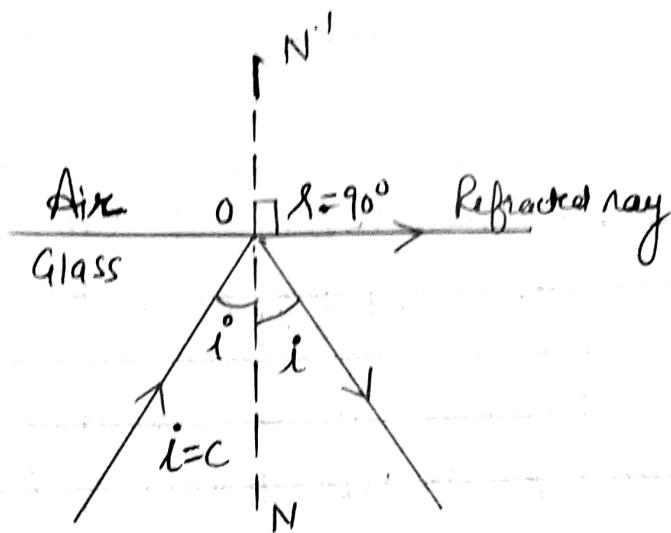


Critical angle and Total Internal Reflection

⇒ Critical Angle :→ It is the angle of incidence in the denser medium for which the angle of refraction in the rarer medium is 90°

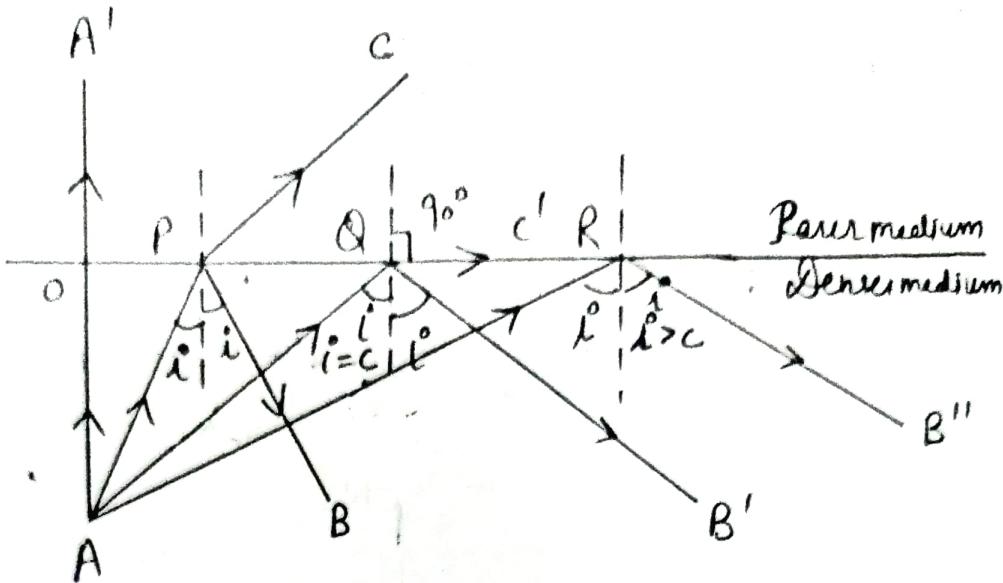


⇒ Total Internal Reflection :→ When a ray of light travelling in a denser medium, incident on an angle of incidence greater than the critical angle, the ray is totally reflected back into the same medium. This phenomenon is called total internal reflection.

⇒ Conditions for Total Internal reflection :→

- (1) The light must travel from a denser to a rarer medium
- (2) The angle of incidence must be greater than the critical angle for the pair of media.

⇒ Refraction and total Internal reflection of light rays at different angles of incidence :→



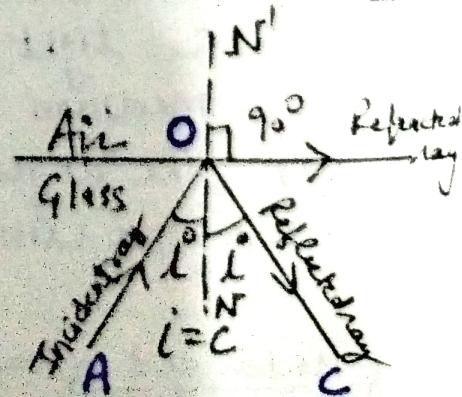
- For the ray AP, the $i < c$ and ray is partly reflected as PB and partly refracted as PC.
- For the ray AQ, the $i^o = c$, so it is partly reflected as QB' and partly refracted as QC' at an angle of refraction, $\angle R = 90^\circ$.
- For the ray AR; $i > c$, so the ray is totally reflected as RB'' at an angle of refraction, $\angle R = i^o$ (no refraction occurs)

⇒ Relationship Between Critical angle (c) and Refractive index

When ray AO, incident at glass-air interface at $i^o = c$ then Applying Snell's law;

$$\frac{\sin i}{\sin r} = \frac{\sin c}{\sin 90^\circ} = \frac{1}{n_{air}} \quad \left[\because \frac{\sin i}{\sin r} = \frac{1}{n_{air}} \right]$$

$$\frac{\sin c}{1} \Rightarrow n_{air} - 1 \quad [i^o = c] \quad [\sin 90^\circ = 1]$$



As we know by principle of reversibility of light:-

$$\frac{a}{\mu_g} = \frac{1}{\sin a} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{\sin a}{a} = \frac{1}{\mu_g}$$

Using Equation (1); $\sin C = \frac{1}{\mu_g}$

\Rightarrow Factors affecting the Critical Angle:-

- (a) Colour of light (or wavelength) : \rightarrow As we know ($\mu \propto \lambda$) and critical angle is inversely proportional to the refractive index. ($C \propto \frac{1}{\mu}$) as $\lambda_R > \lambda_V$ so $\mu_R < \mu_V$ therefore critical angle is least for the violet light and most for Red light

- (b) Temperature : \rightarrow On increasing temperature of a medium its refractive index decreases therefore critical angle increases.

Consequences of Total Internal Reflection:-

- (a) A piece of diamond sparkles when viewed from certain directions.
- (b) On a hot sunny day, a driver may see a pool of water (or wet road) in front of him at some distance.
- (c) A crack in a glass vessel often shines like a mirror.