

Binocular &
Small Telescope
Observing
September 2024
by Andrew
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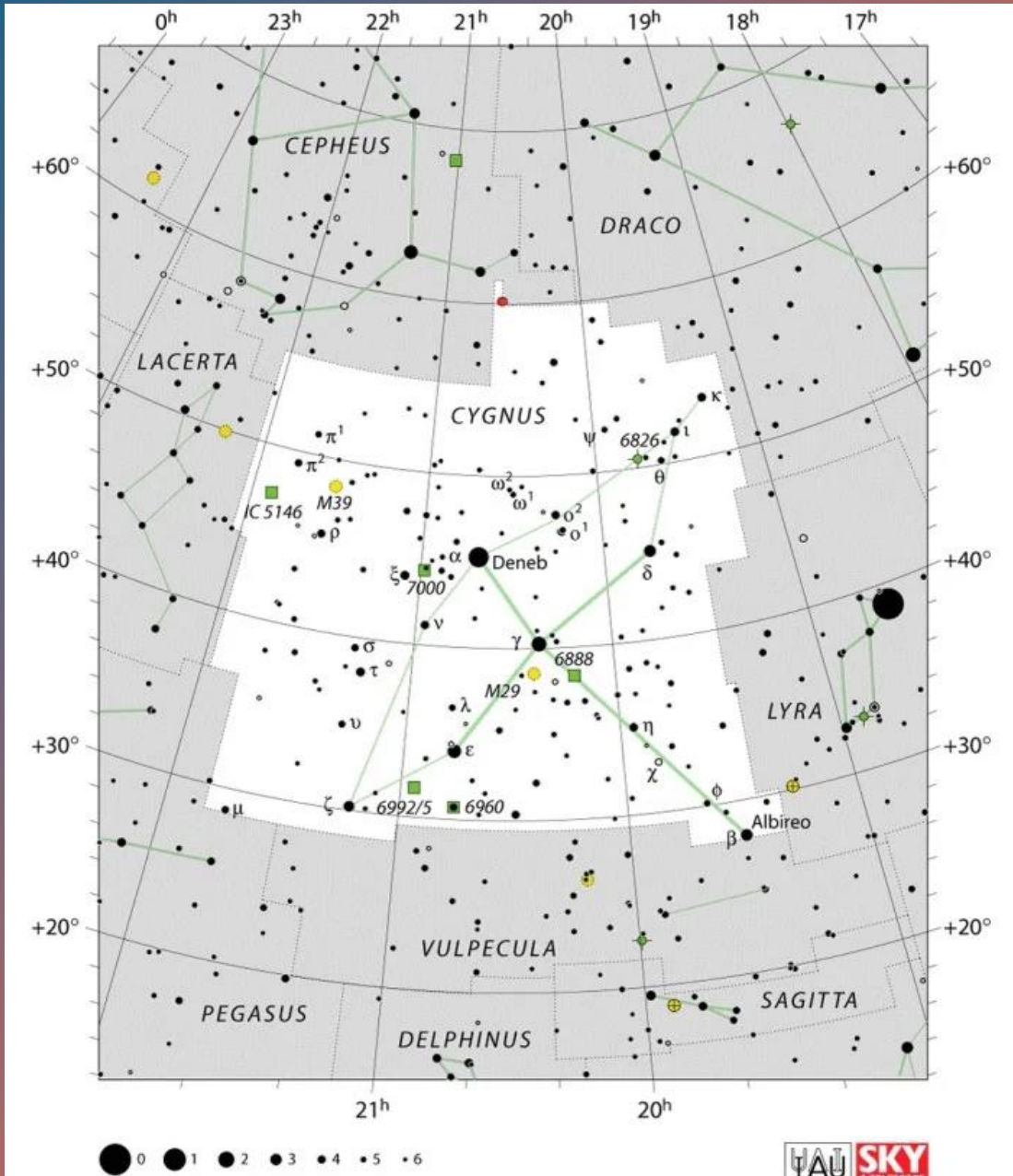


The Summer
Triangle –
Vega, Deneb
& Altair



Cygnus Constellation

- The Swan is an easy to spot constellation.
- Look for the Northern Cross asterism rising in the east, almost at the zenith when south and setting in the west.



Sadr – The Heart of the Swan

- In the centre of the Northern Cross lies Gamma Cygni.
- Binoculars or a small telescope will reveal a beautiful star field with Sadr at the centre.
- Look for a cluster of stars a few degrees northeast of Sadr. This is the open cluster NGC 6910, also known as the Inchworm cluster, and is well worth a look in a small telescope.



