

July's Suggested Constellation



*Can you
tell what
it is yet?*

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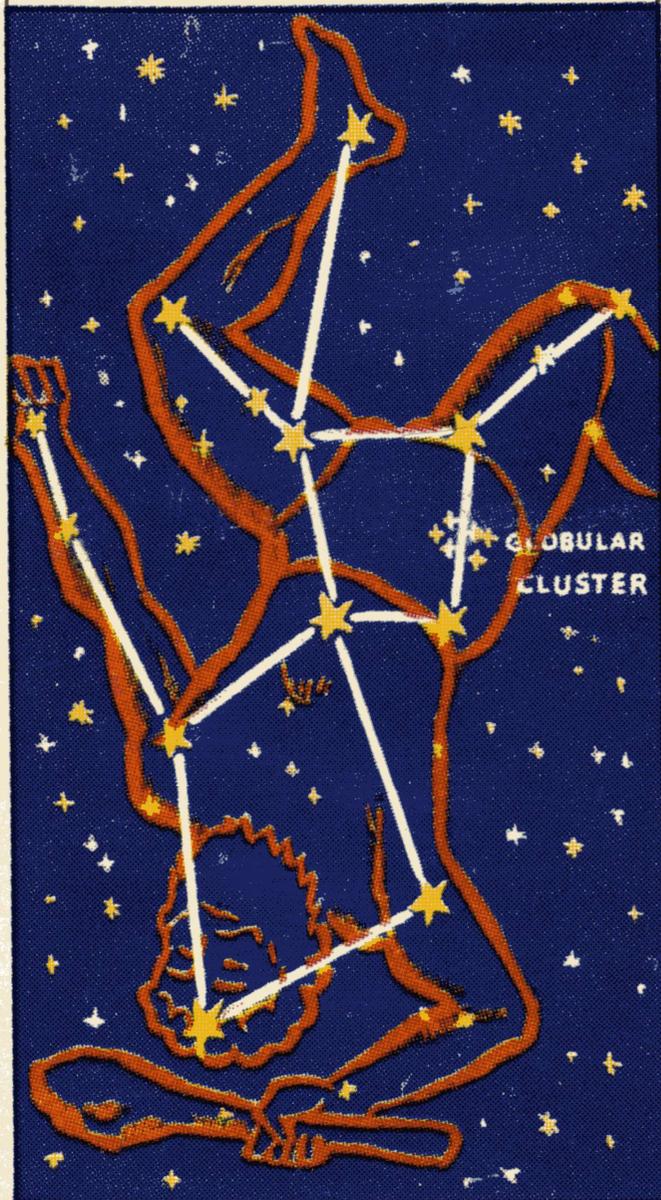
That's right -
Hercules

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Hercules

HERCULES



HERCULES

This is a summer constellation and is best seen May to October. It is large and very interesting although containing no star of greater than 3rd magnitude; within it there are numerous double stars, clusters and nebulae. One great cluster is estimated to contain over 1,500 stars concentrated into a very small space in a roughly globular form, and has always been of intense interest to astronomers. Kneeling figure of Hercules, son of Jupiter, is seen upside down. This constellation was mentioned by Eudoxus (4th Century B.C.).

