

**TOPIC # 6**  
**The RADIATION LAWS**  
**PART 2**

**Class Notes p 35**

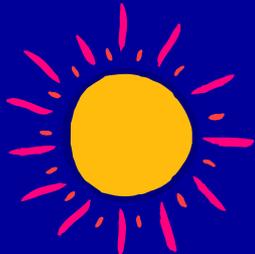
# OBJECTIVES:

To understand more  
essentials about

**Solar radiation**

&

**Terrestrial radiation**



based on the principles of  
the last 2 “Radiation Laws.”



# THE RADIATION LAWS

## Review of Laws # 2 – 4

Fill in Top of p 35

**REVIEW: Match each equation with the correct phrase below & fill in the name of the LAW:**

(a)  $E = \sigma T^4$       (b)  $E = h c / \lambda$       (c)  $\lambda_m = a / T$

“The hotter the body, the shorter the wavelength”  
The cooler the body, the longer the wavelength”

“The hotter the body, the (much) greater the amount of energy flux or radiation”

“SHORTER wavelengths have HIGHER intensity radiation than LONGER wavelengths”

## ANSWERS!

(c)  $\lambda_m = a / T$

Wien's Law

“The hotter the body, the shorter the wavelength”  
The cooler the body, the longer the wavelength”

(a)  $E = \sigma T^4$

Stefan-Boltzmann Law

“The hotter the body, the (much) greater the amount of energy flux or radiation”

(b)  $E = h c / \lambda$

Planck Function

“SHORTER wavelengths have HIGHER intensity radiation than LONGER wavelengths”

**On to the last two laws . . . .**

# LAW #5: Radiation & distance

## -- the inverse-square law

The inverse square law describes:

how solar **FLUX of ENERGY**  
decreases  
with **increasing DISTANCE**  
from the source of  
the radiation flux  
i.e., the **Sun**

# **INVERSE SQUARE LAW =**

The amount of radiation passing through a particular unit area is:

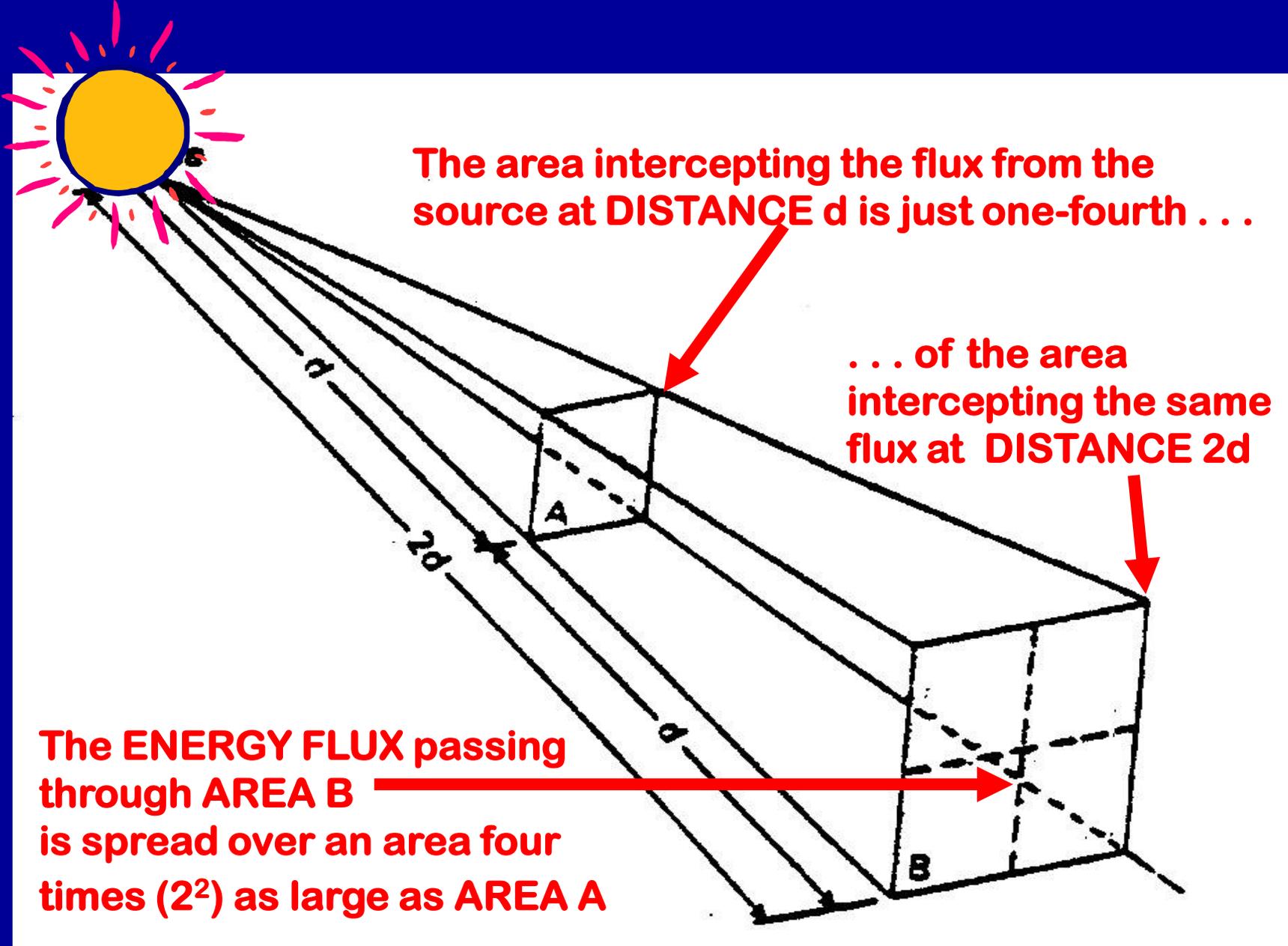
**INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL**

