Retrograde motion is a visual effect because of the difference in speeds, Ve and Vp. Here Ve>Vp.


At conjunction S-EO-PO lie on a straight line. The earth moves faster than the planet. At E1 the line of sight to the planet slightly below P0 strikes the celestial sphere above the line. At E2 the planet has moved more slowly so the line of sight strikes the celestial sphere below the line even though the planet has moved a little way above.

