Student set Optics 2.0

Propagation of light and formation of shadows Reflections in mirrors Light rays for a curved mirror Refraction and total internal reflection Focal length of a converging lens Light beams with convex and concave lenses Lens equation Dispersion of white light Optical instruments





© 2017 Cornelsen Experimenta, Berlin All rights reserved.

The work and parts of it are protected by copyright.

Every use for other than the legal cases requires the previous written agreement by Cornelsen Experimenta. Hint to §§ 46, 52a UrhG: Neither the work or parts of it are allowed to be scanned, put into a network or otherwise to be made publicly available without such an agreement.

This includes intranets of schools or other educational institutions.

We assume no liability for damages which are caused by inappropriate usage of the equipment.

Student set Optics 2.0

Order number 47530

Contents

Storage plan/summary of parts4, 5	5
Instructions for setting up experiments	6
Instructions for student lamp	7

1 Ray optics

Experi works	ment descriptions, heets & station cards	8
Op1.1	Light and shadow	8
Op1.2	Law of reflection1	0
Op1.3	Curved mirrors1	2
Op1.4	Snell's law of refraction1	4
Op1.5	Fermat's principle1	7
Op1.6	Refraction and total internal reflection in water2	20
Op1.7	Exercises: Refraction2	23
Op1.8	Paths of light through lenses2	25
Op1.9	Focal point of a converging lens2	27
Op1.9a	2D lens	27
Op 1.9b	Lens on optical bench 2	28
Op1.10	Formation of images by a converging lens3	81
Op1.11	Lens equation	33
Op1.12	Optical instruments	86
Op1.12a	Terrestrial telescopes	86
Op1.12b	Astronomical telescopes	37
Op1.12c	Projectors 3	88
Op1.12d	Optical microscopes	39
	Station cards: Terrestrial telescopes; Astronomical telescopes	10
	Projectors; Optical microscopes	11
Op1.13	Light and colour4	2

2 Wave optics

Exper	iment descriptions,
works	sneets & station cards
Op 2.1	Interference from a grating44
Op 2.2	Polarisation47
Op 2.3	Effects of polarisation49
Op 2.3a	Polarisation due to reflection (Brewster's angle)49
Op 2.3b	Birefringence due to tension
Op 2.3c	Chromatic polarisation (LCD screens) 51
	Station cards:
	Polarisation due to reflection (Brewster angle),
	Birefringence due to tension 53
	Chromatic polarisation (LCD screens)54
	Help card for condenser lens 54
Op 2.4	LEDs and lasers – coherence, polarisation and monochromaticity55



Other Optics topics (e.g. optical functions of the eye, phases of the sun, lunar eclipses and much more) can be found in the following Cornelsen Experimenta products:

Human eye model Order no. 47030

Tellurium N Order no. 31115

Storage plan / Summary of parts Optics 2.0 (47530)



Fig. no.	Qty.	Item description	Order no.
_	1	Set of instructions for "Optics 2.0" student set	475306
_	1	Storage plan for " <i>Optics 2.0</i> " student set	4753036
1	1	Profile rail, aluminium, 500mm	40810
2	1	Student lamp LED/LASER	47535
3	1	Plug-in power supply	68534
4	1	Battery holder	475351
5	1	Set of 6 optical bodies	47510
6	1	Perspex rod	47511
7		AA batteries, 1.5V, alkaline, set of 4	51904
8	1	Prism, equilateral, 3x60°	47241
9	1	Lamp platform	47536
10	1	Measuring platform	47512
11	5	Clamp sliders	40820
12	1	Universal mirror	47094

Fig. no.	Qty.	Item description	Order no.
13	1	Lens, biconvex, $f = +200 \mathrm{mm}$	47136
14	1	Lens, biconvex, $f = +100 \mathrm{mm}$	47135
15	1	Lens, biconvex, $f = +50 \mathrm{mm}$	47134
16	1	Lens, biconcave, $f = -100 \mathrm{mm}$	47138
17	1	Condenser lens	475151
18	1	Apertures and slide holder	47517
19	1	Slide scale	47410
20	1	Colour filter, primary colours: red, green, blue,	47045
21	1	Screen and mirror holder	47256
22	1	Stand, black	13707
23	1	Petri dish with central ridge	17715
24	1	Screen, white, with scale	13733

Additionally required:

Opaque bodies (eraser, sharpener etc.), ruler (30 cm), water



Fig. no.	Qty.	Item description	Order no
25	1	Screen, plain glass	47065
26	1	Pair of polarisation filters with scale	47282
27	1	Slice of mica in slide frame	47407
28	1	Line grating, 80 lines/mm	47285
29	1	Line grating, 300 lines/mm	47282
30	1	Line grating, 600 lines / mm	47283

The **clamp sliders 11** can be placed at any position along the profile rail. Their purpose is to accommodate and secure the stand rods.

The three sockets in the clamp sliders have different ways of clamping the rods. When selecting the socket, make sure that the rod is pushed all the way into the socket and is held firmly.

.....



The apertures and slide holder 18 and

the **condenser 17** with its apertures and slide holder are composed of two parts (a and b).

The holder (b) is only provided once in each box and can be swapped between parts **17** and **18** as needed.



Notes on the hazards of the student lamps

The student lamps emit either white LED light or red laser light. It is possible to select between the two. They are both certified in the lowest protection class for their type, meaning that they conform to **risk group RG0** as per DIN EN 62471 and **laser protection class 1** as per DIN EN 60825.

- Operation of the lamps by students does not require supervision of a teacher.
- The area where experiments are taking place do not need to be labelled with laser warning signs or cordoned off against unintentional entry.
- Use of optically converging components (e.g. magnifying glasses, convex lenses) is permitted.

We recommend teaching students about the risks to their eyes from laser light before setting up and carrying out any experiments. They should be prohibited from looking directly into the laser beam or the LED, even if this is permissible at distances greater than the certified limit of 50 mm.



Power supply from plug-in supply or battery

Instructions for use

The student lamps require a DC supply of 3 V. They can either be operated from batteries or the plug-in power supply provided. Switches allow you to swap between LED and laser modes.

The laser only develops its maximum light output at temperatures below 40°C. When switching the student lamps from LED to laser modes, it is therefore necessary to be careful and plan for 5 minutes of cooling time for the LED to cool to room temperature.

The lamps themselves and their batteries supplies are magnetic so that they can be attached to the lamp platform or also to metal boards. The lamps are also suitable for the workbook optics experiments.



* The certificate can be requested in digital format from info@cornelsen-experimenta.de

Op 1.1 Light and shadow

You can use the laser and LED light from your student lamp along with the accompanying worksheet to investigate the formation of shadows with the help of light ray models in workbook optics experiments.

Equipment

Additionally required: Ruler (30 cm) Objects to throw shadows (eraser, sharpener, etc.)

Experiment procedure

At the start of this introductory experiment, students should be taught about safety. Even though both light sources are certified according to safety guidelines and are allowed to be used by students, looking directly at a laser diode or even an LED should be avoided in principle. An information panel with an appropriate warning is printed on the worksheet and is very suitable for use in instruction. When changing from LED to laser mode, it should be noted that the laser only develops its full brightness at temperatures below 40°C.

The experiments procedure starts with the positioning of an opaque body suitable for throwing

Conclusions

This experiment focuses on discovering that light propagates in straight lines and thus forms shadows. While the LED does represent a very good approximate of a point light source, the narrow light beam from a laser can be treated as a light ray. Switching between the two light sources therefore offers the optimum requirements for experimental derivation of the optical ray model.

Observation of shadows leads to the understanding that projected shadows get bigger when the body throwing the shadow moves closer to the source of the light. The position of the point light source is the point where the shadow outlines all intersect and can be found by geometrically tracing the outlines back to source.

Supplementary to this experiment:

Light and shadow worksheet (page 9)



a shadow (rubber eraser, pen cap, pencil sharpener, etc.) on the raised surface. Then you should trace the outlines of the object on the worksheet and the area you would expect to be in shadow when the body is illuminated by light from a point *P*.

The next thing is to check the limits of the shadow using laser light.

For the last step, the lamp is to be placed on the previously traced outline. Since *P* corresponds to the position of the LED inside the lamp, checking your expectations will only work with the lamp in LED mode.

