

# Oscillations and Waves

## Oscillations

Consider a driven harmonic oscillator subject to damping:  $m\ddot{x} + b\dot{x} + kx = F(t)$

This can be written in the canonical form:

$$\ddot{x} + 2\gamma\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = \frac{F}{m} \quad \begin{array}{l} \omega_0^2 = \sqrt{k/m} \\ \gamma = b/2m \end{array}$$

↳ we define the **quality factor** as the number of radians of oscillation required for energy **not amplitude!** to fall by a factor of  $e$ :  $Q = \frac{\omega_0}{2\gamma}$

The solution to the driven SHM equation is a linear superposition of the **transient response** (i.e. complementary function) and the **steady state** (particular integral)

With no driving force, we can easily solve the homogeneous equation  $p^2 + 2\gamma p + \omega_0^2 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow p_{1,2} = -\gamma \pm \sqrt{\gamma^2 - \omega_0^2}$$

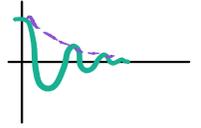
↳ the relative values of  $\gamma$  and  $\omega_0$  determine the regime

• **Light damping**:  $\gamma < \omega_0$ ,  $Q > 0.5$   
 ↳  $p = \gamma \pm i\omega_d$ ,  $\omega_d = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \gamma^2}$

$$\therefore z(t) = Ae^{-\gamma t} e^{i\omega_d t} \leftarrow A \equiv A_0 e^{i\phi}$$

$$\therefore x(t) = a_0 e^{-\gamma t} \cos(\omega_d t + \phi) \leftarrow \text{note: two constants}$$

↳ here we treat SHM as the real part of a complex **phasor**, rotating  $\odot$  on an Argand diagram.  
 ↳ energy decays twice as fast as amplitude



• **Heavy damping**:  $\gamma > \omega_0$ ,  $Q < 0.5$

↳ resulting motion is the sum of two exponentials

$$x(t) = Ae^{-p_1 t} + Be^{-p_2 t}$$

↳ at large times, the exponential with smaller decay rate will dominate.

• **Critical damping**:  $\gamma = \omega_0$ ,  $Q = 0.5$

↳ most rapid approach to equilibrium, with no overshoot

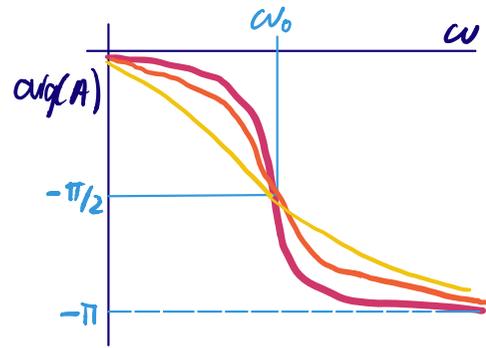
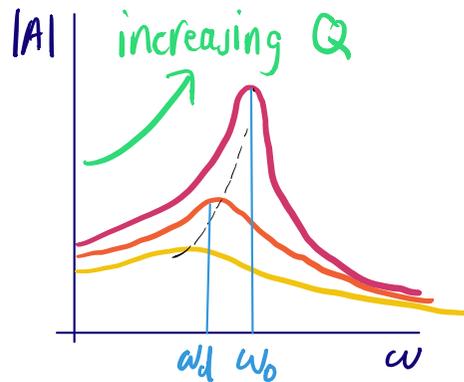
$$x(t) = (A + Bt)e^{-\gamma t}$$

## Driven harmonic oscillators

- If the forcing function is sinusoidal, i.e. of the form  $f e^{i\omega t}$ , we use a trial solution  $A e^{i\omega t}$ , where  $A \equiv a_0 e^{i\phi}$ . We find that

$$A = \frac{f}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 + 2i\gamma\omega} \quad \leftarrow f \equiv \frac{F_0}{m}$$

↳ the response function is just  $A e^{i\omega t} / F(\omega)$



- Response at different regimes:

↳ low freq - motion controlled by spring stiffness  
 $x = f/\omega_0^2 \cos \omega t$

↳ high freq - motion controlled by inertia  
 $x = -f/\omega^2 \cos \omega t$  (antiphase)

↳ at resonance, the response is  $Q$  times larger than the  $\omega \rightarrow 0$  limit

- The velocity response can be found by differentiation:
  - ↳ it has maximum value at  $\omega = \omega_0$  regardless of damping
  - ↳ velocity is in phase with the driving force at resonance.
- Acceleration resonance occurs above  $\omega_0$

- The power of an oscillator can be found by multiplying the real parts of  $\hat{F}$  and  $\hat{v}$ .

$$P = \text{Re}(\hat{F})\text{Re}(\hat{v}) = \frac{1}{2}(\hat{F} + \hat{F}^*) \cdot \frac{1}{2}(\hat{v} + \hat{v}^*)$$

$$\therefore \langle P \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(\hat{F}_0 \hat{v}_0^*)$$

↳ hence, mean power depends on the phase difference between force and velocity. Maximum power when  $F$  and  $v$  are in phase.

↳ in a damped oscillator, the mean power dissipation is given by  $\langle P \rangle = \frac{1}{2} b |v_0|^2$

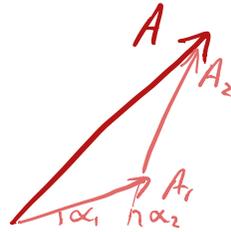
- The width of a power resonance curve can be characterised by its half-power bandwidth

$$\omega_{hp} = \mp \gamma + \sqrt{\omega_0^2 + \gamma^2} \Rightarrow \Delta\omega = 2\gamma$$

↳ this provides an alternative definition for the quality factor:

$$\frac{\Delta\omega}{\omega_0} = \frac{1}{Q} \quad \text{i.e. high } Q \text{ oscillators have narrow resonance peaks.}$$

- Because the harmonic oscillator is a linear system, when multiple driving forces are applied we can consider each individually then sum those solutions.
- If the two driving frequencies are the same, we can use phasor analysis:
 
$$A^2 = A_1^2 + A_2^2 + 2A_1A_2 \cos(\alpha_2 - \alpha_1)$$
 ↳ when two sources are **coherent**, the resulting power can quadruple
- with different driving frequencies, we see **beating**, with a fast oscillation at  $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 + \omega_2)$  enveloped by a slower wave with angular frequency  $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 - \omega_2)$ .

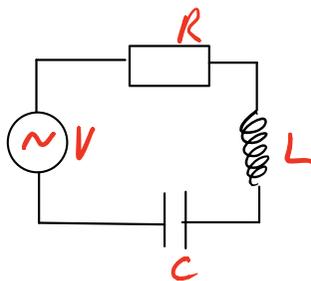


### Electrical resonance

• By Kirchoff's voltage law:

$$V_L + V_R + V_C = V(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{q} + \frac{R}{L} \dot{q} + \frac{1}{LC} q = \frac{V(t)}{L}$$

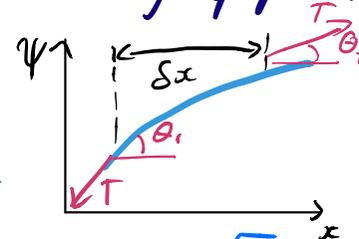


- This is clearly SHM with  $\omega_0^2 = \frac{1}{LC}$ ,  $\gamma = \frac{R}{2L}$ 
  - ↳ inductance  $\leftrightarrow$  mass, resistance  $\leftrightarrow$  damping, capacitance  $\leftrightarrow$  spring constant.
  - ↳ for RLC circuits, the quality factor is:  $Q = \frac{1}{R} \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}$
  - ↳ current is greatest when  $\omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$  (velocity resonance)
  - ↳ dissipated power is given by  $\langle P \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} [V_0 \hat{I}_0^*]$

## Waves

- A wave is described by  $\psi(x,t) = f(x \pm ct)$ 
  - ↳ by taking partial derivatives, we can derive the 1D wave equation:  $\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2}$
  - ↳ if  $c$  is constant, the wave is **non-dispersive**
  - ↳ because the equation is linear, waves obey superposition
- Eg a string under tension experiences a restoring force towards the axis:
 
$$F = T \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \Big|_x - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \Big|_{x+\delta x} \right) = -T \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} \delta x$$
 ↳ by NII,  $\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = \frac{T}{\rho} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2}$ , hence  $c = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\rho}}$

-ve for  $\leftarrow$   
+ve for  $\rightarrow$  travel



- A **harmonic wave** has a displacement that varies sinusoidally with time at any  $x$ .

$$\psi(x,t) = \text{Re} \{ A e^{i(\omega t - kx)} \}$$

↳  $k$  is the **wavenumber**:  $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$

- The general wave equation is  $\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \nabla^2 \psi$

- In 3D, a harmonic plane wave is described by:
 
$$\psi(\underline{r}, t) = \text{Re} \{ A \exp(i(\omega t - \underline{k} \cdot \underline{r})) \}$$

↳ the wavenumber becomes a **wavevector**

↳ by taking  $\partial/\partial t$  (i.e. multiplying by  $i\omega$ ) and the grad (i.e. multiplying by  $-ik$ ), we can show that:

$$c^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{|k|^2}$$

• A **spherical wave** does not vary with  $\theta, \phi$ . We can show by substitution that a valid solution is:

$$\psi(r, t) = \frac{f(r \pm ct)}{r}, \text{ e.g. } \hat{\psi}(r, t) = \frac{Ae^{i(\omega t - kr)}}{r}$$

↳ the  $1/r$  dependence is consistent with the inverse square law for power.

