



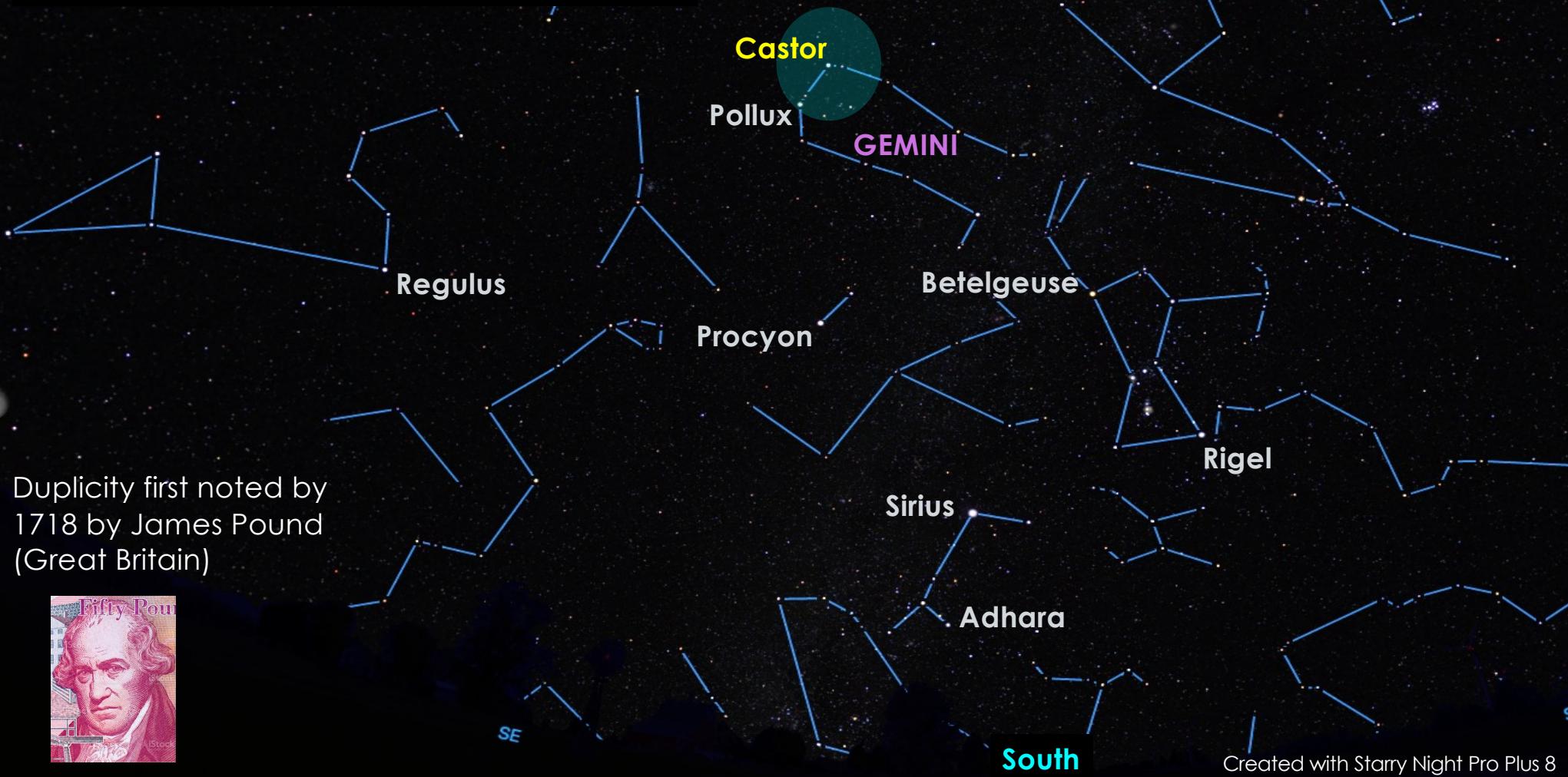
ROYAL
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KW Centre

