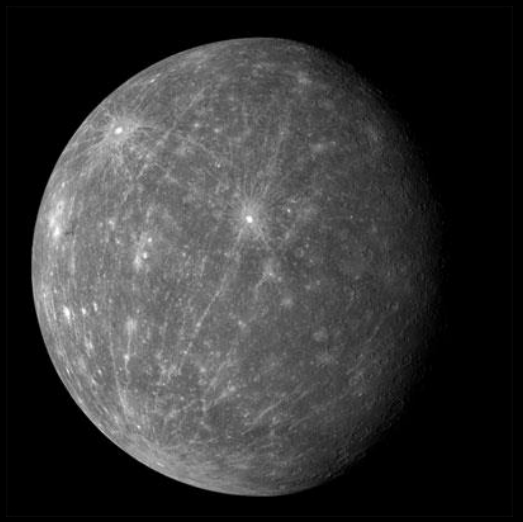
The Sky This Month

Paul Swallow

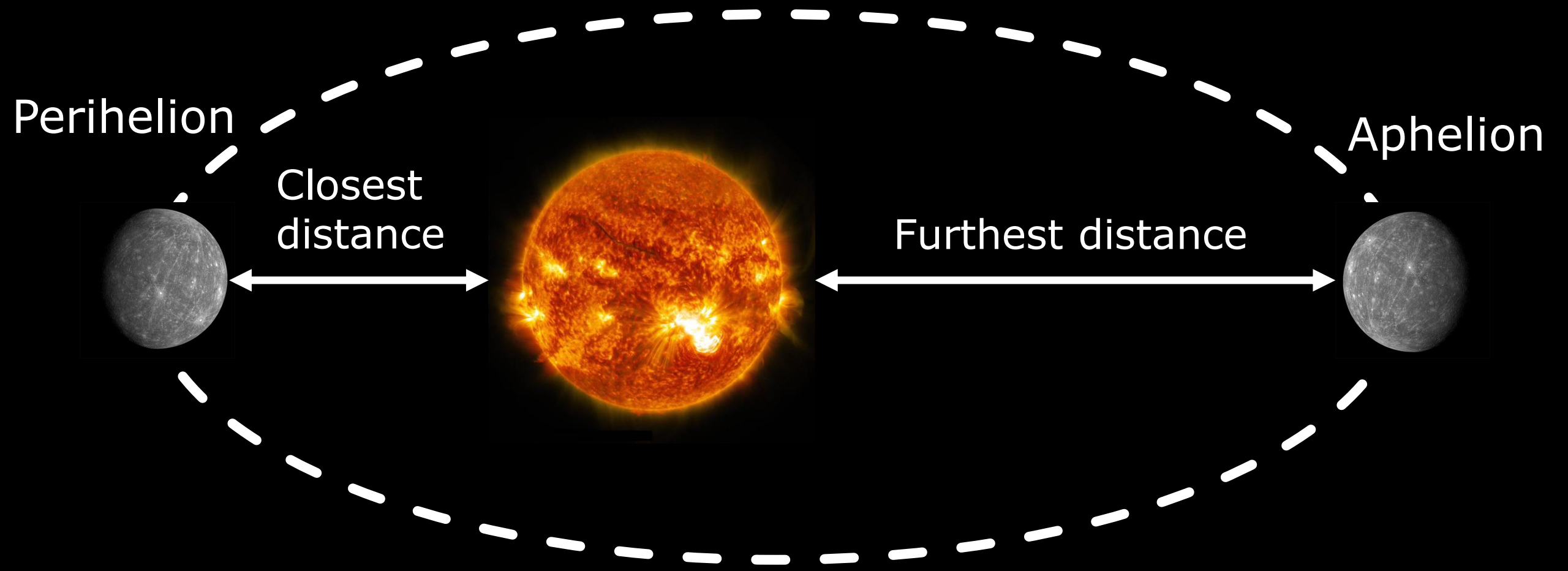
January - March

Upcoming Astronomical events – January.

