

## Forming Saturn's Satellites by Viscous Spreading of Rings

**ESLAB 2012**  
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## Diversity of formation processes ? In situ formation may not be the unique process

... except for Pan, Atlas, Telesto, Calypso, and Helene, whose sizes are exaggerated by a factor of 5 to show rough topography.

propellers

???

**Problem:**  
 Dynamic age << Solar System  
 + orbits

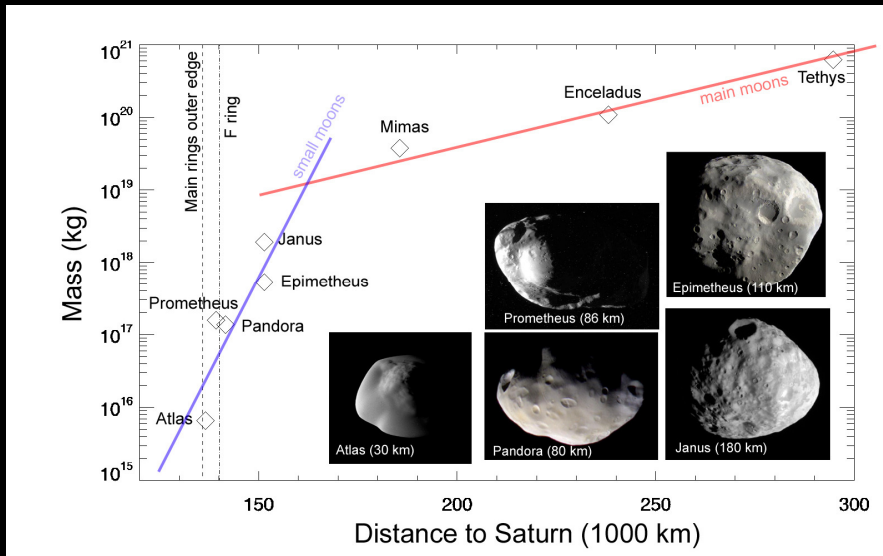
**Problem:**  
 Varying abundance of silicates  
 + orbits

In situ formation

Captured

Rings

### A peculiar orbital architecture



### The Structure of the « ring's edge » region

Edge 137800 km

Roche Limit ~ 138 000 - 140 000 km

**Coupling of 4 processes**

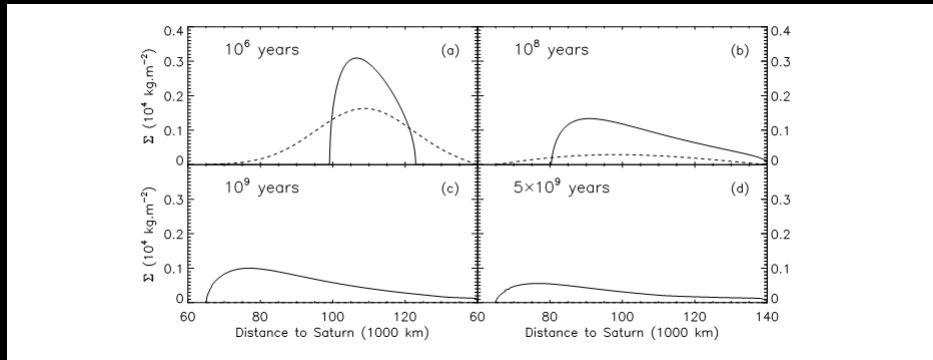
- Ring viscous spreading
- Accretion beyond the roche limit
- Resonant interactions with rings
- Tidal interaction with Saturn

↓

**Moon formation**

**Spreading of Saturn's rings :**

- a process still active
- Ring's spreading is enhanced due to grav. instability



Salmon et al., 2010

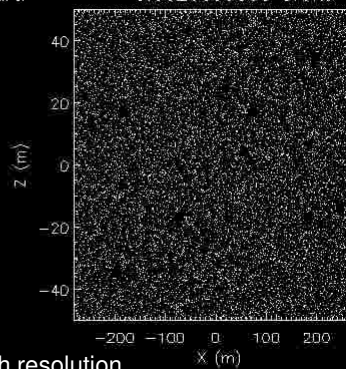
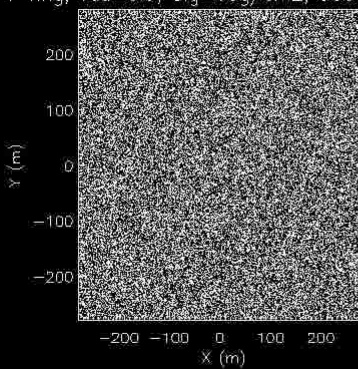
**Accretion at the ring's edge : gravitational instability**

When material crosses the Roche Limit, (~140000 km) it may become gravitationally unstable

Example : « patch » simulation of a disk > Roche Limit

F ring,  $\tau = 0.5$ ,  $\Sigma = 60 \text{ g/cm}^2$ , 50000 part.

0.0020000000 Orbits

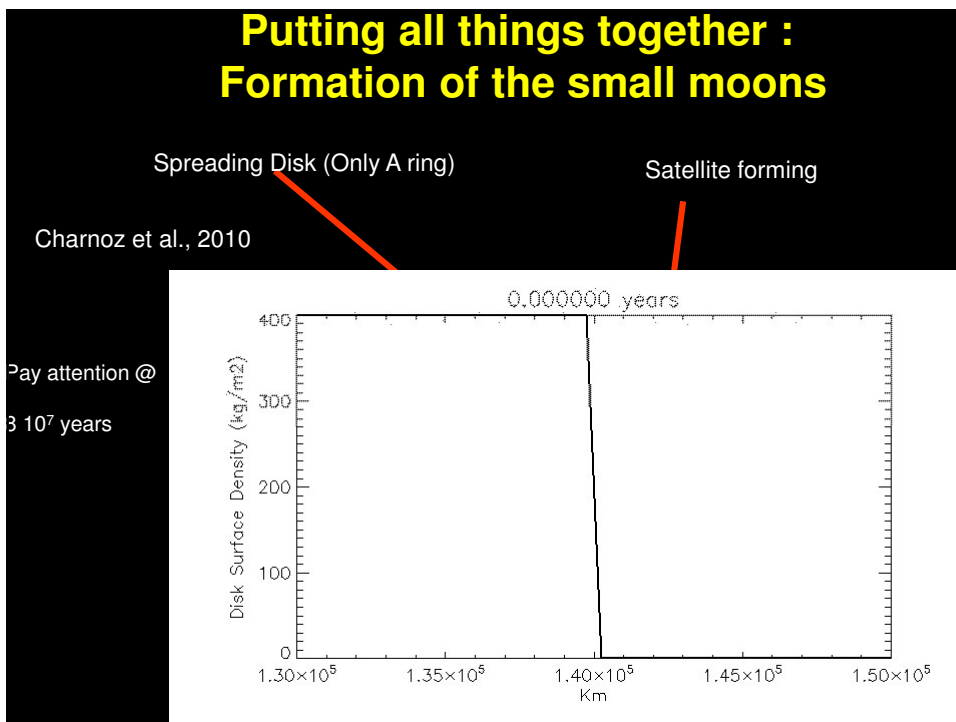
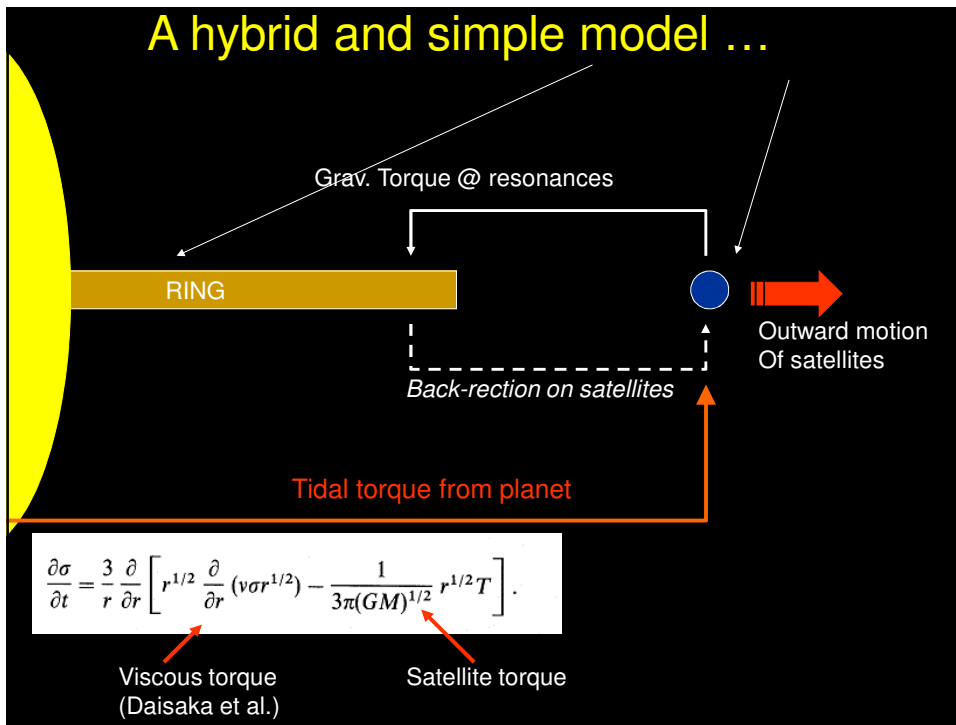


High resolution

S. Charnoz & D. Gavarró, AIM—Univ. Paris 7—CEA

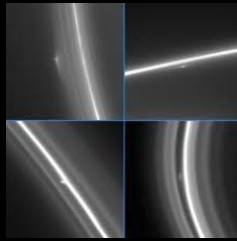
Formation of aggregates when  $Q < 1$

Simulation :  
Charnoz / Decriem



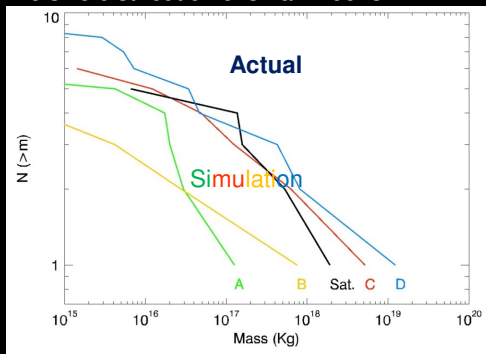
Explains :

The origin of the F ring



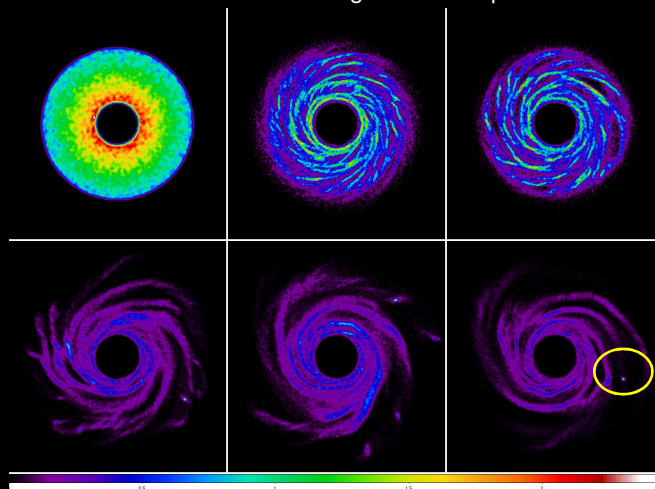
The confinement of the A ring by Janus

The size distribution of small moons



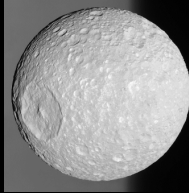
**But ..not such a new process !!  
Same as Earth's moon formation ... but with a lighter disk**

Protolunar disk = a ring around the proto-earth



Our Moon  
Forms from  
The protolunar  
disk

## Mid-sized icy satellites : strange small worlds



Mimas



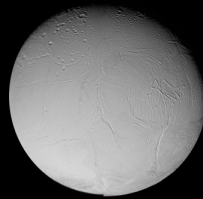
Dione



Rhea



Tethys

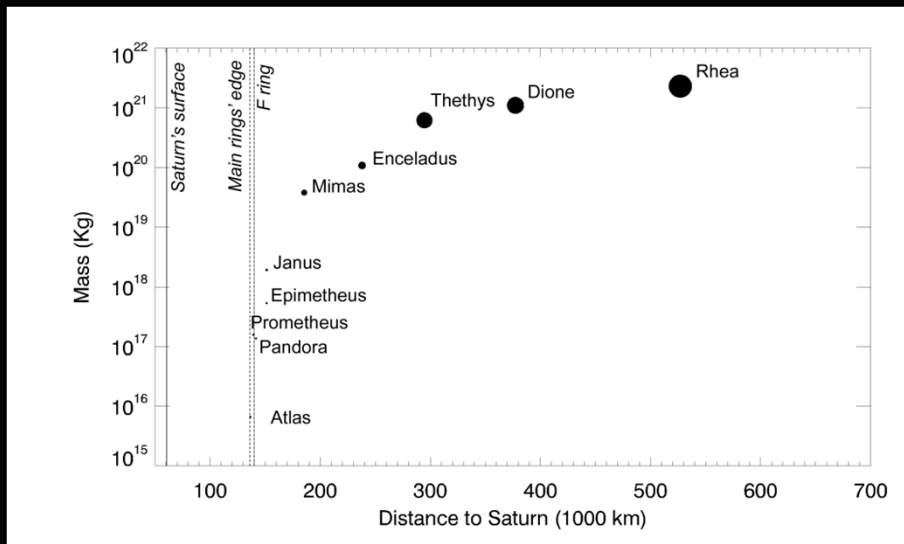


Enceladus

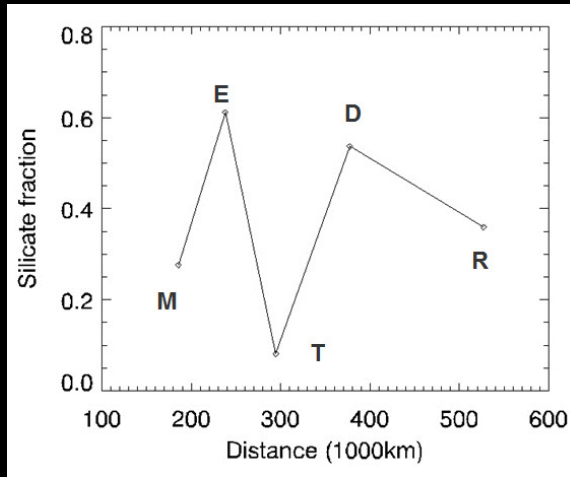
Cf.  
Paul Schenk's talk

Nico Schmedemann's talk

## Difficulties to explain the today orbital architecture



## Varying abundances of silicates



## 2 populations of impactors ?

**Type 1 : Heliocentric (R,I) population (comets ?) with large impactors**

**Type 2 : planetocentric (M,E,T) population with mid-sized impactors** At least for Mimas, Enceladus, Tethys, Dione

Smith et al., 1981, 1982, Chapman & McKinnon (1986), Lissauer et al., (1988)  
Dones et al. (2009)

Does surface relaxation may have played a role for Dione, Mimas, and Tethys ?

Is it an effect of saturation ?

⇒Unclear (cf. Kirchoff & Schenk 2010, Chapman & McKinnon (1986).)

**A new perspective :  
Origin of moons linked with rings' origin**

**Is it possible to form all inner moons  
from the rings only ?**

**What are the consequences ?**

**Key ingredients of this work**

- Massive initial Saturn's rings (Salmon, 2010, Canup 2010, OK)
- The ring's parent body was an *almost* perfectly differentiated object
- Saturn's Q dissipation factor (high ? Low ?)

