

2024 Ph H1 Q9

Section: Our Dynamic Universe

Topic: The Expanding Universe




Question:

A student makes the following statements based on the spectral graph of stars W, X, Y, and Z:

- I. Star Z is hotter than star W.
- II. The peak frequency of radiation emitted is greatest for star W.
- III. Star Y emits more energy per second per unit area than star X.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

Evaluation:

-  I: True – Star Z peaks at a **shorter wavelength** than W → it is **hotter**
 -  II: False – Star W peaks at the **longest wavelength** → **lowest** frequency
 -  III: True – Star Y has a **higher peak** than X → emits more energy per second per unit area
-

Correct Answer:

D

Revision Tips:

- **Wien's Law:** $\lambda_{\max} \propto \frac{1}{T}$ — shorter peak wavelength = hotter
- Peak **frequency** is highest for shortest **wavelength**, not longest
- Peak **height** (not width) = more energy emitted per unit area per second
- Be careful reading graphs — common traps lie in frequency vs wavelength!