

Physics of Compact Objects

Fall 2023

Dr. R. L. Herman
Physics & Physical Oceanography
UNC Wilmington
hermanr@uncw.edu, OS 2007J



Table of Contents

Stellar Evolution
Black Holes
White Dwarfs
Neutron Stars
Binary Pulsars
Active Galactic Nuclei
Quasars
Radio Astronomy
Recent Observations

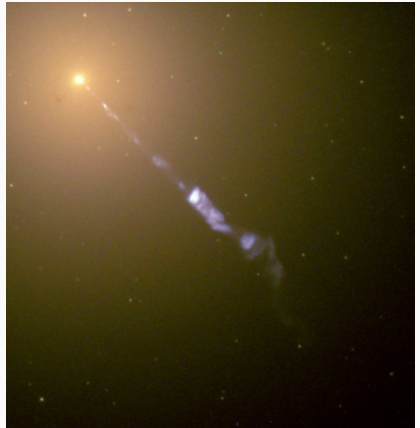
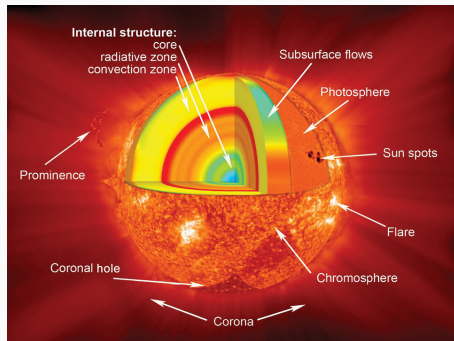


Figure 1: M87 Jet.

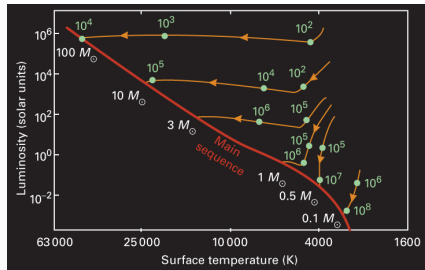
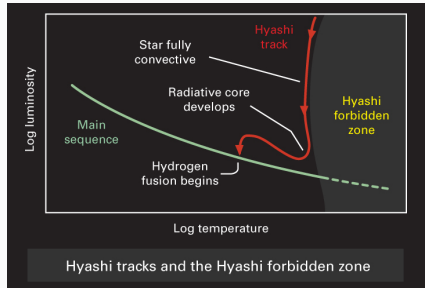
The Sun

- Nuclear burning core, 15 MK
 - Radiative zone
 - Convective zone, 10^4K
 - Photosphere, 5800-4200 K
 - Chromosphere, 10^4K
 - Corona, $> \text{MK}$
 - Hydrostatic Balance
 - Radiation, interior to surface, random walk, photons 7000 yrs.
 - Diffusion, leads to $L \sim M^3$.
- How did the sun get to this point?

