

BINARY STARS



Binary Stars:

Two or more stars in orbit around each other.

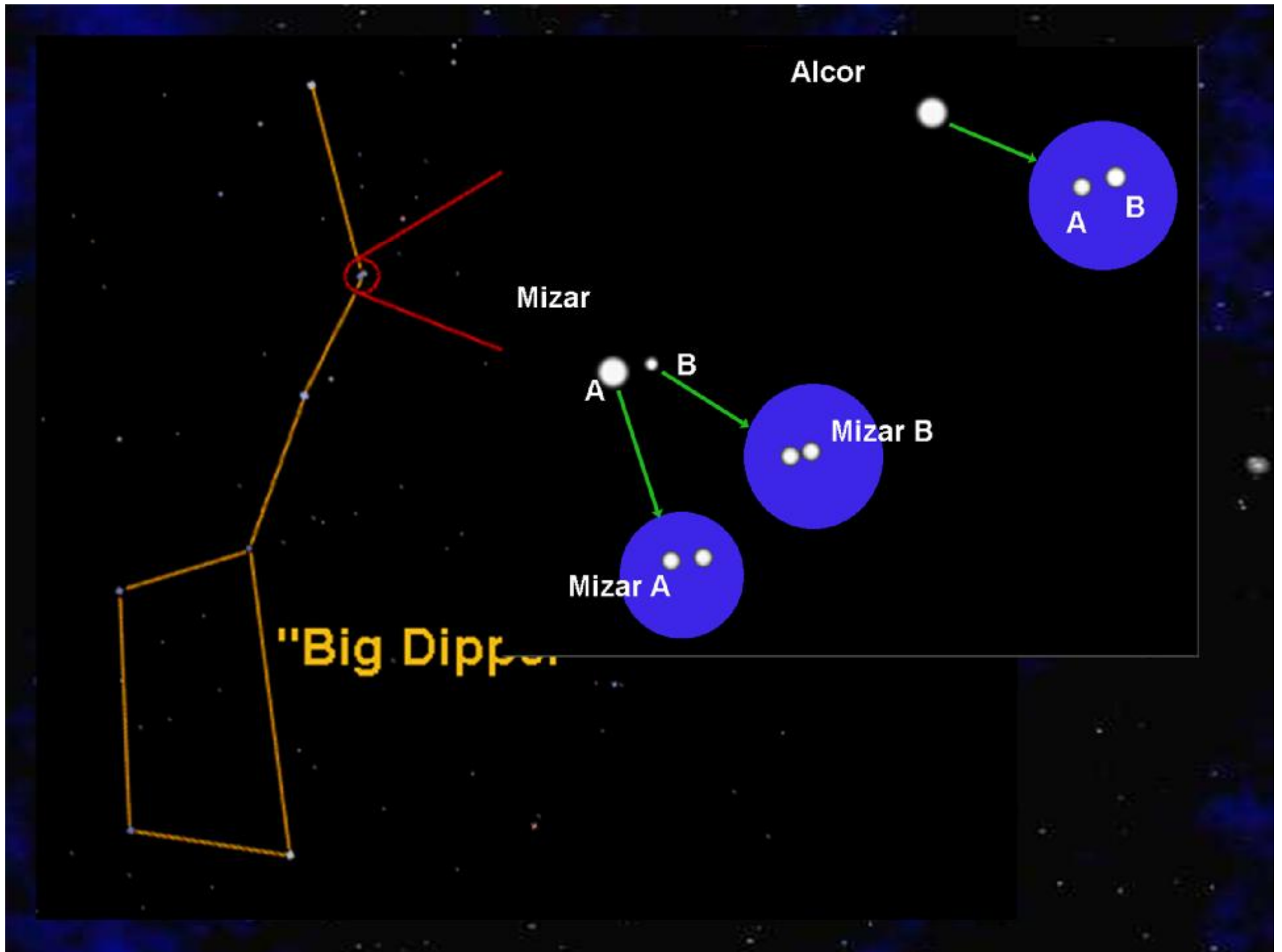


Mizar, 88 light years distant, is the middle star in the handle of the Big Dipper. It was the first binary star system to be imaged with a telescope. Spectroscopic observations show periodic Doppler shifts with a period of 20.54 days in the spectra of Mizar A and B, indicating that they are each binary stars. But they were too close to be directly imaged - until 1 May 1996, when the NPOI produced the first image of Mizar A. That image was the highest angular resolution image ever made in optical astronomy. Since then, the NPOI has observed Mizar A in 23 different positions over half the binary orbit. These images have been combined here to make a movie of the orbit. As a reference point, one component has been fixed at the map center; in reality, the two stars are of comparable size and revolve about a common central position.

1996-05-01
6.3 mas
287 deg

Binary Stars:

- n Usually formed together
- n Can be complicated multiple systems



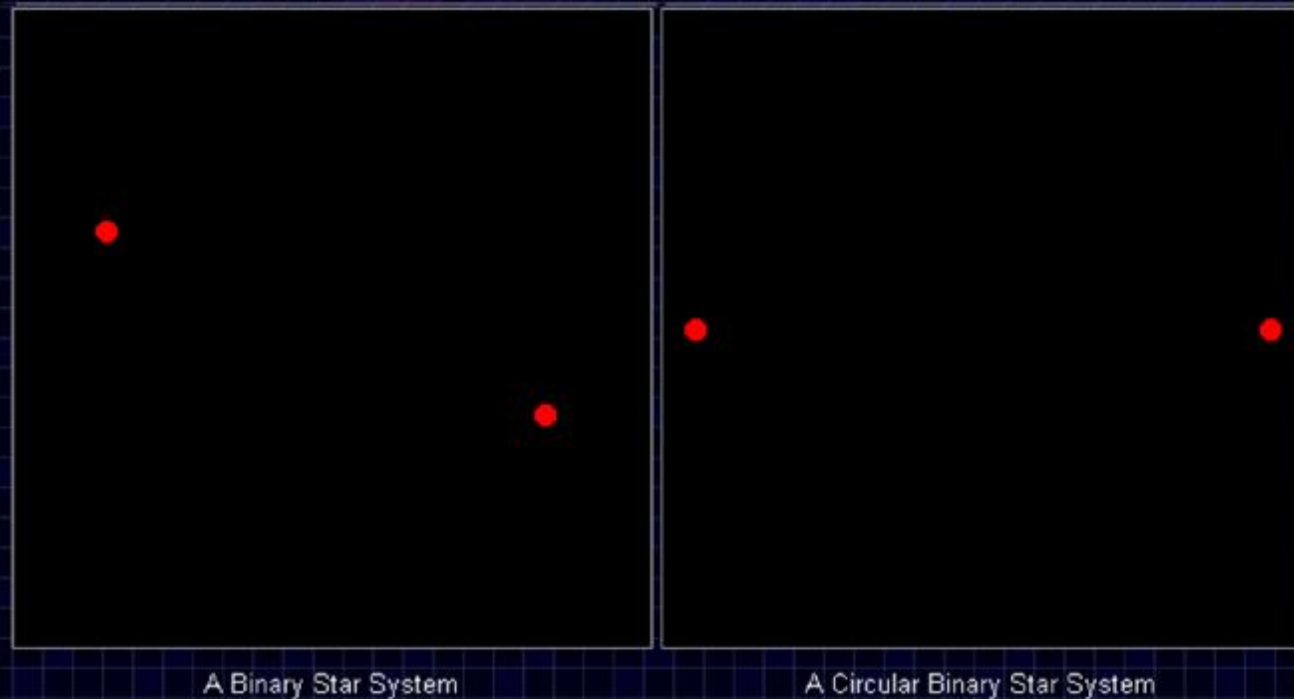
Binary Stars:

- n Gravitationally bound together
- n Stars orbit a common center of mass

More than 66% of all stars are members of binary systems.

