

# The Sun and the Stars

## The Heart of the Sun

### Giants, Dwarfs, and the Main Sequences



10/20/2009

**My Office Hours:**

Tuesday 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM  
206 Keen Building

Review:  
Properties of  
the Sun

Properties of the Sun  
Energy Transport

The Heart of  
the Sun

The Forces and  
Particles in the  
Universe  
Nuclear Fusion

Measuring the  
Stars

Stellar Parallax  
Stellar Motion

## 1 Review: Properties of the Sun

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## 2 The Heart of the Sun

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Nuclear Fusion

## 3 Measuring the Stars

Stellar Parallax  
Stellar Motion



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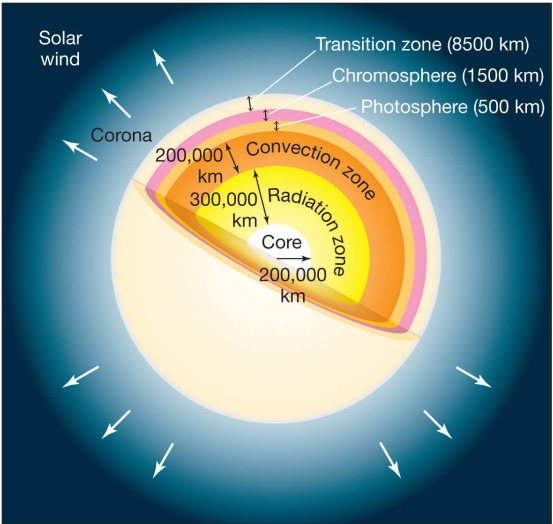
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# Solar Structure

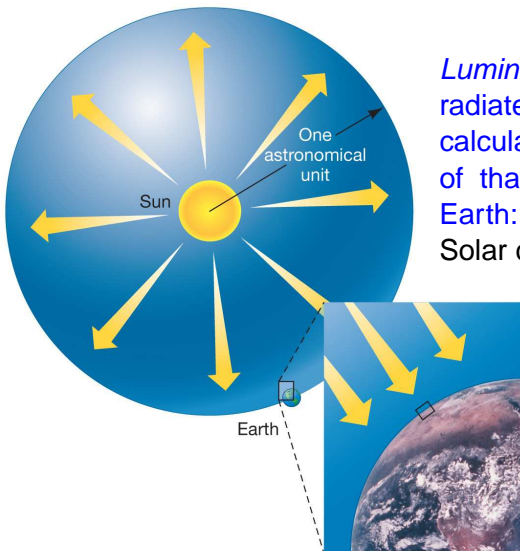


## Interior structure of the Sun

→ Outer layers are not to scale

Convection Zone  
Radiation Zone  
Core

# Solar Luminosity



*Luminosity*: the total energy radiated by the Sun – can be calculated from the fraction of that energy that reaches Earth:

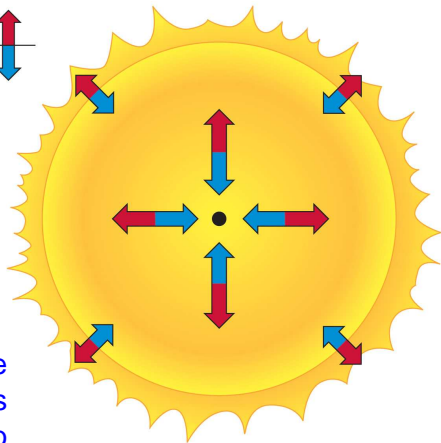
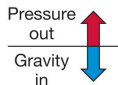
Solar constant  $\approx 1400 \text{ W/m}^2$

The total *luminosity* is about  $4 \cdot 10^{26} \text{ W}$  – the equivalent of 10 billion 1-megaton nuclear bombs per second.

# Stellar Balance

In **equilibrium**, inward **gravitational force** must be balanced by outward **pressure**.

Mathematical models that are consistent with observations and physical principles, do provide information about the Sun's interior.

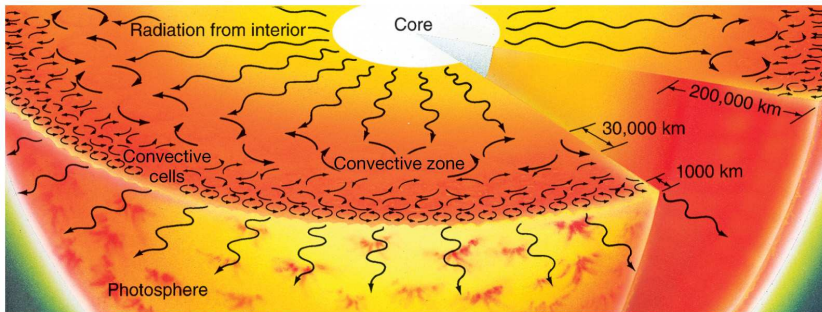


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# Solar Convection

## Physical transport of energy

- 1 The *radiation* zone is relatively transparent.

