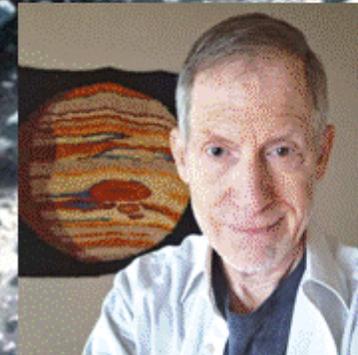


# What Wondrous Worlds we Witnessed

*– a Personal Journey to the Planets*

by Lonny Buinis



2026

# Itinerary

1. Pro vs. Amateur via Jupiter
2. Terrestrial Planets
3. Dwarf Planets
4. Giant Planets
5. Most Exciting Moons
6. Exoplanets

# 1<sup>st</sup> photograph of Jupiter 1879



Agnes Mary Clerke

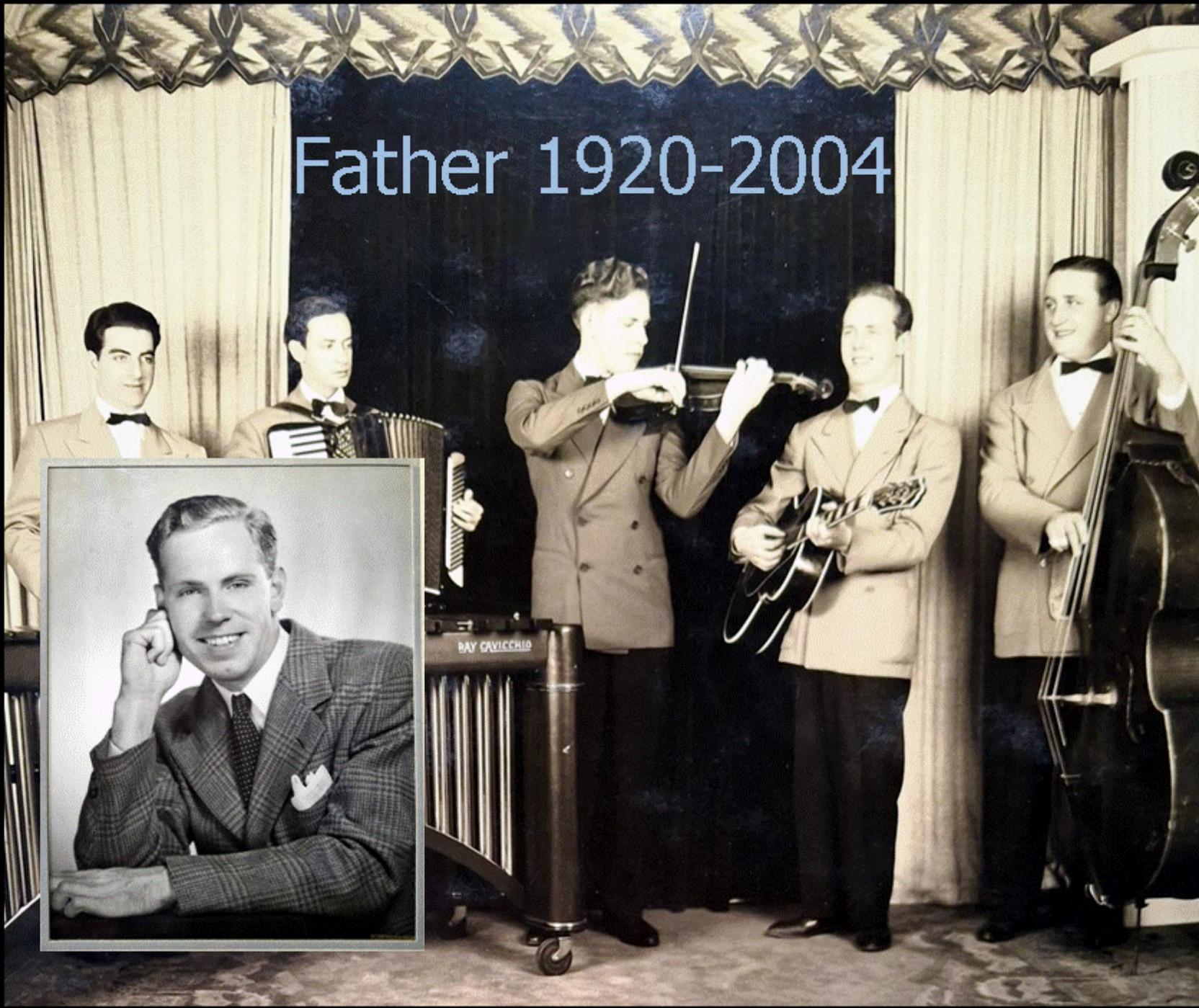
"A Popular History of Astronomy During the Nineteenth Century"

- [https://www.reddit.com/r/space/comments/315wy1/jupiter\\_in\\_1879\\_and\\_2014/](https://www.reddit.com/r/space/comments/315wy1/jupiter_in_1879_and_2014/)
- <https://www.diyphotography.net/the-first-and-the-latest-jupiter-image-show-how-far-astronomy-has-come/>

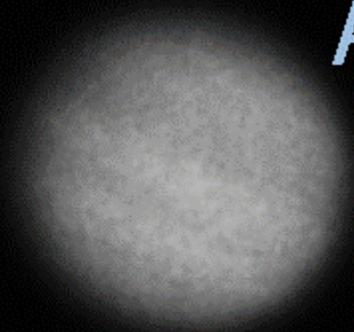
# Josephine Buinis 1897-1987



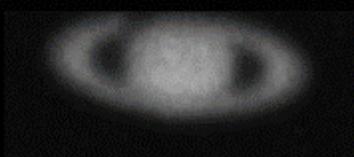
Father 1920-2004



# Astrophotography with film



Jupiter 4 sec yellow green filter



Saturn 4 sec no filter



Mars 1 sec orange filter



6" f/8 Newtonian reflector

- Author: Giorgos Ranger 4, Athens, Greece
- January 14, 2011
- Vintage style planetary photography
- B&W film (Agfaphoto 400) with homebrew Kodak D-11 high contrast developer
- <https://www.cloudynights.com/forums/topic/734314-planets-on-black-and-white-film/>

# Ektachrome film



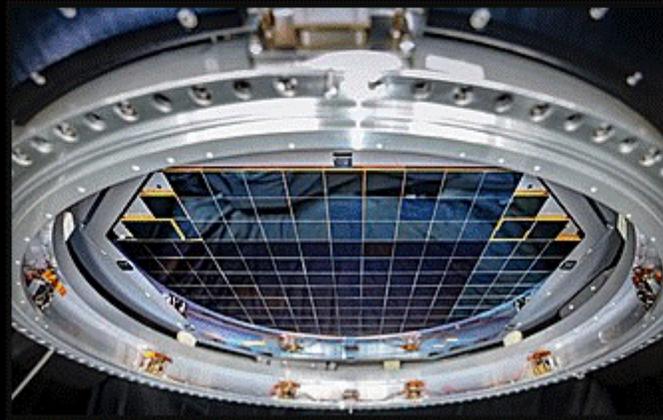
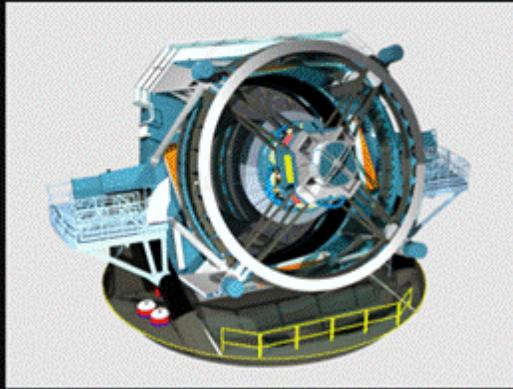
Lunar & Planetary Lab, U. of Arizona, c. 1969

- Introduced 1946
- Allowed both professionals and amateurs to process their own films.
- Distinctive look that became familiar to many readers of National Geographic.
- Used extensively for color photographs where Kodachrome was too slow.
- Stable at shutter speeds between 10 seconds and 1/10,000 sec.

# CCDs – Charge-Coupled Devices

- 1974
  - 1<sup>st</sup> scientific use of CCDs in astronomy
  - 100x100 Fairchild CCD integrated into camera
  - used with 8-inch amateur telescope to capture Moon
  - <https://astronomy.stackexchange.com/questions/61412/first-scientific-use-of-a-ccd-device-for-astronomical-observation>
- 1985
  - 1<sup>st</sup> mention of a CCD camera for sale
  - *Astronomy* magazine
  - <https://www.astronomy.com/observing/how-amateur-astronomy-has-evolved-in-the-past-half-century/>

# Large Synoptic Survey Telescope camera Vera C. Rubin Observatory



- **Telescope**
  - Primary mirror 8.417 m (27 ft 7.4 in), obstructed
  - Effective aperture 6.42 m (253 in = 21 ft)
  - Palomar Observatory Hale telescope: 5.08 m = 200 in.
- **Camera**
  - focal plane > 60 cm (2 feet) wide
  - contains 189 individual sensors
  - produces 3200-megapixel images = 3.2 gigapixels
  - 3.5-degree-diameter field of view
  - largest camera yet constructed



- **NEAF - NorthEast Astronomy Forum**
- April 5-6, 2025
- Sean Walker / Sky & Telescope
- <https://skyandtelescope.org/astronomy-news/new-gear-northeast-astronomy-forum/>

# CCD cameras for astronomy



**HIGH POINT**  
SCIENTIFIC

ZWO ASI662MC USB3.0 Color Astronomy Camera

★★★★★ 22 Reviews 17 Questions \ 19 Answers [Add to Wish List](#)

In Stock (10+ Available) [Free Shipping](#) [Est. Arrival By Tue 03/10<sup>®</sup>](#)

**\$179.00**

Add Apertura Lens Pen Optics Cleaning Tool to your order + \$8.99

Add Apertura Air Blower for Lens Cleaning to your order + \$9.99

[Add accident protection powered by Extend<sup>®</sup>](#)  
Covers accidental damage such as drops and spills. [What's Covered?](#)

1 Year: \$12.99	2 Year: \$22.99	3 Year: \$37.99
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

— 1 + [ADD TO CART](#)

- Sony IMX662 CMOS Sensor
- 9mm
- Resolution: 1920x1080

# CCD cameras for astronomy



## ZWO ASI461MM Pro USB3.0 Cooled Monochrome Camera

Ask a question

Add to cart

In Stock (Only 1 Left) Free Shipping

**\$14,800.00**

- Add Apertura Universal 5 AMP AC Adapter to your order + \$49.95
- Add Apertura Optics & Sensor Cleaning Kit - 20 Piece to your order + \$49.95
- Add Apertura Armored USB Hub with 5A Power Supply to your order + \$199.95

Add accident protection powered by **Extend**

Covers accidental damage such as drops and spills. [What's Covered?](#)

2 Year: \$449

3 Year: \$649

5 Year: \$1,199

- Sony CMOS sensor
- 44 mm x 33 mm
- high resolution of 11,656 x 8750
- 100MP cooled camera



Sep 25, 2024 · 6 min read

## Software for Astronomy Processing of Planets and More.



*J. Segura*

Image above by Jorge Segura - probably one of the best planetary imagers I know!

- <https://www.picaastroapp.com/post/best-software-for-astronomy-processing>
- **RegiStax**
  - planetary, Moon, solar images
  - user-friendly stacking and sharpening
  - exclusively for PC users
- **AutoStakkert!**
  - automatic selection & stacking of sharpest frames from a video
  - primarily for planetary and lunar
  - used in conjunction with RegiStax
  - free software
- **Siril**
  - versatile, open-source
  - planetary & deep-sky images
  - convert video files into individual frames and stack them
  - tools for post-processing
  - multiple operating systems
  - advanced image calibration tools

# De-Rotation

ROTATION OF JUPITER IN ONE HOUR  
Copyright 2004 Michael A. Covington



9:05 p.m. EST

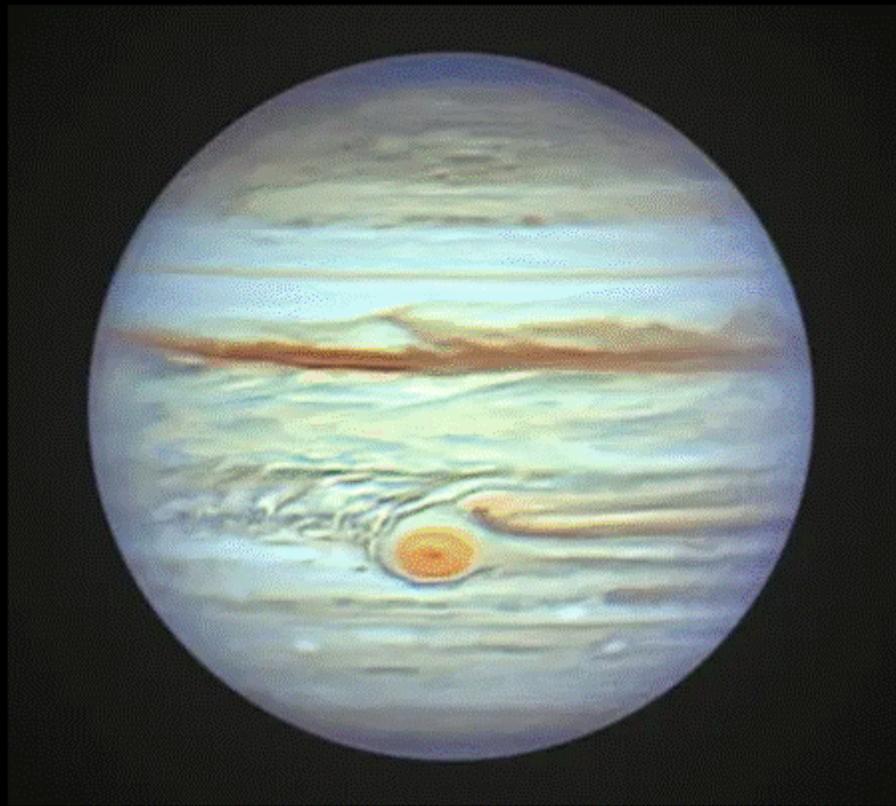
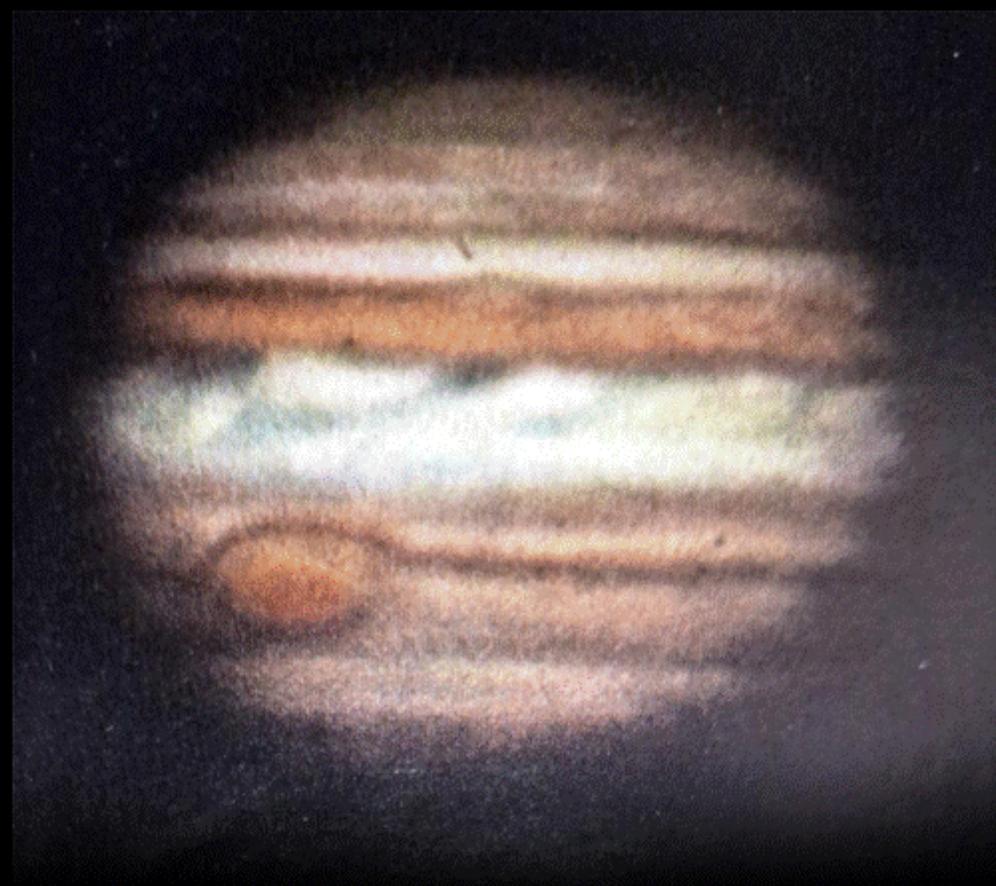


10:05 p.m. EST

2004 March 26

8" f/10 SCT, 2x Barlow, ToUCam Pro, Registax

- Michael A. Covington
- Author, *Astrophotography for the Amateur* and other books
- <https://www.covingtoninnovations.com/astro/exhibit0.html>



- September 17, 2022
- stacked 600,000 images
- 11 inch telescope
- <https://www.space.com/jupiter-photo-most-detailed-by-photographer>
- [https://www.instagram.com/cosmic\\_background/](https://www.instagram.com/cosmic_background/)



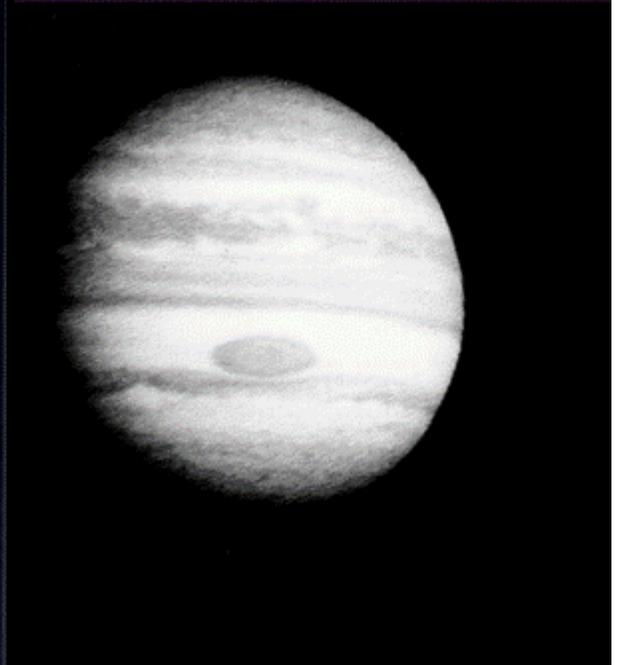
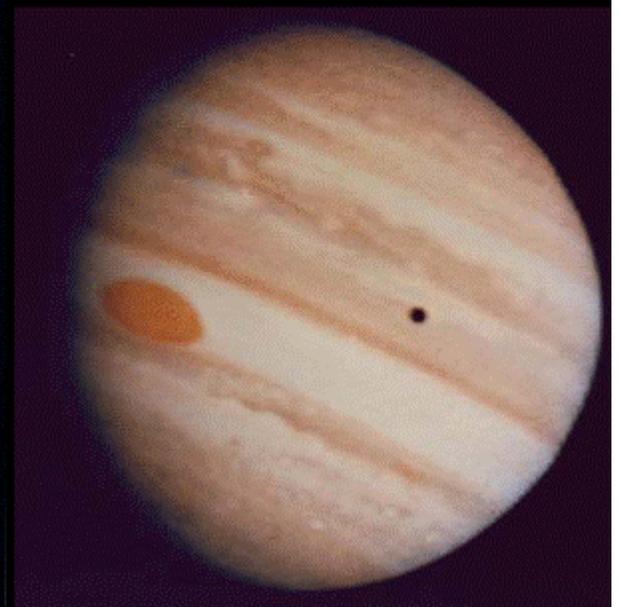
**cosmic\_background**  ...  
Andrew McCarthy  
1,410 posts · 1.8M followers · 903 following  
Photographer  
Exploring the universe from a backyard in Arizona  
Get my latest fine art print 🖼️  
[cosmicbackground.io/pages/ea\\_the-touch-of-terran-skies](https://cosmicbackground.io/pages/ea_the-touch-of-terran-skies) and 1 more  
[cosmic\\_background](#)

