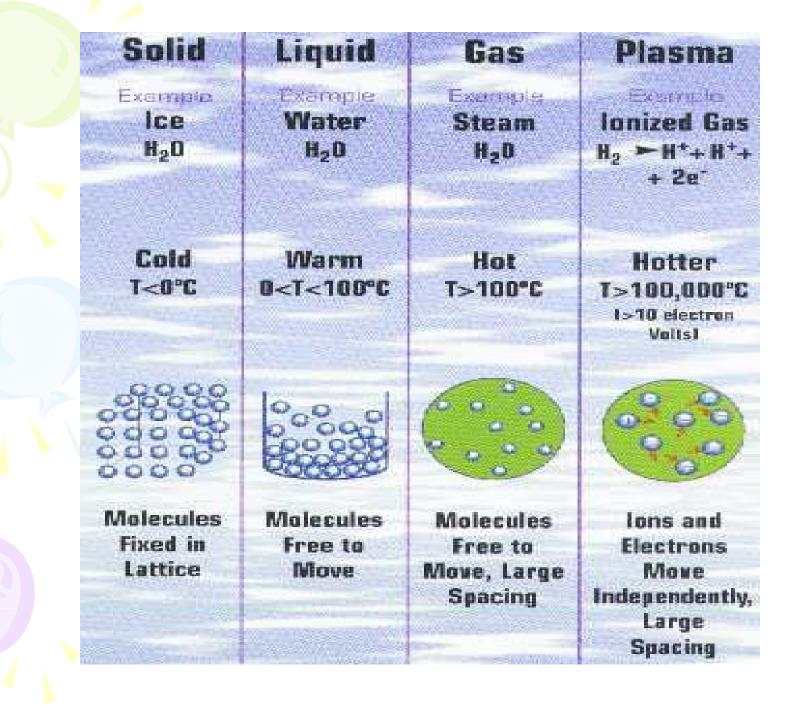
# THE SUN (A PLASMA BALL)

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#### PLASMA- MATTER ON FOURTH STATE

As the temperature of a material is increased, it crosses the first three states of matter, viz, solid, liquid, gas, and reaches the fourth state called **PLASMA**.



#### **EXISTENCE OF PLASMA?**

- 99% of the universe is in Plasma state
- Plasma is predominantly present in the Sun, Stars and Interstellar spaces
- Aurora, lightning and welding arcs are also plasmas
- Plasmas exist in neon and fluorescent tubes

#### FACTS OF THE SUN

- The Sun is an object of great beauty and fascination
- Like all stars, Sun is a massive ball of Plasmas, which belongs to G2 type star
- Consists 90% of Hydrogen and 10% of Helium, mostly in an ionized state

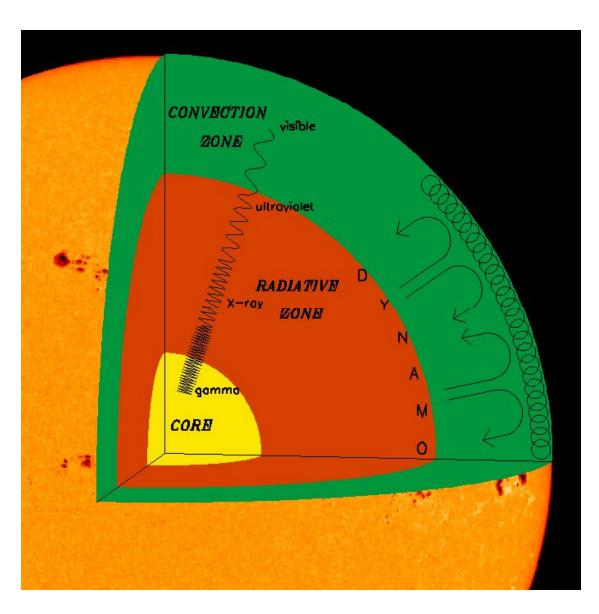
• The remaining elements are C, N, O contributing about 0.1%

#### PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF THE SUN

- Age:4.5 x 10<sup>9</sup> Year
- Mass:1.99 x 10<sup>30</sup>Kg
- Radius:6.96 x 10<sup>8</sup>m
- Mean Density :1.4 x 10<sup>3</sup>kg/m<sup>3</sup>
- Mean distance from Earth:1.5 x10<sup>11</sup>m
- Surface gravity (g<sub>sun</sub>): 274m/sec<sup>2</sup>
- Effective temperature: 5785 K

#### **SOLAR INTERIOR**

Core  $(T \sim 1.6 \times 10^7 \text{ K})$ Radiative Zone (T~8x10<sup>6</sup> K) **Convection Zone**  $(T \sim 2 \times 10^{6} \text{ K})$ Photosphere (surface) (T~6400 K)



#### **SOLAR INTERIOR**

- The Sun's interior is shielded from our view, the surface layers can only be seen.
- The interior is divided into three regions namely the core, radiative or intermediate zone and convective zone.
- The core contains only half the mass of the Sun, but it generates 99% of the energy. Its central temperature is more than enough for Thermo-Nuclear Fusion Reaction.

