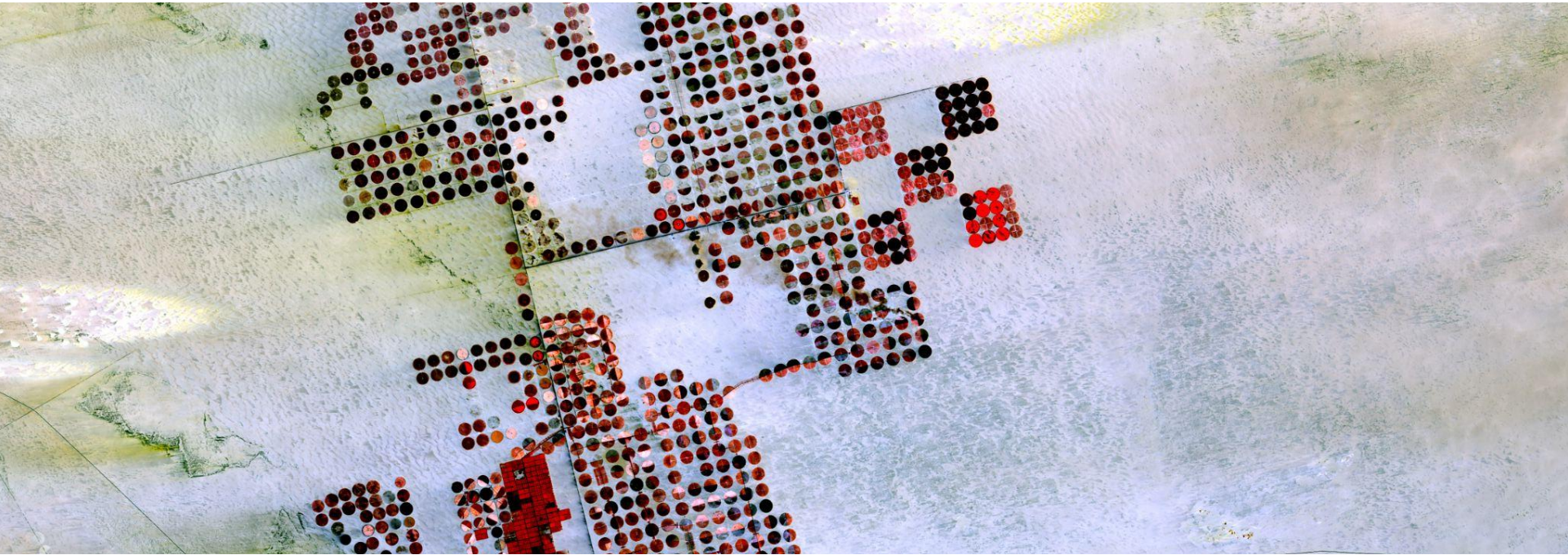


# EDS 223: Geospatial Analysis & Remote Sensing

## Week 6



# Welcome!

- **Course logistics**
  - Absence policies
  - In-class etiquette
  - Efficient studying

# Welcome!

- **Course logistics**
  - Absence policies
  - In-class etiquette
  - Efficient studying
- **Remote sensing basics**
- **Energy transfer**
- **Electromagnetic radiation**
- **Radiation budget**

# What is remote sensing?

“the art, science, and technology of obtaining reliable information about physical objects and the environment, through the process of recording, measuring, and interpreting imagery and digital representations of energy patterns derived from non-contact sensor systems.”  
(Colwell, 1997)

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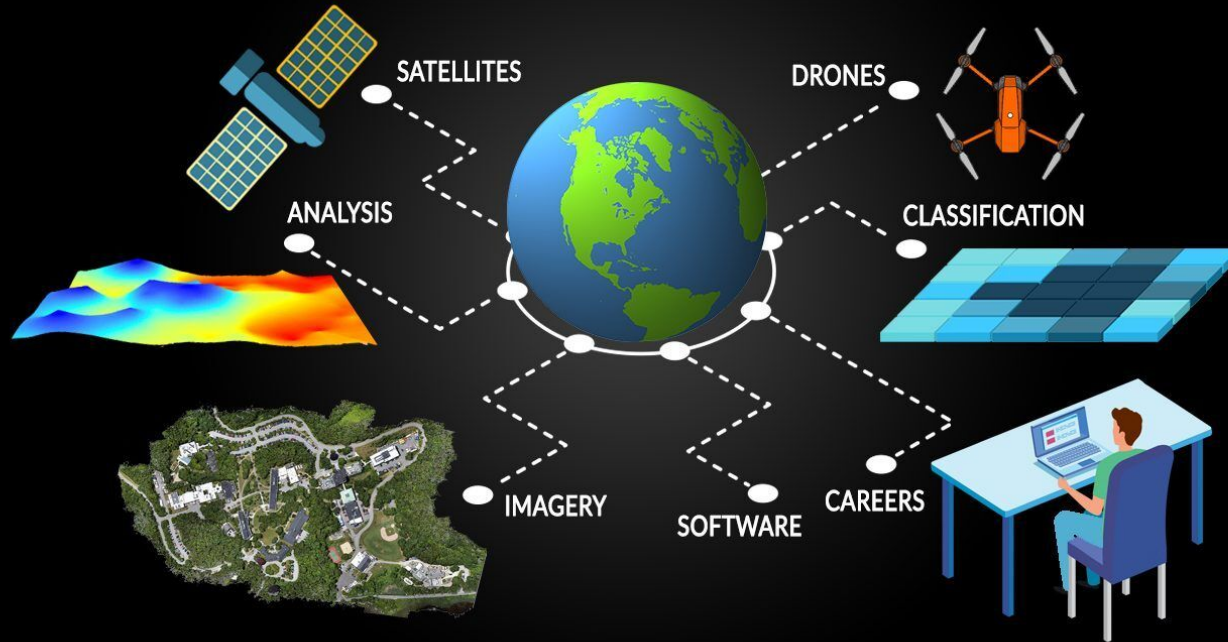
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# WHAT IS REMOTE SENSING?



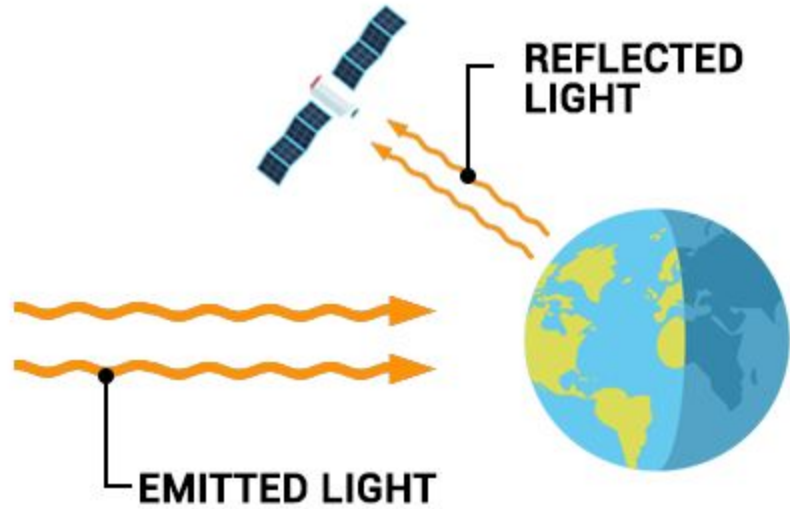


# What is remote sensing?

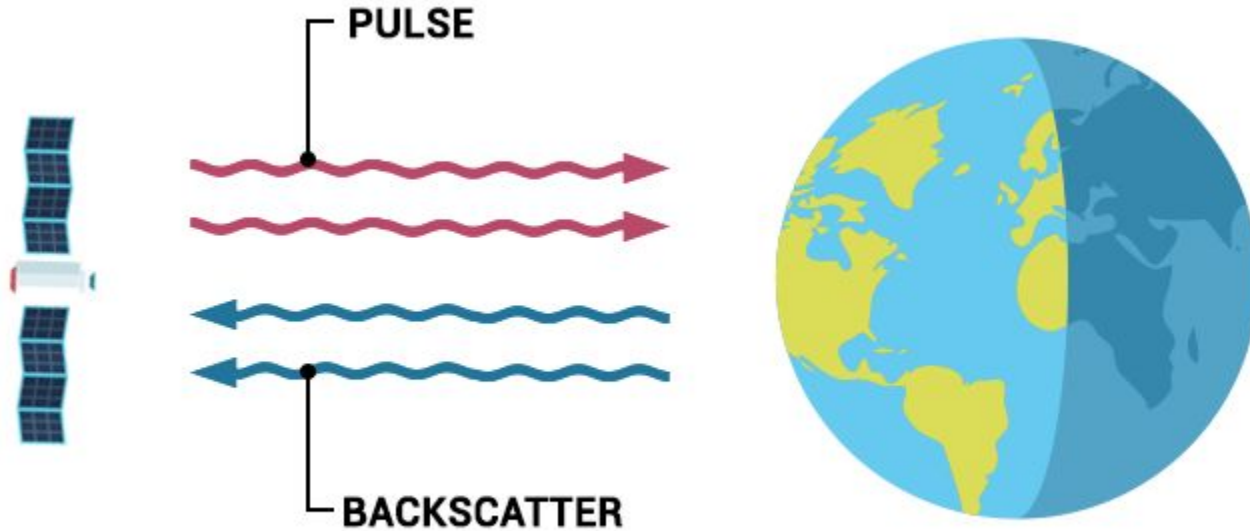
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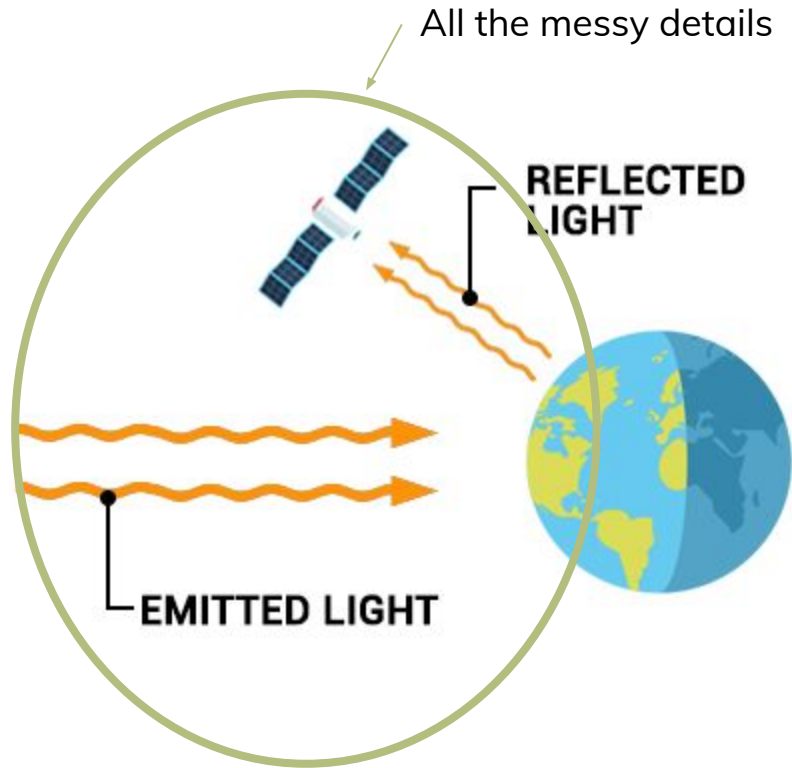
Lots of ways to be a remote sensor, but you are already a remote sensor!

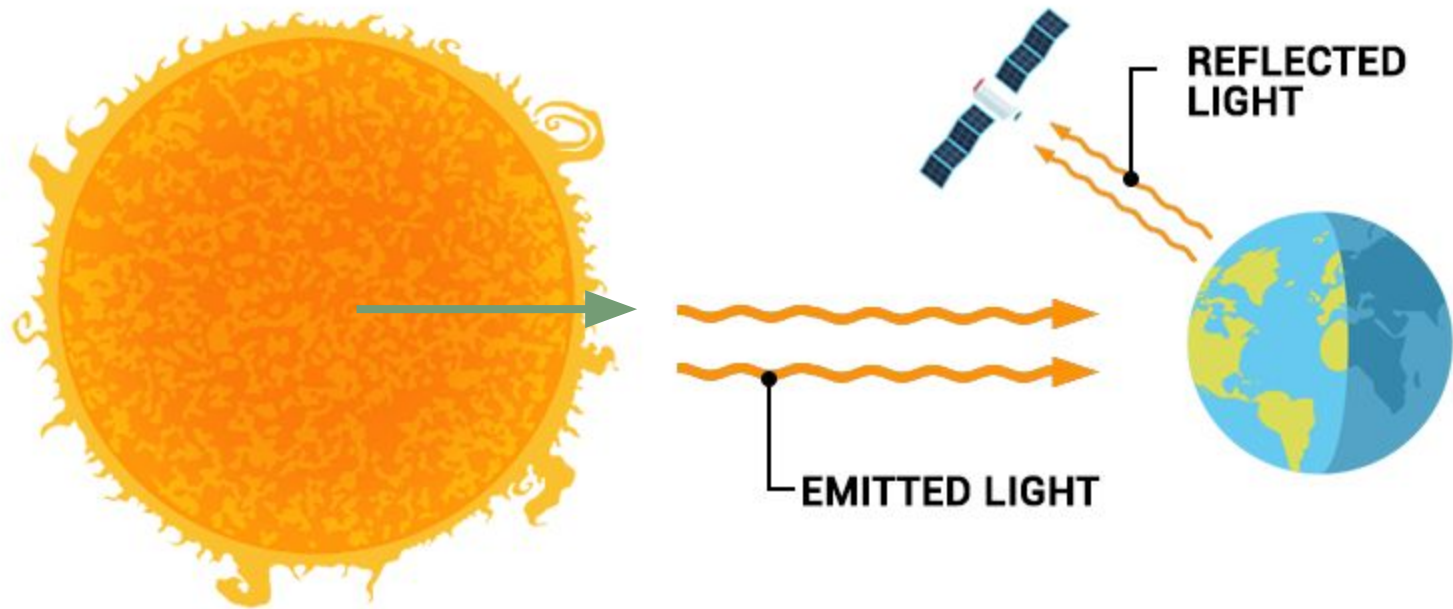
# Energy: passive



# Energy: active







# What is energy?

- Energy is a scalar physical quantity
  - the ability to do work
  - Several different forms of energy exist to explain all known natural phenomena.
    - kinetic, potential, thermal, gravitational, sound, light, elastic, and electromagnetic energy, etc.
- Any form of energy can be transformed into another form, but the total energy always remains the same (conservation of energy).
  - *Energy cannot be destroyed.*

# What is energy?

A **newton** is a measure of force...

$$(F = ma)$$

the force needed to accelerate 1  
kg of mass as the rate of  $1 \text{ m/s}^2$

$$1 \text{ N} = 1 \frac{\text{kg m}}{\text{s}^2}$$

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the energy transferred to (or work done on) an object when a force of 1 N acts on an object through a distance of 1 m

