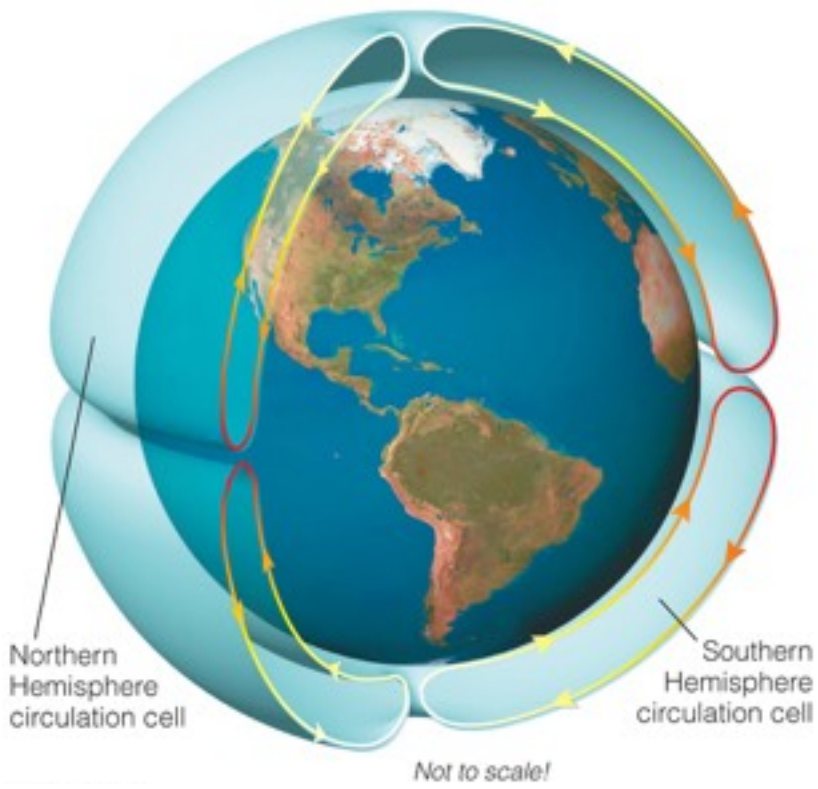
Today

- Jovian planets

Global Wind Patterns

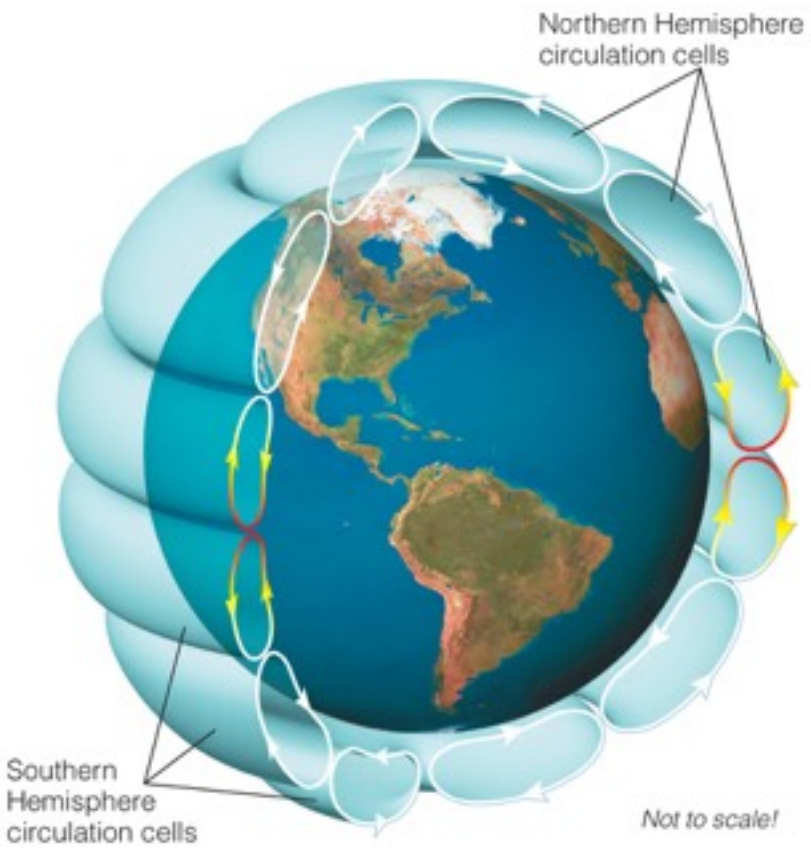
- Heat transport
- Global winds blow in distinctive patterns:
  - Equatorial: E to W
  - Mid-latitudes: W to E
  - High latitudes: E to W

Circulation Cells: No Rotation



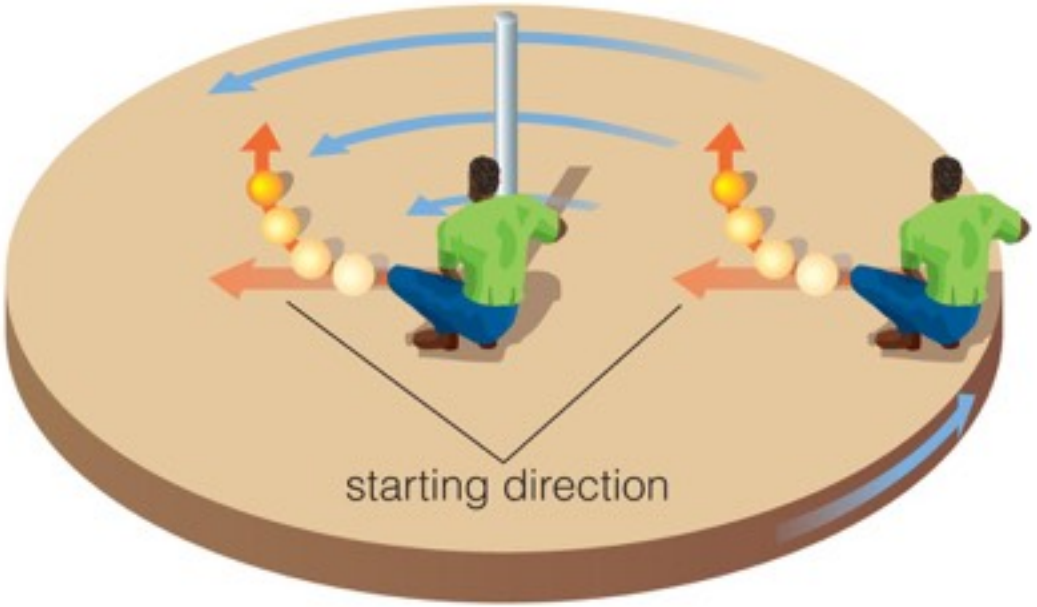
- Heated air rises at equator.
- Cooler air descends at poles.
- Without rotation, these motions would produce two large circulation cells.

Circulation Cells with Rotation



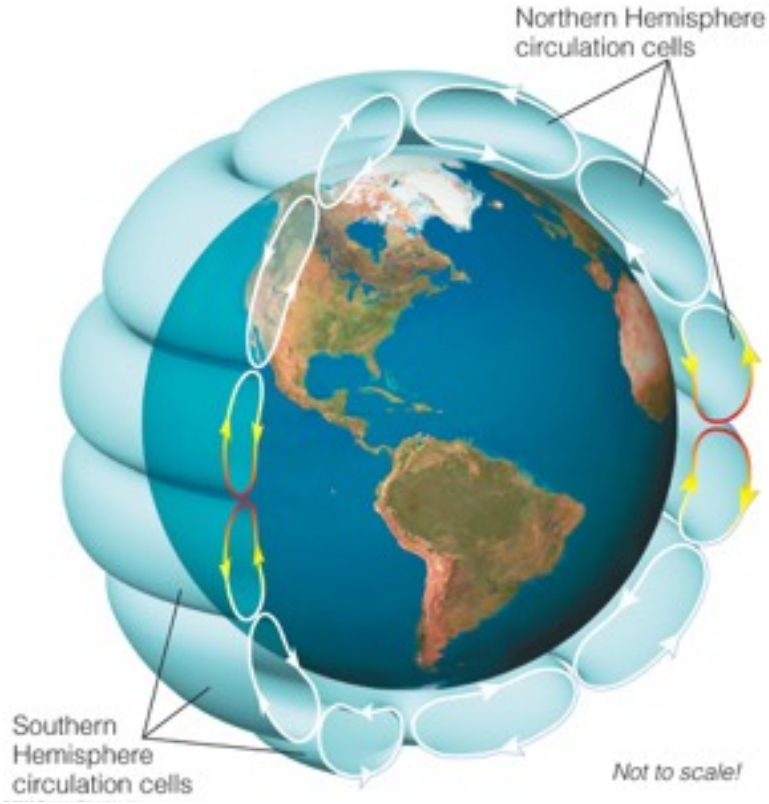
- Coriolis effect deflects north-south winds into east-west winds.
- Deflection breaks each of the two large "no-rotation" cells into three smaller cells in each hemisphere.
  - Tropical
  - Mid-latitude

Coriolis Effect



- Conservation of angular momentum causes a ball's apparent path on a spinning platform to change direction.

Prevailing Winds



- Prevailing surface winds at mid-latitudes blow from W to E because the Coriolis effect deflects the S to N surface flow of mid-latitude circulation cells.

Coriolis Effect on Earth

a Low-pressure regions ("L") draw in air from surrounding areas, and the Coriolis effect causes this air to circulate counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

