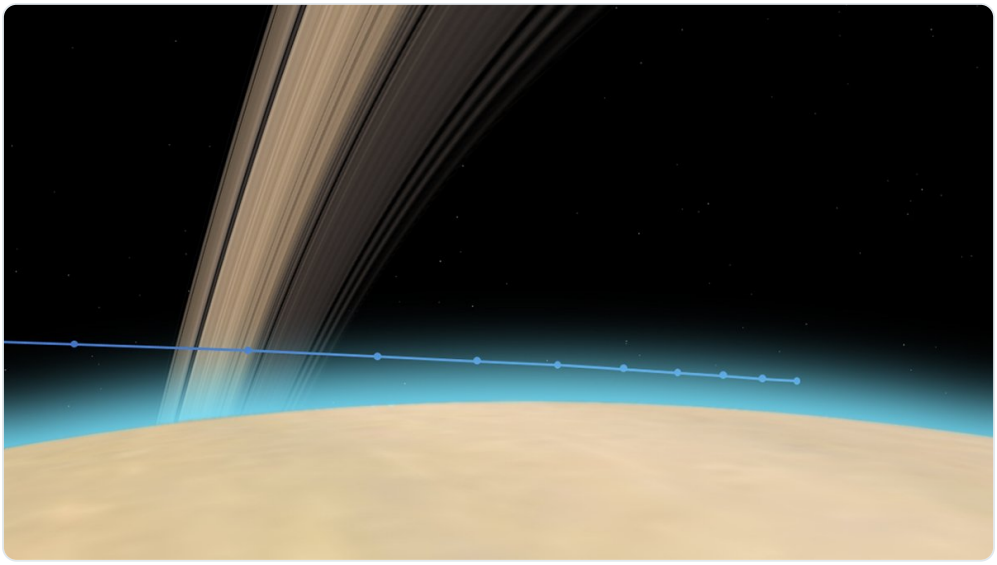


133/ Not only was it a good bye, but @CassiniSaturn also took a gravitational nudge that sent it on its current trajectory... to burn up

134/ Here's a great graphic from one of the dives through the gap, showing @CassiniSaturn's POV as well as a cool video #GrandFinale

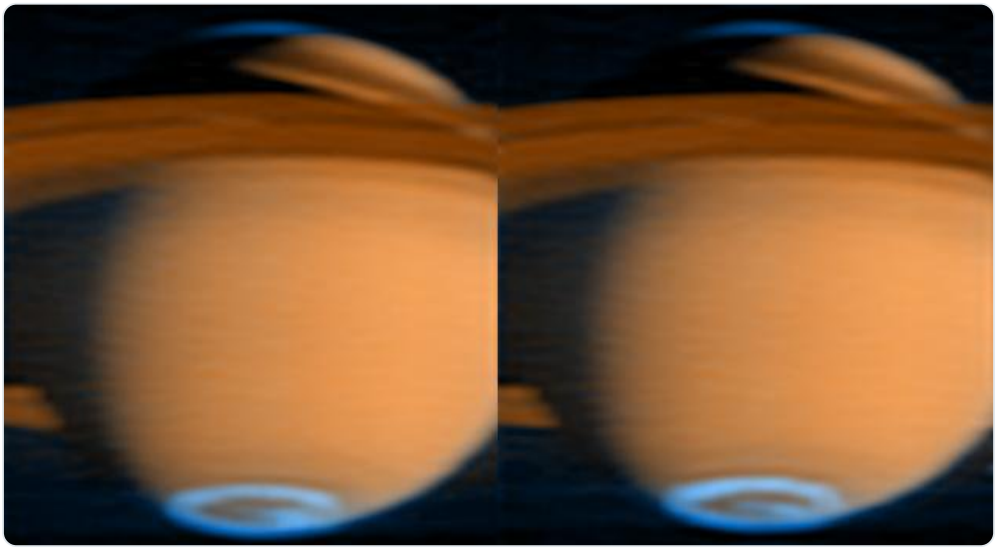


135/ in 8 hrs, @CassiniSaturn will burn up in the atmosphere over #Saturn. One of the most impressive and productive spacecrafts ever built

