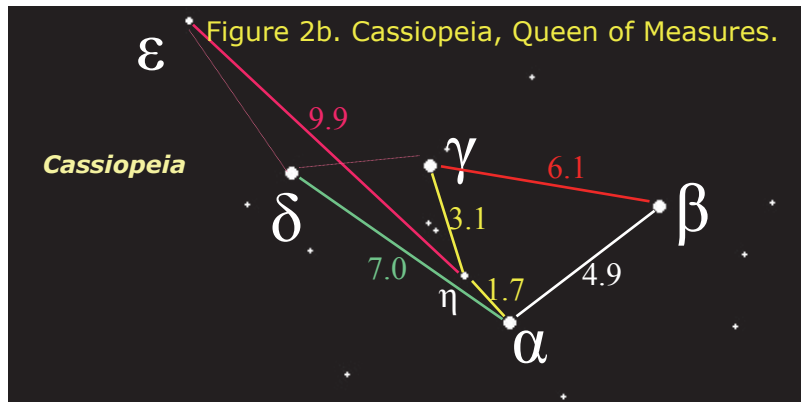
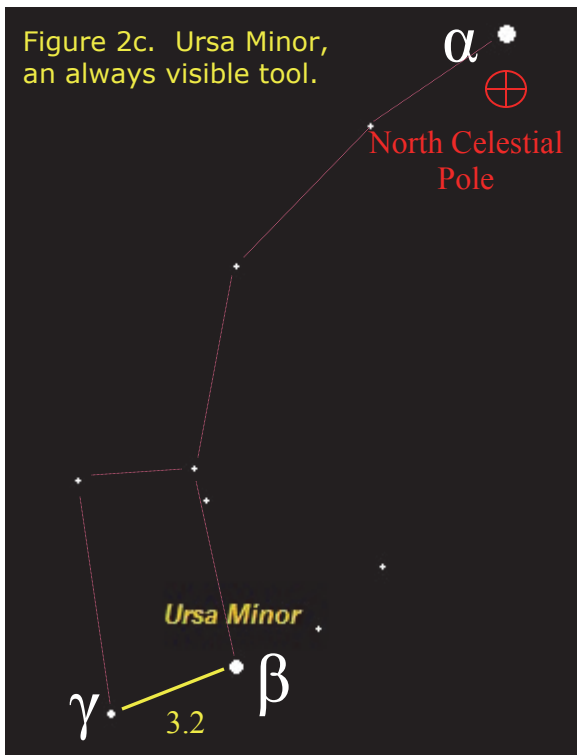
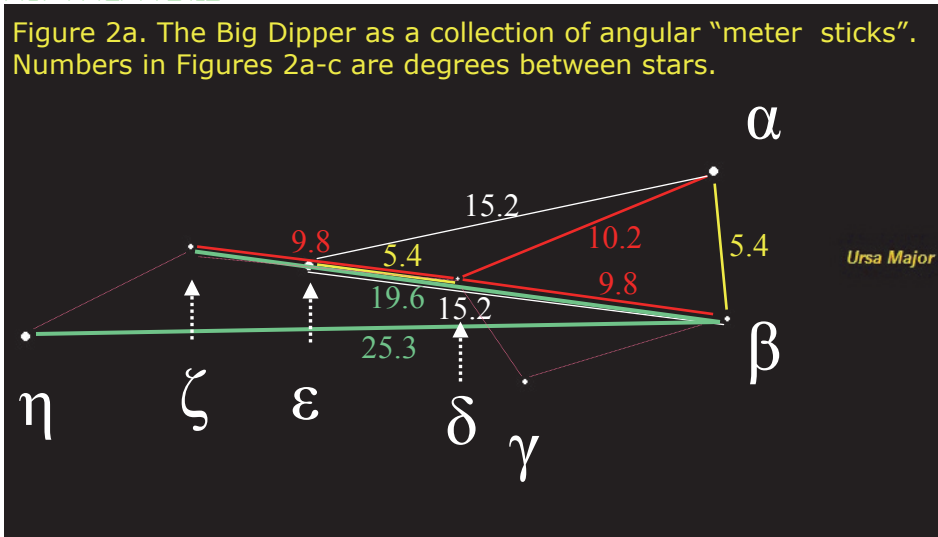


Figure 2a. The Big Dipper as a collection of angular "meter sticks". Numbers in Figures 2a-c are degrees between stars.



degrees	Ursa Major (actual degrees)	Cassiopeia (actual degrees)
2		α-η 1.7
3		γ-η 3.1
5	α-β or δ-ε 5.4	α-β 4.9
6		β-γ 6.1
7		α-δ 7.0
10	α-δ 10.2, or β-δ or δ-ζ 9.8	ε-η 9.9
15	α-ε or β-ε 15.2	
20	β-ζ 19.6	
25	β-η 25.3	

Table 1. Star pairs you can use for angular scales.

It's Greek to You?

Bayer designation is one of the oldest ways of naming stars. It uses a Greek letter plus the constellation's genitive form, e.g. α Ursa Majoris. Thus the brightest one should be Alpha, the second brightest Beta, and so on. The system isn't perfect, sometimes the names are out of order and sometimes you can have a bunch of stars with the same letter, distinguished by numbers, i.e. ζ^1 , ζ^2 , etc. and actually listed in positional order.

Below are the Greek letters we'll be using in the article:

Alpha α

Beta β

Gamma γ

Delta δ

Epsilon ϵ

Zeta ζ

Eta η

Iota ι

Psi ψ

These are the abbreviations for the constellations mentioned:

UMa Ursa Major

UMi Ursa Minor

Cyg Cygnus

Aur Auriga

Per Perseus

Dra Draco

Cas Cassiopeia

Cep Cepheus

