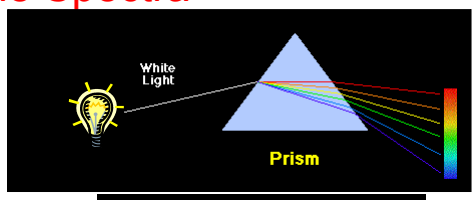
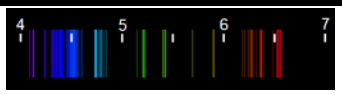
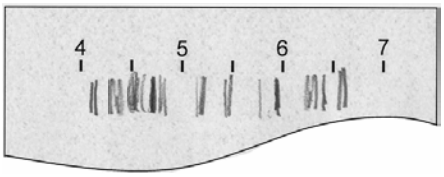
Observing Emission Line Spectra
(today's experiment)





- Look at spectrum of 4 different lamps, each of which produces emission lines from a different element.
- *Quickly* sketch each spectrum



- Come back into Planetarium Theater and take quiz to identify chemical compositions of different gases from their emission-line spectra.

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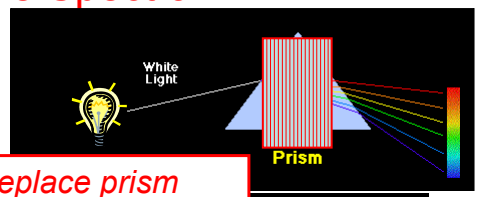
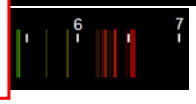
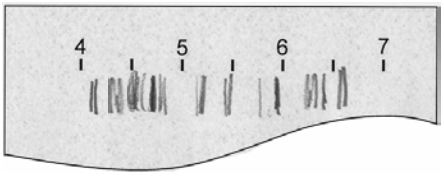




Replace prism with diffraction grating.

- Look at spectrum of 4 different lamps, each of which produces emission lines from a different element.
- *Quickly* sketch each spectrum



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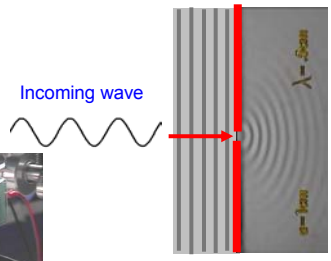
Waves: Diffraction

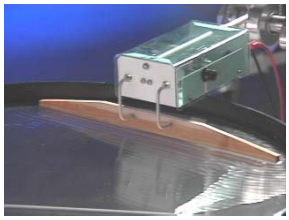
Use ripple tank to study water waves.



When parallel waves pass through a narrow slit, they spread out into a circular pattern.

Light waves do this same thing.

Waves: Diffraction + Interference



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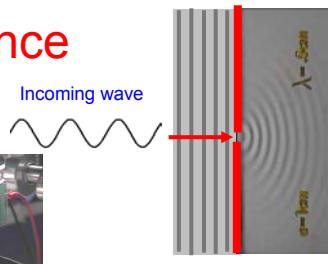

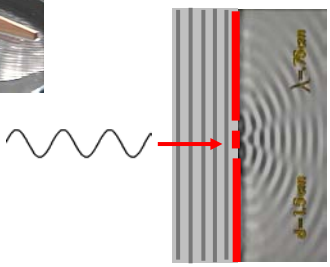

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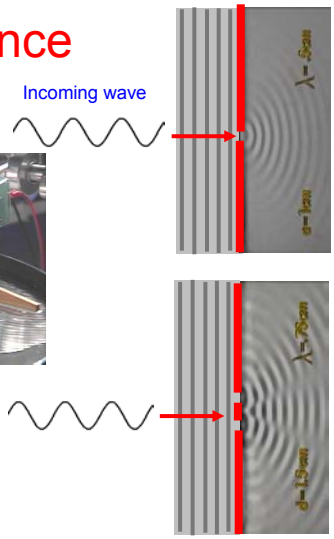


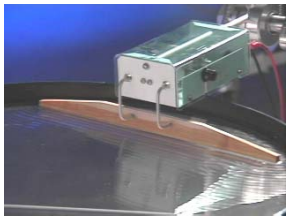
Wave from:
top slit
bottom slit

…reinforce each other.

