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# Cleaning Up Saturn's Rings: Microwave Emission from Non-Icy Ring Material

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# The Origin of Saturn's Rings

- YOUNG (Post-Voyager, Pre-Cassini)

- Collisional Disruption of Satellite (Roche 1847, Harris 1984)
  - *Disrupt existing satellite within Roche limit via bombardment*
- Tidal Disruption of Comet or Centaur (Dones 1991)
  - *Disrupt Chiron-sized object crossing within Saturn's Roche zone*

- OLD (Pre-Voyager, Post-Cassini)

- Primordial Remnant (Stewart 2007, Esposito 2010)
  - *Continual recycling of primordial material*
- Collisional Disruption of Satellite (Harris 1984, Charnoz 2009)
  - *Disrupt existing satellite during late heavy bombardment*
- Tidal Disruption of Differentiated Satellite (Canup 2010)
  - *Strip mantle from Titan-sized satellite as it falls into Saturn*

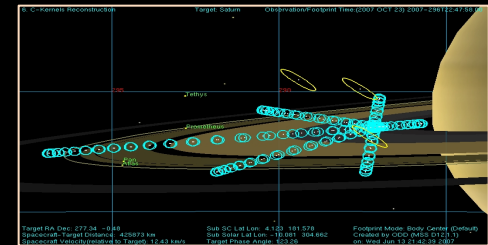
- The Nature and abundance of non-icy material can constrain the origin & evolution of Saturn's ring system

# Microwaves Observations of Saturn's Rings with Cassini: Why Should We Care?

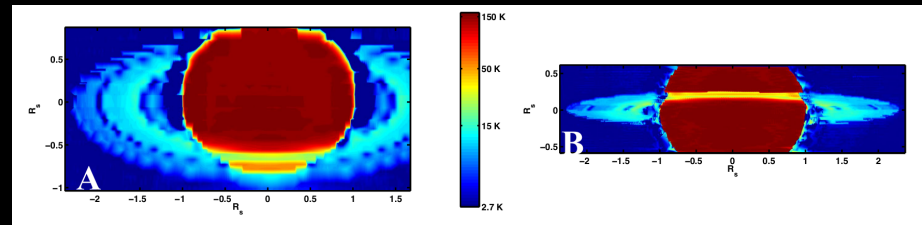
- At microwave frequencies (  $\lambda = 2.2\text{cm}$  ), pure icy ring particles are transparent while contaminants behave as blackbodies
  - *Water-ice absorbs in the UV, VIS, and IR*
- Cassini (i.e., in-system) microwave observations are ideal for investigating cm-scale ring particles
  - *Observe scattered emission from Saturn at a wide range of geometries*
  - *Sensitive to size distribution of sub-meter particles*
  - *High resolution as compared to ground-based data*

# Outline

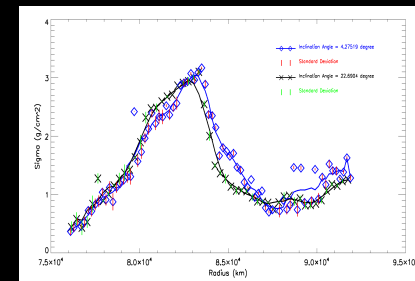
- Description of Observations



- Overview of Calibration/Processing Procedure

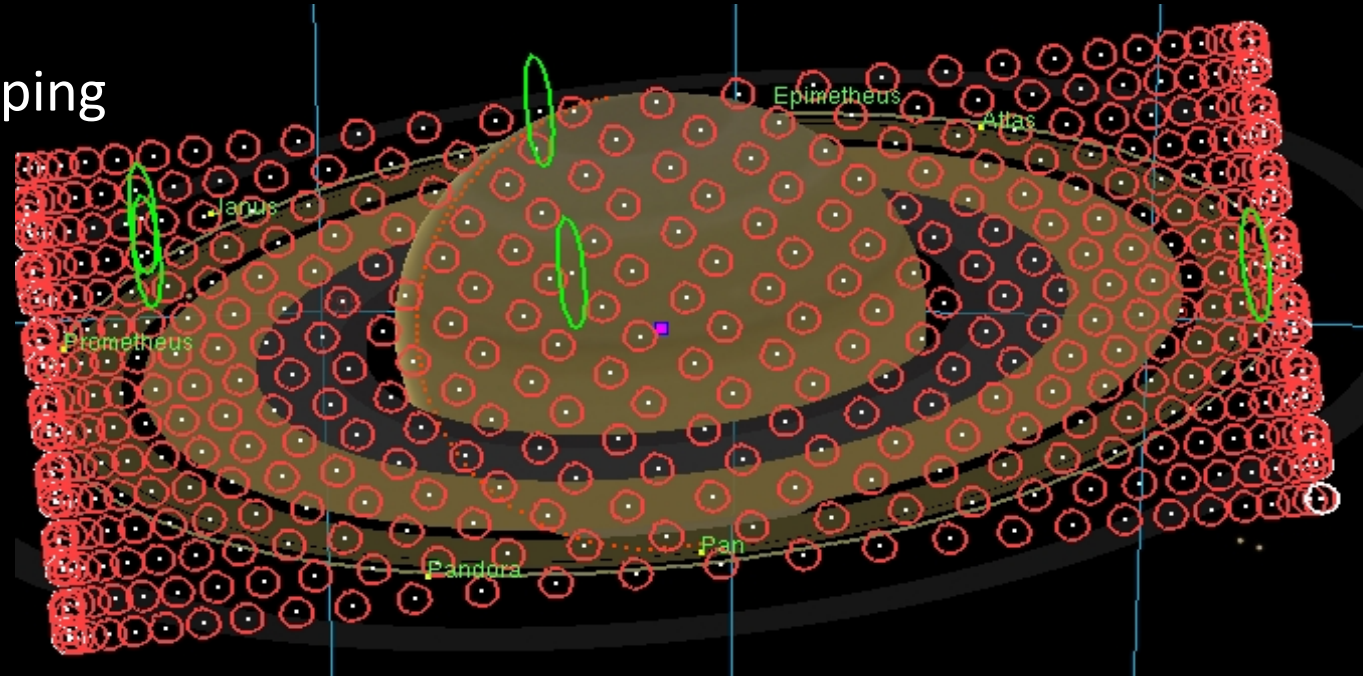


- Abundance of Non-Icy Material from Microwave Thermal Emission

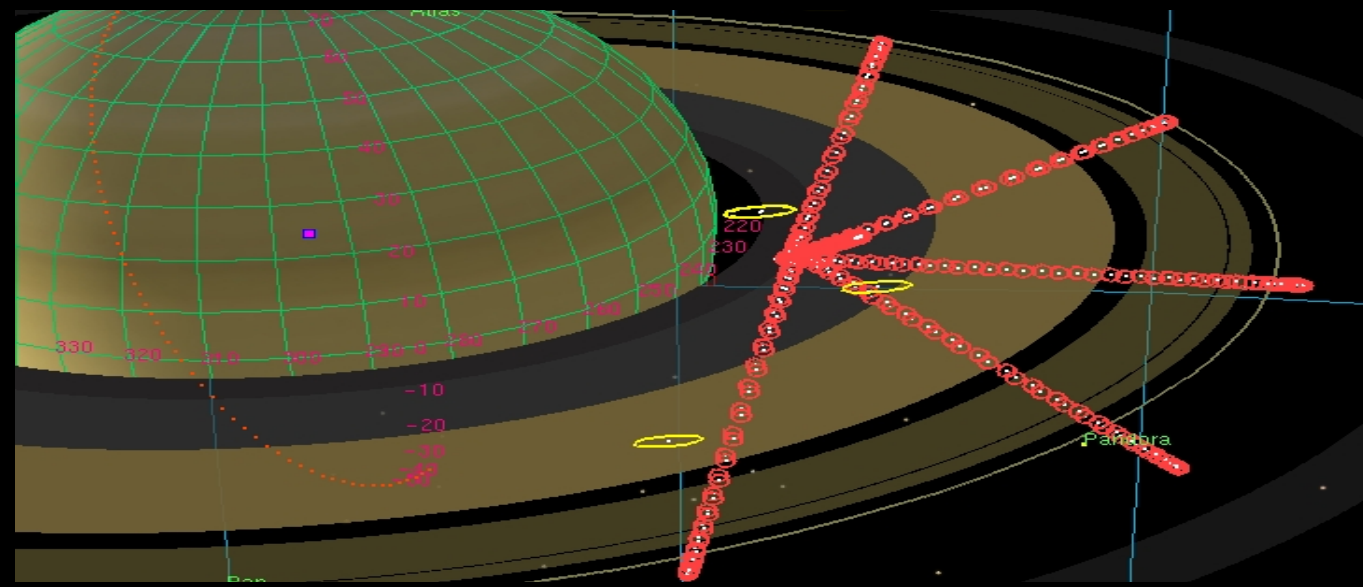


# Two Flavors of Ring Observations

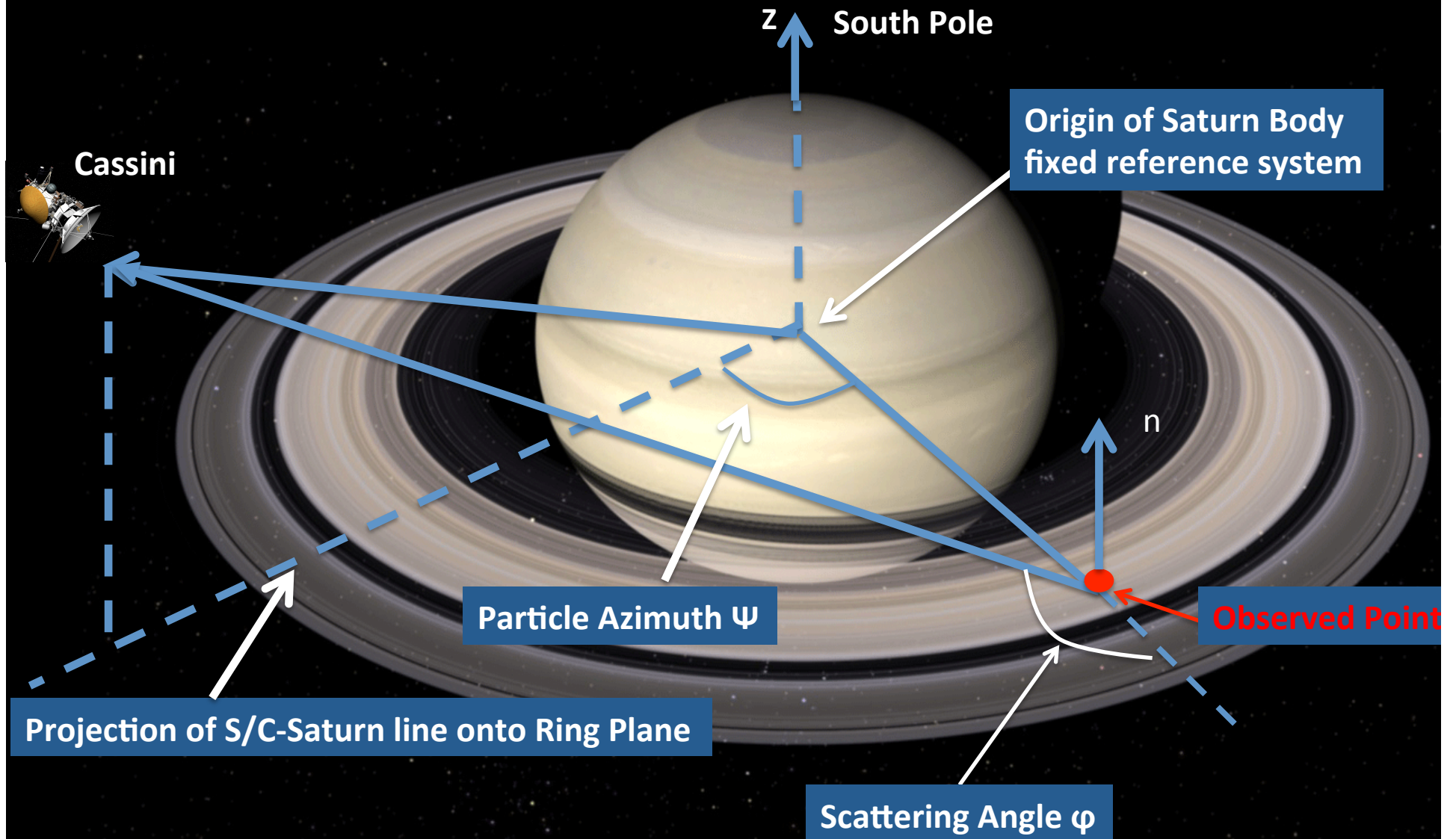
## Low Resolution Mapping



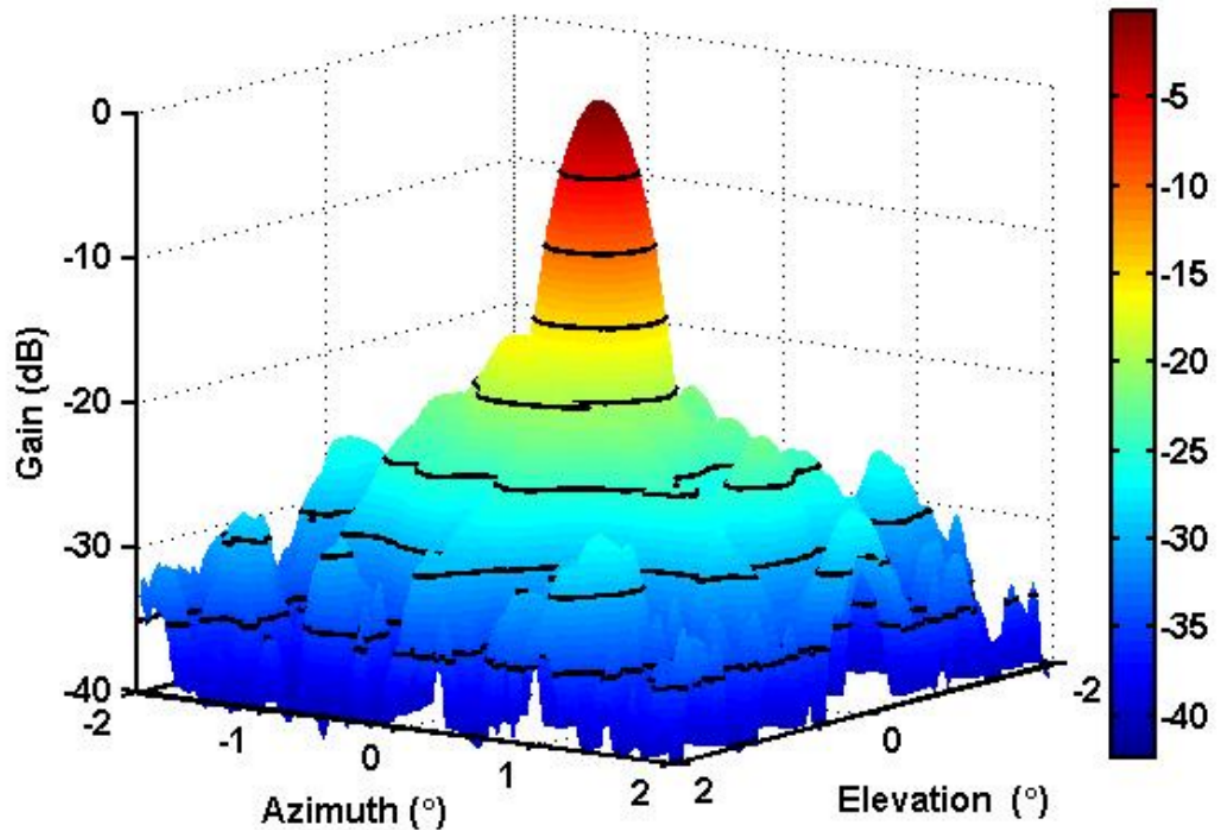
## High Resolution Spoke Scans



# Coordinate Systems



# Coordinate Systems



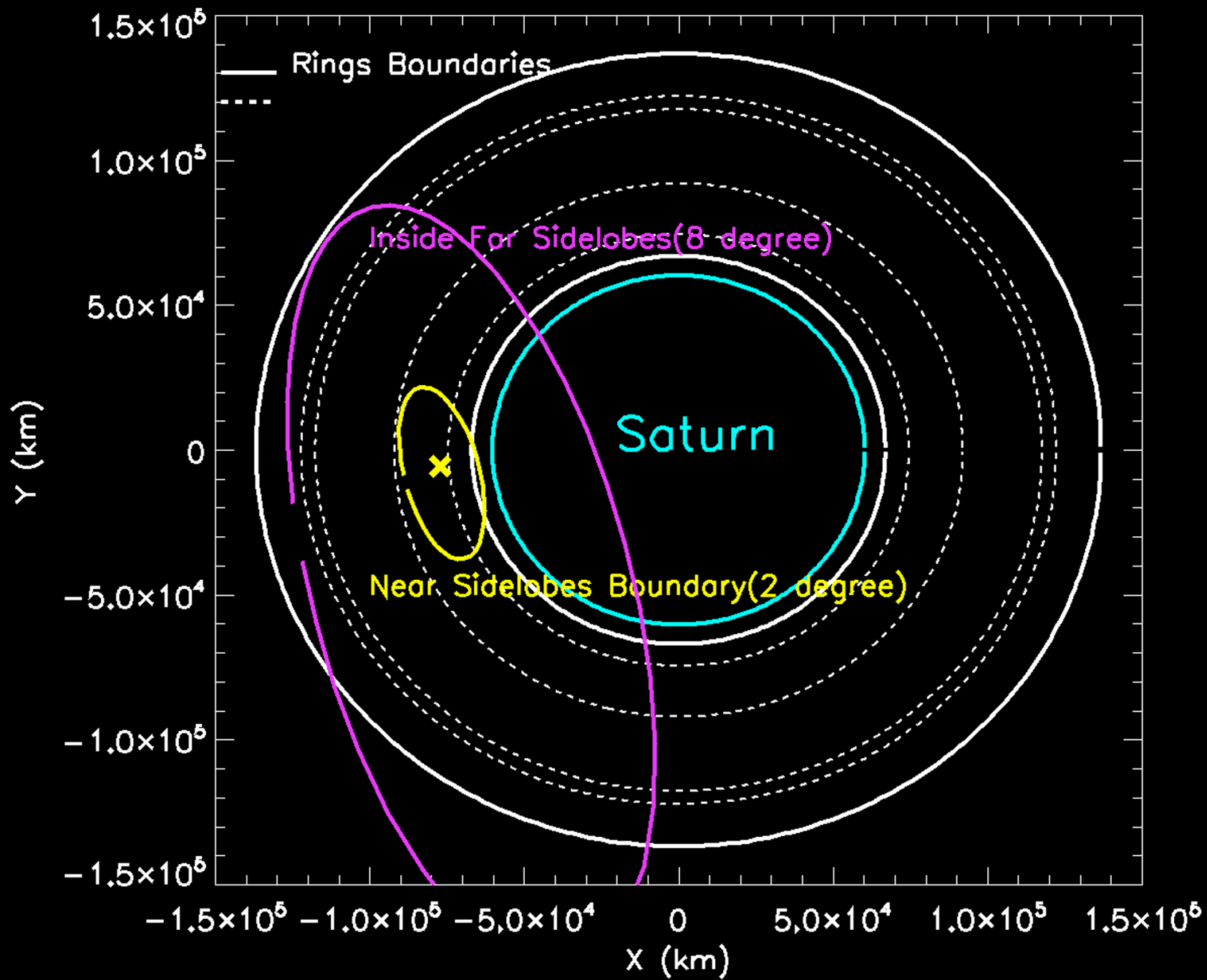
Projection of S/C-Saturn line onto Ring Plane

Particle Azimuth  $\psi$

Scattering Angle  $\phi$

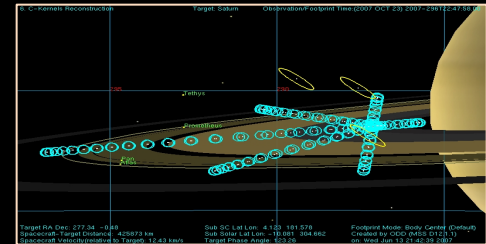
Observed Point



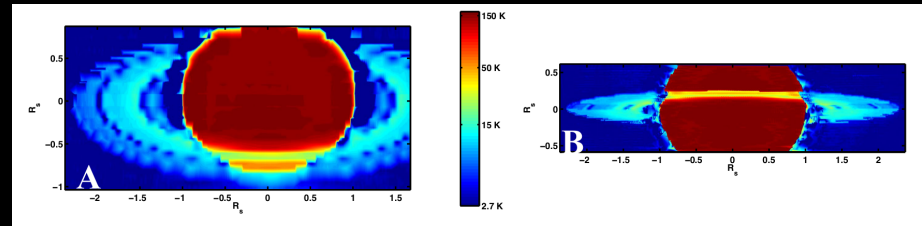


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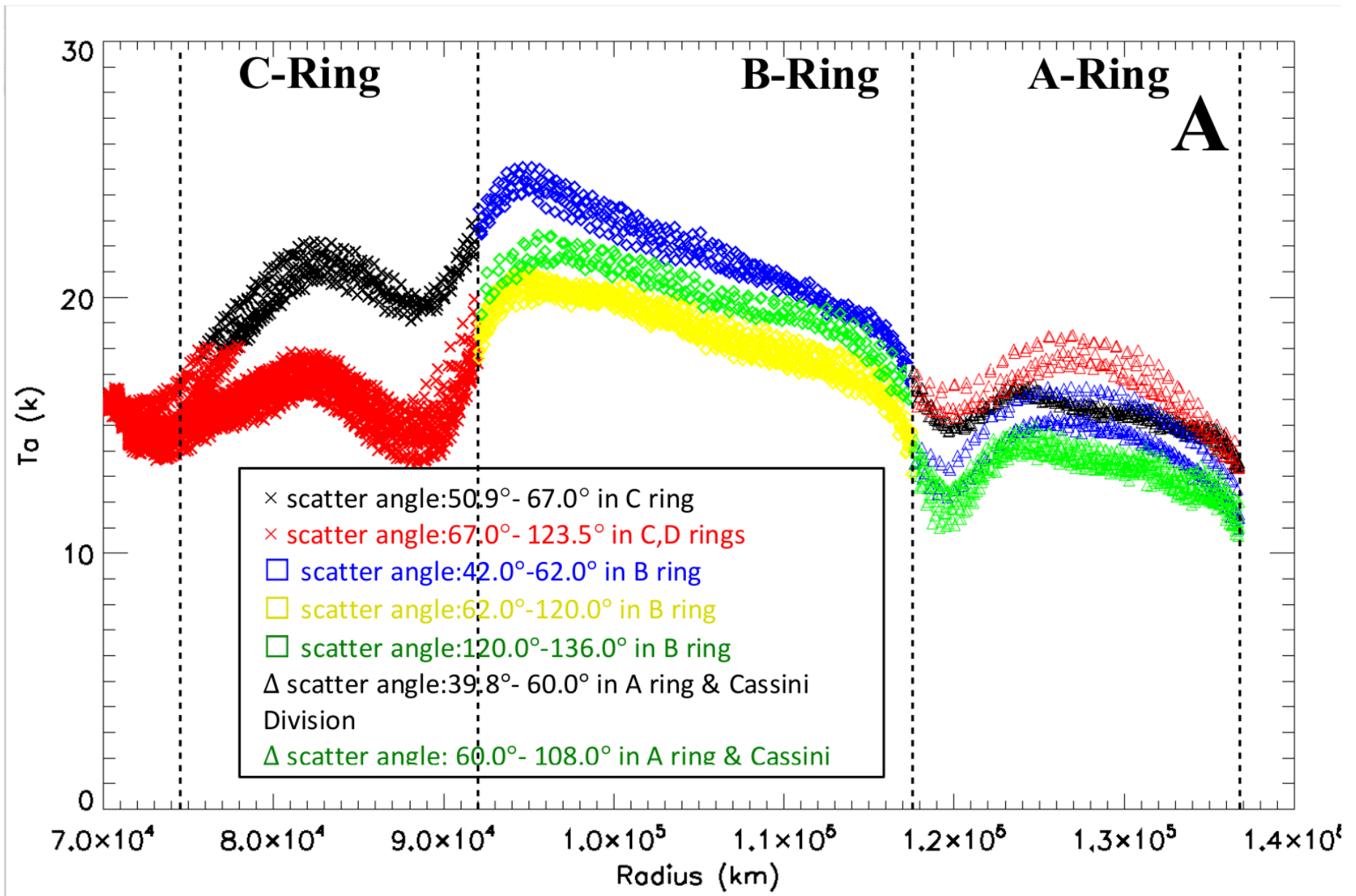
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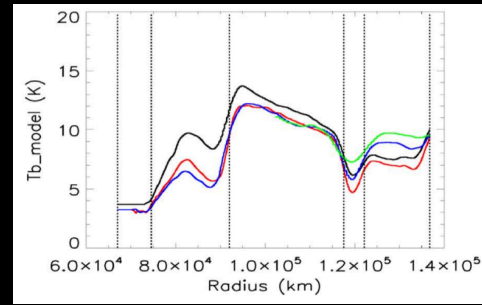
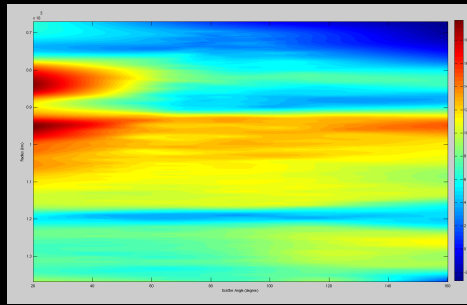


# Antenna Temperature

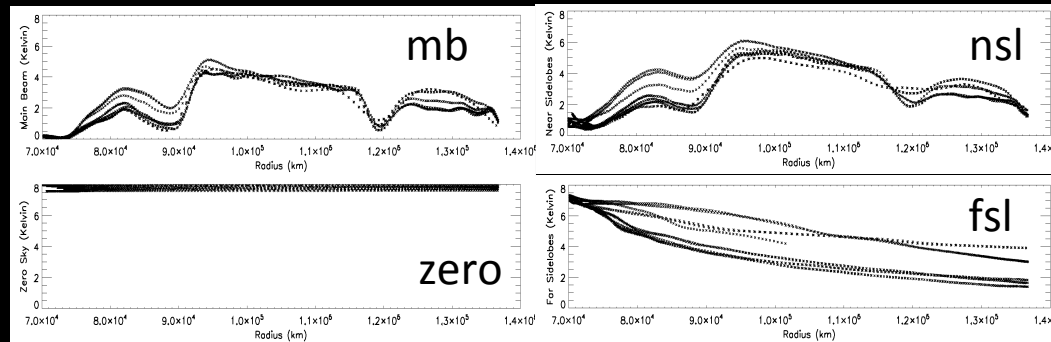


# Calibration Flow Chart

Initial D Ring Tb Model  
 $T_b = T_b(\text{radius}, \text{scatter angle})$



Calculate Mainbeam, Near-Sidelobes, Far-Sidelobes and Zero sky from initial model



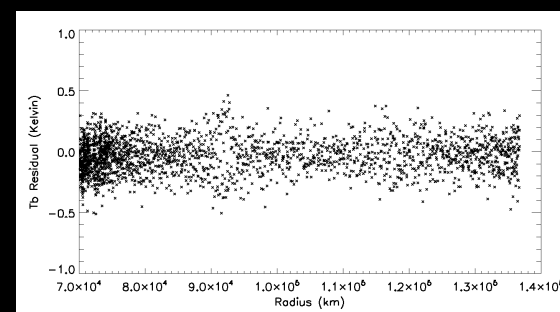
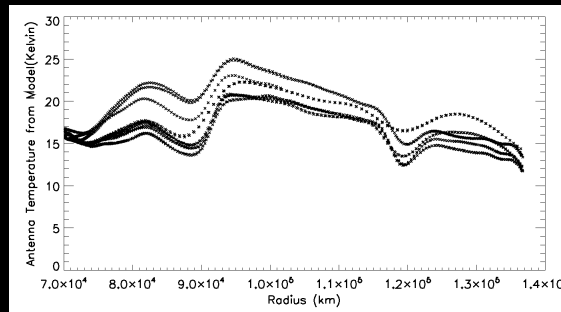
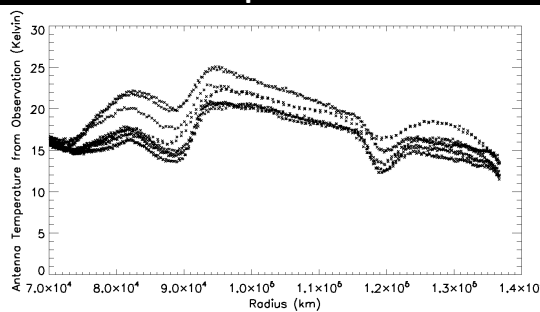
Add Tb residual back to Tb model → Generate New Initial Model

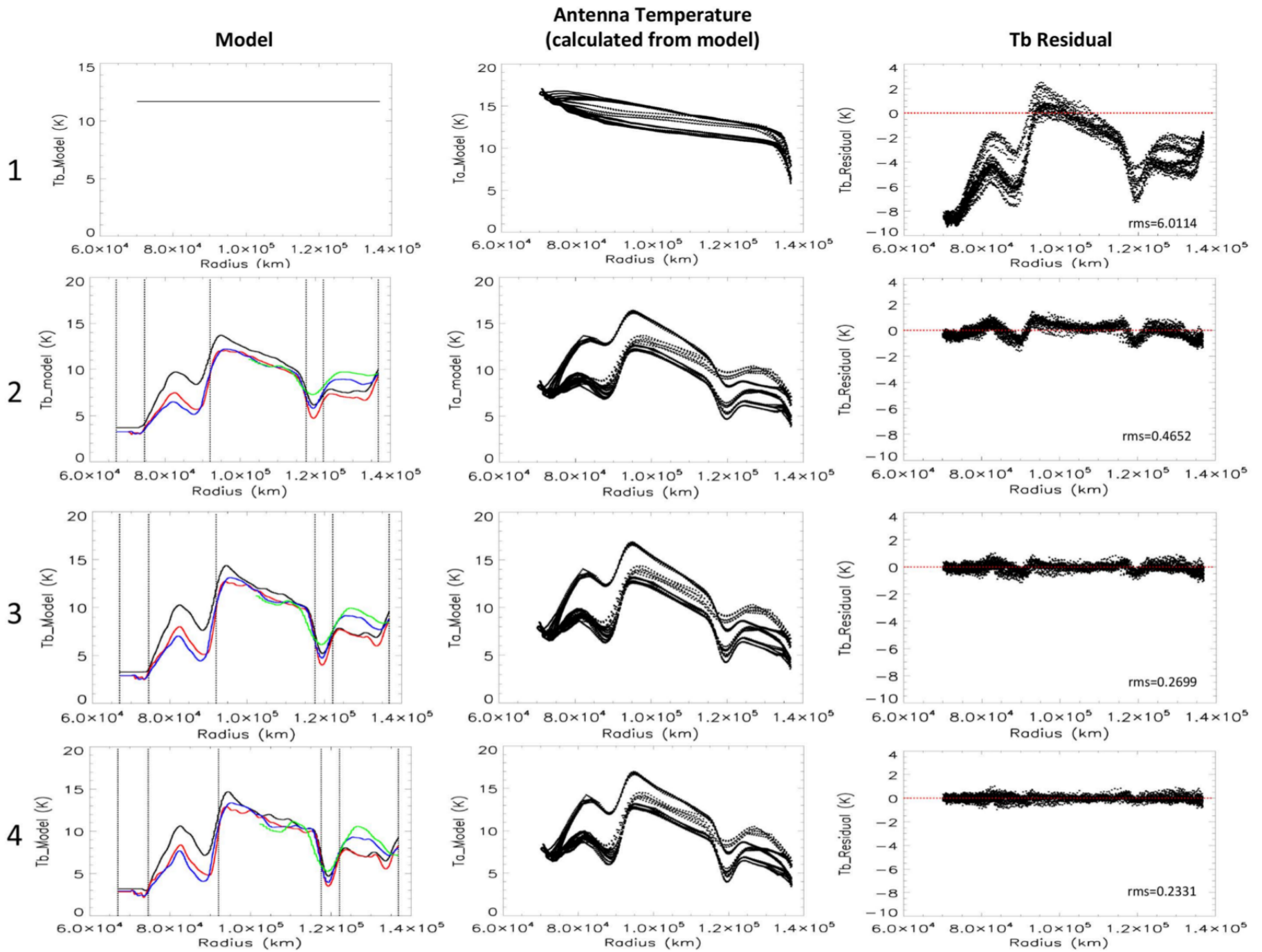
Add

Observed Antenna Temperature

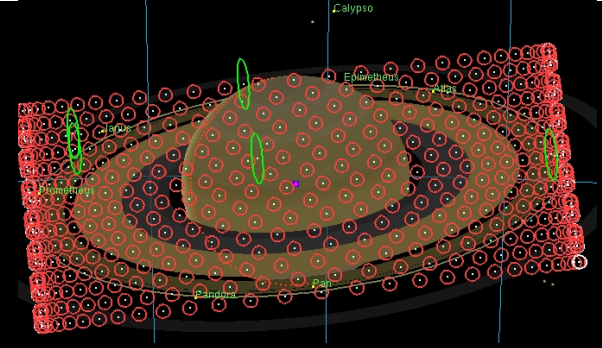
Antenna Temperature from Model

Tb Residual





# Preliminary Calibration Results

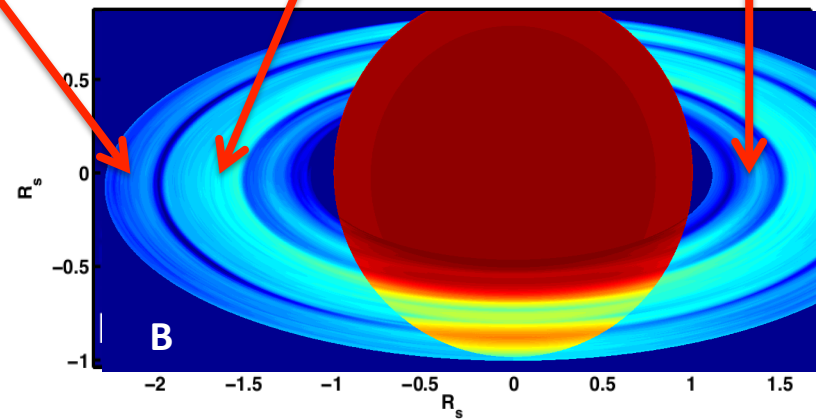
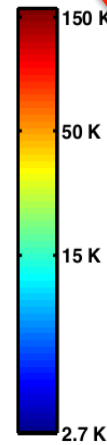
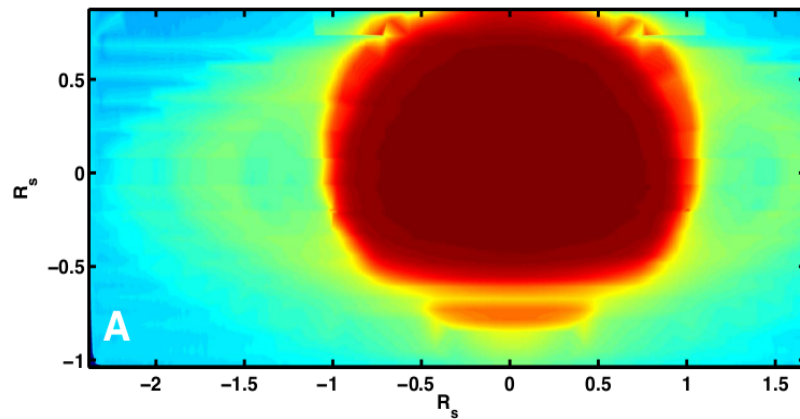


- Low Resolution (12-Sep-2006; Inclination Angle = 22°)

**A Ring**

**B Ring**

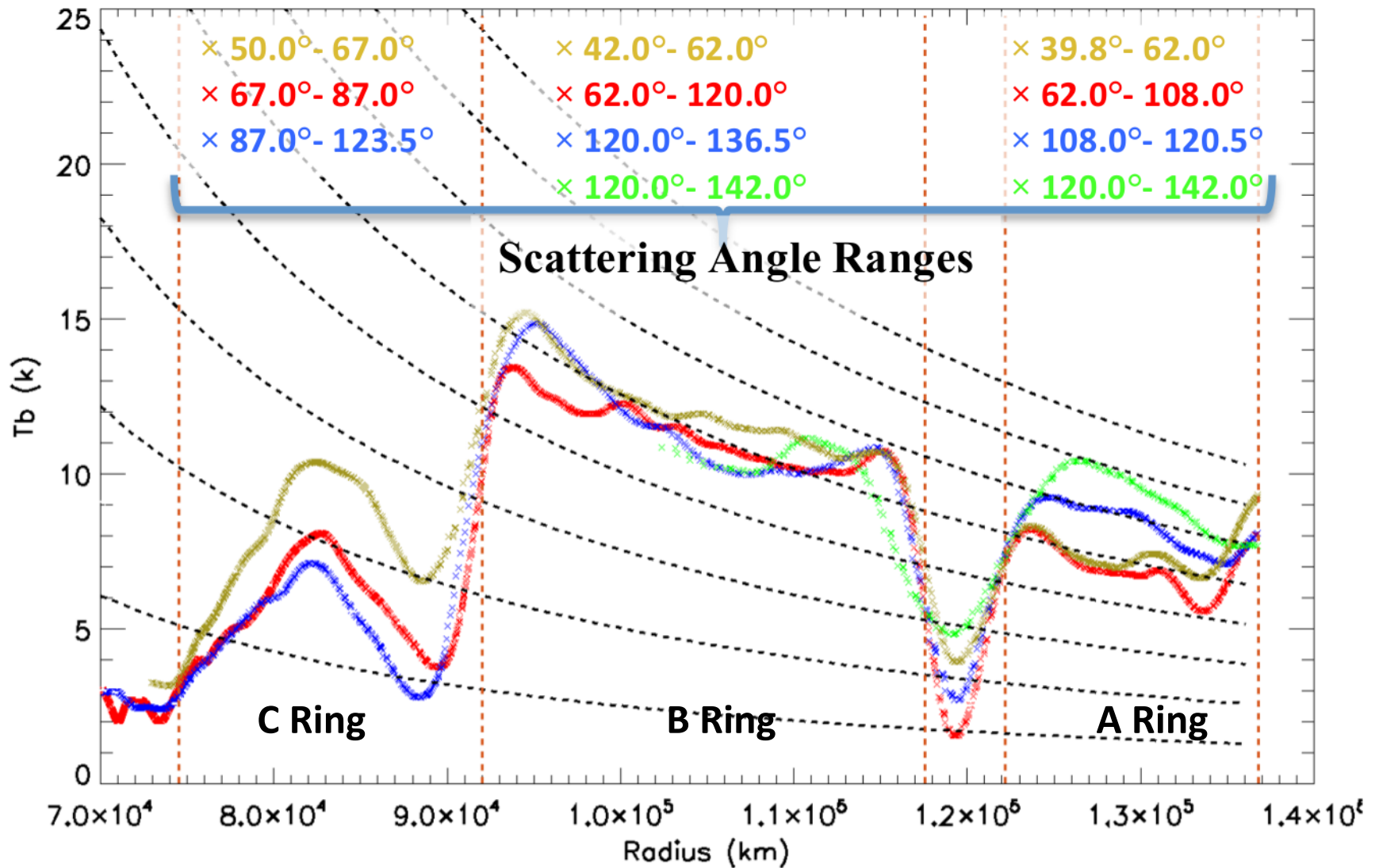
**C Ring**



**BEFORE**

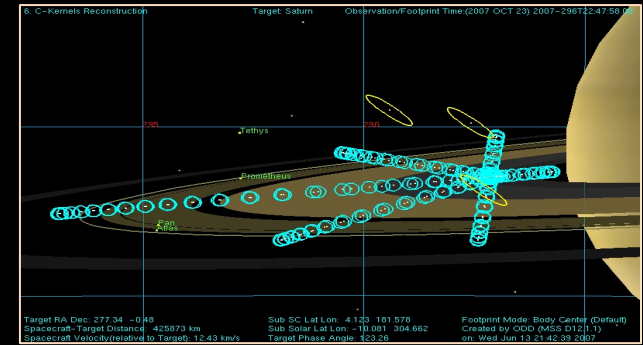
**AFTER**

- High Resolution (11-Sep-2006; Inclination Angle = 20°)

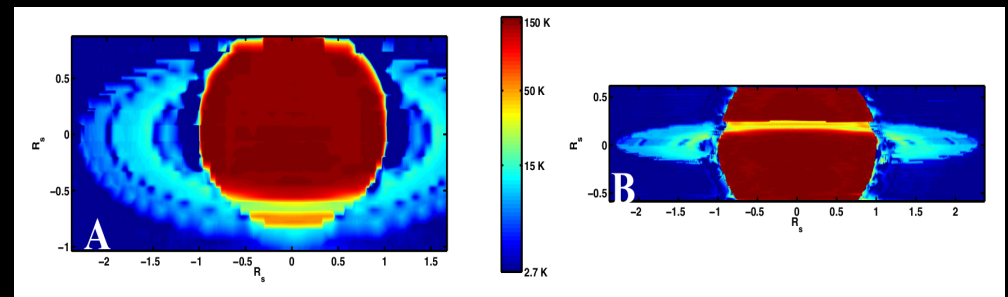


# Outline

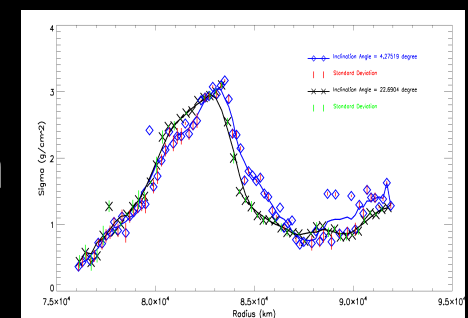
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- Abundance of Non-Icy Material from Microwave Thermal Emission





$$T_b = T_{scatter} + T_{thermal}$$

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**Light source:**

**Saturn's Thermal Emission**

- -Saturn has brightness temperature  $\sim 150\text{k}$ . After being scattered by the ring particles, part of the light from Saturn Emission is collected by Cassini.