.....

Since the LED is not actually a single point but covers a certain area, the shadows become less sharply defined as the distance from the light source decreases.

If opacity is to be determined as a specific property of a body, it is also recommended that shadows thrown by a transparent body be viewed. Also, more advanced students can get together in suitable groups to observe shadows thrown by light from multiple sources.



Date

"Where there is light, there will also be much shadow". This quote is from the works of poet J. W. Goethe, who himself did scientific research on the properties of light. Although this particular quote actually refers to a quite different context, the physical truth behind it is interesting in itself.

The student lamps in the set provide two different light sources with which you can investigate the formation of shadows.

Introduction to the LED / laser student lamp

Laser operation

LED operation

Your lamp emits a red laser beam composed of tightly bundled red light.

Your lamp emits a cone of white light as a torch would.



Procedure:

- Put any object from your pencil case onto the raised surface in order for it to throw a shadow.
- The object is to be illuminated from point P. Trace the edges of the object and draw in where you think the shadow is going to be.
- Check the outlines of your expected shadow using the laser beam from your student lamp.
- Position the lamp as shown in the sketch. Put the lamp into LED mode and check whether the shadows fall where you expected.
- Repeat the experiment using three other items from your pencil case.



Definition:



This sign is a warning against strong laser light. Such light can cause damage to biological tissue, especially eyes.

Your lamp is not dangerous in either laser or LED mode, which is why it doesn't appear on the lamp or on any of the accompanying experiment equipment.

Nevertheless, you should still avoid looking into the laser or the LED beam or shining it into the eyes of other pupils.



Conclusions:

- 1. Describe how you could determine the position of a light from the shadow it casts.
- 2. Explain how the size of a shadow on a screen depends on the distance of the object from the light source which causes the shadow.

Op 1.2 Law of reflection

The expectation of a *law of reflection* is to be investigated using the laser in the student lamp.



Equipment

Profile rail	1
LED / laser student lamp	2
Lamp platform	9
Measurement platform	10
Clamp sliders(2 x)	11
Universal mirror	12

Experiment procedure

When you set up the experiment, you should pick a distance between the measurement platform and the lamp which results in the whole of the optical axis of the measurement platform being illuminated. The mirror is aligned with its flat side along a line across the diameter such that it is perpendicular to the dotted line along the optical axis.

The experiment then involves turning the

Conclusions

The measurements indicate the law of reflection $\alpha = \alpha'$.

The law of reflection is valid for every single point on a curved mirror as well. This can be demonstrated using the curved surface of the universal mirror. The normal for the reflection law should coincide with a normal to the surface of the mirror at the point where the light ray strikes it.



measurement platform in order to change the angle of incidence α . For each new incident angle, the angle of reflection α' should then be measured. You should be able to calculate whether the mirror is correctly situated from the first pair of results.

.....

If the mirror is placed on squared paper with its flat side facing the light, the mirror law can also be demonstrated. *"A mirror image is formed as far behind the mirror surface as the object being reflected is in front of it."* The symmetry between the original object and the mirror image can also be seen.

а 0 10 20 30 50 60 70 80 40 a 0 10 20 30 40 70 80 50 60

Supplementary to this experiment:

Law of reflection worksheet (page 11)



Name

Date

We can use mirrors to see things which are not in our direct line of view or which are obscured by other objects. To choose the right size and position for a mirror, we need to know how an incident light beam is reflected.

Reflections from a plane mirror

Procedure/measurements:

- Write down what you expect the relationship to be between the angle of incidence and the angle of reflection.
- Set up the experiment as in the diagram.



- Draw the reflected ray on the above diagram, label the angle of incidence α, the angle of reflection α' and the normal.
- Turn the measurement platform and measure the angles of reflection corresponding to angles of incidence from 0° to 80°. Enter your results into a table of measurements.

Angle of incidence α	0	10	20	 70	80
Angle of reflection α'					

Conclusions:

- 1. Check to see if your expectations were confirmed.
- 2. Express your results in a sentence of your own and as a mathematical formula.

Reflection from curved mirrors

Exercise:

Check whether the law of reflection also applies for mirrors of the following shapes.





Op 1.3 Curved mirrors

The light in a parallel beam is reflected by convex spherical, concave spherical and concave parabolic surfaces in a series of workbook optics experiments.

Equipment

LED / laser student lamp	2
Set of optical bodies	5
Universal mirror	12

Experiment procedure

Use the lens object to generate a parallel light beam. Then you should check whether the three shapes of mirror cause the light to converge or diverge on reflection.

Condenser lens

Conclusions

The two concave mirror shapes focus the light in different ways.

Whereas the parabolic mirror focuses the light to a clear focal point, the spherical concave mirror reflects the light along a so-called caustic without any visible point of maximum brightness.

The shapes of the reflections differ markedly as well. Whereas the outer edges of the reflection from a parabolic mirror are straight lines, the edges of the catacaustic from the spherical mirror are decidedly curved.

If parallel light is to be concentrated by a mirror to a specific point, then a parabolic mirror is best suited to the job.

Supplementary to this experiment:

Curved mirrors worksheet (page 13)

Name

Date

Curved mirrors are often used to make parallel light beams converge or diverge. They have an advantage over lenses in that they hardly dim the light at all.

Reflection from curved mirrors

Procedure / measurements:

• Generate a parallel beam as shown in the diagram.

Mirror shapes:

Curved mirrors help to maintain traffic safety.

- Guess whether the three mirror surfaces will cause a parallel light beam to converge or diverge.
- Sketch your observations for the parabolic and spherical curved concave mirrors.

Conclusions:

- 1. Describe the difference between the two observations.
- 2. Discuss which of the two concave mirrors is better at concentrating the light.

Op 1.4 Snell's law of refraction

An investigation is to be made of what happens when light moves from air into glass. You should thereby discover *Snell's law of refraction* and experimentally determine the refractive index for light moving from air to glass.

Equipment

Profile rail	1
LED / laser student lamp	2
Set of optical bodies	5

Experiment procedure

When you set up the experiment, you should pick a distance between the measurement platform and the lamp which results in the whole of the optical axis of the measurement platform being illuminated. Align the semi-circular glass body with its straight side along the diameter line such that the flat surface

side along the diameter line such that the flat surface is perpendicular to the dotted line marking the optical axis. Check that the glass body is in the correct alignment before starting any measurements.

Lamp platform	9
Measurement platform	10
Clamp sliders(2x)	11

If the lamp and the glass body are properly aligned, the laser will shine through the glass body wholly along the optical without being refracted.

The experiment then involves turning the measurement platform to vary the angle of incidence α and then measuring the angle of refraction β .

Conclusions

The average of the quotients from the measurements results in the refractive index:

$$n_{\text{Air} \to \text{glass}} = \frac{\sin(\alpha)}{\sin(\beta)} \cong 1.55$$

This represents a good approximation of the ratio between the speeds of light in the various media

$$\frac{c_{\text{Air}}}{c_{\text{Glass}}} = \frac{299711 \text{ km/s}}{190000 \text{ km/s}} \cong 1.57.$$

Snell's law of refraction can also be deduced from the results.

$$\frac{\sin(\alpha)}{\sin(\beta)} = \frac{c_1}{c_2} = n_{1\to 2}$$

Advanced students can study whether there is a direct relationship between the density and the speed of light in a substance.

Here a comparison between water $(1 g/cm^3)$, diamond $(3.53 g/cm^3)$, glass $(2.5 g/cm^3)$ and cooking oil $(0.9 g/cm^3$ shows that no such relationship exists.

$$\overline{n}_{\text{Air}\to\text{glass}} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \frac{\sin(\alpha_k)}{\sin(\beta_k)}$$

α	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
β	3	6	10	13	16	19	22	25	28	30	32	34	36	38	39	40
$\sin(\alpha)/\sin(\beta)$	1.67	1.66	1.49	1.52	1.53	1.54	1.53	1.52	1.51	1.53	1.55	1.55	1.54	1.53	1.53	1.53

Supplementary to this experiment:

Snell's law of refraction worksheet (page 16)

Snell's law of refraction

The glass body needs to be placed on the platform such that the laser shines straight along the optical axis.

