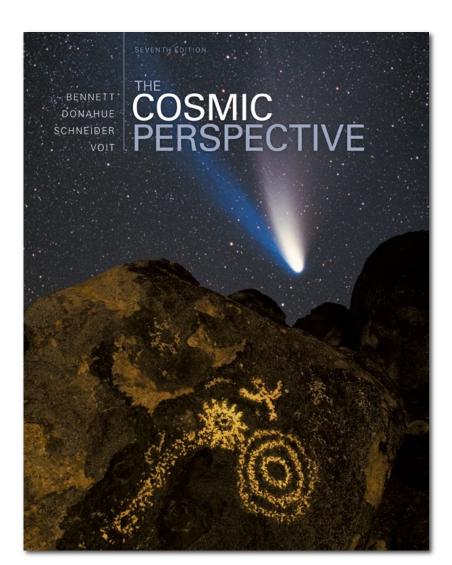
Chapter 5 Lecture

The Cosmic Perspective

Light and Matter: Reading Messages from the Cosmos



My Teaching website in located at: http://chartasg.people.cofc.edu/chartas/Teaching.html

Lecture:Monday and Wednesday Location: RITA 387 Time: MW 5:30 am - 6:45 pm

Instructor: Dr. George Chartas Office: RITA 307 Office hours:MW 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm (email me to schedule an online meeting) Phone: (843) 953-3609 Email: <u>chartasg@cofc.edu</u>

Required materials:

The textbook for the course is Bennett, J., Donahue, M., Schneider, N., and Voit, M., titled The Cosmic Perspective 9th Edition.

ASTRO-NEWS

Astro-News:

Each class will contain a segment called Astro-News. Every student will be expected to give a ~3-minute presentation during Astro-News (only one presentation per student over the entire course). The presentation may be in PowerPoint, keynote, or PDF. Astro-News will cover events that have been recently presented in a recognized astronomy media source.

Great sources of astronomy news include:

- (a) the Science Section of the New York Times (see <u>http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science/index.html)</u>,
- (b) the NASA News Website (see http://www.nasa.gov/news/index.html),
- (c) the Hubble Space Station News website (see <u>http://hubblesite.org/newscenter/)</u>,
- (d) the Sky and Telescope news site (see <u>http://www.skyandtelescope.com/news), and</u>
- (e) the spaceweather website (see <u>http://www.spaceweather.com/)</u>.

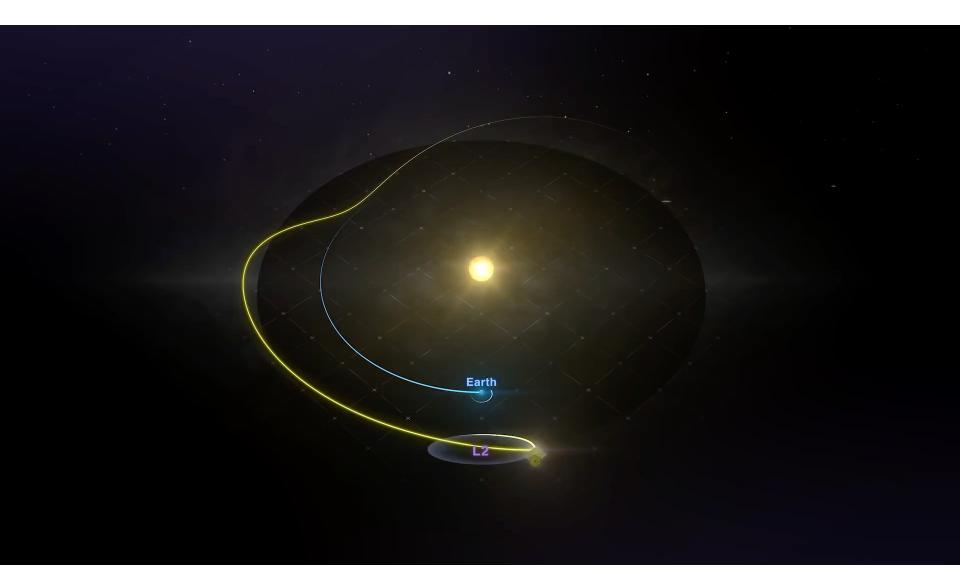
ASTRO-NEWS: Webb Telescope Reveals a New Vision of an Ancient Universe



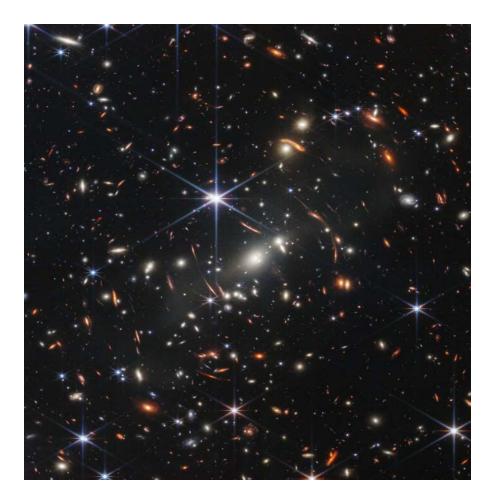
Launch: Webb successfully launched from ESA's spaceport in French Guiana on December 25, 2021 07:20am EST.

Wavelength Coverage: 0.6 - 28.5 microns (this is the Infrared Band) Diameter of primary mirror: 6.5 meters

Webb's launch put in on a trajectory into an orbit around the second Lagrange point (12). It is an approximately million-mile journey that takes ~ 1 month.



Webb Telescope Observation of Gravitationally Lensed Galaxies

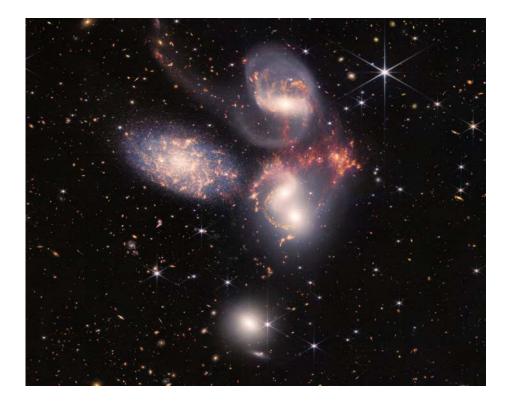


The image of a distant cluster called SMACS 0723, revealed the presence of still more-distant galaxies spilled across the sky.

The light from those galaxies, magnified into visibility by the gravitational field of the cluster, originated more than 13 billion years ago.

To look outward into space is to peer into the past.

Webb Telescope Observation of Galaxy Interactions in Stephan's Quintet

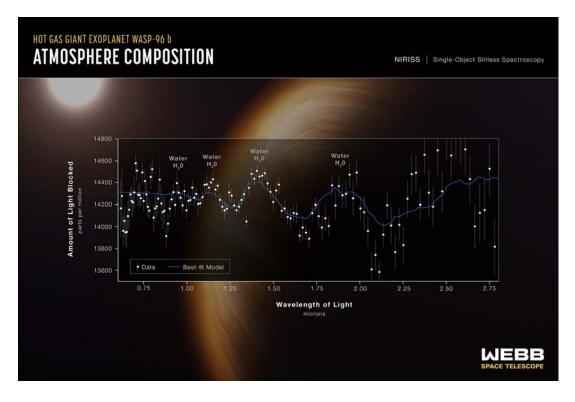


Webb's image of Stephan's Quintet, shows five galaxies packed tightly in the constellation Pegasus.

Four are so closely engaged in a gravitational dance that they will eventually merge.

Indeed, the image revealed a band of dust that was being heated up as two of the galaxies ripped stars from each other.

Webb Telescope observation of water vapor in the atmosphere of a remote exoplanet.



Webb's measured starlight filtered through the atmosphere of an exoplanet.

The spectrum of the exoplanet located 1,150 light-years away reveals distinct signatures of water.

Webb's powerful new view also shows evidence of haze and clouds that previous studies of this planet did not detect.

Webb Telescope Reveals a New Vision of an Ancient Universe

References:

https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/12/science/james-webb-telescope-imagesnasa.html

https://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/goddard/2022/nasa-s-webb-revealssteamy-atmosphere-of-distant-planet-in-detail

Midterm Exams and Quizzes:

There will be 3 ONLINE midterm exams over the semester. Short quizzes will be given during lectures. The quizzes will be based on material already presented in lectures. There will be a final exam that will cover most of the material presented in the lectures.

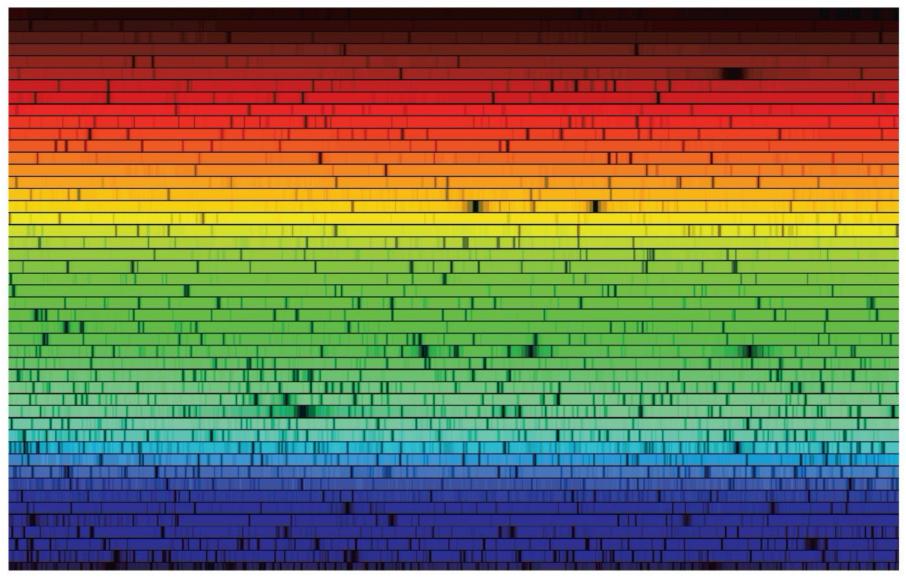
Quizzes: minimal grade for recorded effort = 65%, can miss up to 4 quizzes without affecting your grade. Missed quizzes after missing 4 quizzes are given 0 points.

Grades

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Quizzes	20%
Astro-News	10%
Midterms	40%
Final	30%

Light and Matter: Reading Messages from the Cosmos



5.1 Light in Everyday Life

- Our goals for learning:
 - How do we experience light?
 - Speed of Light
 - How do light and matter interact?

How do we experience light?

- The warmth of sunlight tells us that light must contain and transport something that has energy.
- The energy in light emitted by an object per unit time is defined as its **luminosity**
- units of luminosity are watts:
- 1 watt = 1 joule/s.



