

# THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

PHYSICS 112: LIGHT UNIT LEARNING TARGET 2 (LLT2)



# MORE THAN COLORS



- Radio
- Micro
- Infrared
- Visible
- Ultraviolet
- X-ray
- Gamma ray

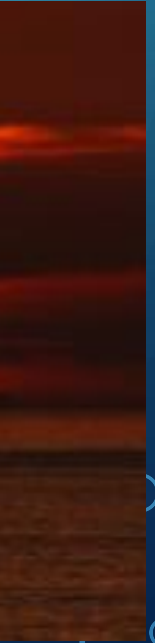
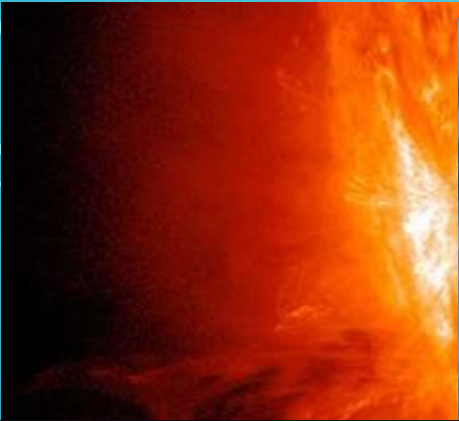
# WHITE LIGHT AND COLORS



- Why is something blue?
  - That object absorbs all the colors and reflects blue.
  - Our eyes only see objects because they emit or reflect light.
- Why is something black? White?
  - Absorbs all the colors
  - Reflects all the colors



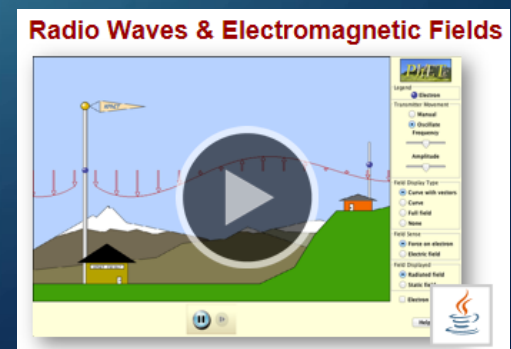
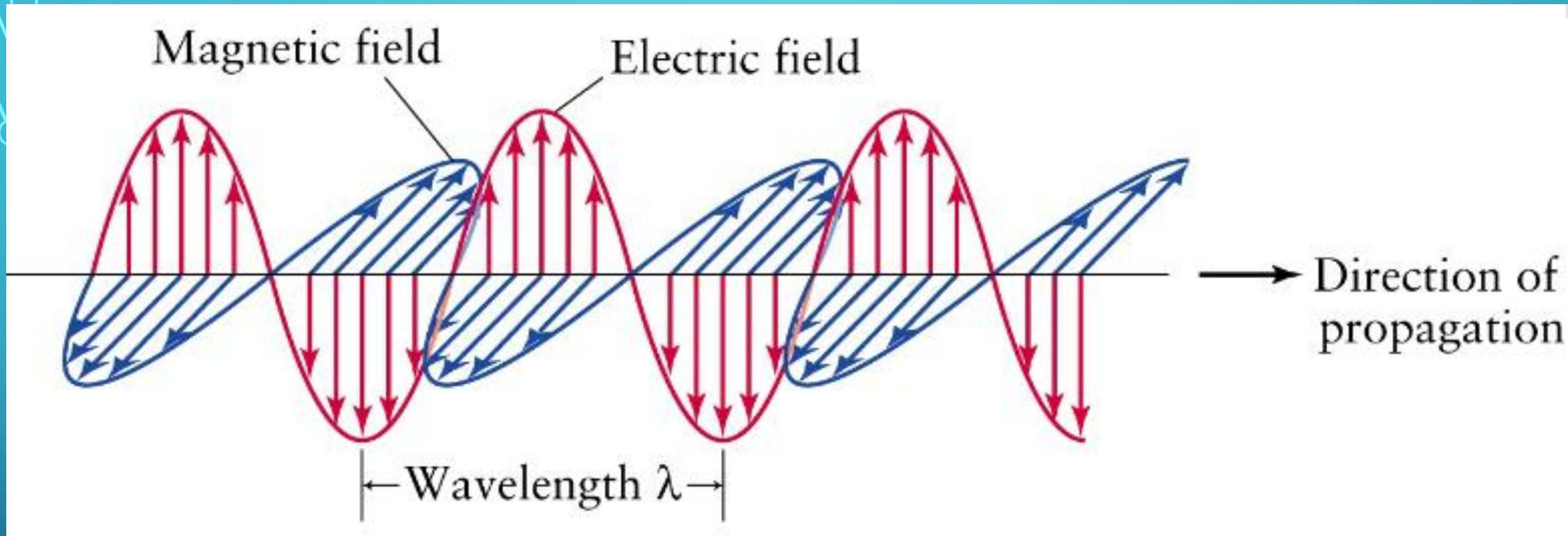
# WHAT COLOR IS THE SUN?



# THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM

- They are a moving electric and magnetic field.
  - Related to moving or oscillating electrons.
  - We will use some of the properties of transverse waves to visualize EM Radiation.
- Light is a small part of the EM spectrum

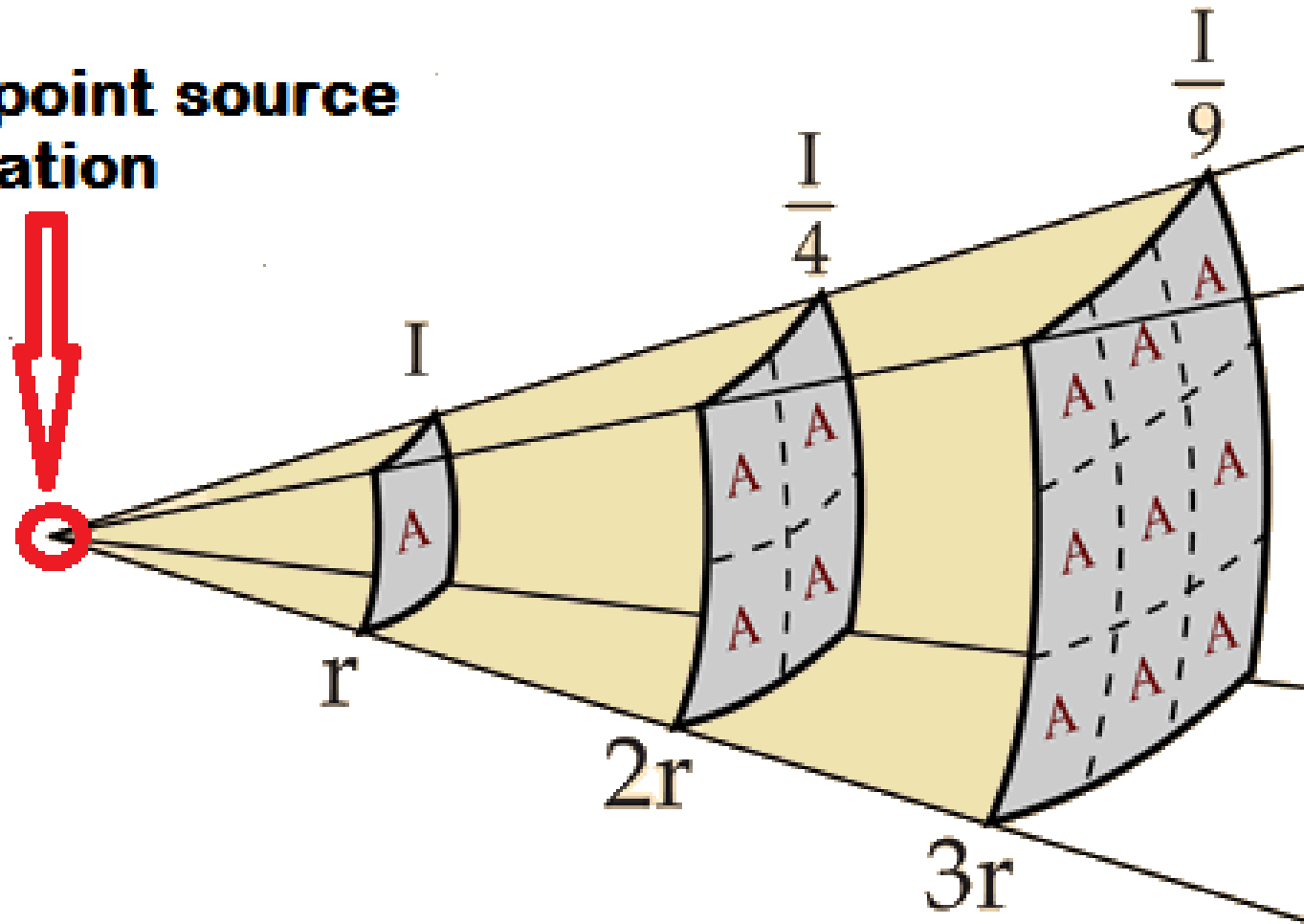
# VISUALIZING EM RADIATION



# DIFFERENCES FROM MECHANICAL WAVES

- EM Waves are produced by movement of electrons

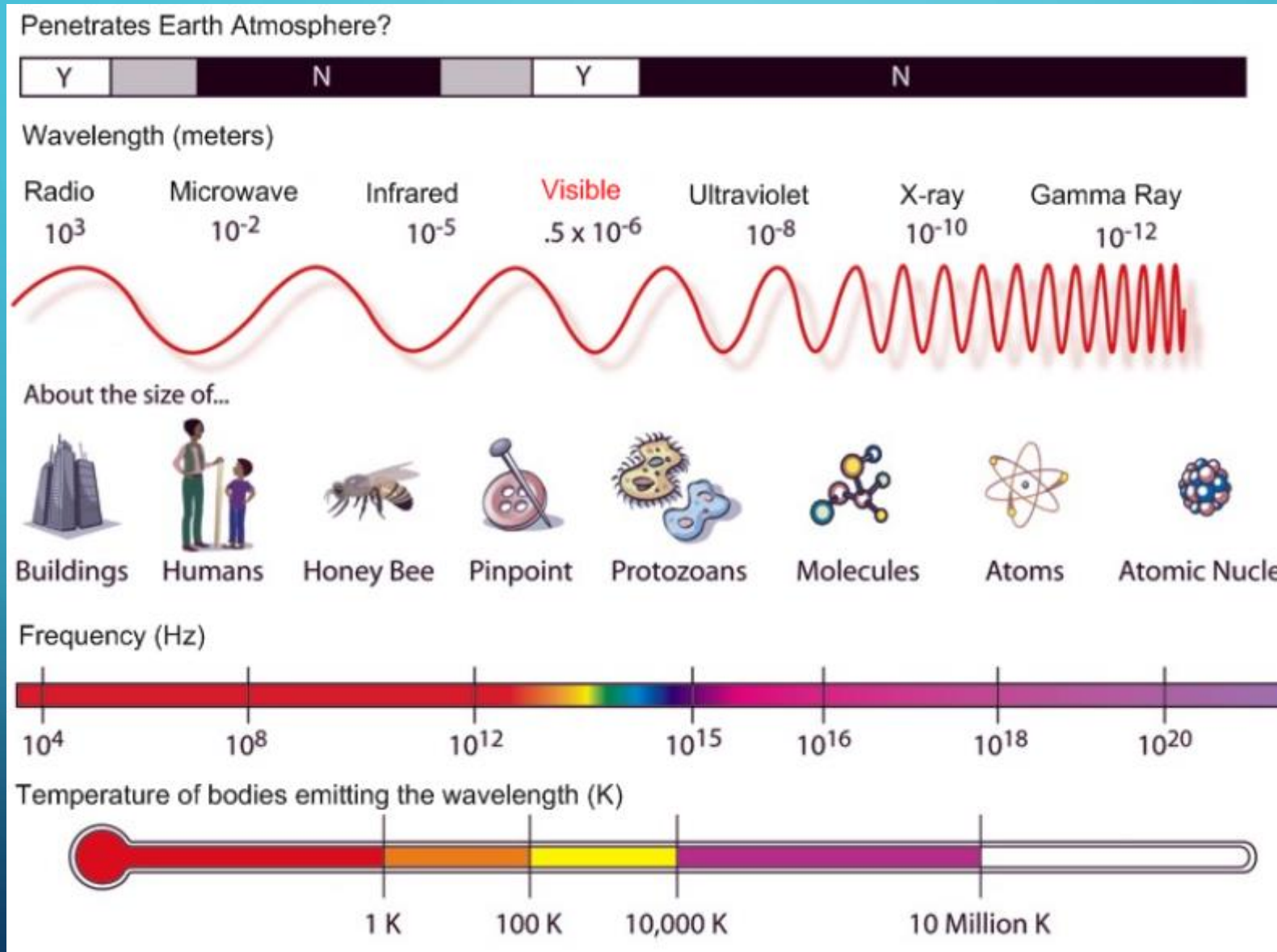
**Initial point source of radiation**



levels  
of  
light  
of the

*inverse square law.*

# THE FULL ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM





# ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM RANGES AND APPLICATIONS

Classification	Range	Applications
radio waves	$\lambda > 30 \text{ cm}$ $f < 1.0 \times 10^9 \text{ Hz}$	AM and FM radio; television
microwaves	$30 \text{ cm} > \lambda > 1 \text{ mm}$ $1.0 \times 10^9 \text{ Hz} < f < 3.0 \times 10^{11} \text{ Hz}$	radar; atomic and molecular research; aircraft navigation; microwave ovens
infrared (IR) waves	$1 \text{ mm} > \lambda > 700 \text{ nm}$ $3.0 \times 10^{11} \text{ Hz} < f < 4.3 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$	molecular vibrational spectra; infrared photography; physical therapy
visible light	$700 \text{ nm (red)} > \lambda > 400 \text{ nm (violet)}$ $4.3 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz} < f < 7.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$	visible-light photography; optical microscopy; optical astronomy
ultraviolet (UV) light	$400 \text{ nm} > \lambda > 60 \text{ nm}$ $7.5 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz} < f < 5.0 \times 10^{15} \text{ Hz}$	sterilization of medical instruments; identification of fluorescent minerals
X rays	$60 \text{ nm} > \lambda > 10^{-4} \text{ nm}$ $5.0 \times 10^{15} \text{ Hz} < f < 3.0 \times 10^{21} \text{ Hz}$	medical examination of bones, teeth, and vital organs; treatment for types of cancer
gamma rays	$0.1 \text{ nm} > \lambda > 10^{-5} \text{ nm}$ $3.0 \times 10^{18} \text{ Hz} < f < 3.0 \times 10^{22} \text{ Hz}$	examination of thick materials for structural flaws; treatment of types of cancer; food irradiation

# RADIO WAVES

- Low Frequency, high wavelength, lowest energy EM waves.
- Radio Communication (radios, TVs, etc.)
- Radar/Sonar
- Radar Guns (to determine speed)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Imaging the universe