…cancel each other out.

Light waves do this same thing.

Waves: Diffraction + Interference



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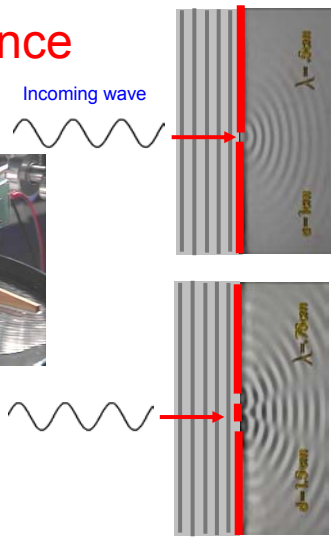

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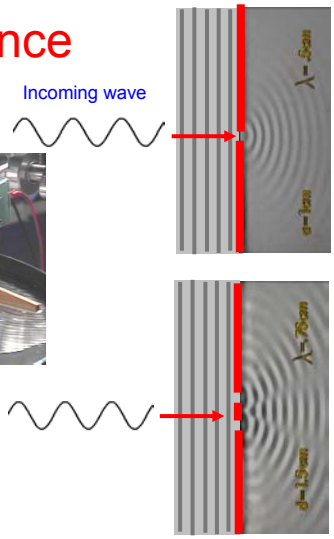


Wave from:
top slit
bottom slit
…reinforce each other.

Order = -1

Order = 0

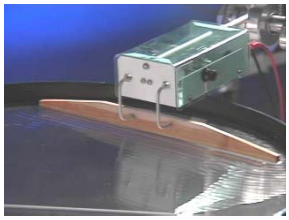
Order = +1

Light waves do this same thing.

Waves: Diffraction + Interference

Green arrow = smaller wavelength

Red arrow = larger wavelength



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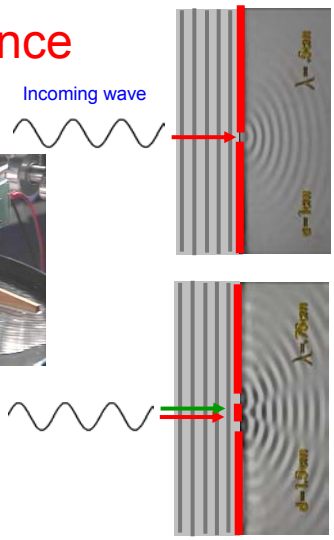

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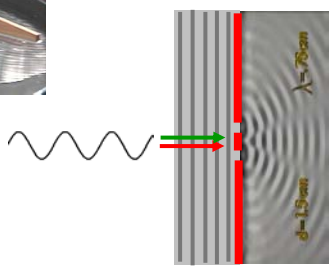

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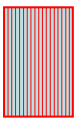
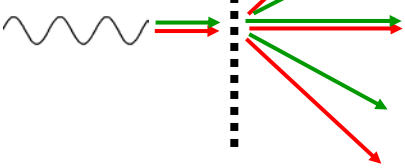


Grating is clear plastic with 12,700 parallel lines per inch printed on it
= *lots* of narrow slits.

