

AY 20

Fall 2010

Stellar Interiors: Energy Sources

Reading: Carroll & Ostlie, Chapter 10 §10.3, §10.6

Last class: mean molecular weight of gas $\mu = \langle m \rangle / m_H$

$$\frac{1}{\mu_n} = \sum_j \frac{X_j}{A_j} \quad \text{for completely neutral gas}$$

$$\frac{1}{\mu_i} = \sum_j \frac{(1 + z_j) X_j}{A_j} \quad \text{for completely ionized gas}$$

Where X_j = mass fraction for atoms of type j ; $A_j = m_j / m_H$

Usual usage: X = total mass of H / total mass of gas

Y = total mass of He / total mass of gas

Z = total mass of metals / total mass of gas

Typically abundances are solar: $X = 0.70$ $Y = 0.28$ $Z = 0.02$

$$1/\mu_n = X + \frac{1}{4}Y + \langle 1/A \rangle_n Z$$

$$1/\mu_i = 2X + \frac{3}{4}Y + \langle (1+z)/A \rangle_i Z \quad (z_j = \# \text{ free electrons released by atom } j)$$

$$1/\mu_i = 2X + \frac{3}{4}Y + \frac{1}{2}Z$$

Last two equations of stellar structure

$$\frac{dT}{dr} = -\frac{3}{4ac} \frac{\bar{\kappa}\rho}{T^3} \frac{L_r}{4\pi r^2} \quad \text{for radiative transport} \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{dT}{dr} = -\left(1 - \frac{1}{\gamma}\right) \frac{\mu m_H}{k} \frac{GM_r}{r^2} \quad \text{adiabatic convective transport} \quad (2)$$

convection condition for bubble: $dp/dr|_b < dp/dr|_{\text{surroundings}}$

$$\rightarrow dT/dr|_{\text{actual}} < (1 - 1/\gamma) T/P \times dP/dr$$

But (2) may be written $dT/dr|_{\text{adiabatic}} = (1 - 1/\gamma) T/P \times dP/dr$

$$\therefore dT/dr|_{\text{ad}} > dT/dr|_{\text{act}}$$

$\therefore$ since $dT/dr < 0$, condition for convection:

$$|dT/dr|_{\text{act}} > |dT/dr|_{\text{ad}}$$

i.e. actual temperature gradient is *superadiabatic*, assuming constant μ

Alternative condition: $d \ln P / d \ln T < \gamma / (\gamma - 1) = 2.5$ for monatomic gas

For $d \ln P / d \ln T < 2.5$, convective transport - equation (2) above

For $d \ln P / d \ln T > 2.5$ radiative transport - equation (1) above

Equations of stellar structure

- equation of hydrostatic equilibrium
- mass conservation equation
- energy conservation equation
- radiation transport
- adiabatic convection

$$\frac{dP}{dr} = -\frac{GM_r \rho}{r^2}$$

$$\frac{dM_r}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho$$

$$\frac{dL}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho \varepsilon$$

$$\frac{dT}{dr} = -\frac{3}{4ac} \frac{\bar{\kappa} \rho}{T^3} \frac{L_r}{4\pi r^2}$$

$$\frac{dT}{dr} = -\left(1 - \frac{1}{\gamma}\right) \frac{\mu m_H}{k} \frac{GM_r}{r^2}$$

LUMINOSITY GRADIENT EQUATION $\Rightarrow$

$$\frac{dL_r}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho \mathcal{E}$$

$\mathcal{E}$ = total energy released/unit mass/sec
by all nuclear reactions + gravity

NUCLEAR REACTIONS - CONVERSION OF ONE
ELEMENT TO ANOTHER

- RELEASES MeV ENERGIES

- CONVERSION VIA A CHAIN OF REACTIONS

CONSERVATION LAWS APPLY: CONSERVE

ELECTRIC CHARGE

NUMBER OF NUCLEONS

NUMBER OF LEPTONS

LEPTONS e^- e^+ ν $\bar{\nu}$, γ
electron positron neutrino $\bar{\nu}$ $\leftarrow$ photon
anti-neutrino

NOMENCLATURE:

${}_Z^AX$

X = element; H, He, Ca,
 Z = number of protons
(total +ve charge)