• A **cylindrical wave** can be generated from a line source (e.g. diffraction slit)

↳ we may guess a  $1/\sqrt{r}$  dependence to conserve power:

$$\psi(r, t) = \frac{f(r \pm ct)}{\sqrt{r}}$$

↳ this is not a solution, but is a good approx for  $r \gg \lambda$  (far away from slit).

## Polarisation

• A transverse wave can be disturbed along two axes (because of superposition).

↳ the relative amplitudes and phases define the **polarisation**

• In general:

$$\psi_y = A_y \cos(\omega t - kx)$$

$$\psi_z = A_z \cos(\omega t - kx + \phi)$$

• **Linear polarisation** arises when  $\phi = 0$   
↳ any linearly polarised wave can be resolved into two orthogonal components with the same phase.

• **Circular polarisation** occurs when  $A_y = A_z$  but  $\phi = (m + \frac{1}{2})\pi$   
↳ displacement vector traces a corkscrew

• The general case is **elliptical polarisation**:

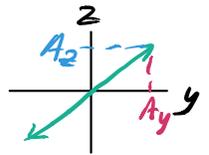
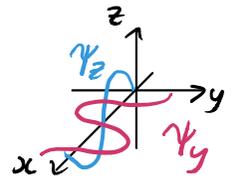
↳ two amplitudes and an angle are needed to specify

↳ waves can be **partially polarised** - in which case another parameter specifies the unpolarised power.

• Polarised waves can be represented with 2-vectors (y and z components):

- e.g. linearly polarised  $\begin{pmatrix} A \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  <sup>along y</sup>  $\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ A \end{pmatrix}$  <sup>along z</sup>

- e.g. circular  $\begin{pmatrix} A \\ A \end{pmatrix}$



## Reflection and transmission

- Wave impedance relates the transverse force to the transverse velocity (NOT wave velocity)

$$\text{impedance} = \frac{\text{driving force}}{\text{transverse velocity}}$$

↳ for a string:  $Z = \rho c = \sqrt{TM}$

- For a wave with transverse velocity  $\hat{u}$ :

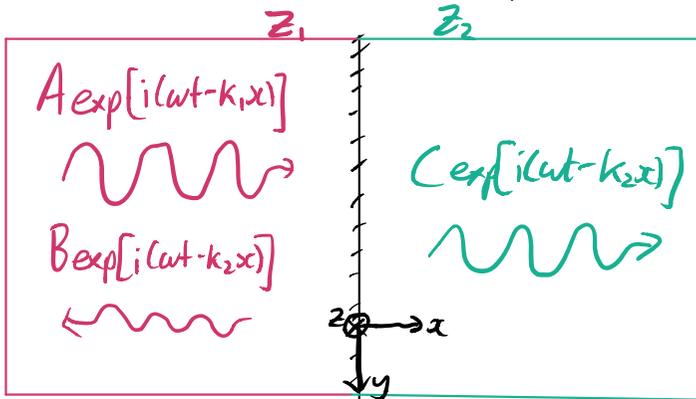
$$\langle P \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(\hat{F}\hat{u}^*) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(\hat{Z}) |\hat{u}|^2$$

- ↳ if  $Z$  is real and the wave is harmonic:

$$\langle P \rangle = \frac{1}{2} Z \omega^2 A_0^2$$

- ↳ this can also be derived by considering KE and PE per unit length:  $KE = \frac{1}{2} \rho \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}\right)^2$   $PE = \frac{1}{2} T \left(\frac{\partial y}{\partial x}\right)^2$

- Consider a harmonic wave approaching a boundary:



- ↳ B.C.s at  $x=0$ :  $\Psi$  is continuous  
 $\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x}$  is continuous ← related to transverse force

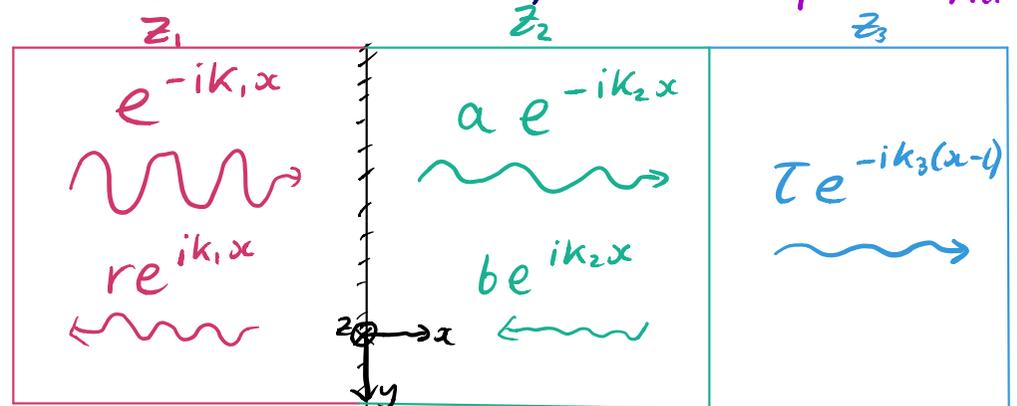
$$\therefore A + B = C \text{ and } Z_1(A - B) = Z_2 C$$

- ↳ the reflection coefficient and transmission coefficient:

$$r = \frac{B}{A} = \frac{Z_1 - Z_2}{Z_1 + Z_2} \quad \tau = 1 + r = \frac{2Z_1}{Z_1 + Z_2}$$

- The power coefficients are found by squaring  $\tau$  and  $r$  (technically square modulus).

- To reduce reflections at interfaces, we can use impedance matching



- ↳ to simplify algebra: drop  $e^{i\omega t}$  set incident amplitude to 1, add a phase shift  $e^{ik_3 l}$  to the transmission, and define  $\gamma = e^{-ik_2 l}$

- ↳ match boundary conditions to find  $r, a, b, \tau$

• If we choose a quarter wavelength of material, the reflected waves from each boundary are out of phase.

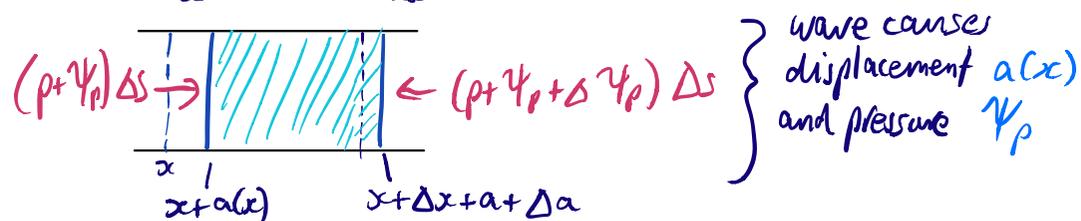
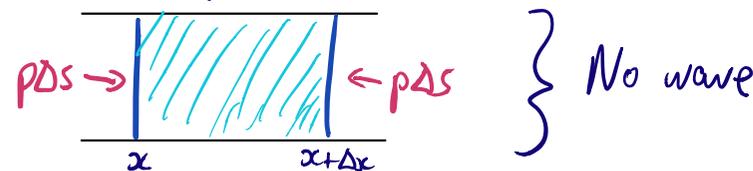
↳ we also note that the effective impedance of the layer and substrate is given by  $Z_{\text{eff}} = Z_2^2 / Z_3$

↳ so to match impedances, we need  $Z_2 = \sqrt{Z_1 Z_3}$

↳ in practice,  $Z$  for a material can be found via  $Z = \frac{Z_0}{n}$

## Longitudinal waves

- Longitudinal waves displace the medium in the same direction as they propagate  $\Rightarrow$  no polarisation.
- Sound waves propagate by compressions and rarefactions of a medium (caused by pressure waves)
- We analyse an infinitesimal column of gas with area  $\Delta S$  and equilibrium pressure  $p$ .



↳ the fractional change in the column volume caused by the wave is  $\frac{\Delta V}{V} = \frac{\Delta S \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \Delta x}{\Delta S \Delta x} = \frac{\partial a}{\partial x}$

↳ similarly  $F_{\text{net}} = \Delta P \Delta S = - \frac{\partial \psi_p}{\partial x} \Delta x \Delta S$

- Because the pressure changes rapidly, there is no time for heat exchange  $\Rightarrow$  adiabatic process,  $pV^\gamma = \text{const}$

$$\Rightarrow dp = \gamma p \frac{\Delta V}{V} = -\gamma p \frac{\partial a}{\partial x}$$

↳  $dp$  is the pressure change from the wave, i.e.  $dp \equiv \psi_p$

$$\therefore \frac{\partial \psi_p}{\partial x} = -\gamma p \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial x^2} - \gamma \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \frac{\partial a}{\partial x}$$

↳ ratio of 2nd/1st terms on RHS  $\sim a/\lambda$  so is negligible. Hence  $F_{net} \propto \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial x^2}$

• By NII,  $F_{net} = \rho \Delta x \Delta S \ddot{a}$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\gamma p}{\rho} \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial x^2} \quad \text{molar mass}$$

↳ nondispersive wave with

$$c = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma p}{\rho}} = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma RT}{M}}$$

• It is easier to measure changes in pressure:

$$\psi_p = -\gamma p \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \quad \& \quad a = a_0 e^{i(\omega t - kx)} \Rightarrow \psi_p = i\gamma p k a$$

↳ i.e. pressure leads displacement by  $\pi/2$

↳ the **acoustic impedance**  $Z$  is the impedance per unit area:

$$Z = \frac{\text{force}}{\text{velocity} \times \text{area}} = \frac{\psi_p \Delta S}{\dot{a} \Delta S} = \frac{i\gamma p k a}{i\omega a} = \boxed{v_p = \frac{\gamma p}{v}}$$

• The **intensity** of a wave is the mean power per unit area

$$I = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}[\psi_p \dot{a}^*] = \frac{1}{2} Z \omega^2 |a_0|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \frac{|A_0|^2}{Z}$$

$$a = a_0 e^{i(\omega t - kx)}$$

$$\psi_p = \hat{A}_0 e^{i(\omega t - kx)}$$

• The **decibel** scale is a logarithmic relative scale:

$$\hookrightarrow \text{sound pressure level} = 20 \log_{10} (p_{rms}/p_{ref})$$

↳  $p_{ref} = 20 \mu\text{Pa}$ , roughly the threshold of human hearing.

