

THE ORIGINS OF ELEMENT

Our Sun

- Our sun is a low mass, main sequence star.
- Throughout most of its life, a star produces helium from hydrogen fusion.
- “Main Sequence” refers to this hydrogen fusion stage of a star’s life.
- Fusion reactions also produce enormous amounts of energy.

The Hydrogen Fusion Reaction

- The helium producing reaction characteristic of main sequence stars, such as our sun.

The Sun’s Future

- The sun will not go “supernova” – it is not large enough.
- Our sun will become a red giant in about 5 billion years.
- It will swallow Mercury, Venus, and Earth.