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-- Saturn has brightness temperature  $\sim 150\text{k}$ . After being scattered by the ring particles, part of the light from Saturn Emission is collected by Cassini.

**Light source:**

**Thermal emission from contaminated ring particles**

-- Thermal photons originate inside the ring disk. After being scattered by the ring particles, some of them will get out of the ring disk.

# $T_{scatter}$ -- Scattered Saturn's Emission Light

-- Calculated by Monte Carlo Code Simrings (Dunn et al 2002)

## Part 1. Trace the path of each photon after being emitted from Saturn

- *Record the path of the photon*
- *Record how many times the photon is scattered by ring particles*

## Part 2. Calculate each time interaction between a photon and a ring particle

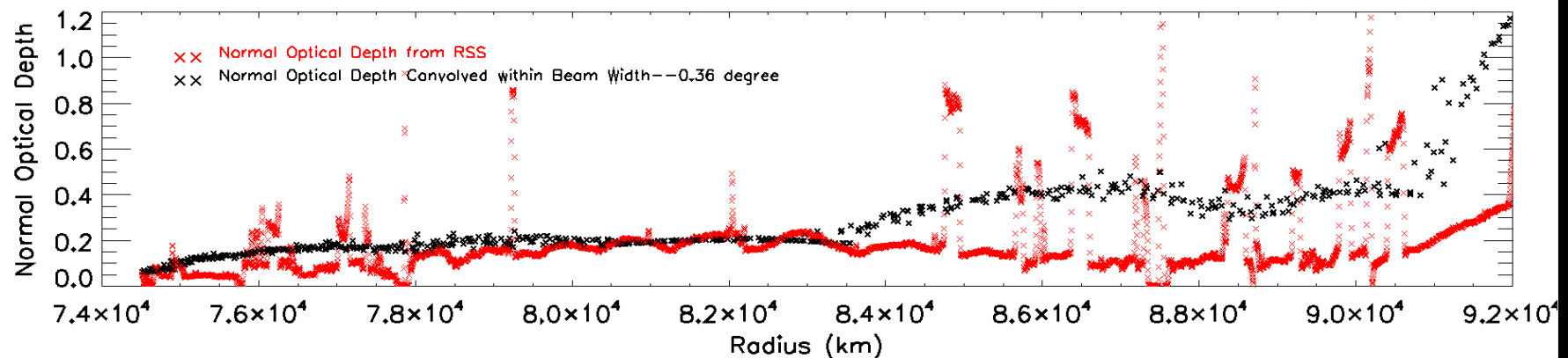
- *Record the probability for the photon not to be absorbed after the interaction with the ring particle.*
- *Record the change to the photon's path after being scattered, if not absorbed.*

# Part 1. Trace the path of each photon after being emitted from Saturn

## Key factor: Normal optical depth

- Decides the average number of scatters a photon would experience before escaping the ring disk
- We use normal optical depth from RSS ( Resolution  $\sim 5$  km ); then convolve it with Cassini main beam gain pattern ( Angular diameter  $\sim 0.36^\circ$ , Resolution  $\sim 2000$  km )

$$1 - e^{-\bar{\tau}/\mu(\vartheta=0)} = \frac{\int_{\varphi=0}^{2\pi} \int_{\vartheta=0}^{0.18^\circ} (1 - e^{-\tau(\vartheta,\varphi)/\mu(\vartheta,\varphi)}) \cdot g(\vartheta,\varphi) \sin \vartheta d\vartheta d\varphi}{\int_{\varphi=0}^{2\pi} \int_{\vartheta=0}^{0.18^\circ} g(\vartheta,\varphi) \sin \vartheta d\vartheta d\varphi}$$



## Part 2. Calculate each time interaction between a photon and a ring particle

### Key factors:

1. Particle Size Distribution:  
( French & Nilcolson 2000 )

$$n(a) = n_0 a^{-q}$$

$$C - Ring : a_{\min} = 0.4cm, a_{\max} = 450cm, q = 3.15$$

$$A / B - Ring : a_{\min} = 30cm, a_{\max} = 630cm, q = 2.75$$

2. Effective Dielectric Constant:  
(Effective Medium Theory, Cuzzi et al. 2014 )

$$\epsilon_{\text{eff}} = \epsilon_m \left( 1 + \frac{3 \sum_i f_i \frac{\epsilon_i - \epsilon_m}{\epsilon_i + 2\epsilon_m}}{1 - \sum_i f_i \frac{\epsilon_i - \epsilon_m}{\epsilon_i + 2\epsilon_m}} \right)$$

### Composition:

$$\text{Medium} - \text{Ice} : n = 1.78 - i \cdot 1.88e-05, \quad \epsilon = 3.17 - i \cdot 6.68e-05$$

$$\text{Inclusion} - \text{Tholin} : n = 1.48 - i \cdot 3.37e-03, \quad \epsilon = 2.20 - i \cdot 1.0e-02, \quad 0.35\% \text{mass} - \text{fraction}$$

$$\text{Acidic} - \text{Rock} : n = 2.32 - i \cdot 2.9e-02, \quad \epsilon = 5.38 - i \cdot 1.34e-01$$

3. Phase Function:

- a. Mie Phase Function (Spherical Particle)

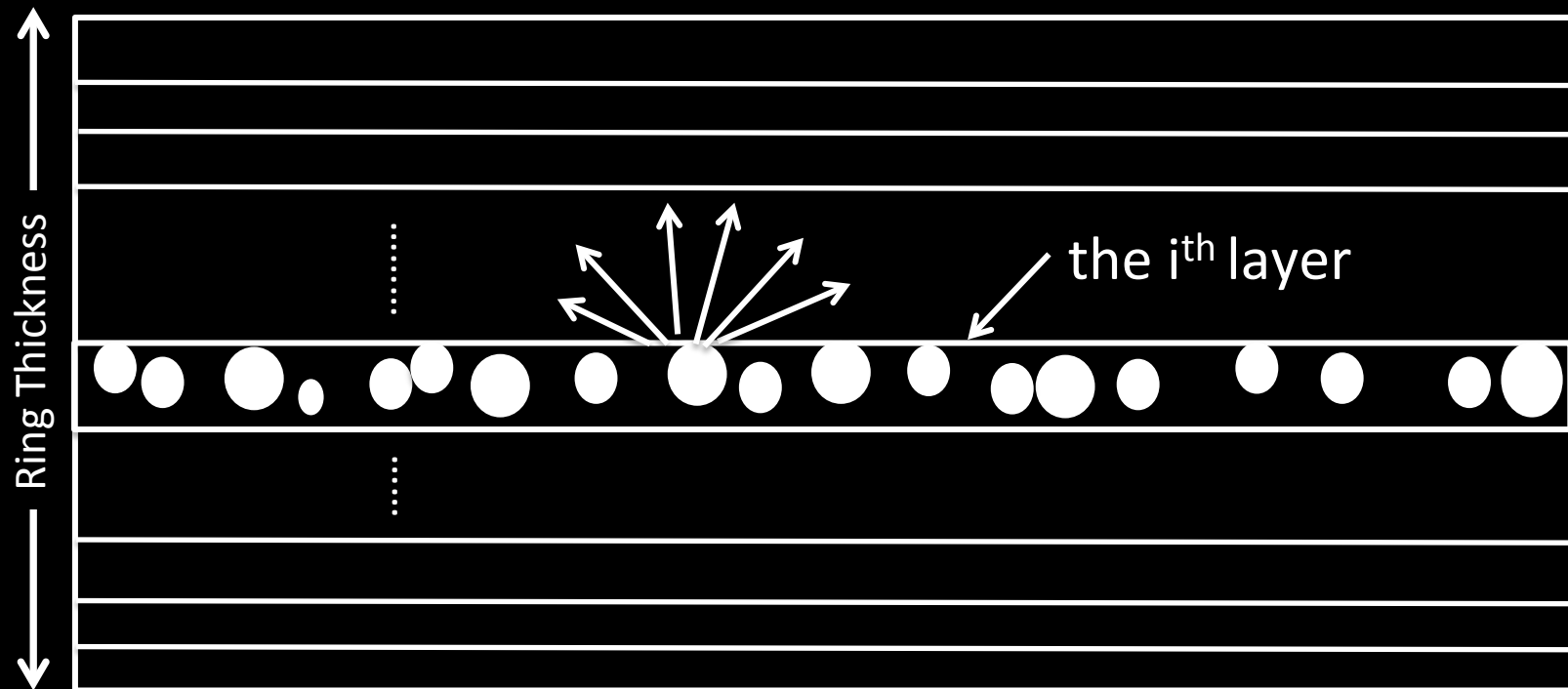
- b. Correction for Non-sphericity of the particles:

-- combine Isotropic Scattering & Mie Scattering

$$p(u', \phi', u_{\text{cassini}}, \phi_{\text{cassini}}) = p(\alpha) = (1 - f_{\text{iso}}) p_{\text{Mie}}(\alpha) + f_{\text{iso}} p_{\text{iso}}(\alpha)$$

# $T_{thermal}$ -- Intrinsic Thermal Emission

- Separate Rings thickness into some optically thin layers



- For each optically thin layer

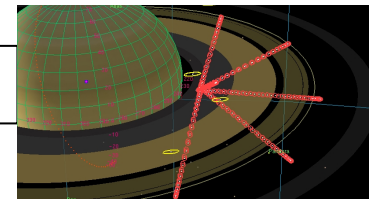
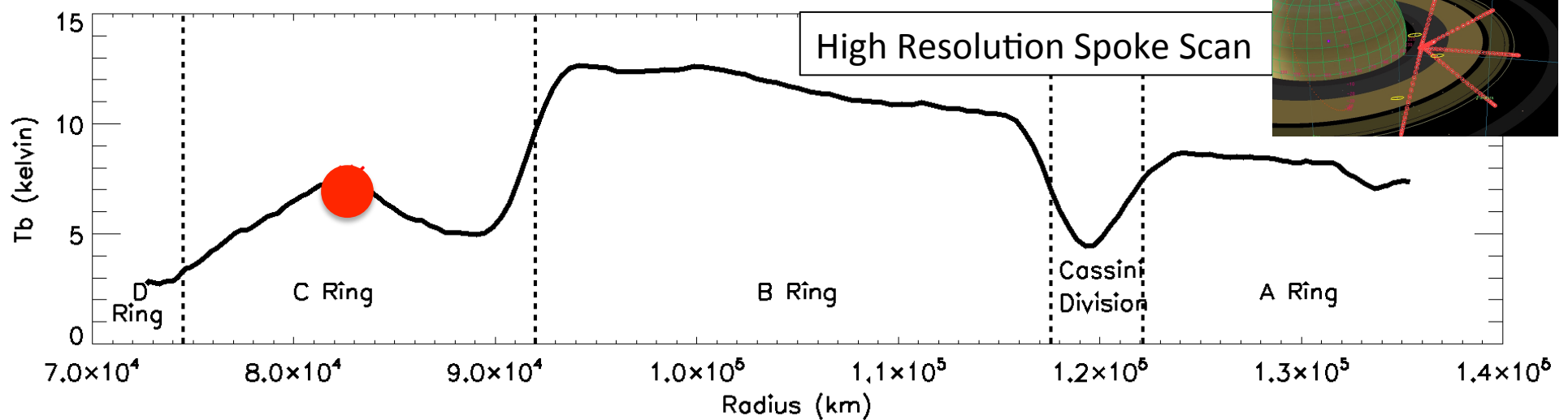
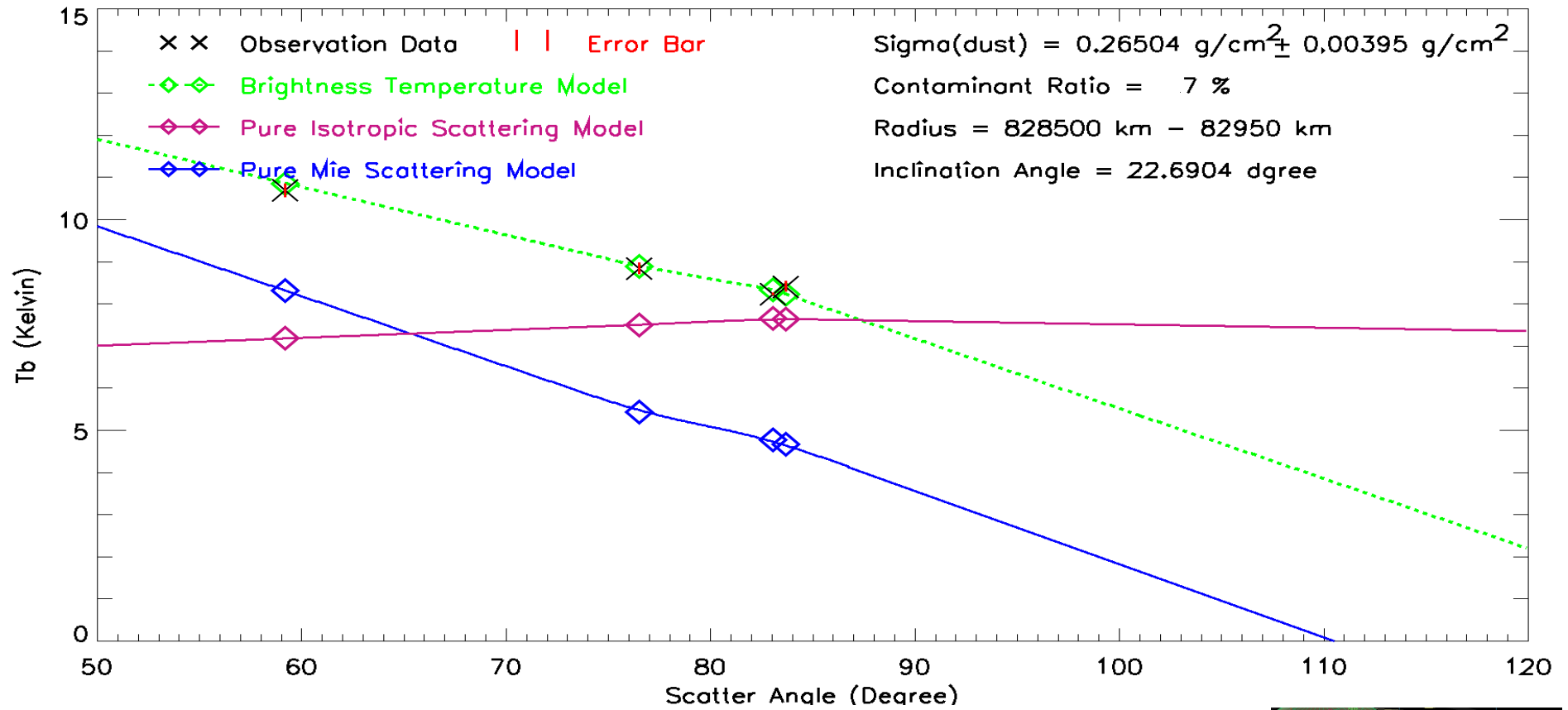
$$T_{thermal}^i \sim \tau_{abs}^i \cdot T_{physical}^i \quad \tau_{abs} / \tau \approx 1 - \omega_{single\_scatter} \sim \epsilon_i^{eff}$$

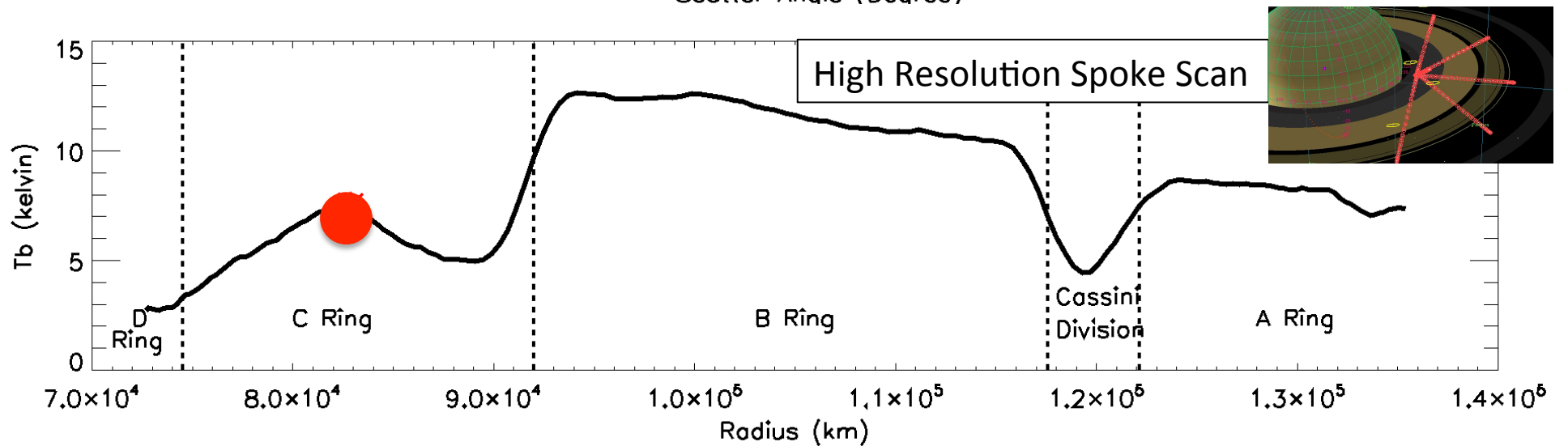
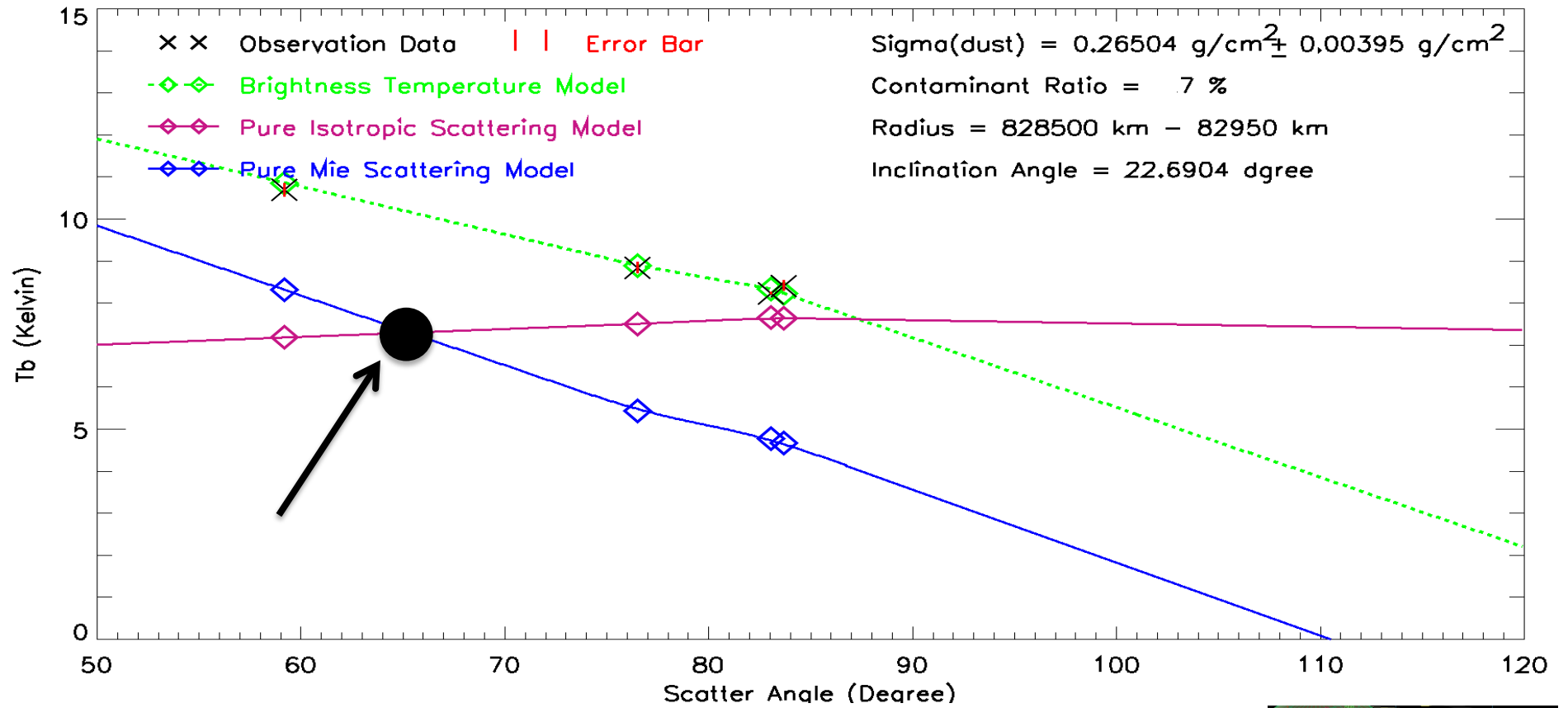
$$\epsilon_i^{eff} \approx f_v^{ice} \cdot \epsilon_i^{ice} + f_v^{non-ice} \epsilon_i^{non-ice}, \quad \epsilon_i^{ice} = 6.68e-05 \ll \epsilon_i^{non-ice} = 1.34e-01$$

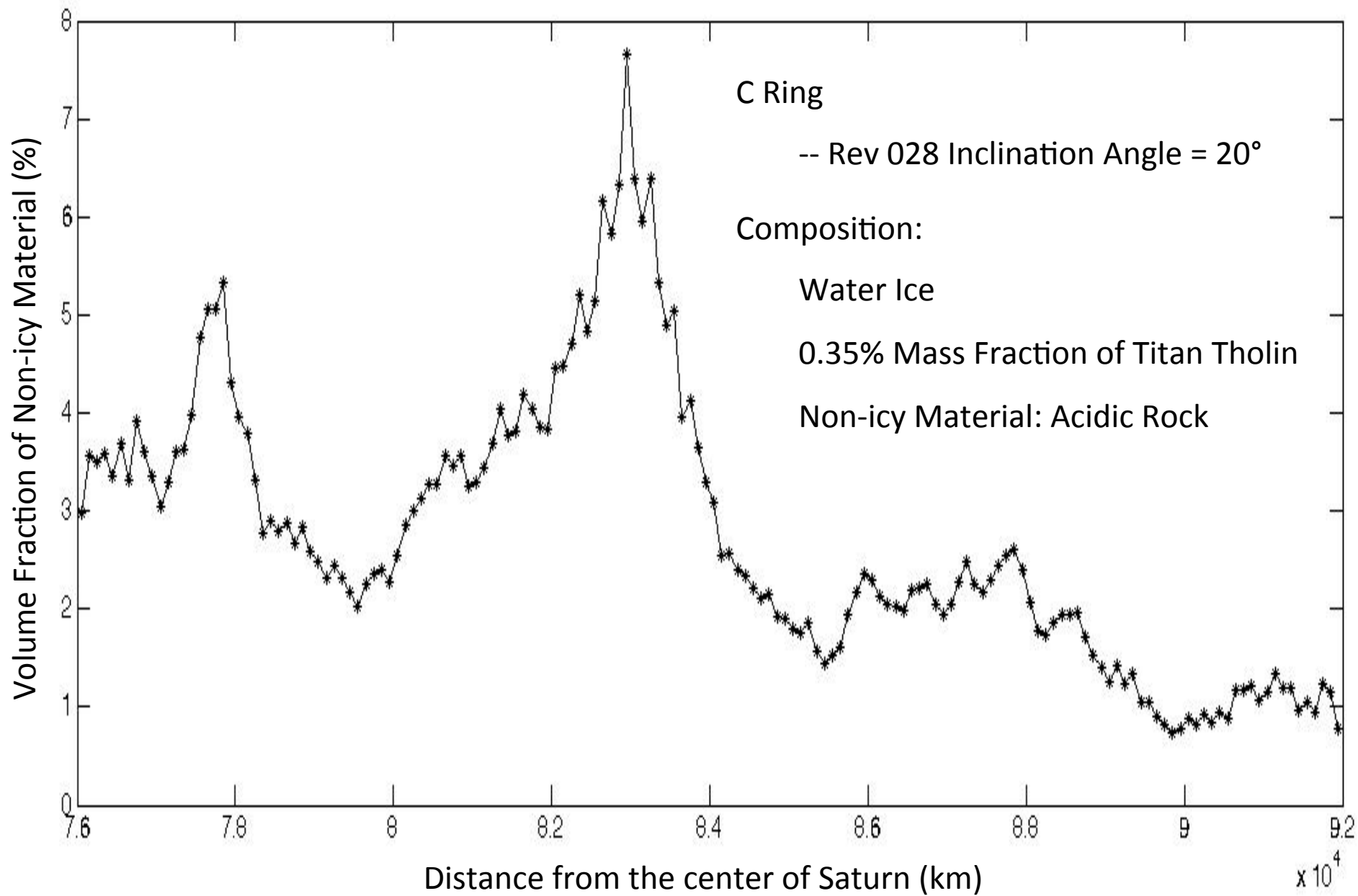
- Insert thermal photons  $n_{thermal}^i \propto T_{thermal}^i$ , isotropically from the  $i^{th}$  layer, and let them scatter

C Ring





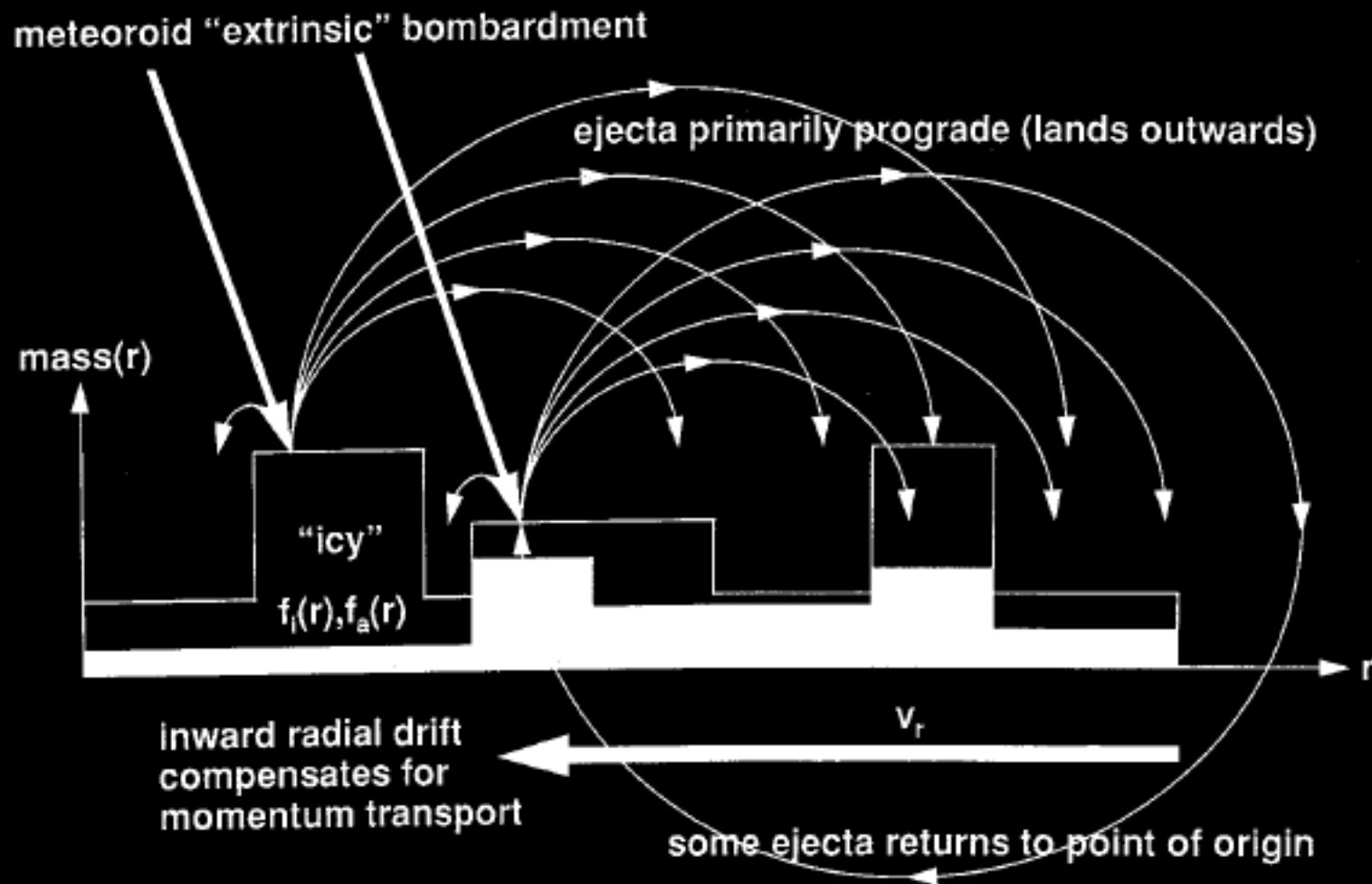




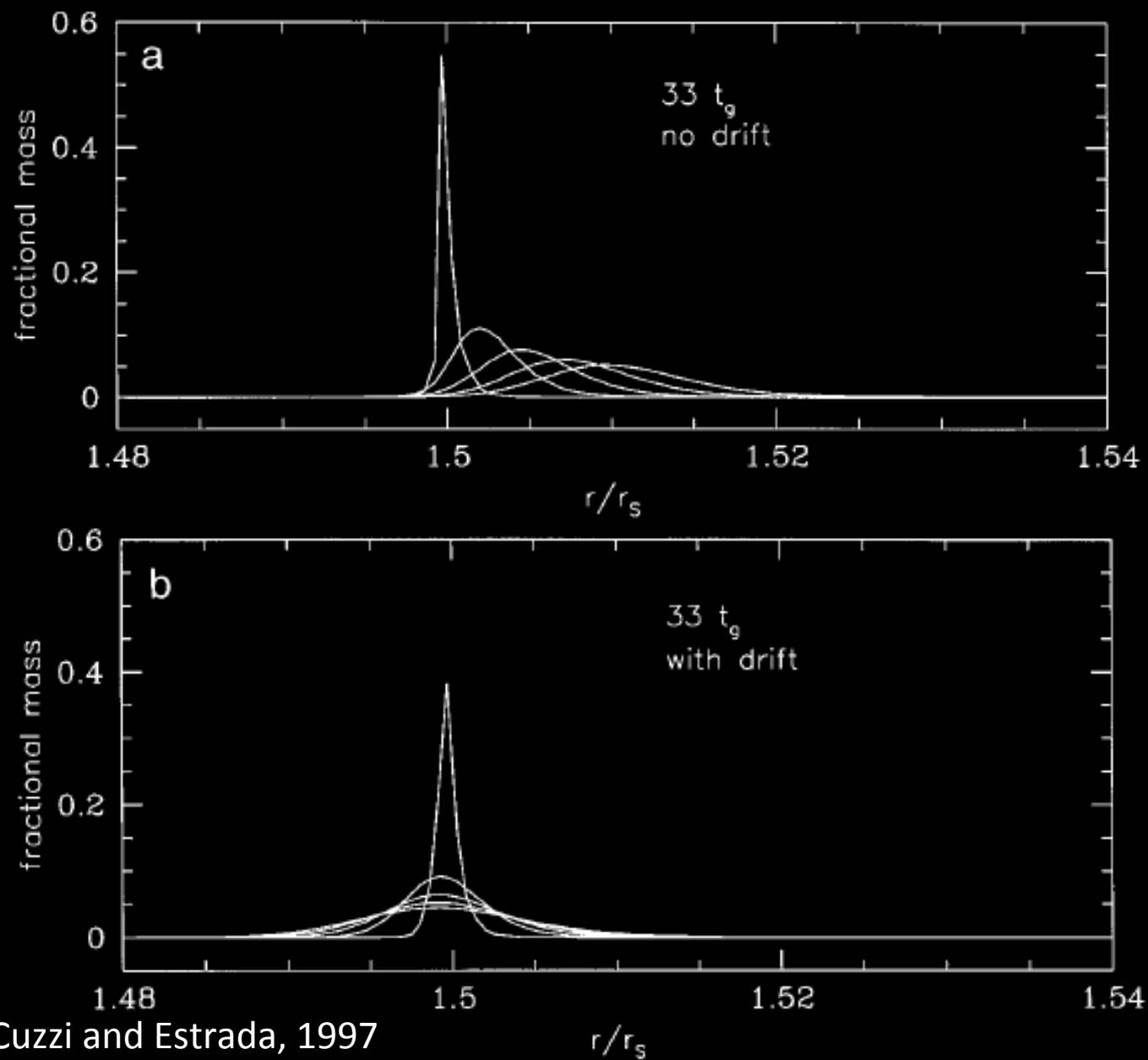
# Compositional Evolution of Saturn's Rings Due to Meteoroid Bombardment

Jeffrey N. Cuzzi and Paul R. Estrada

Received April 10, 1997; revised October 6, 1997

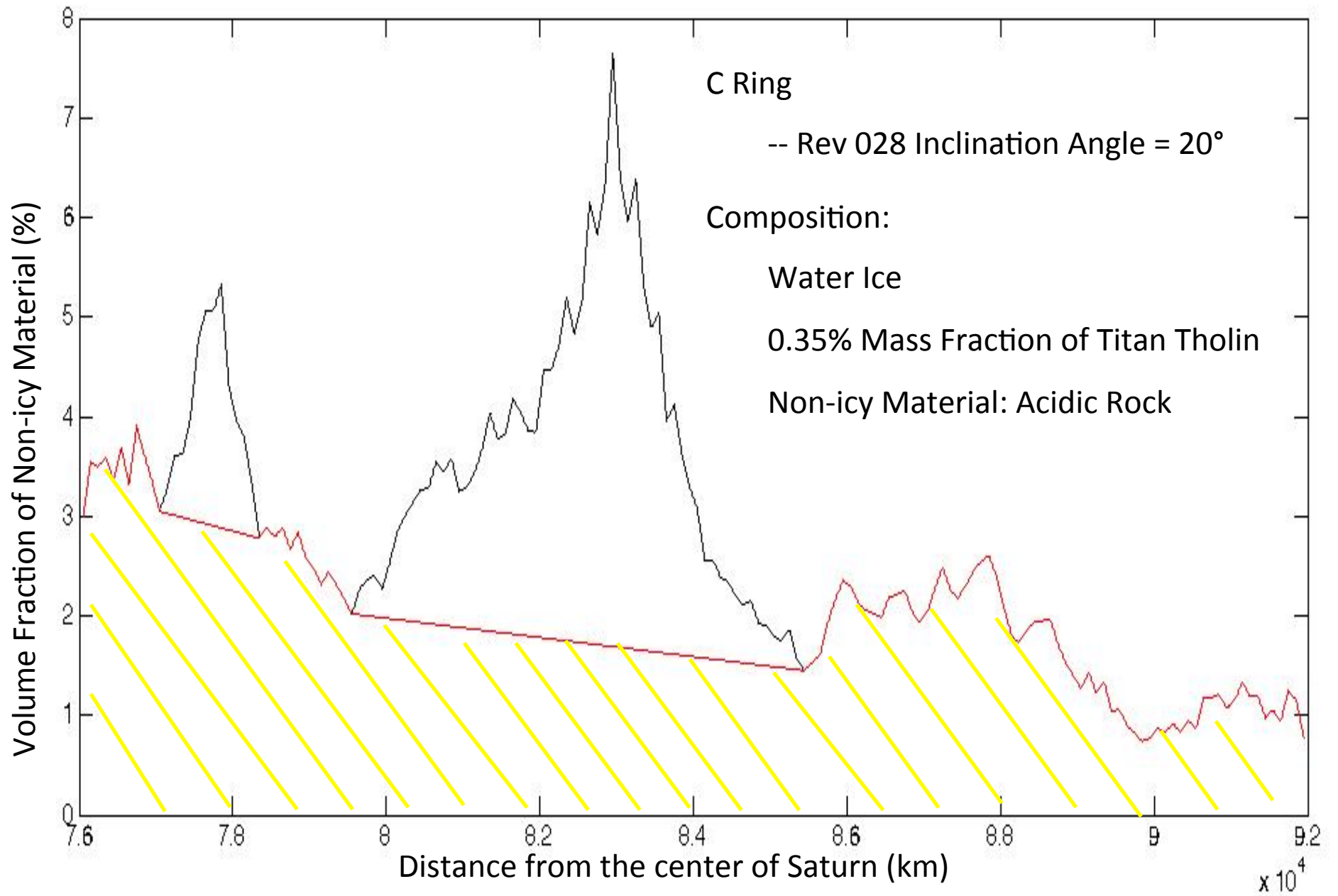


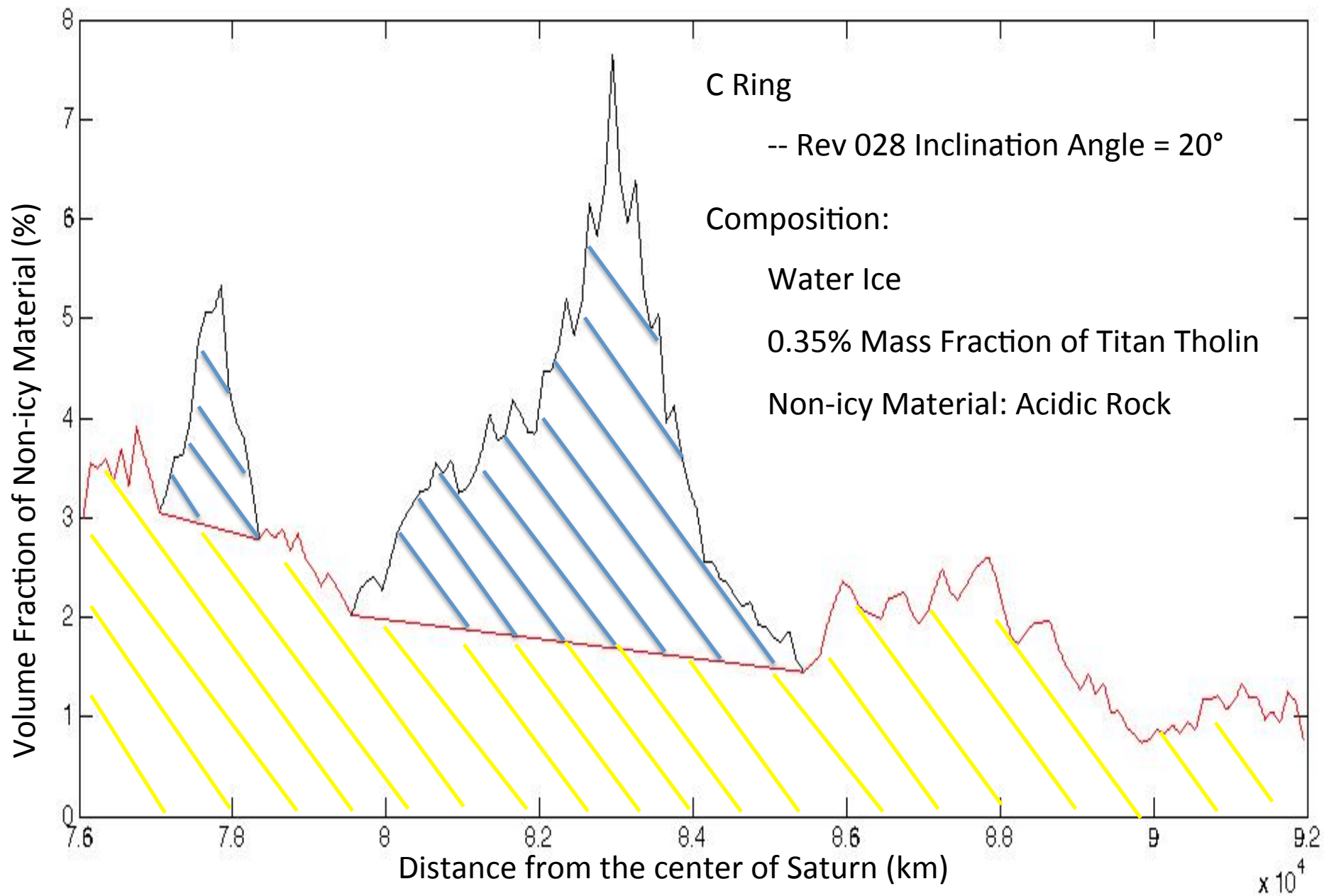
# COMPOSITIONAL EVOLUTION OF SATURN'S RINGS



