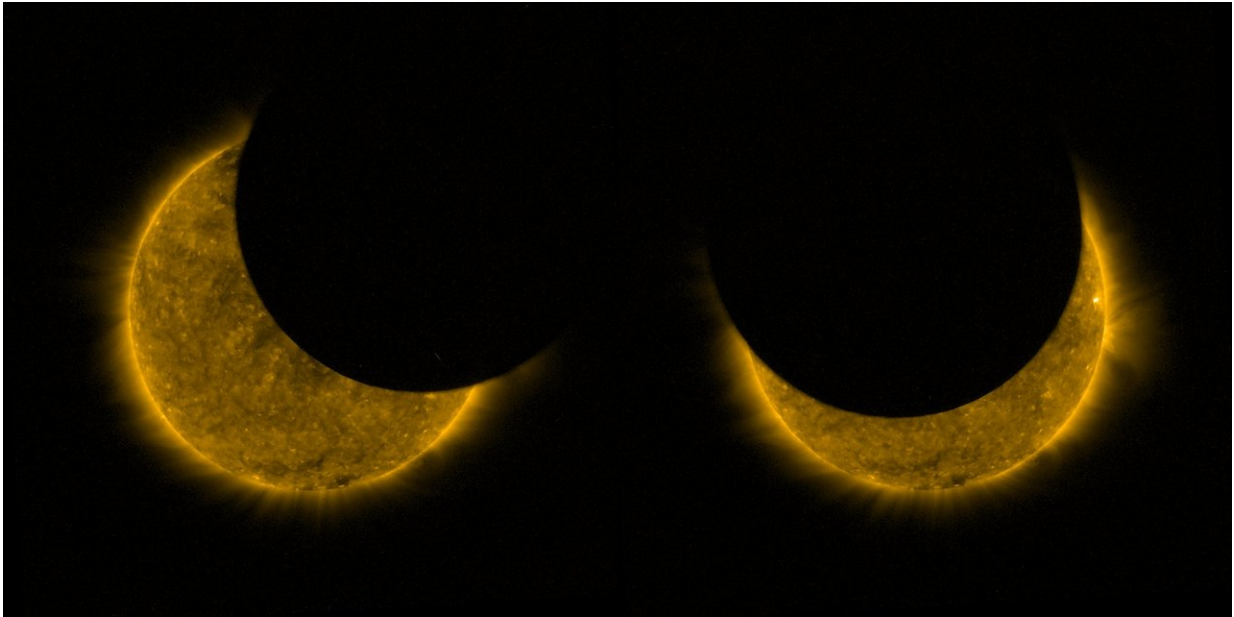


Image: Partial solar eclipse from space

August 13 2018



Credit: ESA/Royal Observatory of Belgium

Thanks to a quirk of our cosmos, the Moon's average distance from Earth is just right for it to appear as the same size in the sky as the significantly larger Sun. Once in a while the Moon slides directly between Earth and the Sun such that it appears to cover our star completely, temporarily blocking out its light and creating a total solar eclipse for those along the narrow path cast by the Moon's shadow.

But sometimes the alignment is such that the Moon only partially covers the Sun's disc. Such a [partial eclipse](#) occurred on Saturday for observers

located primarily in northern and eastern Europe, northern parts of North America, and some northern locations in Asia.

ESA's Sun-watching Proba-2 satellite orbits Earth about 14.5 times per day and with its constant change in viewing angle, it dipped in and out of the Moon's shadow twice during Saturday's eclipse.

Selected views of the two partial eclipses are seen side-by-side here – the first (left) was captured at 08:40:12 GMT and the second (right) at 10:32:17 GMT on 11 August.

The images were taken by the satellite's [SWAP](#) camera, which works at extreme ultraviolet wavelengths to capture the Sun's hot turbulent atmosphere – the corona – at temperatures of about a million degrees, which can be seen in the background.

Provided by European Space Agency

Citation: Image: Partial solar eclipse from space (2018, August 13) retrieved 13 March 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2018-08-image-partial-solar-eclipse-space.html>

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