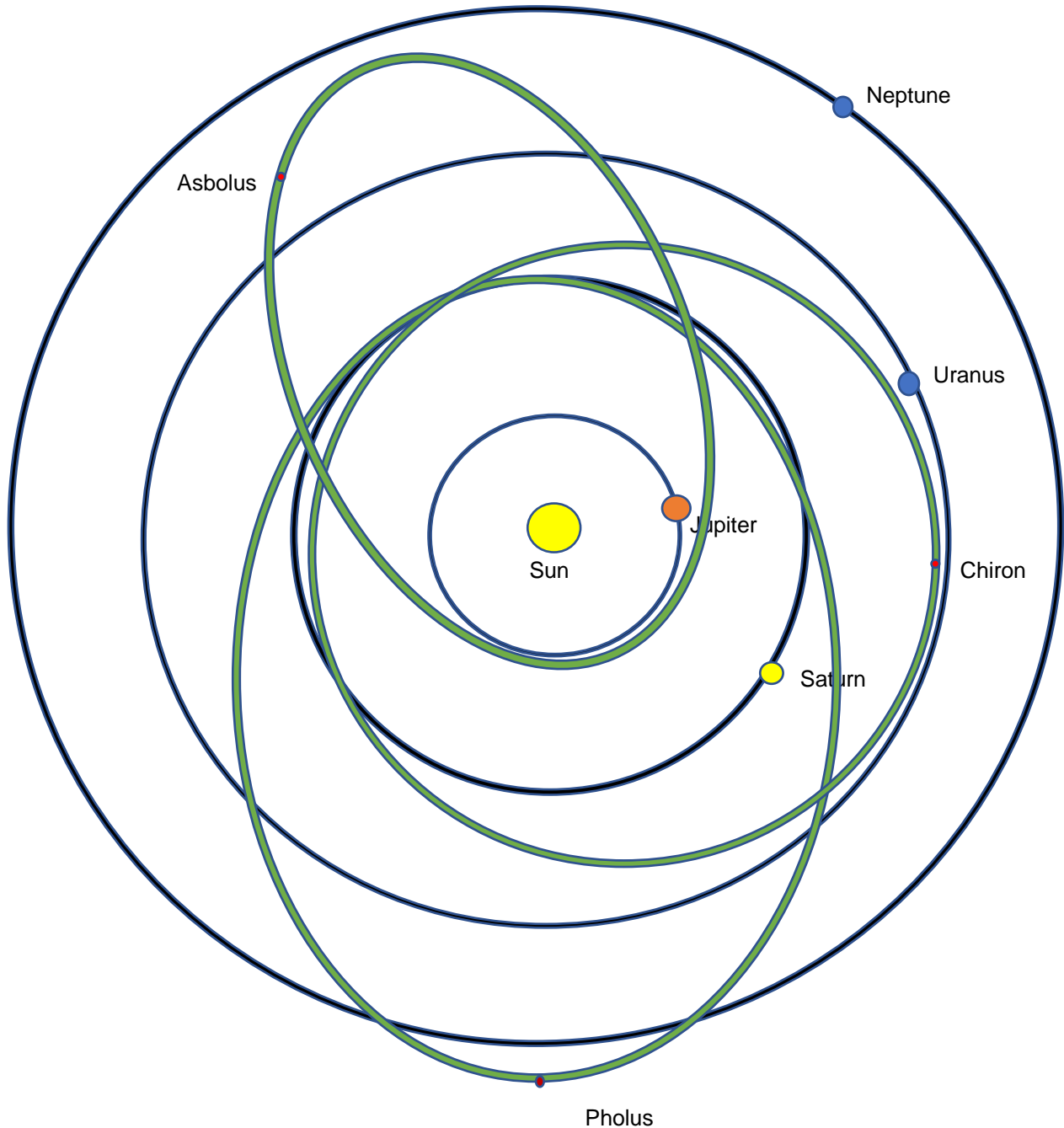


Centaurs



Centaurs are small Solar System bodies that orbit the Sun within the orbits of the outer planets. Because they display the characteristics of both comets and asteroids, they were named after the centaurs of Greek mythology – creatures that were half human, half horse.

There are thousands of Centaurs in the Solar System. The diagram above shows the orbits (in green) of three of the larger ones.