

## EM spherical waves

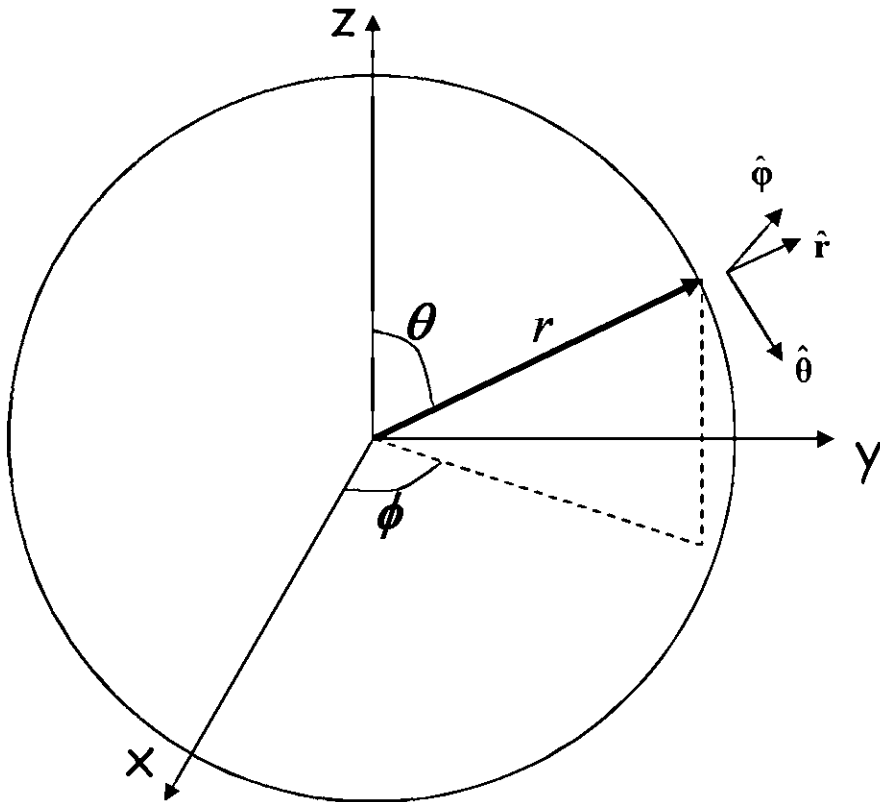
$$\nabla^2 \vec{\mathbf{E}} = \mu_0 \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial^2 \vec{\mathbf{E}}}{\partial t^2} \quad \dots \text{in any coord. system}$$

Differentials depend on coord system:

$$dl = dr \hat{r} + r d\theta \hat{\theta} + r \sin \theta d\phi \hat{\phi}$$

$$d\tau = r^2 \sin(\theta) dr d\theta d\phi$$

$$\nabla_s = \frac{\partial s}{\partial r} \hat{r} + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial s}{\partial \theta} \hat{\theta} + \frac{1}{r \sin \theta} \frac{\partial s}{\partial \phi} \hat{\phi}$$



1<sup>st</sup> derivatives

2<sup>nd</sup> derivatives

"Laplacian"

Field: {	$\nabla s(x, y, z)$	$\nabla \times \nabla s$	$\nabla \cdot \nabla s$
	$\nabla \cdot \vec{V}(x, y, z)$	$\nabla(\nabla \cdot \vec{V})$	
	$\nabla \times \vec{V}(x, y, z)$	$\nabla \cdot \nabla \times \vec{V}$	$\nabla \times \nabla \times \vec{V}$

$$\nabla \times \nabla \times \vec{V} = \nabla(\nabla \cdot \vec{V}) - \frac{\partial^2 V_x}{\partial x^2} - \frac{\partial^2 V_y}{\partial y^2} - \frac{\partial^2 V_z}{\partial z^2}$$

The vector spherical Laplacian:

(This is a good time for a scalar wave equation!)

$\psi$  : Our scalar wave which represents the field strength.

$$\nabla^2 \vec{\mathbf{E}} = \mu_o \epsilon_o \frac{\partial^2 \vec{\mathbf{E}}}{\partial t^2}$$

$$\nabla^2 \psi = \mu_o \epsilon_o \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2}$$

The spherical Laplacian:

$$\nabla^2 \psi = \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin \theta} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \varphi^2}$$

Unless you are a masochist ..... put the spherical source at the origin!!!!

