



**Stars:**  
**Part I: The Building Blocks  
of the Universe**



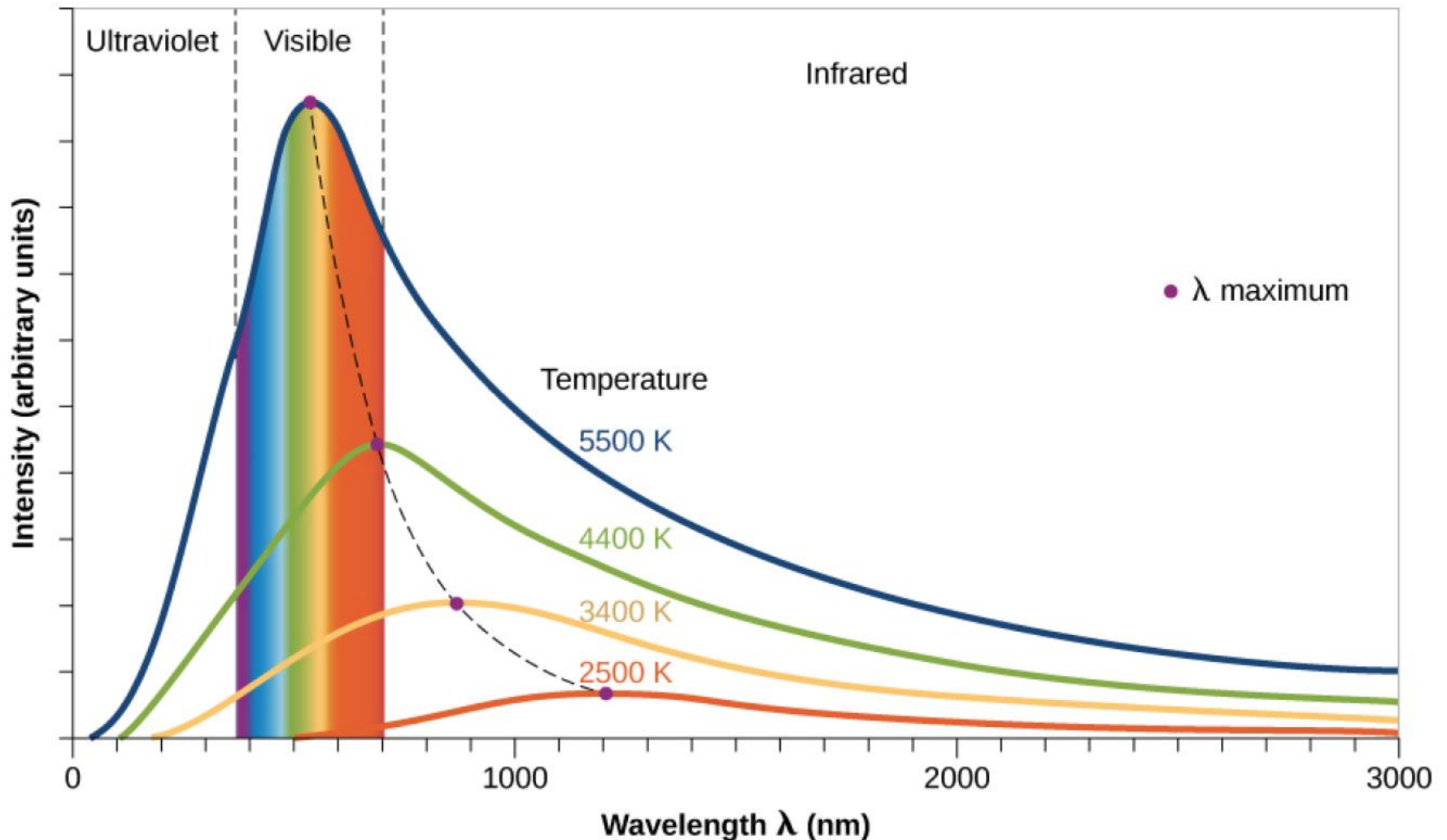
The background of the slide is a rich, multi-colored cosmic scene. The upper portion is a deep blue sky filled with numerous bright, multi-pointed stars. A prominent feature is a large, intricate nebula in shades of orange, red, and brown, which appears to be a stellar nursery or a region of star formation. The nebula's structure is complex, with various filaments and clumps. The overall composition is dynamic and visually striking, typical of astronomical imagery.

**Part II:  
Stellar Evolution, the  
Stellar Graveyard, and  
Star Formation,**

Questions on homework?

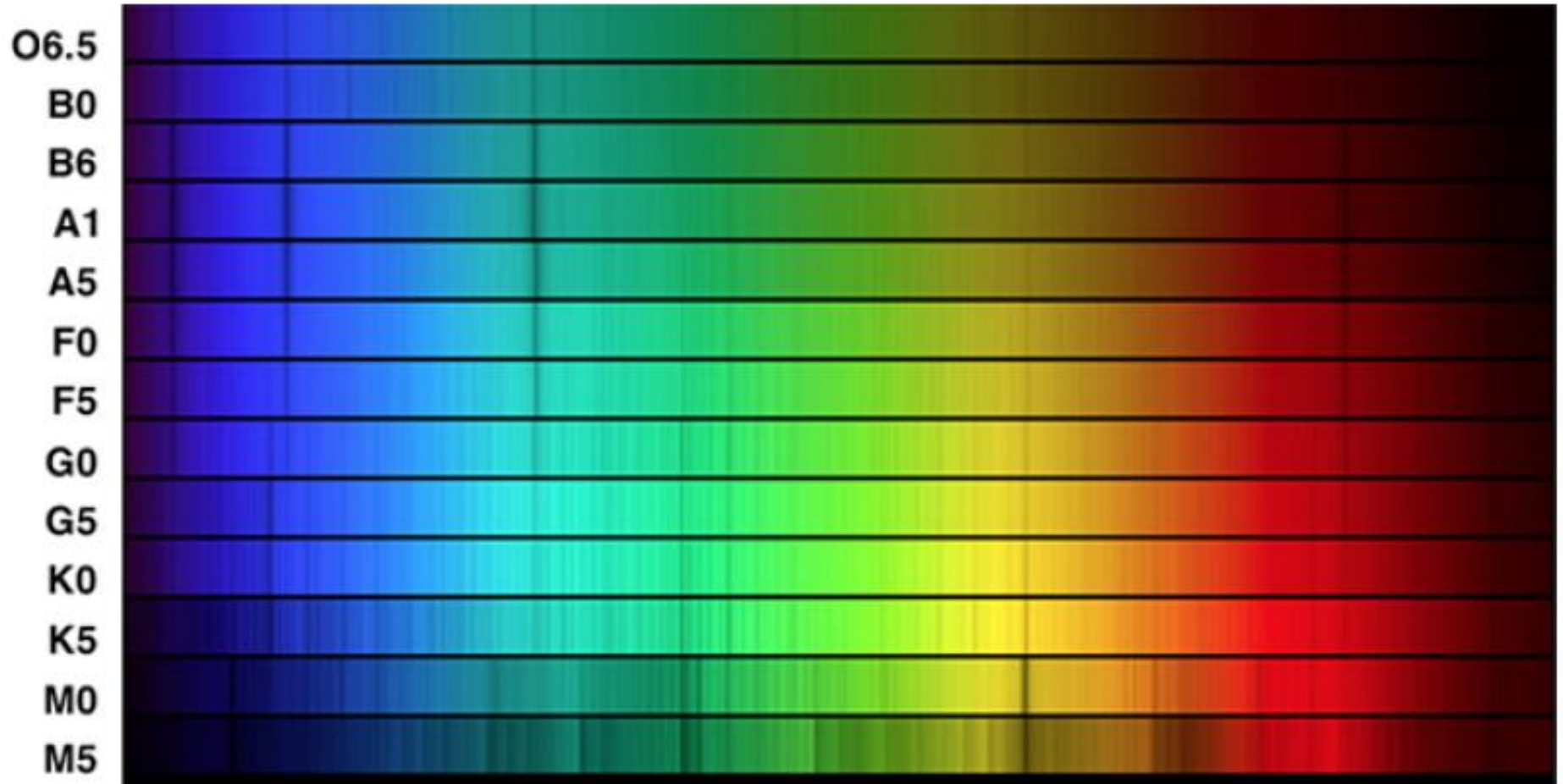
Blackbody emission: hotter things emit at higher energies  
(=shorter wavelengths)

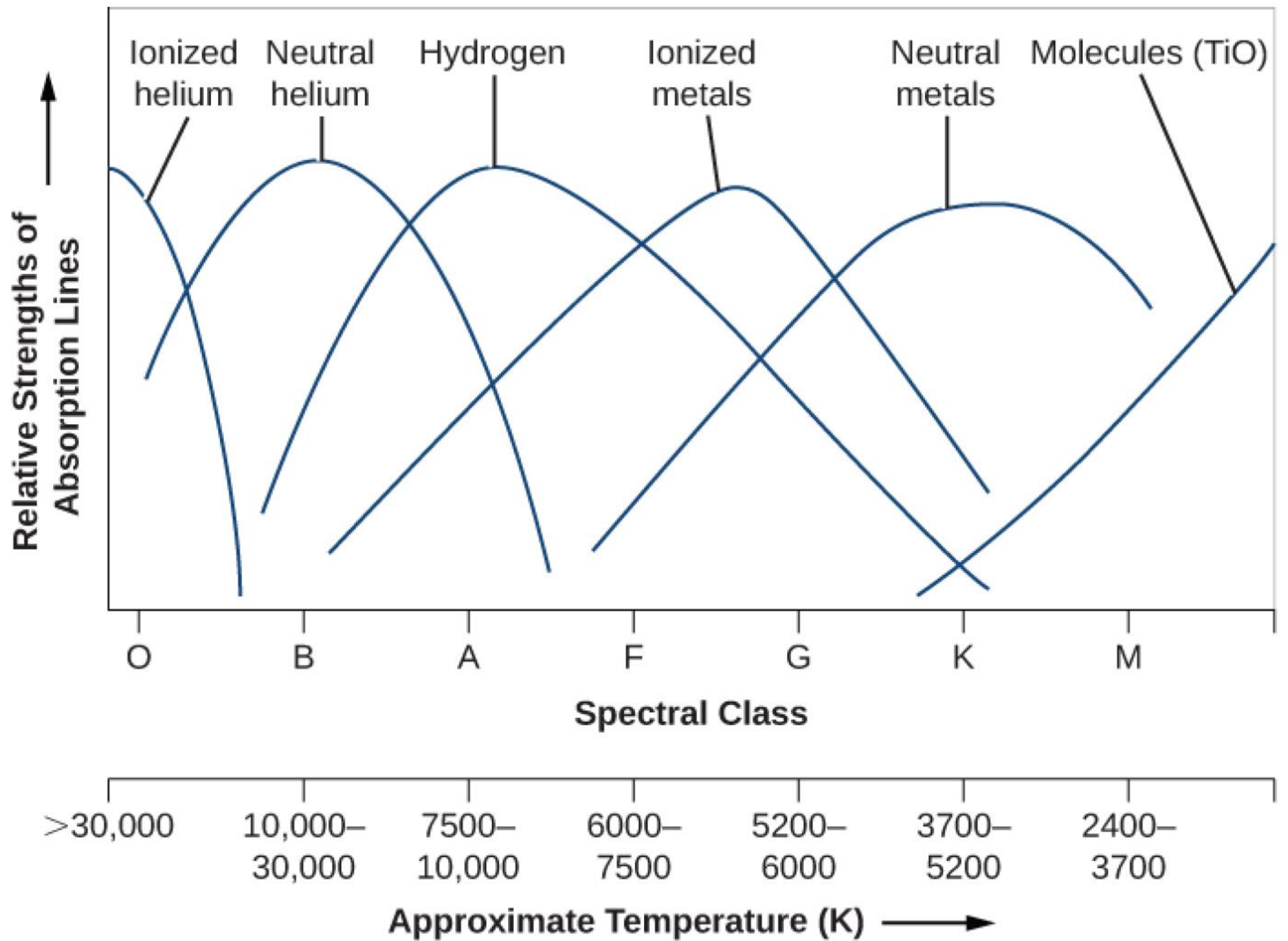
Peak of blackbody:  $\lambda_{\max} \cdot T = 0.288 \text{ cm} \cdot \text{K}$



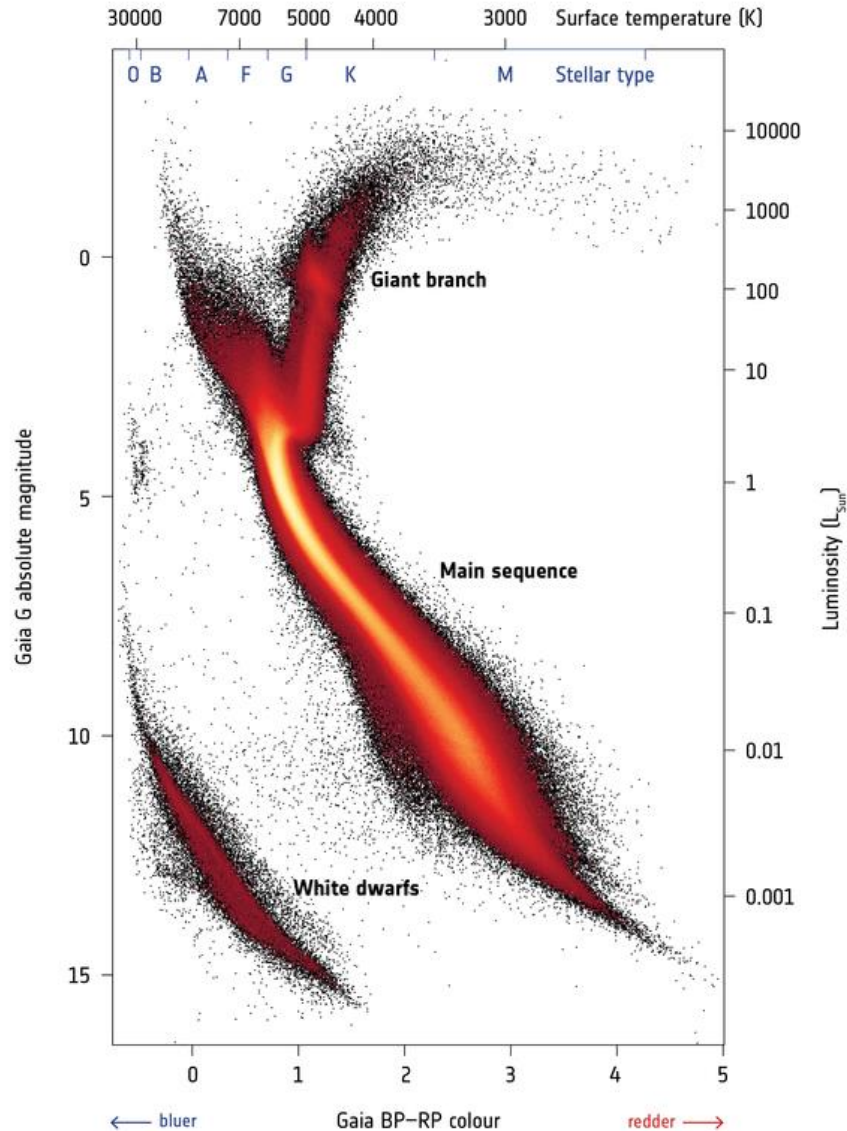


# Spectral type = temperature sequence





## → GAIA'S HERTZSPRUNG-RUSSELL DIAGRAM



# HR diagram (Hertzsprung-Russell)

Main sequence:

- most stars on main sequence
- Defined by hydrogen burning

Stars in other locations:

- Stellar evolution! (age)

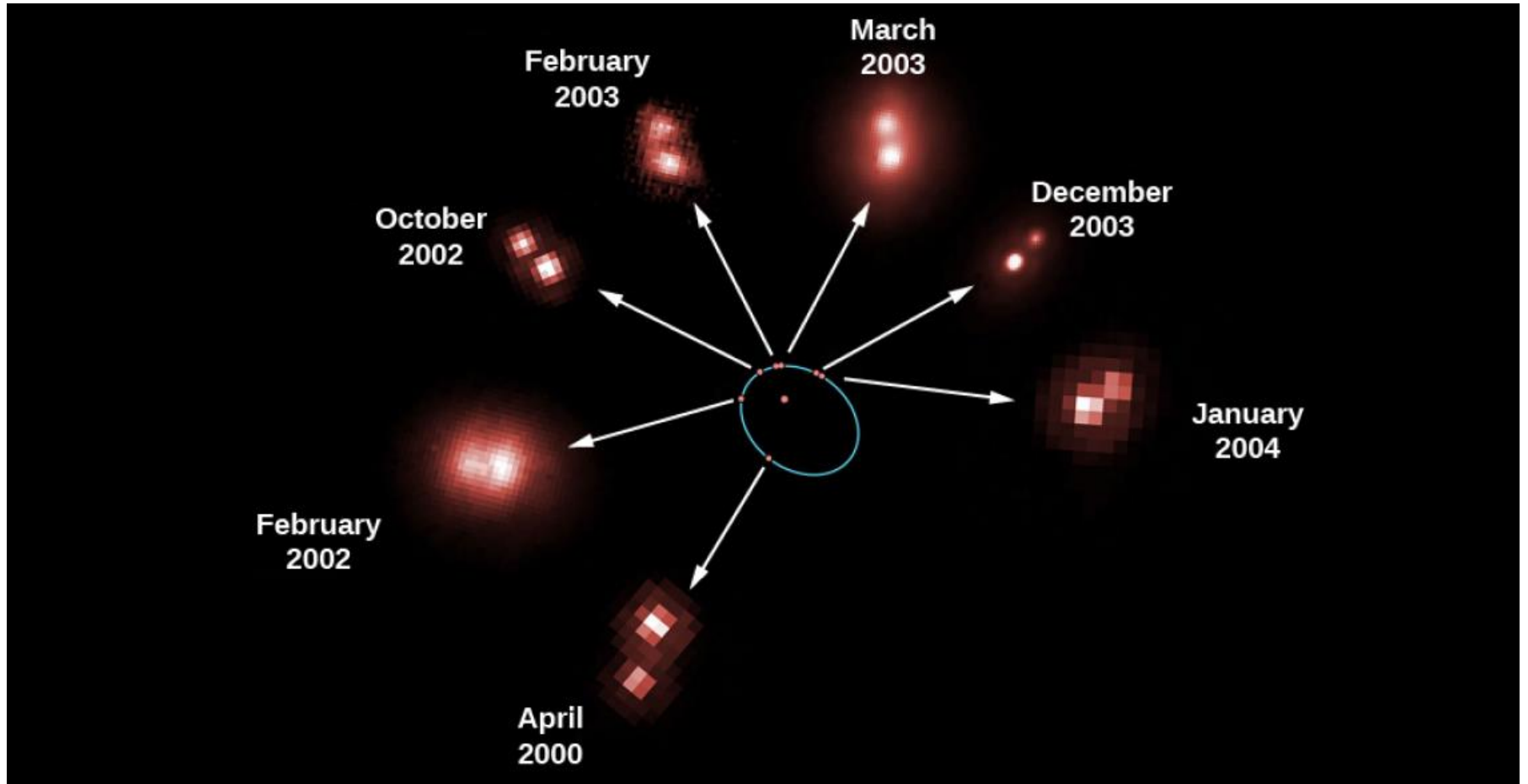


## The Abundance of Elements in the Sun

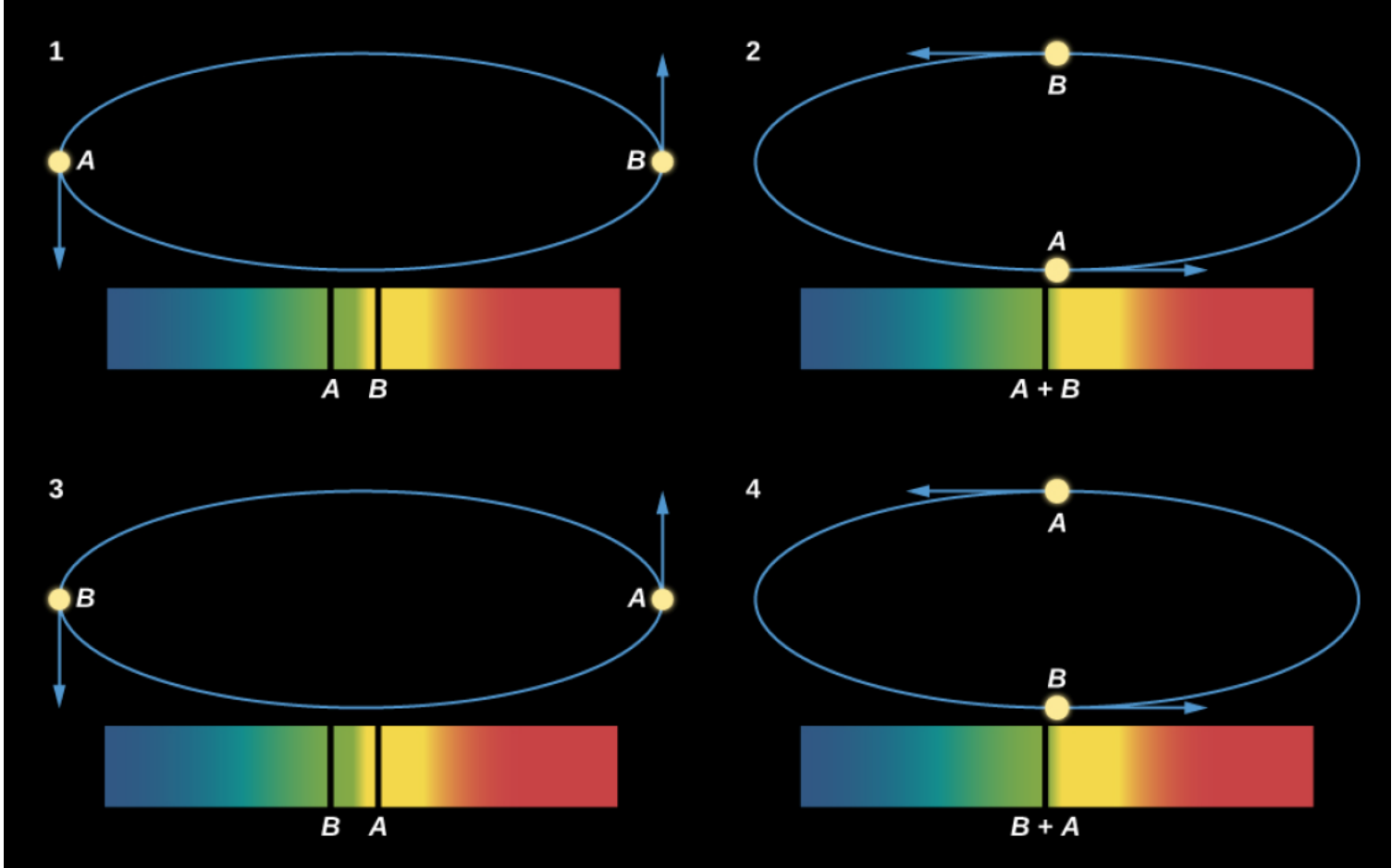
Element	Percentage by Number of Atoms	Percentage By Mass
Hydrogen	92.0	73.4
Helium	7.8	25.0
Carbon	0.02	0.20
Nitrogen	0.008	0.09
Oxygen	0.06	0.80
Neon	0.01	0.16
Magnesium	0.003	0.06
Silicon	0.004	0.09
Sulfur	0.002	0.05
Iron	0.003	0.14

## Measuring the Characteristics of Stars

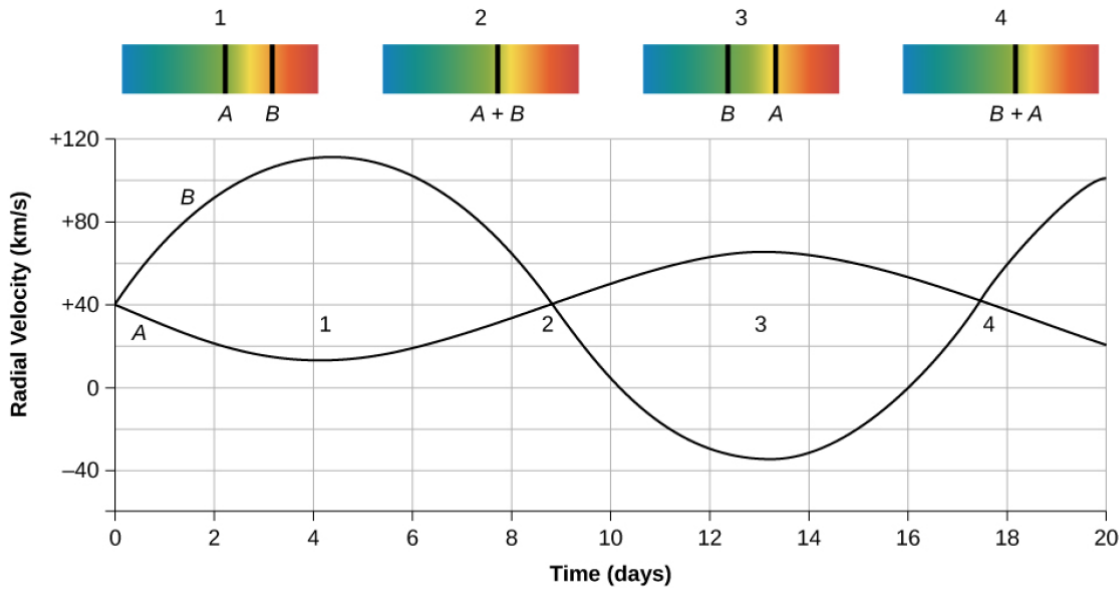
Characteristic	Technique
Surface temperature	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Determine the color (very rough).</li><li>2. Measure the spectrum and get the spectral type.</li></ol>
Chemical composition	Determine which lines are present in the spectrum.
Luminosity	Measure the apparent brightness and compensate for distance.
Radial velocity	Measure the Doppler shift in the spectrum.
Rotation	Measure the width of spectral lines.
Mass	Measure the period and radial velocity curves of spectroscopic binary stars.
Diameter	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Measure the way a star's light is blocked by the Moon.</li><li>2. Measure the light curves and Doppler shifts for eclipsing binary stars.</li></ol>



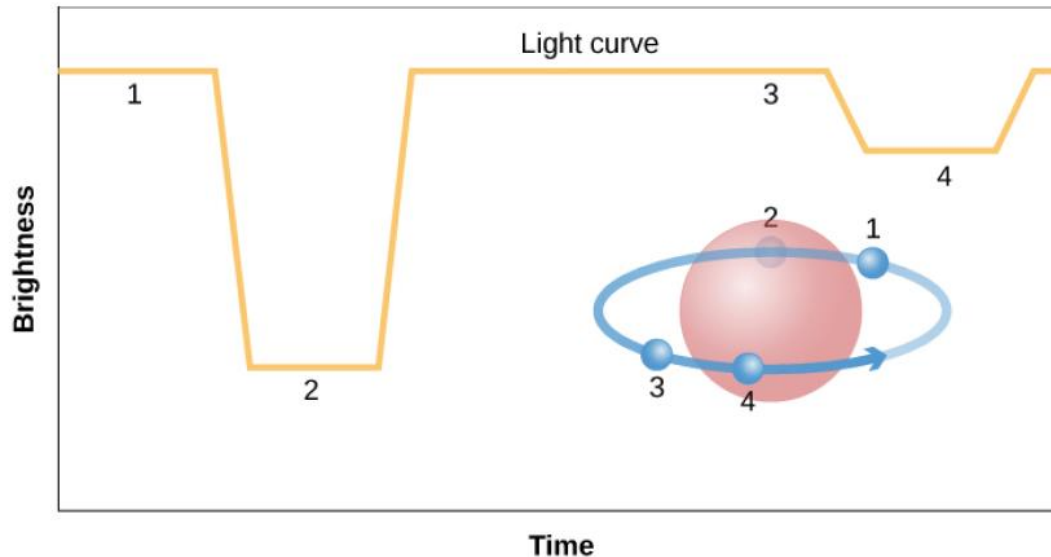


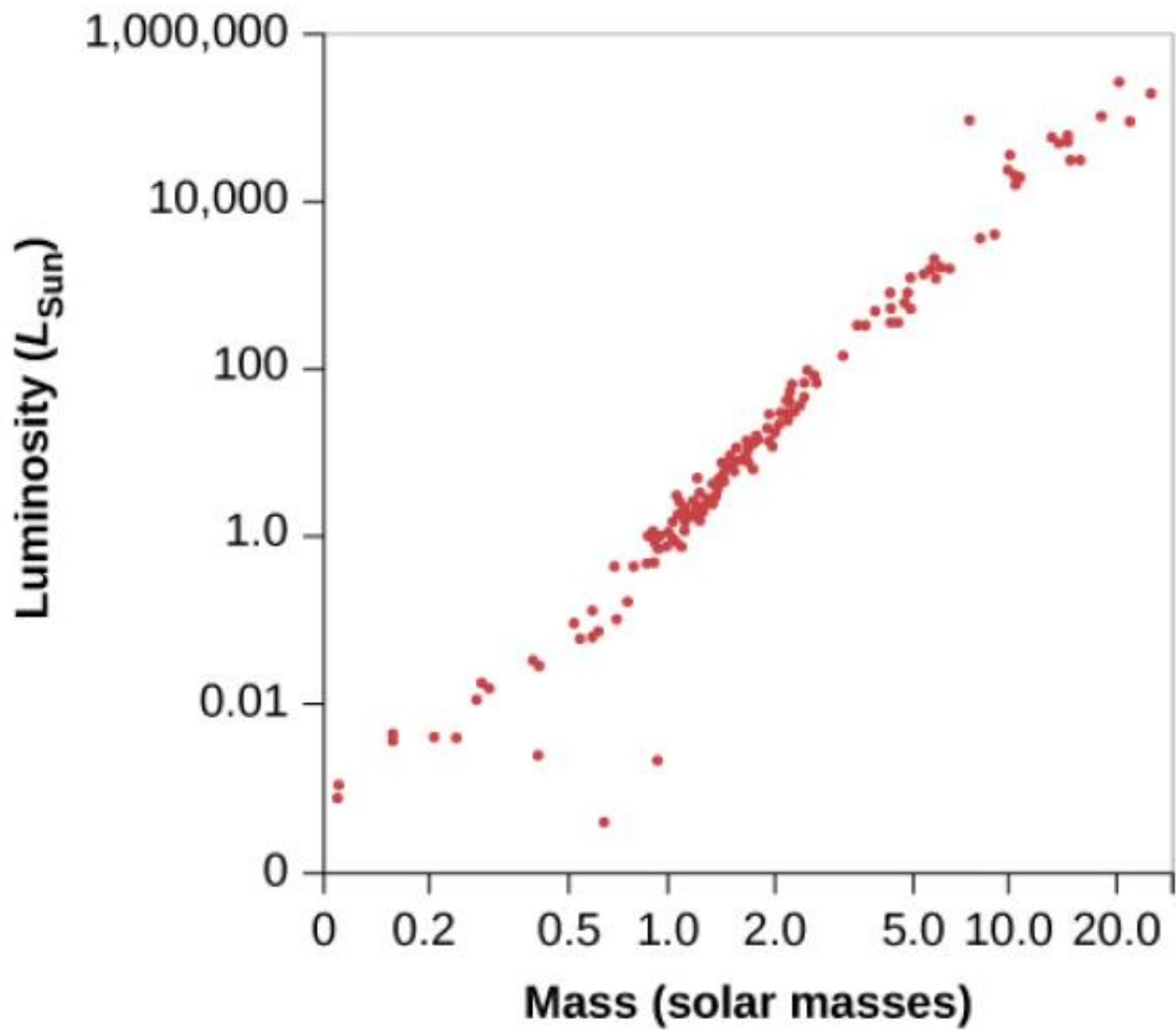


# Stellar masses from radial velocity and gravity



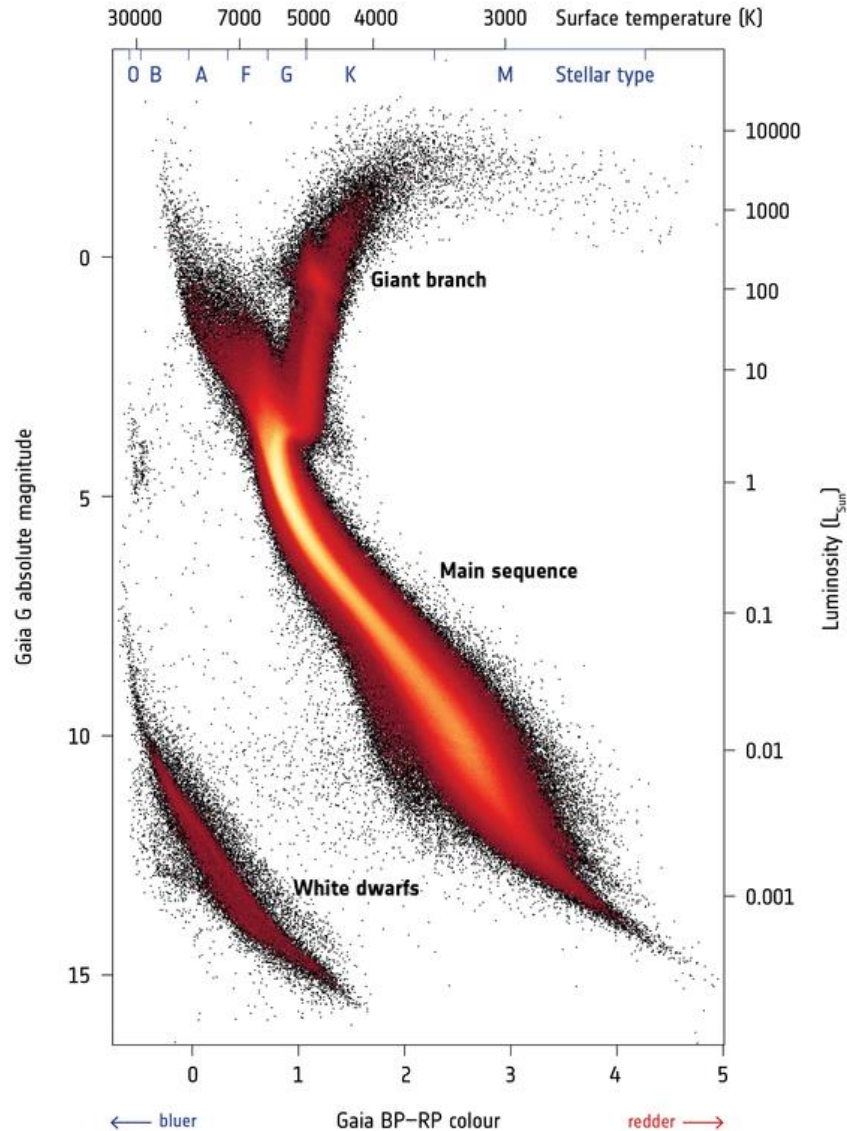
Eclipsing binary systems:  
Benchmarks for stellar masses







