



# Chapter 8 Optical Properties

1. Light waves in a homogeneous medium
2. Refractive index
3. Dispersion: refractive index – wavelength behavior
4. Snell's law and total internal reflection (TIR)
5. Fresnel's equation
6. Complex refractive index and light absorption
7. Light absorption and scattering
8. Luminescence, phosphors, and white LED's



# Light waves in a homogeneous medium

Light exhibits typical wave-like properties such as interference and diffraction. We can treat light as an electromagnetic (EM) wave (电磁波) with time-varying electric and magnetic fields  $\mathbf{E}_x$  and  $\mathbf{B}_y$ , respectively, which propagate through space in such a way that they are always perpendicular to each other and the direction of propagation  $\mathbf{z}$ .

The simplest mathematical form of a monochromatic (单色) plane wave:

$$E_x = E_0 \cos(\omega t - kz + \phi_0)$$

$E_x$ : the electric field at position  $z$  and time  $t$

$E_0$ : the **amplitude** (振幅) of the wave

$\omega$ : the **angular frequency** ( $\omega=2\pi\nu$ ) (角频率)

$k$ : the **propagation constant, wavevector** (波矢),

or **wavenumber** ( $k = 2\pi/\lambda$ ) (波数)

$(\omega t - kz + \phi_0)$ : is called the phase,  $\phi$  (相位)

$\phi_0$ : a phase constant (相位常数)

# Phase velocity (相速度)

The time and space evolution of a given phase  $\phi$ , is described by

$$\phi = \omega t - kz + \phi_o = \text{constant}$$

During a time interval  $\delta t$ , this constant phase moves a distance  $\delta z$ . The phase velocity of this wave is therefore  $\delta z/\delta t$ .

The **phase velocity** (相速度)  $v$  is:

$$v = \frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{\omega}{k} = v\lambda$$

The above relationship can be obtained by  $\delta z/\delta t$  from  $\phi = \omega t - kz + \phi_o = \text{constant}$  ( $\omega\Delta t - k\Delta z = 0$ ) .

# Refractive index (折射率)

EM traveling in a medium: the oscillating **electric field** polarizes the molecules of the medium at the frequency of the wave.

The field and the induced molecular dipoles become coupled. The polarization mechanism delays the propagation of the EM wave.

The stronger the interaction between the field and the dipoles, the slower is the propagation of the wave.

For an EM wave traveling in a non-magnetic dielectric medium of the relative permittivity  $\epsilon_r$  (介电常数), the phase velocity is given by:

$$V = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r \epsilon_0 \mu_0}}$$

$\epsilon_0 = 8.8542 \times 10^{-12} \text{ CV}^{-1}\text{M}^{-1}$  真空介电常数

$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ Hm}^{-1}$  真空磁导率

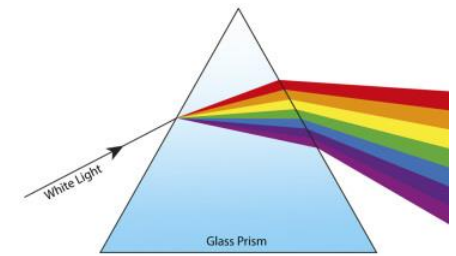
optical frequency range

For an EM wave traveling in free space,  $\epsilon_r = 1$  and  $V_{\text{vacuum}} = 1/\sqrt{(\epsilon_0 \mu_0)} = c = 3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

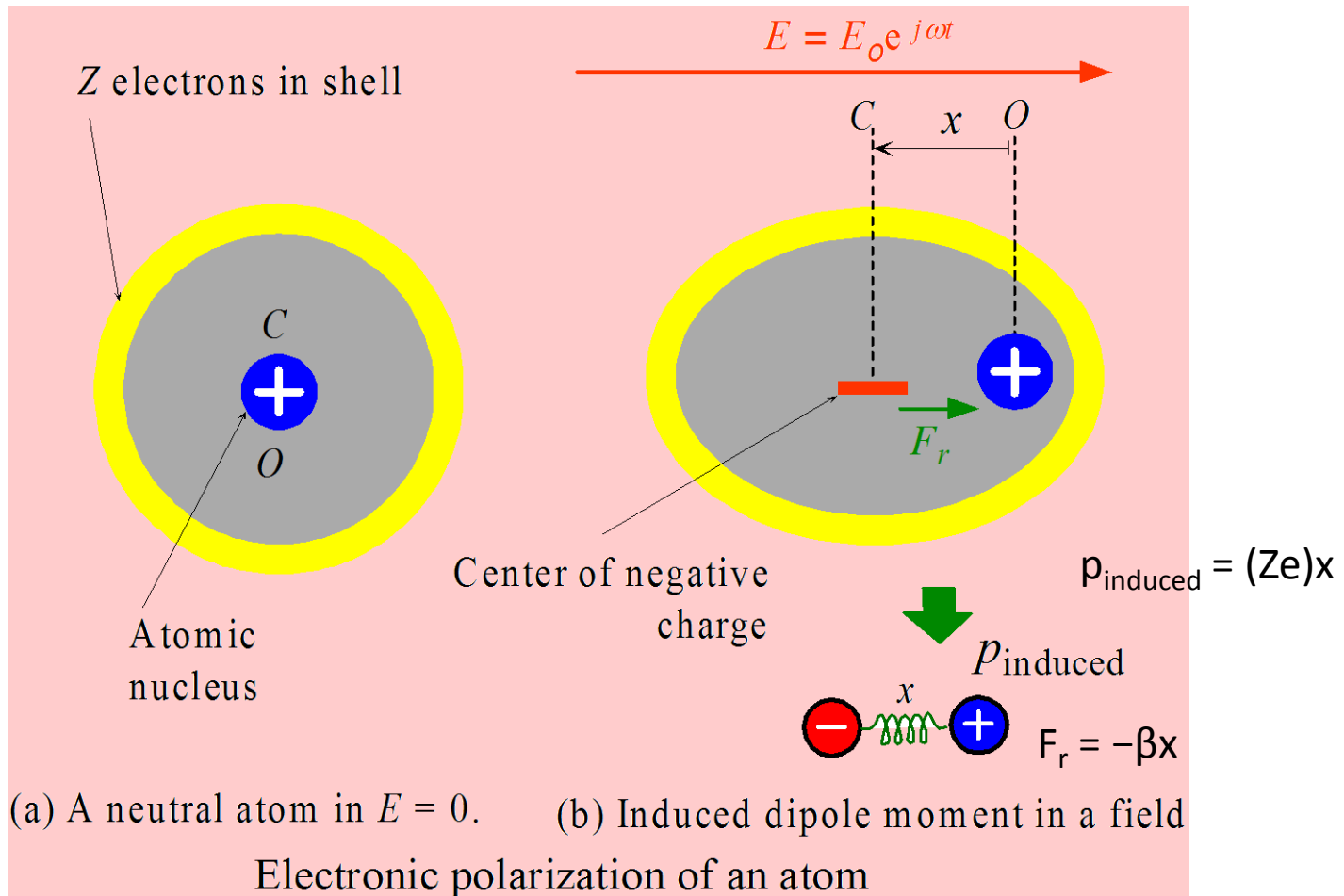
$$V = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r}}$$

$$n = \frac{c}{v} = \sqrt{\epsilon_r}$$

# Dispersion (色散) : refractive index – wavelength behavior



The refractive index in general depends on the frequency, or the wavelength.



