

# Science & Space

[E-MAIL THIS](#) | [PRINT THIS](#) | [SAVE THIS](#) | [MOST POPULAR](#) | [SUBSCRIBE](#)

Posted 3/10/2005 4:01 PM Updated 3/10/2005 5:37 PM

## Hubble shows stars have weight limit

By Chris Kridler, Florida Today

Stars appear to have a weight limit, a Hubble Space Telescope study shows.



The Hubble Space Telescope provides a keyhole view towards the heart of our Milky Way Galaxy.

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Stars seem to max out at about 150 times the mass of our sun. Astronomer Don Figer of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore examined a cluster of stars in our own Milky Way galaxy to make the conclusion.

Massive clusters previously were thought to have massive stars, but Figer's study found a cutoff point. The finding was published in today's issue of *Nature*.

It's still not clear why big stars have a weight constraint, but they're spectacular, said astrophysics expert Stanford Woosley of the University of California at Santa Cruz. "They live short, extravagant lives and go out with a big bang," he said.

Mass isn't the same as size; a light star sometimes is larger than a dense, small one.

If one of these massive stars was at the center of our solar system, it would appear 25 times as big as the sun and very, very bright, Woosley said. "The Earth would boil and be vaporized," he said.

### Today's Top Tech Stories

- [Leak plugged on high-def DVDs](#) - 5:38 PM
- [Pulling plug on Net service not easy](#) - 12:39 PM
- [Yahoo, SanDisk team on wireless MP3 player](#) - 11:06 AM
- [AOL will target Google search ads on its sites](#) - 10:58 AM
- [Teen accused of Web escort service](#) - 8:12 AM
- [Add USATODAY.com RSS feeds](#) [XML](#)

### E-Mail Newsletters

Sign up to receive our free **Tech e-newsletter** and get the latest tech news, Hot Sites & more in your inbox.

E-mail:

Select one:  HTML  Text

Search

powered by [YAHOO!](#) [GO](#)

- Tech Products**
  - [Products home](#)
  - [Talking Tech](#)
  - [Edward C. Baig](#)
  - [Kim Komando](#)
  - [Ask Kim](#)
- Gaming**
  - [Gaming home](#)
  - [Arcade](#)
  - [Jinny Gudmundsen](#)
  - [Marc Saltzman](#)
- Science & Space**
  - [Science & Space](#)
  - [April Holladay](#)
  - [Dan Vergano](#)
  - [This week in space](#)
- Wireless Center**
  - [Hotspot finder](#)
  - [Wi-Fi primer](#)
- Columnists**
  - [Columnists index](#)
  - [Andrew Kantor](#)
  - [Kevin Maney](#)
- More Tech**
  - [Hot Sites](#)
  - [Tech briefs](#)
  - [RSS feeds](#)
  - [Classifieds](#)
- Marketplace**
  - [Arcade](#)
  - [Music](#)
  - [Shopping](#)
  - [Special Offer](#)
  - [Newspaper](#)
  - [Classifieds](#)

Advertisement

USA TODAY Tech

**SPECIAL OFFERS**

Check out great offers on items like these...

**Wireless**

### Newspaper Home Delivery - Subscribe Today

USATODAY.com partners: [USA WEEKEND](#) • [Sports Weekly](#) • [Education](#) • [Space.com](#)

[Home](#) • [Travel](#) • [News](#) • [Money](#) • [Sports](#) • [Life](#) • [Tech](#) • [Weather](#)

Resources: [Mobile news](#) • [Site map](#) • [FAQ](#) • [Contact us](#) • [E-mail news](#)  
[Jobs with us](#) • [Internships](#) • [Terms of service](#) • [Privacy policy/Your California Privacy Right](#)  
[Media kit](#) • [Media Lounge](#) • [Press room](#) • [Electronic print edition](#) • [Reprints and Permissions](#)

Add USATODAY.com RSS feeds [XML](#)