

49. Since the mass of a helium atom is  $(4.00 \text{ u})(1.661 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg/u}) = 6.64 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$ , the number of helium nuclei originally in the star is  $(4.6 \times 10^{32} \text{ kg})/(6.64 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}) = 6.92 \times 10^{58}$ . Since each fusion event requires three helium nuclei, the number of fusion events that can take place is  $N = 6.92 \times 10^{58}/3 = 2.31 \times 10^{58}$ . If  $Q$  is the energy released in each event and  $t$  is the conversion time, then the power output is  $P = NQ/t$  and

$$t = \frac{NQ}{P} = \frac{(2.31 \times 10^{58})(7.27 \times 10^6 \text{ eV})(1.60 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J/eV})}{5.3 \times 10^{30} \text{ W}} = 5.07 \times 10^{15} \text{ s} = 1.6 \times 10^8 \text{ y} .$$