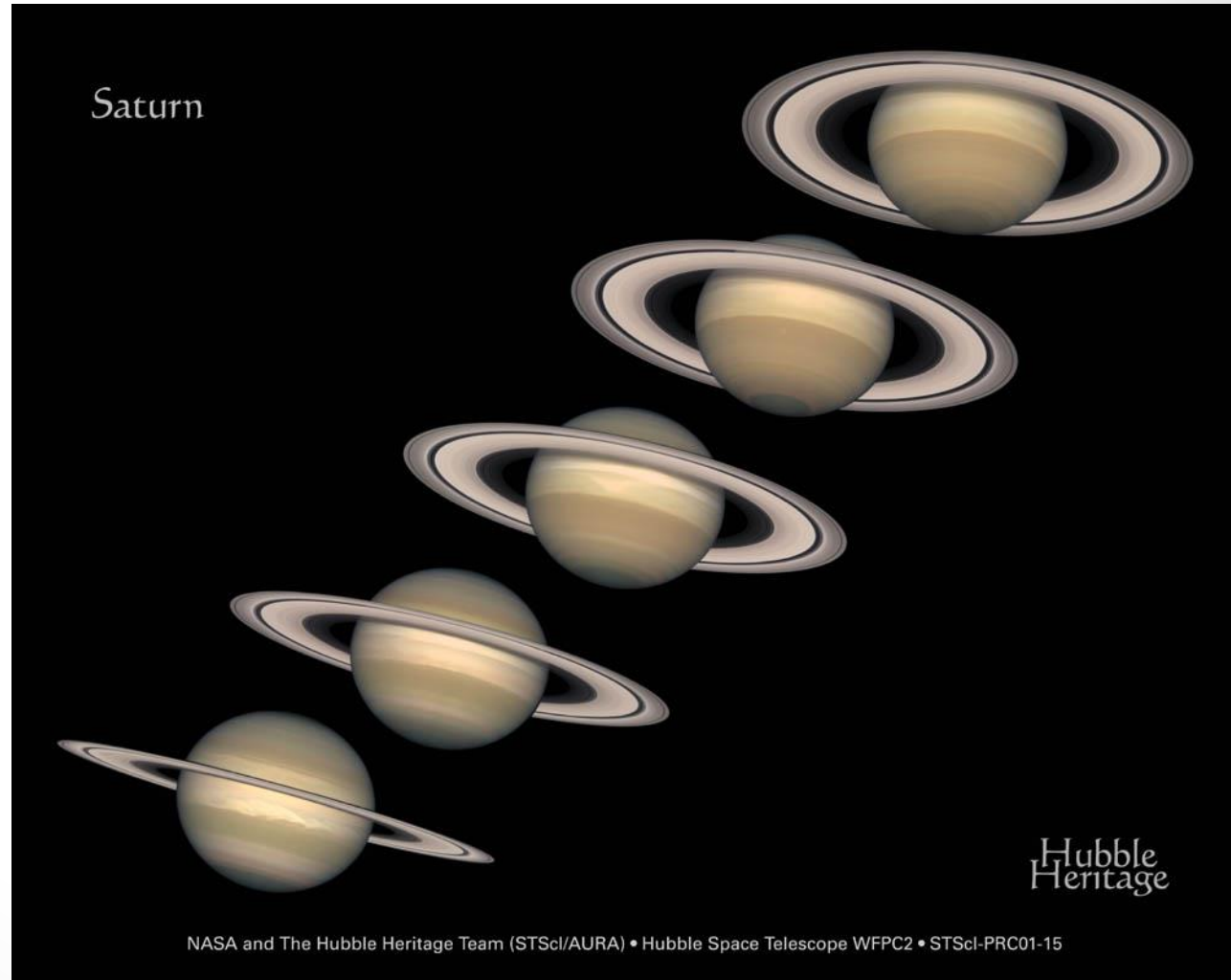




June 2018 Sky Events – the Planets

The Changing Aspect of Saturn's Rings

As seen from the Earth, the view of Saturn's ring system changes *drastically* as the ringed planet travels through its nearly 30 year solar orbit!





June 2018 Sky Events – the Planets

The Changing Aspect of Saturn's Rings

Reaching **opposition** on **June 27th**, Saturn is 846 million miles away, or 75 light minutes away .

Its disk is about 75,000 miles in diameter but its ring system is some 175,000 miles in diameter.