# iPhone Astrophotography

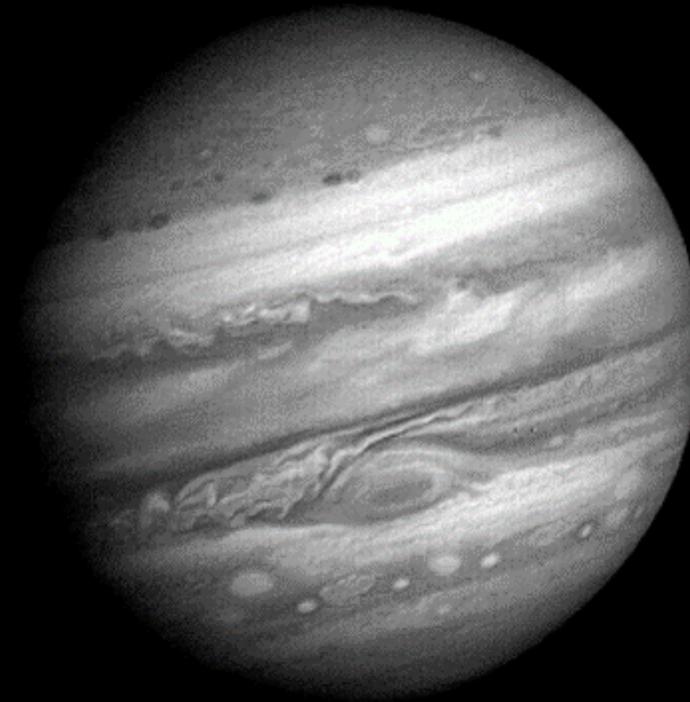


- "On April 14, 2015, I took images of Jupiter over the span of 2.5 hours with an iPhone 6 attached to my 8" Celestron NexStar 8SE telescope. I then chose the best four images and assembled them into the following GIF."
- Moon Ganymede and shadow
- Thoughts on Astronomy, Astrophotography and Spaceflight from Andrew Symes
- <https://canadianastronomy.wordpress.com/tag/jupiter/>

# Pioneer 10, Nov-Dec 1974

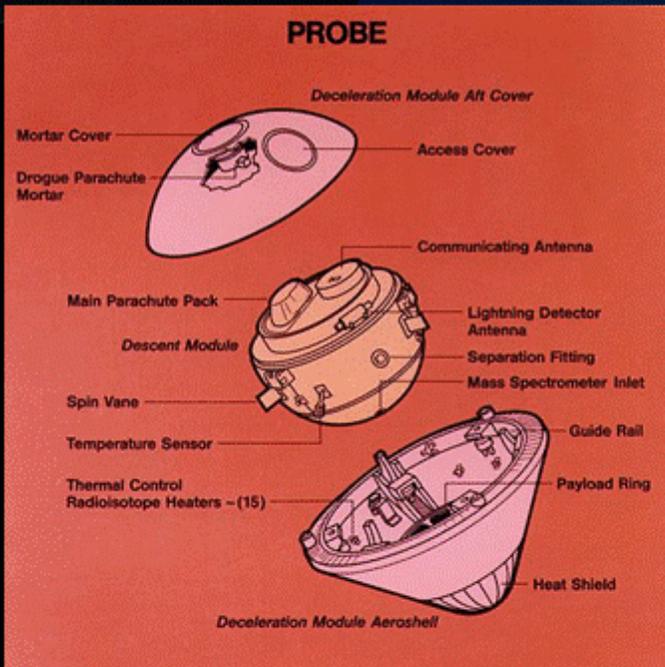
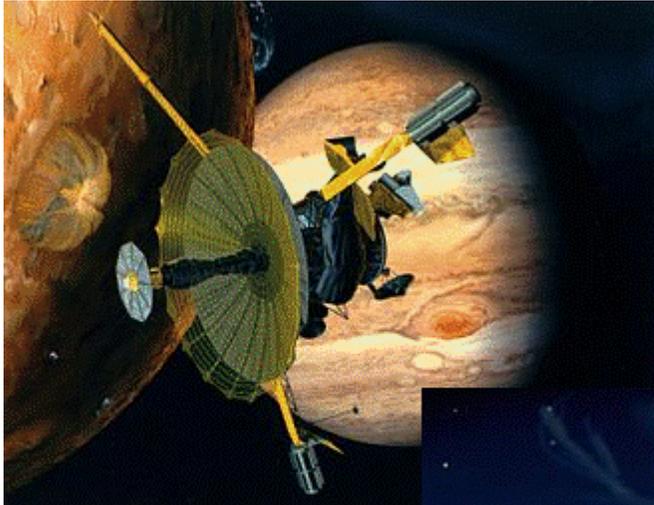


# Voyager's "Blue Movie" of Jupiter



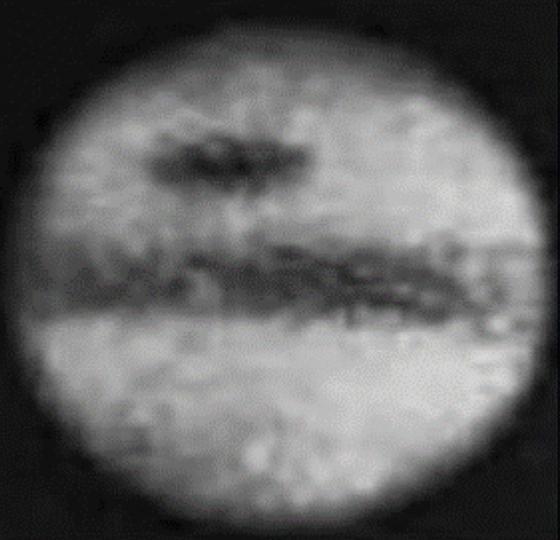
- Jupiter flyby January through April 1979
- Voyager "Blue Movie" - built from Blue filter images
- approach of Voyager 1 during >60 Jupiter days
- <https://science.nasa.gov/image-detail/pia02855-4/>

# Galileo spacecraft 1995-2003



- first spacecraft to orbit an outer planet

# IMAGES OF JUPITER OVER 100 YEARS



1879



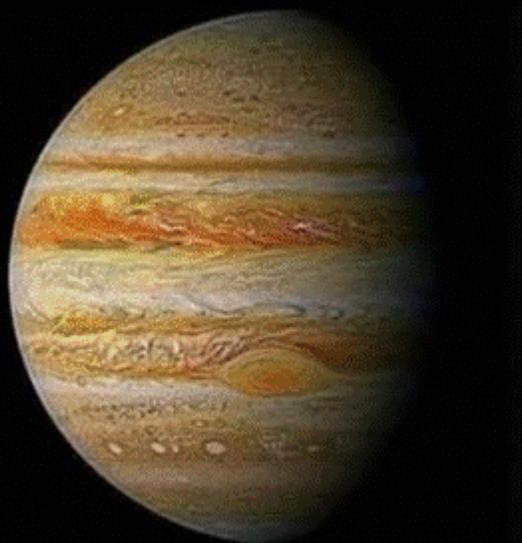
1950



Juno 2016+

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/juno-spacecraft-reveals-more-complex-jupiter>

<https://www.facebook.com/ScienceNaturePage/posts/images-of-jupiter-through-the-yearsthe-earliest-photo-of-jupiter-was-taken-in-18/1121651649415703/>



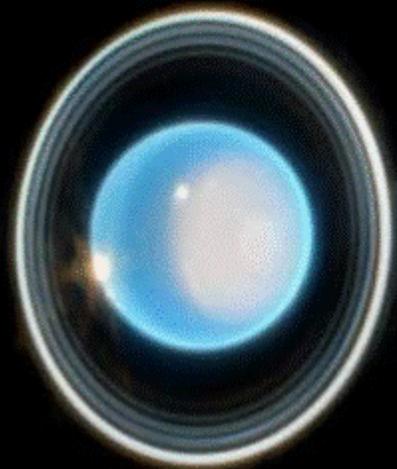
2000



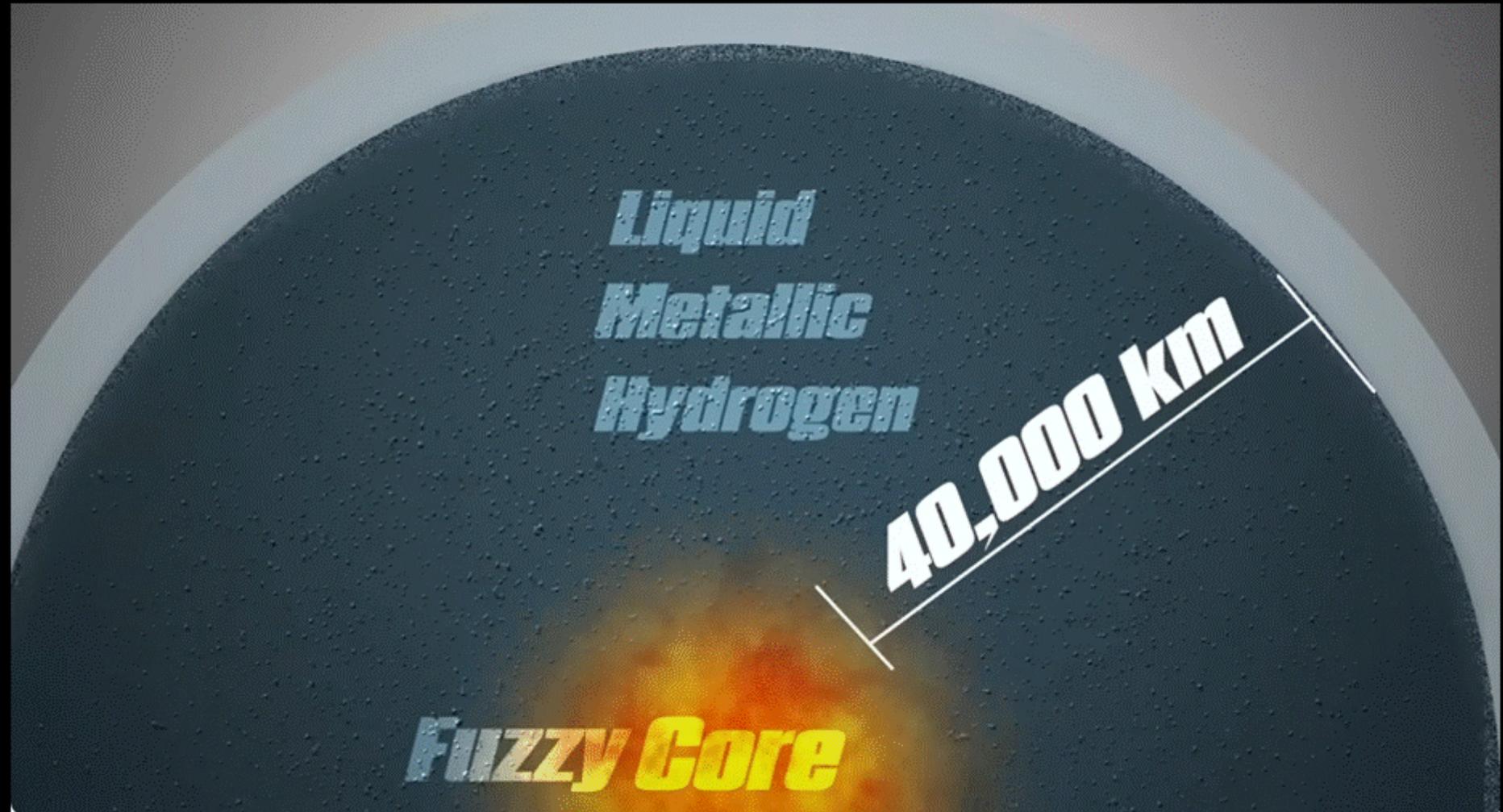
2020

- **Great Red Spot**
- 1879: 39,000 km, 24,000 mi
- 2024: 14,000 km, 8,700 mi.
- <https://www.universetoday.com/articles/the-great-red-spot-probably-formed-in-the-early-1800s>

# Gas Giants (JWST)



# Just "Giant" ?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyNM4jZc24Q>

# Saturn

Saturn through my Telescope

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOIVtC-1q8I>

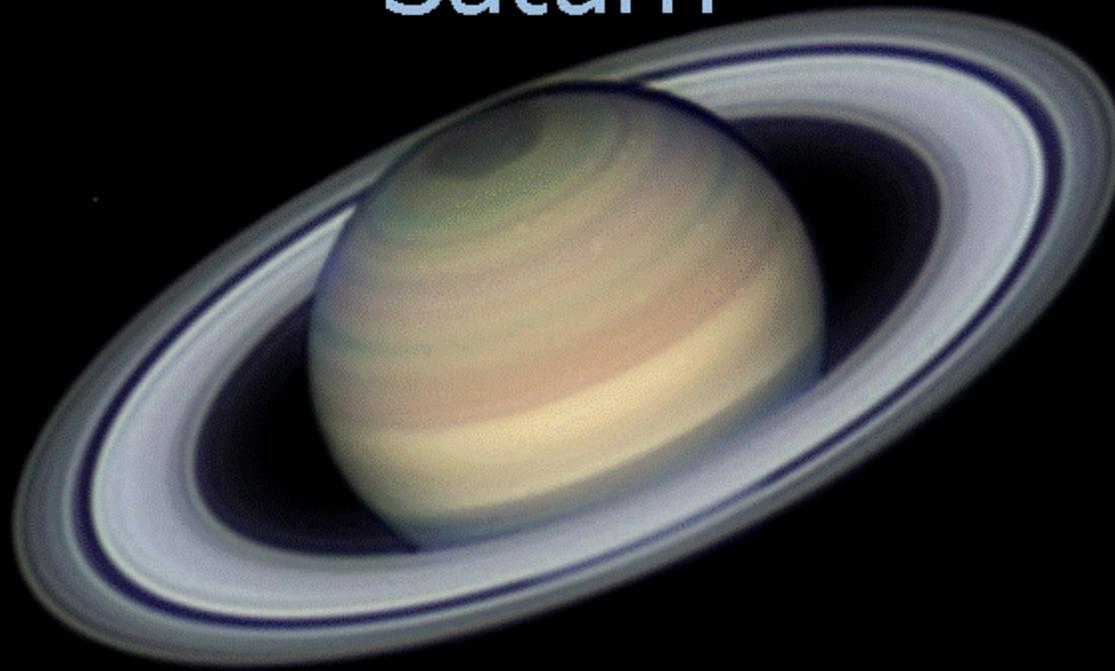
J.W.Astronomy

Scope: 10" Newtonian  
Focal length: 2400mm  
Camera: Alccd51-IIc



Stacked and processed image

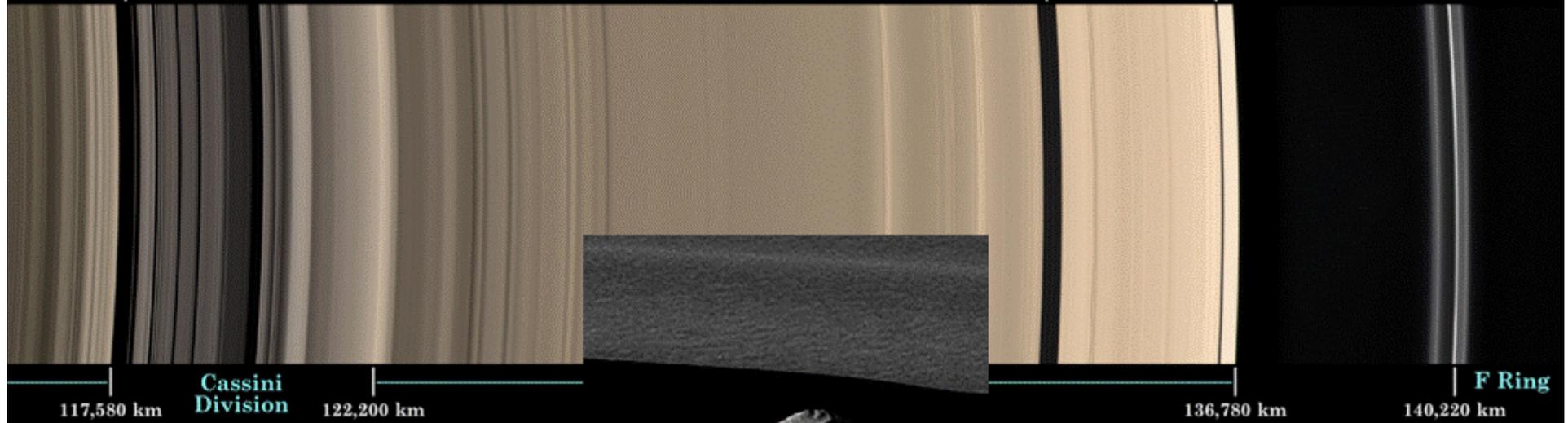
# Saturn



- ZWO ASI174MM-MINI 2.1 MP CMOS Monochrome Astronomy Camera
- 6.85"
- 84,000 frames from a rapid-fire sequence
- \$546
- <https://www.cloudynights.com/forums/topic/498967-probably-our-personal-best-for-saturn/>



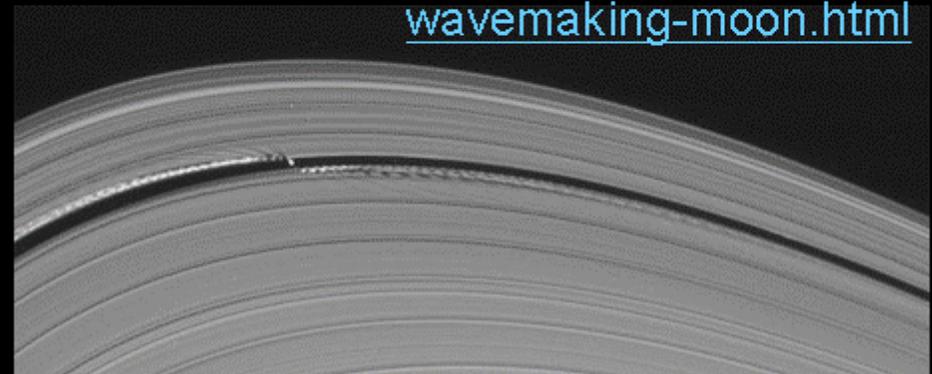
# Huygens Gap *Daphnis* Ring Waves Encke Gap Keeler Gap



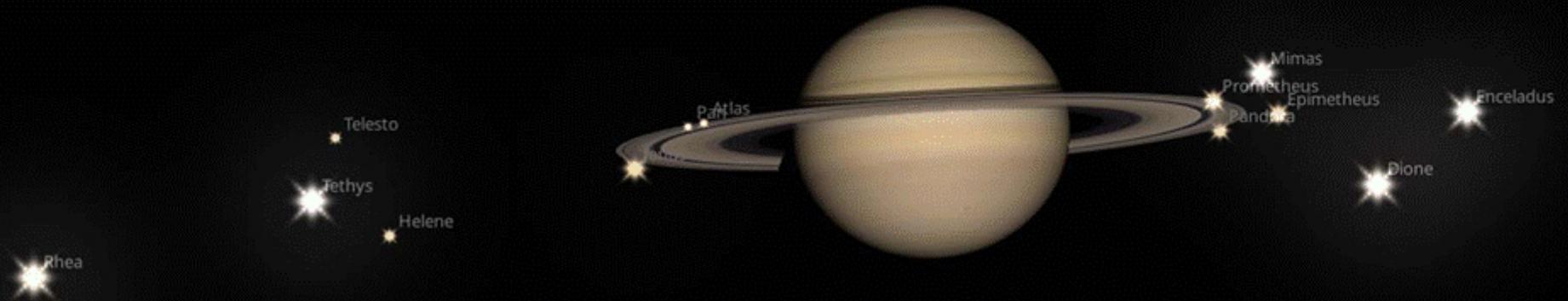
NASA Cassini June 2010

<https://phys.org/news/2013-04-saturn-wavemaking-moon.html>

- Artwork by Kevin Gill
- <https://phys.org/news/2016-08-visualization-saturn.html>



