

PHY 114

Quantum Physics

Lecture 1-B

Birth of Planck's Constant \hbar

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Motivation:

Why did Blackbody Radiation intensity distribution cause a crisis ?

All bodies radiate EM waves at finite temperature .

An object at thermal equilibrium radiates as much as it absorbs. .

Radiance R is the power radiated per unit area. It depends on the temperature T , and the nature of the radiating surface.

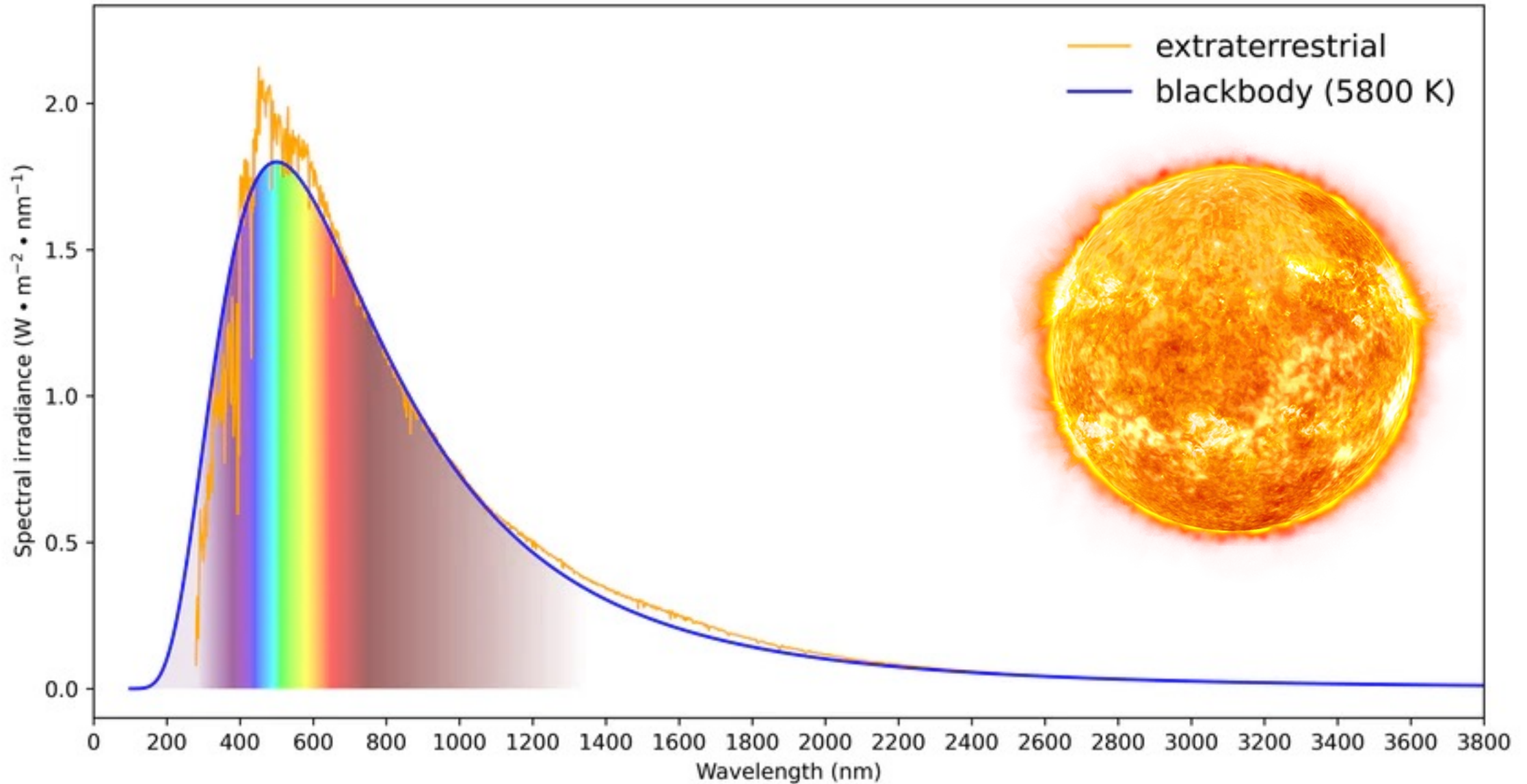
Black Body : Absorbs all radiation incident on it. It is a perfect emitter as well as absorber.

