Satellite Trajectory Path

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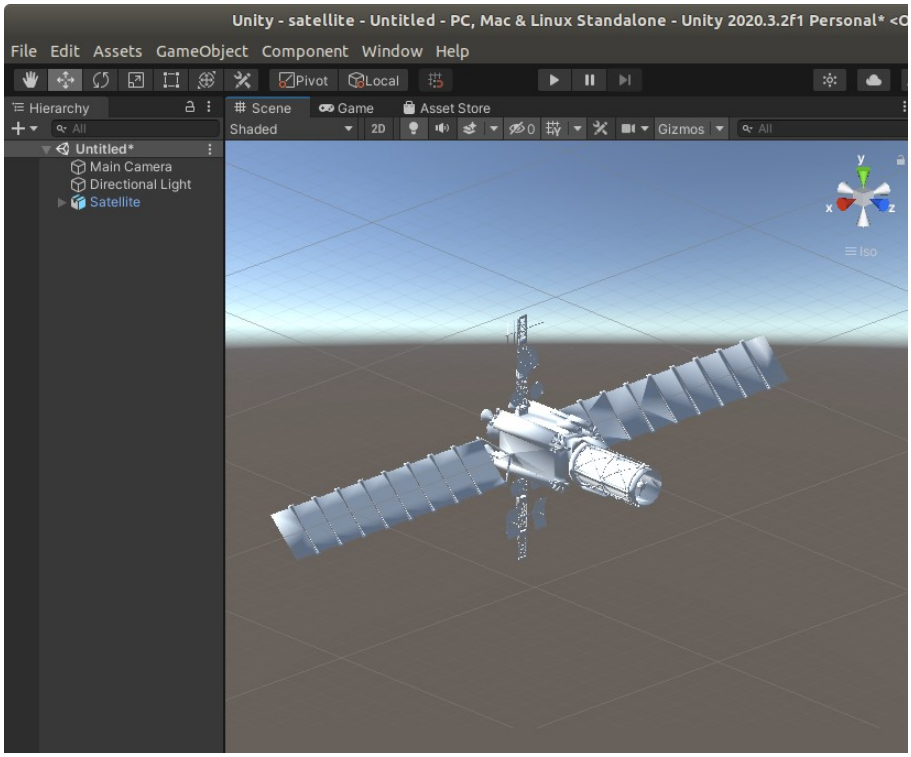
2021-6-28	Create this document	Chee Vang
2021-7-8	Updated with orbit path, earth texture, background	Chee Vang

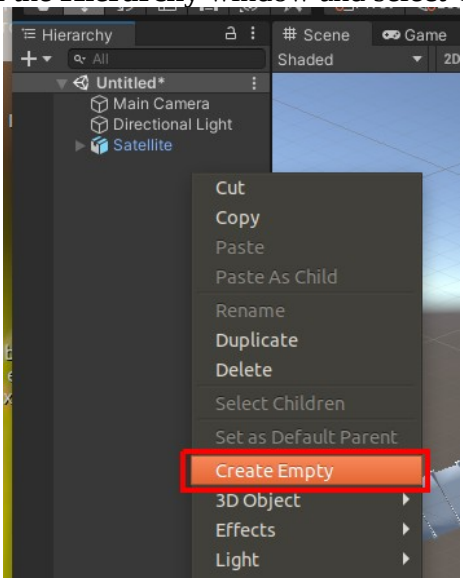
Table of Contents

I. SETTING THE SCENE WITH SATELLITE AND EARTH PLANET

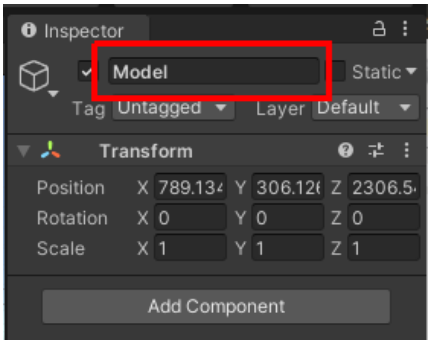
1) Refer to “nnn-n-Import-Satellite-SLDPRT-to-Unity-CV-2021-5-24” to import the Satellite.SLDPRT into Unity. You should have something similar to the image below with only the Satellite, camera, and light in the Hierarchy.



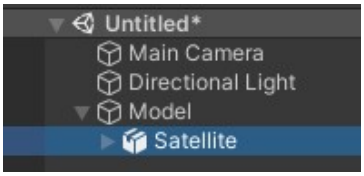
2) Right-click on an empty area in the **Hierarchy** window and select **Create Empty**



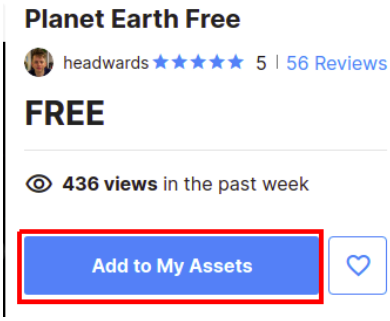
3) Select the **GameObject** and rename to “Model” in the **Inspector** window



4) Drag and drop **Satellite** in **Model** such that the end results is similar to the image below.

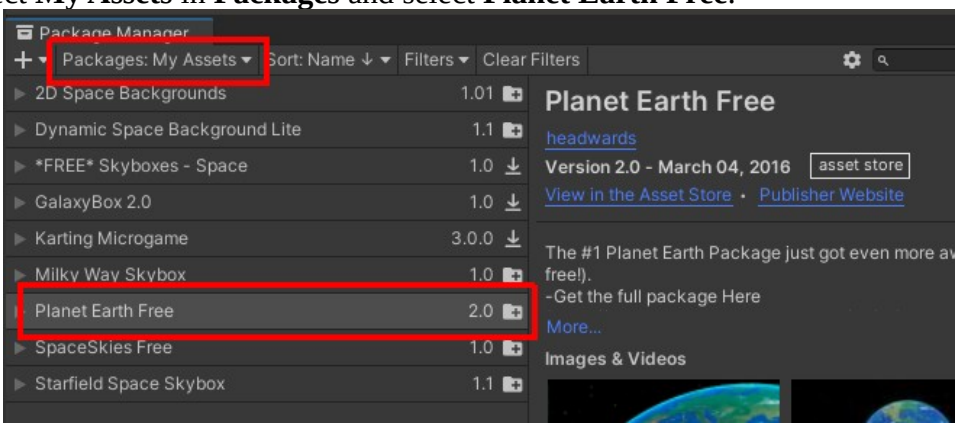


5) Go to https://assetstore.unity.com/packages/3d/environments/sci-fi/planet-earth-free-23399 to use an earth texture from the Asset Store.
5.1) Click on **Add to My Assets** (It will ask for you to log in.)

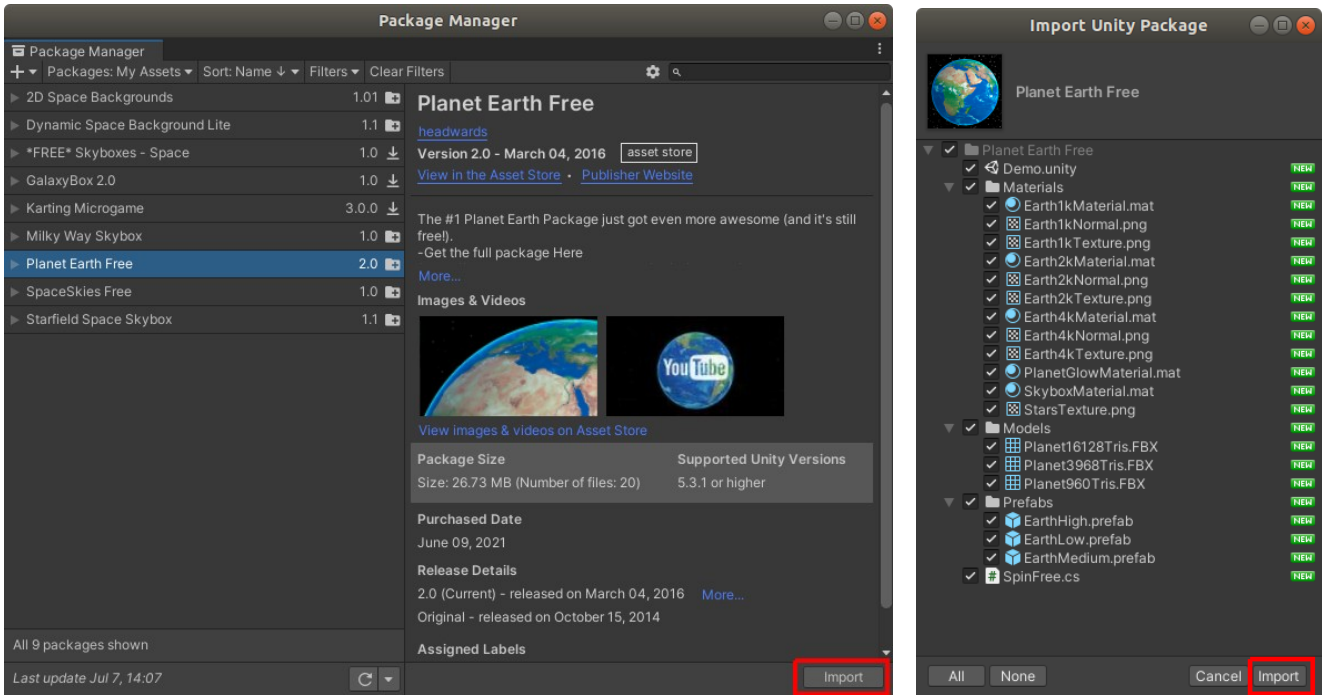


5.2) Go back to Unity and go to **Window** > **Package Manager**.

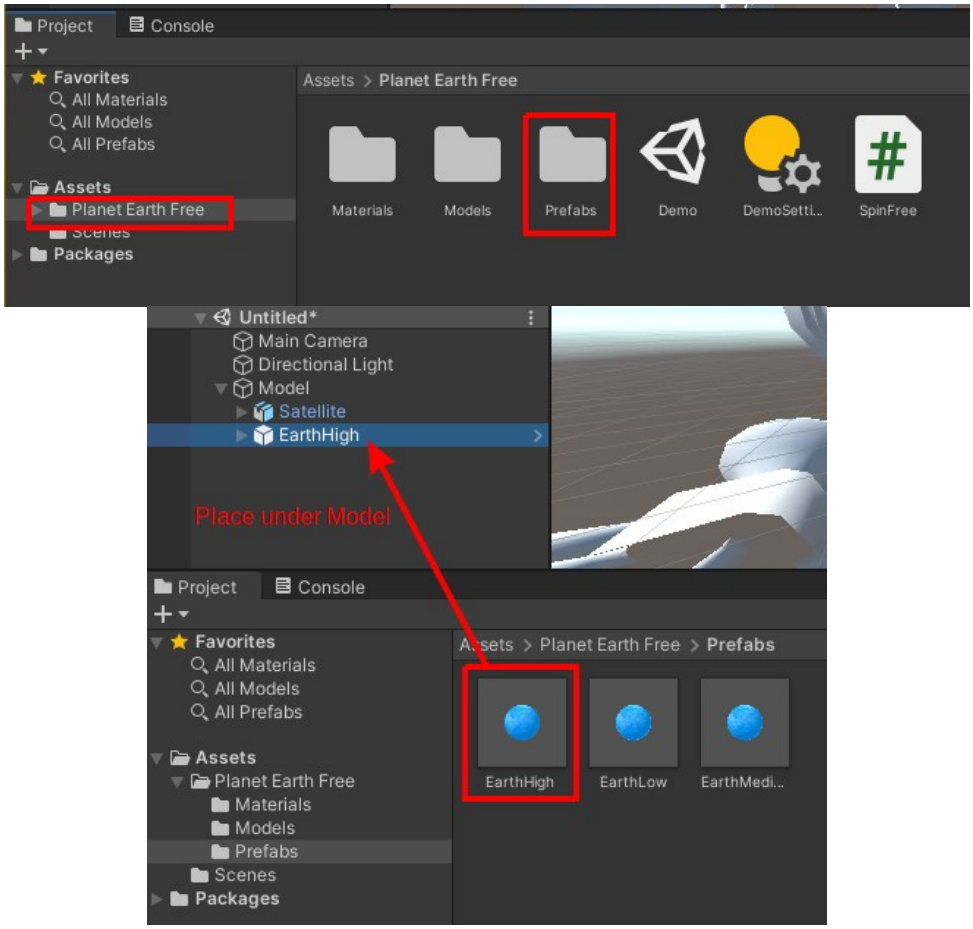
5.3) Then, select **My Assets** in **Packages** and select **Planet Earth Free**.



