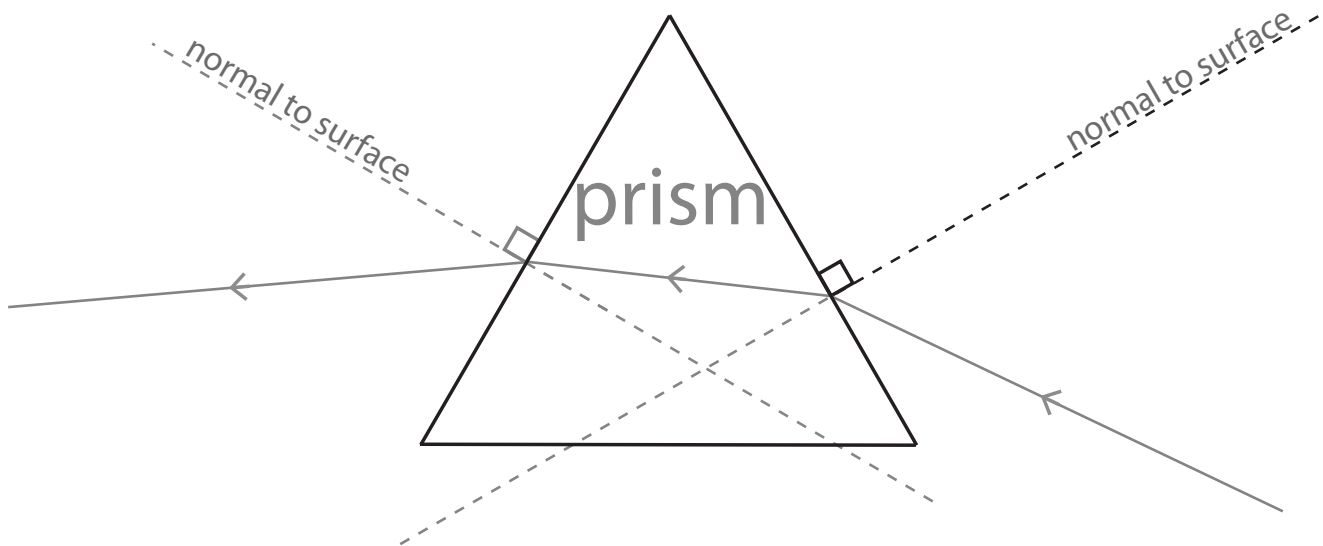


Laboratory 3 Pre-Lab (value: 2 marks)

Submit to your lab instructor *by 4pm the day BEFORE* your scheduled lab period.

1. What is *specular reflection*? How do light rays behave during this kind of reflection?
2. A light ray traveling in *air* ($n_{air} = 1.000$) strikes the surface of a prism at an angle of 52° relative to the normal. The ray is *refracted* such that the angle of refraction is 31° relative to the normal. Using *Snell's Law* calculate the *index of refraction* for the prism, n_{prism} . *Watch your sig figs!*
3. The figure below shows the path (marked with arrows) a ray takes as it passes into and then out of a *prism*. *Identify and label the angle of incidence & angle of refraction at BOTH the air-prism AND prism-air interfaces; use a protractor to measure all of the angles to the nearest degree, recording your values on the diagram next to your labels.*



Laboratory 3: Light and Geometric Optics

Experiments are to be completed on the provided laboratory sheets below; any supporting material (eg. graphs) should be attached. Make sure your name and your partners name(s) are clearly indicated on the front page of your lab. **Neatness and clarity count!** Explain your answers clearly and concisely. If an equation is to be used in a calculation, *write the equation down* and then insert numbers and solve. Report your final answer to the appropriate significant figures.

The lab write-up is due by the end of the lab. Late labs will not be accepted.

APPARATUS

White light ray box w/ slotted screen, 500g mass (used as a *paperweight*), small rectangular mirror with stand, prism, laser refraction tank.

OBJECTIVE

1. To investigate specular reflection using a mirror.
2. To investigate refraction and confirm Snell's Law using a prism.
3. To determine the refractive index of different materials.
4. To investigate refraction & total internal reflection using a laser refraction tank.

THEORY

Reflection of light rays from a surface

Light rays striking the *surface of a material* may be **reflected** in a predictable manner or they may be *scattered* unpredictably, depending on the nature of the material and the type of surface. *Smooth, mirror-like surfaces* result in the predictable (or *specular*) reflection of the incident light such that **the angle of incidence equals the angle of reflection**, where these angles are measured relative to the direction **normal** (or perpendicular) *to the surface* as shown in Figure 1.

Refraction of light rays crossing a boundary between two materials

Light rays crossing the boundary between two transparent materials will *change direction* or **refract** if the speed of light within the materials is *different*. Light travelling from a material in which it has a *higher speed* (such as *air*) into a material in which it has a *lower speed* (such as *glass*) will result in **refraction toward the normal** (*perpendicular*) *to the boundary* as in Figure 2(a); conversely,

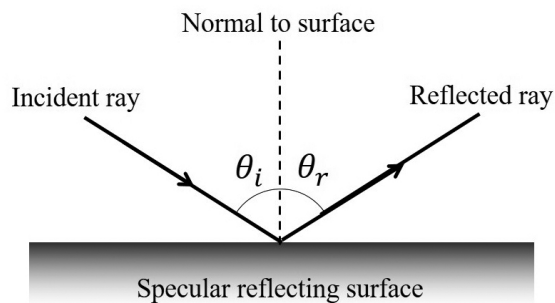
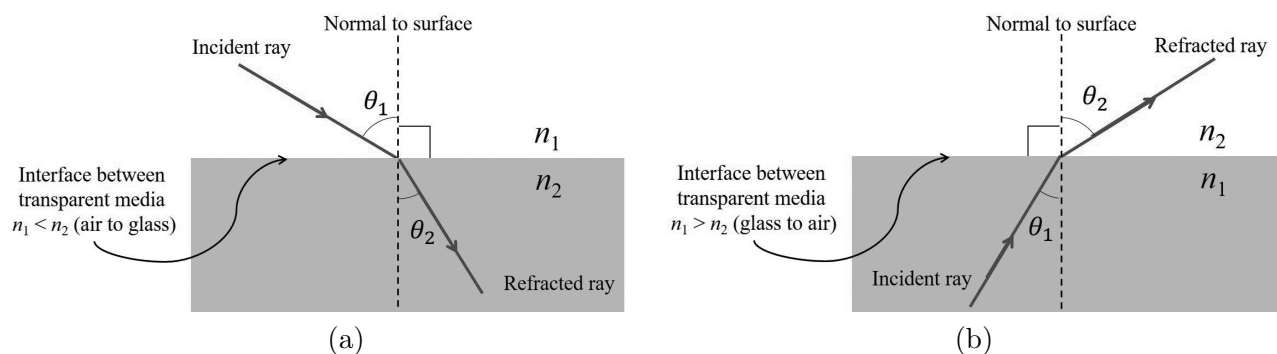


Figure 1: Reflection from a specular surface.

light travelling from a material in which it has a *lower speed* into a material in which it has a *higher speed* will result in **refraction away from the normal**, as in Figure 2(b).

Figure 2: Refraction of light traveling from (a) *air-to-glass* ($\theta_2 < \theta_1$) (b) *glass-to-air* ($\theta_2 > \theta_1$).

The amount of *refraction* the light experiences depends on the *angle at which the light is incident upon the boundary* and the **index of refraction** of each of the materials. The relationship relating these quantities is known as **Snell's Law**, given by

$$n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2 \quad (1)$$

where n_1 & n_2 are the **indices of refraction** of the *incident* and *refracted* materials and θ_1 & θ_2 are the **angles relative to the normal** for the *incident* and *refracted* rays, respectively.

Total internal reflection (TIR) and the critical angle

When light travels from a material with a *higher refractive index* to a material with a *lower refractive index* the **light is refracted away from the normal**, such as when moving from *glass to air* as in Figure 2(b). In such circumstances, if the *angle of incidence* θ_1 is **increased** it will eventually reach a value known as the **critical angle** θ_c where the *resulting angle of refraction* θ_2 is equal to 90° , as illustrated in Figure 3(a). *Angles of incidence* greater than the **critical angle** θ_c result in

total internal reflection (TIR), where all of the incident light is *reflected back into the incident material*; an example of this is shown in Figure 3(b).

