

Uranometria 2000.0's Galaxy Database

Uranometria 2000.0 plots 25,895 galaxies. They are shown as open ovals, with objects larger than 5' drawn to scale. Galaxies with a major axis less than 5' are binned into one of three groups, using symbols to represent the following size ranges: 5'–2', 2'–1', and less than 1'. On the 2× close-up maps, galaxies larger than 2.5' are plotted to scale, and those smaller than 2.5' are binned as follows: 2.5'–1', 1'–0.5', and smaller than 0.5'. On the 3× close-up maps, if larger than 1.7' they are plotted to scale while those that are 1.7' or smaller are binned as follows: 1.7'–0.6', 0.6'–0.3', and less than 0.3'. For all galaxies other than those that have equal major and minor axes, the symbol is oriented on the chart in the direction of the major axis.

Most galaxies have been listed in more than one of the “standard” catalogs. In this work we have adopted the following labeling precedence: *New General Catalogue* (NGC), *Index Catalogue* (IC) *Uppsala General Catalogue* (UGC), *European Southern Observatory* (ESO), *Morphological Catalogue of Galaxies* (MCG), *Catalogue of Galaxies and Clusters of Galaxies* (CGCG), and *Catalogue of Principal Galaxies* (PGC).

Galaxies are complete star systems. A typical one is composed of billions of stars, while the largest can easily exceed a trillion stars. For the most part, clusters and nebulae in other galaxies are well out of visual range. Amateurs equipped with large scopes will be able to observe detail in only a few hundred of the brightest examples.

For this work galaxies were selected that have a B magnitude of 15 or brighter, or a major axis of 1.5 arcminutes or larger. As noted before, all NGC objects are included regardless of magnitude or size. Positions, dimensions, and position angles were confirmed, or modified where necessary, by visual inspection using *Digitized Sky Survey* images. There are undoubtedly still some identification and positional problems in the resulting galaxy database, but we believe that the procedures we have followed have greatly reduced their number.

Position angles (PA) are given for noticeably elongated galaxies and were obtained directly from a visual inspection of the DSS. Obviously, position angles do not apply to circular objects. These angles, expressed in degrees, are measured from north through east. A value of 0° implies a north-south elongation. A PA of 90° indicates an east-west elongation. After a further quarter-turn counterclockwise, the object is oriented in a