to the

**SQUARE** of the distance

of that unit area from the source

$$(1/d^2)$$



# Inverse-Square Law (easy way):

If we double the distance from the source to the interception point, the intensity of the radiation decreases by a factor of

$$(1/2)^2 = 1/4$$

OR

If we triple the distance from the source to the interception point, the intensity decreases by a factor of

$$(1/3)^2 = 1/9 \quad \dots \text{etc, etc.}$$



**OR**

if we reduce the distance from the source to the interception point by a factor of 2 or 3, the intensity of the radiation increases by a factor of

$$2^2 = 4$$

or

$$3^2 = 9$$

... etc, etc.



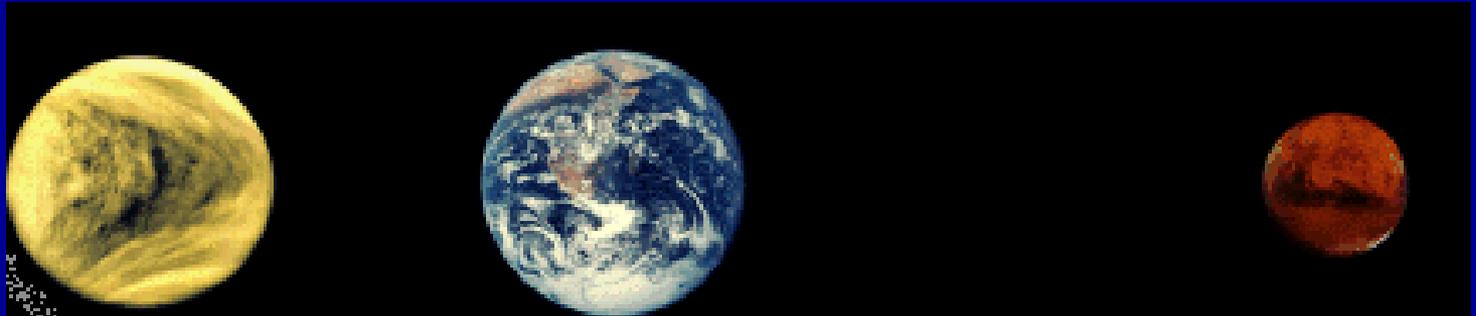
# Why is this concept important?

Because it means that relatively  
SMALL changes in distance from  
the source of energy  
(e.g., the Sun)

can result in LARGE changes in the  
amount of energy received  
by a planet's surface.



