Such a system of combination of lenses is commonly used in designing lenses for cameras, microscopes, telescopes and other optical instruments.

Example 9.9 Find the position of the image formed by the lens combination given in the Fig. 9.22.

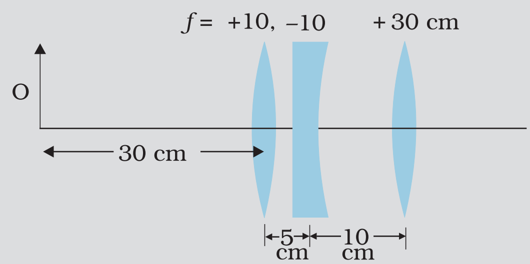

FIGURE 9.22

Solution Image formed by the first lens

$$\frac{1}{v_1} - \frac{1}{u_1} = \frac{1}{f_1}$$

$$\frac{1}{v_1} - \frac{1}{-30} = \frac{1}{10}$$

or $v_1 = 15$ cm

The image formed by the first lens serves as the object for the second. This is at a distance of (15 – 5) cm = 10 cm to the right of the second lens. Though the image is real, it serves as a virtual object for the second lens, which means that the rays appear to come from it for the second lens.

$$\frac{1}{v_2} - \frac{1}{10} = \frac{1}{-10}$$

or $v_2 = \infty$

The virtual image is formed at an infinite distance to the left of the second lens. This acts as an object for the third lens.

$$\frac{1}{v_3} - \frac{1}{u_3} = \frac{1}{f_3}$$

or $$\frac{1}{v_3} = \frac{1}{\infty} + \frac{1}{30}$$

or $v_3 = 30$ cm

The final image is formed 30 cm to the right of the third lens.

EXAMPLE 9.9

9.6 Refraction through a Prism

Figure 9.23 shows the passage of light through a triangular prism ABC. The angles of incidence and refraction at the first face AB are i and r_1, while the angle of incidence (from glass to air) at the second face AC is r_2 and the angle of refraction or emergence *e*. The angle between the emergent ray RS and the direction of the incident ray PQ is called the *angle of deviation*, δ.

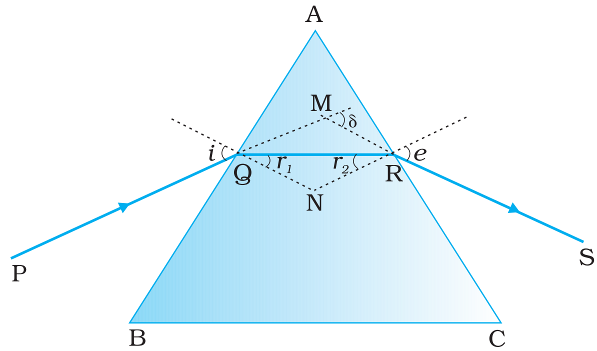

FIGURE 9.23 A ray of light passing through a triangular glass prism.

In the quadrilateral AQNR, two of the angles (at the vertices Q and R) are right angles. Therefore, the sum of the other angles of the quadrilateral is 180°.

$\angle A + \angle QNR = 180°$

From the triangle QNR,

$r_1 + r_2 + \angle QNR = 180°$

Comparing these two equations, we get

$$r_1 + r_2 = A \quad (9.34)$$

The total deviation δ is the sum of deviations at the two faces,

$\delta = (i - r_1) + (e - r_2)$

that is,

$$\delta = i + e - A \quad (9.35)$$

Thus, the angle of deviation depends on the angle of incidence. A plot between the angle of deviation and angle of incidence is shown in Fig. 9.24. You can see that, in general, any given value of δ, except for $i = e$, corresponds to two values i and hence of e. This, in fact, is expected from the symmetry of i and e in Eq. (9.35), i.e., δ remains the same if i and e are interchanged. Physically, this is related to the fact that the path of ray in Fig. 9.23 can be traced back, resulting in the same angle of deviation. At the minimum deviation D_m, the refracted ray inside the prism becomes parallel to its base. We have

$\delta = D_m$, $i = e$ which implies $r_1 = r_2$.

Equation (9.34) gives

$$2r = A \text{ or } r = \frac{A}{2} \quad (9.36)$$

In the same way, Eq. (9.35) gives

$$D_m = 2i - A, \text{ or } i = (A + D_m)/2 \quad (9.37)$$

The refractive index of the prism is

$$n_{21} = \frac{n_2}{n_1} = \frac{\sin[(A + D_m)/2]}{\sin[A/2]} \quad (9.38)$$

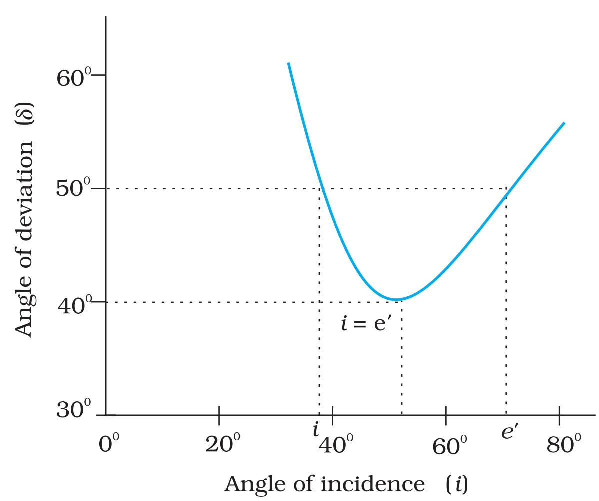

FIGURE 9.24 Plot of angle of deviation (δ) versus angle of incidence (i) for a triangular prism.

The angles A and D_m can be measured experimentally. Equation (9.38) thus provides a method of determining refractive index of the material of the prism.

For a small angle prism, i.e., a thin prism, D_m is also very small, and we get

$$n_{21} = \frac{\sin[(A + D_m)/2]}{\sin[A/2]} \simeq \frac{(A + D_m)/2}{A/2}$$

$D_m = (n_{21} - 1)A$

It implies that, thin prisms do not deviate light much.