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla^2\psi &= \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( r^2 \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{r^2} \left( 2r \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} + r^2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial r^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{2}{r} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial r^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2 (r\psi)}{\partial r^2}\end{aligned}$$

Put back into wave equation:

$$\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2 (r\psi)}{\partial r^2} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 (r\psi)}{\partial r^2} = \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 (r\psi)}{\partial t^2} \quad \text{Wave equation for } r\psi$$

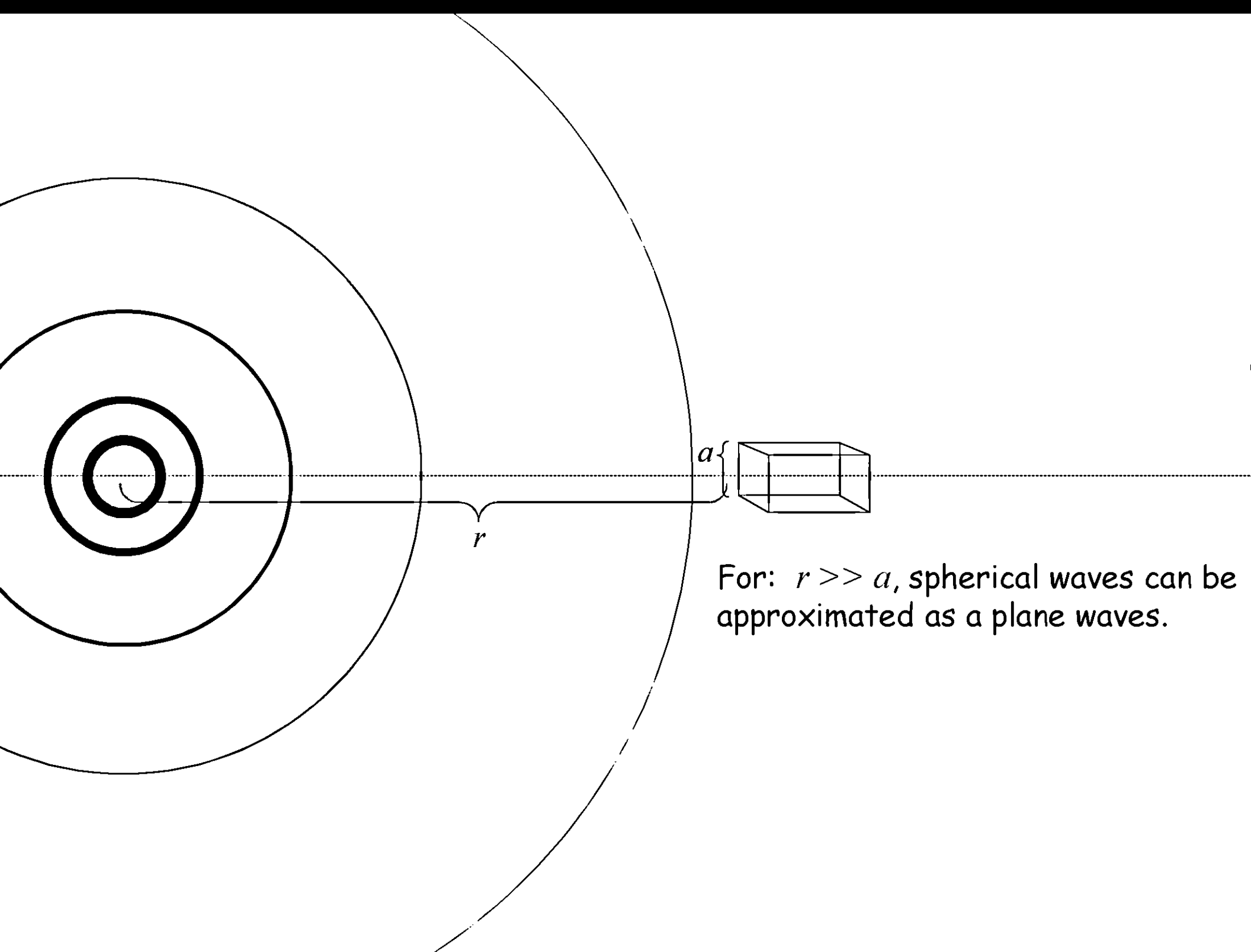
Guess a solution:

$$r\psi(r, t) = \psi_0 e^{j(k \cdot r - \omega t)}$$

Note:  $\psi$  (the field strength) and  $\psi_0$  (the field amplitude) don't have the same unit.

