

Introduction to Astronomy

Summary Questions Week 6

11 November 2019

1. Stellar spectra consist of a large-scale *blackbody* spectrum and more narrow-band absorption/emission lines. What information does the blackbody spectrum give us about the star?
2. How does the blackbody spectrum change with temperature?
3. What is H α emission and why is it important?
4. Why can we see forbidden transitions in astronomy?
5. The Harvard Stellar Classification System uses spectral lines as a proxy for stellar temperature. How do spectral lines depend on temperature and why?
6. Why are luminous stars also stars with lower surface gravity (assuming we compare stars of equal mass)?