

# Waves

## Period (T)

T is the time it takes an object to return to its starting point

## Frequency (f)

# of cycles an object goes through in 1 second (Hertz)

## Amplitude (A)

Distance from center of motion to either its lowest or highest point

◆ A medium is what the wave travels through.

- a medium is temporarily disturbed
- the medium's molecules do not move

◆ Two main types of waves

- Longitudinal waves
  - Vibrations are same direction as wave motion
- Transverse waves
  - Vibrations are perpendicular to wave motion

## Wavelength

How long 1 wave's 1 oscillation

# Electromagnetic waves

## What are they?

Waves that consist of vibrating electric and magnetic fields

Can transfer energy through matter + across empty space

## Force

A magnet exerts force over an area around it. (Doesn't need to touch it)

## How they begin

They begin when an electric charged particle vibrates. This makes the surrounding field vibrate too. Two types of vibrating make an EM waves  
~ oscillate a charged particle

## How they travel

Elec. and mag. fields making EM waves are perpendicular. (transverse wave)  
'propagates'

Ions, protons, and electrons

## Interactions

- Reflect (bounce)
- Refract (bend)
- Diffract (spread)

## Sources

From sun (mostly)  
Provide energy  
Others from tech.

# Electromagnetic Spectrum

## What is it?

- Occurs in diff waves
- EM radiat: on = Spectrum
- MEANS there aren't discrete diff. sections

## Speed, Frequency, $\epsilon$ , Wave length

Speed relies on medium.

In a vacuum, all EM waves have same speed, "c" ( $\approx 299,792,458$  m/s. (Speed of light))

Wave speed = frequency  $\cdot$  wave length

$$f = c/\lambda$$

$\lambda$  = wave length

WAVE is the same as RADIATION

## Radio Waves

range of EM waves with long  $\lambda$  and low f.

## Microwaves

Short  $\lambda$  high f + more energy

- cell phone
- radar

Smaller wave means higher frequency

## Light

mid- $\lambda$  called light  
short  $\lambda$  high freq

### Visible

between ir + uv  
combined = white

### Invisible

IR  
lower than red  
heat

UV  
higher than violet  
kill bact.  
skin makes vit. D  
sunburn/cancer

## Xrays

- hi-E EM waves
- pass thru soft but not hard/dense
- cancer

## Gamma Rays

- most E of all  $\lambda$
- pass thru most
- help cancer