Double Star of the Month

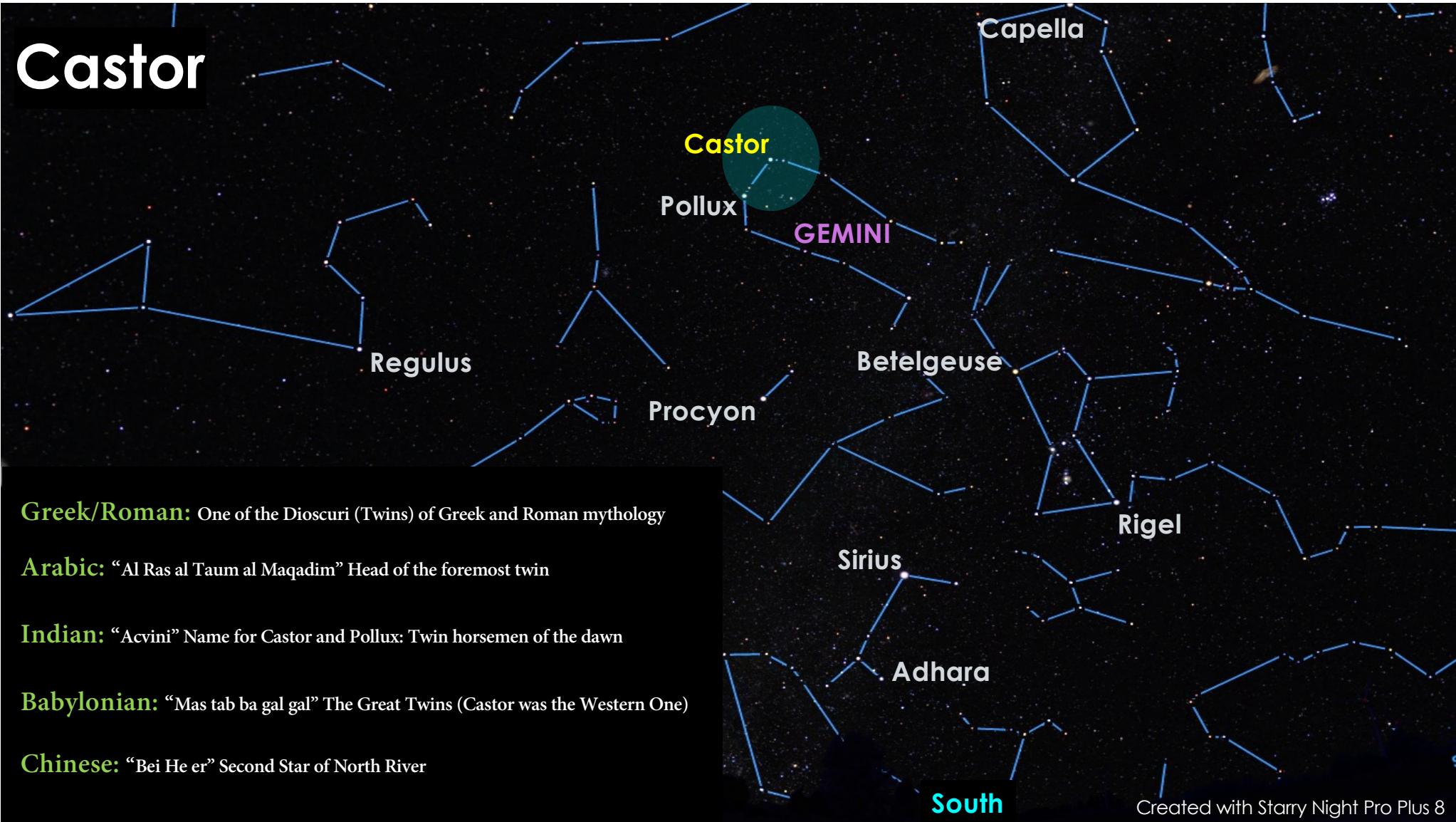
**Castor
(Alpha Geminorum)**

Trevor Chandler

Castor Name for a son of Zeus

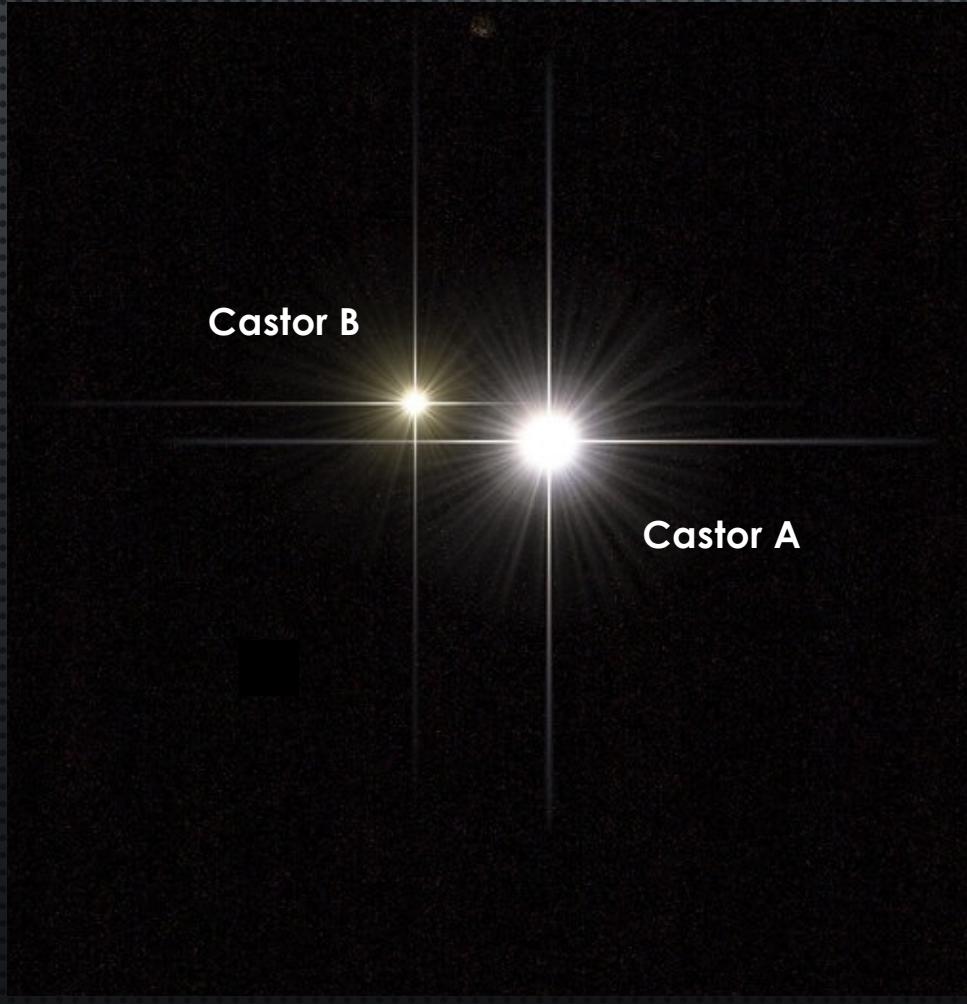


Castor



Created with Starry Night Pro Plus 8

Castor is an impressive double...