# Dispersion relation (色散关系)

The relationship between  $n$  and  $\lambda$  (or  $\omega$ ) is called the **dispersion relation**.

In a solid, a series of **resonance frequencies** may exist, **Sellmeier dispersion** 塞梅尔色散:

$$n^2 = 1 + \frac{A_1 \lambda^2}{\lambda^2 - \lambda_1^2} + \frac{A_2 \lambda^2}{\lambda^2 - \lambda_2^2} + \frac{A_3 \lambda^2}{\lambda^2 - \lambda_3^2}$$

Where  $A_1, A_2, A_3$  and  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$  and  $\lambda_3$  are constant, called Sellmeier coefficients.  
塞梅尔系数

There is another well-known useful  **$n$ - $\lambda$**  dispersion by Cauchy (1836):

$$n^2 = A + \frac{B}{\lambda^2} + \frac{C}{\lambda^4}$$

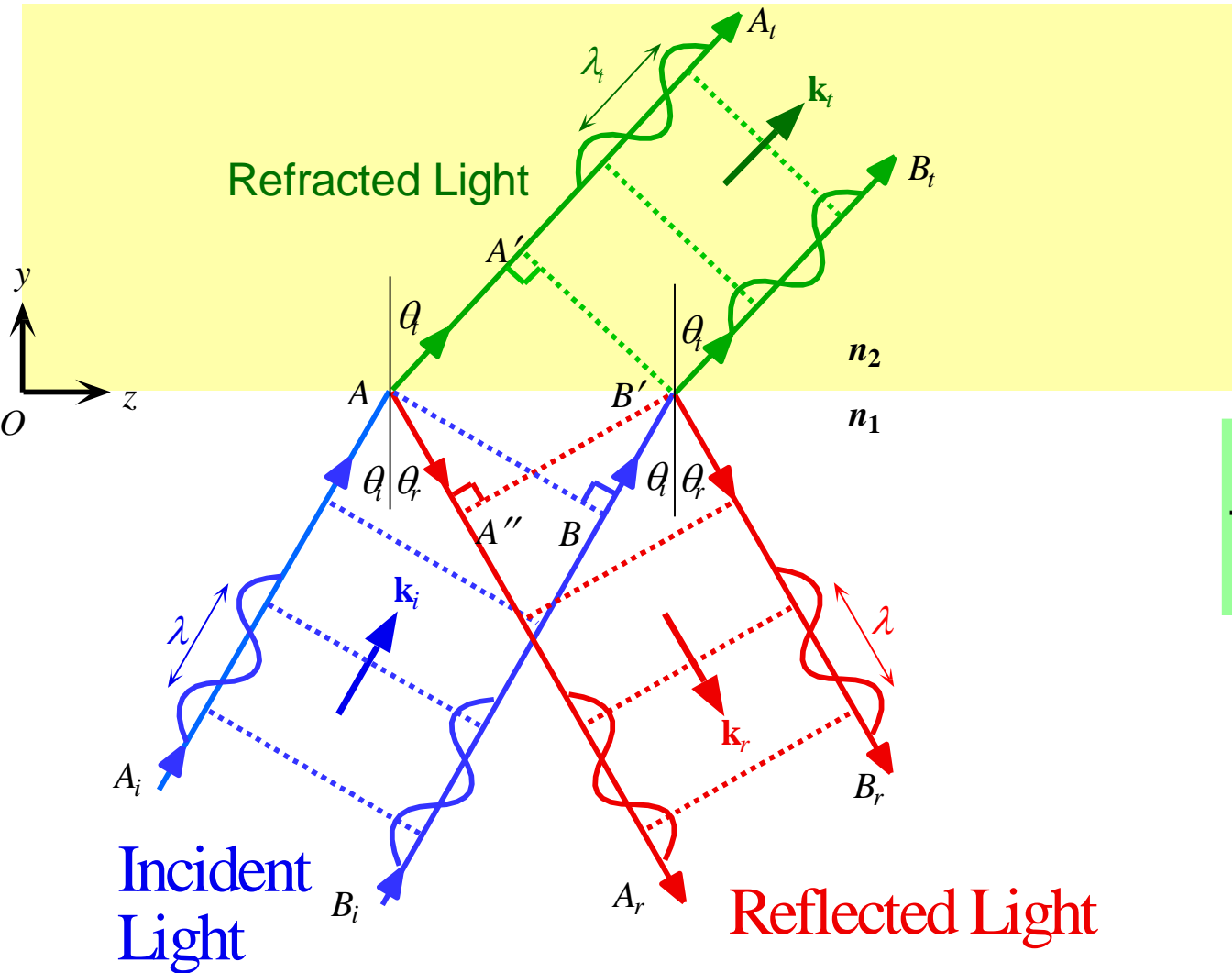
**Cauchy equation**

柯西方程:

$$n = n_{-2}(h\nu)^{-2} + n_0 + n_2(h\nu)^2 + n_4(h\nu)^4$$

where  **$h\nu$**  is the **photon energy**, and  $n_0, n_{-2}, n_2$ , and  $n_4$  are constants

# Snell's law 斯涅尔定律 and total internal reflection (TIR)



$$\frac{\sin \theta_i}{\sin \theta_t} = \frac{v_1}{v_2} = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

$$\sin \theta_c = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

A light wave travelling in a medium with a greater refractive index ( $n_1 > n_2$ ) suffers reflection and refraction at the boundary.

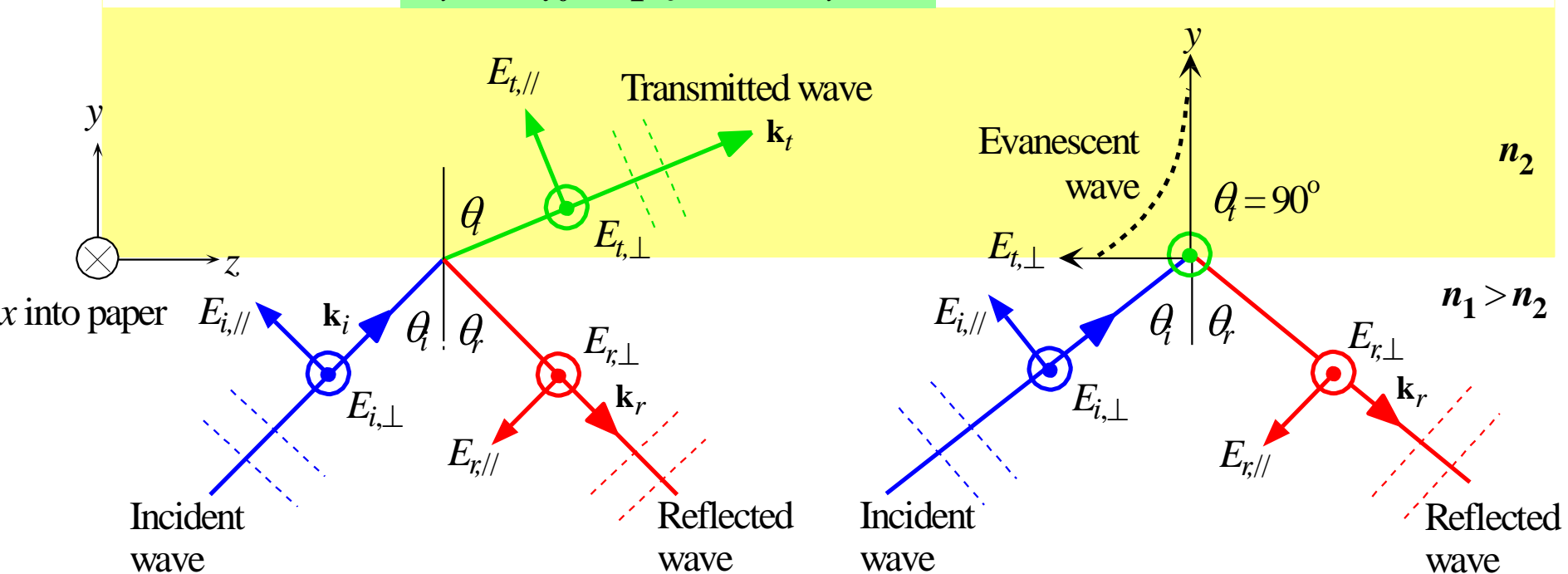
# Fresnel's equation (菲涅耳方程)

