

Principle of Refractometer

The operation of the refractometer is based on the physical principle of light refraction — Snell's law — light slows down as it passes into more optically dense media, and speeds up as it passes into less optically dense media. The change in speed is accompanied by a change in direction, and at a certain angle of incidence, the light doesn't refract in the second medium at all, but is entirely reflected. The angle at which this occurs is known as the critical angle and this angle is measured by the refractometer.

