

**Figure 2-2. Stable nuclide configurations:** The squares represent stable combinations of neutrons and protons. The x's represent radioactive nuclides whose half-lives are so long that they survive billions of years after their formation in stars. All the remaining combinations are radioactive with half-lives sufficiently short that they are no longer present in the solar system. Nuclides lying along the same horizontal line (i.e., those with the same proton number) are referred to as isotopes. Those falling along the same vertical line (i.e., those with the same number of neutrons) are referred to as isotones. Those falling along the same diagonal line (i.e., those with the same number of nuclear particles) are called isobars. The diagram terminates with the heaviest stable nuclide ( $^{209}\text{Bi}$ ).

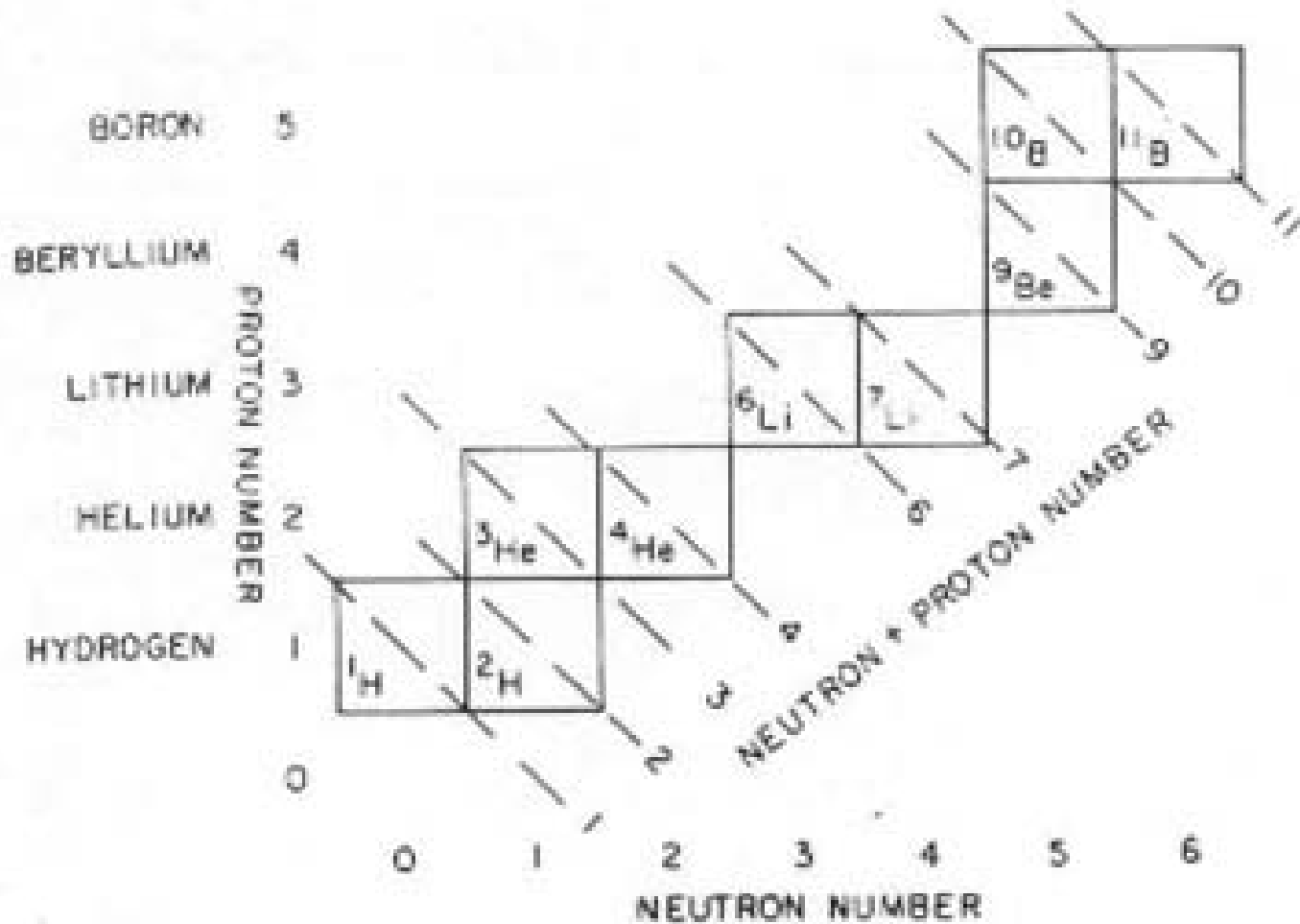
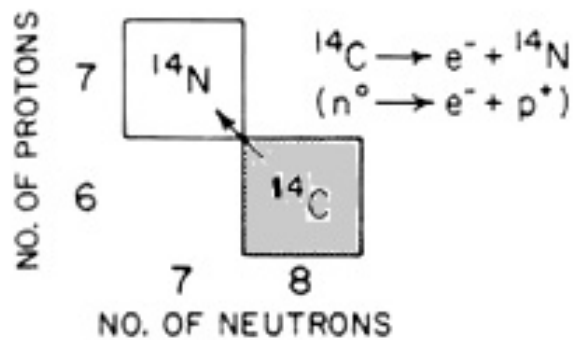
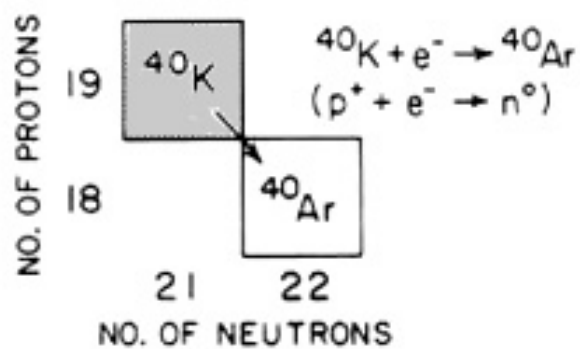