The Sun – Eight minutes ago



Distance from Sun = 1.5×10^8 km, Speed of light c = 3×10^5 km/s Time for light to reach us = ? hint: Speed = Distance/Time \rightarrow Time = Distance/Speed

The Sun – Eight minutes ago



Distance from Sun = 1.5×10^8 km c = 3×10^5 km/s

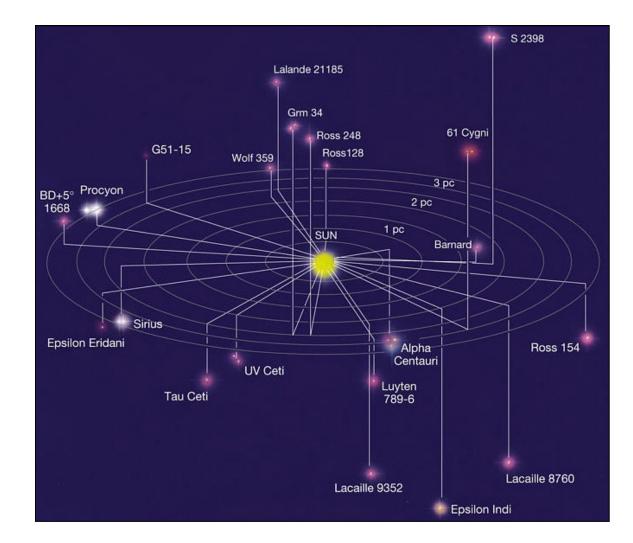
$$c = \frac{distance}{time} \rightarrow time = \frac{distance}{c} \rightarrow time = \frac{1.5 \times 10^8 km}{3 \times 10^5 km/s} = 500 \ sec$$

Light Year = ly : distance light travels in one year

 $1 \text{ ly} = c \times 1 \text{ yr} = 3 \times 10^5 \text{ km/s} \times 1 \text{ yr} = 3 \times 10^5 \text{ km/s} \times 3.1557 \times 10^7 \text{ s}$

 $1 \text{ ly} = 9.46 \times 10^{12} \text{ m}$

Nearest Stars – Few Years Ago



1 pc = 3.26 ly Kessel Run

The Kessel Run

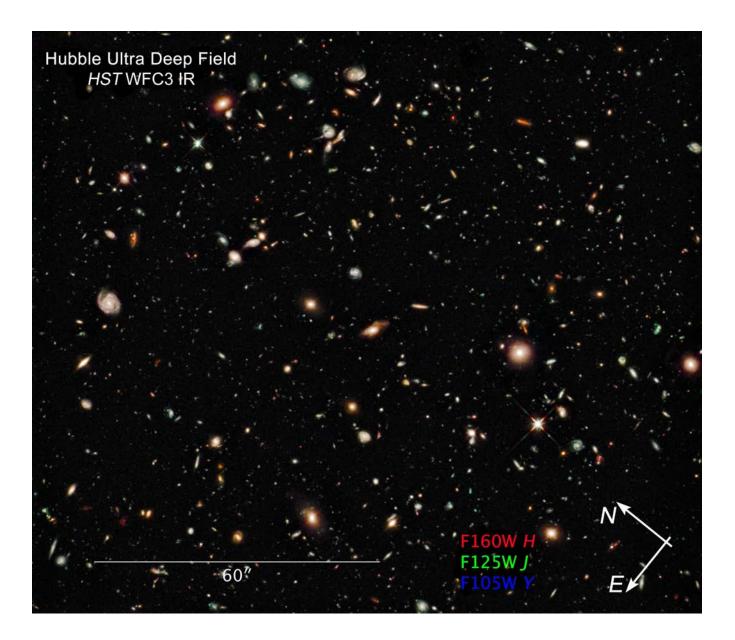


Andromeda Galaxy (M31) – 2.5 Million Years Ago



disk radius of M31 ~ 110,000 ly disk radius of Milky Way ~ 50,000 ly

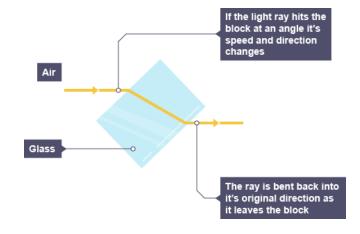
Distant Galaxies – Billion of Years Ago



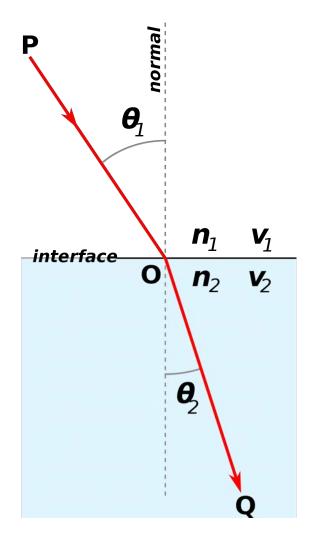
Measuring the Speed of Light

- 1. By 1975 the speed of light in vacuum was known to be 299,792,458 m/s. For most problems we will assume $c=3 \times 10^5$ km/s
- 2. The speed of light when it travels through gases, liquids or solids (c_{medium}) is less than when it travels in vacuum (c_{vacuum}).
- 3. The index of refraction of a medium is defined:

$$n_{medium} = \frac{c_{vacuum}}{c_{medium}} > 1$$



Snell's Law of Refraction

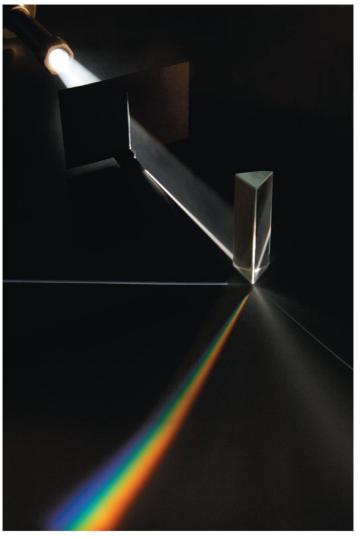


$$\frac{\sin\theta_2}{\sin\theta_1} = \frac{n_1}{n_2}$$



Snell's law on a wall in Leiden

Colors of Light



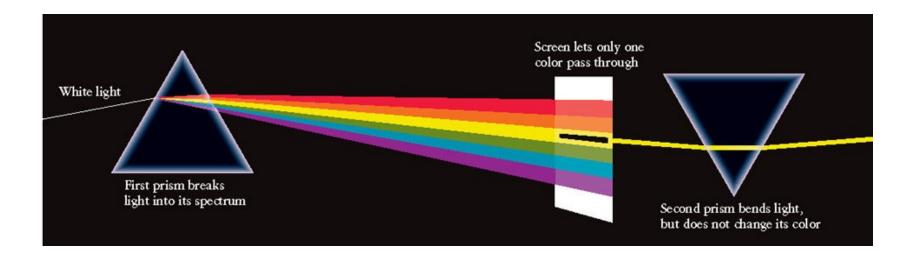


• White light is made up of many different colors.

The Nature of Light



Newton's experiments showed that white light is a combination of all the colors that appear in its spectrum.

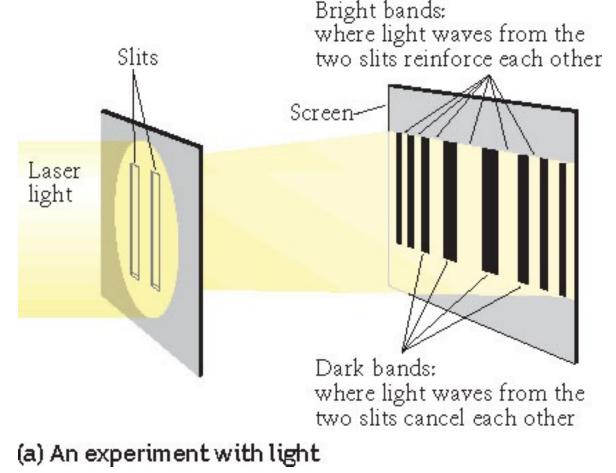




The Nature of Light



Huygens (proposed in 1678) and Young (demonstrated in 1801): Wavelike nature of light.

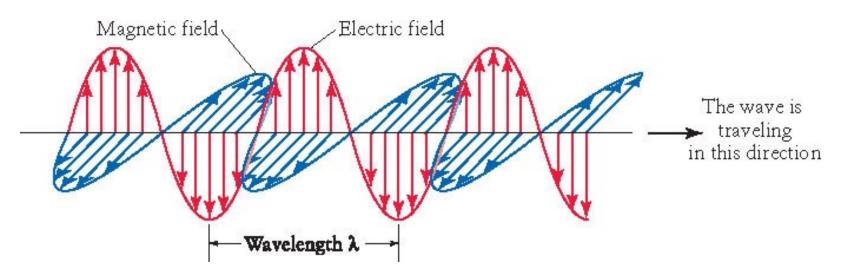


The Nature of Light



James Maxwell: light is electromagnetic radiation

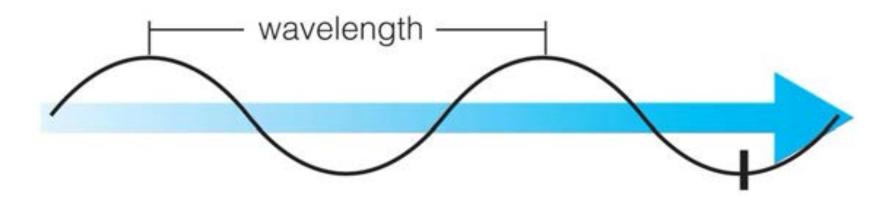
- Light is electromagnetic radiation that consists of oscillating electric and magnetic fields.
- Maxwell showed that electromagnetic waves travel through space at the speed of light.
- The distance between successive wave crests is called the wavelength of the light.



Dual Nature of Light

- Light can act either like a wave or like a particle.
- Particles of light are called **photons**.

Properties of Waves



Interactive Figure

- Wavelength is the distance between two wave peaks.
- Frequency is the number of times per second that a wave vibrates up and down.

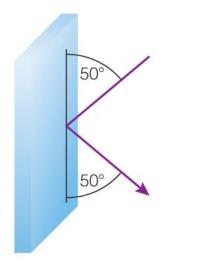
Wave speed = wavelength x frequency

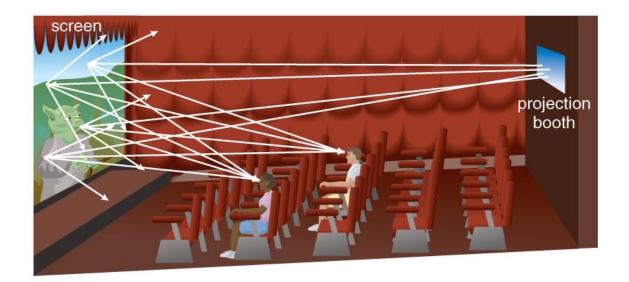
$$c = \lambda v$$

How do light and matter interact?

- Emission of light by matter
- Absorption of light by matter
- Transmission of light by matter
 - Transparent objects transmit light.
 - Opaque objects block (absorb) light.
- Reflection/scattering of light by matter

Reflection and Scattering

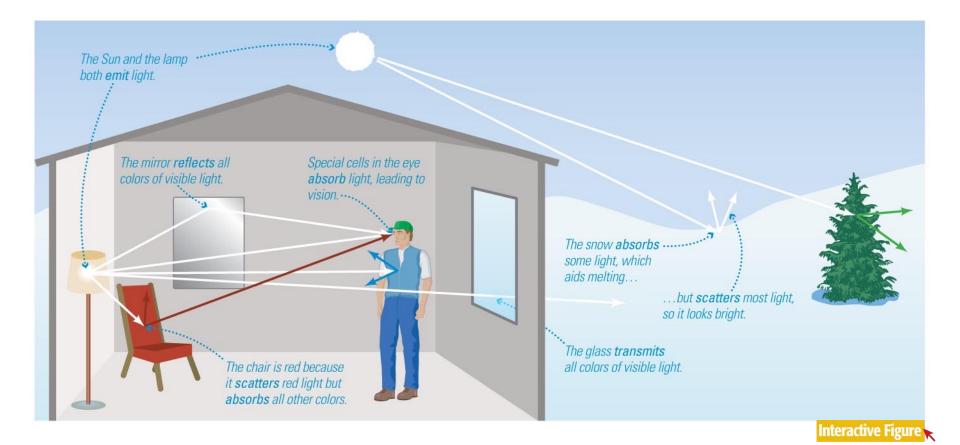




 Mirror reflects light in a particular direction.

• Movie screen scatters light in all directions.

Interactions of Light with Matter



 Interactions between light and matter determine the appearance of everything around us.

Thought Question

Why is a rose red?

- A. The rose absorbs red light.
- B. The rose transmits red light.
- C. The rose emits red light.
- D. The rose scatters red light.

Thought Question

Why is a rose red?

- A. The rose absorbs red light.
- B. The rose transmits red light.
- C. The rose emits red light.
- D. The rose scatters red light.

What have we learned?

- How do we experience light?
 - Light contains and transports energy.
 - Light comes in many colors that combine to form white light.

Speed of light

- Light in vacuum travels at a speed of $c=3 \times 10^5$ km/s
- Looking at the stars we are looking into the past.

• How do light and matter interact?

- Matter can emit light, absorb light, transmit light, and reflect (or scatter) light.
- Interactions between light and matter determine the appearance of everything we see.

Wavelength and Frequency

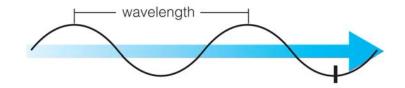
The frequency of a wave is just the number of crests that pass a given point per sec.

