

# ***STARS - S04***

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***AMNH After-School Program***

AMERICAN  
MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL  
HISTORY



# From last class

Proper motion: movement of stars in the sky. Typical  $0.1''/\text{yr}$ . Barnard's star  $10''/\text{yr}$ .

Distance is hard to measure. Parallaxes only work up to 1000 pc.

Beyond that we need other methods: standard candles.

Eclipsing binaries: measure distance via

Cepheids: period-luminosity relation

Type Ia Supernovae are standard candles for cosmological distances

Stellar spectra: measure distance via

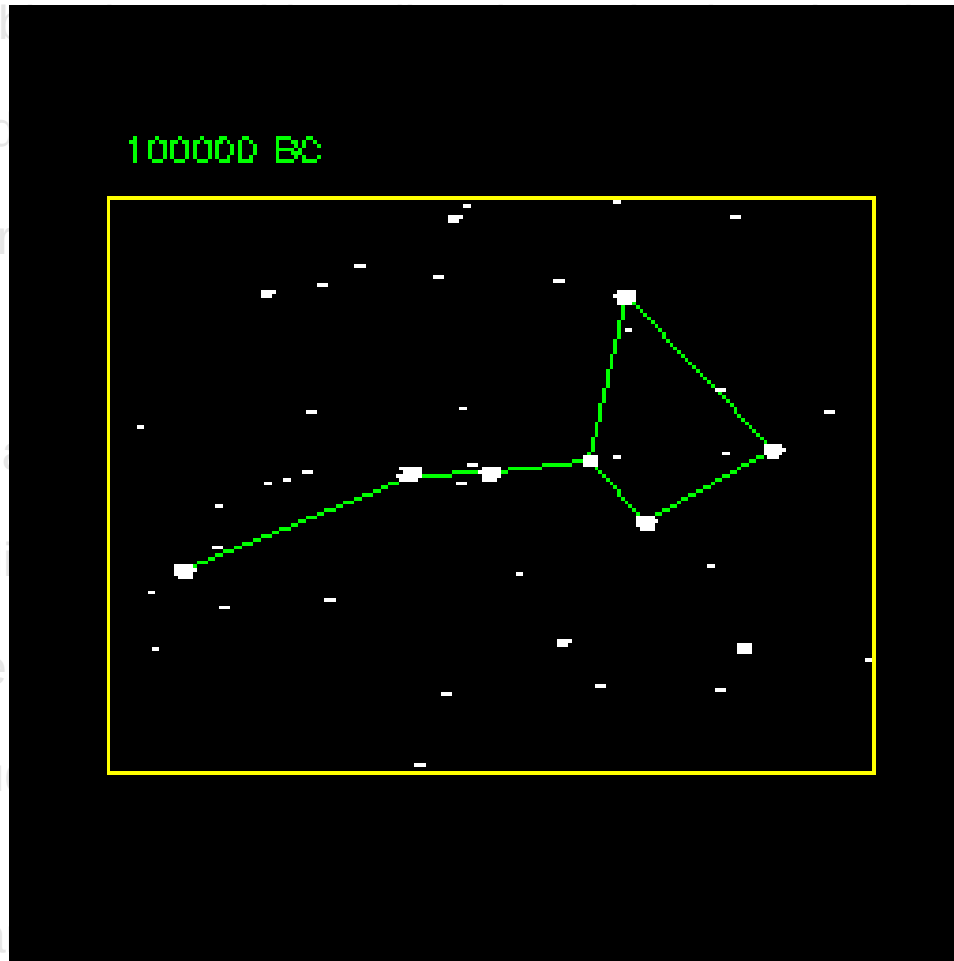
Spectral lines: measure distance via

Five: measure distance via

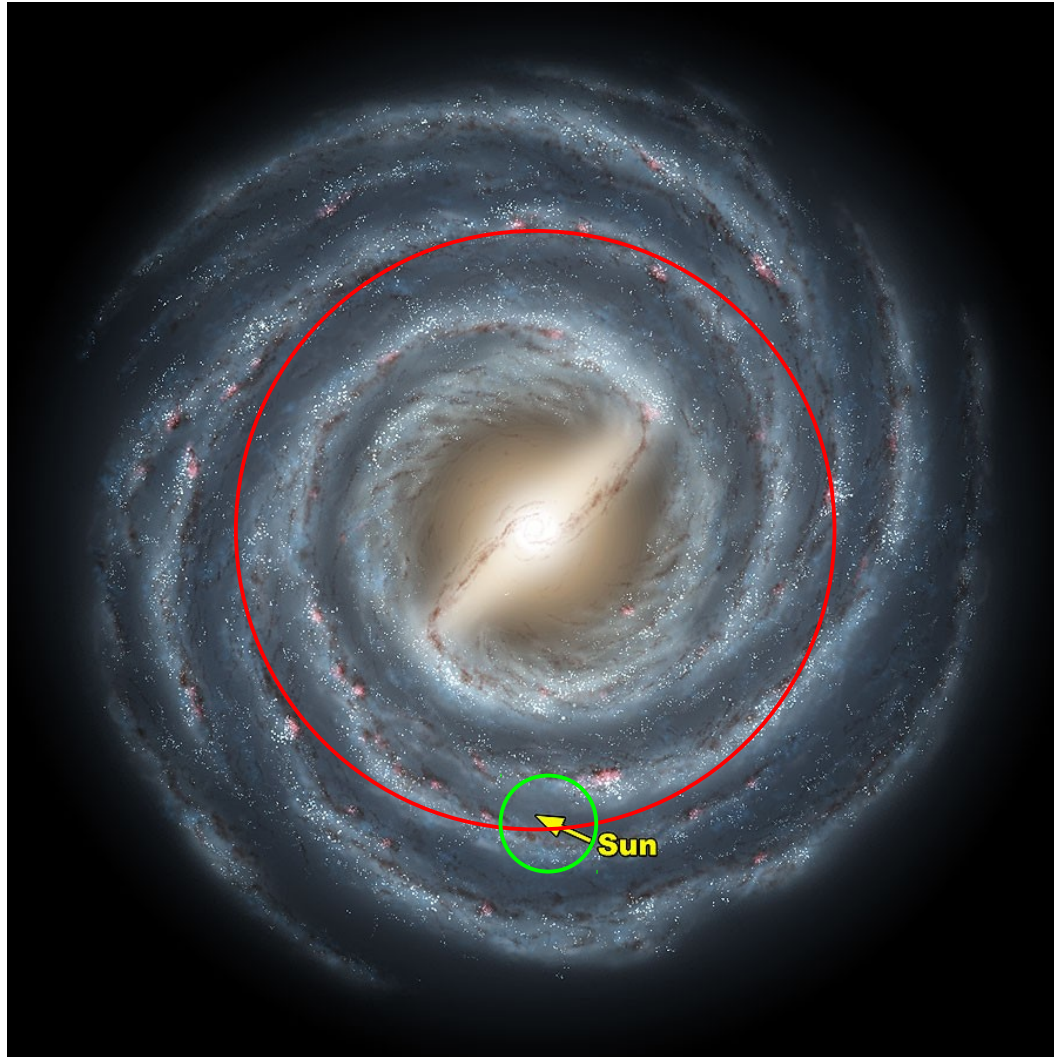
Magnitude: measure distance via

Spectroscopy: measure distance via  
Tens of thousands of stars in a single frame.

CMD is the photometrically equivalent to the HR diagram.



# The Solar Orbit



Orbital Speed:

**220 km/s**

Semi-major axis:

**8 kpc**

$1\text{pc} \sim 3 \times 10^{16} \text{ m}$

$1\text{yr} \sim 3 \times 10^7 \text{ s}$

The Sun's orbital period  
(i.e., the "Galactic Year"?)

**$\sim 250 \text{ Myr}$**

# From last class

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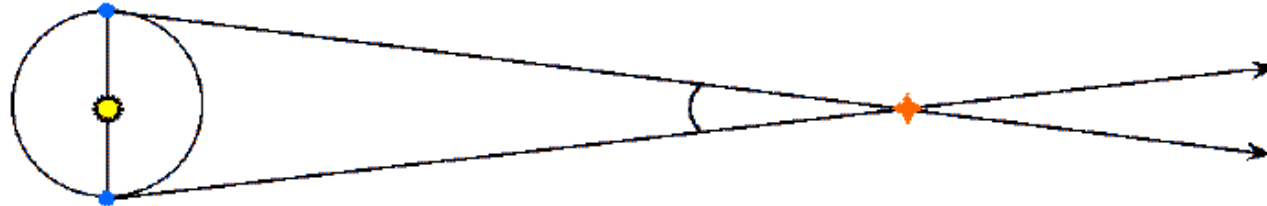
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Beyond that ... , main sequence fitting, standard candles.

Ec ... s determination, then luminosity via

Cepheids and RR Lyrae have known period luminosity relation

Type Ia Supern



ysical distances

Stellar spectra are absorption spectra, thus hot source covered by colder gas

Spectral lines are chemical fingerprints, and a mine of information

Five photometric passbands UBVRI. Five magnitudes.

Magnitude difference = color. A measurement of temperature.

Spectroscopy = individual accuracy. Photometry = large number statistics.  
Tens of thousands of stars can be automatically measured in a single frame.

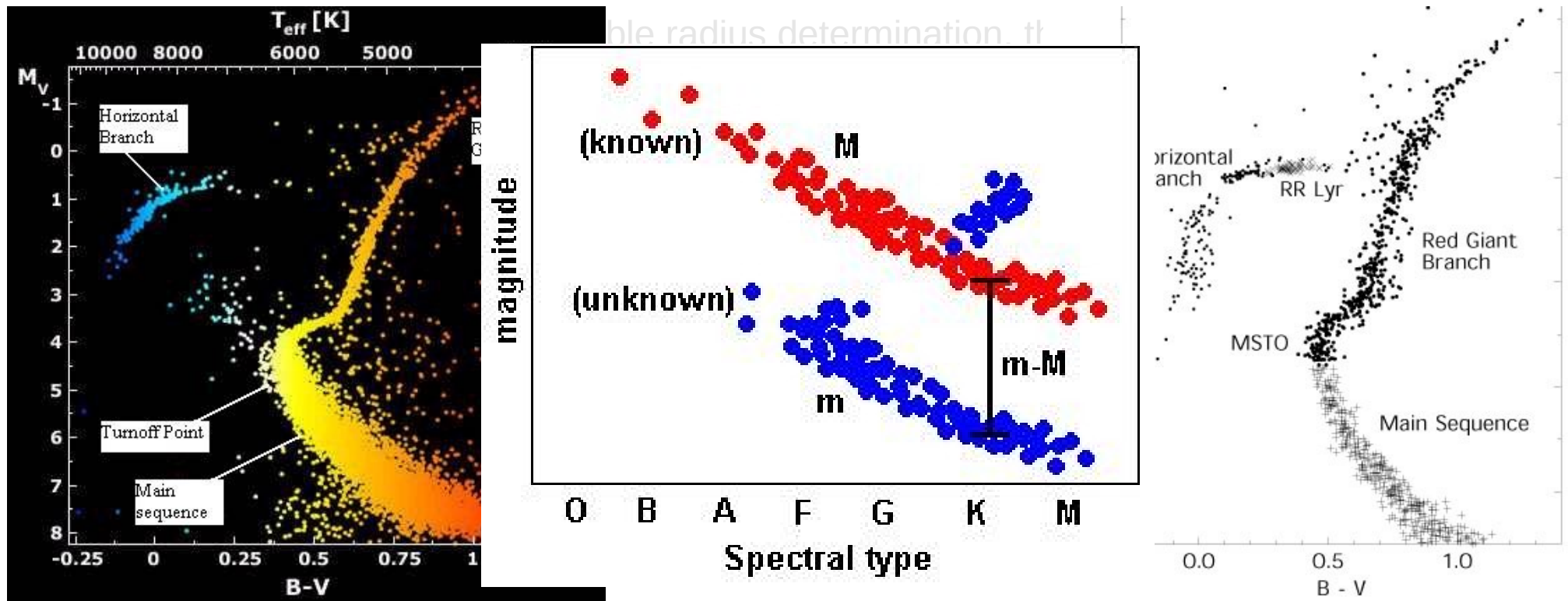
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Distance is hard to measure. Parallaxes only work up to 1000 pc.

Beyond that we need to use other methods, main sequence fitting, standard candles.



Magnitude difference = color. A measurement of temperature.

Calibrated (or from model)

Observed

Spectroscopy = individual accuracy. Photometry = large number statistics.  
Tens of thousands of stars can be automatically measured in a single frame.

CMD is the photometrically equivalent to the HR diagram.

# From last class

Proper motion: movement of stars in the sky. Typical 0.1"/yr. Barnard's star 10"/yr.

Distance is hard to measure. Parallaxes only work up to 1000 pc.

Beyond that we need to use other methods, main sequence fitting, standard candles.

Eclipsing binaries enable radius determination, thus luminosity via  $L=4\pi R^2 \sigma T^4$

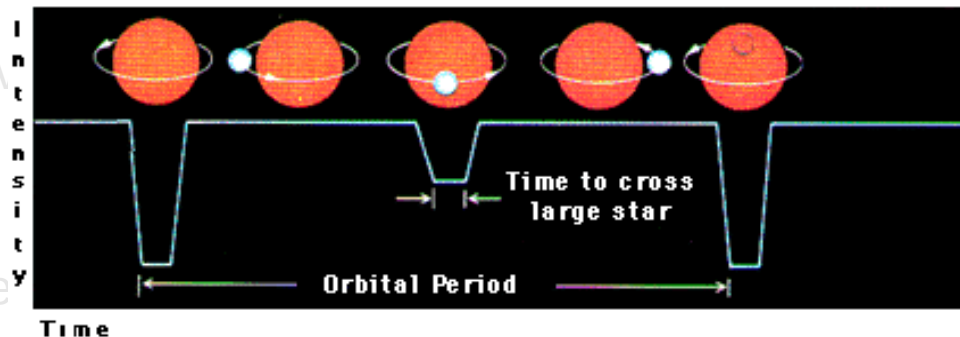
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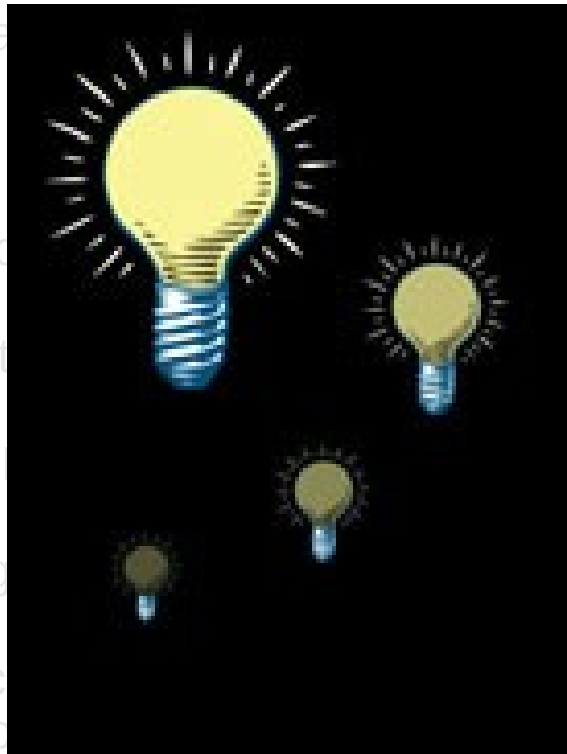
Distance is hard to measure. Parallaxes only work up to 1000 pc.

Beyond that we need to use other methods, main sequence fitting, standard candles.

Eclipsing binaries enable radius determination, then luminosity via

## Standard Candles

Type Ia Supernova



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gle frame.



CMD is the photometrically equivalent to the HR diagram.

# From last class

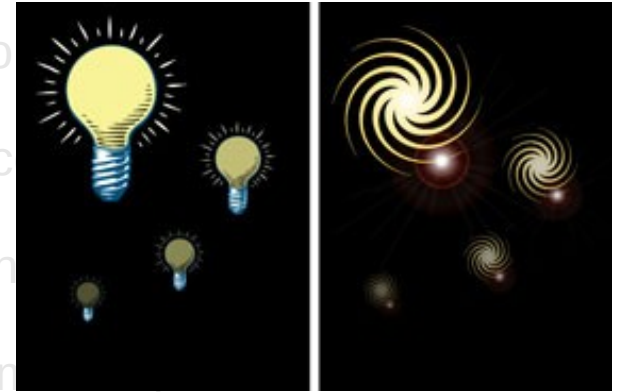
Proper motion: movement of stars in the sky. Typical  $0.1''/\text{yr}$ . Barnard's star  $10''/\text{yr}$ .

Distance is hard to measure. Parallaxes only work for nearby stars.

Beyond that we need to use other methods, main sequence fitting.

Eclipsing binaries enable radius determination, then luminosity.

Cepheids and RR Lyrae have known period luminosity relations.



Type Ia Supernovae are very luminous standard candles, seen over cosmological distances

Kirchhoff's three laws of spectroscopy.

Stars have absorption spectra, thus hot so

lines are chemical fingerprints, and

photometric passbands UBVRI. Filter

color difference = color. A measurement

Spectroscopy = individual accuracy. Photometry = broad brush.  
Tens of thousands of stars can be automatically measured.

CMD is the photometrically equivalent to the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram.





# From last class

Proper motion: movement of stars in the sky. Typical 0.1"/yr. Barnard's star 10"/yr.

## The Cosmic Distance Ladder

Beyond that we need to use other methods, main sequence fitting, standard candles.

Eclipsing binaries enable radius measurements, and therefore luminosity

Cepheids have a known period and luminosity relation

Type Ia Supernovae are very bright and can be seen over cosmological distances

Kirchhoff's three laws of spectroscopy

Stellar spectra are a fingerprint, thus hot source covered by colder gas

Spectral lines are fingerprints, and a mine of information

Five photometric passbands UBVRI. Five magnitudes.

Magnitude difference = color. A measurement of temperature.

Spectroscopy = individual accuracy. Photometry = large number statistics.

1 10 10<sup>2</sup> 10<sup>3</sup> 10<sup>4</sup> 10<sup>5</sup> 10<sup>6</sup> 10<sup>7</sup> 10<sup>8</sup> 10<sup>9</sup> 10<sup>10</sup> pc

CMD is the photometrically equivalent to the HR diagram

# Outline

- **Spectroscopy**

- The three laws of Kirchhoff
- Hydrogen lines
- Chemical abundances

- **Photometry**

- UBVRI system of magnitudes
- Photometric colors
- Color-magnitude diagram

- **Structure of the HR Diagram**

# Spectroscopy

Information we get from stars

Direction of the radiation

Amount of radiation

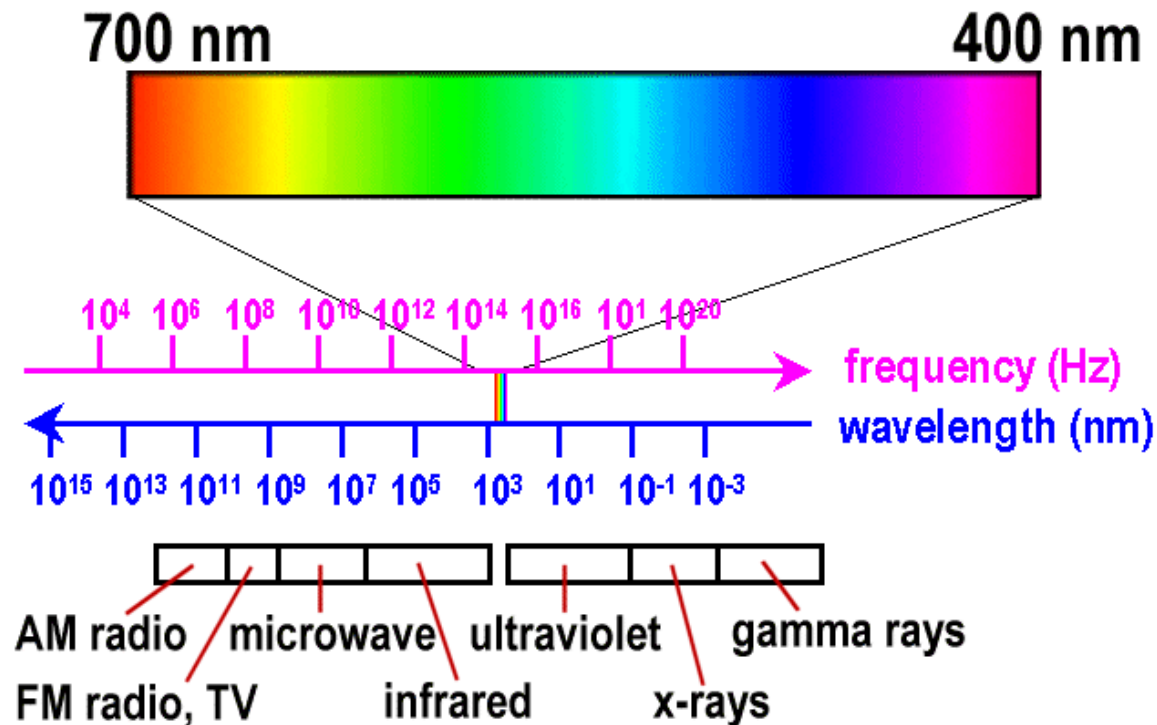
Spectral distribution of the radiation

**Astrometry**

**Photometry**

**Spectroscopy**

The electromagnetic spectrum

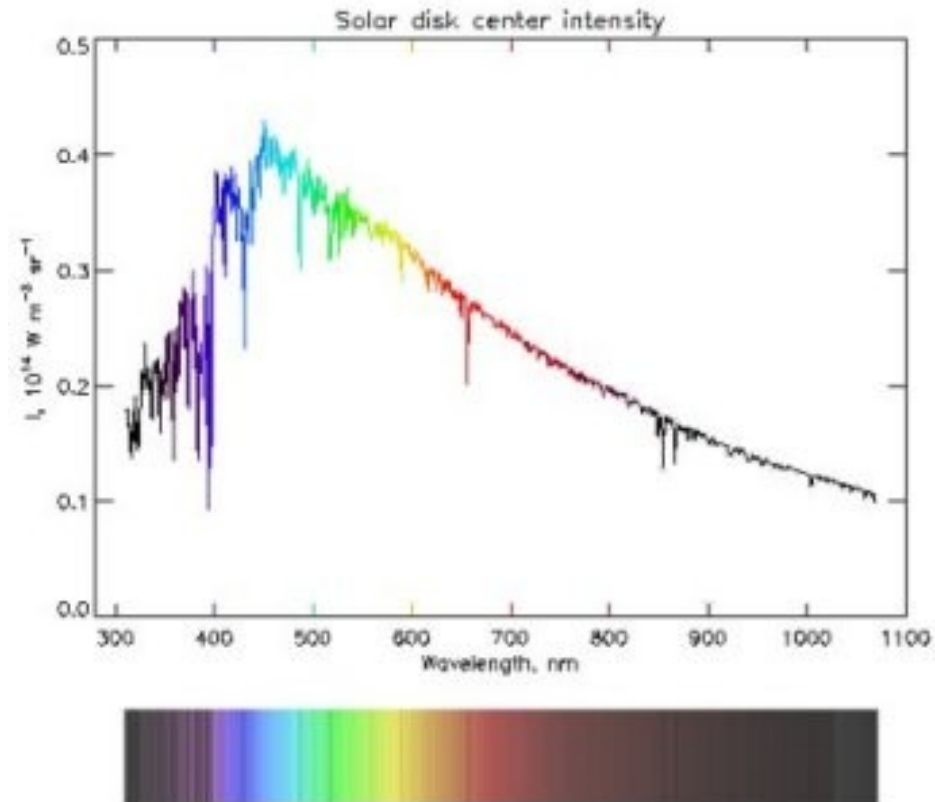
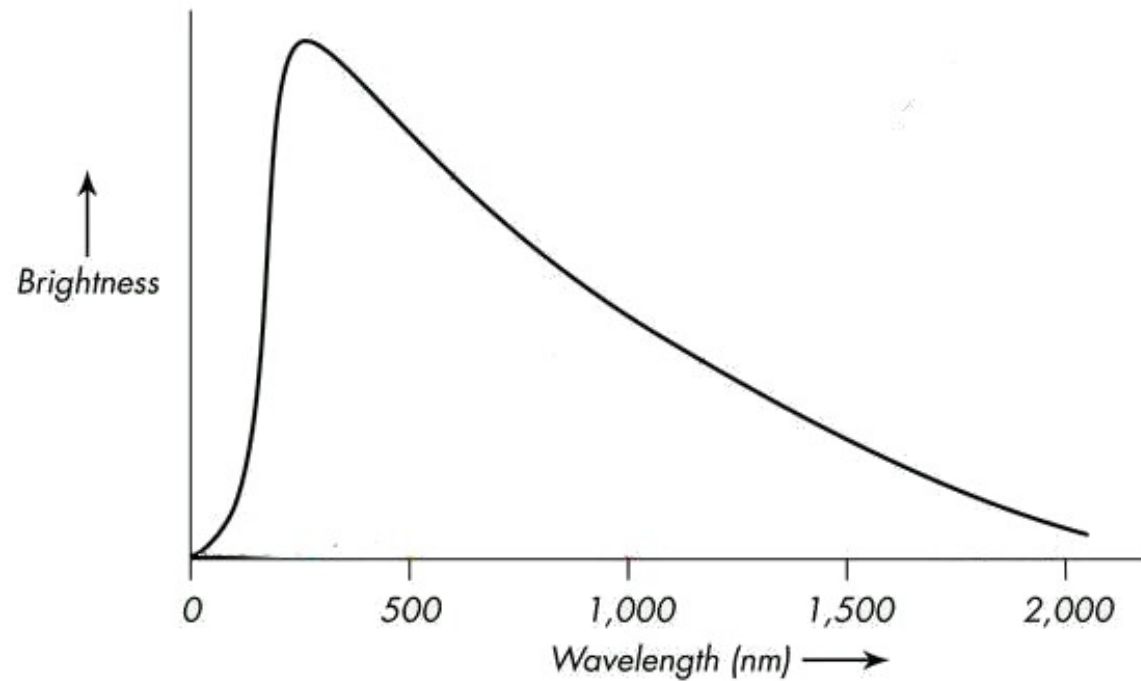
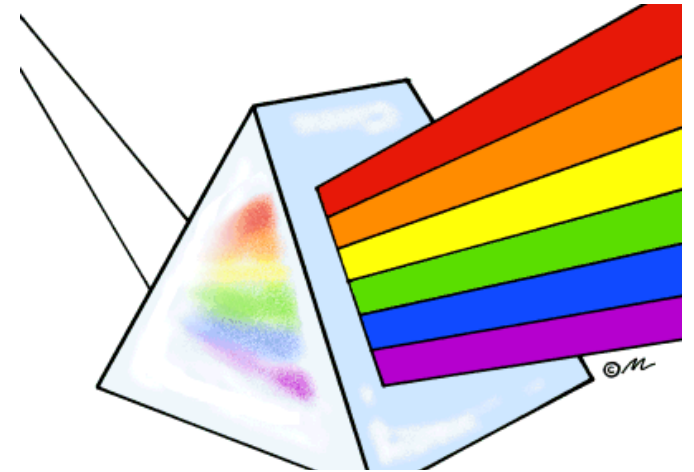


