

1 IDENTIFICATION OF SATURN'S
2 MAGNETOSPHERIC REGIONS AND
3 ASSOCIATED PLASMA PROCESSES:
4 SYNOPSIS OF CASSINI OBSERVATIONS
5 DURING ORBIT INSERTION

6 N. André^{1,2,3}, M. Blanc³, S. Maurice³, P. Schippers³, E. Pallier³, T. I. Gombosi⁴, K.
C. Hansen⁴, D. T. Young⁵, F. J. Crary⁵, S. Bolton⁵, E. C. Sittler⁶, H. T. Smith⁷, R.
E. Johnson⁷, R. A. Baragiola⁷, A. J. Coates², A. M. Rymer⁸, M. K. Dougherty⁹, N.
Achilleos⁹, C. S. Arridge⁹, S. M. Krimigis⁸, D. G. Mitchell⁸, N. Krupp¹⁰, D. C.
Hamilton¹¹, I. Dandouras³, D. A. Gurnett¹², W. S. Kurth¹², P. Louarn³, R.
Srama¹³, S. Kempf¹³, H. J. Waite⁵, L. W. Esposito¹⁴, and J. T. Clarke¹⁵

N. André, Research and Scientific Support Department, European Space Agency, Keplerlaan 1, PO Box 299, 2200 Noordwijk, The Netherlands (nandre@rssd.esa.int).

M. Blanc, I. Dandouras, P. Louarn, S. Maurice, P. Schippers, and E. Pallier, Centre d'Etude Spatiale des Rayonnements, 9 avenue du Colonel Roche, 31028 Toulouse, France.

T. I. Gombosi, K. C. Hansen, Center for Space Environment Modeling, Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48109, USA.

S. Bolton, F. J. Crary, D. T. Young and H. J. Waite, Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, TX 78238, USA.

R. A. Baragiola, R. E. Johnson, H. T. Smith, Engineering Physics Program and Astronomy Department, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22904, USA.

E. C. Sittler, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771, USA.

A. J. Coates, University College London, Mullard Space Science Laboratory, Holmbury St. Mary, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6NT, UK.

N. Achilleos, C. S. Arridge, and M. K. Dougherty, The Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College, London SW7 2BZ, UK.

S. M. Krimigis, D. G. Mitchell, and A. M. Rymer, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD 20723-6099, USA.

N. Krupp, Max-Planck Institut für Sonnensystemforschung, Max-Planck-Str. 2, D-37191 Katlenburg-Lindau, Germany.

7 Saturn's magnetosphere is currently studied from the microphysical to the global scale
8 by the Cassini-Huygens mission. During the first half of 2004, in the approach phase, re-
9 mote sensing observations of Saturn's magnetosphere gave access to its auroral, radio, UV,
10 energetic neutral atom and dust emissions. Then, on July 1, 2004, Cassini Saturn Orbit
11 Insertion provided us with the first in-situ exploration of Saturn's magnetosphere since
12 Voyager. To date, Saturn Orbit Insertion is the only Cassini orbit to have been described
13 in common by all field and particle instruments. We use the comprehensive suite of Mag-
14 netospheric and Plasma Science instruments to give a unified description of the large-scale
15 structure of the magnetosphere during this particular orbit, identifying the different regions
16 and their boundaries. These regions consist of the Saturnian ring system (Region 1, within
17 3 Saturn radii (R_s)) and the cold plasma torus (Region 2, within 5-6 R_s) in the inner mag-
18 netosphere, a dynamic and extended plasmashet (Region 3), and an outer high-latitude
19 magnetosphere (Region 4, beyond 12-14 R_s). We compare these observations to those made
20 at the time of the Voyager encounters. Then, we identify some of the dominant chemi-
21 cal characteristics and dynamical phenomena in each of these regions. The inner magne-

D. C. Hamilton, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, USA.

D. A. Gurnett and W. S. Kurth, University of Iowa, Department of Physics and Astronomy,
Iowa City, IA 52242, USA.

R. Srama and S. Kempf, Max Planck Institute Nuclear Physics, Saupfercheckweg 1, Heidelberg,
69117 Germany..

L. W. Esposito, LASP University of Colorado, 392 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309-0392, USA..

J. T. Clarke, Boston University, 725 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215 , USA

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22 tosphere is characterized by the presence of the dominant plasma and neutral sources of
23 the Saturnian system, giving birth to a very special magnetosphere dominated by water
24 products. The extended plasmashet, where the ring current resides, is a variable region
25 with stretched magnetic field lines and contains a mixture of cold and hot plasma pop-
26 ulations resulting from plasma transport processes. The outer high-latitude magnetosphere
27 is characterized by a quiet magnetic field and an absence of plasma. Saturn Orbit Inser-

Department, European Space Agency,
Noordwijk, The Netherlands.

²University College London, Mullard
Space Science Laboratory, Dorking, Surrey,
UK.

³Centre d'Etude Spatiale des
Rayonnements, Observatoire Midi-Pyrénées,
Toulouse, France.

⁴Center for Space Environment Modeling,
Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and
Space Sciences, The University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA.

⁵Southwest Research Institute, San
Antonio, Texas, USA.

⁶NASA Goddard Space Flight Center,
Greenbelt, Maryland, USA.

⁷Engineering Physics Program and
Astronomy Department, University of
Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, USA.

⁸Johns Hopkins University Applied
Physics Laboratory, Laurel, Maryland,
USA.

⁹The Blackett Laboratory, Imperial
College, London, UK.

¹⁰Max-Planck Institut für
Sonnensystemforschung, Lindau,
Katlenburg-Lindau, Germany.

¹¹University of Maryland, College Park,
Maryland, USA.

¹²University of Iowa, Department of
Physics and Astronomy, Iowa City, Iowa,
USA.

¹³Max Planck Institute Nuclear Physics,
Heidelberg, Germany.

¹⁴LASP University of Colorado, Boulder,
Colorado, USA.

¹⁵Boston University, Boston,
Massachusetts, USA.

28 tion observations enabled us to capture a snapshot of the large-scale structure of the Sat-
29 urnian magnetosphere and of some of the main plasma processes operating in this com-
30 plex environment. The analysis of the broad diversity of these interaction processes will
31 be one of the main themes of Magnetospheric and Plasma Science during the Cassini mis-
32 sion.

1. INTRODUCTION

33 The Saturnian space environment, a small planetary system in its own right, is one
34 of the most complex environment in our solar system, because it connects dynamically
35 and chemically all the components of the Saturn system: the planet, its ring system,
36 numerous satellites (more particularly the icy satellites and Titan) and includes various
37 dust, neutral and plasma populations. In this observational review, we shall focus our
38 attention on the latter population with a particular emphasis on its interplay with the
39 other phases of matter in the cavity created by Saturn's magnetic field in the solar wind,
40 the Saturnian magnetosphere.

41 The sources of magnetospheric plasma in the Saturnian system can be divided be-
42 tween external sources (the solar wind) and internal sources (Saturn's ionosphere, the
43 ring system, the inner icy satellites, and Titan). The contribution of the latter is, by far,
44 dominant. The thermal plasma freshly created by the internal sources is trapped by the
45 planetary magnetic field and entrained by the fast planetary rotation around the planet.
46 The centrifugal force resulting from the rapid overall rotation (1 Saturnian day lasts for
47 approximately 10 hours and 39 minutes) confines the plasma towards the equatorial plane,
48 giving rise to a thin disc of corotating plasma in the inner magnetospheric regions and
49 stretching the magnetic field lines outwards. In steady state, since the plasma added
50 locally cannot build up indefinitely, a circulation system is set up such that the plasma
51 is either transported outward to the remote magnetospheric regions where it escapes into
52 the interplanetary medium, or lost down the planetary field lines into the ionosphere.

53 The interplay of plasmas of various origins and properties with the three sources of main
54 momentum in the Saturnian magnetospheric system: the solar wind, planetary rotation,

55 and orbital motions, results in several different chemical and dynamic plasma regions.
56 This very rich magnetospheric environment contains uniquely diverse regions compared
57 with those observed elsewhere in the solar system. Understanding these regions, their
58 equilibrium and dynamics, and their coupling via the transfer of mass, momentum, and
59 energy at their interfaces constitute both observational and theoretical challenges. A
60 staggering array of phenomena and processes is indeed shaping this magnetosphere, which
61 we are only beginning to comprehend, step by step.

62 Our first view and preliminary understanding of Saturn's magnetosphere in the 20th
63 century was based solely on the fly-by data returned by Pioneer 11 in 1979 and by the
64 Voyager 1 and 2 spacecraft in 1980 and 1981, as well as on remote observations from
65 the ground or from Earth orbit. However, the resulting picture was limited by the local
66 time and latitudinal coverage of the flybys, as well as by the lack of ion composition
67 measurements and by the limited energy-angle coverage of the plasma instruments. These
68 limitations forced us to develop models of the physics and chemistry occurring in Saturn's
69 magnetosphere that reproduced our limited set of observations and enabled us to gain
70 new insights on the physical processes operating in this system. The plasma and neutral
71 observations and the models developed during the pre-Cassini era have been reviewed by
72 *Richardson* [1998]. The interested reader may also find in this article more information
73 to understand the source and loss processes of plasma and neutrals in a magnetosphere.

74 After these encounters, the overall picture that emerged was one of a magnetosphere
75 that takes an intermediate place between Jupiter and the outer gas giants, Uranus and
76 Neptune, with neutrals dominating the mass and density as at Uranus and Neptune, but
77 with plasma playing an important role in the magnetospheric dynamics as at Jupiter.

78 Like Jupiter, Saturn is a rapidly rotating planet and there is no doubt that the planetary
79 rotation drives the magnetospheric dynamics to some extent. In addition, as all objects
80 in the solar system, Saturn interacts with the solar wind which drives a part of the
81 magnetospheric dynamics and possibly triggers major storms when solar perturbations
82 hit the magnetosphere. Establishing the relative importance of these two drivers is an
83 important aspect of magnetospheric research activities.

84 Twenty-three years after Voyager, the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft completed its seven-
85 year journey to the ringed world. The whole orbital tour of Cassini in the Saturn system
86 has been designed, and will be necessary, to address among others the main magneto-
87 spheric and plasma science objectives of the mission [e.g., *Blanc et al.*, 2002]. Writing an
88 up to date article can be an endless effort when considering the rate of new observations
89 gathered by the spacecraft as its orbit moves in different regions of the magnetosphere.
90 Instead, we shall focus our attention on Saturn Orbit Insertion observations and inte-
91 grate all the observations obtained by the full suite of Cassini Magnetosphere and Plasma
92 Science (MAPS) instruments in order to provide a multi-instrumental identification and
93 characterisation of the magnetospheric regions crossed by the spacecraft along this par-
94 ticular orbit, as well as the dominant physical processes at work in each of these regions.
95 This will be the strong unifying theme of our paper. Our objective is to detail the rich-
96 ness of the data sets previously analysed separately and to demonstrate how they can be
97 combined to obtain a unified cartography of the Saturnian magnetosphere and a deeper
98 understanding of interdisciplinary aspects of this fascinating environment. In addition, we
99 will illustrate to the general planetary communities how scientific information can be ex-
100 tracted from observations obtained by the particle and field instruments, not only in term

101 of magnetospheric science, but also in term of planetary science. Hopefully, this review
102 will give them the ability to better understand how they can serve their own disciplines,

2. PRE-CASSINI PICTURE

103 Saturn's magnetospheric regions were first sampled by Pioneer and later analyzed in
104 detail by the field and particle instruments carried by Voyager 1 and 2. A synthetic picture
105 of Saturn's magnetosphere given by these observations has been described in *Sittler et*
106 *al.* [1983] from a survey of the low-energy plasma (< 6 keV) environment. Although
107 this picture was limited by the local time and latitudinal coverage of the Voyager fly-
108 bys and by the energy coverage of the Voyager low-energy PLaSma instrument (PLS)
109 and Low Energy Charged Particles (LECP) experiment, it provided us with the most
110 comprehensive view for decades, until the arrival of Cassini, and presents a good context
111 for the Cassini observations described in our next sections.

