

ASTR 205: Stellar Astrophysics. Midterm: 2017.

Please write on the space provided after each question.

There are 8 questions – please attempt them all.

Maximum total 28 points.

Student Name _____ Number _____

Some of the following constants and equations might prove useful:

speed light $c = 3 \times 10^8$ m/sec;

1 AU = 1.5×10^8 km; 1 light year = 9.5×10^{12} km;

1 parsec = 3×10^{13} km

Wien's Law $\lambda_{\max} = 3 \times 10^6 / T$, λ_{\max} is in nanometers, T in degrees K;

Stefan-Boltzman law $F = \sigma T^4$; $\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8}$ W/m²K⁴;

Kepler's Third Law $p^2 = 4\pi^2 a^3 / G(M_1 + M_2)$;

Gravitational Force $F = GM_1 M_2 / r^2$;

206265 arcsec/radian;

$F = L / 4\pi d^2$ where F is the flux, L the Luminosity and d the distance;

$G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11}$ Nm²/kg²;

1 micrometer = 10^{-6} m;

1 nanometer (nm) = 10^{-9} m;

Mass of Sun = 2×10^{30} kg;

Radius of Sun = 7×10^8 m;

Luminosity Sun = 4×10^{26} watts;

Latitude Vancouver = 49 Degrees;

Distance (pc) = $1/\pi$, π in arcsec;

Velocity-Redshift $\Delta\lambda/\lambda = v/c$, c is speed light, v is velocity;

$m_2 - m_1 = 2.5 \log(b_1/b_2)$, m's are magnitudes b are fluxes

$(m-M) = 5 \log(d/10) + A$; m apparent mag, M absolute mag, d distance in pc,

A is extinction = $3E(B-V)$ where E is the colour excess;

$B_\lambda(T) = (2hc^2/\lambda^5)(1/e^{hc/\lambda kT} - 1)$ w m⁻² m⁻¹ sterad⁻¹ B(T) is Planck Function

$1/\lambda = R_H(1/4 - 1/n^2)$ R_H Rydberg Constant = 1.09677×10^7 m⁻¹

Boltzmann Formula: $N_B/N_A = D e^{-(X_{AB}/kT)}$ N's are the numbers in various states, D depends on state, X_{AB} is energy difference between states, k is

Boltzmann constant = 1.38×10^{-23} m² kg s⁻² K⁻¹, T temperature

$F(m) = m_2^3 \sin^3 i / (m_1 + m_2)^2 = pv^3/2\pi G$ is mass function p is period v velocity

(1) Where on Earth are the following statements true? [1 mark each]

(a) The star Capella ($\delta = +46$ degrees) is circumpolar.

north of latitude $+44^\circ$

(b) The star Antares ($\delta = -26$ degrees) rises to an altitude of +10 degrees.

latitude 54°

(c) Altair ($\delta = +9$ degrees) is seen at the zenith at some time during the year.

latitude $= 9^\circ$

(2) A star has a parallax of 0.0046 arcsec. Its apparent magnitudes are $m_V = V = 6.95$ and $m_B = B = 7.34$. It has an effective temperature of 13,000 K and the intrinsic colour of the star is $(B-V)_0 = -0.2$.

(a) What is the distance to the star in parsecs? [1 mark]

$$D = \frac{1}{p} = 217.4 \text{ pc}$$

(b) What is its absolute visual magnitude M_V and its visual luminosity in Solar units? [2 marks]

$$(M - m)_V = 5 \log \frac{D}{10} + A_V ; A_V = 3 \times E(B-V) = 1.77$$

$$(V - M_V) \therefore M_V = \text{---} - 0.91$$

$$M_{V, \text{Sun}} = 4.83 \therefore M_2 - M_1 = 2.5 \log \frac{L_1}{L_2}$$

$$\therefore L_{\star} / L_{\text{Sun}} = \text{---} 197.7$$

(c) Estimate its radius in Solar radii. [1 mark]

$$\frac{L_{\star}}{L_{\odot}} = \frac{R_{\star}^2 T_{\star}^4}{R_{\odot}^2 T_{\odot}^4}$$

$$\therefore \left(\frac{T_{\odot}}{T_{\star}} \right) \times \frac{34776}{197.7} = \left(\frac{R_{\star}}{R_{\odot}} \right)^2 \Rightarrow \left(\frac{R_{\star}}{R_{\odot}} \right) = \text{---} 2.8$$