# Spectroscopy

Information we get from stars

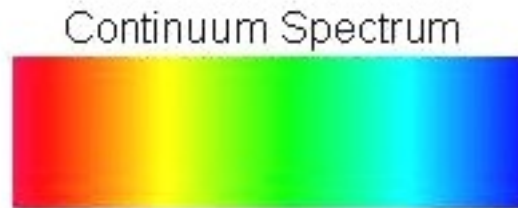
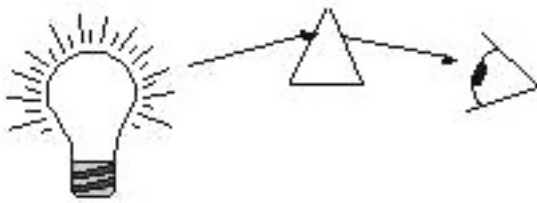
Direction of the radiation  
Amount of radiation  
Spectral distribution of the radiation

**Astrometry**  
**Photometry**  
**Spectroscopy**

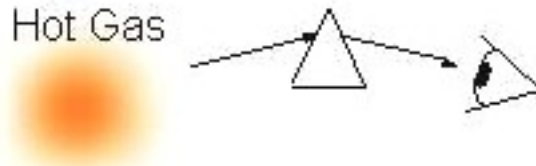


# Spectroscopy

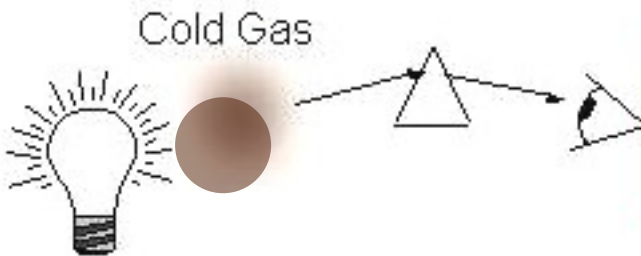
## Spectral lines – Kirchhoff's three empirical laws of spectroscopy



A hot solid or a hot dense gas produces a continuum spectrum.



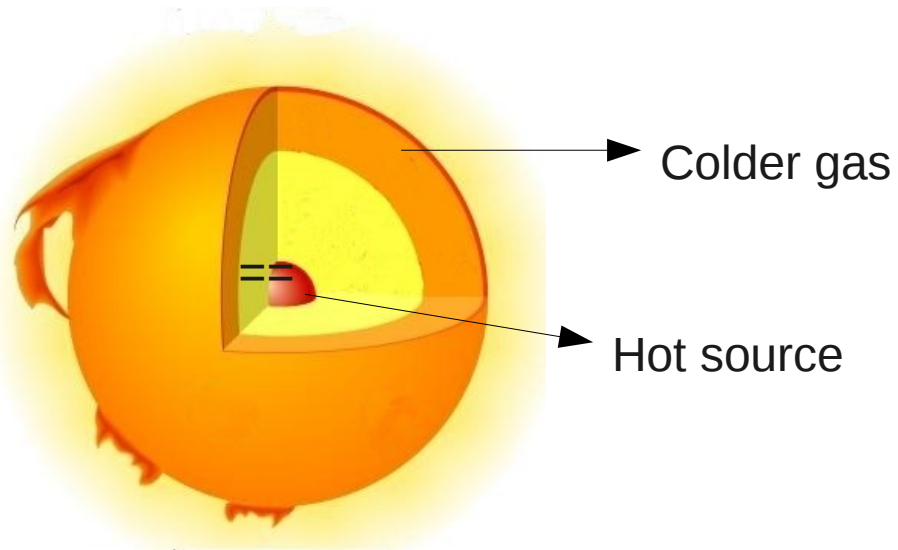
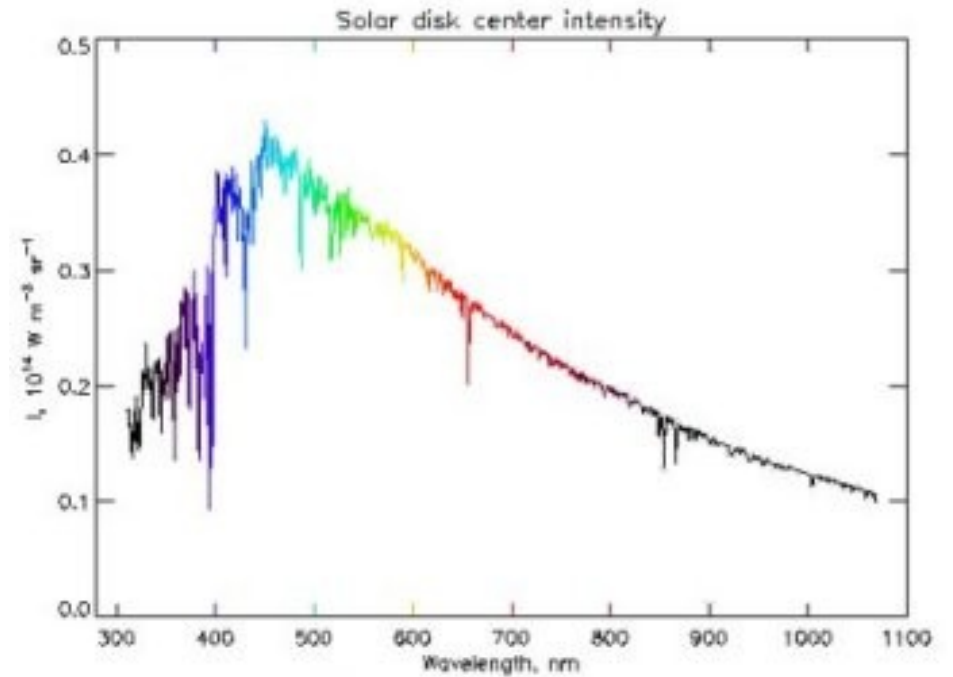
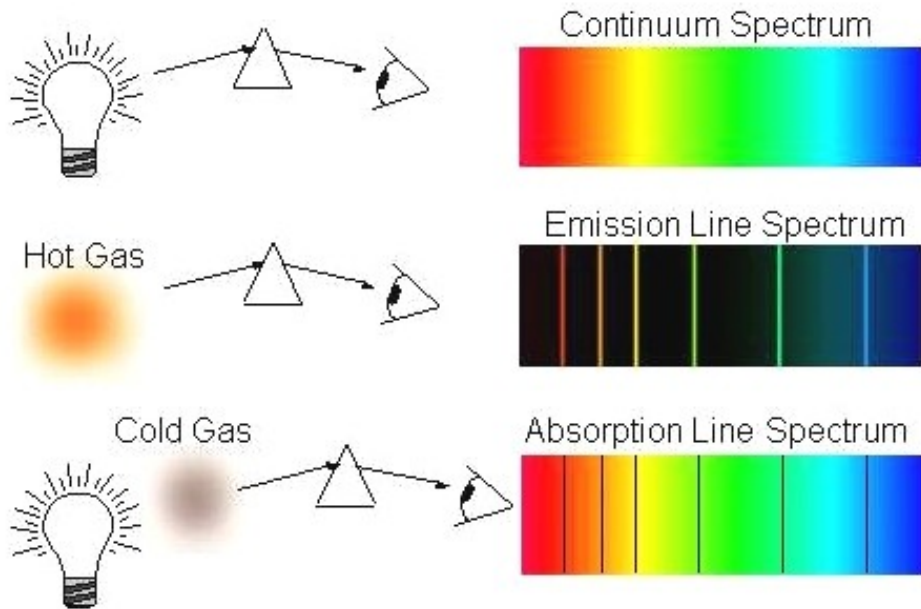
A hot low-density gas produces an emission-line spectrum.



A continuous source viewed through a cold gas produces an absorption-line spectrum.

# Spectroscopy

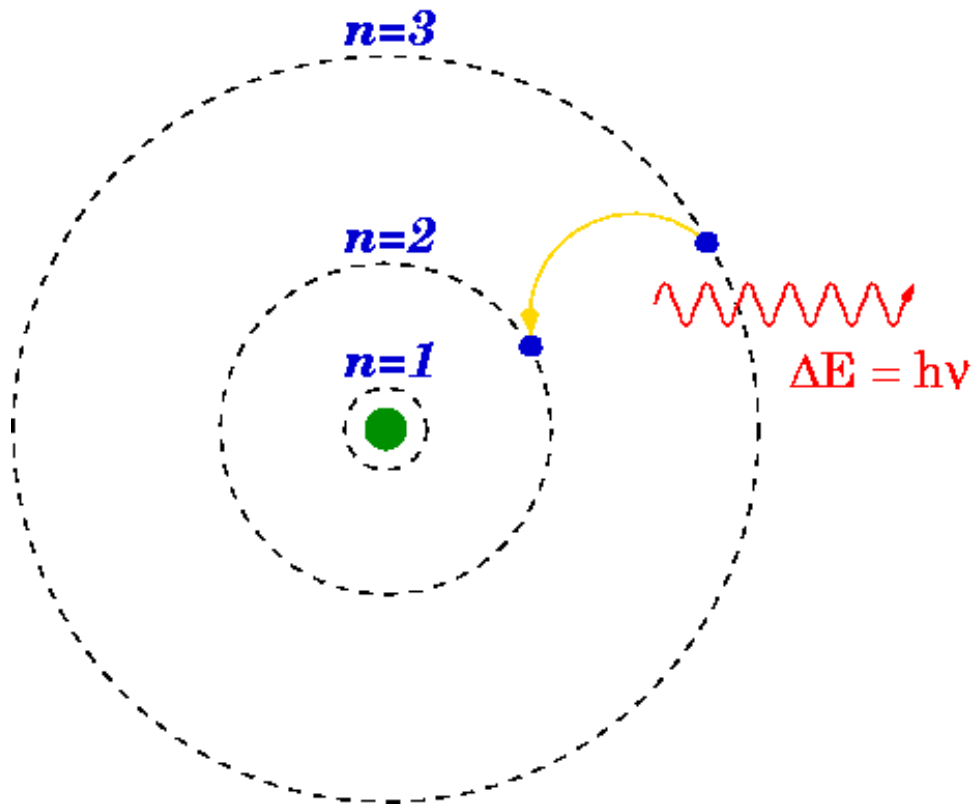
Spectral lines – Kirchhoff's three empirical laws of spectroscopy



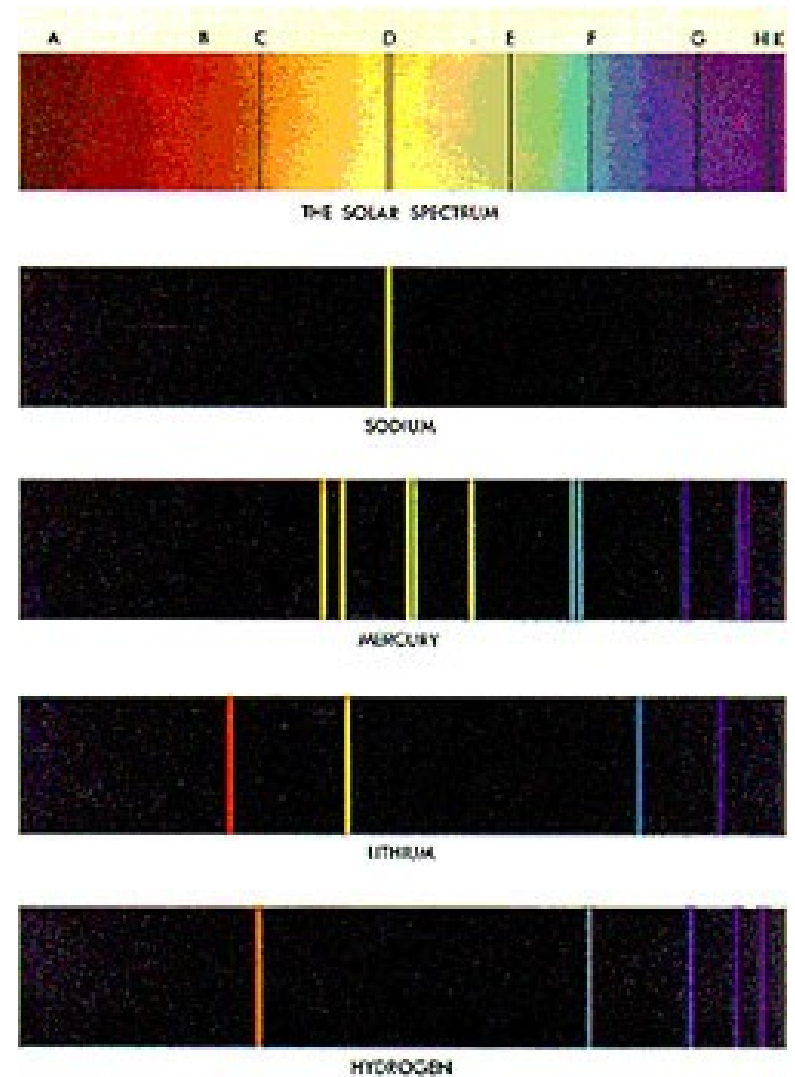


# Spectroscopy

Spectral lines are chemical signatures

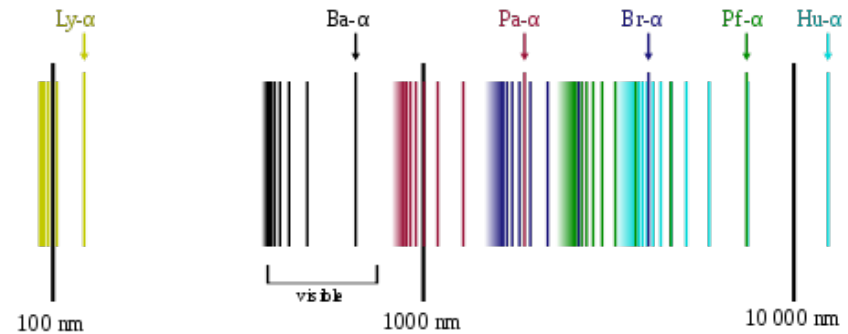
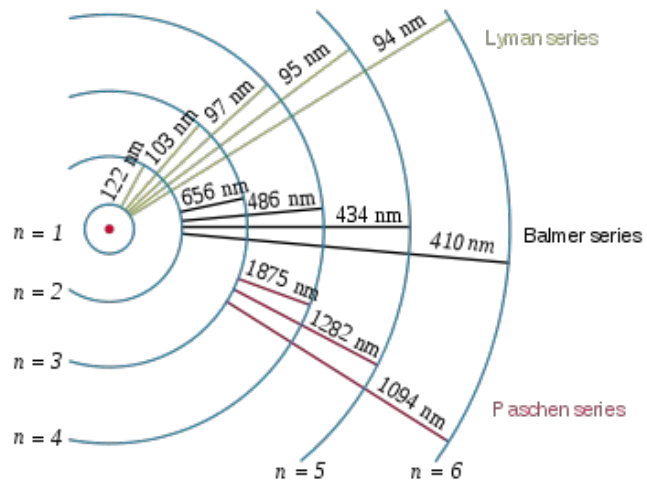


Different elements have different energy levels,  
Thus different spectral lines



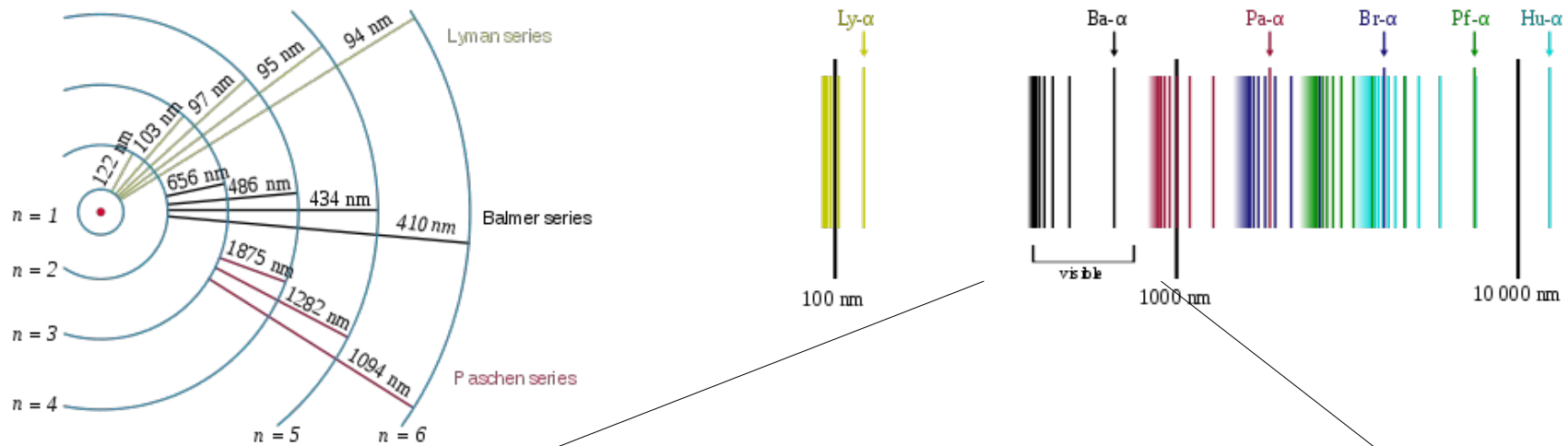
# Spectroscopy

## The hydrogen spectrum

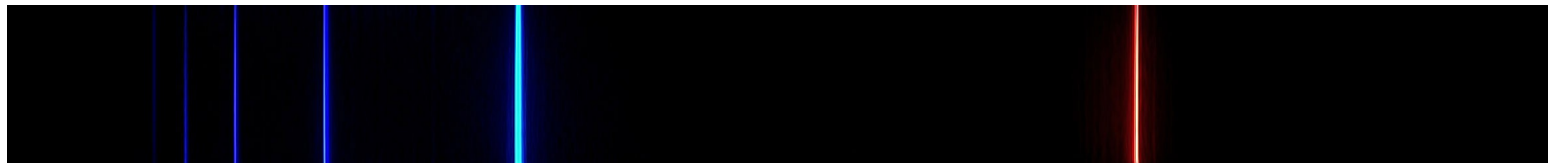


# Spectroscopy

## The hydrogen spectrum



The Balmer series ( $n=2$ ) is in the visible range

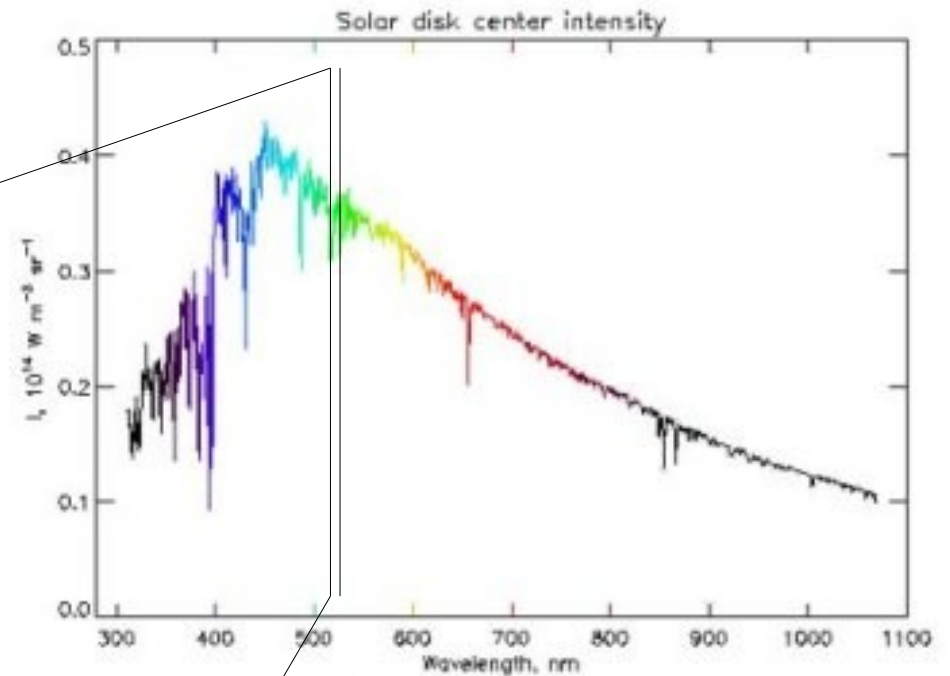
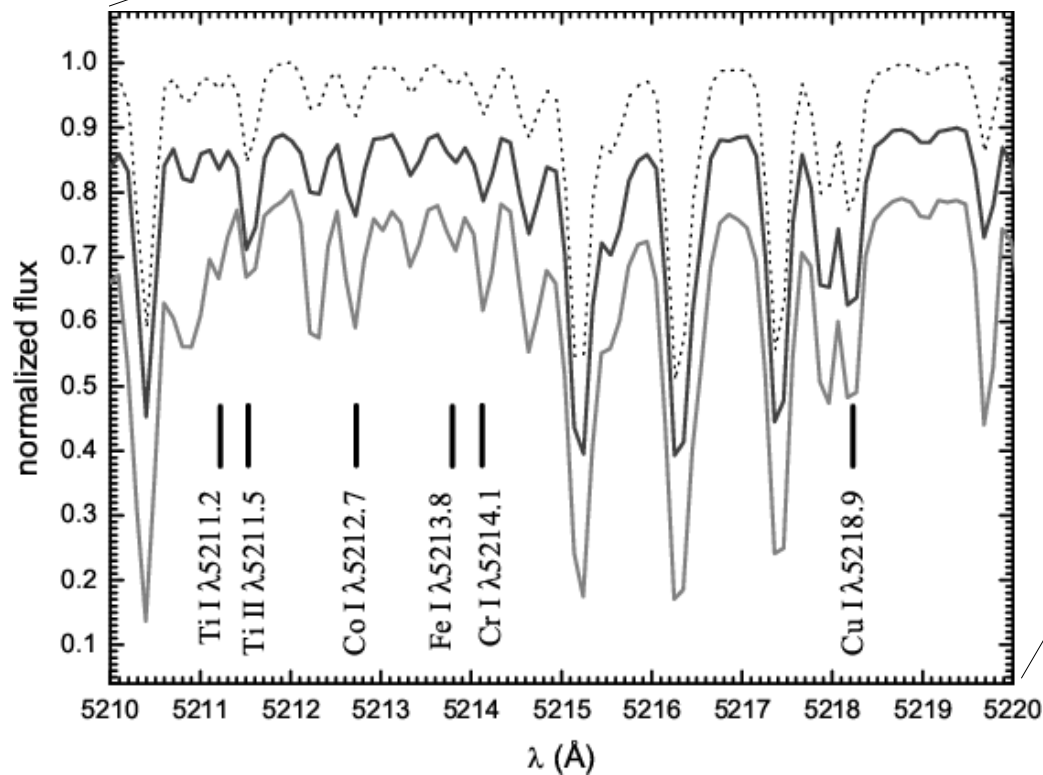


