# **Physics 1230: Light and Color**













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http://www.colorado.edu/physics/phys1230/

lecture 3

**Fundamental properties of light** 

Announcements:

- lecture 2 is posted on the class website
- homework 2 is posted on D2L
   due Tuesday, Jan 28 in homework box in Help Room
   solutions will be posted on D2L
- reading for this week is:
   Ch. 2 in SL
- remember to bring your clicker to every class
   register it (once)
  - $_{\circ}$  set it to frequency BA

#### **Fire up the iClickers**



- swap clicker code to BA
- hold down on/off switch for 4 seconds
- flashing blue light: hit BA
- should see GREEN light and you're ready to go

clicker question Coulomb force between charges

Q: What's the direction of the force between the charges?



A: c) The force on +q due to -q is to the left. The force on -q due to +q is to the right.

## Last Time

## recall lecture 2:

# What is light?

- charges -> electric and magnetic fields
- accelerating charges -> electromagnetic waves
- electromagnetic spectrum
- generating different types of EM radiation



#### **Recall** Electromagnetic radiation generators

• EM wave generated by oscillating electrical currents -> send signal (radio antenna, garage door opener, remote control, ...)



tv, radio antennas

Atacama Large Millimeter Array

#### **Recall Electromagnetic radiation sensors**

 EM wave exerts oscillating force on charges (electrons) in matter (radio antenna, your eyes, ...) -> ac current -> image (speaker sound, brain, tv, lcd,...)









Atacama Large Millimeter Array

#### tv, radio antennas

## **Today**

# Fundamentals of EM waves

- EM waves in vacuum
- properties of light: wavelength, frequency, speed,...
- electromagnetic spectrum
- blackbody radiation
- color
- quantum picture of light: photons



#### **EM-waves in what?**

- <u>Sound wave</u> propagates through air, with velocity (330 m/sec) relative to <u>air</u>
- <u>Water waves</u> propagates through water, with velocity relative to <u>water</u>
- <u>"The wave</u>" propagates through a crowd in a stadium, with velocity relative to the <u>crowd</u>
- <u>Electromagnetic wave</u> propagates through what??? What is "moving"/oscillating?

*Etker...*so it was (incorrectly) thought in 19<sup>th</sup> century before Einstein

Michelson & Morley (1887): there is no Ether!







## Distance, speed, time

Q: It takes 4 hours going at 50 miles/hr to get to Aspen from Boulder. How far is Aspen?

- a) 10 miles away
- b) 150 miles away
- c) 200 miles away
- d) Not enough information

A: c) distance = speed x time, i.e., d = v td = 50 mi/hr x 4 hrs = 200 miles

#### Waves primer: basics

• periodic (spatially-temporally extended) disturbance

e.g., sound, water, stadium, EM waves (in gas, liquid, solid, people, vacuum)



frequency: f (Hz) <-> period in <u>time</u> T = 1/f (seconds)
wavelength: λ (meters) period is <u>space</u>
phase speed (velocity): v<sub>ρ</sub> = f λ (meters/second)

#### **Waves primer: basics**

• periodic (spatially-temporally extended) disturbance

e.g., sound, water, stadium, EM waves (in gas, liquid, solid, people, vacuum)





- wavelength (color):  $\lambda$  (m),  $2\pi/\lambda = k$  (wavevector)
- frequency (color): f = v (Hz),  $2\pi f = \omega$  (angular frequency)
- speed c (3x10<sup>8</sup> m/s): c = f  $\lambda \iff \omega = c k$
- amplitude (brightness): Intensity  $I = E^2$
- phase (position): φ





- wavelength (color):  $\lambda$  (m)
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- wavelength (color):  $\lambda$  (m)
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- amplitude (brightness): I=E<sup>2</sup>
- phase (position): φ
- polarization

#### Light Passing Through Crossed Polarizers



# **Liquid-crystal display applications**



#### **Properties of EM waves**

For *periodic* waves, we can identify a *speed*, v, by **Speed = distance/time Speed = Wavelength/Period Speed = Wavelength x frequency**  $v = f \lambda$ 

$$c = f \lambda$$
 or  $f = c/\lambda$  or  $\lambda = c/f$ 

So knowing the **frequency**, we can calculate the **wavelength** Or knowing the **wavelength**, we can calculate the **frequency For light waves, the speed in air or vacuum is 3 x 10<sup>8</sup> meters/sec** inside medium n:  $c \rightarrow v=c/n$ ,  $\lambda_n = \lambda/n$  (n > 1)

#### **Interference**

• key wave property: *interference* 



 constructive destructive



**Mathematics of interference (I)** 

- wave interference:  $I_{12} = \mathcal{E}_{12}^2 = (\mathcal{E}_1 + \mathcal{E}_2)^2$ =  $\mathcal{E}_1^2 + \mathcal{E}_2^2 + 2\mathcal{E}_1\mathcal{E}_2$ =  $I_1 + I_2 + 2\mathcal{E}_1\mathcal{E}_2 \neq I_1 + I_2$ 
  - adding two phase-shifted waves:



constructive interference

destructive interference

**Mathematics of interference (I)** 

- wave interference:  $I_{12} = \mathcal{E}_{12}^2 = (\mathcal{E}_1 + \mathcal{E}_2)^2$ =  $\mathcal{E}_1^2 + \mathcal{E}_2^2 + 2\mathcal{E}_1\mathcal{E}_2$ =  $I_1 + I_2 + 2\mathcal{E}_1\mathcal{E}_2 \neq I_1 + I_2$ 
  - o adding two phase-shifted waves:



 $= \cos^2 kx + \cos^2 kx + 2\cos^2 kx$ 

#### constructive interference

destructive interference

 $= \cos^2 kx + \cos^2 kx - 2\cos^2 kx$ 

**Mathematics of interference (II)** 

- wave interference:  $I_{12} = \mathcal{E}_{12}^2 = (\mathcal{E}_1 + \mathcal{E}_2)^2$ =  $\mathcal{E}_1^2 + \mathcal{E}_2^2 + 2\mathcal{E}_1\mathcal{E}_2$ =  $I_1 + I_2 + 2\mathcal{E}_1\mathcal{E}_2 \neq I_1 + I_2$ 
  - $_{\circ}$  adding two different wavelengths,  $\lambda_{1}$ ,  $\lambda_{2}$  waves:



beating phenomena (tuning piano, FM modulation,...)

#### **Phet simulations**



http://phet.colorado.edu/sims/wave-on-a-string/wave-on-a-string\_en.html

#### **Electromagnetic radiation and speed of light**



## **Electromagnetic waves critical to life as we know it!**

- Communications radio, TV, cell phones, portable phones
- Food prep microwaves
- Vision visible light
- AM radio 530 to 1600 kHz.
- FM is 88 to 108 MHz.
- TV is 54-206 MHz (each station gets 6 MHz band (Station 1, 54-60 MHz))
- Microwaves same thing but few x 10<sup>9</sup> Hz (oscillaitons/s).



#### **Blackbody radiation**

• "black" body radiates: hot oven, poker, Sun, glowing coal, CMB,...



- $T_{CMB} = 3K$ , Big Bang, 13.3 billion years ago, cooled from 3000K
- independent of material, just T: shorter  $\lambda$  higher T





• determines Earth's average temperature: 100 W/ft<sup>2</sup>





 $A = \pi r^2$ 

#### clicker question Blackbody radiation of the Sun

Q: The Sun is approximately a blackbody radiator as can be seen from its emitted spectrum below. Estimate Sun's T from its spectrum below



A: The peak is roughly at around  $6 \times 10^{-7}$  m, which using  $\lambda T=3 \times 10^{-3}$ ->  $T_{sun} \approx 5000$  Kelvin

#### Solar radiation spectrum 100 Watts/ft<sup>2</sup>



#### **Temperature - energy**



• Thermal energy =  $k_B T$ 

- L. Boltzmann 1844–1906
- Boltzmann constant  $k_B = 1.38 \times 10^{-23} \text{ J/K} = 8.6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV/K}$
- 1 eV = 12000 Kelvin



#### What we see: eye is a band-pass filter



#### **Images at different frequencies**



**Images at different frequencies** 

#### Millimeter Wave Scanning



## **Incandescent light bulbs**



#### **Incandescent light bulbs**



*Filament* with *current* of electrons which hit into atoms causing light to be emitted



#### **Incandescent light bulbs**



- A continuous light source
- Almost 90% of its emission is invisible to the human eye, producing heat and wasting energy



**Fluorescent light bulbs** 

Fluorescent bulbs have a lower current and power usage for the same light output in the visible range. How do they do this?



**Fluorescent light bulbs** 

The atoms inside a fluorescent bulb have *ultraviolet* resonant frequencies



**Fluorescent light bulbs** 

Because the phosphors emit at very specific resonant frequencies, the spectrum is not continuous



#### **Fluorescent light bulbs: neon lights**

Produced the same way, but with a different set of atoms in the tube to produce the different colors



#### **Incandescent vs fluorescent light bulbs**



### Light emitting diodes (LEDs)



- A semiconductor system
- Charges are initially separated
- An applied current pushes them "up the hill", where they can recombine and emit light







#### <u>What is color?</u>

Color is our brain's interpretation of light of different wavelengths/frequencies entering our eyes



The speed of light in <u>empty</u> space is the same for all wavelengths

#### Atomic spectra

• observed emission/absorption spectra for Hydrogen:



• Balmer-Rydberg formula (n' -> n=2):

$$rac{1}{\lambda} = R\left(rac{1}{n'^2} - rac{1}{n^2}
ight), \quad n > n', ext{ both integers}$$
  
Rydberg constant R = 0.001 Å<sup>-1</sup>

light emission due to de-excitation from n' -> n=2

### **Bohr-Rutherford's picture of atoms**

planetary semi-classical model (1913) inspired by Rutherford's scattering





Niels Bohr 1885-1962

#### **Bohr's picture of atomic emission/absorption (1)**

• electron's discrete transition between a set of allowed "orbits":



• energies of emitted/absorbed photon:

$$rac{1}{\lambda} = R\left(rac{1}{n'^2} - rac{1}{n^2}
ight), \quad n > n', ext{ both integers}$$

Rydberg constant R = 0.001 Å<sup>-1</sup>

Balmer series of Hydrogen (n'  $\rightarrow$  n = 2):

#### **Bohr's picture of atomic emission/absorption (2)**

• electron's discrete transition between a set of allowed "orbits":



Balmer series of Hydrogen (n'  $\rightarrow$  n=2 transitions):