# Best Time to View Saturn in 2026

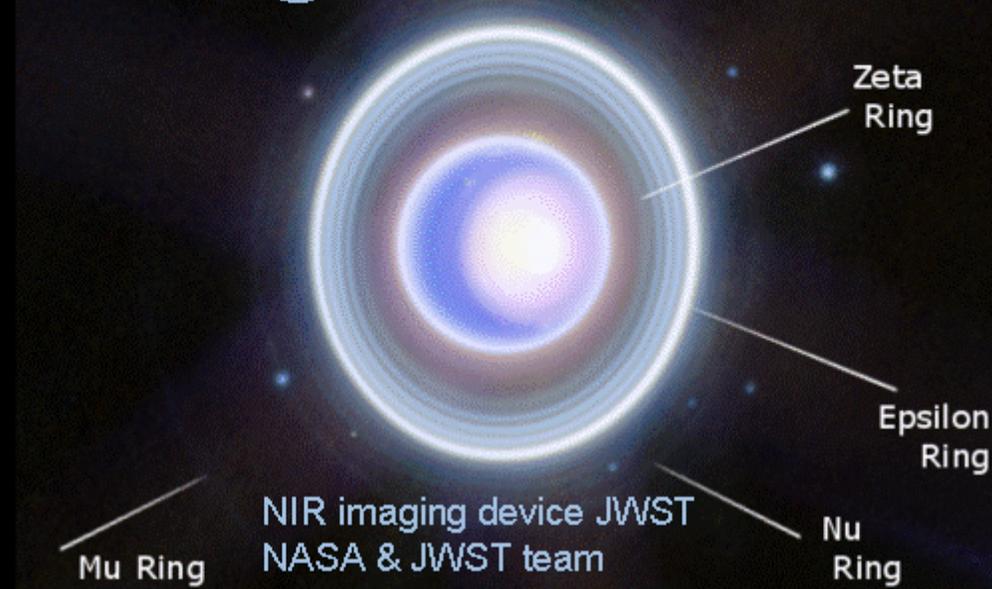


Date and Time

Date and Time			Julian Day		
2026	-	11 - 28	20	:	1 : 37

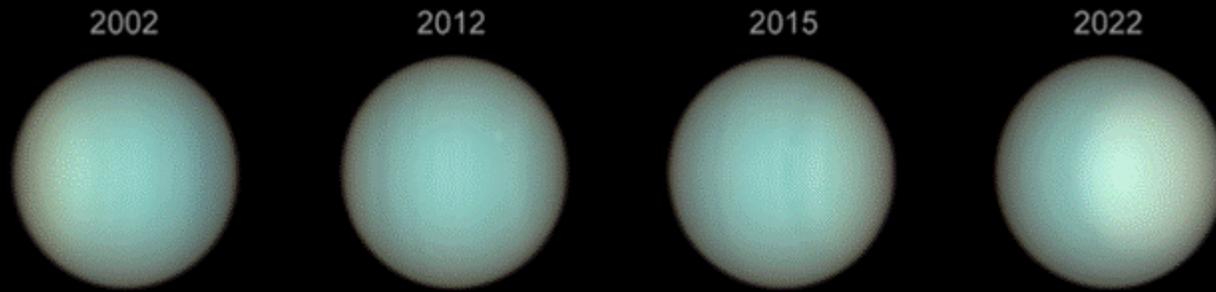
FOV 0.0245° 17.86 FPS 2026-11-28 20:01:37 UTC-05:00

# Rings of Uranus

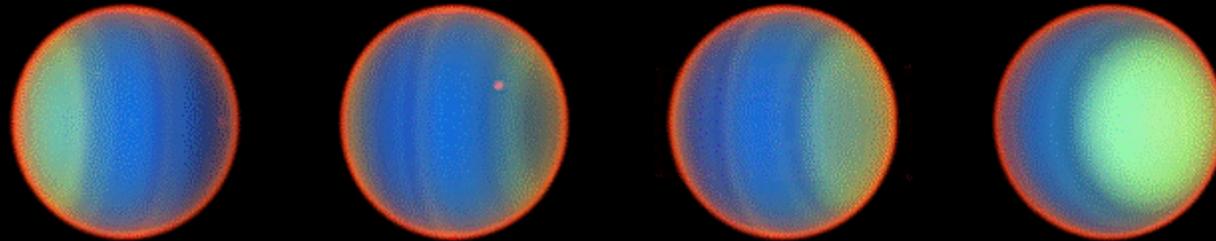


- Discovered 10 March 1977 accidentally
  - James L. Elliot, Edward W. Dunham, and Jessica Mink
  - Kuiper Airborne Observatory
  - Planned to use the occultation of the star SAO 158687 to study its atmosphere.
- William Herschel 1789
  - sighting generally considered doubtful, because the rings are quite faint, and in the two following centuries none were noted by other observers. Still, Herschel made an accurate description of the epsilon ring's size, its angle relative to Earth, its red colour, and its apparent changes as Uranus travelled around the Sun.
    - "Uranus rings 'were seen in 1700s'". BBC News. 19 April 2007.
    - "Did William Herschel Discover The Rings of Uranus in the 18th Century?". Physorg.com. 2007.
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uranus#Rings>

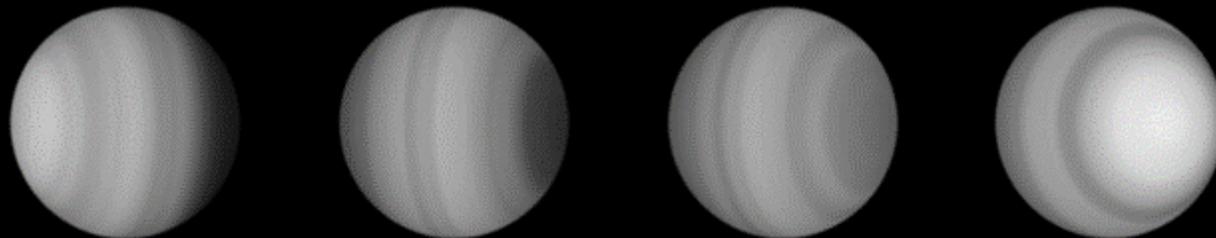
Hubble Space Telescope - Observations of Uranus



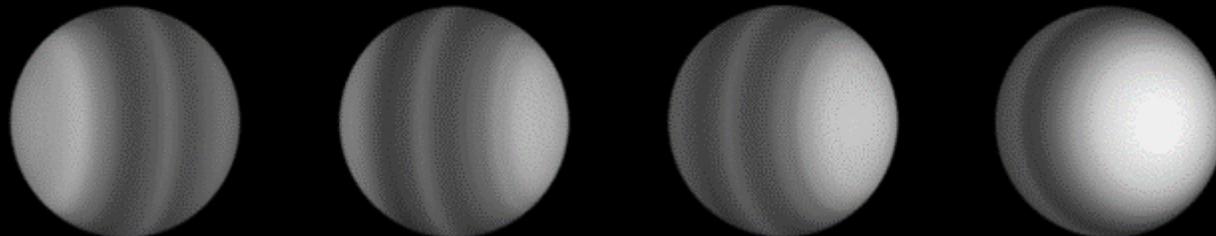
visible light



visible and near infrared



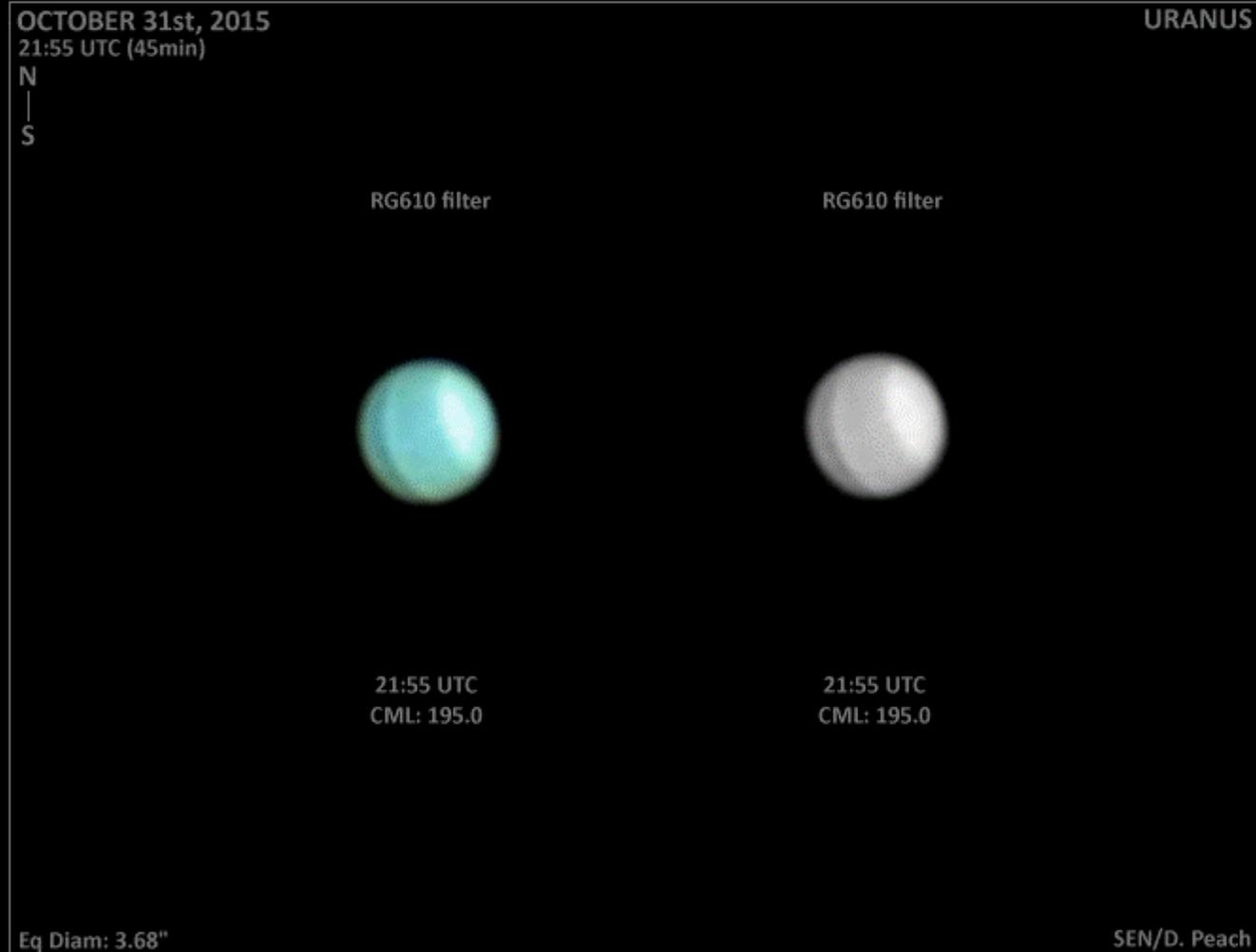
aerosols/haze



methane depletion

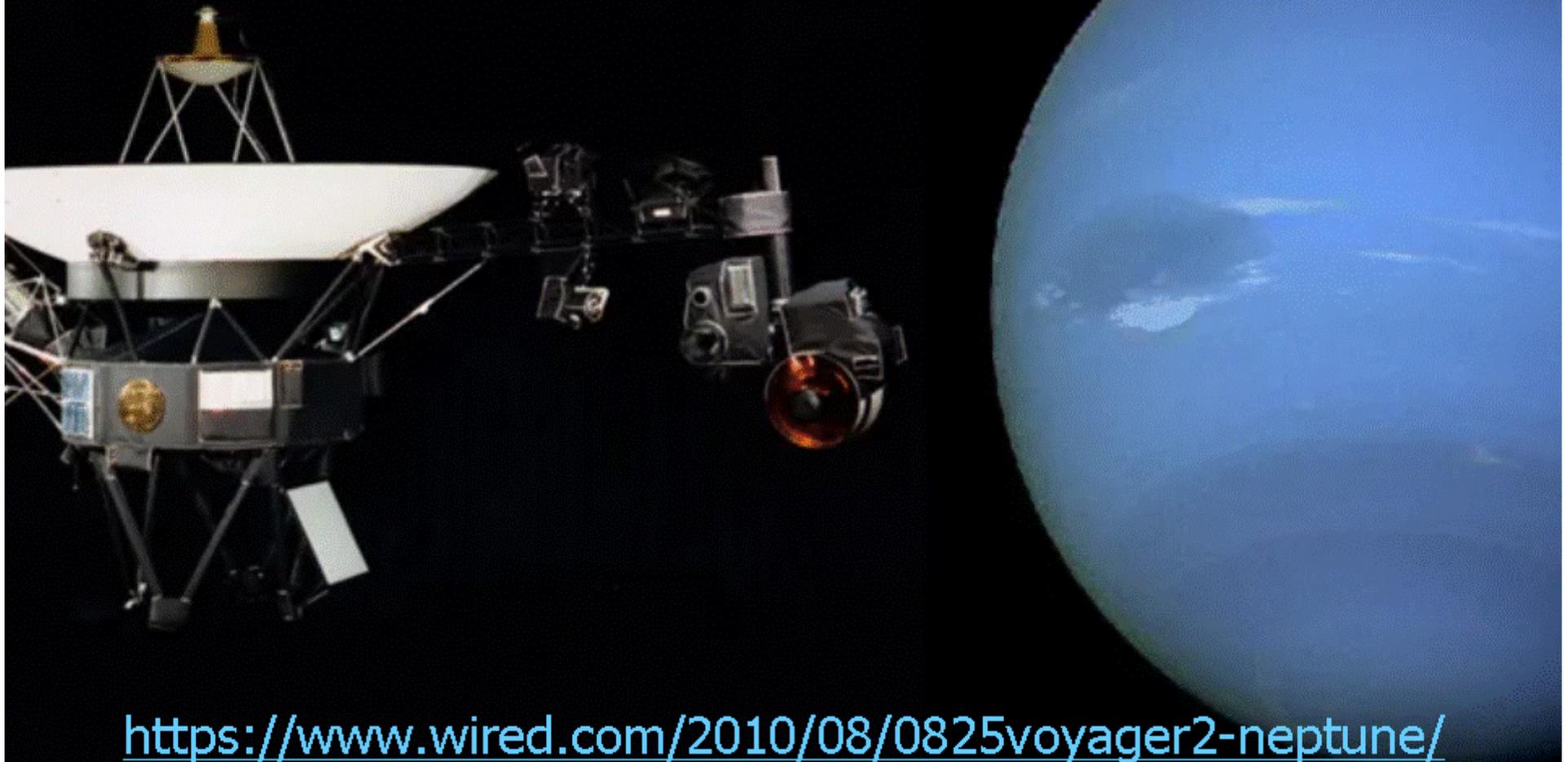
- Space Telescope Science Institute
- <https://astrobiology.com/2025/04/20-year-hubble-study-of-uranus-yields-new-atmospheric-insights.html>

# Uranus by Damien Peach



<https://www.damianpeach.com/uranep.htm>

# Voyager 2 at Neptune, August 25, 1989



<https://www.wired.com/2010/08/0825voyager2-neptune/>

# Color of Neptune – Anton Petrov

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEs4NWfp4Ac>

# Neptune – true color

STIS Uranus 2002



STIS Neptune 2003



Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph (on HST)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEs4NWfp4Ac>

# Neptune

Neptune & Triton

2015-09-19 23:15 UTC (50mins)

RG610 Filter



- [https://www.damianpeach.com/nep2015\\_09\\_19dp.jpg](https://www.damianpeach.com/nep2015_09_19dp.jpg)

# Terrestrial and Dwarf Planets

Venus



# Venus before radar



Frank R Paul



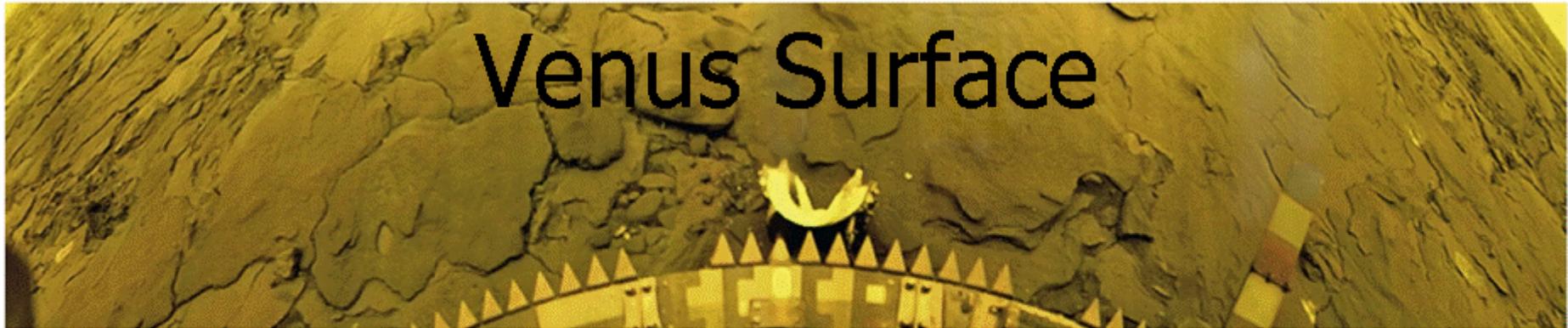
Mel Hunter



Clark Ashton Smith  
"The Immeasurable Horror"  
September 1931 Weird Tales

<https://www.solarsystemheritage.com/venus.html>

# Venus Surface



**VENUS SURFACE PANORAMA FROM VENERA 14 FRONT CAMERA** The Soviet Union's Venera 14 probe captured two color panoramas of Venus's surface in 1982. This panorama came from the front camera. *Image: Russian Academy of Sciences / Ted Stryk*



**VENUS SURFACE PANORAMA FROM VENERA 14 REAR CAMERA** The Soviet Union's Venera 14 probe captured two color panoramas of Venus's surface in 1982. This panorama came from the rear camera. *Image: Russian Academy of Sciences / Ted Stryk*

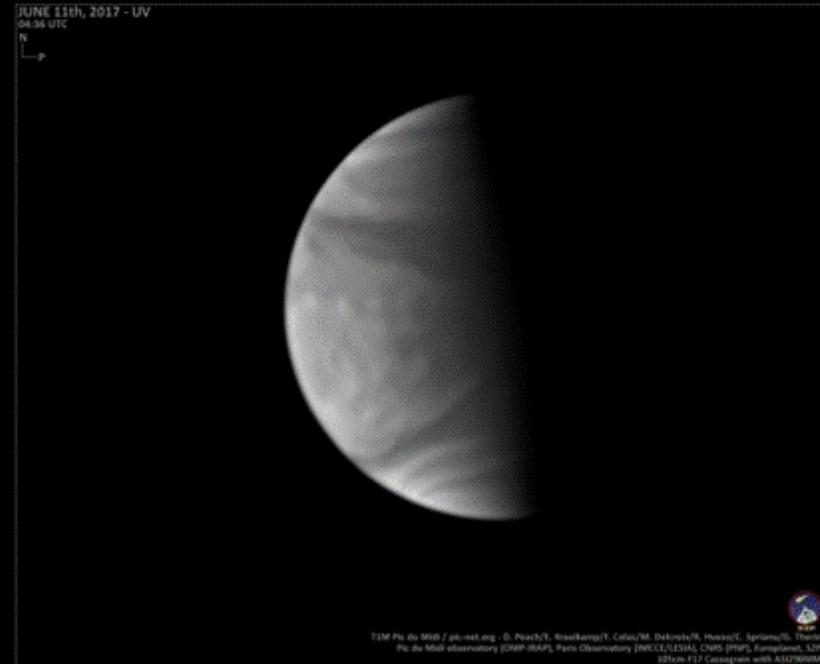
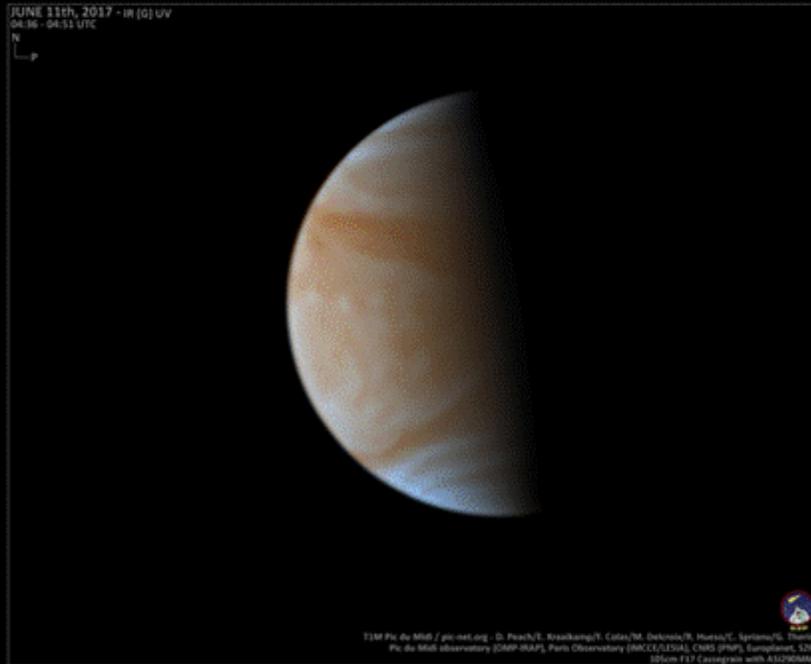
- <https://www.planetary.org/articles/every-picture-from-venus-surface-ever>
- Atmosphere: 96.5% carbon dioxide, 3.5% nitrogen, traces of sulphur dioxide  
Surface temperature: 464 °C, 867 °F
- Surface pressure: 93 bar (9.3 MPa), 92 atm

# Venus

- 
- NASA's Parker Solar Probe
  - close flyby July 2020
  - Credit: NASA/Johns Hopkins APL/Naval Research Laboratory/Guillermo Stenborg and Brendan Gallagher