A = baryonic (or mass) number
of protons + neutrons

e.g. ${}_1^1\text{P} \equiv {}_1^1\text{H}$ hydrogen; ${}_1^2\text{H}$ = deuterium

neutrinos neutral + almost massless $\bar{\nu}$

electron ${}_1^0e^-$; positron ${}_1^0e^+$ or ${}_1^0e^+$

showed earlier that nuclear energy sufficient
to power sun

Binding energy = energy released in

e.g. mass of 4H atoms > mass of He atoms
fusion

$$\Delta m = 0.028697 \text{ u}$$

$$E = \Delta mc^2 = 26.73 \text{ MeV} - \text{binding energy}$$

Quantum tunneling enables fusion
at temperatures typical of 'normal' stars
but not all particles will have sufficient
energy to tunnel even at these temperatures

∴ consider number density of particles w. appropriate
energy

+ probability of tunneling through
Coulomb barrier of target nucleus



total nuclear reaction rate

* 12. in a specific range

NUMBER DENSITY OF NUCLEI WITHIN SPECIFIED ENERGY INTERVAL?

MAXWELL-BOLTZMANN DISTRIBUTION FUNCTION

(# OF PTICLES WITH SPEEDS BETWEEN v AND $v+dv$)
/ UNIT VOL. AS FUNCTION OF T

$$n_v dv = n \left(\frac{m}{2\pi kT} \right)^{3/2} e^{-mv^2/2kT} 4\pi v^2 dv$$

$$E = K = \mu m v^2 / 2 \quad (\text{NEGLECT P.E. - PTICLES INITIALLY FAR APART})$$

$$\Rightarrow n_e dv = \frac{2n}{\pi^{1/2}} \frac{1}{(kT)^{3/2}} E^{1/2} e^{-E/kT} dE$$

$n_e dE$ = NUMBER OF PARTICLES / UNIT VOL
WITH ENERGIES BETWEEN
 E AND $E+dE$

WHAT IS PROBABILITY PARTICLES WILL INTERACT?

LET $\sigma(E) = \frac{\text{NUMBER OF REACTIONS/NUCLEUS/TIME}}{\text{NUMBER OF INCIDENT PTICLES/AREA/TIME}}$

CARROLL & OSTLIE PP. 303-306

$\Downarrow$

TOTAL NUMBER OF REACTIONS / UNIT VOL / UNIT TIME = r_{ix}

$$r_{ix} = \int_0^\infty n_x n_i \sigma(E) v(E) \frac{n_E}{n} dE$$

n_i = number of incident particles, n_x = number of targets
 $v(E) = \sqrt{2E}/\mu m$, n_E number with energy E , $n = \int_0^\infty n_e dE$

AND $\sigma(E)$ CHANGES RAPIDLY WITH E

$\sigma \propto e^{-bE^{-1/2}}$

SIMPLE FORM:

$$r_{ix} = \left(\frac{2}{kT} \right)^{3/2} \frac{n_i n_x}{(\mu m \pi)^{1/2}} \int_0^\infty \sigma(E) e^{-bE^{-1/2}} e^{-E/kT} dE$$

$$\sigma(E) = \frac{\sigma(E)}{E} e^{-bE^{-1/2}}, \quad b = \frac{2^{3/2} \pi^{1/2} \mu m^{1/2} Z_1 Z_2 e^2}{h}$$

ENERGY RELEASE

FOR A 2-PARTICLE INTERACTION, REACTION RATES CAN BE EXPRESSED AS A POWER LAW CENTERED ON TEMPERATURE T

$$r_{ix} = r_0 X_i X_x \rho^{\alpha'} T^{\beta}$$

WHERE T_0 = CONSTANT; $X_i X_x$ ARE MASS FRACTIONS OF TWO SPECIES

α', β DEPEND OF POWER LAW EXPANSIONS OF RATE EQUATIONS

$\alpha' = 2$ FOR 2-PARTICLE, $\beta = 1-40$

LET $\mathcal{E}_0$ = AMOUNT OF ENERGY PER REACTION

.. ENERGY RELEASED/UNIT MASS/SEC = $\mathcal{E}_{ix} = \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_0}{\rho}\right) r_{ix}$ *

$$\mathcal{E}_{ix} = \mathcal{E}_0' X_i X_x \rho^{\alpha'} T^{\beta} \quad \alpha = \alpha' - 1$$

units: ergs/sec/gm

FOR PP CHAIN: $\mathcal{E}_{pp} = 1.07 \times 10^{-5} \rho X^2 \psi_{pp} f_{pp} T_6^4$ cgs

$\psi_{pp} \sim 1$ to account for PP I, II, III; f_{pp} = "screening factor"; computer $\rightarrow$ sea of e^- changes $\rightarrow$ lowers Coulomb barrier

