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CHAPTER 9

Starlight

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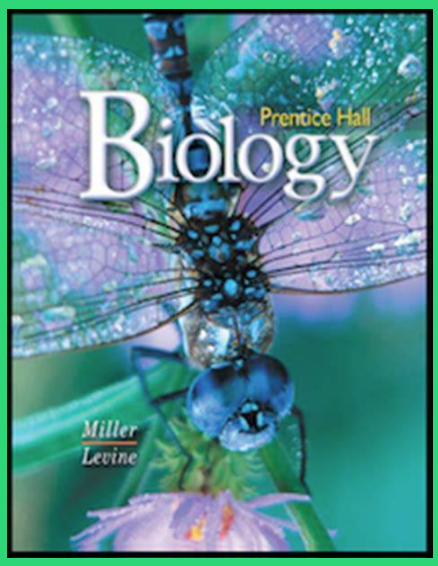
What Does the Textbook Teach?



The textbook will say that the stars are unbelievably far away. (Section 1 & Section 2)

It will also say that new stars are always forming and we see their remains. (Section 3 & Section 4)

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Section 1

Measuring Stars:

Fig. 9.1.1 A theodolite used for surveying.

Surveyors and scientists sometimes have a very difficult job measuring where objects are because they cannot directly measure them (Figure 9.1.1).

However, because the laws of geometry are set in stone, if you know enough about angles and distance, it is simple to calculate exactly how far away an object is.

The answer can be determined via trigonometry.

Scientists measure the angle of a star in relation to the Earth on a certain day. Then they take the same measurement again six months later when the Earth is on the other side of its orbit (Figure 9.1.2).

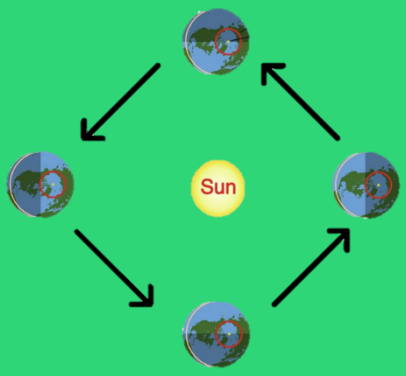

Fig. 9.1.2 Earth's orbit around the sun.

Fig. 9.1.3 Proxima Centauri

One of the nearest stars to Earth is Proxima Centauri (Figure 9.1.3). Using this method, the textbook will tell you that this star is about 4.22 light-years away. That is about 24,807,800,000,000 miles or 24.8 trillion miles.

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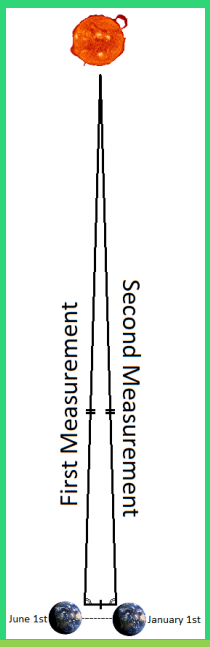

Fig. 9.1.4 The isosceles triangle (not to scale)

The distance between Earth at measurement one and measurement two is about 185,911,614 miles or 185.9 million miles.

If we were to put this as an isosceles triangle, this would put the two sides at 24.8 trillion miles and the base of the triangle at 185.9 million miles (Figure 9.1.4).

Now that we have that information, we can make a relative comparison. If two surveyors were one inch apart, they would both be looking at an object 133,438.7 inches or a little over 25 miles away. That is the distance of 813 Olympic swimming pools or 445 football fields away.

The margin of error here is incredible. It is unimaginable that anyone could get even a slightly accurate number with such skewed information.

Therefore, it is unquestionable that due to the large margin for error, these stellar measurements should not be taken at face value.