 $c = \lambda v$

v= frequency of an electromagnetic wave c = speed of light = 3 × 10⁸ m/s λ = wavelength of the wave in meters

Unit of frequency 1 Hz = s^{-1}

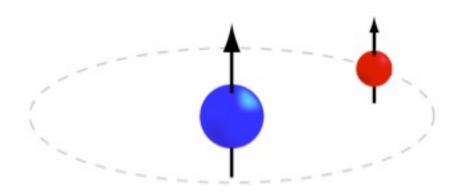
AM radio: 535 kHz - 1605 kHz FM radio: 88 MHz - 108 MHz



v = 100 MHz, what is λ ?

$$c = \lambda \nu \to \lambda = \frac{c}{\nu} = \frac{3 \times 10^8 m/s}{100 MHz} = \frac{3 \times 10^8 m/s}{100 \times 10^6 Hz} = 3m$$

Wavelength and Frequency

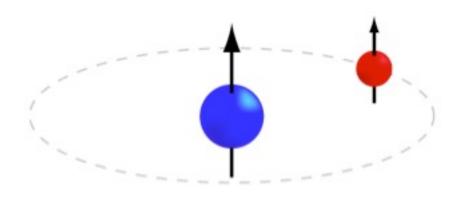


21-centimeter line

An electron orbiting a proton with parallel spins (pictured) has higher energy than if the spins were anti-parallel. Question: **Neutral Atomic Hydrogen** emits radio waves with a wavelength of $\lambda = 21.1$ cm. What's the frequency, Kenneth?

Use $c = 3 \times 10^8$ m/s 1m = 100cm and $c = \lambda \nu \rightarrow \nu = \frac{c}{\lambda}$

Wavelength and Frequency



21-centimeter line

An electron orbiting a proton with parallel spins (pictured) has higher energy than if the spins were anti-parallel. Question: Neutral Atomic Hydrogen emits radio waves with a wavelength of 21.1cm. What's the frequency, Kenneth?

Answer:

$$v = \frac{c}{\lambda} = \frac{3 \times 10^{10} \frac{\text{cm}}{\text{s}}}{21.1 \text{ cm}} = 1420 \text{ MHz}$$

Particles of Light

- Particles of light are called **photons**.
- Each photon has a wavelength and a frequency.
- The energy of a photon depends on its frequency.

Wavelength, Frequency, and Energy

The dual nature of light is evident in the formula that relates the energy of a photon to its wavelength :

$$E = h\nu = h\frac{c}{\lambda}$$

 $E = energy of \ photon(eV)$ $v = frequency of \ photon(s^{-1})$ $h = 4.125 + 10^{-15} \ M = (Dl = 11 + C)$

 $h = 4.135 \times 10^{-15} eV s$ (Planck's Constant)

c = speed of light = 3×10^8 m s⁻¹ λ = wavelength of the wave (m)

Wavelength, Frequency, and Energy

The dual nature of light is evident in the formula that relates the energy of a photon to its wavelength :

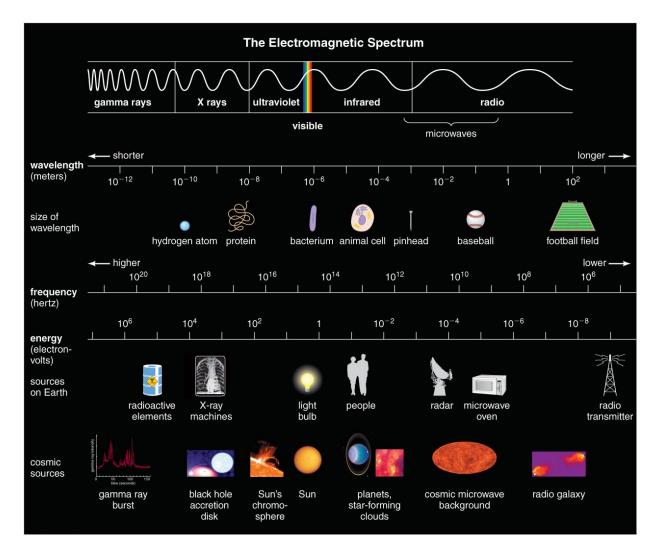
$$E = h\nu = h\frac{c}{\lambda}$$

E = energy of photon(J)

 $v = frequency of photon(s^{-1})$

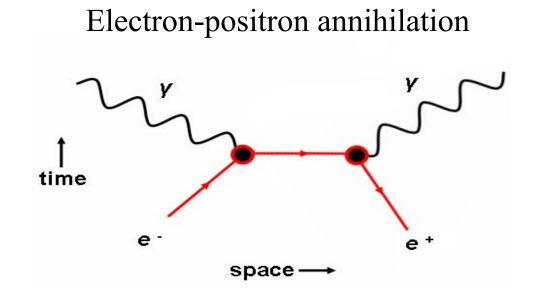
 $h = 6.625 \times 10^{-34} Js$ (Planck's Constant)

The Electromagnetic Spectrum: Entire range of wavelengths of light





Wavelength, Frequency, and Energy

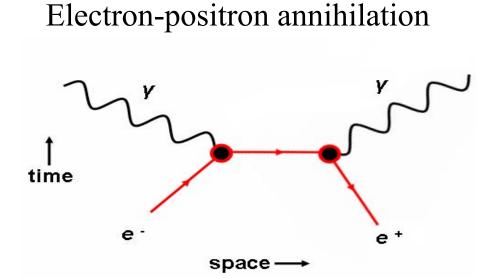


 E_{photon} = 511keV. What wavelength does this energy correspond to? Hint use $E = hv = h\frac{c}{\lambda} \rightarrow \lambda = h\frac{c}{E}$ where $h = 4.135 \times 10^{-15} eV s$

$$keV = 1000 eV = 1 \times 10^{3} eV$$

MeV = 1,000,000 eV = 1 × 10⁶ eV

Wavelength, Frequency, and Energy



Photons with energies of E_{photon} = 511keV are produced during electron-positron annihilation. What is this photons wavelength?

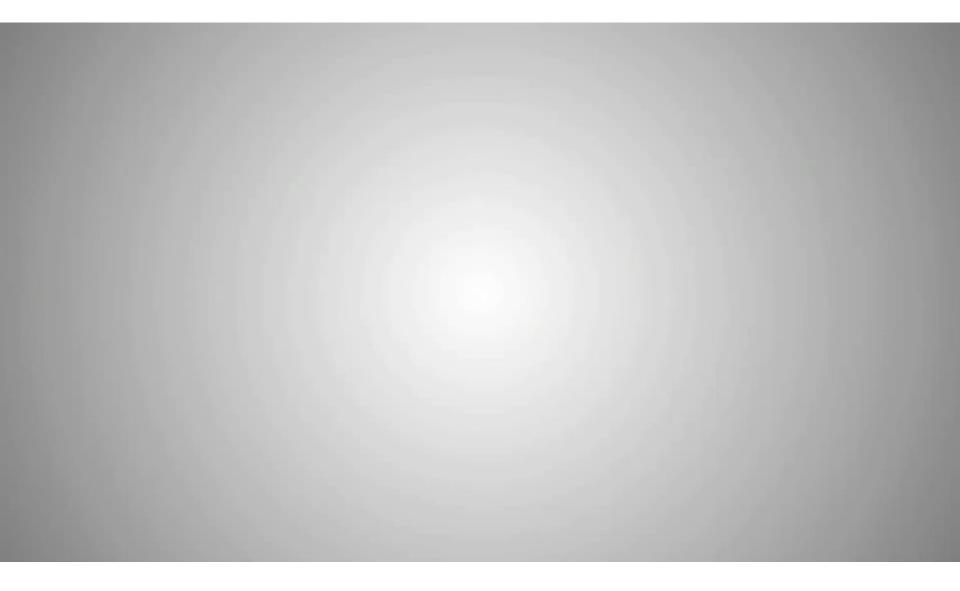
$$E = h\nu = h\frac{c}{\lambda} \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{hc}{E} \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{4.135 \times 10^{-15} eV s \times 3 \times 10^8 m/s}{511 keV} \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{4.135 \times 10^{-15} eV s \times 3 \times 10^8 m/s}{511 \times 10^3 eV} = 2.43 \times 10^{-12} m \text{ (gamma ray)}$$

Special Topic: Polarized Sunglasses

- **Polarization** describes the direction in which a light wave is vibrating.
- Reflection can change the polarization of light.
- Polarized sunglasses block light that reflects off of horizontal surfaces.



Polarizing Sunglasses



Thought Question

The higher the photon energy, $E = h\nu = h\frac{c}{\lambda}$

- A. the longer its wavelength.
- B. the shorter its wavelength.
- C. energy is independent of wavelength.

Thought Question

The higher the photon energy, $E = h\nu = h\frac{c}{\lambda}$

- A. the longer its wavelength.
- B. the shorter its wavelength.
- C. energy is independent of wavelength.

What have we learned?

• What is light?

- Light can behave like either a wave or a particle.
- A light wave is a vibration of electric and magnetic fields that travels at the speed of light.
- Light waves have a wavelength and a frequency.
- Photons are particles of light.

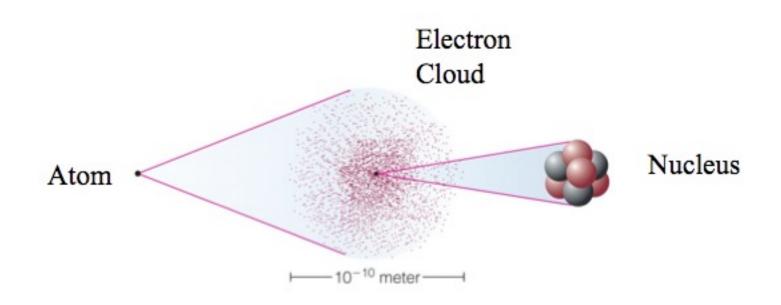
• What is the electromagnetic spectrum?

- The entire range of wavelengths of light is known as the electromagnetic spectrum.
- Human eyes cannot see most forms of light.

5.3 Properties of Matter

- Our goals for learning:
 - What is the structure of matter?
 - What are the phases of matter
 - How is energy stored in atoms?

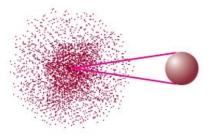
What is the structure of matter?



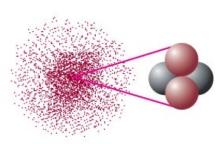
Atomic Terminology

- Atomic number = # of protons in nucleus
- Atomic mass number = # of protons + neutrons

Hydrogen (¹H)



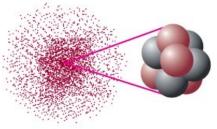
number = 1 (1 electron)



Helium (⁴He)

- atomic mass atomic mass atomic mass
 - number = 4
 - (2 electrons)

Carbon (¹²C)



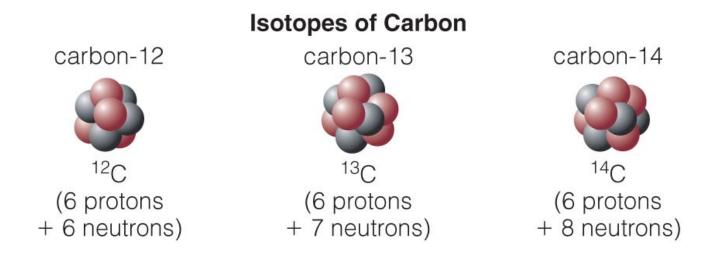
- atomic number = 1 atomic number = 2 atomic number = 6
 - number = 12

(6 electrons)

• Molecules: consist of two or more atoms (H_2O_1) CO_2)

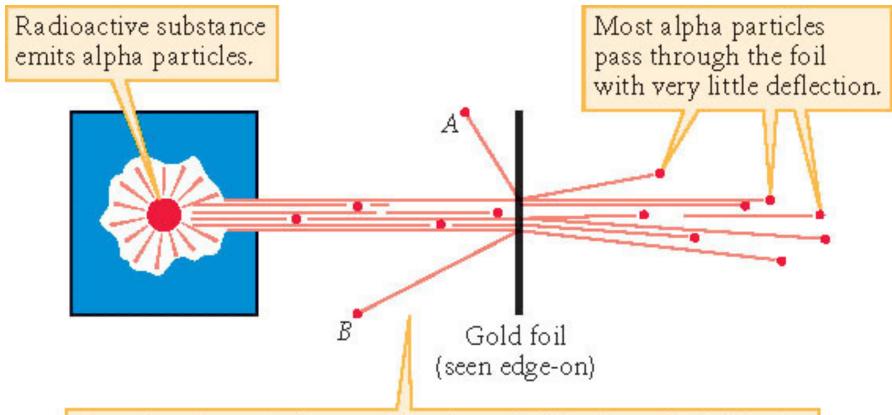
Atomic Terminology

 Isotope: same # of protons but different # of neutrons (⁴He, ³He)



