



This image of Uranus was obtained by B.A. Smith using a charge-coupled device (CCD) at the 1.54m Catalina telescope of the University of Arizona. A filter was used to isolate light in the 890 nm infrared absorption band of methane, a wavelength region in which methane gas strongly absorbs light. The bright limb of Uranus at this wavelength is evidence of a hazy layer of ice crystals high in the atmosphere of the giant planet. This image was made possible by the high infrared sensitivity of the CCD, which acts as a solid-state television-like imaging device.