

We live in a Solar System that has 1 star Called the Sun



Eight planets go around the Sun in paths we call Orbits



The closest planet is called Mercury



The next closest planet is Venus



The third planet from the Sun is the one we live on called Earth



After Earth comes Mars



Between Mars and the next planet is a ring of rocks called the Asteroid Belt



Jupiter, the largest planet is next in line



Saturn is next in line



Then Uranus



Neptune



And a small dwarf planet called Pluto



Scientist wondered how much space the Solar System takes up.



They didn't have tools to measure with, so they tried to guess.



They knew where the sun was...



They knew they were on Earth



So they made the distance between the two their measuring stick



They decided that the distance from the Earth to the Sun would be called One Astronomical Unit





Or

one AU

for short





If we made a model where

one meter = 1AU





How many meter sticks would we need to get from the Sun to Pluto?



Let's try it!

Planet	AU's from Sun	How many meter sticks we need	
Mercury	0.39	0.39	
Venus	.72	.72	
Earth	1	1	
Mars	1.52	1.52	
Jupiter	5.20	5.20	
Saturn	9.55	9.55	
Uranus	19.2	19.20	
Neptune	30.1	30.10	
Pluto	39.4	39.40	

But WAIT!!!!!



With these numbers we have to go back to the sun to measure for every planet.

That will take forever!!!



With these numbers we have to go back to the sun to measure.

How about if we find the distance between each one?



With these numbers we have to go back to the sun to measure.

Then we only have to walk it once!



Let's Do the Math!

Planet	AU's from Sun	Meters	Distance to next planet
Mercury	0.387	.38 m	.38 m
Venus	.723	.72 m	.23 m
Earth	1	1 m	.52 m
Mars	1.52	1.52 m	3.68 m
Jupiter	5.2	5.2 m	4.35 m
Saturn	9.55	9.55 m	9.65 m
Uranus	19.2	19.20 m	10.90 m
Neptune	30.1	30.10 m	9.30 m
Pluto	39.4	39.40	

That's still not the whole Solar System



Planets never line up in a straight line like we did!



Planets never line up in a straight line like we did!



Some are in the front, some in the back, some on the side

Our solar system model

would need go out from the sun

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Can you imagine how big that is?

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