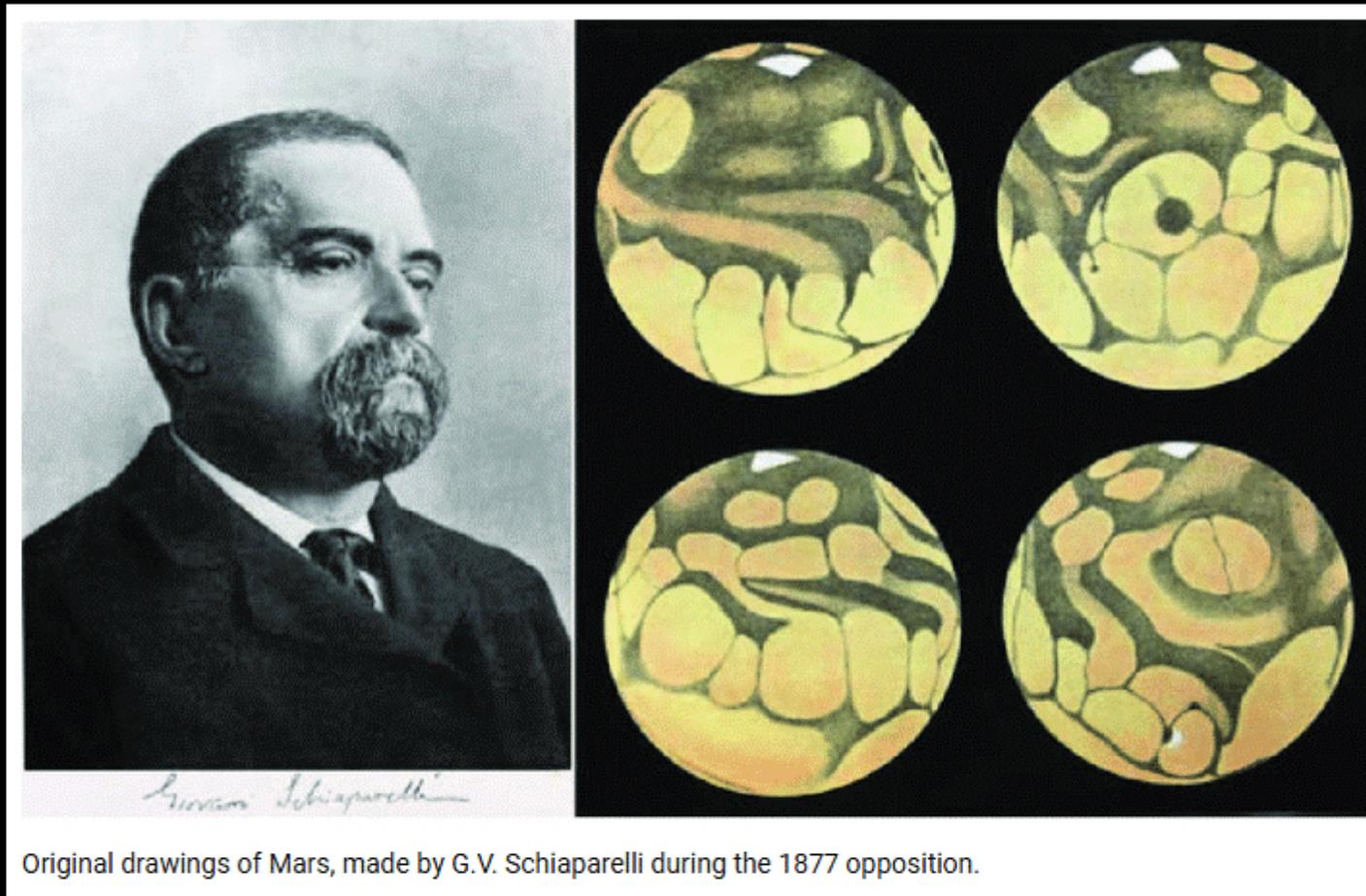
- 
- *Akatsuki* spacecraft 2010-2024
  - Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

# Venus



- Damien Peach
- 105 cm (41.3 in.) F17 Cassegrain with AS1290MM
- June 11th, 2017 - UV and IR/UV colour Pic du Midi Obs.

# Mars

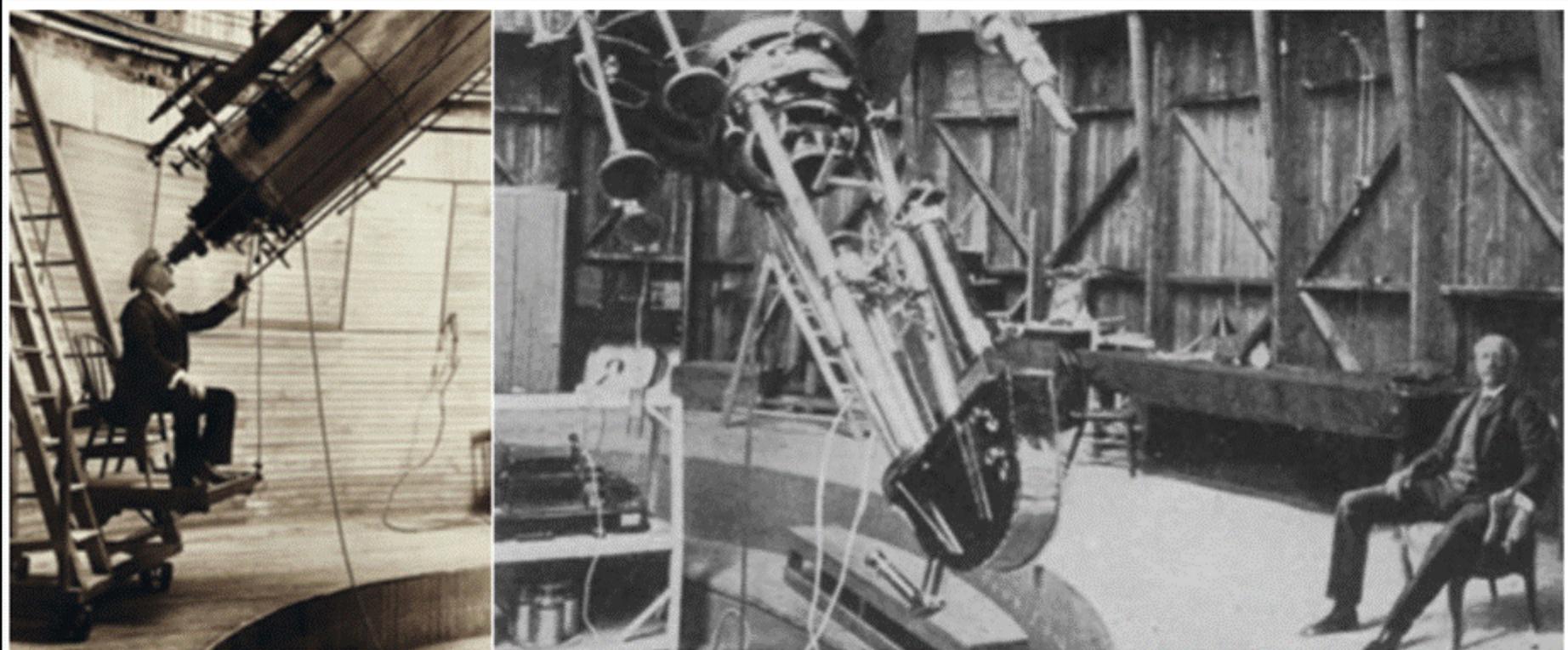


Giovanni Virginio Schiaparelli 14 March 1835 – 4 July 1910

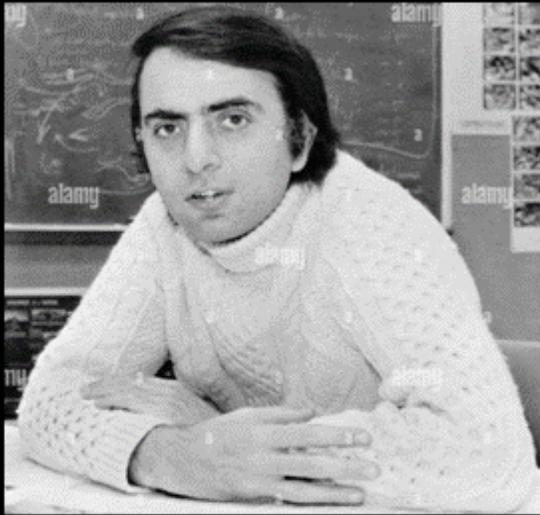
[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Original-drawings-of-Mars-made-by-GV-Schiaparelli-during-the-1877-opposition\\_fig1\\_351724559](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Original-drawings-of-Mars-made-by-GV-Schiaparelli-during-the-1877-opposition_fig1_351724559)

# Percival Lowell

March 13, 1855 – November 12, 1916



Lowell conducting research at the observatory he built - Courtesy of [astronomy.nmsu.edu](http://astronomy.nmsu.edu), [phys.org](http://phys.org)



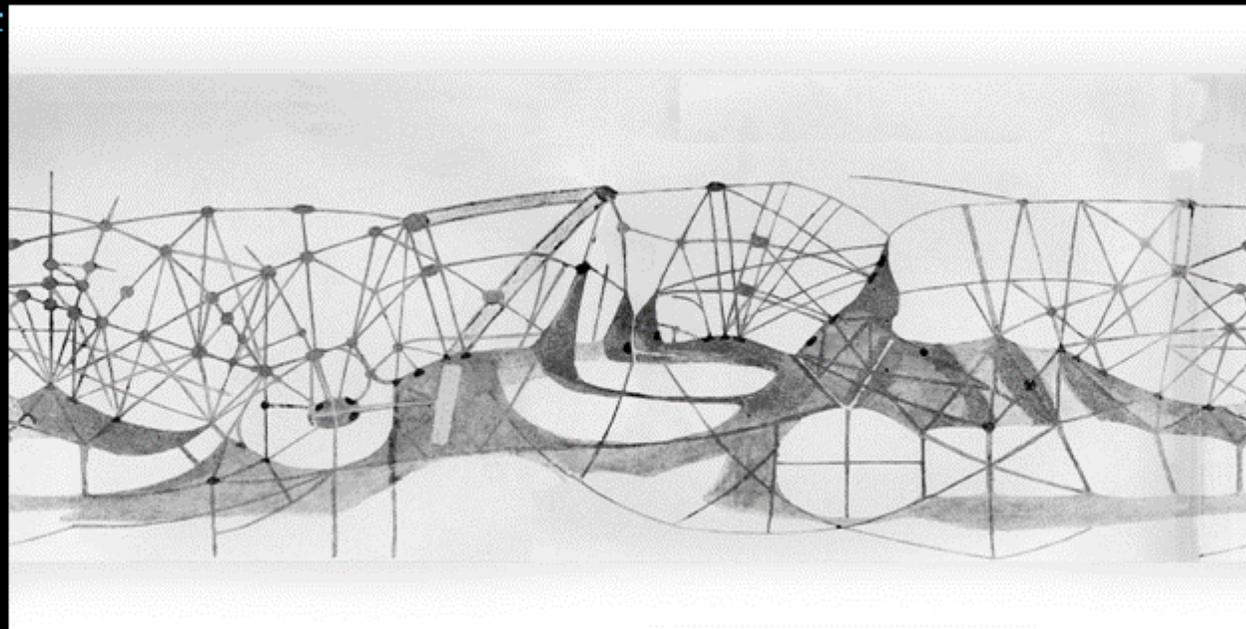
Lowell was "*unfortunately one of the worst draftsmen who ever sat down at the telescope and the kind of Mars that he drew was composed of little polygonal blocks connected by a multitude of straight lines.*"

- Carl Sagan

(Ray Bradbury, Arthur C. Clarke, Bruce Murray, Carl Sagan, Walter Sullivan, "*Mars and the Mind of Man*", New York: Harper and Row, 1973, p. 11.)

November 28, 1973 (AP Photo)

<https://www.alamyimages.fr/professor-carl-sagan-of-new-yorks-cornell-university-november-28-1973-ap-photo-image526280717.html>

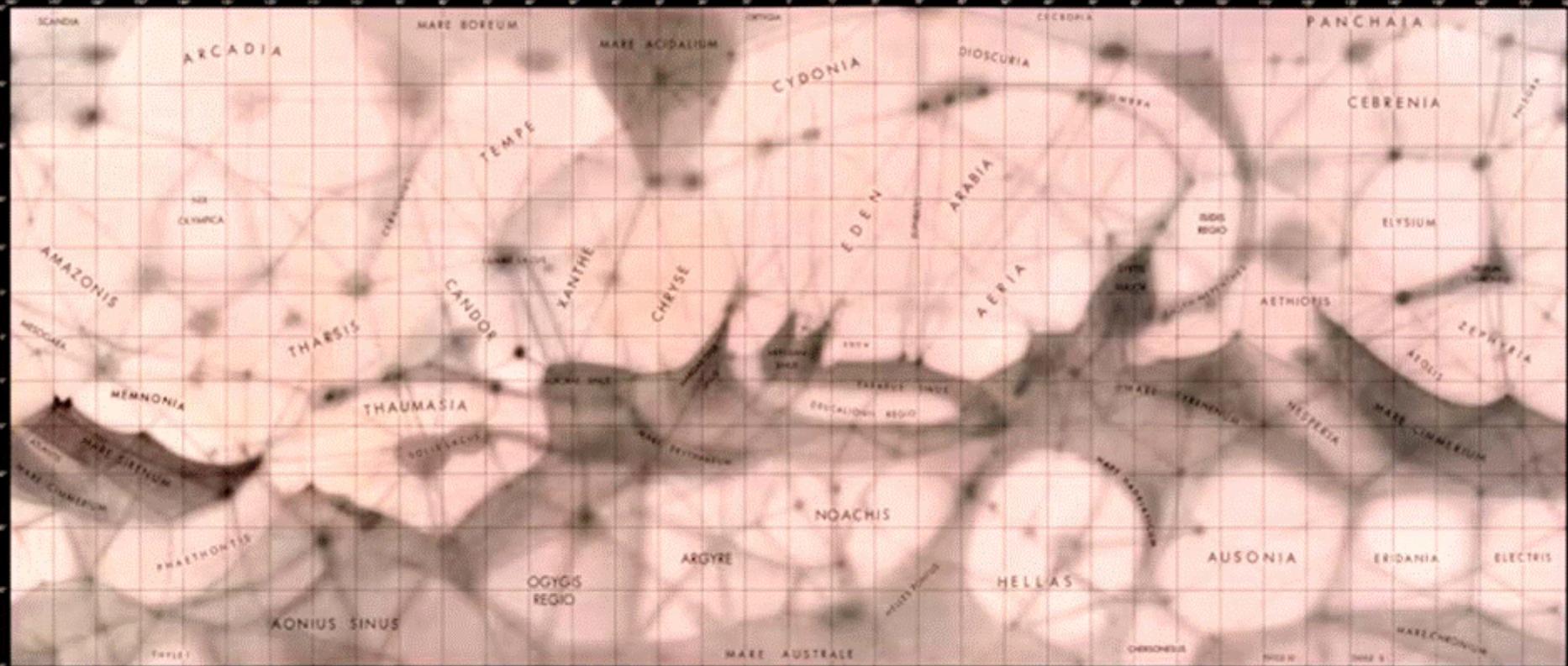


1894 map courtesy of Antoinette Beiser and Lauren Amundson, Lowell Observatory

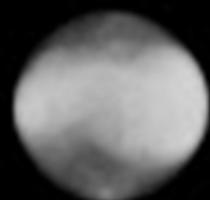
# Vesto Slipher

November 11, 1875 – November 8, 1969

## 1962 map



# 1<sup>st</sup> Photos of Mars



26 April 1888



9 April 1890



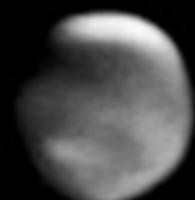
10 April 1890



11 April 1890



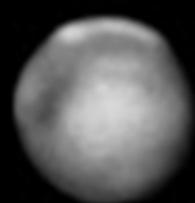
15 April 1890



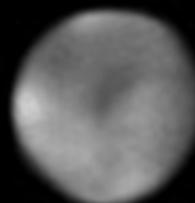
1 May 1890



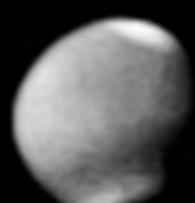
26 May 1890



31 May 1890



1 June 1890



30 June 1890



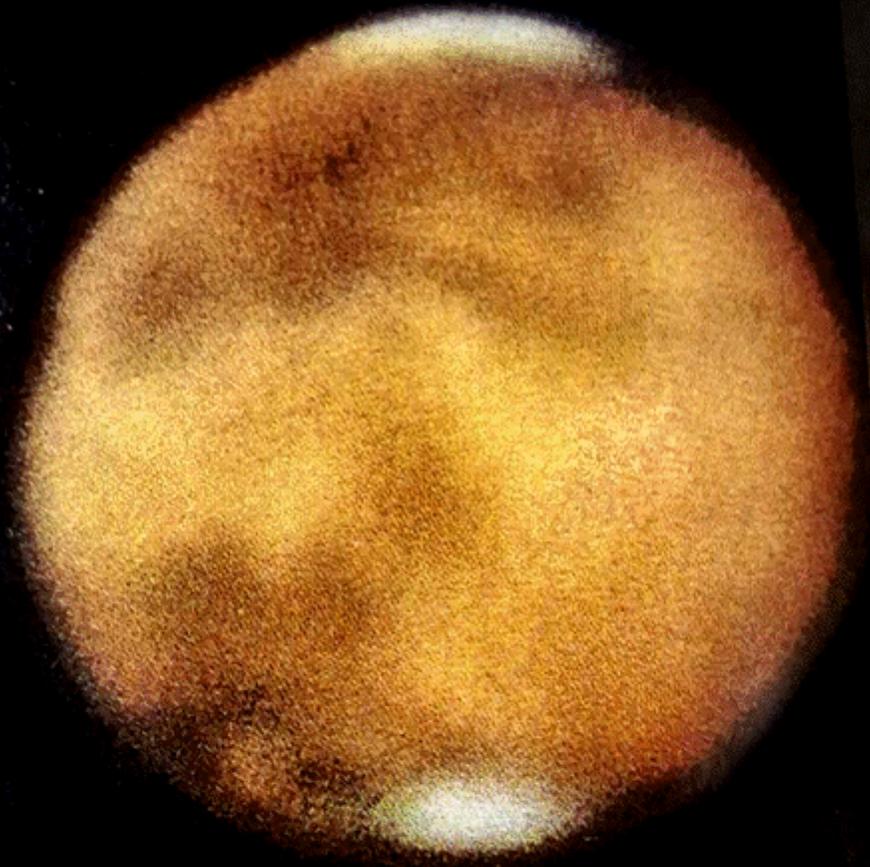
21 August 1892

Mars  
Photographs  
by E. S. Holden at  
Lick Observatory  
Restored and  
Enhanced by  
Ted Stryk

- Home to the photographic works & blog of physicist David E. Wolf
- <https://www.hatiandskoll.com/2015/12/14/photographic-firsts-17-first-photographs-of-the-planet-mars/>

# Observatory Mars

(photographic film)



PHOTOGRAPHED BY 60-INCH TELESCOPE AT  
CERRO TOLOLO INTER-AMERICAN  
OBSERVATORY, CHILE, 1969

# Amateur Astrophotography

**Views of the Cosmos**  
Astrophotography by Damian Peach  
www.damianpeach.com

[www.damianpeach.com/](http://www.damianpeach.com/)

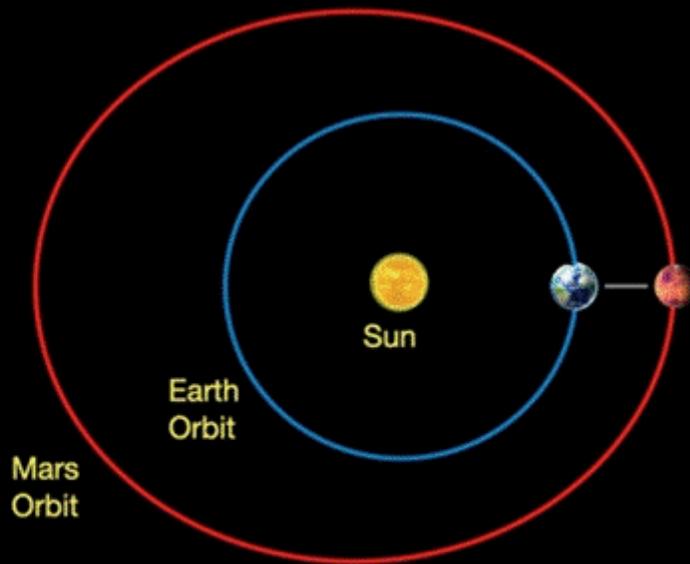
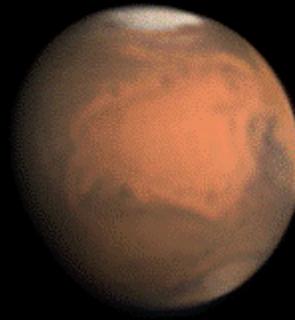


The image displays three circular astronomical photographs side-by-side. From left to right: Mars, showing its reddish-orange surface with darker spots; Jupiter, showing its characteristic white and brown horizontal bands and the Great Red Spot; and Saturn, showing its planet and its prominent ring system.