112 Three fundamentally different plasma regimes were identified at that time. We begin
113 with the innermost regions and move outwards. All distances are expressed in Saturn
114 radii ($1 R_s=60,268$ km):

- 115 • the inner plasma torus (inside $8 R_s$) appeared as a region of low temperatures and
116 high equatorial densities. This region is coupled to the ring system and icy satellites as the
117 main sources of plasma, resulting from the dissociation of water molecules sputtered from
118 the surfaces of icy satellites and rings, and protons from various origins (the solar wind,
119 the atmospheres of Titan and Saturn as well as products of the water physical chemistry).

120 Temperatures and flow speeds correspond closely to pick-up energies and corotation out
121 to about $6 R_s$, whereas the plasma moves more slowly than corotation outside $6 R_s$ as
122 observed by Voyager 1 but not by Voyager 2. High-energy electrons were observed to be

123 severely depleted. Interactions with dust, neutral gas or plasma ions and plasma waves
124 may contribute to this depletion;

125 • the extended plasma sheet (between 8 and 15 R_s) was found to be composed of cold
126 and hot plasma populations. In contrast with the local character of the plasma sources
127 in the inner plasma torus, the cold plasma composition of this region appeared relatively
128 homogeneous, suggesting that efficient mechanisms are operating in order to redistribute
129 the plasma throughout the entire magnetosphere. The cold plasma population is found to
130 dominate the density, whereas the hot plasma population dominates the pressure. Flow
131 speeds were observed to progressively depart from corotation with increasing distance and
132 to display a significant subcorotation. A ring current carried by charged particles of tens
133 of keV trapped in Saturn's magnetic field was identified in this region. Cold plasma blobs
134 centrifugally detached from the outer boundary of this ring current were believed to fill
135 in the outer magnetosphere [*Goertz, 1984*];

136 • the hot outer magnetosphere (beyond 15 R_s) appeared as a highly time-variable re-
137 gion, dominated by hot plasma which is not centrifugally confined to the vicinity of the
138 equatorial plane as is the cold plasma. Very irregular plasma structures were detected in
139 this region by Voyager 1, at low latitudes. The structure of this region is probably highly
140 variable with solar wind conditions. An other source of variability was also related to the
141 presence of Titan, Saturn's largest moon, which orbits at about 20 R_s . The large atmo-
142 sphere of Titan was indeed found to extend into a vast hydrogen torus atomic hydrogen,
143 believed to be a relatively important plasma source [*Eviatar et al., 1983*];

144 After the Voyager encounters, several puzzling issues remained open. Three of them,
145 which will be discussed in our next sections, are briefly summarized below.

146 First, full consistency between available data and model estimates was not reached.
147 Hubble Space Telescope (HST) observations revealed that large neutral OH densities
148 are present in Saturn's magnetosphere [*Shemansky et al.*, 1993]. The sputtered neutral
149 source required by plasma transport and chemistry models [10^{28} H₂O/s, *Richardson and*
150 *Jurac*, 2005] to explain these observations was found to be more important by one order
151 of magnitude than estimated using Voyager LECP data. Satellite sputtering can only
152 provide a fraction of the water needed [*Jurac et al.*, 2001a; *Paranicas et al.*, 2004]. To
153 solve this inconsistency, *Jurac et al.* [2001b] suggested that very small ring grains in the
154 E-ring (3-8 R_s) could provide a sufficient source of neutrals. In addition, *Jurac et al.*
155 [2002] showed also that a vast majority of water molecules originates from Enceladus'
156 orbit (3.95 R_s), possibly due to presence of an unknown population of colliding small
157 bodies in the vicinity of the icy moon. This missing water source was poorly understood,
158 waiting for new observations from Cassini.

159 Second, the mechanisms responsible for the outward transport in Saturn's magneto-
160 sphere are probably diverse and operate through different modes and on different scales
161 as a function of radial distance. In a magnetosphere dominated by neutrals like that of
162 Saturn, fast neutral transport through charge-exchange may be undoubtedly at play and
163 subsequent re-ionization in the outer magnetosphere of the water-group neutrals initially
164 originating from the inner magnetosphere may be important. The other key process long
165 believed to be an important aspect of outward plasma transport in a rapidly rotating
166 magnetosphere like that of Saturn is the development of the centrifugal interchange in-
167 stability (a Rayleigh-Taylor type instability with the centrifugal force playing the role of
168 gravity) [*Melrose*, 1967]. Evidence for this process at Saturn was lacking before the arrival

169 of Cassini, but its signatures were identified at Jupiter [*Bolton et al.*, 1997; *Kivelson et*
170 *al.*, 1997; *Thorne et al.*, 1997; *Russell*, 2004] using observations from the Galileo space-
171 craft, lending confidence to the hypothesis that it is a common process in giant planet
172 magnetospheres.

173 Third, a remarkable feature of Saturn’s intrinsic magnetic field identified from these
174 past observations was the very close alignment of its magnetic dipole axis with the plan-
175 etary spin axis [*Smith et al.*, 1980]. Therefore, unlike Jupiter, the rotational modulation
176 of Saturn’s magnetic field should be very small, essentially reflecting the effects of non-
177 axisymmetric terms of the Saturnian magnetic field. However, rotational modulation
178 effects are probably significant since a planetary spin modulation was observed on radio
179 emissions [Saturn Kilometric Radiation (SKR), *Warwick et al.*, 1981] and energetic par-
180 ticle fluxes [*Carbary and Krimigis*, 1982]. The spin period of Saturn was determined by
181 Voyager and was commonly accepted to be 10 hours, 39 minutes, 24 ± 7 seconds. This
182 value was inferred from the radio emissions, since the internal rotation period of giant
183 gaseous planets can not be accurately determined from visual observations. However, *Gal-*
184 *lopeau and Lecacheux* [2000] analyzed Ulysses’ observations of SKR and found a striking
185 difference between the results obtained from Voyager and those obtained from Ulysses,
186 with a period deduced from Ulysses’ observations that is fluctuating with time and may
187 differ by 1% from that deduced from Voyager observations 18 years earlier. Since *Galopeau*
188 *et al.* [1995] interpreted the source locations of SKR in terms of electron precipitations
189 possibly caused by the Kelvin-Helmholtz instability arising on the morningside flanks
190 of the Saturnian magnetopause (this instability resulting from the velocity shear between
191 the solar wind and the corotating magnetospheric plasma), *Galopeau and Lecacheux* [2000]

192 proposed that a motion of the SKR radio sources originating from the modulation of the
193 solar wind may explain the fluctuations of the radio period. Re-analyzing Pioneer and
194 Voyager magnetometer data, *Espinosa et al.* [2003a] found later evidence for planetary-
195 period magnetic field oscillations in Saturn's magnetosphere. *Espinosa et al.* [2003b]
196 tentatively suggested that Saturn presents an equatorial anomaly restricted in longitude,
197 which generates a compressional outward propagating wave as the planet rotates. Also,
198 the existence of a high latitude magnetic anomaly in the near-surface Saturnian field was
199 postulated years before by *Galopeau et al.* [1991] based on their analysis of the SKR
200 high-frequency limit. All these observations suggested that a basic rotational asymmetry
201 must exist in the Saturnian magnetosphere, which should be identified with the help of
202 Cassini data, in addition to the basic dayside/nightside asymmetry (local time effects)
203 that results from the interaction of the solar wind with Saturn's magnetic field.

3. THE CASSINI MAPS INSTRUMENT SUITE

204 The Cassini-Huygens complement of plasma and field instruments allows measurements
205 of the magnetic field by the Magnetometer (MAG) instrument [*Dougherty et al.*, 2004], of a
206 very broad range of charged and neutral particle populations by the Magnetospheric Imag-
207 ing Instrument (MIMI) and Cassini Plasma Spectrometer (CAPS) instruments [*Krimigis*
208 *et al.*, 2004; *Young et al.*, 2004] and of the dynamic spectra of plasma waves and radio
209 emissions by the Radio and Plasma Wave Science (RPWS) instrument [*Gurnett et al.*,
210 2004]. Several other particle populations which are of central interest for Saturn's magne-
211 tosphere are also measured by Cassini [cf. Table X in *Blanc et al.*, 2002]. The Cosmic Dust
212 Analyser (CDA) instrument measures cosmic dust particles of Saturnian or interplanetary
213 origin [*Srama et al.*, 2004]. The Ion Neutral Mass Spectrometer (INMS) instrument mea-

214 sures particles from the ionospheres and neutral atmospheres of Titan, the rings and the
215 other satellites [*Waite et al.*, 2004]. Finally, the Ultraviolet Imaging Spectrograph (UVIS)
216 instrument can remotely detect ultraviolet emissions from the orbital neutral clouds of
217 Saturn [*Esposito et al.*, 2004]. Other optical remote sensing instruments can contribute
218 indirectly to Magnetosphere and Plasma Science, and the interested reader is referred to
219 the Cassini-Huygens mission Space Science Reviews volume(s) [*C. T. Russell*, 2004] for
220 more details.

221 The dual-technique Magnetometer (MAG) instrument on-board Cassini consists of two
222 separate magnetometers: 1) a helium magnetometer operating in either a vector (VHM)
223 or scalar (SHM) mode, 2) and a fluxgate magnetometer (FGM), mounted at the end and
224 halfway down a 11-meter boom, respectively. The MAG instrument has the ability to
225 measure magnetic fields up to 256 nanoTeslas (nT) when using the VHM, from 256 to
226 16,384 nT with the SHM, and up to 44,000 nT when using the FGM.

227 The CAPS instrument comprises three sensors: 1) an Ion Mass Spectrometer (IMS) that
228 measures ion energy per charge between 1 electronVolt (eV) and 50 keV, 2) an Electron
229 Spectrometer (ELS) that measures electron energy from 1 eV to 28 keV, and 3) an Ion
230 Beam Spectrometer (IBS) that measures ion energy per charge with an higher resolution
231 and is appropriate for narrowly beamed distributions. The instrument is mounted onto
232 a turntable that rotates around the spacecraft Z-axis in order to enlarge the coverage in
233 the azimuthal direction.

234 The MIMI instrument comprises three sensors: 1) the Low Energy Magnetospheric
235 Measurement System (LEMMS) that detects energetic ions from 20 keV to 18 MeV and
236 energetic electrons from 15 keV to 1 MeV, 2) the Charge Energy Mass Spectrometer

237 (CHEMS) that detects ions from 3 to 230 keV per charge and allows for the identification
238 of their charge state, and 3) the Ion and Neutral Camera (INCA) that detects ion and
239 neutral species from 7 to 200 keV per nucleon. The LEMMS instrument is also mounted
240 on a turntable that rotates around the Y-axis of the spacecraft every 86 s in order to
241 provide good pitch angle coverage.

242 The RPWS instrument comprises several antennas that measure the electric and mag-
243 netic fields of radio emissions and plasma waves, from 1 Hertz (Hz) to 16 MHz for electric
244 fields, and from 1 Hz to 12 kHz for magnetic fields. It also includes a Langmuir probe to
245 measure the density and temperature of the local plasma.

246 The CDA instrument consists of two independent dust detection systems: 1) the Dust
247 Analyser measures particles with large mass (from 10^{-18} to 10^{-12} kilograms) and velocity
248 range (from 1 to 100 kilometers per second), and 2) a High Rate Detector is designed for
249 dust-rich environments (up to 10^4 impacts per second) and determines particle mass for
250 particles with a known speed.

251 The INMS instrument consists of a closed ion source for the measurement of neutrals
252 that do not react with the antechamber surfaces of the instrument and an open ion source
253 for the measurement of reactive neutrals and ions. The instrument samples ambient dense
254 neutral and low-energy (below 100 eV) ion populations, with a mass range from 1 to 99
255 atomic mass units.

256 The UVIS instrument comprises several telescope-spectrographs operating in the ex-
257 treme and far ultraviolet domains (with spectral bands covering a wavelength range from
258 55.8 to 190 nanometers) and is designed to remotely detect emissions from atomic oxygen,
259 and molecular and atomic hydrogen.

