Astronomy Ranking Task: Doppler Shift

Exercise #3

Description: The first spectra shown below is of an element as it appears in a laboratory here on Earth. In addition, the spectra of five stars (A - E) as seen from Earth are shown. Assume that the left end of each spectrum corresponds to shorter wavelengths (blue light) and that the right end of each spectrum corresponds with longer wavelengths (red light).

Blue | Red
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Lab Spectra

Star A

Star B

Star C

Star D

Star E

A. Ranking instructions: Rank the size of the Doppler shift (from largest to smallest) for the light from each star (A – E).

Ranking Order: Largest 1 ____ 2 ____ 3 ___ 4 ____ 5 _____ Smallest

Or, the Doppler shift of the light from the stars would all be the same. _____ (indicate with a check mark)

Carefully explain your reasoning for ranking this way:

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B. **Ranking instructions:** Rank the speed of the stars (A – E) from moving fastest **toward** the Earth to moving fastest **away** from Earth.

**Ranking Order:**

Moving fastest toward 1 ____ 2 ____ 3 ____ 4 _____ 5 _____ Moving fastest away

Or, all the stars have the same speed. _____ (indicate with a check mark)

**Carefully explain** your reasoning for ranking this way:

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