

**ESTIMATING NEUTRINO FLUX FROM LOW MASS  
STELLAR MODEL USING MACHINE LEARNING  
TECHNIQUE**

**IRFAN MUQRI BIN ABD RAHMAN**

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
UNIVERSITI MALAYA  
KUALA LUMPUR**

**2024**

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**IRFAN MUQRI BIN ABD RAHMAN**

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UNIVERSITI MALAYA  
KUALA LUMPUR**

**2024**

**UNIVERSITI MALAYA**  
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# **ESTIMATING NEUTRINO FLUX FROM LOW MASS STELLAR MODEL USING MACHINE LEARNING TECHNIQUE**

## **ABSTRACT**

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# **MENGANGGARKAN FLUKS NEUTRINO DARIPADA MODEL BINTANG JISIM RENDAH MENGGUNAKAN TEKNIK PEMBELAJARAN MESIN**

## **ABSTRAK**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## **LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

EA : Example Abbreviation

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## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Neutrino is one of the elementary particles in the fermion group and were theoretically invented in 1930 by Pauli to preserve energy–momentum conservation. It is a neutral particle which only has a very small mass and is only affected by gravitation and weak interaction. Neutrinos are known to be the most abundant particles in the universe after photon with a density of approximately  $330\text{ cm}^{-3}$  pan universe (Athar & Singh, 2020). All these neutrinos come from a lot of sources, they are produced inside the sun, the earth, the entire atmosphere, during the birth, collision, and death of stars and huge flux of neutrinos is emitted during supernovae explosions. In stars like our sun the amount of neutrinos produce is very abundant as it is part of the fission process through beta decay and electron capture, for example in the proton-proton chain reaction where 2  $^1\text{H}$  fuses into one  $^2\text{H}$  converting one of the protons into neutron (Iliadis, 2007). And due to it having small collision cross-section most of these neutrinos go out of the sun without being blocked going out to every direction, a lot of them pass through us. Neutrino flux is the measure of the number of neutrinos flowing through, on earth we use detectors such as the Super Kamiokande.

Machine learning is a technique that improves system performance by learning from experience via computational means (Zhou, 2021). In physics, especially through recent decades, machine learning has taken its roots, especially in statistical analysis with a large amount of data. For example, it has been used in processing satellite data in atmospheric physics, in weather forecasts, predicting the behavior of systems of many particles, discovering functional materials and generating new organic molecules (Rodrigues, 2023).

We do have data for solar neutrinos from the sun which is a low mass stellar model from various of detectors from earth. However, for stars far away we must estimate the neutrino flux since there is no method to directly detect the neutrino. There are some theoretical calculations that can be done to estimate the neutrino flux but, in this research, we plan to use machine learning to do the estimation.

### 1.1 Problem Statement

Neutrinos are present in huge quantities owing to various astrophysical phenomena such as those in a stellar medium like the Sun. Although solar neutrino flux is able to be measured on the Earth by using a detector like Super Kamiokande, neutrinos emitted from distant stars and the physics of their detection still presents a problem because of the difficulty in interaction and the detection of such distant and sparse interactions by current technology. There is no proper means of detecting neutrino radiation from stellar sources at the present time, though theorists continue to make predictions based on elaborate computations.

To address these issues, machine learning approaches, which are particularly efficient when it comes to complex data processing tasks and prediction problems located in various physics, would be one of the available options. This study aims to solve the problem by estimating the neutrino flux from a low mass stellar model through the use of a machine learning approach. Here we will try to construct and train a supervised machine learning model aimed at predicting neutrino flux from stars which are not accessible by direct observation, utilizing available solar neutrino flux data and theoretical models.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

The research aims to answer the following questions:

1. What is the neutrino flux production beyond the Standard Solar Model in low mass stars?
2. Is machine learning able to give the best estimate in the current solar neutrino productions?

## **1.3 Research Objectives**

The research aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To train using machine learning techniques to estimate neutrino flux that can mimic real flux measured
2. To test the accuracy of linear regression from the machine learning in estimating neutrino flux

## **1.4 Relevance of Research**

1. Provide new understanding in the neutrino flux or production beyond Standard Solar Model
2. To test the robustness of the linear regression in handling the neutrino flux calculation from low mass stars grid.

## CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Stellar Model

A stellar model is a mathematical model that describes a star structure and evolution. Stellar structure models describe the internal structure of a star in detail and make predictions about the luminosity, the color and the future evolution of the star. Different classes and ages of stars have different internal structures, reflecting their elemental makeup and energy transport mechanisms. Stellar evolution is the process by which a star changes over the course of its lifetime (Bertulani, 2013). A stellar evolutionary model is a mathematical model that can be used to compute the evolutionary phases of a star from its formation until it becomes a remnant.

Example of a stellar model is the Standard Solar Model (SSM) which According to Fuller and Haxton (2022) trace the evolution of the Sun from its beginning i.e. when the collapse of the primordial gas cloud was halted by the turn-on of thermonuclear reactions, to today, 4.6 Gyears later, thereby predicting contemporary solar properties such as the composition, temperature, pressure, and sound-speed profiles and the neutrino fluxes. It's used to test the validity of stellar evolution theory. The SSM is used to test the validity of stellar evolution theory. In fact, the only way to determine the two free parameters of the stellar evolution model, the helium abundance and the mixing length parameter (used to model convection in the Sun), are to adjust the SSM to fit the observed Sun.

Stellar modelling is often done using computational software such as "Modules for Experiments in Stellar Astrophysics" (MESA) which is a suite of open source, robust, efficient, thread-safe libraries for a wide range. It is one-dimensional stellar evolution module, MESAstar, combines many of the numerical and physics modules for simulations of multiple different scenarios in stellar evolution ranging from very low mass to massive stars, including advanced evolutionary phases(Paxton et al., 2010). The net module implements nuclear reaction networks and is derived from publicly available code. It includes a "basic" network of eight isotopes:  $^1\text{H}$ ,  $^3\text{He}$ ,  $^4\text{He}$ ,  $^{12}\text{C}$ ,  $^{14}\text{N}$ ,  $^{16}\text{O}$ ,  $^{20}\text{Ne}$ , and  $^{24}\text{Mg}$ , and extended networks for more detailed calculations including coverage of hot CNO reactions,  $\alpha$ -capture chains. This reaction rates can then be used to calculate data for the neutrinos.

### 2.2 Neutrino

An elementary particle first proposed by Pauli in 1931 and named by Fermi; the neutrino was to account for the missing energy released in  $\beta$  decay. Due to conservation of electric charge, it must be neutral, and conservation of angular momentum requires it to have a spin of  $\frac{1}{2}$ . There are two types of neutrinos emitted in  $\beta$  decay neutrino,  $e$  and antineutrino,  $\bar{e}$  and they are emitted in  $\beta^+$  and  $\beta^-$  decays respectively. The neutrino has a very small

cross section,  $\sigma$  of  $1.2 \times 10^{-43} \text{ cm}^2$  (Krane, 1991). Due to this, neutrinos can escape from the sun in about 2 seconds which is very fast compared to the 100,000 years for a photon (Rosso et al., 2018). The first neutrino was detected experimentally in the 1950s by Reines and Cowan using a nuclear reactor as the source where  $\beta^-$  decays occur producing  $e^-$ .

### 2.3 Neutrino Sources

There are multiple sources of neutrino both on earth and extraterrestrial, for example the Cosmic Neutrino Background (CNB), Supernovae, Solar and Thermal neutrinos from the sun, Geoneutrinos and many more as shown in Figure 2.1 (Athar & Singh, 2020).

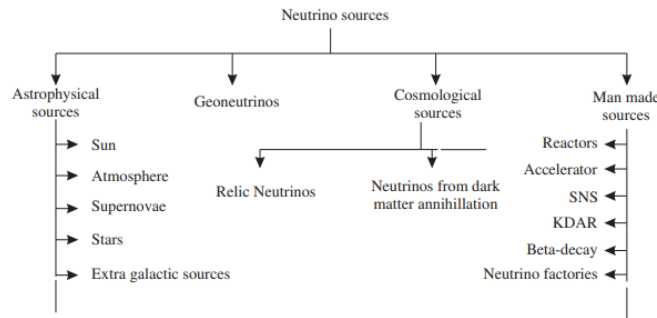


Figure 17.1 Different sources of neutrinos.

