

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

LIGHT MATERIALS
Interpreted as differentiated materials, probably water ice relatively free of silica, extruded as low-viscosity fluids

lsg Light, slightly grooved material—Smooth surface with pattern of very subdued grooves. Interpretation: Faint structural imprint caused by underlying topography of older, grooved material.

lg Light grooved material—Light material with structural imprint of grooves. Exposures arranged in domains characterized by parallel, roughly evenly spaced grooves and ridges. Groove sets may be long, narrow groove zones, called lanes by Murchie and others (1986), or short and wide. Boundaries with dark materials mostly sharp; boundaries with other light material may be indistinct. Grooves roughly linear; locally slightly curved or sharply angled. Interpretation: Grooves due to extensional stress. Orientation changes caused by complicated stress regimes.

ls Light smooth material—Sparsely cratered. Tectonic features such as conspicuous grooves or troughs are single or in pairs, randomly located. Faint, groove-like striations in places. Interpretation: Unit may be precursor to grooved and slightly grooved materials.

DARK MATERIALS

db Material of dark bands—Forms narrow, roughly linear troughs in light materials. Interpretation: May be remains of dark material no longer present, dike-like intrusions, or traces of faint troughs.

dg Dark grooved material—Densely spaced grooves of low albedo similar in shape to faint grooves in light material. Interpretation: Silicate-ice mixture; grooves may have formed by shear failure due to strike-slip movements along zones of breakup of old dark crust.

df Dark furrowed material—Rough, hummocky, densely cratered surface. Occurs mostly in Galileo Regio and its surroundings. Boundaries with light materials generally sharp, in places marked by troughs. Most superposed craters partly degraded or degraded. Interpretation: Oldest crust visible in map region, composed of silicate-ice mixture with imprint of extensional tectonics from early in Ganymede's history.

f2 Material of younger furrows—Rims and floors of linear depressions, as much as 500 km long (mostly located outside map region), in dark furrowed material. Rims bright. Interpretation: Depressions are extensional tectonic features, probably grabens. Radial to impacts or due to endogenic processes. Albedo contrasts of bright rims with surrounding dark material probably due to material differences.

f1 Material of older furrows—Rims and floors of linear, slightly arcuate depressions in dark furrowed material. Margins kinked and bent. Furrows 10 to 25 km wide, as much as 200 km long. Interpretation: Same as material of younger furrows, but grabens formed constricted to impacts.

d Dark material, undivided—Includes other dark materials whose characteristics are difficult to identify because of poor resolution of images. Lacks furrows, but has linear depressions of different lengths resembling grooves in light materials. Small elliptical depressions may be present in places. Interpretation: Silicate-rich ice mixture. Grooves and depressions probably extensional tectonic features; elliptical depressions may also be deformed impact craters or volcanic vents.

CRATER AND PALIMPSEST MATERIALS
(Only craters greater than 20 km in diameter are mapped)

c3 Material of fresh craters—Observed in map region only in anti-Jovian hemisphere. Craters have complete, sharp rims and bright ejecta. Bright rays rare; some extend northward into map region between long 25° and 28°. Interpretation: Fresh impact craters whose ejecta are composed of relatively clean ice. Superposed on all other materials.

c2 Material of partly degraded craters—Rims complete, distinct; diameters less than 20 to 80 km (crater Kishar); slightly hummocky ejecta discernible in places. Central peaks indistinct; central pits, locally with bright raised rims, common in craters greater than 40 km in diameter. Includes forms having scarp-like terminations surrounding ejecta materials (bookend craters), observed mostly on light smooth material. Interpretation: Impact craters whose ages span much of Ganymede's history.

c1 Material of degraded craters—Found only in dark materials; albedos similar to that of dark materials. Craters have subdued or partial rims, no recognizable ejecta; diameters 20 to 60 km. Crater floors mostly flat, some bowl-shaped, some have internal domes or ring-shaped depressions forming moats (lat 82° N, long 75°). Central pits barely discernible in places (lat 78° N, long 88°). Interpretation: Old impact craters degraded by viscous relaxation processes and meteorite bombardment.

