

Re: Distance Reference for DSOs?

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poster1234us@yahoo.com (Fred) wrote in message
news:<5f99b440.0411190507.301c38ca@posting.google.com>...

- > *It's just an aesthetic thing: I especially enjoy views where objects*
- > *at greatly different distances are close to one another on the*
- > *celestial sphere: the open clusters M35 and NGC 2158 in Gemini or the*
- > *globular clusters M4 and NGC 6144 in Scorpius.*

Understood. It's especially nice in cases like these where the difference in distance is immediately apparent through the eyepiece. But I would be hard pressed to guess, based on eyepiece view alone, whether (say) M36 is closer or farther than M38.

If you're into clusters and you love data, you will sooner or later need to own the book *Star Clusters* by Archinal and Hynes. Not perfect by a long shot, but it's amazingly comprehensive -- the goal being no less than listing every known cluster, true, false, and suspected, in the Milk Way and nearby galaxies.

The NGC/IC project website is another utterly invaluable resource.

Galaxy distances are an entirely different kettle of fish from cluster distances.

– Tony Flanders