Classical Stellar Evolution

The Star Life Cycle





The Sun – best studied example





Stellar interiors not directly observable

Neutrinos emitted at core and detectable

Helioseismology - vibrations of solar surface can be used to probe density structure Must construct models of stellar interiors – predictions of these models are tested by comparison with observed properties of individual stars

Observable properties of stars

Basic parameters to compare theory and observations:

- Mass (*M*)
- Luminosity (*L*)

- The total energy radiated per second i.e. power (in W)

$$L = \int_0^\infty L_\lambda \, d\lambda$$

- Radius (R)
- Effective temperature (T_{eff})
 - The temperature of a black body of the same radius as the star that would radiate the same amount of energy

$$L = 4\pi R^2 \,\sigma T_{\rm eff}$$

 \Rightarrow 3 independent quantities

Basic definitions

Measured energy flux depends on distance to star (inverse square law)

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

Hence if *d* is known then *L* determined

We can determine distance if we measure *parallax*



Classical astrometric approach

Now: Gaia

Stellar radii

Angular diameter of sun at distance of 10 pc: $\theta = 2R_{\odot}/10$ pc = 5× 10⁻⁹ radians = 10⁻³ arcsec

Compare with Hubble resolution of ~0.05 arcsec \Rightarrow very difficult to measure *R* directly

Radii of stars measured with techniques such as interferometry and eclipsing binaries

JMMC Stellar Diameters Catalogue - JSDC. Version 2: about 470 000 stars, median error of the diameters is around 1.5%

Stellar radii





Atmosphere of Betelgeuse

PRC96-04 · ST Scl OPO · January 15, 1995 · A. Dupree (CfA), NASA

The Hertzsprung - Russell diagram

- M, R, L and T_{eff} do not vary independently
- Two major relationships
- -L with $T_{\rm eff}$
- L with M

The first is known as the *Hertzsprung-Russell* (HR) diagram or the *colour-magnitude* diagram



Colour and $T_{\rm eff}$

- Measuring accurate T_{eff} for stars is an intensive task spectra needed and model atmospheres
- Magnitudes of stars are measured at different wavelengths
- Colours => Calibration => T_{eff}
- The Asiago Database on Photometric Systems (ADPS) lists about 200 different systems





Colour and T_{eff}



Various calibrations can be used to provide the colour relation:

$$B - V) = f(T_{eff})$$

Remember that observed (B - V) must be corrected for interstellar extinction to (B - V)₀

Absorption = Extinction = Reddening

- $A_V = k_1 E(B-V) = k_2 E(V-R) = ...$
- *General extinction* because of the ISM characteristics between the observer and the object
- *Differential extinction* within one star cluster because of local environment
- Both types are, in general *wavelength dependent*

Reasons for the interstellar extinction

- Light scatter at the interstellar dust
- Light absorption => Heating of the ISM
- Depending on the composition and density of the ISM
- Main contribution due to dust
- Simulations and calculations in Cardelli et al. (1989, ApJ, 345, 245)

Cardelli et al., 1989, ApJ, 345, 245



Absolute magnitude and bolometric magnitude

• Absolute Magnitude *M* defined as apparent magnitude of a star if it were placed at a distance of 10 pc

 $m - M = 5 \log(d/10) - 5$

where d is in pc

Magnitudes are measured in some wavelength. To compare with theory it is more useful to determine bolometric magnitude M_{bol} – defined as absolute magnitude that would be measured by a bolometer sensitive to all wavelengths. We define the bolometric correction to be

$$BC = M_{bol} - M_{V}$$

Bolometric luminosity is then

$$M_{\rm bol} - M_{\rm bol,\odot} = -2.5 \log L/L_{\odot}$$

Bolometric Correction



Bolometric Correction



The Hertzsprung - Russell diagram - Gaia



The Hertzsprung - Russell diagram - Gaia



Mass – Luminosity Relation

Masses measured in binary systems

Heuristic mass-luminosity relation

 $L \propto M^{lpha}$

Where $\alpha = 2 - 5$; slope less steep for low and high mass stars

This implies that the main-sequence (MS) on the HRD is a function of mass, i.e. from bottom to top of MS, stars increase in mass

The lifetime on the Main-Sequene