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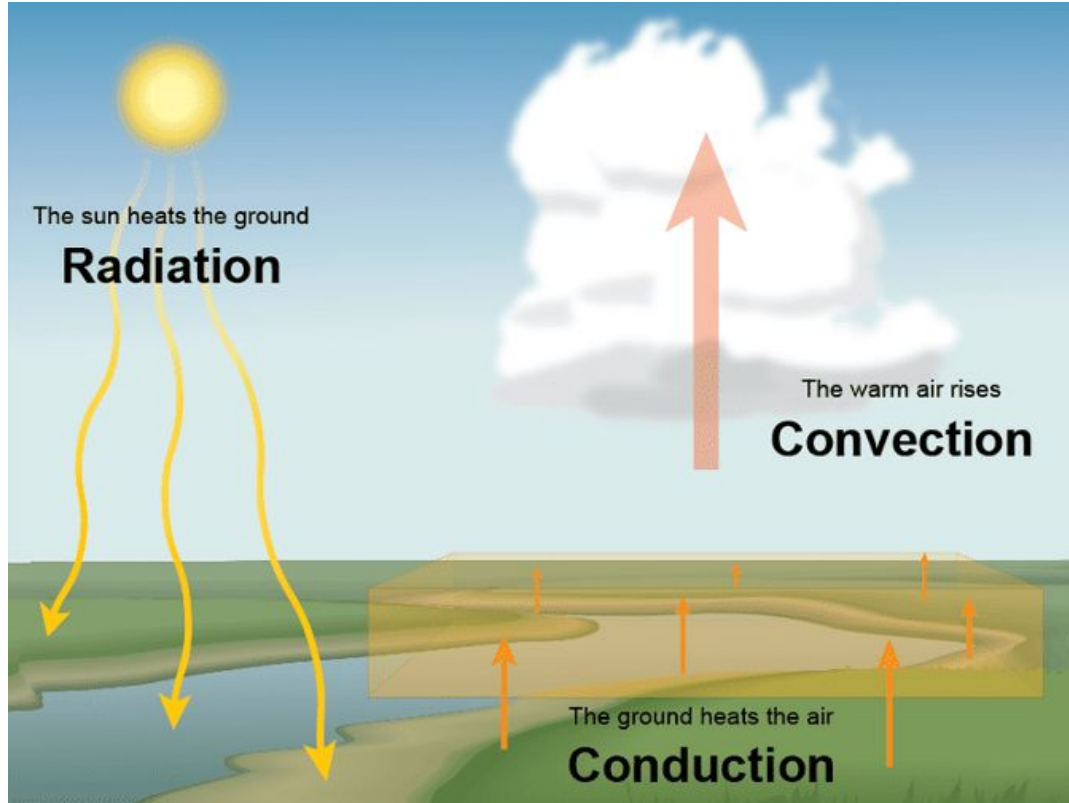
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A **watt** is a measure of power...

the rate of energy transfer

$$\begin{aligned} 1 \text{ W} &= 1 \text{ J/s} \\ &= 1 \frac{\text{kg m}^2}{\text{s}^3} \end{aligned}$$

# Energy transfer



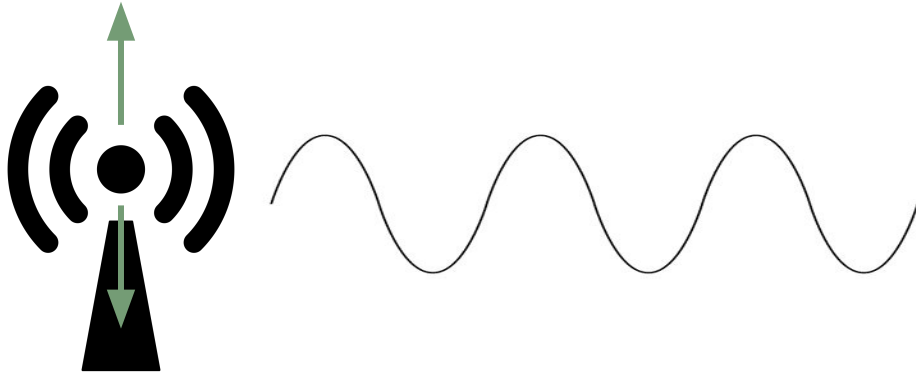
**Conduction:** A body/object transfers its kinetic energy to another by colliding with it.

**Convection:** Kinetic energy transferred by physically moving objects.

**Radiation:** Electromagnetic energy in the form of electromagnetic waves may be transmitted through the vacuum of space from the Sun to the Earth (the only form of energy that can take place in a vacuum).

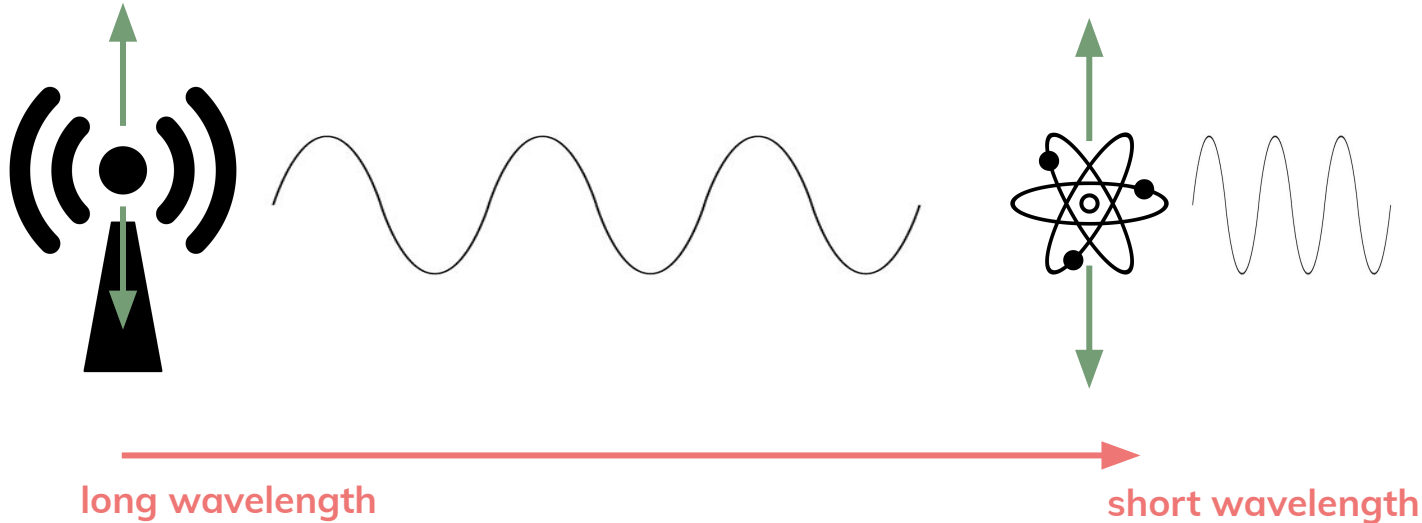
# Electromagnetic radiation

- Generated when a charged particle changes velocity



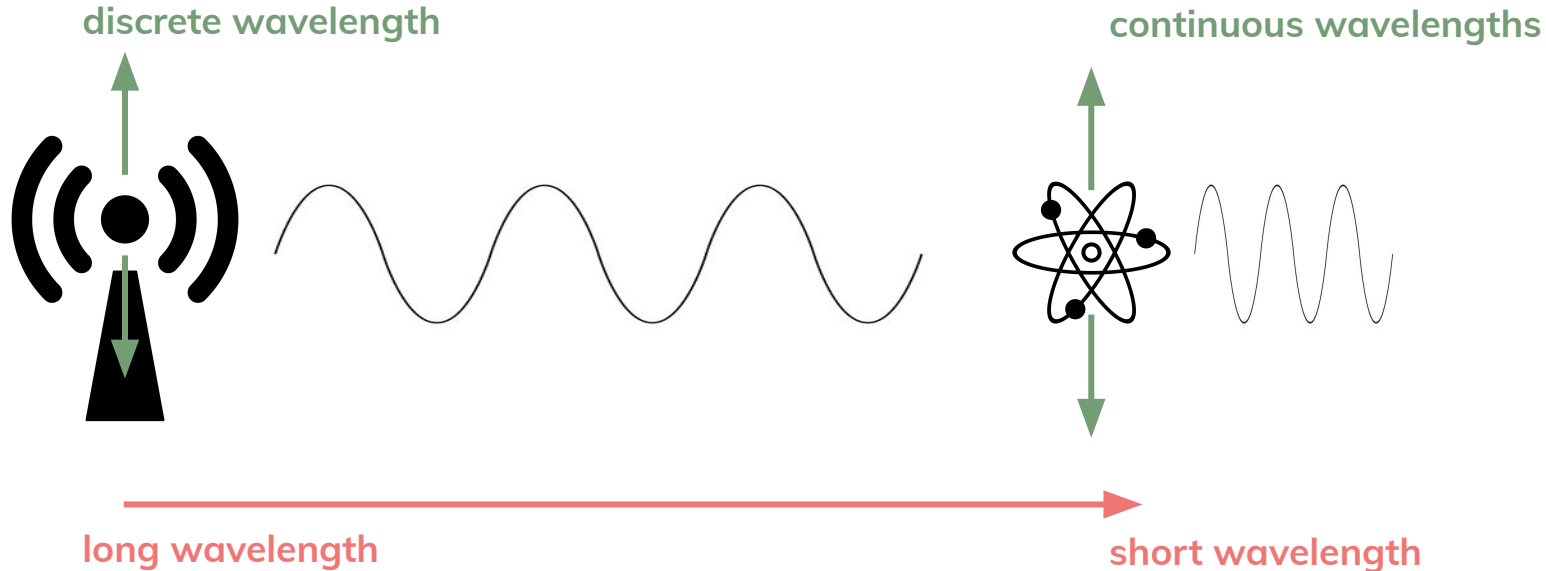
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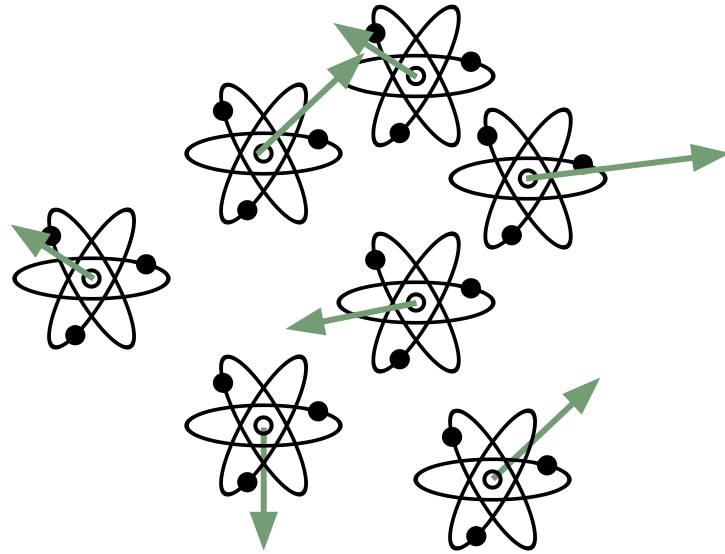
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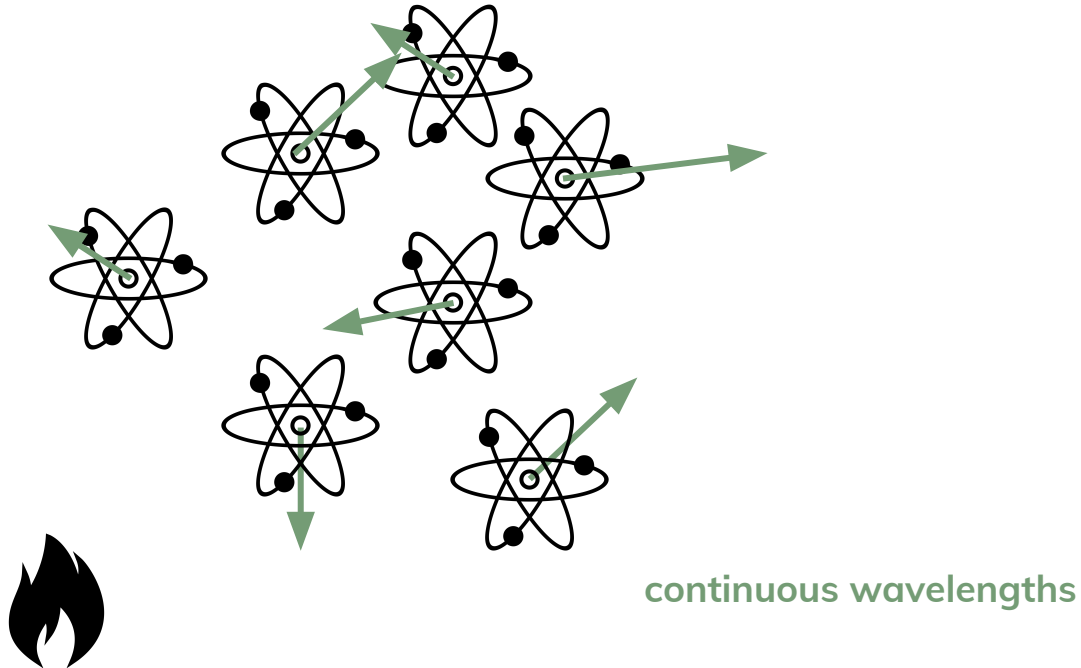
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continuous wavelength

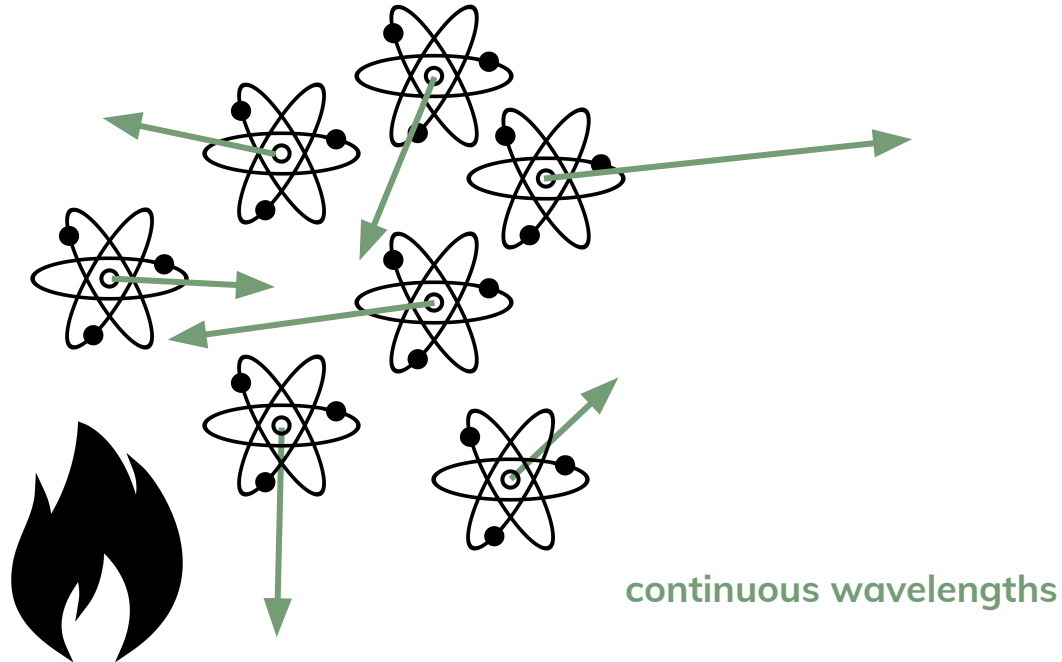
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# Electromagnetic radiation

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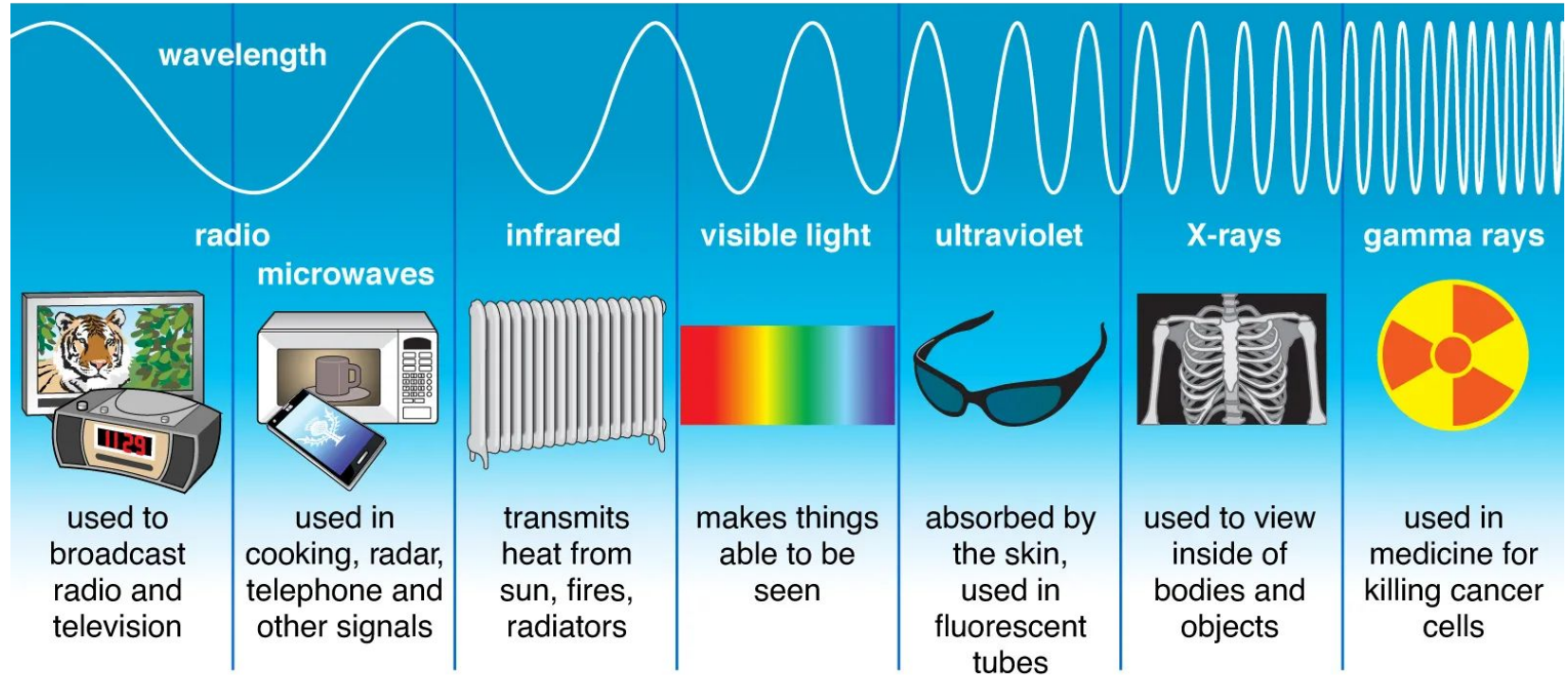




