

Snell's Law

1.) What is the speed of light in a clear plastic whose index of refraction is 1.40?

Answer -  $n = \frac{c}{v}$        $1.40 = \frac{3.0 \times 10^8}{v}$        $v = 2.14 \times 10^8 \frac{m}{s}$

2.) The speed of light in a clear liquid is  $2.3 \times 10^8 \frac{m}{s}$ . What is its index of refraction?

Answer -  $n = \frac{c}{v}$        $n = \frac{3.0 \times 10^8}{2.3 \times 10^8}$        $n = 1.30$

3.) A beam of light strikes the surface of a block of glass ( $n = 1.50$ ) and produces a refracted angle of  $10.0^\circ$ . What is the incident angle?

Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$        $(1.0003)(\sin \theta_i) = (1.50)(\sin 10)$        $\theta_i = 15.1^\circ$

4.) What is the wavelength of light in water ( $n = 1.33$ ) if its wavelength in air is  $5.30 \times 10^{-7} m$ ?

Answer - the change in optical densities of the mediums is equal to the change in wavelength that will occur. So . . . the change in optical density is  $\frac{1.0003}{1.33} = 0.754$        $0.754 \times 5.30 \times 10^{-7}$   
 $\lambda = 3.986 \times 10^{-7} m$        $\lambda = 3.99 \times 10^{-7} m$

5.) Monochromatic liquid (light of one color) has a wavelength of  $6.0 \times 10^{-7} m$  in air and  $5.0 \times 10^{-7} m$  in a clear liquid. What is the index of refraction of the clear liquid?

Answer -  $\frac{6.0 \times 10^{-7}}{5.0 \times 10^{-7}} = 1.2$        $1.2 \times 1.0003$        $\lambda = 1.200$        $\lambda = 1.2$

6.) Monochromatic light has a wavelength of  $5.75 \times 10^{-7} m$  in air and  $4.32 \times 10^{-7} m$  in a clear liquid. If a ray of light enters this clear liquid at an angle of incidence of  $25.0^\circ$ , what is the angle of refraction?

Answer -  $\frac{5.75 \times 10^{-7}}{4.32 \times 10^{-7}} = 1.3310$        $1.3310 \times 1.0003$        $n = 1.3314$   
 $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$        $(1.0003)(\sin 25.0) = (1.3314)(\sin \theta_r)$   
 $\theta_r = 18.512^\circ$        $\theta_r = 18.5^\circ$

7.) Monochromatic light has a wavelength of  $5.20 \times 10^{-7}m$  in air and  $3.91 \times 10^{-7}m$  in a clear liquid. What is the speed of light in the clear liquid?

Answer -  $\frac{5.20 \times 10^{-7}}{3.91 \times 10^{-7}} = 1.32992$

$$1.32992 \times 1.0003$$

$$n = 1.3303$$

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

$$1.3310 = \frac{3.0 \times 10^8}{v}$$

$$v = 2.25509 \times 10^8 \frac{m}{s}$$

$$v = 2.26 \times 10^8 \frac{m}{s}$$

8.) What is the index of refraction of a substance if the angle of incidence of this substance is  $53.0^\circ$  and the angle of refraction in this substance is  $41.0^\circ$ ?

Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$

$$(1.0003)(\sin 53) = (n_r)(\sin 41)$$

$$n_r = 1.21768$$

$$n_r = 1.22$$

9.) A ray of light strikes the surface of water ( $n = 1.33$ ) at an angle of  $60.0^\circ$  from the water surface. What is the angle of refraction? **\*\*\*Don't forget to measure angle from the normal\*\*\***

Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$

$$(1.0003)(\sin 30) = (1.33)(\sin \theta_r)$$

$$\theta_r = 22.0893^\circ$$

$$\theta_r = 22.1^\circ$$

10.) What is the critical angle for an air-glass interface if the index of refraction of glass is 1.50?

Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$

$$(1.50)(\sin \theta_i) = (1.0003)(\sin 90)$$

$$\theta_i = 41.8257^\circ$$

$$\theta_i = 41.8^\circ$$

11.) What is the critical angle for a water-lucite interface if the index of refraction of water is 1.33 and of Lucite is 1.51?

Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$

$$(1.51)(\sin \theta_i) = (1.33)(\sin 90)$$

$$\theta_i = 61.738^\circ$$

$$\theta_i = 61.7^\circ$$

12.) The critical angle for a certain liquid-air interface is  $48.8^\circ$ . What is the index of refraction of the liquid?

Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$

$$(n_i)(\sin 48.8) = (1.0003)(\sin 90)$$

$$n_i = 1.3333$$

$$n_i = 1.33$$

13.) What is the critical angle of a substance whose index of refraction is 1.81?

Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$

$$(1.81)(\sin \theta_i) = (1.0003)(\sin 90)$$

$$\theta_i = 33.5491^\circ$$

$$\theta_i = 33.5^\circ$$

14.) What is the index of refraction of a substance whose critical angle is  $42.0^\circ$ ?

Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$        $(n_i)(\sin 42.0) = (1.0003)(\sin 90)$        $n_i = 1.4949$   
 $n_i = 1.50$

15.) The speed of light in a clear liquid is three quarters the speed of light in air. What is the critical angle of the liquid?

Answer -  $n = \frac{c}{v}$        $1.003 = \frac{3.0 \times 10^8}{v_{air}}$        $v_{air} = 2.99910 \times 10^8 \frac{m}{s}$   
 $v_{liquid} = 0.75 \times 2.99910 \times 10^8$        $v_{liquid} = 2.2493 \times 10^8 \frac{m}{s}$   
 $\frac{2.99910 \times 10^8}{2.2493 \times 10^8} = 1.333333$   
 $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$        $(1.3333)(\sin \theta_i) = (1.0003)(\sin 90)$        $\theta_i = 48.6099^\circ$   
 $\theta_i = 48.6^\circ$

16.) A ray of light travels from air into water and then into glass ( $n = 1.50$ ) as shown below. Find the angle of the refraction in the glass.

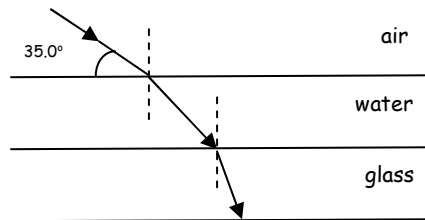


Diagram is not drawn to scale

Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$        $(1.0003)(\sin 55.0) = (1.33)(\sin \theta_r)$        $\theta_r = 38.03105^\circ$   
 $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$        $(1.33)(\sin 38.03) = (1.50)(\sin \theta_r)$        $\theta_r = 33.11111^\circ$   
 $\theta_i = 33.1^\circ$

17.) A ray of light travels from glass ( $n = 1.50$ ) into water and then into air as shown below. Find the angle that the light leaves the water-air interface.

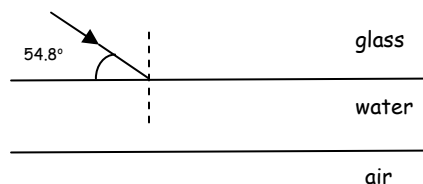


Diagram is not drawn to scale

Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$        $(1.50)(\sin 35.2) = (1.33)(\sin \theta_r)$        $\theta_r = 40.5500^\circ$   
 $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$        $(1.33)(\sin 40.55) = (1.0003)(\sin \theta_r)$        $\theta_r = 59.8130^\circ$   
 $\theta_i = 59.8^\circ$

18.) A ray of light strikes a side of an equilateral lucite prism ( $n = 1.50$ ) at an angle of  $36^\circ$  as shown below.

Find the angle that the light leaves the prism. \*\*\* triangle angles are  $60^\circ$ \*\*\*

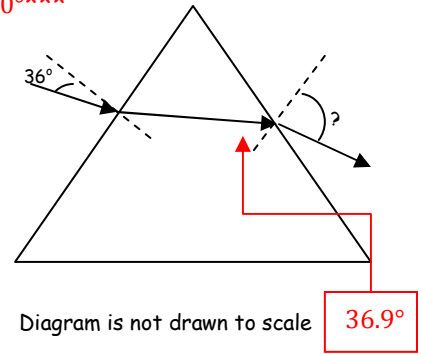
Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$

$$(1.0003)(\sin 36) = (1.50)(\sin \theta_r) \quad \theta_r = 23.0774^\circ$$

$$n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$$

$$(1.50)(\sin 36.9225) = (1.0003)(\sin \theta_r) \quad \theta_r = 64.26778^\circ$$

$$\theta_i = 64^\circ$$



19.) A ray of light strikes a side of lucite ( $n = 1.50$ ) prism at  $40^\circ$  as shown below. Find the angle that the light leaves the prism.