Elliptical Orbits

Circular Orbits

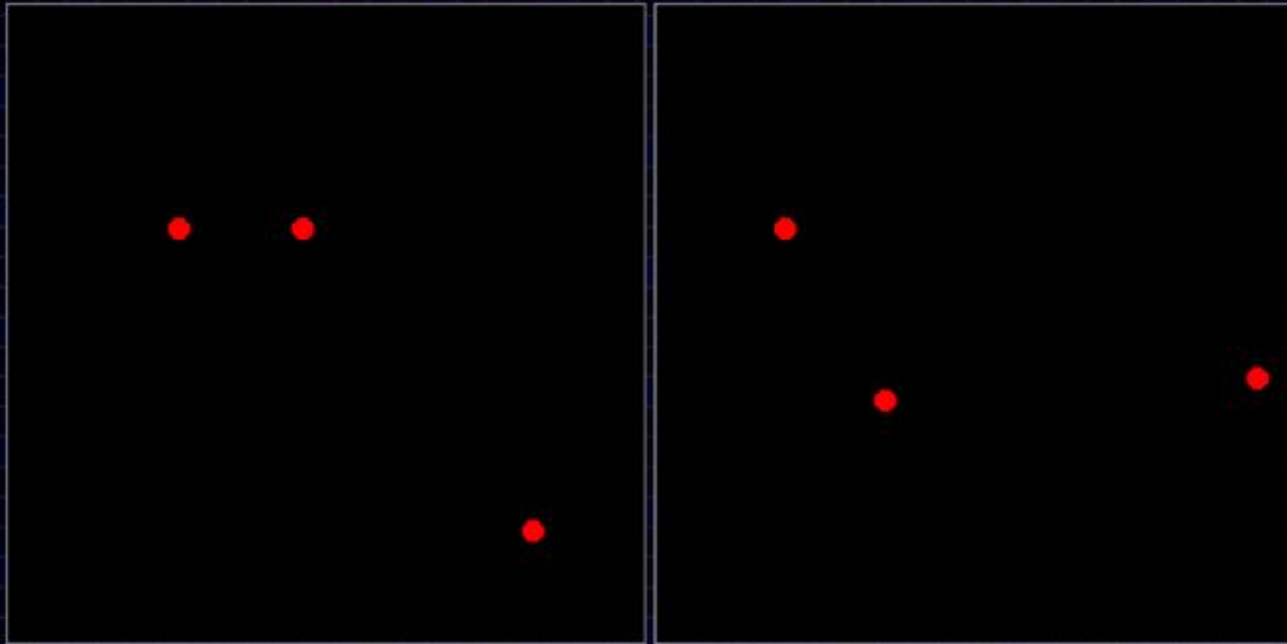


A Binary Star System

A Circular Binary Star System

Triple Star

Figure 8 Orbits

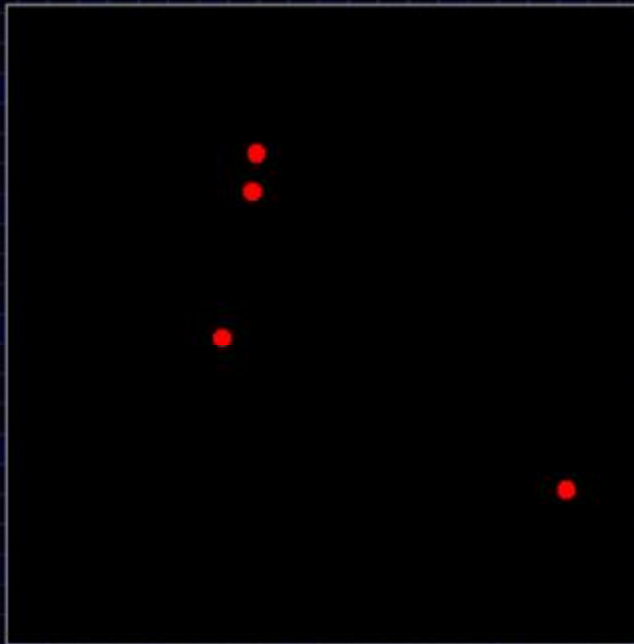
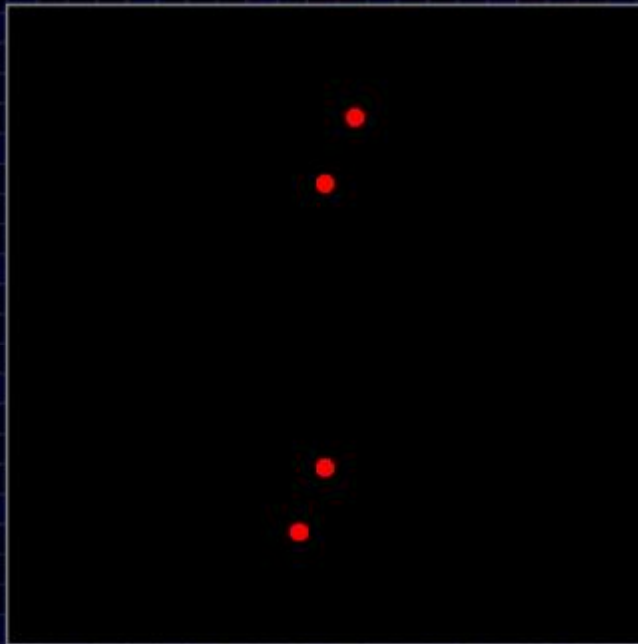


A Triple Star System

A Figure-of-Eight Star System

Double Binary Orbits

Quadruple System



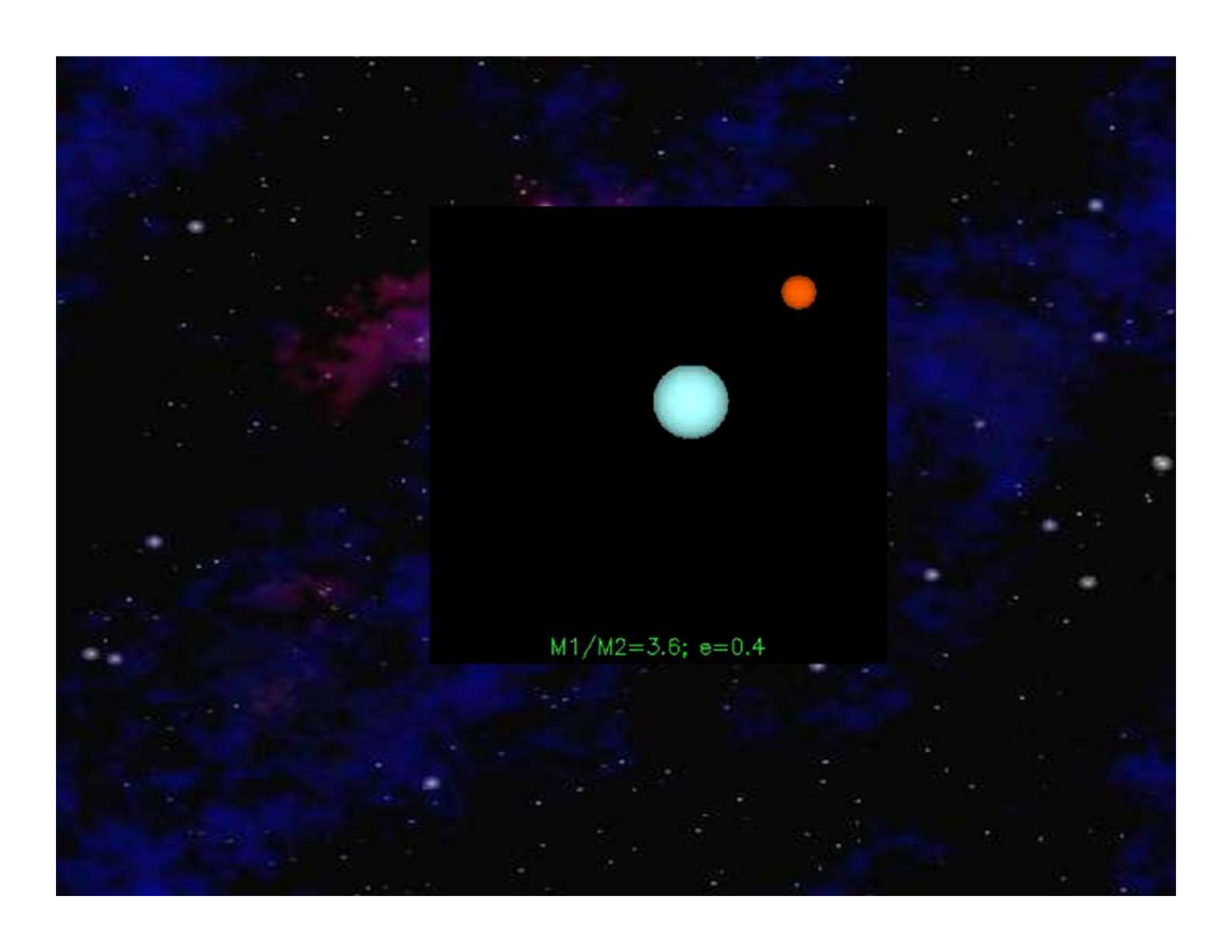
A Quadruple Star System

A Quadruple Star System

Visual Binary Systems:

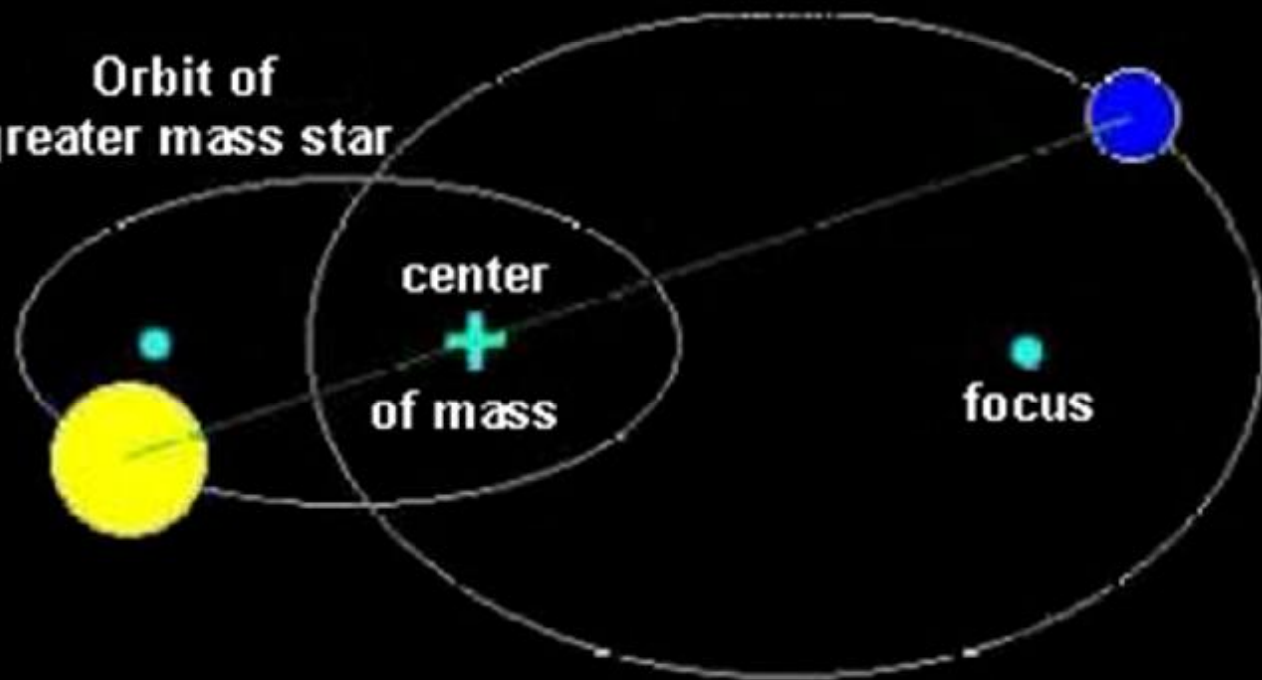


- n Stars that can be resolved (separated) into two or more stars through a telescope.
- n From direct observations we can plot the orbit of each star.