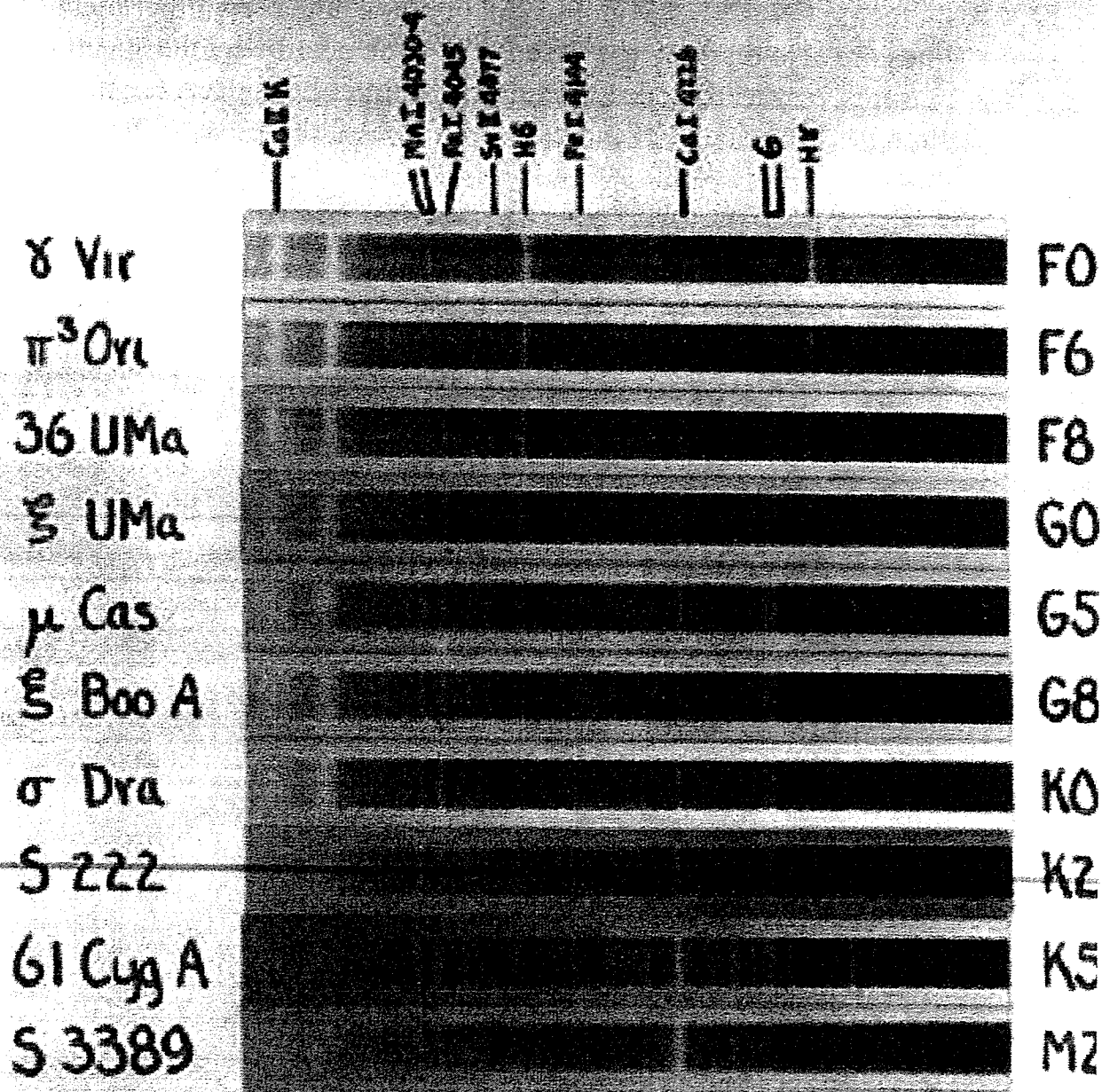
(3) Following are spectra for main sequence stars in the range of spectral class from F0 to M2. (a) What is the approximate range in surface temperature of these stars? Some spectral lines are indicated. H δ and H γ are hydrogen Balmer lines, G is a band from the molecule CN, CaI is a neutral calcium line and a few other metal lines are also marked. (b) Discuss in some detail why the spectral features vary as they do. Why do the Balmer lines decrease in strength, why does CN increase, why does CaI increase? [total 5 marks]

(a) $F0 \approx 7000\text{K}$, $M2 \approx 3500\text{K}$.

