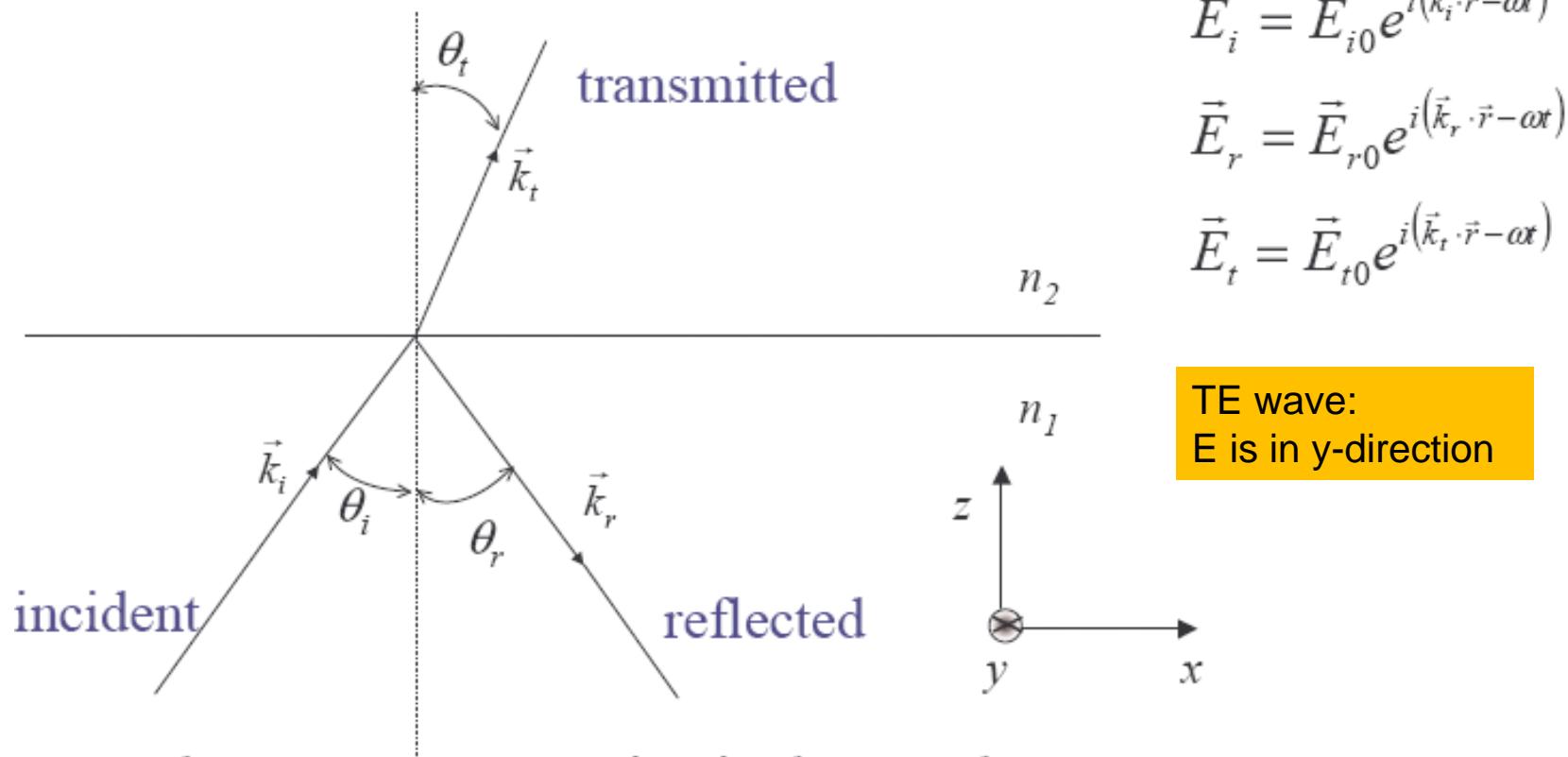


# Total Internal Reflection (TIR)



- plane wave propagating in the x-z plane
- incident onto a boundary between two media of different refractive index