**NO HYPOTHESIS on :**

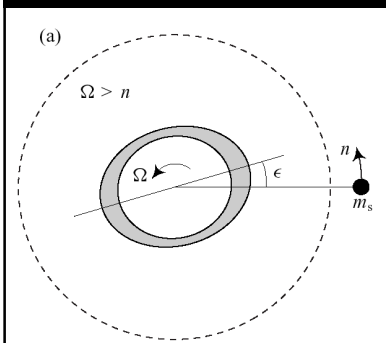
- the mechanism that breaks the parent body  
(tidal destruction ok , impact ok (if possible), ...)
- the date T of the event (2 Gyr < T < 4.5 Gyr )  
(Saturn formation Ok, LHB OK, .... )



# Saturn's Q : the Tidal torque

High Q => Weak tides

Small Q => Strong tides



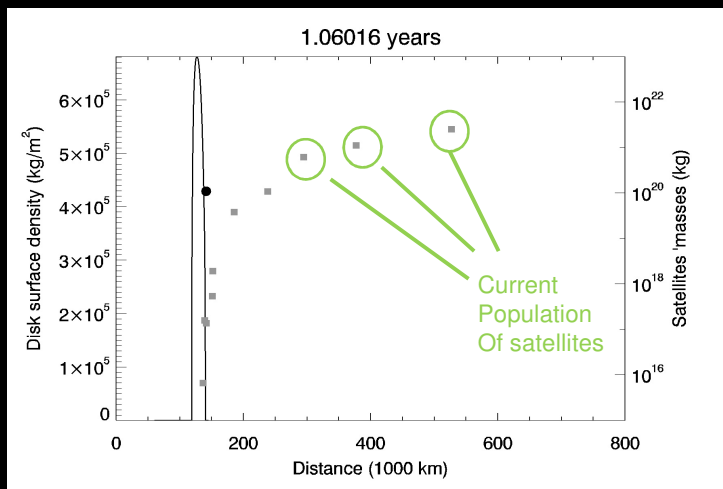
$$\frac{da}{dt} \propto \frac{k_2}{Q}$$

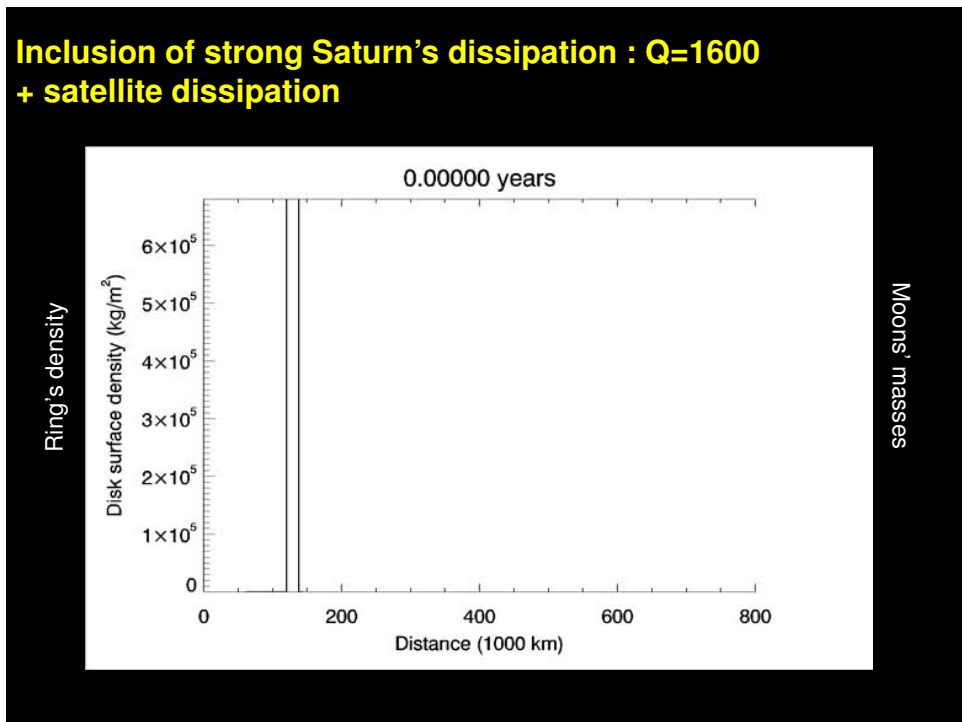
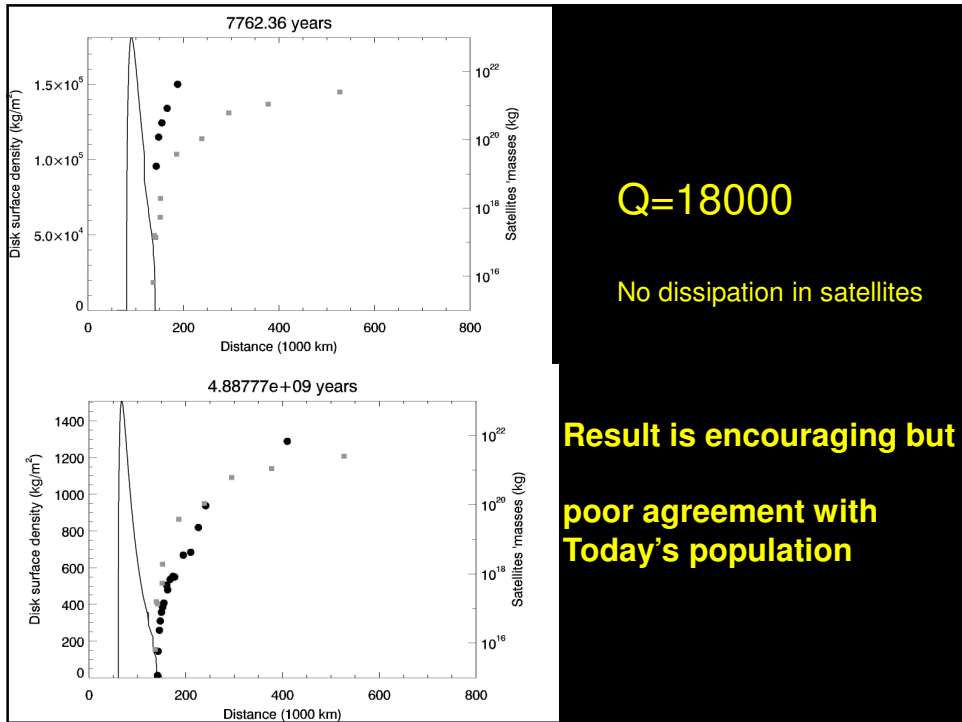
Two cases are considered

- 1) Q=18000  
(standard value, 4 assumptions)  
(Goldreich & Soter 1966, Gavrilov & Zharkov 1977)
- 2) Q=1600  
(Layne et al., 2011, Measure, Paper submitted)

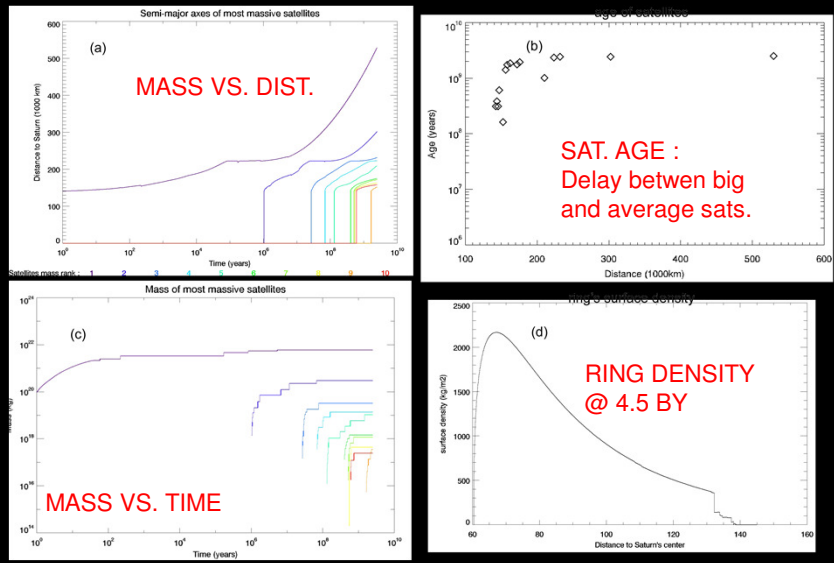
## SIMULATING THE RING EARLY EVOLUTION

A ring with 4 Rhea Mass (1000x Saturn rings) &  $Q_{\text{saturn}}=18000$



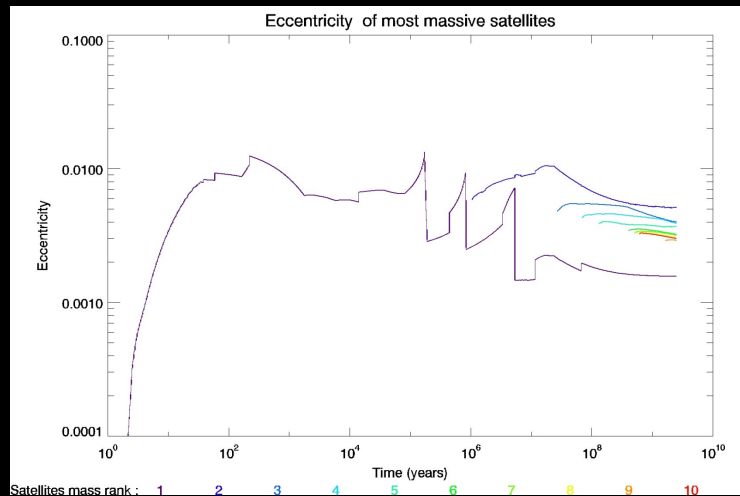


**Interesting consequences**

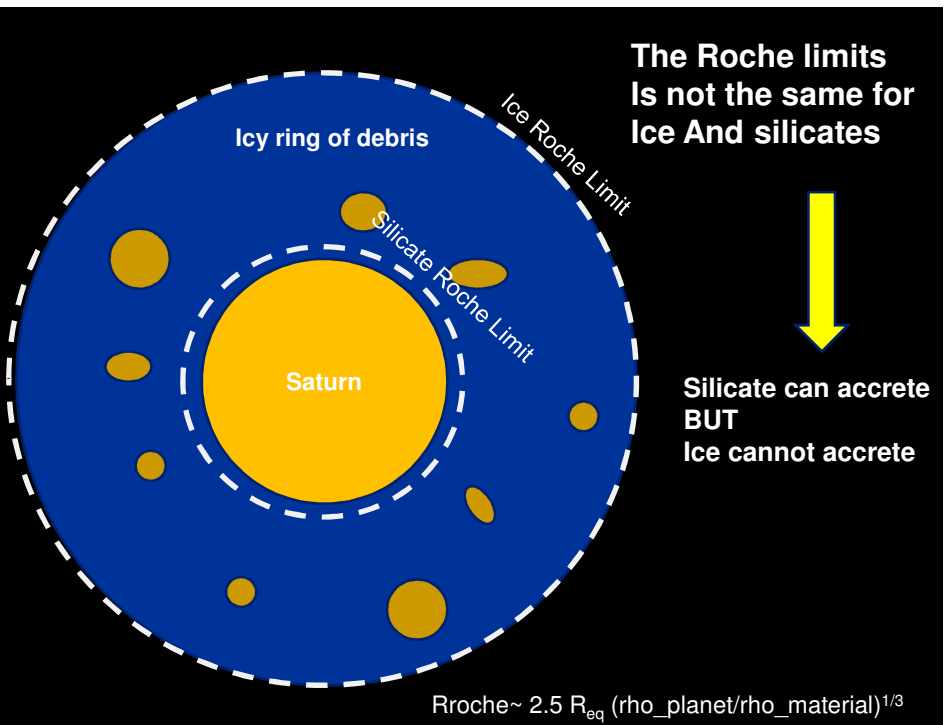
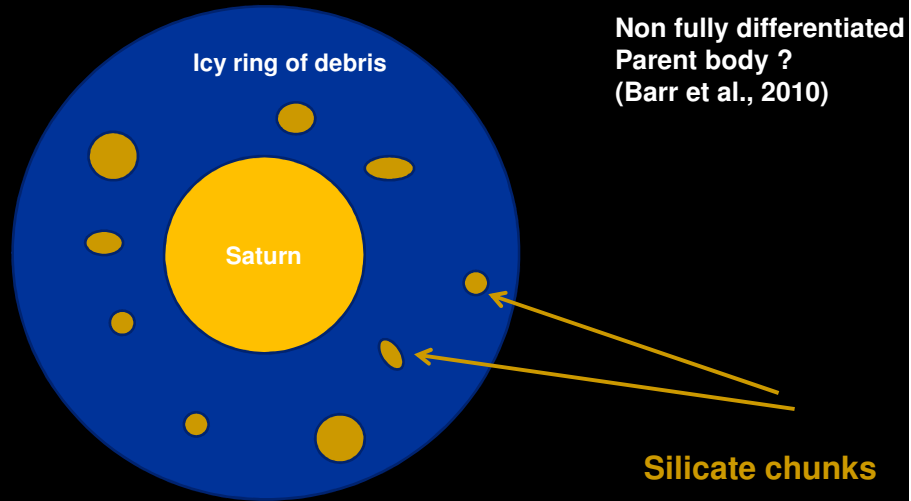


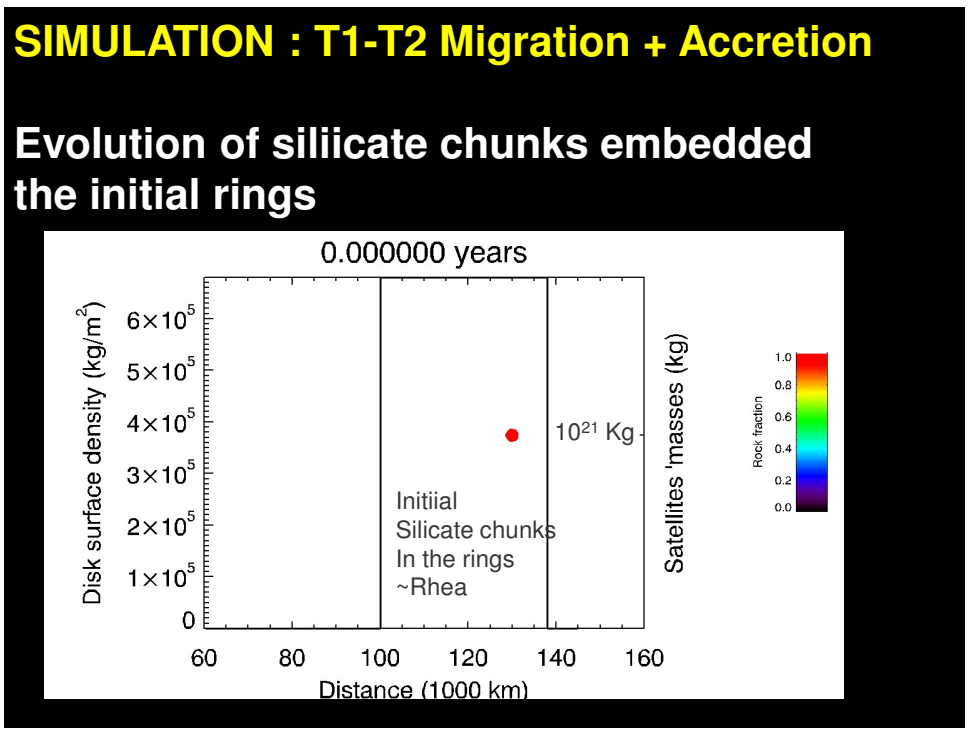
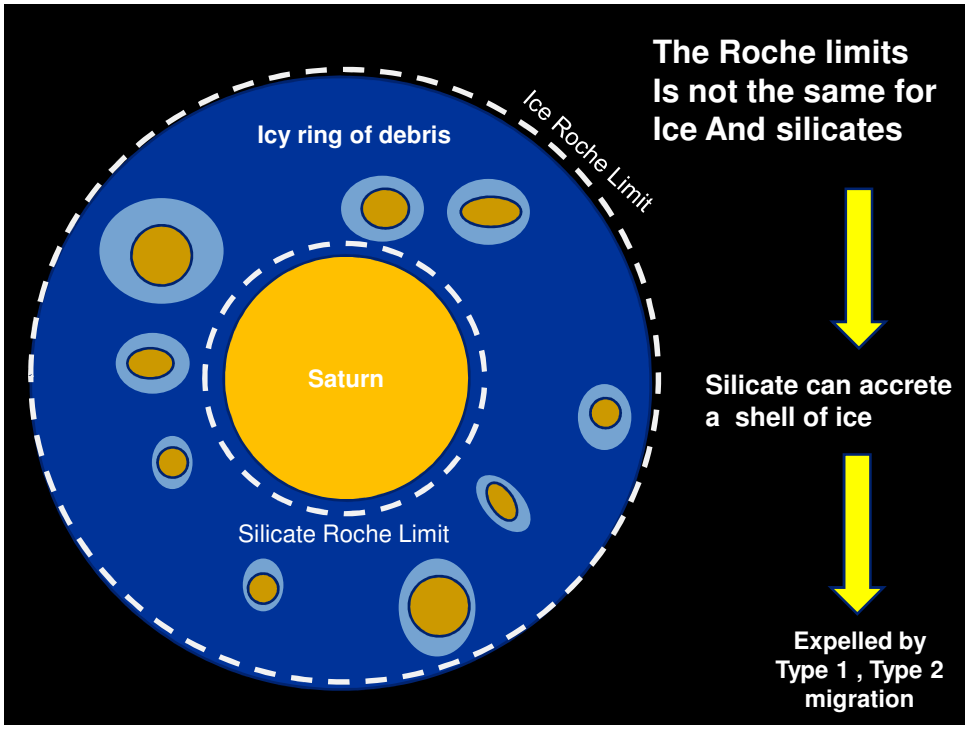
Moons have different ages  
 Accretion occur in low Impact velocities (<1km/s) of same size