5.4) Click on **Import** in **Package Manager** and click **Import** in **Import Unity Package** for **Planet Earth Free** as shown below.

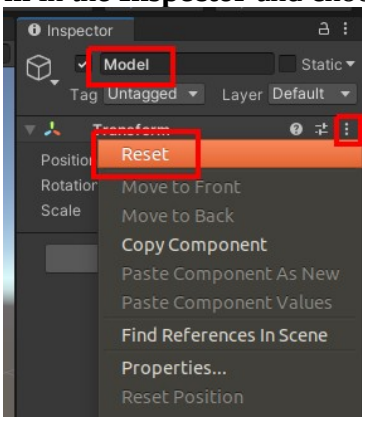


5.5) This asset is located in Assets. Open Prefabs and place it under Model in the Hiearchy.

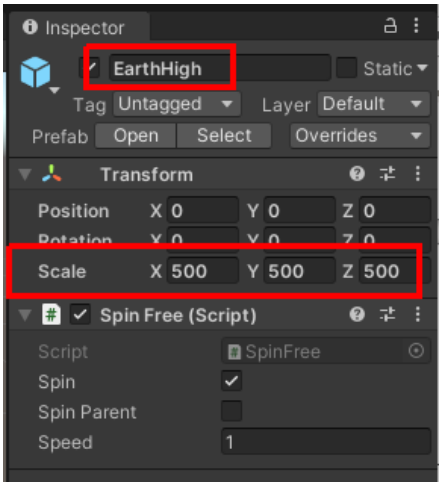


6) Reset the position of **Model** to (0, 0, 0)

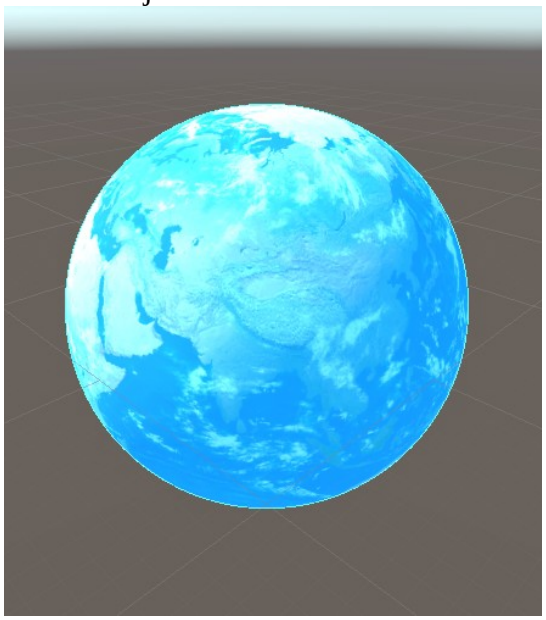
6.1) Select **Model** in the **Hierarchy** window
6.2) Select the three dots on **Transform** in the **Inspector** and choose **Reset**



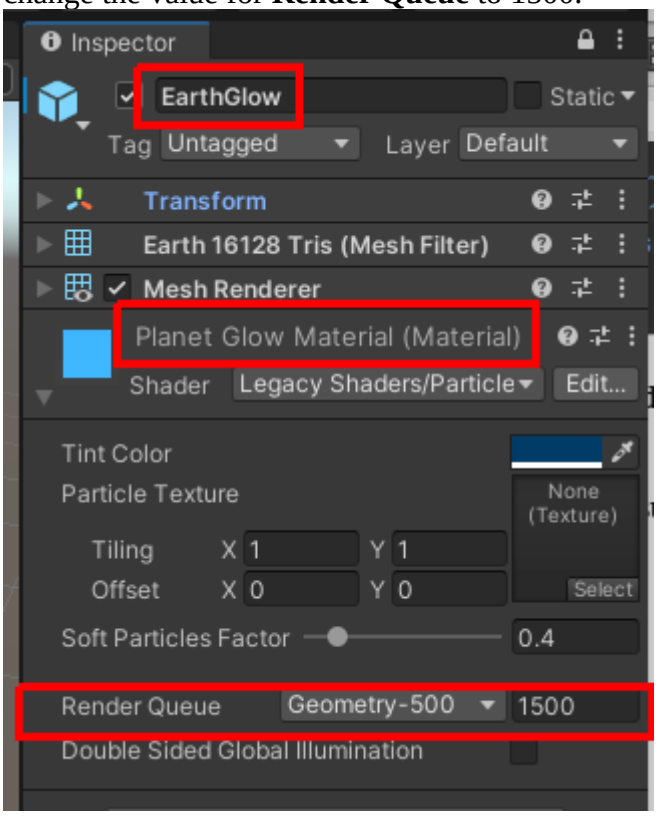
7) Select **EarthHigh** and change the **Scale** to (500, 500, 500)

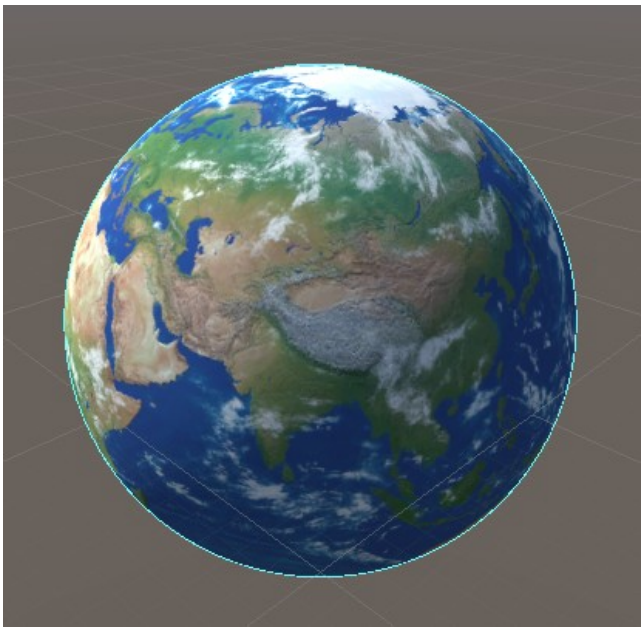


7.1) If **EarthHigh** is all blue (as shown below), click on the drop-down triangle next to **EarthHigh** to reveal its child objects.



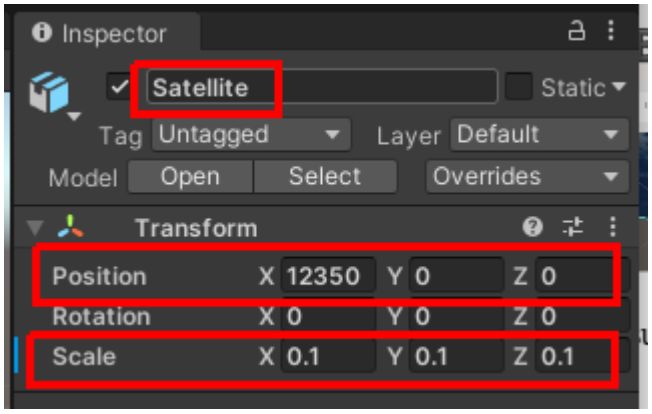
7.2) Then select **EarthGlow** to see its components in the **Inspector** window. In **Planet Glow Material**, change the value for **Render Queue** to 1500.



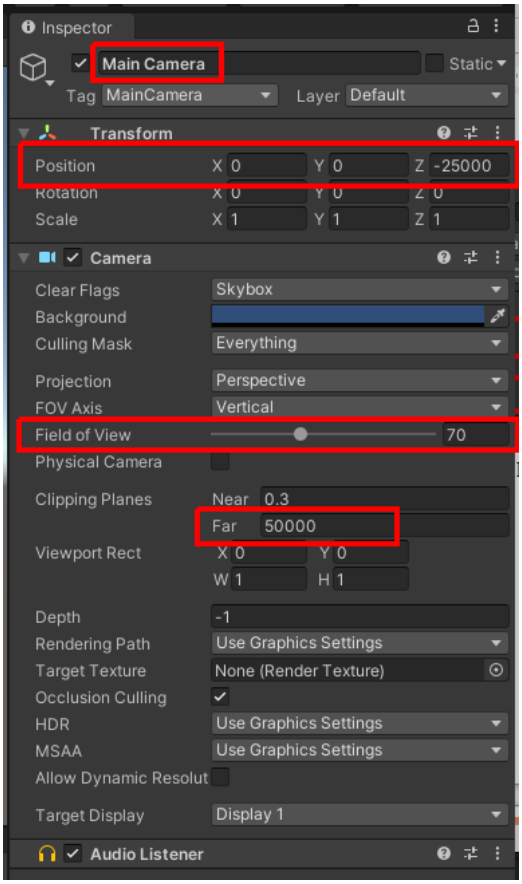


8) Select **Satellite** in the **Hierarchy** window and change the following such that the satellite is placed outside of the sphere, shown on the right image below.

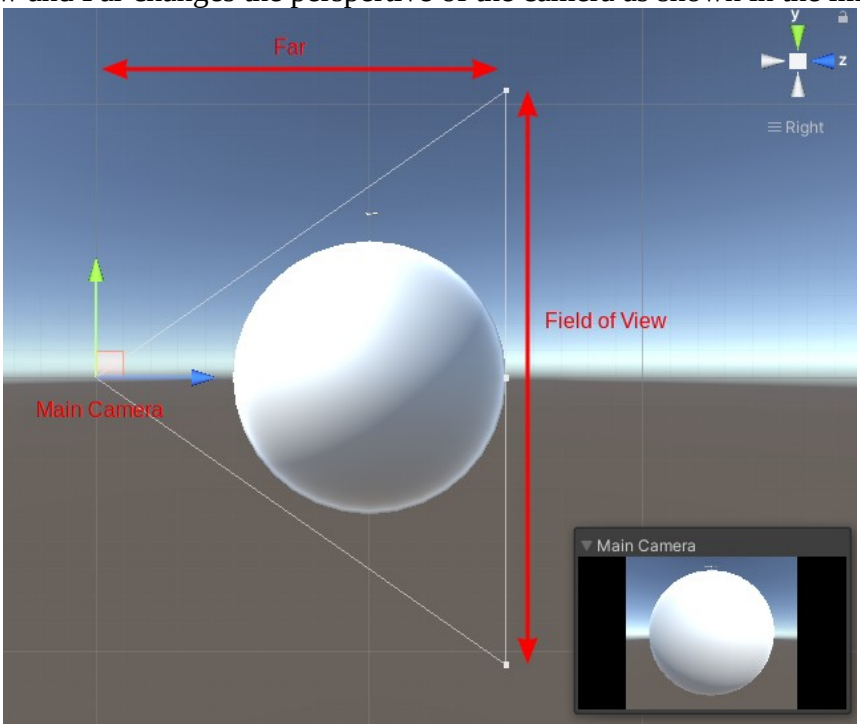
- **Position** to (12350, 0, 0)
- **Scale** to (0.1, 0.1, 0.1)