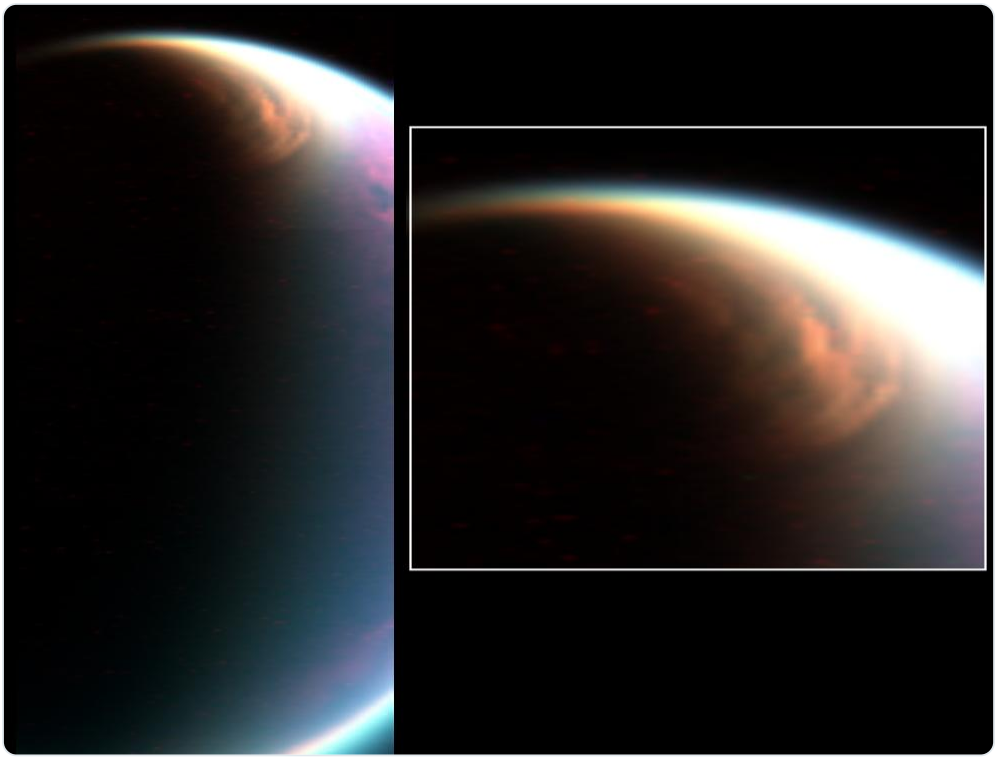


136/ I wish I was at @NASAJPL with @Astropartigirl and the other cool #NASASocial peeps following @CassiniSaturn's plunge #GoodbyeCassini

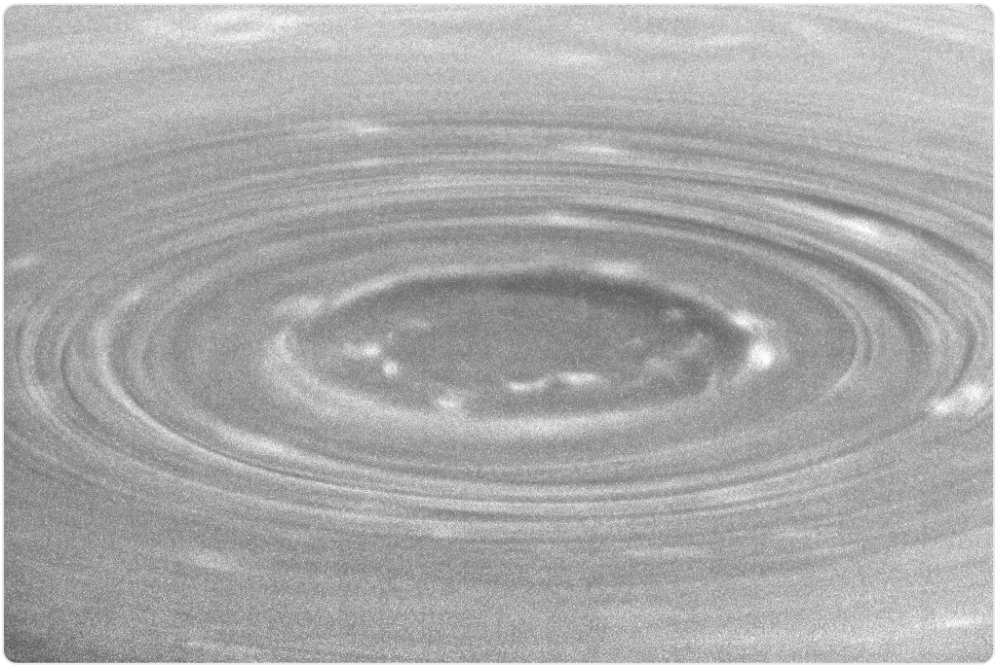
137/ oh I forgot about #Saturn's Aurora! These images were taken on June 21, 2005. New shots of the Southern Lights! #GrandFinale



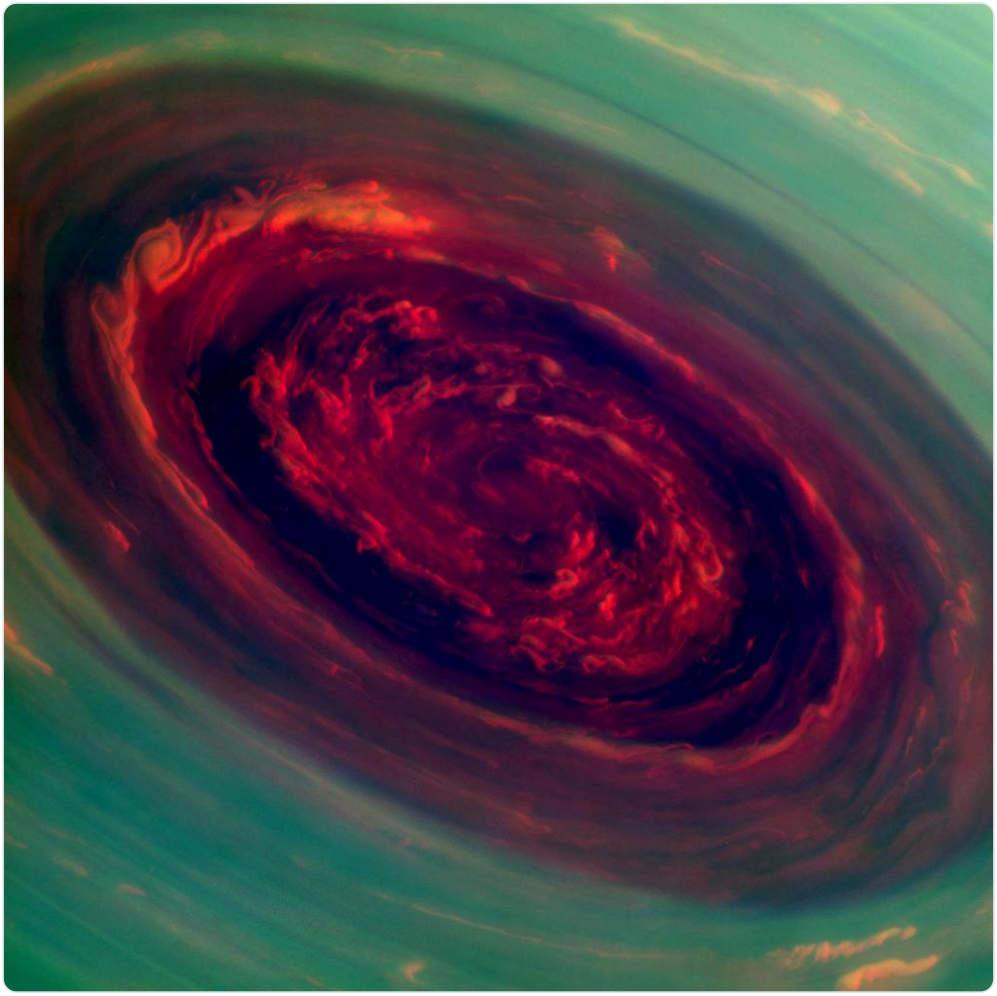
138/ during a 2006 flyby of #TItan, @CassiniSaturn found a massive cloud at the North Pole of the Moon #GrandFinale #GoodbyeCassini



