



What are stars?

Most important building blocks of the universe: stars

Proper definition:

Stars are gas balls consisting mainly of hydrogen and helium, which produce energy by fusion.

We will now look at observable properties of stars:

- 1. Distance
- 2. Brightness and luminosity
- 3. Temperature and Spectrum
- 4. Masses

... and later deduce how they live from these data.

Introduction





Distances

Direct distance measurements: parallax

measurement:

⇒ Measure stellar position several times over year with respect to background stars.

Parallax angle (small angle approximation):

$$p = \frac{1 \text{ AU}}{d}$$

(p is measured in radians)

Typical values for p are arcseconds

 \implies define distance unit "Parsec" ("parallax second") such that d = 1 pc for p = 1'':

The parsec is the distance at which 1 AU subtends an angle of 1".

Some people use π instead of p for the parallax. . .

Observational Properties: Distances

р

d





Distances

How far is one parsec?

From p = 1 AU/d follows with p = 1'': $d = 1 \text{ pc} = \frac{1 \text{ AU}}{1''} = \frac{1 \text{ AU}}{\pi/(180 \cdot 3600)} = 206264 \text{ AU} = 3.086 \times 10^{16} \text{ m} \sim 3.26 \text{ ly}$

Note: If parallax p is known and given in arcseconds, then distance can be immediately calculated:

$$\displaystyle rac{d}{1\,{
m pc}} = \displaystyle rac{1}{p/{
m 1}''}$$
 or (sloppy notation) $d=\displaystyle rac{1}{p}$

Observational Properties: Distances



Distances

Best parallax measurements to date: ESA's Hipparcos satellite (with participation from Heidelberg and Tübingen).

- ullet systematic error of position: ${\sim}0.1\,{
 m mas}$
- effective distance limit: 1 kpc
- ullet standard error of proper motion: \sim 1 mas/yr
- broad band photometry
- narrow band: B V, V J (see later what this means)
- magnitude limit: 12 mag
- complete to 7.3–9.0 mag (see later)

Results available at http://astro.estec.esa.nl/Hipparcos/:

Hipparcos catalogue: 120000 objects with milliarcsecond precision.

Tycho catalogue: 10⁶ stars with 20–30 mas precision, two-band photometry



http://www.anzwers.org/free/universe/stardist.html





Known stars within 20 ly = 6.1 pc: 83 star systems with 109 stars and 3 brown dwarfs Note: We are probably missing many faint stars already in this small volume!

http://www.anzwers. org/free/universe/ 20lys.html

c powell



ESA/E. Høg

Today: positional accuracy $\sim 0.01''$ from ground, and better than 1 mas ($10^{-3''}$) from space \implies can measure parallax out to ~ 1 kpc

further out: "secondary distance estimators" \implies see later lectures

Plans for the future: GAIA (ESA mission, \sim 201 1–2012):



GAIA: $\sim 4\mu$ arcsec precision, 4 color to V = 20 mag, 10⁹ objects.





Luminosity

Definition: Luminosity of a star:

The total energy emitted by a star per second is called its luminosity.

(=luminosity is a power)

In astronomy, luminosities are often measured in units of the solar luminosity,









Assumption: star emits its radiation isotropically.

Flux: energy passing per second through area of 1 m^2 at distance r:

$$F = \frac{L}{4\pi r^2}$$

(unit:
$$W m^{-2}$$
 or erg cm⁻² s⁻¹).





Flux, II

Fluxes from stars (apart from the Sun) are very small.

Example: α Centauri (closest star to the Sun).

- distance: $1.3\,\text{pc}\sim4\times10^{16}\,\text{m}$

- luminosity: similar to the Sun (4 \times 10²⁶ W).



Flux, III

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- luminosity: similar to the Sun (4 \times 10²⁶ W).

\implies Flux arriving on Earth:

$$F = \frac{L}{4\pi r^2} = \frac{3.9 \times 10^{26} \,\mathrm{W}}{4\pi \cdot 16 \cdot 10^{32} \,\mathrm{m}^2} = 2 \times 10^{-8} \,\mathrm{W} \,\mathrm{m}^{-2}$$

(compare with solar constant, $F = 1380 \text{ W m}^{-2}$!)