# Electromagnetic radiation



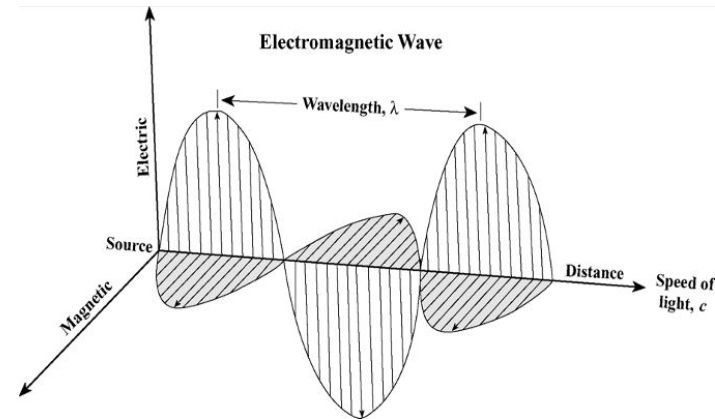
# Wave theory



# Wave theory

- James Maxwell conceptualized electromagnetic radiation (EMR) as an electromagnetic wave that travels through space at the speed of light
  - $c$  ( $3 \times 10^8$  m/s)
- **Wavelength** ( $\lambda$ ) - distance between maximums (or minimums) of a roughly periodic pattern
  - measured in micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) or nanometers (nm).
- **Frequency** ( $\nu$ ) - # of wavelengths that pass a point per unit time
  - measured in cycles per second or Hertz (Hz).

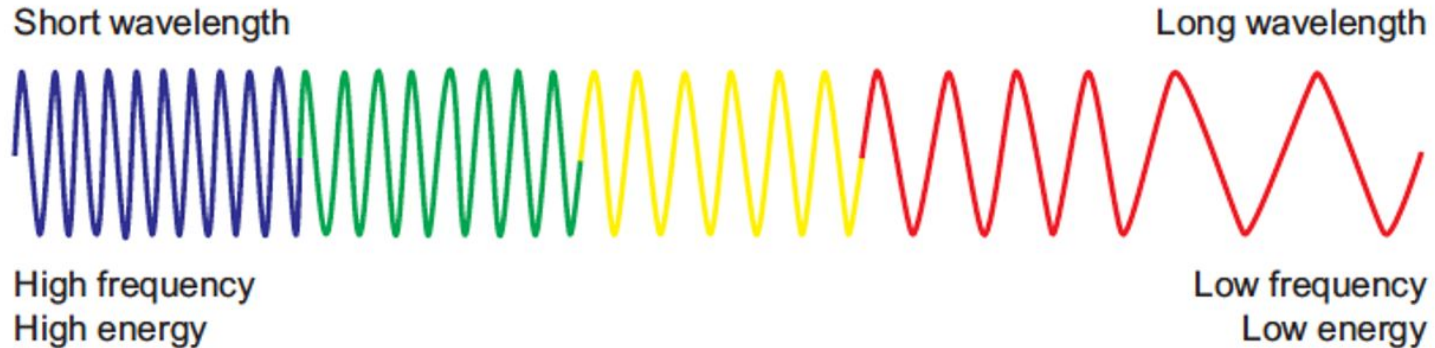
$$c = \lambda \nu$$



# Wave theory

$$c = \lambda \nu$$

- Frequency and wavelength are inversely related
- Passive remote sensing:
  - describes energy in terms of wavelengths
- Active remote sensing:
  - describes energy in terms of frequency



# Energy transfer

**Fact:** All materials with temperature above absolute zero emit radiation

**How much radiation?**

(Stefan-Boltzmann Law)

**What is the dominant wavelength of the radiation?**

(Wien's Displacement Law)

# Wave theory: blackbody

- **Blackbody**
  - a theoretical object which radiates energy with perfect efficiency
  - No radiation passes through it and none is reflected
  - Emits all energy
- **Total emitted radiation from a blackbody**

$$M_{\lambda} = \sigma T^4$$

( $\sigma$  is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant:  $5.6697 \times 10^{-8} \text{W m}^{-2}\text{K}^{-4}$ )

# Wave theory: blackbody

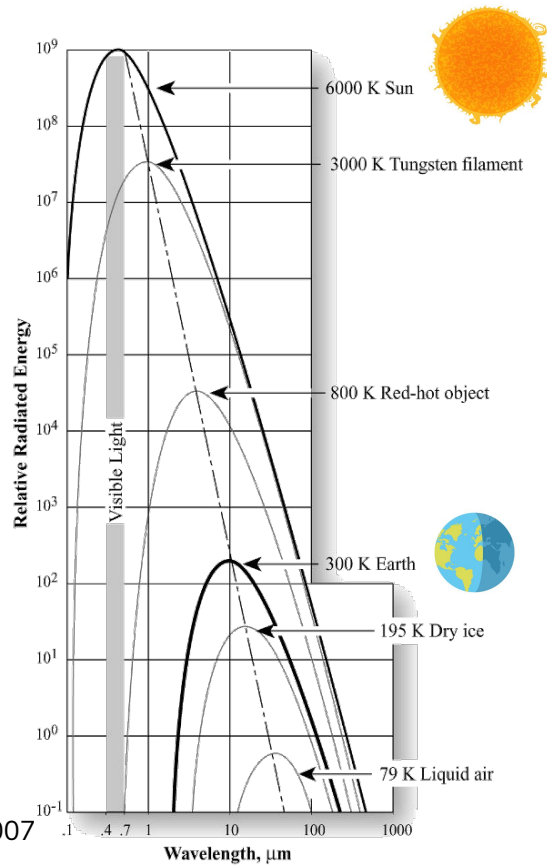
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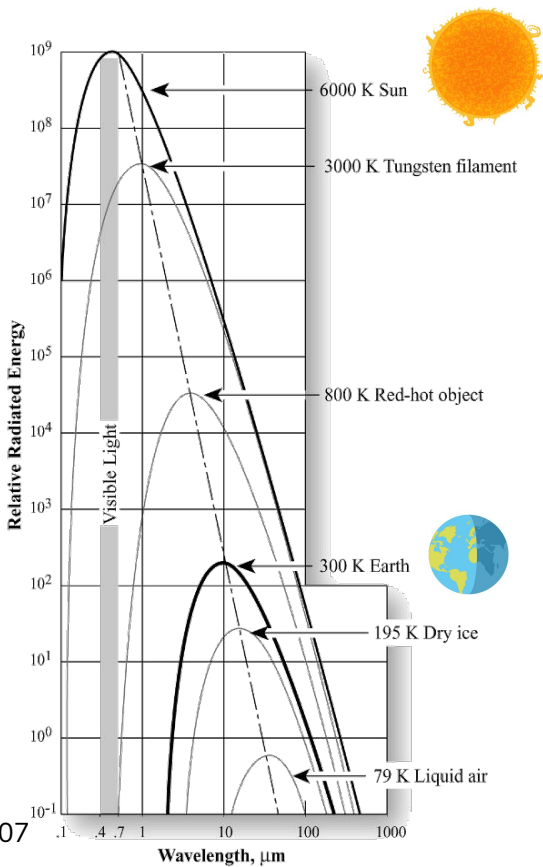
**POINT:** the total amount of radiation energy emitted by an object is proportional to its temperature

# Wave theory: blackbody radiation

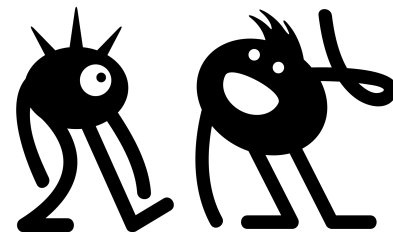




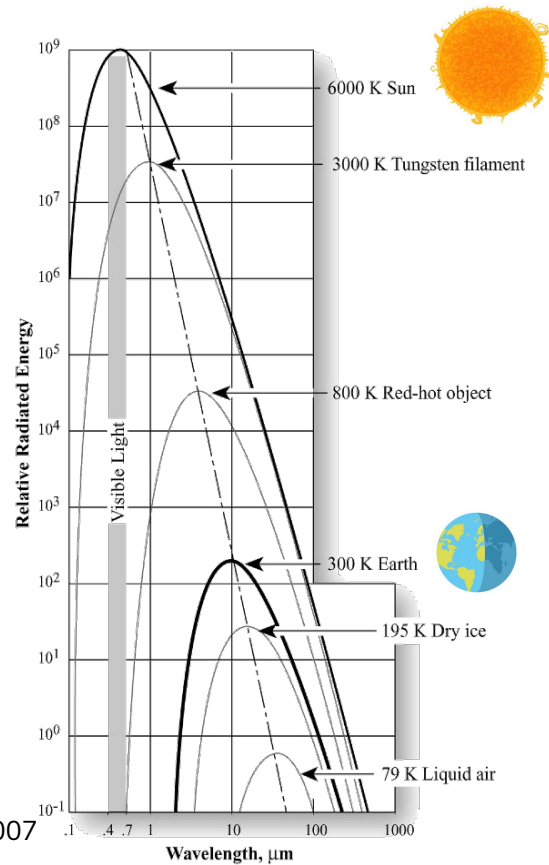
# Wave theory: blackbody radiation



Source: Jensen 2007



# Wave theory: blackbody radiation



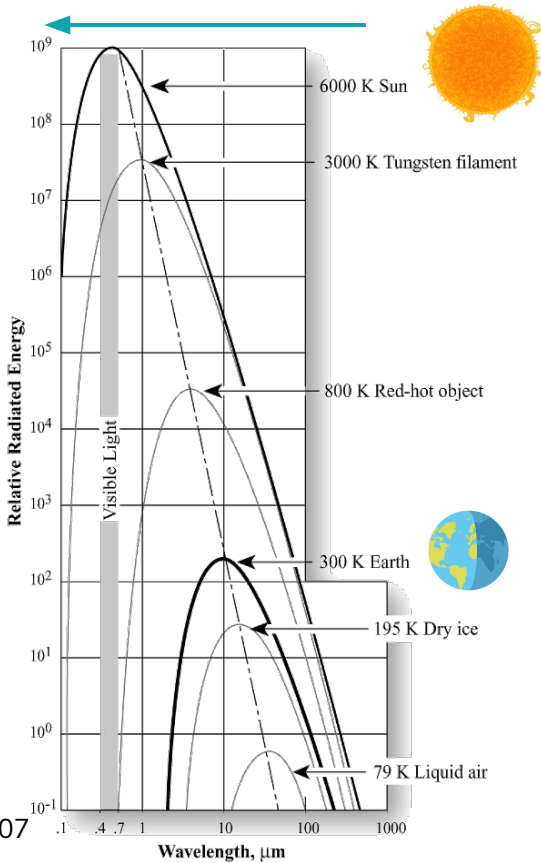
- As **temperature** increases, **radiated energy** increases
  - Total energy emitted is equal to the area under the curve

**temperature**

**radiated energy**

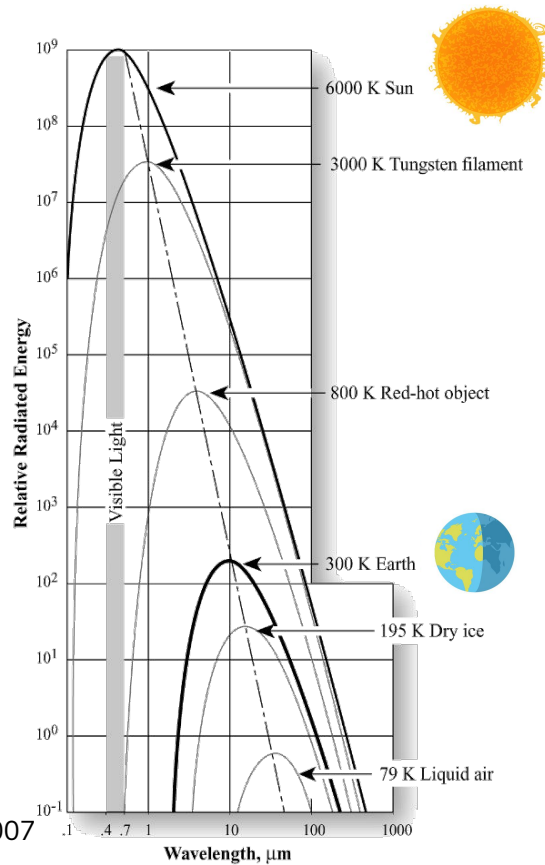
# Wave theory: blackbody radiation

dominant wavelength



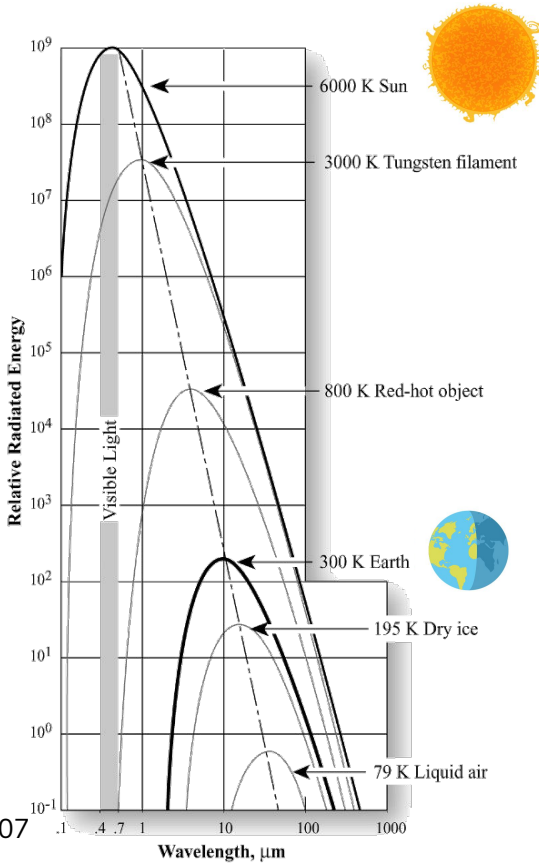
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# Wave theory: blackbody radiation



- As **temperature** increases, **radiated energy** increases
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- As **temperature** increases, the **dominant wavelength** of the radiation decreases
  - Wien's Displacement Law

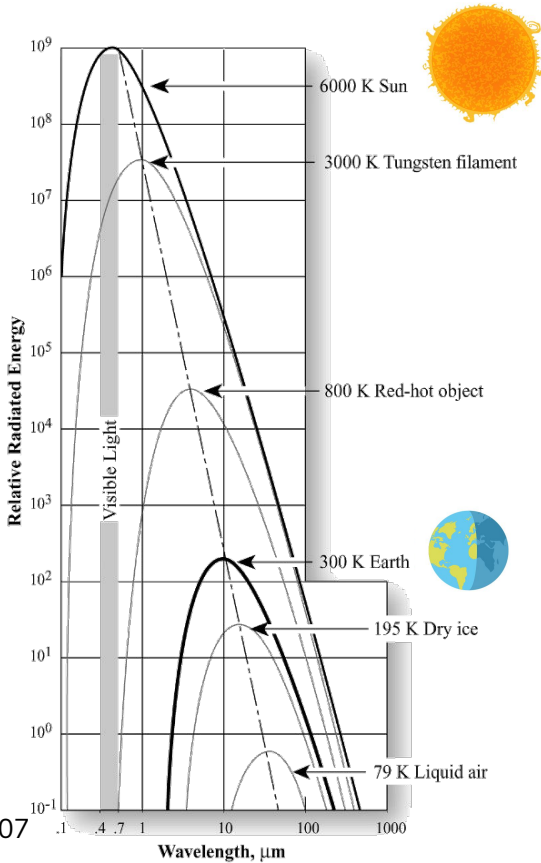
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$$\lambda_{\max} = \frac{k}{T} \quad k = 2898 \mu\text{m K}$$