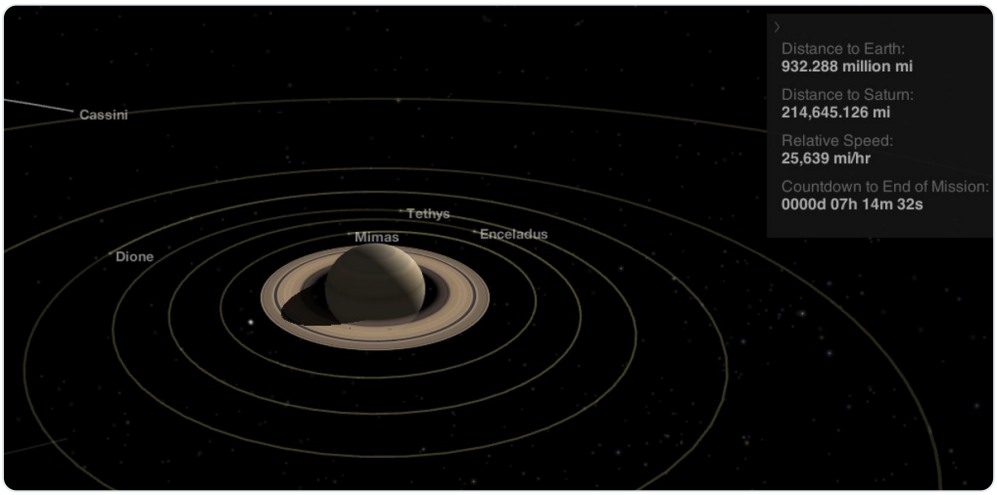
139/ The south polar vortex of #Saturn, imaged by @CassiniSaturn in 2008



140/ this one's known as 'The Rose,' a beautiful false colour image of the north polar vortex. It has insane detail... crazy #GoodbyeCassini

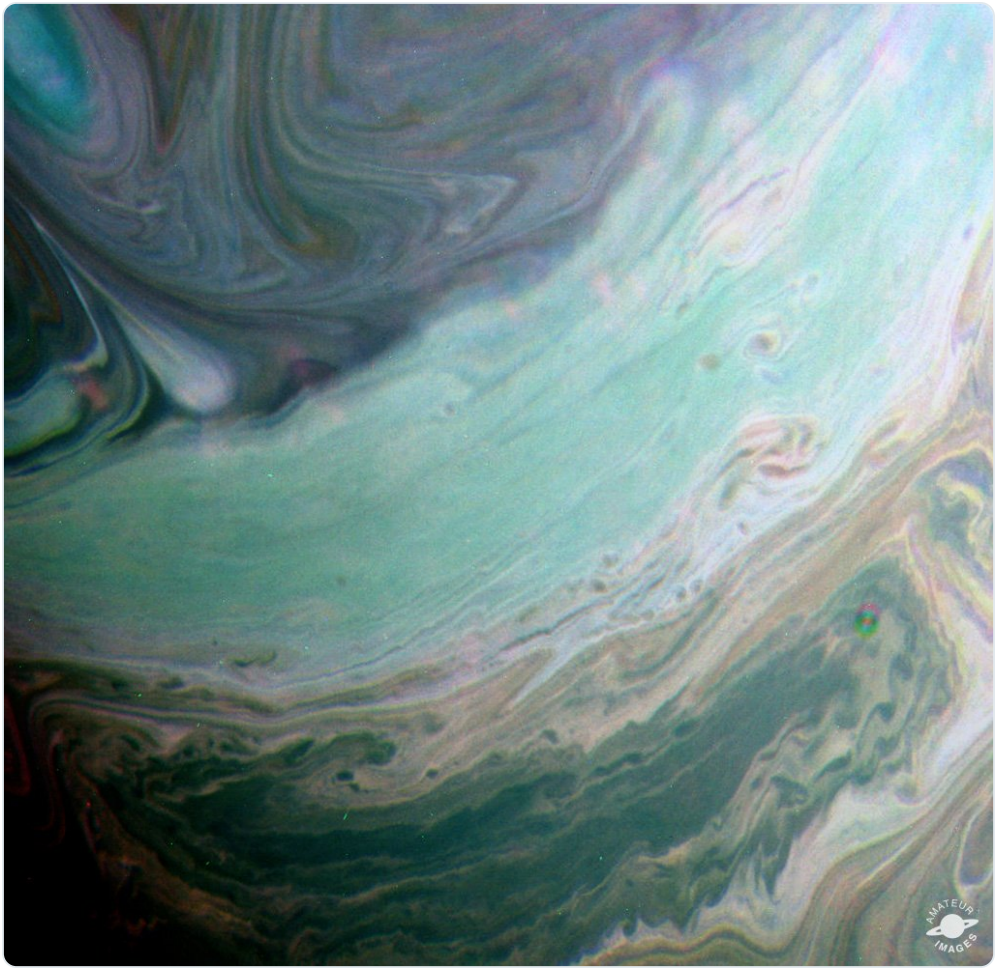


141/ almost there. 7hrs to go. About 350,000km away from burning up. That's the distance from the Earth to the Moon. #GoodbyeCassini



