

# CHARM: Cassini-Huygens Mission to Saturn 8<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Titan Highlights



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6 May 2012

# Cassini Mission Overview

Four-Year Prime Tour, Equinox Mission, and Solstice Mission (Proposed), May 2004 - September 2017



Proximal Orbits



EOM  
Sep 15,  
2017

Saturn  
(seen from Sun)  
25 September 2012



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# Titan Encounters:

T78, 12 Sept 2011

T79, 13 Dec 2011

T80, 2 Jan 2012

T81, 30 Jan 2012

T82, 19 Feb 2012

T83, 22 May 2012

T84, 6 June 2012

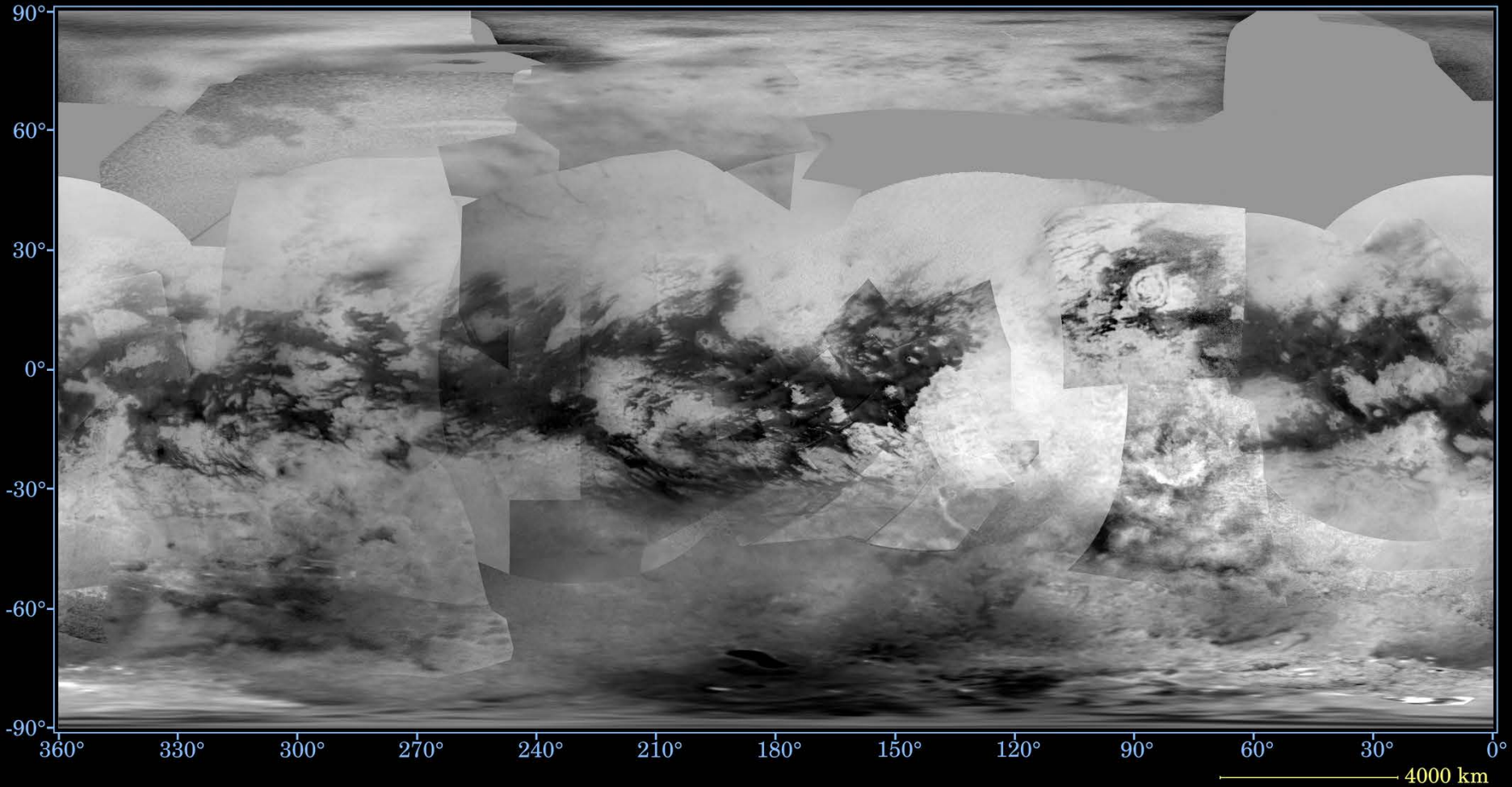
T85, 24 July 2012

T86, 26 Sept 2012

9 August 2011

# ISS map of Titan

Map of Saturn's Moon Titan - April 2011



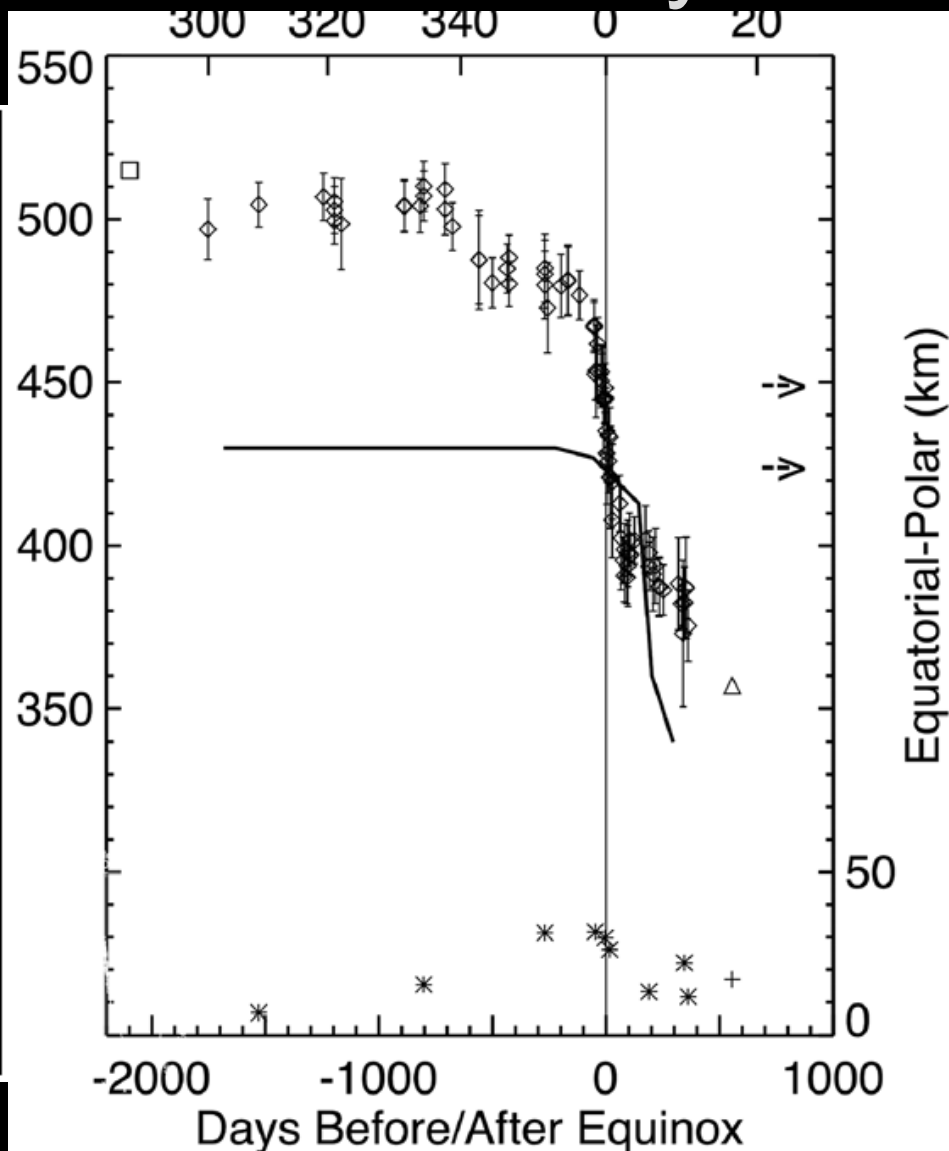
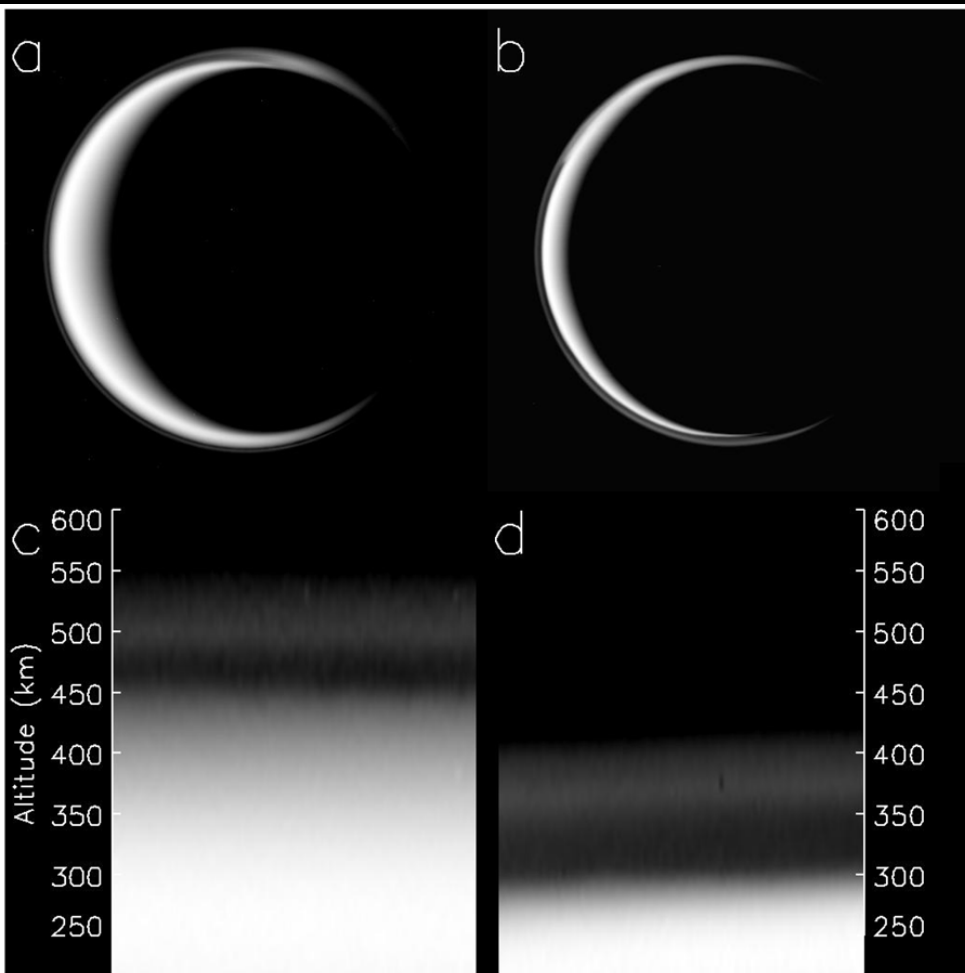
# Seasonal changes

