

# 1. THE NATURE OF LIGHT

UNIT 5 – ATOMIC STRUCTURE

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## INTRODUCTION

- Atomic structure explains chemical properties and patterns of chemical reactivity.
- Chemical reactions involve electrons. Knowing where the electrons are and how many there are helps explain many chemical phenomena.
- We use different forms of light to explore atomic structure (spectroscopy). Because of this, we start with a discussion of the nature of light.

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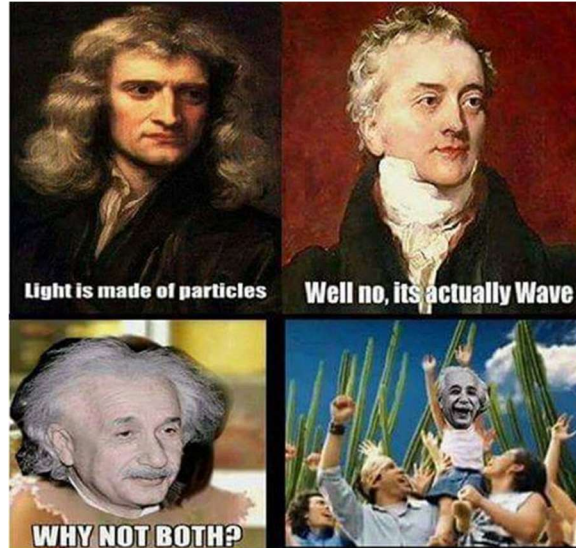
## THE NATURE OF LIGHT - PARTICLES OR WAVES??

Isaac Newton: Light must be made of particles because it...

- travels in a vacuum
- reflects off objects
- exerts force (on the tails of comets)

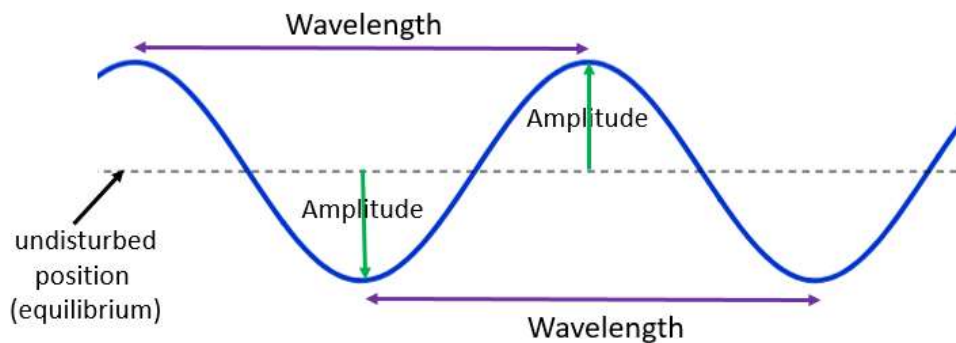
Christiaan Huygens: Light must consist of waves because it...

- reflects like waves
- refracts and diffracts
- exhibits interference



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## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WAVES



**Amplitude:** maximum displacement of a point on a wave away from its undisturbed position

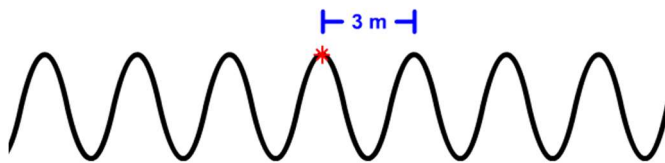
**Wavelength:** distance from a point on one wave to the equivalent point on the adjacent wave.

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## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WAVES

**Frequency:** the number of times a crest passes a fixed point per unit of time.

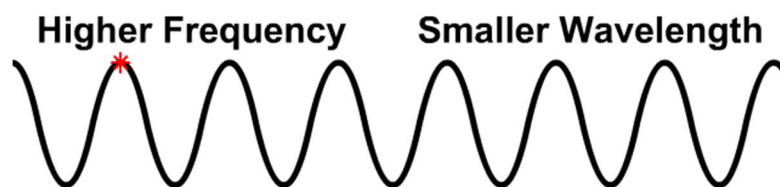
$$v = (\lambda)(f)$$



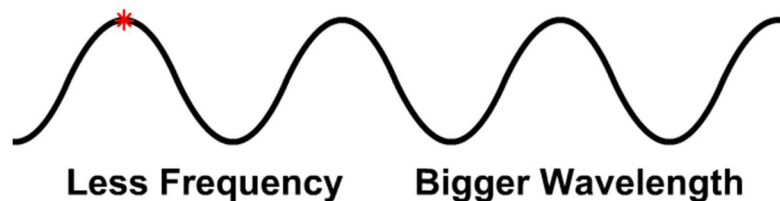
3 meters per wave  
2 waves per second

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## WAVELENGTH AND FREQUENCY



**Wavelength and Frequency  
are Inversely Proportional**



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# THE WAVE NATURE OF LIGHT

Light travels through space as a wave.

