

The Human Eye and the Colourful World

Part 1: The Human Eye

Overview

The human eye is a natural optical instrument that enables vision by forming real, inverted images on the retina using a convex lens system.

Structure and Function of Eye Parts

Eye Part	Description & Function
Cornea	Transparent outer layer; refracts most incoming light ($\approx 67\%$ of focusing power)
Aqueous Humour	Fluid between cornea and lens; maintains intraocular pressure
Iris	Pigmented diaphragm; controls pupil size and light entry
Pupil	Central aperture; regulates light entering the eye
Lens	Flexible, convex; adjusts focal length via ciliary muscles
Ciliary Muscles	Modify lens curvature for accommodation
Retina	Light-sensitive layer; contains rods (dim light) and cones (color vision)
Optic Nerve	Transmits electrical impulses to brain
Vitreous Humour	Gel-like substance; maintains eye shape
Sclera	Tough outer coat; protects internal structures
Conjunctiva	Thin membrane covering visible part of eye

Key Optical Concepts

- **Persistence of Vision:** Image remains on retina for $\sim 1/16$ th of a second.
- **Power of Accommodation:** Eye's ability to adjust lens focal length to focus on near/far objects.
- **Least Distance of Distinct Vision:** 25 cm for a normal eye.

- **Far Point:** Infinity for a normal eye.
- **Range of Vision:** 25 cm to infinity.

Part 2: Defects of Vision

Defect	Cause	Image Formation	Correction Method
Myopia	Elongated eyeball or excessive lens curvature	In front of retina	Concave lens (diverging)
Hypermetropia	Short eyeball or insufficient curvature	Behind retina	Convex lens (converging)
Presbyopia	Aging: weak ciliary muscles, rigid lens	Similar to hypermetropia	Bifocal lenses
Cataract	Clouding of lens due to protein build-up	Obstructed vision	Surgical lens replacement

Mnemonic for Defect Correction

Myopia → Minus (Concave)

Hypermetropia → Plus (Convex)

Part 3: The Colourful World

Refraction Through a Prism

- **Prism:** Transparent optical element with flat, polished surfaces.
- **Refraction:** Light bends due to change in speed across media.
- **Angle of Deviation (δ):** Angle between incident and emergent rays.
- **Dispersion:** Splitting of white light into 7 colors (VIBGYOR).
- **Spectrum:** Band of colors formed due to dispersion.

Atmospheric Phenomena

Phenomenon	Explanation
Rainbow Formation	Refraction, dispersion, and internal reflection in water droplets

Phenomenon	Explanation
Advanced Sunrise / Delayed Sunset	Atmospheric refraction bends sunlight before/after actual horizon
Twinkling of Stars	Refraction through turbulent layers of atmosphere
Scattering of Light	Shorter wavelengths scatter more (Rayleigh scattering)

Scattering Effects

Observation	Reason
Sky appears blue	Blue light scatters more due to shorter wavelength
Sun appears red at sunrise/sunset	Red light scatters least; travels longer path through atmosphere
Clouds appear white	All wavelengths scatter equally due to large water droplets
Danger signals are red	Red is least scattered, visible from far

Visual Mnemonics & Tips

- **Eye Parts Mnemonic:** *Can All Intelligent People Learn Complex Rules Of Optics?*
(Cornea, Aqueous humour, Iris, Pupil, Lens, Ciliary muscles, Retina, Optic nerve)
- **Color Order in Dispersion:** *VIBGYOR*
(Violet bends most, Red least)
- **Defect Correction Tip:**
 - *Myopia* → Concave lens (Diverging)
 - *Hypermetropia* → Convex lens (Converging)

Bonus: Conceptual Connections

- **Accommodation vs. Refraction:** Accommodation is biological (lens shape change); refraction is physical (light bending).
 - **Dispersion vs. Scattering:** Dispersion splits light by wavelength; scattering redirects light due to particles.
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