

PARAXIAL LENS-ACTION IN ELECTRIC ION OPTICS OR GEOMETRICAL OPTICS

-- useful for extended (diffuse or thick) lenses --

1. Basic Equations

Least Action

$$\Delta \int p d\ell = 0$$

Fermat's Principle

$$\Delta \int n d\ell = 0$$

These equations are formally identical, with n proportional to p or, classically, proportional to the square root of the kinetic energy.

2. Paraxial Approximation

For rays close to parallel with the z -axis.

Choose an axis location and coordinate directions so that

$$\begin{aligned} p d\ell &= p(1+x'^2+y'^2)^{1/2} dz \\ &\approx p \left[1 + \frac{x'^2+y'^2}{2} \right] dz \\ &= (E-V)^{1/2} \left[1 + \frac{x'^2+y'^2}{2} \right] dz \\ &= (-q\phi)^{1/2} \left[1 + \frac{x'^2+y'^2}{2} \right] dz \\ &= (-q\phi_0(z))^{1/2} \left[1 + \frac{\phi_{xx}x^2 + \phi_{yy}y^2}{4\phi_0} \right] \left[1 + \frac{x'^2+y'^2}{2} \right] dz \end{aligned}$$

$$n d\ell \approx n_0(z) \left[1 + \frac{n_{xx}x^2 + n_{yy}y^2}{2n_0} \right] \cdot \left[1 + \frac{x'^2+y'^2}{2} \right] dz$$

with $n_{xx} \equiv \frac{\partial^2 n}{\partial x^2}$, etc., and axes such that $n_x = n_y = n_{xy} = 0$.

with the potential, ϕ , measured from a point where the kinetic energy is zero.

Note: With axial symmetry $n_{xx} = n_{yy}$.

$$\frac{d}{dz}(\phi_0^{1/2} x') = \frac{\phi_{xx}}{2\phi_0^{1/2}} x$$

$$\frac{d}{dz}(n_0 x') = n_{xx} x$$

3. Character of General Solutions

Use, for brevity, the symbol n in place of n_0 .

Given two solutions, $x_1(z)$, $x_2(z)$;

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dz} \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ nx_1' & nx_2' \end{vmatrix} &= \begin{vmatrix} x_1' & x_2' \\ nx_1' & nx_2' \end{vmatrix} + \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ (nx_1')' & (nx_2')' \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 0 + \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ n_{xx}x_1 & n_{xx}x_2 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= 0; \end{aligned}$$

by virtue of the fact that x_1 and x_2 satisfy the differential eqn.

$$\text{i.e., } \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ nx_1' & nx_2' \end{vmatrix} \equiv n \cdot (\text{Wronskin}) \text{ is constant.}$$

(a) Corollary:

With particular solutions $x_1(0) = 1$ $x_2(0) = 0$
 $x_1'(0) = 0$ $x_2'(0) = 1$,

the general solution is

$$x = x_0 x_1(z) + x_0' x_2(z)$$

$$x' = x_0 x_1'(z) + x_0' x_2'(z) ;$$

i.e.,

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ x' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_0' \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ x_1' & x_2' \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad n \begin{vmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{vmatrix} = \text{const.} = n_0$$

or

$$\begin{pmatrix} x \\ nx' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ (Lx_0')_0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with} \quad \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A & B/n_0 \\ nC & nD/n_0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix} = \frac{n}{n_0} \begin{vmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{vmatrix} = 1.$$

4. Relation between (transverse) Linear- and Angular-Magnification

For conjugate foci, $B = 0$ (to insure x independent of x_0').