4. APPROACH PHASE

260 During the last months before SOI, Cassini-Huygens was first able to combine remote
261 sensing observations of the Saturn system with in-situ measurements of the solar wind.
262 We shall briefly review these data, complemented by HST observations of Saturn's aurora,
263 which provide a unique opportunity to study the Saturnian magnetosphere as an astro-
264 physical object, observed from a distance through its various emissions. From January
265 2004, Cassini's approach was from the morning side of the planet, near a local time of ~ 7
266 hours at distances of up to 1450 Saturn radii or 87 million km.

267 The most spectacular of these observations are probably the HST observations of Sat-
268 urn's UV aurora, which provided a unique set of data during the dedicated January 2004
269 observation campaigns [*Clarke et al.*, 2005]. This data set revealed highly variable auro-
270 ral emissions, likely to be at least partly controlled by the solar wind as the comparison
271 with in-situ measurements of the solar wind and interplanetary magnetic field by Cassini
272 suggested [*Crary et al.*, 2005; *Belenkaya et al.*, 2006]. In contrast to Earth, the main
273 controlling factor appears to be the solar wind dynamic pressure, with the orientation of
274 the interplanetary magnetic field playing a much more limited role. At Saturn, the inter-
275 planetary magnetic field is weaker and the magnetosheath hotter, therefore reconnection
276 should be less efficient than at Earth [*Leisner et al.*, 2007].

277 The RPWS data complemented the auroral observations by providing remote sensing
278 data of the radio component of Saturn's auroral emissions, the Saturn kilometric radiation
279 (SKR). This emission, which is seen up to 1.2-1.3 Mhz in the RPWS dynamic spectra,
280 contains a wealth of information because it displays a double modulation. First the
281 emission is modulated with the planetary rotation period, showing that the emitting

282 system itself (e.g., the interplay of the magnetic field geometry, plasma characteristics
283 and energetic electron fluxes which produces the emission via the so-called cyclotron
284 maser instability) is longitudinally asymmetric or is modulated by the planetary rotation
285 (Saturn, as a radio source, has been compared to a strobe light). Then, superimposed on
286 this planetary rotation modulation, the SKR also varies in intensity over a longer time
287 scale, in a way that large SKR variations correlate with UV ones [cf. Figure 1c of *Kurth*
288 *et al.*, 2005a], while the solar wind dynamic pressure correlates much better and more
289 extensively with SKR power [*Desch*, 1983 and many further studies - see review in *Zarka*,
290 1998].

291 From the UV and radio emission, one can infer a rather classic magnetosphere, in which
292 solar wind/magnetosphere coupling plays an important role, but a longitudinal asymmetry
293 of still yet unknown nature in the magnetic field and charged particle distribution is
294 also important since the apparently axisymmetric magnetic field of Saturn, as deduced
295 from Pioneer and Voyager observations, makes it difficult to understand the strong SKR
296 modulation without appealing to the existence of a such an asymmetry.

297 A second, very different and rather unique, feature of Saturn's magnetosphere is re-
298 vealed by two other types of emissions, the UV emission of its atomic oxygen cloud and
299 its energetic neutral atom (ENA) emission. The observations of the neutral atomic oxygen
300 emission by UVIS [*Esposito et al.*, 2005] revealed the presence of an extended atomic oxy-
301 gen torus, peaking near the orbit of Enceladus up to $\sim 16 R_s$ in the orbital plane. UVIS
302 also observed a very broad torus of neutral hydrogen that fills the entire magnetosphere,
303 extending through the magnetopause ($\sim 20 R_s$ at 12:00 local time). This torus observa-
304 tion complemented the pre-Cassini observations of the OH cloud, showing that Saturn's

305 magnetosphere is immersed in a very extended cloud of neutral gas, apparently dominated
306 by hydrogen and water products, and whose density even exceeds the local plasma den-
307 sity almost everywhere by at least one order of magnitude. Saturn’s neutral/ion mixing
308 ration (~ 10) is 3 to 4 orders of magnitude greater than at Jupiter [*Esposito et al.* 2005;
309 *Delamere et al.*, 2007]. Neutral oxygen in the Saturnian system showed also variability.
310 UVIS observed a transient event that produced O in the system, which could result from
311 a single injection of neutral gas, which then dissipated within about 2 months. The ENA
312 images, which show a very broad emission extending beyond the orbit of Titan, reveals
313 in a different way the importance of the neutral gas population and its interaction with
314 charged particles throughout the magnetospheric cavity [*Krimigis et al.*, 2005]. In these
315 charge-exchange processes, neutral gas is removed from the system into the interplanetary
316 medium while replacing old ions with new ions.

317 Finally, the CDA observations of high-velocity dust streams ($\leq 100 \text{ km}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$) before and
318 after the first crossing of Saturn’s magnetosphere by Cassini showed that, just as Jupiter,
319 Saturn’s magnetosphere behaves as a giant dust particle accelerator [e.g., *Kempf et al.*,
320 2005]. Outside of these magnetospheres, the dynamics of charged dust particles are gov-
321 erned by their interaction with the interplanetary magnetic field. The main source of
322 Jovian dust streams is Jupiter’s moon Io and its volcanic activity. The characteristics
323 and amplitude of the impact signals produced by Saturnian and Jovian dust streams in
324 the CDA instrument are very similar, suggesting that the mass and impact speeds are
325 at least comparable, with grain sizes below 10 nm. The observed composition of dust
326 stream particles observed outside the magnetosphere, their energy, and specific trajectory
327 calculations suggest that these particles originated near the outer edge of the main rings

328 before being accelerated outward by the internal magnetospheric electric field associated
329 with the diurnal rotation of the planetary magnetic field and background plasma (the so-
330 called (radially oriented) corotation electric field). Remarkably, CDA enabled us to obtain
331 information on the properties of Saturn’s main ring particles, even at large distances from
332 the ring system.

333 In summary, even before the SOI observations, several of the key features of Saturn’s
334 magnetosphere could be deduced from its broad variety of emissions: a magnetosphere
335 with a significant modulation by planetary rotation, partly controlled by its interaction
336 with the solar wind, with a strong natural corotation electric field accelerating dust par-
337 ticles outwards, and embedded in a broad neutral cloud of hydrogen and water products
338 with local densities comparable to or significantly larger than the ionized population.

5. SATURN ORBIT INSERTION

339 Then, on July 1, 2004, Cassini-Huygens was successfully inserted into Saturn orbit.
340 Figure 1 shows the trajectory of the Cassini spacecraft during SOI, together with the
341 trajectories of Pioneer 11, Voyager 1 and 2, in terms of local time (LT) coverage (Figure
342 1, left panel) and distance to the Saturnian equatorial plane (Figure 1, right panel). The
343 Cassini spacecraft encountered the Saturnian magnetosphere through its early morning
344 sector, near 08:00 LT inbound and 04:00 LT outbound. The spacecraft stayed below the
345 Saturnian equatorial plane during the majority of the flyby, except near closest approach
346 (which occurred at $1.3 R_s$) when it crossed this plane twice (around $2.6 R_s$). There
347 were no special close encounters with any of the Saturnian satellites during this orbit,
348 apart from the unique pass through the ring system of the planet. As this figure shows,
349 the three previous flybys provided a very limited local time coverage of the Saturnian

350 magnetosphere, basically limited to the noon and early morning sectors, but some coverage
351 in latitude.

352 Figure 1 enables us to compare the locations of the outer boundaries of the Satur-
353 nian magnetosphere, the magnetopause, which controls the coupling of the incident solar
354 wind flow to the magnetosphere. The location of this boundary is determined by the dy-
355 namic pressure of the solar wind and the combined plasma and magnetic pressure of the
356 magnetosphere. Since these pressures are strongly time variable, several magnetopause
357 crossings were observed by the spacecraft (7 in total on the inbound and outbound passes,
358 *Dougherty et al.* [2005]). The last inbound magnetopause crossing occurred at a radial
359 distance of $30.7 R_s$, $8 R_s$ below the equatorial plane, around 02:44 UT on June 29, whereas
360 the first outbound one occurred at $34.5 R_s$ from the planet, $9.6 R_s$ below the equatorial
361 plane, around 03:56 UT on July 4. When compared with the average *Arridge et al.*' [2006]
362 empirical magnetopause model, based on magnetometer observations obtained during the
363 first six orbits of Cassini, the last observed inbound crossing is located further from the
364 planet than the model, the magnetosphere being more inflated at that time. On the
365 contrary, the first observed outbound magnetopause crossing is located closer, the mag-
366 netosphere being more compressed at that time relative to the model. A survey of all the
367 bow shock and magnetopause crossings observed during SOI indicated that the Saturnian
368 magnetospheric boundaries appeared very dynamic [*Hendricks et al.*, 2005; *Hansen et al.*,
369 2005].

370 The overall context of solar wind and interplanetary conditions at the time of the
371 arrival of Cassini in the Saturnian magnetosphere is discussed in detail by *Jackman et*
372 *al.* [2005] and is shown to support this interpretation of two rather different states of

373 the Saturnian magnetosphere during inbound and outbound Cassini observations due to
374 the effect of the arrival at Saturn of a corotating interaction region (CIR) compression
375 region. The structure of the interplanetary medium observed by Cassini en route to Saturn
376 was found to be consistent with that expected to be produced by corotating interacting
377 regions during the declining phase of the solar cycle. The observed highly structured
378 nature of the interplanetary magnetic field generally consisted of two magnetic sectors per
379 solar rotation, with crossings of the heliospheric current sheet usually embedded within
380 high field compression regions lasting for a few days, surrounded by rarefaction regions
381 lasting for several days and in which the field strength (and probably the density) is very
382 low. As the compression regions reached the Saturnian magnetosphere, the solar wind
383 pressure compressed the system. During SOI, *Jackman et al.* [2005] suggested that such
384 a magnetospheric compression is likely to have occurred early on July 2.

385 We discuss in the next sections observations obtained 24 hours on either side of Cassini
386 closest approach (CA, which occurred at a distance of $1.33 R_s$, 02:40 UT on July 1).
387 During the insertion burn manoeuvre (at a distance of $\sim 2 R_s$, 90 minutes prior to closest
388 approach) and during some of the spacecraft rolls intended to satisfy safety and science
389 operations (around closest approach ± 2 h), some of the instruments were turned off as
390 a precaution. Other obtained data are contaminated either by the noise from the rocket
391 engine firing or by insufficient sensor orientation knowledge. Interestingly, five hours after
392 the orbit insertion manoeuvre, Cassini observed in-situ ion cyclotron waves (observation
393 7 in panel 3 of Figure 4) induced by its own engine exhaust gases (including CO_2 , N_2 ,
394 CO), ionized and accelerated by the magnetospheric rotation [*Russell et al.*, 2005]. The
395 authors estimated that, when the engines fired, they produced a plume of over 850 kg of

396 neutral gas that reached distances close to $5 R_s$ before the energy of the picked up ions
397 reached a value sufficient to generate the strong waves observed.

6. A SINGLE INSTRUMENT APPROACH

398 The identification of the various Saturnian magnetospheric regions following SOI has
399 been discussed from the point of view of each single instrument in various papers
400 [*Dougherty et al.*, 2005; *Gurnett et al.*, 2005; *Krimigis et al.*, 2005; *Young et al.*, 2005;
401 *Krupp et al.*, 2005]. Their characterization and the nomenclature used were based on
402 the particular individual scientific objectives of each instrument and, hence, different re-
403 gions and boundaries were identified. We shall summarize in this section what has been
404 reported by each instrument separately.

405 Figure 2 represents observations from the MIMI LEMMS, MAG VHM, CAPS ELS,
406 CAPS IMS, and RPWS sensors obtained on June 30 and July 1. Colour-coded energy-
407 time and frequency-time spectrograms are used to represent particle and wave instrument
408 observations, respectively. Low- and high-energy electron and ion observations are rep-
409 resented on two separate panels for the sake of clarity. Magnetospheric magnetic field
410 components are described in a Saturn-centered polar spherical coordinate system. Before
411 discussing this first unified picture, we start with a summary of the morphology of the
412 magnetospheric plasma and fields described by each of the different instruments sepa-
413 rately. Again, we begin with the outermost regions and move inwards. Observations are
414 organized in the approximate chronological order.