↳ alternatively:  $\text{dBA} = 10 \log_{10} (I/I_{ref})$ ,  $I_{ref} = 10^{-12} \text{Wm}^{-2}$

• Longitudinal waves also occur in liquids and solids.

The derivation is similar except for the relationship between pressure and volume. In general:

$$dp = \psi_p = -k \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \quad \leftarrow k \text{ is the elastic modulus}$$

↳ the wave speed is then  $c = \sqrt{\frac{k}{\rho}}$

↳ for gases and liquids we use the **bulk modulus**

since pressure is isotropic:  $dp = -B \frac{dv}{v}$

↳ solids are more complex because of shear stresses and Poisson's ratio. However, for thin bars we can

just use **Young's modulus**  $\sigma = Y \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \Rightarrow c = \sqrt{Y/\rho}$

## Standing waves

• Standing waves form from the superposition of forward/backward waves with some B.C.  $\psi(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$ .

• e.g. for a string of length  $L$  with  $\psi(0, t) = \psi(L, t) = 0$ ,  
 $\psi = A \cos(\omega t - kx) - A \cos(\omega t + kx) = 2A \sin \omega t \sin kx$ .

↳ B.C.s satisfied when  $k = n\pi/L$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

## Damped waves

- Assume a damping force  $\propto$  transverse speed
- $\therefore \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} - \Gamma \frac{\partial y}{\partial t}$   $\rightarrow \Gamma \equiv \beta/\mu$ ,  $\beta$  is the damping const

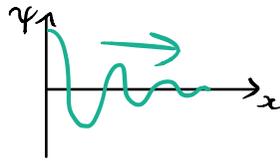
$\hookrightarrow$  if we try harmonic waves,  $k$  must be complex

$$k = k_r - ik_i \Rightarrow k_r^2 - k_i^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2}; \quad 2k_r k_i = \frac{\Gamma \omega}{c^2}$$

- For light damping  $\Gamma \ll \omega$  so  $k_r \approx \frac{\omega}{c}$ ,  $k_i \approx \frac{\Gamma}{2c}$
- $\therefore \psi(x,t) = e^{-k_i x} \text{Re}[D e^{i(\omega t + k_r x)}]$

$\hookrightarrow$  decaying travelling wave

$\hookrightarrow$  'damping length' set by  $k_i$ , and independent of wavelength.



- For heavy damping  $\Gamma \gg \omega \Rightarrow -i\Gamma\omega \approx c^2 k^2$

$$\therefore k' = k_r \approx k_i \approx \pm \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma \omega}{2c^2}} \quad \leftarrow \text{real and imag parts are equal}$$

$\hookrightarrow$  wave decays over a short distance since decay length varies as  $\omega^{-0.5}$ .

- The impedance of the wave now has frequency dependence:

$$Z = \frac{-T \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}}{\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}} = \frac{Tk}{\omega} = T/\omega (k_r - ik_i)$$

- $\hookrightarrow$  light damping:  $Z(\omega) = Z_0 (1 - \frac{i\Gamma}{2\omega})$
- $\hookrightarrow$  heavy damping:  $Z(\omega) = Z_0 (1-i) \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma}{2\omega}}$

- For a boundary between two (possibly damped) media, we can use the same reflection coefficient
- $\hookrightarrow$  for light damping,  $r(\omega) = \frac{i\Gamma}{4\omega}$ , i.e. little reflection
- $\hookrightarrow$  for heavy damping,  $r(\omega) \approx -1$ , i.e. antiphase reflection

- The dispersion relation is the relationship between  $\omega$  and  $k$ . For non-dispersive systems,  $\omega = ck$ .

- For a lightly damped wave, the propagating wave has phase  $\omega t - k_r x$  so the phase speed is

$$v_\phi = \frac{\omega}{k_r} = c \left( 1 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{4c^2 k_r^2} \right)^{-1/2}$$

$\hookrightarrow$  wave speed now depends on wavelength so this wave is dispersive.

- Dispersion can occur without damping, e.g. a stiff string that resists bending:  $\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} - \alpha \frac{\partial^4 y}{\partial x^4} \right)$

$\hookrightarrow$  the harmonic solution has  $\omega = \pm ck \sqrt{1 + \alpha k^2}$

$\hookrightarrow$  there is no loss of energy, but low wavelength waves are more affected by the stiffness (faster wave)

- This is relevant for piano tuning. Because we have  $v_\phi(2l)$ ,  $f_0 = v_\phi(2l)/2l$ ,  $f_1 = v_\phi(l)/l \Rightarrow f_1/f_0 > 2$ . In practice, we will thus tune the higher octave string to match  $f_1$  instead of  $2f_0$  to prevent beats.

## Group velocity

- Consider two equal-amplitude waves with slightly different frequencies propagating together.

$$\Psi = \cos(\omega_1 t - k_1 x) + \cos(\omega_2 t - k_2 x), \quad \omega_1 \approx \omega_2, \quad k_1 \approx k_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \Psi = 2 \cos(\omega_+ t - k_+ x) \cos(\omega_- t - k_- x)$$

$$\text{where } \omega_+ = \frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 + \omega_2) \quad \omega_- = \frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 - \omega_2)$$

↳ thus there is a high frequency wave with speed

$$v_\phi \approx \omega_1/k_1 \approx \omega_2/k_2 \quad \text{modulated by a lower}$$

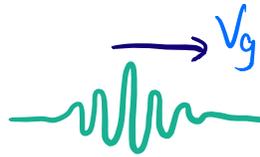
frequency envelope with group velocity:

$$v_g = \frac{\omega_-}{k_-} = \frac{\omega_1 - \omega_2}{k_1 - k_2} \approx \frac{d\omega}{dk}$$

- Alternatively, we can consider the speed of the 'peak' of a group. At the peak, all components add in phase, hence  $(\omega t - kx + \phi)$  is constant for all components

$$\therefore \frac{d}{dt}(\omega t - kx + \phi) = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{x}{t} = v_g = \left( \frac{d\omega}{dk} \right)_{\omega_0}$$

- For a nondispersive wave,  $\frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{d\omega}{dk}$  for all  $\omega$  so the group maintains its shape. For dispersive waves, crests may move relative to the envelope.
- $v_g$  is important because it is the rate of information propagation.
- The range of wavevectors in a group is inversely related to the spatial extent of the group.  $\Delta k \Delta x \approx 1$



- If the group contains wavevectors in the band  $k_0 \pm \Delta k$ , the max and min velocities in the group are

$$v_{\min} = \left. \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k} \right|_{k_0 - \Delta k} \quad v_{\max} = \left. \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k} \right|_{k_0 + \Delta k}$$

↳ in a time  $t$ , the wave spreads by:

$$\Delta x \approx \Delta x_0 + (v_{\max} - v_{\min})t$$

$$\approx \Delta x_0 + 2 \left. \frac{\partial^2 \omega}{\partial k^2} \right|_{k_0} \Delta k t$$

$$\therefore \Delta x \approx \Delta x_0 + 2 \left. \frac{\partial^2 \omega}{\partial k^2} \right|_{k_0} \frac{t}{\Delta x_0}$$

← using:  $\Delta k \Delta x \approx 1$

## Water waves

- Water waves are complex because they have both longitudinal and transverse propagation (in quadrature).
- For deep water, we can model the dispersion relation as:

$$\omega^2 = gk + \frac{\sigma k^3}{\rho}$$

gravity  $\uparrow$  surface tension  $\leftarrow$

- Ripples are surface tension driven:
 
$$\omega \approx \sqrt{\frac{\sigma k^3}{\rho}} \Rightarrow v_g \approx \frac{3}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\sigma k}{\rho}} = \frac{3}{2} v_\phi$$
 ↳ anomalous dispersion because speed  $\downarrow$  as  $\lambda \uparrow$
- Gravity waves have longer wavelengths and are inertia-driven.
 
$$\omega = \sqrt{gk} \Rightarrow v_g = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{g}{k}} = \frac{1}{2} v_\phi$$
 ↳ normal dispersion since speed  $\uparrow$  as  $\lambda \uparrow$

- If  $\lambda$  exceeds the water depth  $h$ , gravity waves are mainly longitudinal and have a dispersion relationship:

$$\omega^2 = ghk^2 \left(1 - \frac{h^2 k^2}{3}\right)$$

↳ for very shallow water,  $\omega \approx \sqrt{gh}$  so the waves are approximately nondispersive.

