

Snell's Law

$$n \sin \theta = n' \sin \theta'$$

Approx.

$$n \theta = n' \theta'$$

$$n = 1$$

$$n' = 1.5$$

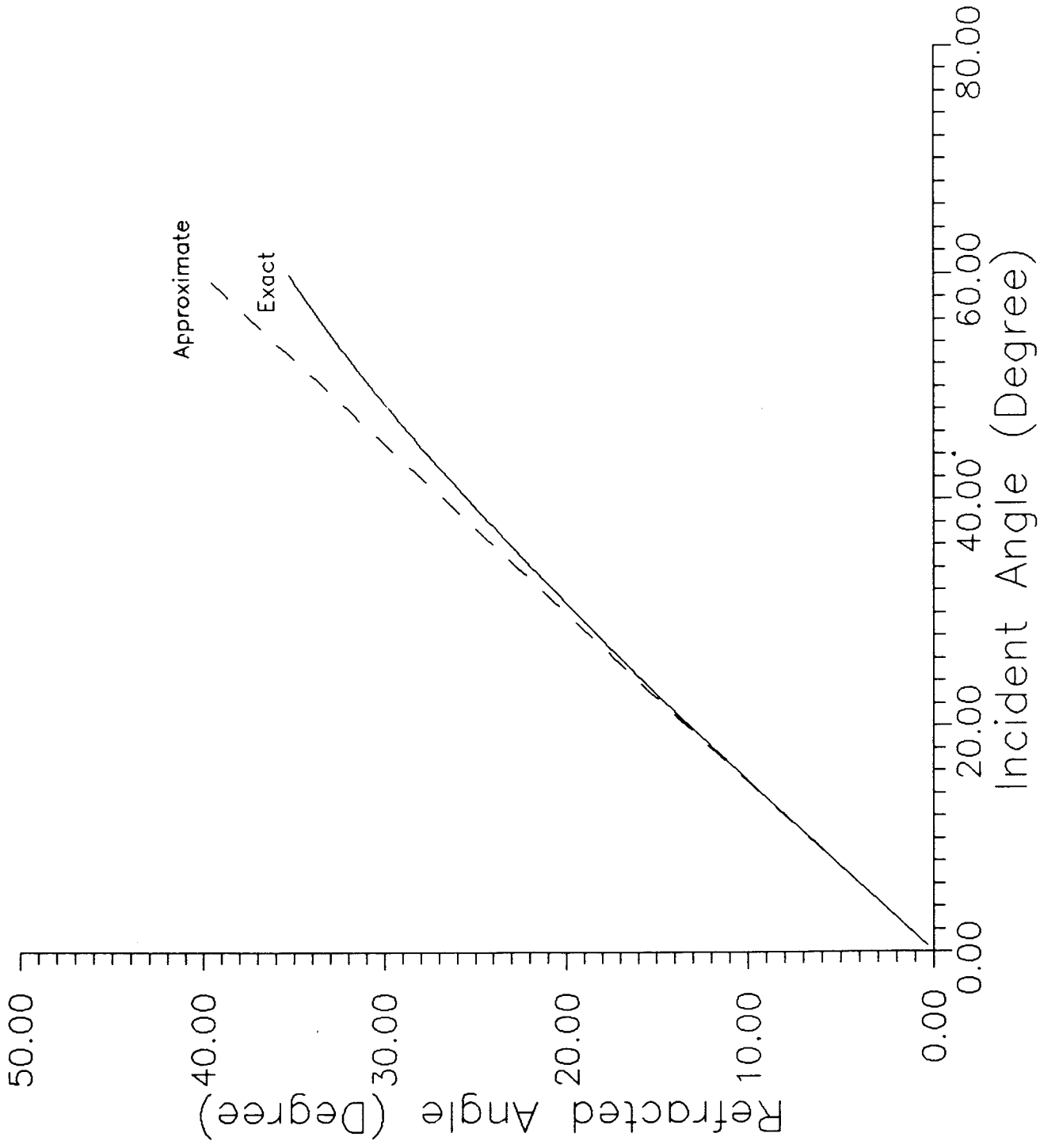
$$\theta' = \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{n'} \sin \theta \right)$$

$$\theta' \approx \frac{\theta}{n'}$$

In Degrees:

θ	θ'	$\sim \theta'$	$(\sim \theta' - \theta')/\theta'$
0	0	0	0
5	3.331	3.333	7×10^{-4} ← .1%
10	6.648	6.667	.0028
15	9.936	10	.0065
20	13.180	13.333	.012 ← 1%
25	16.364	16.667	.018
30	19.471	20	.027
35	22.481	23.333	.038
40	25.374	26.667	.051
45	28.126	30	.067
50	30.710	33.333	.085
55	33.100	36.667	.108 ← 10%
60	35.264	40	.134
65	37.172	43.333	.166

Plotted on next page.



Continued

% Error

$$\frac{\sim \theta' - \theta'}{\theta'} = E$$

$$\sim \theta' - \theta' = E \theta'$$

$$\sim \theta' = (1 + E) \theta'$$

$$\frac{\theta}{n'} = (1 + E) \sin^{-1} \left(\frac{1}{n'} \sin \theta \right)$$

$$\sin \left(\frac{\theta}{n'(1+E)} \right) = \frac{1}{n'} \sin \theta$$

This can be solved by numerical methods for the value of θ at different levels of E .

We can get approximate values by interpolation of the tabulated values

$$E = .001 \quad (.1\%) \quad \theta = 5.7^\circ$$

$$E = .01 \quad (1\%) \quad \theta = 18.2^\circ$$

$$E = .10 \quad (10\%) \quad \theta = 53.3^\circ$$