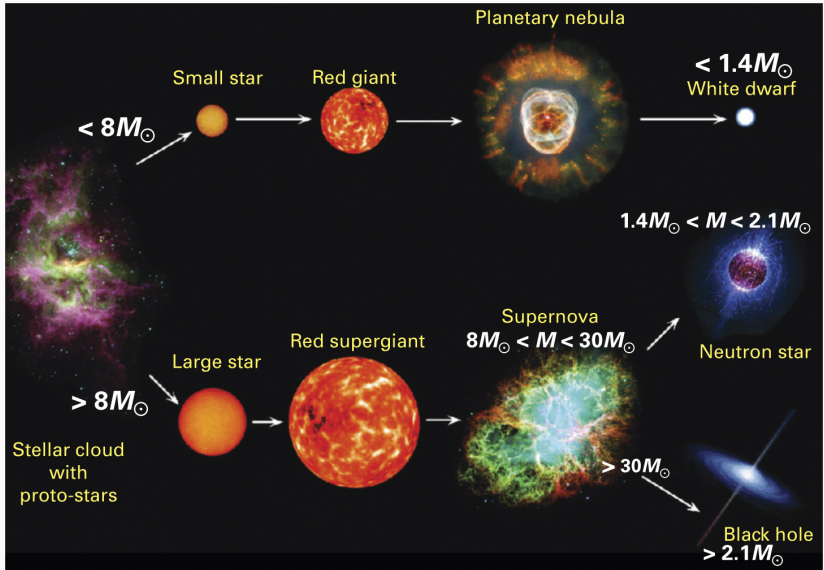


Protostar (Cloud) Evolution

- Mass contracts from cloud.
- Main Sequence: R decreases, T increases, $L \approx \text{const.}$
- $M \geq M_{\odot}$, horizontal track, stops at main sequence.
- When core T high, H-fusion leads.
- High L , large R . Contracts vertically, Hyashi track.
- When $L \sim M^3$, becomes radiative, left turn on Henyey track.
- When H depleted, backtracks to cool red giant.

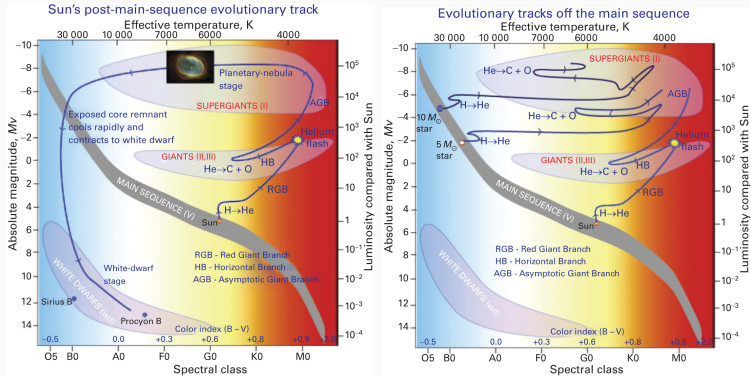


Evolution to Final States - Fig. 19.1



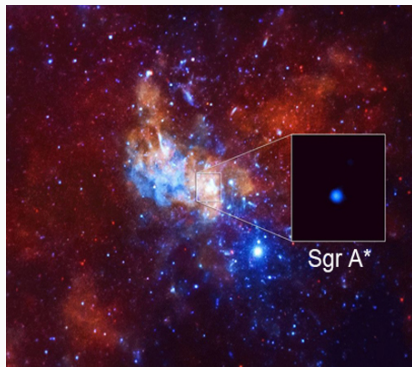
Post Main Sequence Evolution - Fig. 19.2

H-R diagrams showing evolution for $M = 1, 5, 10 M_{\odot}$.



Compact Astrophysical Objects

- Endpoints of stellar evolution.
 - White dwarfs.
 - Neutron stars.
 - Black holes.
- Constituents of galaxies
- Extreme Objects at centers of
 - Milky Way - Sagittarius A*
 - $4.1 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$,
 - M87* in Virgo Cluster
 - $6.5 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$.
- Detection modes
 - Neutron stars, BHs
 - radio, X-ray emissions.
 - White dwarfs - optical.



<https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/chandra20140105.jpg>

Black Holes

- 1783 - John Michell
 - applied gravity to corpuscles.
 - predicted dark stars.
- 1796 - Pierre-Simon Laplace
 - predicted point of no return.
- 1915 - Albert Einstein - GR.
- 1916 - Karl Schwarzschild
 - Spherical symmetry.
- 1939 - J. Robert Oppenheimer and Hartland Snyder - Stellar collapse.
- 1939 - Einstein denied.
- 1967 - John Wheeler coined name.
- 1970 C.V. Vishveshwara.
 - Stability of Schwarzschild BH.
 - Quasinormal modes, ring down.



Figure 2: M87* - 2019 EHT Picture.

