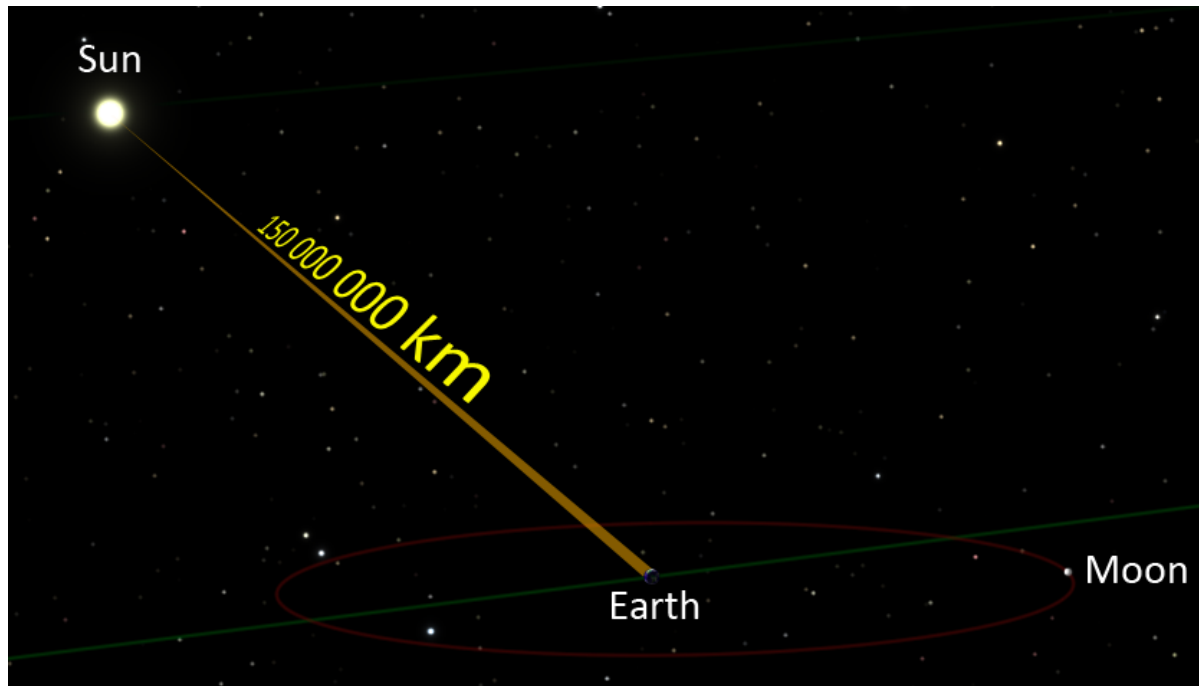


The Lightspeed model of the Solar System

Instead of pacing off distances between planets, use the time it takes for light to travel out to that planet from the Sun.

(Hat tip to Paul Dellechiaie, MHAA)

$$\frac{1 \text{ AU}}{c} = \frac{1.4960 \times 10^{11} \text{ m}}{2.9978 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}} = 499 \text{ s} = 8 \text{ minutes } 19 \text{ seconds}$$



Good exercise for a long car trip, or for travel by airline or train.

(Now the sizes of the planets varies with the speed of the vehicle.)

The Lightspeed Model of the Solar System

Object (*dwarf planets)	Distance, in AU (semi-major axis)	Δ Time (H:mm:ss)	Σ Time (H:mm:ss)
Sun	0.00	0:0:00	0:00:00
Mercury	0.39	3:15	3:15
Venus	0.72	2:44	5:59
Earth	1.00	2:20	8:19
Mars	1.52	4:19	12:38
Ceres*	2.77	10:24	23:02
Jupiter	5.20	20:13	43:15
Saturn	9.58	36:26	1:19:41
Uranus	19.2	1:20:00	2:39:41
Neptune	30.1	1:30:39	4:10:20
Pluto*	39.3	1:16:31	5:26:51
Haumea*	43.1	31:36	5:58:28
Makemake*	45.8	22:27	6:20:55
Eris*	67.7	3:02:08	9:23:04