(b) Balmer decrease in strength as T_{eff} falls. This is because fewer atoms in 1st excited state where they can absorb a Balmer photon. CN increases as it is a molecule. Molecular bonds are weak \therefore as you get hotter fewer molecules are present - broken up into constituent atoms. Ca I lines increase to cooler temperature because it is a line from neutral calcium. As you get hotter more Ca is ionised \therefore fewer neutral Ca lines \therefore weaker line.

Main Sequence

F0 - M2



(4) The temperature of the microwave background is 2.72548K and it is a nearly perfect blackbody. Suppose the motion of the Sun around the galactic centre at 220 km/s were our only motion with respect to the microwave background. What would you measure for the temperature of the microwave background in the direction of the Sun's motion? [3 marks]

$$\lambda_{\max} = \frac{3 \times 10^6}{T}, \quad \frac{\Delta \lambda}{\lambda} = \frac{v}{c} = \frac{220}{3 \times 10^5} \Rightarrow \Delta \lambda = 817.20 \text{ nm}$$

and this is negative.

$$\lambda_{\max} = 1,100,723.542 \text{ nm}$$

$$\therefore \text{new } \lambda_{\max} = 1,099,916.34$$

$$\therefore \frac{1,099,916.34}{3 \times 10^6} = \frac{1}{T} \Rightarrow T = 2.72748 \text{ K.}$$

(5) A giant star expands increasing its radius by a factor of 10. Assuming that its effective temperature stays the same at all times, what is the change in the apparent magnitude of the star due to the expansion (it is important that you get not only the magnitude but also the sign of the change right!)? [2 marks]

$$\frac{L_2}{L_1} = \frac{R_2^2 T_2^4}{R_1^2 T_1^4}$$

$$\therefore \frac{L_2}{L_1} = 100.$$

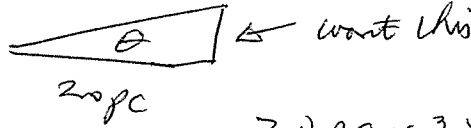
$$m_2 - m_1 = 2.5 \log \frac{L_1}{L_2}$$

$$m_2 - m_1 = 2.5 \log \frac{1}{100}.$$

$$m_2 - m_1 = -5$$

6) A star lying 20 parsecs from the Sun has a proper motion of $0.5''/\text{year}$. What is the star's transverse velocity (in km/sec)? If the star's spectral lines are observed to be redshifted by 0.01 percent, calculate its three-dimensional velocity relative to the Sun. (3 marks)

$$\theta = \frac{\text{arc}}{\text{radius}}$$

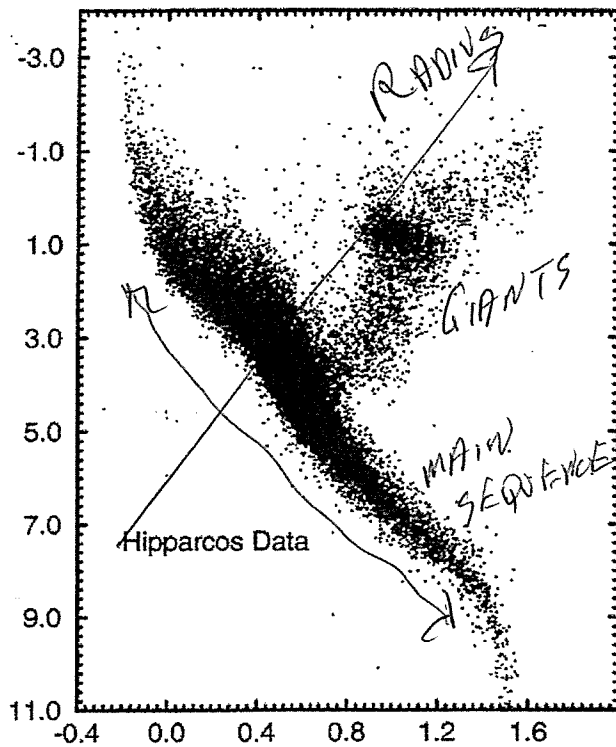


$$\begin{aligned} \text{arc} &= \text{radius} \times \theta = \frac{20 \text{ pc} \times 3 \times 10^3 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{pc}} \times 0.5''/\text{year}}{206265} \\ &= \cancel{48.5} \\ &= 48.5 \text{ km/s} = \text{transverse} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Radial vel} = 10^{-4} \times c = 30 \text{ km/s}$$