The Inchworm Cluster

- The Inchworm is a largely ignored cluster but is a visual delight.
- Look for the bright stars at the head and the tail of the worm and the beautiful string of stars hanging between them.
- The surrounding star field is rich with different colour stars.



Messier 29 – An Open Cluster

Look a few degrees south of
Sadr to pick out the
distinctive Cooling Tower
asterism of M29.



Messier 29 – The Cooling Tower

- M29 lies 4000 light years distant and is visible in binoculars and small telescopes.
- The cluster is around 10 million years old.
- The bright white - hot stars make for a lovely sight, standing out from the surrounding star field.



Omicron Cygni – ? A triple Star

- Also known as 31 Cygni, use the finder chart to find this rather unassuming naked eye visible star.
- Binoculars will reveal a glorious triple star system with beautiful colours.



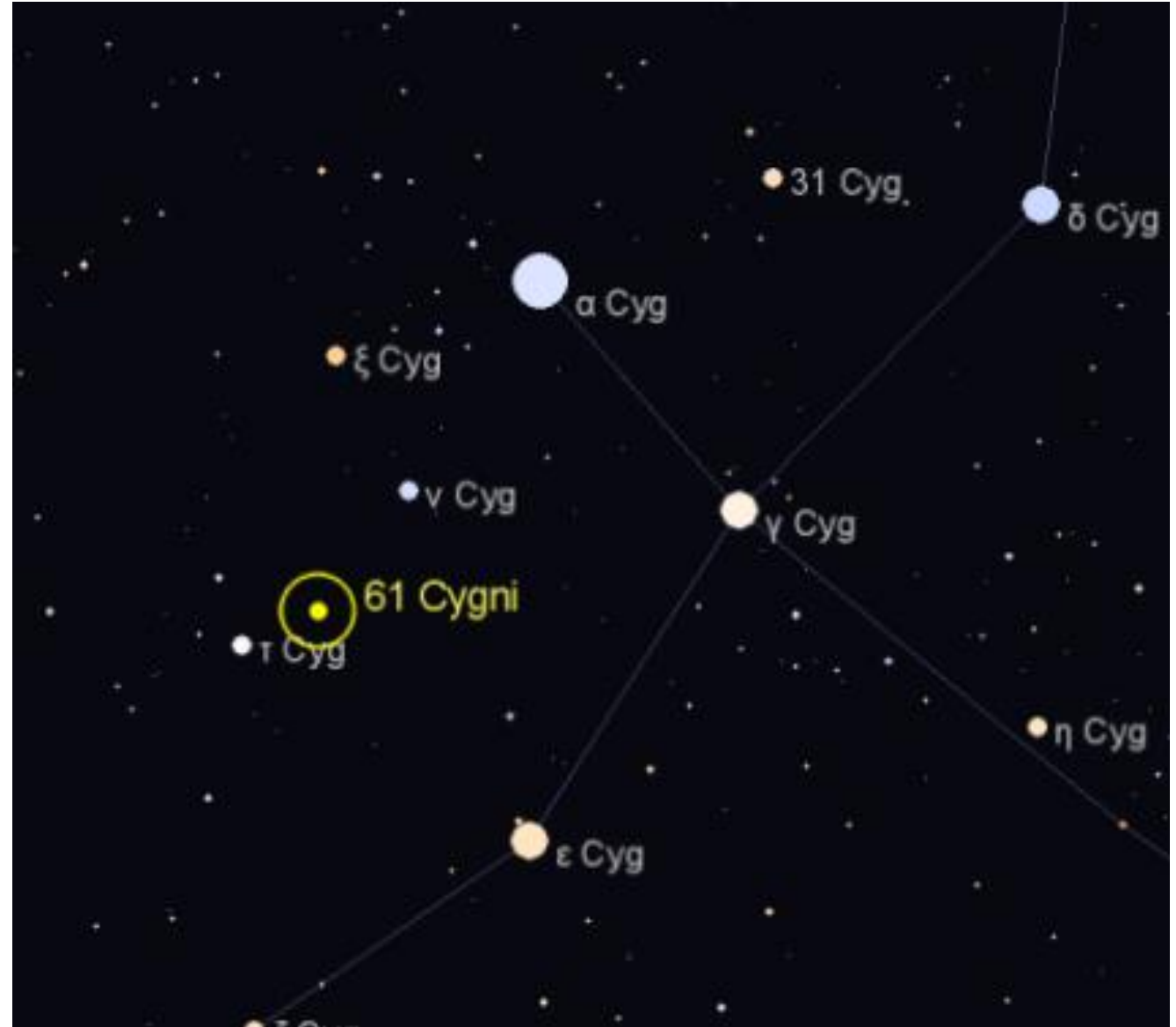
31 Cygni - ? A Triple Star System

- The separation between the primary and the secondary is 337 arcseconds so can be split in any instrument.
- South of the orange giant primary lies a lovely bright blue star which may be a chance line of sight appearance.
- The secondary in the picture lies further away to the upper right and is a pale blue colour.