142/ I've run out of stories about @CassiniSaturn that I know... just posting images and counting down the minutes #GoodbyeCassini

143/ Holy crap check out #Saturn's clouds in this. Made frm Infrared images, and false coloured. Looks like a watercolour. cred: @kevinmgill



144/A VIDEO of Aurora on #Saturn. I didn't even know this existed! @CassiniSaturn took 472 images during an 81-hour period in 2008 for it

145/ Good morning all, I wake to a very sombre tone on the twitterverse. In T-1hr, @CassiniSaturn will burn up over the skies of #Saturn

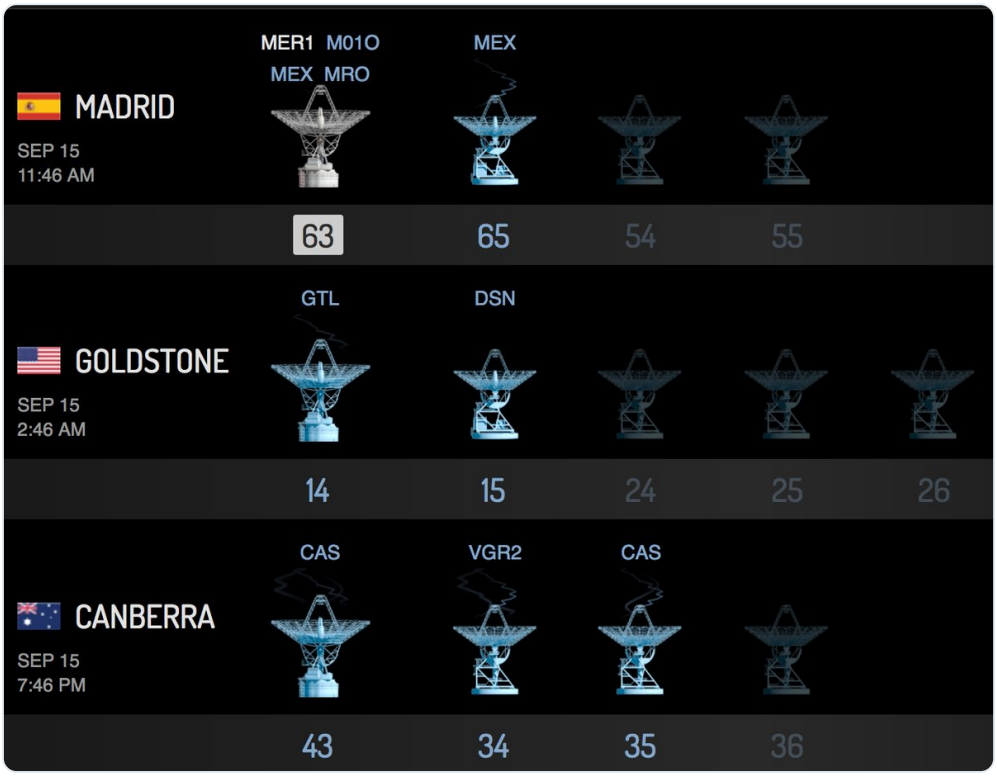
146/ Of course we won't know for another 90min or so due to light travel time.

#GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale

147/@CassiniSaturn launched in1997. I turned 12 the day after it left Earth. For me, it has always been part ofthe solar system #GrandFinale

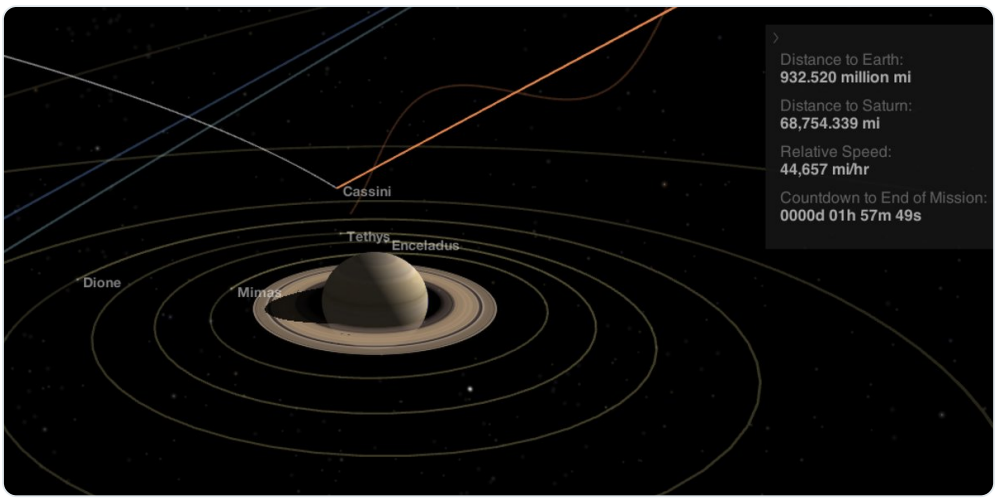
150/ Who stayed up all night at the #NASASocial down at JPL?? #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale

151/ Overnight, the DSN dishes in Canberra were given the @CassiniSaturn feed. Downloading constantly until the craft is gone #GrandFinale



152/Canberra is also listening to @NASAVoyager 2 at the moment, as you can see in the previous image. Two Titans of solar system exploration

153/ Getting close! only 100,000 km away from #Saturn. and @CassiniSaturn is continuously broadcasting data until it burns up #GrandFinale

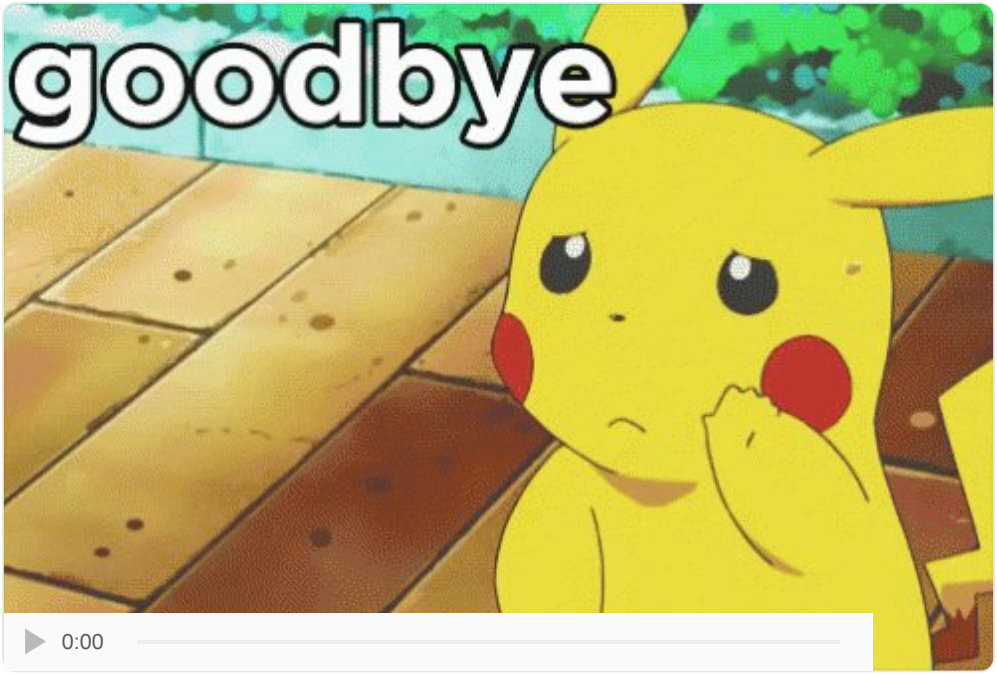


154/ it's 6:30am EDT, the projected time for #Saturn atmospheric entry. This is @CassiniSaturn right now #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale

155/Right now in a sky 1.5 billion kilometres away, a small emissary from Earth is falling apart. Ending a 20 year long mission #GrandFinale

156/Due to the distance, the last transmission from Cassini won't be downloaded by the Deep Space Network until 7:55am EDT #GrandFinale

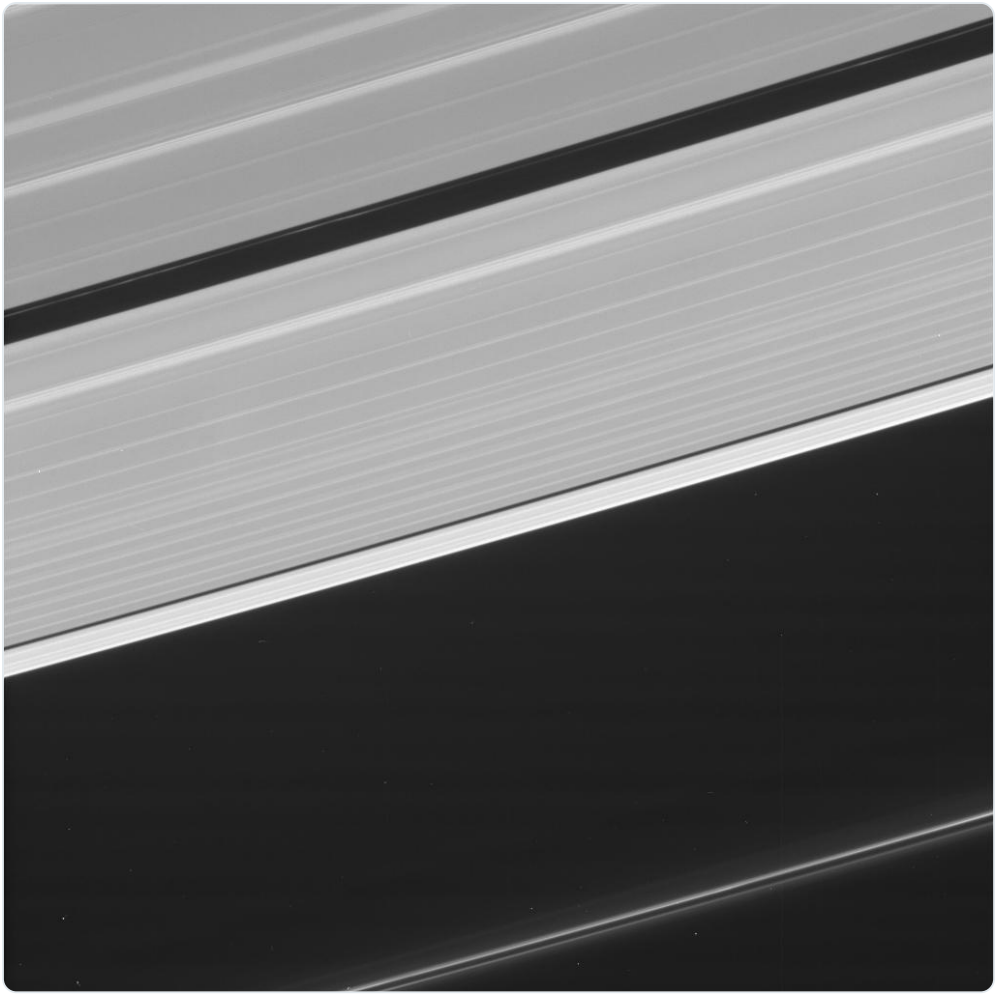
157/ A little more time, for those of us not ready to say #GoodbyeCassini. What? I'm not crying ... YOU'RE crying... #GrandFinale



