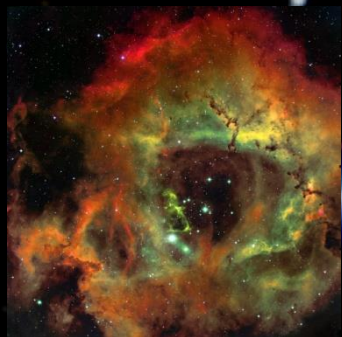


恆星的生老病死

星際雲氣



恆星



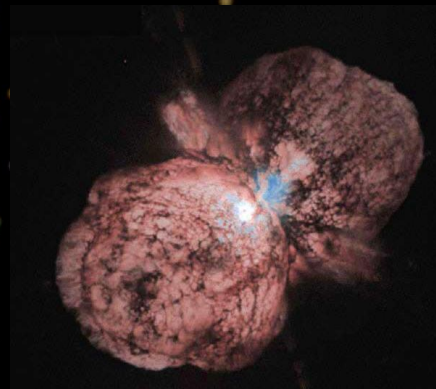
紅巨星



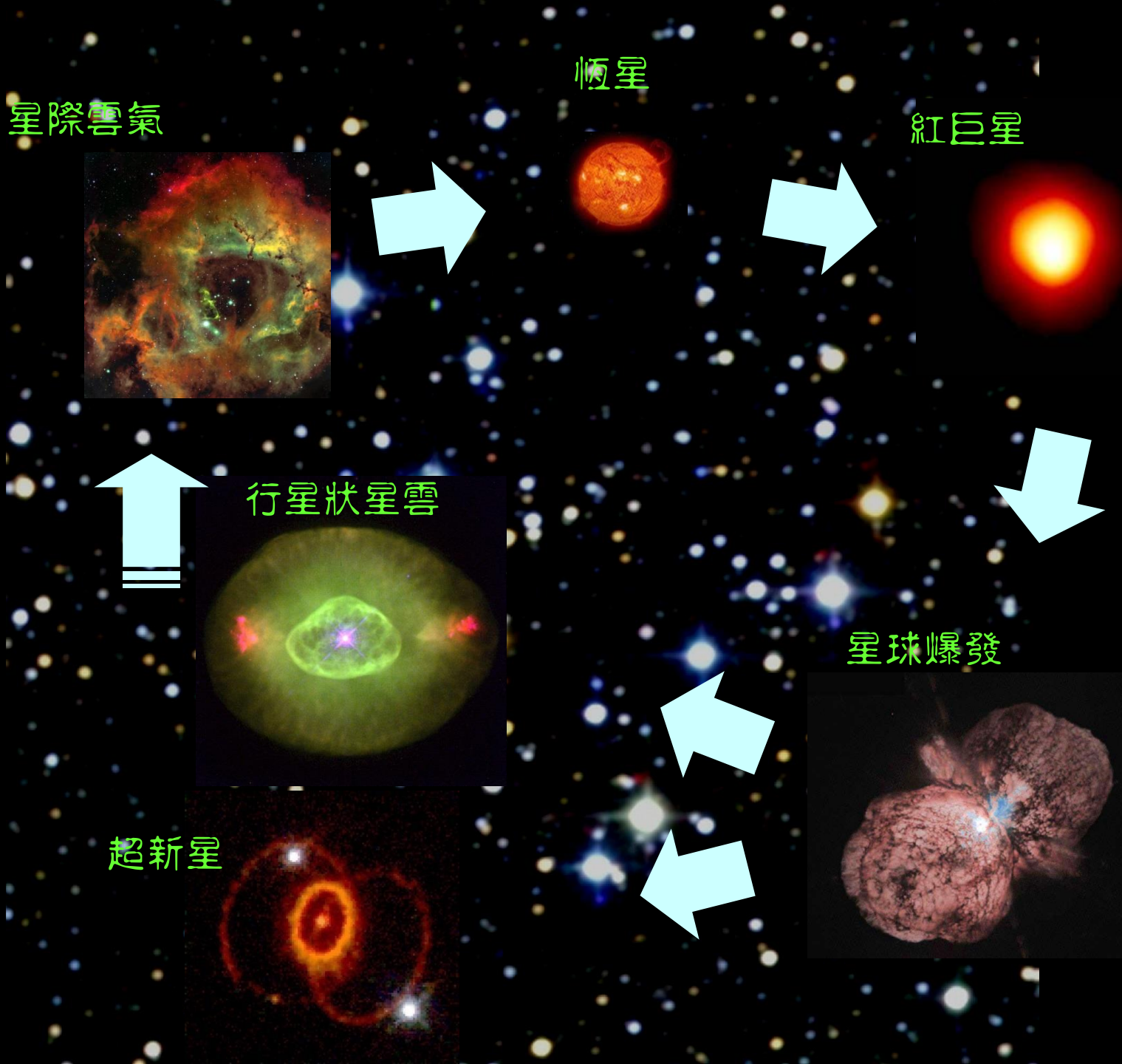
行星狀星雲



星球爆發



超新星



你覺得呢？

- ❖ 如何知道恆星演化的過程？星團對於瞭解恆星演化扮演何種角色？
- ❖ 星球與星球之間存在了哪些物質？這些星際物質數量有多少、如何分布
- ❖ 恆星如何形成？在何處形成？
- ❖ 老年垂死恆星如何觸發新一代恆星形成？

星際物質 (interstellar medium)

星星之間有極寬廣的空間
但是 **太空 ≠ 真空**

日常空氣 $\sim 10^{19}$ molecules/cm³
星際太空 ~ 1 /cm³

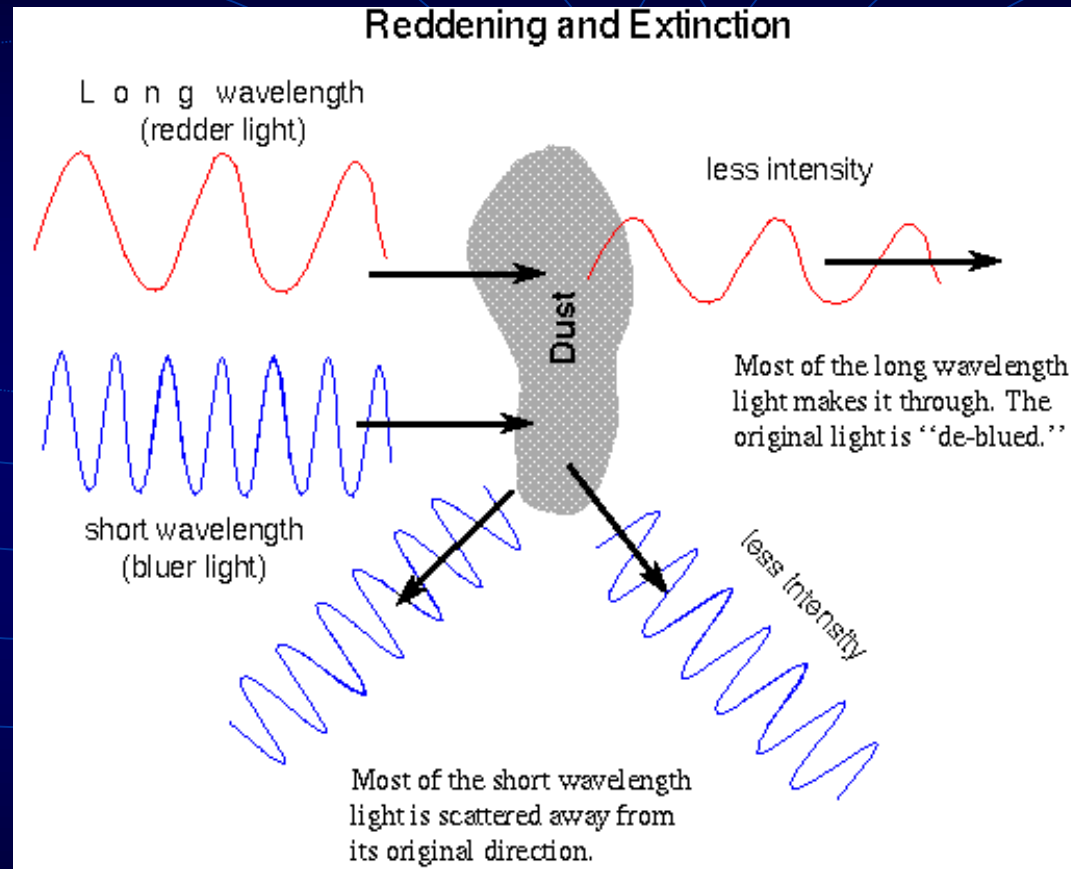


包含氣體與灰塵的雲氣彼此之間互相吸引，使得雲氣聚集，濃密的灰塵會擋住後面發光的氣體或星球。這些「**星際分子暗雲**」(dark molecular clouds) 密度高

(每 cc 超過數萬個分子)、

溫度低 (~ 10 K, 攝氏零下260幾度)

Extinction (消光) --- absorption and scattering of radiation from a celestial body by dust and gas



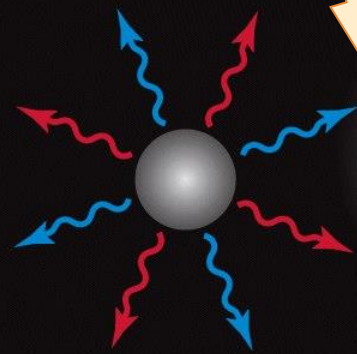
Extinction is wavelength dependent. From UV to IR, the extinction goes down with wavelength.

星際塵埃造成星光的顏色比實際來得紅 --星際紅化現象 (interstellar reddening)

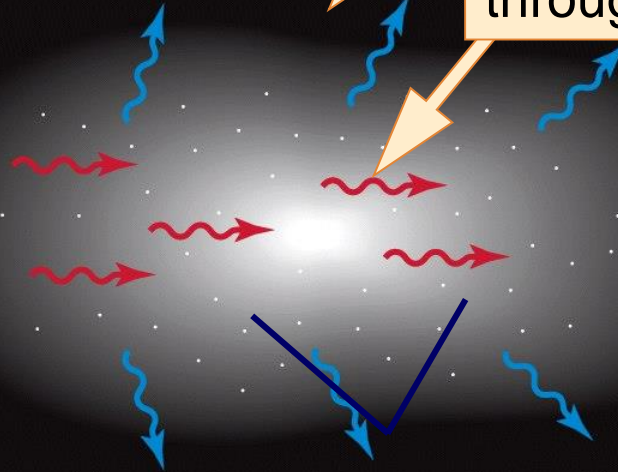
As light from a distant object travels through interstellar space...

...short-wavelength blue light is scattered or absorbed by dust grains...

...while red light passes through more readily



Distant object

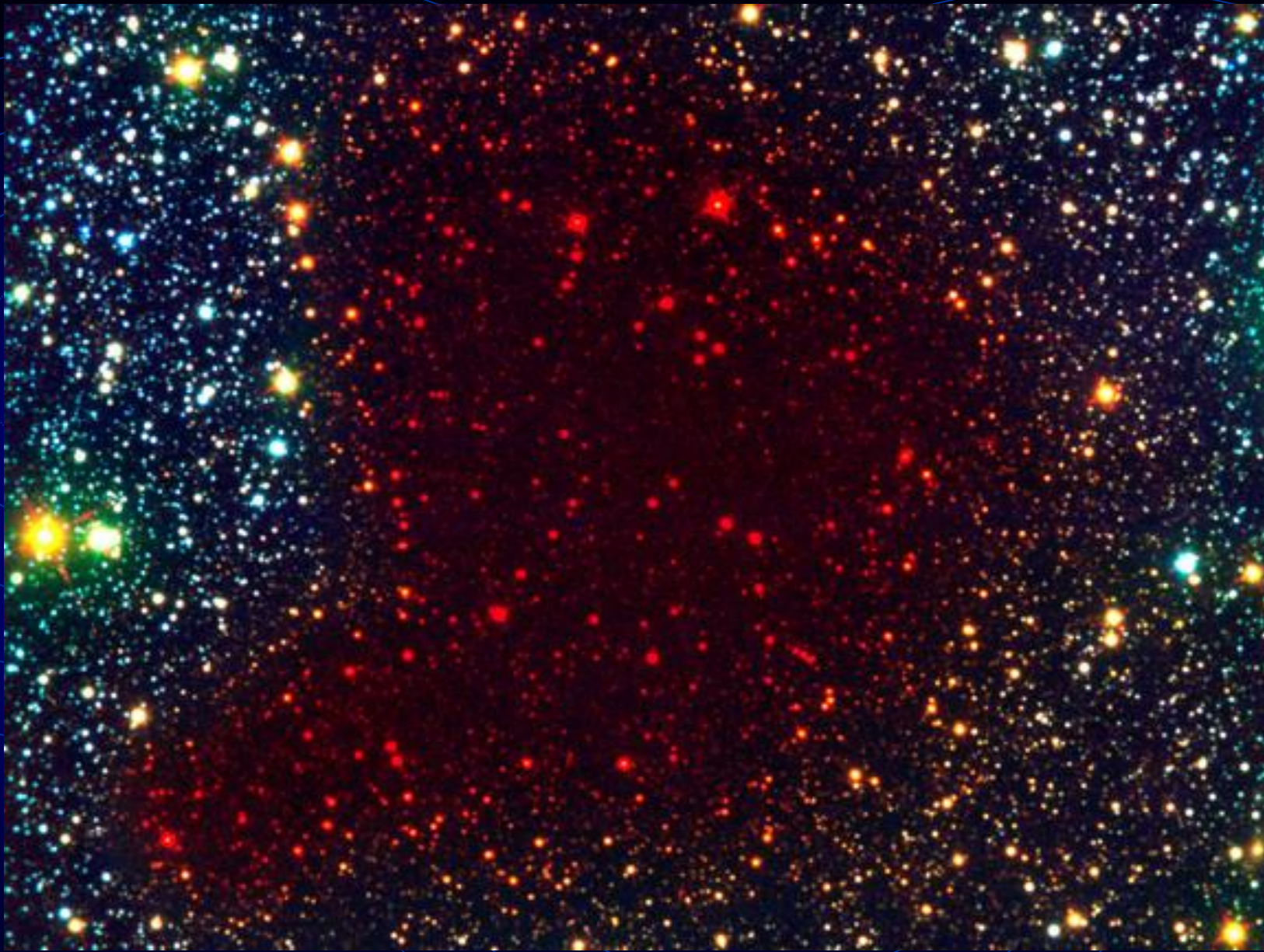


Dust grains



Observer

Dust causes interstellar reddening.



Bok globule B68



馬頭星雲



Star Shadows Remote Observatory



星際雲氣

氣體與塵埃

- **發射星雲 (emission nebula)**
氣體受激發 (星光照射、碰撞)
自己發光。Balmer alpha → 紅色
- **反射星雲 (reflection nebula)** 日光燈發光原理?
氣體反光 (散射) → 藍色
- **黑暗星雲 (dark nebula)**
塵埃遮住背景光線
(星光或發射星雲) → 黑色





B33 (NOAO)

Horsehead Nebula



Horsehead Nebula Barnard 33 

NASA, ESA, and The Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA) • Hubble Space Telescope WFPC2 • STScI-PRC01-12

APOD 201407.29

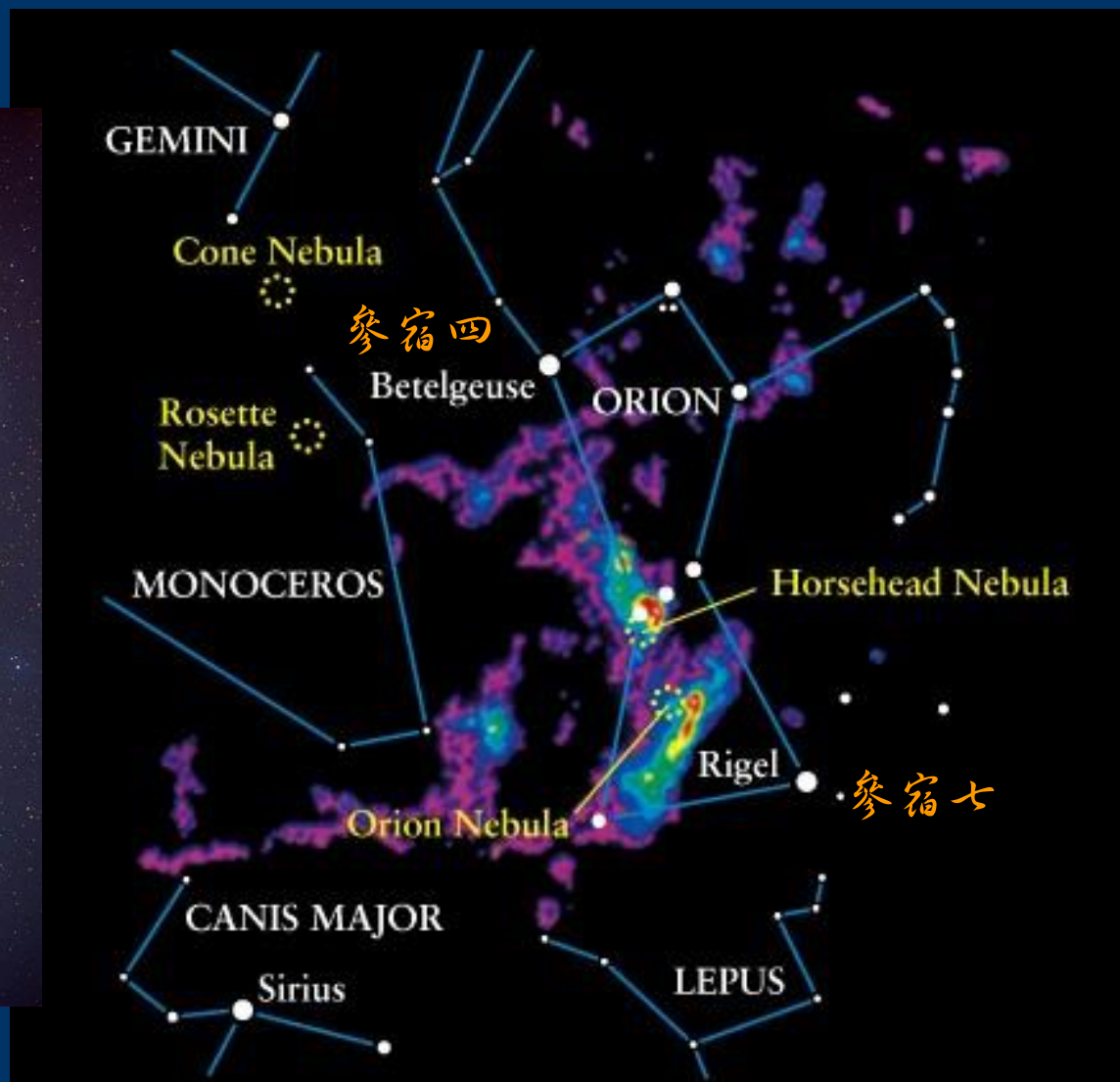


緻密雲核 (dense cores) ... where individual stars form



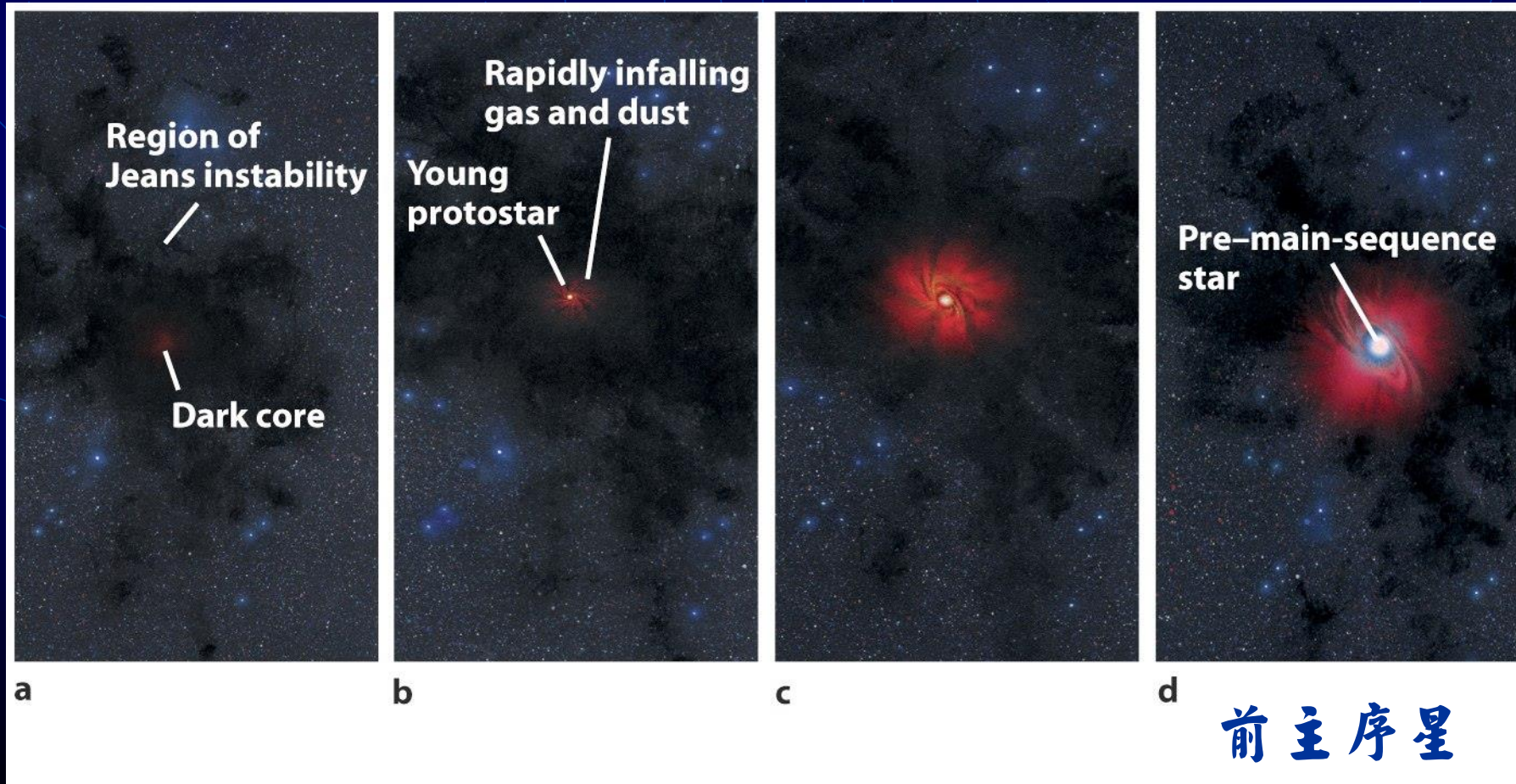
© Anglo-Australian Observatory

Photograph by David Malin



可見光照片 獵戶座 一氧化碳分子分布

- Dense cores 要是密度高（因此萬有引力強）、溫度低（因此熱壓力弱）→ **Jeans instability** → 引發重力塌縮形成**原恆星** (protostar)



Virial theorem

對於一個總共有 N 個粒子的穩定系統，以時間平均來說，
總動能跟總位能的關係

$$\langle E_k \rangle = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^N \langle \mathbf{F}_k \cdot \mathbf{r}_k \rangle$$

太空中質量為 M ，半徑為 R ，溫度為 T 的雲氣

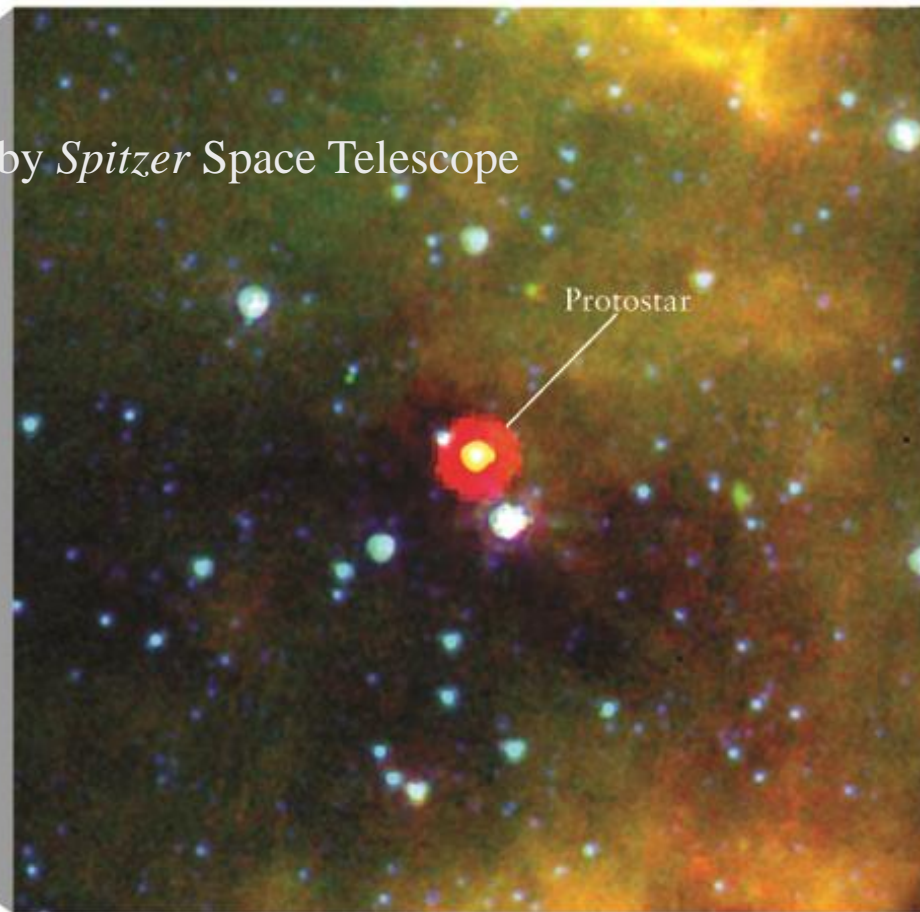
$$E_k = \frac{3}{2} kT M / (\mu m_H); E_p = -\frac{3}{5} (GM^2)/R$$

$$\rightarrow M_{\text{crit}} = M_{\text{Jeans}} \propto \frac{\sqrt{T^3}}{\sqrt{\rho}}$$



(a) A dark nebula

by *Spitzer* Space Telescope



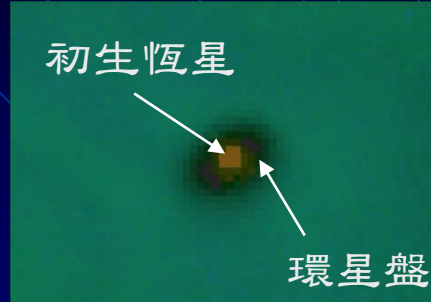
(b) A hidden protostar within the dark nebula

