

Jupiter  
Visible (true color)

what humans can see



Jupiter  
Infrared, Visible, Ultraviolet

# How Hubble Images Are Made

1  
00:00:05,390 --> 00:00:02,990  
as a cosmic photographer NASA's Hubble

2  
00:00:08,030 --> 00:00:05,400  
Space Telescope has taken over a million

3  
00:00:11,629 --> 00:00:08,040  
snapshots documenting the universe

4  
00:00:14,150 --> 00:00:11,639  
these images illustrate explain and

5  
00:00:15,829 --> 00:00:14,160  
Inspire us with their Grandeur but may

6  
00:00:16,910 --> 00:00:15,839  
not match what we'd see with our own

7  
00:00:19,070 --> 00:00:16,920  
eyes

8  
00:00:21,529 --> 00:00:19,080  
that's because Hubble sees light beyond

9  
00:00:24,470 --> 00:00:21,539  
our sensitivity

10  
00:00:25,970 --> 00:00:24,480  
our eyes only sense a small fraction of

11  
00:00:28,370 --> 00:00:25,980  
the universe's light

12  
00:00:30,710 --> 00:00:28,380  
this tiny band of wavelengths called the

13  
00:00:33,709 --> 00:00:30,720

visible spectrum holds every color in

14

00:00:35,810 --> 00:00:33,719

the rainbow light outside that span with

15

00:00:38,330 --> 00:00:35,820

longer or shorter wavelengths is

16

00:00:40,430 --> 00:00:38,340

invisible to our eyes but those

17

00:00:43,490 --> 00:00:40,440

invisible wavelengths can tell us so

18

00:00:45,590 --> 00:00:43,500

much more about the universe Hubble

19

00:00:47,150 --> 00:00:45,600

Hubble's six scientific instruments that

20

00:00:49,369 --> 00:00:47,160

observe at different wavelengths

21

00:00:52,490 --> 00:00:49,379

together they expand our vision into

22

00:00:54,470 --> 00:00:52,500

infrared and ultraviolet light

23

00:00:57,529 --> 00:00:54,480

that doesn't mean Hubble can show us

24

00:00:59,689 --> 00:00:57,539

never before seeing colors in fact the

25

00:01:01,850 --> 00:00:59,699

telescope can only see the universe in

26

00:01:03,830 --> 00:01:01,860

Shades of Gray

27

00:01:05,870 --> 00:01:03,840

seeing in black and white allows Hubble

28

00:01:08,510 --> 00:01:05,880

to detect subtle differences in the

29

00:01:10,490 --> 00:01:08,520

light's intensity if one wavelength is

30

00:01:12,050 --> 00:01:10,500

brighter than another that tells us

31

00:01:12,969 --> 00:01:12,060

something about the science of that

32

00:01:16,010 --> 00:01:12,979

object

33

00:01:18,469 --> 00:01:16,020

but because color helps humans interpret

34

00:01:20,870 --> 00:01:18,479

what we see NASA Specialists work to

35

00:01:23,710 --> 00:01:20,880

process and colorize publicly available

36

00:01:26,450 --> 00:01:23,720

Hubble data into more accessible images

37

00:01:28,730 --> 00:01:26,460

when Hubble snaps a photo it puts a

38

00:01:31,070 --> 00:01:28,740

filter in front of its detector allowing

39

00:01:33,770 --> 00:01:31,080

specific wavelengths to pass through

40

00:01:34,609 --> 00:01:33,780

Broadband filters let in a wide range of

41

00:01:37,010 --> 00:01:34,619

light

42

00:01:39,649 --> 00:01:37,020

narrowband filters are more selective

43

00:01:42,830 --> 00:01:39,659

isolating light from individual elements

44

00:01:45,289 --> 00:01:42,840

like hydrogen oxygen and sulfur

45

00:01:47,870 --> 00:01:45,299

Hubble observes the same object multiple

46

00:01:49,969 --> 00:01:47,880

times using different filters image

47

00:01:52,190 --> 00:01:49,979

processors then assign those images a

48

00:01:54,230 --> 00:01:52,200

color based on their filtered wavelength

49

00:01:56,749 --> 00:01:54,240

the longest wavelength becomes red

50

00:01:59,030 --> 00:01:56,759

medium becomes green and the shortest

51  
00:02:00,410 --> 00:01:59,040  
blue corresponding to the light sensors

52  
00:02:02,810 --> 00:02:00,420  
in our eyes

53  
00:02:05,149 --> 00:02:02,820  
combining them gives us a color image

54  
00:02:07,789 --> 00:02:05,159  
showcasing characteristics we can't make

55  
00:02:10,309 --> 00:02:07,799  
out in black and white

56  
00:02:12,410 --> 00:02:10,319  
adding color reveals the underlying

57  
00:02:14,449 --> 00:02:12,420  
science in every image

58  
00:02:17,390 --> 00:02:14,459  
it's like translating words into another

59  
