

The Discovery of the
“Chandrasekhar mass”
and
the Chandrasekhar-
Eddington controversy

Giora Shaviv , Technion

Life of Stars
Controversial Inception and Emergence of the Theory of Stellar Structure

Shaviv

Giada Shaviv

A beautifully illustrated book describes the birth and evolution of the theory of stellar structure through the vehement controversy between biology (as presented by Darwin) and physics (as presented by Kelvin) about the origin of the Earth, which culminated with Rutherford suggesting radioactive dating. Shaviv analyzes critically many proclaimed scientific results, shows how and why they were wrong, and explains why it took decades to find the now accepted scientific answers – where there are such – and why there remains much more to be done before we can say we fully understand what happens up there in the heavens.

Life of Stars provides fascinating reading for all those interested in the history of astronomy and in what their story tells us about how science progresses. Moreover, it will bring readers up-to-date on current problems in astrophysics.



The Life of Stars

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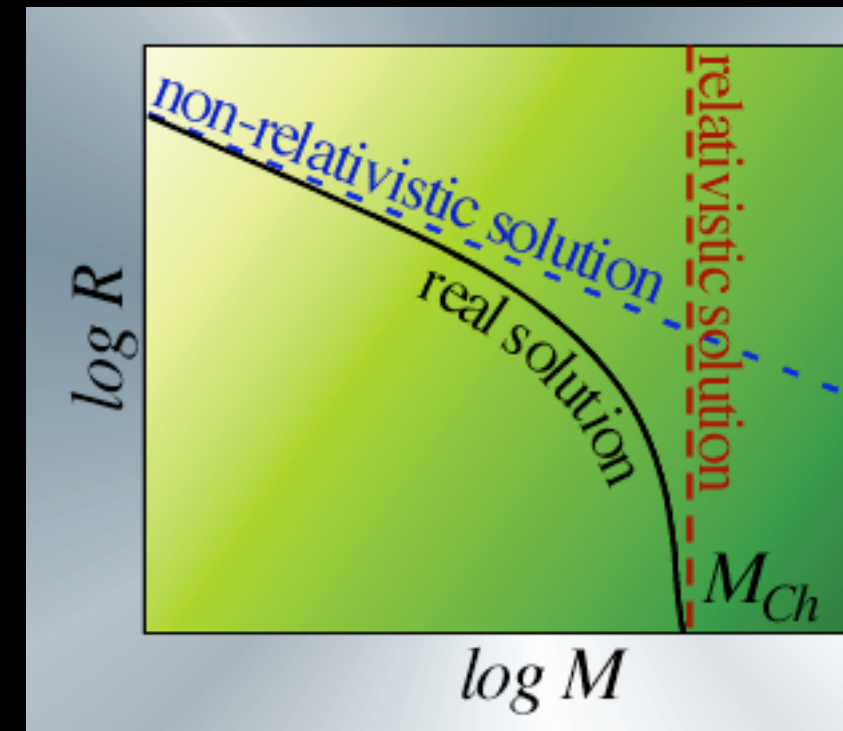
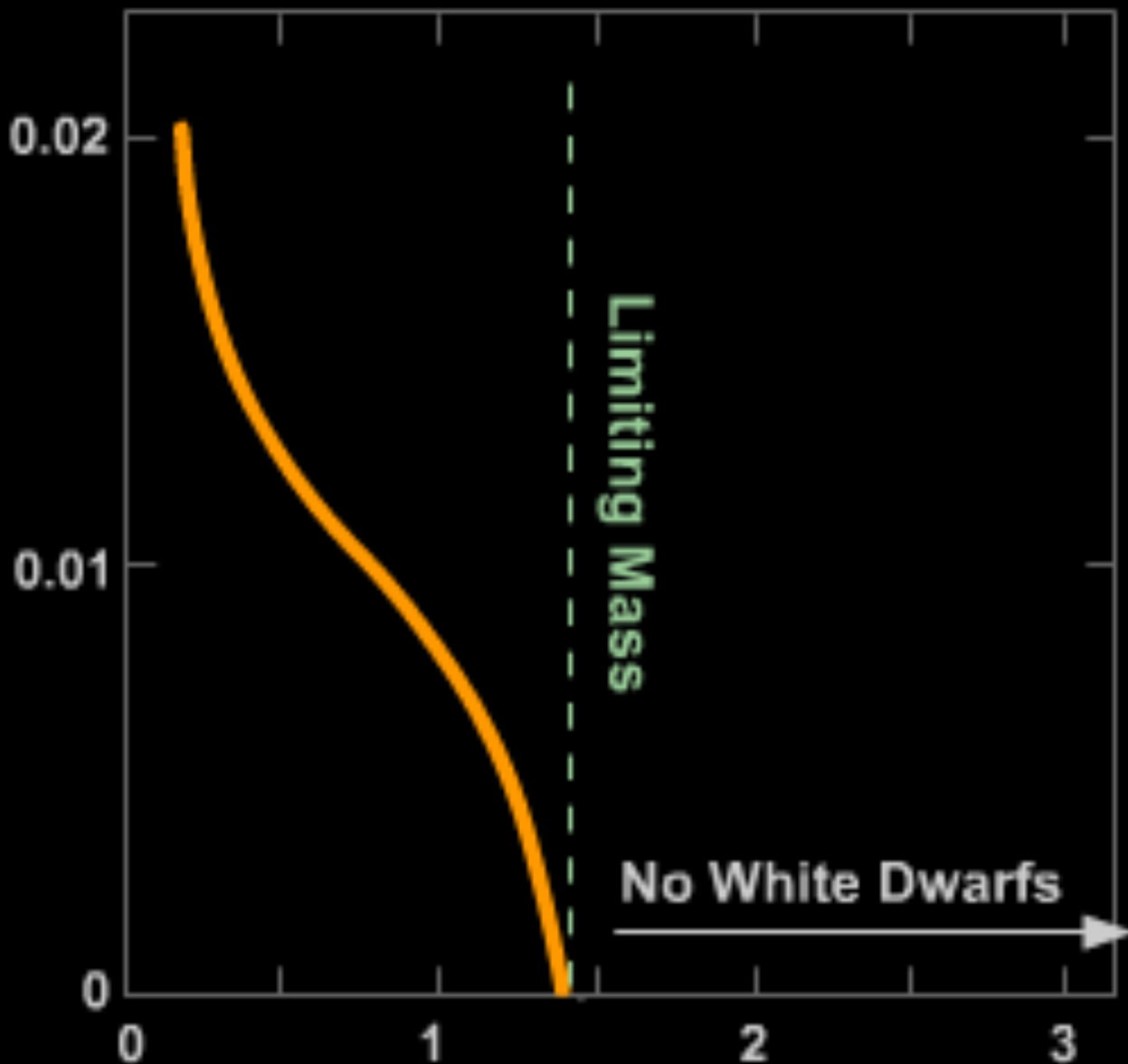
The Controversial Inception and Emergence of the Theory of Stellar Structure