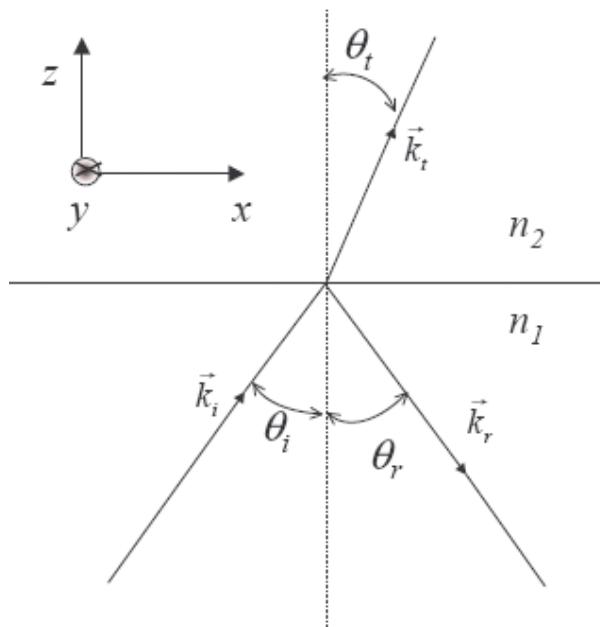
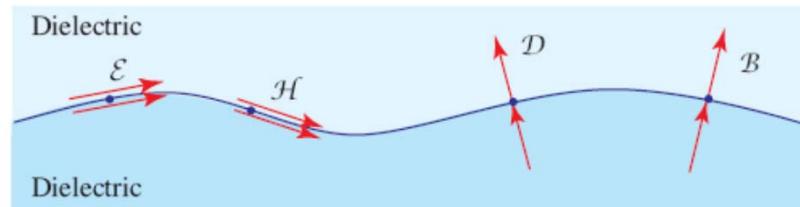
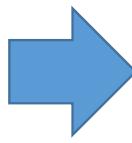
$$\vec{E}_i = \vec{E}_{i0} e^{i(\vec{k}_i \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)}$$

$$\vec{E}_r = \vec{E}_{r0} e^{i(\vec{k}_r \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)}$$

$$\vec{E}_t = \vec{E}_{t0} e^{i(\vec{k}_t \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)}$$

# Boundary Conditions

Dielectric Boundary:  
 tangential components of  $E$  &  $H$   
 Normal components of  $D$  &  $B$



Boundary conditions at  $z=0$ , at any instant of time  $t$ , for the tangential component of electric field:

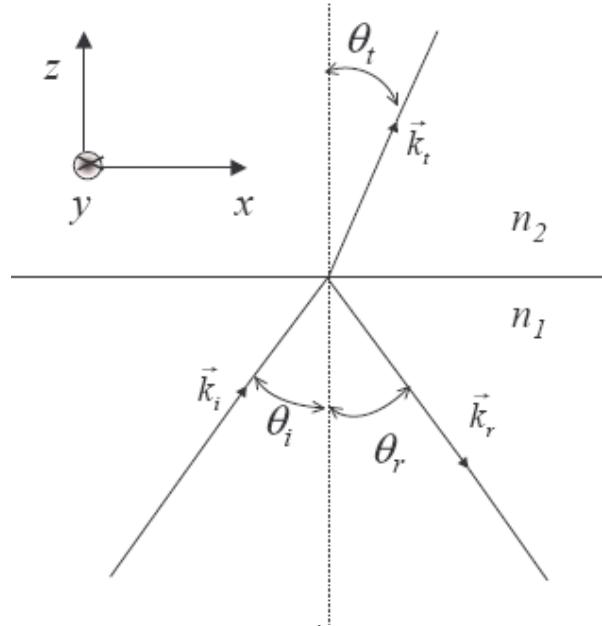
$$E_{i0,x} e^{i(\vec{k}_i \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} \Big|_{z=0} + E_{r0,x} e^{i(\vec{k}_r \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} \Big|_{z=0} = E_{t0,x} e^{i(\vec{k}_t \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} \Big|_{z=0}$$

This is possible only if:  $\forall t, @z=0$

$$\vec{k}_i \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t = \vec{k}_r \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t = \vec{k}_t \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t$$

$$k_y = 0 \Rightarrow$$

# Law of Reflection and Refraction



Boundary conditions at  $z=0$ , at any instant of time  $t$ , for the tangential component of electric field:

$$E_{i0,x} e^{i(\vec{k}_i \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} \Big|_{z=0} + E_{r0,x} e^{i(\vec{k}_r \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} \Big|_{z=0} = E_{t0,x} e^{i(\vec{k}_t \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} \Big|_{z=0}$$

This is possible only if:  $\forall t, @z=0$

$$\vec{k}_i \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t = \vec{k}_r \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t = \vec{k}_t \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t$$

$$k_y = 0 \Rightarrow k_i^x x = k_r^x x = k_t^x x$$

$$\Rightarrow k_i^x = k_r^x = k_t^x$$

The in-plane component of the wave-vector is preserved during reflection and refraction

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2\pi}{\lambda/n_1} \sin \theta_i = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda/n_1} \sin \theta_r = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda/n_2} \sin \theta_t$$

$$n_1 \sin \theta_i = n_2 \sin \theta_t$$

The law of refraction (Snell's law)

