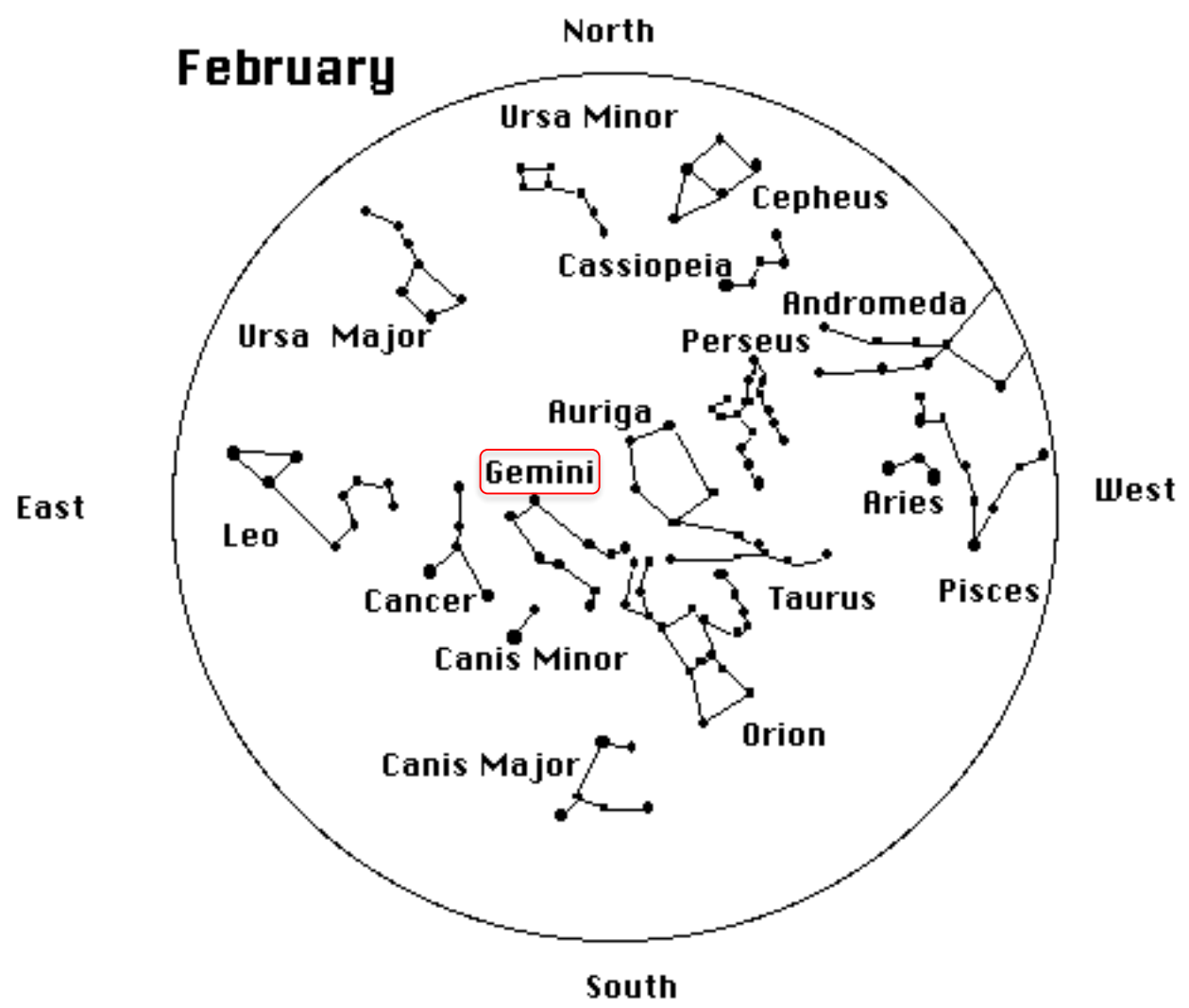
