



# SPH4UI - Unit 4: Wave Nature of Light

Jan 2020

# Wave Nature of Light Summary Notes

## SPH4UI : Unit 4 Wave Nature of Light

$$v = f\lambda$$

### The Universal Wave Equation

$v = f\lambda$        $v$  = speed of wave (m/s),  $f$  = frequency of wave (Hz),  $\lambda$  = wavelength of wave (m)

$f = \frac{1}{T}$        $T$  = period (s)

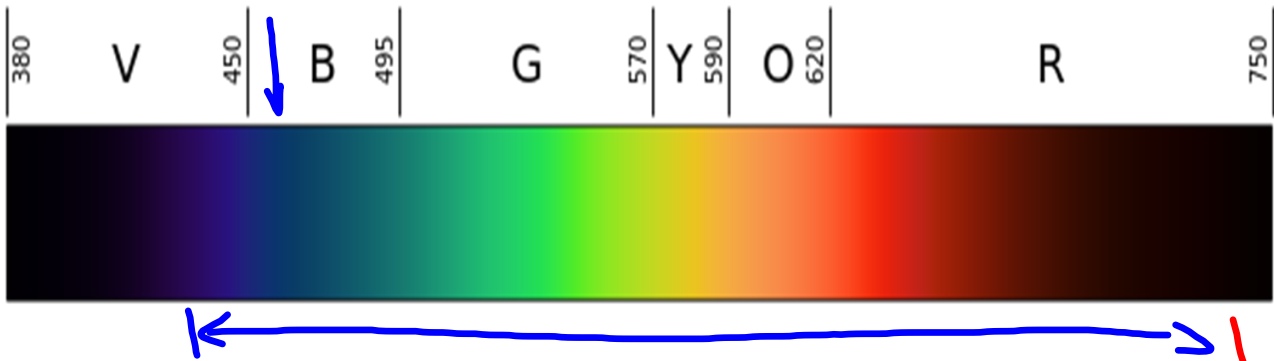
$c = 3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$        $c$  = speed of light in a vacuum

Solve the following problems:

1. Calculate the wavelength of a laser beam if the frequency is  $6.50 \times 10^{14}$  Hz
2. The wavelengths of the visible spectrum range from 400 nm to 750 nm. Calculate the range of the frequencies of visible light. (1 nm =  $1 \times 10^{-9}$  m).
3. If the sun is 149.6 million km from earth, how long does it take for light to travel from the sun to earth?

$$1 \text{ nm} = 10^{-9} \text{ m}$$

1. 
$$\lambda = \frac{v}{f} = \frac{3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{6.50 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}} = 4.6 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$$
  
$$= 460 \text{ nm}$$



2. 
$$f = \frac{v}{\lambda} = \frac{3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{400 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}} = 7.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$$
  
$$= \frac{3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{750 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}} = 4.0 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$$

3. constant  $v$ ,  $v = \frac{\Delta d}{t}$   
$$t = \frac{\Delta d}{v} = \frac{149.6 \times 10^9 \text{ m}}{3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}} = 499 \text{ s}$$
  
$$\sim 8.3 \text{ mins}$$

Wave Nature of Light :  
Day 1 - Properties of E-M Waves

Tues Jan 7<sup>th</sup>

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
<del>X</del> <sup>D 9</sup>	<del>X</del> <sup>D10</sup>	<del>X</del> <sup>D11</sup>	<del>X</del> <sup>D12</sup>	<del>X</del> <sup>D13</sup>
<del>X</del> <sup>D16</sup>	<del>Fields</del> <sup>D17</sup>	<del>X</del> <sup>D18</sup>	<del>X</del> <sup>D19</sup>	<del>X</del> <sup>D20</sup>
Christmas Break				
Christmas Break				
<del>Fields</del> <sup>J 6</sup>	WNL <sup>J 7</sup>	<sup>J 8</sup>	Fields Quiz <sup>J 9</sup>	IQC Visit <sup>J 10</sup>
<sup>J 13</sup>	Assign WNL MP <sup>J 14</sup>	<sup>J 15</sup>	<sup>J 16</sup>	<sup>J 17</sup>
<sup>J 20</sup>	<sup>J 21</sup>	<sup>J 22</sup>	<sup>J 23</sup>	<sup>J 24</sup> Exams Period A Classes SNC2DI-01
<sup>J 27</sup> Exams Period B Classes SNC2DI-02	<sup>J 28</sup> Exams Period C Classes	<sup>J 29</sup> Exams Period D Classes SPH4UI-01	<sup>J 30</sup>	<sup>J 31</sup> PD Day

## Topic Outline

- Waves Review (sound unit from grade 11)
- Compare mechanical and electromagnetic waves
- Clues that light is wave
- Clues that light is not wave
- What is light really?



# What is a Wave?

## Definition:

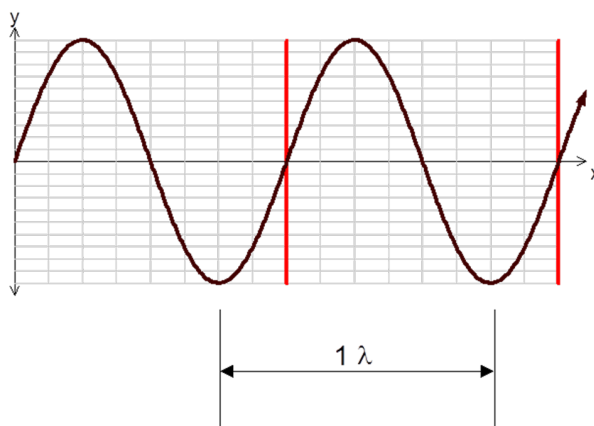
- A wave is a transfer of energy over a distance in the form of a disturbance. Most waves originate from a vibrating source.
- Mechanical Waves : require a physical medium to travel through
  - examples : waves on a slinky, sound waves
- Non Mechanical Waves – do not required a medium to transmit the energy

- 
- 

electromagnetic waves  
gravity waves

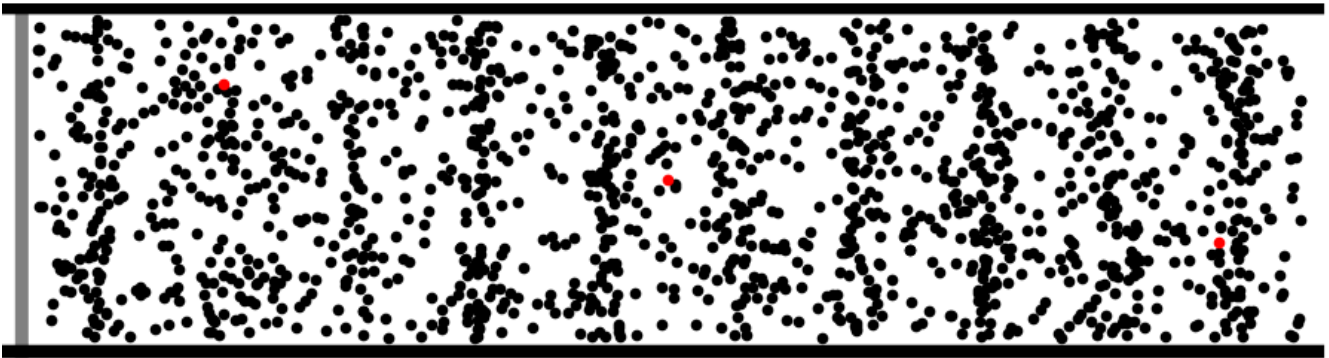
## Wave Properties

*Periodic waves originate from periodic vibrations (oscillations).*



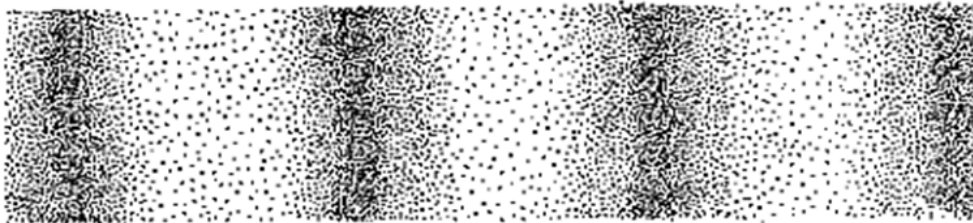
*One wavelength ( $\lambda$ ) is the distance between successive crests or troughs.*

## Sound Waves

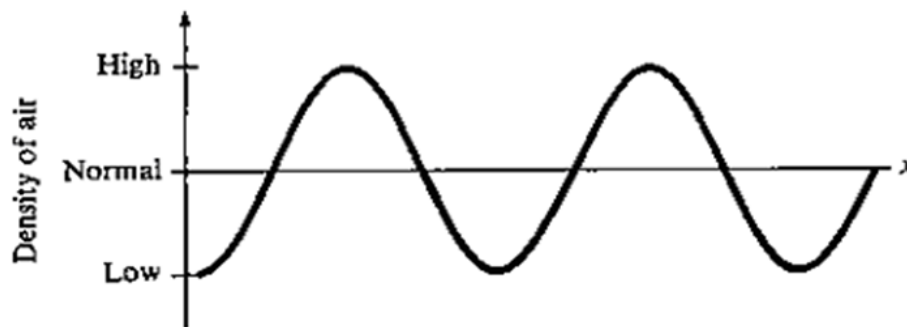


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*Sound is a longitudinal wave of air pressure variations, caused by a rapidly vibrating source (i.e. a tuning fork or your vocal cords)*



