



Crystallinity mapping of the Saturn Satellites Dione and Rhea

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Ice phase lab facts

- Mastrapa et al. 2013: H_2O ice at 80K<T<120 typical of icy satellites is amorphous or disordered for the age of the Solar System
- Baragiola et al. (2003): irradiated crystalline ice (at sufficiently high energy) yields disordered (amorphous) ice
- Stewart et al. (2008): localized heating (meteoroid impact) can change amorphous into crystalline.
- Ice phase budget
 trace of recent history

need a precise measurement of crystalline / amorphous

Crystalline/amorphous measurement

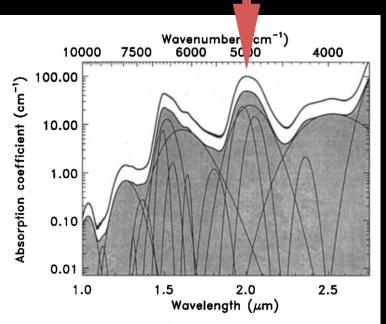
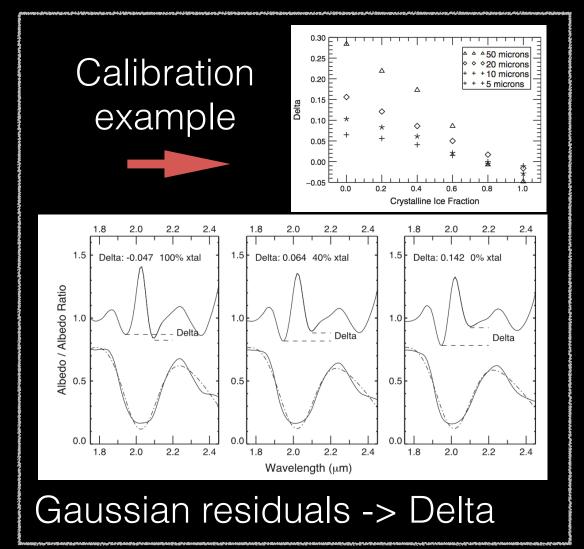


Figure 3. Example of an absorption coefficient spectrum (isolated curve) and the Gaussian fit (shaded region, shifted down by a factor of 2), showing the contributions of the 17 individual Gaussian curves. Although the maximum errors between fit and data approach 20%, they are very difficult to discern at this plotting scale, covering several orders of magnitude in absorption coefficient. This particular spectrum is for H_2O ice at 210 K.

Grundy and Schmitt 1998

 If only 20% of H₂O is crystalline the 1.65 µm band will indicate full crystallinity (Mastrapa et al. 2006)
 VIMS data have a filter junction at 1.65µm

-> we adopt the 2.0 µm band



Ice phase maps cheat sheet

- more crystalline = warmer
- more amorphous = higher flux of infalling particles
- Amorphous features might indicate areas of fast freezing
- Known initial ice phase and infalling particle flux
 age estimate



Icy Saturn satellites

Dione and Enceladus are they 'siblings' in activity? Enceladus is locked in orbital resonance with Dione

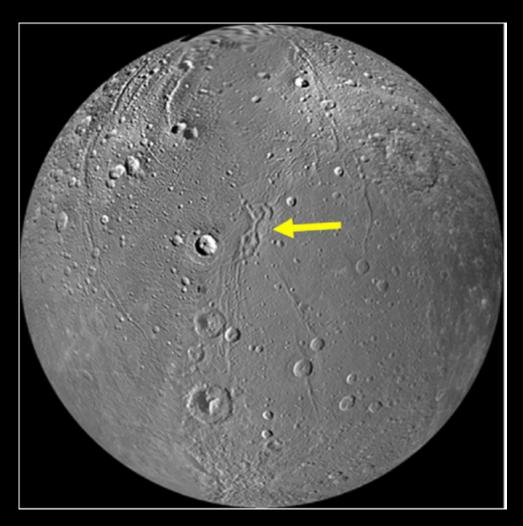
Is Dione active?

Enceladus is locked in orbital resonance with Dione

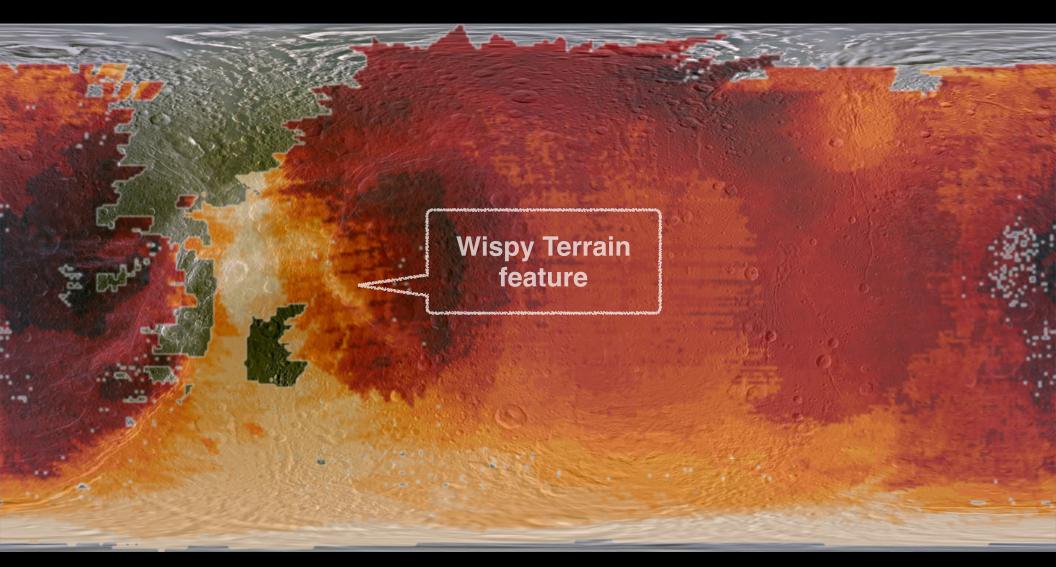
Evidence of possible cryovolcanic structures