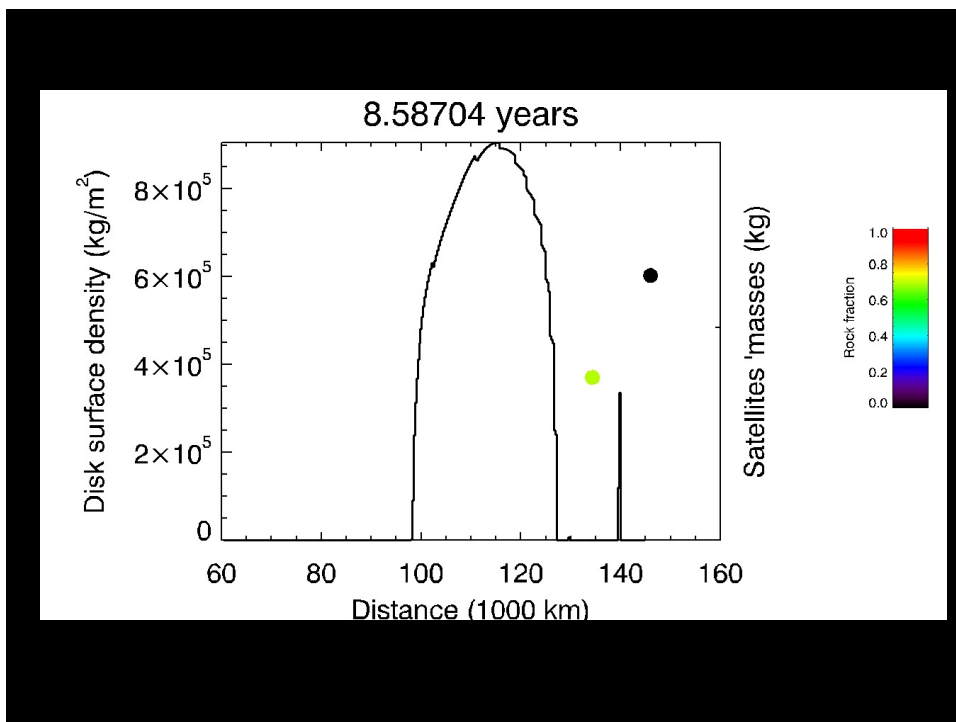
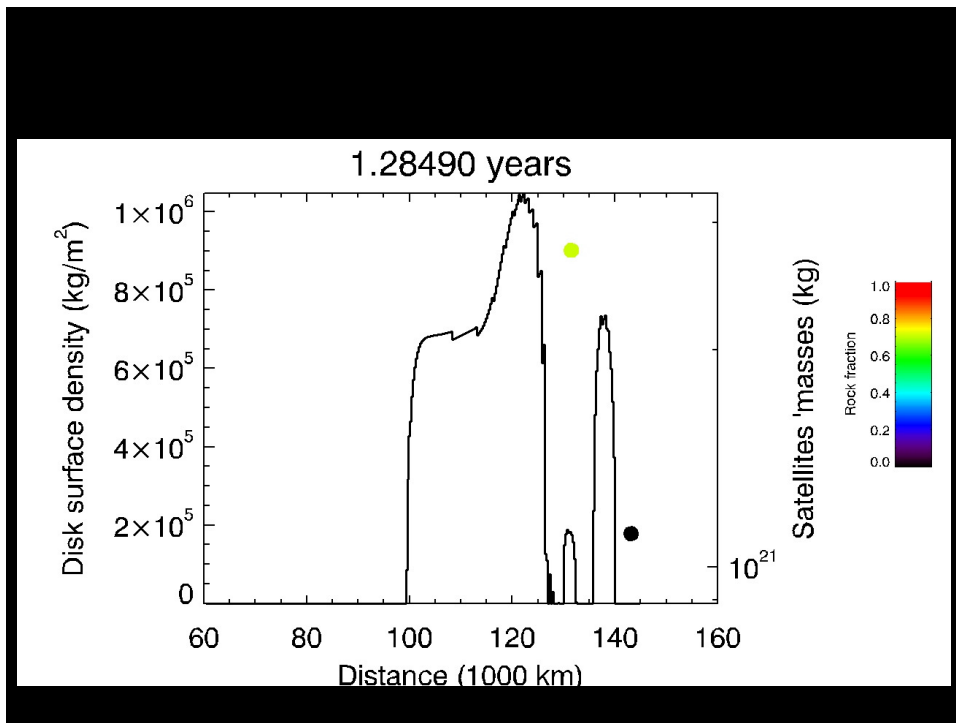
**Eccentricity of satellites vs. Time  
 => Early geological evolution**



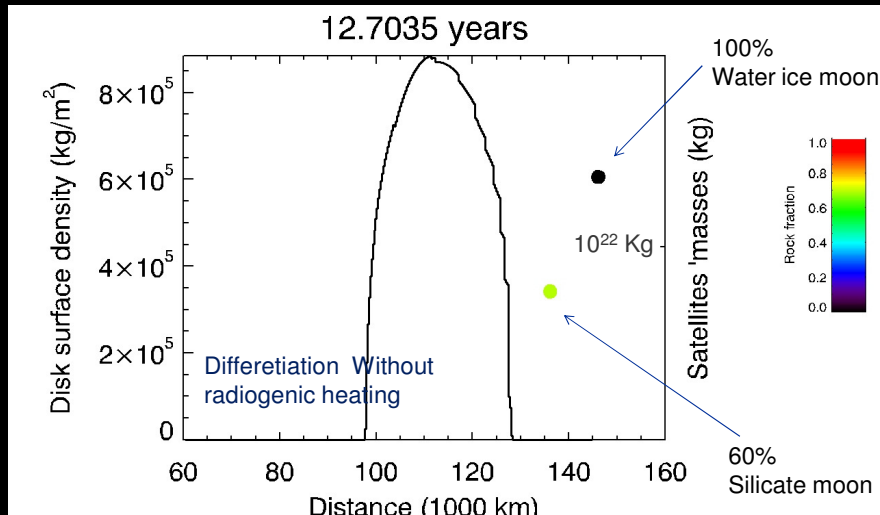
**What about silicates ?  
 considering an initially inhomogeneous disk  
 (⇔ partially differentiated progenitor)**





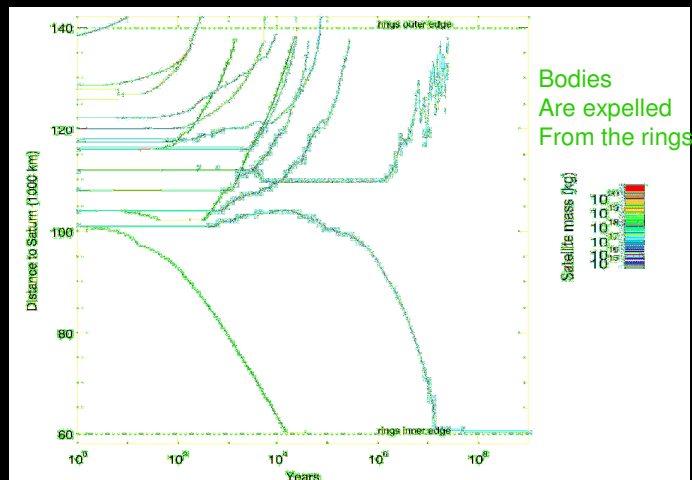


We end with a 50% rock fraction satellite  
+ a 0% rock fraction satellite



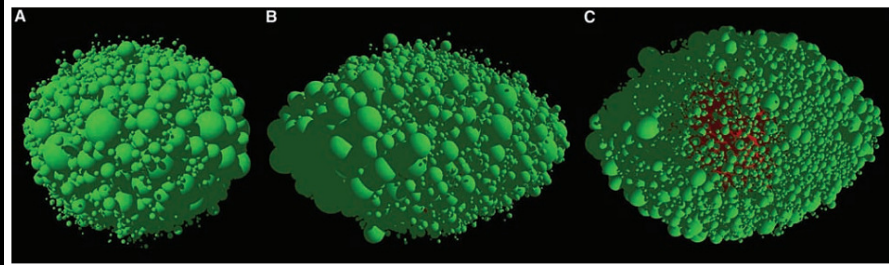
Progressively all silicates are expelled from the rings  
due to Type I and Type II migration

Big objects are expelled first  
Small objects are expelled later

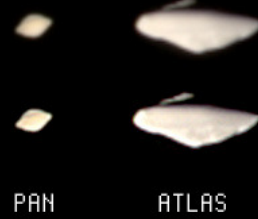


Consistent with :

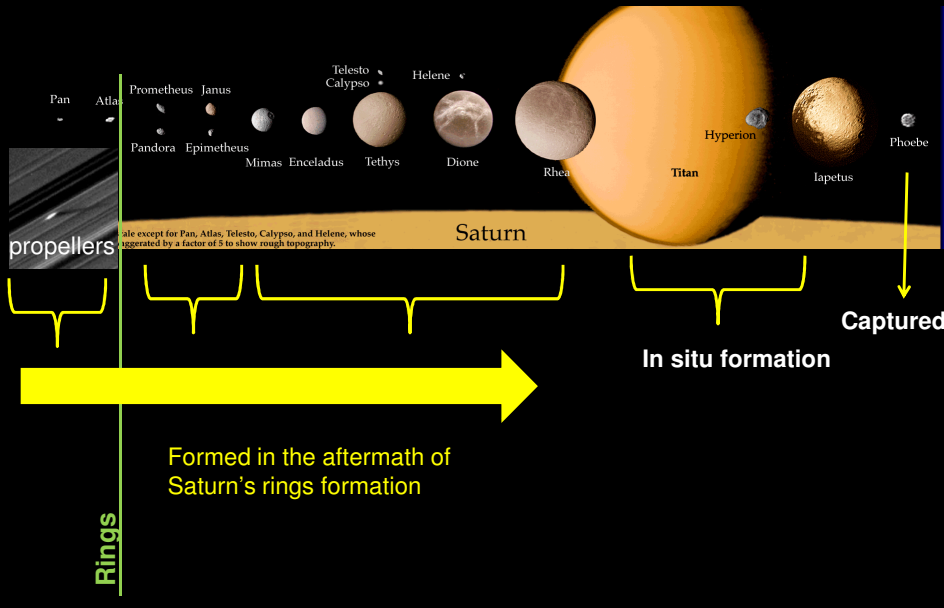
Porco et al., 2007 : Shape of small moons



Charnoz et al., 2007 : equatorial ridges



### SATURN'S MOONS Diversity of formation processes





## FUTURE

### Explore all planets

Terrestrial planets

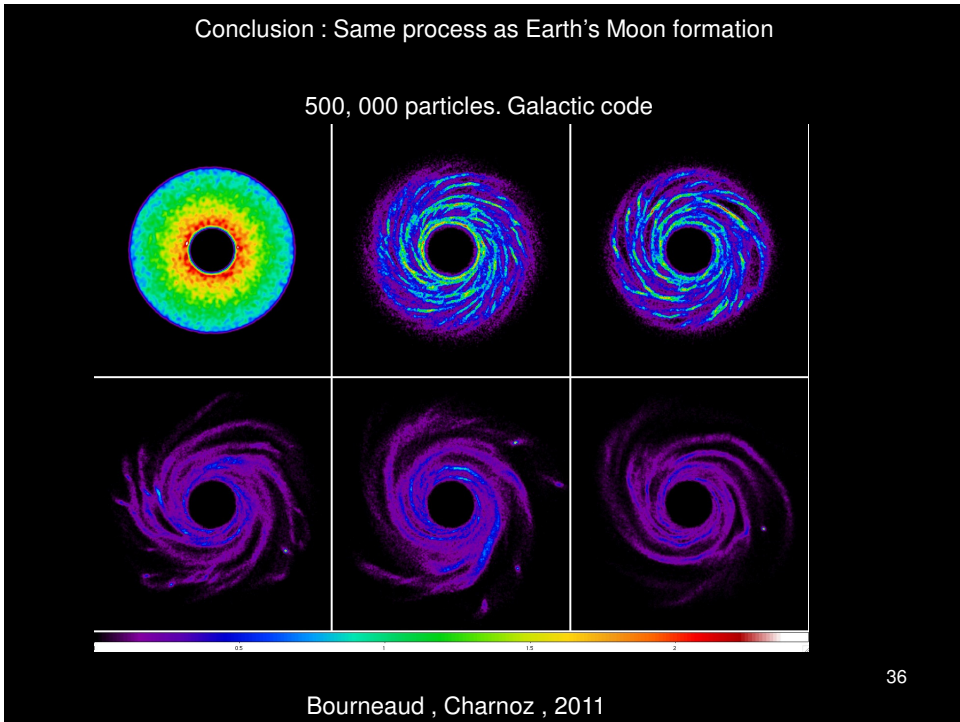
Gian planets

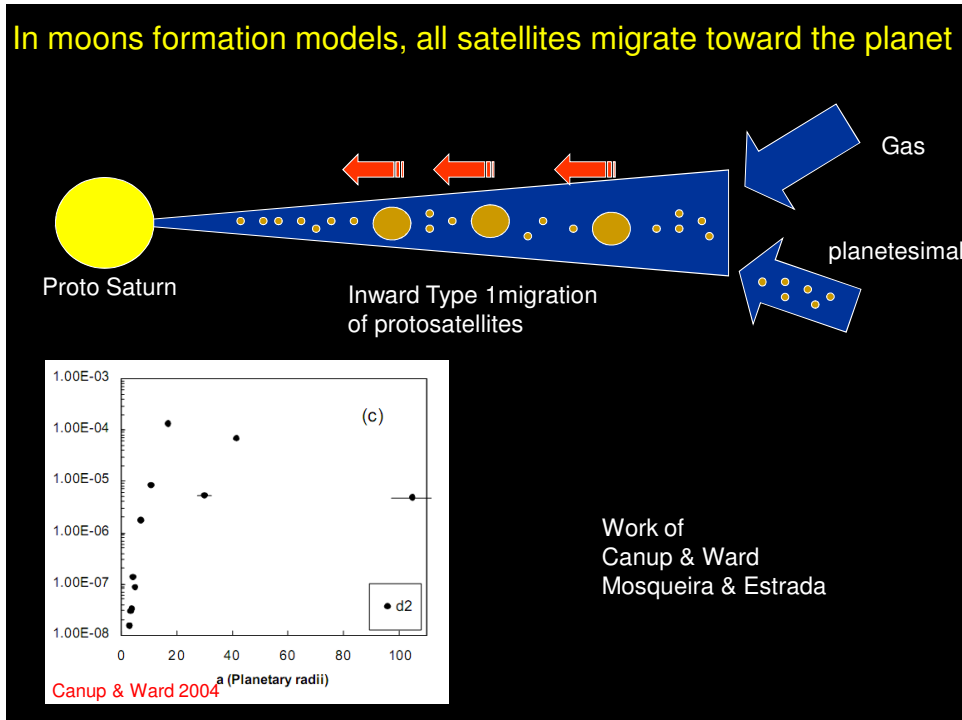
Extra-Solar planets

### Understand rings

### Related works @ ESLAB

1. Aurelien CRIDA (MONDAY): analytical description , consequences for Uranus, Neptune, Earth
  2. François REMU (MONDAY): interior of Saturn, possibility of a strong dissipation
  3. Pascal ROSENBLATT (TUESDAY) : formation of Phobos and Deimos from a viscously spreading circum-martian disk
  4. Radwan TAJEDDINE (WEDNESDAY) : constraining Mimas interior for possible irregular core.
  5. Kevin DEGIORGIO (WEDNESDAY) :constrains on craters properties of Saturn's MSM
- Etc.