It travels at a constant speed equal to  $3.00 \times 10^8$  m/s or 300 million m/s.



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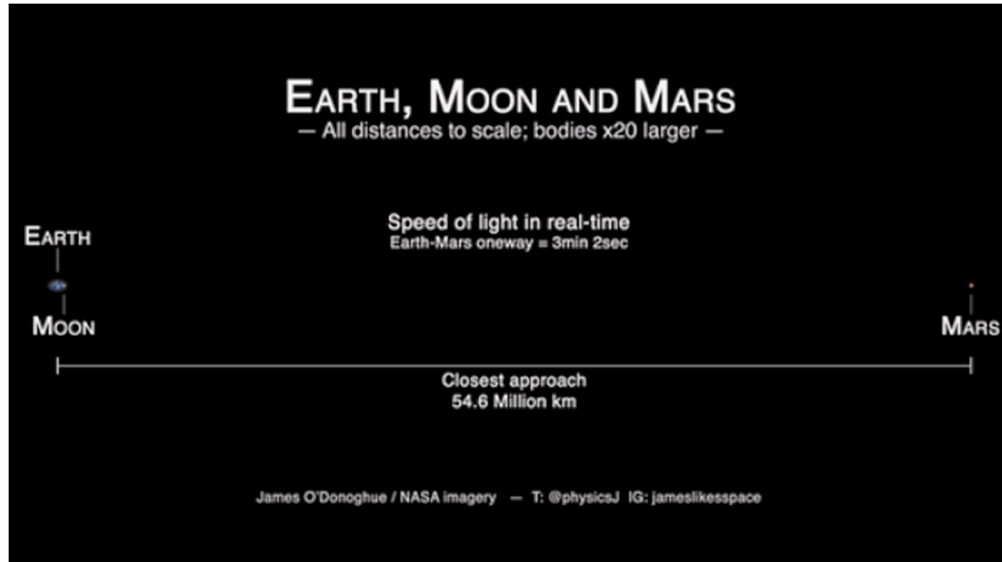
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# THE SPEED OF LIGHT IS FAST...



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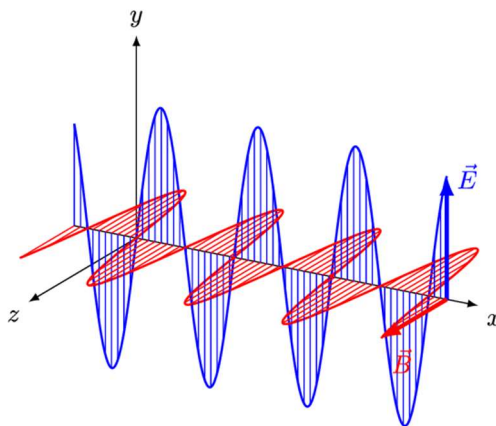
...BUT ONLY RELATIVELY.



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BY THE END OF THE 1800's...

Light is an electromagnetic wave composed of continuous wavelengths that form a spectrum. Light and matter are two distinctly different entities.

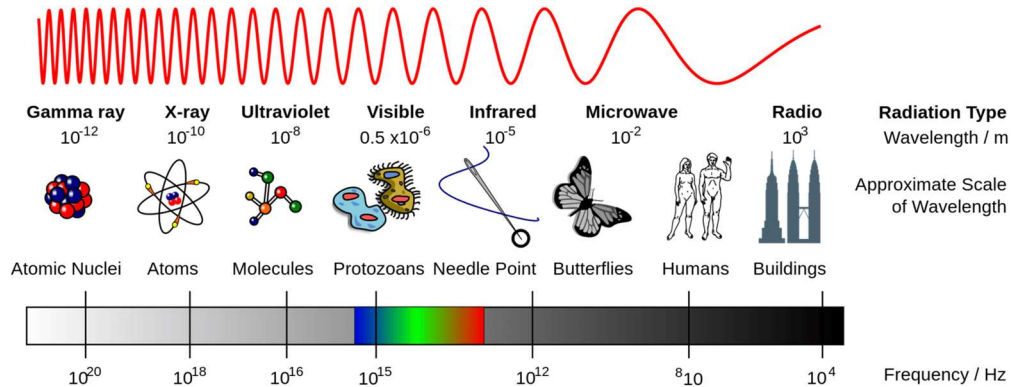


JAMES MAXWELL

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# ELECTROMAGNETIC RADIATION (EMR)

Light can be broken down into 7 different types. These types are categorized based on wavelength and frequency.



**Raging Martians Invaded ROY G. BIV Using X-Ray Guns**

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## SUMMARY

All types of light travel at the same speed.

