

FIBRE OPTICS

- Optical fibre - It is a very thin glass or plastic conductor designed to guide light waves over the length of fibre.

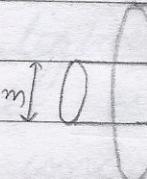
As long as refractive index of this fibre is greater than that of its surroundings, light shall suffer a large no. of total internal reflections & hence much of light launched at one end will emerge from other end due to small losses.

refractive index

CORE = n_1

Cladding = n_2

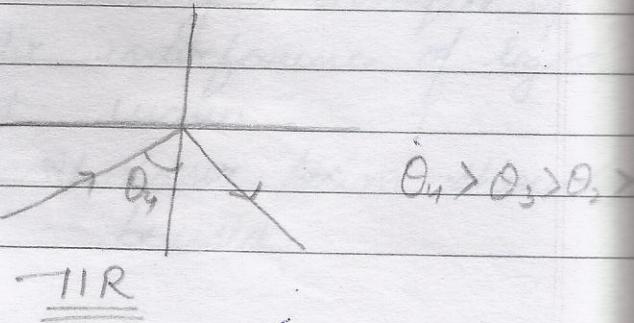
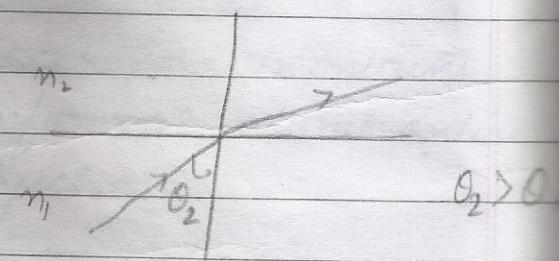
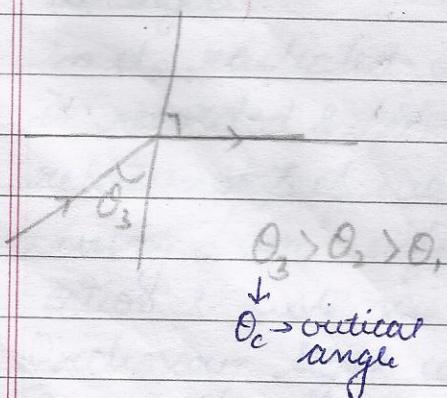
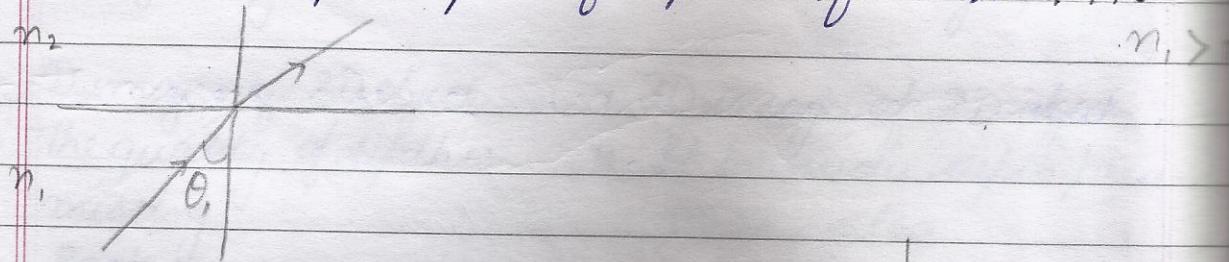
50 μm