Cuzzi and Estrada, 1997

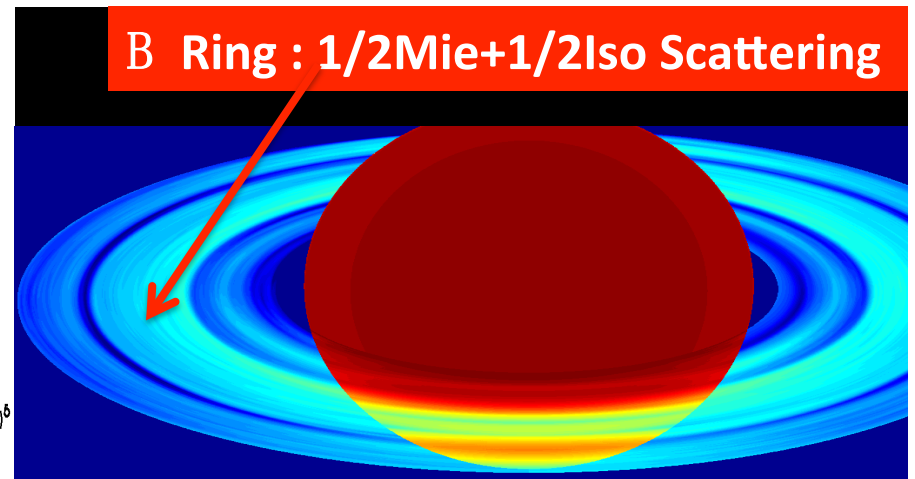
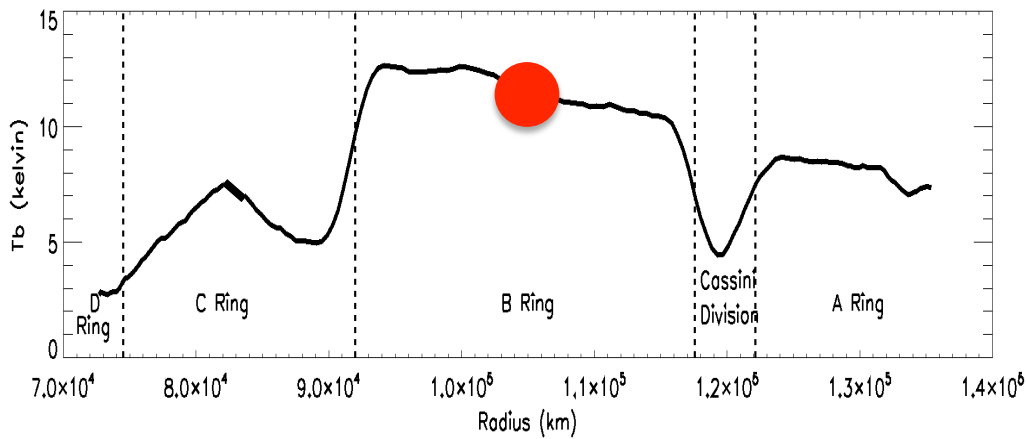
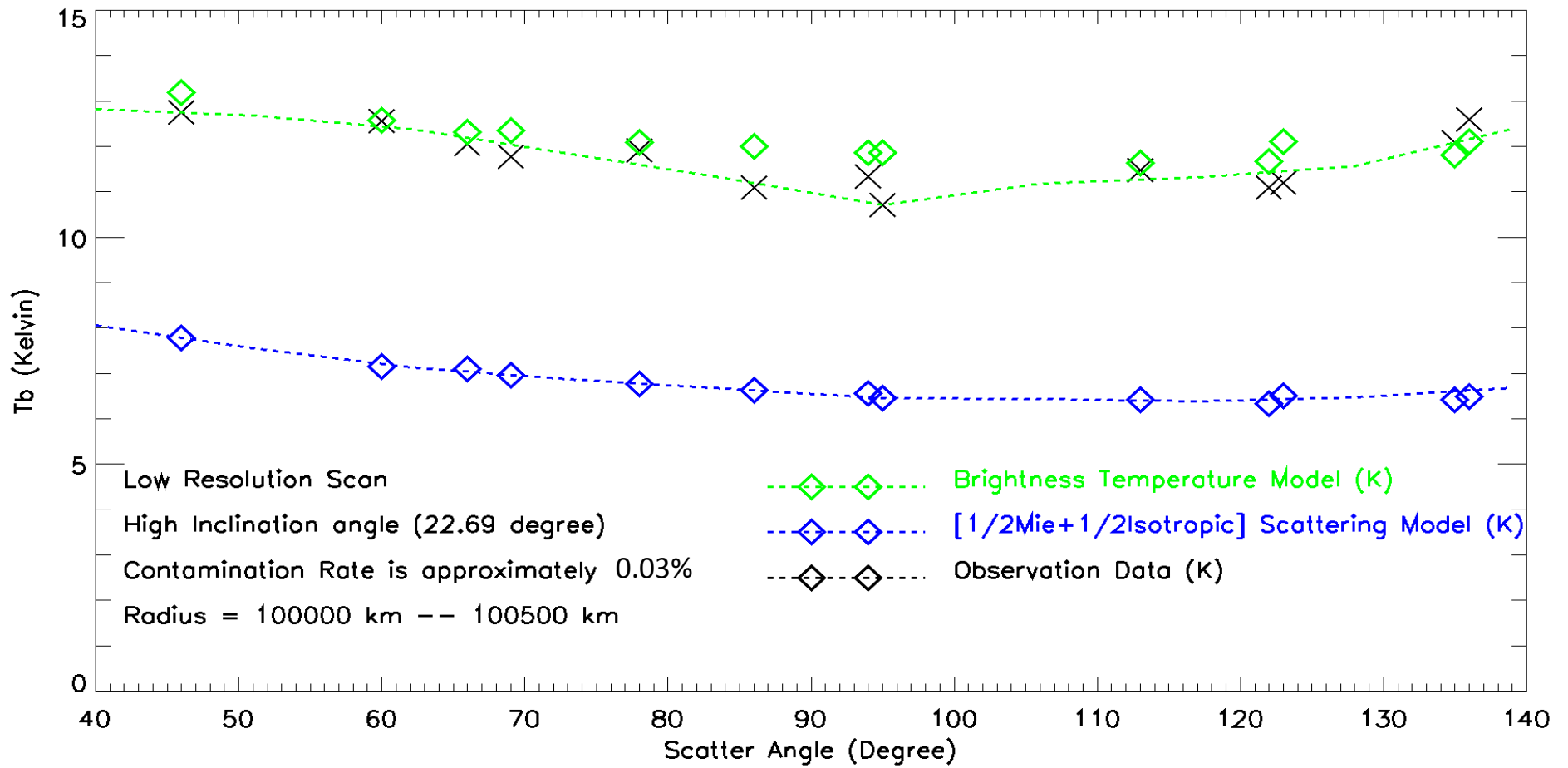
FIG. 7. Examples of the spread of “pollutant” from an initially narrow annulus into surrounding regions with radial drift off (a) and on (b). The profiles of fractional mass of non-icy absorber are uniformly spaced in time from 0 to  $33t_g$ .

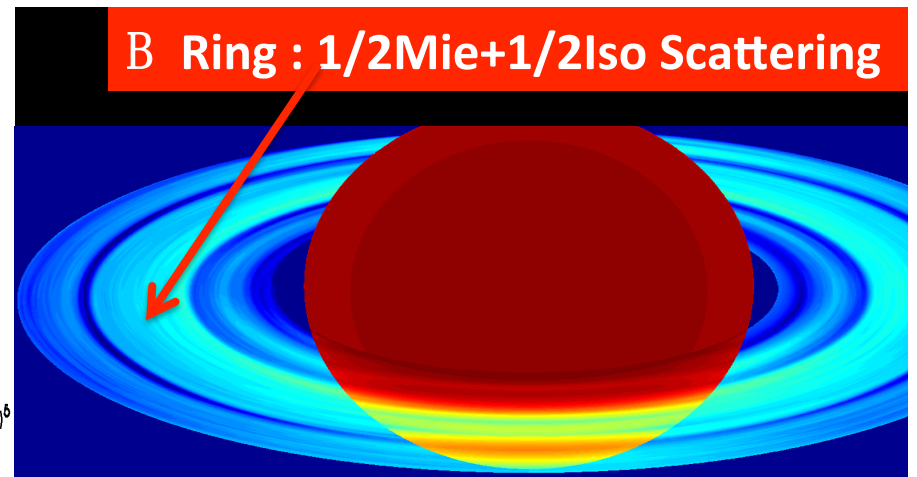
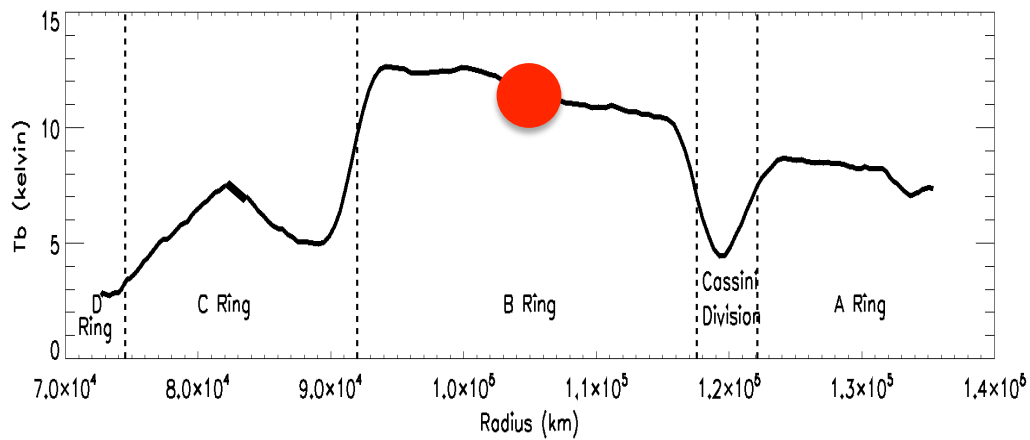
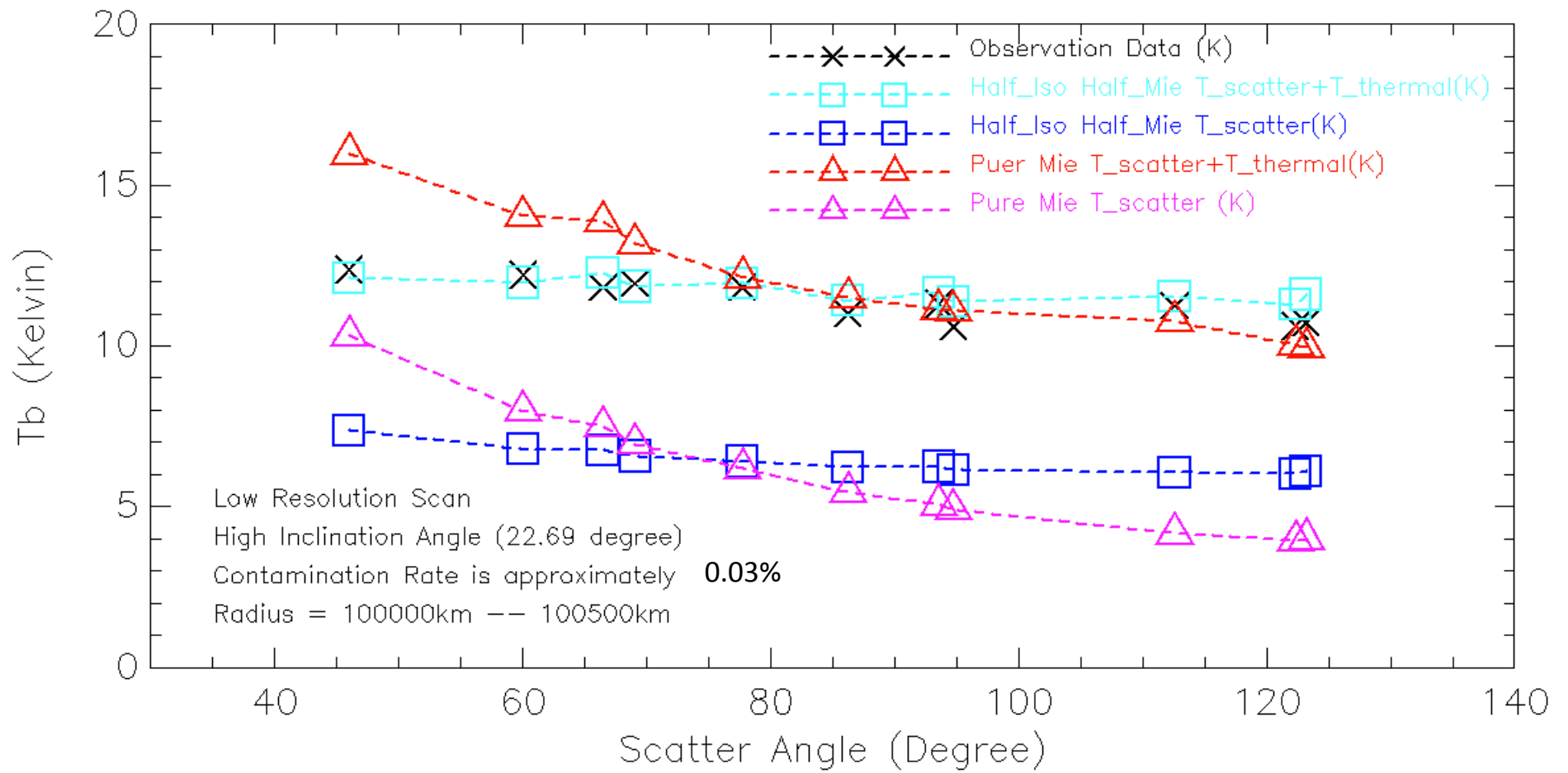


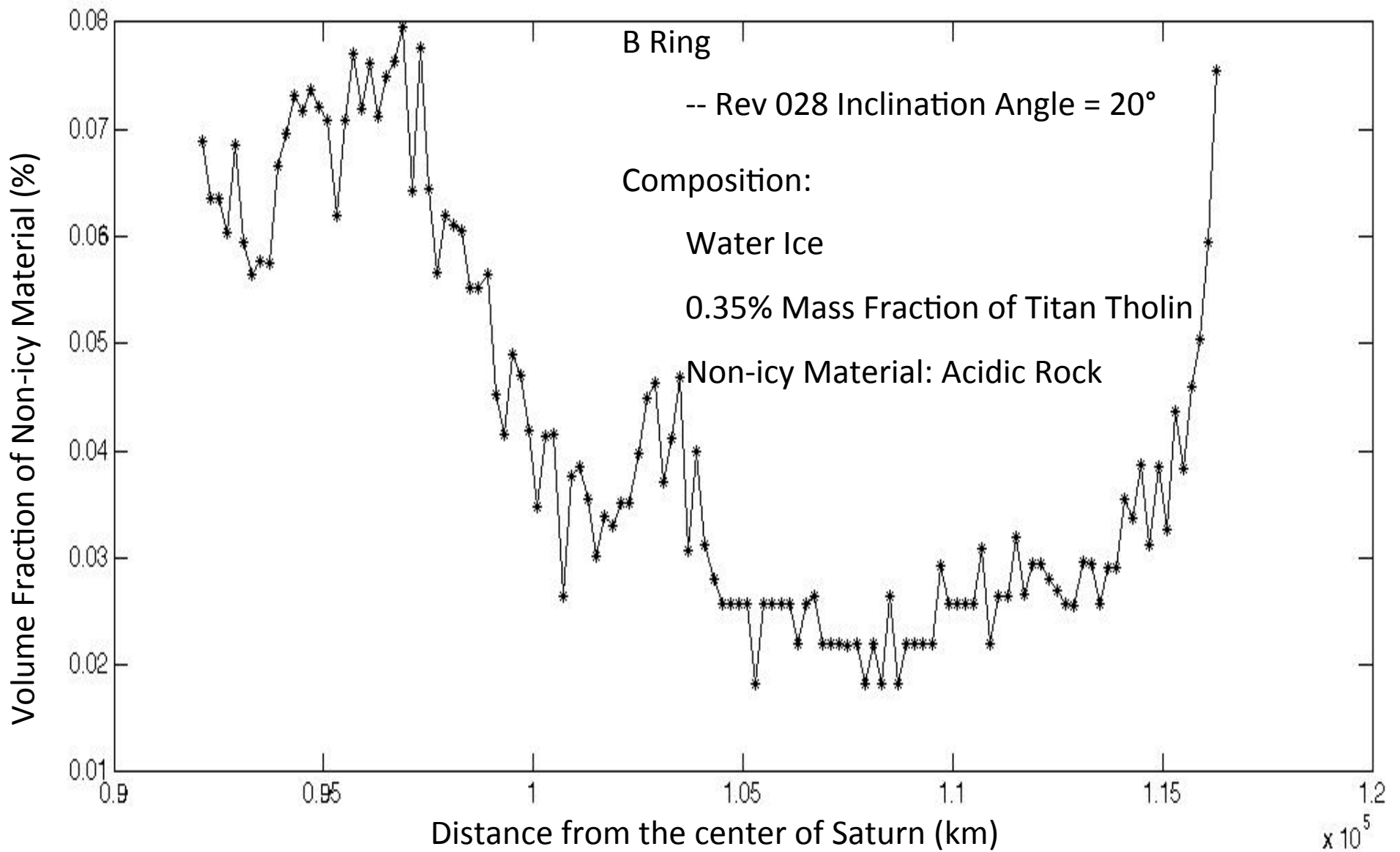


# B Rings



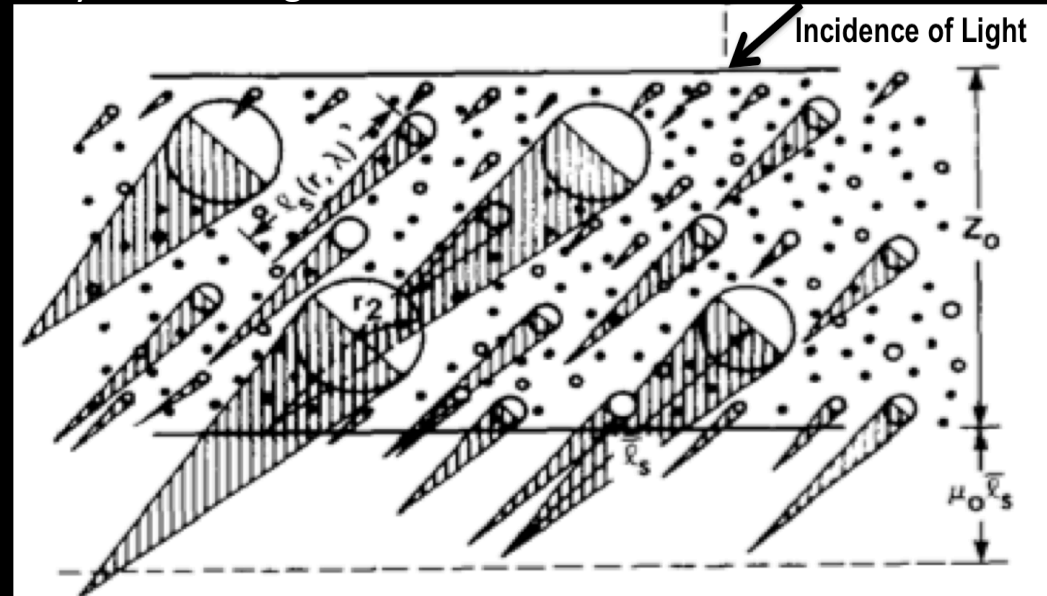






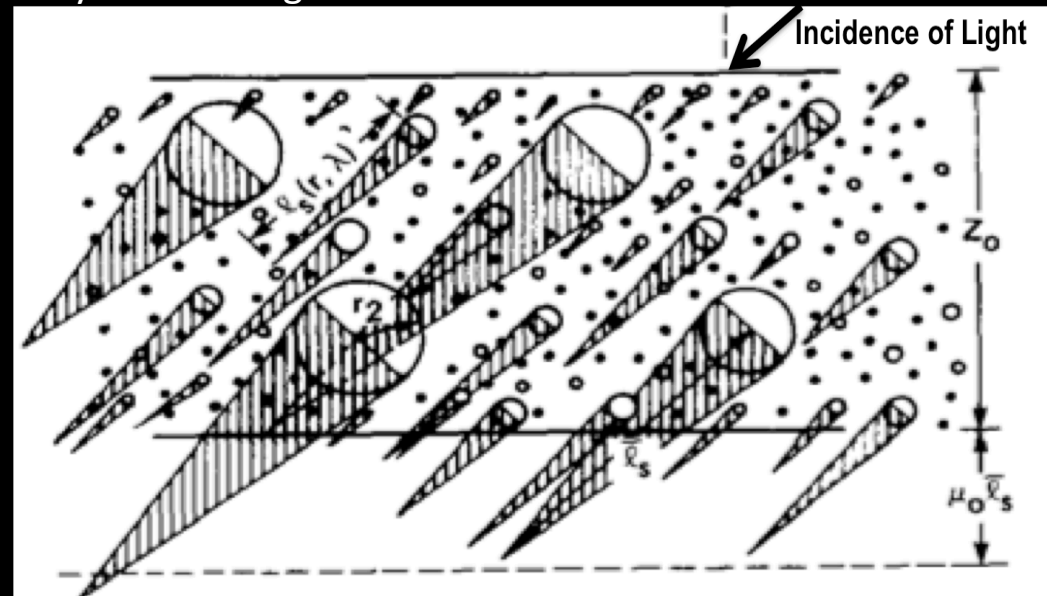
## Problem & Limitation of Current Model

- Problem:  
Non-ice fraction in the B Ring is much smaller than the upper limits derived in other references.
- Limitation of Current Model:  
Unable to deal with shadowing effect in optically thick B Ring



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- Interaction between Large Particle & Photon
  - Diffraction



- Geometric-optics Scattering  
– Scattering not caused by diffraction
- Absorption

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- Diffraction

- Near Field  $\rightarrow$  Far Field boundary:

$$l_s \sim a^2 / \lambda$$

- Distance between particles:

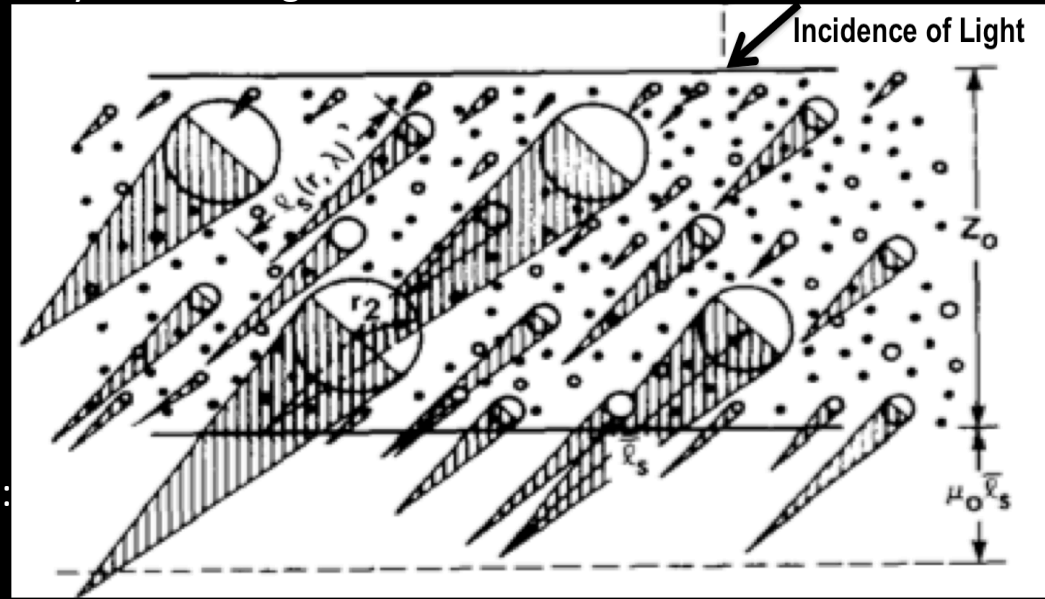
$$l^* \sim r / D$$

- Far field approximation fails when:

$$l_s > l^*$$

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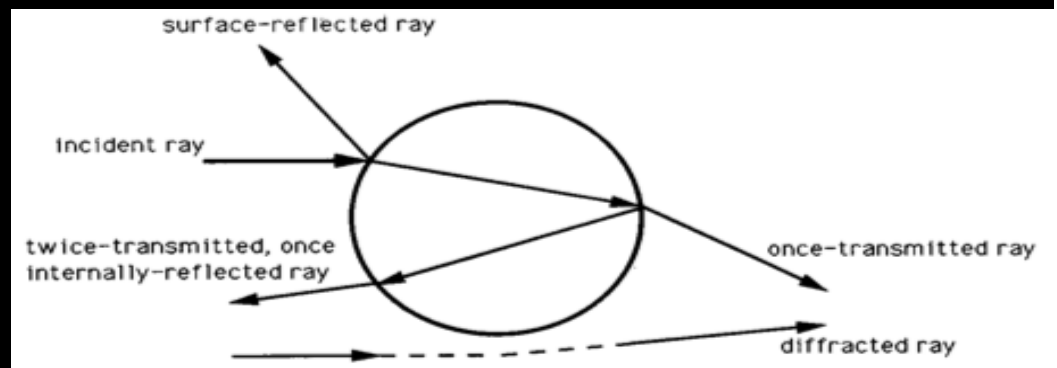
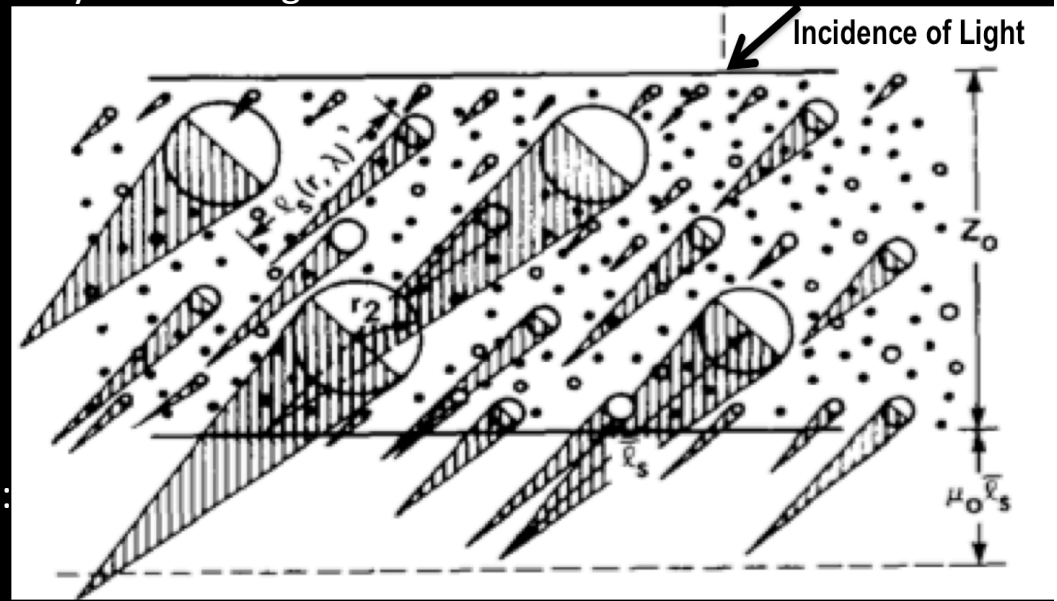
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- Geometric-optics Scattering
  - Scattering not caused by diffraction
  - Surface reflection
  - Refracted Rays
 ( Pollack & Cuzzi 1980 )
- Absorption



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- Problem:
  - Non-ice fraction in the B Ring is much smaller than the upper limits derived in other references.
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## Interaction between Large Particle & Photon

### • Diffraction

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### • Geometric-optics Scattering

– Scattering not caused by diffraction

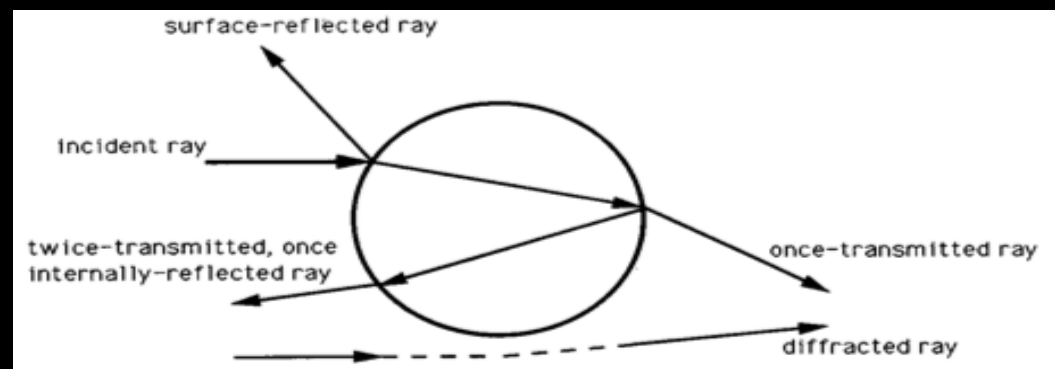
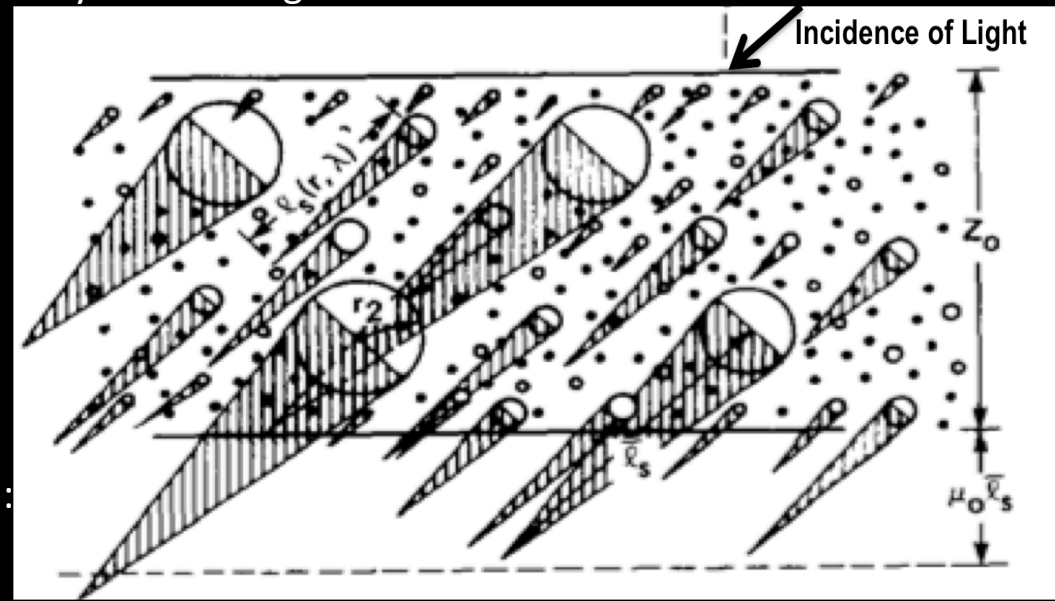
- Surface reflection
- Refracted Rays

( Pollack & Cuzzi 1980 )

### • Absorption

## • Possible Solutions

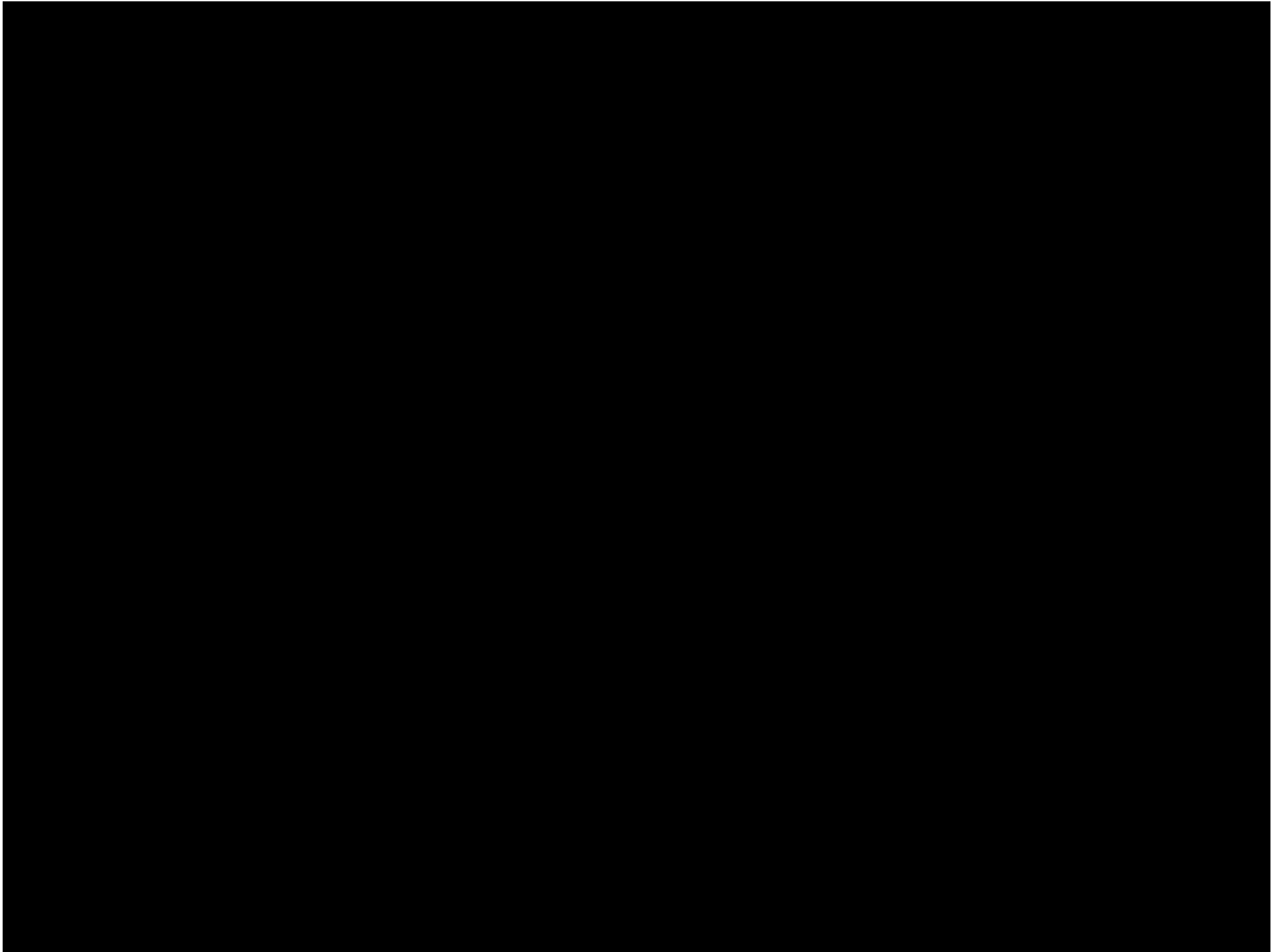
- Discrete Dipole Approximation Model (DDA Model)
- Separate scattering phase function in the near field into Diffraction and Geometric-scatter





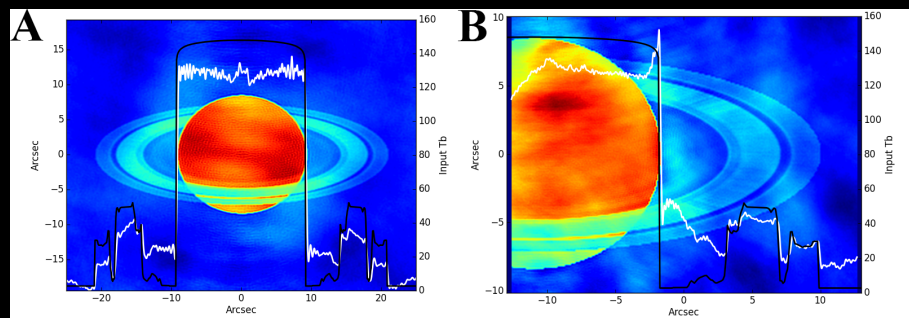
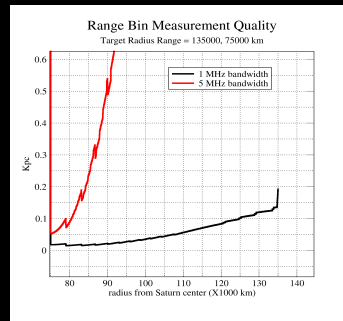
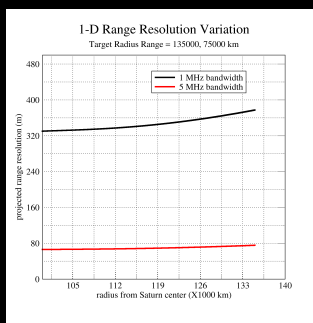
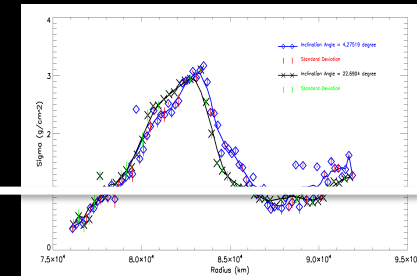
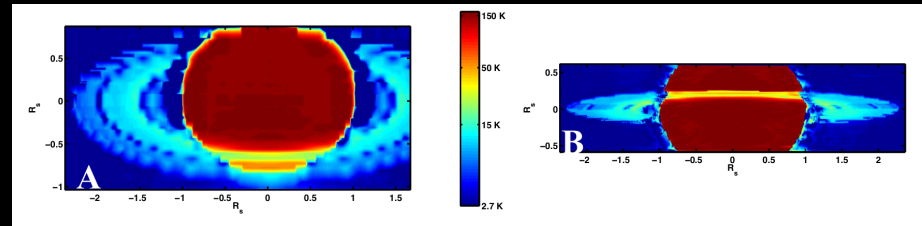
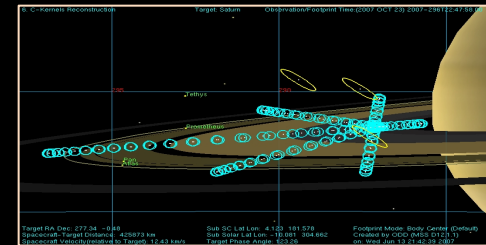
# Summary of Observations

