

# NASA has found 5,000 exoplanets

The number of confirmed exoplanets in our galaxy has surpassed 5,000, with NASA saying this is just a small fraction of the billions of planets the *Milky Way* likely harbours

**1992:** First **exoplanet** (planet orbiting star outside our solar system) detected with discovery of two planets orbiting pulsar **PSR B1257+12** (2,300 light-years away, in constellation of **Virgo**). Third planet found there in 1994

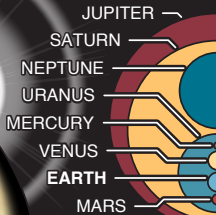
## TYPES OF EXOPLANETS (% of discoveries falling into four categories)

**Gas giant:** Can be hotter than some stars. Size of **Saturn** or **Jupiter**, or vastly bigger

Exoplanets found using space telescopes like **Kepler**

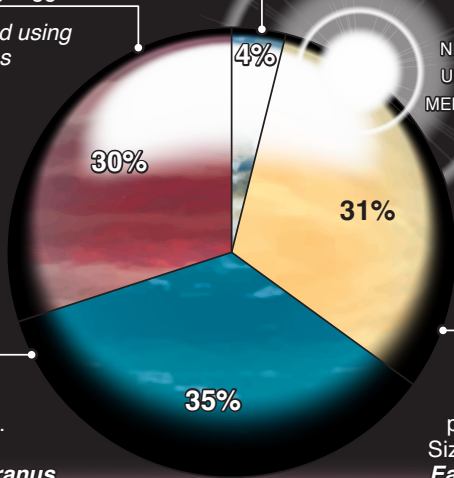


**Terrestrial:** Rocky planet around size of **Earth** or smaller



HOW WE SIZE UP

**Neptune-like:**  
Can be ice giant or much warmer. Similar in size to **Neptune** and **Uranus**



**Super-Earth:**  
Can be rocky or shrouded in puffy atmosphere. Size range between **Earth** and **Neptune**

**Oddities discovered include:** **Hot Jupiters** – gas giants in close orbit around scorching stars – and planets orbiting two stars at once (reminiscent of **Tatooine** in **Star Wars**)

*Someday we may find habitable exoplanets... or one already inhabited*