## → GAIA'S HERTZSPRUNG-RUSSELL DIAGRAM



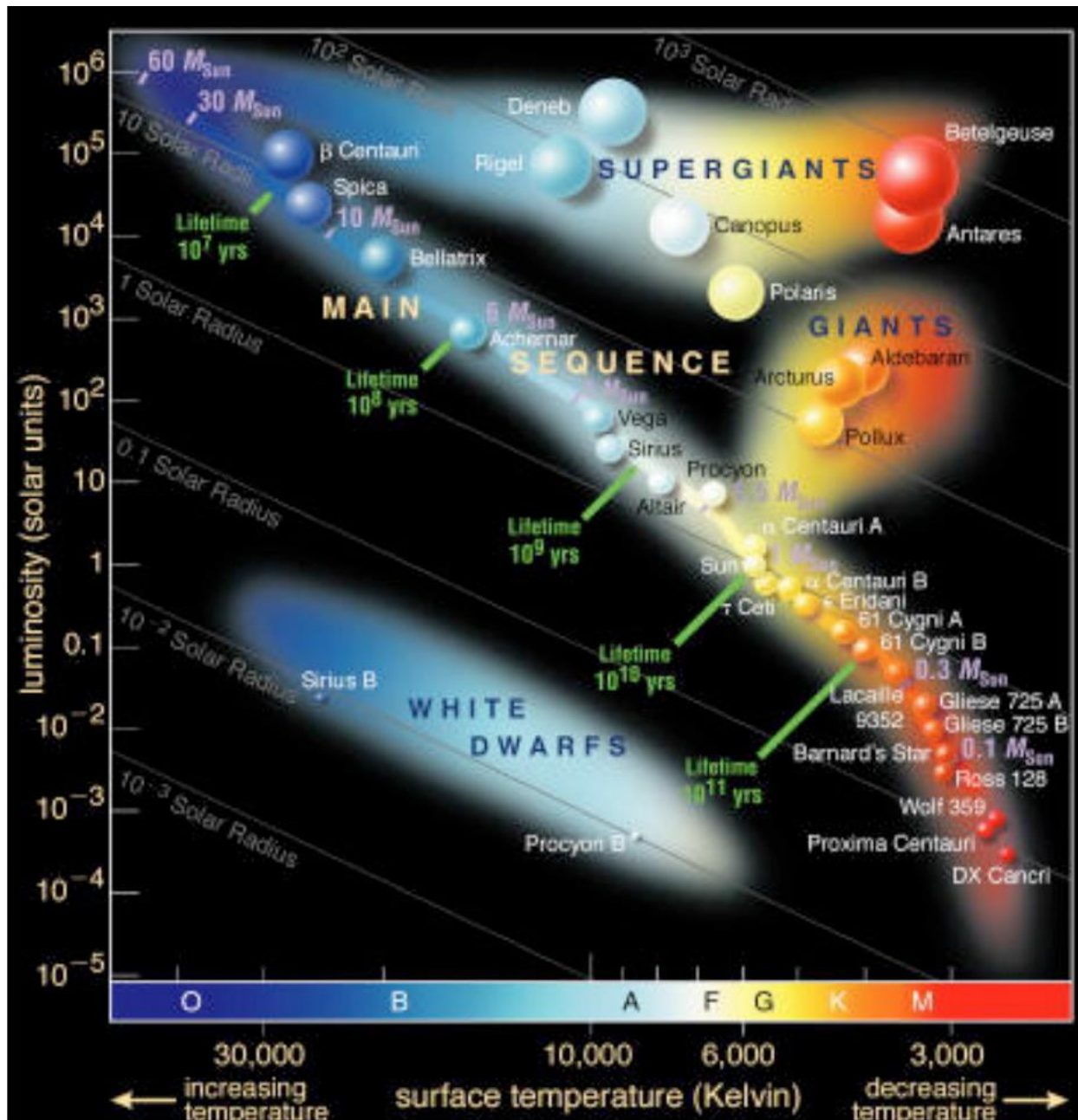
# HR diagram (Hertzsprung-Russell)

Main sequence:

- most stars on main sequence
- Defined by hydrogen burning

Stars in other locations:

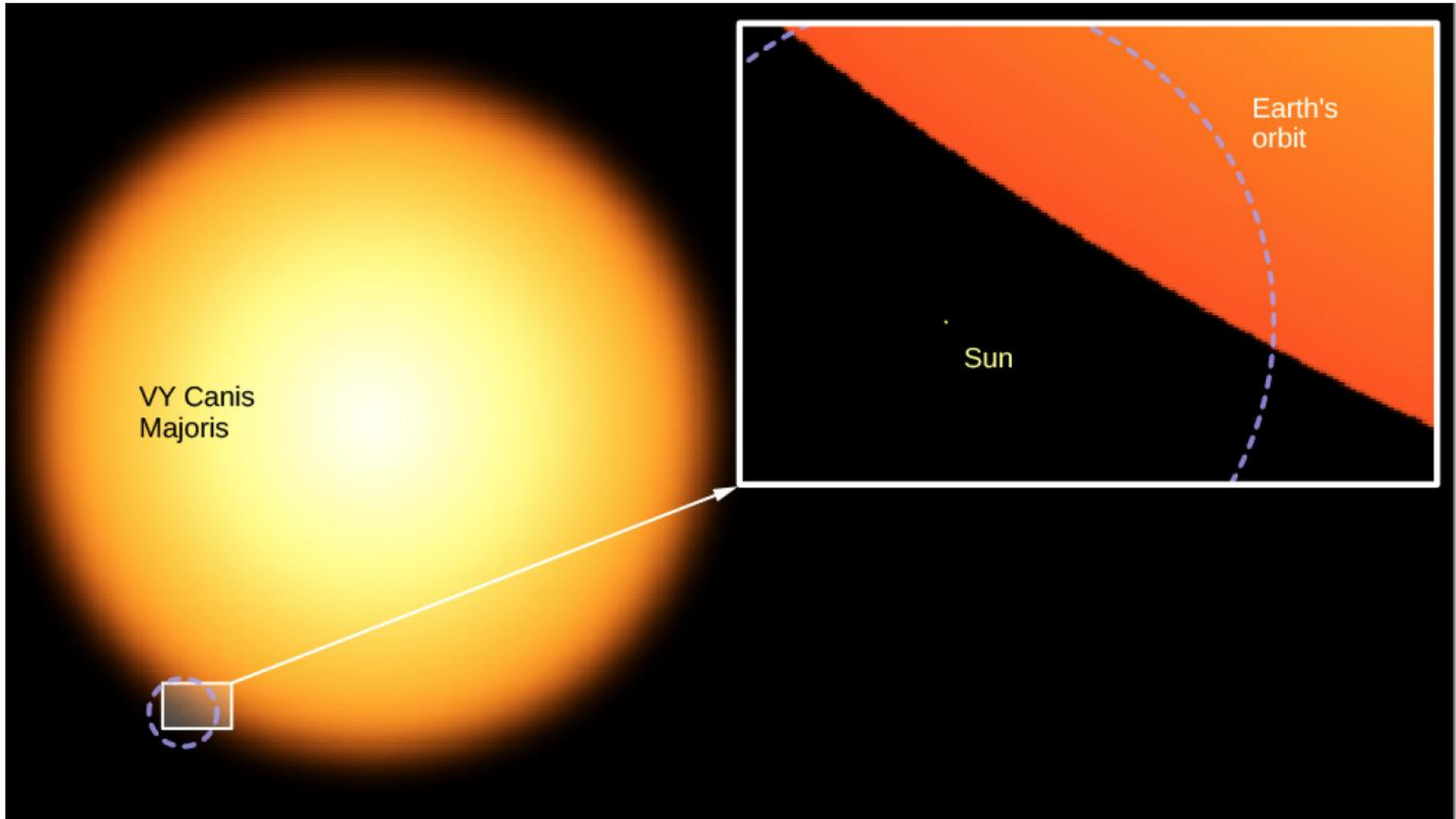
- Stellar evolution! (age)

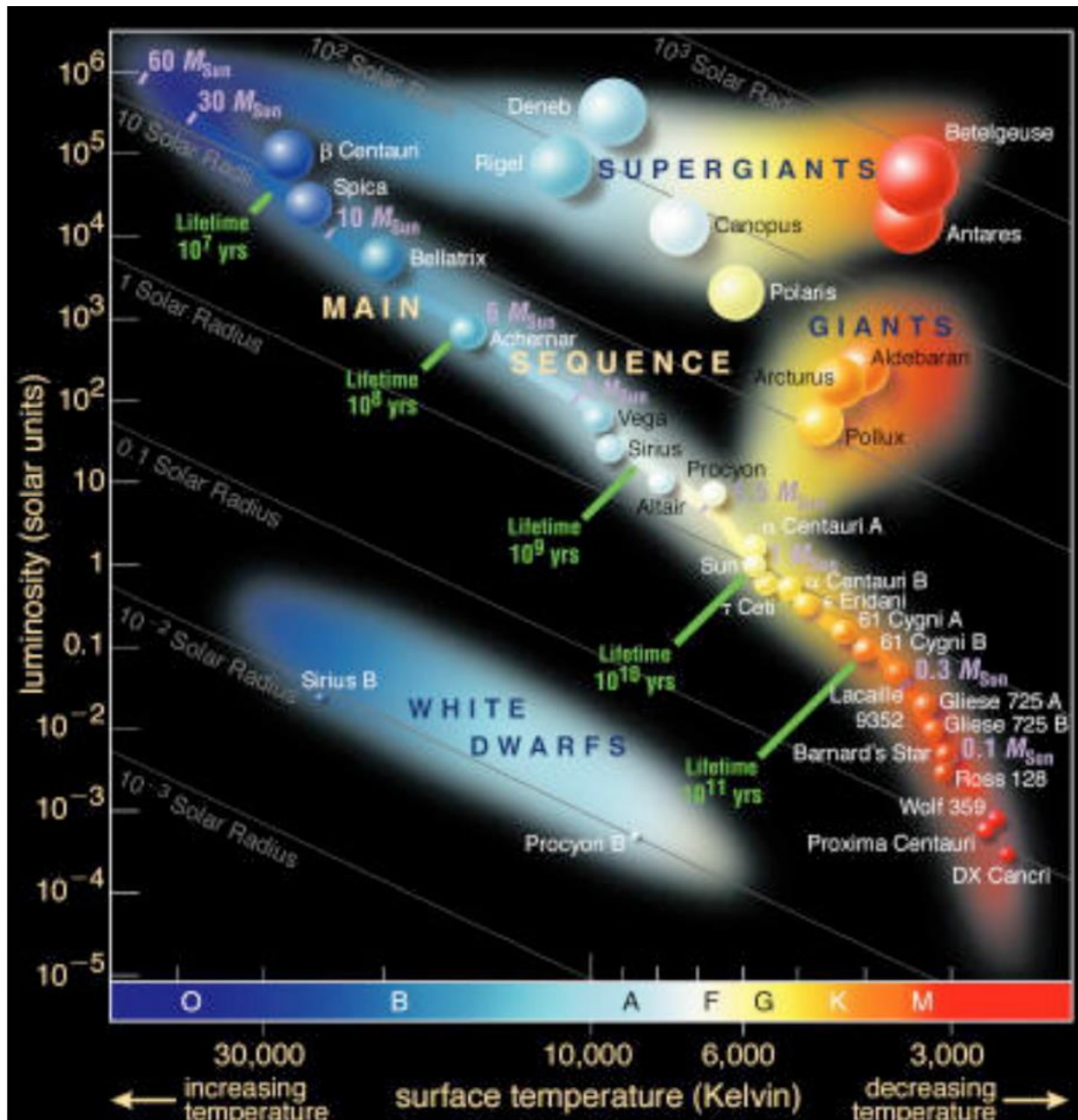


## Characteristics of Main-Sequence Stars

Spectral Type	Mass (Sun = 1)	Luminosity (Sun = 1)	Temperature	Radius (Sun = 1)
O5	40	$7 \times 10^5$	40,000 K	18
B0	16	$2.7 \times 10^5$	28,000 K	7
A0	3.3	55	10,000 K	2.5
F0	1.7	5	7500 K	1.4
G0	1.1	1.4	6000 K	1.1
K0	0.8	0.35	5000 K	0.8
M0	0.4	0.05	3500 K	0.6

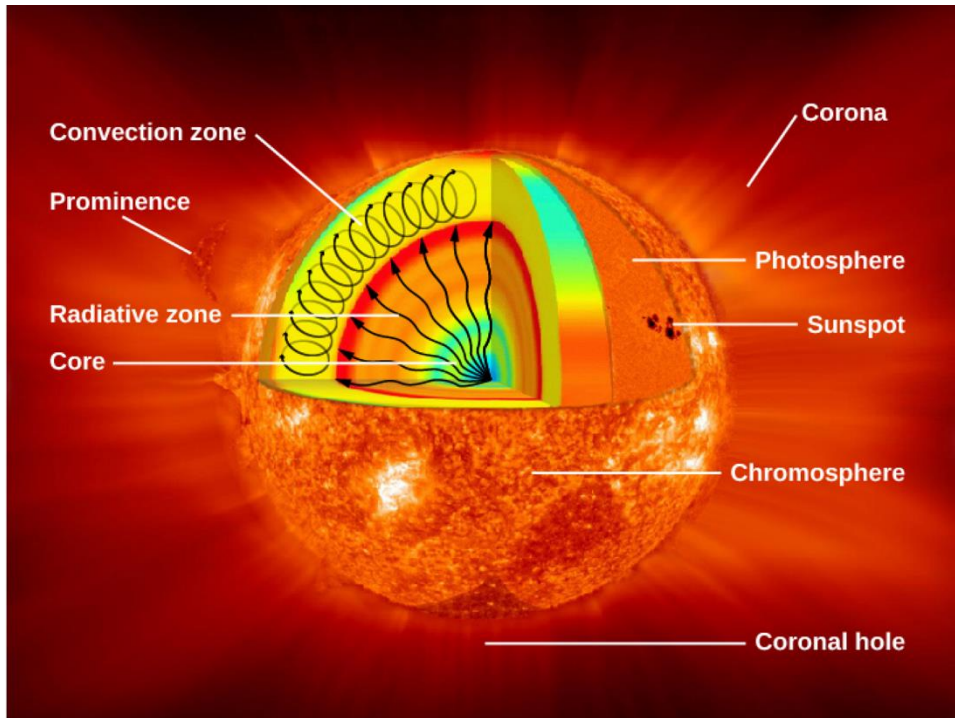
Evolved stars: red giants, can be huge!







# Where does the sun's energy come from? Hydrogen burning and the interior of the sun



## ▼ 15 The Sun: A Garden-Variety Star

Thinking Ahead

15.1 The Structure and Composition of the Sun

15.2 The Solar Cycle

15.3 Solar Activity above the Photosphere

15.4 Space Weather

Key Terms

Summary

For Further Exploration

Collaborative Group Activities

► Exercises

## ▼ 16 The Sun: A Nuclear Powerhouse

Thinking Ahead

16.1 Sources of Sunshine: Thermal and Gravitational Energy

16.2 Mass, Energy, and the Theory of Relativity

16.3 The Solar Interior: Theory

16.4 The Solar Interior: Observations

Key Terms

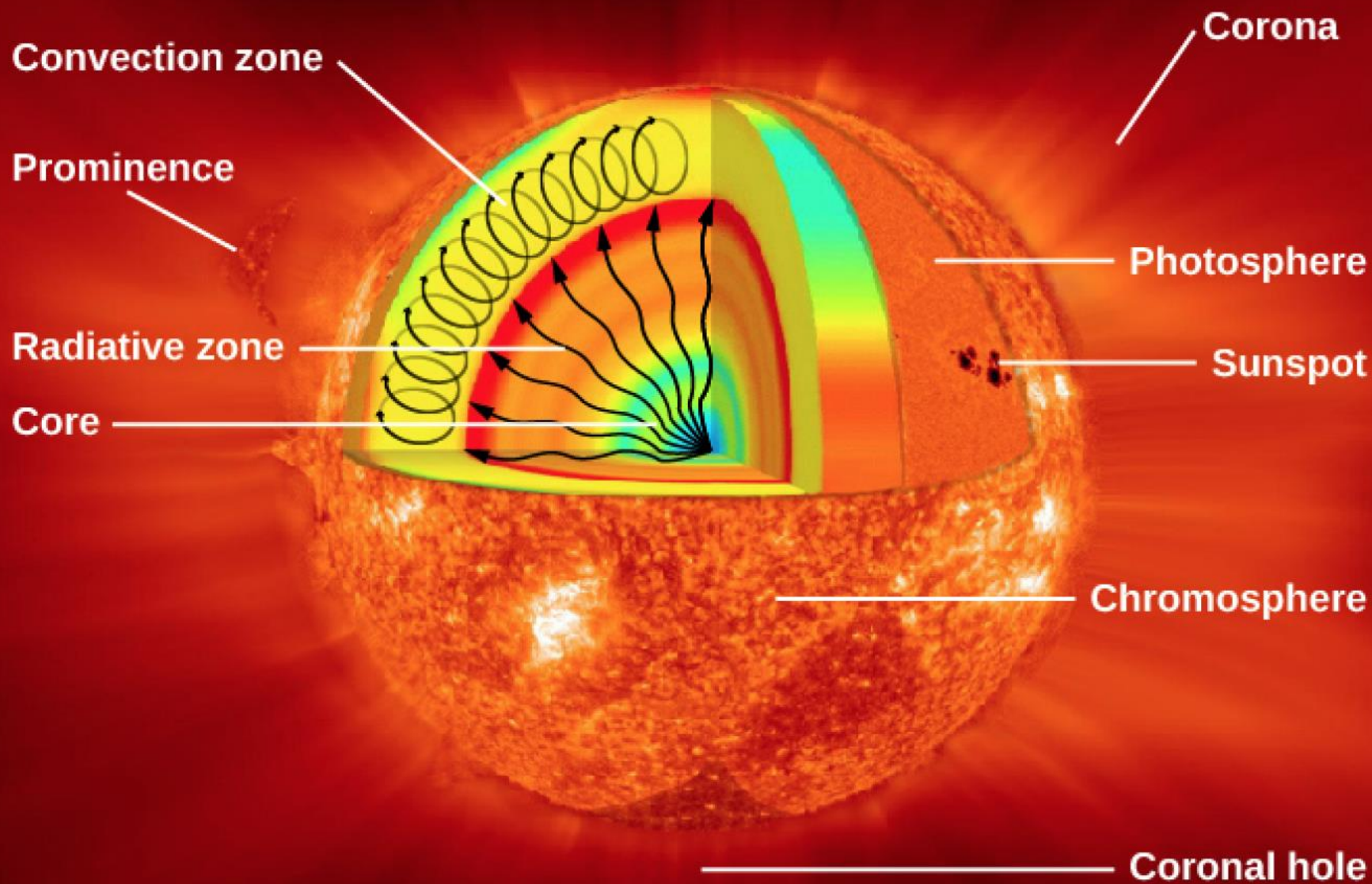
Summary

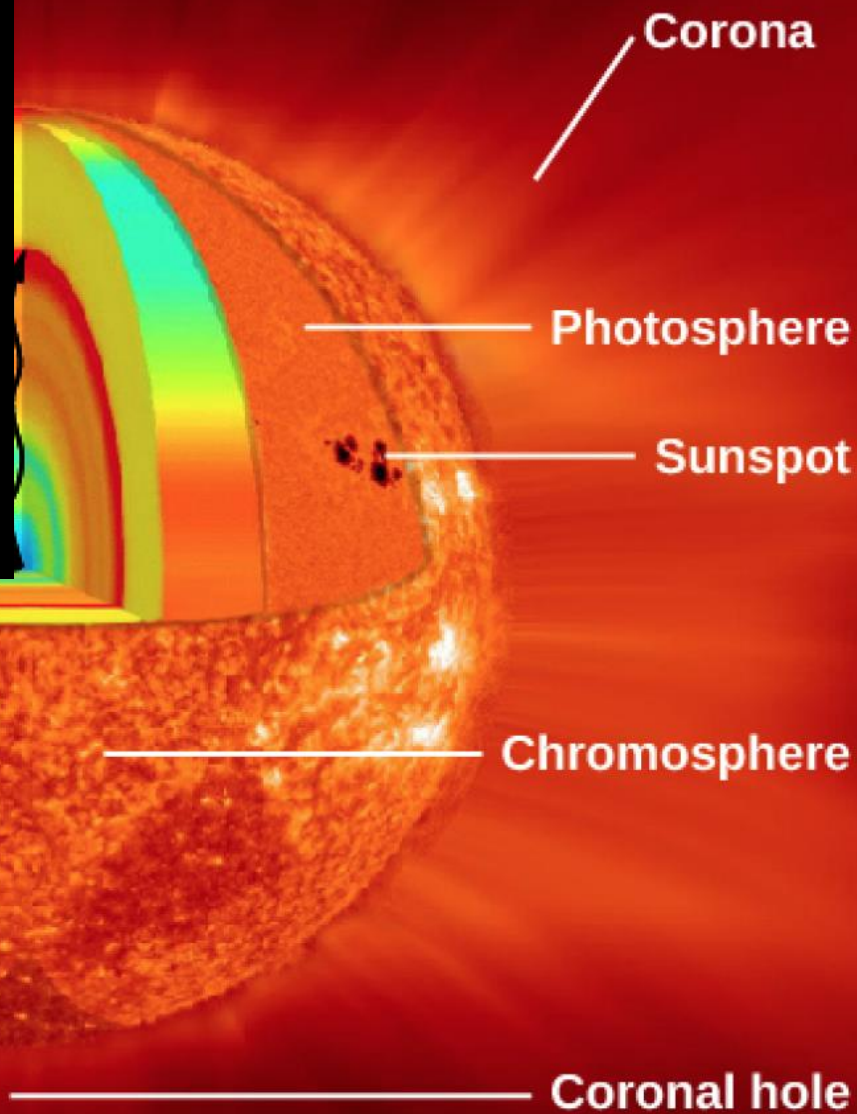
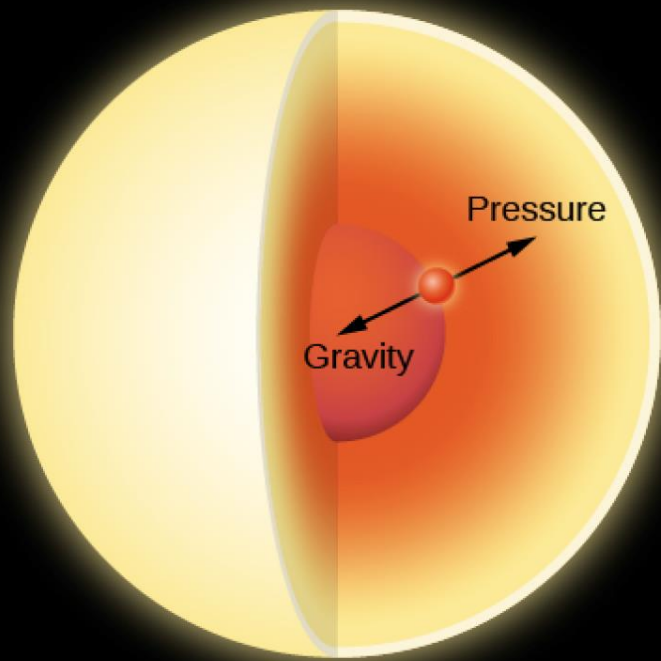
For Further Exploration

Collaborative Group Activities

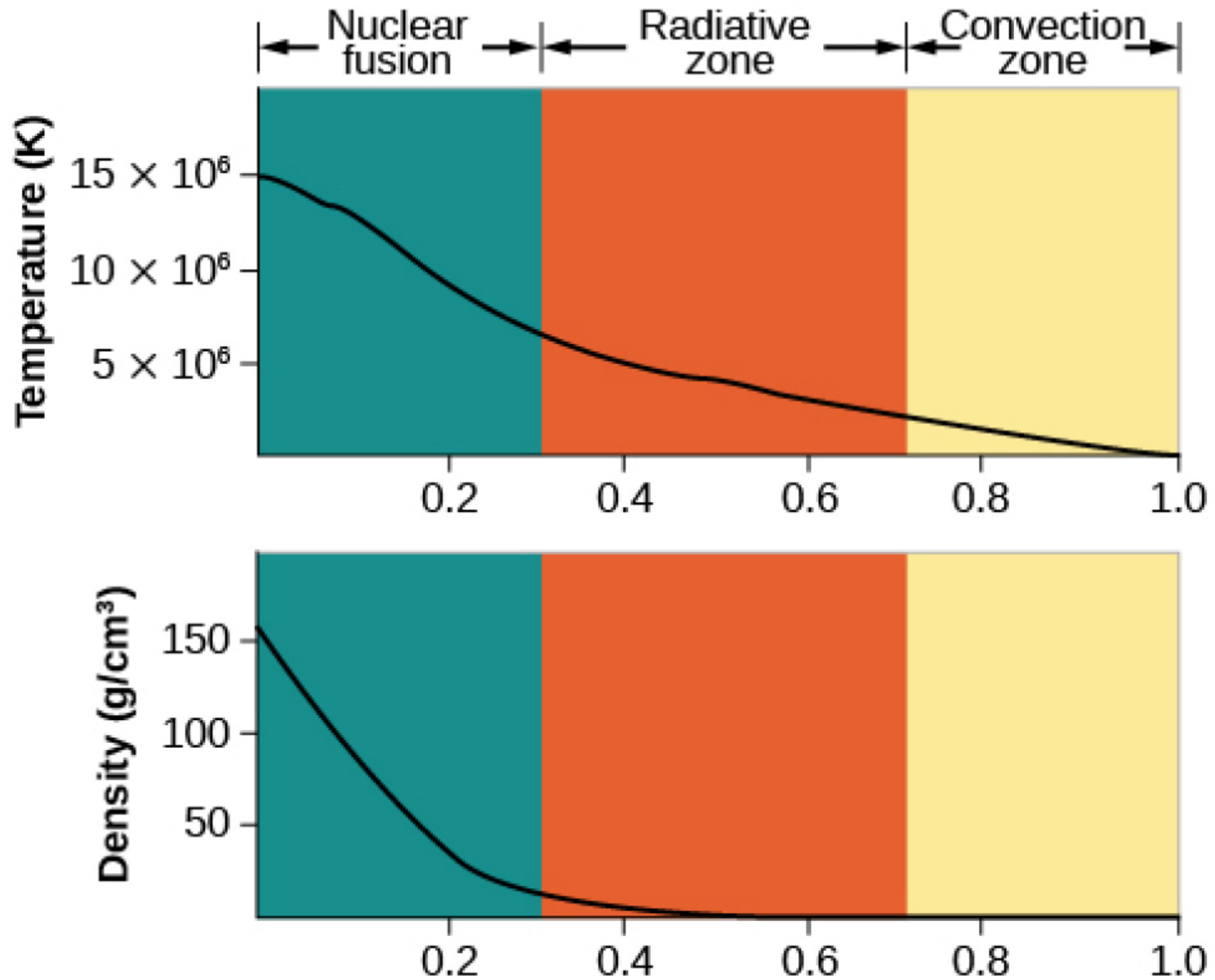
► Exercises





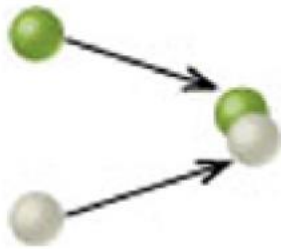


Core of the sun: very dense, 15 million K



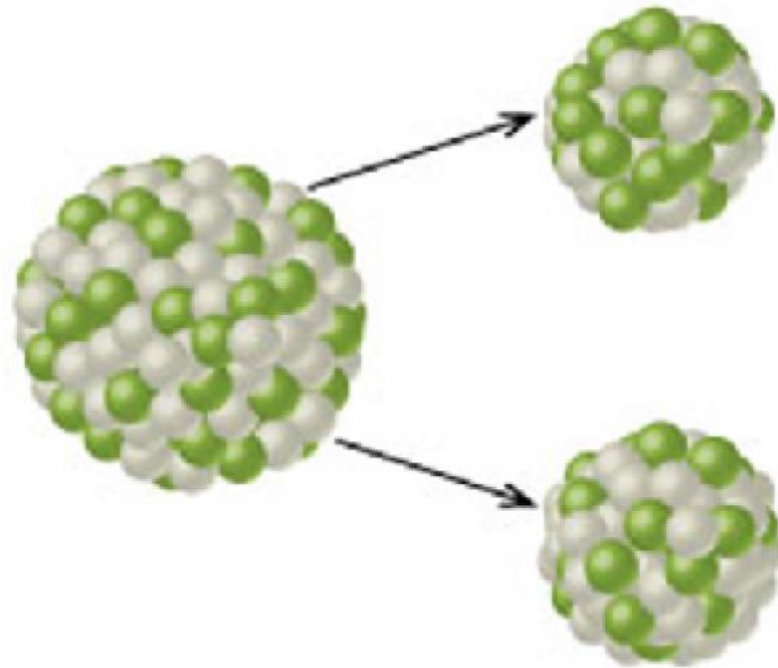
# Fusion

2 light => 1 heavy

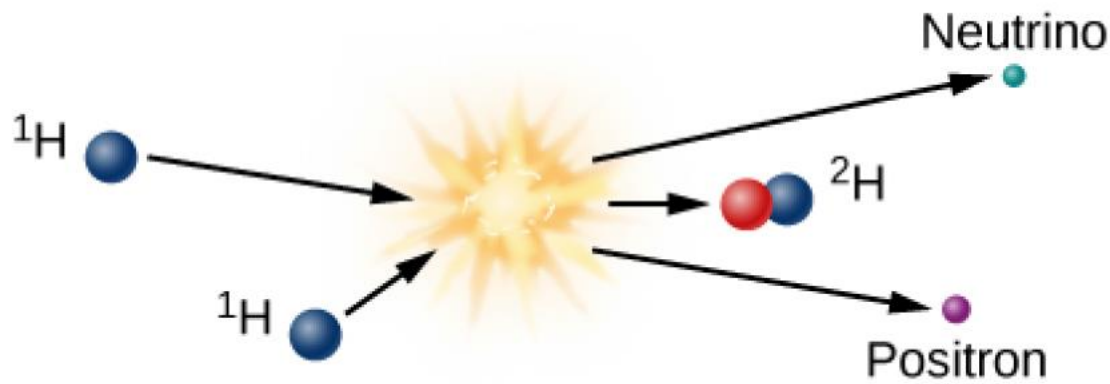


# Fission

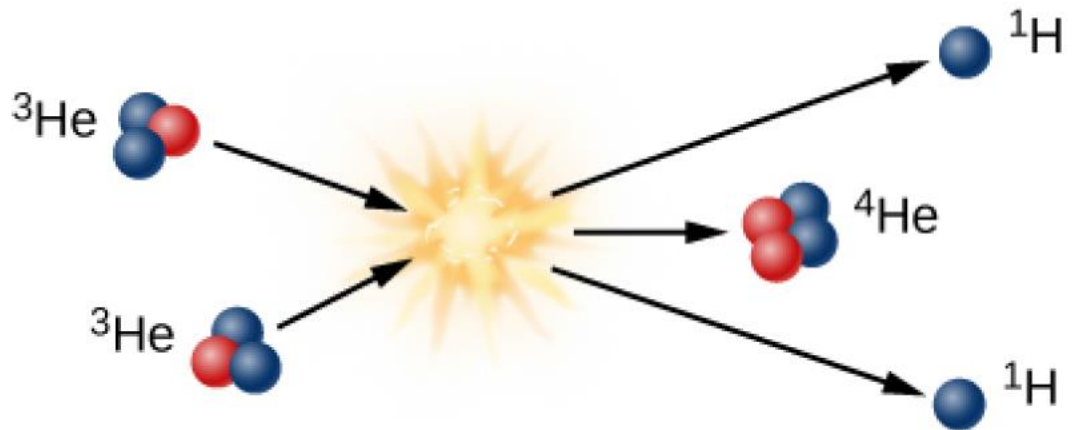
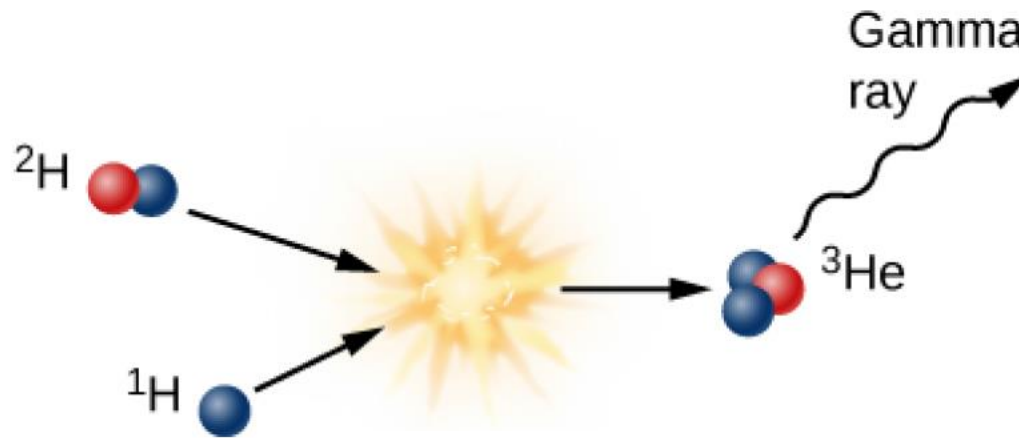
1 heavy => 2 light