$$\text{Magnification} = \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta x_0} = A$$

$$\text{Angular Mag.} = \frac{\Delta x'}{\Delta x_0'} = D$$

$$\text{Product, } \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta x_0} \frac{\Delta x'}{\Delta x_0'} = AD = \begin{vmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{vmatrix} \quad (\text{since } B=0)$$

$$= n_0/n ;$$

$$\text{i.e., } n \Delta x \Delta x' = n_0 \Delta x_0 \Delta x_0' .$$

5. Solution of Differential Equation by Impulse Approximation

If $n_{xx} = 0$, save at a narrowly-localized region,

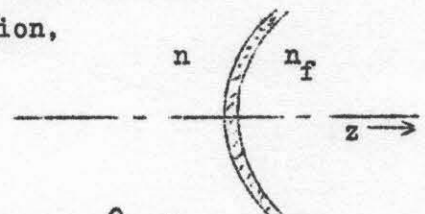
$$\Delta x \doteq 0 \quad \text{and}$$

$$\Delta(nx') = x \cdot \int n_{xx} dz ;$$

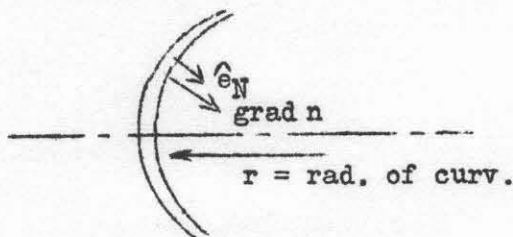
i.e.,

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ \int n_{xx} dz & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ (1/n_f) \int n_{xx} dz & n_0/n_f \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -P/n_f & n_0/n_f \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{with } P \equiv -\int n_{xx} dz .$$



6. Evaluation, and Interpretation, of P for Transmission through one Surface

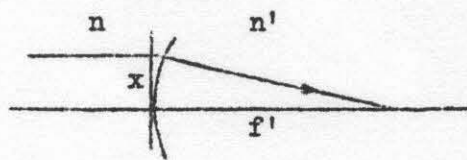
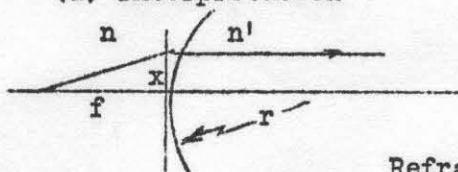


$$P = -\int n_{xx} dz \doteq -\int \frac{1}{x} n_x dz$$

$$= -\int \frac{1}{x} |\text{grad } n| \cos(x, N) dz$$

$$\doteq \int \frac{|\text{grad } n|}{r} dz = \frac{n' - n}{r} .$$

(a) Interpretation



Refracting surface characterized by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -P/n' & n/n' \end{pmatrix}$$

For situation depicted
in drawing at left above

$$-\frac{P}{n'}x + \frac{n}{n'}x'_{\text{init}} = 0$$

$$f = \frac{x}{x'_{\text{init}}} = \frac{n}{P}$$

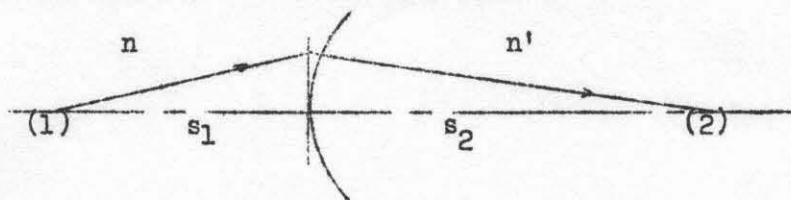
For situation depicted
in drawing at right above

$$x'_{\text{out}} = -\frac{P}{n'}x$$

$$f' = -\frac{x}{x'_{\text{out}}} = \frac{n'}{P}$$

$$\boxed{\frac{n}{f} = \frac{n'}{f'} = P = \frac{n' - n}{r}}$$

7. Thin-lens Action of such a Refracting Surface



$\begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ x'_2 \end{pmatrix}$ is obtained from $\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x'_1 \end{pmatrix}$ by the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & s_2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -P/n' & n/n' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & s_1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - s_2 P/n' & s_1 + s_2 n/n' - s_1 s_2 P/n' \\ -P/n' & n/n' - s_1 P/n' \end{pmatrix};$$

for conjugate foci,

$$s_1 + s_2 \frac{n}{n'} - s_1 s_2 \frac{P}{n'} = 0$$

$$\boxed{\frac{n}{s_1} + \frac{n'}{s_2} = P}$$

[Since (Sect. 6) $P = n/f = n'/f'$, this is consistent in including the special cases $s_2 = \infty$, $s_1 = f$ and $s_1 = \infty$, $s_2 = f'$.]

