

Public Talk

THE LIVES AND DEATHS OF STARS

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Stars spend their lives producing the elements that will in turn provide the raw materials for new stars, planets, and even life. Their deaths, which range from slowly spectacular to violently explosive, create more such elements and disperse them into interstellar space. They leave behind “ghosts” of their former star selves, in the form of this dispersed gas, and “corpses” of the cores of the former stars – objects we know as white dwarfs, neutron stars, and black holes. In this talk I will explain and illustrate all the stages of these processes for the many different types of stars, and their final fates.