



Milky Way Bulge

Millions of stars burn brightly at our galaxy's very center. This visible and near-infrared light image captures the variety of stars found in the Milky Way's galactic bulge, an area of dense star presence and interstellar dust typical of spiral galaxies. The bright red stars are older and cooler, while the bright blue stars are younger and hotter. The white stars are smaller and Sun-like, and much more plentiful. Imaging bulge stars is extremely difficult due to the high levels of dust surrounding them, but Hubble's infrared imaging instruments can capture light not scattered by the dust.

The Milky Way bulge is about 13,000 light-years across and scientists think its stars formed largely from a single burst more than 10 billion years ago. While the majority of bulge stars are older than 7 billion years, younger and intermediate-aged stars are also present. The center of the Milky Way is roughly 26,000 light-years from Earth.

Hubble Space Telescope – Wide Field Camera 3
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