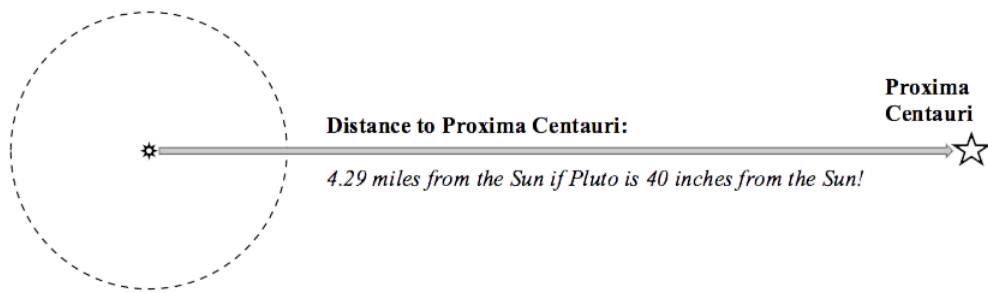


11.12: How Close are the Close-by Stars?



Images courtesy Mike Reynolds, Ph. D. of Florida State College at Jacksonville.

The closest star? **The Sun**. After the Sun is **Proxima Centauri**, part of the three-star Alpha Centauri (α Cen) star system. Proxima Centauri is about 25,219,301,250,000 miles or 40,586,533,727,000 kilometers away. So let's look at this in other ways. *A 50-mile high stack of toilet paper stretched out on 1 sheet = 1 million miles scale.* **Alpha Centauri** is often listed as the second closest star to Earth, *this is incorrect*. Proxima Centauri is the second-closest star and orbits Alpha Centauri.

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