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A NOTE ON DIELECTRIC LENSES

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In the following we consider dielectric lenses with spherical or cylindrical symmetry, in which the index of refraction  $N$  is a function of the distance  $r$  from the center of the sphere or from the axis of the cylinder. Only the geometrical properties of optical ray paths are investigated; amplitude, phase and polarization of the electromagnetic wave are neglected. In the spherical case, the problem always reduces to the consideration of ray paths in a plane passing through the center of the sphere; in the cylindrical case, we shall limit ourselves to the case of rays lying in a plane perpendicular to the cylinder axis.

The following assumptions are made:

- 1) the radius of the sphere, or of the cylinder, is equal to unity;
- 2) the index of refraction  $N(r)$  of the dielectric material relative to the surrounding medium is finite, except possibly at  $r=0$ , and  $N(1) = 1$ ;
- 3)  $N(r)$  is continuous with its first derivative in  $0 < r < 1$ .

The geometry of the problem is the same for both spherical and cylindrical lenses, and is illustrated in Fig. 1. An optical ray enters the lens at  $P_1$  with an angle of incidence  $\alpha$ , it is smoothly deviated along the path  $P_1 P_2$ , and leaves the lens at  $P_2$ . Let us indicate by  $R$  the optical length of the path  $P_1 P_2$ , by  $\theta$  its angular extension as seen from the center  $r = 0$ , and by  $\delta$  the deviation of the ray at  $P_2$  from the direction of incidence; it is:

$$\delta = \theta + 2\alpha - \pi \quad (1)$$

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Following the usual procedure (see e.g. Toraldo di Francia, 1957 and Huynen, 1958), we set

$$r^2 N^2 = 1 - \xi^2, \quad (2)$$

and introduce a new function  $f(\xi)$  satisfying the relation:

$$2N^2 r dr = -f(\xi) d\xi. \quad (3)$$

Then it is:

$$R = \int_0^{\cos \alpha} \frac{f(\xi) d\xi}{\sqrt{\cos^2 \alpha - \xi^2}}, \quad (4)$$

$$\theta = \sin \alpha \int_0^{\cos \alpha} \frac{f(\xi) d\xi}{(1 - \xi^2) \sqrt{\cos^2 \alpha - \xi^2}}, \quad (5)$$

$$\ln r = -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\xi} \frac{f(\eta) d\eta}{1 - \eta^2}. \quad (6)$$

Relations (2) and (6) give  $N$  as a function of  $r$ , in parametric form.

Formulas (4), (5) and (6) have been employed by various authors. Huynen (1958) has discussed the case in which

$$f(\xi) = a_0 + a_1 \xi, \quad (7)$$

where  $a_0$  and  $a_1$  are constants.

In this note, the expressions for  $R$ ,  $\theta$  and  $\ln r$  are derived for the case in which  $f(\xi)$  is an analytic function of  $\xi$  in a neighborhood of  $\xi = 0$ . It is then pointed out that restrictions have to be placed on the coefficients of the power series representing  $f(\xi)$ , if one wants to have solutions with physical significance. In particular, the limitations on  $a_0$  and  $a_1$  for the simple case (7) are investigated in detail.



Let us split  $f(\xi)$  into its even and odd components:

$$f(\xi) = f_e(\xi) + f_o(\xi) \quad , \quad (8)$$

where:

$$f_e(\xi) = \frac{f(\xi) + f(-\xi)}{2} \quad , \quad f_o(\xi) = \frac{f(\xi) - f(-\xi)}{2} \quad . \quad (9)$$

Assume that for the range of values of  $\xi$  of interest to us,  $f_e$  and  $f_o$  may be represented by the uniformly convergent power series:

$$f_e(\xi) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_{2m} \xi^{2m} \quad , \quad f_o(\xi) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_{2m+1} \xi^{2m+1} \quad , \quad (10)$$

where  $a_{2m}$  and  $a_{2m+1}$  are constants.

Substituting expansions (10) into relations (4), (5) and (6) and integrating term by term, it is found that

$$\begin{aligned} R = \frac{\pi}{2} & \left\{ a_0 + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(2m-1)!!}{m! 2^m} a_{2m} (\cos \alpha)^{2m} \right\} + \\ & + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} a_{2m+1} (\cos \alpha)^{2m+1} \sum_{h=0}^m \frac{(-1)^h}{2h+1} \binom{m}{h} \quad , \quad (11) \\ \theta = \frac{\pi}{2} a_0 + \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha \right) a_1 + \frac{\pi}{2} & \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_{2m} (\cos \alpha)^{2m}}{\sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} (-\sin^2 \alpha)^k} \left\{ 1 + \frac{1}{(m-1)! 2^{m-1} \sin \alpha} x \right. \\ & \left. x \sum_{h=0}^{m-1} (2h-1)!! (2m-2h-3)!! \sum_{l=1}^{m-h} \binom{m}{h+l} (-\sin^2 \alpha)^l \right\} + \end{aligned}$$

$$+ \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_{2m+1} (\cos \alpha)^{2m} \left\{ \left( \frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha \right) \sum_{h=0}^m \binom{m}{h} (\tan \alpha)^{2m-2h} - \sum_{h=0}^{m-1} \sum_{\ell=1}^{m-h} \binom{m}{h} \frac{(-1)^{m-h-\ell}}{2(m-h-\ell)+1} (\tan \alpha)^{2\ell-1} \right\}, \quad (12)$$

$$\ln r^4 = a_0 \ln \left| \frac{1-\xi}{1+\xi} \right| + a_1 \ln(1-\xi^2) + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_{2m} \left\{ \ln \left| \frac{1-\xi}{1+\xi} \right| + 2 \sum_{h=1}^m \frac{\xi^{2h-1}}{2h-1} \right\} + \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} a_{2m+1} \left\{ \ln(1-\xi^2) + 2 \sum_{h=1}^m \frac{\xi^{2h}}{2h} \right\}, \quad (13)$$

where

$$(2h-1)!! = 1 \times 3 \times 5 \times \dots \times (2h-1),$$

is the semi-factorial of  $(2h-1)$  (in particular  $(-1)!! = 1$ ).