- Voyager 1, Nov. 1980  $\approx$  March 29
- Voyager 2, Aug. 1981  $\approx$  April 8
- Cassini SOI, 2 July 2004  $\approx$  mid-January
- 11 August 2009  $\approx$  Northern vernal equinox
- 27 Sept. 2010  $\approx$  early April; low-latitude storm
- 25 Sept. 2012  $\approx$  late April
- May 2017  $\approx$  Northern summer solstice

# Seasonal changes: altitude of Titan's detached haze layer

3 May 2006

2 April 2010

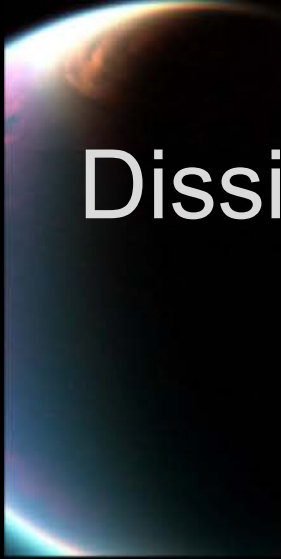


West *et al.*, 2011

25 September 2012

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# Seasonal changes: Dissipation of north-polar ethane cloud



Dec. 28, 2006



Mar. 26, 2008



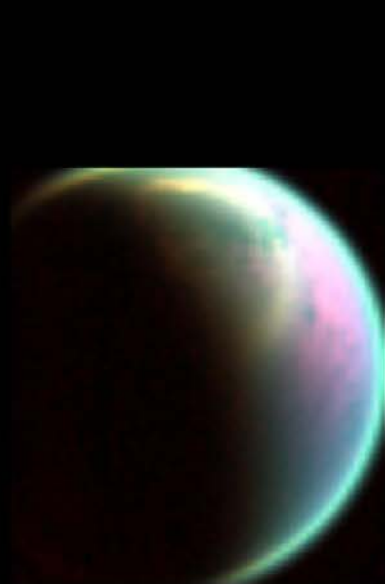
May 12, 2008



May 28, 2008



Mar. 27, 2009



Apr. 3, 2009



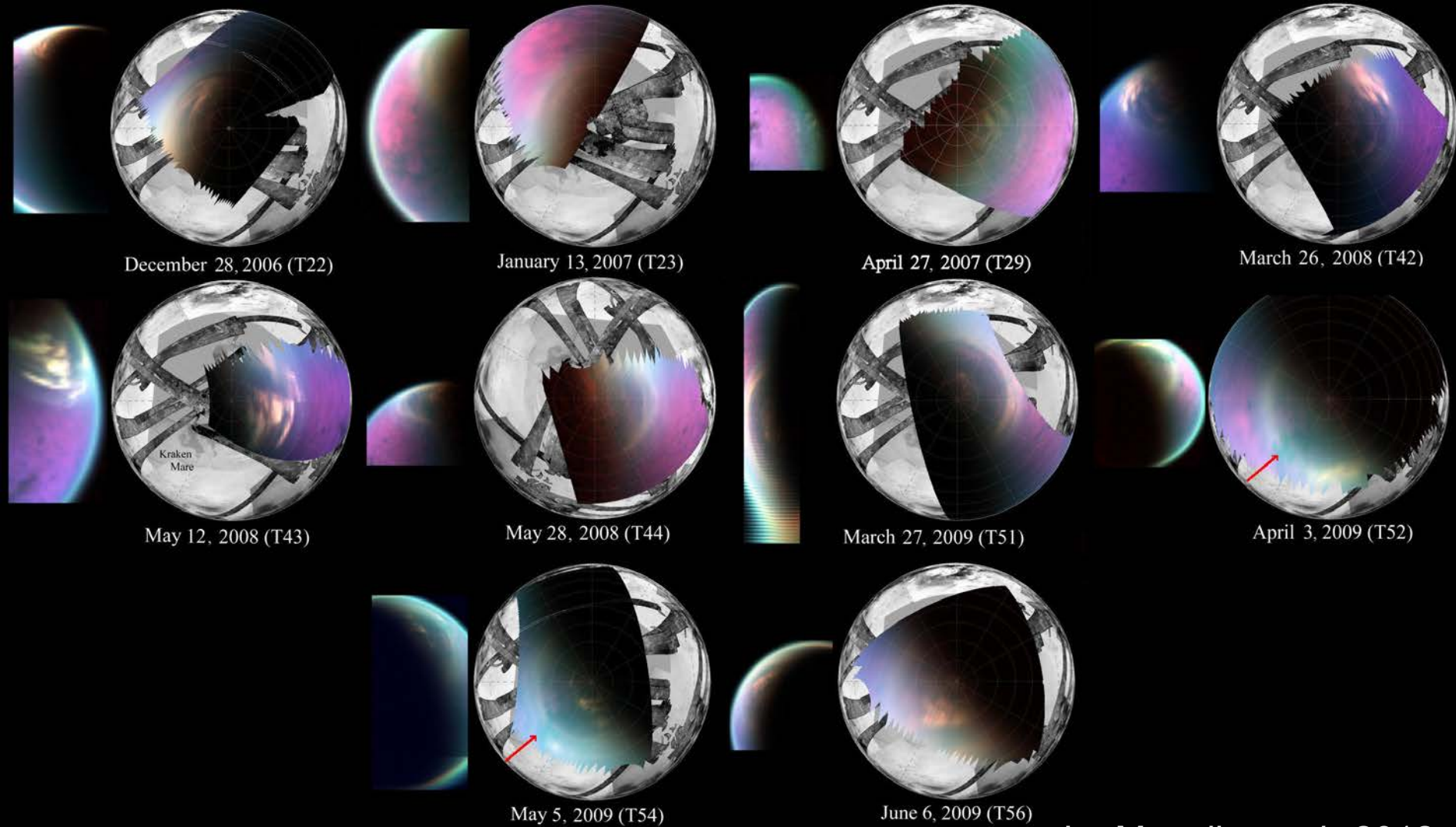
May 5, 2009



June 6, 2009

Le Mouelic *et al.*, 2012

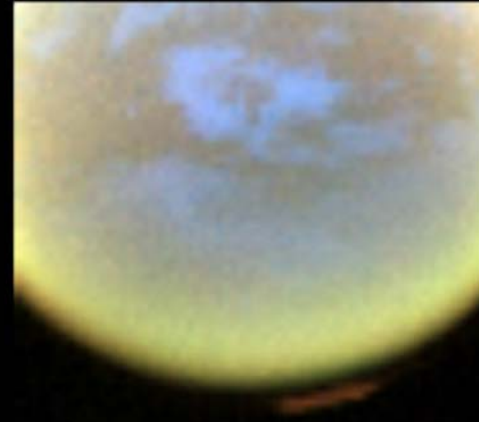
# Seasonal changes: Dissipation of north-polar ethane cloud