Line	H $\epsilon$	H $\delta$	H $\gamma$	H $\beta$	H $\alpha$
Wavelength		434nm		486nm	656nm

# Spectroscopy

Spectroscopy is very accurate

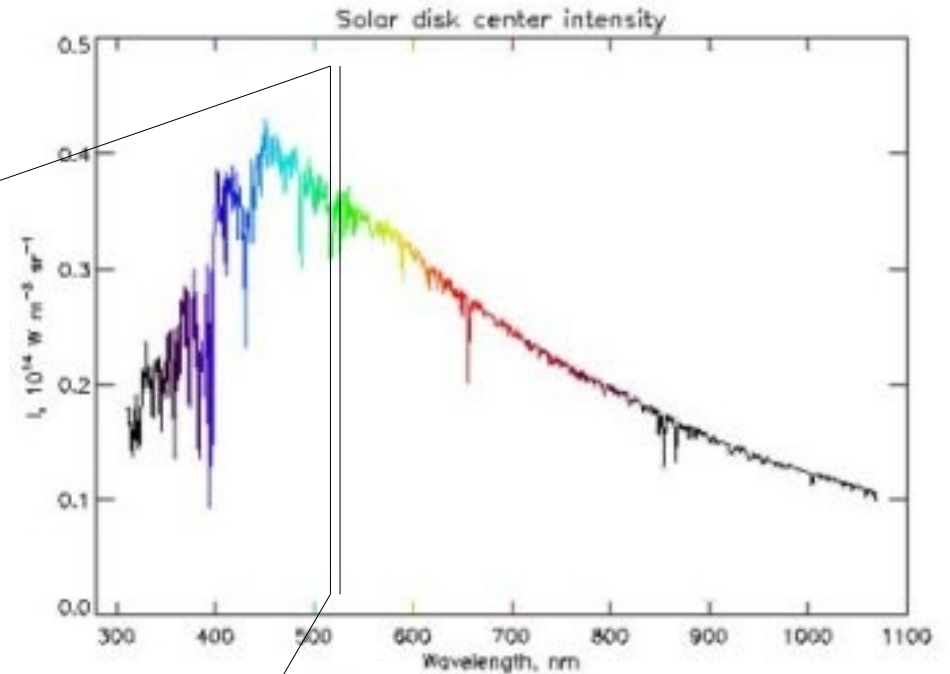
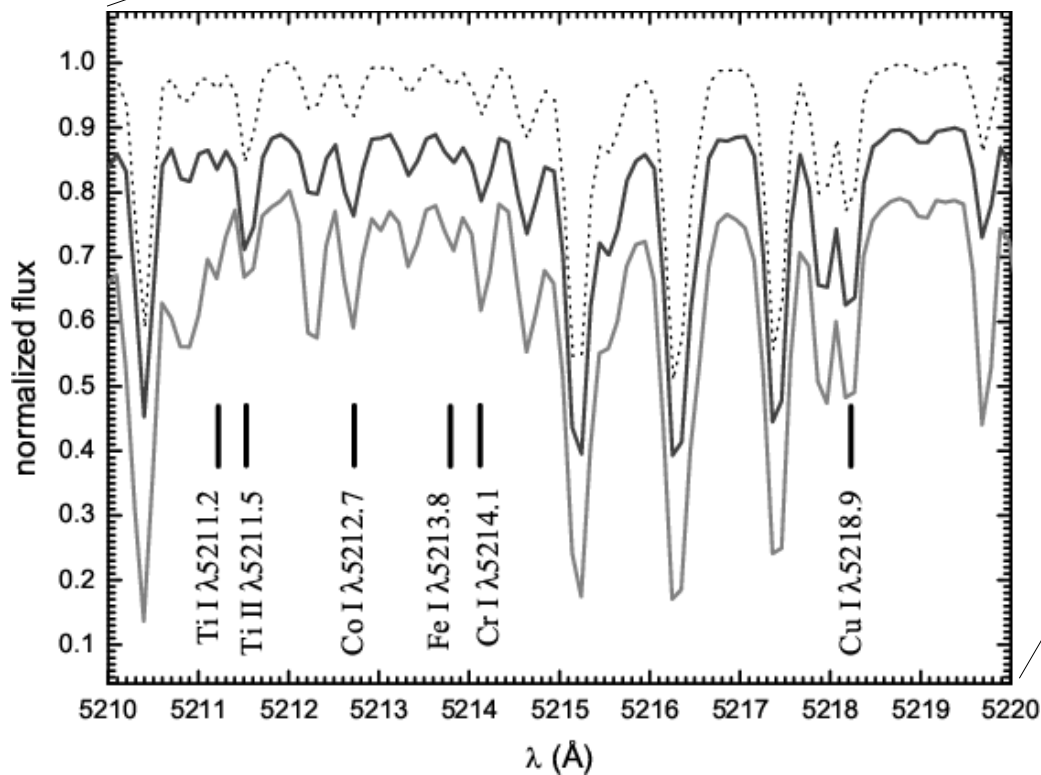
We can measure line positions to an accuracy of *mili-Ångströms* ( $m\text{\AA}$ ).



# Spectroscopy

Spectroscopy is very accurate

We can measure line positions to an accuracy of *mili-Ångströms* (mÅ).

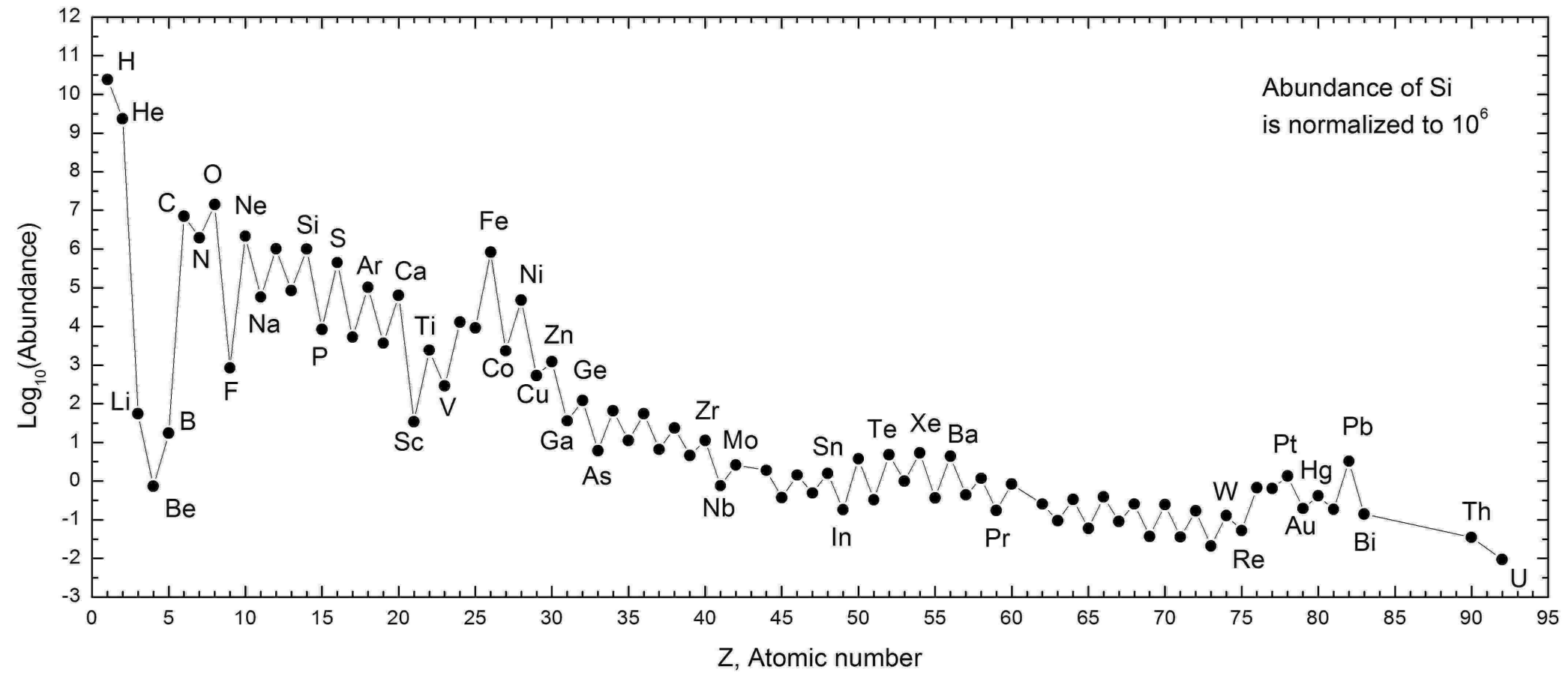


**Ångström**

$$1\text{Å} = 10^{-10} \text{ m} \\ = 10^{-1} \text{ nm}$$

# Spectroscopy

## The chemical composition of the Sun

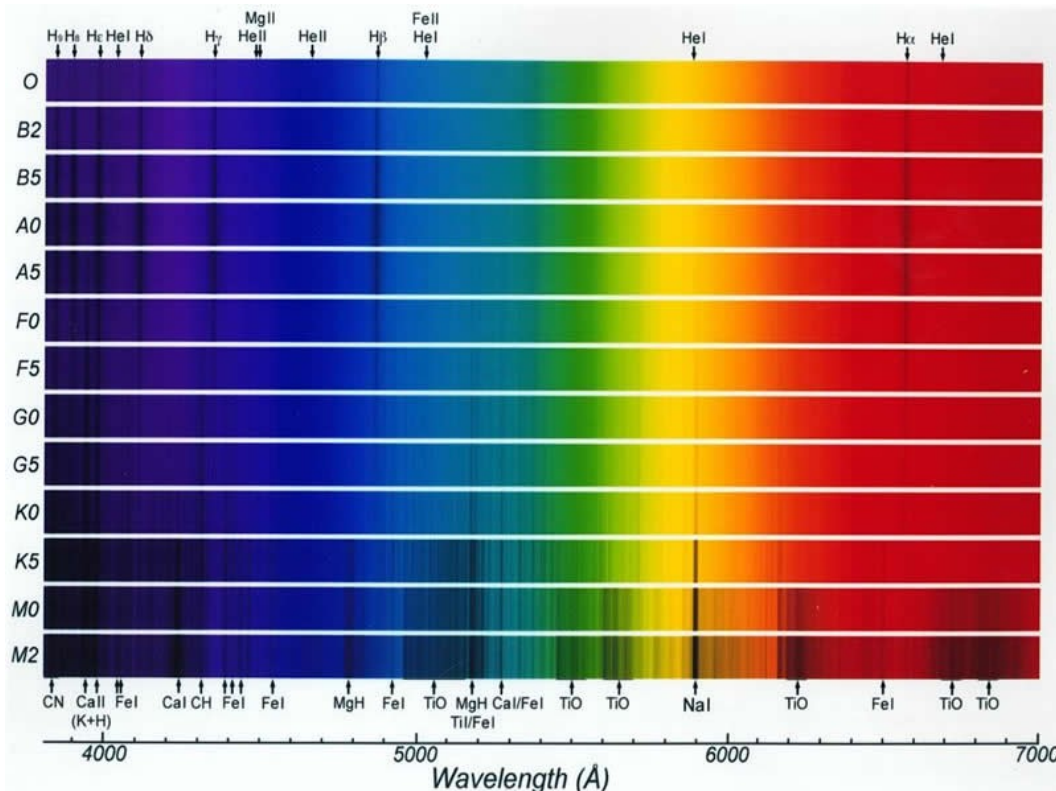
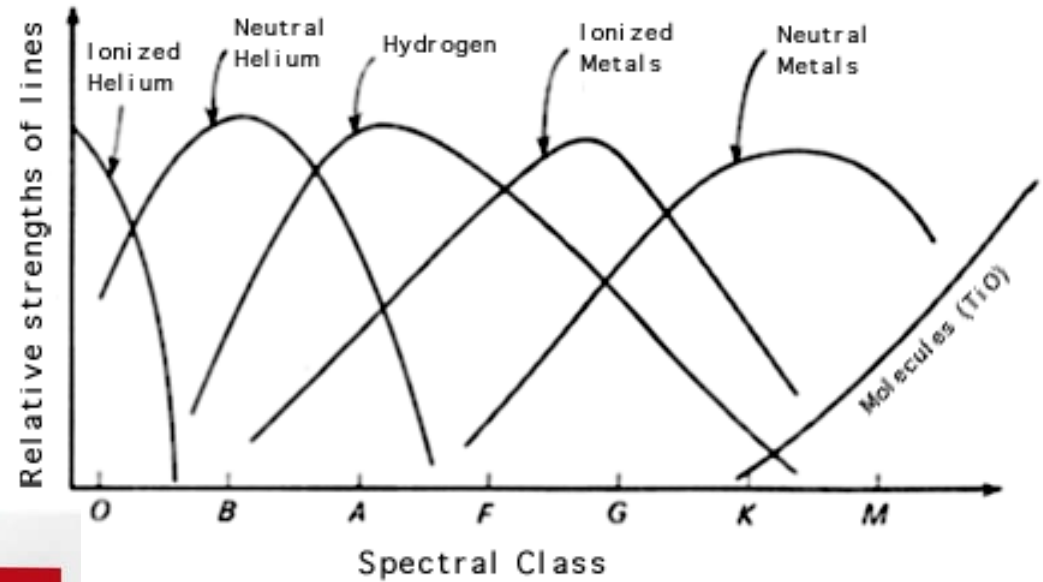




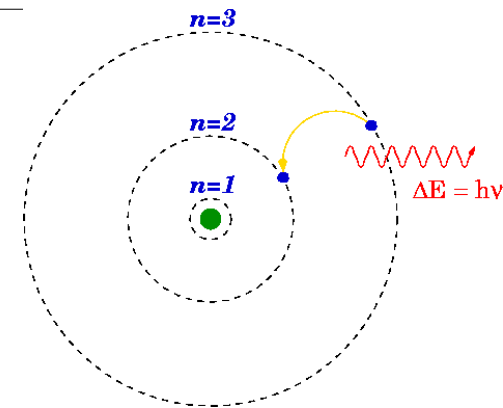
# Spectroscopy

The strength of spectral lines enables a measurement of the stellar temperature

*Excitation-ionization sequence*



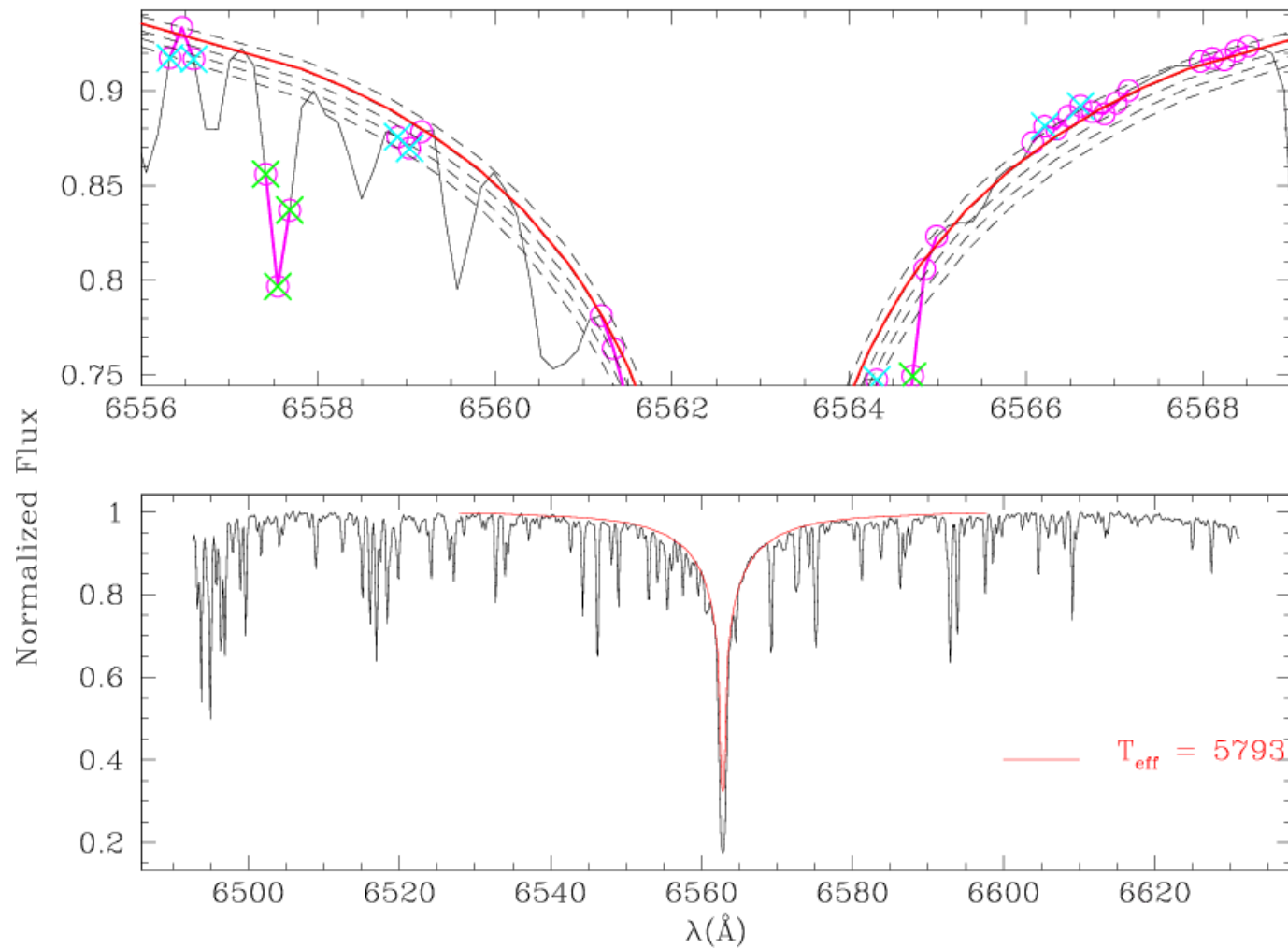
*Resulting lines*



# Spectroscopy

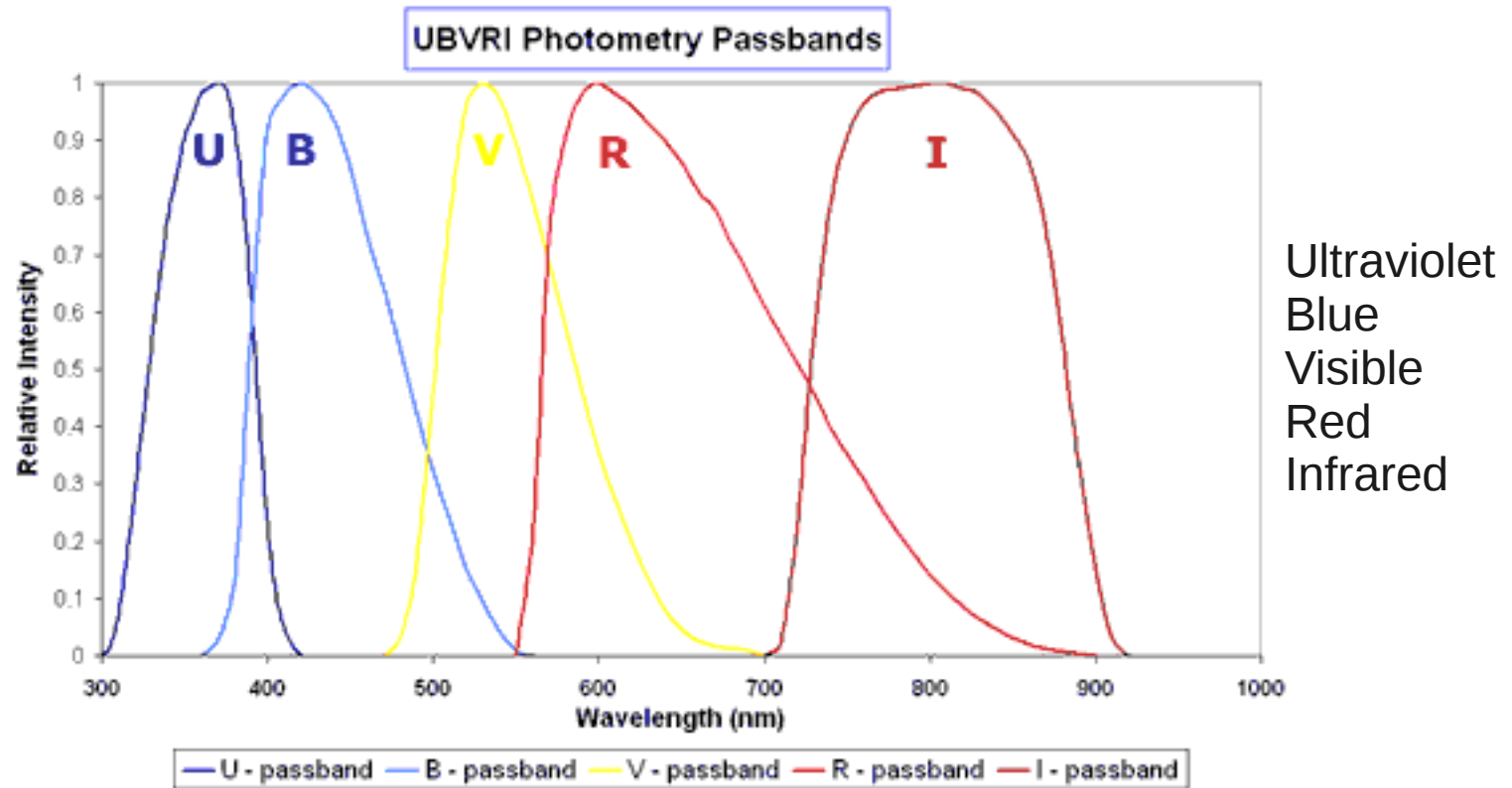
## Measuring temperatures by the wings of H $\alpha$

HR5459



# Photometry

*The UBVRI system* – 5 little quantities that carry a lot of information

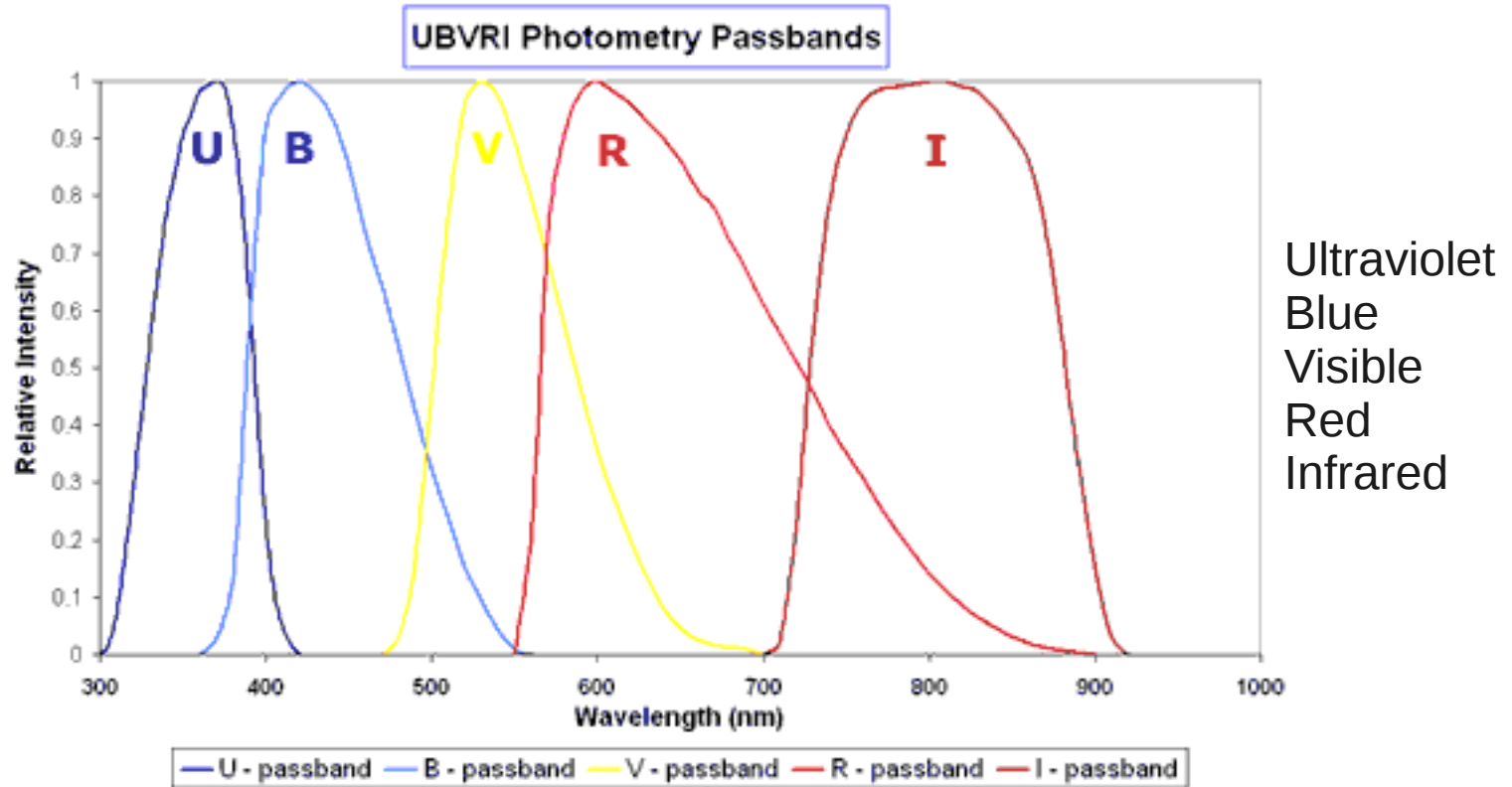


These are magnitudes!