00:02:18,650 --> 00:02:17,400  
language making sure no information is

60  
00:02:21,350 --> 00:02:18,660  
lost

61  
00:02:22,970 --> 00:02:21,360  
some words have an exact counterpart the

62  
00:02:25,369 --> 00:02:22,980  
meaning Remains the Same when you swap

63  
00:02:28,369 --> 00:02:25,379

them couple's true color photos are like

64

00:02:32,030 --> 00:02:28,379

that they are a direct translation using

65

00:02:34,430 --> 00:02:32,040

broad filters and wavelengths we can see

66

00:02:37,550 --> 00:02:34,440

other words can't be translated directly

67

00:02:39,770 --> 00:02:37,560

when we use narrowband filters or peer

68

00:02:41,930 --> 00:02:39,780

outside the visible spectrum it's like

69

00:02:45,110 --> 00:02:41,940

translating words with no one word

70

00:02:46,850 --> 00:02:45,120

replacement easily done but requires

71

00:02:48,949 --> 00:02:46,860

more work

72

00:02:51,770 --> 00:02:48,959

narrowband images highlight the

73

00:02:54,050 --> 00:02:51,780

concentration of important elements

74

00:02:56,809 --> 00:02:54,060

infrared images are like heat Maps

75

00:02:59,750 --> 00:02:56,819

helping us spot newborn stars in dark

76

00:03:01,550 --> 00:02:59,760

Dusty clouds and peer further back in

77

00:03:04,430 --> 00:03:01,560

time and space

78

00:03:06,890 --> 00:03:04,440

in ultraviolet we uncover active aurorae

79

00:03:09,350 --> 00:03:06,900

on Jupiter and learn how young massive

80

00:03:12,350 --> 00:03:09,360

stars develop

81

00:03:14,330 --> 00:03:12,360

image processors also clean up artifacts

82

00:03:16,790 --> 00:03:14,340

signatures in an image that aren't

83

00:03:19,490 --> 00:03:16,800

produced by The observed Target as

84

00:03:22,250 --> 00:03:19,500

sensors age some pixels become imperfect

85

00:03:24,009 --> 00:03:22,260

returning too much electrical charge or

86

00:03:27,229 --> 00:03:24,019

not enough

87

00:03:29,290 --> 00:03:27,239

artifacts can leave behind odd shapes or

88

00:03:31,910 --> 00:03:29,300

return images without any true black

89

00:03:33,770 --> 00:03:31,920

these effects can be calibrated and

90

00:03:36,229 --> 00:03:33,780

removed

91

00:03:37,970 --> 00:03:36,239

other artifacts come from the dynamic

92

00:03:39,649 --> 00:03:37,980

environment of space

93

00:03:41,990 --> 00:03:39,659

even the best photographers get

94

00:03:44,809 --> 00:03:42,000

photobombed in Hubble's case the

95

00:03:47,449 --> 00:03:44,819

culprits are asteroids spacecraft or

96

00:03:50,570 --> 00:03:47,459

debris trails and high energy particles

97

00:03:53,030 --> 00:03:50,580

called cosmic rays by combining and

98

00:03:55,430 --> 00:03:53,040

aligning multiple observations image

99

00:03:58,369 --> 00:03:55,440

processors can identify them and piece

100

00:04:00,770 --> 00:03:58,379

together an artifact free image

101  
00:04:03,050 --> 00:04:00,780  
without processing many Hubble images

102  
00:04:05,930 --> 00:04:03,060  
would be divided down the middle

103  
00:04:08,869 --> 00:04:05,940  
this line called a chip Gap is the tiny

104  
00:04:10,670 --> 00:04:08,879  
space between some camera sensors Hubble

105  
00:04:13,070 --> 00:04:10,680  
moves slightly with each observation

106  
00:04:15,470 --> 00:04:13,080  
allowing image processors to fill the

107  
00:04:18,229 --> 00:04:15,480  
Gap and replace faulty pixels

108  
00:04:20,990 --> 00:04:18,239  
this process is called dithering

109  
00:04:23,810 --> 00:04:21,000  
and because there's no natural up or

110  
00:04:27,050 --> 00:04:23,820  
down in space processors decide how to

111  
00:04:29,870 --> 00:04:27,060  
rotate and frame the image

112  
00:04:32,450 --> 00:04:29,880  
it's a time consuming procedure simple

113  
00:04:34,610 --> 00:04:32,460

images take about a week while large

114

00:04:39,650 --> 00:04:34,620

mosaics stitch together from many

115

00:04:45,230 --> 00:04:42,230

Hubble images may not be what we'd see

116

00:04:47,030 --> 00:04:45,240

firsthand instead they are tools for

117

00:04:49,610 --> 00:04:47,040

understanding science at a glance

118

00:04:52,990 --> 00:04:49,620

shedding light on otherwise invisible