# Wave theory: blackbody radiation

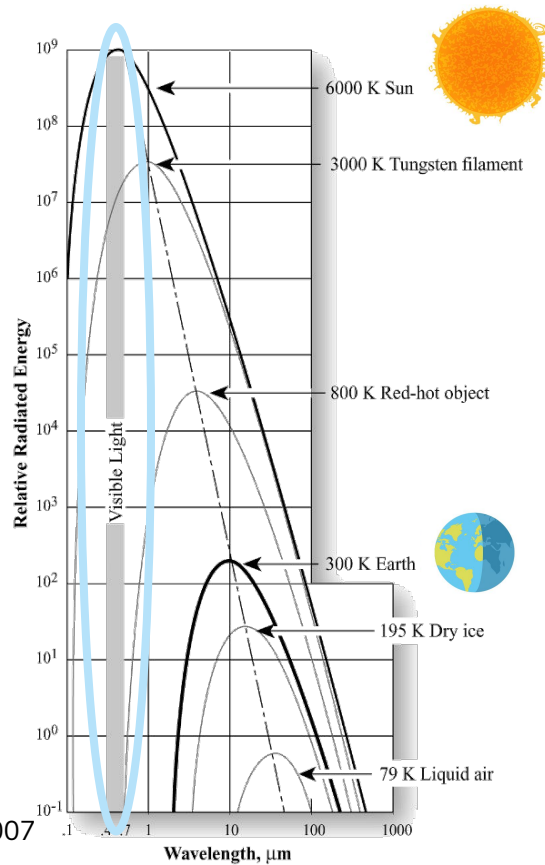


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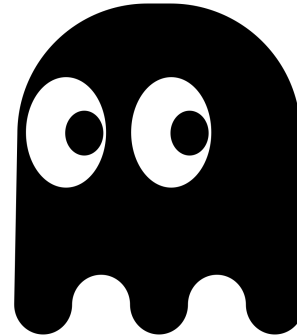
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# Wave theory: blackbody radiation



- The Sun produces 41% of its energy between 0.4 and 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$  (blue to red light)
- Human eyes are only sensitive to light between 0.4 and 0.7  $\mu\text{m}$



# Wave theory: Stefan-Boltzmann

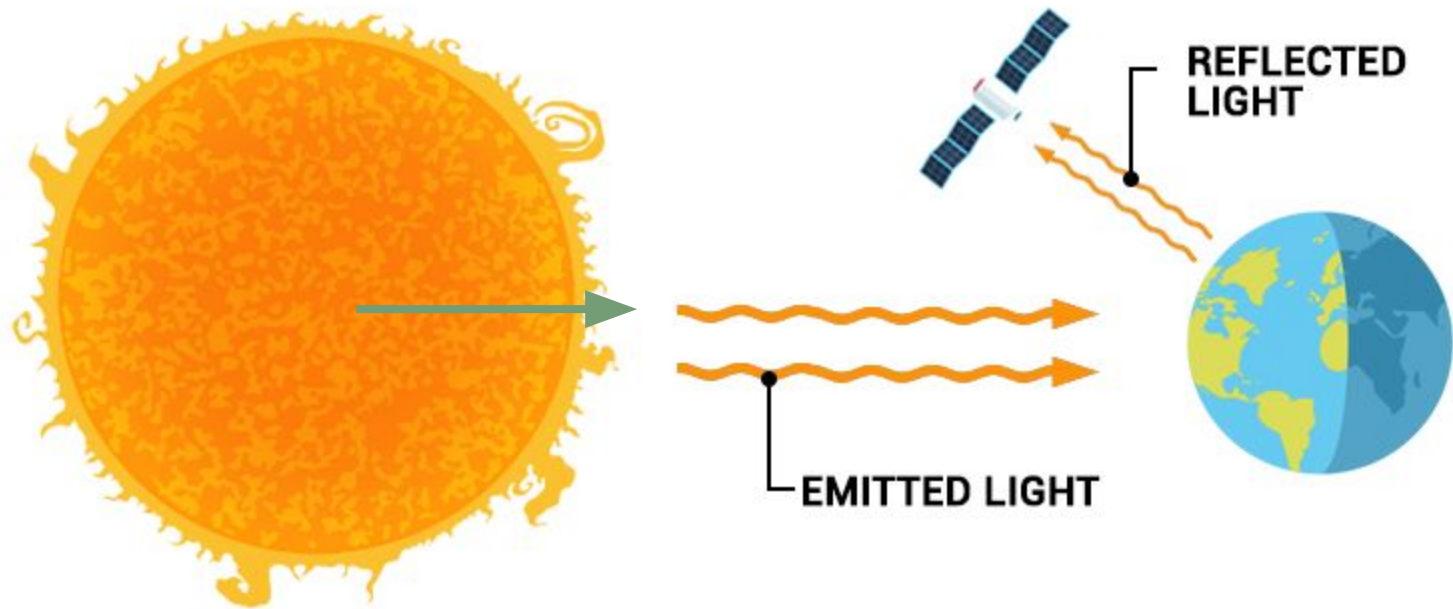
- **Very few objects on Earth are blackbodies**
  - Instead, we need to know an object's ability to radiate energy
  - emissivity ( $\epsilon$ ): scale of 0 to 1, where a blackbody's emissivity is 1

$$M_{\lambda} = \sigma T^4 \epsilon$$

( $\sigma$  is the Stefan-Boltzmann constant:  $5.6697 \times 10^{-8} \text{W m}^{-2}\text{K}^{-4}$ )

**POINT:** the total amount of radiation energy emitted by an object is proportional to its temperature, and modified by its emissivity





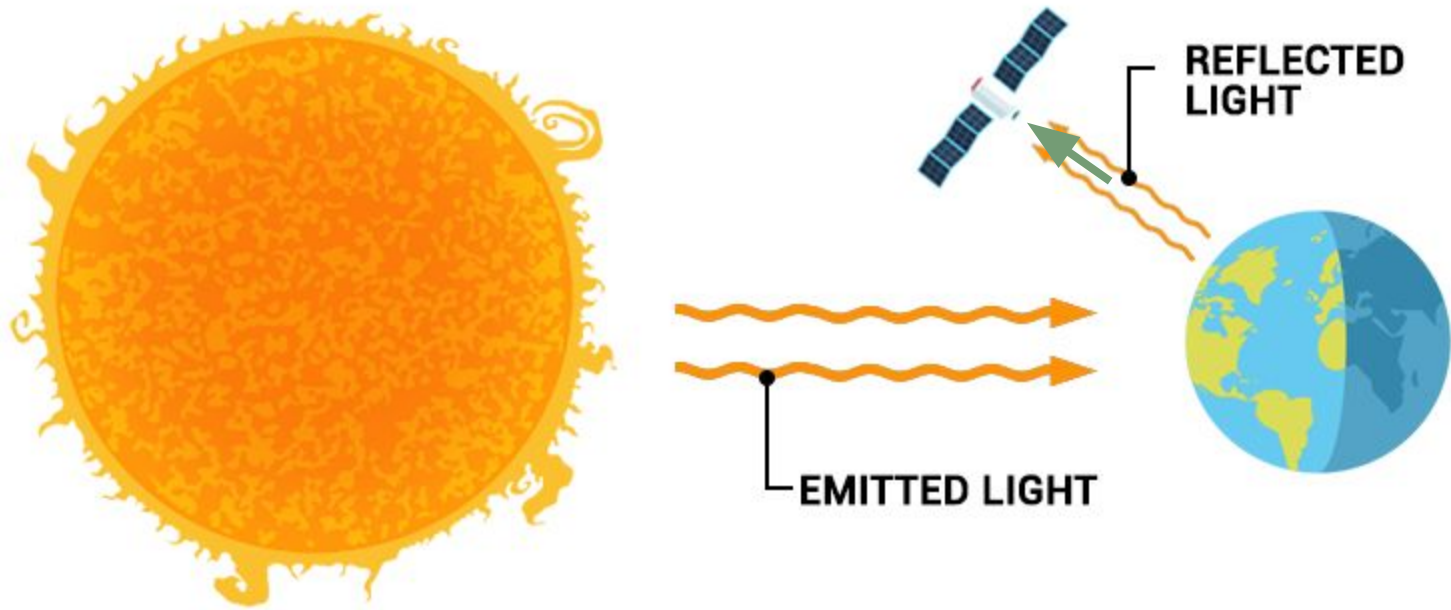
# Particle model

- **Niels Bohr and Max Planck proposed the quantum theory of electromagnetic radiation:**
  - Energy is transferred in discrete packets called quanta or photons
- **We can relate the wave and particle models**
  - The energy of a quantum (Q, measured in joules) is related to the frequency of the radiation ( $\nu$ )

$$Q = h\nu$$

( $h$  is the Planck constant:  $6.63 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J s}^{-1}$ )

All remote sensing instruments, including cameras, measure the energy of photons, not of waves



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# Measuring energy

	Term	Symbol	Units
	Radiant energy	Q	J (Joules)
	Radiant flux	$\phi$	W (Watts, J/s)
Radiant flux density	Irradiance	E	W/m <sup>2</sup>
	Radiant exitance	M	W/m <sup>2</sup>
	Radiance	L	W/m <sup>2</sup> sr

Capacity for radiation within a specified spectral band to do work

# Measuring energy

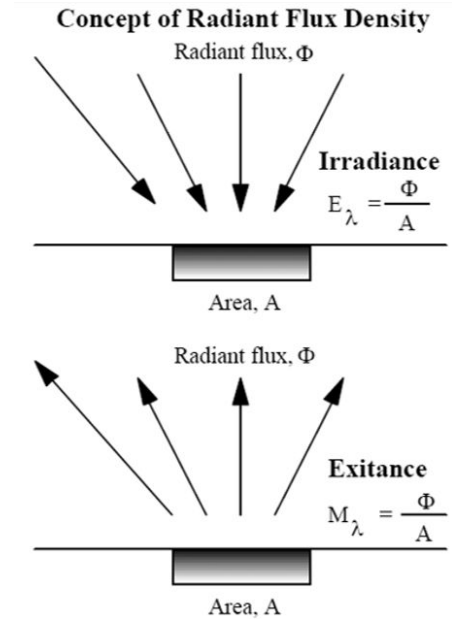
	Term	Symbol	Units	
	Radiant energy	$Q$	J (Joules)	
	Radiant flux	$\phi$	W (Watts, J/s)	Time rate of energy onto, off of, or through a surface
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	Radiant flux	$\phi$	W (Watts, J/s)	
Radiant flux density	Irradiance	$E$	$W/m^2$	Radiant flux upon a surface per unit area
	Radiant exitance	$M$	$W/m^2$	Radiant flux leaving a surface per unit area
	Radiance	$L$	$W/m^2sr$	

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Remote sensing is the quantification and study of radiance.

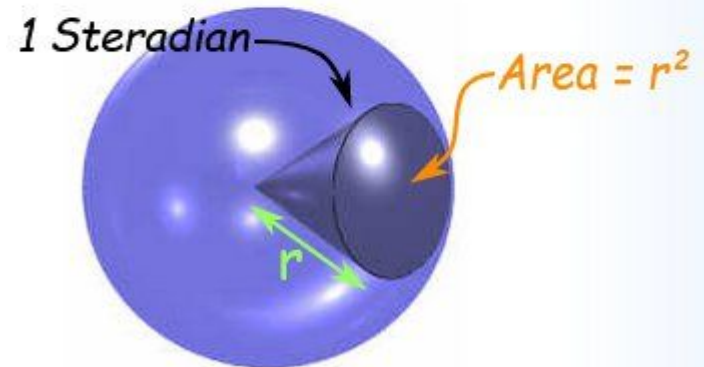
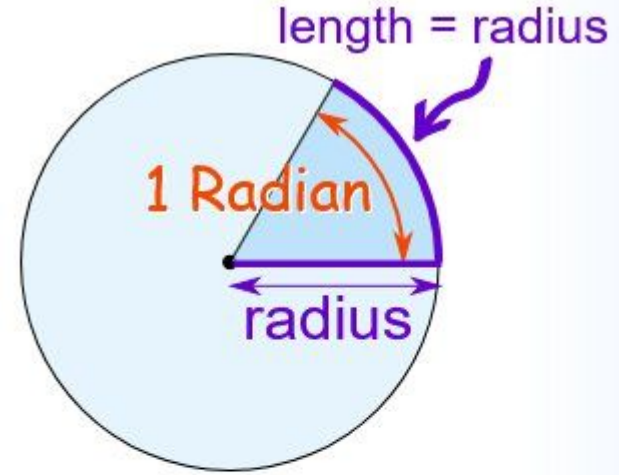
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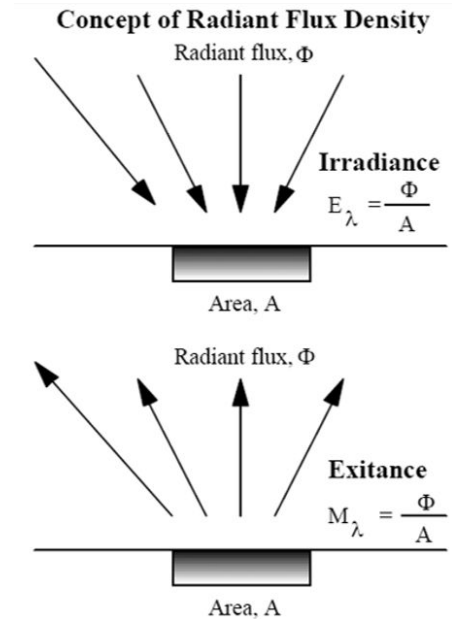
# Measuring energy: steradians

- An angle in radians, projected onto a circle, gives a length
- A solid angle in steradians, projected onto a sphere, gives an area on the surface