415 1) The morphology of the magnetosphere has been identified with the help of the ener-
416 getic particle observations (panels 1 and 2 of Figure 2) by looking at large-scale changes
417 in energetic electron and ion intensities and their variations [*Krimigis et al.*, 2005]. These

418 features enabled *Krimigis et al.* to distinguish three distinct regions both on the inbound
419 and outbound passes:

420 • the lobes, where the energetic particle intensities are very low (plasma almost absent)
421 and the fluctuations very small;

422 • the plasmashet (inside $14 R_s$ inbound and $12 R_s$ outbound), populated by high-
423 energy particles (several tens of keV) with high intensities;

424 • the radiation belts (inside $10 R_s$ inbound and $8.5 R_s$ outbound), populated by very
425 high-energy particles (0.1 to 1 MeV) with the highest intensities. Signatures of spatial (ab-
426 sorption by dust or icy satellites) and temporal (injection events) dynamics are observed
427 in this region.

428 Although the inner and outer boundaries of the plasmashet appear very well-marked
429 (abrupt transitions) on Figure 2, *Krimigis et al.* reported frequent brief entry/exit (into
430 the lobes) into a similar region during most of the outbound pass, characteristic of an
431 extended and dynamic plasmashet, with plasma motions off the equatorial plane.

432 2) The magnetometer data (panel 3 of Figure 2) have been used to characterize the
433 magnetospheric regions by looking at large-scale changes in the field magnitude, orien-
434 tation, and fluctuations [*Dougherty et al.*, 2005] and estimating the main contributions
435 (internal and external) to the total magnetospheric field. The relative importance of each
436 of these contributions enabled *Dougherty et al.* to distinguish three distinct regions both
437 on the inbound and outbound passes:

438 • the lobe-like outer regions, where the contribution from the confinement of the mag-
439 netosphere by the solar wind to the total magnetospheric field is significant. In this region,
440 the level of magnetic fluctuations appears very weak;

441 • the plasmashet (inside $15 R_s$ inbound and $12 R_s$ outbound), where plasma effects
442 inside the magnetosphere significantly contribute to the total magnetospheric field. In this
443 region, the magnetic configuration is changing (the magnetic field lines are stretched) and
444 is dominated by the radial component B_r . Moreover, the level of magnetic fluctuations is
445 enhanced;

446 • the quasi-dipolar inner region (inside $5 R_s$), where the contribution to the total
447 magnetospheric field is dominated by the planetary intrinsic magnetic field. In this region,
448 the magnetic field appears very steady and is dominated by the dipolar component B_θ .

449 3) Observations of large-scale changes in bulk properties and composition of the low-
450 energy electron (panel 4 of Figure 2) and ion (panel 5 of Figure 2) plasma enabled *Young*
451 *et al.* [2005] to distinguish three distinct regions both on the inbound and outbound
452 passes:

453 • the high-latitude magnetosphere, where the low-energy plasma is almost absent and
454 is composed mainly of protons due to the distance from the equatorial plane where heavier
455 ions are more concentrated because of their higher masses;

456 • the outer plasmasphere (inside $14.4 R_s$ inbound and $13.6 R_s$ outbound), where the
457 plasma contains a mixture of protons and water-group heavy ions, and is more variable.
458 Both the protons and the water-group ions are observed to have energies close to the
459 corotational temperatures (hence proportional to their mass, giving rise to the two pro-
460 portional profiles evident in the fifth panel of Figure 2);

461 • the inner plasmasphere (inside $9 R_s$ inbound and $7.6 R_s$ outbound), where the plasma
462 approximately corotates, is dominated by water-group ions and contains two electron

463 components with temperatures of a few tens of eV and a few hundreds of eV. In particular,
464 the A and B rings were observed to have an oxygen-rich atmosphere.

465 The transition from the high-latitude magnetosphere to the outer plasmasphere is char-
466 acterized by an abrupt increase in plasma density.

467 4) The morphology of the magnetosphere has been identified with the help of the RPWS
468 instrument (panel 6 of Figure 2) by looking at various plasma waves inside the magneto-
469 spheric cavity [*Gurnett et al.*, 2005]. These features enabled these authors to distinguish
470 two main distinct regions both on the inbound and outbound passes:

471 • the relatively empty magnetosphere, where, in particular, the electrostatic band at
472 the upper hybrid frequency (fuh) becomes undetectable;

473 • the dense and noisy inner magnetosphere (inside of about $\sim 10 R_s$), where the
474 strongest and most complex wave emissions are observed (electrostatic oscillations at the
475 upper hybrid frequency, electron cyclotron harmonic waves and whistler mode emissions
476 related to pitch-angle scattering and loss of energetic radiation belts electrons, and auroral
477 hiss-like emissions near Saturn's rings). These plasma waves are in-situ and, therefore,
478 exclude the SKR, dominant on panel 6 but which is a propagating radio emissions de-
479 tected remotely. Finally, a systematic increase of electron densities (deduced from upper
480 hybrid frequency emissions) with decreasing radial distances was observed, peaking near
481 the outer edge of the planetary A ring.

482 This section identifies the different boundaries - and boundary names - at different
483 locations, seen by different instruments. Using the characteristics of the different regions
484 observed individually by the MAPS instruments, we can merge their description into four
485 different regions and subregions, as marked by the vertical lines in Figure 2. As we will

486 describe in section 8, these regions consist of the Saturnian ring system (Region 1, inside
487 the dotted lines) and the cold plasma torus (Region 2, between the dotted and dashed
488 lines) in the inner magnetosphere, the dynamic (between the dash-dotted and dashed
489 lines) and extended (between the solid and dash-dotted lines) plasmashet (Region 3),
490 and the high-latitude outer magnetosphere (Region 4, outside the solid lines).

491 The inner magnetosphere is characterized by the presence of the dominant plasma and
492 neutral sources of the Saturnian system, giving birth to a magnetosphere dominated by
493 water group particles. The dynamic and extended plasmashet, where the ring current
494 resides, is a variable region with stretched magnetic field lines and contains a mixture of
495 cold and hot plasma populations. The high-latitude outer magnetosphere is characterized
496 by a very quiet magnetic field and an absence of plasma.

7. COMPARISON WITH VOYAGER

497 In order to compare the large-scale morphology of the Saturnian magnetosphere iden-
498 tified at the time of Voyager with the new picture observed by Cassini, we have superim-
499 posed on *Sittler et al.* [1983] original illustration the CAPS ELS and IMS measurements
500 along the Cassini SOI inbound trajectory. Figure 3 provides us with the resulting picture.
501 The regions crossed by the Cassini spacecraft during its SOI orbit do not differ drastically
502 from what was previously observed by the Voyager spacecraft 23 years ago. The new
503 CAPS measurements match the Voyager picture at noon remarkably, the same regions
504 being qualitatively observed at equivalent radial and latitudinal distances.

505 A similar comparison can be done with observations from the magnetometers, energetic
506 particle, and plasma wave instruments carried by Voyager and Cassini. We shall make

507 use of published figures (in *Blanc et al.* [2002] and in the Cassini special issue of *Science*,
508 volume 307, 2005) in order to compare and contrast these observations.

509 We can first look at magnetic field residuals (i.e., when the contribution of the intrinsic
510 planetary magnetic field [*Davis and Smith*, 1992] has been removed from original obser-
511 vations) from Voyager 1 and Cassini SOI inbound and outbound observations, in order to
512 emphasize the effects associated with external magnetic field contributions (which include
513 local plasma effects). *Dougherty et al.* [2005] reported that there indeed has been no no-
514 ticeable change in the internal magnetic field between the two epochs, either in strength
515 or in its near-alignment with the planetary rotation axis. In the inner magnetosphere, the
516 largest contribution to the external magnetospheric field is from the ring current, up to
517 20-30 nT in magnitude. Using *Connerney et al.*'s [1983] azimuthally symmetric ring cur-
518 rent model, we can estimate the properties of this current system. *Dougherty et al.* [2005]
519 indicated that the ring current within the magnetosphere was thinner (half-thickness $<$
520 $2 R_s$) and more extended (inner radius $\sim 6 R_s$ and outer radius $> 20 R_s$) than estimated
521 at the time of Voyager (half thickness of $3 R_s$, inner radius at $8 R_s$, outer radius at 15.5
522 R_s). Values determined by *Bunce et al.* [2005] (albeit restricted to Cassini outbound SOI
523 observations only) were $1.75 R_s$, $6.5 R_s$ and $17.5 R_s$, respectively. *Alexeev et al.* [2006]
524 suggested that the ring current magnetic moment increases with system size, Cassini in-
525 bound SOI corresponding to the most expanded state with a magnetic moment equals to
526 1.5 times the Voyager 1 value. Whereas spin-periodic oscillations of the magnetic field
527 were not discussed in the initial results of Cassini (cf. *Dougherty et al.*, [2005]), they were
528 clearly present in retrospect [*Giampieri et al.*, 2006], as observed by previous spacecraft.

529 We can then look at LECP and MIMI LEMMS ion (> 30 keV) energy-time spectrograms
530 for the complete Voyager 2 (Figure 3 in *Blanc et al.* [2002]) and Cassini SOI (Figure 1 of
531 *Krimigis et al.*, [2005]) encounters. Remember that Voyager 2 closest approach occurred
532 at a radial distance of $2.67 R_s$, i.e. avoiding the main planetary ring system, contrary
533 to Cassini. A first look at observations in the inner magnetosphere reveals that particle
534 intensities are very similar for the two epochs, as well as their radial variations. Partic-
535 ularly noticeable in both spectrograms are a depletion in the intensity of energetic ions
536 between the orbits of Dione and Enceladus, and an increase inside the orbits of Enceladus
537 and Mimas [*Krimigis et al.*, 2005]. Finally, outbound observations reveal the large-scale
538 dynamics of the Saturnian outer magnetosphere, with frequent entry/exit within lobe-like
539 and plasmashet-like regions.

540 We can finally look at the Planetary Radio Astronomy (PRA), Plasma Wave System
541 (PWS) and RPWS frequency-time spectrograms for the Voyager 1 (Figure 18 in *Blanc et*
542 *al.*, [2002]) and Cassini SOI (Figure 3 of *Gurnett et al.*, [2005]) encounters. The RPWS
543 range indeed covers the PWS range and a large part of the PRA one. The most striking
544 feature emerging from this comparison is undoubtedly the better temporal and frequency
545 resolution of the RPWS instrument on-board Cassini, which provides much more detail
546 than the PWS instrument (frequency range 10 Hz - 56 kHz) on-board Voyager (see for
547 example the fine structures in the Saturn Kilometric Radiation reported by *Kurth et*
548 *al.*, [2005b]). Finally, the most puzzling result reported by *Gurnett et al.* [2005] is the
549 substantial shift (6 minutes) that has occurred in the radio rotation period between the
550 Voyager (10 hours, 39 minutes, 24 ± 7 seconds) and Cassini era (10 hours, 45 minutes,
551 45 ± 36 seconds). As mentioned before, Ulysses observations previously revealed that

552 the radio rotation period is not constant, fluctuating with time [*Galopeau and Lecacheux,*
553 2000], the reasons for this real physical difference being not well-understood.

554 In summary, the direct comparison between Voyager and Cassini SOI observations made
555 possible by their relatively close trajectories shows that the large-scale structure of Sat-
556 urn’s magnetosphere was qualitatively similar at the two epochs. However, the vast im-
557 provements of Cassini instruments over those of Voyager provide us with a wealth of more
558 detailed information, including original information on plasma dynamics and composition
559 inside the inner magnetospheric regions of Saturn. These features are discussed in the
560 next section, which converges on a unified view of the different Cassini observations.

8. A MULTI-INSTRUMENTAL VIEW

561 From the comparison of the regions and boundaries observed by the different MAPS
562 instruments, we were able to identify four different regions in the first Cassini crossing
563 of Saturn’s magnetosphere. Let us now have a closer look at the MAPS data, using all
564 instruments simultaneously, to point out specific processes characterizing each of these
565 regions. Figure 4, which is repeated from Figure 2, shows the specific features used for
566 this analysis in each data set. The interested reader can find the detailed observations in
567 the references given in the text.

