

The 2026 Garching AG Puzzler

Stars Jumping Borders

In 1922, the IAU agreed on the borders of our 88 constellations, defined as spherical polygons. Finally, everyone could agree whether a star should be called α Andromedae or rather γ Pegasi. Nomenclature matters a lot, even in modern Astronomy. The constellation boundaries do not move. But stars do, and thus occasionally a star will migrate from one constellation into another. What's the mean (disclosure: it's slightly variable) G magnitude of the brightest star that migrated between 2000.0 and 2026.0 according to Gaia?

(A) 5.78

(B) 6.73

(C) 9.28

(D) 11.33

To **win** our great 70 cm $\times$ 140 cm **towel** showing this year's total solar eclipse, write your answer on the numbered slip in the corner overleaf, tear it off and hand it in at the GAVO booth.

You can guess – or write a smart ADQL query. Unless you're an ADQL pro, you should not attempt the latter without the handy hint sheet that you can pick up at our booth.

We will draw the winning ticket among the correct answers during the Thursday morning coffee break at 10:45 at the GAVO booth.

You can solve this problem in one single **ADQL query** over two suitable tables in some TAP service in the VO. But of course you can also simply use your intuition.

If the **odd abbreviations** above make your head spin, have a look at <https://docs.g-vo.org/vocourse> and drop by our booth. We will be happy to explain the Virtual Observatory.

Retain your part of this flyer: it is numbered, and we will ask you to show your number before you get the towel. Of course, you can also send a substitute to stand in for you at the prize drawing. But: *some* person needs to be at our booth with the winning slip at 10:45 on Thursday.

We will post a **solution** on our blog at <http://blog.g-vo.org/> some time around then.

An **archive** of previous puzzlers and their solutions is at <http://www.g-vo.org/puzzlerweb>.