$$M_U M_B M_V M_R M_I$$

# Photometry

***The UBVRI system*** – 5 little quantities that carry a lot of information



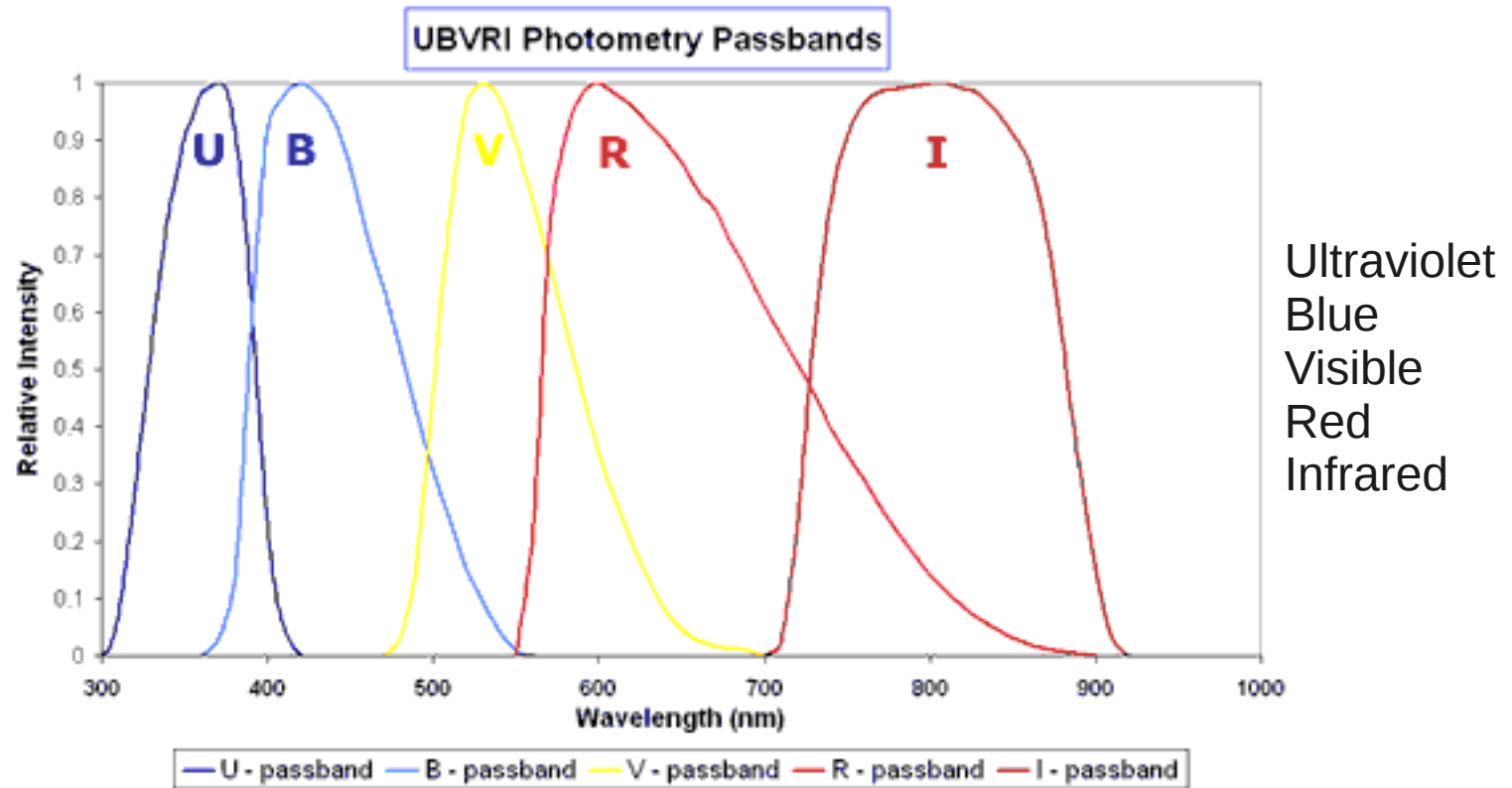
These are magnitudes!

$$M_U \quad M_B \quad M_V \quad M_R \quad M_I$$

***When you ask an astronomer for a magnitude,  
you have to specify the waveband.***

# Photometry

*The UBVRI system* – 5 little quantities that carry a lot of information



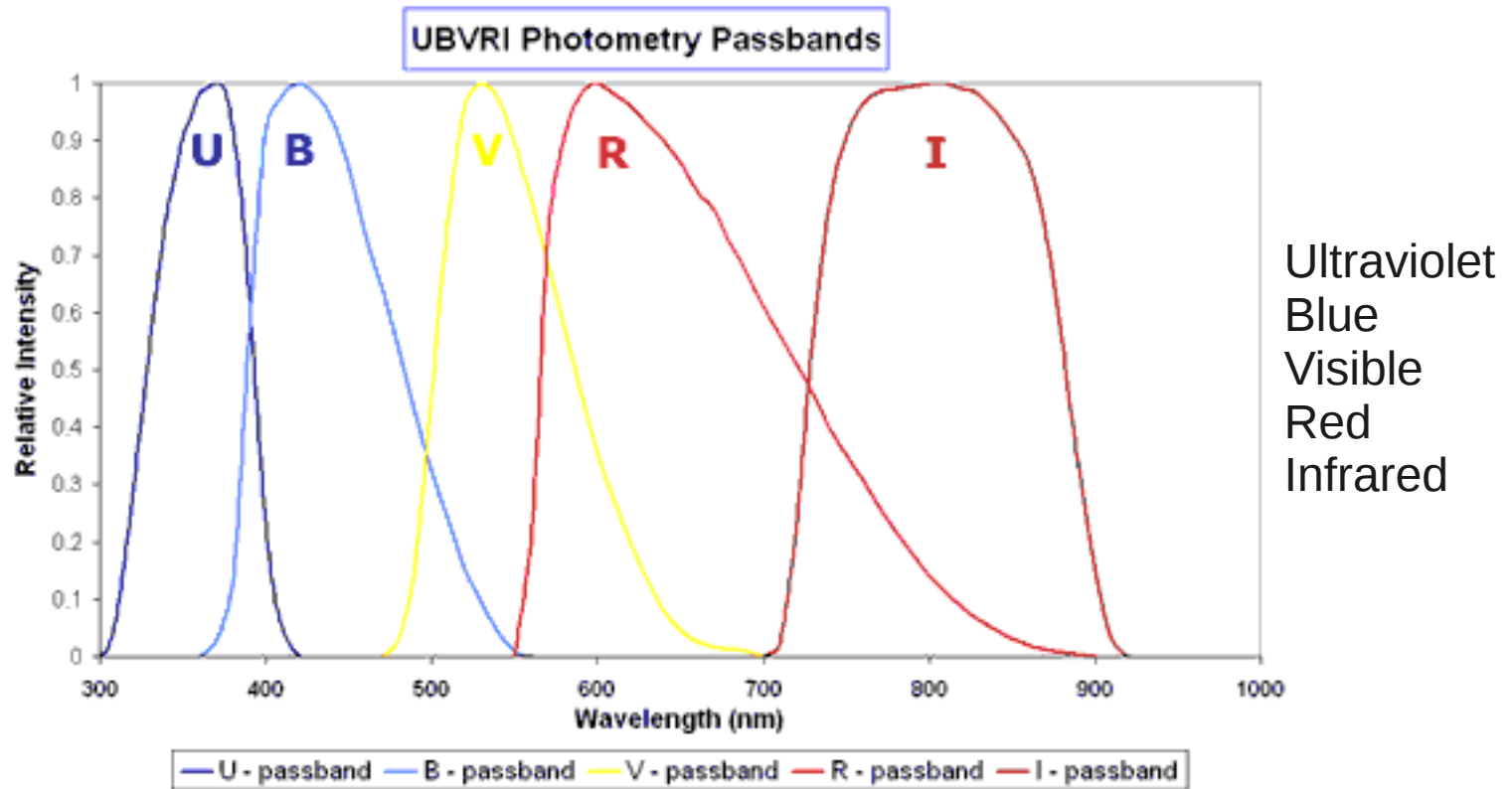
These are magnitudes!

$$M_U M_B M_V M_R M_I$$

**Bolometric Magnitude ( $M_{\text{bol}}$ )**

# Photometry

*The UBVRI system* – 5 little quantities that carry a lot of information



These are magnitudes!

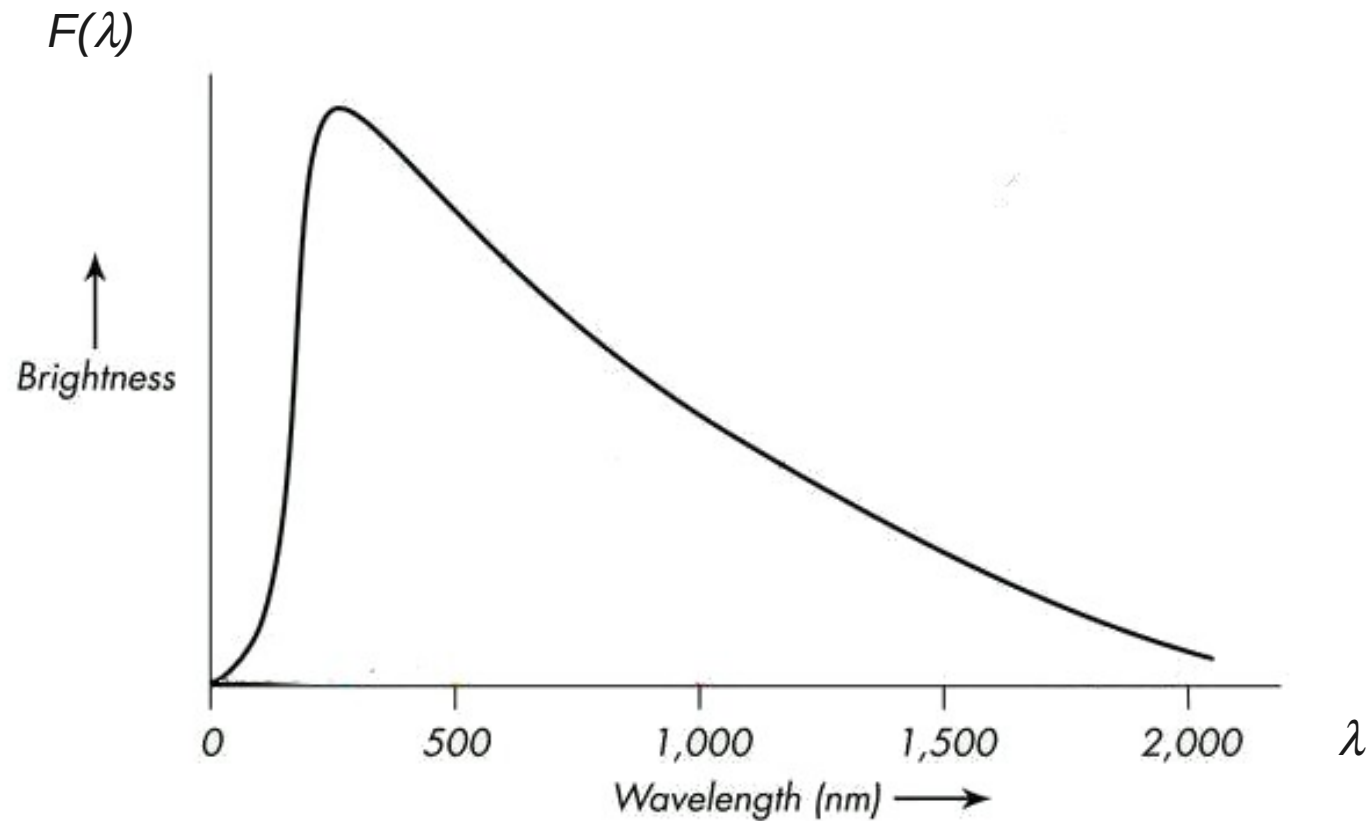
$$M_U \quad M_B \quad M_V \quad M_R \quad M_I$$

***Bolometric Magnitude ( $M_{\text{bol}}$ ) = In all wavelengths***

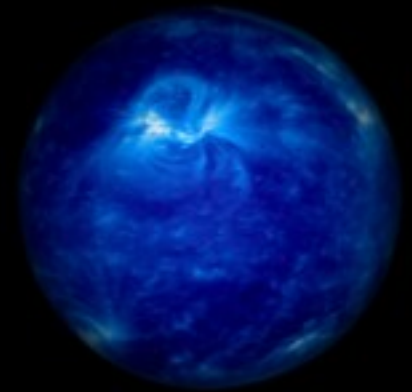
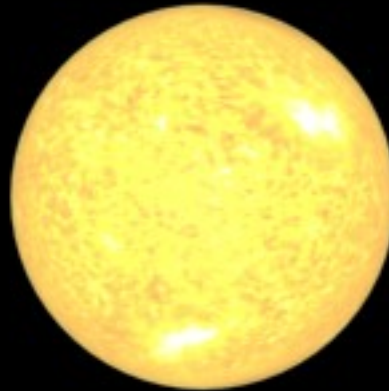
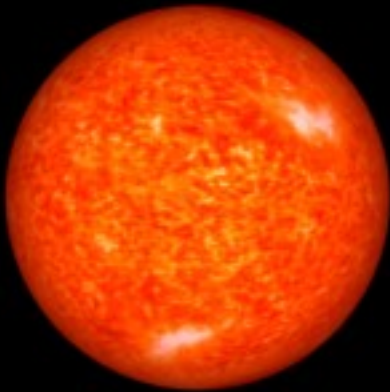
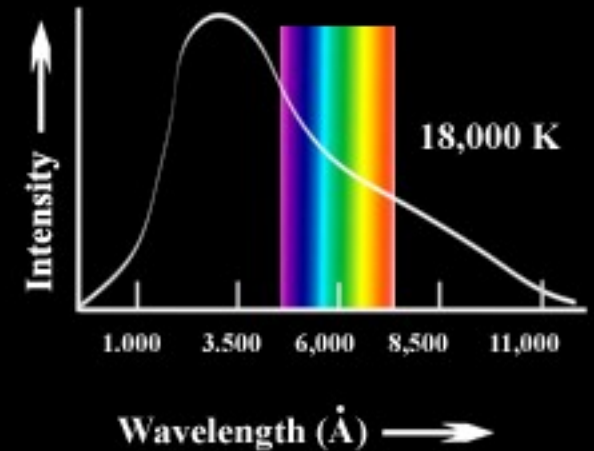
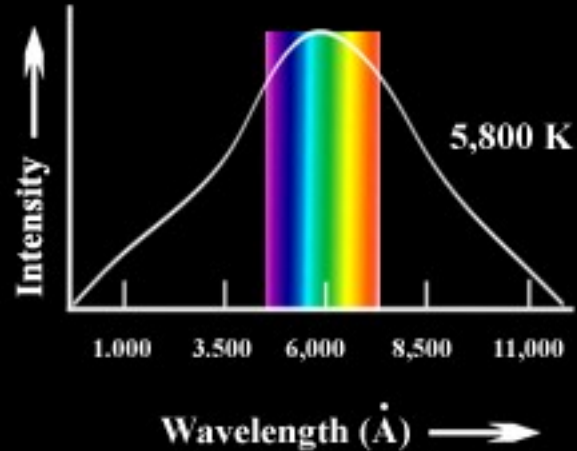
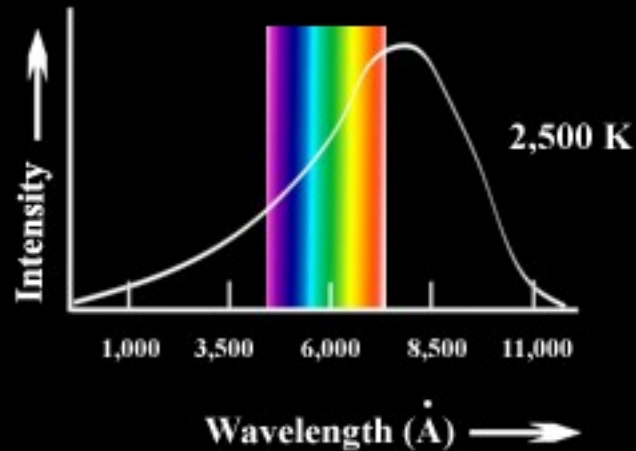
(integrated over the whole electromagnetic spectrum, from radio to gamma rays)



