

Overview of fibre optic communication

①

(i) State the Advantages of Light-wave communication system over EM wave systems :-

- ① Long-distance communication :- Light-wave communication system can run long distances (40 km) without having to repeat the signal in-between. It is not possible with EM wave system.
- ② Immune to electro-magnetic interference :- Light wave communication system is not affected by EMI (Electro-magnetic interference) as they carry light, but EM waves are affected by EMI.
- ③ Bandwidth :- Bandwidth is high in Light wave system. But EM waves have bandwidth limitations.
- ④ Speed is high
- ⑤ Low-cost Transmission
- ⑥ Cross-talk :- Light wave communication system doesn't have any cross-talk problems but EM waves have chances for cross-talk.
- ⑦ Security :- Light wave communication system is more secure than EM wave systems.

→ Optical Fibre :-

An optical fibre is a flexible, transparent fiber made of glass (silica) or plastic to a diameter slightly thicker than that of a human hair.

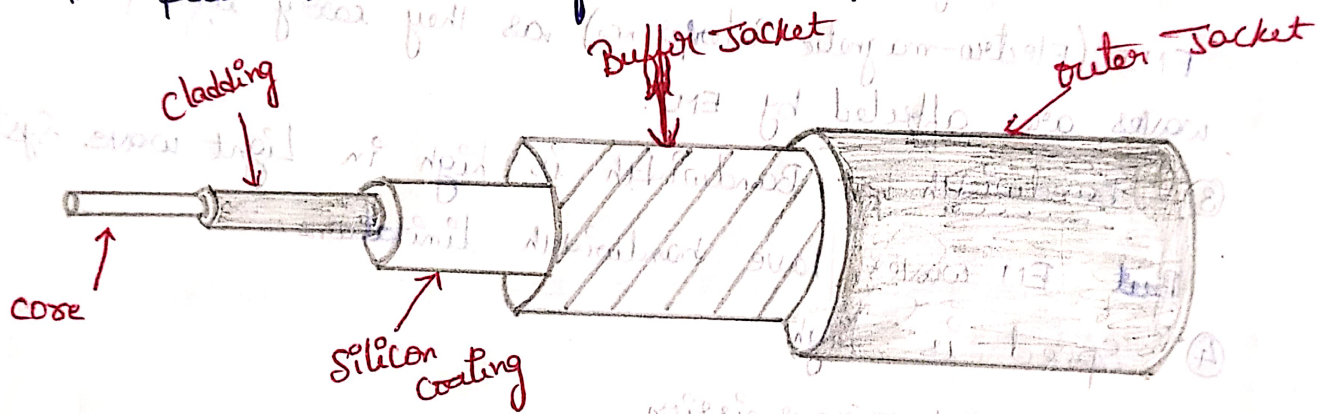
It is a cable by which light signals can be sent with very little loss.

1.2) Structure of optical fibre:-

- ① optical fibers have a very simple structure
- ② They consist of two main sections :- ① Core and ② cladding
- ③ Core and cladding have different refractive indices, with the core having a refractive index n_1 which is slightly higher than that of cladding n_2 .



- $n_1 > n_2$
- ④ The fiber is also referred as "optical waveguide".



- ① Core :-
 - It is the central region made up of silica
 - It is the main region through which light is transmitted
 - Refractive index of core is taken as n_1
 - The core diameter is $62.5 \mu\text{m}$.
- ② cladding :-
 - It is the first layer around the core
 - It is also made up silica but not the same composition as the core
 - Refractive index is taken as n_2 .
 - The diameter of cladding is $125 \mu\text{m}$.
- ③ coating :- Silicon coating consists of one or more layers of polymer that protect the silica structure against physical or environmental damage.