Incident wave  $E_i = E_{i0} \exp j(\omega t - \vec{k}_i \cdot \vec{r})$

Reflected wave  $E_r = E_{r0} \exp j(\omega t - \vec{k}_r \cdot \vec{r})$

Transmitted wave  $E_t = E_{t0} \exp j(\omega t - \vec{k}_t \cdot \vec{r})$

**phase changes  $\phi_r$  and  $\phi_t$  are incorporated into the complex amplitudes  $E_{r0}$  and  $E_{t0}$**



(a)  $\theta_i < \theta_c$  some of the wave transmitted into the less dense medium, some of the wave is reflected.

(b)  $\theta_i > \theta_c$  the incident wave suffers total internal reflection. There is a decaying evanescent wave into medium 2



# Amplitude reflection and transmission coefficients

**Fresnel's equations (obtained from the boundary conditions):** If we define  $n = n_2/n_1$ , then for  $E_{\perp}$ :

reflection coefficient  
反射系数

$$r_{\perp} = \frac{E_{r0,\perp}}{E_{i0,\perp}} = \frac{\cos \theta_i - (n^2 - \sin^2 \theta_i)^{1/2}}{\cos \theta_i + (n^2 - \sin^2 \theta_i)^{1/2}}$$

transmission coefficient  
折射系数

$$t_{\perp} = \frac{E_{t0,\perp}}{E_{i0,\perp}} = \frac{2 \cos \theta_i}{\cos \theta_i + (n^2 - \sin^2 \theta_i)^{1/2}}$$

for  $E_{\parallel}$ :

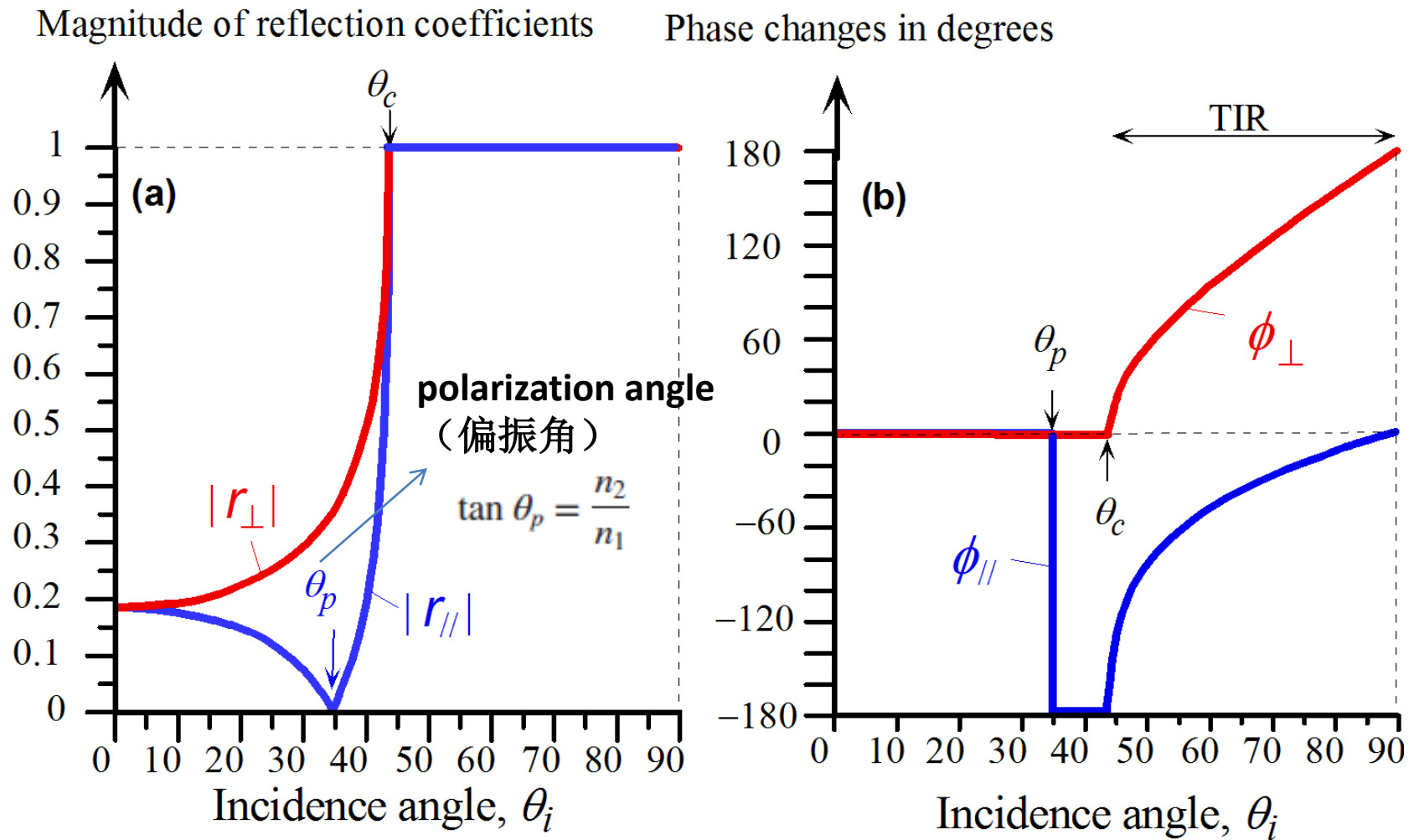
reflection coefficient

$$r_{\parallel} = \frac{E_{r0,\parallel}}{E_{i0,\parallel}} = \frac{(n^2 - \sin^2 \theta_i)^{1/2} - n^2 \cos \theta_i}{(n^2 - \sin^2 \theta_i)^{1/2} + n^2 \cos \theta_i}$$

transmission coefficient

$$t_{\parallel} = \frac{E_{t0,\parallel}}{E_{i0,\parallel}} = \frac{2n \cos \theta_i}{(n^2 - \sin^2 \theta_i)^{1/2} + n^2 \cos \theta_i}$$

**Fresnel's equations** allows the **amplitudes** and **phases** of the reflected and transmitted waves to be determined from the coefficients  $r_{\perp}$ ,  $r_{\parallel}$ ,  $t_{\parallel}$ ,  $t_{\perp}$ .