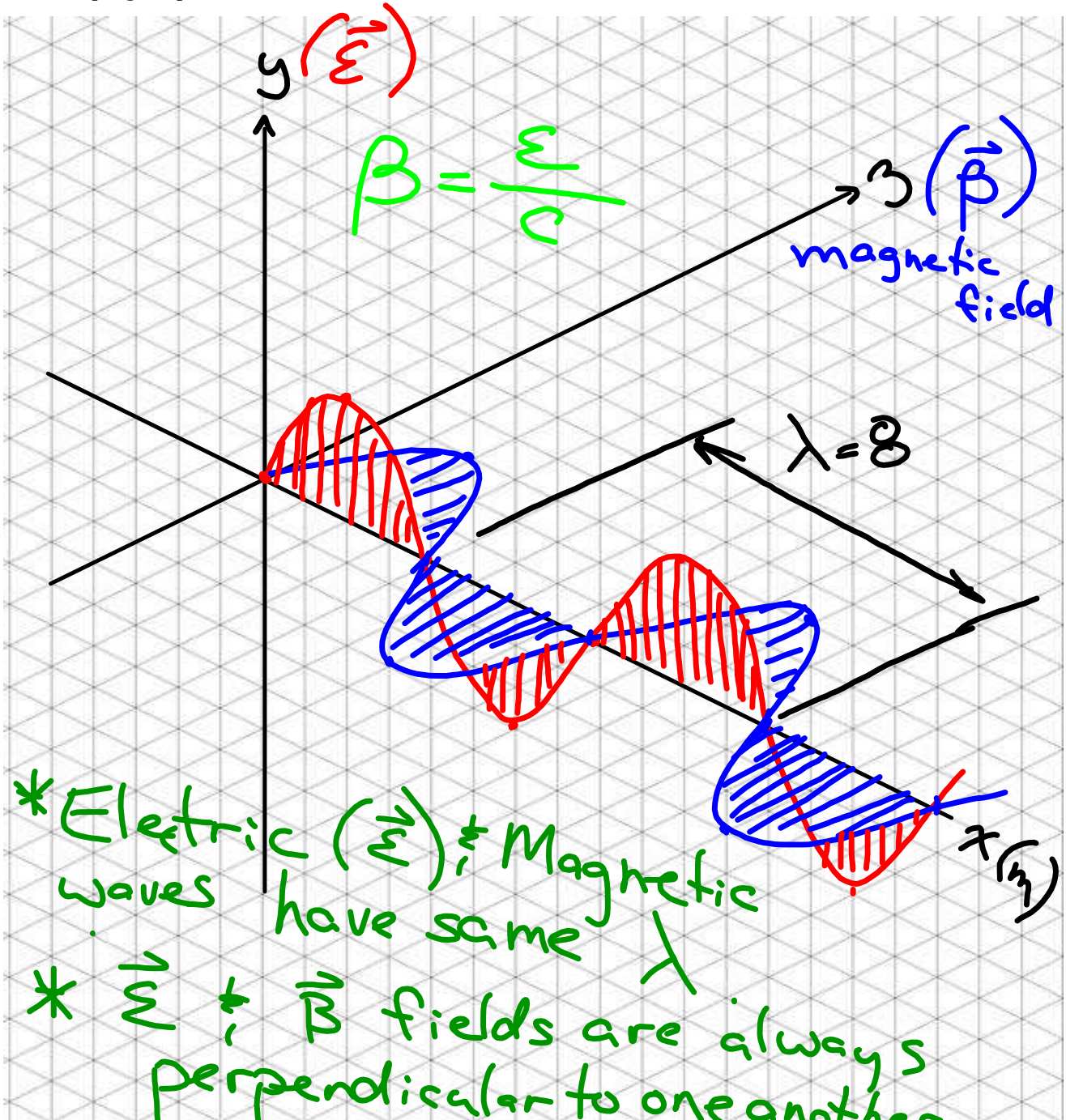
(a)



(b)

## Electromagnetic Waves

Electromagnetic (EM) radiation consists of oscillating **electric** and **magnetic** fields that can propagate through empty space.



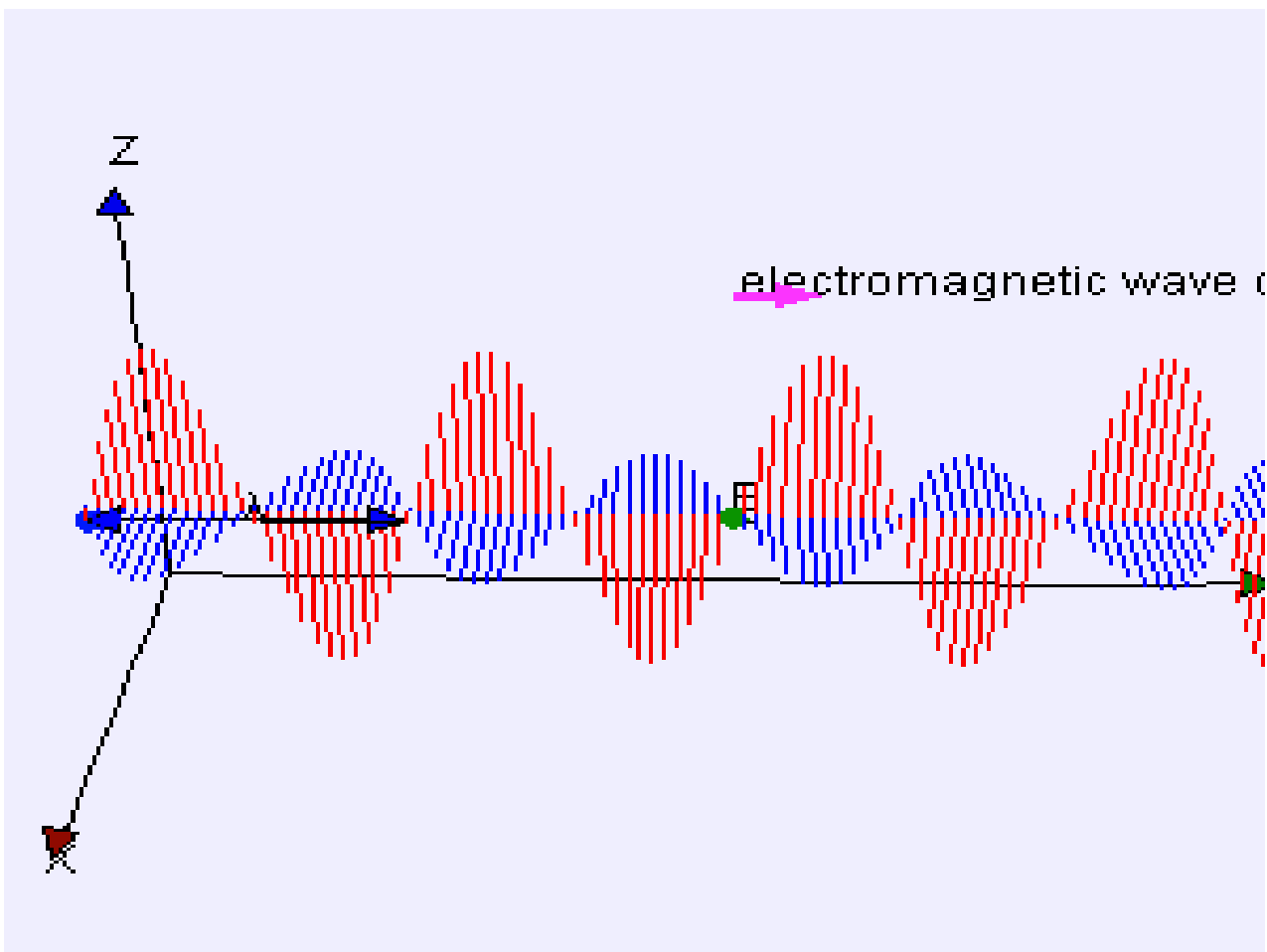
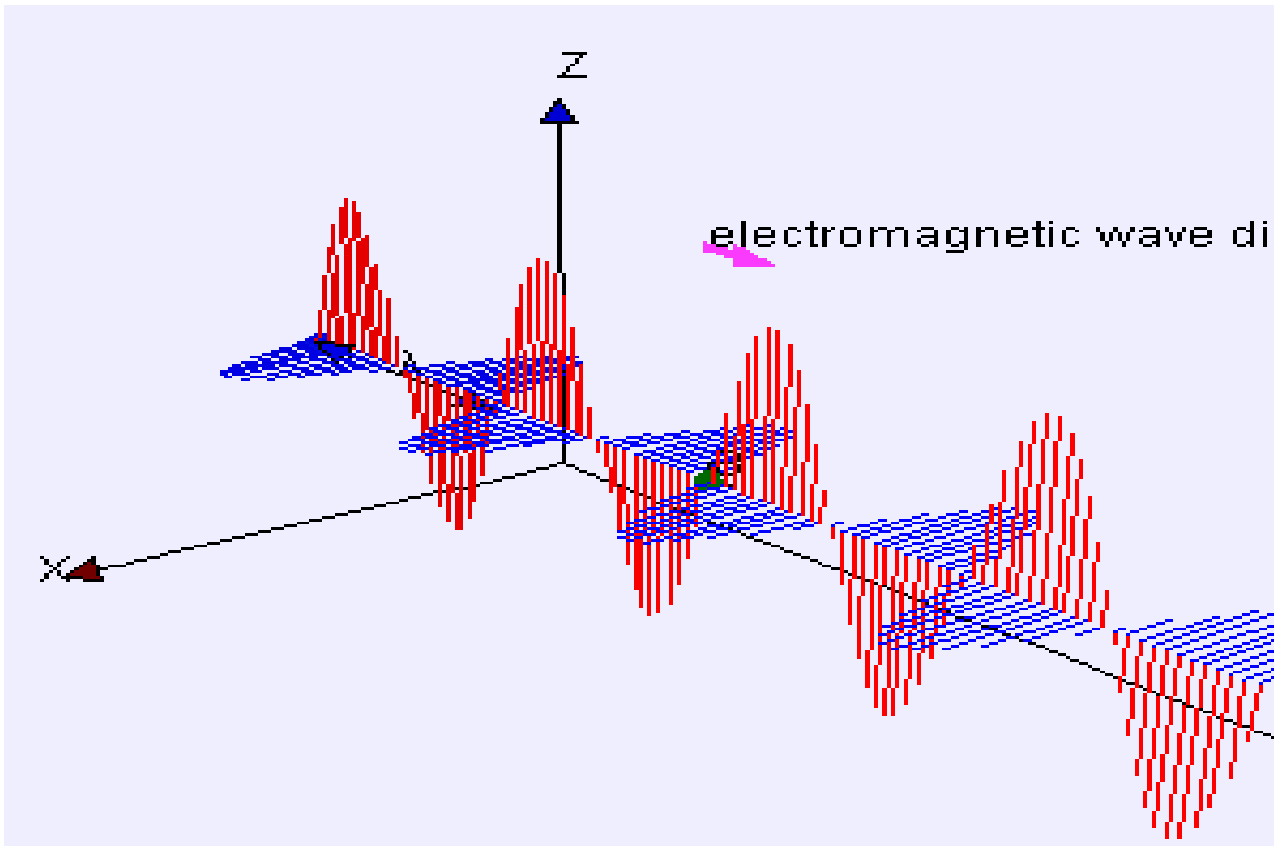
\* Electric ( $\vec{E}$ ) & Magnetic waves have same  $\lambda$