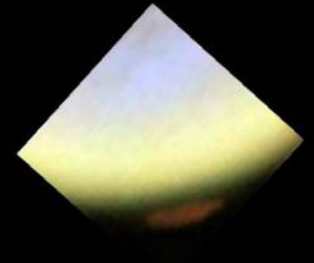
Le Mouelic *et al.*, 2012



# Seasonal changes: Development of south-polar vortex and hood of high-altitude haze



T83



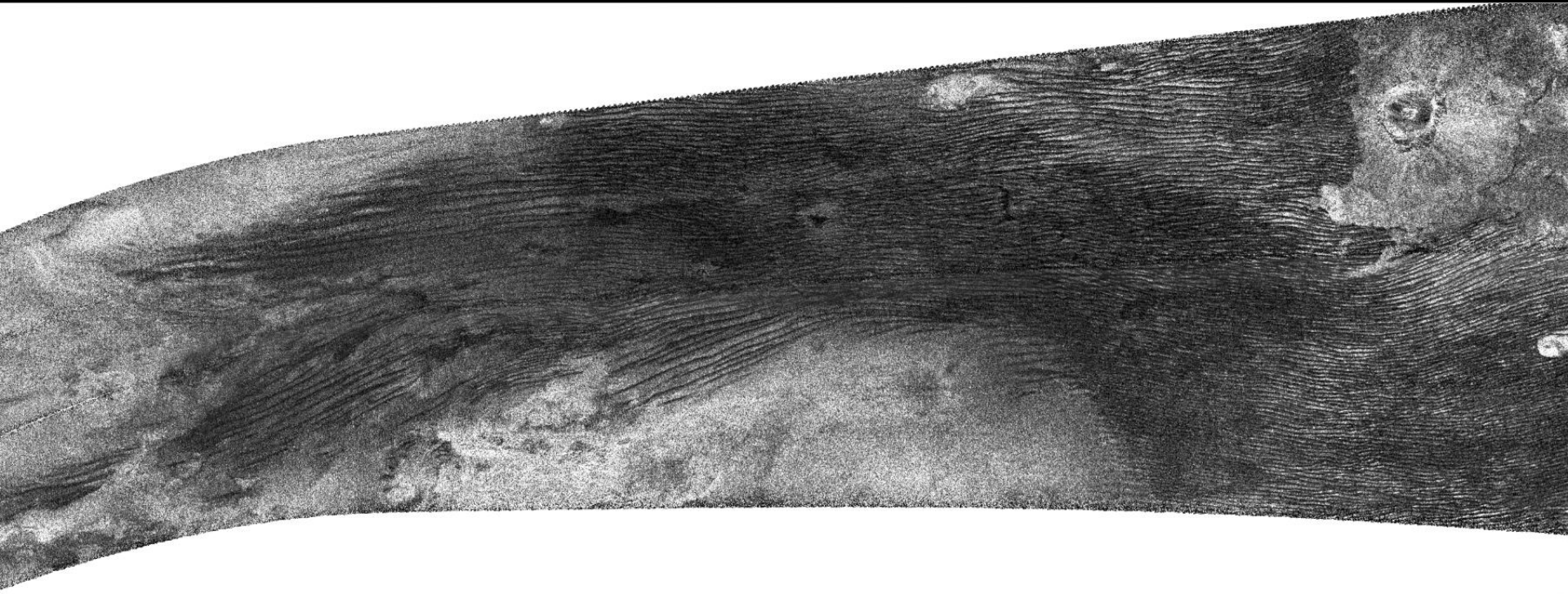
T84

VIMS, 22 May and 7 June 2012

