

Image: Ghostly spokes in the rings

November 12 2010

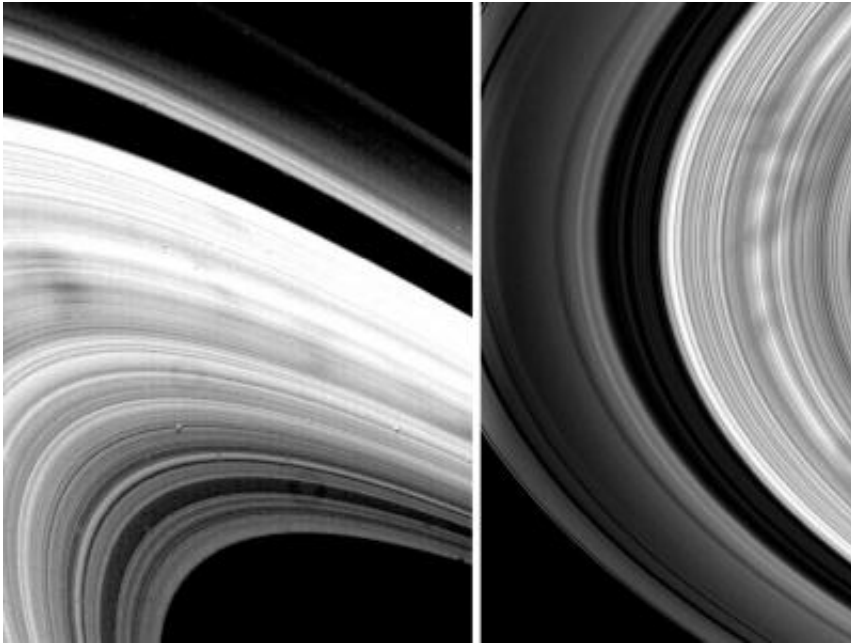


Image credit: NASA/JPL and NASA/JPL/SSI

Scientists first saw these somewhat wedge-shaped, transient clouds of tiny particles known as "spokes" in images from NASA's Voyager spacecraft.

They dubbed these features in Saturn's B ring "spokes" because they looked like bicycle spokes.

An electrostatic charge, the way static electricity on [Earth](#) can raise the hair on your arms, appears to be levitating tiny ring particles above the

ring plane, but scientists are still figuring out how the particles get that charge as they analyze images from NASA's [Cassini spacecraft](#).

The image on the left was obtained by Voyager 2 on Aug. 22, 1981. The image on the right was obtained by Cassini on Nov. 2, 2008.

Provided by JPL/NASA

Citation: Image: Ghostly spokes in the rings (2010, November 12) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2010-11-image-ghostly-spokes.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.