## TOPIC # 6 THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

PART 2 of the KEY to unlocking the topics of: OZONE DEPLETION, The GREENHOUSE EFFECT, & GLOBAL WARMING!

> Class Notes: pp 29-30 ( & 31-32)

### **GOAL for this week:**

To understand the differences between:

Shortwave SOLAR radiation & Longwave TERRESTRIAL radiation



## and how these differences drive GLOBAL CHANGE processes





Both Sun & Earth are radiating energy . . .

... at different electromagnetic wavelengths

... and at different frequencies

## Come forth into the light of things.

#### Let nature be your teacher.

~ William Wordsworth

## Frequency, Wavelengths & Energy of Photons

Energy emitted from the sun (i.e, electromagnetic radiation) exhibits both a wave-like (electromagnetic wave) and particle-like (photon) nature.



#### **RECAP: Electromagnetic Radiation** (under <u>certain higher-energy conditions</u>, e.g. LIGHT) Electromagnetic radiation

exhibits a particle-like nature which we call PHOTONS.



Photons are energy packets having a well-defined wavelength and frequency



Because each atom type (element) has a unique set of energy levels with electrons,

H First electron shell Each atom type (e.g. H, He, etc.) will ABSORB energy over a PARTICULAR set of ELECTROMAGNETIC FREQUENCIES & WAVELENGTHS.



REVIEW: The Periodic Table is organized by # of shells (rows) & # of electrons in the <u>outer</u> shell (columns)

Review



# What energy shell & electron properties will the elements in these boxes: ? have?













Read this explanation at:

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/solar/







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## Wavelengths





### **Quantifying Frequency & Wavelengths**

First we'll talk about the WAVE-like behavior of electromagnetic energy:

Wave terminology:

<u>Wavelength</u> = distance between adjacent crests (or troughs) (symbol = lambda  $\lambda$ )

**Frequency** = how fast the crests move up and down (symbol = nu v in SGC)

**Speed** = how fast the crests move forward (symbol = c in SGC) the speed of light

Take notes







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## QUANTUM MECHANICS & the LINK to ABSORPTION OF ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY AT THE SUBATOMIC SCALE

- If a photon strikes an atom,
- and if the FREQUENCY of the photon's electromagnetic radiation matches the *difference* in the energy of the ground level & the first excited level,
- the electron ABSORBS the photon energy and . . .
- the electron makes a quantum leap to "Level 2"



The pattern of wavelengths <u>absorbed</u> by a particular atom or combination of atoms , (e.g. a gas molecule of  $CO_2$  or  $H_2O$ )

## is called its ABSORPTION SPECTRUM or its ABSORPTION CURVE (more on this later . . )

Example of an "absorption spectrum" curve or graph





### **Back to Wavelengths**



p 29

#### Wavelength & Frequency



NOTE: Shorter wavelengths are produced when the rope is shaken more vigorously. "The <u>shorter</u> the wavelength the <u>GREATER the energy</u> & the <u>HIGHER the frequency</u>"



#### THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FREQUENCY (v), WAVELENGTH ( $\lambda$ ), & ENERGY (E) OF PHOTONS:

## KEY CONCEPT #1:

## The Energy (E) of photons is <u>directly</u> proportional to their frequency v.

 $\infty$  = "is proportional to"

 $E \propto v$ 

Take notes

#### THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FREQUENCY (v), WAVELENGTH ( $\lambda$ ), & ENERGY (E) OF PHOTONS:

## KEY CONCEPT #2:

The Energy (E) of photons is inversely proportional to their wavelength ( $\lambda$ )

### $\boldsymbol{E} \propto \boldsymbol{C}/\lambda$



SOLAR RADIATION: greatest intensity in SHORT wavelengths

(high energy & frequency)



EARTH RADIATION: entirely in LONG wavelengths (low energy

& frequency)

## Quantum Behavior of <u>MOLECULES</u>



**Quantum leap of electrons:** 

takes place between discrete energy levels (shells) when photons are absorbed or emitted . . .

but

### Quantum theory also involves the behavior of molecules













## When the H<sub>2</sub>O molecule emits a photon, its <u>rotation</u> rate decreases;

## When it absorbs a photon, the rotation rate increases.

## • Molecules can <u>also</u> absorb and emit IR radiation by *changing the* <u>amplitude</u> with which they <u>vibrate.</u>

If the frequency at which a molecule vibrates matches the frequency of electromagnetic wave, the molecule can absorb a photon and begin to vibrate more vigorously.





