## PHYS 1401: Descriptive Astronomy

- 1. Our best stellar parallax measurements to date come from
  - A) radio interferometry.
  - B) observations made by astronauts.
  - C) ground based measurements taken six months apart.
  - D) the Keck telescope.
  - E) the Hipparcos satellite.
- A star has a parallax of .05", its distance is
  - A) 5 light years.
  - B) 20 light years.
  - C) 66 light years.
  - D) 200 parsecs.
  - E) 660 light years.
- 3. The Hipparcos data give us
  - A) an accurate distance to the Moon.
  - B) information on only the 6,000 brightest stars.
  - C) parallaxes as small as 0.005"
  - D) distances to about 100 billion stars, practically everything in the Milky Way Galaxy
  - E) parallaxes to the nearest galaxies.
- 4. Which statement about stellar motion is FALSE?
  - A) Proper motion is measured in intervals of six months.
  - B) Radial velocity is measured by the Doppler shifts of the spectral lines.
  - C) The space velocity can be found from the radial and transverse velocities.
  - D) The closer stars usually show larger proper motions.
  - E) You must also know the parallax to get the transverse velocity.
- 5. If spectroscopic luminosity classification gives us an estimated distance to the faint star SAO 47552 of about 3300 light years, then its parallax would be only
  - A) 3.3"
  - B) 0.1"
  - C) 0.033"
  - D) 0.01"
  - E) 0.001".
- 6. A star has a parallax of 0.01 arcseconds. Its distance is
  - A) 0.01 parsecs.
  - B) 0.1 parsecs.
  - C) 1 parsec.
  - D) 10 parsecs
  - E) 100 parsecs.
- 7. A star is 10 parsecs from Earth. Which statement is true?
  - A) The star is about 33 ly away.
  - B) The star's apparent magnitude is smaller than its absolute magnitude.
  - C) The star is in a different galaxy.
  - D) The star's parallax is 1.0 arc seconds.
  - E) The star's apparent magnitude is larger than its absolute magnitude.

- 8. If Vega is apparent magnitude zero, and Deneb first magnitude, then
  - A) Vega is about 100× brighter than Deneb.
  - B) Deneb must be a main sequence star, and Vega a giant.
  - C) Deneb is one magnitude brighter than Vega.
  - D) Vega must be 2.5× more luminous than Deneb.
  - E) Vega is 2.5× brighter than Deneb.
- 9. The stars α Cygni and β cygni are in the constellation Cygnus. Which statement is true?
  - A)  $\alpha$  must be the eastern most star in the constellation.
  - B) B cygni appears brighter.
  - C) B appears redder.
  - D) α cygni appears brighter.
  - E) B is hotter.
- 10. The full Moon's apparent magnitude is
  - A) -12.5
  - B) +4.83
  - C) -1.4
  - D) -26.2
  - E) +12.7
- 11. A star's absolute magnitude is its apparent brightness as seen from
  - A) Pluto.
  - B) Alpha Centauri.
  - C) 10 light years distance.
  - D) 33 light years distance.
  - E) 100 parsecs distance.
- 12. Rigel has an apparent magnitude of + 0.18 and Betelgeuse an apparent magnitude of +0.45. What can you conclude from this?
  - A) Betelgeuse must be closer to Earth.
  - B) Rigel must be closer to Earth.
  - C) Rigel is brighter than Betelgeuse.
  - D) Betelgeuse is brighter than Rigel.
  - E) Both stars are brighter than the full Moon.
- 13. On a night when a human eye can see a fourth magnitude star, a 60mm telescope, with 100× the surface area as our pupil, would be able to just barely detect
  - A) thirteenth magnitude Pluto
  - B) eighth magnitude Uranus
  - C) ninth magnitude Barnard's Star
  - D) eleventh magnitude Tethys, Saturn's second largest moon
  - E) seventh magnitude Titan, Saturn's largest moon
- 14. How much brighter will a 4th magnitude star appear than a 6th magnitude star?
  - A) 8 ×
  - B) 6.25×
  - C) 16 ×
  - D) 2.5×
  - E) 2.0 ×