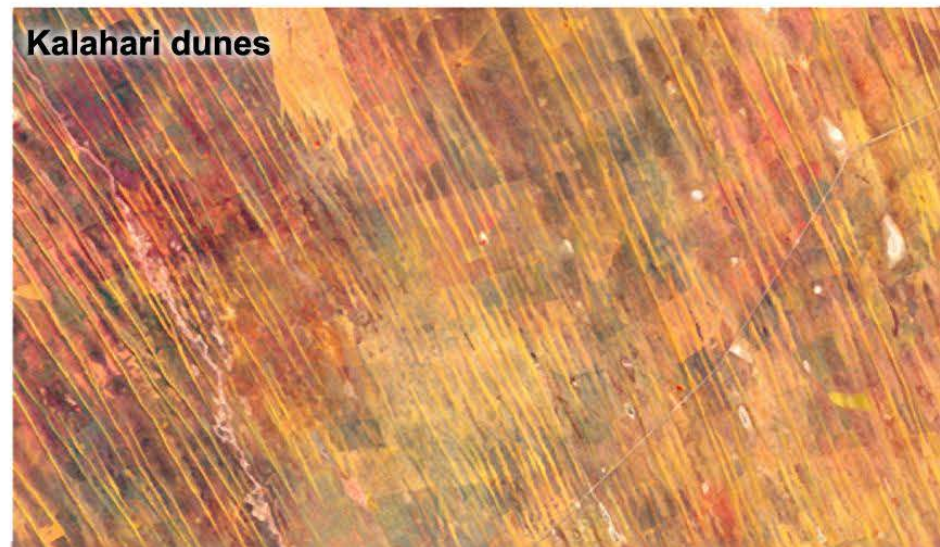
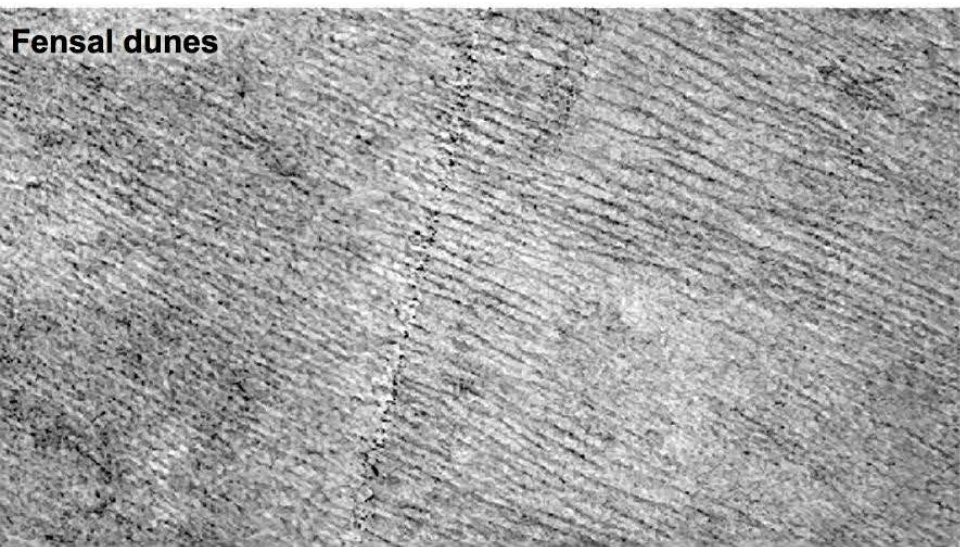
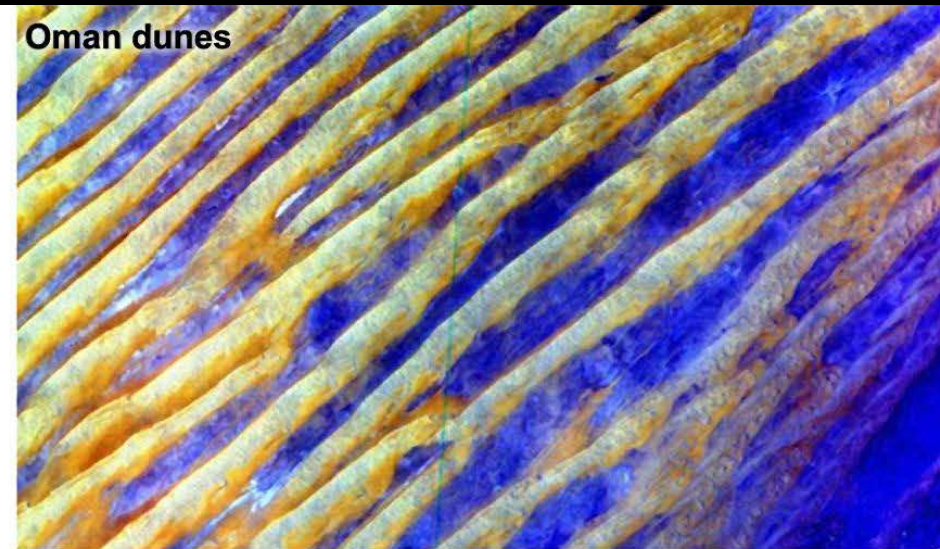
- Short video of polar vortex rotation @ <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/video/videodetails/?videoID=247>

