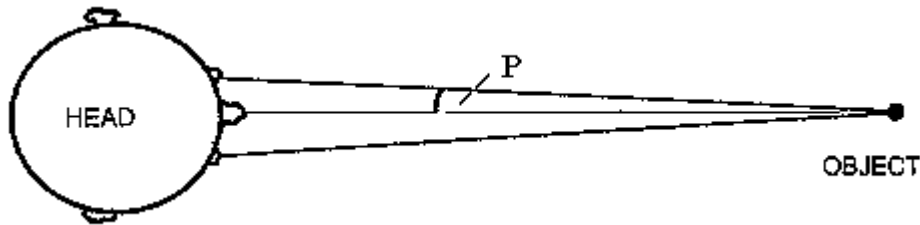


## What is parallax?

Hold out a pencil at arm's length so that it covers your view of a more distant object. Now close each eye in turn. The pencil seems to move relative to the distant object when a different eye is closed. Each eye looks at the pencil from a slightly different direction. With both eyes open you get more visual clues as to how far away any object is. The following diagram shows the situation:



Your brain instinctively determines the object's distance from the slight change in direction (measured by the angle - P). This method of measuring distances is called PARALLAX.

(Pencil Test)

Interesting Principle----

Light from distant object arrives at us along parallel lines! Wow can that be??????

Something to think about...(for next time)

Since your head can determine distance using parallax, what application could parallax have to astronomy? How would you use?

Pythagorean theorem:  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ .

