

Module - I

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Interference

If two or more light waves of same frequency overlap at a point, the resultant effect depend upon the phase and amplitude both. The combined effect at each point is obtained by adding algebraically the amplitude of 2 waves.

Constructive Interference

At certain points, two waves may be in phase the resultant amplitude then is equal to sum of amplitude of two waves. The intensity increases and a bright region is obtained which is known as bright fringe.

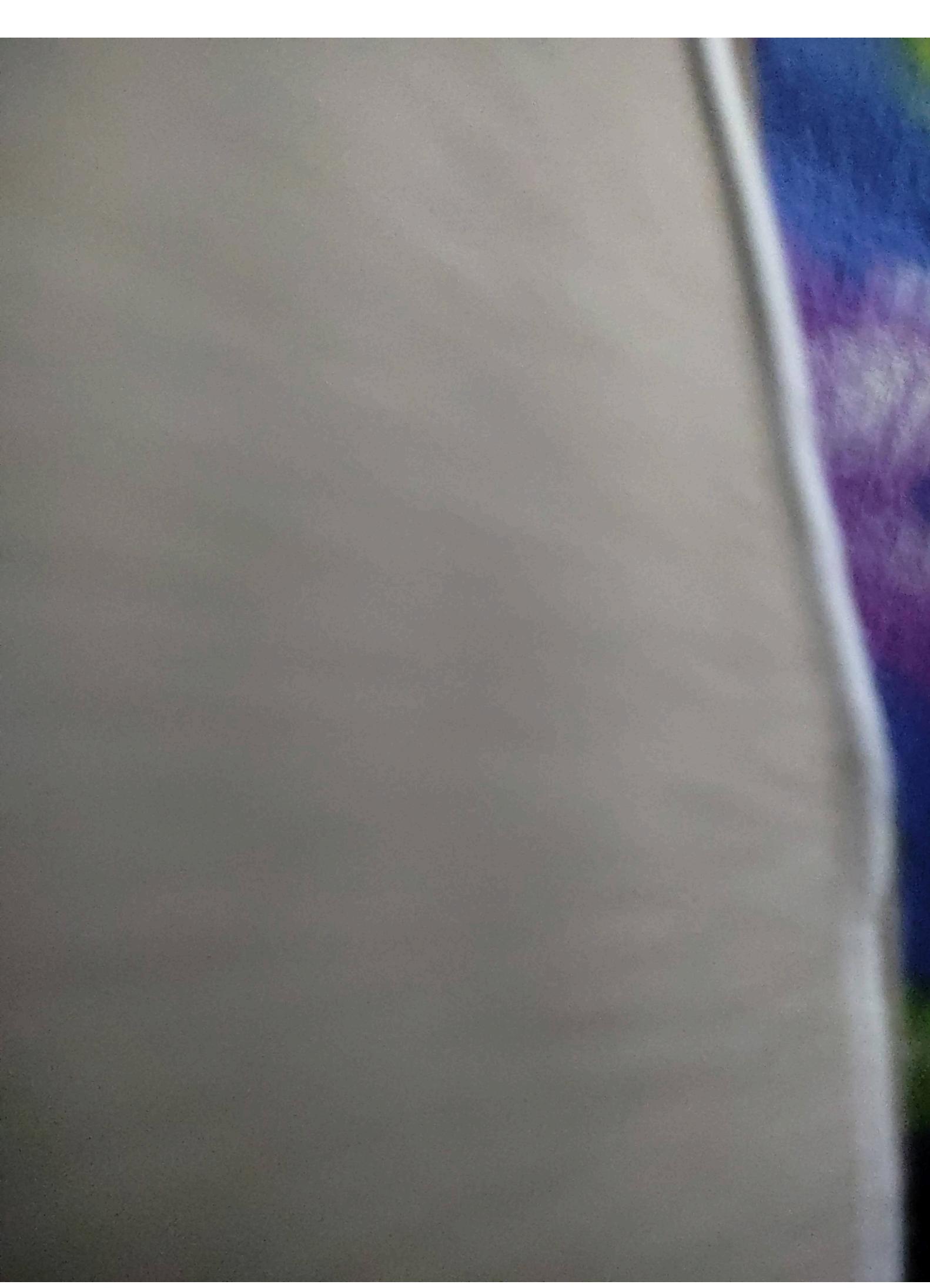
$$A_{a_1} \sin \omega t + A_{a_2} \sin(\omega t + \phi) = A_{a_1+a_2} \sin \omega t$$

Destructive interference

At certain points, two wave may be in opposite phase the resultant amplitude is equal to difference in amplitude of two waves. The intensity decreases and a dark region is obtained. It is called dark fringes.

$$A_{a_1} \sin \omega t + A_{a_2} \sin(\omega t + \phi) = a_1 - a_2$$

This phenomenon of redistribution of light energy due to superposition of light wave is called interference.