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Springer

quantum+special relativistic effect





the plan of the talk

the discovery of the exclusion principle (Pauli & Stoner)

the application to the theory of metals Statistics
(Fermi, Dirac Sommerfeld, Fowler)

from metals to stars (Fowler)

ideas about a limiting mass and the need of relativity
(Chandrasekhar, Anderson, Stoner)

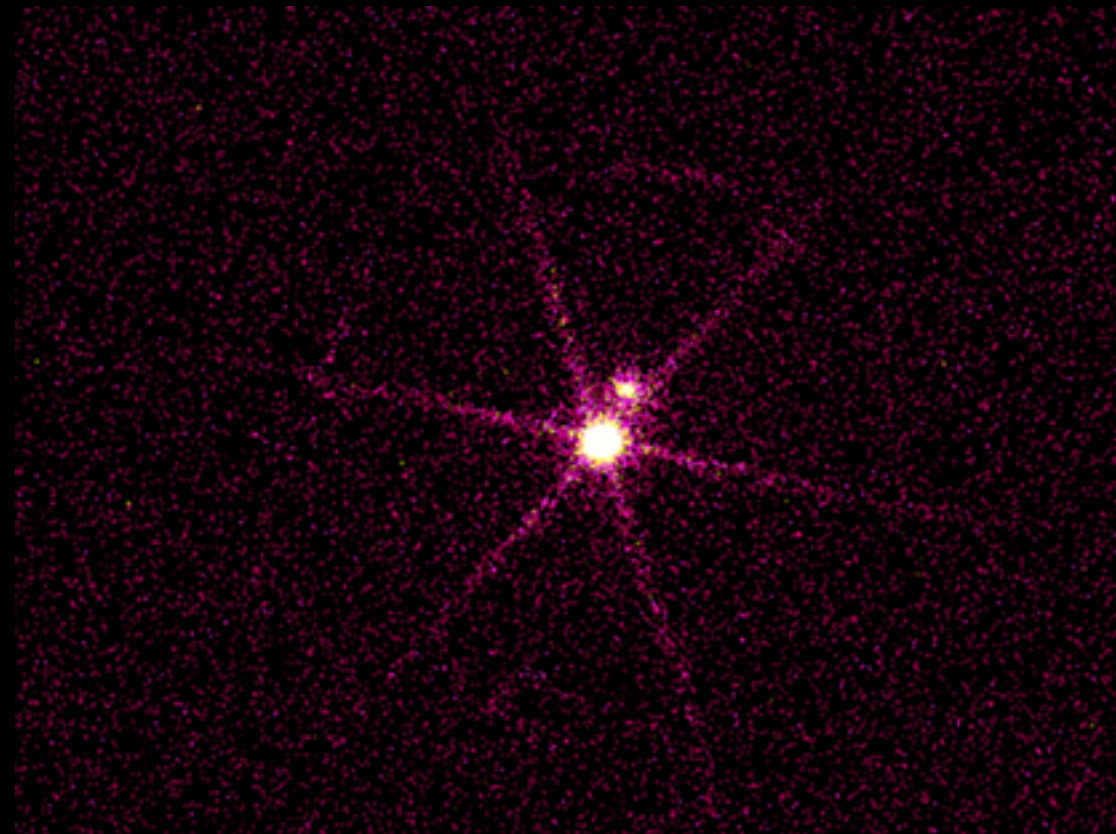
Chandrasekhar & Eddington

What was the controversy about and why did

the bizarre way some great personalities may behave

The star that caused the commotion in astrophysics

Sirius A & B



The foundation: The Pauli Exclusion Principle 1924

How Stoner's contribution was neglected

The Fermi-Dirac statistics 1926

Ralf Fowler: The merger of Fermi-Dirac with gravitation
Solution of Sirius B - 1926

The hypothesis of the existence of a limiting mass

It was not by Chandrasekhar - guess who got it first



Edmund Clifton Stoner (1899-1968)

The man who was
not awarded two
Nobel prizes -



Wolfgang Pauli (1900 – 1958)

Nobel prize 1945

Correct arrangement of the electrons in the atomic shells

The correct electron arrangement in atoms found by **Edmund Stoner (1899-1968) in 1924**.

From optical spectra, Stoner attempted to find the arrangement of the electrons in the atomic shells.

He reviewed previous trials to find the distribution of the electrons and showed that none of the proposed schemes worked. It is remarkable stated by Stoner, that:

The number of electrons in each complete level is equal to double the sum of the inner quantum numbers squared. The electrons appeared to come in pairs which occupy the same quantum states.

This distribution of electrons was the one we know today and as Stoner had already shown, it explained the chemical and the physical properties along the periodic table. In this distribution, electrons come in pairs, and not more than two occupy the same quantum state.

Stoner went one step further and **characterized the states of the electrons by two numbers**, the first one was identical to the principal quantum number n of Bohr, and a second one could take values from 0 to $n - 1$. Stoner indeed noticed, that each electron has another l value.