Note: Writing our result as $\frac{n}{s_1 P} + \frac{n'}{s_2 P} = 1$, we have $\frac{f}{s_1} + \frac{f'}{s_2} = 1$,

$s_1 f' + s_2 f - s_1 s_2 = 0$, or $(s_1 - f)(s_2 - f') = ff'$, which is the
NEWTONIAN form.

(a) Corollary:

Two such refracting surfaces, separated by a negligible amount, are characterized by the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -P_2/n'' & n'/n'' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -P_1/n' & n/n' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -(P_1+P_2)/n'' & n/n'' \end{pmatrix},$$

showing an over-all $P = P_1 + P_2$;

i.e., $\frac{n}{p} + \frac{n''}{q} = P = P_1 + P_2$.

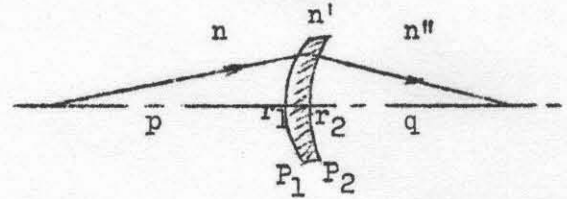
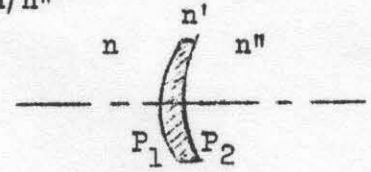
If $n = n'' \equiv n_0$,

$$\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = \frac{P}{n_0} = \frac{1}{f_1} + \frac{1}{f'_2} \equiv \frac{1}{F},$$

which is the usual thin-lens formula, where

$$\frac{1}{f_1} = \frac{P_1}{n_0} = \frac{n' - n_0}{n_0 r_1}, \quad \frac{1}{f'_2} = \frac{P_2}{n''} = \frac{P_2}{n_0} = \frac{n_0 - n'}{n_0 r_2},$$

and $\frac{1}{F} = \left[(n'/n_0) - 1 \right] \left[\frac{1}{r_1} - \frac{1}{r_2} \right]$.

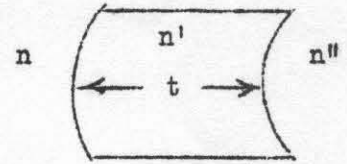


8. Thick-Lens -- two such surfaces separated by t

The lens is characterized by the matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -P_2/n'' & n'/n'' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & t \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -P_1/n' & n/n' \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & (A-1)/C \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ C & n/n'' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & (1/C)(D - n/n'') \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{since } AD - BC = n/n'' \text{ (Sect. 3),}$$



where

$$A = 1 - \frac{t}{n'} P_1$$

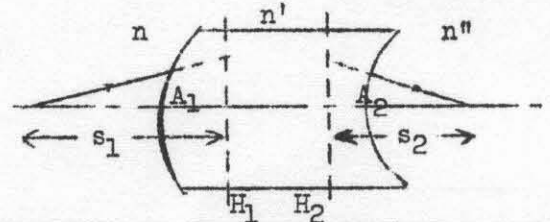
$$B = n \frac{t}{n'}$$

$$C = -\frac{P_1 + P_2 - (t/n') P_1 P_2}{n''} \equiv -\frac{P}{n''}$$

$$D = \frac{n}{n''} \left[1 - \frac{t}{n'} P_2 \right].$$

Thus, measuring distances to the principal planes H_1, H_2 , the lens may be replaced in effect by a thin lens characterized by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ C & n/n'' \end{pmatrix}.$$



