

# Nature and propagation of light.

CH-10

## Wave Theory of light

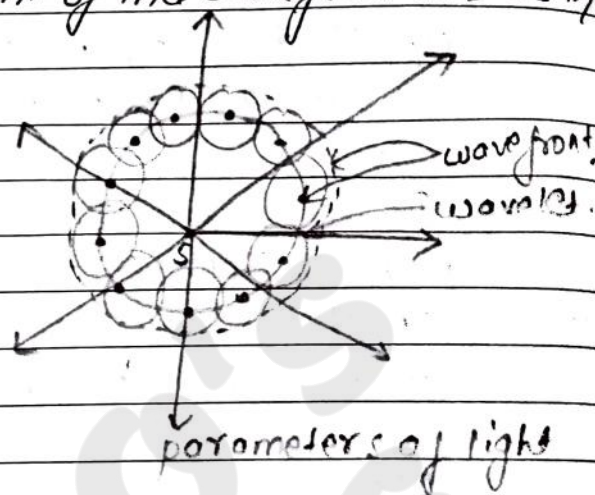
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S.Q(1) Distinguish between wavefront and wavelet. [2072]

Ans.

The plane on which the waves are in the same phase is called wavefront. Wavelets are the secondary waves which are produced when each point of the wavefront acts as the new source of the wave.



S.Q(2) If light moves from one medium to the other medium (i.e. refraction) which parameters of light do not change? [2063, 2071 supp]

Ans.

When light moves from one medium to the other medium (i.e. during refraction), the energy  $E = hf$  remains constant, hence frequency  $f$  also remains constant. But due to change of refractive index of medium, velocity of light changes. Therefore

$$f = \frac{c}{\lambda} = \frac{v_1}{\lambda_1}$$

Hence, velocity and wavelength changes.

S.Q(3) A normally incident wavefront does not deviate, when it travels from one medium to another medium. Explain [2070 supp]

Ans.

For a normally incident wavefront, angle of incidence  $i = 0$ , therefore from Snell's law, angle of refraction  $r = 0$ , therefore, it does not deviate on going from one medium to the other medium.

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Q. (4) When monochromatic light is incident on a surface, there is reflected and refracted light. Has same frequency why? [2076 old]

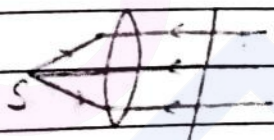
Ans. From the law of conservation of energy, the energy of light  $E = hf$  remains constant. Hence frequency remains constant during reflection and refraction of light.

Q. (5) Differentiate between plane wavefront and spherical wavefront [2062]

Ans. Following are the differences between plane wavefront and spherical wavefront :-

Plane wavefront

- 1) It is plane in shape.
- 2) Plane wavefront is formed when source of light is at infinity. ~~For~~ Practically it is formed with a convex lens.



Spherical wavefront.

1. It is spherical in shape.
2. Spherical wavefront is formed near a point source.



Q. (6) State Huygen's principle. [2067]

Ans. To explain the mode of propagation of light Huygens enunciated the following two statements called Huygens's principle.

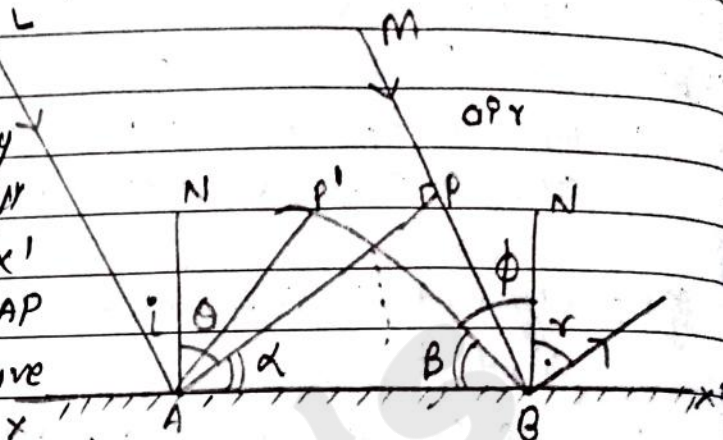
- i) Every point on the primary wavefront is origin of secondary wavefront.
- ii) The wavefront travels with speed of light. The backward wavefronts are ~~are~~ neglected and the forward wavefronts are accepted.



# Important (4 marks)

\* Laws of reflection of light on the basis of wave theory (ie by Huygen's principle):

Q In fig (1) LA AND MB are two parallel rays of light incident on a reflecting plane surface  $xx'$  at angle of incidence  $i$ . AP is the incident plane wave front.



If in time  $t$ , light moves from fig (1) P to B then in the same time point A acting as secondary source of light constructs a wavelet of radius  $AP' = AP = ct$  where  $c =$  velocity of light in air. Tangent  $BP'$  is the reflected wavefront.

Between  $\triangle APB$  and  $\triangle AP'B$ , we have,

$$\begin{cases} \angle APB = \angle AP'B = 90^\circ \\ \text{Side AB is common} \\ \text{Side BP} = \text{Side AP}' = ct \end{cases}$$

$$\therefore \triangle APB \cong \triangle AP'B$$

$$\therefore \angle A = \angle B \dots \dots \textcircled{1}$$

$$\text{Now from fig. } i + \theta = \alpha + \theta = 90^\circ.$$

$$\therefore i = r \dots \dots \textcircled{2}$$

$$\text{also } B + \phi = r + \phi = 90^\circ$$

$$\therefore B = r \dots \dots \textcircled{3}$$

From eqns  $\textcircled{1}$ ,  $\textcircled{2}$  and  $\textcircled{3}$  we get

$$\angle i = \angle r.$$

Thus, the angle of incidence is equal to angle of reflection of light.