**The tidal effects and the estimation of Q**

Estimation of lower bound of Q for the giant planets by Goldreich and Soter (1966)

$Q_{\text{Jupiter}} \geq 1.0 \cdot 10^5$  (Io)  
 $Q_{\text{Saturn}} \geq 6.0 \cdot 10^4$  (Mimas)  
 $Q_{\text{Uranus}} \geq 7.2 \cdot 10^4$  (Miranda)

Let's remind that:

$Q_{\text{Mars}} \approx 80$   
 $Q_{\text{Earth}} \approx 260$   
 $Q_{\text{Jg}} \approx 20$

Values further improved by Gavrilov and Zharkov (1977) (Same  $k_2/Q$ , but improved  $k_2$ )

$Q_{\text{Jupiter}} \geq 2.5 \cdot 10^4$  (Io)  
 $Q_{\text{Saturn}} \geq 1.4 \cdot 10^4$  (Mimas)  
 $Q_{\text{Uranus}} \geq 5.0 \cdot 10^3$  (Miranda)

These values are still good references!

## Goldreich 1966 's arguments for Q

Gives a lower bound of Q assuming

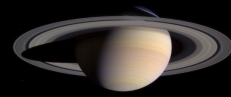
- All satellites formed simultaneously
- Mimas start at synchronous orbit (@117 000 km) and end at its current location
- Mimas appeared 4.5 Gyr ago
- Mimas appeared with its FINAL mass

## In our model we get

- ~~All satellites formed simultaneously :-~~  
— **No , ~1Gy delay between Mimas & Rhea**
- 
- ~~Mimas start at synchronous orbit (@117 000 km) and end at its current location~~  
• **No, ~ formed ~140000 km**
- 
- ~~Mimas appeared 4.5 Gyr ago~~  
• **No < 3 Gyr ago**
- 
- ~~Mimas appeared with its FINAL mass~~  
• **No : slow accretion**

/// Application to the Jovian and Saturnian system

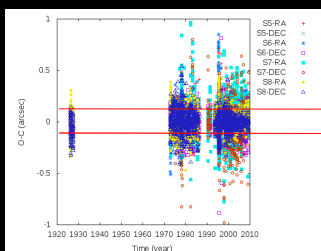
Collaboration with: Ö.Karatekin, J.Desmars, S.Charnoz, J.E.Arlot, N.Emelianov, C.Le Poncin-Lafitte, S.Mathis, F.Remus, G. Tobie, J.-P.Zahn



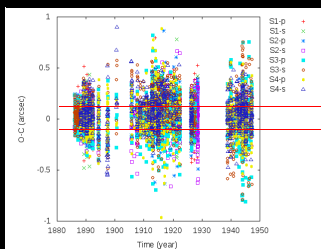
The application for Saturn is slightly different than for Jupiter:

- 1- the ring is exerting a torque on the satellites (Mimas 2:1 resonance!)
- 2- the observations are less accurate
- 3- dissipation in the satellites will be harder to catch (smaller radii)

/// Application to the Jovian and Saturnian system



0.1 arcsec ~ 600 km



→Residuals after fitting the initial state vectors of all the eight main Saturn moons, the ratio  $k_2/Q$  inside Saturn and a constant drift  $da/dt$ .

Observation subset:	$\nu_a$	$\sigma_a$	$\nu_p$	$\sigma_p$	$N_a$	$N_p$
All Observations:						
S1	0.0140	0.1027	0.0131	0.1152	1285	1298
S2	-0.0032	0.0988	0.0048	0.1069	3640	3643
S3	0.0157	0.1130	-0.0003	0.1152	4702	4700
S4	0.0150	0.1045	0.0023	0.1096	3775	3776
S5	0.0113	0.1088	0.0030	0.1151	4471	4489
S6	0.0238	0.0937	-0.0049	0.1084	2842	2836
S7	0.0017	0.3275	0.1068	0.4838	138	113
S8	0.0179	0.0766	0.0076	0.1246	1098	1101

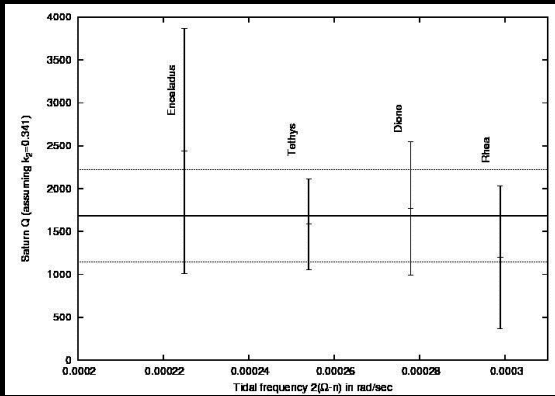
Observation subset:	$\nu_{\text{ccs}}(\delta)$	$\sigma_{\text{ccs}}(\delta)$	$\nu_{\text{B}}$	$\sigma_{\text{B}}$	$N_{\text{ccs}}$	$N_{\text{B}}$
All observations						
S1	-0.0057	0.0952	-0.0108	0.0725	371	371
S2	0.0019	0.1040	0.0028	0.1101	822	822
S3	-0.0199	0.1267	0.0122	0.1067	1972	1972
S4	0.0020	0.1066	0.0113	0.1067	2271	2271
S5	0.0047	0.0899	-0.0023	0.0863	2977	2977
S6	0.0121	0.1060	-0.0171	0.1070	3271	3271
S7	0.1098	0.2984	0.0036	0.2166	973	973
S8	0.0140	0.1143	-0.0052	0.1155	2008	2008

Lainey et al. (submitted)

$k_2/Q = (2.3 \pm 0.7) \times 10^{-4}$  ;  
 $da/dt = -(15.7 \pm 4.4) \times 10^{-15}$  au/day.

/// Application to the Jovian and Saturnian system

In a second step we release as free parameters one  $k_2/Q$  ratio per tide raising satellite...

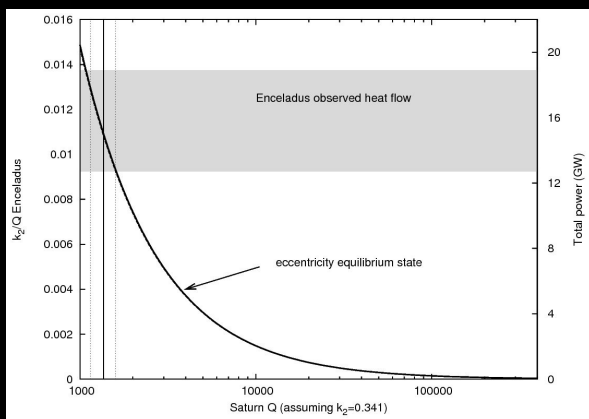


Tidal dissipation seems to be a smooth function of tidal frequency. Hence, such strong dissipation cannot come from the atmosphere.  
 → Strong tidal dissipation may arise in the icy core.

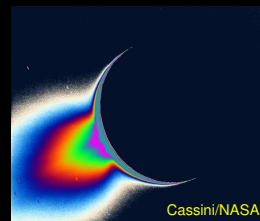
Since the Jovian core may be much smaller than Saturn's, this may explain the order of magnitude in the tidal ratio obtained.

/// Application to the Jovian and Saturnian system

Meyer & Wisdom (2007) showed that tidal heating equilibrium is not possible for Enceladus (using  $Q \geq 18,000$  from Sinclair 1983).



But our present result suggests that it is possible ( $Q=1682 \pm 540$ )



## Low impact velocities of impactors ??

See Nico's talk (@PSG, Neukum's team)



## CONCLUSION

A single mechanism may have formed all satellites < Titan:

*Ring viscous spreading + Saturn intense tides*

Mimas age much younger than Rhea

Moons are « pre-differentiated » when they form

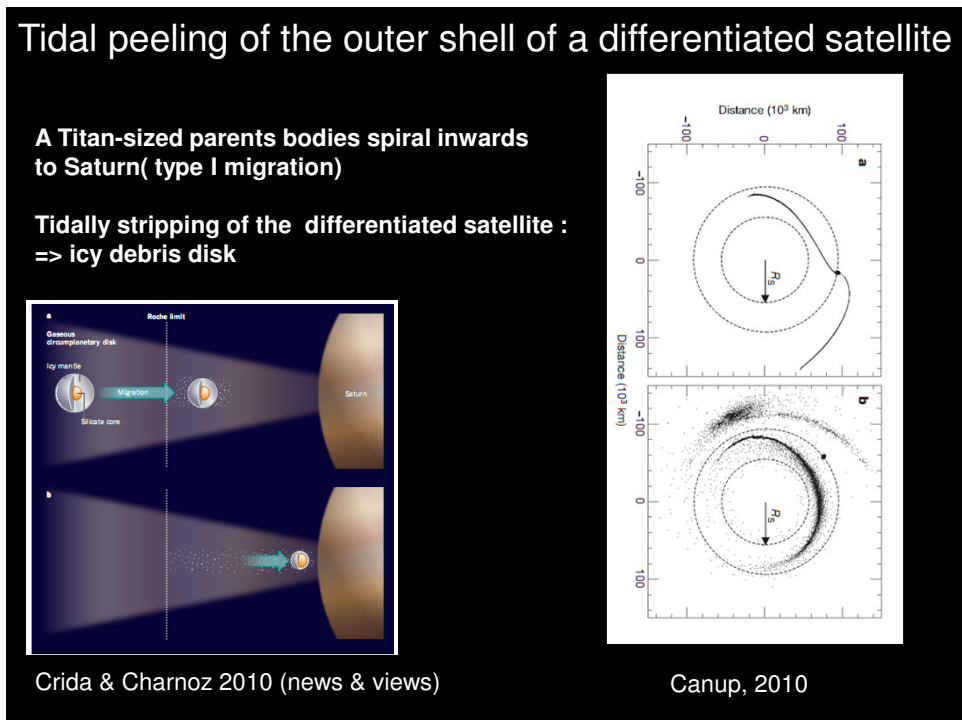
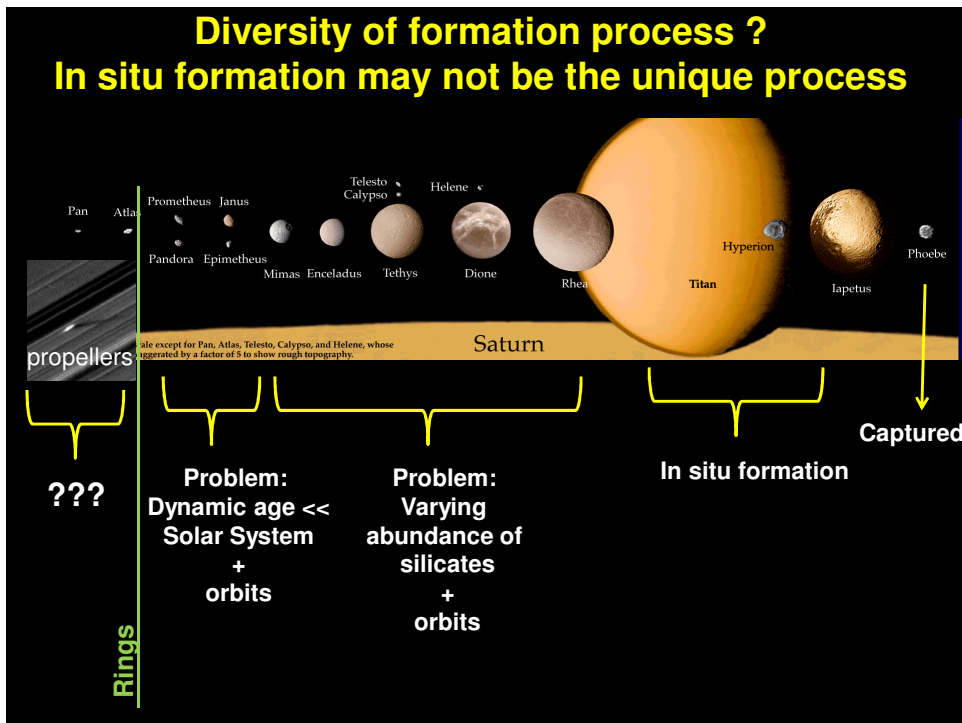
### Solves

- cratering age Rhea Vs. Iapetus

\* Implantation of Saturn's icy moons at their current location (with  $q=1600$ )

\* Do not need radiogenic heating for differentiation







## Rhea Vs. Iapetus craters ... :also very mysterious

Saturn's gravitational focusing :

Rhea has ~ 100 times less crater than expected if impacted by the same heliocentric population as Iapetus

Smith et al. (1981) , Zahnle et al. (2003), Dones et al.

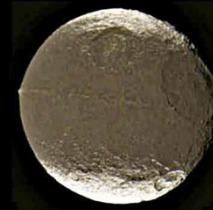


Indeed :

$$\text{Focus} \propto (1 + V_{\text{esc}}(r)^2 / V_{\infty}^2) = (1 + 2GM / (RV_{\infty}^2))$$

⇒ Crater density  $\sim \propto 1/R$  close to the planet

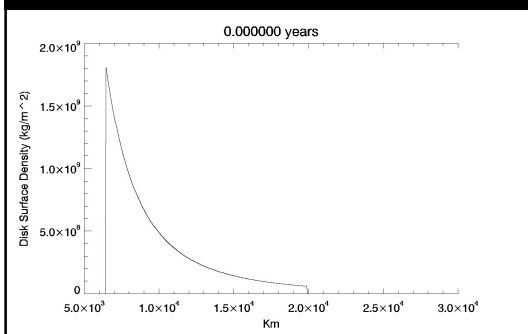
⇒ The crater density on Rhea should be  $\gg$  Iapetus



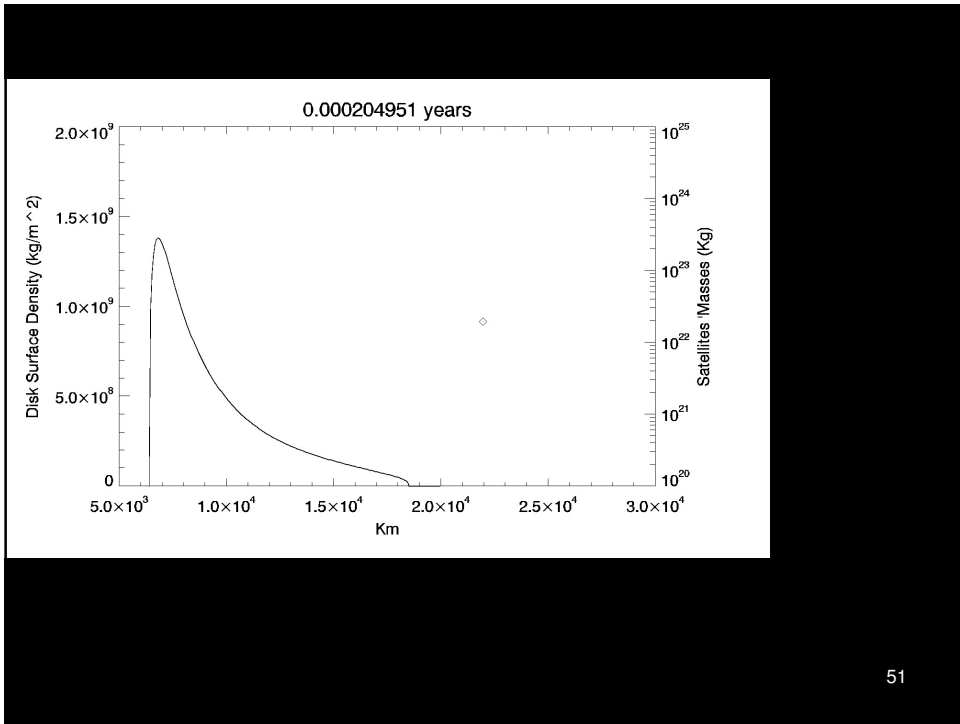
## Travaux déjà faits / Outils à notre disposition