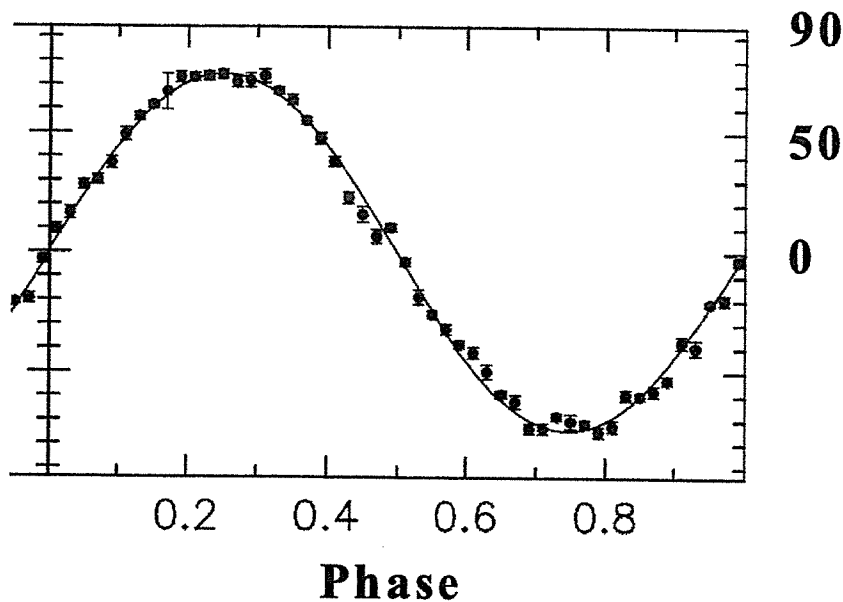
$$\begin{aligned} \therefore \sqrt{V_T^2 + V_R^2} &= \text{3-D velocity} \\ &= 57 \text{ km/sec} \end{aligned}$$

7) Below is a colour-magnitude diagram obtained by the Hipparcos Parallax Satellite. a) Insert plausible axes labels on the diagram. b) Label right on the figure 2 major sections of the diagram. c) Indicate the direction of increasing surface temperature, increasing luminosity and increasing stellar radius on the diagram. (3 marks)



(8) A single-lined spectroscopic binary has a radial velocity curve as shown below. The period is 5.6 days and the radial velocities are indicated in units of km/sec along the y-axis. The visible star is an O-supergiant with a mass of 19.2 solar masses. The orbit of the binary is inclined by 20 degrees to the line of sight.

What can you say about the unseen secondary object? [5 marks]



Use mass $f \propto \frac{m_2^3 \sin^3 i}{(m_1 + m_2)^2} = \frac{P V^3}{2\pi G}$

$P = 5.6 \text{ days} = 4.84 \times 10^5 \text{ sec}$

$V = 75 \text{ km/sec} = 75,000 \text{ m/sec}$

$\therefore \text{RHS} = \frac{4.84 \times 10^5 \times (75 \times 10^3)^3}{2\pi \times 6.67 \times 10^{-11}} \text{ Kg}$
 $= 4.87 \times 10^{29} \text{ Kg}$

$\therefore \frac{m_2^3 (0.34)^3}{(m_1 + m_2)^2} = 4.87 \times 10^{29} \text{ Kg}$ or $\frac{m_2^3}{(m_1 + m_2)^2} = 1.2 \times 10^{31} \text{ Kg}$

$m_1 = 19.2 \times 2 \times 10^{30} \text{ Kg} = 3.84 \times 10^{31} \text{ Kg}$

Try a few values. For m_2 e.g. $10 M_\odot = 2 \times 10^{31} \text{ Kg}$
 $10 M_\odot$; LHS = 2.35×10^{30} (Too small)

$40 M_\odot$; LHS = 3.7×10^{31} (too large)

$\therefore m_2 \approx 30 M_\odot$ \therefore for sure a black hole.