可見光影像顯示在
暗雲中沒有恆星

紅外光影像顯示在
暗雲中存在原恆星

位於天鵝座方向的暗雲 L1014

恆星與行星皆源於星際雲氣



星際暗雲 $\xrightarrow[\text{旋轉}]{\text{收縮}}$ 初生星球 + 扁盤 + 剩下的塵氣

溫度上升、塵消氣散

年輕太陽 + 盤狀物質



塵埃 \rightarrow 塵塊 \rightarrow 小行星 \rightarrow 行星



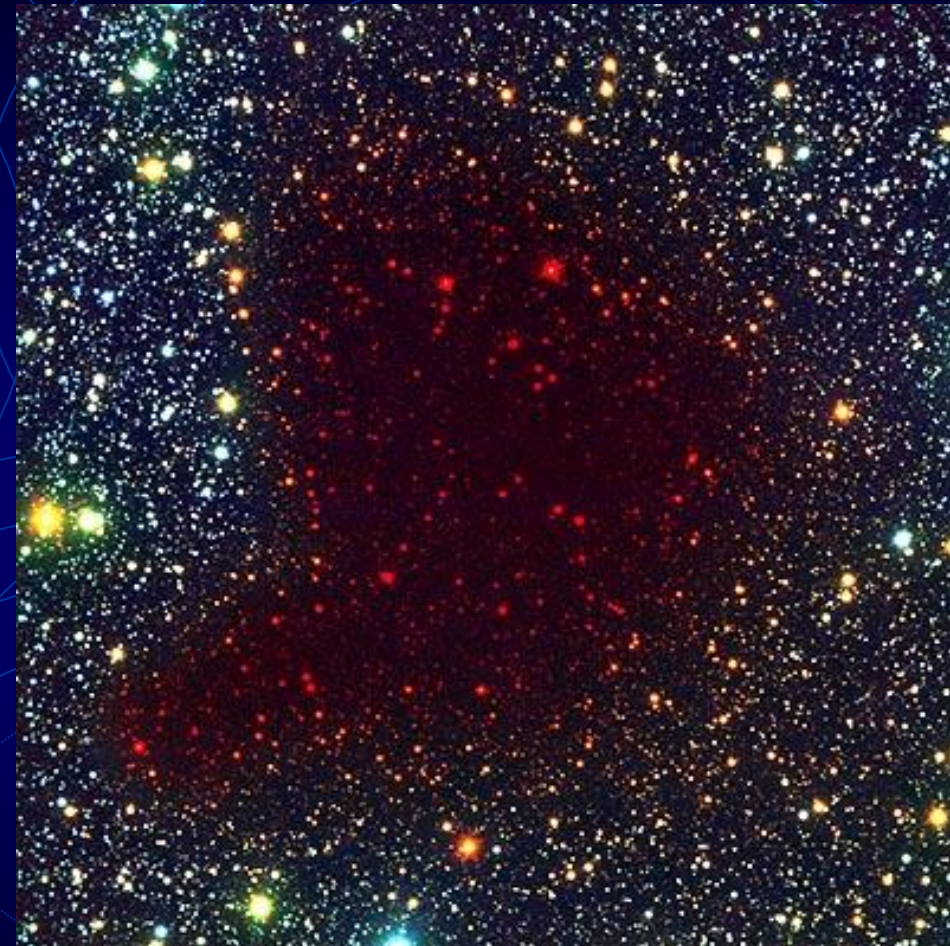
可見光影像



Pre-Collapse Black Cloud B68 (visual view)
(VLT ANTU + FORS 1)

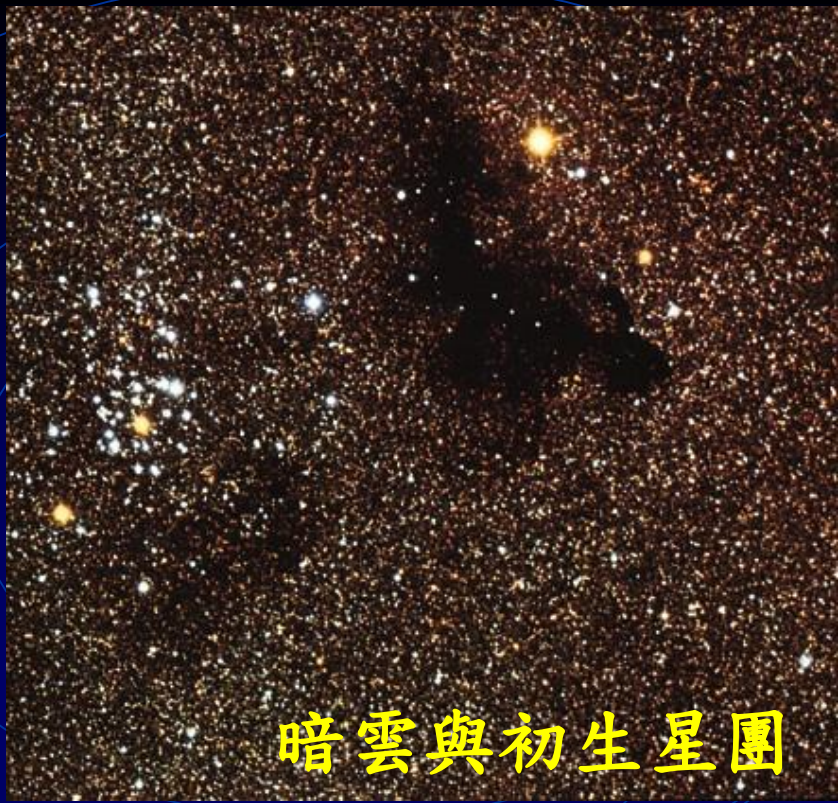


加上紅外線影像

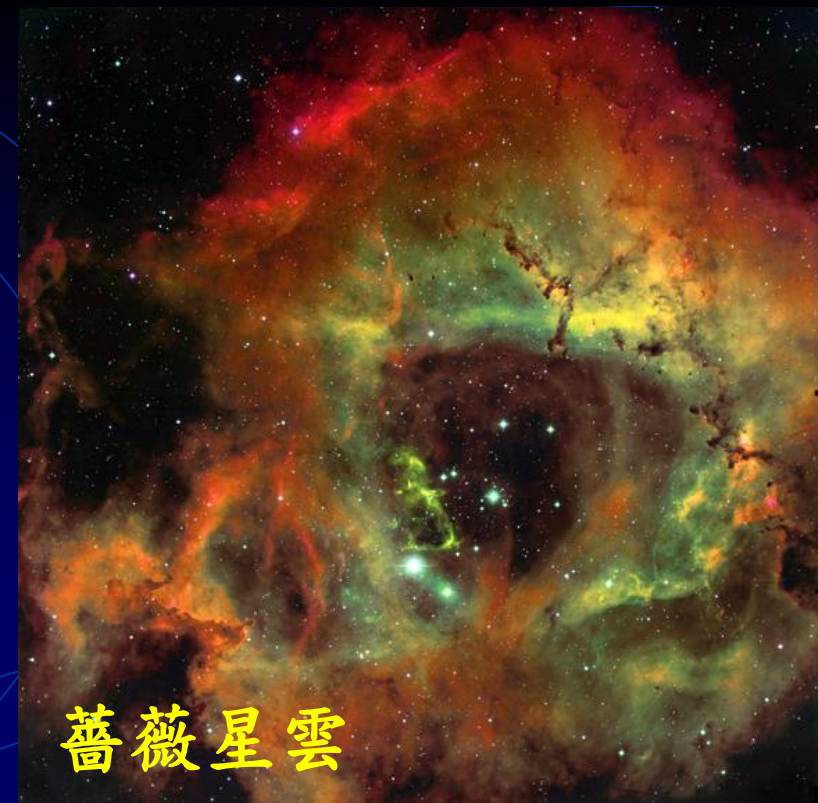


Seeing Through the Pre-Collapse Black Cloud B68
(VLT ANTU + FORS 1 - NTT + SOFI)





暗雲與初生星團



薔薇星雲



天鵝座

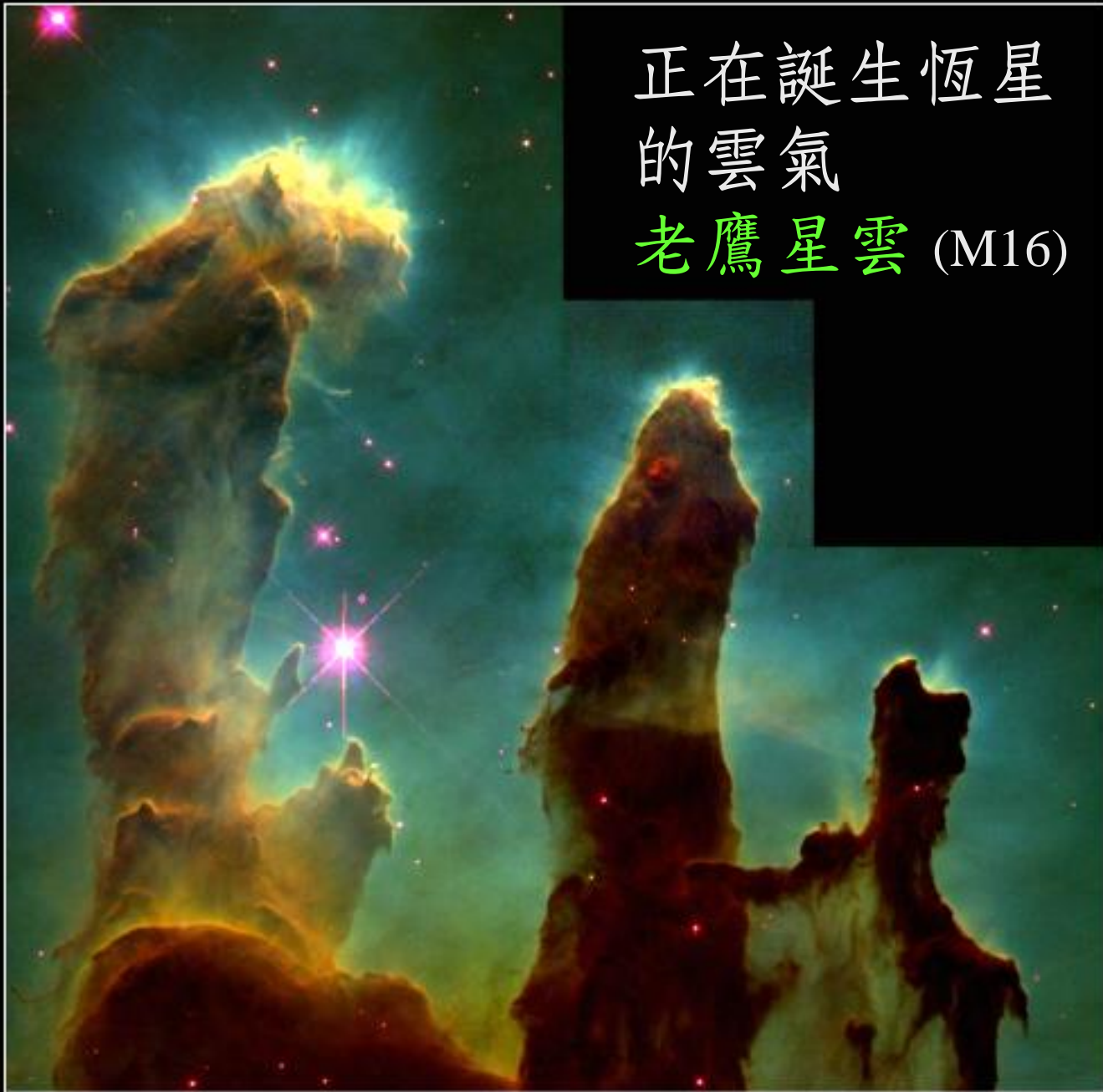
© 1998 Jerry Lodriguss



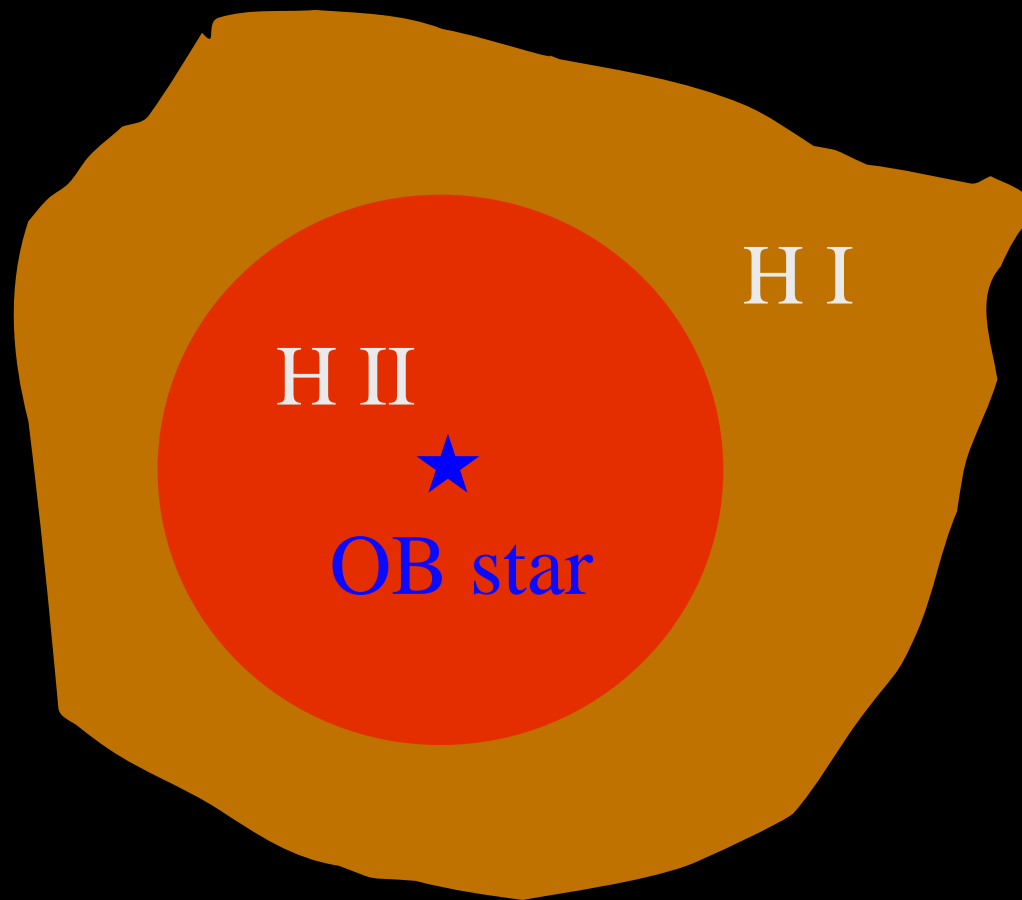
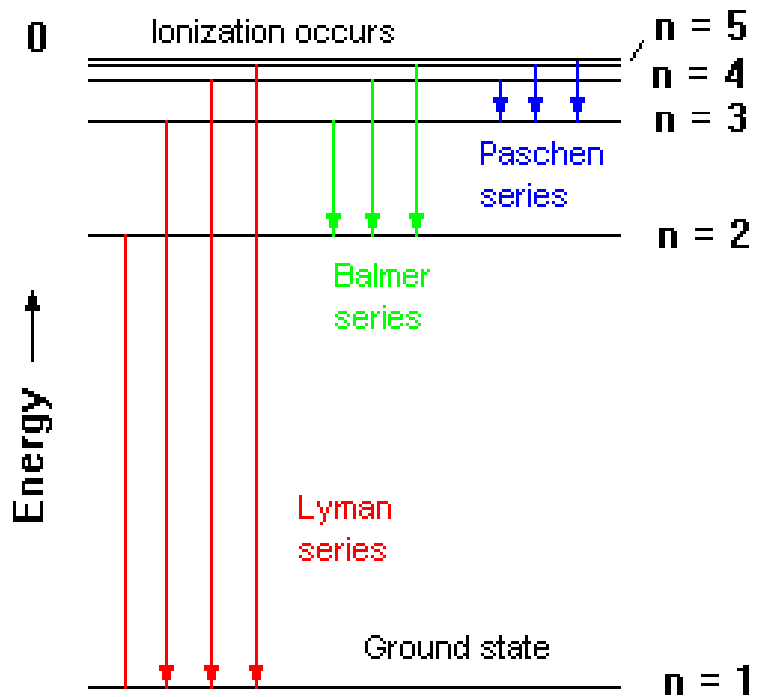
雙星團

© 1998 Jerry Lodriguss

正在誕生恆星
的雲氣
老鷹星雲 (M16)







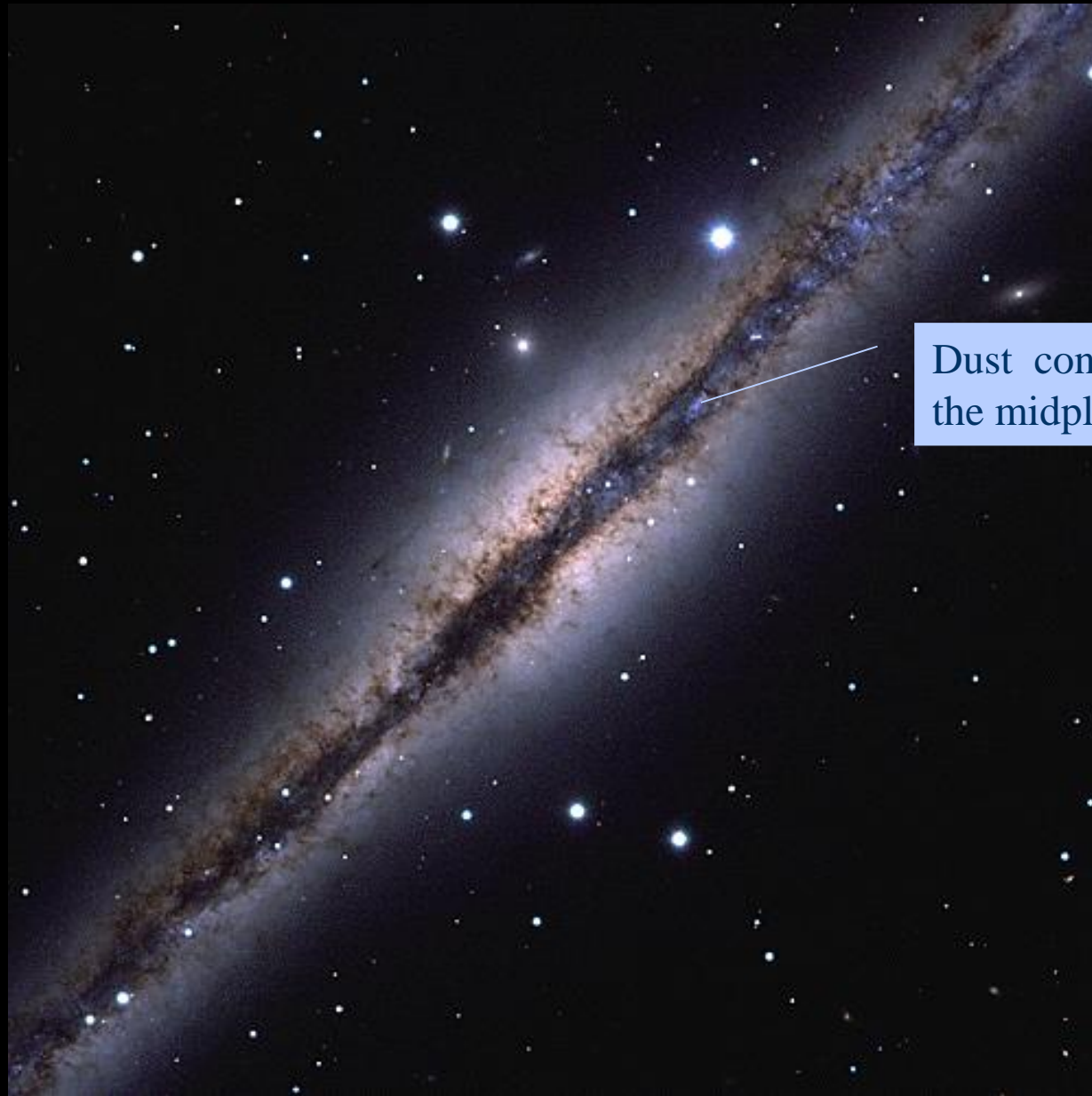
H I (中性氫原子)
 H II (一次游離氫離子)

OB星發射的大量紫外光將周圍
 氫原子游離 → H II region

H II regions outline a spiral galaxy

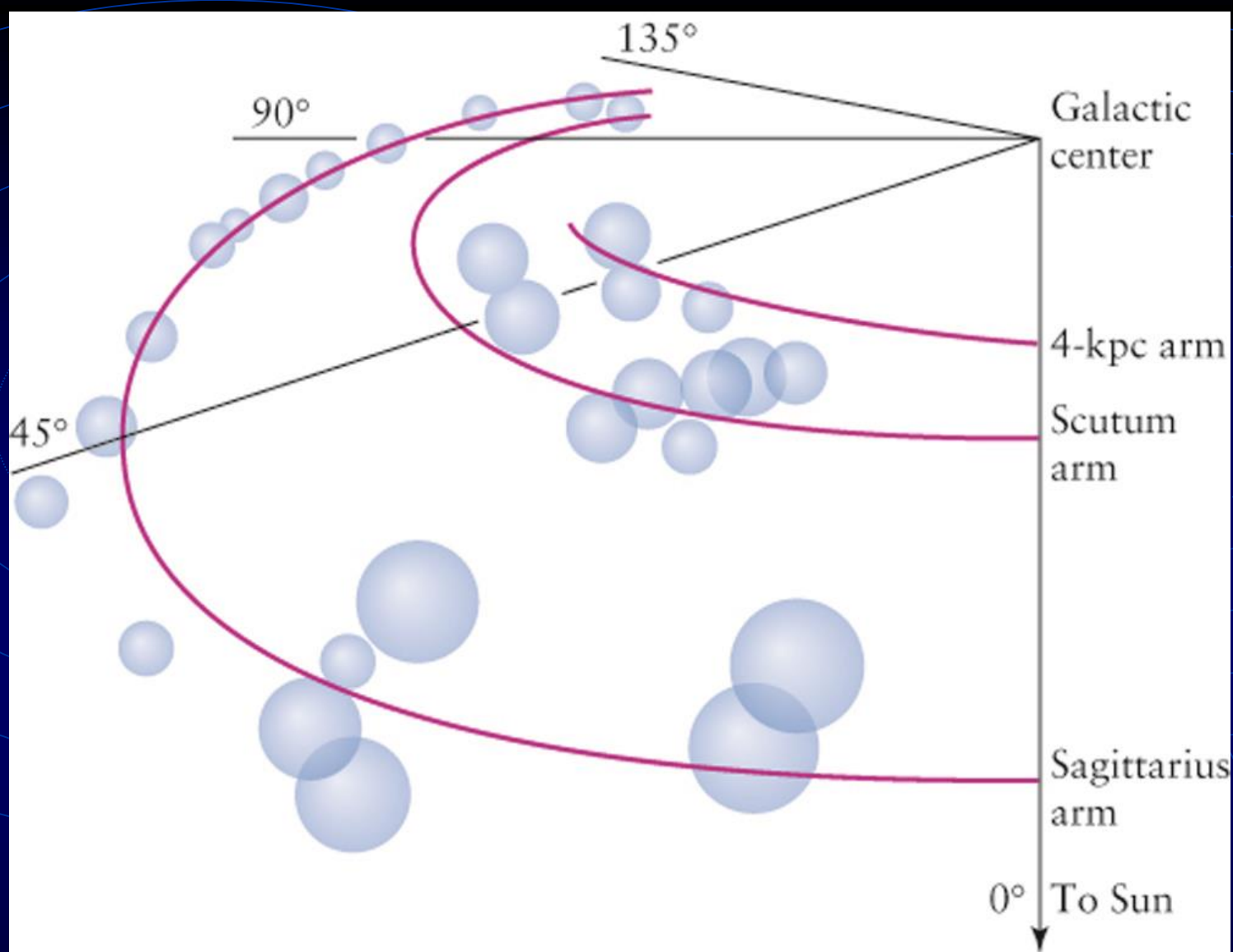


We see the spiral galaxy M83 almost face-on.

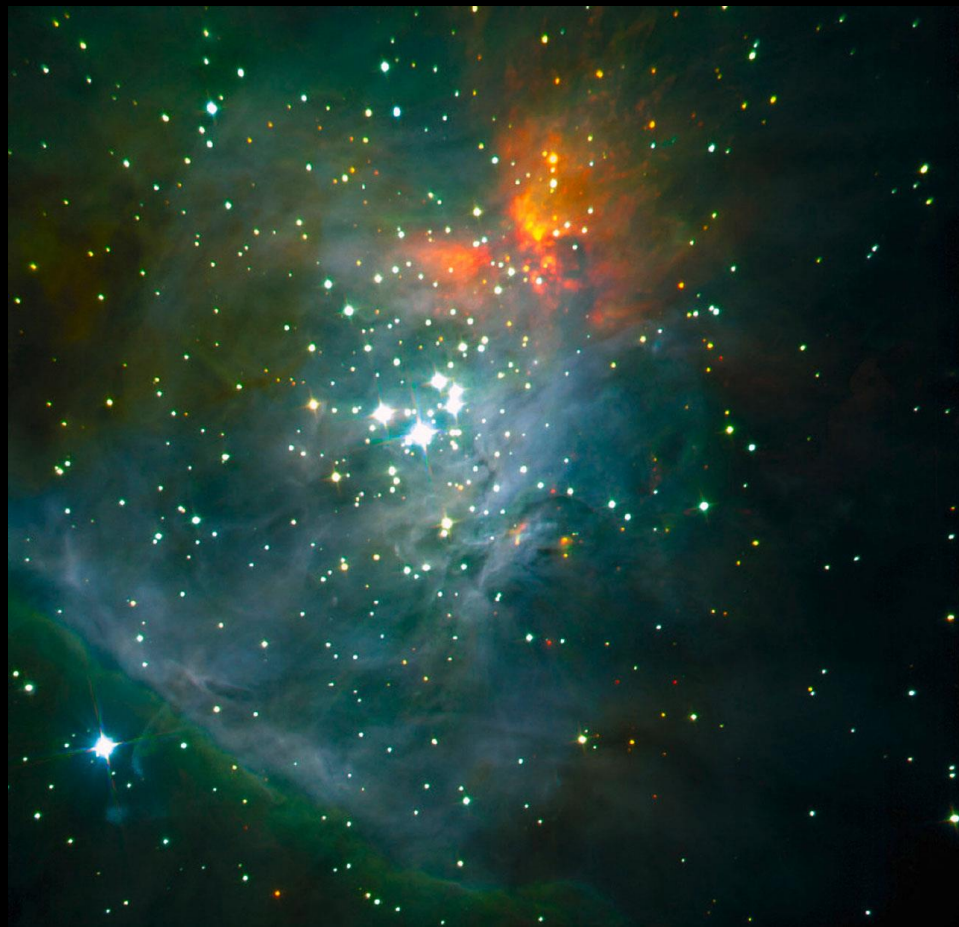


Dust concentrated in the midplane

We see the spiral galaxy NGC 891 almost edge-on.



