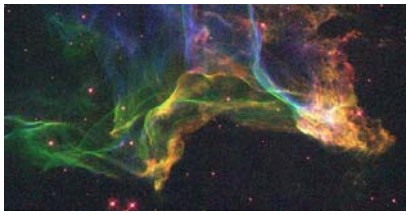
White dwarfs & supernovae — Oct 19



Cygnus Loop
Supernova 20,000 yr ago

- What causes pressure in white dwarfs?
- Where were the elements in the baby made?
  - Carbon was made and expelled by giants
  - Iron was made in massive stars and expelled by supernovae
  - Heavier elements were made in supernovae & in giants, where there are free neutrons. Nuclei capture neutrons.

- Observing
  - Wed & Thurs, Oct 21 & 22, 8:00-10:00pm.
    - Elevator cannot go up after 10:00pm.
  - Attend only if stars are visible. See angel at 6:00pm, if weather is ambiguous.
  - Quiz. You will be asked to locate a star using the Abrams Planetarium star chart. Quiz counts as one clicker assignment.
  - Go to the south end of the building (toward Wilson Rd.) & take the elevator up to the penthouse.

- Test 2 on Wed.
  - Through Adams' discover of a white dwarf (12 Oct)
  - Energy production in sun not included (12 Oct).
  - One 8 ½ x 11" cheat sheet.

- Open house nights at the observatory
  - Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23 and 24, 9-11pm, weather permitting.
  - Observatory:
    - Go south on Farm Lane to the end
    - Turn right. Observatory is 100 yards to the west.

Normal/degeneracy pressure
White dwarfs

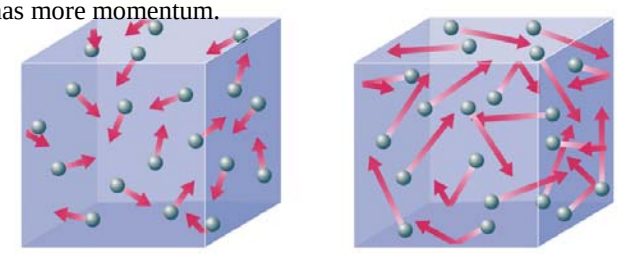
- Pressure on the walls of the box is caused by the gas hitting the walls. Gas transfers momentum to the walls.
- Mental picture: Marbles hit the walls; wall pushes back.
- **Normal gas**

  $P V = n k T$

  $mv^2=kT$

1. Pressure is greater at higher temperature because ___. I. more marbles are hitting the wall every second. II. the marbles are moving faster and each marble has more momentum.

   A. I only
   B. II only
   C. <u>I & II</u>



Longer arrows mean higher average speed.

Pressure in a "degenerate gas"

- **Normal gas**

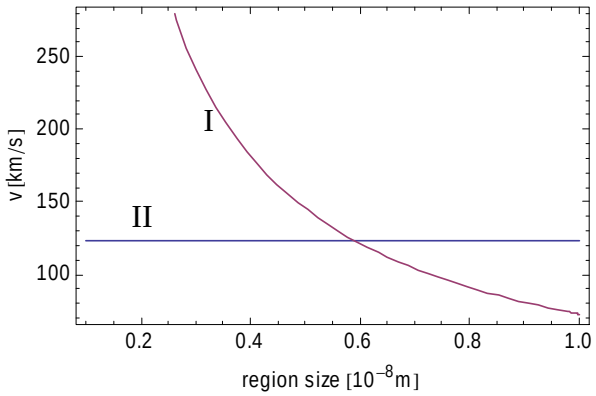
  $P V = n k T$

  - Pressure is greater at higher temperature because the marbles are moving faster. $mv^2=kT$
- **Degenerate gas. If the gas is confined to a very small space, Newton's 2nd law becomes invalid.**
  - New laws of motion, called quantum mechanics, apply.
- Heisenberg's uncertainty principle. Suppose a particle is allowed to move within a region of length x.

  $m v x > h$

  momentum x > h

  v is speed. h is Planck's constant.
  - A particle must move if it is confined to a small space.
  - If you confine an electron to 10^{-8}m, it moves at 70km/s.



1. Plot shows the speed of a normal gas made of electrons with a temperature of 1000K and a degenerate gas of electrons with a temperature of 0K.
   A. I is a NG. II is a DG.
   B. I is a DG. II is a NG.