1) Modèle hydro de disque + accréation de satellites pour les sat. De Saturne

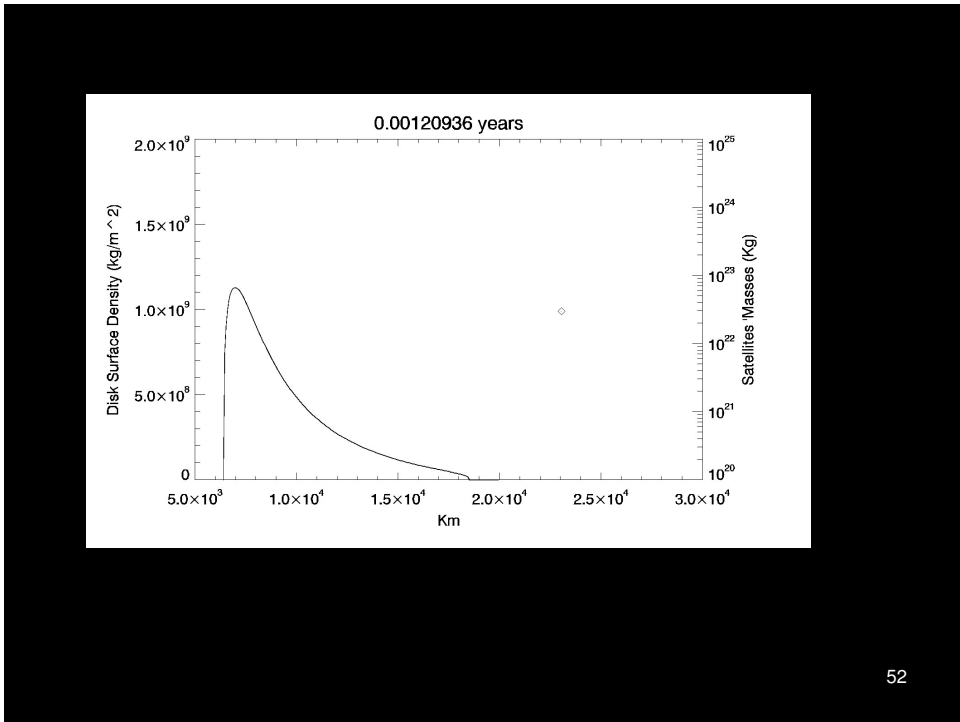
⇒ Charnoz et al., Nature 2010



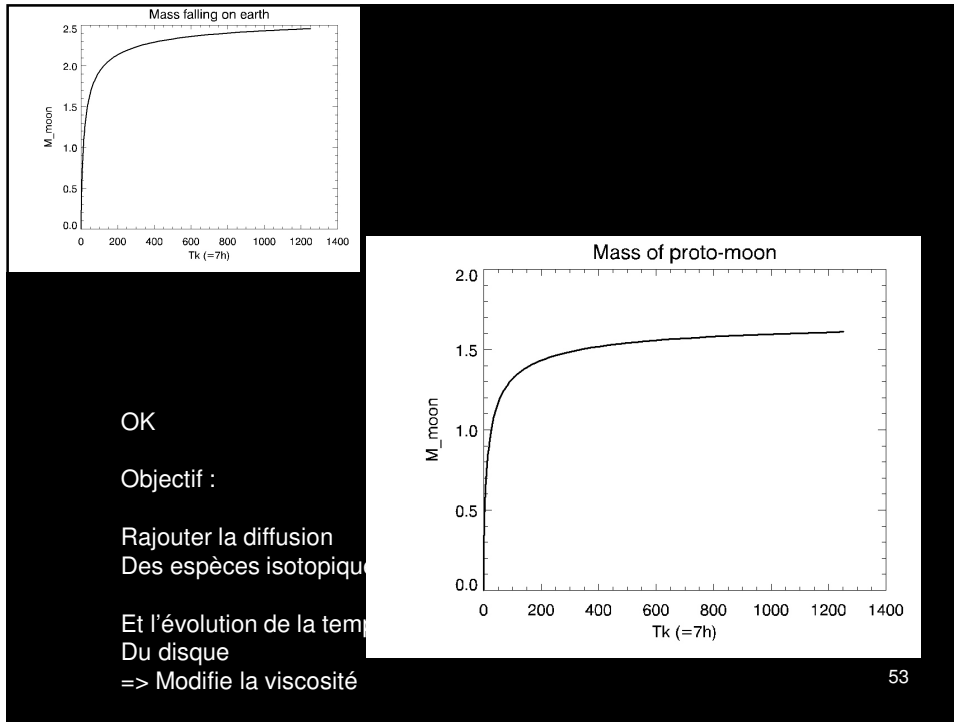
50



51

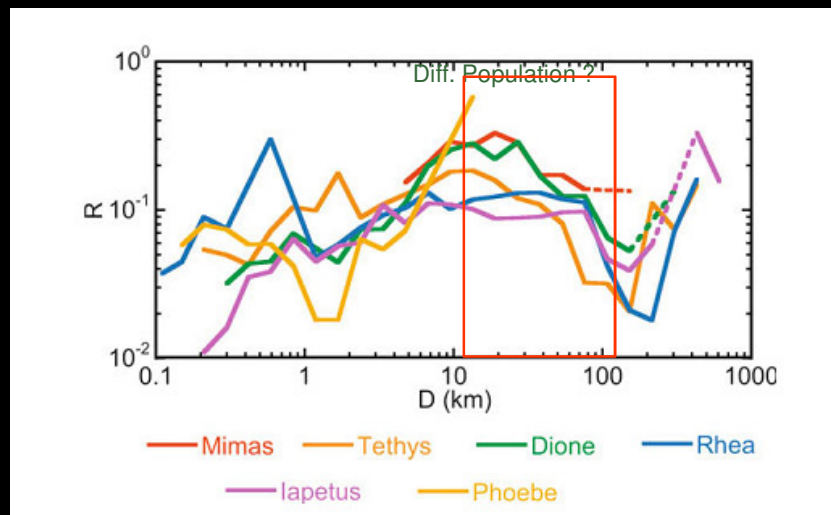


52



## Craters records of icy moons

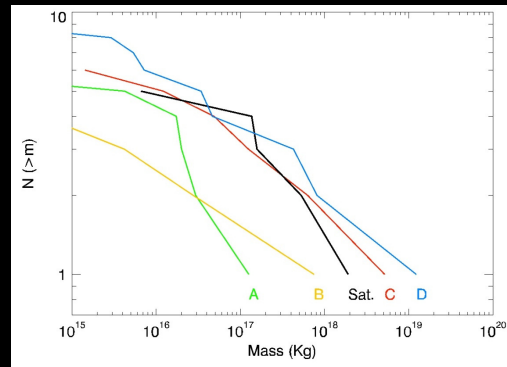
« R-plot »: relative to a  $D^{-3}$  distribution



[Mimas, Tethys Dione] Vs. [Rhea, Iapetus]

Kirchoff & Chen (2010) .

## Compatible with Mass distribution of small moons



+ Existence of Saturn's F ring

+ Confinement of the ring's outer edge

## What happened on Rhea or Iapetus ?

Zahnle et al. 2003). The Voyager results seem to imply one or more of the following: (1) Iapetus and Rhea were cratered by different populations of impactors; (2) the most heavily cratered terrains on all the moons are saturated; (3) more crater relaxation has taken place on Rhea than on Iapetus; or (4) Rhea's surface is, on average, considerably younger than that of Iapetus (Lissauer et al. 1988).

Dones et al., 2010

Maybe a population of irregular moons have impacted Rhea ?  
(Nesvorny et al., 2007)

?

## Interesting properties of heterogeneous accretion in rings: Exploring some basic physics

Consensus that Rings may have formed from the destruction of a satellite or comets (Harris, 2984)

- Canup 2010 : tidal stripping of a Titan-sized differentiated satellites + elimination of the core
- Charnoz et al., 2009 : impact on a differentiated satellite during the LHB
- Dones 1991 : Tidal stripping of comets



In all cases, you end with a mix between ice and silicates  
(in the Canup case, maybe most of silicates are already eliminated)

The tidal efficacy inside Saturn is poorly constrained :

It is given by  $K^2/Q$  ( $K^2 \sim 0.341$  for Saturn)

When  $Q$  is high Dissipation is weak => slow orbital expansion

When  $Q$  is low, dissipation is strong => fast orbital expansion

**Canonic value :  $Q=18000$  (from Goldreich & Soter 1966)**

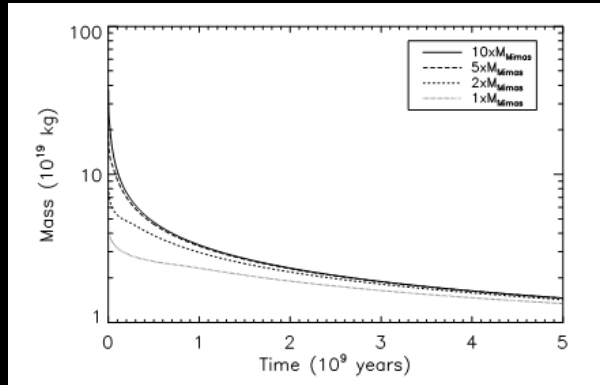
Assuming that Mimas must be at its current location after 4.5 Gy of  
Orbital expansion from the Synchronous orbit

**New measurements from Astrometric observations :  $Q=1600$  !!  
(unpublished) .. May reveal the presence of a core**

**BOTH VALUES WILL BE CONSIDERED**

**MAIN CONSEQUENCE 2 :**

Final mass of the ring ~independent of the initial mass

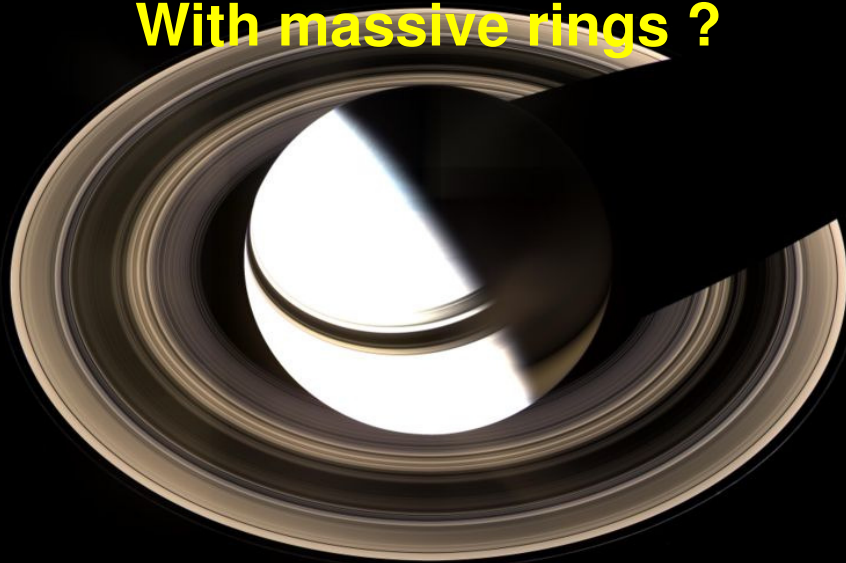


Viscous spreading  
timescales  
 $\Delta T \propto M_i^{1/2}$

**Asymptotic ring Mass**  
 $1,02 \cdot 10^{19} \text{ Kg} \sim (1/3 \text{ Mimas})$  (Salmon et al., 2010)

Coherent with Robbins et al. (2010)

**Is it possible to start  
With massive rings ?**



Does an initial massive ring could be compatible  
with the current ring system ?

## Ring's viscous spreading : Revisiting old results

Long term spreading of rings using « realistic » viscosity

Salmon, J., Charnoz S., Crida A., Icarus , June 2010

$$\nu = \nu_{\text{trans}} + \nu_{\text{coll}} + \nu_{\text{grav}}, \quad (7)$$

with

$$\nu_{\text{trans}} = \begin{cases} \frac{\sigma_r^2}{2\Omega} \left( \frac{0.46\tau}{1+\tau^2} \right) & \text{if } Q > 2, \\ \frac{1}{2} 26 r_h^5 \frac{G^2 \Sigma^2}{\Omega^3} & \text{if } Q < 2, \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

$$\nu_{\text{coll}} = r_p^2 \Omega \tau \quad \forall Q, \quad (9)$$

$$\nu_{\text{grav}} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } Q > 2, \\ \nu_{\text{trans}} & \text{if } Q < 2, \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Daisaka. (2001)

Viscosity is HIGH when  $Q < 2$  (self-gravitating)

Viscosity is LOW when  $Q > 2$  (non self-gravitating)

Toomre's parameter

$$Q = \frac{\Omega \sigma_r}{3.36 G \Sigma}$$

## Constant viscosity Vs. Realistic viscosity

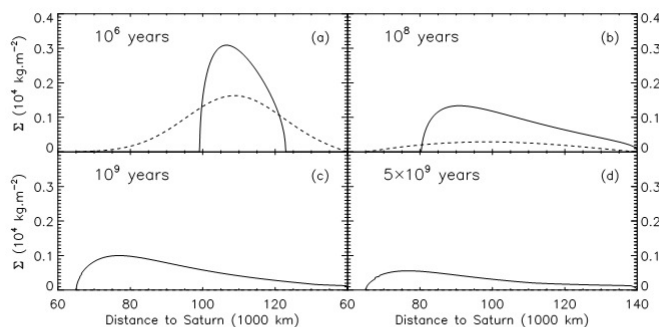


Fig. 4. Disk surface density at different evolution times with variable (solid line) and constant (dashed line) viscosities. (a) At 1Myrs of evolution. (b) At 100 Myrs of evolution. (c) At 1 Gyrs of evolution. (d) At 5 Gyrs of evolution. The disk with constant viscosity is emptied in  $\sim 10^9$  years, while the disk with variable viscosity remains massive over 5 Gyrs with a density peak inward and lower densities outward.

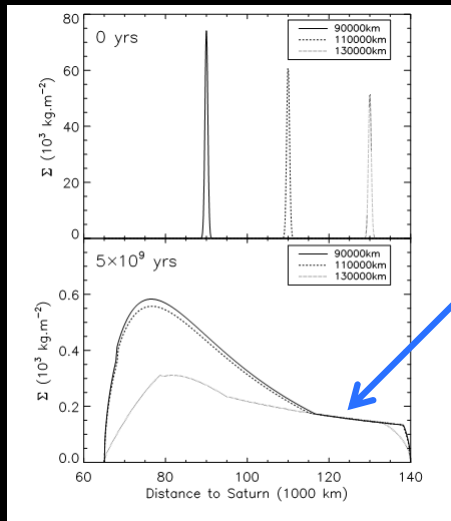
Spreading Timescale :  $\Delta R \propto t^{1/4}$

Salmon et al., 2010

(rather than  $\Delta R \propto t^{1/2}$  for cst. Viscosity)

**Independence from initial conditions**

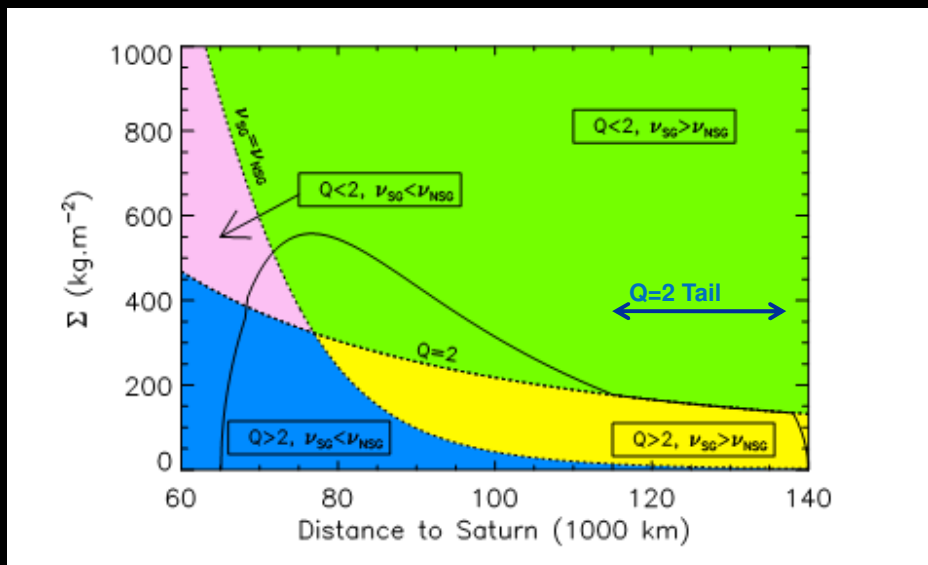
**Formation of a « density plateau » at large Radius**