$$\psi(r, t) = \frac{\psi_0}{r} e^{j(k \cdot r - \omega t)}$$

As  $r$  increases, the field strength decreases



For:  $r \gg a$ , spherical waves can be approximated as a plane waves.

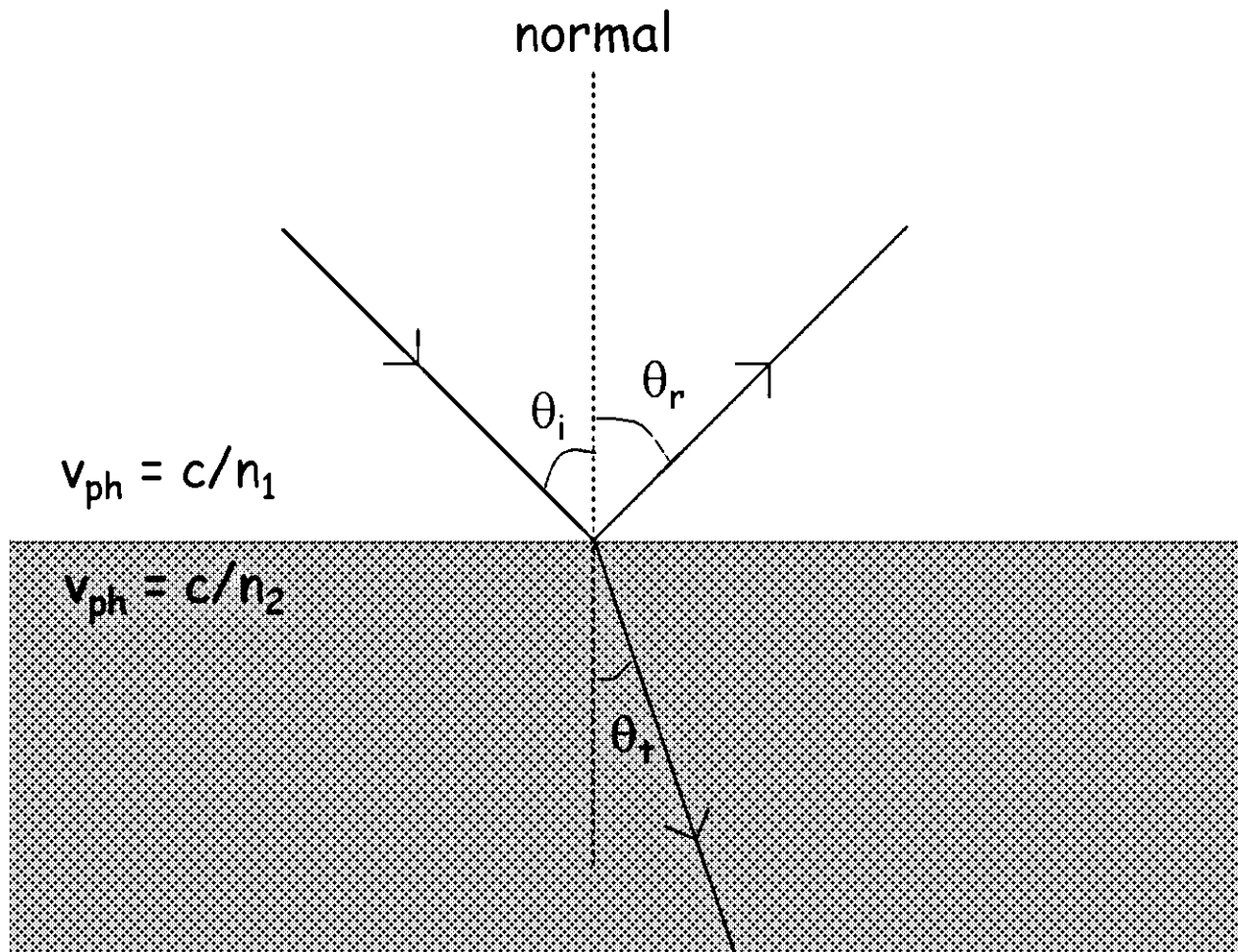
Geometrical Optics: light is a "ray" that travels in straight lines



(the "ray" is essentially the wave vector of a plane wave)

# Huygens' and Fermat's Principles

All of Geometrical optics boils down to...



