

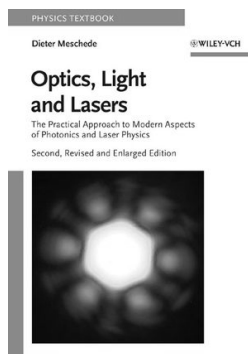


# Basics of LASER

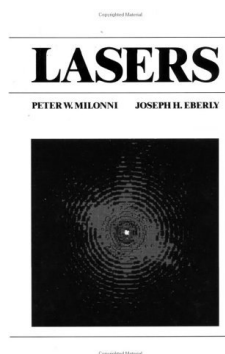
Dr. Melanie Heilmann



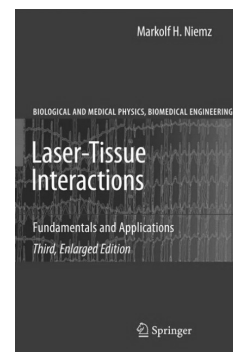
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# What do you know about LASER ?



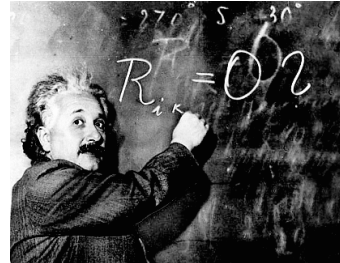
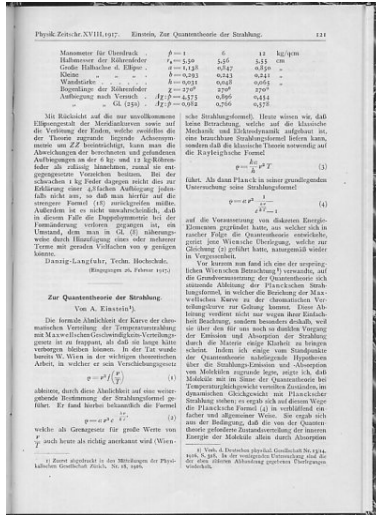
## Acronym

# LASER

Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation



# 1916 Discovery of stimulated emission



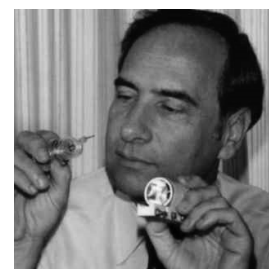
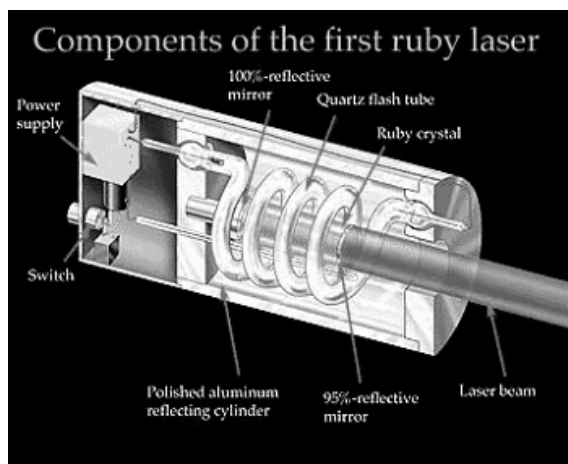
Albert EINSTEIN

\* 14.3.1879, Ulm / Germany

† 18.4.1955, Princeton / USA



# 1960 First LASER constructed



Theodore Harold  
MAIMAN

\* 11.7.1927, Los Angeles / USA

† 5.5.2007, Vancouver / Canada



## 1964 Nobel Prize in Physics

*„for fundamental work in the field of quantum electronics, which has led to the construction of oscillators and amplifiers based on the maser-laser principle“*



Charles Hard  
TOWNES

\* 28.7.1915, Greenville / USA



Nikolay Gennadiyevich  
BASOV

•14.12.1922, Usman / Russia  
† 1.7.2001, Russia

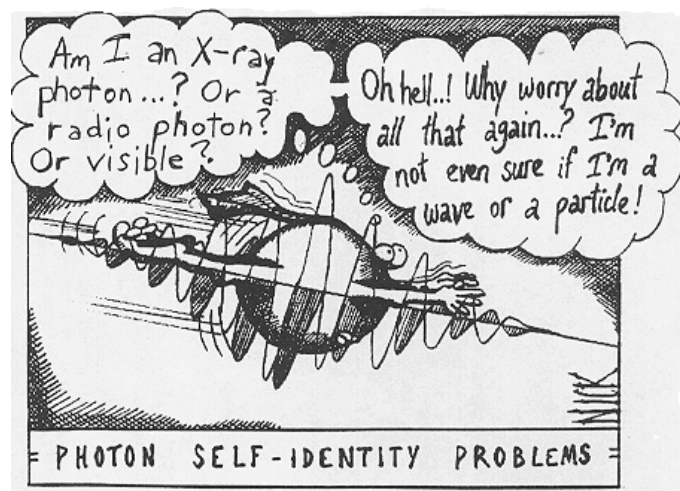


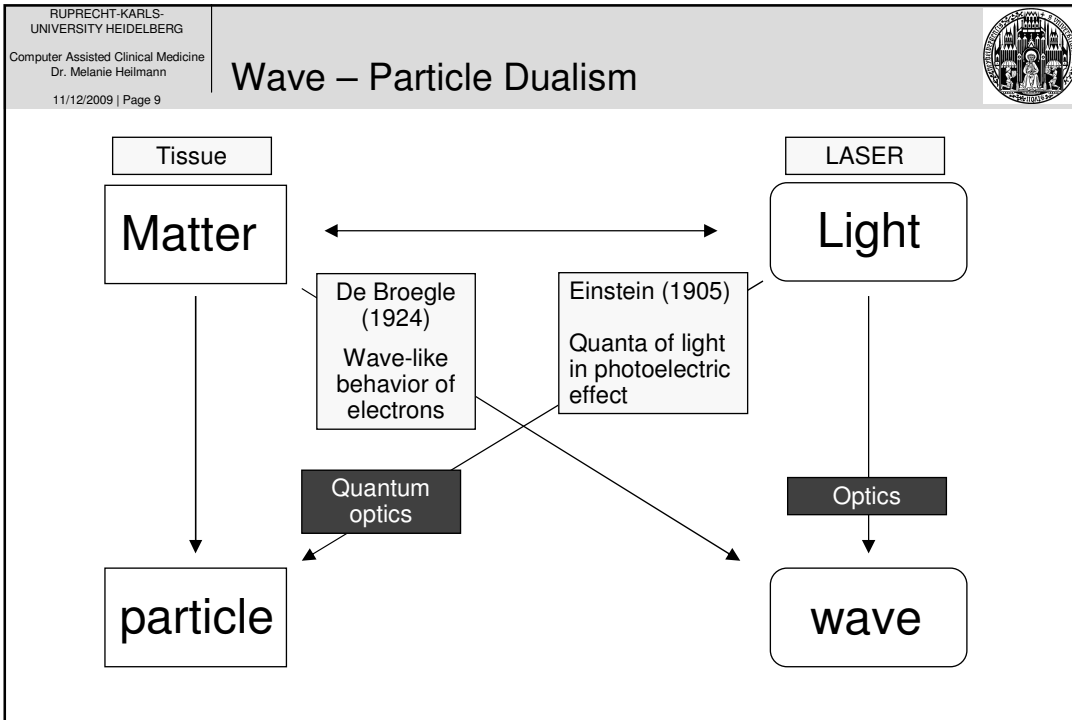
Aleksandr Mikhailovich  
PROKHOROV

•11.7.1916, Australia  
† 8.1.2002, Moscow / Russia



## Physical basics





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11/12/2009 | Page 10

## Terminology

### Light quanta

Photons ( $\gamma$ )