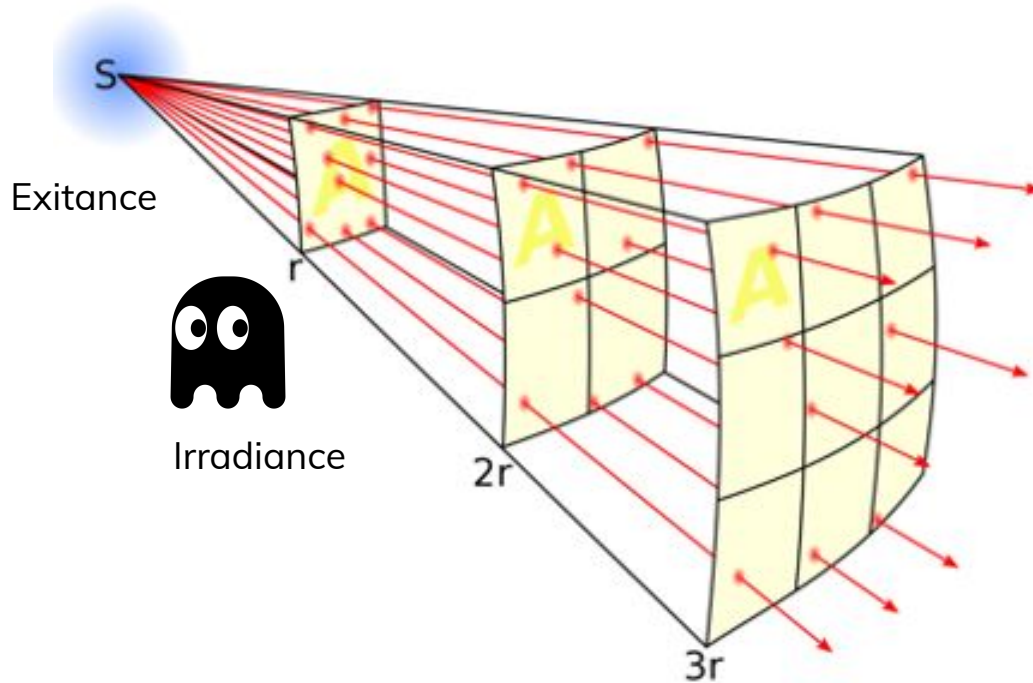


# Measuring energy: exitance, irradiance, and radiance

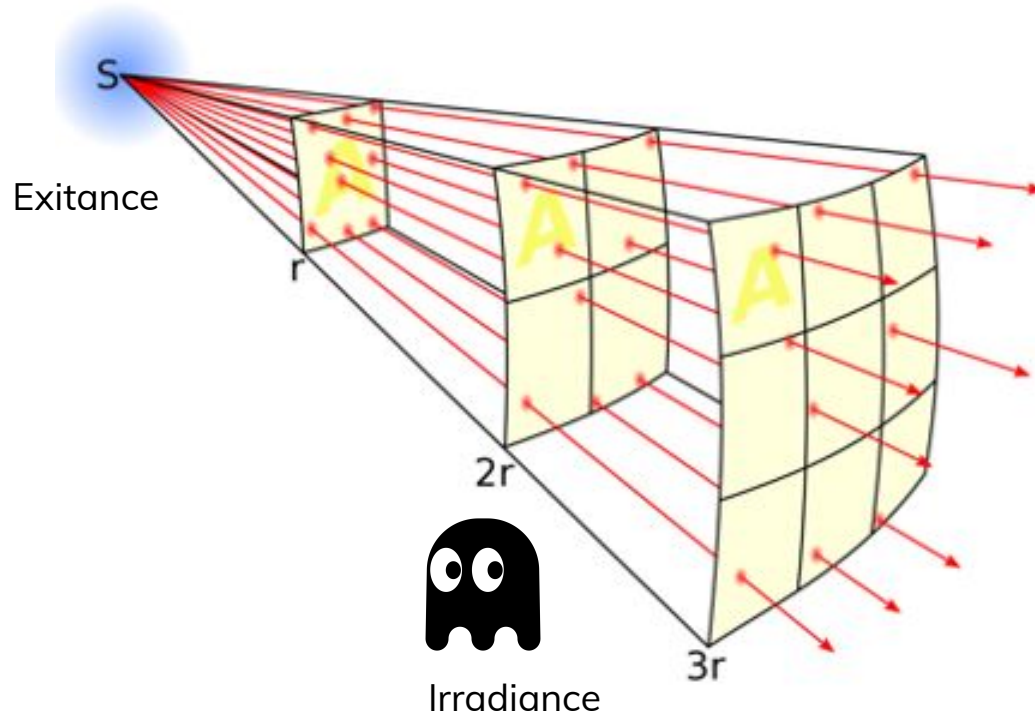
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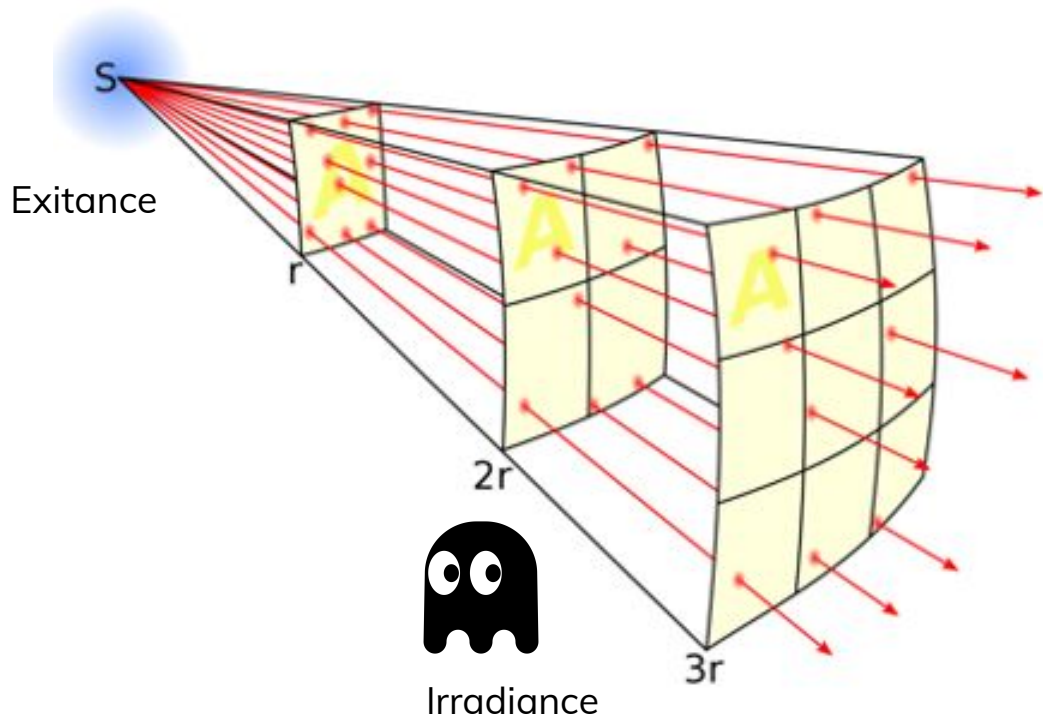
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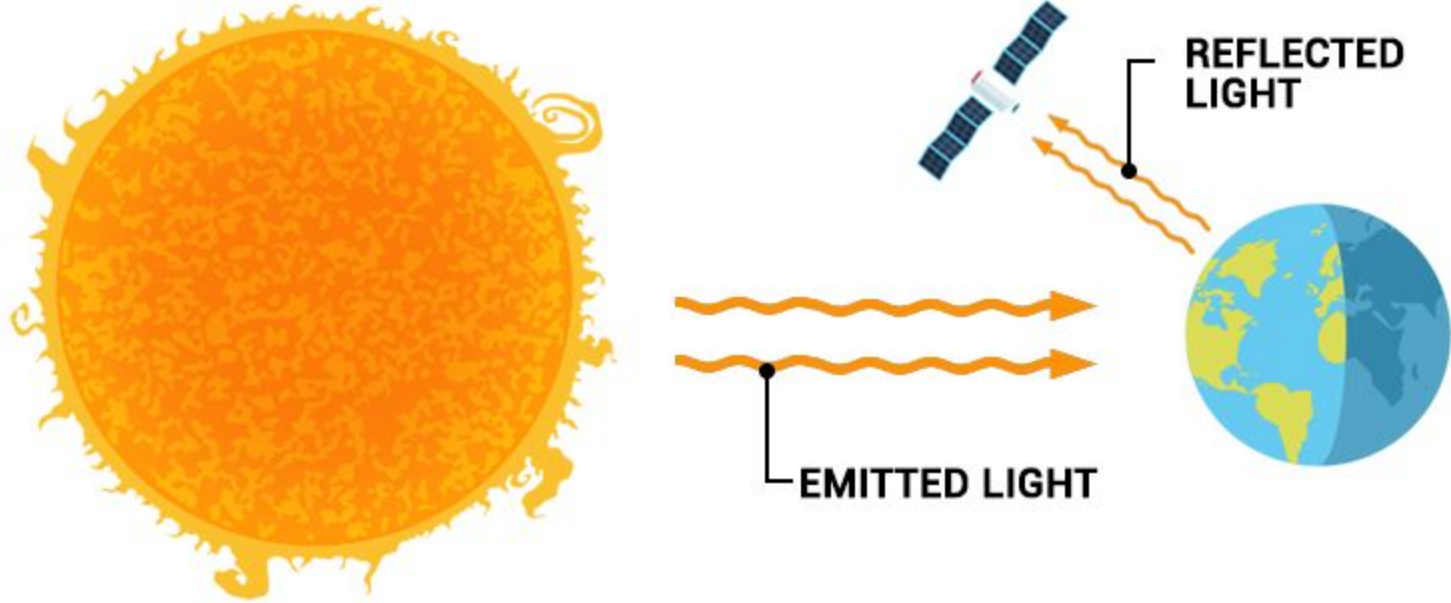


# Measuring energy: irradiance vs. radiance



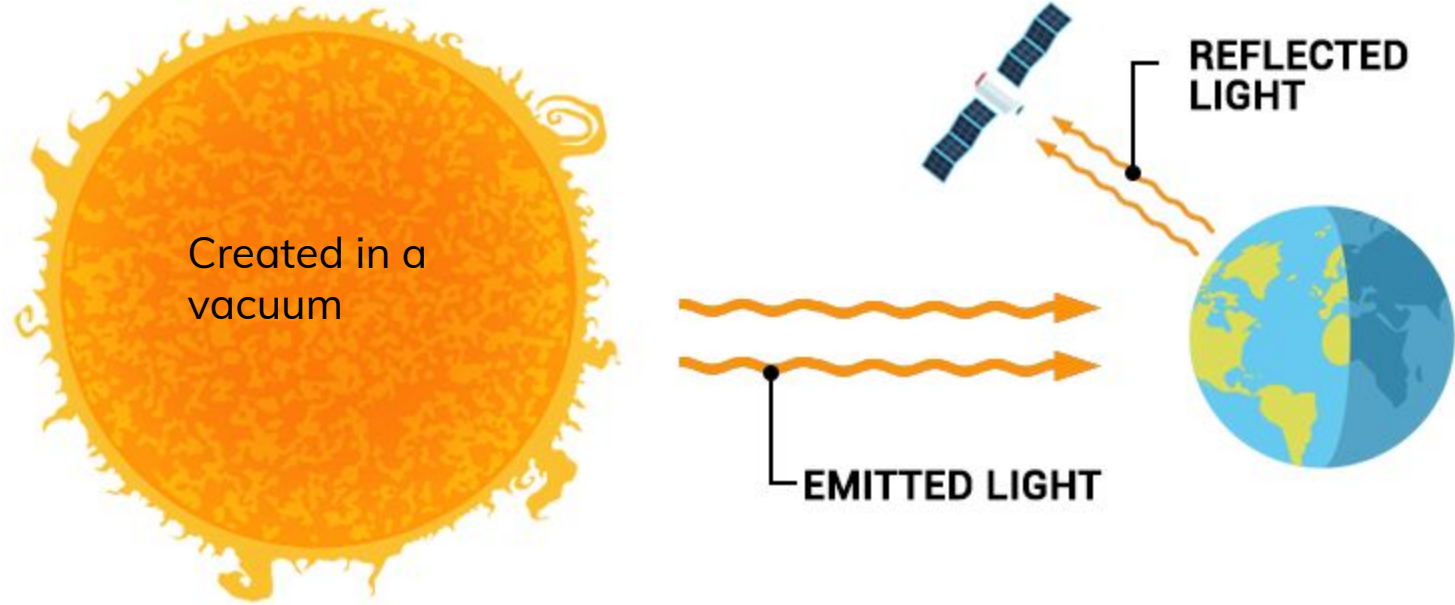
- Even when exitance stays constant, irradiance falls off with distance
- Normalizing by steradian means that radiance stays constant
  - Radiance does not change with distance
  - Makes remote sensing possible!

# Radiation budget

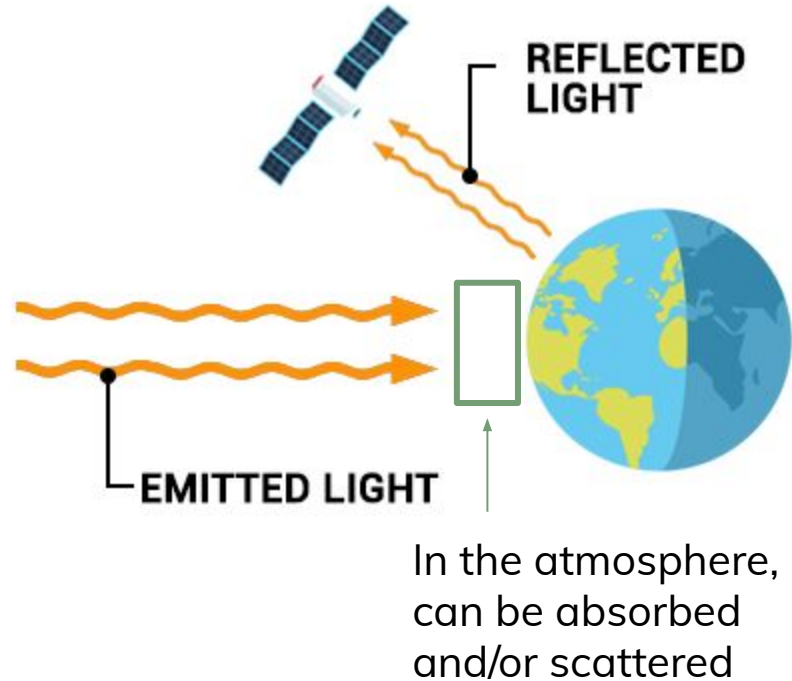
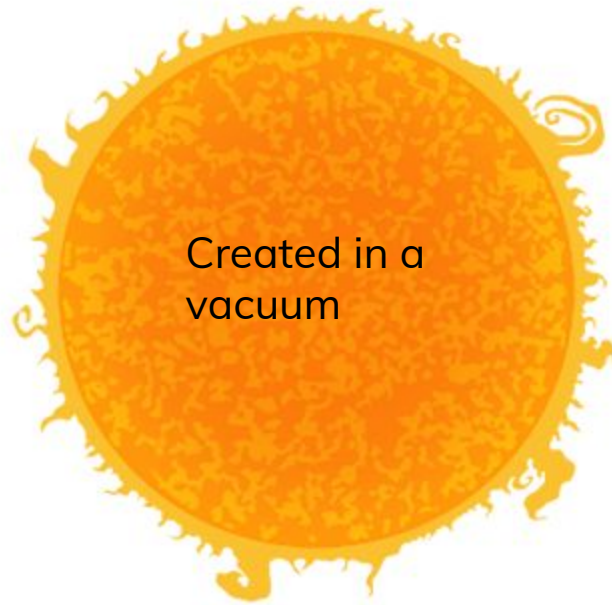