\*  $\vec{E}$  &  $\vec{B}$  fields are always perpendicular to one another.

\* these waves always travel at the same speed  
 $c = 3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$



# Wave Nature of Light Summary Notes



## Characteristics of Waves

- Period – T (seconds)
- Frequency – f (Hz)
- Wavelength –  $\lambda$  (m)
- Velocity – V (m/s)
- Amplitude – the measure of the amplitude depends on the type of wave
  - Wave on a string – position (m)
  - Sound Wave – air pressure (psi, kpa etc)
  - Electromagnetic Wave – strength of electric or magnetic field ( $\epsilon$  or  $\beta$ )

$$P = \frac{1}{f}$$

$$V = f \lambda$$

$N/C$  ← → Tesla (T)

energy mechanical wave  
 $\propto A^2$

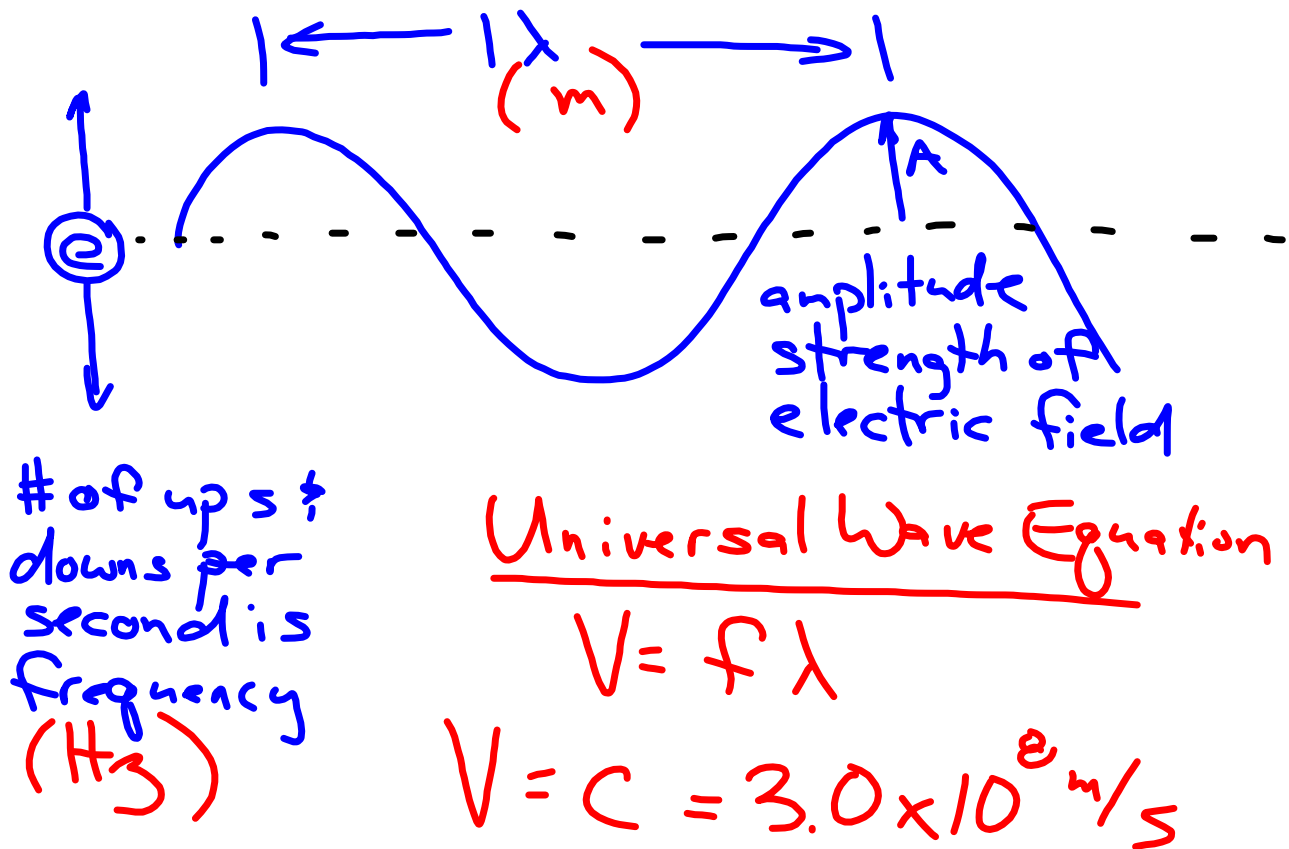
energy non-mechanical wave  
 $\propto$  frequency.



## Wave Nature of Light Summary Notes

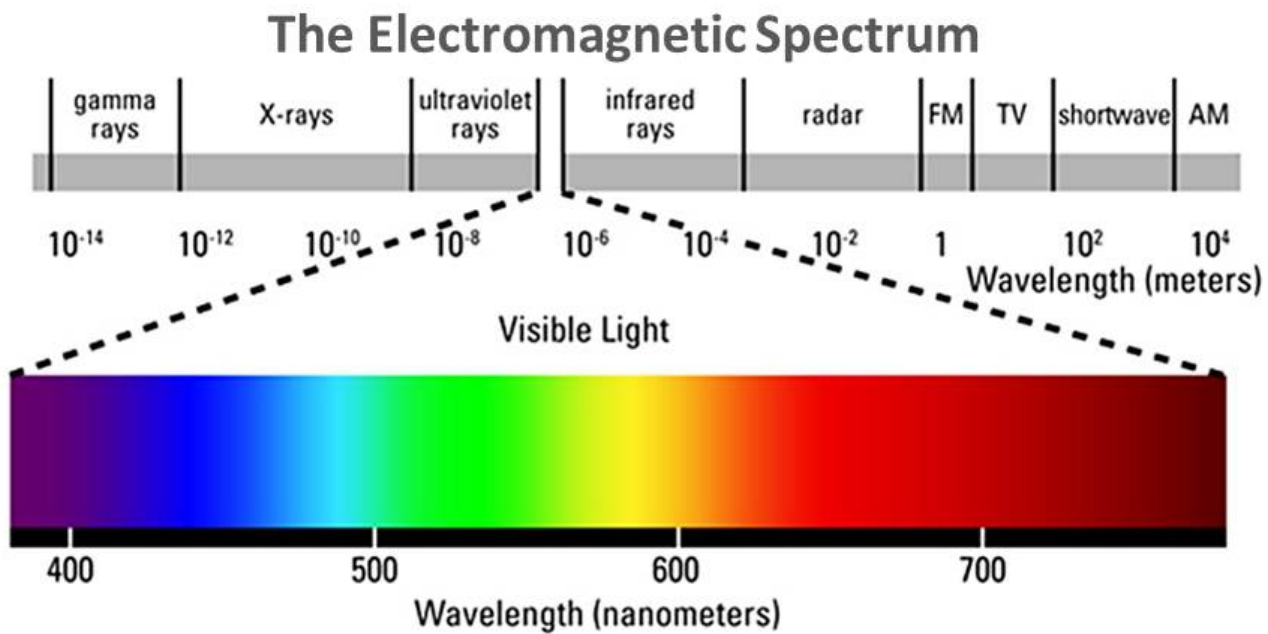
EM radiation is caused by a rapidly oscillating electric charge.  
(a classical (non-quantum) approach to waves...)