Figure 2.1: Neutrino sources.

Most of them produce neutrinos through  $\beta$  decays and electron(positron) capture like shown in Table 2.1 (Rosso et al., 2018):

Table 2.1: Most common reaction that produce  $\nu$ .

Name	Reaction
$\beta^-$ decays	$n \rightarrow p + e^- + \bar{\nu}_e$
$\beta^+$ decays	$p \rightarrow n + e^+ + \nu_e$
$e^-$ capture	$e^- + p \rightarrow n + \nu_e$
$e^+$ capture	$e^+ + n \rightarrow p + \bar{\nu}_e$

that produce  $\nu$ .

And unlike most other particles which are charged neutrinos can be assumed to come directly from their source as they are not deflected by magnetic field and unlike photons, neutrinos weakly interact making them able to pass through matter easily, the interaction



length of a 1-TeV neutrino is about 2.5 million kilometers of water, or  $250 \text{ kt cm}^{-2}$ , whereas high-energy photons are blocked by a few hundred  $\text{g cm}^{-2}$  (Barenboim & Quigg, 2003).

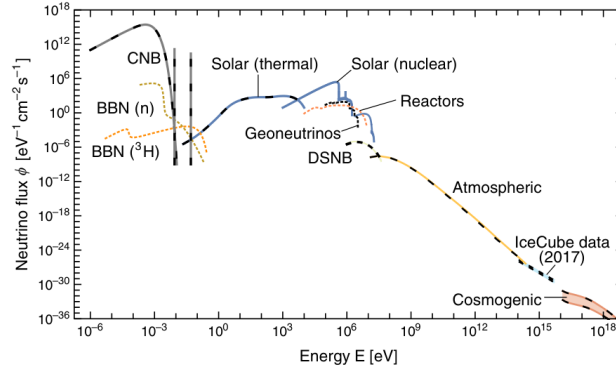
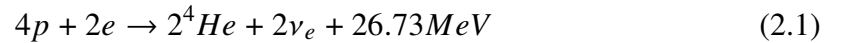


Figure 2.2: Grand Unified Neutrino Spectrum.

Figure 2.2 (Vitagliano et al., 2020) shows the fluxes from different neutrino sources. The range of energy for different sources is quite huge, spanning over 24 orders of magnitude.

## 2.4 Solar Neutrino

The sun through the thermonuclear fusion reaction produces a huge amount of  $e$  with energy the order of 1 MeV. Since neutrino interaction with matter is weak, almost all the neutrino produced in the core goes out from the sun. The earth receives about  $6 \times 10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}$  flux of solar neutrinos. For the sun 2.3% of its nuclear energy production is in the form of MeV range electron neutrinos (Giunti & Kim, 2007). This comes from the effective nuclear reaction



Which comes from several reaction chains and cycles (Vitagliano et al., 2020).

Table 2.2: Reaction that produce neutrino in in the sun.

Channel	Flux	Reaction
$pp$ chains ( $\beta^+$ )	$\Phi_{pp}$	$p + p \rightarrow d + e^+ + \nu_e$
	$\Phi_B$	${}^8\text{B} \rightarrow {}^8\text{Be}^+ + e^+ + \nu_e$
	$\Phi_{\text{hep}}$	${}^3\text{He} + p \rightarrow {}^4\text{He} + e^+ + \nu$
$pp$ chains (EC)	$\Phi_{\text{Be}}$	$e^- + {}^7\text{Be} \rightarrow {}^7\text{Li} + \nu_e$
		$e^- + {}^7\text{Be} \rightarrow {}^7\text{Li}^* + \nu_e$
	$\Phi_{\text{pep}}$	$p + e^- + p \rightarrow d + \nu_e$
CNO cycle ( $\beta^+$ )	$\Phi_N$	${}^{13}\text{N} \rightarrow {}^{13}\text{C} + e^+ + \nu_e$
	$\Phi_O$	${}^{15}\text{O} \rightarrow {}^{15}\text{N} + e^+ + \nu_e$
	$\Phi_F$	${}^{17}\text{F} \rightarrow {}^{17}\text{O} + e^+ + \nu_e$
CNO Cycle (EC)	$\Phi_{\text{cN}}$	${}^{13}\text{N} + e^- \rightarrow {}^{13}\text{C} + \nu_e$
	$\Phi_{\text{cO}}$	${}^{15}\text{O} + e^- \rightarrow {}^{15}\text{N} + \nu_e$
	$\Phi_{\text{cF}}$	${}^{17}\text{F} + e^- \rightarrow {}^{17}\text{O} + \nu_e$

Table 2.3: Expected neutrino fluxes.

