

The temperatures of O stars exceed 30000K. Figure 1.1 shows that the strongest lines are those of HeII (once-ionized helium) and CIII (twice-ionized carbon); the Balmer lines of hydrogen are relatively weak because hydrogen is almost totally ionized. The spectra of B stars, which are cooler, have stronger hydrogen lines, together with lines of neutral helium, HeI. The A stars, with temperatures below 11 000 K, are cool enough that the hydrogen in their atmospheres is largely neutral; they have the strongest Balmer lines, and lines of singly ionized metals such as calcium. Note that the flux decreases sharply at wavelengths less than 3800 Å; this is called the Balmer jump. A similar Paschen jump appears at wavelengths that are $3^2/2^2$ times longer, at around 8550 Å.

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Figure 6.19 Spectra for a 'galaxy' that makes its stars in a 10^8 yr burst, all plotted to the same vertical scale. Emission lines of ionized gas are strong 10 Myr after the burst ends; after 100 Myr, the galaxy has faded and reddened, and deep hydrogen lines of A stars are prominent. Beyond 1 Gyr, the light dims and becomes slightly redder, but changes are much slower - B. Poggianti.

big ellipticals are richer in heavy elements than the midsized ones. The center of galaxy is also more metal rich than its periphery: Figure 6.20 shows that the magnesium absorption is stronger, the greater the speed required for material to escape from that region of the galaxy. Smaller galaxies may have lost most of their metal-enriched gas, while larger systems were able to trap theirs, incorporating the heavy elements into new stars. Figure 1.5 showed us that metal poor stars of agiven mass are bluer, especially while they are burning helium in their cores; so we are not surprised to find that smaller galaxies with lower metal content are bluer.

The most metal-rich parts of galaxies in Figure 6.20 correspond to abundances \mathbb{R}^{4-2} Z_o; stars at the center of luminous ellipticals are at least as metal-rich as the Sun. But they do not contain heavy elements in the same proportions as the Sun. Relatively light atoms such as oxygen, sodium, and magnesium are a few times more abundant relative to iron. We saw the same pattern in old metal-poor ш.

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Fig. 2.2. A mean QSO spectrum formed by averaging spectra of over 700 QSOs from the Large Bright Quasar Survey (Francis et al. 1991). Prominent emission lines are indicated. Data courtesy of P.I. Francis and C. B. Foltz.

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