Also the incident wavefront AP, reflected wavefront BP' and the normal at the point of incidence lie in the same plane.

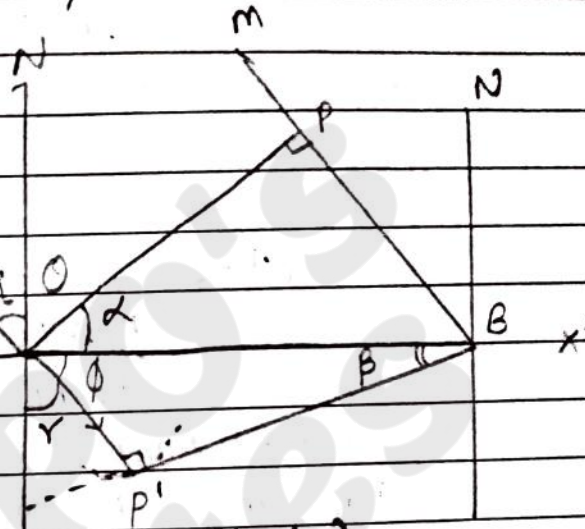


thus, both laws of reflection of light hold good on the basis of wave theory of light.

Important (4 marks)

\* Laws of refraction of light on the basis of wave theory (i.e. by Huygen's principle):-

Let  $LA$  and  $MB$  be two parallel rays on a plane surface  $XX'$  from rarer medium (say air) to denser medium (say glass) at angle of incidence  $i$ .



Thus  $AP$  is the incident plane wave front. Let  $c$  and  $v$  be the velocities of light in air and glass respectively. If in time  $t$  light moves from  $P$  to  $B$  in air then,  
 $PB = c \cdot t$

In the same time  $t$ , point  $A$  acts as secondary source of light and makes a wavelet of radius  $AP' = vt$  in glass. Tangent  $BP'$  of this wavelet gives new plane wavefront -  $BP'$  which is refracted wavefront.

Now from fig (2)

$$i + \theta = \alpha + \theta = 90^\circ \therefore \alpha = i$$

$$\text{Also, } r + \phi = \beta + \phi = 90^\circ \therefore \beta = r$$

Now,

$$\frac{\sin \alpha}{\sin \beta} = \frac{\left( \frac{BP}{AB} \right)}{\left( \frac{AP'}{AB} \right)} = \frac{BP}{AP'} = \frac{c \cdot t}{v \cdot t} = \frac{c}{v}$$

$$\therefore \frac{\sin P}{\sin r} = \mu \quad \text{--- (1)} \quad \left( \text{where } \mu = \frac{c}{v} = \text{refractive index of glass} \right)$$

Eqn (1) is Snell's law of refraction of light - Also the incident wavefront BR, refracted wavefront AP and the normal at the point of incidence lie in the same plane.

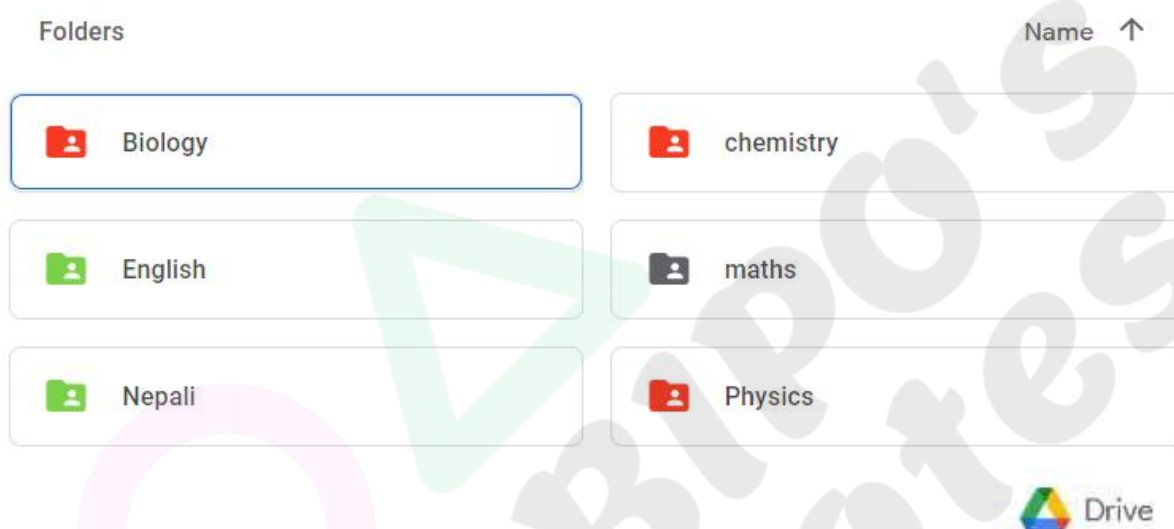
Thus, both laws of refraction of light hold good on the basis of wave theory of light.

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**Class 12** complete notes and paper collection.



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