

# Saturn's North Pole

## *A Plain English Guide to a Very Large Hexagon*

And why it has six sides and not five or seven or a wiggly blob

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## The Hexagon

Saturn has a hexagon on its north pole.

Not a vague, roughly hexagonal kind of shape. A precise, equiangular, six-sided vortex approximately 30,000 kilometres across — about two and a half times the diameter of Earth. It has been sitting there for every year of observation since Voyager first photographed it in 1981. It has not changed shape. It has not drifted. It is relentlessly, stubbornly hexagonal.

The question is not 'why is there a polar vortex' — rotating planets get polar vortices, that's normal. The question is: why six sides specifically? Why not five? Why not seven? Jupiter has a polar vortex too and it's a comparatively boring circle. Why is Saturn's a hexagon?

This framework has an answer. It involves geometry that was first discovered in fluid dynamics equations, then confirmed in computer simulations, and then — to considerable satisfaction — found sitting on a gas giant two billion kilometres away.

## The Geometry That Hides in Every Fluid

Any fluid that is three-dimensional, rotating, and above a certain turbulence threshold carries a hidden geometric structure inside it. Not metaphorically hidden. Mathematically latent — implied by the equations of fluid motion themselves.

That structure has six preferred directions. Not because anyone designed it that way. Because of something utterly fundamental: fluids cannot change their own volume. They can swirl, stretch, compress, spin, but they cannot spontaneously expand or contract in all directions at once. That single constraint — incompressibility — forces the geometry into six preferred configurations. Not eight. Not four. Six.

This is the Corner Theorem. It was proved in March 2026. What matters here is the conclusion: every qualifying rotating fluid already contains the seed of a hexagonal geometry before anything dramatic happens.

Saturn's atmosphere is a rotating fluid. It is three-dimensional. It is turbulent. It satisfies the conditions. The Corner Theorem applies. The hexagon is not an accident. It is the only geometrically available shape for a fluid in Saturn's conditions to settle into.

## Why Jupiter Doesn't Have One

Jupiter's polar vortex is a circle. This is not a problem for the theory. It's actually a prediction.

The Corner Theorem geometry forces six sides under a specific set of conditions. One of those conditions is that the large-scale atmospheric flow varies slowly enough in the horizontal direction for the geometry to control the whole vortex shape. Jupiter is more turbulent, more chaotic, and its polar region may not satisfy this condition to the same

degree. Jupiter's circle is consistent with that. It is not proof, but it is not a contradiction either.

## **The Prediction That Hasn't Been Tested Yet**

Saturn's south pole does not currently have a hexagonal structure. It has a roughly circular polar vortex. The framework predicts a specific reversed bulb structure — anticyclonic core, cyclonic flanks — as the south pole analogue. Pre-registered 26 March 2026.

This is falsifiable. If the south pole develops a stable five-sided or seven-sided vortex, the prediction fails. If it develops the hexagon via the sequence the theory describes, it's a genuine confirmation. We will need a future Saturn mission to find out.

*"The hexagon was always going to be a hexagon. The Corner Theorem does not negotiate. Incompressibility does not make exceptions for gas giants."*

*Art Until Proven Otherwise.*