**Thank you !**



# Outline

- Description of Observations
- Overview of Calibration/Processing Procedure
- Abundance of Non-Icy Material from Microwave Thermal Emission
- Next Steps / Follow-up Investigations

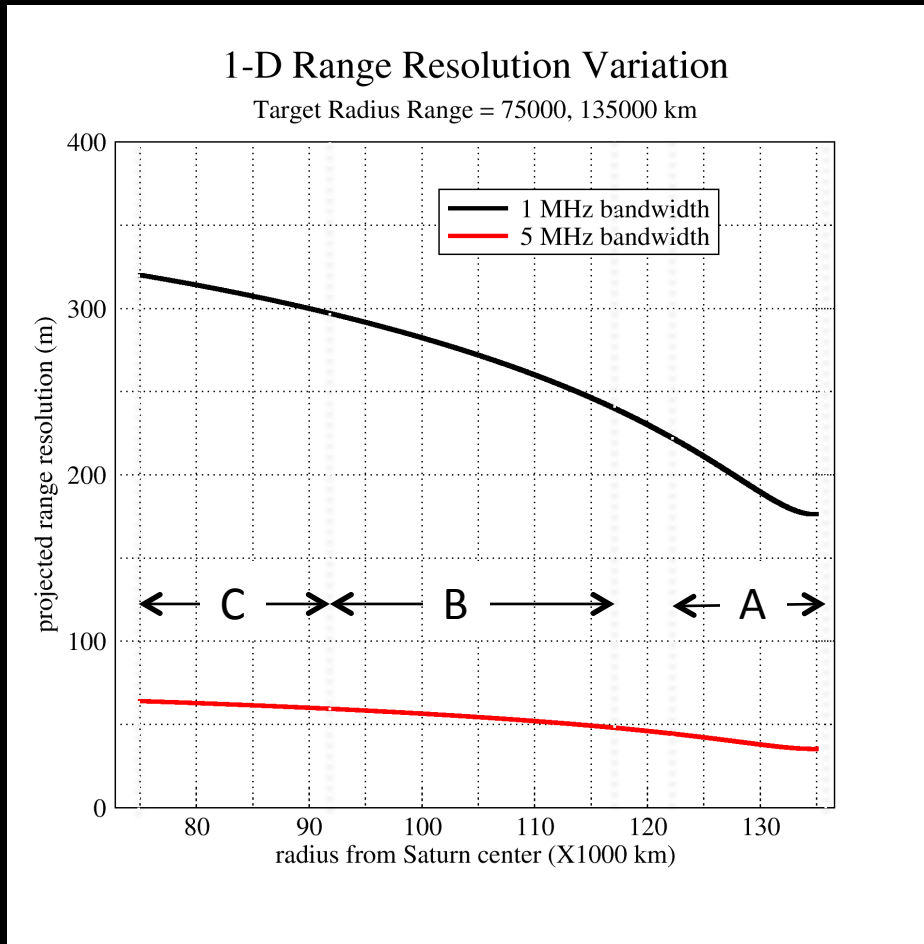


# Next Steps

# Next Steps

# 1-D Performance - F-ring Orbit

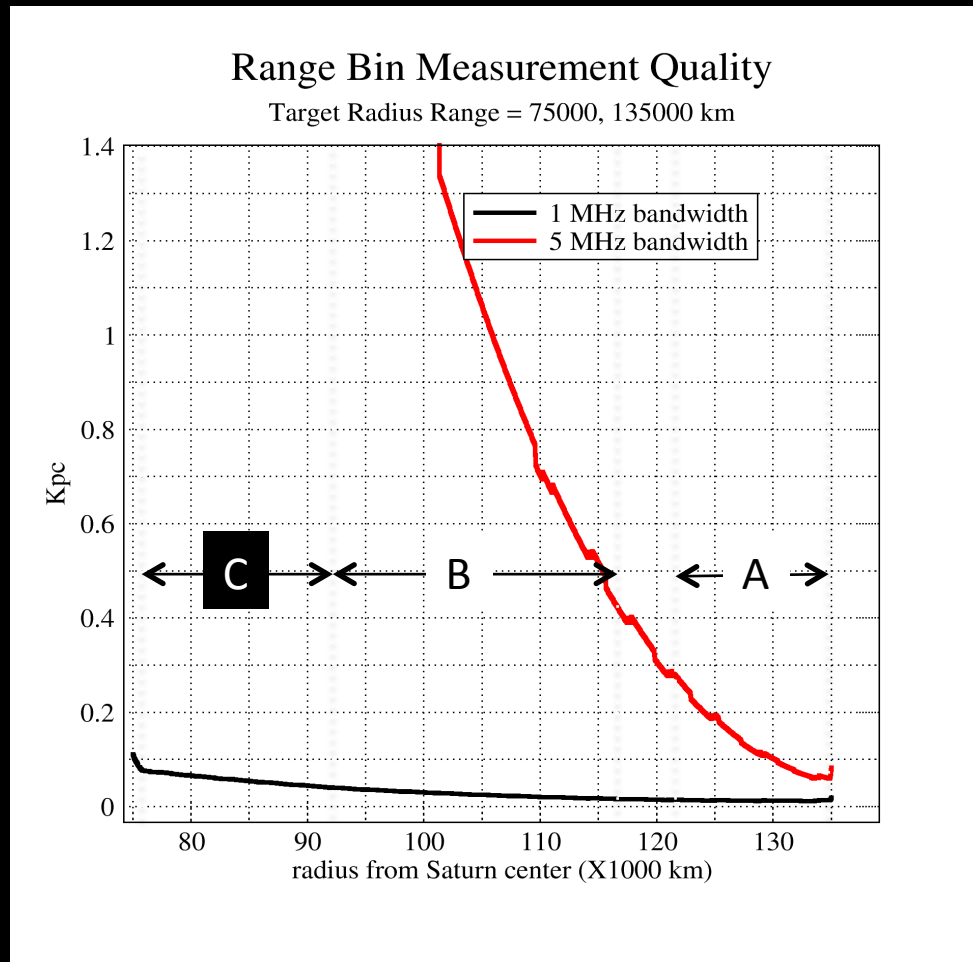
## 1. resolution



- Pointing design sweeps all the rings, sequences range settings to keep rings in window
- Extremes of BW chosen
- Resolution comes at the price of SNR (see next slide)

# 1-D Performance - F-ring Orbit

## 2. SNR

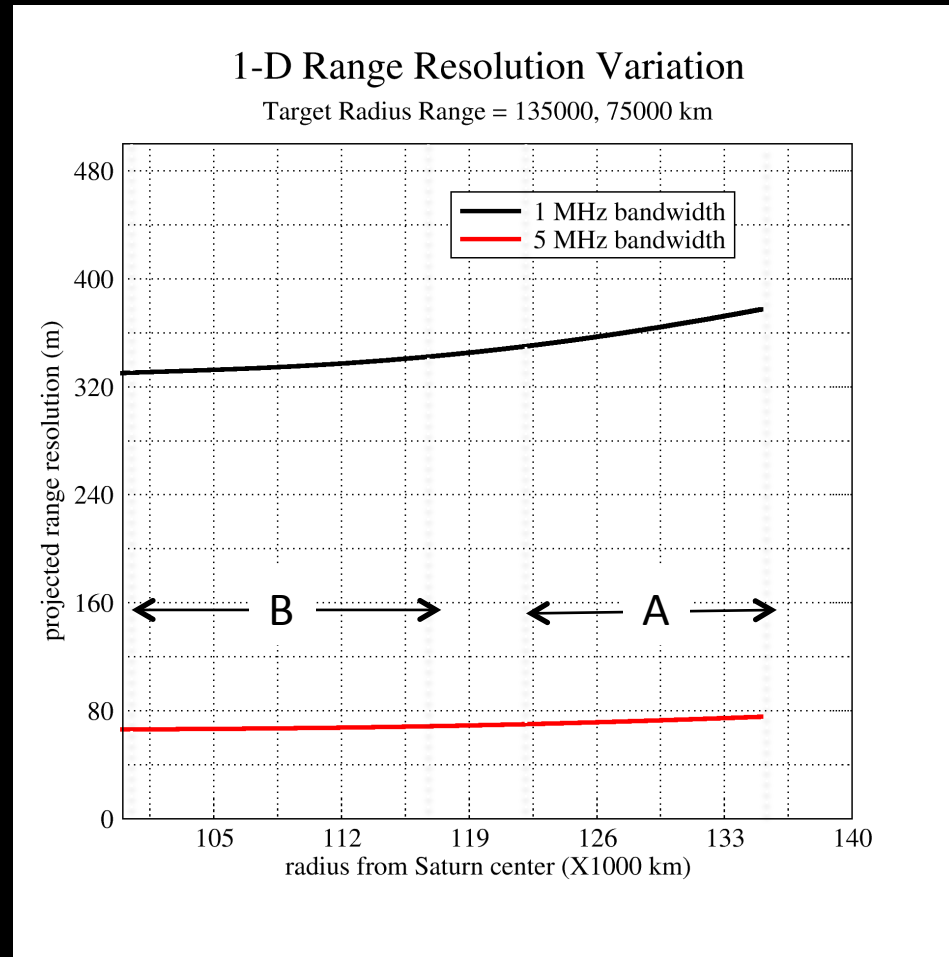


- Kpc is the normalized standard deviation of  $\sigma_0$  (expected value/standard deviation) in each range bin
- Performance is insensitive to timing error within  $\sim 30$  s



# 1-D Performance – Proximal Orbit

## 1. resolution



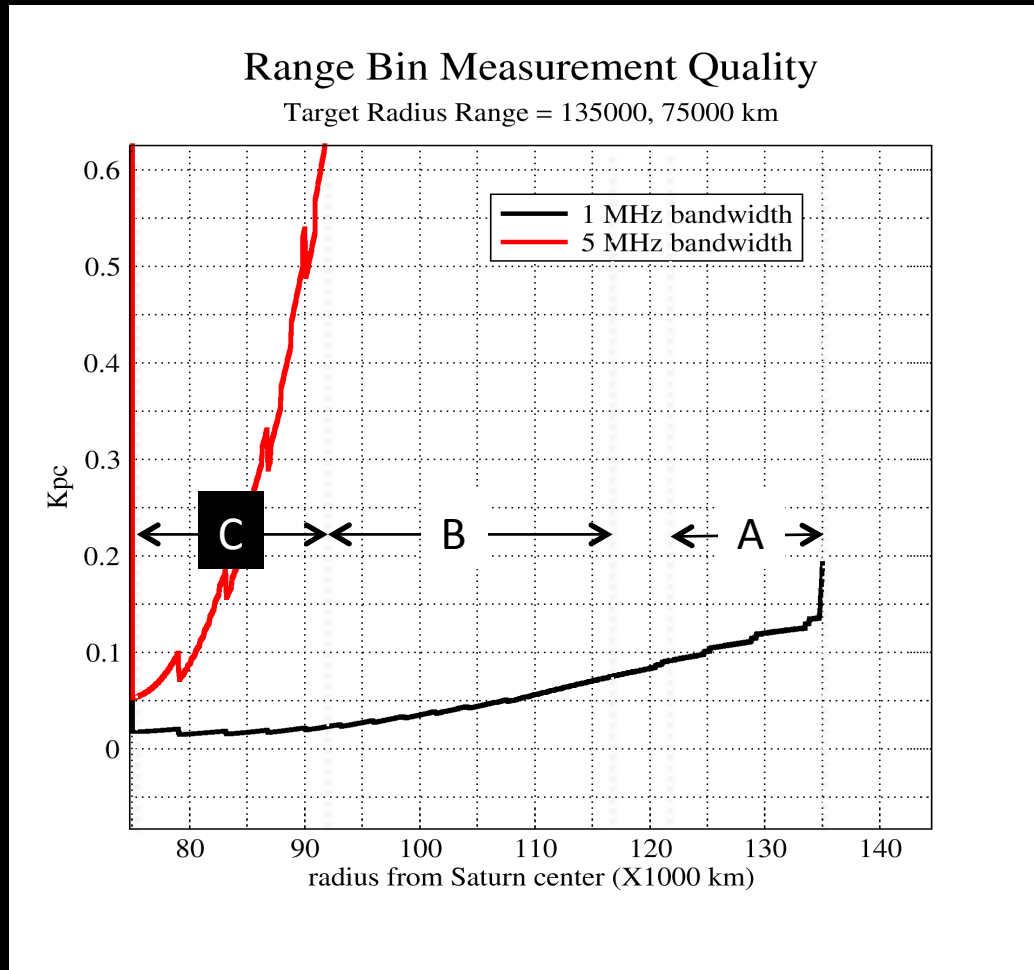
Pointing design sweeps all the rings, sequences range settings to keep rings in window

Extremes of BW chosen

Resolution comes at the price of SNR (see next slide)

# 1-D Performance – Proximal Orbit

## 2. SNR



Kpc is the normalized standard deviation of  $\sigma_0$  (standard deviation/expected value) in each range bin

Performance is more sensitive to timing error, however

# Density & bending waves in the A ring

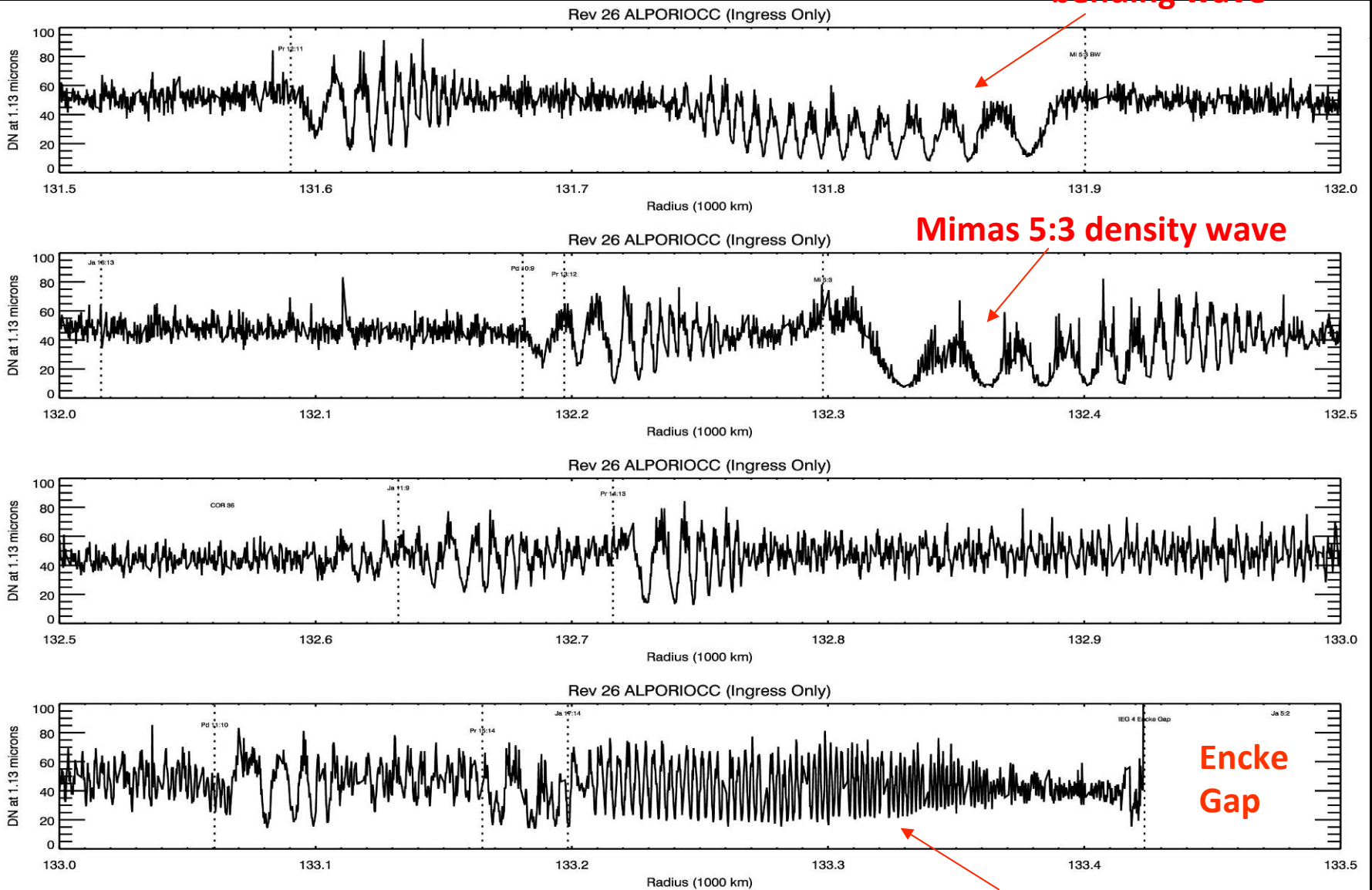
Mimas 5:3  
bending wave

Mimas 5:3  
density wave

Encke  
Gap

Pan wake

100 km



# Observing Requests and Priorities

- **Obtain 1-D active observations through rings in at least one half of one F-ring orbit (and one half of one proximal orbit?)**
  - Measure radial structure through all rings to resolution  $< 500\text{m}$
- **Obtain passive observations through rings in at least one half of one F-ring orbit (and one half of one proximal orbit?)**
  - Measure bistatic scattering law through all rings to resolution  $\sim 1000\text{ km}$
- Obtain 1-D active observations through rings in one full F-ring orbit and/or one full proximal orbit
  - Measure wave propagation, azimuthal structure (?)
- Obtain 2-D data in SAR mode on at least one point in the outer C-ring during one F-ring orbit
  - Legacy data set that may constrain future ring models
- Ride-along radiometry in active-mode orbits
  - Comes for free
- Obtain spokes (i.e., radial) scans at less contested times
  - Fill out lower-resolution scattering map

“In the coming years, unencumbered by new data from space missions, we can hope to digest the new information, pull together the data from Earth and space, answer some of the current burning questions, and prepare the outlines of the next space missions.”

Larry Esposito

L. W. Esposito et al., “Saturn’s Rings: Structure, Dynamics, and Particle Properties”, in “Saturn” (ed. T. Gehrels and M. S. Mathews), University of Arizona Press, 1984, pg. 545

# 1-D Range Slicing

S/C

Geometric Smearing

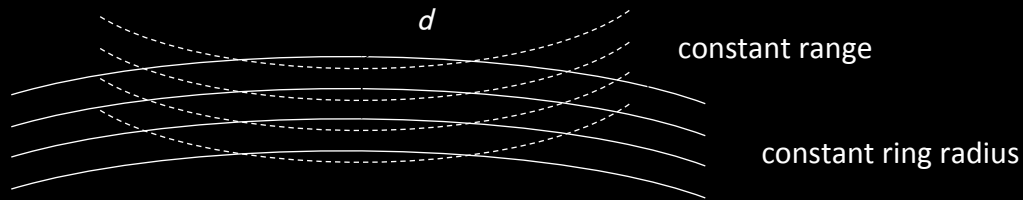
$q$

half-power beamwidth  
(greatly exaggerated)

$d$

Inner C Ring [m]	Outer A Ring [m]
------------------------	------------------------

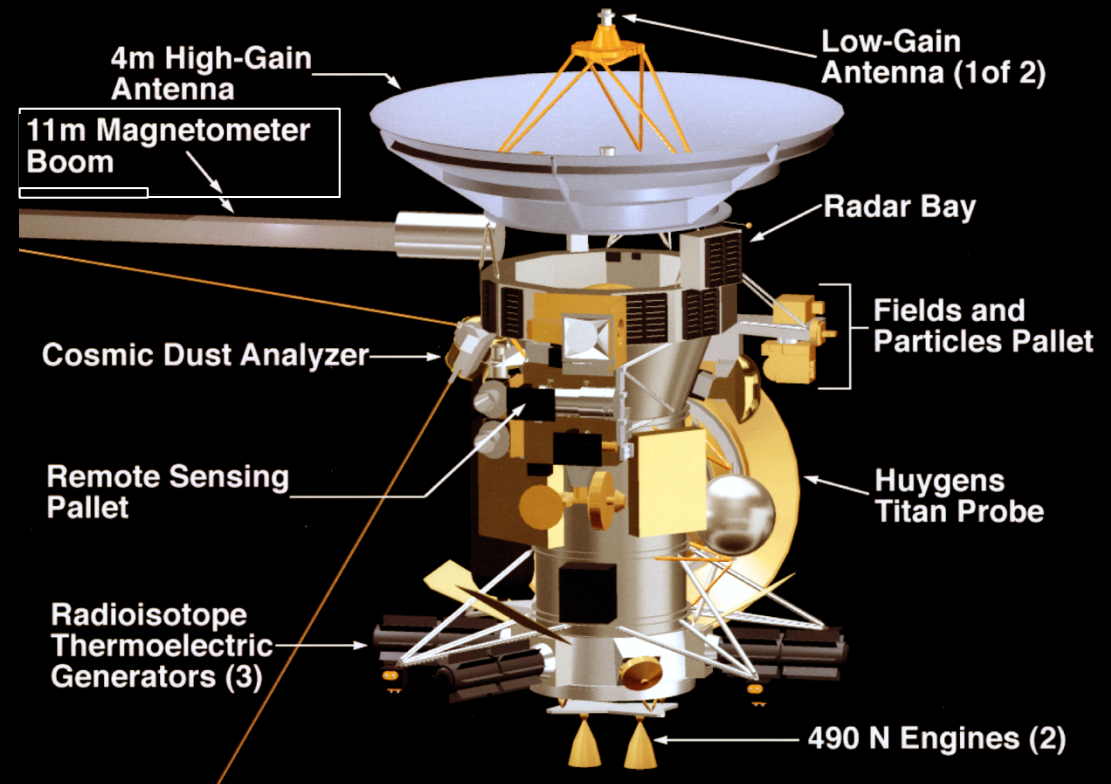
F-Ring Orbit
Proximal orbit



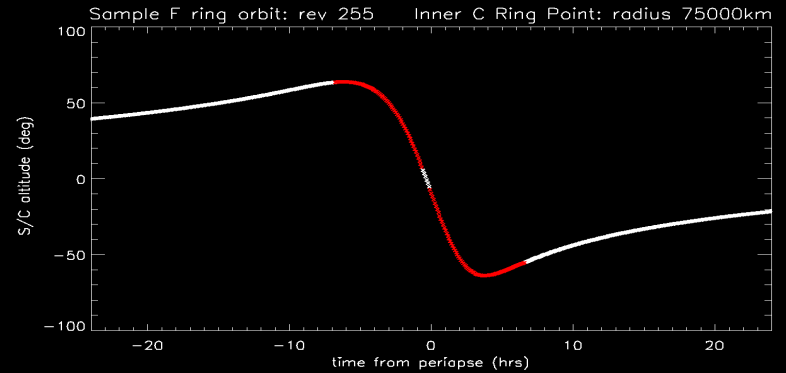
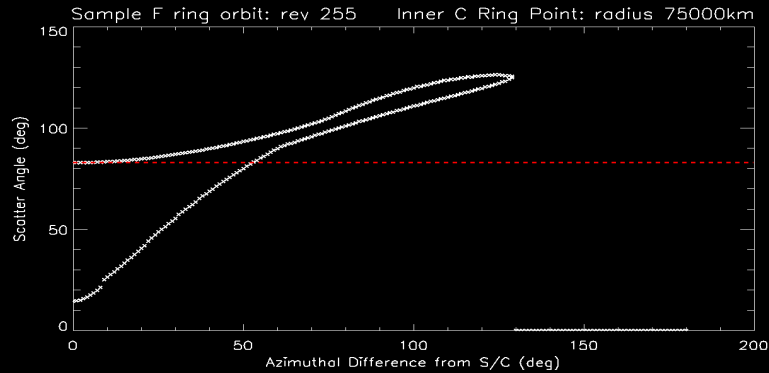
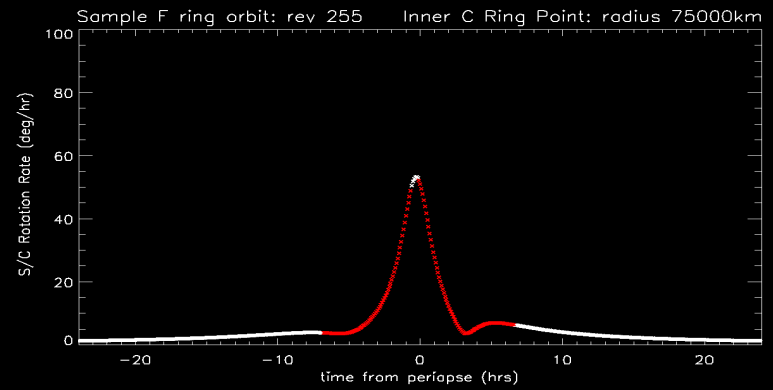
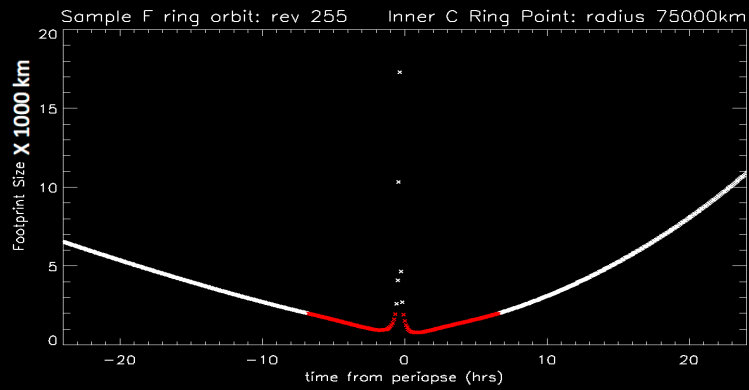
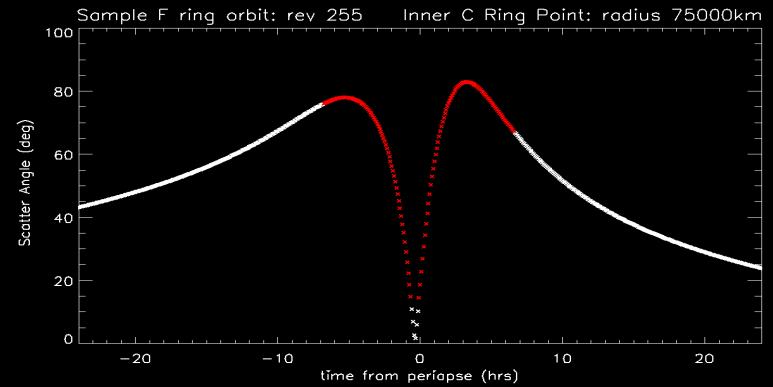
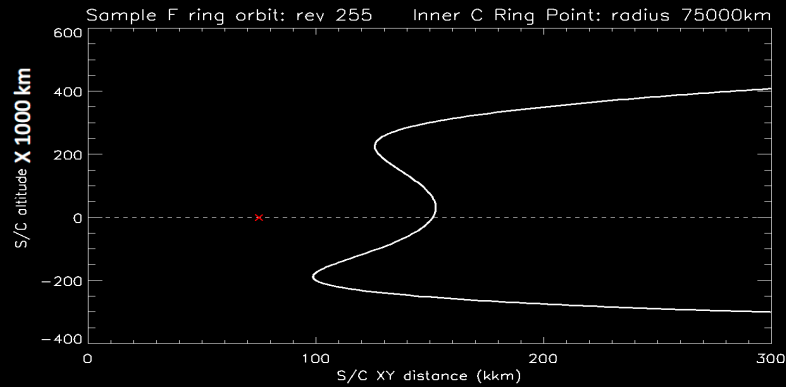
Observing point centered at zero azimuth  
angle relative to spacecraft

# Cassini Spacecraft and RADAR

- Radar (active)
  - SAR (5-beam)
  - HiSAR (single beam)
  - Altimetry
  - Scatterometry
  - a
- Radiometry (passive)
  - Operates alone and in all active modes
  - 0.35° beamwidth
  - 1 linear polarization

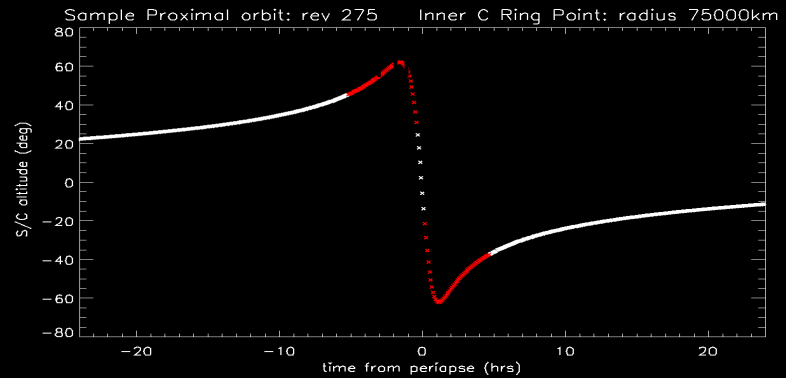
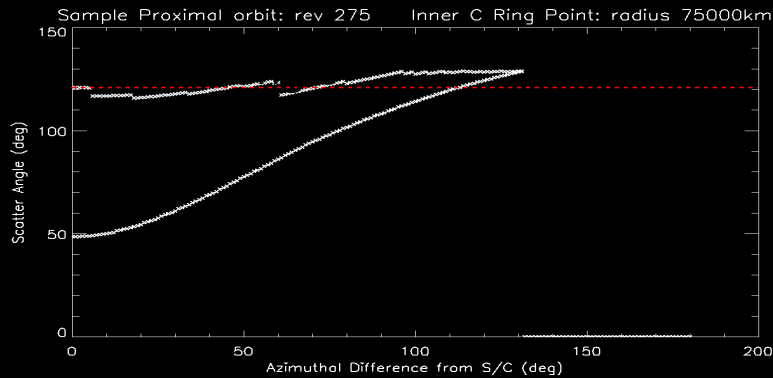
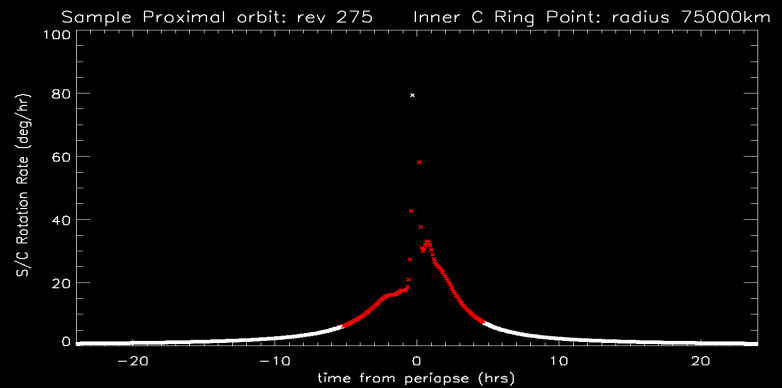
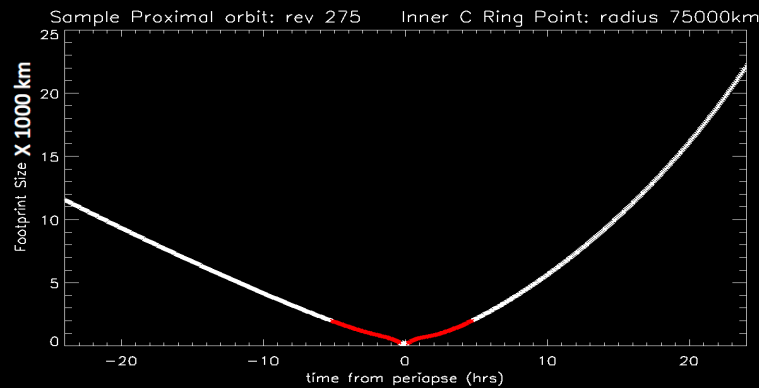
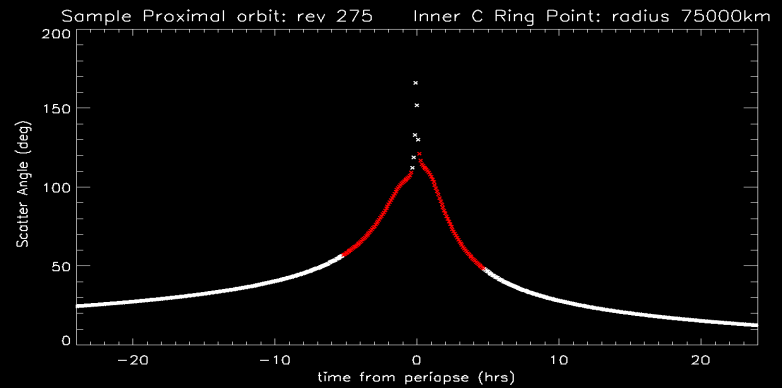
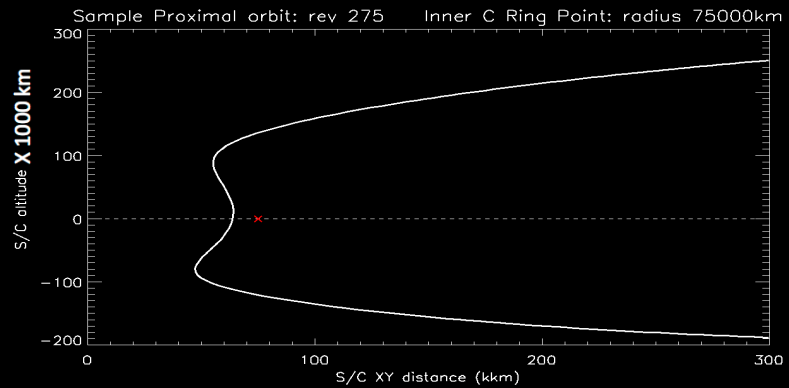


# F-Ring Orbit, inner C-Ring Point





# Proximal Orbit, inner C-Ring Point

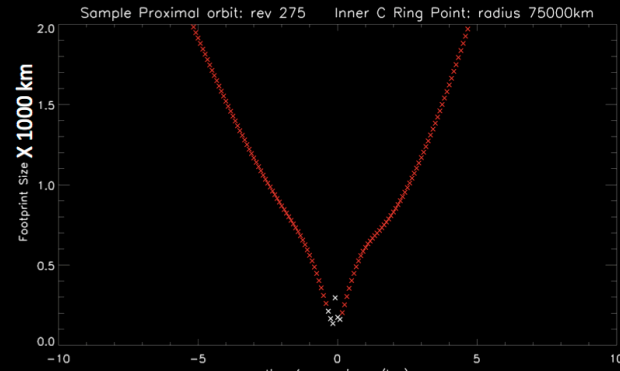
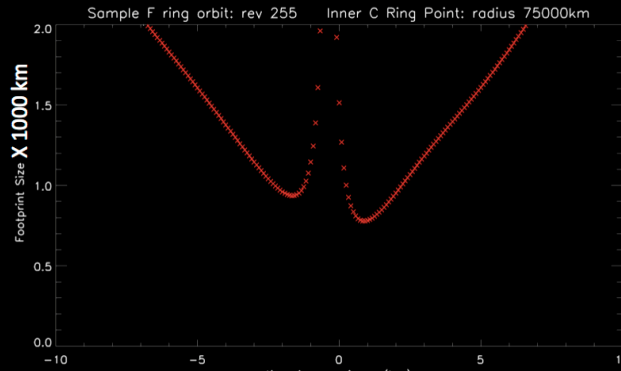


# Projected Footprint, All Cases

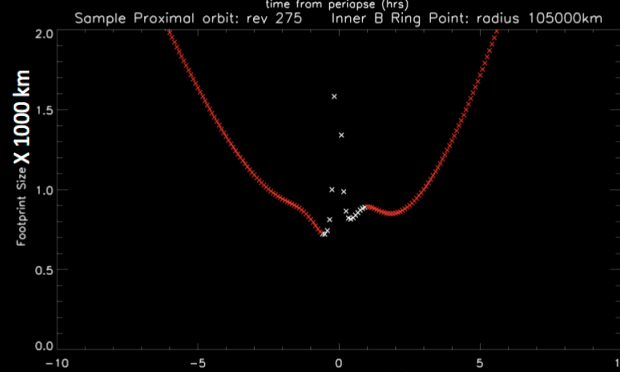
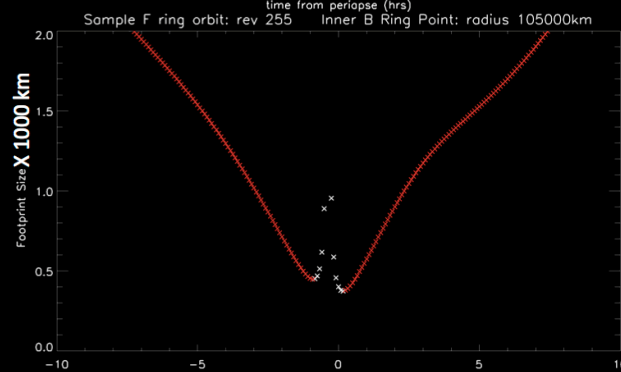
## F-Ring Orbit: rev 255

## Proximal Orbit: rev 275

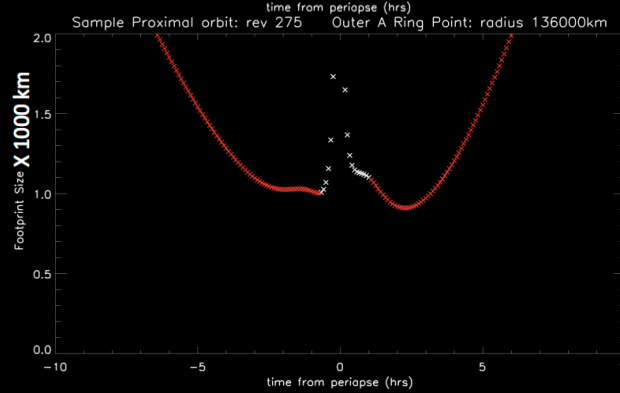
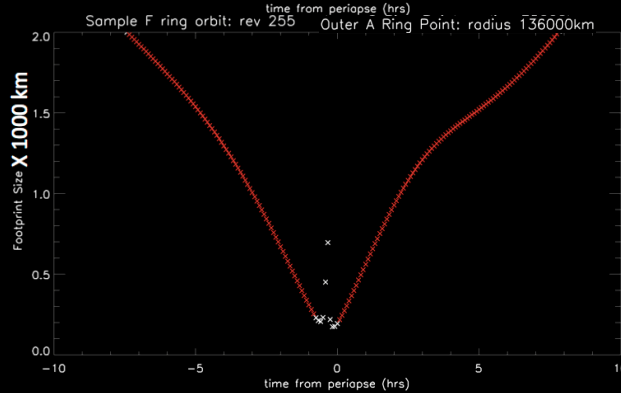
Inner C Ring



