

Five things you should know about the Hubble Source Catalog (HSC)

1. Coverage can be very **non-uniform**, since a wide range of HST instruments, filters, exposure times are included in the HSC.

2. **WFPC2, ACS, and WFC3** sources lists are of **variable quality**. The WFC3 source (which will be incorporated for Version 1 this summer) are deeper, more uniform, and have fewer artifacts. We are in the progress of redoing the older ACS and WFPC2 catalog using the WFC3 algorithms.

3. The **default** is to show only objects with more than one **detections (i.e., Nimages > 1)**, to minimize artifacts. You will need to request Nimages > 0 to see all the potential objects in the HSC (e.g., to search for transients). ([click for details](#))

4. The **default** is to use **mag_auto** SExtractor values for the magnitudes (in the ABMAG system). You will need to request **mag_aper2** if you would like SExtractor aperture magnitudes instead.

5. When you **display HSC positions** (obtained from a combination of images), they may not line up well on the specific image you are looking at. A facility is being developed to address this problem. (Note: This image also shows the “doubling” artifact – see FAQ # 11)

