

Chapter 29

- EM waves:

* Light is an electromagnetic wave, light ^{is a} self-propagating combination of oscillating electric and magnetic field.

* travel through space at fixed speed known as c "the speed of light"

* The existence of EM waves was predicted by a set of eq developed by James Maxwell

- The constant speed of light:

→ in other types of wave motion, some medium is required in which the waves are able to propagate.

→ light on the other hand is self propagating since it's an EM waves.

The self-supporting process :- The oscillation of electric field in this wave causes the oscillations of the magnetic field.

→ and this process only happened when this EM wave propagates at a certain speed.

$$c = 299\,792\,458 \text{ m/s} \quad (\text{in vacuum}).$$

→ The speed of light is unchanged by changes to either the velocity of the observer or the velocity of the light source.

→ This strange fact of nature is described by (the special theory of relativity)

wave length and Freq :

$$\nu = \frac{c}{\lambda}$$

For EM waves

$$c = \lambda \nu$$

→ EM waves can have a large range of λ and what human regard as (visible light) occupies only small peice of EM spectrum laying between (380 nm — 750 nm)

→ Different freq ranges in the spectrum are usually generated by different physical processes, and interact differently with matter, So are given different labels like (X-rays or radio waves) ... but they are all still EM waves

Reflection:

- when light hits the surface of almost any material, some of the light **bounces back** off the surface. This is called "Reflection".

- The law of reflection: the angle of incidence is equal to the angle of reflection.

→ Reflection can be described as specular or diffuse

- **specular reflection**: is what happens when the light hits a very flat, reflective surface.

- **diffuse reflection**: happens when the surface is rougher.
∴ the light is reflected in a wide range of directions.

∴ this scattered light that allows us to see most objects.

Refraction :-

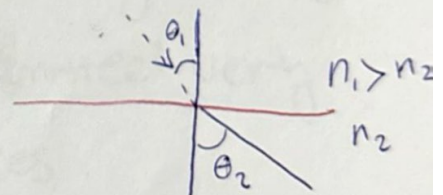
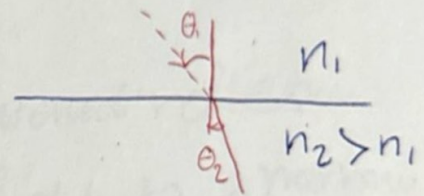
Snell's Law:-

relates the angle of incidence and angle of refraction for wave propagation at the boundary between isotropic media.

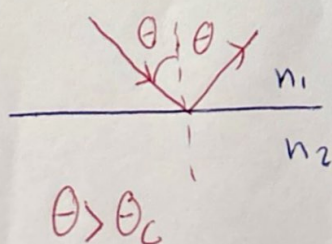
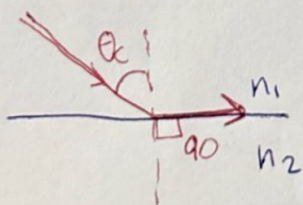
$$n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$$

or

$$\frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{n_2}{n_1} = \frac{v_1}{v_2}$$



* Total Internal Reflection:



- the complete reflection of an incident light ray at a boundary with no transmission.

- This phenomenon occurs only if ① $n_1 > n_2$

② $\theta > \theta_c$

θ_c : the Critical angle.

$$\sin(\theta_c) = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

→ in a water-air boundary, $\theta_c = 48.6^\circ$

* The Total internal reflection is utilised in many optical devices.

- optical fibers :-

used total internal reflection to confine light to a narrow glass rod, allowing the light to be transmitted very long distances.

- The main loss is absorption in the glass, rather than loss through light leaving the fiber.

Dispersion:

- when we define the index of refraction, we said that n depend on the wavelength, since the speed of light changes and the freq remain the same $\therefore n(\lambda)$

- in the real material n is not constant for all colours and wavelengths of light.

See example 29.5