

WHAT ASTRONOMERS KNOW ABOUT YOUR GALAXY

NGC 253

Constellation	Sculptor
Right Ascension	00h 47m 33s
Declination	-25° 17' 18"
Distance	90,000 light years
Magnitude	8
Type	SAB(s)c

NGC is an acronym for the New General Catalog, which was first published in 1888 and contains thousands of celestial objects.

CONSTELLATION is the name of the constellation in which your galaxy can be found.

RIGHT ASCENSION is the celestial equivalent of longitude and divides the sky into 24 hours of celestial longitude.

DECLINATION is the celestial latitude. A negative number means the object is below the celestial equator. With the Right Ascension and Declination coordinates, any observatory or large backyard telescope can locate your galaxy in the night sky.

DISTANCE is the estimated distance of your galaxy from Earth.

MAGNITUDE relates to the brightness of a galaxy. The bigger the number, the fainter the object. The human eye cannot see objects fainter than Magnitude 6. The Andromeda Galaxy is the only galaxy visible to the naked eye under very dark conditions (miles away from city lights).

TYPE denotes the kind of galaxy it is. The general classifications are: S = Spiral Galaxy, SB = barred spiral galaxies, E = Elliptical Galaxy, Irr = Irregular Galaxy; from these there are many subtypes. Your galaxy is a SAB(s)c, a spiral galaxy that is similarly shaped to our Milky Way Galaxy. Visit nameagalaxy.com to learn more about galaxy types.