Diffraction Grating

Light



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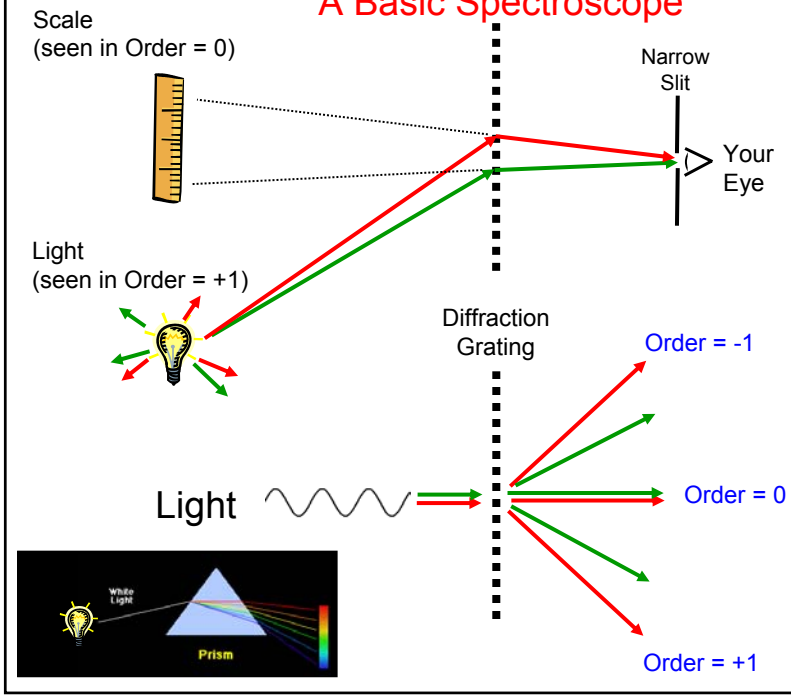
Order = +1

A Basic Spectroscope



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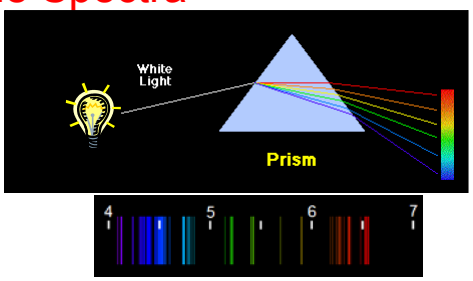

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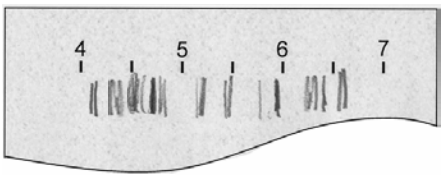


- Come back into Planetarium Theater and take quiz to identify chemical compositions of different gases from their emission-line spectra.

Review:
Light and Spectra

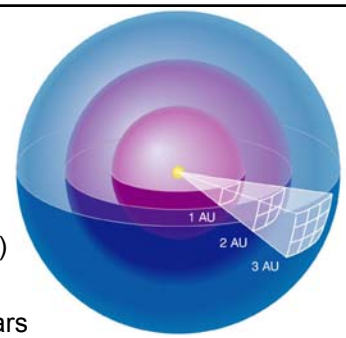
- Light is a wave
  - It undergoes diffraction and other wave phenomena.
- But light also is made of particles
  - Energy is carried by *photons*

$$\text{Wavelength} \propto \frac{1}{\text{energy}}$$

of each photon

  - Computer simulation next week will feature photons arriving one-by-one.

Absolute vs. Apparent Brightness



- *Luminosity* (L)
  - intrinsic brightness of light source
  - energy per unit time (for example, *Watts*)
- *Flux* (F)
  - apparent brightness of object as it appears from distance r.
  - energy per unit time per unit area

$$F = \frac{L}{4\pi r^2}$$

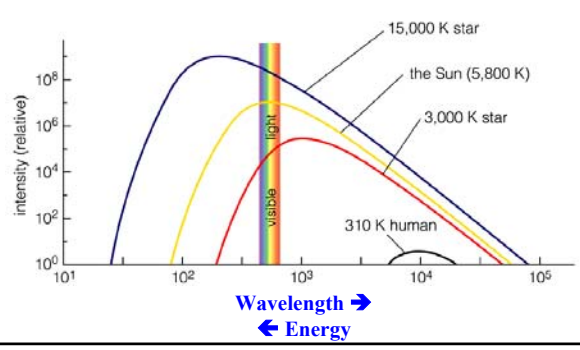
Light bulb looks fainter at greater distances.