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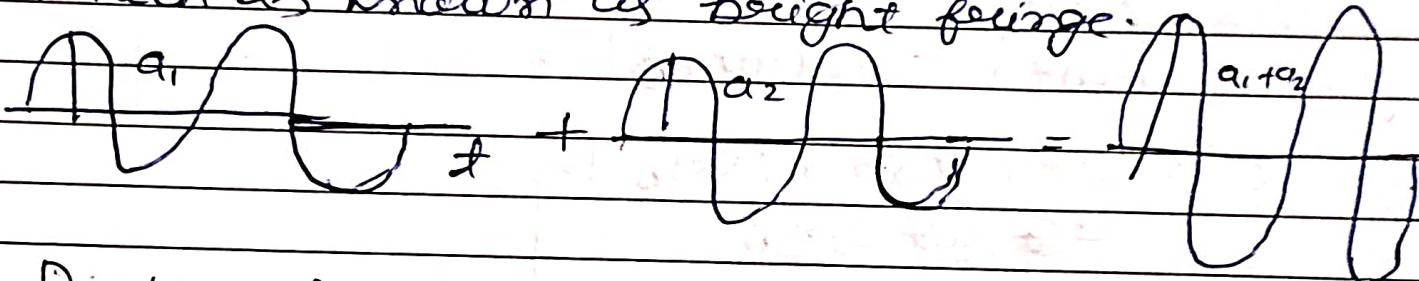
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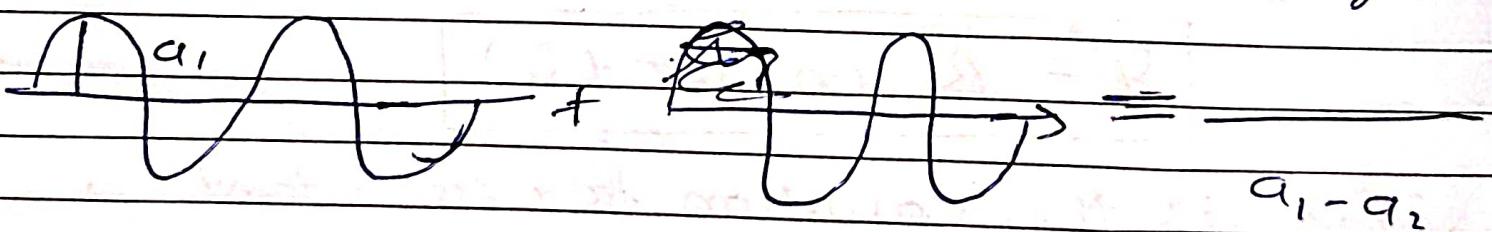
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Analytical Treatment of Interference
 Let A & B are two slits in front of monochromatic source S the waves from slit A and B reach at a point P on screen the amplitude and frequency of this waves are same the equation two waves can be written as

$$y_1 = a \sin(\omega t)$$

$$y_2 = a \sin(\omega t + \delta)$$

where $\delta \rightarrow$ phase difference

Resultant displacement

$$y = y_1 + y_2$$

$$y = a \sin \omega t + a \sin(\omega t + \delta)$$

$$y = a \sin \omega t + a \sin \omega t \cos \delta + a \cos \omega t \sin \delta$$

$$y = a \sin \omega t [1 + \cos \delta] + a \cos \omega t \sin \delta$$

$$\text{Let } a(1 + \cos \delta) = R \cos \theta \quad \dots \textcircled{1}$$

$$\text{and } a \sin \delta = R \sin \theta \quad \dots \textcircled{2}$$

Subtracting in above equation

$$y = \sin \omega t R \cos \theta + R \sin \theta \cos \omega t$$

$$y = R \sin(\omega t + \theta)$$

This is the equation for resultant displacement where,

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\sin \delta}{1 + \cos \delta} \text{ or } \theta = \tan^{-1} \left[\frac{\sin \delta}{1 + \cos \delta} \right]$$

