A bird's-eye view on the habitability of exoplanets via statistical learning techniques

Project for the exam: Machine learning, statistical learning, deep learning and artificial intelligence - Unsupervised Learning

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Overview

- **Final goal**: Survey the performances of different statistical learning algorithm in the prediction of exoplanets habitability
- **Dataset**: Planetary Habitability Laboratory @ UPR Arecibo [1]
- **Algorithms**: Decision Tree, Random Forest, Support Vector Classifier, Logistic Regression, Linear and Quadratic Classifier

Theoretical background - Exoplanets habitability

- **Habitability**: Rocky planets where water is present in liquid phase
- **Liquid phase**: At first order, if water is present, the liquid phase is controlled by the surface temperature
- **Atmosphere**: The atmosphere (CO_2) influences the surface temperature trough the greenhouse effect
- **H_2 and CH_4**: Other gases such as H_2 and CH_4 can produce the greenhouse effect, thus the habitable zone can be extended

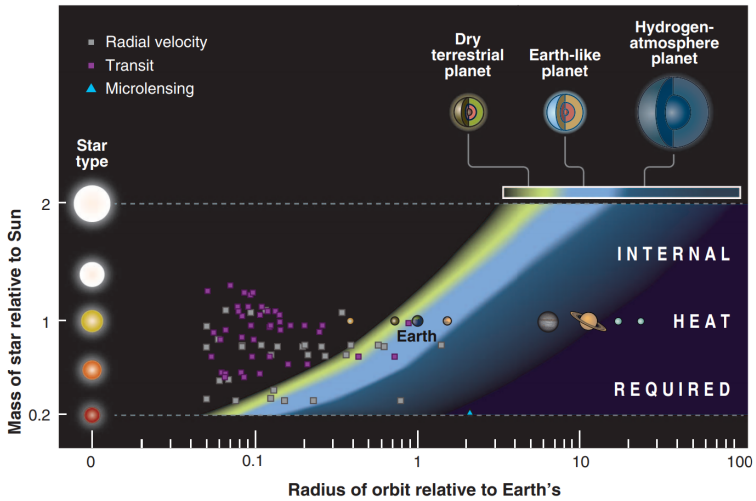

Image taken from [4]

Theoretical background - Star features

- **Main features**: For this work the main features of star are the stellar luminosity, its temperature and spectral type
- **H-R diagram**: with these features the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram classify the stars (the temperature and spectral type of a star are two faces of the same medal)

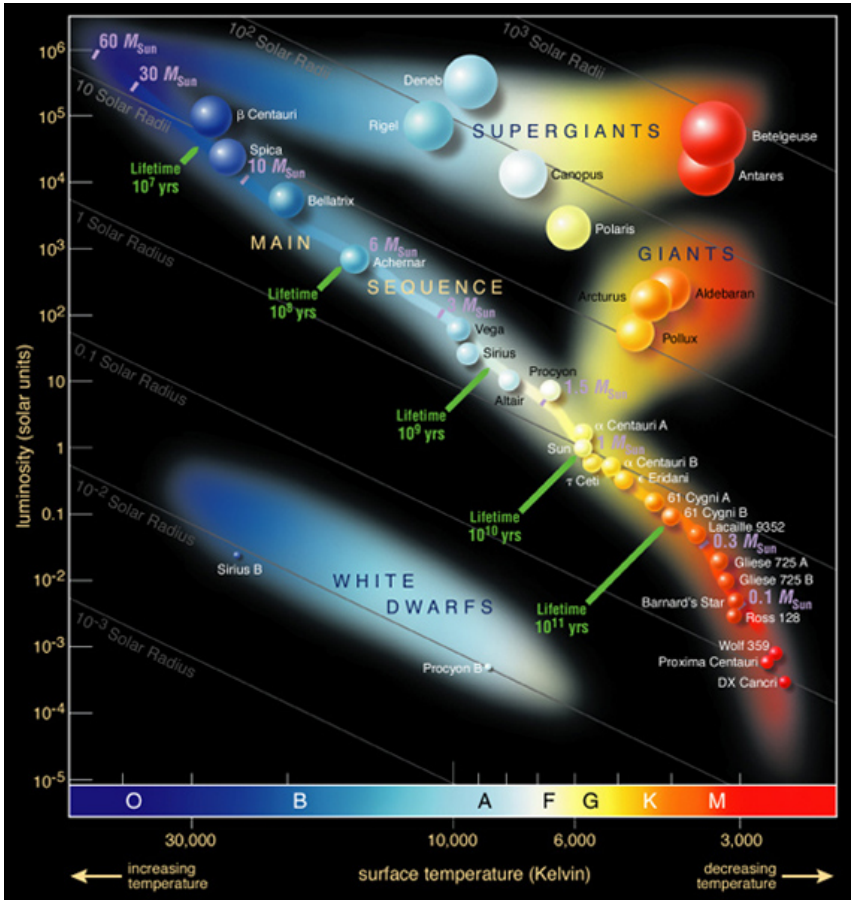

Image taken from [2]

