

Visible stars, gas, dust in the Milky Way Galaxy

How big is the Milky Way Galaxy? 100,000-light years Image credits: NASA, STScI

How far is 100,000 light years?

Consider this scale:

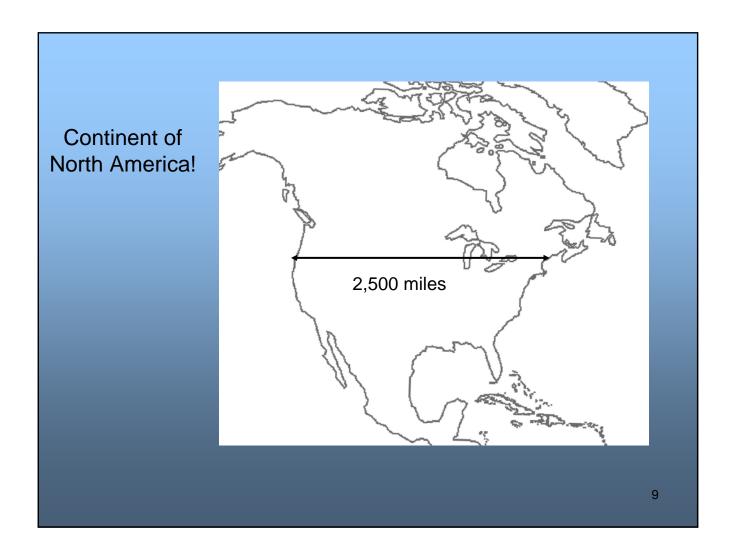
1 inch represents 5.5 light hours (Sun to Pluto)

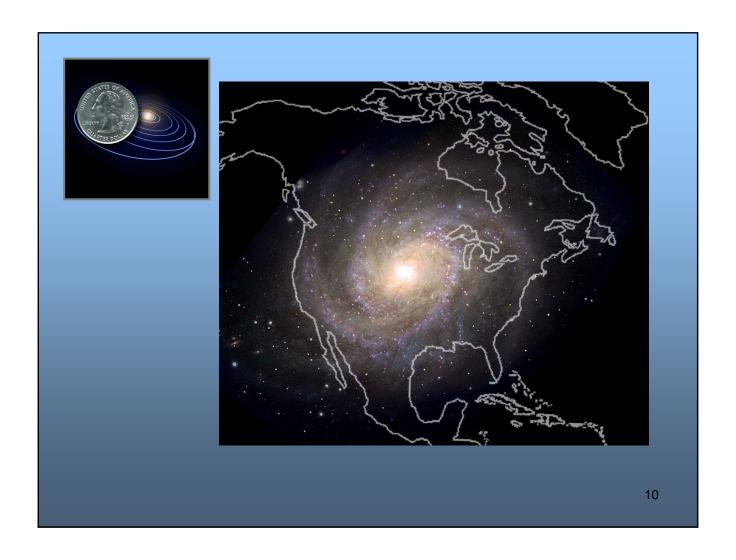
1 mile represents 40 light years

2,500 miles
represents
100,000 light years



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And how thick is our Galaxy? ~1000 light years Credit: NASA. Columis Background Explorer (COBE) Project

How thick is 1,000 light years?

If 2,500 miles represents 100,000 light years 25 miles represents 1,000 light years



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