

## 4. WAVES

### 4.1 OSCILLATIONS

#### SIMPLE HARMONIC OSCILLATIONS

Oscillations refer to back & forth motion

↳ are periodic

↳ A period is the time taken to complete one full oscillation.

Amplitude is the maximum displacement from the equilibrium position.

For a system to oscillate, it is necessary to have a restoring force.

↳ a force that brings the system back towards its equilibrium position when it is displaced.

#### SIMPLE HARMONIC MOTION (SHM)

↳ a special periodic oscillation

↳ defining property:

↳ Acceleration is proportional & opposite

to the displacement, & therefore, so

is the restoring force.

$$a \propto -x$$

↳ the period & amplitude are constant.

↳ the period is independent of the amplitude.

↳ the displacement, velocity & acceleration are sine or cosine functions of time.

↳ there is fixed equilibrium position.

Frequency is the number of oscillations per second.

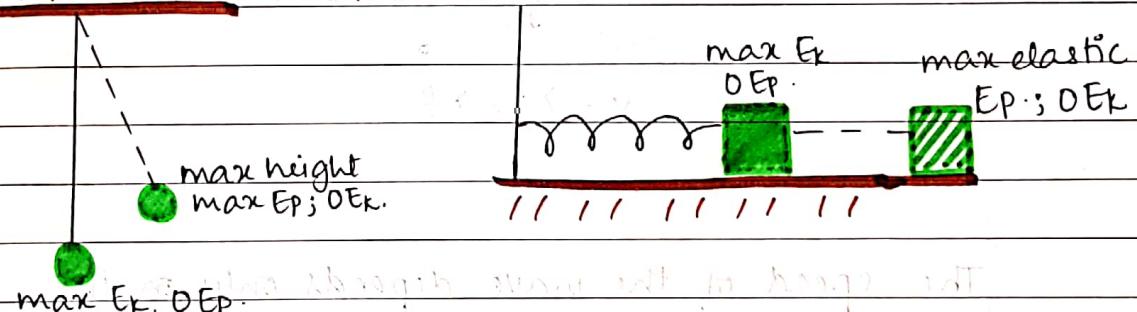
$$f = \frac{1}{T}$$

Phase Difference between two curves is the amount by which one curve is shifted forward relative to another curve.

In terms of angle  $\varphi$ , the phase difference is:

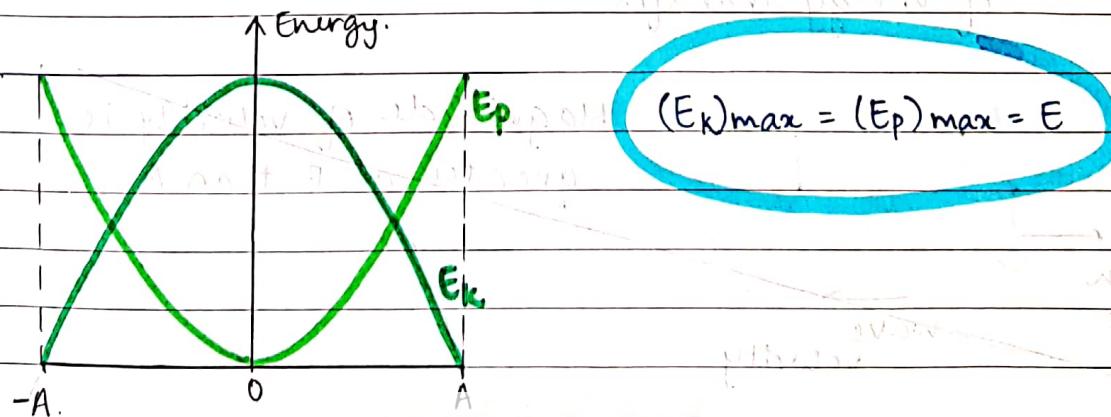
$$\varphi = \text{shift} \times 360^\circ$$

### ENERGY IN SIMPLE HARMONIC MOTION.



$$E = Ep + Ek$$

In absence of frictional & other resistance forces, this total energy is conserved & so  $E$  is constant.



## 4.2 TRAVELLING WAVES

A **wave** is a disturbance that travels in a medium (vacuum in case of electromagnetic waves) transferring energy or momentum from one place to another.

The direction of propagation of the wave is the direction of energy transfer.

There is no large-scale motion of the medium itself as the wave passes through it.

$(\lambda)$   
Wave length  $\rightarrow$  the length of a complete oscillation.