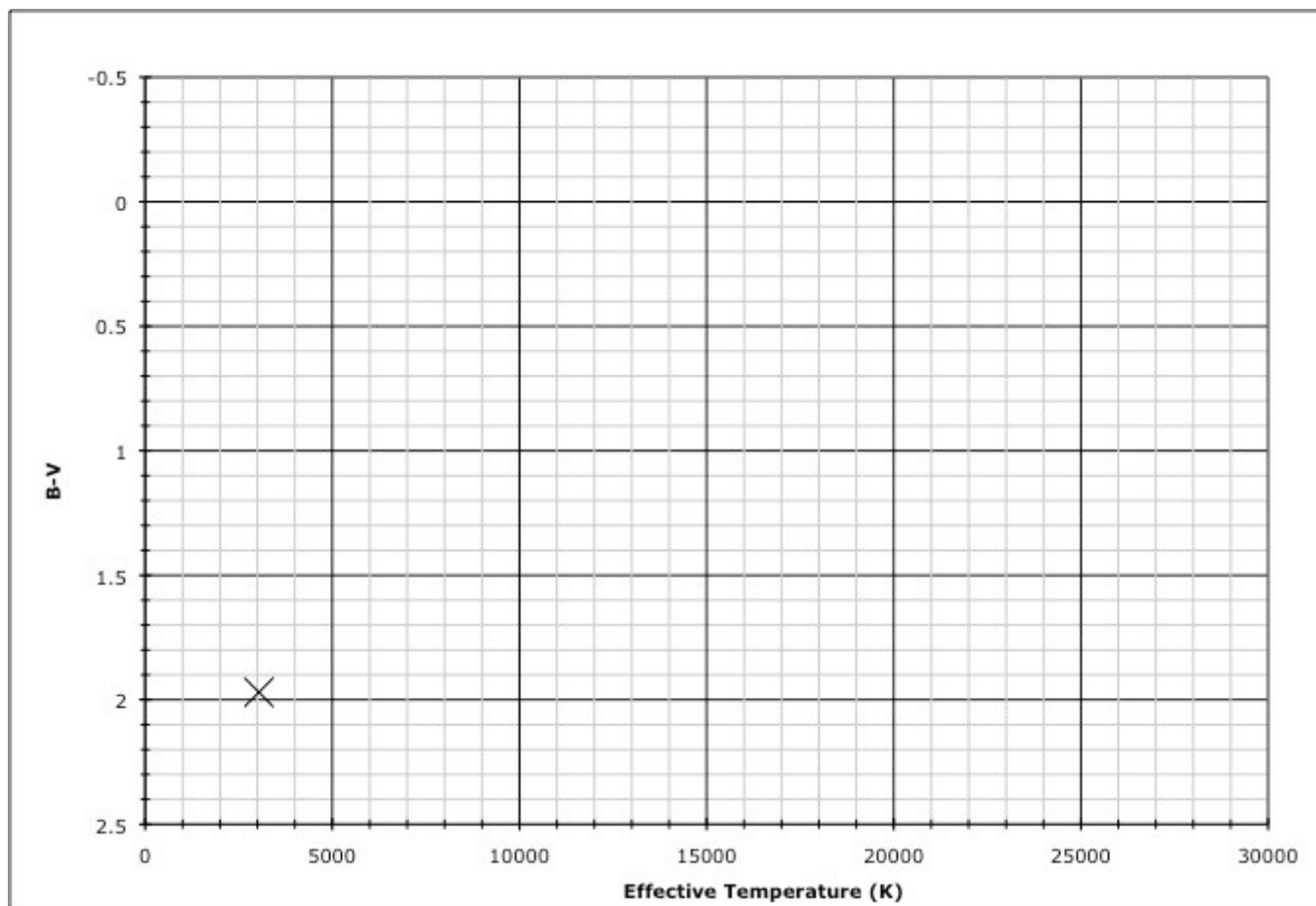
# The Black Body radiation curve again

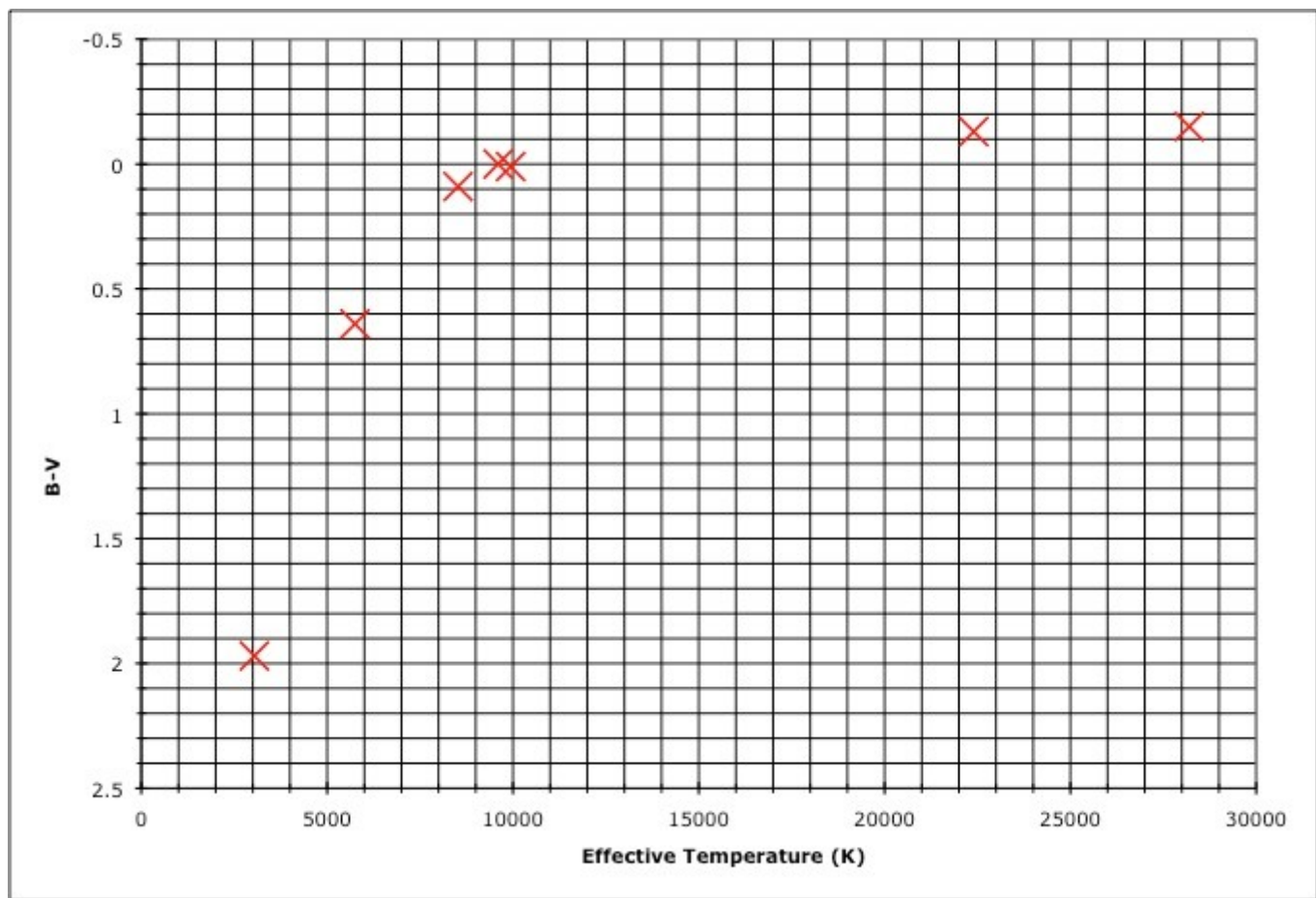


# Color as a measurement of temperature



Colors are exaggerated

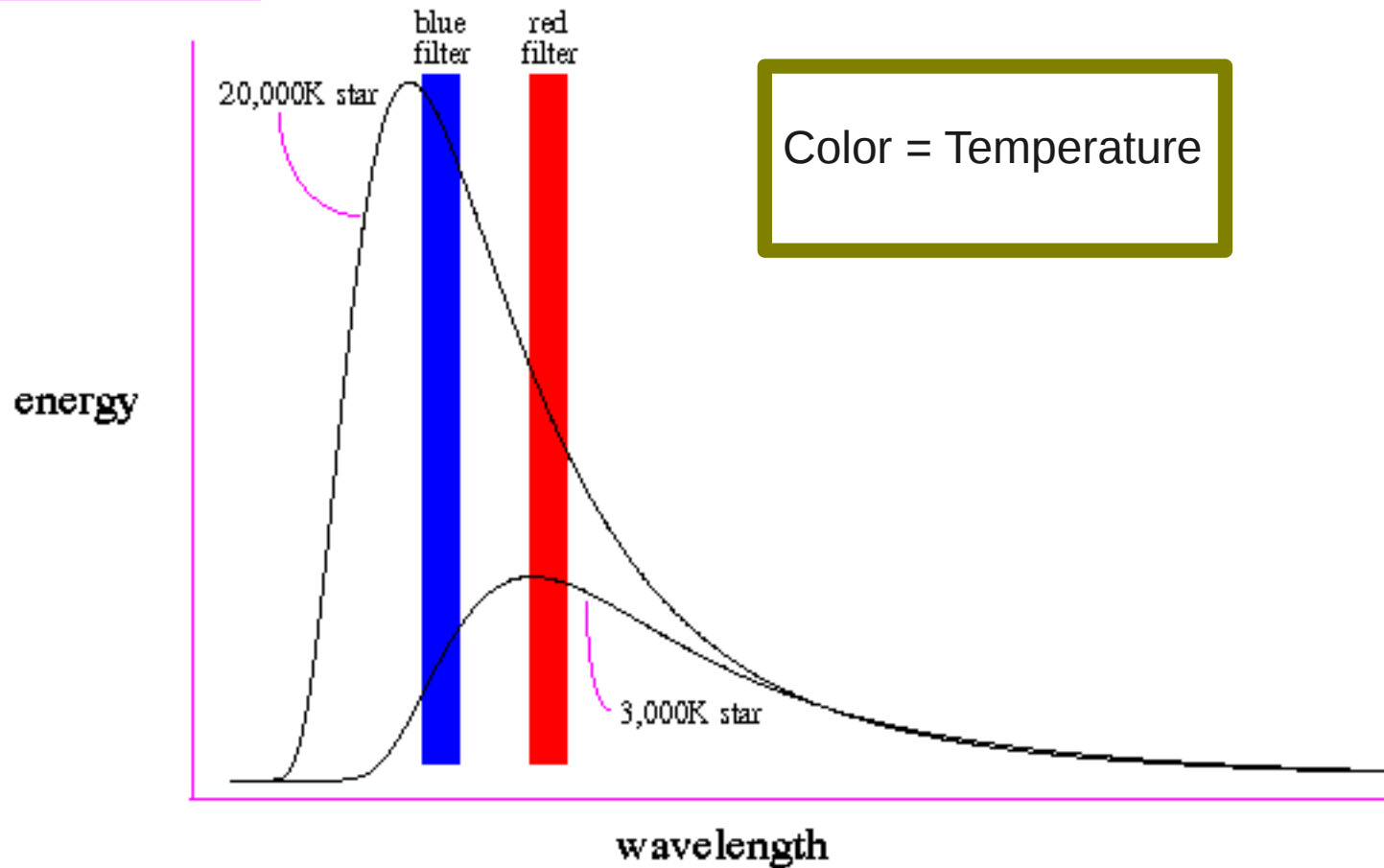




# Photometry

**Color:** Magnitude difference between filters. Eg. *B-V*, *U-B*, *V-I*, *B-R*

Color Index

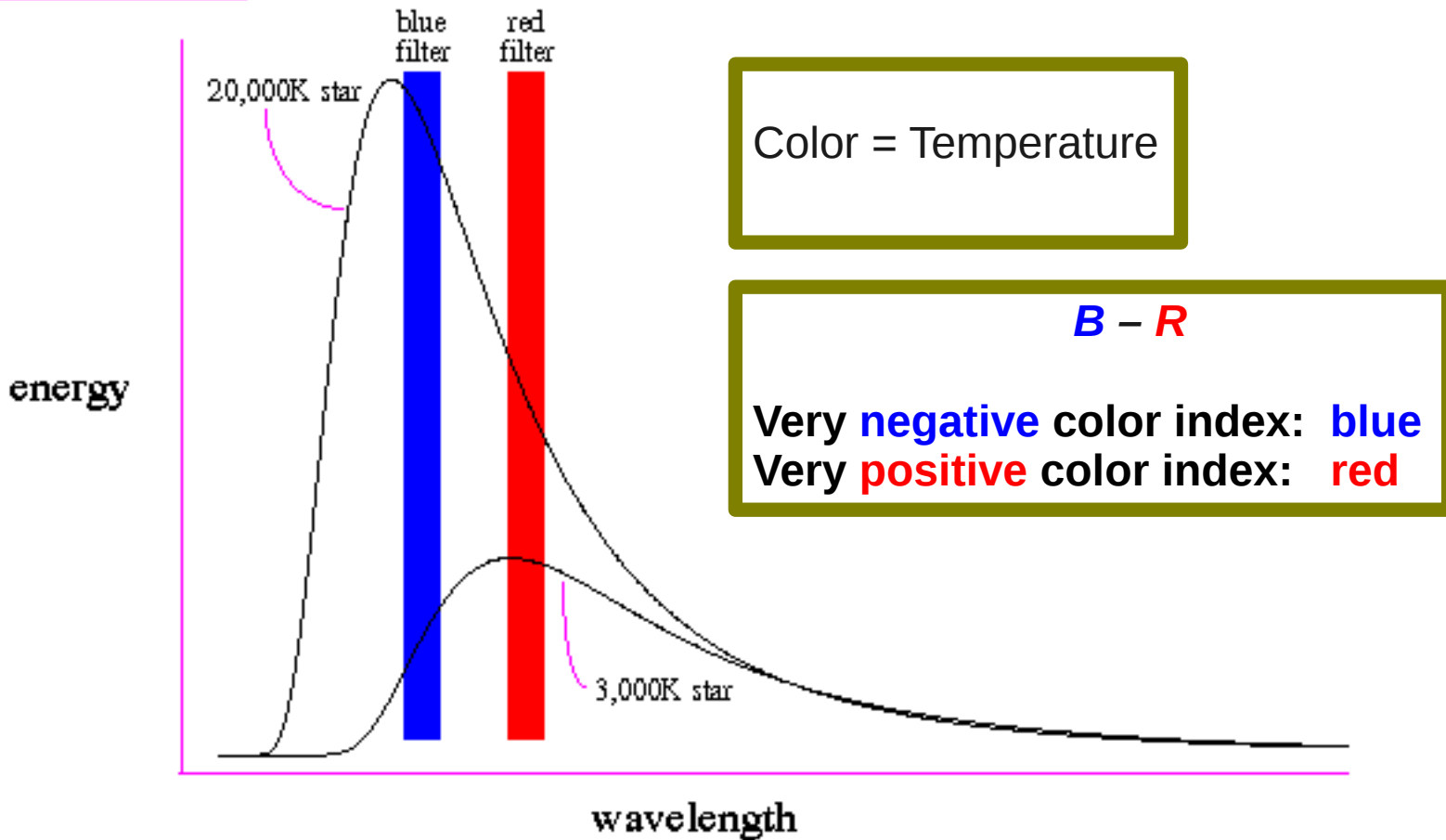


Color is a measurement of the **slope** of the Black Body radiation curve  
And therefore of temperature!

# Photometry

**Color:** Magnitude difference between filters. Eg. *B-V*, *U-B*, *V-I*, *B-R*

Color Index



Color is a measurement of the **slope** of the Black Body radiation curve  
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# Photometry

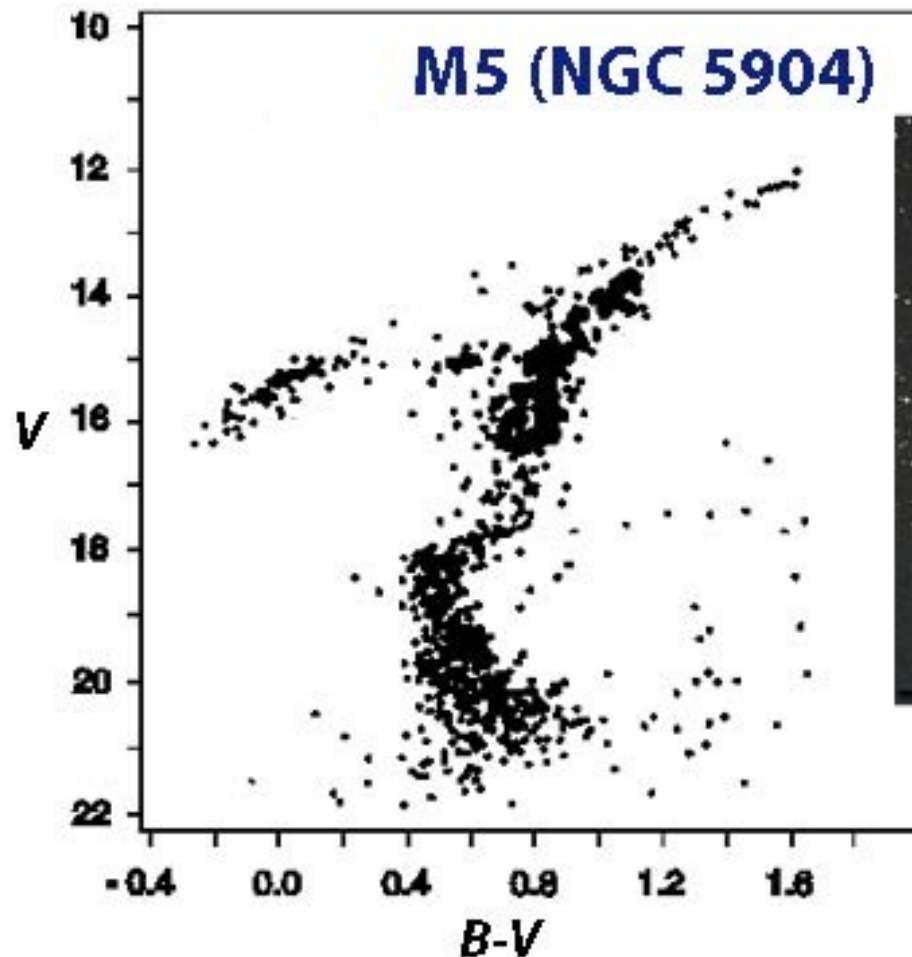
Photometry of a single star is a lot less accurate than spectroscopy of a single star

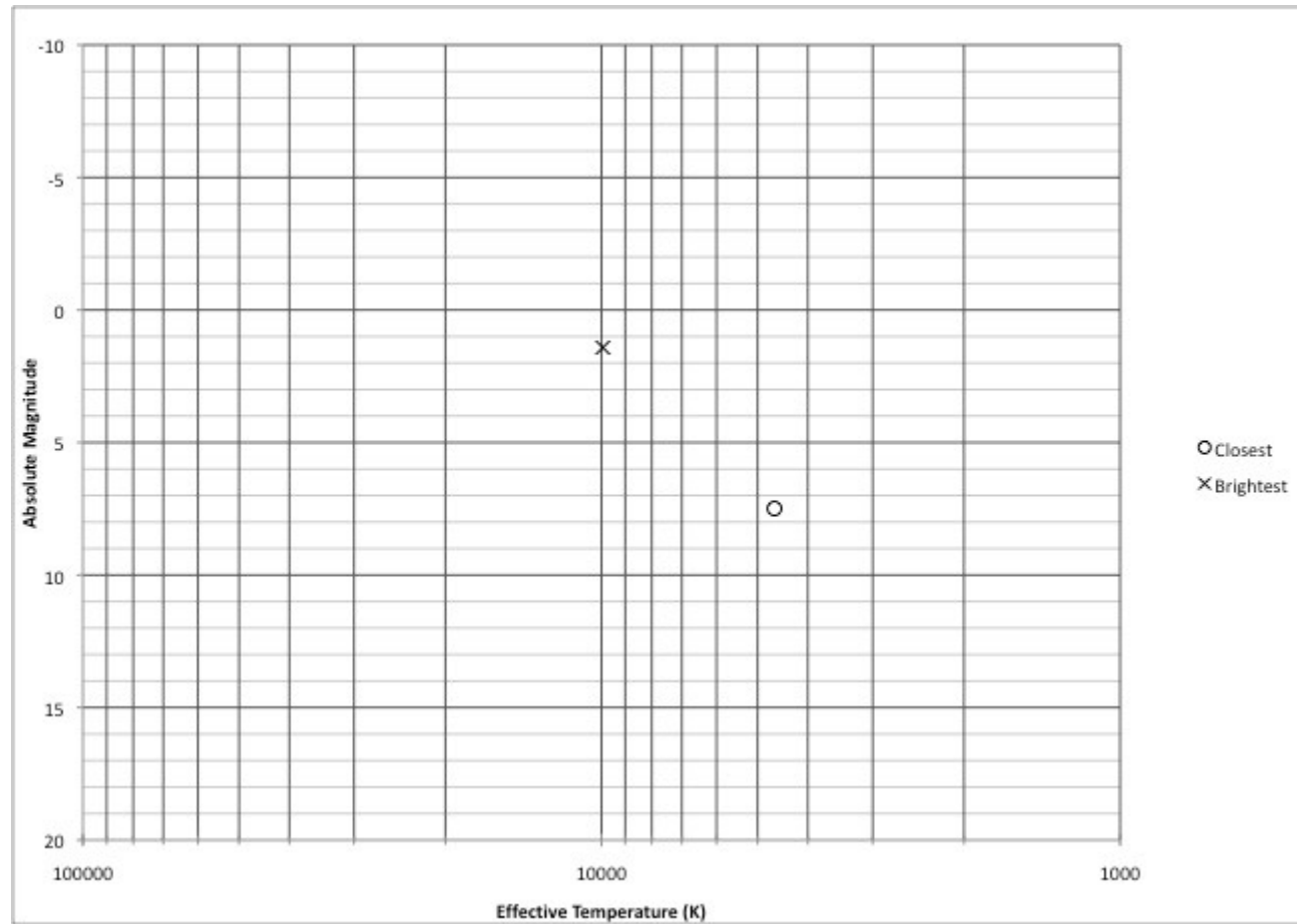
The **main advantage** of photometry over spectroscopy is that **one can easily measure a statistically significant sample of stars.**

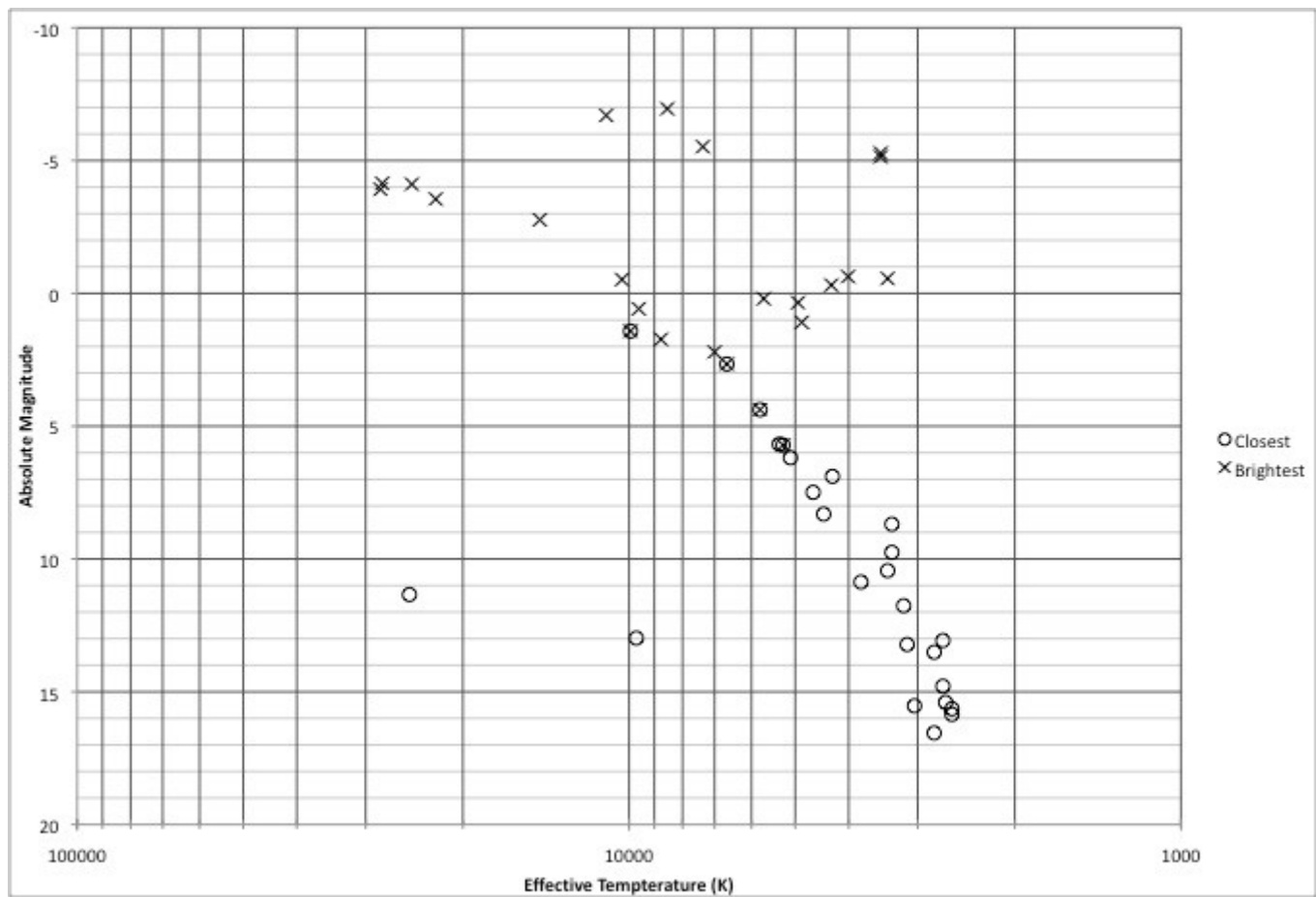
Application: Clusters

Instead of a HR diagram, we can do a **Color-Magnitude diagram** (CMD)

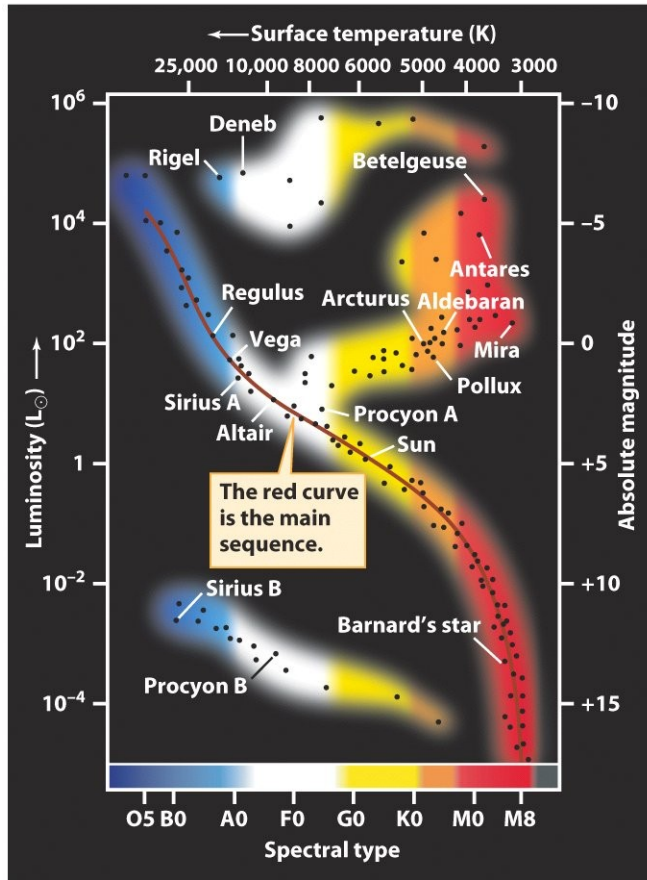
- A cluster has  $>10^4$  stars
- Impractical to do a spectral analysis of every star to get temperatures
- But... we can do photometry of a whole field in one go!



