

stellar evolution

A vibrant, multi-colored arc of stars is set against a black background. The stars transition through a spectrum of colors: blue and purple on the left, red and orange in the middle, and yellow and green on the right. The stars vary in size and brightness, with some appearing as large, glowing outlines and others as smaller, more distant points of light. The overall effect is a dynamic and colorful representation of the stellar life cycle.

low mass stars

stellar parameters

initial mass: $0.07 - 120 M_{\odot}$

$<$ (approximately) $7 M_{\odot}$

low mass stars

$>$ (approximately) $7 M_{\odot}$

massive stars

Luminosity:

$10^{-2} - 10^6 L_{\odot}$

Radius:

$0.01 - 1000 R_{\odot}$

temperatur at surface ($\leftrightarrow T_{\text{eff}}$):

$3000 - 100000 \text{ K}$

temperatur in the core:

$10^6 - 5 \cdot 10^9 \text{ K}$

lifetime:

$10^6 - 10^{10} \text{ years}$



Stellar evolution – low mass stars

initial mass: $0.07 - 120 M_{\odot}$

$< (\text{approximately}) 7 M_{\odot}$ **low mass stars**
 $> (\text{approximately}) 7 M_{\odot}$ **massive stars**



Stellar evolution – low mass stars

Messier 3



Example

Globular cluster

- all stars about the **same age**
- massive stars gone (faster evolution)

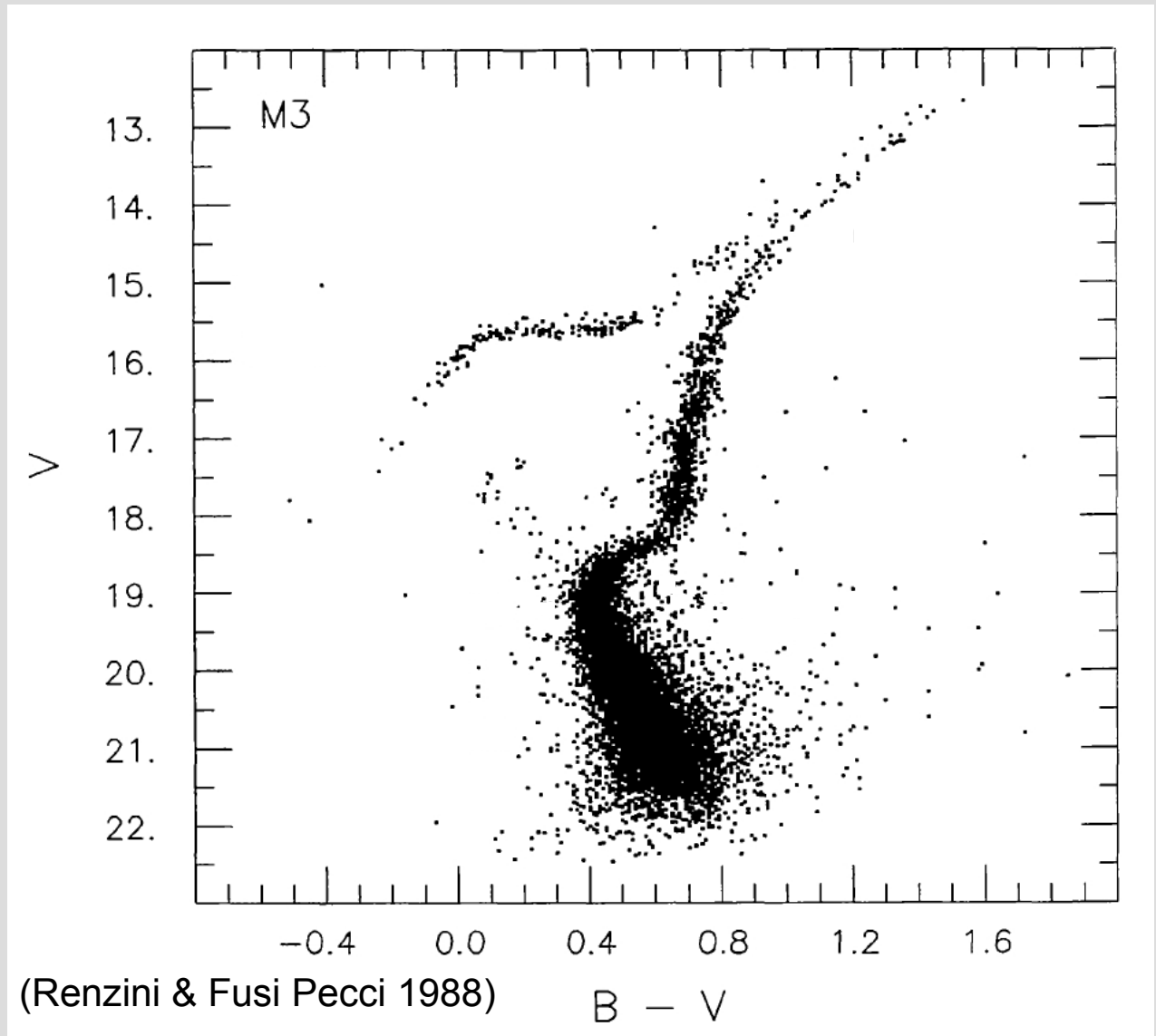
→ only **low mass stars** left/present

Stellar evolution – low mass stars

Messier 3 Color-Magnitude-Diagram \leftrightarrow HRD

Position of all stars in the cluster

Low mass stars in all possible evolutionary States.



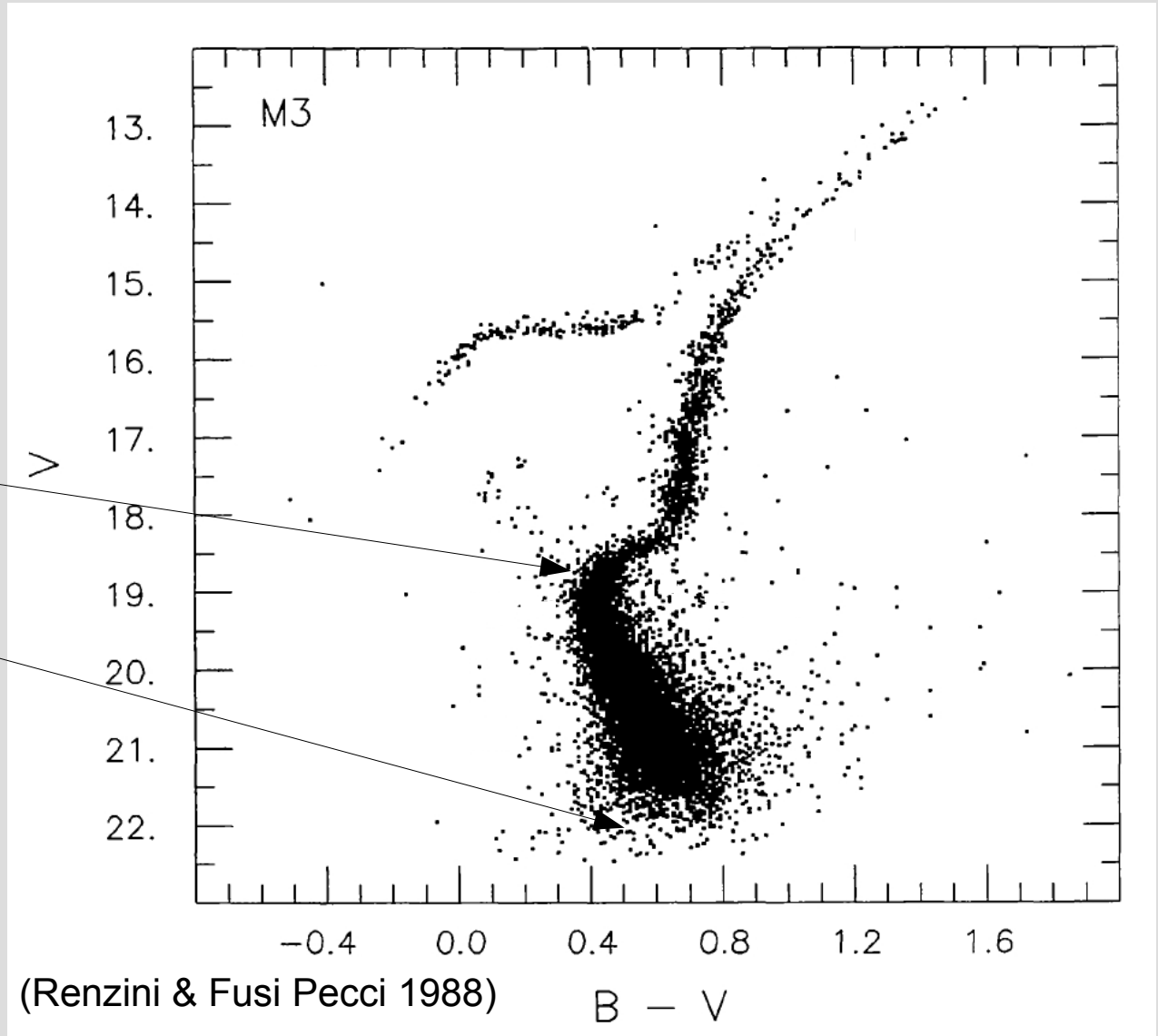
Stellar evolution – low mass stars

Messier 3 Color-Magnitude-Diagram \leftrightarrow HRD

Position of all stars in the cluster

Low mass stars in all possible evolutionary States.

main sequence phase
stars with different mass at the same time



Stellar evolution – low mass stars

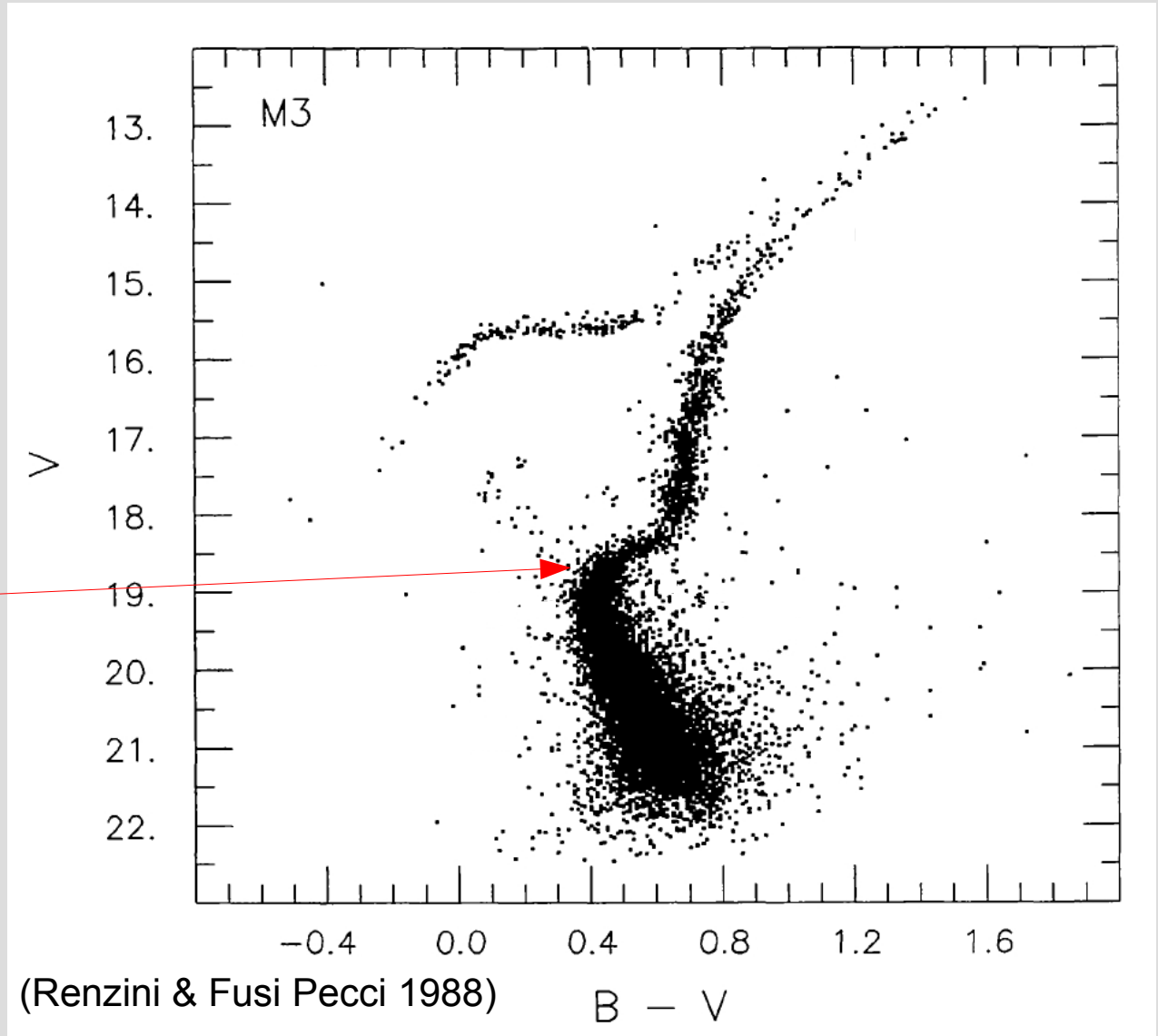
Messier 3 Color-Magnitude-Diagram \leftrightarrow HRD

