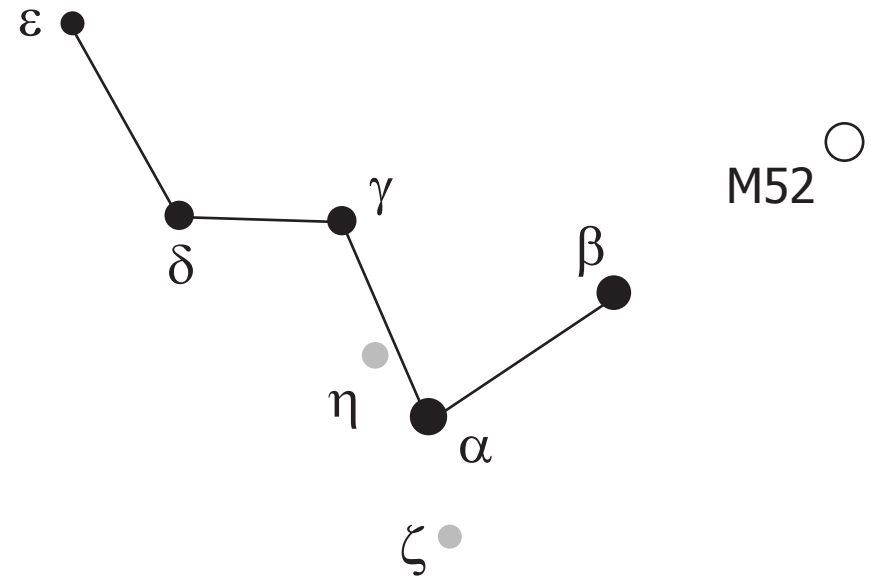
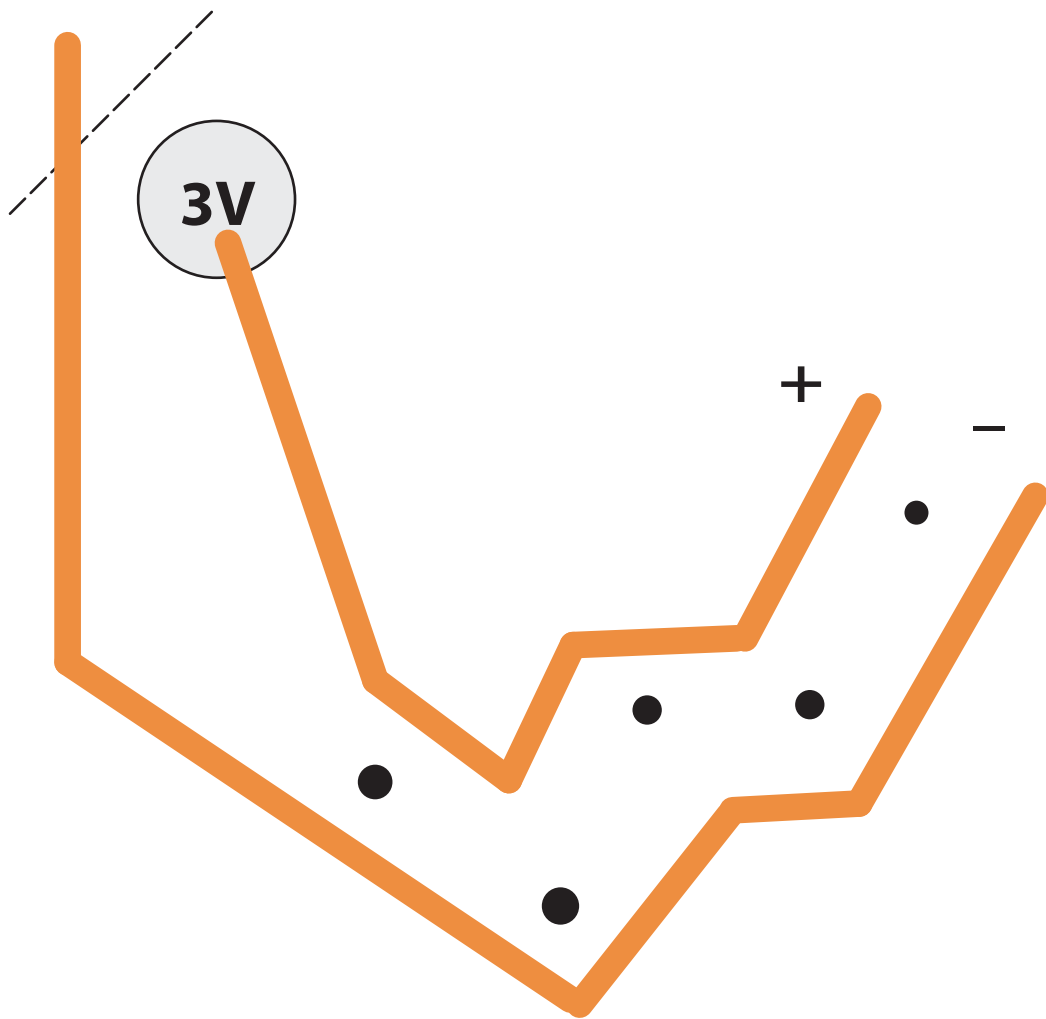


Cassiopeia



PLAY  INAF





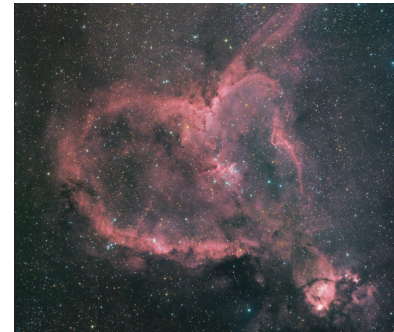
Cassiopeia is a northern constellation, representing Cassiopeia, the legendary queen of Ethiopia. It can be easily recognized because of its zigzag pattern (W). It is a feature of long Autumn starry evenings, although it can be observed almost all the year long from the Northern Hemisphere. It is crossed by the Milky Way, and is therefore rich of star clusters and thick stellar fields.

The most important objects in the sky



Credits: Atlas/NASA

M52, placed in line with the Alpha and Beta stars, is an open cluster, which contains many stars and is only 3000 light-years far away.



Credits: Daniel Marquardt

IC1805 (**Heart Nebula**) is a diffuse nebula, whose distance is estimated at about 7500 light-years from us; its main feature is the presence of two large areas, apparently empty, of different dimensions, which make the nebula similar to a "heart".

Planetary Systems

In Cassiopeia we know a few stars with a planetary system, namely: **HD 7924**. This is an orange dwarf which has three super Earths, that is to say rocky planets similar to the Earth, with a larger mass: **Gliese 892**, also known as **HD 219134**, which is relatively near (21 light-years from the Earth), and around which three super Earths and a gas giant orbit; **HD 240210** and **HD 17156**, around which two gas giants rotate, one of which has a mass which is almost 7 times Jupiter's own mass.