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## Wave Nature of Light Summary Notes

*Properties of Electromagnetic (EM) waves.*

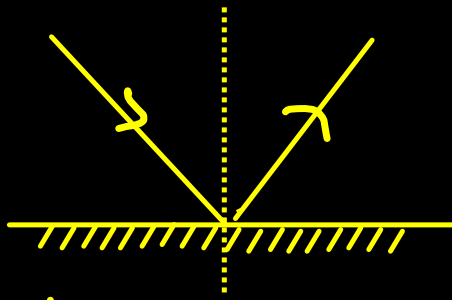


## ElectroMagnetic Wave Phenomenon

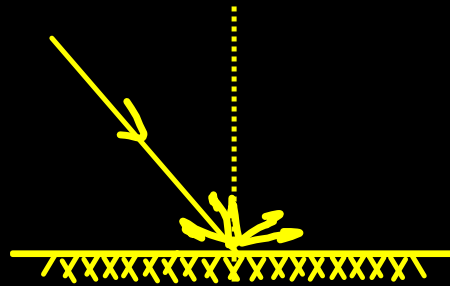
1. Reflection
2. Diffraction
3. Refraction
4. Interference
5. Polarization

## ElectroMagnetic Wave Phenomenon

### 1. Reflection



mirror  
→ Specular  
Reflection

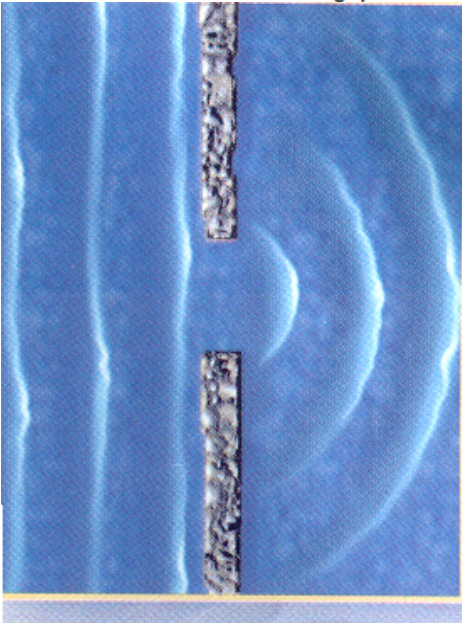
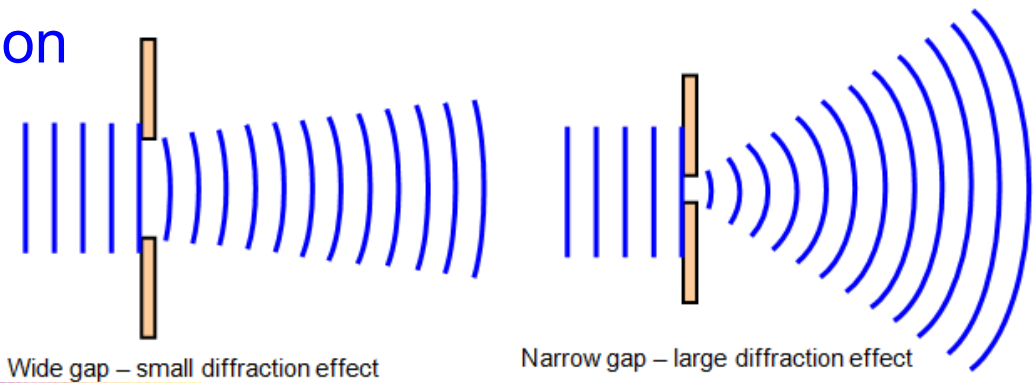


paper, walls  
→ Diffuse Reflection

laser

reflectance  
→ 99.9%

## 2. Diffraction

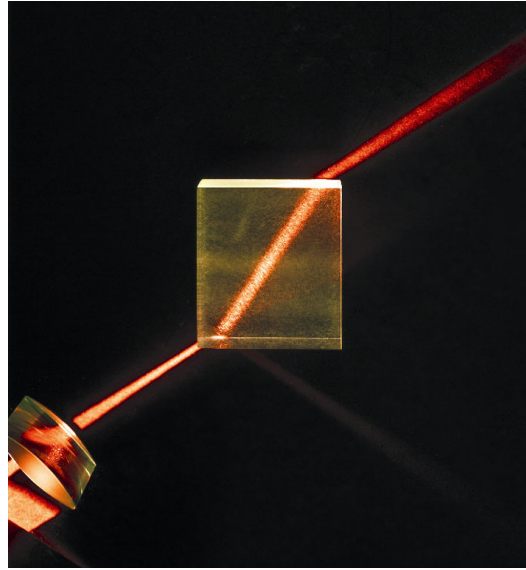


Diffraction is the spreading out of light waves as the waves propagate thru a gap (or past an edge)

Amount of diffraction depends on  $\lambda$  (wavelength)

### 3. Refraction

Bending of light as it moves from one material to another.

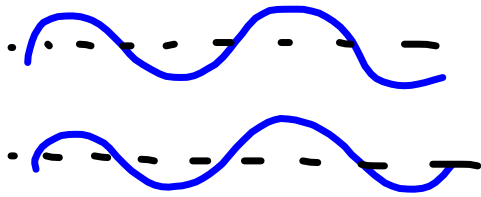


(when the refractive index changes)

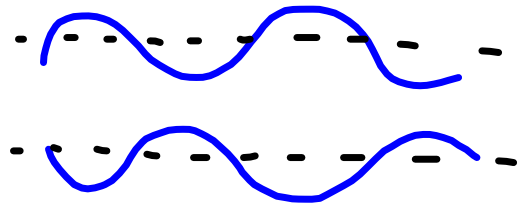


## 4. Interference

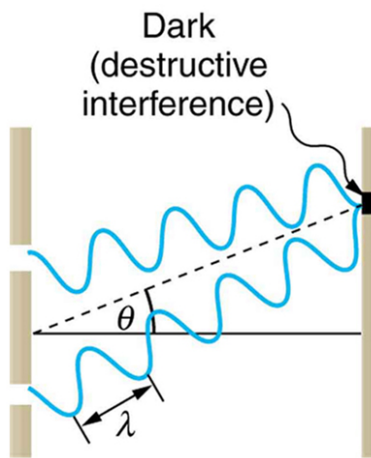
*E-M waves can interfere constructively or destructively*



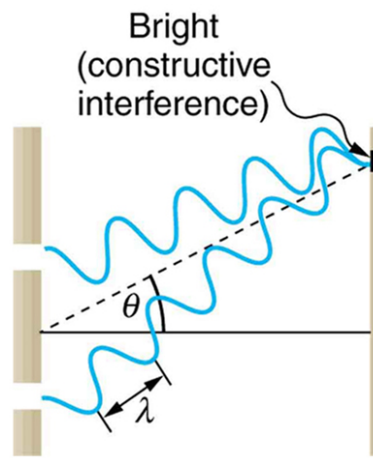
*Constructively Interfere*



*Destructive Interference.*



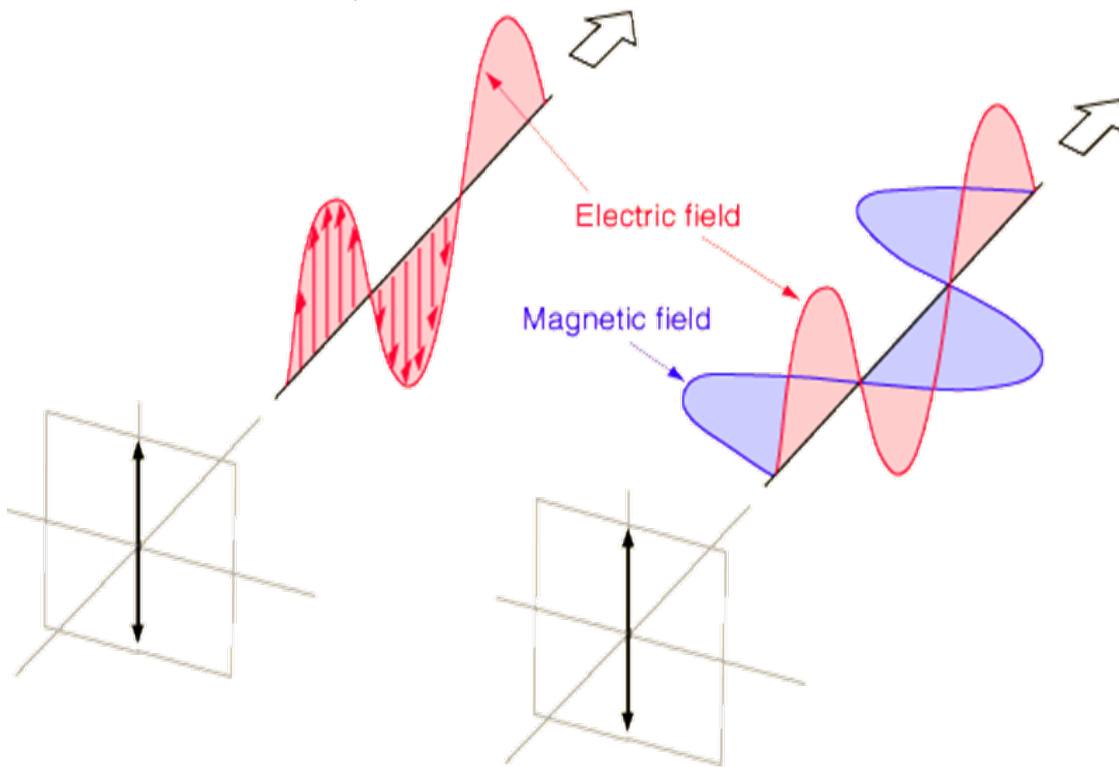
(a)