Castor B

Mag. 3.0

6" (100 AU, average)

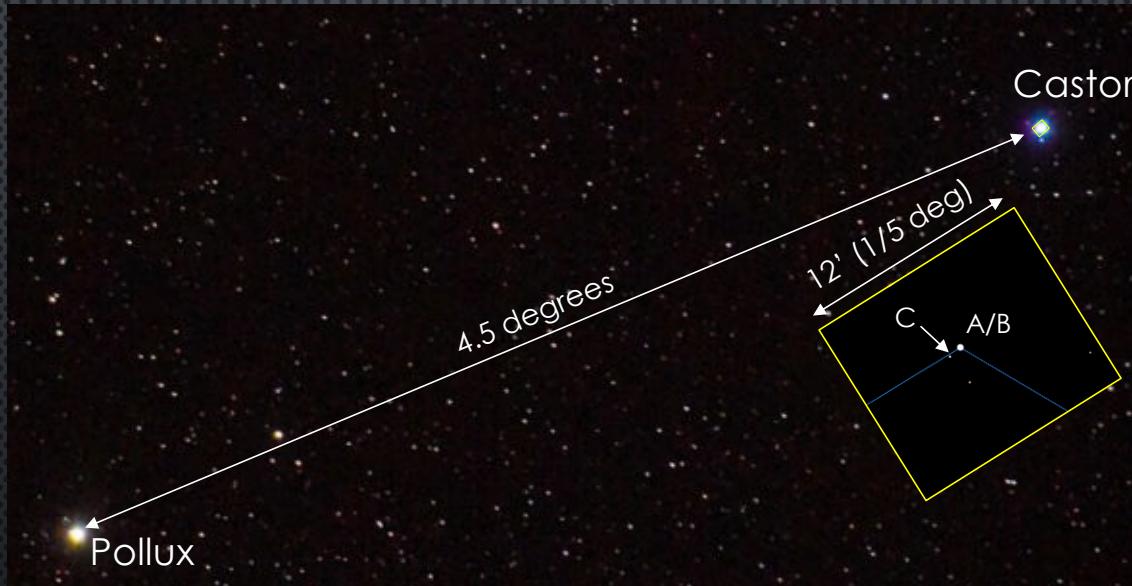
Period: 445 years



Castor A

Mag 1.6

... but there are really 3 stars (In our backyard telescopes)



...although the third star is a faint red dwarf.