Position of all stars in the cluster

Low mass stars in all possible evolutionary States.

main sequence phase
Star with highest mass
 \leftrightarrow **turn off**

higher mass stars already left the main-sequence



Stellar evolution – low mass stars

Messier 3 Color-Magnitude-Diagram \leftrightarrow HRD

Position of all stars in the cluster

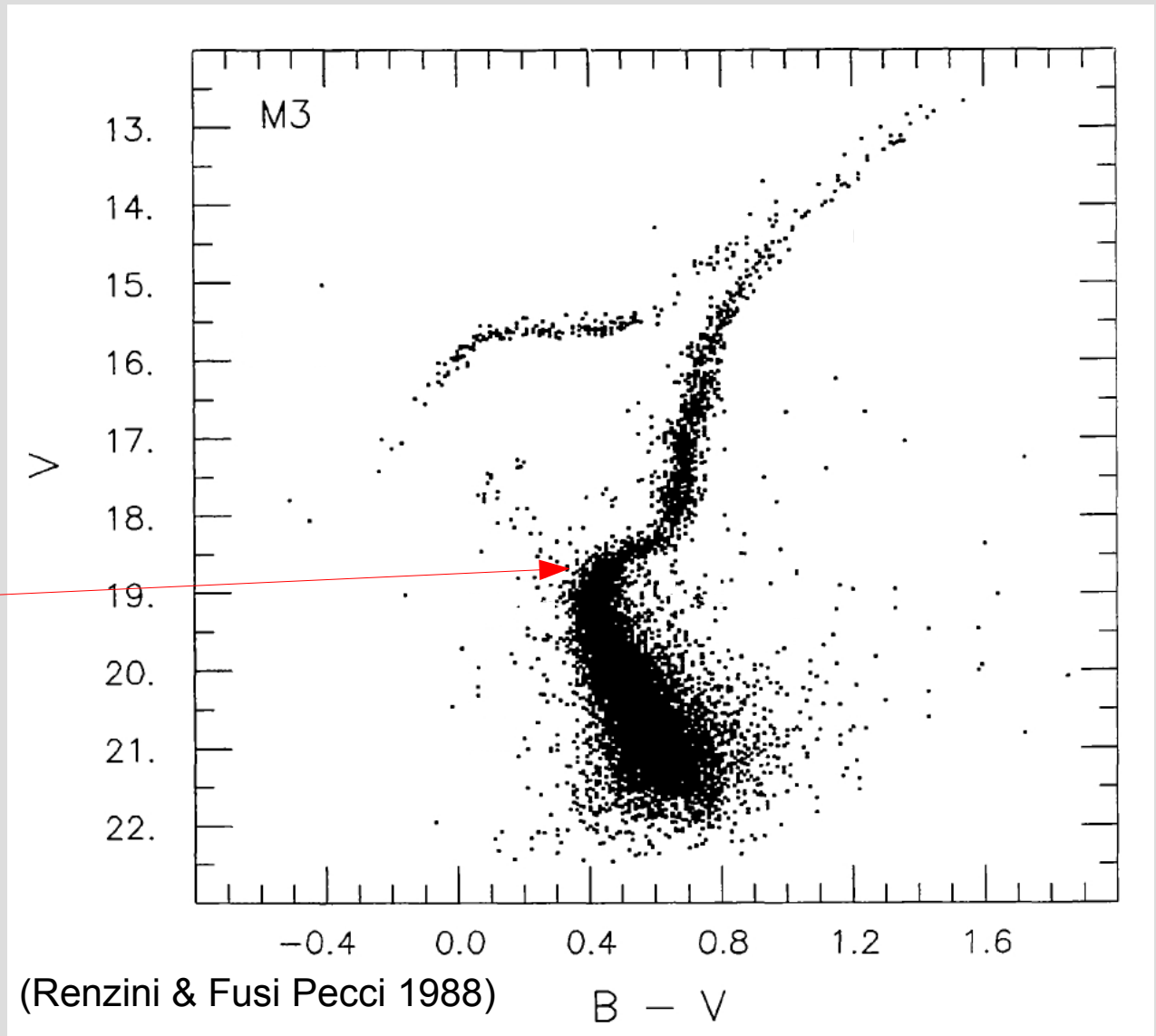
Low mass stars in all possible evolutionary States.

main sequence phase

Star with highest mass

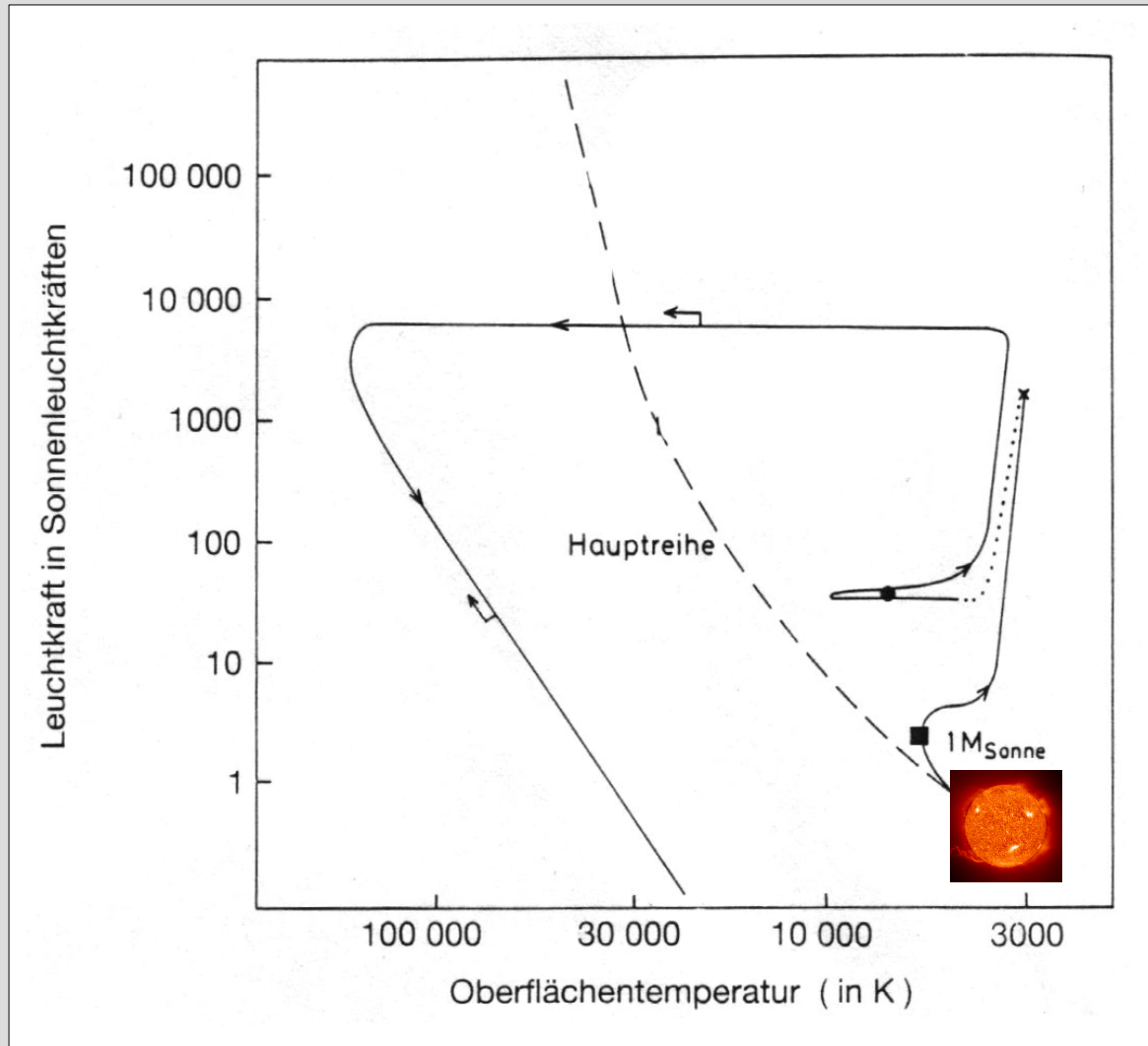
\leftrightarrow **turn off**

\rightarrow compare to models gives an **age** of the **cluster**



Stellar evolution – low mass stars

HRD with the path of a star with $1 M_{\odot}$



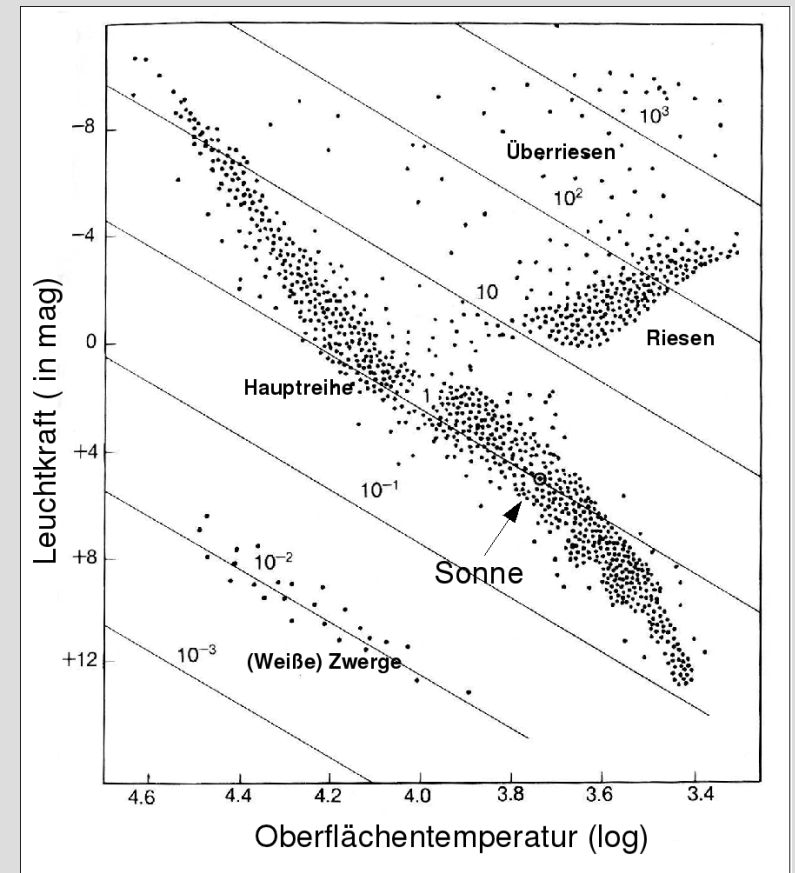
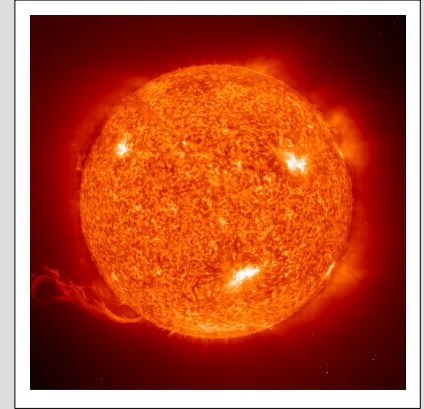
stage
example

Main Sequence
sun

Stellar evolution – low mass stars

main sequence stars

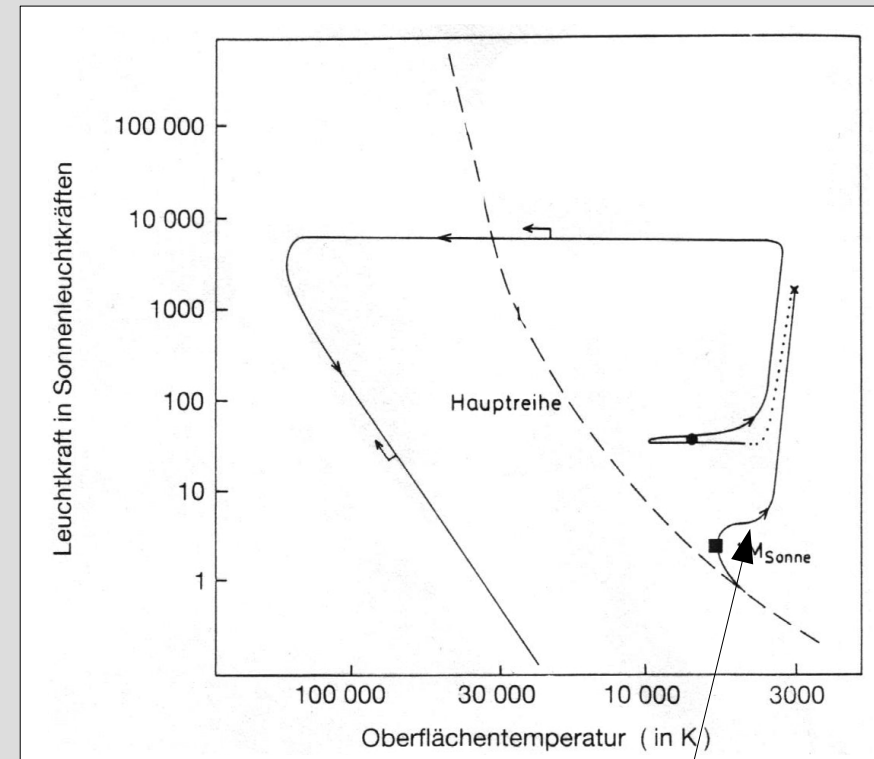
- star in **hydrostatic equilibrium**
- star started **hydrogen core burning**
- **longest** phase of all stars, **~90% total lifetime**
- initial mass $M_{\text{ini}} \sim 0.07$ to $\sim 7 M_{\odot}$
- radius 0.5 to $1.5 R_{\odot}$
- $T_{\text{eff}} = 3500$ (\rightarrow Hayashi) to 20000 K
- **Luminosity**
 $\log L / L_{\odot} = -1$ bis 3.25
 $M_{\text{bol}} = 7$ bis -3.5
- **Hydrogen** burning mainly via pp
- Stars $M_{\text{ini}} < 1.2 M_{\odot}$ core **radiativ**
 $> 1.2 M_{\odot}$ core **convectiv**