Theoretical background - Planet features

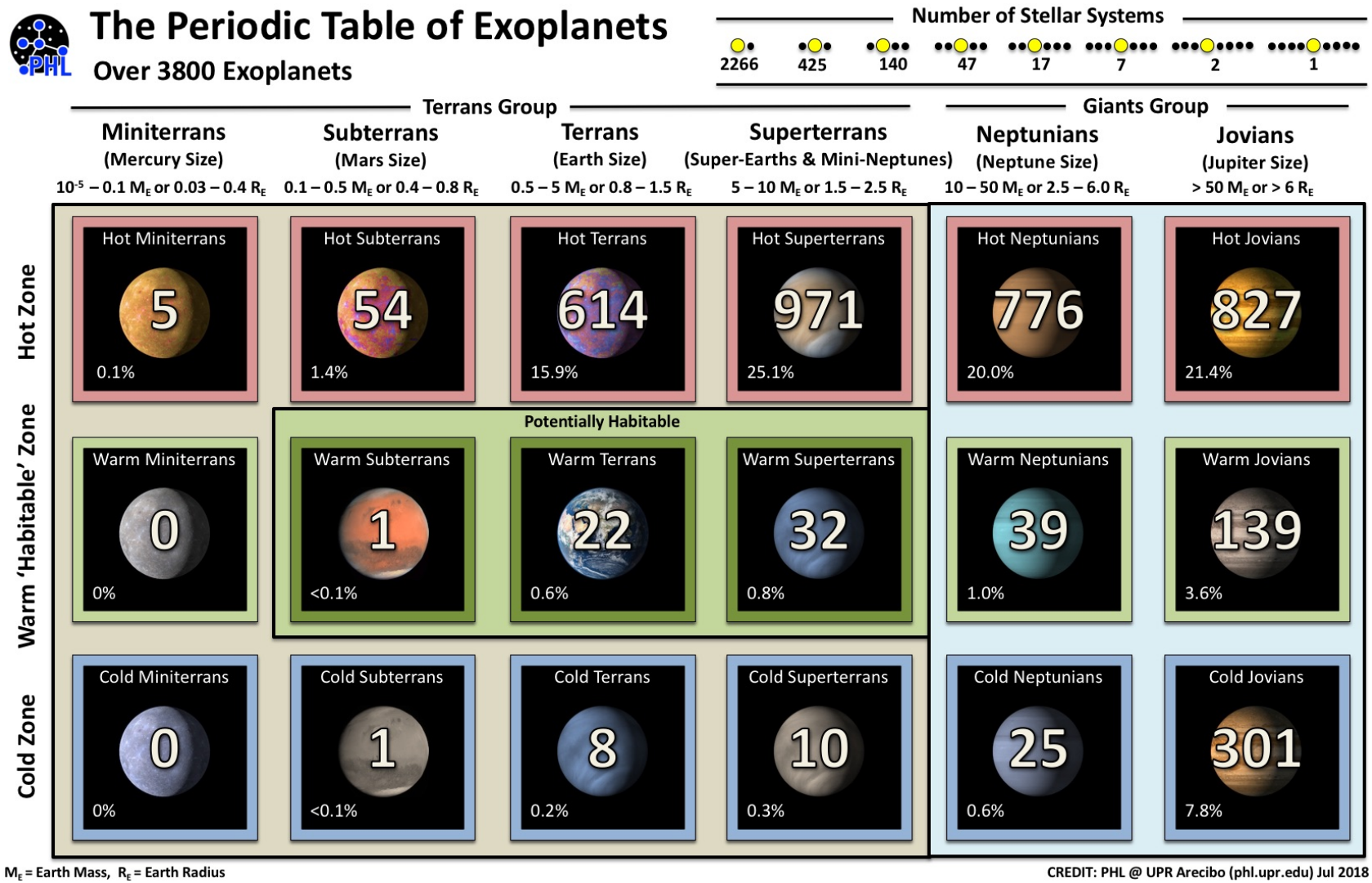

Image taken from [3]

Theoretical background - Planet features

- **Distance**: in this work the mean planet distance from the host star (P_D), the periastron (P_PN) and the apastron (P_A) as well the termal effective distance (P_D_E) from the host star were considered. These quantities constrain the planet orbital period (P_P) via the 3^{th} Kepler law (a corollary of Newton's law of universal gravitation)
- **Mass and Radius**: the (estimated) planet mass (P_M) and its radius (P_R) were considered (these are also useful to distinguish the super-earth planets)
- **Temperature**: the planet equilibrium temperature (P_T_E) defined according to the expression $T_{eq} = T_{star}\sqrt{R/2a}\,(1-A)^{0.25})$ where R is the star radius (S_R), a the planet mean distance (P_D) and A the albedo here considered as 0.3 was considered as well the planet mean stellar flux P_F
- **Habitability**: The planet habitability was classified with a boolean variable using the values reported in the dataset [1]

References I

- http://phl.upr.edu/projects/habitable-exoplanets-catalog/data/database.
- https://www.slideserve.com/ruth-york/chapter-15-surveying-the-stars-powerpoint-ppt-presentation.
- http://phl.upr.edu/projects/habitable-exoplanets-catalog/media/pte.
- Sara Seager. "Exoplanet habitability". In: *Science* 340.6132 (2013), pp. 577–581.