# GOLDILOCKS & THE 3 PLANETS



**VENUS**

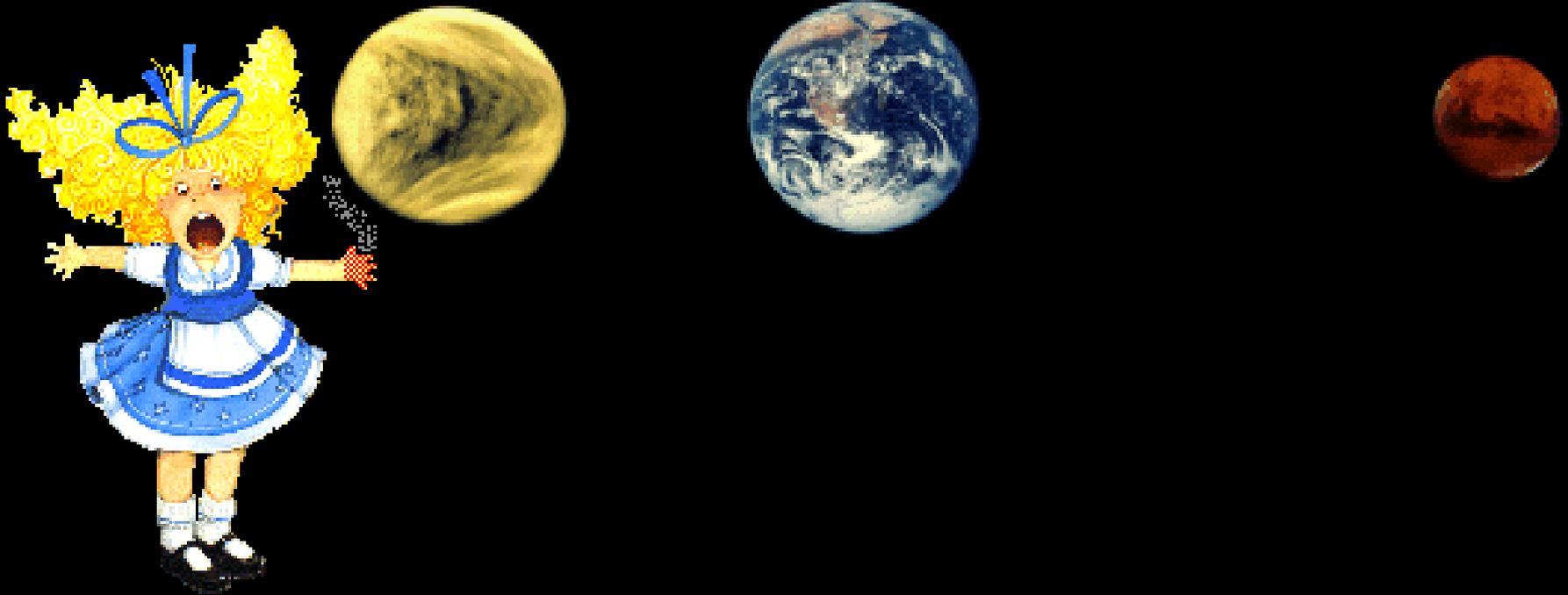
**EARTH**

**MARS**

← to  
Sun



# GOLDILOCKS & THE 3 PLANETS



**Yikes! Venus is too HOT!**



# GOLDILOCKS & THE 3 PLANETS



**Brrrrrrrrr, Mars is too COLD!!**



# GOLDILOCKS & THE 3 PLANETS



**Ahhhh! Earth is JUST RIGHT!**



The **absorbption** of LW (IR) radiation and **the re-radiation** of LW (IR) energy to the Earth's surface by GH gases . . . .

is what keeps the Earth in the "**just right**" **temperature range** for water to be present in all 3 phases and just right for US too!

**Without the "Greenhouse Effect," the Earth would be too COLD for life as we know it!**



**Thanks,  
Greenhouse  
Effect!**



IT'S IN 'GOLDILOCKS' AREA, BUT HOT AND INCREDIBLY HUMID

# Worse-than-Florida planet is in life zone

The Associated Press The Associated Press | Posted: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 12:00 am

WASHINGTON - Astronomers believe they have found a second planet outside our solar system that seems to be in the right zone for life, just barely. But it would feel like a steam bath - hot, sticky and beyond uncomfortable.

European astronomers announced the discovery Monday along with about 50 other planets outside our solar system at a conference in Moran, Wyo. The most exciting of those planets is only the second to be confirmed as lying in what astronomers call the "Goldilocks zone." That means it's not too hot and not too cold for liquid water to be present. Water is the key to a planet being able to support Earth-like life, scientists say.

Only one of the past discoveries of such Goldilocks planets has held up. That was a planet found in 2007. And even this new one comes with an asterisk: The planet would need to have water and be a rocky, solid planet like Earth, not one that's primarily gas like Jupiter.

The new planet is about 3.6 times the mass of Earth. Temperatures there may range from 85 to 120 degrees with plenty of humidity.

"It's going to be really muggy - just think about the muggiest day you can think of," said study author Lisa Kaltenegger, an astronomer with the Max Planck Institute in Germany. "We're not saying it's habitable for you and me."

But other types of life - probably shorter and squatter life - could conceivably take root there, she said. They would probably be closer to the ground than humans because gravity on this larger-than-Earth planet is about 1.4 times what we experience, she said.

For it to be considered livable by astronomers, at least 60 percent of it would have to be covered in clouds, Kaltenegger said. Earth has about 50 percent cloud cover, so 60 percent seems reasonable, she said.

The new planet, called HD85512b, closely circles a star about 35 light-years from Earth in the constellation Vela. Each light-year is 5.8 trillion miles. The only reason it might not be too hot for life is that its sun is about 1,800 degrees cooler than ours, Kaltenegger said.



*Artist's rendition!*

The planet  
**HD85512b**  
is in the  
constellation Vela,  
about 35 light-years  
from Earth.

Temperatures there  
may hit 120 deg F

**Q1 The inverse-square law applied to the distance between a planet and the Sun is what determines that planet's temperature. YES or NO?**

1. Yes, this is what the **Goldilock's Effect** is illustrating.
2. No, how much solar energy the planet **reflects back** must also be taken into account
3. No, whether or not the planet has a **greenhouse effect** must also be taken into account.

**Q1 The inverse-square law applied to the distance between a planet and the Sun is what determines that planet's temperature. YES or NO?**

1. Yes, this is what the **Goldilock's Effect** is illustrating.
2. No, how much solar energy the planet **reflects back** must also be taken into account
3. No, whether or not the planet has a **greenhouse effect** must also be taken into account.