Stellar evolution – low mass stars

main sequence stars

- is the supply of hydrogen exhausted
 - hydrogen burning stops
 - = end main sequence phase
 - pressure drops
 - core is collapsing BUT the core temperature not gets hot enough for helium burn to start
 - shell above core heated up
 - shell hydrogen burning begins
 - star restructured no core burning (remnant He core) only shell burning → less energy → T decreases



Hayashi – Limit / Line and Red Giants

further cooling until the star reaches the Hayashi limit \leftrightarrow **fully convective**

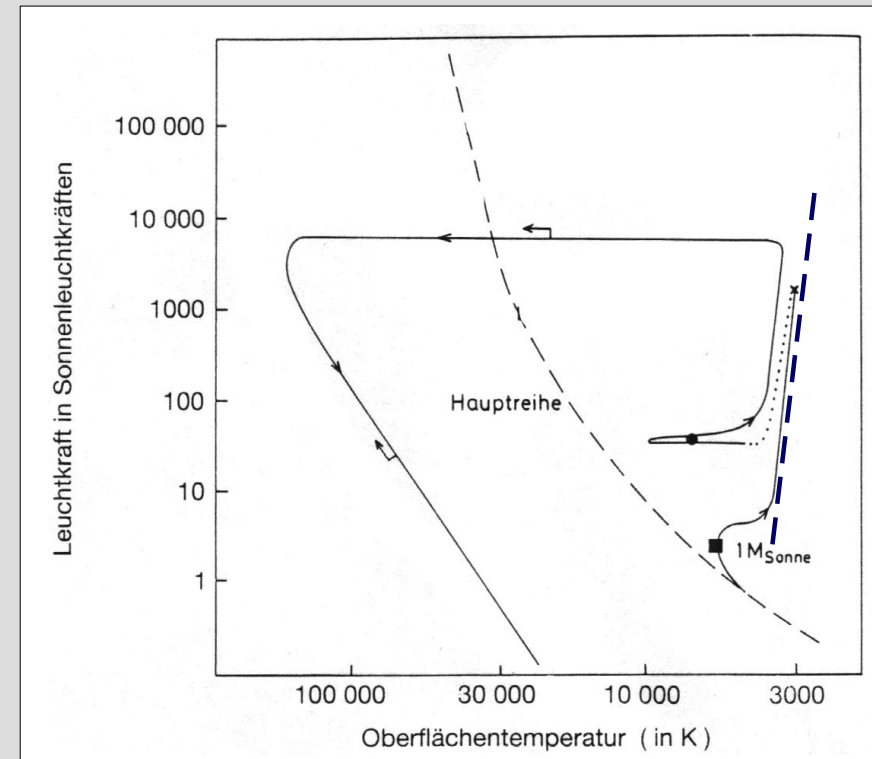
\rightarrow most efficient energy release \leftrightarrow maximum energy output no further cool possible !!

\rightarrow star reacts by **increasing** the **radius**/surface

\rightarrow due to $L=4\pi r^2 T_{\text{eff}}^4$ the **luminosity** increases

The stars turned into a

Red Giant

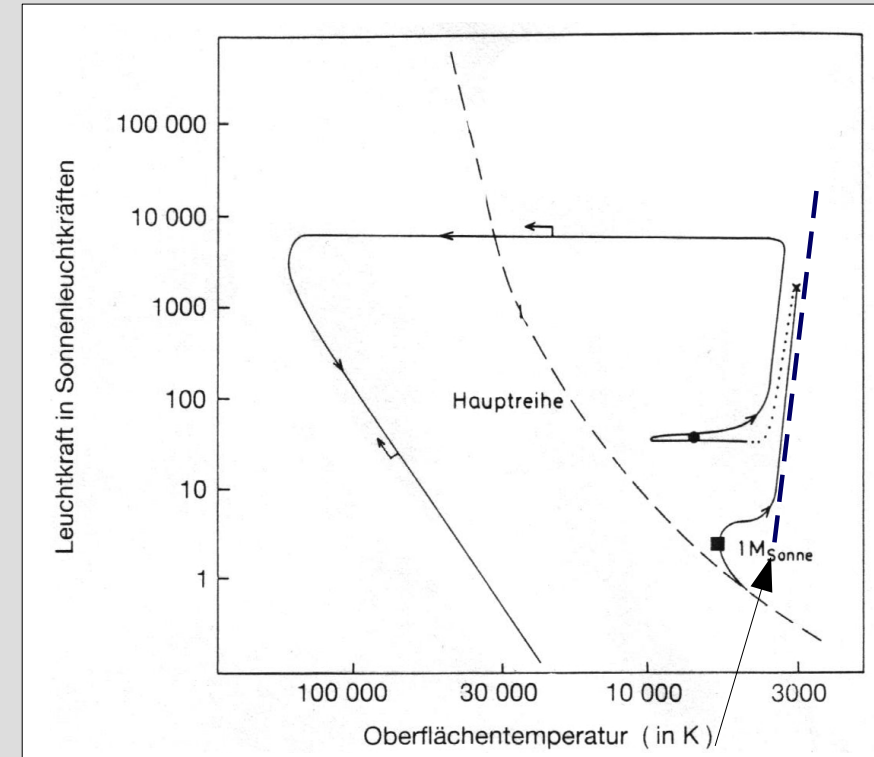
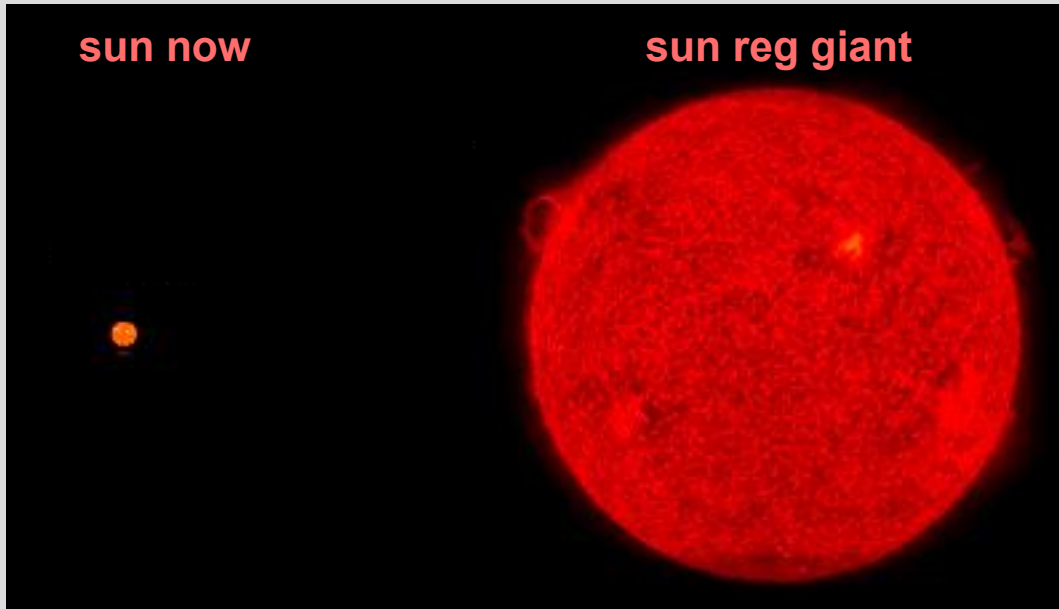


Hayashi Line

Red Giant

Red Giant

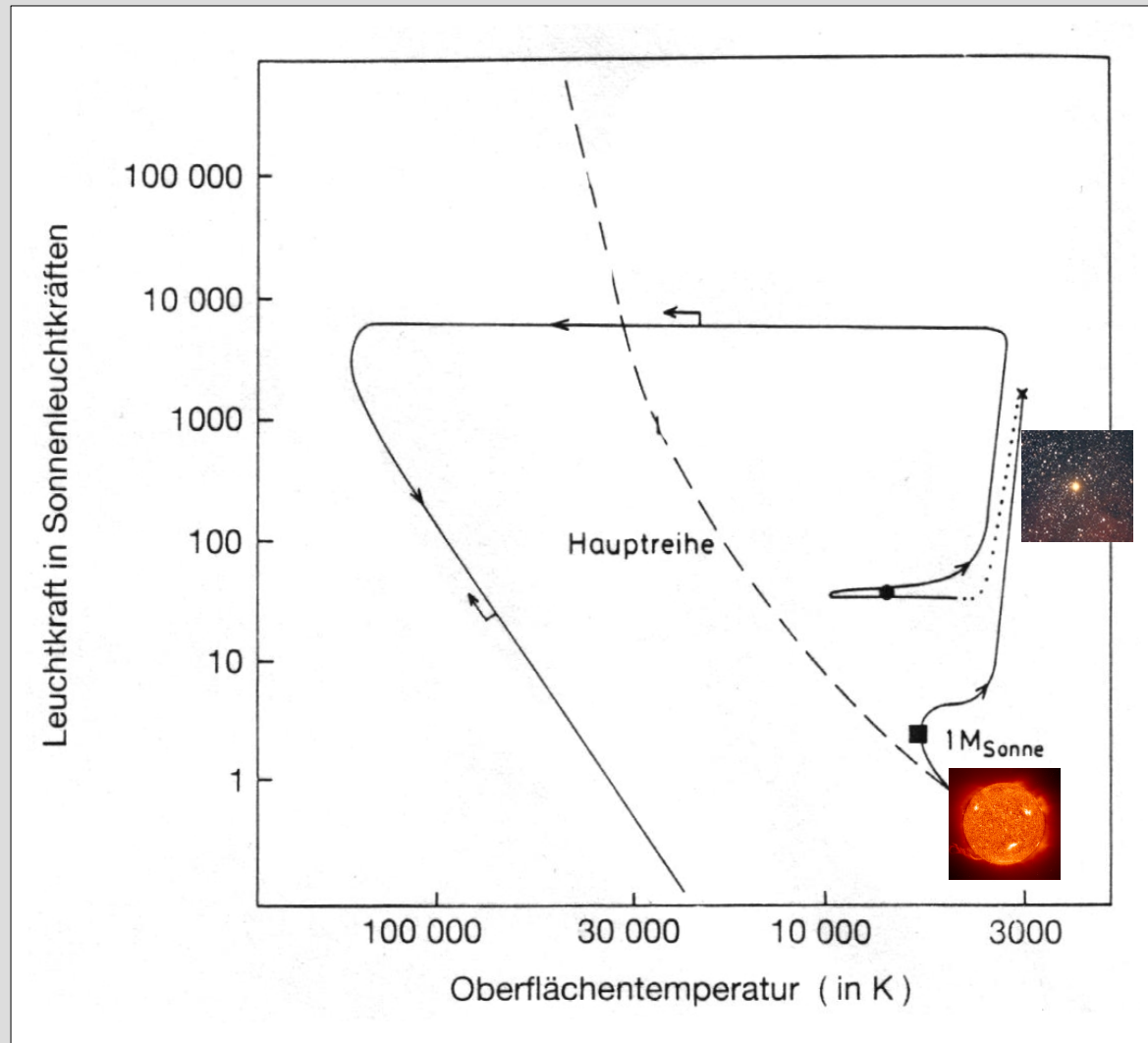
- Radius 10 to 1000 R_{\odot}
- $T_{\text{eff}} \sim 3500$ (\rightarrow Hayashi) K
- Leuchtkraft $\log L / L_{\odot} = 3 - 4$
 $M_{\text{bol}} = -3$ bis -6 mag



Hayashi Line

Stellar evolution – low mass stars

HRD with the path of a star with $1 M_{\odot}$



stage

example

Main Sequence

sun

Red Giant

μ Cepheus (Granat star)

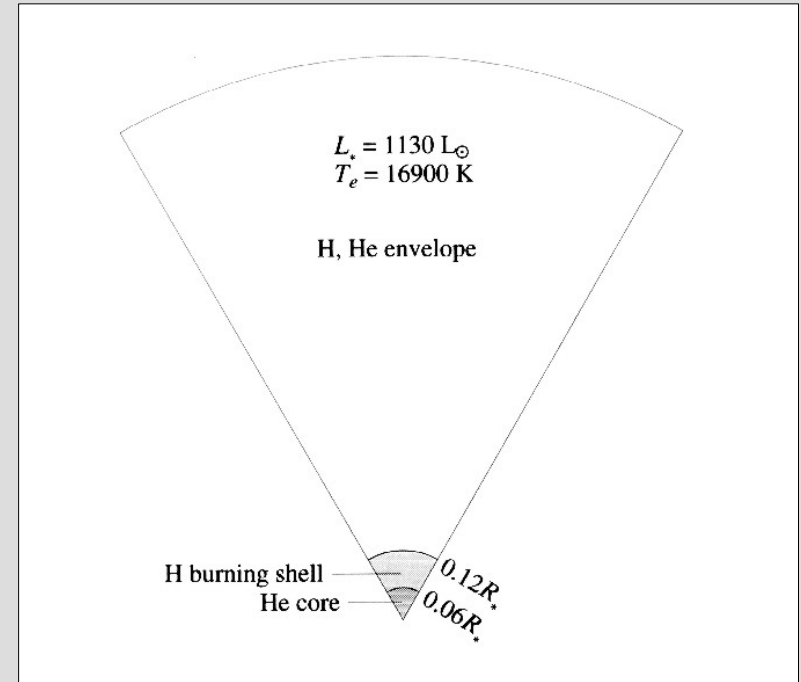
Shell burning and degeneracy

→ **Shell burning feeds the core**

- shell and core **develop** (apart from feeding) **independently from each other**
- the **nucleus grows steadily** and the **density increases**
 - **no longer a pure ideal gas**
 - **but evolves into a (non-relativistic) degenerate gas (Pauli principle)**

In such a gas the **pressure is independent** of the **temperature** it **depends only on the density**

$$P \propto \rho^{5/3}$$



(Mitteilung aus dem Astrophysikalischen Observatorium, Institut für Sonnenphysik, Potsdam.)

