

Critical Angle & Snell's Law

Practice (use a straight edge for any credit)

Name Key
 Period _____

Calculate the angles and draw the rays for each of the following situations:

- a. A ray leaves the source, striking the surface at an angle of 10.0° . Calculate the angle of refraction. Draw the refracted ray.

$$n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2 \Rightarrow \sin \theta_2 = \frac{n_1}{n_2} \sin \theta_1 \Rightarrow \theta_2 = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{n_1}{n_2} \cdot \sin \theta_1 \right)$$

$$\theta_2 = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{1.47}{1} \sin 10^\circ \right) = 14.8^\circ$$

- b. A ray leaves the source, striking the surface at an angle of 30.0° . Calculate the angle of refraction. Draw the refracted ray.

$$\theta_2 = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{n_1}{n_2} \sin \theta_1 \right) = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{1.47}{1} \sin 30^\circ \right) = 47.3^\circ$$

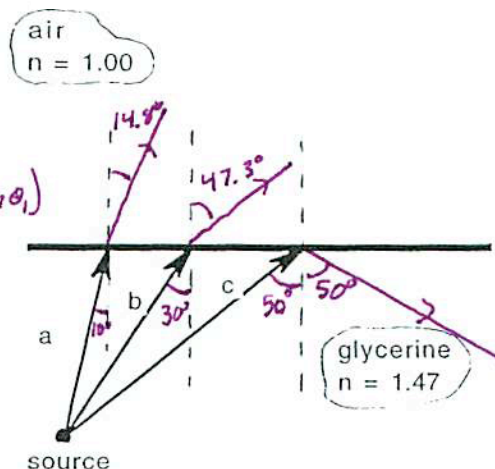
- c. A ray leaves the source, striking the surface at an angle of 50.0° . Calculate the angle of refraction. Draw what happens.

$$\theta_2 = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{n_1}{n_2} \sin \theta_1 \right) = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{1.47}{1} \sin 50^\circ \right) = \sin^{-1}(1.13) \quad 1.13 \geq 1 \Rightarrow \text{reflection } \theta_r = \theta_i = 50^\circ$$

- d. Calculate the critical angle for this situation. Draw it on the diagram above.

$$\theta_2 = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{n_1}{n_2} \sin \theta_1 \right) \quad \text{here I'll use 1 as air \& 2 as glycerine}$$

$$\theta_2 = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{1.47} \sin 90^\circ \right) = \boxed{42.9^\circ}$$



3. Calculate and draw (use a straight edge) the path of the light ray below, continuing it until it emerges from the glass prism.

a. going into the glass. $n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2 \Rightarrow \sin \theta_1 = \frac{n_2}{n_1} \sin \theta_2 \Rightarrow \theta_1 = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{n_2}{n_1} \sin \theta_2 \right)$

$$\theta_g = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{1.5} \cdot \sin 0^\circ \right) = 0^\circ$$

b. going through the glass. (hint: draw the normal line where the ray touches the interface)

$$\theta_a = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{n_g}{n_a} \sin \theta_g \right) = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{1.5}{1} \sin 60^\circ \right) = \sin^{-1} (1.30)$$

$1.3 \geq 1 \Rightarrow$ total internal reflection
 $\theta_i = \theta_r = 60^\circ$

c. coming out of the glass; calculate the angle of the emergent ray and put that number on your diagram below.

$$\theta_a = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{n_g}{n_a} \sin \theta_g \right) = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{1.5}{1} \sin 30^\circ \right) = 48.6^\circ$$