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- 15. Two stars both have parallaxes of 0.023", but star A has apparent magnitude +2.3, while star B is magnitude +7.3. Which statement is true?
  - A) Star A must be ten times closer.
  - B) Star B must be ten times more luminous.
  - C) Nothing, since we do not know their absolute magnitudes.
  - D) Star A is both 100× brighter and larger than star B.
  - E) Star A is both 100× brighter and more luminous than star B.
- 16. The spectral type of a star measures its
  - A) temperature.
  - B) luminosity.
  - C) chemical composition.
  - D) size.
  - E) mass.
- 17. Which of these stars would be the hottest?
  - A) K9
  - B) B0
  - C) A0
  - D) G2
  - E) M10
- 18. What can be said with certainty about a red star and a blue star?
  - A) The red star is closer to Earth than the blue star.
  - B) The red star is more massive than the blue star.
  - C) The blue star has a greater proper motion than the red star.
  - D) The blue star is hotter than the red star.
  - E) The red star has a greater radial velocity than the blue star.
- 19. Which of these pairs of binaries would appear most similar in color telescopically?
  - A) F3IV and G8III
  - B) FOV and G9III
  - C) A2Ia and F7Ia
  - D) M1V and K9V
  - E) O2V and M4Ia
- 20. A star's color index directly tells us its
  - A) distance.
  - B) temperature.
  - C) radial velocity.
  - D) age.
  - E) proper motion.
- 21. In general, what can be said about type O and B stars compared to type K and M stars?
  - A) They are neither hotter nor cooler, younger nor older.
  - B) They are cooler and younger.
  - C) They are cooler and older.
  - D) They are hotter and younger.
  - E) They are hotter and older.

- 22. Compared to a type A0 star, a type A9 star is
  - A) more massive.
  - B) hotter.
  - C) cooler.
  - D) bluer.
  - E) more luminous.
- 23. The H-R diagram can plot
  - A) radius versus mass.
  - B) radius versus luminosity.
  - C) temperature versus mass.
  - D) apparent magnitude versus spectral classes.
  - E) temperature versus luminosity.
- 24. The stars with masses comparable to our Sun's, but sizes like the earth are
  - A) white dwarfs.
  - B) neutron stars.
  - C) red giants.
  - D) blue main sequence stars.
  - E) red main sequence stars.
- 25. In the H-R diagram, what are the two most important types of data plotted?
  - A) absolute and apparent magnitudes
  - B) apparent magnitudes and temperatures
  - C) spectral classes and absolute magnitudes
  - D) luminosities and masses
  - E) sizes and temperatures
- 26. On the H-R diagram, the bright blue stars that dominate the naked-eye sky lie
  - A) in the middle of the main sequence.
  - B) at the top right.
  - C) at the lower left.
  - D) at the lower right.
  - E) at the top left.
- 27. On the H-R diagram, our Sun lies
  - A) at the top left.
  - B) at the bottom right.
  - C) about the middle.
  - D) at the bottom left.
  - E) at the top right.
- 28. On the H-R diagram, the white dwarfs Sirius B and Procyon B lie
  - A) at the top left.
  - B) to the bottom right on the main sequence.
  - C) at the top right.
  - D) in the middle of the main sequence.
  - E) at the lower left of the main sequence.
- 29. On the H-R diagram, red supergiants like Betelguese lie
  - A) about the middle.
  - B) on the bottom, coolest portion of the main sequence.
  - C) to the lower left edge.
  - D) at the top left.
  - E) at the top right.

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- 30. Compared to the size of the Sun, stars of all types range from
  - A) 0.1 to 10 solar radii.
  - B) 0.5 to 50 solar radii.
  - C) 0.01 to 1,000 solar radii.
  - D) 0.08 to 8,000 solar radii.
  - E) 0.001 to 50,000 solar radii.
- 31. A star near the lower right of the H-R diagram is likely to be
  - A) hot, bright, and very large.
  - B) blue, with high luminosity.
  - C) red, with high luminosity.
  - D) yellow, with luminosity similar to our Sun's.
  - E) red, with low luminosity.
- 32. Binary stars separated enough to be resolved in a telescope are called
  - A) visual binaries.
  - B) astrometric binaries.
  - C) spectroscopic binaries.
  - D) orbital binaries.
  - E) line-of-sight binaries.
- 33. The Doppler shift is used to find
  - A) visual binaries.
  - B) astrometric binaries.
  - C) spectroscopic binaries.
  - D) photometric binaries.
  - E) eclipsing binaries.
- 34. Which type of binaries are best studied with a photometer?
  - A) astrometric binaries
  - B) eclipsing binaries
  - C) visual binaries
  - D) optical doubles
  - E) spectroscopic binaries
- 35. If we know the average separation and period of revolution for a binary system, we can then measure
  - A) the actual mass of both individual stars.
  - B) their absolute magnitudes.
  - C) the total mass of the system.
  - D) the actual sizes of the two stars.
  - E) the actual luminosity of each star.
- 36. Stellar masses are measured directly by observations of the motions of
  - A) spectroscopic binary systems.
  - B) eclipsing binary systems.
  - C) visual binary systems.
  - D) All of the above can give us their masses.
  - E) Stellar masses cannot be measured directly by any method.
- 37. Almost all stars fall in a mass range of
  - A) 1 to 3 solar masses.
  - B) 0.1 to 20 solar masses.
  - C) 0.01 to 100 solar masses.
  - D) 0.001 to 50,000 solar masses.
  - E) The range of stellar masses is infinite.

- 38. What information can be gained from the light curves of eclipsing binaries?
  - A) their luminosities
  - B) their distances
  - C) their masses
  - D) their temperatures
  - E) their sizes