Über das Eintreten von Elektronenentartung im Sterninnern.

Von P. ten Bruggencate in Potsdam.

Mit 1 Abbildung. (Eingegangen am 11. Januar 1936.)

1. Physikalische Bedeutung der ROSSELAND'schen Transformation der Grundgleichungen des Sternaufbaues. 2. Die Grundgleichungen und die Lösungstypen für den Fall des idealen Gases. 3. Die Gleichungen für den Fall gewöhnlicher und relativistischer Elektronenentartung. Allgemeine Bemerkungen über die physikalische Realisierbarkeit der M- und F-Lösungen. 4. Die SOMMERFELD'sche Entartungsbedingung und ihre zweckmäßige Umformung. 5. Bedingungen für Zonen gewöhnlicher Elektronenentartung im Sterninnern.

Helium flash

Degeneracy

The **pressure is independent** of the temperature **it depends only on the density** $P \propto \rho^{5/3}$

Shell burning feeds the core \leftrightarrow stellar core growths

→ **T rises BUT pressure stays constant**

→ is T high enough He burning starts BUT with $\epsilon \propto T^n$ **energy production** builds up **extremely** fast and T rises even further

→ due to the independency of the pressure from T

→ no change in pressure but core heats up more

run away process so He burning starts not slowly but instantly in a **Helium Flash**

→ **star 'jumps' in the HRD to the Horizontal Branch**
parts of the outer layer are pushed off.

Horizontal Branch Stars

Horizontal branch stars

Star 'jumps' in the HRD to the Horizontal Branch

Horizontal branch star

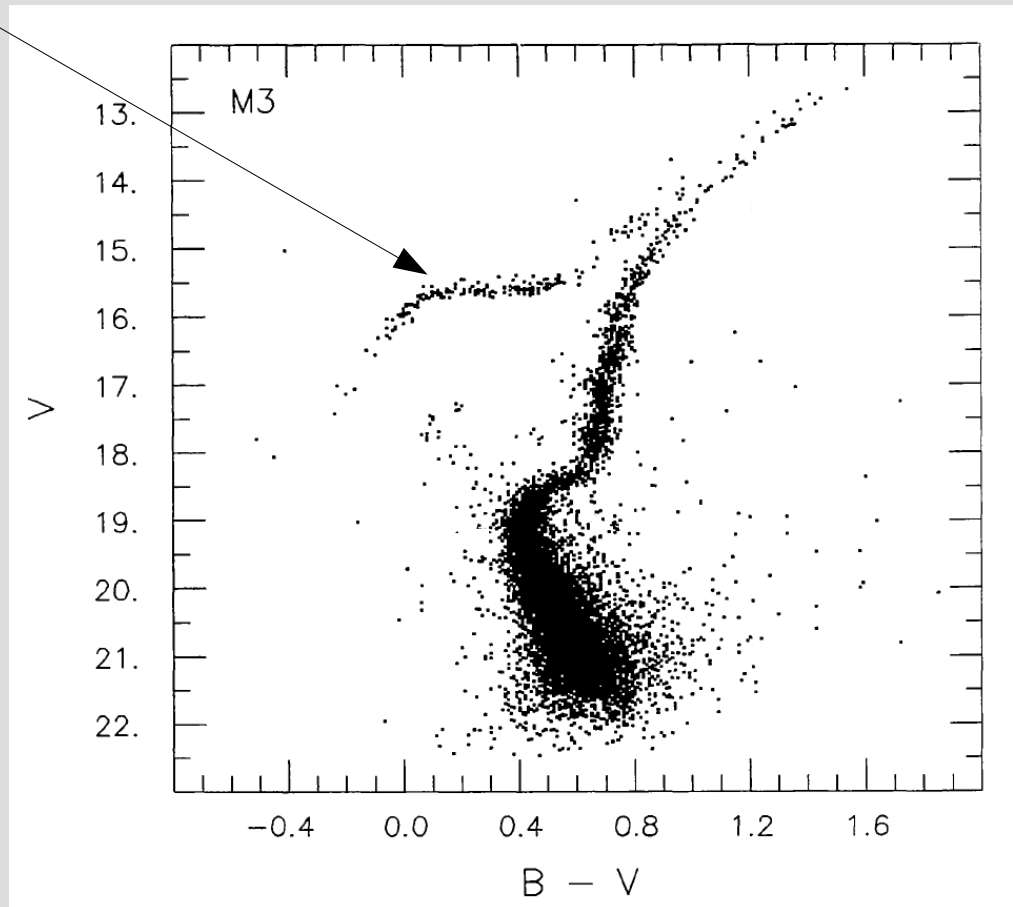
star with Helium burning

- Radius 5 – 10 R_{\odot}
- Luminosity $\log L / L_{\odot} \sim 1.5$
 $M_{\text{bol}} \sim +1$

depending on how much of the outer layer was shed its temperature

- $T^{\text{eff}} \sim 6000$ to 30000 K

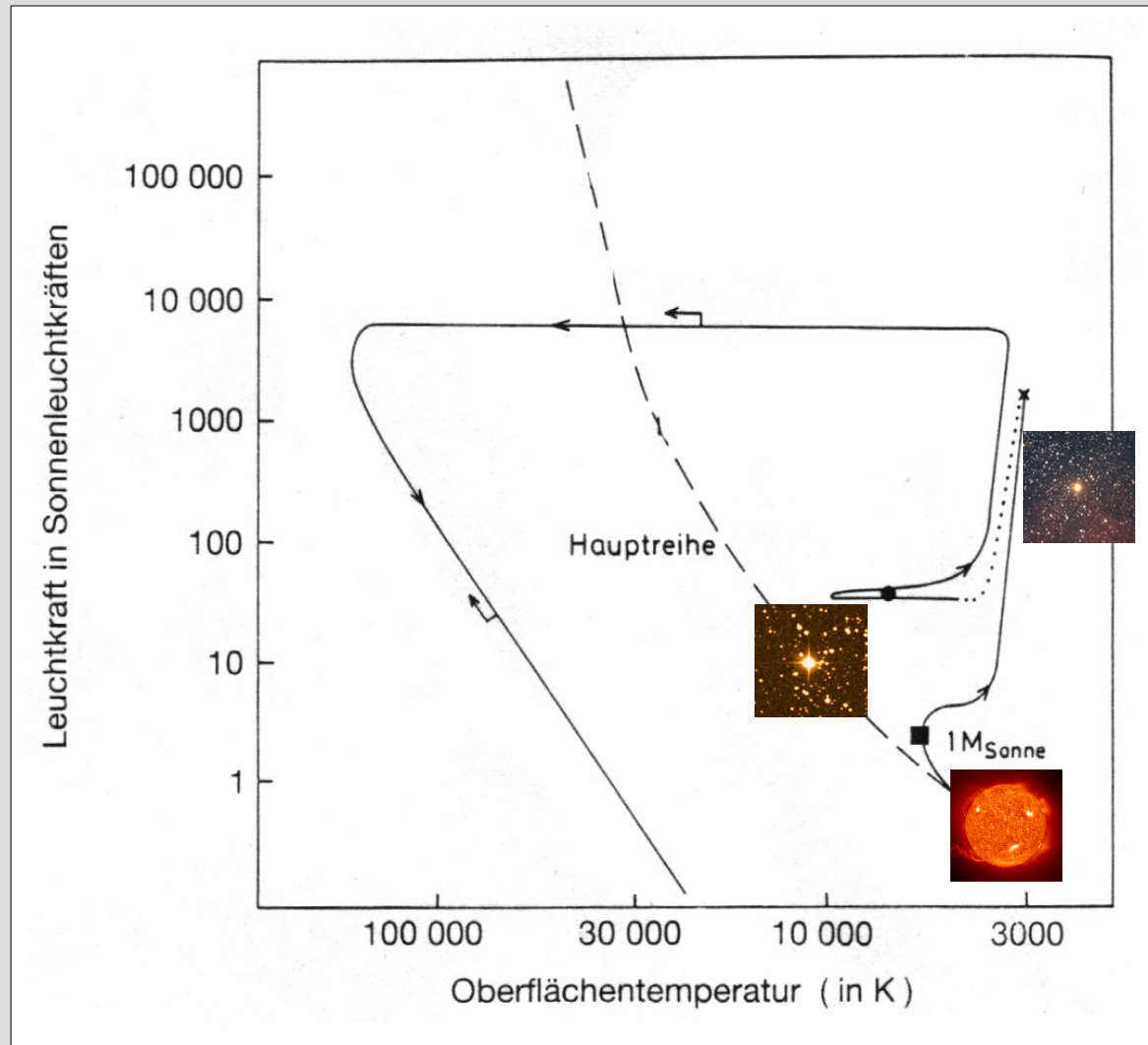
Since all horizontal branch stars have the same absolute magnitude
 \leftrightarrow **horizontal** they can be used to measure distances



(Renzini & Fusi Pecci 1988)

Stellar evolution – low mass stars

HRD with the path of a star with $1 M_{\odot}$



stage

example

Main Sequence

sun

Red Giant

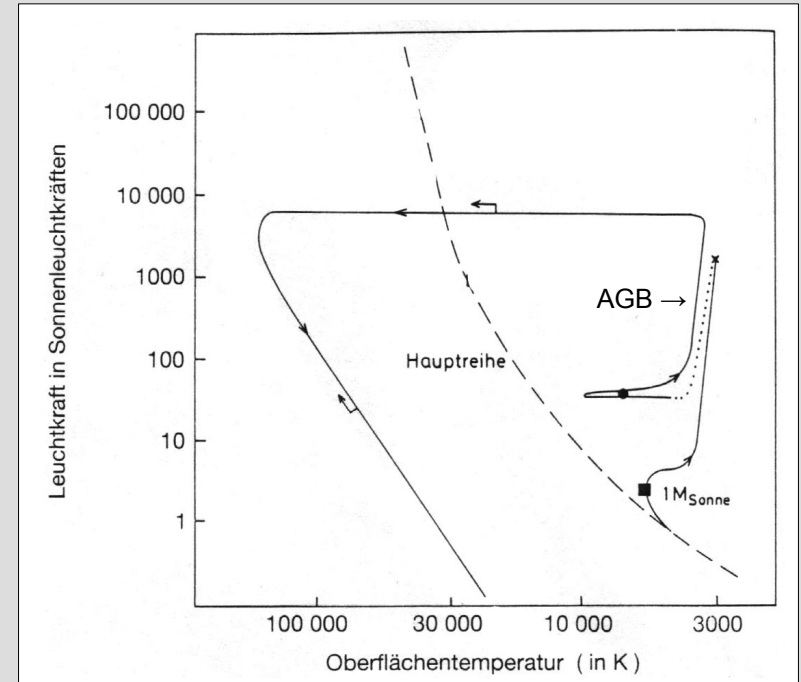
μ Cepheus (Granat star)

Horizontal Branch star

RR Lyrae

Horizontal branch to AGB

- is He used up → pressure drop → a collapse until shell He burning begins
- no further nuclear burnings are possible, but multiple shell !!!
- r increases, T_{eff} decreases
- evolves again towards Hayashi line
- fully convective
- similar evolution as Red Giant
- now **asymptotic giant branch (AGB)**