Branch	Flux, $10^6/(\text{cm}^2 \text{ s})$	$E_{\nu}^{\text{max}}$ , MeV
pp	$59,800(1 \pm 0.006)$	0.420
${}^7\text{Be}$	$4,930(1 \pm 0.06)$	0.862
pep	$144(1 \pm 0.01)$	1.442
${}^8\text{B}$	$5.46(1 \pm 0.12)$	15.1
hep	$0.008(1 \pm 0.30)$	18.773
${}^{13}\text{N}$	$278(1 \pm 0.15)$	1.199
${}^{15}\text{O}$	$205(1 \pm 0.17)$	1.732
${}^{17}\text{F}$	$5.28(1 \pm 0.20)$	1.740

Table2.2 (Vitagliano et al., 2020) shows the different reactions that produce neutrinos that can be detected on earth that the sun produces in its thermonuclear process. While table2.3 (Rosso et al., 2018) shows the expectation of the solar neutrino flux from each branch coming to earth. Referring to table Graph 1, we can see the shape of the flux in a solid blue line labelled “Solar (nuclear)”.

## 2.5 Theoretical vs Experimental

### 2.5.1 Theoretical

For the theoretical side of stellar physics, most of them are done in doing stellar modelling to predict structures and evolution of certain mass stars. Example of theoretical work done in neutrino is Stellar Neutrino Emission across the Mass–Metallicity Plane done by (Farag et al., 2020) where they explore neutrino emission from nonrotating, single-star models across six initial metallicities and 70 initial masses from the zero-age main sequence to the final fate shown in Graph 2.3 below. The data produced in the model are used in this research in order to train the model.

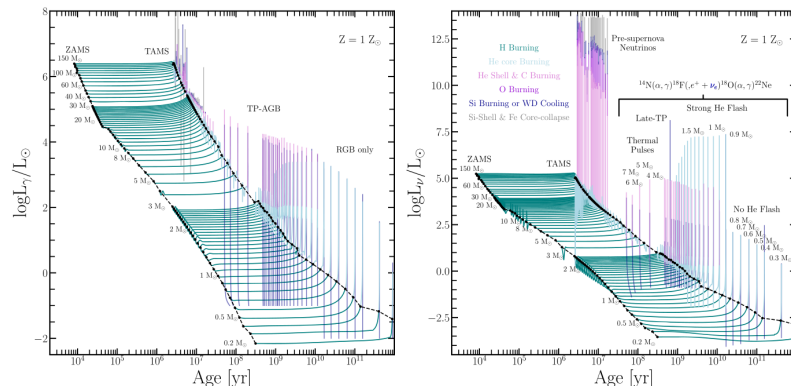


Figure 2.3: Light curve for photons(left) and neutrinos(right).

Since the time and computational power needed to run even one model is quite arduous, by using machine learning, the gap between the modelled grid can be predicted using machine learning.

### 2.5.2 Experimental

Due to neutrinos having an almost negligible mass and interact weakly with matter, the experiments that are required to detect them are usually done on a large scale in the range of km<sup>3</sup> which can be setback by technological challenges (Addazi et al., 2022). Notable experiments include Super Kamiokande in Japan, the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO) in Canada, and the Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO) in China. Data from these experiments can validate the prediction obtained from a machine learning model.

