

M74 Galaxy



Isaac Newton Telescope + WFC



This conspicuous spiral is a prototype of a grand-design Sc galaxy. Its distance may be about 30 to 40 million light years so its spiral arms are about 1000 light years broad. They are traced with clusters of blue young stars and pinkish colored diffuse gaseous nebulae (HII regions), and reach out to cover a region of more than 10 minutes of arc in diameter, corresponding to roughly 95,000 light years, or about the same size as our Milky Way galaxy. The image shown here is a combination of two 100-second exposures in filter B, two 80-second exposures in filter V and two 60-second exposures in filter R.