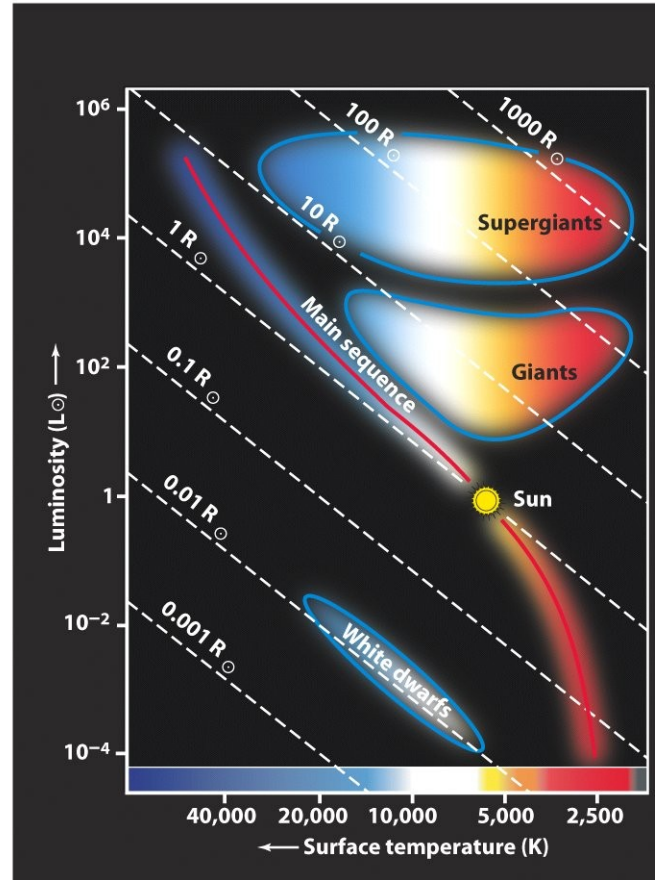




# Structure of the HR diagram

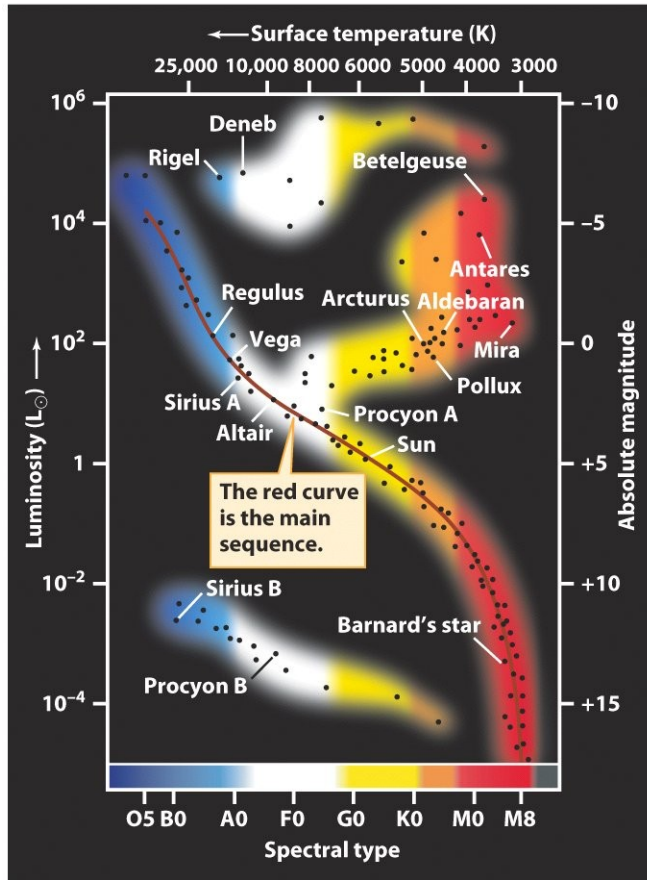


(a) A Hertzsprung-Russell (H-R) diagram

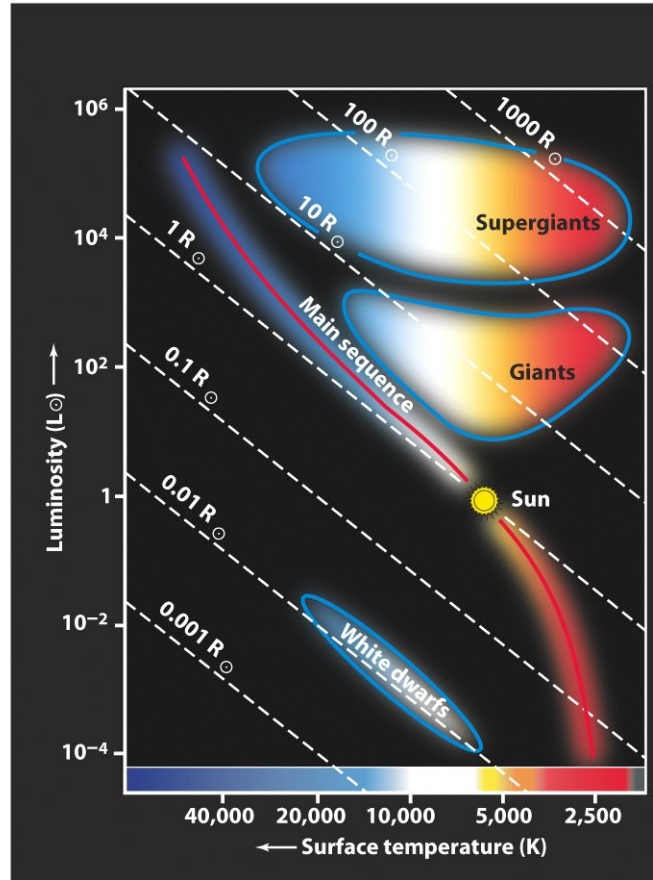


(b) The sizes of stars on an H-R diagram

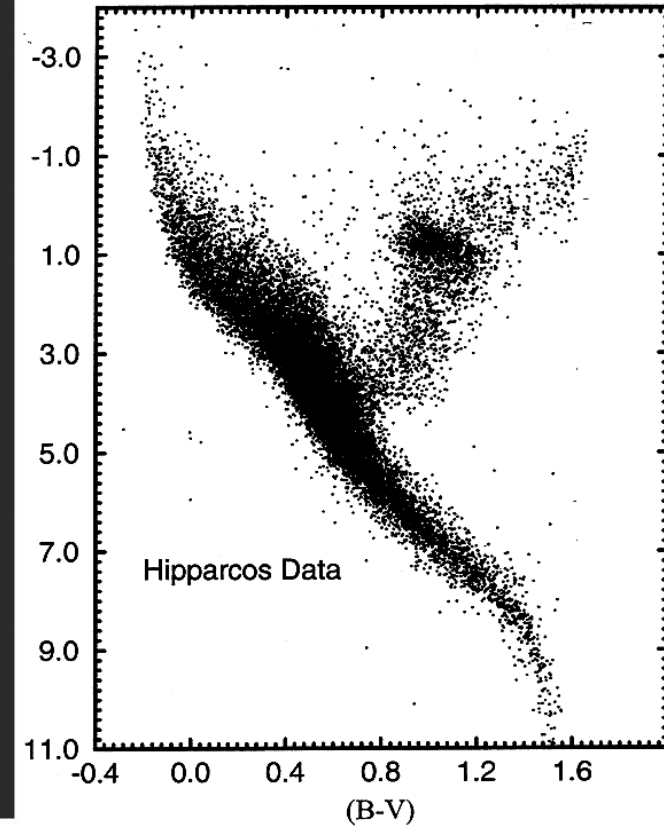
# Structure of the HR diagram



(a) A Hertzsprung-Russell (H-R) diagram



(b) The sizes of stars on an H-R diagram



**Spectral type**

=

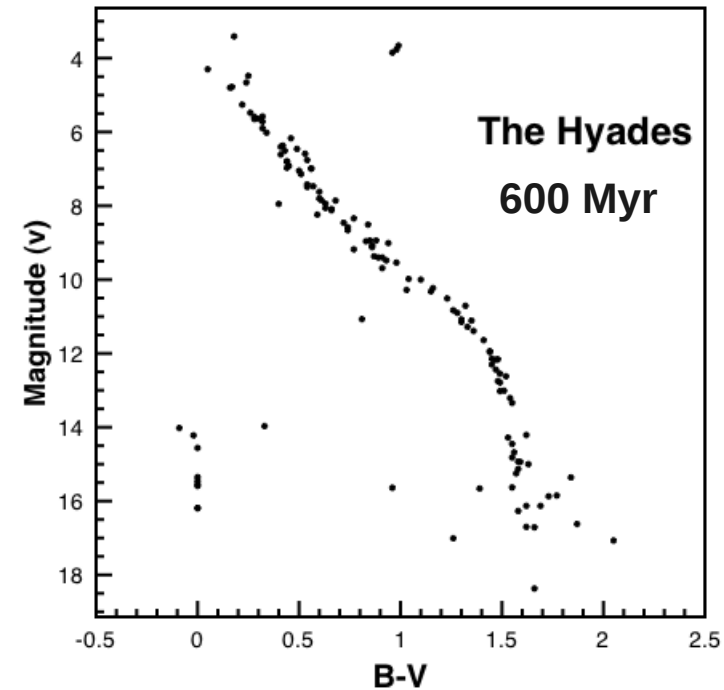
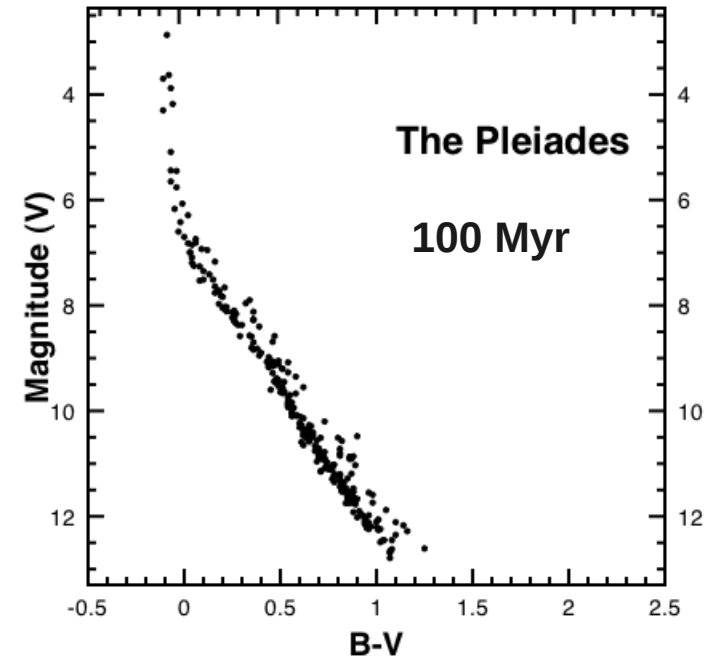
**Temperature**

=

**Color**

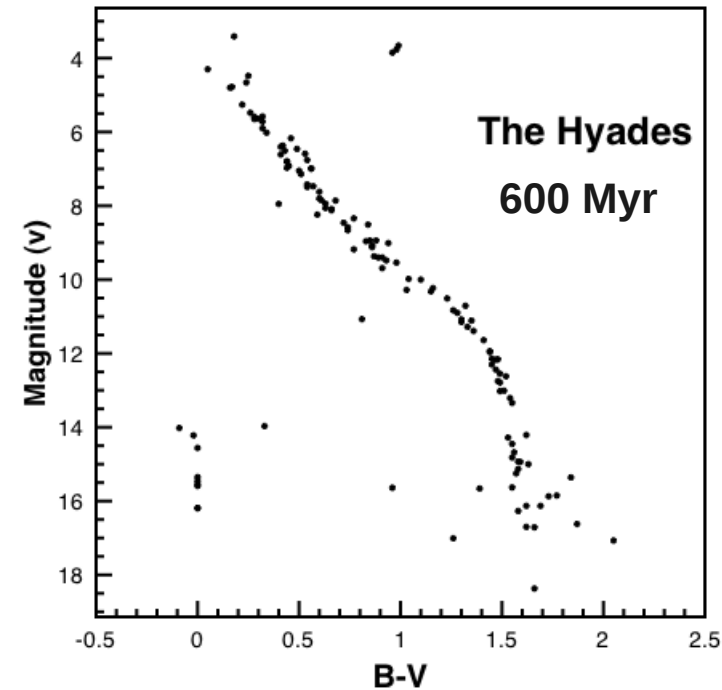
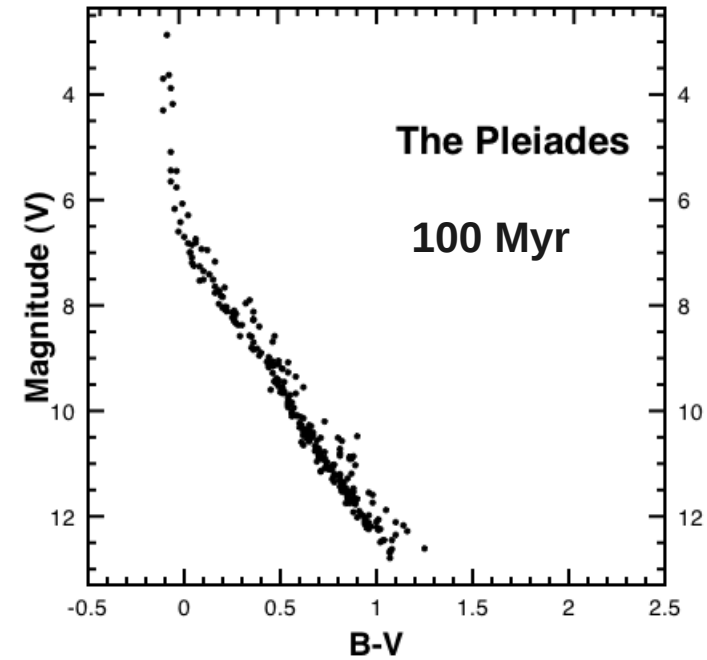


# Structure of the HR Diagram: Young Clusters

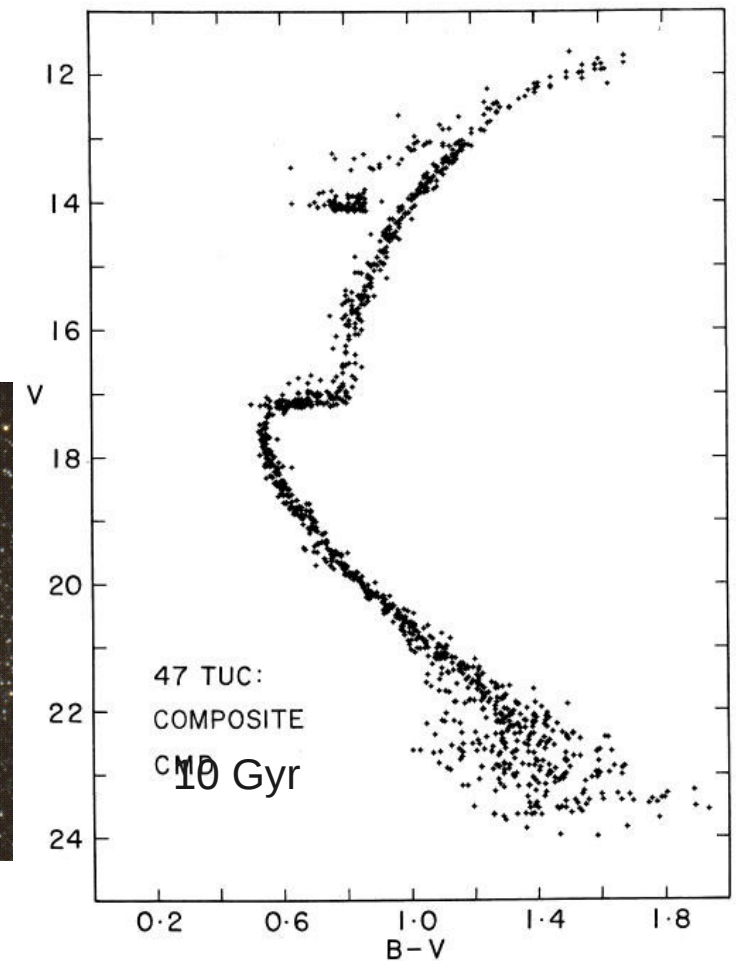
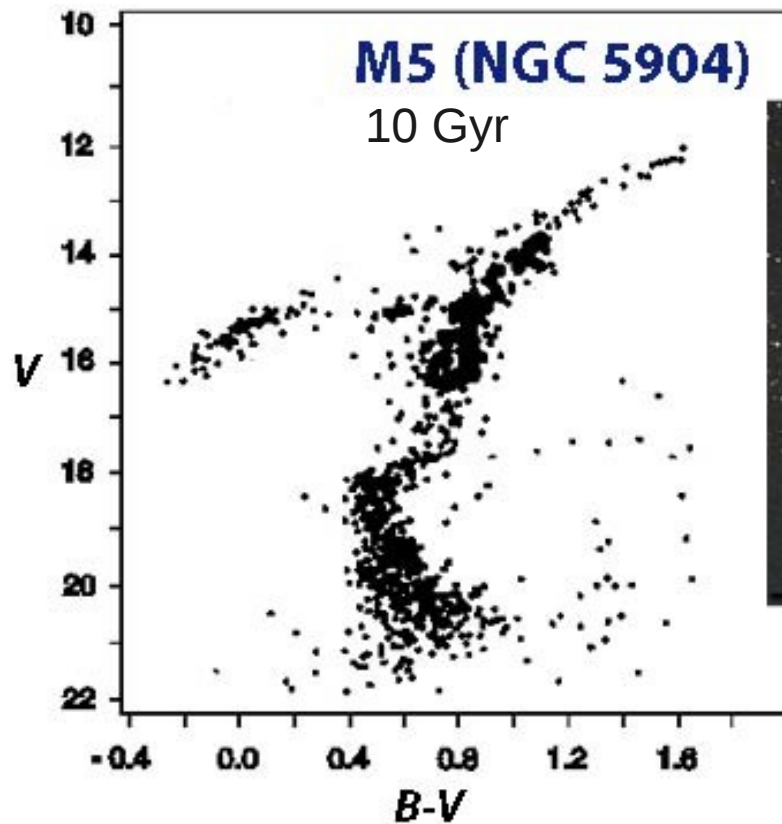


# Structure of the HR Diagram: Young Clusters

**A conspicuous Main Sequence from Blue to Red**

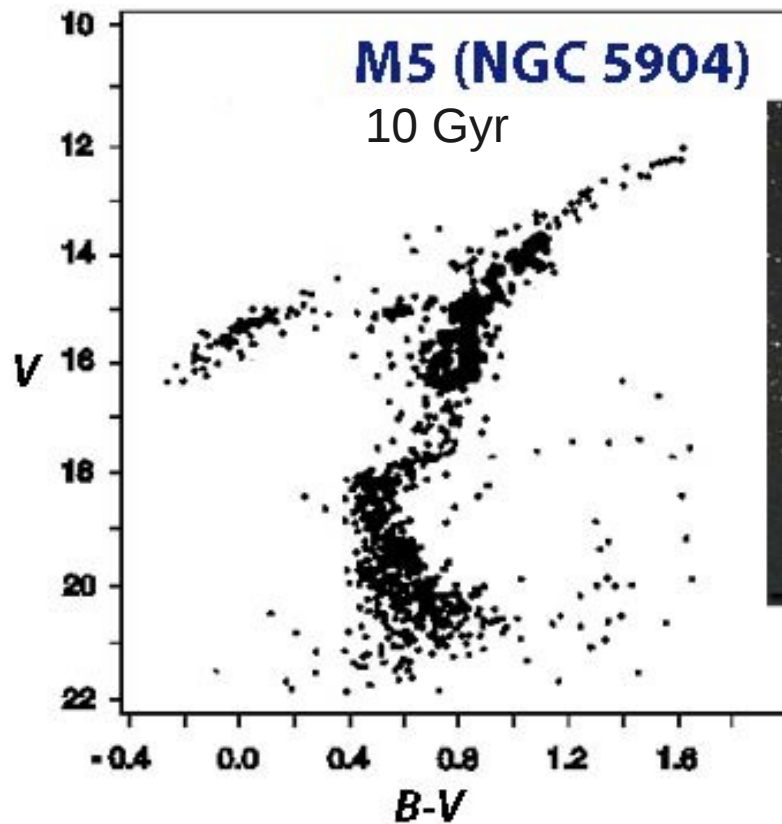


# Structure of the HR diagram: Old Clusters



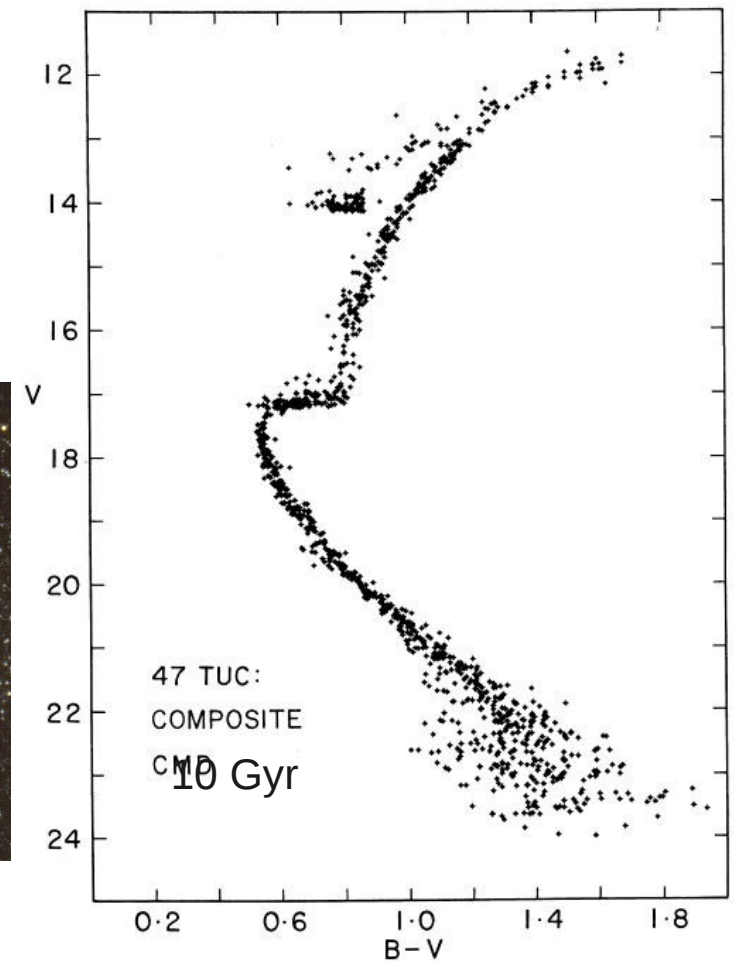


# Structure of the HR diagram: Old Clusters



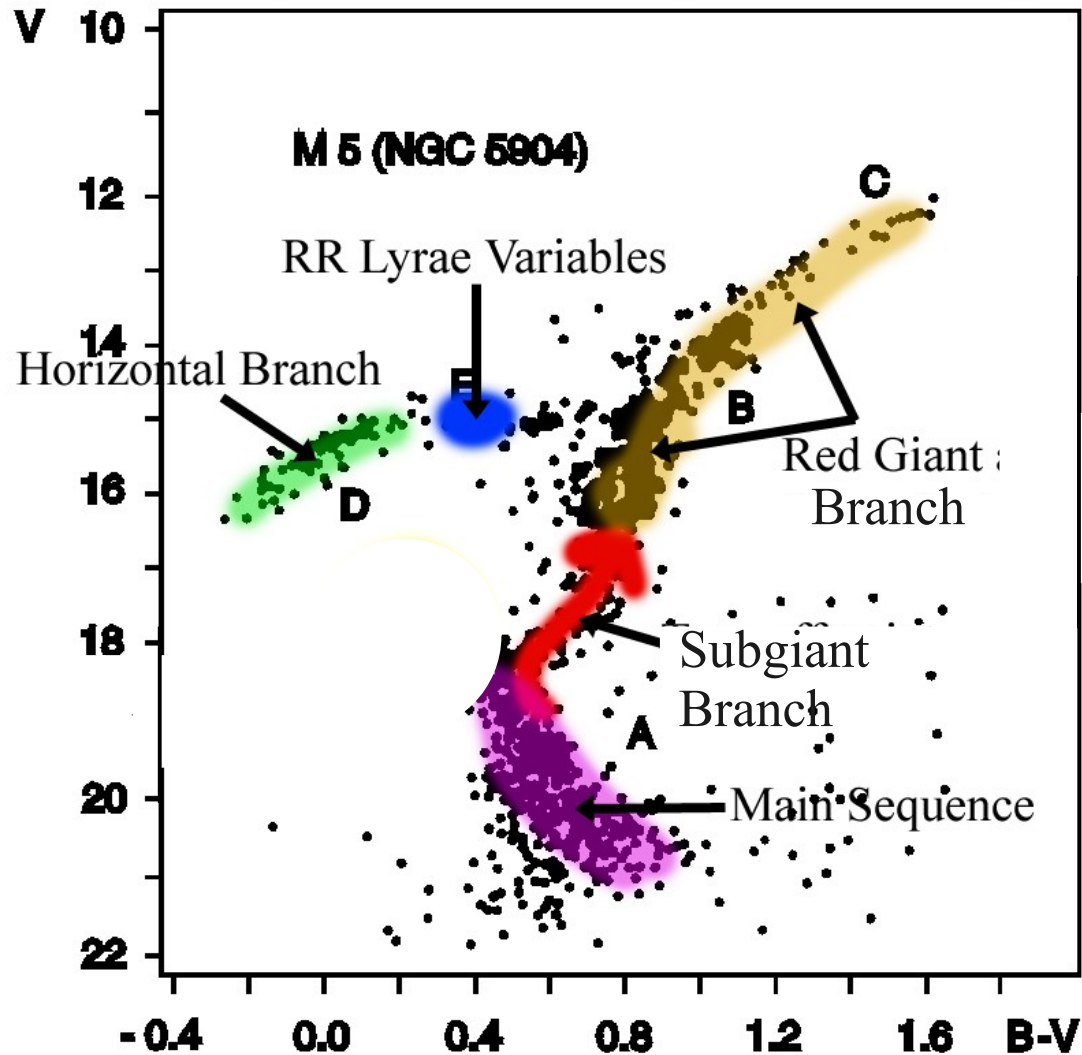
## Main Features

- A main sequence devoid of blue stars
- A conspicuous **red giant branch**
- A (nearly) horizontal branch



# CMD of Old Clusters

Adapted from SEDS (<http://www.seds.org>)