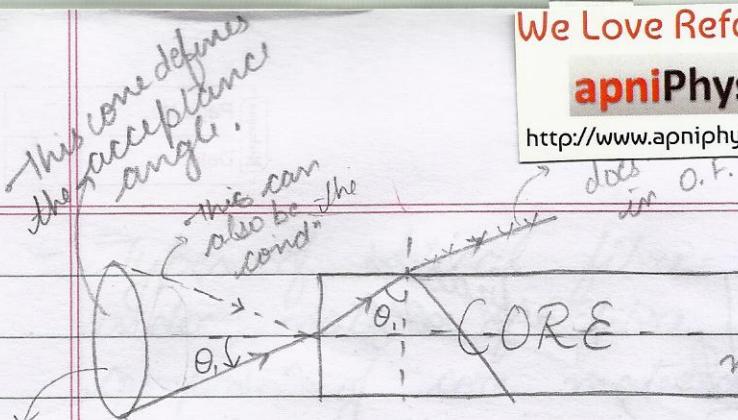


CORE \rightarrow glass/plastic \rightarrow transparent

CLADDING \rightarrow glass/plastic

The basic principle of optical fibre is TIR

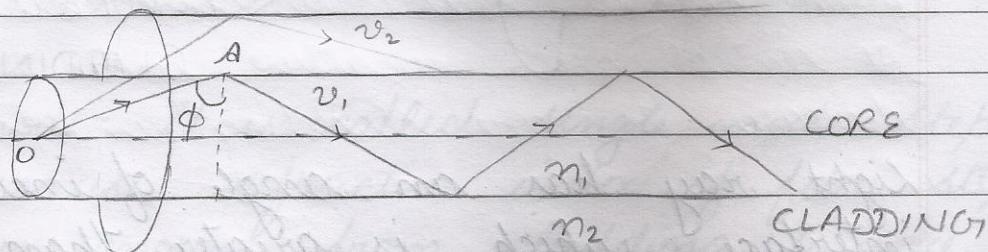




The light which will enter through this cone, TIR of that light will definitely take place.

central axis
 core cladding interface

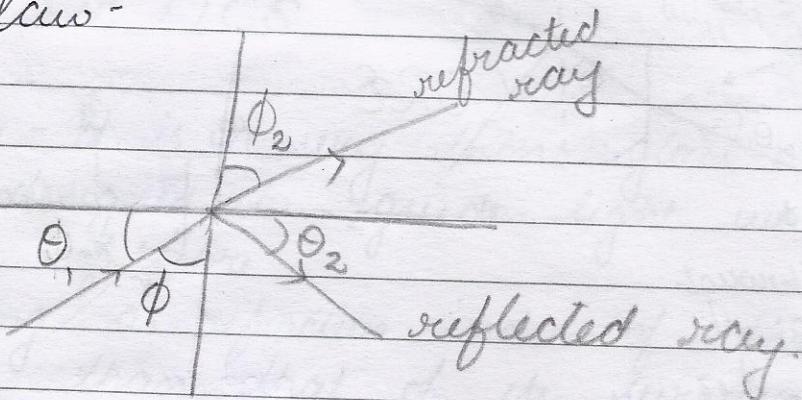
- The transmission & reflection of any light ray depends on n_1 & n_2 .
- If signal enters in cladding, then signal is lost.
- Optical fibres are used to carry digital signals.
- The basis of this technology is TIR.
- The digital signal that is carried by light is reflected inside optical cable & hence transfers information.
- Main concepts of physics involved in optical fibre are refraction, refractive indices, critical angle and TIR.
- In case of optical fibre, critical angle is 82° .



$\Rightarrow \text{refractive index} = \frac{c}{v}$

- There is no role of cladding except to protect the core.

- Snell's law -



$$n_1 \sin \phi_1 = n_2 \sin \phi_2$$

$$\phi_c = \phi_1 \text{ when } \phi_2 = 90^\circ$$

$$\Rightarrow n_1 \sin \phi_c = n_2 \sin 90^\circ = n_2$$

$$\sin \phi_c = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

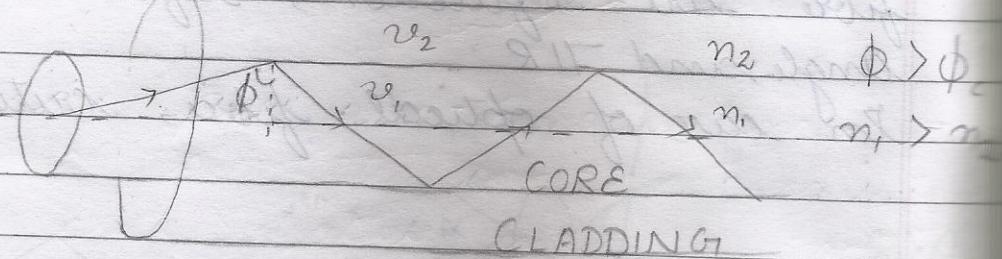
or

$$\phi_c = \sin^{-1} \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

also

$$[n_1 \cos \theta_1 = n_2 \cos \theta_2]$$

- Transmission of light ray in optical fiber



Light ray has an angle of incidence ϕ at interface which is greater than critical angle and is reflected at same angle to normal.