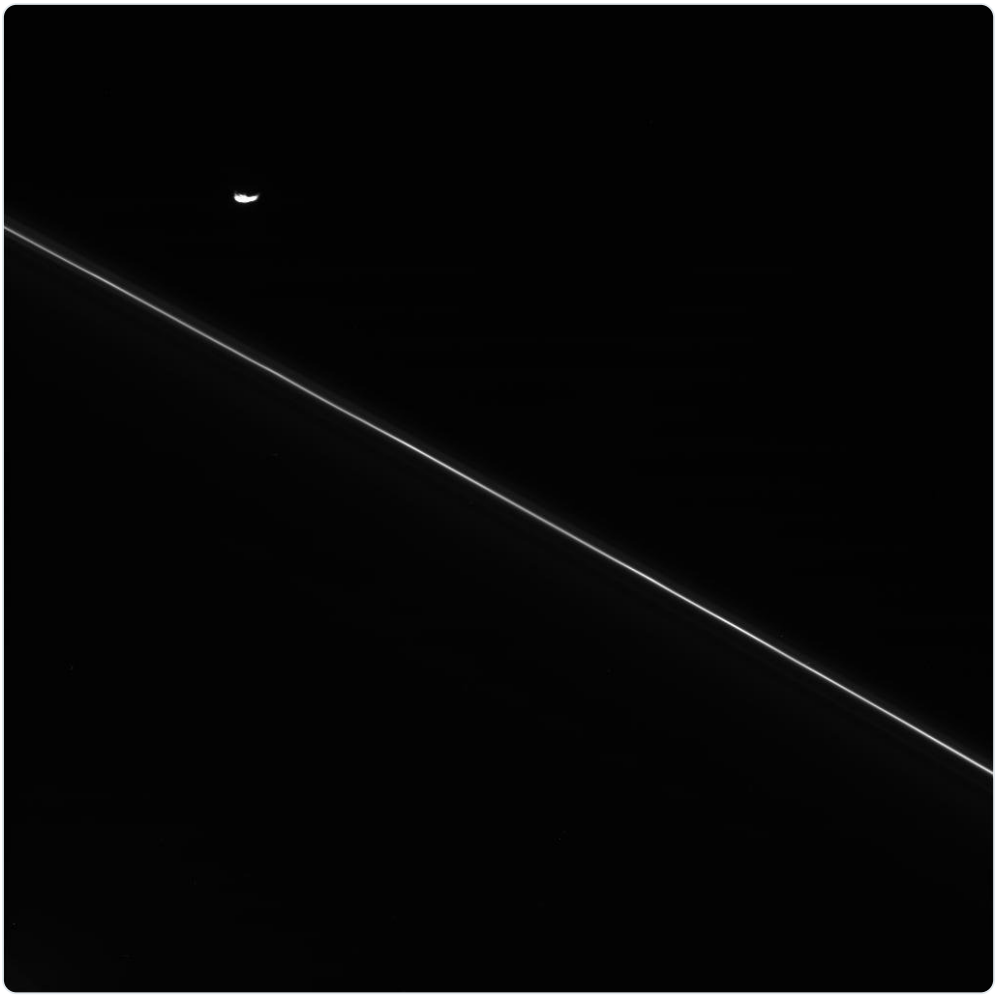
158/ Cassini, a piece of humanity, has become a piece of #Saturn. We'll be forever grateful, and forever proud of what it's accomplished

159/ Just finished chatting with @HallieCBC at @CBCRadioCanada about Cassini's final moments and legacy #GrandFinale