Total radiance $R = \int R(\lambda) d\lambda$

Spectral Radiancy



Solar Spectrum



How do you realize a black body in the Laboratory ?

1860 : Kirchoff's Cavity

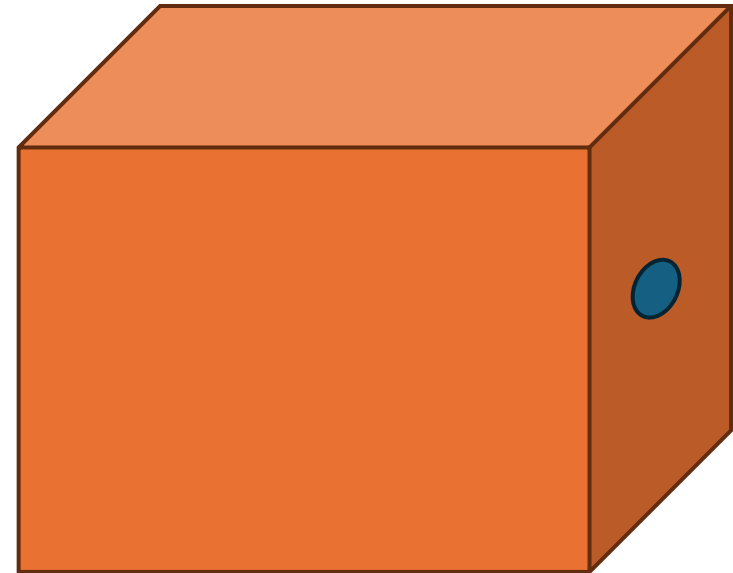
A cavity in thermal equilibrium is a black body.

James Jeans showed an empty metal cube with a small hole is a good approximation to black body radiation.