- Mode of wave guide propagates of a light along wave can be described as set of guided electromagnetic wave

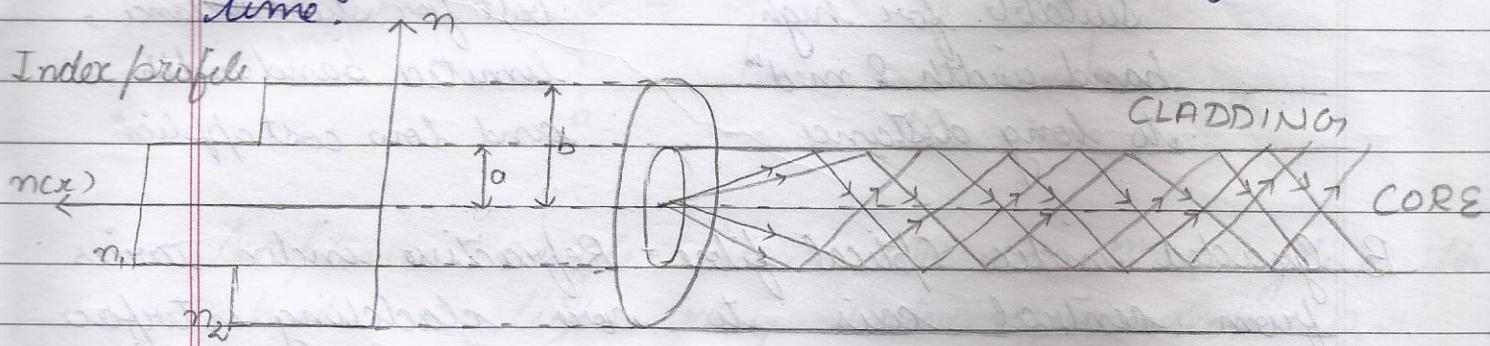
- Types of optical fibre - On the basis of refractive index, nature of fibre varies due to variation in composition of core material. There are two types of optical fibre on the basis of refractive index:

- i) Step index optical fibre
- ii) Graded index optical fibre

A. Step index optical fibre - In it, refractive index is constant throughout the core along the length & diameter & abrupt change occurs in step of core cladding interface.

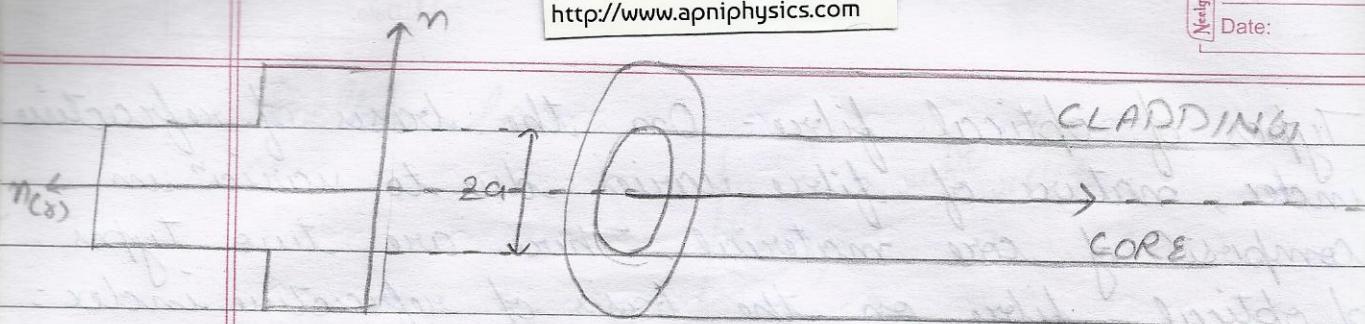
Types of step index optical fibre -

I. Multimode - These allow more than one mode to propagate. Over 100 modes can propagate at a time.



II. Single mode - It is called single mode step index fibre because refractive index of fibre steps up as we move from cladding to core & this fibre allows single mode to propagate at a time due to very small diameter of its core.

P.T.O.-



Single mode
S.I. O.F.

Multimode
S.I. O.F.

Core diameter $5-8 \mu\text{m}$
($0-10 \mu\text{m}$)