FOR CNO CYCLE: $\mathcal{E}_{cno} = 8.24 \times 10^{-24} \rho X X_{cno} T_6^{19.9}$

HIGHER TEMPERATURES } ENABLE CNO CYCLE
AND MORE MASSIVE STARS

$\rightarrow$ CLUES TO STRUCTURE OF STELLAR INTERIORS

* Note: total energy generation rate = $\sum \mathcal{E}_{ix}$ for all reactions

SINCE STARS MOSTLY HYDROGEN CONCENTRATE
ON CONVERTING HYDROGEN TO HELIUM

-1938 HANS BETHE (CORNELL) - CARL FRIEDRICH VON
WEISSÄCKER

SUGGESTED CNO CYCLE

-1950's TRIPLE-ALPHA REACTION (TO BURN HE)

PROTON-PROTON CHAIN

PP I (THERE ARE SEVERAL PATHS)



THE SLOWEST STEP: INVOLVES ${}^1_1\text{p} \rightarrow {}^1_0\text{n} + {}^0_1\text{e}^+ + \nu$



HELIUM-3

IN SUN-LIKE STARS
HAPPENS 69% OF TIME

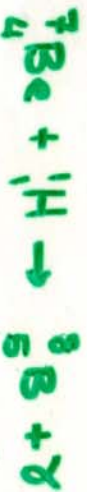


PP II BEGIN AS BEFORE

31% OF TIME PP II LIKELY



PP III



IF PP II TAKES
PLACE, PP III 0.5%
OF TIME
(BRANCHING
RATIO)

EACH STEP: DIFFERENT COLLISION BARRIERS, T, REACTION RATES

PROTON-PROTON CHAIN & BRANCHING RATIOS



For each reaction (3), (1) & (2) take place twice

- (1) has a very low (unmeasured) probability
- at solar temperatures proton-proton collision $\sim 10^{10}$ years $\rightarrow$ deuterium

BUT IF FASTER SUN WOULD HAVE EXHAUSTED ALL FUEL

(2) much faster $\rightarrow$ deuterium abundance **low**

for stars with $T < 20 \times 10^6 \text{ K}$ about mass of sun

P, T appropriate for energy generation by pp chain $\sim 91\%$ energy

for higher temps and masses $> 1.5 M_{\odot}$

CARBON-NITROGEN-OXYGEN CYCLE (CNO CYCLE) DOMINATES - more dependent on temperature

HELIUM ALSO PRODUCED FROM HYDROGEN USING CARBON, NITROGEN, OXYGEN

THE CNO CYCLE

- BETHE 1938



0.04% TIME ↓



HERE REACTION 4 IS SLOWEST AND SO DETERMINES RATE FOR CNO CYCLE. AT $20 \times 10^6 \text{ K}$, (4) HAS REACTION TIME 10^6 YRS . FRACTION OF ENERGY RELEASED < PP CHAIN. MORE CARRIED AWAY BY NEUTRINOS

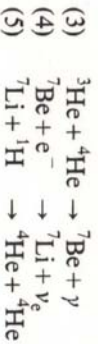
quarks.

The second reaction, where a deuteron and a proton unite to form the helium isotope ^3He , is very fast compared to the preceding one. Thus the abundance of deuterons inside stars is very small.

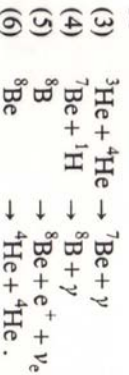
The last step in the pp chain can take three different forms. The ppi chain shown above is the most probable one. In the Sun, 91% of the energy is produced by the ppi chain.

It is also possible for ^3He nuclei to unite into ^4He nuclei in two additional branches of the pp chain.