Interactive Figure

IF_10_15

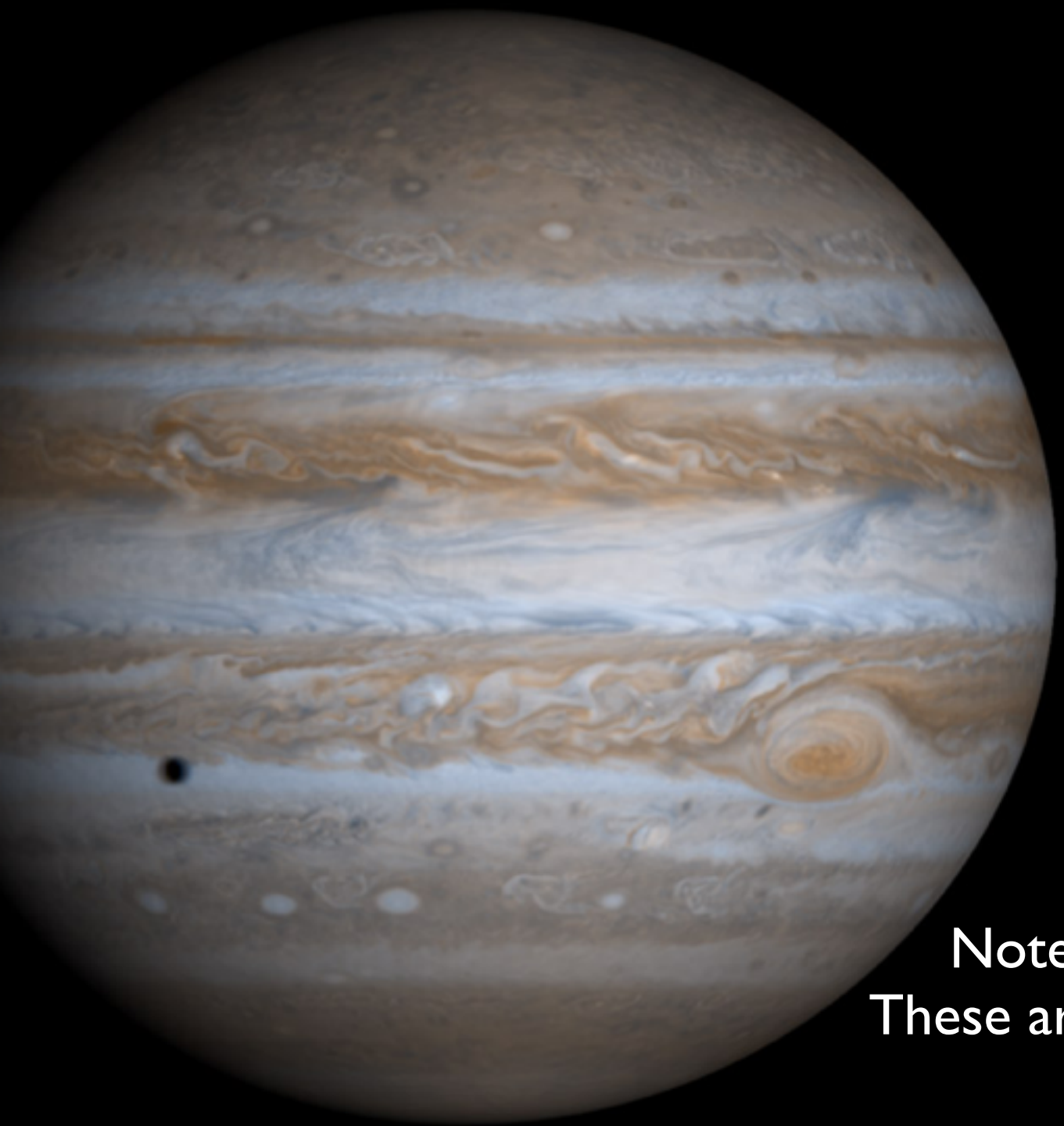
- Air moving from a pole to the equator is going farther from Earth's axis and begins to lag behind Earth's rotation.
- Air moving from the equator to a pole moves closer to the axis and travels ahead of Earth's rotation.

Coriolis Effect on Earth

- Conservation of angular momentum causes large storms to swirl.

- Direction of circulation depends on hemisphere:
  - N: counterclockwise
    - right hand rule
  - S: clockwise

b This photograph shows the opposite directions of storm circulation in the two hemispheres.



- Jovian planets
  - Jupiter
  - Saturn
  - Uranus
  - Neptune

Note horizontal bands
These are circulation cells
Jovian day: 9^h 56^m

Jupiter

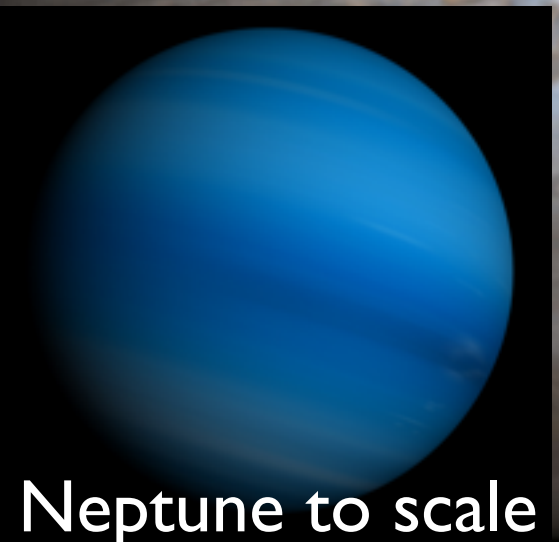
Some astronomers now distinguish between

Gas Giants
Jupiter, Saturn

and

Ice Giants
Uranus, Neptune

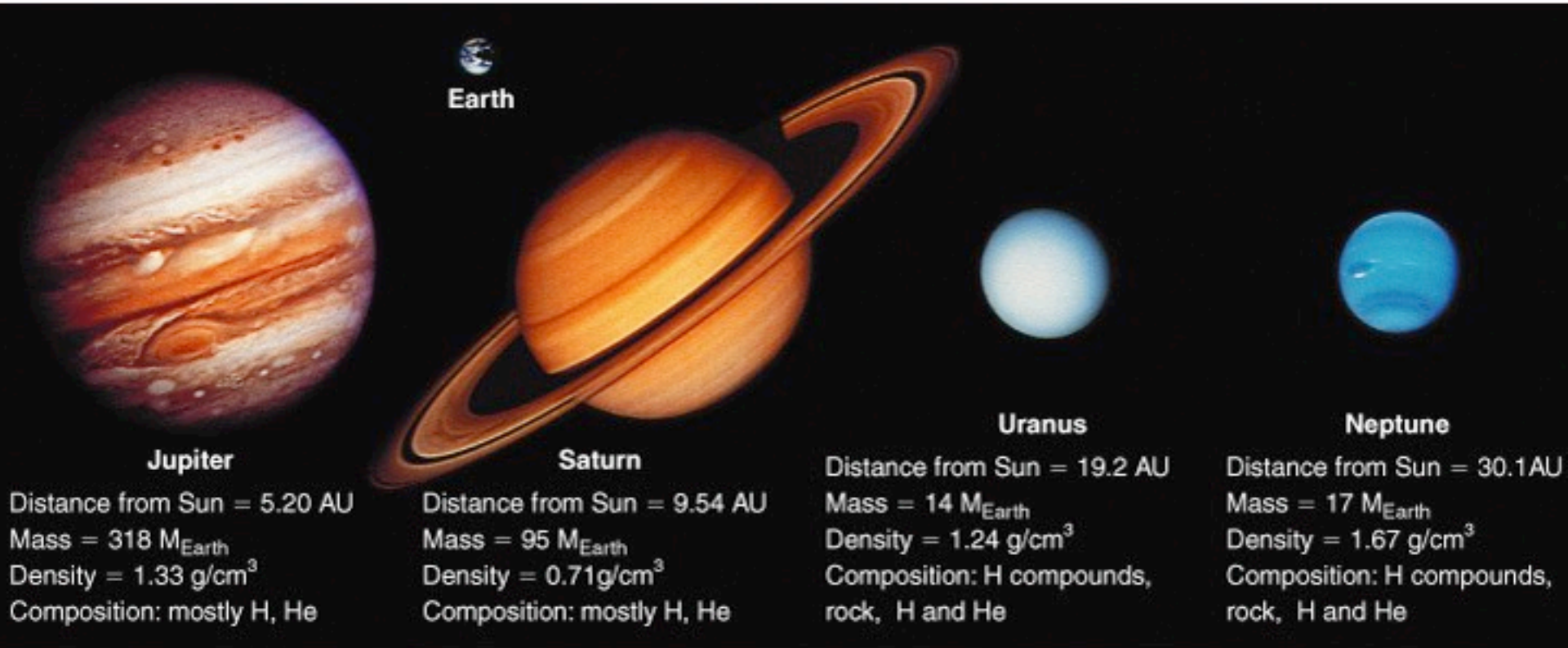
Expect more distinctions with new discoveries



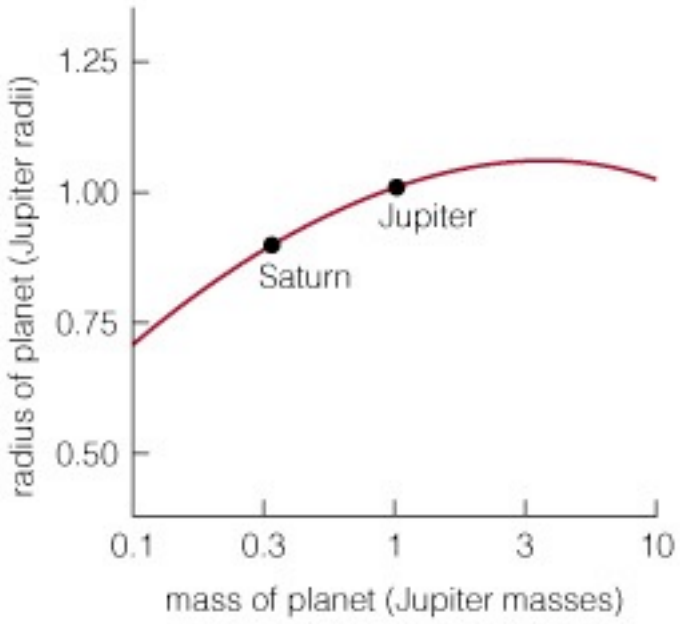
Neptune to scale

Earth to scale

The Jovian planets are *gas giants* - much larger than Earth in size and mass, but lower density



Sizes of Jovian Planets



- Planets get larger as they get more massive
- up to a point...

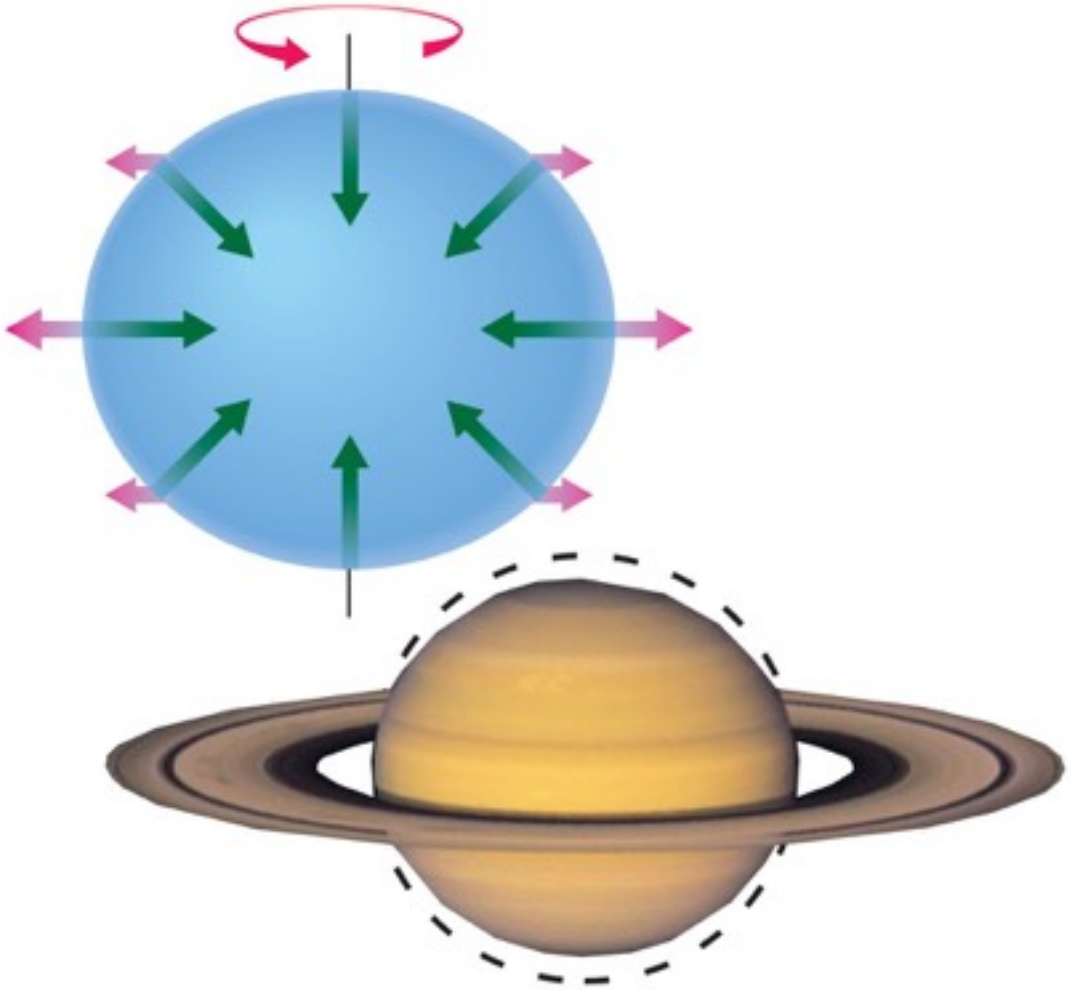
- Planets more massive than Jupiter are expected to *shrink*.
- There comes a point where gravity wins: adding more mass causes *contraction*.

