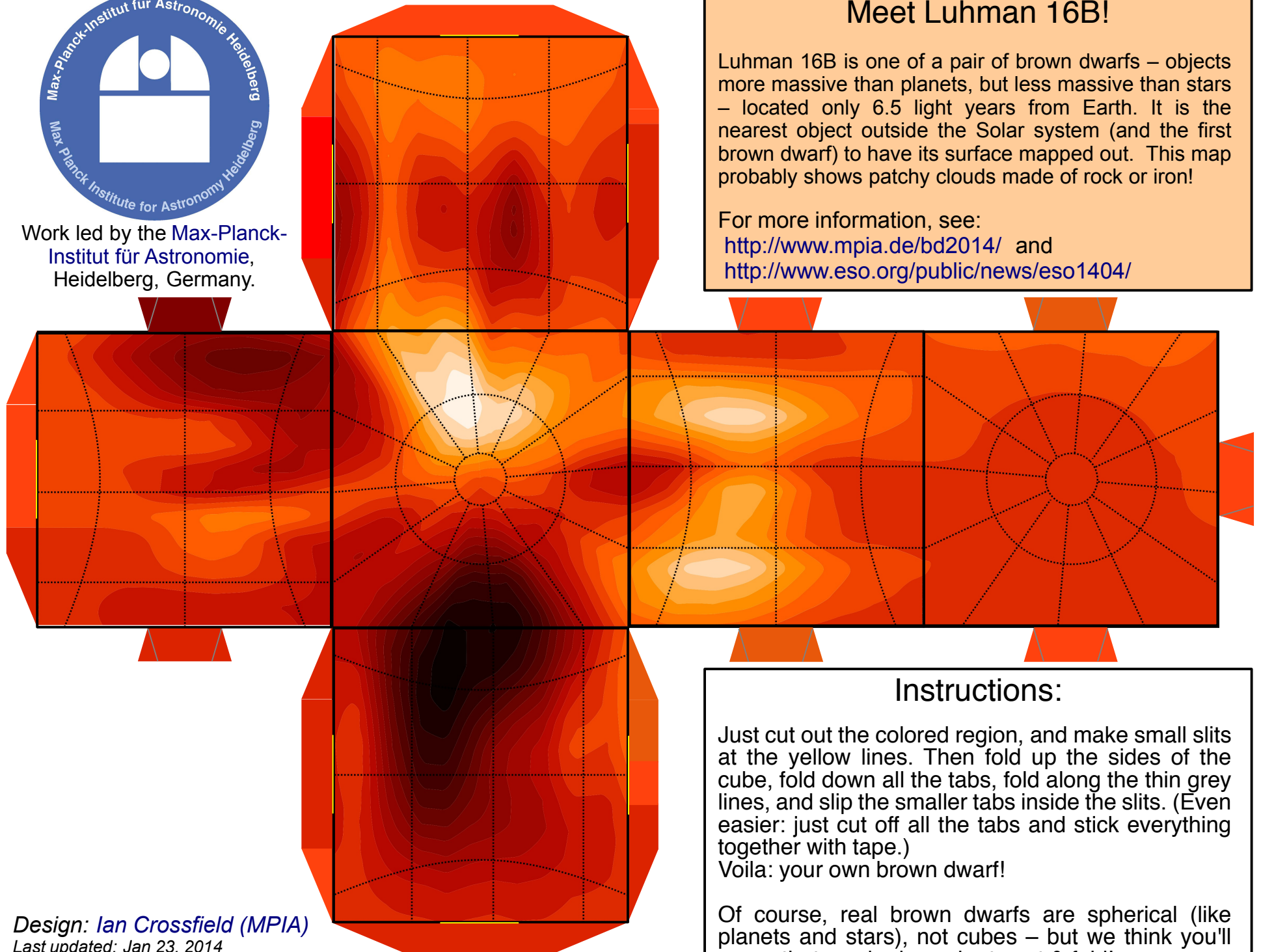




Work led by the Max-Planck-Institut für Astronomie, Heidelberg, Germany.



Meet Luhman 16B!

Luhman 16B is one of a pair of brown dwarfs – objects more massive than planets, but less massive than stars – located only 6.5 light years from Earth. It is the nearest object outside the Solar system (and the first brown dwarf) to have its surface mapped out. This map probably shows patchy clouds made of rock or iron!

For more information, see:

<http://www.mpia.de/bd2014/> and

<http://www.eso.org/public/news/eso1404/>

Instructions:

Just cut out the colored region, and make small slits at the yellow lines. Then fold up the sides of the cube, fold down all the tabs, fold along the thin grey lines, and slip the smaller tabs inside the slits. (Even easier: just cut off all the tabs and stick everything together with tape.)

Voila: your own brown dwarf!

Of course, real brown dwarfs are spherical (like planets and stars), not cubes – but we think you'll agree that a cube is easier to cut & fold!

Design: Ian Crossfield (MPIA)

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