Inner B Ring



Outer A Ring

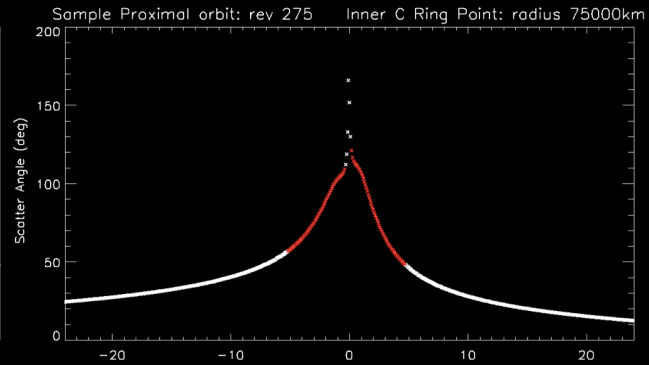
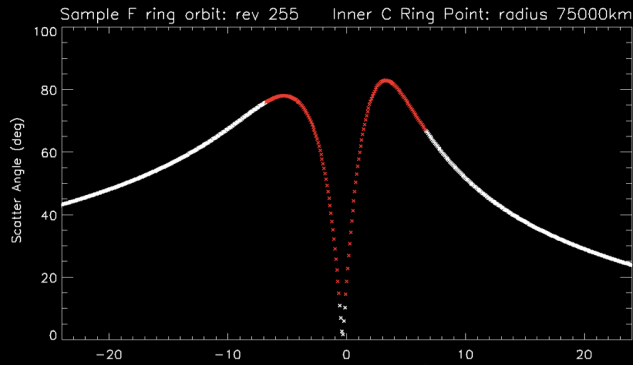


# Scatter Angle Range, All Cases

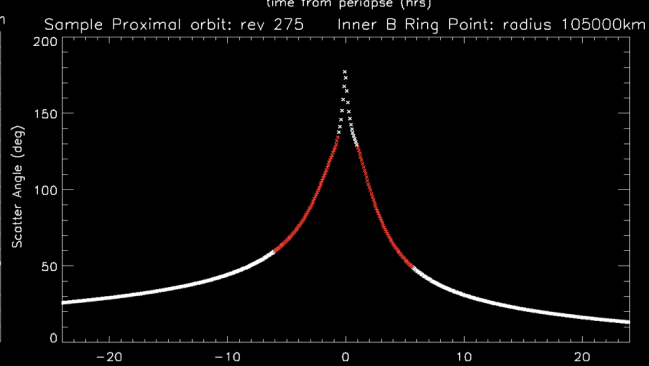
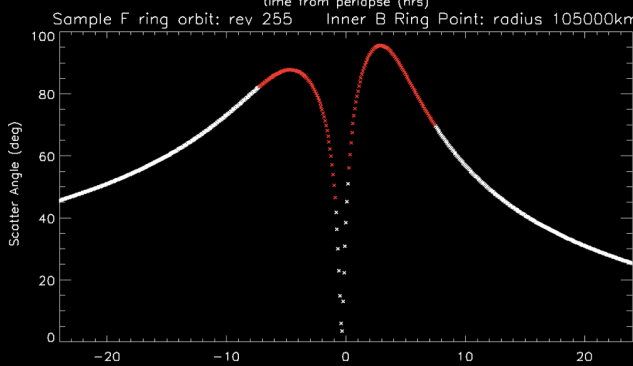
## F-Ring Orbit: rev 255

## Proximal Orbit: rev 275

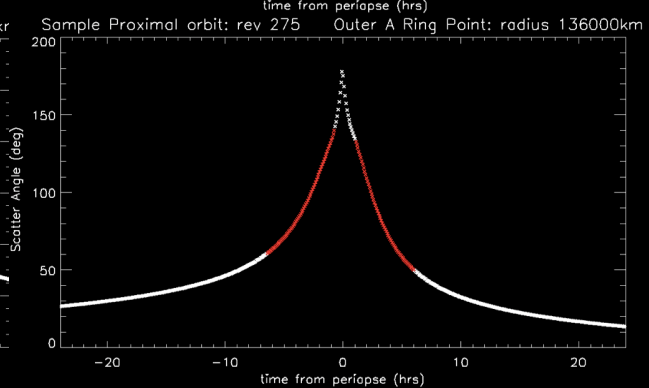
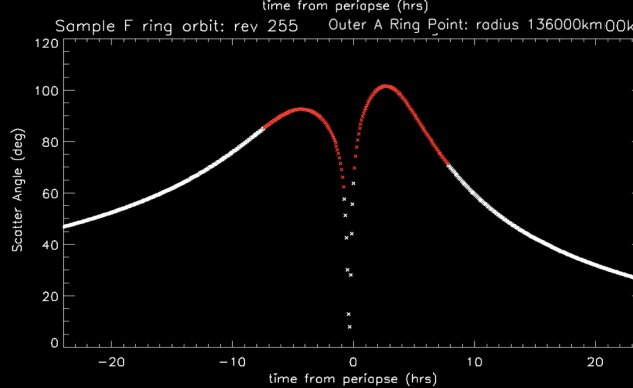
Inner C Ring



Inner B Ring



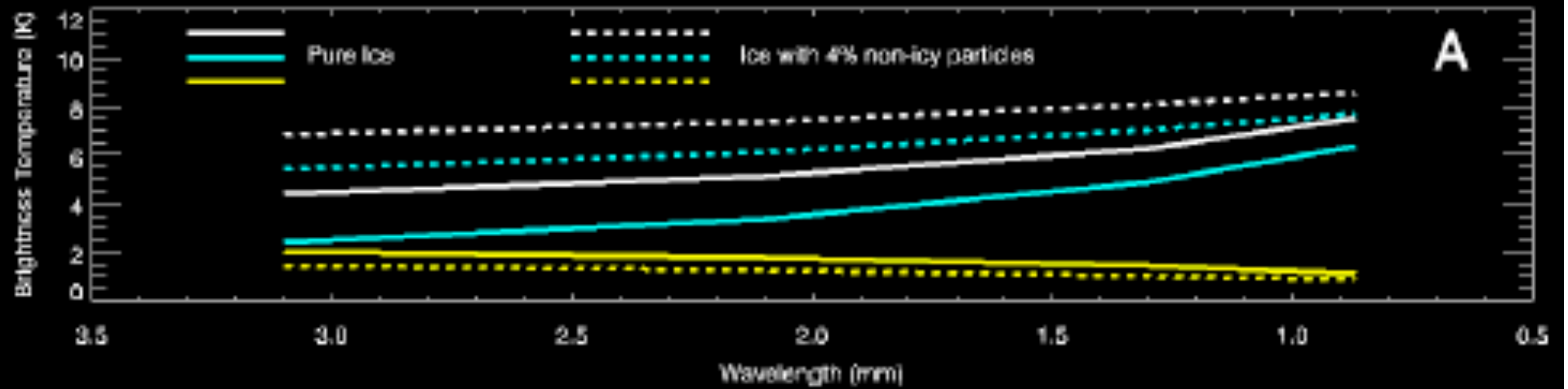
Outer A Ring



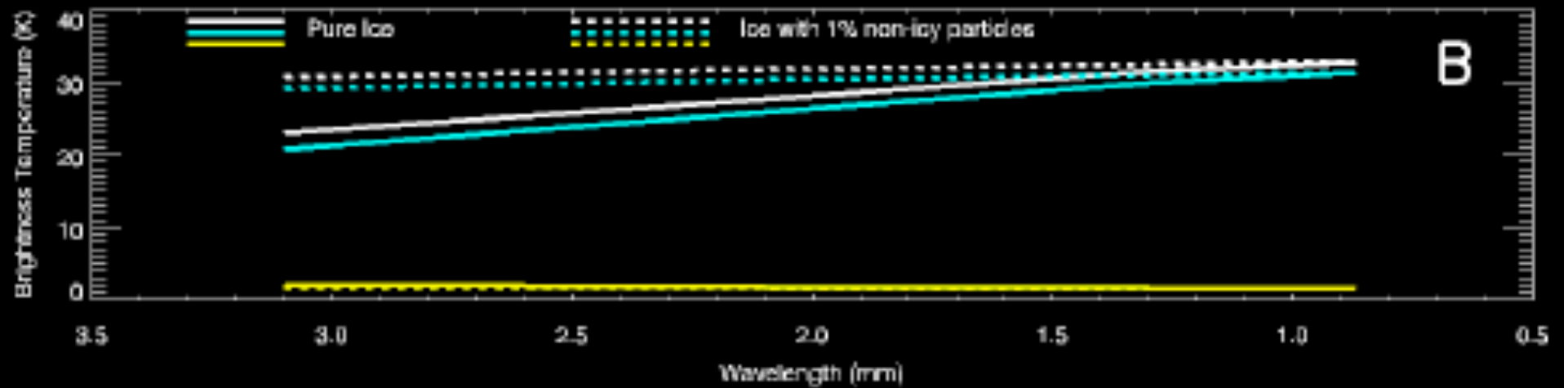
# Active Observations - Summary

- SNR limits useful active observations to  $< \sim 100,000$  km
  - SAR imaging  $< \sim 30,000$  km
  - Real aperture scatterometry  $< \sim 100,000$  km
  - F-Ring and Proximal orbits make active observations possible
- Two modes of operation envisioned
  - SAR imaging (2-D processing)
    - Spotlighting of discrete points needed to gain SNR
    - $\sim 1$  km resolution in  $\sim 100$  km footprint estimated
  - 1-D range slicing
    - 50-m radial resolution with real-aperture data expected
    - 500 km range width possible at this resolution
  - Only one of these two modes may be used at a time
    - However, one point may be observed in both modes in one orbit if mode is switched at ring-plane crossing
    - Note: Radiometry is obtained in all modes
- Examples shown in following for inner C and outer A Rings
  - Caveat: Calculations are based on range-Doppler spread for solid-body surfaces and assume new software is written to incorporate shear

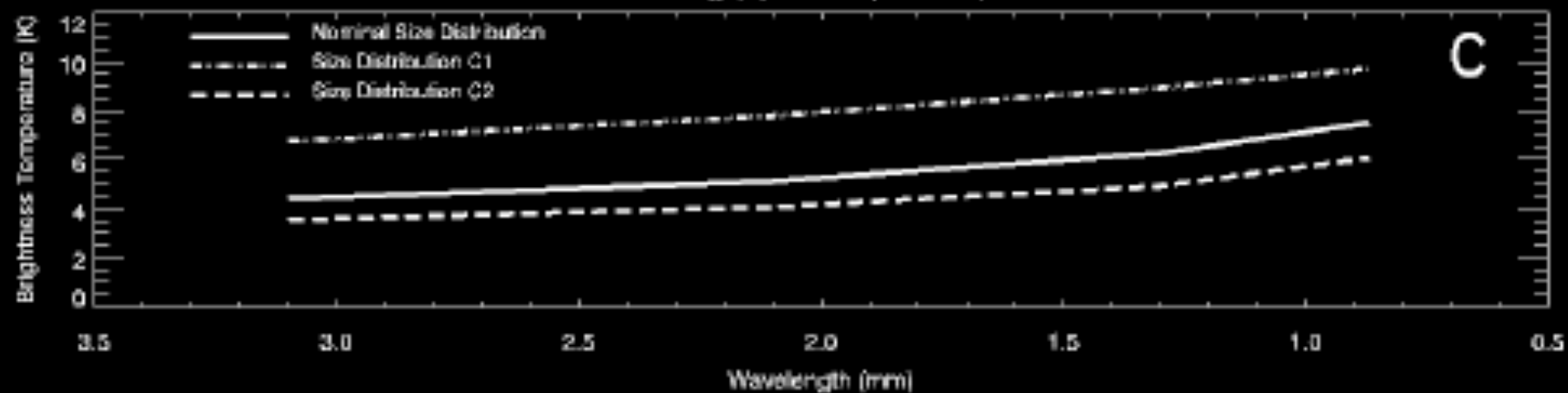
Cring (optical depth=0.1)



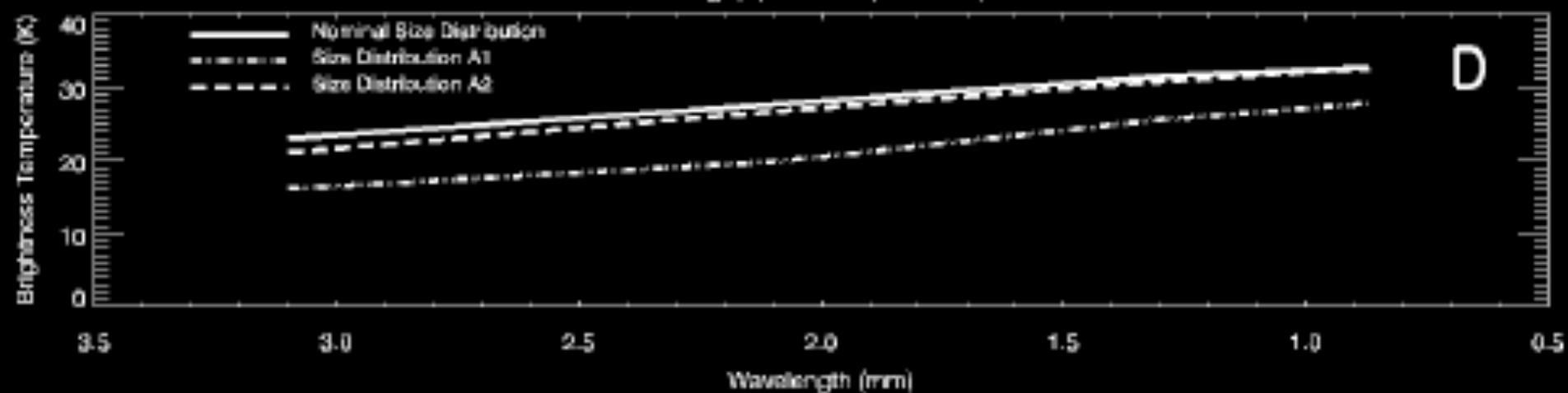
Aring (optical depth=0.5)

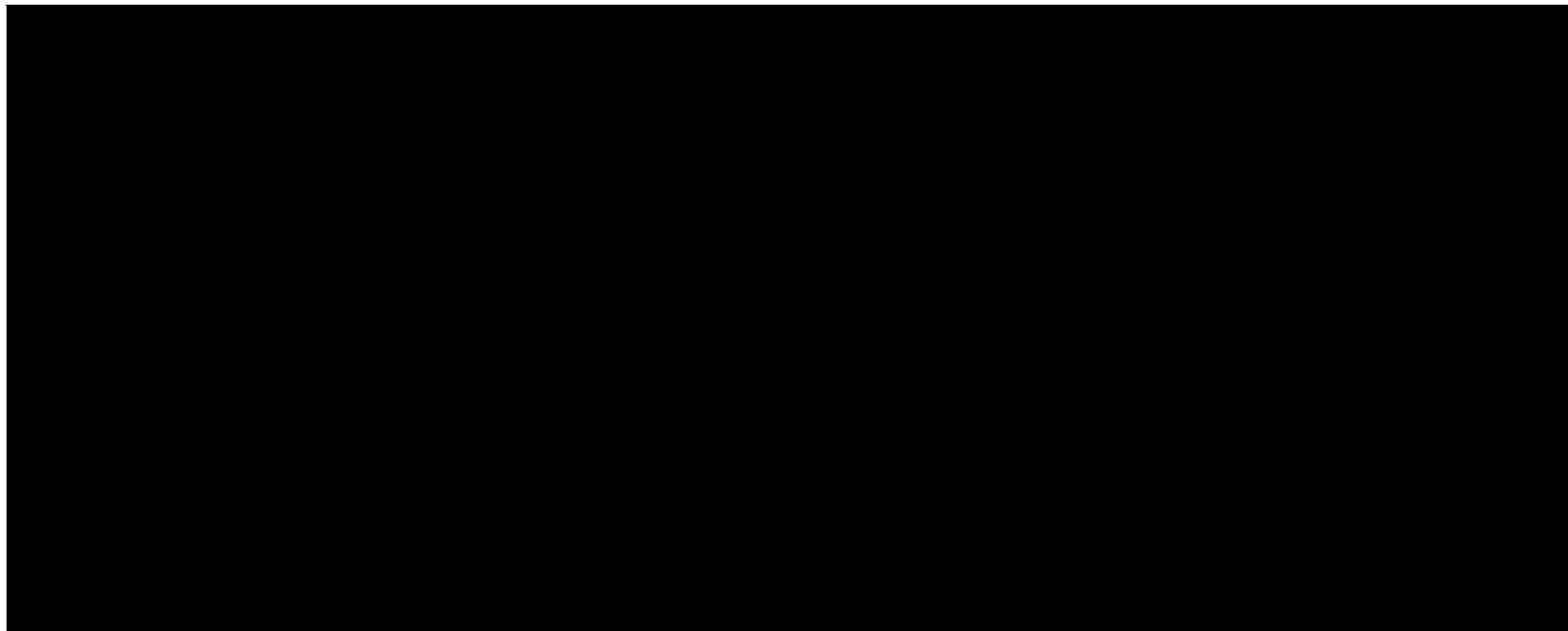
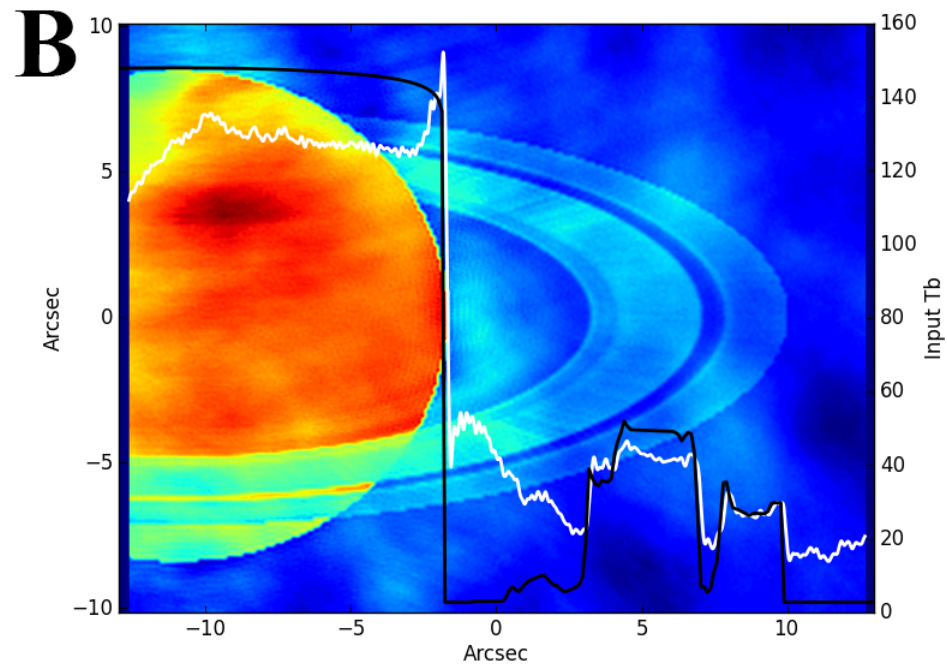
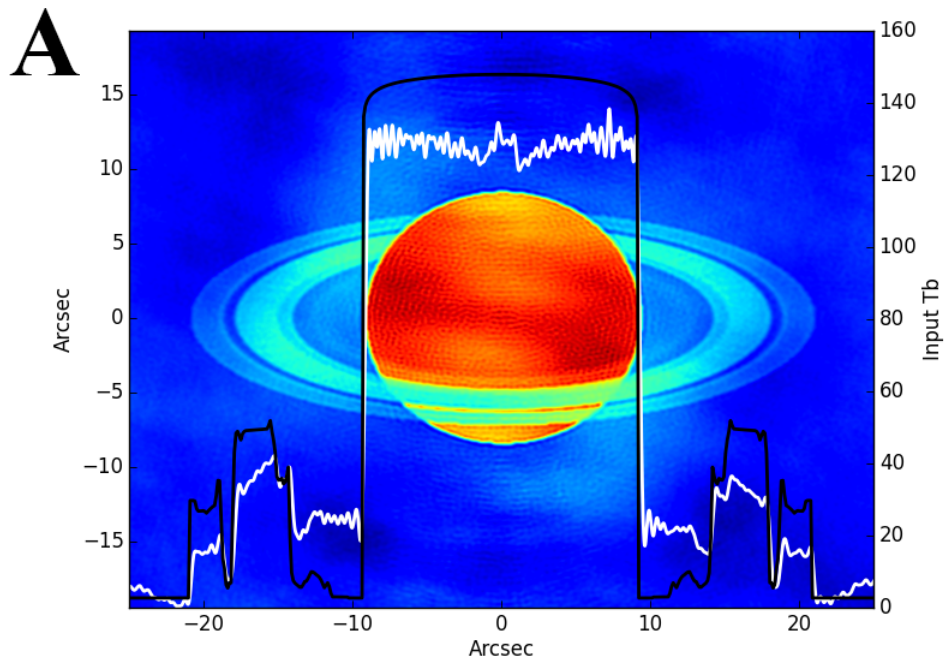


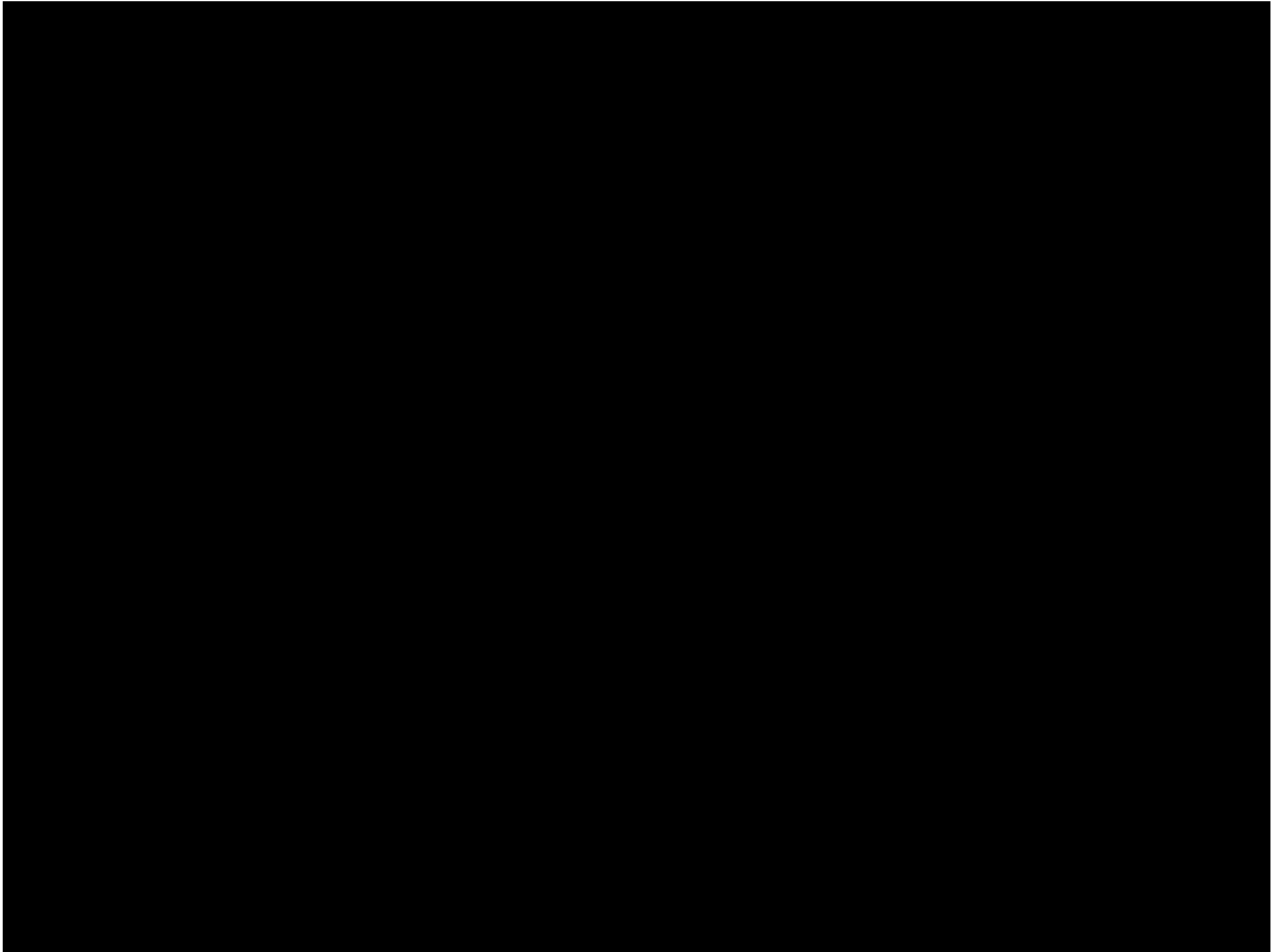
Cring (optical depth=0.1)



Aring (optical depth=0.5)

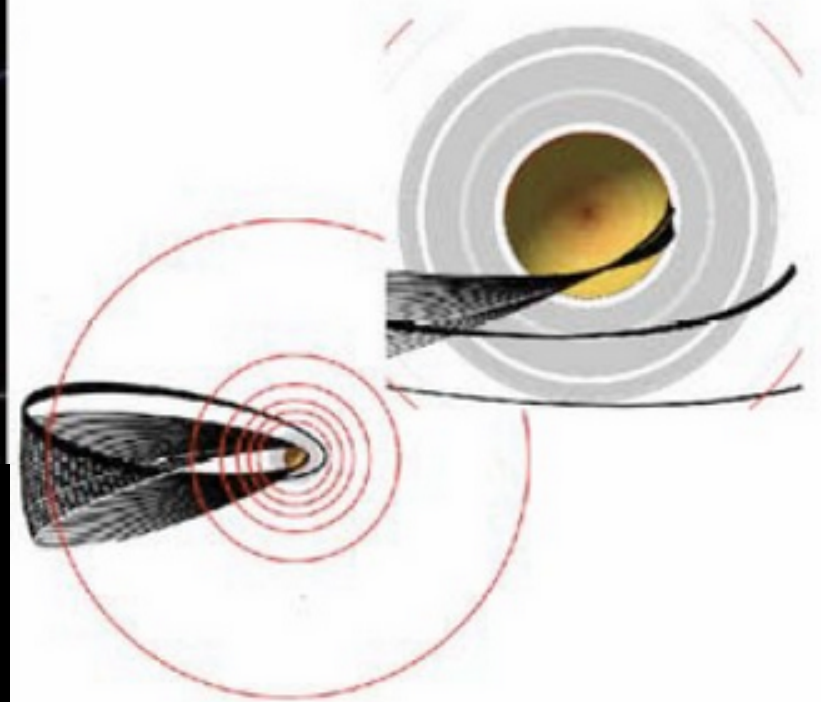
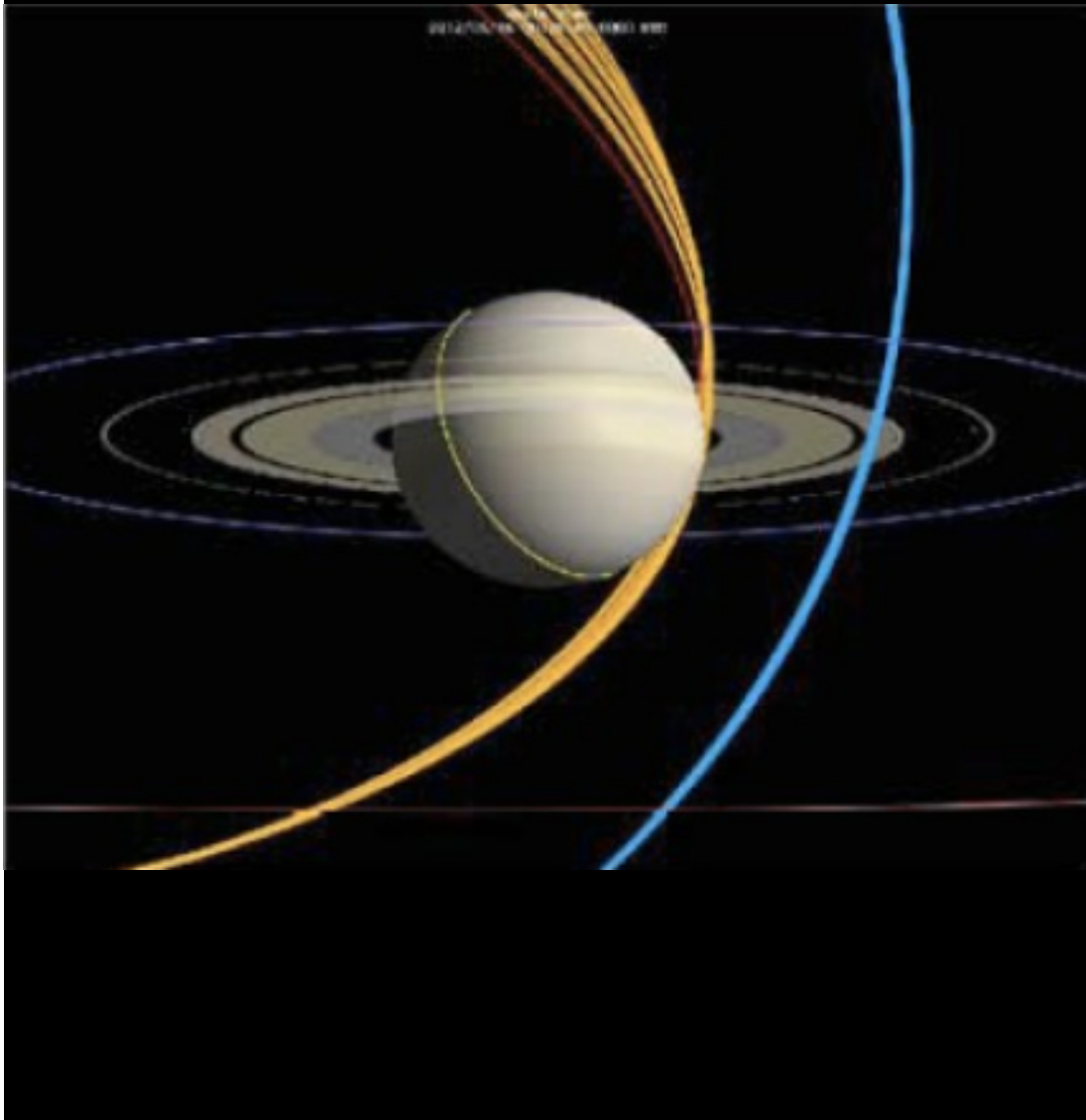








# Proximal / F-Ring Orbit Requests to be Studied At the End of Cassini Mission



# Observational Scenarios in F-Ring and Proximal Orbits

- Passive Mode

- ❖ Scientific Objectives

- *Constrain particle size, small-scale spatial distribution, dielectric properties*
    - *Constrain bulk composition*

- ❖ Observational Scenarios

- *Spotlight observations at a few radial positions to measure scattering curve*
    - *Obtain high resolution spoke scans as targets of opportunity*

- Active Mode

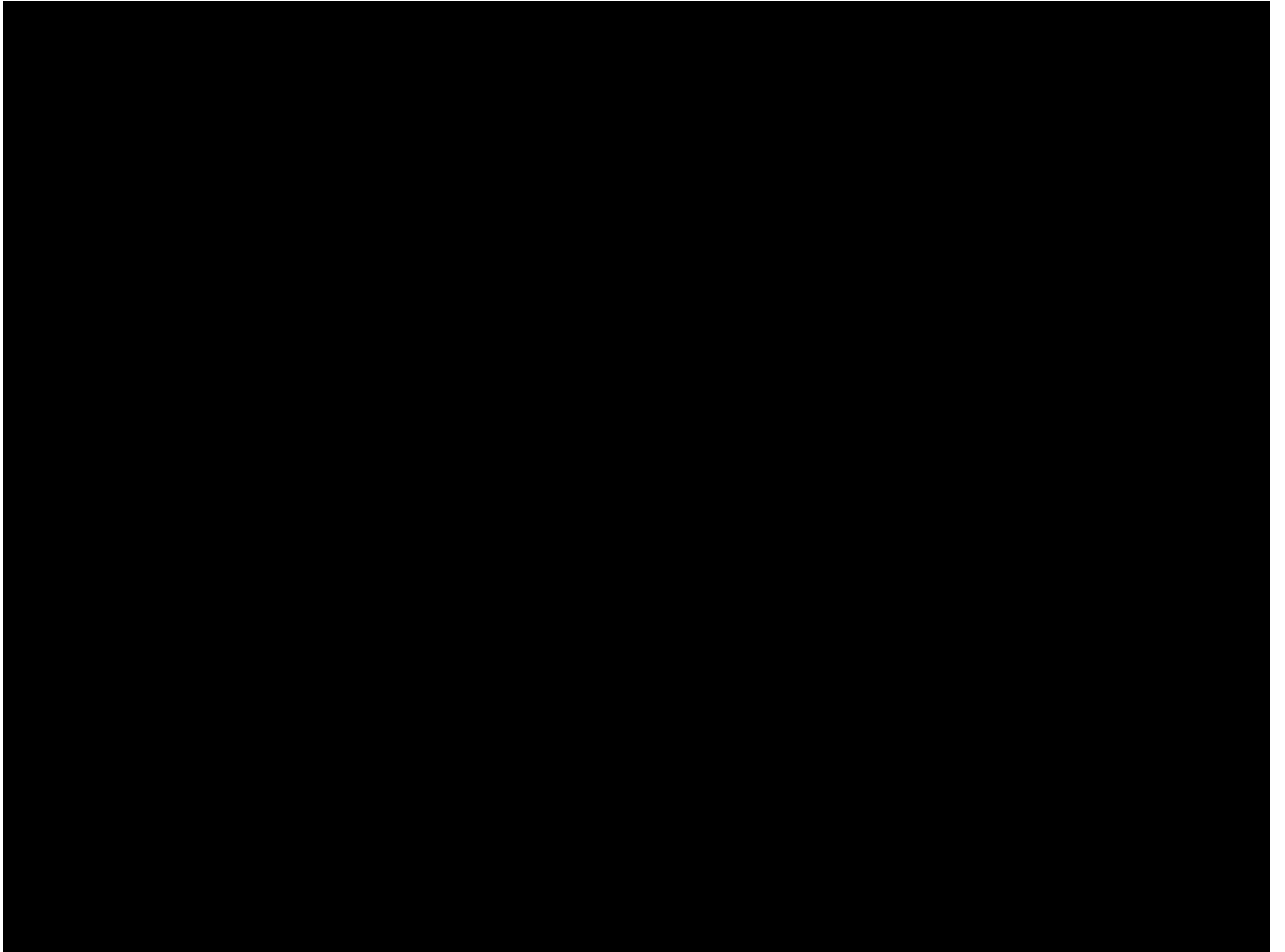
- ❖ Scientific Objectives

- *Constrain particle size, vertical distribution, and dielectric properties*
    - *Address large-scale distribution & dynamics*

- ❖ Observational Scenarios

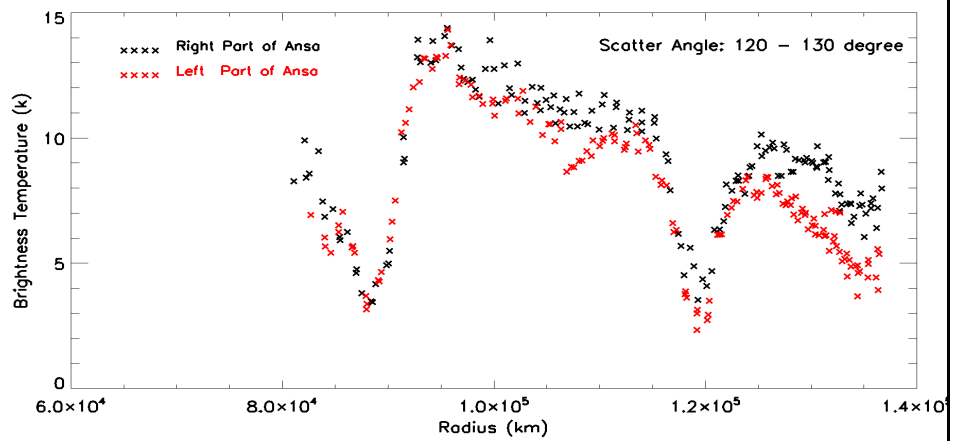
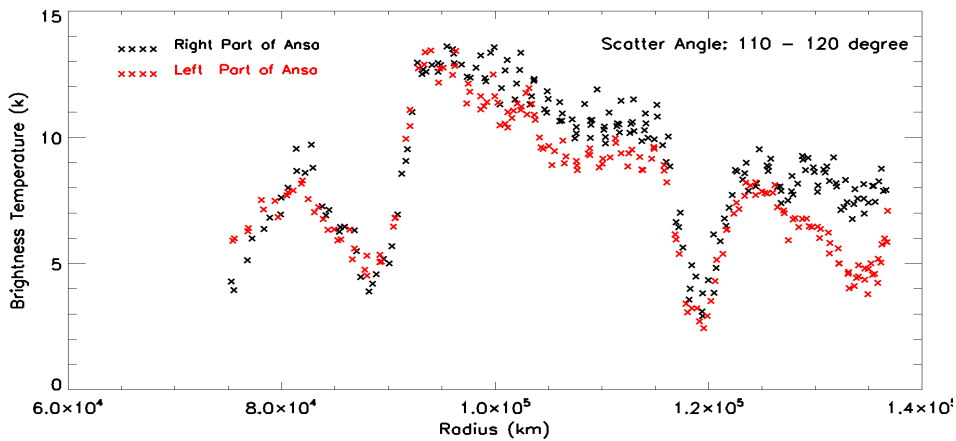
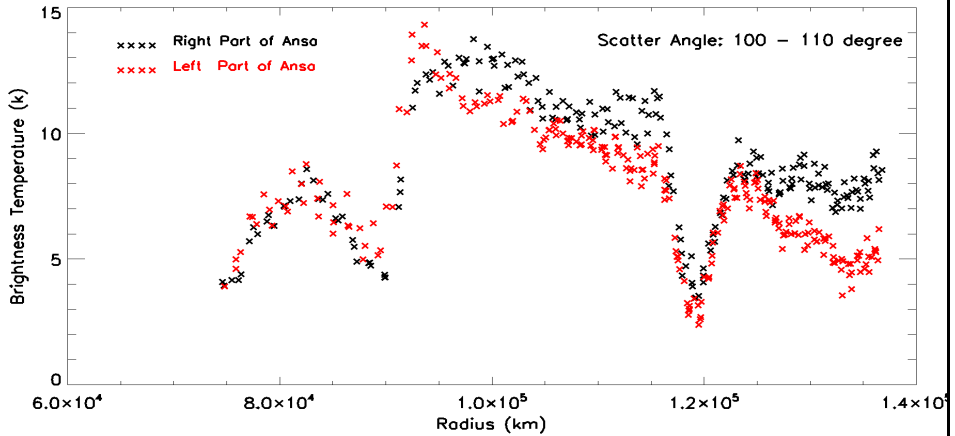
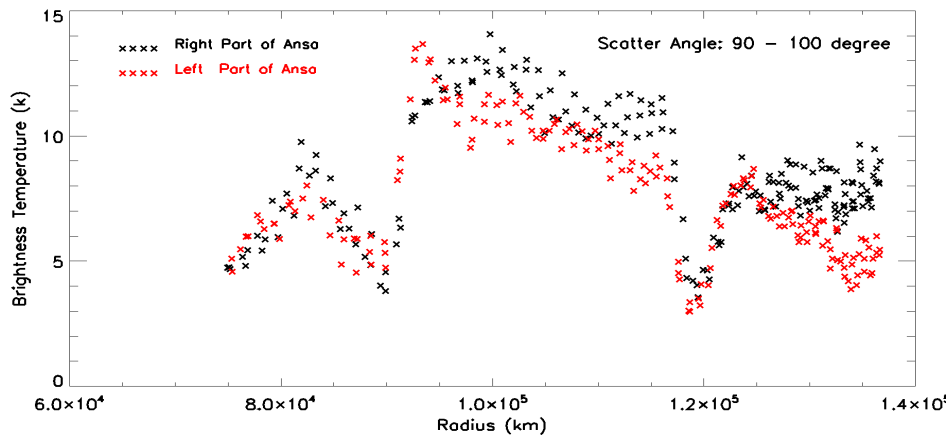
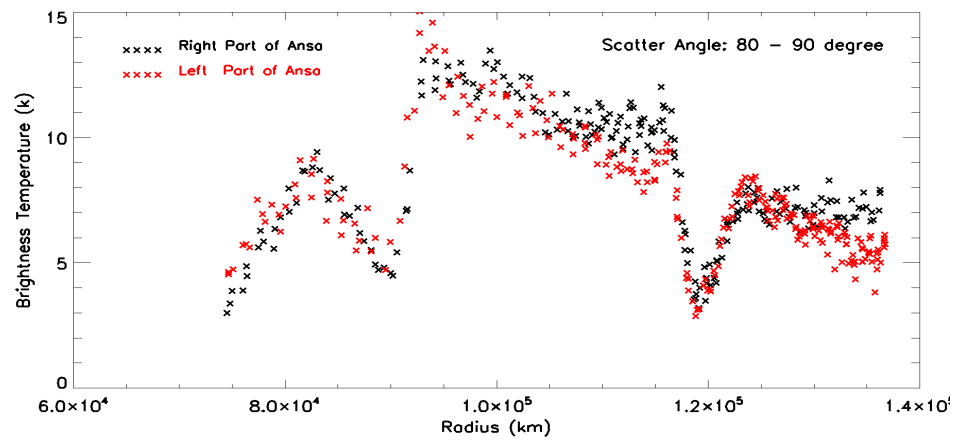
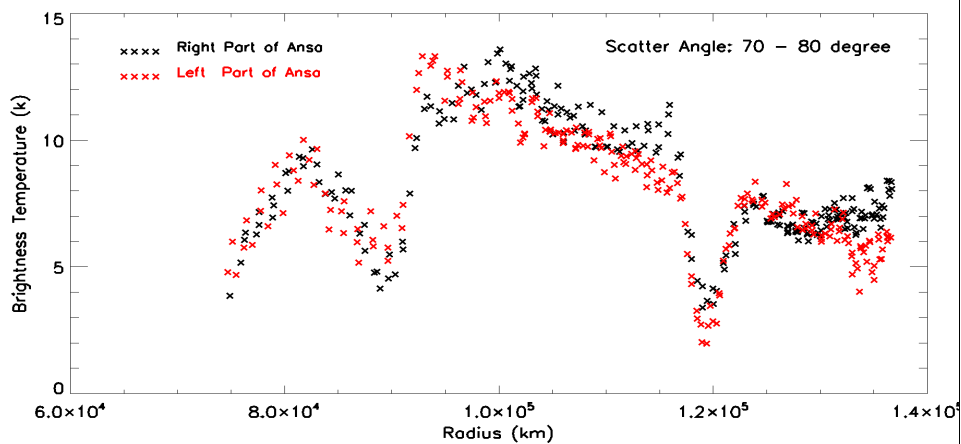
- *Obtain high resolution on density structures by SAR imaging or range slicing*

