

Topics for Today and Tues

- Energy transport by convection (granulation)
- · Rich solar magnetism and its cycles
- · Sunspots and the "butterfly diagram"
- How to measure Sun's <u>magnetic fields</u>
- Helioseismology: acoustic waves excited by convection to probe interior
- · Start reading Chap 15: Surveying the Stars
- New Homework #4 passed out; Review Set for <u>Mid-Term Exam 1</u> (next Thurs in class)
- Observ tonight Recitation Notes on D2L

Solar Thermostat

 Why doesn't the Sun go into a runaway reaction?

Fusion rate is VERY sensitive to temperature,

→ tight feedback loop

CRUCIAL

A. If energy generation (fusion rate) speeds up:

- 1. Pressure in core will increase, lifting the gas against gravity (core expands)
- 2. Gravitational energy is created from thermal energy → the gas cools
- 3. Energy generation (fusion rate) slows down

More on solar thermostat

- B. However, if energy generation drops:
- · 1. Core pressure drops
- · 2. Solar core starts to shrink
- 3. Temperature rises
- 4. <u>Fusion rates go up</u> again
- Sun is remarkably stable, only small (30%?) increase in fusion rate over billions of years







