$$\theta_i = \theta_r$$

The law of reflection

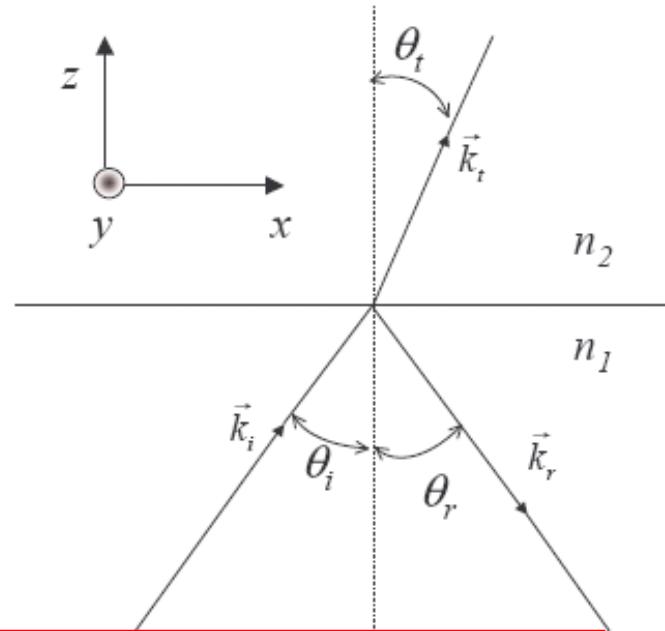
# Total Internal Reflection

$$\text{Snell's law: } \sin \theta_t = \frac{n_1}{n_2} \sin \theta_i$$

The maximum value of the incident angle for which the transmission of light into the second medium occurs:

$$\sin \theta_{i,\max} = \sin 90^\circ = 1 = \frac{n_1}{n_2} \sin \theta_{i,\max}$$

$$\theta_{i,\max} = \arcsin \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$



Total reflection (or total internal reflection):  $\theta_i > \theta_{i,\max}$

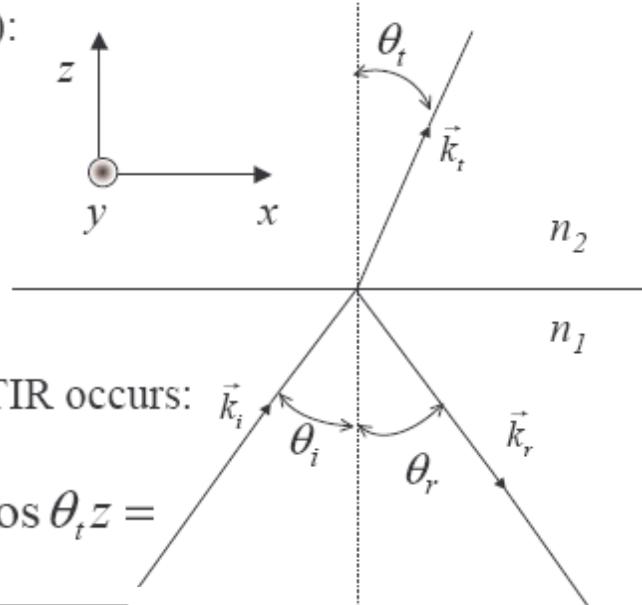
- $\theta_t$  does not have a real value
- all the incident light is reflected back into the first medium; no light enters (meaning no power flow) in the second medium
- EM field in the second medium is *evanescent*:

# Total Internal Reflection

Total reflection (or total internal reflection - TIR):

$$\theta_i > \theta_{i,\max}$$

$$\theta_{i,\max} = \arcsin \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$



The field is evanescent in the 2<sup>nd</sup> medium when TIR occurs:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{k}_t \cdot \vec{r} &= k_t^x x + k_t^z z = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda/n_2} \sin \theta_t x + \frac{2\pi}{\lambda/n_2} \cos \theta_t z = \\ &= \frac{2\pi n_1}{\lambda} x \sin \theta_i \pm i \frac{2\pi n_2}{\lambda} z \sqrt{\left(\frac{n_1}{n_2}\right)^2 \sin^2 \theta_i - 1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{E}_t = \vec{E}_{t0} e^{i(\vec{k}_t \cdot \vec{r} - \omega t)} = \vec{E}_{t0} e^{i\left(\frac{2\pi n_1}{\lambda} x \sin \theta_i - \omega t\right)} e^{-\frac{2\pi n_2}{\lambda} z \sqrt{\left(\frac{n_1}{n_2}\right)^2 \sin^2 \theta_i - 1}}$$

Real when TIR occurs

• Surface wave in the x-direction, and exponential decay in z

# Total Internal Reflection

The field in second medium decays exponentially as a function of increasing distance from the boundary:

$$\vec{E}_t = \vec{E}_{t0} e^{i\left(\frac{2\pi n_1}{\lambda} x \sin \theta_i - \omega t\right)} e^{-\frac{2\pi n_2}{\lambda} z \sqrt{\left(\frac{n_1}{n_2}\right)^2 \sin^2 \theta_i - 1}} \propto e^{-z/z_0}$$

The penetration depth of the wave into the 2<sup>nd</sup> medium is proportional to:

$$z_0 = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi n_2 \sqrt{\left(\frac{n_1}{n_2}\right)^2 \sin^2 \theta_i - 1}},$$

$$I = I_0 \cdot e^{-\frac{z}{d}} \quad d = \frac{\lambda}{4\pi \cdot n_2 \cdot \sqrt{\left(\frac{n_1}{n_2}\right)^2 \cdot (\sin \theta_i)^2 - 1}}$$

Larger incidence angle  $\theta_i \Rightarrow$  smaller penetration depth into the 2<sup>nd</sup> medium.