Squaring and adding eq ① and ②

$$R^2 (\cos^2 \theta + \sin^2 \theta) = a^2 (1 + \cos \delta)^2 + a^2 \sin^2 \delta$$

$$R^2 = a^2 + a^2 \cos^2 \delta + 2a^2 \cos \delta + a^2 \sin^2 \delta$$

$$= 2a^2 + 2a^2 \cos \delta$$

$$R^2 = 2a^2 (1 + \cos \delta) = 2a^2 \left(1 + 2\cos^2 \frac{\delta}{2} - 1\right)$$

$$R^2 = 4a^2 \cos^2 \frac{\delta}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad R = 2a \cos \frac{\delta}{2}$$

Resultant intensity

$$I = R^2 = 4a^2 \cos^2 \frac{\delta}{2}$$

(i) For maximum intensity, $\cos \frac{\delta}{2} = \pm 1$
(Constructive interference)

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\delta}{2} = 0, \pi, 2\pi, 3\pi, \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta = 0, 2\pi, 4\pi, 6\pi \text{ or } \delta = 2n\pi$$

(ii) For minimum intensity

$$\cos \frac{\delta}{2} = 0$$

$$= \frac{\delta}{2} = \frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}, \frac{5\pi}{2}, \dots$$

$$\text{or } \delta = \pi, 3\pi, 5\pi$$

(Destructive interference)

$$\delta = (2n+1)\pi \text{ where, } n=0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

$$\therefore \text{Phase diff} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \times \text{path diff}$$

$$\therefore \text{Path diff} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \times \text{phase diff}$$

For bright fringe

$$\text{Path diff} = \frac{d}{2\pi} \times 2n\pi = n\lambda$$

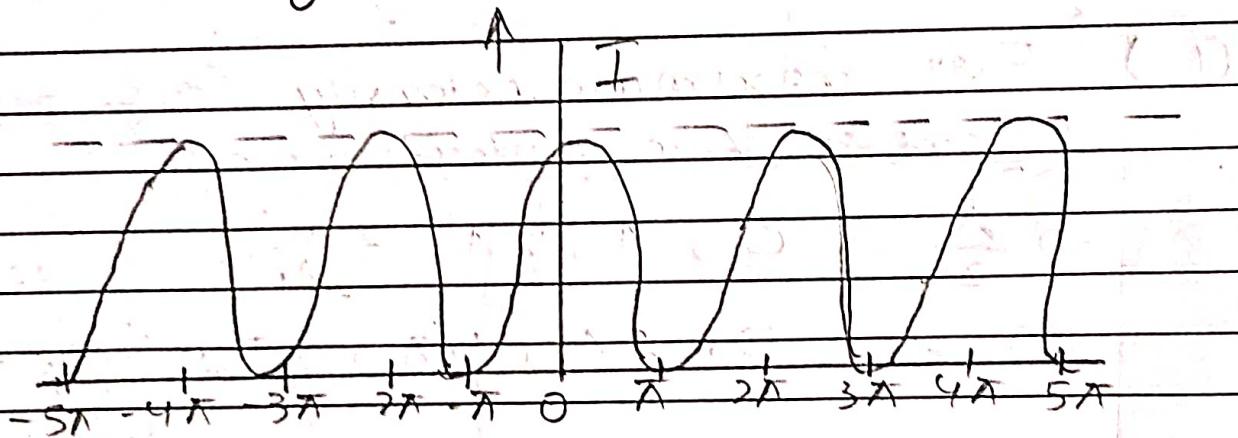
for dark fringe

$$\text{Path diff} = \frac{d}{2\pi} \times (2n+1)\lambda$$

$$\text{Path diff} = -(2n+1) \frac{d}{2}$$

$$n = 0, 1, 2, 3 \dots$$

Intensity distribution Curve



Classification of Interference

(1) Division of wavefront - the wavefront originating from a source of light is divided in two parts which act as two sources

Eg - Fresnel Biprism, Laser Young's double slit

(2) Division of amplitude - the amplitude of beam of light is divided into two parts by reflection or refraction. Eg → Newton's ring, Michelson interferometer.

Cohesive sources - Two sources of light are said to be coherent when they have a constant phase difference between them e.g. → young's double slit, fresnel's biprism.

