

# Cookbook 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](http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/~agoodman)