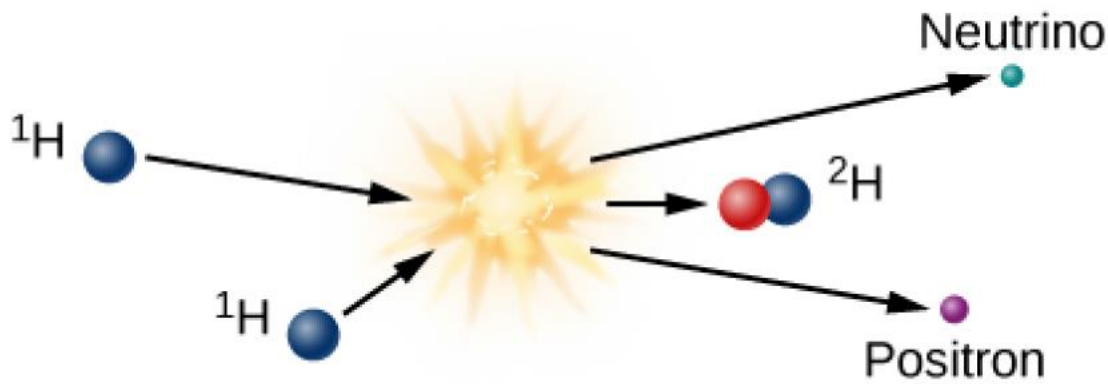






Fusion at core  
4 Hydrogen atoms  
turns into 1 He atom





Fusion at core  
 4 Hydrogen atoms  
 turns into 1 He atom

Atomic weights

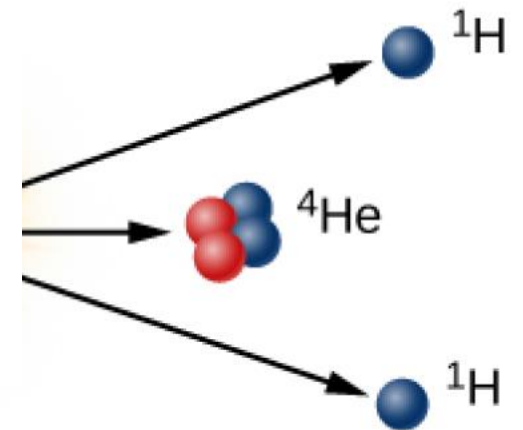
4 H: 4.032  
 1 He: 4.003

Lose 0.7% of the mass:  
 it turns into energy!

$$E=mc^2$$

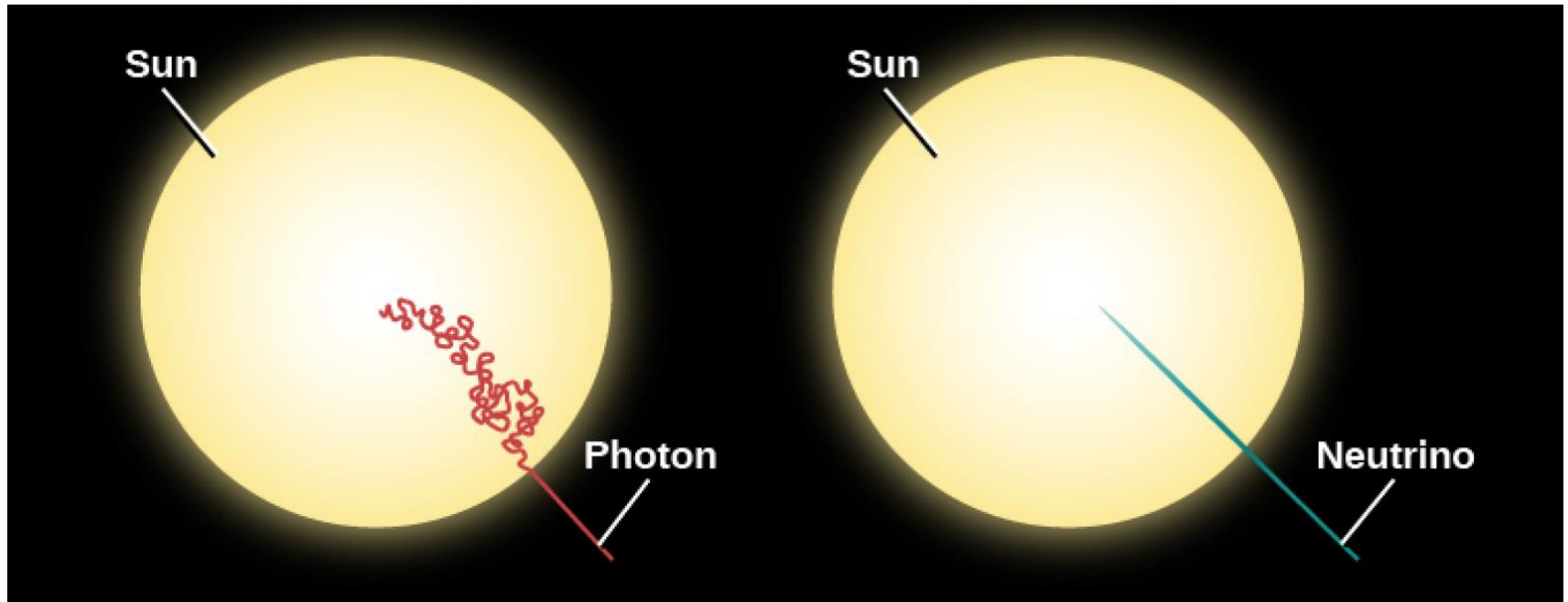
(c=speed of light, E=energy,  
 m=mass)

na





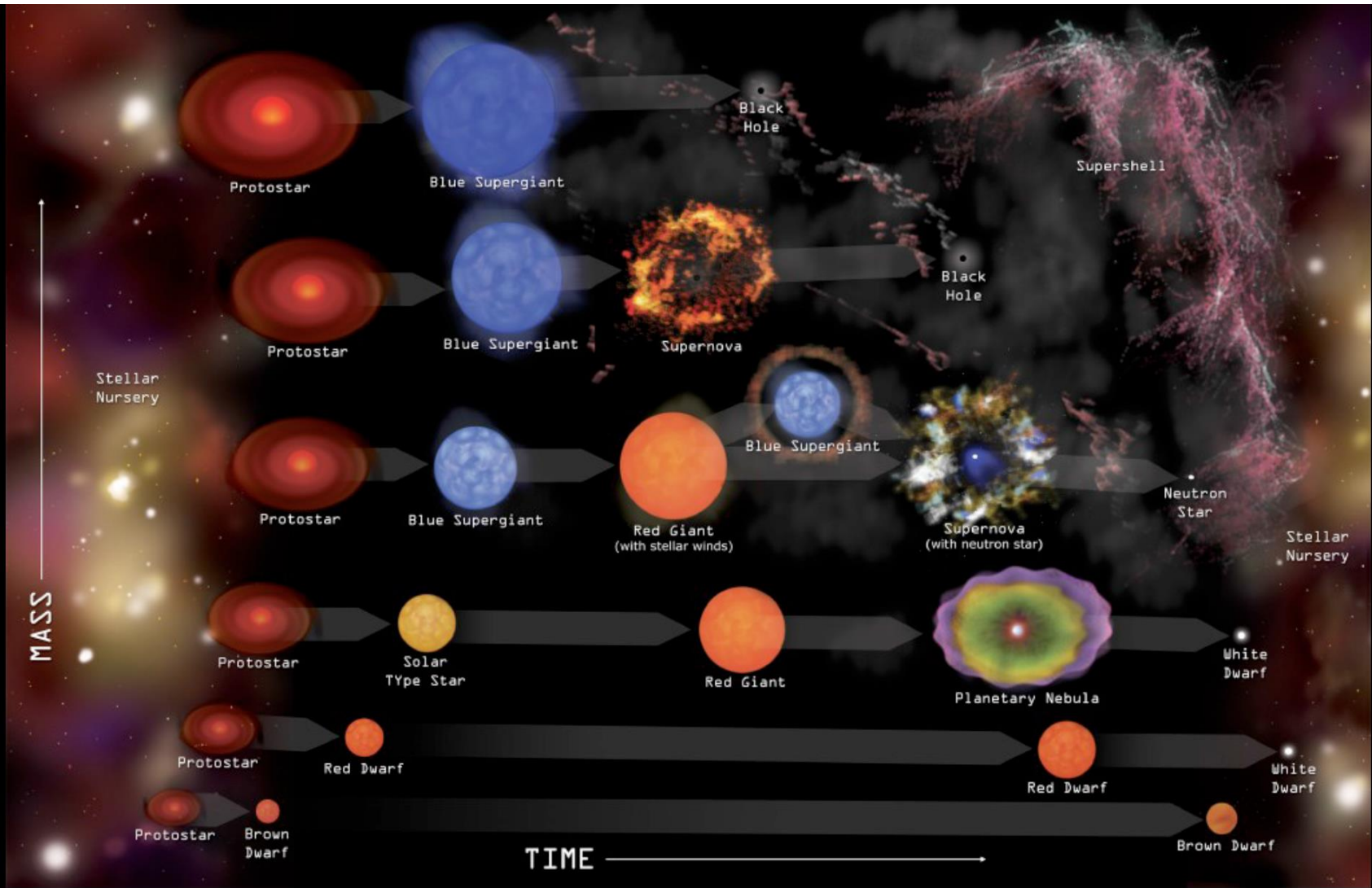
How long does it take energy to escape from the sun's core?



Most energy: 1 million years!

Neutrinos: do not interact with matter, so escapes immediately

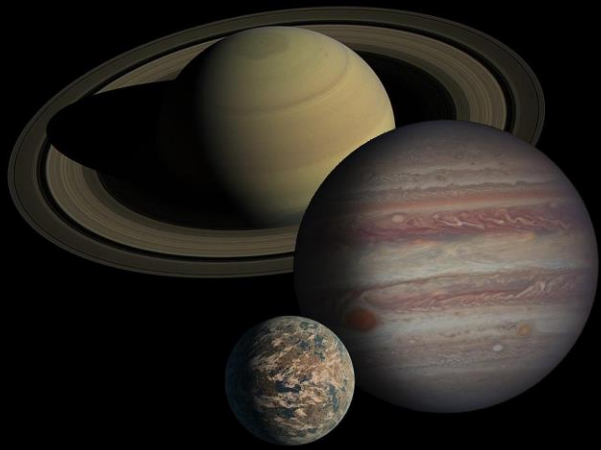
Solar neutrino problem: recent Nobel Prize



# Brown dwarfs

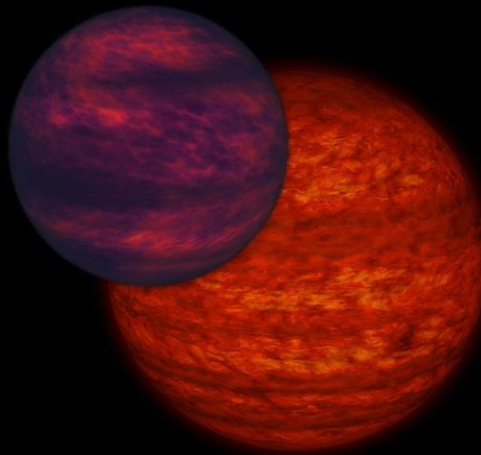
- Central temperature in core: depends on mass
- Very faint, cool, and red: hard to find!

## Planets & Exoplanets



Up to ~13x  
Jupiter's mass

## Brown Dwarfs



~13x to 80x  
Jupiter's mass

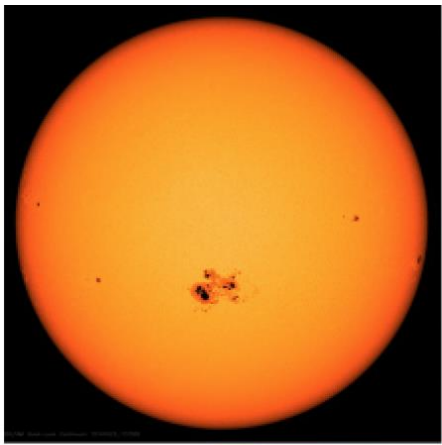
## Stars

(Fueled by Nuclear Fusion)



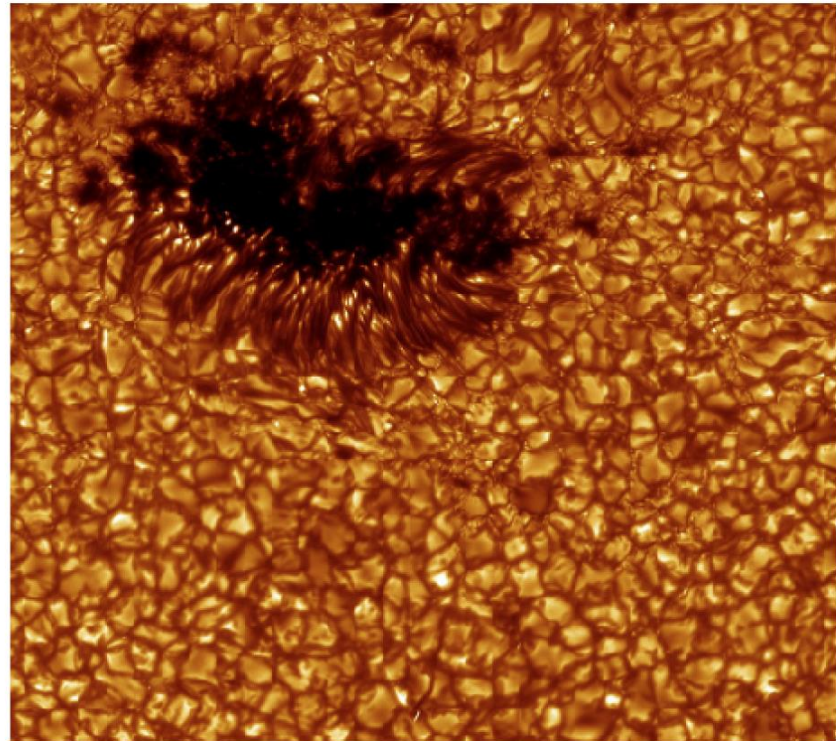
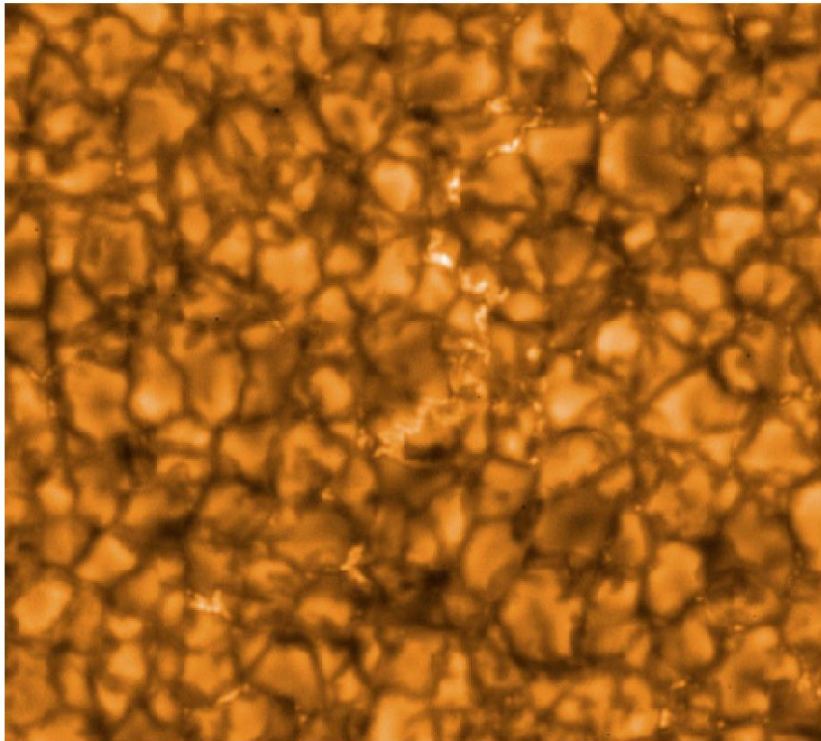
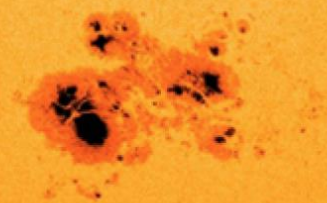
Over ~80x  
Jupiter's mass



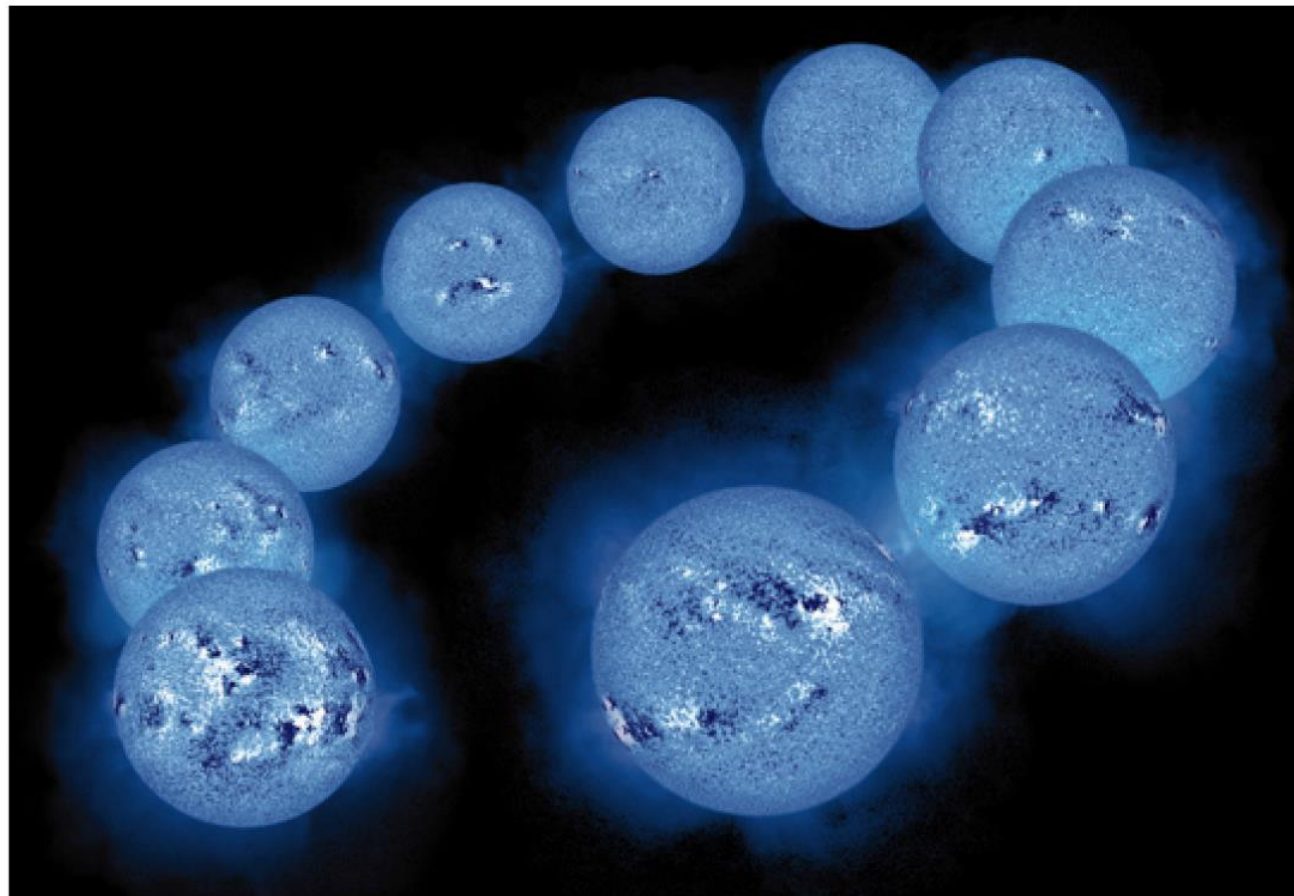


# Sunspots and magnetic activity

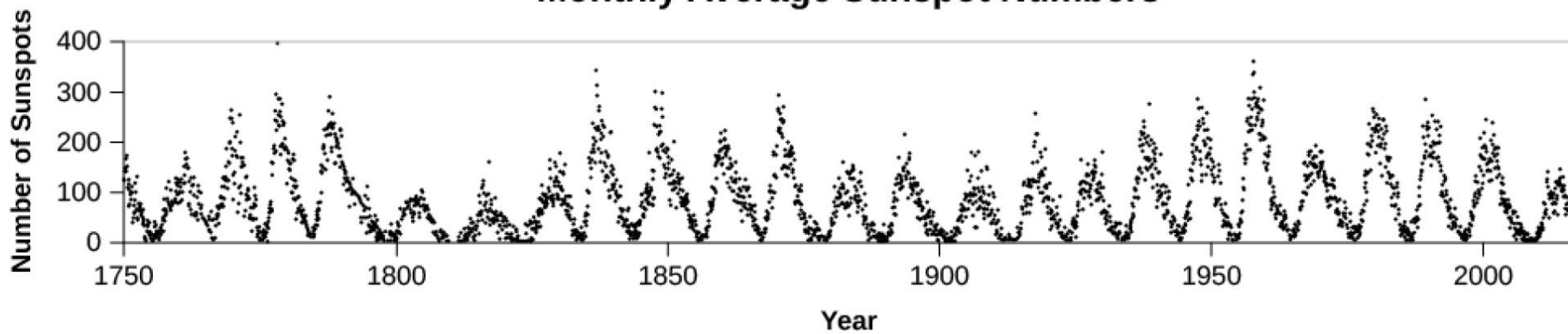
Approximate size of Earth → ●



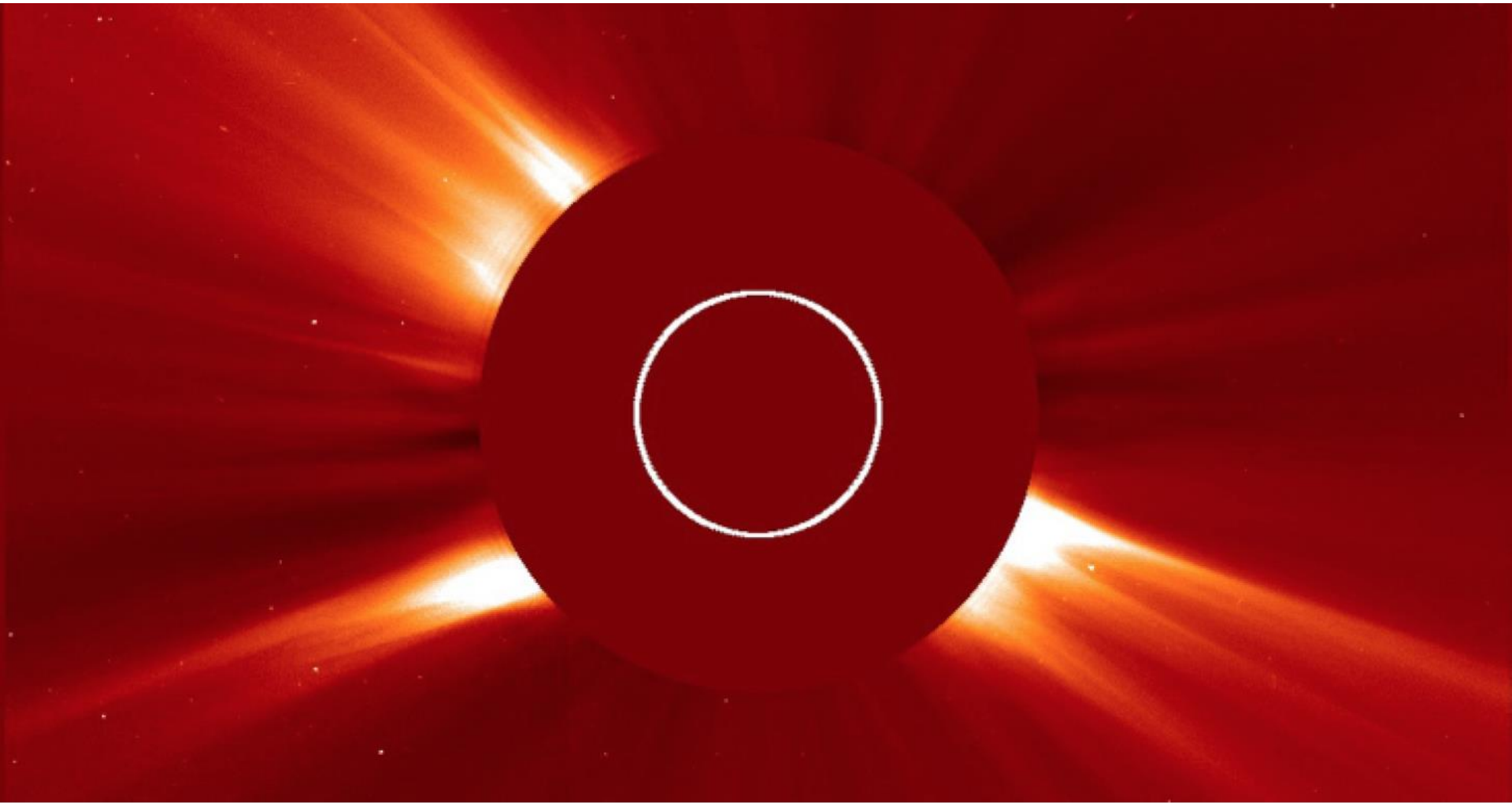
11 year  
magnetic cycles



Monthly Average Sunspot Numbers





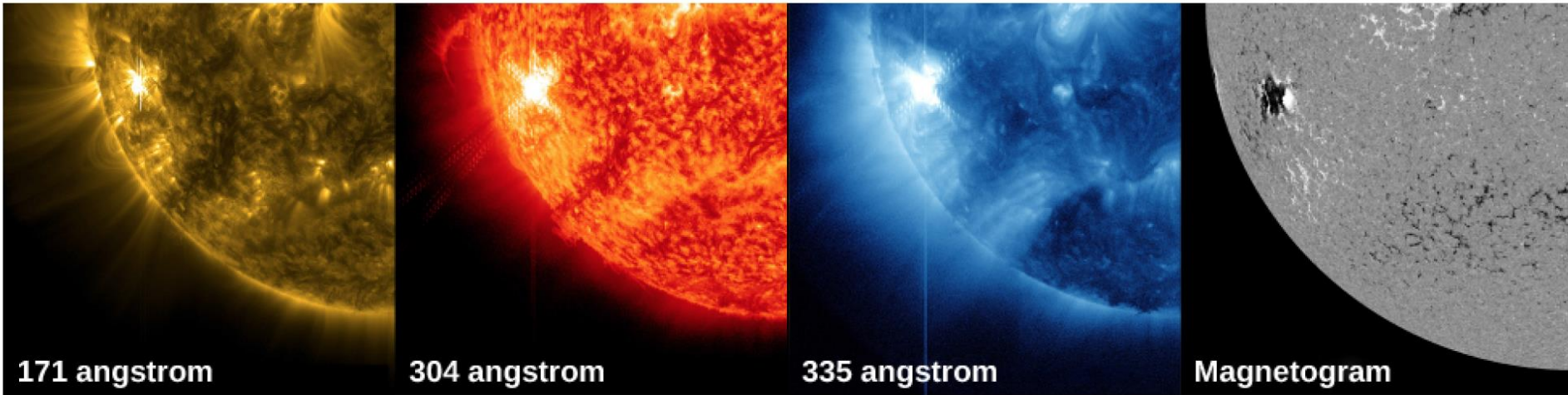






“WHITE SATIN”

© TODD SALAT  
AURORAHUNTER.COM

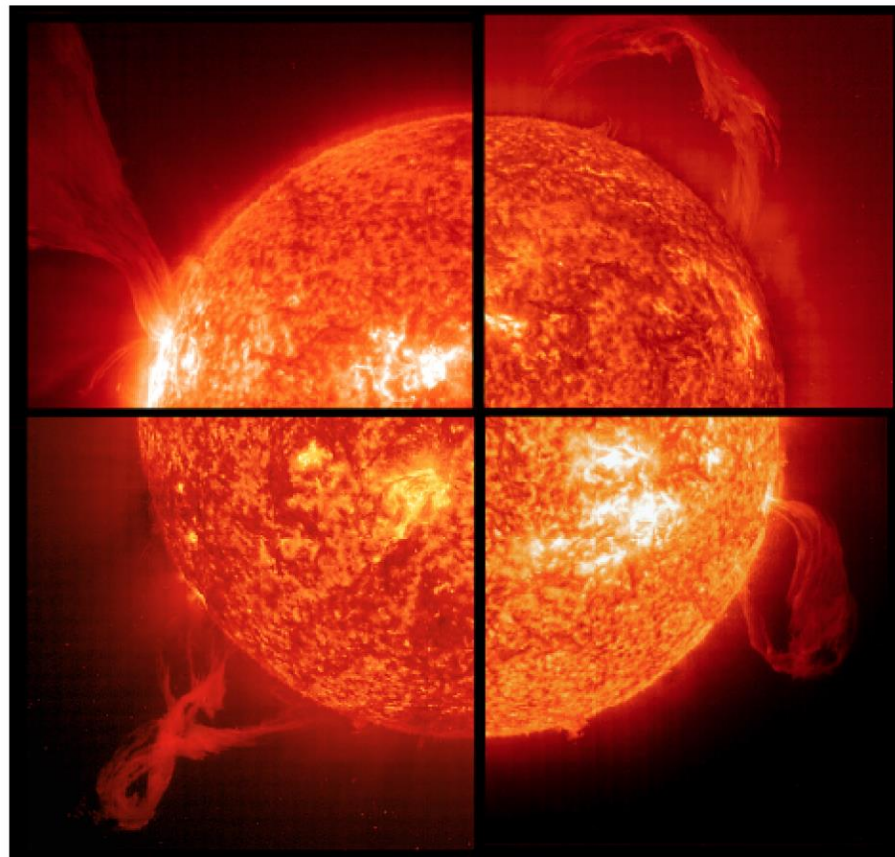
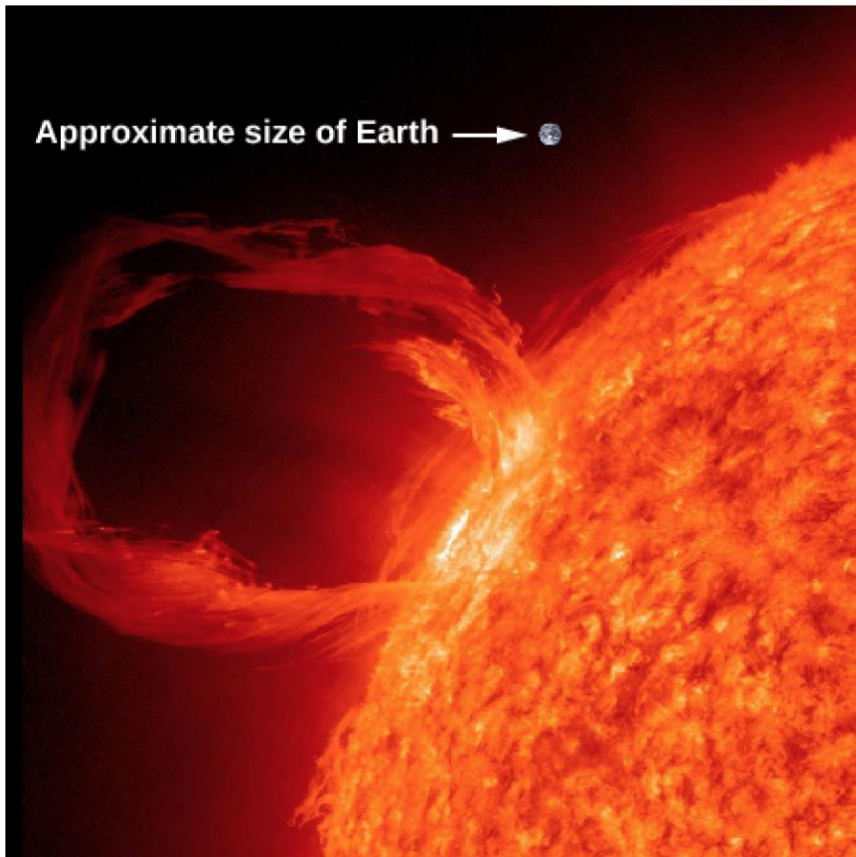


Sun: looks different at different wavelengths:  
magnetic activity!