**Both 2 & 3  
are correct!**

**TRICK  
QUESTION!**

# LAW #6: Selective emission and absorption

*Part (a) of the law:*

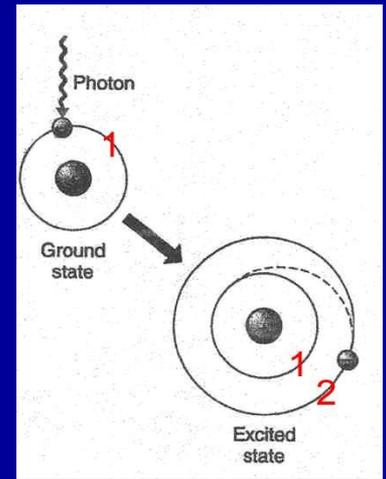
Some substances emit and absorb radiation at **certain wavelengths only.**

This is mainly true of gases.

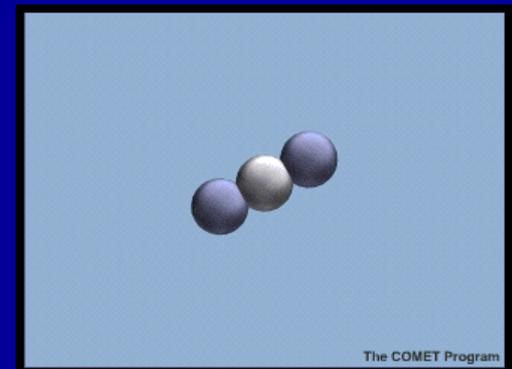
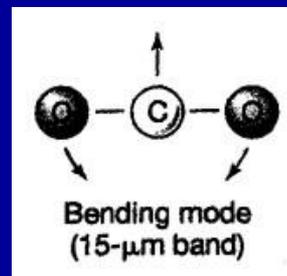
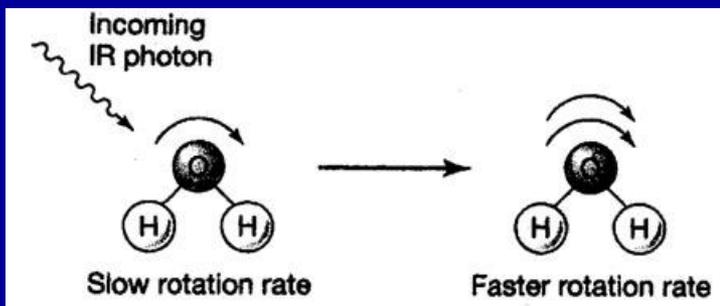
Why?

# Recall QUANTUM BEHAVIOR!

**ELECTRON** energy states allow absorption of photons/wavelengths of **only a specified frequency**



Different **GAS MOLECULES** allow absorption of photons/wavelengths of **only specified frequencies** (and wavelengths) because of how the gas molecules vibrate, bend, and rotate



*Part (b) of the law:*

Some substances (like gases)  
absorb only radiation of  
wavelengths they can emit.