Flux, IV

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 \implies your eye detects a power of

$$P = A_{\text{eye}}F = 5 \times 10^{-12} \,\text{W}$$

from
$$\alpha$$
 Cen (assuming $A_{\rm eye} \sim$ 25 mm²)!

weakest visible stars: ${\sim}100{\times}$ weaker!



Magnitudes, I





First classification of stars:

- Stars of "magnitude 1": brightest (visible) stars
- Stars of "magnitude 6": faintest (visible) stars

Hipparchus (??– \sim 127 BC)

http://www-gap.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Mathematicians/Hipparchus.html





Magnitudes, II

Pogson (1865): Eye sensitivity is logarithmic, such that

A brightness *difference* of 5 magnitudes corresponds to a *ratio* of 100 in detected flux





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So, if magnitudes of two stars are m_1 and m_2 , then

$$rac{f_1}{f_2} = 100^{(m_2-m_1)/5}$$





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This means:

$$\log_{10}(f_1/f_2) = \frac{m_2 - m_1}{5} \log_{10} 100 = \frac{2}{5}(m_2 - m_1)$$





Magnitudes, V

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This means:

$$\log_{10}(f_1/f_2) = \frac{m_2 - m_1}{5} \log_{10} 100 = \frac{2}{5}(m_2 - m_1)$$

or

$$m_2 - m_1 = 2.5 \log_{10}(f_1/f_2) = -2.5 \log_{10}(f_2/f_1)$$

Note: Larger Magnitude = *FAINTER* Stars





Luminosity (revisited)

Inverse square law links flux f at distance d to flux F measured at another distance D:

$$\frac{F}{f} = \frac{L/4\pi D^2}{L/4\pi d^2} = \left(\frac{d}{D}\right)^2$$

Convention: to describe luminosity of a star, use the absolute magnitude M, defined as magnitude measured at distance D = 10 pc.

Therefore,

$$m - M = 2.5 \log(F/f) = 2.5 \log(d/10 \,\mathrm{pc})^2 = 5 \log d - 5$$

m-M is called the distance modulus, d is measured in pc.





Introduction

- Next observable: Temperature
- Obtained using spectroscopy

In the following: rough outline, as stellar spectroscopy is rather complicated Outline:

- 1. Planck's Radiation Laws
- 2. Stellar Continuum Spectra
- 3. Spectral Classification
- ... unfortunately, need to be a little bit formal first





Planck's Radiation Law, I



Max Planck (1858–1947)

Stars are big glowing gas balls.

In zeroth order: thermodynamic equilibrium.

Max Planck: under these circumstances: emitted spectrum is blackbody radiation:

$$F_{\lambda} = \frac{2hc^2/\lambda^5}{\exp(hc/\lambda kT) - 1}$$

 F_{λ} : Energy emitted per second and wavelength interval

- $h = 6.623 \times 10^{-34} \,\mathrm{J\,s:}$ Planck's constant
- $k = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \,\mathrm{J\,K^{-1}}$: Boltzmann constant



Planck's Radiation Law, II



Without proof, the following two important relationships hold for blackbody radiation:

Stefan-Boltzmann law: Power emitted per square-meter surface of a blackbody:

 $P = \sigma T^4$

where
$$\sigma = 5.67 imes 10^{-8} \, \mathrm{W} \, \mathrm{m}^{-2} \, \mathrm{K}^{-4}$$

"hotter bodies have a much higher luminosity"

Wien's displacement law: Wavelength of maximum blackbody emission:

 $\lambda_{\max}T = 2.898 imes 10^{-3} \,\mathrm{m\,K}$

"hotter bodies radiate higher energetic radiation"





Spectroscopy, I

Quantum mechanics: atoms have discrete energy levels Energy levels in Hydrogen:

$$E_n = -\frac{2\pi^2 \mu e^4}{\hbar^2} \cdot \frac{1}{n^2} \propto -\frac{1}{n^2}$$

($n \in \mathbb{N}$; Balmer formula)





Spectroscopy, II



In hydrogen atom: electrons typically found in ground state.

if temperature is higher, can also be in 1st excited state, but the physical principles following remain the same....