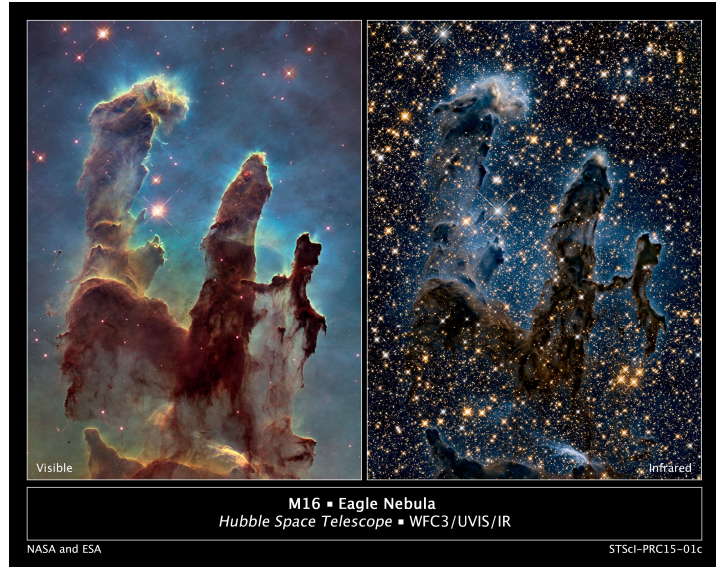


Different types of light have different wavelengths and frequencies that are inversely proportional.

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# INFRARED SPECTROSCOPY

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has cameras that can capture different wavelengths of light, resulting in images that show different perspectives of the same object.



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# THERMAL IMAGING

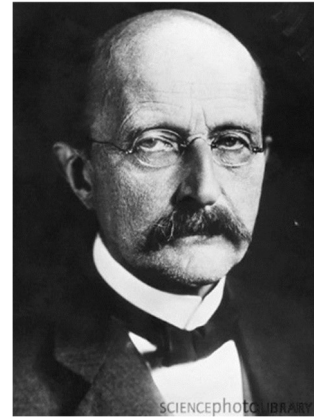
Thermal (infrared) imaging is very useful. It can be used to detect abnormal heat signatures in electrical circuits as well as in animals.



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# PARTICLE THEORY OF LIGHT

- In the early 1900's, new evidence was discovered by Max Planck, Albert Einstein, and others that resurrected the particle theory of light.
- Light is now thought to be composed of particles (quanta) each carrying a fixed amount of energy. These particles are called photons.
- The amount of energy per photon is directly proportional to the frequency of the light:

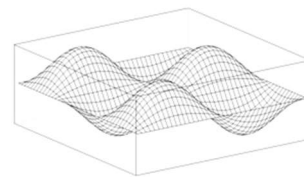


$$E = h\nu \quad \text{or} \quad E = \frac{hc}{\lambda}, \quad h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J} \cdot \text{s}$$

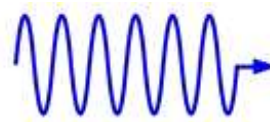
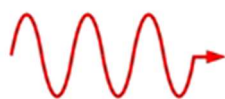
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# PHOTONS = WAVICLES?

Particle + Wave =



PHOTONS!



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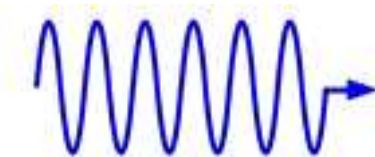


## IN OTHER WORDS...

**LARGE** Wavelength = SMALL Frequency = SMALL ENERGY PHOTON



SMALL Wavelength = **LARGE** Frequency = **LARGE** ENERGY PHOTON



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## CONVERTING BETWEEN WAVELENGTH & FREQUENCY

$$c = \lambda \nu$$

$\lambda$  = wavelength in meters

$\nu$  = frequency ( $\frac{1}{s}$  becomes  $s^{-1}$  or Hz)

$c$  = speed of light ( $3.00 \times 10^8$  m/s)

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## ENERGY OF A PHOTON

$$E = h\nu \quad \text{or} \quad E = \frac{hc}{\lambda}, \quad h = 6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{s}$$

E = energy of photon (Joules)

h = Planck's Constant

$\nu$  = frequency of wave (Hz or  $\text{s}^{-1}$ )

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## DON'T FORGET SI UNITS!

Multiplication Factor	Prefix	Symbol
1,000,000,000 = $10^9$	giga	G
1,000,000 = $10^6$	mega	M
1,000 = $10^3$	kilo	k
100 = $10^2$	hecto	h
1 = 1		
0.01 = $10^{-2}$	centi	c
0.001 = $10^{-3}$	milli	m
0.000001 = $10^{-6}$	micro	$\mu$
0.00000001 = $10^{-9}$	nano	n

**Gigantic Megaphones Killed 1 Million Microscopic Nanobots**

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## CALCULATIONS INVOLVING EMR

The wavelength of maximum visual acuity in humans is 550 nm.  
(green light)

What is the frequency of a **single** photon having this wavelength?

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## CALCULATIONS INVOLVING EMR

The wavelength of maximum visual acuity in humans is 550 nm.  
(green light)

What is the energy of a **single** green photon having this wavelength?

What is the energy of a **mole** of green photons?

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