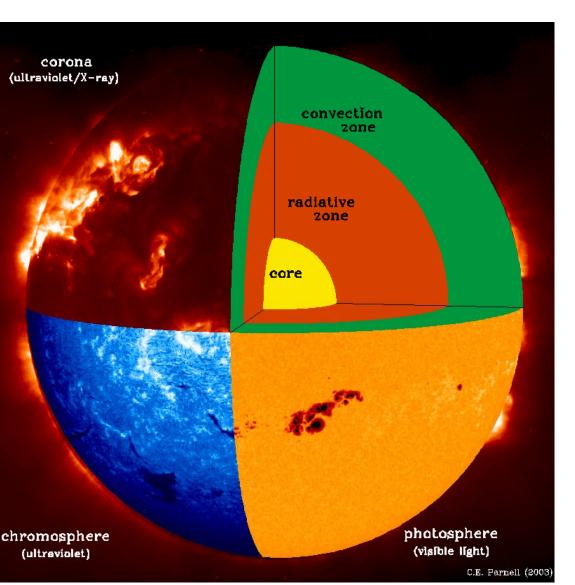
• The energy from the core is slowly transferred outwards across the Intermediate zone by diffusion.

- Convection is the dominant means of energy transport in the convection zone.
- According to Dynamo Theory, this is the region where the Sun's magnetic field is generated.

#### **SOLAR ATMOSPHERE**

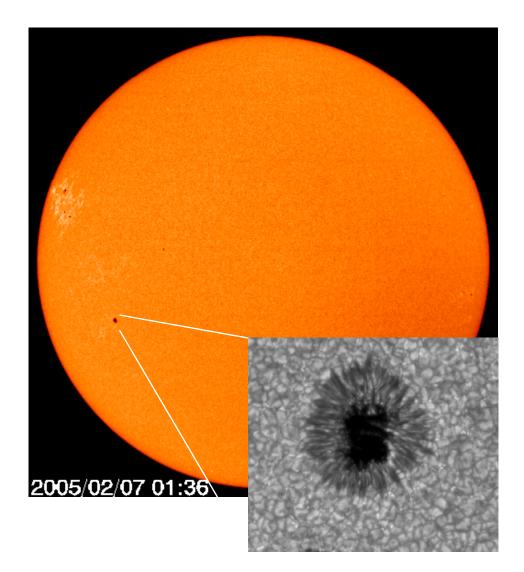
Photosphere (6600 K>T> 4300 K) Chromosphere (4300 K<T<10<sup>6</sup> K)

Corona (T>10<sup>6</sup> K)



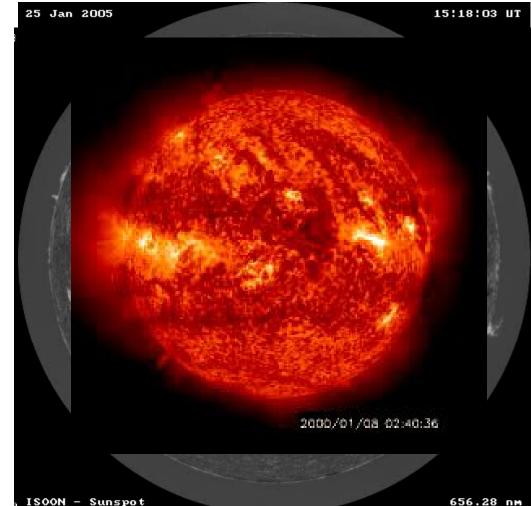
#### PHOTOSPHERE

- T ~ 6600-4300 K
   ρ ~ 10<sup>-8</sup>th of water
   P ~ 10<sup>-2</sup>th of atmosphere
   H ~ 100 km
- Visible light images reveal sunspots
   Magnetograms reveal surface magnetic fields



#### CHROMOSPHERE

- 4300 K < T < 10<sup>6</sup> K
- $\rho \sim 10^{-8}$ -10<sup>-14</sup> less than water
- P ~ not much!
- H ~ 2500 km
- Observed in many wavelengths, e.g.,
  Ca II K
  - H alpha
  - 304 Å

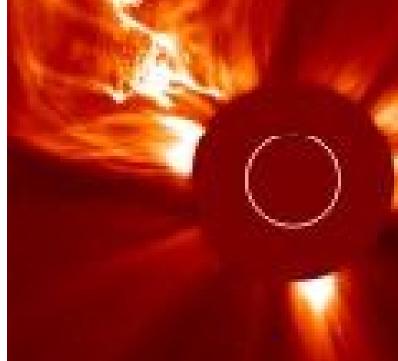


#### CORONA

- $T > 10^{6}$  K (low corona)

- $\rho$  < 10<sup>-14</sup> less than
- water
- P ~ even less!

- H to Earth &
- beyond!



- Observed in
  - EUV (T~10<sup>6</sup> K)
  - Soft X-ray (T>  $2\times10^{6}$ K)
    - Visible (white) light

#### **SOLAR FEATURES**

- Traditionally, solar phenomena have been divided into two classes, QUIET and ACTIVE.
- The Quiet Sun is viewed as a static, spherically symmetric ball of Plasma.
- The properties depend on radial distance from the centre and whose magnetic field is negligible.