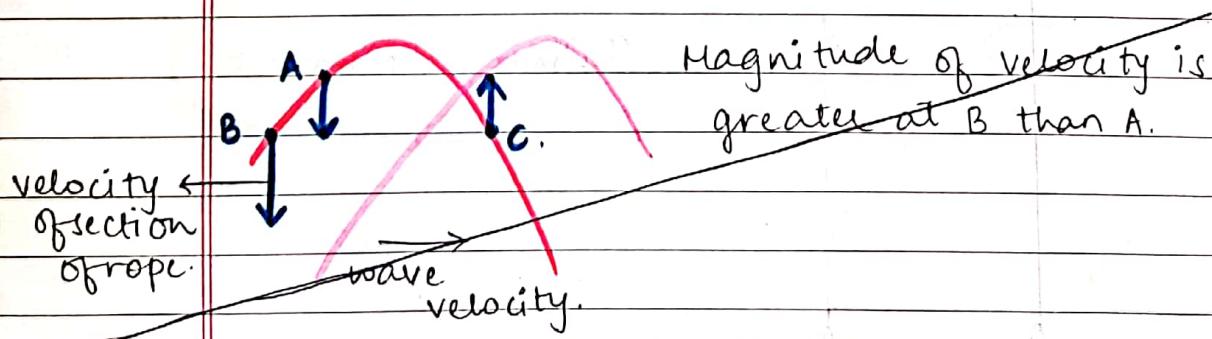
Crest or Trough  $\rightarrow$  highest or lowest point on a wave.

$$v = \frac{\lambda}{T} = \lambda f$$

The speed of the wave depends only on the properties of the medium or not on how it is produced.

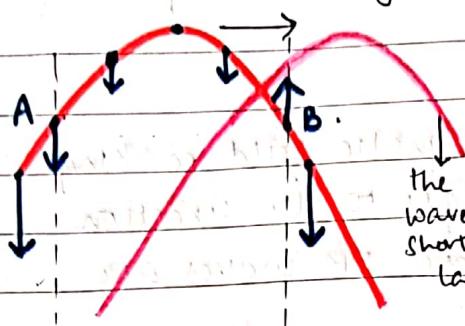
### TRANSVERSE WAVES:

$\hookrightarrow$  displacement is perpendicular to the direction of energy transfer.



✓ Just Ask

## wave velocity



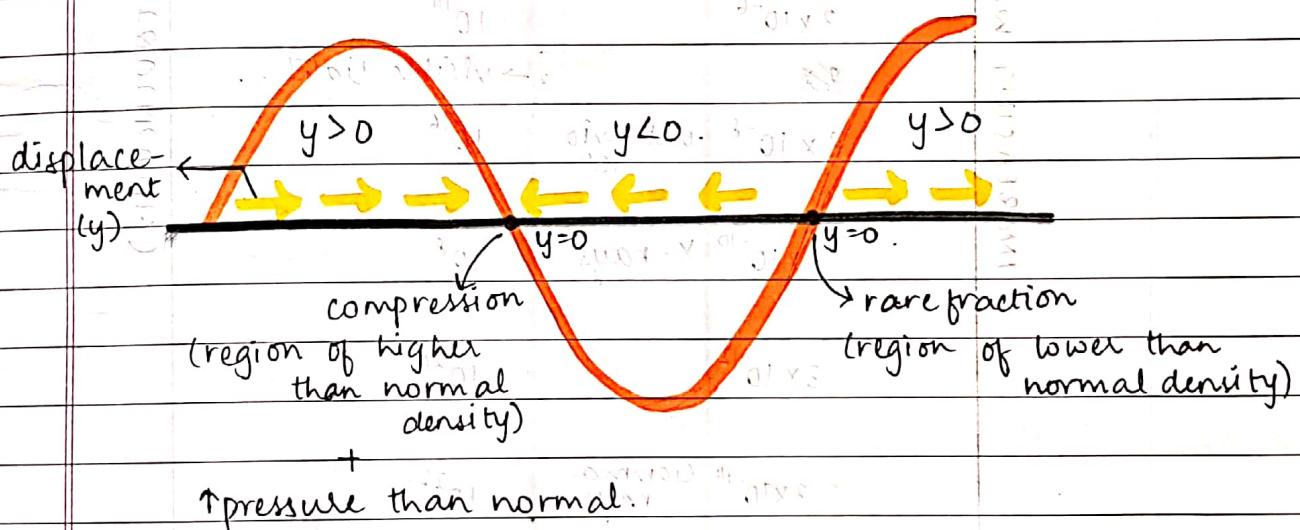
the same  
wave a  
short while  
later.

Arrows of different lengths show different magnitudes of velocity. Velocities in SHM are not constant.

At B, the velocity is downwards as it has the same magnitude as A. However here it (the arrow) shows that as the wave moves upwards forwards the points on the wave move vertically upwards.

