Probing the Mysteries of Iapetus: *the September 2007 Cassini Flyby*





Roger Clark, Cassini VIMS team Tilmann Denk, Cassini ISS team Amanda Hendrix, Cassini UVIS team Steve Ostro, Cassini Radar team John Spencer, Cassini CIRS team

What we knew about Iapetus going into the September 2007 flyby

- Iapetus has been known to have a dramatic albedo dichotomy
 - Source of dark material, processes are unknown
 - Discussed more later
- Iapetus:
 - 3rd largest moon of Saturn (~1460 km diameter)
 - Tidally locked: orbital period is 79.3 days (slow)
- Cassini performed a flyby of Iapetus on December 31, 2004
 - ~123,000 km altitude
 - Primarily over low-albedo leading hemisphere and bright north polar region

Results from 2004 Iapetus flyby

Dark material is almost certainly exogenic in origin...





Equatorial ridge!

Streaks in transition zone at north polar region; bright polar-facing crater walls

September 2007 Flyby

... but there's more to the story

- The flyby was inbound over the unilluminated (nightside) low-albedo hemisphere
 - Good opportunity to do Radar imaging
- Excellent views of the bright-dark boundary on the anti-Saturnian hemisphere
 - Opportunity to confirm/check exogenic pattern seen in north polar boundary region in previous flyby
 - Also great equatorial ridge views
- Thermal segregation is very important...
- Next are results from
 - John Spencer (thermal segregation model)
 - Tilmann Denk (imaging results)
 - John Spencer (CIRS results)
 - Roger Clark (VIMS results)
 - Amanda Hendrix (UVIS results)
 - Steve Ostro (Radar results)

Thermal Segregation and Global Volatile Migration on Iapetus

John Spencer Southwest Research Institute, Boulder

Ice Sublimation on Iapetus

- Most (all?) of Saturn's moons have water ice on their surfaces
- On most moons, the ice is hard-frozen and stays put
- On Iapetus ice can get relatively warm, due to:
 - Dark surface which absorbs most incoming sunlight
 - Slow rotation giving lots of time to heat up during the day
- Ice can therefore evaporate ("sublime") and move around
 - Movement can be local or global

Local Ice Movement: Thermal Segregation

- Warm dark ice on Iapetus is likely to undergo thermal segregation:
 - Small initial temperature differences (due to albedo or topography) will trigger a runaway process
 - Alll ice is lost from the warmer regions, which get warmer and darker
 - Ice concentrates in cold regions, which get brighter and colder

Spencer, 1987



Thermal Segregation First Seen on the Galilean Satellites, late

Surface darkened by frost sublimation and accumulation of an ice-free lag deposit

Surface brightened by frost deposition from nearby or distant dark regions

Callisto from Galileo



Global Ice Movement: 2005 Model

- Simple models of dark material infall darken the leading hemisphere, but Iapetus is not so simple
 - Iapetus' bright material extends over the poles
 - Dark material extends around the equator
- Thermal ice migration can explain this...
 - Originally proposed by Mendis and Axford in 1974



Frost Migration Model

- Assume Iapetus is covered in ice
- Infalling material darkens the leading side
- Dark, warm, ice evaporates and recondenses elsewhere
- Evaporation shuts off when 1mm of ice has been lost
 - Ice layer is exhausted
 - Or lag deposit forms













Conclusions

- Ice migration is important on Iapetus
 Produces local thermal segregation
 - We expect ice to have entirely evaporated from the dark terrain
 - Explains the shape of the leading/trailing hemisphere boundary

TilmannDenkCassini Ima-ging Team

T. Denk/ISS -1-

Tilmann Denk Imaging Team associate Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

www.fu-berlin.de/planeten

Trailing Side of lapetus





T. Denk/ISS -4-



2903 WACs T. Denk/ISS -6-





"Voyager mountains"

2902







"Ridge walk"



- Green: Ridge or isolated mountains at equator
- Red: Ridge or mountains absent
- Yellow: Uncertain

~85° to ~175° W longitude: Ridge most prominent
~185° to ~245° W: Isolated "Voyager" mountains