Bending mode (15-µm band)

SGC-I Chapter 3

FIGURE 3-14

As a triatomic molecule, one way that CO<sub>2</sub> vibrates is in a "bending mode" that has a frequency that allows CO<sub>2</sub> to absorb IR radiation at a wavelength of about 15 micrometers

## What about another triatomic molecule: N<sub>2</sub>O (Nitrous oxide)?



### DANCE YOUR PhD !!



N<sub>2</sub>O acts as a greenhouse gas through the absorption of radiation in 3 vibrational modes.

With one hand as a nitrogen atom, torso as central nitrogen, and the other hand as an oxygen atom, the dancers exhibit the three specific movements of N<sub>2</sub>O's vibrational modes.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5j6BS3XoLc



The  $N_2O$  starts in the soil where it is produced by microbial activity and "moves on up" into the atmosphere.







Stepping onto the chairs represents the progression of  $N_2O$  to higher levels in the atmosphere (the stratosphere) where it is subject to intense Ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

This high energy from the bombarding UV radiation is shown in the dancers' high energy, more spastic dancing.

The high intensity UV radiation leads to the destruction of  $N_2O$  -- seen as jumping from the chair at the end  $\rightarrow$ 



## We will learn later that interaction of N<sub>2</sub>O in the stratosphere with UV wavelengths is related to OZONE DEPLETION

... but N<sub>2</sub>O also vibrates & bends when absorbing Infrared (IR) wavelengths

### ... It is the ability to <u>absorb</u> and <u>emit</u> IR radiation that makes $N_2O$ a GREENHOUSE GAS!



#### What defines a Greenhouse Gas? abbreviation we'll use = GHG

#### GHG = a gas than can absorb and emit (re-radiate) <u>INFRARED</u> wavelengths of Electromagnetic Radiation



KEY POINT:

## The QUANTUM BEHAVIOR of **CERTAIN MOLECULES** with respect to **INFRARED RADIATION** is the **REASON THAT GREENHOUSE GASES ARE GREENHOUSE GASES!!**



#### **RE-CAP:**

Energy given off by both the Sun and Earth has both a particle-like (photon) and wave-like behavior and emits radiation at electromagnetic wavelengths

- but which wavelengths??
  - and what difference does it make???





#### Another (flipped) view:



p 30

Neat website:

#### ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM JAVA APPLET:

<u>http://lectureonline.cl.msu.edu/~mmp/applist/</u> <u>Spectrum/s.htm</u>



## What are the "sources" of different wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation?

Type of Electromagnetic Radiation	Range of Wavelengths (in units indicated)	Typical Source
Gamma rays	10 <sup>-16</sup> to 10 <sup>-11</sup> in meters (m) using scientific potation	high-energy processes within nucleus caused by the strong force
Ultraviolet radiation	.0001 to 0.4	electrons moving (quantum leaps) within individual atoms
Visible light	0.4 to 0.7 in micrometers (µm)	
Infrared radiation	0.7 to ~30 (up to 1000) in micrometers (µm)	chaotic thermal kinetic motion of molecules due to their thermal energy
Near Infrared radiation See SGC-II p 197	<b>0.7 - 1.0</b> in micrometers (µm)	IR photon
Far Infrared See SGC-II p 197	1.0 - ~30 (up to 1000)	Faster rotation rate Slow rotation rate
Microwaves	$10^{-4}$ to $10^{-2}$ in meters (m) using scientific notation	electronically produced by microwave oven
AM Radio waves	10 to 10 <sup>2</sup> in meters (m) using scientific notation	electronically produced waves vibrate in human-made electrical circuits



#### Increasing frequency & decreasing wavelength



### **Frequency** (def) = The number of times per second that a signal fluctuates.

The international unit for frequency is the hertz (Hz).

One thousand hertz equals 1 KHz (kilohertz). One million hertz equals 1 MHz (megahertz). One billion hertz equals 1 GHz (gigahertz).

Television is broadcast in frequencies ranging from 54 MHz to 216 MHz (VHF) & 470 MHz to 806 MHz (UHF).



#### The spectrum is divided into bands . . .



## **Multicasting:**

This is the process of transmitting more then one program over the air at the same time on the same channel.

When stations are given their channel for DTV broadcasting they are allocated a specific amount of bandwidth.

If they are not using the full amount of bandwidth, they can squeeze more programs OTA through that same channel.







#### UNITED STATES FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS THE RADIO SPECTRUM



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

008#200



### SUSTAINABILITY SEGMENT more of:

O PBS HOME PROGRAMS A-Z TV SCHEDULES WATCH VIDEO SUPPORT PBS NOVA HOME TV SCHEDULE SUPPORT SHOP WATCH ONLINE TEACHERS PODCASTS RSS Is it time to take solar energu seriously?

#### http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/solar/

#### HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND, BUT STUDY WELL for TEST # 1 next Tuesday & LOOK FOR THE "Top Ten" STUDY GUIDE to be posted on FRIDAY