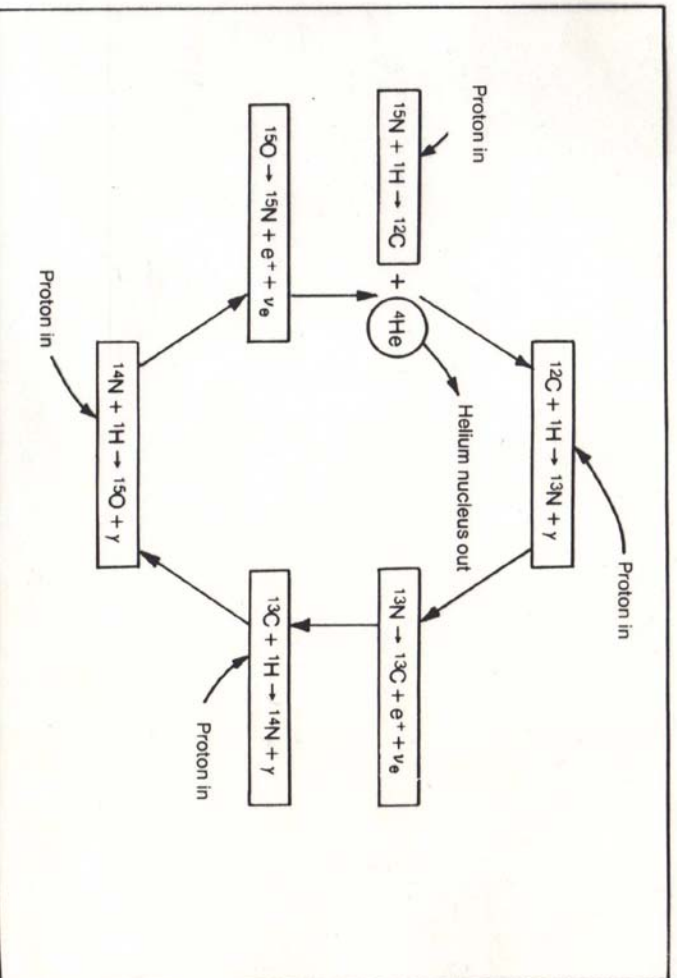
ppII:



ppIII:

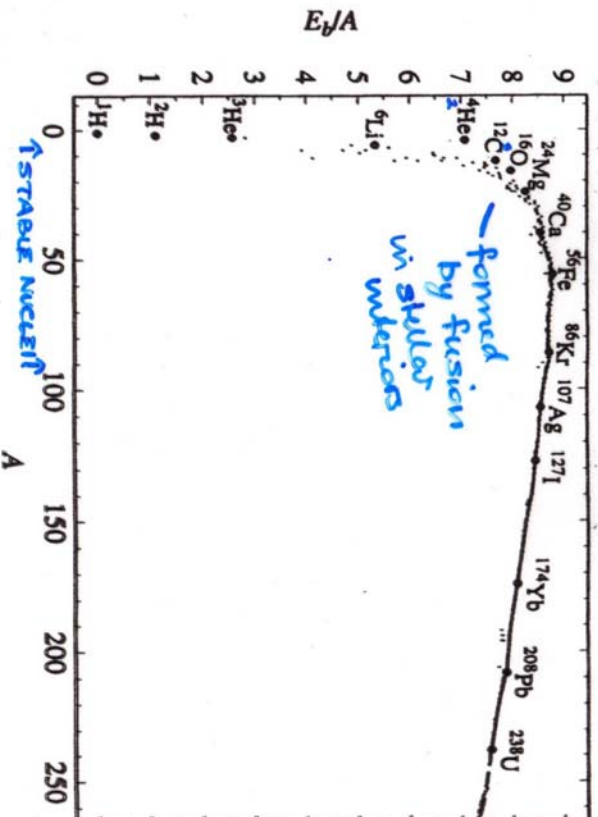


The Carbon Cycle (Fig. 11.6). At temperatures below 20 million degrees, the pp chain is the main energy production mechanism. At higher temperatures, corresponding to



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BINDING ENERGY/NUCLEON = E_b/A , A = mass number = $m/m_H \cdot 13$
 $E_b = \Delta mc^2 = (Zm_p + (A-Z)m_n - m_{\text{nucleus}})c^2$



ENERGY REGENERATION RATES:

PP CHAIN: $E_P \approx E'_{\alpha, PP} \rho X^2 f_{PP} \psi_{PP} C_{PP} T_6^4$

$$E'_{\alpha, PP} = 1.08 \times 10^{-12} \text{ W m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-2} \quad T_6 \equiv \frac{T}{10^6 \text{ K}}$$

$$E_{PP} \propto T^4$$

CNO CYCLE: $E_{CNO} = 8.67 \times 10^{20} \rho X X_{CNO} C_{CNO} T_6^{-2/5} e^{-15.23/T_6} \text{ W kg}^{-1}$

$$E_{CNO} \propto E'_{\alpha, CNO} \rho X X_{CNO} T_6^{17.9}$$

$$E'_{\alpha, CNO} = 8.24 \times 10^{-31} \text{ W m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-2}$$