## LONGITUDINAL WAVES:

Displacement is parallel to the direction of energy transfer

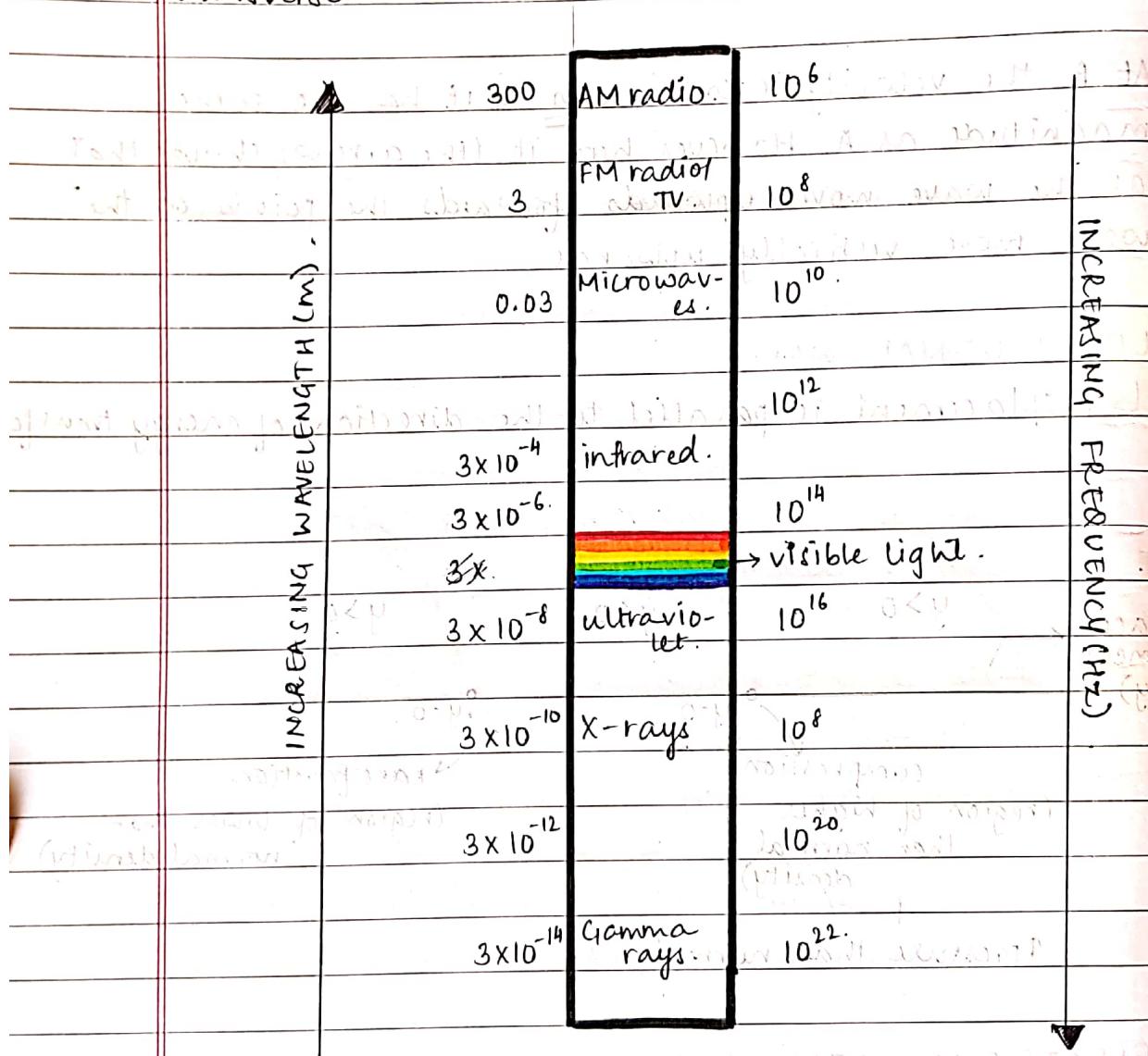


## ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES

Oscillating electric field produces an oscillating magnetic field such that the two are at right angles to each other & both propagate in space at the speed of light.  
 $(3 \times 10^8 \text{ ms}^{-1})$ .

The speed of light is not affected by the speed of its source.

Since both, the electric & magnetic field making up the EM wave are right angles to the direction of energy transfer of the wave, EM waves are transverse.



## 4.3 WAVE CHARACTERISTICS

### WAVE FRONTS & RAYS

A Wavefront is a surface through crests of a wave. It is normal to the direction of energy transfer. All points on a wave front have 0 phase difference. Lines in the direction of energy transfer of the wave (hence normal to the wave fronts) are called rays.

A source that emits waves in all directions is called a point source.

### AMPLITUDE & INTENSITY

A wave carries energy. The rate at which the energy is carried is the power (P) of the wave.

When some of this power is incident on an area A, the intensity is given by:

$$I = \frac{P}{A}$$

In case of a point source,

$$I = \frac{P}{4\pi r^2}$$

Inverse square law relationship:  $I \propto \frac{1}{r^2}$

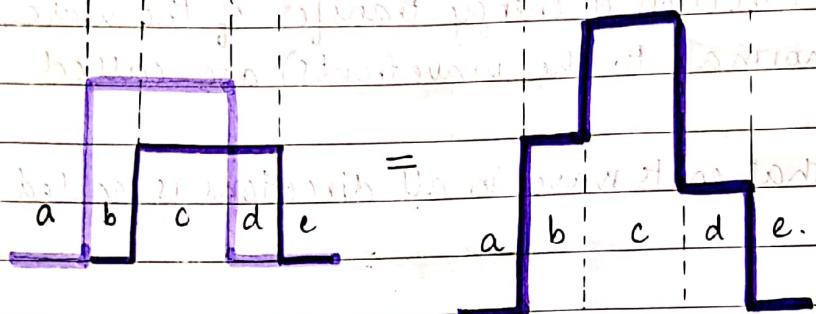
Also,

$$I \propto \frac{A}{r^2}$$

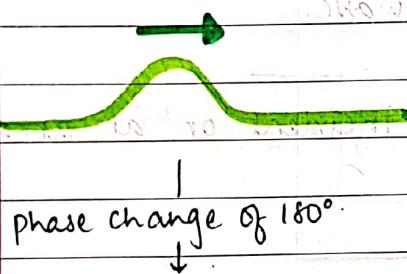
$$I \propto \text{Amplitude}^2$$

## THE PRINCIPLE OF SUPERPOSITION.

When two or more waves of the same type arrive at a given point in space at the same time, the displacement of the medium at that point is the algebraic sum of the individual displacements.



## REFLECTION OF PULSES



When the pulse in the rope hits the fixed end, the rope attempts to move the fixed end upward by an upward force.

The wall exerts an equal & opposite force. Therefore, the reflected pulse is inverted.

If the end of the rope is free to move, there is no phase change or inversion of the wave.

## POLARISATION

In visible light:

- an electric & magnetic field are perpendicular to each other.
- direction of propagation is normal to both fields.

An electromagnetic wave is said to be plane polarised if the electric field oscillates on the same plane.

If the electric field oscillates on a vertical plane, then the light is vertically polarised.

Individual emitters of light emit polarised light waves.

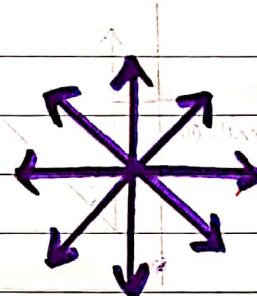
But in a collection of emitters, the plane of polarisation of one emitter is different from another's

Therefore, a given ray of light would consist of a huge number of differently polarised waves. So this light is unpolarised.

Eg - light from a light bulb



Electric field of  
a polarised light

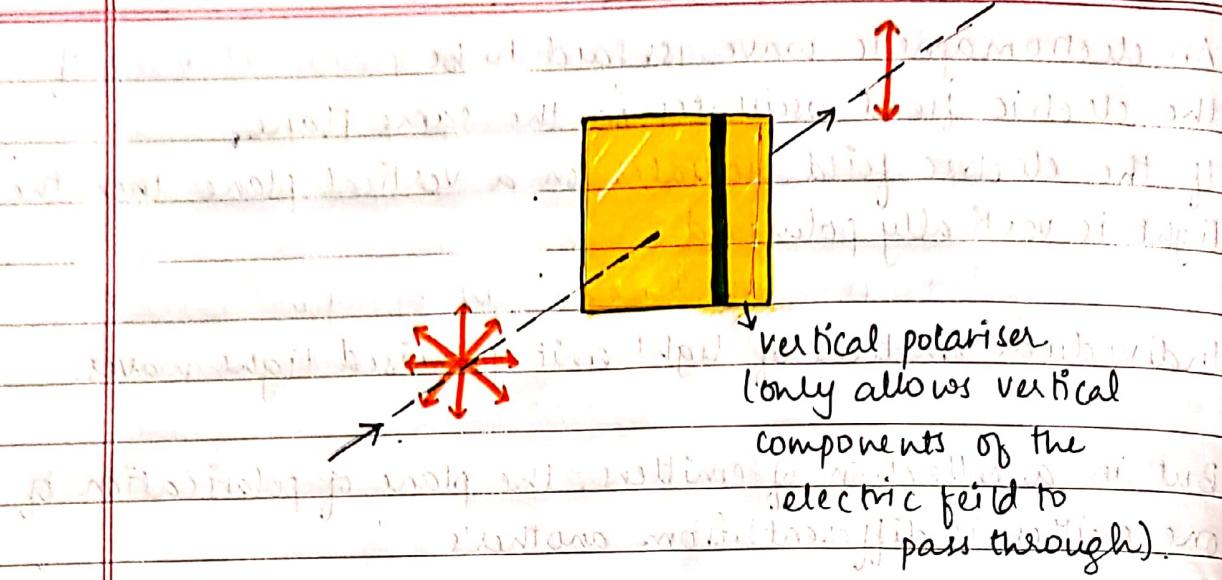


Electric field of unpolarised light.

