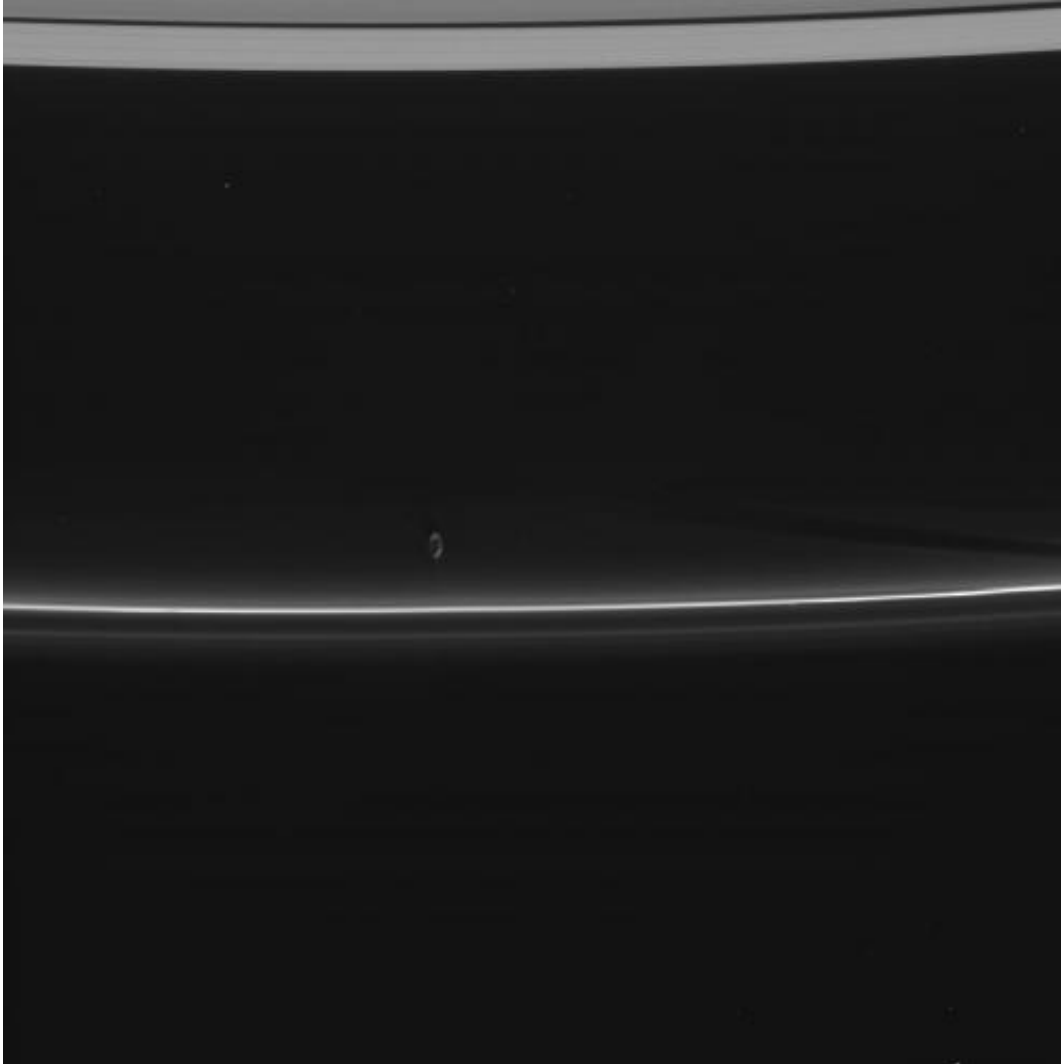


Prometheus practices its pull

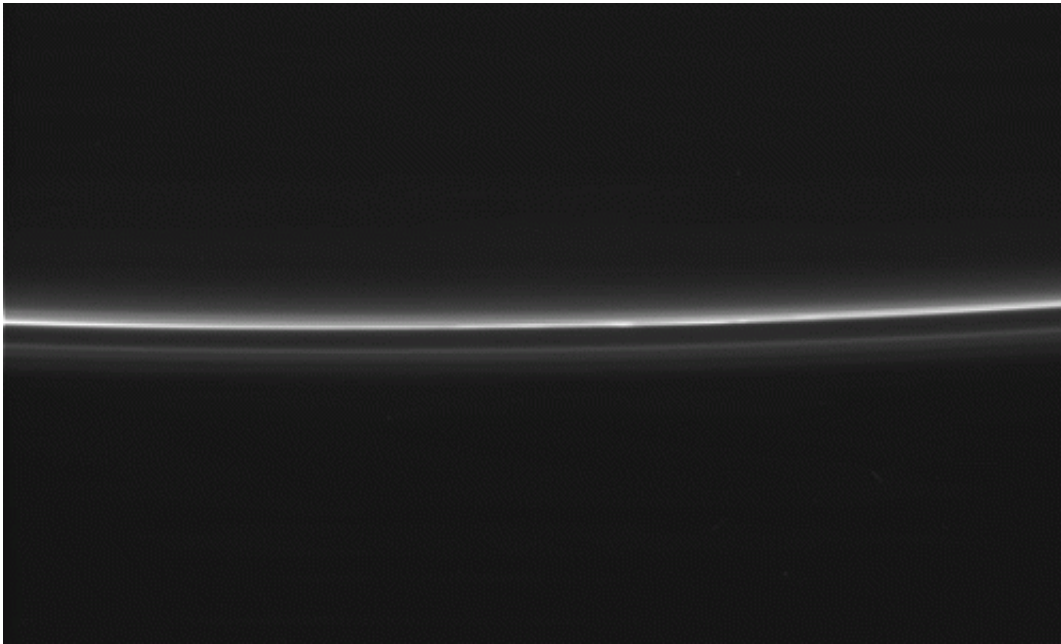
February 10 2014, by Jason Major



Shepherd moon Prometheus hovers just inside the reflective F ring. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech/Space Science Institute.

Lit by eerie, reflected light from Saturn's F ring (and casting a faint shadow through a haze of icy "mist") Saturn's moon Prometheus can be seen in the raw image above, captured by Cassini's narrow-angle camera on Feb. 5 from a distance of 667,596 miles (1,074,392 km). It's also receiving some light reflected off Saturn, which is off frame at the top (where the outermost edge of the A ring and the Keeler gap can be seen.)

As the potato-shaped Prometheus approaches the [ring](#) it yanks fine, icy material in towards itself, temporarily stretching the bright particles into long streamers and gaps and even kicking up bright clumps in the ring. It's a visual demonstration of gravity at work! Watch an animation of this below, made from images acquired just before and after the one above:



streamers and clumps created by the passing Prometheus on Feb. 5, 2014. Credit: NASA/JPL/SSI. Animation by Jason Major.

At its longest Prometheus is about 92 miles (148 km) across, but only 42 miles (68 km) in width. It circles Saturn in a wave-shaped, scalloping orbit once every 14.7 hours.

Source: [Universe Today](#)

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