CONTACTS

— Dashed where approximately located. Includes domain boundaries within light, slightly grooved, light grooved, dark furrowed, and undivided dark materials.

— Deep linear trough—Mostly in light materials; dashed where approximately located.

— Vague linear trough—Mostly in light materials; dashed where approximately located.

— Trend of subbed grooves—Schematic.

— Trend of sharp grooves—Schematic.

— Furrow—Dashed where approximately located.

— Lineament—Arrows indicate possible sense of strike-slip movement.

○ Irregular depression

○ Crater rim crest—Dashed where approximately located.

○ Peak on crater floor

○ Dome on crater floor

○ Circular scarp—Hachures point downslope.

○ Bright ejecta rays

○ Secondary craters—Faint and irregular, around crater Kishar.

INTERPRETATION

Ganymede, the largest of the Jovian satellites discovered by Galileo, is a Mercury-sized object with a diameter of 5,268 km. Ganymede's Jupiter-facing side is always the same. The low density of 1.93 × 10³ kg m⁻³ suggests that Ganymede has a large component of water ice. Its composition of rock is unknown (Smith and others, 1979a). Absorption bands at 1.55 and 2.0 μm are evidence for water-ice abundance at its surface (Pliker and others, 1972).

Ganymede has two main terrain types: dark and light materials, each covering about 50 percent of the surface. Also, many of the impact craters dispersed across the map region have bright ejecta or bright rays; some have dark rays.

The dark material is heavily cratered and, therefore, known to be older than the light material (Smith and others, 1979a,b; Shoemaker and others, 1982). The global average albedo of dark material is 0.35 (Squires and Veveka, 1981). In some places, dark material is cut by linear furrows or by sets of curvilinear, roughly concentric furrows. Light material, which has a global average albedo of 0.44 (Squires and Veveka, 1981), is dissected by many linear or slightly arcuate, locally sinuous grooves. Most of the grooves are arranged in groove domains or "structural cells" (Smith and others, 1979a; Lucchitta, 1980). Both furrows and grooves are of tectonic origin, probably extensional features (Smith and others, 1979a; Shoemaker and others, 1982).

Overall coverage of the map region is poor (see resolution diagram). Only about a quarter, which is located in the sub-Jovian hemisphere (long 270° to 90°) imaged by Voyager 1, is covered by images of less than 2.0 km/pixel resolution. The area between long 120° and 240° is covered by Voyager 2 images with resolution due to foreshortening. Part of Galileo Regio, the largest expanse of dark material on Ganymede, is in this area.

The map region and surrounding areas are covered by a light-colored polar cap extending down to a mean latitude of about 48° N (Squires, 1980). The cap is visible on furrow-encounter images only and does not affect the contrast on the images used for geologic mapping.

STRATIGRAPHY

Albedo differences and morphology are the basic criteria for mapping geologic units on Ganymede. Albedo differences are used for major divisions, morphologic differences for further subdivision.

DARK MATERIALS

Dark materials are characterized by a relatively low albedo and commonly by a high density of impact craters. They occur in areas as large as 1,000 km² or in smaller, roughly polygonal areas. Dark materials consist of dark furrowed material, materials of older and younger furrows, dark grooved material, material of dark bands, and dark material, undivided.

Most of the dark material in the quadrangle is part of Galileo Regio (roughly long 10° to 170°), a vast, dark, polygonal feature thousands of kilometers across. The region consists mainly of dark furrowed material (unit df), but, due to foreshortening effects, only a few furrows can be discriminated in the map region. Between individual furrows, dark furrowed material is characterized by a rough, densely cratered surface.

