

Young stars at home in an ancient cluster

Looking like a hoard of gems fit for an emperor's collection, this deep sky object called NGC 6752 is in fact far more worthy of admiration. It is a globular cluster, and at over 10 billion years old is one the most ancient collections of stars known. It has been blazing for well over twice as long long as our Solar System has existed.

NGC 6752 contains a high number of “blue straggler” stars, some of which are visible in this image. These stars display characteristics of stars younger than their neighbours, despite models suggesting that most of the stars within globular clusters should have formed at approximately the same time. Their origin is therefore something of a mystery.

Studies of NGC 6752 may shed light on this situation. It appears that a very high number — up to 38% — of the stars within its core region are binary systems. Collisions between stars in this turbulent area could produce the blue stragglers that are so prevalent.

Lying 13 000 light-years distant, NGC 6752 is far beyond our reach, yet the clarity of Hubble's images brings it tantalisingly close.

Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA

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About the Image

Id:	potw1205a
Type:	Observation
Release date:	30 January 2012, 10:00
Size:	2541 x 1770 px

About the Object

Name:	NGC 6752(http://simbad.u-strasbg.fr/simbad/sim-id?Ident=NGC+6752)
Type:	Milky Way : Star : Grouping : Cluster : Globular
Distance:	13000 light years(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light-year)
Constellation:	Pavo
Category:	Star Clusters(/images/archive/category/starclusters/)

Image Formats

 Fullsize Original(/media/archives/images/original/potw1205a.tif)
10.9 MB 
 Large JPEG(https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/large/potw1205a.jpg)
2.4 MB
 Screensize JPEG(https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/screen/potw1205a.jpg)
495.3 KB

Zoomable

 Zoomable([zoomable/](#))

Wallpapers

 1024x768(https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/wallpaper1/potw1205a.jpg)
648.9 KB
 1280x1024(https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/wallpaper2/potw1205a.jpg)
1000.9 KB
 1600x1200(https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/wallpaper3/potw1205a.jpg)
1.3 MB
 1920x1200(https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/wallpaper4/potw1205a.jpg)
1.5 MB
 2048x1536(https://cdn.spacetelescope.org/archives/images/wallpaper5/potw1205a.jpg)
2.0 MB

Coordinates

Position (RA):	19 10 52.43
Position (Dec):	-59° 59' 8.88"
Field of view:	2.12 x 1.48 arcminutes
Orientation:	North is 26.4° left of vertical



12000

19 10 52.428 -59 59 8.88

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FoV: 1.4'

(<http://aladin.unistra.fr/>)

- ☒ Optical (DSS2)
- ☐ Infrared (2MASS)

Crossfade image:

Colours & filters

Band	Wavelength	Telescope
Optical V	555 nm	Hubble Space Telescope ACS
Optical V	606 nm	Hubble Space Telescope ACS
Infrared I	814 nm	Hubble Space Telescope ACS

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