銀河系旋臂 (spiral arms) 上還有
巨型分子雲 (giant molecular clouds)



The Trapezium cluster in Orion

2000 stars within 20 ly



Carina Nebula



Credit: Hubble Legacy Archive, ESA, NASA;
Processing & Copyright: David Forteza

APOD 2015.04.15

- 大質量的OB恆星一定年輕，因為根據恆星演化理論，它們主序壽命非常短，因此這些恆星仍存在誕生恆星的雲氣附近。
- 這些明亮恆星成群存在，稱為 OB association (OB 星協)
- OB恆星劇烈的恆星風以及強烈的輻射，對周圍雲氣有很大影響，可能吹散雲氣，使得雲氣不再能誕生星球，但也可能觸發下一代恆星形成

Star formation progresses
in this direction →

Shell of hydrogen that
has not yet been ionized

Older cluster

Old cluster

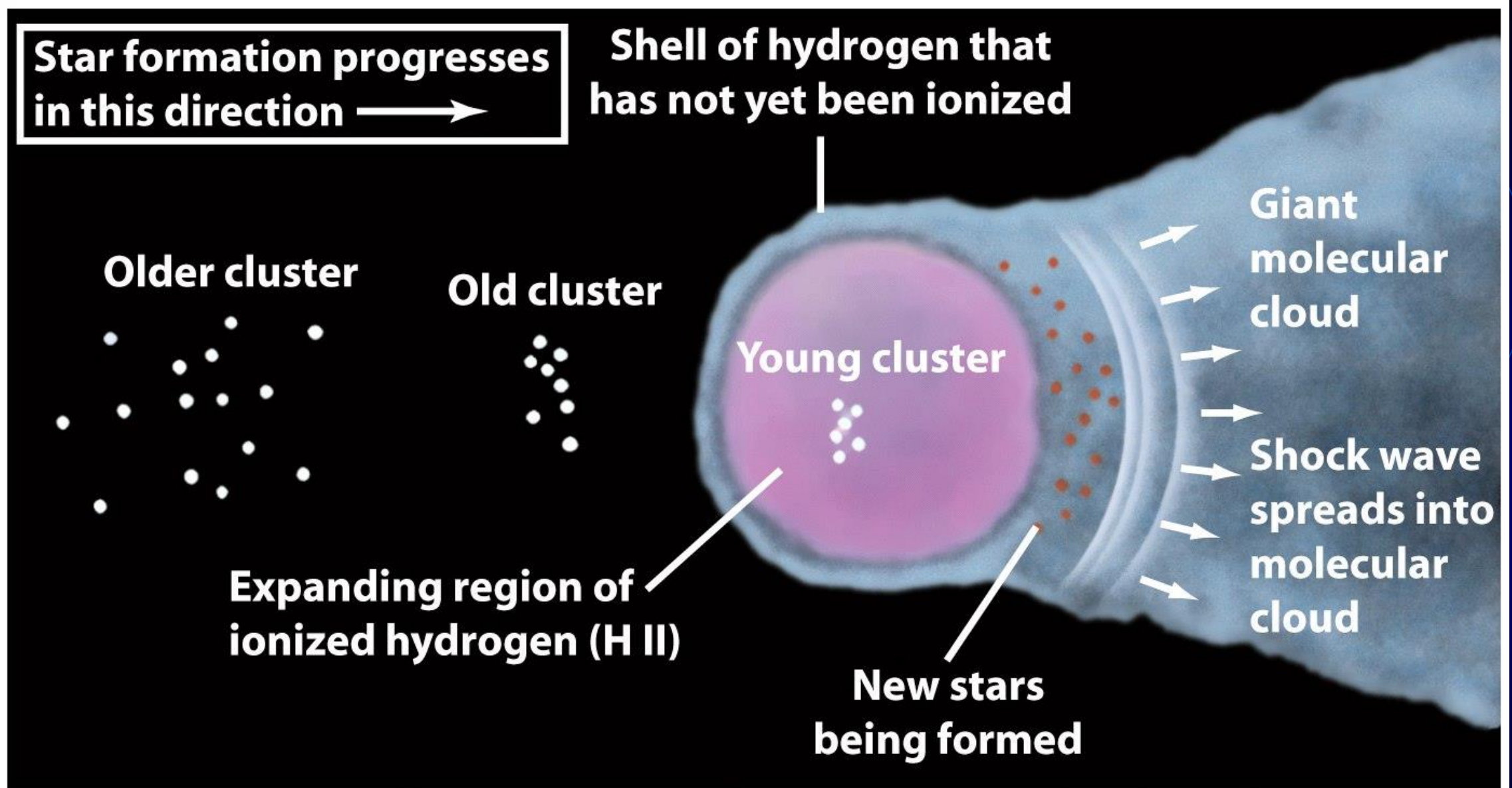
Young cluster

Giant
molecular
cloud

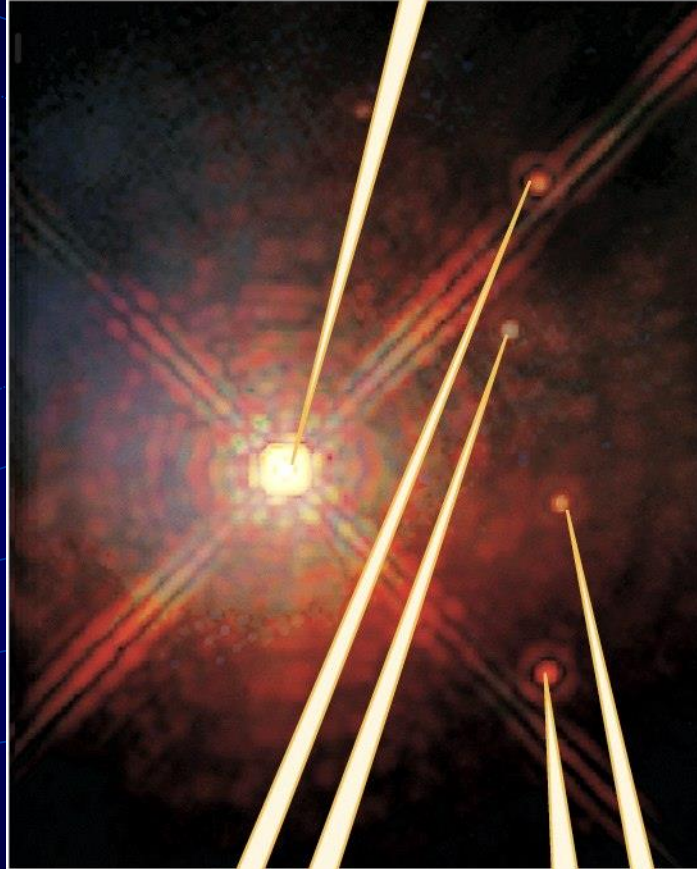
Shock wave
spreads into
molecular
cloud

Expanding region of
ionized hydrogen (H II)

New stars
being formed

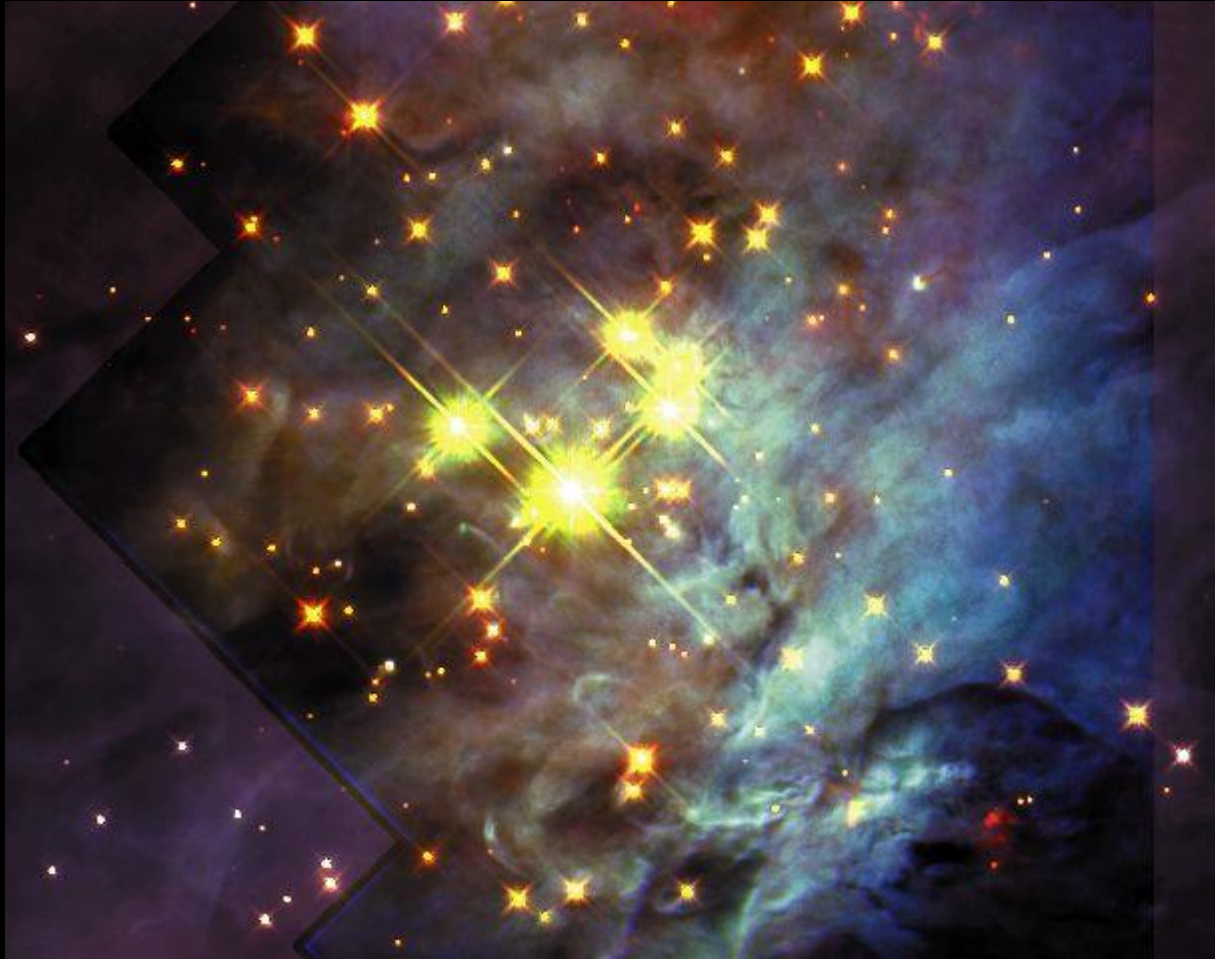


Radiation and stellar winds from this massive, luminous star...



...may have triggered the formation of these stars.

未能成形 → 棕矮星 (brown dwarfs)



$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{Jupiter}} \sim 0.001 \mathcal{M}_{\odot}$$

Stars:

$$M > 0.08 \mathcal{M}_{\odot}$$

Brown Dwarfs:

$$0.08 \mathcal{M}_{\odot} > M > 13 \mathcal{M}_{\text{J}}$$

Planet-mass Objects:

$$M < 13 \mathcal{M}_{\text{J}}$$

獵戶座四合星附近的棕矮星

Credit: G. Schneider (UofA), K. L. Luhman (CfA), et al., NICMOS IDT, NASA
WFPC2 data: C. O'Dell and S. Wong (Rice)

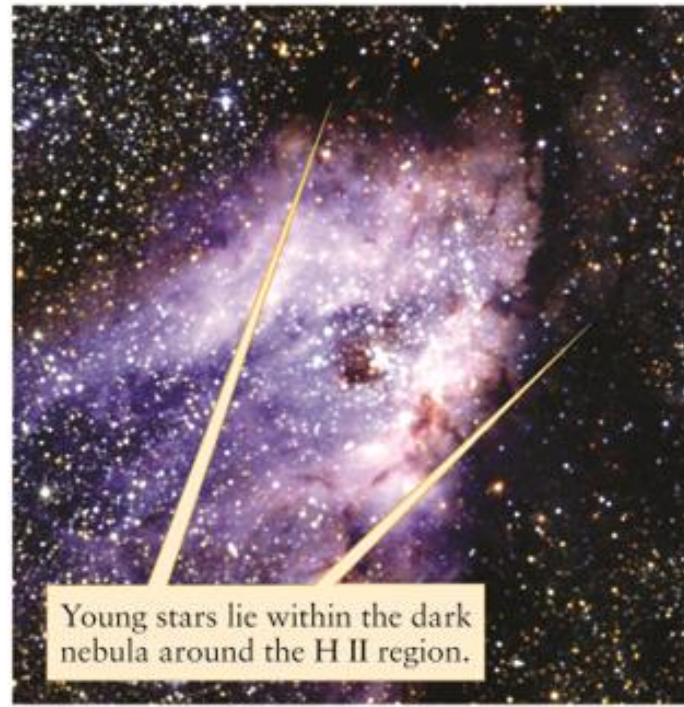
Stars form by accreting surrounding material.

吸積 (accretion) 過程中，一方面累積原恆星質量，另一方面噴發出物質 (stellar winds, outflows, jets)

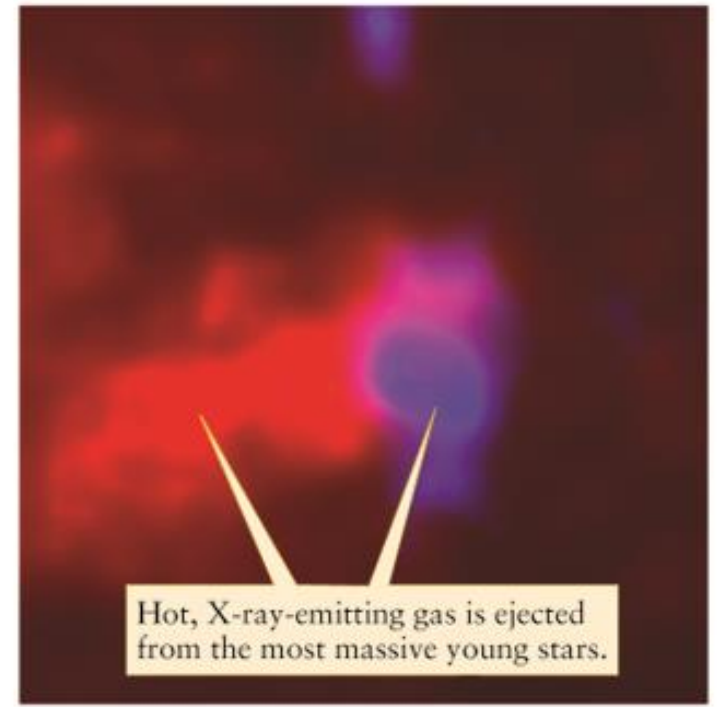
恆星一生都有**質量流失 (mass loss)** 現象



(a) Visible-light image

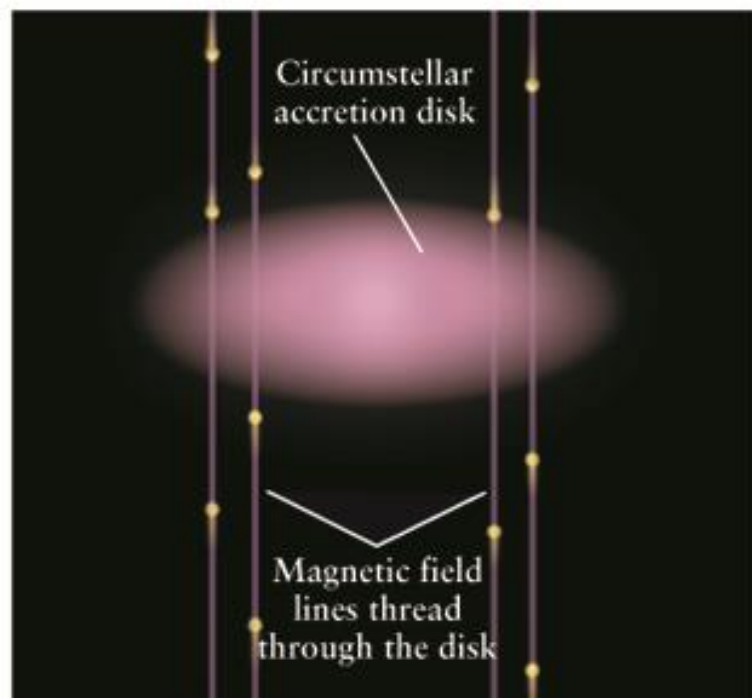


(b) False-color infrared image

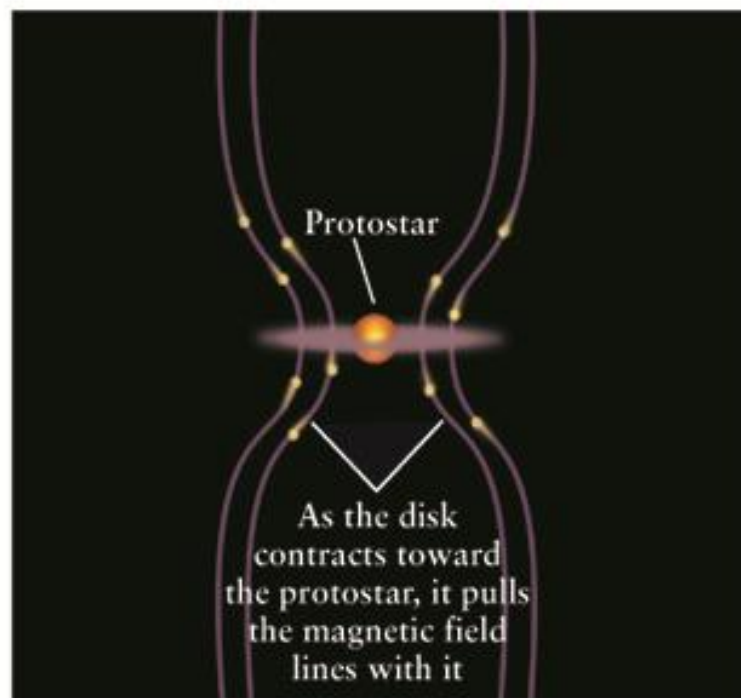


(c) False-color X-ray image

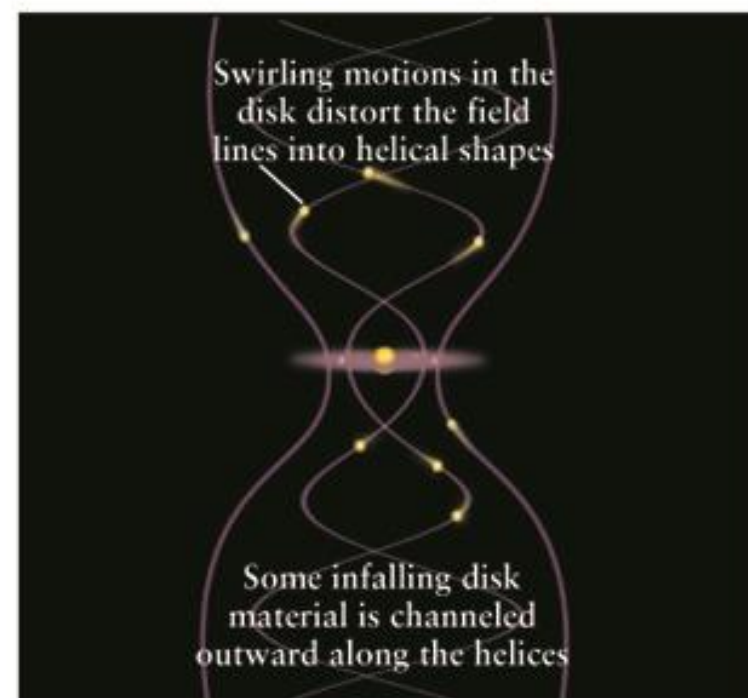
Mass loss from massive stars



(a)



(b)



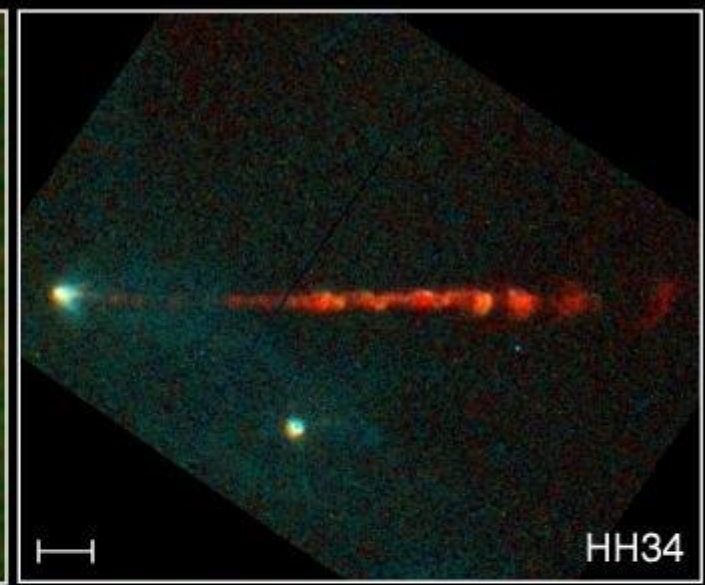
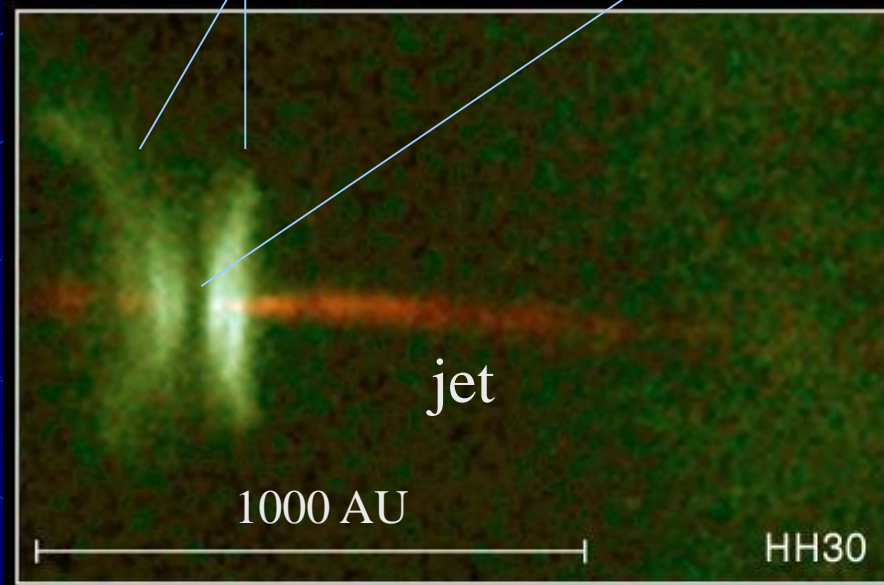
(c)

分子雲比較容易沿著磁場方向收縮，使得磁力線扭曲成螺線狀。部分吸積物質沿著磁場兩極噴出，形成噴流 (jets)

Circumstellar accretion disk

Protostar hidden by dark, dusty nebula

jet

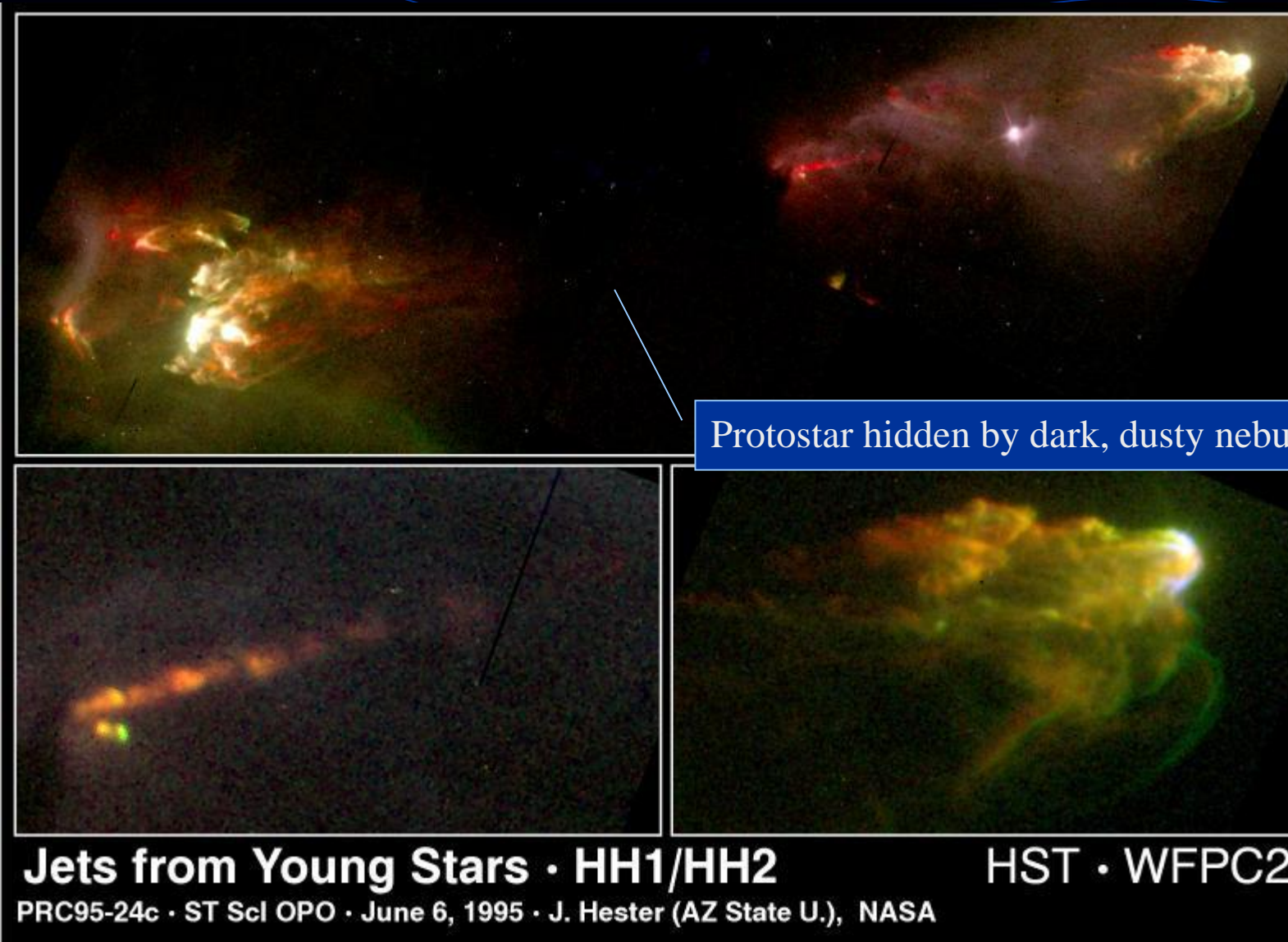


Jets from Young Stars

HST • WFPC2

PRC95-24a • ST ScI OPO • June 6, 1995

C. Burrows (ST ScI), J. Hester (AZ State U.), J. Morse (ST ScI), NASA



Protostar hidden by dark, dusty nebula

Jets from Young Stars · HH1/HH2

HST · WFPC2

PRC95-24c · ST ScI OPO · June 6, 1995 · J. Hester (AZ State U.), NASA

Jets 撞擊而激發星際雲氣 → shocks
Herbig-Haro objects (赫哈天體)