$M1/M2=3.6; e=0.4$

Orbit of
greater mass star



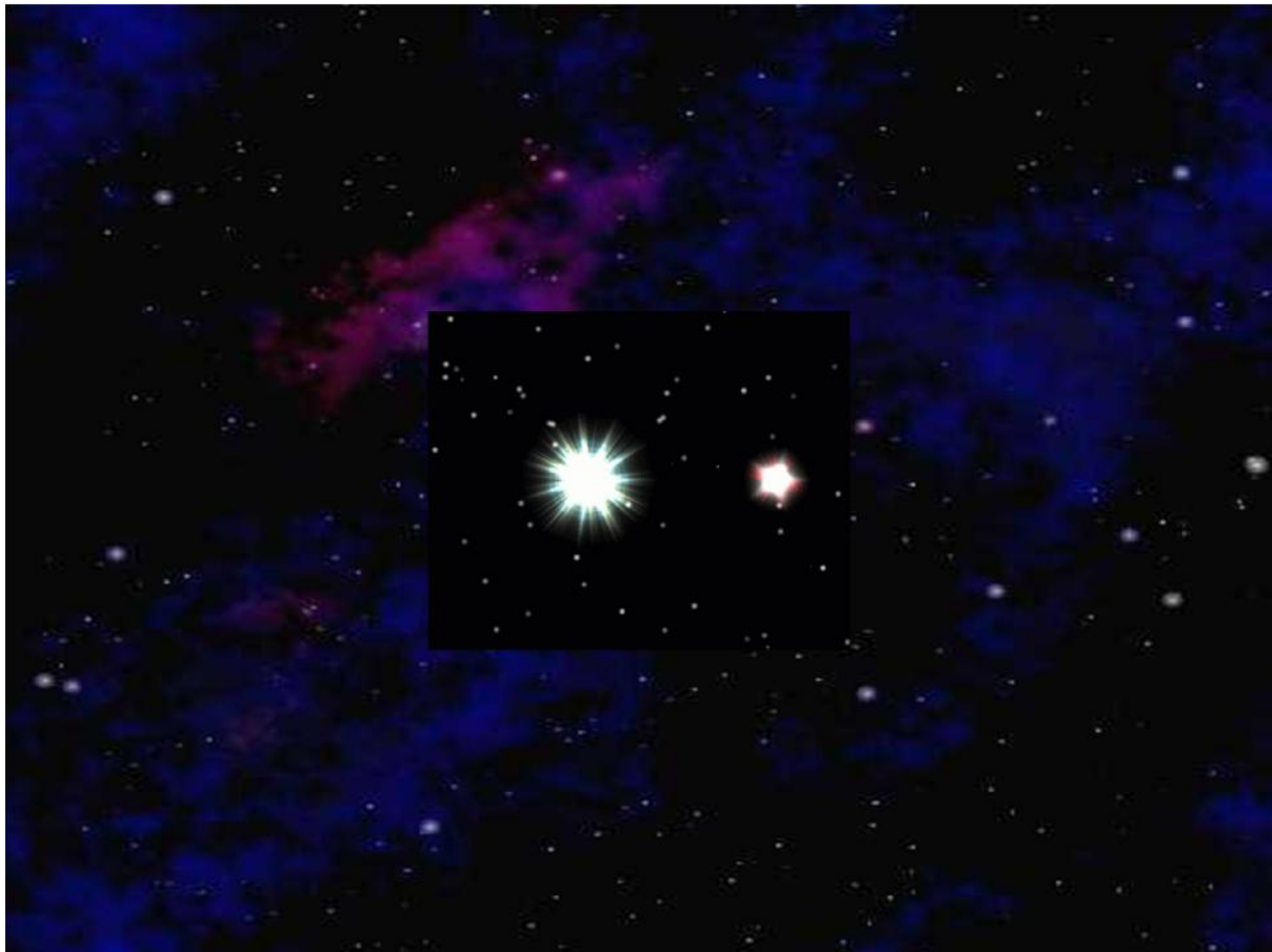
center
+
of mass

focus

Orbit of lesser mass star

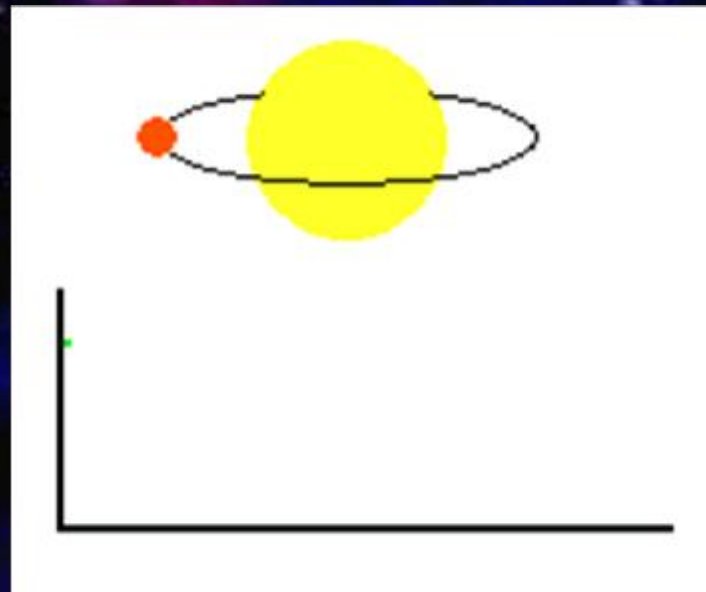
What about stars that are too close together to be seen as individual stars?

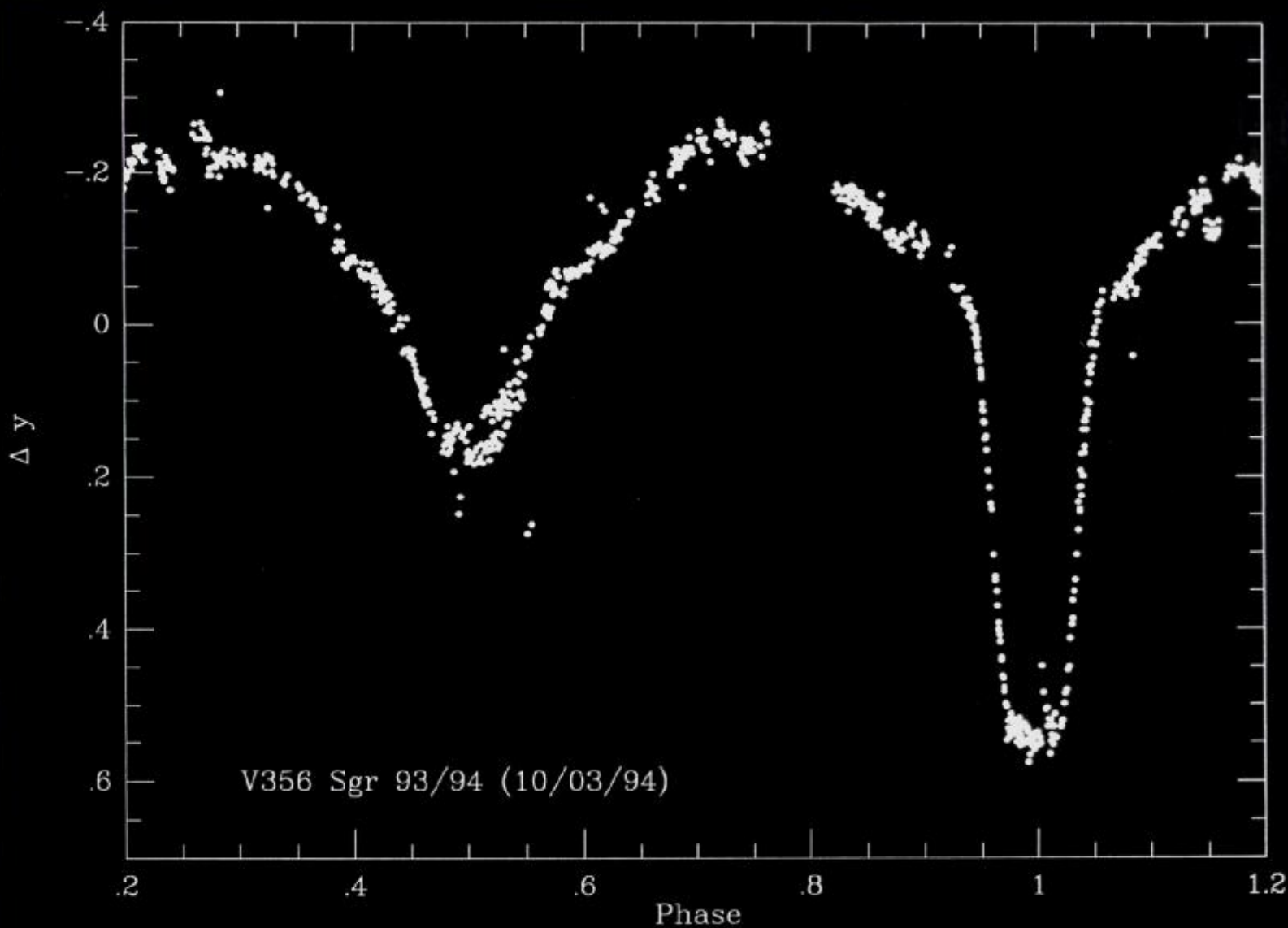


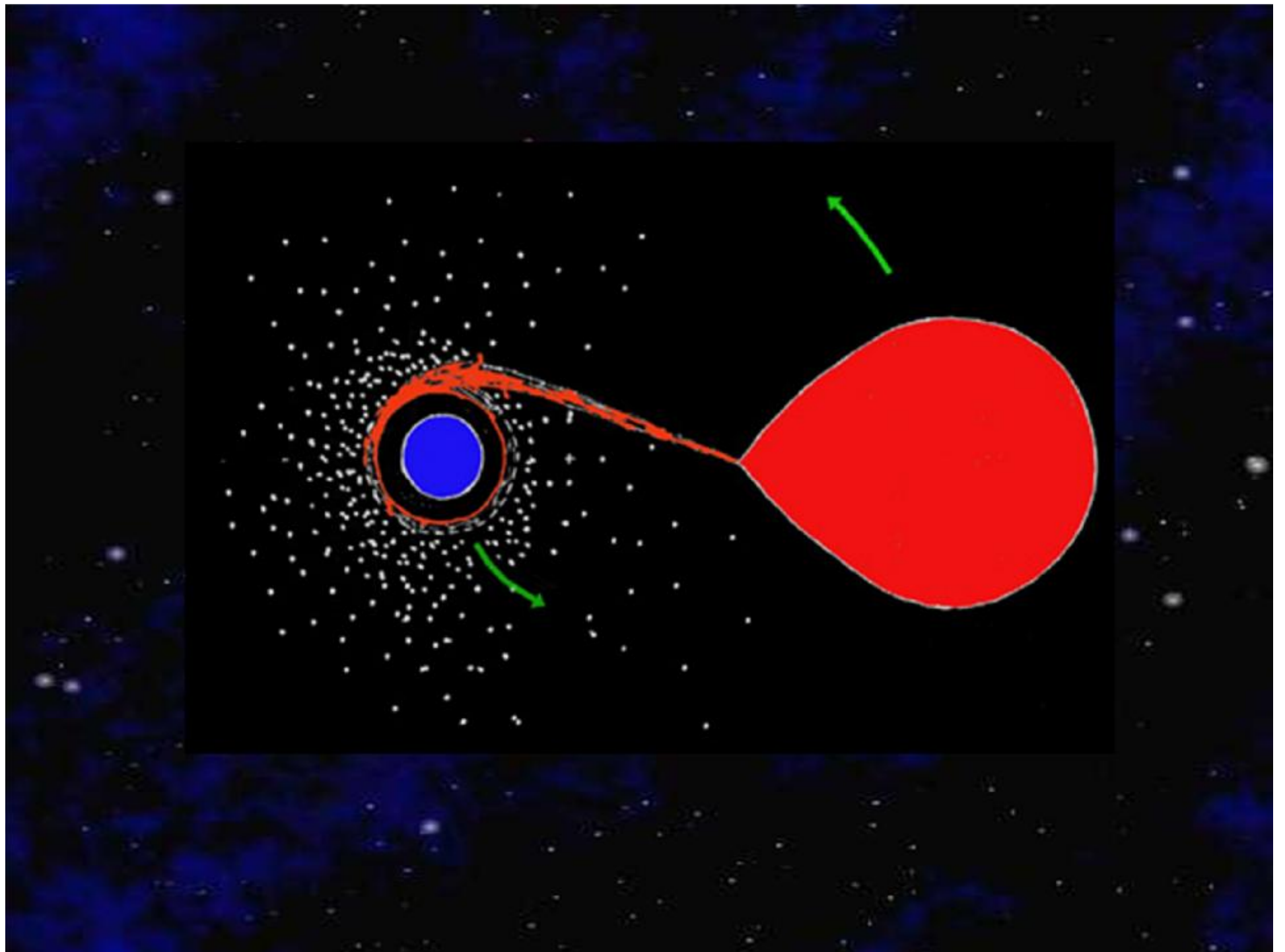


Eclipsing Binary Systems:

When the stars pass in front of each other we see an eclipse.