very temperature dependent

hot, massive stars
 $> 1 M_{\odot}$

conversion $\text{H} \rightarrow \text{He}$ leads to increased μ

RECALL $\frac{1}{\mu_n} = X + \frac{1}{4}Y + \frac{1}{15.5}Z$

AS HYDROGEN $\rightarrow$ HELIUM, X DECREASES,
 Y INCREASES, μ_n INCREASES

$$PV = NkT \Rightarrow P_g = \frac{\rho kT}{\mu_{mm}}$$

FOR CONSTANT ρ, T , INCREASED μ
 $\equiv$ DECREASE P_g

REAL CHANGE, NOT EFFECT OF PRESSURE GRADIENT

$\therefore$ NO LONGER HYDROSTATIC EQUILIBRIUM

$$dP/dr \neq -\frac{GM_r \rho}{r^2}$$

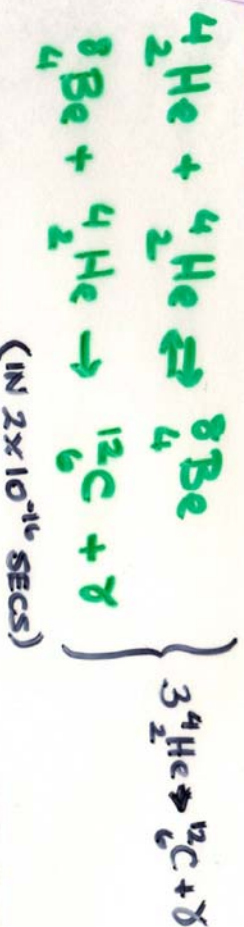
$\therefore$ GRAVITY WINS, STAR COLLAPSE BEGINS

BUT COLLAPSE RAISES ρ, T

$\rightarrow$ HELIUM "BURNING" CAN BEGIN

TEMPERATURES RISE TO POINT WHERE
 HELIUM ATOMS CAN OVERCOME
 COULOMB REPULSION

HELIUM CONVERTED TO CARBON IN TRIPLE ALPHA PROCESS $T > 10^8 \text{ K}$



BERYLLIUM WILL DECAY IF NOT HIT IMMEDIATELY
BY ANOTHER α -PTCLE [HELIUM NUCLEUS]

$\therefore$ 3 BODY REACTION AND $\epsilon_{3\alpha} \propto (\rho Y)^3$

$$\epsilon_{3\alpha} \approx \epsilon'_{0,3\alpha} \rho^3 Y^3 f_{3\alpha} T^{41.0}$$

← !!

