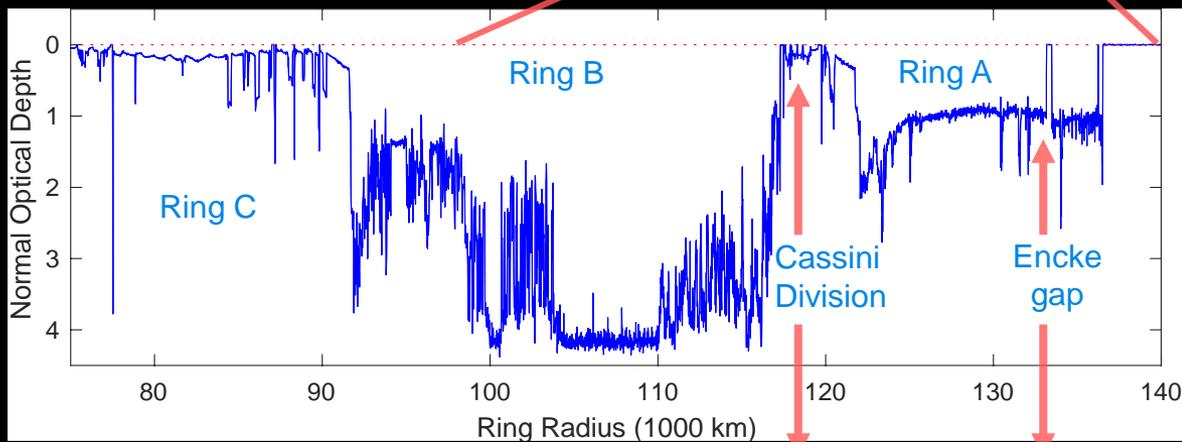


One Last Ring Broadcast

On July 19, 2017, Cassini successfully performed its final radio occultation of Saturn's rings. During a radio occultation, ground stations continuously monitor Cassini's radio signal, probing whatever Cassini happens to be passing behind: Saturn, one of its moons or—in this case—the rings. The degree to which this signal is absorbed corresponds to the amount of material along the line of sight. Recording radio occultations is a complex real-time activity, as radio science team members on the ground interact with engineers at NASA and ESA radio antennas, adjusting configurations over the course of the observations.



Current and alumni Cassini radio science team, responsible for collecting and analyzing data for the past 18 years.

Monitors displaying the strength of the radio signal received from Cassini during a period of about 30 minutes (upper right photo). The signal strength shown on the monitors matches the structure of the Cassini Division, as expected (lower image).