

# Parallax





$$\text{distance} = \frac{1}{1/36 \text{ arcsecs}}$$

$$\text{distance} = 36 \text{ pc}$$

$$.9 = \frac{9}{10}$$

$$\text{dist} = \frac{1}{9/10}$$

$$\text{distance} = \frac{10}{9} \text{ parsec}$$

$$\text{distance (parsecs)} = \frac{1}{\text{parallax angle (arcsec)}}$$

1 pc = 3.26 ly & corresponds to a parallax angle of 1 arcsecond.

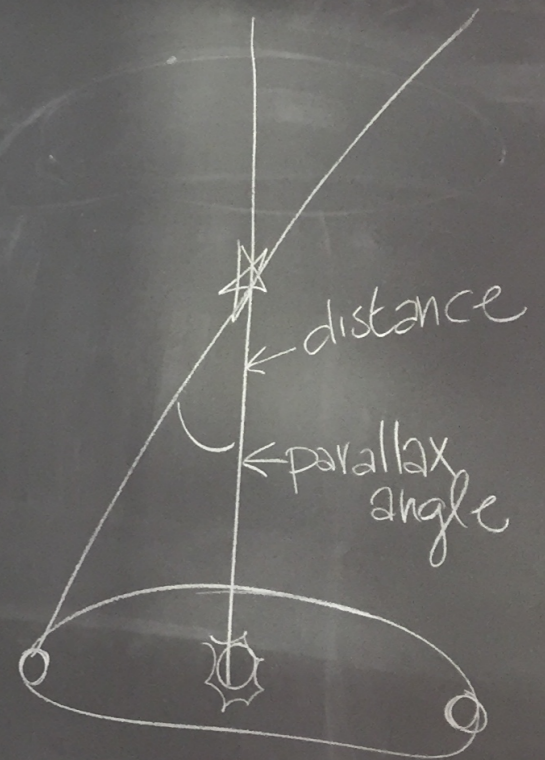


So

distance is inversely proportional to  
parallax angle -

small angle  $\rightarrow$  big distance

large angle  $\rightarrow$  small distance.



# Working with Fractions

$$\frac{1}{\frac{1}{x}} = x$$

The denominator of the denominator (bottom of the fraction) becomes the numerator (top of the fraction).

$$\frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}} = 2$$



# The meaning of significant figures