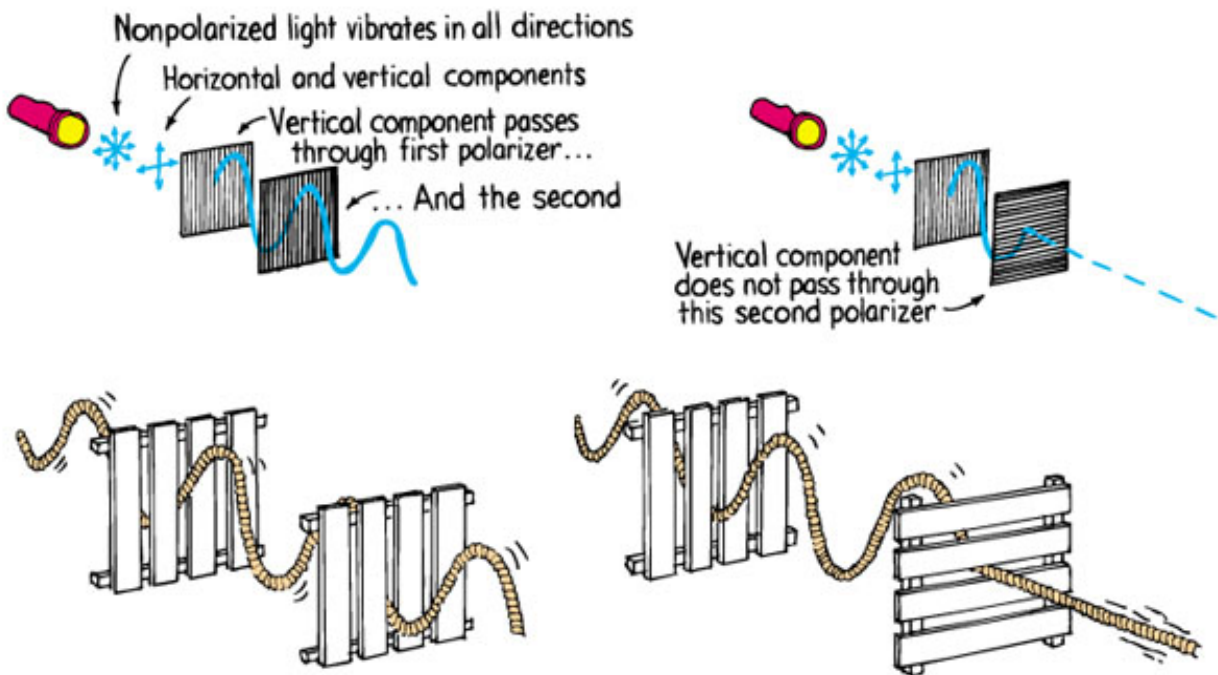
(b)

## 5. Polarization

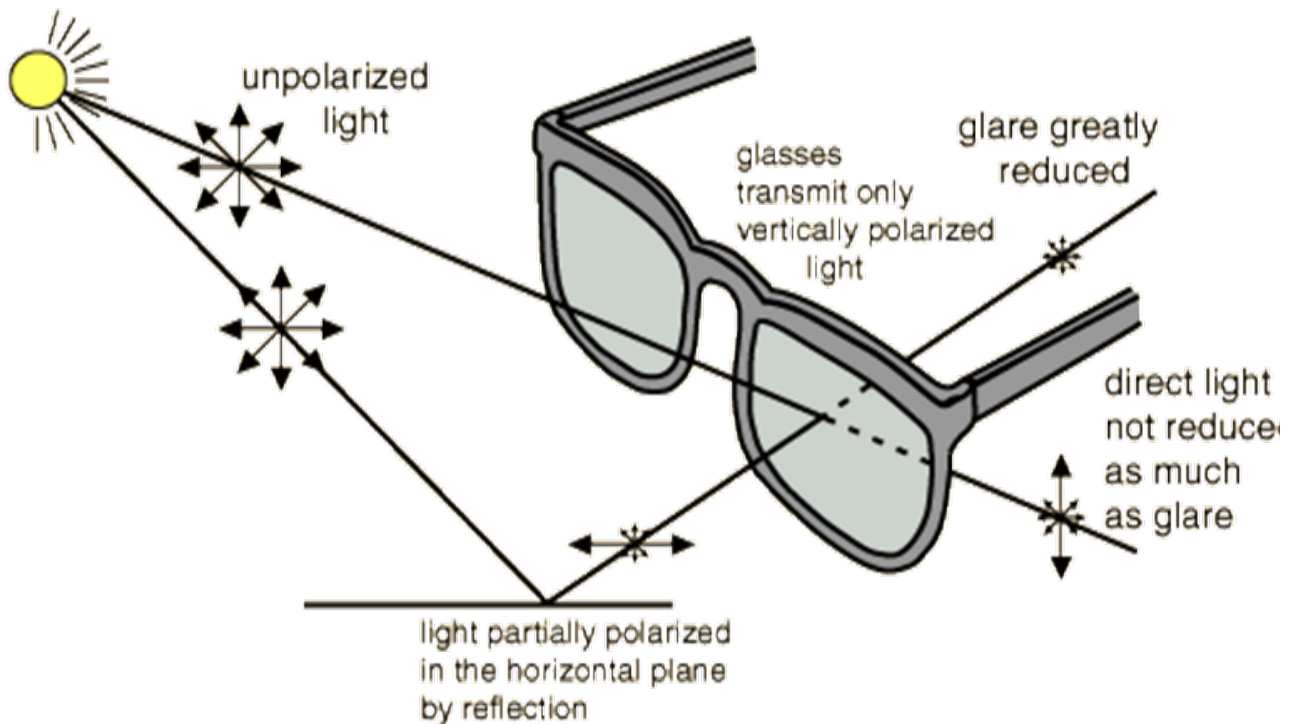
refers to the orientation of the  $\vec{E}$  field.  
→ normal light (sunlight, room lighting) is randomly polarized



## 5. Polarization (cont'd)



Hewitt, *Conceptual Physics*, Ninth Edition.  
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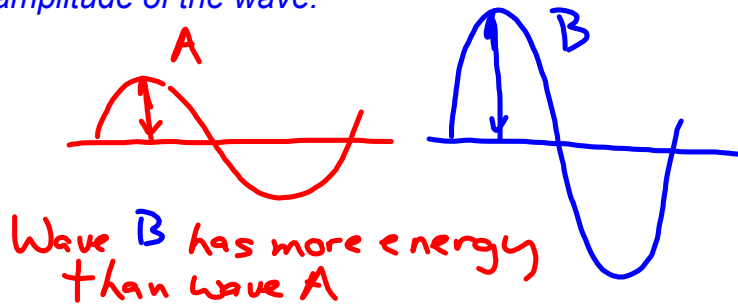
Wave Nature of Light :  
Operation of a Laser

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# Wave Nature of Light Summary Notes

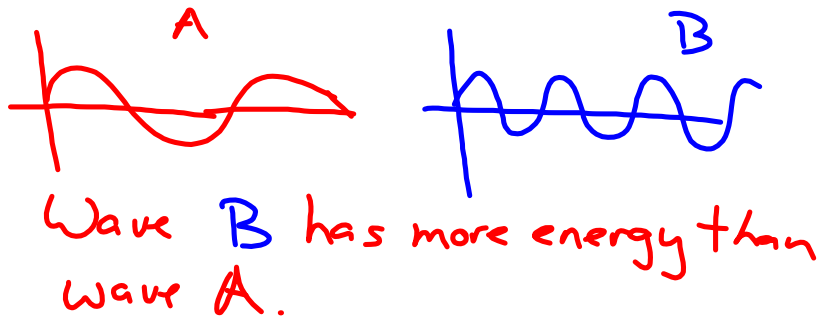
## Energy of Waves.

The energy of a mechanical wave is dependent on the amplitude of the wave.



## Energy of Electromagnetic (EM) waves.

The energy of an EM wave is directly proportional to the frequency of the wave. (discovered in late 1800's)

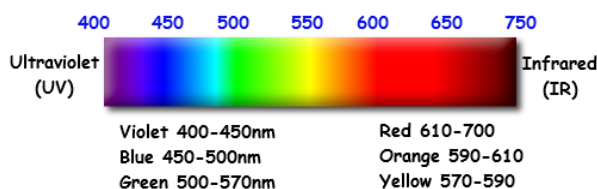


$$E = h f$$

energy (J)      Planck's Constant =  $6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{s}$       frequency (Hz)

→ this formula gives you the energy of a single photon of light at a given frequency.

