

ASTRO 358 ((UNIQUE 48540)) : QUIZ 1, SOLUTION SET

Total score = 50 points.

1. For a high mass ($M > 8 M_{\odot}$) star: the outer envelope is ejected as a supernova remnant, and the inert iron core implodes into either a neutron star or a black hole ([10 pts]).

2. For a low mass ($M \sim 1 M_{\odot}$) star: outer envelopes become a planetary nebula, while inert core becomes a white dwarf ([10 pts]).

3. According to Wien's law, a blackbody emits the maximum flux in its continuum spectrum at a wavelength λ_{peak} that is inversely proportional to its surface temperature T :

$$\lambda_{\text{peak}} = \frac{W}{T}, \quad (1)$$

where $W = \text{Wien's constant} = 2.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m K}$.

Thus, stars that emit a large fraction of their flux at ultraviolet wavelengths ($\lambda \sim 2 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}$) have surface temperatures of $\sim 100,000 \text{ K}$. *Such hot stars are very massive and have lifetimes of only a few million years. They are therefore only present in recent sites of star formation.*

[[10 pts] = 4 pts for applying Wien's law, 3 pts for stating that hot stars are very massive stars, 3 pts for stating that high mass stars have short lifetimes.]

4. Stefan-Boltzmann law : The total flux F_{surf} emitted at the surface of a star (or blackbody) over all wavelengths is proportional to the fourth power of its surface temperature T :

$$F_{\text{surf}} = \sigma T^4 \quad (2)$$

where $\sigma = \text{Stefan-Boltzmann constant} = 5.7 \times 10^{-8} \text{ J s}^{-1} \text{ m}^{-2} \text{ K}^{-4}$

Flux at surface of a star of radius R :

$$F = \frac{L}{4\pi R^2} \quad (3)$$

Hence,

$$L = 4\pi R^2 \sigma T^4 \propto R^2 T^4 \quad (4)$$

Flux that we receive at distance d

$$f = \frac{L}{4\pi d^2} \propto \frac{R^2 T^4}{d^2} \quad (5)$$

If the radius and surface temperature of a star both double, the flux that we receive rises by a factor of 4×16 or 64 .

[[10 pts] = 7 pts for $f \propto (R^2 T^4/d^2)$ + 3 pts for math.]

5. $B-K = m_B - m_K = -2.5 \log(f_B/f_K) = 3.2 \text{ mag}$.

If the flux of the galaxy at blue wavelengths rises by a factor of 100, the $B-K$ color falls by 5 magnitudes to -1.8 mag .

[[10 pts] = 6 pts for showing relation of color to flux + 4 pts for math.]