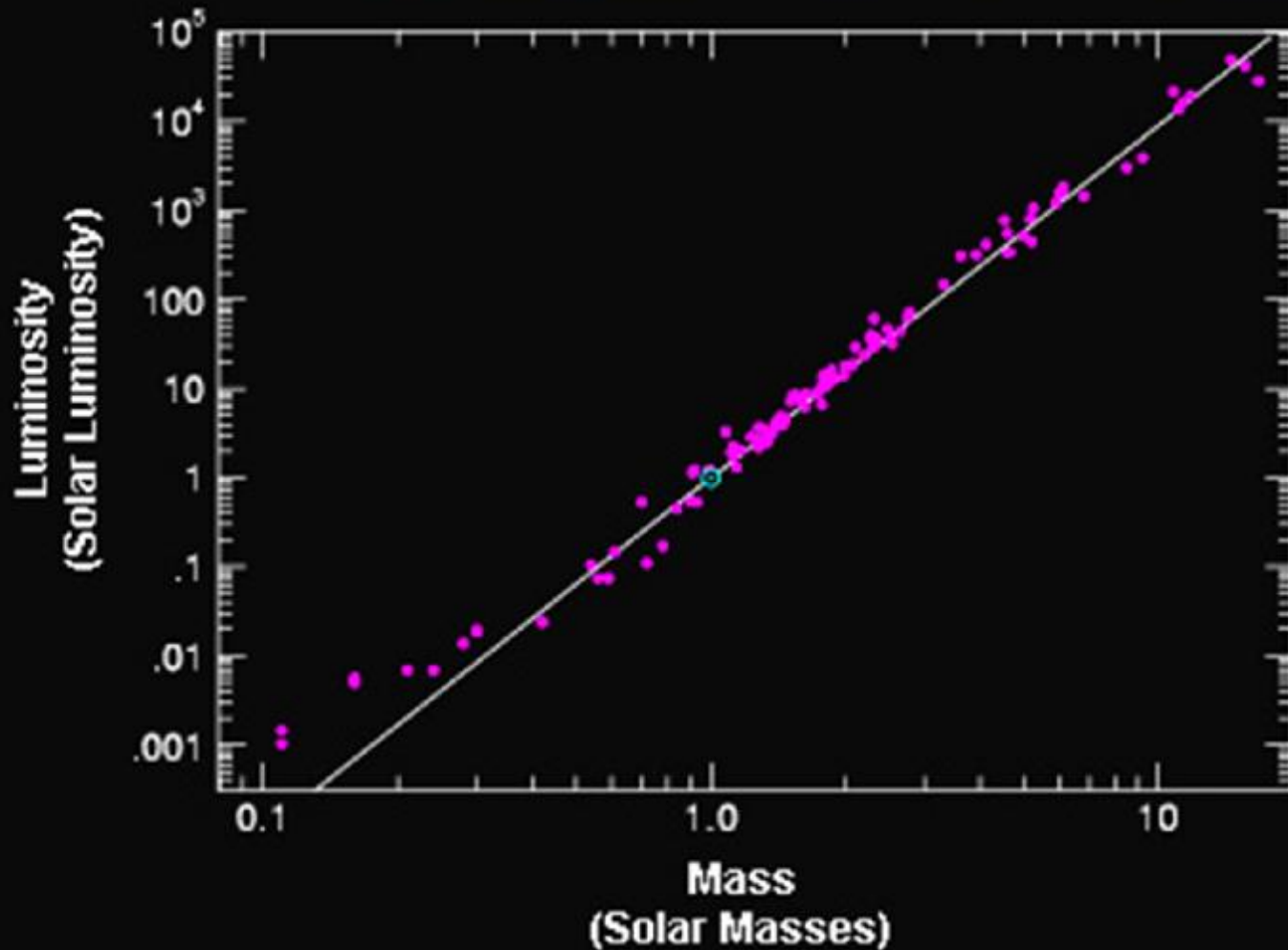


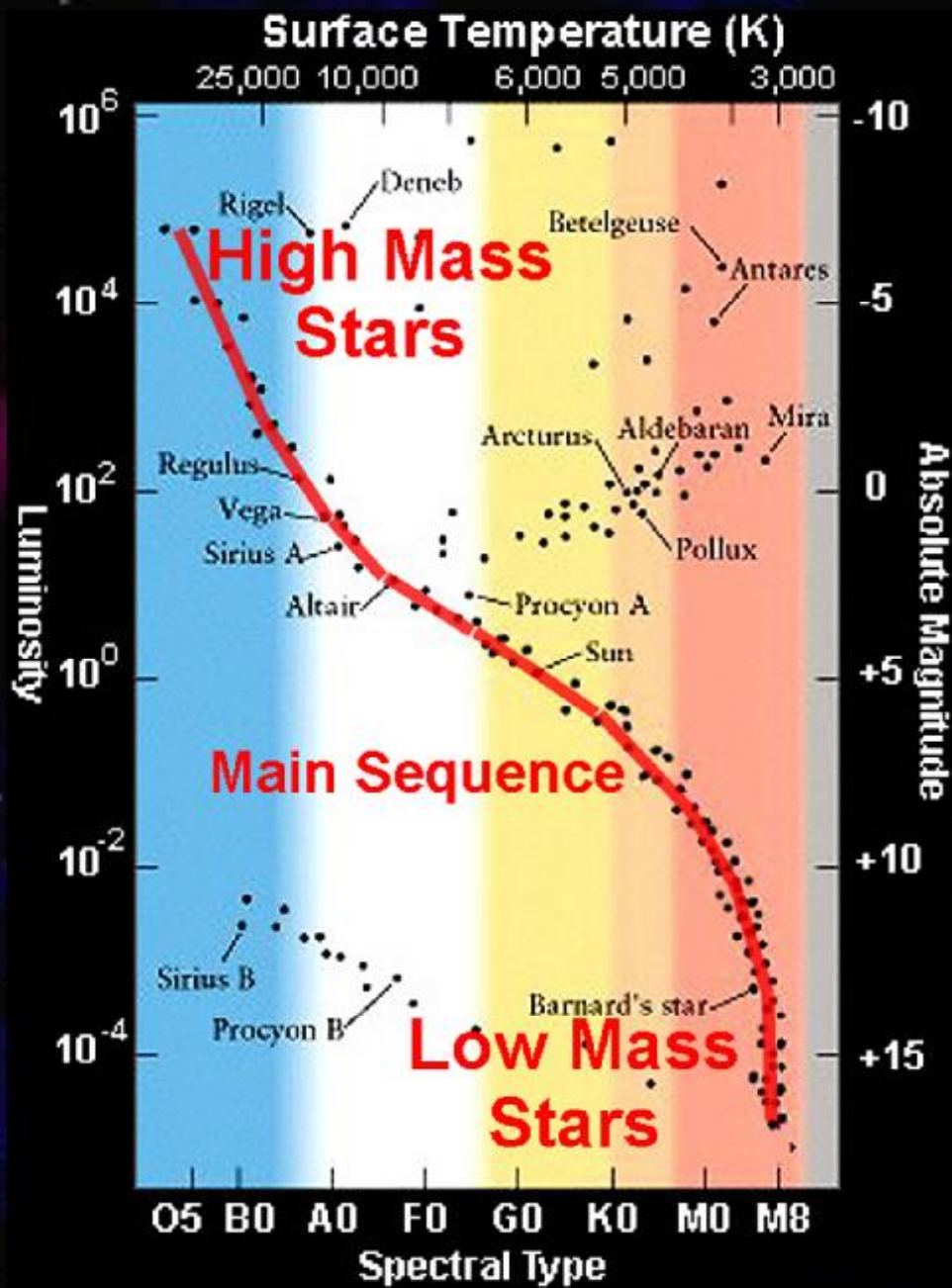


$$(m_1 + m_2) \propto \frac{d^3}{p^2} \frac{m_1}{m_2}$$

The masses of the individual stars can be calculated.

By gathering the masses of a large variety of stars in binary systems a fundamental relationship soon became apparent.





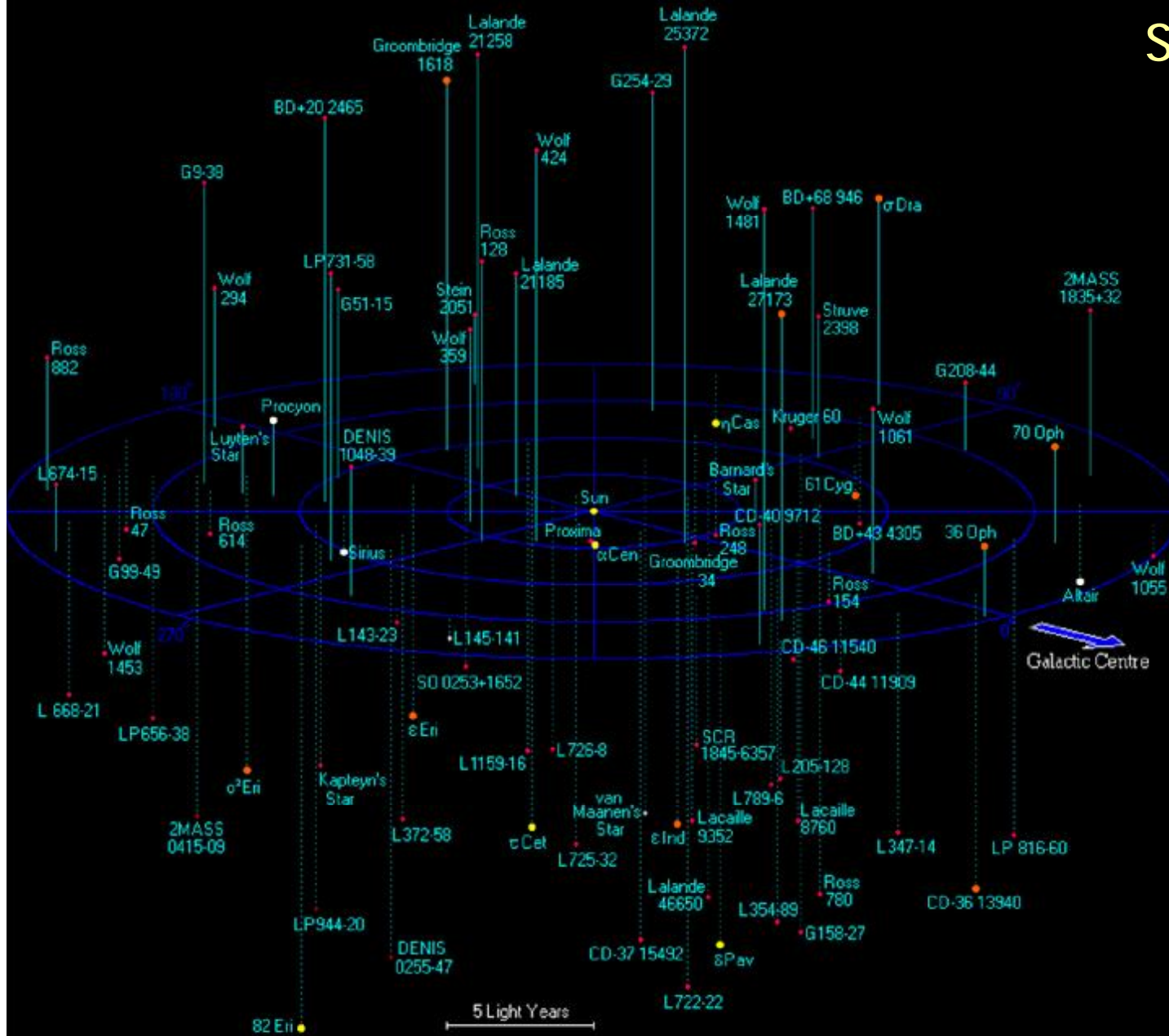
1 4333 20000 100000 266666 433333 2600000