Law of Reflection:

$$\theta_i = \theta_r$$

Snell's Law:

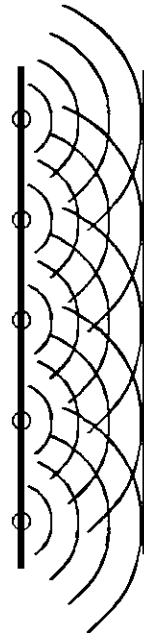
$$\frac{\sin(\theta_i)}{\sin(\theta_t)} = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

# Huygens' Principle

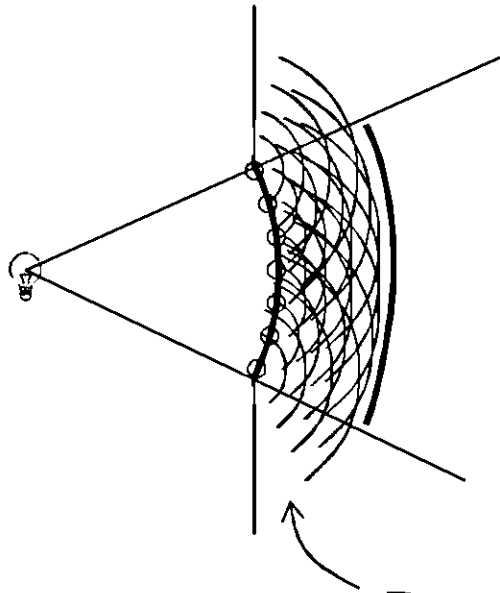
Every point on a wavefront may be regarded as a secondary source of wavelets.



Planar wavefront:



Huygens': Point source through an aperture:

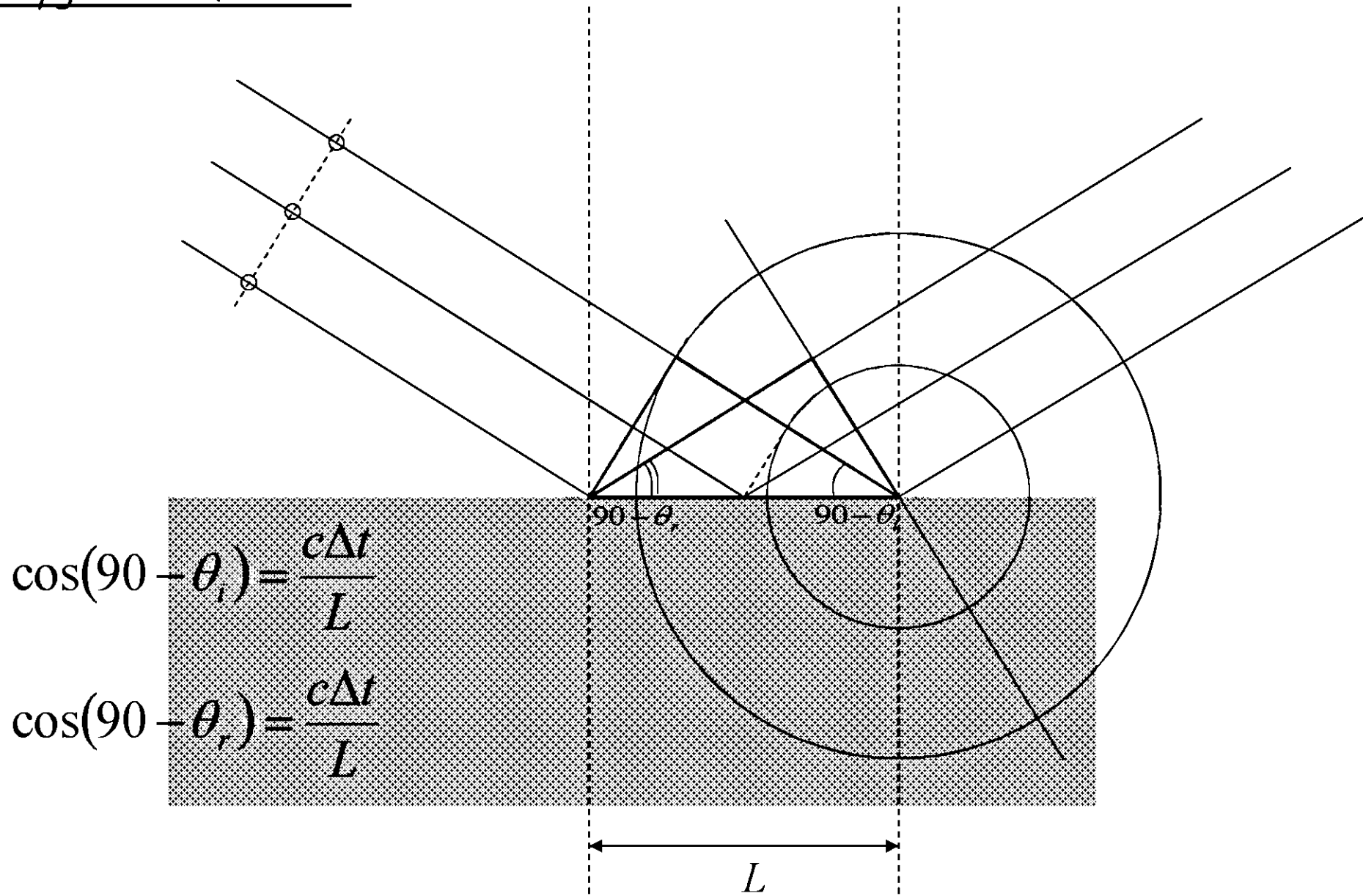


Ignore the peripheral and back propagating parts!

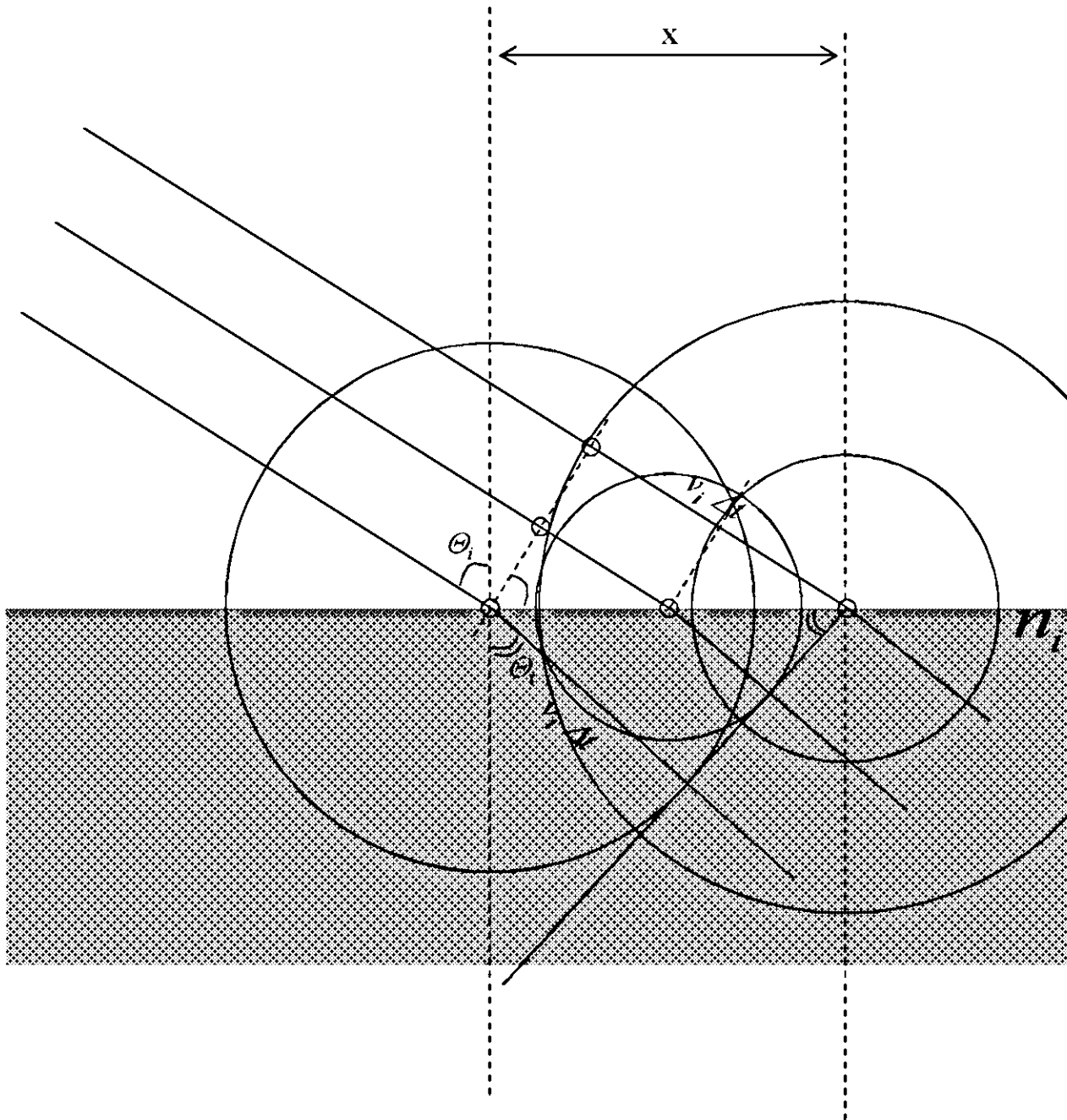
In geometrical optics, this region should be dark.



