



This image shows the planets Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus, scaled according to their apparent sizes as seen from Earth. This was captured from my backyard in suburban Melbourne, with an 8" Newtonian telescope. To me, it highlights the incredible capabilities available to modern astronomers - this type of detail would have been unthinkable to amateur observers even a few decades ago! The fact that high-quality astrophysical data can be collected from the comfort of your own home (with relatively modest equipment) was a huge motivator in my decision to study physics! Photo by Jared Landau.