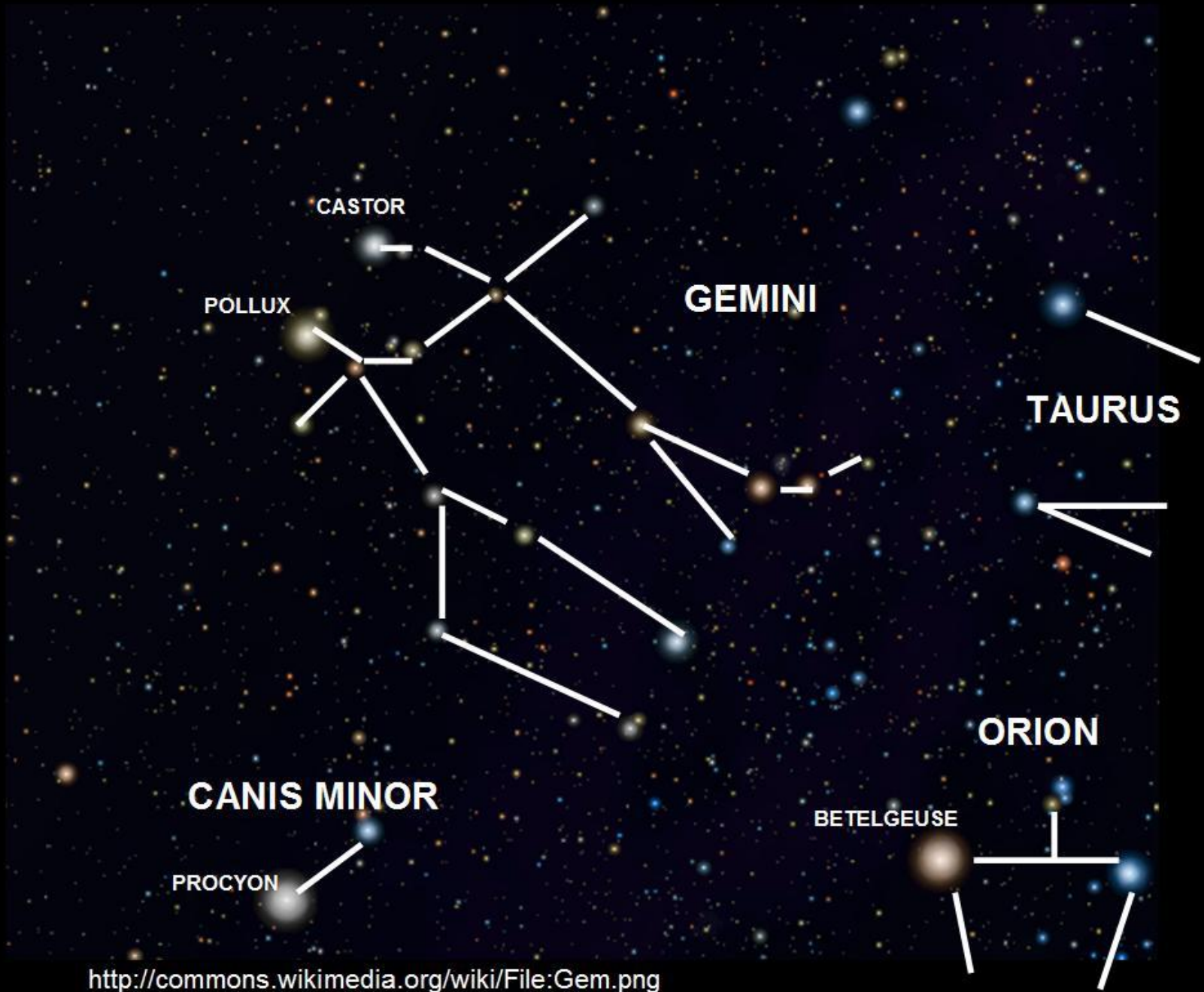