REMARKABLE TEMPERATURE
DEPENDENCE

IN THE BEGINNING OR SOON AFTER
BIG BANG

EARLY UNIVERSE HYDROGEN, HELIUM

NOW : SIGNIFICANT ABUNDANCES METALS FROM
NUCLEOSYNTHESIS IN STELLAR INTERIORS

ALPHA REACTIONS



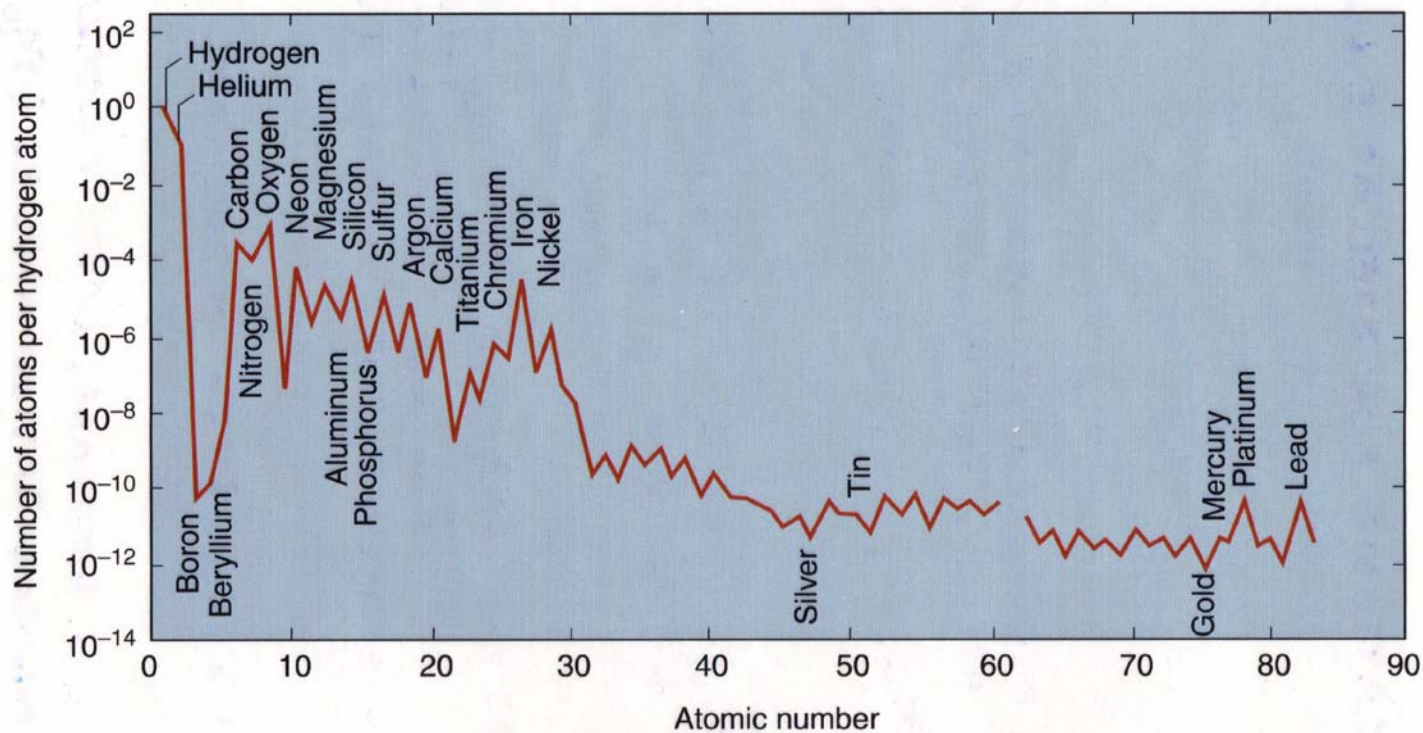
MORE MASSIVE STARS

$5-8 \times 10^8 \text{ K}$ CARBON BURNING $\rightarrow \text{O}$

! OXYGEN BURNING $\rightarrow \text{Ne, Si, Mg}$

! EVOLUTION OF STARS + EVOLUTION

Figure 13-1
Cosmic abundance of chemical elements



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SOURCE: Data from A. Cameron.

SUMMING UP:

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FOR STARS OF MASS $< 1.5 M_{\odot}$
TEMP $< 2 \times 10^7 \text{ K}$

ENERGY GENERATION BY PP
CHAIN

MORE MASSIVE, HOTTER STARS

ENERGY GENERATION BY CNO CYCLE

WITH INCREASING CENTRAL
TEMPERATURE DUE TO HYDROGEN BURNING
($\text{H} \rightarrow \text{He}$)



BEGIN TO BURN HELIUM

- TRIPLE ALPHA PROCESS

MODELING STELLAR INTERIORS NOW POSSIBLE

DEFINE: BOUNDARY CONDITIONS,

USE: EQUATIONS OF STATE
STELLAR STRUCTURE EQUATIONS

SPECIFY: TYPE OF STAR

BY MASS, RADIUS, LUMINOSITY
& COMPOSITION AT SURFACE

$\Rightarrow P, M_r, T, L_r$ AT dr BELOW SURFACE
etc etc $\rightarrow t = 0$

STELLAR MODELS RELY ON:

STRUCTURE EQUATIONS

$$\frac{dP}{dr} = -G \frac{M_r \rho}{r^2}, \quad \frac{dM_r}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho, \quad \frac{dL_r}{dr} = 4\pi r^2 \rho \epsilon$$

$$\frac{dT}{dr} = -\frac{3}{4} \frac{\bar{\kappa}_e}{\kappa_{ac}} \frac{L_r}{4\pi r^2} \quad (\text{radiation}) \quad \text{OR} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{5}\right) \frac{\mu_{MH} G M_r}{r^2} \quad (\text{adiabatic convection})$$

SUPPLEMENTED BY "CONSTITUTIVE RELATIONS:"

RELATIONS FOR $P, \bar{\kappa}, \epsilon$, IN TERMS OF ρ, T , COMPOSITION

FOR PRESSURE: $P = \frac{\rho k T}{\mu_{MH}} + \frac{1}{3} a T^4$ (except in deep interiors where $\rho, T \propto \text{high}$) VARIATION OF μ WITH COMPOSITION & IONIZATION MUST BE INCLUDED

OPACITY - NO ONE EQUATION; CALCULATED FOR VARIOUS COMPOSITIONS, $\rho, T \rightarrow$ TABLES $\rightarrow$ EXPRESSIONS (not K_{bb}) FOR K_{bf}, K_{ff} etc by extrapolation (or fitting fit)

