

Introduction to the Electromagnetic Spectrum

By H. Paul Shuch, Ph.D.

Executive Director

The SETI League Inc.

One of the remarkable things about electromagnetic waves is that they all behave fundamentally alike, whether emanating from sunlight, searchlight or satellite. Ultrasonic waves, radio waves, microwaves, infrared, visible light, ultraviolet light, X-rays, and gamma rays all travel through free space basically the same, at the same constant speed, and they all follow the very same Maxwell's Equations. So if you understand one electromagnetic wave, you understand them all. The purpose of this tutorial is to lead you to that universal understanding.