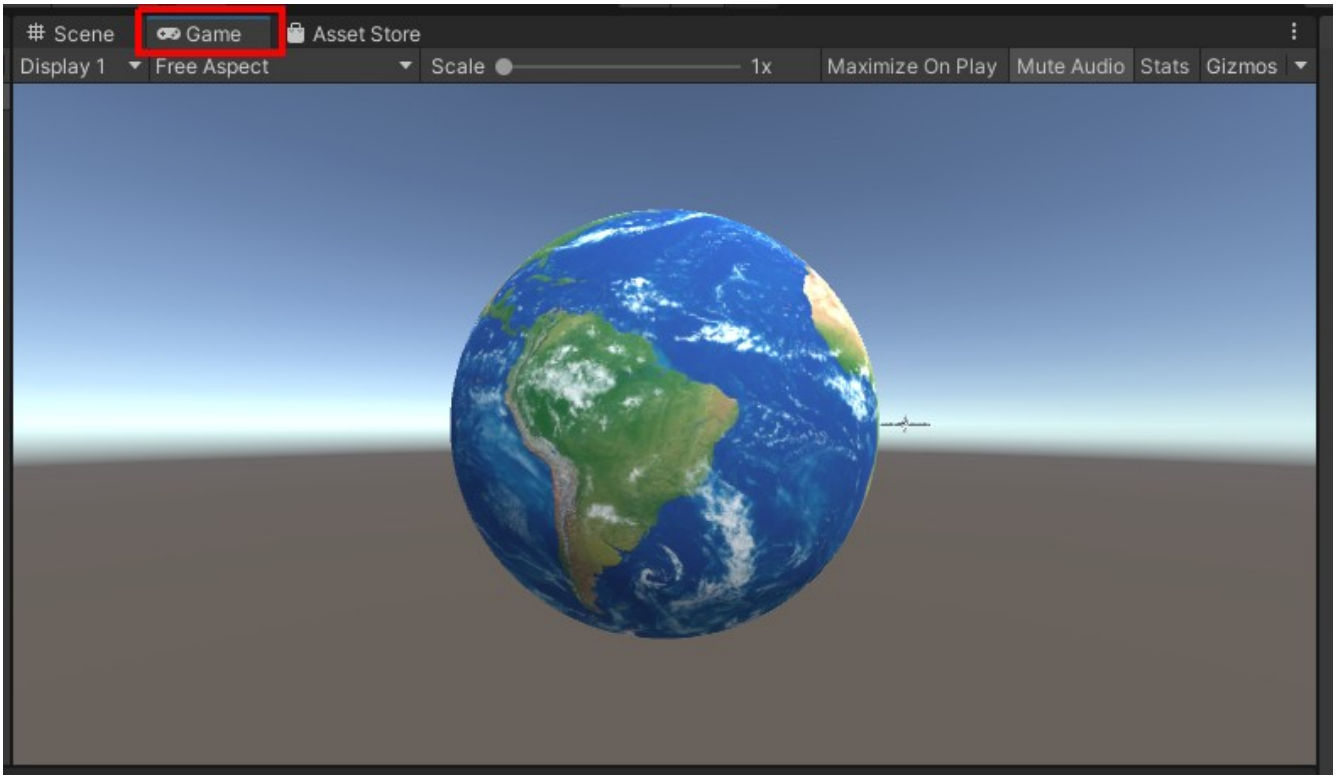
9) Change the **Main Camera** view such that the sphere and satellite can be seen in the **Game** view.
9.1) Select Main Camera in the Hierarchy window
9.2) In the **Inspector** window, change **Position** to (0,0,-25000)
9.3) Change **Field of View** to 70
9.4) Change **Clipping Planes** > **Far** to 50000



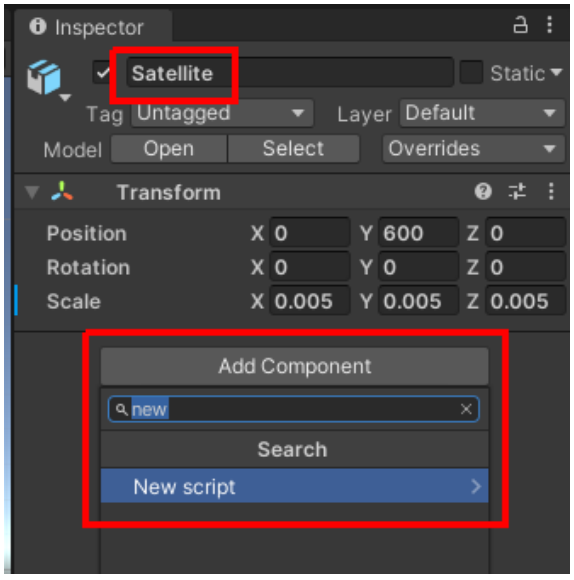
Note: Field of View and Far changes the perspertive of the camera as shown in the image below.

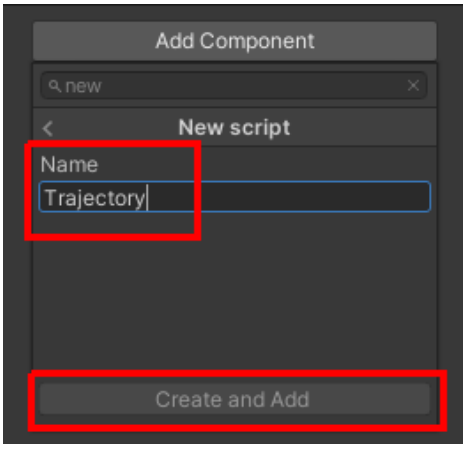


9.5) Go to **Game** view to check if satellite and sphere are visible

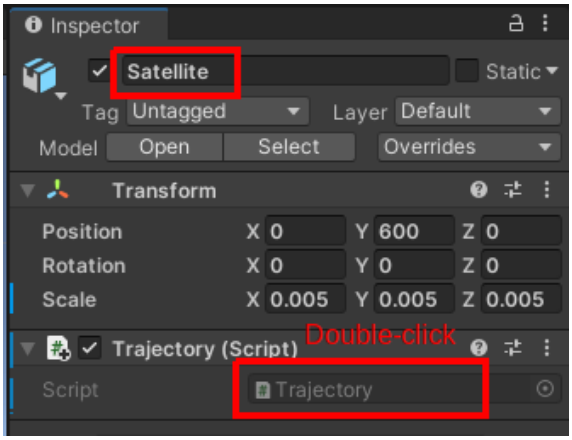


10) Create a new folder in **Assets** called “Scripts” by right-clicking in **Assets** and choosing **Create** > **Folder**
11) Add a C# script to Satellite for the trajectory path
11.1) Select **Satellite** and select **Add Component** in the **Inspector** window
11.2) Search and select for **New Script**
11.3) Name the new script “Trajectory”
11.4) Click on **Create and Add**





11.5) Move **Trajectory.cs** in **Assets** to **Assets/Scripts** to have a clean workspace
12) Double click on **Trajectory** in the **Trajectory (Script)** to open the file



13) Enter the following code to the **Trajectory.cs** file (Note: lines 1-10 includes header information)

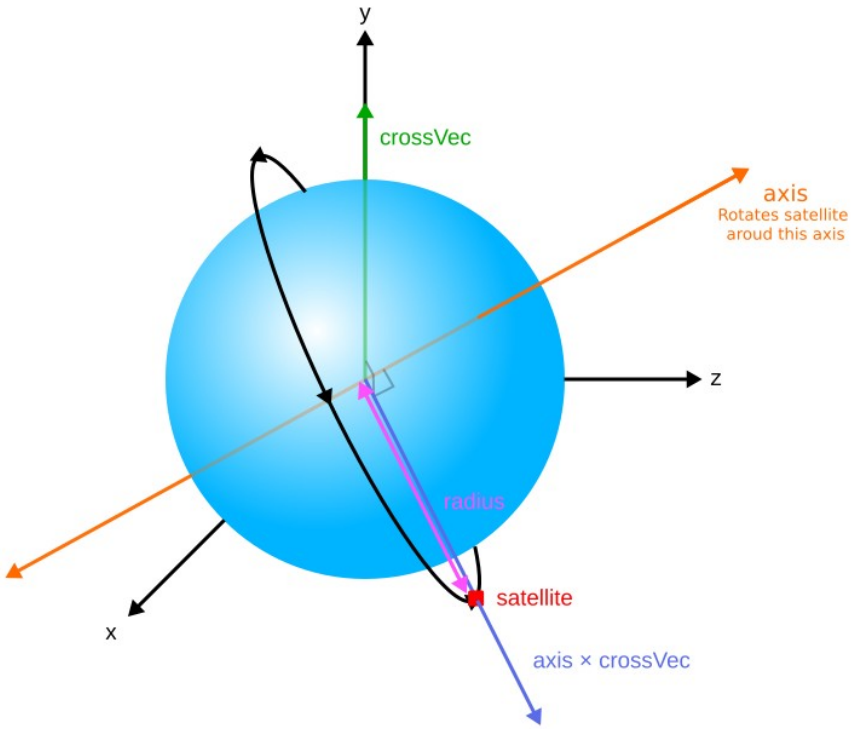
```
10  using System.Collections;
11  using System.Collections.Generic;
12  using UnityEngine;
13
14  public class Trajectory : MonoBehaviour
15  {
16  public GameObject earthPlanet; // object that satellite will be orbiting around
17  [HideInInspector] public Vector3 center; // center of both earth and satellite
18  [HideInInspector] public Vector3 rotationAxis = Vector3.forward; // rotates about this axis through the center
19  [Range(11000f, 20000f)]
20  public float satelliteRadius = 12530.0f; // radius of satellite's orbit between [500,1000] (earthPlanet radius = 500)
21  [Range(1f,360f)]
22  public float rotationSpeed = 20.0f; // 20 degrees/second between [1,360]
23
24  [HideInInspector] public Vector3 perpendicularVector;
25  [HideInInspector] public Vector3 crossVector = Vector3.up; // vector to cross multiply to  perpendicular vector to
    "axis"
26  // https://docs.unity3d.com/ScriptReference/Vector3.html definition of xyz
27  // x-axis = right (1,0,0), y-axis = up (0,1,0), z-axis = forward (0,0,1)
28
29  private Vector3 newPos;
30  private float satelliteRadiusOld; // saves old radius to check if radius changes
31  private float inclineOld; // saves old axis to check if incline changes
32  private Vector3 centerOld; // saves old center to check if center changes
33
34  [Range(-90,90)]
35  public float incline = 0f; // in degrees
36  [HideInInspector] public Vector3 anglesToRotate;
37
38  //-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------/
39  // Used for initialization
40  // ref: https://docs.unity3d.com/ScriptReference/MonoBehaviour.Start.html
41  void Start () {
42    // Sets the frame rate
43    // ref: https://docs.unity3d.com/ScriptReference/Application-targetFrameRate.html
44    //Application.targetFrameRate = 1;
45
46    // sets satellite's initial position to a perpendicular point from "rotation_axis" around "earth_planet"
47    center = earthPlanet.transform.position;
48    rotationAxis = new Vector3(0f,1f,0f);
49    crossVector = Vector3.forward;
50    perpendicularVector = Vector3.Cross(rotationAxis,crossVector);
51    // Vector3.Cross ref: https://docs.unity3d.com/ScriptReference/Vector3.Cross.html
52    transform.position = center + perpendicularVector.normalized*satelliteRadius;
53
54    // initializes satellite_radiusOld and axisOld
55    satelliteRadiusOld = satelliteRadius;
56    inclineOld = incline;
57    centerOld = center;
58  }
59
```

```
60    //-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------/
61    // Called to update frames
62    // ref: https://docs.unity3d.com/ScriptReference/MonoBehaviour.Update.html
63    void Update () {
64      // computes the center of the object the satellite is orbiting
65      center = earthPlanet.transform.position;
66
67      // polls for any changes to "satellite_radius" and "rotation_axis" and updates satellite's position
68      if(satelliteRadius != satelliteRadiusOld || incline != inclineOld || center != centerOld) {
69        inclineOld = incline;
70        satelliteRadiusOld = satelliteRadius;
71        centerOld = center;
72        if(rotationAxis.normalized == Vector3.up) {
73          crossVector = Vector3.forward;
74        } else {
75          crossVector = Vector3.up;
76        }
77        perpendicularVector = Vector3.Cross(rotationAxis,crossVector);
78        newPos = center + perpendicularVector.normalized*satelliteRadius;
79        transform.position = newPos;
80        rotationAxis = new Vector3(0f,Mathf.Cos(-1*incline*Mathf.Deg2Rad),Mathf.Sin(-1*incline*Mathf.Deg2Rad));
81      }
82
83      // rotates the satellite about the axis around the center
84      transform.RotateAround(center, rotationAxis, rotationSpeed * Time.deltaTime);
85      anglesToRotate = new Vector3(-1*incline,0f,0f);
86    }
87  }
```

Breakdown of the code:

Lines 41-58: Start() is used for initialization in Unity

- ref: https://docs.unity3d.com/ScriptReference/MonoBehaviour.Start.html
- Line 47-52: initializes satellite's position to a perpendicular point of axis that is radius far away from the center