Rough side should be

facing down

When a ruler is held in water, it appears to bend at the water's surface. The reason for this is refraction of light, which this experiment will investigate.

Procedure / measurements:

• Set up the experiment as in the diagram.

In the illustration on the right, label the angle of incidence α, the angle of refraction β and the normal.
 Turn the measurement platform and measure the angle of

Turn the measurement platform and measure the angle of refraction for six different angles of incidence. Enter your results in the table below.

Angle of incidence α			
Angle of refraction β			
$\sin(\alpha) / \sin(\beta)$			

Conclusions:

- 1. For each pair of measurements, calculate the quotient $\sin(\alpha)/\sin(\beta)$ and enter the results into the third row of the table.
- 2. Calculate the average of the quotients.

- 3. Investigate how this quotient relates to the ratio of the speeds of light in air and glass.
- 4. Snell's law of refraction links the sines of the incident and refracted angles with the speeds of light in the respective media. Derive a formula for this law from your results in exercise 3.

Medium	c in km/s
Air	299711
Water	225000
Diamond	125000
Glass	190000
Cooking oil	203000
Vacuum	299792

© Cornelsen Experimenta

Take care when measuring

The laser needs to strike the start

Date

Op 1.5 Fermat's principle

Now you will derive Fermat's principle in a worksheet optics experiment.

Equipment

Experiment procedure

Fermat's principle states that light if there are multiple paths which can be taken by light, the one the light actually follows will be the one which takes the most extreme time (usually the shortest time) to travel. On your worksheet this is exemplified by a rescue swimmer who has to help someone drowning as quickly as possible. First you need to guess which of the five possible routes from the beach to the water will represent the quickest route overall. This is measured by a "time ruler".

To find the time it will take to run or swim the various routes, you lay the "time ruler" beside it with the appropriate scaling.

Conclusions

If you add up the overall times for each route, route **D** turns out to be the quickest. If you put the rectangular block over the water area, you can observe with the help of the laser that light takes the same route as the rescue swimmer.

There are other beams in the experiment, though, which arise through unwanted boundary effects. It is necessary to draw attention to the refracted beam which is of interest. Recognition of this can be used as an introduction to basing refraction of light on *Fermat's principle*.

When doing this experiment, you must take care to ensure the worksheet is lying flat on the table.

Supplementary to this experiment:

Fermat's principle worksheet (page 16)

1 Ray optics

Fermat's principle as a maths lesson

 $T(x) \triangleq$ "Total time as a function of water entry point x"

$$T(x) = t_1(x) + t_2(x)$$

If c_1 and c_2 are the speeds of light in the respective media as defined by

$$\implies T(x) = \frac{L_1(x)}{c_1} + \frac{L_2(x)}{c_2}$$

Use Pythagoras's theorem to work out the two distances.

$$\implies T(x) = \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}}{c_1} + \frac{\sqrt{(d - x)^2 + b^2}}{c_2}$$

Fermat's principle seeks out the minimum time as a function of x

$$\frac{dT(x)}{dx} = 0$$

Using the derivation rule from the analysis

$$\implies \frac{2x}{2c_1\sqrt{x^2+a^2}} + \frac{2(d-x)(-1)}{2c_2\sqrt{(d-x)^2+b^2}} = 0$$

This can be simplified

$$\implies \frac{x}{c_1\sqrt{x^2+a^2}} - \frac{(d-x)}{c_2\sqrt{(d-x)^2+b^2}} = 0$$

If $x = L_1 \sin(\alpha) = \sqrt{x^2 + a^2} \sin(\alpha)$ and $(d - x) = L_2 \sin(\beta) = \sqrt{(d - x)^2 + b^2} \sin(\beta)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}\sin(\alpha)}{c_1\sqrt{x^2 + a^2}} - \frac{\sqrt{(d - x)^2 + b^2}\sin(\beta)}{c_2\sqrt{(d - x)^2 + b^2}} = 0$$

By elimination and rearrangement, you eventually arrive at Snell's law of refraction

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\sin(\alpha)}{c_1} - \frac{\sin(\beta)}{c_2} = 0$$
$$\underbrace{\frac{\sin(\alpha)}{c_1} = \frac{\sin(\beta)}{c_2}}_{c_2}$$

Date

A coast guard rescue swimmer discovers a drowning person and wants to reach them by the quickest route. Since it is quicker to run than swim, it is necessary to find the best mixture of running and swimming to arrive at the quickest route, i.e. he has to find the best place to dive into the water from the beach.

Which route would you suggest?

- Cut out the printed "time ruler" and use it to measure the times for running and swimming along each of the 5 routes.
- Calculate the overall time in each case.

Seconds	Α	В	С	D	E
Running					
Swimming					
Total					

Check the total times to see if your original guess was right:

In optics, *Fermat's principle* provides an analogy to our actual problem. It states that if light could take multiple paths to reach its destination, the route it actually will take will be the quickest one.

Conclusions:

- 1. Show experimentally that a ray of red light takes the same route as the swimmer. Put the rectangular block on the page with its right-hand edge at the edge of the water (rough surface facing down) and see which route the laser beam takes from Point 1 to Point 2.
- 2. Explain your observations in exercise 1 by means of Fermat's principle.
- 3. In a medium with low optical depth, light travels faster than in one with higher optical depth. Use the example of air and perspex (which has an optical depth similar to glass) and discuss which of the two has the greater or smaller optical depth.

History: Fermat's place in

Fermat was a French mathematician who made many contributions to mathematical knowledge. His correspondence with Blaise Pascal may be regarded as the very start of probability theory. He is perhaps best known for "Fermat's last theorem", which states that the equation

$$a^n+b^n=c^n$$

has no solution for natural numbers a, b and c if n > 2.

1 Ray optics

Op 1.6 Refraction and total internal reflection in water

An investigation is to be made of the transition of light from air to water. The refractive index of water and the critical angle for total internal reflection will both be determined.

Equipment

Profile rail	.1
LED / laser student lamp	. 2
Lamp platform	.9
Measurement platform	10

Experiment procedure

Put the petri dish onto the angle scale of the measurement platform as shown in the illustration and fill the right half of it with water. While doing this, make sure that the laser beam is not refracted by the petri dish and goes all the way along the optical axis.

Conclusions

The average value for the refractive index obtained from the measurements is:

$$n_{\text{Air}\to\text{Water}} = \frac{\sin(\alpha)}{\sin(\beta)} \cong 1.36.$$

Clamp sliders(2 x) ... 11 Petri dish with central ridge ... 23

Additionally required: Water

Turn the measurement platform to vary the angle of incidence α and measure the corresponding angle of refraction β . If the refracted beam in the water gets too weak to see, adding a drop of condensed milk to the water can make it much clearer.

.....

This value is a little bit higher than the value quoted in tables for pure water (1.33), but is nevertheless still plausible.

Comparing the trend line in the graph with the measurement points entered clearly demonstrates

the non-linear relationship between the angle of incidence and the angle of refraction. Determining from the graph the critical angle for total internal reflection between air and water gives the answer:

$$\beta_{\rm crit} \approx 46^\circ$$
 .

To derive the critical angle, substitute the refractive index you have measured, e.g. n = 1.36, and the angle of incidence 90° into Snell's law of refraction:

$$n = \frac{\sin{(\alpha)}}{\sin{(\beta)}}$$

This results in the following

$$1.36 = \frac{\sin(90)}{\sin(\beta_{\rm crit})}.$$

By simplifying $(\sin(90^\circ) = 1)$ and rearranging

$$\beta_{\rm crit} = \sin^{-1}(\frac{1}{1.36})$$

the critical angle is obtained.

$$\beta_{\rm crit} \approx 47^{\circ}$$

This value agrees very well with the one obtained from the graph and can be verified in a follow-up experiment.

Advanced students can also determine the refractive index of another fluid (e.g. cooking oil or brine) or the refractive index between two fluids.

