What can we learn from light?

- Chemical Composition
- Speed towards or away from us
- Temperature
- Total Thermal Energy

All from the spectrum!

Temperature or Heat?

- Temperature: intensity of thermal energy
- Heat: amount of thermal energy (or thermal radiation)

Two objects can be at the same temperature, but have different amounts of heat or thermal energy

Kelvin Temperature Scale

- Zero Kelvin (written 0 K) is absolute zero (-459.7°F)
- No heat energy
- Water freezes at 273 K, boils at 373 K.

\[ K = ^\circ C + 273.2 \]

Temp: Peak in Thermal Radiation

Temperature and Color

- Higher temperature objects = produce more high E photons = higher E photons have higher frequency = high f photons have shorter \( \lambda \)
- What color has shorter wavelength?
  - Blue/Violet!
  - Opposite of faucet handles…

Comparing Thermal Radiation Spectra

- Peak at shorter wavelength = higher temperature
- Higher temperature = bluer in color
- Larger total area under curve = higher total energy output
Blackbody Radiation Lecture-
Tutorial: Pgs. 59-62

• Work with a partner or two
• Read directions and answer all questions carefully. Take time to understand it now!
• Come to a consensus answer you all agree on before moving on to the next question.
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The Doppler Effect

• Definition: “The change in wavelength of radiation due to relative radial motion between the source and the observer.”

Real Life Example of Doppler Effect

The change in the pitch of a siren on a police car, fire truck, or ambulance as it zooms past (sound waves)

Astronomers deal with the Doppler Effect of light waves
Doppler Effect

When something which is giving off light moves towards or away from you, the wavelength of the emitted light is changed or shifted.

V=0
Star
Light Wave

• “Radial” means “along line of sight”
• Doppler Effect happens only if the light source is moving towards you or away from you.

Amount of shift tells us speed of source’s motion

Δλ = shift in wavelength
λ₀ = wavelength if source is not moving
v = velocity of source
c = speed of light
Astronomical Instruments

How does your eye form an image?

Refraction

- Refraction is the bending of light
- Eye uses refraction to focus light

Focusing Light

- Refraction can cause parallel light rays to converge to a focus

Main Functions of a Telescope

Most important
- **Gather More Light** – (bigger is better) making objects appear brighter
  followed by
- **to see fine detail** (called resolution or angular resolution)
  and least important (not really important at all)
  **magnify**
  - magnification = (objective lens focal length / eyepiece lens focal length)

Light Collecting Area

- A telescope’s diameter tells us its light-collecting area: \( \text{Area} = \pi \left( \frac{\text{diameter}}{2} \right)^2 \)
  – Aperture
- The largest telescopes currently in use have a diameter of about 10 meters
Angular Resolution or Resolving Power

- What is the smallest separation a telescope can detect?

Interference

One light source  Two close light sources

Magnification

- Depends on both the objective lens and the eyepiece lens.

\[
M = \frac{\text{focal length}_{\text{obj}}}{\text{focal length}_{\text{eye}}}
\]

- A bigger objective lens has a larger area, but not necessarily a larger focal length
- Focal length depends on curvature of the lens

A larger objective lens provides a brighter image

There are two different types of optical telescopes

- A refracting telescope uses a glass lens to concentrate incoming light
- A reflecting telescope uses mirrors to concentrate incoming light
But visible light is only one type of electromagnetic radiation (light) emitted by stars. Astronomers are truly interested in the entire spectrum of Light!

Observations at other wavelengths reveal previously invisible sights:

- UV
- Infrared

The Sun as seen in visible light from Earth and from space in X-rays by satellites:

Why do we put telescopes into space?

Earth’s atmosphere gets in the way!

- Image of stars taken with a telescope on the Earth’s surface
- Same picture taken with Hubble Space Telescope high above Earth’s blurring atmosphere
Calm, High, Dark, Dry

- The best observing sites are atop remote mountains

Astronomers use different instruments to look at light of different wavelengths - sometimes, we even have to go above Earth’s atmosphere.

Telescopes and Earth’s Atmosphere
Lecture Tutorial: Pages 51-53
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