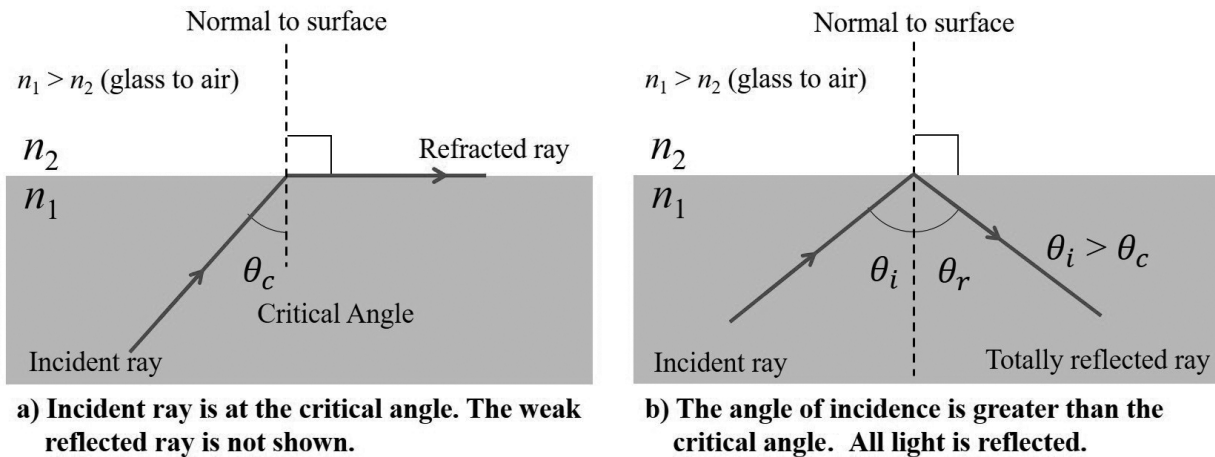


Figure 3: The *critical angle* θ_c and *total internal reflection (TIR)*.

DATE:

NAME:
PARTNER:

Laboratory 3: Light and Geometric Optics

Part A: Reflection of light using a mirror

1. **Fold your lab manual** so that this single page lies as flat as possible on the bench; you may use the 500g mass to help keep it flat/in place. **Align the small rectangular mirror with the line marked 'mirror'** in the space provided in Figure 5, with the reflective side facing toward the dashed line marked '*normal to surface*'. **Plug in the white light ray box** and **add the single-slot screen to the front to create a single, well collimated light ray**. Position the light box a few inches away from the mirror such that the light ray is incident on the mirror & strikes it where the dashed '*normal to surface*' line meets the mirror. **Orient the white light ray box** such that the *angle of incidence* is roughly 30° and the *reflection* is centered about the *normal to surface* (you may need to adjust the distance of the ray box from the mirror to ensure that BOTH the *incident* and *reflected* rays are *clearly visible*). Your setup should look similar to Figure 4.

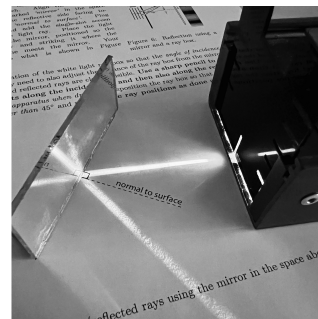


Figure 4: Reflection from a mirror.

2. [2 marks] Use a sharp pencil to draw two small, widely spaced dots centered along both the incident & reflected rays. **Do NOT move the mirror!** Reposition the ray box so the *angle of incidence* is approximately 60° and **mark the ray positions as above**.

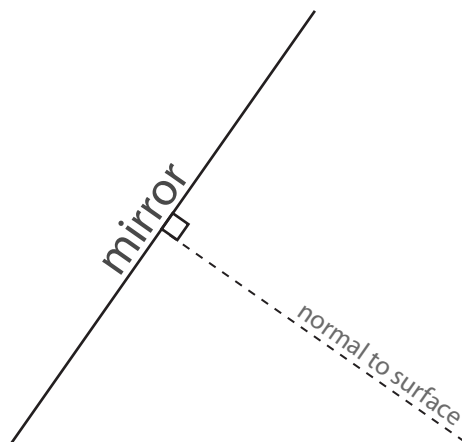


Figure 5: Draw labeled incident/reflected rays using the mirror in the space above.