Spectroscopy, III



Photon hitting atom has energy $E_{phot} = h\nu = hc/\lambda$. If $E_{phot} = E_2 - E_1$, then photon can be absorbed...



Spectroscopy, IV



Photon hitting atom has energy $E_{phot} = h\nu = hc/\lambda$. If $E_{phot} = E_2 - E_1$, then photon can be absorbed... and electron has higher energy (is excited).



Spectroscopy, V



After absorption event, absorbing photon has disappeared and hydrogen atom remains in excited state.





Spectroscopy, VI

1. Assume stellar surface has

continuum spectrum

(Planck).





Spectroscopy, VII

- 10-24
- Assume stellar surface has continuum spectrum (Planck).
- 2. Assume surface is below atmosphere of colder gas.







Stellar Spectra

10-24

N.A.Sharp, NOAO/NSO/Kitt Peak FTS/AURA/NSF Absorption line spectrum of the Sun: Fraunhofer Lines



Annie Cannon (around 1890): Stars have different spectra.

NOAO

HD 12993
HD 158659
HD 30584
HD116608
HD 9547
HD 10032
BD 61 0367
HD 28099
HD 70178
HD 23524
SAO 76803
HD 260655
Yale 1755
HD 94082
SAO 81292
HD 13256

Annie Cannon (around 1890): Stars have different spectra.

NOAO





Spectroscopy, XII



Annie Jump Cannon (1863–1941)

Biography: http: //www.sdsc.edu/ScienceWomen/cannon.html Annie Jump Cannon: There are spectral types.

Henry Draper catalogues (Cannon plus \sim 10 female "computers"): 225000 spectral classifications.



	Н	β	ł	le	Ηα
HD 12993	Не				
HD 158659					
HD 30584					
HD116608					
HD 9547					
HD 10032		Fe		Na	
BD 61 0367					
HD 28099					
HD 70178					
HD 23524					
SAO 76803					
HD 260655					
Yale 1755		TiO MgH	TiO	TiC	
HD 94082					
SAO 81292					
HD 13256					

Annie Cannon: Strength of absorption lines varies with spectral type.

NOAO
ŀ	lβ	He	Ηα
HD 12993 He			O6.5
HD 158659			BO
HD 30584			B6
HD116608			A1
HD 9547			A5
HD 10032	Fe	Na	FO
BD 61 0367			F5
HD 28099			G0
HD 70178			G5
HD 23524			КО
SAO 76803			K5
HD 260655			MO
Yale 1755	TiO MgH	TiO	• M5
HD 94082			5 (but metal poor)
SAO 81292			M4.5e
HD 13256			Ble

Annie Cannon: Strength of absorption lines varies with spectral type.

NOAO



Spectroscopy, XV



Silva & Cornell, 1992, ApJ Suppl. 81, 865

Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin: Spectral sequence is temperature sequence.

Stellar Spectra





Spectroscopy, XVI



Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin (1900–1979)

Biography: http://www.harvardsquarelibrary. org/unitarians/payne2.html BSc, Cambridge, left UK because of situation of women in astronomy

1st person to obtain PhD in Astronomy at Harvard: "Stellar Atmospheres, A Contribution to the Observational Study of High Temperature in the Reversing Layers of Stars"

Otto Struve: "undoubtedly the most brilliant Ph.D. thesis ever written in astronomy."

Spectral types are a temperature sequence.

later: 1st female full professor at Harvard

Stellar Spectra





Spectroscopy, XVII

Summary spectral classes as a temperature sequence.

O - B - A - F	⁻ - G - K - M
30000 K	3000 K
"early type"	"late type"

plus subtypes: B0...B9,A0...A9, etc.