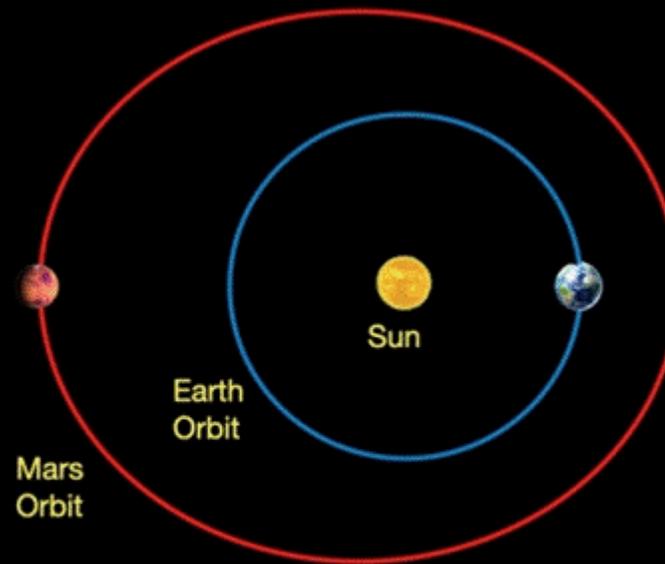


Above: The Celestron 14" (35cm) Schmidt Cassegrain. The Vixen 6" F/9 Apo ready for imaging the Sun with the Daystar 0.6A ATM.

# Mars 2024-2025, Damien Peach



**Opposition: Mars is close and bright**



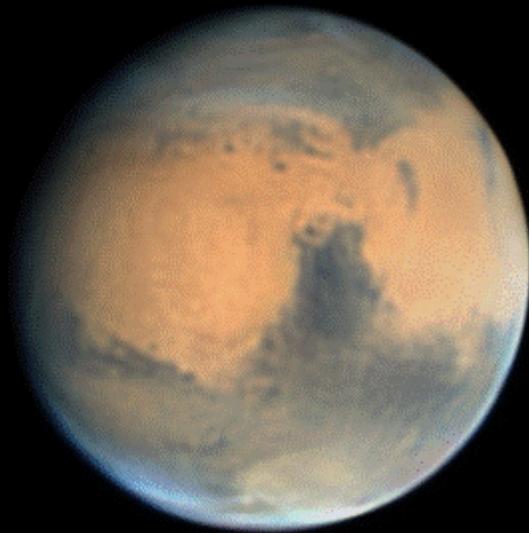
**Conjunction: Mars is distant and faint**

# Mars 2016, Damien Peach

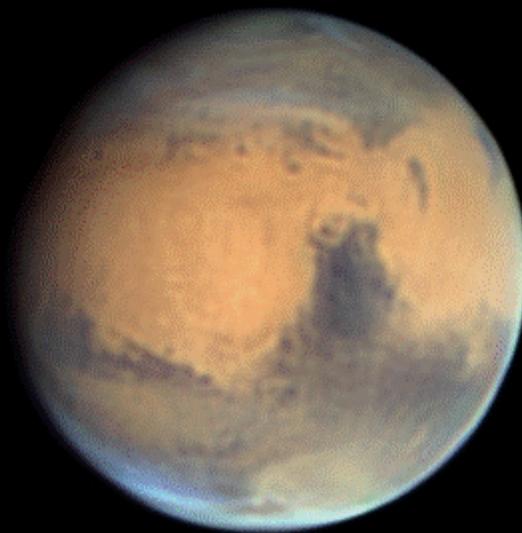
JUNE 18th, 2016

LS 171

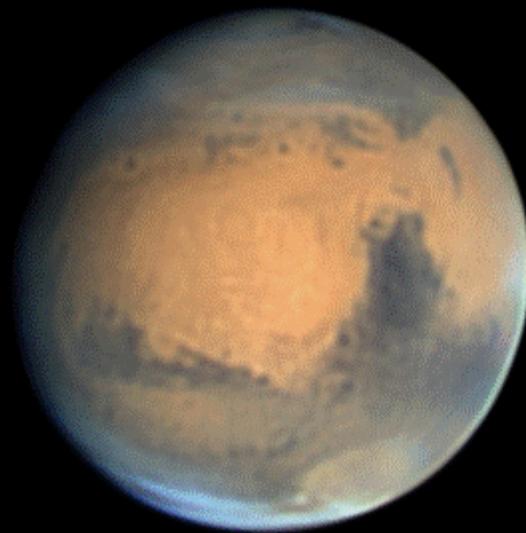
N  
Lp



00:24:12 UTC  
CML: 904.4°



00:41:30 UTC  
CML: 908.6°

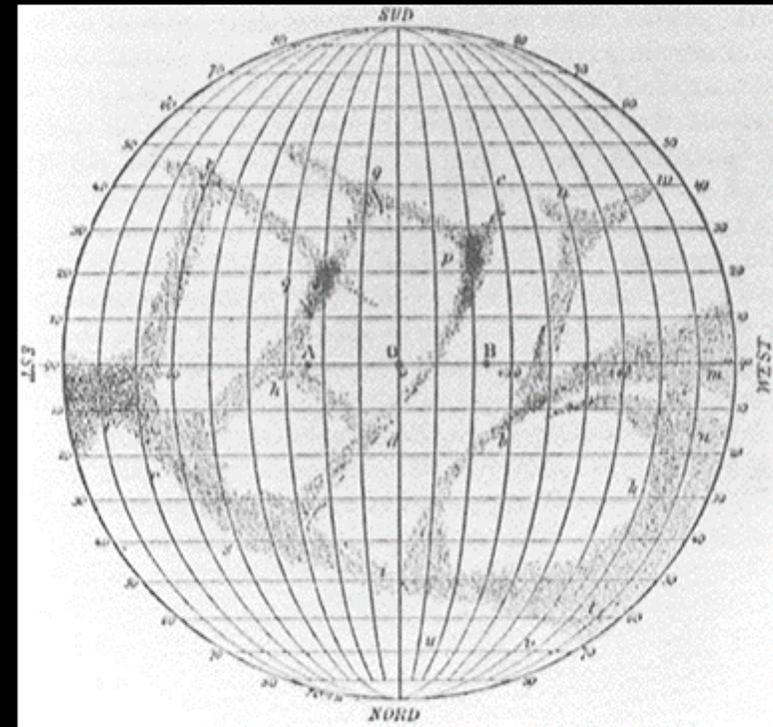
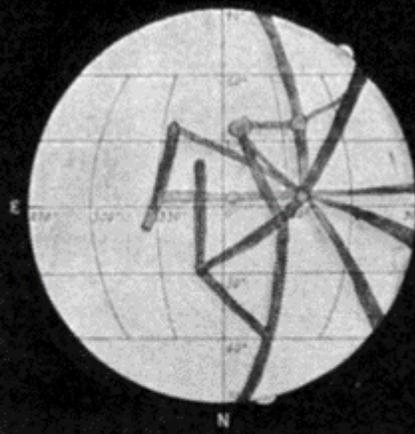
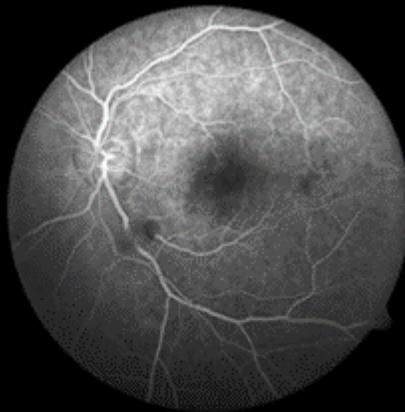
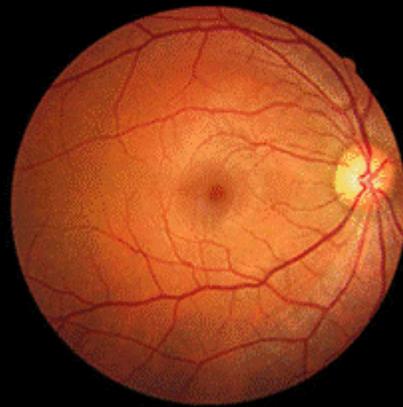
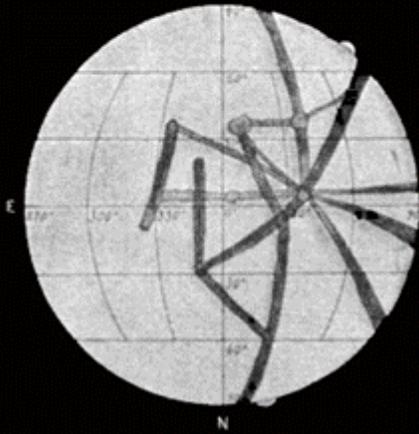


01:31:36 UTC  
CML: 320.8°

Diam: 17.7"

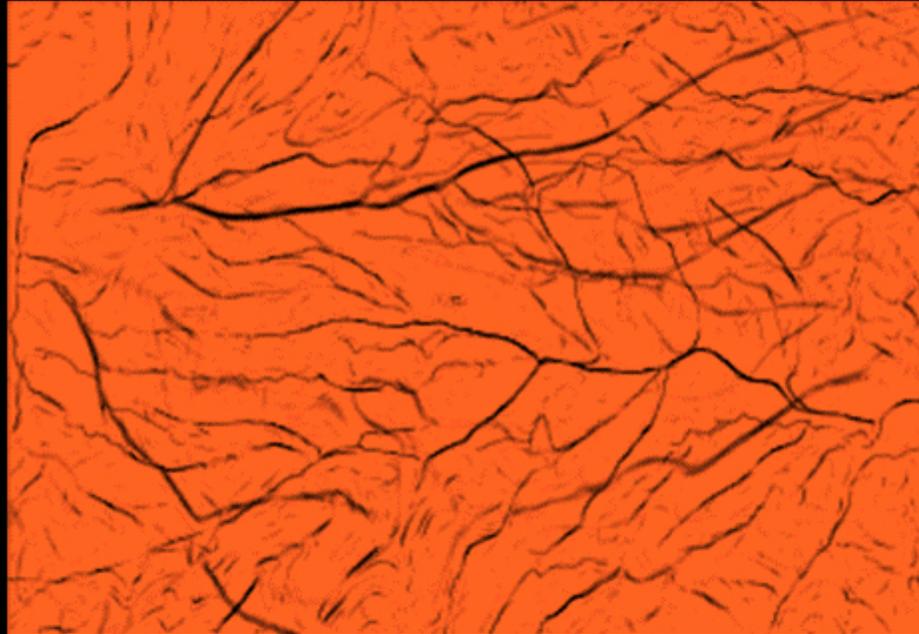
D. Peach

# Lowell's Venus and Mercury



- <https://sciencesoup.tumblr.com/post/33192584053/the-venus-spokes-illusion-19th-century-american>
- [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-1-4614-7951-2\\_1](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-1-4614-7951-2_1)

# Canals?



1938

**THE WAR OF THE  
WORLDS (1898).**



SCIENCE FICTION NOVEL  
(WITH ILLUSTRATIONS)

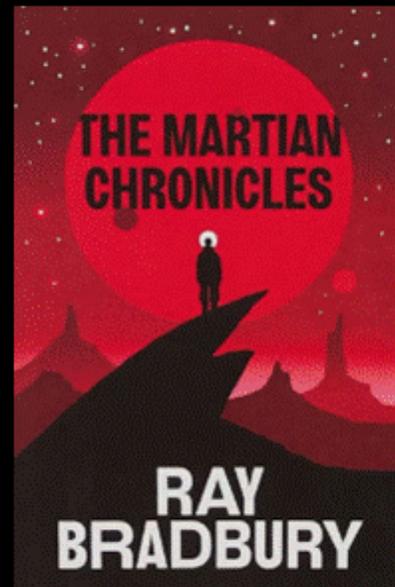
**H. G. WELLS**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_War\\_of\\_the\\_Worlds\\_\(1938\\_radio\\_drama\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_War_of_the_Worlds_(1938_radio_drama))

# Science Fiction



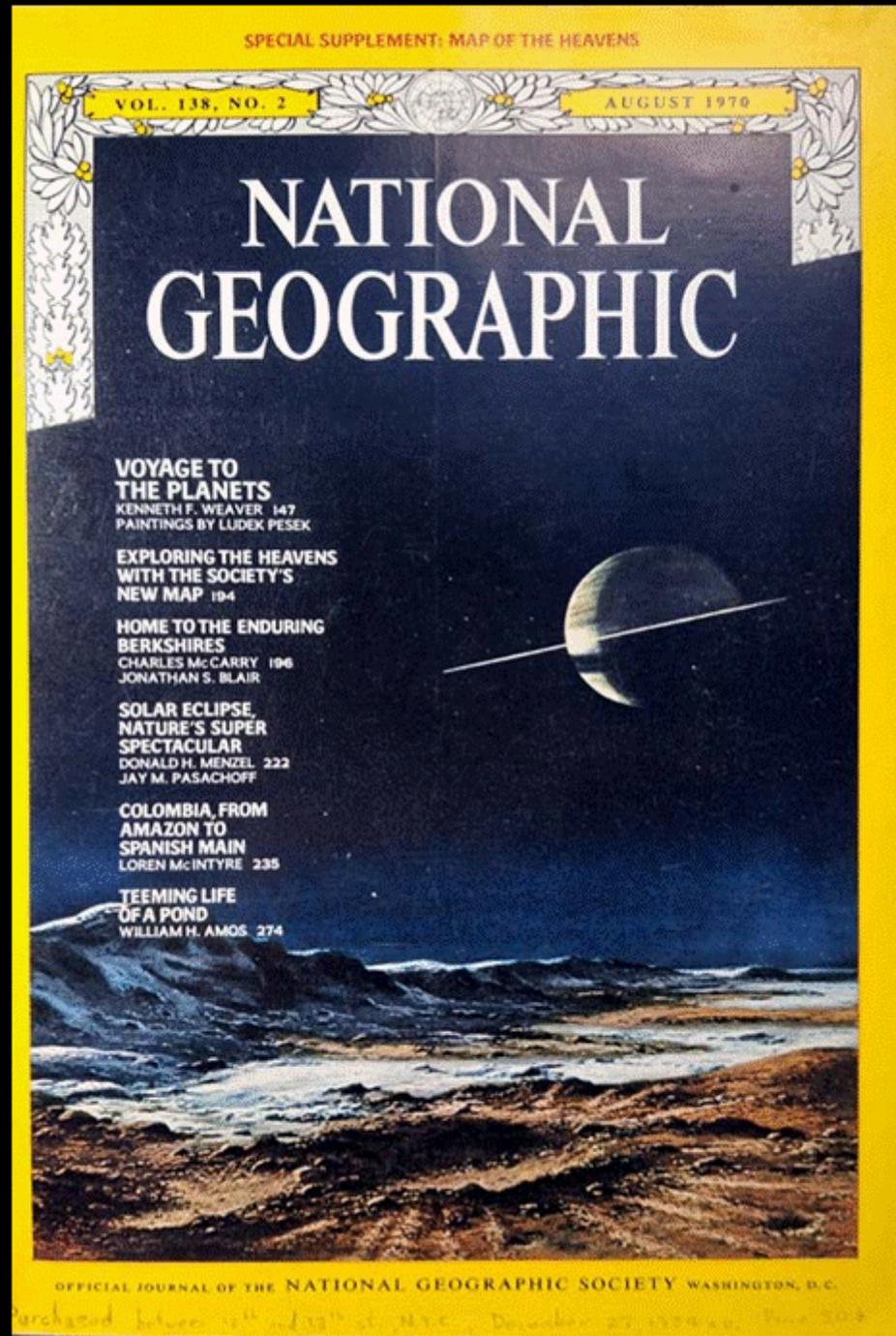
11 Books, 1912-1943



1950



# Space Art



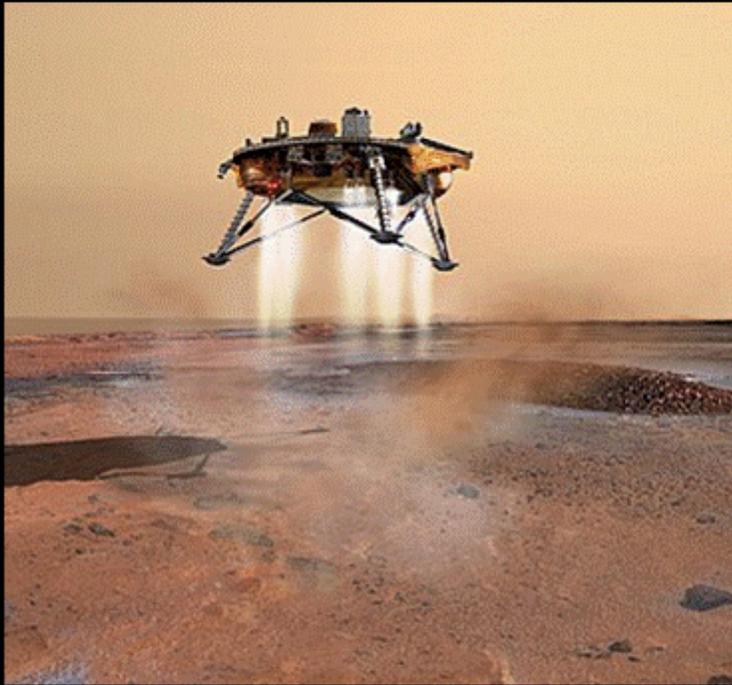
# Luděk Pešek

(26 April 1919 – 4 December 1999)