- Outgoing light wave spreads out over more and more surface area.

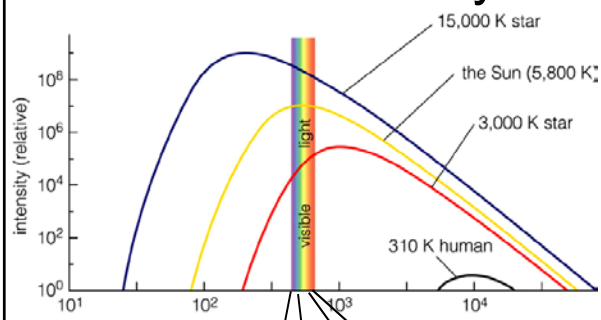
Thermal Radiation

- Heat up light bulb filament
  - It glows more brightly as it gets hotter
  - It changes color as it gets hotter

	Temperature		
	°K	°F	Color
Completely cold	0	-459	Does not emit light
Body temperature	310	99	Infrared
Blowtorch	3000	5000	Red-hot
Blast furnace	6000	10,300	White-hot
Hotter still	15,000	26,500	Blue-hot



Photometry& Colors

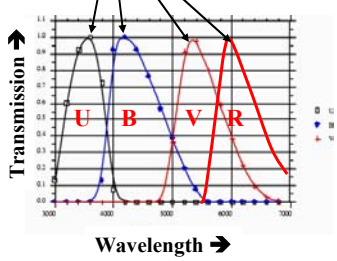


- Measure flux from black body in 2 colors
  - blue
  - red
- Use colored glass filters in front of a photocell.

Temperature	F_{blue}/F_{red}
15,000	> 1
5,800	~ 1
3,000	< 1

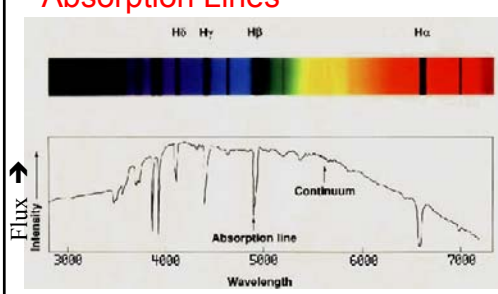
- So *ratio* of fluxes measures the temperature.

Some filters used to measure temperature.



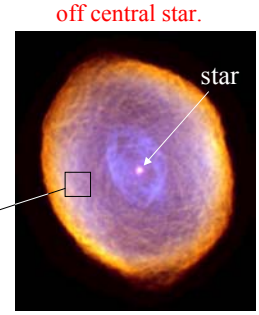
But many spectra are not smooth

- Absorption Lines

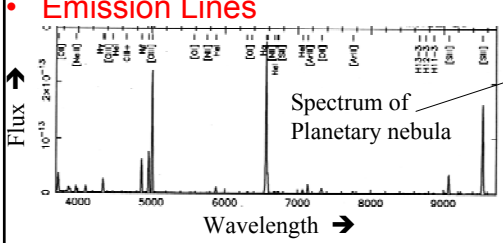


Spectrum of a star

IC 418 – shell of gas blown off central star.