Sun is G2.

Note: "early" and "late" has *nothing* to do with age!







Spectroscopy, XVIII

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Mnemonics:

(http://lheawww.gsfc.nasa.gov/users/allen/obafgkmrns.html)

O Be A Fine Girl Kiss Me





Spectroscopy, XIX

Summary spectral classes as a temperature sequence.

O - B - A - F	- G - K - M
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O Be A Fine
$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Girl} \\ \text{Guy} \end{array}$$
 Kiss Me







Spectroscopy, XX

Summary spectral classes as a temperature sequence.

O - B - A - F	- G - K - M
30000 K	3000 K
"early type"	"late type"

plus subtypes: B0...B9,A0...A9, etc.

Sun is G2.

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(http://lheawww.gsfc.nasa.gov/users/allen/obafgkmrns.html)



Only Boys Accepting Feminism Get Kissed Meaningfully





Spectroscopy, XXI

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Only Boys Accepting Feminism Get Kissed Meaningfully

Only Bold Astronomers Forge Great Knowledgeable Minds



Stellar Spectra





L- and T-Stars



1995ff.: discovery of brown dwarfs (low mass, low temperature objects, see later).

Cushing et al., 2006

Stellar Spectra





L- and T-Stars

Brown Dwarfs \implies extension of spectral types to lower temperature objects

L dwarfs: objects with temperatures of 1200–2500 K, low mass, some do not support fusion. Spectra peak in IR, optical spectra contain prominent lines from metal hydrides and alkali metals.

Designation: L is character closest to M that was still available.

T dwarfs: brown dwarfs with temperatures of ~ 1000 K, strong lines from molecules such as methane in the spectrum.

See Kirkpatrick (2005, Ann. Rev. Astron. Astrophys., 43, 195) for an overview and the formal definition of these spectral types.



V. van Gogh: Starry Night over the Rhône (1888) The WebMuseum (http://www.ibiblio.org/wm/; original: Paris, Musée d'Orsay)





















Masses, X

Mizar A and B are rather typical stars:

50% – 80% of all stars in the solar neighbourhood belong to multiple systems.

Rough classification:







Masses, XI

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Masses, XII

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visual binaries: bound system that can be resolved into multiple stars (e.g., Mizar); can image orbital motion, periods typically 1 year to several 1000 years.





Masses, XIII

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Rough classification:

- **apparent binaries:** stars are *not* physically associated, just happen to lie along same line of sight ("optical doubles").
- visual binaries: bound system that can be resolved into multiple stars (e.g., Mizar); can image orbital motion, periods typically 1 year to several 1000 years.
- **spectroscopic binaries:** bound systems, cannot resolve image into multiple stars, but see Doppler effect in stellar spectrum; often short periods (hours...months).





http://csep10.phys.utk.edu/astr162/lect/binaries/astrometric.html

Astrometric binaries: Motion of stars around common center of mass results in a "wobble" around the CM (since CM is moving along a straight line).



Taking out proper motion leaves us with binary star orbits.





Masses, XVI

To determine stellar masses, use Kepler's 3rd law:

$$\frac{a^3}{P^2} = \frac{G}{4\pi^2}(m_1 + m_2)$$

where

- $M_{1,2}$: masses
- P: period
- $\bullet a$ semimajor axis







Masses, XVII

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where

- $M_{1,2}$: masses
- P: period
- \bullet *a* semimajor axis

Observational quantities:

- P directly measurable
- a measurable from image *if and only if* distance to binary and the inclination are known





Masses, XVIII







V₁ T₁ T₁ T₁ T₁ T₁ T₂

MOVIE TIME: vbin0.mpg, vbin4.mpg

Kepler's 3rd law gives $M_1 + M_2$.

Masses, XIX

To determine individual masses, M_1 and M_2 , we make use of the fact that the stars move around their common center of mass (CM):

 $M_1 a_1 = M_2 a_2$ such that $\frac{M_1}{M_2} = \frac{a_2}{a_1}$

where a_1 , a_2 : semi-major axes of orbits around CM (observable from imaging).