Huynen (1958) derived an expression equivalent to (13), for the case in which  $f(\xi)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$  in  $\xi$ ; he also gave the first few terms of expansions (11) and (12).

The coefficients  $a_{2m}$  and  $a_{2m+1}$  cannot be arbitrarily chosen; in fact, the angle  $\theta$  must obviously be positive for the entire range  $0 \leq \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$ . Suppose that  $f(\xi)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n$  in  $\xi$ , then the fundamental limitation on the choice of the coefficients is:

$$\theta(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n; \alpha) > 0, \text{ for all } 0 \leq \alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad (14)$$

i. e. the representative point  $(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n)$  must belong to a certain region of the  $(n+1)$ -dimensional space  $(a_0, a_1, \dots, a_n)$ .

From formulas (2) and (3) it is seen that the relationship between  $N$  and  $r$  remains unchanged when both  $\xi$  and  $f(\xi)$  change sign, i. e. when  $\xi$  and all the coefficients  $a_{2m}$  change sign (see also formula (13)). The ambiguity that thus arises in the choice of the representative point  $(a_0, a_1, \dots)$  for a given lens  $N=N(r)$  is eliminated by requiring that inequality (14) be satisfied.

In order to elucidate this concept, let us examine in detail the case of formula (7), for which relation (12) reduces to

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2} a_0 + \left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha\right) a_1 ; \quad (15)$$

then relation (14) gives:

$$a_0 + a_1 > 0, \quad a_0 \geq 0, \quad (16)$$

and therefore the representative point  $(a_0, a_1)$  must belong to the shaded region of Fig. 2.

If we also require that  $N(0)$  be finite and non-zero and that  $(dN/dr)_{r=0} = 0$ , then the representative point must belong either to the straight line DGF for which

$$a_0 + a_1 = 2, \quad N(0) = 4^{a_0/4}, \quad (17)$$

or to the straight line DS for which

$$a_1 - a_0 = 2, \quad N(0) = 4^{-a_0/4}. \quad (18)$$

In Fig. 2, the point  $D(0, 2)$  corresponds to the free space lens ( $N=1, \delta=0$ ), the point  $G(1, 1)$  to the Luneberg lens ( $N = \sqrt{2-r^2}$ ; Luneberg, 1944) and the point  $F(2, 0)$  to Maxwell's fish eye ( $N=2/(1+r^2)$ ), while the point  $H(2, 2)$  represents

the isotropic lens (  $N = \sqrt{(2-r)/r}$ ,  $\delta = \pi$ ; see e. g. Eaton, 1953 ).

Let us now impose the further restriction that the optical rays make less than one complete turn around the origin, i. e. that  $\theta < 2\pi$ ; then the representative points  $(a_0, a_1)$  cannot be chosen outside the rhomboid  $0A_0B_0C_0$  of Fig. 3. The permissible points of Fig. 2, which are external to the rhomboid  $0A_0B_0C_0$  of Fig. 3 correspond to the so-called higher-order lenses, which were first considered by Stettler (1955).

If we require that all incident rays make at least  $\mathcal{L}$ , but less than  $(\mathcal{L}+1)$ , complete turns around the origin before leaving the lens ( $\mathcal{L}$  is any positive integer), then  $2\pi\mathcal{L} \leq \theta < 2\pi(\mathcal{L}+1)$ , and therefore the representative point  $(a_0, a_1)$  must belong to the rhomboid  $B_{\mathcal{L}-1}A_{\mathcal{L}}B_{\mathcal{L}}C_{\mathcal{L}}$ , which is obtained by shifting  $0A_0B_0C_0$ , an amount  $4\mathcal{L}$  along the positive  $a_0$  axis (see Fig. 3).

That portion of the permissible region of Fig. 2 which is not covered by the rhomboids of Fig. 3 represents lenses for which the number of complete turns of the optical ray around the origin may be changed by varying the angle  $\alpha$  of incidence.

The investigation that we developed for the simple case of formula (7) could be repeated for the more complicated cases in which  $f(\xi)$  is a polynomial of degree  $n = 2, 3$ , etc. In the case  $n = 2$ , the angle  $\theta$  is given by the relation:

$$\theta = \frac{\pi}{2} a_0 + \left(\frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha\right) a_1 + \frac{\pi}{2} (1 - \sin \alpha) a_2, \quad (19)$$

which follows from (12).

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Captions for Figures

- 1 Geometry for the Optical Ray Path
- 2 The Permissible Domain in the  $(a_0, a_1)$  Plane
- 3 Fundamental Lenses (shaded area) and Higher-Order Lenses







