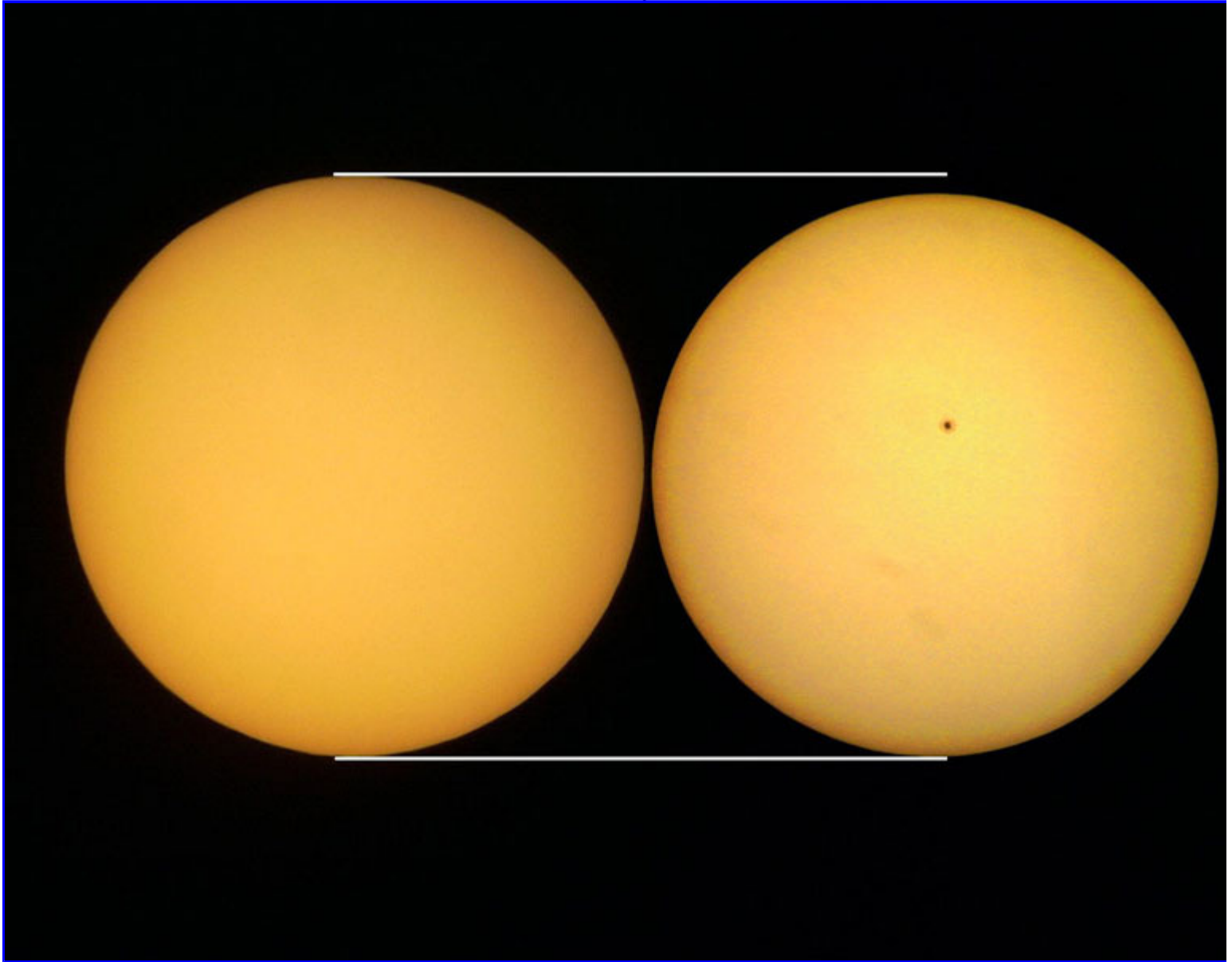


Astronomy Picture of the Day

[Discover the cosmos!](#) Each day a different image or photograph of our fascinating universe is featured, along with a brief explanation written by a professional astronomer.

2007 July 9



The Most Distant Sun

Credit & Copyright: [Enrique Luque Cervigón](#) ([The Superspace](#))

Explanation: When is the Sun most distant from Earth? It [happened again](#) just this past weekend. A common misconception is that the Sun is most distant during the winter, when it's the coldest. In truth, however, the [seasonal temperatures](#) are more [greatly influenced](#) by the number of daylight hours and how high the Sun rises. For example, during northern winter, the tilt of the Earth causes the [Sun to be](#) above the horizon for a shorter time and remain lower in the sky than in northern summer. [The picture](#) compares the relative size of the Sun during Earth's closest approach in January (northern winter) on the left, and in July (northern summer) on the right. The [angular size](#) of the Sun is noticeably smaller during July, when it is farther away. If the [Earth's orbit](#) was [perfectly circular](#), the Sun would always appear to be the same size. These [two solar images](#) were taken from [Spain](#) during 2006, but the same effect can be seen in any year from any [Earth-bound location](#).

Tomorrow's picture: pixels in space

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