Element	Atomic No.	Anzahl der n_p Elektronen													
		1s	2s	2p	3s	3p	3d	4s	4p	4d	4f	5s	5p	5d	5f
H	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
He	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Li	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Be	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
B	5	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
C	6	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
N	7	2	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
O	8	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
F	9	2	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ne	10	2	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Na	11	2	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mg	12	2	2	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Al	13	2	2	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Si	14	2	2	6	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
P	15	2	2	6	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
S	16	2	2	6	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cl	17	2	2	6	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ar	18	2	2	6	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
K	19	2	2	6	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ca	20	2	2	6	2	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sc	21	2	2	6	2	6	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ti	22	2	2	6	2	6	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
V	23	2	2	6	2	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cr	24	2	2	6	2	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mn	25	2	2	6	2	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fe	26	2	2	6	2	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Co	27	2	2	6	2	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ni	28	2	2	6	2	6	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cu	29	2	2	6	2	6	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zn	30	2	2	6	2	6	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ga	31	2	2	6	2	6	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ge	32	2	2	6	2	6	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
As	33	2	2	6	2	6	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Se	34	2	2	6	2	6	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Br	35	2	2	6	2	6	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kr	36	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rb	37	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sr	38	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Y	39	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zr	40	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nb	41	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mo	42	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tc	43	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	2	—	—	—	—	—
Ru	44	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	3	—	—	—	—	—
Rh	45	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	4	—	—	—	—	—
Pd	46	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	4	1	—	—	—	—
Ag	47	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	4	2	—	—	—	—
Cd	48	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	4	3	—	—	—	—
In	49	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	4	3	1	—	—	—
Sn	50	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	4	4	—	—	—	—
Pb	82	2	2	6	2	6	4	4	5	4	4	2	—	—	—

The electron arrangement as found by Stoner and confirmed by Pauli

sequence of 2,8,18... of the electrons and failed.

At the time the following essential remark by Stoner was published: For a given value of the principal quantum number is the number of energy levels of a single electron in the alkali metals in an external magnetic field the same as the number of electrons in the closed shell of the rare gases which corresponds to this principal quantum number.

This sentence by Stoner, as Pauli wrote, which led him to the idea that:

Complicated numbers of electrons in closed subgroups are reduced to the simple number of electrons in the group by giving the values of the four quantum numbers of each electron is carried so far that every degeneracy is removed. An entirely non degenerate state is already closed, if it occupied by a single electron. States in contradiction with this postulate are excluded.

The general principle was finally formulated in the spring of 1925 in Hamburg.

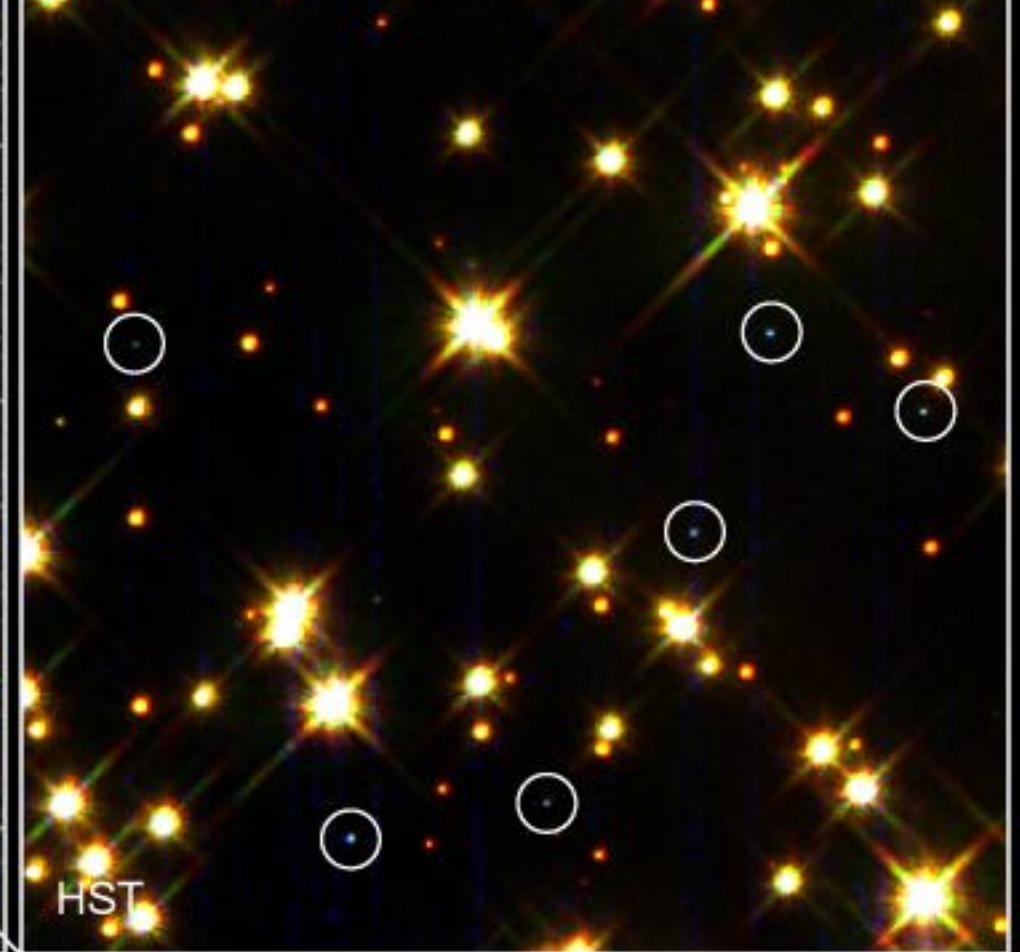
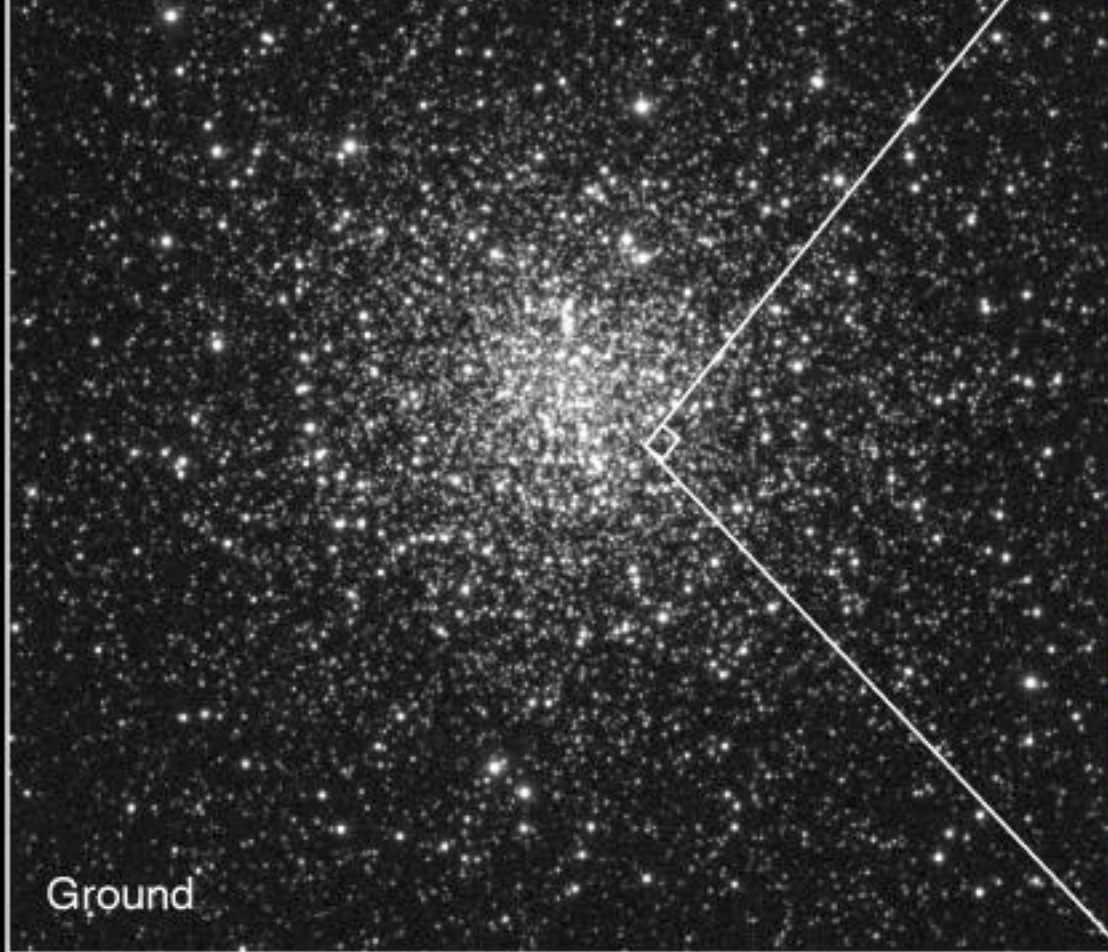
In simpler words: in a given system of many electrons, no two electrons can have the

