

Questions for Module#32

11. A physicist drives through a stop light. When he is pulled over, he tells the police officer that the Doppler shift made the red light of wavelength 650 nm appear green to him, with a wavelength of 520 nm. The police officer writes out a traffic citation for speeding. How fast was the physicist traveling, according to his own testimony?

21. A light source recedes from an observer with a speed v_s that is small compared with c . (a) Show that the fractional shift in the measured wavelength is given by the approximate expression

$$\frac{\Delta\lambda}{\lambda} \approx \frac{v_s}{c}$$

This phenomenon is known as the *redshift* because the visible light is shifted toward the red. (b) Spectroscopic measurements of light at $\lambda = 397$ nm coming from a galaxy in Ursa Major reveal a redshift of 20.0 nm. What is the recessional speed of the galaxy?

32. Figure P39.32 shows a jet of material (at the upper right) being ejected by galaxy M87 (at the lower left). Such jets are believed to be evidence of supermassive black holes at the center of a galaxy. Suppose two jets of material from the center of a galaxy are ejected in opposite directions. Both jets move at $0.750c$ relative to the galaxy center. Determine the speed of one jet relative to the other.

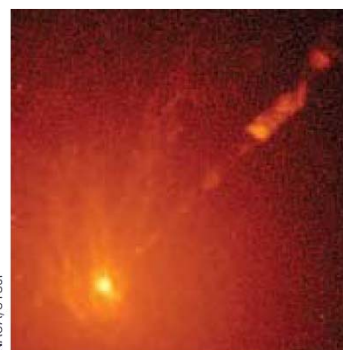


Figure P39.32

45. An electron has a kinetic energy five times greater than its rest energy. Find (a) its total energy and (b) its speed.

64. Massive stars ending their lives in supernova explosions produce the nuclei of all the atoms in the bottom half of the periodic table by fusion of smaller nuclei. This problem roughly models that process. A particle of mass m moving along the x axis with a velocity component $+u$ collides head-on and sticks to a particle of mass $m/3$ moving along the x axis with the velocity component $-u$. (a) What is the mass M of the resulting particle? (b) Evaluate the expression from part (a) in the limit $u \rightarrow 0$. (c) Explain whether the result agrees with what you should expect from nonrelativistic physics.