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問図より、

$$r = 90^{\circ} - r'$$
 …① $\frac{\sin i}{\sin r} = \frac{\sin i'}{\sin r'} = n$ …② $\sin(90^{\circ} - r) = \sin 90^{\circ} \cos r - \cos 90^{\circ} \sin r$ $= \cos r$ …③ (加法定理)

②,③式より、

$$\frac{\sin i}{\sin r} = n, \frac{\sin i'}{\sin r'} = n$$

$$\sin r = \frac{\sin i}{n} \quad \cdots \quad \text{(4)}$$

$$\cos r = \frac{\sin i'}{n} \quad \cdots \quad \text{(5)}$$

4,5式より、

$$\sin r + \cos r = \frac{\sin i}{n} + \frac{\sin i'}{n}$$

両辺を二乗すると、

$$sin^{2} r + cos^{2} r = \frac{sin^{2} i + sin^{2} i'}{n^{2}}$$

$$n^{2} = sin^{2} i + sin^{2} i'$$

$$\therefore n = \sqrt{sin^{2} i + sin^{2} i'}$$