Figure 2-4. Stable nuclides with a particle number in the 1-to-11 range: Note that no stable nuclide exists with neutron-plus-proton number totaling 5 or 8. It is these two gaps in the chain that prevented element formation during the big bang from continuing beyond helium.

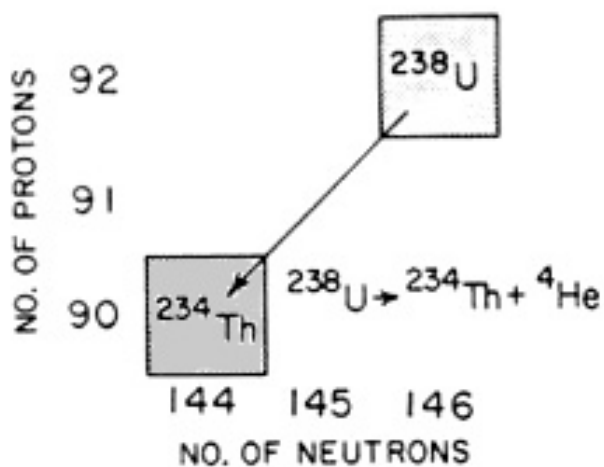
### BETA DECAY

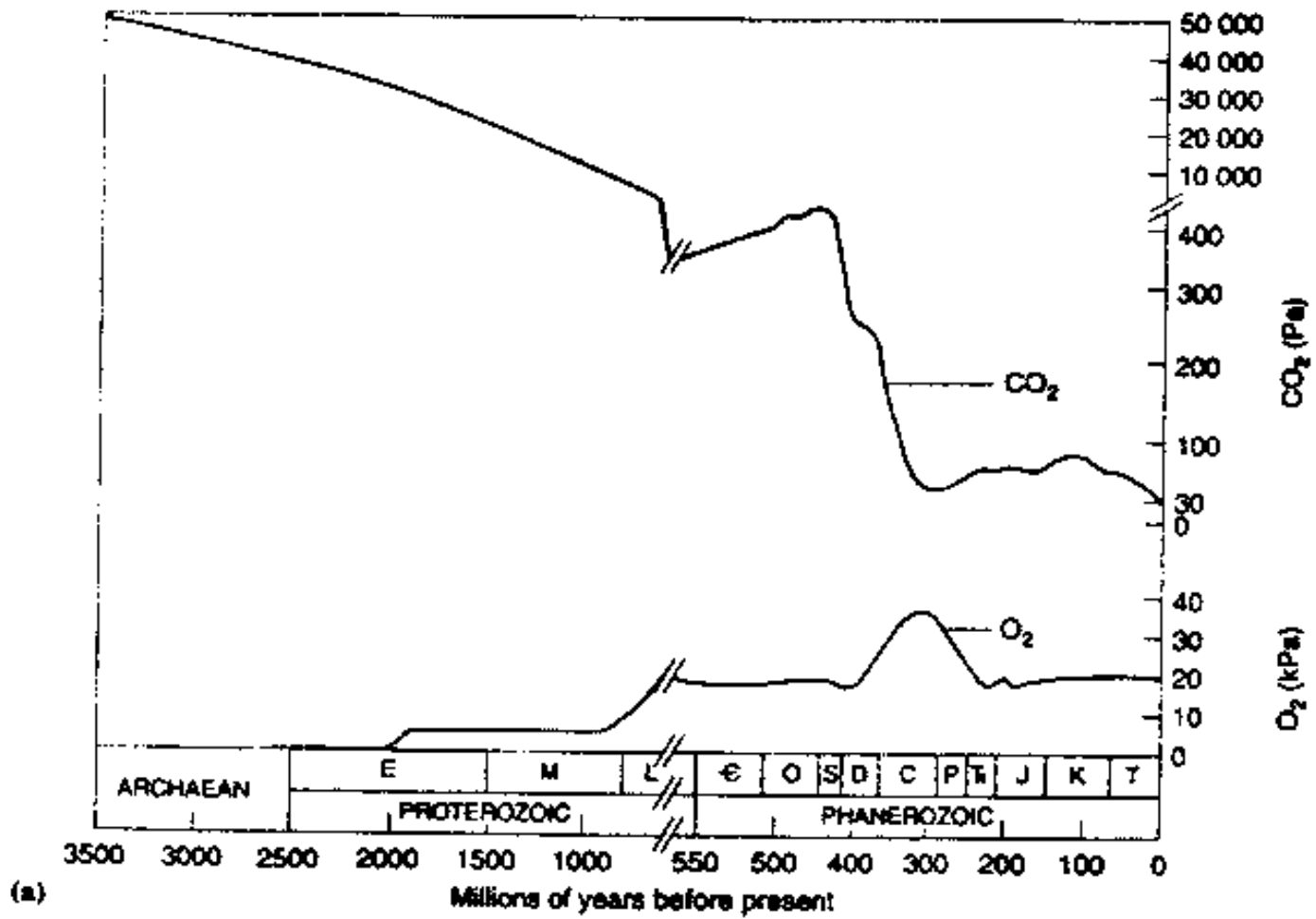


### ELECTRON CAPTURE



### ALPHA DECAY





**Figure L4 (a)** A reconstruction of variations in the partial pressures of  $\text{CO}_2$  and  $\text{O}_2$  in the atmosphere through geological time using data from Berner (1990, 1993) and Berner and Canfield (1989) for the post-Cambrian epochs (i.e., the Phanerozoic). The absolute values and timing for the evolution of oxygen are not constrained in the Proterozoic epoch. (b) Major geological and biological epochs and their characteristics regarding the evolution of photoautotrophs in aquatic environments.



# The Drake Equation

$$N^* \times f_s \times f_p \times n_e \times f_i \times f_c \times f_l = N$$

where:

$N^*$  = stars in the Milky Way galaxy

$f_s$  = fraction of sun-like stars

$f_p$  = fraction of stars with planets

$n_e$  = planets in a star's habitable zone

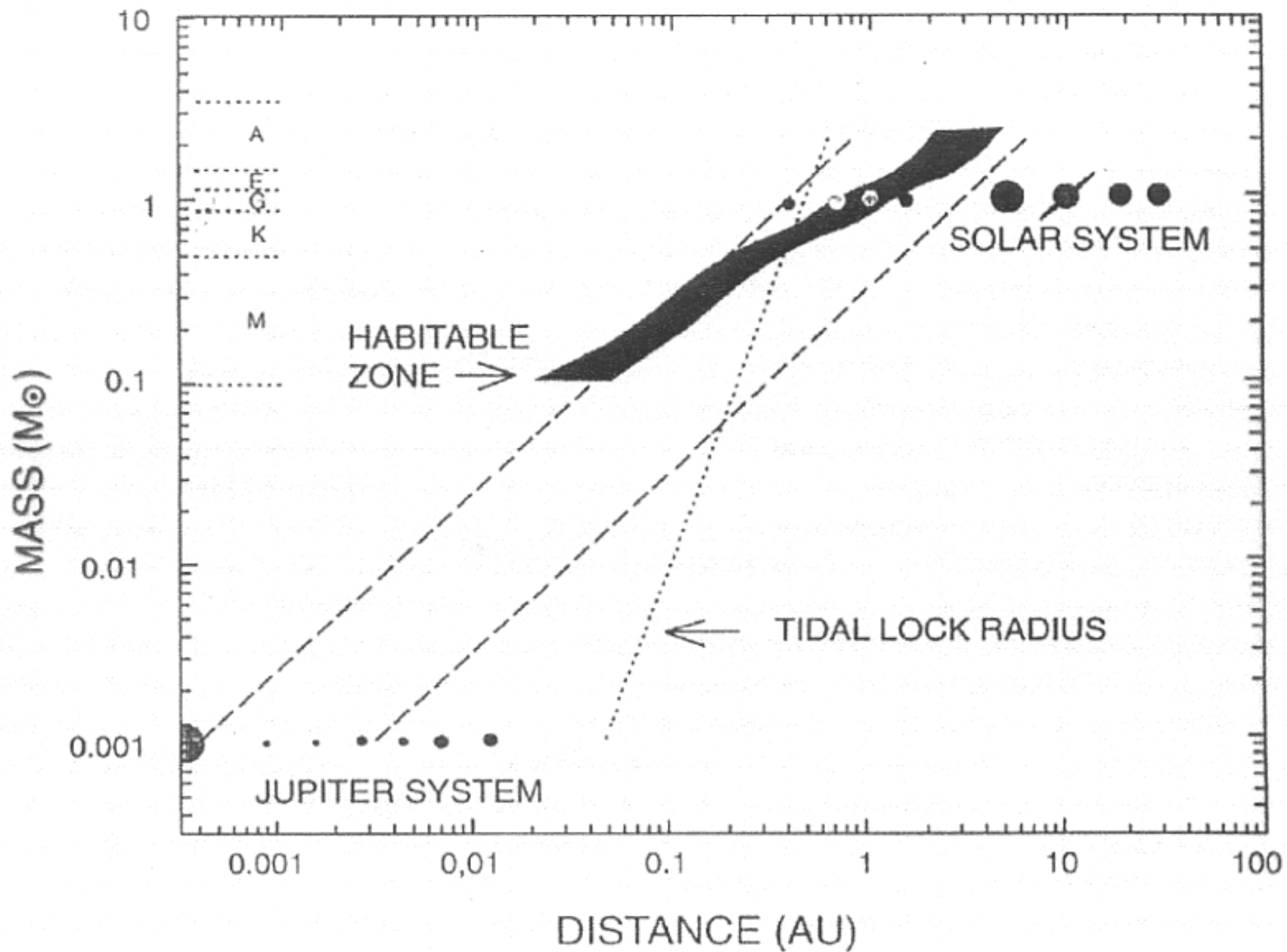
$f_i$  = fraction of habitable planets where life does rise

$f_c$  = fraction of planets inhabited by intelligent beings

$f_l$  = percentage of a lifetime of a planet that is marked by the presence of a communicative civilization