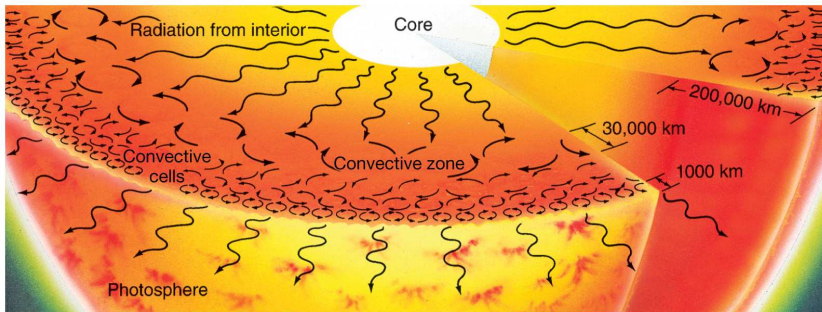


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# Solar Convection

## Physical transport of energy

- 1 The *radiation zone* is relatively transparent.
- 2 The cooler *convection zone* is opaque:
  - Each convective cell is about 1000 km across.
  - Cell sizes become progressively smaller closer to surface.



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# Outline

## 1 Review: Properties of the Sun

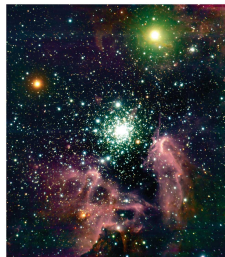
Properties of the Sun  
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## 2 The Heart of the Sun

The Forces and Particles in the Universe  
Nuclear Fusion

## 3 Measuring the Stars

Stellar Parallax  
Stellar Motion



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# Getting to the Bottom of Things

## Review: Properties of the Sun

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**The Forces and  
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## Measuring the Stars

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# Is the atom fundamental?

# Getting to the Bottom of Things

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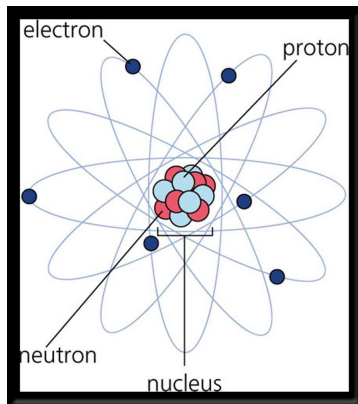
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Is the atom fundamental? No!



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Is the atom fundamental? No!

Is the nucleus fundamental?

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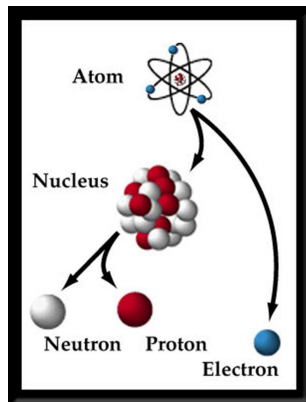
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Is the atom fundamental? No!

Is the nucleus fundamental? No!



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Is the atom fundamental? No!

Is the nucleus fundamental? No!

Is the nucleon fundamental?

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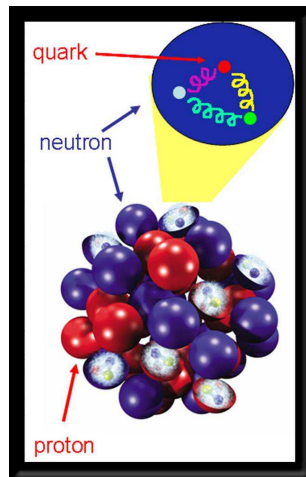
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Is the atom fundamental? No!

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Is the nucleon fundamental? No!



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Is the atom fundamental? No!

Is the nucleus fundamental? No!

Is the nucleon fundamental? No!

Is a quark fundamental?



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Is the atom fundamental? No!

Is the nucleus fundamental? No!

Is the nucleon fundamental? No!

Is a quark fundamental? Maybe ...

**Nuclear Physics:** The action is in the nuclei.

A set of small navigation icons typically found in Beamer presentations, including symbols for back, forward, search, and other slide controls.

# Chemistry, Alchemy, Atomics, ...

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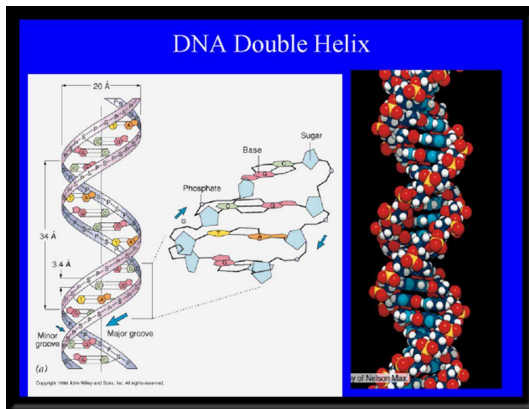
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**Chemistry:** The action is in the electrons.