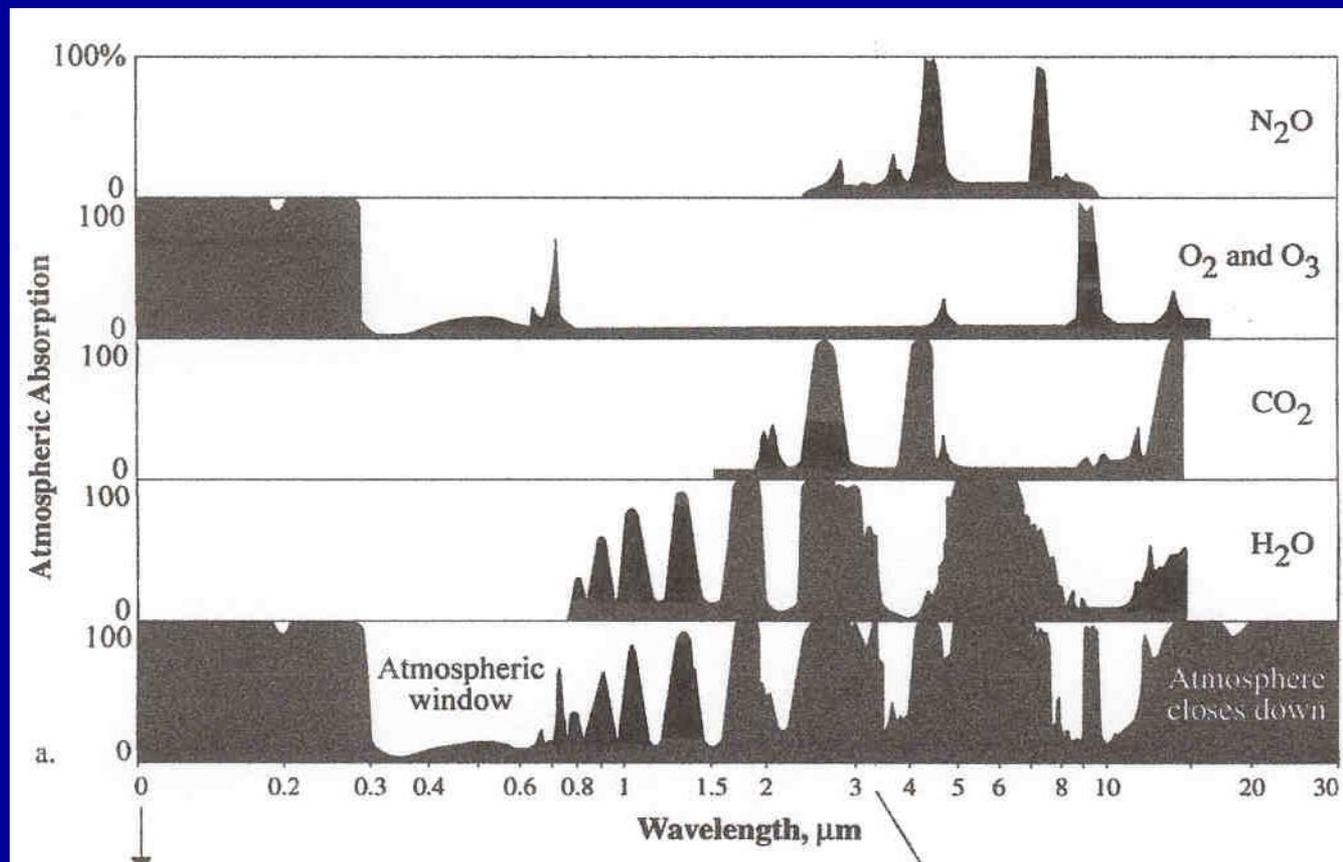


*Implications of Part (b):*

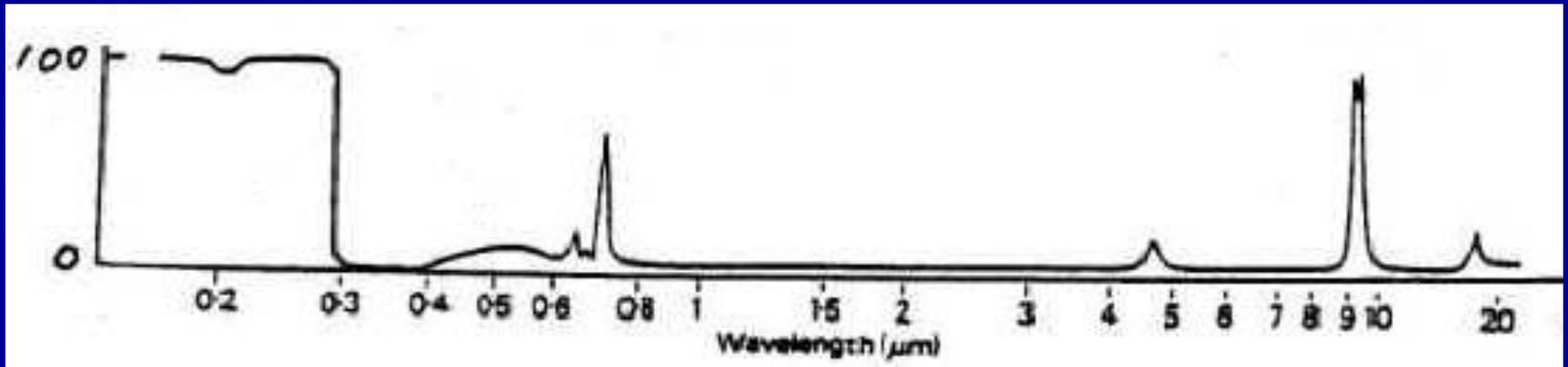
The **frequency & wavelength** of a photon absorbed by a given electron, atom, molecule **will be the same as** the frequency / wavelength with which it is emitted.

The pattern of electromagnetic wavelengths that are **absorbed** & **emitted** by a particular atom (or combination of atoms)