• ~340° W: Another mountain on sub-Saturn hemisphere



Equatorward-facing slopes are dark





B/C Flyby: Northern Transition Zone

latitude > 50° N

 $\sim 28^{\circ}$ N < latitude < 50° N

📕 equator north pole 🕇

Cassini Regio on lapetus

... heavily cratered

... has no bright "holes" (> $\sim \frac{1}{2}$ km Ø)



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Bright-ray craters in dark terrain

Ø ≈ 60 m

NAC res. ~ 12 m/pxl Phase = 29° Lat/lon ~ 1° S/166° W

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About the Albedo-Dichotomy Origin

Possible classification of lapetus global albedo dichotomy origin hypotheses (pre-Cassini view):

- 1. Exogenic origin/ dust is coming in over long time
- (a) Dark grayish dust from Phoebe hits lapetus's leading side and gets chemically altered/ reddened (Soter 1974, Burns et al. 1979, 1996; Hamilton 1997)
- (b) Dark reddish dust from smaller retrograde outer saturnian satellites covers lapetus's leading side (Buratti et al. 2002)
- 2. Asymmetric exogenic influence removes thin ice veneer from leading side,

but not from trailing side and poles

- (a) Viewpoint of orbit mechanics:
- (a1) Circumsaturnian dust is the cause (from Phoebe or other outer Saturnian satellites) (Cruikshank et al. 1983; Bell et al. 1985; Buratti and Mosher 1995)
- (a2) Interplanetary micrometeoroid flux is the cause (Cook and Franklin 1970; Squyres and Sagan 1983; Wilson and Sagan 1996)
- (b) Viewpoint of physical processes on the surface:
- (b1) Exposing of the dark subsurface layer by bright material erosion (Cook and Franklin 1970; Wilson and Sagan 1996)
- (b2) enrichment of formerly intimately mixed dark material due to sublimation (erosion) of the bright ice component (Cruikshank et al. 1983; Bell et al. 1985; Buratti and Mosher 1995)
- (b3) synthesis of the dark material by chemical/irradiation processes made possible by bright icy material erosion (Squyres and Sagan 1983)

3. Exogenic origin/ dust and debris originates from a major single event

- (a) from collision with reddish Hyperion (Matthews 1992, Marchi et al. 2002)
- (b) from collision with lapetus itself (Tabak and Young 1989)
- (c) from collision of an outer saturnian satellite with a heliocentric object with the result of a retrograde debris cloud crossing lapetus's orbit (Denk and Neukum 2000)
- (d) material comes from Titan (Owen et al. 2001)

4. Endogenic origin: Dark material from interior (Smith et al. 1981, 1982)

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Brightness dichotomy – key issues

(1) Synchronous rotation
 (2) Exogenic source for reddish material
 (3) Iapetus orbit is far out



lapetus: Color Dichotomy Discovered in Cassini ISS data



anti-Saturn side 7.3 km/pxl sub-Saturn side 12.4 km/pxl

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Brightness dichotomy – key issues

- (1) Synchronous rotation
- (2) Exogenic source for reddish material
- (3) Iapetus orbit is far out
- (4) Very slow rotation (79.3 days)
- (5) Dark blanket is thin
- (6) Thermal segregation


Brightness dichotomy – proposed story

(1) Outer satellite dust (Soter 1974, Buratti *et al.* 2002) causes

(2) Color dichotomy (leading/ trailing side) (Denk *et al.* EGU 2006)

triggers [with help of slow rotation of ~80 d => quite "high" afternoon temp.]

 (3) Thermal re-distribution of bright material (acting latitudinally; water ice removed from low latitudes) (Mendis+Axford 1974, Spencer *et al.* LPSC 2005, DPS 2005, DPS 2007)

The rev 49 flyby ISS and CIRS data support this scenario!