Jovian Planet Composition

- Jupiter and Saturn
  - Mostly H and He gas
    - *these are the most common elements in the Universe*
    - *similar in composition to the sun*
  - "Gas Giants"

- Uranus and Neptune
  - Mostly hydrogen compounds: water (H_2O), methane (CH_4), ammonia (NH_3)
  - Some H, He, and rock
  - "Ice Giants"

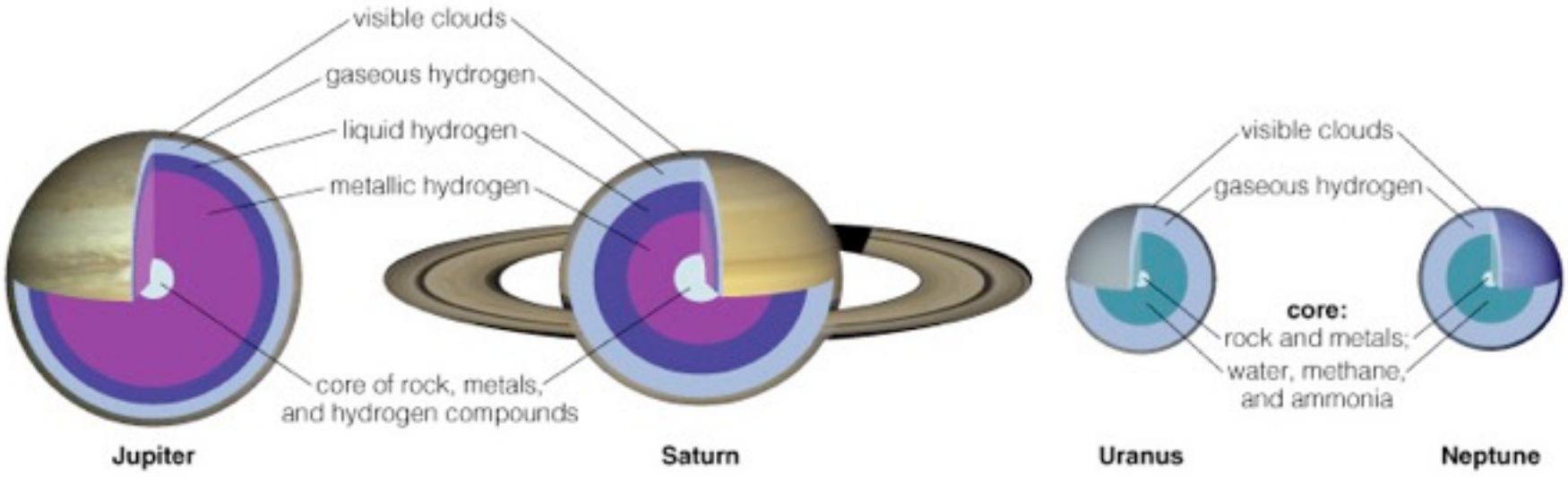
Rotation and Shape



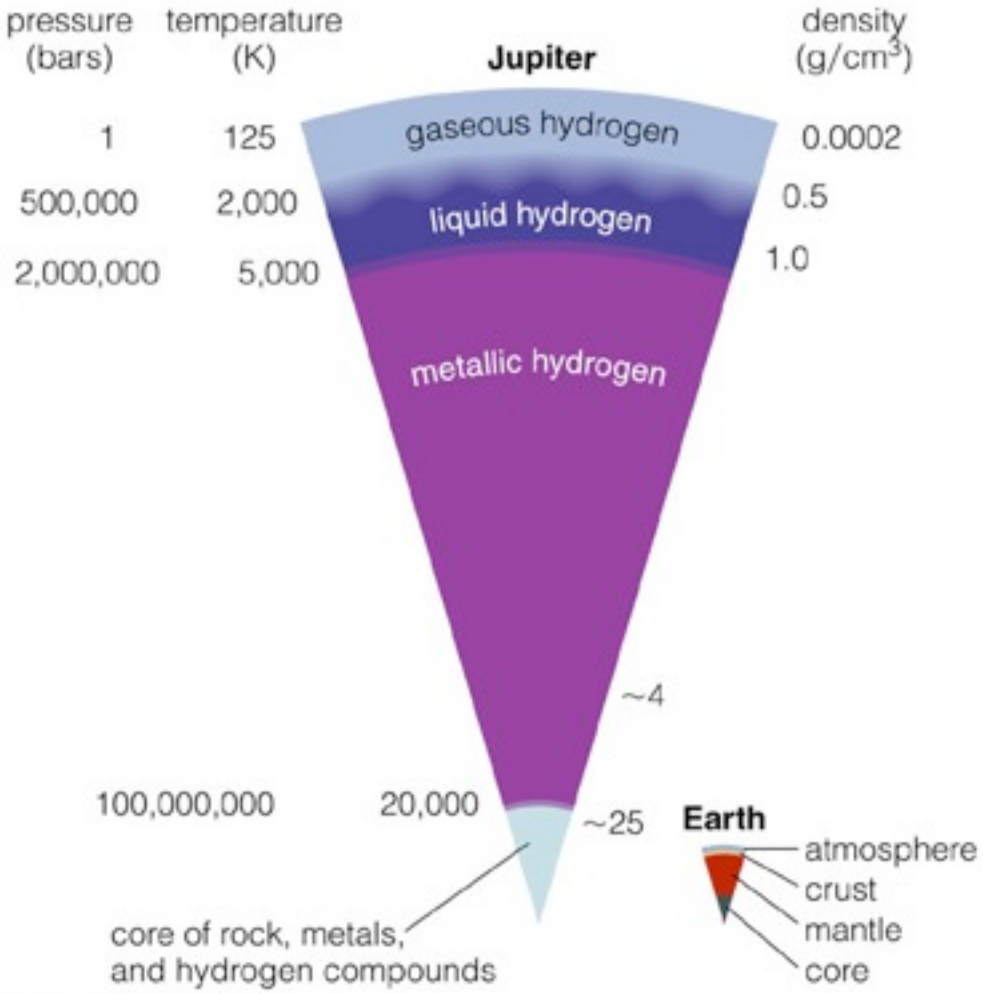
- Jovian planets are not quite spherical because of their rapid rotation.
- “Oblate”

show Jovian Planet shapes

Interiors of Jovian Planets



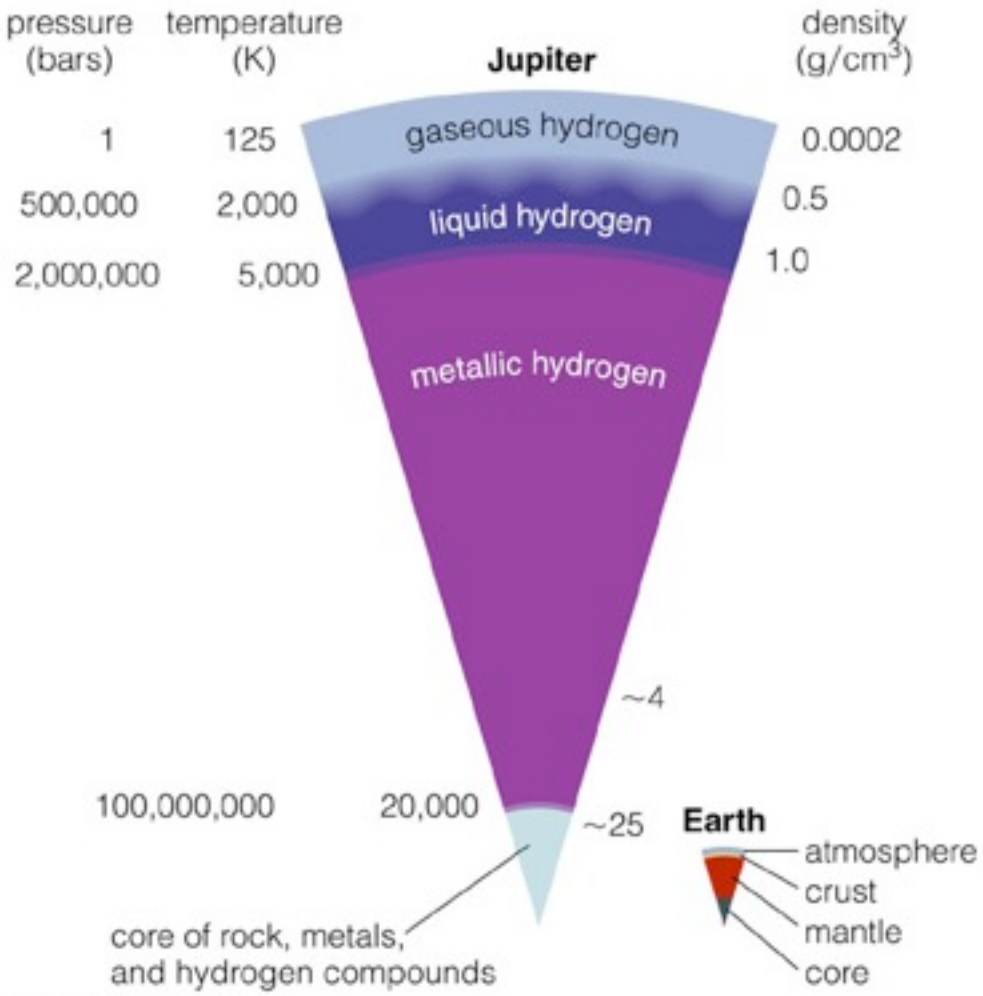
Inside Jupiter



- High pressure inside of Jupiter causes the phase of hydrogen to change with depth.