Flares, coronal mass ejections, corona



Approximate size of Earth →





# Important concepts for lecture 2

- HR Diagram: how we understand stars and stellar evolution
  - Apparent magnitude: the magnitude we see
  - Absolute magnitude (luminosity): corrected for distance
  - x-axis: temperature (measured from spectra or colors)
- Main sequence: where stars spend most of their life
  - H burning
- After H burning: stars become giants
  - Core shrinks until He burning
- Fusion: lighter elements => heavier elements
  - Difference in mass converted to energy
  - Occurs in very hot core
- Sun: we see the cool photosphere in optical light
  - Hot corona in X-rays
- Stars often born in clusters:
  - same time, same location+proper motion





**Part II:  
Star Formation,  
Stellar Evolution, and the  
Stellar Graveyard**

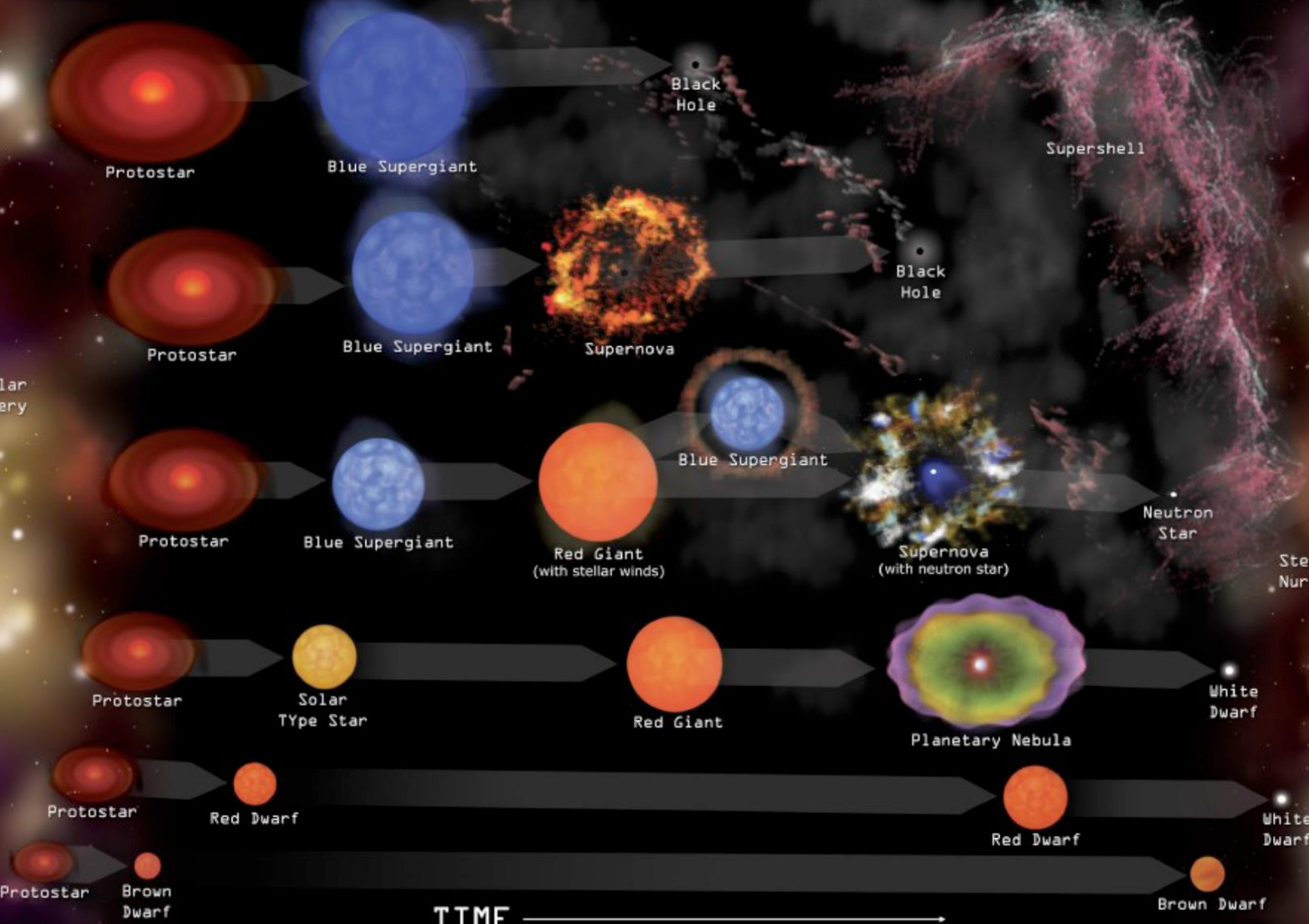


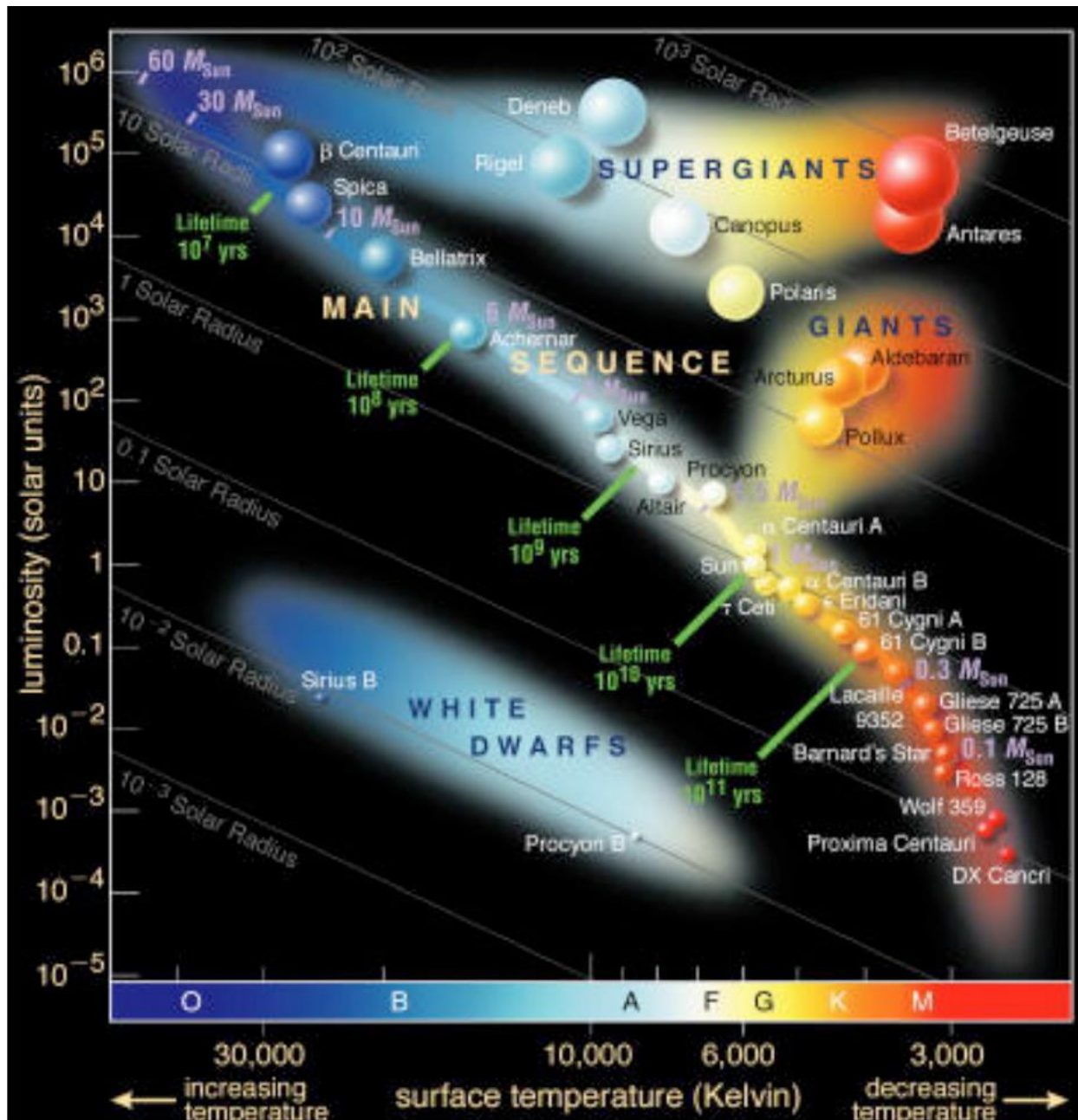
MASS

TIME

Stellar  
Nursery

Stellar  
Nursery







Clusters: stars born at same time and travel together in space

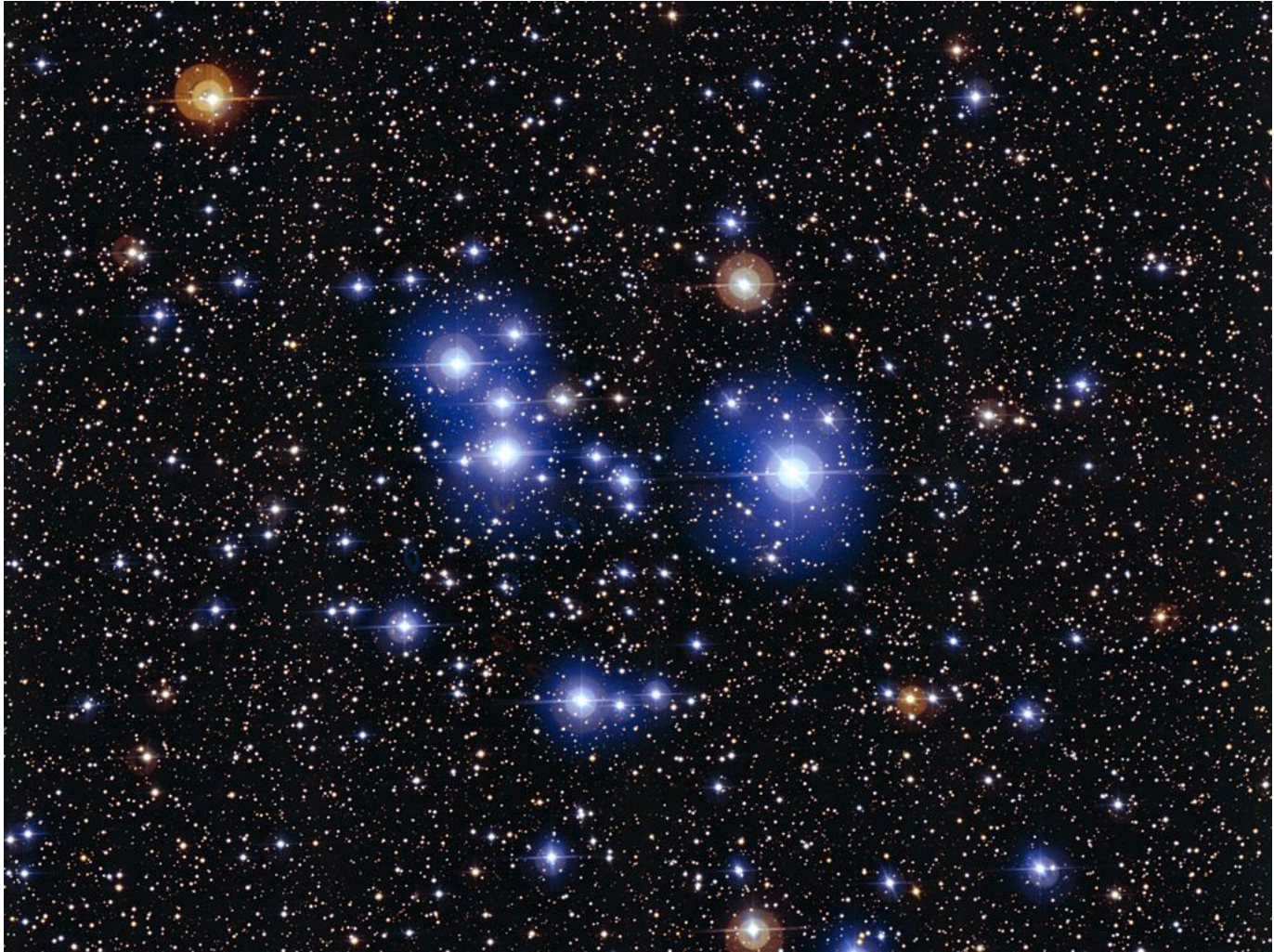


# Pleiades (seven sisters, Subaru)

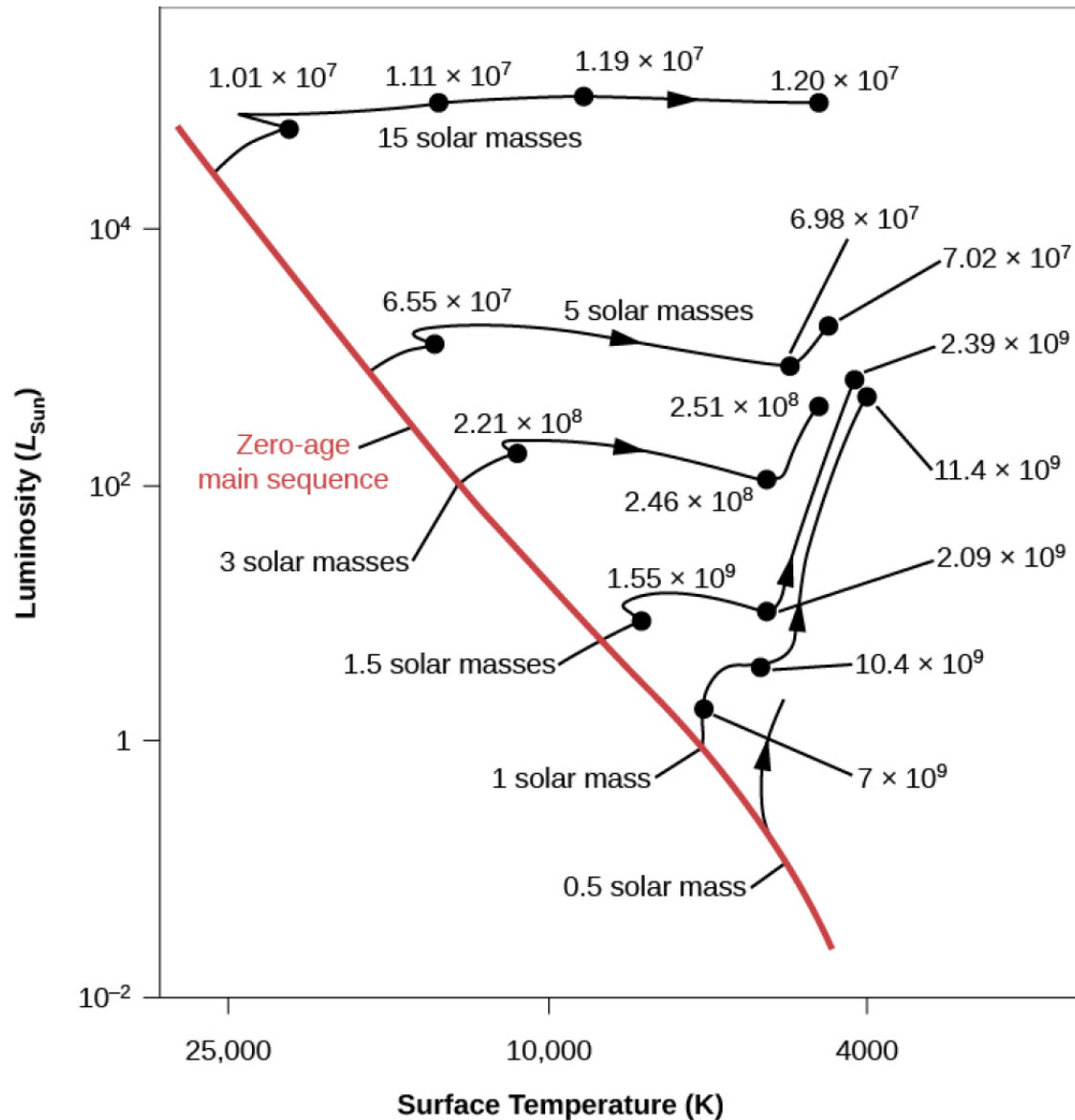




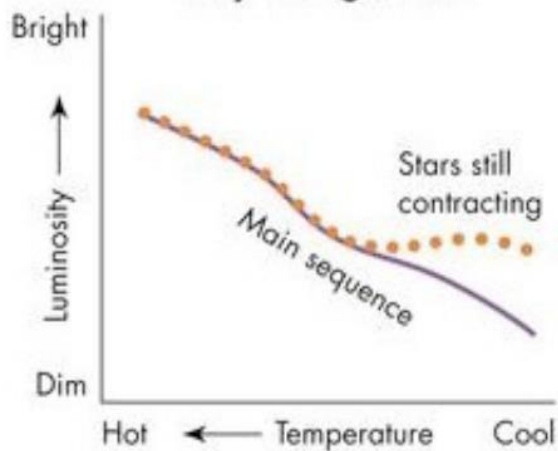
# Pleiades: famous and benchmark cluster for young stars



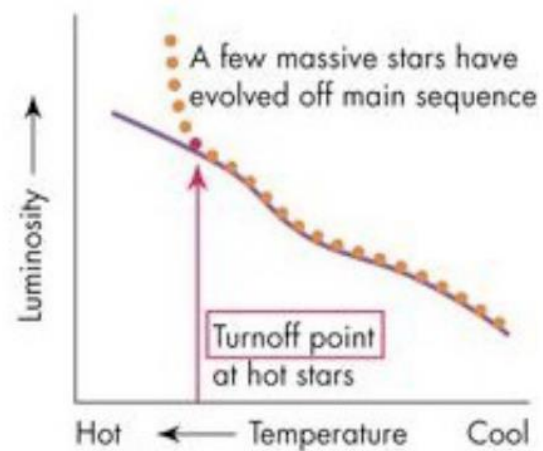
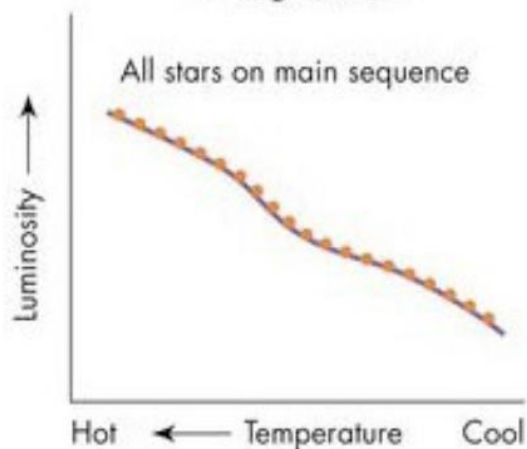
# Location of stars tells us age of cluster



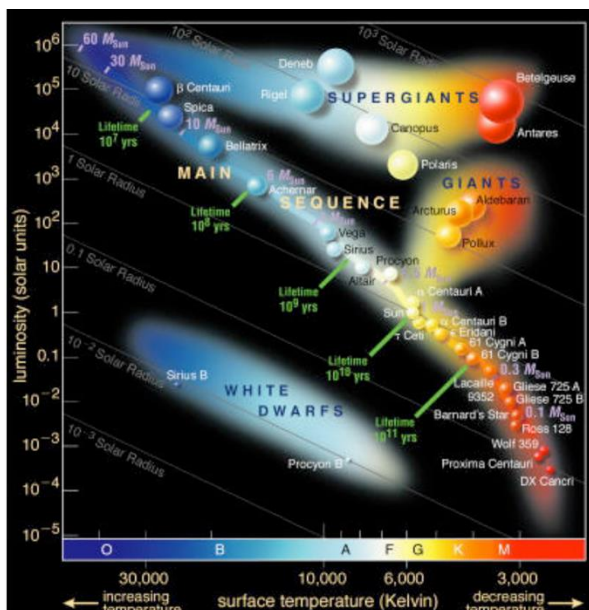
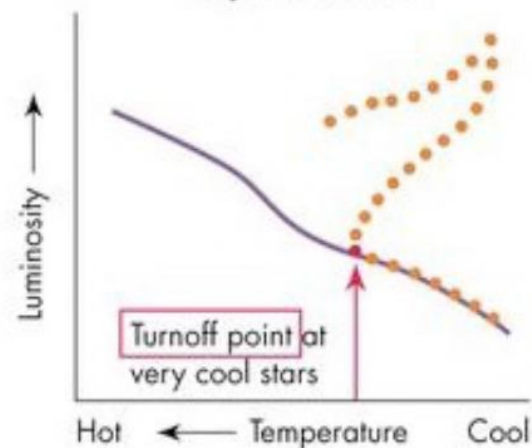
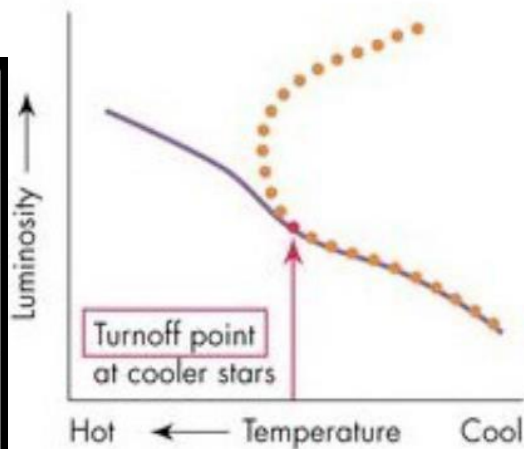
### Very Young Cluster



### Young Cluster



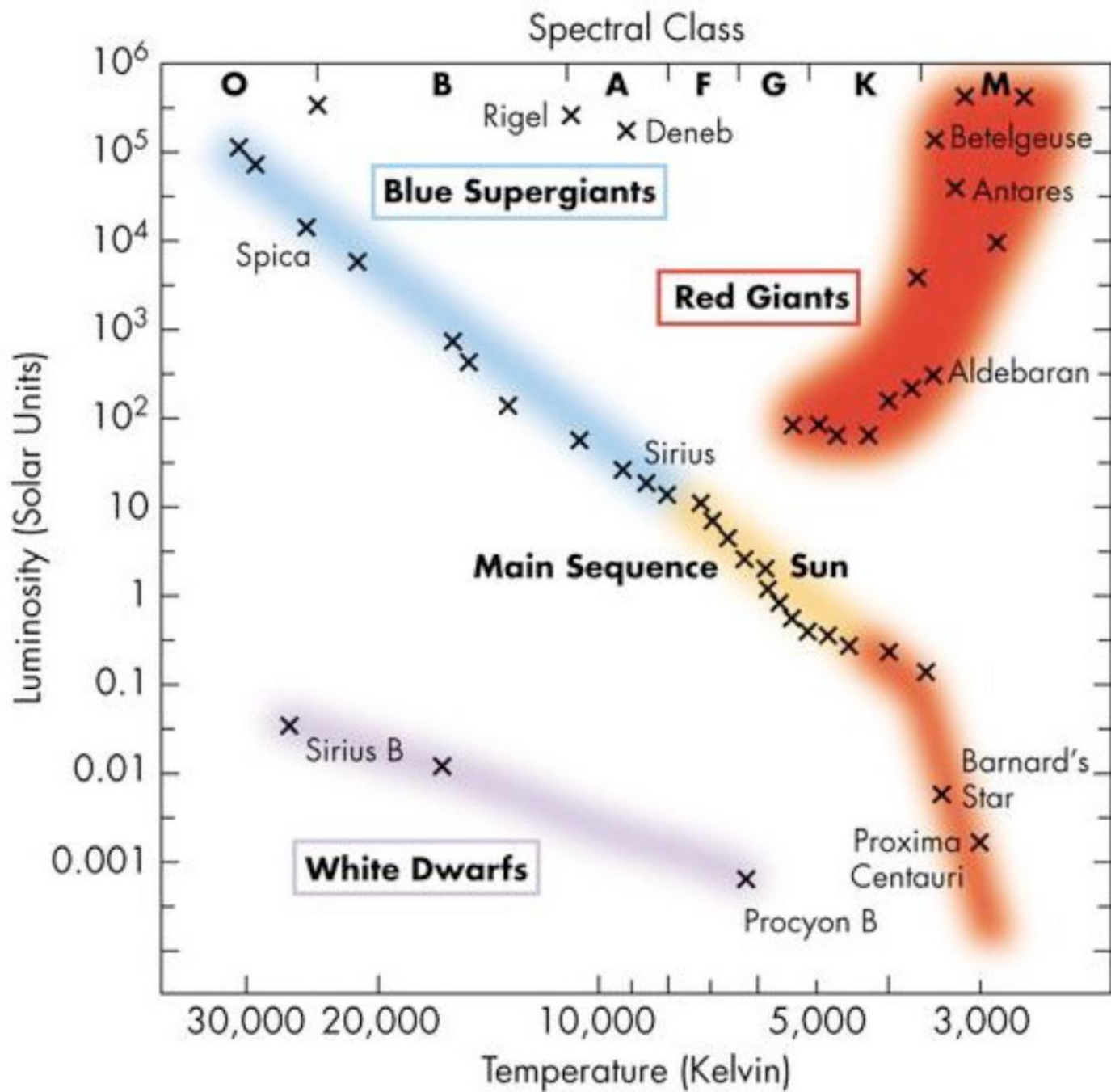
### Very Old Cluster

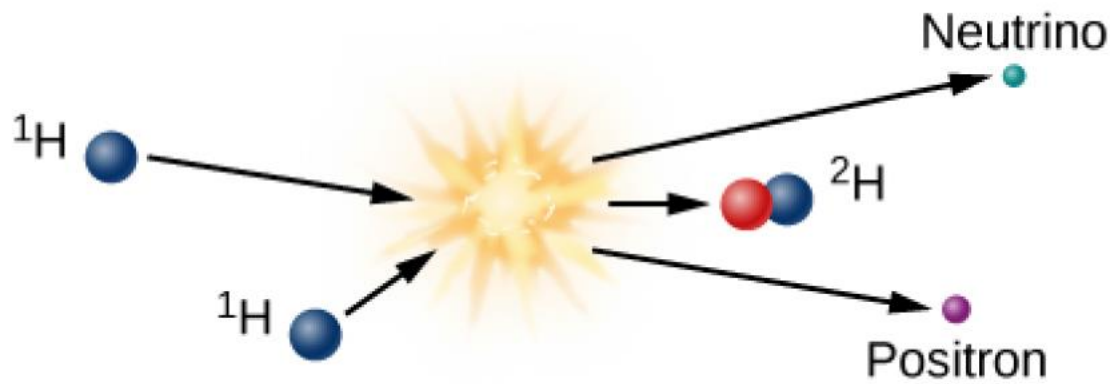


# Key concepts

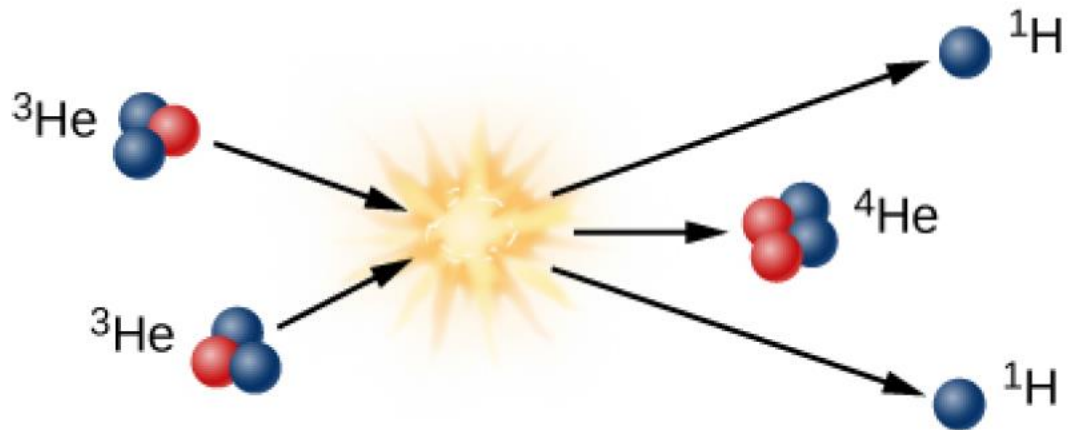
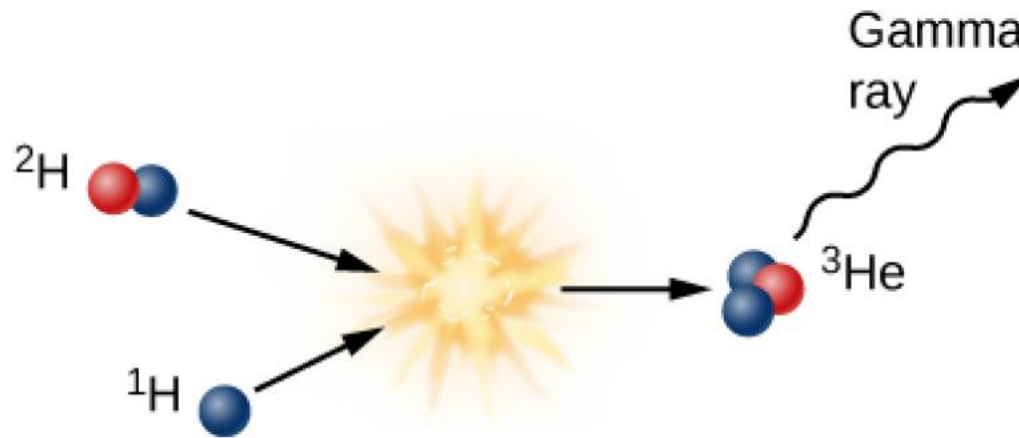
- **Blackbody radiation:** temperature/color of star
- **Main sequence:** where a star spends most of its life
  - Hydrogen burning in core
- **Hydrogen burning:** how most stars get energy
- **Core:** hot core where H burns
- **Stellar evolution:** how star changes, from birth to death
- **HR Diagram:** Luminosity and temperature of stars
  - How we understand stars and stellar evolution
- **Molecular cloud:** dense material where stars form
- **White dwarfs:** end state of the sun and low-mass stars
- **Neutron stars/black holes:** end state of high-mass stars
- **Supernova!**
- **Origin of the Elements:** mostly in stars+explosions

