

Exercise 5: Wien's & Stefan-Boltzmann laws from Planck's equation

Planck's equation:

$$R(\lambda) = \left(\frac{C}{4}\right) \left(\frac{8\pi}{\lambda^4}\right) \left[\left(\frac{hc}{\lambda}\right) \frac{1}{e^{\frac{hc}{\lambda kT}} - 1} \right]$$

a. Differentiate Planck's formula and set equal to zero to derive Wien's law. Note that the solution will involve a non-analytical step (i.e.: a step which involves a numerical solution).

$$\frac{dR(\lambda)}{d\lambda} = 0 \quad \text{Find } \lambda_{max} \text{ wavelength at which the peak occurs.}$$

$$\text{Wien's law: } \lambda_{max} = \frac{2.898 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m} \cdot \text{K}}{T}$$

b. Integrate Planck's formula to obtain the Stefan-Boltzmann law. Use the definite integral:

$$\int_0^{\infty} \frac{x^3}{(e^x - 1)} dx = \frac{\pi^4}{15}$$

$$I = \frac{P}{A} = \int_0^{\infty} R(\lambda) d\lambda \quad \text{Find the total } \frac{P}{A} \text{ over all wavelengths.}$$

$$\text{Stefan-Boltzmann law: } I = \frac{P}{A} = \sigma T^4$$

Do not use a symbolic math program to derive the answers, except in determining Wien's law. You may use a symbolic math program or numeric methods to determine the solution for the non-analytical step. After differentiating and setting equal to zero, let $x = \frac{hc}{\lambda kT}$ and the equation reduces to $1 - e^{-x} = \frac{x}{5}$ which must be solved numerically. Perhaps this has something to do with Wien's law's constant not having a special symbol of its own?