

# Photoelectric Effect (4)

## Summary of Results:

- Electron energy depends on frequency, not intensity.
- Electrons are not ejected for frequencies below  $f_0$ .
- Electrons have a probability to be emitted immediately.

## Conclusions:

- Light arrives in “packets” of energy (photons).
- $E_{\text{photon}} = hf$  ← We will see that this is valid for all objects. It is the fundamental QM connection between an object’s wave and particle properties.
- Increasing the power increases # photons, not the photon energy. Each photon ejects (at most) one electron from the metal.

Recall: For EM waves, frequency and wavelength are related by:  $f = c/\lambda$ .

Therefore:  $E_{\text{photon}} = hc/\lambda$

Beware: This is only valid for EM waves,  
as evidenced by the fact that the speed is  $c$ .