$E = h\nu$

E: energy  
h: Planck's constant

$E = hc / \lambda$

$\nu$ : frequency

### El. magn. waves

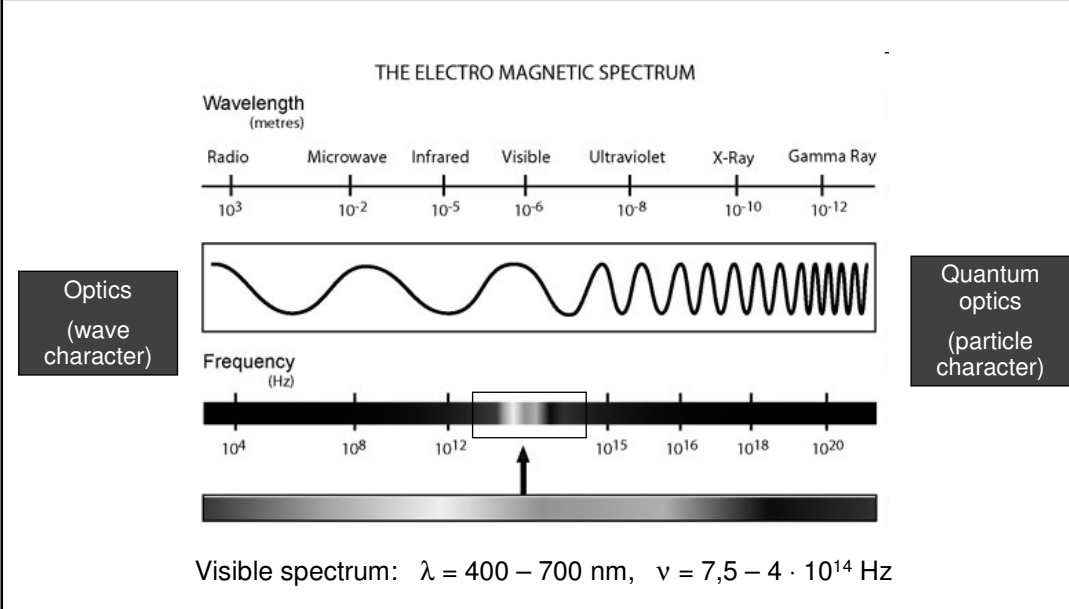
$\psi(t) = I_0 \cdot e^{i\phi}$

$\lambda = c / \nu$

c = 3 · 10<sup>8</sup> m/s (light velocity)  
 $\lambda$ : wave length



## Electromagnetic spectrum



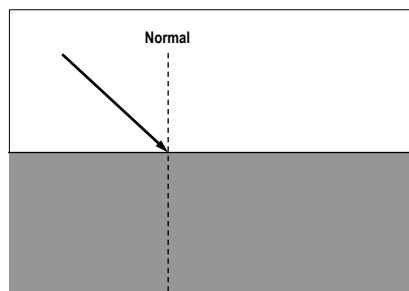
## Geometric optics

### At a planar dielectric surface

- (Total) Reflection
- Transmission
- Refraction

media: air, water, glass, ...

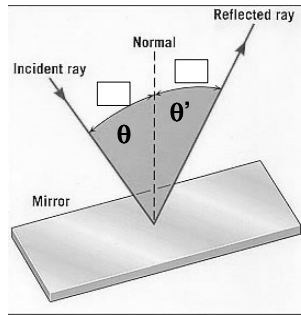
dielectric: insulating, non-conducting





## Reflection

angle of incidence = angle of reflection

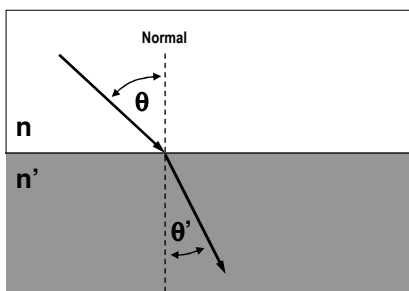


$$\theta = \theta'$$



## Refraction

Light transmission



$$n \cdot \sin(\theta) = n' \cdot \sin(\theta')$$

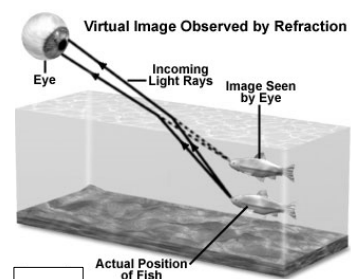
refractive index n

vacuum: 1

air: 1.0003

water: 1.333

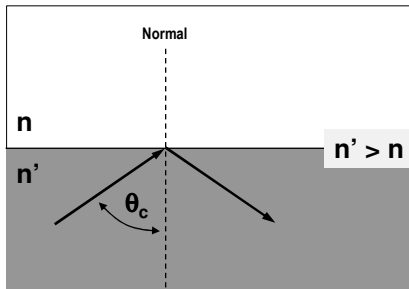
crown glass: 1.5





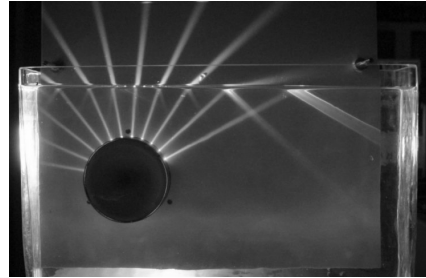
## Total reflection

$$\theta > \theta_c$$

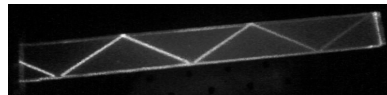


Critical angle:  $\theta_c = \arcsin\left(\frac{n}{n'}\right)$

Examples:



Water tank

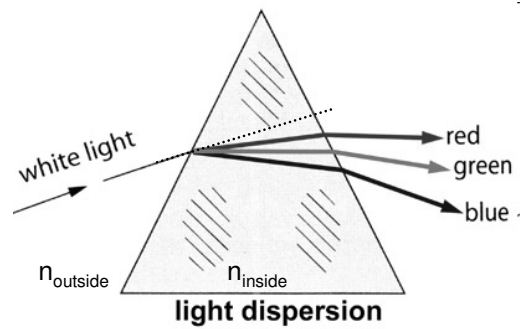


Fiber optic cable



## Dispersion

- refractive index is wavelength dependent:  $n(\lambda)$

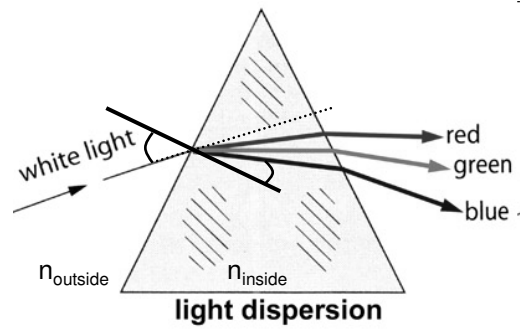


$n_{\text{outside}}$  higher or lower than  $n_{\text{inside}}$  ?



## Dispersion

- refractive index is wavelength dependent:  $n(\lambda)$

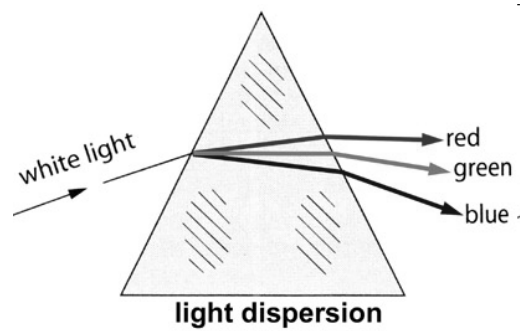


$n_{\text{outside}}$  higher or lower than  $n_{\text{inside}}$  ?



## Dispersion

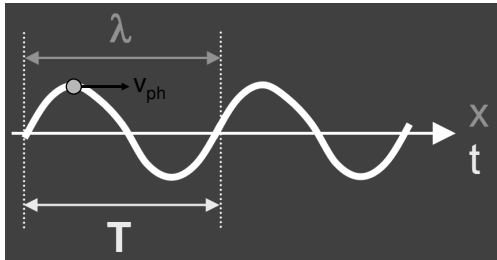
- refractive index is wavelength dependent:  $n(\lambda)$
- phase velocity  $\neq$  group velocity: Dispersion



## Wave optics



### Wavelength



Period

Frequency:  $\nu = \frac{1}{T}$

### Phase velocity

(EM radiation: light velocity  $c = 3 \cdot 10^8$  m/s)

$$v_{ph} = \frac{\lambda}{T} = \begin{cases} c & \text{vacuum} \\ c/n(\lambda) & \text{media} \end{cases}$$

### Angular frequency:

(velocity in radians per second)

$$\omega = \frac{2\pi}{T} = 2\pi \cdot \nu$$

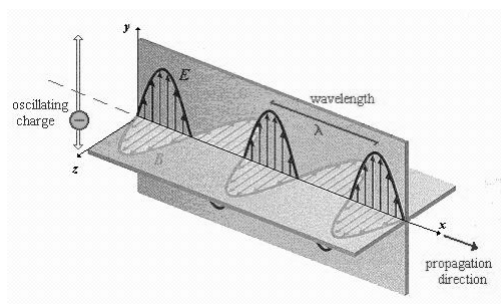


## Light: An Electromagnetic (EM) Field



### EM Fields:

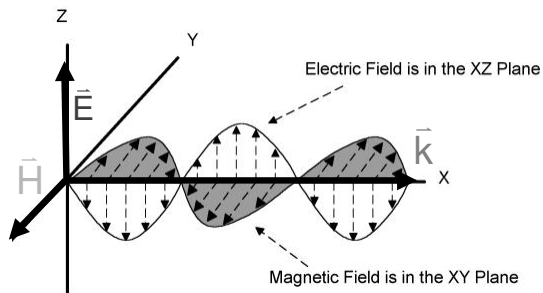
- defined by two vector fields:
  - Electric Field  $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)$
  - Magnetic Field  $\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)$
- caused by
  - Electric charges
  - Electric currents



