

Astro 301/ Spring 2005 (46690)



Introduction to Astronomy

Instructor: Professor Shardha Jogee TAs: Nick Sterling & Nairn Baliber MWF 12-1 W-3.502 Star: A glowing ball of gas that generates heat and light through nuclear fusion



Nearest star= Our Sun





Evolution of a star on H-R diagram

Planet : A moderately large object which orbits a star; it shines by reflected light. Planets may be rocky, icy, or gaseous in composition.



Mercury is heavily cratered, but also has long, steep cliffs-one is visible here as the long curve that passes through the center of the image.



The central structure is a tall, twin-peaked volcano on Venus.



Earth has a variety of geological features visible in this photo from orbit.



The Moon's surface is heavily cratered in most places.



Mars has impact craters like the one near the upper right, but it also has features that look much like dried up



Mercury, Venus, Earth, E's Moon, Mars

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune

Moon: An object which orbits a planet.





The Moon's surface is heavily cratered in most places. <u>Star-forming nebulae</u>: Clouds where young stars are forming from dense cold gas and where hot massive young stars are heating and ionizing the gas



Part of Eagle Nebula (5 ly across)





<u>Planetary nebulae</u>: Brightly glowing gas produced when <u>low-mass stars</u> die, cast off their outer layers of gas, and the remaining hot core ionizes and heats the gas surrounding it.



Ring Nebula

Eskimo Nebula

Hourglass Nebula

Connection to white dwarf?

<u>Supernova remnant</u>: Expanding hot clouds of gas produced when a <u>high-mass star</u> undergoes a supernova explosion at the end of its life. The gas is enriched with heavy elements like C , O, S.



- Cygnus loop SN remnant; 130 ly; optical
- HST/optical : Visibe Ionized O, Atomic H, ionized S



Crab Nebula; VLT/ Optical First observed in 1054



<u>Galaxy</u>: Collection of few times (10⁸ to 10¹²) stars orbiting a common center and bound by gravity. Made of gas, stars, dust, dark matter.





Ubarred spiral

NGC1300; Barred spiral 150,000 ly across

Many types of galaxies with different structure, and amounts of gas, stars, SF.

à Spirals (barred and unbarred), Ellipticals, Dwarfs, Irregular, Peculiar/Interacting, etc

A spiral galaxy can appear different due to different inclinations



NGC 6744 Spiral, Face on



NGC 4414 Spiral Moderately inclined

Sombrero NGC 4594 Spiral, large bulge, dusty disk Edge on



<u>Spirals</u>: Disk galaxies with significant amounts of gas, dust, ongoing star formation . They can be <u>unbarred or barred</u>. Bars play key role in galaxy evolution. <u>Ellipticals</u>: Spheroidal systems, smooth appearance. Have little gas, dust, and recent SF



<u>Irregular galaxies</u>: Galaxies which have irregular, peculiar morphologies in terms of gas dust and SF. Often dusty and patchy.



LMC; Irr; 30,000 ly across



SMC; Irr ;18,000 ly across



NGc 1313 ; Irr; 50,000 ly across

<u>Interacting galaxies</u>: Galaxies which are interacting with others. Interactions can induce dramatic changes in morphology



Polar ring galaxy NGC 4650



Cartwheel galaxy Head-on collision

Ring galaxy AM 0644-741 50,000 ly across