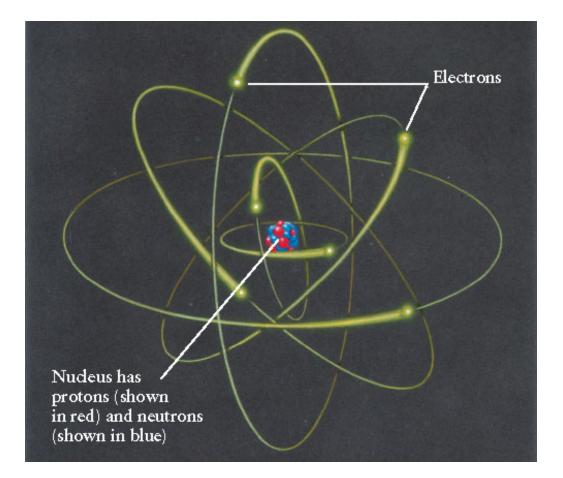
Rutherford's Experiment



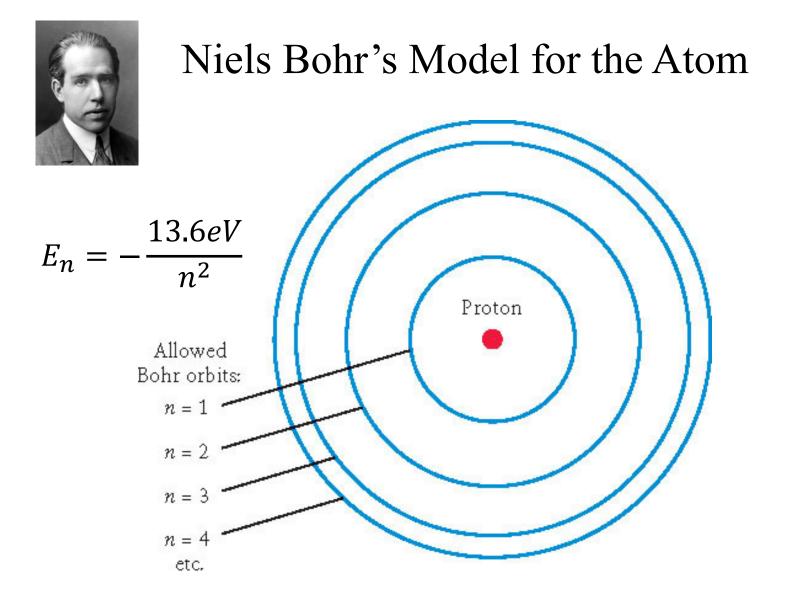


Occasionally an alpha particle rebounds (like A or B), indicating that it has collided with the massive nucleus of a gold atom.

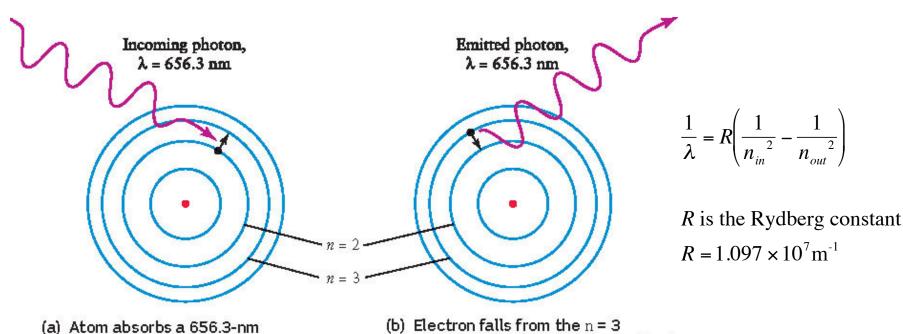
Rutherford's Model of the Atom



The number of protons in the nucleus of an atom determines the element that the atom represents.

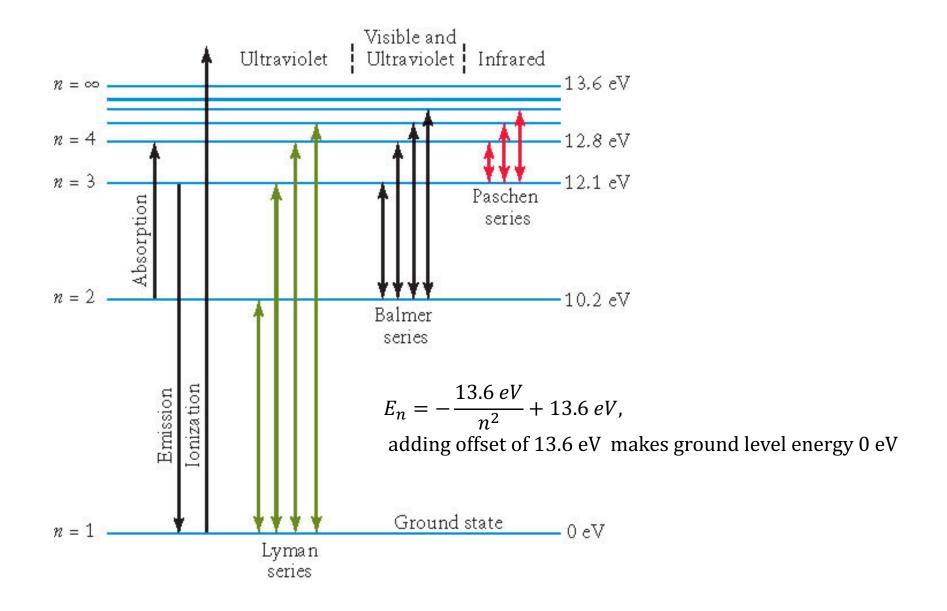


Niels Bohr's Model for the Atom

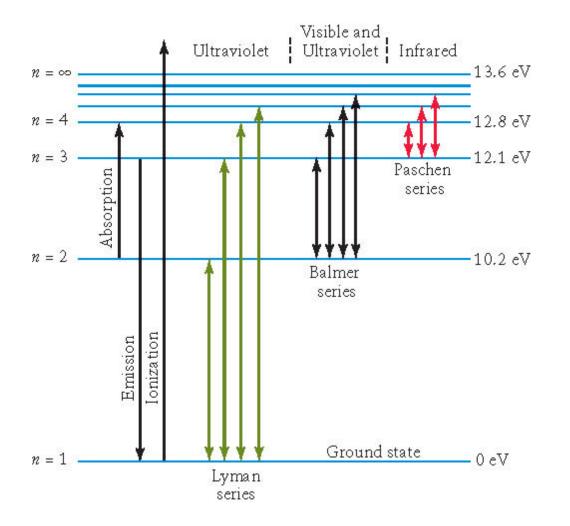


- (a) Atom absorbs a 656.3-nm photon; absorbed energy causes electron to jump from the n = 2 orbit up the n = 3 orbit
- (b) Electron falls from the n = 3 orbit to the n = 2 orbit; energy lost by atom goes into emitting a 656.3-nm photon

Niels Bohr's Model of the Hydrogen Atom

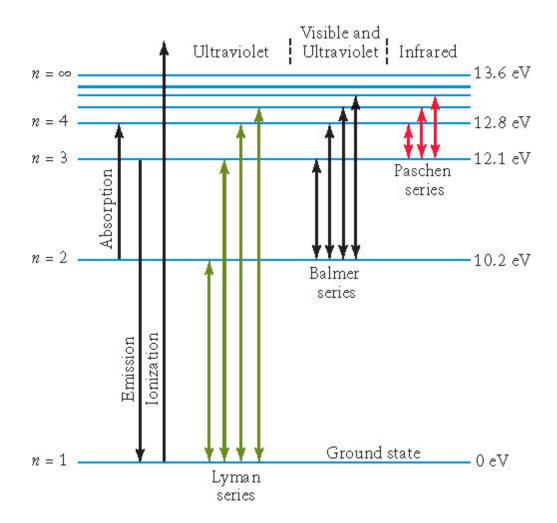


Niel Bohr's Model of the Hydrogen Atom



What are the energy ranges of the Lyman, Balmer and Paschen Series?

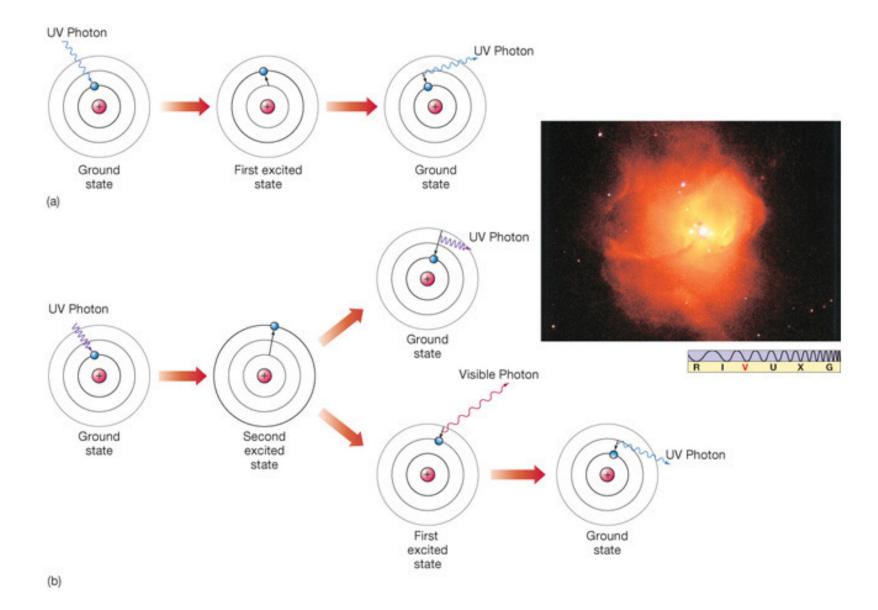
De-excitation and Ionization



A Hydrogen atom in the ground state absorbs a L_{β} photon (n=1 to n=3). What photon might that atom emit when de-excited?

Ionization is the ejection of an electron from the atom.

Atomic De-excitation and Excitation



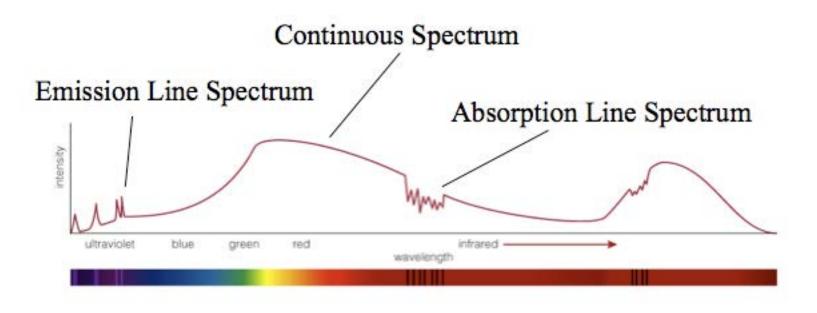


The Orion Nebula located 1340 light years away, observed with the CofC 24-inch telescope. What's producing the red emission in this image?

5.4 Learning from Light

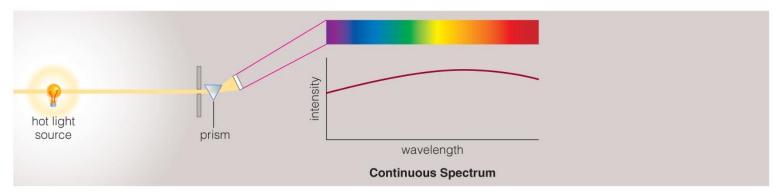
- Our goals for learning:
 - What are the three basic types of spectra?
 - How does light tell us what things are made of?
 - How does light tell us the temperatures of planets and stars?
 - How does light tell us the speed of a distant object?

What are the three basic types of spectra?

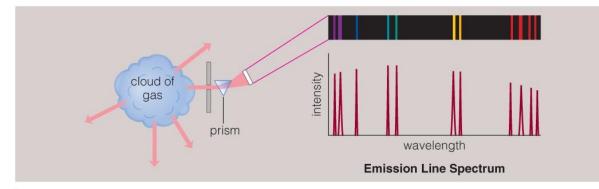


 Spectra of astrophysical objects are usually combinations of these three basic types.