O **B** **A** **F** **G** **K** **M**

Hotest —————→ **Coollest**

Surface Temperature

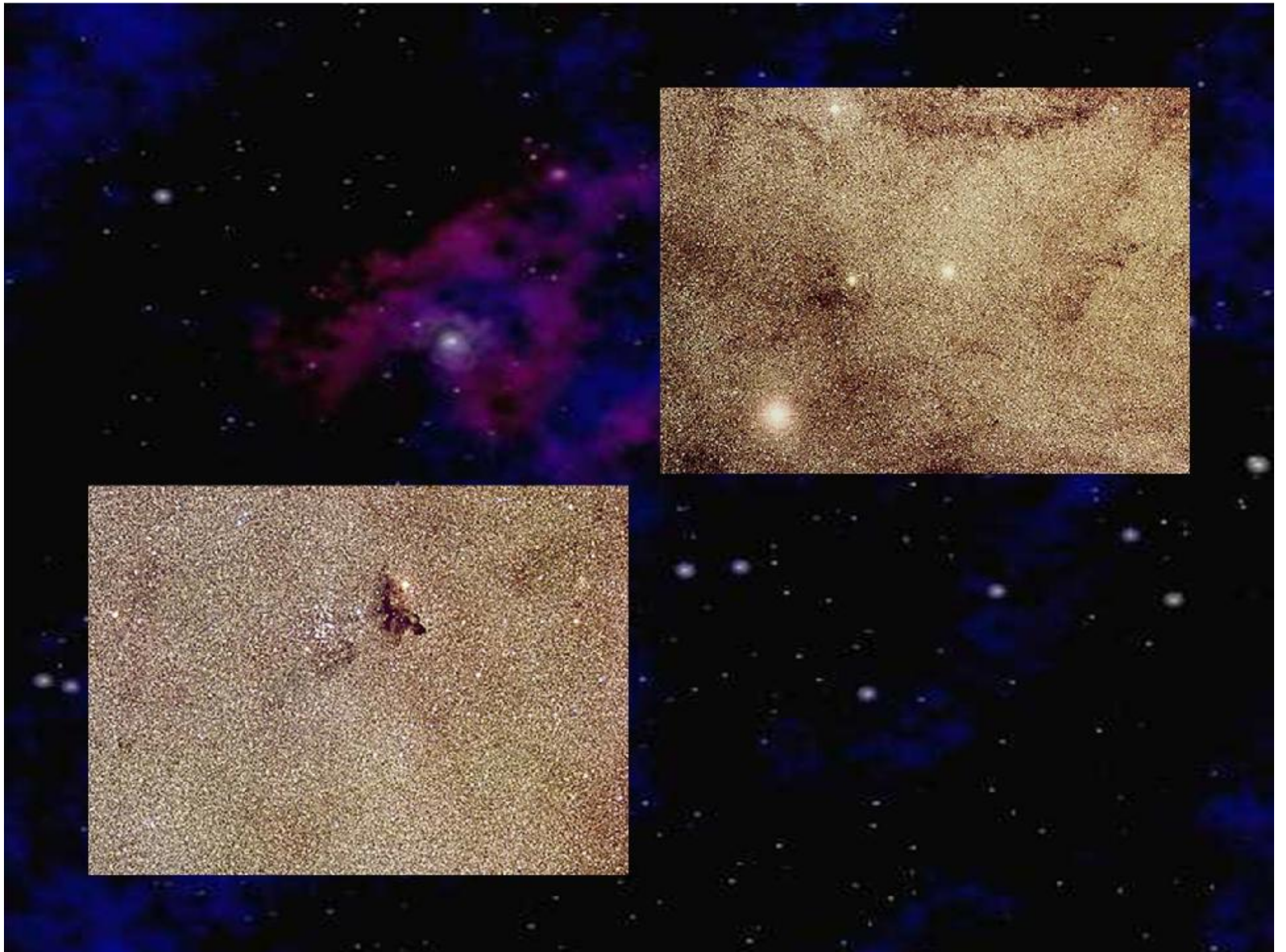
Stars within 20ly



Galactic Centre



**Stellar Evolution:
Star Formation**



What are the stars made out of?

The Sun is composed of:

<u>element</u>	<u>by #</u>	<u>by mass</u>
Hydrogen	92%	73%
Helium	7.8%	25%
all others	0.2%	2%

Carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, neon, magnesium,
silicon, sulfur, iron...

Orion



The Interstellar Medium (ISM)

Composed of gas and dust

ALMOST a perfect vacuum!

Gas:

n 99% of the ISM

n 1 atom/cm³ (if spread out uniformly)

Interstellar Gas

n 99% of the ISM

n 90% Hydrogen ~10% Helium (by number)

n 1 atom/cm³

n Interstellar Clouds: 1000+ atoms/cm³

n Molecular Clouds: 10⁶ atoms/cm³



The Interstellar Medium

Dust:

n 1% of the ISM

n 1 dust grain per 10 cm^3

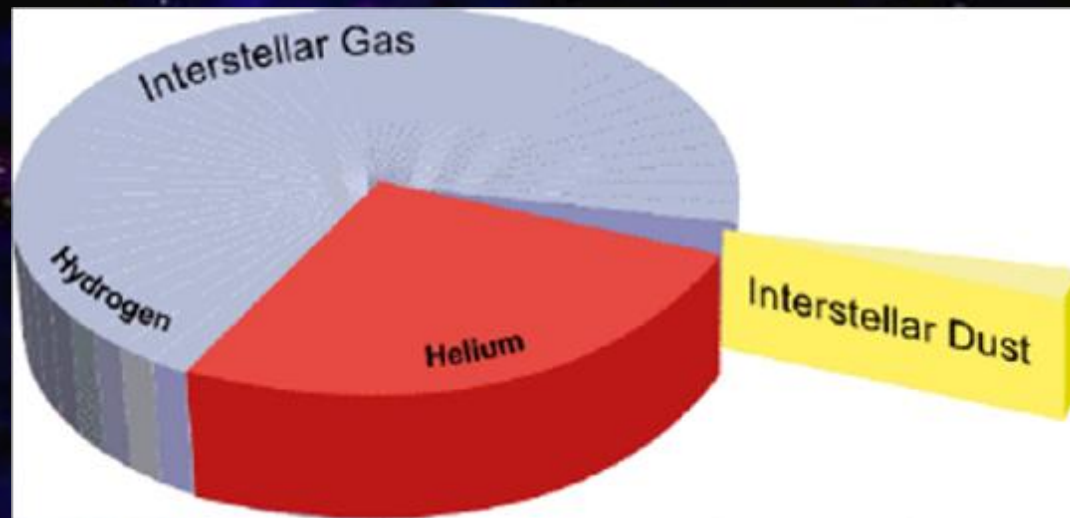


Interstellar Dust

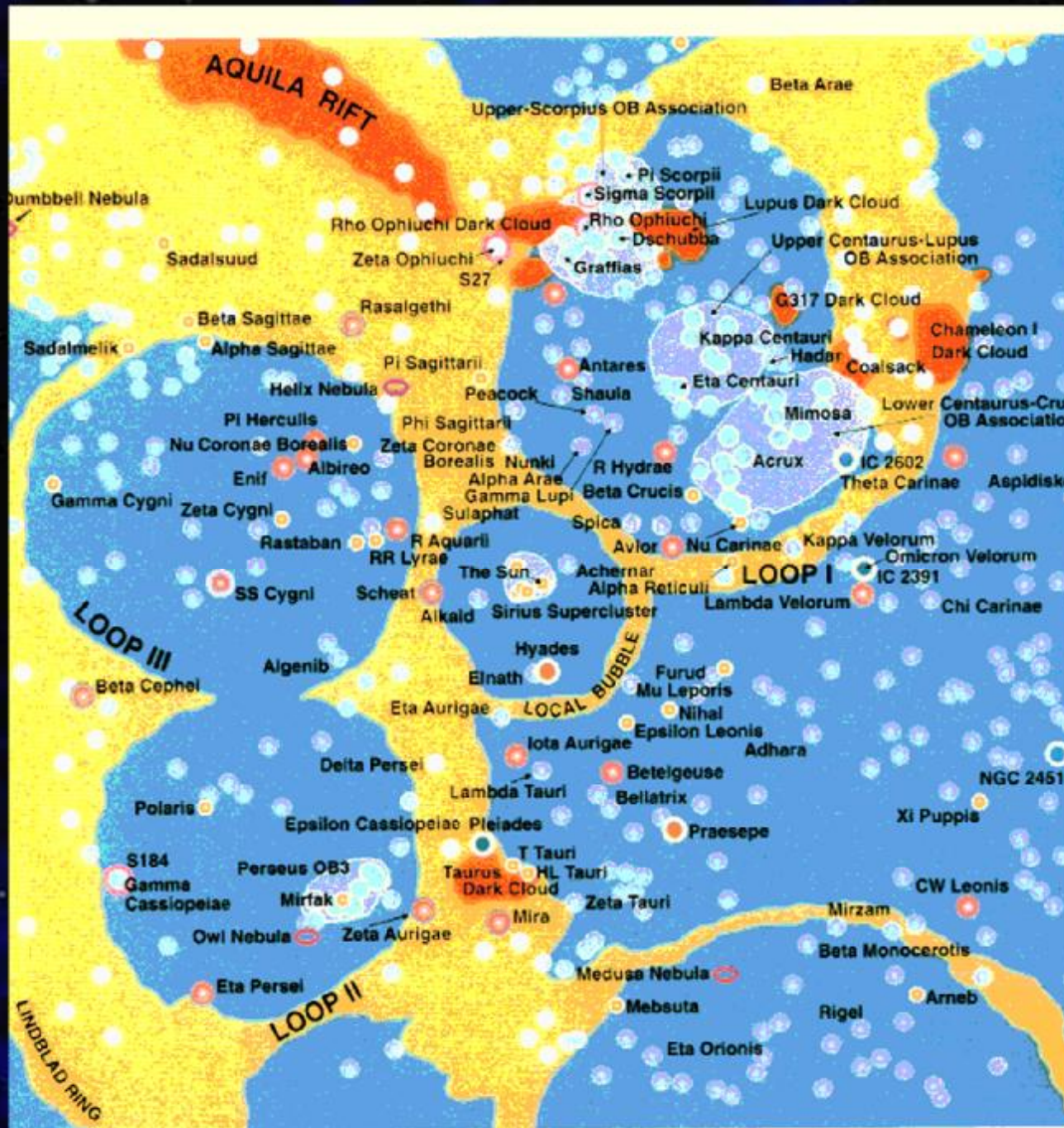
- n 1% of the ISM
- n 50% of total cosmic carbon & oxygen
- n 1 dust grain/cm³
- n 10⁻⁴ mm in size
- n Carbon, silicon, oxygen (silicates)
- n Coated with ice

