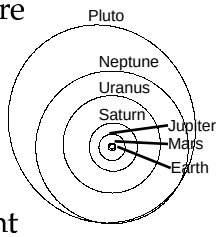
Imagine building a scale model of the nearby stars,
with the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, placed 100 yards away.
Sirius, the Dog Star, is about 200 yards away.
The bright stars of the Big Dipper hover a
mile above our heads. (In the real world, they're
about 4, 8, and 70 light years from Earth.)
How big would the Solar System be?



Here it is, to the same scale!
The Sun is 1/10000th inch across, with Earth
some 1/80" from it. Even Pluto, the most distant
planet, is only half an inch away.

University of Illinois Astronomical Society http://www.astro.uiuc.edu/~uias/
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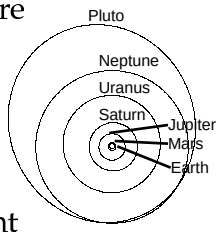

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