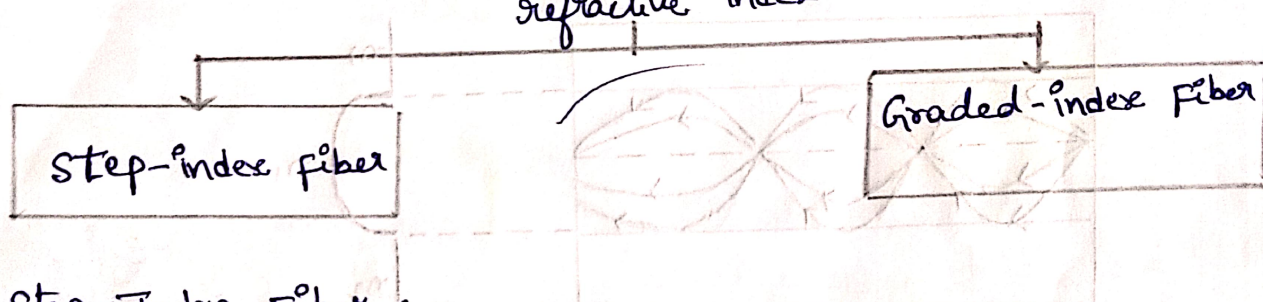
④ Buffer and outer Jacket:-

→ These two jackets are used to protect the fiber from breaking during installation and termination.

→ These are located outside of the coating.

1.3) classification of optical fibres based on refractive index profile:-

Optical fibers based on refractive index

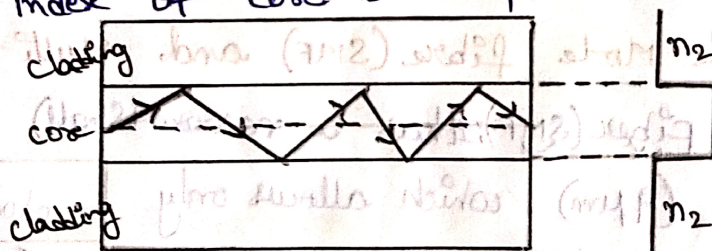


① Step-index Fiber:-

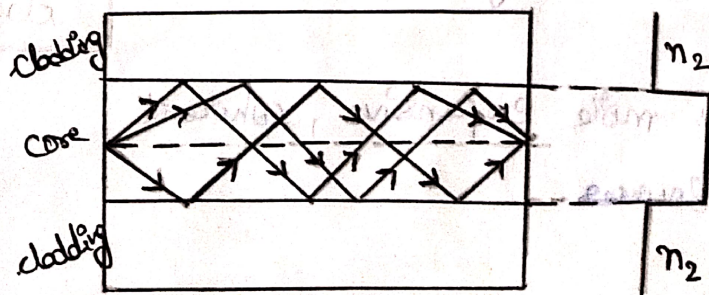
→ The optical fiber with a core of constant refractive index n_1 and a cladding of slightly lower refractive index n_2 is known as Step-index fiber.

→ This is because, refractive index profile for this type makes a step change at the core-cladding interface.

→ Refractive index of core is uniform.



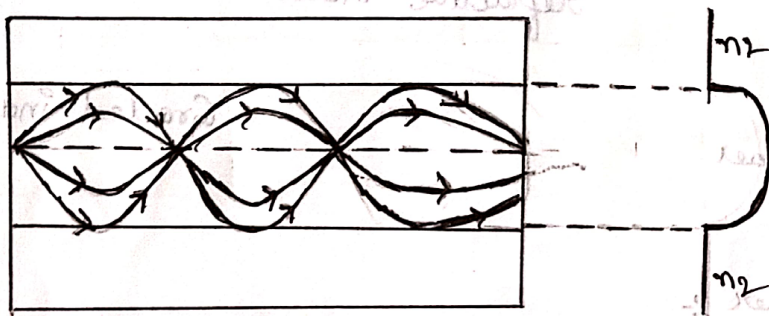
(a) Single-mode Step-index fiber



(b) Multi-mode Step-index fiber

② Graded-index Fiber

- Graded index fibers do not have a constant refractive index.
- It consists of a pure-glass core surrounded by a number of coaxial layers of glass.
- The refractive index of each layer is slightly less than refractive index of inner layer.



1.4) List the types of fibers based on core diameter :-

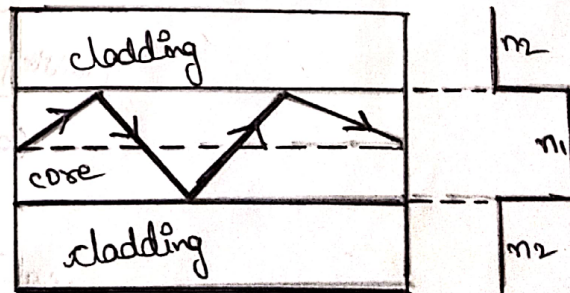
Optical fibers based on core diameter

Single Mode Fiber (SMF)

Multi-mode fiber (MMF)

1.5) Define Single Mode fibre (SMF) and Multi-mode fibre (MMF)?