Analysis of fringe (theory of interference)

Let 'S' be a narrow source of light and S_1 and S_2 be the two narrow slits separated by a distance $2d$. Distance between slit & screen is D . Let us consider a point P on screen at a distance x from C from $\Delta S_1 M P$,

$$(S_1 P)^2 = (S_1 M)^2 + (MP)^2 \\ = D^2 + (x-d)^2 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

from $\Delta S_2 N P$

$$(S_2 P)^2 = (S_2 N)^2 + (NP)^2 \\ = D^2 + (x+d)^2 \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

Subtracting eq (2) from (1)

$$(S_2 P)^2 - (S_1 P)^2 = D^2 + (x+d)^2 - D^2 - (x-d)^2 \\ = (x+d)^2 - (x-d)^2 = 4xd$$

$$(S_2 P - S_1 P)(S_2 P + S_1 P)$$

$$= (x+d)^2 - (x-d)^2 = 4xd$$

$$\because D \gg 2d \therefore S_2 P + S_1 P \approx 2D$$

$$\therefore (S_2 P - S_1 P) \cdot 2D = 4xd$$

$$S_2 P - S_1 P = \frac{24xd}{2D}$$

$$S_2 P - S_1 P = \frac{2xd}{D}$$



Position of bright fringes

$$\text{Path diff} = n\lambda$$

$$\frac{2xd}{D} = n\lambda$$

$$x = \frac{Dn\lambda}{2d}$$

$n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$

Angular fringe width

$$\text{co}$$

$$= \frac{x_{n+1}}{D} - \frac{x_n}{D}$$

$$= \frac{D(n+1)\lambda}{D \cdot 2d} - \frac{Dn\lambda}{D \cdot 2d}$$

$$\text{co} = \frac{\lambda}{2d}$$

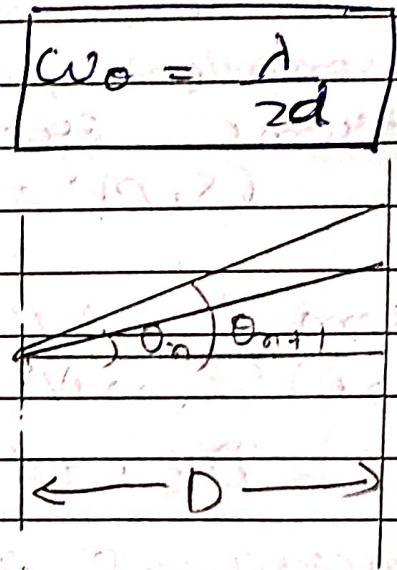
Position of dark fringes

$$\text{Path diff} = (2n+1) \frac{\lambda}{2}$$

$$\frac{2xd}{D} = (2n+1) \frac{\lambda}{2}$$

$$x = \frac{(2n+1)\lambda D}{4d}$$

$n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$



Fringe width β or w (Bright)

$$x_n = \frac{n\lambda D}{2d}, x_{n+1} = \frac{(n+1)\lambda D}{2d}$$

$$\beta = x_{n+1} - x_n = \frac{(n+1)\lambda D}{2d} - \frac{n\lambda D}{2d}$$

$$\text{co or } \beta = \frac{\lambda D}{2d}$$

$$\text{Dark } x_n = \frac{(2n+1)\lambda D}{4d}, x_{n+1} = \frac{(2(n+1)+1)\lambda D}{4d}$$

$$\frac{\lambda D}{4d}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 w \text{ or } \beta &= x_{n+1} - x_n \\
 &= (2n + 2 + 1) \frac{\lambda D}{4d} - (2n + 1) \frac{\lambda D}{4d} \\
 &= \frac{2\lambda D}{4d} \\
 w \text{ or } \boxed{\beta} &= \frac{\lambda D}{2d}
 \end{aligned}$$