is called its **ABSORPTION SPECTRUM** or its **ABSORPTION CURVE**

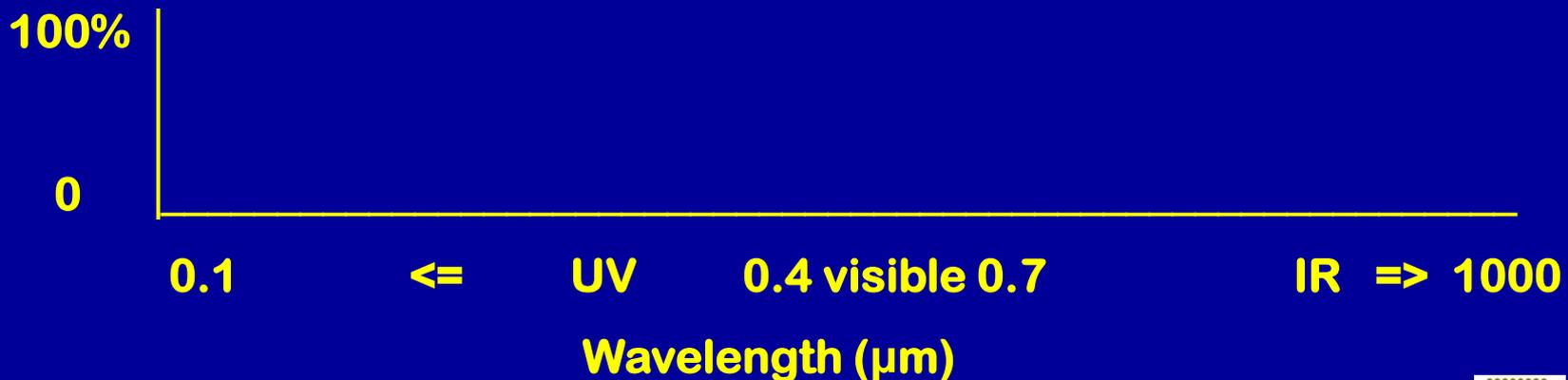


# An absorption curve: another view (without shading under the curve)

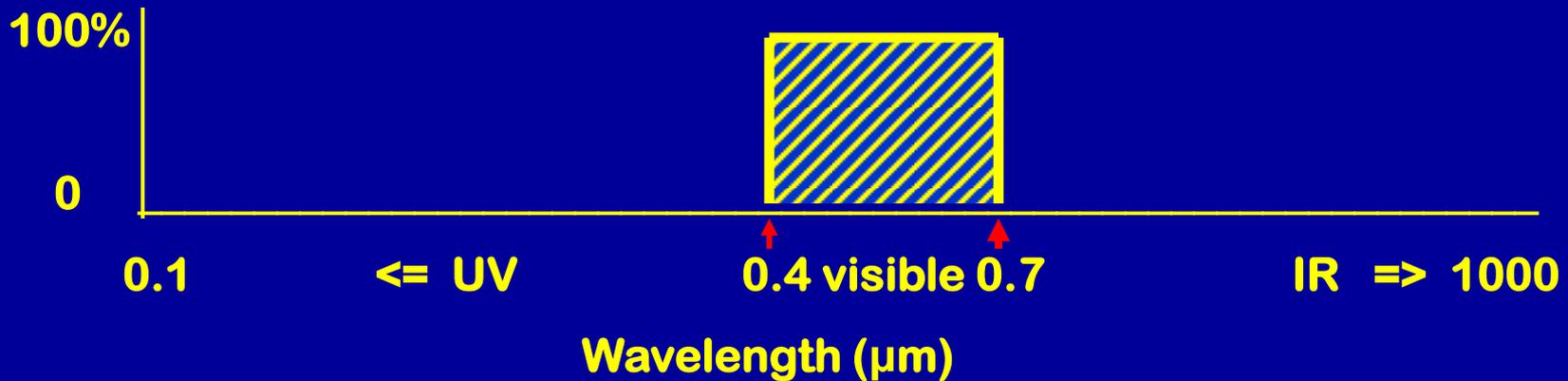


# ABSORPTION CURVES

We use an absorption curve to show the relationship between **wavelength** (along the horizontal axis) and % of energy at a given wavelength that is **absorbed** (vertical axis):



Curve for a hypothetical gas that absorbs **ALL VISIBLE LIGHT** but NO UV or IR:



# GROUP ASSIGNMENT G-1

## Understanding Absorption Curves

⚙️ GROUP ASSIGNMENT G-1: UNDERSTANDING ABSORPTION CURVES (worth 5 pts)

GROUP # \_\_\_\_\_

*Each Group Participant's SIGNATURE:*

*PRINT NAME legibly next to the signature:*

GROUP LEADER: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**TODAY'S GROUP LEADER = 1<sup>st</sup> in the ALPHABET on your Group List**

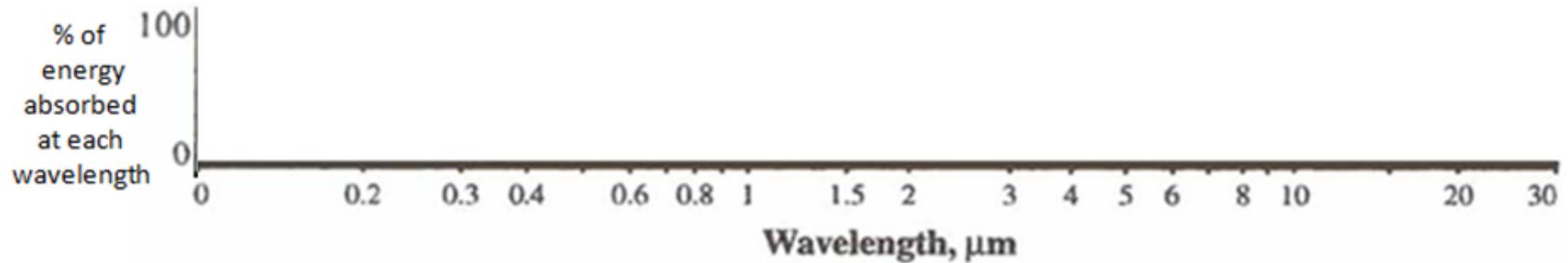
Pass the GROUP form around so each member of the group  
**SIGNS IT & PRINTS THEIR NAME**