Internal reflection: (a) Magnitude of the reflection coefficients  $r_{\parallel}$  and  $r_{\perp}$  vs. angle of incidence  $\theta_i$  for  $n_1 = 1.44$  and  $n_2 = 1.00$ . The critical angle is  $44^\circ$ . (b) The corresponding phase changes  $\phi_{\parallel}$  and  $\phi_{\perp}$  vs. incidence angle.

# Intensity, reflectance, and transmittance

For a normal incidence ( $\theta_i = 0$ ):

$$r_{\parallel} = r_{\perp} = \frac{n_1 - n_2}{n_1 + n_2} \quad R = R_{\perp} = R_{\parallel} = \left( \frac{n_1 - n_2}{n_1 + n_2} \right)^2$$

Where R is the Reflectance ( 反射率 )

$$T_{\perp} = \frac{n_2 |E_{to,\perp}|^2}{n_1 |E_{io,\perp}|^2} = \left( \frac{n_2}{n_1} \right) |t_{\perp}|^2$$
$$T_{\parallel} = \frac{n_2 |E_{to,\parallel}|^2}{n_1 |E_{io,\parallel}|^2} = \left( \frac{n_2}{n_1} \right) |t_{\parallel}|^2$$
$$T = T_{\perp} = T_{\parallel} = \frac{4n_1 n_2}{(n_1 + n_2)^2}$$

Where T is the Transmittance ( 透光率 )

Further:

$$R + T = 1$$



Which one is crystal ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) with  $n = 1.46$ ?  
Which one is diamond with  $n = 2.41$ ?

**Example (antireflection coating 增透膜)**

To reduce the reflected light, A and B must interfere destructively (相消干涉). This requires the phase difference to be  $\pi$  or odd multiples of  $\pi$ ,  $m\pi$  with  $m = 1, 3, 5, \dots$

from  $E = E_0 \cos(\omega t - kx)$

$k_c(2d) = (\frac{2\pi n_2}{\lambda})(2d) = m\pi$  or  $d = m(\frac{\lambda}{4n_2})$

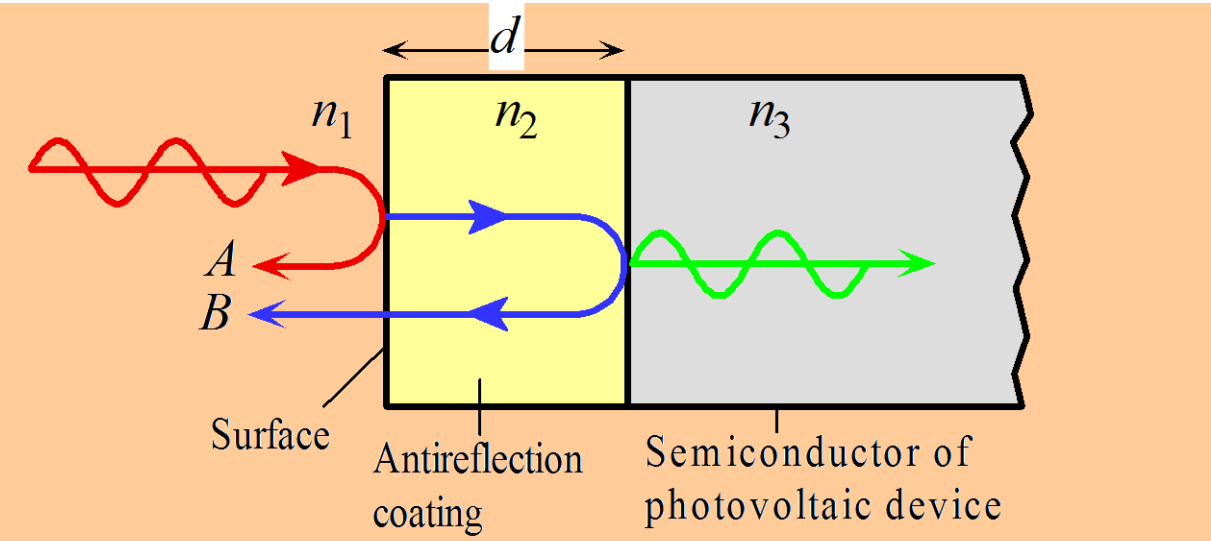
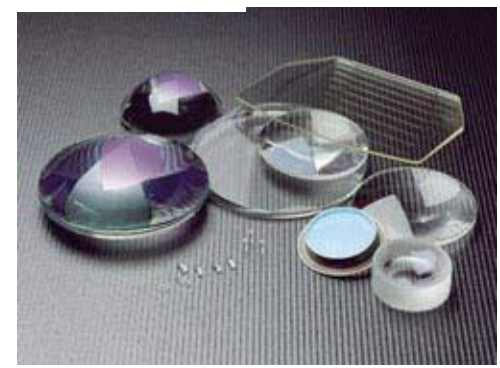
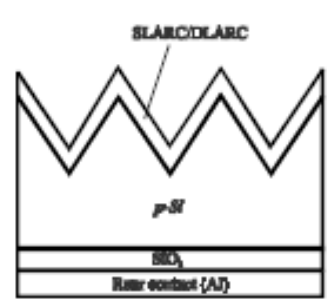
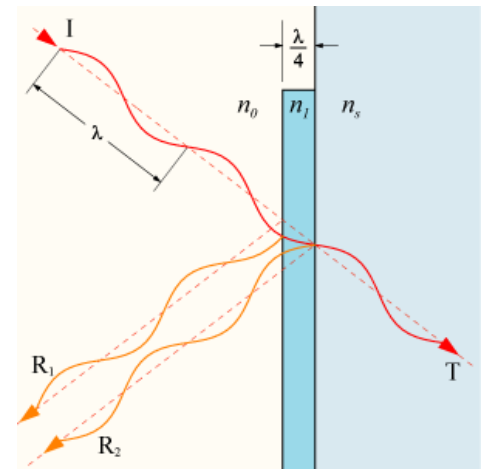


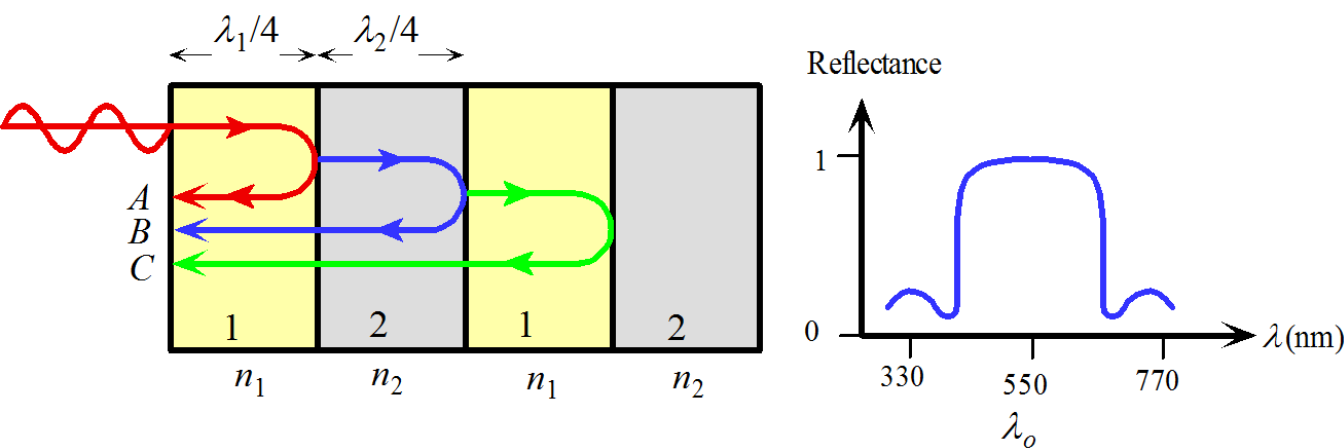
Illustration of how an antireflection coating reduces the reflected light intensity



**Example (dielectric mirrors 介质镜)**

The reflected intensity is enhanced, if waves A and B are in phase and interfere constructively (相长干涉) .