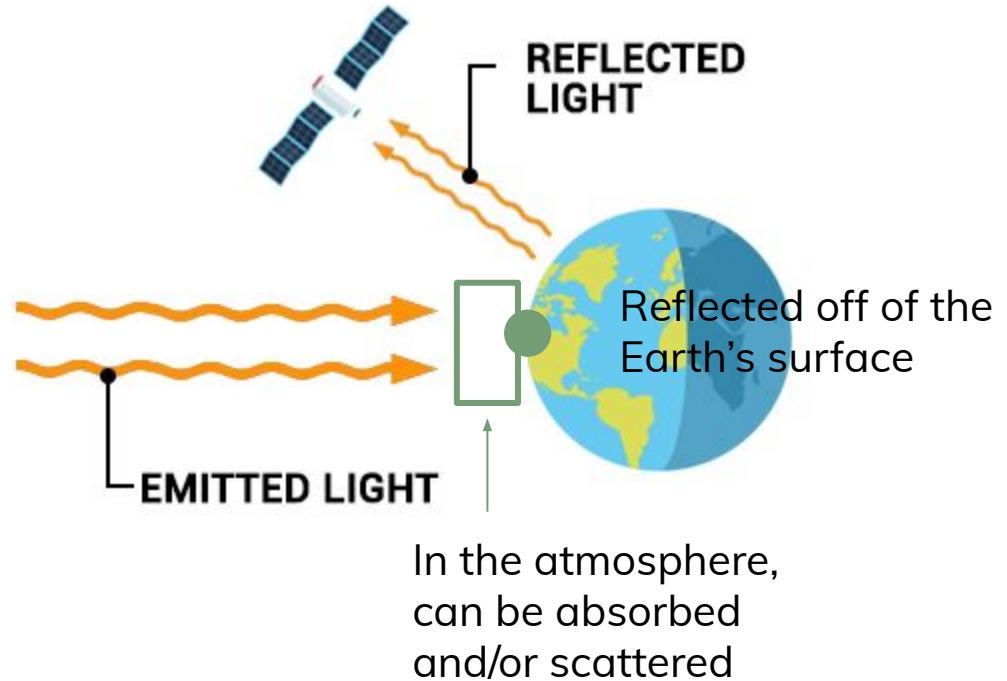
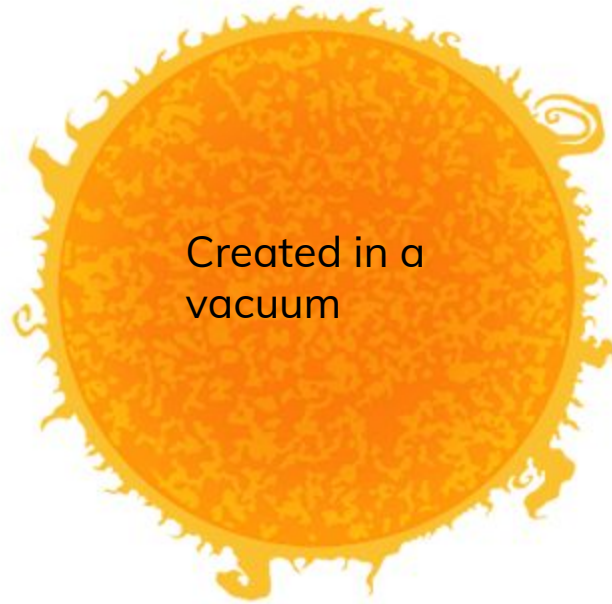
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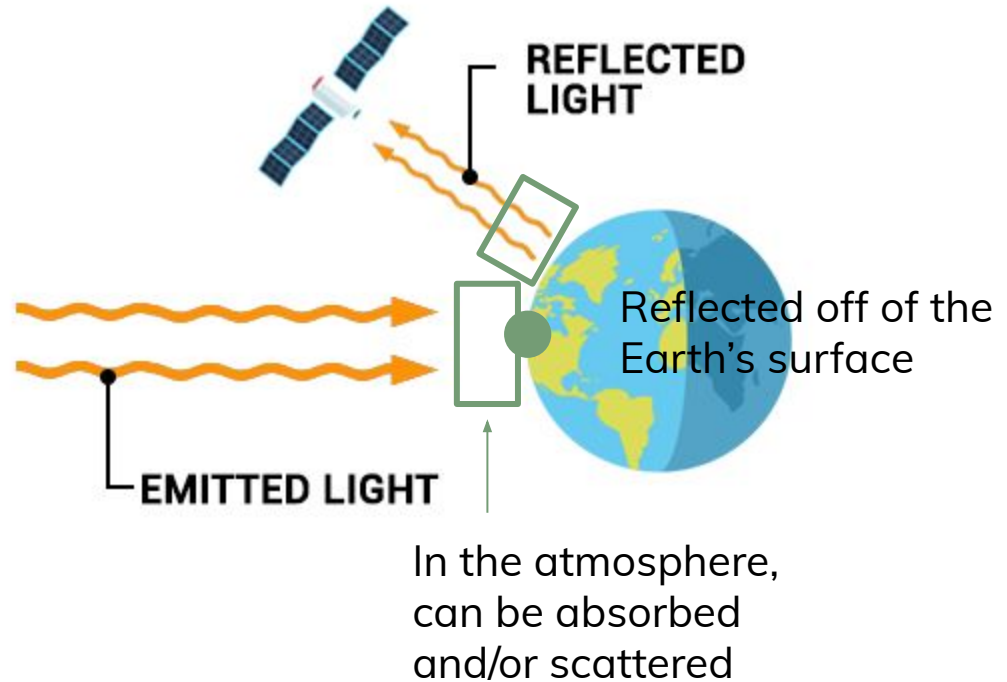
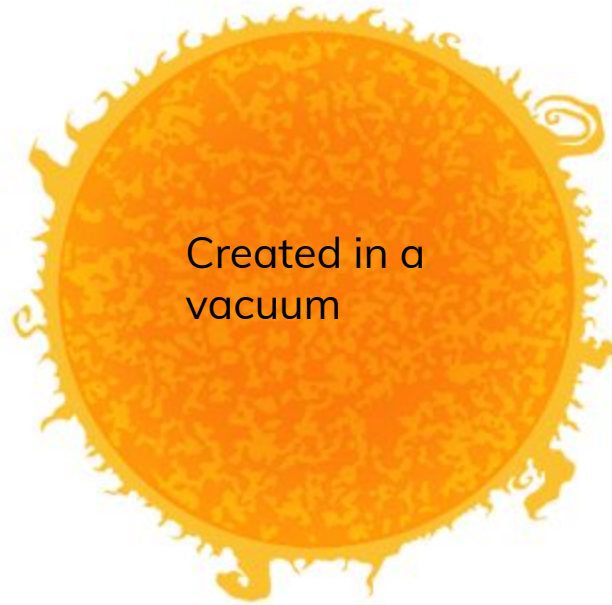
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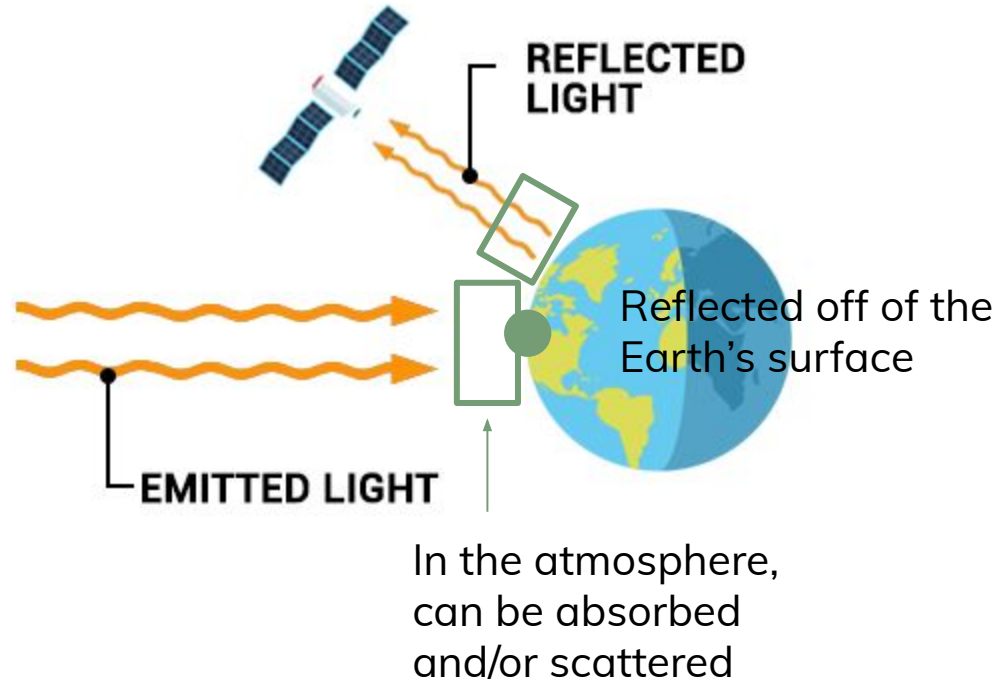
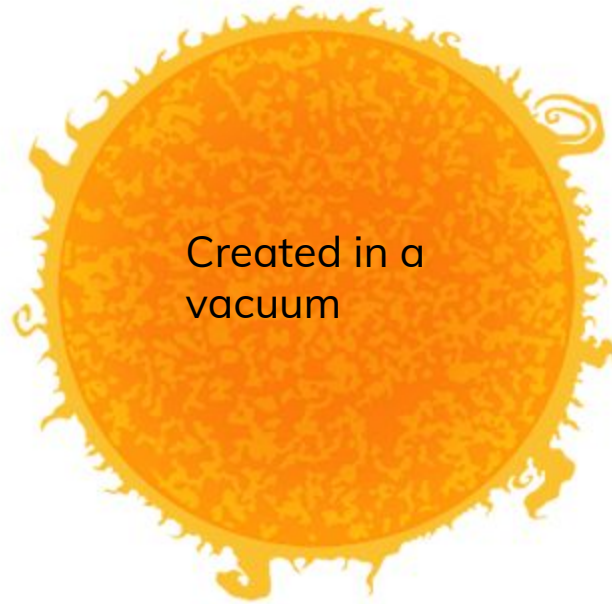
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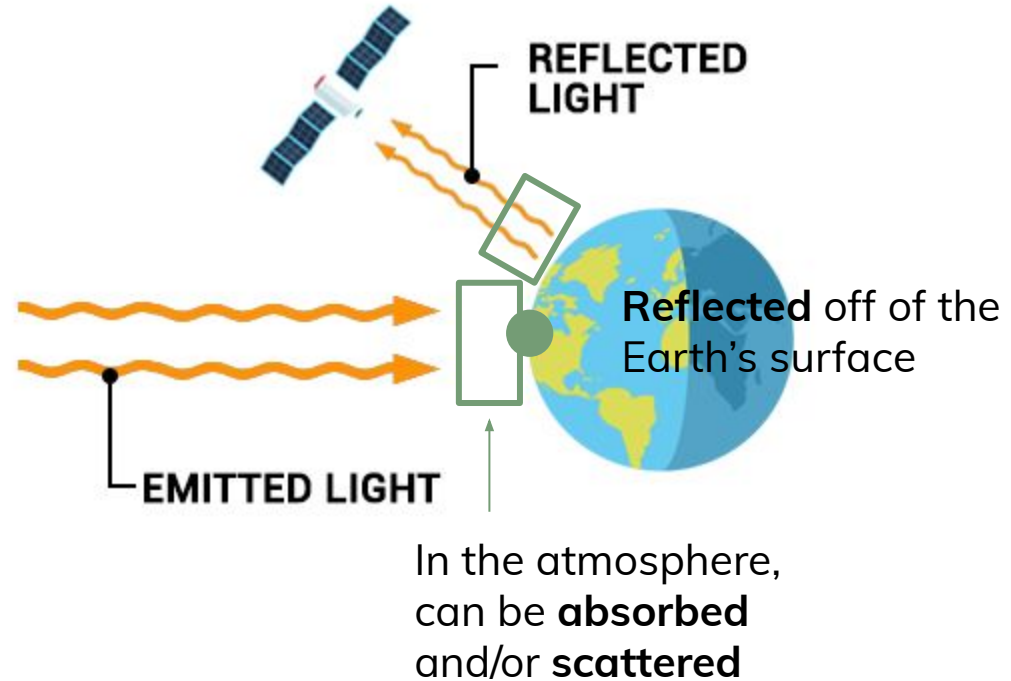
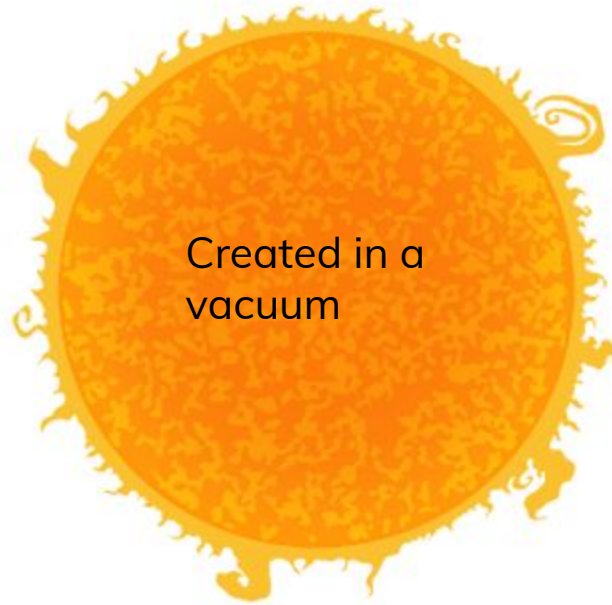


# Radiation budget



By passing through media of different densities, can be refracted

# Radiation budget



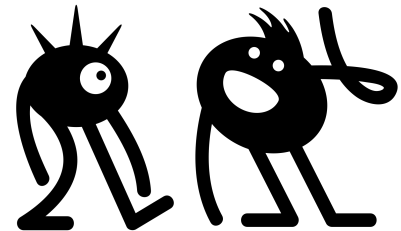
By passing through media of different densities, can be **refracted**

# Absorption

- The process by which radiant energy is absorbed and converted into other forms of energy

# Absorption

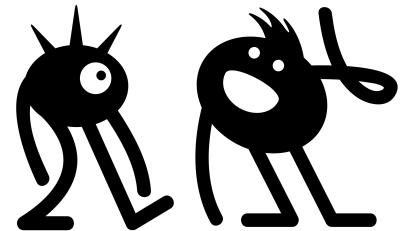
- The process by which radiant energy is absorbed and converted into other forms of energy
- Name the top 3 atmospheric constituents which absorb radiation:



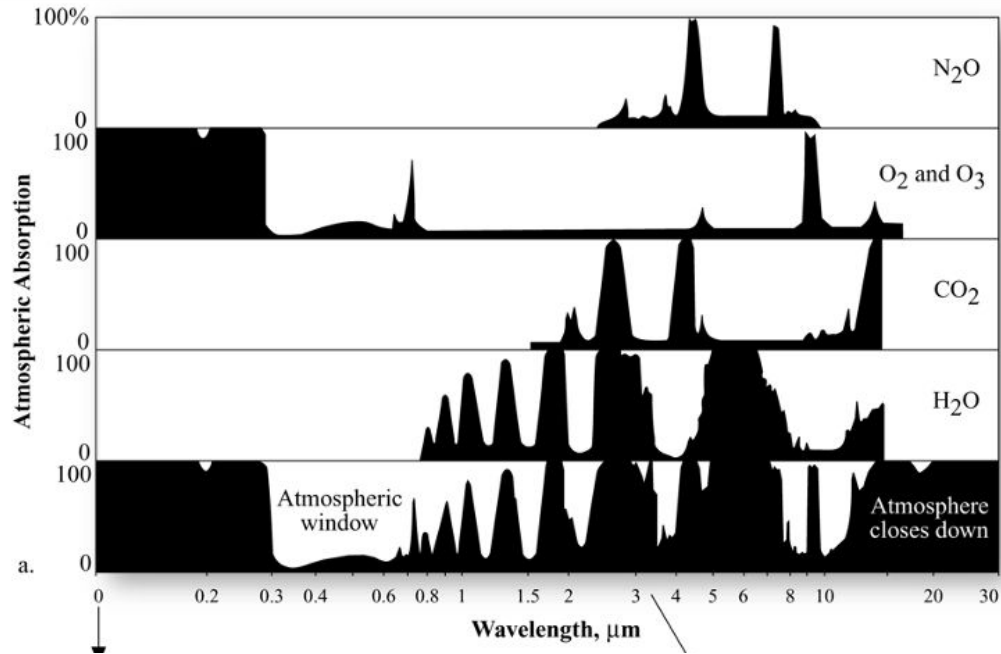


# Absorption

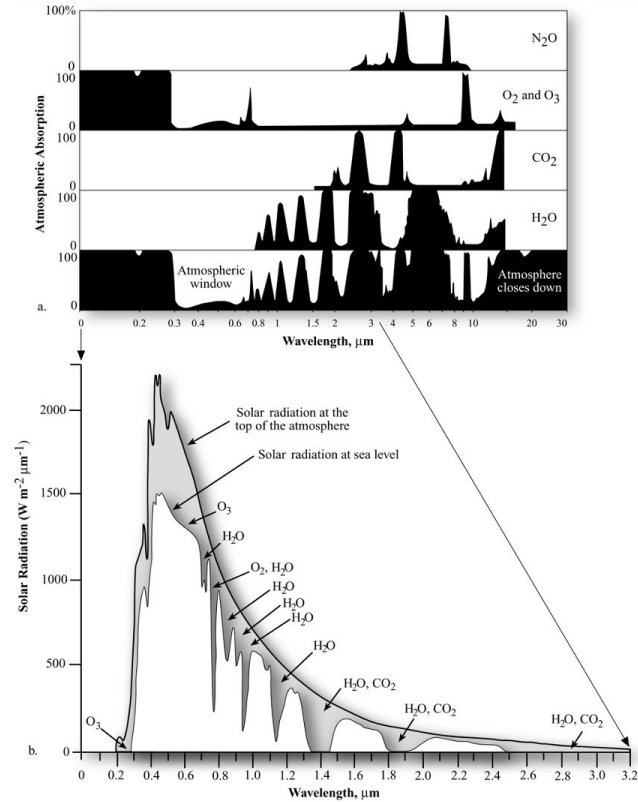
- The process by which radiant energy is absorbed and converted into other forms of energy
- Name the top 3 atmospheric constituents which absorb radiation:
  - Ozone
  - Carbon dioxide
  - Water vapor



# Absorption



# Absorption

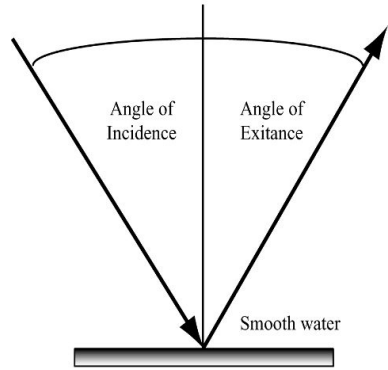


# Reflectance

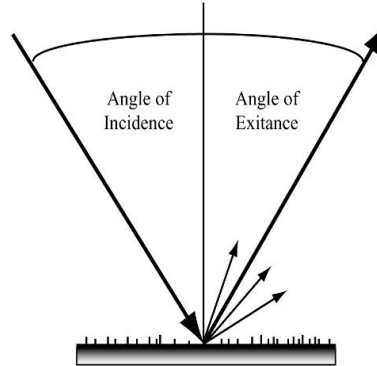
- The process whereby radiation “bounces off” an object and experiences no change in wavelength or frequency

# Reflectance

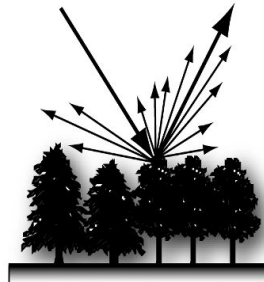
## Specular versus Diffuse Reflectance



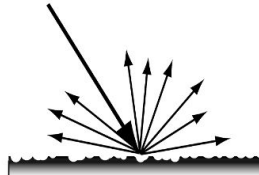
a. Perfect specular reflector.



b. Near-perfect specular reflector.