↳ thus when approaching the shore, since speed  $\downarrow$ , amplitude  $\uparrow$  to conserve water

### Guided waves

- Consider a wave travelling in  $+x$  along a 2D membrane

• We consider these waves as

having  $\underline{k} = (k_x, \pm k_y) = (k \cos \theta, \pm k \sin \theta)$

- The total displacement is  $\psi = A e^{i(\omega t - k_x x)} [e^{-ik_y y} - e^{ik_y y}]$

$$\therefore \psi = -2iA \sin(k_y y) \exp[i(\omega t - k_x x)]$$

↳ i.e. travelling wave in  $+x$  with wavevector  $k_x$  modulated by a standing wave with  $k_y = \frac{n\pi}{b}$

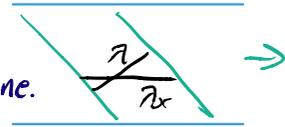
$$\therefore \omega^2 = c^2 |\underline{k}|^2 = c^2 \left(k_x^2 + \frac{m^2 \pi^2}{b^2}\right) \quad m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$

↳ hence the guided waves are dispersive

$$\therefore v_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk_x} = \frac{c^2}{\omega} \sqrt{\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} - \frac{m^2 \pi^2}{b^2}}$$

- Thus the dispersion relation and displacement pattern (waveguide mode) is specified by  $m$ .

- $k_x < |k|$ , so the wavelength of the unguided wave exceeds that of the guided one.



- Hence the phase velocity is greater than the wave speed, but group velocity is smaller.
- As  $k_x \rightarrow 0$ ,  $v_\phi \rightarrow \infty$  and  $v_g \rightarrow 0$ .  $v_\phi \rightarrow \infty$  does not violate relativity since the group carries the info.
- As  $k_x \rightarrow \infty$ , the behaviour approaches an unguided wave.
- Below the cutoff angular frequency  $\omega_c = \frac{m\pi c}{b}$ ,  $k_x^2$  becomes negative so there is no propagation.
- If there is a spread of frequencies, multiple modes can be excited, resulting in signal distortion.
  - ↳ avoided by choosing  $b$  such that  $\omega$  is below the cutoff freq for mode  $m=2$
  - ↳ the guide is then single-moded for  $\omega$ .

- In an optical fibre, data is transmitted via pulses of light.

↳ choose  $\lambda$  with minimal dispersion, but also minimal absorption into the fibre.

↳ the silica core is very thin so only one mode exists

↳ there is dispersion because it's a waveguide, but also because the refractive index depends on  $\lambda$ . Materials are chosen such that these effects cancel.

# Fourier Series

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2} a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos\left(\frac{2\pi n t}{T}\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n t}{T}\right)$$

$$a_n = \frac{2}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi n t}{T}\right) dt$$

$$b_n = \frac{2}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n t}{T}\right) dt$$

- For a square wave:  $f(t) = \frac{4}{\pi} (\sin \omega_0 t + \frac{1}{3} \sin 3\omega_0 t + \frac{1}{5} \sin 5\omega_0 t + \dots)$

↳ first few components can be used to approx. response since it drops off rapidly at higher freqs.

- It is sometimes simpler to use a complex representation:

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} C_n e^{in\omega_0 t} \quad C_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) e^{-in\omega_0 t} dt$$

- In the limit, this leads to the **Fourier transform**.

$$F[f(t)] = g(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

$$F^{-1}[g(\omega)] = f(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(\omega) e^{i\omega t} d\omega$$

- By definition, if a linear system is driven with  $f(t)$ , the response (in freq domain) is:  $R(\omega) F[f(t)]$

↳ thus the response (time) is:  $x(t) = F^{-1}[R(\omega) F[f(t)]]$

- A single pulse at the origin (i.e a delta function) has a constant F.T. i.e it is a mix of all frequencies.
- The **convolution** of  $f(x)$  with a delta function replicates  $f$ , centered at the delta spike.
  - ↳ by imagining another function  $g(x)$  to be an infinite number of spikes with different heights, we see that  $f * g$  causes  $g$  to be 'smeared out' by  $f$ .
- Hence if we know the convolution function for a noisy image, we can use **deconvolution**.
- If we know how the system responds to a delta function impulse, by linearity we can extend this to any driving force by modelling that force as many delta spikes
  - ↳ essentially the same method as Green's functions

- Useful rules for Fourier transforms:

↳ reciprocity  $F[f(t)] = g(\omega) \Rightarrow F^{-1}[g(\omega)] = f(-t)$

↳ scaling  $F[f(t/a)] = |a| g(a\omega)$

↳ linearity

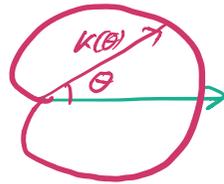
↳ convolution theorem

↳ FT of real function has Hermitian symmetry, i.e  $f(-\omega) = \tilde{f}(\omega)^*$

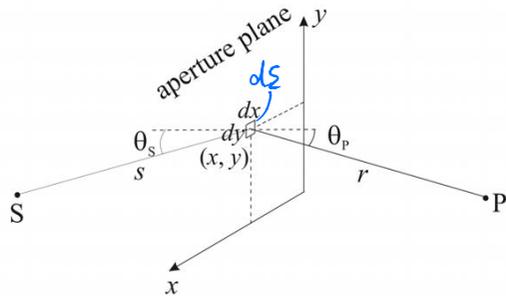
↳ if  $f(t)$  is real symmetric, so is the FT.

# Diffraction

- Huygens' principle can be used to derive some phenomena, but it predicts a backwards-propagating wavefront.
  - ↳ to fix this, we use **Huygens-Fresnel theory**, introducing an **inclination factor**  $K(\theta)$  which describes the drop off in intensity as a function of angle.
  - ↳ Fresnel proposed  $K(\theta) = \frac{1 + \cos\theta}{2}$
  - ↳ the relative amplitude of the secondary wavelets is  $-i/\lambda$



- Consider a planar aperture  $\Sigma$ , with an element  $(dx, dy)$  located at  $(x, y, 0)$



- Consider monochromatic spherical waves from  $S$ , i.e.:
 
$$\Psi(r, t) = \text{Re} \left\{ \hat{\Psi}(r) e^{-i\omega t} \right\}$$
  - ↳ the wave arriving at  $d\Sigma$  is then  $\hat{\Psi}(r) = \frac{a_s e^{iks}}{s}$

- The aperture can change the amplitude and phase, as characterised by a complex **aperture function**  $\hat{h}(x, y)$ 
  - ↳ then the secondary wavelets are described by
 
$$a_s = \hat{A} \hat{\Psi}_i(x, y) \hat{h}(x, y) dx dy$$

← relative amplitude of secondary waves

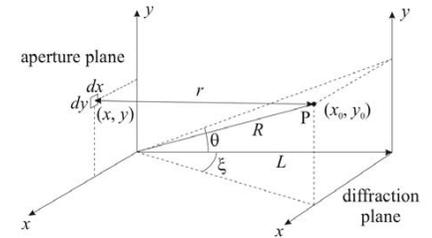
$$\therefore d\Psi_p = -\frac{i}{\lambda} \frac{a_s e^{iks}}{s} \hat{h}(x, y) dx dy K(\theta) \frac{e^{ikr}}{r}$$

- ↳ the obliquity is given by  $K = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(\theta_s) + \cos(\theta_p)]$
- ⇒ 
$$\Psi_p = \iint_{\Sigma} -\frac{i}{\lambda} \hat{h}(x, y) K(\theta_s, \theta_p) \frac{a_s e^{ik(st+r)}}{sr} dx dy$$

- The diffraction integral allows us to calculate  $\Psi_p$  relatively near the aperture, but it still breaks down for  $r < \lambda$ , i.e. the 'very near-field' case.

## Fraunhofer Diffraction

- Consider the diffraction pattern on a plane, with planar waves incident normally at the aperture



$$r^2 = L^2 + (x_0 - x)^2 + (y_0 - y)^2 \Rightarrow r \approx R - \frac{x_0 x + y_0 y}{R} + \frac{x^2 + y^2}{2R}$$

use binomial expansion → negligible for large R

- ↳ specifically, we can ignore the second term if
 
$$\frac{K(x^2 + y^2)}{2R} \ll \pi \Rightarrow R \gg \frac{D^2}{\lambda}$$

← max extent of aperture

- With the approximation that  $K(\theta) \approx 1$ , and using  $\Psi_\Sigma$  as the incident wave (constant for plane wave), we have the Fraunhofer integral:

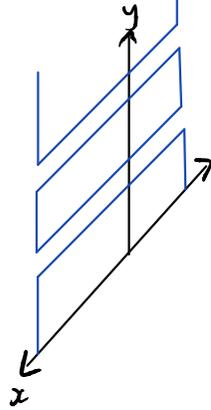
$$\Psi_p \propto \iint_\Sigma \Psi_\Sigma h(x,y) \exp\left[-ik\left(\frac{x_0 x + y_0 y}{R}\right)\right] dx dy$$