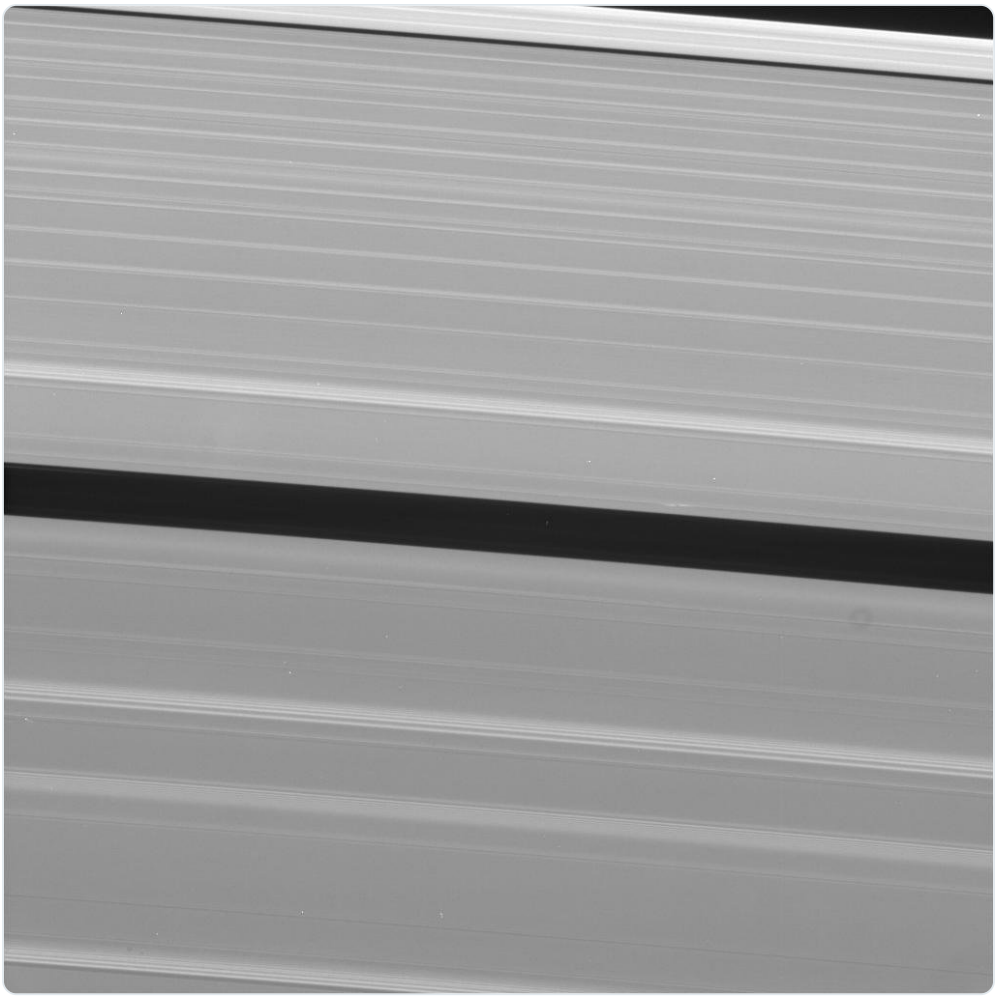
160/one of the last images sent back frm Cassini last night. Searching for propeller features, can you see any? #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale



161/ Taken last night in its final image dump, a beautiful image of the F ring and Pandora or Prometheus, can't tell which. #GoodbyeCassini

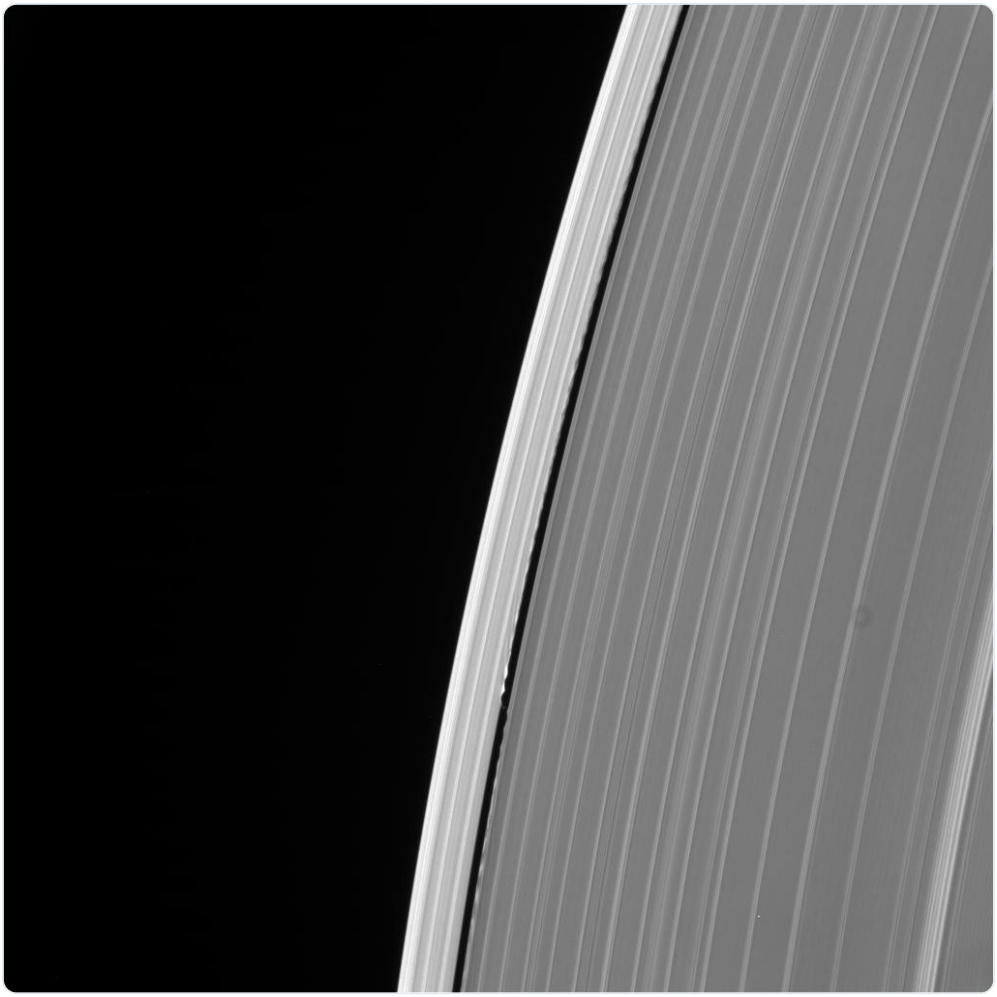


162/ OH! There's one, a propeller feature! See it? Image taken Sept 14, 2017 6:17pm, Received Sep. 15, 2017 6:17am #GrandFinale

