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Editorial Note on Infrared Rays

Ryan Vasquez*

Department of Photonics, The University of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia

Description

Infrared, sometimes known as infrared light, is a type of Electro Magnetic Radiation (EMR) having wavelengths that are longer than visible light. As a result, it is not apparent to the naked eye. The term "infrared" refers to wavelengths ranging from 1 millimeter to 700 nanometers, which is the nominal red edge of the visible spectrum. Near-infrared wavelengths dominate black-body radiation from objects near room temperature. IR is a type of electromagnetic radiation that transmits energy and momentum and has qualities that are similar to both a wave and a particle, the photon.

Fires have long been recognized to generate intangible heat; in 1681, pioneering researcher Edme Mariotte demonstrated that, although being transparent to sunlight, glass hindered radiant heat. By observing the effect of infrared radiation on a thermometer in 1800, astronomer Sir William Herschel found that it is a sort of invisible radiation in the spectrum with a lower energy than red light. Through Herschel's research, it was discovered that slightly more than half of the energy from the sun arrived on Earth in the form of infrared. The ratio of absorbed to released infrared radiation has a significant impact on the Earth's climate.

When molecules change their rotational-vibrational motions, they emit or absorb infrared radiation. It causes a change in the dipole moment in a molecule, which makes it a useful frequency range for studying these energy states in molecules with correct symmetry. The study of photon absorption and transmission in the infrared region is known as infrared spectroscopy.

Infrared radiation is employed in a variety of applications including industrial, scientific, military, commercial, and medicinal. People or animals can be viewed without being discovered with night-vision gadgets that use active near-infrared illumination. Sensor-equipped telescopes are used in infrared astronomy to see through dusty parts of space like molecular clouds, detect things like planets, and see very red-shifted objects from the early days of the cosmos. Infrared thermal imaging cameras are used to monitor heat loss in insulated systems, to watch changes in skin blood flow, and to identify electrical component overheating.

Target acquisition, surveillance, night vision, homing, and tracking are some of the military and civilian applications. Humans emit primarily at wavelengths around 10 m when their body temperature is normal. Thermal efficiency analysis, environmental monitoring, industrial site inspections, grow ups detection, remote temperature sensing, short-range wireless communication, spectroscopy, and weather forecasting are all non-military applications.

Sunlight is made up of near-thermal-spectrum radiation that is slightly more than 50% infrared and has an effective temperature of 5,780 kelvins. At sea level, the irradiance of sunlight at zenith is just over 1 kilowatt per square meter. Infrared radiation accounts for 527 watts, visible light for 445 watts, and UV radiation for 32 watts. Near infrared radiation, which is shorter than 4 micrometers, makes up nearly all of the infrared radiation in sunshine.

Some thermal radiation on the Earth's surface, at much lower temperatures than on the sun's surface, is infrared in the mid-infrared band, which lasts far longer than sunlight. Black-body, or thermal, radiation, on the other hand, is continuous: it emits radiation at all wavelengths. Only lightning and natural fires are hot enough to provide significant visible energy and fires produce significantly more infrared than visible-light energy.

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***Address for Correspondence:** Dr. Ryan Vasquez, Department of Photonics, The University of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia, E-mail: vasryan21@gmail.com*

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