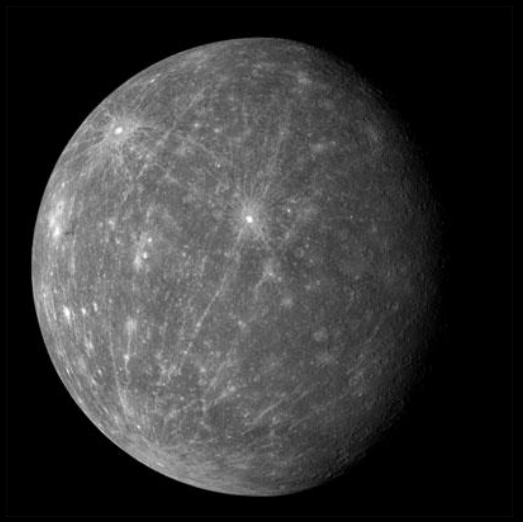


- **Thursday 25th January:**
  - -Mercury at Aphelion.
- **Wednesday 31st January:**
  - -Full Moon: Bright sky, bad for observing
  - -Special Full Moon: Super Blue Blood Moon.

Upcoming Astronomical events - January.



Upcoming Astronomical events – January.



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  - -Super: Closest to Earth
  - -Blue: Once in a Blue Moon

Upcoming Astronomical events – January.

- **Wednesday 31st January:**
  - -Super: Closest to Earth
  - -Blue: Once in a Blue Moon
  - -Blood Moon: In USA, Russia, Northern Europe, Asia and Australia.

Upcoming Astronomical events - February.

- **Thursday 15th February:**

  -New Moon: Dark sky, good for observing.

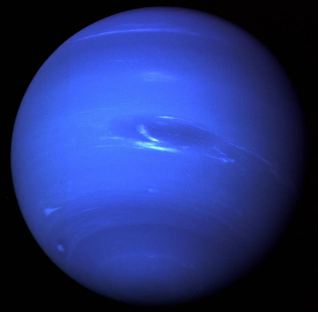
- **Saturday 17th February:**

  -Mercury at superior conjunction.

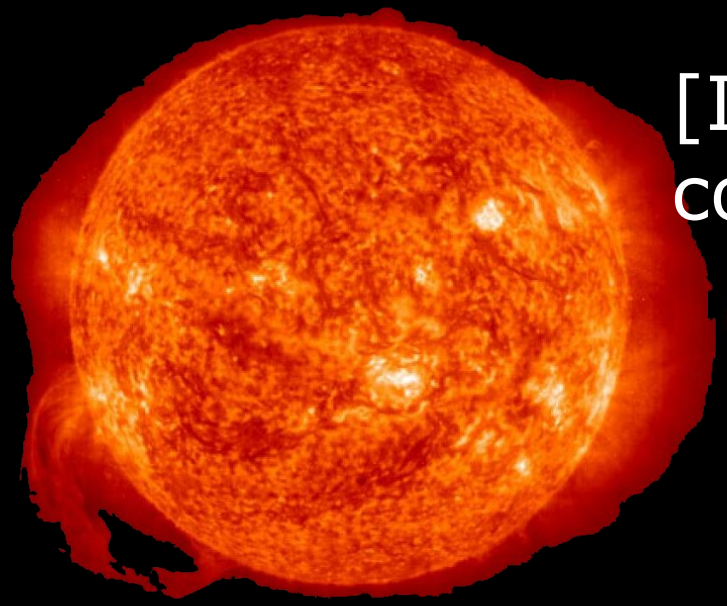
- February has a Black Moon.

Conjunction.

[Conjunction]



[Superior conjunction]



[Inferior conjunction]

[Not To Scale]

Image credit: National Geographic, NASA, ESO

Upcoming Astronomical events - February.

- **Thursday 15th February:**

  -New Moon: Dark sky, good for observing.

- **Saturday 17th February:**

  -Mercury at superior conjunction.

- February has a Black Moon.