Unplug the light box after both partners finish, leaving the single slit in place for use in Part C.

Remove the mirror and **use a ruler to connect the dots to form the incident and reflected rays, adding arrows to indicate the direction of the light and labeling the incident and reflected angles for each case**, resulting in something similar to what is shown in Figure 1.

3. [3 marks] Measure the *angle of incidence* θ_i & *angle of reflection* θ_r relative to the *normal to the mirror surface* for each case and enter your values in Table 1. Compare θ_i to its corresponding θ_r for each case **using percent difference & comment** on whether your results are experimentally consistent with the predicted behaviour for *specular reflection*. **Show a full sample calculation** for ONE of the cases in the space below the table.

Trial	θ_i (degrees)	θ_r (degrees)	% difference
1			
2			

Table 1: Data and θ_i vs θ_r comparison for reflection from a mirror [2 marks].

Part B: Refraction of light using a prism

1. Fold your lab manual so that this single page lies as flat as possible on the bench. Place one point of the prism at the apex ('V') of the outline marked 'prism' in Figure 6 below. Maintaining the alignment of the tip of the prism and the 'V', adjust the prism to best align the sides with the provided outline. Plug the ray box back in and position it so that the ray is incident on the prism such that it strikes the prism *centered* on where the dashed 'normal to surface' line meets the prism.
2. Adjust the orientation of the white light ray box so that the *incident ray* is *BELOW* & makes an angle of *approximately* 45° with the dashed 'normal to surface' line. **Use a sharp pencil to draw two small, widely spaced dots centered along the ray incident to the prism and also along the ray exiting the opposite side of the prism.** Take care not to shift the apparatus when drawing! **Unplug the light box** after both partners are finished marking ray positions.

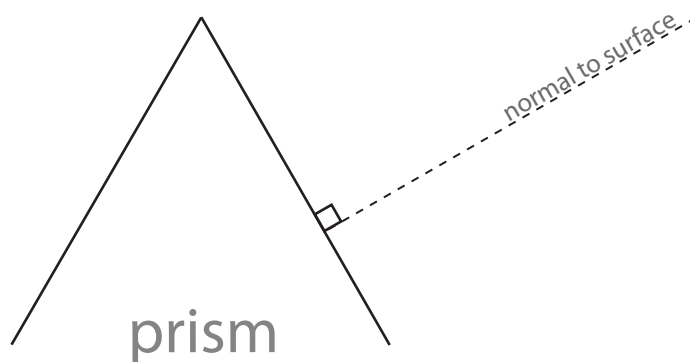


Figure 6: Draw labelled refracted rays using the prism in space above.

3. [2 marks] Remove the prism and **use a ruler to carefully connect the dots to form the incoming and outgoing rays, adding arrows to indicate the direction of the rays.** Extend the ray lines out to the page margins. **Extend the provided 'normal to surface' dashed line all the way through the prism and then, using a protractor and ruler, create the corresponding 'normal to surface' line passing through the point where the exiting ray leaves the prism on the opposite face.** Using a ruler, **complete the path of the ray through the prism** by connecting the points where the ray enters and leaves the prism. **Finally, label the incident and refracted angles on the diagram**, using θ_1 & θ_2 when entering the prism and θ_3 & θ_4 when exiting the prism. The result should look similar to Figure 7.

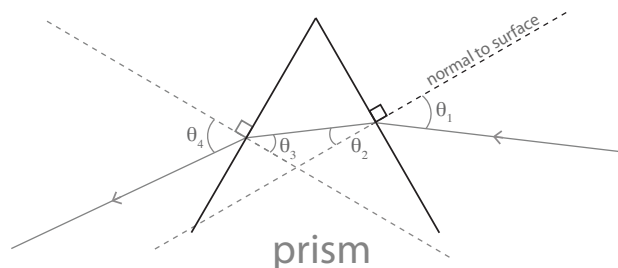


Figure 7: Sample prism diagram.

	θ_i (degrees)	θ_r (degrees)	index of refraction, n_{prism}
<i>entering prism</i>			
<i>exiting prism</i>			

Table 2: Data and *index of refraction* for the *prism* [2 marks].