If there are sufficient number of layers, the reflectance can approach unity at the wavelength  $\lambda_0$ . ( $\lambda_1 = \lambda_0/n_1$  &  $\lambda_2 = \lambda_0/n_2$ )

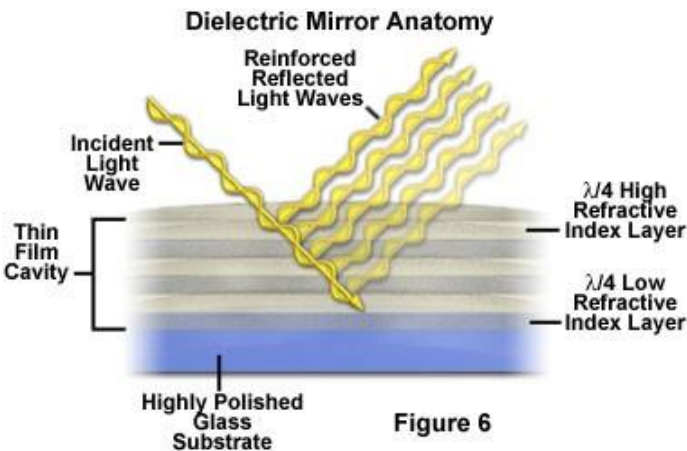


Schematic illustration of the principle of the dielectric mirror with many low and high refractive index layers and its reflectance.

**quarter-wave dielectric stack      ( $n_1 > n_2$ )**

$r_{12} = (n_1 - n_2)/(n_1 + n_2)$  positive: no phase change

$r_{21} = (n_2 - n_1)/(n_2 + n_1)$  negative:  $\pi$  phase change

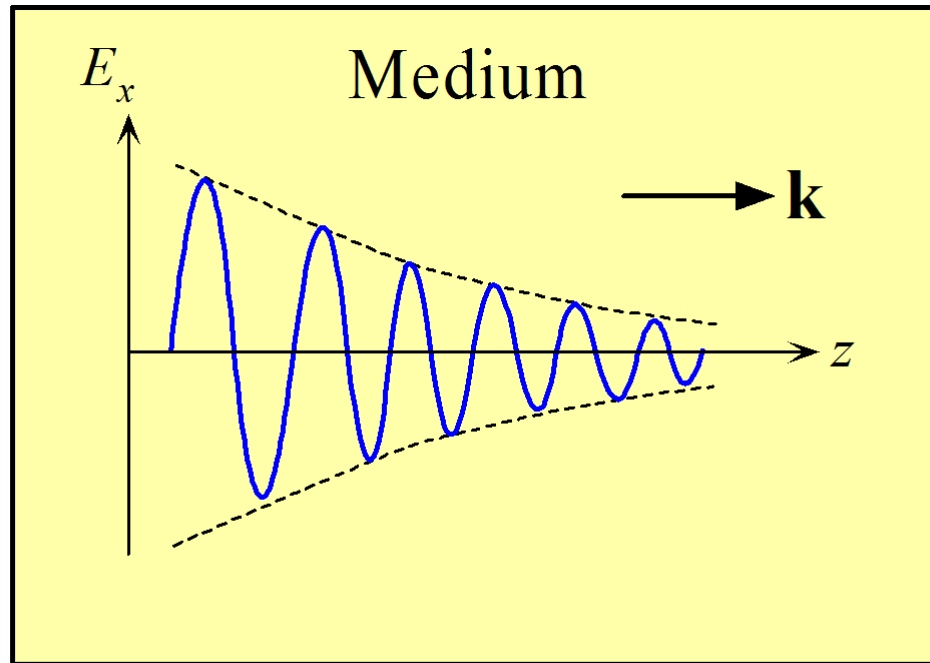


# Complex refractive index and light absorption

When light propagates through a material, it becomes attenuated, due to absorption and scattering.

**Absorption** (吸收) : the loss of light energy to other forms of energy (lattice vibration, electron excitation etc)

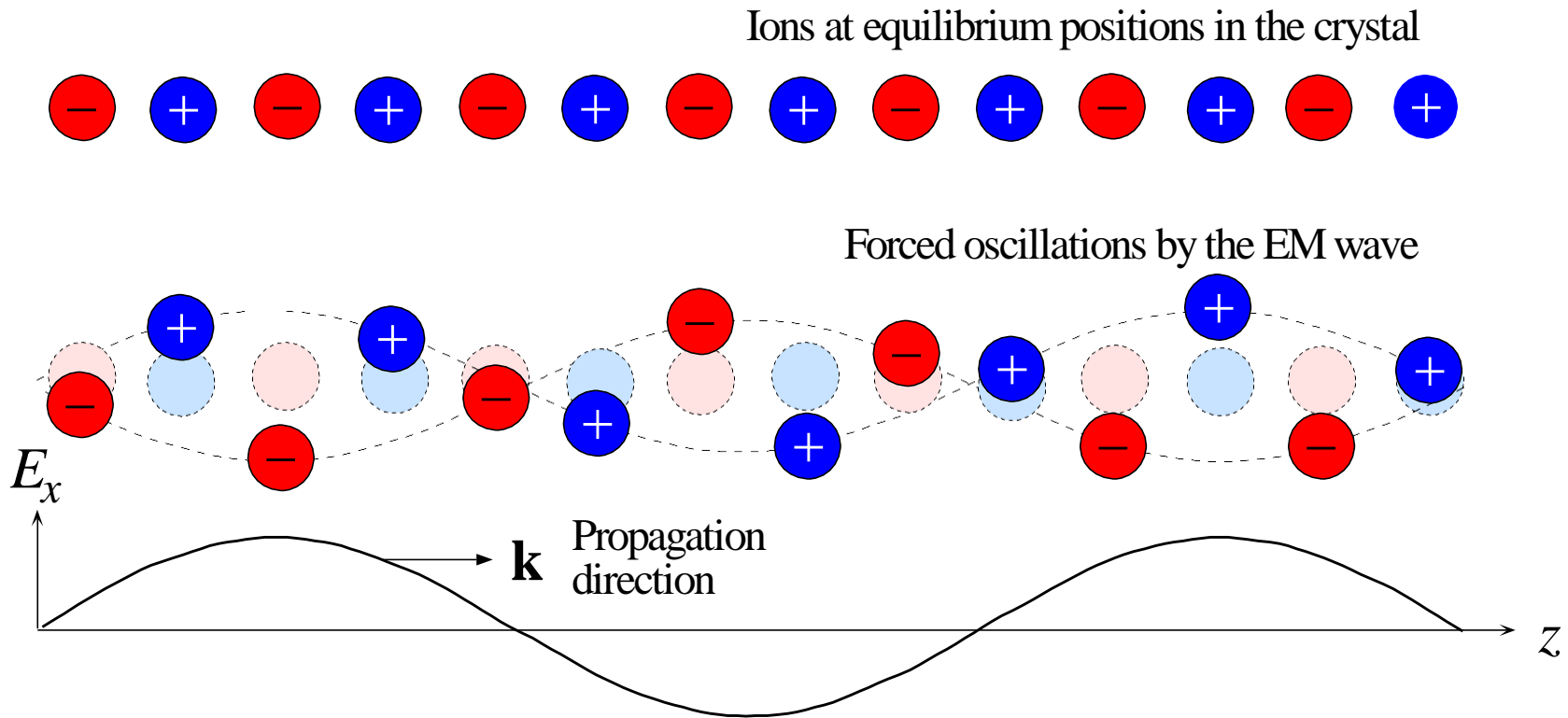
**Scattering** ( 散射 ) : Redirection as secondary EM waves.