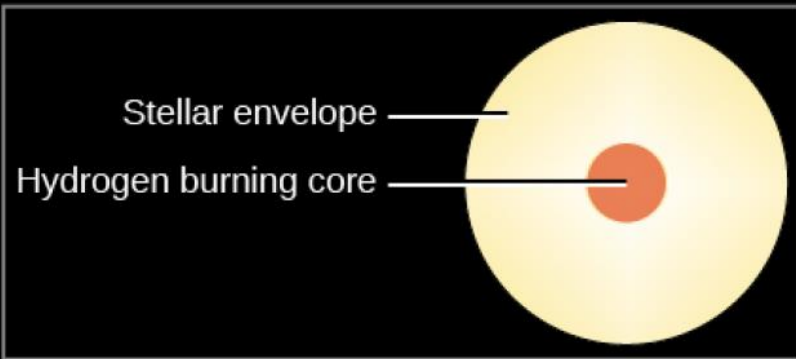




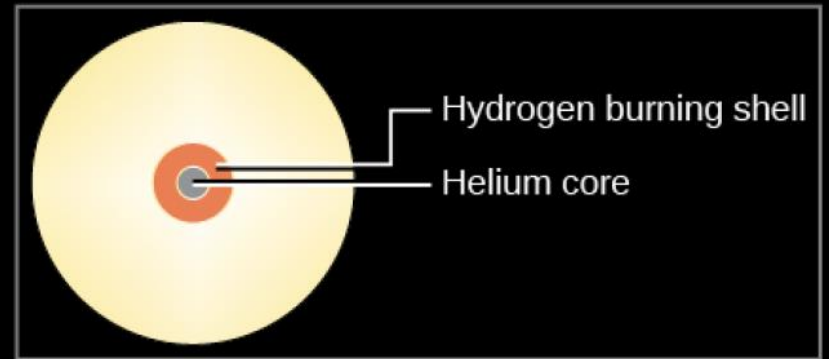


Fusion at core  
4 Hydrogen atoms  
turns into 1 He atom





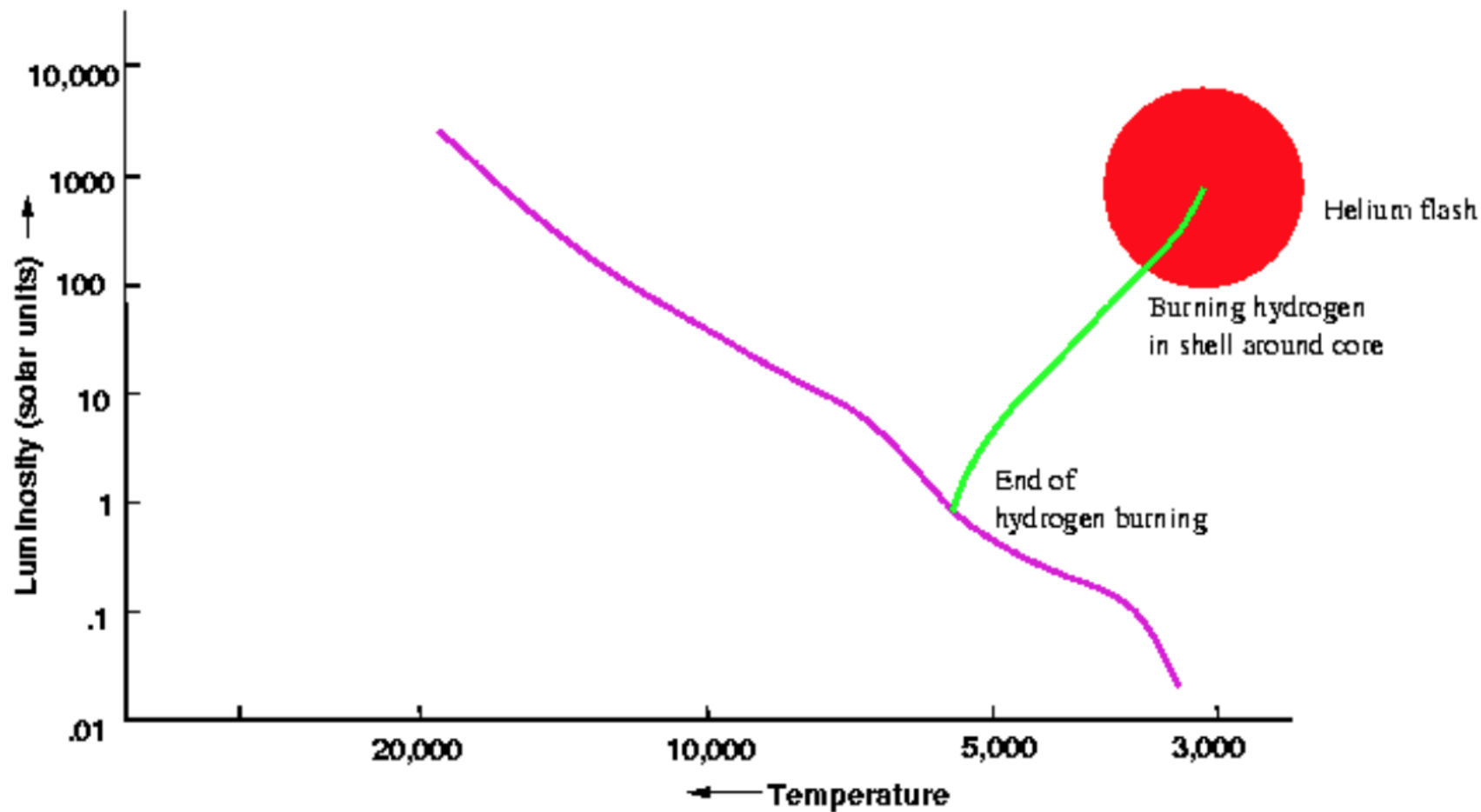
(a)



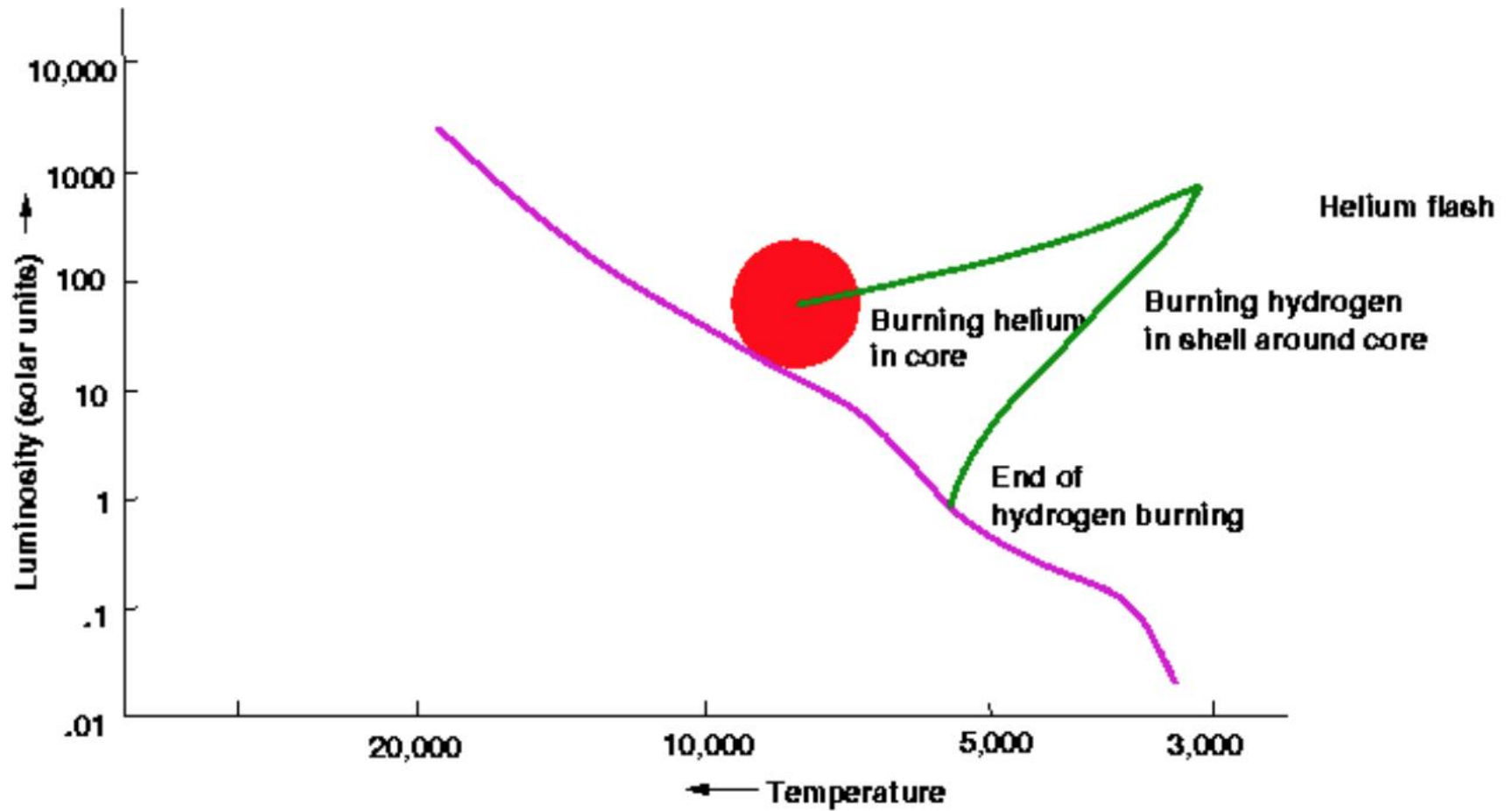
(b)

**Main sequence: Hydrogen  
burning in core**

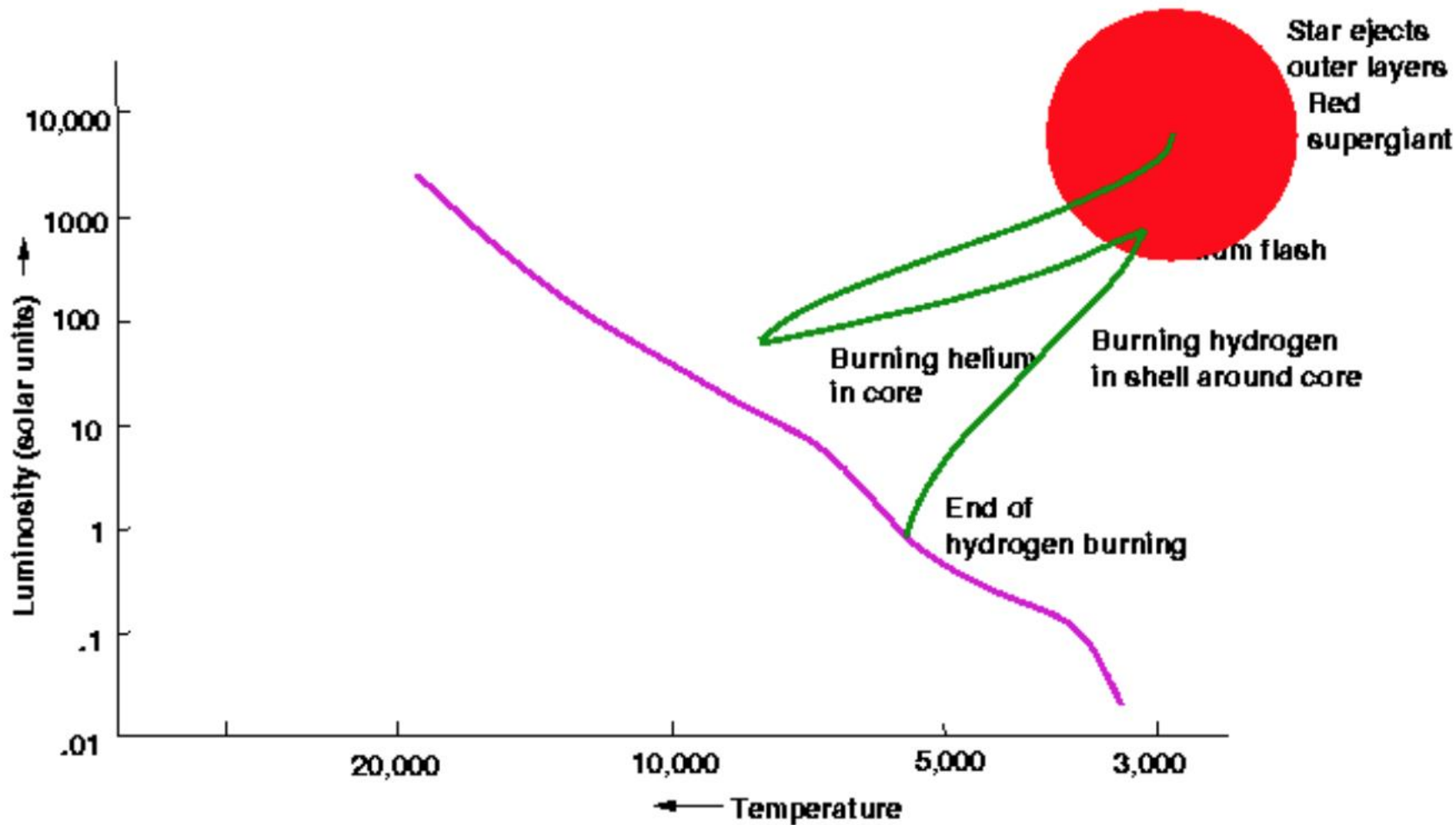
**What happens when the core  
runs out of Hydrogen?**

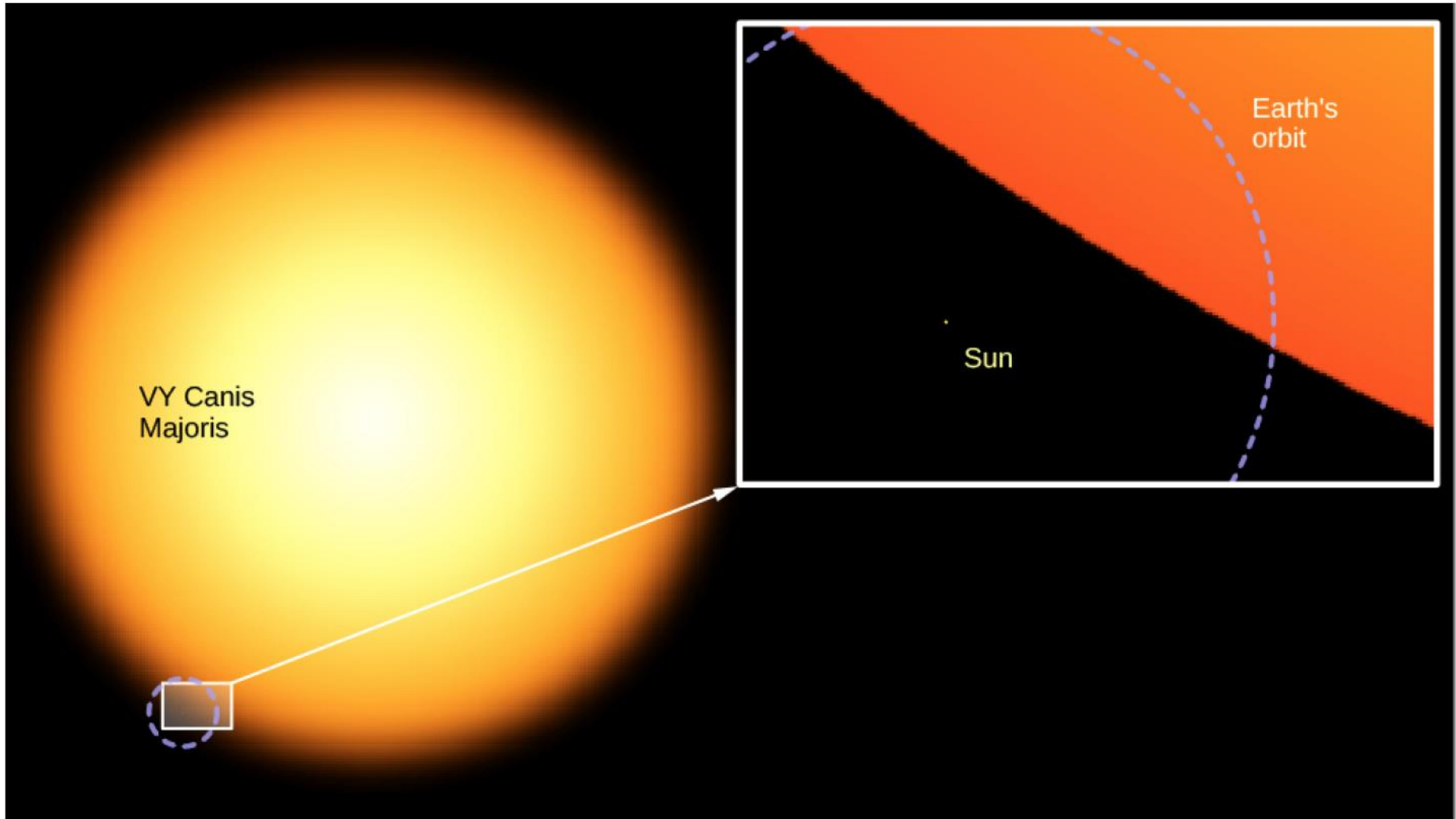




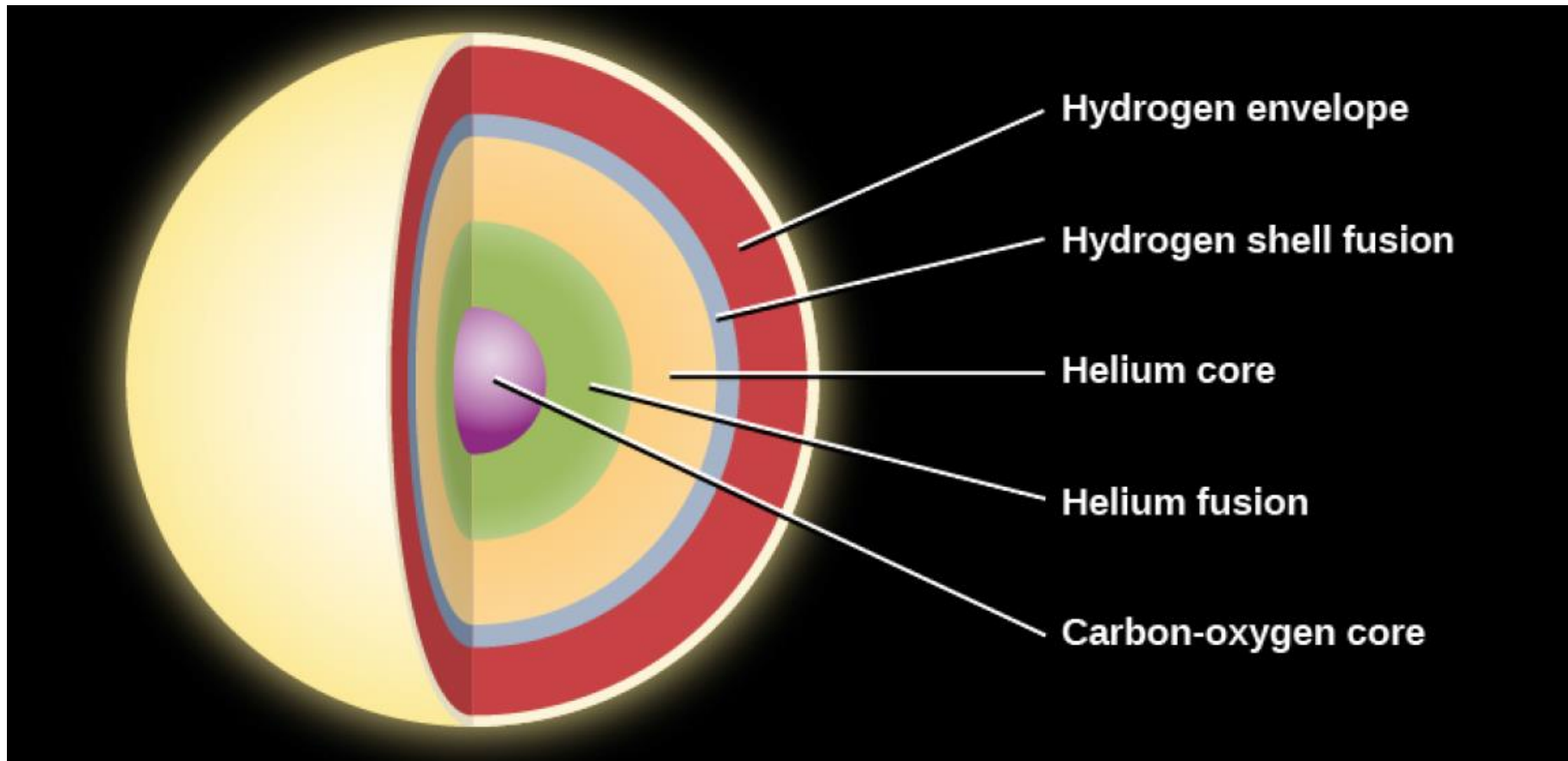


# Evolution of a solar-mass star



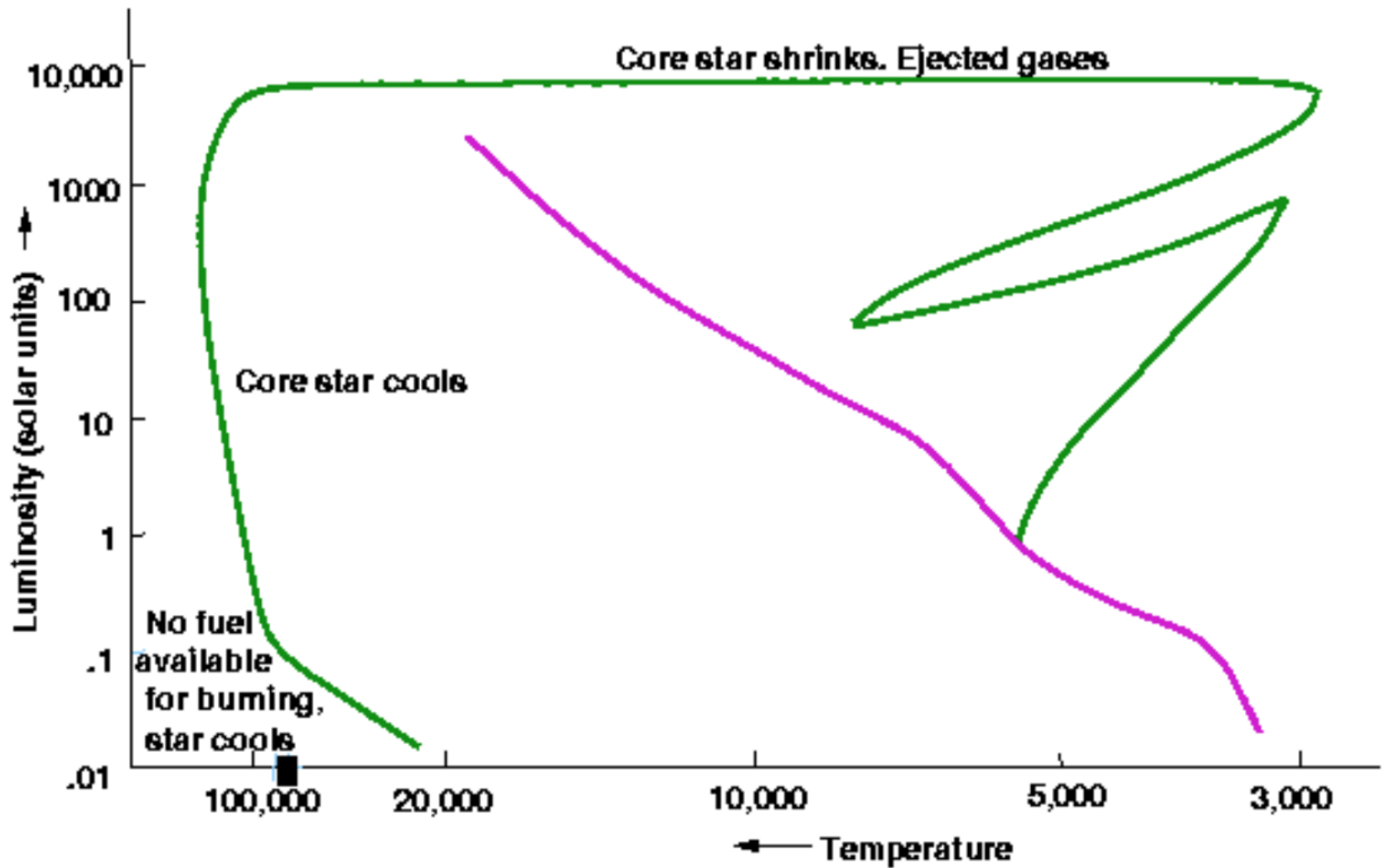


# Interior structure of evolved star; Will lose the envelope (outer region)

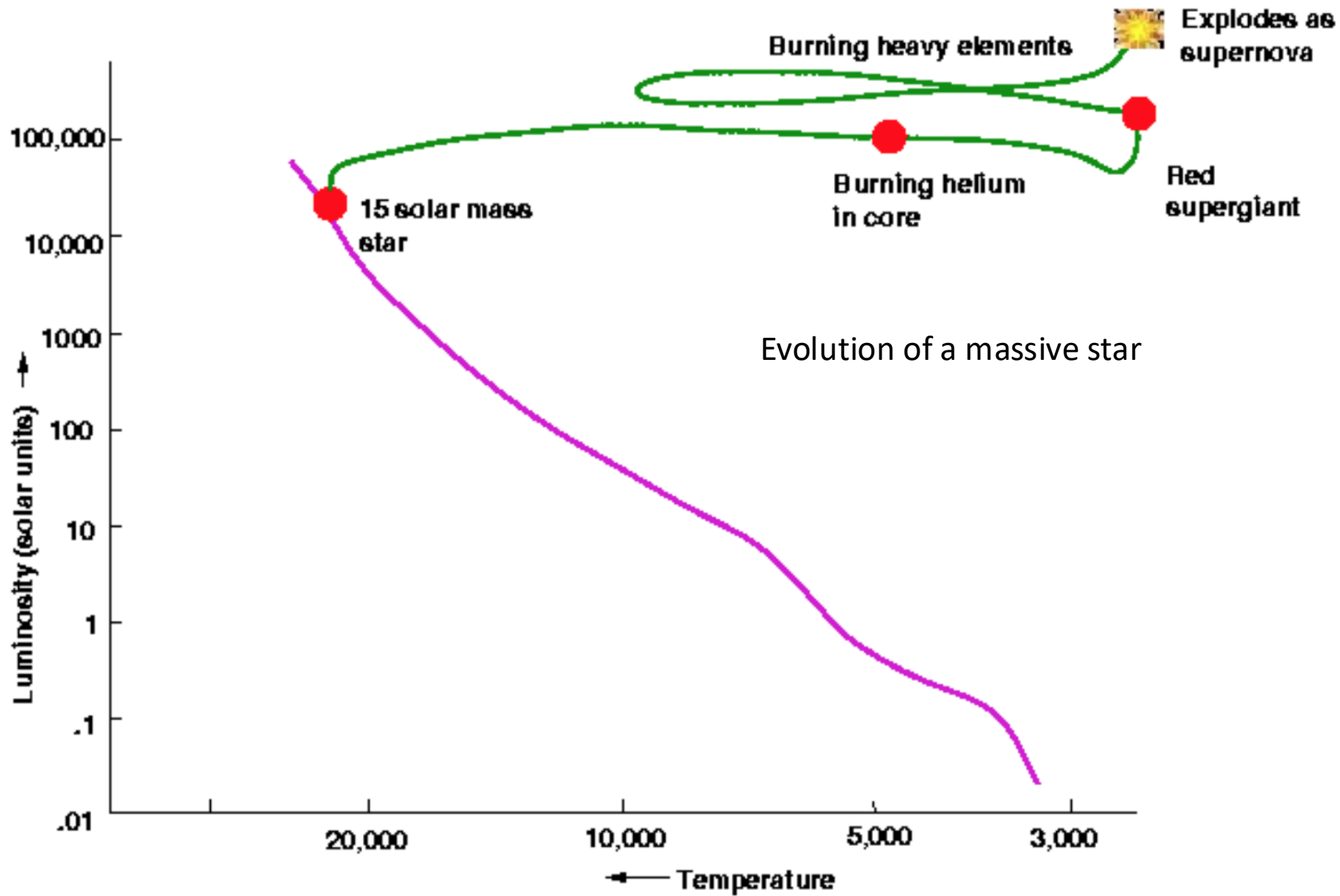


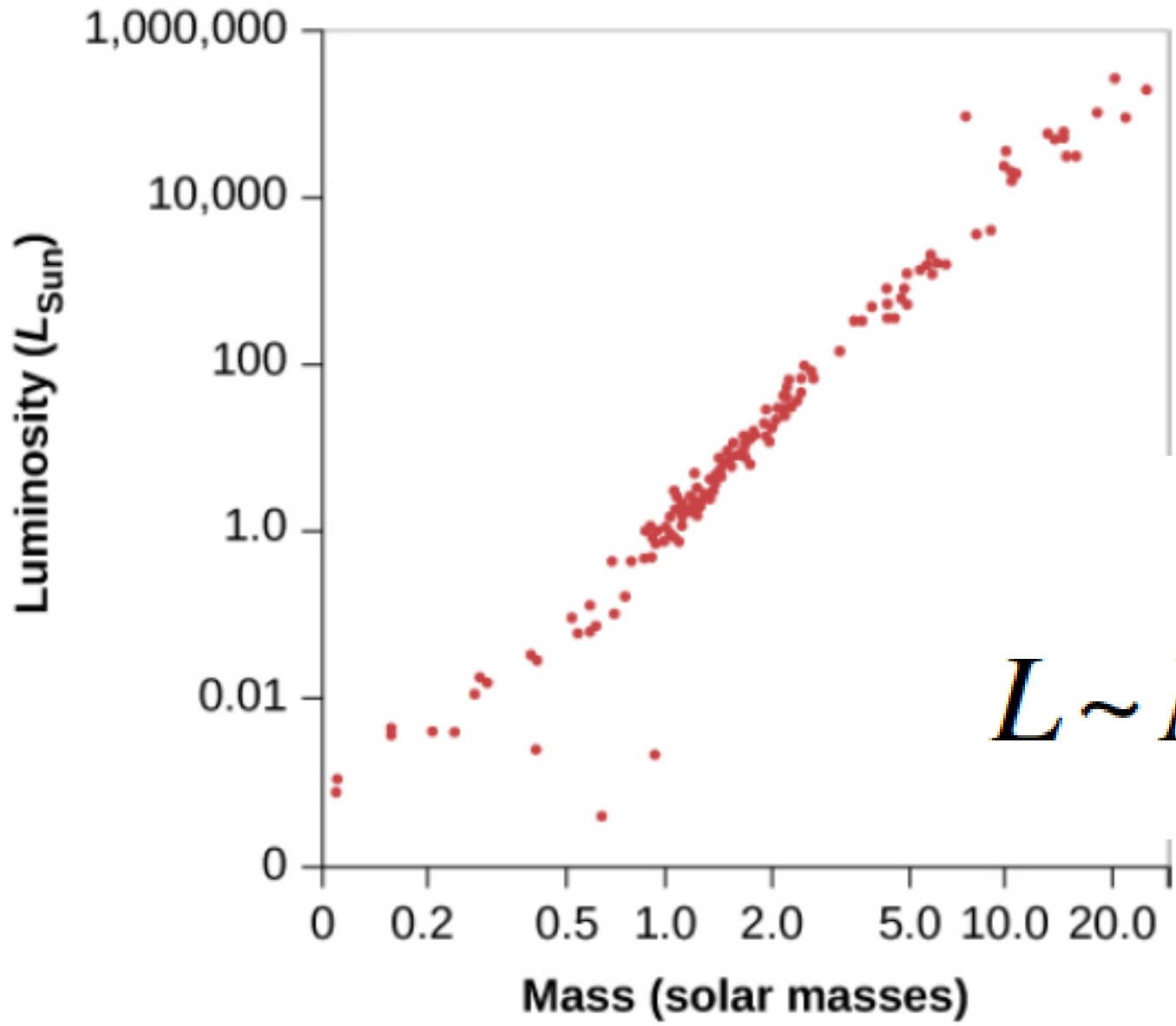


# Evolution of a solar-mass star



Stage	Time in This Stage (years)	Surface Temperature (K)	Luminosity ( $L_{\text{Sun}}$ )	Diameter (Sun = 1)
Main sequence	11 billion	6000	1	1
Becomes red giant	1.3 billion	3100 at minimum	2300 at maximum	165
Helium fusion	100 million	4800	50	10
Giant again	20 million	3100	5200	180