α	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
ß	4	7	11	15	18	21	25	28	32	34	37	40	42	44	45	45
$\sin(\alpha)/\sin(\beta)$	1.25	1.42	1.36	1.32	1.37	1.40	1.36	1.37	1.33	1.37	1.36	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.37	1.39
				Refr	ractio	n of li	aht: fi	rom w	vater i	into ai	ir					
		į	β in ° 50 г ⁻ ⁻									ī				
		,	10		 		 			•	• •	1 4 1				
		-						. •	•							
			30		 		•		 							
		2	20			•	 - 		 			 				
			10		•											
			0		, , ,					1	ı	$\frac{1}{\alpha}$ in	0			

Supplementary to this experiment:

Refraction of light in water worksheet (page 22)

Refraction of light in water

Water Date

Name

When a ruler is held in water, it appears to bend at the water's surface. The reason for this is refraction of light, which this experiment will investigate.

Procedure / measurements:

Set up the experiment as in the diagram. Fill the right-hand side of the petri dish with water.

The petri dish needs to be positioned on the measurement platform in such a way that the laser beam strikes it and continues along the optical axis.

- In the diagram on the right, label the angle of incidence α , the angle of refraction β and the normal.
- Turn the measurement platform and measure the angles of refraction corresponding to angles of incidence from 0° to 80°. Enter the results into the table of measurements below.

Angle of incidence α	0	5	15	 75	85
Angle of refraction β					
$n_{\text{Water} \to \text{Air}} = \sin(\alpha) / \sin(\beta)$					

Conclusions:

- 1. For each pair of measurements, calculate the refractive index for light passing from water into air.
- 2. Calculate the average value of the refractive index and compare with the value quoted in table.

- 3. Plot a graph of angle of incidence against angle of refraction.
- 4. Interpret the graph considering the range of values of the angle of refraction.
- 5. Read about *critical angle* in your textbook.
- 6. Determine the critical angle experimentally using your experiment set-up and plot the results on your graph.
- 7. Calculate the critical angle with the help of the refractive index and Snell's law of refraction

To reiterate Snell's law of refraction: $n = \frac{\sin(\alpha)}{\sin(\beta)}$

Take care when measuring

The laser needs to strike the start of the normal precisely.

Table of refractive indices

Medium	п
Air	1.000292
Water	1.33
Diamond	2.42
Glass	1.461.65
Cooking oil	1.47
Vacuum	Exactly 1

Op 1.7 Exercises: Refraction

Refraction of light in various bodies will be constructed in a workbook experiment and then checked using the laser light from the student lamp.

Equipment

LED / laser student lamp 2 Set of optical bodies5 Worksheet Exercises on light refraction

Experiment procedure

In each of these exercises, you will first complete the path of the illustrated light ray. Then the respective optical body will be laid on the paper with its rough edge in the stipulated position and the solution will be checked using the laser.

Solutions

Exercise 3

Assuming a refractive index of 1.55, the angle of refraction β is given by

 $\beta = \sin^{-1}(\sin(\alpha) \cdot 1.55).$

Ray	Angle of incidence α	Angle of refraction β
Α	25°	41°
В	10°	16°
С	30°	51°
D	55°	_

Supplementary to this experiment:

Exercises on light refraction worksheet (page 24)

1. Draw the correct light path.

Rough side should be facing down. When checking, avoid letting part of the laser beam shine over the body.

В

2. Construct the subsequent path of the ray.

3. Measures the angles of incidence of the four rays. Determine the angle of refraction and use your result to construct the subsequent path of the ray.

Op 1.8 Paths of light through lenses

The paths light takes through convex and concave lenses will be investigated with a worksheet optics experiment.

Equipment

LED / laser student lamp2 Set of optical bodies5 Worksheet Paths of light through lenses

Experiment procedure

Take care during the experiment to ensure the lenses are initially situated at the stipulated positions. Afterwards the light paths drawn in red on the worksheet are traced by the laser and extended to their ends.

Conclusions

In the part of the experiment involving a concave lens, you can observe that parallel beams are diverged beyond the lens. The beams are actually

refracted in such a way that they seem to be coming from a virtual focal point.

A convex lens, however, causes parallel light to converge to a focal point on the optical axis. Since the light paths are reversible, light rays emerging from this focal point are refracted by the lens in such

a way that the rays become parallel. If the lens is thin enough, rays passing through the centre are not refracted at all.

Op 1.9 Focal point of a converging lens Op 1.9a 2D lens Op 1.9b Lens on optical bench An experiment is to be carried out in two parts. The first is to determine the focal point of a 2D converging lens in a worksheet optics experiment. Then the focal length of a lens will be measured

Then the focal length of a lens will be measured on the optical bench.

Op1.9a 2D lens

Equipment

Experiment procedure

Take care during the experiment to ensure the lens is initially situated perpendicular to the optical axis. Afterwards the light paths drawn in red on the worksheet are traced by the laser and extended to their ends.

.....

Conclusions

With a radius of curvature r = 10 cm a bi-convex lens made of perspex (n = 1.49) would have a focal length determined as follows:

$$f = \frac{n_{\text{lens}}}{n_{\text{lens}} - n_{\text{air}}} \left(\frac{r}{2}\right) = \frac{1.49}{1.49 - 1.00} \left(\frac{10 \text{ cm}}{2}\right) \approx 15.2 \text{ cm}.$$

Since the 2D lens is thick, the focal length needs to be measured from the principle plane of the lens H'. Due to spherical aberration, rays a long way from the centre are refracted in such a way that they intersect with the optical axis before the focal point.

Focal point of a converging lens worksheet (page 29, 30)

1 Ray optics

Op 1.9b Lens on optical bench

Equipment

Profile rail	1
LED / laser student lamp	2
Lamp platform	9
Measurement platform	10
Clamp sliders(4 x)	11
Lens, $f = +200 \mathrm{mm}$	13
Lens, <i>f</i> = +100 mm	14

Lens, $f = +50 \mathrm{mm}$	15
Condenser	17
Screen and mirror holder	21
Screen	24

Experiment procedure

This experiment requires a parallel beam. To make such a beam, the LED lamp should be positioned on the lamp platform in such a way that the condenser lens is fully illuminated by the cone of light from the lamp.

Conclusions

For lenses made by machine, the relative discrepancy in the curvature is about one per cent, which means there will be a roughly two per cent discrepancy in the focal length. The shape and path of the incident has a much greater influence on the measurement. As a rule, it is not quite parallel and usually strikes the lens at a slight angle (astigmatism).

Supplementary to this experiment:

Focal point of a converging lens worksheet (page 29, 30)

The condenser is then moved to the position relative to the lamp where the emerging beam is roughly parallel (typically 6-10 cm). You should check the shape of the beam using the measurement platform situated at a distance of about 20-25 cm from the lamp.

If the condenser is correctly configured, the platform can be replaced by the lens to be measured.

Next the screen is placed such that the image of the LED is well focused as shown.

Because the light from the LED is very bright when the screen is close to it, it is advisable to view the screen from the rear.

f _{lens} in mm	f _{measured} in mm	Δf in mm	δf	Tolerance range
50	56	6	12%	43 58mm
100	99	1	1%	85 115 mm
200	220	20	10%	170230mm
Con-				
denser	52	2	4%	43 58mm

P	h
Opt	tics

Date

You should investigate the following definition:

"A converging lens focuses parallel incident rays to a specific point called the focal point."

Procedure:

- Put the 2D lens down with its centre on the dotted line and the rough side facing downwards. If the lens is precisely positioned, a laser beam along the optical axis will not be refracted.
 When the lens is properly aligned, you can start the experiment.
- Check experimentally whether the 2D lens has a focal point.

1

1

н

I.

Т

I.

1

Definitions:

Near means near the optical axis	
Far means far from the optical axis	
	I.
Far	I
	L
Near	
· _ · _ · _ · _ · _ · _ · _ · _ · _ · _	<u> </u>
Near	I.
	-
	L
Far	L

Rough side should be facing down. When checking avoid letting part of the laser beam shine over the body. Make sure that the worksheet is lying flat on the surface.

Check whether the 2D lens also focus rays far from the optical axis.

Result:

The distance between the lens and its focal point is called the *focal length*, usually represented by the symbol *f*.

Conclusions:

1. Measure the focal length of the converging lens.

f =

2. Add the focal length to the above illustrations.

Name

Date

Introduction

You should now find the focal point of a converging lens experimentally. According to the definition:

"A converging lens focuses parallel incident rays to a specific point called the focal point."

you need parallel light, which can be produced with the help of the condenser lens.