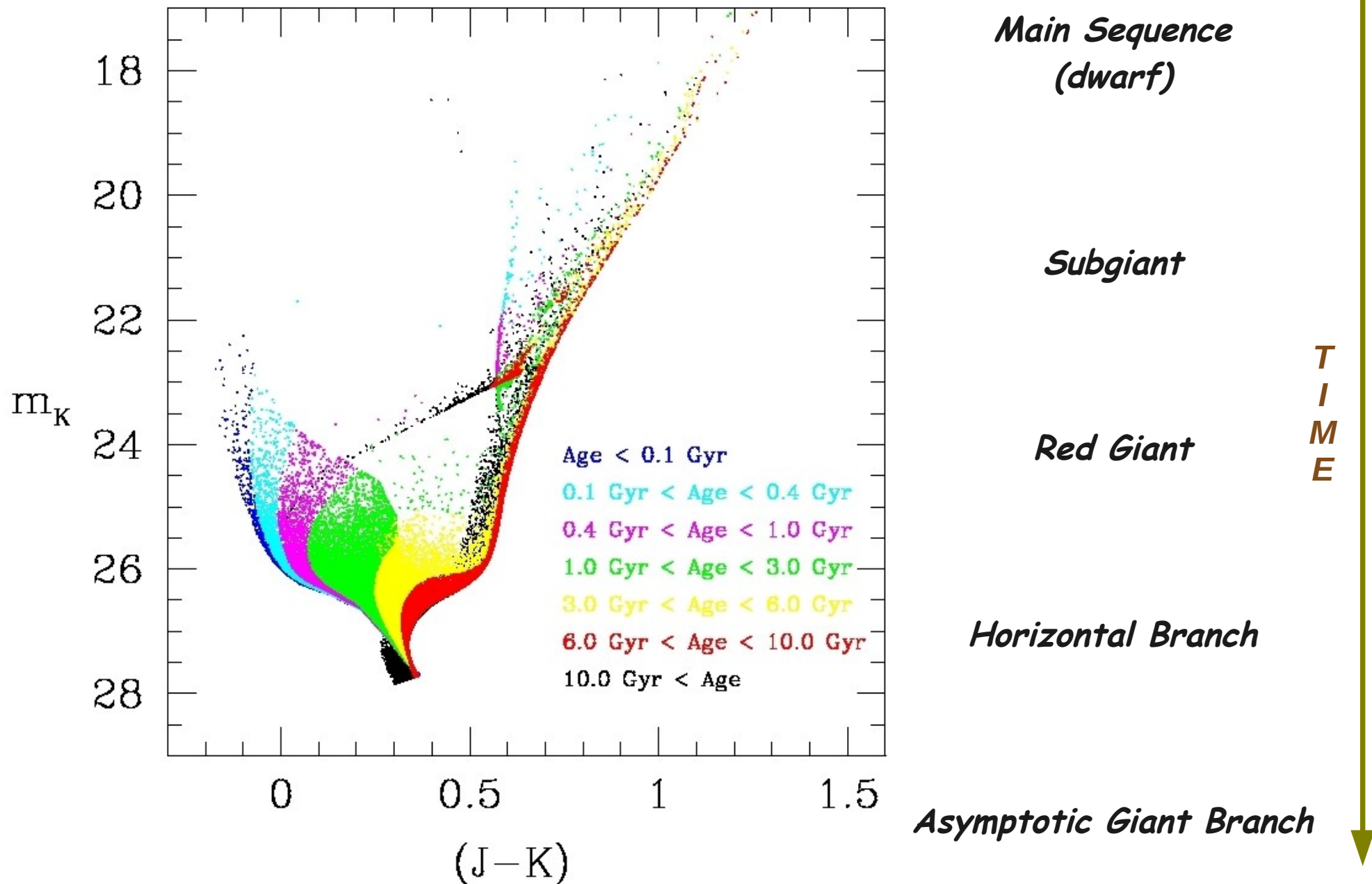
## Main Features

- A main sequence devoid of blue stars
- A conspicuous red giant branch
- A (nearly) horizontal branch

**Subgiant Branch**  
**Red Giant Branch (RGB)**  
**Horizontal Branch (HB)**  
**Asymptotic Giant Branch (AGB)**

Loci of evolved, dying stars,  
undergoing  
***Post-Main Sequence evolution***

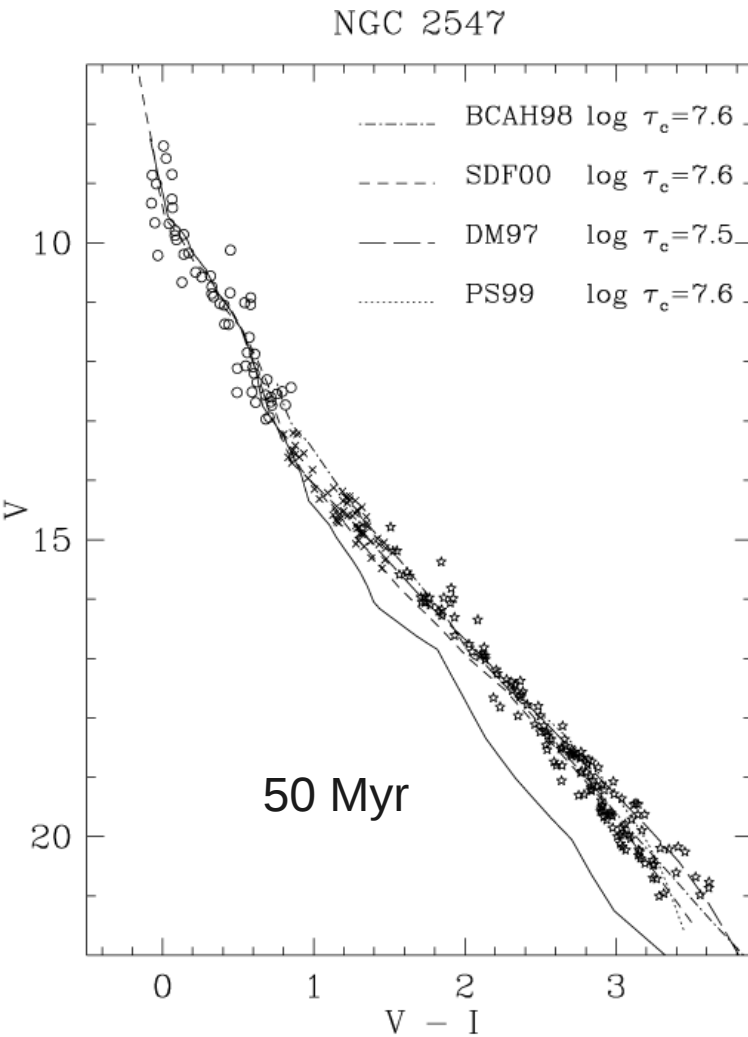
# Post-Main Sequence Evolution



**Is there also a pre-main sequence evolution?**

***Yes, of course!***

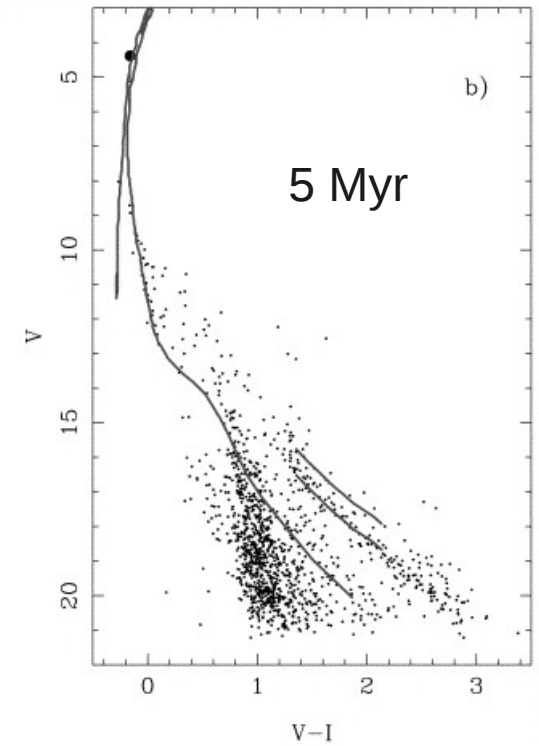
# CMD of very young clusters



NGC 2362



NGC 2547



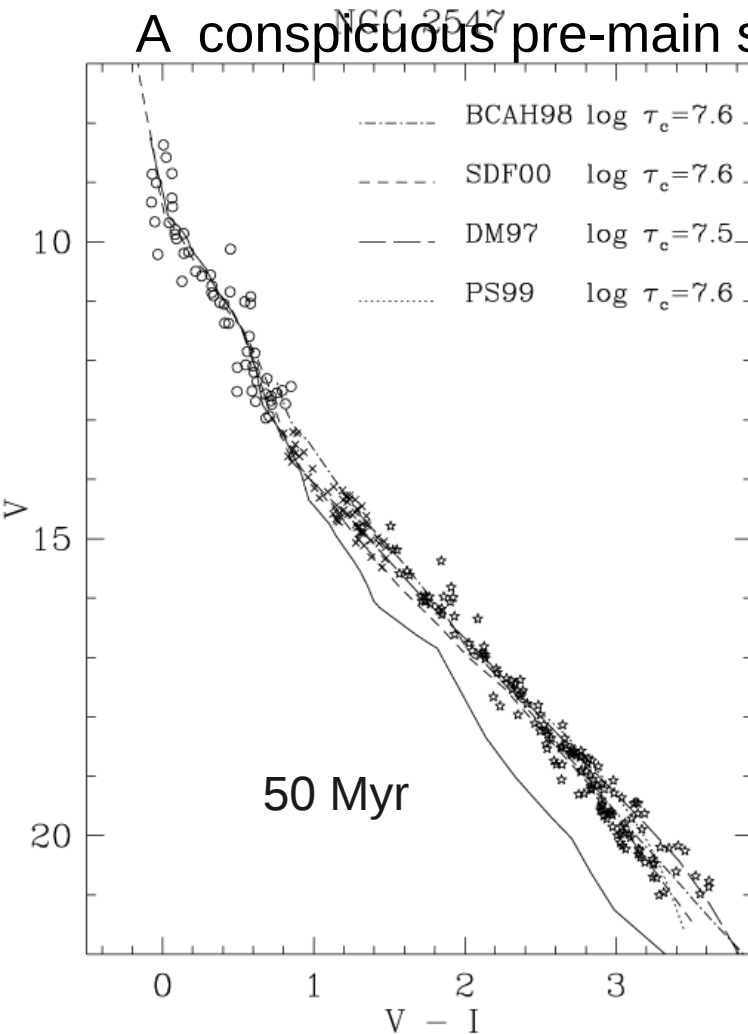


# CMD of very young clusters

## Main features

A main sequence devoid of red stars

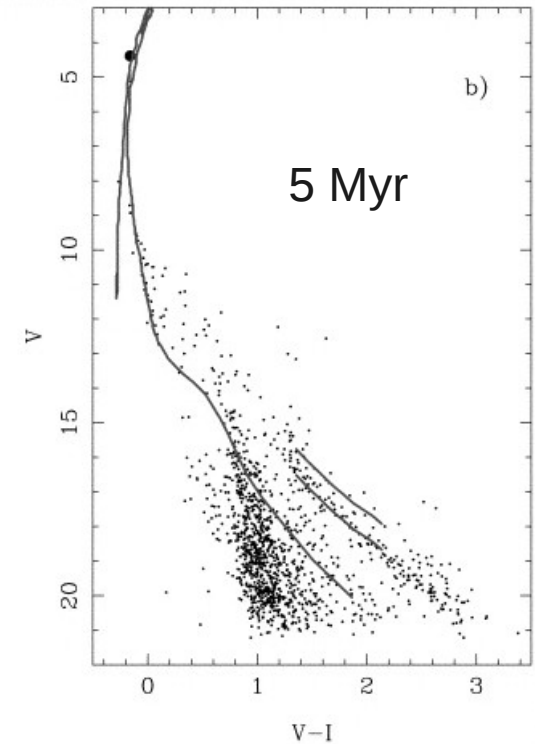
A conspicuous pre-main sequence



NGC 2362



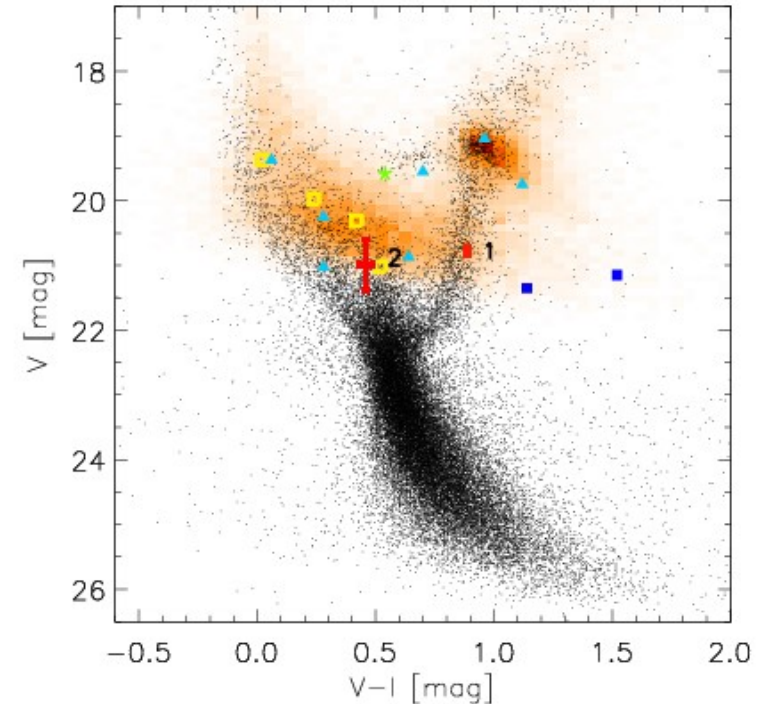
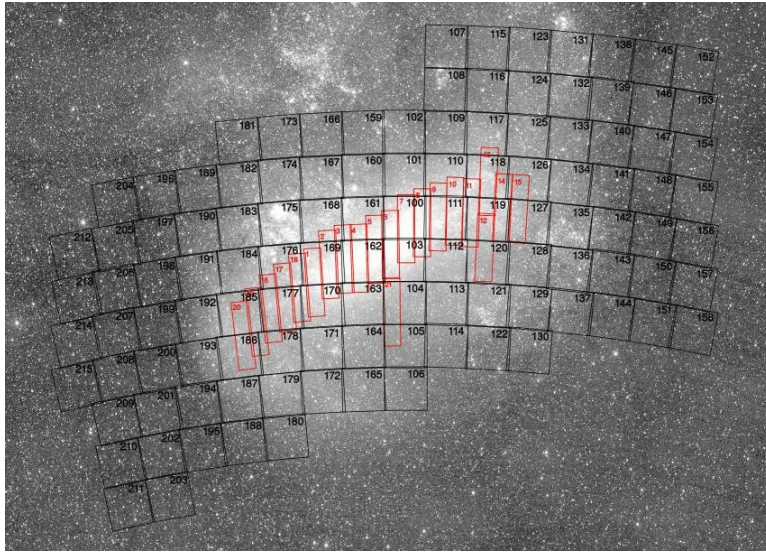
NGC 2547



***The Pre Main Sequence is  
the locus of nascent, baby  
stars***

# Photometry of a whole galaxy

## *CMD of the Large Magellan Cloud*



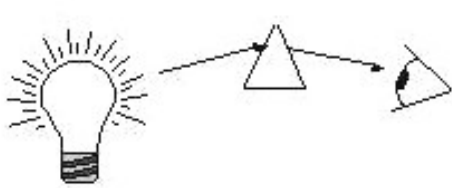
*Everything combined!*

*Why? Star formation goes on CONTINUOUSLY!*

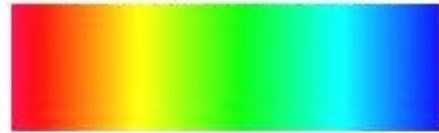
*Both old and young stars.*

# Let's summarize

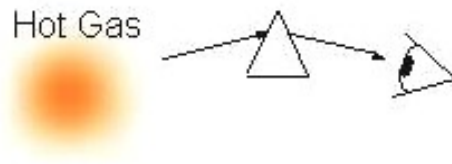
## Kirchhoff's three empirical laws of spectroscopy



Continuum Spectrum



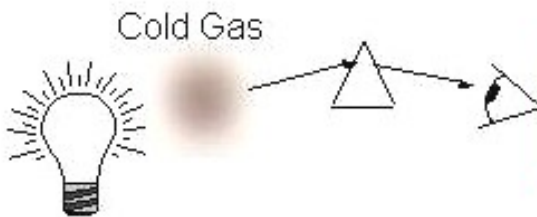
A hot solid or a hot dense gas produces a continuum spectrum.



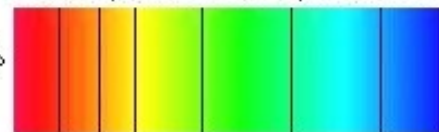
Emission Line Spectrum



A hot low-density gas produces an emission-line spectrum.



Absorption Line Spectrum



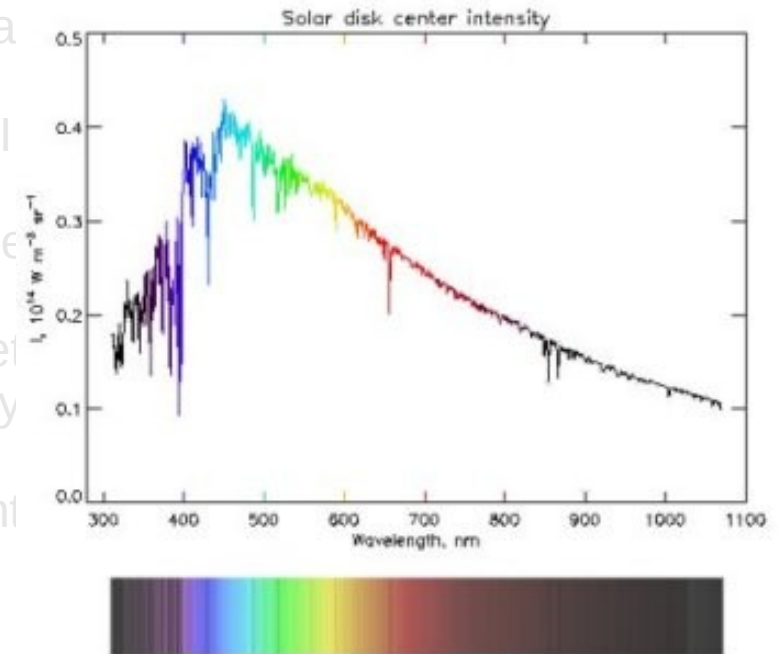
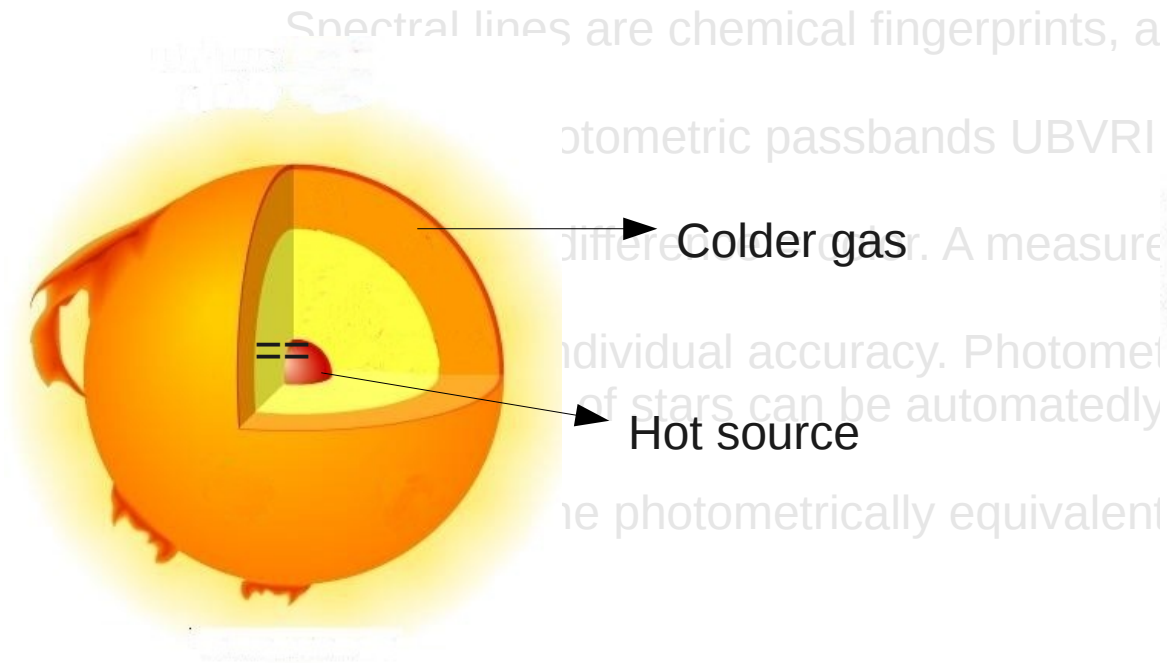
A continuous source viewed through a cold gas produces an absorption-line spectrum.



# Let's summarize

Kirchhoff's three laws of spectroscopy

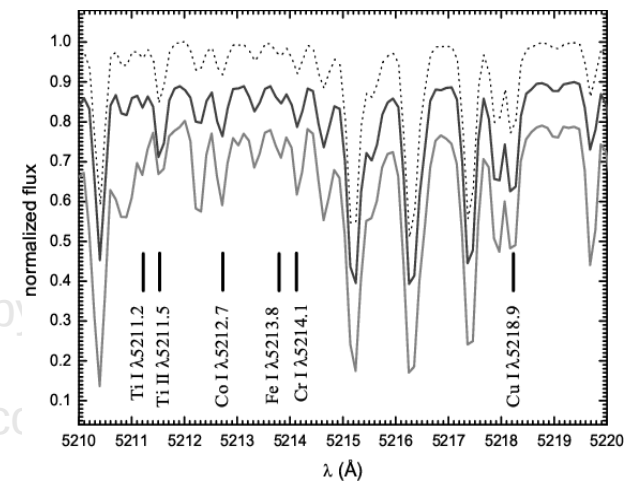
Stellar spectra are absorption spectra, thus hot source covered by colder gas



# Let's summarize

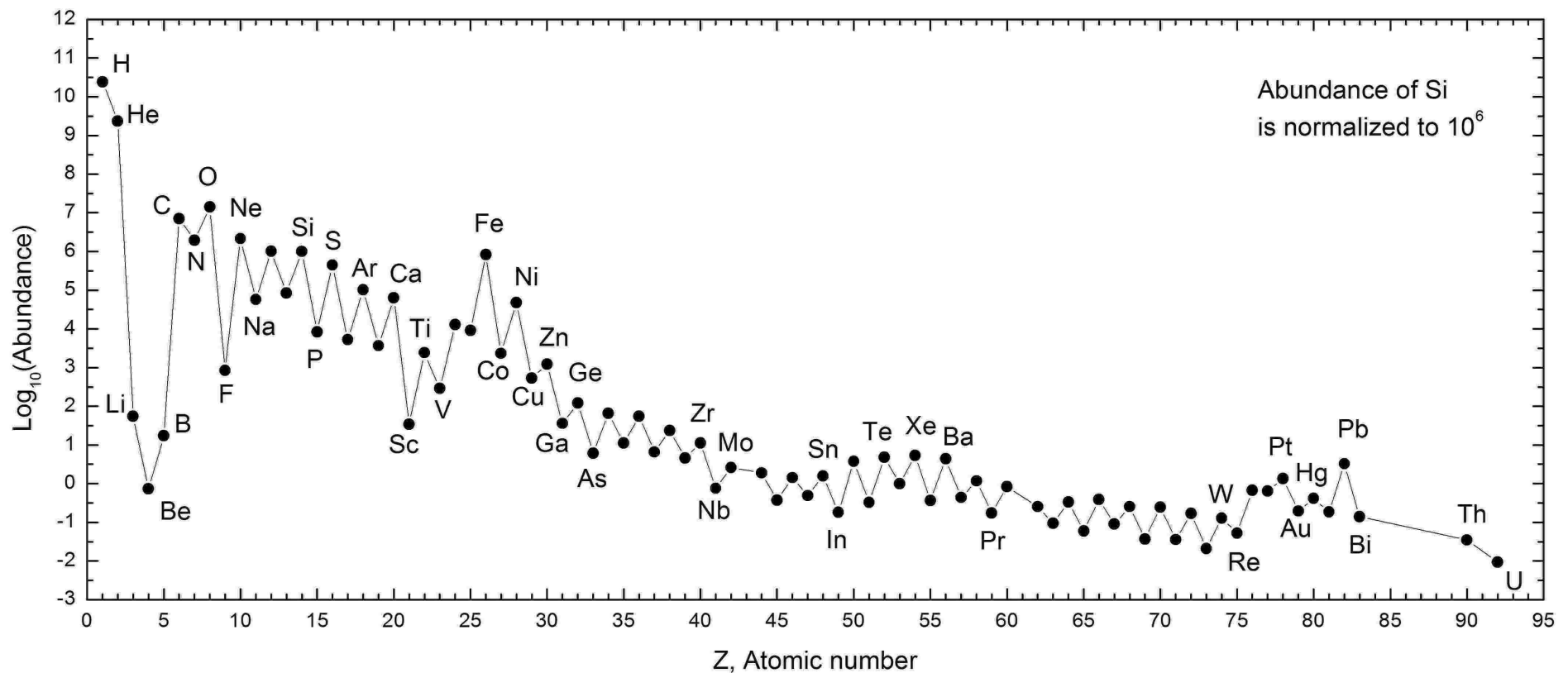
Kirchhoff's three laws of spectroscopy

Stellar spectra are absorption spectra, thus hot source cools



Spectral lines are chemical signatures, and a mine of information

Five photometric passbands UBVRI. Five magnitudes.