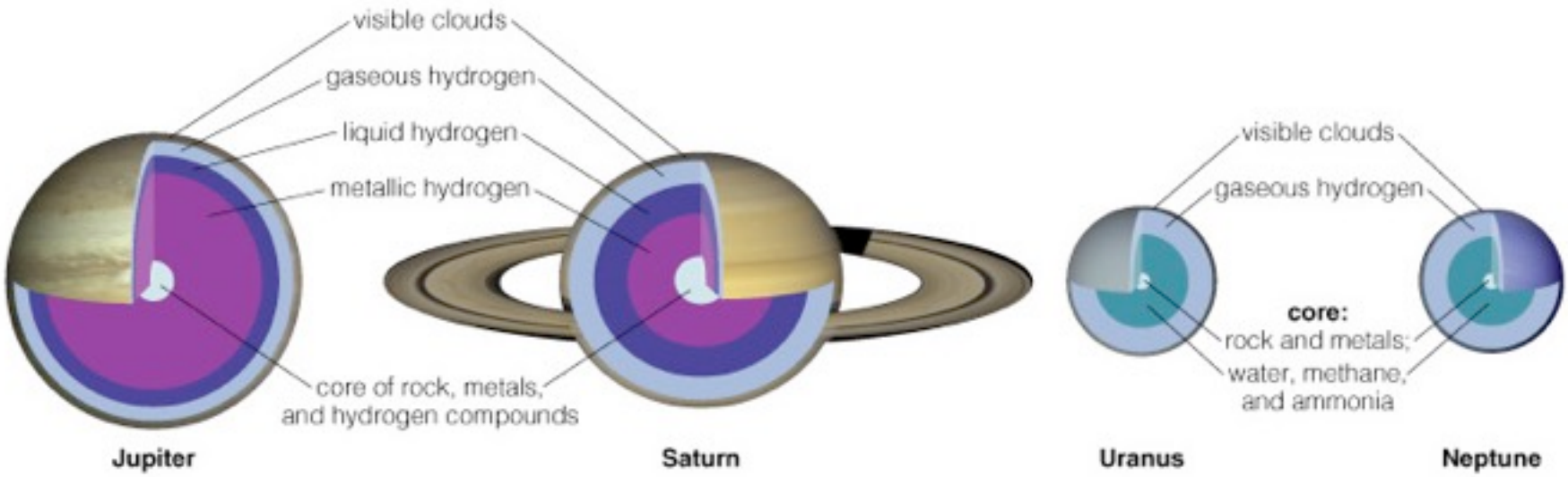
- Hydrogen acts like a metal at great depths because its electrons move freely.

Inside Jupiter



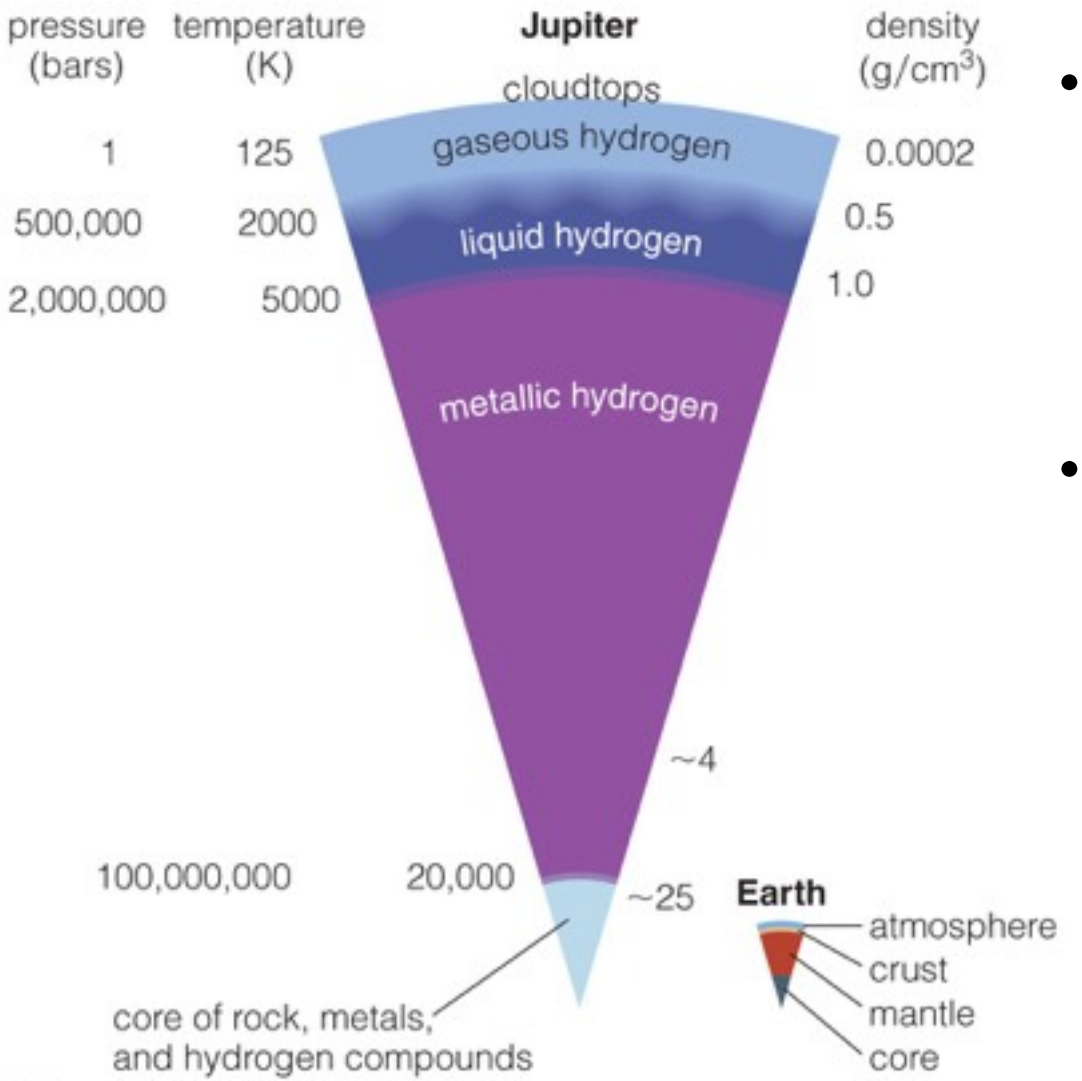
- The core is thought to be made of rock, metals, and hydrogen compounds.
- The core is about the same size as Earth but 10 times as massive.

Comparing Jovian Interiors



- Models suggest that cores of jovian planets have similar composition.
- Lower pressures inside Uranus and Neptune mean no metallic hydrogen.

Jupiter's Internal Heat

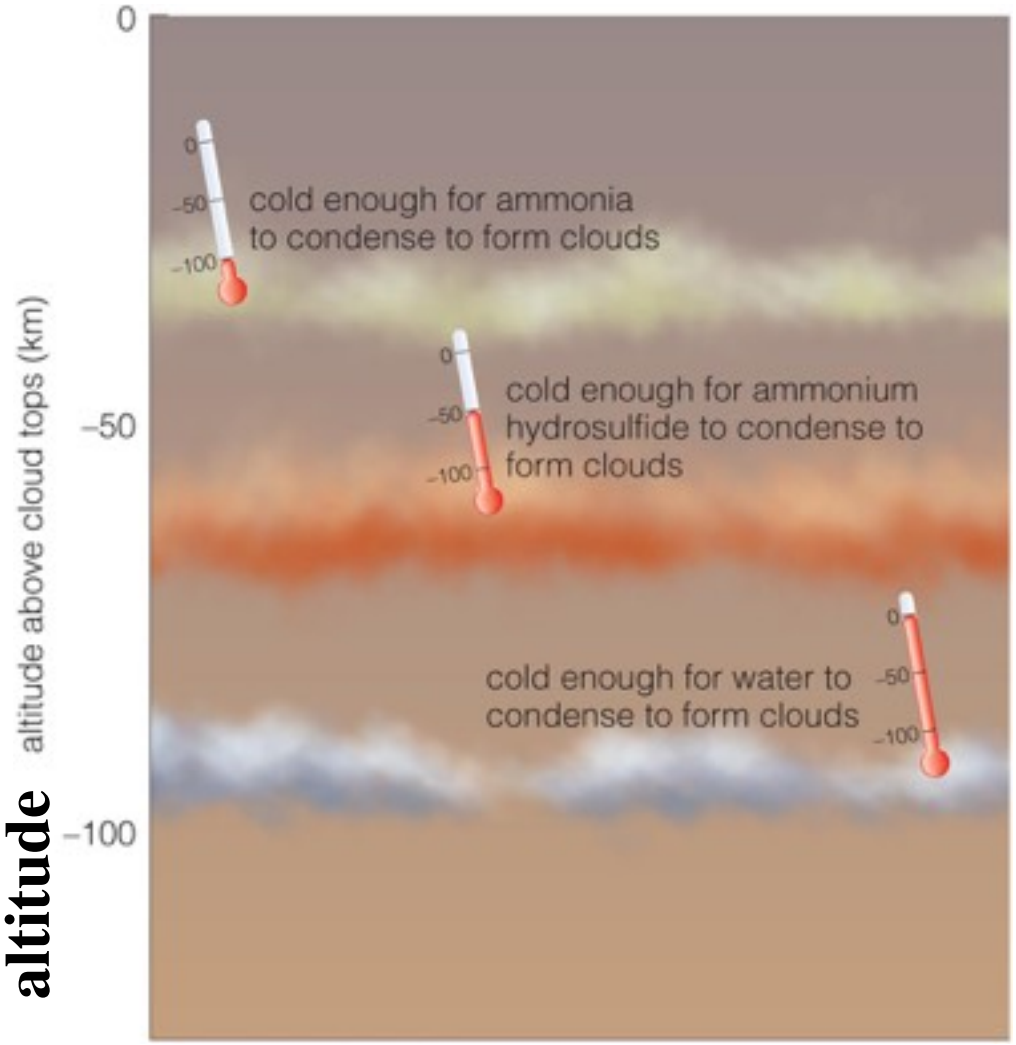


- Jupiter radiates twice as much energy as it receives from the Sun.
- Energy comes from the gradual gravitational contraction of the interior (releasing potential energy).

Internal Heat of Other Planets

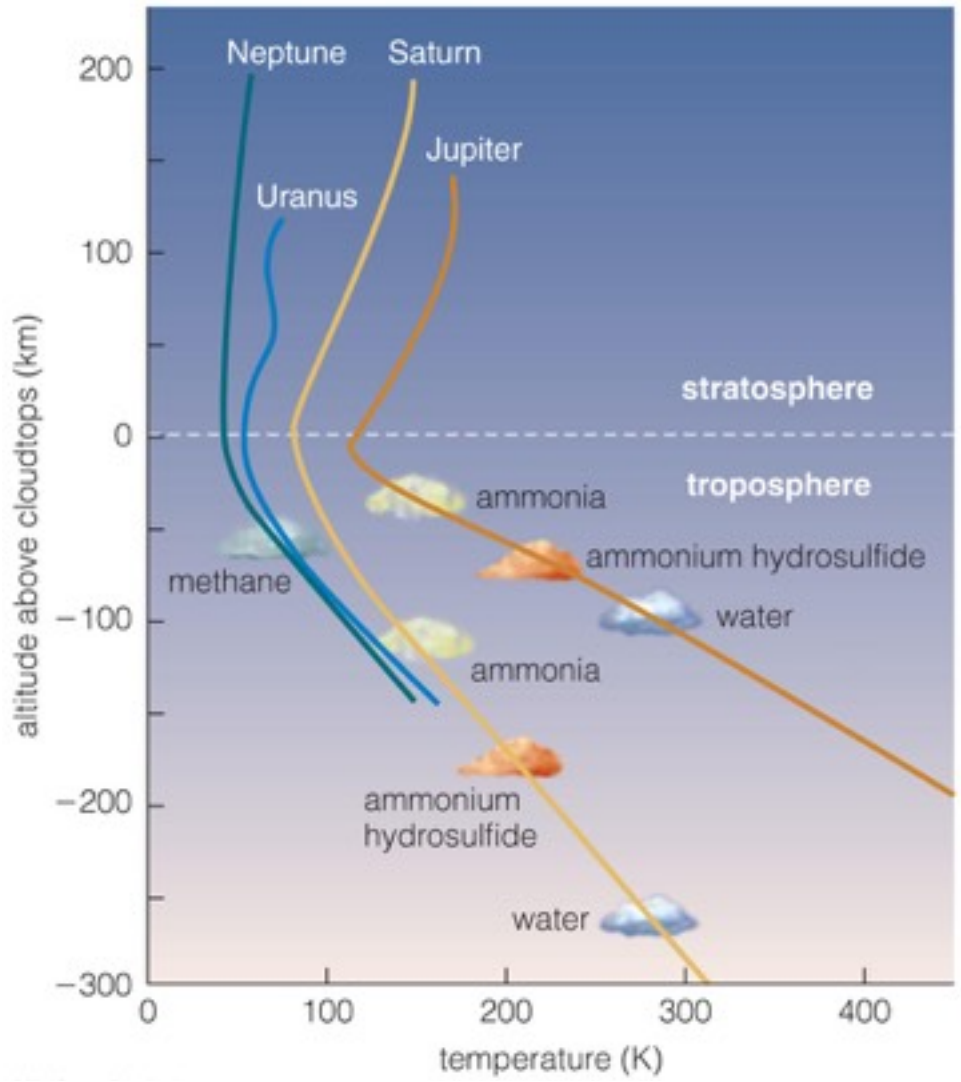
- Saturn also radiates twice as much energy as it receives from the Sun.
  - Energy probably comes from differentiation (helium rain).
- Neptune emits nearly twice as much energy as it receives
  - also driven by gravitational contraction, but precise mechanism unclear.
- Uranus does not radiate more than it receives.
  - no notable internal heat source
  - lower mass & lower density than Neptune