# Huygens': Reflection



# Huygens': Refraction



$$\sin(\theta_i) = \frac{v_i \Delta t}{x}$$

$$\sin(\theta_t) = \frac{v_t \Delta t}{x}$$

$$\frac{\sin(\theta_i)}{v_i} = \frac{\sin(\theta_t)}{v_t}$$

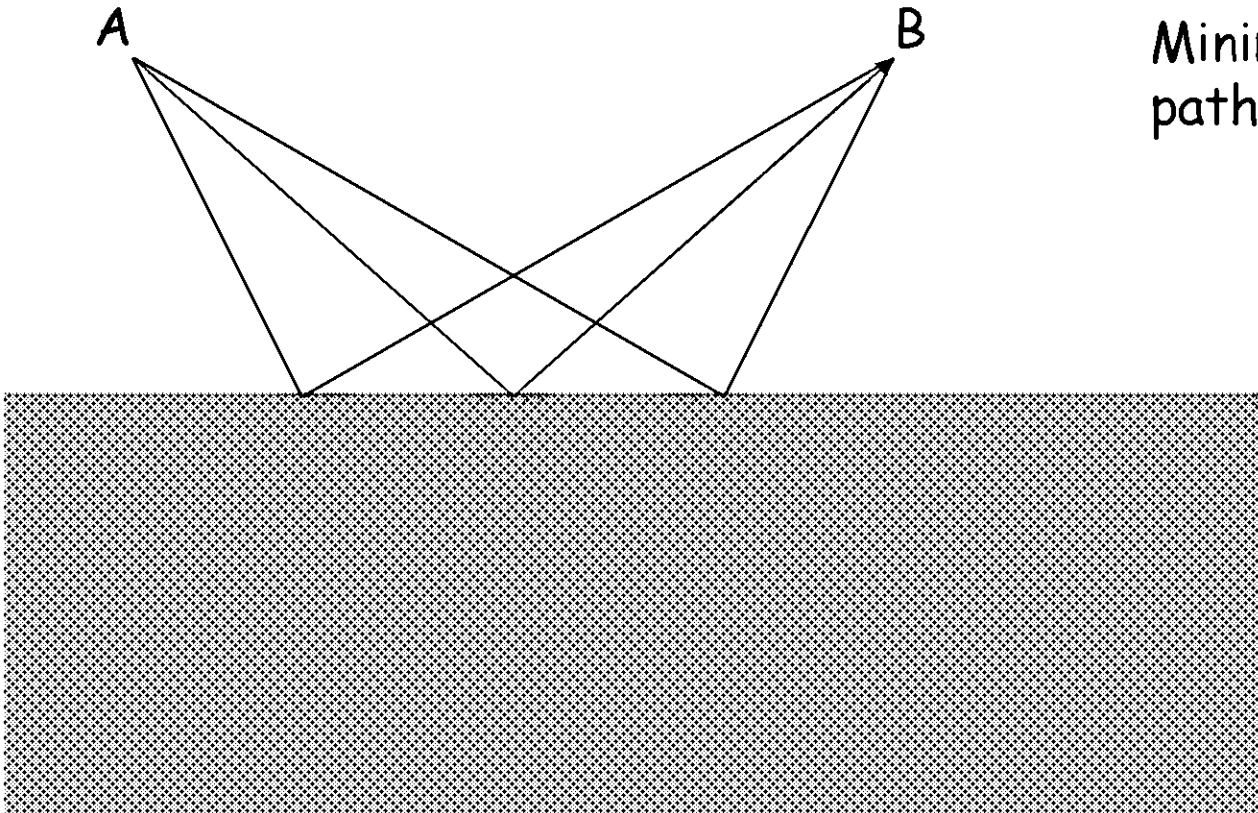
$$n_t \sin(\theta_i) = n_i \sin(\theta_t)$$

