Summary: how to graph light?

- "What color?" The apparent <u>color</u> of light is determined by the wavelength(s) of light waves.
- "How much?" The <u>intensity</u> of light is the amount of light energy falling on a surface per a unit of time.





"How much of each color?"

The <u>spectrum</u> (<u>spectral composition</u>) of light is the relative light intensity for each wavelength present.



How to Make Light?



Incandescence

<u>Incandescence</u> (from Latin "glowing white") is a special case of thermal radiation, specifically emission of visible light by a hot body.

Sunlight is the incandescence of the "white hot" surface of the Sun.







Incandescent bulb:

- electricity passes through a thin piece of metal wire called a filament
- the filament heats up and gives off thermal radiation composed of ~5% visible light and ~95% infrared light...
- ...very low energy efficiency!



Incandescent Spectrum "How much of each color is made?"

• X-AXIS: wavelength • Y-AXIS: relative light intensity



Incandescent light sources produce light waves in a wide continuous range of wavelengths with gradually changing intensities; the light often appears "white".

How to Make Light?









Luminescence

Luminescence is emission of light by a substance not resulting from heat:

- Chemiluminescence (including bioluminescence), a result of a chemical reaction.
- *Electroluminescence,* emission of light due to electric current passed through a substance.
- Photoluminescence (fluorescence and phosphorescence) due to absorption of light with subsequent re-emission.
- Some other types.







Bioluminescence

<u>Bioluminescence</u> is emission of light by a living organism by means of a chemical reaction (type of *Chemiluminescence*).



<u>animals</u> (many creatures of the open sea, and insects) as well as in some <u>fungi</u> and <u>bacteria</u>.

Luminescent Spectrum





Luminescent light sources produce light waves in rather narrow "peaks" of wavelengths; the resulting light often appears to have a "distinct color".