

1.

$$|\vec{k}_1| = |\vec{k}_2| = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

$$\vec{k}_1 = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(\sin 30^\circ \hat{x} + \cos 30^\circ \hat{z}) = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left( \frac{1}{2} \hat{x} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \hat{z} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{k}_2 &= \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(\cos 45^\circ \hat{x} + \sin 45^\circ \sin 30^\circ \hat{y} + \sin 45^\circ \cos 30^\circ \hat{z}) \\ &= \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \hat{x} + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} \hat{y} + \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4} \hat{z} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Assuming  $|E_1| = |E_2| = 1$ ,

$$\left. \begin{aligned} E_1(x, y, z) &= e^{i\vec{k}_1 \cdot \vec{r}} = e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(\frac{x}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}z)} \equiv e^{i\phi_1} \\ E_2(x, y, z) &= e^{i\vec{k}_2 \cdot \vec{r}} = e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}y + \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}z)} \equiv e^{i\phi_2} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{interference pattern I}$$

$$\begin{aligned} I &= |E_1 + E_2|^2 = |E_1|^2 + |E_2|^2 + 2|E_1||E_2| \cos(\phi_1 - \phi_2) \\ &= 2[1 + \cos(\phi_1 - \phi_2)] \end{aligned}$$

(a) In the xy-plane,  $z = 0$ 

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \phi_1 &= \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(x/2) \\ \phi_2 &= \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}y) \end{aligned} \right\} \phi_1 - \phi_2 = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) x - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} y \right] = \Delta\phi$$

$I = 2[1 + \cos \Delta\phi]$  so the profile is a sinusoidal profile. The maxima are along the lines whose equation is:

$$\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} \right) x - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} y \right] = 2m\pi, \text{ where } m \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\frac{1 - \sqrt{2}}{2} x - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4} y = m\lambda$$

(b) For the plane  $z = \lambda$ 

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \phi_1 &= \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left( \frac{1}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}\lambda \right) \\ \phi_2 &= \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}y + \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}\lambda \right) \end{aligned} \right\} \Delta\phi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left[ \frac{1 - \sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}y + \frac{2\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{6}}{4}\lambda \right]$$

$I = 2[1 + \cos \Delta\phi]$ , so the interference pattern is still a sinusoid (i.e. a set of linear fringes). The maxima occur when  $\Delta\phi = 2\pi m, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ . The equation of the fringe lines are:

$$\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left( \frac{1 - \sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}y + \frac{2\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{6}}{4}\lambda \right) = 2\pi m, m \in \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\frac{1 - \sqrt{2}}{2}x + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}y = \left( m - \frac{2\sqrt{3} - \sqrt{6}}{4} \right) \lambda$$

Note that the slopes are the same as 1a, but the maxima are shifted.

(c) In the yz-plane,  $x = 0$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \phi_1 &= \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}z \right) \\ \phi_2 &= \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left( \frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}y + \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}z \right) \end{aligned} \right\} \Delta\phi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \left[ -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}y + \left( \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{6}}{4} \right) z \right]$$

We also observe a set of fringes along the lines where  $\Delta\phi = 2m\pi$ , i.e.  $-\frac{\sqrt{2}}{4}y + \frac{2\sqrt{3}-\sqrt{6}}{4}z = m\lambda, m \in \mathbb{Z}$

2.

$$\text{Plane wave: } E_{\text{pl}} = |E_{\text{pl}}| e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z}$$

$$\text{Spherical wave: } E_{\text{sp}} = \frac{|E_{\text{sp}}|}{\alpha z} e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z} e^{i\pi\frac{(x^2+y^2)}{\lambda z}}$$

(a) At  $z = 1000\lambda$ , assuming the amplitudes of the two waves are equal:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{pl}} &= e^{i\phi_{\text{pl}}} \text{ where } \phi_{\text{pl}} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z \\ E_{\text{sp}} &= e^{i\phi_{\text{sp}}} \text{ where } \phi_{\text{sp}} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z + \frac{\pi}{\lambda z}(x^2 + y^2) \\ \Delta\phi &= \phi_{\text{sp}} - \phi_{\text{pl}} = \frac{\pi}{\lambda z}(x^2 + y^2) \end{aligned}$$

We have bright fringes where  $\Delta\phi = 2\pi m, m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ , so  $\frac{x^2+y^2}{2z} = m\lambda$ .

