

SES4U Lab Activity: Wien's Law

The light from three stars is analyzed. For each star, instruments measure the intensity (brightness) of light at various wavelengths (colours). The results are summarized below:

| STAR A | | STAR B | | STAR C | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Wavelength (nm) | Intensity | Wavelength (nm) | Intensity | Wavelength (nm) | Intensity |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 100 | 10 | 100 | 10 | 100 | 2 |
| 200 | 25 | 200 | 60 | 200 | 4 |
| 300 | 35 | 300 | 100 | 300 | 5 |
| 400 | 45 | 400 | 90 | 400 | 6 |
| 500 | 50 | 500 | 80 | 500 | 7 |
| 600 | 44 | 600 | 72 | 600 | 8 |
| 700 | 38 | 700 | 64 | 700 | 8 |
| 800 | 31 | 800 | 58 | 800 | 9 |
| 900 | 24 | 900 | 53 | 900 | 9 |
| 1000 | 20 | 1000 | 50 | 1000 | 10 |
| 1100 | 18 | 1100 | 45 | 1100 | 10 |
| 1200 | 16 | 1200 | 40 | 1200 | 9 |
| 1300 | 14 | 1300 | 36 | 1300 | 9 |
| 1400 | 13 | 1400 | 34 | 1400 | 8 |
| 1500 | 12 | 1500 | 32 | 1500 | 7 |
| 1600 | 11 | 1600 | 30 | 1600 | 7 |
| 1700 | 10 | 1700 | 28 | 1700 | 6 |
| 1800 | 10 | 1800 | 26 | 1800 | 6 |
| 1900 | 9 | 1900 | 24 | 1900 | 5 |
| 2000 | 9 | 2000 | 20 | 2000 | 5 |

- Use the data above to graph on a piece of graph paper, the three data sets of wavelength (x-axis) vs. Intensity (y-axis). Ensure that on graph has all three curves. (5 Marks) [C]
- Examine the three curves and answer the following:
 - List the stars in order of hottest to coolest. (3 Marks) [T]
 - For STAR A, what is the wavelength of light at its maximum emission (λ_{max})? (2 Marks) [T]
 - Use Wein's Law to determine the temperature, T, in Kelvin of STAR A, B & C. (3 Marks) [T]
- On a separate sheet or on the same graph, sketch a curve of data that might represent a star that is even cooler than the all three of the above stars. (3 Marks) [C]