### Visible Spectrum - Wavelengths in nanometers



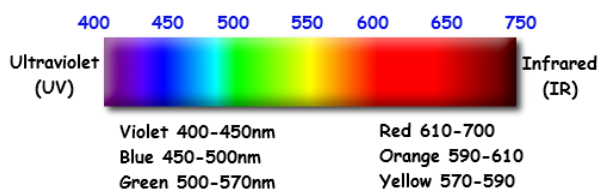
## Wave Nature of Light Summary Notes

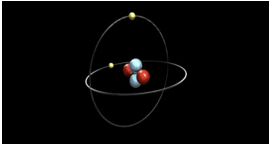
Energy of Electromagnetic (EM) waves.  $1\text{nm} = 10^{-9}\text{m}$

Calculate the energy in Joules of a red photon ( $\lambda = 650\text{nm}$ ) and a blue photon ( $\lambda = 400\text{nm}$ ).

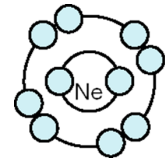
$$\begin{aligned} E &= hf = h \frac{c}{\lambda} \\ &= \frac{6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{J} \cdot \cancel{s} \times 3.0 \times 10^8 \cancel{\text{m/s}}}{(650 \times 10^{-9} \text{m})} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{recall} \\ v = f\lambda \\ f = \frac{v}{\lambda} \end{array} \\ &= 3.1 \times 10^{-19} \text{J} \\ E &= 5.0 \times 10^{-19} \text{J} \end{aligned}$$

### Visible Spectrum - Wavelengths in nanometers





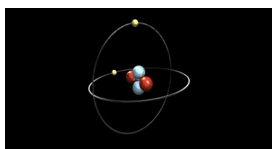
## Operation of a Laser



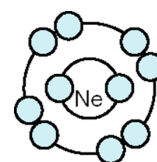
# Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation

### 4 Requirements

1. Lasing medium ✓
2. Optical cavity ✓
3. Laser pumping energy.
4. Output coupler.

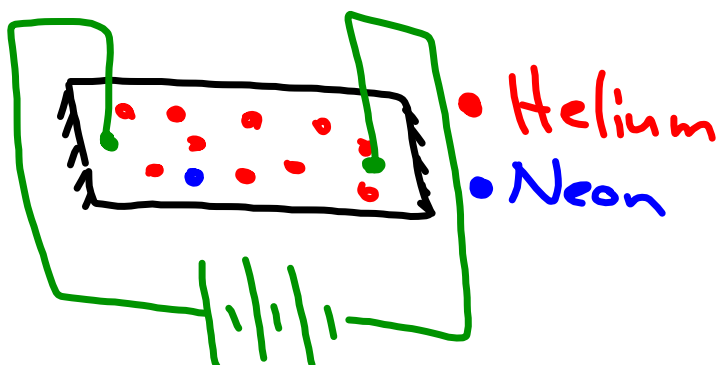


## Operation of a Laser



### *HeNe Laser Design Basics*

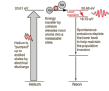
Helium Neon Gas (10:1 ratio)





# Wave Nature of Light Summary Notes

## 1. Lasing Medium



relies on atoms absorbing energy & re-emitting the energy in the form of visible light.

→ when a neon atom loses energy (i.e. an electron changes energy levels)

\* 1.96 eV of energy is released in the form of radiation.  
eV - electron volt.

$$1\text{eV} = 1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

① Energy in Joules

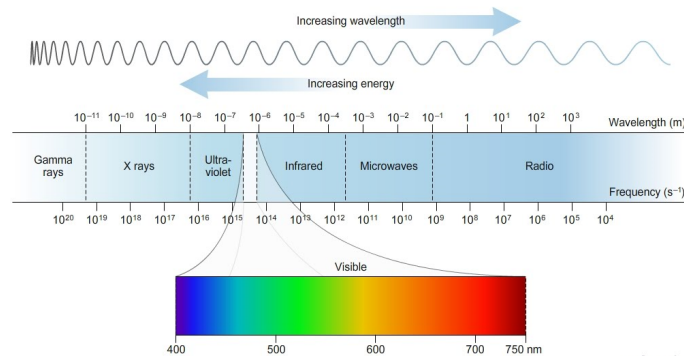
$$1.96\text{eV} \times 1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J/eV} = 3.14 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

② Find frequency

$$E = hf \rightarrow f = \frac{E}{h} = \frac{3.14 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}}{6.626 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J}\cdot\text{s}} = 4.74 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$$

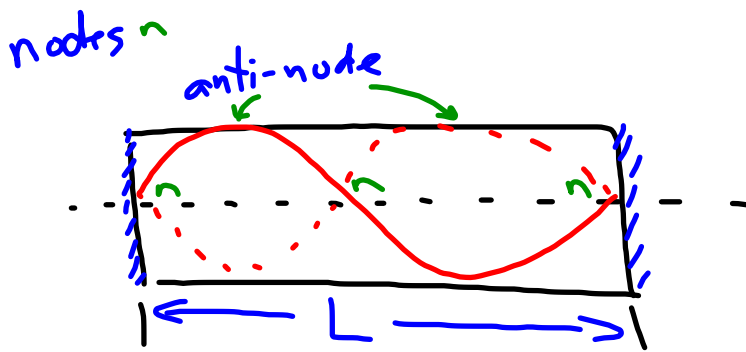
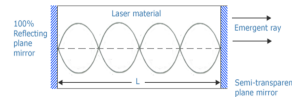
$$③ c = f\lambda \rightarrow \lambda = \frac{c}{f} = \frac{3.0 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}{4.74 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}} = 6.33 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$$

\* actual wavelength  
632.8 nm



# Wave Nature of Light Summary Notes

## 2. Optical Cavity



mirrored ends act as nodal points.

Length ( $L$ ) of optical cavity must be an integer multiple of  $\frac{1}{2}$  wavelengths.

$$L = n \left( \frac{1}{2} \lambda \right) \quad n \rightarrow \text{any integer}$$

let  $n = 100$

$$L = 100 \left( \frac{1}{2} 632.8 \text{ nm} \right)$$

$$= 31640 \text{ nm}$$

$$= 31.640 \mu\text{m} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \downarrow \div 1000 \\ \downarrow \div 1000 \end{array} \right\}$$

$$= 0.031640 \text{ mm} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \downarrow \div 1000 \\ \downarrow \div 1000 \end{array} \right\}$$

let  $n = 800000$

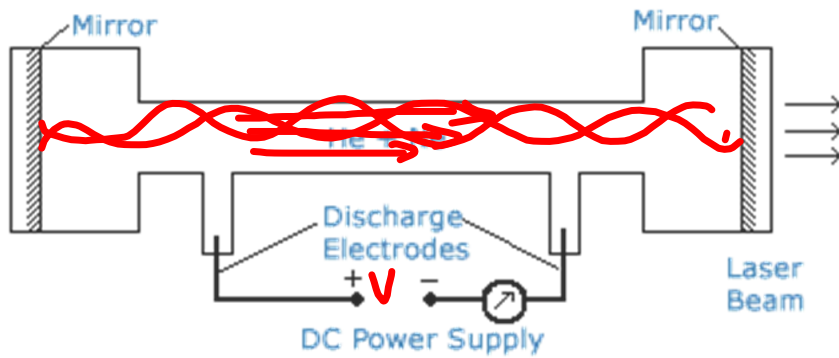
$$L = 800000 \left( \frac{1}{2} 632.8 \text{ nm} \right)$$

$$= 0.25312 \text{ m}$$

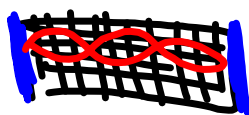
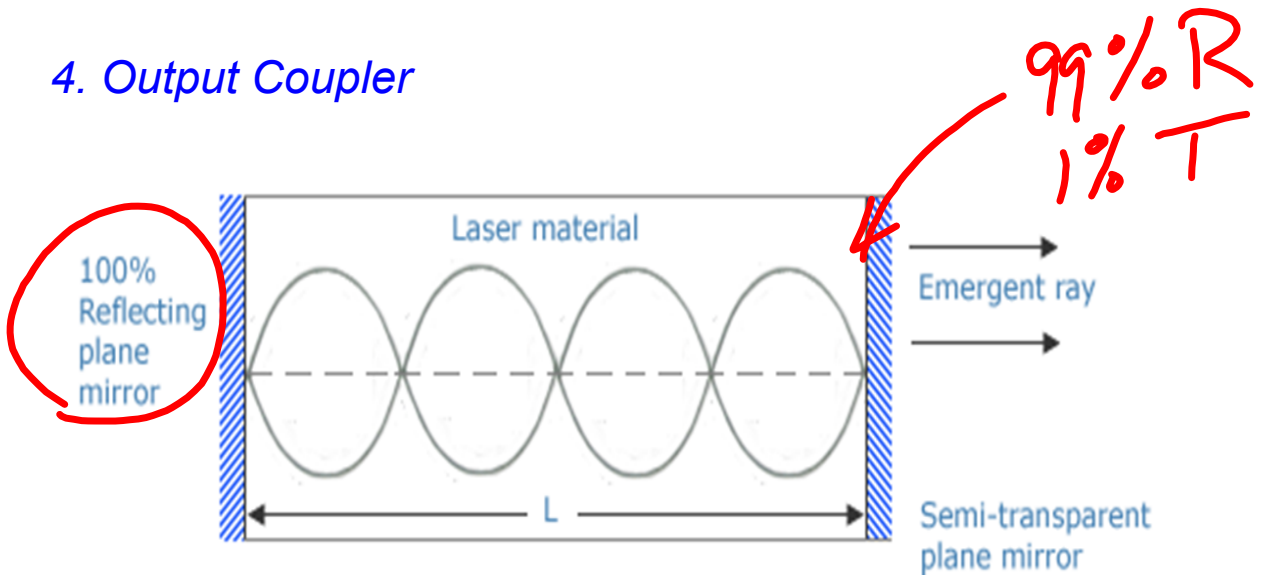
or