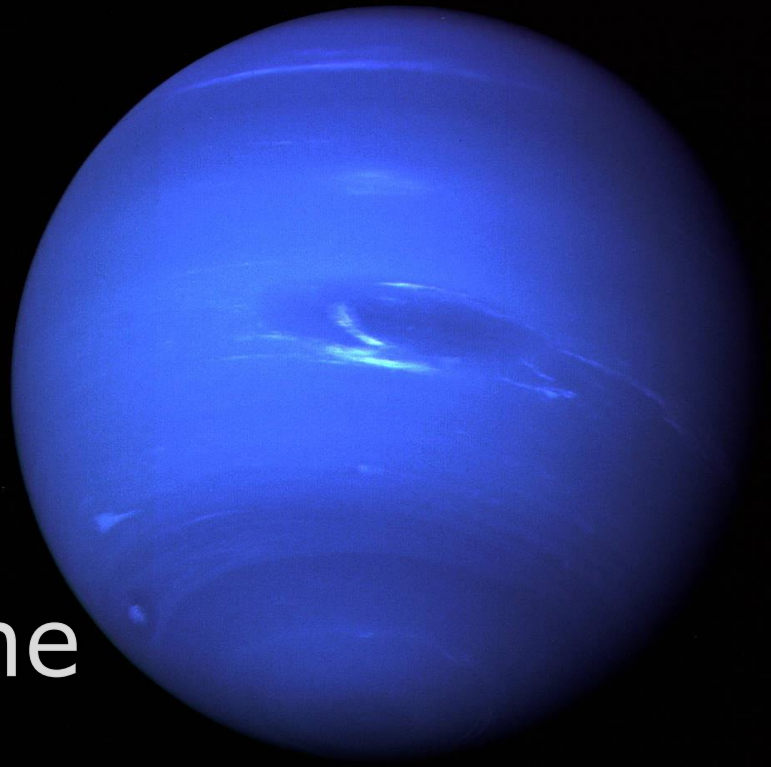
Upcoming Astronomical events – March.

- **Friday 2nd March:**

  -Full Moon: Bright sky, bad for observing.

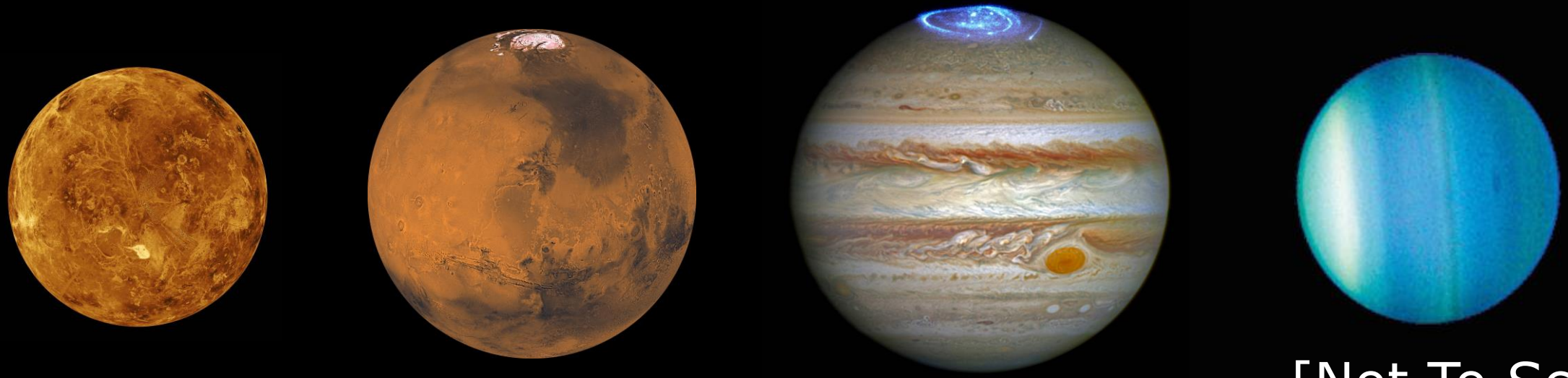
- **Sunday 4th March:**

  -Neptune in conjunction with the Sun.



Planets visible these months.