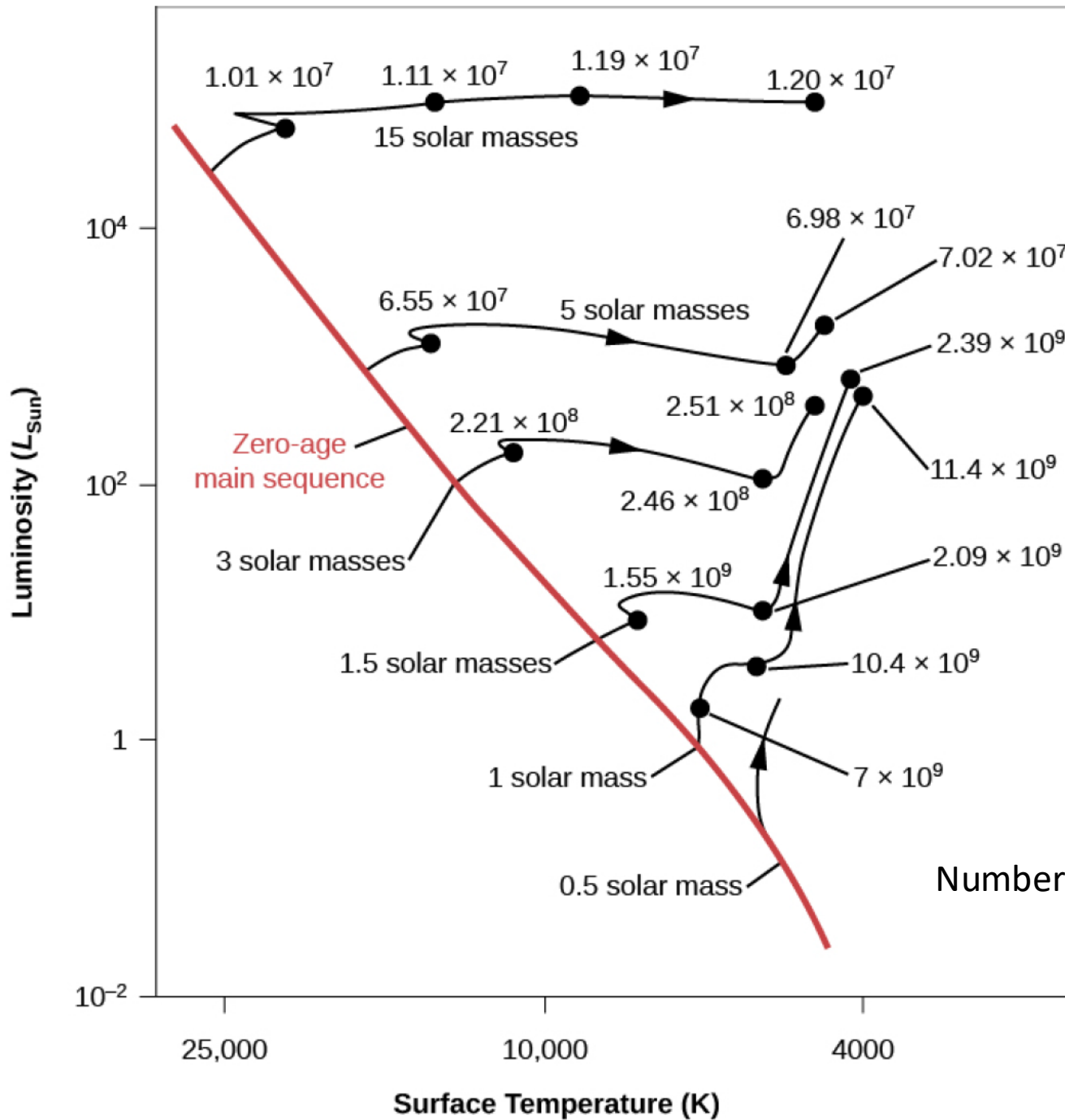




Massive stars burn out quickly!

$$L \sim M^{3.9}$$



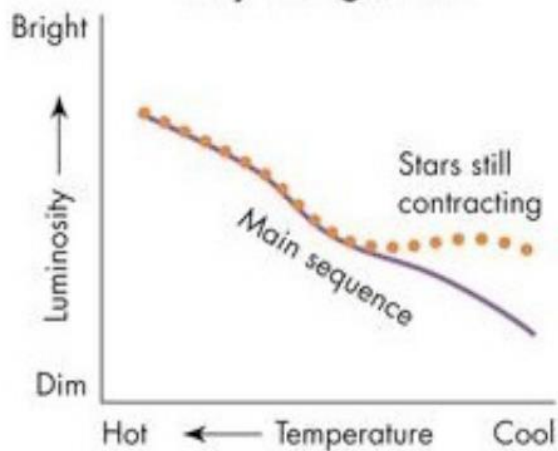


$$L = R^2 T^4$$

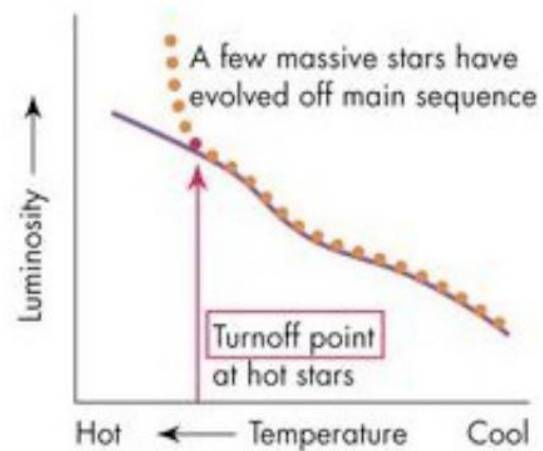
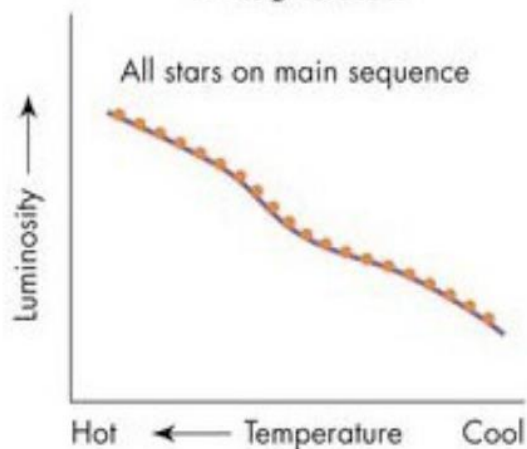
Stars get cool at surface, but luminous: radius must get very large

Numbers are ages

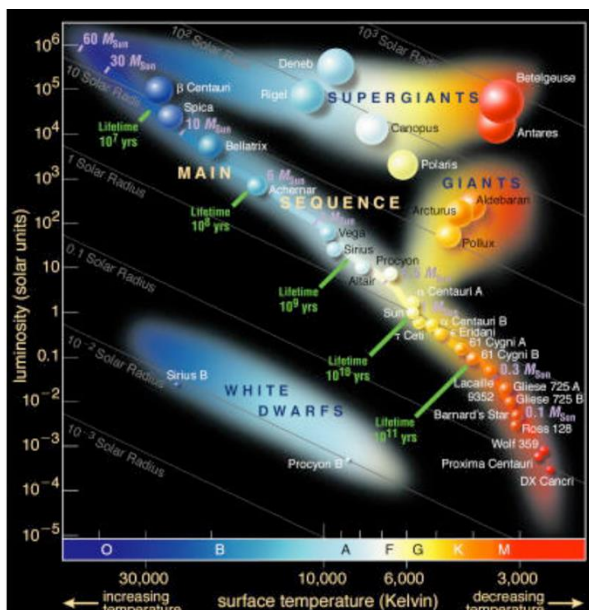
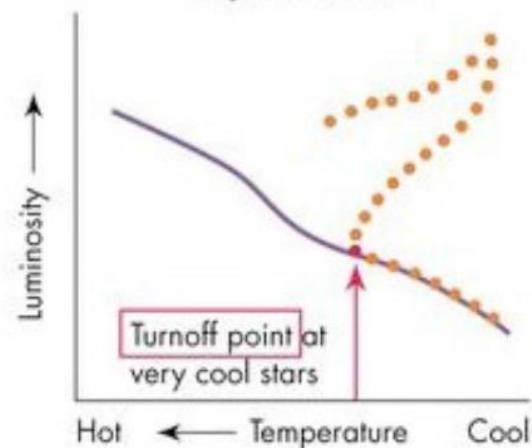
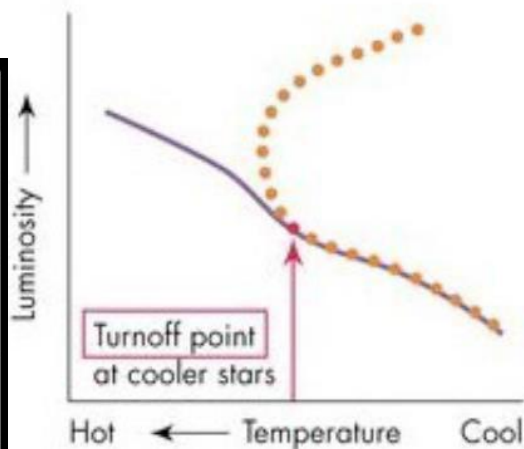
### Very Young Cluster

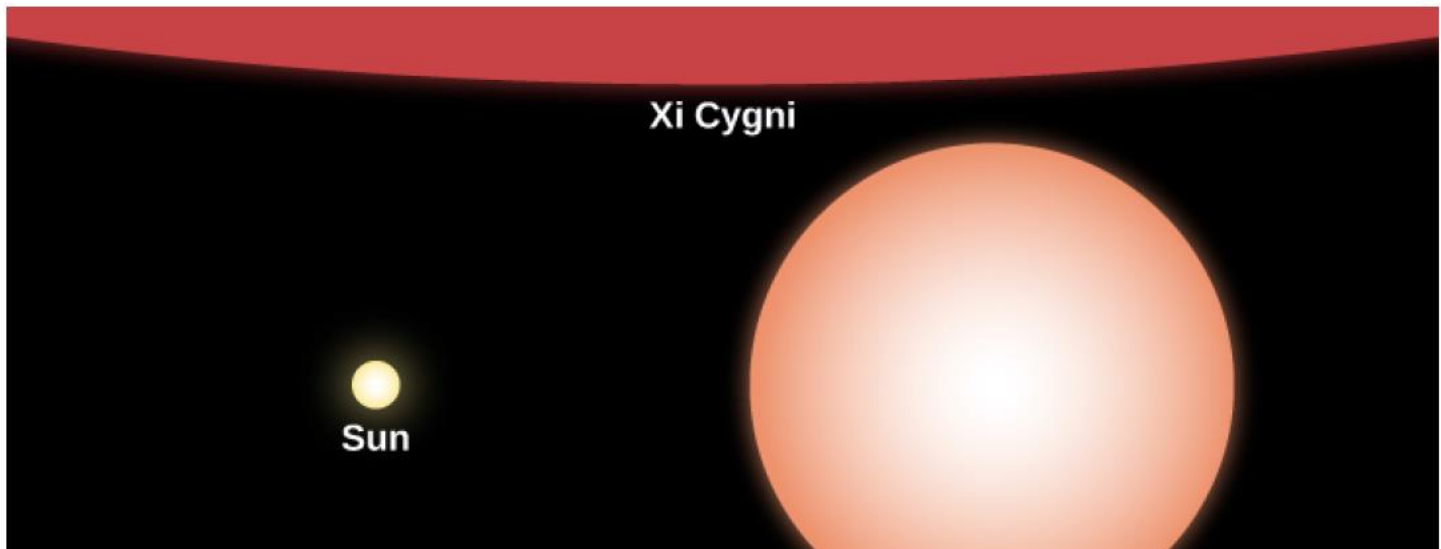


### Young Cluster



### Very Old Cluster

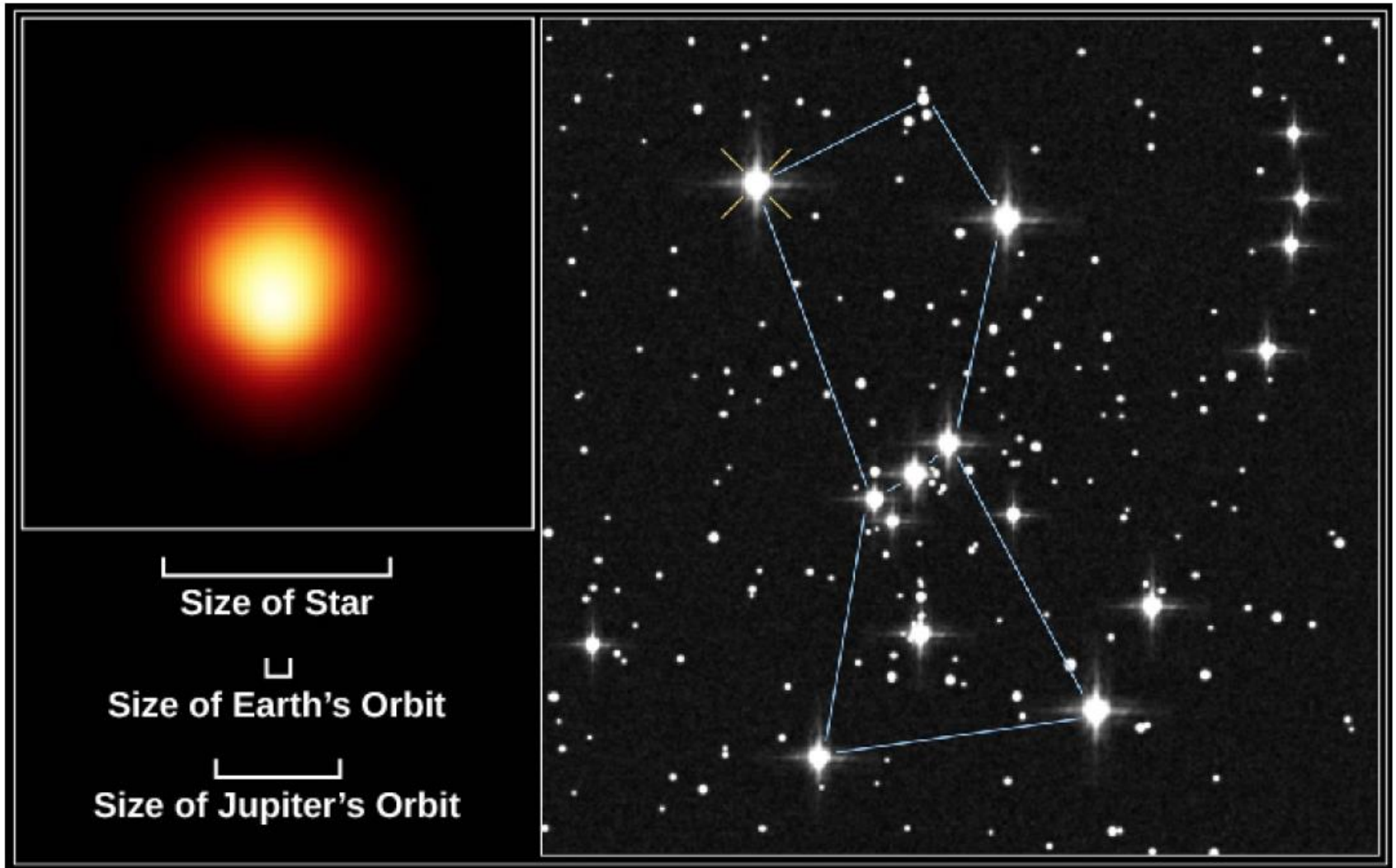




### Comparing a Supergiant with the Sun

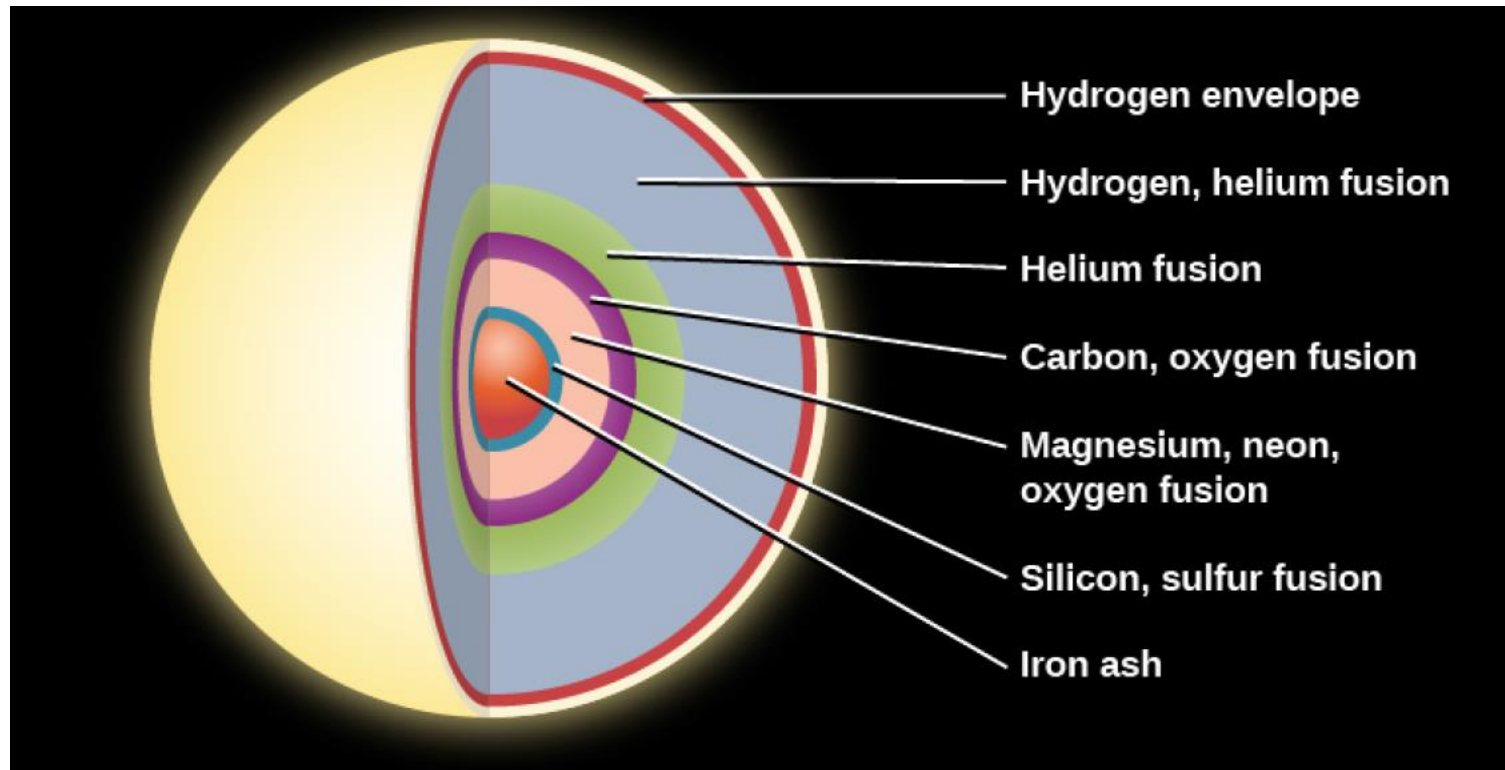
Property	Sun	Betelgeuse
Mass ( $2 \times 10^{33}$ g)	1	16
Radius (km)	700,000	500,000,000
Surface temperature (K)	5,800	3,600
Core temperature (K)	15,000,000	160,000,000
Luminosity ( $4 \times 10^{26}$ W)	1	46,000
Average density ( $\text{g}/\text{cm}^3$ )	1.4	$1.3 \times 10^{-7}$
Age (millions of years)	4,500	10

# The supergiant star Betelgeuse

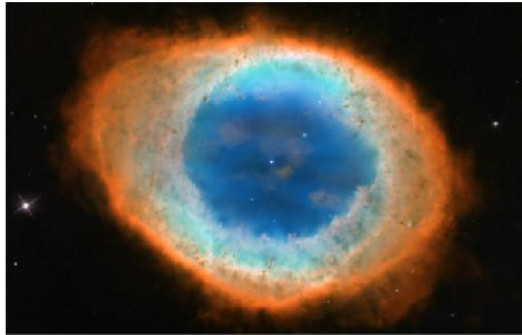




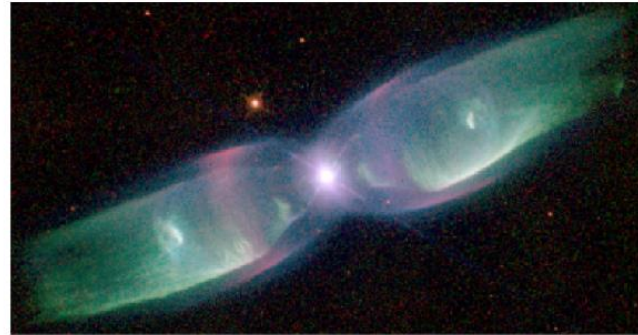
Planetary nebula: lost envelopes,  
only core is left; we see lost material



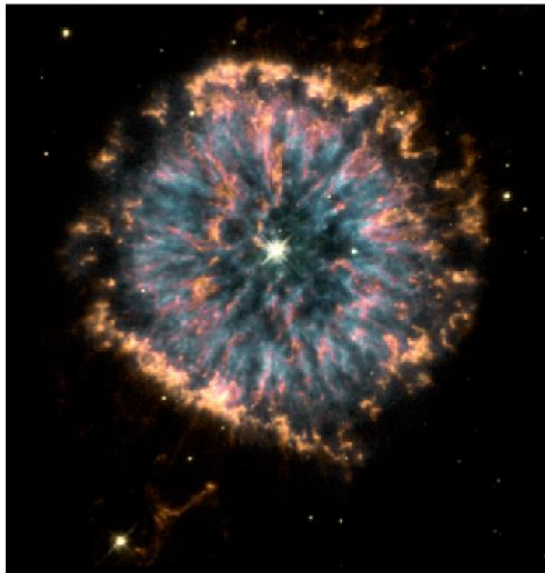
Planetary nebula: lost envelopes,  
only core is left; we see lost material



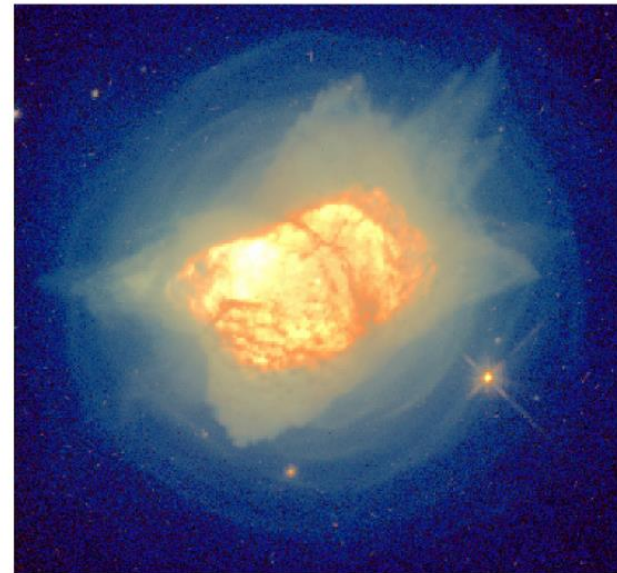
(a)



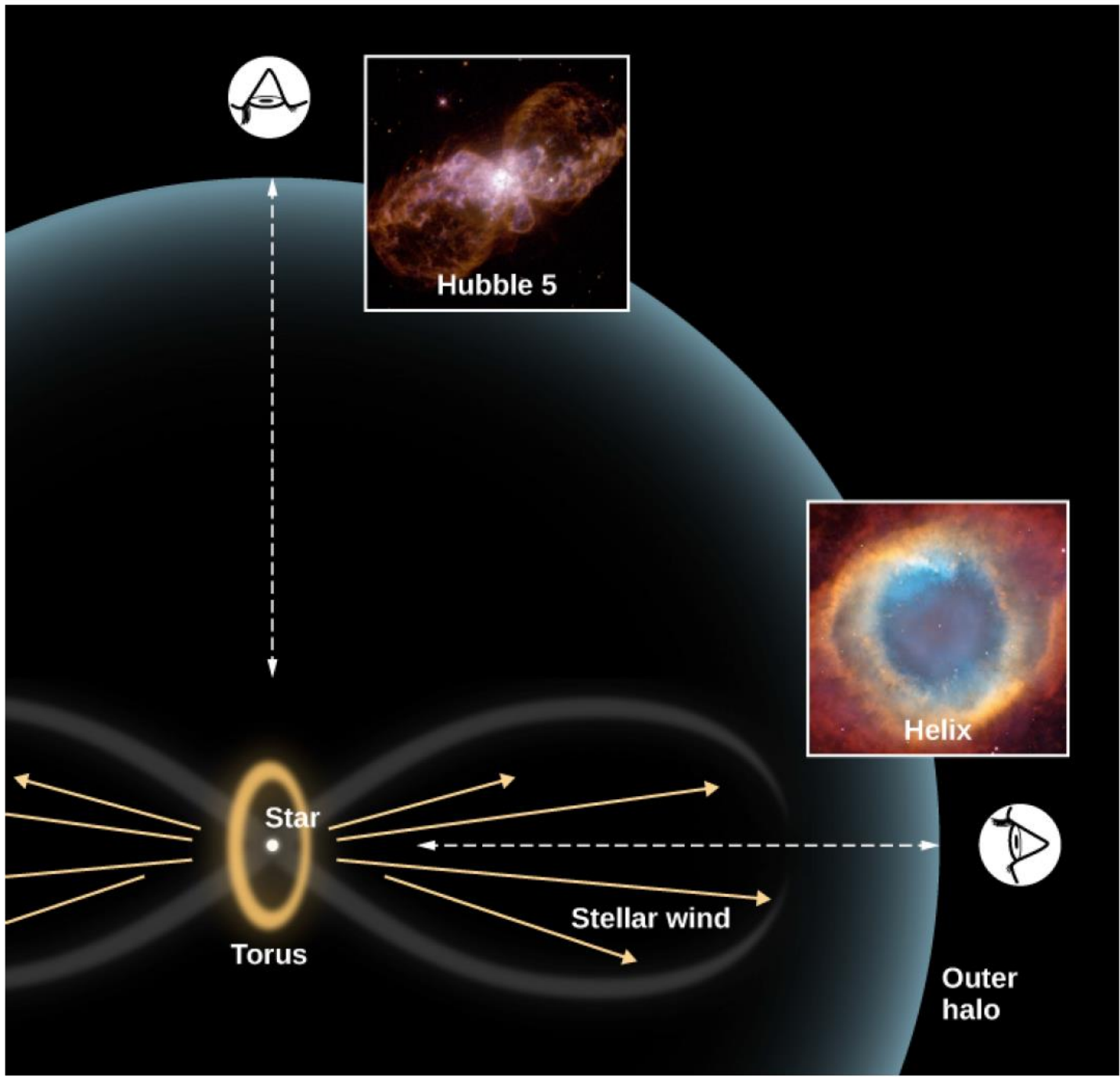
(b)



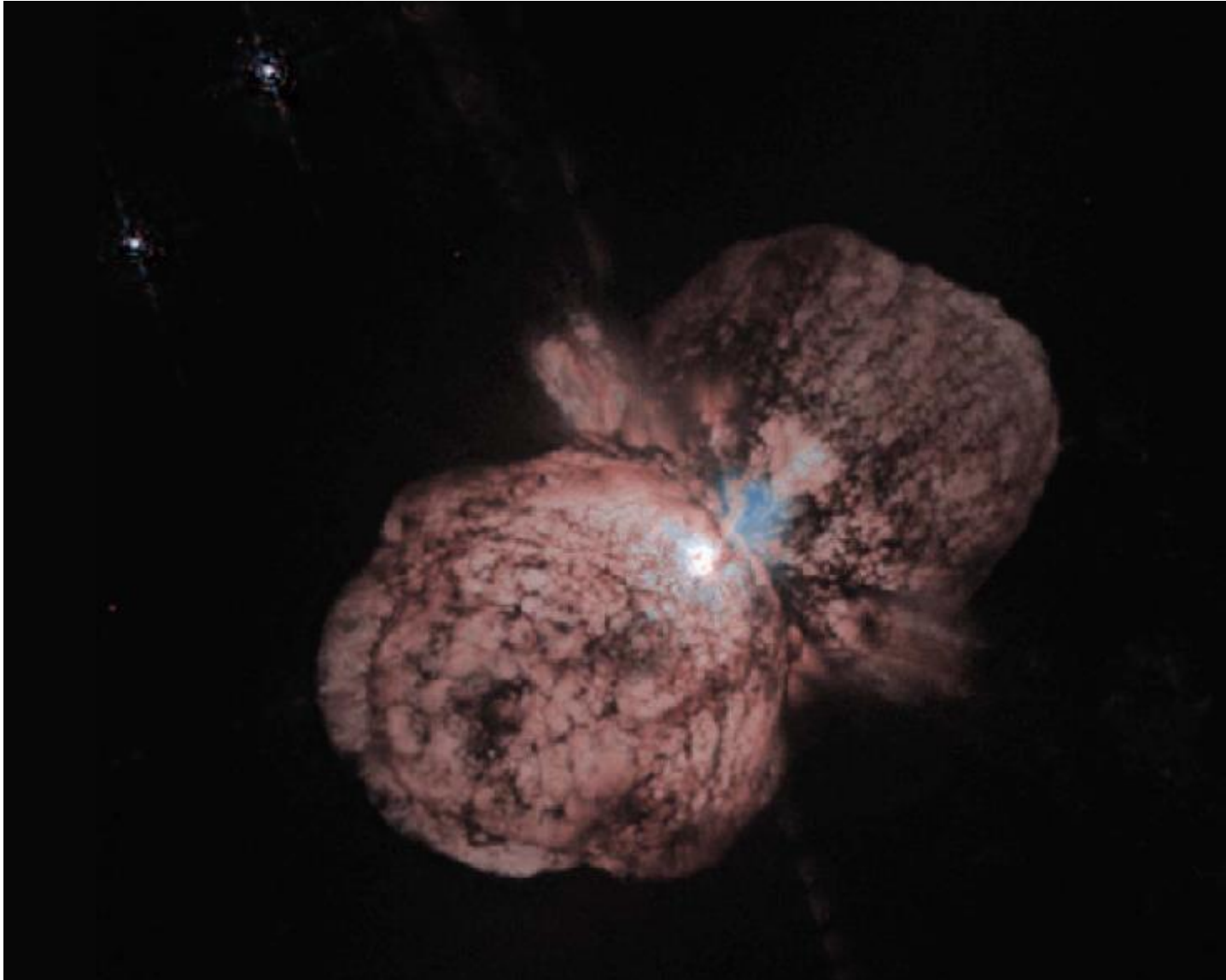
(c)



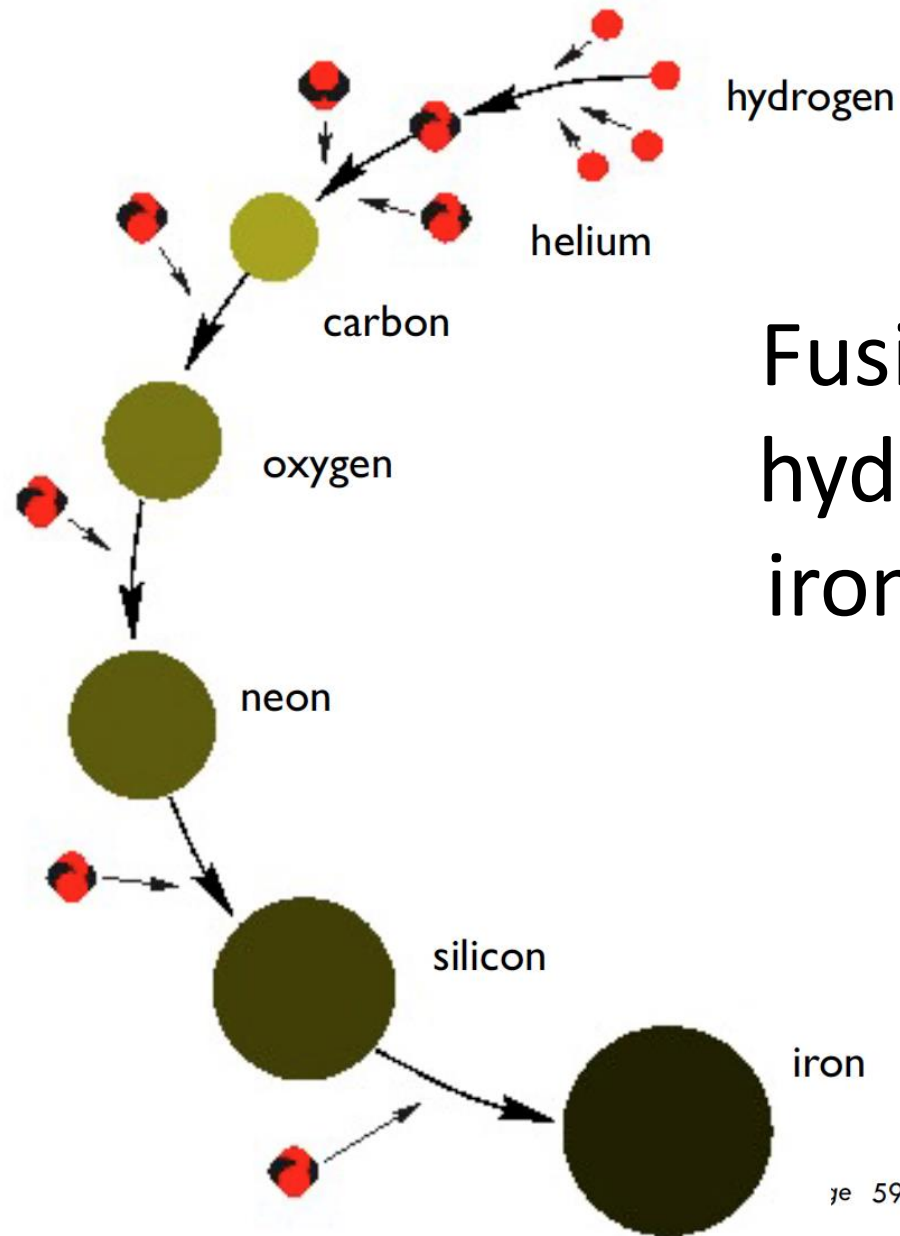
(d)