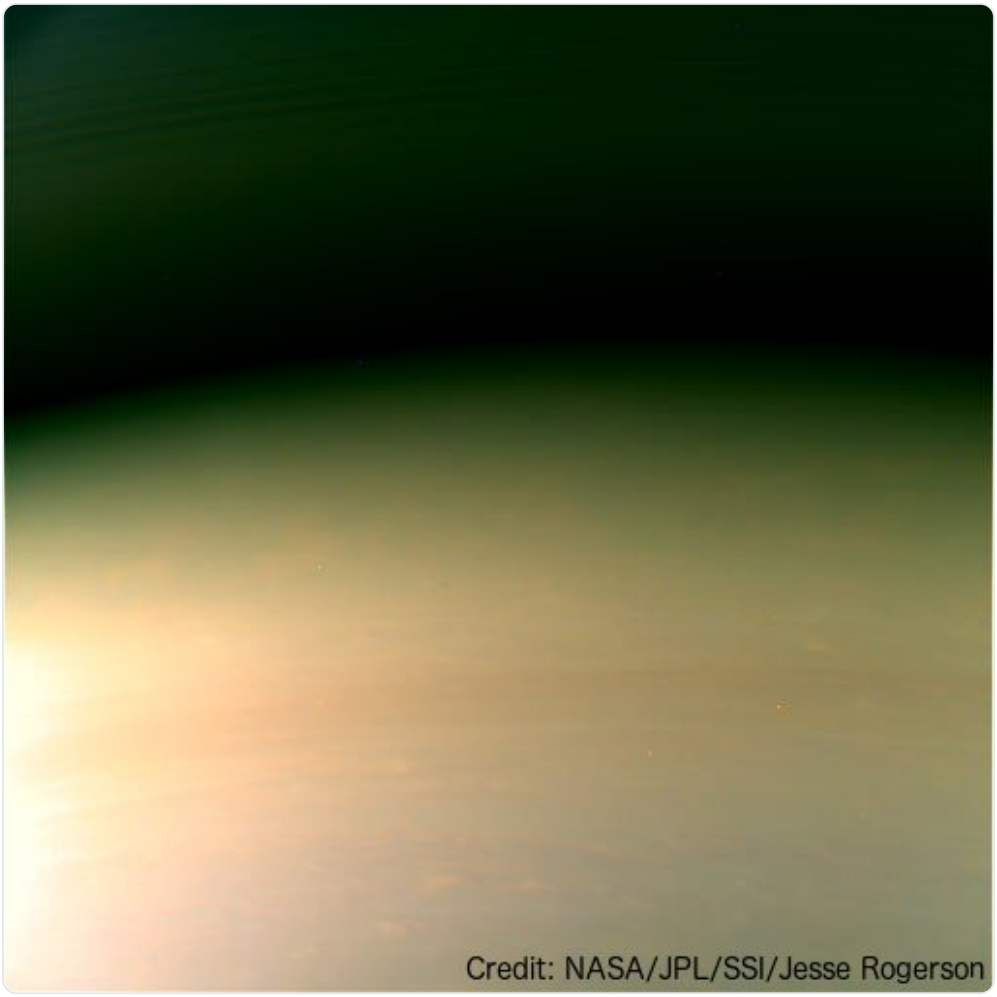


163/ "Cassini has changed the paradigm of where we might look for life, that will be one of her legacies" -Linda Spilkner #GrandFinale

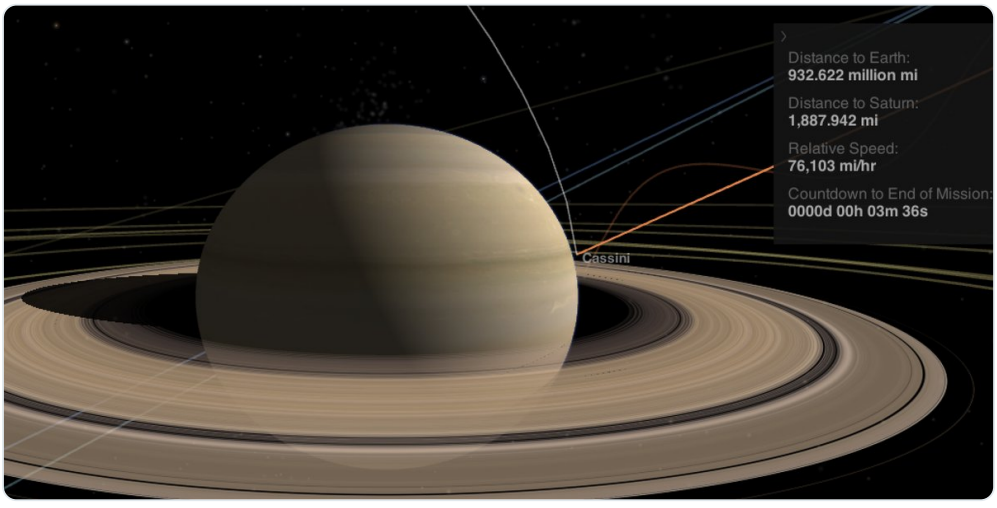
164/ A final distant image of Daphnis, the moon that created the Keeler Gap. The moon disrupts the portions of the rings closest to it



165/ Cassini took this image in the direction it was travelling about 12 hrs before it burned up. It's looking at it's final resting place



166/ We're only a few minutes away until the Loss of Signal for @CassiniSaturn #NASASocial #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale



167/ "The entire spacecraft runs on 600W" "about half a hair dryer"'s worth of power. That's crazy! #GrandFinale

168/ "We have loss of signal" -@CassiniSaturn team. right on time 7:55 #GoodbyeCassini #GrandFinale

169/ "I hope you're all deeply proud of this amazing accomplisment" -Earl Maize, the Cassini Project Manager to his team #GrandFinale

170/Well I guess Ill leave it there. I've had the funnest week reliving the mission via this string of tweets #GrandFinale

Thread COMPLETED