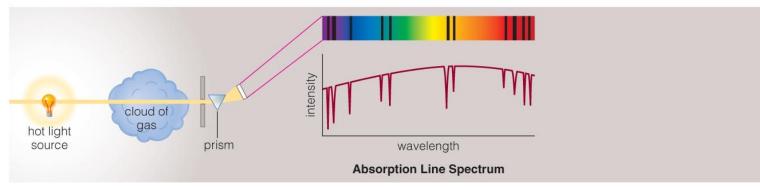
Three Types of Spectra



а

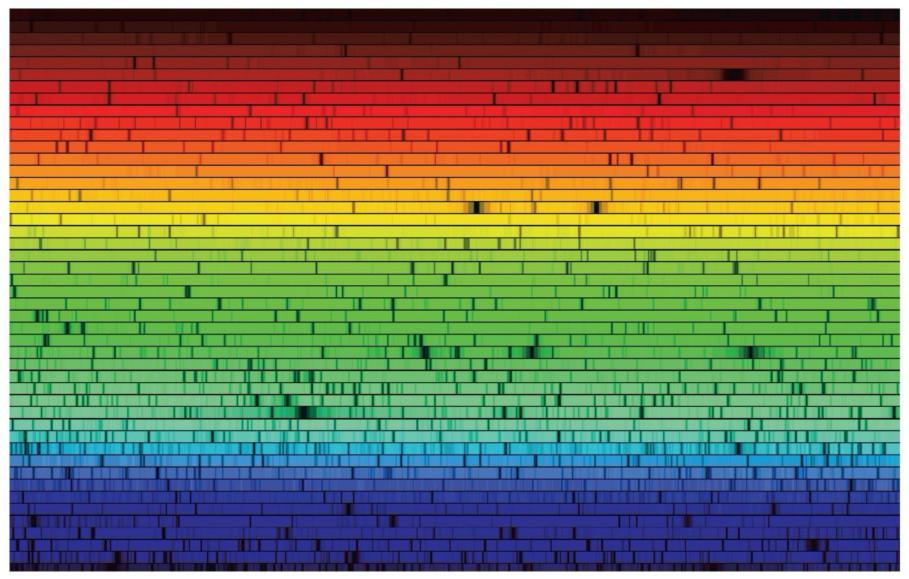


b

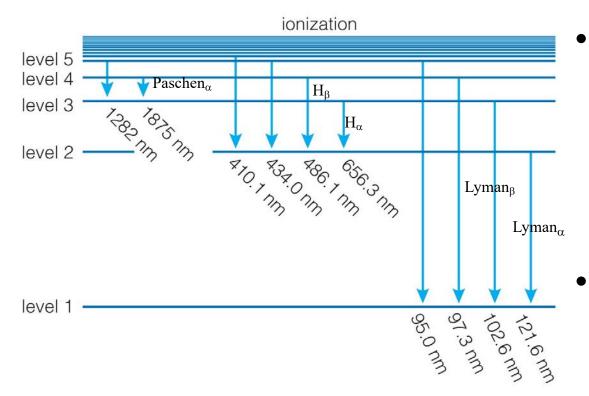


С

How does light tell us what things are made of?



Chemical Fingerprints



a Energy level transitions in hydrogen correspond to photons with specific wavelengths. Only a few of the many possible transitions are labeled.

Each type of atom has a unique set of energy levels.

 Each transition corresponds to the emission of a photon with unique energy, frequency, and wavelength.

Chemical Fingerprints

• Hydrogen Spectrum: Downward transitions produce a unique pattern of emission lines.



b This spectrum shows emission lines produced by downward transitions between higher levels and level 2 in hydrogen.

Chemical Fingerprints



• Each type of atom has a unique spectral fingerprint.

Energy Levels of Molecules

rotation

vibration

 Molecules have additional energy levels because they can vibrate and rotate.

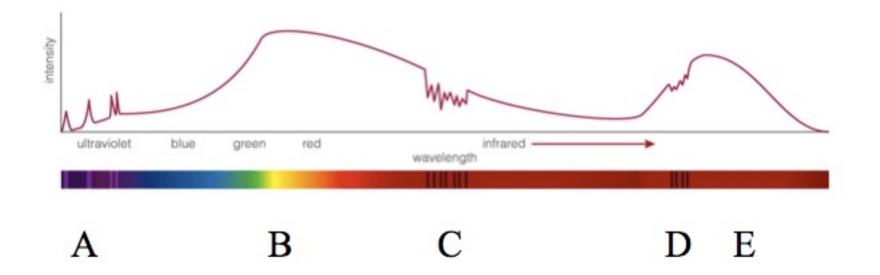
Energy Levels of Molecules



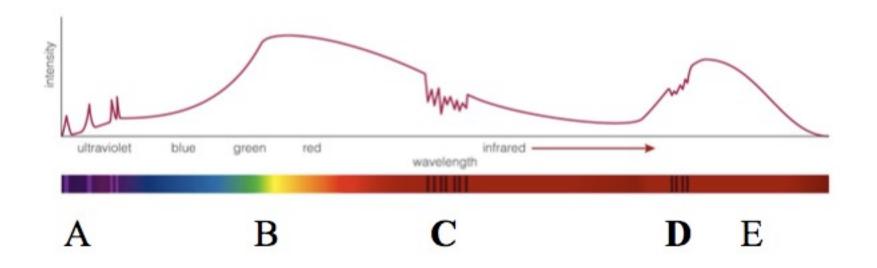
- The large numbers of vibrational and rotational energy levels can make the spectra of molecules very complicated.
- Many of these molecular transitions are in the infrared part of the spectrum.

Thought Question

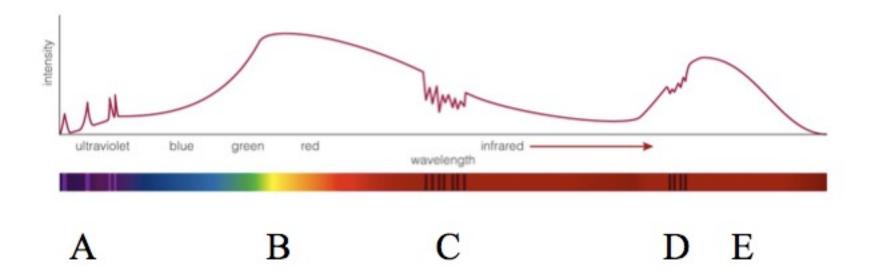
Which letter(s) label(s) absorption lines?



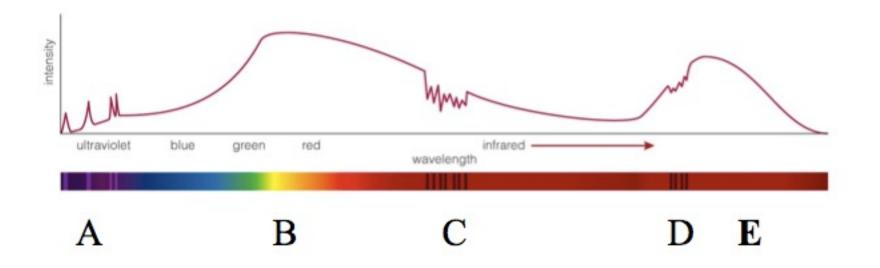
Which letter(s) label(s) absorption lines?



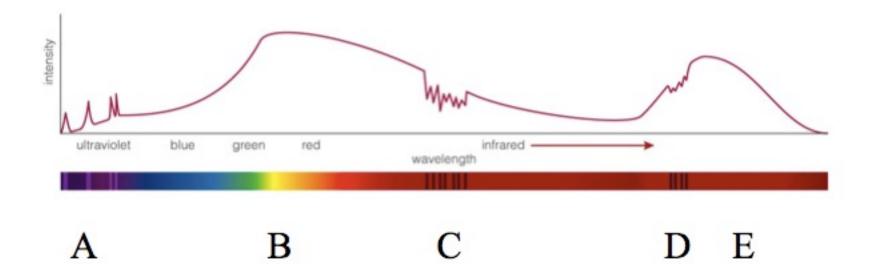
Which letter(s) label(s) the peak (greatest intensity) of infrared light?



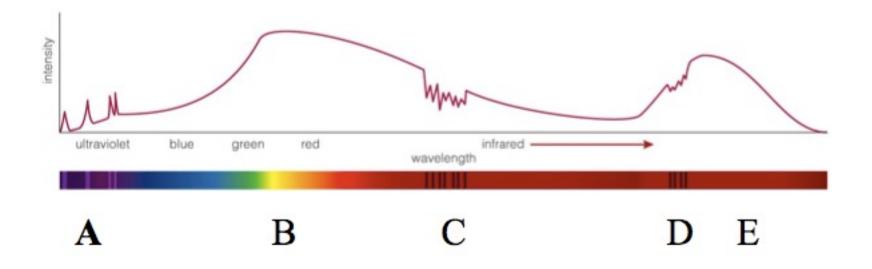
Which letter(s) label(s) the peak (greatest intensity) of infrared light?



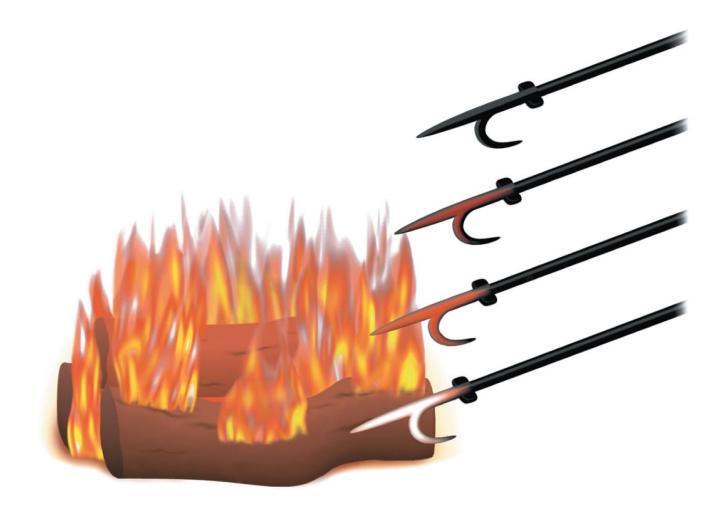
Which letter(s) label(s) emission lines?



Which letter(s) label(s) emission lines?



How does light tell us the temperatures of planets and stars?



Thermal Radiation

Thermal radiation is electromagnetic radiation emitted from an object's surface and is related to its **temperature**.



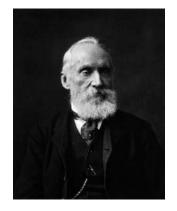
Examples of objects that emit thermal radiation: The solid filament of a light bulb emits white light that is a mixture of light of many wavelengths.

The sun and stars, even though are gaseous, emit light that is very similar to that emitted by a very hot solid.

Absolute Temperature Scale

The SI unit for temperature (T) is the kelvin. The Kelvin scale is an absolute temperature scale where zero, the theoretical absence of all thermal energy, is zero kelvin (0 K).

 $T(K) = T(^{\circ} C) + 273.15^{\circ}$

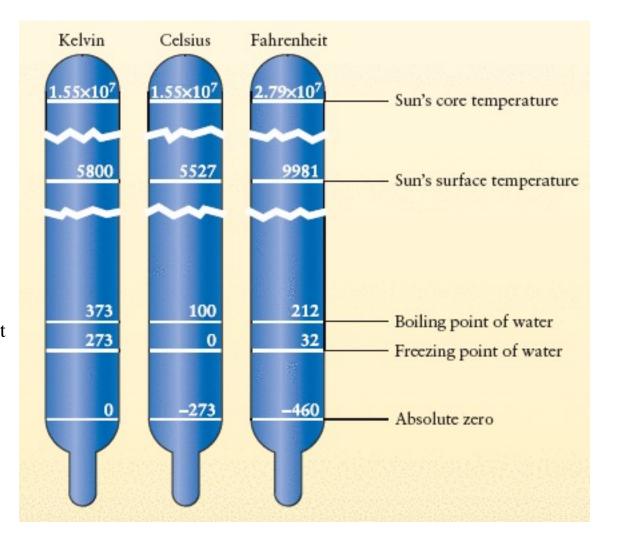


For example, the average surface temperatures of Mercury and Mars are about 700 K and 300 K, respectively.

The photosphere of the sun has a temperature of about 5800 K.