8.1. The Ring System (Region 1, within $3 R_s$)

568 This region, which extends between the dotted vertical lines in Figure 2, covers the main
569 A and B rings, and the F and G rings. It is characterized by a strong coupling between
570 plasma, dust, and ring particles. We concentrate on the environment of the main rings:
571 the unique data set returned by MAPS instruments in this region is shown in Figure 5,

572 superposed on a visible image of a radial profile of the main rings structure provided by
573 the ISS narrow-angle camera in October 2004. From left to right, one can see the B ring
574 outer edge, the Cassini Division, and then the A ring with the Encke gap near its outer
575 edge. Vertical lines are drawn to show the boundaries of the different regions, as well as
576 the keplerian synchronous orbit near $1.85 R_s$. Analysis of the MAPS instrument data sets
577 over the rings reveals several interesting features.

578 Energetic particles. The main rings are a very strong absorber of energetic particles
579 (observation 3 in panels 1 and 2 of Figure 4). The MIMI energetic particle fluxes drop
580 below the measurement threshold exactly at the outer edge of the A ring, and no significant
581 energetic particle flux is detected over the main rings. So the radiation belts stop exactly at
582 the outer edge of the main rings. A second radiation belt, inside the main rings, planetward
583 of the D ring, has been discovered by remote sensing using the INCA sensor which detected
584 the energetic neutrals produced by this second belt [e.g., *Krimigis et al.*, 2005]. The main
585 rings dig an empty cavity inside Saturn's radiation belts, in which production of neutrals
586 and plasma can be due only to UV and low-energy particle irradiation, and to micro-
587 meteorite bombardment of the ring particles. This production is important enough to
588 maintain an exosphere and a tenuous ionosphere, which have been probed by the CAPS
589 and INMS instruments and display specific chemical and dynamical features.

590 Structure of the ring ionosphere. The physical and dynamical structure of the rings
591 has a direct imprint on the radial distribution of this ring ionosphere. The fluxes of low
592 energy electrons seen by CAPS ELS (observation 2 in panel 4 of Figure 4) on the shaded
593 side of the rings are directly anti-correlated with their optical thickness (bottom panel of
594 Figure 5). This suggests a primary photo-production of electrons by UV photons on the

595 sunlit side of the rings, opposite the spacecraft, followed by partial electron transmission
596 through the ring plane [Coates *et al.*, 2004]. Electron fluxes reach their highest values
597 inside the Cassini and Encke divisions. The ion population is also apparently influenced
598 by the rings (observation 1 in panel 5 of Figure 4), though in a different way. CAPS IMS
599 estimated densities are shown in Figure 5 [from Tokar *et al.*, 2005], for the two dominant
600 ions O^+ (blue line) and O_2^+ (red line), together with the CAPS estimate of the total ion
601 density (green line). The total electron density derived from RPWS plasma waves (black
602 line) is also shown for comparison. No clear signature of the Cassini division is seen; but
603 ion fluxes drop abruptly near the synchronous orbit at $\sim 1.85 R_s$, suggesting that this may
604 be the dominant effect. The average ion energy closely follows the value expected for local
605 production of ions by pick-up from the rings neutral exosphere source [Tokar *et al.*, 2005].
606 This relationship of the plasma structure and dynamics to ring dynamics is also suggested
607 by the RPWS electric field spectrogram taken in the same region (cf. Figure 5). One of
608 its main features is the broad V-shaped emission centered on about 0330 UT with well
609 defined low- and high-frequency cut-offs (causing its V-shape in the frequency-time plane)
610 ranging from about 1 to 8 kHz. The V-shaped frequency-time variation of this emission
611 is very similar to a commonly occurring terrestrial whistler-mode emission called auroral
612 hiss. At Earth, auroral hiss is generated by magnetic field-aligned beams of low energy
613 electrons (100 eV to several keV) associated with the current system responsible for the
614 aurora. Similarly, the auroral hiss-like emissions observed near Saturn's rings strongly
615 suggests that a low energy beam of electrons is being accelerated outward away from the
616 ring at a radial distance of about $1.7 R_s$, e.g. not far from the Keplerian synchronous
617 orbit. Most likely this electron beam is associated with a current system induced by an

618 electrodynamic interaction between the rings and the co-rotating magnetospheric plasma
619 [*Gurnett et al.*, 2005; *Xin et al.*, 2006].

620 Chemical composition of the rings ionosphere. Two instruments, CAPS and INMS,
621 were able to measure ion composition over the rings. Over the main rings, the CAPS
622 IMS instrument detected the presence of atomic and molecular oxygen ions in the ther-
623 mal plasma, as already pointed out. The Ion and Neutral Mass Spectrometer (INMS)
624 found signatures of O^+ , O_2^+ , and H^+ ions [*Waite et al.*, 2005]. These measurements must
625 be related to the potential ion sources. There are essentially two potential sources for
626 the ring exosphere and ionosphere: (1) ultraviolet photo-dissociation of water vapour pro-
627 duced by meteoritic bombardment and (2) sputtering of the icy ring particles by photons
628 or energetic particles. In the absence of energetic particles over the main rings, the ring
629 ionosphere is likely to originate from ultraviolet photo-sputtering of the icy rings, produc-
630 ing free oxygen molecules and subsequent photo-ionization of O_2 [*Tokar et al.*, 2005]. But
631 the absolute value of this source still needs to be assessed, with the possible use of test
632 particle models [*Bouhram et al.*, 2006; *Luhmann et al.*, 2006].

633 Outside of the main rings, in the vicinity of the F and G rings, sputtering by energetic
634 particles can be a more efficient source for the thermal plasma. The CAPS ELS instrument
635 (observation 4 on panel 4 of Figure 4) observed a large nearly isotropic signal likely due
636 to the penetration of high-energy particles from the trapped radiation belts. In these
637 regions, dust impacts have been recorded by RPWS (*Wang et al.*, [2006], observation 5
638 on panel 6 of Figure 4).

8.2. The Cold Plasma Torus (Region 2, within 5-6 R_s)

639 This region, which extends between the dotted and dashed vertical lines in Figure 2,
640 hosts the majority of the important sources of cold plasma, neutrals (the icy satellites
641 Mimas, Tethys, Enceladus, and Dione), and dust (the diffuse E-ring). Its ion composition
642 appears to be dominated by water-derived products. Neutrals have been known to be
643 dominant there before Cassini observations, and to be chemically coupled to the multi-ion
644 cold plasma [e.g., *Richardson, 1998*]. This cold plasma, being confined near the equatorial
645 plane by the centrifugal force, gives rise to a corotating torus.

646 Electron density structure. From observations at the upper hybrid frequency and from
647 quasi-thermal noise spectroscopy, *Gurnett et al. [2005]* and *Moncuquet et al. [2005]* deter-
648 mined plasma densities and temperatures. The local plasma density was found to increase
649 continuously with decreasing radial distance (maximum at 170 cm^{-3} during the equatorial
650 ring plane crossings), whereas the opposite prevailed for core electron temperatures (0.5
651 eV at $2.5 R_s$ to 6 eV at $6 R_s$). Taking advantage of the excursion in latitude provided
652 by the spacecraft trajectory, *Moncuquet et al. [2005]* evaluated the total plasma density
653 in the equatorial plane and the plasma scale height, which appears to be very low just
654 outside the main rings ($0.1 R_s$) and to increase rapidly with increasing radial distance (up
655 to $0.9 R_s$ around $6 R_s$).

656 Ion densities and composition. Cassini plasma instruments have the ability to resolve
657 plasma composition and differentiate amongst the different water products, both at low
658 energies (through CAPS IMS) and at high energies (through MIMI CHEMS). *Sittler et*
659 *al. [2005, 2006a]* derived proton and water-group ion fluid moments using the CAPS
660 IMS sensor. Their analysis was limited to inbound observations since the viewing of the

661 corotation flow was not optimal on the outbound pass (noticeable in panel 5 of Figure 2,
662 with reduced counts outbound). Water group ions are found to outnumber protons inside
663 of Dione's orbit (observation 6 in panel 5 of Figure 4). Their temperatures decrease with
664 decreasing radial distance (100 eV near the orbit of Rhea, 40 eV outside of Mimas orbit).
665 CAPS data suggest the plasma flow is near the corotation speed inside the orbit of Dione,
666 whereas *Wahlund et al.* [2005] derived azimuthal speeds significantly below co-rotation
667 inside $5 R_s$ from RPWS Langmuir Probe observations. In fact, the Langmuir Probe saw
668 two ion populations one - also observed by CAPS - moving at the corotation speed and one
669 trapped near dust particles and moving at the Keplerian speed, the reported subcorotating
670 azimuthal speeds being a weighted average of those two speeds. In addition, *Smith et al.*
671 [2005] identified the presence of nitrogen ions in the inner magnetosphere using CAPS
672 data. These ions have been detected at distances of $3.5\text{-}13.5 R_s$ from Saturn and at
673 energies (< 2 keV) that indicate they are formed locally and not from inward diffusing
674 Titan-generated plasma, otherwise they would be more energetic. Indeed, if they diffuse
675 radially inward, while conserving the first and second adiabatic invariants, they can have
676 energies greater than several hundred keV inside of Dione's orbit [*Sittler et al.*, 2006c].
677 The signal from these ions increases with decreasing distance from Saturn with the largest
678 concentration of nitrogen ions detected near Enceladus' orbit. Thus, while some of these
679 ions could originate from a Titan-generated neutral nitrogen torus, the dominate source
680 appears to be at or near Enceladus [*Smith*, 2006].

681 The hot electron component (observations 8 on panel 1 of Figure 4 in MIMI LEMMS,
682 but also noticeable in CAPS ELS data) drops significantly inside the inner torus where
683 significant amounts of neutral oxygen have been observed [*Esposito et al.*, 2005]. More

684 precisely, *Krimigis et al.* [2005] reported a depletion in the intensity of energetic ions
685 and electrons between the orbits of Dione and Enceladus (panels 1 and 2 of Figure 2,
686 between dashed lines, see the locations of the moons indicated on the Figure), followed
687 by an increase inside the orbits of Enceladus and Mimas (starting just outside of the
688 dotted lines, see the locations of the moons indicated on the Figure). The depletion of
689 ions between the orbits of Dione and Enceladus suggest that the neutral gas observed
690 by *Esposito et al.* [2005] may be the main sink for energetic particles through charge
691 exchange.

8.3. The Dynamic and Extended Plasmasheet (Region 3, beyond $6 R_s$)

692 This is the region located between the dashed and dash-dotted vertical lines in Figure
693 2, where we expect rotationally-driven and/or other modes of plasma transport to be im-
694 portant, as suggested by the many signatures of ion and electron dispersion seen by both
695 CAPS and MIMI. It apparently extends outwards into a more tenuous plasma region, the
696 extended plasma sheet (between dashed-dotted and solid lines). These regions are ideal to
697 study how radial plasma transport processes can act to redistribute the magnetospheric
698 plasma produced at different distances by a variety of sources. The mechanisms respon-
699 sible for this transport are probably very diverse and seem to operate through different
700 modes and on different scales as a function of radial distance [e.g., *Blanc et al.*, 2005]:
701 fast neutral transport, radial plasma transport driven by small-scale or large-scale insta-
702 bilities, or large-scale circulation cells. Among these mechanisms, flux tube interchange
703 motions and the resulting localized particle dispersion events have been observed for the
704 first time at Saturn by Cassini instruments.

705 Flux-tube interchange motions. The centrifugal instability (a Rayleigh-Taylor type in-
706 stability with the centrifugal force playing the role of gravity) is known to trigger small-
707 scale motions through the interchange of magnetic flux tubes [Hill, 1976]. SOI observa-
708 tions provided the first evidence that centrifugally-driven plasma motions take place in
709 Saturn’s corotation-dominated magnetosphere and contribute (at least partly) to plasma
710 redistribution in the magnetospheric system: several of the observed magnetic field and
711 plasma signatures can be related to plasma transport triggered by the interchange insta-
712 bility [André et al., 2005; Burch et al., 2005; Hill et al., 2005; Leisner et al., 2005; Mauk
713 et al., 2005]. Through this process magnetic flux tubes of dense and cold plasma move
714 outwards and are replaced by flux tubes of tenuous and hot plasma that return inwards.

