
Subject: Re: Image Contrast Enhancement

Posted by [Patrick Broos](#) on Mon, 27 Feb 2006 16:20:58 GMT

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David,

In case it helps I'll mention a three little facts (which you probably already know very well) about the "astronomy market" for constructing color composite images.

- * The HASTROM tool in Landsman's library is useful for aligning multiple FITS images.

- * Probably most of the color composites made during data analysis are made by the "ds9" tool.

- * Probably most of the color composites made for Education and Public Outreach purposes are made by Photoshop using the FITS Liberator plugin: http://www.spacetelescope.org/projects/fits_liberator/ (Photoshop's undocumented magic algorithm for combining images allows one to "combine" more than three data sets, e.g. you can have red, blue, green, brown, tangerine, chartreuse, etc. components.)

I'm delighted that you're taking seriously Robert Lupton's excellent criticism of the embarrassing saturate-to-white color model used throughout astronomy (including ds9 and Photoshop). A nice GUI to construct color composites the right way would be a help to astronomy. I've written a lame version of such a tool but I look forward to your more professional solution to the problem.

Best of luck,
Patrick
Chandra-ACIS Team at Penn State
