

Image: Hubble snaps a crowded cluster

April 26 2019



Hubble image of Messier 75, taken with the telescope's Advanced Camera for Surveys. Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, F. Ferraro et al.

This sparkling burst of stars is Messier 75. It is a globular cluster: a spherical collection of stars bound together by gravity. Clusters like this orbit around galaxies and typically reside in their outer and less-crowded

areas, gathering to form dense communities in the galactic suburbs.

Messier 75 lies in our Milky Way galaxy in the constellation of Sagittarius (the Archer), around 67,000 light-years away from Earth. The majority of the [cluster](#)'s stars, about 400,000 in total, are found in its core; it is one of the most densely populated clusters ever found, with a phenomenal luminosity of some 180,000 times that of the Sun. No wonder it photographs so well!

Discovered in 1780 by Pierre Méchain, Messier 75 was also observed by Charles Messier and added to his catalog later that year. This image of Messier 75 was captured by the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope's Advanced Camera for Surveys.

More information: Messier 75 is featured in Hubble's Messier catalog, which includes some of the most fascinating objects that can be observed from Earth's Northern Hemisphere. See the NASA-processed image and other Messier objects at:

<https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/hubble-s-messier-catalog>.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

Citation: Image: Hubble snaps a crowded cluster (2019, April 26) retrieved 15 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-04-image-hubble-snaps-crowded-cluster.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.