

COMPLETE Glossary

Extinction--the degree of "blackness" on the sky caused by dust between background objects and an observer

Emission--production of photons by some physical process

Scattering--changing the direction of photons

Absorption--removal of photons by some physical process

Spectral line--emission or absorption over a very narrow wavelength range, caused by a change in the quantum mechanical state of a particular atom or molecule

IRAS--Infrared Astronomy Satellite (1983)

HST--Hubble Space Telescope (1990-)

SIRTF--Space Infrared Telescope Facility (launched August 2003)

COMPLETE Survey--COordinated Molecular Probe Line Extinction Thermal Emission Survey

More info: cfa-www.harvard.edu/~agoodman

