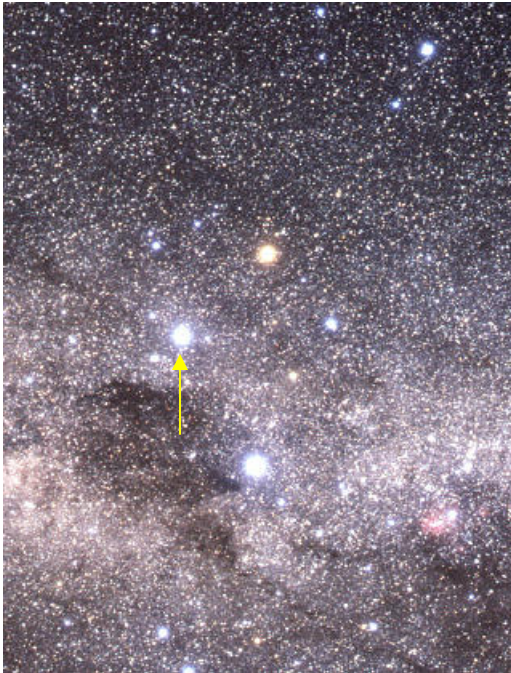


Supplemental information for the press release for AAS paper 158.03 “Chandra Spectroscopy of the Hot Star β Cru and the Discovery of a Possible Pre-Main Sequence Companion”

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This optical image shows the four bright stars that make up Crux, the Southern Cross, near the dark interstellar dust cloud known as the Coal Sack. North is up in this image, and East is to the left. Beta Crucis, also known as Becrux, or Mimosa, is the left-most of the bright stars in the constellation and is denoted by the yellow arrow.



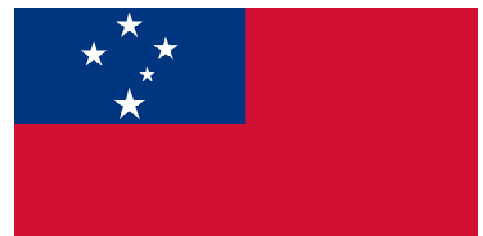
In this time-lapse and defocused image, the apparent motion of the sky about the south celestial pole can be seen, and the intrinsic colors of the stars are quite obvious in the defocused portions of the image.

The Southern Cross is one of the most prominent and easily identifiable constellations in the southern sky, which is why it appears on so many flags of countries and territories in the Southern Hemisphere. And like the Big and Little Dippers in the Northern Hemisphere, the Southern Cross is close to the celestial pole and so never appears to set as viewed from high southern latitudes.

References: Left image from

<http://www.astron.pref.gunma.jp/inpaku/galex/southern-cross.html>; Right image from <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap040708.html>, copyright Stefan Seip.

The Southern Cross appears on the flags of five nations



References: Southern Cross flags from
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Cross_Flag :
Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea,
Samoa (top to bottom).