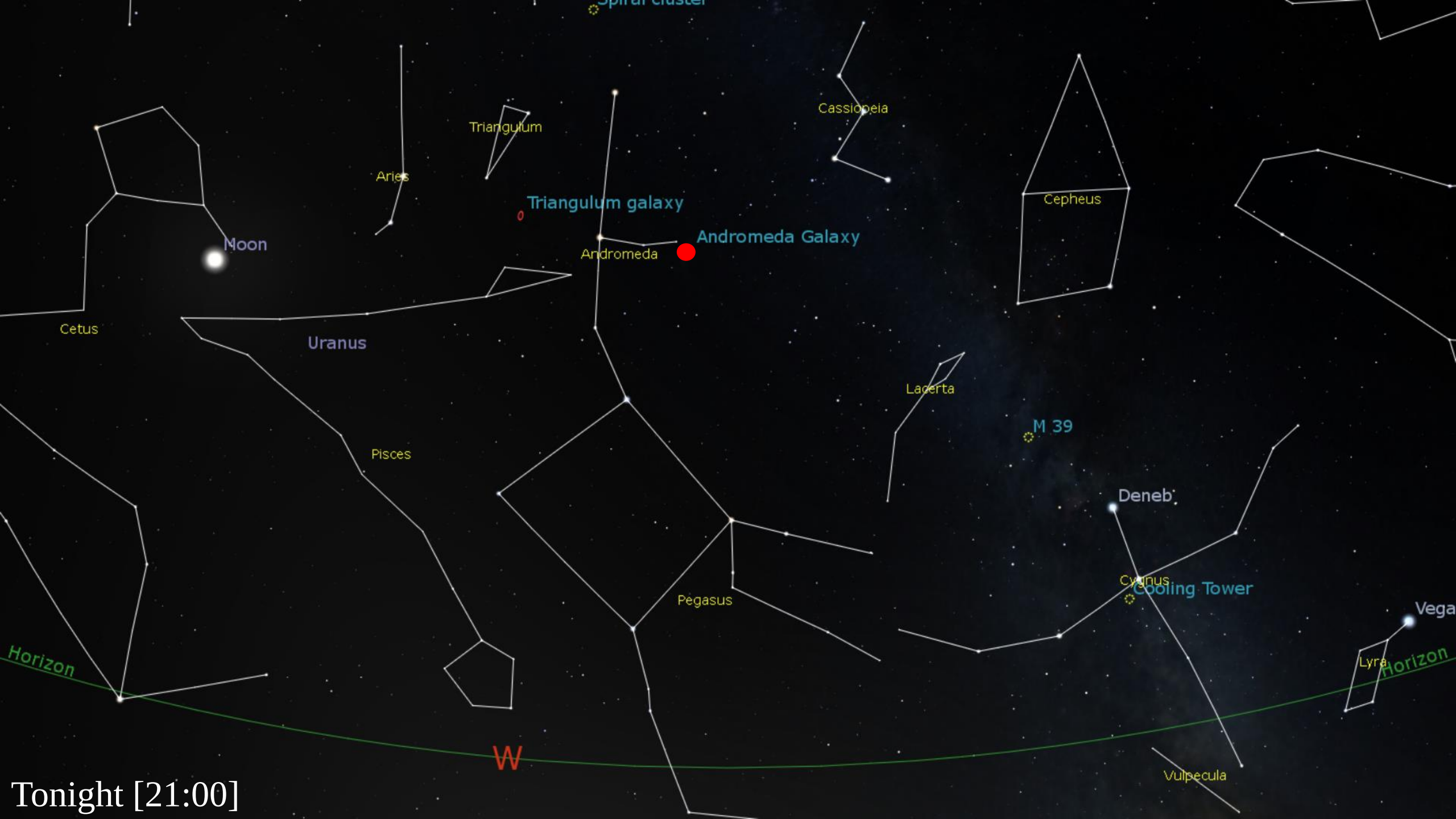
- **Venus:** West to South-West, evening sky.
- **Mars:** South-West, early morning sky.
- **Jupiter:** Eastern, early morning sky.
- **Uranus:** Western, evening sky.