# Phoenix lander

May 25, 2008 to November 2, 2008



**Sol 20**



**Sol 24**

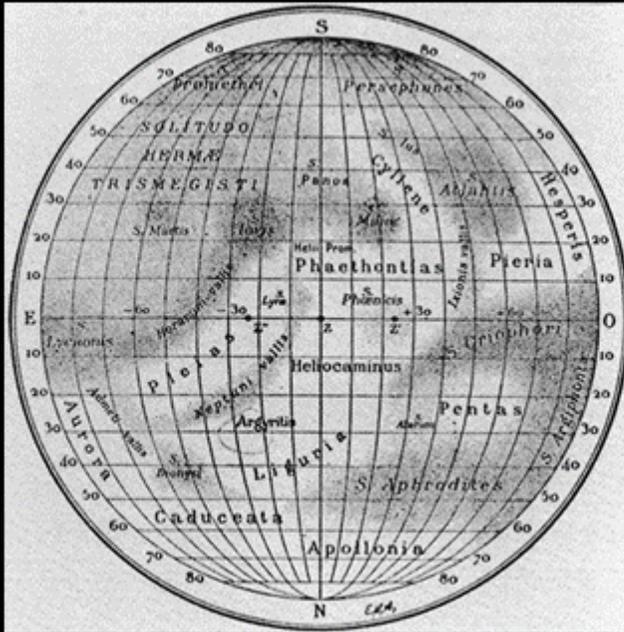


# Mercury

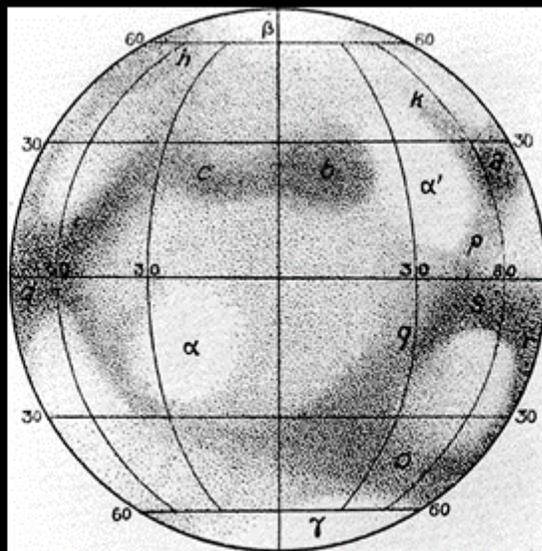


Synchronous Rotation 1920s-1978

# Mercury

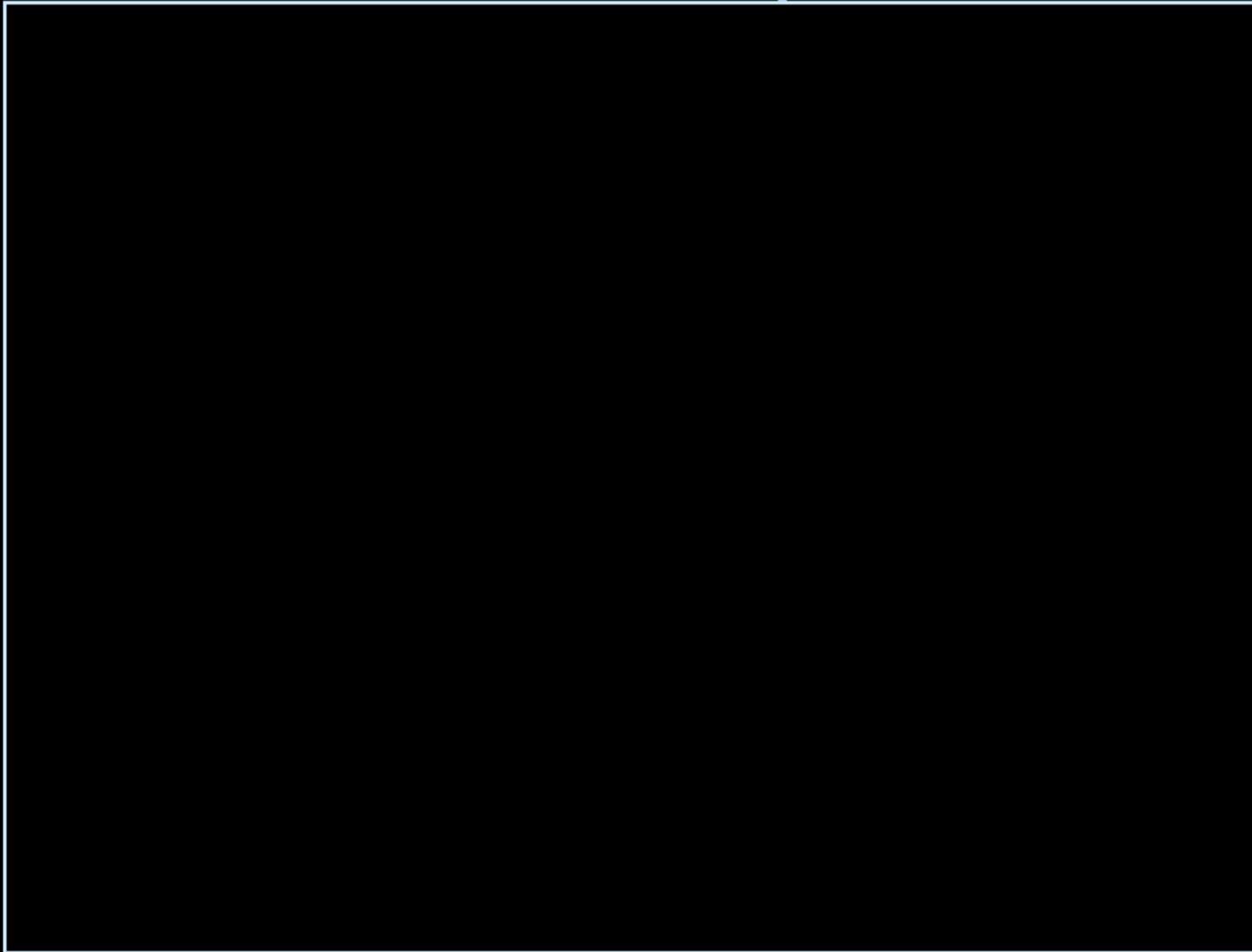


Eugène Michel Antoniadi 1 March 1870 – 10 February 1944



Lucien Rudaux 1874–1947

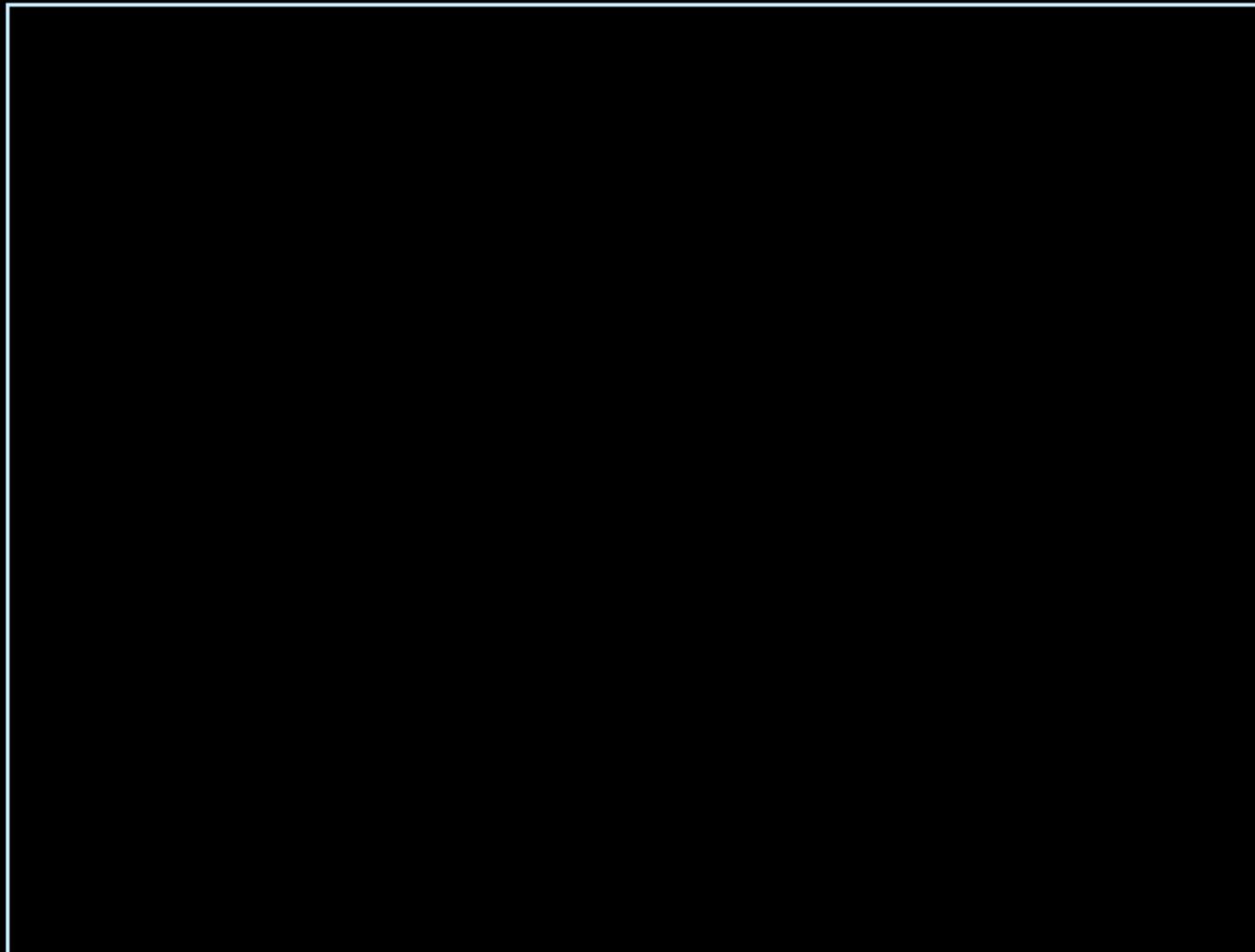
# Mercury



Three Synodic Periods = c.348 days

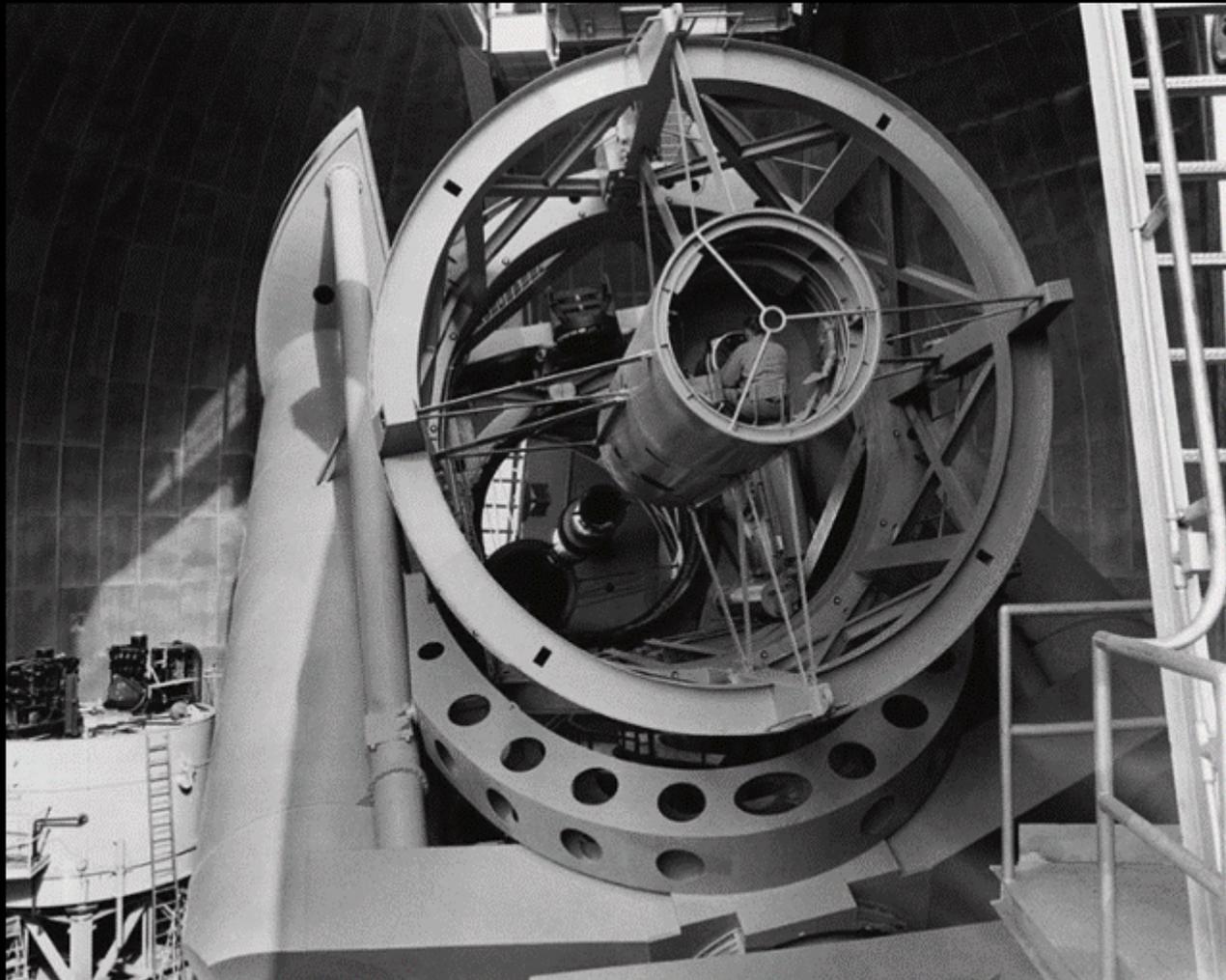
Best time to view high in sky: early May and early August

# Mercury

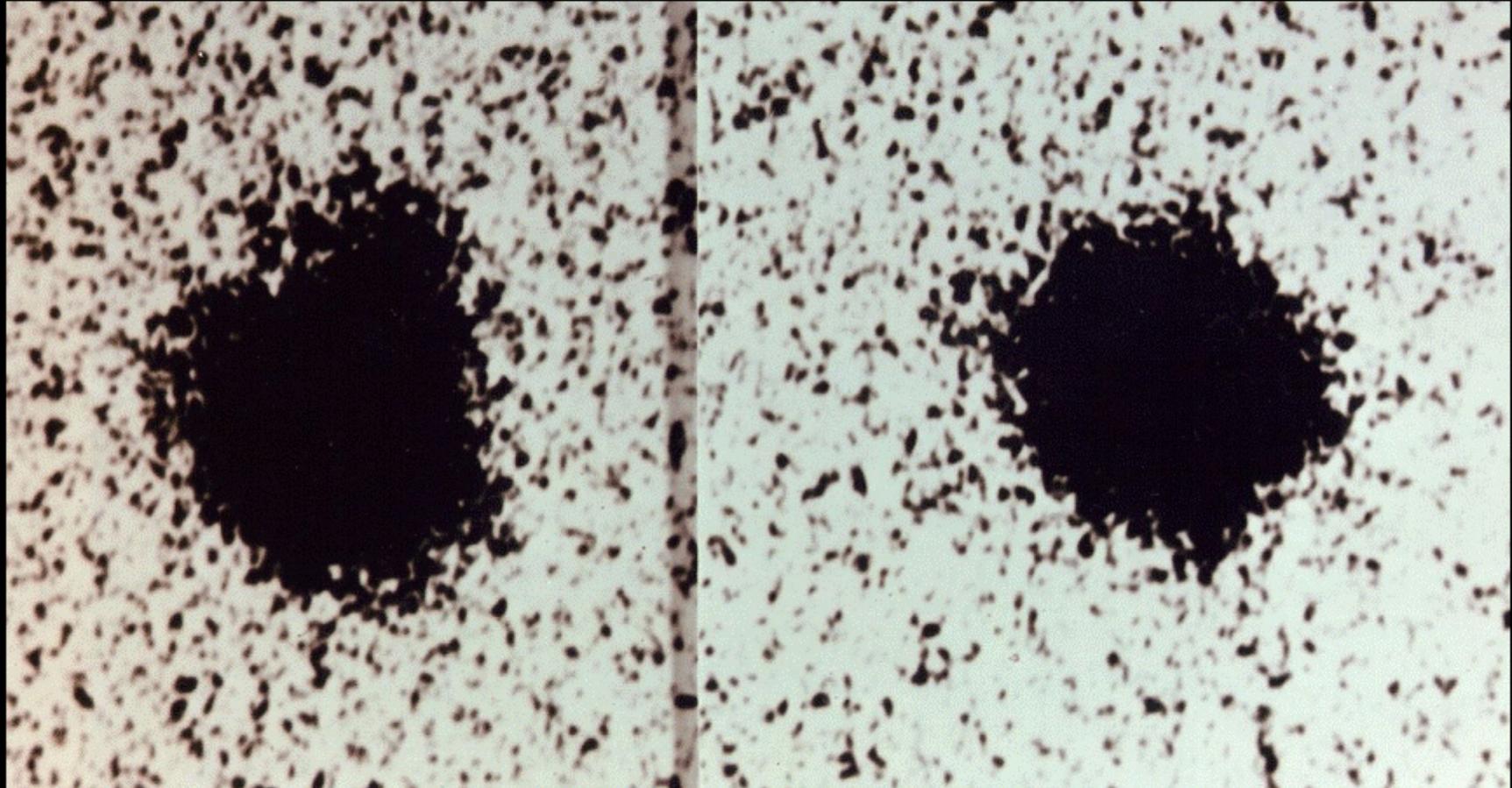


Animation comparing maps by:  
(L) Rudaux, (C) MESSENGER degraded, (R) Antoniadi

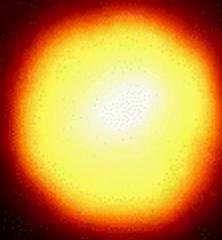
# Pluto



# Pluto 7 July 1978

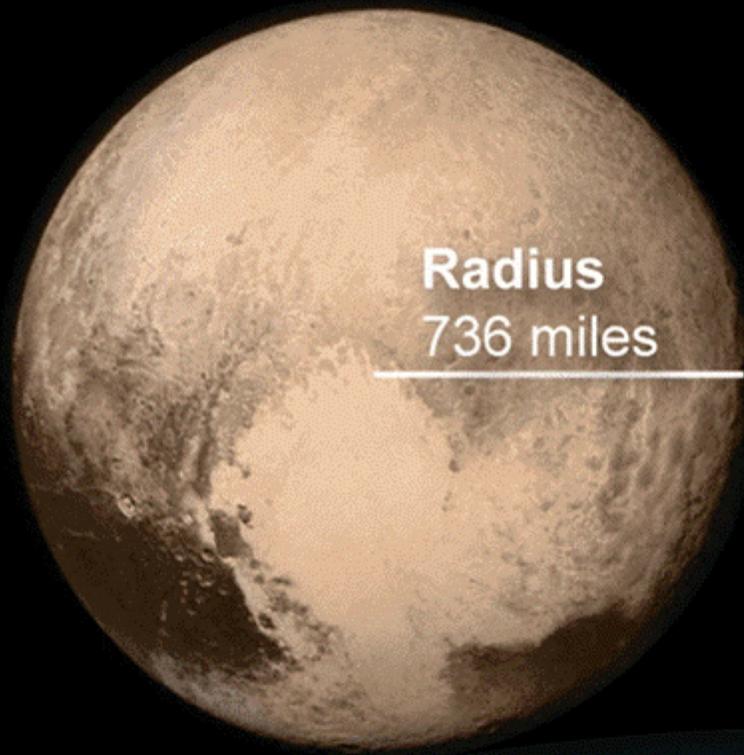


# Pluto



Computer-corrected image of Pluto, left, and Charon, taken in 1994 by the Hubble Space Telescope's Faint Object Camera, the first to show Charon as a separate object.

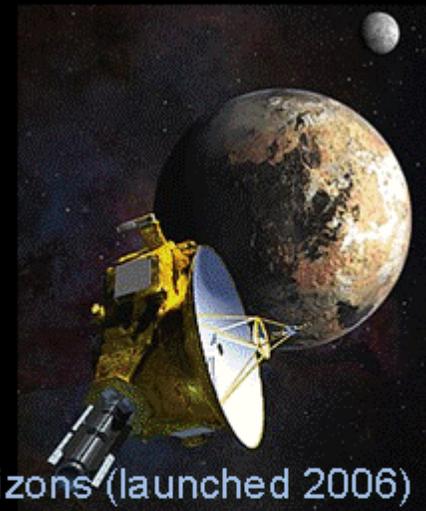
# Pluto 2015



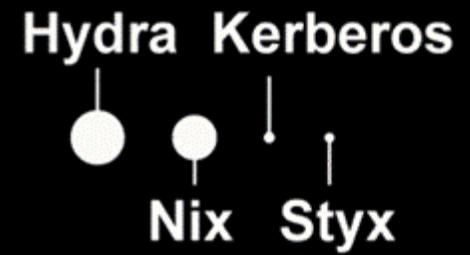
**Pluto**



**Charon**



New Horizons (launched 2006)



<https://www.astronomicalreturns.com/2019/11/styx-nix-and-tango-dance-of-plutos-moons.html>

**Earth**

# Pluto

<https://science.nasa.gov/dwarf-planets/pluto/moons/facts/>

## Charon and the Small Moons of Pluto



Styx

Nix

Kerberos

Hydra

10 miles  
10 km

Charon

# Pluto redefined

- August 2006 triennial meeting of the IAU
- Definition of "planet":
  1. The object must be in orbit around the Sun.
  2. The object must be massive enough to be rounded by its own gravity. More specifically, its own gravity should pull it into a shape defined by hydrostatic equilibrium.
  3. It must have cleared the neighborhood around its orbit.