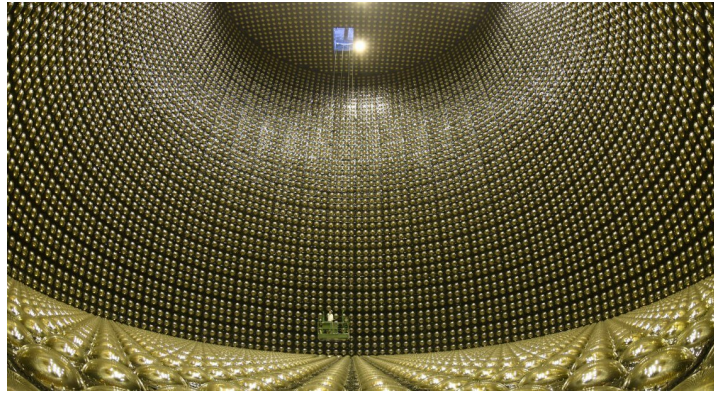


Figure 2.4: A stainless-steel tank, 39.3m diameter and 41.4m tall, filled with 50,000 tons of water. About 13,000 photo-multipliers are installed on the tank wall (*Overview — Super-Kamiokande Official Website*, n.d.).

## 2.6 Current Works

Dense neural network was proposed by Kopp et al. (2024) to estimate kinematic variable that cannot be observed directly in a neutrino interaction final state. The network was trained on simulated data and the DNN manage to predict the true neutrino energy based on observable components of the interactions.

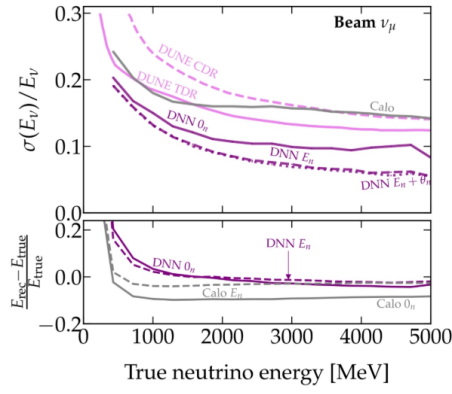


Figure 2.5: Top: Fractional neutrino energy resolution  $\sigma(E_\nu)/E_\nu$ . Bottom: Reconstruction bias for the DNN and the calorimetric method.

In the top of Graph 2.5 it shows fractional neutrino energy resolution  $\sigma(E_\nu)/E_\nu$  as a function of neutrino energy with DNN based analyses with no information on final-state neutrons in solid purple, with limited information on the neutron energy in dashed purple, and with information on the neutron energy and direction in dotted purple. For comparison, they also include the energy resolutions anticipated in the DUNE CDR and TDR simulations in magenta, and the resolution of a simple calorimetric method assuming invisible neutrons in gray. In the bottom part we can see the reconstruction bias for the DNN compared to the calorimetric method. DNNs significantly outperform conventional approaches for energy reconstruction. When information on the energy of final-state neutrons is given, the improvement at high energies is a factor of two.

## 2.7 Machine Learning

Machine learning has been on the rise rapidly and can potentially revolutionize how we do sciences, including physics. According to Rodrigues (2023) even though machine learning can help solve fundamental problems in physics, many physicists still do not recognise the importance of these techniques. In physics, machine learning is often used in settings with complex problems and lots of data like in the large hadron collider (LHC) experiments where the data can reach up to ten of thousands of petabytes per year.

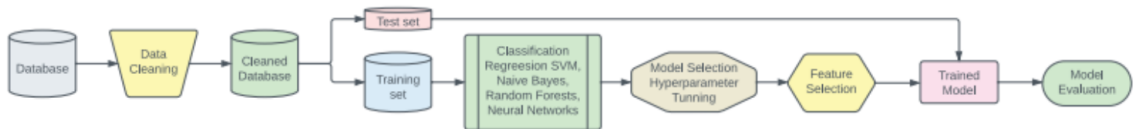


Figure 2.6: Supervise learning pipeline.

In Figure 2.6 (Rodrigues, 2023), usually in supervised learning 80% of data is used to train the model while 20% is for testing the model. In research done by (Niu et al., 2019), by using Bayesian neural network (BNN) which is a machine learning technique, they manage to get results that well reproduce the experimental data with very high accuracy and provide reasonable uncertainty in half-life prediction as shown in Figure 2.7 compared to prediction done using calculation.