ISS, 27 June 2012

# Dunes, Ksa Crater, and northwest Xanadu



# Dunes exhibit variations with latitude and altitude (Le Gall *et al.*, *Icarus*, 2012)

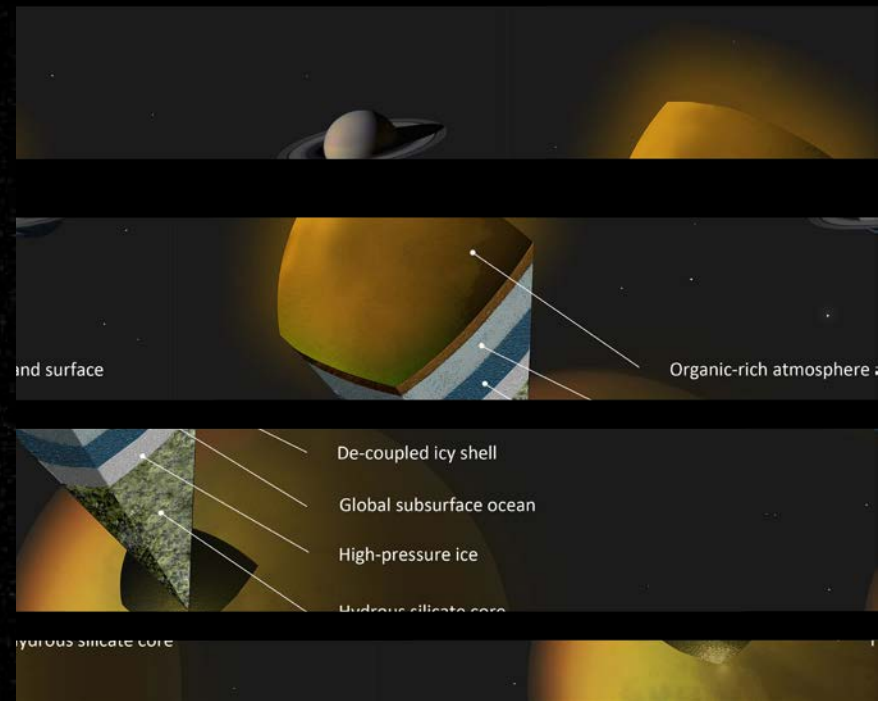
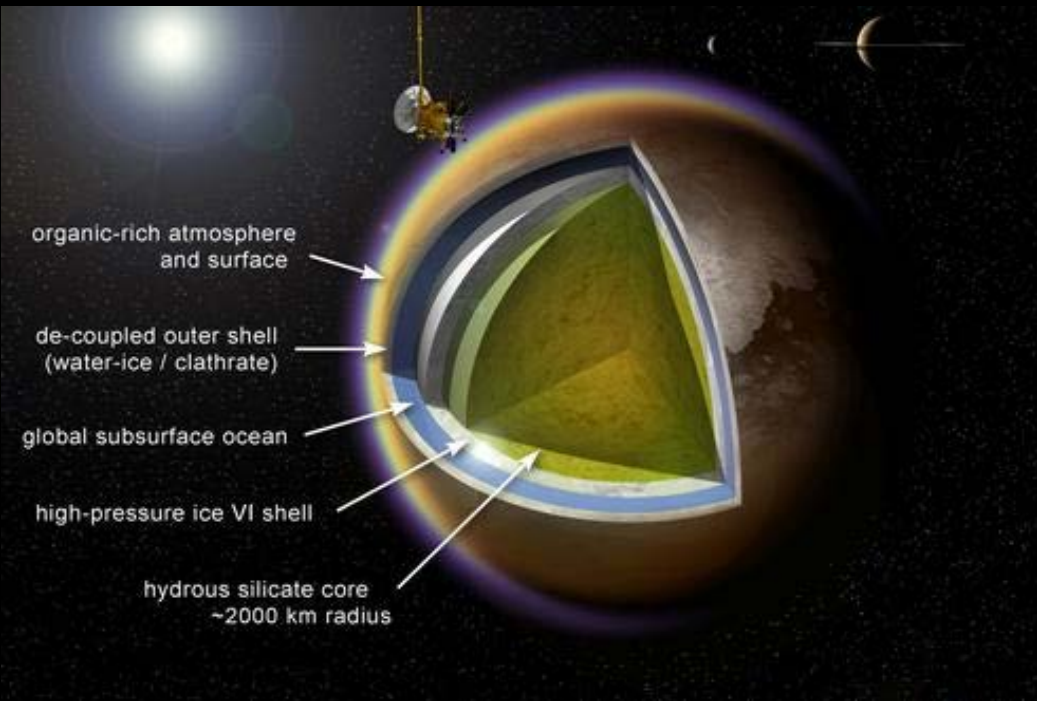


# Lakes and methane supply



- Comparison of Ontario Lacus with Earth's Etosha salt pan (Cornet *et al.*, 2012)
- Low-latitude oases near Shangri-La? (Griffith *et al.*, 2012)
- Methane age <1 Gyr (CIRS data: Nixon *et al.*, 2012; Cassini INMS, & Huygens GCMS data: Mandt *et al.*, 2012)