Furrow materials differ in morphology and, as shown by crosscutting relations in Galileo Regio (Casaccia and Strom, 1984), they also differ in age. Material of younger furrows (unit f₂) in the map region is found exclusively in the area imaged by Voyager 2, whereas material of older furrows (unit f₁) is known to occur in regions imaged by both Voyager 1 and 2, but it cannot be identified positively in Voyager 2 images due to their foreshortening. Older furrows are characterized by a rough, densely cratered surface. Some of the craters are transected by younger troughs in dark materials, for example, craters Nehah (lat 71° N, long 58°) and Adapa (lat 72° N, long 30°). The rim and ejecta of crater Aya (lat 67° N, long 325°), in light grooved material, are interrupted by grooves and troughs, but the crater floor is undisturbed by tectonic structures, which indicates that the interior may have been resurfaced subsequent to tectonism. Other partly degraded craters are superposed on grooves in light grooved material, for example, at lat 70.5° N, long 320° and lat 79° N, long 311°.

CRATER AND PALIMPSEST MATERIALS

Craters in the map region range in morphology from that of a palimpsest to those of degraded and partly degraded craters to fresh craters. Some craters have central pits, moats, or scarp-like terminations of ejecta. However, morphologic information is lost in the highly foreshortened regions at the limbs.

Age relations of degraded craters (unit c₁) cannot be established easily. No degraded craters are observed to cross-cut furrows in dark material in the map area. Because degraded craters are almost entirely restricted to dark materials, these craters probably predate the emplacement of light materials. Partly degraded craters (unit c₂) constitute the most common type throughout the map region. The large central pit of crater Kishar is very likely caused by tectonic modification, as evidenced by a faint trough that extends northward from the center of the pit. The ejecta of many partly degraded craters have scarp-like terminations similar to those of the inner lobes of Martian impact craters. Most of these terminations are sharp, for example, those at lat 80.5° N, long 330° and lat 73° N, long 342° (Etana). These craters are termed pedestal craters (Hornor and Greenberg, 1982), and they were likely caused by an impact into an icy target forming flow-lobe ejecta. Partly degraded craters apparently span a wide age range. Most are younger than the dark materials, and, as observed by Casaccia and Strom (1984), they postdate furrowed material. Some of the craters are transected by younger troughs in dark materials, for example, craters Nehah (lat 71° N, long 58°) and Adapa (lat 72° N, long 30°). The rim and ejecta of crater Aya (lat 67° N, long 325°), in light grooved material, are interrupted by grooves and troughs, but the crater floor is undisturbed by tectonic structures, which indicates that the interior may have been resurfaced subsequent to tectonism. Other partly degraded craters are superposed on grooves in light grooved material, for example, at lat 70.5° N, long 320° and lat 79° N, long 311°.

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GEOLOGIC AND TECTONIC HISTORY

The oldest recognizable event in the map region was the formation of a dark crust, now densely cratered. Part of the previous crater population was obliterated by resurfacing, viscous relaxation of the crust, and tectonic events (Passey and Shoemaker, 1982; Murchie and Head, 1987, 1988); therefore, the overall crater population is not the original one. Prior to the formation of most craters that are now visible on dark materials, the hemispheric-scale, rimmed-furrow system was created that is roughly concentric to a point (at about lat 15° S, long 165°) in eastern Marias Regio. The furrows may be grabens formed by a giant impact (McKinnon and Melosh, 1980; Schenk and McKinnon, 1987) or extensional tectonic features that reactivated primary impact structures (Murchie and Head, 1988). Alternatively, they may have been formed by an endogenic event such as a rising mantle plume (Casaccia and Strom, 1984). Younger furrows apparently spread radially, also from the eastern part of Marias Regio. Their occurrence is attributed to internal activity; they might be radial extensions caused by doming (Murchie and Head, 1987).

Furrows then developed in a crust whose strength was not sufficient to retain structures with long wavelengths, such as impact craters greater than 100 km in diameter (Passey and Shoemaker, 1982). Therefore, in the old dark crust, viscous relaxation transformed old large craters into palimpsests, and it degraded craters having central domes and interior moats.