$$25.312 \text{ cm}$$

### 3. Laser Pumping Energy

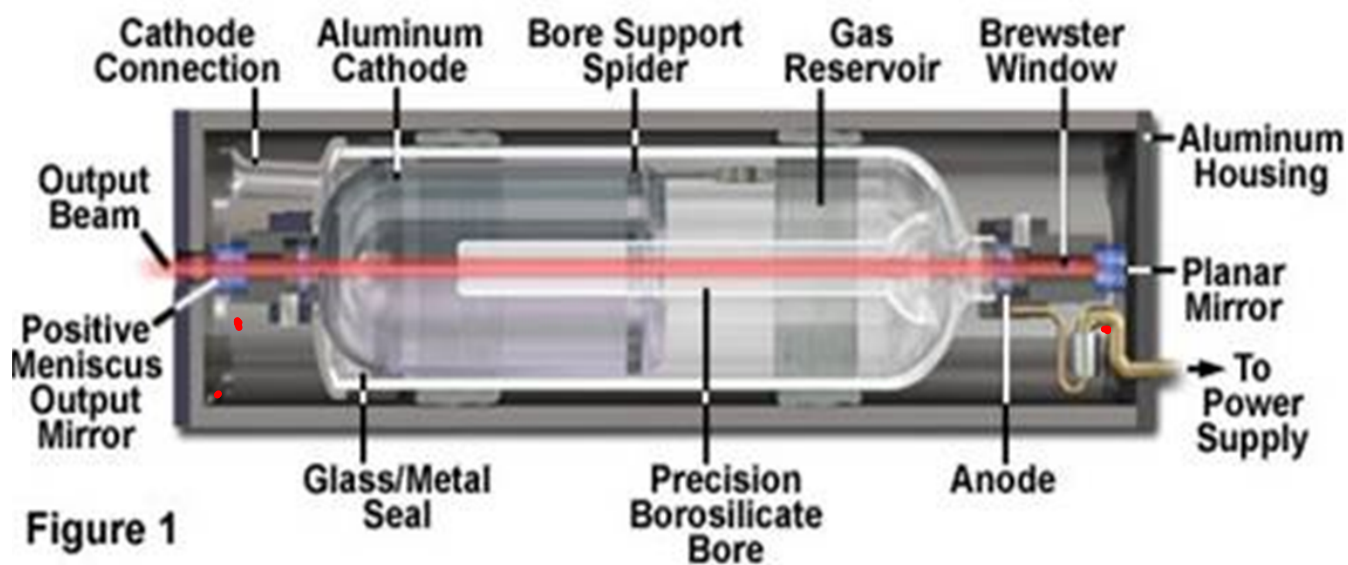


### 4. Output Coupler



Laser Pointer

### Anatomy of the Helium-Neon Laser



## Summary of Laser Operation

Light Behaving as a Wave (Classical Physics)

length of laser is determined by setting up a standing wave (constructive interference) inside the optical cavity.

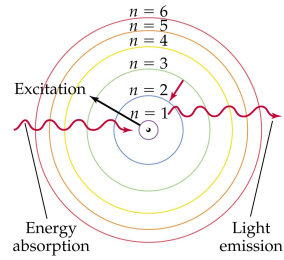
Light Behaving as a Particle (Modern Physics)

energy of a photon is directly proportional to frequency  
→ emission energy dictated the photon's frequency. (colour).

# Wave Nature of Light Summary Notes

Design an Argon Laser

1. what colour is the laser beam?
2. determine how far apart to place the mirrors in an argon laser

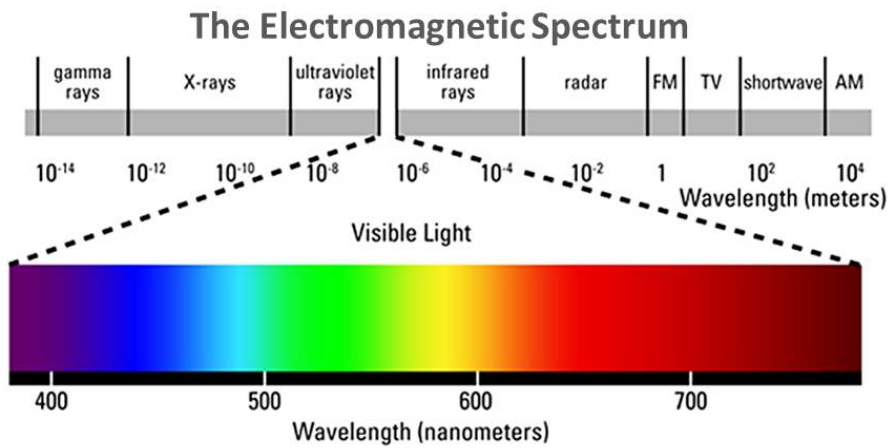


design criteria:

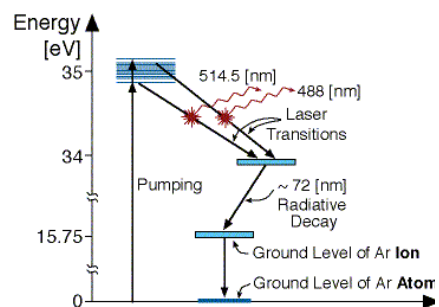
lasing medium - argon gas

emission energy - 2.54eV

Optical Cavity, set n = to 800,000



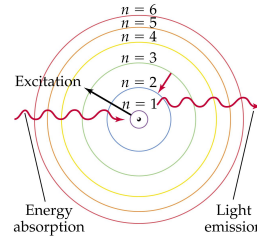
<https://perg.phys.ksu.edu/vqm/Laserweb/Ch-6/F6s1t4p1.htm>



# Wave Nature of Light Summary Notes

Design an Argon Laser

1. what colour is the laser beam?
2. determine how far apart to place the mirrors in an argon laser



design criteria:

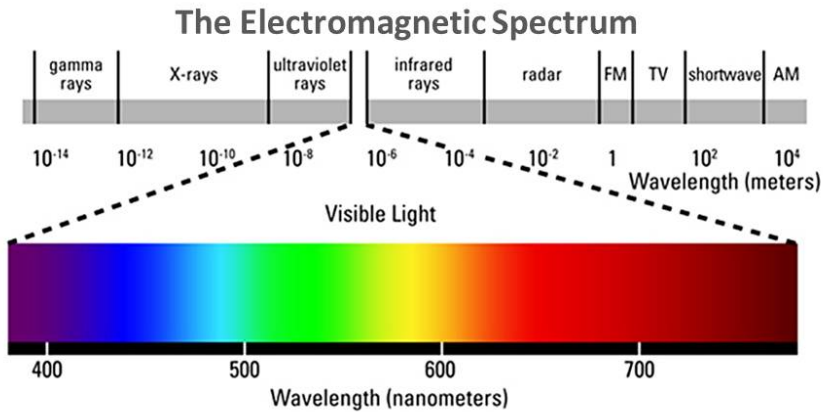
lasing medium - argon gas

emission energy - 2.54eV

Optical Cavity, set n = to 800,000

$$1\text{eV} = 1.602 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}$$

$$1\text{m} = 10^9 \text{ nm}$$



$$E = 2.54\text{eV} = 4.069 \text{ J}$$

$$f = \frac{E}{h} = 6.141 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$$

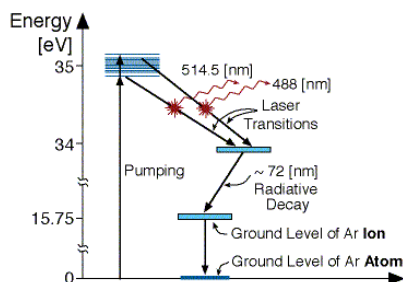
$$\lambda = \frac{c}{f} = 488.5 \text{ nm}$$