Procedure

- Position the LED lamp and the condenser in such a way that the condenser lens is fully illuminated by the cone of light from the lamp.
- By moving and turning the condenser you can generate a parallel beam. Check your configuration using the markings on the measurement platform. The ideal configuration is shown in the illustration below.

Now you can use the parallel light to find the focal point of the converging lens with the help of the screen. Since the light from the LED is very bright you should view the focal point on the screen from the rear.

Exercise:

1. Determine the focal length of these lenses.

Lens	Measured focal length	Absolute error	Relative error
$f = +50 \mathrm{mm}$	f ₅₀ =	$\Delta f_{50} =$	$\delta f_{50} =$
f=+100mm	f ₁₀₀ =	$\Delta f_{100} =$	$\delta f_{100} =$
f= +200 mm	f ₂₀₀ =	$\Delta f_{200} =$	$\delta f_{200} =$

- 2. Calculate the absolute and relative error values from your measurements and enter the results into the table.
- 3. Determine the focal length of the condenser.
- 4. Assess the accuracy of the focal lengths quoted for the lenses.
- 5. Discuss possible reasons for discrepancies in the focal length.

Definition:

The **condenser** is used to generate parallel beams of radiation. For visible light, the simplest kind of condenser is simply a converging lens. Use the unlabelled lens numbered **17** as the condenser.

Example:

Stated length $f_{150} = 150 \text{ mm}$ Measured length $f_{\text{meas}} = 158 \text{ mm}$

Absolute error Δf_{150}

 $\Delta f_{150} = |f_{\text{meas}} - f_{150}|$ $\Delta f_{150} = |158 \,\mathrm{mm} - 150 \,\mathrm{mm}|$ $\Delta f_{150} = 8 \,\mathrm{mm}$

Relative error δf_{150}

$$\delta f_{150} = \frac{\Delta I_{150}}{f_{150}}$$
$$\delta f_{150} = \frac{8 \,\mathrm{mm}}{150 \,\mathrm{mm}}$$

 Δf_{150}

$$\delta f_{150} \cong 0,05 = 5\%$$

Measurement tip for 3:

Use the lens with f = +50 mm as a condenser and reconfigure the set-up.

Op 1.10 Formation of images by a converging lens

You should observe how the image of a printed centimetre scale is formed on the screen by a converging lens (f = +50 mm).

Equipment

Profile rail	.1
Clamp sliders(2 x)	11
Lens, <i>f</i> = +50 mm	15
Screen and mirror holder	21
Screen	24

Supplementary to this experiment:

Formation of images by a converging lens worksheet (page 32)

Experiment procedure

The lens and screen need to be placed in adjacent sockets of their respective clamp sliders so that the screen can be positioned inside the focal length.

..... Conclusions

The following observations are made:

the scale is observed on the screen.

The screen is then slid to the required distances and

 $F \triangleq$ "Focal point" $B \triangleq$ "Image" $G \triangleq$ "Object"

Lens-screen distance g Nature of image Construction Magnified Inside Upright focal length Virtual 0 < q < fRight way round At the focal length G No clear image g = f Magnified Between one and two G Upright times the focal length Real f<g<2f Mirror image Smaller than object More than twice the G Upside down focal length of the lens Real 2f < g Mirror image

nd construction Name Date	rations.	ruction for image (scale 1:2) correct	0mm 	ا ۲		f = 50 mm f =
ı converging lens – observation an	using a converging lens $f = 50 \text{ mm}$. in the table and write down your observram for rays through the converging len: hes the observation.	Constru	f = 50	f = 50	$f = 50 \text{ mm}$ $f = 50 \text{ mm}$ $f = -1 + \cdots + 1 + \cdots + \cdots$	$\cdots \cdots \cdots \overset{\mathbf{J}}{\rightarrow} \cdot \overset{\mathbf{J}}{\rightarrow} \cdots \cdots \cdots \overset{\mathbf{J}}{\rightarrow} \cdot \overset{\mathbf{J}}{\rightarrow} \cdots \cdots \overset{\mathbf{J}}{\rightarrow} \cdot \overset{\mathbf{J}}{\rightarrow} \cdots \mathbf{$
ation of images by a	etre scale on the screen in the screen at the construct a ray diag with your observations. If the construction match	Observations	 No image Upright image Inverted image Smaller image Same-size image Larger image 	 No image Upright image umgekehrtes Bild Smaller image Same-size image Larger image 	 No image Upright image Inverted image Smaller image Same-size image Larger image 	 No image Upright image Inverted image Smaller image Same-size image Larger image
h Optics Form	cedure: Dbserve the printed centime /ary the distance between th :or each of your configuratio Compare your construction v out a tick in the last column if	Lens-screen distance o	Inside focal length 0 < g < f	At focal length $g = f$	Between one and two times the focal length f < g < 2f	More than twice the focal length $2f < g$

Op 1.11 Lens equation

The lens equation will be derived from the scale of the image and experimentally verified using an image of an actual scale.

Equipment

Profile rail	. 1
LED / laser student lamp	2
Lamp platform	9
Measurement platform	10
Clamp sliders(4 x)	11
Lens, $f = +50 \mathrm{mm}$	15
Condenser	17
Scale slide	19
Screen and mirror holder	21
Screen	24

Experiment procedure

This experiment requires a parallel beam. To make such a beam, the LED lamp should be positioned on the lamp platform in such a way that the condenser lens is fully illuminated by the light from the lamp. The condenser is then moved to the position relative to the lamp where the emerging beam is roughly parallel (typically 6-10 cm). You should check the shape of the beam using the measurement platform

Additionally required: Ruler

situated at a distance of about 20-25 cm from the lamp.

If the condenser is correctly configured, the platform can be replaced by the lens to be measured.

If the condenser is set up correctly, the slide with the scale should be inserted into the slide holder and slotted next to the condenser. The measurement platform is then replaced by the lens (f = +50 mm).

For the measurement, the lens and screen should be placed such that the condenser is always outside the focal length and the image on the screen is well focused.

The green arrow, which is 1 cm long, is used as the object. The projection of it can be measured with the centimetre scale printed on the screen or with a ruler.

1 Ray optics

Conclusions

This experiment uses mathematics' intercept theorem to derive the conditions for a sharp image to be formed by a converging lens.

If you use the approach describe on the worksheet, and use the intercept theorem, it only takes a few steps to obtain the conditions for a good image from the object distance g, image distance b and focal length f.

The steps in the derivation which are not shown on the worksheet can be seen in the information panel. As a result of this derivation the lens equation is very well verified.

From the worksheet:

$$\frac{b}{g} = \frac{b-f}{f}$$
Expand the difference:

$$\frac{b}{g} = \frac{b}{f} - \frac{f}{f}$$
Multiply all fractions by $\frac{1}{b}$ and cancel

$$\frac{1}{g} = \frac{1}{f} - \frac{1}{b}$$
Rearranging gives the lens equation

 $\frac{1}{g} + \frac{1}{b} = \frac{1}{f}$

f b g 1 $\frac{1}{g} + \frac{1}{b}$ 1 1 g b f in mm in mm in mm 220 0.015 0.005 0.019 0.020 68 50 100 116 50 0.010 0.010 0.020 0.020 67 291 50 0.000 0.010 0.020 0.020

Comparing the last two columns confirms the derivation of the lens equation

$$\frac{1}{g} + \frac{1}{b} = \frac{1}{f}$$

The relationship being sought in exercise 3 of the worksheet is the initial equation used to derive the lens equation. It states that the scale of the image is as follows:

$$\frac{B}{G} = \frac{b}{g} \, .$$

This relationship can also be confirmed by measurements.

G in mm	<i>g</i> in mm	b in mm	B in mm	f in mm	<u>B</u> G	$\frac{b}{g}$
10	68	220	31	50	3.1	3.2
10	100	116	12	50	1.2	1.2
10	67	291	45	50	4.5	4.3

Supplementary to this experiment:

Lens equation worksheet (page 35)

Name

Date

In geometrical optics, many light paths can be calculated with the help of the intercept theorem.

