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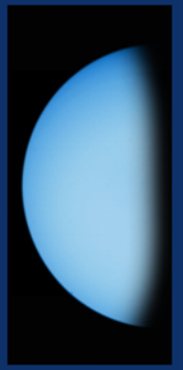


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# Summary Information Sheet

# URANUS

Uranus, named after the mythological father of the Roman god Saturn is the third largest planet in the solar system and the seventh major planet from the Sun. It was the first planet which was discovered by a telescope (1781). Its highly tilted axis lets Uranus roll on its side along its orbital path.



Ten rings:  $\epsilon$ -ring, 1988 U1R,  $\delta$ -ring,  $\gamma$ -ring,  $\eta$ -ring,  $\beta$ -ring and  $\alpha$ -ring

Narrow rings of dark dust

Bluish-green colour, because the red part of the sunlight is absorbed and much of the blue and green is reflected back into space

One revolution around the Sun lasts 29.46 Earth years

Inclination of the Equator to orbital plane 97.9°

Atmosphere of hydrogen, helium and methane

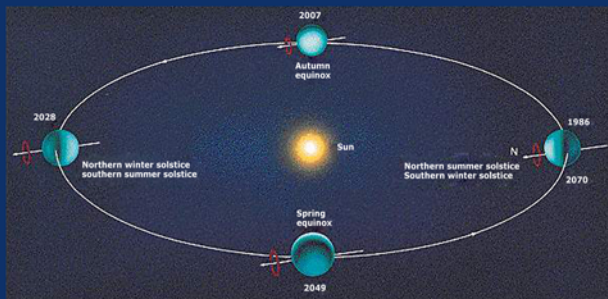
Solid rocky core

Dense interior of ice and gas: water, ammonia, methane

Blue-green hue due to methane

Atmosphere merging into interior: hydrogen, helium, methane, ammonia and water

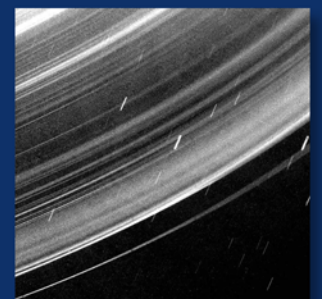
Lighter dust lanes



Orientation of the spin axis of Uranus as the planet orbits the Sun



Infrared view of Uranus and some of its moons



Ring system of Uranus

## Physical Data

## For comparison

Property	Uranus	Jupiter	Earth
Distance from the Sun	2884 million km	779 million km	150 million km
Rotation period	17 hrs 14 min	9 hrs 55 min	23 hrs 56 min
Equatorial radius	25559 km	71492 km	6378 km
Mass	$8.68 \times 10^{25}$ kg	$1.90 \times 10^{27}$ kg	$5.97 \times 10^{24}$ kg
Density	1300 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	1330 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	5520 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Satellites	25+	60+	1

Images: ESO, ESA, NASA, except otherwise stated

Concept: B. Mackowiak

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