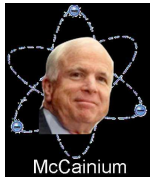
**Nuclear Physics:** The action is in the nuclei.



# Chemical Reactions

**Chemistry:** The action is in the electrons.

**Nuclear Physics:** The action is in the nuclei.



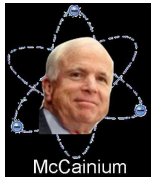
# Chemical Reactions

**Chemistry:** The action is in the electrons.

**Nuclear Physics:** The action is in the nuclei.



Maverick McNitrate



Changehope Dioxide

# Chemical Reactions

Chemistry: The action is in the electrons.

**Nuclear Physics:** The action is in the nuclei.



# Chemical Reactions

Chemistry: The action is in the electrons.

**Nuclear Physics:** The action is in the nuclei.



# Chemical Reactions

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How many fundamental interactions (forces)  
are there in the universe?

- 1 2
- 2 4
- 3 10
- 4 infinite
- 5 constantly changing

# Fundamental Interactions

There are *only* 4 fundamental forces in the universe.

# Fundamental Interactions

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There are *only* 4 fundamental forces in the universe.



The effect of gravity on fundamental particles is really tiny.  
So we don't really consider it for the moment.

# Fundamental Interactions

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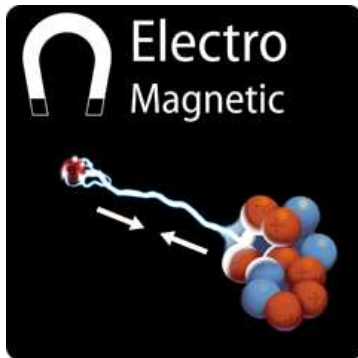
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There are *only* 4 fundamental forces in the universe.



The electromagnetic force affects any electrically charged fundamental particle (that's half of the leptons and all the quarks). It's the same force that makes lightning strike and different poles of bar magnets attract each other.

# Fundamental Interactions

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There are *only* 4 fundamental forces in the universe.



The weak force is responsible for radioactive decay. It actually makes neutrons turn into protons, amongst other things, and every type of matter particle experiences it.

# Fundamental Interactions

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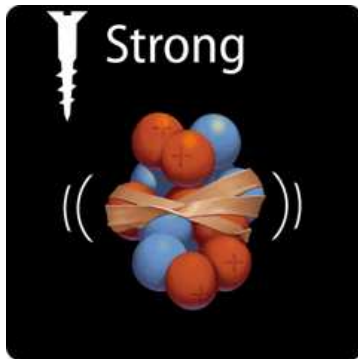
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There are *only* 4 fundamental forces in the universe.



The strong force (so-called because it is stronger than the weak force) is only felt by quarks. It behaves like elastic, because the further apart you pull two quarks, the stronger the strong force gets between them.

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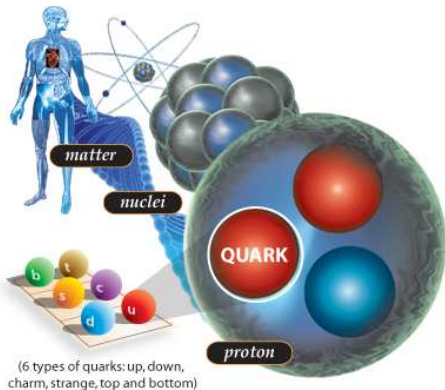
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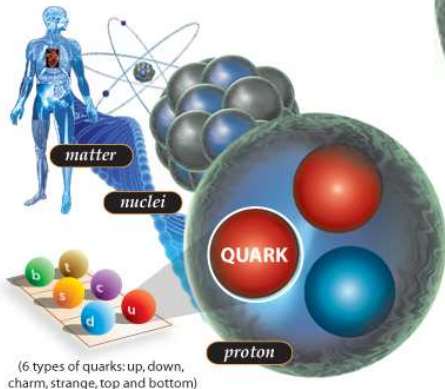
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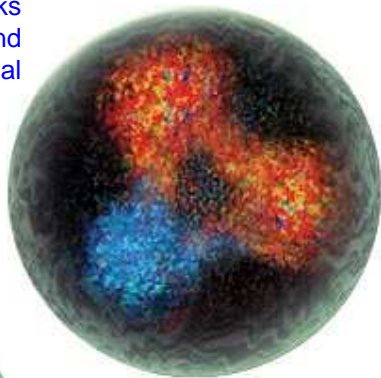
# The Proton



On a sub-microscopic level, the quarks in a proton appear as shared force and energy rather than as three individual "billiard balls."