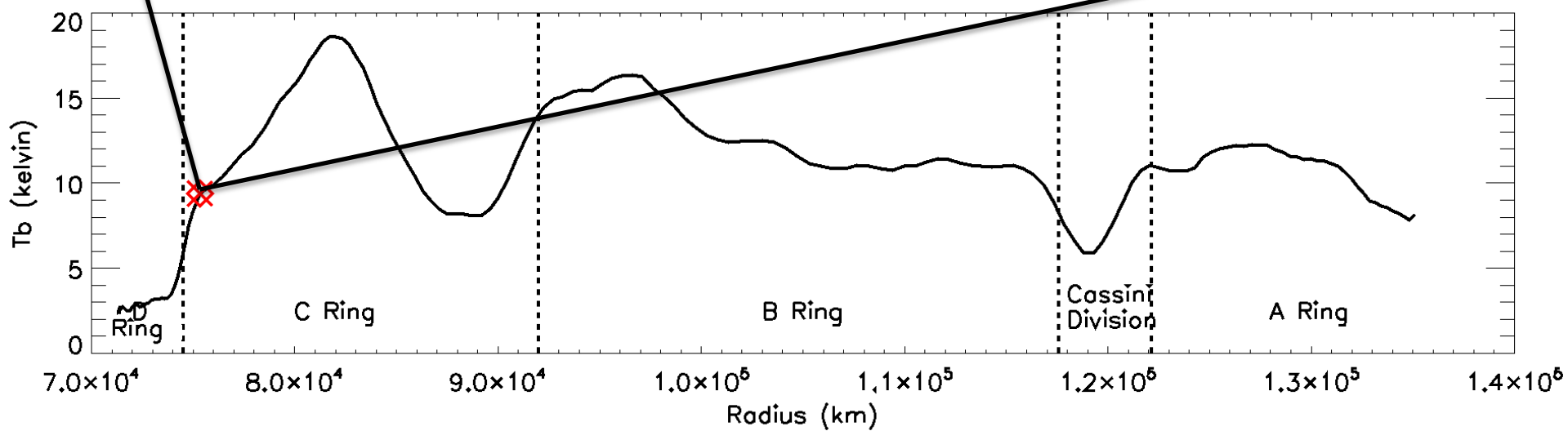
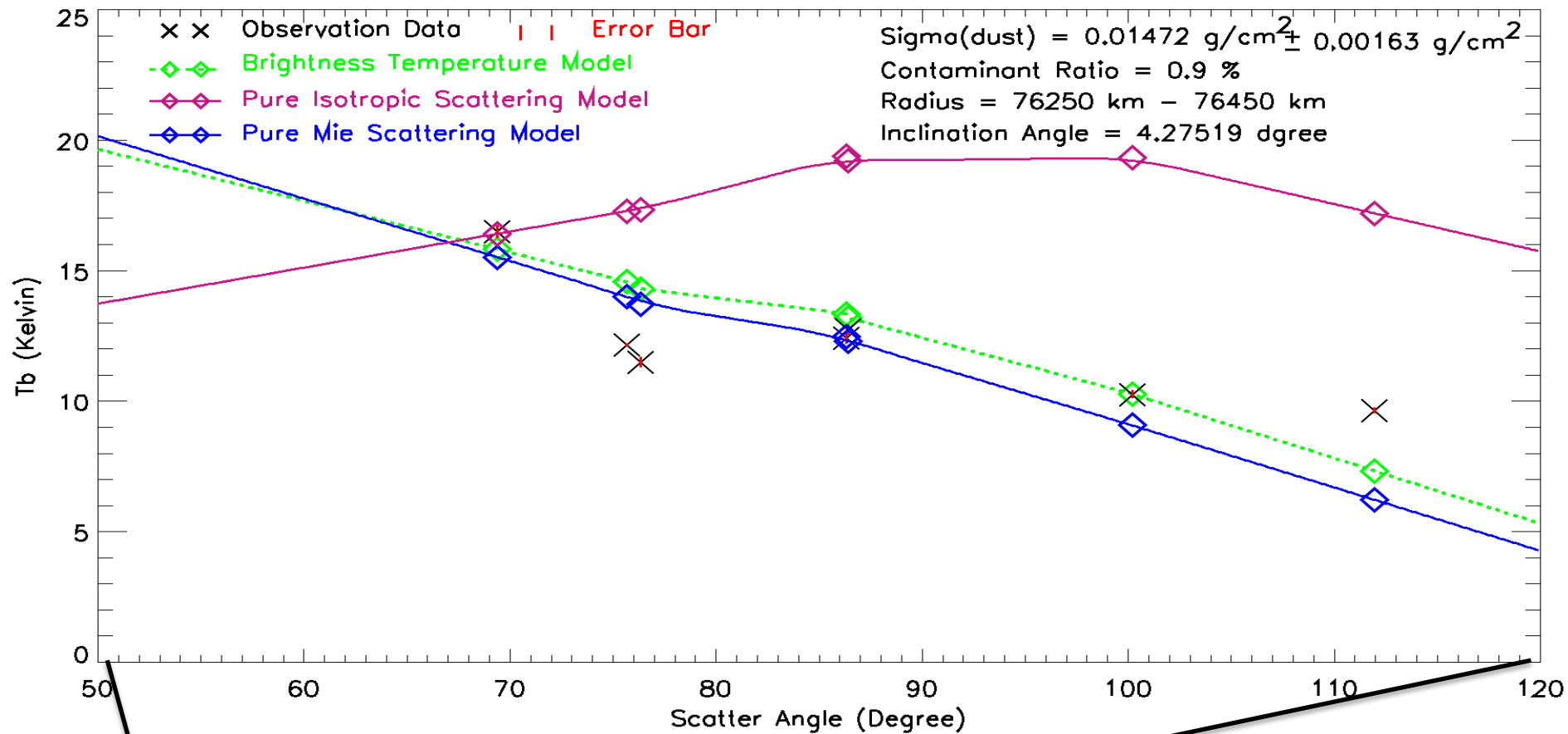
Thank you !

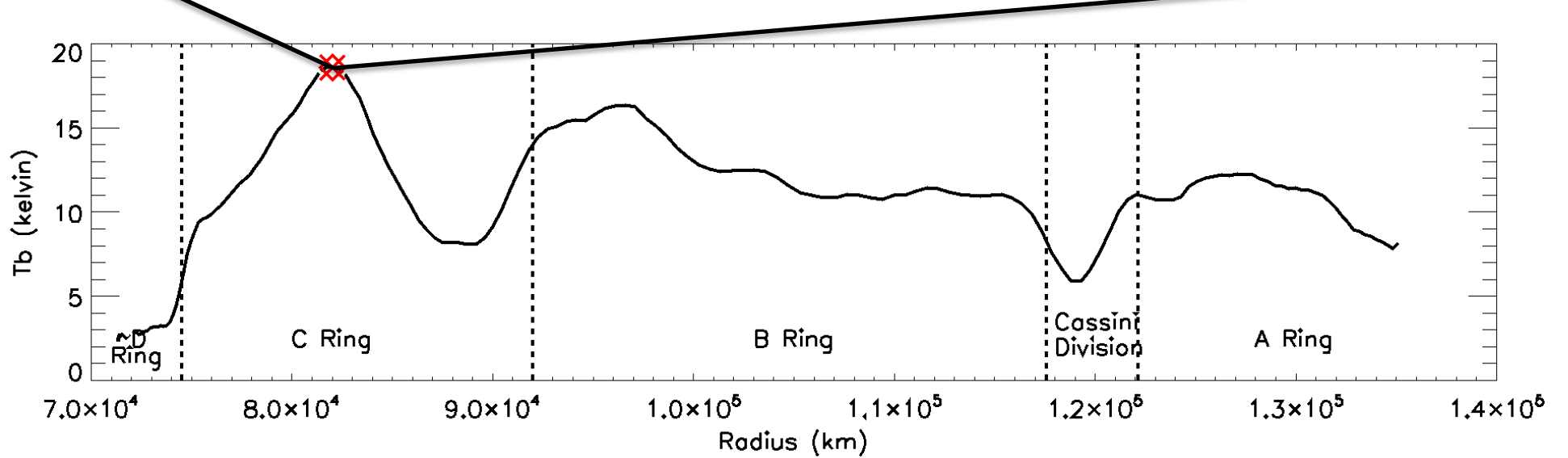
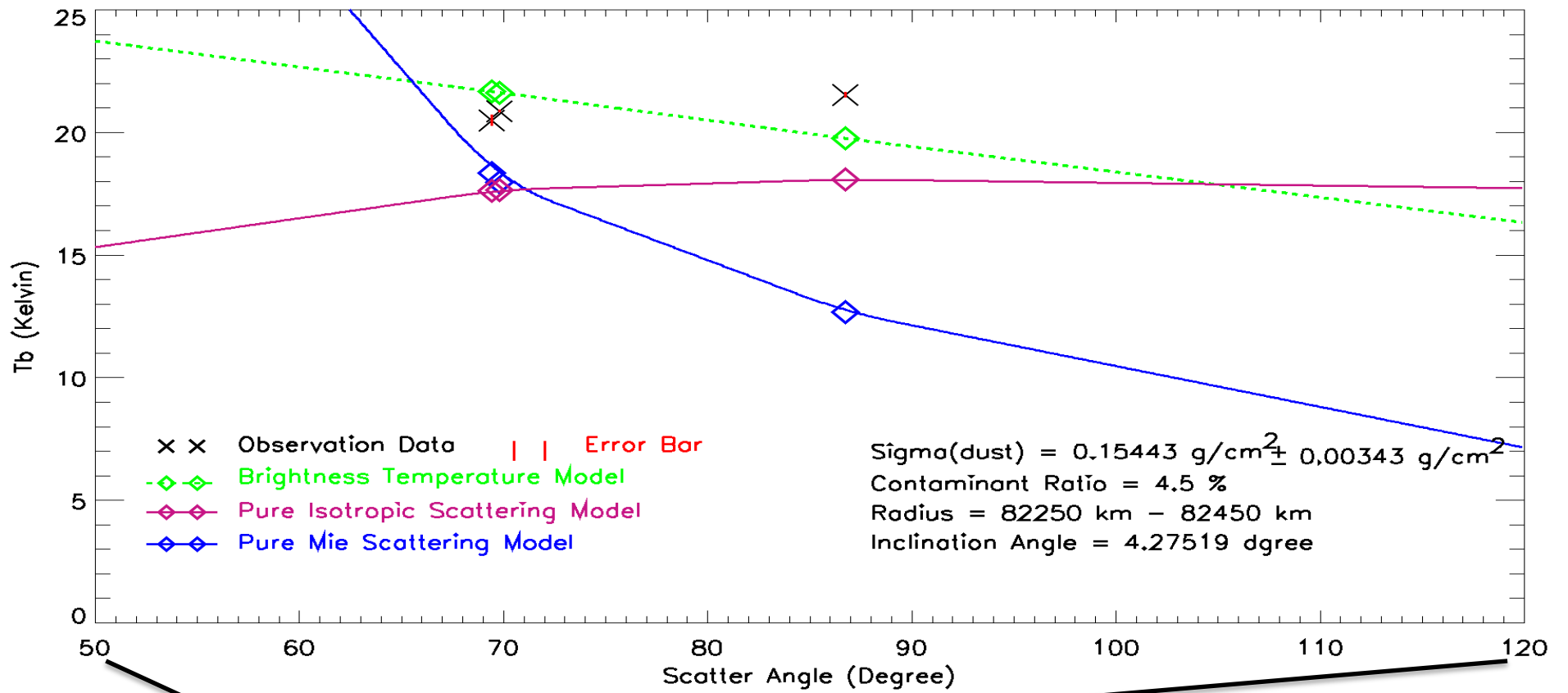


**Back Up**

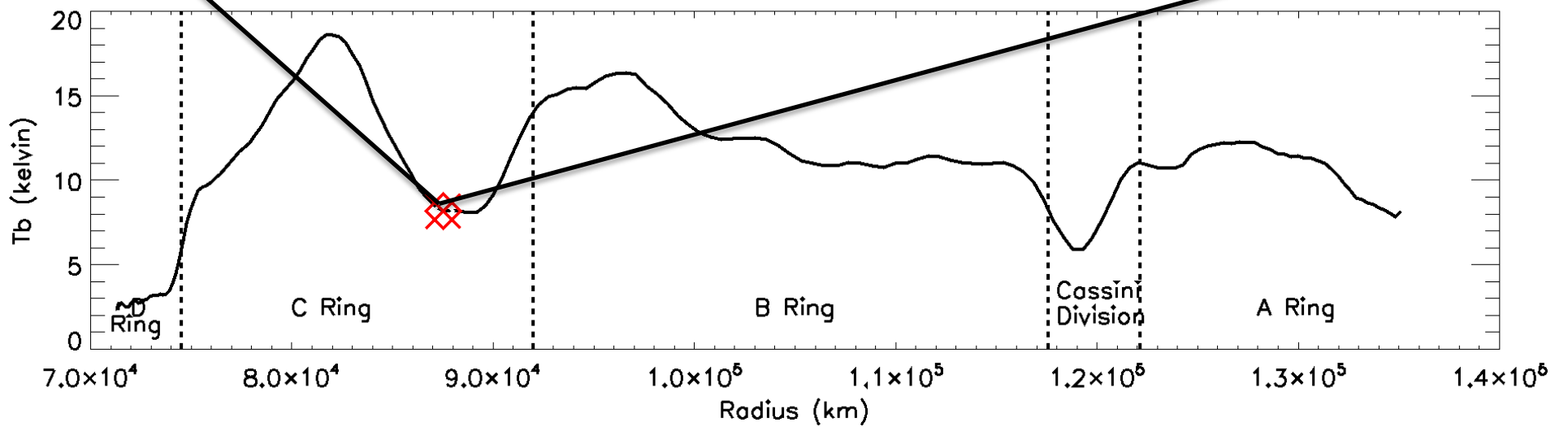
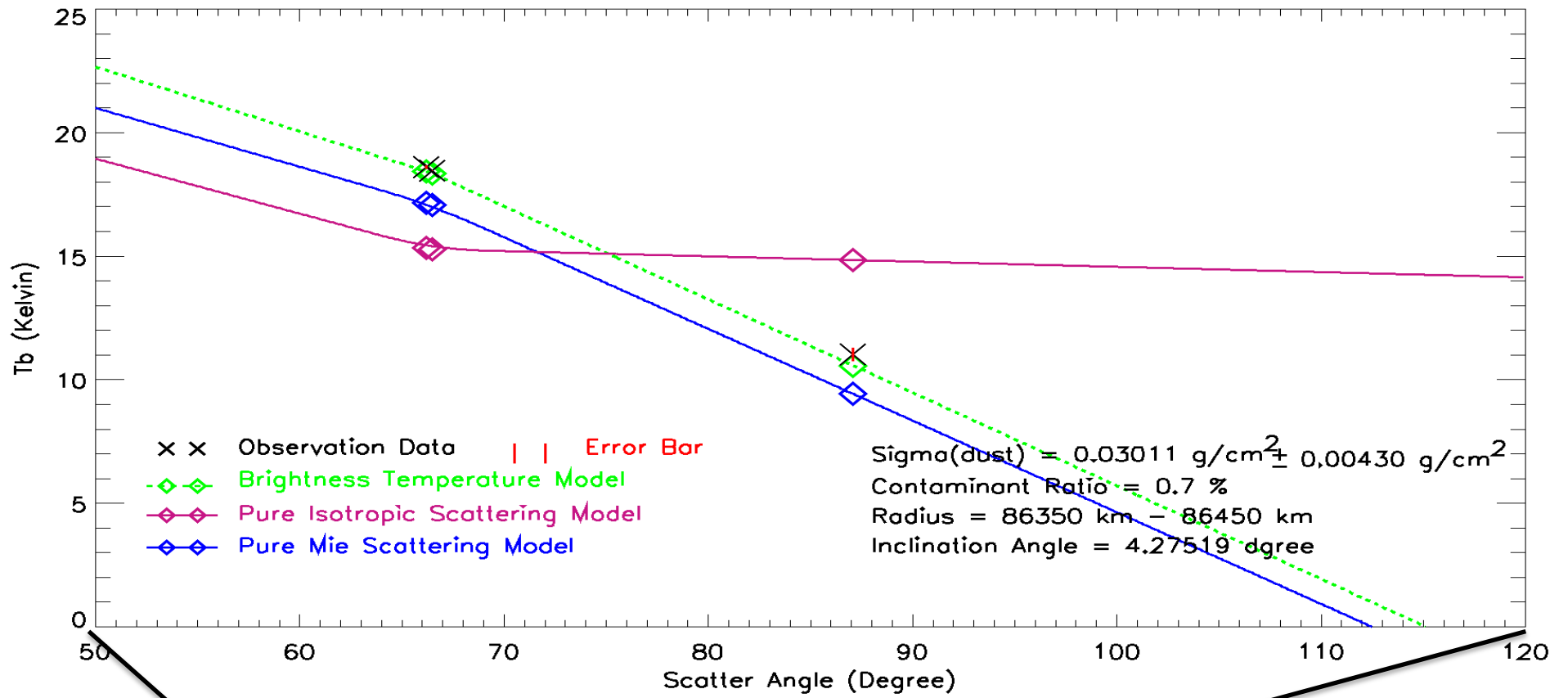
# Portions of Dataset Remain Untapped: Asymmetry in the Ansa

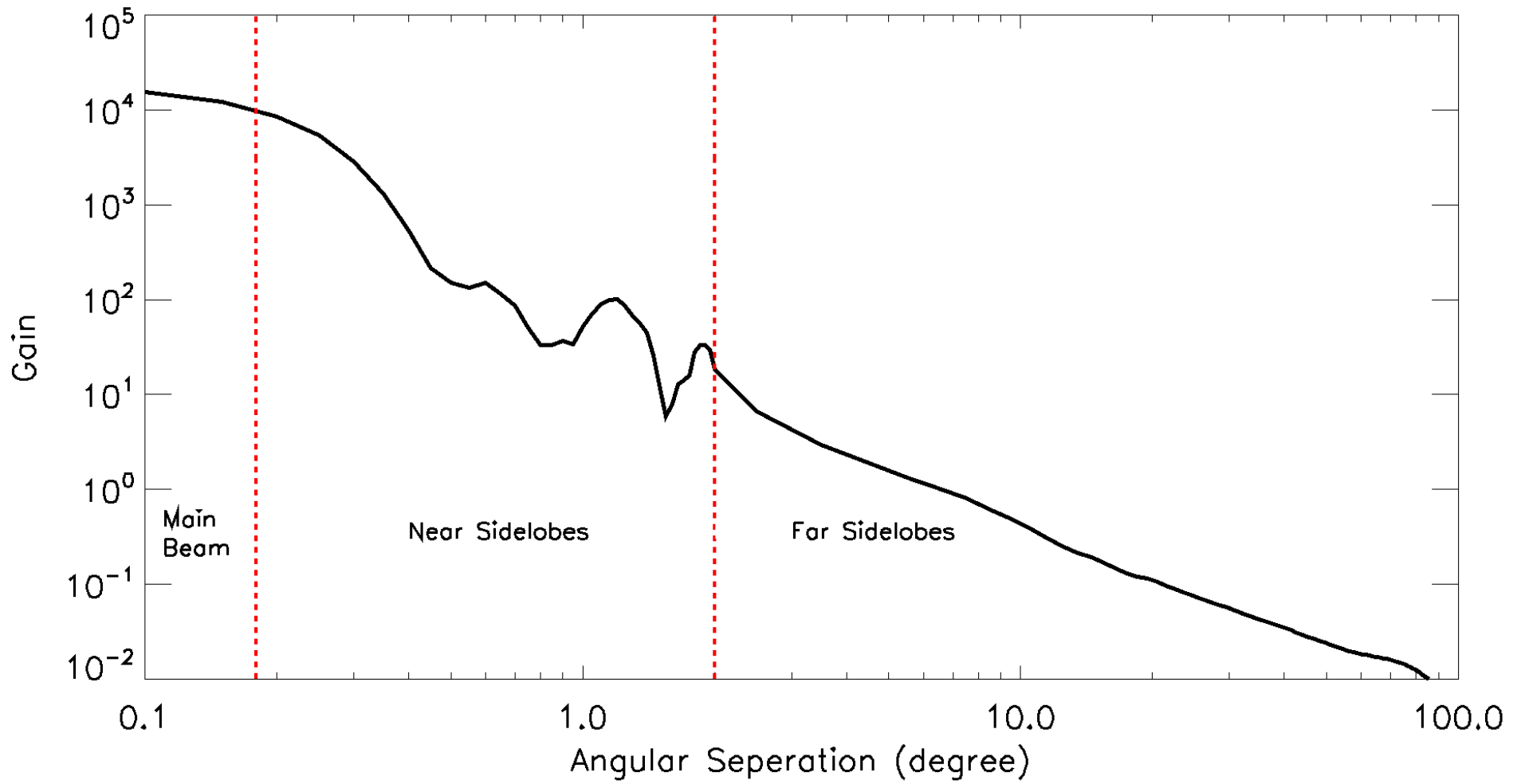


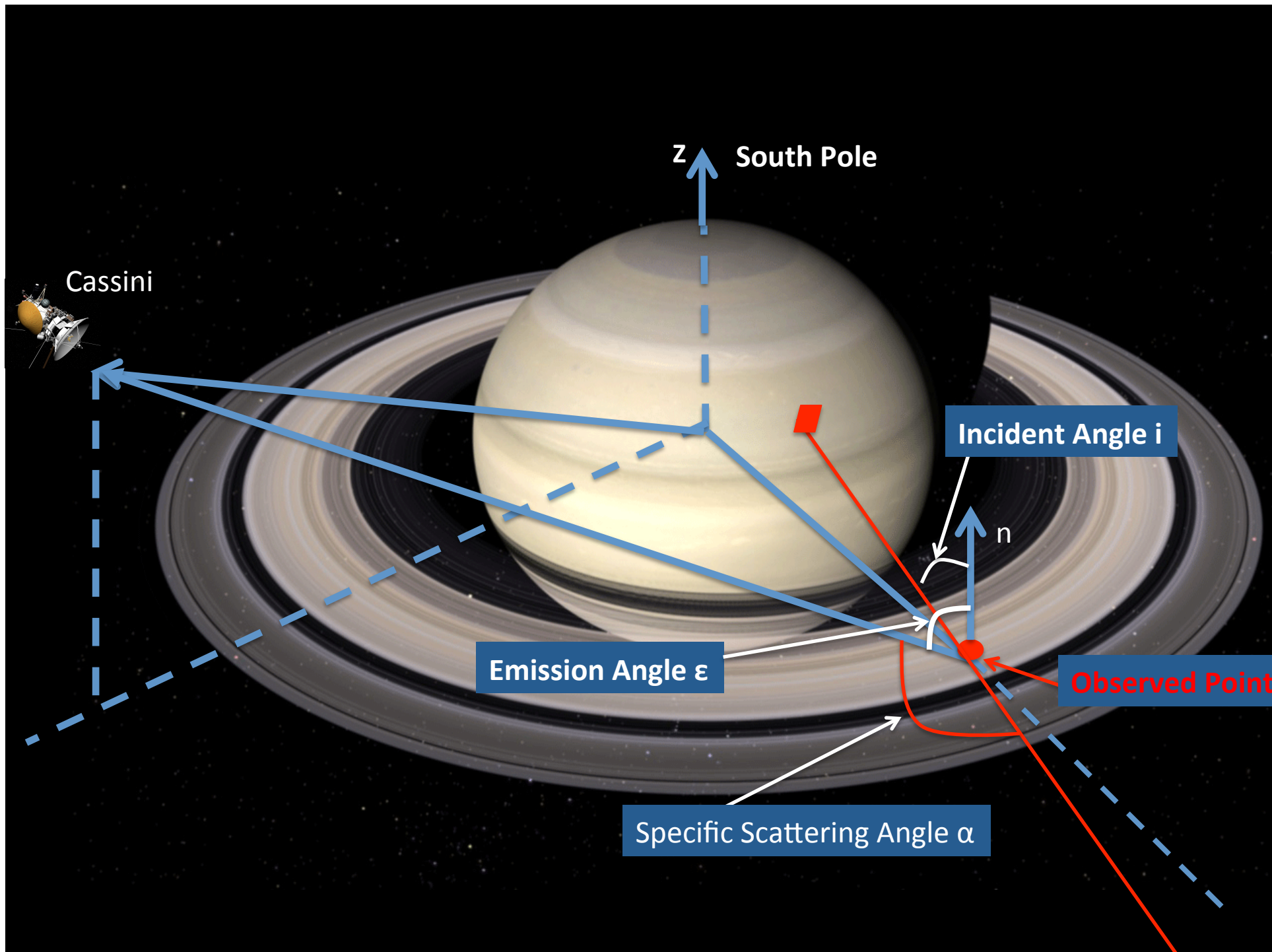






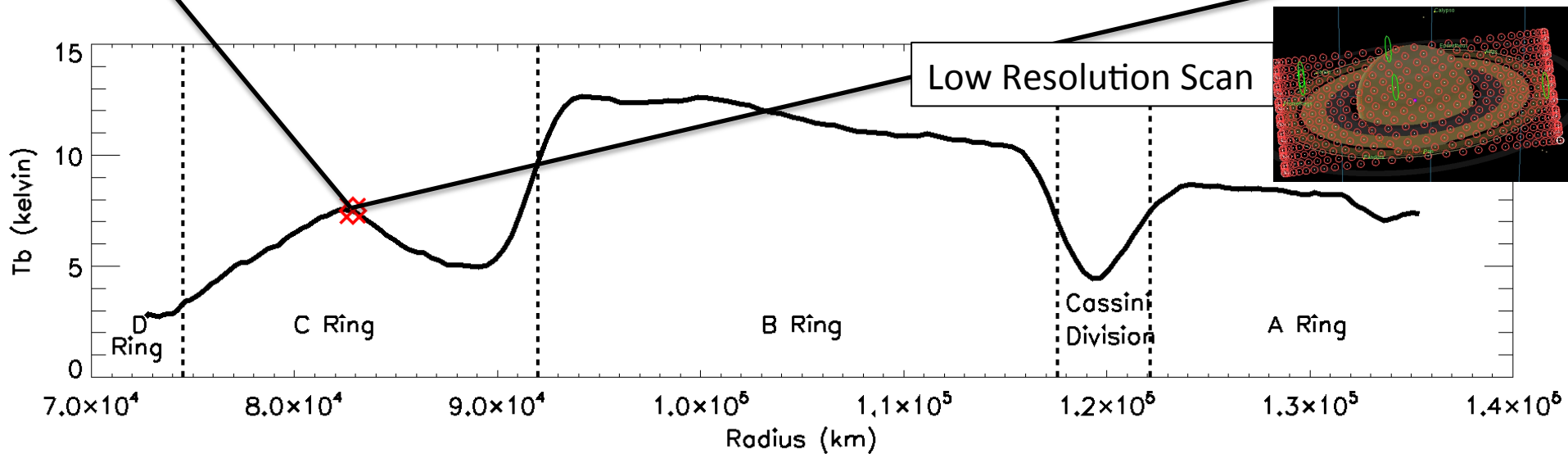
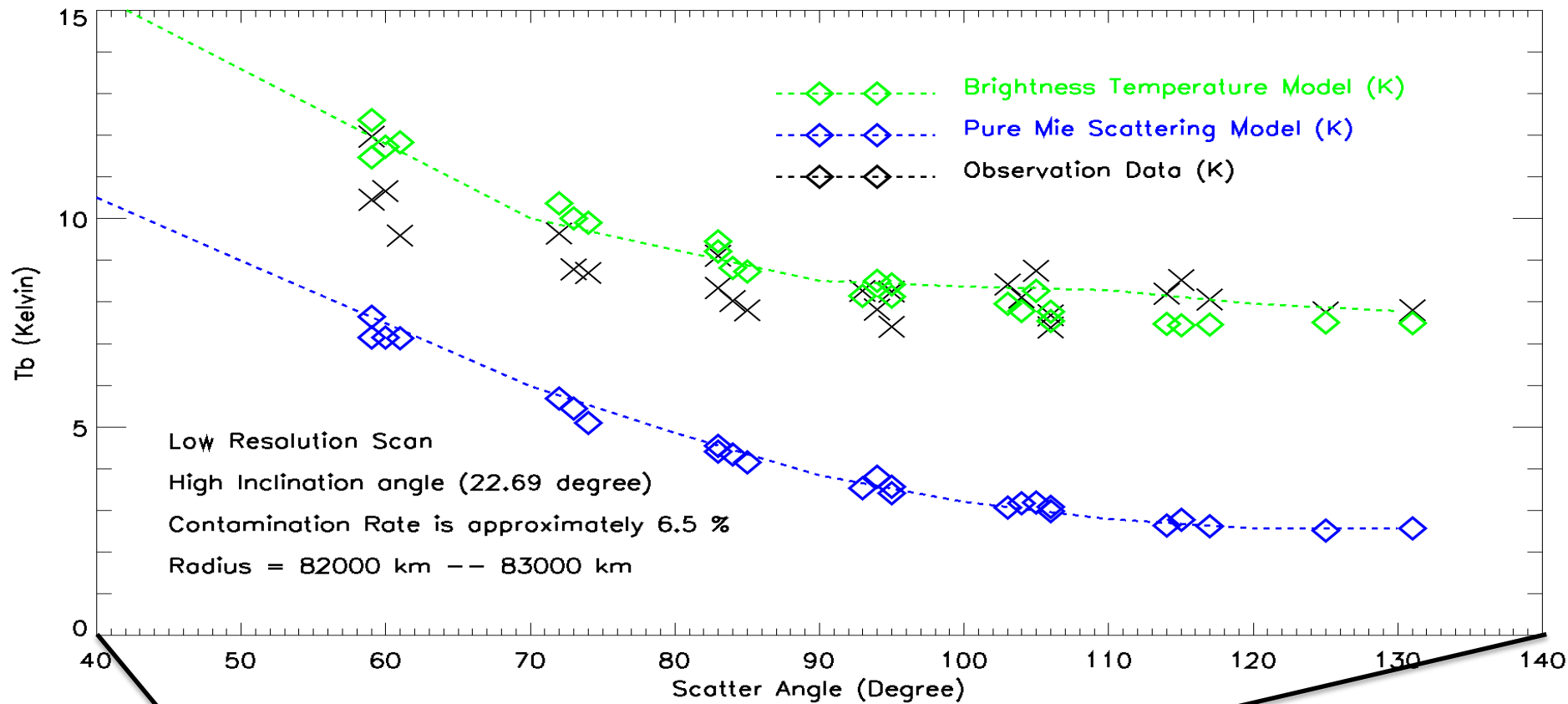






## □ Physical Modeling – Monte Carlo Codes from Professor David Dunn

- Individual Particle (size  $a$ ) V.S. Single Photon (wavelength  $\lambda$ )
  - Mie theory
    - determine single particle properties, scattering and extinction cross section
  - A linear combination of isotropic and Mie scattering
    - get the phase function corrected for non-spherical nature of ring particles
- Radiative Transfer in Ring Plane
  - Scattered Light
    - track photons in their interaction with a path of ring until reaching their final destination
  - Internal Thermal Emission
    - distribute photons uniformly in the ring plane and track their scattering



# Proximal / F-Ring Orbit Requests to be Studied

- Saturn Radiometry
  - Mike J. has started working on these
- Active measurements of Saturn
  - Measure backscatter from cloud droplets (Richard W.)
- High resolution ring spoke scans (radiometry)
  - Similar to prime mission observations
- Roll spacecraft while targeting various locations in A,B,C-rings with radiometry and scatterometry
  - Highly resolved scattering function + thermal emission
- Active SAR (with passive rad.) of the A and D Rings
  - Richard W. has done preliminary studies
    - Can obtain ~2 km resolution in A ring and ~500 m resolution in D Ring (observe +/- 30 minutes from ring plane crossing)

# Scientific Objectives and Observational Scenarios - Active

- Scientific Objectives:
  - Constrain particle size distribution, vertical distribution, and dielectric properties
  - Address large-scale distribution & dynamics
- Observational Scenarios
  - Spotlight observations at a few radial points to measure the scattering curve
    - Inner C Ring and Outer A Ring best
    - Points observed within orbit plane
  - Use range slicing or SAR to image in one or two dimensions respectively
  - On same ring point, SAR for half-orbit for imaging, range slicing for half-orbit for highest resolution in one dimension
  - Only one point per orbit may be fully examined

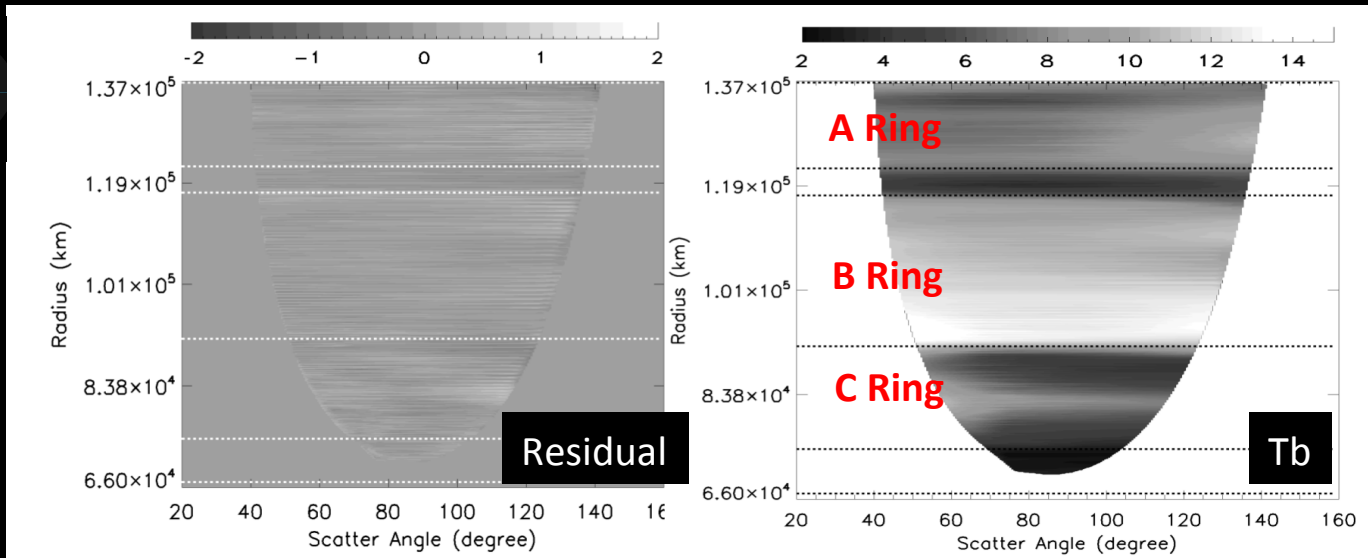
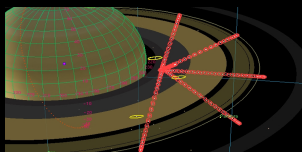
# Scientific Objectives and Observational Scenarios - Passive

- Scientific Objectives:
  - Constrain particle size and small-scale spatial distribution, and dielectric properties
  - Constrain bulk composition
- Observational Scenarios
  - Spotlight observations at a few radial positions to measure the scattering curve
    - All ring radii can be usefully examined
    - Spots observed within and outside of orbit plane desired to obtain range in scatter angle
    - Multiple points may be observed in a single orbit
    - Polarization of chosen points requires separate orbits
  - Obtain high resolution spoke scans as targets of opportunity
    - fill out inclination/scattering angle/radius map
    - To be carried out away from closest approach