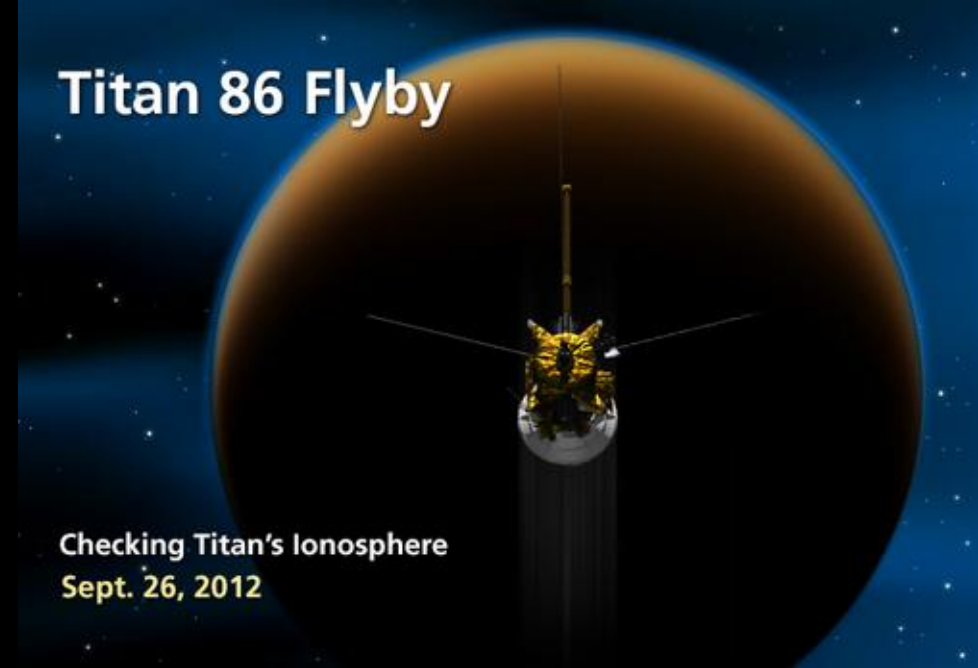
# Shape and internal structure



- Moment of inertia and 10-m tides consistent with differentiated interior and internal global ocean (Fortes, *PSS*, 2012; *less et al.*, *Science* 2012)
- (Animated illustration of tides @ <http://saturn.jpl.nasa.gov/video/videodetails/?videoID=246>)
- Extra global flattening due to Titan's weather and carbon cycle? (Choukroun and Sotin, *GRL*, 2012)

