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Index of Refraction

If you look at a straw in water, it appears to be bent. This is a result of the index of refraction.



Refraction

The Index Of Refraction is represented by (n). It is a measure of the change of velocity of light as it passes through a substance.

Purpose of Experiment

Purpose The goal of this experiment is to calculate the index of refraction for a piece of glass. This means that we are basically proving that light bends as it goes through different objects.









•Place the glass plate on the sheet of paper which is on the cork board.

•Place 2 pins on opposite sides of the glass, so that they appear to be in a diagonal line.



•Trace the glass plate and connect the individual pins so that they form a line.

•Use a ruler to draw parallel transversals through the vertices of the lines.

•Measure the four angles formed with a compass.







- If the light traveled in a straight line, then all four angles would have the same degree measure.
- But as we see, light bends as it travels through different substances.





Background Information

J.J Thomson was the first person to measure the mass of an electron This experiment is a variation of Thomson's experiment but is also based on the interaction of a magnetic field with a moving electric charge

- 1. A beam of electrons is accelerated through a known electric potential
- 2. A pair of Helmholz coils produces a uniform and measuable magnetic field
- 3. The magnetic field deflects the electron beam into a circular path





Video from:

http://phoenix.phys.clmson.edu/labs/cupo/eoverm



- This experiment can be used to calculate the speed of electrons.
- It can also measure the ratio of the electron charge to the electron mass, or ^e/_m

PIXE

ProtonInducedX-RayEmissions

Proton Beam



Inside the control room for the PIXE accelerator, the proton beam and its intensity can be manipulated and the sample can be moved so that the beam is focused on different parts of a substance.



Changing the sample to be tested is relatively easy, although there should be somewhat of a seal between the substance and the beam chamber so that the argon gas in the air does not appear in the results.



We tested several samples, though the colored glass appeared the most interesting.

Samples Tested















- The spectrum we obtained from the PIXE analysis seemed very accurate, as the elemental composition of the substances were reasonable.
- We were able to probe into the samples and see which specific elements were present in them.