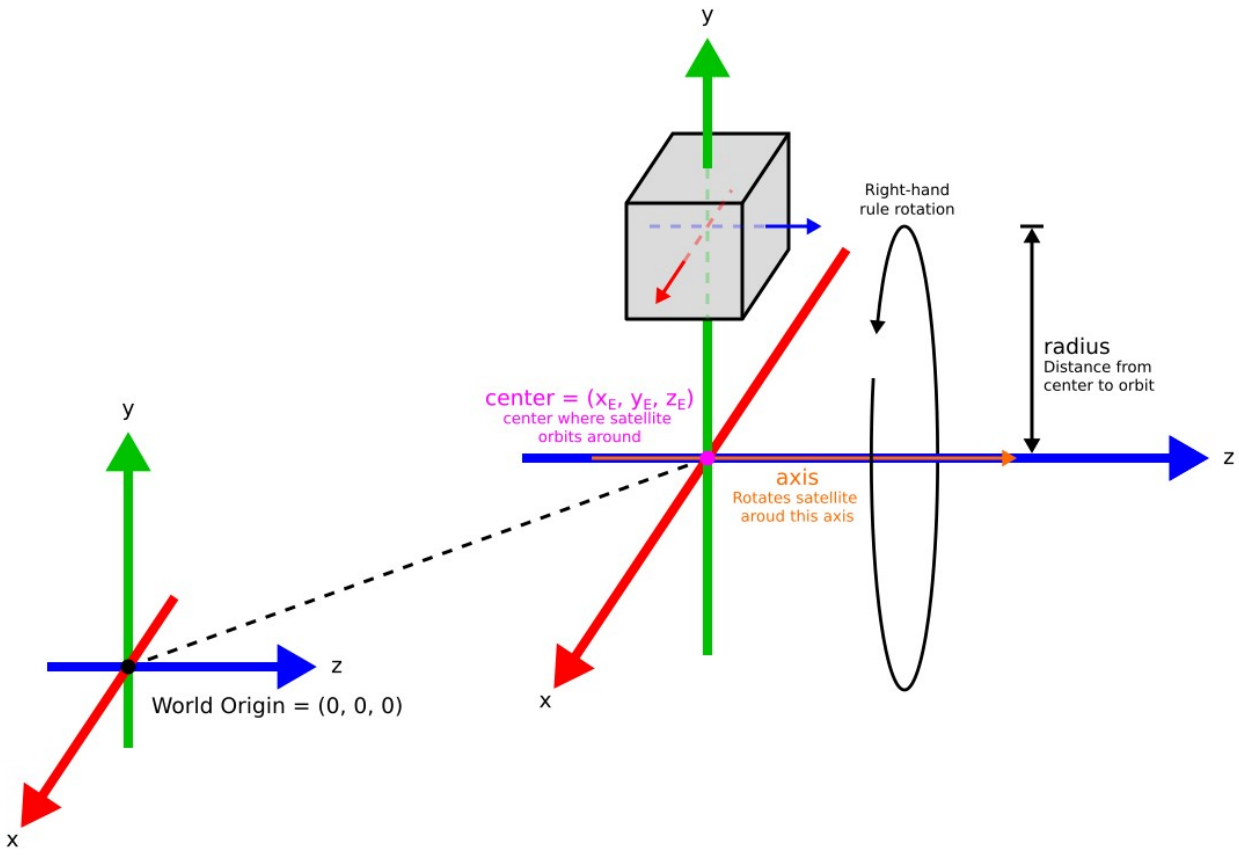


- Line 55-57: initializes variables to check for any changes to radius, axis, and center

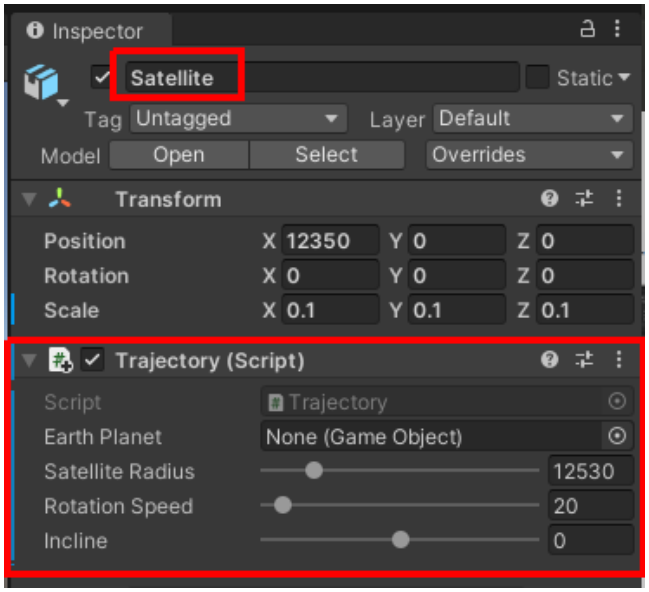
Lines 63-87: Update() is called at every frames to update the scene

- ref: https://docs.unity3d.com/ScriptReference/MonoBehaviour.Update.html

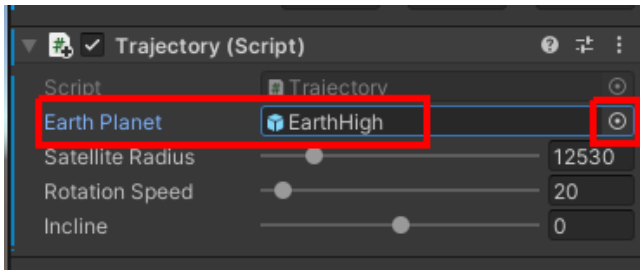
- Line 65: computes the center of earthPlanet
  - if “earth” is moved around, the satellite continues to rotate around it
- Line 68-82: updates the position of the satellite if the radius, axis, incline, or center was changed
- Line 85: rotates satellite around a center around axis
  - RotateAround ref: https://docs.unity3d.com/ScriptReference/Transform.RotateAround.html
  - Syntax: `RotateAround(Vector3 point, Vector3 axis, float angle);`
  - Rotates the transform (satellite) about `axis` passing through `point` in world coordinates by `angle` degrees
- Line 86: updates anglesToRotate variable that is used to render orbital path



14) Save the file and go back to Unity Editor such that the components for **Satellite** are updated in the **Inspector** window

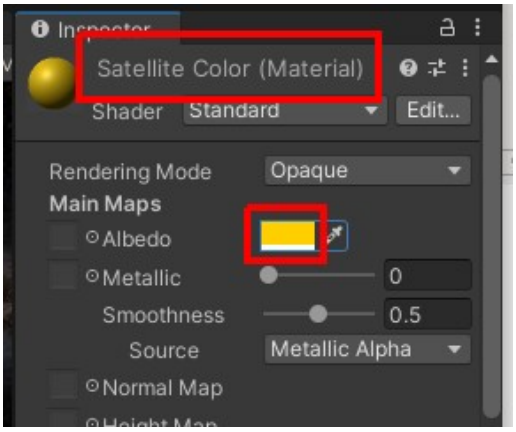


15) Click on the circle (⊙) in **Earth Planet** and select **EarthHigh** to specify the object the satellite will orbit around

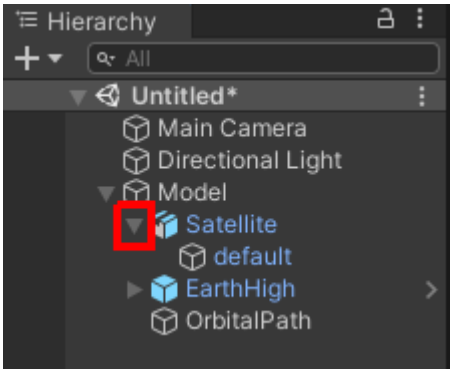


II. MODIFY SATELLITE COLOR

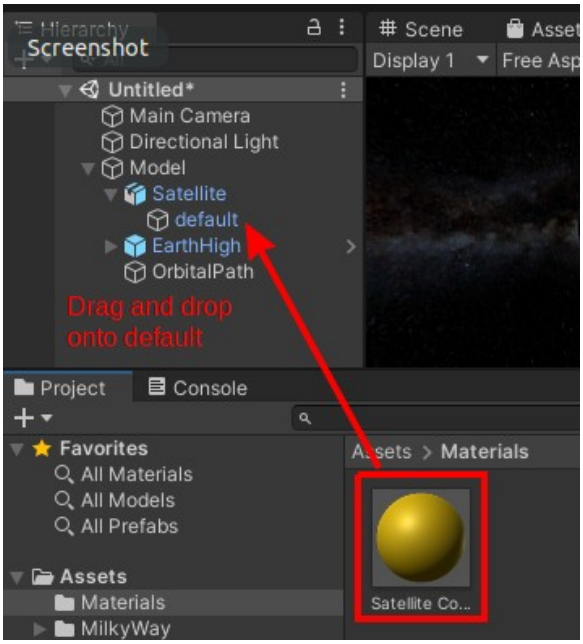
1) Create a folder called “Materials” in **Assets**
2) In the **Materials** folder, right-click and select **Create** > **Material**
3) Rename the material to **Satellite Color**
4) Select **Satellite Colo**r to show it’s properties in the **Inspector** window
5) Click on the color in **Albedo**, select a yellow color



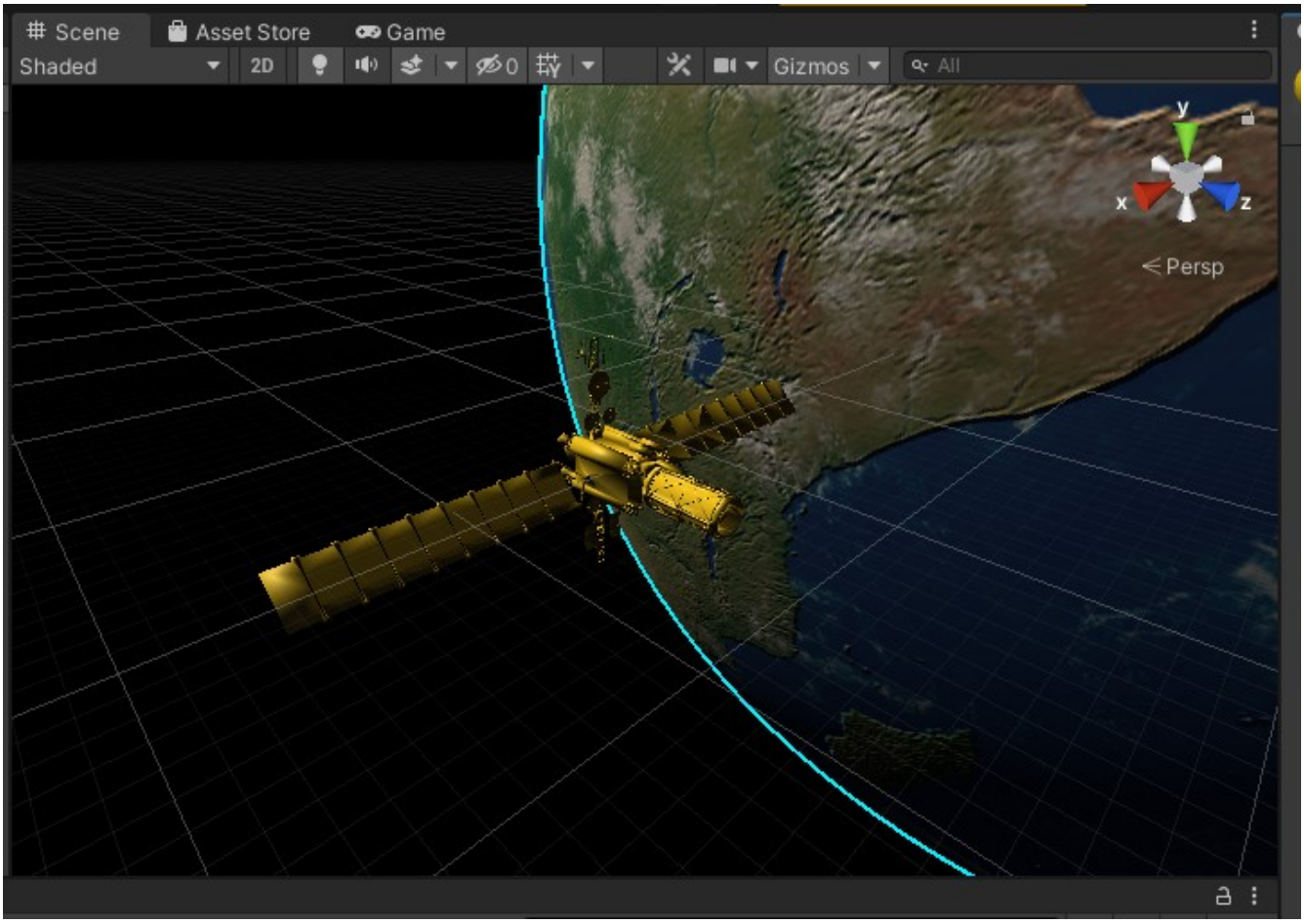
6) Click on the triangle next to **Satellite** in the **Hierarchy**



