

M101 Galaxy



Isaac Newton Telescope + WFC



This is the nearby Sc spiral NGC 5457 or Messier 101, in Ursa Major. It has several extremely luminous star-forming (HII) regions in the outer spiral arms, some sporting their own NGC numbers. It dominates a small group of galaxies, with some of its neighbours such as NGC 5474 showing wear and tear attributed to the tidal effects of M101. M101 itself is further noteworthy for its extensive and lopsided distribution of neutral hydrogen gas, and for showing evidence of gas falling into its disk at high speeds.