Jupiter's Atmosphere



- Hydrogen compounds in Jupiter form clouds.
- Different cloud layers correspond to freezing points of different hydrogen compounds.
- Other jovian planets have similar cloud layers.

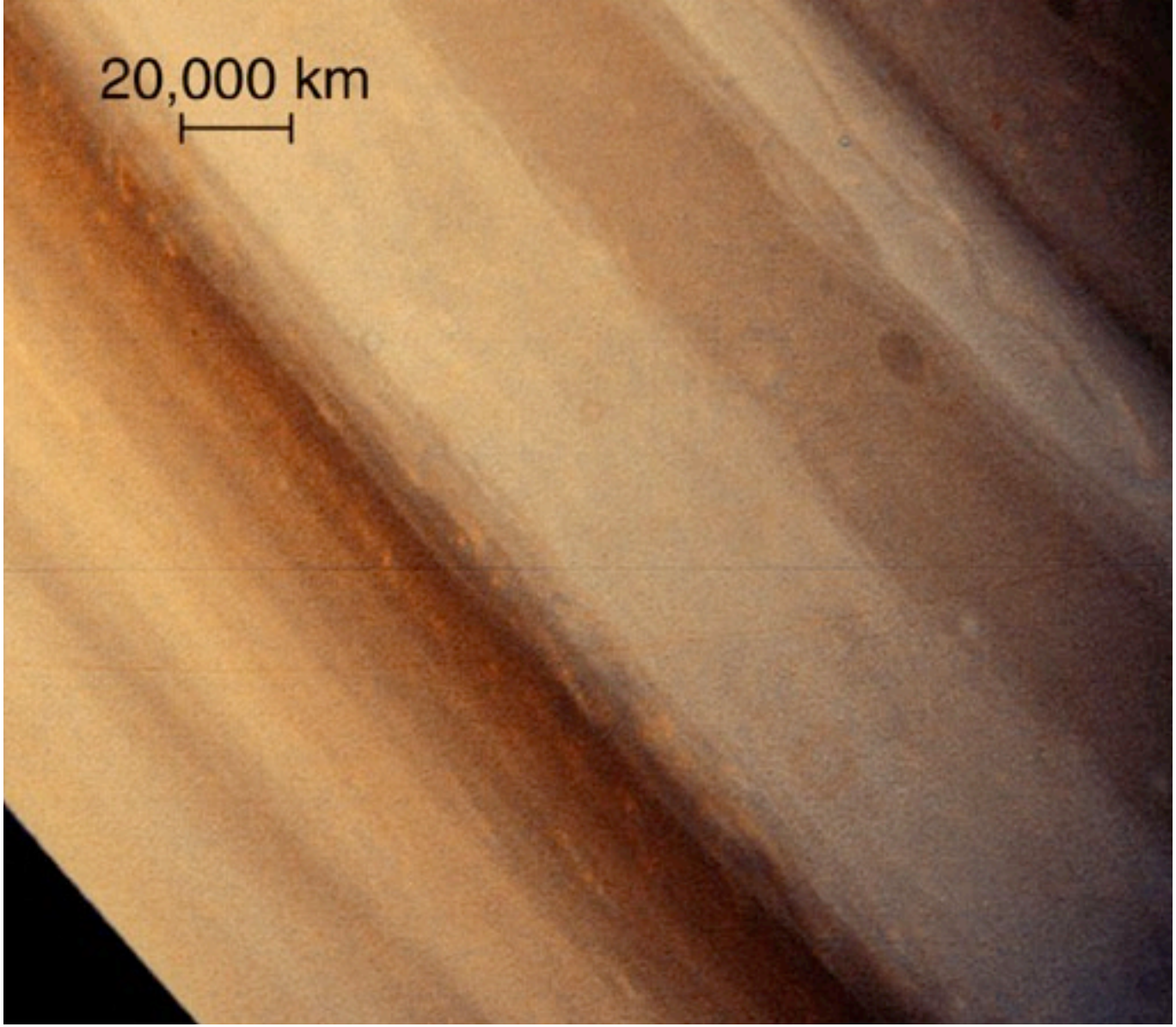
Jovian Planet Atmospheres



- Other jovian planets have cloud layers similar to Jupiter's.
- Different compounds make clouds of different colors.
- Reveal conditions to different depths in each planet

Jupiter's Colors

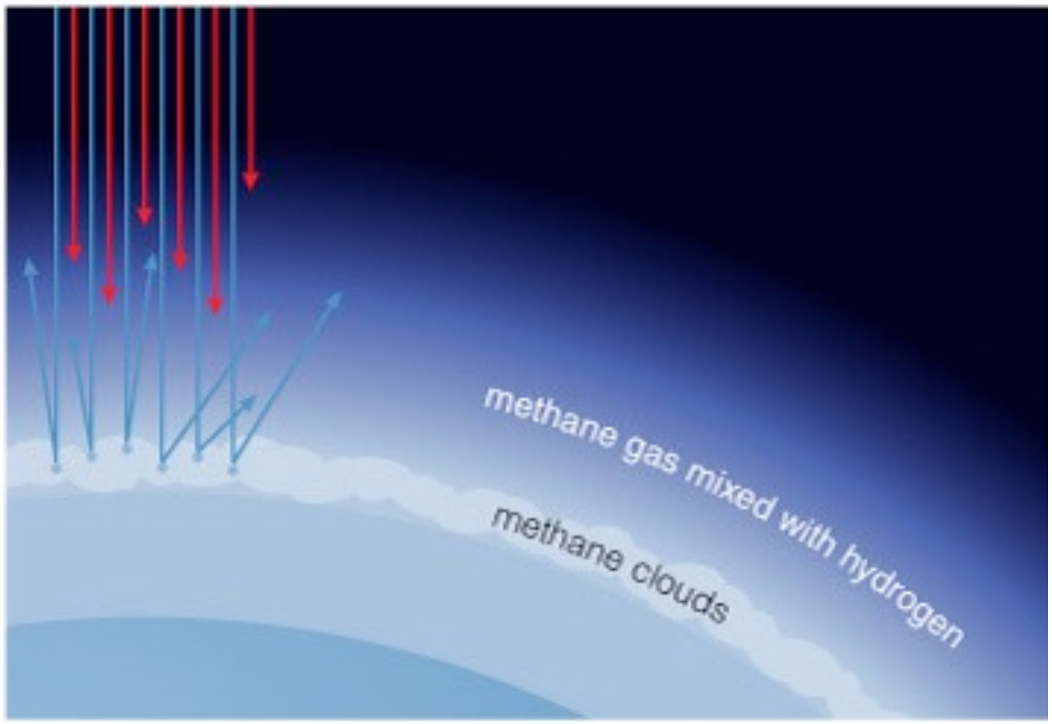
- Ammonium sulfide clouds (NH_4SH) reflect red/brown.
- Ammonia, the highest, coldest layer, reflects white.



Saturn's Colors

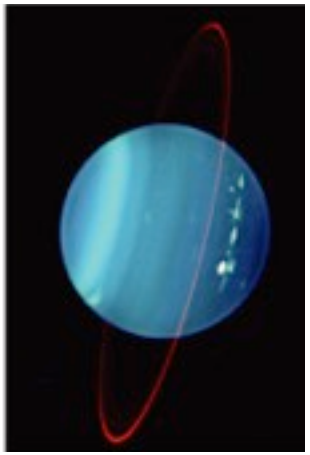
- Saturn's layers are similar but are deeper in and farther from the Sun — more subdued.

Methane on Uranus and Neptune



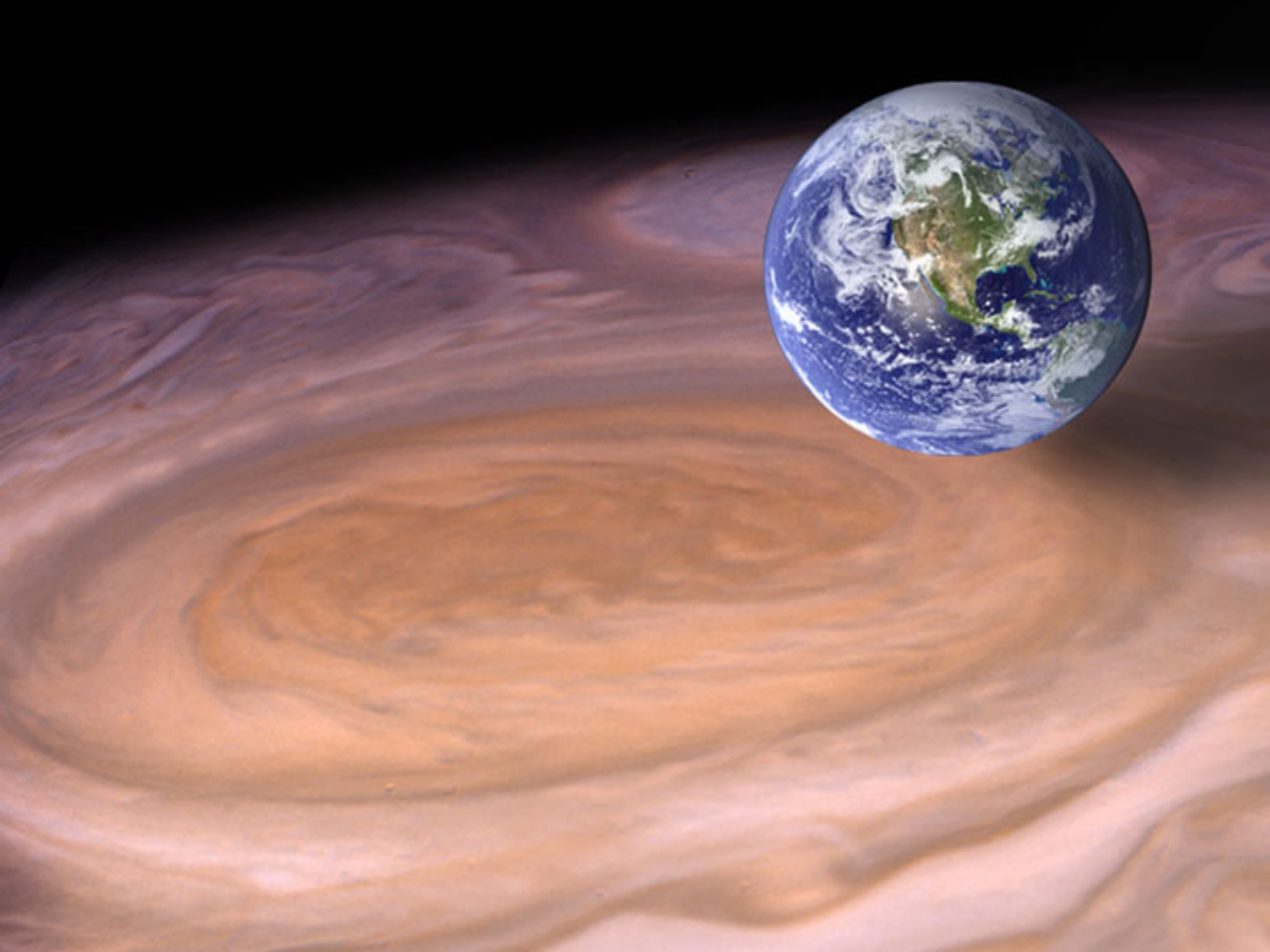
- Methane gas on Neptune and Uranus absorbs red light but reflects blue light.
- Blue light reflects off methane clouds, making those planets look blue.