$Q \sim 2$

**MAIN CONSEQUENCE 1 :**

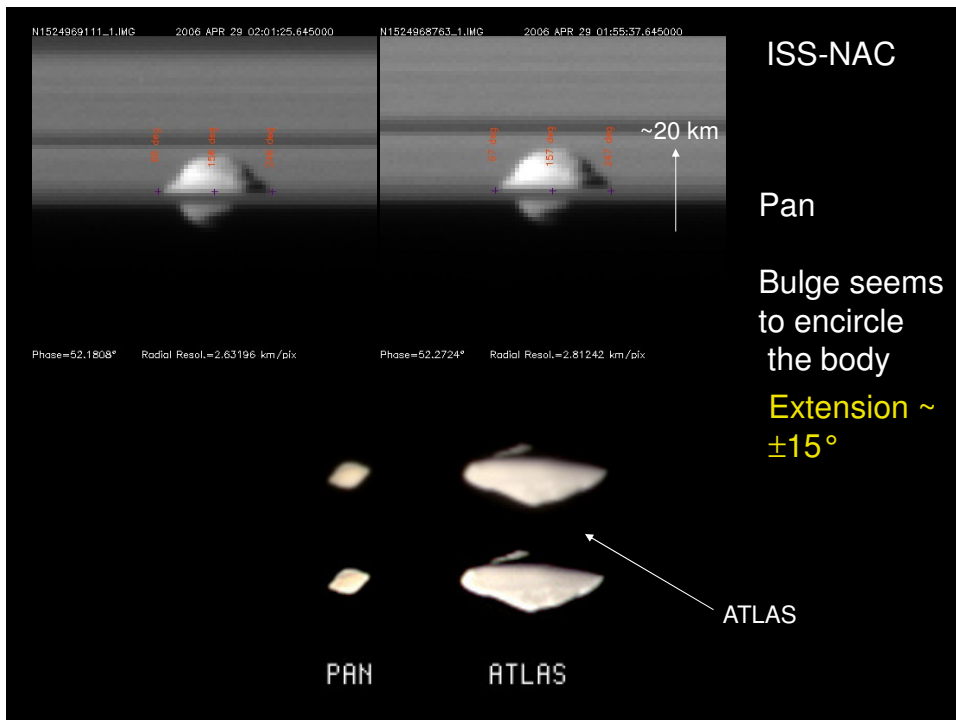
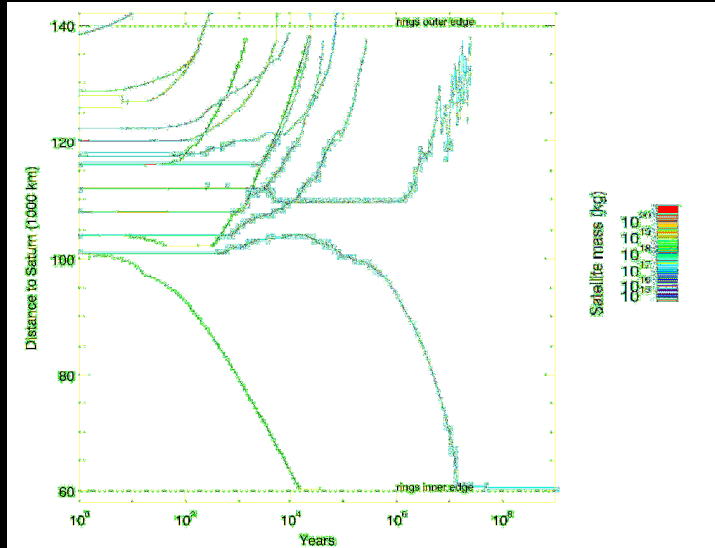
**Formation of a  $Q=2$  plateau at large radii ( $\Leftrightarrow$  A Ring ?)**





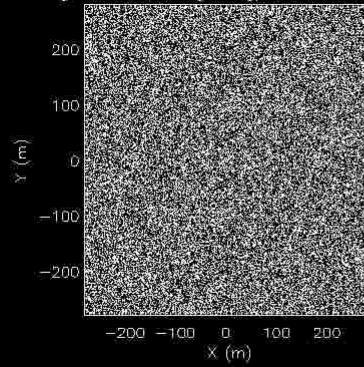
**Migration of silicates chunks:**  
**Multiple tests with multiple disks : Always end in ejection**

Those suffering  
 Type 1 migration  
 Are longer to be  
 ejected



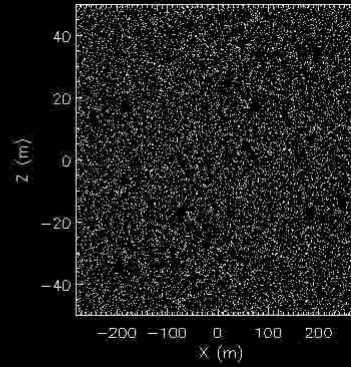
Example : Local simulation of the A portion of the ring @ 140000 km :  
Beyond the Roche limit

F ring, Tau=0.5, Sig=60g/cm<sup>2</sup>, 50000 part.



Ring box seen from above

0.0020000000 Orbits

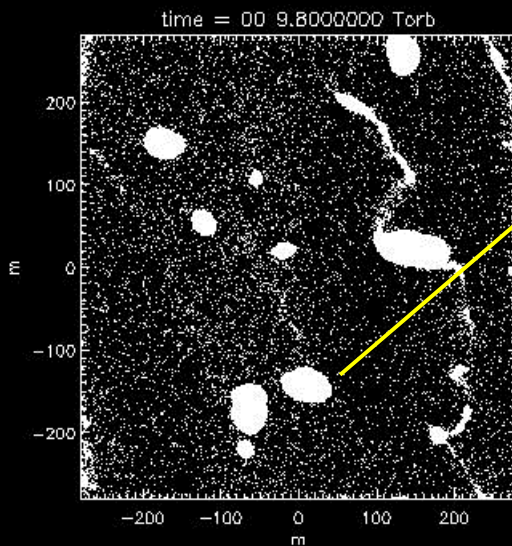


Ring box seen from the edge

S. Charnoz & D. Gavem, AIM-Univ. Paris 7-CEA

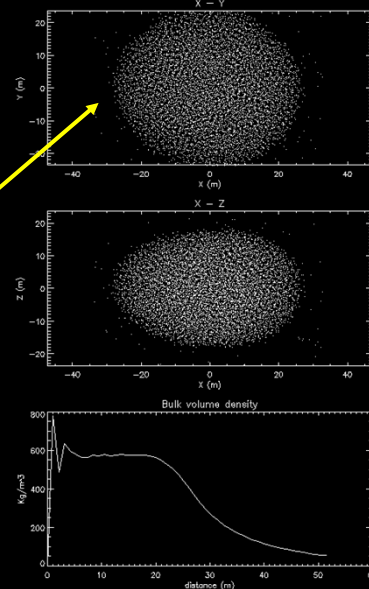
Simulation : S. Charnoz

Saturn grav. Field + Particle collisions + Self gravity



Aggregates are created rapidly...and assemble into small

Conclusion : once the material spreads out of the R.L. it forms aggregates



## Implication for rings

- Very massive initial rings (100x today~4 Rhea masses)
- Ring's age  $\leftrightarrow$  Rhea age ( ~ 3GY)
- Saturn 's A ring : asymptotic state of main rings

### SOLVES

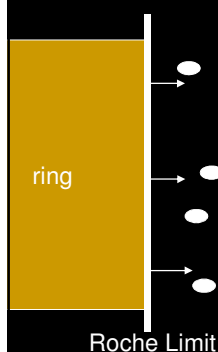
- Darkening problem of the rings
- Missing silicates in Saturn rings  
may be inside the moons  
(Rhea & Dione in majority)

### CAVEATS

- Simple model



## Satellite accretion from ring material : Instantaneous accretio @Roche limit (timescale splitting)



When the disk spreads beyond  
the Roche Limit (sense of Canup & Esposito 1995)  
 $\Rightarrow$ A satellite is formed

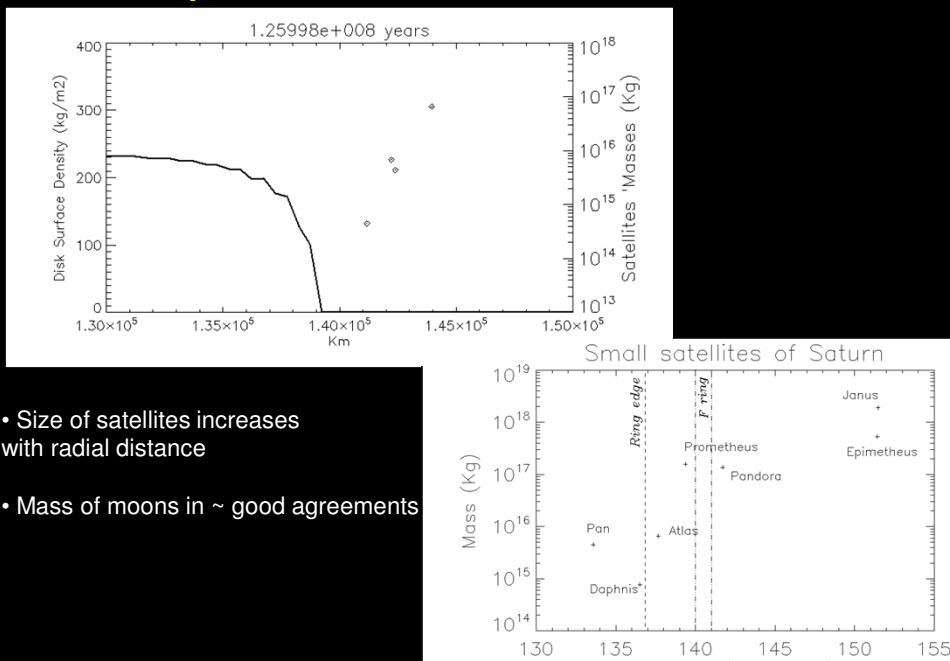
**Accretion among moonlets :**  
Simple statistical criterion (Karjaleinen 2007 for aggregates)

## In summary : the fate of silicate chunks

A rough picture.... ???

- \* Large chunks (> Mimas) : leave first => big moons
- \* Small chunks : leave in second => inside big moons  
Or inside Pan, Atlas (the « dense » chard)
- \* Very small chunk : still inside the rings  
(parent bodies of propellers ???)

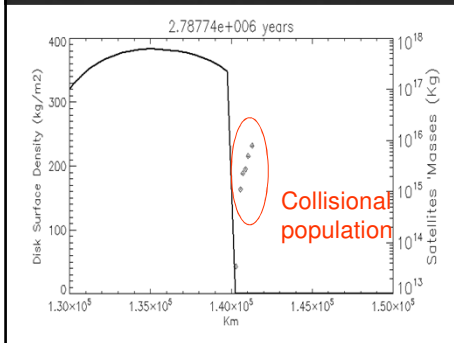
## Implication : Masses and orbital architecture



- Size of satellites increases with radial distance
- Mass of moons in ~ good agreements

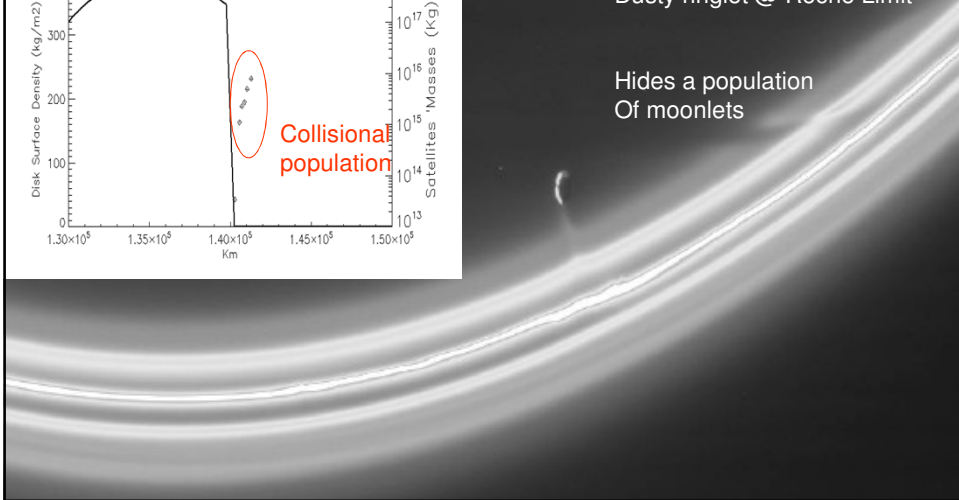
### Implication : Origin of Saturn's F ring ?

At  $T = 10^6$  years : A population of moonlets that may form the F ring



F ring :  
Dusty ringlet @ Roche Limit

Hides a population  
Of moonlets



### CONCLUSION

**A preliminary model for a new type of object:  
« ring born satellites »**

#### Consistent with

- ✓ The mass , shapes and spectral properties of the moonlets
- ✓ The mass Vs. Distance relation
- ☞ The confinement of the rings' outer edge
- ☞ The origin of the F ring = product of viscous evolution ??

#### Open Questions and future work

- Need for a better dynamical model
- Effect of Meteoritic bombardment ?

**ACCRETION MAY BE ON-GOING AT THE RING EDGE**

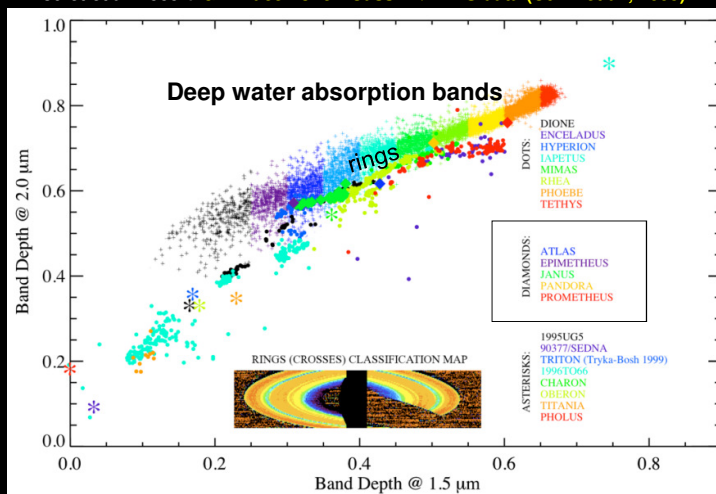
**SATURN'S SMALL SATELLITES MAY HAVE RECENTLY ACCRETED**

charnoz@cea.fr

THE END

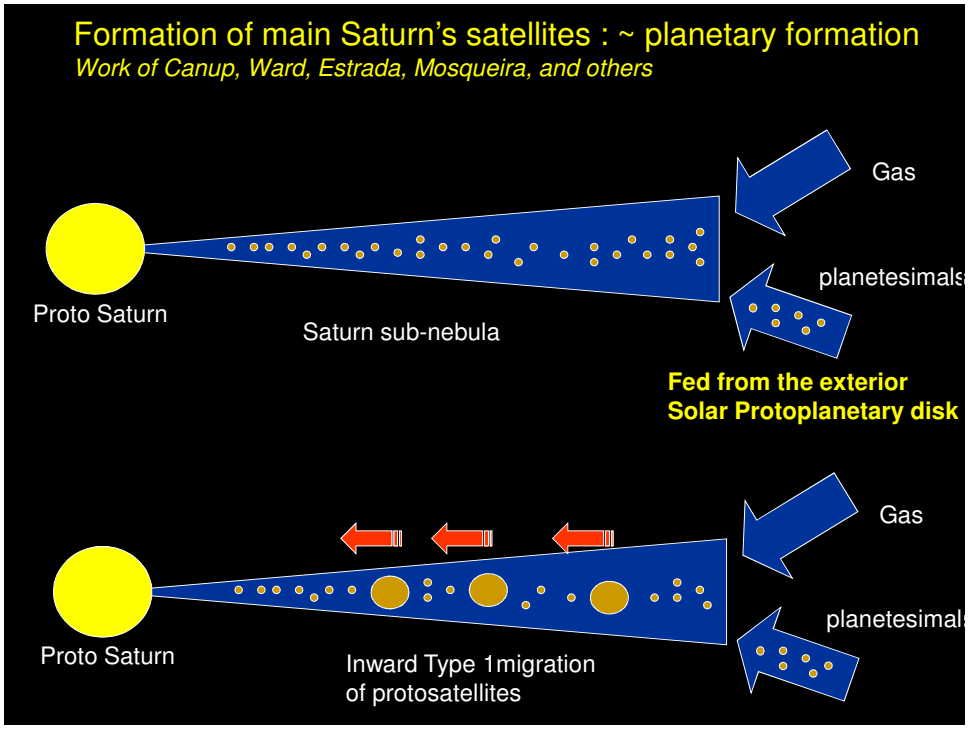
## Spectral similarities with rings

Poulet et al. 1999 + G. Fillacchione : Cassini / VIMS data (Cuzzi et al., 2009)



Absence of silicates  
Work of Poulet et al.  
Nicholson et al.