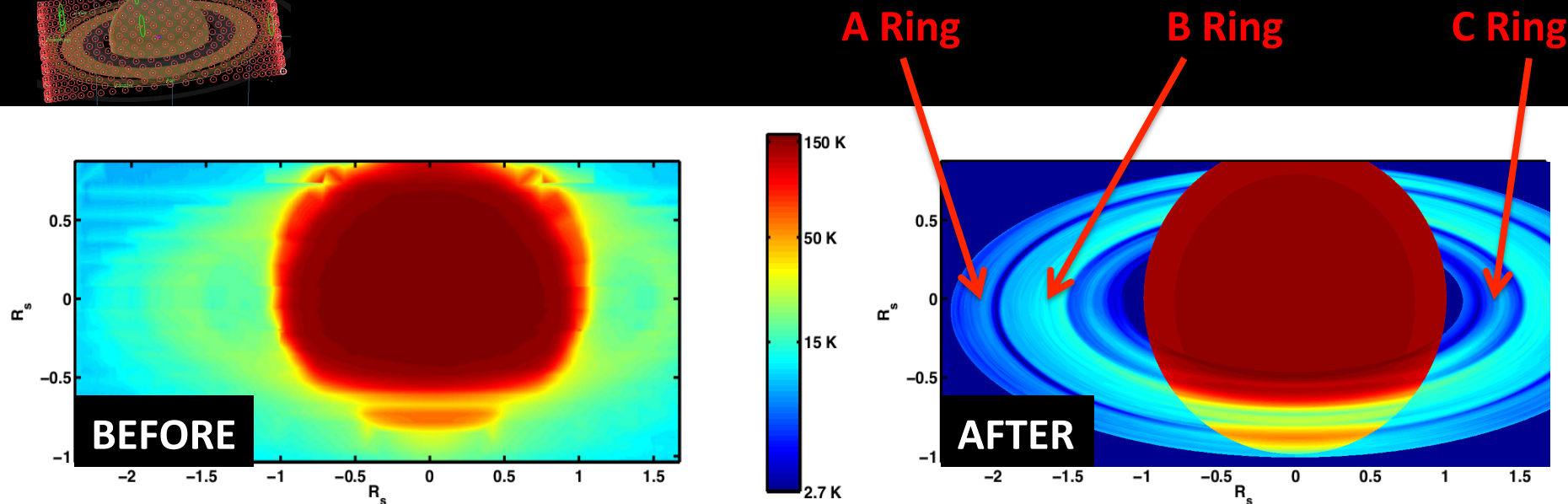
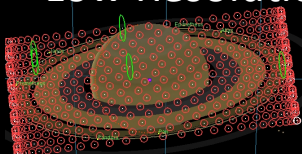


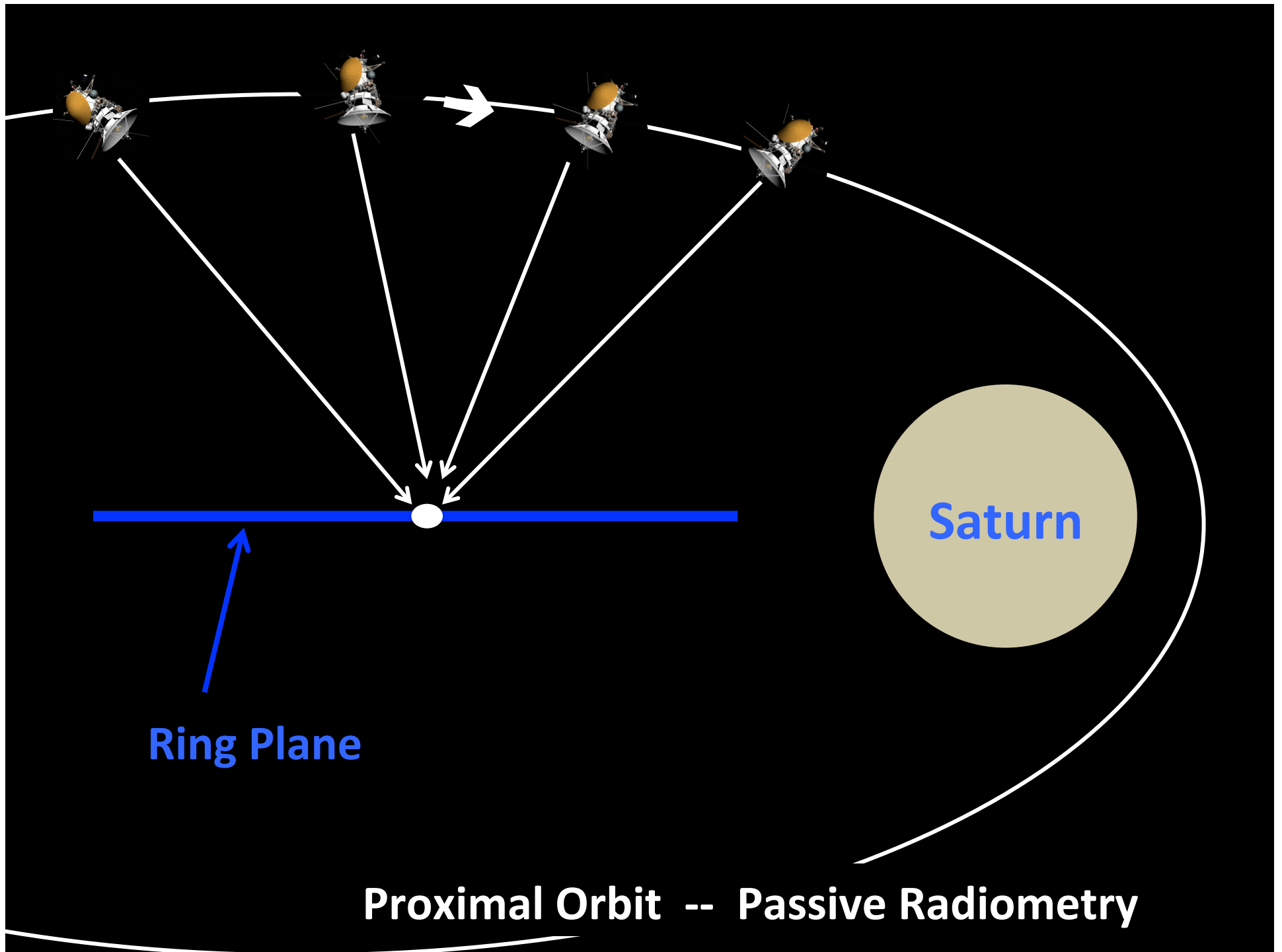
# Preliminary Calibration Results

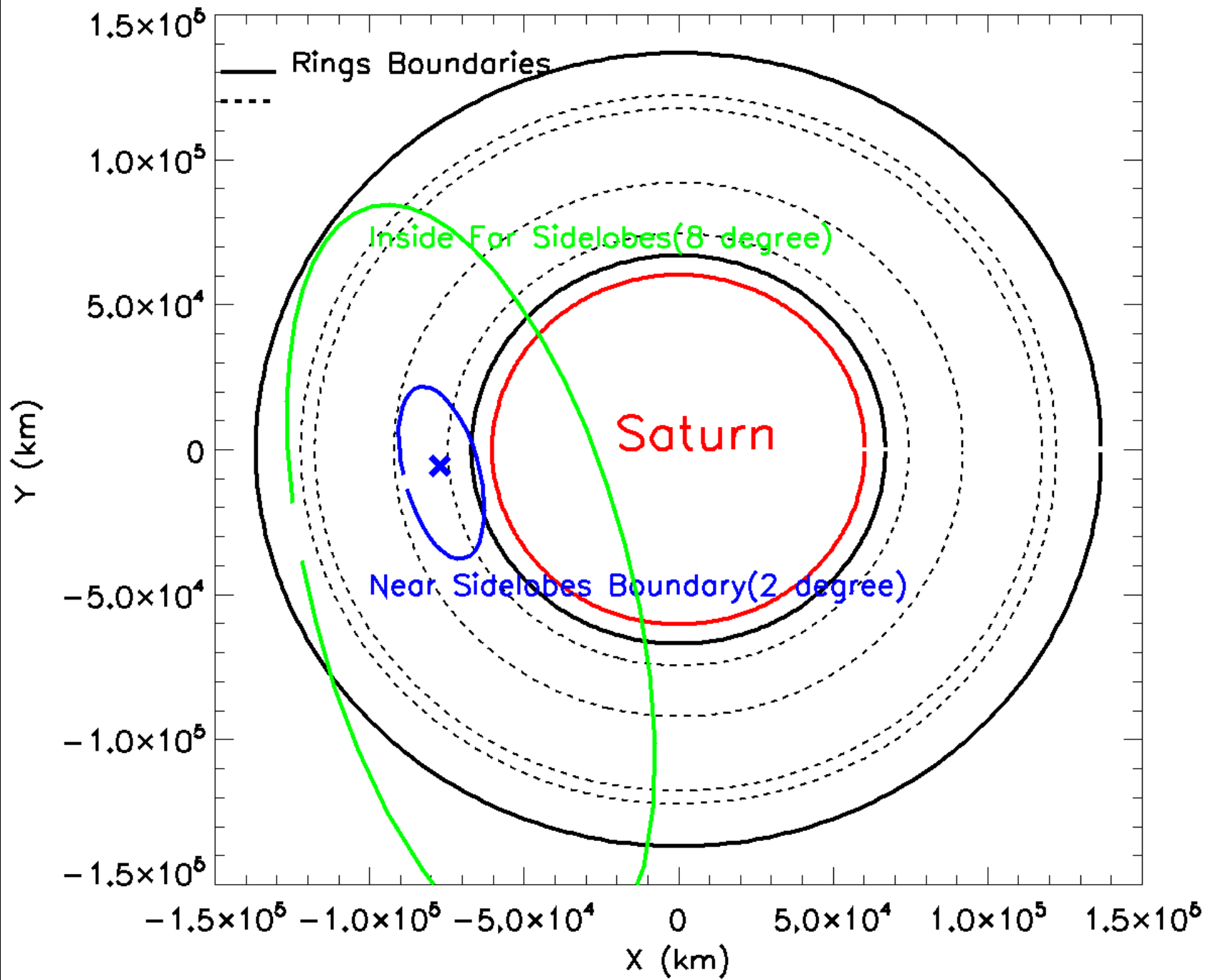
- High Resolution (11-Sep-2006; Inclination Angle = 20°)



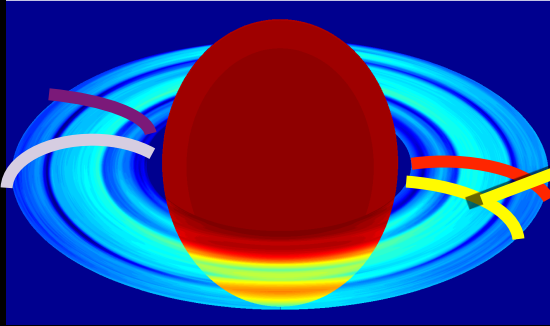
- Low Resolution (12-Sep-2006; Inclination Angle = 22°)



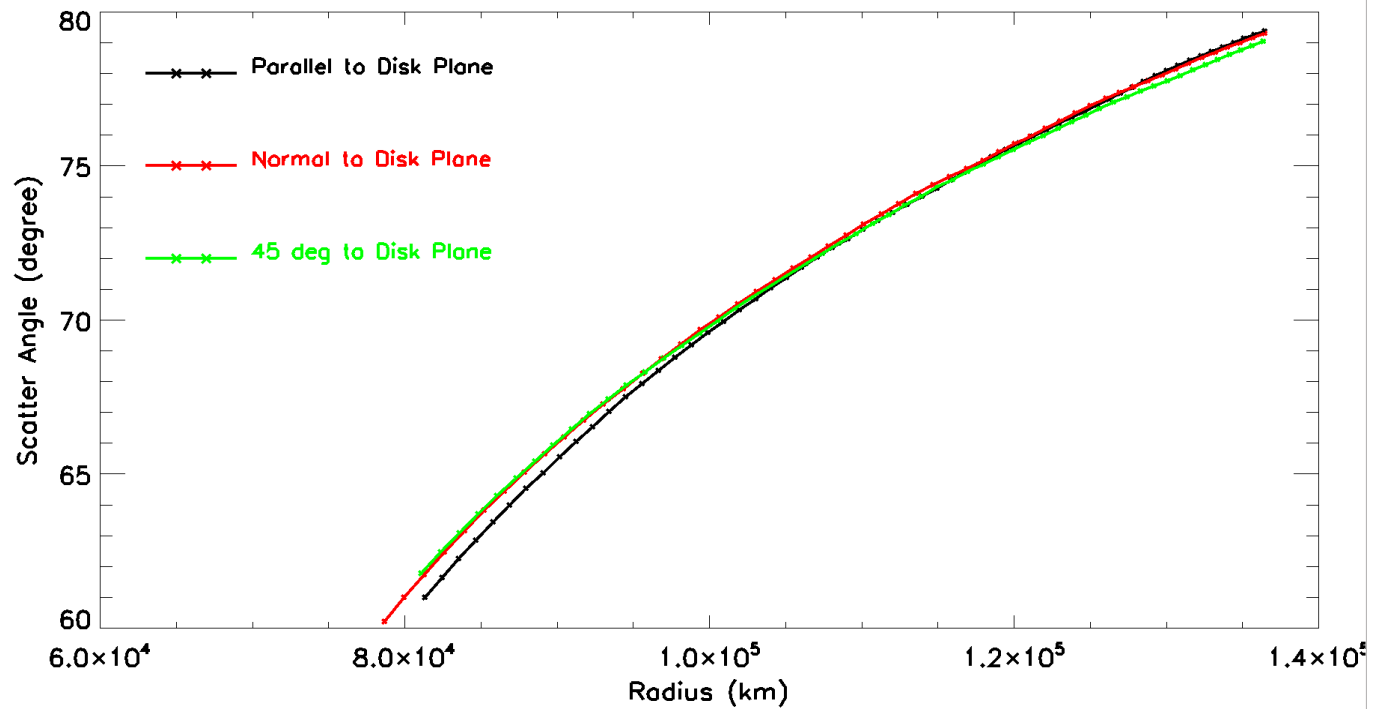
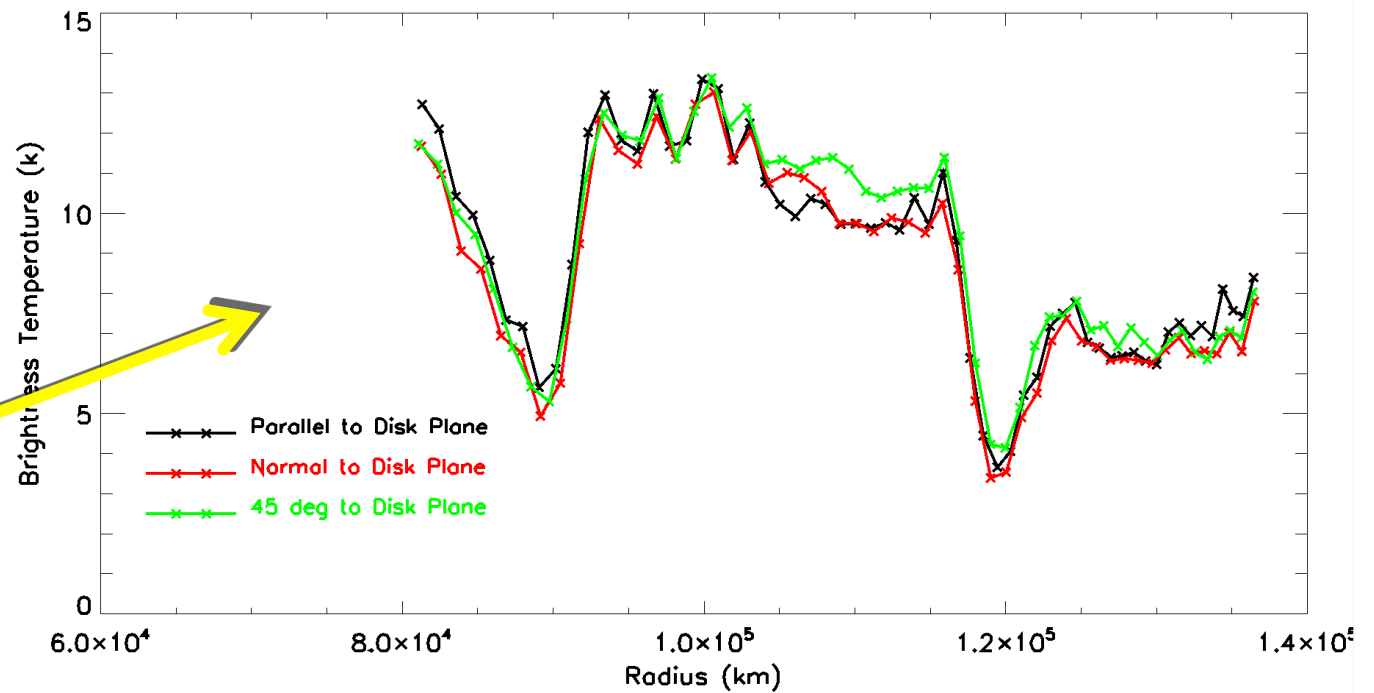




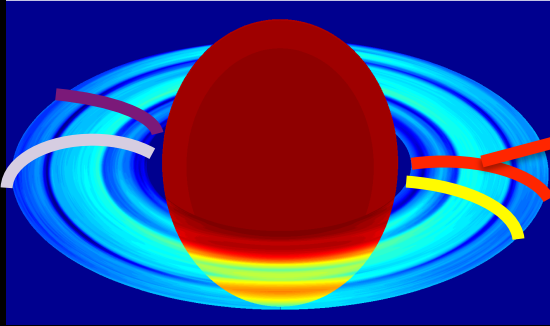
# Polarization Effects



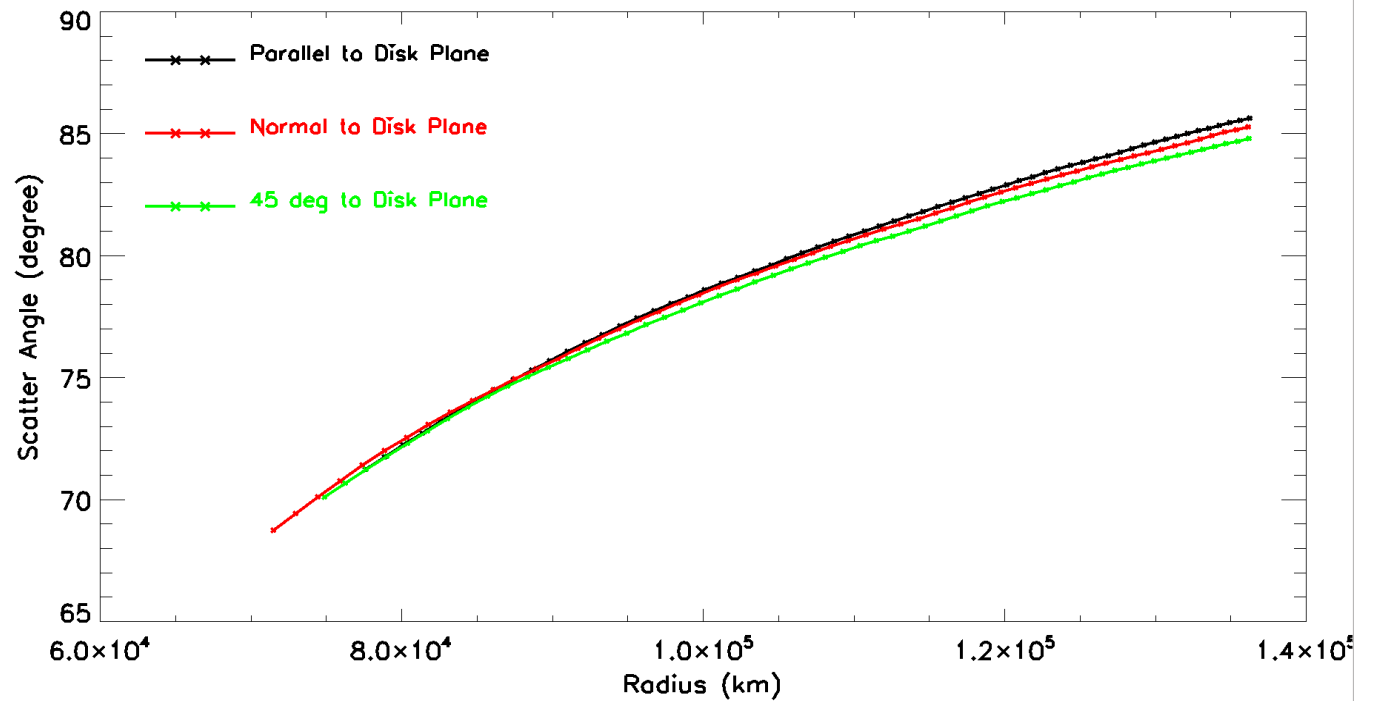
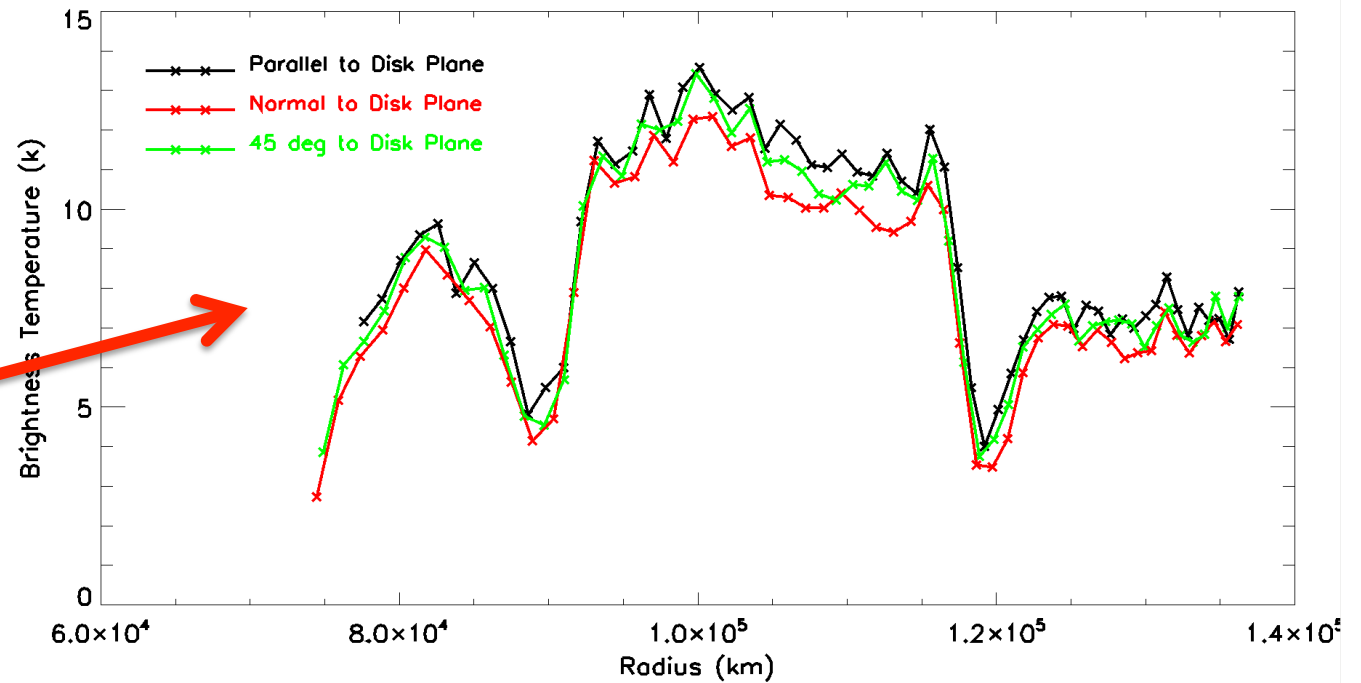
**Position 1**  
**Right Hand Side Ansa**

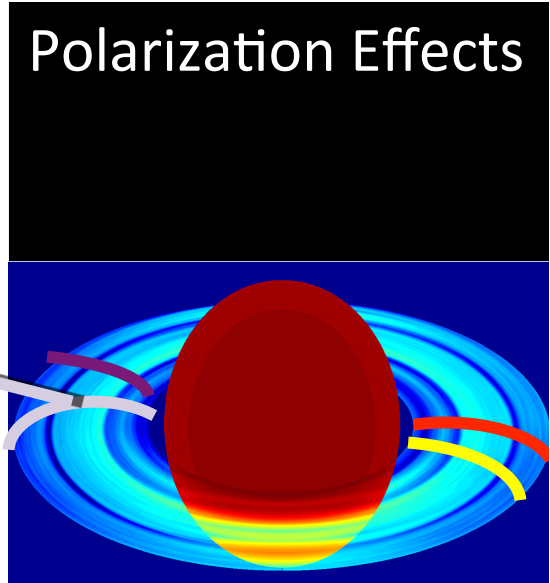
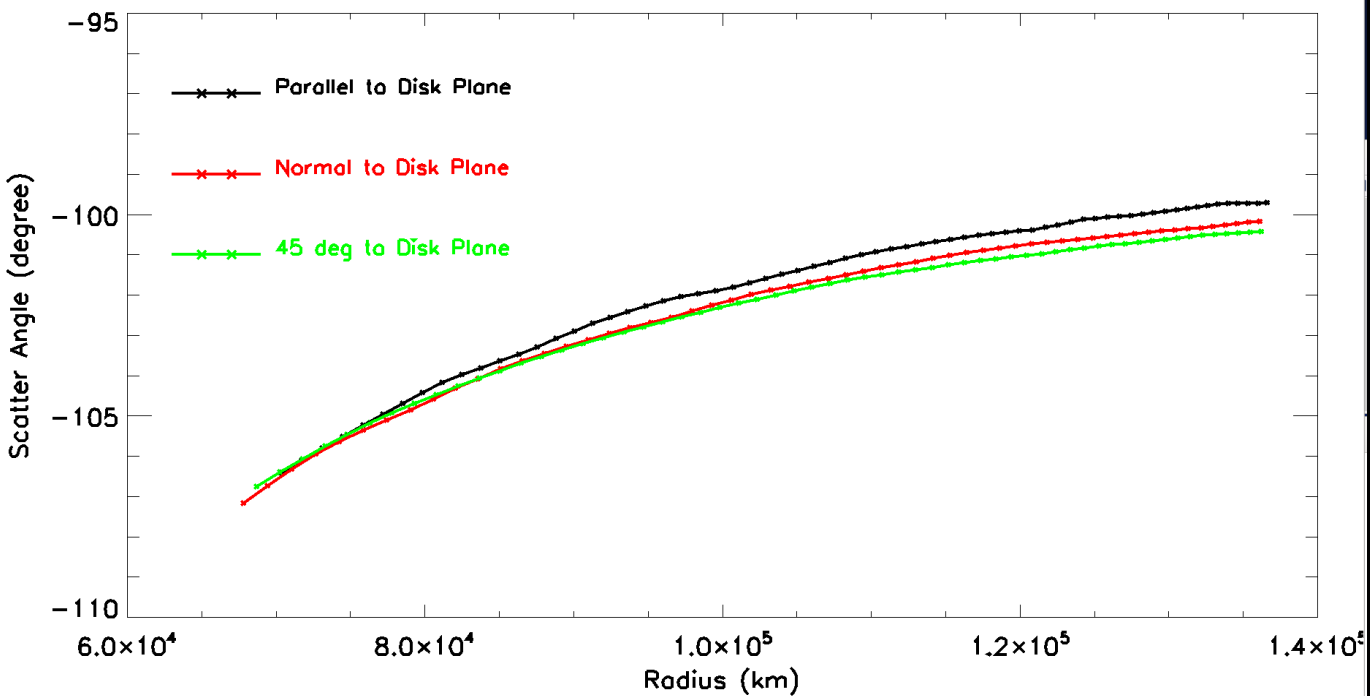
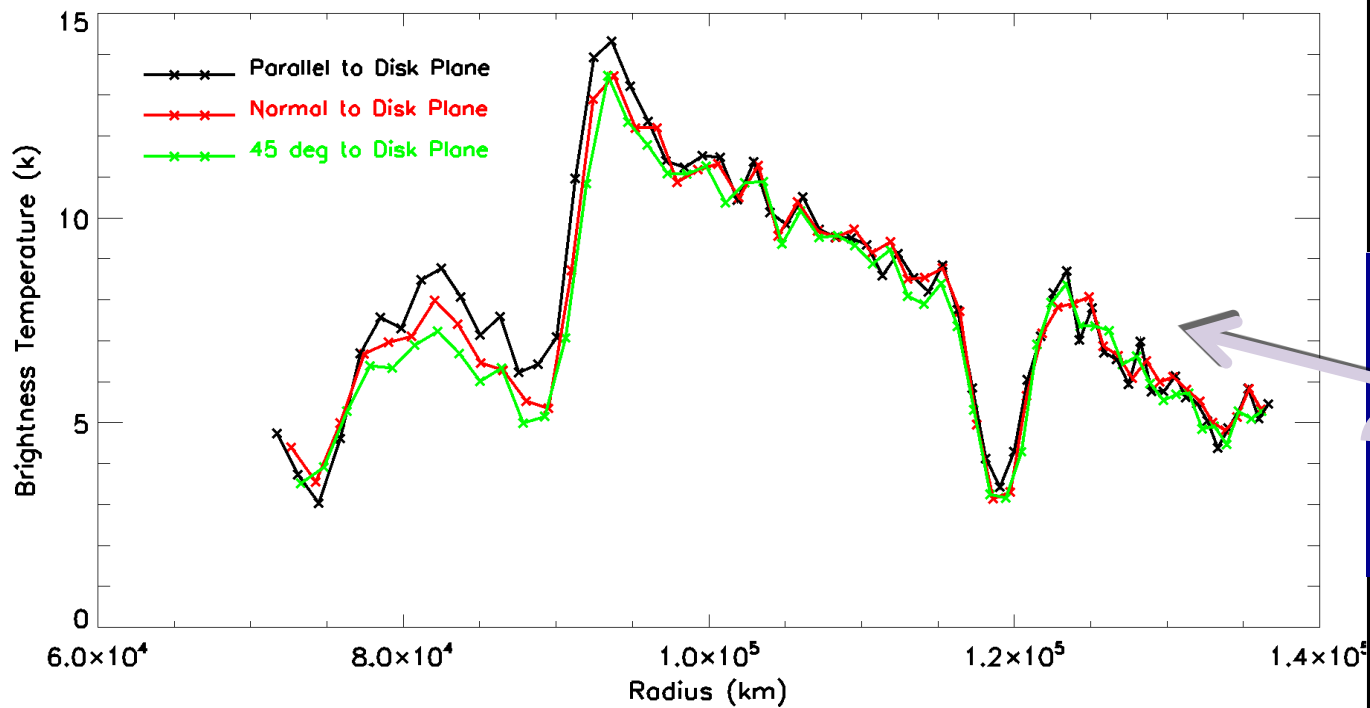


# Polarization Effects

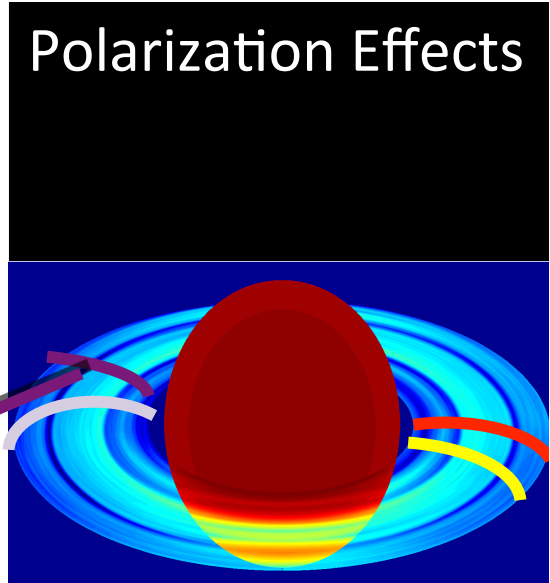
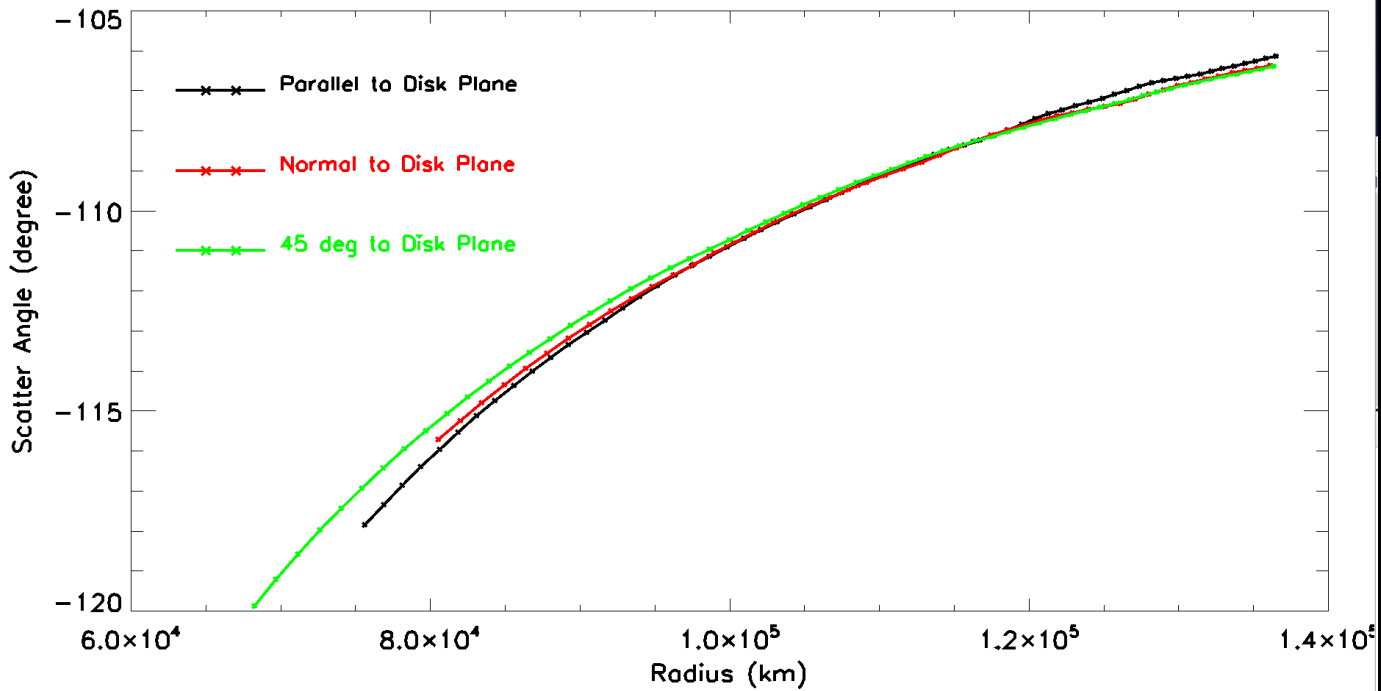
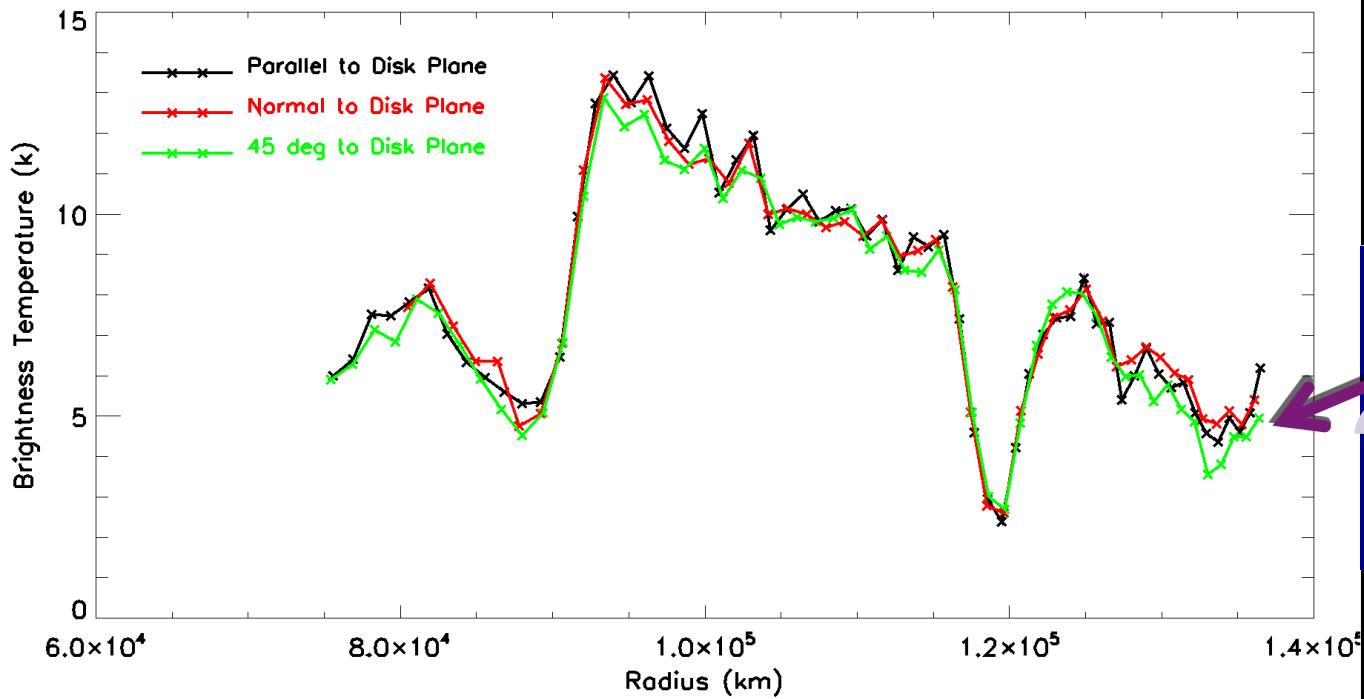