# Dwarf Planets

Name	Diameter relative to the Moon	Diameter (km)	Mass relative to the Moon	Mass ( $\times 10^{21}$ kg)	Density ( $\text{g/cm}^3$ )	Rotation period (hours)	Moons	Albedo	H
Ceres	27%	$939.4 \pm 0.2$	1.3%	$0.93835 \pm 0.00001$	2.16	9.1	0	0.09	3.33
Orcus	26%	$910^{+50}_{-40}$	0.8%	$0.55 \pm 0.01$	$1.4 \pm 0.2$	$13 \pm 4$	1	$0.23^{+0.02}_{-0.01}$	2.19
Pluto	68%	$2377 \pm 3$	17.7%	$13.03 \pm 0.01$	1.85	6d 9.3h	5	0.52	-0.45
(Charon)	35%	$1212 \pm 1$	2.2%	$1.59 \pm 0.01$	$1.70 \pm 0.01$	6d 9.3h	-	0.38	1
Salacia	24%	$846 \pm 21$	0.7%	$0.49 \pm 0.01$	$1.50 \pm 0.12$	6.1	1	0.04	4.27
Haumea	$\approx 45\%$	$\approx 1560^{[59]}$	5.5%	$4.01 \pm 0.04$	$\approx 1.8$	3.9	2	$\approx 0.66$	0.23
Quaoar	32%	$1098 \pm 2$	1.9%	$1.21 \pm 0.01$	$1.75 \pm 0.01$	17.7	1 (??)	$0.11 \pm 0.01$	2.42
Makemake	41%	$1430 \pm 14$	3.7%	$2.69 \pm 0.20$	$1.76 \pm 0.17$	22.8	1	$0.81^{+0.03}_{-0.05}$	-0.20
Gonggong	35%	$1230 \pm 50$	2.4%	$1.75 \pm 0.07$	$1.74 \pm 0.16$	$22.4 \pm 0.2?$	1	$0.14 \pm 0.01$	1.86
Eris	67%	$2326 \pm 12$	22.4%	$16.38 \pm 0.14$	$2.43 \pm 0.05$	15d 18.9h	1	$0.96 \pm 0.04$	-1.21
Sedna	26%	$906^{+314}_{-258}$	$\approx 1\%?$	$\approx 1?$	?	$10 \pm 3$	0?	$0.41^{+0.393}_{-0.186}$	1.52

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwarf\\_planet#Most\\_likely\\_dwarf\\_planets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dwarf_planet#Most_likely_dwarf_planets)

# 1 Ceres



- Discovered 1 January 1801
- Mean diameter: 939 km (584 miles)
- Equatorial surface gravity: 0.284 m/s<sup>2</sup> (0.0290 g<sub>0</sub> Earth)
- Water ice and magnesium sulfate hexahydrate



# Known Moons

## 1920

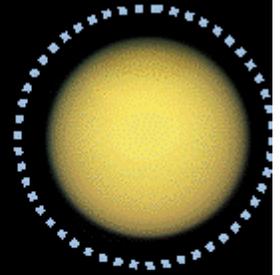
- $26/419 = 6.2\%$
- Earth 1
- Mars 2
- Jupiter 9/97
  - 4 Galileans 1610
  - V Amalthea 1892
  - VI Himalia 1904
  - VII Elara 1905
  - VIII Pasiphae 1908
  - IX Sinope 1914
- Saturn 9/274
- Uranus 4/29
- Neptune 1/16



## 1966

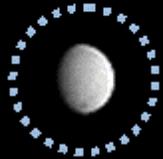
- $33/419 = 8\%$
- Earth 1
- Mars 2
- Jupiter 12/97
- Saturn 11/274
- Uranus 5/29
- Neptune 2/16

(Ceres)



Titan 3200 mi.  
*(moon of Saturn)*

Enceladus 313 mi.  
*(moon of Saturn)*



# 5 Moons



Europa 1940 mi.  
*(moon of Jupiter)*



Ceres



Triton 1682 mi.  
*(moon of Neptune)*  
*(Pluto 1477mi.)*



Miranda 298x291x289 mi.  
*(moon of Uranus)*



Europa



# Europa Lander



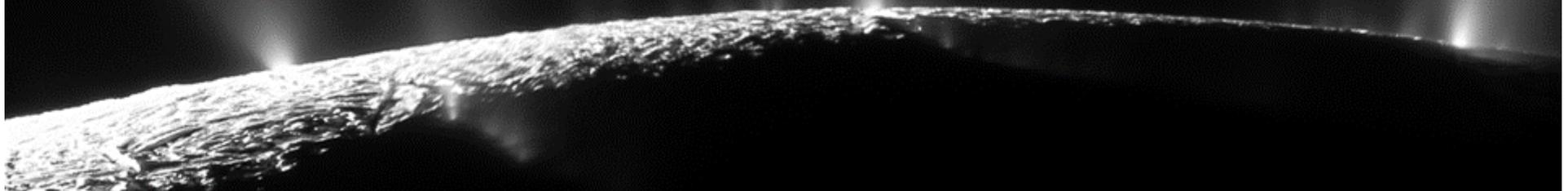
NASA's new lander prototype during field tests in Alaska (Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech)

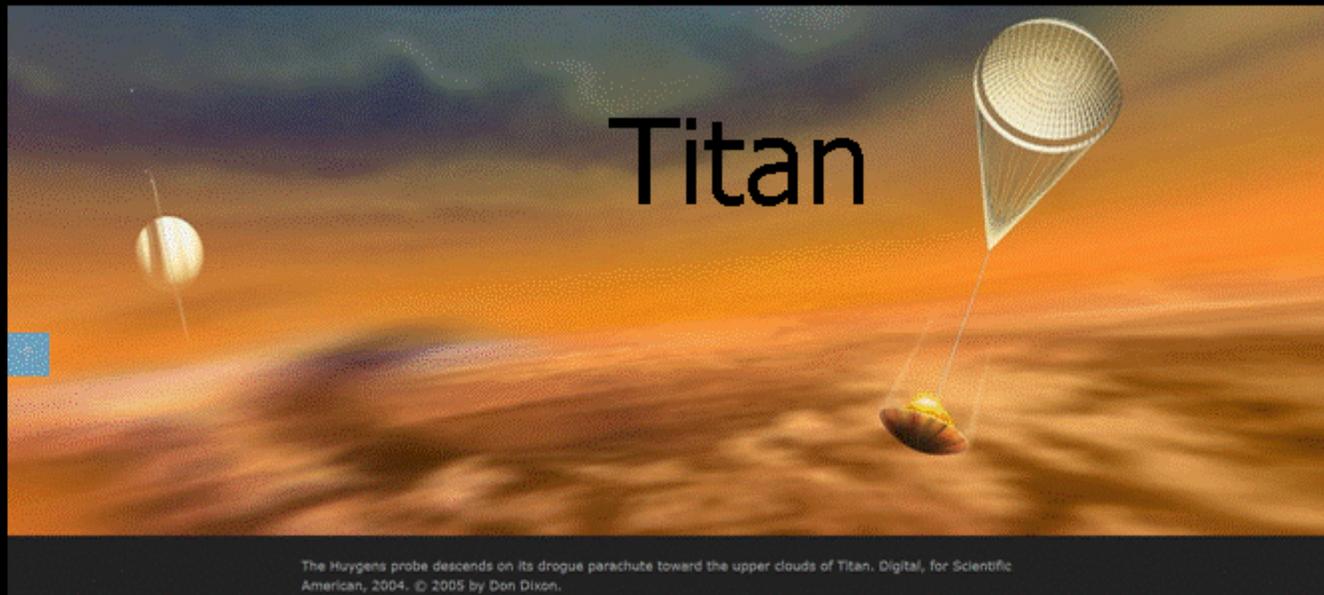
- Successful tests July 2022
- NASA studying potential lander concepts since 2020
- autonomous control software with drilling hardware to crack the icy surface
- search for first potentially life-containing samples
- need to withstand harsh space travel and European conditions
- <https://thedebrief.org/nasa-field-tests-new-robot-that-could-search-jupiters-moon-europa-for-signs-of-life/>
- (The *Europa Clipper* mission to arrive April 2030, but will only fly by)

# Life *in* Enceladus?



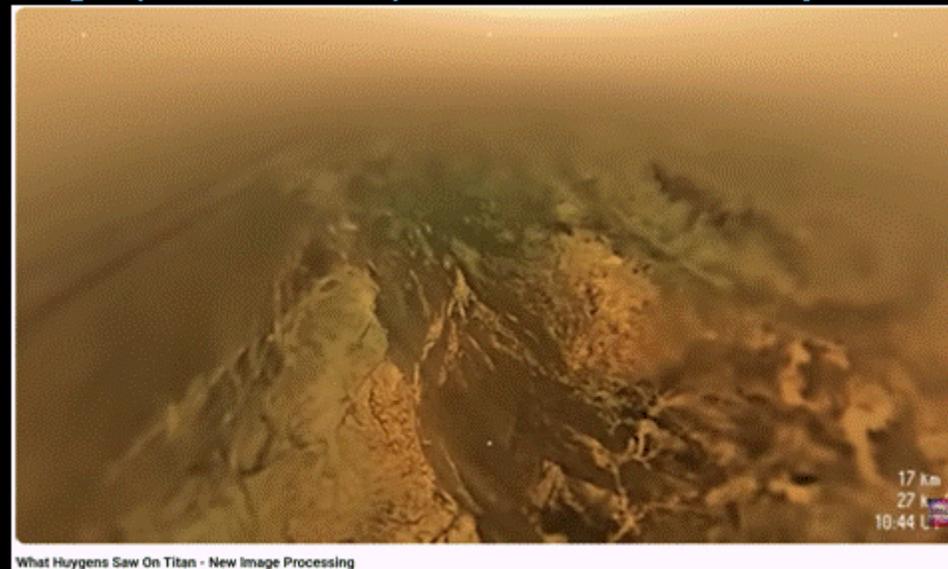
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Enceladus - November 21 2009 \(49728085428\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Enceladus_-_November_21_2009_(49728085428).png)





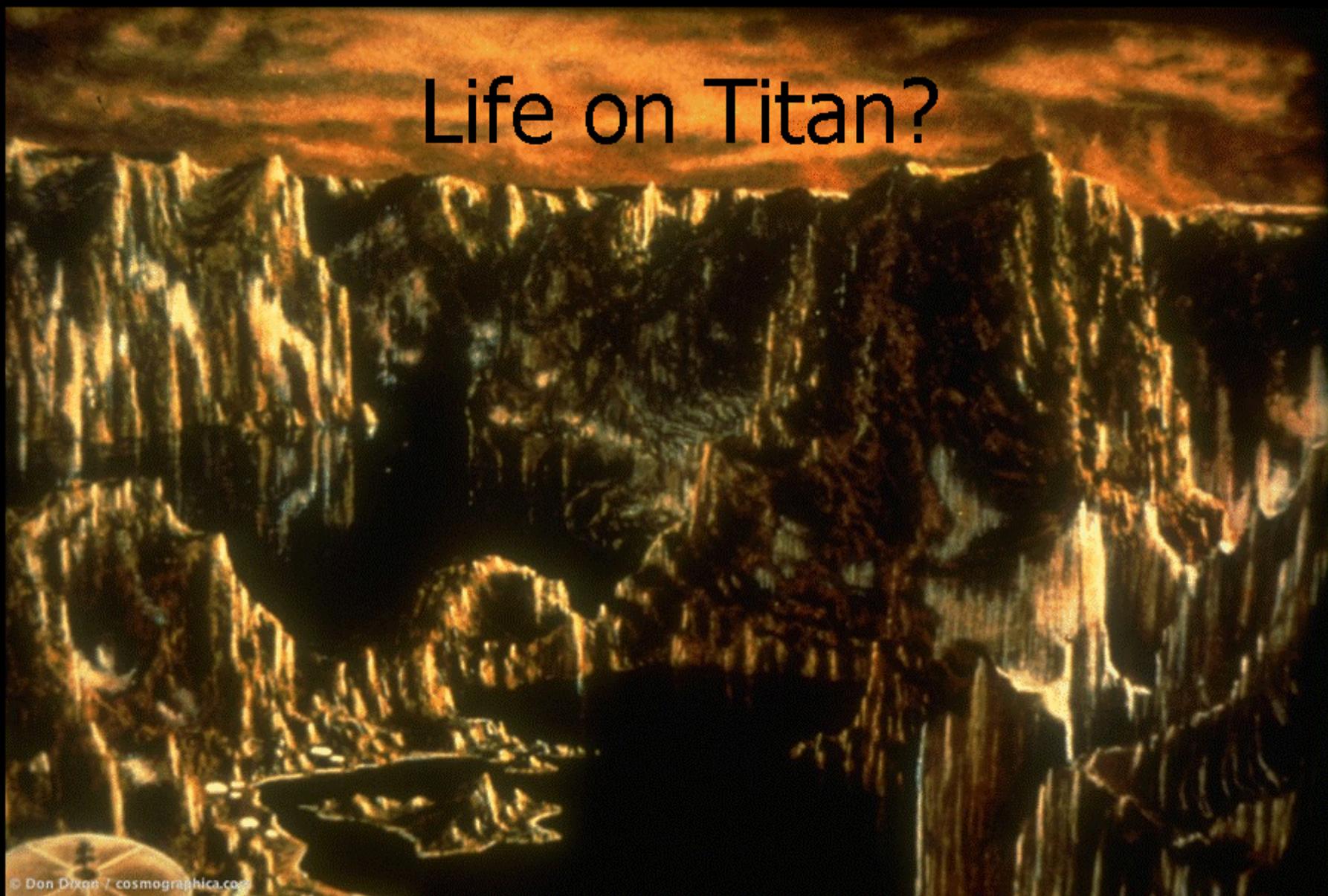
Artwork for Scientific American, 2004. © 2005 by Don Dixon

<https://www.cosmographica.com/spaceart/Solar%20System/Saturn/index.html>



- "What Huygens Saw On Titan - New Image Processing" (4:40)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9L471ct7YDo>

# Life on Titan?



© Don Dixon / cosmographica.com

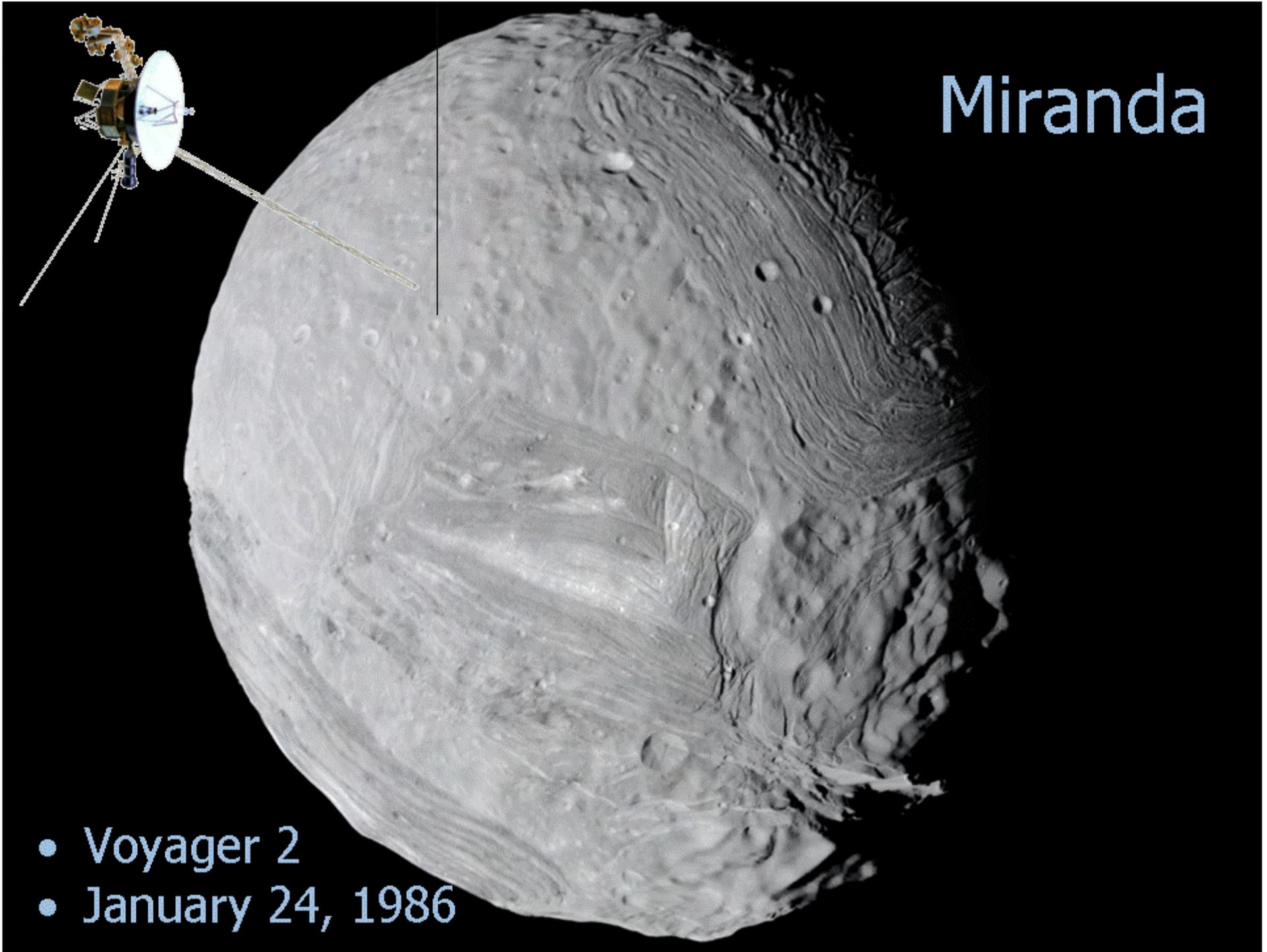
pools of hydrocarbons nestle between highly eroded cliffs of ice on Titan ; gouache on board, 1979

Artwork by Don Dixon

<https://www.cosmographica.com/spaceart/Solar%20System/Saturn/index.html>

# Miranda

- Voyager 2
- January 24, 1986



# Verona Rupes

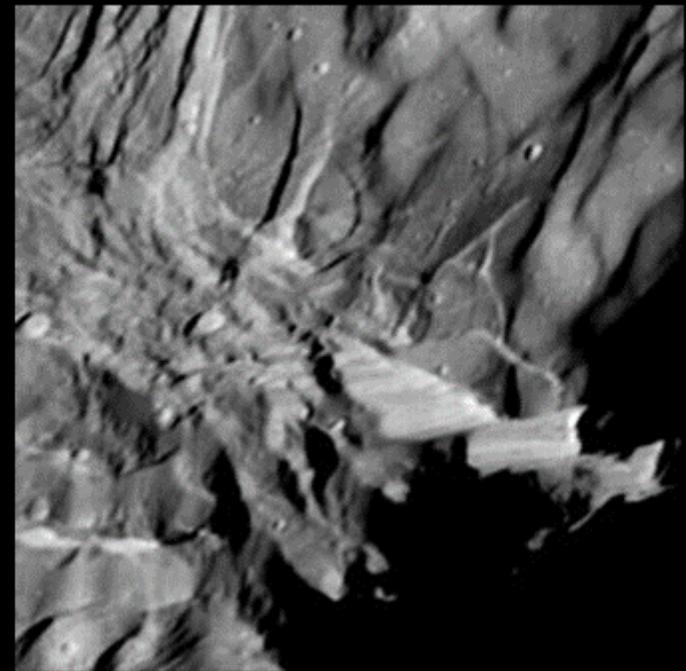
- Potentially tallest cliff in the Solar System
  1. Between 5 and 10 km (3 and 6 mi)
  2. 20 km (12 mi)
  3. "True" height 5 to 15 km (3 to 9 mi) when not accounting for oblique viewing
- <https://www.tiktok.com/@perceptiveplanet/video/7409766921148747054>



perceptiveplanet · 2024-9-1

Verona Rupes: The Solar System's Tallest Cliff 🚀 🔗 ...

more



# Miranda

- Astronauts BASE jumping off cliff on Uranus' moon Miranda
- Gravity: 0.076 m/s<sup>2</sup>, 0.0077 Earth gravity  
(Jump: Earth 3 ft, Miranda 380 ft)
- <https://www.filmsupply.com/clips/astronauts-base-jumping-off-cliff-on-uranus-moon-miranda/694791>



# Triton

## Cantelope Terrain

Geyser

Plume

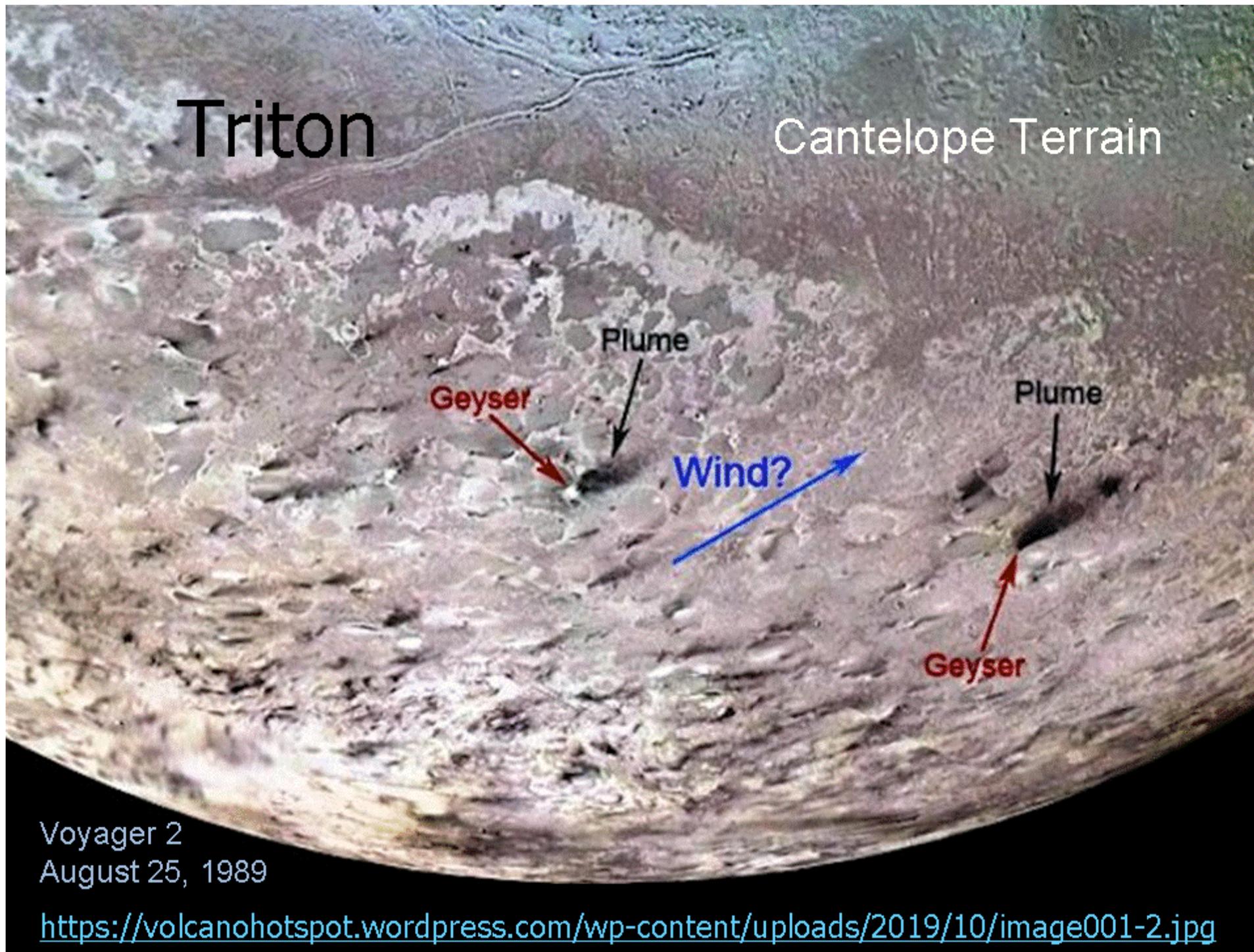
Wind?