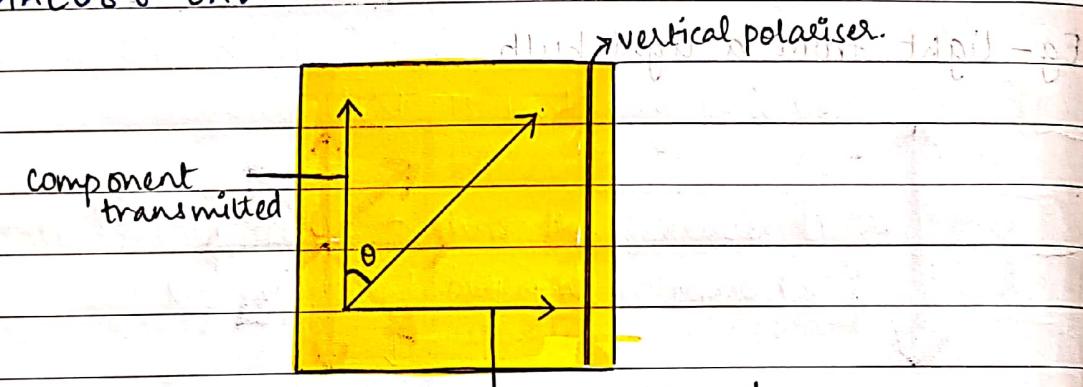
Both waves are propagating at right angles to the electric field i.e. into the page.

Unpolarised light can be polarised by passing it through a polariser.

↳ sheet with a material whose molecular structure is such that only a specific orientation of electric field can go through it.



**MALUS'S LAW**



$\theta$  is the angle between  $E_0$  (Electric field) &

the transmission axis of the polariser

Vertical

Horizontal

$$E = E_0 \cos \theta$$

~~$$E = E_0 \sin \theta$$~~

\* Electric field strength is a vector quantity.

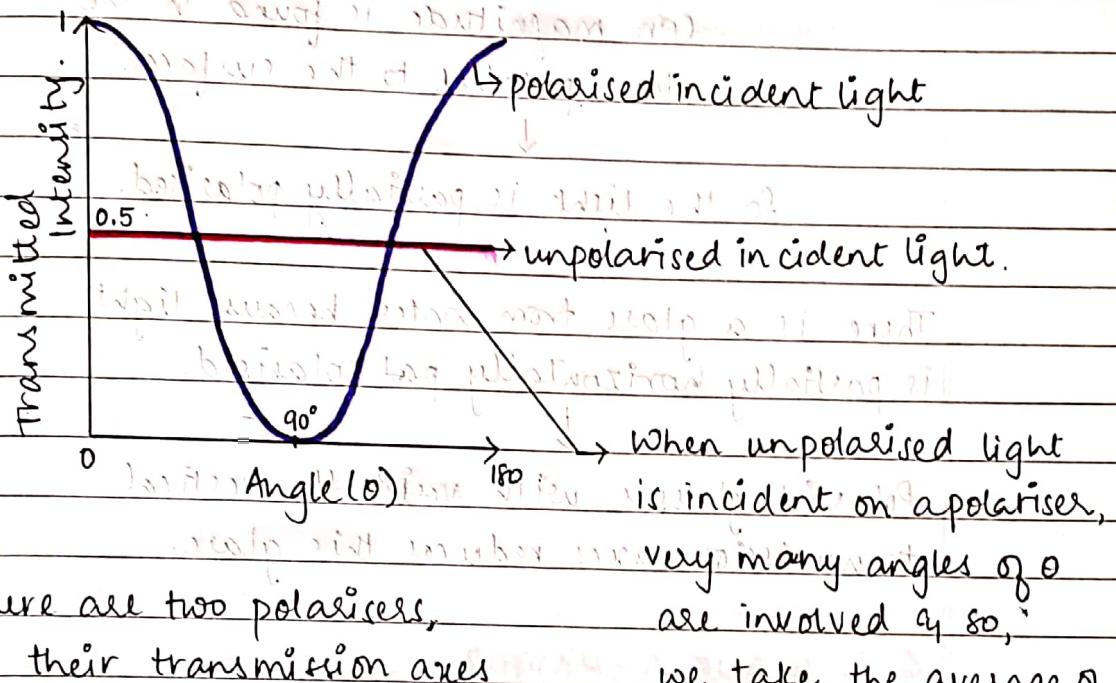
$$I = kE^2$$

$$I = k(E_0 \cos \theta)^2 = (kE_0^2) \cos^2 \theta = I_0 \cos^2 \theta$$

$\downarrow$  incident intensity.

$$I = I_0 \cos^2 \theta$$

Hence Malus's Law:



If there are two polarisers, with their transmission axes at right angles, passing no light emerges.

So the transmitted

intensity is half of the incident intensity.

## POLARISATION BY REFLECTION.

Another way of obtaining polarised light is through reflection from non-metallic surface.

When unpolarised light reflects off a non-metallic surface, the reflected ray is partially polarised.

↳ the reflected ray has various components of the electric field of unequal magnitude.

The component with the greatest con magnitude is found in the <sup>upright</sup> plane parallel to the surface.

↓  
so the light is partially polarised.

There is a glare from water because light is partially horizontally polarised.