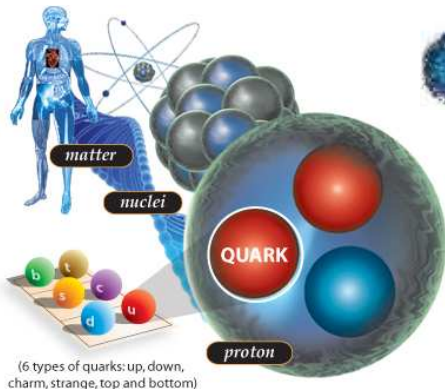


## The Proton

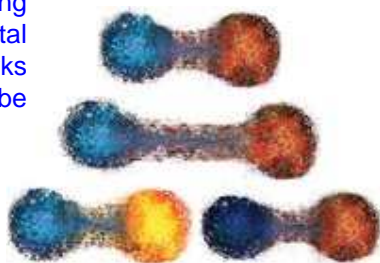




We observe the crucial phenomenon of *confinement* yet remain baffled by its underlying cause. Understanding confinement is one of the fundamental questions in physics today. If quarks were not confined, the world would be a very different place.



## Confinement



# Fundamental Particles

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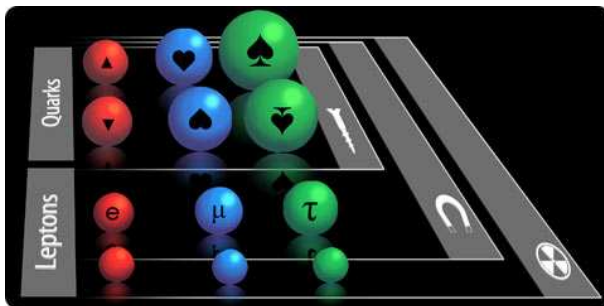
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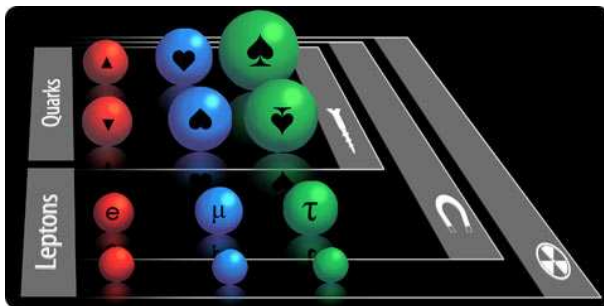
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## ① Why are there exactly twelve fundamental matter particles?



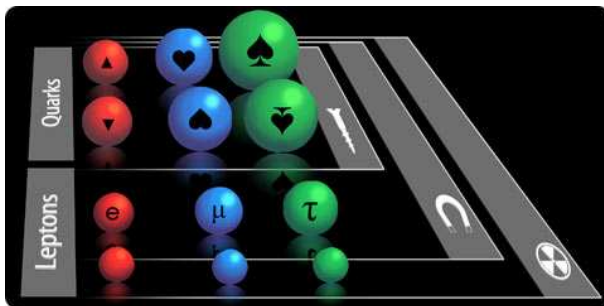
# Fundamental Particles

- 1 Why are there exactly twelve fundamental matter particles?
- 2 Are these twelve particles fundamental, or are they in turn made up of other, smaller particles?



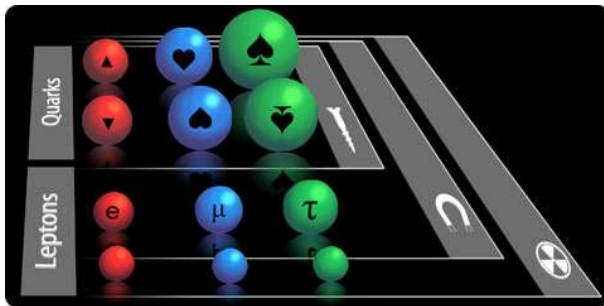
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- 1 Why are there exactly twelve fundamental matter particles?
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- 3 What is mass - how do particles get heavy?

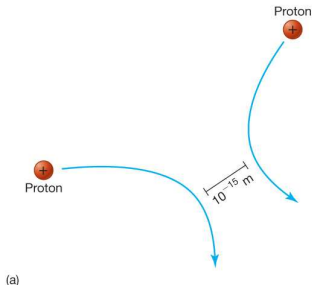


# Fundamental Particles

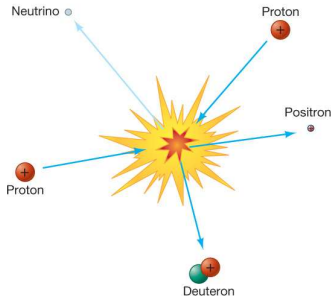
- 1 Why are there exactly twelve fundamental matter particles?
- 2 Are these twelve particles fundamental, or are they in turn made up of other, smaller particles?
- 3 What is mass - how do particles get heavy?
- 4 Where does gravity fit into the Standard Model?