In particular

$n/s_1 + n''/s_2 = P = P_1 + P_2 - (t/n') P_1 P_2$, so that, for $s_2 = \infty$, $s_1 \equiv f = \frac{n}{P}$;
and, for $s_1 = \infty$, $s_2 \equiv f' = \frac{n''}{P}$;

$H_2 A_2 = \frac{A-1}{C} = n'' \frac{t}{n'} \frac{P_1}{P} = t \frac{f'}{f'_1}$, since $f' = n''/P$ (see immediately above)
and $f'_1 = n'/P_1$ (Sect. 6a);

$A_1 H_1 = \frac{D - (n/n'')}{C} = n \frac{t}{n'} \frac{P_2}{P} = t \frac{f}{f_2}$, since, similarly, $f = n/P$
and $f_2 = n'/P_2$.

Note: Again, in a manner similar to that noted in Sect. 7, we may write our result in the NEWTONIAN form by measuring distances from the principal focii --

$$\frac{f}{s_1} + \frac{f'}{s_2} = 1, \quad \text{or} \quad (s_1 - f)(s_2 - f') = ff'.$$

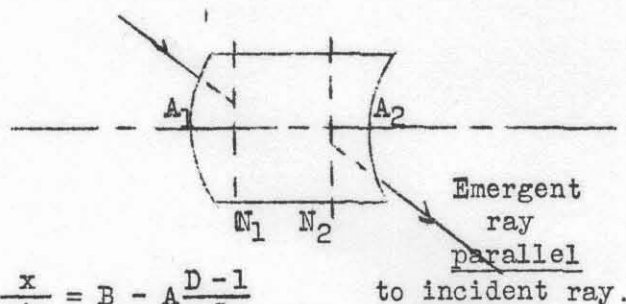
9. Nodal Planes

For the rays illustrated,

$$x = Ax_0 + Bx'_0$$

$$x' = x'_0 = Cx_0 + Dx'_0 ;$$

$$A_1 N_1 = -\frac{x_0}{x'_0} = \frac{D-1}{C}, \quad N_2 A_2 = \frac{x}{x'_0} = \frac{x}{x'_0} = B - A \frac{D-1}{C} = \frac{A - (AD-BC)}{C} = \frac{A - n/n''}{C}.$$



Thus the nodal planes coincide with the principal planes when $n'' = n$ and otherwise are given in terms of the matrix elements by the foregoing relations to yield the formulas:

$$A_1 N_1 = \frac{(n/n')tP_2 + n'' - n}{P} = \frac{(n/n')tP_2 + r_2P_2 + r_1P_1}{P}$$

$$N_2 A_2 = \frac{(n''/n')tP_1 + n - n''}{P} = \frac{(n''/n')tP_1 - r_1P_1 - r_2P_2}{P}.$$

Note: $H_1 N_1 = H_2 N_2 = \frac{n'' - n}{P} = f \frac{n'' - n}{n} = f' \frac{n'' - n}{n''}.$

10. Magnification

(a) Referring again to the thick lens of Sect. 8, when distances are measured to the principal planes the lens is characterized by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -P/n'' & n/n'' \end{pmatrix}$$

and the matrix connecting points in the image space with points in the object space is

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & s_2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -P/n'' & n/n'' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & s_1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 - s_2 P/n'' & s_1 + s_2 n/n'' - s_1 s_2 P/n'' \\ -P/n'' & n/n'' - s_1 P/n'' \end{pmatrix}.$$

(b) As indicated in Sect. 4, conjugate focal points are those for which $B = 0$ and the linear transverse magnification then is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Magnification} = A &= 1 - s_2 \frac{P}{n''} \\ &= \frac{s_1 - s_1 s_2 P/n''}{s_1} = -\frac{n}{n''} \frac{s_2}{s_1}. \end{aligned}$$

[By a little algebra, this magnification may also be shown to be equal to $-\frac{\text{dist. from } N_2}{\text{dist. to } N_1} = -\frac{s_2 + N_2 A_2 - H_2 A_2}{s_1 + A_1 N_1 - A_1 H_1}$, as of course it must.]