Photometric Binaries, I



In a close binary system: Gravitational potential described by the Roche potential:

$$\Phi_{\mathsf{R}}(\boldsymbol{r}) = -\frac{GM_1}{|\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}_1|} - \frac{GM_2}{|\boldsymbol{r} - \boldsymbol{r}_2|} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \boldsymbol{r}\right)^2$$

and where

$$\boldsymbol{\omega} = \left(\frac{GM}{a^3}\right)^{1/2} \hat{e}$$

Stellar surfaces are isosurfaces of this potential

- \implies stars are non-spherical
- \implies Stellar magnitude changes with orbit. MOVIE TIME: output.mpg

R. Hynes

Masses



(YY Sgr, $M_1/M_2 = 0.95$, P = 2.6285372(8) d; Lacy, 1993, AJ 106, 738; B5/B6 stars) Eclipsing binaries: photometric binaries where the orbital plane is perpendicular to the celestial plane.



Spectroscopic Binaries, I



For spectroscopic binaries: can only measure radial velocity along line of sight For circular orbit, angle θ on orbit:

 $\theta = \omega t$

where $\omega = 2\pi/P$. Observed radial velocity:

 $v_{\rm r} = v \cos(\omega t)$

If orbit has inclination i, then

 $v_{\rm r}(t) = v \sin i \cos(\omega t)$

From observation of $v_{\rm r}(t) \Longrightarrow v \sin i$. ("velocity amplitude")



Spectroscopic Binaries, II



Motion of star visible through Doppler shift in stellar spectrum:

$$\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda} = \frac{v_{\rm r}}{c} = \frac{v}{c}\sin i\cos\omega t$$

For virtually all stars, classical Doppler effect is enough; once $v \gtrsim 0.1c$, however, use relativistic Doppler effect,

$$\nu_{\rm obs} = \nu_{\rm em} \sqrt{\frac{1 + v/c}{1 - v/c}}$$

Masses

10-54

HDE 226868/Cyg X-1; Pottschmidt (2001)





Spectroscopic Binaries, III



Best fit radial velocity curve of HDE 226868/Cyg X-1 using data spanning more than 30 years.

Pottschmidt et al. (2001)

Masses

To derive the mass function, we start as usual with Kepler's 3rd law,

$$\frac{G}{4\pi^2}(M_1 + M_2) = \frac{R^3}{P^2}$$

In the following, we will assume that we observe the spectral lines from star number 1 only. Because of the center of mass definition,

such that

$$R = r_1 + r_2 = r_1 \left(1 + \frac{r_2}{r_1} \right) = r_1 \left(1 + \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right)$$

 $M_1 r_1 = M_2 r_2$

In the case that the orbits are circular, the velocity of the star whose spectrum we see is

$$v_1 = \frac{2\pi r_1^2}{P}$$

However, due to the unknown inclination, we only observe the radial velocity component, that is

 $v_{\sf obs} = v_1 \sin i$

 $r_1 = \frac{P}{2\pi} v_1 = \frac{P}{2\pi} \frac{v_{\text{obs}}}{\sin i}$

In terms of the observables, r_1 is

such that fi nally

$$R = r_1 \left(1 + \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right) = \frac{P}{2\pi} \frac{v_{\text{obs}}}{\sin i} \left(1 + \frac{M_1}{M_2} \right)$$

We can now insert R into Kepler's 3rd law:

$$\frac{G}{4\pi^2}(M_1 + M_2) = \frac{1}{P^2} \frac{P^3}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{v_{\rm obs}^3}{\sin^3 i} \left(1 + \frac{M_1}{M_2}\right)^3$$

and obtain after some straightforward algebra

$$\frac{M_2^3}{(M_1 + M_2)^2} \sin^3 i = \frac{P v_{\text{obs}}^3}{2\pi G}$$

the mass function. On the right side are the observables P and v_{obs} , on the left hand side the unknowns i, M_1 , and M_2 .





