

Fresnel law of reflection

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WK. 06 DAY 041-325

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When a light beam reaches an interface between two different transparent media, it is partly transmitted into the other medium and partly reflected back into the original medium.

Complete transmission without any reflection would require impedance matching. Essentially all optical materials (except for some photonic metamaterials) have the relative permeability $\mu = 1$ and in that case the impedance depends only on the refractive index. Therefore, the optical reflectivity at such an

F	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
E	5	6	7	8	9	10
B	12	13	14	15	16	17
	19	20	21	22	23	24
24	26	27	28	29		

THINGS TO DO interface depends only on the refractive indices of the material and vanishes if these indices are identical.

The reflectivity and transmissivity at such an interface is related with Fresnel's equation for an arbitrary angle of incidence. The reflections themselves are called Fresnel reflections.

For the simplest case with normal incidence on the interface, the Fresnel reflectivity is calculated

with the equation.

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

Examples of Fresnel reflections \rightarrow

- 1) Fresnel reflections are essential for the operation of principle of birefringent tumors.
- 2) Fresnel reflection also occur at the ends of optical fibers. When the ends of two fibers are fitted together, but with a small air gap in the ~~between~~ between, there are Fresnel reflections from both sides of the gap: etc.