- For 1D diffraction, with patterns extending in  $-\infty < x < \infty$ , the integral over  $x$  is just a multiplicative constant. Using a small angle approx  $\sin\theta \approx y_0/R$ :

$$\Psi_p \propto \int h(y) e^{-iky \sin\theta} dy$$

$$\Rightarrow \Psi_p(k \sin\theta) \propto \mathcal{F}\{h(y)\}$$

we write  $k \sin\theta \equiv q$

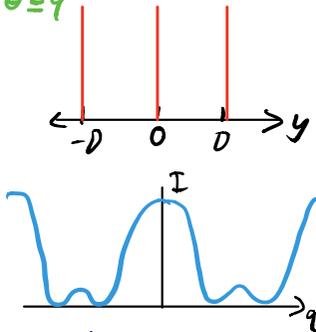


- e.g for 3 narrow slits

$$h(y) = \delta(y+d) + \delta(y) + \delta(y-d)$$

$$\therefore \Psi_p \propto e^{iqd} + 1 + e^{-iqd} = 1 + 2\cos(qd)$$

$$\therefore I_p(q) = I_0 (1 + 2\cos(qd))^2$$



we can extend this to  $N$  narrow slits, resulting in:

$$I_p = I_0 \text{sinc}^2(Nqd/2)$$

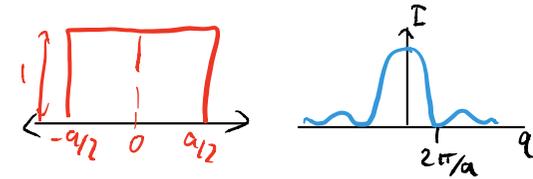
As  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , the diffraction pattern tends to a delta comb

the separation of primary maxima is  $G = 2\pi/d$

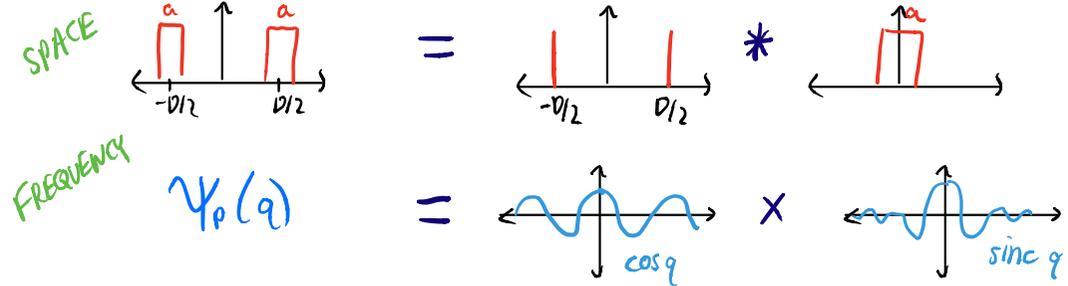
$N-2$  subsidiary maxima and  $N-1$  zeroes.

- e.g for a wide aperture:

$$I_p(q) \propto a^2 \text{sinc}^2\left(\frac{qa}{2}\right)$$



- More complicated diffraction patterns can be analysed with the convolution theorem:

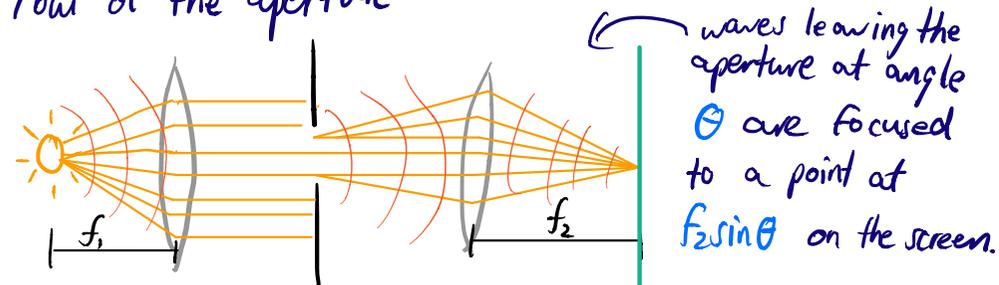


$$\therefore I_p(q) = I_0 \cos^2\left(\frac{qd}{2}\right) a^2 \text{sinc}^2\left(\frac{qa}{2}\right)$$

this modulation may lead to missing orders where a peak is expected due to a minimum in the envelope.

- If we introduce some phase-shift at the aperture, the diffraction pattern shifts.

- In practice, to make use of Fraunhofer diffraction we can use lenses to ensure that plane waves are coming in/out of the aperture



- Fraunhofer diffraction can also be used for 2D apertures, using  $\sin\theta \approx y/R$  and  $\sin\xi \approx \frac{x_0}{r}$ , with  $q = k\sin\theta$  and  $p = k\sin\xi$ . This gives the 2D Fourier Transform:

$$\therefore \Psi_p(p, q) \propto \iint_{\Sigma} \hat{h}(x, y) e^{-i(px+qy)} dx dy$$

↳ this is easy to evaluate if  $\hat{h}(x, y)$  is separable into  $\hat{f}(x)\hat{g}(y)$  - then it is the product of two 1D FTs.

- A circular aperture is not separable in  $x, y$ . The Fraunhofer integral evaluates to:

$$\Psi_p(q) \propto \frac{\Psi_0 d^2}{2} \frac{J_1(qd/2)}{qd/2}$$

1st order Bessel Function of the first kind

↳ the diffraction pattern has its first zero at  $\sin\theta = \frac{1.22\lambda}{d}$

↳ the region inside the first zero is the Airy disc, containing 86% of the energy flux.

- Babinet's principle states that the diffracted intensities of an aperture and its complement are the same, except for the undiffracted beam



$$\Psi_1 \propto \iint_A e^{-i(px+qy)} dx dy$$

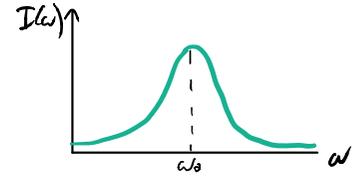
$$\Psi_2 \propto \iint_{\text{all space}} e^{-i(px+qy)} dx dy - \iint_A e^{-i(px+qy)} dx dy$$

$$\therefore \Psi_2 \propto \delta(p, q) - \Psi_1$$

## Spectral line emission

- Spectral lines arise from transitions between quantum states.
- They have a finite width because there is a small uncertainty in their energy, because a quantum state has some lifetime.
- The electric field decays as  $E(t) = E_0 e^{-\gamma t} \cos\omega_0 t$

$$\therefore I(\omega) \propto \frac{1}{(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \gamma^2}$$



↳ Lorentzian power spectrum

- Particle collisions limit the coherence of emitted waves.
- ↳ mean collision time depends on the number density of particles, collision cross section  $\Sigma$ , and  $v_{rms}$

$$\tau_c \sim \frac{1}{n \Sigma v_{rms}} \Rightarrow \Delta\omega \sim n \Sigma v_{rms}$$

- Because the atom will be moving when it emits light, there is a Doppler shift:  $\omega \approx \omega_0 (1 + \frac{u_x}{c})$   $\omega_0$  is the rest-frame freq.

↳ hence a signal component with freq  $\omega$  came from an atom with speed  $u_x \approx c(\omega - \omega_0)/\omega_0$

↳ the 1D Boltzmann distribution gives:

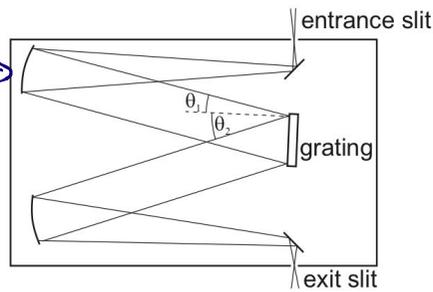
$$p(u_x) \propto \exp\left(\frac{-mu_x^2}{2k_B T}\right) \Rightarrow I(\omega) \propto \exp\left(\frac{-m^2 c^2 (\omega - \omega_0)^2}{2\omega_0^2 k_B T}\right)$$

↳ hence the spectrum is Gaussian. This may be dominant at higher altitudes (less atmospheric pressure broadening).

- Generally, spectra will be the convolution of Lorentzian/Gaussian.

• Spectra are normally measured using **grating spectrometers**.

concave mirrors have less chromatic aberration than lenses



↳ a concave mirror reflects focused incident light onto a diffraction grating at a specific angle

↳ light is then diffracted according to:

$$D(\sin\theta_2 - \sin\theta_1) = m\lambda$$

grating equation with non-normal incidence.  
order of maximum

### Resolution

• For a diffraction grating of finite width, the intensity peaks will be finite-width peaks  $\propto \text{sinc}^2(NqD/2)$

↳ for illumination at two wavelengths (normal incidence), there will be peaks at

$$D\sin\theta_1 = m\lambda \quad D\sin\theta_2 = m(\lambda + \delta\lambda)$$

↳ the first minimum for the  $m$ th primary maximum for the  $\lambda$  pattern is at  $D\sin\theta_2 = m\lambda + \frac{\lambda}{N-1}$

• The **Rayleigh criterion** states that the peaks will be resolved if the maximum of one pattern coincides with the minimum of the other.

• Define  $R = \frac{\lambda}{\delta\lambda}$  as the **chromatic resolving power** of the grating:  $R = \frac{\lambda}{\delta\lambda} = mN$  ← number of slits

↳ hence it is easier to distinguish higher-order peaks.

• In geometrical optics, lenses produce point images from point objects. But in physical optics, the finite circular extent of the lens produces an **Airy disc**.

↳ the angular radius of the disc is  $\alpha \approx \frac{1.22\lambda}{D}$

↳ the actual radius is  $\frac{1.22\lambda}{D} f$  ← focal length

↳ the Rayleigh criterion thus limits the **angular resolution** of the telescope.