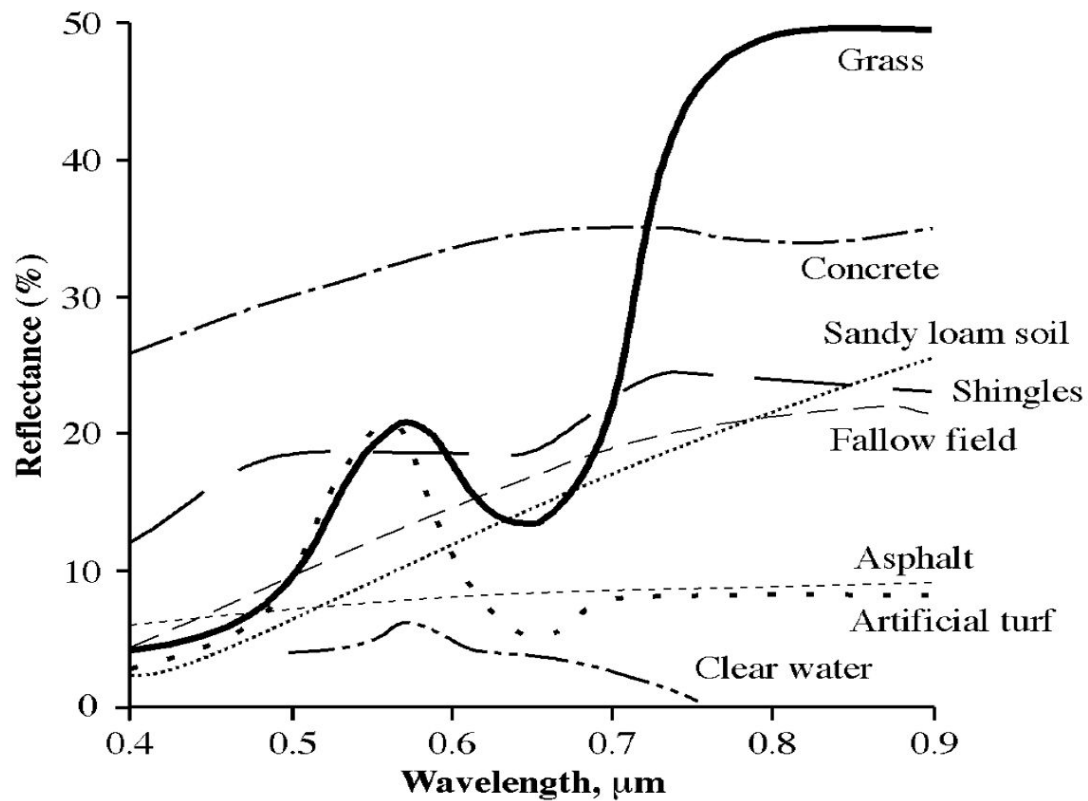


c. Near-perfect diffuse reflector.



d. Perfect diffuse reflector, or Lambertian surface.

# Reflectance



# Scattering

- Reflectance in an *unpredictable* manner
- Amount of scattering depends on:
  - Amount and size of particles or gases radiation is interacting with
  - Wavelength of radiation
  - Distance that radiant energy travels through atmosphere

# Scattering

## Three types of scattering:

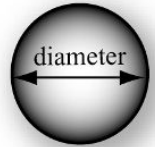
- **Rayleigh scattering**
  - Particle size  $\ll \lambda_{\text{light}}$
  - Highly dependent on wavelength
- **Mie scattering**
  - Particle size  $\sim \lambda_{\text{light}}$
  - Not strongly dependent on wavelength
- **Non-selective scattering**
  - Particle size  $\gg \lambda_{\text{light}}$

## Atmospheric Scattering


### Rayleigh Scattering

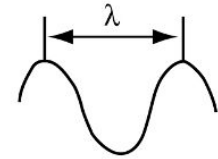
a.  Gas molecule

### Mie Scattering

b.  Smoke, dust

### Nonselective Scattering

c.  Water vapor

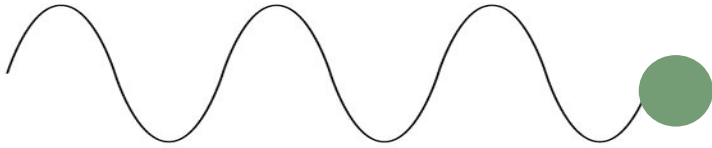


Photon of electromagnetic energy modeled as a wave



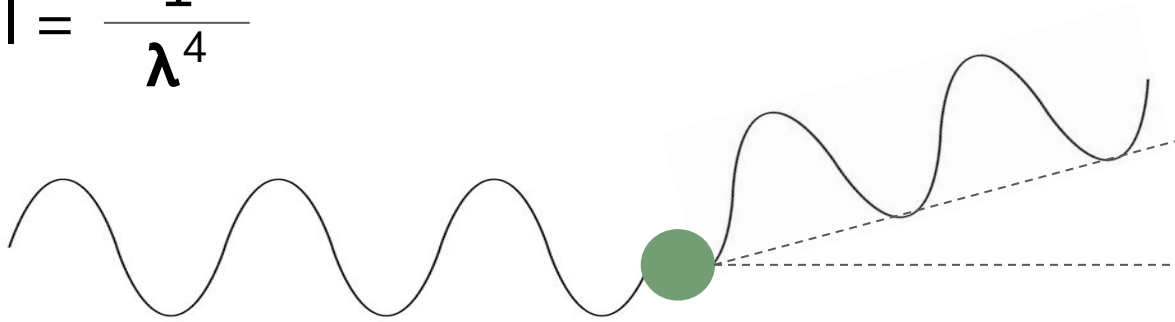
# Rayleigh scattering

$$I = \frac{1}{\lambda^4}$$



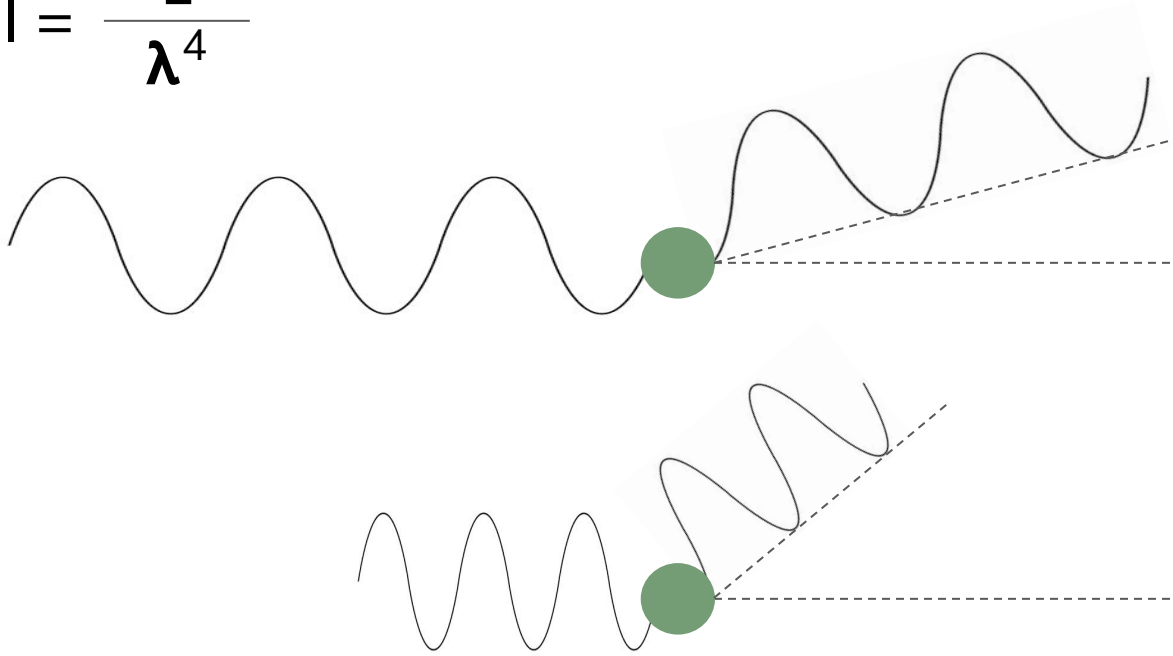
# Rayleigh scattering

$$I = \frac{1}{\lambda^4}$$



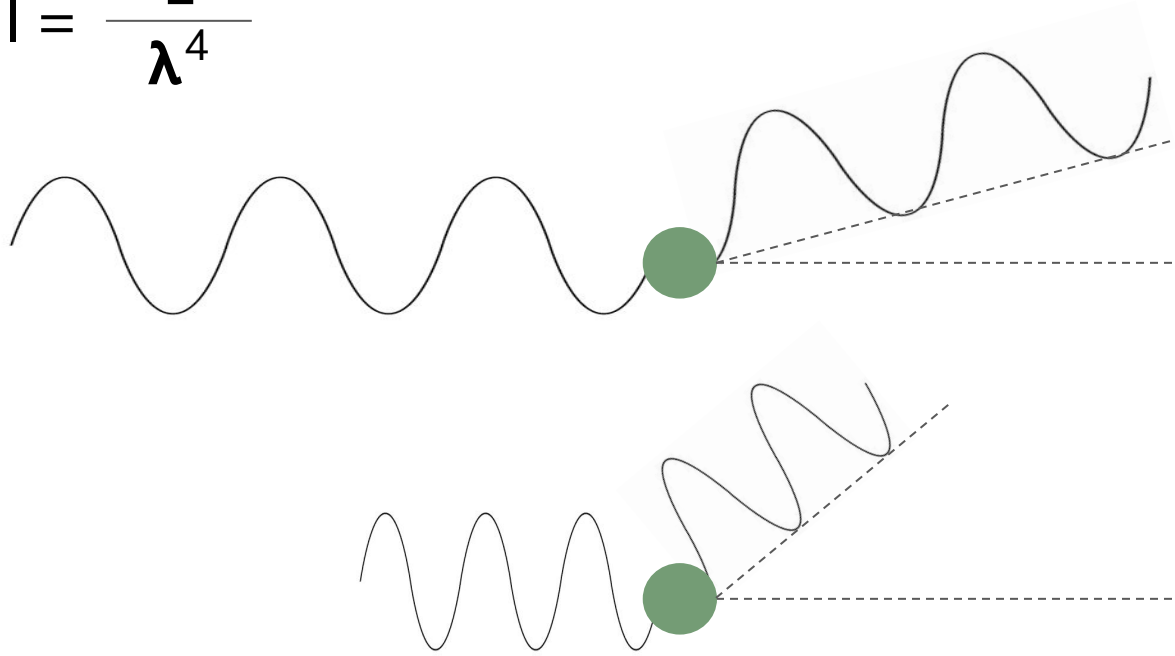
# Rayleigh scattering

$$I = \frac{1}{\lambda^4}$$



# Rayleigh scattering

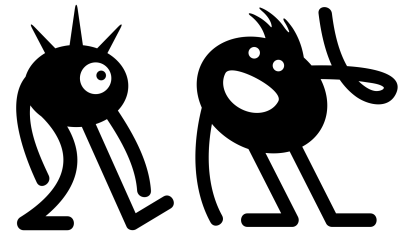
$$I = \frac{1}{\lambda^4}$$



As wavelength increases, intensity of scattering decreases

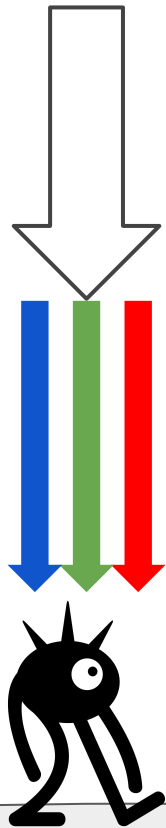
# Rayleigh scattering

- Why is the sky blue?
- Why are sunsets red?



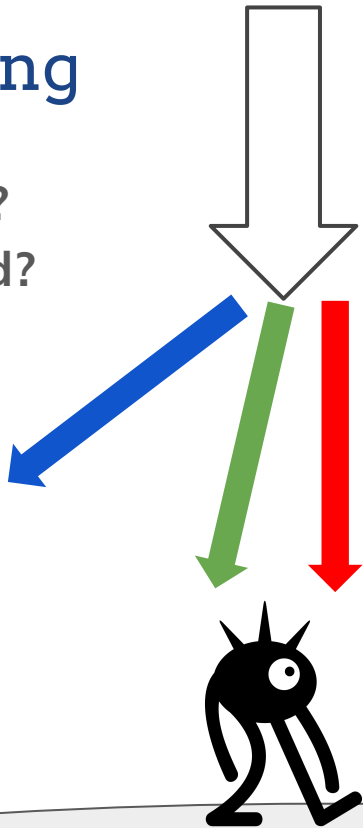
# Rayleigh scattering

- Why is the sky blue?
- Why are sunsets red?



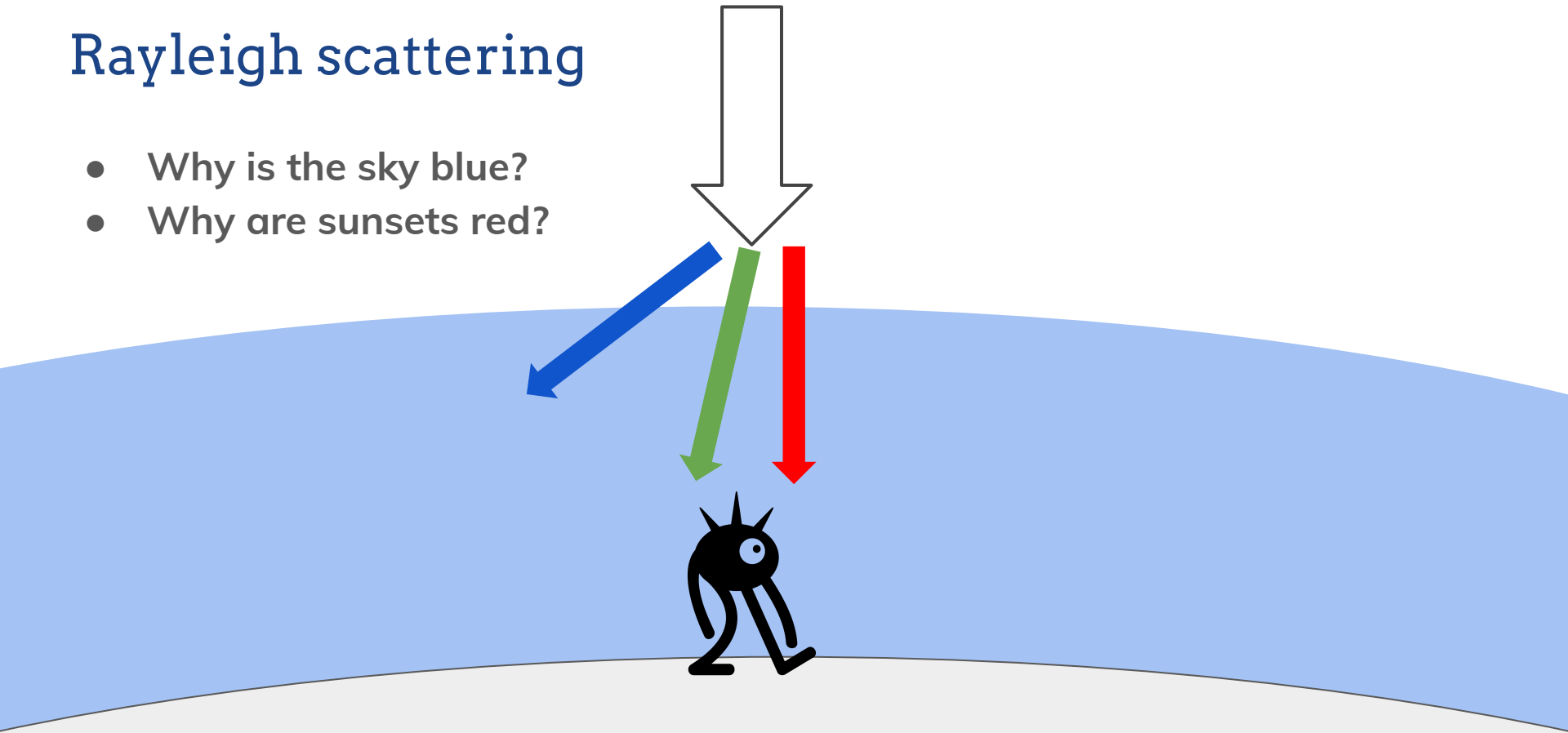
# Rayleigh scattering

- Why is the sky blue?
- Why are sunsets red?



