

1

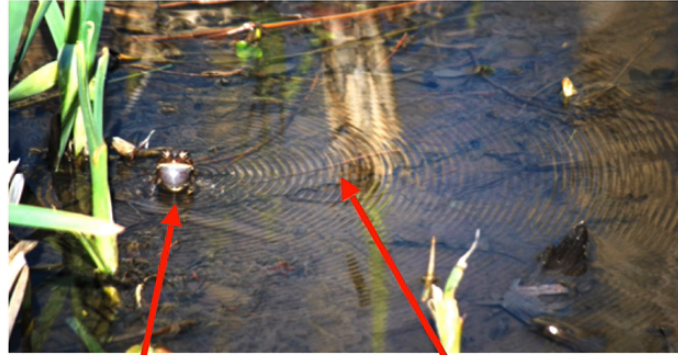


James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879)

What is Light?

2

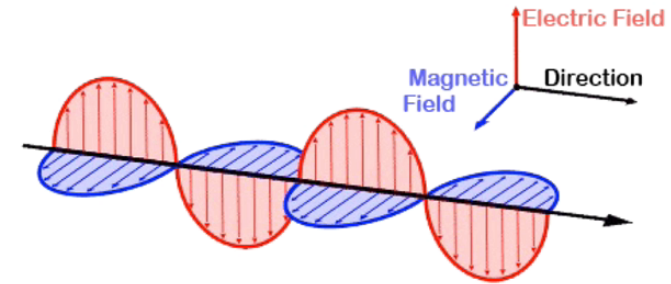
Light is a kind of wave...



insect ripples radiating outward

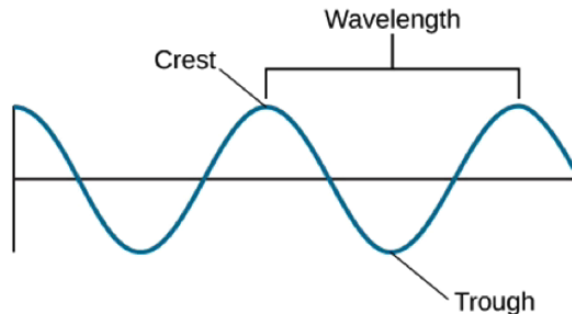
3

...but the radiating disturbances are in electric and magnetic fields



light is electromagnetic radiation

4



wavelength λ : distance between successive wave crests

frequency f : number of wave crests passing by per second

speed = wavelength x frequency $c = \lambda f$