Engineering Optics
Lecture 40

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by

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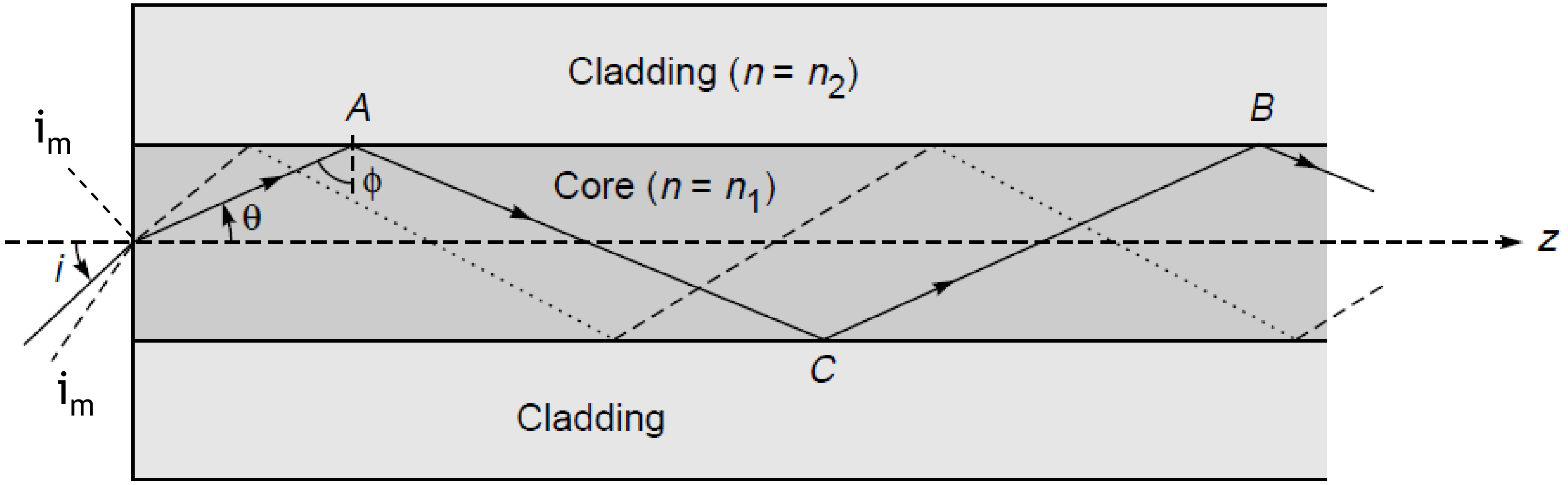
Numerical aperture



if light is incident on one end of the fiber, it will be guided through it provided i <i_m.

The quantity **$\sin i_m$ is known as the numerical aperture (NA)** of the fiber and is a measure of the light-gathering power of the fiber.

In almost all practical situations, $n_1^2 < n_2^2 + 1$

$$\boxed{\mathrm{NA} = \sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}}$$

Optics, Ghatak

Why glass for optical fiber?

- Easier to control w.r.t variation in temperature. There is a wide range of accessible temperatures where its viscosity is variable and can be well controlled unlike most materials, like water and metals which remain liquid until they are cooled down to their freezing temperatures and then suddenly become solid. Glass, on the other hand, does not solidify at a discrete freezing temperature but gradually becomes stiffer.
- The second most important property is that highly pure silica is characterized with extremely low-loss. Today, in most commercially available silica fibers 96% of the power gets transmitted after propagating through 1 km of optical fiber. This indeed represents a truly remarkable achievement.
- The third most remarkable property is the intrinsic strength of glass. Its strength is about 2,000,000 lb/in^2 so that a glass fiber of the type used in the telephone network and having a diameter (125 mm) can support a load of 40 lb.”