# Rayleigh scattering

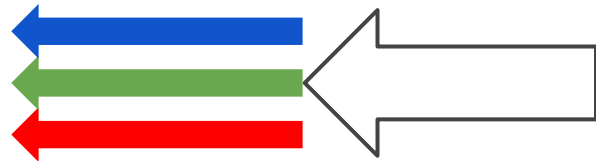
- Why is the sky blue?
- Why are sunsets red?





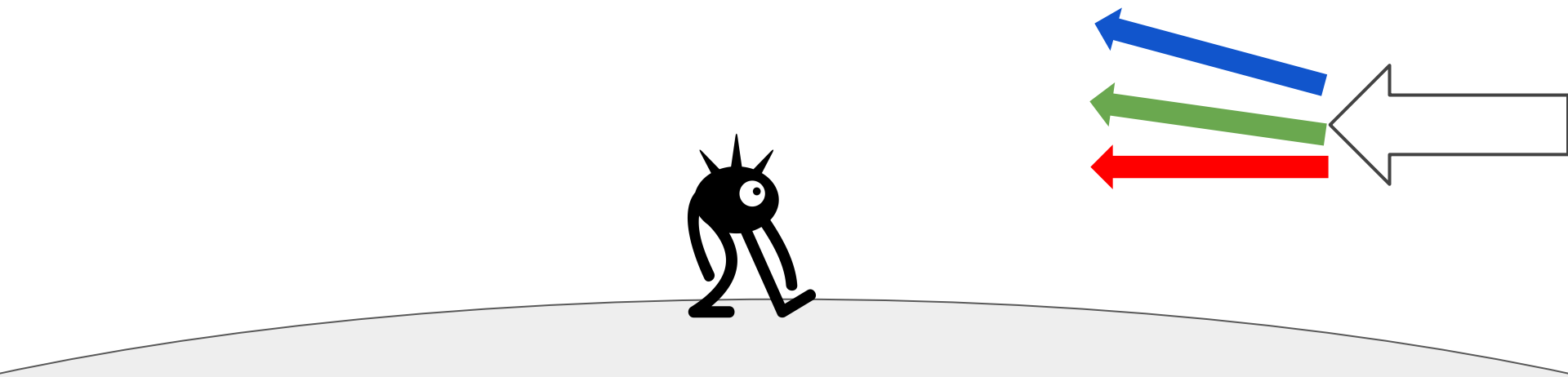
# Rayleigh scattering

- Why is the sky blue?
- Why are sunsets red?



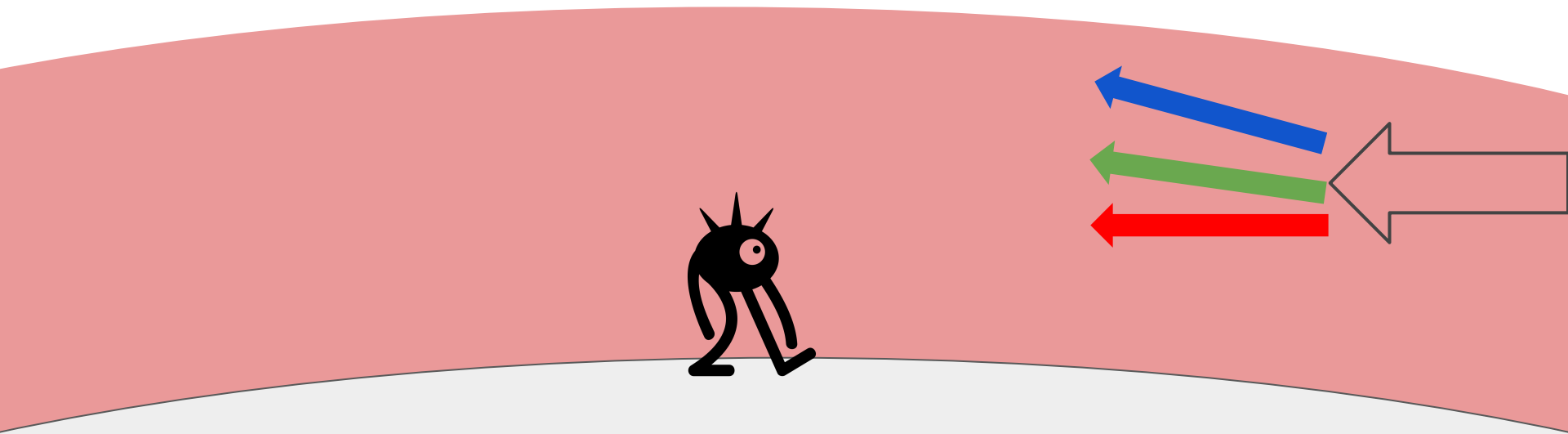
# Rayleigh scattering

- Why is the sky blue?
- Why are sunsets red?



# Rayleigh scattering

- Why is the sky blue?
- Why are sunsets red?



# Mie and non-selective scattering

- **Mie scattering**

- Amplifies wavelengths of similar size to particle
- Pollution and aerosols scatter blue and green light away, contributing to red sunsets

- **Non-selective scattering**

- Particles in the atmosphere several times the diameter of the wavelength
- All wavelengths are scattered
- Water droplets scatter all wavelengths of visible light equally well
  - Why clouds are white!

# Refraction

- Refraction is 'bending' of light when it passes from one medium to another of different density.
  - The speed of EMR changes
  - In a vacuum  $c \approx 3 \times 10^8$  m/s
- *Frequency of a light wave in a medium is determined by its source and is unaffected by the medium!*



# Energy-matter interactions with terrain

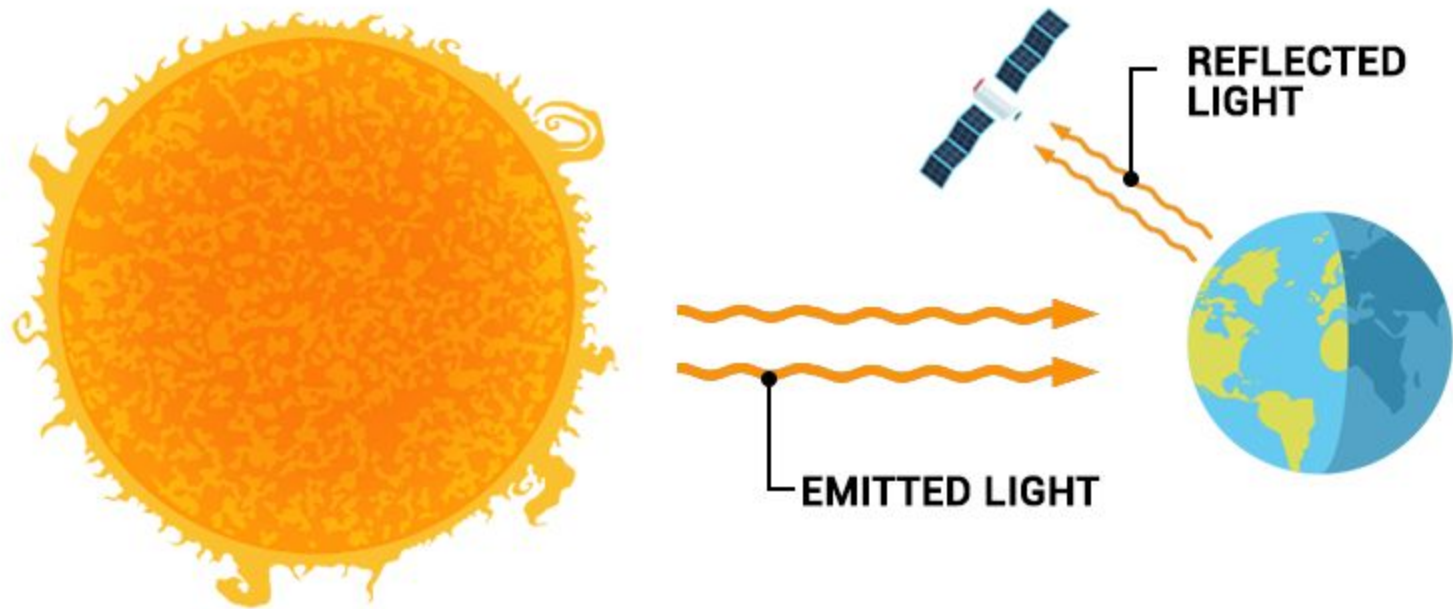
**Absorption:** process by which radiation is absorbed and converted to other forms of energy.

**Reflectance:** process whereby radiation “bounces off” an object.

**Scattering:** reflectance in an unpredictable manner.

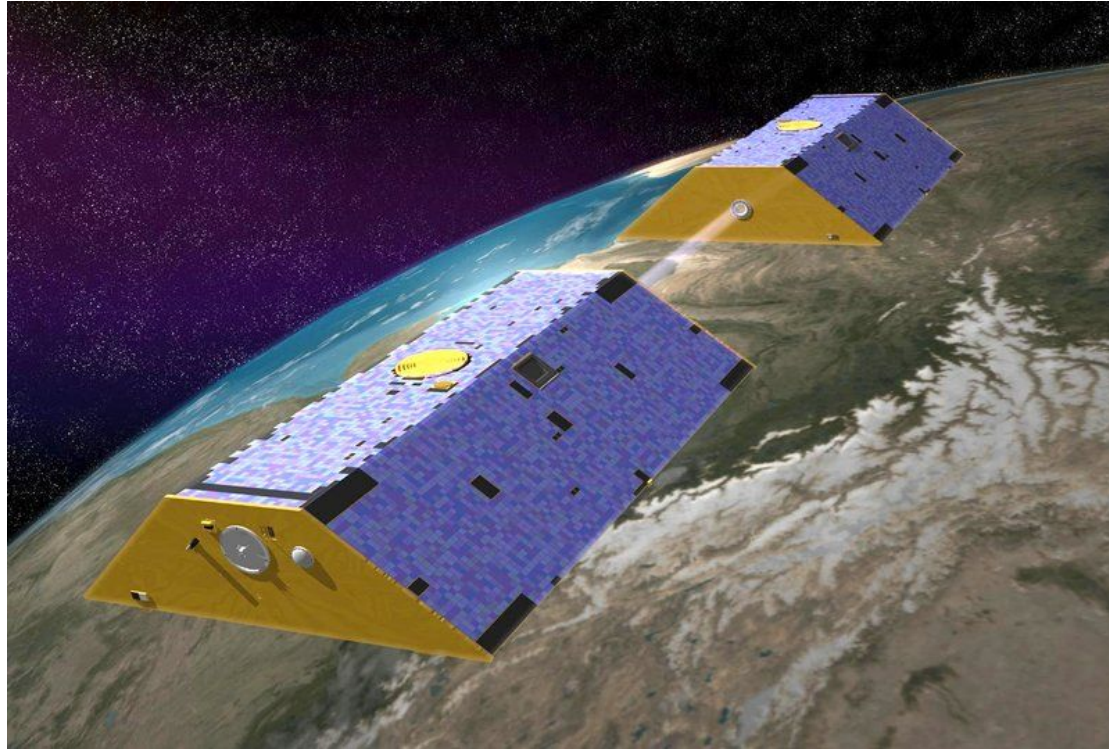
**Refraction:** bending of light through mediums of different density.

**Transmittance:** process by which radiation passes through a material.



# A random aside....

GRACE: Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment





# A random aside....

## NASA Finds New Way to Monitor Underground Water Loss

Researchers have untangled puzzling patterns of sinking and rising land to pin down the underground locations where water is being pumped for irrigation.



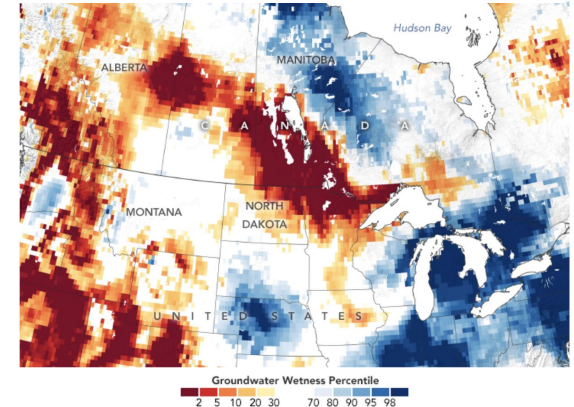
## NASA-led Study Reveals the Causes of Sea Level Rise Since 1900

Scientists have gained new insights into the processes that have driven ocean level variations for over a century, helping us prepare for the rising seas of the future.



## Drought in the Northern Great Plains

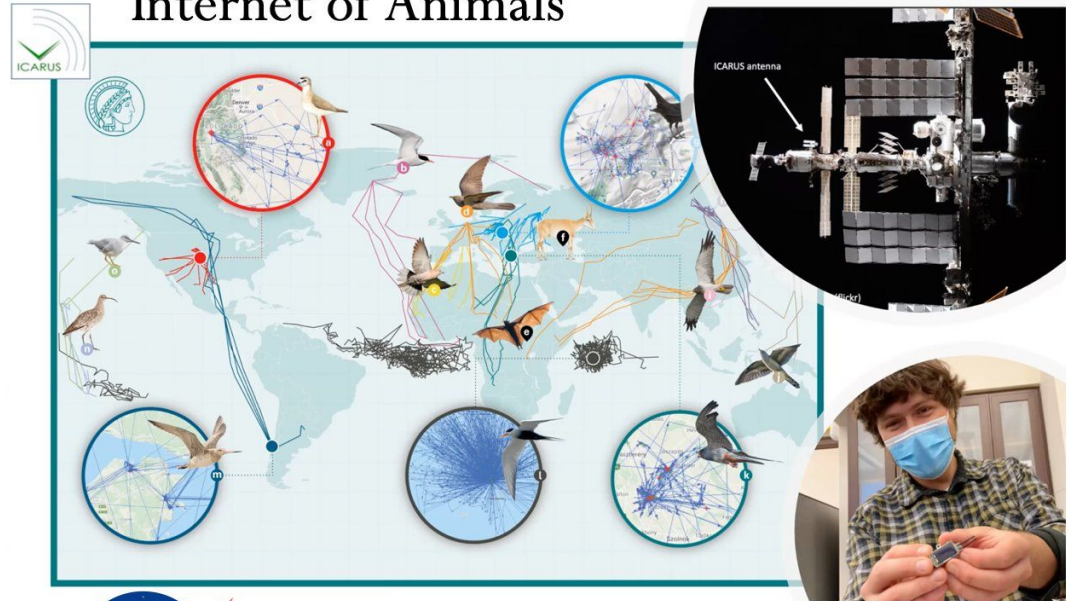
Decades of drought across the U.S. Southwest has led some scientists to classify the intense, prolonged dryness as a "megadrought." But drought in North America took a different shape in 2021, affecting areas that do not face long-term or intense drought as often. The northern Great Plains has been coping with drought for months.



A random aside...



## Internet of Animals



Yale Center for Biodiversity  
and Global Change