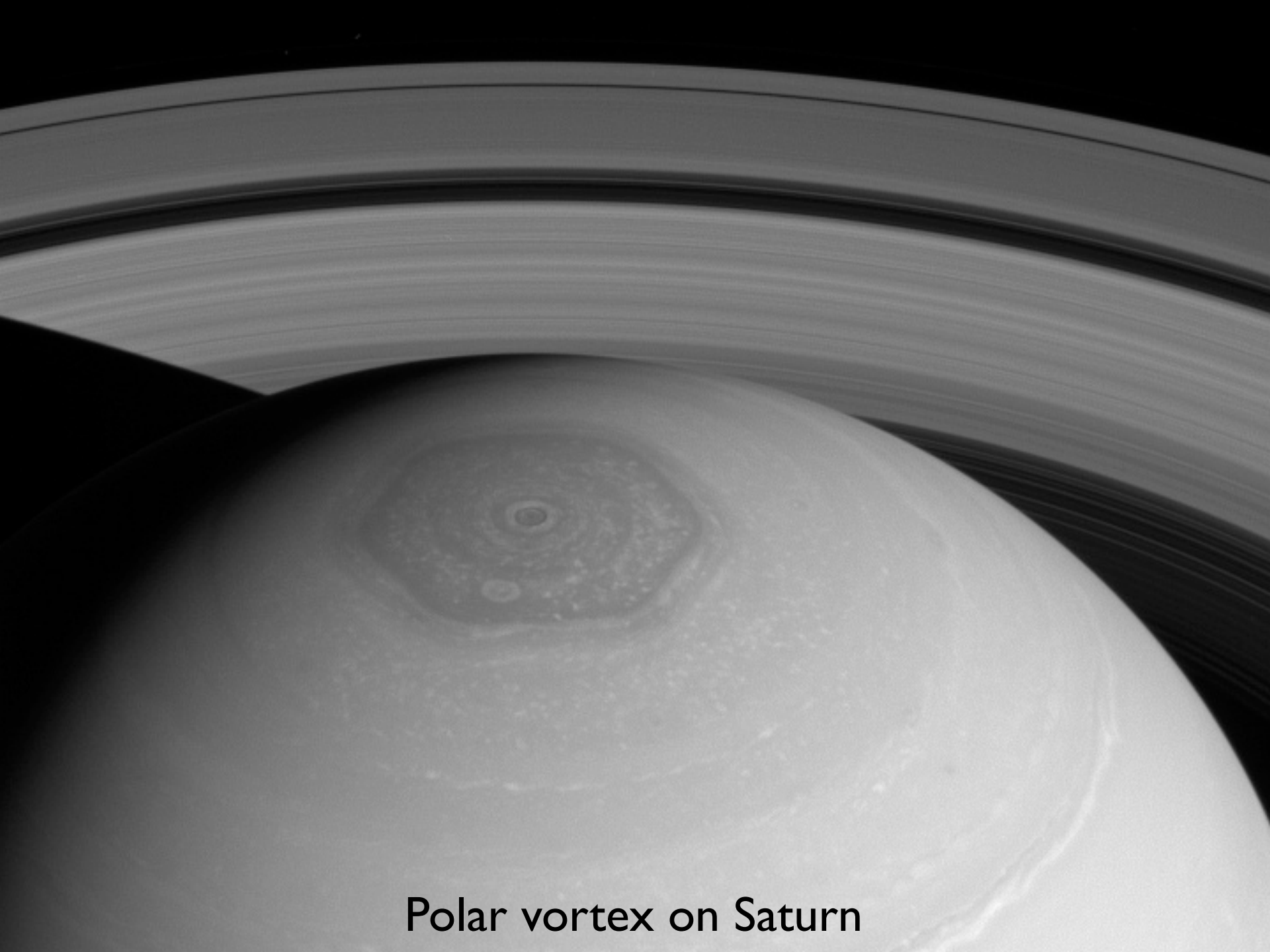
Weather on Jovian Planets



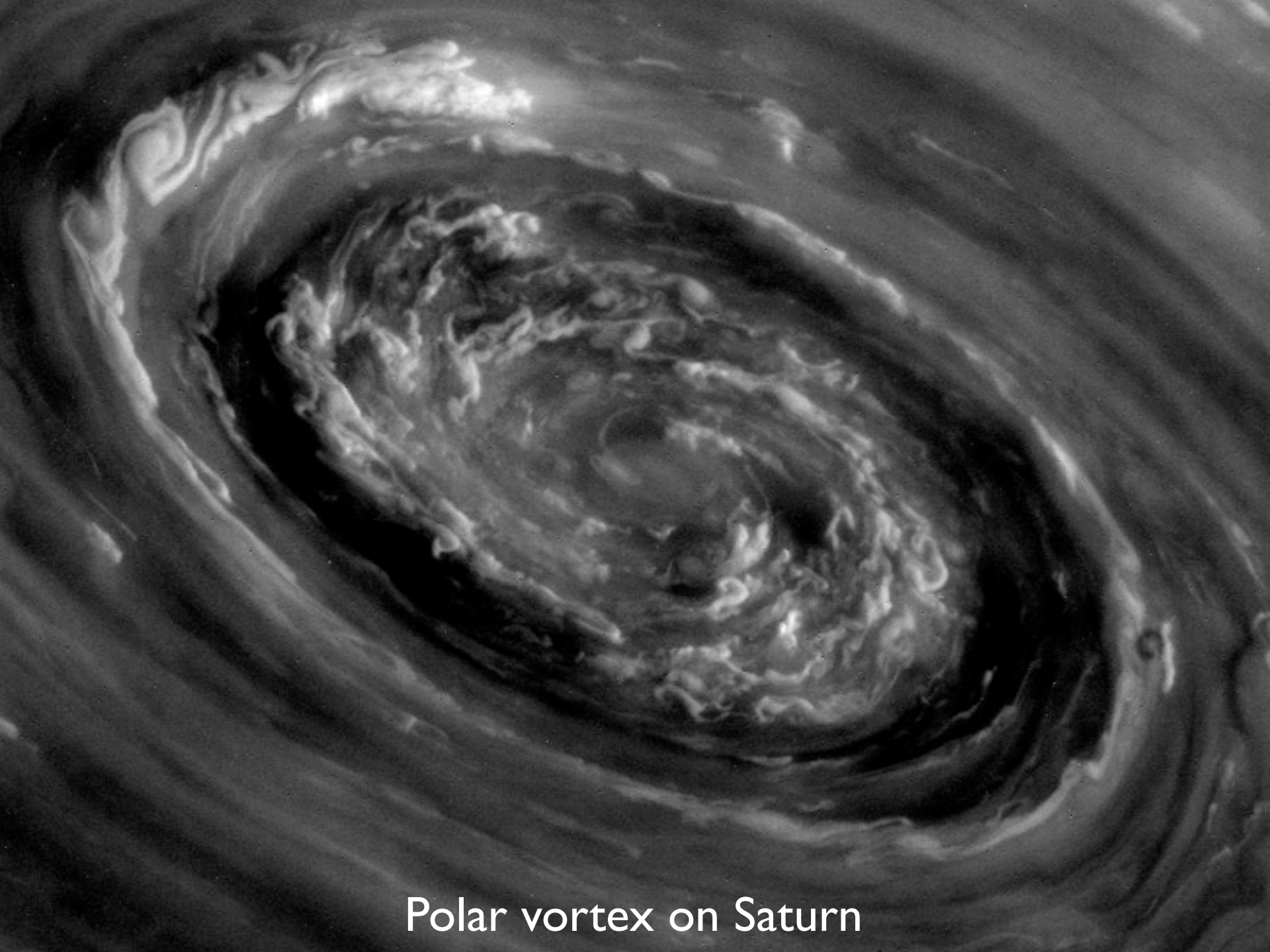
- All the jovian planets have strong winds and storms.

The great red spot on Jupiter is a storm larger than Earth that has persisted for centuries.





