

Answer on Question #69701, Physics / Astronomy | Astrophysics

Derive Jeans criteria for the stability of a gas cloud. A collapsing cloud is made only of neutral hydrogen (H₁). If the temperature of the cloud is 50 K and its number density is 10⁵ m⁻³, calculate its Jeans mass.

Solution:

The corresponding mass required for collapse is calculated from the equations for the Jeans radius:

$$R_J = \left(\frac{15}{4\pi n_H} \right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{3kT}{4\pi G \rho} \right)^{1/2} \quad (1), \text{ where } \rho = n_H m_H, \quad m_H = 1.67 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg},$$

R_J is the critical radius ("Jean's radius"), M_J is the Jeans mass, T is the temperature of the cloud

$$\text{Of (1)} \Rightarrow M_J = \frac{4\pi}{3} R_J^3 \rho \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Critical radius } R_J = \left(\frac{15}{4\pi n_H} \right)^{1/3} \left(\frac{3kT}{4\pi G \rho} \right)^{1/2}, \text{ where } \rho = n_H m_H, \text{ } n_H \text{ is the density of the cloud}$$

$$\text{Of (3)} \Rightarrow R_J = 4.7 \times 10^{18} \text{ m} \quad (4)$$

$$(4) \text{ in } (2): M_J = 7.3 \times 10^{34} \text{ kg}$$

Answer:

$$7.3 \times 10^{34} \text{ kg}$$