715 Between 6 and 10 R_s (observation 9 on panel 3 of Figure 4), the MAG instrument
716 reported numerous observations of localized magnetic flux tubes in which a decrease of
717 the magnetic pressure is balanced by increased plasma pressure. These flux tubes, of large
718 duration and size, appeared more dipolar than their surroundings, an effect associated with
719 the reduced efficiency of the centrifugal force in stretching the magnetic field lines since
720 their plasma mass content is probably lower [Leisner et al., 2005]. RPWS observations of
721 the local total plasma density inside these flux tubes (from the upper hybrid frequency)
722 confirmed the presence of a density cavity within these flux tubes (observation 10 on panel
723 6 of Figure 4).

724 Associated particle dispersion events. The CAPS and MIMI instruments revealed lo-
725 calized planetward injections of hot ion and electron plasma (in the tens to hundreds of
726 keV range) between 4 and 11 R_s (observations 11 on panels 4 and 5 of Figure 4). These
727 energy-time dispersed signatures are produced by the combination of localized inward

728 transport of hot plasma and azimuthal, energy-dependent gradient and curvature drifts.
729 The injections responsible for these signatures appear to be randomly distributed in local
730 time and Saturnian longitude [*Hill et al.*, 2005], as we expect for a rotationally-driven
731 transport process. *Burch et al.* [2005] modelled CAPS observations of drift dispersion
732 signatures occurring within an interchanging flux tube that penetrated deep into the
733 magnetosphere, bringing with it a density cavity and hot plasma, both characteristic of
734 the environment observed at larger distances. Interestingly, *Mauk et al.* [2005] pointed
735 out similarities with hot plasma injection signatures at Jupiter [*Mauk et al.*, 1999]. In
736 addition, this region is further fully pervaded by a two-component electron population,
737 similarly to what *Frank and Paterson* [2000] observed in the Io torus.

738 Figure 6 summarizes observations from RPWS, CAPS ELS and IMS, and MAG of
739 an interchange event observed on June 30 around 21:05 UT. A detailed examination of
740 this figure reveals the presence of an isolated magnetic flux tube (between vertical brown
741 lines) with unusual plasma and magnetic properties. This flux tube is observed at a
742 radial distance of $R = 5.94 R_s$ and at a distance of $Z = 1 R_s$ below the magnetospheric
743 equatorial plane. This flux tube is characterized by the following properties:

- 744 1. it contains less plasma than its surroundings, as deduced from the observation of
745 the slight (by a factor 2) decreases of the upper hybrid frequency (first panel of Figure 6);
- 746 2. it is associated with an hotter electron population (second panel of Figure 6). This
747 suprathermal electrons may be produced locally by field-aligned currents or accelerated in
748 the outer magnetosphere and transported inwards. *Rymer et al.*, [2007] identified the likely
749 source of this hotter electron population to be the middle magnetosphere, with transport

750 to the inner magnetosphere via radial diffusion regulated by discrete interchange-like
751 injections as observed in the particular flux tube discussed here;

752 3. it is depleted of its cold plasma content, as deduced from the observation of noticeable
753 gaps in the water-group ions and protons energy bands appearing in the IMS spectrogram
754 (third panel of Figure 6);

755 4. the magnetic pressure of this flux tube is depressed compared to its surroundings
756 (fourth panel of Figure 6). It appears more dipolar than its surroundings (sixth panel of
757 Figure 6, because it contains less plasma and thus has a lower centrifugal stress (*Leisner*
758 *et al.* [2005]).

759 In summary, these first Cassini observations of interchange events at Saturn opens the
760 way for comparative studies between the Jovian and Saturnian environments, likely to
761 improve our understanding of the interchange instability and to complement previous
762 Galileo observations at Jupiter.

8.4. The Outer High-Latitude Magnetosphere (Region 4, beyond 12-14 R_s)

763 Observations taken in this region, which extend outside the solid vertical lines in Figure
764 2, are of limited use due to the high-latitude location of the spacecraft and the scarcity of
765 particle populations there, the spacecraft was likely outside of the plasmashet and inside
766 the lobes. More interesting observations in this region have been reported after July 1,
767 2004: *Krimigis et al.* [2005] and *Krupp et al.* [2005] reported frequent brief entry/exit in
768 lobe-like and plasmashet-like regions during the outbound pass, suggesting an extended
769 and very dynamic plasmashet. *Louarn et al.* [2004] described 50-90 minutes modulations
770 of whistler mode waves around 50 Hz observed by RPWS (observation 12 on panel 6 of
771 Figure 4) and correlated them with fluxes of auroral radio emissions (remote observa-

772 tions) and of energetic particles (in-situ observations). They suggested that global scale
773 magnetospheric oscillations are part of the activity of Saturn's magnetosphere. *Bunce et*
774 *al.* [2005] reported on the outbound pass what could be an evidence of tail collapse via
775 magnetic reconnection and hot plasma acceleration in Saturn's magnetotail that may be
776 related to a compression of the magnetosphere by a corotating interaction region (CIR).
777 These compressions have been recently suggested by *Cowley et al.* [2005] (reconnection
778 model) and *Sittler et al.* [2006b] (centrifugal instability model) to be important drivers of
779 Saturn's auroral dynamics. So, despite the limits inherent to single-point measurements
780 and to a very tenuous plasma, measurements in this region of the outer magnetosphere
781 will be very useful to monitor large-scale dynamical events in Saturn's magnetosphere.

9. PLASMA PROCESSES

782 At the end of the year 2007, Cassini has already been orbiting Saturn 57 times. The
783 Cassini spacecraft has not yet returned to the ring magnetosphere, and, as a consequence,
784 SOI provided us with unique in-situ observations of the ring environment. Whereas it was
785 not possible to use SOI observations in order to address the exact role played by Titan and
786 its dense atmosphere in Saturn's magnetosphere, other orbits will enable us to investigate
787 this issue in details, having flown by the moon 40 times at the end of 2007. Since 2004,
788 additional campaigns of solar wind measurements by Cassini and auroral observations by
789 HST were coordinated and will enable to further diagnose the dynamics of the Saturnian
790 magnetosphere in order to identify and quantify the respective importance of the solar
791 wind and planetary rotation drivers. All these different pieces will have in the future to
792 be merged and properly added to our description, as soon as all MAPS and related data
793 will have been examined in common, as done during SOI.

794 We shall focus our attention on the three pre-Cassini issues identified in section 2
795 and show how new Cassini observations enabled us to unveil part of their mysteries and
796 stimulate intense ongoing research activities.

9.1. Magnetospheric Mass-Loading

797 SOI observations confirmed that the mass loading of the system occurs deep inside the
798 magnetosphere, in regions where the icy moons Mimas, Enceladus, Tethys, Dione, Rhea,
799 and E-ring particles are orbiting, and known to be host to various dust, neutral, and
800 plasma sources. Later, data from more equatorial orbits [*Persoon et al.*, 2005] gave further
801 evidence that the dominant and variable contribution to the magnetospheric plasma is
802 located inside $5 R_s$. Whereas several past observations pointed out the peculiar role played
803 by Enceladus in the Saturn's system, the dramatic nature of this activity has now been
804 clearly identified. The flybys of Enceladus in 2005 led to the discovery, first revealed by one
805 of the MAPS instrument (MAG), of the significant contribution of this moon in supplying
806 plumes of freshly created water-group ions through charge exchange and impact ionization
807 of water ice and dust particles ejected from its south polar region [*Dougherty et al.*, 2006;
808 *Spahn et al.*, 2006; *Tokar et al.*, 2006; *Hansen et al.*, 2006]. Compositional data from
809 INMS indicated that the atmospheric plume is dominated by water, with nonnegligible
810 amount of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide or molecular nitrogen, and methane [*Waite et*
811 *al.*, 2006]. CAPS IMS data indicated that H_3O^+ is a major ion near Enceladus [*Tokar et*
812 *al.*, 2006]. These species were, however, not included in plasma transport and chemistry
813 models [*Richardson and Jurac*, 2005] that remain to be updated.

814 The discovery by Cassini of an unexpected ongoing geological activity at Enceladus
815 provides the solution for the missing neutral water source, the replenishing of E-ring par-

816 ticles, and the larger neutral source rate required by the models built after the Voyager
817 encounters [Richardson, 1998]. From the new Cassini observations, Johnson *et al.* [2006]
818 proposed that the venting of water produces a narrow torus of, primarily, undissociated
819 water around Enceladus and that charge-exchange collisions in this narrow torus between
820 corotating ions and neutrals then populate the broad neutral torus observed by UVIS dur-
821 ing the approach phase, as well as by HST in the past. Burger *et al.* [2007] estimated that
822 Enceladus emits 300 kg (10^{28} water molecules)/s - a similar rate being inferred from UVIS
823 stellar occultation data at Enceladus [Hansen *et al.*, 2006] - as required by pre-Cassini
824 models. This produces 3 kg/s of fresh water group ions [Burger *et al.*, 2007], consistent
825 with estimates of the mass loading rate inferred from MAG observations [Khurana *et al.*,
826 2007]. Enceladus is revealing itself to be an important plasma source at Saturn, perhaps,
827 analogously, albeit on a smaller scale, to Io at Jupiter. Ion cyclotron wave activity gener-
828 ated by the pick up water group ions freshly created has been found throughout Saturn's
829 E ring out to 6-7 R_s , both near and far from the icy moons. These observations give us
830 further insights into the mass-loading process [Leisner *et al.*, 2006].

831 Not only magnetospheric scientists were amazed that this tiny moon is so active, vent-
832 ing water vapor, dust and plasma from localized fractures ('tiger stripes') within regions
833 of high heat flux near its south pole [Porco *et al.*, 2006; Spencer *et al.*, 2006; Hansen *et*
834 *al.*, 2006; Spahn *et al.*, 2006]. The plume characteristics and the surprisingly high tem-
835 peratures make it likely that Enceladus has a subsurface ocean, either global or possibly
836 localized, beneath a thick ice shell [Nimmo *et al.*, 2007]. The discovery of the activity
837 of the moon raises many questions on the energy sources that powers this activity and,
838 hence, on the formation of the Saturn system. Together with the Jovian moon Europa,

839 Enceladus may therefore present an additional opportunity for the detection of extant life
840 in our solar system [*Parkinson et al.*, 2007] which makes the study of the composition of
841 the plumes particularly important. The next very close flyby of the moon, expected in
842 March 2008, will bring scientists with new surprises. But, at the moment, it is clear to
843 everybody that it is only by means of global and pluridisciplinary studies that we will
844 gain a better and complete understanding of this fascinating planetary body.

9.2. Radial Transport

845 SOI observations enabled first in-situ inspection of some consequences of the internal
846 mass-loading on the dynamics of Saturn's magnetosphere. Later orbits confirmed the
847 dynamic state of the extended plasmashet, where signatures of interchanging flux tubes
848 and associated plasma injection events are observed to be prevalent inside 11 R_s . The
849 centrifugal force is therefore a driver of important dynamical phenomena for the plasma
850 locally created. This region is further fully pervaded by a two-component electron popu-
851 lation (a cold one, 1-100 eV and a hotter one, 1-100 keV). The source of the former was
852 shown to be distributed in the region, whereas that of the latter was found consistent with
853 inward plasma transport from the outer magnetosphere [*Rymer et al.*, 2006]. The plasma
854 transport was suggested to be slow enough so that the cold electrons can equilibrate with
855 the ions through Coulomb collisions.

