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Electromagnetic Theory and Geometrical Optics (Classic Reprint)

By Former Professor of Mathematics Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences Morris Kline

Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Electromagnetic Theory and Geometrical Optics It may seem unnecessary at this late date to discuss the relationship of electromagnetic theory to geometrical optics. The content of both fields is well known and everyone knows also that geometrical optics is the limit for vanishing wave length of electromagnetic theory. Moreover, since Maxwell s theory supersedes the older geometrical optics, presumably, then, geometrical optics could be discarded. The optical industry continues to use it but perhaps that is because it is behind the times. There are, however, at least three major reasons for pursuing and clarifying the relationship in question. The first is the purely theoretical or academic problem of building a mathematical bridge between the two domains, electromagnetic theory and geometrical optics. The older bases for asserting that geometrical optics is a limiting case of electromagnetic theory are vague and from a mathematical standpoint highly unsatisfactory. The second major reason for the investigation is a practical one. To solve problems of electromagnetic theory, whether in the range of radio frequencies or visible light frequencies, one should...



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