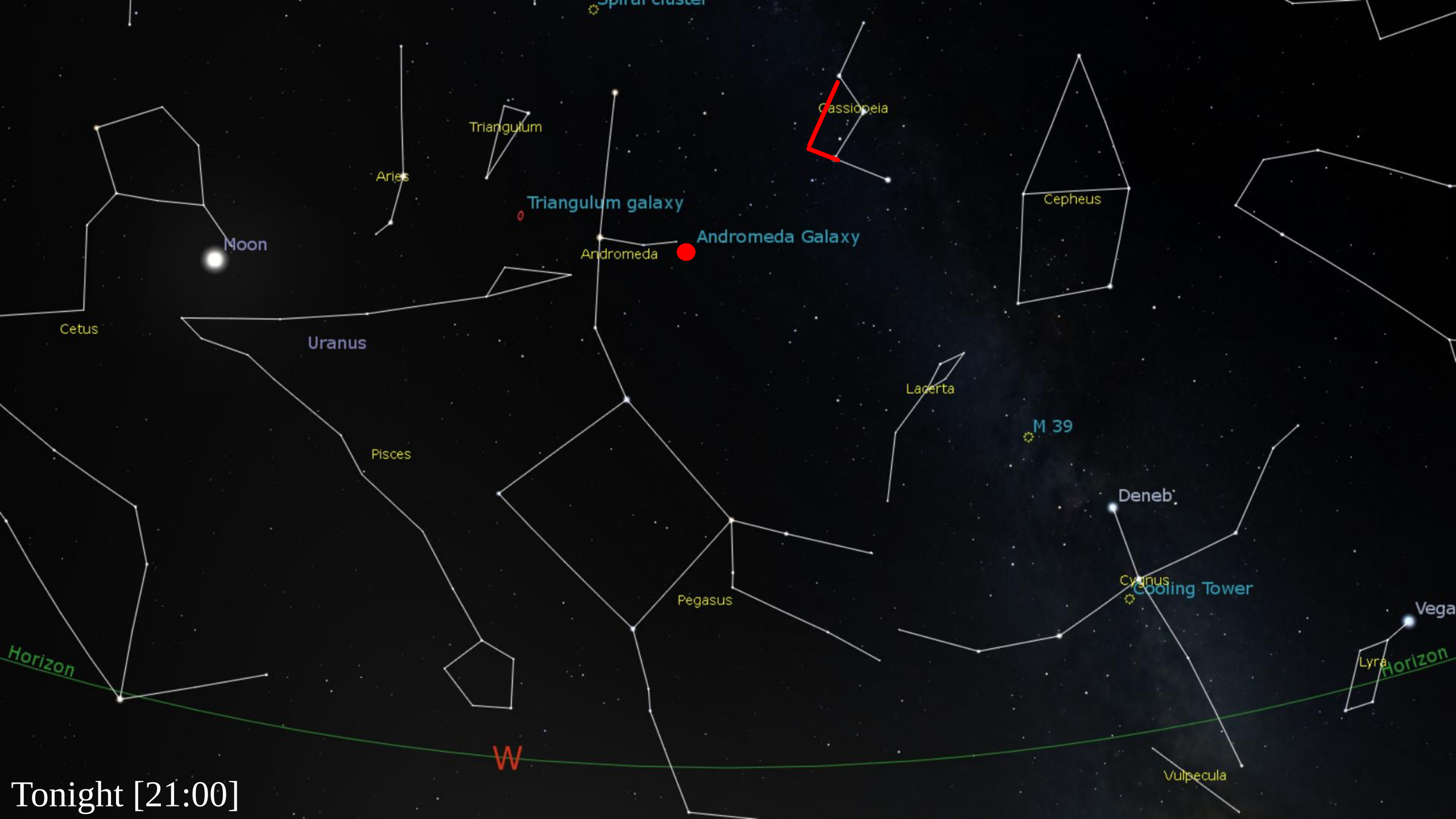
[Not To Scale]