20. Fermi & Dirac appreciate the meaning of the T.E.
Fermi wanted to satisfy Nernst law: **you cannot reach
absolute zero temperature in a finite number of steps.**

No mention of electrons in the paper

According to Pauli (1944) the connection between spin and statistics is one of the most important applications of the special theory of relativity.

Note the intimate connection PEP and special



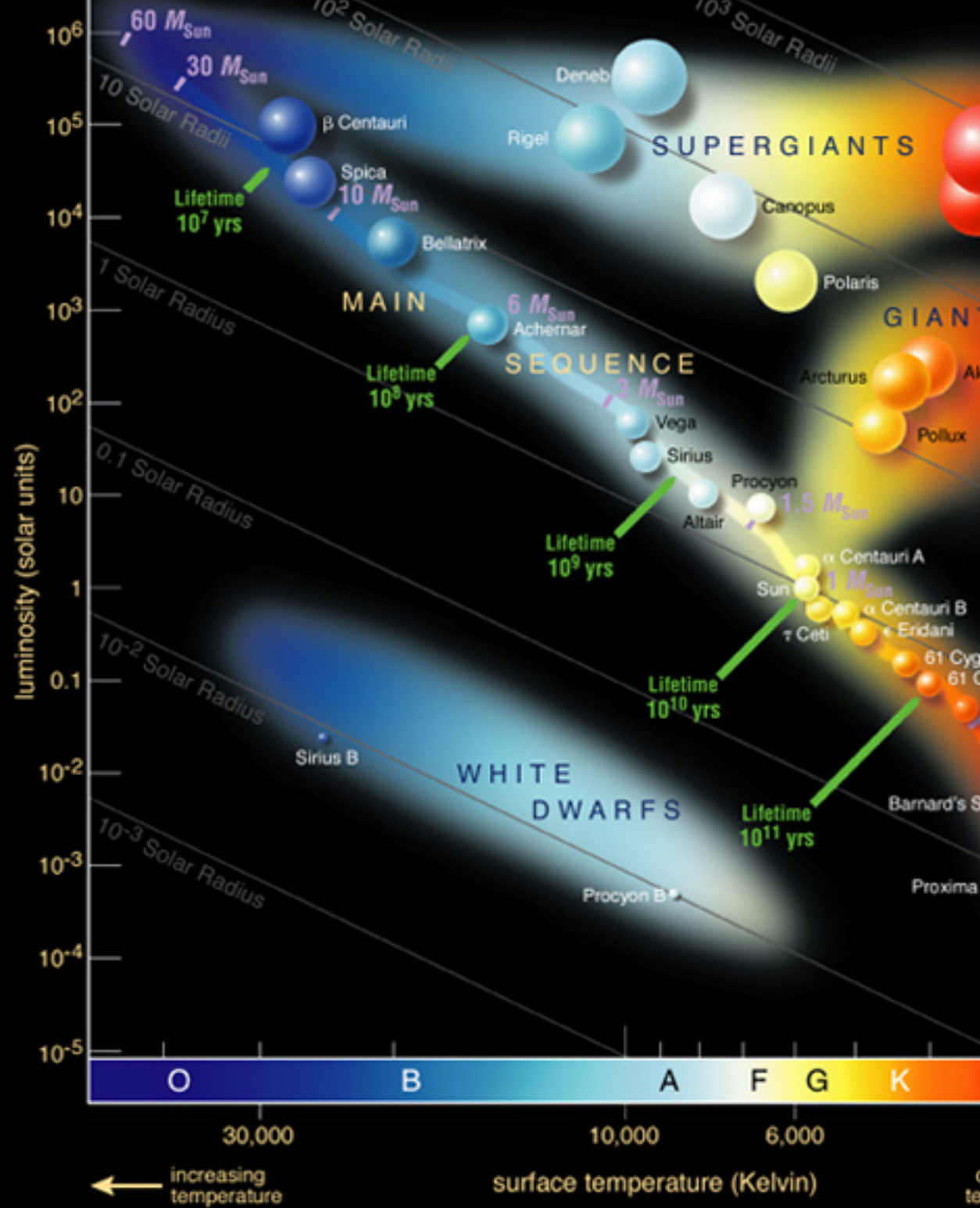
White Dwarf Stars in M4

PRC95-32 · ST ScI OPO · August 28, 1995 · H. Bond (ST ScI), NASA

HST · WFPC2

Now to the sky

the WD appeared as
cooling objects and
was a problem to
Hertzsprung



balance:

$$P_{\text{grav}} = P_{\text{gas}}$$



Upon contraction P_{grav} ↑ and hence P_{gas} ↑ heating!

If the gravitational energy goes into heating of the gas (to counterbalance) and the rest is radiated away. So stars are unbalanced, they lose energy all their life and as a consequence heat up. Conversely, the stars cannot cool!

As Eddington's words: We can scarcely credit the star with sufficient energy to retain more than 90% in reserve for the difficulty of maintaining it. ...Imagine a body continually losing heat but with sufficient energy to grow cold!

Howard Fowler (1889-1944) was a
leading physicist with contributions to
statistical mechanics and astrophysics.

In 1925 he worked out with Guggenheim on the
properties of stellar material assuming that the gas
in stars behaves like an ideal gas. Fowler had also contributed to the
theory of stellar spectra. **Fowler was the first to apply the
Fermi-Dirac statistics to WD.**



Fowler served as a lieutenant in the Royal Marine Artillery and was seriously
wounded during the battle of Gallipoli, a battle in which Moseley lost his life.
Fowler married Eileen, Rutherford's only daughter.

his paper that contained the derivation of what has since then been named Fermi-Dirac statistics, was communicated by Fowler to the Royal Society on August 19, 1926. On September 3, Fowler communicated a paper of his own in which he applied the application of the laws of the new quantum theory to the statistical mechanics of systems of particles consisting of similar particles was systematically developed and incorporated into the general scheme of the Darwin-Fowler method.

On September 10 his paper entitled 'Dense Matter' was read before the Royal Astronomical Society.

Fowler solved the Eddington's paradox by applying the Fermi-Dirac statistics at high densities. What Fowler found was that the ultimate state was one in which the star can be considered as a gigantic atom with only one configuration. The star, if it is devoid of energy sources, can reach zero temperature and the pressure generated by the compressed electrons would be enough to balance the weight of the stellar layers attempting to collapse due to the gravitational pull.

like a quantum system! This is part of
Eddington's problem to accept

Eddington did not attack Fowler

assumed that all atoms were stripped of their electrons and the electrons roam freely in the gas. This was shown before by Eddington.

The star is strictly analogous to one gigantic molecule in its lowest quantum state.

In the lowest quantum state Fowler meant that all states are occupied like in an atom on the Earth.

Sommerfeld included quantum statistics in Lorentz+Drude metal theory.

It was Fowler's idea to see the entire star as a single system or as a piece of metal (but with no nuclei) of their electrons) in which the Fermi-Dirac statistics plays the dominant role, preceded the application of the Fermi-Dirac statistics to metals.