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Section 2
Locating Stars:

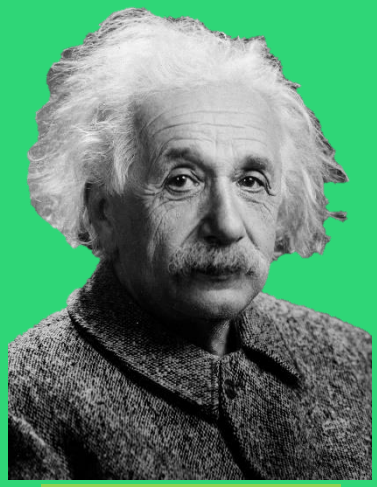

Fig. 9.2.1 Albert Einstein

Since we now know that it is near impossible to tell how far away a star is, we need to look at how we know where it is.

Albert Einstein (Figure 9.2.1) was famous for many of his discoveries in physics, but one of his more spectacular theories is that light bends in response to gravity. His theory has been proven correct by a truly elegant experiment.

Fig. 9.2.2 An eclipse of the sun.

During a solar eclipse (Figure 9.2.2), scientists took as many pictures of the eclipse as possible. They noticed that starlight immediately next to the sun appeared to move between the pictures (Figure 9.2.3).

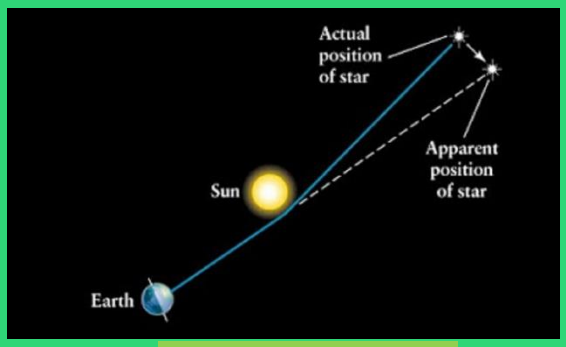

Fig. 9.2.3 Stars move

This showed that the light that was reaching Earth from other stars was bending in response to our Sun's gravity.

As a result, it is more difficult to know exactly where a star is as there are countless bodies that could be in the way to artificially distort its location.

Fig. 9.2.4 Bodies moving away.

Further complicating these calculations is the redshift. The redshift is a property that is expected from the Big Bang theory. The textbook will describe how bodies move away from the initial point of expansion at the center of the universe (Figure 9.2.4).

We only see objects that are moving away from our frame of reference. This creates an effect known as a redshift. Therefore, in theory, the universe is expanding.

However, measurements and calculated expansion rates from redshift are purely theoretical, when practical (experimental) science is applied, the story is much different.

Fig. 9.2.5 Galaxy NGC 4319 & Quasar Markarian 205

Galaxy NGC 4319 and the Quasar Markarian 205 (Figure 9.2.5) are at least according to Redshift theory, billions of years apart. However, they are connected by a luminous bridge that should not exist.

If redshift theory calculations were true, we would not see this bridge.

Earlier, we mentioned light years in regards to distance. A light year is the distance that light can travel in one year. However, scientists have been able to alter the speed of light in a laboratory.

They have been able to speed it up, slow it down, and even bring it to a virtual stop.

In short, the speed of light is not constant.

This means that even the unit used to measure these astronomical distances is up for debate.

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Section 3

Birth of Stars:

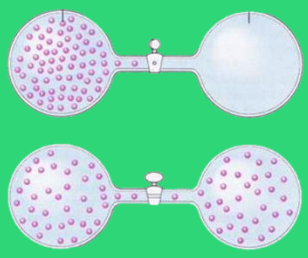

Fig. 9.3.1 Gas expands in a vacuum.

How the stars first formed has been an ongoing mystery.

The textbook will say that the stars form from condensing matter. How this reaction occurs in the vacuum of space, when super-hot gasses spread out and expand by their very nature is never explained (Figure 9.3.1).

In order to support this theory of star formation, scientists expect to find so-called "Stellar Nurseries". One such nursery is (supposedly) found in the Elephant's Trunk Nebula (Figure 9.3.2).