• The active Sun exhibit the transient phenomena such as Sunspots, Prominences and Flares

• Solar Flares are caused due to coronal instabilities

• The Flares raise the temperature to 10-30 KeV and the Flares with Plasma at temperature of about 1-10 KeV produce streams of electrons and photons (coronal mass ejection) called SOLAR WIND.

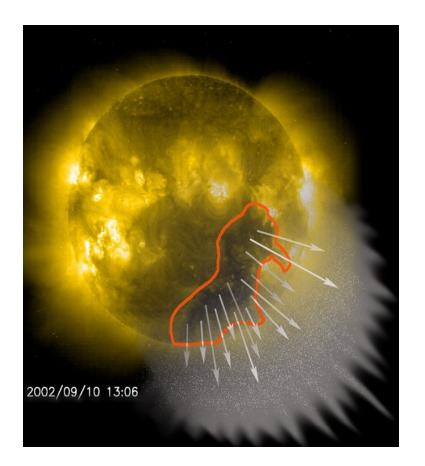
#### **CORONAL FEATURES**

• The skylab satellite pictures reveal many interesting facts about Corona.

- i) Coronal Hole
- ii) Coronal Loops
- iii) Promininces
- Iv) Solar Flares....etc

#### **CORONAL HOLE**

- The magnetic field is predominantly open at some regions, appear relatively dark, known as <u>Coronal Holes</u>.
- Here the Plasma is flowing outward to give the Solar Wind.



#### **CORONAL LOOPS**

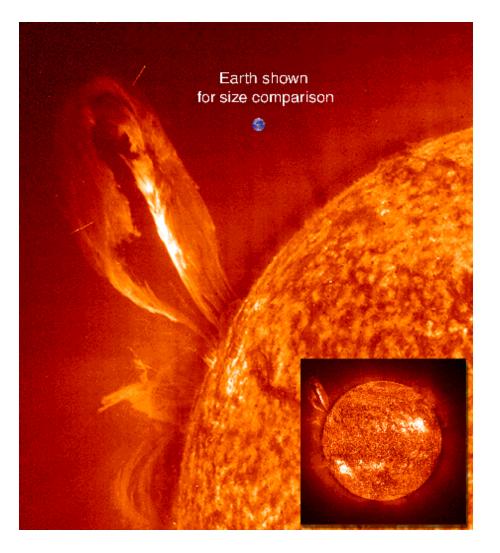
- In regions where the magnetic field is mainly closed cause the myriads of <u>"coronal</u> <u>loops"</u>
- <u>Clearly observed through TRACE</u> (Transition Region And Coronal Explorer)

#### PROMINENCES

Cool, dense plasma confined in vertical sheets

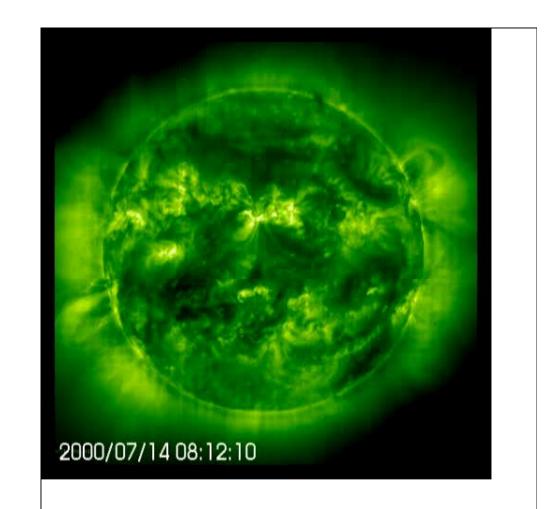
• Lifetimes:

days-months



#### **SOLAR FLARES**

- Sudden, impulsive, intense, large-scale, heating events
- Very energetic:
   from 10<sup>22</sup> 10<sup>25</sup> J
- Lifetimes: hours



## PLASMA-APPLICATIONS HOME

- high efficiency lighting(plasma arc lamps)
- manufacturing of semiconductors for home computers
- TVs and electronics
- flat panel displays

#### **BUSINESS**

- Sterilisation of medical tools
- Surface cleaning
- Processing of plastics
- Spraying of materials
- Chemical analysis
- Electronics, flat panel displays

#### TRANSPORTATION

- Plasma spraying of surface coating for temperature and wear resistance
- Treatment of engine exhaust compounds
- Ion thrusters for space flight
- High intensity lighting in head lamps

#### STERILISATION

- Plasma systems are used for surface cleaning and sterilisation for food, medical and other applications
- Kills bacteria, fungi, viruses and spores in minutes
- Non-hazardous to environment
- No radiation damage to materials

#### DISPOSAL OF HOSPITAL WASTE

- Plasma pyrolysis of disposing millions of tonnes of hospital wastes integrates the thermochemical properties of plasma with pyrolysis process
- The process uses extremely high temperatures of plasma arc in an oxygen stained environment to completely decompose waste materials into simple molecules (organic matter gets reduced to 99%)

Does not leave any harmful residues

### **THANK YOU**