## EM wave



- Electric Field  $\vec{E}(\vec{r}, t)$
- Magnetic Field  $\vec{H}(\vec{r}, t)$
- Wave vector  $\vec{k}(\vec{r}, t)$



## In dielectric / magnetized media

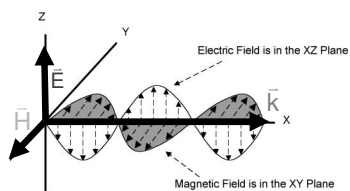


Electric displacement field: 
$$\vec{D} = \epsilon_0 \vec{E} + \vec{P}$$

↑ Electric field     ↑ Polarization

Magnetic induction: 
$$\vec{B} = \mu_0 \vec{H} + \vec{M}$$

↑ Magnetic field     ↑ Magnetization





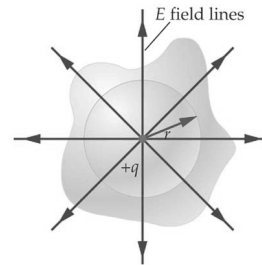
## Maxwell's equations (static fields)

1. Charges are the sources of electric fields

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{D} = \rho$$

$$\oint_{\partial V} \vec{D} \cdot d\vec{A} = q(V)$$

Divergence of electric field is affected by charges



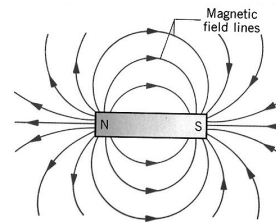
2. Magnetic monopoles do not exist

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{B} = 0$$

$$\oint_{\partial V} \vec{B} \cdot d\vec{A} = 0$$

Opposite magnetic field divergences are created from magnetic dipoles.

In the absence of magnetic monopoles, divergence of the magnetic field lines is always zero.

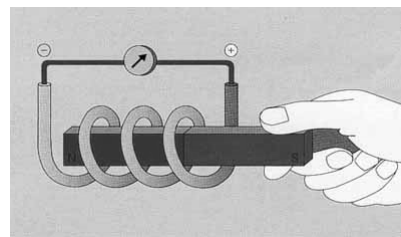


## Maxwell's equations (dynamic fields)

3. A changing magnetic field creates an electric field

$$\nabla \times \vec{E} = -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t}$$

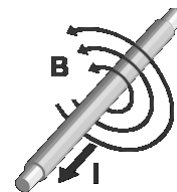
$$\oint_{\partial S} \vec{E} \cdot d\vec{l} = -\frac{\partial \Phi_{B,S}}{\partial t}$$



4. Magnetic fields are created by electrical current and by changing electric fields

$$\nabla \times \vec{H} = \vec{J}_f + \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t}$$

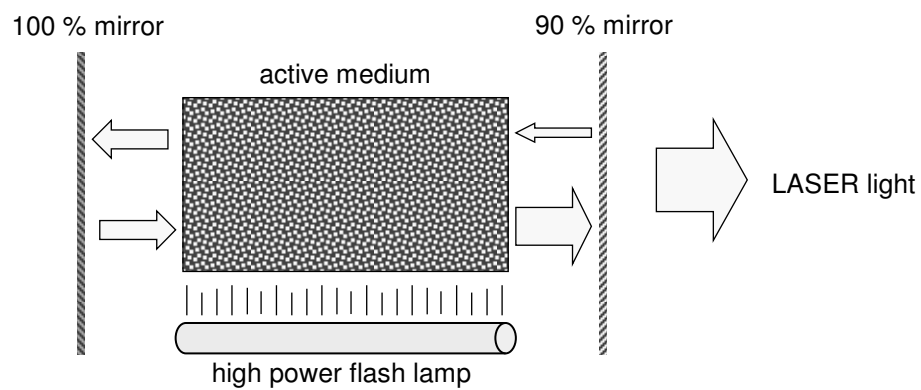
$$\oint_{\partial S} \vec{H} \cdot d\vec{l} = I_{f,S} + \frac{\partial \Phi_{D,S}}{\partial t}$$





# LASER

Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation





## 2. LASER Systems I