Polar vortex on Saturn



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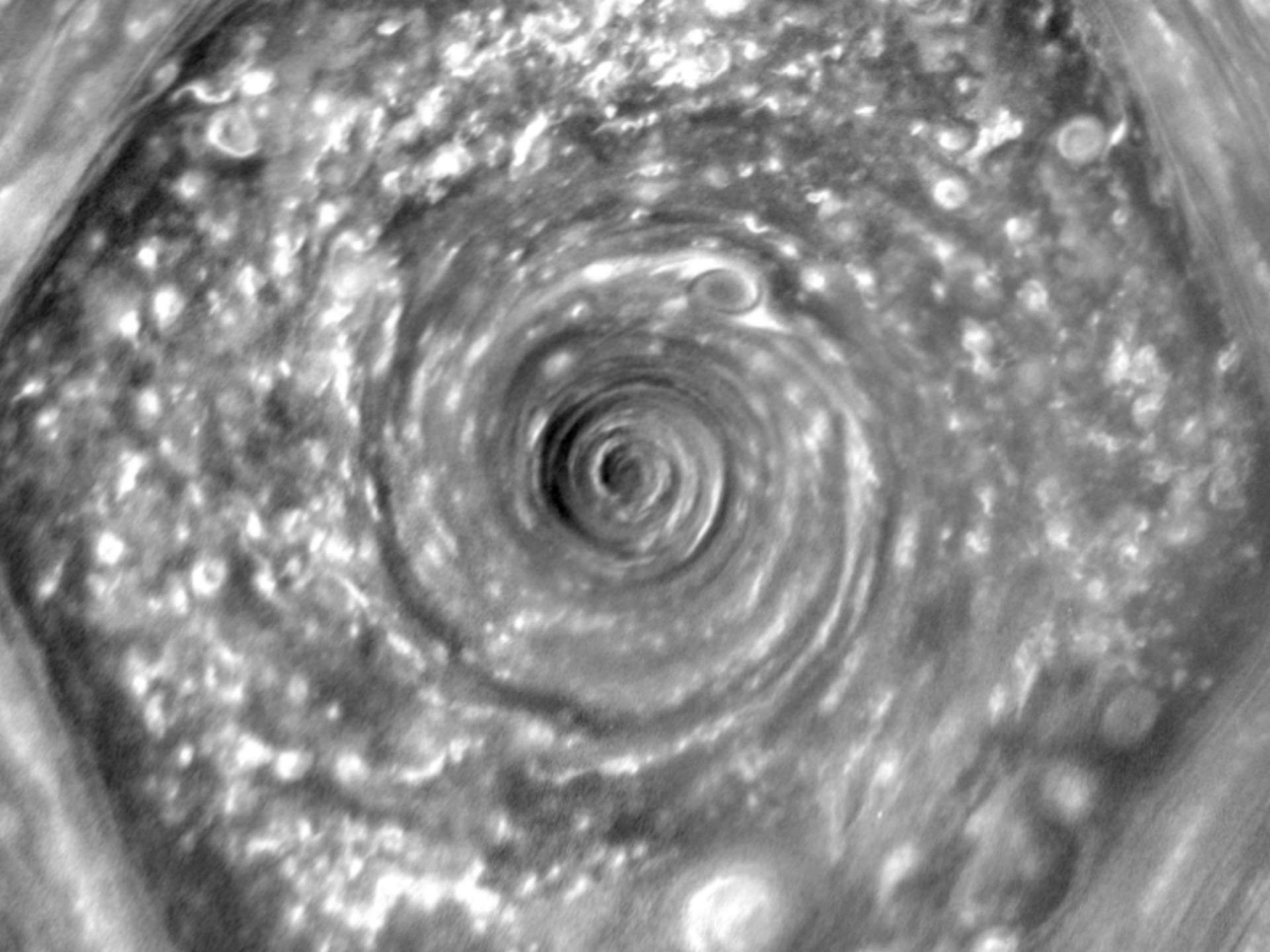
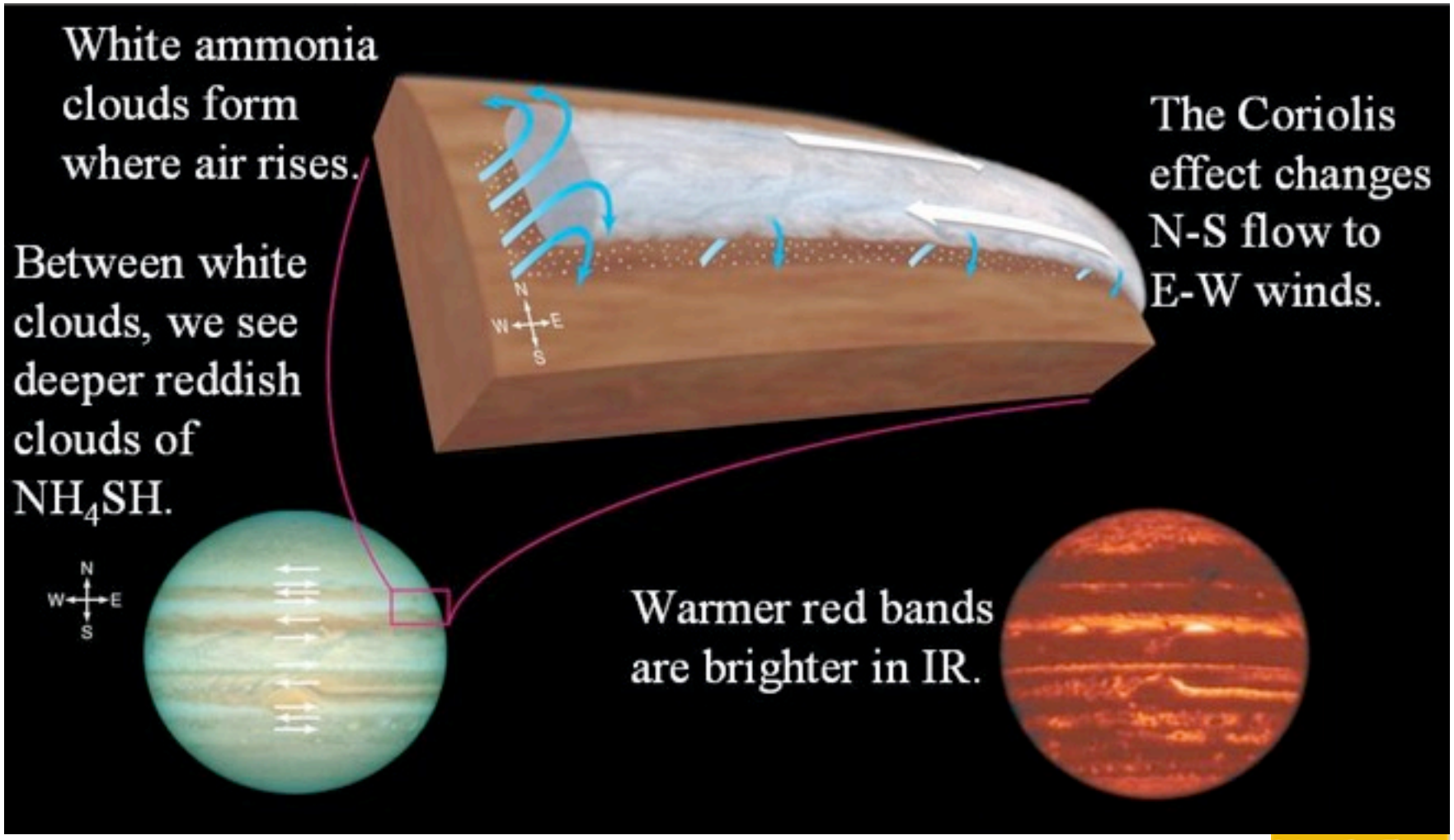
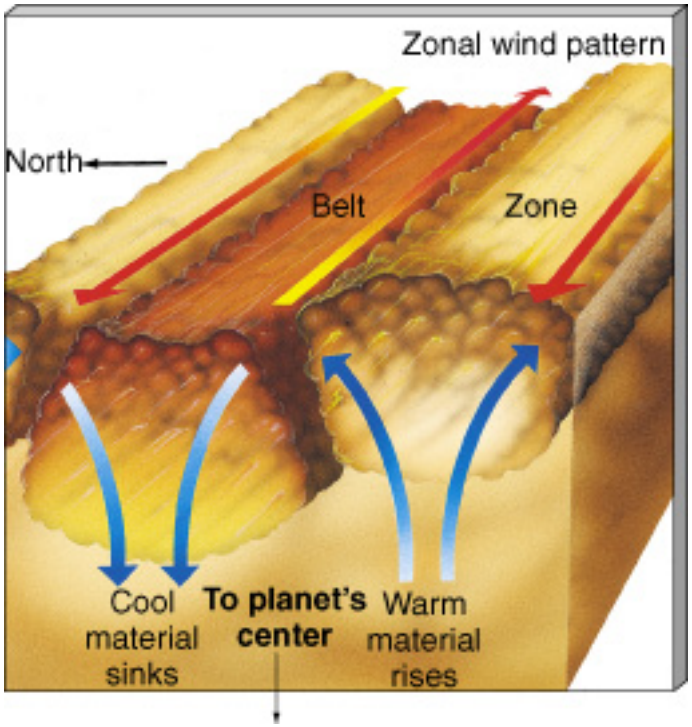


Jupiter's Bands



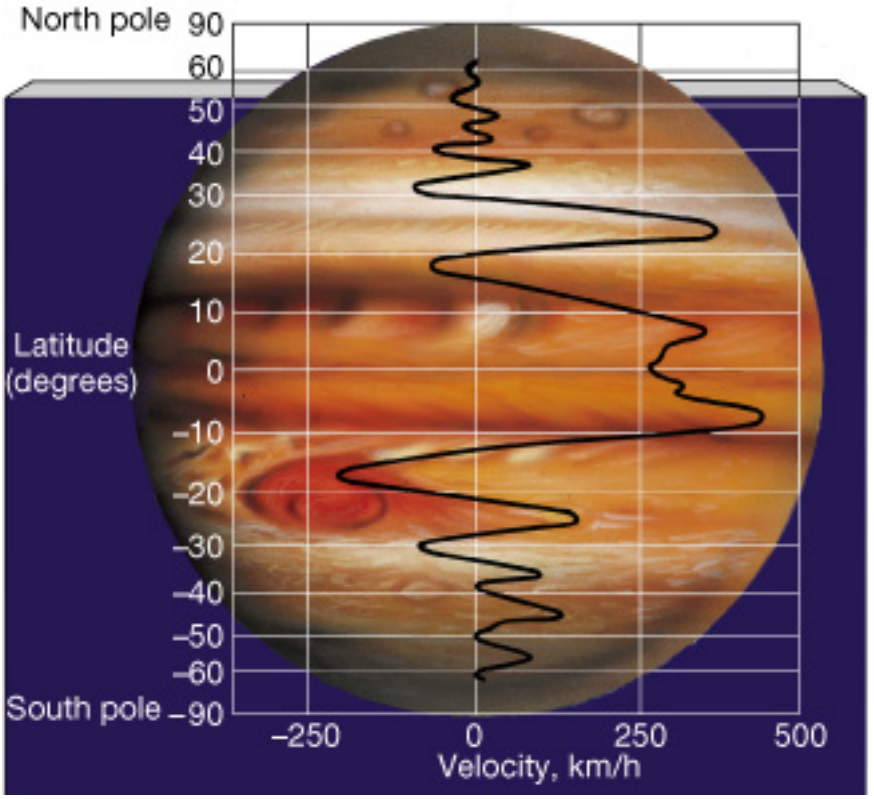
Zonal (band) structure in Jovian planet atmospheres

