

Hi students.

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We will be looking at Brewster's law, which is module number 4

under unit one that is light as an electromagnetic wave.

This is the outline of the presentation. Will be looking

at polarization of light through reflection, Brewster's

angle and Brewster's law.

These are the learning outcomes, by the end of the presentation,

the student will be able to explain the polarization of

light and explain Brewster's angle and Brewster's law.

Coming to polarization of light through reflection.

There was this scientist called as David Brewster, Sir David Brewster

he put forth, this concept of polarization of light

through reflection. So, what is light? we have seen that light

is an electromagnetic wave. It comprises of electric field and

magnetic field which are transverse in nature. So, this

light coming from any conventional source like a tubelight

or sunlight, it's said to be unpolarized light. Why

unpolarized? because it

comprises of vertical and horizontal vibrations. So, if you

see this figure here, you will see that these are vertical

vibrations, and the dots represent horizontal vibrations.

The horizontal vibrations are going and coming in and out of

the screen, whereas vertical vibrations are perpendicular to

the surface of the floor. Now, when this light hits the surface

, we know that some of the light is refracted and some of

it is reflected. So, the light that is coming and

hitting the surface, this light is unpolarized. It

comprises of vertical and horizontal vibrating components.

Now when it hits this surface it is seen that the vertical

components are absorbed and they are refracted, whereas the horizontal

components most of them they get reflected from the surface and

they travel in the same medium as that of the incident light.

So, if you see this figure here, this is the unpolarized light,

comprising of the vertical and horizontal components, and when

it hits the surface between air and liquid, it seen that the

light which is refracted or absorbed into the liquid is

unpolarized that is it comprises of both the components, that is

the vertical and horizontal components. But the reflected

light it comprises of more of the horizontal components, that

is, the dots than the vertical

components. So, you can say this light is slightly

polarized, so when one kind of vibrations dominate over the other type of vibrations it is said to be polarized light. And here if you see closely you will see that the horizontal vibrations are three out of five. So here we can say that the horizontal vibrations are dominating over the vertical vibrations and hence it is said to be slightly polarized light and it is 60% polarized. That is because.

three out of five are horizontal vibrations.

So, this was put forward by Sir David Brewster.

David Brewster, he played along with this concept. What he did was he kept on increasing or decreasing this angle of incidence and he notice that at one angle called  $i_p$ , he saw that the reflected light is totally polarized. The reflected light is totally polarized or it is fully polarized light and that angle of incidence at which this happens is called as the Brewster's angle, whereas the refracted light, you can say it is slightly polarized, or it didn't make much difference, but the reflected light was totally or fully polarized.

Another thing over here to be noted is bruised. According to Brewster, the angle that was measured between the reflected

light and the refracted light was 90 degrees. That is, it was perpendicular to each other.

This was the Scottish physicist Sir David Brewster who proposed this. In the year 1811.

So, coming to Brewster's law.

So as said, when the incident light is incident to the normal at an angle of incidence which is  $i_p$  or Brewster's angle, at this angle the reflected light is 100% polarized, while the refracted light is slightly polarized and both the reflected as well as the refracted light they form an angle of 90 degrees with each other. So, let's prove Brewster's law.

by using this.

So here if this is  $i_p$  which is an angle with the normal, then we know that this angle, is the angle of refraction given as  $r$ .

So, if this is  $r$  and this is a normal, this angle is 90 degrees. So, if this is 90, this angle will be  $90 - r$  and we also know that the angle between the reflected ray and the refracted ray is

90 degrees so if this is  $90 - r$ , this is  $r$  and again if this is 90 this again is  $90 - r$  and by the law of reflection we know

that angle of incidence is equal to angle of reflection. So, this

$90 - r$  is equal to  $i_p$ .

So here by Snell's law we have the refractive index, which is  $\mu$  is equal to  $n_2$  by  $n_1$ , where  $n_2$  is the refractive index of the medium two and  $n_1$  is the refractive index of medium one.

So, we know that according to Snell's Law it is equal to sine of the angle of incidence to sine of the angle of reflection.

So here we know that the angle of incidence is  $i_p$  and in the denominator, the angle of refraction is  $90$  minus  $i_p$

That is this. How we got that? That is obtained from this

equation. So, if we get  $90 - i_p$  on the left-hand side and

take  $r$  on the other side, we have the angle of refraction

which is  $90$  minus  $i_p$ . So that's how we get the denominator. So

we have sine  $i_p$  divided by cosine  $i_p$  and sine  $i_p$  by cosine  $i_p$

gives us tangent of  $i_p$ , So Brewster's law states that refractive

index is equal to the tangent of

the Brewster's angle, that is  $\mu$  is equal to tangent of  $i$

subscript P, where  $i_p$  is the Brewster's angle.

Coming to the application of Brewster's Law, so one of the

very common application is sunglasses, which you all must

have used. So, these glasses they use the principle of Brewster's

angle. Now the polarized glasses, they reduce the glare that is reflected directly from the sun or from horizontal surface is like road or water.

Also, photograph's use the same law to reduce reflection from reflective surface is by using the polarizing filter for the lens. So, these are some of the applications of Brewster's law.

Coming to one of the example of Brewster's law, we have a solved example here. So that is what will be the Brewster's angle of light. If the light travels from air into water. So here we have medium one which is air and we have medium two which is water.

So refractive index of air is 1 and refractive index of water is 1.33. So, we know as

per Snell's law. That  $\mu$  is equal to  $n_2$  by  $n_1$  that is equal to sine of the angle of incidence to sine of the angle of refraction. But for Brewster's law this is  $\cos i_p$

so sine upon cos gives us  $\tan i_p$ . So now the Brewster's angle  $i_p$  is given as  $\tan^{-1}$  take  $\tan$  on the other side. So

we have  $\tan^{-1}$  of  $n_2$  by  $n_1$ . So, solving this substituting the values of.

$n_2$  and  $n_1$  that this  $\tan^{-1}$  of  $1.33 / 1$  we get an angle of 53.1 degrees. So hence we can say that Brewster's angle

is 53.1 degrees. So, at this angle the reflected light will

be totally polarized, that is it is 100% polarized.

This is the summary, so we've looked at polarization of light through reflection. We covered the Brewster's angle and last we saw the Brewster's law, which is nothing but the refractive index is equal to tangent of the angle of Brewster.

These are the references.

Thank you.