Basu, in his obituary to Fowler, described this discovery as among the more important astronomical discoveries of our time. Indeed, Fowler's application of the Pauli Exclusion Principle in the form of the Fermi-Dirac statistics changed stellar evolution forever. Fowler, in his own language, allowed stars to die by cooling.

If you think that Fowler got the Nobel prize



Indirectly correct idea but completely wrong arguments



Out of the blue, a Russian author, Pokrowski appeared.

Pokrowski: the maximum density of the matter in the star is obtained when all atoms lose their electrons and the nuclei touch each other. Provided nuclei cannot be compressed, this should be the maximum density matter can be in. This state was found later to be the case, this should be the maximum density matter can be in. This state is known today as nuclear matter. Pokrowski estimated this density to be 3 ± 1 gm/cc.

Since the maximal density is fixed, there exists a stellar mass for which the energy required for matter to escape exceeds the rest mass energy $E = mc^2$, and hence no energy/particle can leave the star and cannot be observed. According to Pokrowski's calculations, this mass is $30.29 M_{\odot}$.

Pokrowski's calculation was based on Newtonian mechanics. In a way, Pokrowski essentially repeats an old calculation by Laplace who discussed the idea that the limiting state of a star is reached when it is so massive as to prevent the light from escaping it.

amazing.

ten years after the discovery of general relativity by Einstein and 12 years after Schwarzschild discovered his solution to the general theory of relativity, there was a calculation to carry out a calculation which ignored completely general relativity. Moreover, Pokrowski formulated his result by stating that:

Strong gravitational field curves the space around the star in an extraordinary way which is a consequence of the general theory of relativity. So it is plausible to assume that Pokrowski knew about General Relativity and still published a wrong calculation.

There was no reference to Fowler's seminal work. On the contrary, Pokrowski adopted Eddington's assumption for stars on the main sequence, namely that the stars behave like ideal

asons

By a year after the publication of Pokrowski's 3 pages long paper, Wil Anderson from Tartu university in Estonia, took Pokrowski's idea a bit further by doing a calculation **without GR**, Anderson argued as follows:

Luminosity that the star radiates is equivalent to mass, so when the star moves into space it decreases its mass. (Forgot Jeans)

Anderson calculated therefore, how much mass a star loses as a function of the initial mass before it reaches the limiting density. For example, if the initial mass is $334 M_{\odot}$ about $0.55 M_{\odot}$ of the stellar mass is radiated before the star reaches the limiting density and when the initial mass is $4.82 \times 10^7 M_{\odot}$ the final mass is $370 M_{\odot}$ so that the amount radiated away is $1 - 370 / 4.82 \times 10^7 = 0.999999$ of the initial mass. Hence, concluded Anderson, the f

Anderson then criticized Eddington's claim that the gravitational contraction energy is sufficient to support the Sun for billions of years. The contraction, claimed Anderson, is so high that it can easily supply all the energy the Sun needs in its lifetime.

