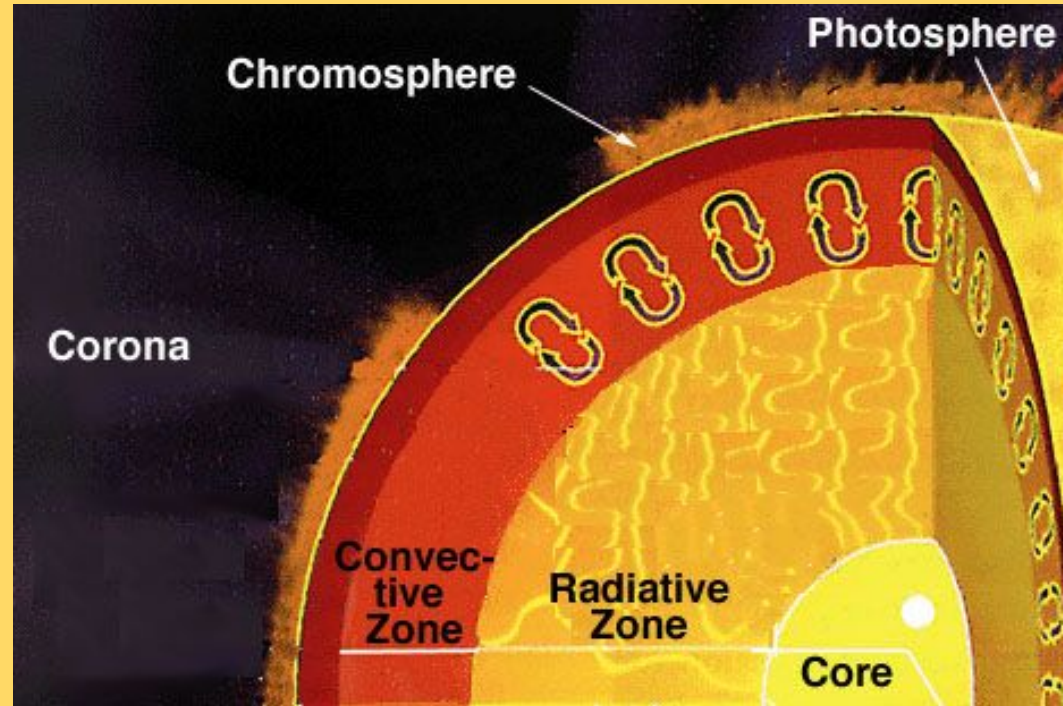


# Chapter 24.3: The Sun

Compared to the other 100 billion stars, our Sun is an “average star”

## 1. The Solar Interior

- the core
  - the radiative zone
  - the convective zone
- Nuclear fusion:  
4 hydrogen nuclei collide to form 1 helium nucleus.  
Some matter is converted into energy

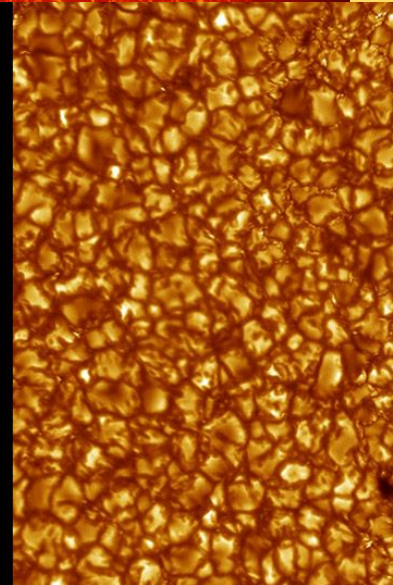
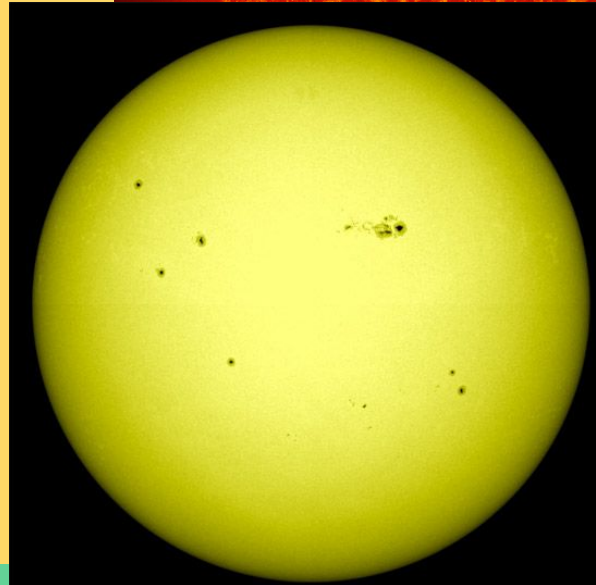
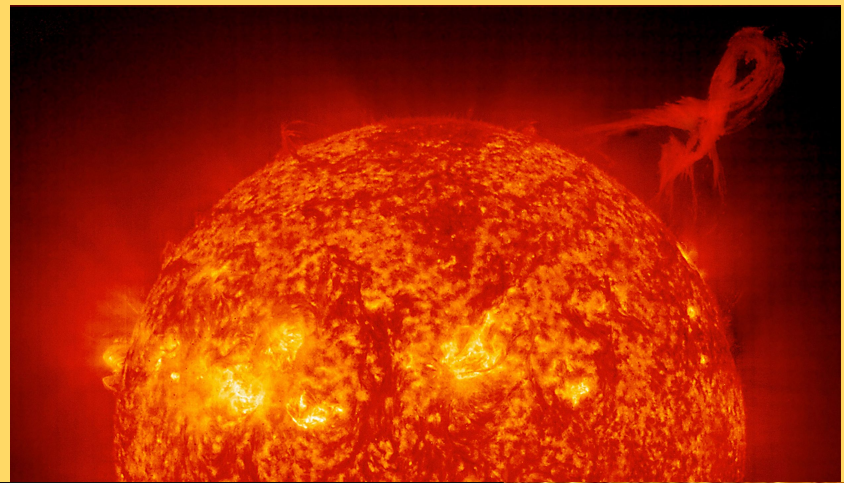


## 2. Photosphere:

the visible surface of the sun

*Photos = light sphere= ball*

- Granules: numerous small bright boils, cover the surface.
- Sunspots: dark regions on the surface of the photosphere



3. **Chromosphere**: composed of a relatively thin layer of hot gases above the photosphere.

4. **Corona**: the outermost portion of the solar atmosphere, composed of ionized gases.  
*Corona= crown*

- **Solar wind**: streams of protons and electrons traveling at 800 km/hr!