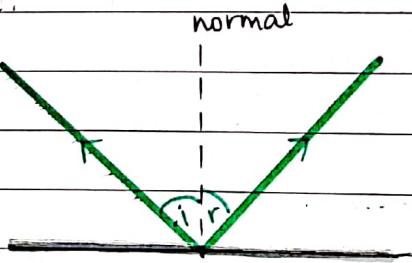
Polaroid glasses with vertically transmission axes reduces this glare.

## 4.4 WAVE BEHAVIOR

### REFLECTION

#### Laws of Reflection:

1. The angle of incidence is equal to the angle of reflection.



✓ Just Ask

- The reflected ray, incident ray & the normal should be on the same plane. This plane is called the plane of incidence.
- The plane should be sufficiently smooth.  
TOP SURFACE ↓ MEDIUM IN WHICH RAY TRAVELS  
 $\lambda_i >$  any irregularities of the surface.
- The wave-length of the incident & the reflected ray is the same  
AND WITH APPROPRIATE LARGER INCIDENCE ANGLE

### REFRACTION & SNELL'S LAW.

Velocity of light in all other media  $\leftarrow$  Velocity of light in vacuum ( $c = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ )

Refraction is the travel of light from one medium to another where it has different speed.

Usually, when a ray of light strikes the boundary between two media, there is both, reflection & refraction.

SNELL'S LAW relates the sines of the angles of incidence & refraction to the wave speeds in the two media. This form of law applies to all waves.

$$\frac{n_1}{n_2} = \frac{\sin \theta_2}{\sin \theta_1} = \frac{v_2}{v_1} = \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_1}$$

Since, the speed of light in vacuum is the greatest, the refractive index of any other medium is always  $> 1$ .

$$n_{\text{vacuum}} = 1$$

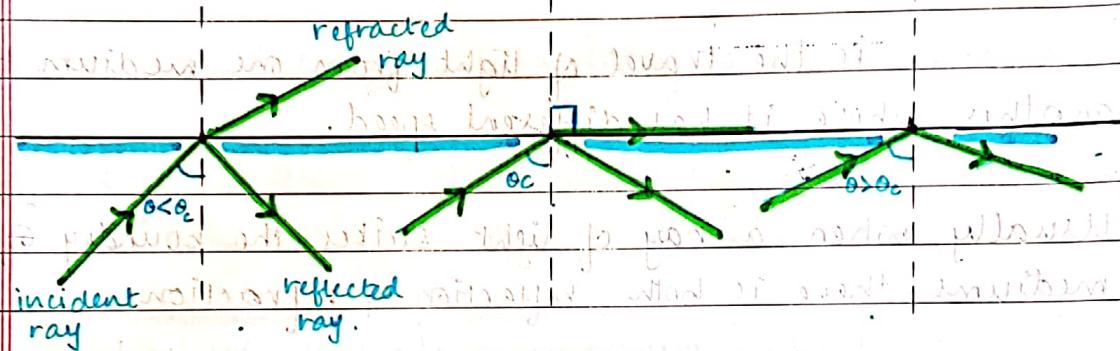
## TOTAL INTERNAL REFLECTION

↳ occurs when a wave moves from an optically dense medium to a less dense medium.

↳ as the angle of incidence increases, the angle of refraction reaches  $90^\circ$ .

The angle of incidence for which the angle of refraction becomes  $90^\circ$  is called the critical angle. Total internal reflection occurs when the Li > critical angle.

optically  
less dense  
medium.



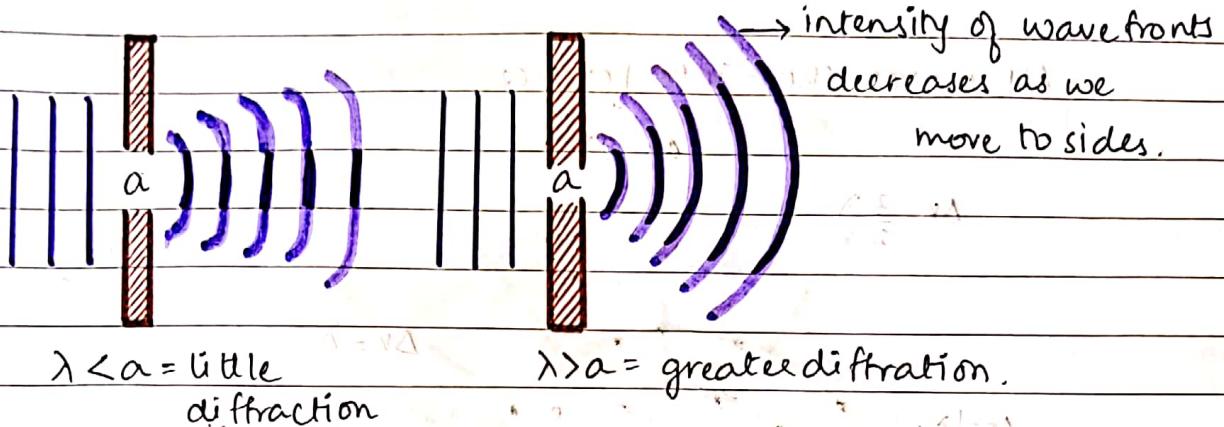
The refractive index does not depend on wavelength. So wavelengths with same Li but different wavelength are refracted at different angles. This phenomenon is called dispersion.