Evidence for a tenuous atmosphere in 2004

No plumes detection 🤗



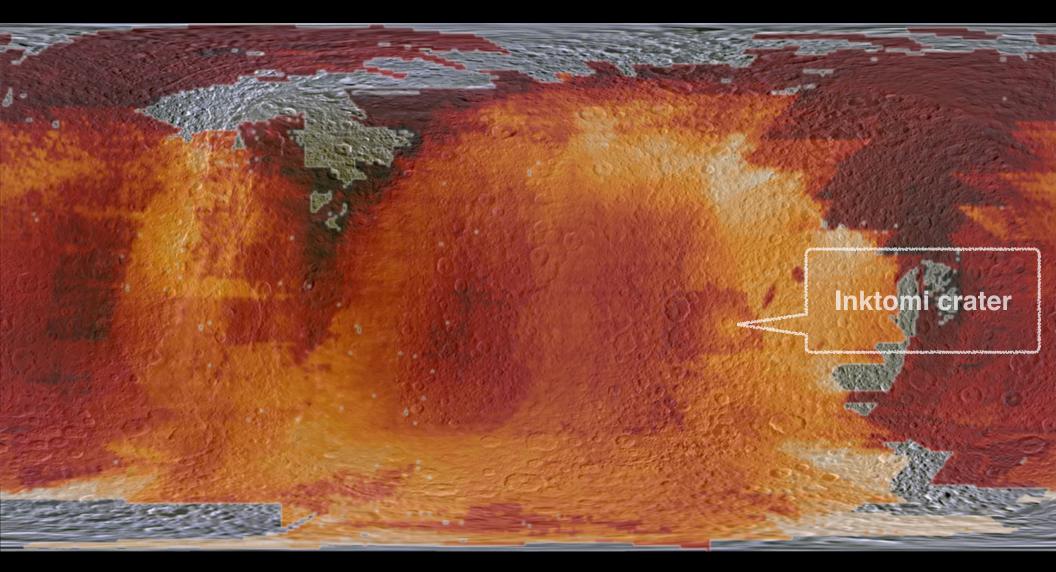
From Buratti et al 2018



Amorphous H₂O fraction on Dione overlaid on a base map

More amorphous

More crystalline



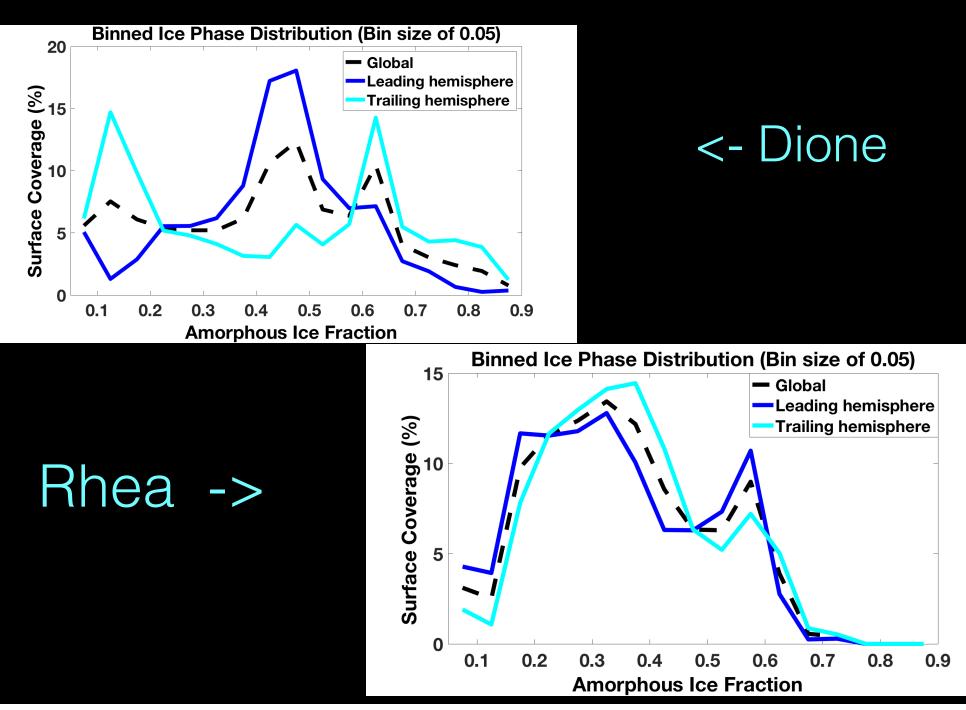
Amorphous H₂O fraction on Rhea

overlaid on a base map

More amorphous

More crystalline

Amorphous population



Summary

- Dione amorphous ice map shows a distribution consistent with amorphous ice predominantly on the trailing hemisphere as expected
- The amorphous ice distribution is interrupted by crystalline ice corresponding approximately with the Wispy Terrains.
- Analogous analysis on Rhea shows just the expected pattern
- The phase distribution graphs also show a very different behavior between Dione and Rhea

Preliminary Interpretation

- The Wispy Terrains stand out as more crystalline
 -> very localized increase in temperature either currently or in a fairly close past
- Another indication of activity?