$50-80 \mu\text{m}$

Cladding diameter $120 \mu\text{m}$

$125 \mu\text{m}$

Numerical aperture $0.08 - 1.5$

$0.16 - 0.5$

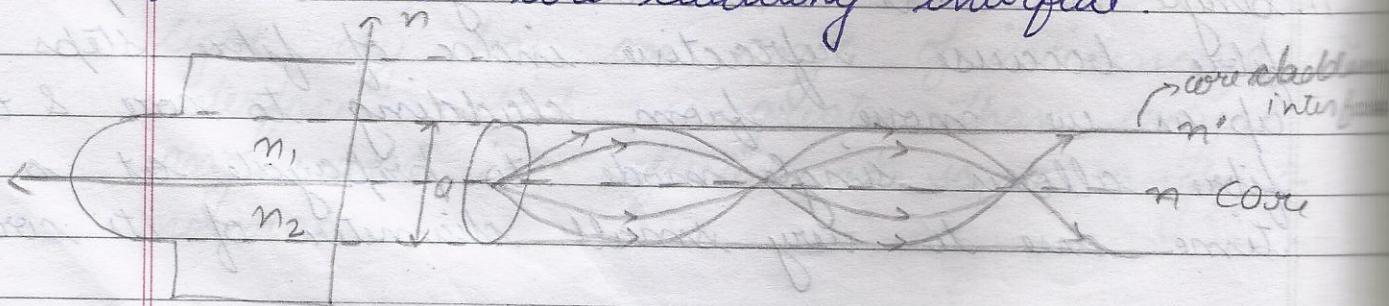
Band width $>500 \text{ MHz km}$

$6-50 \text{ MHz km}$

Suitable for high band width & medium to long distance

best for short distance limited bandwidth and low cost applic.

B. Graded index Optical fibre - Refractive index varies from central axis to core-cladding interface. At central axis, refractive index is max^m & decreases to core-cladding interface.



In above fig., we see that all signals reach $-d$ on same time. This is due to the formula:

$$n = c/v \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

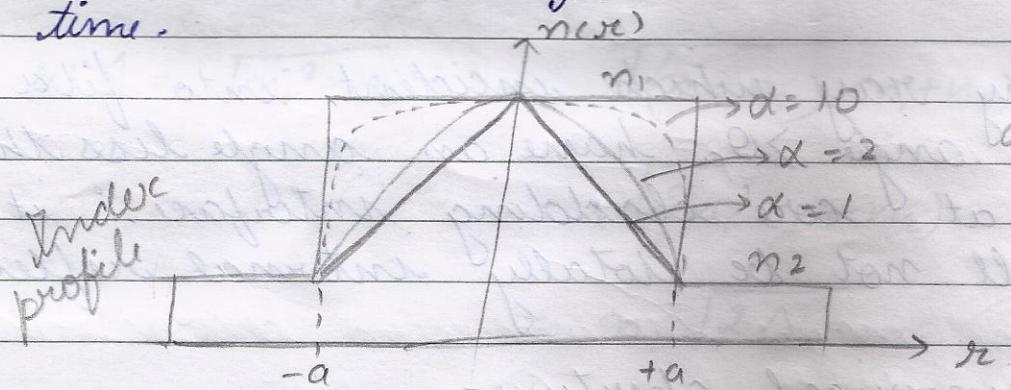
as $n > n'$

\therefore from (1)

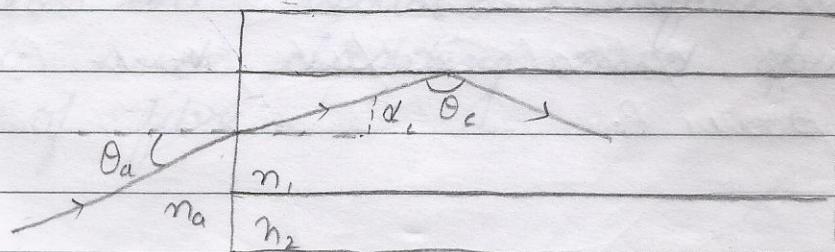
$$n' \propto \frac{1}{v}$$

n = refractive index
 at central axis
 n' = refractive index
 at core cladding
 inter face

\therefore at the end, signal reaches on same time.



- Acceptance angle - It is the max^m angle with which a light ray entering inside an optical fibre can make with its axis, so that it enters the fibre and undergoes TIR inside it



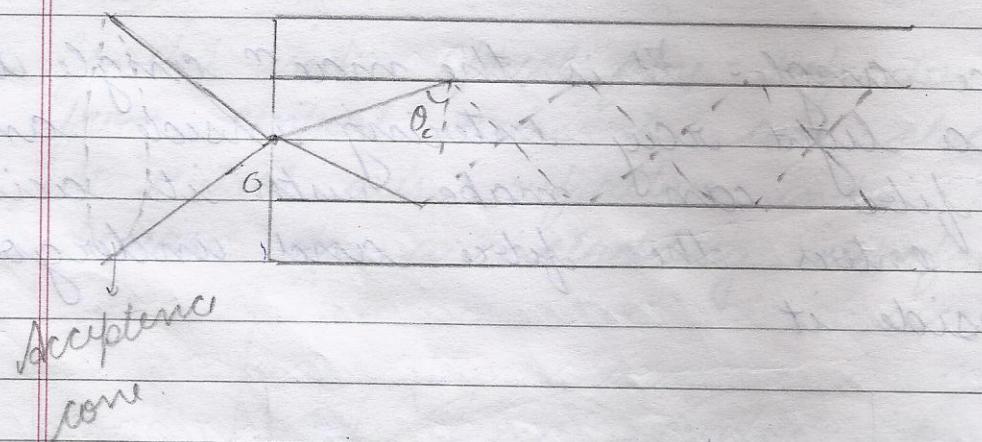
Ray A incident at critical angle θ_c at core cladding interface enters the fibre at an angle θ_a to fibre axis and is refracted at air core surface.