太陽（恆星）內部的核反應

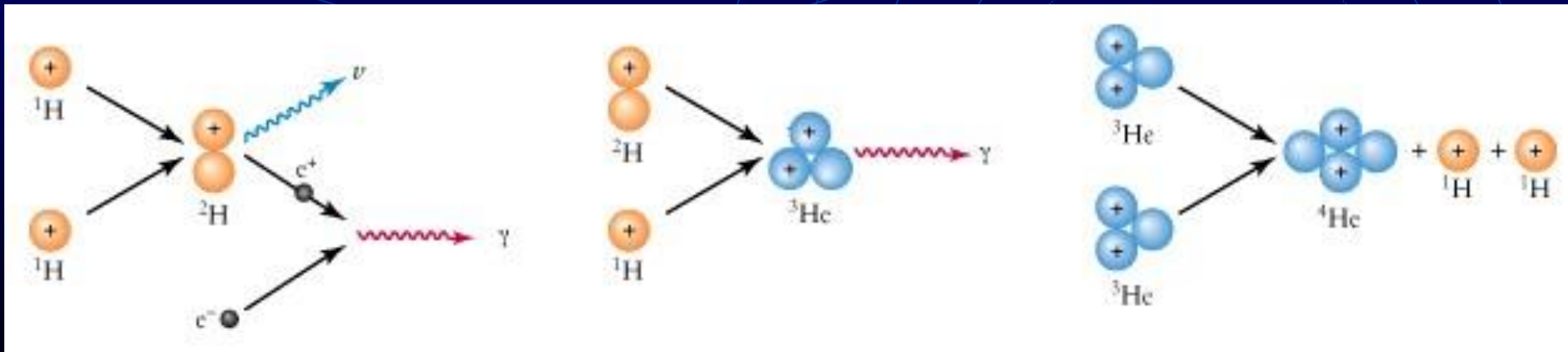
簡單的原子核 結合 → 較複雜的原子核

原子核強作用力把自己「抓得」比較緊

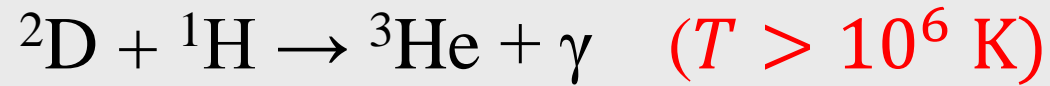
→ **放出能量**（ γ 射線、X射線、光）

例如：（4個）氫原子核 → （1個）氦原子核

這些能量讓氣體高速運動，彼此互推，產生（向外）高壓，抵抗（向內）萬有引力



Deuterium burning

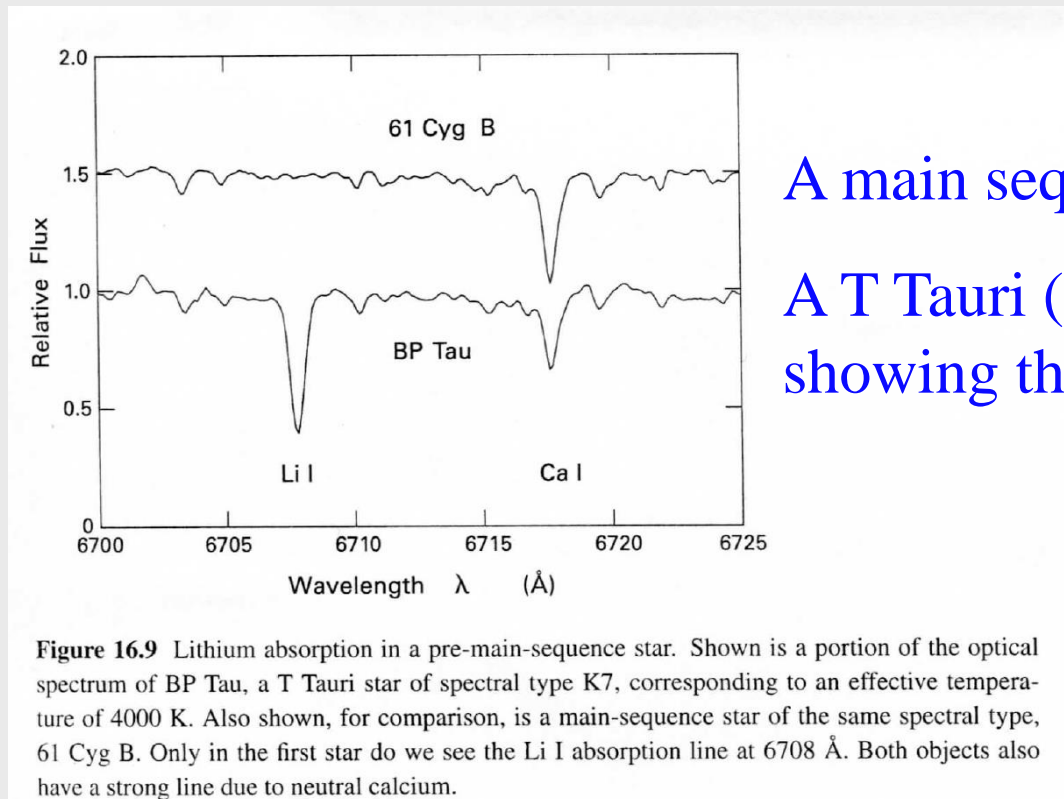


$$\text{ISM D/H} \approx 2 \times 10^{-5}$$

Lithium burning



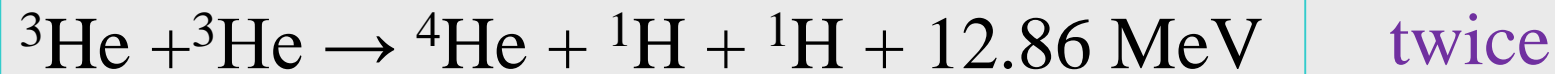
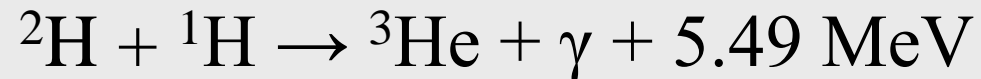
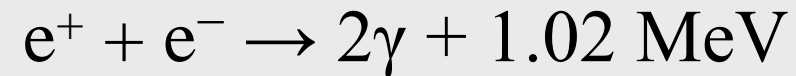
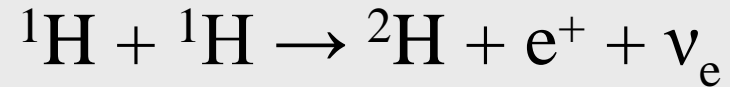
$$\text{ISM Li/H} \approx 2 \times 10^{-9}$$



A main sequence star

A T Tauri (pre-main sequence) star,
showing the Li6708 absorption line

H burning --- Proton-Proton Reaction I

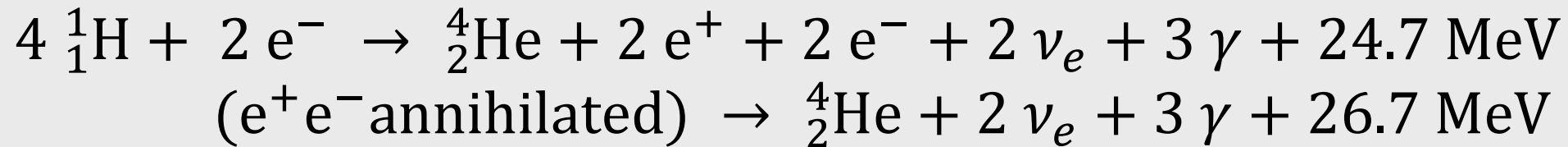


$(T > 5 \times 10^6 \text{ K})$

- ${}^3\text{H}$ (氚) 1個質子、2個中子
- ${}^3\text{He}$ (氦三) 2個質子、1個中子

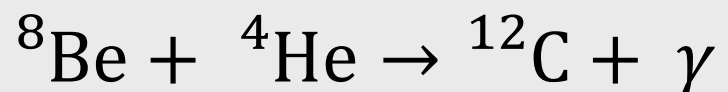
H burning --- CNO cycle

- Carbon, nitrogen and oxygen isotopes join the various nuclear reactions, as catalysts.
- Net $4 \text{ H} \rightarrow \text{He} + 2 \text{ positrons} + 2 \text{ electron neutrinos}$



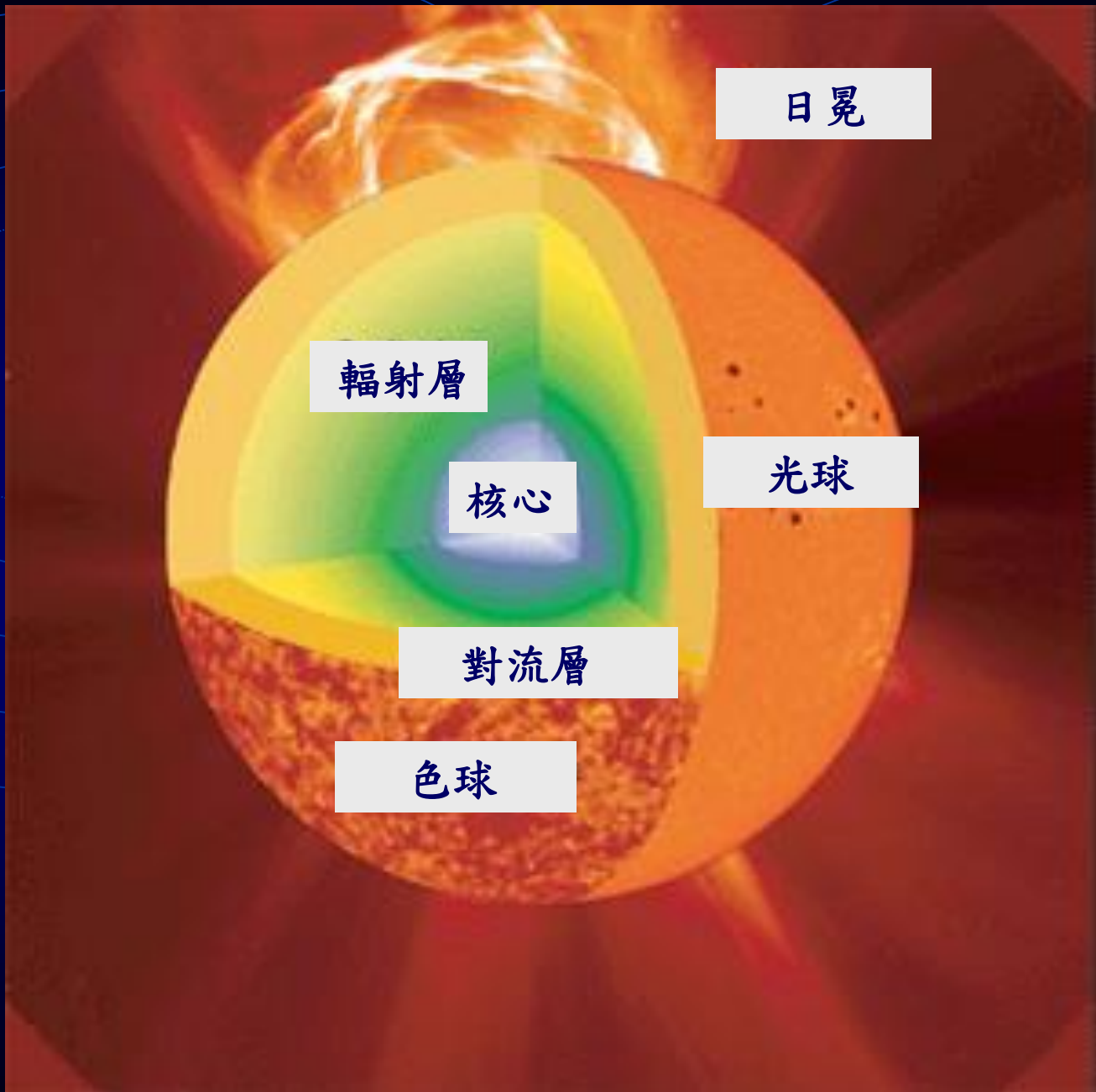
$$(T > 18 \times 10^6 \text{ K})$$

He burning --- triple-alpha process



$$(T > 10^8 \text{ K})$$

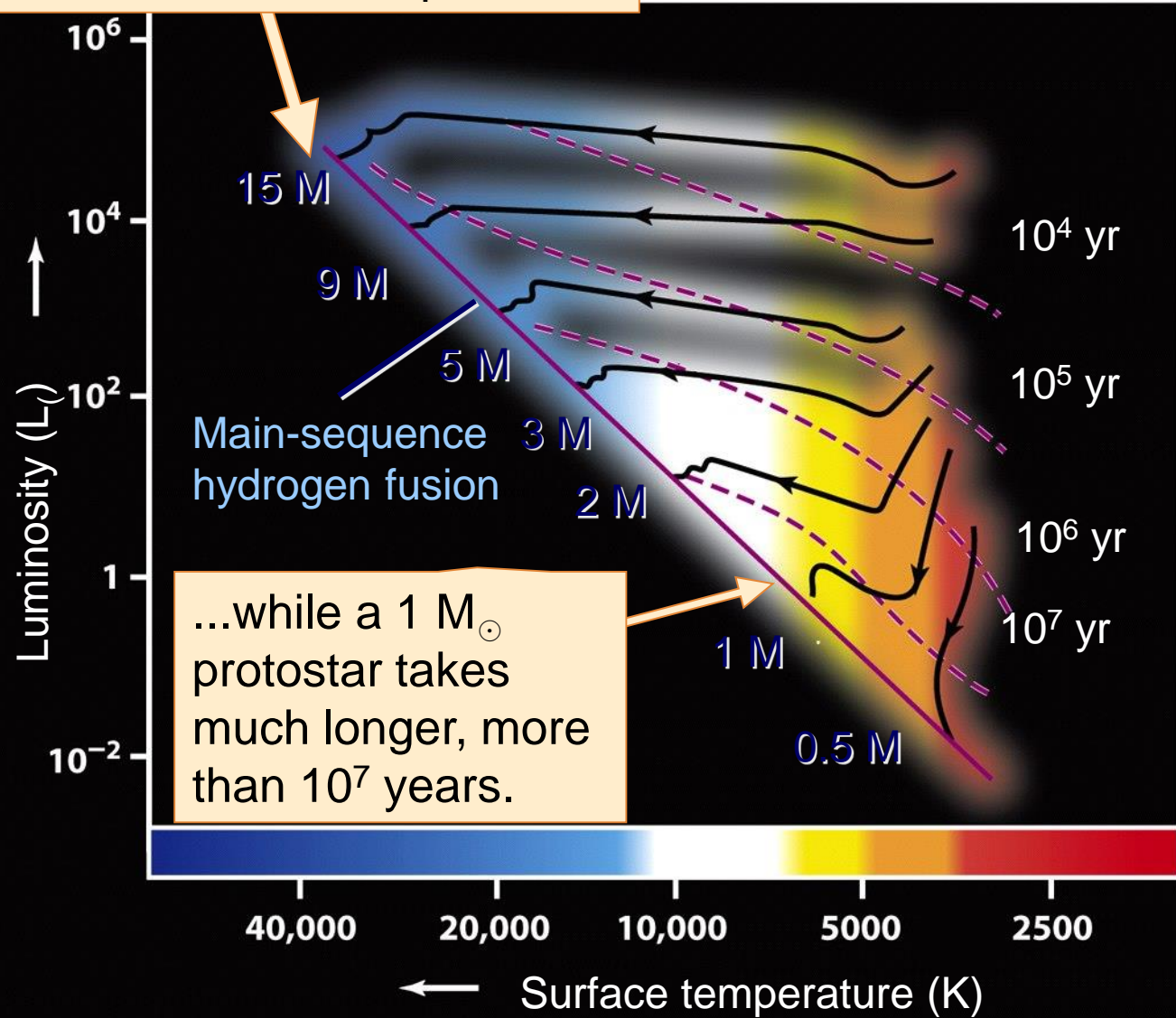
核心溫度夠高 ↓ 進行核反應
核心產生的能量 以輻射與對流的方式
向外傳遞，最後從表面輻射出來



質量大的恆星 ↓ 萬有引力強 ↓
核反應快才能平衡 ↓ 光度強

大質量原恆星還在收縮時，就已經點燃中心核反應

A $15 M_{\odot}$ protostar takes about 10^5 years to reach the main sequence...



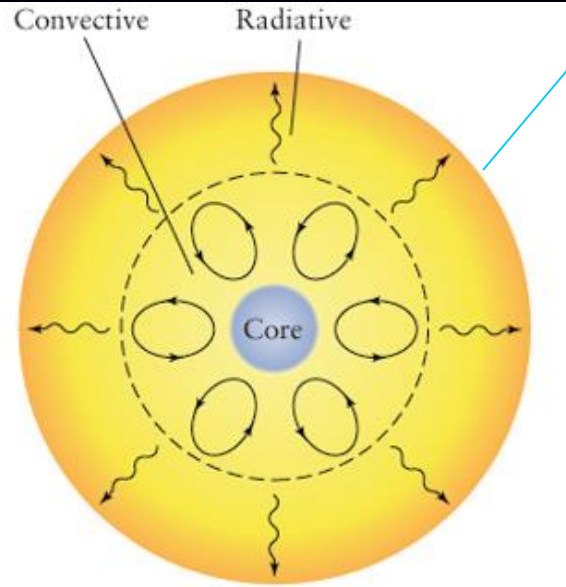
...while a $1 M_{\odot}$ protostar takes much longer, more than 10^7 years.

前主序星的質量決定其演化

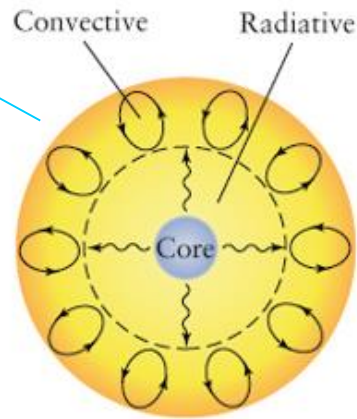
恆星內部之 能量傳遞

溫度梯度大
→ 對流

$0.4 \sim 4 M_{\odot}$ 的恆星內
部以輻射傳遞，外
部以對流傳遞。最
表面仍以輻射傳出



(a) Mass more than about $4 M_{\odot}$:
Energy flows by convection in
the inner regions and by radiation
in the outer regions.



(b) Mass between about $4 M_{\odot}$
and $0.4 M_{\odot}$: Energy flows by
radiation in the inner regions
and by convection in the
outer regions.



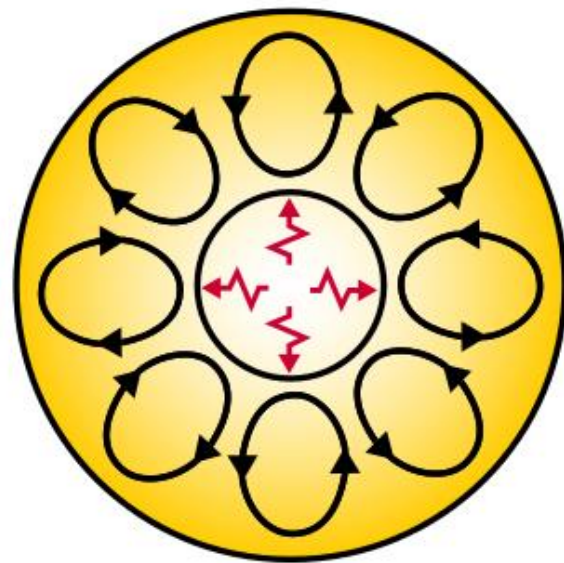
(c) Mass less than $0.4 M_{\odot}$:
Energy flows by convection
throughout the star's interior.

$> 4 M_{\odot}$ 的恆星內部
能量以對流傳遞，
外部以輻射傳遞

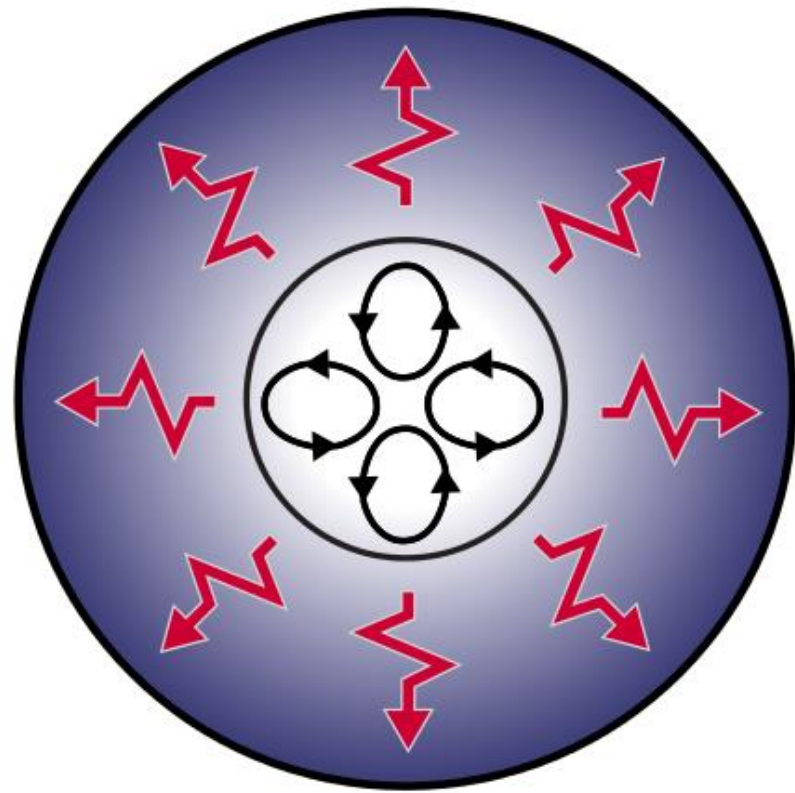
$< 0.4 M_{\odot}$ 的恆星全
部以對流傳遞。最
表面仍以輻射傳出



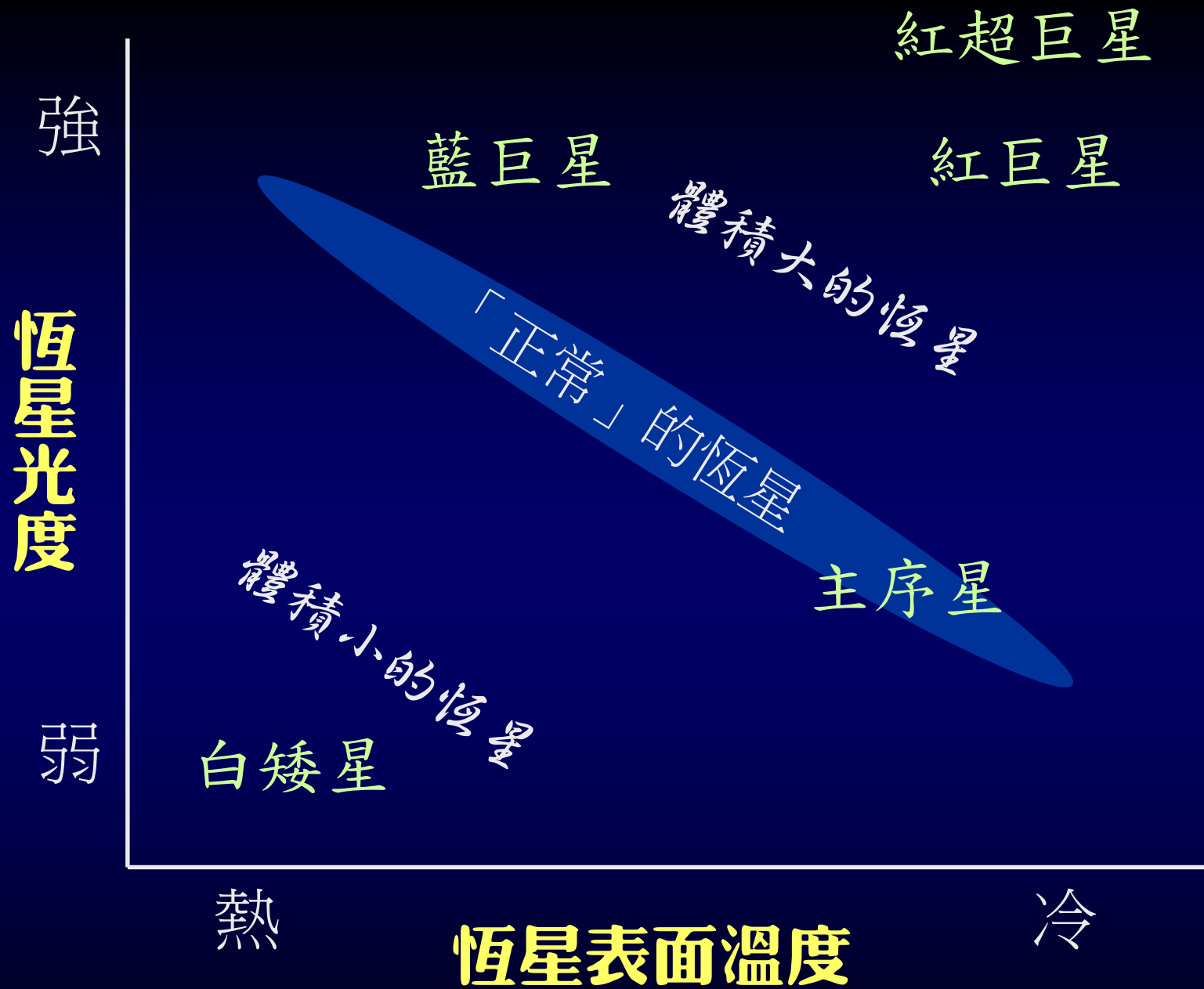
$M < 0.5$



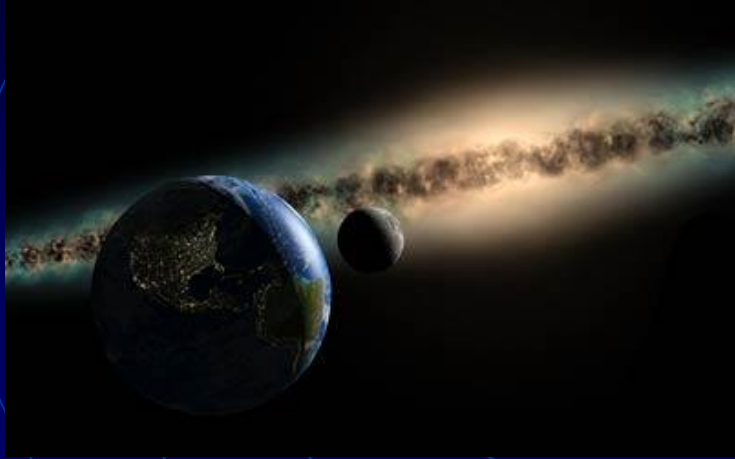
$0.5 - 1.5$



$M > 1.5$



恆星璀璨多姿的一生



雲氣收縮→分裂→各自
形成恆星→星團

星球質量越大、越明亮、
溫度越高、呈藍白色

星球質量越小、越微暗、
溫度越低、呈橙紅色



耀眼
壽命短

只能活
一億年

我們真
該慶幸

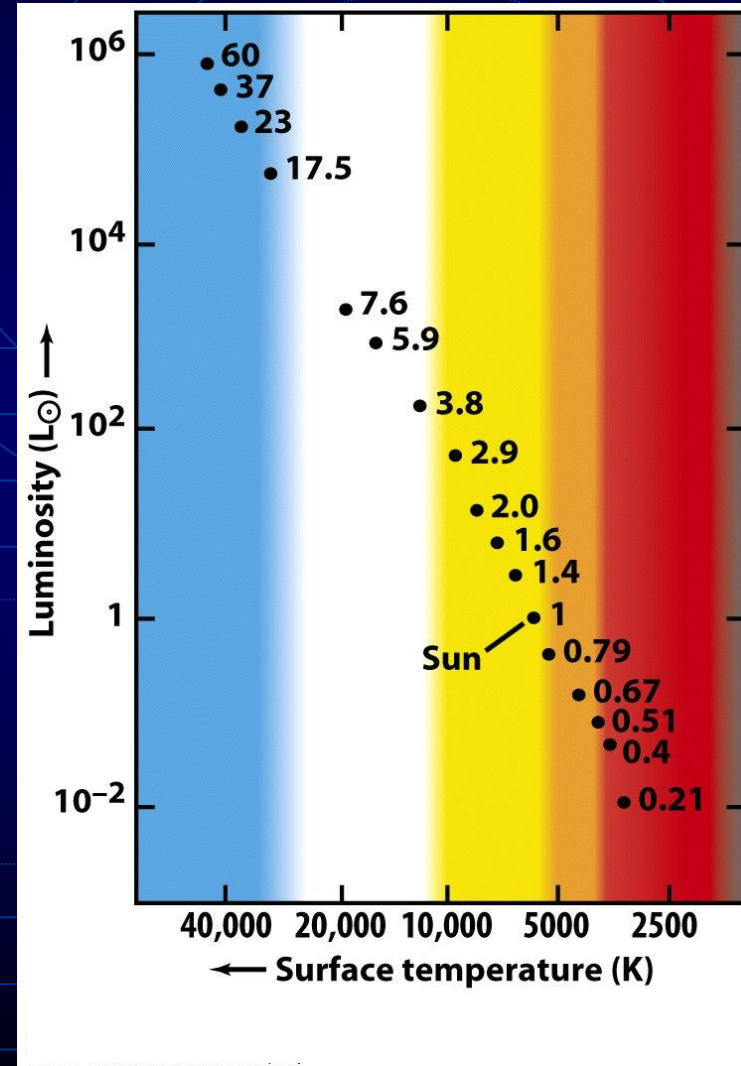
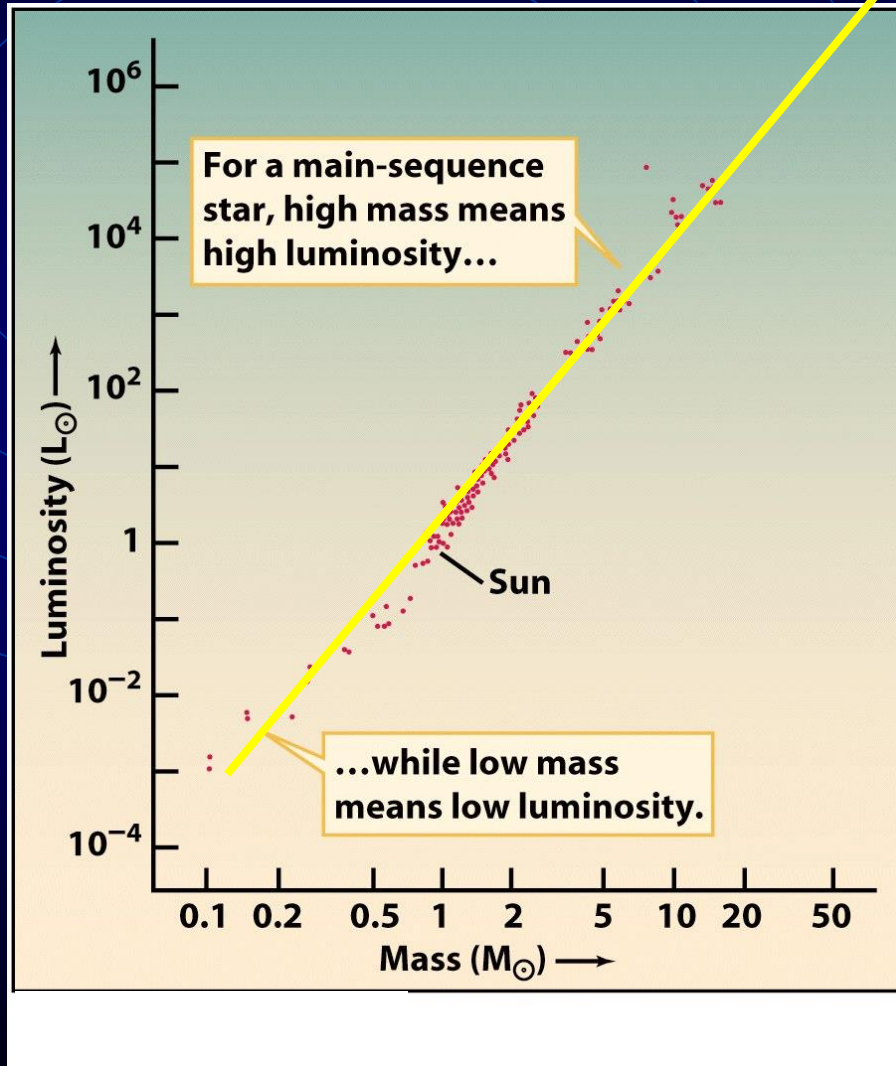
平庸
壽命長