Materials for optical fiber

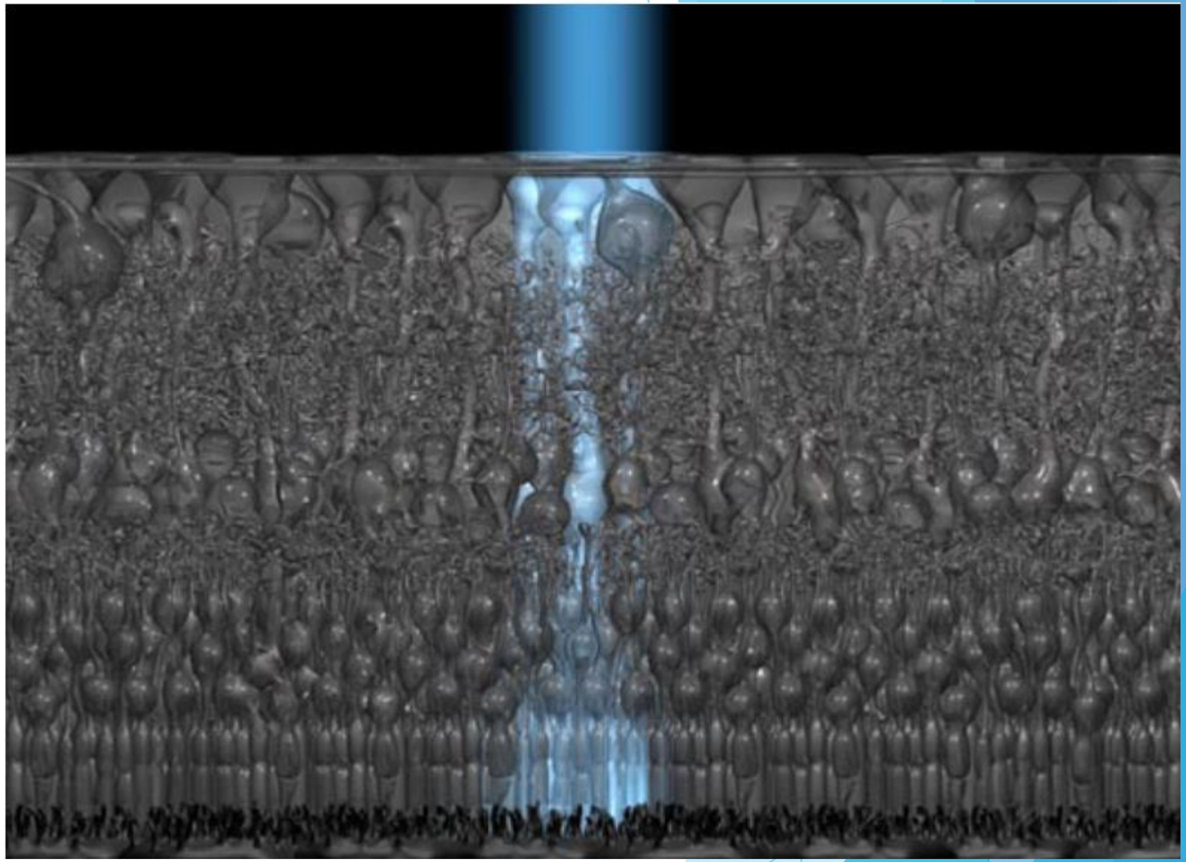
- Optical loss, mechanical strengths, and manufacturability
- ***<u>Glass/plastic vs metals:</u>***

1. **Low loss:** metal wires→ affected by other EM waves, glasses are not
2. **Safer:** glass→ nonconducting→ immune to EM and Radio Frequency interference→ can safely be used around electrical transmission lines, as well as in high RF and magnetic fields.
   - A broken or damaged glass fiber→ worst-case releases a few mJ of power. A break in a 1 kV electrical power cable will result in an arc discharge and huge energy→ can be lethal
3. **Lighter:** metals→ much heavier than glass fiber for similar power delivery capacity.
   - Conductor weight →1/voltage^2 (because power loss varies as V^2/R), so even at 400 volts, copper weighs over twice as much as fiber.
   - amazingly high mechanical strength against pulling and even bending
4. **Manufacturability →** silicon dioxide using Chemical Vapor Deposition technique—layer by layer growth of optical fiber

http://www.madehow.com/Volume-1/Optical-Fiber.html

Do you know?