61 Cygni – Piazzi's Flying Star

- In 1804 Giuseppe Piazzi noticed 61 Cygni's large proper motion which gave rise to the Flying Star name.
- It was the first star other than The Sun to have its distance estimated by parallax by Friedrich Bessel in 1838. Bessel measured the distance at 10.4 light years, very close to the actual value of 11.4.

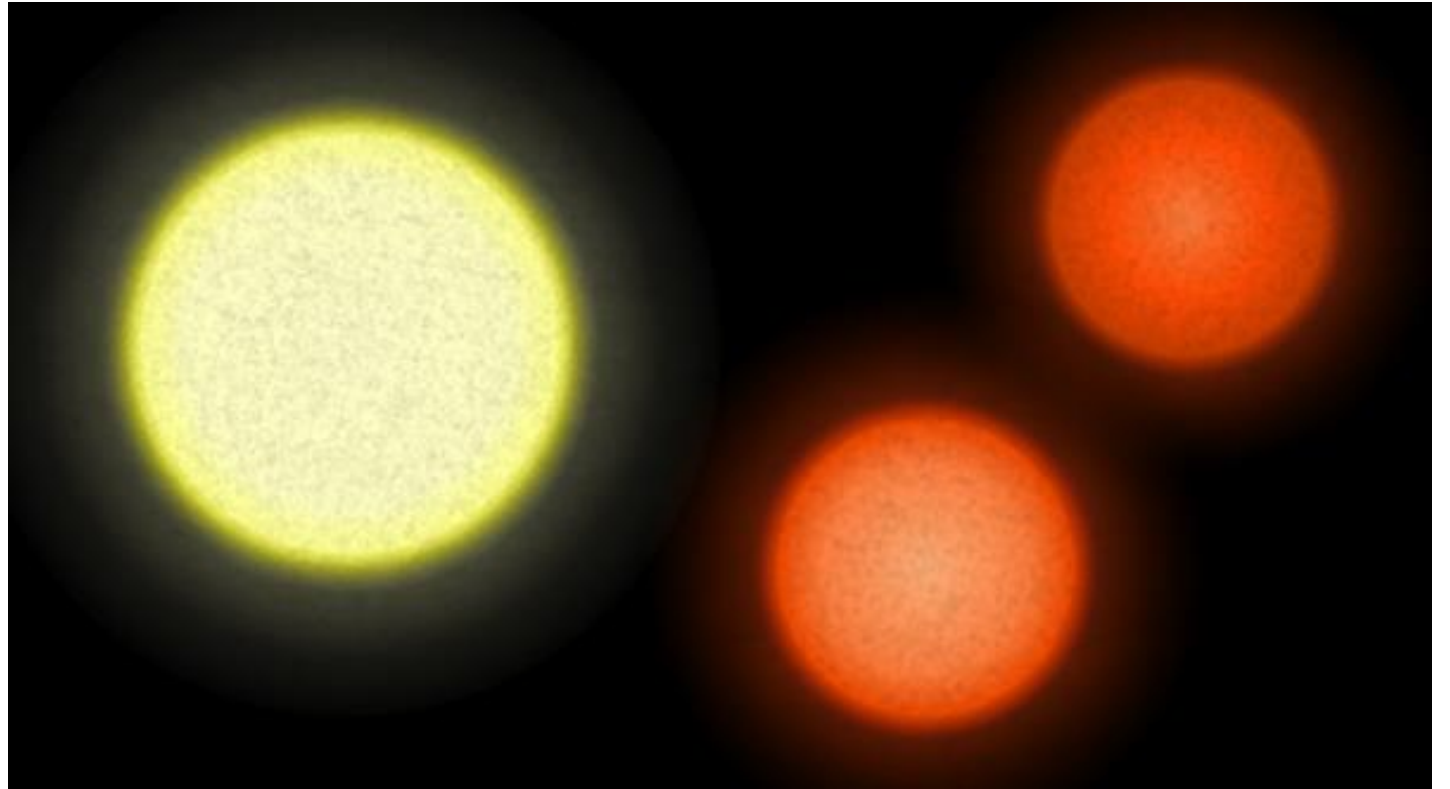


61 Cygni – A Double Star

- 61 Cygni is a binary star system with a separation of 28.7 arcseconds.
- Visually it is a splendid sight with almost equal brightness components shining like a pair of orange/yellow headlights in background star field.