Attenuation of light in the direction of propagation.

# Light absorption and scattering

## Absorption through lattice vibration



Lattice absorption through a crystal. The field in the EM wave oscillates the ions, which consequently generate "mechanical" waves in the crystal; energy is thereby transferred from the wave to lattice vibrations.

# Band-to-band absorption

From  $E_g = h(c/\lambda_g)$ , the upper cut-off-wavelength:

$$\lambda_g (\mu m) = \frac{1.24}{E_g (eV)}$$

**Table 9.3** Bandgap energy  $E_g$  at 300 K, cut-off wavelength  $\lambda_g$ , and type of bandgap (D = direct and I = indirect) for some photodetector materials

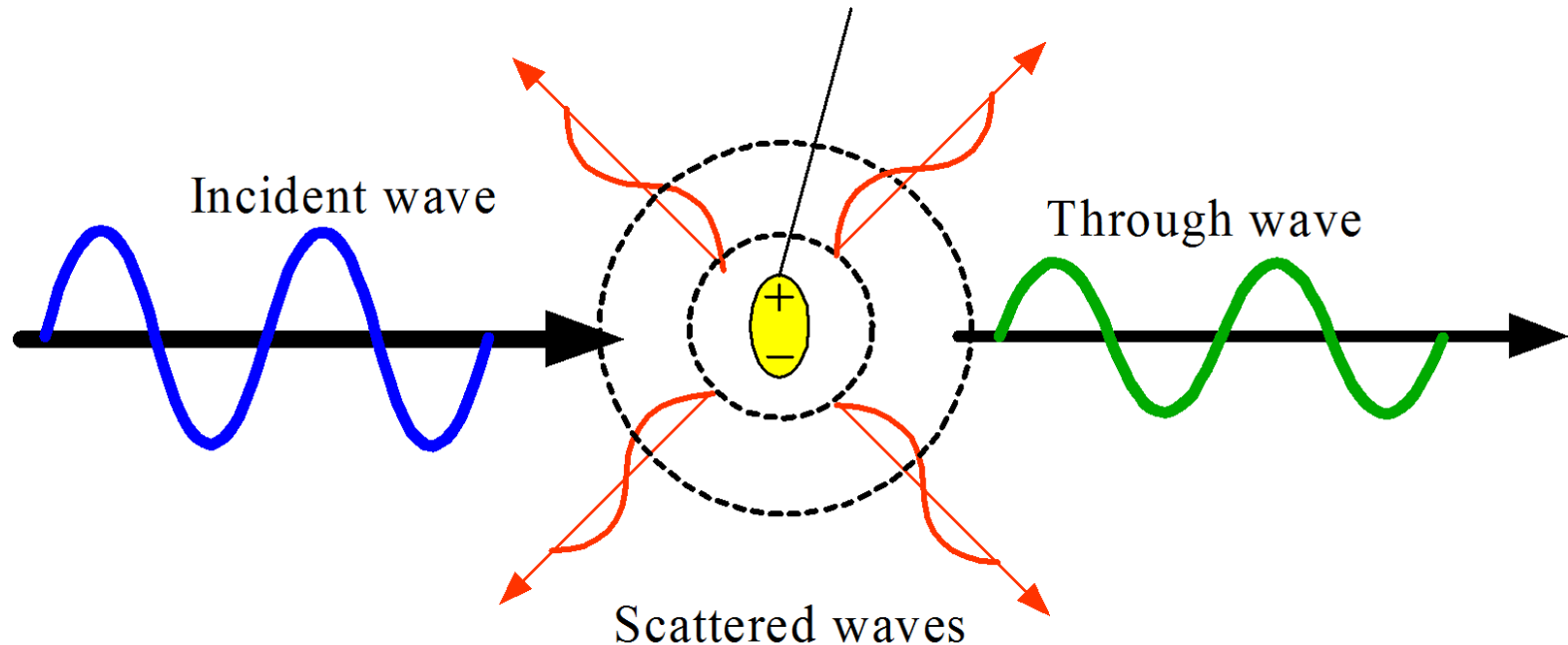
| Semiconductor  | $E_g$ (eV) | $\lambda_g$ ( $\mu m$ ) | Type |
|--|------------|-------------------------|------|
| InP  | 1.35       | 0.91                    | D    |
| GaAs <sub>0.88</sub> Sb <sub>0.12</sub>                                  | 1.15       | 1.08                    | D    |
| Si   | 1.12       | 1.11                    | I    |
| In <sub>0.7</sub> Ga <sub>0.3</sub> As <sub>0.64</sub> P <sub>0.36</sub> | 0.89       | 1.4                     | D    |
| In <sub>0.53</sub> Ga <sub>0.47</sub> As                                 | 0.75       | 1.65                    | D    |
| Ge   | 0.66       | 1.87                    | I    |
| InAs   | 0.35       | 3.5                     | D    |
| InSb   | 0.18       | 7                       | D    |

Incident photons with wavelengths shorter than  $\lambda_g$  become absorbed



# Light scattering in materials

A dielectric particle smaller than wavelength



Rayleigh scattering involves the polarization of a small dielectric particle or a region that is much smaller than the light wavelength. The field forces dipole oscillations in the particle (by polarizing it) which leads to the emission of EM waves in "many" directions so that a portion of the light energy is directed away from the incident beam.

Rayleigh scattering process decreases with wavelength and, according to Lord Rayleigh, it is inversely proportional to  $\lambda^4$ .

# Luminescence, phosphors, and white LED's

**Luminescence** 冷光 is the emission of light by a material, called **phosphor** 荧光体, due to the absorption and conversion of energy into EM radiation.