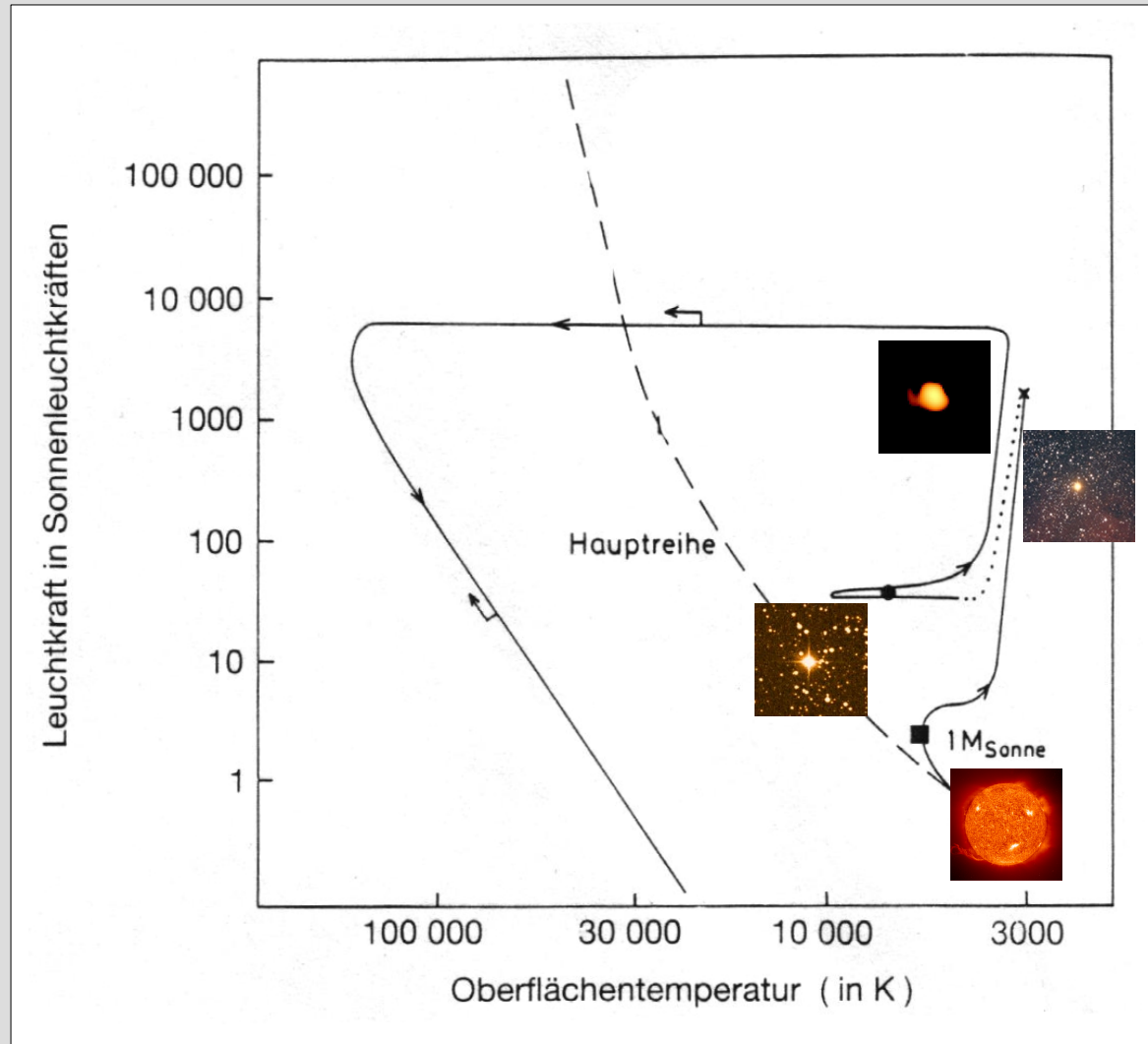


Asymptotic Giant Branch Star

- Radius 100 to 1000 R_{\odot}
- $T_{\text{eff}} \sim 3500$ to 4000 K (\sim Hayashi)
- Luminsity $\log L / L_{\odot} = 3$ bis 4 $M_{\text{bol}} = -3$ bis -6

Stellar evolution – low mass stars

HRD with the path of a star with $1 M_{\odot}$



stage

example

Main Sequence

sun

Red Giant

μ Cepheus (Granat star)

Horizontal Branch star

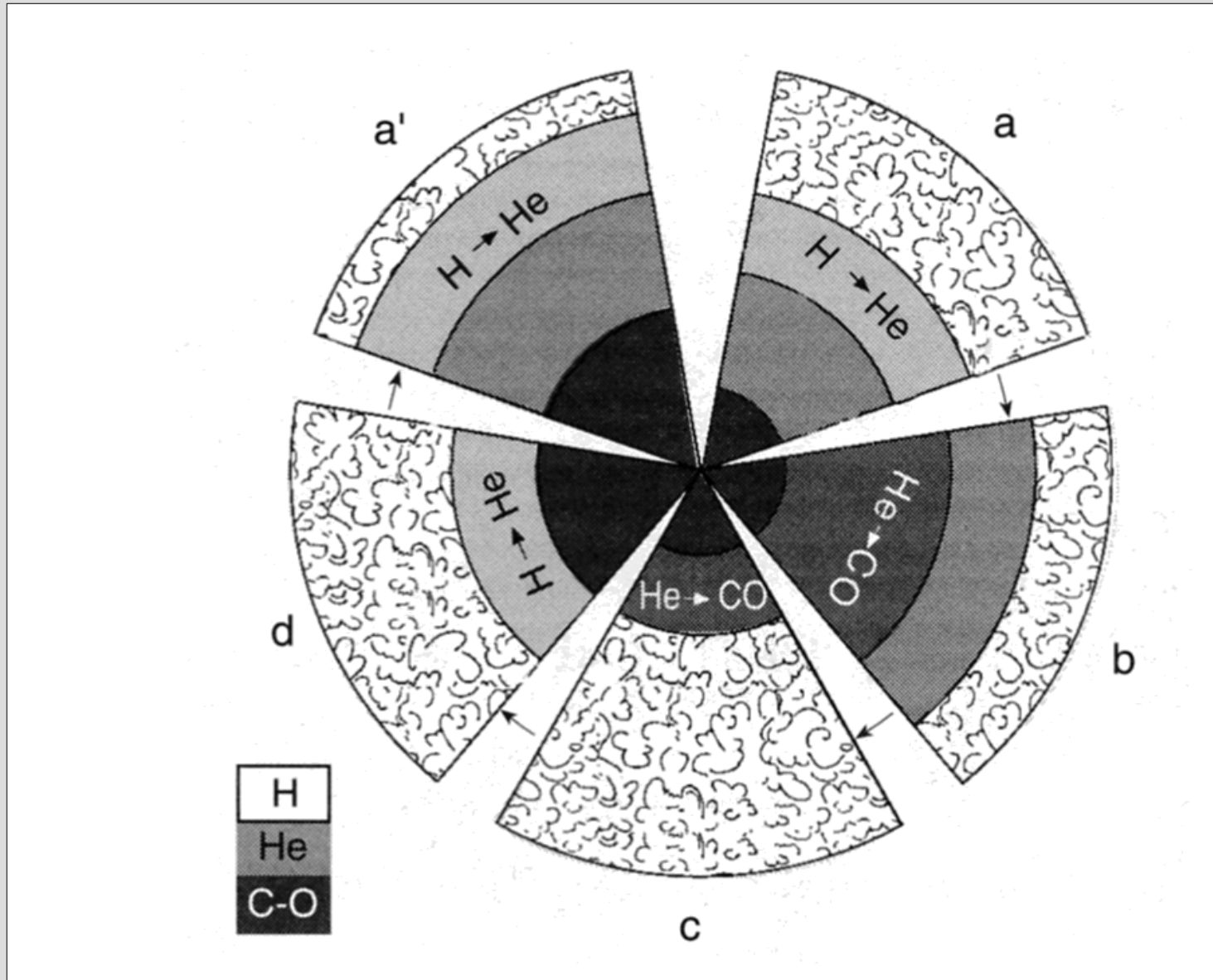
RR Lyrae

Asymptotic Giant Branch star

Mira

AGB Phase – Thermal Pulse

Starting point a : H but no He burning shell



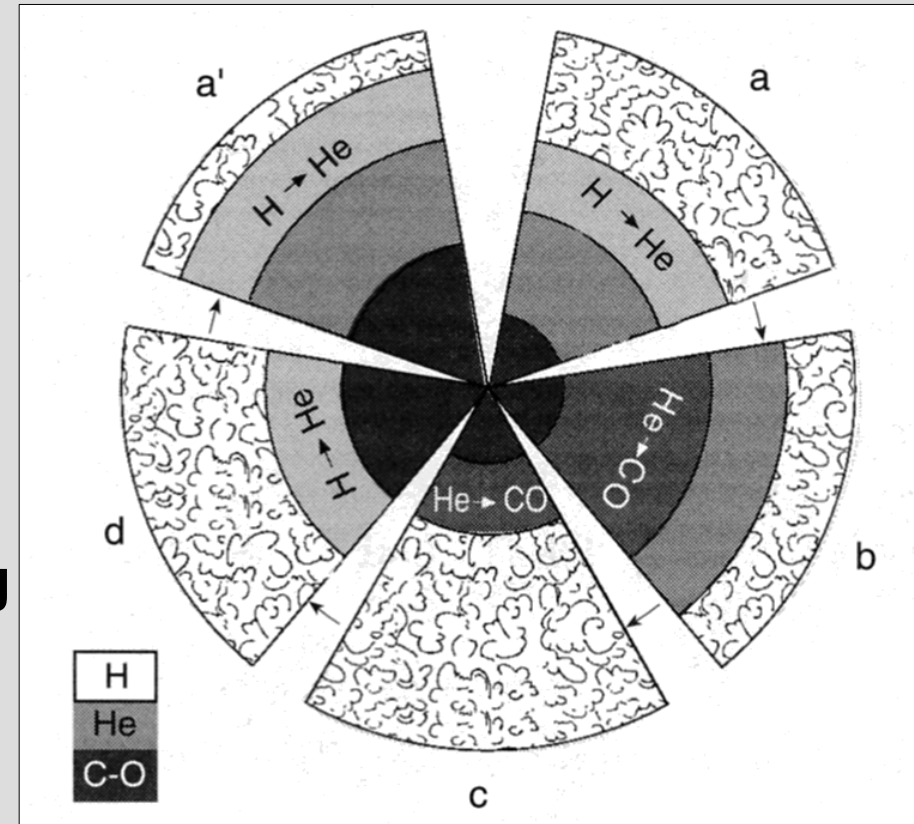
AGB Phase – Thermal Pulse

a → b:

H shell burning leaves He layer behind,
further out T drops → H shell burning
ends and T sinks further

→ pressure drops
→ star contracts

this heats up the He layer and **He burning**
starts in shell



AGB Phase – Thermal Pulse

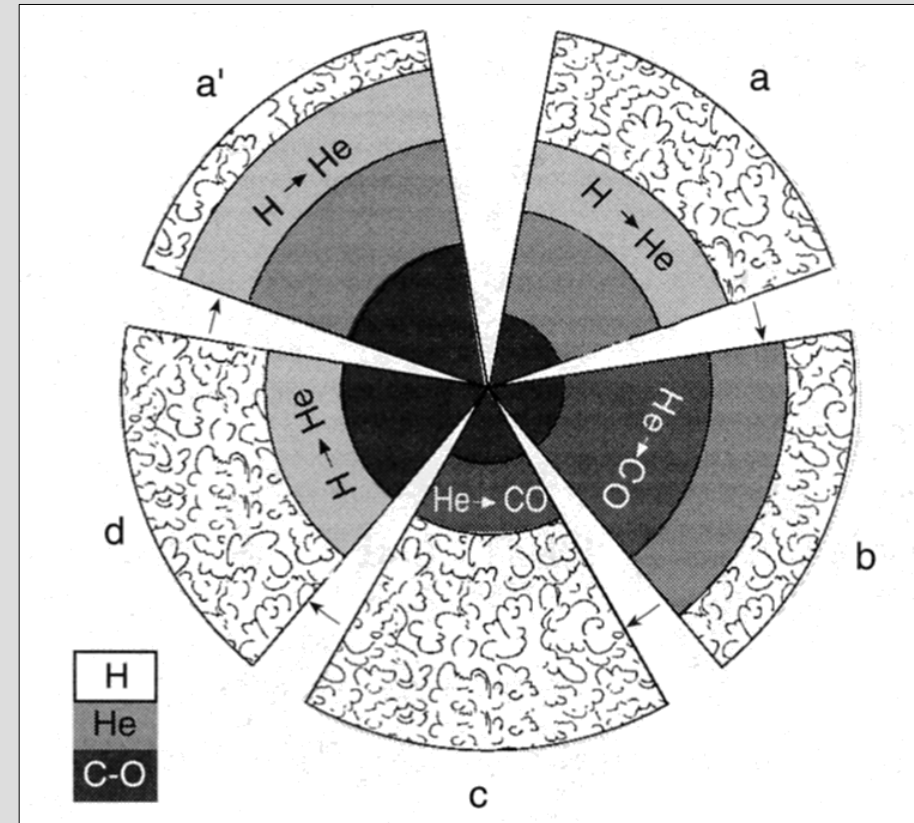
c → d:

He shell moves inward

→ He **burning stops** because there is not enough He left

→ heating of the H layers above leads

H shell burning starts



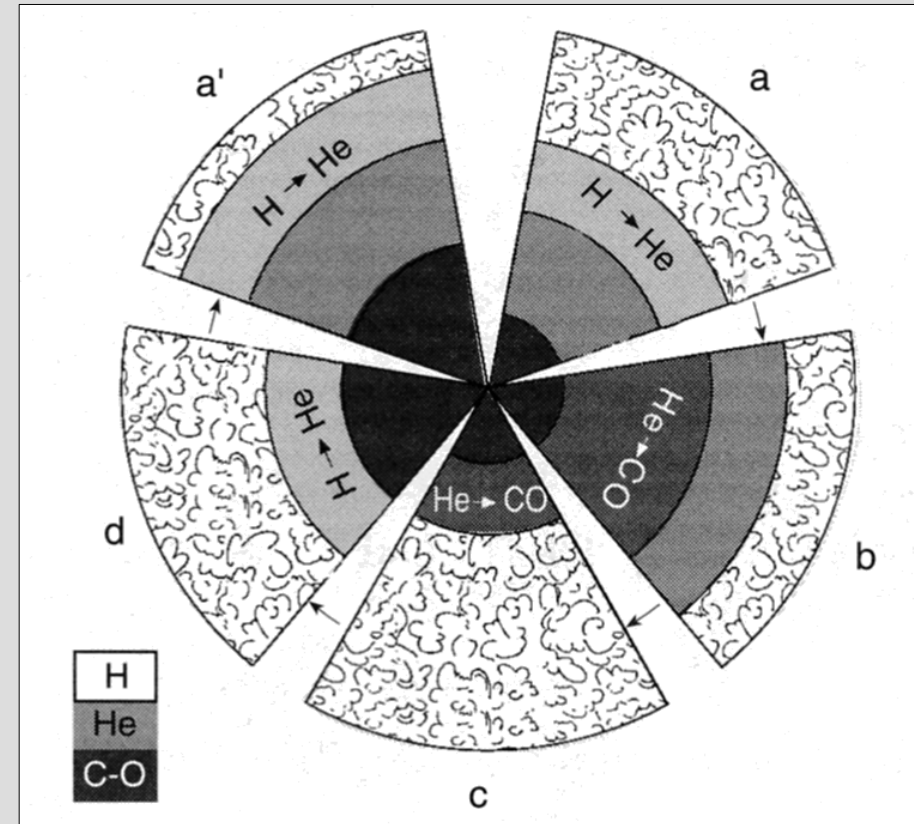
AGB Phase – Thermal Pulse

d → a':

H burning shell moves up and leaves a He layer

→ reached the starting point
same situation

starts again at somewhat higher radius
the same procedure as



From AGB to Proto-Planetary Nebula

shell burning ends. It leaves

- the degenerate CO nucleus from the helium burning
- circumstellar material \leftrightarrow old stellar shells removed by wind and thermal pulses

The material is atomic or molecular (CO, H₂) \rightarrow visible in IR it forms

Proto-Planetary Nebulae

Westbrook Nebula



Roberts 22

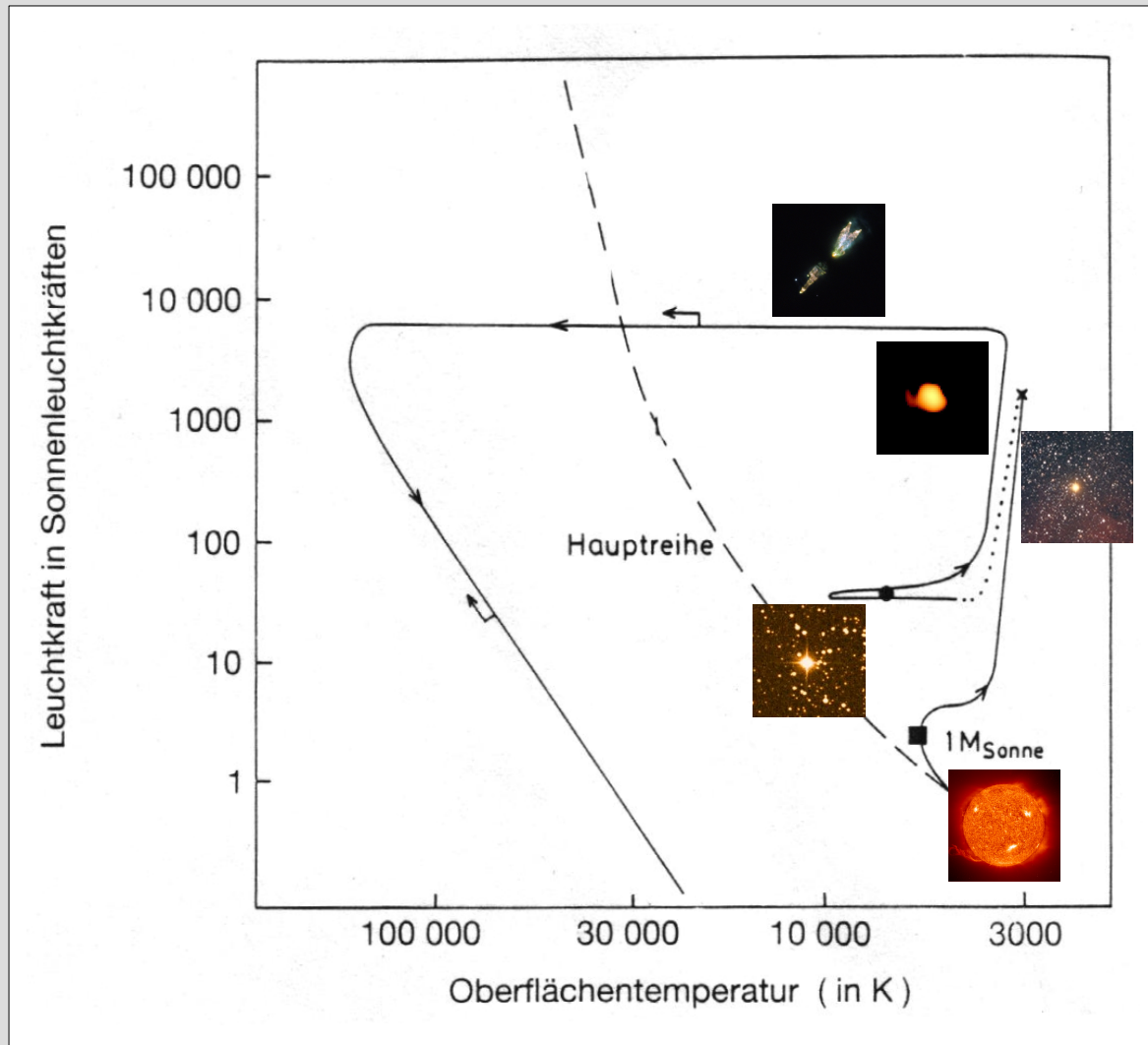


IRAS 20068+4051



Stellar evolution – low mass stars

HRD with the path of a star with $1 M_{\odot}$



stage

example

Main Sequence

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Horizontal Branch star

RR Lyrae

Asymptotic Giant Branch star

Mira

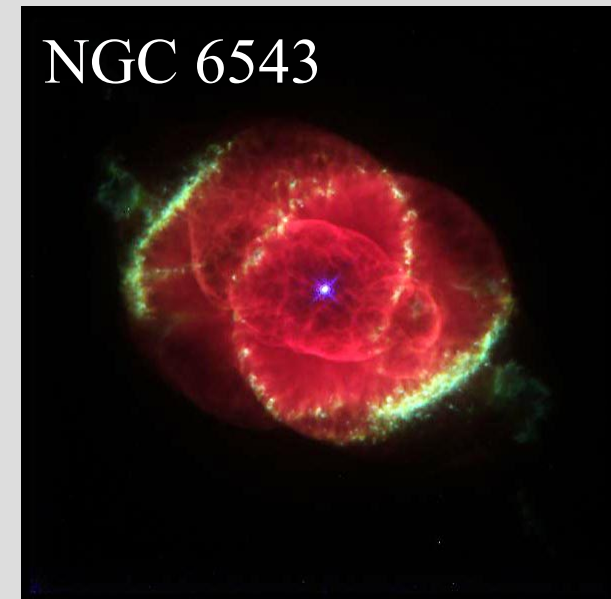
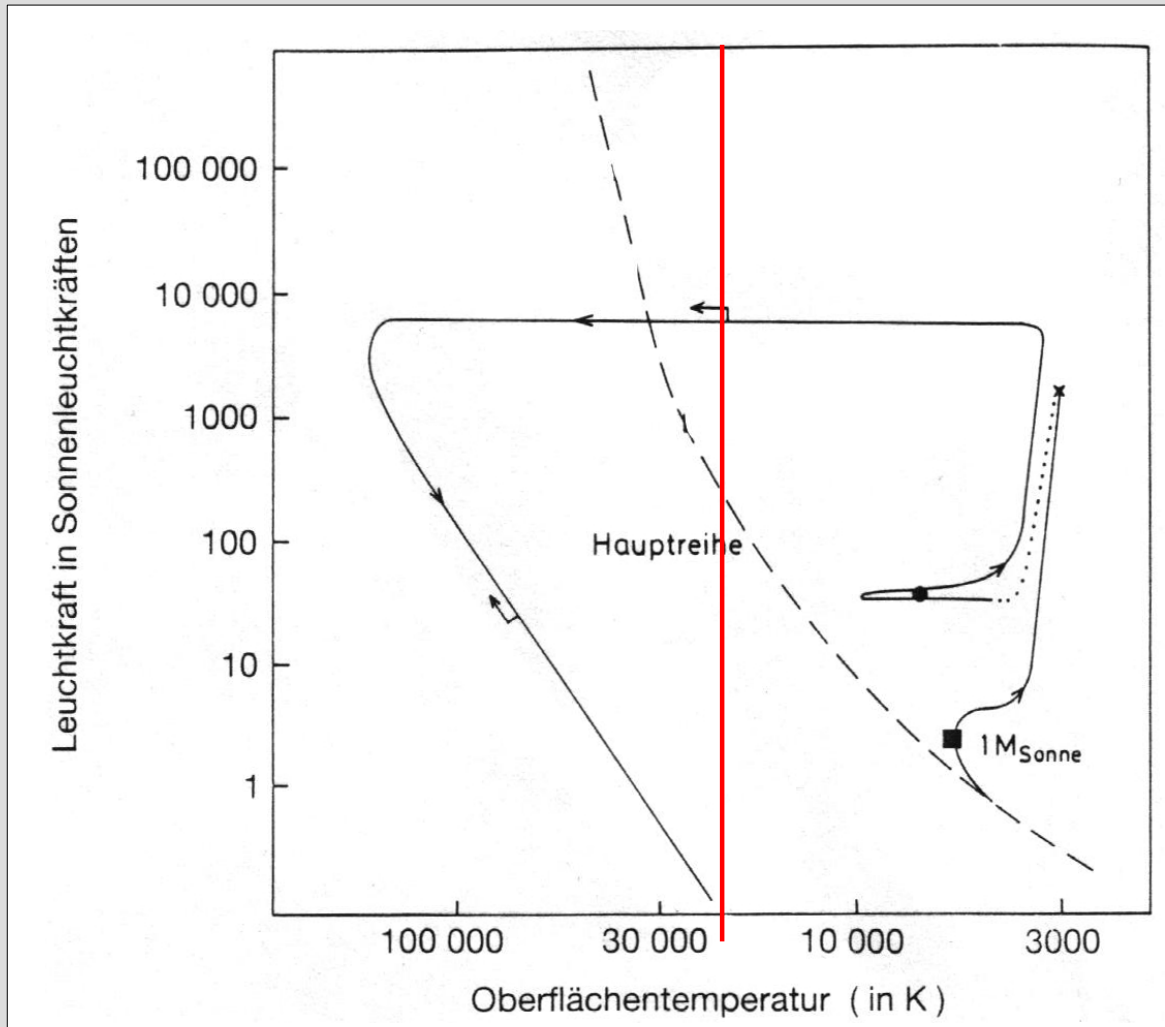
Proto Planetary Nebula

Westbrook Nebula

Proto PN to PN

Planetary Nebulae (PN)