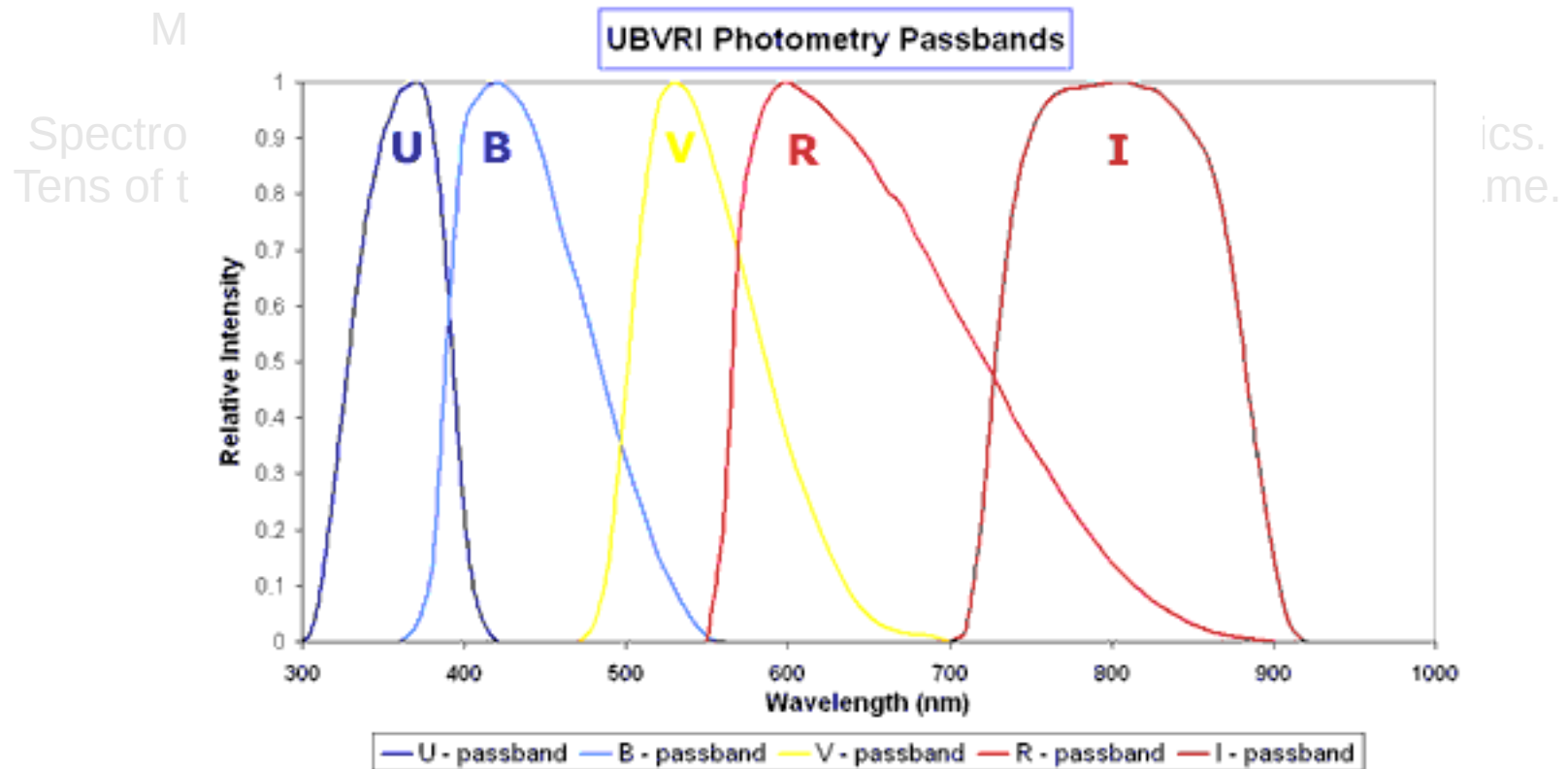
# Let's summarize

Kirchhoff's three laws of spectroscopy

Stellar spectra are absorption spectra, thus hot source covered by colder gas

Spectral lines are chemical fingerprints, and a mine of information

Five photometric passbands UBVRI. Five magnitudes.



# Let's summarize

Kirchhoff's three laws of spectroscopy

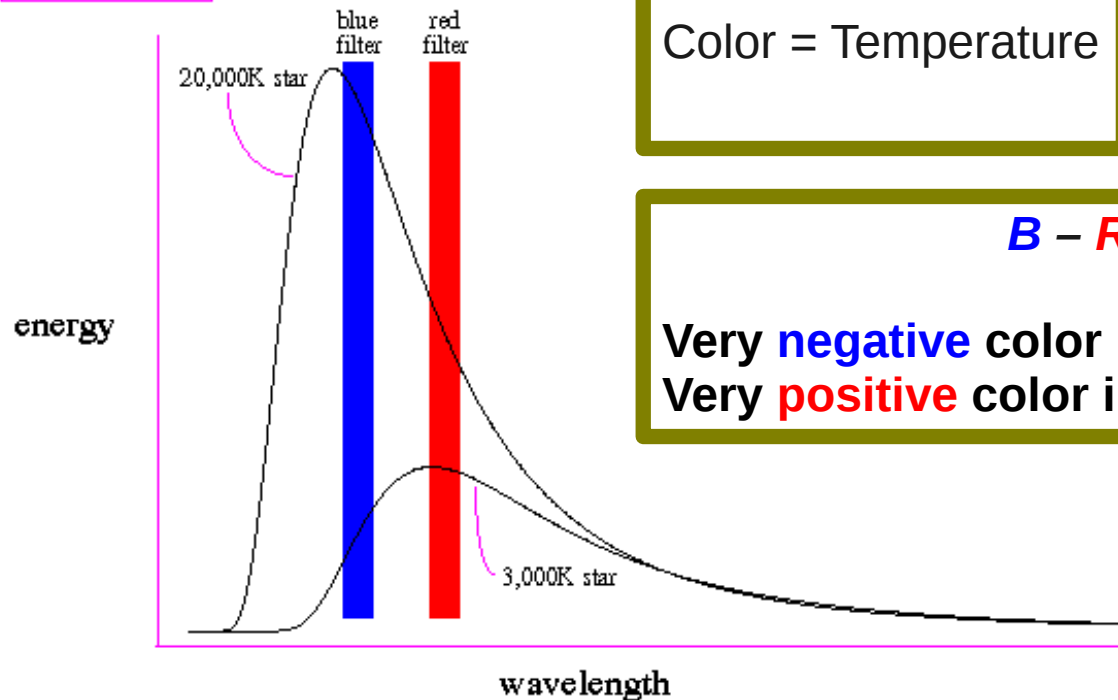
Stellar spectra are absorption spectra, thus hot source covered by colder gas

Spectral lines are chemical fingerprints, and a mine of information

Five photometric passbands UBVRI. Five magnitudes.

Magnitude difference = color. A measurement of temperature.

Color Index



Color = Temperature

$B - R$

Very **negative** color index: **blue**

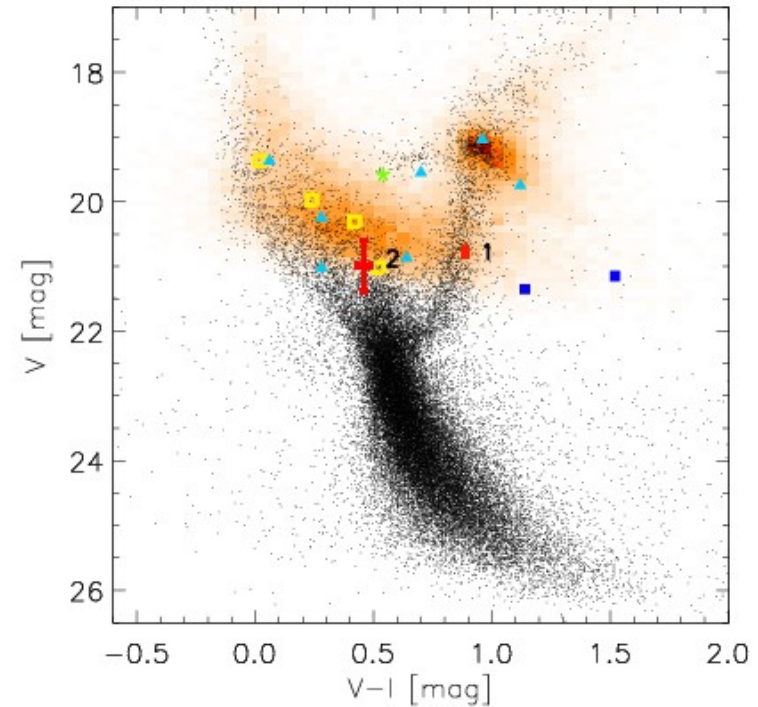
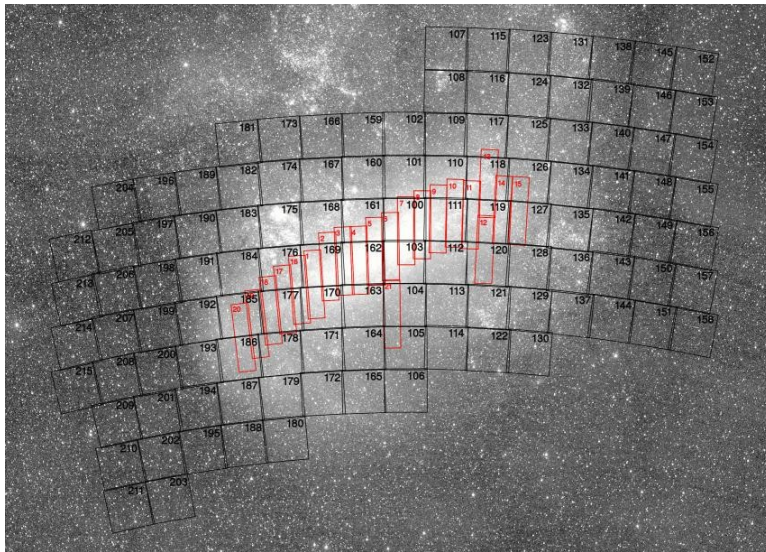
Very **positive** color index: **red**

large number statistics.  
measured in a single frame.

diagram.

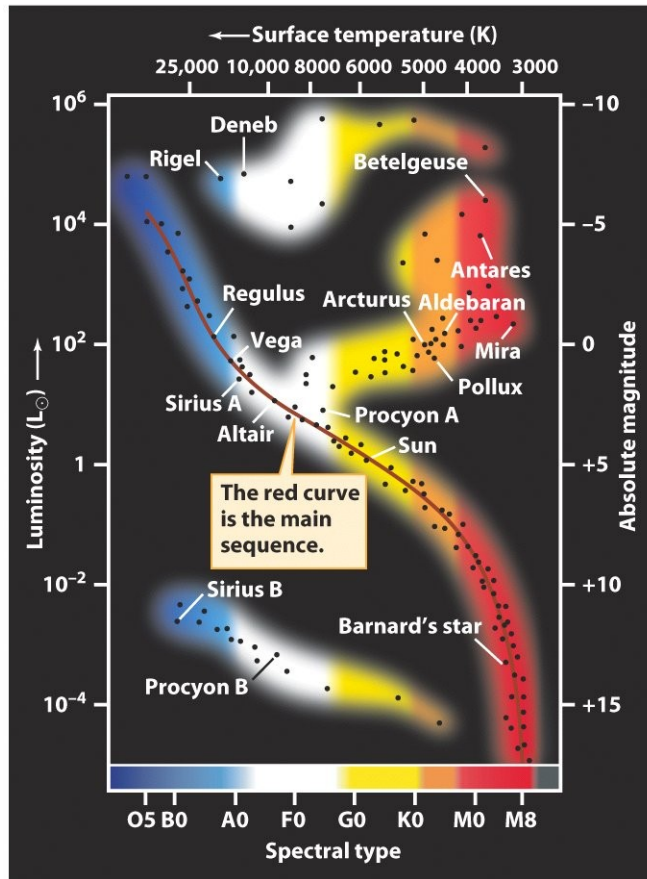
# Let's summarize

Spectroscopy = individual accuracy. Photometry = large number statistics.  
Tens of thousands of stars can be automatically measured in a single frame.

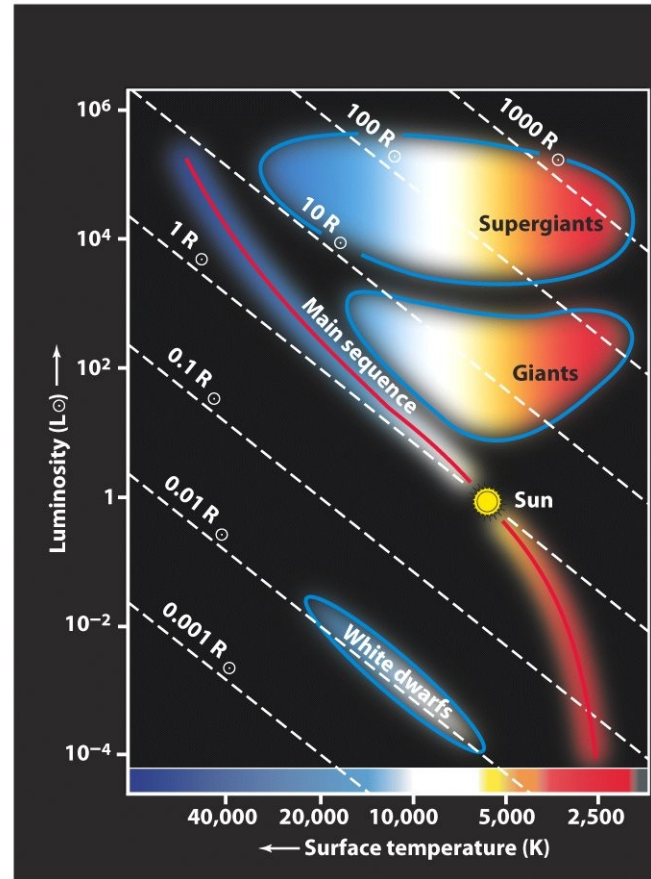


# Let's summarize

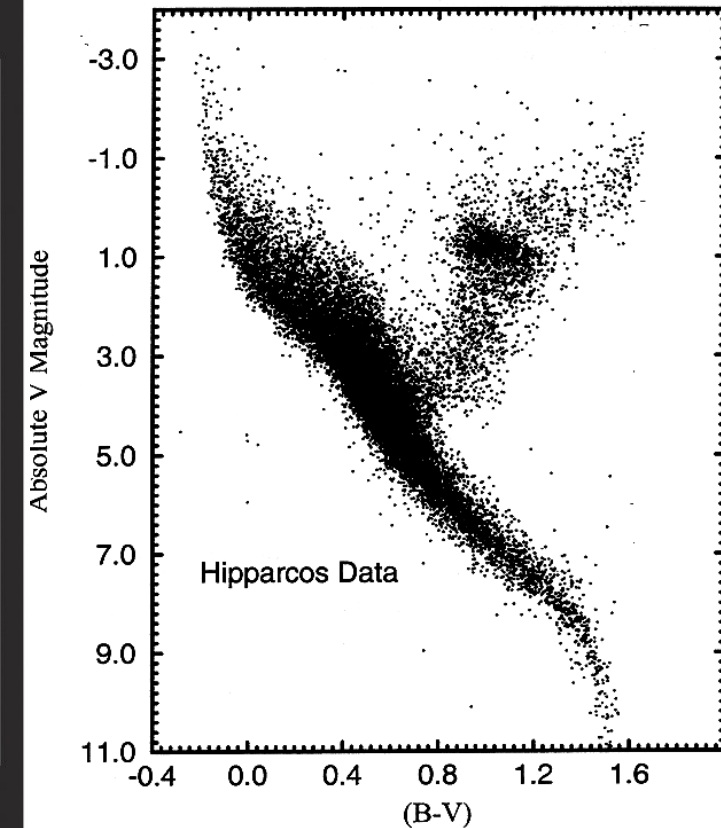
Color-Magnitude Diagram (CMD) is the photometric equivalent of the HR diagram.



(a) A Hertzsprung-Russell (H-R) diagram



(b) The sizes of stars on an H-R diagram



**Spectral type**

=

**Temperature**

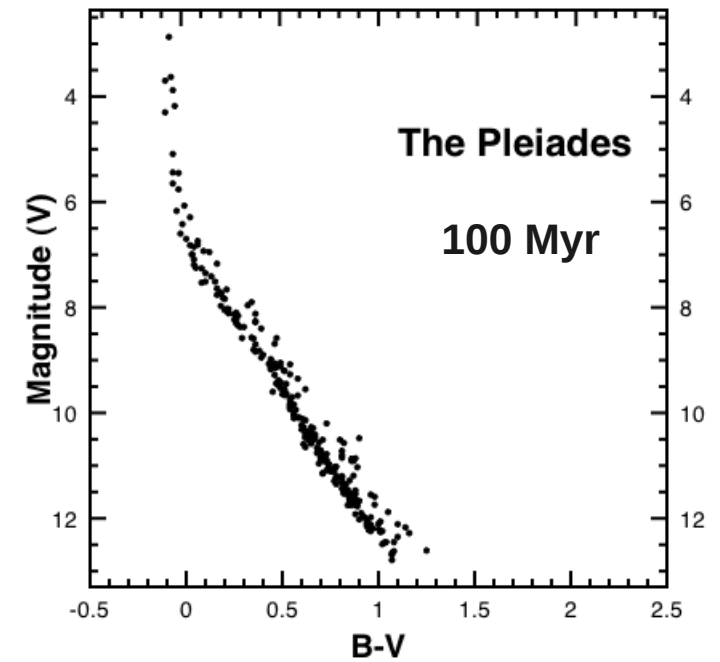
=

**Color**



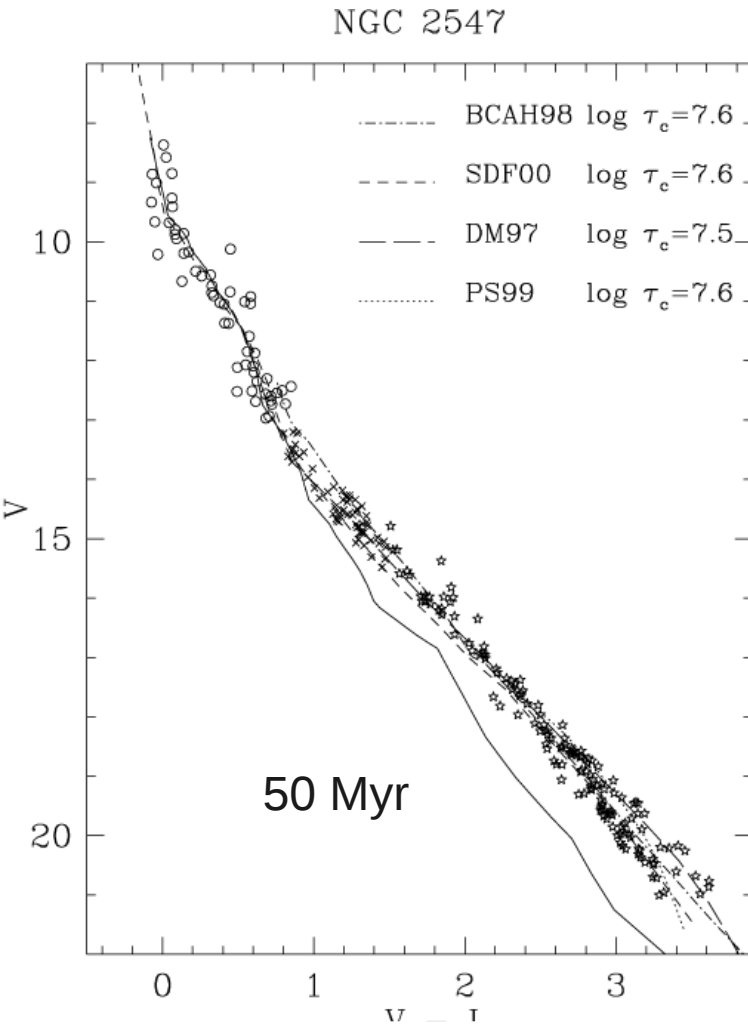
# Let's summarize

Young stars are found in the main sequence



# Let's summarize

Very young stars are found in the pre main sequence



NGC 2547

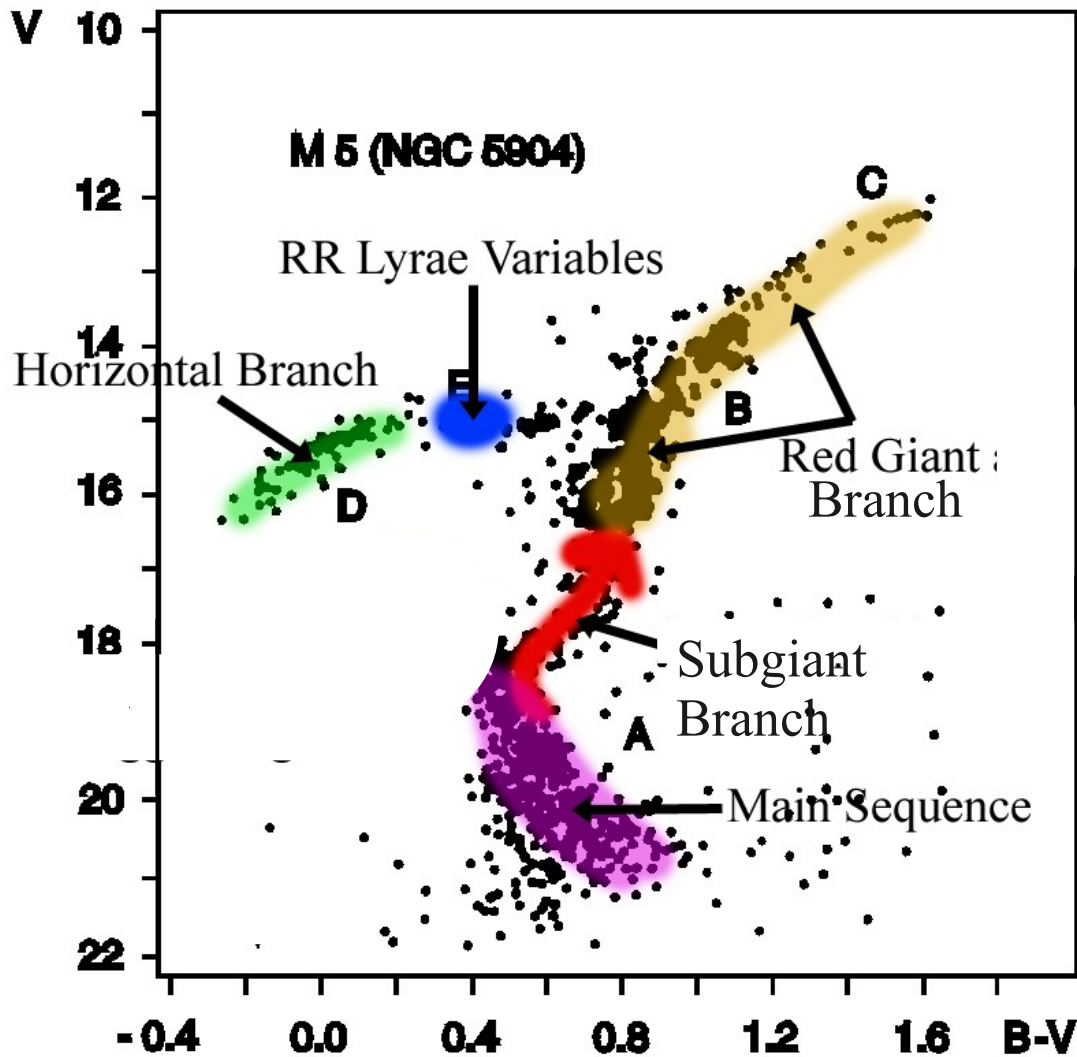
***The Pre Main Sequence is  
the locus of nascent, baby  
stars***



# Let's summarize

Evolved stars are found in special branches in the HR diagram

Adapted from SEDS (<http://www.seds.org>)



**Subgiant Branch**  
**Red Giant Branch (RGB)**  
**Horizontal Branch (HB)**  
**Asymptotic Giant Branch (AGB)**

Loci of evolved, dying stars,  
undergoing  
***Post-Main Sequence evolution***

# Let's summarize

Which is understood as an evolutionary sequence