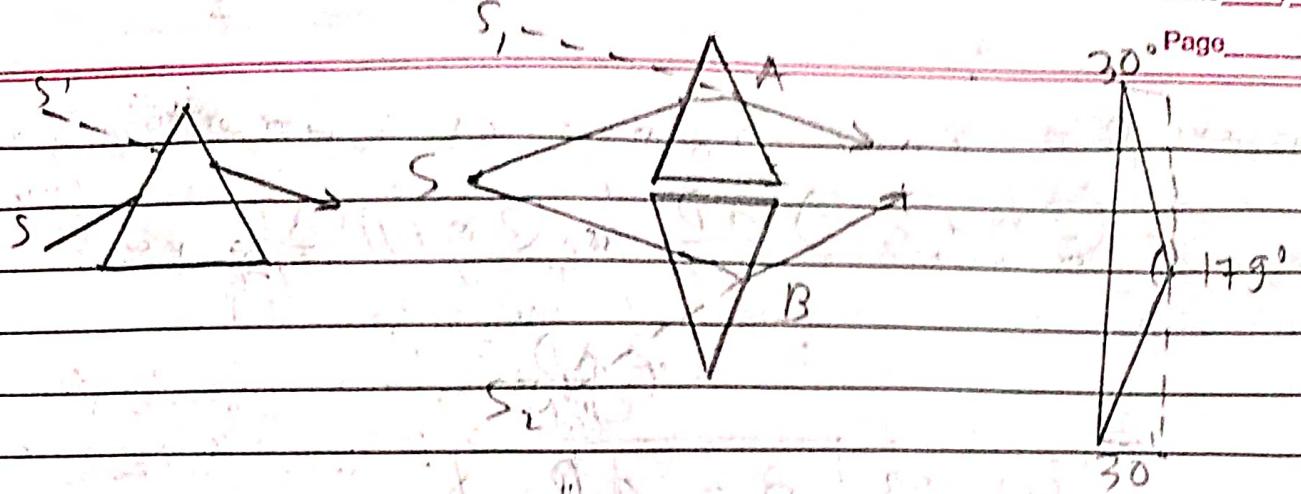
Fresnel Biprism

Construction— Fresnel used a biprism to show interference phenomenon the biprism consists of two prisms of very small refracting angles joined base to base. In practice a thin glass plate is taken and one of its faces is ground and polished until a prism is formed with an obtuse angle of about 179° & two side angles of 30° & $1/2^\circ$.

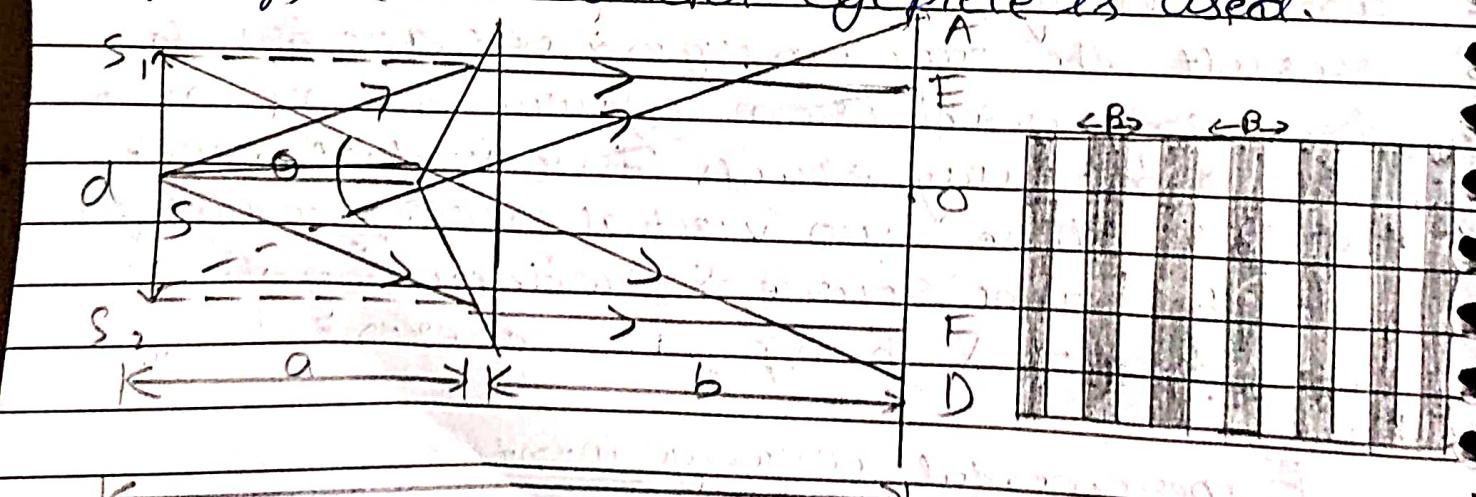
Working— When a light ray is incident on an ordinary prism the ray is bent. As a result, the ray emerging out appears to have emanated from a source. A biprism in the same way erects two virtual source S_1 & S_2 . These two virtual source are images of the same source S produced by the refraction & hence are coherent.