# Proton Interactions



(a)



(b)

*Nuclear fusion* requires that like-charged nuclei get close enough to each other to fuse:

nucleus 1 + nucleus 2

→ nucleus 3 + energy

① Total mass decreases:

$$E = mc^2$$

②  $p + p \rightarrow d + e^+ + \nu$

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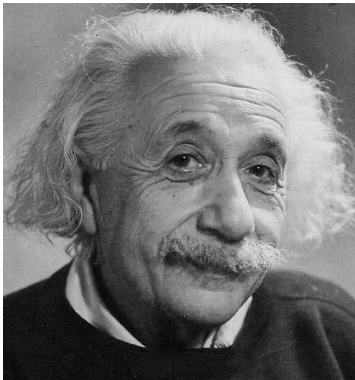
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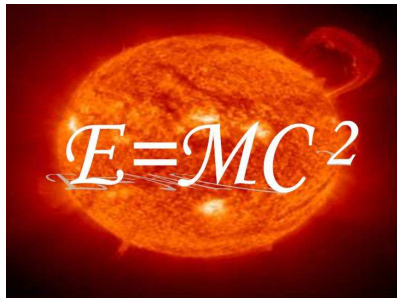
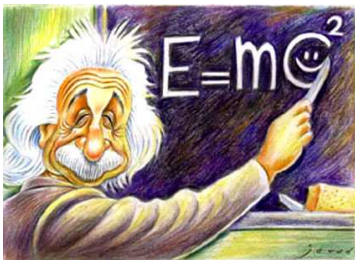
# Hydrogen Bomb





## Albert Einstein

Result of  
*"Theory of General Relativity"*

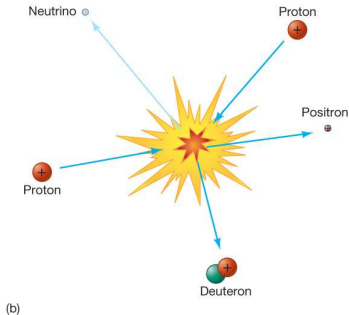
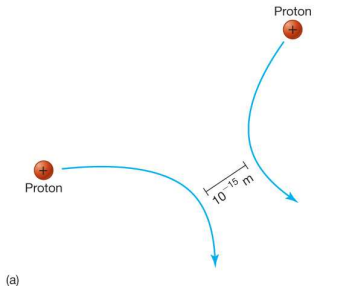




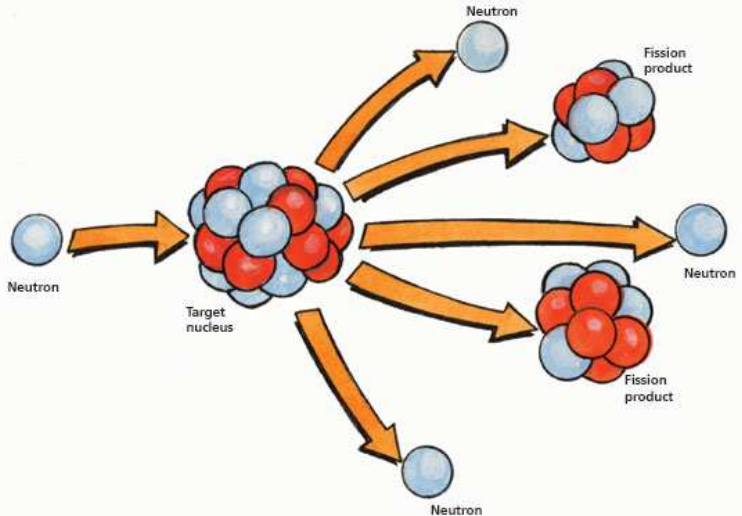
# Proton Interactions

*Nuclear fusion* requires that like-charged nuclei get close enough to each other to fuse.

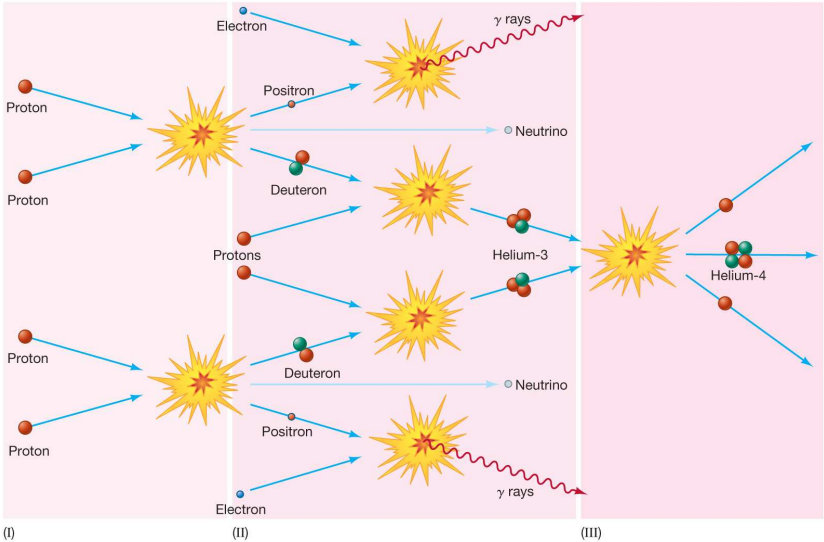
This can happen only if the temperature is extremely high – over 10 million K.