At  $z = 1000\lambda \rightarrow x^2 + y^2 = 2000\lambda^2 m, m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$ , which is a set of concentric rings of radii  $R = \lambda\sqrt{2000m}, m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

(b) At  $z = 2000\lambda$ , the amplitude of the spherical wave decreases by a factor of 1/2 (energy conservation).

$$\left. \begin{aligned} E_{\text{pl}} &= e^{i\phi_{\text{pl}}} \\ E_{\text{sp}} &= \frac{1}{2}e^{i\phi_{\text{sp}}} \end{aligned} \right\} I = 1 + \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^2 + 2(1) \left( \frac{1}{2} \right) \cos \Delta\phi = \frac{5}{4} + \cos \Delta\phi$$

The maxima are given by  $\Delta\phi = 2\pi m$ .

$$\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2z} = m\lambda \Rightarrow x^2 + y^2 = 4000\lambda^2 m$$

Therefore the maxima are concentric circles of radii  $R = 20\lambda\sqrt{10m}, m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

(c) Observations:

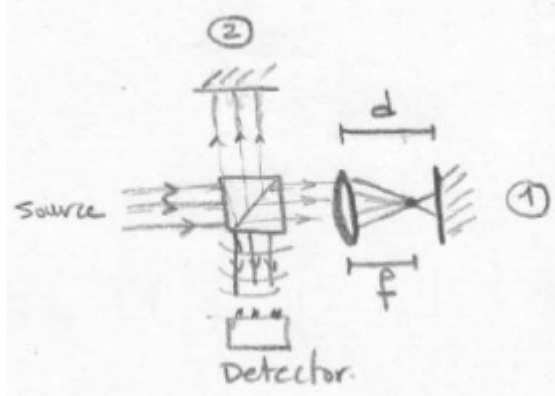
i. The interference pattern is a set of concentric circles whose radii are given by

$$R_m = \sqrt{2z\lambda m}$$

- ii. The radius of the first fringe ( $R_1$ ) increases with both  $\lambda$  and  $z$
- iii. At a certain distance  $z$ , the spacing between the fringes decreases as we go radially outwards.

$$\Delta R_m = \sqrt{2z\lambda}(\sqrt{m} - \sqrt{m-1})$$

- (d) If we insert a lens in branch 1 of a Michelson interferometer, the lens focuses the plane wave to a point at its back focal plane.



After reflecting off the mirror, the lens is effectively imaging a point source at a distance  $(d - f) + d = 2d - f$ ; thus it forms a point source image at  $S_i$ , where

$$\frac{1}{S_i} = \frac{1}{f} - \frac{1}{S_0} = \frac{1}{f} - \frac{1}{2d - f} = \frac{2(d - f)}{f(2d - f)}$$

$$S_i = \frac{f(2d - f)}{2(d - f)}$$

If  $d = f$ , i.e.  $S_i = \infty$ , we get a plane wave back and the output is a uniform intensity, because we would be observing the interference of two on-axis plane waves.

If  $d \neq f$ , we get circular fringes due to the interference of a plane wave and a spherical wave.

- 3. The general off-axis plane wave propagates at  $\theta$  with respect to the  $z$  axis.



The off-axis plane wave equation is:

$$E_{pl} = |E_{pl}| e^{i \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} (x \sin \theta + z \cos \theta)}$$

The equation of the spherical wave is:

$$E_{sp} = \frac{|E_{sp}|}{\alpha z} e^{i \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} z} e^{i \frac{\pi}{\lambda z} (x^2 + y^2)}$$

- (a) Assuming the amplitudes are equal at  $z = 1000\lambda$ ,  $I = 2|E_{\text{pl}}|^2(1 + \cos \Delta\phi)$ , where  $\Delta\phi = \phi_{\text{sp}} - \phi_{\text{pl}}$ :

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \phi_{\text{sp}} &= \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z + \frac{\pi}{\lambda z}(x^2 + y^2) \\ \phi_{\text{pl}} &= \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(x \sin \theta + z \cos \theta) \end{aligned} \right\} \Delta\phi = \frac{\pi}{\lambda z}x^2 - \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \sin \theta x + \frac{\pi}{\lambda z}y^2 + \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z(1 - \cos \theta)$$

Bright fringes occur when  $\Delta\phi = 2\pi m$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2z}x^2 - (\sin \theta)x + \frac{1}{2z}y^2 &= m\lambda - z(1 - \cos \theta) \\ x^2 - 2z \sin \theta x + z^2 \sin^2 \theta + y^2 &= \underbrace{2z[m\lambda - z(1 - \cos \theta)] + z^2 \sin^2 \theta}_{R_m^2} \dots \quad (\text{Eq. A}) \end{aligned}$$