856 So far the rotationally-driven plasma circulation in the Saturnian magnetosphere ap-
857 pears to be very similar to the plasma circulation in the Jovian magnetosphere [*Krupp*
858 *et al.* [2004]; *Russell*, 2000, 2001]. Inward plasma transport occurs in localized events,
859 characterized by plasma-depleted flux tubes associated with hot plasma injections. Out-
860 ward plasma transport does not take the form of such discrete isolated events, and, on the

861 contrary, recent evidence exists for this transport being consistent with a general plasma
862 outflow [*Burch et al.*, 2007] based on CAPS ELS observations of butterfly electron pitch-
863 angle distributions in the background plasma. *Burch et al.* [2007] further demonstrated
864 that these distributions result from the transport of plasma from regions near the orbits
865 of Dione (6.26 R_s) and Tethys (4.88 R_s), suggesting the presence of distinct plasma tori
866 associated with these moons. The observed plasma-depleted flux tubes participate in the
867 overall cycle of outward/inward plasma transport by returning planetwards the magnetic
868 flux carried outwards by denser flux tubes. These denser flux tubes must lose their plasma
869 content at some location in the magnetosphere. This may be the result from the breaking
870 of flux tubes in the near tail on the nightside of the magnetosphere [*Curtis et al.*, 1986; *Sit-*
871 *thler et al.*, 2006b]. Recent Cassini measurements between 40 and 50 R_s downtail revealed
872 strong, rapid dipolarizations of the magnetic field, signalling the episodic release of energy
873 to the magnetosphere and plasma to the solar wind [*Jackman et al.*, 2007]. The observa-
874 tions reported were similar in a sense to those seen at Jupiter [*Russell et al.*, 1998], but
875 also with terrestrial substorms, with the fast planetary rotation adding phenomenology
876 not seen at Earth [*Mitchell et al.*, 2005] where the effects of external conditions prevail.

877 In short, various processes may contribute to the radial plasma transport in the Sat-
878 urnian magnetosphere. All these processes trigger variations in the transport rate of the
879 plasma and its radial redistribution. The chain of processes involved in the exchanges of
880 momentum and the dissipation of rotational energy in this huge system is complex. As all
881 objects in the solar system, Saturn interacts with the solar wind which drives a part of the
882 magnetospheric dynamics and possibly triggers major storms when solar perturbations hit
883 the magnetosphere. Determining the spatial/temporal scales of these processes, quantify-

884 ing their relative efficiency and how they vary with the activity of Enceladus remain to be
885 properly assessed, as well as the question concerning the respective importance of external
886 and internal processes in the regulation of the activity of this magnetic environment.

9.3. Rotational Modulation

887 Cassini observations during later orbits further demonstrated that planetary spin-
888 periodic perturbations in all field and particle observations are ubiquitous in the whole
889 Saturn's magnetosphere. Images of the ring current at Saturn, based on MIMI measure-
890 ments, revealed an highly variable ring current with strong longitudinal asymmetries that
891 corotate nearly rigidly with the planet [*Krimigis et al.*, 2007]. Planetary-period oscil-
892 lations of the radial and azimuthal magnetic field components are always present in the
893 quasi-dipolar regions of Saturn's magnetosphere, whereas compressional oscillations in the
894 radial component are dominant in tail-like regions [*Cowley et al.*, 2006]. Magnetopause
895 boundary oscillations at the planetary period also commonly occur, which are in phase
896 with the plasma pressure variations inside the magnetosphere [*Clarke et al.*, 2006]. These
897 observations are consistent with a Camshaft model [*Espinosa et al.*, 2003b] in which a
898 compressive wave originates from a corotating source (the cam) in the nearer-planet re-
899 gion and propagates outward through the sub-corotating outer magnetospheric plasma.
900 *Southwood and Kivelson* [2007] discussed a system of field-aligned currents which produce
901 the observed cam field in the inner magnetosphere and produce an effective dipole tilt in
902 the outer magnetosphere which produces the outer magnetospheric periodicities. *Carbary*
903 *et al.* [2007] proposed that the compression/expansion action of the cam in the inner
904 magnetosphere effectively shakes the outer magnetosphere, which is tilted ~ 20 degrees
905 relative to the solar wind flow, and produces tailward-moving transverse waves in syn-

906 chrony with the rotation of the inner magnetosphere that cause the observed periodicities.
907 *Gurnett et al.* [2007] recently reported the occurrence of a rotational modulation of the
908 plasma density and magnetic field near the orbit of Enceladus that is phase-locked to
909 the time-variable SKR modulation [*Kurth et al.*, 2006] and proposed that a two-cell corotating
910 convection pattern with stronger centrifugally-driven plasma outflow on its dense
911 side acts as the cam. This centrifugally driven convection can spontaneously break the
912 axisymmetry of the external magnetic field at Saturn [*Goldreich and Farmer*, 2007] and
913 drive other planetary-period modulated magnetospheric effects such as the SKR. The dy-
914 namics of Saturn magnetosphere may, therefore, be dominated by responses to plasma
915 introduced by Enceladus [*Kivelson*, 2006] but the true picture may probably be more
916 complex, involving external influence as well. *Cecconi and Zarka* [2005] proposed for ex-
917 ample that variations of solar wind characteristics at Saturn, especially its velocity, result
918 in a displacement of the radio sources in local time and modify the apparent SKR radio
919 period. *Zarka et al.* [2007] reported that SKR period varies systematically by $\pm 1\%$ with
920 a characteristic timescale of 20-30 days. These fluctuations were found to correlate with
921 solar wind speed at Saturn. Therefore, nonrandom fluctuations in the solar wind speed
922 at Saturn can cause SKR source displacement in local time, leading to an apparent radio
923 period that is different from the planet's true rotation period.

924 All the models constructed to explain the observed plasma and field periodicities have
925 largely been constructed to explain the behaviour of a single dataset and, hence, are not
926 yet complete. Once combined, Cassini multi-instrument observations should gradually
927 unveil all these enigmas. Identifying the mechanism behind this periodic modulation is
928 a prime goal of Cassini magnetospheric scientists. In addition, Saturn's rotational rate

929 is a fundamental parameter for atmospheric, magnetospheric, and interior studies of the
930 planet [*Sanchez-Lavega, 2005*]. Determination of a definitive, fixed rotation period is
931 therefore a high priority for most planetary scientists. Since Saturn lacks a solid surface,
932 determining the planetary rotation period is difficult. Measuring the motions of features
933 on the atmosphere can also lead to inaccuracies due to atmospheric wind speeds. Tracking
934 the rotational modulation of the radio emissions SKR (linked to the planetary field, which
935 originates in the interior of the planet) over a long-period of time could therefore provide
936 the most accurate answer in the future.

10. SUMMARY

937 The present observational review article focuses on the identification of Saturn's mag-
938 netospheric regions and associated plasma processes, based on the very first orbit of the
939 Cassini-Huygens spacecraft around the planet. Our objective is to illustrate to the gen-
940 eral planetary communities how to extract scientific information from the observations
941 obtained by the particle and field instruments onboard Cassini. SOI observations enabled
942 us to capture a snapshot of the large-scale structure of the Saturnian magnetosphere
943 and of some of the main plasma processes operating in this complex environment. We
944 combined all different observations in a coordinated manner, in order to gain a deeper
945 understanding of the Saturnian system.

946 Remote sensing observations of Saturn's magnetosphere during the approach phase
947 confirmed Voyager's evidence for a double control of the auroral and radio emissions by
948 the solar wind and by the planetary rotation. It also showed that the magnetosphere
949 is immersed to large distances in a neutral gas cloud with densities comparable to or

950 larger than the plasma densities, and that its strong corotation electric field accelerated
951 Saturnian dust particles into interplanetary space.

952 During Saturn Orbit Insertion, in situ observations by the MAPS instruments provided
953 the first Cassini cross-section across the main magnetospheric regions of the Saturnian
954 system. We basically identified similar regions to those identified previously by Voyager,
955 though with a much more powerful measurements capability. From its innermost regions
956 to the magnetopause, four different plasma domains could be identified:

957 • the ring system (Region 1), conjugate to the main rings inside $3 R_s$, is populated
958 by plasma produced by UV sputtering of the sunlit side of the rings, and dominated by
959 oxygen ions which follow corotation. It is essentially void of energetic particles due to
960 ring absorption. This region is characterized by strong coupling between plasma, gas and
961 ring particles.

962 • the cold plasma torus (Region 2) is a region dominated by co-rotating water products
963 with essentially no evidence of suprathermal electron or ion population. It extends to
964 approximately 5 to 6 R_s outside. Plasma supply via pick-up of ions and charge exchange
965 are key processes operating in this region, in order to explain the observed density gradient
966 and the depletion of energetic particles.

967 • beyond this orbit, the dynamic and extended plasmashet (Region 3) is populated by
968 the same low-energy plasma upon which a spatially structured population of suprather-
969 mal electrons is superimposed. The numerous signatures of flux-tube interchange and
970 associated particle energy dispersion reveal the importance of radial plasma transport in
971 this region.

972 • finally, beyond a relatively sharp outer edge, Cassini probed the outer high-latitude
973 magnetosphere (Region 4), in which the plasma is very tenuous and particle measurements
974 difficult, but observations suggest this region is more dynamic than initially thought.

975 The preliminary identification of the magnetospheric regions described in the present
976 paper will have to be deepened and contrasted by the analysis of additional sets of Cassini
977 orbits, and bring new constraints to previous and current models. Thanks to its broad
978 coverage of Saturn's magnetosphere, Cassini-Huygens will make it possible to study a
979 system which is in strong interaction with all other components of Saturn's environment.
980 The analysis of the broad diversity of these interaction processes will be one of the main
981 themes of Magnetospheric and Plasma Science during the Cassini mission. It will ulti-
982 mately be possible to give a more complete and definitive overview of the time-variability
983 and large-scale three-dimensional structure of Saturn's multi-faceted magnetosphere, as
984 well as to elucidate many of the outstanding issues coming from these unique observations.

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Figure 1. Left: Spacecraft trajectories in the (X, Y) Kronocentric Solar Magnetospheric (KSM) plane. The KSM coordinate system has Saturn at the origin, with the X axis directed towards the Sun, Z (pointing northward) defined such that Saturn’s rotation and magnetic axis lies in the XZ plane, and Y lying in Saturn’s rotational and equatorial plane. An average magnetopause boundary model (thick solid line) is taken from *Arridge et al.* [2006]. Right: Spacecraft trajectories in the $((X^2+Y^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}, Z)$ Kronographic (KG) plane. The KG coordinate system is analogous to the geographic (longitude and latitude) system used at the Earth. The X axis points along the Saturn Prime Meridian as defined by the IAU, Y lies in the rotational equatorial plane and Z lies along the rotation axis. Distance units are in Saturn radii ($R_s=60,268$ km).

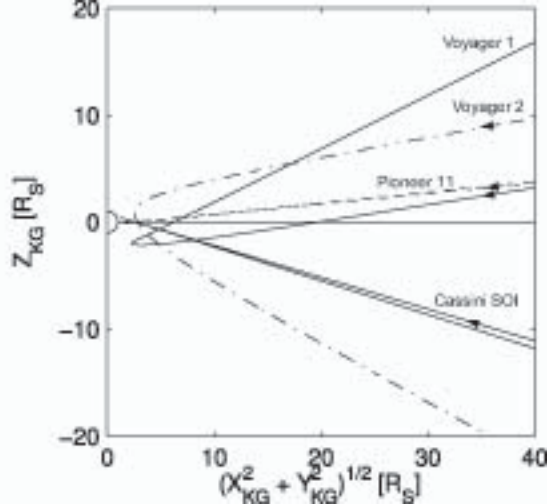
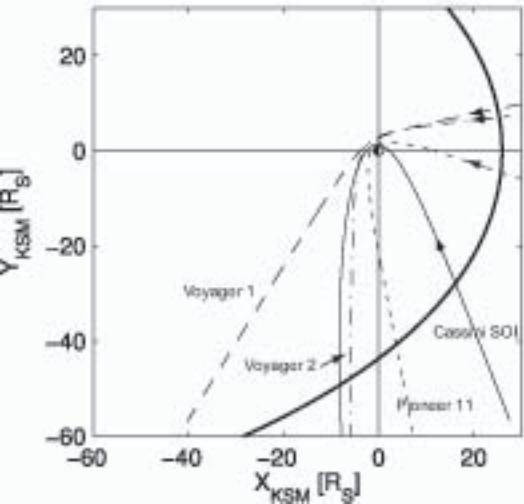
Figure 2. Multi-instrumental view of the Saturnian magnetosphere, from June 30 00:00 UT (DOY 182) to July 2 (DOY 184) 00:00 UT. From top to bottom: Color-coded MIMI LEMMS energy (in logarithmic scale)-time spectrograms of 1) electron and 2) ion intensities (in logarithmic scale, $\text{cm}^{-2}\text{sr}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}\text{keV}^{-1}$); 3) MAG magnetic field components in a Saturn-centered polar spherical coordinate system (the radial one in blue, $-B_r$; the theta one in red, B_θ ; and the azimuthal one in green B_ϕ) and magnitude (in black, B_m); Color-coded 4) CAPS ELS and 5) IMS energy (in logarithmic scale)-time spectrograms of electron and ion counts (in logarithmic scale); and 6) Color-coded (in logarithmic scale) RPWS electric field frequency (in logarithmic scale)-time spectrogram, versus time (in hours) and radial distance (in R_s). Vertical lines are used in section 5 to describe a unified picture of the four different magnetospheric regions and delineate their boundaries. CA indicates Closest Approach. The locations of some of Saturn's moons are indicated in the first panel and repeated in the second one. Notations for moons: Ti, Titan; Rh: Rhea; Di: Dione; En: Enceladus; Mi: Mimas.