Inbound high phase: "Saturn as seen from lapetus"







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Cassini Imaging Team:

http://ciclops.org (use "search" to find all lapetus entries)

lapetus rev 49 flyby images at FU Berlin:

http://www.geoinf.fu-berlin.de/projekte/cassini/cassini_gal_raw049IA.php or http://www.fu-berlin.de/planeten and then "Quick Links" "Cassini lapetus Sep. 2007"



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Cassini's Fly-by of lapetus: Early Results from VIMS



¹US Geological Survey, ²U. Arizona, ³NASA Ames, ⁴JPL, 5DLR, Germany, ⁶Cornell U., ⁷INAF-IASF, Italy.





RGB Mineral Map: Red =CO2 at 4.26 microns Green = 1-micron albedo Blue = 2-micron Ice

Visual and Infrared Mapping Spectrometer

VIMS

- •0.35 to 5.2 microns in 352 wavelengths
- •IFOV: 0.5 x 0.5 mrad (standard)

•(0.5 mrad = 1.7 arc-minutes)

- •High resolution IR: 0.5 x 0.25 mrad
- •High resolution VIS: 0.17 x 0.17 mrad
- •Images up to 64 x 64 pixels square.







lapetus: **ISS PIA08384**

1.8-micron Reflectance





2.65-micron Reflectance

5-micron Reflectance

Cassini VIMS Views of lapetus



Aromatic and Aliphatic Absorption Bands in the Low-Albedo Material of lapetus



2004 results: see Criukshank et al. 2007 Icarus, In Press.

rev 49 fly-by the Cassini resolve, in features that and the data

Ice, dark material and CO₂ in the dark material dominate this spectral map. Small dark particles in the ice create Rayleigh scattering.







VIMS 1.75-micron Reflectance

lapetus Cassini Rev 49 fly-by

VIMS Composition Map Red = CO₂ Strength Green = H₂O Ice strength Blue = Rayleigh scattering strength (indicates sub-half-micron particles dispersed in the surface)

VIMS



1.75-micron Reflectance



VIMS



lapetus Composition Map

Red = CO_2 strength Green = H_2O strength Blue = Rayleigh scattering strength

VIMS observes CO_2 in the dark material at all scales. There is a tendency for the CO_2 concentration to increase near the transition zone to Ice.



lapetus Cassini Rev 49 fly-by

VIMS Composition Map

1.95, 2.05, 2.15-micron triplet (Dark region material)

1.95, 2.05, 2.15-micron triplet + Ice (Dark region material)

Water Ice (asymmetric 2-micron absorption)

Water Ice, slight 2-micron asymmetric absorption

Water Ice, medium grained, 2-micron symmetric absorption

> Tetracorder 3.7vims_ice-b1 R. Clark, USGS

VIMS observes The greatest diversity in CO₂ band positions on lapetus.

The close lapetus rev 49 fly-by provides the highest resolution opportunity in the Cassini mission to map and understand these absorptions.



VIMS has tentatively detected trace ammonia on lapetus (and Dione).

Clark *et al*., 2007, Icarus, in press.





Tetracorder 3.7vims_ice-b1

Conclusions



- VIMS detects several compounds on lapetus
 - Water ice (visibly bright).
 - CO₂ (strongest signature of any surface in the Saturn system) and dominates the dark material.
 - CH (organics) in the form of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH), trace amounts.
 - Probably trace ammonia (NH₃), though controversial within the team due to calibration. The new lapetus data should help resolve controversies.
 - Several unknown absorptions for which we have no match to any compound in our spectral databases.
- Rayleigh scattering is caused by dark particles embedded in the water ice causing a blue reflectance peak.
 - Particles must be less than 0.5 micron in diameter.
 - Particles must be less than about 2% by weight.
- The same absorption features are observed in dark material on Phoebe, lapetus, Dione, and in Saturn's rings and small satellites.
 - This implies a common origin for the composition and the same material is pervasive throughout the Saturn system.
 - Spatial patterns imply surface coatings.
- Composition, Rayleigh scattering, and surface coatings imply the origin is external to the moons, and may be external to the Saturn system.