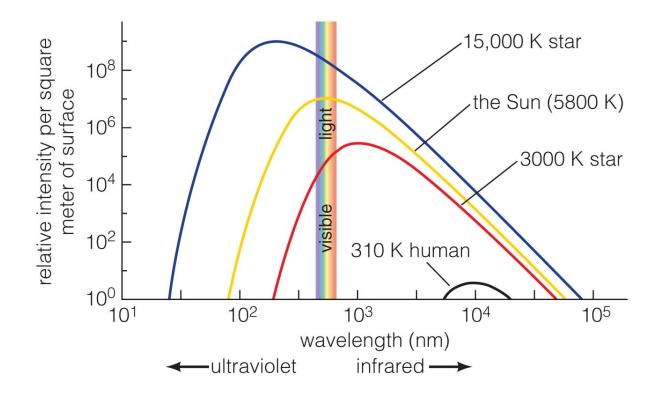
 $T_{C} = \frac{5}{9} (T_{F} - 32)$ $T_{K} = T_{C} + 273.15^{\circ}$

 T_{C} temperature in degrees Celsius T_{F} temperature in degrees Fahrenheit T_{K} temperature in kelvin



Properties of Thermal Radiation

- 1. Hotter objects emit more light at all frequencies per unit area. **Stefan-Boltzmann Law:** $F=\sigma T^4$
- 2. Hotter objects emit photons with a higher average energy (the peak wavelength decreases). Wien's Law: $\lambda_{peak} = \frac{0.0029 K m}{T(K)}$

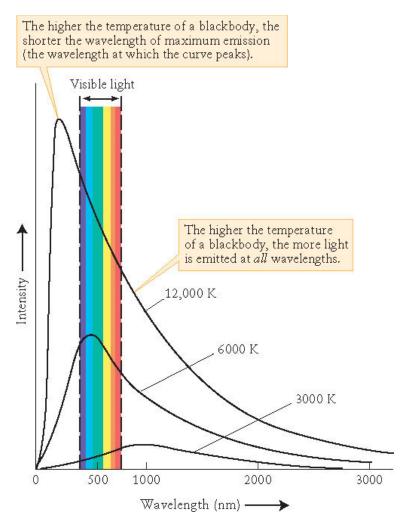


Temperatures of Stars

An ideal **blackbody absorbs** all the radiation that falls on it.

The spectra of stars are often approximated with blackbody spectra.

Property of blackbody spectra: *The higher an objects temperature the more intensely the object emits radiation and the peak of the spectrum shifts to shorter wavelengths.*



Which is hottest?

- A. a blue star
- B. a red star
- C. a planet that emits only infrared light

Which is hottest?

A. a blue star

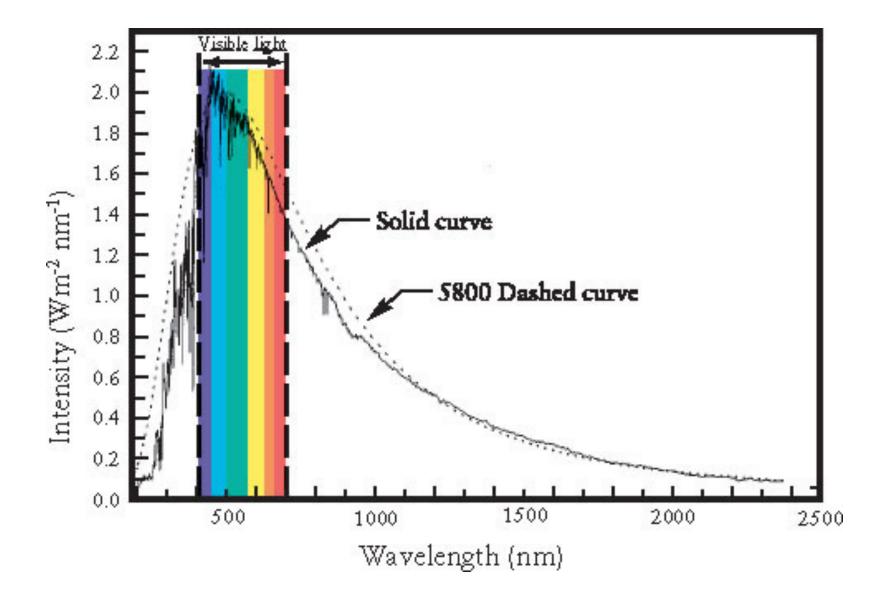
- B. a red star
- C. a planet that emits only infrared light

Temperatures of Stars

Example: The star Bellatrix in Orion that looks blue has a higher temperature than the red star Betelgeuse.

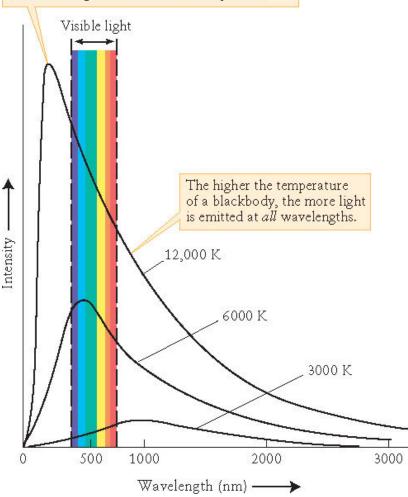


The Sun's Spectrum



Blackbody Radiation: Wien's Law

The higher the temperature of a blackbody, the shorter the wavelength of maximum emission (the wavelength at which the curve peaks).



Wien's Law

 $\lambda_{\max}(m) = \frac{0.0029 K m}{T(K)}$ $\lambda_{\max} = \text{wavelength of maximum emission}$ in meters

T = temperature of object in kelvins

Wien's Law: Sun

The maximum intensity of sunlight is at a wavelength of roughly 500 nm = 5.0×10^{-7} m. Use this information to determine the surface temperature of the Sun.

Hint: use Wien's Law $T = \frac{0.0029 Km}{\lambda_{max}}$, where λ_{max} is in meters

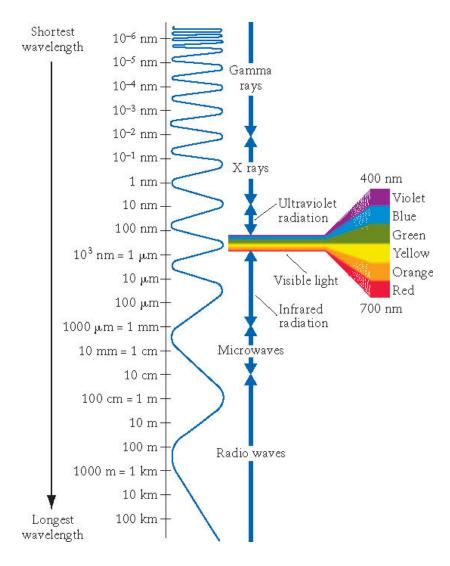
Wien's Law: Sun

The maximum intensity of sunlight is at a wavelength of roughly 500 nm = 5.0×10^{-7} m. Use this information to determine the surface temperature of the Sun.

Sun: $\lambda = 0.0029$ Km / T(K)

 $--> T_{sun} = 0.0029 \text{ K m} / 5 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m} = 5800 \text{ K}$

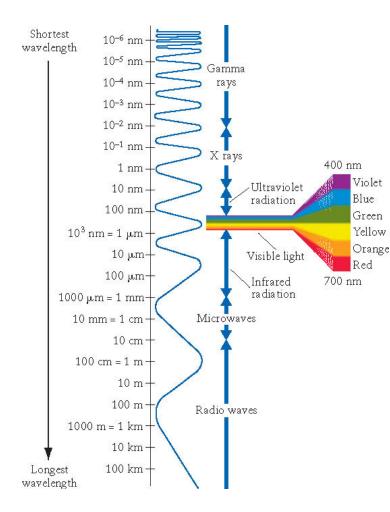
Wien's Law: Sirius



Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, has a surface temperature of about 10,000 K. Find the wavelength at which Sirius emits most intensely.



Wien's Law: Sirius



Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky, has a surface temperature of about 10,000 K. Find the wavelength at which Sirius emits most intensely.

Sirius: $\lambda = 0.0029/T \rightarrow$

λ= 0.0029 K m / 10,000 K →

 $\lambda = 2.9 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m} = 290 \text{ nm} (\text{UV} \text{ band})$

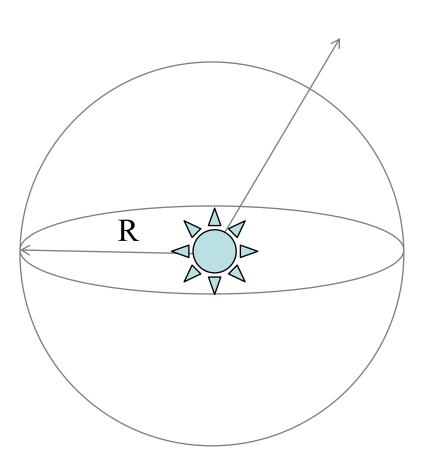
Flux Energy Density and Luminosity

$$Flux = F = \frac{Energy}{Area \times time} (J \ m^{-2} s^{-1})$$

Luminosity =
$$L = \frac{Energy}{time} (J s^{-1})$$

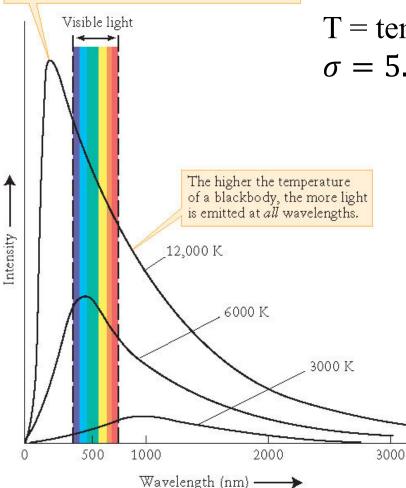
E = energy crossing an area A in time t

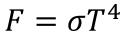
Since the area of a sphere is $4\pi R^2$, as one moves away from the source the flux will decrease by $1/R^2$



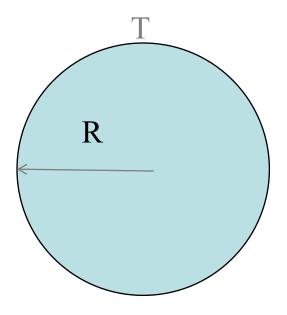
Blackbody Radiation: Stefan-Boltzmann Law

The higher the temperature of a blackbody, the shorter the wavelength of maximum emission (the wavelength at which the curve peaks).





F = flux at the surface of the star (W m⁻²) T = temperature at surface of star (K) $\sigma = 5.67 \times 10^{-8}$ W m²K⁻⁴



Stefan-Boltzmann's Law: Sirius vs. Sun

How does the flux on the surface of Sirius compare to the flux on the Sun's surface $\frac{F_{Sirius}}{F_{Sun}}$?

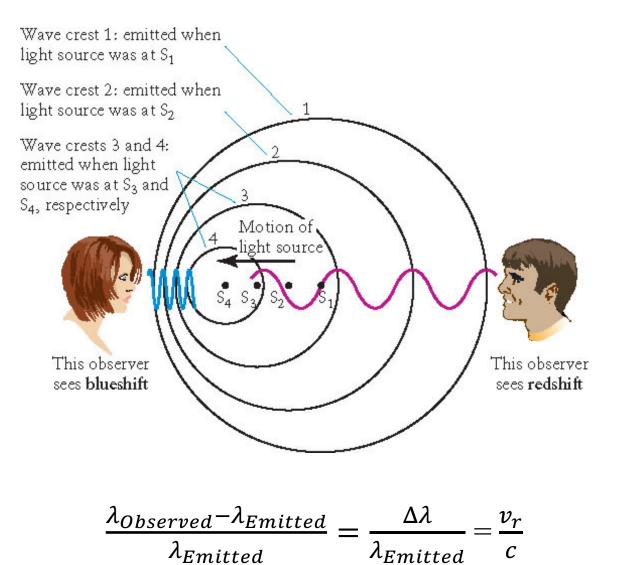
 $T_{sirius} = 10,000 \text{ K}, T_{sun} = 5,800 \text{ K}$

Stefan-Boltzmann's Law: Sirius vs. Sun

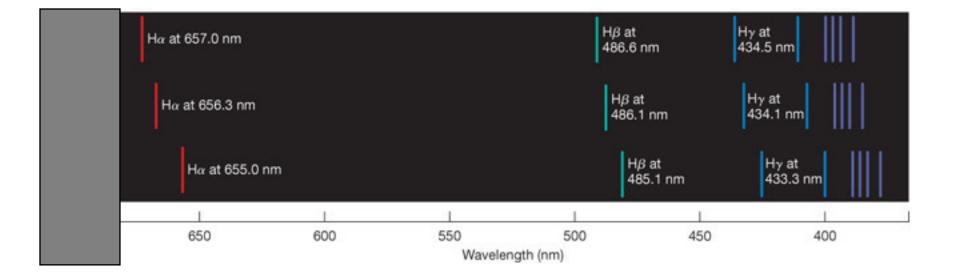
How does the flux on the surface of Sirius compare to the flux on the Sun's surface?

