

Grid 10. The brightnesses of a star

The luminosity of a star Σ , is $L_{\Sigma} = 100 \cdot L_{\text{S}}$, where L_{S} is the luminosity of the Sun, and the star's surface temperature is $T_{\Sigma} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot T_{\text{S}}$, where T_{S} is the Sun's surface of the Sun.

Relation between the radius of the star and the radius of the Sun is:

a) $\frac{R_{\Sigma}}{R_{\text{S}}} = 40$; b) $\frac{R_{\Sigma}}{R_{\text{S}}} = 30$; c) $\frac{R_{\Sigma}}{R_{\text{S}}} = 60$; d) $\frac{R_{\Sigma}}{R_{\text{S}}} = 50$.

Solution

The luminosity of a star, meaning the energy of the total radiation emitted by that star, in the unit of time, through its entire surface, at all wavelengths, in accordance with the Stefan-Boltzmann law, results:

$$\begin{aligned}
 L_{\Sigma} &= 100 \cdot L_{\text{S}}; \\
 L_{\Sigma} &= 4\pi \cdot R_{\Sigma}^2 \cdot \sigma \cdot T_{\Sigma}^4; \quad L_{\text{S}} = 4\pi \cdot R_{\text{S}}^2 \cdot \sigma \cdot T_{\text{S}}^4; \\
 4\pi \cdot R_{\Sigma}^2 \cdot \sigma \cdot T_{\Sigma}^4 &= 10^2 \cdot 4\pi \cdot R_{\text{S}}^2 \cdot \sigma \cdot T_{\text{S}}^4; \quad R_{\Sigma}^2 \cdot T_{\Sigma}^4 = 10^2 \cdot R_{\text{S}}^2 \cdot T_{\text{S}}^4; \\
 \frac{R_{\Sigma}^2}{R_{\text{S}}^2} &= 10^2 \cdot \frac{T_{\text{S}}^4}{T_{\Sigma}^4} = 10^2 \cdot \left(\frac{T_{\text{S}}}{T_{\Sigma}} \right)^4 = 10^2 \cdot 2^4; \\
 \frac{R_{\Sigma}}{R_{\text{S}}} &= 40.
 \end{aligned}$$