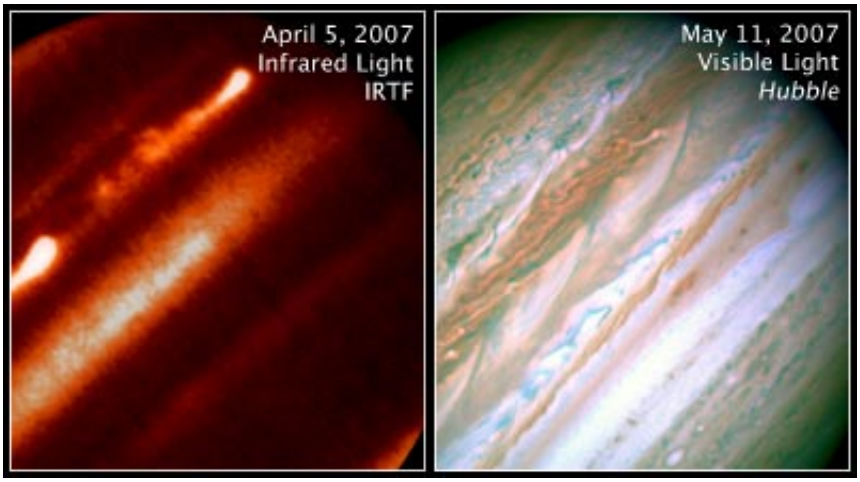
Internal Heat Drives Jupiter's Giant Storm Eruption

January 23 2008



Credit: NASA, ESA, IRTF, and A. Sánchez-Lavega and R. Hueso (Universidad del País Vasco, Spain)

Detailed analysis of two continent-sized storms that erupted in Jupiter's atmosphere in March 2007 shows that Jupiter's internal heat plays a significant role in generating atmospheric disturbances.

Understanding this outbreak could be the key to unlock the mysteries buried in the deep Jovian atmosphere.

An international team coordinated by Agustin Sánchez-Lavega from the Universidad del País Vasco in Spain presents its findings about this event in the January 24 issue of the journal *Nature*.

The team monitored the new eruption of cloud activity and its evolution with an unprecedented resolution using NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, the NASA Infrared Telescope Facility in Hawaii, and telescopes in the Canary Islands (Spain).

A network of smaller telescopes around the world also supported these observations.

Source: Hubble Site