At θ_a : $n_a \sin \theta_a = n_c \sin \alpha_c$
launching the light from air $n_a = 1$

$$\begin{aligned}\sin \theta_a &= n_c \sin \alpha_c \\ &= n_c \cos \theta_c \\ &= n_c (1 - \sin^2 \theta_c)^{1/2} \\ &= n_c (1 - n_2^2/n_1^2)^{1/2} \\ &= (n_1^2 - n_2^2)^{1/2}\end{aligned}\quad [\alpha_c = 90^\circ - \theta_c]$$

Any ray which incident into fibre at an angle $> \theta_a$ have an angle less than θ_c at core cladding interface \therefore it will not be totally internally reflected

Numerical aperture



- Numerical aperture -

$$NA = \sin \theta_a = \frac{1}{n_a} \sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}$$

relative numerical aperture -

$$\Delta = \frac{n_1 - n_2}{n_1}$$

$$\therefore NA = n_1 \sqrt{2\Delta}$$

Fibre NA depends on n_1 & Δ

$$\begin{aligned} NA &= \sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2} = \sqrt{(n_1 - n_2)(n_1 + n_2)} \\ &= \sqrt{2n_1(n_1 - n_2)} \\ &= n_1 \sqrt{2\Delta} \end{aligned}$$

- V-Number and normalised frequency.

- V-Number is intimately related with the no. of modes N supported by a fibre.
- It is a dimensionless quantity that combines several design parameters of a fibre like: core radius a , refractive indices of core and cladding and operating wavelength of fibre.

$V < 2.405$ - single mode
 $V > 2.405$ - multi mode

$$V_n = \frac{\pi d}{\lambda} \sqrt{N_1^2 - N_2^2}$$

$$= \frac{\pi d}{\lambda} \cdot NA$$

$$\text{no. of modes} = \frac{1}{2} (V_n)^2$$

$$\text{single index } V_s = \frac{V^2}{2}$$

→ no. of modes

$$\text{graded index } V_{gr} = \frac{V^2}{4}$$

- The major transmission characteristics of an optic fibre are -

- 1) attenuation
- 2) dispersion

1. Attenuation - When light travels along the fibre, there is loss of optical power, which is called attenuation. It is measure of decrease of optical output power P_o with respect to input power P_i .

Optical input power is power transmitted into fibre from an optical source.

Optical output power is power received from fibre at receiver end.

Attenuation losses -

$$\alpha = \frac{10}{L} \log_{10} \frac{P_{in}}{P_{out}}$$

Here α = signal attenuation / absorb'g coeff.

units of α = dB/km

$$\text{overall attenuation} = 10 \log_{10} \frac{P_{in}}{P_{out}} \text{ (dB)}$$

$$\frac{P_{in}}{P_{out}} = (10)^{\frac{-\text{dB}}{10}}$$

11. Dispersion -

Pulse dispersion - In an optical fibre, the different modes of propagation with in the given pulse may take different times to propagate along same length of fibre leading to time broadening of these pulses. It is called pulse dispersion.

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It is of two types -

1. Intra model - occurs in single mode fibres
It is of two types - wave guide & material dispersion.

Material dispersion occurs due to variation of core refractive index due to wavelength. This causes a wavelength dependence of mode velocity and causes dispersion even when different wavelengths follow same path.

$$v = \frac{c}{n}, n \propto \frac{1}{\lambda^2}$$

Waveguide dispersion occurs because of waveguide structure of optical fibre. Due to its small core diameter, a single mode fibre does not confine all light in core. Some of light gets propagated along cladding also. Dispersion occurs due to fact that light travelling through cladding travels faster than that of through core.

- II Intermodal - It occurs in multimode fibres & more in step index than in graded index

- Advantage of graded index over step index is - Decrease in modal dispersion.

Waveguide dispersion occurs because of waveguide structure of optical fibre

Due to small core diameter, a single mode fibre does not confine all light in core. Some of light gets propagated along cladding also. Dispersion occurs due to fact that light travelling through cladding travels faster than that of through core.