## BACKGROUND:

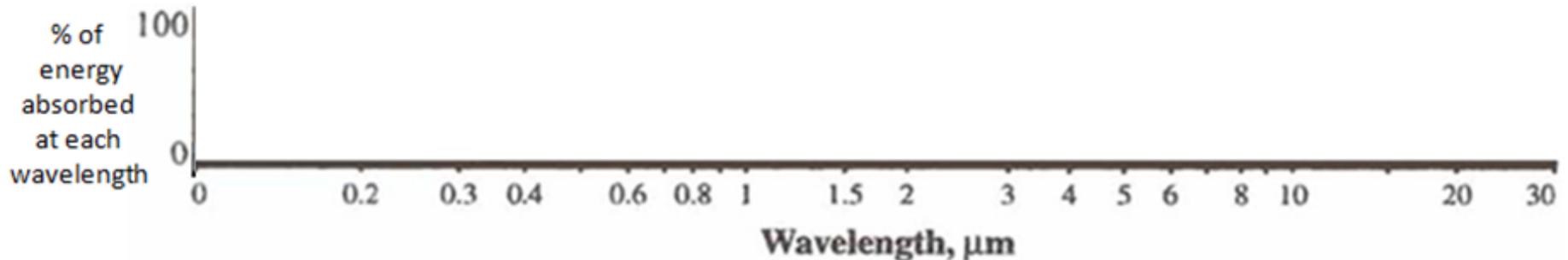
**ABSORPTION CURVES** (diagrams that show *which* wavelengths of energy different gases selectively absorb)

We use an **absorption curve** (graph) to show the relationship between **wavelengths** of the electromagnetic spectrum (along the horizontal axis) and the **% of energy at each wavelength** that is absorbed by a particular gas (vertical axis)

Q1. Draw an absorption curve for a hypothetical gas that can absorb ALL UV radiation but zero visible light and IR radiation. Then shade in the area under your curve in this and subsequent questions.



Q2. Draw an absorption curve for a "perfect" greenhouse gas that absorbs ALL IR radiation, but no visible or UV:



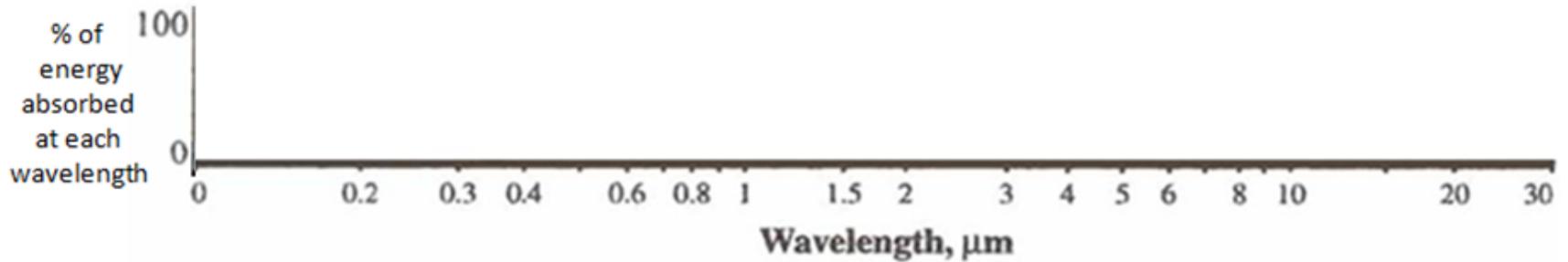
Review for Q2:

## DEFINITION OF GREENHOUSE GASES

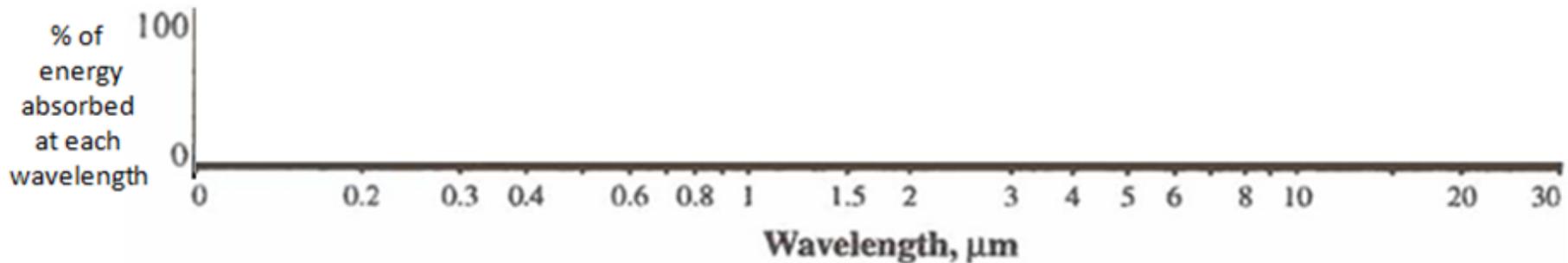
*(def):* Greenhouse gases are gases which both absorb and emit electromagnetic radiation in the infrared (IR) part of the spectrum.



