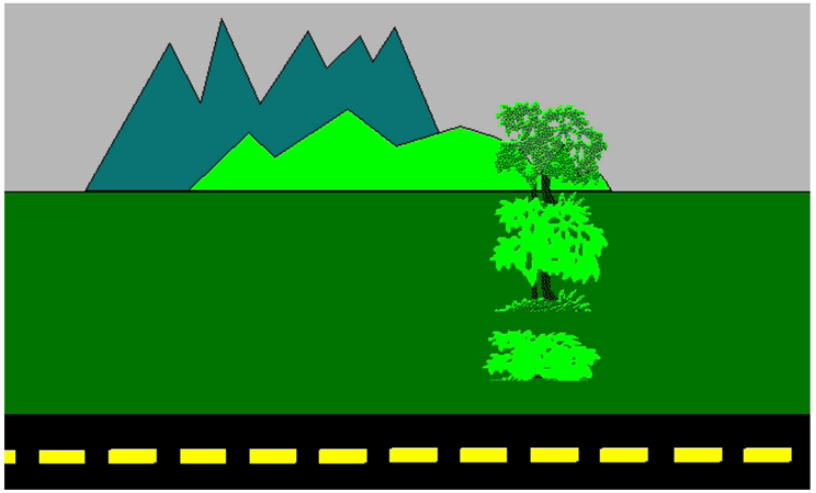
Parallax and Distances to Stars

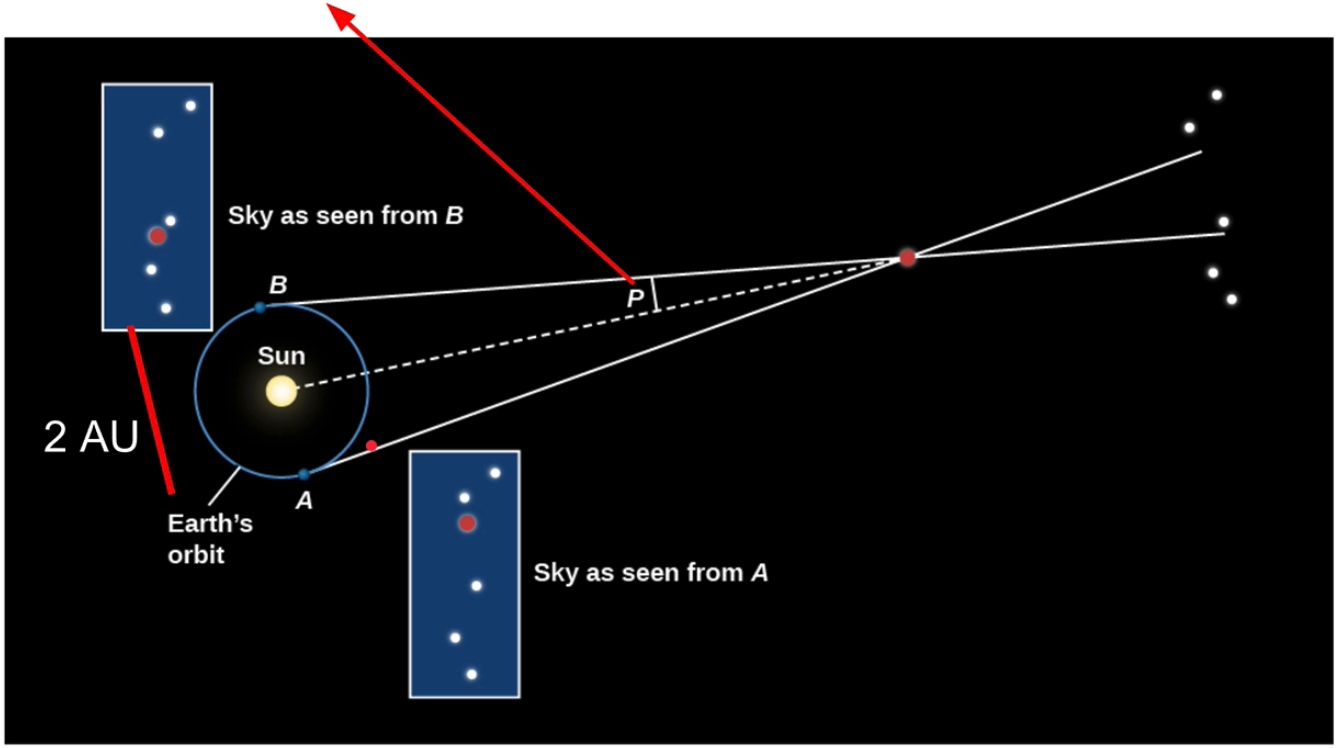
1 Objects closer to us appear to move farther



2 Can use this idea to measure distances

Background stars change when viewed from different angles

Half this angle = parallax



Distance = 1 / parallax

Parallax measured in **arcseconds**

Distance measured in **parsecs**

1 parsec = 3.26 light years

Slide 1 Q & A Notes Pointer EXIT