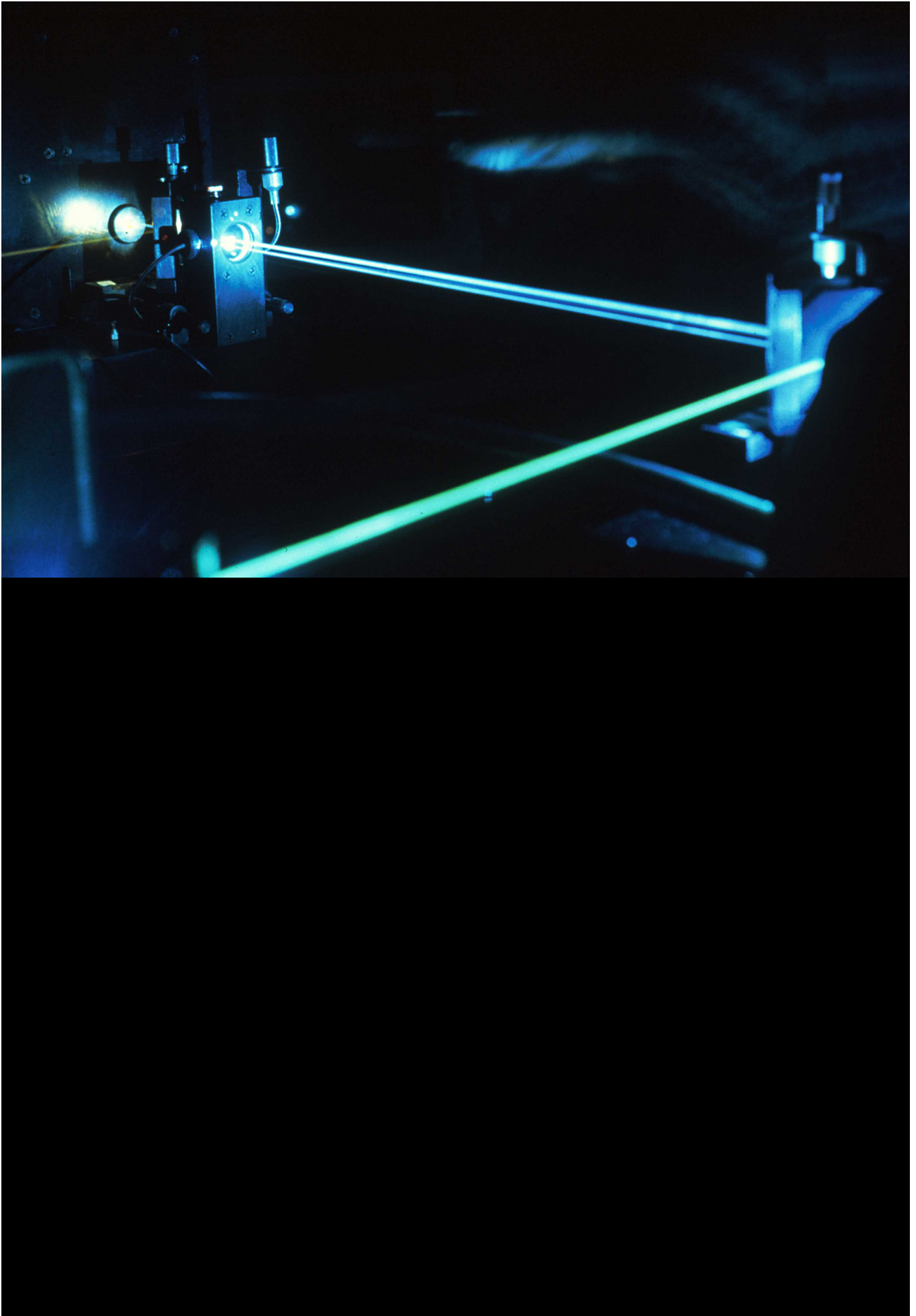
*0.000000488*

$$L = \frac{n\lambda}{2} = 19.54 \text{ cm}$$

colour - light blue/teal.

<https://perg.phys.ksu.edu/vqm/Laserweb/Ch-6/F6s1t4p1.htm>





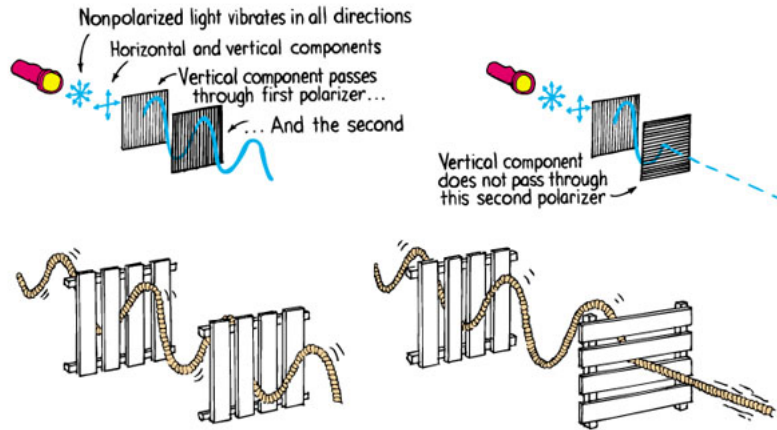
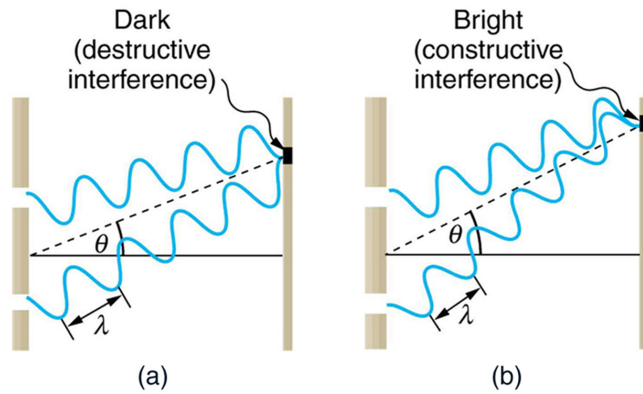
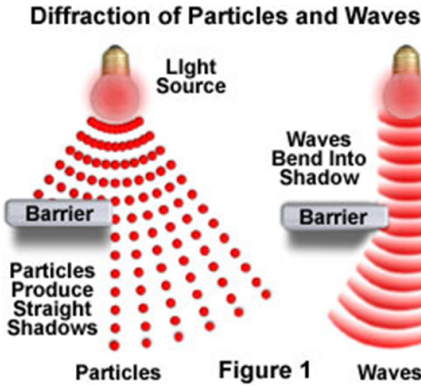


# *Modern Physics Concepts*

Wave Particle Duality - is light a wave or a particle?

# Wave / Particle Duality of Light

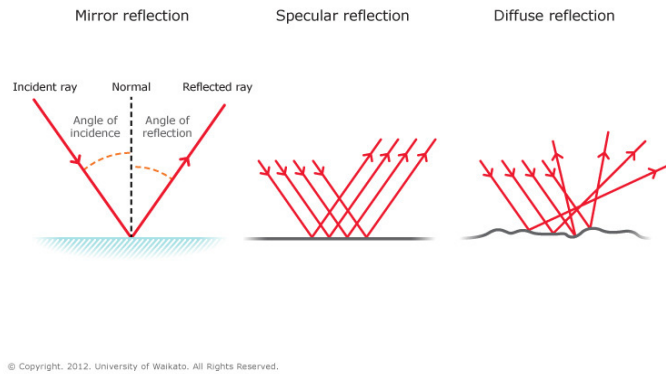
diffraction, interference and polarization can only be explained by wave model



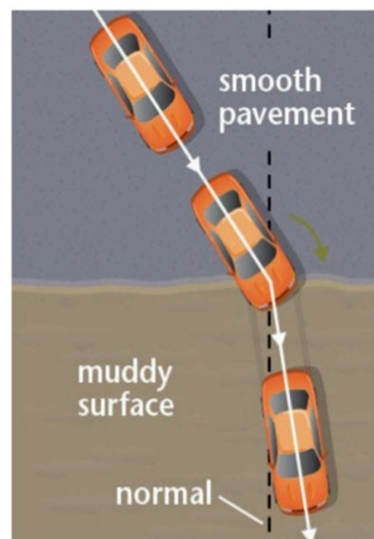
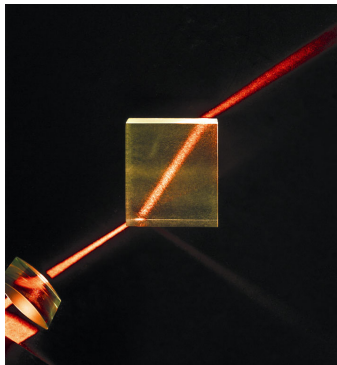
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# Wave / Particle Duality of Light

reflection and refraction can be explained by wave model or a particle model of light



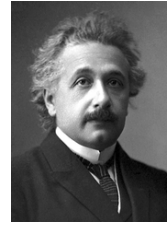
## Cause of Refraction



### Car Analogy

- Car travelling at an angle towards a muddy surface
- One front wheel hits muddy surface and slows down
- Other wheels continue to move at a higher speed
- Causes the path to bend

## Wave / Particle Duality of Light:



**Einstein** "It seems as though we must use sometimes the one theory and sometimes the other, while at times we may use either. We are faced with a new kind of difficulty. We have two contradictory pictures of reality; separately neither of them fully explains the phenomena of light, but together they do."

Property	Classical	Modern
	Wave Theory	Particle Theory
Reflection (bounce)	✓	✓
Diffraction (spreading out)	✓	✗
Refraction (slowing down, bending)	✓	✓
Interference (constructive & destructive)	✓	✗
Polarization (orientation of $\vec{E}$ field)	✓	✗
Emission Spectrum	✗	✓