Anderson was right from the point of view of the energy balance.

Nuclear transmutation of hydrogen into helium about 0.007 of the rest mass is converted into energy. So if gravitational contraction can supply the entire rest mass, it could be able to supply a small part of it.

However, Anderson **did not** carry out a calculation of the lifetime of the Sun and **did not** take into account the necessary changes in the radius of the Sun, had it really derived its energy from gravitational contraction. As a matter of fact, except for references to Pokrowski, Eddington, and the value of the constant of gravity), Anderson chose to ignore all previously published results. After sending the paper for publication, Anderson became aware of Stoner's work. He remarked correctly in 'a note added in proof' that **Stoner ignored the change in the mass of the electron due to special relativity and hence his results are only valid for small stellar masses. Anderson was right about this point.**

point Stoner re-entered the picture and published a sequence of papers in the idea of a limiting pass evolved gradually.

developed the idea that there may be a limiting density not due to nuclei loss electrons but due to the 'jamming' of the electrons which must obey the Fermi CS.

: There exists a limiting density which is smaller than the one assumed byowski and Anderson. Stoner mentioned Jeans stellar stability theory (which was proven to be wrong) that a star cannot be stable if it satisfies the ideal gas, the matter in a stable star must be in a liquid state. Stoner cited from the new book by Jeans that: In white dwarfs atoms are mainly ionized down to their jamming, rather than that of the nuclei, which results in the departure from t which ensure the stability of the star.

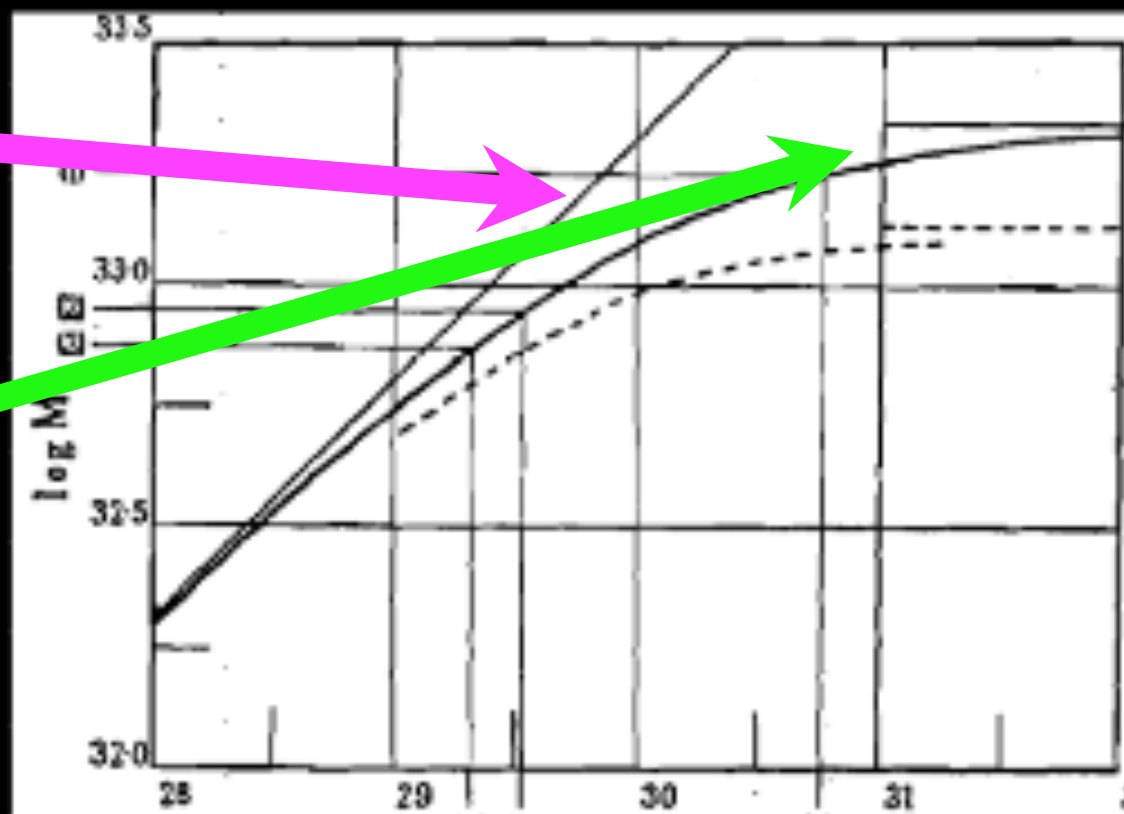
ner adopted the new theory of Fowler and assumed that the mean molecular weight of white dwarfs is 2.5. To simplify the calculation he assumed that the density in the star and does not change from the high density in the center to vanishing density at the surface. If the star behaves like a liquid, this assumption is logical.

In criticism Stoner had been on the accuracy of the approximations Anderson and not on the idea that relativity is important. Stoner found the way to carry the calculation accurately (by using the energy of the particles instead of the mass). Again, he found a mean molecular weight of 2.5.

The appearance of a limiting mass due to relativistic degeneracy appeared for the first time in this context and the approximate value for it is very close to the accurate one. The effect of special theory of relativity is clearly seen. Without incorporating relativity the curve would have been the straight line which shows no signs of 'saturation' or tending to a finite mass.