# Eta Carinae: what a 100 Msun star looks like



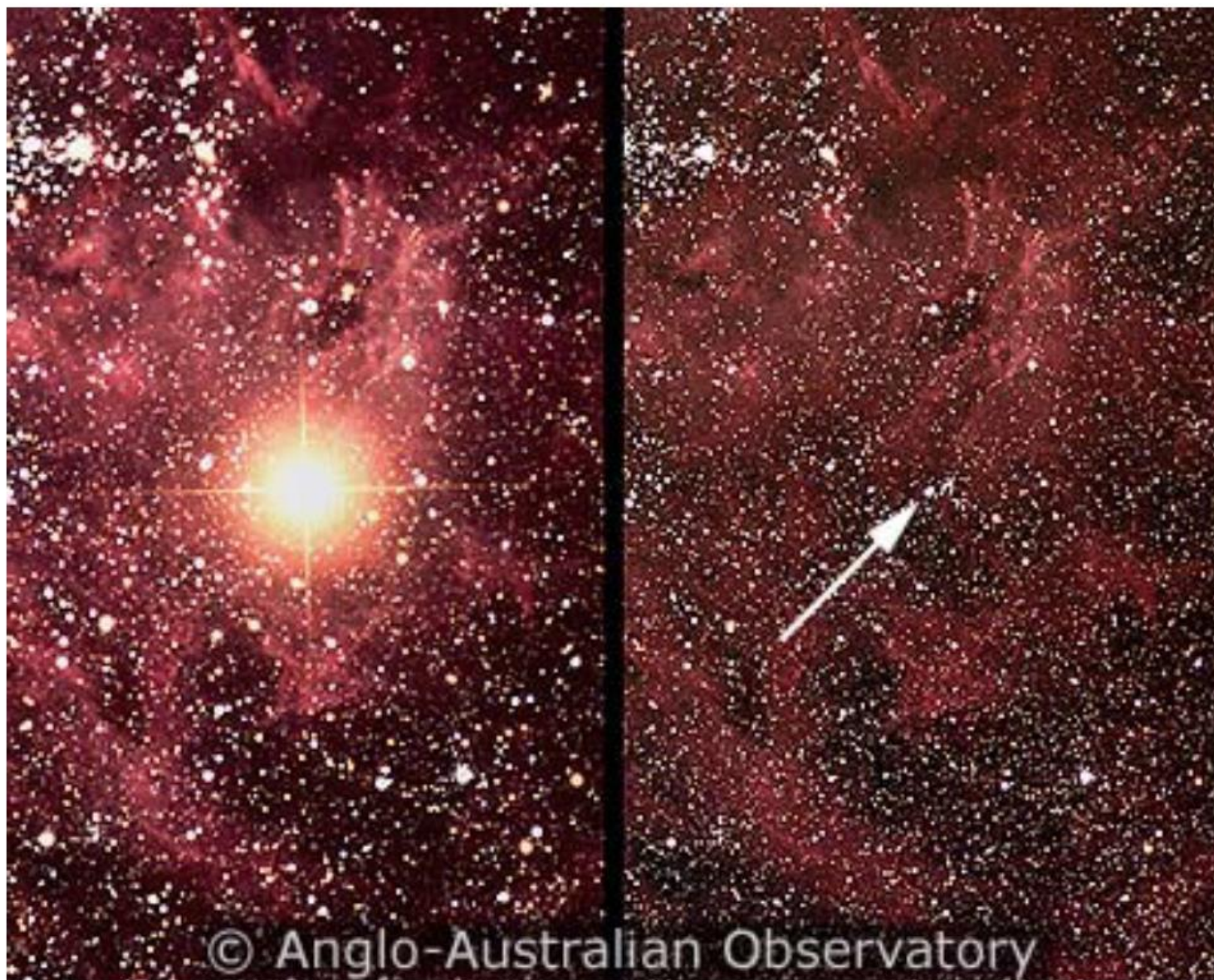




Fusion from  
hydrogen to  
iron in stars

Phase	Central Temperature (K)	Central Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	Time Spent in This Phase
Hydrogen fusion	$40 \times 10^6$	5	$8 \times 10^6$ years
Helium fusion	$190 \times 10^6$	970	$10^6$ years
Carbon fusion	$870 \times 10^6$	170,000	2000 years
Neon fusion	$1.6 \times 10^9$	$3.0 \times 10^6$	6 months
Oxygen fusion	$2.0 \times 10^9$	$5.6 \times 10^6$	1 year
Silicon fusion	$3.3 \times 10^9$	$4.3 \times 10^7$	Days
Core collapse	$200 \times 10^9$	$2 \times 10^{14}$	Tenths of a second

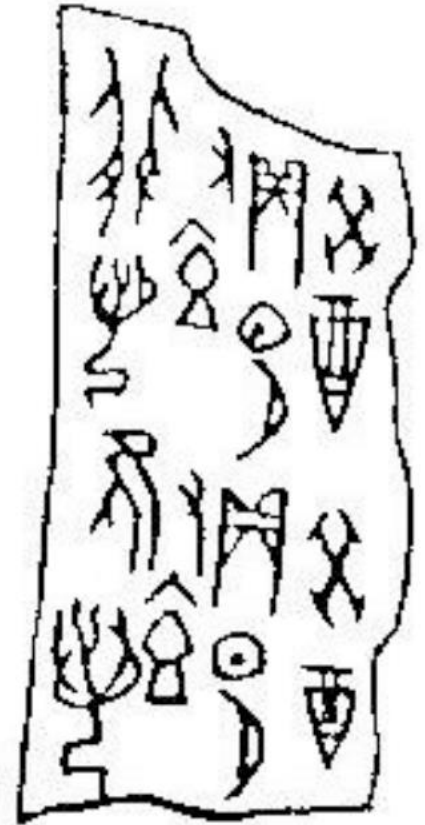
# Supernova 1987A (brightest in modern times)





*“On the Jisi day, the 7th day of the month, a big new star appeared in the company of the Ho star.”*

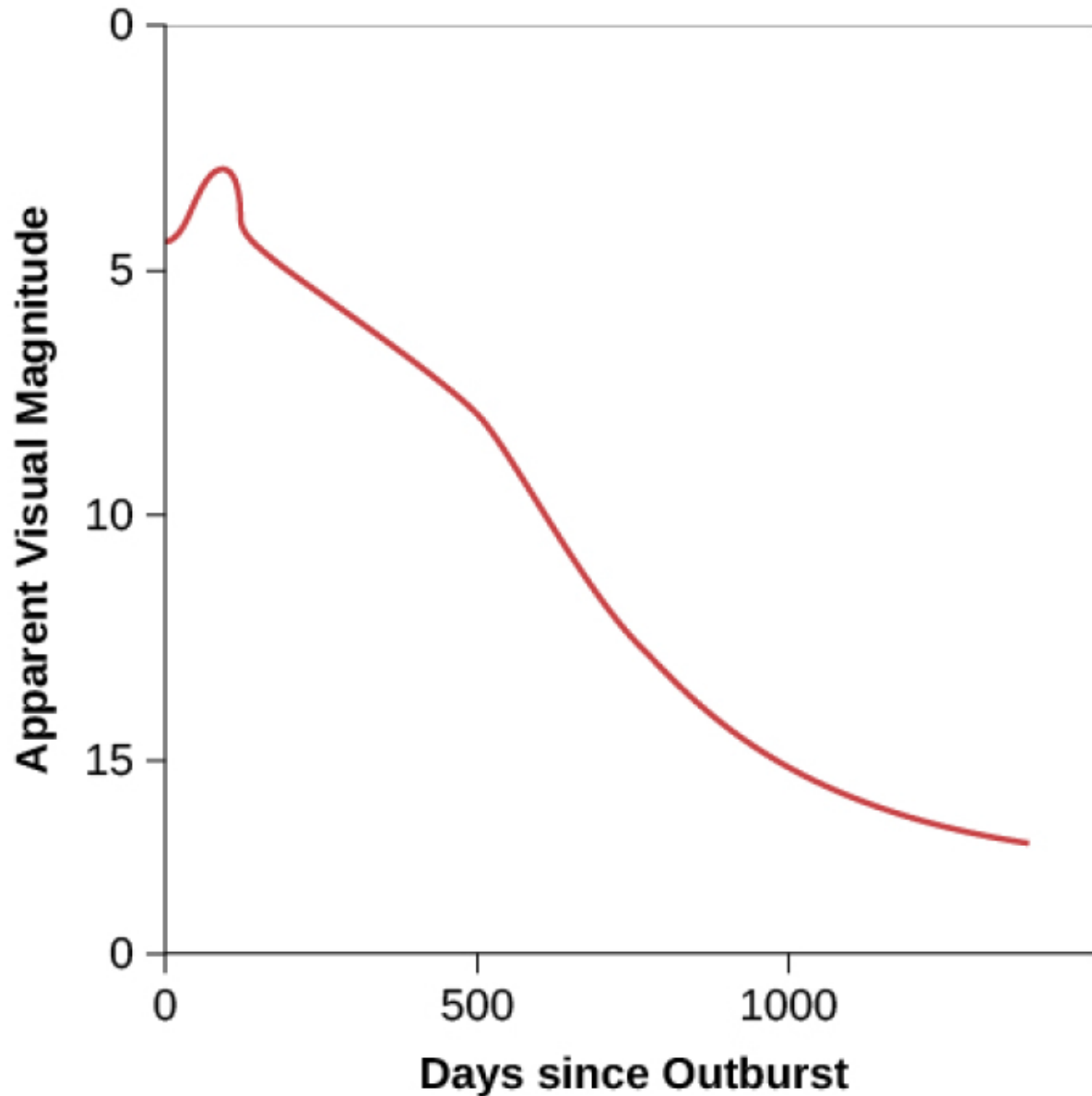
*“On the Xinwei day the new star dwindled.”*



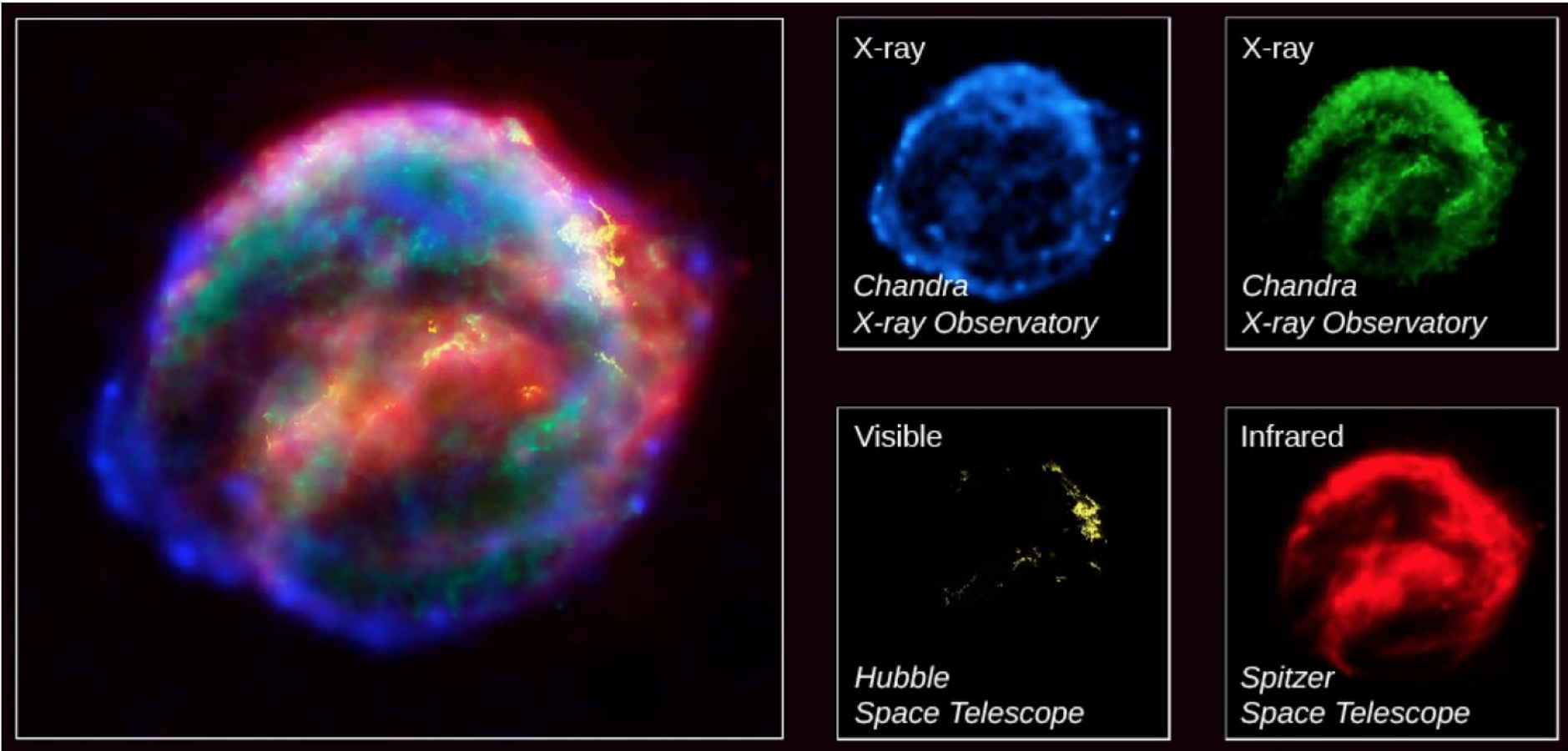


Year	Where observed	Brightness
185	China	Brighter than Venus
369	China	Brighter than Mars or Jupiter
1006	China, Japan, Korea, Europe, Arabia	Brighter than Venus
1054	China, SW India, Arabia → Crab Nebula	Brighter than Venus
1572	Tycho	Nearly as bright as Venus
1604	Kepler	Brighter than Jupiter
1987	Ian Shelton (Chile)	-

# Brightness of supernova with time



# Supernova remnant



X-ray

*Chandra  
X-ray Observatory*

X-ray

*Chandra  
X-ray Observatory*

Visible

*Hubble  
Space Telescope*

Infrared

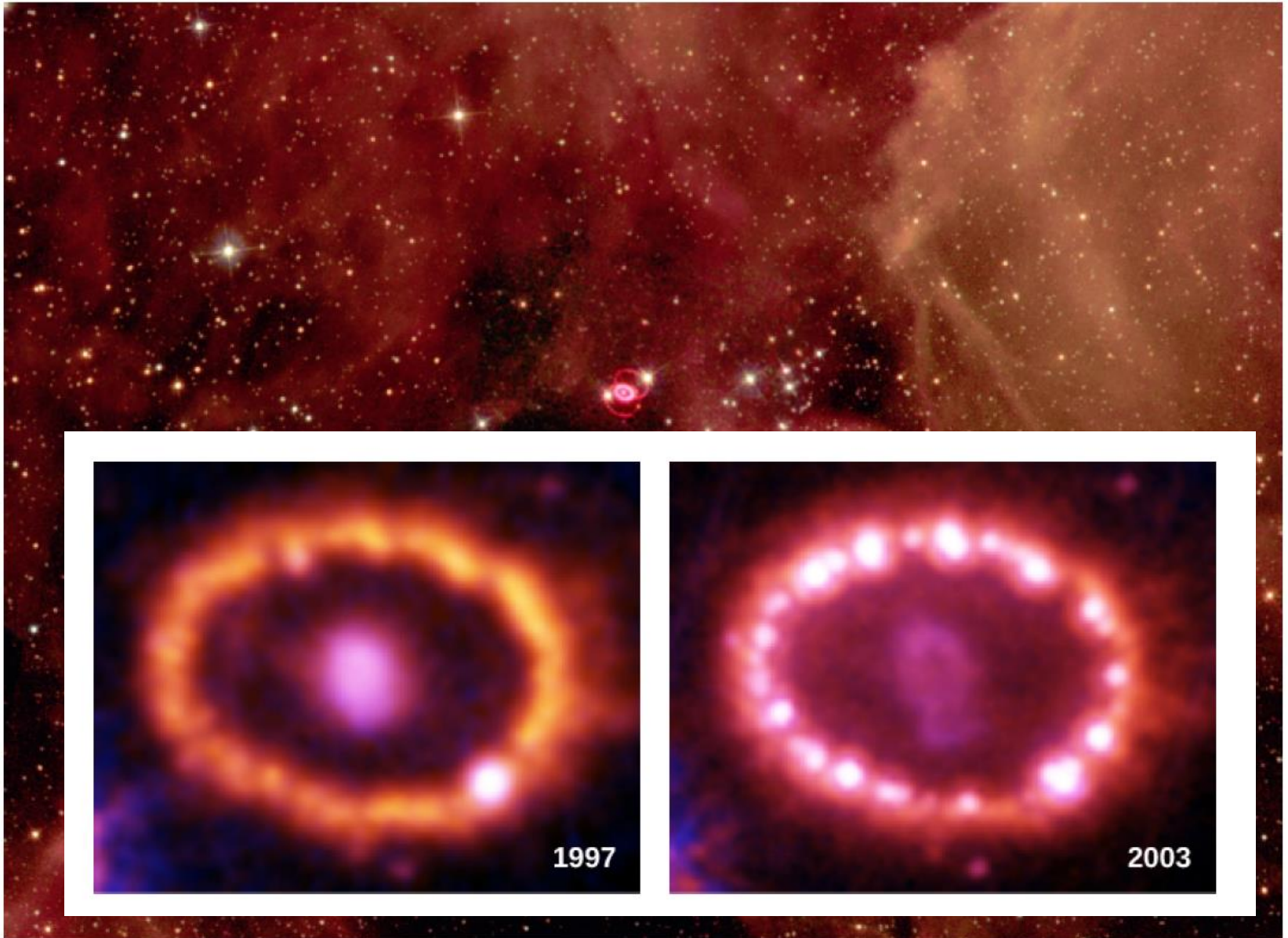
*Spitzer  
Space Telescope*

# Supernova remnant





# Supernova remnant



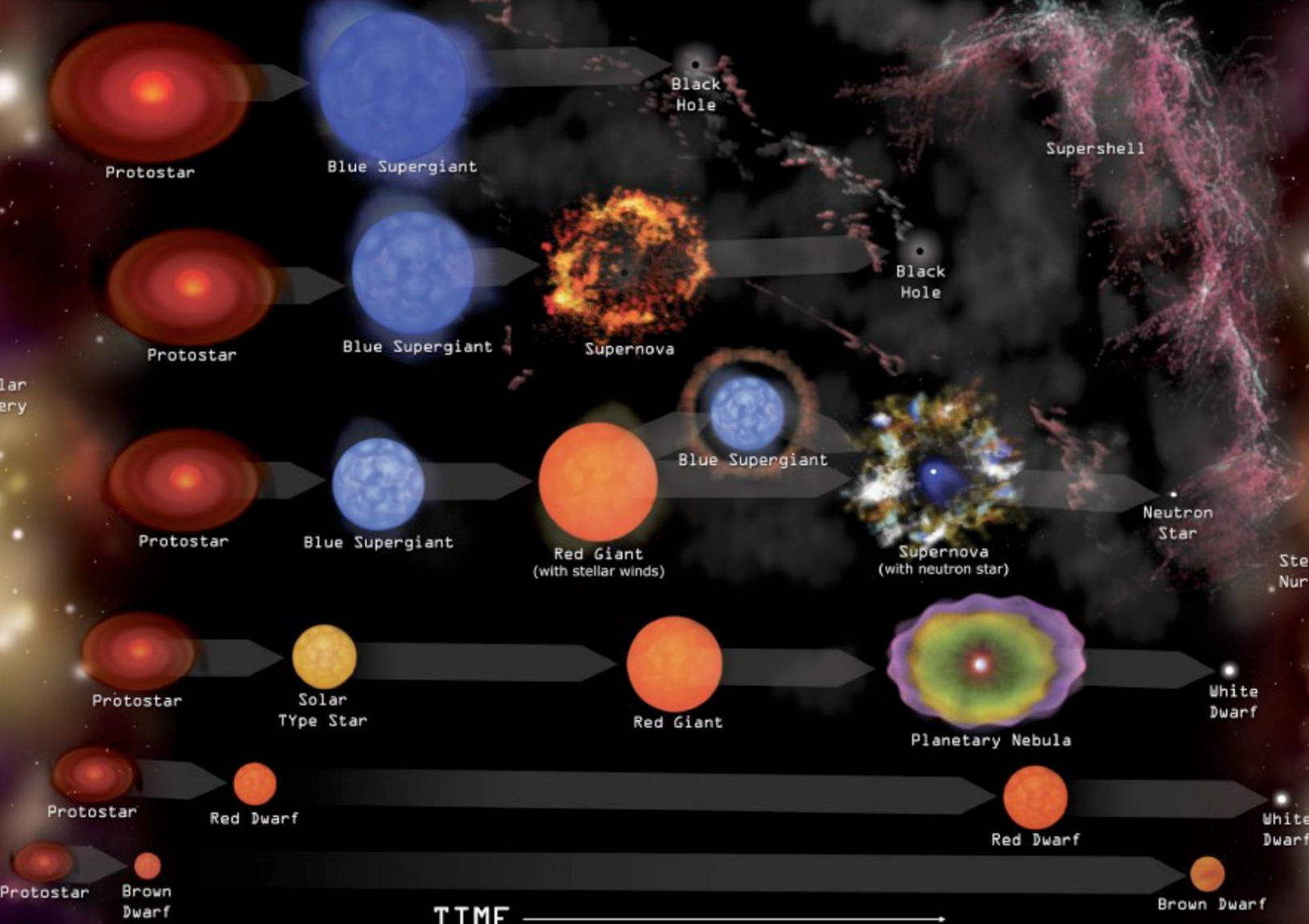
Initial Mass (Mass of Sun = 1) <sup>[1]</sup>	Final State at the End of Its Life
< 0.01	Planet
0.01 to 0.08	Brown dwarf
0.08 to 0.25	White dwarf made mostly of helium
0.25 to 8	White dwarf made mostly of carbon and oxygen
8 to 10	White dwarf made of oxygen, neon, and magnesium
10 to 40	Supernova explosion that leaves a neutron star
> 40	Supernova explosion that leaves a black hole

MASS

TIME

Stellar  
Nursery

Stellar  
Nursery



## Properties of a Typical White Dwarf and a Neutron Star

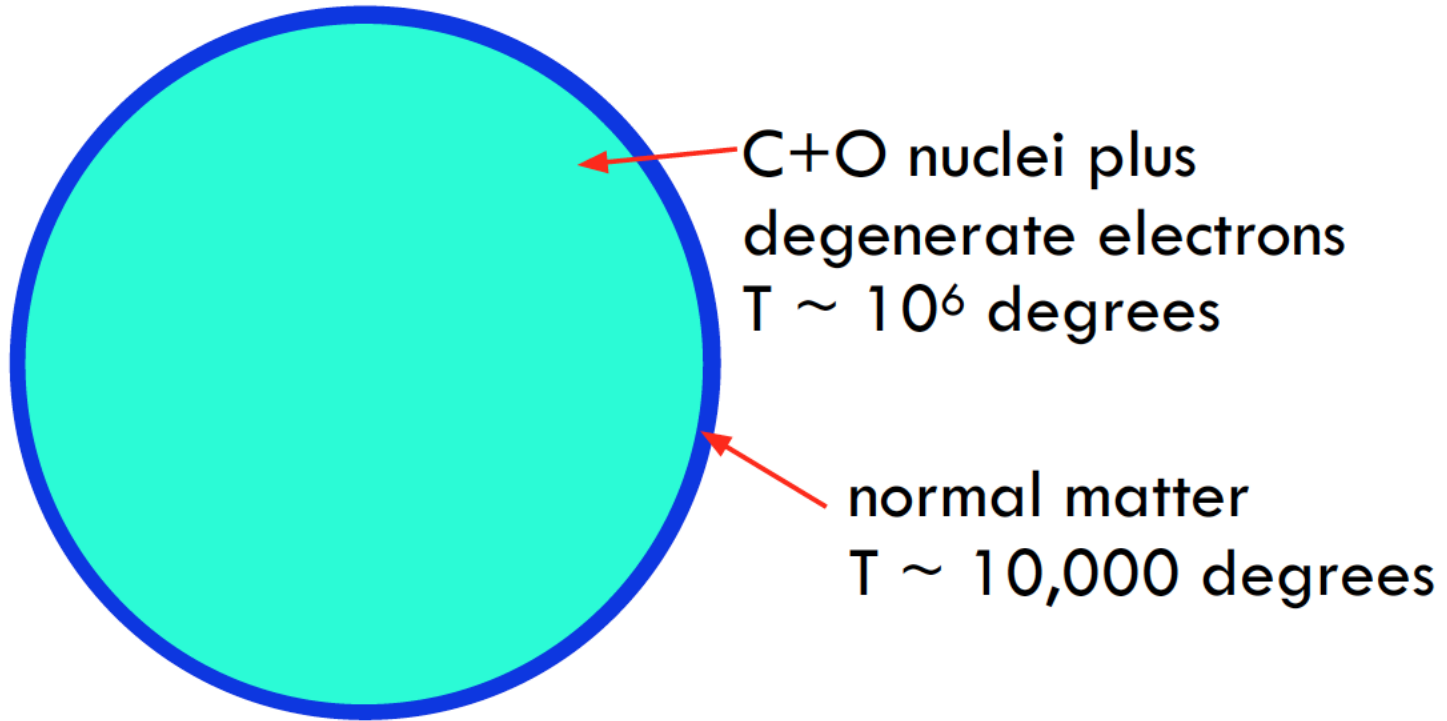
Property	White Dwarf	Neutron Star
Mass (Sun = 1)	0.6 (always <1.4)	Always >1.4 and <3
Radius	7000 km	10 km
Density	$8 \times 10^5 \text{ g/cm}^3$	$10^{14} \text{ g/cm}^3$



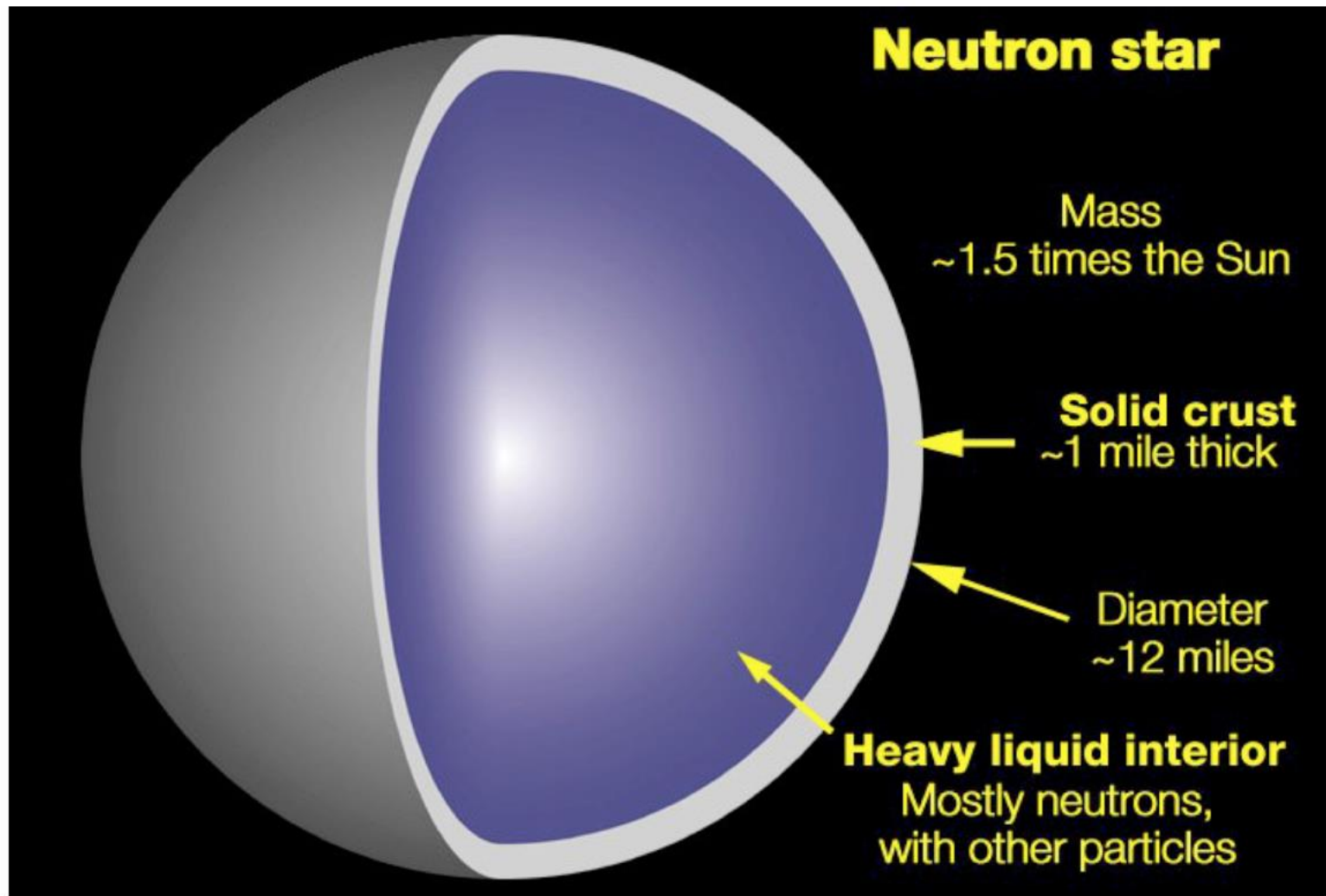
X-ray image  
of accreting  
neutron star