- ① Single Mode Fiber (SMF): It has a narrow (small) core diameter ($9\mu\text{m}$) which allows only a single mode of light to propagate.



- ② It is used in long-distance applications

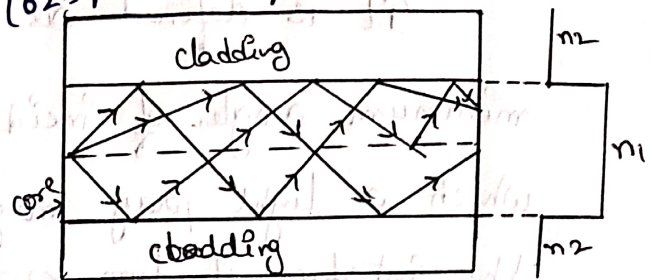
- ③ It requires more expensive, coherent laser light sources.

(3)

② Multi-mode Fiber (MMF):-

1) It has a large core diameter ($62.5\mu\text{m}$ to $50\mu\text{m}$)

which allows multiple modes of light to propagate.



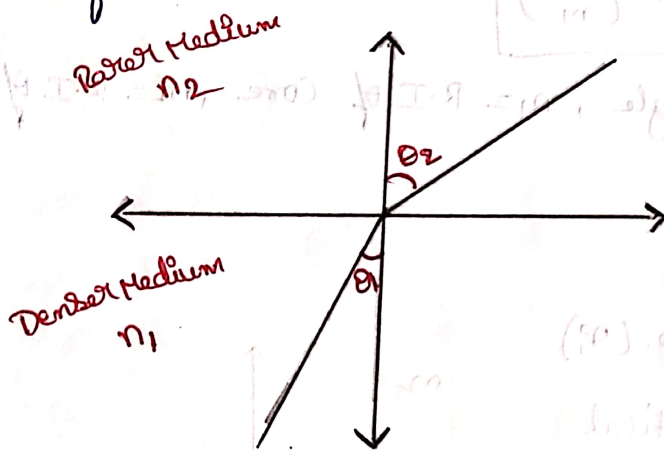
2) It is designed for use with "cheaper" light sources

3) Distance is limited (20-500 meters)

1.6)

Define Snell's law in optics?

Snell's law :- Snell's law is defined as the amount of bending that takes place when a light ray strikes the refractive boundary.



where,

n_1 = Refractive index of Denser Medium

n_2 = Refractive index of Rarer Medium

θ_1 = Angle of incidence

θ_2 = Angle of refraction

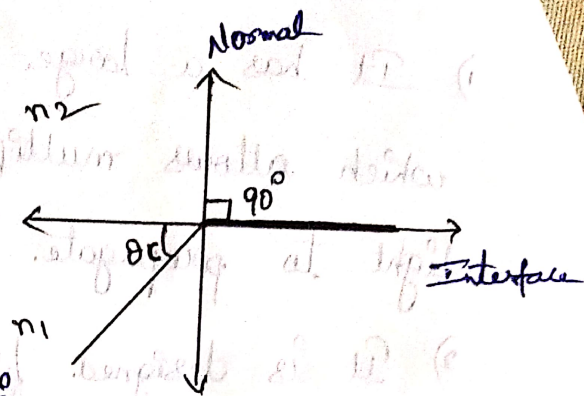
→ Snell's law states that, product of Refractive index of first medium & sine of angle of incidence is equal to product of refractive index of second medium & sine of angle of refraction.

$$\Rightarrow n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\sin \theta_1}{\sin \theta_2} = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

→ Critical Angle :-

It is defined as the minimum angle of incidence at which a light ray may strike the interface of two media and result is an angle of refraction of 90° .



from Snell's law,

$$\theta_1 = \theta_c$$

$$\theta_2 = 90^\circ$$

$$n_1 \sin \theta_c = n_2 \sin 90^\circ$$

$$n_1 \sin \theta_c = n_2 \sin 90^\circ$$

$$n_1 \sin \theta_c = n_2 \cdot 1$$

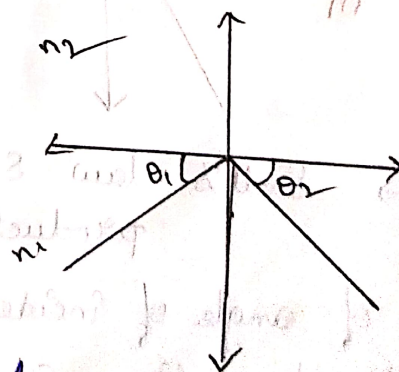
$$\sin \theta_c = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta_c = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{n_2}{n_1} \right)$$

where θ_c = Critical Angle, n_1 = R.I of Core, n_2 = R.I of cladding

→ Total Internal Reflection :-

→ When the incident angle (θ_i) is made greater than critical angle (θ_c), then the light reflect to the same medium.