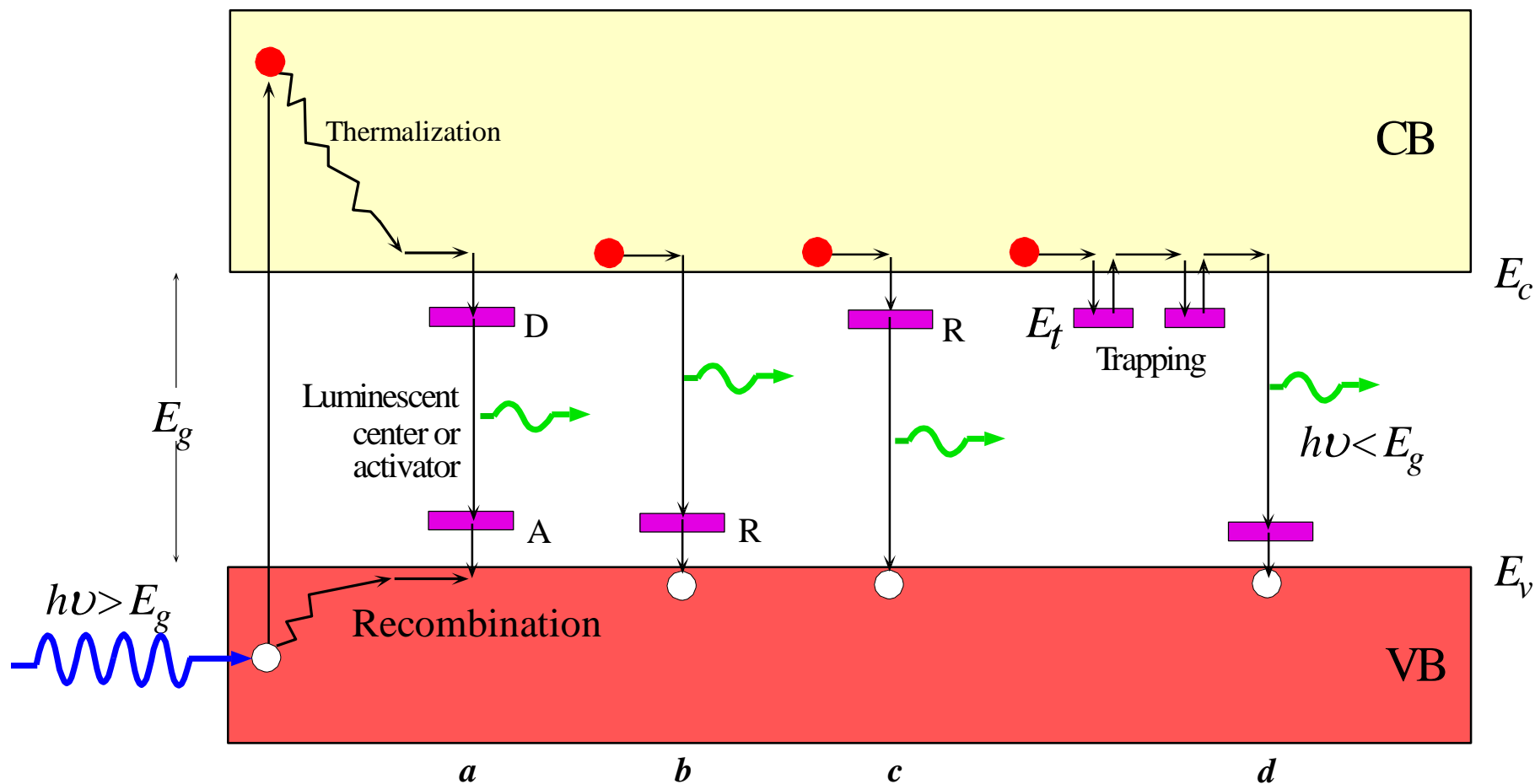
Luminescence is light emitted by a non-thermal source when it is excited (Note: the emission of radiation from a heated object such as the tungsten filament is called **incandescence** 白炽光).

Typically, the emission of light occurs from certain dopants, impurities, or defects, called **luminescent** or **luminescence center (an activator)**. For example, in ruby, the  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  ions are the luminescent centers in the sapphire ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) **crystal host**.

Luminescence is normally categorized according to the source of excitation energy:

- Photoluminescence** 光致发光 (photons)
- Cathodoluminescence** 阴极射线致发光 (energetic electrons)
- Electroluminescence** 电致发光 (an electric current)
- **Fluorescence** 荧光: quick luminescence process (in the range of nanoseconds).
- **Phosphorescence** 磷光: light emission may continue for milliseconds to hours.

**Example (ZnS-based phosphors)**



Optical absorption generates an EHP. There are a number of recombination processes via a dopant that can result in a luminescent emission.

## Assignment 8.1

### Question 1:

Using the Cauchy dispersion, calculate the refractive index of diamond at 450 nm. (Cauchy coefficients from Table 9.2)

Q1. Cauchy dispersion :  $n = n_{-2}(h\nu)^{-2} + n_0 + n_2(h\nu)^2 + n_4(h\nu)^4$

$$\lambda = 450 \text{ nm} \Rightarrow h\nu = h \frac{c}{\lambda} = (6.626 \times 10^{-34}) \left( \frac{3 \times 10^8}{450 \times 10^{-9}} \right)$$

$$= 4.417 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J} \times \frac{1 \text{ eV}}{1.6 \times 10^{-19} \text{ J}} = 2.76 \text{ eV}$$

$$n = (-1.07 \times 10^{-5})(2.76)^{-2} + (2.378) + (8.01 \times 10^{-3})(2.76)^2 + (1.04 \times 10^{-4})(2.76)^4 = 2.45$$

**Table 9.2** Sellmeier and Cauchy coefficients

|  | Sellmeier  |            |            |                                  |                                  |                                  |
|--|------------|------------|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|  | $A_1$      | $A_2$      | $A_3$      | $\lambda_1$<br>( $\mu\text{m}$ ) | $\lambda_2$<br>( $\mu\text{m}$ ) | $\lambda_3$<br>( $\mu\text{m}$ ) |
| SiO <sub>2</sub> (fused silica)                | 0.696749   | 0.408218   | 0.890815   | 0.0690660                        | 0.115662                         | 9.900559                         |
| 86.5% SiO <sub>2</sub> –13.5% GeO <sub>2</sub> | 0.711040   | 0.451885   | 0.704048   | 0.0642700                        | 0.129408                         | 9.425478                         |
| GeO <sub>2</sub>                               | 0.80686642 | 0.71815848 | 0.85416831 | 0.068972606                      | 0.15396605                       | 11.841931                        |
| Sapphire                                       | 1.023798   | 1.058264   | 5.280792   | 0.0614482                        | 0.110700                         | 17.92656                         |
| Diamond  | 0.3306     | 4.3356     | —          | 0.1750                           | 0.1060                           |                                  |

|           | Cauchy               |                             |        |                           |                           |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|           | Range of $h\nu$ (eV) | $n_{-2}$ (eV <sup>2</sup> ) | $n_0$  | $n_2$ (eV <sup>-2</sup> ) | $n_4$ (eV <sup>-4</sup> ) |
| Diamond   | 0.05–5.47            | $-1.07 \times 10^{-5}$      | 2.378  | $8.01 \times 10^{-3}$     | $1.04 \times 10^{-4}$     |
| Silicon   | 0.002–1.08           | $-2.04 \times 10^{-8}$      | 3.4189 | $8.15 \times 10^{-2}$     | $1.25 \times 10^{-2}$     |
| Germanium | 0.002–0.75           | $-1.0 \times 10^{-8}$       | 4.003  | $2.2 \times 10^{-1}$      | $1.4 \times 10^{-1}$      |