ENERGY GENERATION RATE: $\epsilon_P, \epsilon_{CNO}$ OF APPROPRIATE FORM

APPROPRIATE REACTIONS - DEPENDENT ON TEMP, DENSITY

- STRUCTURE EQUATIONS MUST BE INTEGRATED NUMERICALLY, NO ANALYTICAL SOLUTIONS (EXCEPTION POLYTOPES $P \propto \rho^3$)
- USE CONSTRUCT OF SPHERICALLY SYMMETRIC SHELLS AND DIFFERENCE EQUATIONS $\Delta P / \Delta r$
- USUALLY INTEGRATE SURFACE IN & CENTER-OUT AND CONSTRAINED TO VARY SMOOTHLY AT "FITTING POINT"

BOUNDARY CONDITIONS $\rightarrow$ LIMITS OF INTEGRATION
PHYSICALLY CONSTRAIN EQUATIONS

$\therefore$ A STAR'S CENTER $M_r \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow 0$
 $L_r \rightarrow$

AT SURFACE $T \rightarrow 0$ as $r \rightarrow R_*$
 $P \rightarrow 0$

$\rho \rightarrow 0$

ρ, μ

BUT STRUCTURE EQUATIONS AND CONSTITUTIVE REL'S
ARE ALL INTER-RELATED: ~~NUMERICAL SOLUTIONS~~
 ρ, μ, ϵ DEPEND ON $\rho, T, \text{COMPOSITION AT GIVEN LOCATION}$
 $\therefore$ IF M_r AT $r = R_*$ ($= M_*$) IS DEFINED/SPECIFIED
AS WELL AS COMPOSITION, R_*, L_*

BOUNDARY $\rightarrow P, M_r, T, L_r$ AT DISTANCE dr FROM SURFACE
CONDITIONS

- CONTINUING NUMERICAL INTEGRATION
TO CENTER $\rightarrow$ BOUNDARY CONDITIONS AT $r=0$

ALL

VALUES OF ρ, μ GRADIENTS ALL INVOLVE COMPOSITION
 $\therefore$ SURFACE RADIUS - LUMINOSITY COMBINATION
DEFINED BY CHOICE OF MASS, COMPOSITION

$\Rightarrow$ VOGT-RUSSELL 'THEOREM'

MASS & COMPOSITION STRUCTURE THROUGHOUT
A STAR UNIQUELY DETERMINE RADIUS, LUMINOSITY
AND INTERNAL STRUCTURE AS WELL AS
SUBSEQUENT EVOLUTION

(NEGLECTING
ROTATION &
MAGNETIC FIELDS)

REALLY: STAR'S MASS AND COMPOSITION DICTATE
EVOLUTION DUE TO CHANGES IN COMPOSITION FROM NUCLEAR
BURNING

DUE TO CHANGES IN COMPOSITION & MASS FROM NUCLEAR BURNING, STAR EVOLVES

AS NUCLEAR BURNING PROCEEDS, STAR'S COMPOSITION CHANGES

[RECALL $\frac{1}{\mu_n}$ CHANGES: X DECREASES, Y INCREASES]

$\therefore$ LUMINOSITY AND RADIUS CHANGE

$\Rightarrow$ EVOLUTIONARY TRACKS ON HERTZSPRUNG-RUSSELL DIAGRAM

MOST STARS: $X = 0.70$ $Y = 0.28$ $Z = 0.02$
EASIEST $\equiv$ FIRST REACTIONS ${}^1_1\text{H} \rightarrow {}^4_2\text{He}$

PP CHAIN, CNO CYCLE QUITE SLOW

$\therefore$ COMPOSITION CHANGES SLOW

$\therefore$ CHANGES IN T_{eff} , L_R ARE SLOW

WHILE H-BURNING TAKING PLACE, LITTLE CHANGE IN OBSERVED CHARACTERISTICS OF STAR

WE SHOWED: $\frac{dP}{dr} = -\frac{GMr\rho}{r^2} \Rightarrow P_c \sim G \frac{M\rho_0}{R_0}$
AND FOR GAS COMP ONLY $T_c = \frac{P_c \mu_{\text{HH}}}{\rho_R}$