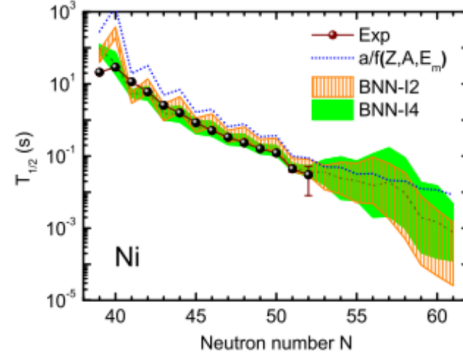


Figure 2.7:  $\beta$  decay half-life of Ni isotopes.

Where the experimental values in NUBASE2016 are denoted by spheres. The half-life predictions with calculation are shown by the dotted line, and their counterparts improved by BNN-I2 and BNN-I4 approaches, and their uncertainties are shown by vertical line hatched region and green hatched region, respectively. The mean predicted half-lives of BNN-I4 approach are marked by the dashed line.

## 2.8 Linear Regression

Least squares is a regression analysis that does parameter estimation based on finding the minimum of the sum of the squares of the residuals. Linear least square can be used when there is a linear combination of parameters:

$$Y(x, \beta) = \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_j X_j \quad (2.2)$$

when letting the X and Y variables as matrices, the least square can be computed as follow:

$$L(D, \beta) = \|Y - X\beta\|^2 = (Y - X\beta)^T (Y - X\beta) = Y^T Y - X^T Y \beta - X^T Y \beta + X^T X \beta^2 \quad (2.3)$$

where D is the set of all data. The gradient of the loss is then:

$$\frac{\delta L(D, \beta)}{\delta \beta} = \frac{\delta Y^T Y - X^T Y \beta - X^T Y \beta + X^T X \beta^2}{\delta \beta} = 2X^T Y + 2X^T X \beta \quad (2.4)$$

setting the gradient to zero then give us:

$$\hat{\beta} = (X^T X)^{-1} X^T Y \quad (2.5)$$

where  $\hat{\beta}$  is the least square gradient.

## CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Data

$$\frac{dL_v}{dM_r} = \epsilon_v(\rho, T) \quad (3.1)$$

$$\text{Flux} = \frac{L}{4\pi r^2} \quad (3.2)$$

### 3.2 Machine Learning

Sci Kit Learn was used, specifically the Linear Regression module:

$$y = \beta_0 x_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_3 x_3 + \dots + \beta_n x_n \quad (3.3)$$

where  $y$  is the independent variables  $\beta_0$  is the intercept  $\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \dots, \beta_n$  is the coefficient.

The basis of linear regression is the same as  $y = mx + c$  but sklearn used more coefficients to predict the model. Linear regression estimate coefficient such that the sum of error is very small  $10^{-4}$  (the tolerance adopted by sklearn). This method is also known as the least square method.

In this project the code will calculate the gradient B (written as J) between the inputs which are the Masses and the Luminosity and the star ages.

$$\begin{bmatrix} m_1 \\ m_2 \\ m_3 \end{bmatrix} J = \begin{bmatrix} L_{11} & A_{11} & L_{12} & A_{12} & L_{13} & A_{13} \\ L_{21} & A_{21} & L_{22} & A_{22} & L_{23} & A_{23} \\ L_{31} & A_{31} & L_{32} & A_{32} & L_{33} & A_{33} \end{bmatrix} \quad (3.4)$$

where  $m$  is mass,  $L$  is luminosity and  $A$  is star age. Equation 3.4 is the representation on how the data was arranged in order to do the linear regression method.