太陽已經活了50
億年，還可以再
活50億年



記得主序星的質光關係？

Roughly $L \sim M^{3.5}$



Main-Sequence Lifetime of the Sun

Energy Gained in a PP Chain

- $4\text{H} \rightarrow 1\text{He} + \text{neutrinos} + \text{energy}$
- Mass of 4 H = 6.693×10^{-27} kg
- Mass of 1 He = 6.645×10^{-27} kg
- **Mass deficit $\rightarrow 0.048 \times 10^{-27}$ kg = 0.7%**

$$M_{\odot} \approx 2 \times 10^{33} \text{ [g]}$$

$$L_{\odot} \approx 4 \times 10^{33} \text{ [ergs/s]}$$

Fusion efficiency

$$\tau \approx M_{\odot} \frac{(0.007)(0.1)c^2}{L_{\odot}} = 3.15 \times 10^{17} \text{ [s]} = 10^{10} \text{ [yr]}$$

Main-Sequence Lifetime

- Massive stars are very luminous, $L \sim M^{3.5}$
- L [ergs/s] = emitting power ... consumption rate
- M ... available energy
- M/L = lifetime of energy generation $\sim M^{-2.5}$

主序星的壽命 \propto (恆星質量) $^{-2.5}$

- 這表示質量越大的恆星，其主序的壽命越短（得多），例如質量為太陽10倍的恆星 ($10 M_{\odot}$) 其主序壽命只有太陽（100億年）的 0.3%，也就是只有數千萬年。

Main-Sequence Lifetimes

Mass (M_{\odot})	Surface Temperature	Spectral Class	Luminosity (L_{\odot})	τ_{MS} (Myr)
25	35,000	O	80,000	4
15	30,000	B	10,000	15
3	11,000	A	60	800
1.5	7000	F	5	4500
1.0	6000	G	1	12,000
0.75	5000	K	0.5	25,000
0.5	4000	M	0.03	700,000

Q：藍白恆星一定是年輕恆星
（為什麼？）

昴宿星團中的藍白恆星只能照耀
一億年，所以恐龍曾經見過沒有
昴宿星團的夜空！

恆星的質量範圍

- 質量太小 ($< 0.08 M_{\odot}$) 的星體，中央溫度不足以點燃氫核反應
- 質量太大 ($> 150 M_{\odot}$ ，不很確定) 的星體，核反應太劇烈，萬有引力無法平衡強大的輻射壓力，星體結構不穩定

→ 恆星的質量範圍約在 $0.08 \sim 150 M_{\odot}$ 之間

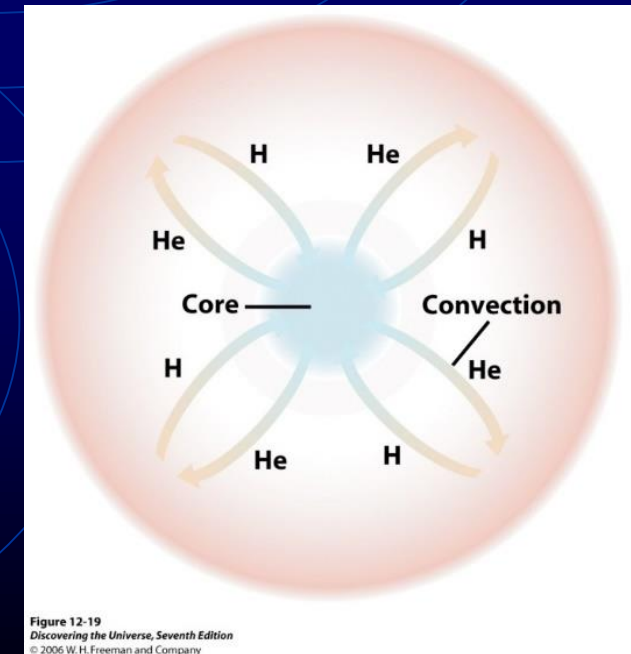
最小質量的主序星 ($0.08 \sim 0.4 M_{\odot}$)

- 恆星輻射的光度取決於核心溫度
- $0.08 \sim 0.4$ 太陽質量的主序星稱為**紅矮星 (red dwarfs)**，它們中央溫度低、壓力小
- 幾乎整顆星處於對流狀態 (convection)

→ 幾乎整顆星的氫都融合成氦

紅矮星核心融合的速率非常慢，主序壽命超過千億年，比宇宙年齡還長！

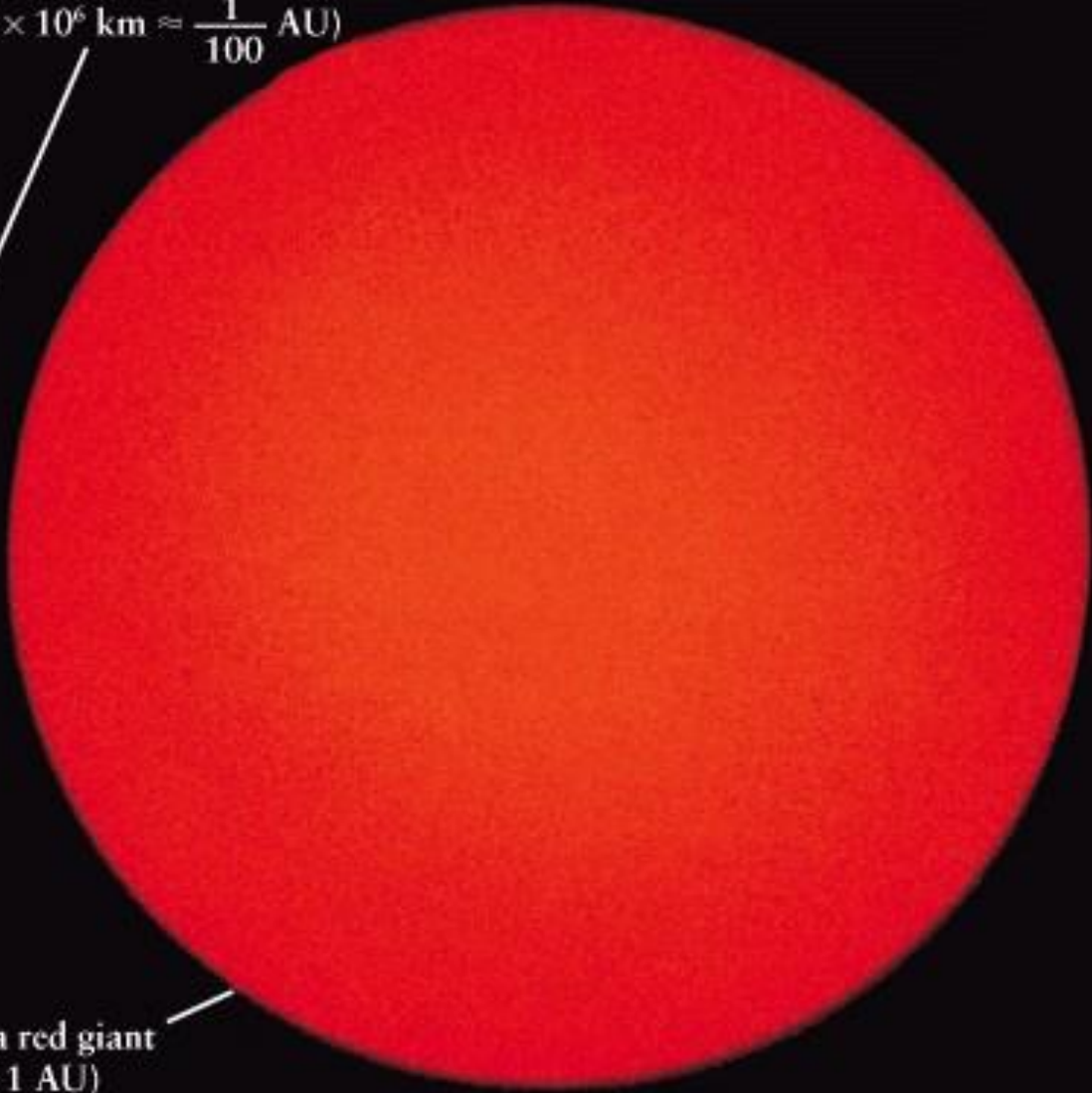
最終冷卻成為**黑矮星 (black dwarf)**



太陽（小質量恆星）

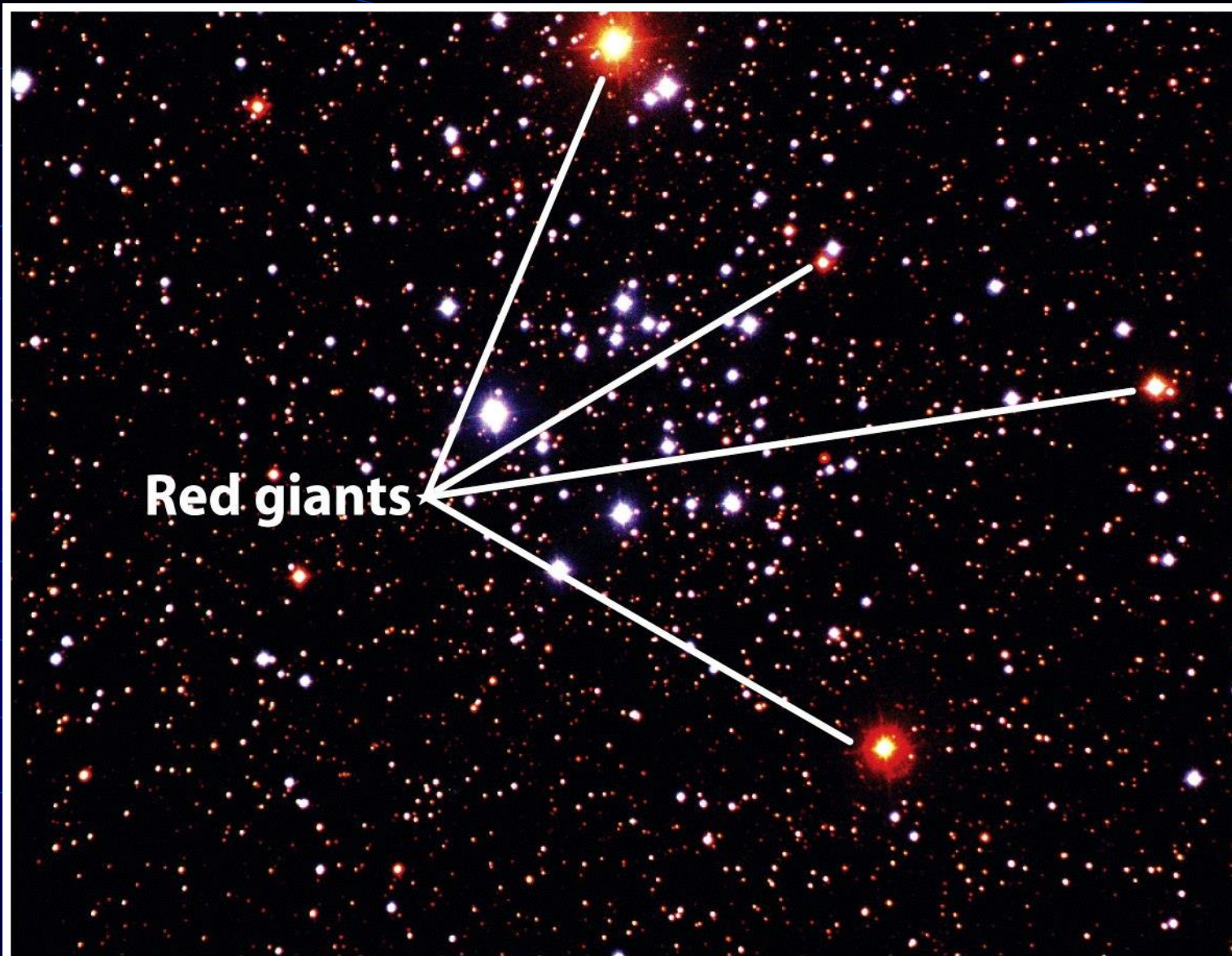
- 核心無法承受萬有引力 → 收縮
- 收縮的核心溫度上升 → 10^8 K → 點燃氦核反應
 $4\text{He} + 4\text{He} + 4\text{He} \rightarrow 12\text{C} + \gamma$ (triple alpha process)
核心再度達到平衡狀態
 - 外層向外膨脹，溫度下降
- 有些星球 $12\text{C} + 4\text{He} \rightarrow 16\text{O} + \gamma$
- 我們看到外層變大、變冷（變紅）
 - 紅巨星 (red giant)
- 這時期星球結構不穩，收縮、膨脹
 - 脈動變星，例如造父變星 (Cepheid variables)

The Sun as a main-sequence star
(diameter = 1.4×10^6 km $\approx \frac{1}{100}$ AU)



The Sun as a red giant
(diameter ≈ 1 AU)

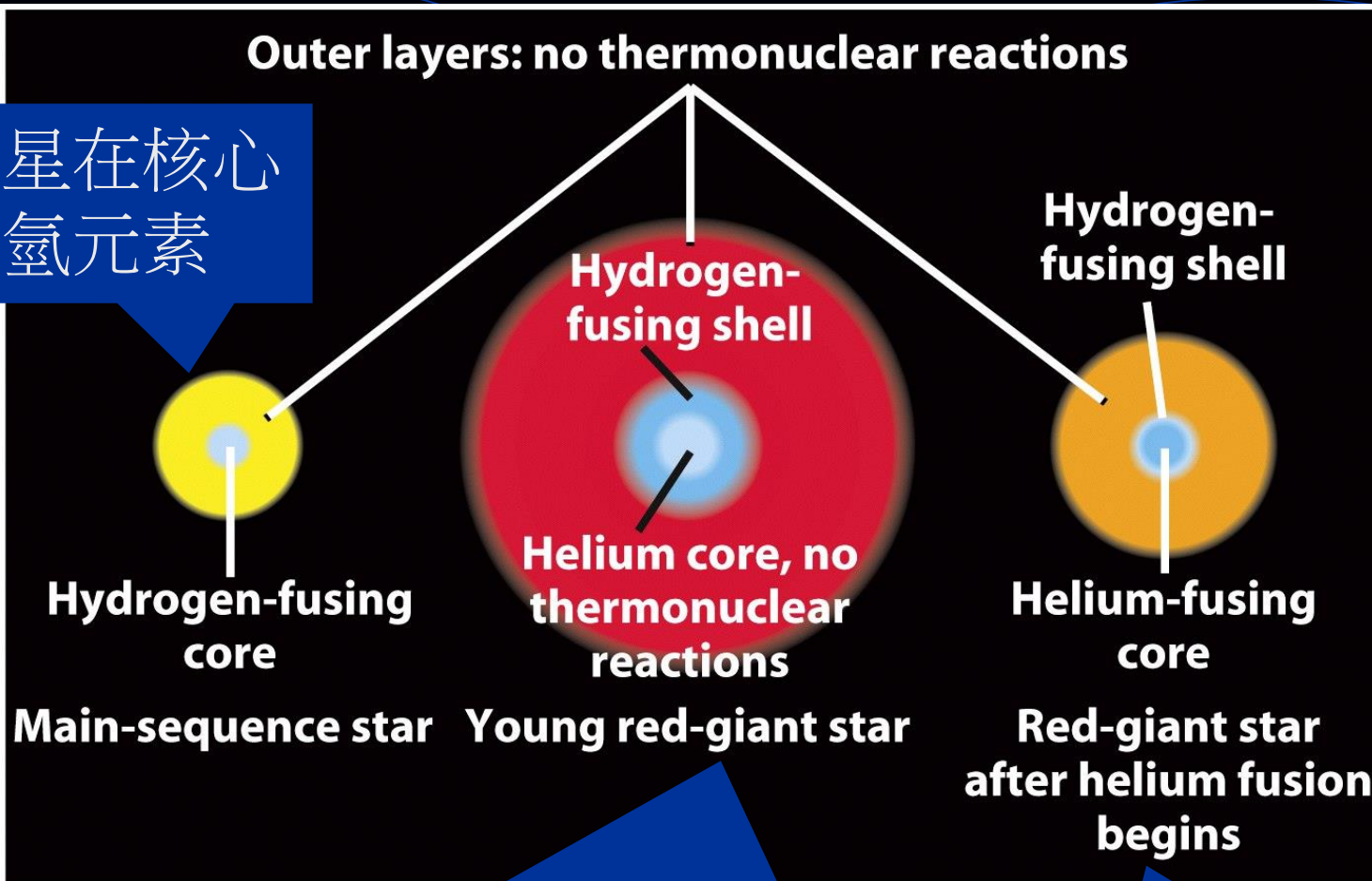
50億年後太陽核心的
氫核子反應停止，核
心收縮，外層則膨脹
成為「紅巨星」，直
徑增大100倍，光度
增強2000倍



Red giants

Red giant stars in the star cluster M50

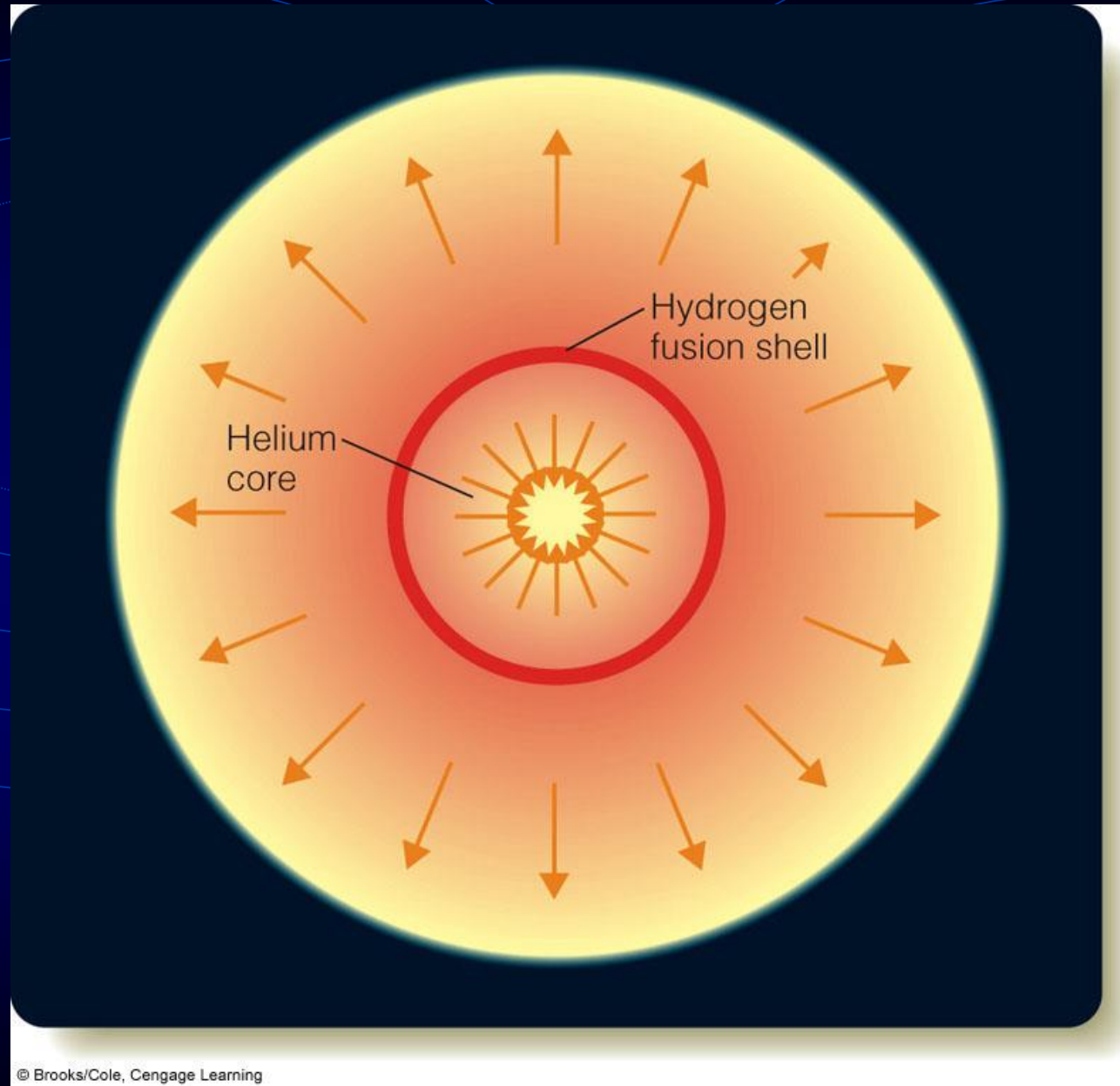
主序星在核心
融合氫元素



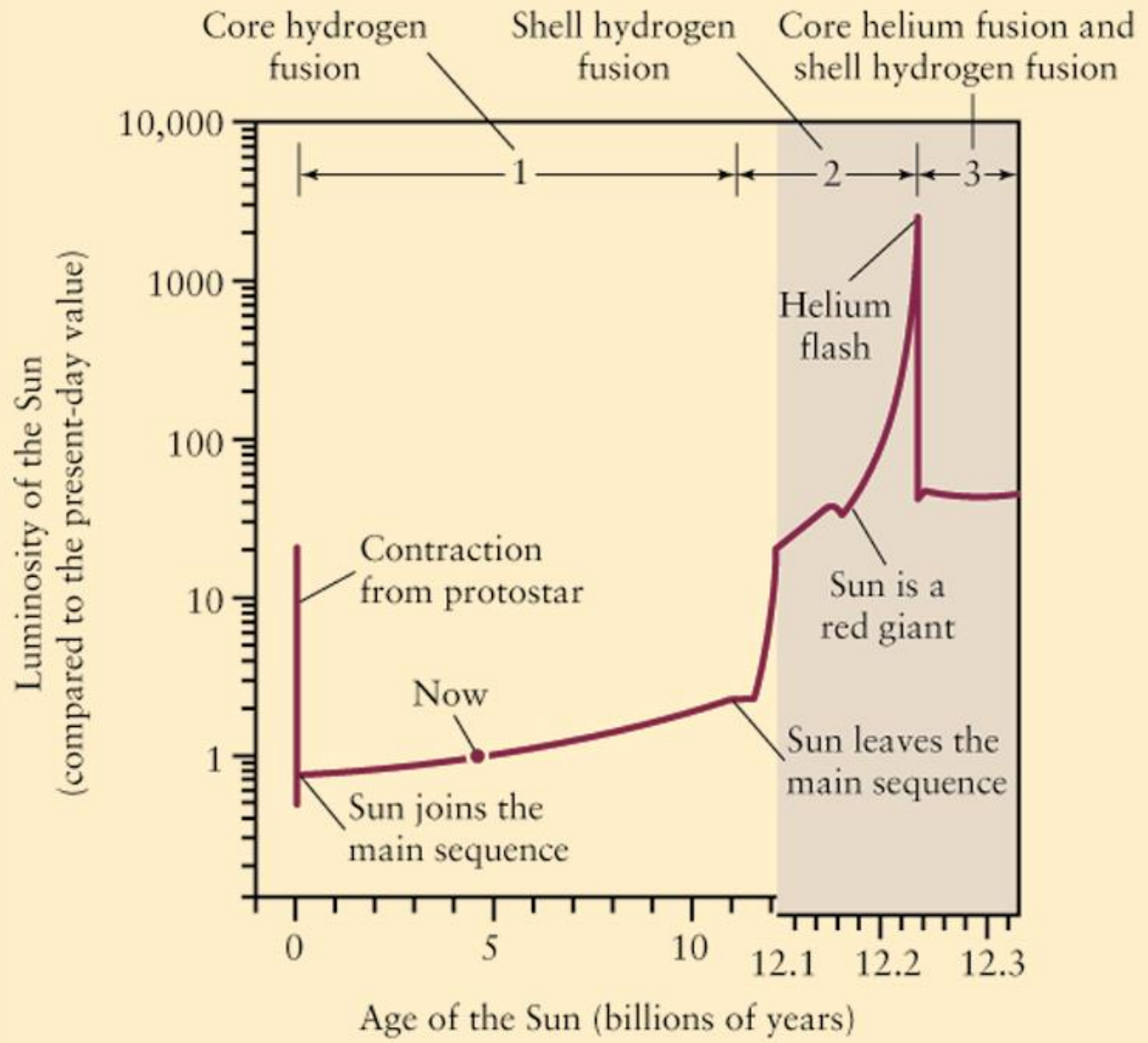
紅巨星剛開始核心為沒有核反應的氦，核心之外的殼層則進行氫融合

之後紅巨星核心達到 10^8 度，進行氦融合，殼層則進行氫融合

氦融合時期約是氫融合的10%
→ 太陽氦融合約花費數億年



太陽一生的光度變化



恆星的質量流失 (mass loss)



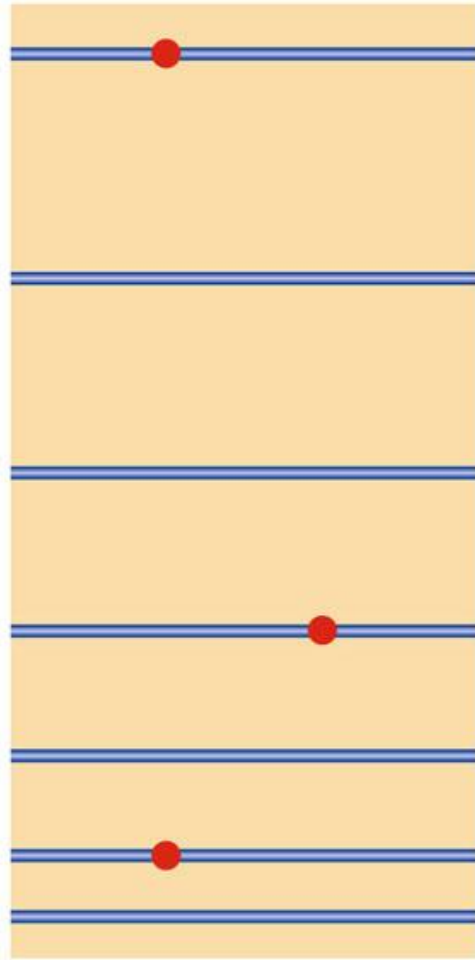
- 太陽風流失的質量
 $\sim 10^{-14} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$
- 紅巨星流失程度大得多
 $\sim 10^{-7} M_{\odot}/\text{yr}$
(為什麼?)
- 流失物質的速度約
10 km/s，可利用光
譜線的都卜勒效應測
量