The *lens equation* is of key importance in this respect since it describes the relationship between object distance, image distance and focal length.

Procedure:

- Generate a parallel light beam as described in the condenser instructions.
- Insert the slide with the scale into the holder with the condenser.
- \bigcirc Now position the screen and lens (f = 50 mm) in such a way that the slide is not within the focal length and the image on the screen is well focused. Enter the object distance q, image distance b and the length of the 1-cm long arrow as seen on the screen (the image size B) into the table.
- Find other configurations which result in a sharp image and enter them into the table.

G in mm	<i>g</i> in mm	<i>b</i> in mm	B in mm	f in mm	$\frac{1}{g}$	$\frac{1}{b}$	$\frac{1}{g} + \frac{1}{b}$	$\frac{1}{f}$
10				50				
10				50				
10				50				
10				50				
10				50				

Conclusions:

- 1. Discuss whether your findings verify the lens equation.
- 2. Calculate the ratio of the image size to the object size (G = 10 mm). in each instance. This ratio is called the scale of the image.
- 3. Check using your measured data whether there is a relationship between the scale of the image, the object distance and the image distance.

Photo reproduced with kind permission of Archenhold Observatory, Berlin

Approach to deriving the lens equation:

Intercept theorem with yellow triangles $\frac{B}{G}$

$$=\frac{b}{g}$$

Intercept theorem with shaded triangles $\frac{B}{C} = \frac{b-f}{f}$

Equating the two right-hand sides

$$\frac{b}{g} = \frac{b-f}{f}$$
$$\vdots$$
$$\frac{1}{g} + \frac{1}{b} = \frac{1}{f}$$

Instructions: Condenser

Position the LED lamp and condenser such that the condenser lens is fully illuminated by the cone of light from the LED lamp.

By moving and turning the condenser itself, you can obtain a parallel beam of light. Check your configuration using the markings on the measurement platform as shown.

Op 1.12 Optical instruments Op 1.12a Terrestrial telescopes Op 1.12b Astronomical telescopes Op 1.12c Projectors Op 1.12d Optical microscopes

Op 1.12a Terrestrial telescopes

Equipment

Profile rail	1
Clamp sliders(2 x)	11
Lens, $f = +200 \mathrm{mm}$	13
Lens, $f = -100 \text{mm}$	16

Terrestrial telescopes use a converging lens as an objective and come in various forms, one of which is known as the *Galileo telescope*.

Such a telescope causes light coming from a long distance away to be focused towards a focal point. Before it gets there, though, the light is then dispersed by a diverging lens located inside the focal length (the ocular). No intermediate image is formed. Instead the light is spread out again by the diverging lens acting as the ocular, creating a widerangle image for the eye to see. The magnification is given by the quotient of the focal lengths of the objective and ocular:

$$V = \frac{f_{\text{Objective}}}{f_{\text{Ocular}}}$$

The image formed on the retina is upright and the right way round. This is an advantage for viewing objects on earth as opposed to astronomical telescopes, which show an inverted image.

Prismatic binoculars use a converging lens as the ocular in the same way as an astronomical telescope, but an inverting prism between the objective and the ocular turns the image back the right way up and reverts all mirroring while still maintaining a compact design.

Demonstration of optical instruments makes a very good topic for student reports. In the appendix there are suitable work assignments on terrestrial and astronomical telescopes as well as projectors and microscopes. The following treatment provides an introduction.

Binoculars are usually characterised by their magnification factor and the diameter of the objective lens. To get the optimum image brightness for the eye, the exit openings from the equipment should be roughly the same size as the pupil of the human eye.

$$Exit opening = \frac{Objective diameter}{magnification factor}$$

Continued overleaf

1 Ray optics

Continued from 1.12a: Since the width of human pupils varies widely and changes over the course of one's

life, binoculars are sold with different sizes of exit openings.

Supplementary to this experiment:

Terrestrial telescopes station card (page 40)

Op 1.12b Astronomical telescopes

Equipment

Profile rail	1
Clamp sliders	(2 x) 11
Lens, $f = +200 \mathrm{mm} $	13
Lens, $f = +50 \mathrm{mm}$	15

The eye has a limited capacity for accommodation and can therefore only see over a restricted angle of vision. Telescopes are intended to increase that angle.

An astronomical telescope is a combination of an converging lens with a large focal length, which is used the objective, and another converging lens with a short focal length, which acts as the ocular. The ocular acts like a magnifying glass which magnifies the intermediate image produced by the objective.

The magnification of a telescope is given by the quotients of the focal lengths of its objective and ocular:

$$V = \frac{f_{\text{Objective}}}{f_{\text{Ocular}}}$$

The image produced on the retina is upside-down and mirrored. However, this is not a disadvantage

when observing objects in space.

Telescopes with lenses usually offer better contrast and higher resolution.

The use of lenses does, however, have the disadvantages of chromatic (colour) aberration due to refraction and of higher price. Reflecting telescopes, by comparison, can have a much larger diameter for their objective (mirror) and therefore a larger opening to let in the light.

In practice, telescopes with lenses are used more for observations of planets, whereas reflecting telescopes are best for viewing so-called deep-sky objects such as galaxies and nebulae.

Supplementary to this experiment:

Astronomical telescopes station card (page 40)

Op 1.12c Projectors

Equipment

Profile rail	1
LED / laser student lamp	2
Lamp platform	9
Clamp sliders(4 x) 1	1
Lens, $f = +50 \mathrm{mm} \dots 1$	5
Condenser 1	7
Scale slide19	9
Screen and mirror holder2	1
Screen 24	4

A slide projector needs to produce an image of a slide as large and as sharp as possible on a screen or a wall.

A parallel light beam produced by a combination of a light source and a condenser first illuminates the whole area of the slide. The light rays which are able to pass through the image on the slide are then focused to a focal point by the objective.

A real, greatly magnified, upside-down and mirrored image of the slide is then projected onto a screen located outside the focal length.

The size and sharpness of the image are dependent on the distances between the slide and objective and between the objective and the screen, as well as on the quality and refractive power of the objective lens.

Op 1.12d Optical microscopes

Equipment

Profile rail	1
Clamp sliders (3 x)	. 11
Lens, $f = +200 \mathrm{mm}$	13
Lens, $f = +50 \mathrm{mm}$	15
Slide and aperture holder	18
Scale slide	. 19

An optical microscope is an instrument which helps to make highly magnified images of very small objects on the retina of the eye. The objective of a microscope produces a real and magnified intermediate image of the object being observed. This image is then viewed through the ocular, which acts like a magnifying glass and further magnifies the intermediate image to make a magnified virtual image.

The fact that the lens system magnifies twice means that it can be used to view very small objects.

In order to get as close as possible to the object being observed, the objective needs to have a very small focal length.

The magnification depends on the length of the tube t and the comfortable distance for viewing with the human eye which is about 25 cm.

$$V = V_{\text{Objective}} \cdot V_{\text{Ocular}} = \frac{t}{f_{\text{Objective}}} \cdot \frac{25 \text{ cm}}{f_{\text{Ocular}}}$$

Topic: Projectors

Op 1.13 Light and colour

The light from an LED is to be dispersed into spectral colours by means of a prism. This is carried out as a workbook optics experiment.

Experiment procedure

For this experiment, it is recommended that the surface on which you are doing the workbook experiment should be chosen such that the projection plane is at the same height as the LED.

The set-up uses a convex 2D lens to condense the light from the LED into a parallel beam. Then the prism is placed in the parallel beam in such a way the light emerges from the back of it with slight colouring around the edges.

The lamp is then moved slowly away from the lens until the light beam with its coloured edges becomes a complete colour spectrum. The lamp may need to be turned slightly to achieve this.

Tip: The disturbing direct light from the lamp can be blocked very well from the screen by standing the universal mirror next to the condenser.

............

Conclusions

A prism refracts the light beam twice. The first time, as the light passes from air into perspex, it is refracted towards the normal. The second time, emerging from perspex into air, the light is refracted away from the normal. It is because of these refraction events that we can see the light being resolved into its spectral colours.

Since the various components of white light are refracted by differing amounts, the result is a continuous spectrum of light. The human eye can discern the following colour components: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet.