Interstellar Medium (ISM)

GAS DUST CHARGED PARTICLES
MAGNETIC FIELDS PHOTONS

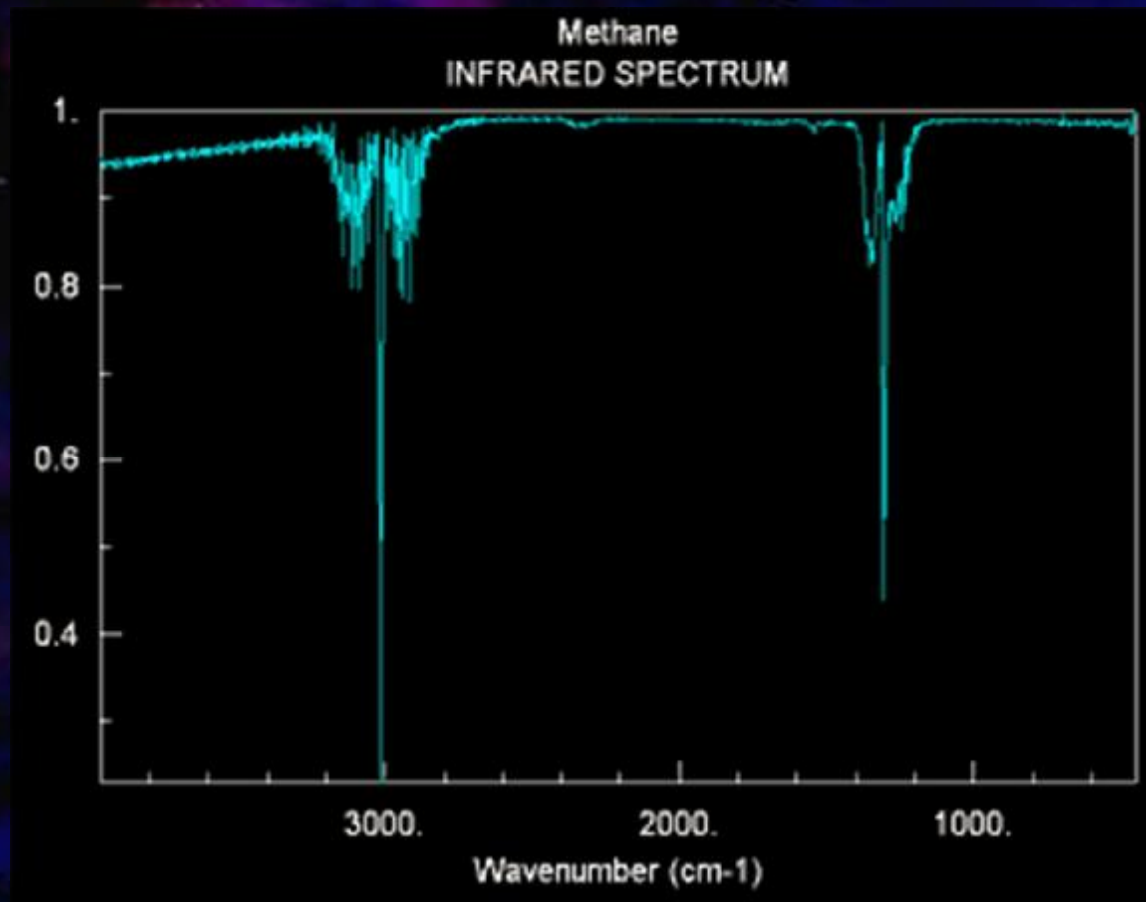






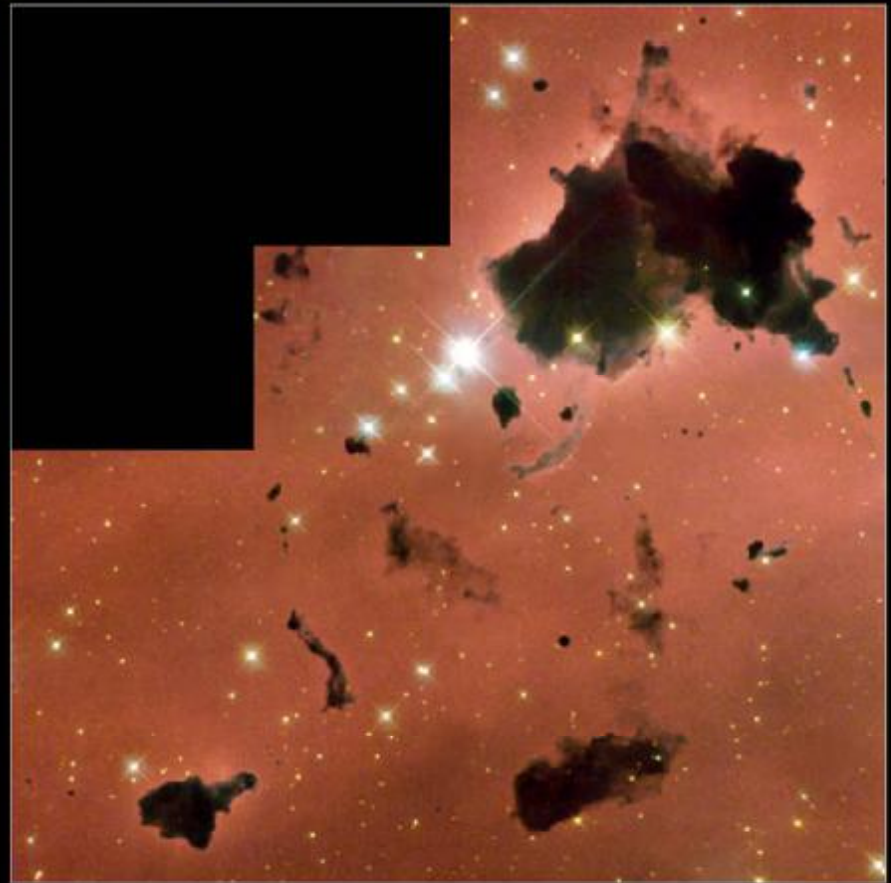
How do we detect the chemical makeup of the ISM?

Absorption & Emission line features



What molecules does the ISM contain?

Symbol	Molecule	Symbol	Molecule
H_2	molecular hydrogen	H_2S	hydrogen sulfide
C_2	diatomic carbon	N_2O	nitrous oxide
CN	cyanogen	H_2CO	formaldehyde
CO	carbon monoxide	C_2H_2	acetylene
NO	nitric oxide	NH_3	ammonia
OH	hydroxyl	HCO_2H	formic acid
NaCl	sodium chloride	CH_4	methane
HCN	hydrogen cyanide	CH_3OH	methyl alcohol
H_2O	water	CH_3CH_2OH	ethyl alcohol



The North American Nebula



Nebula – “cloud”

Nebulae – “clouds”