Pressure in a "degenerate gas"

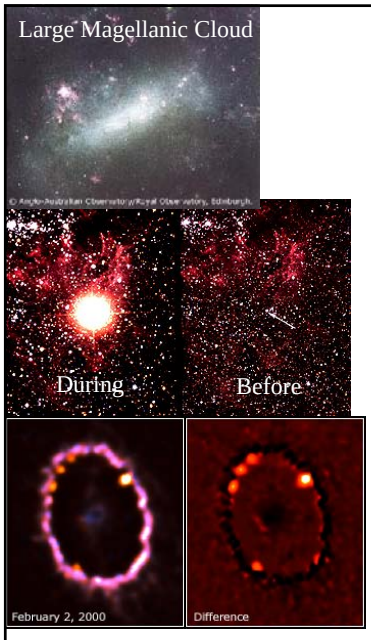
- **Normal gas**
  P V = n k T
  - Pressure is greater at higher temperature because the marbles are moving faster.
- **Degenerate gas. If the gas is confined to a very small space, Newton's 2nd law becomes invalid.**
  - New laws of motion, called quantum mechanics, apply.
- Heisenberg's uncertainty principle. Suppose a particle is allowed to move within a region of length x.
  m v x > h
  momentum x > h
  v is speed. h is Planck's constant.
  - A particle must move if it is confined to a small space.
  - If you confine an electron to 10^{-8}m, it moves at 70km/s.
- Pressure of a degenerate gas
  - P $V^{5/3}$ = constant $n^{5/3}$
  - constant = h^2/m
  - Pressure does not depend on temperature!!!

Other fusion reactions?

- Sun has one more trick after He is exhausted in core.
  - Burn He in a shell
- Sun is not massive enough to shrink further and get hotter
  - Core is supported by pressure of degenerate electrons.
  - Temperature does not rise to burn anything else.
- End of the road: planetary nebula & white dwarf core

Triple-alpha process

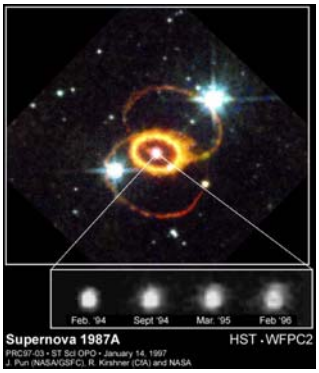
Reaction	Min. Temp.
4 ^{1}H ➔ ^{4}He	10 MK
3 ^{4}He ➔ ^{12}C	200 MK
^{12}C + ^{4}He ➔ ^{16}O, Ne, Na, Mg	800 MK
Ne ➔ O, Mg	1500MK
O ➔ Mg, S	2000MK
Si ➔Fe peak	3000MK



Supernova 1987A

- Exploded in Large Magellanic Cloud
  - LMC is small galaxy that orbits our own Milky Way Galaxy.

Pre-existing circumstellar ring lit up first by photons from SN, now by blast wave from SN.



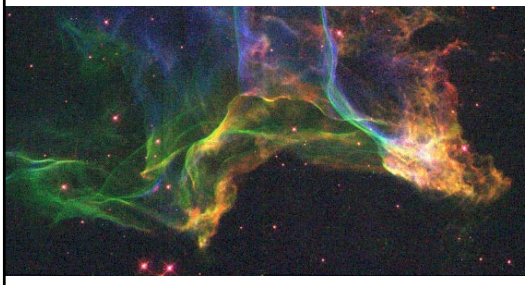
Guest star of 1054

- Records of Sung Dynasty
  - In the first year of the period Chih-ho, …, a guest star appeared severa degrees SE of Thien-kuan. After more than a year it gradually becam invisible.–p578.
- Gas expelled in 1054AD, still glowing
- Other SN
  - 1572 Tycho
  - 1604 Kepler

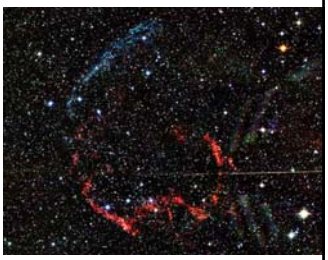
Supernova remnants

We expect one supernova in Milky Way every 25-100 yrs.

Crab
1,000 yrs old



Cygnus Loop
20,000 yrs old.
2500 LY away.



IC 443
8000 yrs old

Supernovae

- Explosion releases enormous energy
- Luminosity in photons temporarily exceeds that of whole galaxy full (100 billion) of stars.