↳ if a telescope produces images of the order  $\frac{1.22\lambda}{D}$ , it is **diffraction-limited**.

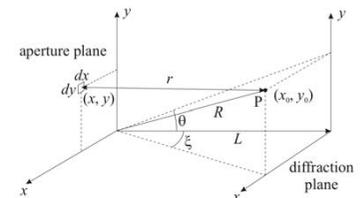
### Fresnel diffraction

• If we are in the very-near field regime ( $R \sim \frac{D^2}{\lambda}$ ), we can no longer ignore the higher-order phase terms like we did for Fraunhofer diffraction. This is **Fresnel diffraction**.

• As before,  $r \approx R - \frac{x_0x + y_0y}{R} + \frac{x^2 + y^2}{2R}$

↳ assume we are on-axis  $\therefore x_0 = y_0 = 0$ , can change coordinates otherwise.

↳  $\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2R}$  is no longer negligible

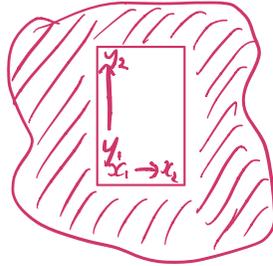


$$\therefore \Psi_p(0,0) \propto \iint_S h(x,y) \exp\left(ik \frac{x^2+y^2}{2R}\right) dx dy$$

↳ this is only tractable for simple apertures.

• Consider a rectangular aperture:

$$\text{↳ let } u = x \sqrt{\frac{2}{\lambda R}} \quad v = y \sqrt{\frac{2}{\lambda R}}$$



$$\therefore \Psi_p \propto \int_{u_1}^{u_2} \exp\left(\frac{i\pi u^2}{2}\right) du \int_{v_1}^{v_2} \exp\left(\frac{i\pi v^2}{2}\right) dv$$

↳ we define the Fresnel Integrals:

$$C(w) = \int_0^w \cos\left(\frac{\pi u^2}{2}\right) du \quad S(w) = \int_0^w \sin\left(\frac{\pi u^2}{2}\right) du$$

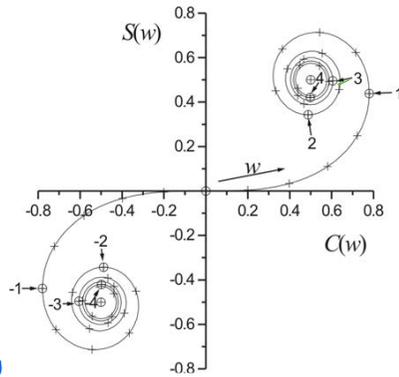
$$\text{i.e. } \int_0^w \exp\left(\frac{i\pi u^2}{2}\right) du = C(w) + iS(w)$$

• The locus of  $C(w) + iS(w)$  is the Cornu spiral

↳ arc length between points  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  is  $w_2 - w_1$ , i.e.  $w$  is the distance from the origin measured along the curve

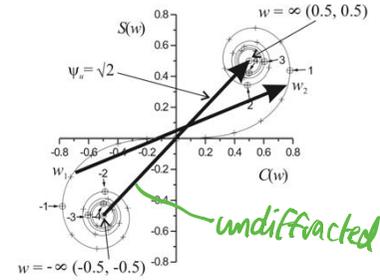
↳ radius of curvature is  $\frac{1}{\pi w}$

↳ curve is odd, and gradually spirals to  $\pm(0.5, 0.5)$  as  $w \rightarrow \infty$



↳ the undiffracted beam is the vector between spiral centres, having length  $\sqrt{2}$

↳ intensity  $\propto$  square of length



• To find the pattern at other points, the origin must be moved so that it is exactly between  $S$  and the observation point, to satisfy the Fresnel conditions

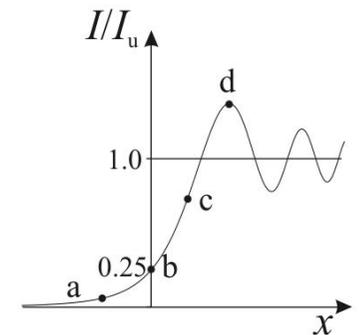
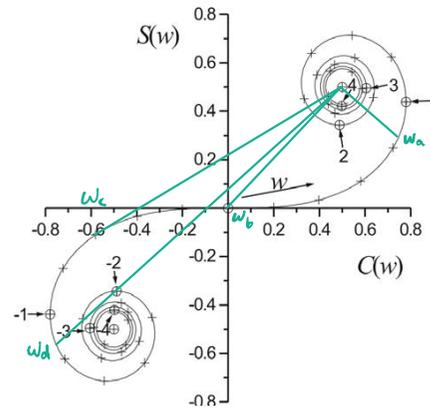
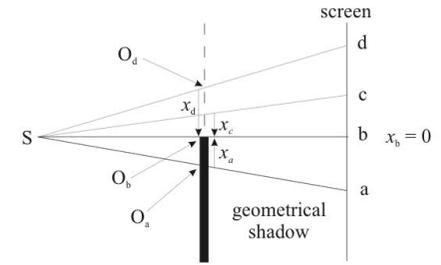
• For diffraction around an edge:

a.  $x_2 = \infty \quad x_1 = x_a > 0$

b.  $x_2 = \infty \quad x_1 = x_b = 0$

c.  $x_2 = 0 \quad x_1 = x_c < 0$

d.  $x_3 = \infty \quad x_1 = x_d$



↳ well outside the shadow ( $x \rightarrow \infty$ ), intensity  $\approx$  undiffracted

↳ amplitude falls as  $\sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{w}}$  inside the shadow.

• For a single 1D slit:

$$\Psi_p \propto \int_{w_1}^{w_2} \exp\left(\frac{i\pi u^2}{2}\right) du = [C(w_2) + iS(w_2)] - [C(w_1) + iS(w_1)]$$

↳ this is equivalent to a vector between points  $w_1, w_2$ .

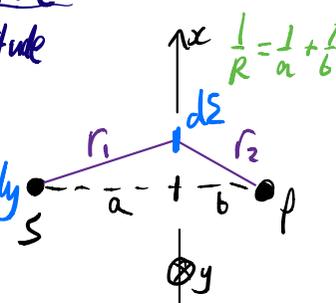
• For a narrow finite slit, the integral width is always  $\Delta w = \alpha \sqrt{2} \lambda R$  but the starting  $w_1$  changes as the origin moves.

↳ the spanning vector is thus between two points separated by a constant arc length  $\Delta w$ .

• For a wide finite slit,  $\Delta w$  is large so the ends of the spanning vector are in the tightly-spiralled region, hence rapidly oscillating fringes.

### Fresnel diffraction for a circular aperture

• The full expression for the diffracted amplitude is found by examining the geometry:

$$\Psi_p \propto \iint_S \frac{h(x,y) k(\theta) \exp(ik \frac{x^2+y^2}{2R})}{r_1 r_2} dx dy$$


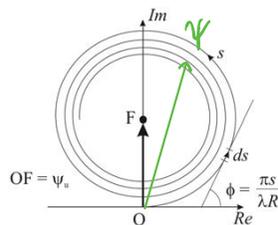
↳ making use of circular symmetry, consider the aperture to be composed of annular elements

$$S = \rho^2 = x^2 + y^2 \quad dx dy = 2\pi \rho d\rho = \pi ds$$

$$\therefore \Psi_p \propto \int_{s=0}^{s=r_a^2} \frac{k(\theta) \exp(\frac{i\pi s}{\lambda R})}{\sqrt{a^2+s} \sqrt{b^2+s}} \cdot \pi ds$$

• This integral can be analysed with phasors:

↳ the phase  $\phi = \pi s / \lambda R$  increases linearly with  $s$  and elemental contributions are of the order  $ds \Rightarrow$  approximately circular



↳  $k(\theta)$  decreases with  $s$ , since for aperture elements further away from the centre, the point  $P$  will be at a greater angle away from undiffracted.

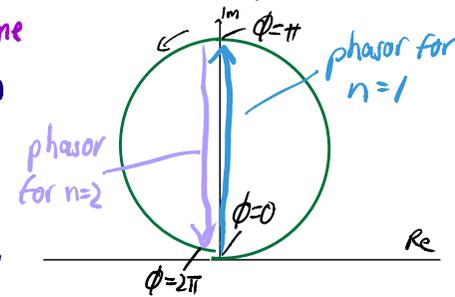
↳ the denominator increases with  $s$ , thus the modulus of the integrand decreases with  $s \Rightarrow$  radius of the phasor circle is decreasing

↳ the diffracted amplitude is the length of a vector from  $O$  to some point a distance  $s$  along the curve.

• The diffracted amplitude varies considerably depending on  $s$ , from  $\Psi \approx 0 \rightarrow \Psi \approx 2\Psi_u$ , separated by phase  $\phi = \pi$ .

↳ the  $n$ th Fresnel half-period zone is the annular region between

$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} (n-1)\pi &\leq \phi(s) \leq n\pi \\ (n-1)\lambda R &\leq \rho^2 \leq n\lambda R \end{aligned}}$$



↳ note that odd-numbered zones add to amplitude, while even zones subtract

↳ the area of each zone is the same:  $\pi(\rho_n^2 - \rho_{n-1}^2) = \pi \lambda R$ .