HII regions

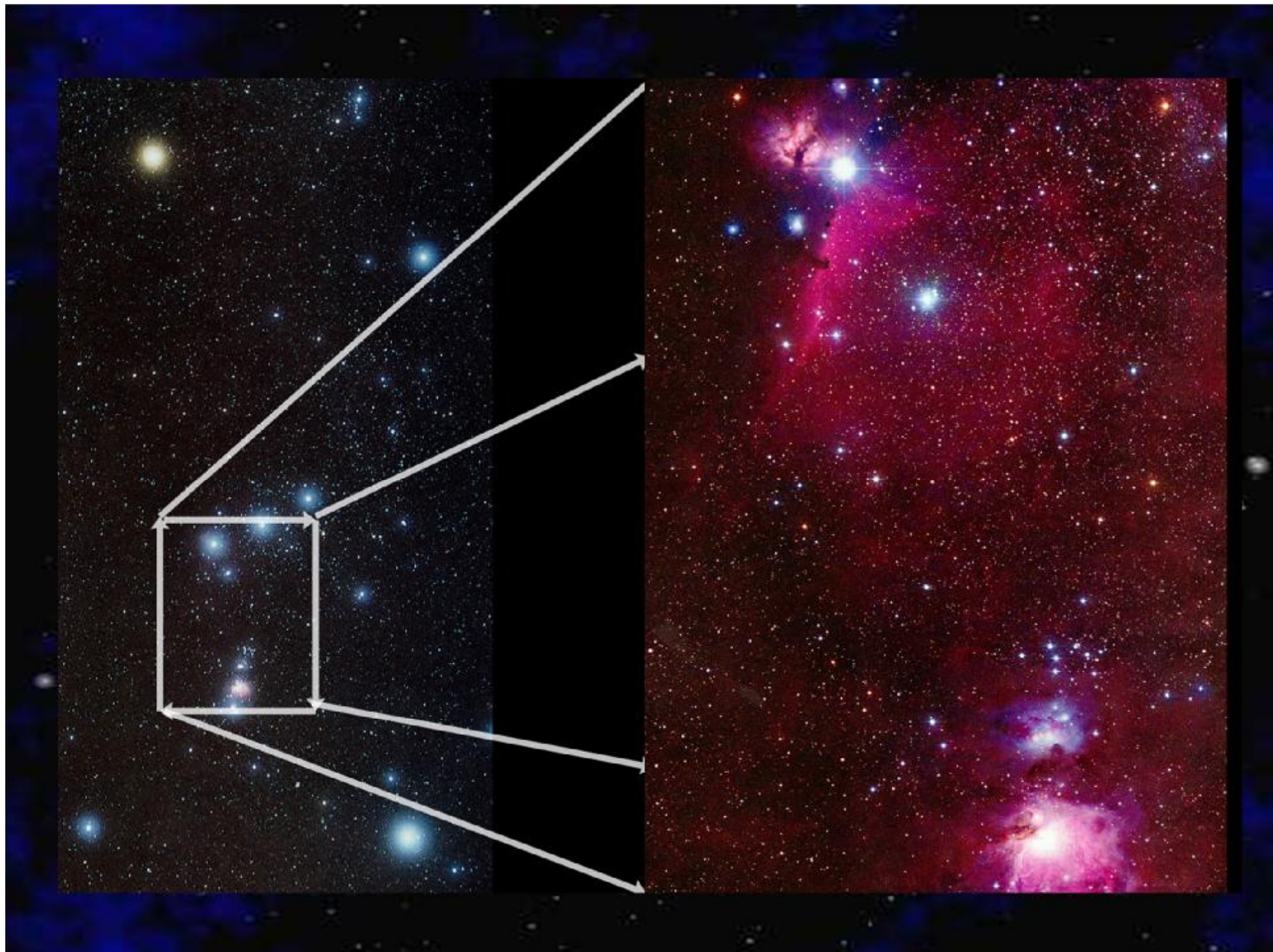
Emission nebulae

The Rosette Nebula



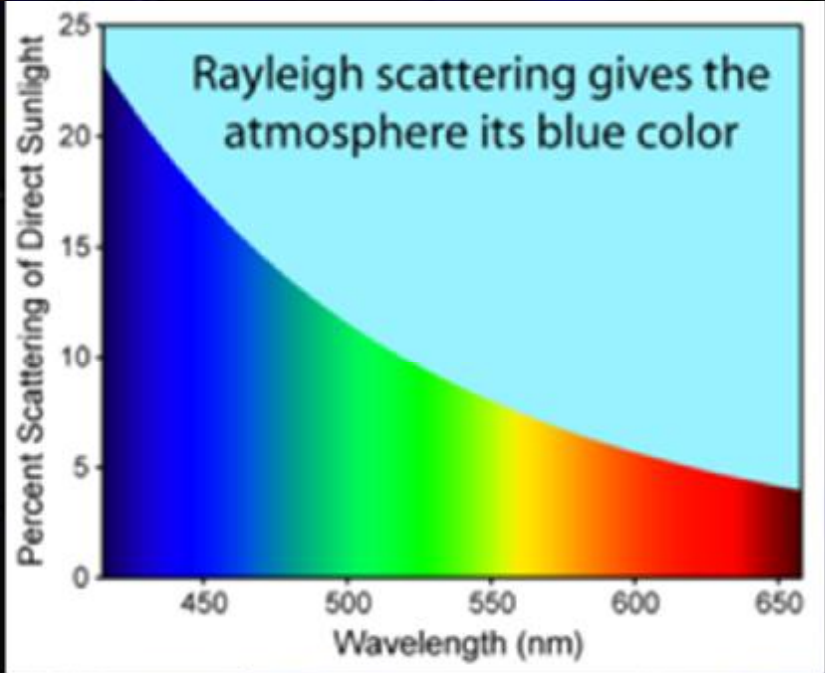
Orion

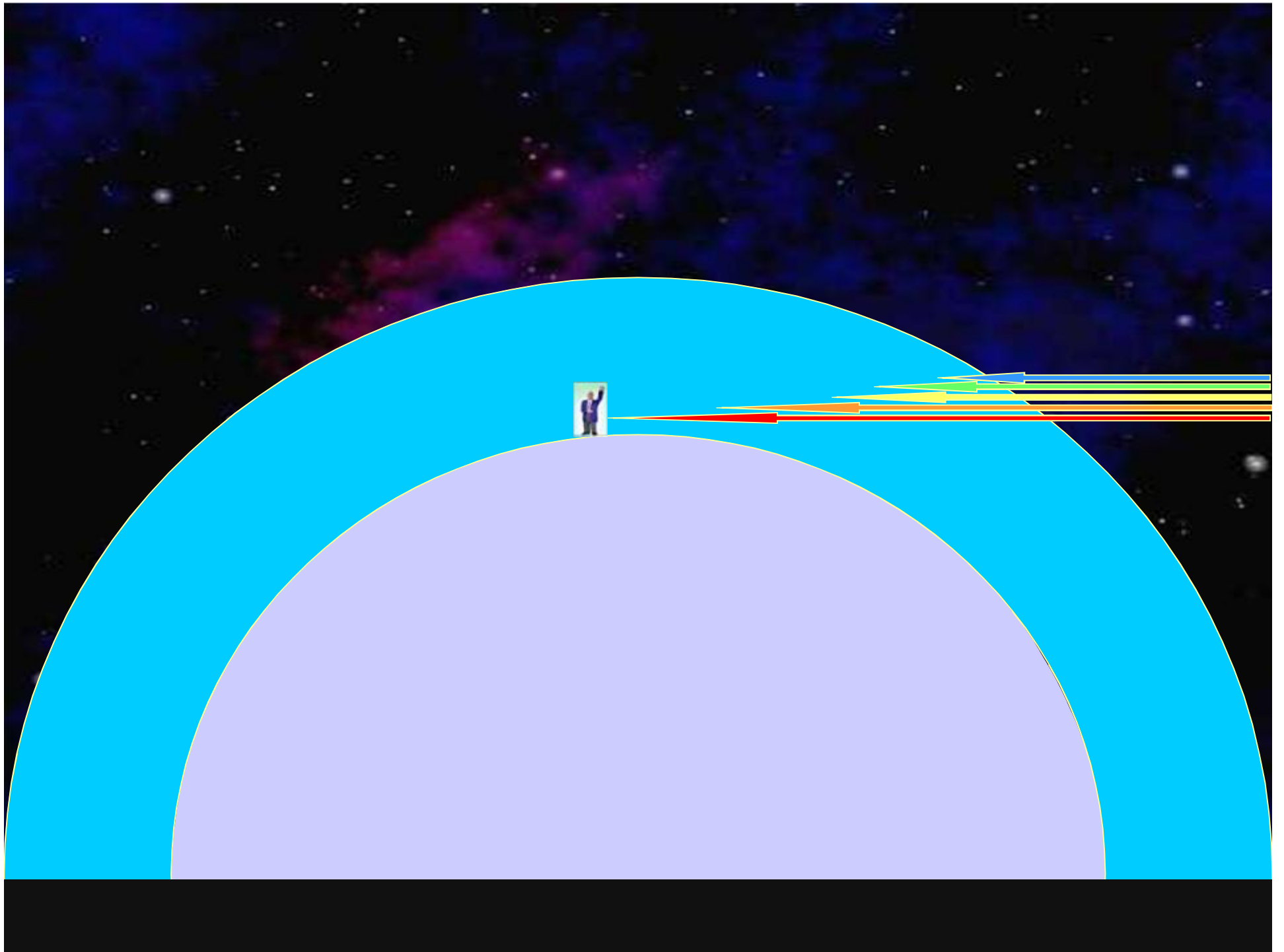


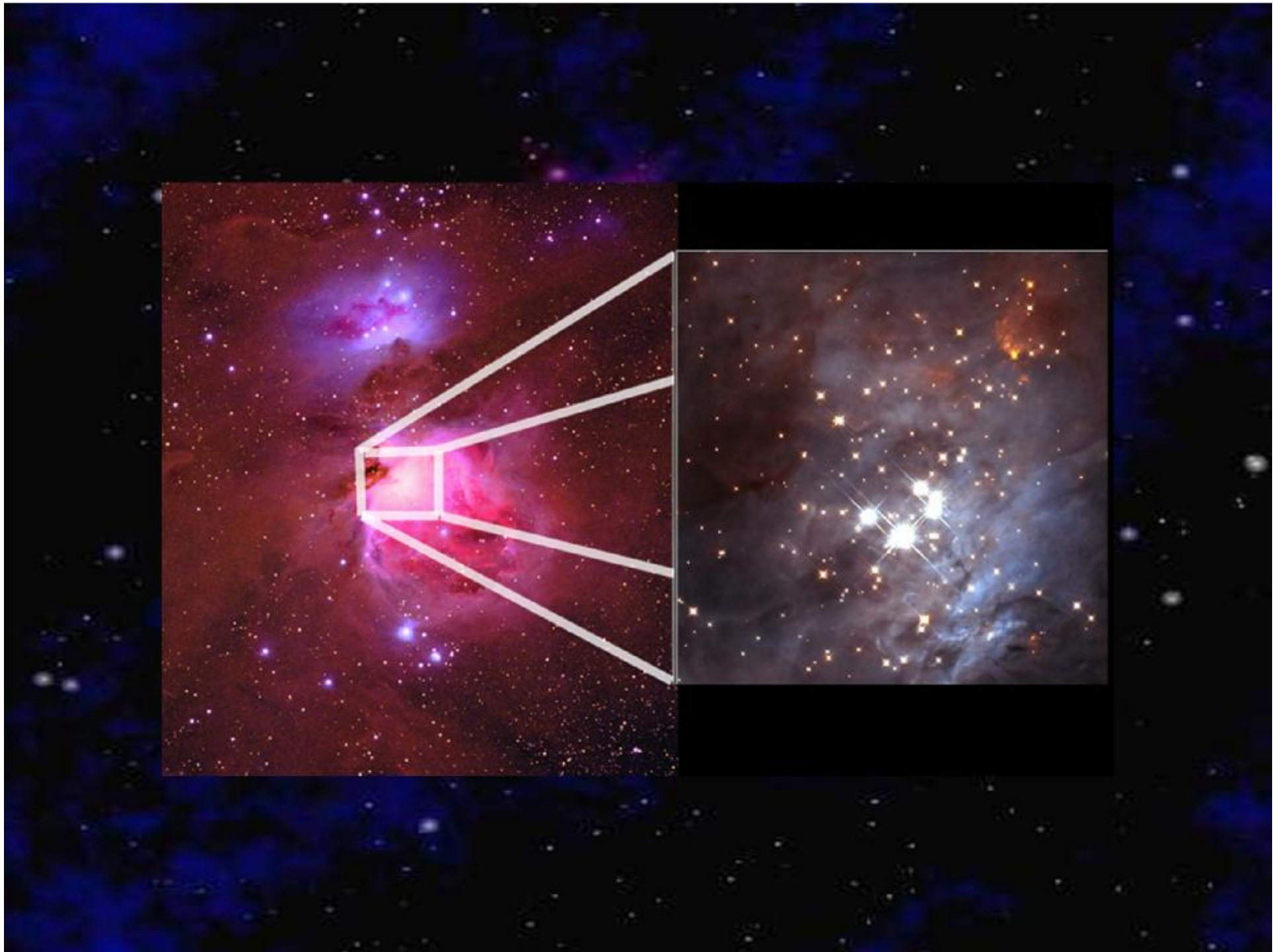




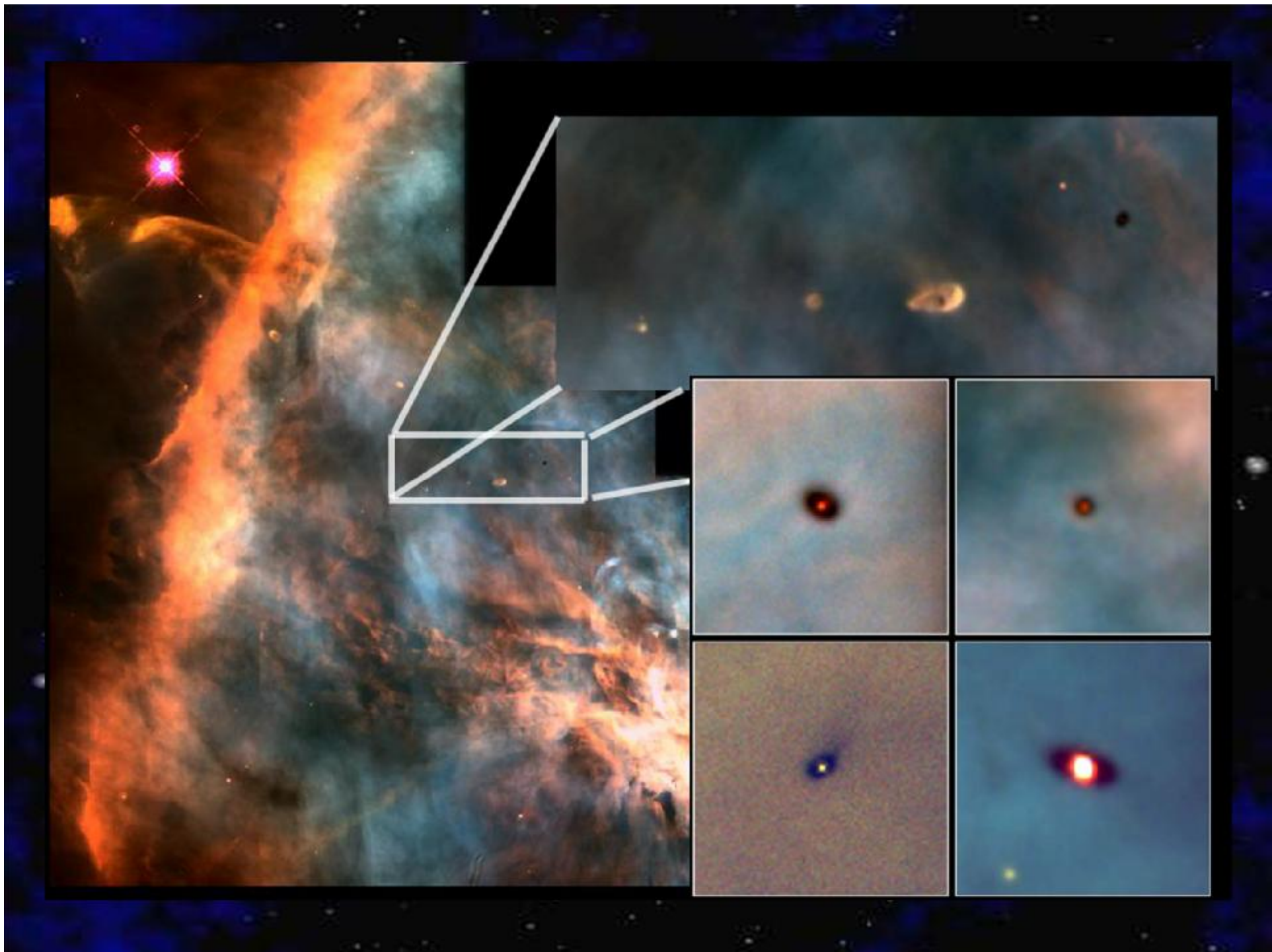
$$\sigma_s = \frac{2\pi^5 d^6}{3 \lambda^4} \left(\frac{n^2 - 1}{n^2 + 2} \right)^2$$













The Horsehead Nebula

Horsehead Nebula



Hubble
Heritage

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

M16 (The Eagle Nebula)



M16 (The Eagle Nebula)



www.spacetelescope.org

M16 (The Eagle Nebula)



www.spacetelescope.org

STELLAR FORMATION

Giant molecular clouds

Mass ~ $10^6 M_{\odot}$

Size ~ 100 LY in diameter

Temp ~ 5 – 15K (- 450°F)

STELLAR FORMATION

Gas Pressure

Outward

(temperature)



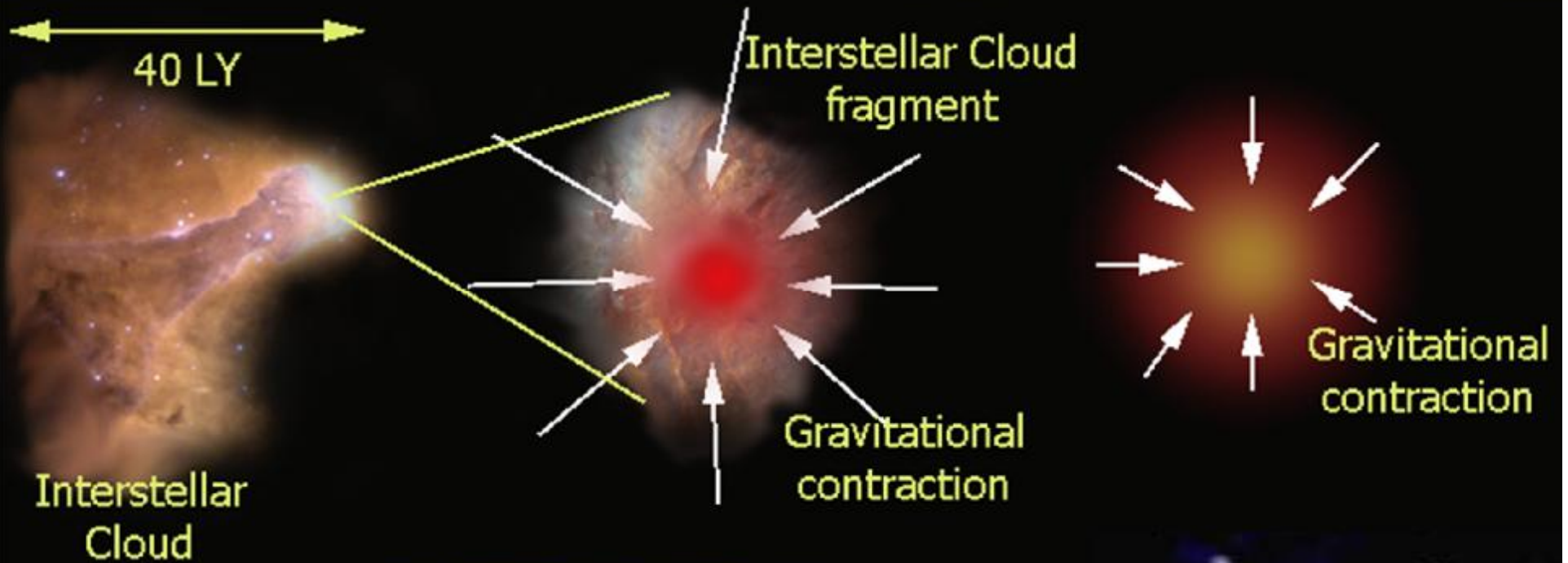
Gravity

Inward

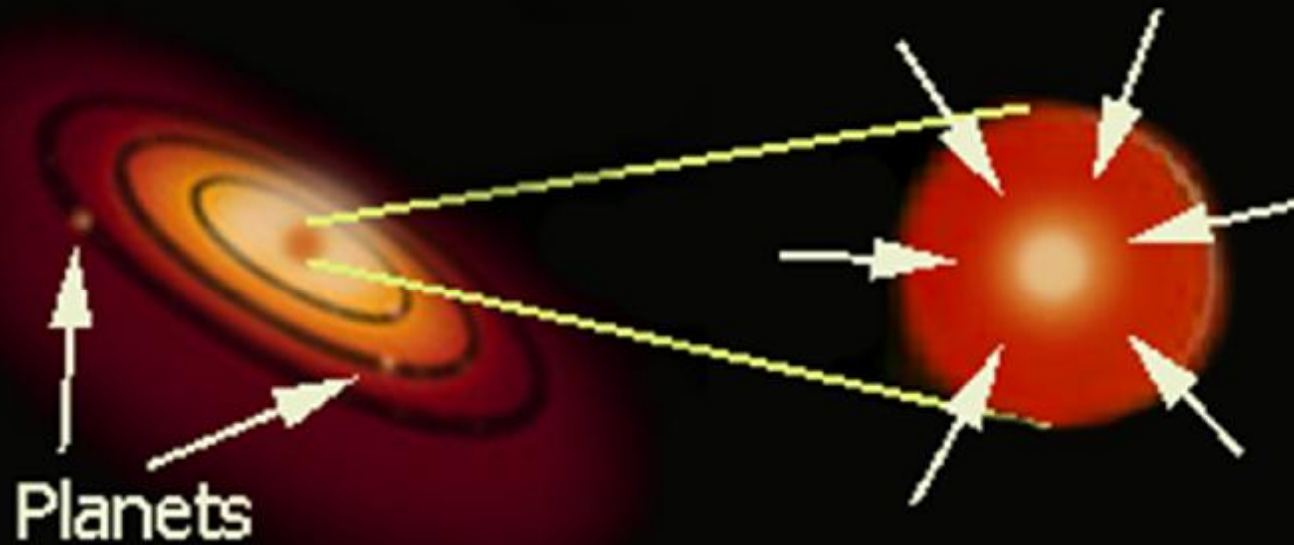
(mass of cloud)

GRAVITATIONAL CONTRACTION

Stellar Birth



Stellar Birth



Stellar Birth



www.spacetelescope.org

Stellar Birth

The image shows a vast field of stars against a dark blue background. A prominent, glowing purple and magenta nebula is visible in the upper left quadrant. In the lower right, a single, bright yellow star is highlighted within a black rectangular box. The text 'Main Sequence Star' is written in white above this star.

Main Sequence
Star

The Pleiades Cluster



What is the source of the Sun's energy?

Recall the Sun's Luminosity:

390,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 watts

$$\textit{Duration} = \frac{\textit{Amount of fuel}}{\textit{Rate of consumption}}$$

Historical attempts to explain energy production



Chemical Burning (coal, wood, gas)

3,000 years

Gravitational Contraction

40 meters/year

50 million years



Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

$$E = mc^2$$



- n Mass and Energy are equivalent
- n A small amount of mass yields a large amount of energy