Experimental arrangement—

The biprism is mounted suitably on an optical bench. A monochromatic light



source such as sodium lamp illuminates a slit S the biprism is placed in such a way that its refracting edge is parallel to the length of slit S. A single cylindrical wave front impinges on both prisms. The top portion of wave front is refracted downward & appears to have emanated from Virtual source S_1 . The lower segment is refracted upward and appears to have emanated from Virtual source S_2 . The two Virtual sources are coherent & hence light waves are in a position to interfere in the region beyond the biprism & interference frings are seen to observe frings a micrometer eyepiece is used.



Theory -

Let point P be at a distance x from axis then

$$PE = x - \frac{d}{2} \text{ & } PF = x + \frac{d}{2}$$

$$\text{so, } (S_2 P)^2 - (S_1 P)^2$$

$$= [S_2 E^2 + PE^2] - [S_1 E^2 + PE^2]$$

$$(S_2 P)^2 - (S_1 P)^2 = [D^2 + (x + \frac{d}{2})^2]$$

$$- [D^2 + (x - \frac{d}{2})^2]$$

$$= 2xd$$

$$S_2 P - S_1 P = \frac{2xd}{S_2 P + S_1 P}$$

we can approximate
 $S_2 P \approx S_1 P \approx D$

$$\text{So path difference } S_2 P - S_1 P = \frac{2xd}{2D} = \frac{xd}{D}$$

The Central bright fringe of max intensity occurs at O. On both sides of O, alternate bright & dark fringes are produced. The width of dark or brighter fringes is given by the m th order fringes occur when -

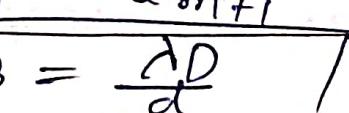
$$x_m = \frac{m\lambda D}{d}$$

& $(m+1)$ th order fringe occurs when

$$x_{m+1} = \frac{(m+1)\lambda D}{d}$$

Fringe width, $\beta = x_{m+1} - x_m$

$$\beta = \frac{\lambda D}{d}$$



Here $D = a + b$

Fringes with white light

In the biprism experiment if slits is illuminated by white light, the interference pattern consist of a central white fringe blanketed on it both sides by a few coloured fringes the central white fringe is the zero-order fringe.

Application

① Determination of wavelength of light

The slit is illuminated by light from monochromatic source the biprism is moved along the optical bench till on looking through it, the two equally bright vertical slits are seen then on moving eyepiece the fringes appear in eyepiece.

(i) Determination of β

When fringes are observed the cross wire is set on centre of one of bright fringe the position of eyepiece is read say x_0 the micrometer screw of the eyepiece is moved slowly & the no. of bright fringes N that pass across the cross wire is counted & position of cross wire is again read say x_N .

$$\text{Fringe width } \beta = \frac{x_N - x_0}{N}$$

(ii) Determination of 'd'

A convex lens of short focal length is placed at the slit & eyepiece. the lens

4) moved back & forth near bi prism till a sharp pair of images of slit is obtained the distance of images is measured say d_1 & d_2 . If a is distance of slit & V that of eyepiece from lens then magnification $\frac{V}{a} = \frac{d_1}{d_2}$ - (1)

Now the lens is moved to a position nearest to eyepiece & same procedure is repeated & note distance d_3 again $\frac{V}{a} = \frac{d_3}{d}$ - (2)
from eq (1) and (2) $d = \sqrt{d_1 d_2}$

Using values of B , d & D we can calculate wavelength λ using the relation

$$\lambda = \frac{Bd}{D}$$

⑤ Determination of thickness of sheet

Suppose S_1 & S_2 are the virtual coherent monochromatic source we obtain central bright fringe optical path $S_1 O = S_2 O$. Now let a transparent plate G_1 of thickness t & refractive index n be introduced in the path of one of beams. the central fringes shift to P from O . the light waves from S_1 to P travel partly in air ($S_1 P - t$) and partly in sheet (L) the optical path

$$\Delta S_{1P} = (S_1 P - t) + n t = S_1 P + (n - 1)t$$

$$\Delta S_{2P} = S_2 P$$

$$\text{Path diff } \Delta S_{1P} - \Delta S_{2P} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta S_{1P} = \Delta S_{2P}$$