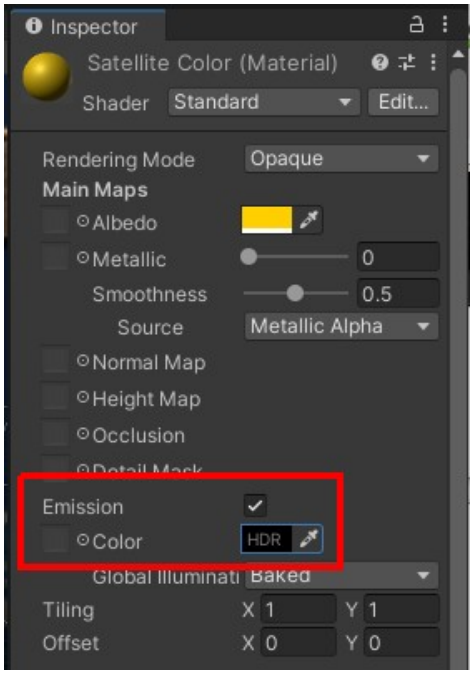
7) Drag and drop **Satellite Color** onto **default**



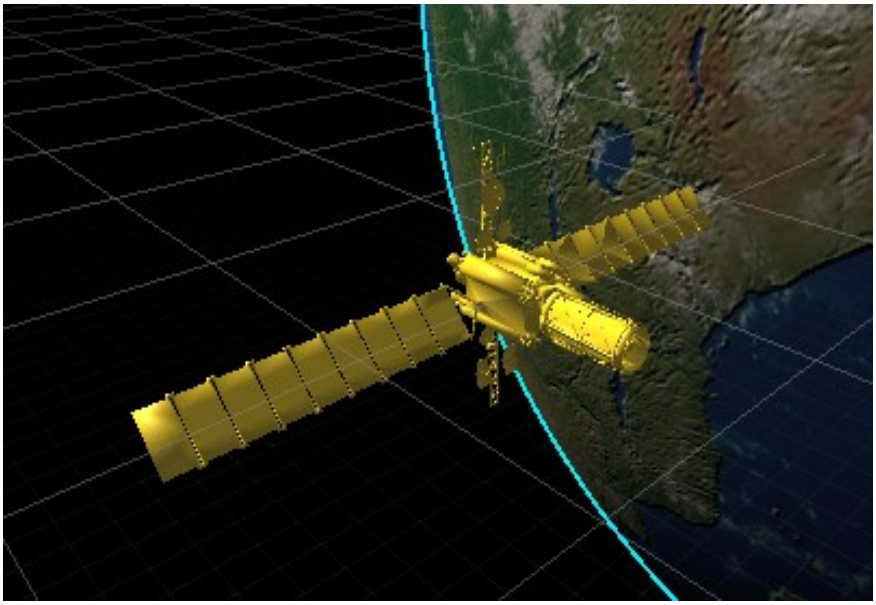
8) Double-click Satellite to zoom into this object like shown below (the satellite is still too dark)



9) Select the Satellite Color in the Materials folder
10) Check the box next to Emission

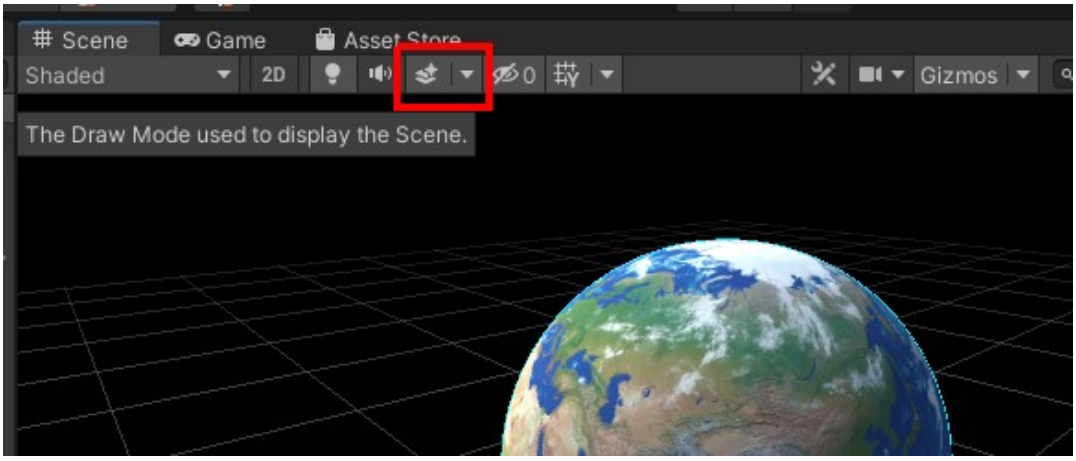


11) Select a color that will brighten the satellite but not washout the details
For example: Albedo RGB = (255, 210, 0) with Emission RGB = (67, 61, 21) gives:

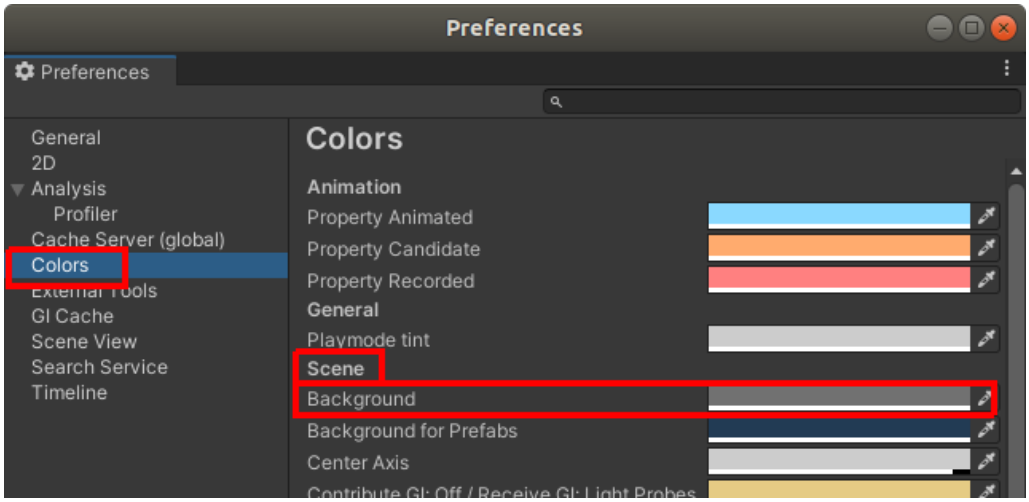


III. CHANGING THE BACKGROUND

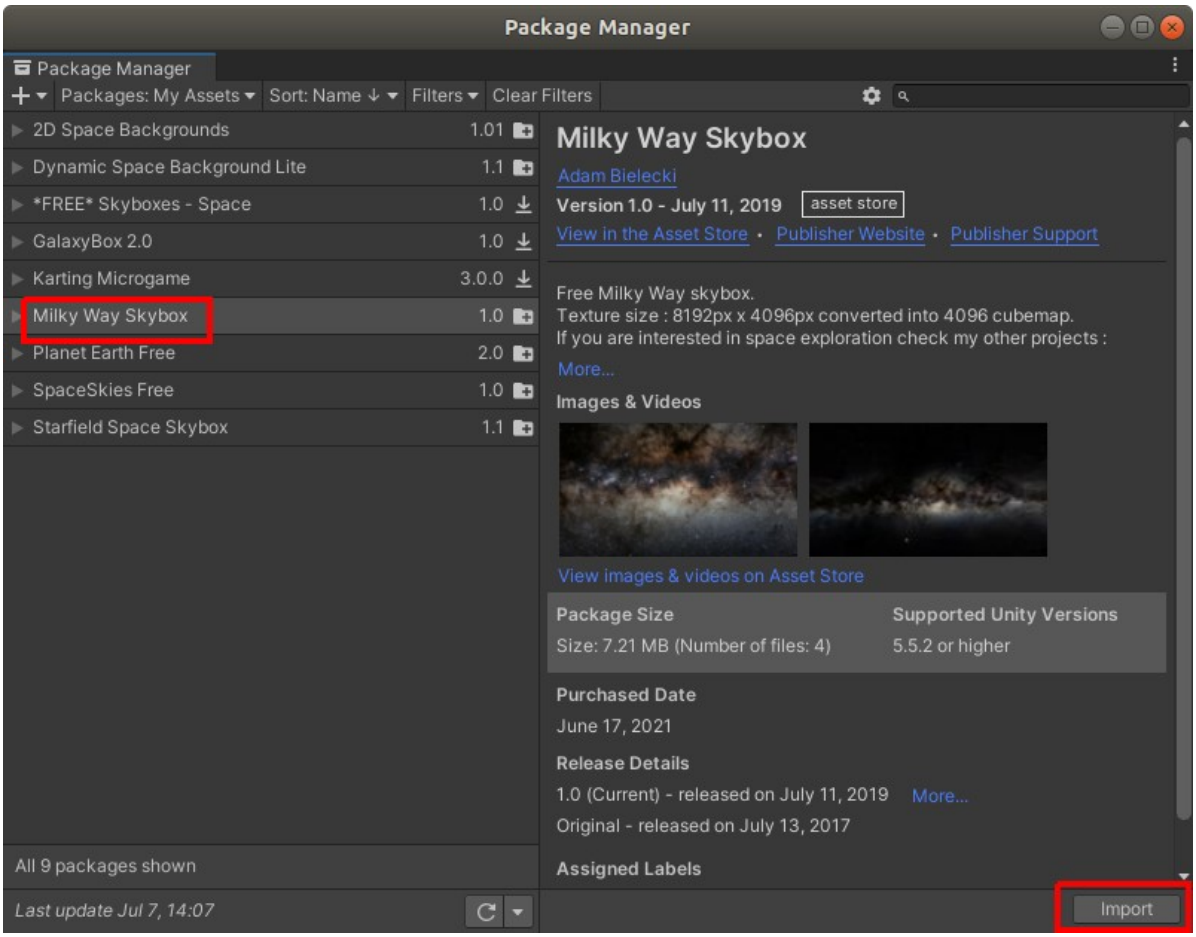
To change the background in
1) **Scene view**
1.1) Click on down arrow (▼) next to **Toggle skybox, fog, and various other effects**



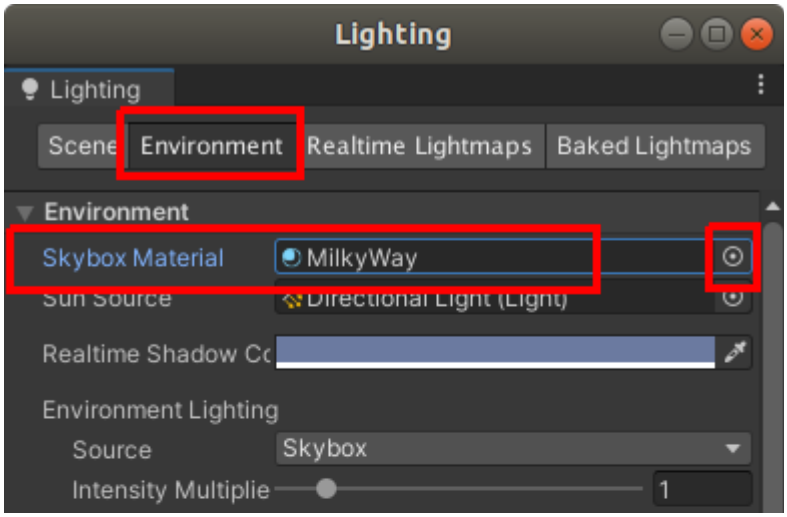
1.2) De-select **Skybox**
1.3) Then, go to **Edit** > **Perferences** > **Colors** > **Scene** and click on the color for **Background** to choose a dark color for outerspace (i.e. black)