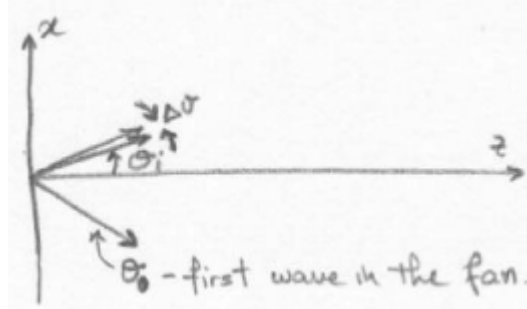
$$(x - z \sin \theta)^2 + y^2 = R_m^2$$

- (b) At  $z = 2000\lambda$ ,  $|E_{\text{sp}}| = \frac{1}{2}|E_{\text{pl}}|$

$$I = |E_{\text{pl}}|^2 \left( \frac{5}{4} + \cos \Delta\phi \right)$$

The fringes are still given by equation A where  $z = 2000\lambda$ . This gives a bigger shift along the x-axis and lower contrast in the fringes as well as larger spacing of peaks.

4. We sketch the system as follows:



The  $m^{\text{th}}$  plane wave is at an angle  $\theta_m = \theta_0 + m\Delta\theta$

$$E_m = e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}[\cos \theta_m z + \sin \theta_m x]}$$

Assuming small angles (paraxial approximation),  $\theta_m \ll 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \cos \theta_m &\approx 1, \sin \theta_m \approx \theta_m = \theta_0 + m\Delta\theta \\ E_m &\approx e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(z + \theta_m x)} = e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(z + \theta_0 x + m\Delta\theta x)} \end{aligned}$$

Adding all the plane waves,

$$\begin{aligned}
 E_T &= \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} E_m \\
 &= \sum_{m=0}^{N-1} e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}(z+\theta_0x+m\Delta\theta x)} \\
 &= e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z} e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\theta_0x} \underbrace{\sum_{m=0}^{N-1} (e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}x\Delta\theta})^m}_{\text{Geometric series: } \theta_0=1, r=e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}x\Delta\theta}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \therefore E_T &= e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z} e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\theta_0x} \cdot \frac{1 - e^{i(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}Nx\Delta\theta)}}{1 - e^{i(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}x\Delta\theta)}} = e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z} e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\theta_0x} \cdot \frac{1 - e^{i\phi_1}}{1 - e^{i\phi_2}} \\
 &= e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z} e^{i\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}\theta_0x} \cdot \frac{e^{i\frac{\phi_1}{2}}}{e^{i\frac{\phi_2}{2}}} \cdot \frac{e^{-i\frac{\phi_1}{2}} - e^{i\frac{\phi_1}{2}}}{e^{-i\frac{\phi_2}{2}} - e^{i\frac{\phi_2}{2}}} \\
 |E_T|^2 &= \left| \frac{e^{-i\frac{\phi_1}{2}} - e^{i\frac{\phi_1}{2}}}{e^{-i\frac{\phi_2}{2}} - e^{i\frac{\phi_2}{2}}} \right|^2 = \left( \frac{2i \sin(\frac{\phi_1}{2})}{2i \sin(\frac{\phi_2}{2})} \right)^2 = \frac{\sin^2(\frac{\phi_1}{2})}{\sin^2(\frac{\phi_2}{2})}
 \end{aligned}$$

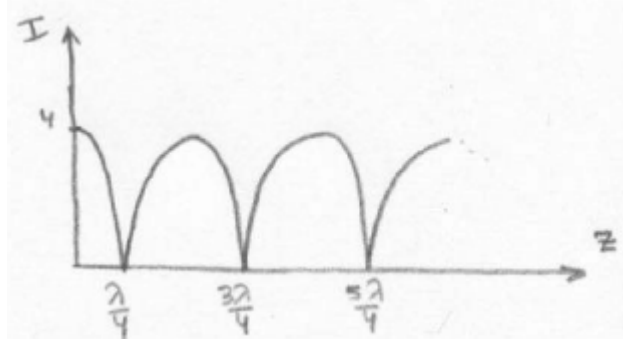
5. Forward propagating plane wave:  $\vec{k}_1 = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \hat{z}$

Backward propagating plane wave:  $\vec{k}_2 = -\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \hat{z}$

$$E_1 = e^{i(\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z - \omega t)}, \quad E_2 = e^{i(-\frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z - \omega t)}$$

$$I = 2(1 + \cos \Delta\phi), \quad \text{where } \Delta\phi = \phi_1 - \phi_2 = \frac{4\pi}{\lambda}z$$

$$\therefore I = 2 \left[ 1 + \cos \left( \frac{4\pi}{\lambda}z \right) \right] = 4 \cos^2 \left( \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}z \right)$$



Note that although we did not ignore the time dependence of each wave ( $\omega t$ ), the interference wave is independent of time, thus the term “standing wave.”

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