$$\frac{F_{sirius}}{F_{sun}} = \frac{\sigma T_{sirius}^4}{\sigma T_{sun}^4} = \left(\frac{T_{sirius}}{T_{sun}}\right)^4 = \left(\frac{10,000K}{5,800\,K}\right)^4 = 8.84$$

How does light tell us the speed of a distant object? Doppler Effect



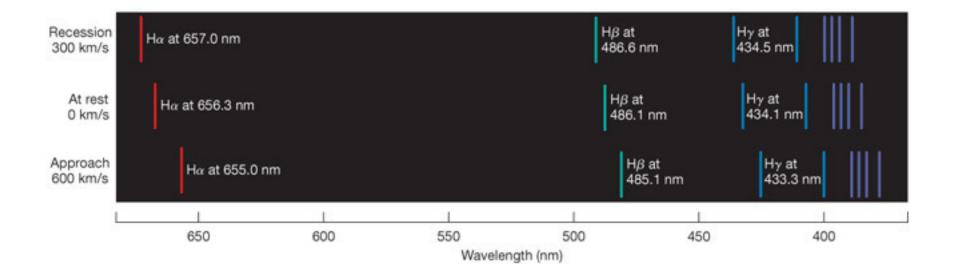
Doppler Shift



 H_{α} (Rest Wavelength) = 656.3nm

$$\frac{\lambda_{Observed} - \lambda_{Emitted}}{\lambda_{Emitted}} = \frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda_{Emitted}} = \frac{v_r}{c}$$

Doppler Shift

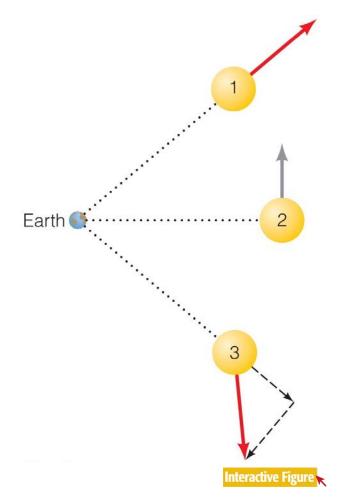


 H_{α} (Rest Wavelength) = 656.3nm

$$v_{recession} = \frac{657 nm - 656.3 nm}{656.3 nm} c = 320 \text{ km/s}$$
$$v_{approach} = \frac{655 nm - 656.3 nm}{656.3 nm} c = -594 \text{ km/s}$$

Measuring the Shift

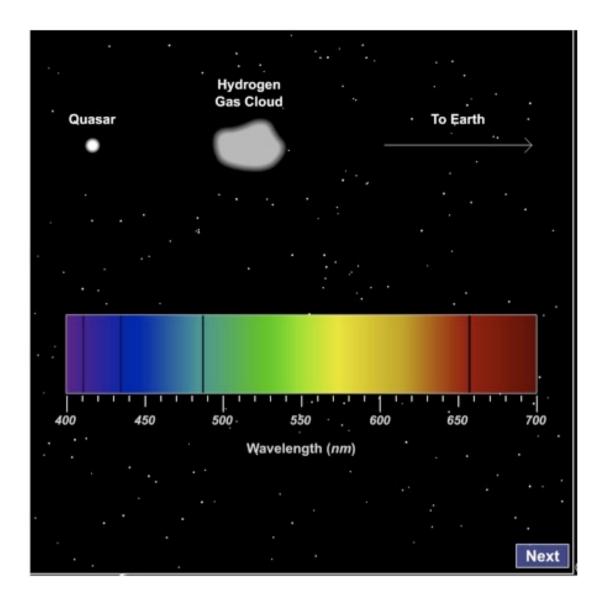
• Doppler shift tells us ONLY about the part of an object's motion toward or away from us:



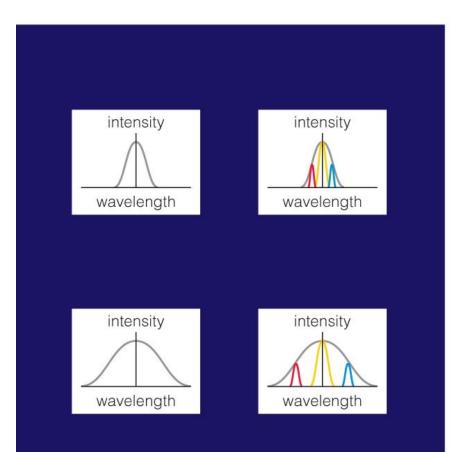
Measuring the Shift

 Measuring Cosmological Redshift z

 $\frac{\lambda_{Observed} - \lambda_{Emitted}}{\lambda_{Emitted}} = Z$

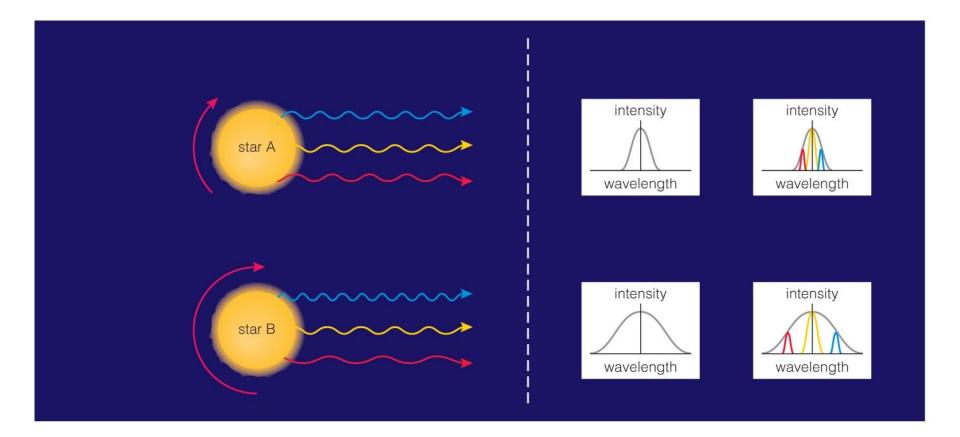


Rotation Rates



 Different Doppler shifts from different sides of a rotating object spread out its spectral lines.

Spectrum of a Rotating Object

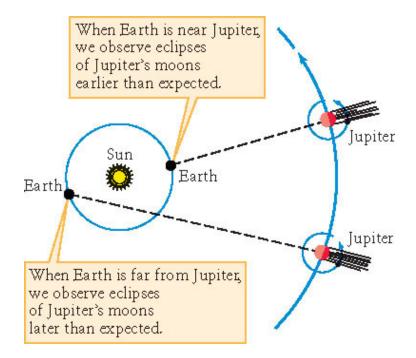


• Spectral lines are wider when an object rotates faster.

EXTRA SLIDES

Measuring the Speed of Light

- 1. Galileo
- → concluded that the speed of light was too fast for him to measure.
- 2. Olaus Romer
- → By recording the time of eclipses of Io Romer noticed that they occurred several minutes later when the earth was far from Jupiter and earlier when closer to Jupiter.



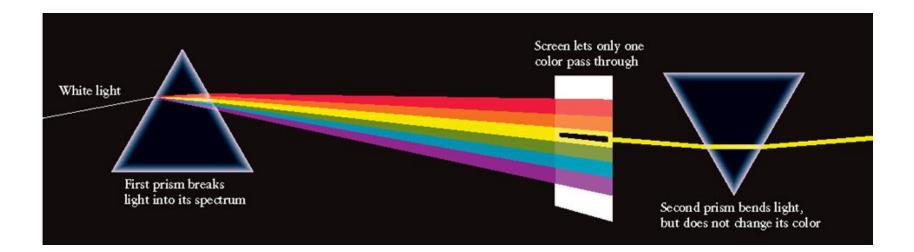
Measuring the Speed of Light

- 3. By 1975 the speed of light was known to be 299,792,458 m/s with a relative measurement uncertainty of 4 parts per billion.
 In 1983 the meter was redefined in the International System of Units (SI) as the distance travelled by light in vacuum in 1/299,792,458 of a second.
- 4. The speed of light c_{medium} is less than *c* when it travels through media like gases, liquids or solids: $n = c_{\text{vacuum}}/c_{\text{medium}} > 1$

n is called the **index of refraction**

The Nature of Light

A second prism bends the light but does not change the color thus indicating that it actually separates the white light into the colors its made up of. Newton suggested that light is composed of particles too small to detect individually.



What are the phases of matter?

- Familiar phases:
 - Solid (ice)
 - Liquid (water)
 - Gas (water vapor)
- Phases of same material behave differently because of differences in chemical bonds.

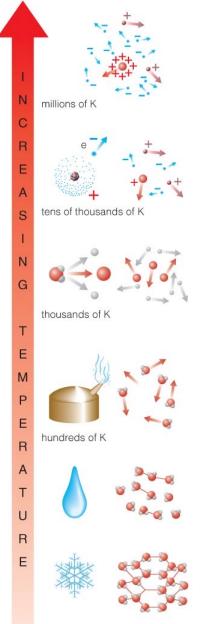
Intensity vs. Wavelength: Spectra

This figure shows the intensity of light emitted by a solid as a function of wavelength for three different temperatures of the emitting solid.

Notice that the dominant wavelength decreases with increasing temperature.

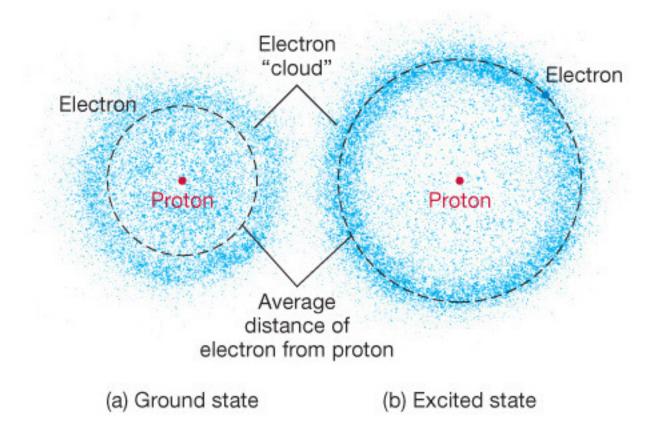
The higher the temperature of a blackbody, the shorter the wavelength of maximum emission (the wavelength at which the curve peaks). Visible light The higher the temperature of a blackbody, the more light is emitted at *all* wavelengths. Intensity 12,000 K 6000 K 3000 K 500 1000 2000 0 3000 Wavelength (nm) -

Phase Changes



- Ionization: stripping of electrons, changing atoms into plasma
- **Dissociation:** breaking of molecules into atoms
- Evaporation: breaking of flexible chemical bonds, changing liquid into gas
- Melting: breaking of rigid chemical bonds, changing solid into liquid

Modern Model for the Atom



Kinetic Energy

The kinetic energy of an object of mass m and velocity v is:

$$\mathbf{E}_k = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{m}\mathbf{v}^2$$

If m is expressed in kg and v in m/s, the kinetic energy is expressed in Joules (J).

Temperature of a Gas

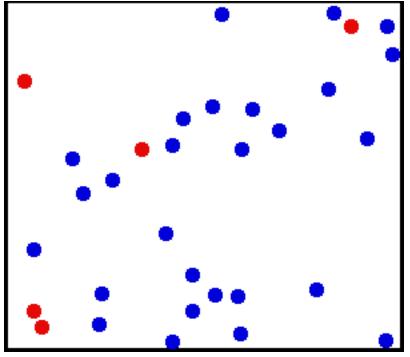
The temperature of a gas is a direct measure of the average amount of kinetic energy per atom or molecule. The average kinetic energy of a gas atom or molecule is:

$$E_k = \frac{3}{2}kT$$

 $E_{\rm k}$ = average kinetic energy of a gas atom or molecule in joules (J)

 $k = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K}$ (Boltzmann constant)

T = temperature of gas, in kelvins



Average Speed of a Gas Molecule or Atom

The average speed v (m/s) of a gas molecule or atom is:

$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{3}{2}kT \Longrightarrow v = \sqrt{\frac{3kT}{m}}$$

 $k = 1.38 \times 20^{-23}$ J/K (Boltzmann constant)

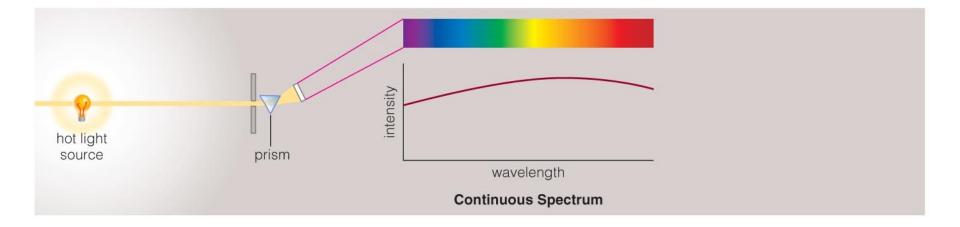
- T = temperature of gas, in kelvins
- m = mass of atom or molecule in kg

The average speed of the oxygen molecules that you breathe at a room temperature of 20° C is about 0.478 km/s.