- Eye → Retina→ Müller cells → radial glial cells spanning the entire retinal thickness.
- Müller cells have an extended funnel shape, ***a higher refractive index than their surrounding tissue***, and are ***oriented along the direction of light propagation***.
- Transmission and reflection confocal microscopy showed that these cells provide a low-scattering passage for light from the retinal surface to the photoreceptor cells.
- individual Müller cells act as **?**
- Finally the generated signals are transmitted to the brain through various nerves.

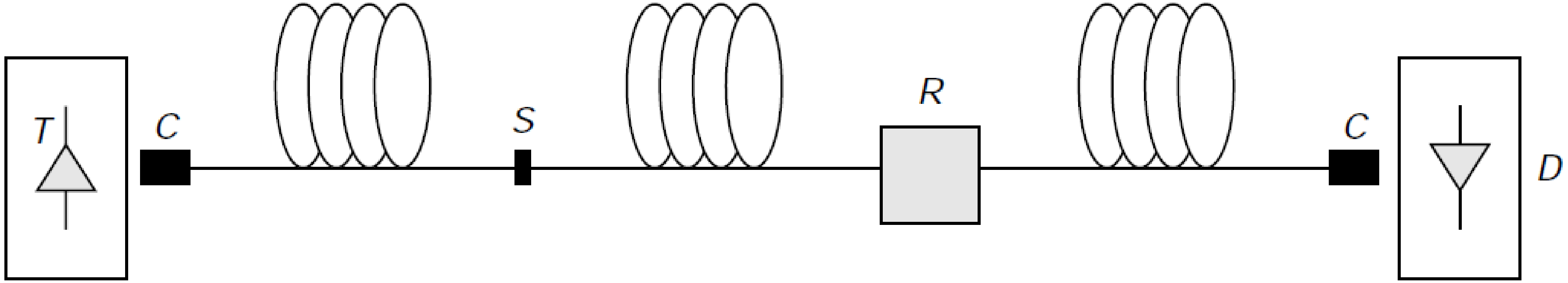


The inverted structure of the vertebrate retina. Light is coming from above and has to travel through several layers of light scattering tissue before reaching the sensitive photoreceptor cells at the back-side of the retina. The bright structures →represent Müller cells

http://www.vision-research.eu/index.php?id=160

https://www.pnas.org/content/104/20/8287

Attenuation (loss)



- Attenuation → information-carrying capacity of a fiber-optic communication system. measured in *decibels (dB)*
- Obviously, the lower the attenuation→ the greater the required *repeater* spacing and therefore the lower will be the cost of the communication system.
- If an input power P_1 results in an output power P_2, then the loss in decibels is given by

$$\boxed{\alpha = 10 \log \left(\frac{P_{\text{input}}}{P_{\text{output}}} \right)}$$

Attenuation (loss)

$$\alpha = 10 \log \left(\frac{P_{\text{input}}}{P_{\text{output}}} \right)$$

- **Problems:**

2. If the output power is the same as the input power, then the loss in dB is = ?
3. If the output power is one-tenth of the input power, then the loss is = ?
4. If the output power is one-hundredth of the input power, then the loss is = ?
5. If the output power is one-thousandth of the input power, then the loss is = ?

Answers

$$\alpha = 10 \log \left(\frac{P_{\text{input}}}{P_{\text{output}}} \right)$$

2. If the output power is the same as the input power, then the loss is = 0 dB.
3. If the output power is one-tenth of the input power, then the loss is = 10 dB.
4. If the output power is one-hundredth of the input power, then the loss is = 20 dB
5. If the output power is one-thousandth of the input power, then the loss is = 30 dB

Problem-6

(a) A 40 km fiber link has a loss of 0.4 dB per km. Each of the three connectors in its path has a loss of 1.8 dB, calculate the total loss.

(b) Another 40 km fiber link has a loss of 0.2 dB per km. Each of the three connectors in its path has a loss of 1.5 dB, calculate the total loss.

(c) Suppose for case (a) the distance between successive repeaters is d_1 and for (b) it is d_2. Which one is true and why? (i) $d_1 = d_2$ (ii) $d_1 > d_2$ and (iii) $d_1 < d_2$

Answers

a) Total loss = (0.4 x 40) + (3 x 1.8) dB = 21.4 dB

b) Total loss = (0.2 x 40) + (3 x 1.5) dB = 12.5 dB

c) (iii)

Thank You