

## More Space Terminology

**Geocentric Model of the Solar System:** an outdated model that place the earth at the centre of the solar system, the sun, moon and all planets orbit the earth.

**Heliocentric Model of the Solar System:** places the sun at the centre of the solar system, all planets including earth orbit the sun, explains retrograde motion.

**Retrograde Motion:** an observed planetary motion in which the planet appears to move backwards through the background of stars for a short period of time.

**Zodiac:** the region in the sky (stars) where all planets, the moon and the sun appear to "travel"

**Electromagnetic Spectrum:** lists in order of energy all different types of electromagnetic radiation (radiowaves, microwaves, infrared, visible, ultraviolet, X-rays, gamma rays)

**Visible Magnitude:** how bright a star appears, ranges from very bright (larger negative numbers) to very very dim (larger positive numbers)

**Absolute Magnitude:** how bright a star really is when its distance from earth has been taken into account (is what the star would look like if it were 32.6 light years from earth)

**Light Year:** a distance of 9 460 730 472 580.8 km, the distance that light can travel in one year.

**Parsec:** a distance of 3.26 light years, based on a perceived angular displacement of 1 arc second of parallax as the earths reference point moves 1 astronomical unit

**Astronomical Unit:** the average distance between the earth and the sun