DIMMING GANT Star betegeuse Will texplode?

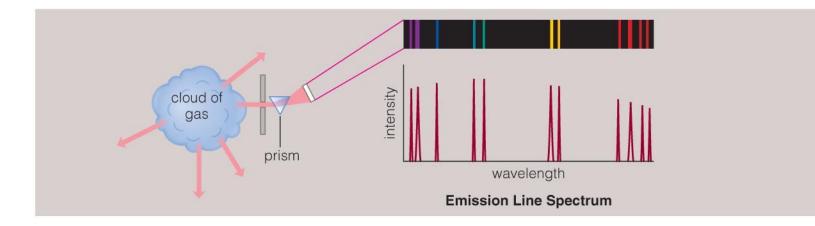
SPACE

Continuous Spectrum



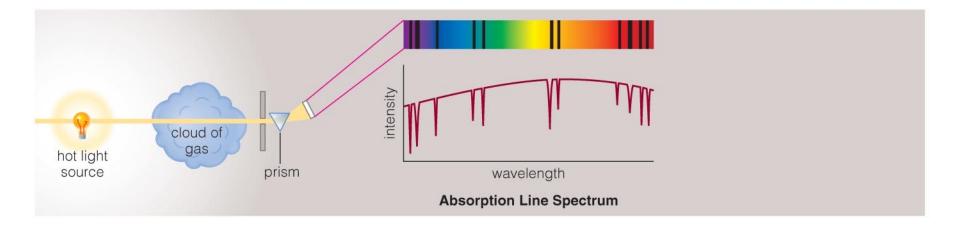
 The spectrum of a common (incandescent) light bulb spans all visible wavelengths, without interruption.

Emission Line Spectrum



 A thin or low-density cloud of gas emits light only at specific wavelengths that depend on its composition and temperature, producing a spectrum with bright emission lines.

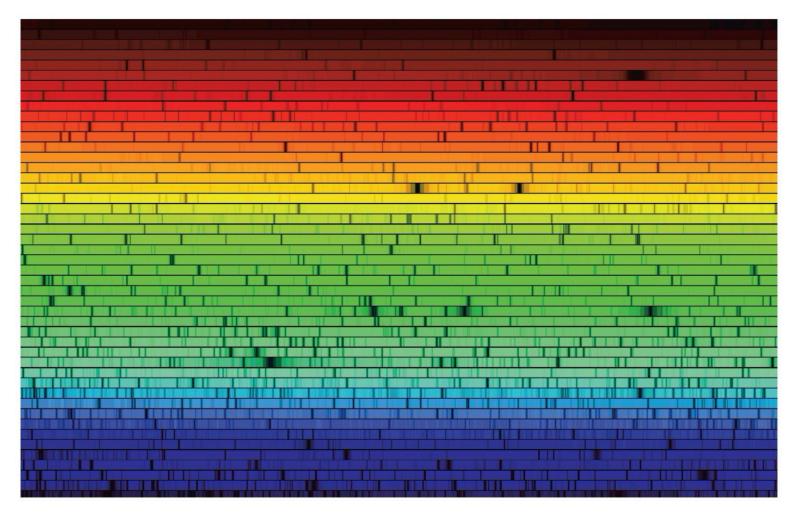
Absorption Line Spectrum



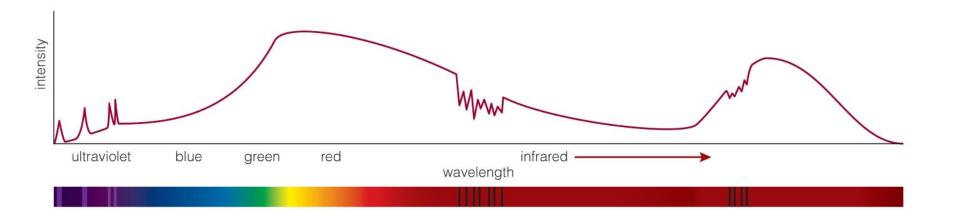
 A cloud of gas between us and a light bulb can absorb light of specific wavelengths, leaving dark absorption lines in the spectrum.

Chemical Fingerprints

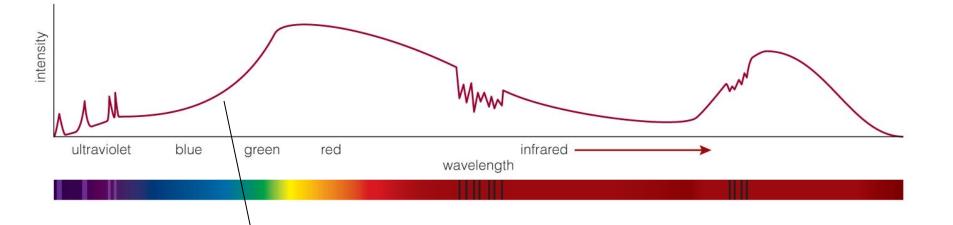
Example: Solar Spectrum



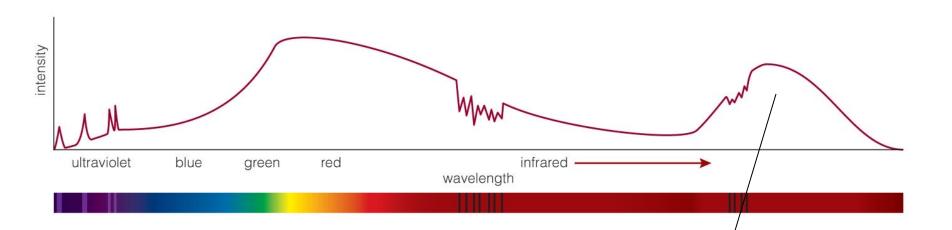
Example: How do we interpret an actual spectrum?



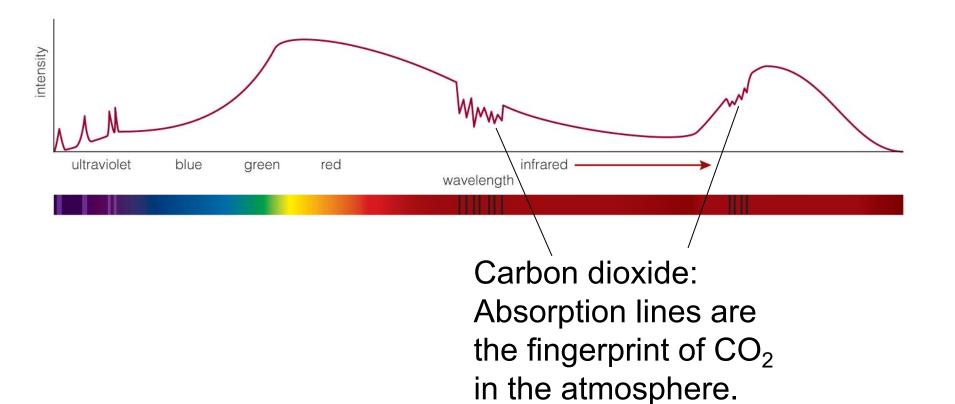
 By carefully studying the features in a spectrum, we can learn a great deal about the object that created it.

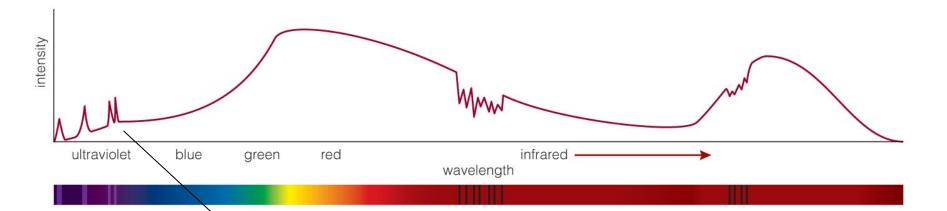


Reflected sunlight: Continuous spectrum of visible light is like the Sun's except that some of the blue light has been absorbed object must look red.

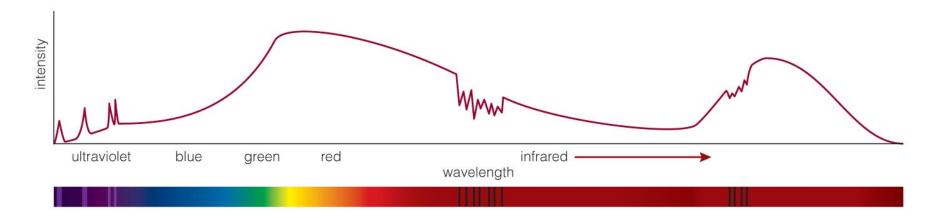


Thermal radiation: Infrared spectrum peaks at a wavelength corresponding to a temperature of 225 K.



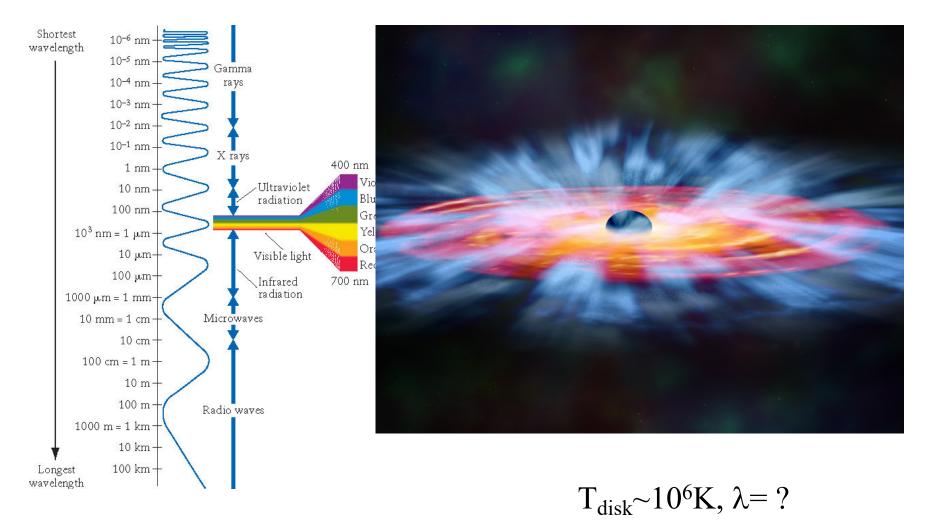


Ultraviolet emission lines: Indicate a hot upper atmosphere

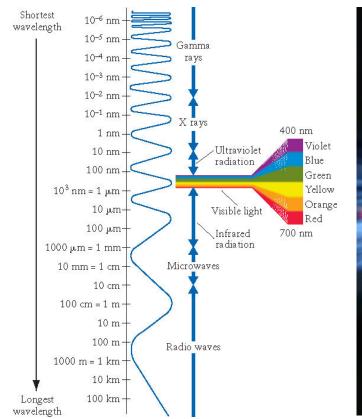


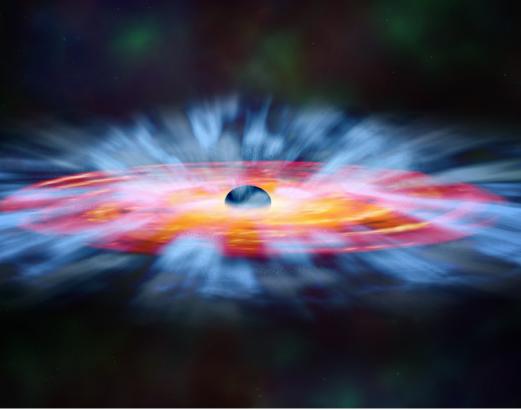
Mars!

Wien's Law: Black Hole Accretion Disk



Wien's Law: Black Hole Accretion Disk





 T_{disk} ~10⁶K, λ= ? Black Hole: λ = 0.0029/T = 0.0029 K m / 1 × 10⁶ K → λ = 2.9 10⁻⁹ m = 2.9 nm (X-ray band)

How does light tell us the speed of a distant object?