=> only water ice detectable



### Physical characteristics

#### LOW DENSITIES

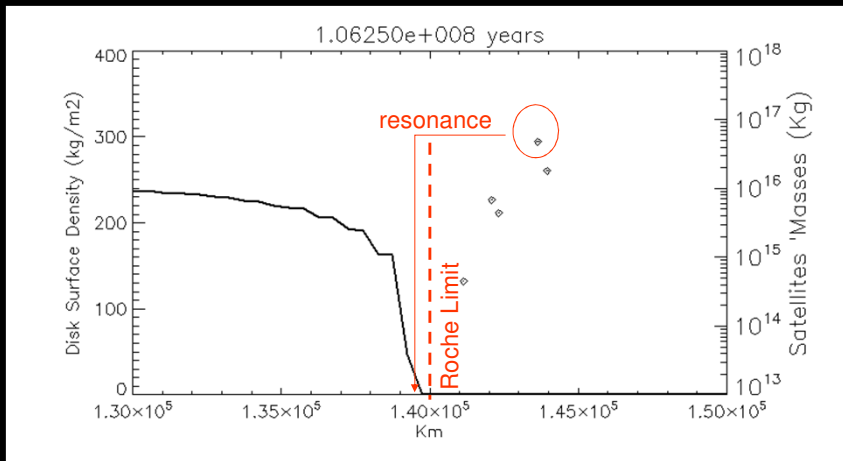
obtained from satellite masses, and modeled ellipsoidal shapes and given in gm/cm<sup>3</sup>. Fitted ellipsoid dimensions for Pan and Atlas with ridges removed are still like flying saucers: 15.9, 15.1, 10.7 km, and 16.9, 16.0, 9.3 km, respectively.

Satellite	$a_{\text{orbital}}$	Mass	$r_m$	a	b	c	$\pm a,b,c$	c/a	$a_R$	$b_R = c_R$	$a/a_R$	$P_{\text{crit}}$	$\rho$	$\rho/P_{\text{crit}}$
Pan	133584	$495 \pm 075$	$14.2 \pm 1.3$	17.4	15.8	10.4	2.0,1.3,84	0.60	19.1	12.7	0.91	0.45	$0.41 \pm 0.15$	$0.92 \pm 0.32$
Daphnis	136504	$0077 \pm 0015$	$3.9 \pm 0.8$	4.5	4.3	3.1	0.8,0.8,0.9	0.69	4.9	3.2	0.93	0.42	$0.31 \pm 0.20$	$0.73 \pm 0.47$
Atlas	137670	$.66 \pm .06$	$15.1 \pm 1.4$	20.9	18.1	8.9	1.4,2.5,0.8	0.43	21.6	14.4	0.97	0.41	$0.46 \pm 0.10$	$1.12 \pm 0.24$
Prometheus	139380	$15.66 \pm 20$	$43.1 \pm 2.7$	66.3	39.5	30.7	3.2,3.2,2.0	0.46	62.9	41.9	1.05	0.40	$0.47 \pm 0.065$	$1.18 \pm 0.17$
Pandora	141720	$13.58 \pm 23$	$40.3 \pm 2.2$	51.6	39.8	32.0	1.8,2.1,2.9	0.62	61.0	40.7	0.85	0.38	$0.50 \pm 0.085$	$1.32 \pm 0.23$
Epimetheus	151410	$63.10 \pm 14$	$56.7 \pm 1.9$	58.0	58.7	53.2	2.5,3.2,0.8	0.92	102.7	68.4	0.57	0.31	$0.69 \pm 0.13$	$2.25 \pm 0.42$
Janus	151460	$191.37 \pm 005$	$89.6 \pm 2.0$	97.4	96.9	76.2	2.9,2.2,1.2	0.78	157.4	105	0.62	0.31	$0.64 \pm 0.064$	$2.06 \pm 0.21$
Methone	194440		$1.6 \pm 0.6$				0.6	--					0.15	
Pallene	212280		$2.2 \pm 0.3$	2.6	2.2	1.8	0.4,0.3,0.2	0.69				0.11		
Telesto	294710		$12.4 \pm 0.4$	15.7	11.7	10.4	0.6,0.3,0.3	0.66	--	--	--	0.04	--	
Calypso	294710		$10.6 \pm 0.7$	15.0	11.5	7	0.3,2.3,0.6	0.47	--	--	--	0.04	--	
Polydeuces	377200		$1.3 \pm 0.4$	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.6,0.4,0.2	0.67				0.02		
Helene	377420		$16.5 \pm 0.6$	19.4	18.5	12.3	0.2,1.0,1.0	0.63				0.02		

Porco et al., Science 2007      Mean Density ~ 600 Kg/M<sup>3</sup>

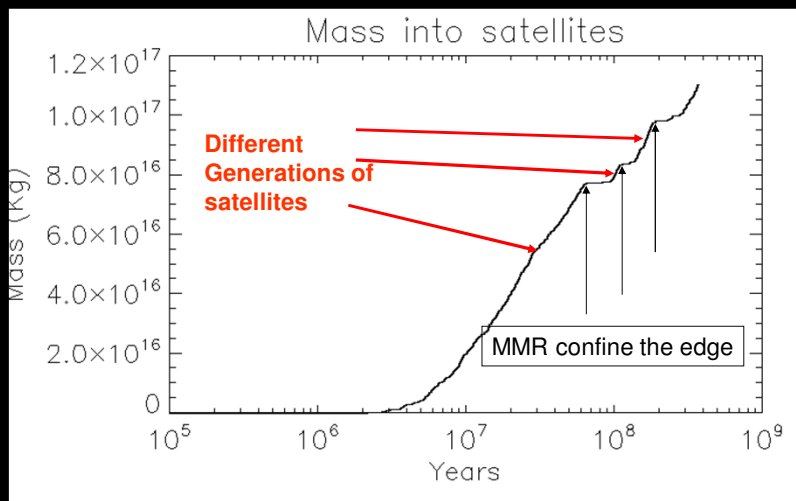
**SELF REGULATING PROCESS**

**At  $t=10^8$  years : the biggest moonlets repels the ring inward the Roche Limit : The accretion process stops !**



⇒ The most massive moon has just enough mass to confine the ring edge :  
Once it forms the production of satellites stops

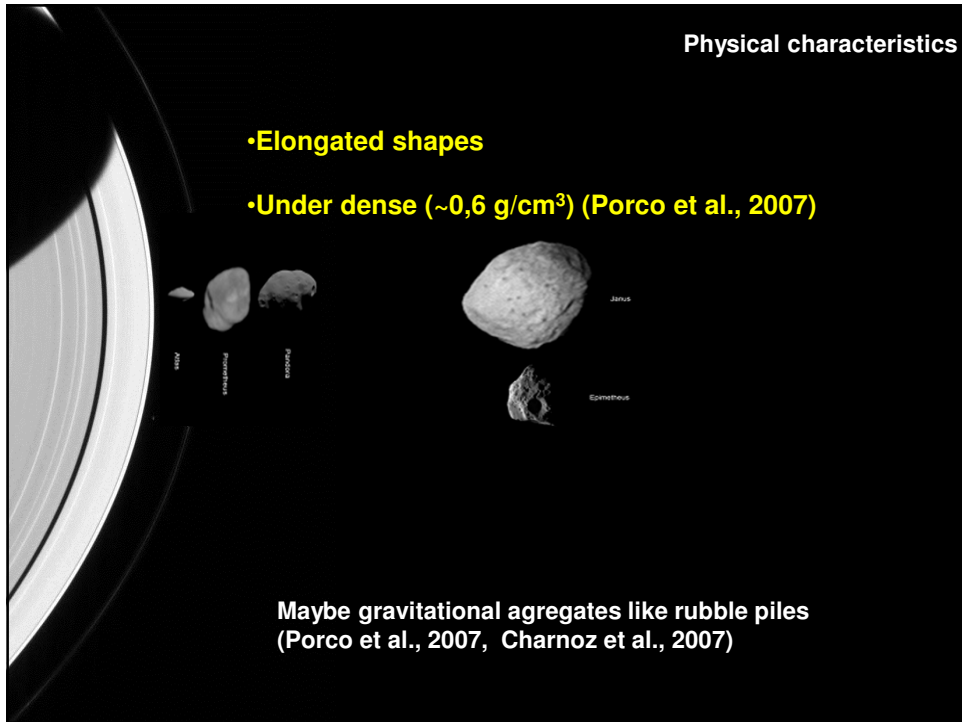
**Birth of several generations of satellites :  
Birth control : MMR Resonances confining or leaving the edge**





Physical characteristics

- Elongated shapes
- Under dense ( $\sim 0,6 \text{ g/cm}^3$ ) (Porco et al., 2007)



Maybe gravitational aggregates like rubble piles (Porco et al., 2007, Charnoz et al., 2007)

Physical characteristics

### Mass Vs. Distance relation

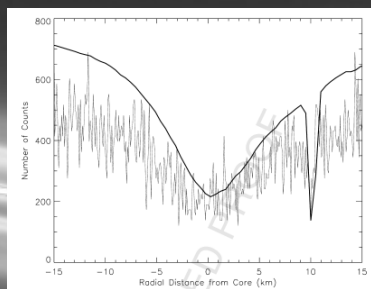
Maybe 2 distinct dynamical/ Accretional regimes ?

## puzzling dynamical properties

### The F ring

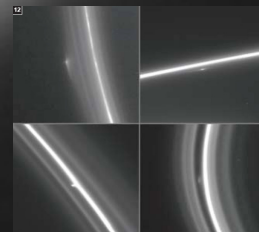
- numerous population of moonlets  
(Work of Porco 2005, Murray et al. 2008, Esposito et al. 2008)  
Agregates in the ring core

- Near the « Roche Limit » (in the meaning of Canup & Esposito 1995)

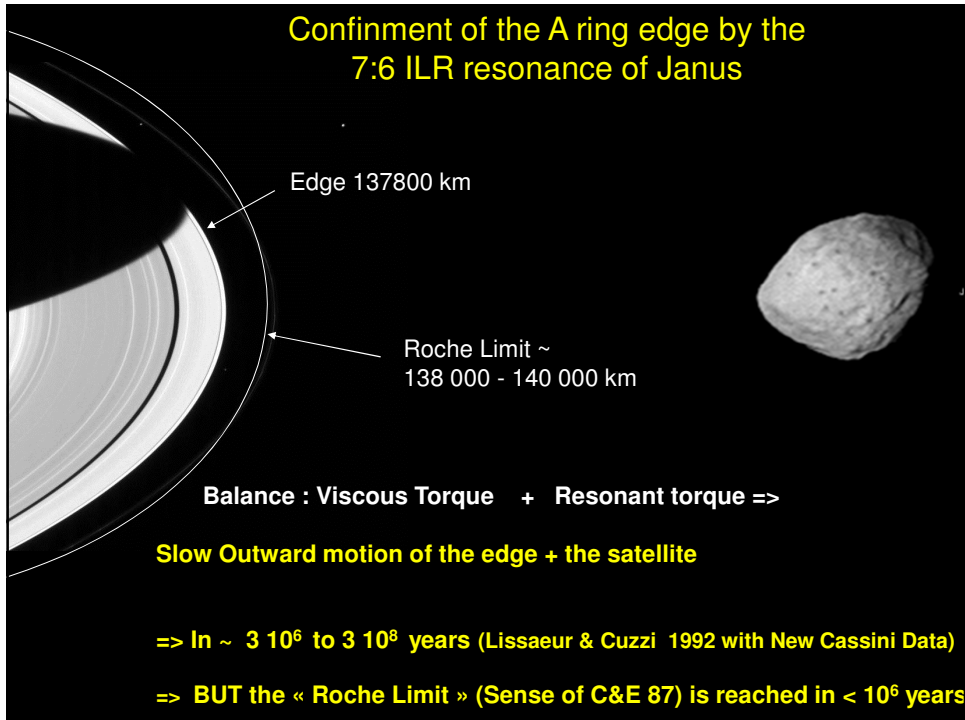


Esposito et al., 2008

Moonlets/clumps



**Confinement of the A ring edge by the 7:6 ILR resonance of Janus**



Edge 137800 km

Roche Limit ~  
138 000 - 140 000 km

Balance : Viscous Torque + Resonant torque =>

**Slow Outward motion of the edge + the satellite**

=> In ~  $3 \cdot 10^6$  to  $3 \cdot 10^8$  years (Lissaeur & Cuzzi 1992 with New Cassini Data)

=> **BUT the « Roche Limit » (Sense of C&E 87) is reached in  $< 10^6$  years**

## The Satellite Torque on the disk

1- Sum on all 1st order resonances up to the satellites ' Hill sphere

2- 2 regimes of resonances

Isolated res :

$$|\Gamma_m| \sim f m^2 \sum_0 a_i^4 \omega_i^2 \left(\frac{M_S}{M_P}\right)^2 \quad (47a)$$

Overlapping res :

$$\left|\frac{d\Gamma}{dr}\right| \sim f' \sum_0 a_i^3 \omega_i^2 \left(\frac{M_S}{M_P}\right)^2 \left(\frac{a_S}{r - a_S}\right)^4 \quad (47b)$$

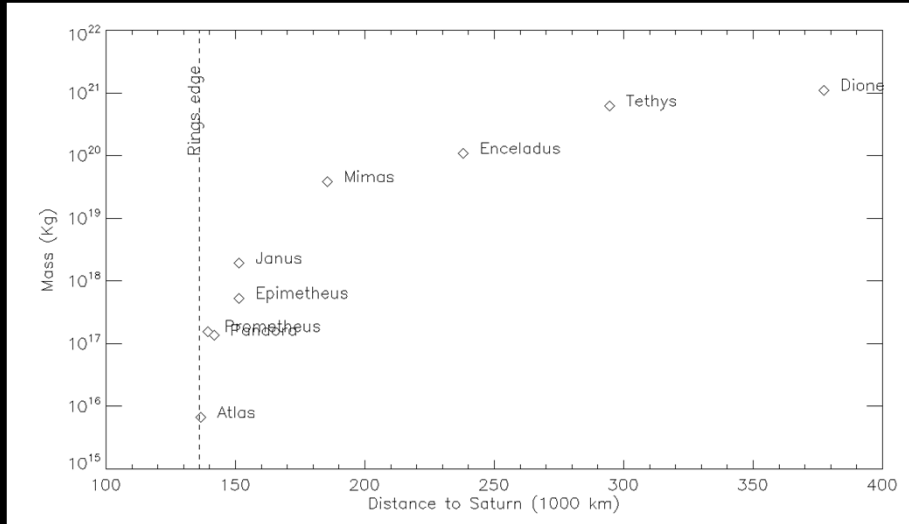
(Meyer-Vernet, Sicardy 1987)

Test the validity of the code : Could reproduce

Gap opening, edge confinement, Type 1 migration, Type 2 migration etc...

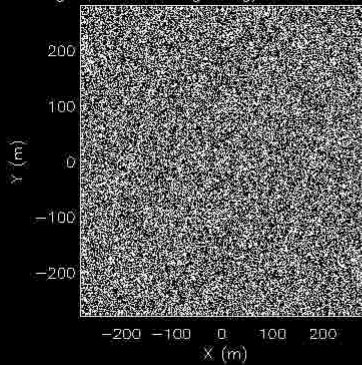
Physical characteristics

Mass Vs. Distance



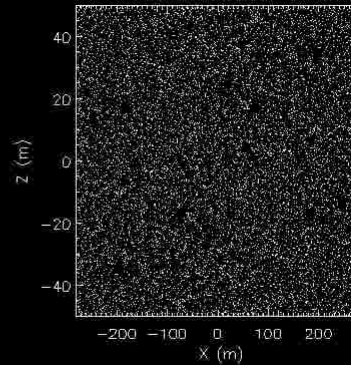
Exemple : Local simulation of the A portion of the ring @ 140000 km :  
Beyond the Roche limit

F ring, Tau=0.5, Sig=60g/cm<sup>2</sup>, 50000 part.