$$\Rightarrow S_1 P - t + ct = S_2 P$$

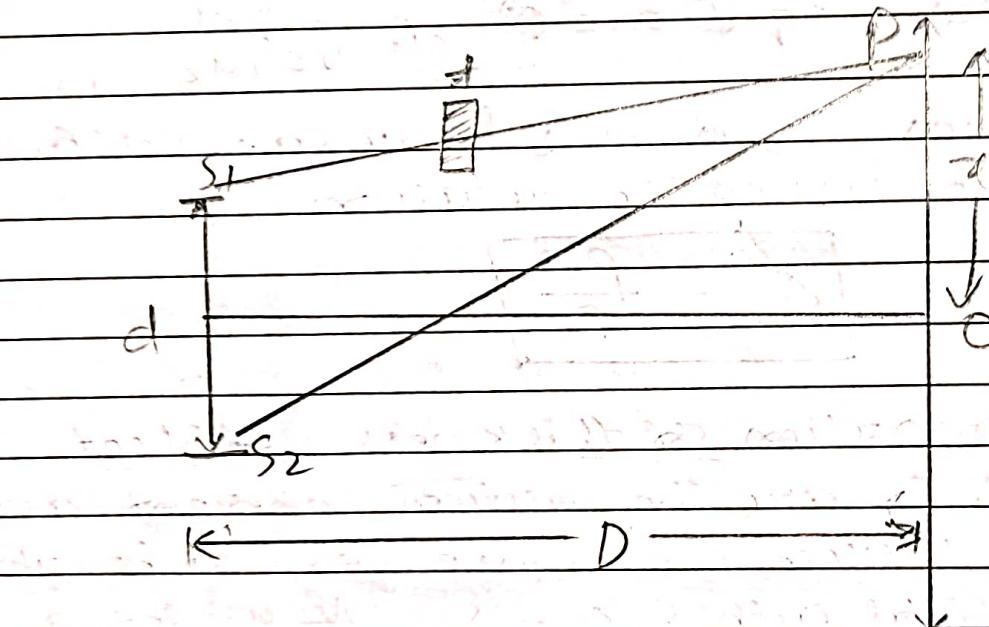
$$S_2 P - S_1 P = (c\ell - 1) t$$

$$(c\ell - 1) t = \frac{2d}{D}$$

hence thickness

$$t = \frac{2d}{D(c\ell - 1)}$$

$$[\because S_2 P - S_1 P = \frac{2d}{D}]$$



determination of $2d$ by deviation method

$$2d = 2a(c\ell - 1)d$$

$a \rightarrow$ distance between source & prism

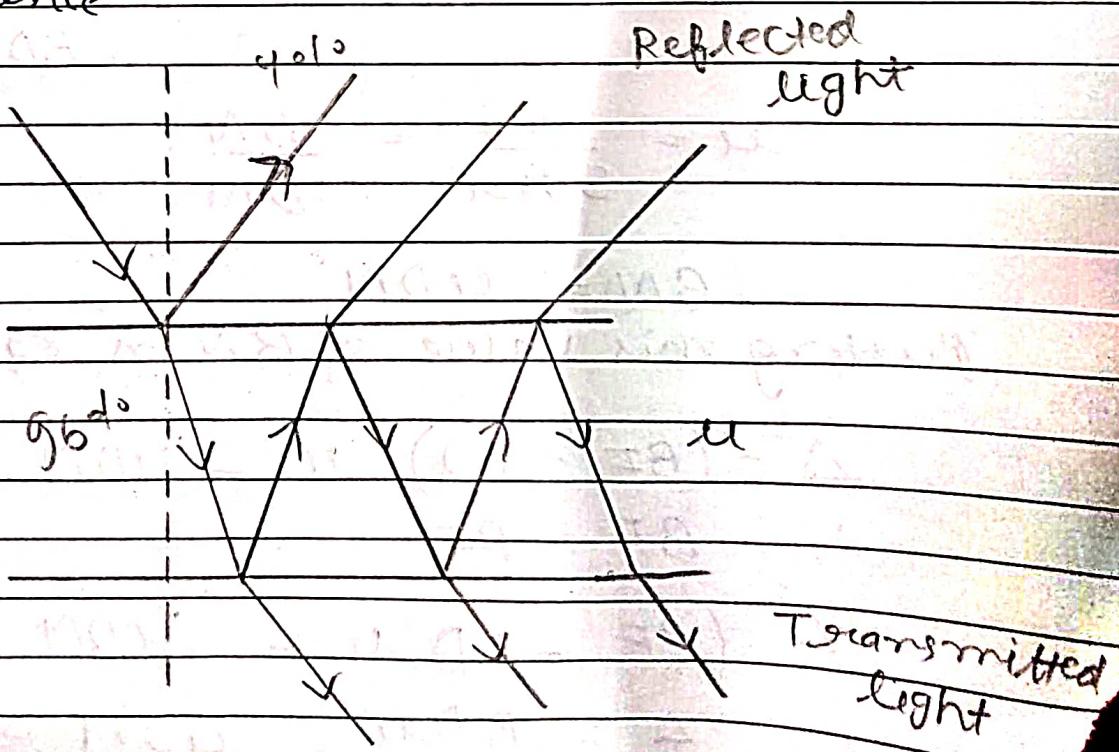
$c\ell \rightarrow$ refractive index

$\ell \rightarrow$ refracting angle

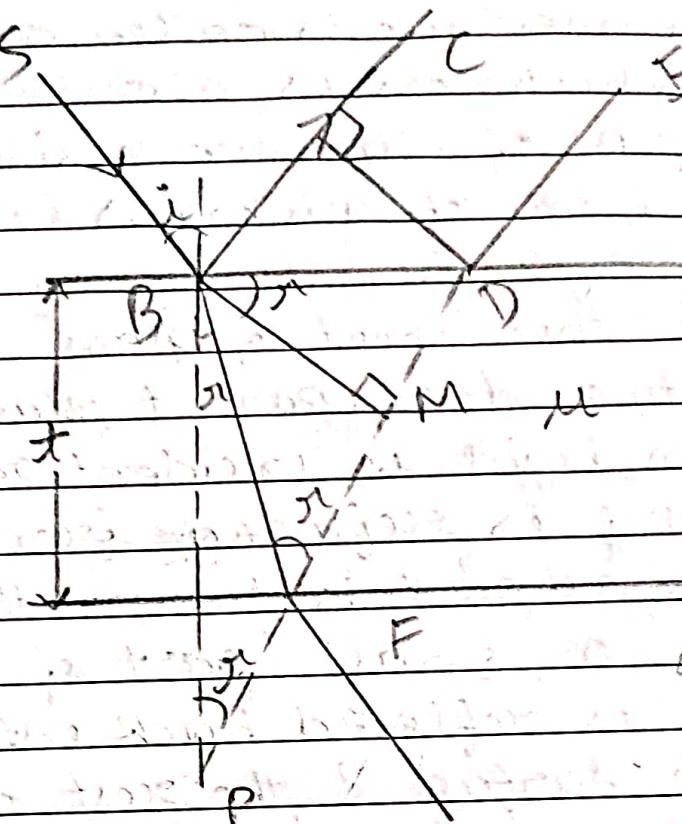
Thin films

An optical medium is called a thin film when its thickness is about the order of wavelength of light in visible region. A film of thickness in range 0.5 mm to 10 nm may be considered as a thin film.

It may be thin sheet of glass, mica, airfilm between two transparent plates or a soap bubble when light is incident on such a film a small part is reflected from top surface and a major part is transmitted into the film again a small part of transmitted component is reflected back into the thin film by bottom surface & the rest of it emerges out of the film. A small portion of the light thus gets reflected partially several times in succession within the film the reflected and refracted components travel along different portions & subsequently overlap to produce interference.