# T86

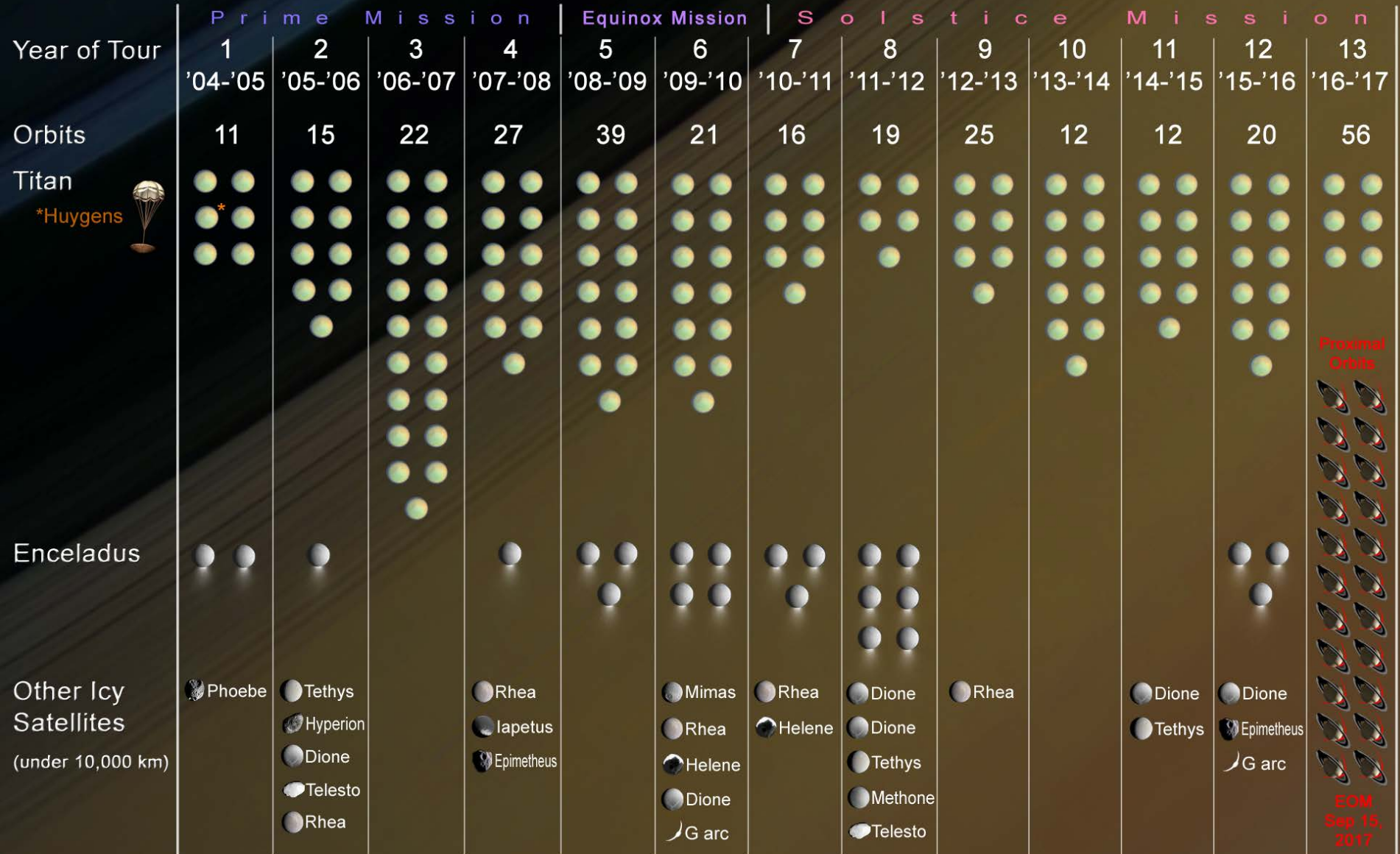
## 26 Sept. 2011



- C/A altitude = 956 km
- INMS profile through ionosphere
- RADAR SAR imaging of southwest Ligeia Mare
- ISS, UVIS, CIRS observations including coverage of Adiri and the region where extensive surface changes were observed in the fall of 2010
- ISS cloud-tracking for an extra day after the encounter

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