In June 2018, the north face of Saturn's rings will be tilted towards the Earth **their maximum extent** – nearly 27 degrees – and offering the **best view of the rings until 2032!**

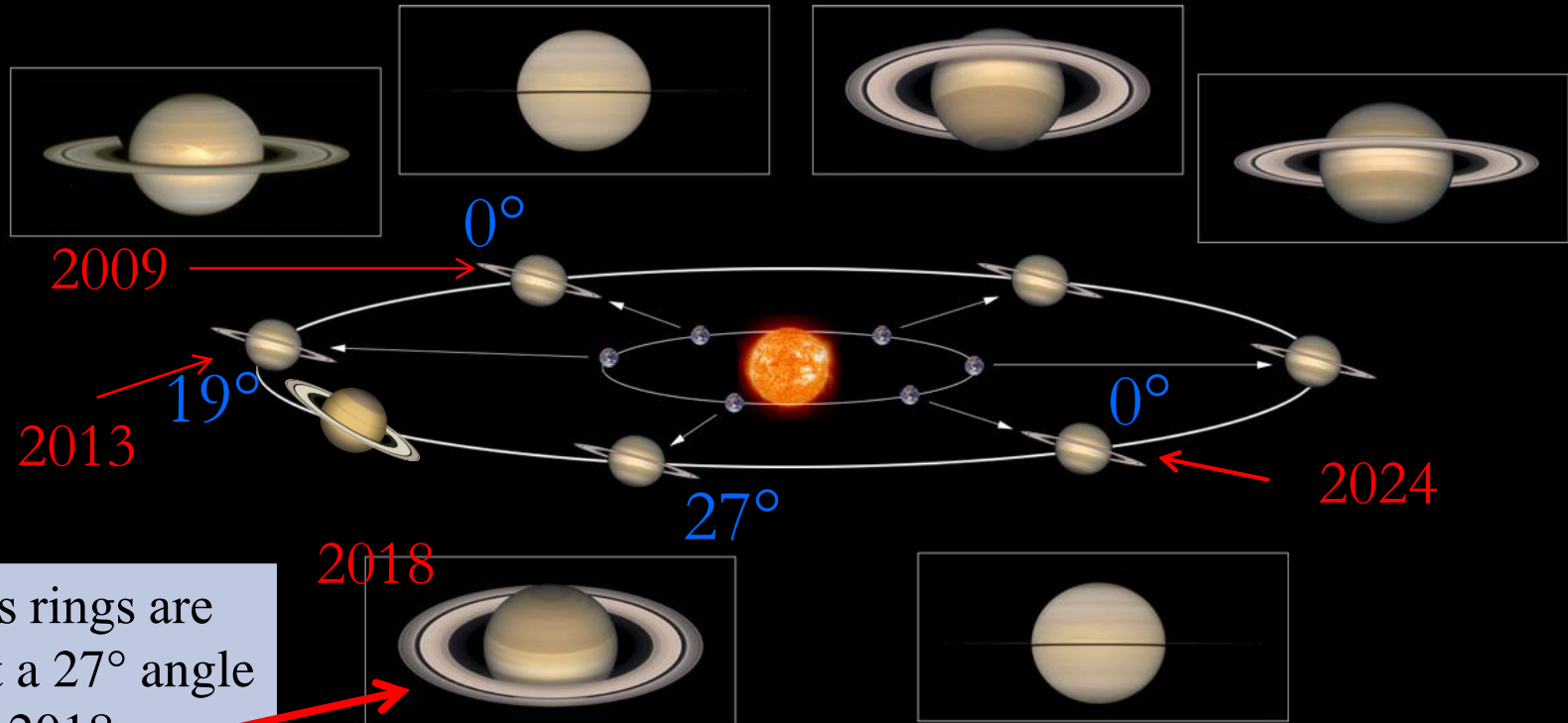
Our solar system's "Lord of the Rings"



Amateur telescopes typically see up to 6 of Saturn's 62 moons, including its largest and most famous moon – Titan.

June 2018 Sky Events – the Planets

The Changing Aspect of Saturn's Rings



Saturn's rings are tilted at a 27° angle in June 2018.

The images in the boxes show how Saturn looks like from Earth as both Earth and Saturn orbit around the Sun. Saturn makes an orbit around the Sun in 29.457 Earth-year.

Saturn images modified from Hubble Space Telescope (HST)
Sun image modified from SOHO