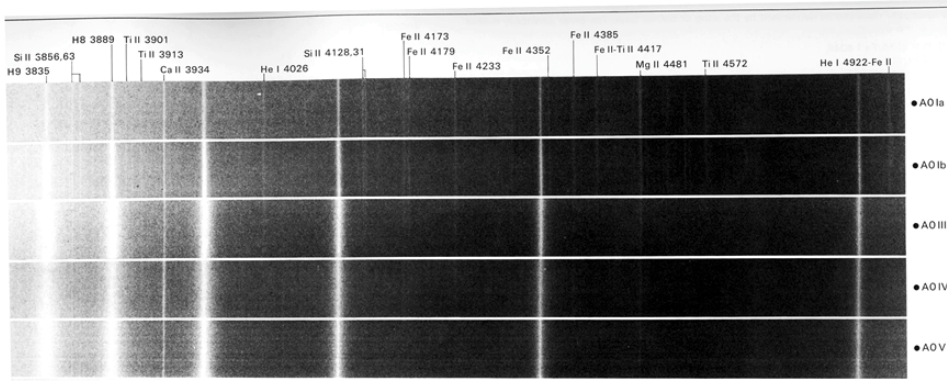


The HR Diagram and Cosmic Distances

1

In addition to classifying stellar spectra by line strength, we can classify by line width



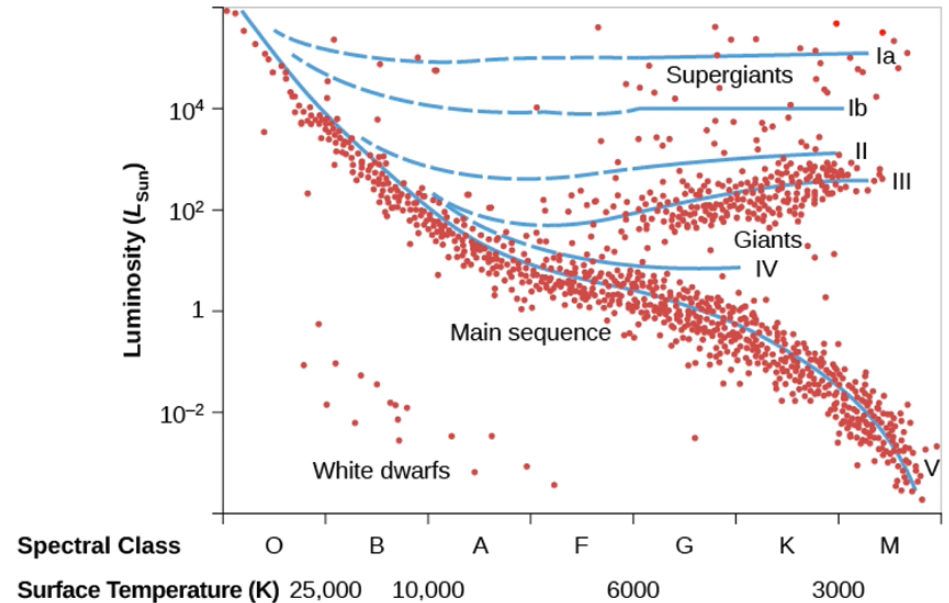
2

The luminosity class (a Roman numeral, possibly with a lower-case letter) is appended to the spectral class to indicate line width:

- Ia is narrowest
- V is broadest

3

The luminosity class allows us to figure out where on the Hertzsprung-Russell (HR) diagram a star should be placed



4

Once we've placed a star on the HR diagram, we can read off its luminosity, and from that figure out its distance