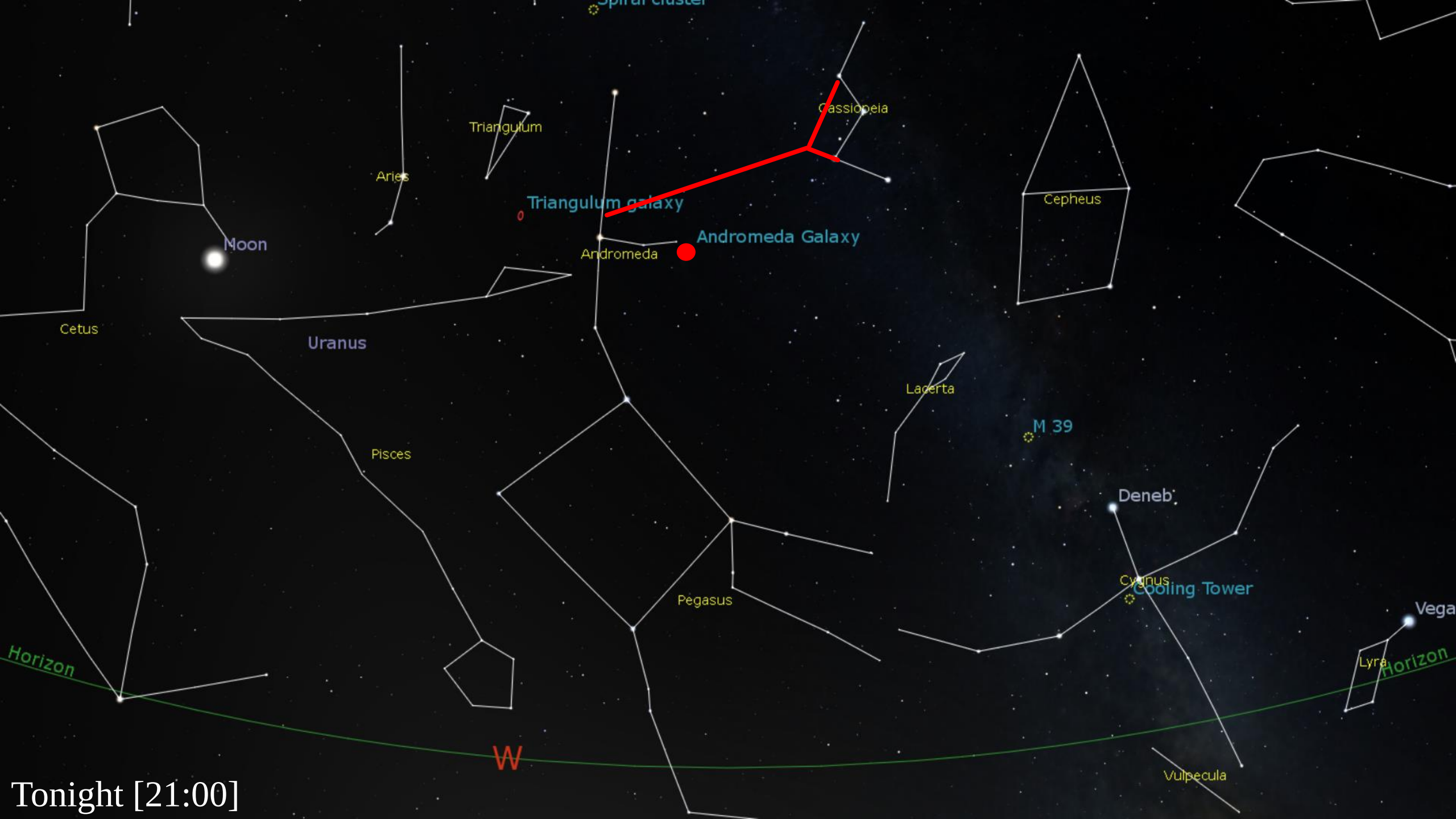
Highlight Object:
M31 The Andromeda Galaxy.

- Chance of observation here: Good, Can be observed with the naked eye.
- The largest galaxy in the local group.
- It is expected to collide with the Milky Way in 4.5 Billion years.
- First described by a Persian astronomer in 964 and was catalogued in 1764 by Messier.