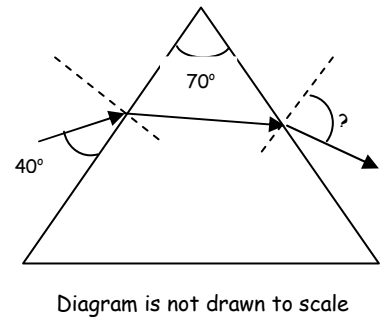
Answer -  $n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$

$$(1.0003)(\sin 50) = (1.50)(\sin \theta_r) \quad \theta_r = 30.72043^\circ$$

$$n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$$

$$(1.50)(\sin 39.2795) = (1.0003)(\sin \theta_r) \quad \theta_r = 71.69033^\circ$$

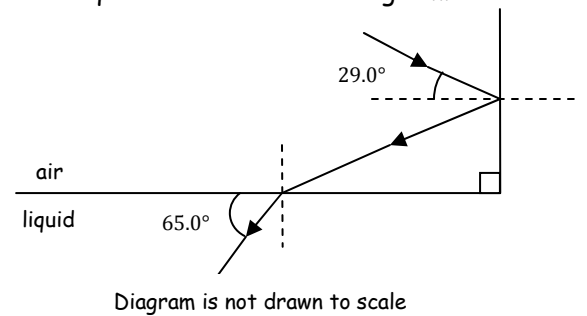
$$\theta_i = 72^\circ$$



20.) A ray of light reflects from a mirror onto the surface of a clear liquid as shown in the diagram.

Determine the index of refraction of the liquid.

Answer -



$$n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r \quad (1.0003)(\sin 61.0) = (n_r)(\sin 25.0)$$

$$n_r = 2.07015$$

$$n_i = 2.07$$

21.) A ray of light travels through a clear liquid into a clear plastic as shown in the diagram. Find the index of refraction of the plastic compared to the liquid.

Answer -  $\tan \theta_1 = \frac{4}{5}$        $\theta_1 = 38.6598^\circ$

$\tan \theta_2 = \frac{7}{2}$        $\theta_2 = 74.0546^\circ$

$n_i \sin \theta_i = n_r \sin \theta_r$

$(n_i)(\sin 38.65) = (n_r)(\sin 74.05)$

$\frac{n_r}{n_i} = 0.649692$        $\frac{n_r}{n_i} = 0.65$

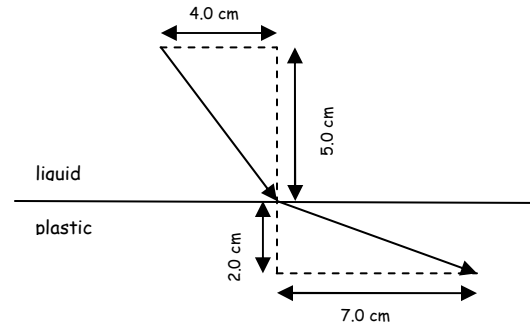


Diagram is not drawn to scale

22.) What is the frequency of light in diamond ( $n = 2.42$ ) if the frequency in air is  $6.20 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$ ?

Answer - frequency never changes due to medium change. Therefore the frequency in diamond is the same as in air ( $6.20 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$ )?

23.) Monochromatic light of a wavelength of  $6.22 \times 10^2 \text{ nm}$  enters lucite ( $n = 1.51$ ). What is the frequency of the light in the Lucite? **Change nm to metres.**  $6.22 \times 10^2 \text{ nm} \times \frac{1 \text{ m}}{1\,000\,000\,000 \text{ nm}} = 6.22 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$

Answer -  $n = \frac{c}{\bar{v}}$  and  $\bar{v} = \lambda f$  so ...  $n = \frac{c}{\lambda f}$   $1.51 = \frac{3.0 \times 10^8}{6.22 \times 10^{-7} \times f}$        $f = 3.1941 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$

$f = 3.19 \times 10^{14} \text{ Hz}$

24.) Monochromatic light of a wavelength of  $4.00 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$  enters water. What is the period of the light in water?

Answer -  $\frac{1.0003}{1.33} = 0.754$        $0.754 \times 4.00 \times 10^{-7}$        $\lambda = 3.016 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$

$n = \frac{c}{\bar{v}}$        $1.33 = \frac{3.0 \times 10^8}{\bar{v}}$        $\bar{v} = 2.25564 \times 10^8 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$

$\bar{v} = \frac{\lambda}{T}$        $2.25564 \times 10^8 = \frac{3.016 \times 10^{-7}}{T}$        $T = 1.33709 \times 10^{-15} \text{ s}$

$T = 1.34 \times 10^{-15} \text{ s}$

25.) The period of a light wave in air is  $1.70 \times 10^{-15} \text{ s}$ . What is its wavelength in water?

Answer -  $\bar{v} = \frac{\lambda}{T}$        $3.0 \times 10^8 = \frac{\lambda}{1.70 \times 10^{-15}}$        $\lambda = 5.10 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$

$\frac{1.0003}{1.33} = 0.7521$        $0.7521 \times 5.10 \times 10^{-7}$        $\lambda = 3.8357 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$

$\lambda = 3.84 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$