• Neglecting  $k(\theta)$  and  $r_1, r_2$  variation (i.e. assuming circular phasor diag), each zone contributes equally to the amplitude:

↳ for an aperture of radius  $r_a$ , there will be a certain number  $N$  of zones, where  $r_a^2 = N \lambda R$

↳ if  $N$  is even, all zone pairs cancel so  $\Psi_p \sim 0$ .

↳ if  $N$  is odd, one zone will remain so  $\Psi_p \sim 2\Psi_u$ .

• For large apertures, as the phasor spirals in, the zone contributions decrease and the zones are narrower

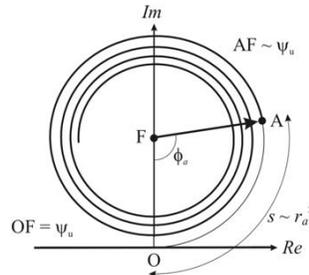
**Check this!**

• Consider a circular obstruction of radius  $r_a$  on the axis. The inner zones up to  $\rho = r_a$  are obscured, while outer zones are unobstructed.

↳ we thus integrate from  $\rho = r_a \rightarrow \rho = \infty$ ,

i.e. from  $\phi_a = \frac{\pi r_a^2}{\lambda R} \rightarrow \phi = \infty$

↳ the diffracted amplitude is the length of the vector from  $A$  to the centre of the spiral

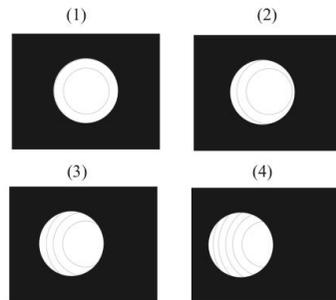
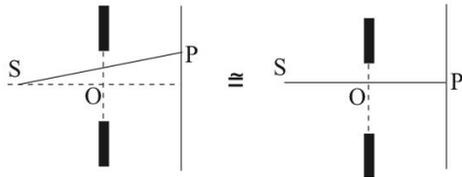


↳ if  $r_a$  is not too large (hence  $\phi_a$  not too large)

$|AF| \approx |OF|$ , hence the diffracted intensity is similar to if there were no obstruction

↳ this is **Poisson's spot**, a phenomenon that Fraunhofer diffraction (and Babinet's principle) does not explain.

• Off-axis, we can make the approximation that the aperture shifts sideways across the zone structure



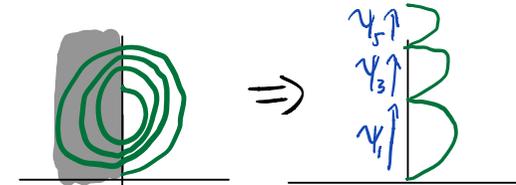
↳ there is an oscillation in  $|\psi_p|^2$  as  $P$  moves off-axis, as the ratio of odd/even zone area changes

\* ↳ the diffraction pattern thus consists of circular fringes with spacing  $\approx$  the zone width at the edge of the aperture

↳ a long way off-axis, there will be many narrow zones so their contributions cancel  $\rightarrow$  intensity decreases rapidly.

• A **Fresnel zone plate** blocks alternate half-period zones, resulting in a high intensity

↳ this can be seen by adding half-spirals



↳ the obstructions should be placed at alternating segments between:

$$\rho_1 = \sqrt{\lambda R}, \rho_2 = \sqrt{2\lambda R}, \rho_3 = \sqrt{3\lambda R} \dots$$

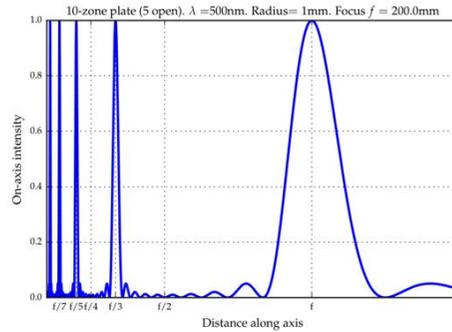
↳ the net amplitude is  $\psi_p \approx 2N\psi_u$  where  $N$  is the number of open zones in the plate

↳ thus the plate acts as a lens with an effective focal length of

$$f = R = \frac{\rho_n^2}{n\lambda}$$

↳ since  $f \propto \frac{1}{\lambda}$ , this is a **highly chromatic lens**

• As point  $P$  moves along the axis towards the plate,  $R$  decreases. When  $R = f/2m$ , each open area admits an even number of Fresnel zones, so  $\psi_p \rightarrow 0$



↳ hence there are zeroes  
at  $R = f/2m$

↳ likewise, there are maxima  
at  $R = f/2m+1$ , where  
each zone plate admits an  
odd number of Fresnel zones  
so  $\Psi_p \rightarrow 2N\Psi_n$

↳ in reality, the obliquity factor would reduce the  
intensity of the maxima

• Although this 'lens' is poor, it may be the only option at  
high frequencies, since refractive indices  $\rightarrow 1$ .

## Interference

• The superposition of two monochromatic waves is:

$$\Psi = \text{Re}[\psi_1 e^{-i\omega_1 t} + \psi_2 e^{-i\omega_2 t}]$$

↳ using  $\text{Re}[\hat{A}] = \frac{1}{2}(\hat{A} + \hat{A}^*)$ , we can expand

$I \propto (\text{Re}[\hat{\Psi}])^2$  to get:

$$I \propto \frac{1}{2}|\psi_1|^2 + \frac{1}{2}|\psi_2|^2 + \underbrace{\text{Re}[\psi_1 \psi_2^* e^{i(\omega_2 - \omega_1)t}]}_{\text{these terms vary more rapidly than the response time of most detectors, hence avg to zero}} + \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}[\psi_1^2 e^{-2i\omega_1 t} + \psi_2^2 e^{-2i\omega_2 t} + 2\psi_1 \psi_2 e^{-i(\omega_1 + \omega_2)t}]$$

these terms vary more rapidly than the response  
time of most detectors, hence avg to zero

↳ the time-average intensity is thus:

$$\langle I \rangle \propto \frac{1}{2} \langle a_1^2 \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle a_2^2 \rangle + \langle a_1 a_2 \text{Re}[e^{i(\phi_1 - \phi_2 - (\omega_1 - \omega_2)t)}] \rangle$$

↳ interference phenomena require the third term to be nonzero.

• If the detector averages over a time  $\tau$ , we will not see  
interference if  $(\omega_1 - \omega_2)\tau \gg 1$ . i.e we need  $\omega_1 \approx \omega_2$

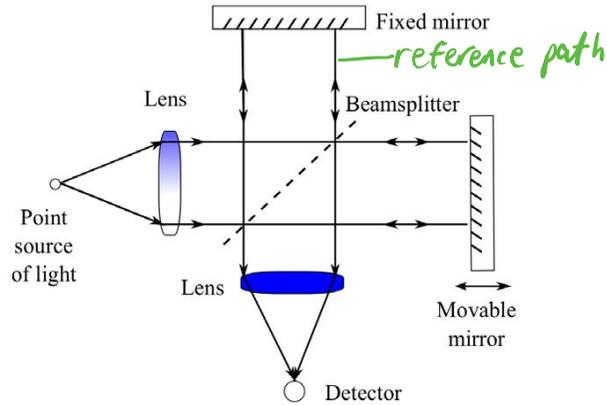
• In practice,  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  of independent sources vary randomly  
and rapidly - interference is typically only seen when light  
from a single source is split and recombined, giving a stable  $\phi_1 - \phi_2$

• In **wavefront division**, the interfering waves are derived from  
different spatial points on a coherent wavefront - e.g slit diffraction.

• In **amplitude division**, interfering waves are derived by dividing the  
wavefront's amplitude at a point, e.g reflection/transmission at an interface

# The Michelson Interferometer

- The Michelson interferometer uses amplitude division:



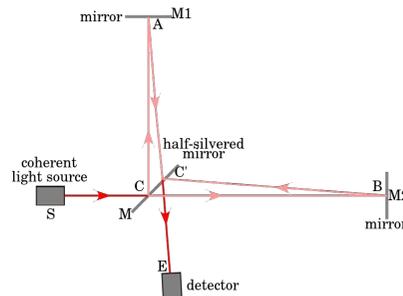
↳ the path difference between splitted beams is varied by moving one mirror.

↳ the system must be kept rigid to control the path difference.

↳ there will either be constructive or destructive interference

↳ if we record intensity as a function of mirror position, we see a fringe pattern

- An alternative setup, which also works for extended sources, tilts the mirrors. Hence fringes are seen at the detector, even with both mirrors fixed.



- For a monochromatic point source with  $k = 2\pi/\lambda$  ( $\omega_1 = \omega_2$ ):  

$$\langle I \rangle \propto \frac{1}{2} \langle a_1^2 \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle a_2^2 \rangle + \langle a_1 a_2 \text{Re}[e^{ikx}] \rangle$$

↳  $Kx = \phi_1 - \phi_2$  is the phase difference,  $x$  is the path difference (ie  $2x$  the diff in beamsplitter-mirror distances)  

$$I(x) = I_0 (1 + \text{Re}[e^{ikx}])$$
 ← averaging implicit

↳ hence the fringe spacing tells us the wavelength.

- If the light is not monochromatic, each wavelength will form its own set of fringes. Total intensity is the sum of fringe patterns.

## Fourier transform spectroscopy

- Broadband light (e.g. white light) leads to blurred, colourful fringe patterns.