# Nuclear Fission



# Solar Fusion



[http://www.jinaweb.org/movies/pp\\_chain.html](http://www.jinaweb.org/movies/pp_chain.html)

# The Particle Zoo

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# Energy Balance

## Energy Generation in the Proton-Proton Chain

$$① \quad m_{4 \text{ protons}} = 6.6943 \cdot 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$$

$$② \quad m_{\text{helium-4}} = 6.6466 \cdot 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$$

$$\rightarrow \Delta m = 0.0477 \cdot 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$$

# Energy Balance

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$$\text{energy} = \text{mass} \cdot (\text{speed of light})^2$$

$$E = 0.0477 \cdot 10^{-27} \text{ kg} \cdot (3 \cdot 10^8 \text{ m/s})^2 = 4.28 \cdot 10^{-12} \text{ J}$$

→ The process converts about 0.71 % of the original mass into pure energy.

# Energy Balance

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→ The process converts about 0.71 % of the original mass into pure energy.

Sun has a luminosity of  $3.86 \cdot 10^{26} \text{ W}$

→ Mass consumption rate of roughly 600 million tons of hydrogen every second

# Neutrinos

*Neutrinos* are emitted directly from the core of the Sun, and escape, interacting with virtually nothing. Being able to observe these neutrinos would give us a direct picture of what is happening in the core.

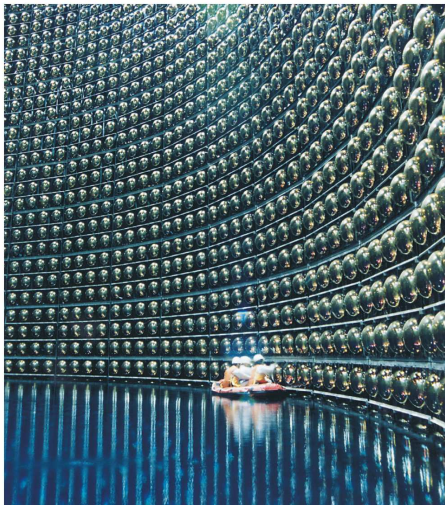
Unfortunately, they are no more likely to interact with Earth-based detectors than they are with the Sun; the only way to spot them is to have a huge detector volume and to be able to observe single interaction events.

## Solar Neutrino Problem:

The number of solar neutrinos that reach our Earth is substantially less (by 30 to 50 %) than the prediction of the standard solar model.



# Neutrino Telescopes: Super Kamiokande



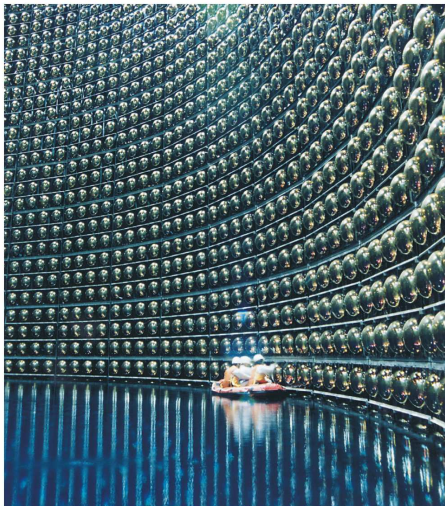
Buried beneath a mountain  
near Tokyo, Japan

- 50,000 tons of purified water
- 13,000 light detectors

In November 2001,  
one detector imploded

→ Shock wave destroyed  
about half the detectors

# Neutrino Telescopes: Super Kamiokande



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## Buried beneath a mountain near Tokyo, Japan

- 50,000 tons of purified water
- 13,000 light detectors

## Experimental Program

- Proton decay  
→ Grand Unification  
Theory (GUT)
- Observation of neutrinos  
(solar, super novae, etc.)
- Cosmic rays (mostly  $\mu$ 's)

# Super Kamiokande: $\nu e^- \rightarrow \nu e^-$

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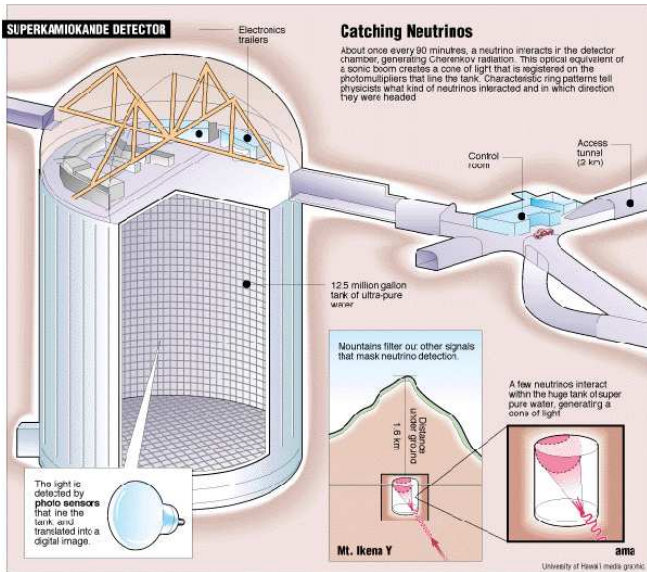
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# Sudbury Neutrino Observatory

