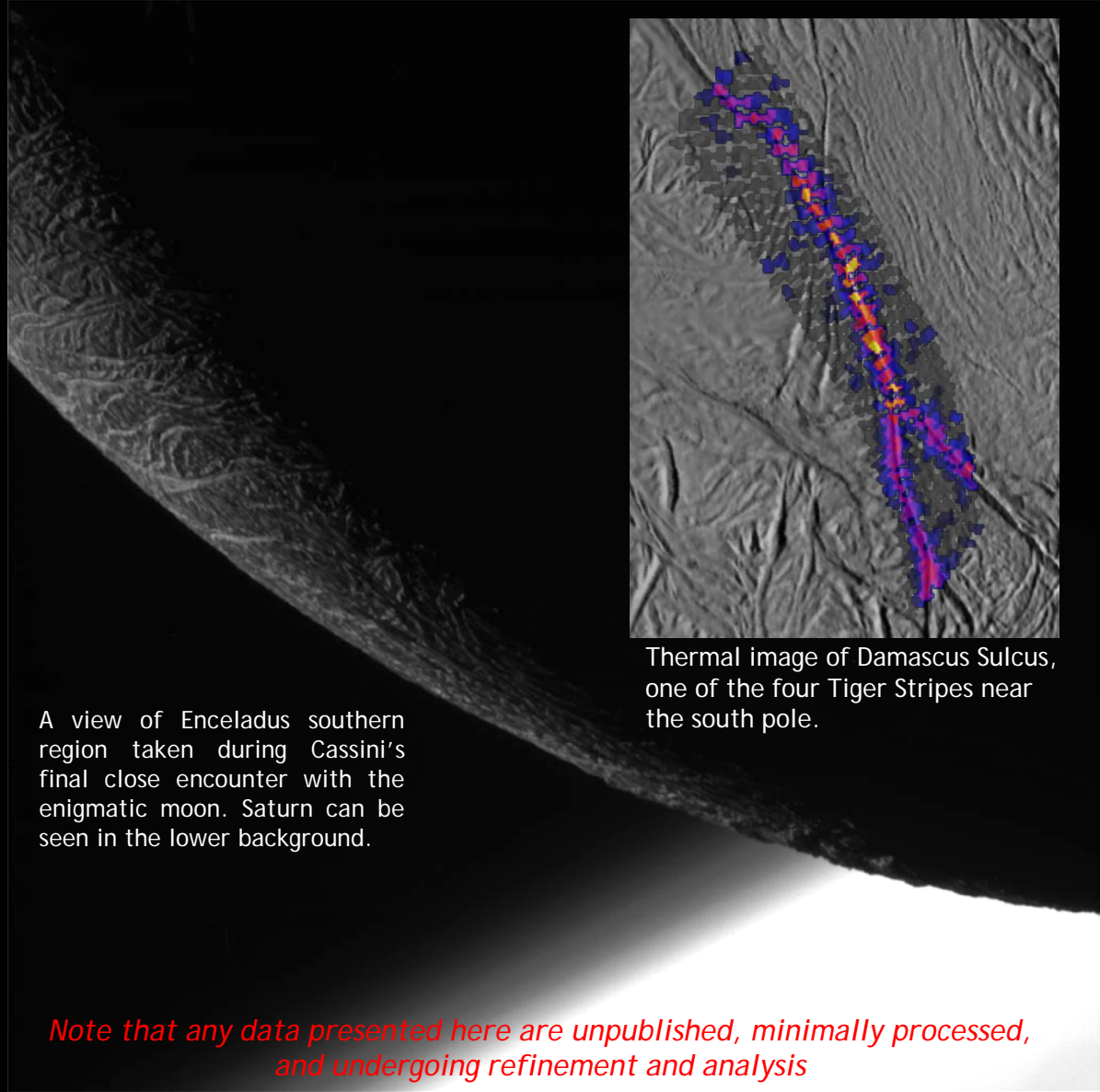
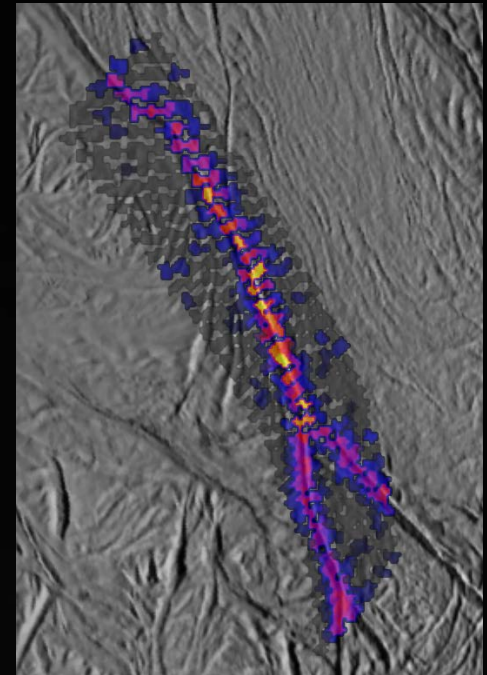


Saying Farewell, for Now, to Enceladus

- Cassini had its 22nd and last close flyby of Enceladus on December 19, 2015.
- The aim was to observe Enceladus' active south polar region, which is in winter darkness, where any observed heat is from Enceladus' hot vents and not reflected sunlight.
- Cassini used two instruments to look at the vents in infrared light to better understand their temperatures and heat flow.
- Measurements of heat flow on Enceladus are helping scientists understand conditions on moons and planets that can lead to environments potentially hospitable to life.
- Cassini will continue to observe Saturn's Enceladus for the rest of the mission but from greater distances.



A view of Enceladus southern region taken during Cassini's final close encounter with the enigmatic moon. Saturn can be seen in the lower background.



Thermal image of Damascus Sulcus, one of the four Tiger Stripes near the south pole.

Note that any data presented here are unpublished, minimally processed, and undergoing refinement and analysis