## Application of Total internal reflection

↳ propagation of digital signals carrying information in optical fibres.

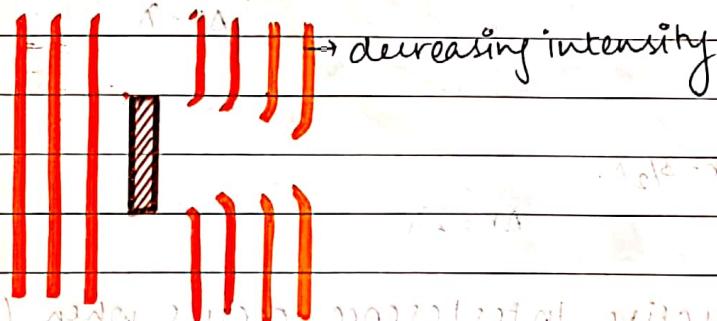
## DIFFRACTION.

↳ Spreading of a wave as it goes past an obstacle or through an aperture.



Larger the wavelength, greater the effect.

## Diffraction around obstacles.

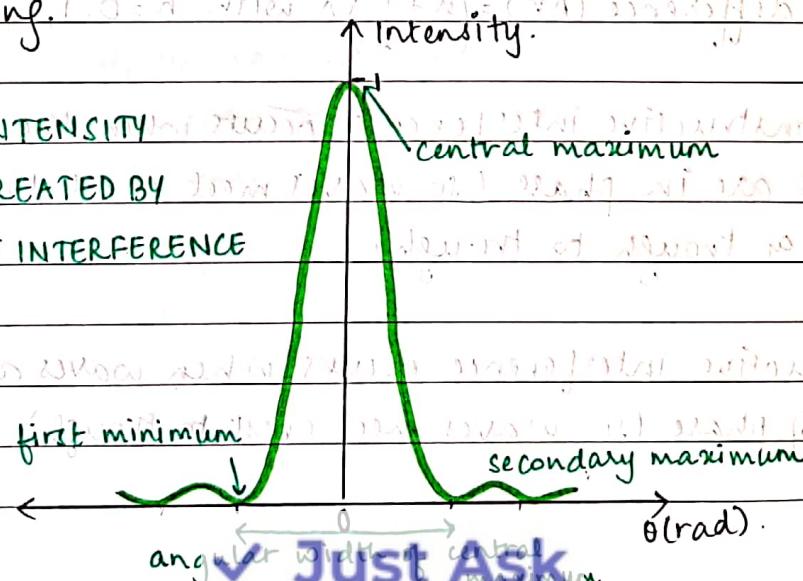


Diffraction explains why we cannot see/hear around corners. Sound diffracts around an opening or obstacle but light doesn't since its  $\lambda$  is very small compared to the opening.

## COMPLEX INTENSITY

## PATTERNS CREATED BY

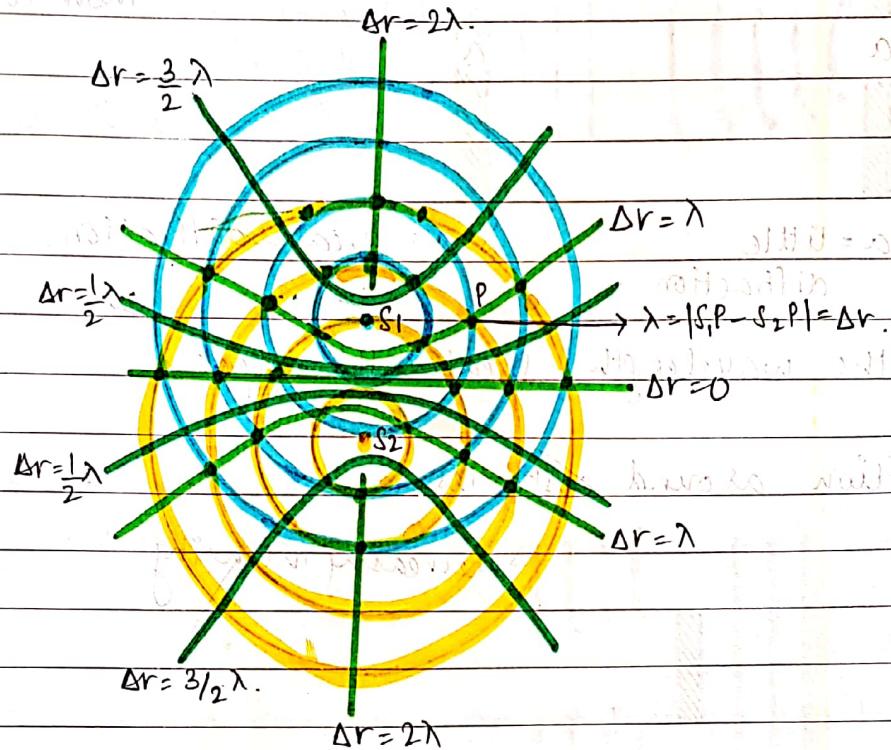
## SINGLE SLIT INTERFERENCE



## DOUBLE SOURCE INTERFERENCE:

The resulting pattern when 2 or more waves meet & superpose is called sup. interference.