Castor C

Mag. 9 (M1 dwarf)



70"
>1,000 AU
Period ~14,000 years

Castor B

Mag. 3.0



6" (100 AU, average)
Period: 445 years

Castor A

Mag 1.6

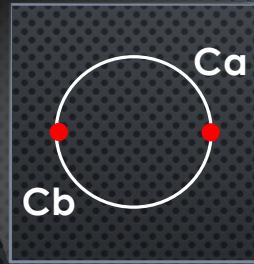
Minimum separation A-B: 2" in 1970; Maximum 6.5" in 2100

Each of these stars is itself a set of twins (spectroscopic)
Castor is really a sextuplet.

Castor C (Flare stars)



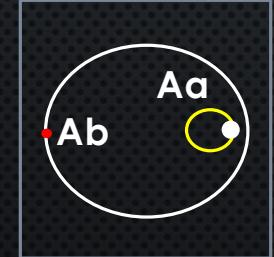
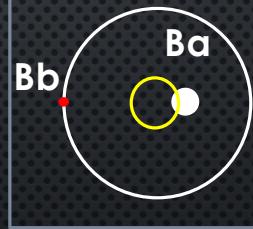
YY Gem
Eclipsing binary
Mag. 8.9-9.6
Period 0.8 d



Castor B



Castor A



Summary

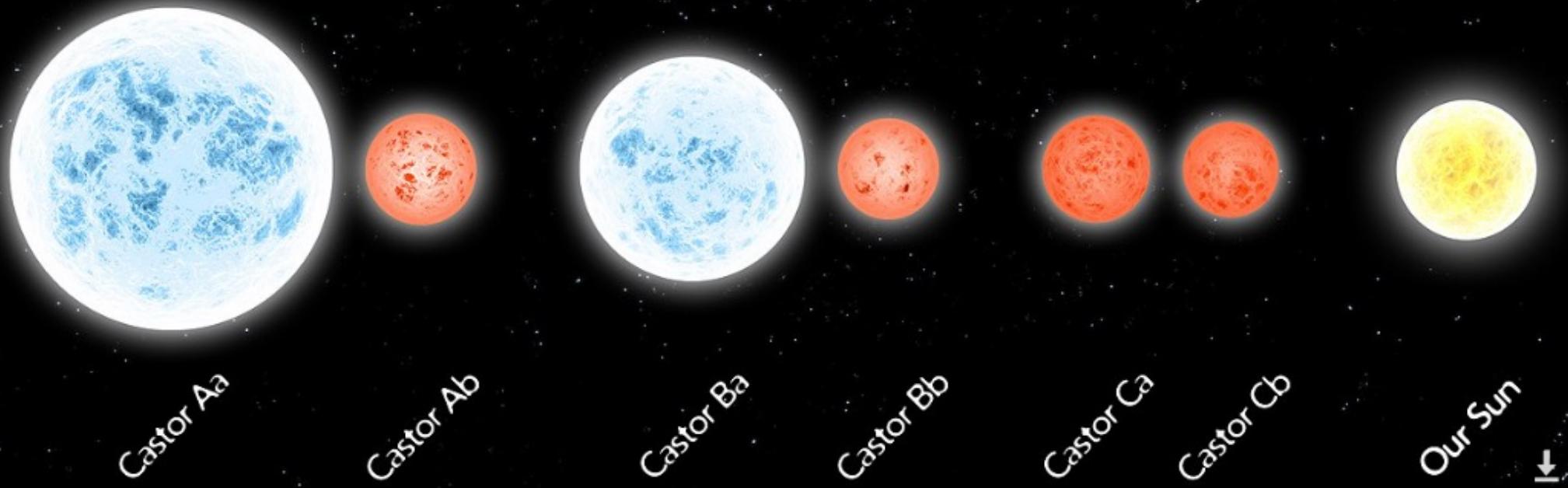
Distance: 51 Light years (Pollux twice as far)

Magnitude: 1.58 (Brightest second magnitude star)

Spectrum of Primary: A1V (normal hydrogen-fusing star)

Number of Components: Six

Visible components: Aa, Ba, Ca+Cb (as one star)



Courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech



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Thank you for stopping by