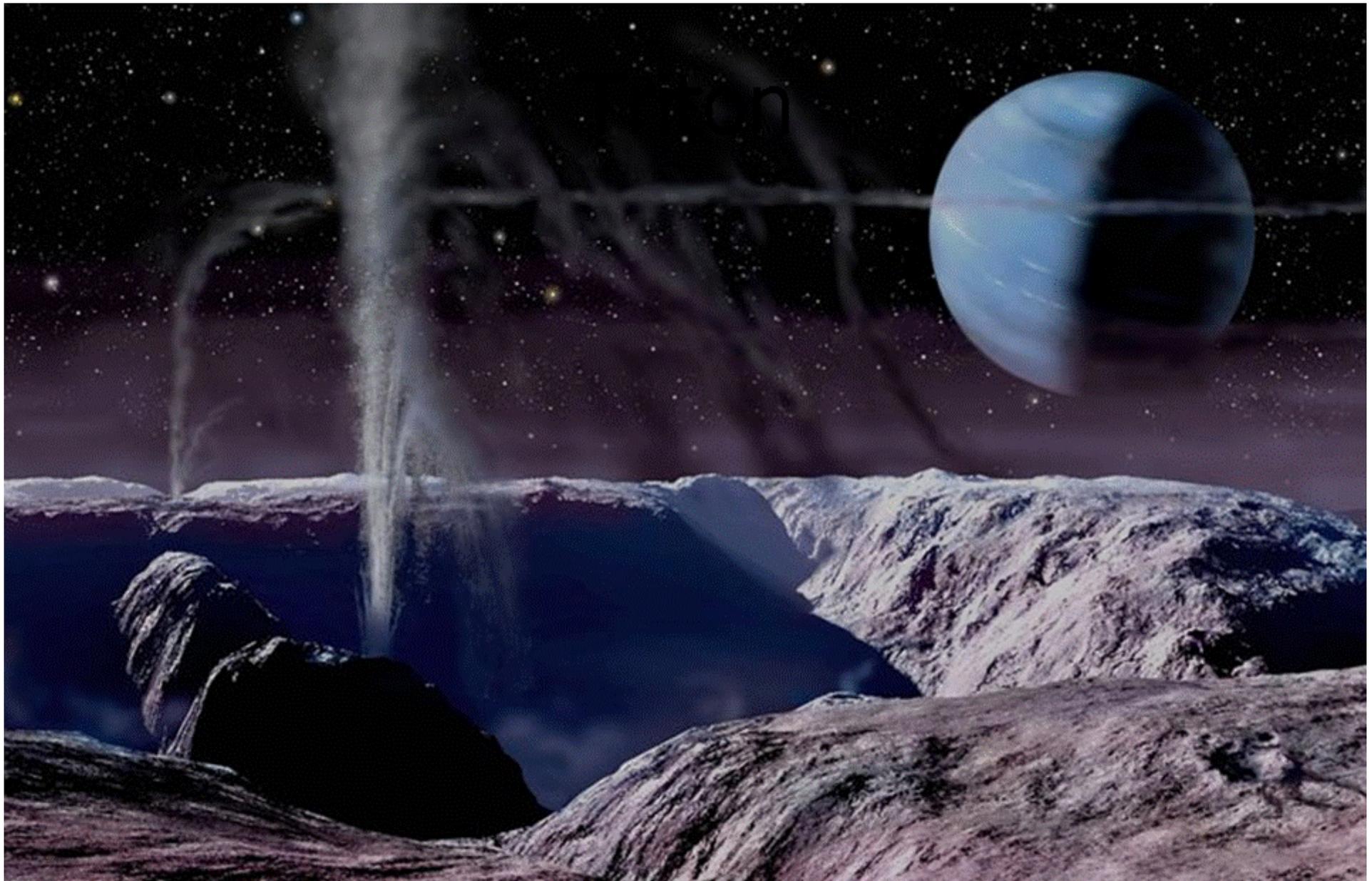
Plume

Geyser

Voyager 2  
August 25, 1989

<https://volcanohotspot.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/image001-2.jpg>





- Artwork by David A. Hardy
- <https://astroart.org/galleries/the-solar-system/neptune/>

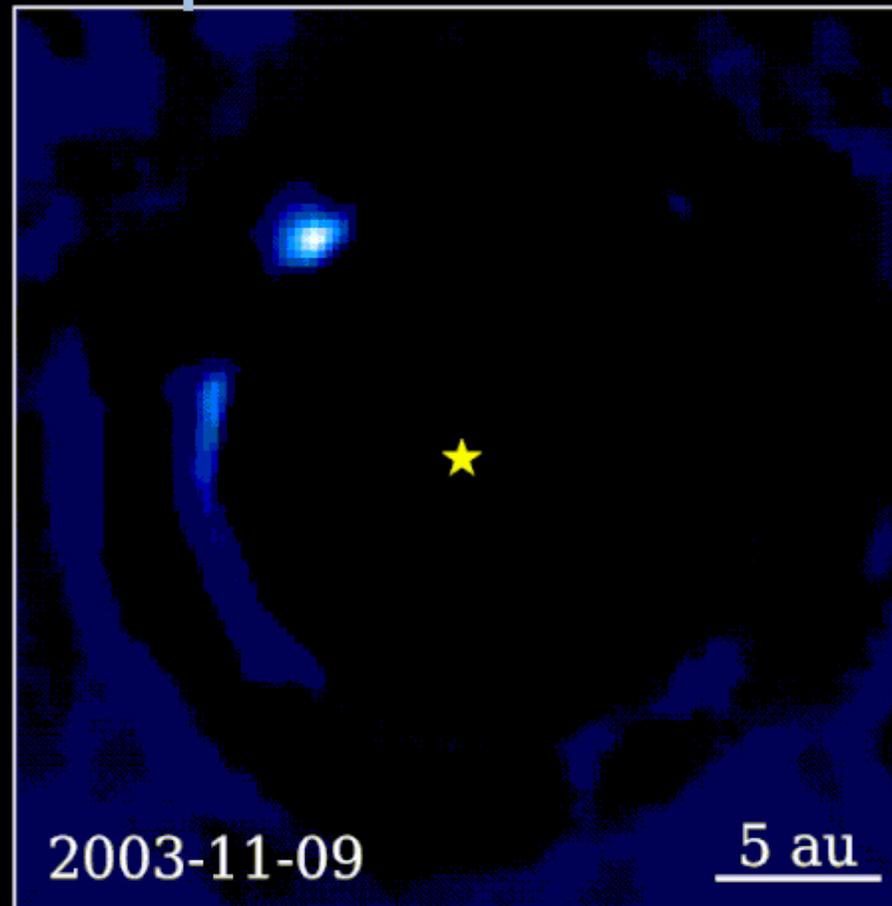
# David A. Hardy, 2005 Lunacon



# Exoplanets

- As of 26 February 2026, there are 6,128 confirmed exoplanets in 4,560 planetary systems, with 1,038 systems having more than one planet.
  - "Planetary Systems Composite Data". NASA Exoplanet Archive. Retrieved 26 February 2026.
  - "NASA's Tally of Planets Outside Our Solar System Reaches 6,000 - NASA". 17 September 2025.

# $\beta$ Pictoris b



- 17-year time-lapse using over 30 frames of data
- Gemini Planet Imager, VLT/NACO, and VLT/SPHERE
- Date: 9 August 2023
- There is also a belt of rocky rubble and another gas giant planet closer in (not seen)
- Source: <https://jasonwang.space/orbits.html> Author: Jason Wang & Malachi Noel

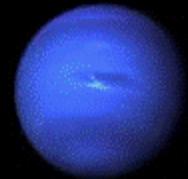
# Microlensed Super-Neptune



Saturn



OGLE-2012-BLG-0950Lb



Neptune

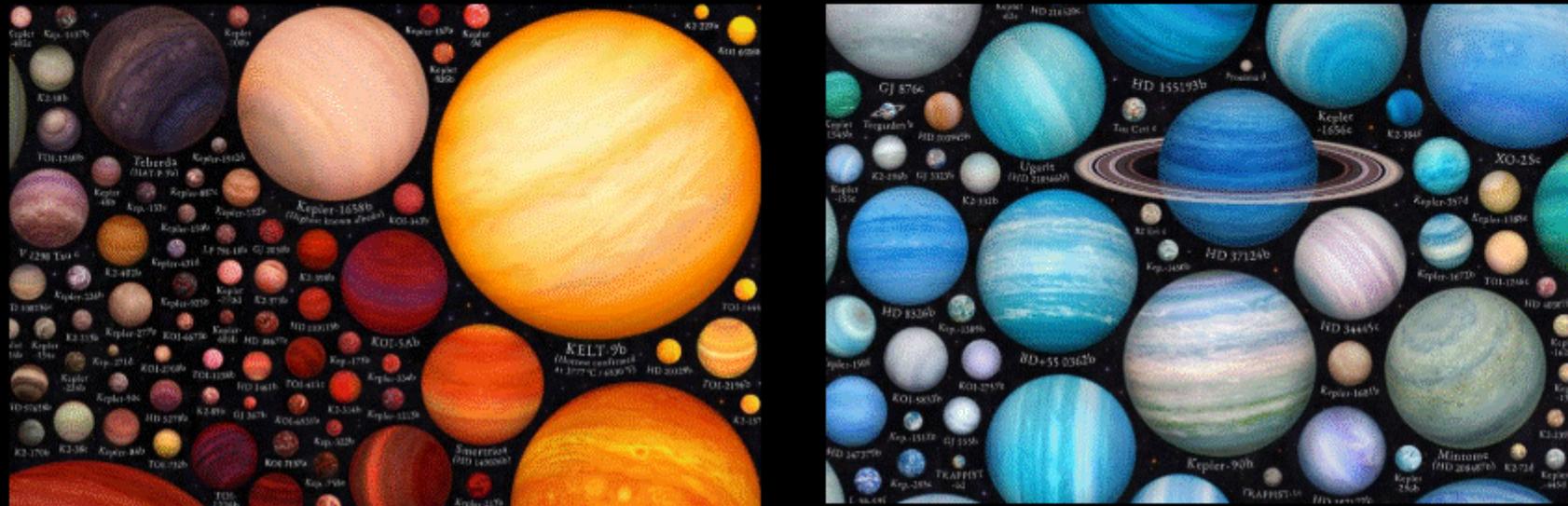
- Artist's depiction of planet OGLE-2012-BLG-0950Lb
- Super Neptune
- 8,500 light years
- Credit: NASA/JPL/GSFC/F. Reddy/C. Ranc
- <https://www.syfy.com/syfy-wire/astronomers-find-a-rare-super-neptune-thanks-to-einstein>

# Habitable Exoplanets

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_potentially\\_habitable\\_exoplanets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_potentially_habitable_exoplanets)

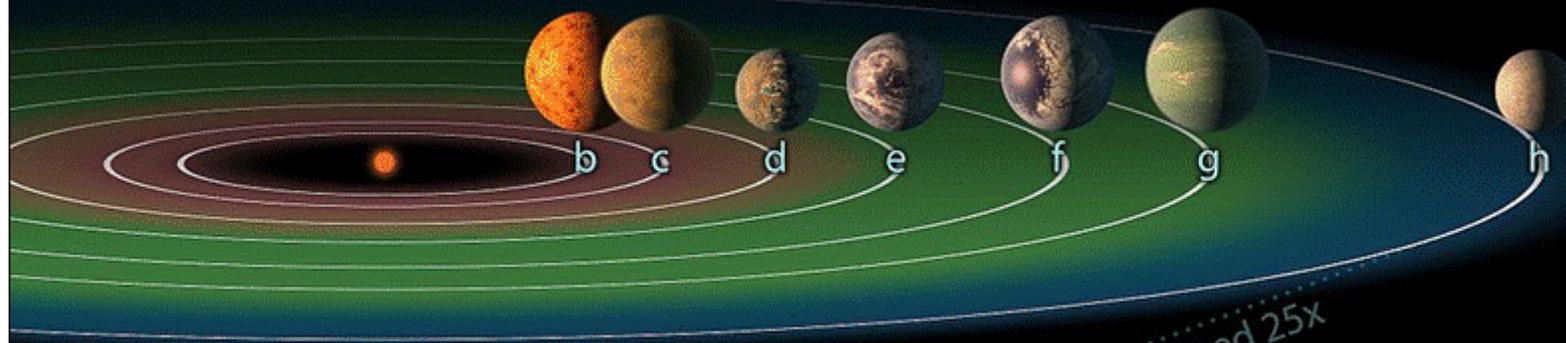
Object	Star	Star type	Mass ( $M_{\oplus}$ )	Radius ( $R_{\oplus}$ )	Density ( $\text{g/cm}^3$ )	Flux ( $F_{\oplus}$ )	$T_{\text{eq}}$ (K)	Period (days)	Distance (ly)	Refs/notes
Earth (reported for reference)	Sun	G2V	1.00	1.00	5.514	1.00	255	365.25	0	Only planet confirmed to support life
Venus (reported for reference)	Sun	G2V	0.815	0.950	5.243	1.911	244.261	224.70	0.0000042	[5]
Mars (reported for reference)	Sun	G2V	0.107	0.533	3.934	0.431	209.8	686.98	0.0000058– 0.000042	[6]
55 Cancri Bc	55 Cancri B	M4V	$\geq 5.3$	—	—	0.3	200	33.7	40.9	[7]
Gliese 12 b	Gliese 12	M4V	0.71 or 0.95 <sup>[8][9]</sup>	0.904 <sup>+0.037</sup> <sub>-0.034</sub> <sup>[9]</sup>	5.3 or 7.1	$1.6 \pm 0.2$	315	12.7	39.7	Near inner edge of HZ, might resemble Venus <sup>[10]</sup>
Gliese 163 c	Gliese 163	M3V	$\geq 6.80$	—	—	1.25	277	25.6	49	[1]
Gliese 180 d	Gliese 180	M2V	$\geq 7.56$	—	—	0.26	—	106.3	39	[1]
Gliese 251 c	Gliese 251	M3V	$\geq 3.84$	—	—	—	—	53.6	18.2	[11]

# 1100 Exoplanets 2024

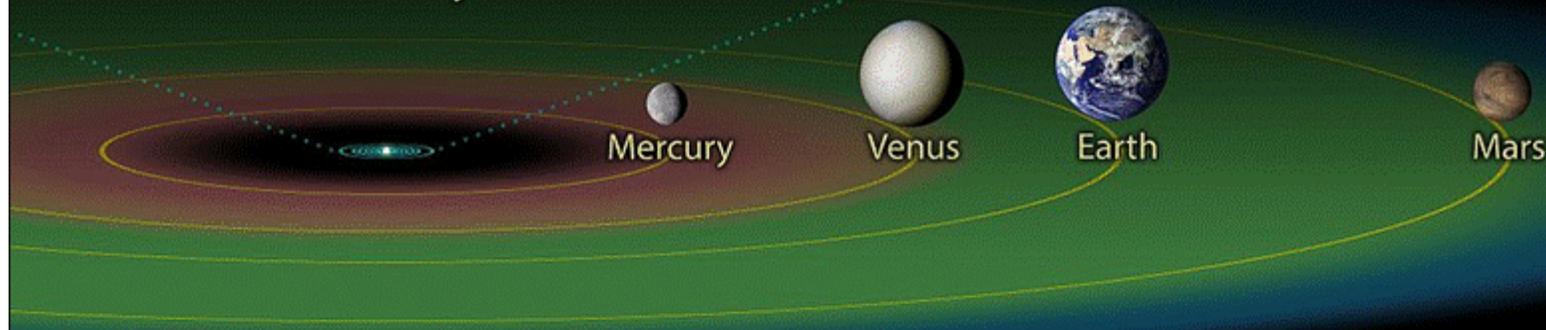


- <https://www.diyphotography.net/this-satisfying-infographic-shows-over-1000-exoplanets-in-one-image/>, article by Dunja Đudić
- Martin Vargic, a Slovakian designer created The Exoplanet Zoo
- >1,100 exoplanets we know {as of August 6, 2024}
- Used scientific models & latest data arranged by heat from their stars, comparing relative sizes and artistic representation of possible look
- Exoplanets colder than  $-200^{\circ}\text{C}$  appear as blue or cyan globes with methane hazes, similar to Uranus and Neptune.
- Cold terrestrial planets might feature lakes and rivers of liquid hydrocarbons, similar to Saturn's moon Titan.
- Hottest gas giants show cloud layers of silicates, molten glass, or even corundum and iron, with rubies and sapphires potentially raining on these worlds

## TRAPPIST-1 System



## Inner Solar System



Illustration

- **T**ransiting **P**lanets and **P**lanetesimals **S**mall **T**elescope project
- La Silla Observatory, Chile
- UV flux, flares
- Star may not produce sufficient quantities of radiation for photosynthesis
- Due to proximity of the planets, it is possible rock-encased microorganisms ripped from one planet may arrive at another planet while still viable inside the rock

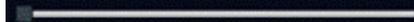
# EXO3D exoplanet visualizer

## Animation speed

- pause
- slow (x0.5)
- normal (x1)
- fast (x2)

## Speed relative to a planet

Planet Speed: TRAPPIST-1 b



## Scaling of the system

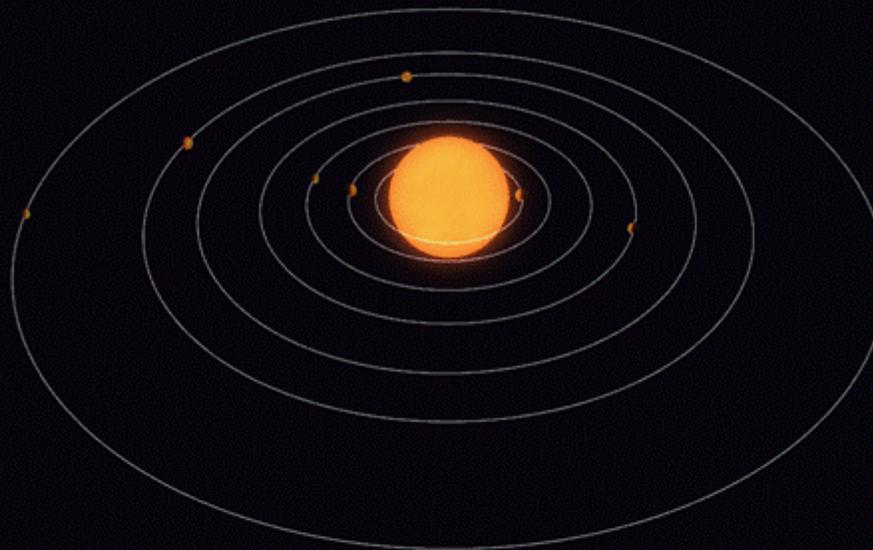
- Realistic
- Didactic

## System's habitable zone

Show

## Focus of the camera

- System
- Planet
- Free



Time since the beginning of the animation :  
0000 years, 00 months and 29 days.

Distances are scaled correctly but sizes  
are explicitly bigger.  
Planets do still respect their ratios between  
each other, although not with the star.

Star scale - 8:1  
Planets scale - 11:1

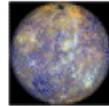
Show/Hide control interface

<https://exoplanet.eu/exo3d/>

# astronomyinmotion.com



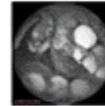
## VR Worlds



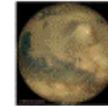
Mercury, color enhanced  
MESSENGER spacecraft image July  
18, 2013



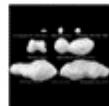
Moon with Apollo landing sites



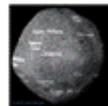
Mars 1965, from illustration by Lucien  
Rudoux



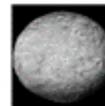
Mars from 1970 Viking and 2001  
MGS maps, compare with Rudoux's  
1966



7 Small Planets Compared



asteroid 101955 Bennu



asteroid 4 Vesta, with features  
labeled



asteroid 20042 Apophis



Io, 1st Galilean moon of Jupiter



Europa, 2nd Galilean moon



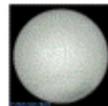
Ganymede, 3rd Galilean moon



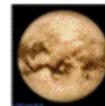
Callisto, 4th Galilean moon



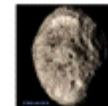
Saturn 1969 illustration by Rudoux



Enceladus, inner moon of Saturn



Titan, largest moon of Saturn



Hyperion, irregular moon of Saturn



Iapetus, largest outer moon of Saturn



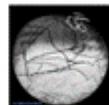
Miranda, moon of Uranus (NASA)



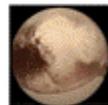
Miranda (30 Asteroid Catalogue)



Triton, map by Abers



Triton, map by Schenk



VR Pluto, from New Horizons

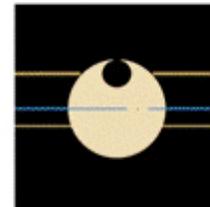


Charon, largest moon of Pluto

## VR Objects



VR Centaur D rocket upper stage



Sun, Earth and Jupiter viewed by extrasolarists with the transit method on  
January 10, 2006