2) **Game view**
2.1) Go to https://assetstore.unity.com/packages/2d/textures-materials/milky-way-skybox-94001 and click on **Add to My Assets**
2.2) Go back to Unity and go to **Window** > **Package Manager**
2.3) Change **Packages** to **My Assets** and import **Milky Way Skybox**

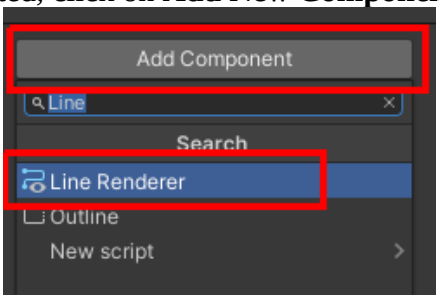


2.4) Then, go to **Window** > **Rendering** > **Lighting** > **Environment**
2.5) Click on the circle (⊙) in **Skybox Material** and select **MilkyWay**

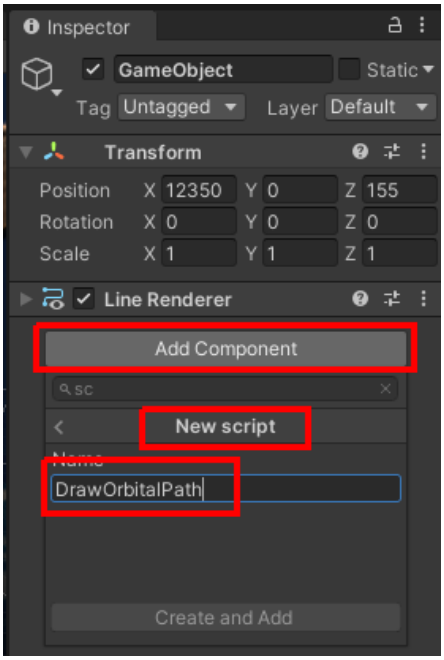


IV. RENDER THE ORBITAL PATH

1) Right click **Model** and select **Create Empty**
2) Rename the new object **OrbitalPath**
3) While **OrbitalPath** is still selected, click on **Add New Component** and add **Line Renderer**



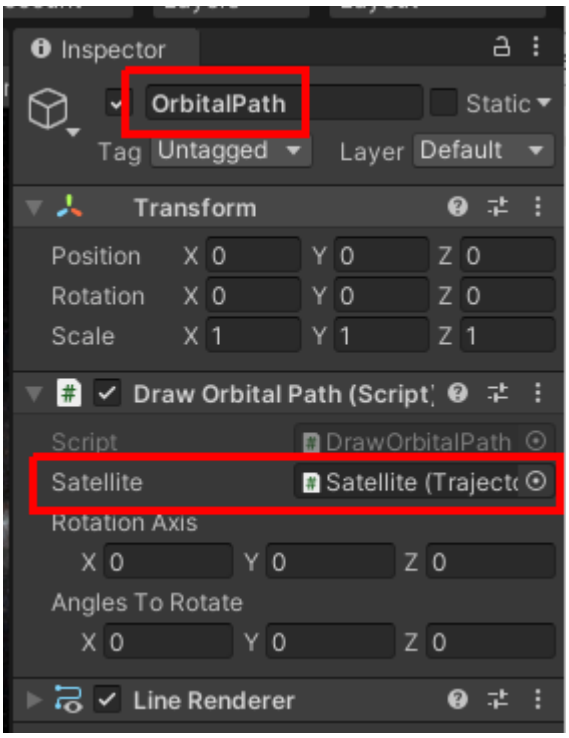
4) Add a C# Script to **OrbitalPath** by clicking on **Add New Coponent**



5) Name the file to **DrawOrbitalPath** and place it into the **Scripts** folder
6) Enter the following code into the file

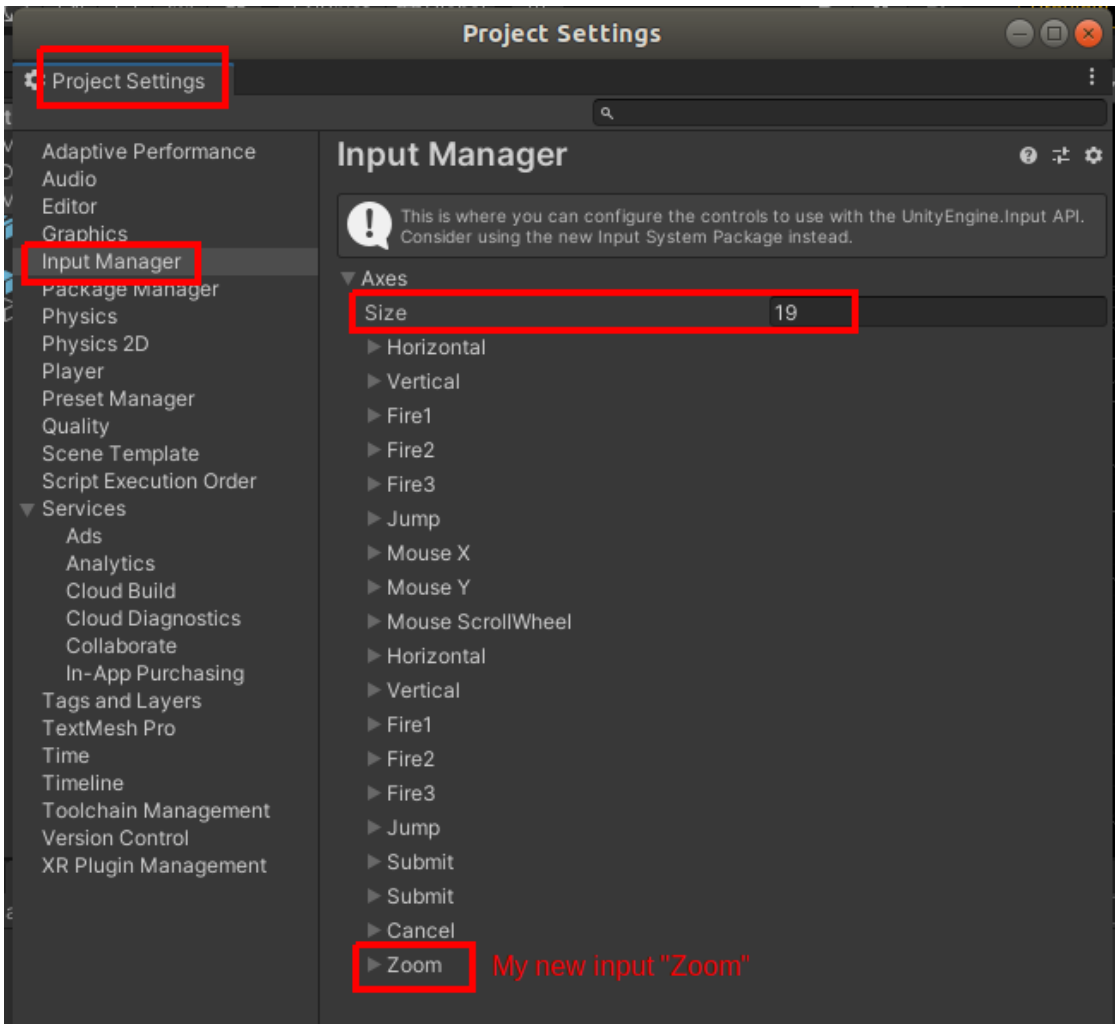
```
using System.Collections;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using UnityEngine;

public class DrawOrbitalPath : MonoBehaviour
{
  public Trajectory satellite;
  LineRenderer trajPath;
  private int segments = 360;

  //public float incline = 0f;
  public Vector3 rotationAxis;
  public Vector3 anglesToRotate = new Vector3(0f,0f,0f);

  // Start is called before the first frame update
  void Start() {
  // Debug.LogWarning(satellite.satelliteRadius);
    trajPath = gameObject.GetComponent<LineRenderer>();
    trajPath.useWorldSpace = false;
    trajPath.material = new Material(Shader.Find("Unlit/Color"));
    trajPath.material.color = Color.red;
    trajPath.startWidth = 50f;
    trajPath.endWidth = 50f;
    trajPath.positionCount = segments + 1;
  }

  // Update is called once per frame
  void Update() {
    drawCircle(satellite.satelliteRadius);
    rotateTrajPath();
  }

  // creates 360 segments to render the orbital path using x,y,z values
  void drawCircle(float radius) {
    float x;
    float y;
    float z;

    float angle = 0f;

    for(int i = 0; i < (segments + 1); i++) {
      angle += 360f / (segments);
      x = Mathf.Sin (Mathf.Deg2Rad * angle) * radius;
      y = 0f;
      z = Mathf.Cos (Mathf.Deg2Rad * angle) * radius;
      trajPath.SetPosition(i,new Vector3(x,y,z));
    }
  }

  void rotateTrajPath() {
    // Angle to rotate from section "Determining the angle to rotate": https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotation_matrix
    anglesToRotate = new Vector3(satellite.anglesToRotate.x % 360, satellite.anglesToRotate.y % 360,
    satellite.anglesToRotate.z % 360);

    Quaternion rotX = Quaternion.AngleAxis(anglesToRotate.x, new Vector3(1f,0f,0f));
    Quaternion rotY = Quaternion.AngleAxis(anglesToRotate.y, new Vector3(0f,1f,0f));
    Quaternion rotZ = Quaternion.AngleAxis(anglesToRotate.z, new Vector3(0f,0f,1f));
    this.transform.rotation = rotX * rotY * rotZ;
  }
}
```

7) Save the file and go back to Unity to update the project
8) While OrbitalPath is still selected, select Satellite for Satellite in the Inspector Window

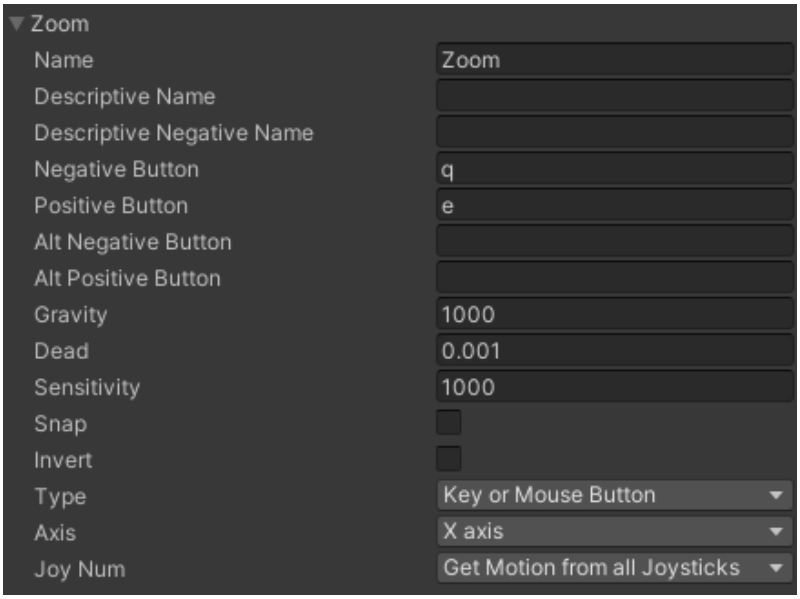


V. CREATE SCRIPT TO MOVE CAMERA DURING SIMULATIOM

1) Select Main Camera in the Hierarchy
2) Click on Add Component in the Inspector window to add a new script
3) Name the script CameraController
4) Place CameraController.cs in Assets into the Scripts folder
6) Go to **Edit** > **Project Settings** > **Input Manager** and change **Size** to 19 (to add a new input)
7) Select the very last input and rename it to Zoom