Equipment

LED/laser student lamp	2
Set of optical bodies	5
Prism, equilateral	8
Stand	22
Screen	24

The red component of the white light is refracted the least, while the violet component is refracted the most. This means it is possible to observe the two results illustrated here.

Supplementary to this experiment:

Light and colour worksheet (page 43)

Date

A rainbow arises when a wall of rain is lit by the sun from behind. To understand how rainbows arise, it is necessary to know about *spectral dispersion*, as investigated in this experiment.

Procedure:

Make a parallel light beam with the help of the LED light from your student lamp and the 2D lens body. Rough side should be facing down.

Find the right distance between the lens and the lamp to obtain a parallel light beam.

When checking, avoid letting part of the laser beam shine over the body

Definition:

The light of a *spectral colour* cannot be further dispersed into other colour components.

Spectral colours are also called *pure colours* or *rainbow colours*.

Put the prism in the parallel light beam in such a way that a beam of white light with slight colouring at the edges emerges towards the left from the whole area at the rear of the prism.

- Put the screen into the light beam such that it picks up the light beam with coloured edges.
- Now slowly move the lamp away from the lens until the light beam with coloured edges consists only of coloured light and no white can be seen on the screen at all. You may need to turn the lamp slightly to achieve this.

Conclusions:

- 1. The colours blue, yellow, green, orange, red, violet and more can be seen in the spectrum. Enter the colours into the list alongside as you observe them.
- 2. State which colour is refracted most with respect to the incident white light beam.
- 3. A second experiment is to be performed where the light emerges from the prism towards the right. Guess what you will see on the screen and briefly justify your assumption.
- 4. Check to see if your guess was right by doing the experiment.
- 5. Use colour filters to investigate the paths the spectral colours take as they pass through the prism.

Spectrum of light:

Screen

Op 2.1 Interference from a grating

The wavelength of the light from the laser in the student lamp is to be determined experimentally with the help of an optical diffraction grating.

Equipment

LED / laser student lamp	2
Lamp platform	9
Clamp sliders (3 x)) 11
Apertures and slide holder.	18

Experiment procedure

Light from the lasers illuminates a line grating as shown. The grating should be tuned such that the lines on the screen are in a horizontal band. Then the interference patterns on the screen will be measured using the printed scale.

The distance between the screen and the grating should be large enough so that the approximation for small angles can apply.

Screen and mirror holder.....21 Screen24 Line grating, 80; 300; 600 lines/mm 28-30

Wrong

.....

Right

2 Wave optics

Conclusions

With increasing density of lines on the grating, the maxima in the interference pattern become increasingly widely separated. Observation of how the intensity decreases for higher-order maxima is disrupted by the optical characteristics of the laser diode. Nevertheless, it is possible to calculate the wavelength of the laser diode with very good accuracy using the derived relationship $\lambda = g \frac{x}{e}$. This is verified by comparing the results of your

This is verified by comparing the results of your measurements with the wavelength quoted on the rating plate, 635 nm.

Grating, 80 lines / mm

Grating, 300 lines / mm

Grating type	80 lines/mm	300 lines/mm	600 lines/mm
Line separation <i>g</i> in µm	12.50	3.33	1.67
Distance to screen <i>e</i> in m	0.33	0.33	0.14
Separation of maxima x in m	0.017	0,064	0.058
Wavelength λ in nm	644	646	692
Error δλ in %	1	2	9

Supplementary to this experiment:

Interference from a tansmission grating worksheet (page 46)

Interference from a transmission grating

Date

When light rays from a laser are superimposed on one another having covered different paths, specific interference patterns arise. With the help of these patterns, it is possible to determine the wavelength of the light using only a ruler, even though the wavelength is exceedingly short.

Procedure:

- Set up the experiment as shown in the illustration.
- Calculate the grating constants *g* for the following three gratings.

Grating type	80 lines/mm	300 lines/mm	600 lines/mm
<i>g</i> in mm			

 Investigate the effect the grating constants have on the interference patterns. Position the screen in such a way that you can see at least three interference bands on the screen.

Conclusions:

1. Sketch a section of the interference pattern for each of the gratings. For each of them, make a note of the separation of the maxima and the distance e between the screen and grating and add the values to your sketch.

- 2. Mark the positions of constructive and destructive interference on your sketch.
- Use your data to calculate the wavelength of the lasers. Check your results against the data on the rating plate.

Measuring tip

To improve the accuracy of the measurement you can...

... measure the separation of multiple maxima.

... increase the distance between the screen and grating. Don't forget to write down the distance on your sketch.

PF,

PF₂

PF,

90°

0°

PF

PF.

Equipment

Profile rail	.1
LED / laser student lamp	. 2
Lamp platform	.9
Clamp sliders (4x)	11

Screen and mirror holder	21
Screen	24
Polarisation filters	26

.....

Experiment procedure

Set up the experiment as shown in the illustration. The first part of the experiment to investigate the polarisation of the laser light only requires

Conclusions

The adjustment lever of the polarisation filters shows the direction of the transmission axis. If the incident light is polarised in this direction, almost all of it will be allowed to pass through the filter.

.....

Since the LED light is not polarised, the brightness is markedly dimmed even after the first filter.

If a second filter is then placed in the subsequent beam to be used as an analyser, the intensity of the transmitted

one polarising filter. To dim the light of the lamp altogether, two polarising filters are needed.

light depends on the relative angle between the transmission axes of the two filters. When the transmission axes are parallel, the intensity will be at its maximum, whereas if they are perpendicular, to one another, the light will be blocked off entirely.

Unlike the LED, the light from the laser diode already exhibits good linear polarisation and can therefore be investigated using just one polarisation filter. The polarisation plane of the laser light is parallel to the p-n boundary layer of the diode. If the filter is perpendicular to this, the residual intensity arises from the small unpolarised component of the light, which is due to spontaneous emission.

An extension of this experiment involves measuring the light intensity with a lux sensor as a function of the orientation of the filter (angle α with respect to the direction of maximum intensity I_{max}).

By this means, the relationship $I(\alpha) = I_{max} \cdot \cos^2(\alpha)$ can be verified.

.....

Supplementary to this experiment:

Polarisation of light worksheet (page 48)

Name

Date

Light can be regarded as an electromagnetic wave. In the case of polarisation, the key aspect is the direction of oscillation of the electric field. If the electric field always oscillates in the same direction, the light is said to be *linearly polarised*.

Procedure:

- Set up the experiment as shown in the illustration.
- Observe the light from the laser after it has passed through a polarisation filter. Make a note of your observations for various angles of the polarisation filter.

Filter angle	Observations			

- **C** Repeat the experiment with light from the LED.
- Compare the intensity of light from an LED with and without it passing through a polarisation filter.
- Add a second polarisation filter to the set-up.
- Find various settings of the polarisation filters for which maximum dimming of LED light occurs.

Configurations for maximum dimming of LED light:

Filter angle 1			
Filter angle 2			

Conclusions:

- 1. Formulate a condition for which the maximum dimming of light occurs after the light passes through two polarisation filters.
- 2. Discuss on the basis of your observations what the light from lasers and light from LEDs have in common in terms of polarisation and what the differences are.

Definition:

A polarisation filter only allows light with a certain polarisation direction to pass through it, i.e. light in which the electric field oscillate in a specific direction.

Beyond the filter, the light is therefore linearly polarised.

Op 2.3 Effects of polarisation

Three experiments on *polarisation*.

- Op 2.3a Polarisation due to reflection (Brewster's angle)
- **Op 2.3b** Birefringence due to tension
- **Op 2.3c Chromatic polarisation** (LCD screens)

Polarisation due to reflection **Op 2.3a** (Brewster's angle)

Equipment

Profile rail	1
LED / laser student lamp	2
Lamp platform	9
Measurement platform 1	0

Experiment procedure

The image of the LED as reflected from a glass plate is to be studied with the help of a polarisation filter for various angles of incidence. For each incident angle, the polarisation filter is adjusted in such a way as to

.....

Conclusions

For the angles of incidence α which have been set up, which must be neither too shallow or too steep, a brightness minimum needs to be found for the position to which the filter is turned, whereby the transmission axis is in the plane spanned by the incident and emergent ray of light.