What is a supernova? Why sun becomes a white dwarf, not a supernova

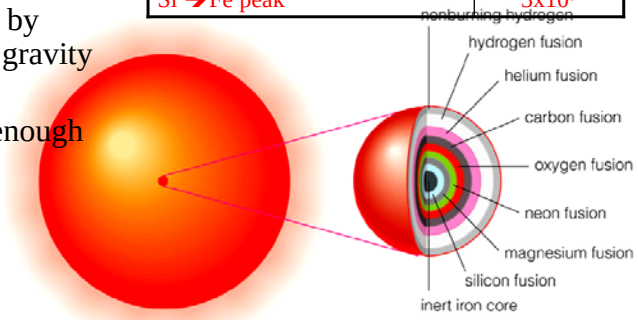
- In future double-shell burning sun, hot enough to burn
  $3\,^4He \rightarrow {}^{12}C$
- When He exhausted, gravity wins, and core contracts.
- Temperature rises.
- Electrons are so tight that they become degenerate.
- New source of pressure to resist gravity.
- Temperature not hot enough to burn carbon.

Reaction	Min. Temp.
$4\,{}^1H \rightarrow {}^4He$	10^7 ° K
$3\,{}^4He \rightarrow {}^{12}C$	$2x10^8$
${}^{12}C + {}^4He \rightarrow {}^{16}O$, Ne, Na, Mg	$8x10^8$
Ne → O, Mg	$1.5x10^9$
O → Mg, S	$2x10^9$
Si → Fe peak	$3x10^9$

What is a supernova? Why massive star becomes a supernova

- In future double-shell burning <u>massive star</u>, hot enough to burn
  $3\,^4He \rightarrow {}^{12}C$
- When He exhausted, gravity wins, and core contracts.
- Temperature rises by larger amount b/c gravity is stronger.
- Temperature hot enough to burn carbon.
  $^4He + {}^{12}C \rightarrow {}^{16}O$, etc

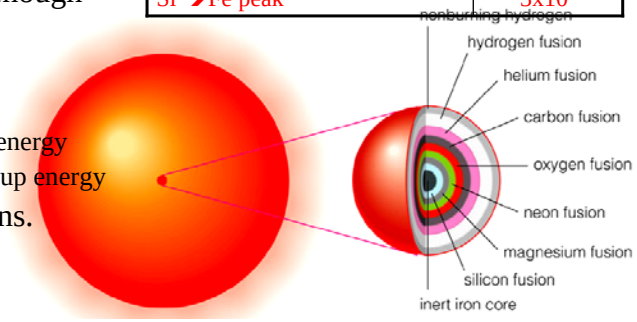
Reaction	Min. Temp.
$4\,^1H \rightarrow {}^4He$	10^7 ° K
$3\,^4He \rightarrow {}^{12}C$	$2x10^8$
$^{12}C + {}^4He \rightarrow {}^{16}O$, Ne, Na, Mg	$8x10^8$
Ne → O, Mg	$1.5x10^9$
O → Mg, S	$2x10^9$
Si →Fe peak	$3x10^9$



What is a supernova? Why massive star becomes a supernova

- Hot enough to burn
  $^4He + {}^{12}C \rightarrow {}^{16}O$, etc
- When C exhausted, gravity wins, and core contracts.
- Temperature rises.
- Temperature hot enough to burn neon.
  $^{20}Ne + {}^4He \rightarrow {}^{24}Mg$
- Disaster with iron
  - Burning releases energy
  - Fusing iron takes up energy
- Gravity finally wins.

Reaction	Min. Temp.
$4\,^1H \rightarrow {}^4He$	10^7 ° K
$3\,^4He \rightarrow {}^{12}C$	$2x10^8$
$^{12}C + {}^4He \rightarrow {}^{16}O$, Ne, Na, Mg	$8x10^8$
Ne → O, Mg	$1.5x10^9$
O → Mg, S	$2x10^9$
Si →Fe peak	$3x10^9$



What is a supernova? Why massive star becomes a supernova

- Disaster with iron
  - Burning releases energy
  - Fusing iron takes up energy
- Gravity finally wins.
- Star collapses in few seconds
- Rebounds as supernova
  - Reason for rebounding is topic of current research
- Expel outer layers

Reaction	Min. Temp.
4 ^{1}H ➔ ^{4}He	10^{7} ° K
3 ^{4}He ➔ ^{12}C	$2x10^{8}$
^{12}C + ^{4}He ➔ ^{16}O, Ne, Na, Mg	$8x10^{8}$
Ne ➔ O, Mg	$1.5x10^{9}$
O ➔ Mg, S	$2x10^{9}$
Si ➔Fe peak	$3x10^{9}$