

The Sun, a star with fairly average mass, lies in the middle part of the main sequence, with other yellow-white stars. The path on the diagram shows the typical life of a star like the Sun, from its collapse, and slow heating in a gas cloud, through its main sequence lifetime, and beyond that to the distant future, when it will eventually run out of fuel at its core, and swell to a red giant, slowly increasing its brightness as it does so.

*****Useful facts and formulas*****

Radius of Earth = 6.4×10^6 m

Radius of Moon = 1.7×10^6 m

Radius of Sun = 7×10^8 m

Mass of Earth = 6×10^{24} kg

Mass of Sun = 2×10^{30} kg

Mass of Moon = 7×10^{22} kg

Mean Radius of Mars' orbit = 1.5 AU

Temperature of Sun = 6000 K

Lifetime of Sun = 10^{10} years

1 day ~ 1×10^5 sec

1 month ~ 3×10^6 sec

1 year ~ 3×10^7 sec

1 Astronomical Unit = 1.5×10^{11} m

1 light year = 1×10^{16} m

1 parsec ~ 3 light years = 200,000 AU

1 Megaparsec (Mpc) = 10^6 pc

Radius of Moon's orbit around the Earth = 4×10^8 m

Luminosity of Sun = 4×10^{26} Joules/sec

Newton's constant $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ s}^{-2} \text{ kg}^{-1}$

Planck's constant $h = 6.63 \times 10^{-34}$ Joule sec

Speed of light $c = 3 \times 10^8$ m/sec

1 Joule = 1 kilogram/meter²/second² (a unit of energy)

Stephan-Boltzmann Constant $\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8} \text{ W/m}^2/\text{K}^4$.

Mass of proton ~ Mass of neutron ~ Mass of Hydrogen atom = 1.67×10^{-27} kg

0 degrees Centigrade corresponds to 273 kelvins

Hubble Constant ~ 70 km/s/Mpc

$\pi \sim 3.14$

The angle subtended by an object in radians is given by its diameter, divided by its distance (the small-angle formula).

1 radian ~ 60 degrees ~ 200,000 arcsec. A full circle covers 360 degrees, or roughly 6 radians.

The circumference of a circle of radius r is $2\pi r$; its area is πr^2 .

The surface area of a sphere of radius r is $4\pi r^2$; its volume is $\frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$.

The acceleration required to keep an object in a circle of radius r at uniform speed v is $a = v^2/r$.

The gravitational force between two objects of mass M and m separated by a distance r is $G M m/r^2$.

Kepler's Third Law states that for orbits around a body of mass M , the period squared is proportional to the radius of the orbit cubed, divided by the mass M . If period is measured in years, the radius in AU, and the mass in solar masses, the constant of proportionality is unity.

The energy per unit time emitted by a blackbody of surface area A

and temperature T is equal to $\sigma A T^4$.

The wavelength λ and frequency ν of a photon are related as $\lambda \nu = c$, where c is the speed of light. The energy of a photon is proportional to its frequency, $E = h \nu$.

The blackbody spectrum of an object of temperature T peaks at a wavelength $\lambda = 2.9/T$ millimeter, if T is measured in Kelvin.

The luminosity of a main sequence star is proportional to its mass to the 3.5 power.

The brightness of a distant object is proportional to its luminosity times the inverse square of its distance to us.

The equilibrium temperature of a planet a distance d away from a star of surface temperature T_{star} and radius r_{star} is $T_{\text{star}} (r_{\text{star}}/2d)^{1/2}$.

The Sun is 25,000 light years from the center of the Milky Way, and makes a full orbit once every 2.5×10^8 years. The mass of the Milky Way within the Sun's orbit is 10^{11} solar masses.

The parallax due to the Earth's orbit around the Sun, of a star 1 parsec away, is one arcsecond. Parallax is inversely proportional to distance.

The luminosity of a main sequence star is proportional to its mass to the 3.5 power.

The Doppler shift in the wavelength λ of a light wave emitted from an object moving at speed v along the line of sight is $\Delta \lambda / \lambda = v/c$. If the speed is close to the speed of light, one should use the more exact formula:

$$\Delta \lambda / \lambda = ((1 + v/c)/(1 - v/c))^{1/2} - 1$$

Hubble's Law: The recession velocity of a galaxy is equal to its distance times the Hubble Constant H .

The age of the universe since the Big Bang is roughly the inverse of the Hubble Constant. This gives roughly 13 billion years.

The critical density of the universe is $3 H_0^2 / 8 \pi G$, or roughly 10^{-26} kg/m^3 .

Time dilation: An observer moving by me at speed v will age

$\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$ years, for every year I age, according to me. c is the speed of light. Lengths are contracted by the same factor.

Energy E and mass m are equivalent: $E = m c^2$.

The escape speed from the surface of an object of mass M and radius R is $(2GM/R)^{1/2}$.

The Schwarzschild radius of a black hole of mass M is $2GM/c^2$. For one solar mass, this corresponds to a radius of 3 km.

In special relativity, the distance between two events in space-time is:

$$ds^2 = dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2 - c^2 dt^2.$$

The Planck time is $(h G/c^5)^{1/2} = 5 \times 10^{-44}$ sec.

The Einstein Field Equations of General Relativity are:

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R = 8\pi T_{\mu\nu}$$

You need not understand the details of this, but the left-hand-side involves the curvature of spacetime, and the right-hand-side involves the mass, energy, and pressure at each point in space and time.

distance of Andromeda : 7.8×10^5 pc