- 1964, 1971 - Cygnus X-1
 - 6070 lyr, $14.8M_{\odot}$.
 - $R_s = 44$ km. [$1M_{\odot} \rightarrow 2.95$ km]
- [List of Black Holes](#)

Black Holes Have No Hair

- Oppenheimer and Snyder assumed
 - Perfectly spherical.
 - Non-rotating.
 - No imperfections.
 - Controversial.
- 1964 - Roger Penrose
If matter has a positive energy-density, a trapped surface has a singularity.
- 1966 - Stephen Hawking
The Singularity Theorem is for the whole universe, and works backwards in time.
- 1967 - Werner Israel - 1st Schwarzschild.
- 1972 - Jacob Bekenstein (via [Wheeler](#))
 - "Black holes have no hair."
 - just mass, angular momentum, charge.

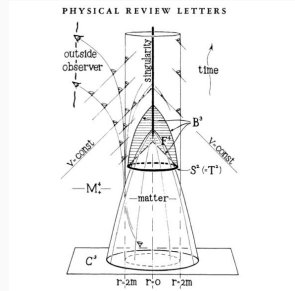
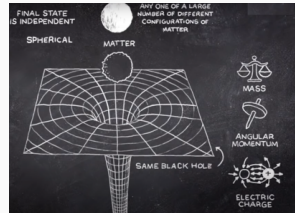


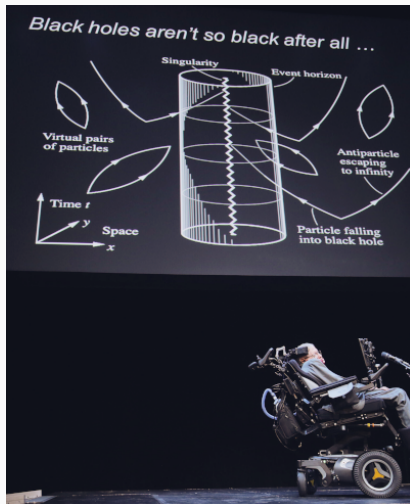
Figure 3: [Video](#).

Black Hole Thermodynamics

- 1972 - Jacob Bekenstein
Black holes should have entropy.
- 1974 - Stephen Hawking
 - They have a temperature.
 - And emit Hawking radiation.

$$S = \frac{kA}{4\ell_p^2}, \quad kT = \frac{hc^3}{16\pi^2 GM}$$

- Laws of BH Thermodynamics.
- Black Holes Evaporate.
Where does information go?
- Holographic Principle.
 - t'Hooft, Susskind.
 - Information Paradox.
 - AdS/CFT correspondence.



White Dwarfs

- 1783 -William Herschel.
 - 40 Eridani, triple system, 17 lyr
 - 1910 Henry Norris Russell, Edward Charles Pickering and Williamina Fleming identified it as Spectral Class A.
- 1844 - Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel.
 - Sirius (Canus Major, Dog star, 8.6 lyr) and Procyon (Canus Minor, 12 lyr)
 - Companion white dwarfs.
- 1922 - Coined by Willem Luyten.
 - over 9000, $0.5\text{-}0.7M_{\odot}$ [$0.8\%\text{-}2\% R_{\odot}$].

White Dwarf Stars Near The Earth

2018 - [Astronomers Find Planet Vulcan Right Where Star Trek Predicted it.](#)

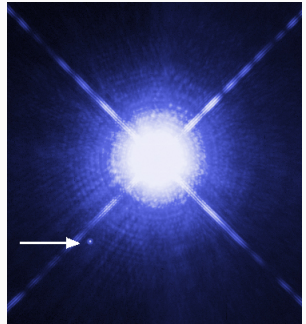


Figure 4: Sirius A and B.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_dwarf

Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar (1910-1995)

- 1930 - At 19, traveled to England.
- Read William A. Fowler's 1926 e^- -degeneracy.
 - In fermion gas, electrons move into unfilled energy levels.
 - Particle density increases and electrons fill the lower energy states.
 - Other e^- 's occupy states of higher energy (even at low temperatures).
 - Degenerate gases resist compression due to the Pauli exclusion principle.
 - Generates a *degeneracy pressure*.
 - Applied Fermi-Dirac statistics.
- Degeneracy pressure vs gravity
 - **Chandrasekhar limit** - $M \sim 1.44M_{\odot}$.



