

## Photons:

According to Einstein's quantum theory light propagates in the bundles (packets or quanta) of energy, each bundle being called a photon and possessing energy.

**(1) Energy of photon :** Energy of photon is given by

$$E = h\nu = hc\lambda;$$

where  $c$  = Speed of light,  $h$  = Planck's constant

$$= 6.6 \times 10^{-34} \text{ J-sec},$$

$\nu$  = Frequency in Hz,  $\lambda$  = Wavelength of light.

**(2) Mass of photon :** Actually rest mass of the photon is zero. But its effective mass is given as

$$E = mc^2 = h\nu$$

$$\Rightarrow m = \frac{E}{c^2} = \frac{h\nu}{c^2} = \frac{hc\lambda}{c^2}$$

This mass is also known as kinetic mass of the photon

**(3) Momentum of the photon**

Momentum

$$p = m \times c = \frac{E}{c} = \frac{h\nu}{c} = \frac{hc\lambda}{c^2} \times c = \frac{h\nu}{c}$$

**(4) Number of emitted photons :** The number of photons emitted per second from a source of monochromatic radiation of wavelength  $\lambda$  and power  $P$  is given as

$$(n) = \frac{PE}{h\nu} = \frac{P\lambda}{hc}$$

; where  $E$  = energy of each photon

**(5) Intensity of light (I) :** Energy crossing per unit area normally per second is called intensity or energy flux

i.e.

$$I = \frac{E}{At} = \frac{PA}{A}$$

$$(E = P = \text{radiation power})$$

At a distance  $r$  from a point source of power  $P$  intensity is given by

$$I = \frac{P}{4\pi r^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow I \propto \frac{1}{r^2}$$

**(6) Number of photons falling per second (n) :** If P is the power of radiation and E is the energy of a photon then

$$n = \frac{P}{E}$$