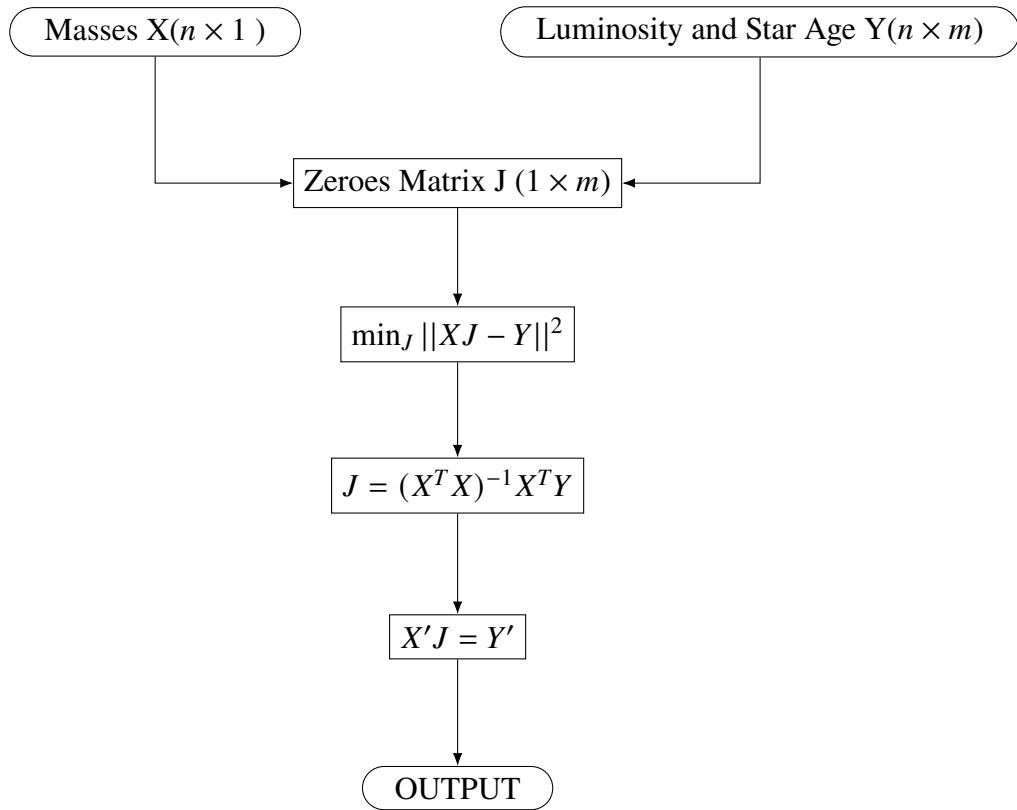


Figure 3.1: Flowchart of how the code does the linear regression.

Figure3.1 shows the flow of how the code does the linear regression. The code will take input Masses in the form of  $X(n \times 1)$  matrix and Luminosity and Star Age as  $Y(n \times m)$  matrix. The code will then generate a zeros matrix  $J(1 \times m)$ . The  $J$  will then be calculated using Equation2.5 and then used in prediction.



## CHAPTER 4: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

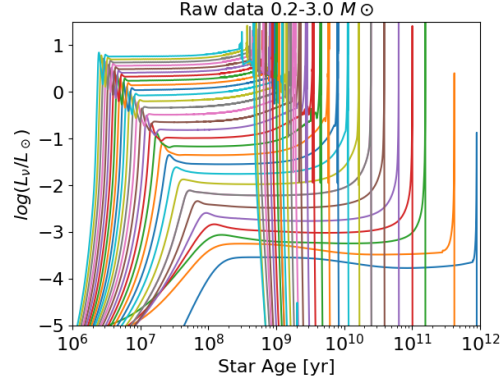


Figure 4.1: Raw data  $0.2 - 3.0 M_{\odot}$ .

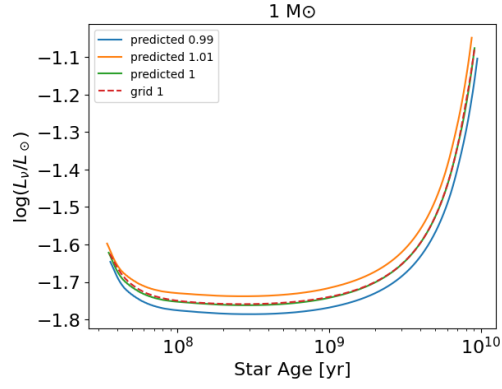


Figure 4.2: Sun  $1 M_{\odot}$  Testing Data.

Table 4.1: Stars with their mass and distance.

Star	Mass [ $M_{\odot}$ ]	Distance [ $pc$ ]
$\tau$ ceti	0.78	3.65
Sun	1	$4.85 \times 10^{-6}$

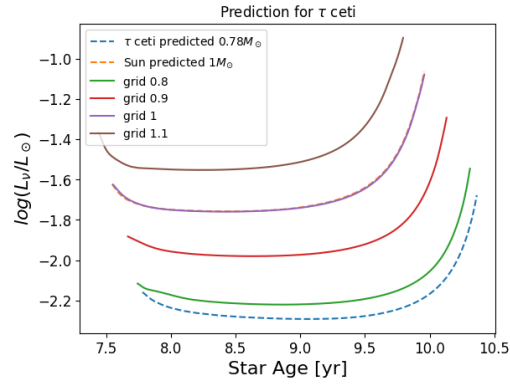


Figure 4.3: Prediction for  $\tau$  ceti  $0.78M_{\odot}$ .