Likewise, Angular Magnification $= D = \frac{n}{n''} - s_1 \frac{P}{n''} = -\frac{s_1}{s_2}.$

The product is seen to be n/n'' , as indicated generally in Sect. 4.

(c) The longitudinal magnification, ds_2/ds_1 , is obtained by differentiation of the identity $B \equiv s_1 + s_2 \frac{n}{n''} - s_1 s_2 \frac{P}{n''} = 0$. One thus obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{ds_2}{ds_1} &= - \frac{1 - s_2 P/n''}{\frac{n}{n''} - s_1 \frac{P}{n''}} \quad (= -\frac{A}{D}) \\ &= - \frac{s_2 s_1 - s_1 s_2 P/n''}{s_1 \frac{n}{n''} s_2 - s_1 s_2 P/n''} = - \frac{n}{n''} \left(\frac{s_2}{s_1} \right)^2. \end{aligned}$$

Note: A simple equivalent expression is obtained by differentiating the Newtonian expression noted in Sect. 8:

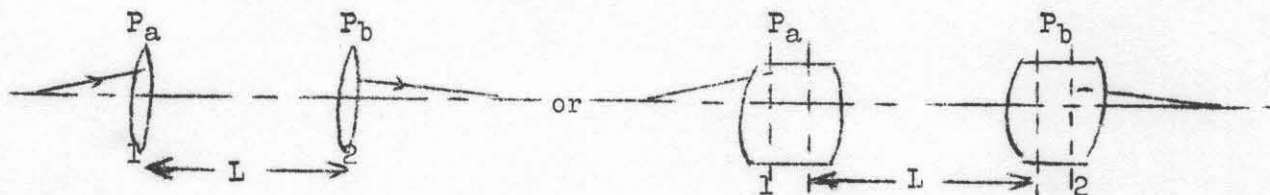
$$\text{With } x_1 \equiv s_1 - f, \quad x_2 \equiv s_2 - f', \quad x_1 x_2 = ff',$$

whence

$$ds_2/ds_1 \equiv dx_2/dx_1 = -x_2/x_1.$$

11. Separated Pair of Lenses

For a pair of thin lenses, separated by a distance L , or for the equivalent situation involving thick lenses with L measured between the appropriate principal planes, all situated in a medium of index n_0 ,



$\begin{pmatrix} x_2 \\ x_1' \end{pmatrix}$ is obtained from $\begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_1' \end{pmatrix}$ by the matrix

$$\begin{aligned} \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{pmatrix} &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -P_b/n_0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & L \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -P_a/n_0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1/F_b & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & L \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1/F_a & 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 - L/F_a & L \\ -(1/F_a + 1/F_b - L/F_a F_b) & 1 - L/F_b \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned}$$

Just as with the case of a single thick lens (in medium n_0) -- cf. Sect. 8 -- the lens system is characterized by the focal length F given by

$$\frac{1}{F} = -C = \frac{1}{F_a} + \frac{1}{F_b} - \frac{L}{F_a F_b},$$

with principal (and nodal) planes situated to the right of 1 and to the left of 2 by the respective distances

$$\text{Lens 1 to } H_1 = \frac{D-1}{C} = \frac{LF}{F_b}, \quad H_2 \text{ to Lens 2} = \frac{A-1}{C} = \frac{LF}{F_a}.$$

12. References

Schliermacher Equations -- M. Herzberger, *Strahlenoptik* (Springer, Berlin, 1931), pp. 62 ff.

Helmholtz-Lagrange Relation -- Herzberger (op. cit., p. 31);

M. Méré, *Hdbk. d. Physik XVIII* (Springer, Berlin, 1927), Sect. 32, p. 48-49.