**Position 2**  
**Right Hand Side Ansa**

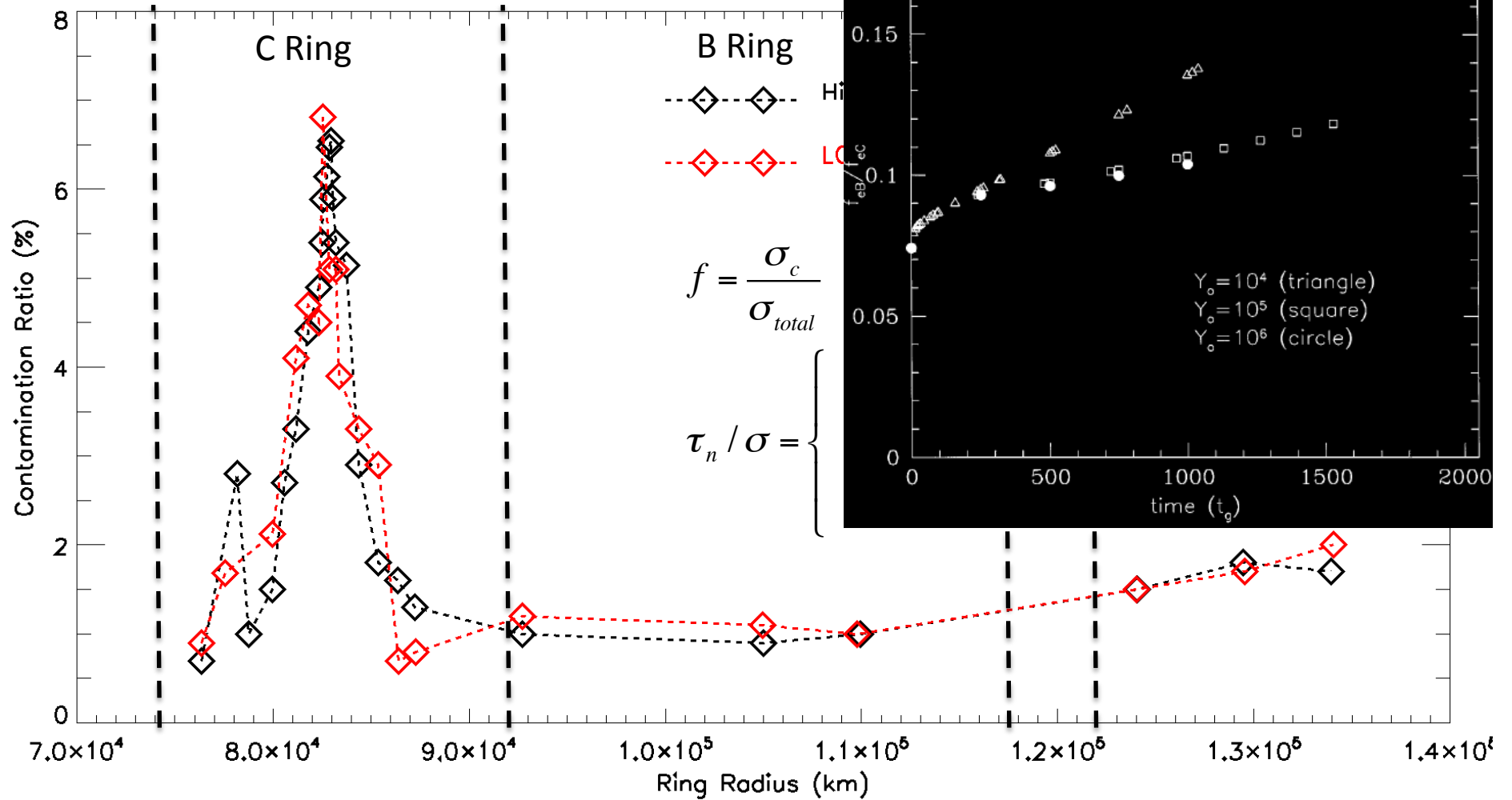




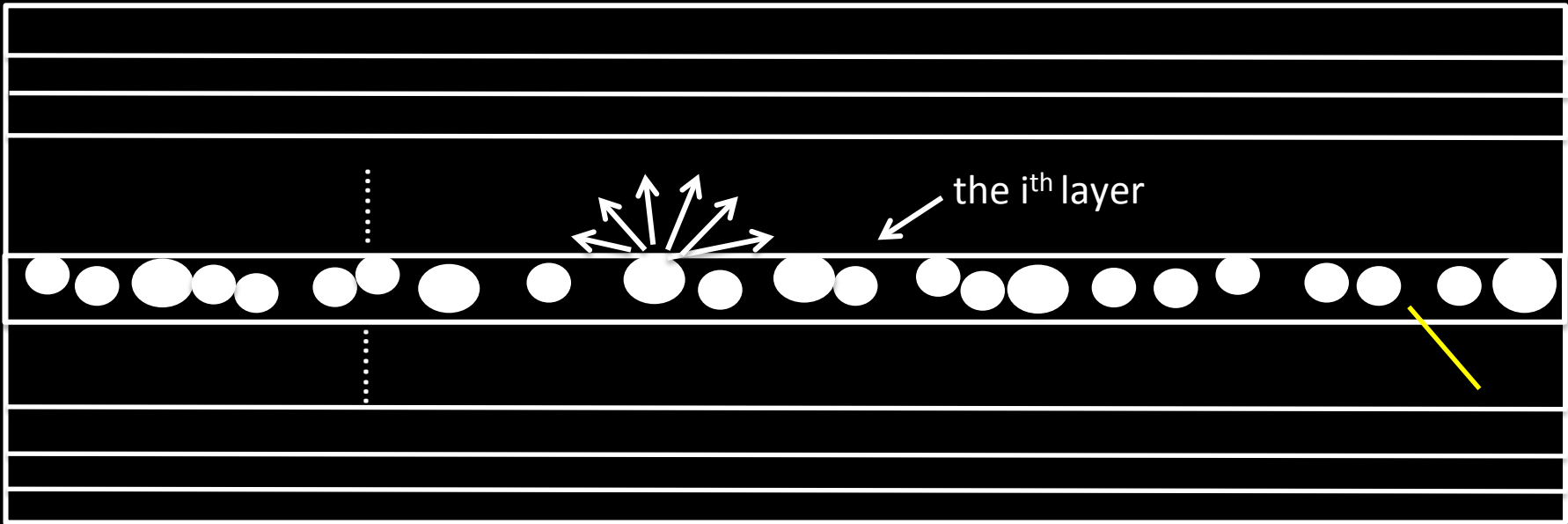
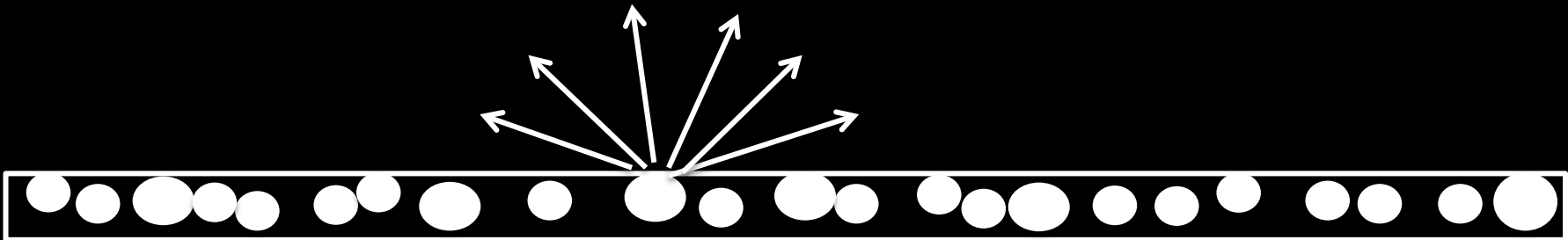
### Position 3 Left Hand Side Ansa

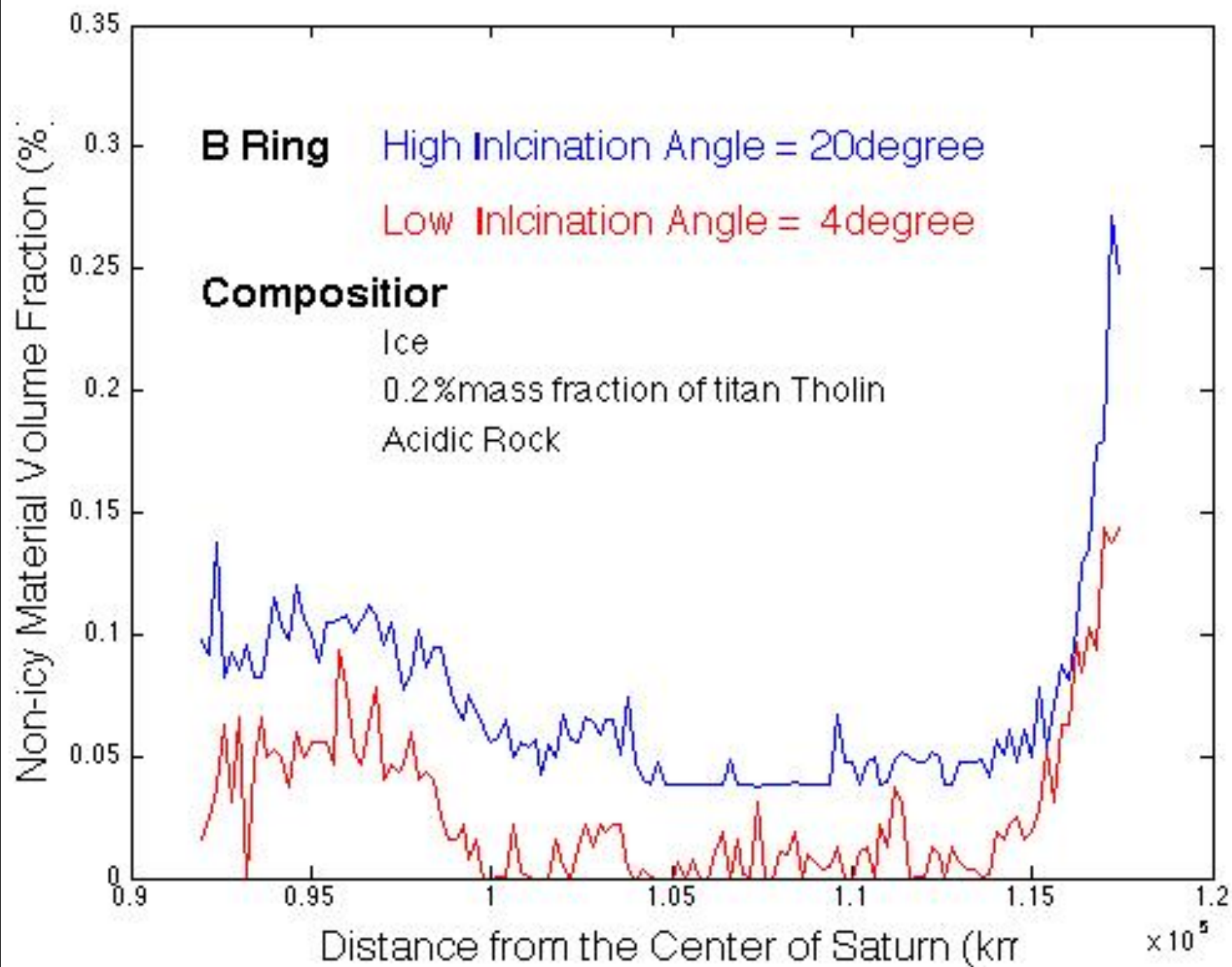


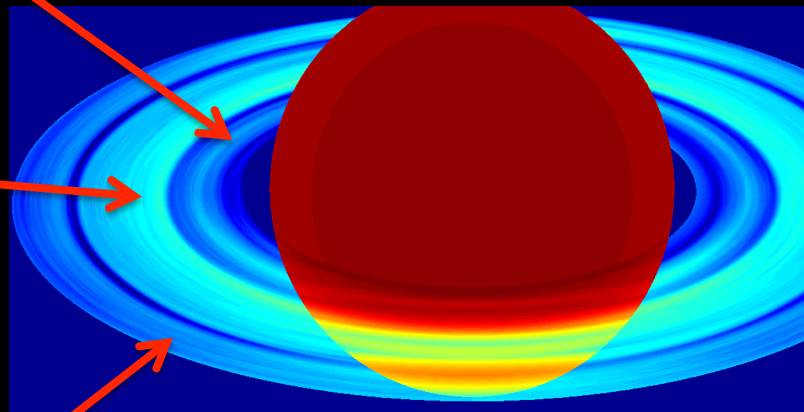
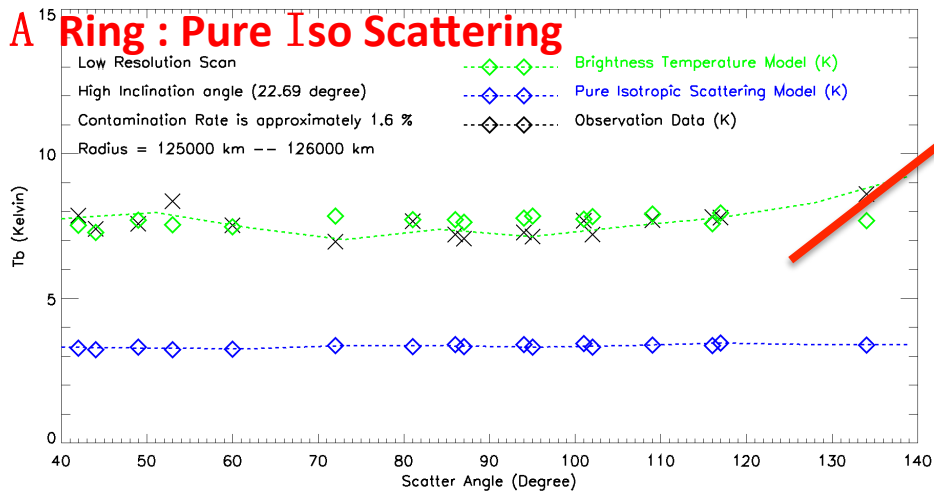
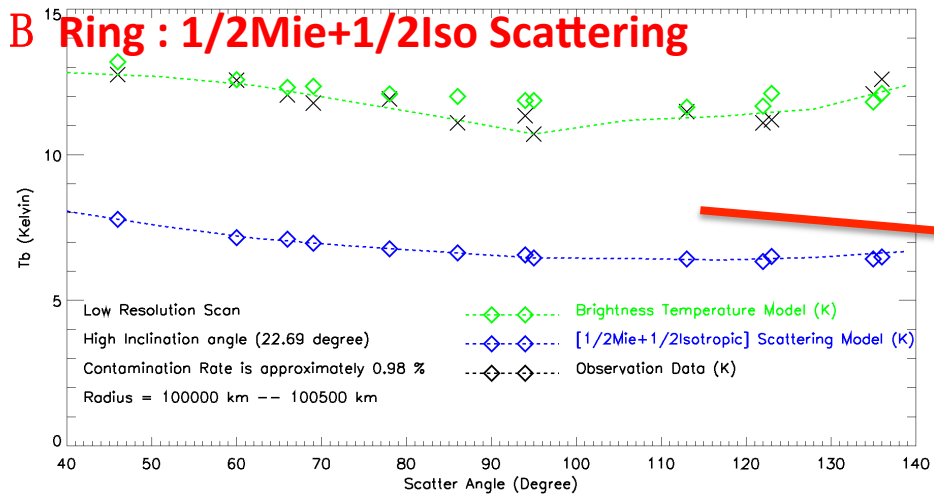
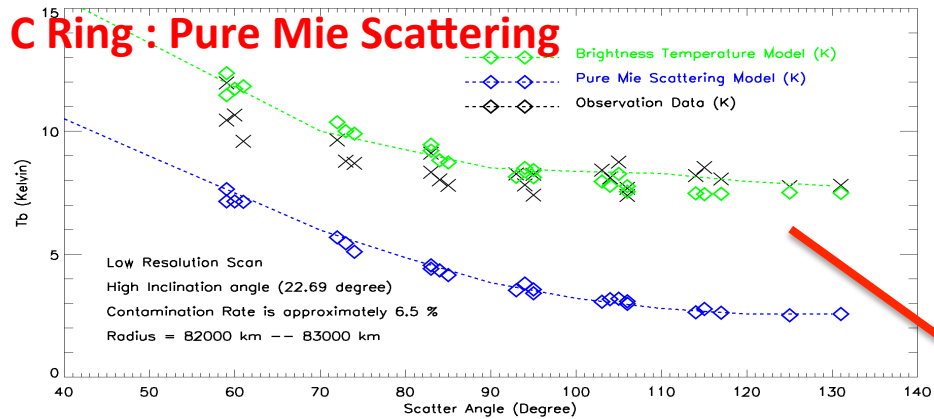
Position 4  
Left Hand Side Ansa











# Cleaning Up Saturn's Rings: Microwave Emission from Non-Icy Ring Material

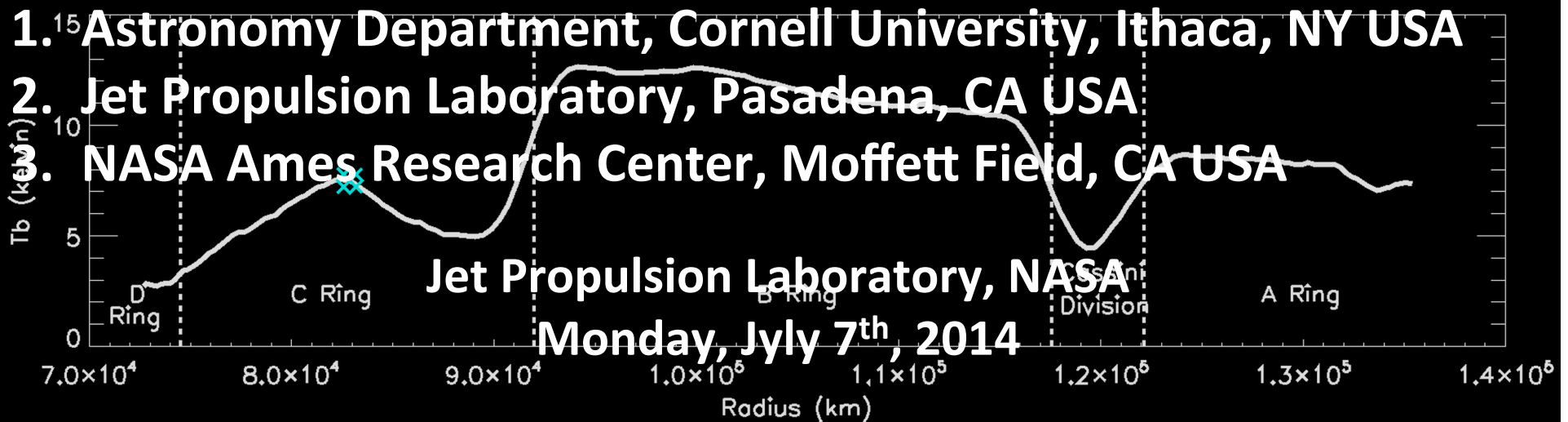
Zhimeng Zhang<sup>1\*</sup>,

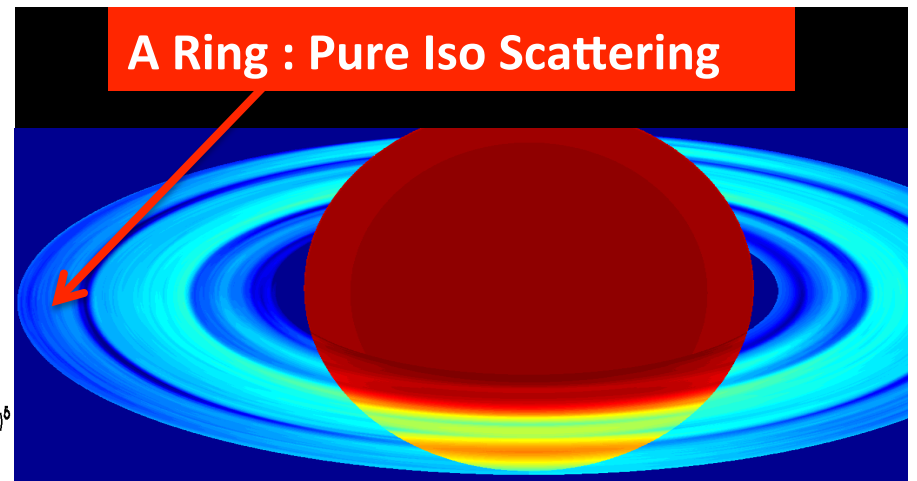
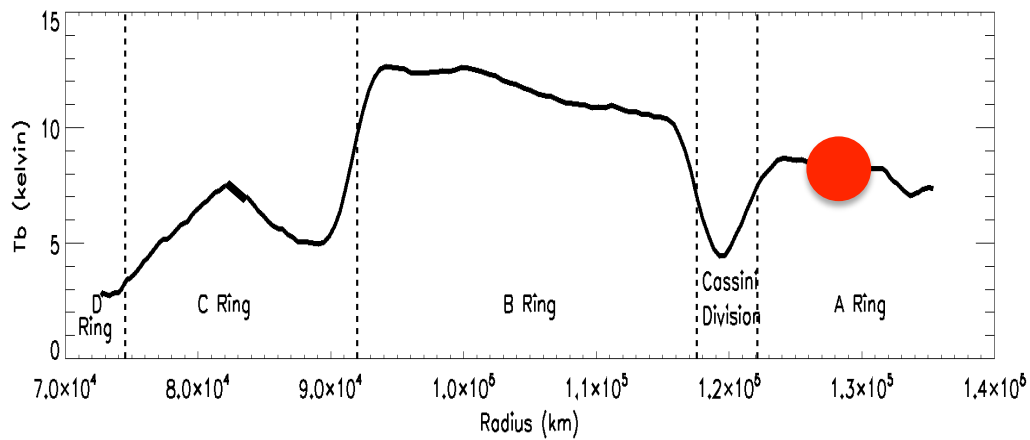
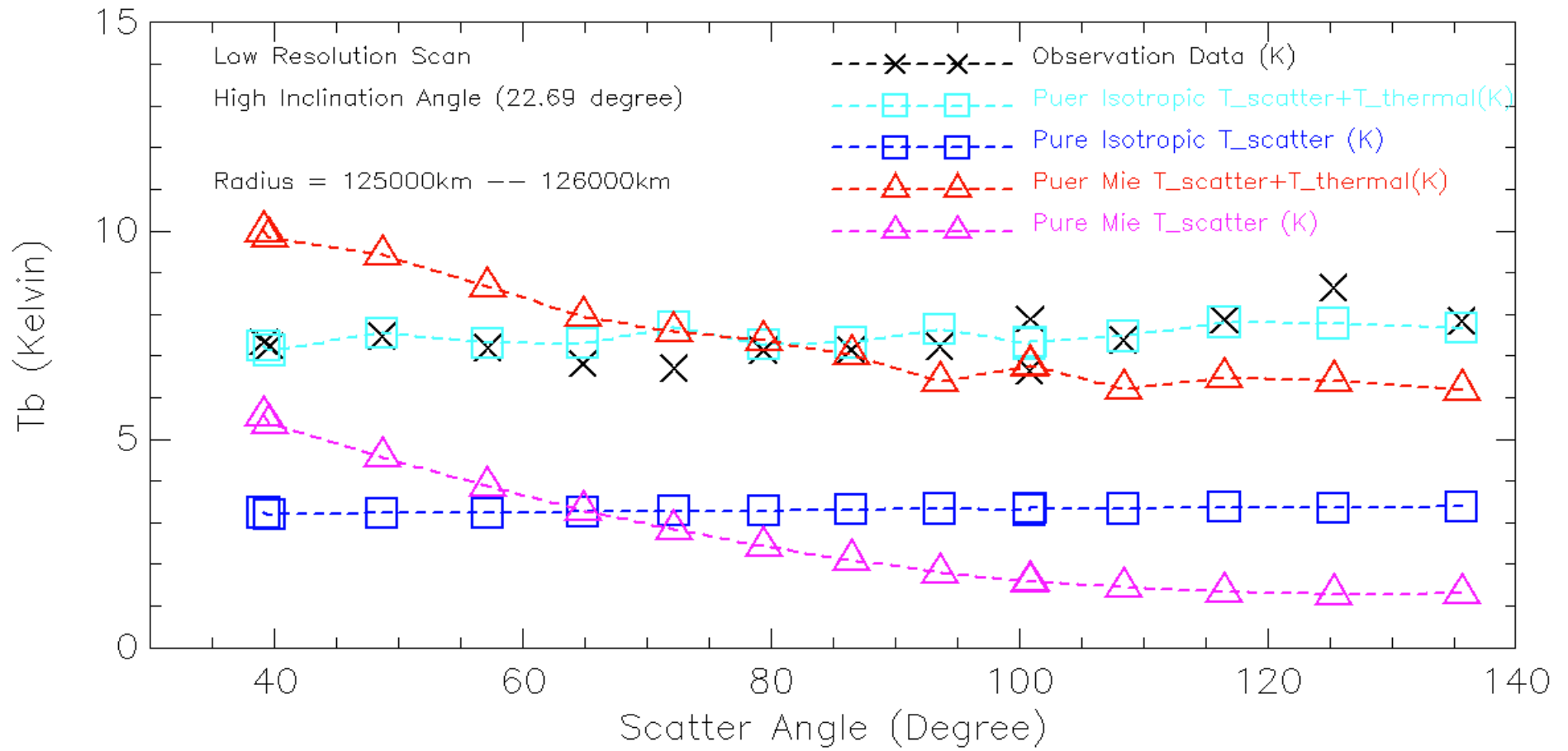
Alexander G. Hayes<sup>1</sup>, Mike Janssen<sup>2</sup>,  
Phil Nicholson<sup>1</sup>, Jeff Cuzzi<sup>3</sup>

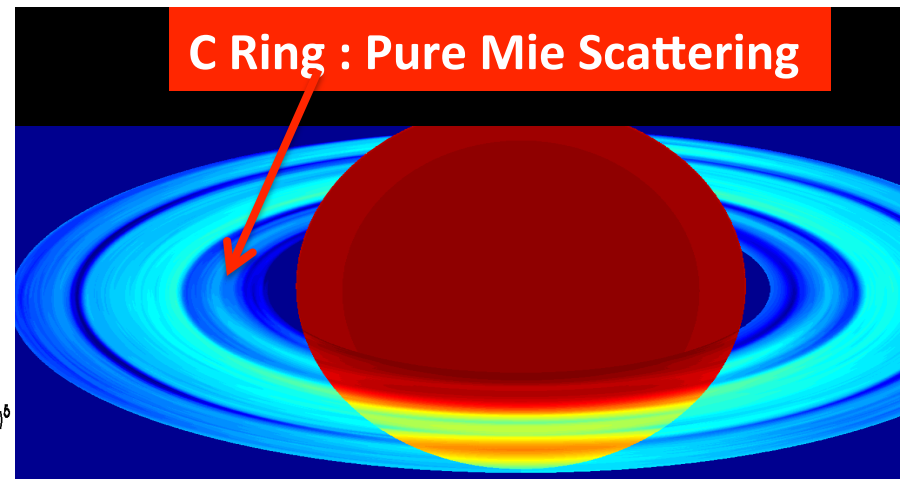
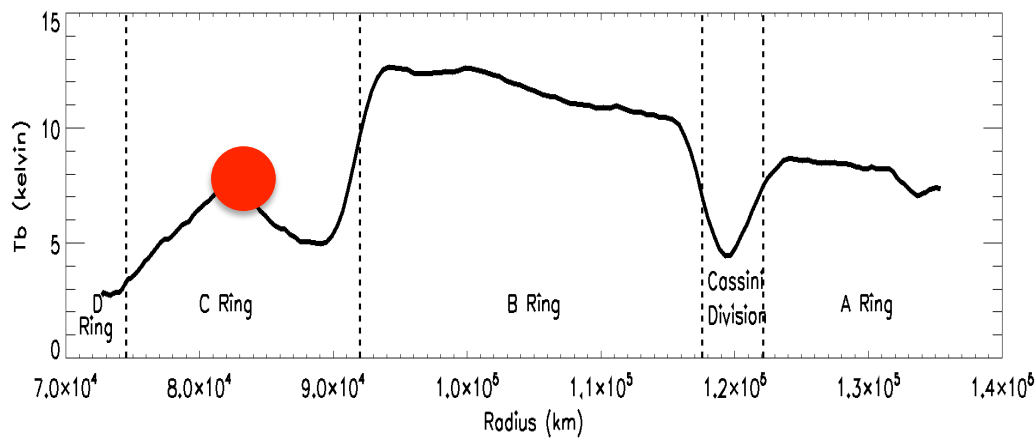
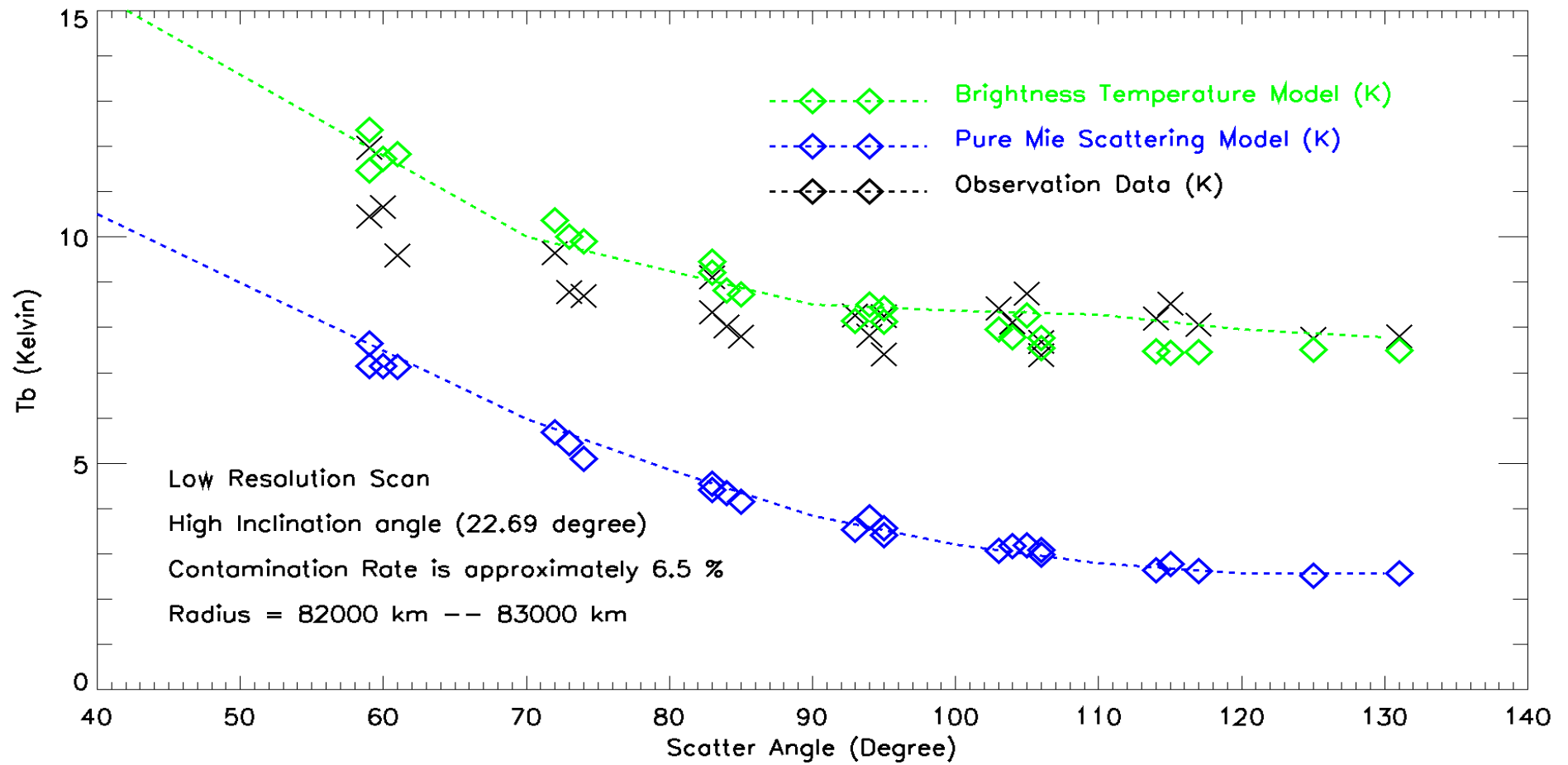
1. <sup>15</sup> Astronomy Department, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY USA

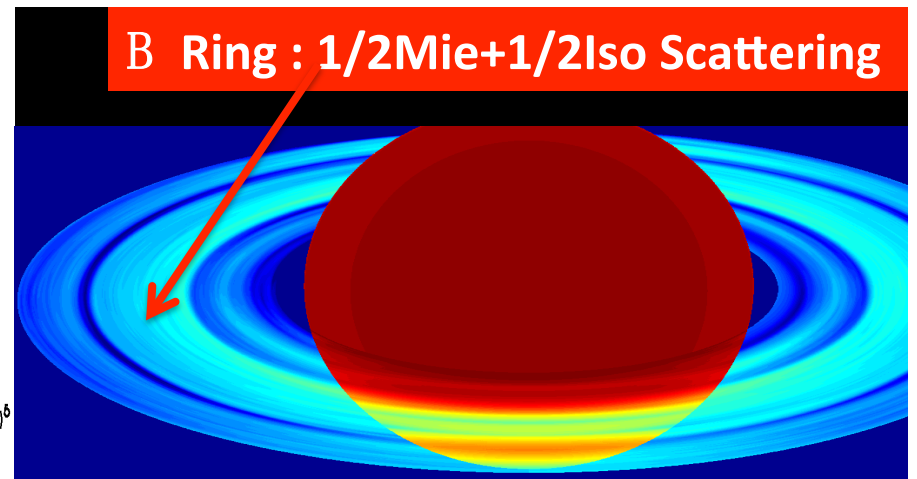
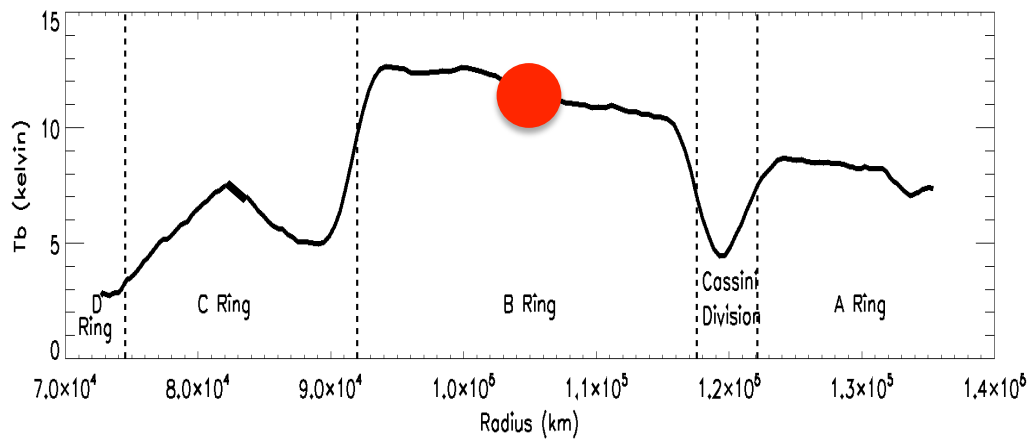
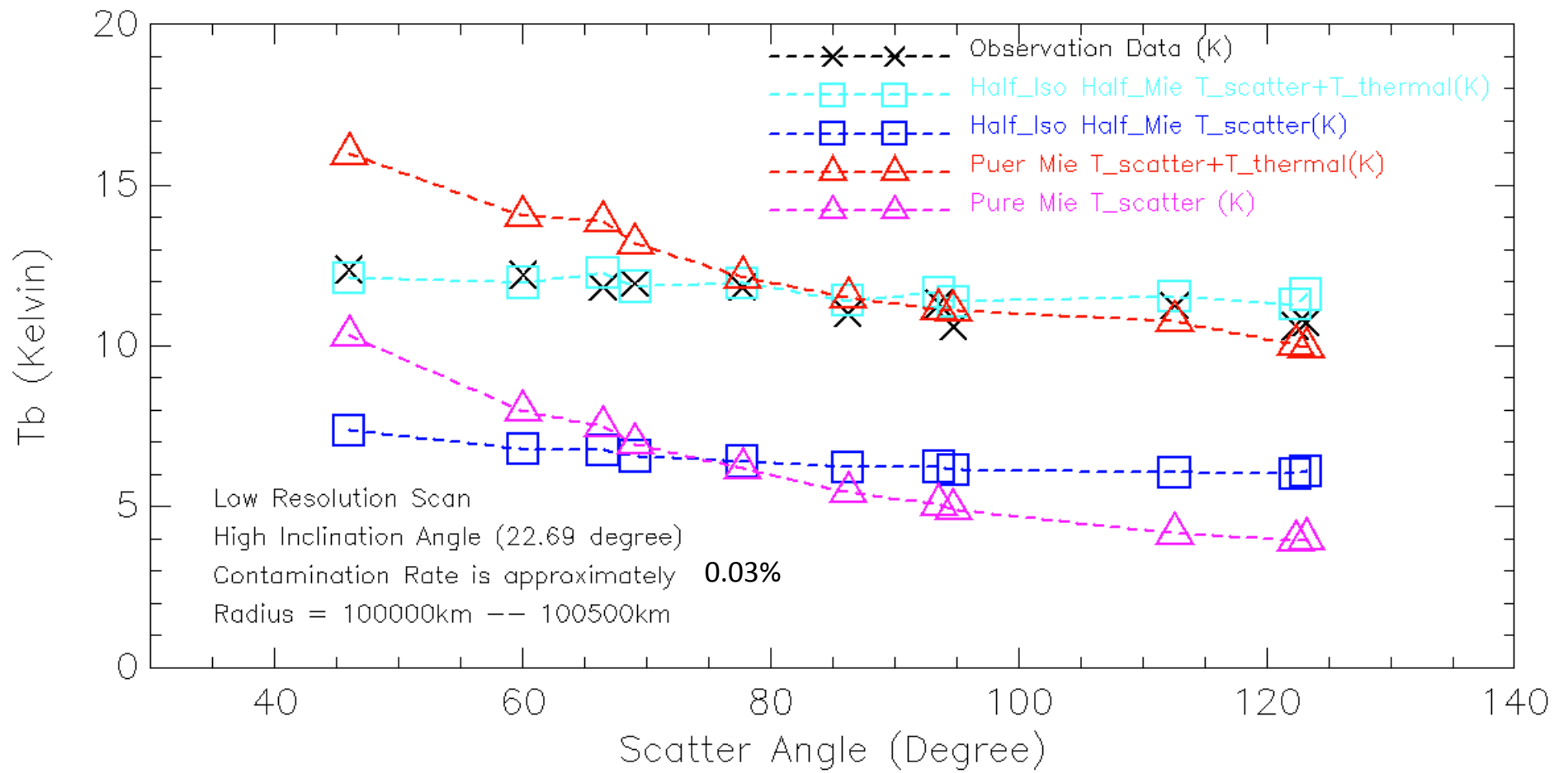
2. Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA USA

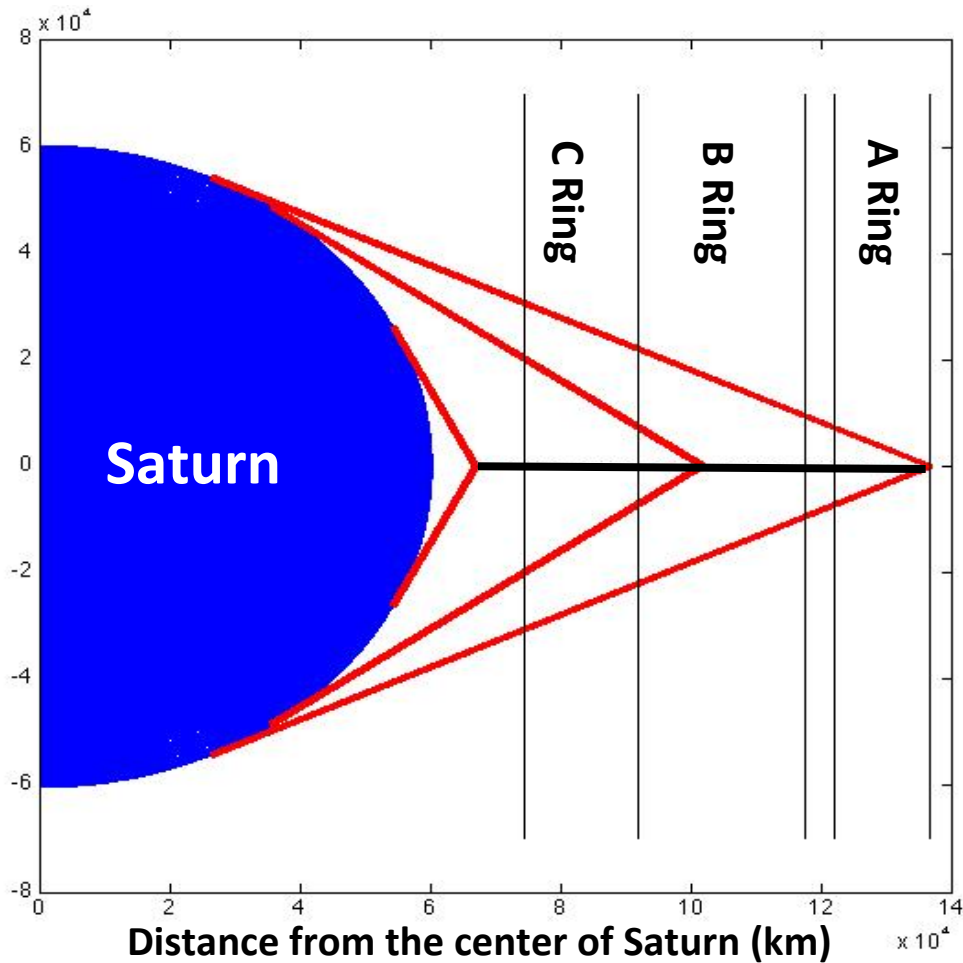
3. NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA USA











$$\pi F_\nu = \int_{4\pi} I_\nu(\cos \theta) \cos \theta d\omega$$