# White dwarf



# Neutron star: density of nucleus!



- **white dwarf:** electrons run out of room and halt the collapse of the star

*maximum mass  
1.4 solar masses*



- **neutron star:** neutrons run out of room and halt the collapse of the star

*maximum mass  
~3 solar masses*



- **black hole:** gravity wins: collapse continues

*Sun*: size  $1.4 \times 10^6$  km







rotation period 27 days =  $2.3 \times 10^6$  s

*Neutron star*: size 14 km = 1 million times smaller

 rotation period 1 million times shorter = 2.3 s

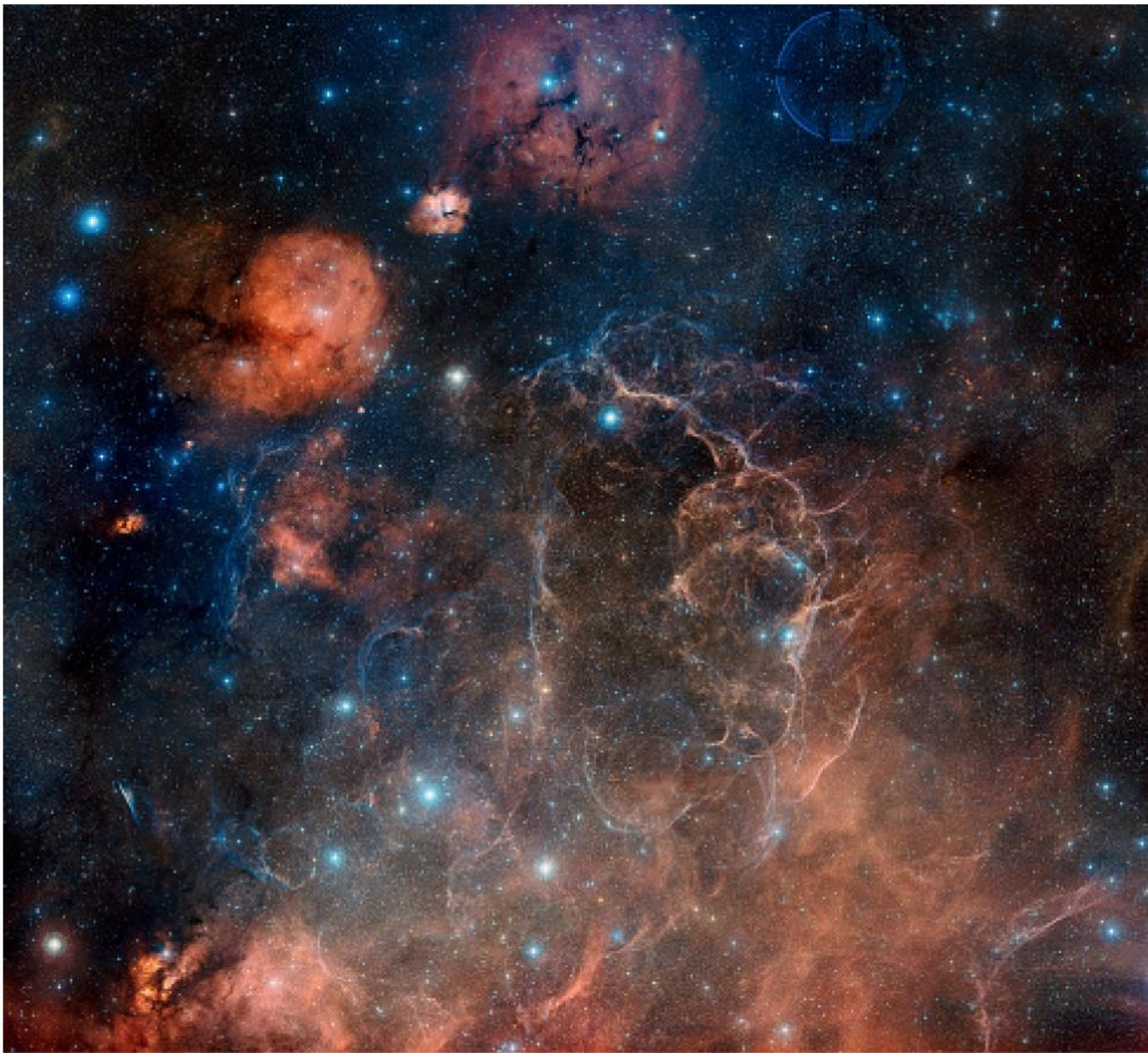


# The Origin of the Solar System Elements

1 H	big bang fusion 										cosmic ray fission 					2 He						
3 Li	4 Be	merging neutron stars? 										exploding massive stars 					5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
11 Na	12 Mg	dying low mass stars 					exploding white dwarfs 					13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar					
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr					
37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe					
55 Cs	56 Ba	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn						
87 Fr	88 Ra																					
		57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu						
		89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	Very radioactive isotopes; nothing left from stars														

# Interstellar medium

- Space is not quite empty
  - Hot interstellar medium:  $10^{-4}$  ions per  $\text{cm}^3$
  - In this room:  $10^{19}$  molecules/ $\text{cm}^3$
  - Best vacuum in lab:  $10^{10}$  molecules/ $\text{cm}^3$
- Some places are denser and colder
  - **Molecular clouds**, where stars form
  - Densities of  $10^2$ - $10^6$  molecules/ $\text{cm}^3$

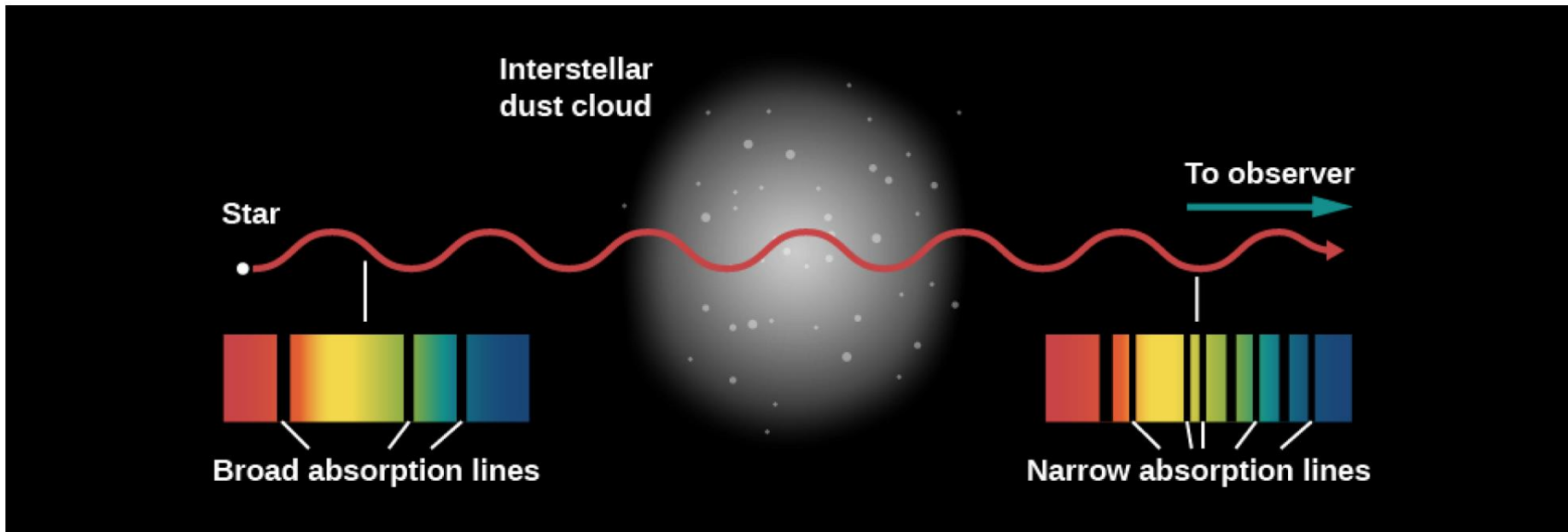


Interstellar medium, supernova remnants

# Interstellar medium: how to detect?

## Absorption of photons by gas

## Emission from gas/dust






**Orion Nebula**  
**Largest nearby star-**  
**forming region**



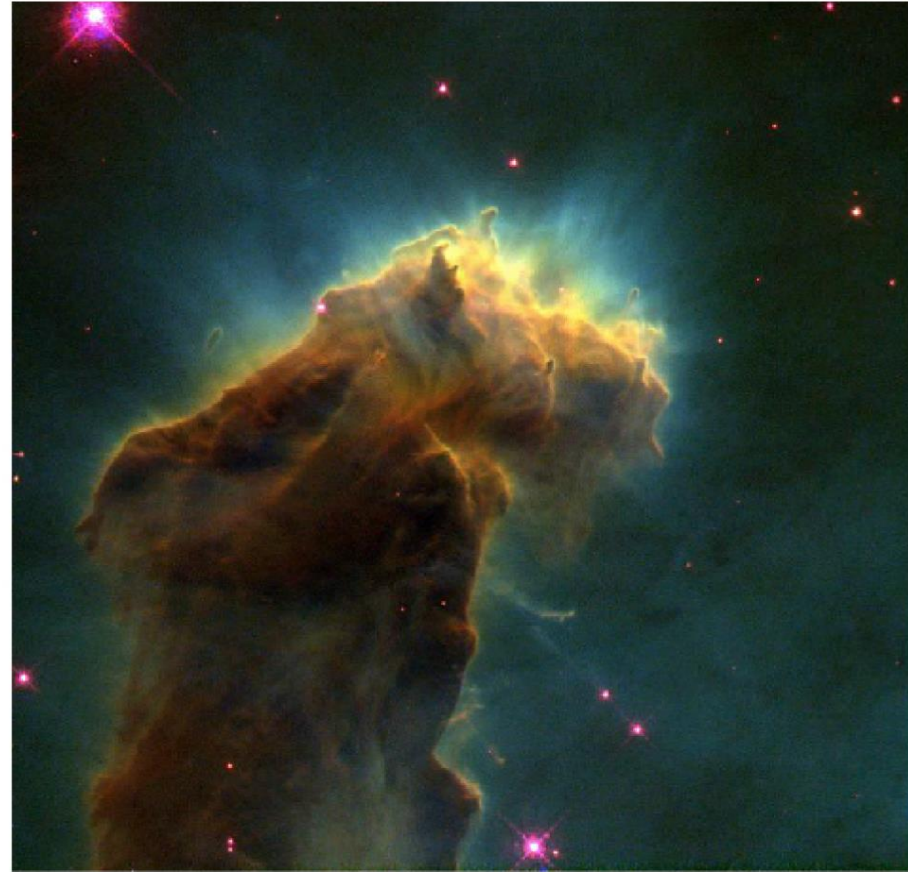


**Eta Carina Cluster,  
Hubble Space Telescope  
Much larger than Orion Nebula**



"Mystic Mountain" A Pillar of Gas and Dust in the Carina Nebula  [HUBBLESITE.org](https://hubblesite.org)





Hubble Space Telescope: dust in a star-forming region blocking background light





Hubble's "Pillars of Creation"  
[shown to scale]

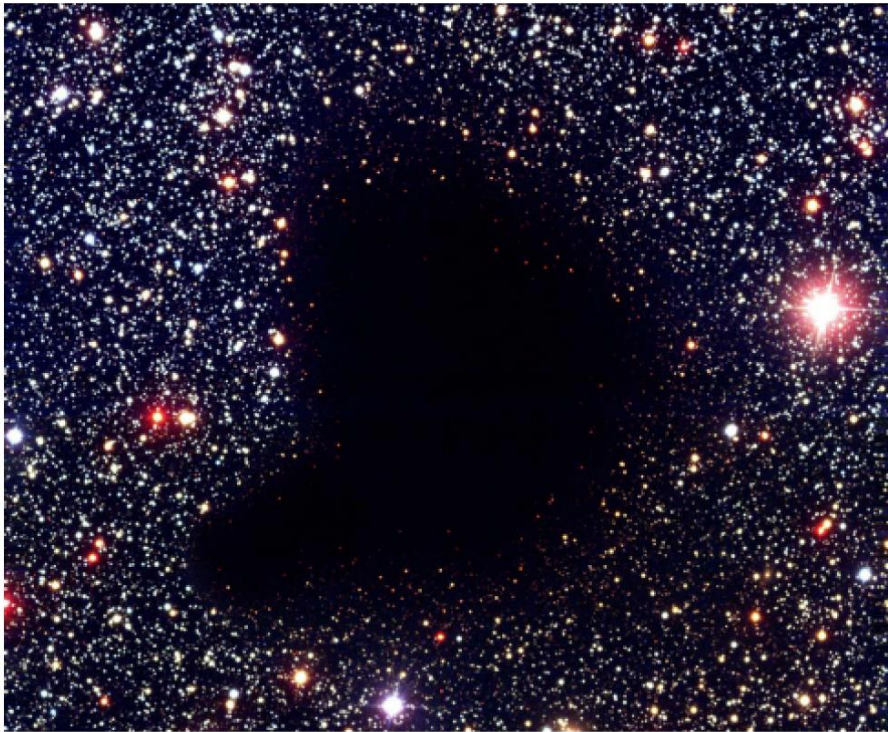
"Pillars" and "Mountains" of Star Formation

Spitzer Space Telescope • IRAC

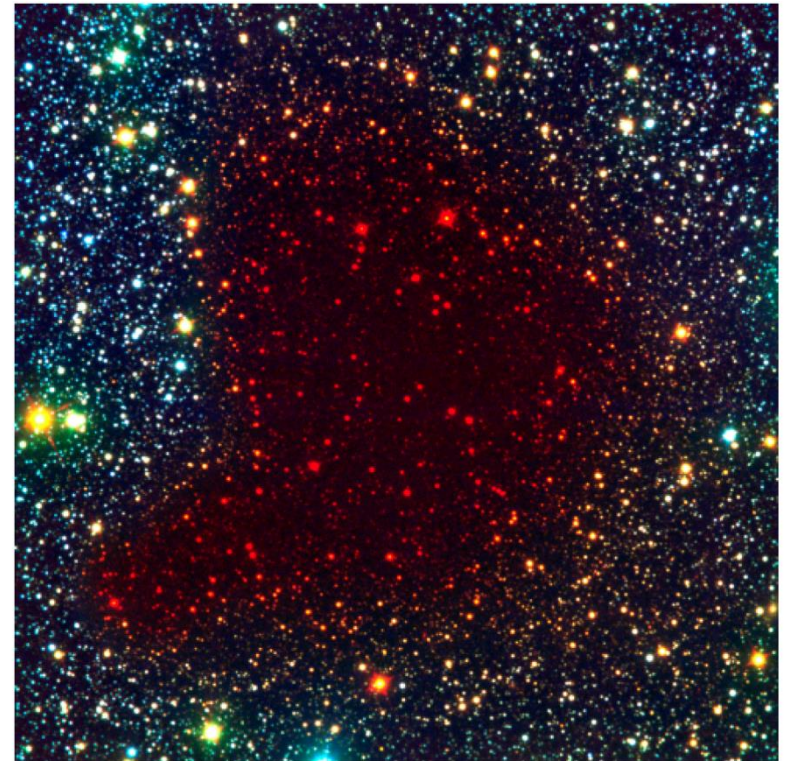
NASA / JPL-Caltech / L. Allen (Harvard-Smithsonian CfA)

Inset: Hubble Space Telescope  
ssc2005-23b





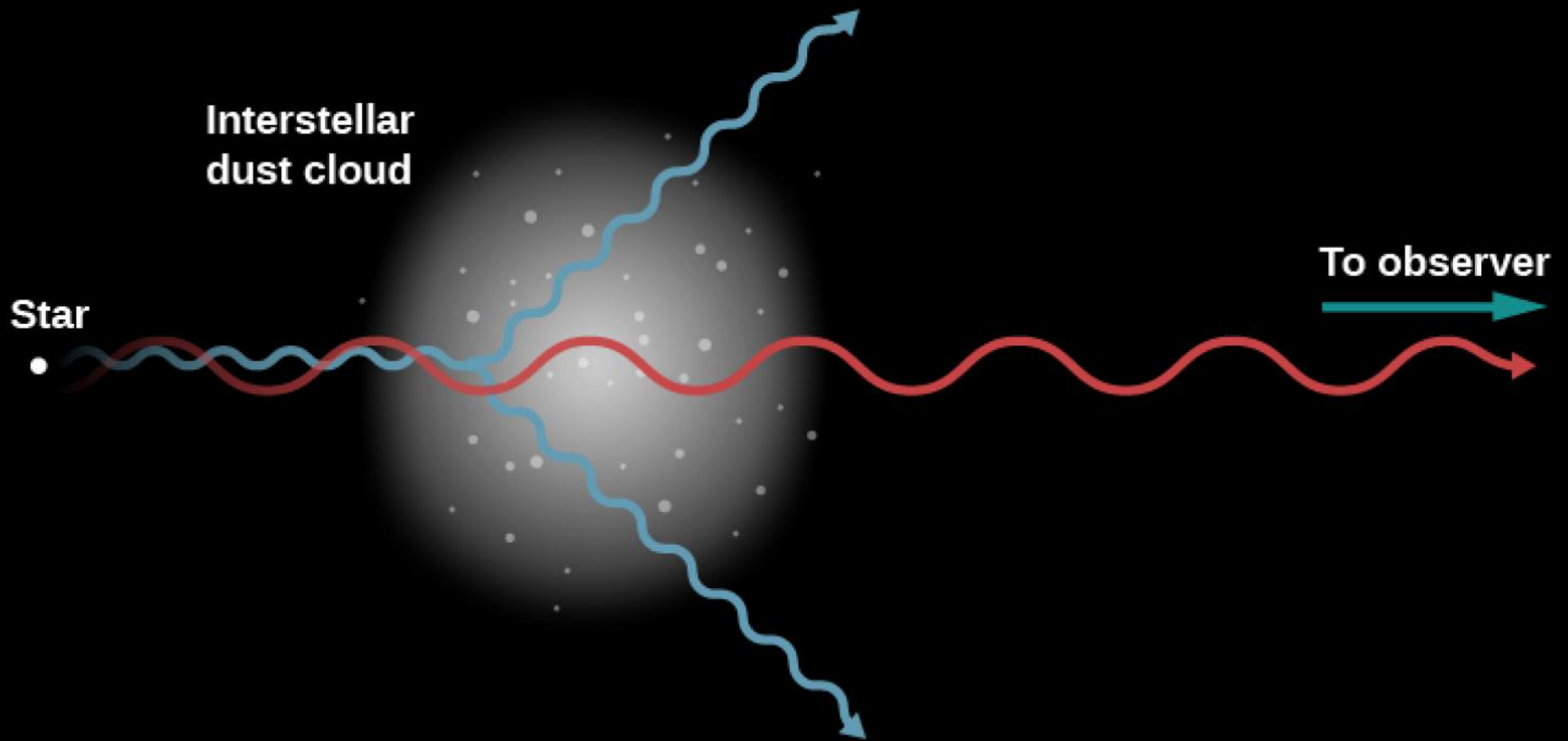
Optical



Near-infrared

Barnard 68: very dusty!

Longer wavelengths look through dust (red objects on right)



Blue wavelengths: absorbed/scattered by dust  
Red wavelengths: pass through dust





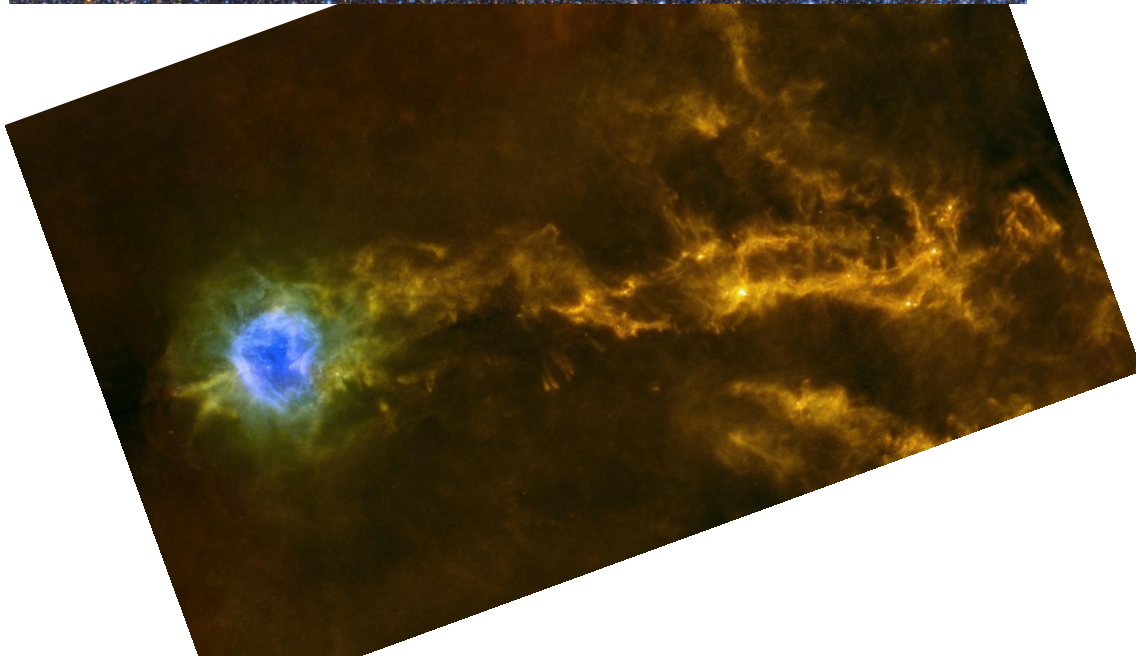
**Rosette Nebula**

**Far-infrared: dust in emission**





The same nebula can appear in both emission at short wavelengths and absorption at long wavelength



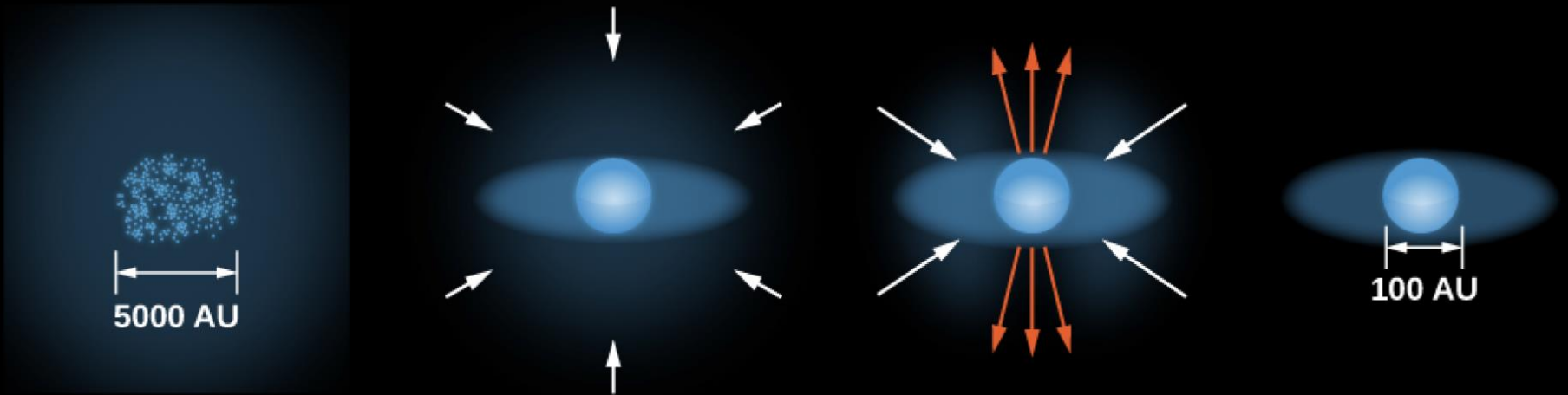


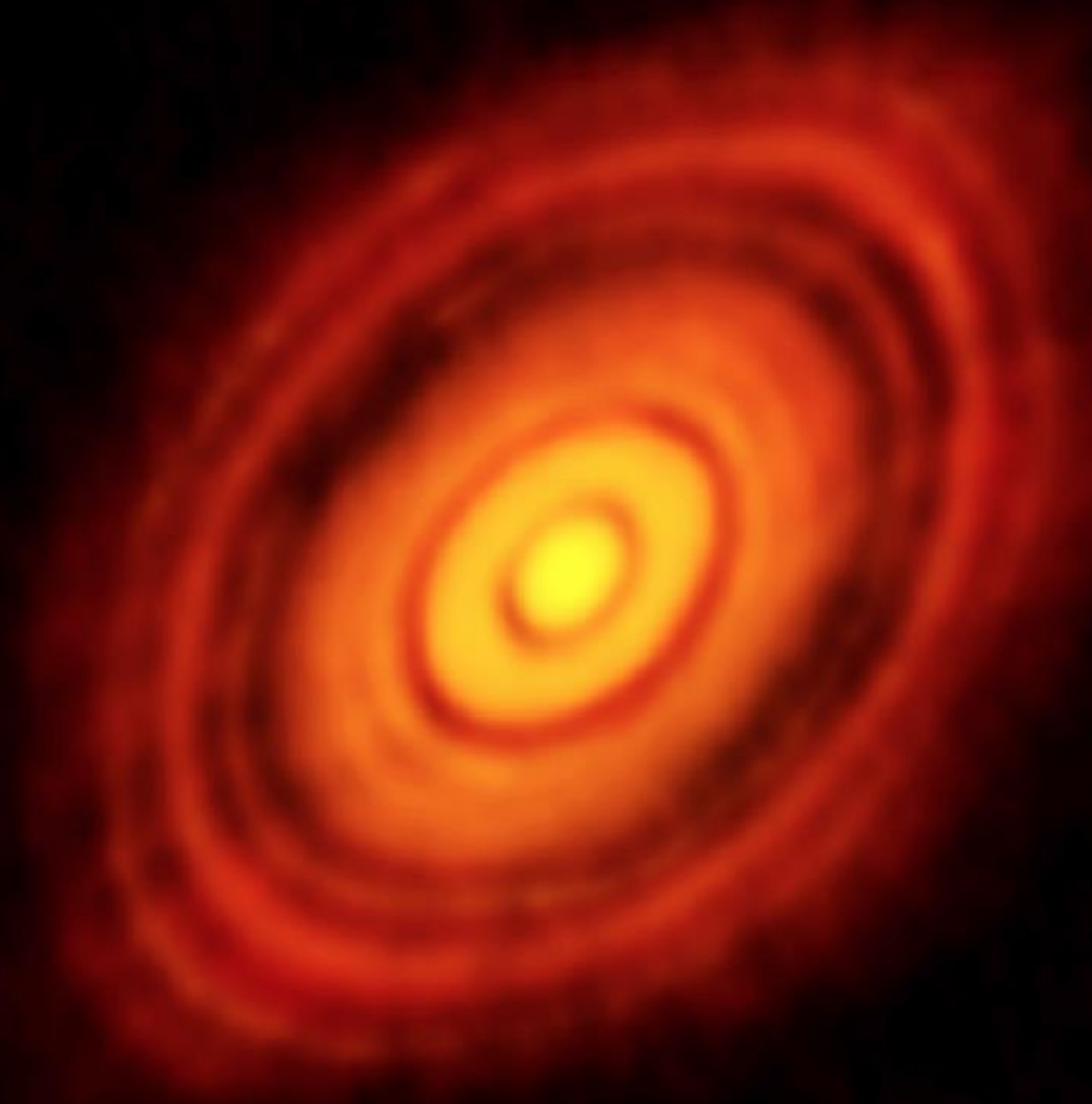
# JWST image of Carina Nebula: hot stars ionize gas



## Steps of star formation:

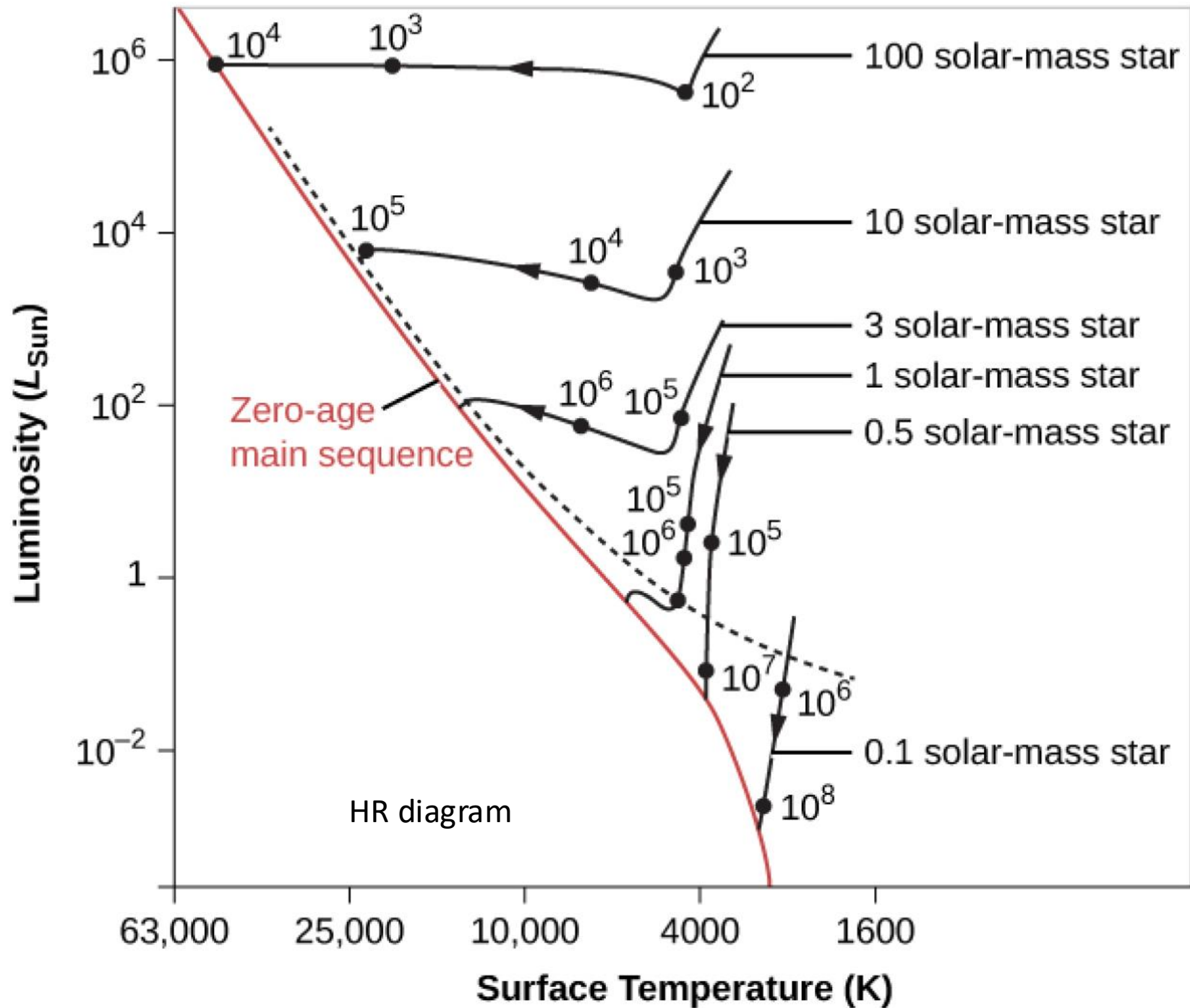
- 1) Region is dense enough to be gravitationally unstable and collapse
- 2) Protostar forms, with envelope and disk
- 3) Star grows, leads to jets and outflows
- 4) Envelope and disk disappear, leaving behind planets+star





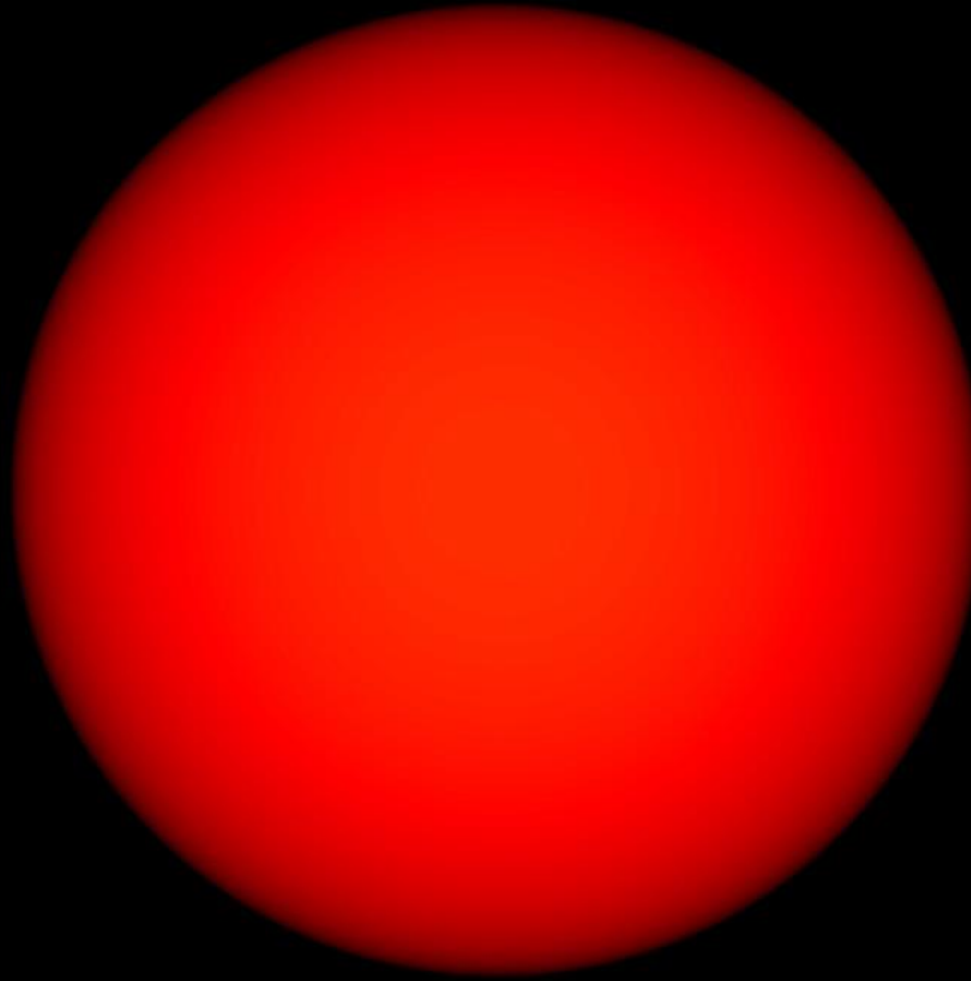
**Protoplanetary disk:  
where planets form (next  
lecture)**







# Simulation of a star-forming region



# EXOPLANETS!

