



Grain Dynamics in Enceladus' Dust Plume and Feeding of the E Ring

Jürgen Schmidt (1), Sascha Kempf (2), Uwe Beckmann (2), Frank Postberg (2), Jon Hillier (3), Paul Schenk (4), and Ralf Srama (2)

(1) Universität Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany (jschmidt@agnld.uni-potsdam.de, +49 331 977-1142), (2) MPI für Kernphysik, Heidelberg, Germany, (3) PSSRI, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, U.K., (4) Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, USA

The active moon Enceladus ejects water gas and tiny ice grains into the Saturnian system through its south polar plume. The ice particles form Saturn's dusty E ring. We show that three-body effects determine the inclination distribution of the faster plume particles escaping the moon and feeding the E ring. On the other hand, most grains, ejected at small speeds, re-impact the moon on preferred regions which are also determined by the three-body gravitational interaction with Enceladus and Saturn. The grains recorded by the Cassini Cosmic Dust Analyzer on plume traversals show systematic compositional differences, relating composition to dynamical properties.