核心氦融合的方式

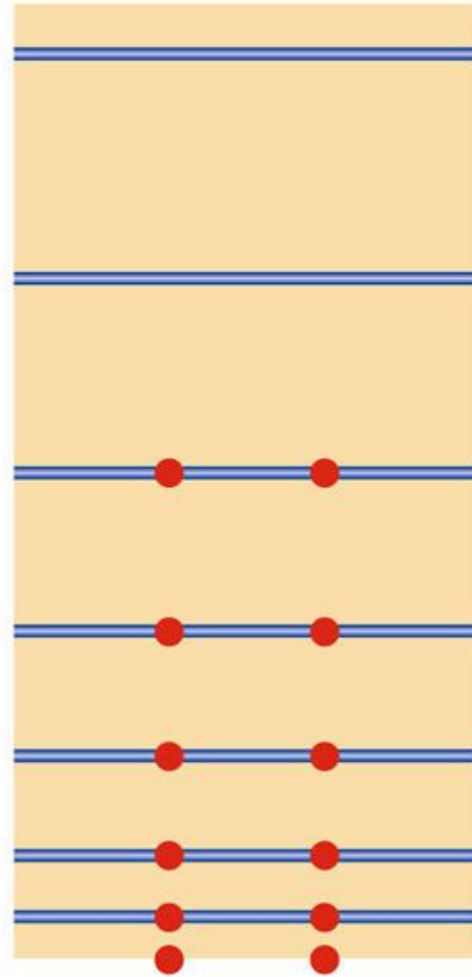
- 核心大於 2~4 倍太陽質量的星體，氦融合以緩和的方式進行
- 核心小於 2~4 倍太陽質量，核心密度高，達到簡併 (degenerate) 狀態，也就是氣體壓力與溫度無關（這和一般氣體壓力與溫度成正比不同）。由於不相容原理，氣體緊密排列，**電子簡併壓力 (electron degeneracy pressure)** 提供向外的壓力。

因此，當核心達到 1 億度，核心不會膨脹，沒有了「安全閥」機制，核反應急遽進行（氦融合「瞬間點燃」）

→ **氦閃 (helium flash)**



Low-density gas
(nondegenerate)



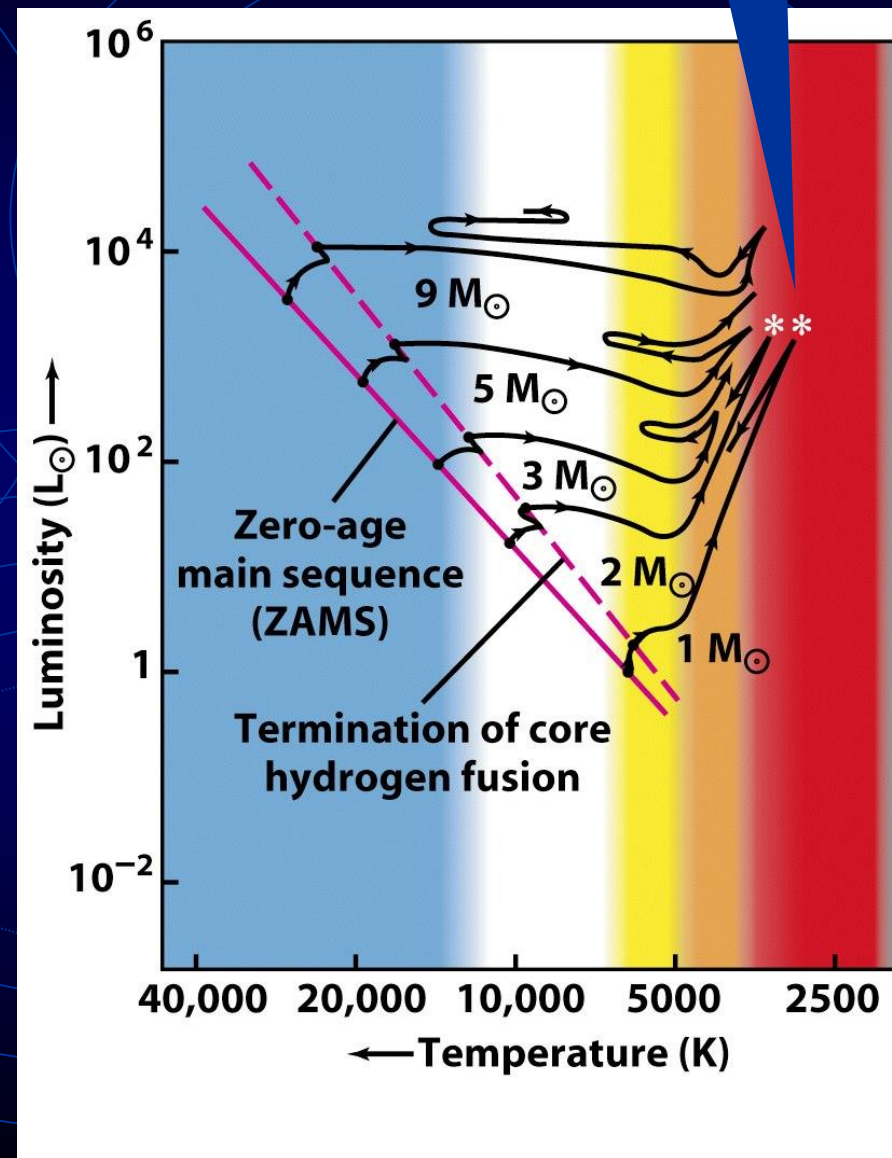
High-density gas
(degenerate)

- Helium flash 時，核心溫度達到 $3.5 \times 10^8 \text{ K}$ ，再度使氣體成為一般氣體，也就是高溫 \rightarrow 高壓

- \rightarrow 核心膨脹 \rightarrow 冷卻
- \rightarrow 融合減慢
- \rightarrow 光度下降
- \rightarrow 外圍收縮
- \rightarrow 再度達到靜力平衡

- 天體變小、變暗、變熱

氦閃

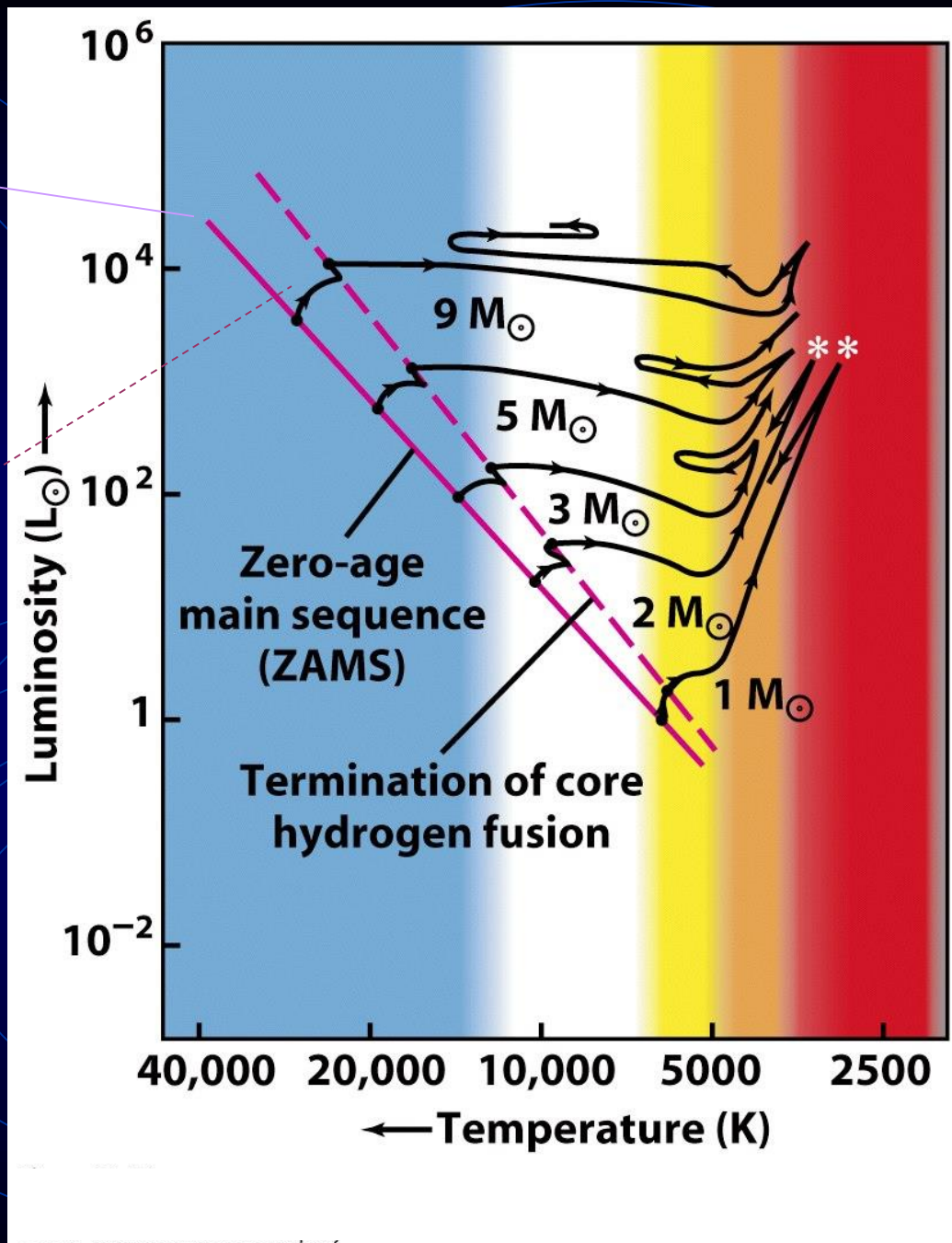


星球剛進入主序
零齡主序 (zero age
main sequence)

核心4個氫融合成1個氦，
密度變小，溫度必須升高
→ 光度增加 (40%)

核心收縮，外層膨脹
(半徑增 6%)，表面
溫度稍升 (5500 K to
5800 K)

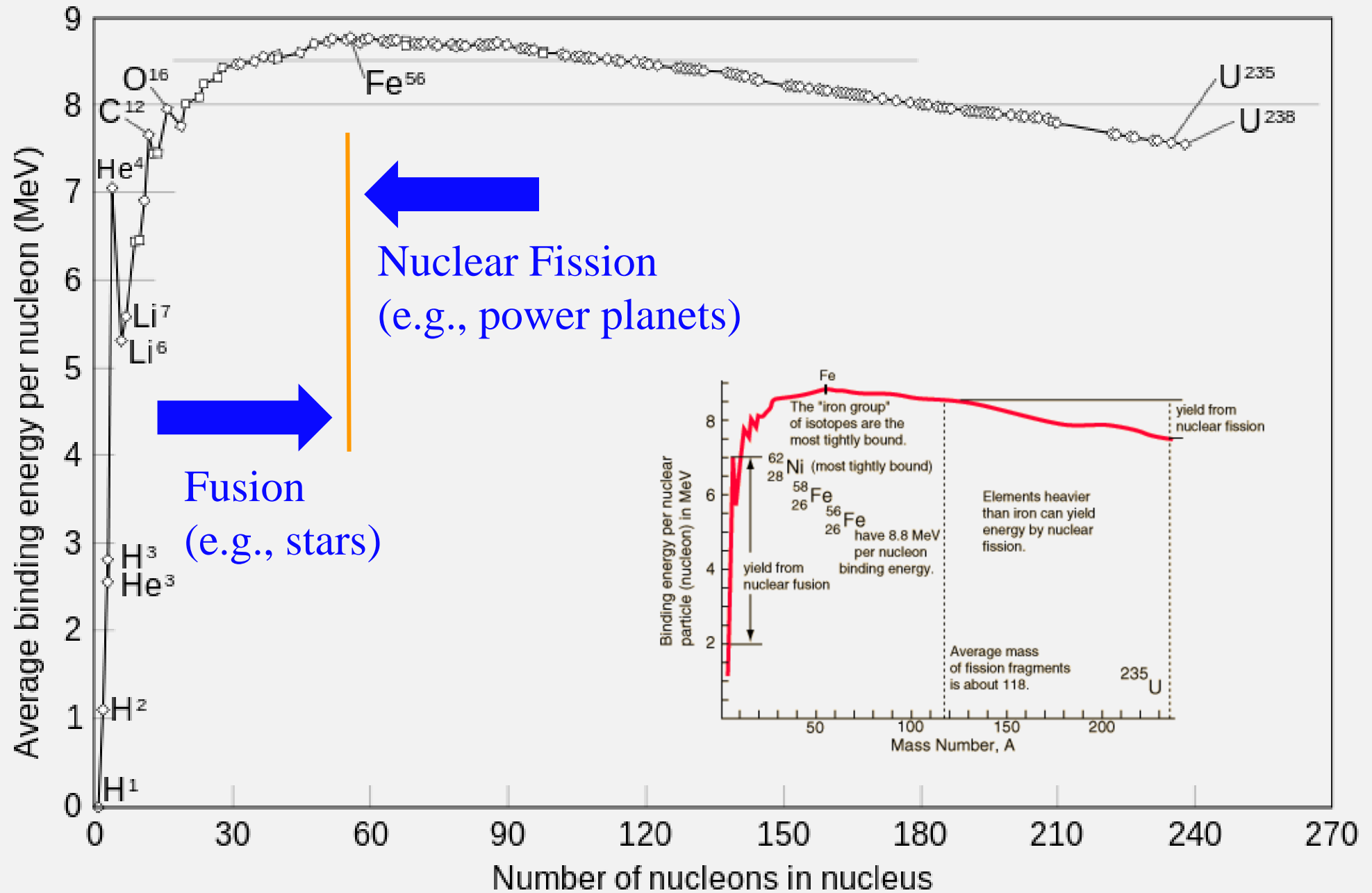
→ MS 向上移動

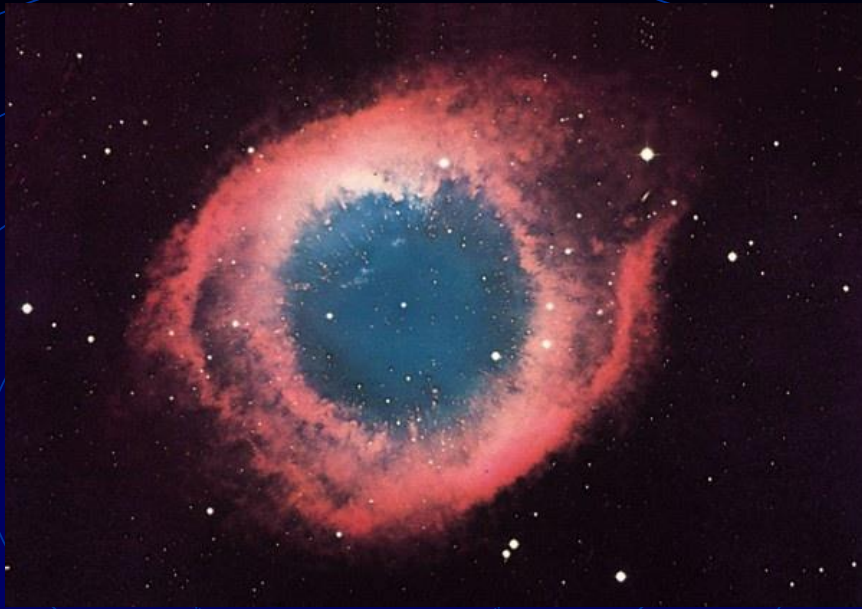


太陽步向晚年

- 核心氦用完 → 再收縮 → 再升溫 → 點燃碳核子反應？
核心碳用完 ... 核融合釋放能量到鐵元素為止
當再沒有下一級核反應 → 不再有能量來源
原子原來空蕩蕩（原子核很小），被擠壓
後可以撐住（不能再擠了，否則...）
熾熱的核心 → 白矮星 → 冷卻成黑矮星
- 外層向外擴散，逐漸與星際物質混合
→ 行星狀星雲 (planetary nebulae)
- 雲消霧散後，露出中央的白矮星

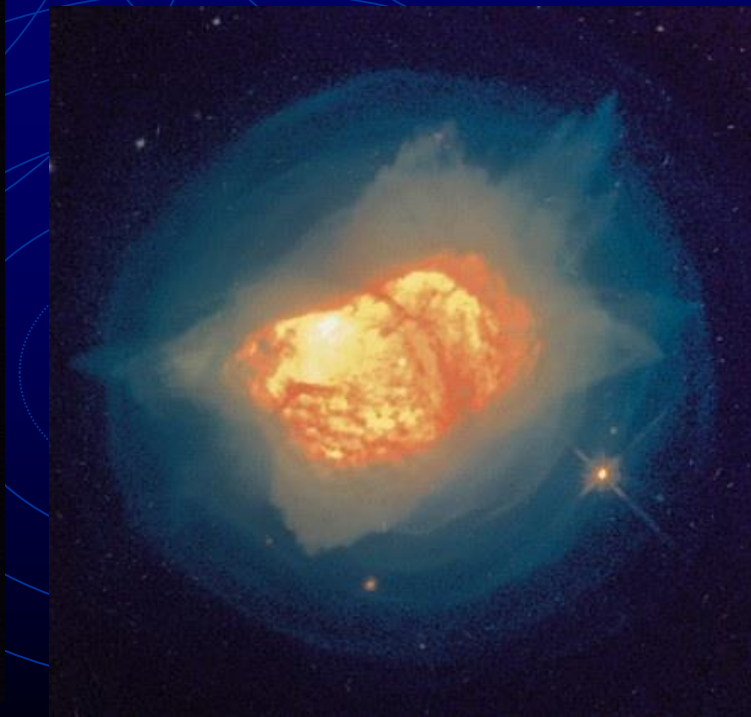
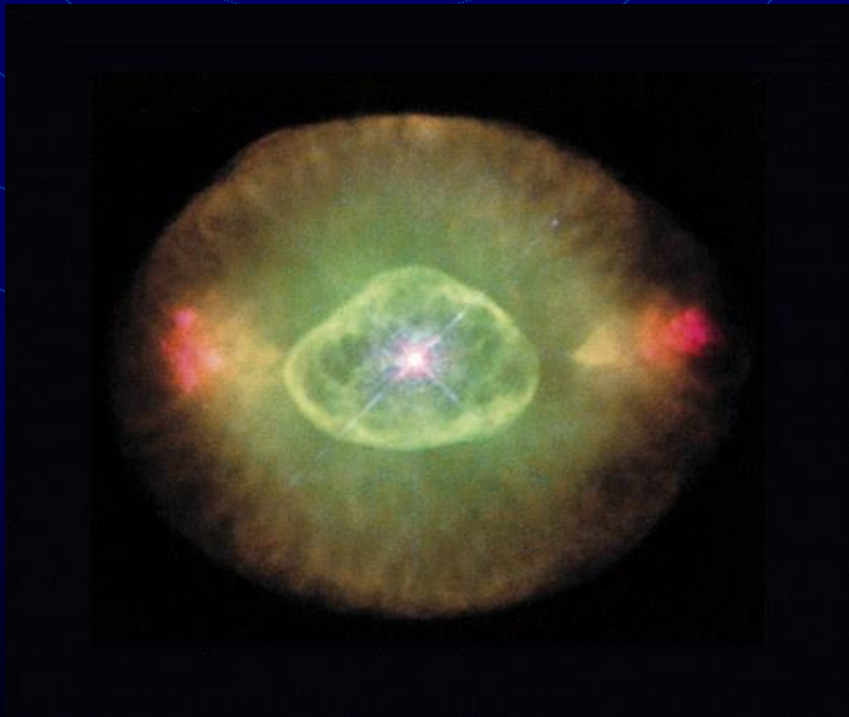
物質	密度 [kg/m ³]
純水	1,000
太陽核心	150,000
白矮星	10 ⁹
原子核	2.3 × 10 ¹⁷
中子星核心	10 ¹⁷ ~10 ¹⁸
黑洞	2 × 10 ³⁰





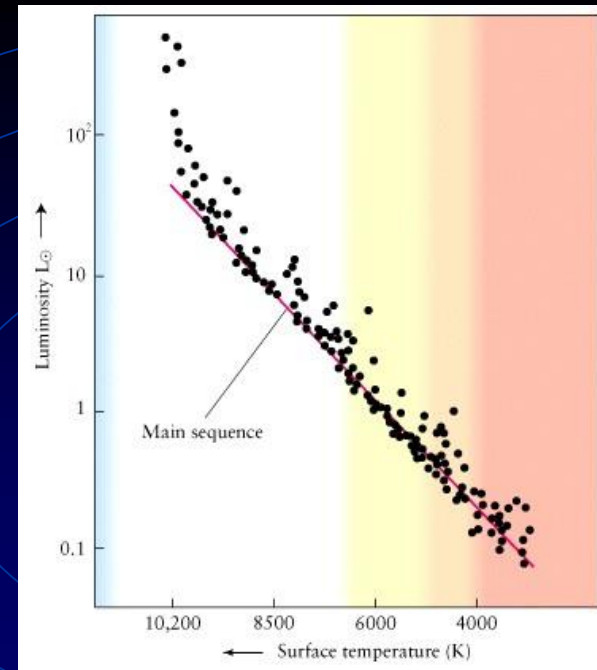
恆星演化晚期噴發出外層
大氣，形成各種形狀的
「行星狀星雲」

外觀成雲氣狀而稱之，實
際上與行星無關



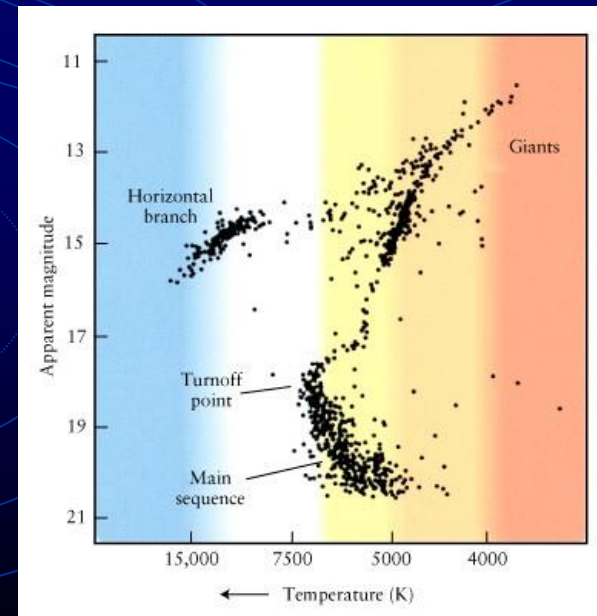
- **疏散星團**
(open cluster)

各種質量成員
星分佈在赫羅
圖主序上



- **球狀星團**
(globular cluster)

