Image Processing for Use in Public Outreach

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Abstract: The purpose of this talk is to give you some information and tips about how to produce great astronomical colour images for public outreach use, from the often noisy and “unattractive” science data. The talk focuses on the process that takes place after the astronomical image processing (the reduction, where the instrumental artefacts, cosmic rays and other things not coming from the celestial object are removed). The focus is on dynamic range compression with the ESA/ESO/NASA Photoshop FITS Liberator. The author is one of Europe’s, or even the world’s, most prolific and successful outreach image processors who pioneered the creation of colour images from Digitized Sky Survey 2 data and has produced a series of Hubble’s most iconic images.