8) Copy the following details for Zoom



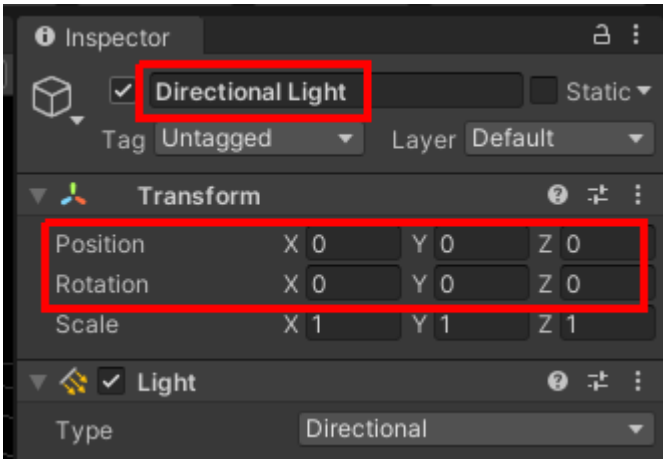
5) Double-click CameraController.cs to open and enter the following code (Note: lines 1-16 is header information)

```
using System.Collections;
using System.Collections.Generic;
using UnityEngine;

public class CameraController : MonoBehaviour
{
  private float yaw;
  private float pitch;
  private float rotSpeed = 20f; // defines rotation speed to rotate camera
  public float traSpeed = 1000f; // defines translation speed to move camera

  // Start is called before the first frame update
  void Start()
  {
    yaw = transform.eulerAngles.y;
    pitch = transform.eulerAngles.x;
  }

  // Update is called once per frame
  void Update()
  {
    // Moves the camera up/down/left/right
    // To modify keys that are assigned to "Horizontal", "Vertical", "Zoom"
    // go to Edit > Project Settings > Input Manager
    // Input Manager ref: https://docs.unity3d.com/Manual/class-InputManager.html
    // Note: CV added "Zoom" with keys q and e
    var throwX = Input.GetAxisRaw("Horizontal"); // left/right or a/d keys
    var throwY = Input.GetAxisRaw("Vertical"); // up/down or w/s keys
    var throwZ = Input.GetAxisRaw("Zoom"); // q/e keys
    var changeTraSpeed = Input.GetAxisRaw("Mouse ScrollWheel");
    traSpeed += changeTraSpeed; //
    transform.position += transform.right * traSpeed * throwX * Time.deltaTime; // moves camera left/right
    transform.position += transform.up * traSpeed * throwY * Time.deltaTime; // moves camera up/down
    transform.position += transform.forward * traSpeed * throwZ * Time.deltaTime; // moves cmeara out/in

    // rotates the camera mouse left-click + drag
    if(Input.GetMouseButton(0)) // checks if mouse left-click is pressed
    {
      yaw += rotSpeed * Input.GetAxis("Mouse X") * Time.deltaTime;
      pitch += rotSpeed * Input.GetAxis("Mouse Y") * Time.deltaTime;
      transform.eulerAngles = new Vector3(pitch, yaw, 0f);
    }
  }
}
```

6) Save the file and go back to Unity to update the project

VI. MODIFYING THE LIGHTING

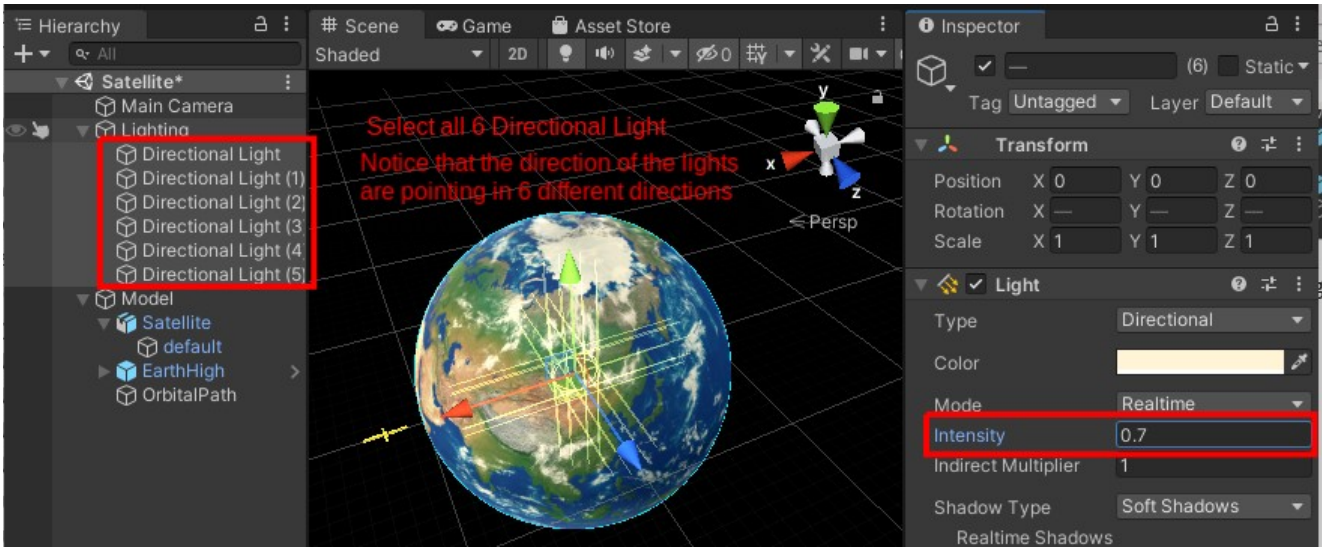
1) To brighten the planet and the environment, create a new empty object called “Lightings” in the Hierarchy window
2) Place Directional Light under Lightings
3) Change the Position and Rotation to (0, 0, 0)



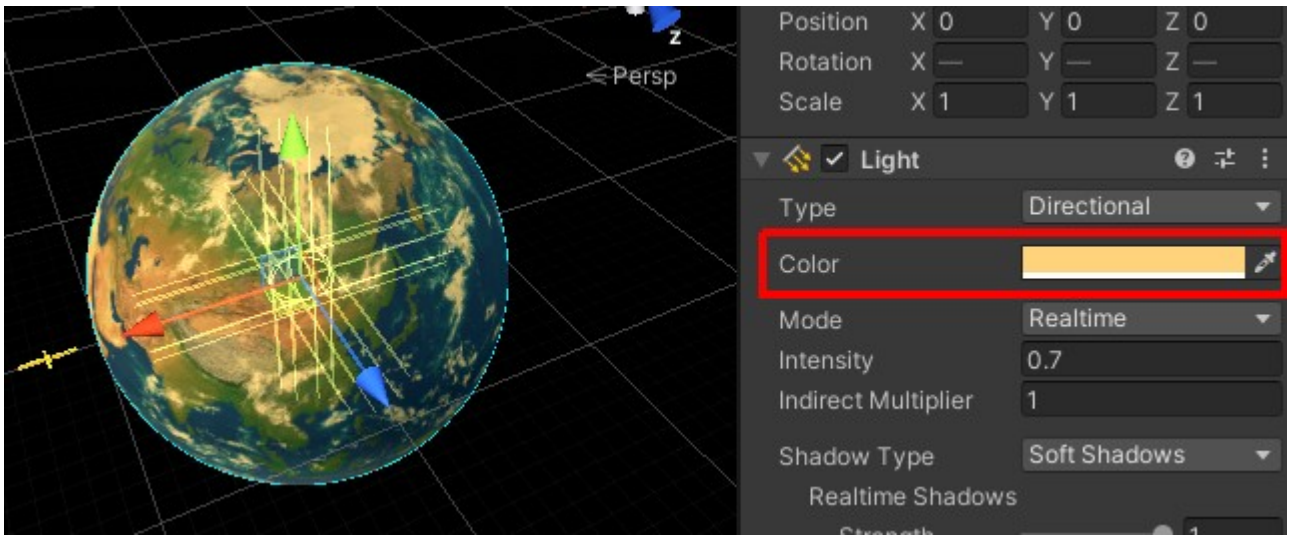
3) Duplicate Directional Light 5 times (total of 6 Direction Lights as shown below) by selecting it and pressing [CTRL]+D

4) Change the Rotation for each Direction Light given in the table below

Light Name	Rotation X	Rotation Y	Rotation Z
Directional Light	0	0	0
Directional Light (1)	0	90	0
Directional Light (2)	0	180	0
Directional Light (3)	0	270	0
Directional Light (4)	90	0	0
Directional Light (5)	270	0	0



5) Select all 6 Direction Lights and change the 0.7 (or a preferred intensity)
6) While all 6 are still selected, change the color to yellow-orange

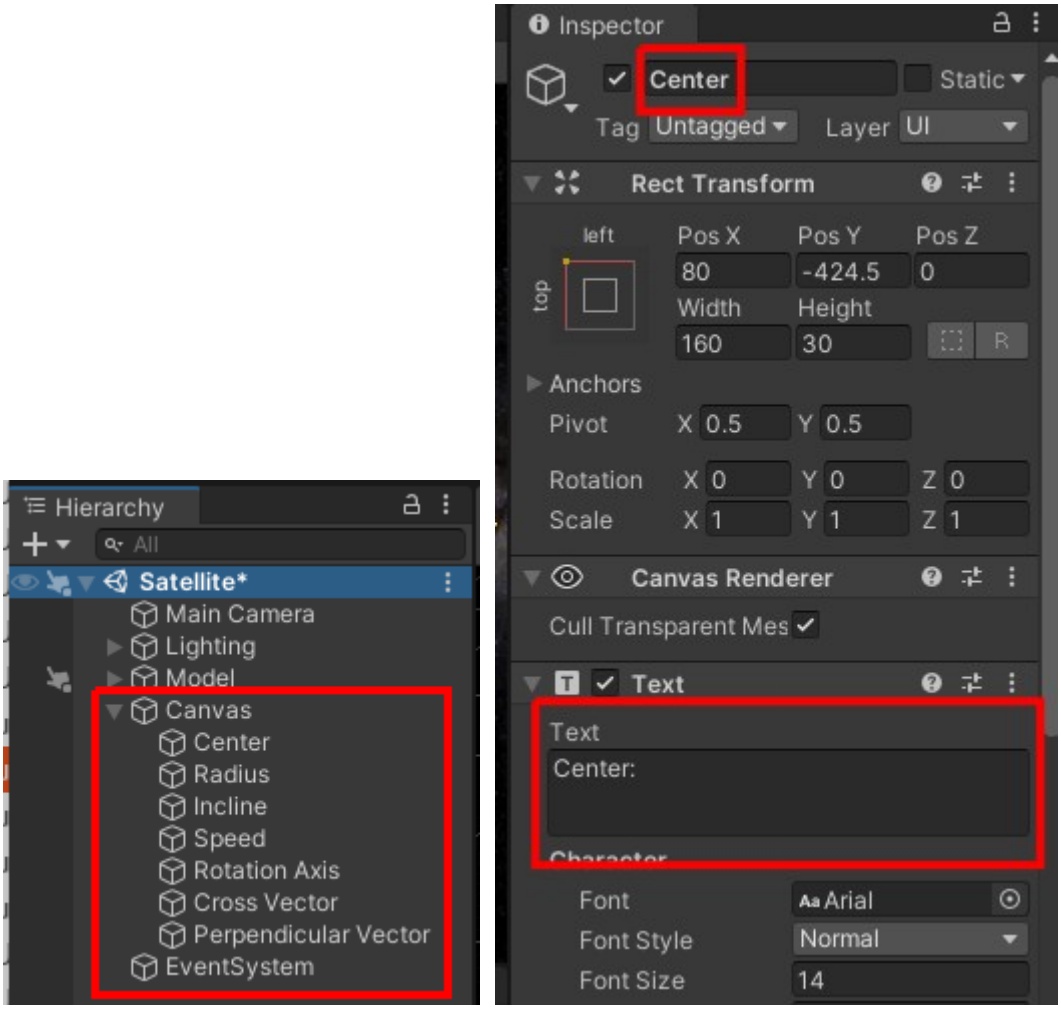


VI. DISPLAY INFORMATION IN GAME VIEW

1) Right-click an empty area in the **Hierarchy** to add **UI** > **Text**
2) Repeat this 7 times and rename each Text object in the following list
Note: For each Text object, enter the following Text in Text

Text Object Name	Text
Center	Center:
Radius	Radius:
Incline	Incline:
Speed	Satellite Rotation Speed:
Rotation Axis	Rotation Axis:

