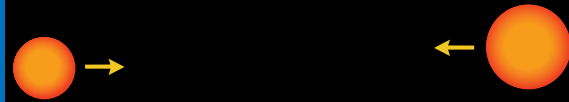


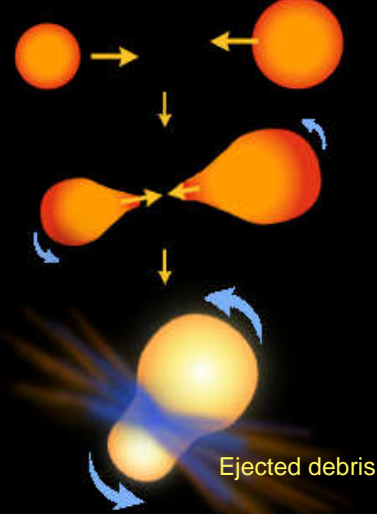
There's more than one way to make a Blue Straggler

The Collision Model

1 Low-mass stars collide.



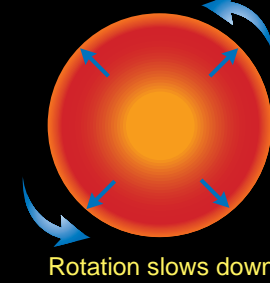
2 Stars begin to rotate and merge.



3 The debris disperses, leaving behind a coalesced, massive, hot, rapidly rotating reborn star.

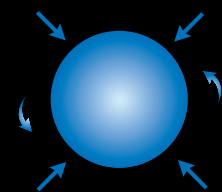


4 The merged star is heated and swells into a red giant star, where it can easily spin down through magnetic activity.



Rotation slows down

5 The star shrinks, heats up, and settles down as a blue straggler.



Rotates very slowly

The Slow Coalescence Model

1 In this model, two rapidly rotating stars in a celestial embrace slowly merge, forming one massive star.



2 The more massive star in this double-star system cannibalizes its partner, creating a single, even more massive star.



3 Scientists believe that this merger may create a massive star that rotates at least 75 times faster than our Sun.