Neutron Stars

- 1932 - Chadwick discovers neutron.
- 1933 - Walter Baade, Fritz Zwicky
- neutron stars result of supernovae.
- 1931,1937 - Lev Landau - [Work](#) on
white dwarfs and neutron stars.
- 1939 - Oppenheimer-Volkoff-Tolman
- max $M \sim 0.75M_{\odot}$ [Now, $1.5-3M_{\odot}$].
- 1965 - Crab Pulsar, 1054 Supernova
- Antony Hewish, Samuel Okoye.
- 1967 - Scorpius X-1, Iosif Schlovsky.
- 1967 - Jocelyn Bell, Antony Hewish
- PSR B1919+21 first radio pulsar.
- 1974 - Taylor-Hulse binary pulsar.



Figure 5: Crab Nebulae.

Taylor-Hulse Binary Pulsar PSR B1913+16

- Pulsars: pulsating radio star.
Rapidly rotating neutron star.
- Magnetic lighthouse.
- Regular flashing
 - 2x each cycle - 17 per second.
- Regular variations - 7.75 hrs and 3s differences due to elliptical orbit.
- 305 m Arecibo Radio Telescope in Puerto Rico. (Collapse, Nov. 2020)
- 1993 Nobel Prize
 - Joe Taylor and Russell Hulse.

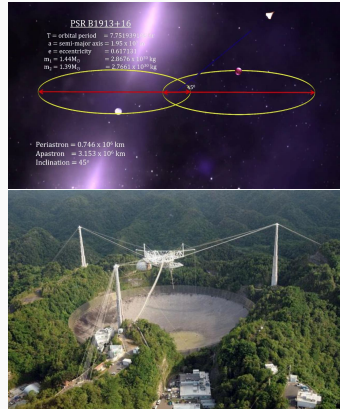


Figure 6: Binary Pulsar and Arecibo Telescope.

Binary Pulsar PSR B1913+16 and General Relativity

- Einstein's Prediction of radiation loss as gravitational waves.
- Calculated masses, periastron (closest distance), and apastron (furthest).
- Energy Loss: $\frac{dE}{dt} = 7.35 \times 10^{24} \text{W}$.
- Orbital period change: $\frac{dT}{dt} = 7.65 \text{ milliseconds/yr}$.
- First indirect observation of gravitational waves.

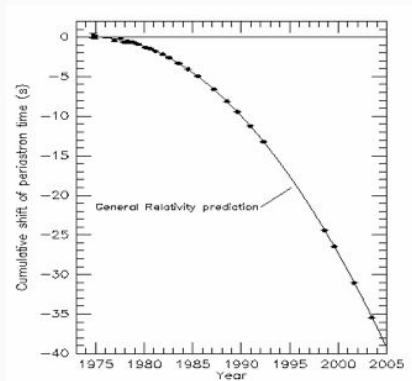
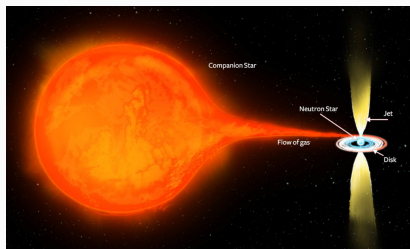


Figure 7: Binary Pulsar Data

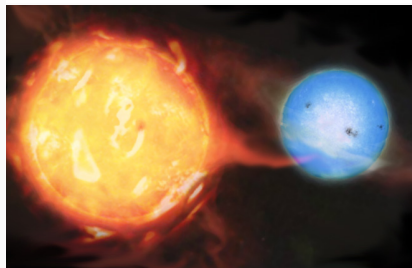
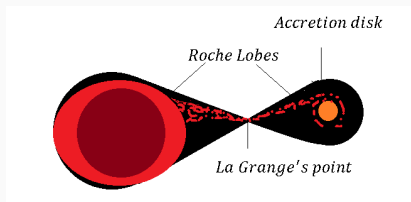
Accretion in Binary Systems