## Fermat's Principle

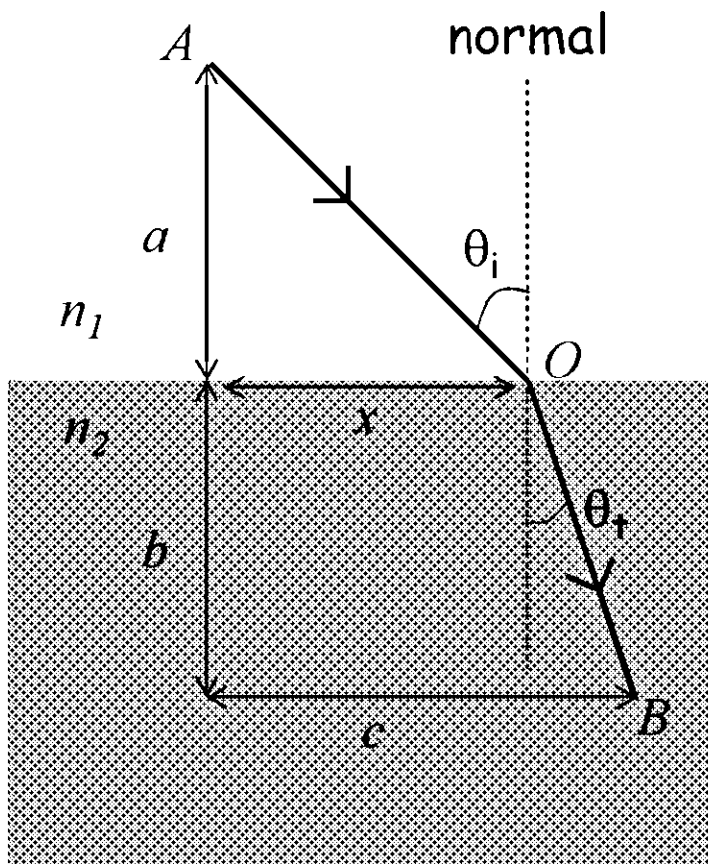
The path a beam of light takes between two points is the one which is traversed in the least time.

Isotropic medium: constant velocity.

Minimum time = minimum path length.



## Fermat's: Refraction



$$t = \frac{AO}{v_i} + \frac{OB}{v_t}$$

$$t = \frac{\sqrt{a^2 + x^2}}{v_i} + \frac{\sqrt{b^2 + (c-x)^2}}{v_t}$$

$$\frac{dt}{dx} = \frac{x}{v_i \sqrt{a^2 + x^2}} - \frac{c-x}{v_t \sqrt{b^2 + (c-x)^2}}$$

$$\frac{dt}{dx} = \frac{\sin(\theta_i)}{v_i} - \frac{\sin(\theta_t)}{v_t} = 0$$

$$n_i \sin(\theta_i) = n_t \sin(\theta_t)$$

Huygens' Principle and Fermat's principle provide a qualitative (and quantitative) proof of the law of reflection and refraction within the limit of geometrical optics.