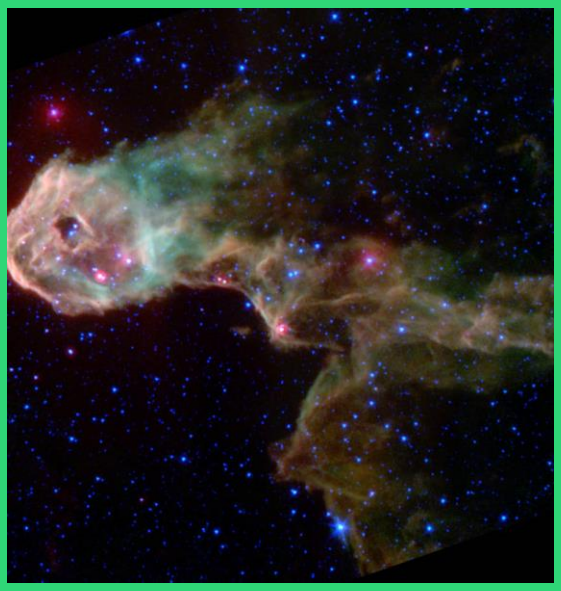

Fig. 9.3.2 The Elephant Trunk Nebula

However, there is no proof that the nebula is forging the stars. Rather, they may simply be coming into view. Thus, the scientists observing this data simply assume that the stars are forming.

Nebulas are large clouds of dust and gas. Thus if the dust clears, we would be able to see the stars coming into view, just like sunlight that streams through the clouds on Earth.

In short, there is little data to support that new stars are forming today.

Either way, if the universe is millions of years old, we should see countless stars in every stage of development in every direction.

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Section 4

Death of Stars:

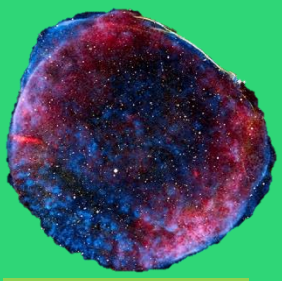

Fig. 9.4.1 A SNR

A violently exploding star is known as a supernova. When this occurs, it creates a Supernova Remnant (SNR) (Figure 9.4.1) such as one found in the Crab Nebula (Figure 9.4.2). This reaction was visible from Earth in the year 1054AD.

The SNR should reach 300 light years after 120,000 years. Thus, if the millions of years theory is correct, we should expect to see countless SNRs today.

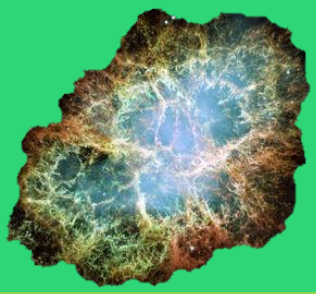

Fig. 9.4.2 The Crab Nebula

Supernovas have three stages. If the universe were millions of years old, scientists would expect to see about two in the first stage, 2,260 in the second stage, and 5,000 in the third stage.

In actuality, what we see is five in the first stage, 200 in the second stage, and none in the third stage. This is not what we would expect from a universe that is millions of years old.

These stellar remains imply a very different age of the universe.

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Section 5

Forming Elements:

Once more, it bears repeating that there is a problem with stellar formation.

Fig. 9.5.1 The chicken and the egg.

The stars are needed to form the elements, but the elements are also needed to form the stars.

The more complex elements are brought about by elements fusing together at amazing rates.

This does not touch on how the first hydrogen atom was formed…

However, the same stars were made by these complex elements (Figure 9.5.1).

IN CONCLUSION:

In actuality, what we see is that the techniques used to measure the distance to stars is severely flawed. (Section 1 & Section 2)

There is no evidence to suggest that stars formed slowly. Furthermore, if they did form slowly, we should see many more dead stars. (Section 3 & Section 4)

Stars are needed to form elements and the elements are needed to form the stars. (Section 5)

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Questions for Further Discussion:

1. **Is it possible that the stars are not as far away as we think? (Section 1 & Section 2)**
2. **Why is redshift still taught if the physical observations do not support the theoretical calculations? (Section 2)**
3. **Why is a lightyear considered a standard measurement? (Section 2)**
4. **Why do we not see many more stars in every stage of development? (Section 3)**
5. **Why are there so few dead stars if the universe is millions of years old? (Section 4)**
6. **Which came first, the stars or the elements? (Section 5)**
7. **Is there another hypothesis that will explain these phenomena?**