- 1960s - X-Ray Astronomy.
- Scorpius X-1: 1-10 keV.
- 20 sources by end of decade.
- Cygnus X-1 varies in time.
- Accretion.
 - Gas forms disk around compact object.
 - Friction leads to spiraling inward.
 - Gravity and friction compress, raise temperature.
 - Leads to EM emission.



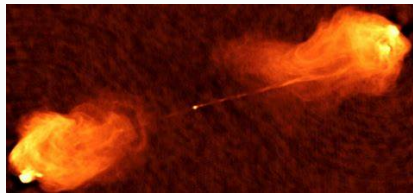
Accretion History

- 1926 Arthur Eddington - accretion rate depends on velocity, density gravity focuses towards CM.
- Hoyle, Lyttleton - rate greater with collisions.
- 1952 Herman Bondi
- Algol in Perseus
 - eclipsing binary, 2.9 days.
- Small blue hidden by larger red.
- Blue star tending to red giant.
- Used to be red, overflowed Roche lobe - past Lagrange pt.



Active Galaxy Nuclei

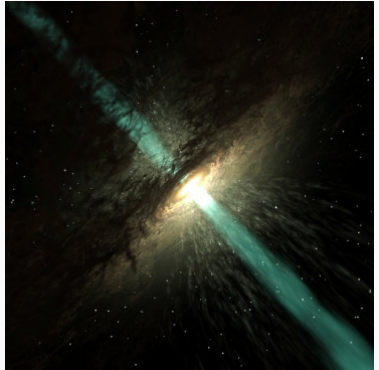
- 1918 - Heber Curtis
 - Straight ray from M87.
- 1920 - Island Universes
 - Curtis-Shapley Debate
- Strange behavior from galaxy centers.
 - Too much blue, UV.
 - Bright.
 - Active galaxies with AGN.
 - Quasars, starbursts.
- Karl Seyfert
 - Intense blue nuclei.
 - Very high velocities.
 - Seyfert galaxies.



- 1954 - W. Baade, R. Minkowski
 - Cynus A
 - $300 \times$ M31 distance.
 - Dumbbell - lobes.
- 1956-9 - Geoffrey Burbidge
 - Lobe energy very high.

Quasars - Quasi Stellar Objects

- 1963 - Hazard, et al. pinpoint 3C 273.
- 1963 - Maartin Schmidt, 3C 273.
 - Spectrum: 16 % redshift
 - Distance: 10^9 lyr.
 - Fluctuating brightness over 1 mo.
- Quasars - QSOs.
- Hubble Telescope detects many.
- AGN Properties:
 - Energy emitted large rate.
 - Extremely compact.
 - Not normal radiation.
 - Gas moves at very high speeds.
- Manifestation of massive BHs.



Massive Black Holes?

- Mass Compactness, M/R , Limits
 - Upper limit on R
 - brightness variation. $R < ct$.
 - Lower limit on M - luminosity.
 - Estimate lifetime energy.
 - luminosity \times age.
 - Eddington limit.
 - 100 million to billions M_{\odot} .
 - $M/R > .001c^2/G$.
- Hoyle, Burbidge - only gravitational collapse can supply energy.



Quasar Models

- 1969 - Donald Lynden-Bell
 - Quasars powered by accretion.
 - BHs > 100 million M_{\odot} .
- Sources of Emission
 - Accretion disk like X-Ray binaries.
 - EM processes
 - Tap spin energy.
 - A flywheel with disk as brake.
- Different emissions
 - X-Rays captured by disk.
 - Turned to UV, optical, IR.
- Need Mass, Spin, and Orientation.