### Question 2:

Using  $n = \sqrt{\epsilon_r}$ , calculate the refractive index  $n$  of the crystals in the table given their low frequency permittivities  $\epsilon_r$  (LF). What is your conclusion compared to the measured  $n$  values?

|                                | Crystal |      |      |      |
|--------------------------------|---------|------|------|------|
|                                | a-Se    | Ge   | NaCl | MgO  |
| $\epsilon_r$ (LF)              | 6.4     | 16.2 | 5.90 | 9.83 |
| $n$ ( $\sim 1-5 \mu\text{m}$ ) | 2.45    | 4.0  | 1.54 | 1.71 |

Q2.  $\sin \theta = \frac{\sqrt{\epsilon_r(\text{LF})}}{n(\sim 1-5 \mu\text{m})}$

|      |      |      |  |
|------|------|------|--|
| a-Se | 2.53 | 2.45 | } electronic polarization  |
| Ge   | 4.02 | 4.0  |  |
| NaCl | 2.43 | 1.54 | } ionic polarization,<br>only contribute to $\sqrt{\epsilon_r(\text{LF})}$ |
| MgO  | 3.74 | 1.71 |  |

For a-Se, Ge, good agreement. Both are covalent solids  $\Rightarrow$  only electronic bond polarization at low and high frequencies. Electronic polarization involves the displacement of electrons with respect to positive ion. This displacement can readily respond to optical frequencies.

For NaCl, MgO,  $\sqrt{\epsilon_r(\text{LF})}$  is larger than  $n \Rightarrow$  at low frequencies, both solids possess ionic polarization and contribute to  $\epsilon_r$ . The ionic polarization can't catch up the field oscillation at optical frequencies.

**Question 3:**

Optical fibers for long-haul applications usually have a core region that has a diameter of about  $10\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  and the whole fiber would be about  $125\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  in diameter. The core and cladding refractive indices,  $n_1$  and  $n_2$ , respectively, are normally only 0.3-0.4 percent different. Consider a fiber with  $n_1$  (core) = 1.4510 and  $n_2$  (cladding) = 1.4477, both at 1550 nm. What is the maximum angle that a light ray can take with the fiber axis if it is still to propagate along the fiber?

$$Q3. \quad n_1(\text{core}) = 1.4510, \quad n_2(\text{cladding}) = 1.4477$$

$$\sin \theta_c = \frac{n_2}{n_1} = \frac{1.4477}{1.4510} = 0.9977. \quad \theta_c = 86.13^\circ$$

$$\text{During bending, maximum angle can take, } \theta_{\text{max}} = 90 - 86.13 = 3.87^\circ$$



## Assignment 8.2

### Question 1:

Consider the reflection of light at normal incidence on a boundary between GaAs crystal of refractive index 3.6 and air of refractive index 1.

a) If the light is traveling from air to GaAs, what is the reflection coefficient and the intensity of the reflected light in terms of the incident light? Comment on the phase change.

b) If the light is traveling from GaAs to air, what is the reflection coefficient and the intensity of the reflected light in terms of the incident light? Comment on the phase change.

Q1. a) normal incidence:  $\theta_i = 0$ . air  $\rightarrow$  GaAs.  $n_1 = 1$ ,  $n_2 = 3.6$

$$r_{||} = r_{\perp} = \frac{n_1 - n_2}{n_1 + n_2} = \frac{1 - 3.6}{1 + 3.6} = -0.565$$

$r$  negative,  $180^\circ$  phase change

$$R = \left( \frac{n_1 - n_2}{n_1 + n_2} \right)^2 = (-0.565)^2 = 31.9\%$$

b) GaAs  $\rightarrow$  air.  $n_1 = 3.6$ ,  $n_2 = 1$

$$r_{||} = r_{\perp} = \frac{n_1 - n_2}{n_1 + n_2} = 0.565$$

$r$  positive, no phase change

$$R = \left( \frac{n_1 - n_2}{n_1 + n_2} \right)^2 = 31.9\%$$

## Question 2:

a) Consider three dielectric media with flat and parallel boundaries with refractive indices  $n_1$ ,  $n_2$  and  $n_3$ . Show that for normal incidence the reflection coefficient between 1 and 2 is the same as that between layers 2 and 3 if  $n_2 = \sqrt{n_1 n_3}$ .

b) Consider a Si photodiode that is designed at 900 nm. Given a choice of two possible antireflection coatings,  $\text{SiO}_2$  with a refractive index of 1.5 and  $\text{TiO}_2$  with a refractive index of 2.3, which would you use and what would be the thickness of the antireflection coating you chose? The refractive index of Si is 3.5.

Q2. normal incidence  $\Rightarrow \theta_i = 0$

$$a) \quad r_{12} = \frac{n_1 - n_2}{n_1 + n_2} = \frac{n_1 - \sqrt{n_1 n_3}}{n_1 + \sqrt{n_1 n_3}} = \frac{1 - \sqrt{\frac{n_3}{n_1}}}{1 + \sqrt{\frac{n_3}{n_1}}}$$

$$r_{23} = \frac{n_2 - n_3}{n_2 + n_3} = \frac{\sqrt{n_1 n_3} - n_3}{\sqrt{n_1 n_3} + n_3} = \frac{1 - \sqrt{\frac{n_3}{n_1}}}{1 + \sqrt{\frac{n_3}{n_1}}}$$

$$\therefore r_{12} = r_{23}$$

b) For antireflection coating; reflection wave A and B  $\Rightarrow$  interfere destructively and have comparable amplitude.

$$\Rightarrow r_{12} = r_{23}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{best coating : } n_2 = \sqrt{n_1 n_3} = \sqrt{1 \times 3.5} = 1.87$$

Both  $\text{SiO}_2$  (1.5) and  $\text{TiO}_2$  (2.3) are close

$$d = m \left( \frac{\lambda}{4n_2} \right) \quad m = 1, 3, 5 \dots$$

$$\text{For } \text{SiO}_2 : d = \frac{900 \text{ nm}}{4 \times 1.5} = 150 \text{ nm}$$

$$\text{TiO}_2 : d = \frac{900 \text{ nm}}{4 \times 2.3} = 97.8 \text{ nm}$$



2020年暑期学校海外师资课程

## 先进材料与器件 (Compound Semiconductor Materials and Devices)

学时：16，学分：1，授课人：新加坡国立大学**蔡树仁教授**

授课日期：2020年7月10日-7月17日，14:00-15:50

授课形式：线上教学，授课对象：信息学院本科生

选课日期：正选时间2020年6月4日9:00-6月8日16:00



课程介绍：先进化合物半导体主要用于光的激发、调制和探测，如InGaAsP用于光通讯、GaAs用于安保探测、InGaN和AlInGaP用于显示和照明等。被广泛应用于半导体激光器、发光二极管（LED）、高电子迁移率晶体管（HEMT）、异质结双极晶体管（HBT）等。本课程兼顾理论与应用，讲授先进化合物半导体的基础原理、器件机制、以及在光电子产业中的应用。课程由新加坡国立大学（NUS）电子工程系（ECE）教授、前新加坡科技局材料研究与工程研究院院长，蔡树仁教授主讲。