

Problem Set 3: IMF

1. The IMF is the function describing how many stars are born at each mass.

$$\xi \equiv \frac{dN}{dM} \quad (1)$$

There are several common parametrizations. We adopt $M_{max} = 120 M_{\odot}$ as the default for all.

- (a) Salpeter (you will find different M_{min} in use in different locations in the literature; we adopt 0.03 here to simplify comparisons):

$$\xi = M^{-2.35}, M_{min} = 0.03 M_{\odot} \quad (2)$$

- (b) Kroupa (eqn 2 of 2001MNRAS.322..231K):

$$\xi = M^{-\alpha} \begin{cases} \alpha = 0.3, & 0.01 \leq M/M_{\odot} < 0.08 \\ \alpha = 1.3, & 0.08 \leq M/M_{\odot} < 0.5 \\ \alpha = 2.3, & 0.5 \leq M/M_{\odot} < M_{max} \end{cases}$$

- (c) Chabrier (Eqn 18 of 2003PASP..115..763C):

$$\begin{cases} \xi(\log M) \equiv \frac{dN}{d \log M} = A \exp [-(\log M - \log M_c)^2 / 2\sigma^2] \\ A = 0.086, M_c = 0.22, \sigma = 0.57 \\ \xi(\log M) = AM^{-\Gamma} \\ \Gamma = 1.3, A = 4.43 \end{cases} \quad \begin{matrix} M \leq 1 M_{\odot} \\ \\ M > M_{\odot} \end{matrix}$$

Plot these IMFs.

You will perform calculations using these equations to infer properties of stellar populations. For each distribution, compute:

- What is the average mass?
- What is the average mass of stars with $M > 8 M_{\odot}$?
- What is the ratio of the number of high-mass to low-mass stars? (use $M=8 M_{\odot}$ as the dividing mass)
- What is the ratio of the *mass* of high-mass to low-mass stars?
- Do these numbers change if you change M_{max} to $100 M_{\odot}$? To $1000 M_{\odot}$?
- Do these numbers change if you change M_{min} to $0.03 M_{\odot}$? To $0.3 M_{\odot}$?
- For a cluster of 1000 stars, how many would you expect to be $M > 8 M_{\odot}$ (able to go supernova)?

- (h) In an 'optimal distribution function' (ODF), the cluster mass to maximum star mass is fixed by defining $\int_{M_{max,cl}}^{M_{max}} \xi dM = 1$, where M_{max} is the maximum possible mass for a star and $M_{max,cl}$ is the most massive star in the cluster. From this definition, determine how many stars must be in a cluster to form one $10 M_{\odot}$ star or one $100 M_{\odot}$ star.
- (i) What *mass* of cluster is required to produce a star of that mass?
- (j) In a probability distribution function, there is only a fix likelihood of forming a star of a given mass. What is the minimum cluster mass required to have a $> 95\%$ ($> 63.21\%$) probability of forming at least one $\geq 100 M_{\odot}$ star?
Recall that the likelihood of rolling at least one six after 100 rolls is equal to one minus the likelihood of rolling *no* sixes in 100 rolls i.e., $P(\geq 1 \text{ six}) = 1 - \left(\frac{5}{6}\right)^{100}$.
- (k) Compare the results from the ODF and the PDF for the presence of a $M > 100 M_{\odot}$ star. How can you interpret the difference?
- (l) What is the expected light-to-mass ratio of each distribution assuming $L = L_{\odot} \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}}\right)^3$?
- (m) The IMF is the *system* IMF. If we are primarily interested in the luminosity of a system, splitting the mass between multiple stars can make a big difference. If we assume every star system consists of an equal-mass binary, what is the effect on the L/M ratio? Is this a reasonable approximation to the multiplicity fraction?
- (n) For an ODF, the effective maximum stellar mass can be smaller. If all star-forming events in a galaxy occur in Taurus-like star-forming regions, with $M_* = 100 M_{\odot}$, what is the maximum mass? What is the resulting L/M ratio? Recall that this is the *maximum* the L/M will be in such a galaxy.

You may choose to use external resources, like the `imf` package, but it's a good idea to try to solve some of these - at least the simple Salpeter IMF - by hand.

Answers:

1. (a) Salpeter mean mass: 0.11
ChabrierPowerLaw mean mass: 0.67
Kroupa mean mass: 0.43
- (b) Salpeter Mean $M(M>8) = 19.40$
ChabrierPowerLaw Mean $M(M>8) = 19.87$
Kroupa Mean $M(M>8) = 19.87$

