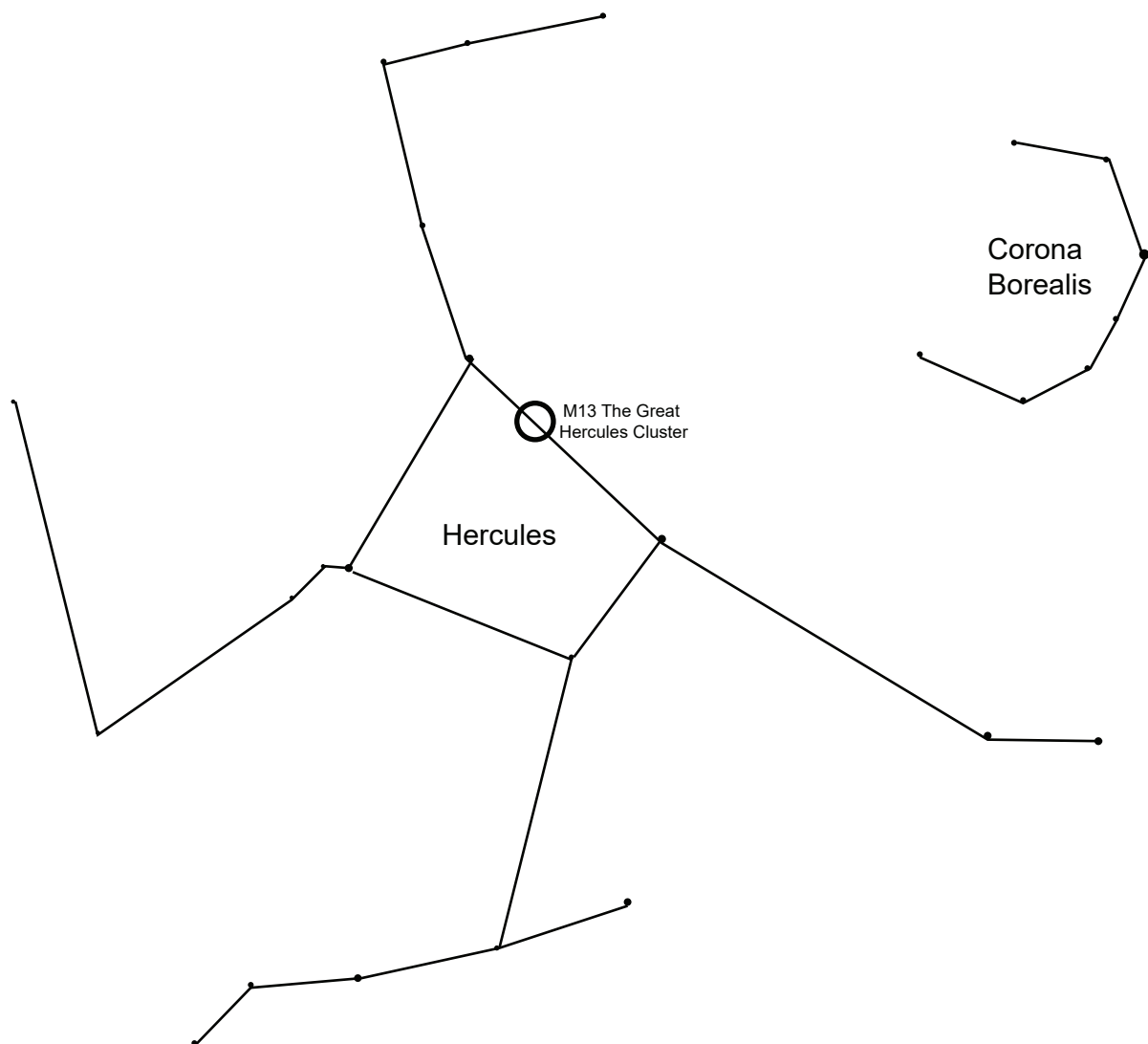


The Great Hercules Cluster - M13

Most stars form to become single, binary or triplet star systems - rarely it becomes more. But in some instances many multiple stars form in the same region - these are known as Star Clusters. The most commonly known type is the Globular Cluster - a sphere of many hundreds of thousands of stars held tightly together by gravity. They're mostly all found on the outer edges of most galaxies and contain very old stars.

Messier 13, or M13, was catalogued by Charles Messier in 1764 and is appears to be within the constellation of Hercules. It is approximately 145 light years in diameter and contains around 300,000 to 500,000 stars making the distance between each star very small.



The cluster is an incredibly long distance away at approx 24,000 light years. Meaning this light you see set off in the year 21,974 BC!