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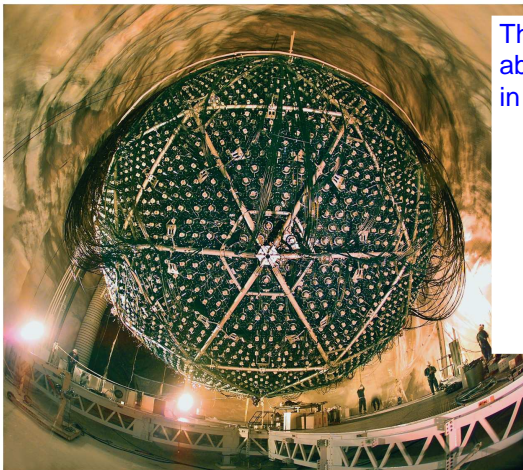
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The detector is situated  
about 2 km underground  
in Ontario, Canada:

- $D_2O$  instead of  $H_2O$   
(Heavy Water)
- Additional two tons  
of salt (→ sensitivity)
- 10,000 light-sensitive  
detectors

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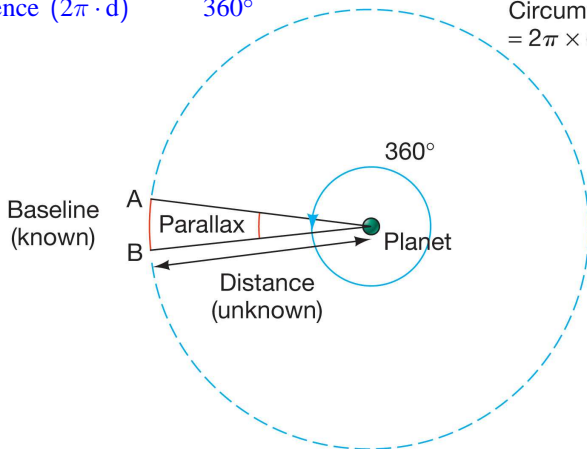


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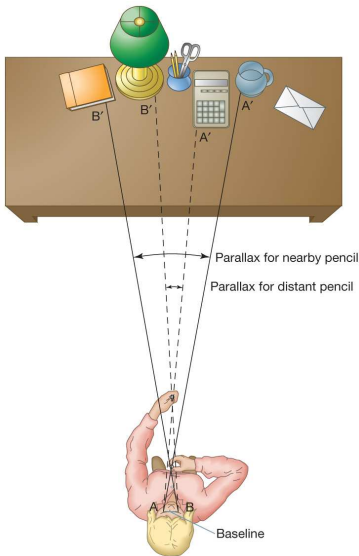
# Measuring Distances with Geometry

$$\frac{\text{baseline (A - B)}}{\text{circumference } (2\pi \cdot d)} = \frac{\text{parallax}}{360^\circ}$$

$$\text{Circumference} = 2\pi \times \text{distance}$$



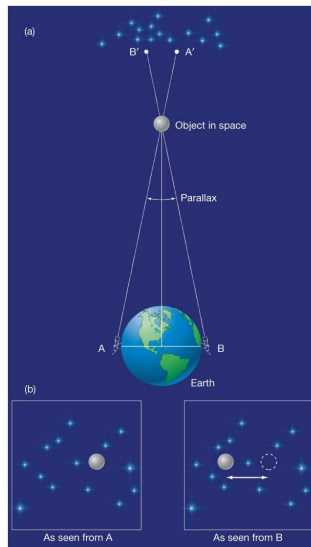
# Parallax Geometry



An object near your nose has a much larger parallax than an object held at arm's length.

# The Measurement of Distance

**Parallax:** similar to triangulation, but look at apparent motion of object against distant background from two vantage points





# The Measurement of Distance

Review:  
Properties of  
the Sun

Properties of the Sun  
Energy Transport

The Heart of  
the Sun

The Forces and  
Particles in the  
Universe  
Nuclear Fusion

Measuring the  
Stars

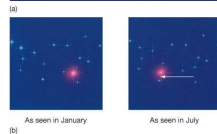
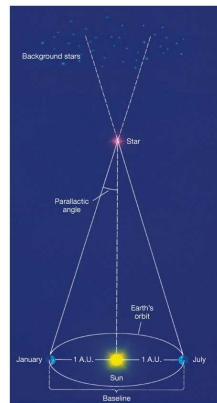
Stellar Parallax  
Stellar Motion

**Parallax:** similar to triangulation, but look at apparent motion of object against distant background from two vantage points

The baseline can be effectively extended to the diameter of Earth's orbit around the Sun, two astronomical units (AU).