- (c) Salpeter $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0001$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0005$
 ChabrierPowerLaw $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0079$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0085$
 Kroupa $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0040$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0046$
- (d) Salpeter $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.0917$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.1010$
 ChabrierPowerLaw $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.2491$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.3318$
 Kroupa $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.2094$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.2648$
- (e) $M_{\text{max}} = 100$
 Salpeter mean mass: 0.11
 Salpeter $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.0882$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.0968$
 Salpeter $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0001$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0005$
 ChabrierPowerLaw mean mass: 0.66
 ChabrierPowerLaw $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.2406$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.3169$
 ChabrierPowerLaw $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0079$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0084$
 Kroupa mean mass: 0.43
 Kroupa $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.2019$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.2530$
 Kroupa $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0039$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0046$
 $M_{\text{max}} = 1000$
 Salpeter mean mass: 0.11
 Salpeter $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.1185$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.1345$
 Salpeter $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0001$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0005$
 ChabrierPowerLaw mean mass: 0.73
 ChabrierPowerLaw $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.3133$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.4563$
 ChabrierPowerLaw $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0081$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0087$
 Kroupa mean mass: 0.47
 Kroupa $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.2670$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.3643$
 Kroupa $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0041$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0047$
- (f) $M_{\text{max}} = 120$, $M_{\text{min}} = 0.03$
 Salpeter mean mass: 0.11
 Salpeter $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.0917$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.1010$
 Salpeter $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0005$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0005$
 ChabrierPowerLaw mean mass: 0.67
 ChabrierPowerLaw $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.2491$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.3318$
 ChabrierPowerLaw $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0084$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0085$
 Kroupa mean mass: 0.43
 Kroupa $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.2094$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.2648$

Kroupa $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0046$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0046$

$M_{\text{max}} = 120$, $M_{\text{min}} = 0.3$

Salpeter mean mass: 1.02

Salpeter $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.2212$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.2841$

Salpeter $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0116$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0117$

ChabrierPowerLaw mean mass: 1.37

ChabrierPowerLaw $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.2817$, $M(M>8) /$

$M(\text{low}) = 0.3922$

ChabrierPowerLaw $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0194$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0198$

Kroupa mean mass: 1.18

Kroupa $M(M>8) / M(\text{tot}) = 0.2588$, $M(M>8) / M(\text{low}) = 0.3491$

Kroupa $N(M>8) / N(\text{tot}) = 0.0046$, $N(M>8) / N(\text{low}) = 0.0156$

(g) Salpeter $\text{NSN} = N(M>8) = 11.4$

ChabrierPowerLaw $\text{NSN} = N(M>8) = 14.2$

Kroupa $\text{NSN} = N(M>8) = 13.0$

(h) salpeter: nstars to make 10 = 117

chabrier: nstars to make 10 = 172

kroupa: nstars to make 10 = 295

salpeter: nstars to make 100 = 11666

chabrier: nstars to make 100 = 15631

kroupa: nstars to make 100 = 26818

(i) Salpeter: $\text{mass}(100M_{\text{sun}}) = 1.2e+06$, $N(100M_{\text{sun}}) = 1151273$

ChabrierPowerLaw: $\text{mass}(100M_{\text{sun}}) = 2.1e+04$, $N(100M_{\text{sun}}) = 15482$

Kroupa: $\text{mass}(100M_{\text{sun}}) = 3.6e+04$, $N(100M_{\text{sun}}) = 30855$

(j) ODF Salpeter $P(>100) = 0.999999131396621$, $N^* = 1/(1-P(>100)) = 1151273$

ODF Salpeter: $M = 1.3e+05$

PDF Salpeter: Min mass for $>100 M_{\text{sun}}$ star at 95%: $3.8e+05$
nstars=3448905

PDF Salpeter: Min mass for $>100 M_{\text{sun}}$ star at 62.3%: $1.3e+05$
nstars=1151208

ODF ChabrierPowerLaw $P(>100) = 0.999935410117752$, $N^* = 1/(1-P(>100)) = 15482$

ODF ChabrierPowerLaw: $M = 1e+04$

PDF ChabrierPowerLaw: Min mass for $>100 M_{\text{sun}}$ star at 95%:
 $3.1e+04$ nstars=46379

PDF ChabrierPowerLaw: Min mass for $>100 M_{\text{sun}}$ star at
62.3%: $1e+04$ nstars=15480

ODF Kroupa $P(>100) = 0.9999675911858097$, $N^* = 1/(1-P(>100)) = 30855$

ODF Kroupa: $M = 1.3e+04$

PDF Kroupa: Min mass for $>100 M_{\text{sun}}$ star at 95%: $4e+04$
nstars=92434

PDF Kroupa: Min mass for $>100 M_{\text{sun}}$ star at 62.3%: 1.3×10^4
 $n_{\text{stars}}=30853$

(k) Answer the question from the above data

(l) Salpeter: $L/M = 427.7$

ChabrierPowerLaw: $L/M = 571.2$

Kroupa: $L/M = 524.6$

(m) Salpeter: $L/M = 106.9$

ChabrierPowerLaw: $L/M = 142.8$

Kroupa: $L/M = 131.1$

(n) Salpeter: $M_{\text{max}} = 1.0$ $L/M = 0.3$

ChabrierPowerLaw: $M_{\text{max}} = 5.3$ $L/M = 4.3$

Kroupa: $M_{\text{max}} = 3.5$ $L/M = 2.1$