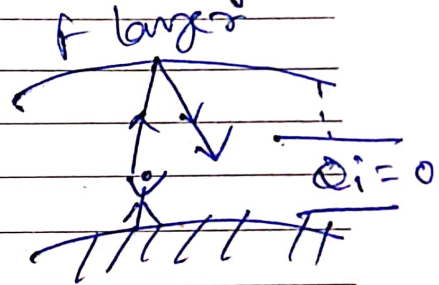


# Critical frequency ( $f_c$ ):

→ For any given time, each ionospheric layer has a max freq. at which radio wave can be transmitted vertically and refracted back to earth. This frequency is known as critical frequency.

→ For ionosphere.



$$n = \sqrt{1 - \frac{81N}{f^2}}$$

Where  $n$  is refractive index at ionosphere layer

$N$  is no of density of electron.

from snell law

$$n = \frac{\sin i}{\sin r} \Rightarrow \sqrt{1 - \frac{81N}{f^2}}$$

for  $f = f_c$  (critical frequency)  
 $i = 0$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \sqrt{1 - \frac{81N}{f_c^2}}$$

$$\therefore \frac{81N}{f_c^2} = 1$$

$$\text{Ans } \boxed{f_c = 9\sqrt{N}}$$

→ Layer critical frequencies

D → 100 kHz

E → 3-5 MHz

F<sub>1</sub> → 5-7 MHz

F<sub>2</sub> → 10 MHz.