

How to calculate distance between two Planets?

**Report on The Albert Einstein STEM and Space Workshop
conducted by Explore The Space, K.K Nagar, Chennai.
(05.04.2025)**

Hrithikesh from, Sri visa Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Maduravoyal, Chennai asked “How to calculate distance between two Planets?” and made the interaction more lively at the “Albert Einstein STEM and Space workshop”, which was held on Saturday, 05th April 2025 in K.K Nagar, Chennai.



How to calculate distance between two Planets?

To calculate the distance between planets, astronomers use astronomical units (AU), where 1 AU equals the average distance from Earth to the Sun (about 149.6 million kilometers). Since planets orbit the Sun in elliptical paths, their distances from each other constantly change. The simplest way to estimate the distance between two planets is to subtract or add their average distances from the Sun, depending on their positions. If the planets are on the same side of the Sun, subtract their distances. If they are on opposite sides, add them. For precise calculations, scientists use Kepler’s laws and complex models that factor in orbital shapes and positions at specific times. Advanced software or ephemeris data from space agencies helps track real-time distances. These measurements are vital for planning space missions, studying planetary motion, and understanding our solar system's dynamics.

The workshop was conducted by Senior Instructor Mrs Seetha Rajagopalan, Intern Mr Benictor Sam, Mr. Balachandar Science Writer & Space Enthusiast and Mrs. Sumathirani Computer Teacher has given some inputs about computers and how they are related to the Space applications. The Students who participated were keen to know more about Space and they performed STEM experiments, watched videos and took part in the objective test. They also took a pledge that they will use their knowledge for public good.

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