→ star is hot enough → proto-PN ionized → now visible as PN

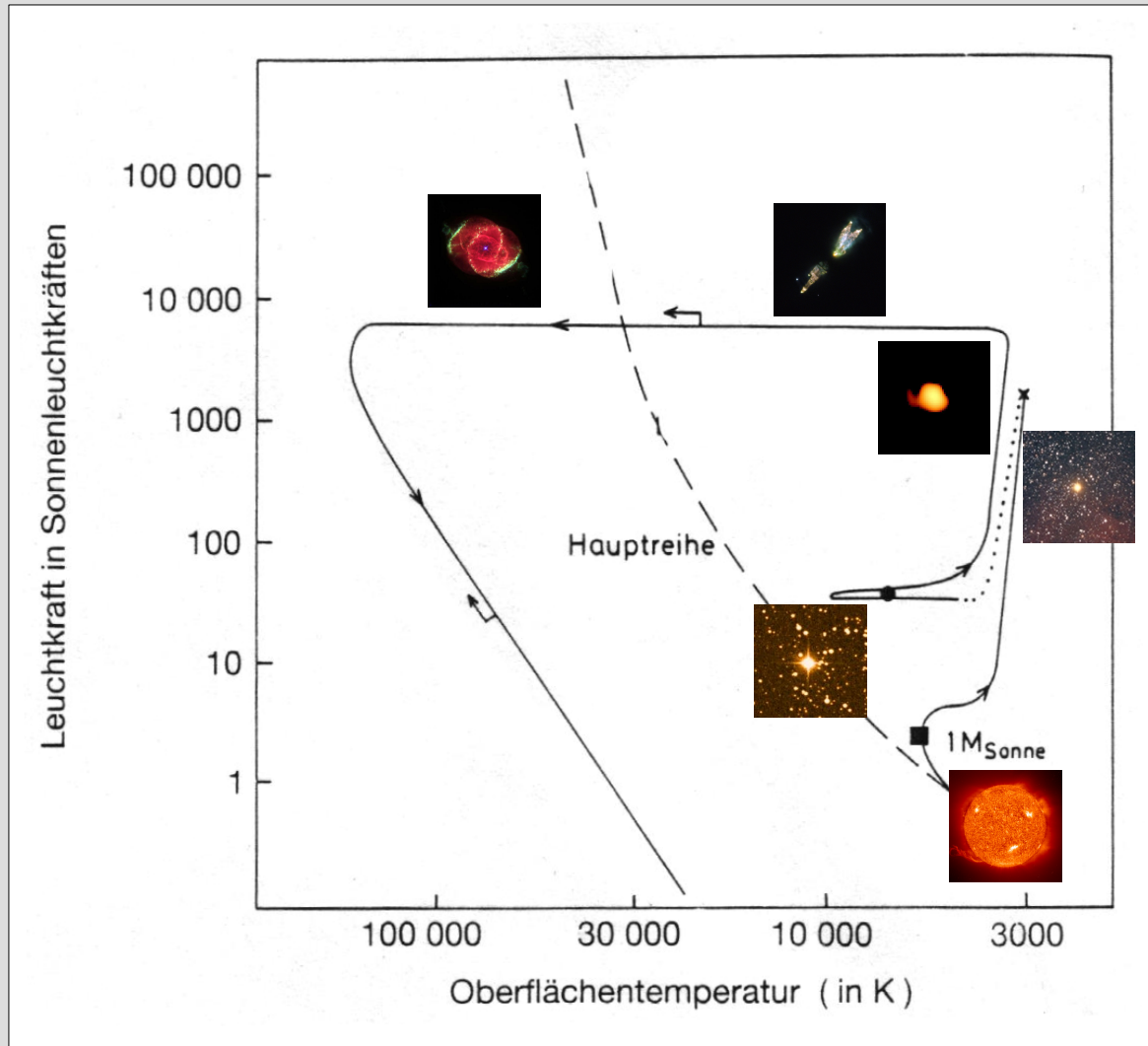


HST image in H_{α} , [NII], [OIII], [SII]

— T_{eff} of white dwarf high → UV photons to ionize the gas → PN

Stellar evolution – low mass stars

HRD with the path of a star with $1 M_{\odot}$



stage

example

Main Sequence

sun

Red Giant

μ Cepheus (Granat star)

Horizontal Branch star

RR Lyrae

Asymptotic Giant Branch star

Mira

Proto Planetary Nebula

Westbrook Nebula

Planetary Nebula

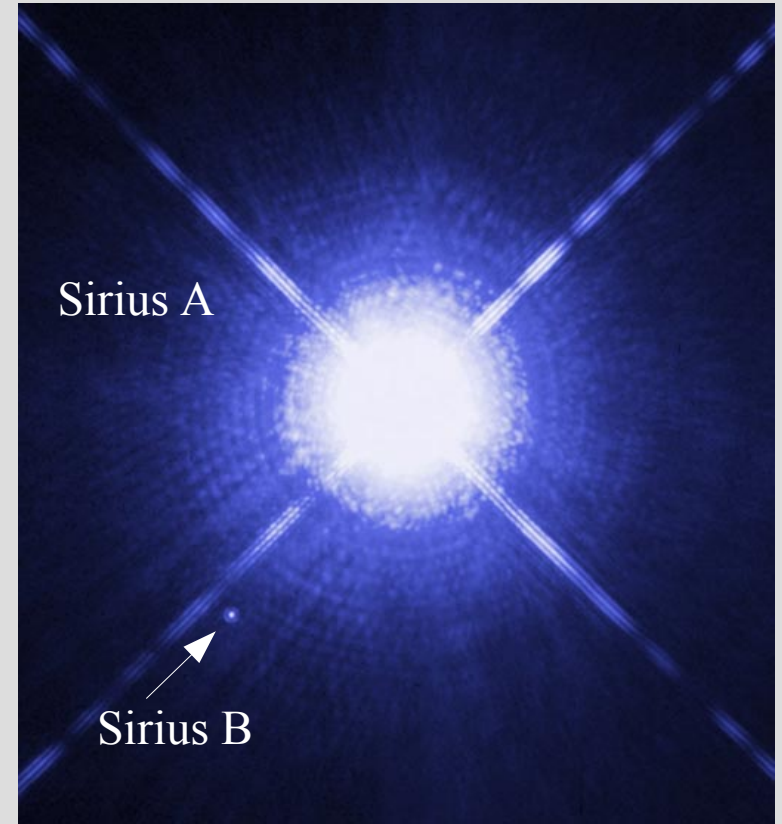
NGC 6543

Proto PN to PN to White Dwarf

During the Proto-PN and PN phase from the stars only the degenerate CO core remains.

The thermal pulses removed all outer shells.

The core now forms the remaining final central star, a

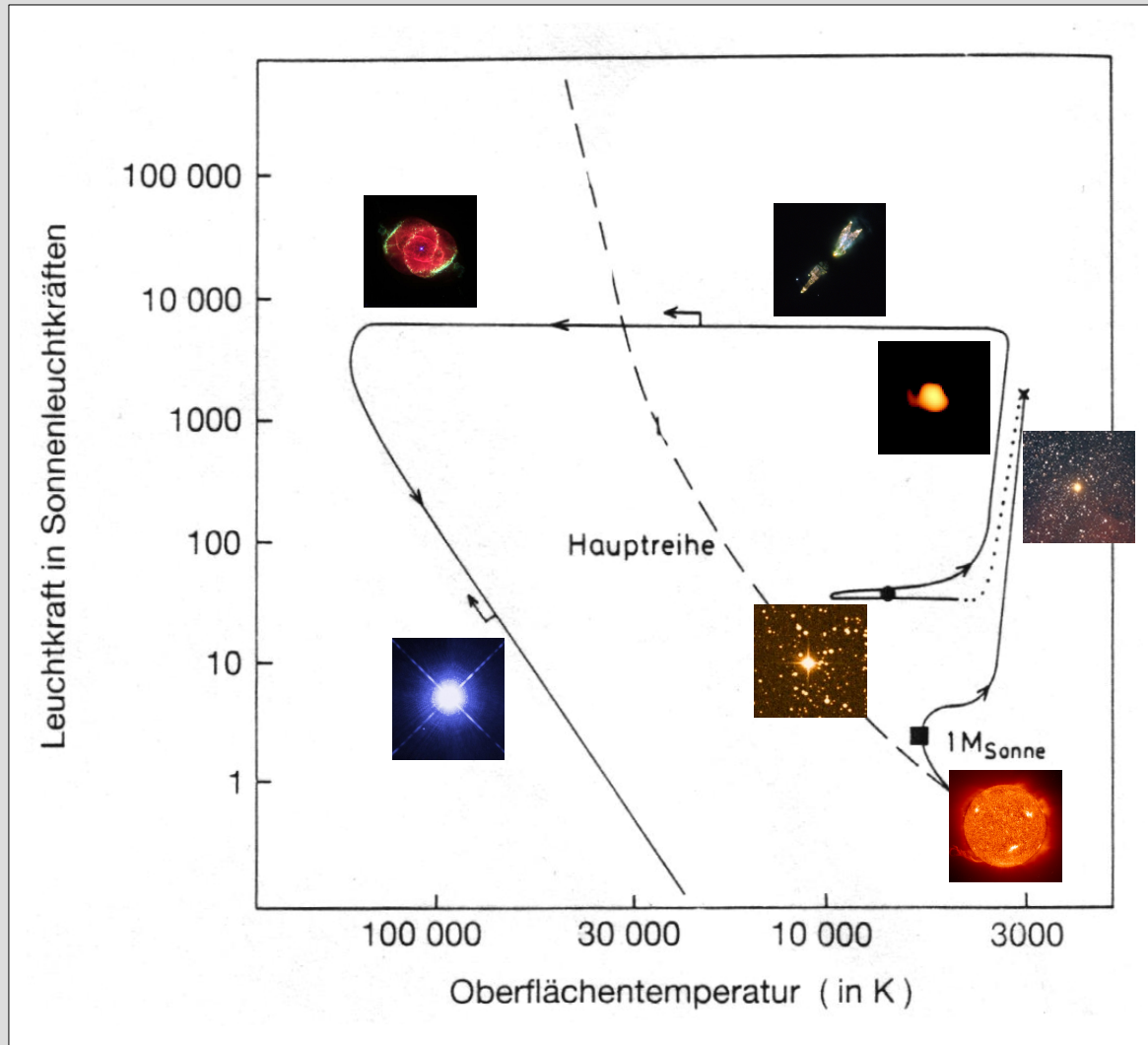


White Dwarf

- Radius $\sim 0.01 R_{\odot}$
- $T_{\text{eff}} \sim 5000 - 50000 \text{ K}$
- Luminosity $\log L / L_{\odot} = 1 \text{ bis } -5$ $M_{\text{bol}} = 2 \text{ bis } 17$

Stellar evolution – low mass stars

HRD with the path of a star with $1 M_{\odot}$



stage

example

Main Sequence

sun

Red Giant

μ Cepheus (Granat star)

Horizontal Branch star

RR Lyrae

Asymptotic Giant Branch star

Mira

Proto Planetary Nebula

Westbrook Nebula

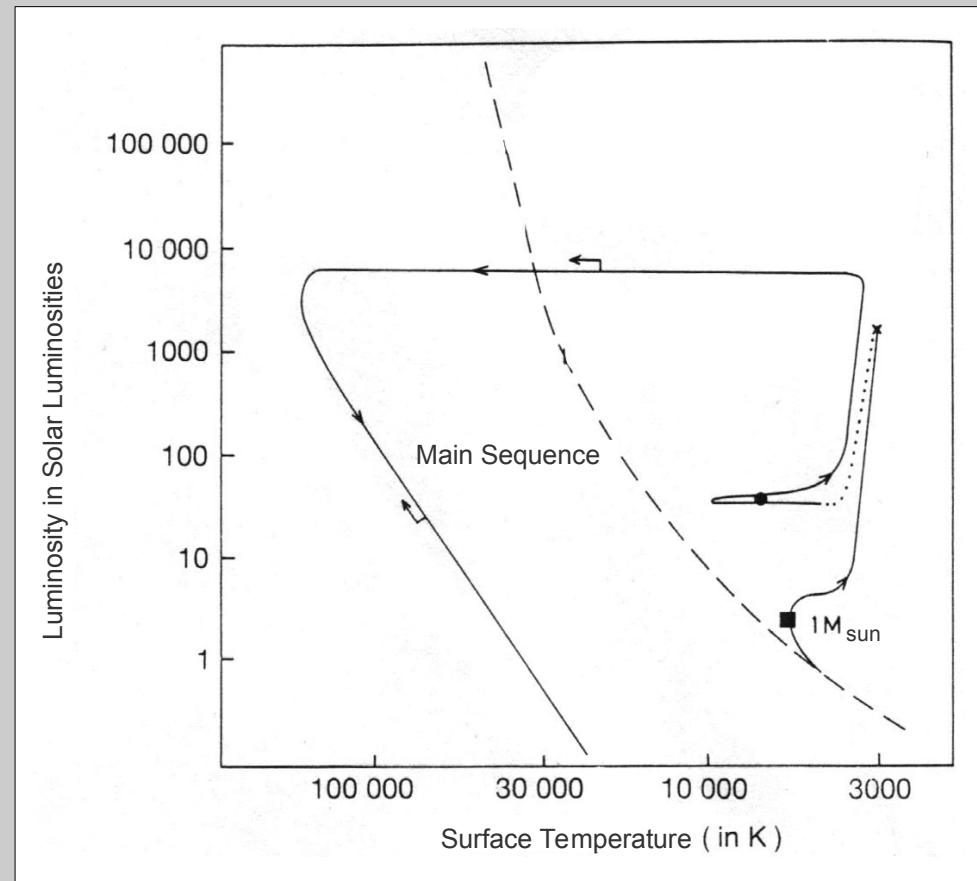
Planetary Nebula

NGC 6543

White Dwarf

Sirius B

Stellar evolution of low mass stars



Stellar evolution of low mass stars

Main-Sequence star **MS**



Red Giant Branchstar **RGB** (Helium Flash)



Horizontal Branch star **HB**



Asymptotic Giant Branch
star **AGB** (Thermal Pulses)



