

**5.** Refraction (Snell's law) is commonly understood within the context of classical electrodynamics in terms of "waves".

Should one adopt a description of electrodynamics in terms of "particles", could such refraction still be described in terms of "photons". Explain your reasoning.

6.

a. Compute the De Broglie wavelength ( $\lambda_{DB}$ ) associated with a molecule of air ( $\sim N_2$ ) in your room (STP).

Compute the average distance ( $d$ ) between molecules (STP) and compare  $d$  and  $\lambda_{DB}$ .

b. Is this any different from the case discussed in class for a conduction band electron (STP). Briefly explain.

o) The STP conditions are:  $T = 273,16 \text{ K}$   $P = 1 \text{ atm}$

o) The molecule of air can be considered as  $N_2$ , so:

$$\hookrightarrow m_{N_2} = 2 \cdot 14,007 \text{ u} = 28,0152 \text{ u} \cdot \frac{1,66 \cdot 10^{-27} \text{ kg}}{1 \text{ u}} = 4,65 \cdot 10^{-26} \text{ kg}$$

o) The internal energy of an ideal gas:  $K_{gas} = \frac{3}{2} k_B T$

o) Now, the kinetic energy:  $K_e = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$

$$\hookrightarrow K_{gas} = K_e \Rightarrow \frac{3}{2} k_B T = \frac{1}{2} m_{N_2} v^2 \Rightarrow v = \sqrt{\frac{3 k_B T}{m_{N_2}}}$$

$$\text{o) De Broglie: } \lambda = \frac{h}{p} = \frac{h}{m_{N_2} \cdot v} = \frac{h}{\sqrt{3 m_{N_2} k_B T}} = \frac{6,64 \cdot 10^{-34}}{\sqrt{3 \cdot 4,65 \cdot 10^{-26} \cdot 1,38 \cdot 10^{-23} \cdot 273,16}}$$

$$\lambda = 0,029 \text{ nm}$$

7.

In a single-photon double-slit experiment the (single-photon “sp”) source has been generated via a time-correlated photon parametric down-conversion process whereby a photon (pump) of energy  $\hbar\omega_p$  is converted into a “pair” of photon each having energy  $\hbar\omega_{sp}$ .

a. If  $\lambda_p = 355 \text{ nm}$  is the pump photon wavelength, compute the photon wavelength  $\lambda_{sp}$  of the down-converted single-photon impinging onto the double slit.

b. In a real experiment we need to place a “lens” between the image plane of the two slits and the farfield screen where the interference pattern is generated. Draw a scheme of the double slit interferometer showing all its components.

c. Derive an expression for the distance between the fringes in terms of the wavelength  $\lambda_{sp}$ , the lens focal length  $f$  and the distance  $d$  between the two slits.

d. Assuming that the center-to-center distance between the two slits is  $d \simeq 500 \mu\text{m}$ , the focal length  $f \simeq 500 \text{ mm}$ , “estimate” the fringes distance. Compare your result with the observed fringe spacing that you may infer from the data collected (photon by photon) in the attached video.