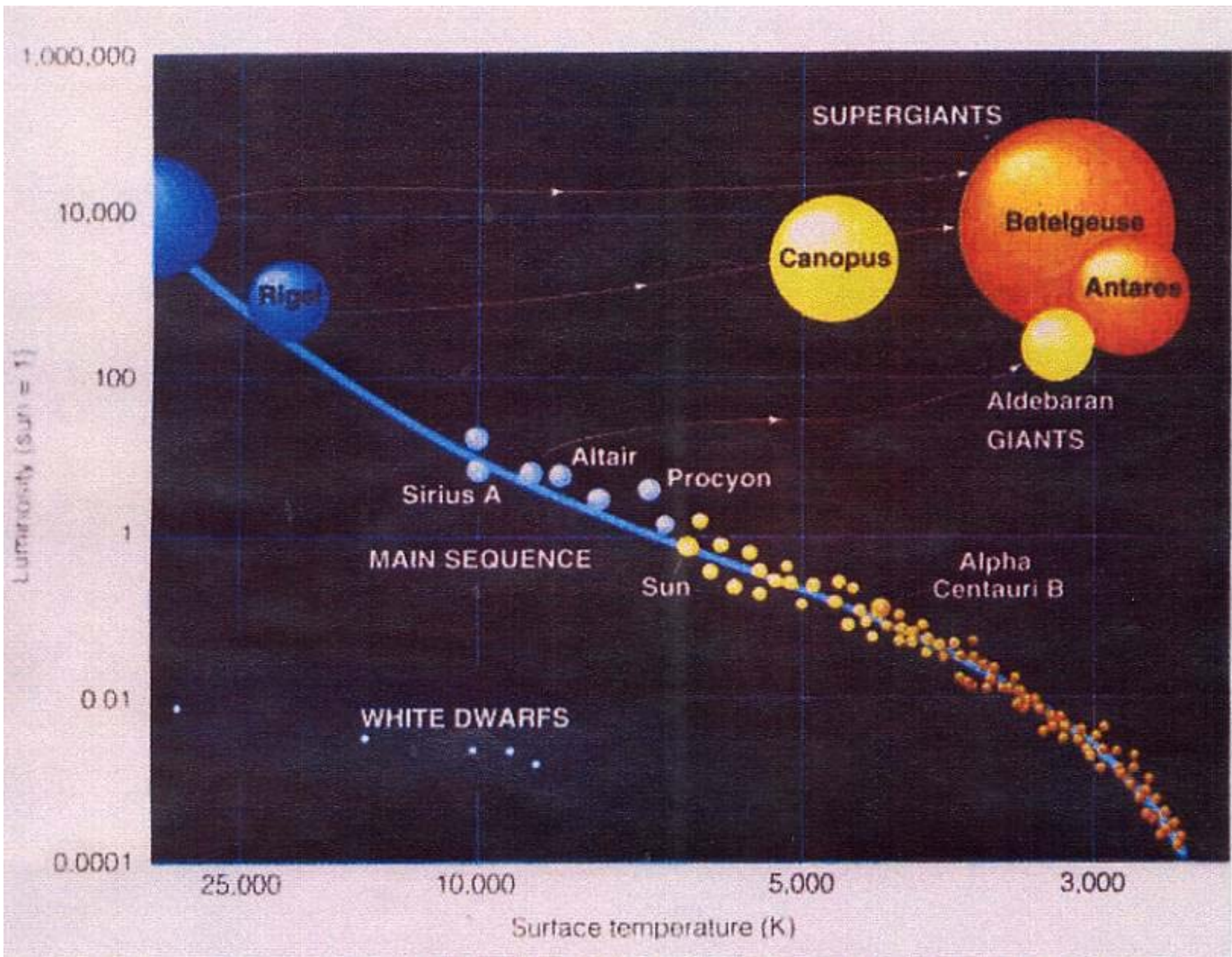
## Let's do the numbers

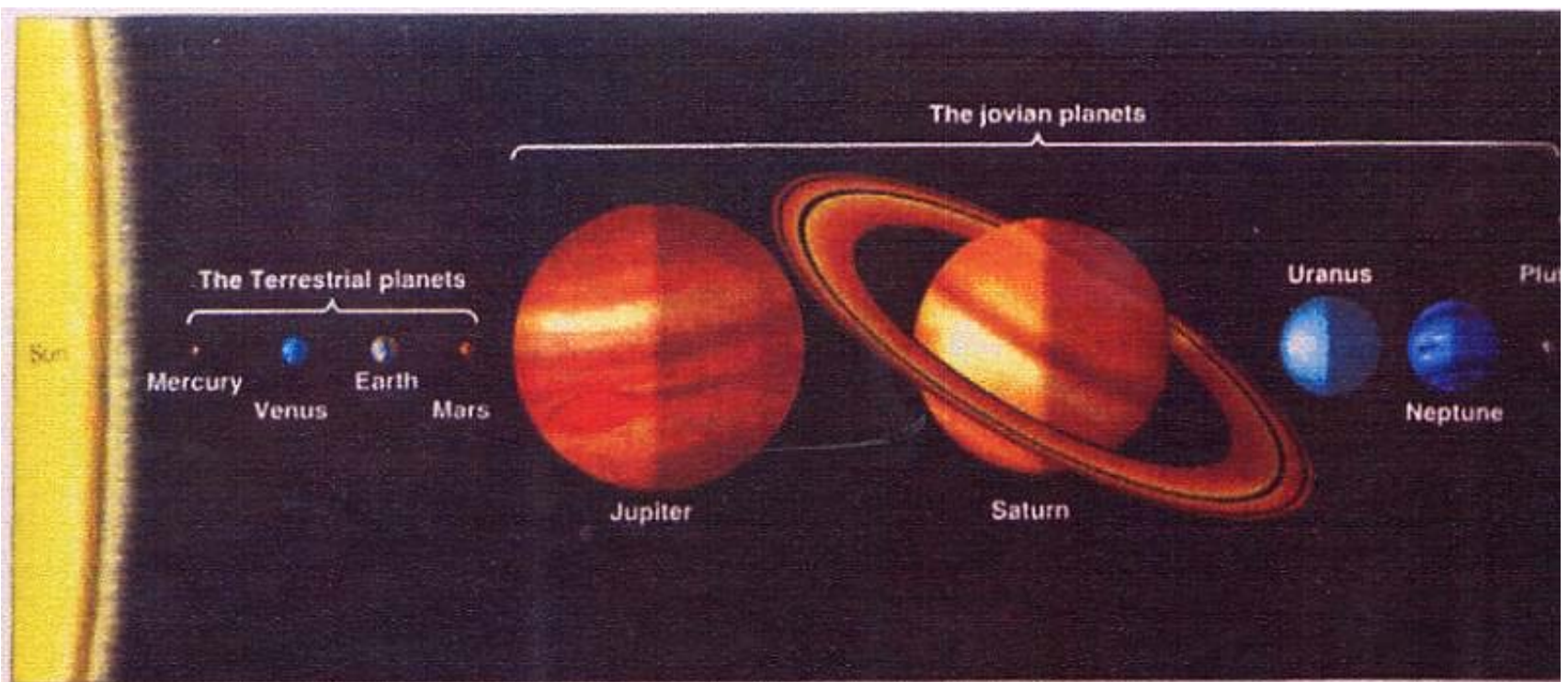
1. There are  $10^{11}$  stars in the Milky Way
2. Given the rate of planet discovery, we can estimate that 1 to 10% of these stars have one or more orbiting planets.
3. Assuming that 1% of the orbiting planets is a terrestrial planet (so far none of the planets discovered fall into this category), within a zone of habitability...



**We can conservatively estimate that there are between  $10^6$  and  $10^7$  planets capable of maintaining a film of liquid water on their surfaces.**