Tonight [21:00]


Spiral cluster
Triangulum
Aries
Cassiopeia
Triangulum galaxy
Cepheus
Moon
Andromeda Galaxy
Andromeda
Cetus
Uranus
Lacerta
M 39
Pisces
Deneb
Cygnus
Cooling Tower
Pegasus
Vega
Lyra
Horizon
Horizon
W
Vulpecula
Tonight [21:00]



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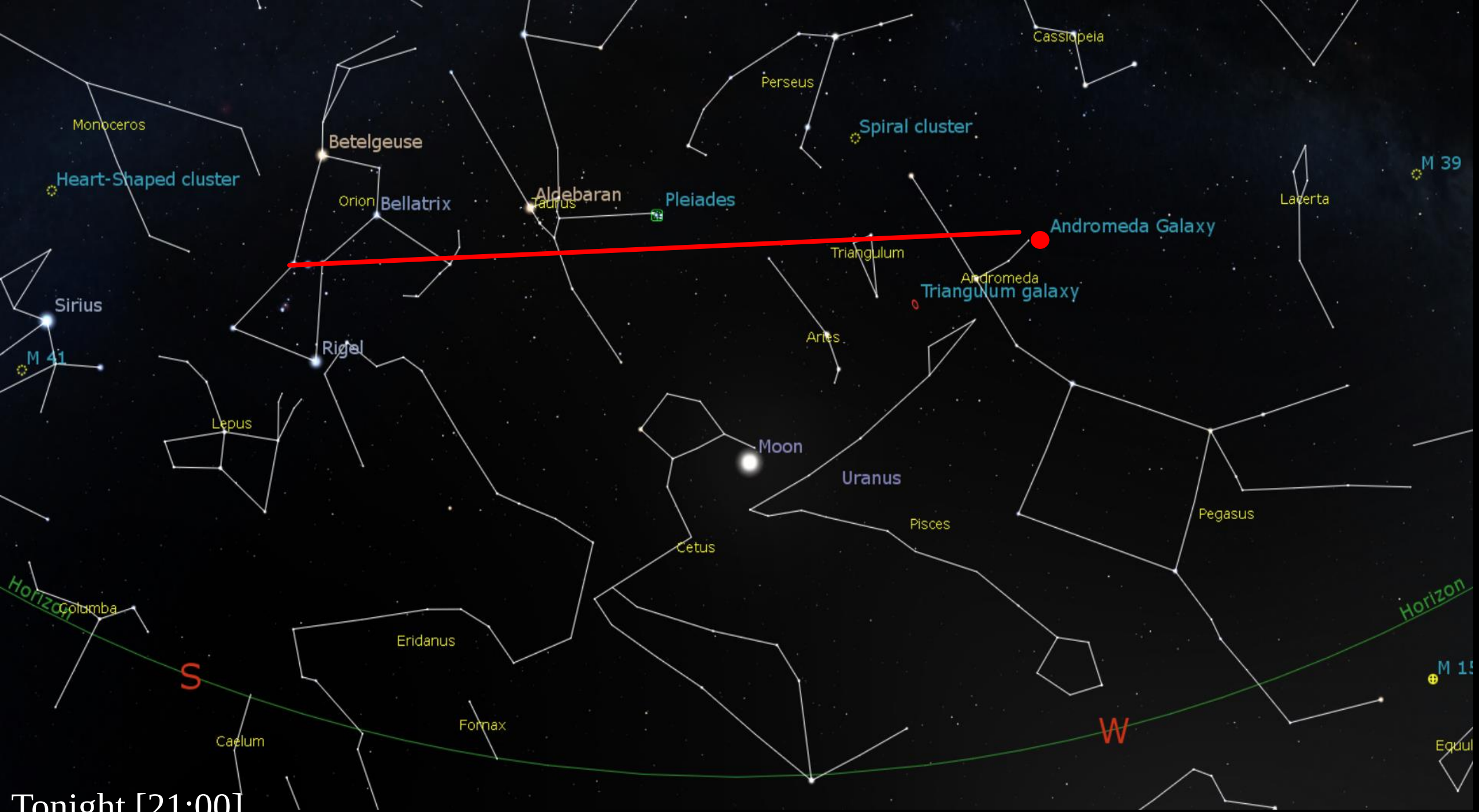
Cassiopeia
Perseus
Monoceros
Spiral cluster
Betelgeuse
Heart-Shaped cluster
M 39
Orion
Bellatrix
Aldebaran
Taurus
Pleiades
Lacerta
Andromeda Galaxy