大質量恆星首先
衰亡，然後
輪到中等質量
恆星，接著依
照質量陸續離
開主序



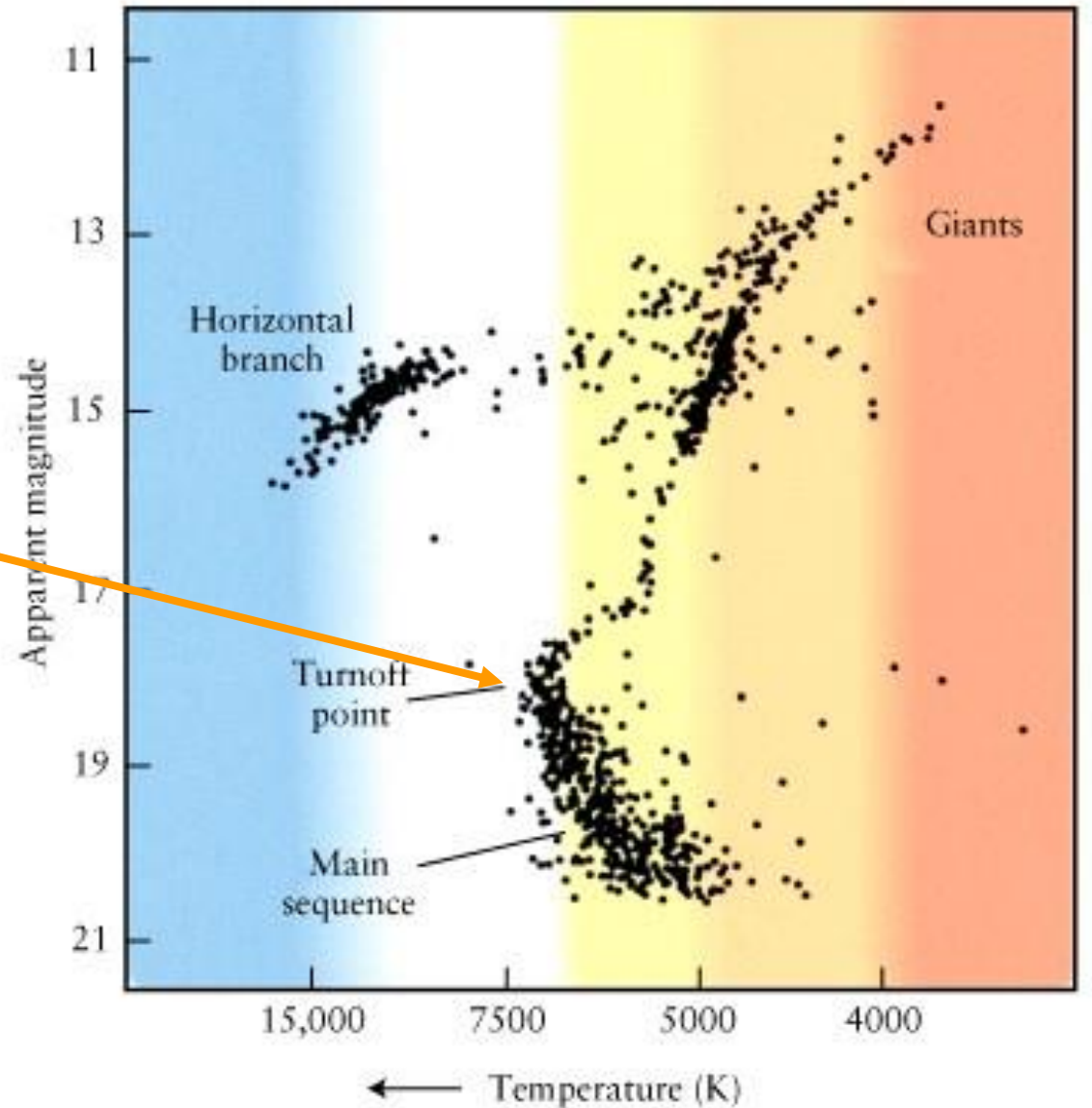
星團中的恆星同時、從同一團雲氣形成

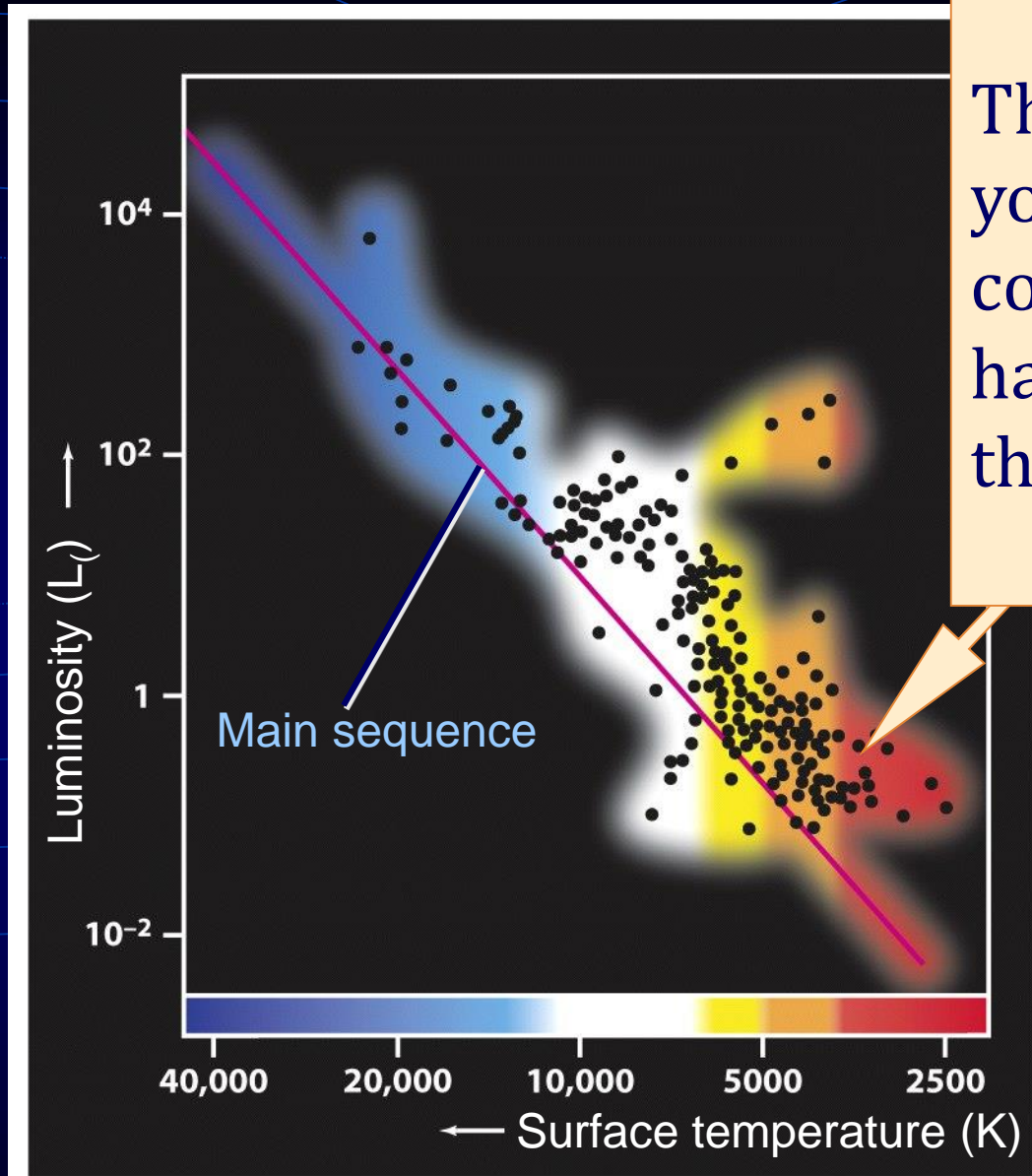
→ 年齡、距離、
成分都相同

比**轉折點 (turnoff point)**

質量更大的主序星已經衰亡，
成為紅巨星

→ 轉折點的星球主序壽命
= 該星團的年齡

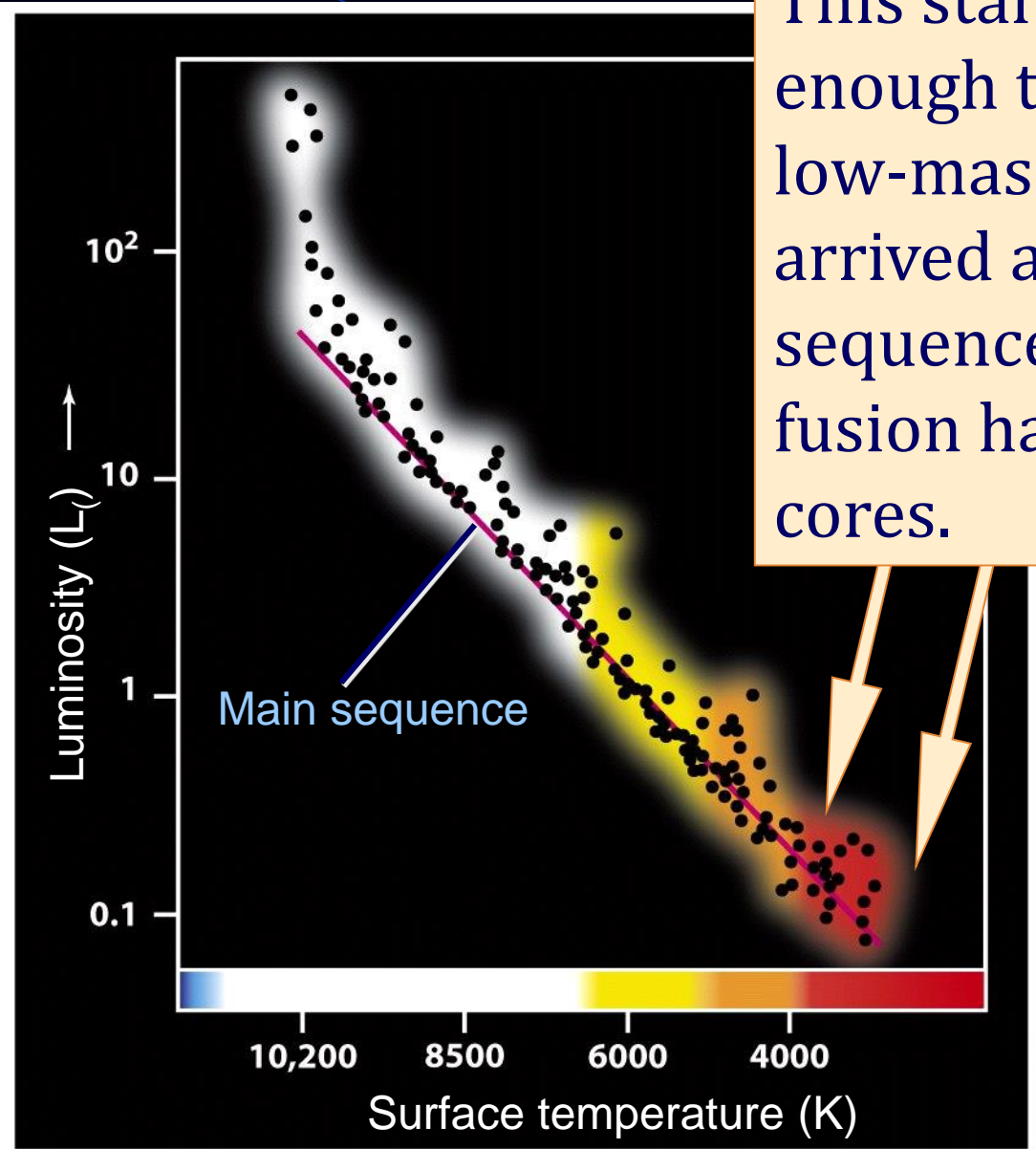




This star cluster is so young that most of its cool, low-mass stars have not yet arrived at the main sequence.

An H-R diagram of the stars in NGC 2264

This star cluster is old enough that all of its cool, low-mass stars have arrived at the main sequence: Hydrogen fusion has begun in their cores.



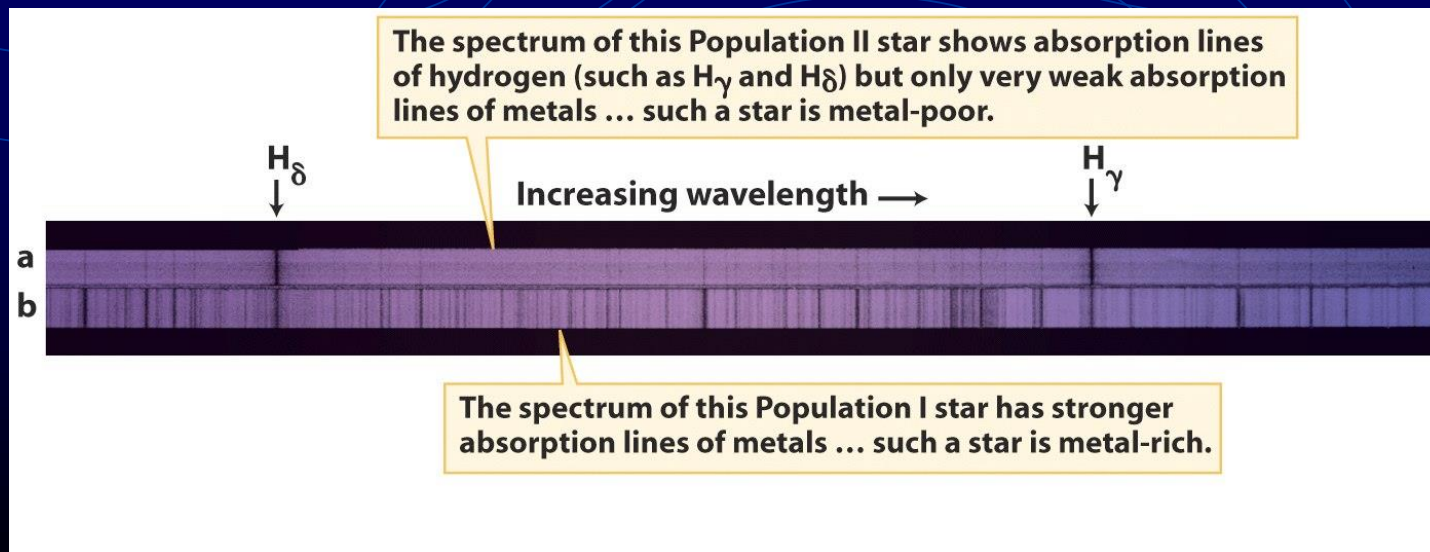
An H-R diagram of the stars in the Pleiades

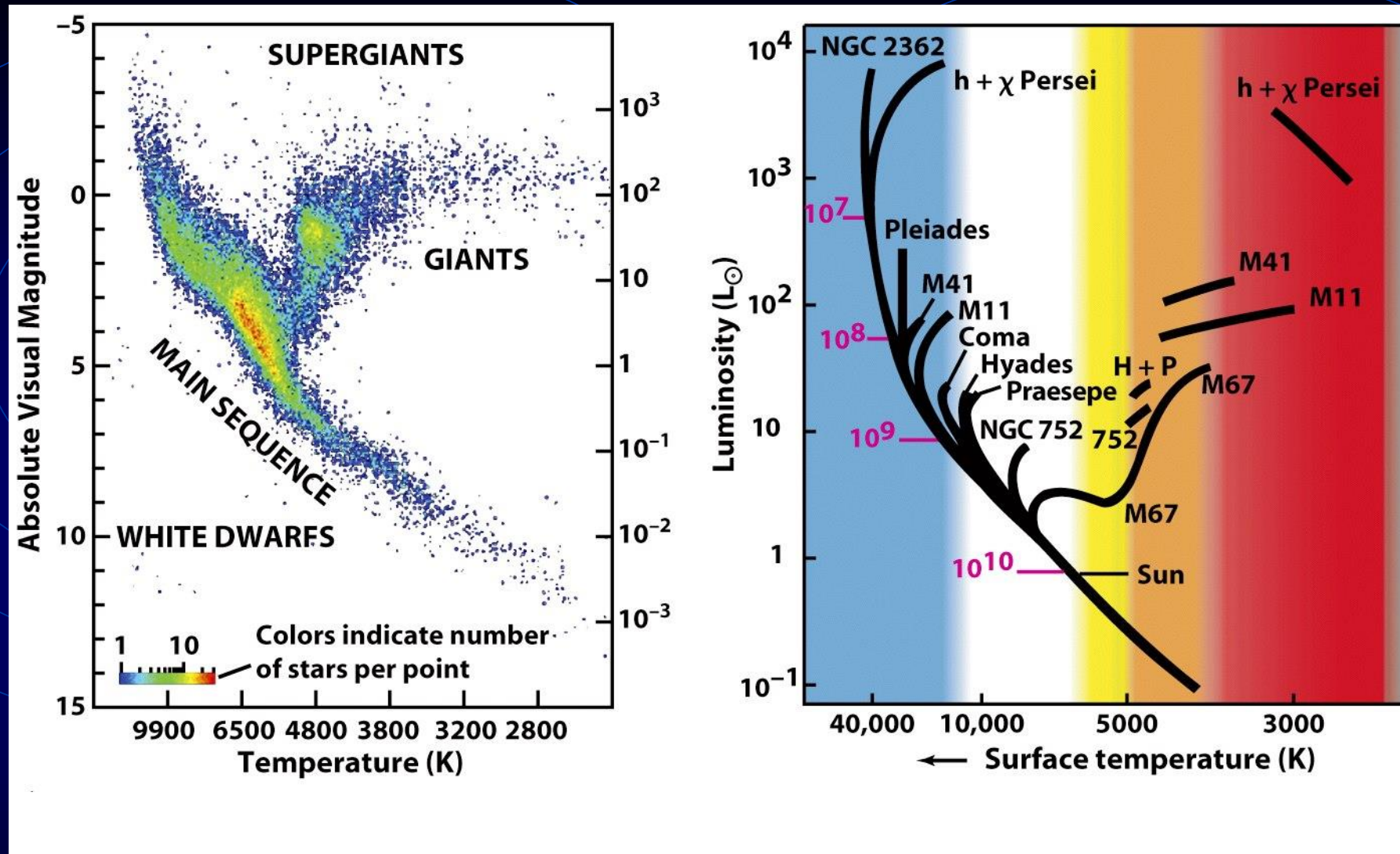
星族 (stellar Population)

- 疏散星團中的恆星複雜元素含量豐富 (metal rich) , 這些元素來自前代恆星爆發死亡後回歸星際物質。

Population I stars

- 球狀星團中的恆星「金屬」含量低 (metal poor) , 這些恆星很早已前就已經形成。 **Population II stars** (前輩恆星)



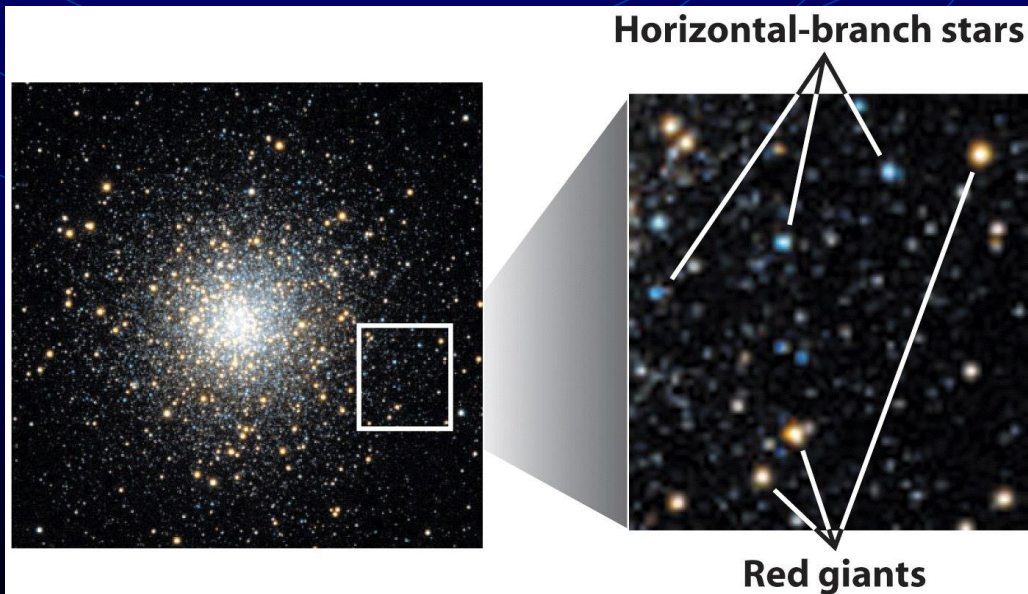
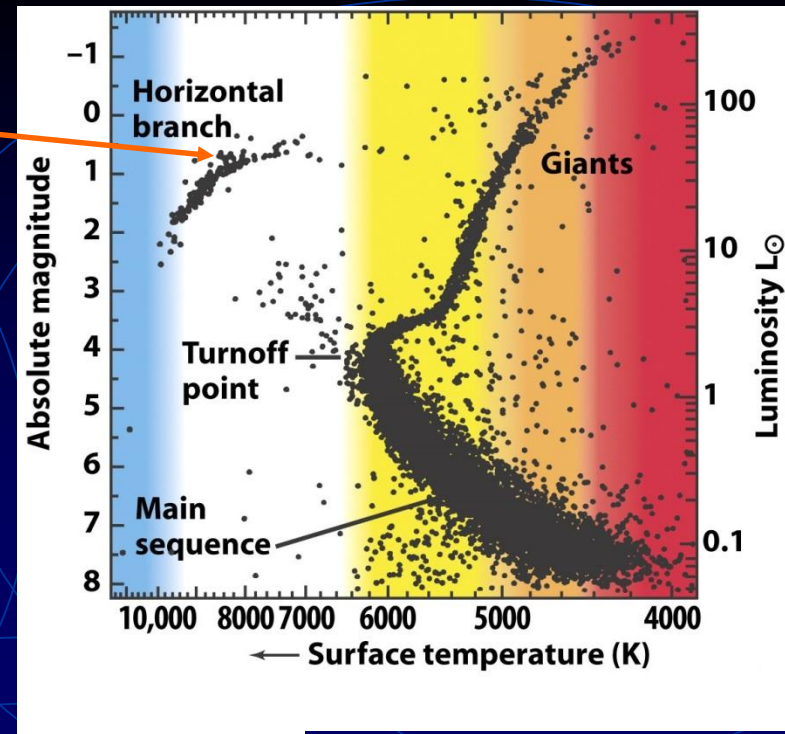


Hipparcos 衛星資料

不同星團赫羅圖
之示意圖

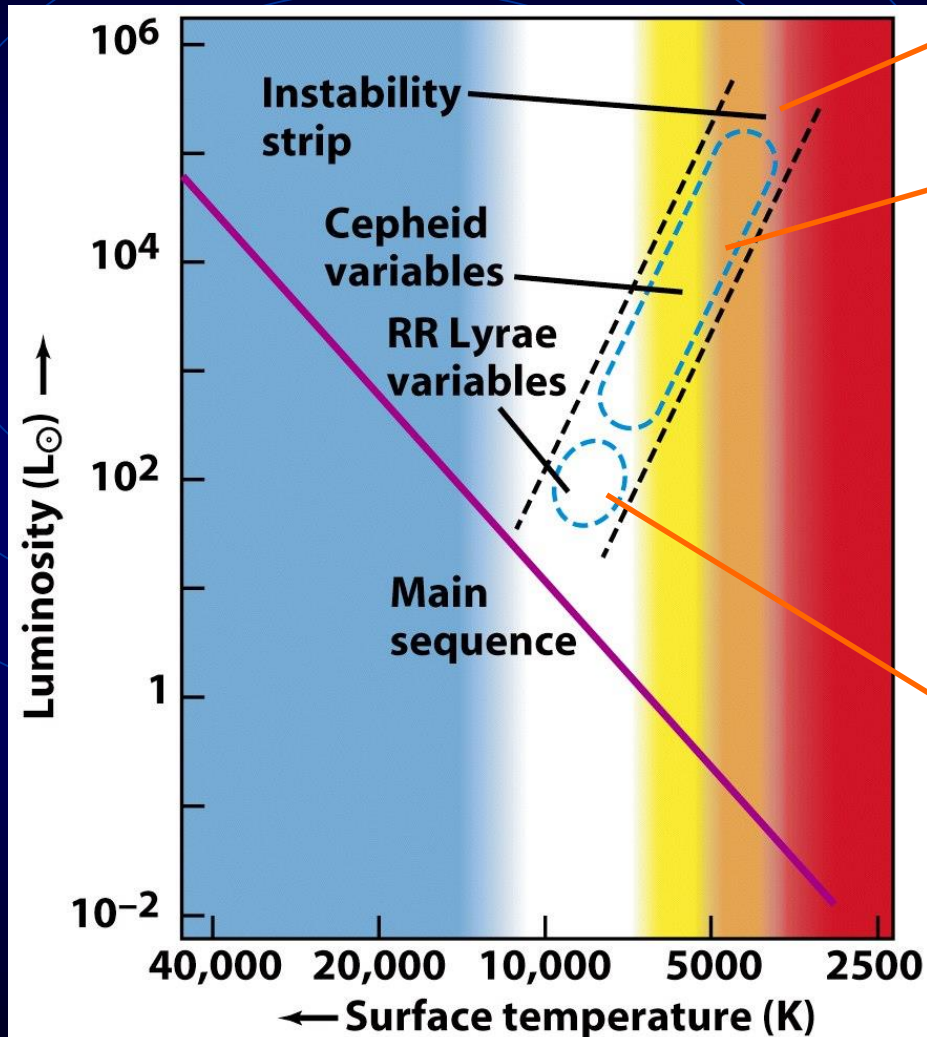
Horizontal Branch Stars

是氦閃之後的星球
core helium fusion and
shell hydrogen fusion



Globular cluster M10,
d=16,000 ly, size~70 ly
across, with ~ 1 million
stars

變星 (Variable Stars)



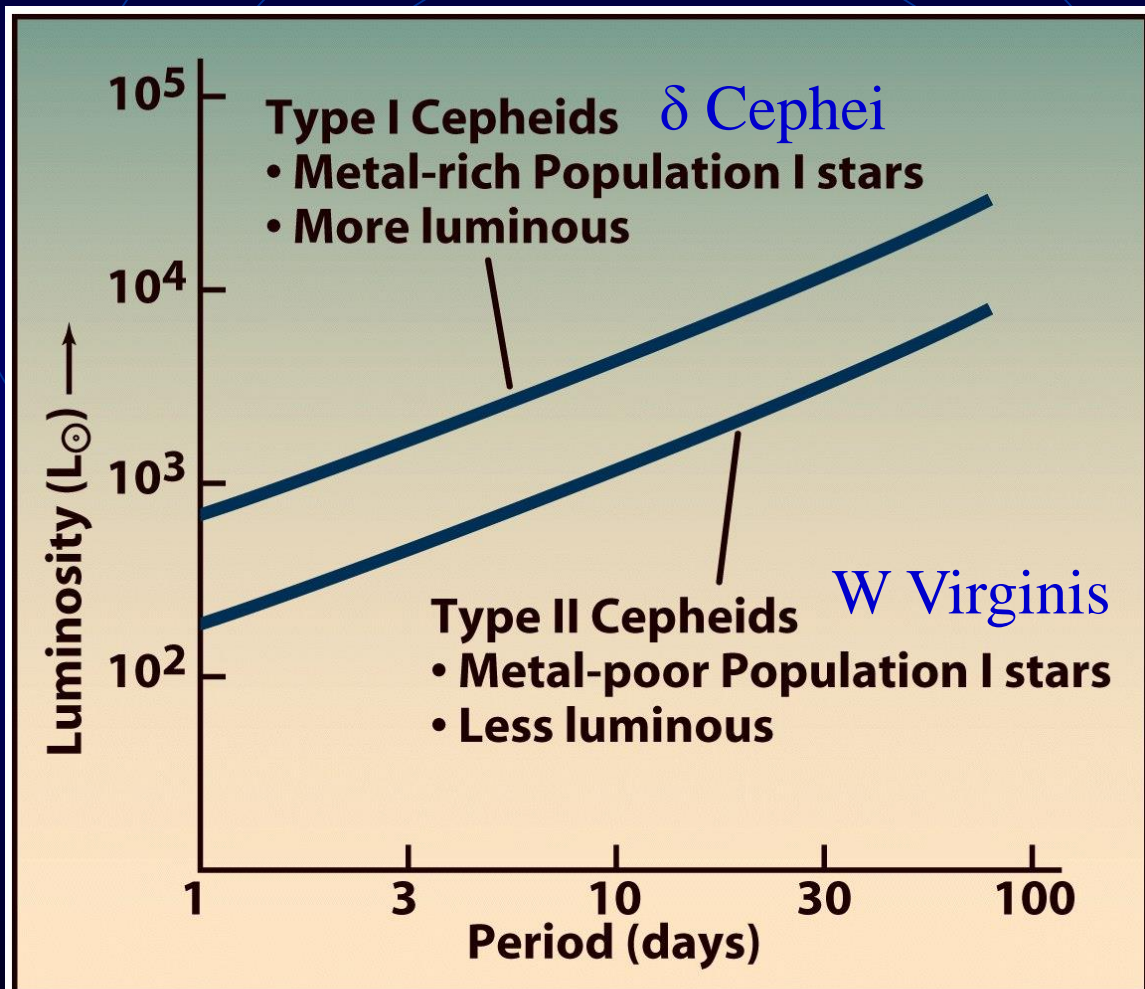
不穩定帶 → 星球脈動

位於不穩定帶中的大質量星球，稱為 Cepheid variables (造父變星) 或簡稱 Cepheids。周期 > 1 d

位於不穩定帶中的低質量星球稱為 RR Lyrae variables (天琴座RR變星)。它們的週期 < 1 d

體積越大（光度大）的 Cepheids，脈動得越慢

Period-luminosity relation（周光關係）



Cepheids 光度亮，即使遙遠星系當中亦可觀測

週期 \rightarrow 光度

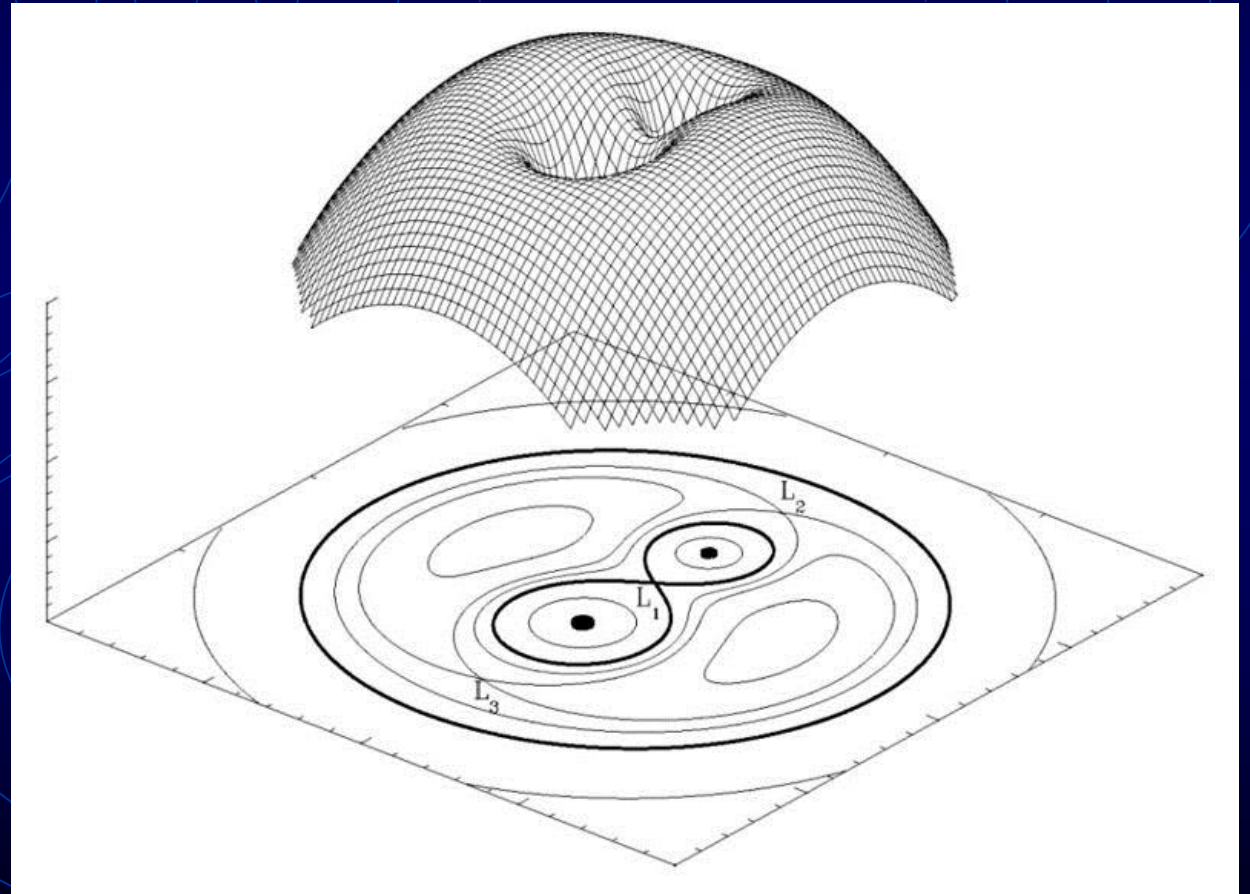
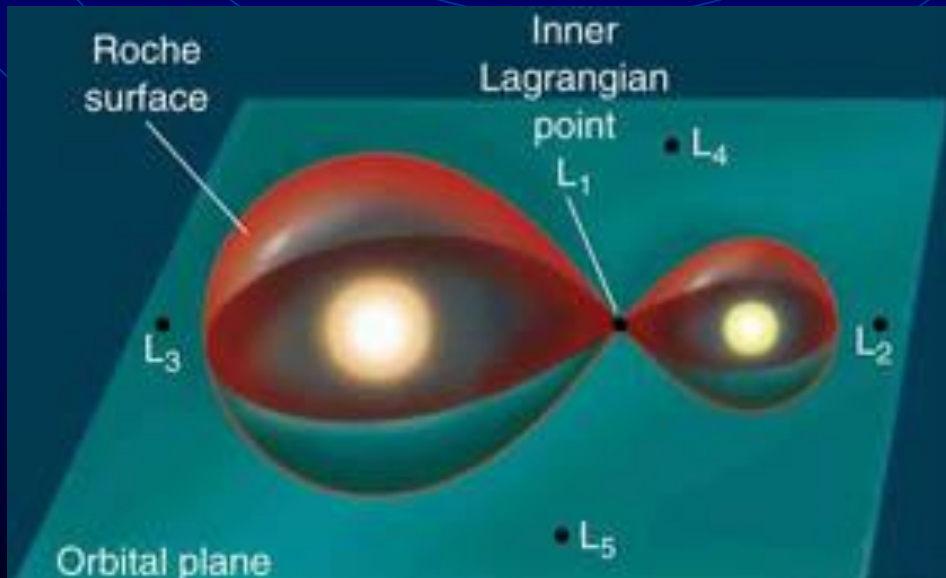
藉此估計變星，也就是其宿主星系 (hosting galaxy) 的距離