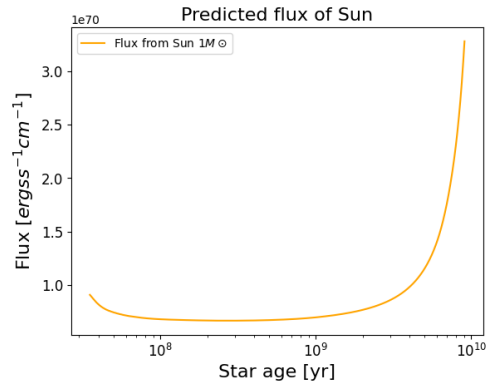


Figure 4.4: Prediction for Flux of Sun  $1M_{\odot}$ .

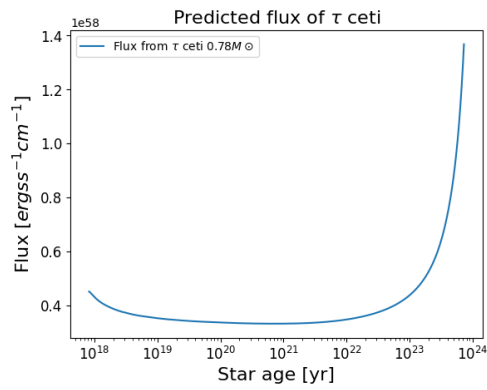


Figure 4.5: Prediction for flux of  $\tau$  ceti  $0.78M_{\odot}$ .

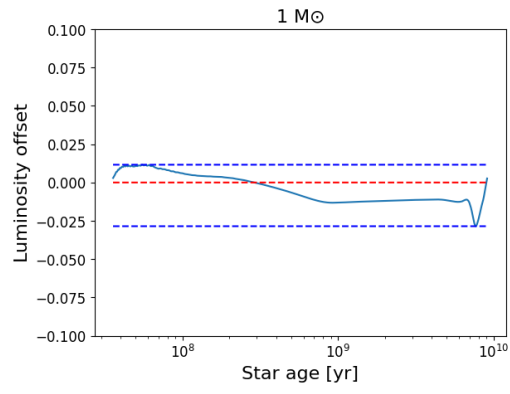


Figure 4.6: Luminosity Offset for  $1M_{\odot}$ .

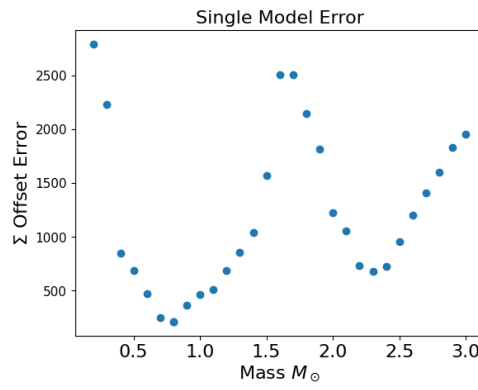


Figure 4.7: Single Model Error.

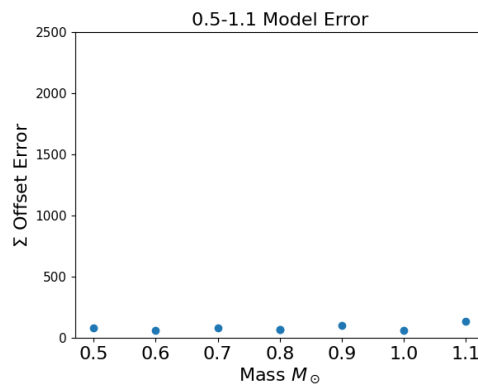


Figure 4.8:  $0.5 - 2.2M_{\odot}$  Model Error.

## **CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION**

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## **APPENDIX A: EXAMPLE**