New Cassini CIRS Observations of Temperatures on Iapetus

John Spencer (SwRI), John Pearl, Marcia Segura, Michael Flasar, and the CIRS team (NASA-Goddard)

> Cassini CHARM Telecon October 30th 2007

Black-body Radiation

- Any object warmer than absolute zero emits heat radiation
- The hotter the surface, the shorter the wavelength of the radiated light
 - Brightness and wavelength of the radiation gives the temperature
- Objects as cold as those in the Saturn system emit their radiation at long infrared wavelengths
 Hot later

Hot lava emits infrared, red, and yellow light Cooler lava emits infrared and red light

Even cooler lava emits only infrared light

CIRS: Composite Infrared Spectrometer

- Measures long-wavelength infrared (heat) radiation from Saturn, its rings, and moons.
- Sensitive to wavelengths between 7 and 300 microns (14 600 times longer wavelength than visible light)
- For objects with atmospheres (Saturn and Titan), CIRS provides detailed information on atmospheric composition and temperature.
- For objects without substantial atmospheres (Saturn's rings, and its smaller moons) CIRS provides mostly temperature information (though we might learn something about composition if we're lucky).



Recap New Year 2005 Flyby: Daytime Temperatures

- 9 16 microns, best resolution ~ 35 km
- Peak dark side noon temperatures ~130 K (-225 F)
- Poor sampling of nighttime temperatures
- No sampling of daytime bright-hemisphere temperatures



Sept. 2007 Nighttime Map

- Dark side at night
- Wavelength 20 200 microns
- 50-55 K (-369 -360
 F) nighttime temperatures
 - Rapid nightside cooling implies a very fluffy surface, similar to other Saturn moons
- Warm region near 0 N, 20 W
 - Less fluffy?



Hi-Res Noontime Scan

- Resolution = 8 km
- Dark regions are warm, bright regions are cold
- Peak temperature = 128 K (-229 F)
- Minimum equatorial temperature = 113 K (-256 F)



CIRS

ISS Albedo



Hi-Res Daytime Scan

 8 km resolution is sufficient to sample ~pure bright and dark material



H₂O Ice Sublimation Rates

- Temperature allows calculation of how fast ice should sublime (evaporate) from Iapetus' surface
 - Bright terrain: ~10 cm per billion years Impacts will remix material on similar timescales
 - Dark terrain: ~20 m per billion years fast!
 - Dark ice is unstable and will evaporate
- Consistent with
 - Presence of thermal segregation
 - Bright pole-facing slopes
 - The shape of the bright/dark boundary

Conclusions

- September 2007 Iapetus CIRS data directly measure daytime temperatures for pure bright and dark terrain
- Ice is fairly stable against sublimation in the bright terrain, highly unstable in the dark terrain
 - Explains the observed thermal segregation seen in the ISS images
 - Explains the shape of the bright/dark boundary on Iapetus

UVIS measurements of Iapetus: the September 2007 flyby

Amanda R. Hendrix, Candice J. Hansen, the UVIS Team

Cassini UVIS Iapetus Observations

• Imaging spectrometer

- Two-dimensional detector
 - 1024 wavelengths x 64 spatial rows
- FUV channel: 110-190 nm
- Iapetus Observations
 - September 10, 2007: ~1644 km flyby
 - Stellar occultation
 - mapping of water ice, non-ice; thermal segregation studies

H_2O ice in the FUV



Some non-ice species *compared with* H₂O *ice*



Water ice is darker than most non-ice species at $\lambda < 165$ nm

Previous results: December 2004 flyby

- Dark leading hemisphere, bright pole
 - Iapetus displays spectral reversal
 - Recall that water ice gets very dark in the FUV
 - most non-ice materials are brighter than water ice



ISS image

Lv-α

Voyager mtns are visible; large crater is also faintly apparent.

Dark material is as bright at Ly-α as sky bkgd



Red=Ly- α Blue-green=long FUV λ (reflected solar, H₂O ice)

ISS image for reference





ISS image for reference



ISS map

Bright regions: boundary/pole



The bright terrain in region 4 is richer in H_2O ice than LH polar region; May also be richer in a non-ice, reddish material.



