

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: ϵ -ring, 1988 U1R, δ -ring, γ -ring, η -ring, β -ring and α -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

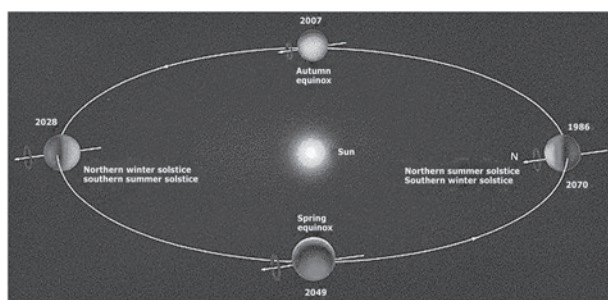
Solid rocky core

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

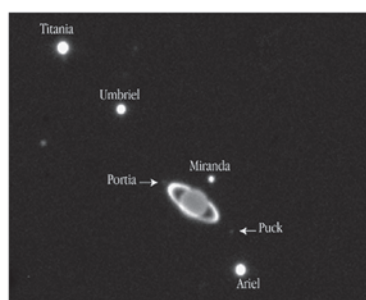
Blue-green hue due to methane

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

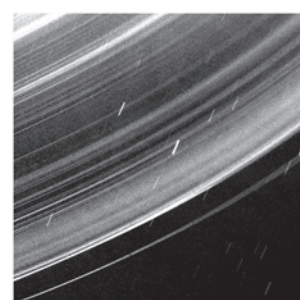
Lighter dust lanes



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

Property
Distance from the Sun
Rotation period
Equatorial radius
Mass
Density
Satellites

Uranus
2884 million km
17 hrs 14 min
25559 km
8.68×10^{25} kg
1300 kg/m^3
25+

For comparison

Jupiter
779 million km
9 hrs 55 min
71492 km
1.90×10^{27} kg
1330 kg/m^3
60+

Earth
150 million km
23 hrs 56 min
6378 km
5.97×10^{24} kg
5520 kg/m^3
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