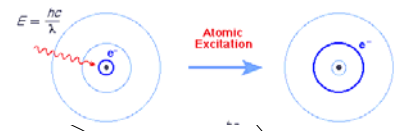


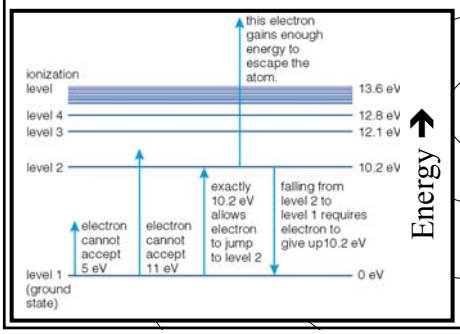
- Emission Lines

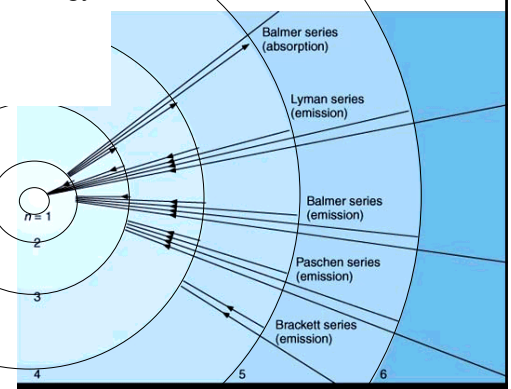


Absorption Lines = Atomic Excitation

- Each electron orbit has its own distinct energy.
- For electron to move from inner orbit to one further out, it must gain exactly the energy difference between the orbits.
  - Can absorb photon with correct energy







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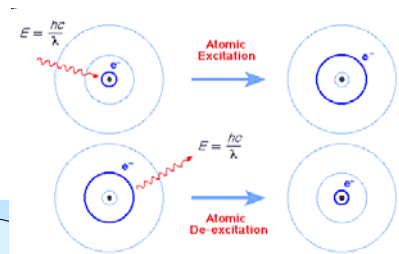
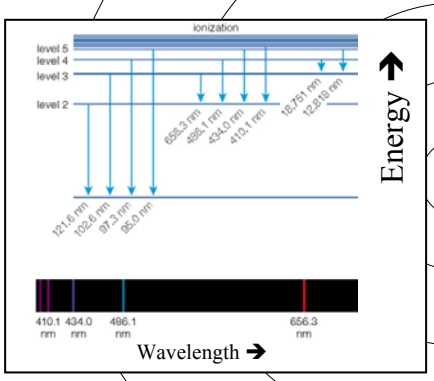
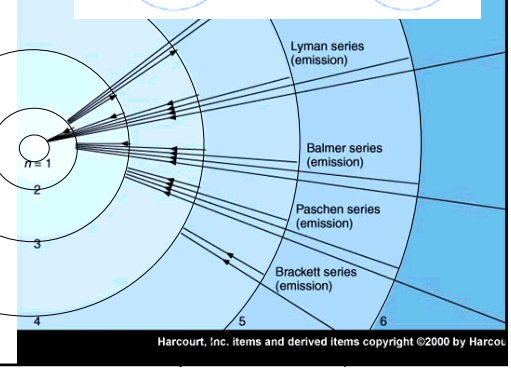
Emission Lines = De-Excitation

- For electron to fall back in towards nucleus, it must *lose* exactly the energy difference between the orbits.
  - Can *emit* photon with correct energy







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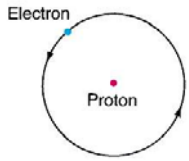
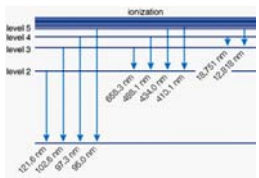
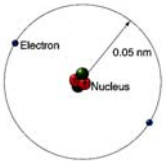
Different chemical elements have different configurations of electron orbits

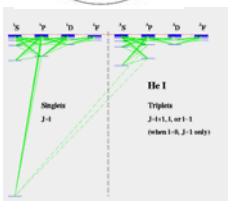
Hydrogen



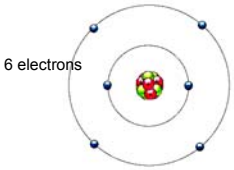


Helium





Carbon



(too messy to think about)

➔ different sets of energy levels with different energy spacings

➔ different sets of emission lines.