Cross Vector	Cross Vector:
Perpendicular Vector	Perpendicular Vector:



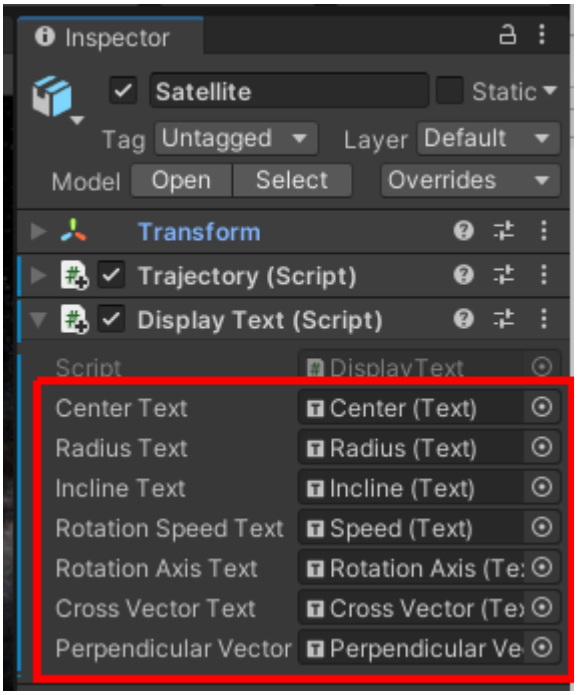
3) Select the **Satellite** object in the **Hierarchy** add a new C# script
4) Name the file **DisplayText** and move the file to the **Scripts** folder
Note: By this time there should be 4 scripts
(1) CameraController.cs
(2) DisplayText.cs
(3) DrawOrbitalPath.cs
(4) Trajectory.cs

5) Enter the following

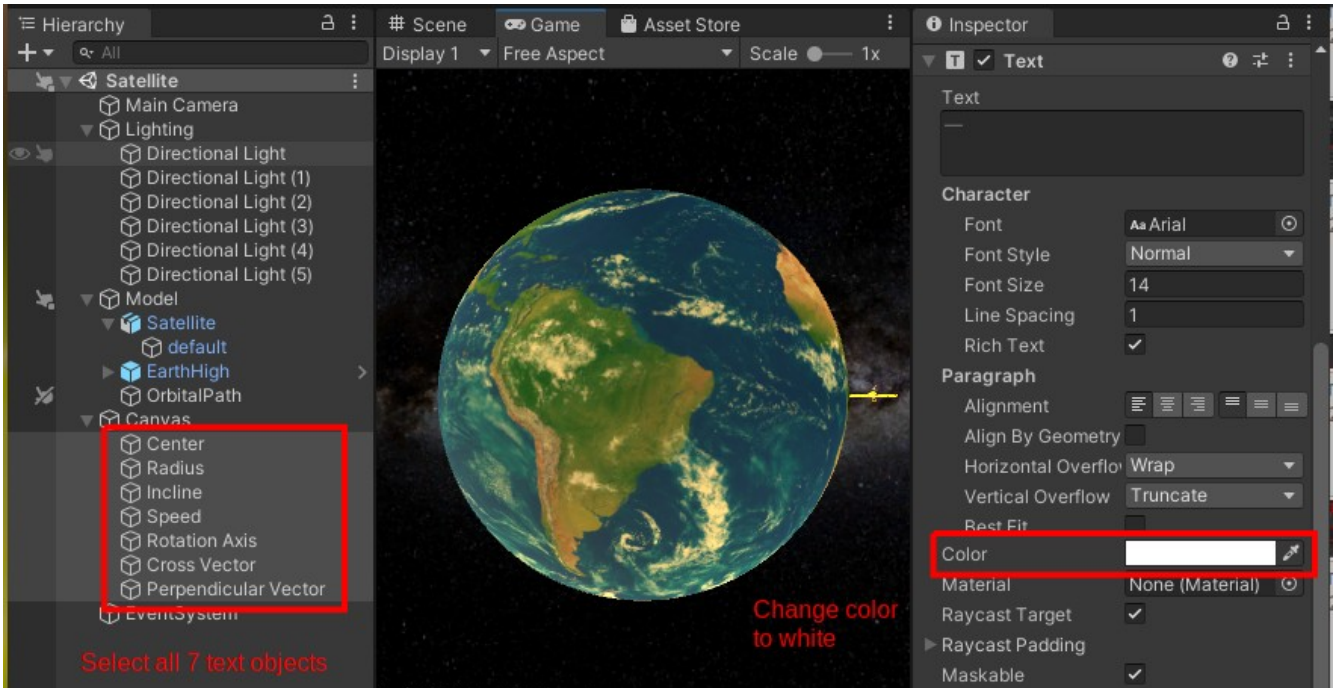
```
11 using System.Collections;
12 using System.Collections.Generic;
13 using UnityEngine;
14 using UnityEngine.UI;
15
16 public class DisplayText : MonoBehaviour
17 {
18   [SerializeField]
```

```
  Text centerText, radiusText, inclineText, rotationSpeedText, rotationAxisText, crossVectorText,
  perpendicularVectorText;

  Trajectory satellite;

  // Start is called before the first frame update
  void Start()
  {
    satellite = GetComponent<Trajectory> ();
  }

  // Update is called once per frame
  void Update()
  {
    // Updates the corresponding data
    centerText.text = "Center: " + satellite.center.ToString();
    radiusText.text = "Satellite Radius: " + satellite.satelliteRadius.ToString();
    inclineText.text = "Inclination: " + satellite.incline.ToString();
    rotationSpeedText.text = "Satellite Rotation Speed: " + satellite.rotationSpeed.ToString();
    rotationAxisText.text = "Rotation Axis: " + satellite.rotationAxis.normalized.ToString();
    crossVectorText.text = "Cross Vector: " + satellite.crossVector.normalized.ToString();
    perpendicularVectorText.text = "Perpendicular Vector: " + satellite.perpendicularVector.normalized.ToString();
  }
}
```

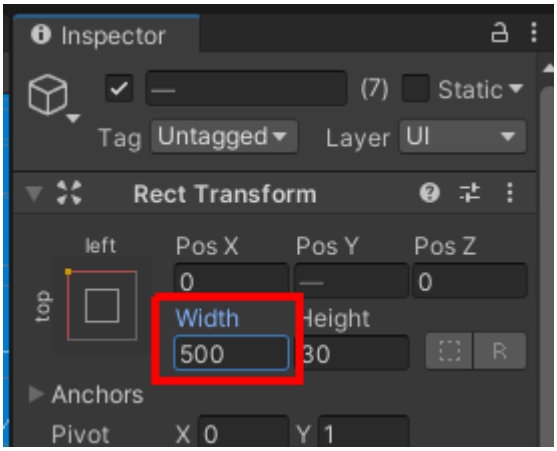
6) Save the file and return to Unity to update the project.
7) Select the **Satellite** object, and for each of the items in the **Display Text** component select the object as shown below



8) Select all 7 text objects and change the **Color** to white



9) While all the text objects still selected change the Width to 500 (this guarantees that none of the text will be truncated)

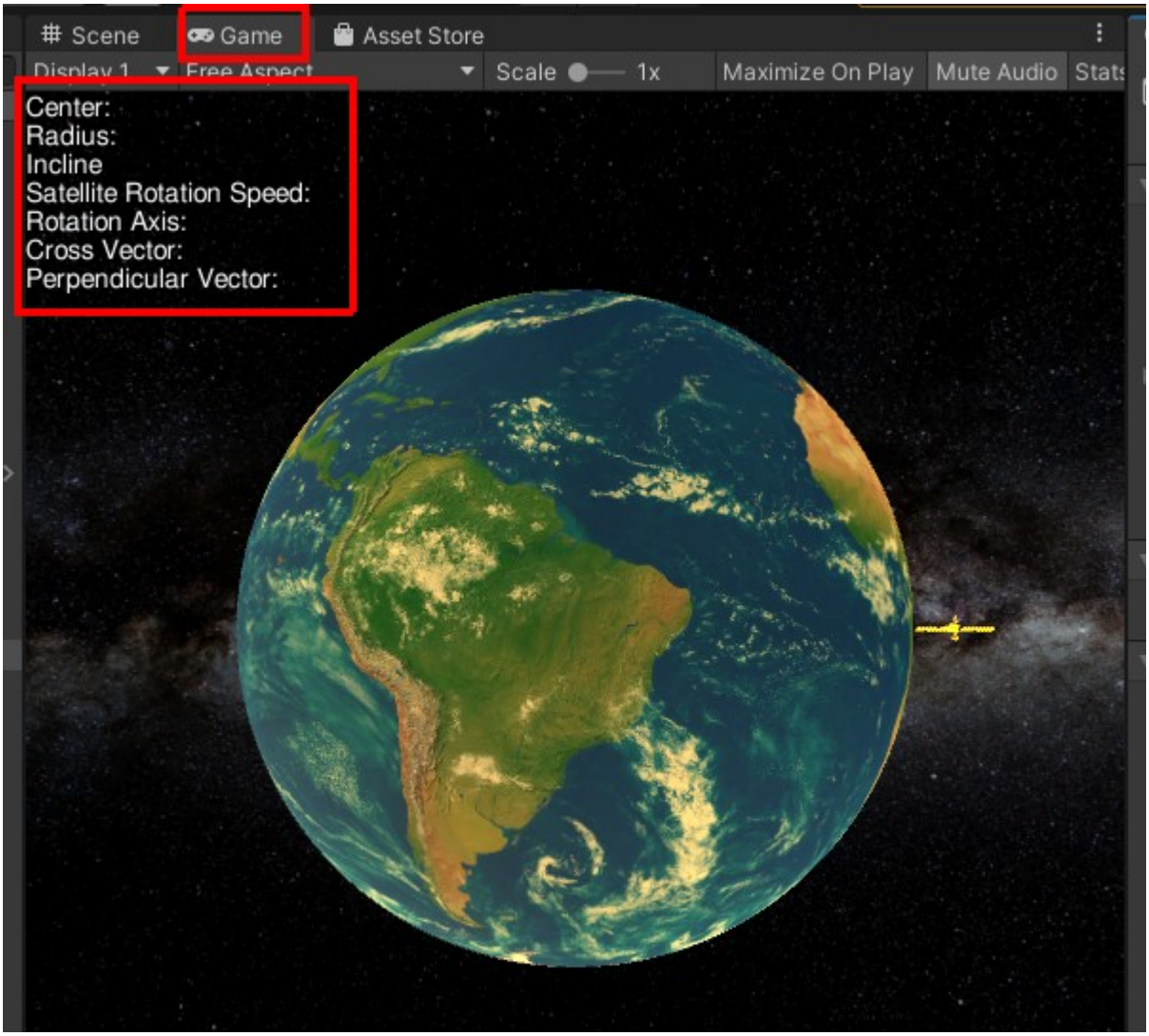


10) While holding [Shift], click on the two squares shown below and choose the top-left (A blue dot will appear if [Shift] is pressed) to change the position of the text to top-left corner

11) For each change the position POS X/Y/Z to the following table such that they are not overlapping

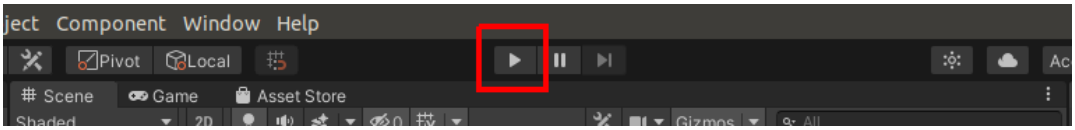
Text Object	POS X	POS Y	POSZ
Center	0	0	0
Radius	0	-15	0
Incline	0	-30	0
Speed	0	-45	0
Rotation Axis	0	-60	0
Cross Vector	0	-75	0
Perpendicular Vector	0	-90	0

12) Go to Game view to see the text located in the top-left corner



VII. PLAY THE SIMULATION

Click on the play button to see the simulation.



1) You can change the Satellite **Radius, Rotation Speed, Incline** to any value in the Satellites' Inspector window.

2) Pressing the follow keys will move the camera

Keys	Movement
A	Left
D	Right
W	Up

S	Down
Q	Zoom Out
E	Zoom In
Mouse Left-Click Drag	Rotate camera in direction of mouse movement

(END)