Q3. Draw an absorption curve for a hypothetical gas that absorbs ALL UV radiation and ALL IR radiation, but leaves a "WINDOW" open for visible light, allowing the visible light wavelengths to pass through the gas unimpeded without being absorbed:



Q4. Draw an absorption curve for a hypothetical gas that can absorb 100% of the IR radiation in these three wavelength bands: band from 2 to 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  band from 3 to 4  $\mu\text{m}$  band from 13 to 20  $\mu\text{m}$



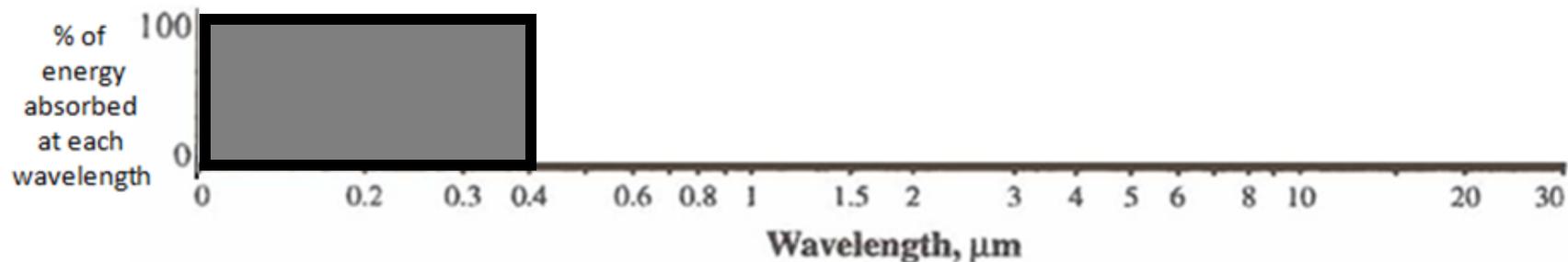
**Q5. Is the hypothetical gas in Q4 likely to be a GREENHOUSE GAS?**

**YES      NO      *(circle one)***

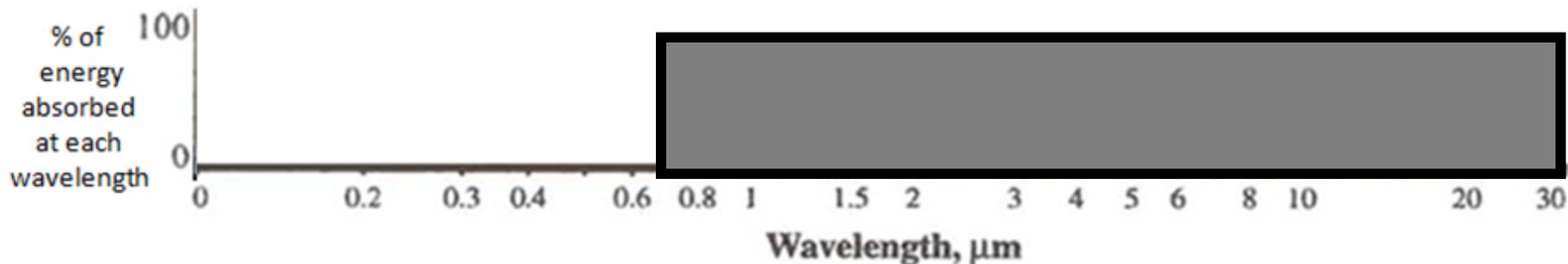
**Briefly explain WHY you answered YES or NO:**

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS:**

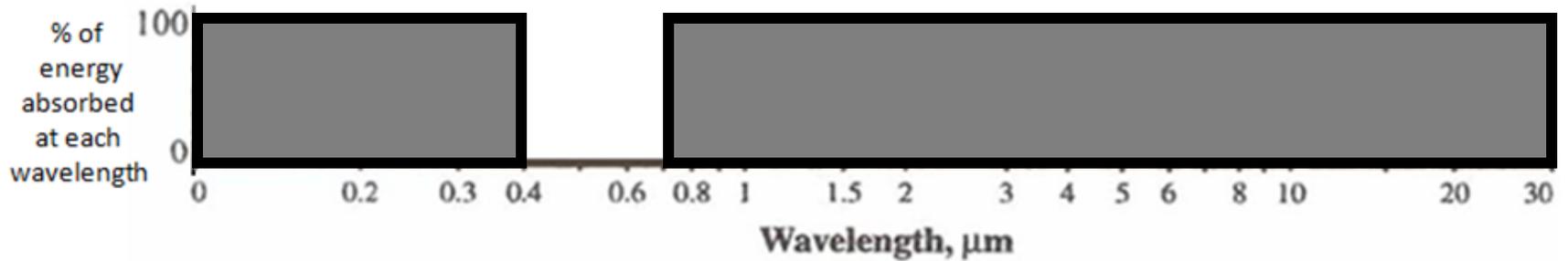
Q1. Draw an absorption curve for a hypothetical gas that can absorb ALL UV radiation but zero visible light and IR radiation. Then shade in the area under your curve in this and subsequent questions.



Q2. Draw an absorption curve for a "perfect" greenhouse gas that absorbs ALL IR radiation, but no visible or UV:



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