Gemini

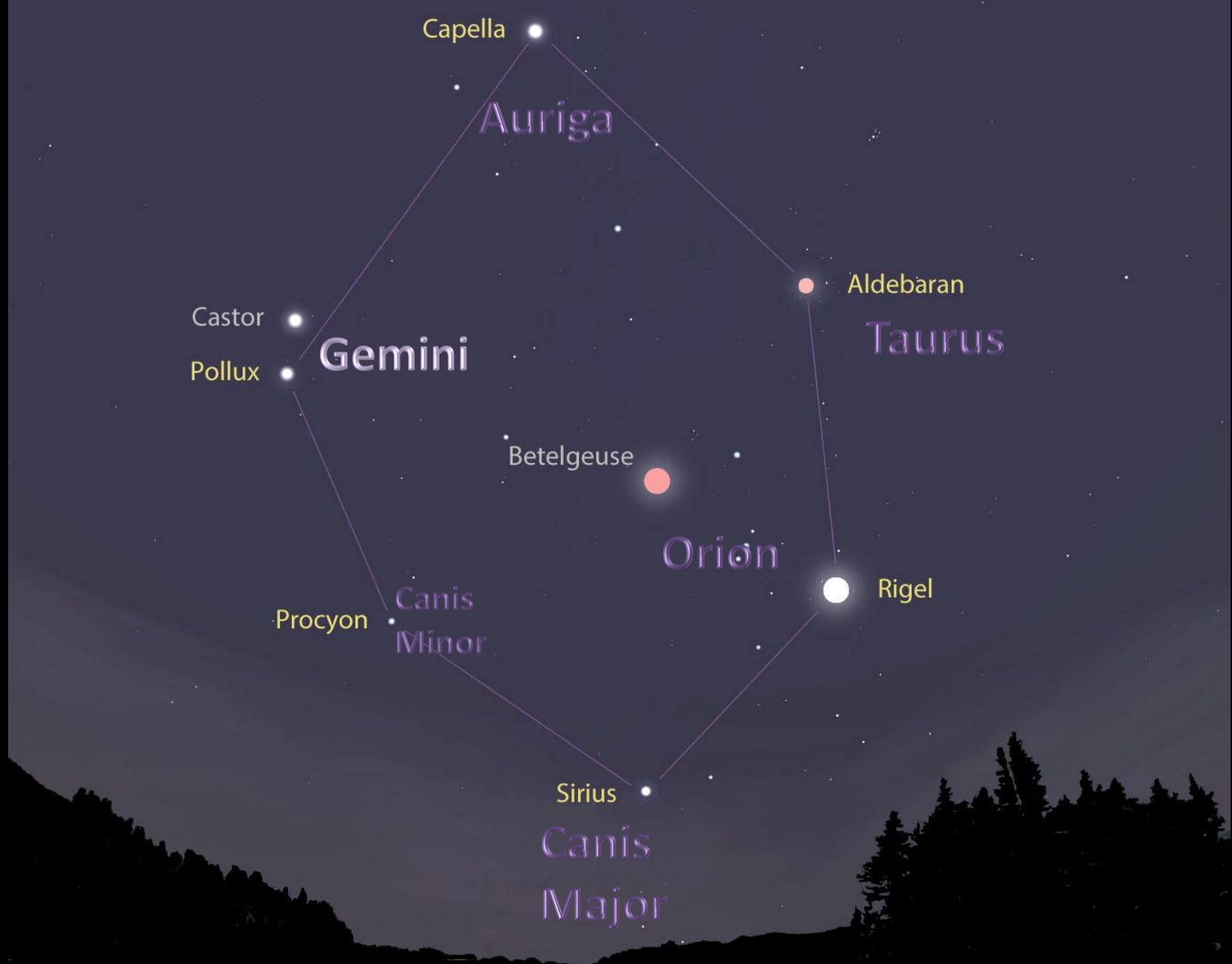
The Twins

February





<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gem.png>



Capella

Auriga

Aldebaran

Taurus

Castor

Pollux

Gemini

Betelgeuse

Orion

Rigel

Procyon

Canis
Minor

Sirius

Canis
Major

Pollux

- K0III red giant
- orbited by exoplanet Pollux b, 2.3x Jupiter's mass
- 33.8 light years away





Pollux

Sirius

Sun

Castor



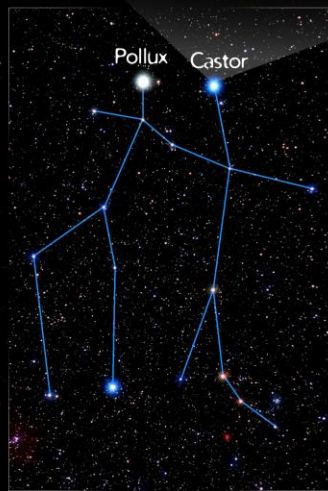
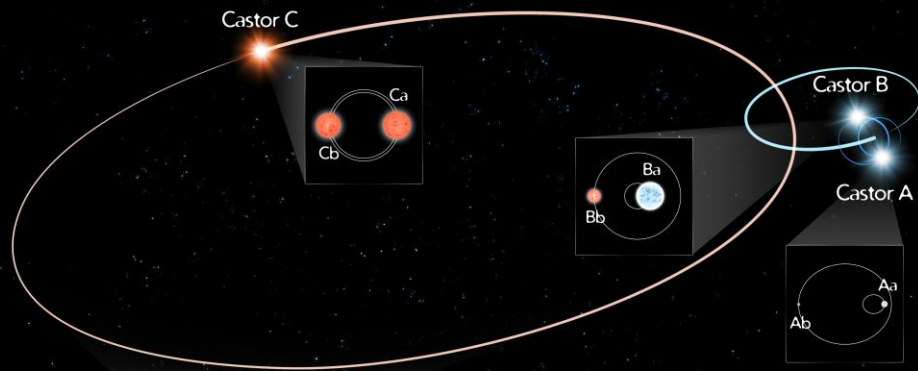
Castor
double star



Castor

no, wait, triple star?