The trough of the minimum depends on the angle of incidence. The angle for which the lowest trough in the brightness is observed is called Brewster's angle $\Theta_{\mathbf{R}}$. At this angle, the light reflected from the glass plate is polarised completely at right angles to

Op 2.3b Birefringence due to tension

Equipment

Profile rail	1
LED / laser student lamp	2
Perspex rod	6
Lamp platform	9
Clamp sliders(5 x)	. 11
Lens, $f = +50 \mathrm{mm}$. 15
Condenser	. 17
Screen and mirror holder	. 21
Screen	. 24
Polarisation filters	.26

Clamp sliders(2 x)	11
Stand	22
Screen, clear glass	25
Polarisation filters	26

obtain the minimum brightness of the reflected light. To measure the angle as easily as possible, the LED, the observed image and your eye should all be at the same height as far as possible.

the incident plane. As the angle deviates from this one, the linearly polarised component decreases. For a glass reflector $(n_{\text{Glass}} \approx 1.5)$ in air $(n \approx 1.0)$ Brewster's angle $\Theta_{\rm R}$ is as follows

$$\Theta_{\rm B} = \arctan\left(\frac{n_{\rm glass}}{n_{\rm Air}}\right)$$
$$\Theta_{\rm B, Glass} \cong \arctan\left(\frac{1,5}{1}\right)$$
$$\Theta_{\rm B, Glass} \cong 60^{\circ}.$$

Experiment procedure

This experiment requires a parallel beam of light. To obtain such a beam, the LED lamp is placed on the lamp platform in such a way that the condenser lens is fully illuminated by its light. Then the condenser is moved to a position relative to the lamp for which the emerging beam is roughly parallel (typically 6-10 cm). The shape of the beam can be checked using the measurement platform at a distance of about 20-25 cm from the lamp.

Once the condenser has been positioned correctly, the measurement platform should be replaced with the screen, in front of which another convex lens should be placed at exactly its focal length (f = +50 mm) away from the screen. The two polarisation filters are now placed between this lens and the condenser with enough space between them to allow for the object through which the light is to pass.

The transmission axes of the filters are set up perpendicular to one another so that all the light is filtered out. Now the perspex rod should be held between the polarisation filters and slowly placed under mechanical tension by bending it. The image on the screen can be put into focus by moving the second lens slightly.

Conclusions

As you will already have observed in the experiment on polarisation, when two polarisation filters are set up with their transmission axes perpendicular to one another, then no light passes through them.

If a perspex body is introduced between the two filters and put under mechanical tension, it is possible to observe coloured patterns on the screen. The reason for this is a property of perspex whereby tension causes it to become optically anisotropic at certain places. This causes the polarisation of the portion of light passing through the rod at these places to be altered. A beam with altered polarisation cannot then be entirely blocked by the second polarisation filter and thus contributes to the image on the screen.

Since all parts of the light in the beam are shown together on the screen at once, interference colouring arises which is characteristic of the mechanical tensions arising locally in the piece of equipment.

Tip In addition to birefringent materials, optically active substances, such as a sugar solution, can also cause a polarisation plane to rotate.

If you fill an optical cell with concentrated sugar solution and put this between two polarisation filters that are perpendicular to each other, then the screen will exhibit a slight brightening. The optically active sugar solution causes the polarisation plane to rotate by an angle dependent on the concentration of the solution. Only when the analyser filter is adjusted by the same angle, is the light fully filtered out again. The angle by which the polarisations plane is rotated can be used as a measure of optical activity and concentration of the sugar solution.

Op 2.3c Chromatic polarisation (LCD screens)

Equipment

Profile rail	1
LED / laser student lamp	2
Lamp platform	9
Clamp sliders(5 x)	11
Lens, $f = +50 \mathrm{mm}$	15
Condenser	17

•••••			
Expe	riment	proced	ure

This experiment requires a parallel beam of light.

To obtain such a beam, the LED lamp is placed on the lamp platform in such a way that the condenser lens is fully illuminated by its light. Then the condenser is moved to that position relative to the lamp for which the emerging beam is roughly parallel (typically 6-10 cm). The shape of the beam can be checked using the measurement platform.

Once the condenser has been positioned correctly, the measurement platform should be replaced with the screen. Next the two polarisation filters

Apertures and slide holder	. 18
Screen and mirror holder	. 21
Screen	. 24
Polarisation filters	. 26
Mica slide	. 27

and the lens are set up between the screen and the condenser.

The adjustment levers of the two polarisation filters are set up such that they are aligned at 90° to one another. The filters are then put in the specified positions on the clamp sliders for the condenser and the lens.

The apertures and slide holder is inserted into the empty clamp slider between the polarisation filters and the mica slide is slotted into it.

The image on the screen can be focused and

assessed by moving the lens slightly. One of the polarisation filters is then rotated slowly from its

Conclusions

If a crystal sample (mica slide) is put into the path of a polarised light beam, birefringence occurs. This happens with differing intensity at certain places on the mica slide depending on the thickness of the layer and its crystalline structure as well as various path differences. initial configuration in both directions. You should carefully observe the effects on the screen.

.....

Depending on how the polariser and analyser are set with respect to one another, there will be corresponding increases or decreases in brightness and colours resulting from interference in the image of the crystal slide on the screen.

Supplementary to this experiment:

Effects of polarisation worksheet (page 53, 54)

Ph Optics

Help for condenser

- Position the LED lamp and condenser such that the condenser lens is fully illuminated by the cone of light from the LED lamp.
- By moving and turning the condenser itself, you can obtain a parallel beam of light. Check your configuration using the markings on the measurement platform as shown.

The optimum configuration is shown in Figure 2.

Definition:

A condenser is used to generate parallel beams of radiation.

For visible light, the simplest kind of condenser is a converging lens.

Use the unlabelled lens numbered **17** as the condenser.

Op 2.4 LEDs and lasers – coherence, polarisation and monochromaticity

Carrying out the experiments on wave optics can involve a comparison of the two light sources, the laser and LED. The properties of *coherence*, *polarisation* and *monochromaticity* are to be investigated again and entered into a table.

Solutions

				Assumption and result		
	Definition	Experiment	LED	Laser		
Coherence	If two waves have a fixed phase relationship with one another, they are described as <i>coherent</i> or <i>capable of interference</i> .	<i>Gratings</i> experiment	NO	YES		
Polarisation	If the planes of oscillation of the electric field are parallel for all of the photons in a beam of light, then that light is linearly polarised. Circularly polarised light involves the direction of polarisation changing at constant angular velocity.	<i>Polarisation</i> experiment	NO	MOSTLY		
Monochromaticity	Monochromatic light is light with a specific wavelength, frequency and colour. Since perfect monochromaticity is not achievable, in practice a small range of wavelength or frequency is treated as single spectral colour.	Spectrum with laser and LED light experiment	NO	YES		

Supplementary to this experiment:

LEDs and lasers - coherence, polarisation and monochromaticity worksheet (page 56)

-+-0	Late		mption and result Laser			
	Name	-	Assur			
	rence, polarisation and monochromaticity	r the properties of <i>coherence,</i> ows: /ords. arious sources will possess. i question.	Experiment			
	Deptice LEDs and lasers – coher	 Exercise Investigate the light from the LED and the laser for <i>polarisation</i> and <i>monochromaticity</i>. Proceed as follon 1. Explain the above properties in your own w 2. Guess which properties the light from the v 3. Plan an experiment to test the properties in 4. Check your assumption with the result of th 	Definition			
		ш́ V		Coherence	Polarisation	Monochromaticity
5	Ph Optics	 Exercise Investigate the lig polarisation and n 1. Explain the 2. Guess whis 3. Plan an explain explain an ex	Definition	Соћегепсе	Polarisation	c Cornelsen Experime) © Cornelsen Experime

Teachers' hand-out (Order number 47530 6)

Student set Optics 2.0

Cornelsen Experimenta GmbH Holzhauser Straße 76 13509 Berlin Germany Tel.: +49 (0)30 435 902-0 Fax: +49 (0)30 435 902-22 E-Mail: info@cornelsen-experimenta.de

Cornelsen Experimenta online www.cornelsen-experimenta.de