Observed parallax of  $1''$  corresponds to an object's distance from Sun of 206,265 AU or  $3.1 \cdot 10^{16}$  m:

parsec (1 pc)  $\approx$  3.3 lightyears



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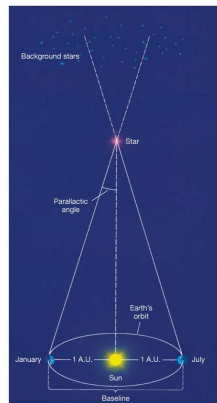
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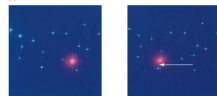
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$$\begin{aligned} &\text{distance (in parsecs)} \\ &= 1 / \text{parallax (in arcseconds)} \end{aligned}$$

**Example:** parallax of  $0.5'' \rightarrow 2 \text{ pc}$



(a)



(b)

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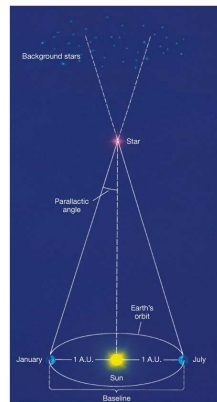
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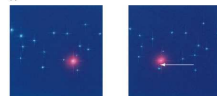
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**Example:** parallax of  $0.1'' \rightarrow 10 \text{ pc}$



(a)



(b)

## Example

How far away is the star *Spica*, whose parallax is  $0.013''$ ?

## Example

How far away is the star *Spica*, whose parallax is  $0.013''$ ?

distance (in parsecs) =  $1 / \text{parallax (in arcseconds)}$

$$d = \frac{1}{0.013} \approx 77 \text{ pc}$$

# The Solar Neighborhood

Nearest star to the Sun: *Proxima Centauri*, which is a member of a 3-star system (*Alpha Centauri complex*)

Simple model of distances:

① Sun is a marble

→ Earth is a grain of sand orbiting 1 m away

# The Solar Neighborhood

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- 1 Sun is a marble  
→ Earth is a grain of sand orbiting 1 m away
- 2 Nearest star is also a marble, but 270 km away
- 3 Solar system extends about 50 m from Sun; rest of distance to nearest star is essentially empty.

# Sun's Neighborhood

## Review: Properties of the Sun

Properties of the Sun  
Energy Transport

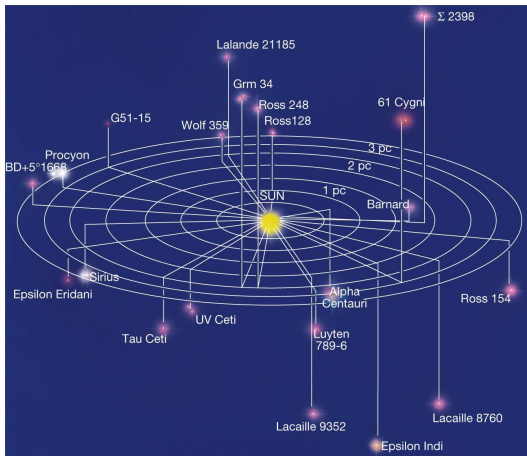
## The Heart of the Sun

The Forces and  
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## Measuring the Stars

Stellar Parallax  
Stellar Motion

**The 30 closest stars to the Sun.**  
All lie within 4 pc (about 13 light-years) of Earth.



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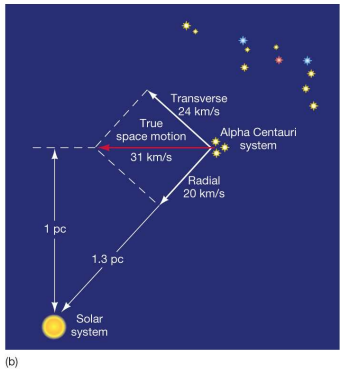
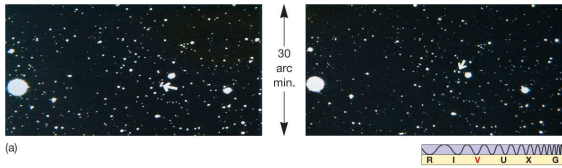
# The Solar Neighborhood

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  - ② Nearest star is also a marble, but 270 km away
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- Adaptive optics systems allow parallax range to over 100 pc
  - European *Hipparcos* stellite extended range to over 200 pc
  - Next-generation space missions:  $\approx 25,000$  pc (our galaxy)

# Real Space Motion



Barnard's Star (top) has the largest *proper motion* – *proper motion* is the actual shift of the star in the sky, after parallax correction (pictures taken 22 years apart).

⇐ Actual motion of  
*Alpha Centauri* complex