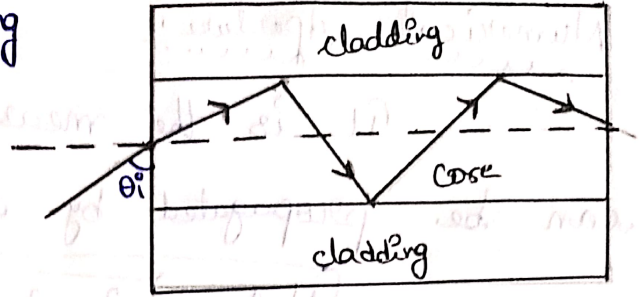
This phenomenon is called Total internal Reflection

2 conditions for TIR is → ① $\theta_i > \theta_c$

② R.I of core must be higher than R.I of cladding.

Explain Light wave propagation in DFC:-

→ As Refractive index of cladding is always less than refractive index of core, incident rays gets reflected



→ If Angle of incidence (θ_i) is changed, angle of reflection also changes.

→ Based on θ_i , few waves are captured early and few waves are captured late.

→ Therefore propagation of waves depends on incident angle.

1.8) Define Acceptance Angle and cone of acceptance?

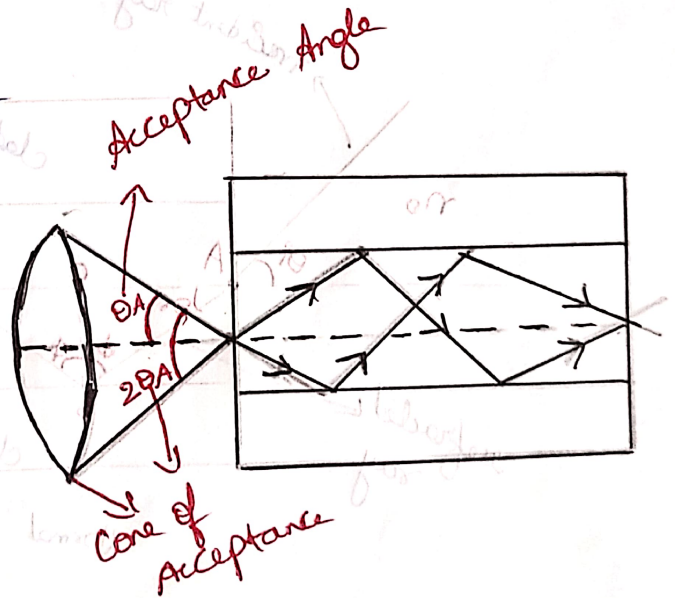
① Acceptance angle

The Maximum Angle at which a light ray enters the fiber axis in order to get propagated is called as Acceptance Angle (θ_A)

It is given by,

$$\theta_A = \sin^{-1}(NA)$$

→ it is limited by critical angle.



② Cone of Acceptance: The area of gathering the light at input side of the optical fiber having full angle $2\theta_A$ is called as cone of acceptance ($2\theta_A$).

1.9) Define Numerical Aperture?

Numerical Aperture:-

It is the measure of amount of light that can be propagated by a fiber.