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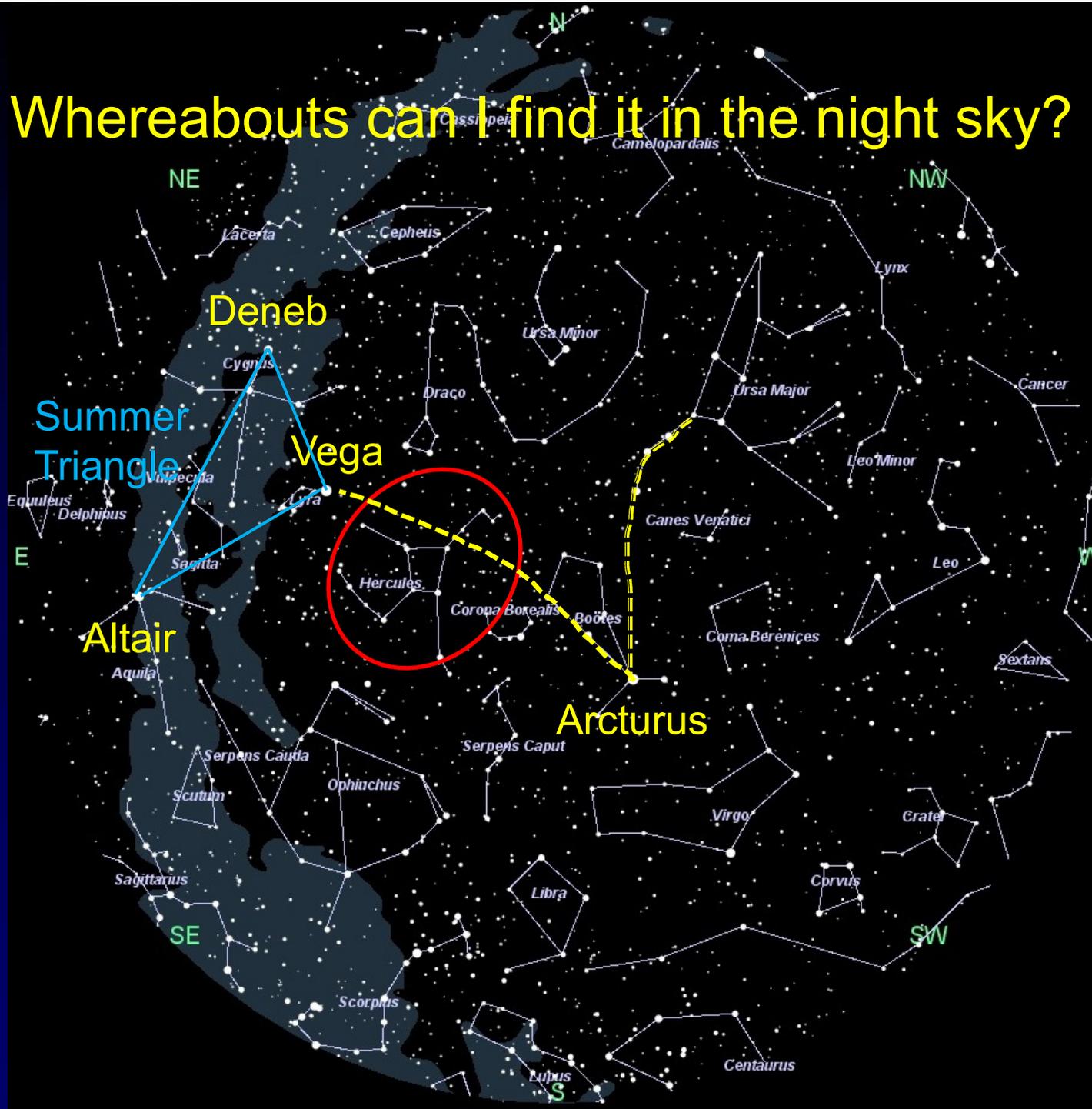
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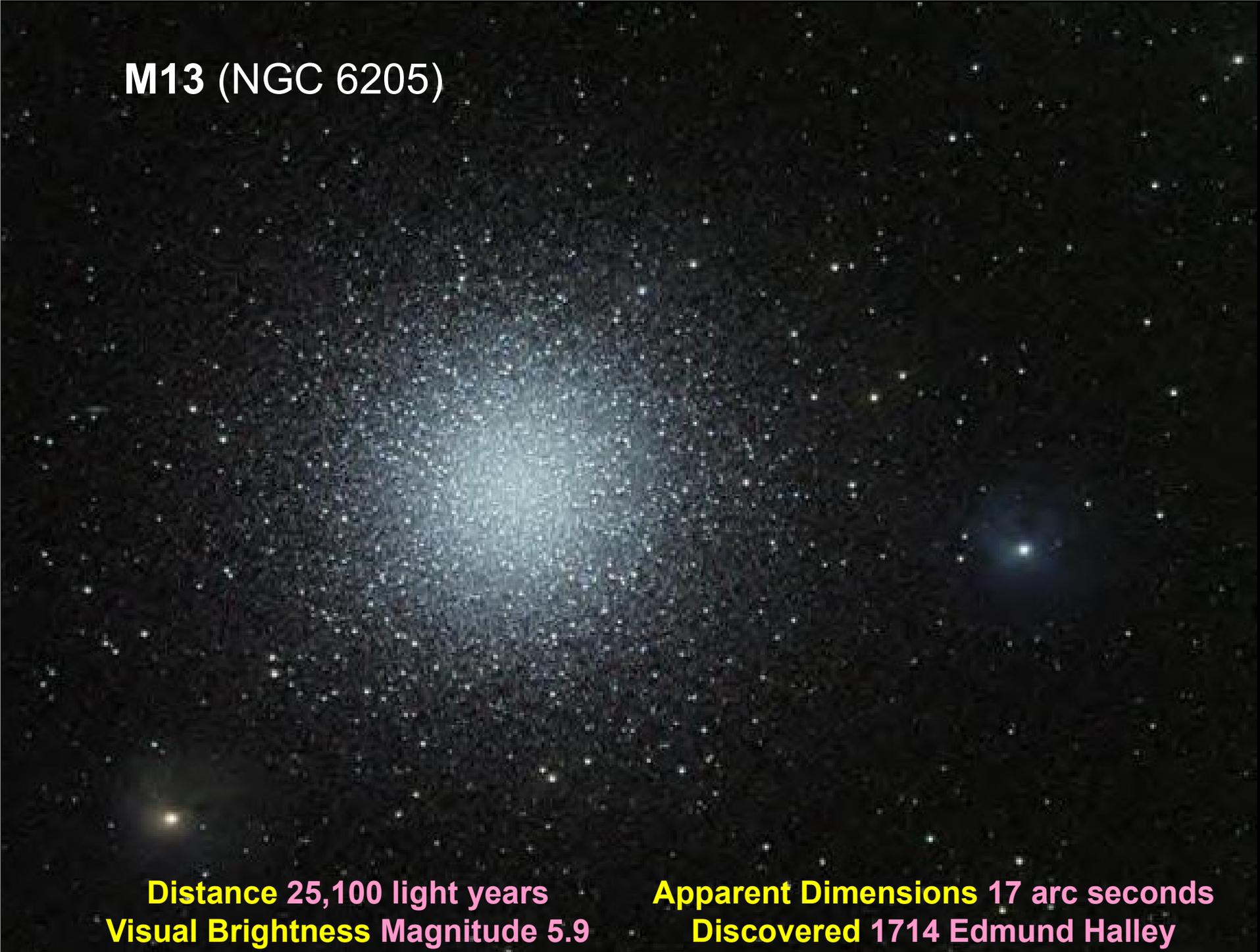
Hercules