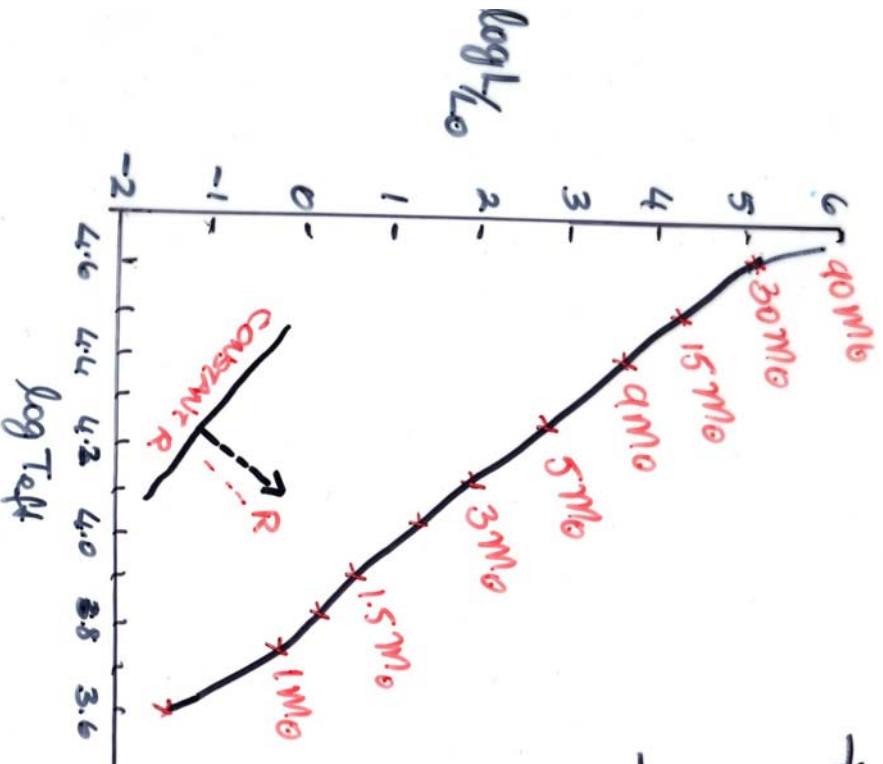
$\therefore P_c, T_c$, LUMINOSITY INCREASE WITH MASS

Plots of L versus T_{eff} for H-burning masses

→ mass luminosity
relation
theoretically

→ H-burning
on main-sequence

Masses determined
from models



MORE MASSIVE ~ HOTTER ~ HIGHER L

REQUIRE GREATER C

STARS WITH $m > 90 M_{\odot}$ UNSTABLE

STARS WITH $m < 0.08 M_{\odot}$ TOO COOL
FOR NUCLEAR
REACTIONS

EDDINGTON LIMIT:

EXTREMELY HIGH LUMINOSITIES
→ INSTABILITY OF MASSIVE STARS

RECALL $P = \frac{\rho k T}{\mu m_H} + \frac{1}{3} a T^4$

IF T very high, ρ low $P_{rad} > P_{gas}$ outer layers massive star

$\therefore$ pressure gradient is $\frac{dP_{rad}}{dr} = -\frac{\bar{\kappa}_p}{c} F_{rad} = -\frac{\bar{\kappa}_p}{c} \frac{L}{4\pi r^2}$

for hydrostatic equilibrium $\frac{dP}{dr} = -\frac{GM(r)}{r^2} \quad (-P_g)$

to maintain hydrostatic equilibrium

$-\frac{\bar{\kappa}_p}{c} \frac{L}{4\pi r^2} = -\frac{GM(r)}{r^2}$

$\therefore L = \frac{4\pi c G M}{\bar{\kappa}_p} = L_{\text{Eddington}}$

L_{ed} = maximum luminosity a star can have and still be in hydrostatic equilibrium

eg for massive stars at 50,000K - approx end of main sequence most H ionized $\bar{\kappa} \rightarrow \bar{\kappa}_{es} = 0.2(1+x) \text{ m}^2 \text{ kg}^{-1}$

$\therefore L_{\text{ed}} = \frac{4\pi \times 6.7 \times 10^{-11} \times 3 \times 10^8 \times 2 \times 10^{30}}{0.2 \times 1.7} \approx 1.5 \times 10^6 \frac{M}{M_{\odot}}$

$\frac{L_{\text{ed}}}{L_{\odot}} = 3.8 \times 10^4 \frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \quad \therefore F_{\odot} M = 90 M_{\odot}$

$L_{\text{ed}} = 3.5 \times 10^6 L_{\odot}$

expected m.s $L \approx 10^6 L_{\odot}$

→ Envelope of even m-s massive stars is unstable