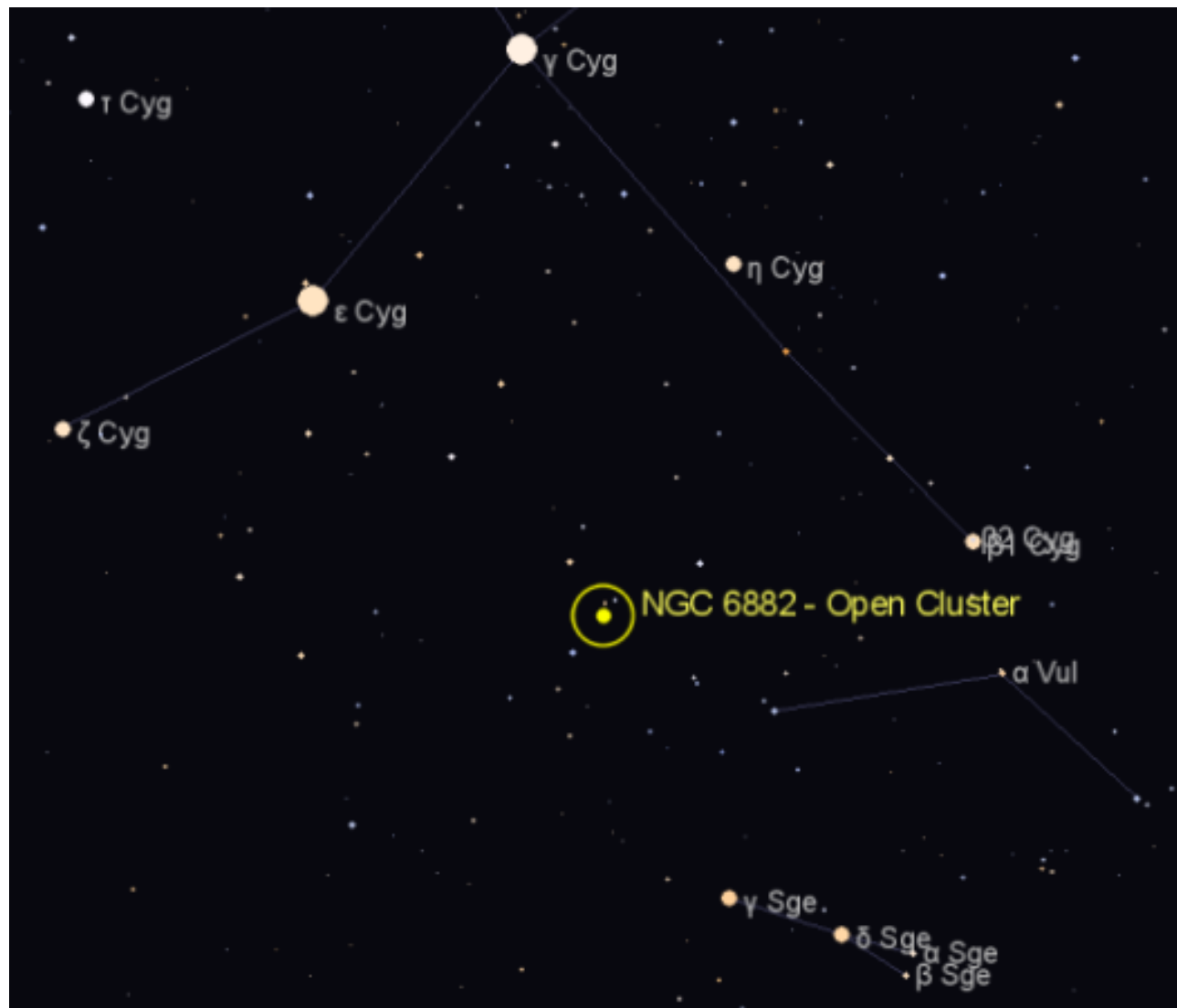
Size comparison
of the sun (left),
61 Cygni A
(lower) and 61
Cygni B (upper
right).



NGC 6882 & 6885

- Open Clusters

- These two open clusters actually lie in Vulpecula.
- They are hardly ever observed but make for a lovely sight with their star colours and background star field.
- They can easily be seen in the same FOV of binoculars and small telescopes.



NGC 6882 & 6885

- NGC 6882 lies above and NGC 6885 below in the image.
- Look for obvious star colours of blue/white and yellow/orange.
- In a small telescope NGC 6885 reveals a sprinkling of stars scattered around a central standout.