CASTOR – THE 6-STAR SYSTEM



QUICK FACTS

Castor is the second brightest star in the constellation Gemini and is 48.9 light-years away from Earth

William Herschel was the first astronomer to describe Castor A and Castor B as a true binary system in 1803

Castor AB and Castor C are currently separated by over 1100 AU (6 days and 9 light-hours)

Even though it is fainter than Gemini's "beta" star, Pollux, Castor has the Bayer designation "alpha"

The exact time that Castor AB and Castor C take to orbit each other is currently unknown, but it is probably more than 10000 years

The Castor AB system has a estimated orbital period of 467 years

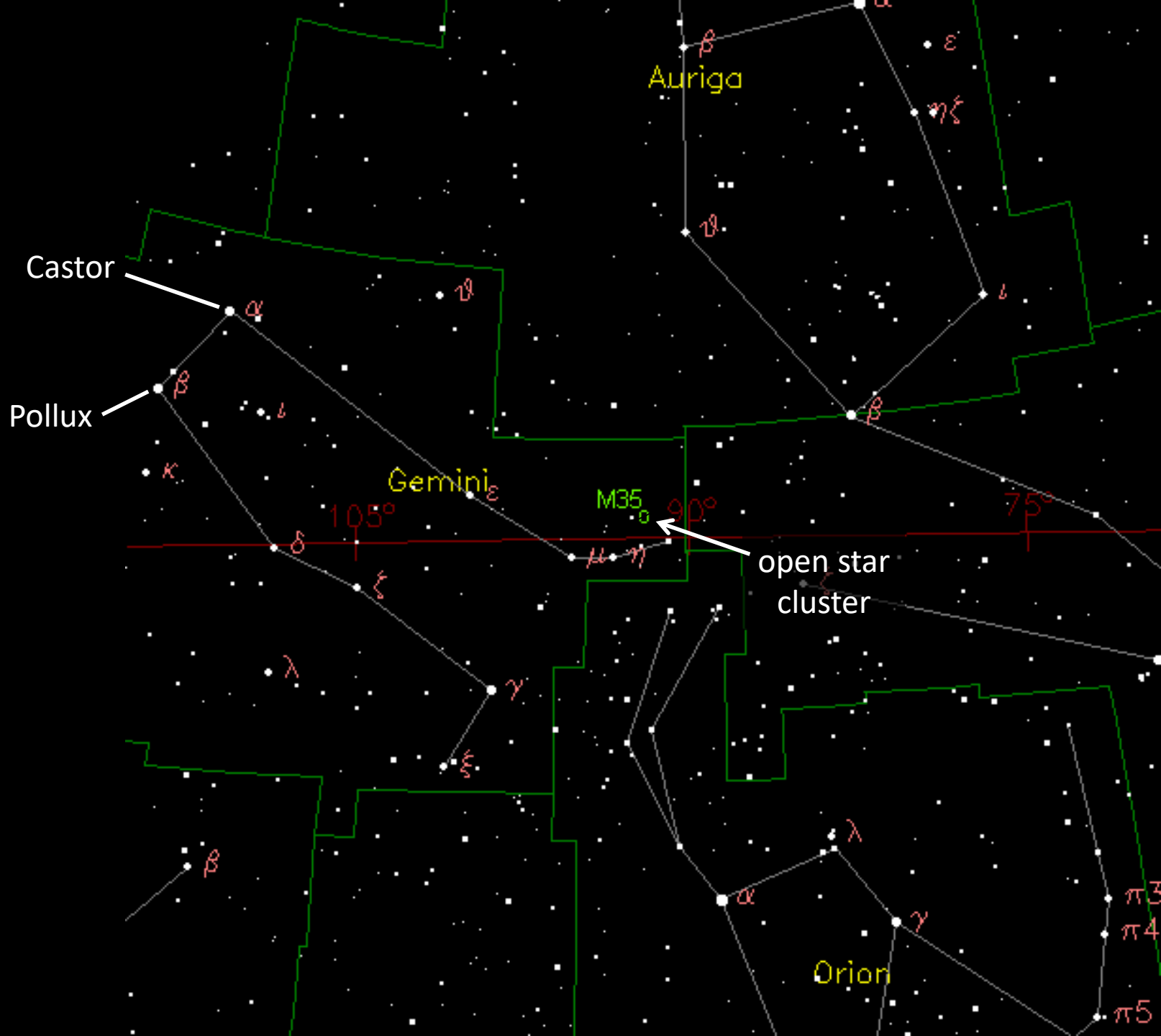
Spectral types:
 Castor Aa – A1V
 Castor Ab – likely M5V
 Castor Ba – A2Vm
 Castor Bc – M2V
 Castor Ca – M0.5Ve
 Castor Cb – M0.5Ve

Castor C is brighter than the Castor AB pair in X-ray wavelength

The 6 stars range from around 0.4–0.6 (Castor Ab and Bb) to 2.15 solar masses (Castor Aa)

SIZE COMPARISON





M 35
open cluster