Special relativity

With special relativity



the power to provide the energy to the electrons so as to allow further contraction. The resulting density (for a molecular weight of 2.5) was found to be:

$$\rho = 3.85 \times 10^6 (M/M_{\text{sun}}) \text{ gm/cc}$$

Stars that reach this density cannot contract anymore, so they cannot extract energy from the gravitational field and consequently they do not shine, they are dark and at zero temperature.

mean density of

Sirius B is $5 \times 10^4 \text{ gm/cc}$,

Procyon B is $9.8 \times 10^4 \text{ gm/cc}$,

Maanen's star has a mean density in excess of 10^5 gm/cc

Procyon B has a mean density of several thousands.

If the mass of Sirius B is $0.85 M_{\odot}$, then according to Stoner the maximum density should be $1.5 \times 10^6 \text{ gm/cc}$ and

Procyon B with a mass of $0.44 M_{\odot}$ should have a maximum density of $7.48 \times 10^5 \text{ gm/cc}$. Since the temperatures of the stars are not yet zero, it appeared that the observed densities agree nicely with the predictions of the theory. Moreover, if the density in the center of the star can be compared with observations. Indeed, the minimal radius of Sirius B was calculated to be $0.0075 R_{\odot}$, while the observations yielded $0.03 R_{\odot}$.

For Procyon B the minimal theoretical radius was $0.011 R_{\odot}$, while the observed was $0.018 R_{\odot}$. Every star has a minimal radius, and it cannot contract beyond this radius. $\rho = 3.85 \times 10^6 \text{ gm/cm}^3$.

er assumed that white dwarfs, which are at the end of the st
ution, are composed of lead, and the mean molecular weight
ed lead is $207.2/(82 + 1) = 2.50$. Jeans derived a molecular
6 because he assumed the matter of the dwarf stars to be
posed of uranium.

did not discuss what happens to stars which are more massive than the limiting mass. Did they collapse forever? At a later time (1930) Stoner attempted to improve the estimates of the limiting mass to account for the density distribution. To that goal he applied the model polytropes from Eddington's 1902 monogram. **His result was 1 Msun.**

The pressure of the condensed electron gas varies like $\rho^{5/3}$ at low densities and as $\rho^{4/3}$ at high densities.

The change in the exponent which would be the subject of the fierce and emotionally charged controversy between Chandrasekhar and Eddington.

Stoner's papers were communicated by Eddington to the journal.

Stoner communicated papers which included a result he objected to. Moreover, Stoner ended his paper with acknowledgment to Eddington for proposing the problem of the 'upper limits'.

It is interesting to note that partly the reason why Stoner's cardinal contribution to the theory of white dwarf stars is known by astrophysicists is because of its publication in *The Philosophical Magazine*, a journal which is still read by astrophysicists.

Despite his objection to the result,

Chandrasekhar (1910-1995) met Sommerfeld in 1928 during Sommerfeld's trip to India and he learned about the new theory of metals and the Fermi-Dirac statistics.

Chandrasekhar even got the galley proofs of the new book from Sommerfeld. Chandrasekhar applied the theory of metals to stars. **The reverse of Fowler!**

At the time Chandrasekhar decided to go to England and not Germany though the intentions of Sommerfeld's visit to India were to strengthen the relations between German and Indian science. This decision might have been affected by the language barriers.

The preference of England over Germany had major consequences and impact on Chandrasekhar's life in the following years.

being on the boat going from India to England, at the age of 19, Chandrasekhar worked out the limiting mass of white dwarfs, a work that granted him the Nobel prize in 1983 (Stoner died in 1968)

A basic difference between Stoner's limiting mass expression (which Chandrasekhar apparently was not aware of while on the boat) and Chandrasekhar's was that the latter included a better model for the density distribution in the star and consequently, obtained a supposedly more accurate value for the limiting mass. Indeed, the first result for the limiting mass obtained by Chandrasekhar was $0.91 M_{\odot}$.

Chandrasekhar compared his result with that of Stoner and concluded that:

agreement between the accurate working out, based on the theory of the polytropes, and the cruder form of the theory is rather surprising.

Chandrasekhar knew about Eddington's objection to the idea of a limiting mass,

his two page long note was published in the *American Astrophysical Journal* although the most important astrophysical literature on the subject of stars was published at that time was the *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*.

It should be noted that Chandrasekhar used to write long and comprehensive papers and this two page long note on the limiting mass was exceptionally short by Chandrasekhar standards.

One can only wonder why Chandrasekhar chose this venue for his seminal contribution.

On the piquant side, Chandrasekhar was Fowler's PhD student in Cambridge and got the Nobel Prize in 1938 and his limiting mass prize winning paper was published while he was still a graduate student.

summary, what Stoner first and Chandrasekhar second
independently proved was that cold stars are stable for
masses smaller than the limiting mass, while more massive
stars are apparently unstable.

Eddington argued that there is no such a thing as
“relativistic degeneracy”

1935 Eddington published the first straightforward attack on the
idea that special relativistic effects are important to the theory of
white dwarfs.

Eddington argued that Chandrasekhar combined spe
cial relativity with non relativistic quantum mechanics

One may wonder what triggered Eddington's and why he was upset, to put it mildly, with Chandrasekhar's result.

Maybe the answer can be found in the introduction to his paper. Using the relativistic formula, he (Chandrasekhar) finds that a star of large mass will never become degenerate, but will remain practically a perfect gas up to the highest densities contemplated. When its supply of subatomic energy is exhausted, the star must continue radiating energy and therefore contracting - presumably until, at a diameter of a few kilometers, its gravitation becomes strong enough to prevent the escape of radiation.

This result seems to me almost a *reductio ad absurdum* of the relativistic formula. It must at least rouse suspicion as to the soundness of its foundation.

ington and appreciated Milne's core-envelope mo

ddington detested Milne and disapproved of his mo

le

itted

at:

"I have not read professor Milne's paper, but I hardly think it is necessary, for it would be absurd for me to pretend that professor has the remotest chance of being right."

Chandrasekhar had almost a daily contact with
ddington and told him about his results. Eddington

never attacked or criticized Chandrasekhar in
private, always in public in front of great audience

In other words, Eddington did not believe in the physical reality of the Schwarzschild solution, exactly like Einstein who refused to accept it as a physical one.

So, because he did not believe in what we call today black holes, he turned the argument namely, if Chandrasekhar's theory leads to the formation of black holes, it must be wrong.

