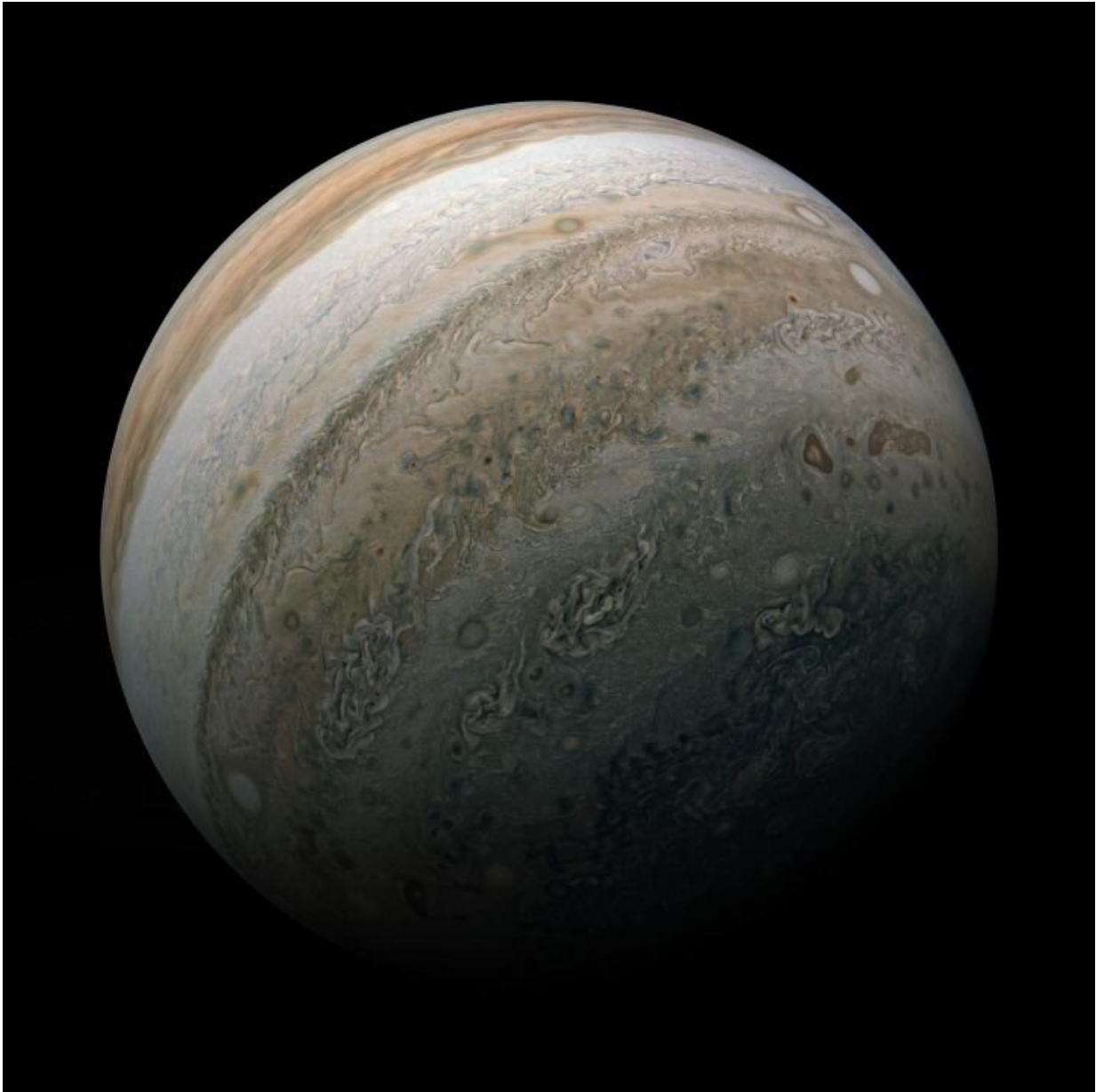


Image: The southern hemisphere of Jupiter

March 19 2020



Credit: Image data: NASA/JPL-Caltech/SwRI/MSSS. Image processing by

Kevin M. Gill, CC BY

NASA's Juno mission captured this look at the southern hemisphere of Jupiter on Feb. 17, 2020, during the spacecraft's most recent close approach to the giant planet.

Not only is Jupiter the largest planet orbiting the Sun, it contains more than twice the amount of material of all other objects in the solar system combined—including all the planets, moons, asteroids and comets. In composition, Jupiter resembles a star, and scientists estimate that if it had been at least 80 times more massive at its formation, it could have become a type of star called a [red dwarf](#) rather than a planet.

While the [universe](#)'s most common elements, hydrogen and helium, make up most of Jupiter's mass, the striking clouds that are visible at the top of its atmosphere are composed mostly of ammonia and [hydrogen sulfide](#).

This high-resolution view is a composite of four images captured by the JunoCam imager and assembled by citizen scientist Kevin M. Gill. The images were taken on Feb. 17, 2020, between 10:31 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. PST (1:31 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. EST). During that time, the spacecraft was between about 30,700 and 62,400 miles (49,500 and 100,400 kilometers) from the tops of the planet's clouds, at latitudes between about 50 and 68 degrees South.

Provided by Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Citation: Image: The southern hemisphere of Jupiter (2020, March 19) retrieved 17 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-03-image-southern-hemisphere-jupiter.html>

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