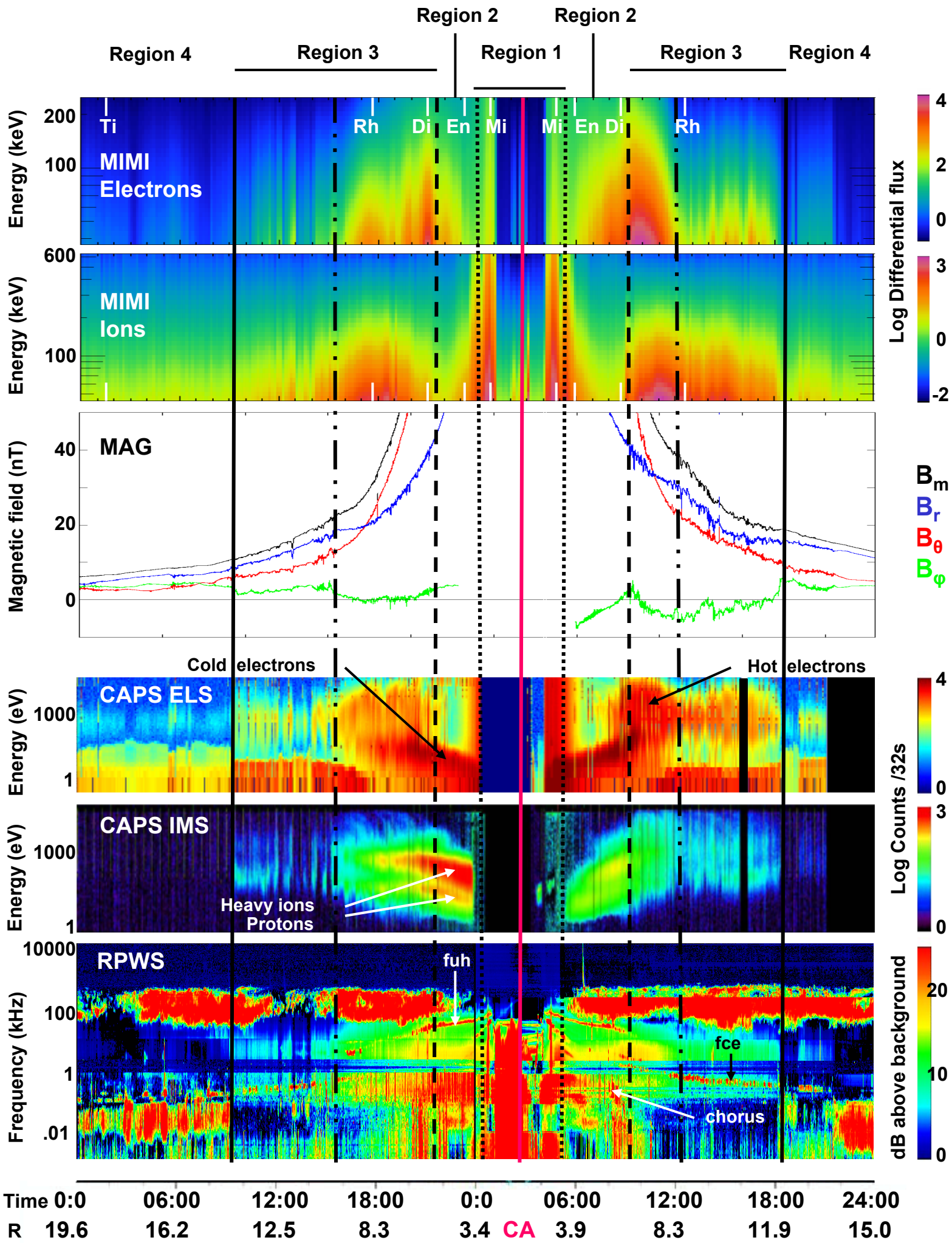
Figure 3. Comparison of *Sittler et al.*'s [1983] illustration of Saturn's magnetosphere at noon (as defined from low-energy (< 6 keV) electron plasma observations) with the new Cassini CAPS inbound (June, 30) observations. Cold (1-100 eV) regions are colored blue and hot (100-1000 eV) regions are purple in the schematic. Superimposed on the Cassini inbound trajectory are the CAPS ELS and IMS energy-time spectrograms used in Figure 2.

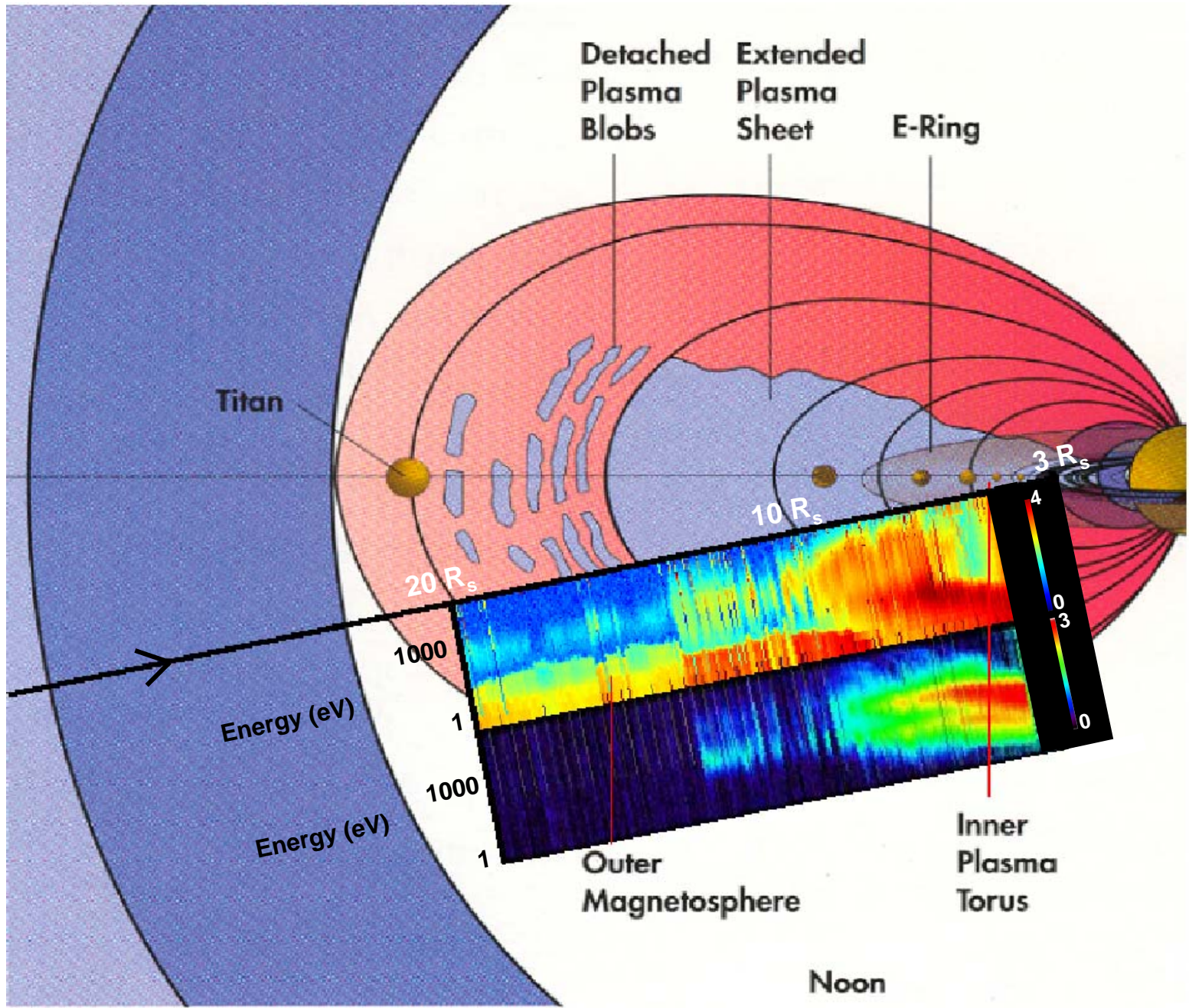
Figure 4. Same as on Figure 2, but with dedicated emphasize on observations described in the text. 1) Ring ionosphere; 2) Electron plasma above the rings; 3) Energetic particles absorption by ring particles; 4) Radiation belts; 5) Dust impacts; 6) Water magnetosphere; 7) Ion cyclotron waves from engine exhaust (cf., *Russell et al.*, [2005]); 8) Depletion of hot electrons and charge exchange processes; 9) Unusual magnetic flux tubes; 10) Density cavities; 11) Energy-time dispersed injection of hot plasma; 12) Modulations of whistler-mode waves.

Figure 5. Plasma over the rings, observed on July 1 between 03:28 and 04:15 UT. From top to bottom: 1) Left: Color-coded RPWS electric field frequency (in linear scale)-time spectrogram, Right: CAPS IMS ion densities and RPWS total electron densities; 2) MIMI LEMMS pitch angle (in degrees)-time spectrogram of 28-49 keV electron intensities (normalized to maximum), 3) CAPS IMS energy (in logarithmic scale)-time spectrogram of ion counts (in logarithmic scale), 4) ring picture, courtesy of the ISS team; 5) CAPS ELS energy (in logarithmic scale)-time spectrogram of electron counts (in logarithmic scale), along Cassini trajectory. The magenta dashed vertical line delineates the location of the Saturnian synchronous orbit, the black dotted lines the Cassini division boundaries and the black dashed line the Encke gap. The green and solid vertical lines delineate the time intervals corresponding to the observations represented in panel 1.

Figure 6. Observations of an empty flux tube on June 30 between 20:00 and 22:00 UT. From top to bottom: 1) RPWS electric field frequency (in logarithmic scale)-time spectrogram, 2) CAPS ELS and 3) IMS energy (in logarithmic scale)-time spectrograms; 4)-6) MAG VHM magnetic field perturbations (compressional δB_m and transverse (δB_\perp) field-aligned components, based on Saturn-centered polar spherical coordinates). In this particular field-aligned coordinate system, the perturbed compressional component (along the background magnetic field) is denoted by δB_\parallel , and the two transverse components by $\delta B_{\perp 1}$ (approximately opposite to the corotational azimuthal direction) and $\delta B_{\perp 2}$ (approximately opposite to the radial direction and consequently along the radius of curvature of the magnetic field lines), respectively.







Detached Plasma Blobs Extended Plasma Sheet E-Ring

Titan

$20 R_s$

$10 R_s$

$3 R_s$

Energy (eV)

Energy (eV)

1000

1

1000

1

4

0

3

0

Outer Magnetosphere

Inner Plasma Torus

Noon