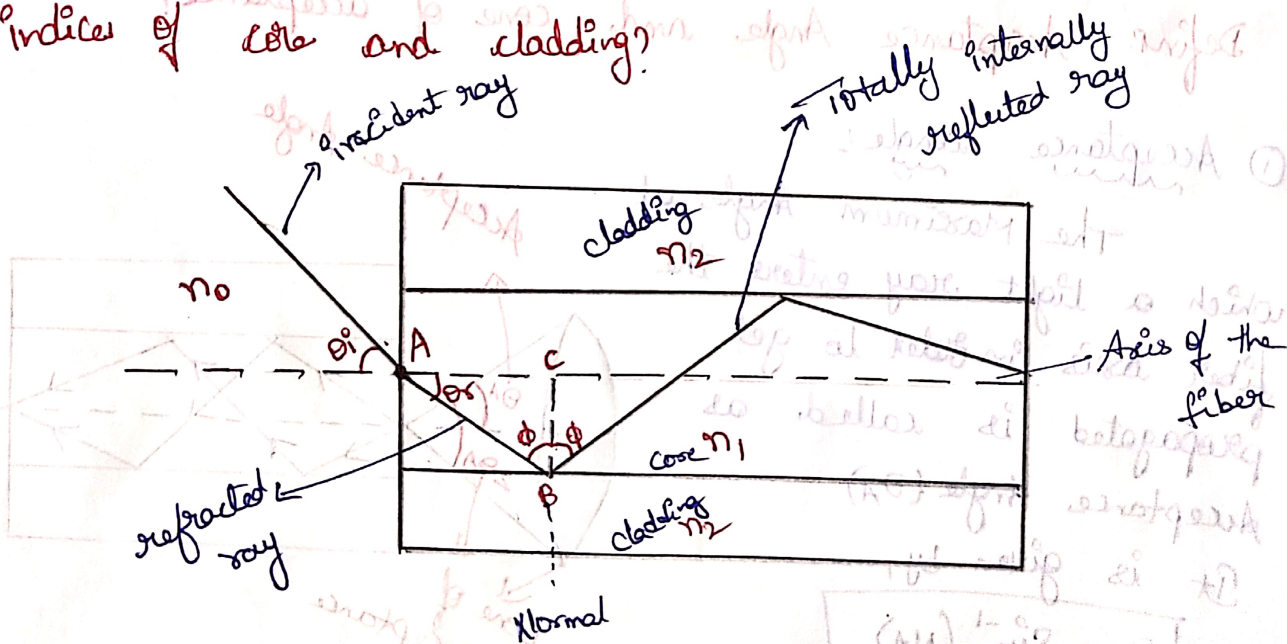
$$N.A = \sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}$$

→ It is defined as the sine of acceptance angle.

$$NA = \sin \theta_A = \frac{\sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}}{n_0} \quad (n_0 = 1 \text{ for air medium})$$

$$NA = \sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}$$

1.10) Derive the expression for NA in terms of refractive indices of core and cladding?



→ Let a light ray enters into the fiber from a medium with refractive index n_0 and angle of incidence θ_i .

→ This ray gets refracted from fiber axis with an angle θ_r and strikes core-cladding interface at angle ϕ .

→ Now it gets totally internally reflected and moves in zigzag path along the fiber core.

→ from the diagram,

According to Snell's law,

$$n_0 \sin \theta_i = n_1 \sin \theta_r \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

Here ABC is right angled triangle, so $\angle C = 90^\circ$

$$\angle A + \angle B + \angle C = 180^\circ$$

$$\theta_r + \phi + 90^\circ = 180^\circ$$

$$\theta_r + \phi = 90^\circ$$

$$\theta_r = (90^\circ - \phi) \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Subq (2) in (1),

$$(1) \Rightarrow n_0 \sin \theta_i = n_1 \sin (90^\circ - \phi)$$

$$n_0 \sin \theta_i = n_1 \cos \phi \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

Here the light ray at point B is reflected back only if the angle of incidence is greater than critical Angle.

$$\text{Hence, } \sin \phi = \frac{n_2}{n_1} \quad (\text{from the diagram})$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos \phi = \sqrt{1 - \sin^2 \phi}$$

$$\cos \phi = \sqrt{1 - \frac{n_2^2}{n_1^2}} \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

Sub eq. ① in ③,

$$n_0 \sin \theta_i = n_1 \cos \phi$$

$$= n_1 \sqrt{1 - \frac{n_2^2}{n_1^2}}$$

$$= n_1 \sqrt{\frac{n_1^2 - n_2^2}{n_1^2}}$$

$$= \frac{n_1}{n_1} \sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}$$

$$n_0 \sin \theta_i = \sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}$$

$$\boxed{\sin \theta_i = \sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}}$$

($\because n_0 = 1$ for air medium)

Numerical Aperture is defined as sine of acceptance angle ($\theta_i = \theta_A$)

$$\therefore \boxed{\sin \theta_A = \sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}}$$

Numerical aperture is the measure of amount of

light that can be propagated by a fiber.

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{N.A = \sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}}$$