$$R(\lambda) = \frac{c}{4} u(\lambda)$$

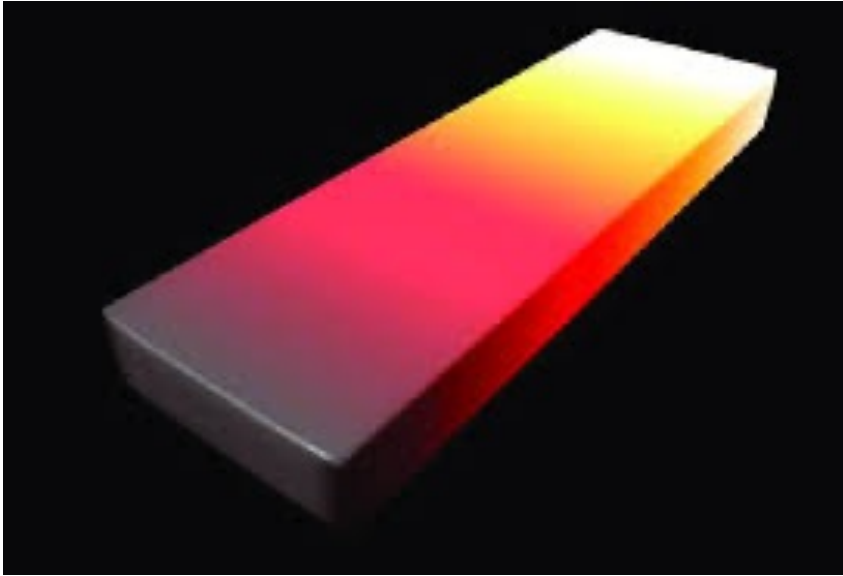
$$R(\nu) = \frac{c}{4} u(\nu)$$

Spectral energy density

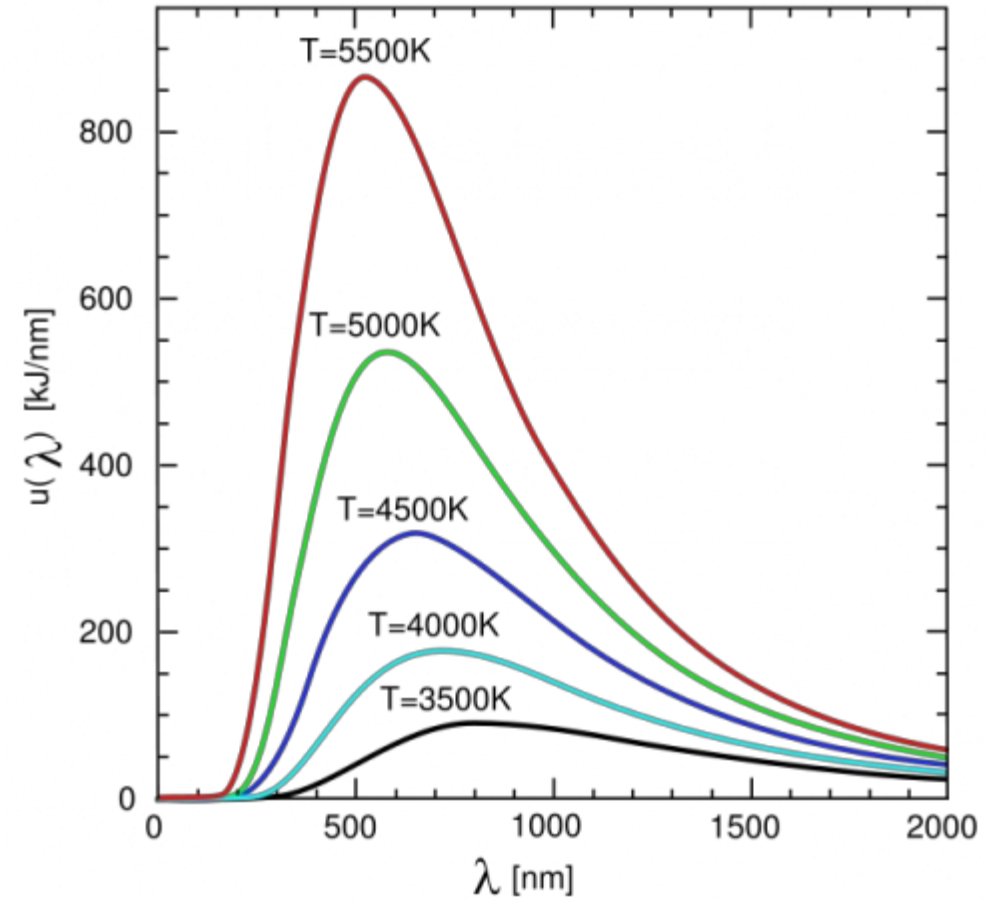


Jeans Cube

Colour Temperature and Spectral Energy Density



Colour	°C	°C
White	1200	
Light Yellow	1100	
Yellow	1050	1300
Light Orange	980	1200
Orange	930	1100
Light Red	870	1000
Light Cherry	810	900
Cherry	760	800
Dark Cherry	700	700
Blood Red	650	
Brown Red	600	



$T \uparrow \quad R \uparrow$

$$R = \sigma T^4$$

$T \uparrow \quad \lambda_{max} \downarrow$

$$T\lambda_{max} = \text{constant}$$

Prediction of Classical vs Planck for $u(\nu)$?

We know **Maxwell's EM Theory** & **Boltzmann's Classical Thermodynamics**.

Calculate the number density of oscillators in a cavity, and multiply the average energy of each oscillator.