All waves show interference.



(high intensity sound, bright light) Constructive Interference occurs when  $(\Delta r)$  path difference  $= n\lambda$  with  $n=0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

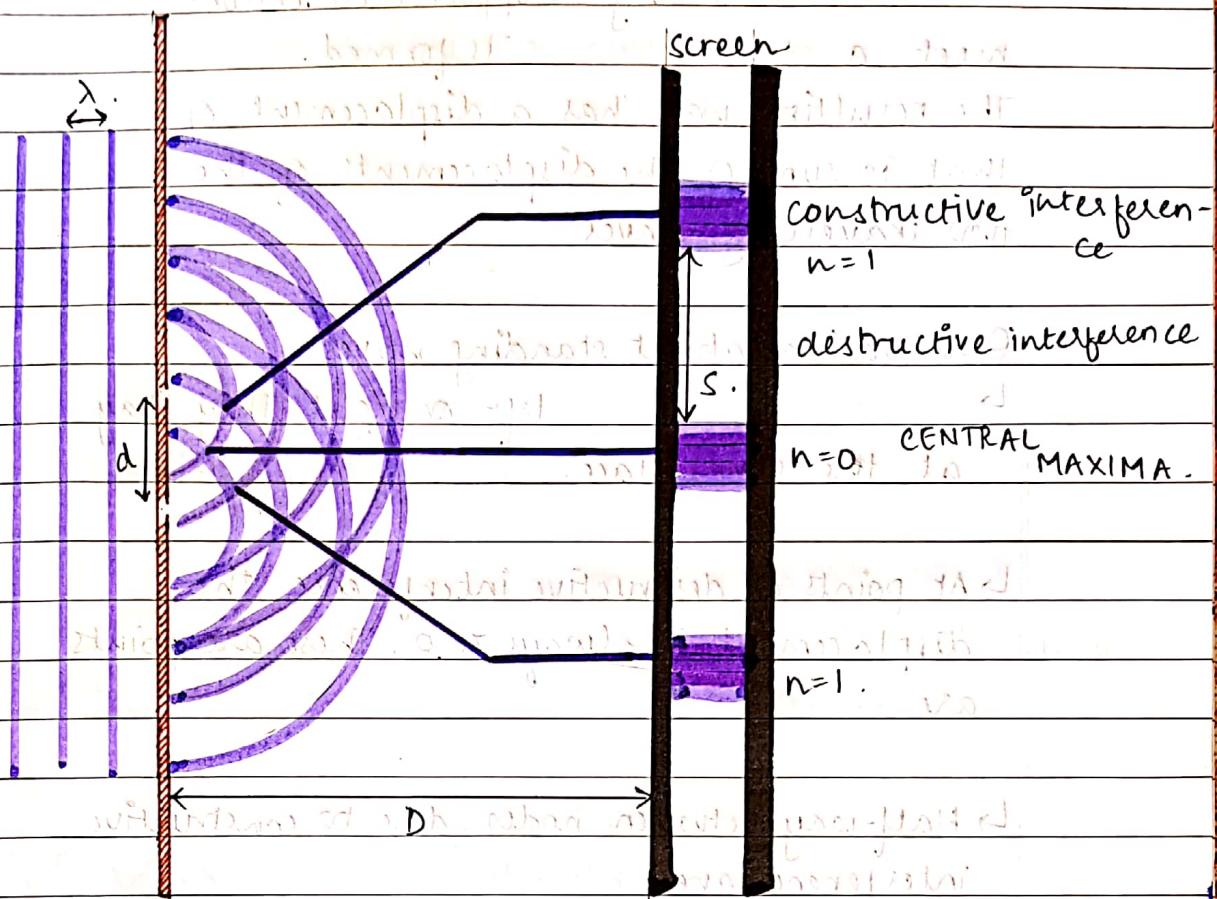
(no sound & darkness) Destructive Interference occurs when the path difference  $(\Delta r) = (n + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$  with  $n=0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

If  $\Delta r$  is anything other than an integral or  $\frac{1}{2}$  integral multiple of  $\lambda$ , P will be some value between 0 &  $2\lambda$  (assuming the 2 waves have equal Amplitude).

Destructive interference occurs when waves are out of phase (so waves meet crest to trough).

If the phase difference is 0, add  $\frac{0\lambda}{2\pi}$  to the path difference.

### DOUBLE SLIT INTERFERENCE.



$$s = \frac{\lambda D}{d}$$

If the slit width is negligible, the peaks in intensity would have the same intensity magnitude. If not, the secondary or tertiary maxima will have a lesser intensity than that of the central maxima.