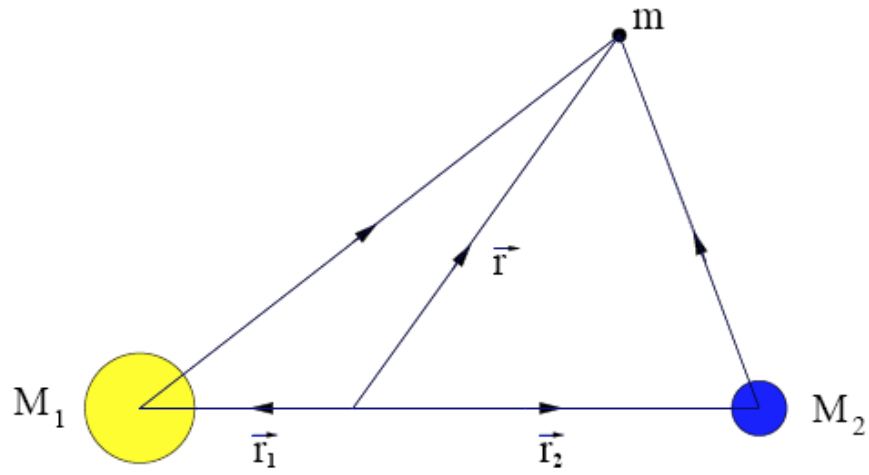
造父變星是**建立宇宙距離尺標**的重要工具

星體萬有引力的「勢力範圍」：

Roche (洛西) lobe 雙星系統中各自的「領空」

Lagrangian points
cf Trojan asteroids





Restricted 3-body problem.
i.e., $m \ll M_1, M_2$

$$\vec{F} = -\frac{GM_1m}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_1|^3}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_1) - \frac{GM_2m}{|\vec{r} - \vec{r}_2|^3}(\vec{r} - \vec{r}_2)$$

In a co-rotating frame,

$$\Omega^2 R^3 = G(M_1 + M_2)$$

$$\alpha = \frac{M_2}{M_1 + M_2}, \quad \beta = \frac{M_1}{M_1 + M_2}$$

$$L1 : \left(R \left[1 - \left(\frac{\alpha}{3} \right)^{1/3} \right], 0 \right)$$

$$L2 : \left(R \left[1 + \left(\frac{\alpha}{3} \right)^{1/3} \right], 0 \right)$$

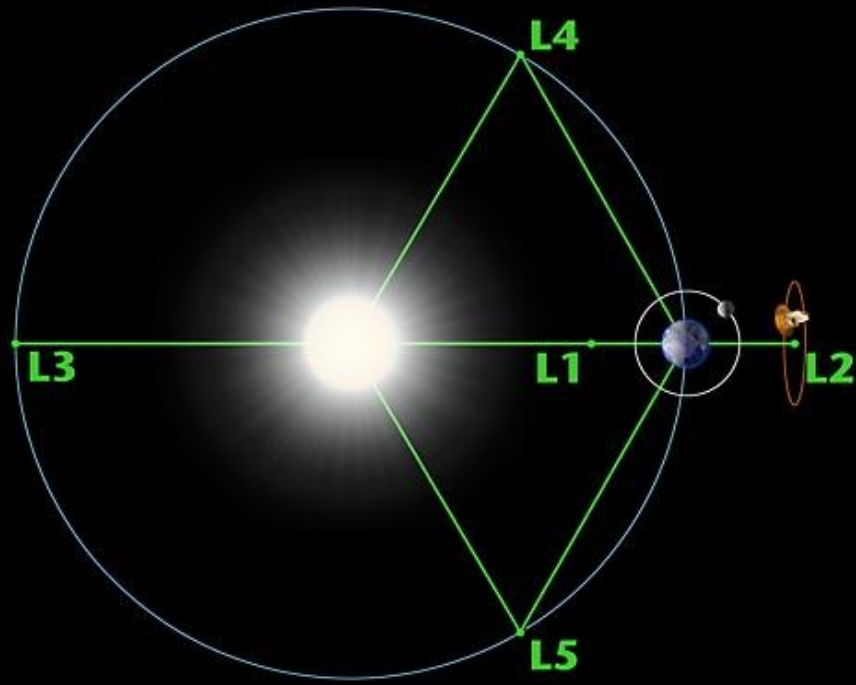
$$L3 : \left(-R \left[1 + \frac{5}{12}\alpha \right], 0 \right)$$

$$L4 : \left(\frac{R}{2} \left(\frac{M_1 - M_2}{M_1 + M_2} \right), \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} R \right)$$

$$L5 : \left(\frac{R}{2} \left(\frac{M_1 - M_2}{M_1 + M_2} \right), -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} R \right)$$

For a mathematical derivation, see

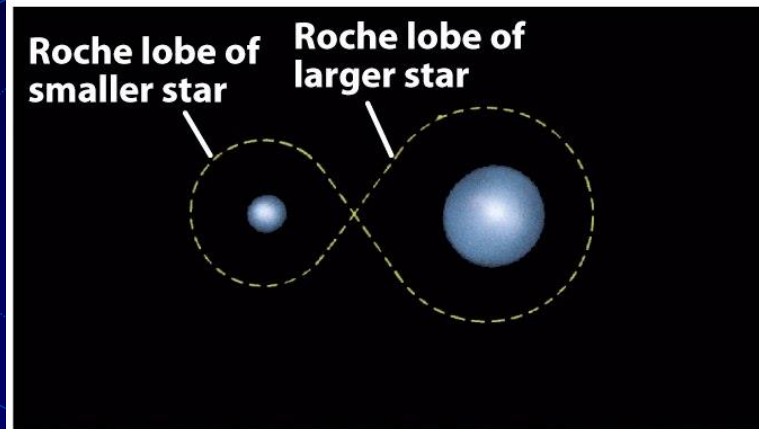
<http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/ContentMedia/lagrange.pdf>



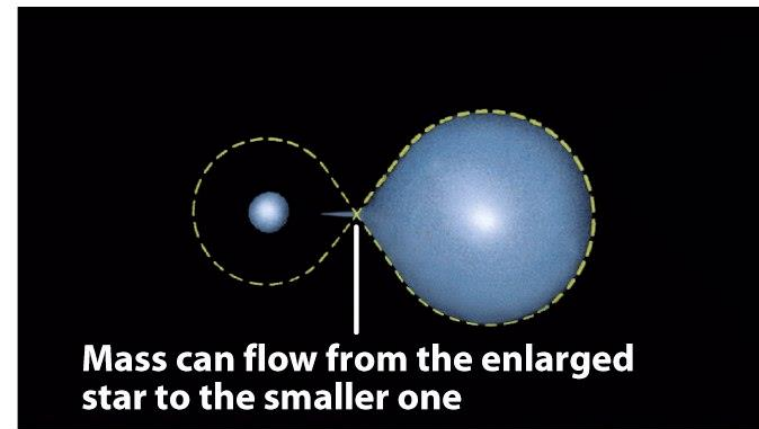
In addition to the *WMAP*, other L2 point missions include *Herschel*, *Gaia*, *JWST*, etc.

http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/m_mm/ob_techorbit1.html

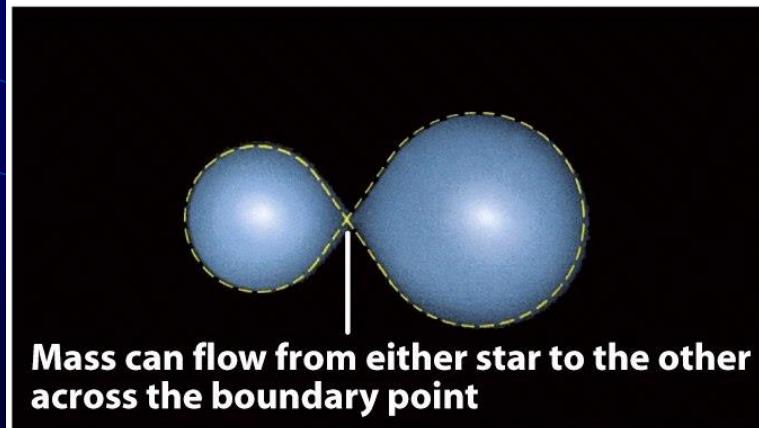
緊密雙星 (close binary) 的物質交換 (mass transfer) 會形成特殊的雙星系統



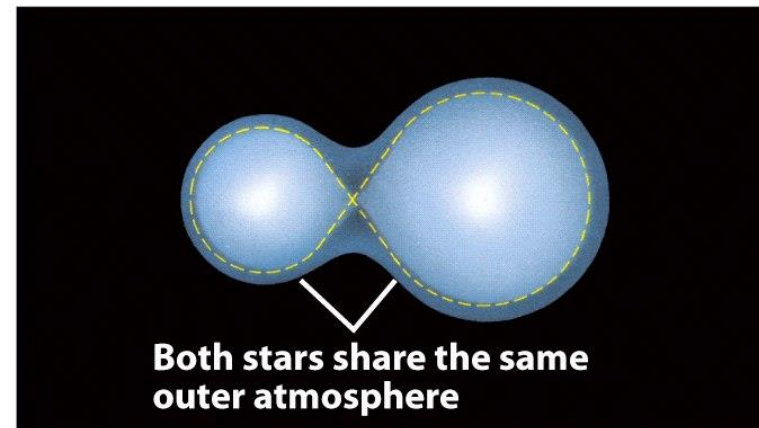
a Detached binary: Neither star fills its Roche lobe.



b Semi-detached binary: One star fills its Roche lobe.

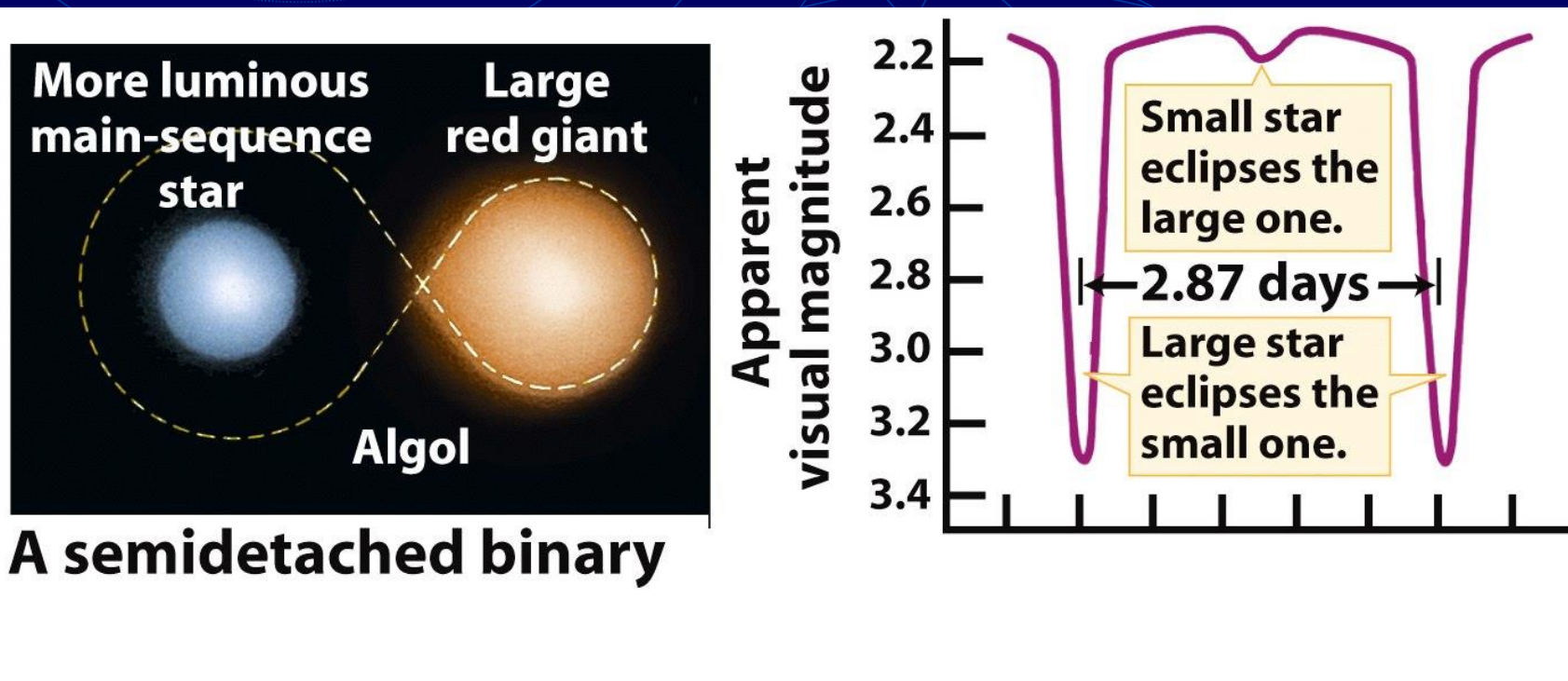


c Contact binary: Both stars fill their Roche lobes.



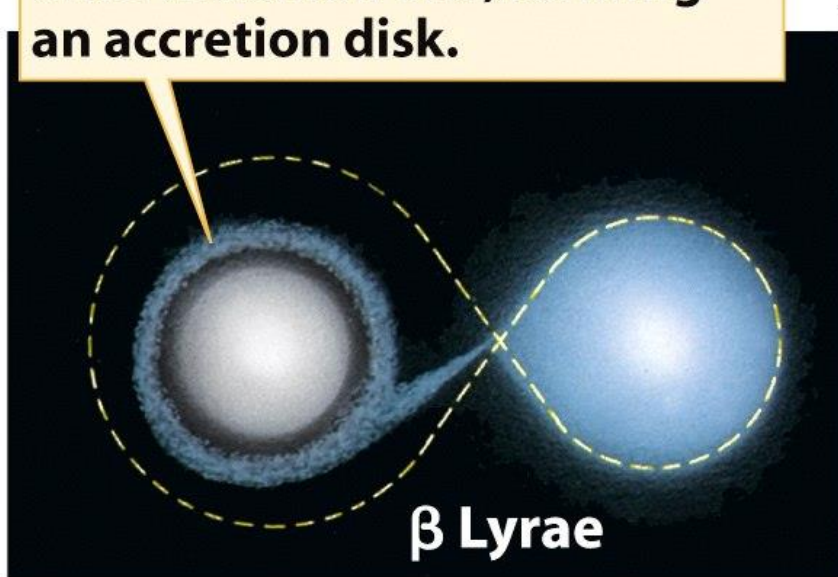
d Overcontact binary: Both stars overfill their Roche lobes.

Algol (Beta Persei) [大陵五] 英仙座 第二亮星，為食雙星系統，週期為2.87天，其中較亮者是顆 B 型主序星，伴星則是 G 型巨星。當 G 星擋住 B 星時，整個系統的亮度在四小時內由 2.2 等變成 3.5 等，而在最小亮度維持約廿分鐘；B 星擋住 G 星所造成的次極小僅變暗 0.06 等，肉眼無法偵測出。此系統另有週期為 1.862 年的光譜變化，顯示存在第三顆星。電波觀測顯示伴星的質量流往主星，造成間歇性電波強度急遽增大。此類食雙星以 **Algol** 為名。

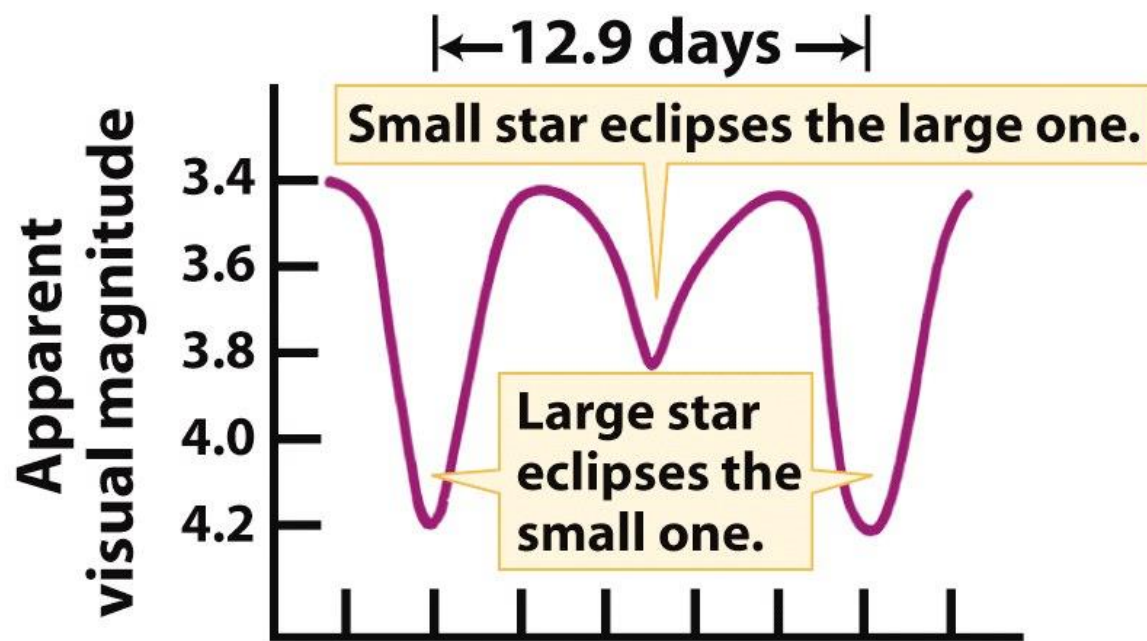


Beta Lyrae 為半分離雙星 (semi-detached binary)，物質轉移在分離的成員星周圍形成「吸積盤」(accretion disk)，擋住了該分離星

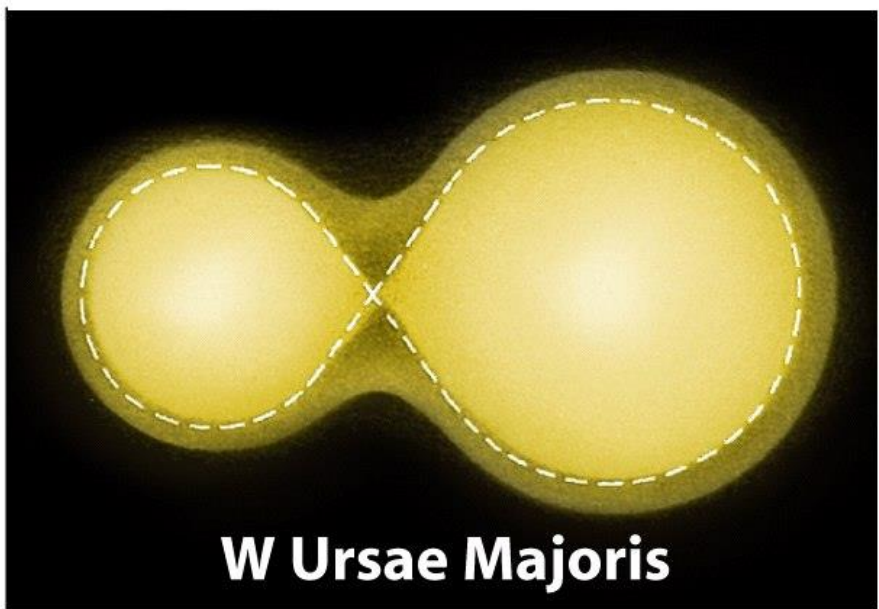
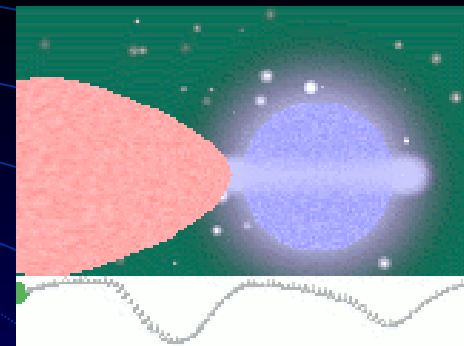
Mass flows from the large star onto the small one, forming an accretion disk.



A semidetached binary with mass transfer



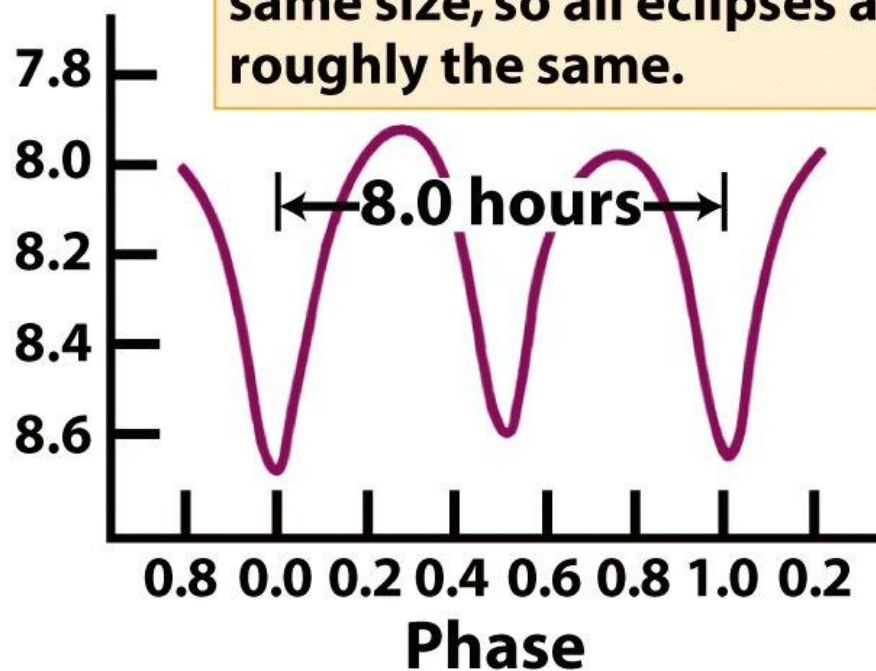
W Ursae Majoris 為過度接觸雙星 (over-contact binary)，彼此距離非常接近，以致兩顆成員星共享大氣層



W Ursae Majoris

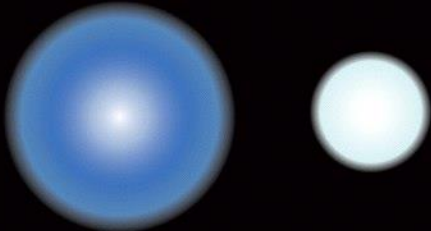
An overcontact binary

**Apparent
visual magnitude**

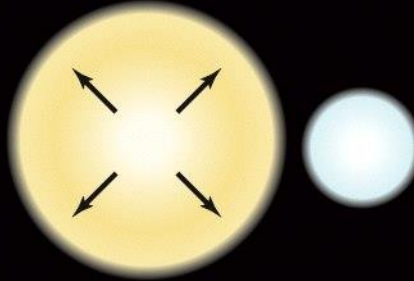


雙星間巧妙的物質互換 (mass exchange)

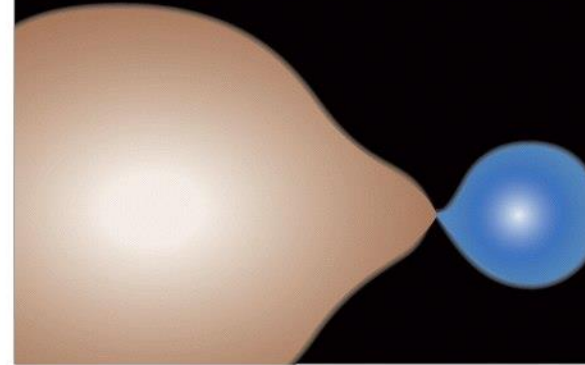
1 Held in a gravitational embrace, the pair of stars in Phi Persei have lived normal lives for the last 10 million years.



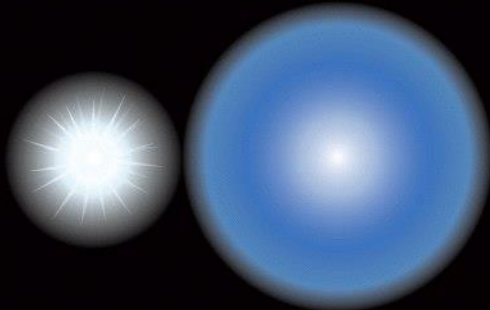
2 The duo's quiet lives end when the more massive star enters its twilight years. The aging star swells as it runs out of the fuel—hydrogen—which powers its thermonuclear furnace.



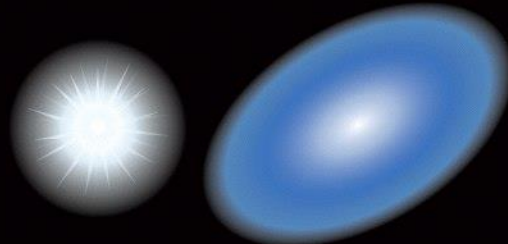
3 As the aging star expands, it begins dumping its mass onto its companion.



4 The once-massive star sheds practically all of its mass, leaving its hot, bright core exposed.



5 The smaller companion, on the other hand, has captured most of its partner's excess mass and changes its identity from a mild-mannered, moderately massive star to a massive, hot, rapidly spinning star.



6 In fact, the star is spinning so rapidly that its shape is distorted into a flattened spheroid. The rapid rotation also causes the star to dump hydrogen gas, which has settled into a broad ring—like the rings of Saturn—around the star.