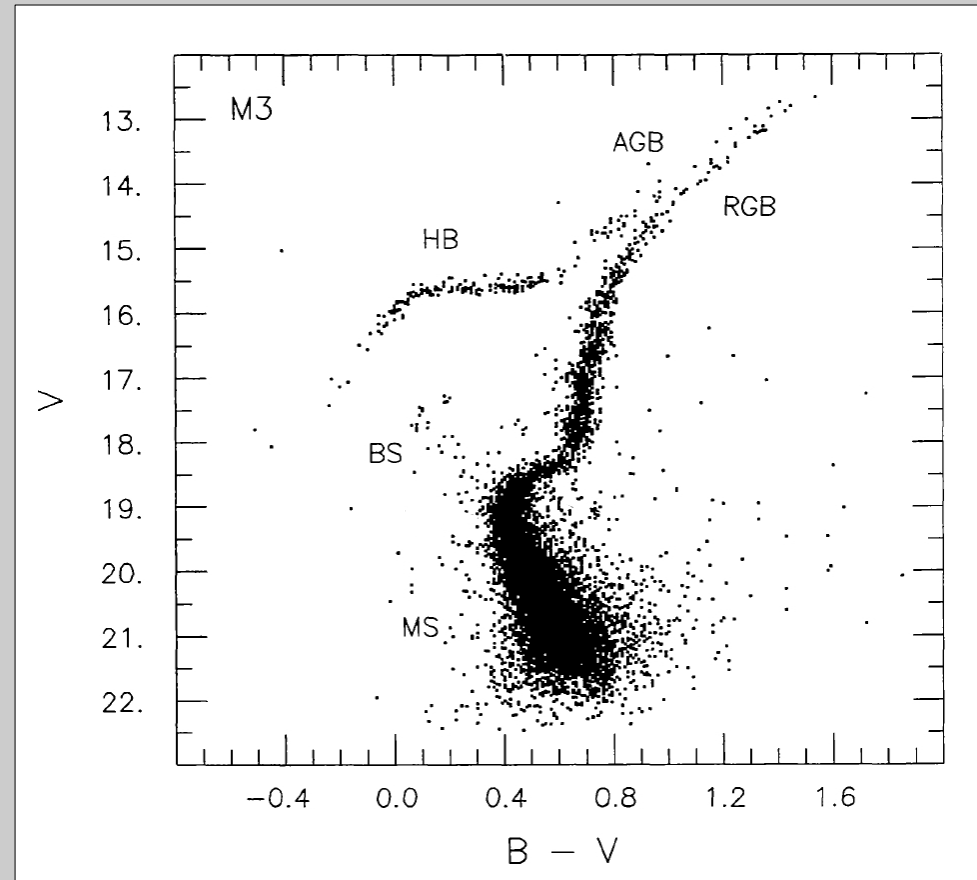
Post Asymptotic Giant Branch
star **P-AGB** + Proto Planetary
Nebula **P-PN**



White Dwarf **WD** + Planetary
Nebula **PN**)



White Dwarf **WD**



(Renzini & Fusi Pecci 1988)

Stellar evolution of low mass stars

Main-Sequence star **MS**



Red Giant Branchstar **RGB** (Helium Flash)



Horizontal Branch star **HB**



Asymptotic Giant Branch
star **AGB** (Thermal Pulses)



Post Asymptotic Giant Branch
star **P-AGB** + Proto Planetary
Nebula **P-PN**

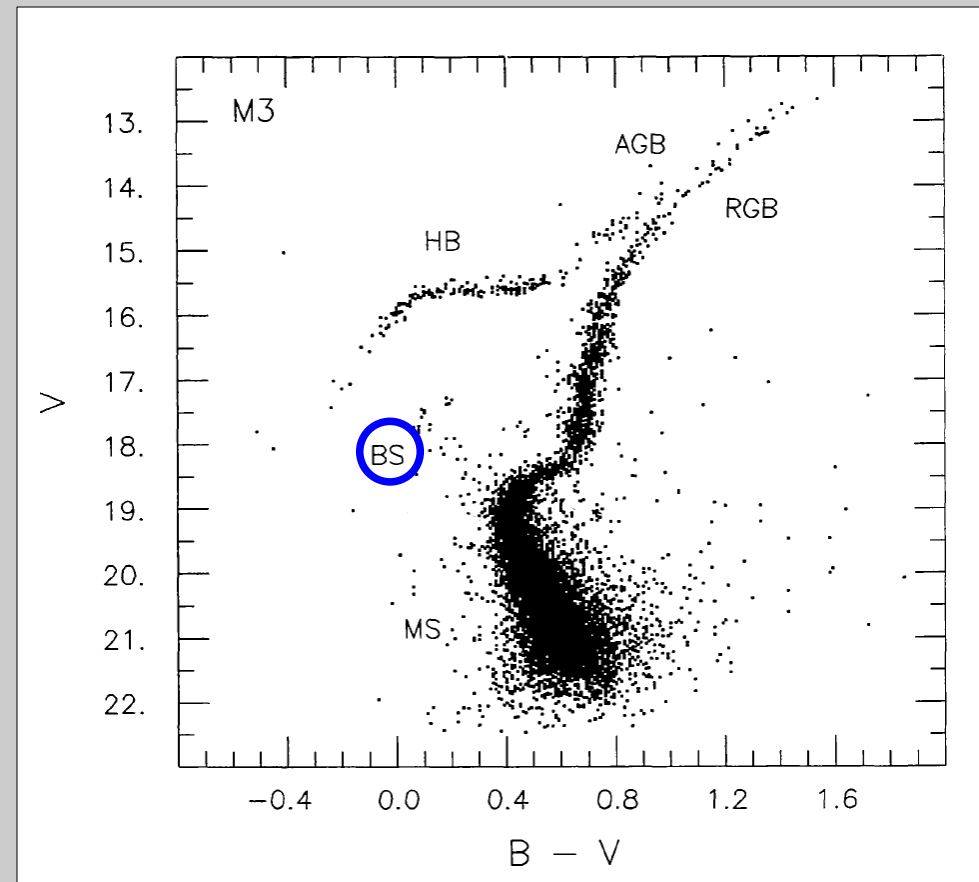


White Dwarf **WD** + Planetary
Nebula **PN**)



White Dwarf **WD**

BS ???



(Renzini & Fusi Pecci 1988)

BS ↔ Blue Stragglers

Blue Stragglers

Position of the stars in HRD → would have to be main sequence stars

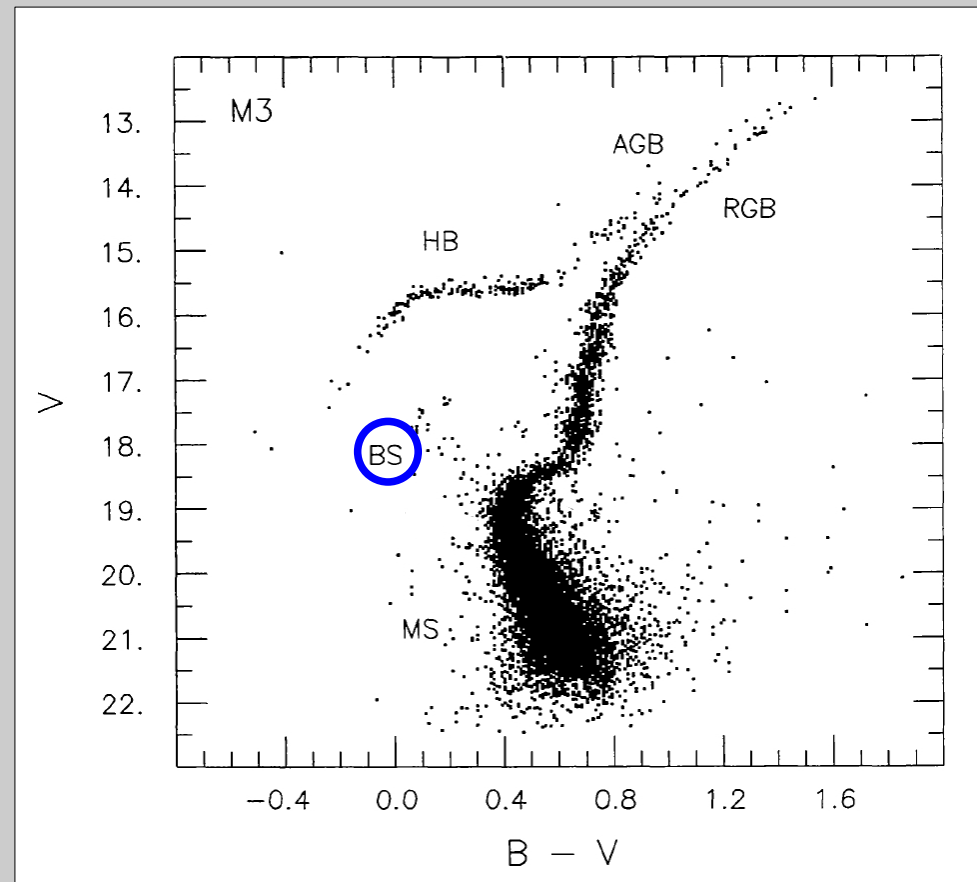
→ **contradiction with age!**

in cluster all the stars are of the same age if BS are main sequence stars they are more massive stars and above the turn off !!!

But ! more massive main star have already evolved into Red Giant Stars !!

REJUVENATION ?

BS ???



(Renzini & Fusi Pecci 1988)

BS alias Blue Stragglers

Blue Stragglers

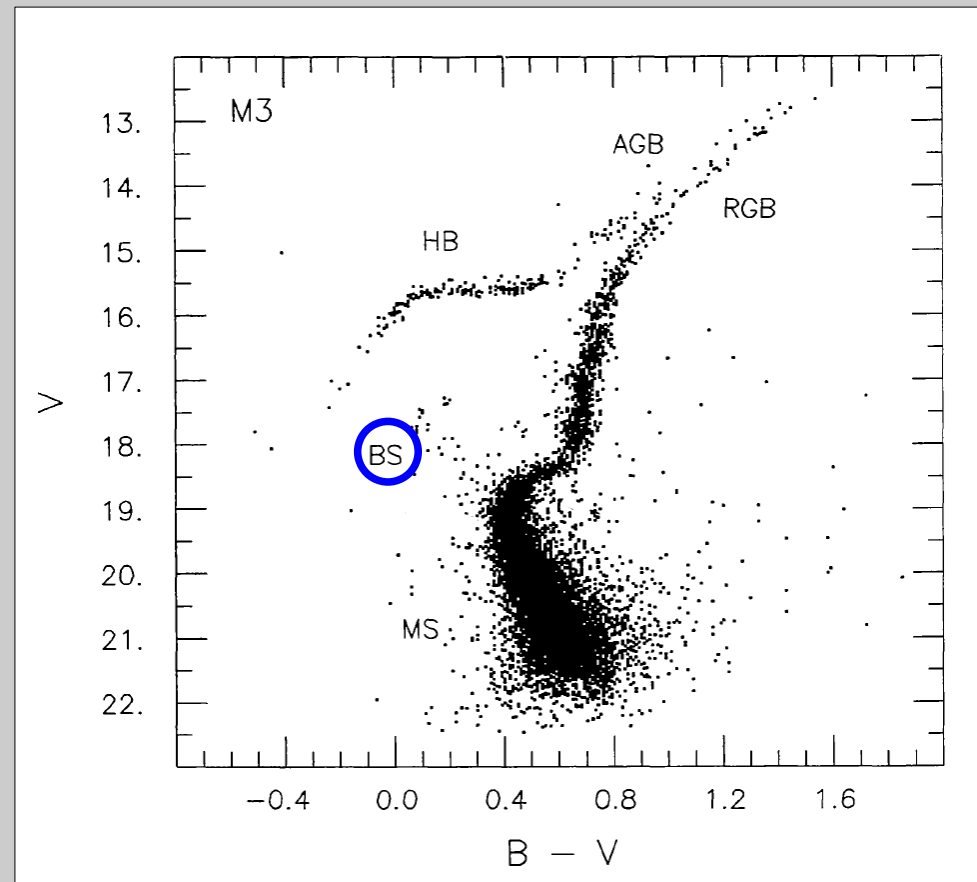
REJUVENATION ? YES !

low mass ★ + low mass ★ = more massive low mass★

By merging of two low mass stars a low mass star with higher mass is formed. This star now correctly lies on the main-sequence above the turn off

BS ?

BS = Blue Stragglers



(Renzini & Fusi Pecci 1988)

Summary: Stellar evolution – low mass stars

- initial mass **below $\sim 7 M_{\odot}$** (depends on metallicity & rotation)
- **$< 1.7 M_{\odot}$** degenerate core in **Red Giant phase**
- **$> 1.7 M_{\odot}$** degenerate core in **AGB Phase**
- low mass stars are able to start **only H and He burning**
- in **AGB phase** simultaneous He and H shell burning \leftrightarrow Thermals pulses
- in **AGB phase** higher elements are generated in the **s-process**
(He in shell reacts in with C \rightarrow n free)
- after the AGB phase \leftrightarrow mass lost in TP the circumstellar material forms a **Proto PN** that later becomes a **Planetary Nebula**
- **low mass stars** end as **White Dwarf (WD)**,
that now **cool ... and cool ...**

THAT'S COOL

