0529

Starfish Cluster

Quick Facts:

Distance: 3500 Light-years.

Size: Approx 25 Light-years.

Constellation: Auriga.

This cluster of about 100 stars is also known as Messier 38. It formed about 250 million years ago. The brightest star is a yellow giant 500X more luminous than our sun. One degree south is the fainter cluster NGC 1907. 1 of 3 Messier galactic clusters in or near Auriga's pentagon. Find it: Naked-eye in dark skies, look 8 degrees due north of Elnath at the bottom of the pentagon. GOTO: M (Messier).

Image by NOAO. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.