ISS map



DARK TERRAIN: Region 1 (apex) ratioed to region 2 (boundary)






Previous results, from apex region:

Water ice absorption feature is present even at low latitudes; Strength of the feature increases with latitude (decreasing temperature)



Hendrix & Hansen, in press, Icarus

Variations within the Dark Terrain

- Three regions under comparison:
 - Region 1: Apex (from previous flyby)
 - Region 2: Near 162° W, 0° N
 - Region 3: Near 165° W, 15° S
- Region 3 (165° W, 15° S) has more H_2O ice than Regions 2 (162° W, 0° N), 1 (apex)
 - Could have H_2O ice intimately mixed at least at UVIS resolution
- Region 2 (162° W, 0° N) does *not* have more H_2O ice than Region 1 (apex)
 - Consistent with thermal segregation (both at equator)
 - Recall that UVIS found more H_2O ice with latitude in apex (as temperature decreased)
- Region 1 exhibits a broad absorption feature relative to Region 2
 - Possibly consistent with carbon
 - Due to fresher coating?? Thicker?? Or mixture of native material away from apex??

Implications

- Material on leading hemisphere is compositionally different from dark material in boundary region
 - May be more carbon-rich
- At low latitudes, both the apex and the boundary regions have similar amounts of H₂O ice.
 - Consistent with loss of volatiles to colder higher latitudes
 - Consistent with ongoing/recent emplacement process

summary

- UVIS obtained a great data set on recent flyby
 - Still a lot to do!
- UVIS data are being used to map H_2O ice
 - Investigate extent & importance of thermal segregation
 - (why does Iapetus look like it does?)
- UVIS data are being used to map non-H₂O (dirty, primitive) materials
 - Investigate compositional differences within the dark terrain
 - (what is the non-native dark material and where does it come from?)
- UVIS data are consistent with Spencer's model of water ice migration to cold/bright regions

lapetus RADAR

Steve Ostro, JPL

Radar SL Albedos and Optical Geometric Albedos



Coherent Backscattering

The anomalously large radar albedos and polarization ratios of radar echoes from certain icy surfaces arise from phase-coherent, <u>multiple scattering</u> within a dielectric medium that is <u>heterogeneous</u> and nonabsorbing.





Contamination of water ice with virtually any other substance decreases its radar transparency and hence the radar brightness of icy surfaces.

 $L_{abs} = (\lambda/4\pi) \{ (K_r/2) [(1+\tan^2\delta)^{1/2} - 1] \}^{1/2}$ 1/*e* one-way power absorption length: Material $L_{\rm abs}/\lambda$ ~10,000 Water Ice Earth rocks, nonmetallic meteorites ~1 to ~100 Water ice + few % lunar soil ~100 Water Ice + 0.1% ammonia (NH₃) ~1 to ~10 Hematite (Fe_2O_3) < 1Tholin < 10

Iapetus' 2.2-cm radar albedo shows a strong dichotomy between optically dark, leading-side material and optically bright, trailing-side material.

Iapetus' 13-cm results show much less of a dichotomy and give a mean radar reflectivity several times lower than the reflectivity measured at 2.2 cm.

	Total-Power Radar Albedos	
	Dark/Leading	Bright/Trailing
2.2-cm	0.38 <u>+</u> 0.06	0.87 ± 0.08
13-cm	0.13 <u>+</u> 0.04	0.17 ± 0.04

Main-belt-asteroid mean: 0.15 ± 0.10

These Iapetus results are understandable if

- (1) <u>Ammonia</u>* and/or some other <u>radar-absorbing contaminant</u> is globally much less abundant within the upper one to several decimeters than at greater depths, and
- (2) the <u>leading side's optically dark contaminant</u> is present to depths of at least one to several decimeters.









ISS Map (PIA07778, Dec. 2005)

Surface Resolution







ISS Map (PIA07778, Dec. 2005) ----> No ISS IAP 49 hires imaging

(Oct. 5 unfocused and uncalibrated reduction)

Real-Aperture (Full-Beam) Scatterometry



ISS Map (PIA07778, Dec. 2005)