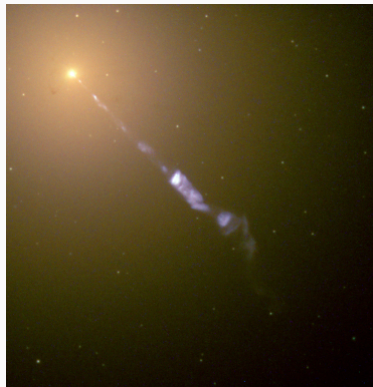


Figure 8: M87 jet.

Radio Astronomy

- 1931 - Karl Jansky
 - Bell Labs - telecommunications.
 - Sensitive antenna
 - transatlantic cable noise.
 - Not terrestrial!.
- 1944 - Grote Reber
 - First sky map of Milky Way.
 - Radio Emissions, Cygnus.
- 1950s - Martin Ryle
 - Idea of arrays of dishes.
- 1970s - Telescope arrays.
- Detailed hot spots and lobes.



VLA - Very Large Array
- Socorro, NM.
27 linked radio telescopes.
25 m diameter.
Y-shaped across 40 km.
Comparable to Hubble resolution.

Hot Spots and Lobes

- Picked up double radio sources.
- From galaxy cores.
- Superhot, magnetized gas ejection?
- 70s - Blobs powered by twin streams of gas from galactic core hotspot.
 - Source of radio waves.
- Travels through intergalactic medium, pushing matter away at 60% c.
- Deceleration leads to shock waves.
- Energy of relativistic e^- 's and magnetism. - Synchrotron radiation.
- Hot spot - 100,000 to 10^6 yrs.
- Moves to lobes, persists 10^8 yrs.

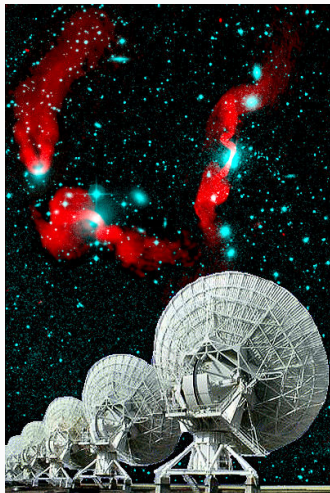
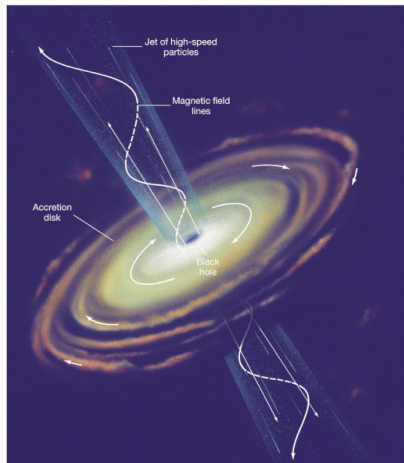


Figure 9: Radio Galaxies and Quasars

Jets

- 1978 - Jets only theoretical.
- Not seen to this point.
- VLA observations changed that.
- Late 1978 - SS 443 X-ray binary.
- Bruce Margon, et al.
 - Spectrum had three parts:
Normal, red shifted, blue shifted.
- Rotating jets precessing - 163 days.
- Stability due to high speed, low density, stiff B-field.
- Can lead to radio trail bend.
- Then there is the core using VLBI.



Black Holes - The Last Decade

- 2014- *Interstellar*, the movie.
 - Black hole visualization.
- 2016 - Gravitational Waves, LIGO.
- 2019 - First picture, Event Horizon.
- Nobel Prizes:
 - 2011 - Saul Perlmutter, Brian P. Schmidt and Adam G. Riess.
 - 2017 - Rainer Weiss, Barry C. Barish and Kip S. Thorne.
 - 2019 - James Peebles, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz.
 - 2020 - Roger Penrose, Reinhard Genzel and Andrea Ghez
- Now, back to physics ...