- Hercules is the fifth largest constellation, but perhaps not one of the best known, nor easiest to find.
- Best way to find it is to:
 - Make your way to bright orange/red Arcturus (the brightest star in Bootes) by following a line down from the tail of Ursa Major
 - Go up along the two stars marking Bootes's left hand side.
 - Follow this line and you should see bright blue-white Vega, one corner of the Summer Triangle
 - Hercules is half way between
 - The four main stars form "The Keystone"
- Hercules contains the northern hemisphere's best known globular cluster, M13, a marvellous sight even in a small telescope. Don't overlook M92, almost as impressive
- The constellation is also home to several really attractive double stars.

Whereabouts can I find it in the night sky?



M13 (NGC 6205)



Distance 25,100 light years
Visual Brightness Magnitude 5.9

Apparent Dimensions 17 arc seconds
Discovered 1714 Edmund Halley

M92 (NGC 6341)



Distance 26,700 light years
Visual Brightness Magnitude 6.5

Apparent Dimension 11 arc seconds
Discovered 1777 Johan Elert Bode

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Hercules

Double Star
Mag 4.6 & 5.6

Messier Object:
M92 (globular cluster)

Messier Object:
M13 (globular cluster)

Double Star
Mag 2.9 & 5.5

Variable Star
Mag 6.4 → 13.8

Double Star
Mag 5.9 & 5.9

Double Star
Mag 5.3 & 6.5

Double Star
Mag 5.0 & 5.1

Double Star
Mag 3.2 & 5.4