My guess is that Chandrasekhar knew about Eddington's basic reaction to the objection to his results and for this reason refrained from predicting the fate of massive star in his communication to the Royal Astronomical Society (February, 1934) and speculated about the nature of the interaction between the nuclei change at high densities

and as Khrushchev remained in the visiting England for the
years.

The final victory



o far we discussed what appears in the professional
literature.



Royal Society dinner , June 12, 1936.
Chandra is Eddington's guest and sits by him

Royal Society meeting

935 IAU Paris meeting: Eddington claims

“Chandrasekhar result is simple heresy”

There is no such a thing as relativistic degeneracy

Bohr, Pauli and Dirac

Rosenfeld response:

May say that your letter was *some* surprise for me: for nobody had ever
dreamt of questioning the equations, and Eddington's remark as reported
in your letter is utterly obscure. So I think you had better cheer up and
not let you scare so much by high priests: for I suppose you know
enough Marxist history to be aware of the fundamental identity of high
priests and mountebanks.....

if "Eddington's principle" had any sense at all, it would be different from Paul
Could you perhaps induce Eddington to state his views in terms intelligible to hu
mortals? What are the mysterious reasons of relativistic invariance which compel
to formulate a natural law in what seems to ordinary human beings a non-relativistic
manner. That would be curious to know.

enfeld, Bohr and Pauli unwilling to challenge Eddington

the relations between Eddington and Chandrasekhar
remained warm and cordial. They exchanged letters

1936 Chandrasekhar recruited Rudolf Peierls (1907-1995), a leading nuclear physicist, to write a note on the derivation of the equation for a relativistic gas. This time the paper was communicated to the MNRAS by Chandrasekhar.

At the end though it was Chandrasekhar who had to thank Peierls. Peierls discussed Eddington's contentions that the behavior of matter in the star may depend on the shape of the volume inside which it is contained. Peierls admitted that the solution was obvious, but in view of the controversy it is perhaps worthwhile to give a proof.

The acknowledgment to Chandrasekhar appeared at the end though it was Chandrasekhar who had to thank Peierls.

Despite the fact that Chandrasekhar was invited to give
talks on the limiting mass, Eddington exercised
formous influence and prevented Chandrasekhar from
being invited to international conferences. It was clear
Chandra had no future in England and he left for the U.S.
and did not return to England for over 30 years.

The idea of Milne, as described by Landau, was that if L and M are chosen to be completely arbitrary, there is no guaranty that such a star actually exists. Namely, of all the luminosities and masses only certain combinations correspond to actual stars. Landau claimed that Milne reached this conclusion because he assumed the absorption coefficient to be constant throughout the star.

Moreover, Landau claimed that this assumption was made for mathematical convenience having nothing to do with reality. Under this limiting assumption the radius of the star disappears from the L, M, R relation. Moreover, any real absorption coefficient leads to a relation between L and M and in this way be exempt from the criticism put forwards against Eddington's mass-luminosity relation.

Landau proposed to overcome this problem by 'methods of theoretical physics', a term reminiscent of Eddington's years ago logo. What Landau did was to derive the equation for the structure of the star (the equation of hydrostatics) from thermodynamic considerations based on dynamics, which is the usual way. Assuming the cold (vanishing temperature) gas to obey the Fermi-Dirac statistics and **without mentioning which particles of the gas that obey this statistics**, Landau derived that the gas should obey the equation used by Eddington for his gaseous stars (supported by radiation pressure). Chandrasekhar for his white dwarf (supported by a gas

reached the conclusion that a mass larger than $1.5M_{\odot}$ should not
But, Landau noticed that: As in reality such masses exist quietly as s
show any such ridiculous tendencies, we must conclude that all star
er than $1.5M_{\odot}$ certainly possess regions in which the laws of quantum
anics are violated.

led Landau to assume such a far reaching conclusion? As Landau
ated: As we have no reason to believe that stars can be divided into
ally different classes according to the condition if the mass is greater
er than M_{crit} , we may suppose that all stars possess such pathological
s.

ospect, it is difficult to understand why the assumption of the violation
um theory by stars, which contradicts Landau's very first premise ab
theoretical physics, was easier to accept than the assumption that s
ave different courses of evolution depending on their mass, or was it
esentment from a collapse to a black hole? Should we apply Landau's
s quotation: Cosmologists are often wrong but never in doubt to this c

of Chandrasekhar's or Stoner's discoveries of a critical mass will not too long before. The only paper Landau mentioned was his own papers.

1 Chandrasekhar extended his research in two directions: in a paper communicated by Milne, he expanded Milne's theory of collapsed objects to explain the structure of white dwarfs. At the end of this paper Chandrasekhar gave a table in which he separated between the fate of the low mass stars and the high mass stars, **just the point Landau rejected.**

December 1932 Russell gave the First Maiben Lecture before the American Association for the Advancement of Science the topic being: The Constitution of the Stars. He stated that: **The low mass stars have, within the last few years, changed their role from most perplexing to the best understood class of stars. The present theory of their nature (which we owe to Milne) is the most notable triumph of the application of general physics to stellar constitution. All the results were attributed to Milne and his colleagues at Oxford. The Cambridge Chandrasekhar was not even mentioned.**

Black Holes

9 (two months later) Einstein published an example (proof?) that no collapse to BH takes place.

Eddington published his last paper on the physics of white dwarfs where he repeats arguments why the Stoner-Anderson formula was wrong. A formula established empirically in conditions, claimed Eddington, is extended to conditions in which it has not been tested by a procedure known as 'the principle of induction' or less euphemistically as 'extrapolation'. Such extrapolation, though often leading to progress, is fairly sure to break down sooner or later . . . Eddington betrayed his own principles about the universal validity of physical laws.

Do not be afraid of big names, they may be in error

Great names may make great errors

The truth eventually comes out



ington was an english quaker. Refused the draft during
WWI. Never married.

ington did a lot to bring german science to england
brought relativity to england at a time german science
to a large extent ignored in england or was at a fier
competition

Chandrasekhar was married never had children
chandrasekhar descends from a noble indian family
who had several famous scientists