After the formation of furrows, linear or sinuous troughs of differing origins evolved in dark materials. Some troughs are younger than some impact craters, but they are cut by and are therefore older than light materials that formed later in the history of Ganymede. The troughs are spatially restricted and may have been caused by local extensional stress fields.

Global expansion, possibly due to phase changes in the ice mantle (Shoemaker and others, 1982), to differentiation processes (Squires, 1980), to global thermal activity (Zuber and Parmentier, 1984), or to mantle convection (Shoemaker and others, 1982), led to extensional stresses that caused a breakup of the old dark materials and the emplacement of light materials (Parmentier and others, 1982; Squires, 1982). Fractures widened and rift zones were resurfaced by smooth light material. In many parts of the map region, this material remained structurally unaffected, or it may have resurfaced and thereby smoothed older grooved light material; elsewhere, sets of closely spaced, parallel grooves formed within light materials. Associated with the global breakup of the crust were strike-slip movements along lineaments, which created shear fractures (mapped in dark grooved material). Grooves may have formed contemporaneously with light-material emplacement, or they may have developed subsequently. Some conspicuous troughs cut through both groove sets and dark materials.

The light, slightly grooved material probably resurfaced older light grooved material. On the other hand, we cannot exclude the possibility that this unit is as old as the smooth unit but has undergone a groove-forming process that created only faint grooves.

Partly degraded craters formed before, during, and after light-material emplacement. The latest events in the map region were impacts, which generated fresh craters with bright rims, bright ejecta, and locally bright rays.

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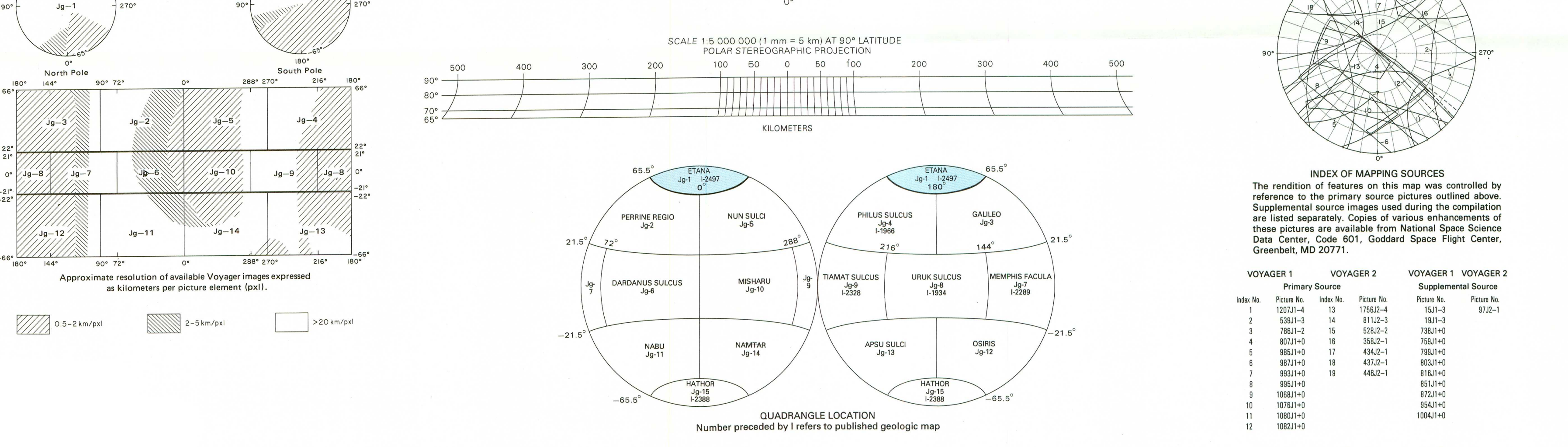
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GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE ETANA REGION (Jg-1) OF GANYMEDE

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