Classical

Density of Modes: $g(\nu) = \frac{8\pi}{c^3} \nu^2$

Average Energy: $\langle \epsilon \rangle = k_B T$

Energy density u_ν : $u_\nu = \frac{8\pi}{c^3} \nu^2 k_B T$

Planck's Quantum

$$g(\nu) = \frac{8\pi}{c^3} \nu^2$$

$$\langle \epsilon \rangle = \frac{h\nu}{e^{h\nu/k_B T} - 1}$$

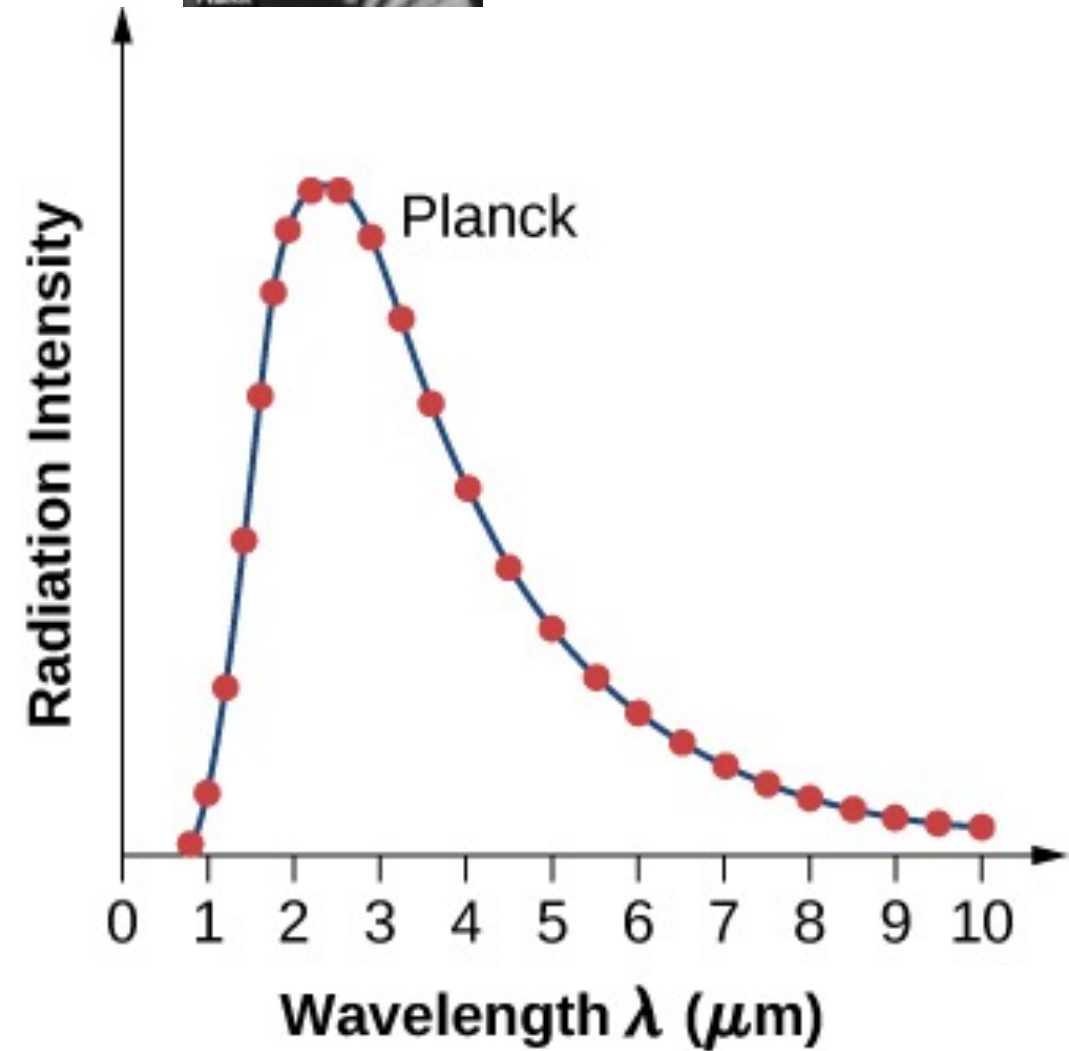
$$u_\nu = \frac{8\pi}{c^3} \nu^2 \frac{h\nu}{e^{h\nu/k_B T} - 1}$$

Perfect Match with Experiment

- Energy of oscillator discrete $E_n = n h \nu$
- A new universal constant is born h
- Indication of a new occupation statistics.
- With h quantum age came into being !
- But, h is quantum of which Physical Quantity ?

$$h = 6.62607015 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J-s}$$

QUANTUM of
ACTION !!



An Act of Desperation.....

*“Kurz zusammengefasst, kann ich die ganze Tut nur als einen
Akt der Verzweiflung bezeichnen.”*

*“In summary, I can only characterize the entire work as an
act of desperation.”*

- Max Planck in 1931