Ring box seen from above

0.0020000000 Orbits

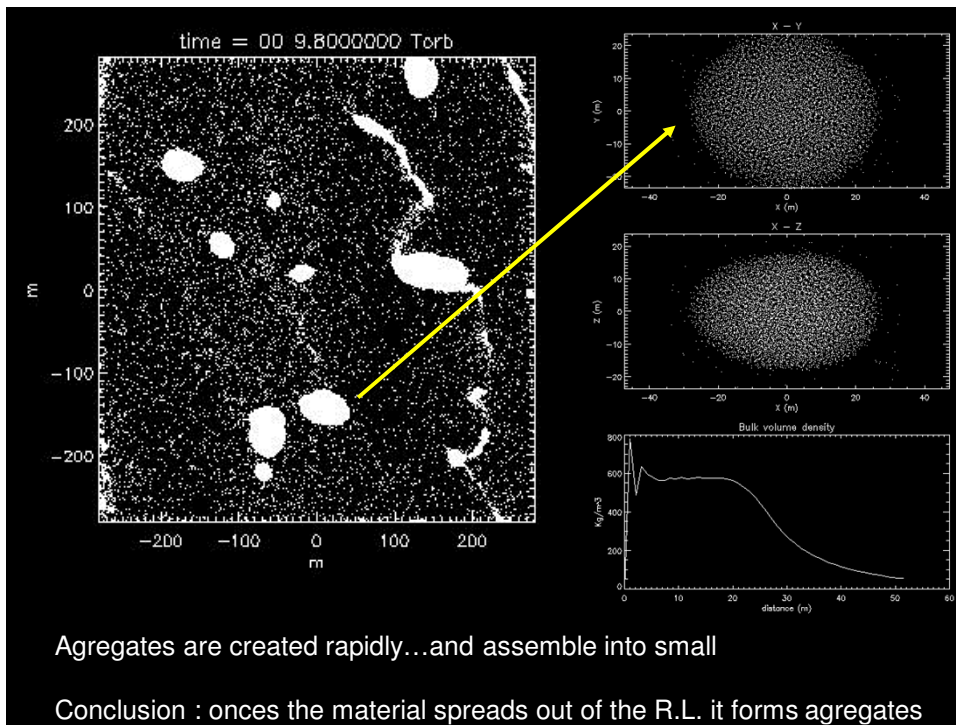


Ring box seen from the edge

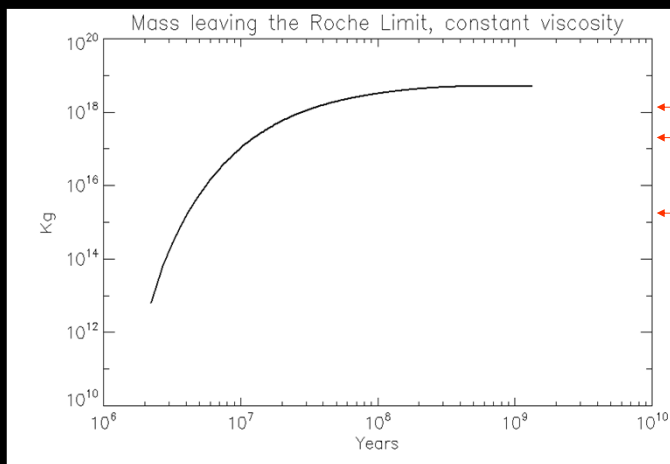
Simulation : S. Charnoz

Saturn grav. Field + Particle collisions + Self gravity

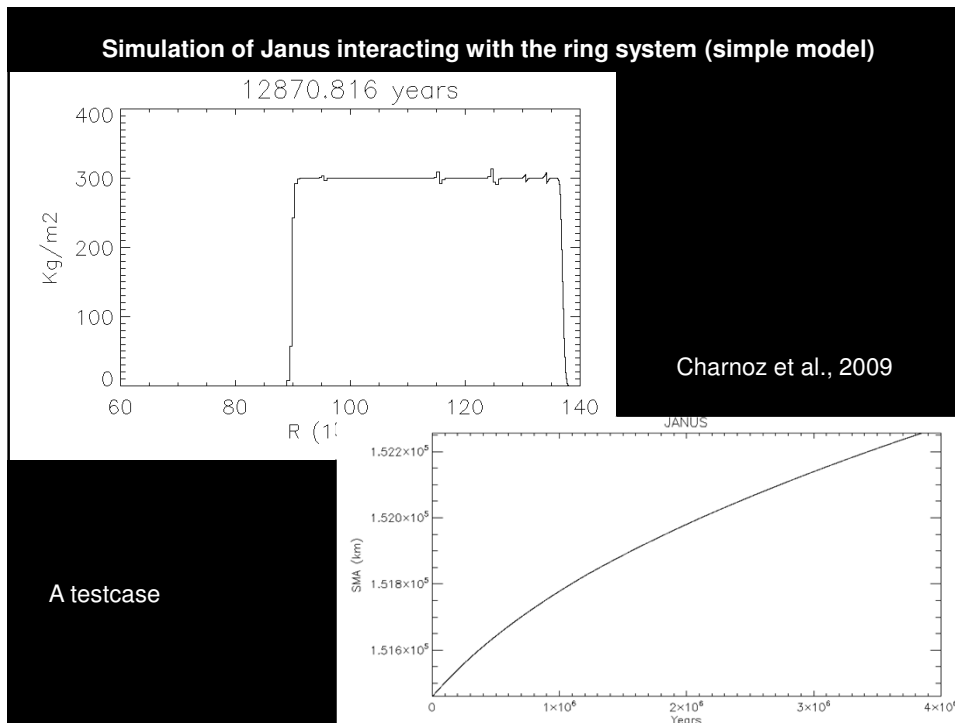
S. Charnoz & D. Ganem - AIM-Univ. Paris 7 - CEA



Like any astrophysical disk :  
 Saturn rings spread when they are not confined  
 (work of Salmon et al.)



About a mass comparable to the present population's mass  
 spreads out of the ring's Roche limit in  $> 10^8$  years



## A fragile equilibrium

### 1. Janus moves outward on a $10^6$ to $10^7$ years timescale

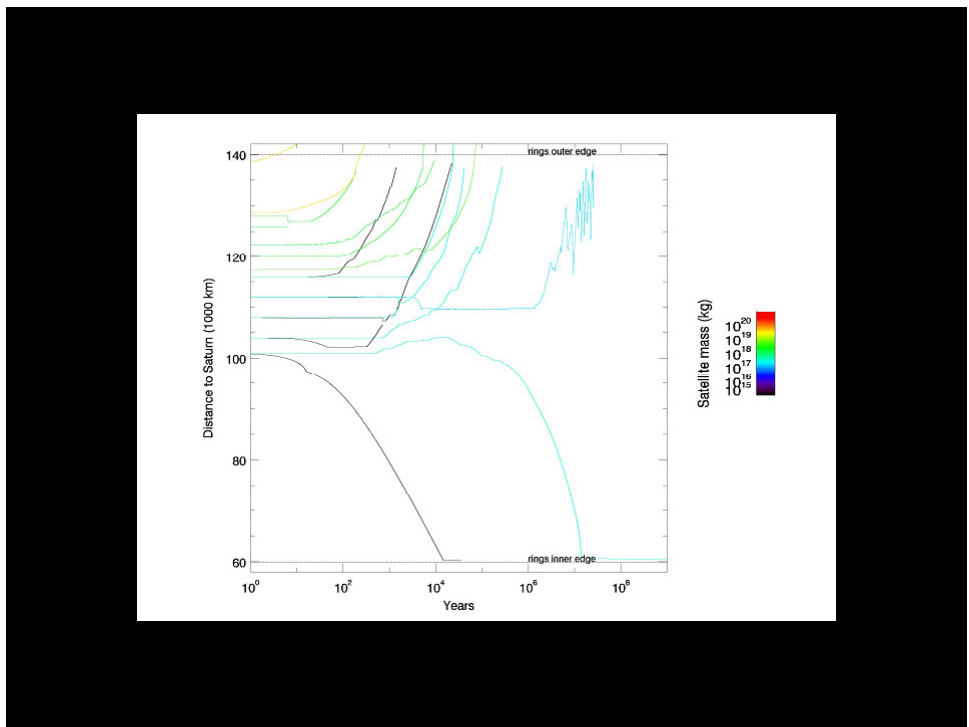
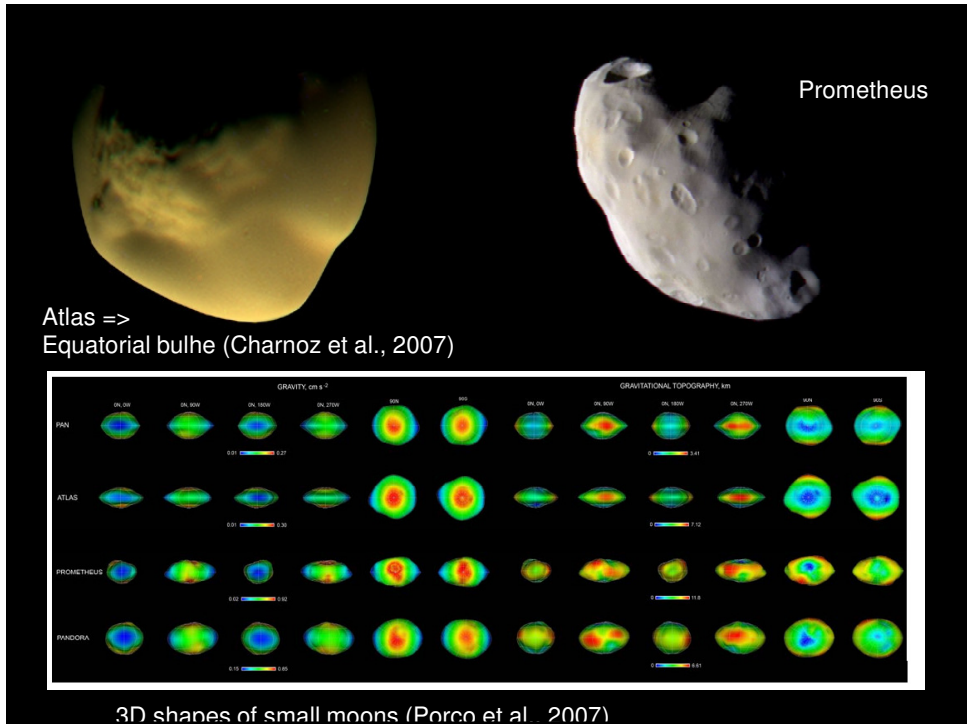
Because of : Rings 'torque + Saturn's tidal torque

$\Rightarrow T_{\text{outward}} = A/da/dt$  is about  $10^7$  years (Lissauer & Cuzzi 1992)

$\Rightarrow$  The 7:6 resonance will quit the ring (and a new one will arrive)

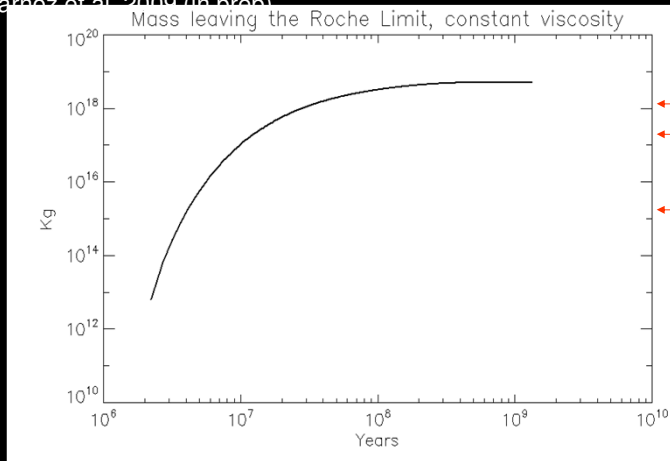
$\Rightarrow$  The A ring will be free to spread

### 2. In the past the satellite may have been closer to Saturn $\Rightarrow$ the 7:6 resonance Would have not maintained the ring edge



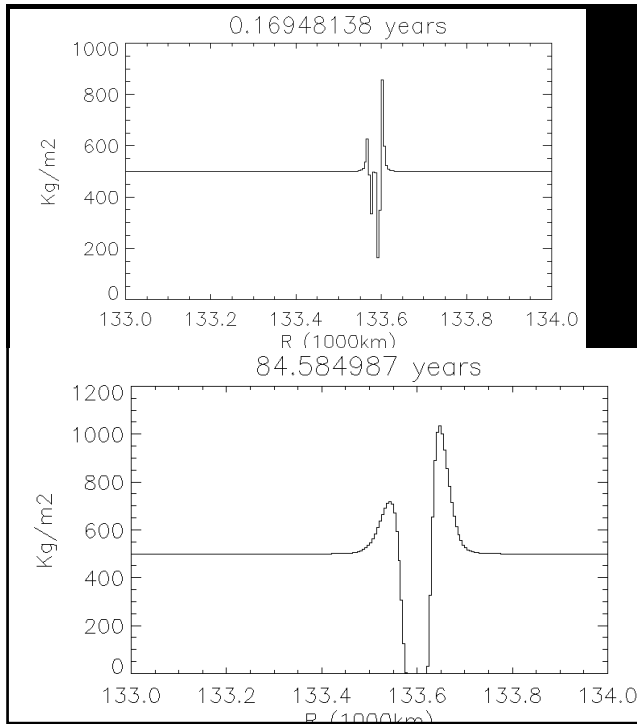
Like any astrophysical disk : Saturn rings will spread

Charnoz et al. 2009 (in prep)



Janus  
Prometheus  
Pandora  
Atlas

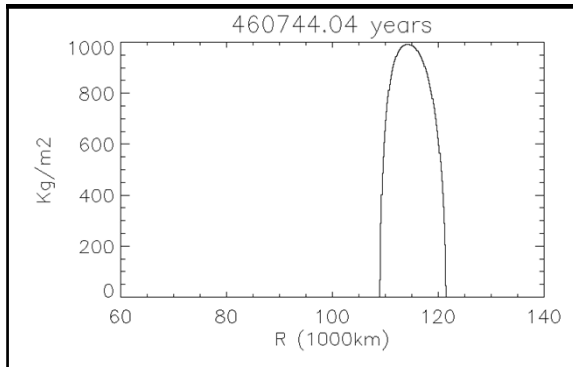
About a mass comparable to the present population's mass spreads out of the ring's Roche limit in  $> 10^8$  years



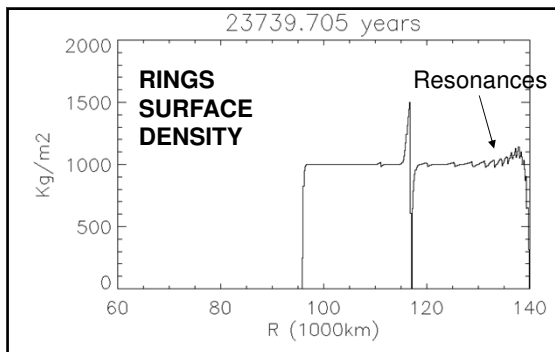
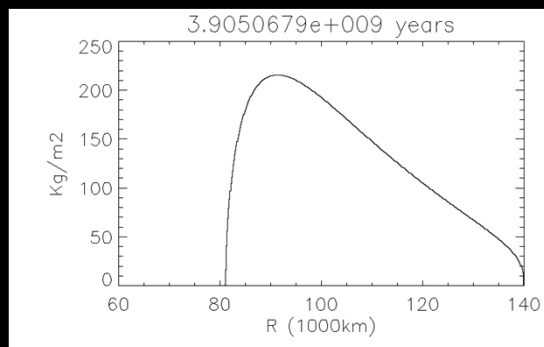
Exemple 1

Pan  
Gap opening

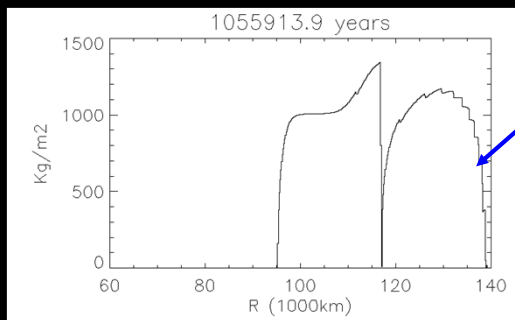




Spreading of  
A ringlet  
⇒ Non constant viscosity  
(Daisaka et al., 2001)



**Exemple without accretion :**  
Effect of Janus + Mimas+ Disk



The disk is pushed inward by  
Janus