- Let the measured intensity of light in a wavenumber range  $k \rightarrow k+dk$  be  $2S(k)dk$ . The total intensity at a point is the sum of all waves:

$$I(x) = 2 \int_0^{\infty} S(k) (1 + \text{Re}[e^{ikx}]) dk$$

↳ if we also define  $S(k)$  for negative  $k$ .

$$I(x) = I_1 + \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S(k) e^{ikx} dk$$

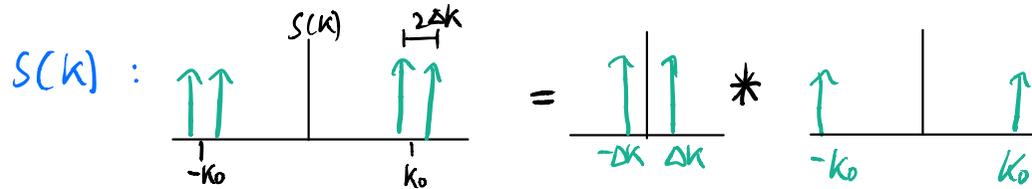
$I_1 = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} S(k) dk$   
is the total intensity

↳ thus the spectrum  $\propto$  the Fourier transform of intensity

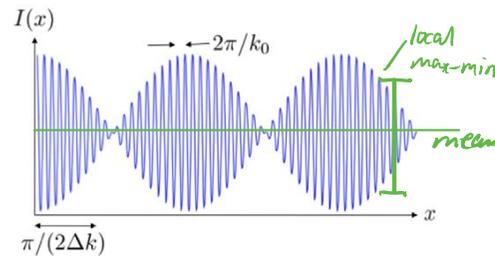
$$S(k) \propto \mathcal{F}[I(x) - I_1]$$

- This result is used in the FT IR spectrometer, which characterises molecules by their vibration frequencies.
- FT spectroscopy is capable of a higher spectral resolution than a diffraction grating, but takes longer since many intensity measurements must be made as a mirror moves.

• If a light source has two closely spaced wavelengths  $k_0 \pm \Delta k$ , its intensity pattern will be a product of cosines



$\therefore I(x) = I_1 (1 + \cos(k_0 x) \cos(\Delta k x))$



• The fringe contrast/visibility quantifies the visibility of the high-freq signal as the ratio of the local min-max disturbance to the mean intensity

$$\text{visibility} = \frac{I_{\max} - I_{\min}}{I_{\max} + I_{\min}}$$

•  $\Delta k$  can be found from the zeroes of the fringe contrast.

• FT spectroscopy has a finite resolving power because only a finite range of  $x$  is sampled:

$\hookrightarrow I'(x) = I(x) * w(x)$  ← top hat function, width  $d$   
 $\hookrightarrow \therefore S'(k) \propto S(k) * \text{sinc}\left(\frac{x d}{\lambda}\right)$

$\hookrightarrow$  hence the true spectrum is blurred by a sinc function with width  $\Delta k = 2\pi/d$ , so the resolving power is:

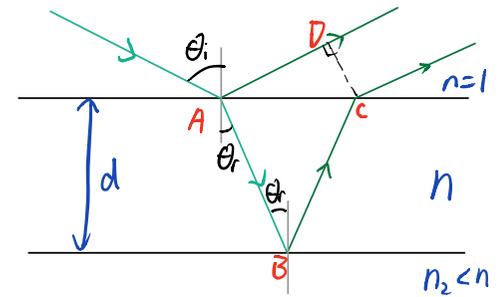
$$\Rightarrow \frac{\lambda}{|\Delta \lambda|} = \frac{k}{\Delta k} = \frac{w}{\lambda}$$

$\hookrightarrow$  as with a diffraction grating, resolving power improves as more-distant points on the wavefront are sampled

### Thin film interference

- Amplitude division interference can occur naturally when light is incident on a thin film
- The path difference (including the refractive indices):

$$\begin{aligned} x &= n(AB + BC) - AD \\ &= \frac{2nd}{\cos \theta_r} - 2d \tan \theta_r \sin \theta_i \end{aligned}$$



$\hookrightarrow$  applying Snell's law,  $\sin \theta_i = n \sin \theta_r$   
 $\Rightarrow x = 2nd \cos \theta_r$

$\hookrightarrow$  the phase difference is  $kx + \pi$ , since **A** is high  $\rightarrow$  low impedance while **B** is low  $\rightarrow$  high impedance

Using the standard interference expression (assuming equal amplitude):

$$I(\delta) = I_0(1 - Re[e^{i\delta}]), \quad \delta = 2nd \cos \theta_r$$

↳ minus from  $\pi$  phase diff

↳ maximum reflection intensity occurs when  $Re[e^{i\delta}] = 0$

$$\delta = (2m+1)\pi \Rightarrow nd \cos \theta_r = \frac{(2m+1)\lambda}{4}$$

For an extended source, light will be coming in at many different angles. Thus different reflected angles will correspond to either constructive or destructive interference. These are **fringes of equal inclination**. If incident beams are near-normal, circular fringes will be observed (**Haidinger fringes**)

A more common case is when the films have nonuniform thickness (e.g. soap films). We then observe **fringes of equal thickness**, i.e. for near-normal incidence bright regions will be seen whenever  $2nd = (m + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

↳ another example is if a spherical surface forms an airgap with some other surface. The resulting fringes are **Newton's rings**



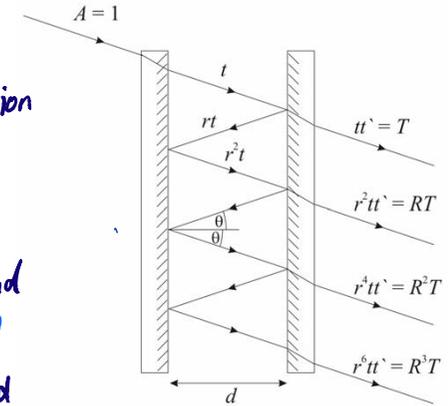
### The Fabry-Pérot etalon

The **Fabry-Pérot etalon** consists of two half-silvered mirrors sandwiching air. Because the reflection coeff. is high, we must consider interference from multiple beams.

Assume that both mirrors have reflection coeff  $r$ , and transmission coefficients  $t, t'$

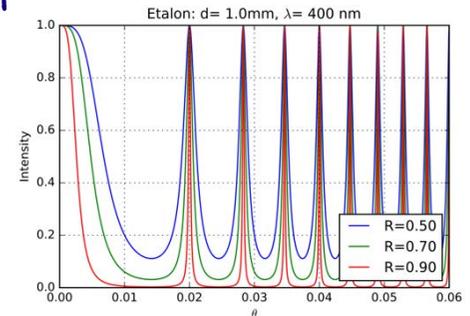
↳ each successive beam acquires an amplitude factor  $R = r^2$  and a phase shift of  $2d \cos \theta$   
 ↳ the total intensity is the squared sum of the geometric progression:

$$|A|^2 = \left| \frac{T}{1 - Re^{i\delta}} \right|^2 = \frac{T^2}{1 + R^2 - 2R \cos \delta}$$



The result is a fringe pattern with sharp peaks at  $\delta = 2m\pi$ , where there is an integer number of half-wavelengths between mirrors.

We can either use the etalon with normal incidence and vary  $d$ , or we use an extended source and observe circular fringes.



At  $\delta = 2m\pi$ , the max intensity is  $\frac{T^2}{1-R^2}$ . To find the width of the peaks, it helps to rewrite the intensity as:

$$|A|^2 = \frac{T^2}{(1-R)^2} \left( \frac{1}{1 + (4R/(1-R)^2) \sin^2(\delta/2)} \right)$$

↳ the width at half-intensity is then given by:

$$\frac{4R}{(1-R)^2} \sin^2(\delta/2) = 1 \Rightarrow \delta_{1/2} = \frac{1-R}{\sqrt{R}} \quad \leftarrow \text{small angle approx}$$

↳ the **fineness**  $F$  is the ratio of the separation of peaks to their full-width at half maximum  $2\delta_{1/2}$

$$\Rightarrow F = \frac{\pi\sqrt{R}}{1-R}$$

• Hence for high reflection coefficients, the etalon has much better resolution than the Michelson interferometer.

↳ assume that two components can be resolved if they are separated by  $2\delta_{1/2}$

$$\delta = 2kd\cos\theta = \frac{4\pi d\cos\theta}{\lambda} \Rightarrow d\delta = -\frac{4\pi d\cos\theta}{\lambda^2} d\lambda$$

$$\therefore \frac{\lambda}{\Delta\lambda} = \frac{2\pi d\cos\theta}{\lambda\delta_{1/2}} \xrightarrow{\text{at max intensity}} \Rightarrow \frac{\lambda}{\Delta\lambda} = \frac{m\pi}{\delta_{1/2}} = mF$$

• An issue in spectroscopy is that neighbouring orders for different wavelengths will overlap - the wavelength diff. at which overlapping occurs is the **free spectral range**

↳ at normal incidence, peaks are at  $2d = m\lambda$

$$\therefore \frac{2d}{\lambda^2} \Delta\lambda \approx \Delta m \Rightarrow \frac{m}{\lambda} (\Delta\lambda)_{\text{FSR}} = 1 \quad \leftarrow \text{set } \Delta m = 1 \text{ by definition of FSR.}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\Delta\lambda)_{\text{FSR}} = \frac{\lambda}{m}$$

↳ etalons are ideal for measuring fine structures of narrow spectra.