Zonal wind pattern



Hot rising and cool sinking material segregates into band structure

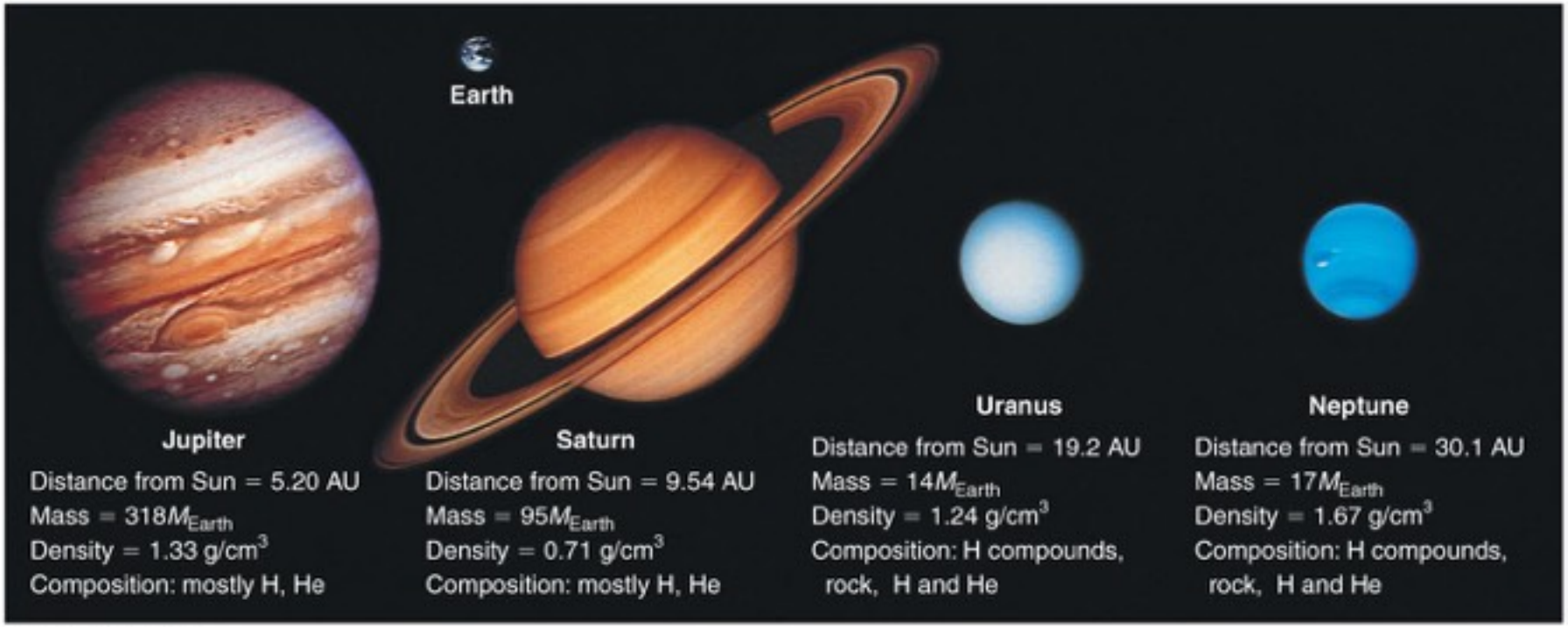
Zonal wind speed



Rapid rotation causes many zones (more than Earth's 3) with high wind speeds

show Jovian cloud layers

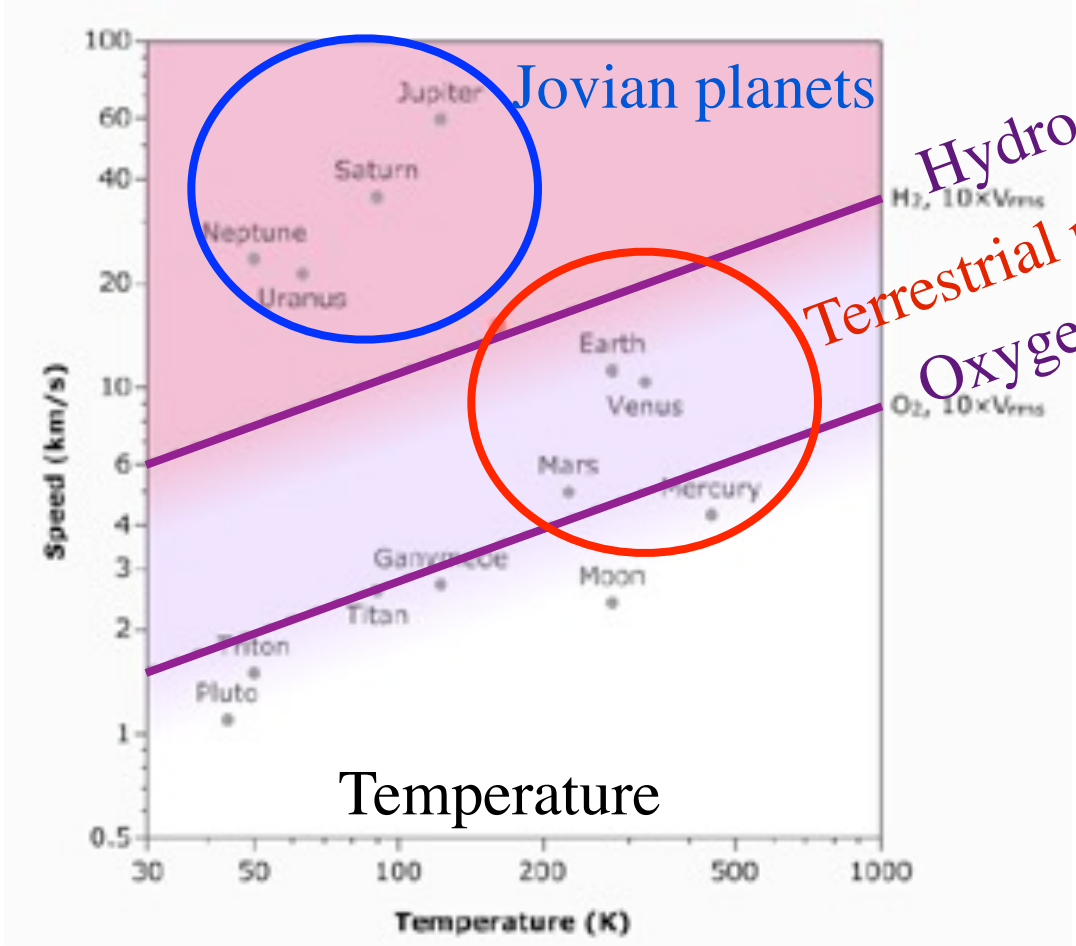
Weather on Jovian Planets



- All the jovian planets have strong winds and storms.

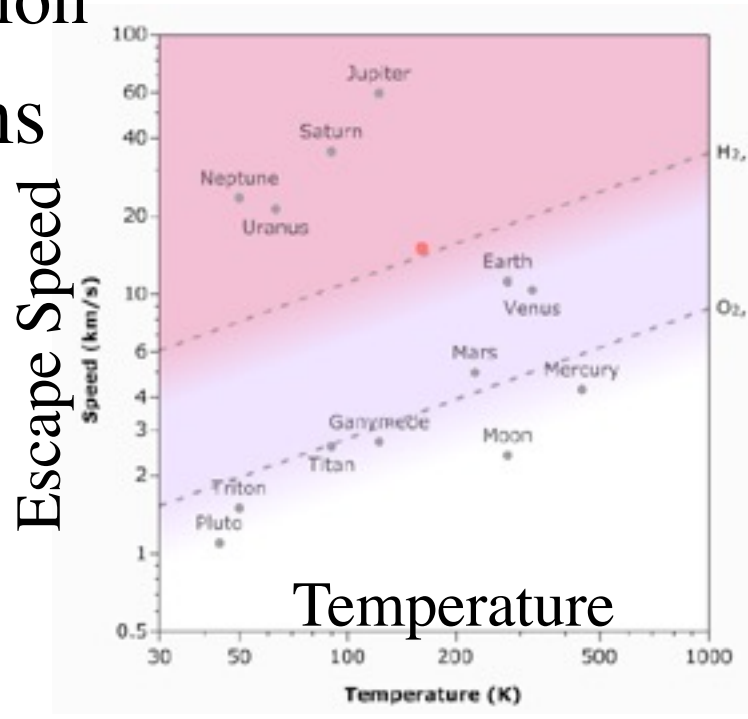
Jovian planets are

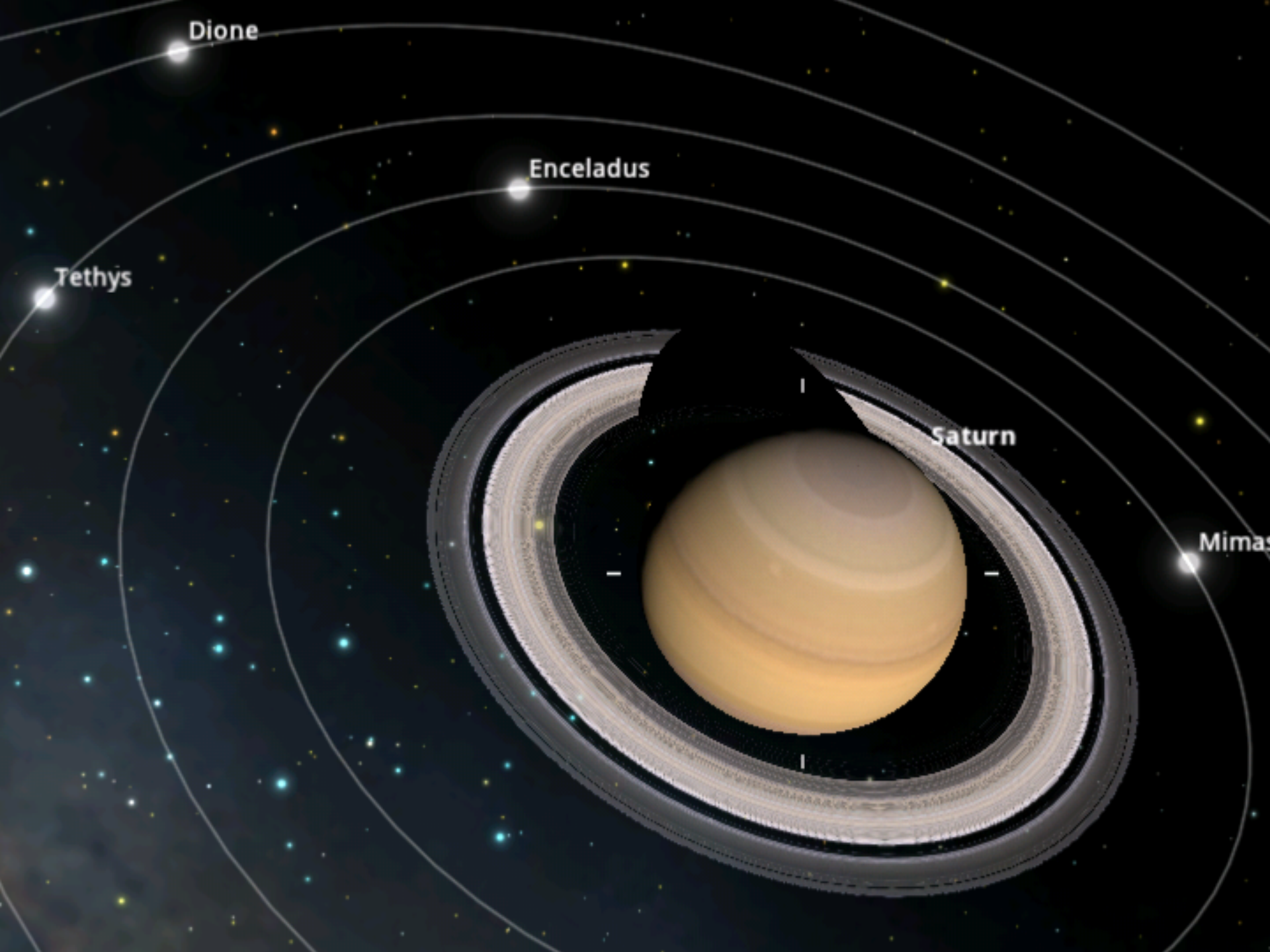
- Big
  - massive and cold, they can retain light elements like hydrogen and helium



Jovian planets are

- Big
  - massive and cold, they can retain light elements like hydrogen and helium
  - their composition is like that of the stars
  - the smaller terrestrial planets are the abnormal planets in terms of composition
- Like miniature solar systems
  - moons
  - rings




Dione
Enceladus
Tethys
Saturn
Mimas

Round objects in the solar system with diameter < 10,000 km