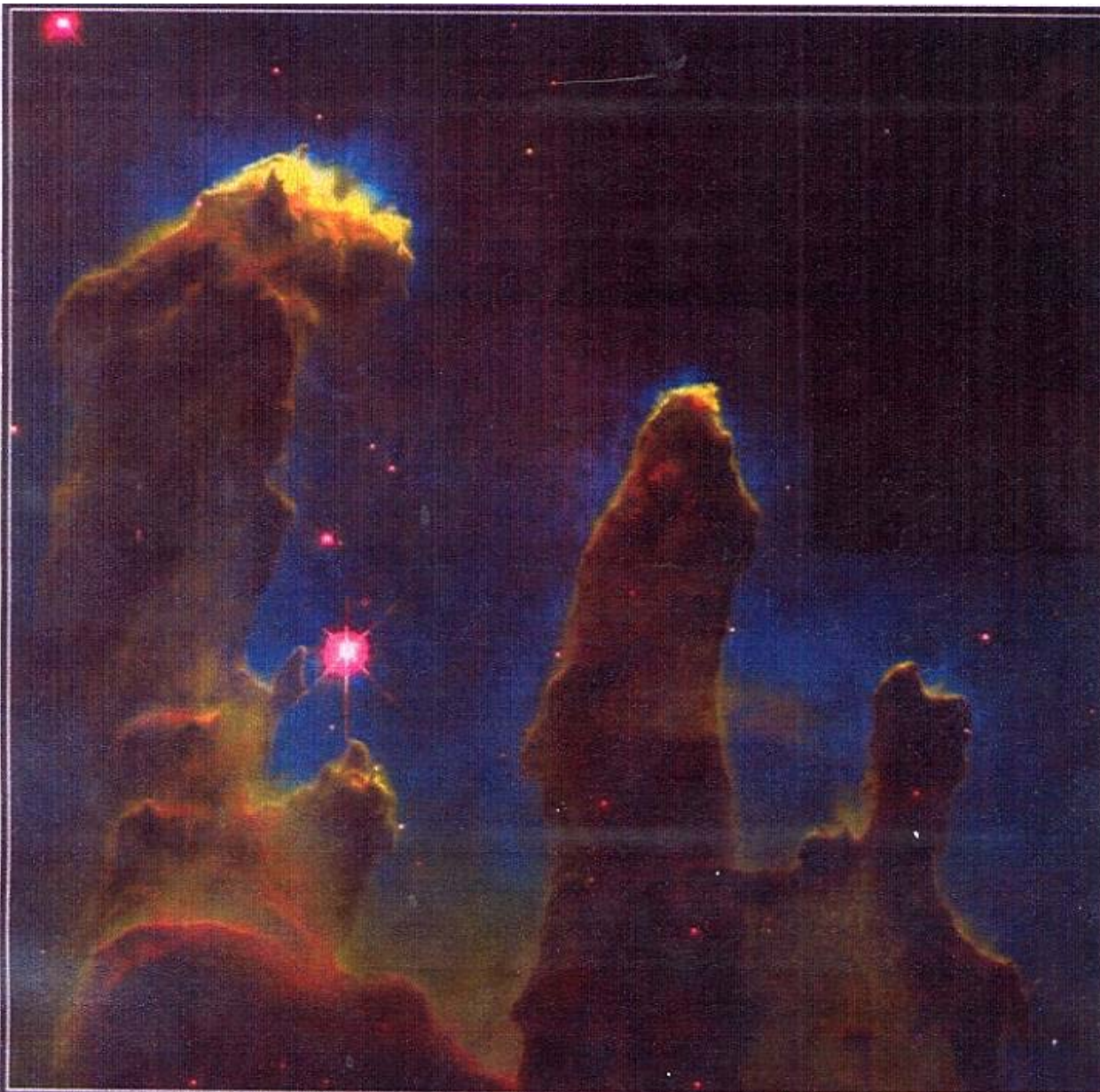
**That is a lot of potential life-supporting planets!**





B

	Mercury	Venus	Earth	Mars	Jupiter	Saturn	Uranus	Neptune	Pluto
Diameter (km)	4880	12 104	12 756	6787	142 800	120 000	51 800	49 500	6000
Mass (Earth=1)	0 055	0 815	1	0 108	317 8	95 2	14 4	17 2	0 003
Density, g cm <sup>-3</sup> (water=1)	5 44	5 2	5 52	3 93	1 3	0 69	1 28	1 64	2 06
Number of moons	0	0	1	2	16	18	15	8	1
Length of day (in Earth hours)	1416	5832	24	24 6	9 8	10 2	17 2	16 1	154
Period of one revolution around Sun (in Earth years)	0 24	0 62	1 00	1 88	11 86	29 5	84 0	164 9	247 7
Average distance from Sun (millions of kilometers)	58	108	150	228	778	1427	58	4497	5900
Average distance from sun (astronomical units)	0 39	0 72	1 00	1 52	5 20	9 54	0 39	30 06	39 44



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