Mass Function

If only one star visible: can only determine limits for mass: mass function

$$\frac{Pv_{\text{obs}}^3}{2\pi G} = \frac{M_2^3 \sin^3 i}{(M_1 + M_2)^2} =: f_{\text{M}}$$

with observables:

- v_{obs} : (velocity amplitude of M_1)
- P: period

and unknowns:

- M_1 : mass of "primary star"
- M₂: mass of (unseen) "secondary star"
- *i*: inclination

$\implies f_{\mathsf{M}} \text{ is lower limit for } M_2, \text{ since for } M_1 = 0, M_2 = f_{\mathsf{M}} / \sin^3 i \ge f_{\mathsf{M}}$

Often used for neutron star and black hole binaries...

Masses




Application: Mass-Luminosity Relation



We can now look at the solar neighborhood:

- apparent magnitude m and distance \implies luminosity
- mass from binary stars
- ⇒ determine mass-luminosity relationship



Application: Mass-Luminosity Relation



Empirical result:

$$rac{L}{L_{\odot}} = \left\{ egin{array}{l} 0.23 \left(rac{M}{M_{\odot}}
ight)^{2.3} & (M < 0.43 \, M_{\odot}) \ & \ & \ & \ & \left(rac{M}{M_{\odot}}
ight)^{4.0} & (M \ge 0.43 \, M_{\odot}) \end{array}
ight.$$

 \implies more massive stars have extremely higher luminosities! (factor 2 in $M \rightarrow$ factor 8 in L). Direct consequence:

More massive stars live much shorter lives

sometimes, one also sees $L \propto M^{3.3}...$

Masses









Hertzsprung - Russell Diagram (HRD): Stellar temperature versus stellar luminosity







Most stars on Main
 Sequence ("dwarfs")

Hertzsprung - Russell Diagram (HRD): Stellar temperature versus stellar luminosity







- Most stars on Main
 Sequence ("dwarfs")
- Stellar Luminosity:

 $L={\rm 4}\pi R^{\rm 2}\sigma T^{\rm 4}\propto R^{\rm 2}T^{\rm 4}$

 \implies cold, luminous stars are *BIG*

 \implies "giants"

Hertzsprung - Russell Diagram (HRD): Stellar temperature versus stellar luminosity







- Most stars on Main
 Sequence ("dwarfs")
- Stellar Luminosity:
 - $L={\rm 4}\pi R^{\rm 2}\sigma T^{\rm 4}\propto R^{\rm 2}T^{\rm 4}$
 - \Longrightarrow cold, luminous stars

are BIG

 \implies "giants"

• Hot, underluminous stars are small: "white dwarfs"

Hertzsprung - Russell Diagram (HRD): Stellar temperature versus stellar luminosity







Combining Mass-Luminosity Relationship and HRD:

Main Sequence is a Mass Sequence

- \bullet M-Dwarfs have $M \lesssim {\rm 0.25} M_{\odot}$
- G-Stars are similar to Sun and have $M \sim M_{\odot}$
- O- and B-Stars are very massive ($M\gtrsim 20 M_{\odot}$)









Finally, stars also classified in Iuminosity classes Ia, Ib, II, III, IV, V, VI "Morgan-Keenan classes" M-K class is appended to spectral class: Sun: G2 V,

Beteigeuze: M2 lab



Kaler, 2005, Cambridge Encyclopedia of Stars, CUP



Globular Cluster NGC 6903



M3, S. Kafka and K. Honeycutt, Indiana University/WIYN/NOAO/NSF note many red giants!



HRD of Globular Cluster M5 (UNSW, Sydney) (B-V: \sim spectral class; V is a magnitude)

Globular Clusters: HRD is very different of solar neighbourhood MS: Main Sequence **TO:** Turn-Over point **HB:** Horizontal Branch **RGB:** Red Giant Branch **AGB:** Asymptotic Giant Branch **WD:** White Dwarfs All stars in globular cluster born at the same time

⇒ HRD shows evidence for stellar evolution



Stellar Structure and Evolution