4. [6 marks] Measure the *angle of incidence* θ_i & *angle of refraction* θ_r relative to the *normal to the boundary* when entering & when exiting the prism and **record your values in Table 2**. Be careful identifying which angle is which as the light enters and exits the prism! Use Snell's Law to calculate the *index of refraction* of the prism, n_{prism} , for BOTH cases, i.e. from when the ray enters the prism AND from when it exits. Assume the *index of refraction for air* is $n = 1.000$. Show a full sample calculation for ONE of the cases in the space below but enter both of your calculated values of n_{prism} into Table 2.

****NOTE:**** retain & record an 'extra' digit for n_{prism} , clearly underlining the least significant digit!

Calculate the *average* index of refraction of the prism using your *unrounded values* and compare to the expected value $n = 1.495$ using *percent deviation*. Comment.

Part C: Refraction & total internal reflection using a laser refraction tank

1. Place the *refraction tank* on the lab bench; if not already done, *add water as precisely as possible until the air-water interface is even with the midpoint line of the tank*, as shown in Figure 8.

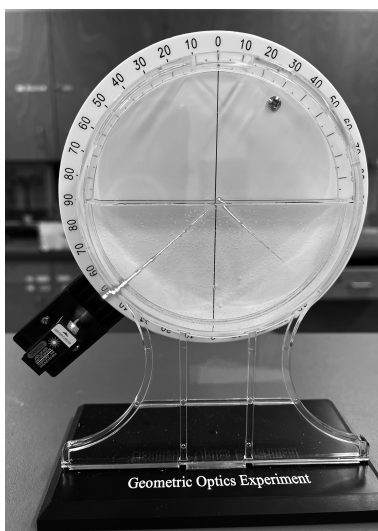


Figure 8: *Refraction tank* with laser; the bottom half is filled with water.

2. *Turn on the laser*; the laser housing may be pushed to rotate the laser to allow for different incidence angles at the interface. *Orient the laser so that it is in the **upper-left quadrant** and the ray travels in air to the interface. Set the **angles of incidence** θ_i as specified for **Trials 1-3** in Table 3 and **estimate the resulting angles of refraction** θ_r to the nearest degree*; the width of the laser beam is $\sim 1^\circ$. *Reposition the laser to the **lower-left quadrant** so the ray travels in water to the interface & repeat for the values specified for **Trials 4-5**. Turn off the laser.*

Air-to-water			
Trial	θ_i (degrees)	θ_r (degrees)	n_{water}
1	$20.^\circ$		
2	45°		
3	$60.^\circ$		
Water-to-air			
4	$30.^\circ$		
5	$40.^\circ$		

Table 3: Measuring θ_r & determining the *index of refraction* n_{water} [**2 marks**].

3. [2 marks] Use Snell's Law to calculate the *index of refraction for water* (n_{water}) for **EACH** of the Trials 1-5. Assume that the *index of refraction for air* is $n_{air} = 1.000$ and **make sure to match** the *correct* n with the *correct* θ when determining n_{water} using *Snell's Law*; referring to Figure 2 may be helpful. **Show full sample calculations for Trial 1 AND Trial 5 in the space below** but **enter all your calculated values for n_{water} into Table 3.**

****NOTE:**** retain & record an 'extra' digit for n_{water} , clearly underlining the least significant digit!

4. [3 marks] Calculate the *average index of refraction of water* using your *unrounded values* from Trials 1-5 and *compare* to the expected value $n_{water} = 1.333$ using *percent deviation*. Comment on your result. Show all work.

5. [3 marks] With the laser starting in the position used for Trial 5, **increase the angle of incidence θ_i until the refracted beam ends up parallel with the surface of the water**

and **record the value of θ_i (to the nearest degree):** _____°

[*HINT: increase the angle of incidence θ_i one degree at a time until the refracted beam has JUST ‘vanished’; it may help to gently tap the refraction tank to slosh the water a little to see how close the beam is to being parallel to the surface of the water.*]

This angle is known as the **critical angle** (θ_c). **Calculate the theoretical value of θ_c using Snell’s Law** with $\theta_r = 90.^\circ$, $n_{air} = 1.000$ and your *average* value for n_{water} . **Compare this calculated result to your measured value for θ_c using percent difference & comment.**

6. [1 mark] **What is it called when $\theta_i > \theta_c$? What happens in this case?** (*see Figure 3*)