Triangulum
Andromeda
Triangulum galaxy
Sirius
Aries
Rigel
M 41
Lepus
Moon
Uranus
Pegasus
Pisces
Cetus
Horizon
Columba
Eridanus
S
Horizon
M 15
Formax
W
Caelum
Equul
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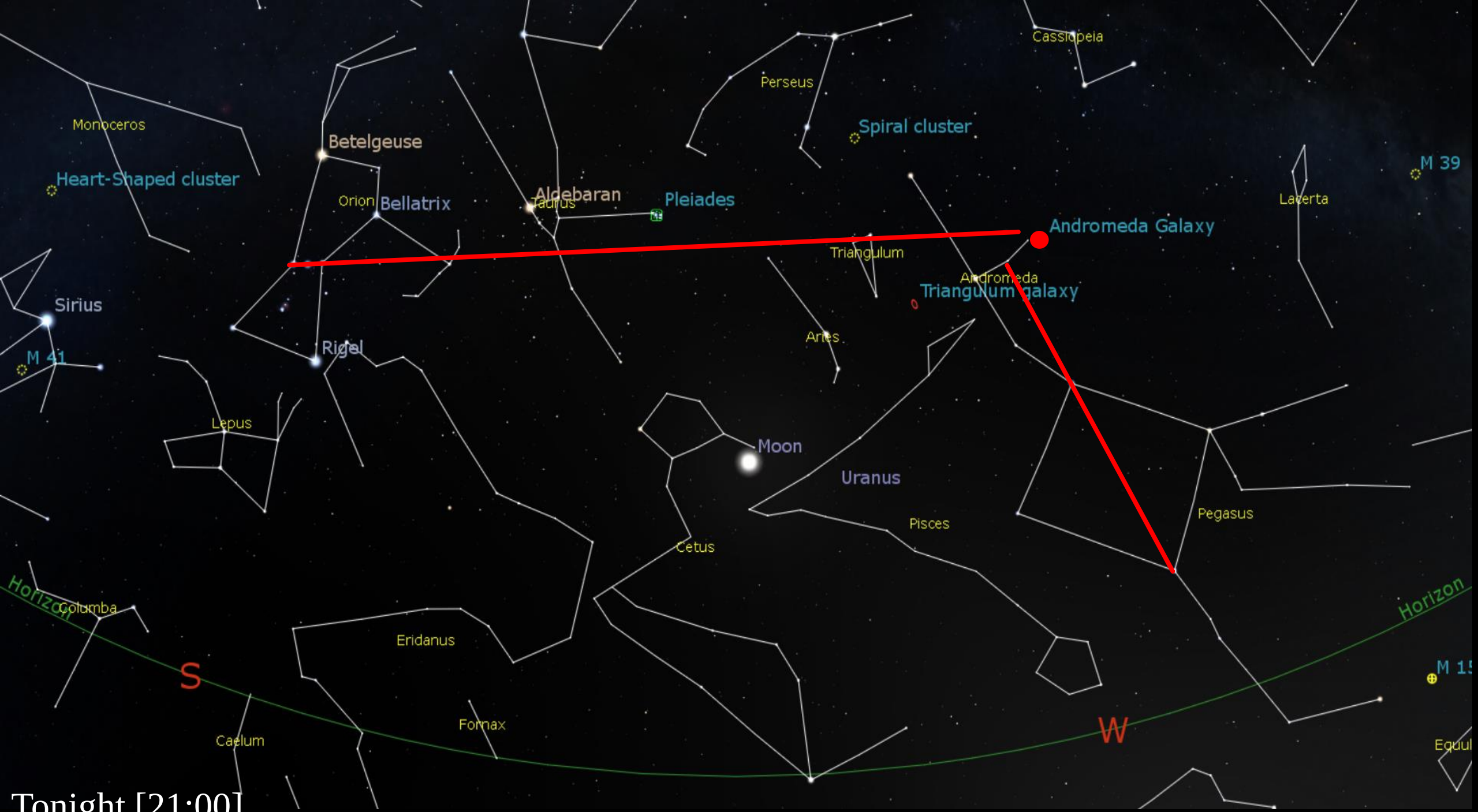

Tonight [21:00]

Summary

- Lots of planets Visible: Venus, Mars, Jupiter & Uranus.
- Look for the Andromeda Galaxy.
- http://www.sr.bham.ac.uk/observatory/astronomyinthecity.php

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