SATURN IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Cassini Orbiter mission, launched in 1997, has transformed our understanding of the origins and workings of Saturn. Drawing from new discoveries and scientific insights from the mission, this book provides a detailed overview of the planet as revealed by Cassini. Chapters by eminent planetary scientists and researchers from across the world comprehensively review the current state of knowledge regarding Saturn’s formation, interior, atmosphere, ionosphere, thermosphere, and magnetosphere. Specialized chapters discuss the planet’s seasonal variability; the circulation of strong zonal winds; the constantly changing polar aurorae; and the Great Storm of 2010–2011, the most powerful convective storm ever witnessed by humankind. Documenting the latest research on the planet, from its formation to how it operates today, this is an essential reference for graduate students, researchers, and planetary scientists.

KeviN H. BAiNES is Senior Scientist at the Space Science and Engineering Center at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and Principal Scientist at Caltech/Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena. He has over 35 years of experience in the development, planning, data analysis, and publication of science results from NASA and ESA planetary orbital missions. Specializing in the 3D nature of planetary atmospheres as gleaned from spacecraft-borne visual-to-near-infrared spectral imagers, he has been a NASA-selected scientist on the Cassini–Huygens and Galileo orbiter missions to Jupiter and Saturn and was the leader of the NASA science team on ESA’s Venus Express orbiter mission.

F. MICHAEL FlASAR is Space Scientist at the Planetary Systems Laboratory at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. He has devoted 45 years to the study of solar system planets and their atmospheres, particularly from thermal-infrared spectroscopy and radio-occultation data. He has been an investigator on the Voyager mission to the giant planets, the Galileo mission to Jupiter, the Mars Global Surveyor mission, and the Cassini–Huygens mission to Saturn. He is a recipient of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center’s John C. Lindsay Memorial Award for Space Science and he is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union.

NORBERT KRUPP is Scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research, Göttingen, Germany. He has 25 years of experience in data analysis and the development of space instrumentation. His main interest is the understanding of processes driving the global configuration and dynamics of particles around planets, including the interaction with moons, rings, and neutral clouds. He has been involved in several space missions, including Mars Express, Venus Express, Ulysses, Bepi Colombo, Juice, Galileo, Cassini–Huygens, and Europa Clipper. On Cassini, he co-led the magnetosphere and plasma science working group MAPS, and is Co-Investigator of the MIMI instrument.

Tom Stallard is Associate Professor in Planetary Astronomy at the University of Leicester. He is a world-leading planetary astronomer who has observed the gas giants of our solar system from many of the largest telescopes around the world. Focusing on the investigation of aurorae of these planets, he has also been extensively involved in analyzing spacecraft data, including images of Saturn’s aurora taken by the Cassini spacecraft. He has also appeared on numerous television and radio programs to discuss recent space advances. His public outreach has included involvement in BBC Stargazing live events and he was awarded the honorary title of “Hoku Kolea” for his extensive work with the Mauna Kea visitors’ center.
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SATURN IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Edited by

KEVIN H. BAINES
University of Wisconsin–Madison

F. MICHAEL FLASAR
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

NORBERT KRUPP
Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research

TOM STALLARD
University of Leicester
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ANTHONY WESLEY

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Contributors

RICHARD ACHTERBERG
University of Maryland

SUSHIL K. ATREYA
University of Michigan

SARAH V. BADMAN
Lancaster University

KEVIN H. BAINES
University of Wisconsin–Madison, Space Science and Engineering Center, and Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

HAO CAO
California Institute of Technology

JAMES F. CARBARY
Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory

ULRICH R. CHRISTENSEN
Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research

FRANK CARY
University of Colorado, Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics

AURÉLIEN CRIDA
Observatoire de la Côte d’Azur
Institut Universitaire de France

MICHELE K. DOUGHERTY
Imperial College London

ULYANA DYUDINA
California Institute of Technology

SCOTT G. EDGINGTON
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

GEORG FISCHER
Space Research Institute–Graz

F. MICHAEL FLASAR
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

LEIGH N. FLETCHER
University of Leicester

JONATHAN J. FORTNEY
University of California–Santa Cruz

MARINA GALAND
Imperial College London

ENRIQUE GARCÍA-MELENDO
University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU

THOMAS K. GREATHOUSE
Southwest Research Institute
List of Contributors

DENIS GRODENT
University of Liège

SANDRINE GUERLET
LMD, CNRS, Sorbonne Université

TRISTAN GUILLOT
Observatoire de la Côte d’Azur

MATTHEW M. HEDMAN
University of Idaho

RAVIT HELLED
University of Zürich

BRIGETTE HESMAN
University of Maryland

THOMAS W. HILL
Rice University

WILLIAM B. HUBBARD
University of Arizona, Lunar and Planetary Laboratory

LUCIANO IESS
Sapienza University of Rome

ANDREW P. INGERSOLL
California Institute of Technology

XIANZHE JIA
University of Michigan

YOHAI KASPI
Weizmann Institute of Science

KRISHAN KHURANA
University of California–Los Angeles

ARYYDAS J. KLIORE
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

PETER KOLLMANN
Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory

TOMMI T. KOSKINEN
University of Arizona, Lunar and Planetary Laboratory

NORBERT KRUPP
Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research

WILLIAM KURTH
University of Iowa

LAURENT LAMY
LESIA, Observatoire de Paris, Université PSL, CNRS

JONATHAN I. LUNINE
Cornell University

NIKKU MADHUSUDHAN
University of Cambridge

MARK S. MARLEY
NASA Ames Research Center

ADAM MASTERS
Imperial College London

HENRIK MELIN
University of Leicester

DONALD G. MITCHELL
Johns Hopkins University, Applied Physics Laboratory

LUKE MOORE
Boston University, Center for Space Physics

JULIANNE I. MOSES
Space Sciences Institute

OLIVIER MOUSIS
Aix-Marseille University
List of Contributors

INGO MÜLLER-WODARG
Imperial College London

THOMAS R. SPILKER
Solar System Science and Exploration

ANDREW F. NAGY
University of Michigan

LAWRENCE A. SROMOVSKY
University of Wisconsin–Madison, Space Science and Engineering Center

NADINE NETTELMANN
University of Rostock

TOM STALLARD
University of Leicester

JAMES O’DONOGHUE
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

DAVID J. STEVENSON
California Institute of Technology

GABRIELLE PROVAN
University of Leicester

DARRELL F. STROBEL
Johns Hopkins University

AGUSTÍN SÁNCHEZ-LAVEGA
University of the Basque Country UPV/EHU

MICHELLE THOMSEN
Planetary Science Institute

KUNIO M. SAYANAGI
Hampton University

ANTHONY WESLEY
Astronomical Society of Australia

ADAM P. SHOWMAN
University of Arizona

ROBERT A. WEST
Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

PHILIPPE ZARKA
LESIA, Observatoire de Paris, Université PSL, CNRS
Reviewers

NICHOLAS ACHILLEOS
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