

# Stars - their structure and evolution

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## Stellar Structure and Evolution

Researchers want to know exactly how that rate changes, and how it reflects the aging of the star itself.

### Stars: Their structure and evolution

A star is defined by nuclear fusion in its core.

### Stars: Their structure and evolution

These experience convection — the circulation of matter — throughout their interior. For more distant stars, astronomers observe variations in light from these processes. All About Mass Once YSOs have contracted and heated enough, fusion of hydrogen into helium begins in their cores and they become main sequence stars.

### Stars: Their structure and evolution

The rate of that fusion increases with the mass of the star, so the most massive stars are the shortest-lived.

### Stars: Their structure and evolution

That means they burn for a very long time, giving them lifetimes much longer than the 13.

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