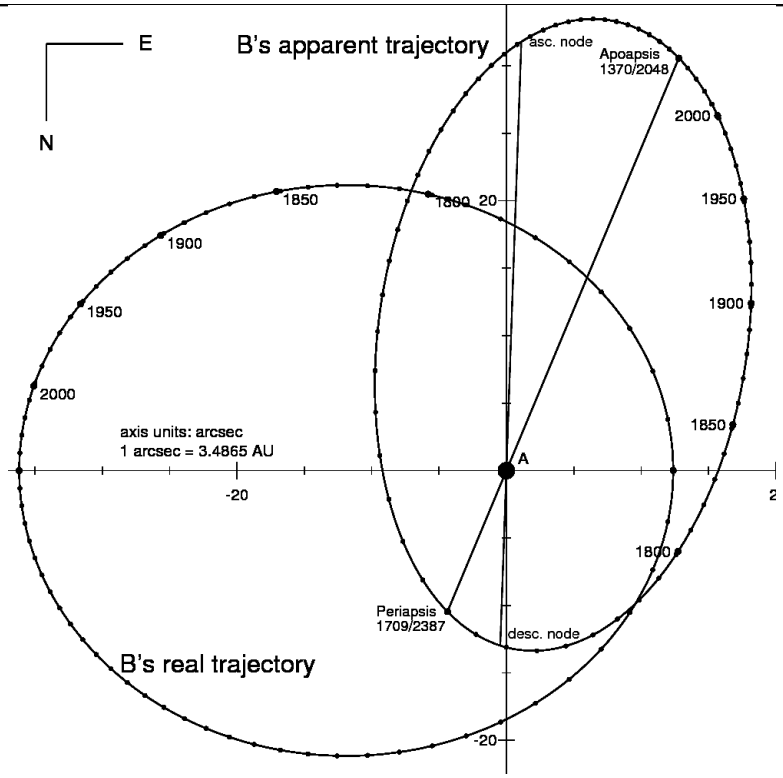
61 Cygni



Quick Facts:

Distance: 11.4 Light-years. Size: Orbit is 84 AU, period 700 years.
Constellation: Cygnus.
Orange-colored double star and binary system. The first star to have its distance accurately measured by parallax (Bessel in 1838). It is of the stars with the fastest apparent motions in the sky as it moves the diameter of the moon in about 400 years.
Find it: Sweep due east of the intersection star of the Northern Cross (Sadr) by 8 degrees and find it just south of the center of the field of view and west of a bright wide pair of stars. Another way is to imagine 61 Cyg as the completion star of a parallelogram formed with it and the northeastern 3 stars of the Northern Cross. A faint naked-eye star.
GOTO: DOUBLE STARS.

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