Interference due to reflected light



Path diff b/w $DE \& BC$

$$\Delta = (BF + FD) u - BN \times i \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle BND, \sin i = \frac{BN}{BD}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle BMD, \sin r = \frac{DM}{BD}$$

$$u = \frac{\sin i}{\sin r} = \frac{BN}{DM}$$

$$BN = u DM$$

Putting this value of BN in eq(1)

$$\Delta = (BF + FD) u - u DM - \text{--- (2)}$$

$$\therefore BF = PF$$

$$\Delta = (PF + FD) u - u DM$$

$$\Delta = PDu - u DM$$

$$\Delta = n(t(PD - PM)) \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

$$\text{In } \triangle PBM, \cos \alpha = \frac{PM}{PB} = \frac{PM}{2t}$$

$$\Rightarrow PM = 2t \cos \alpha$$

putting in eq (3)

$$\boxed{\Delta = 2nt \cos \alpha}$$

If a ray is reflected from denser medium it suffers a phase change of π or path diff of $\frac{\lambda}{2}$ including this we get,

$$\boxed{\Delta = 2nt \left(\cos \alpha - \frac{\lambda}{2} \right)}$$

For maxima

$$2nt \cos \alpha - \frac{\lambda}{2} = n\lambda$$

$$2nt \cos \alpha = (2n+1) \frac{\lambda}{2}$$

For minima

$$2nt \cos \alpha - \frac{\lambda}{2} = (2n+1) \frac{\lambda}{2}$$

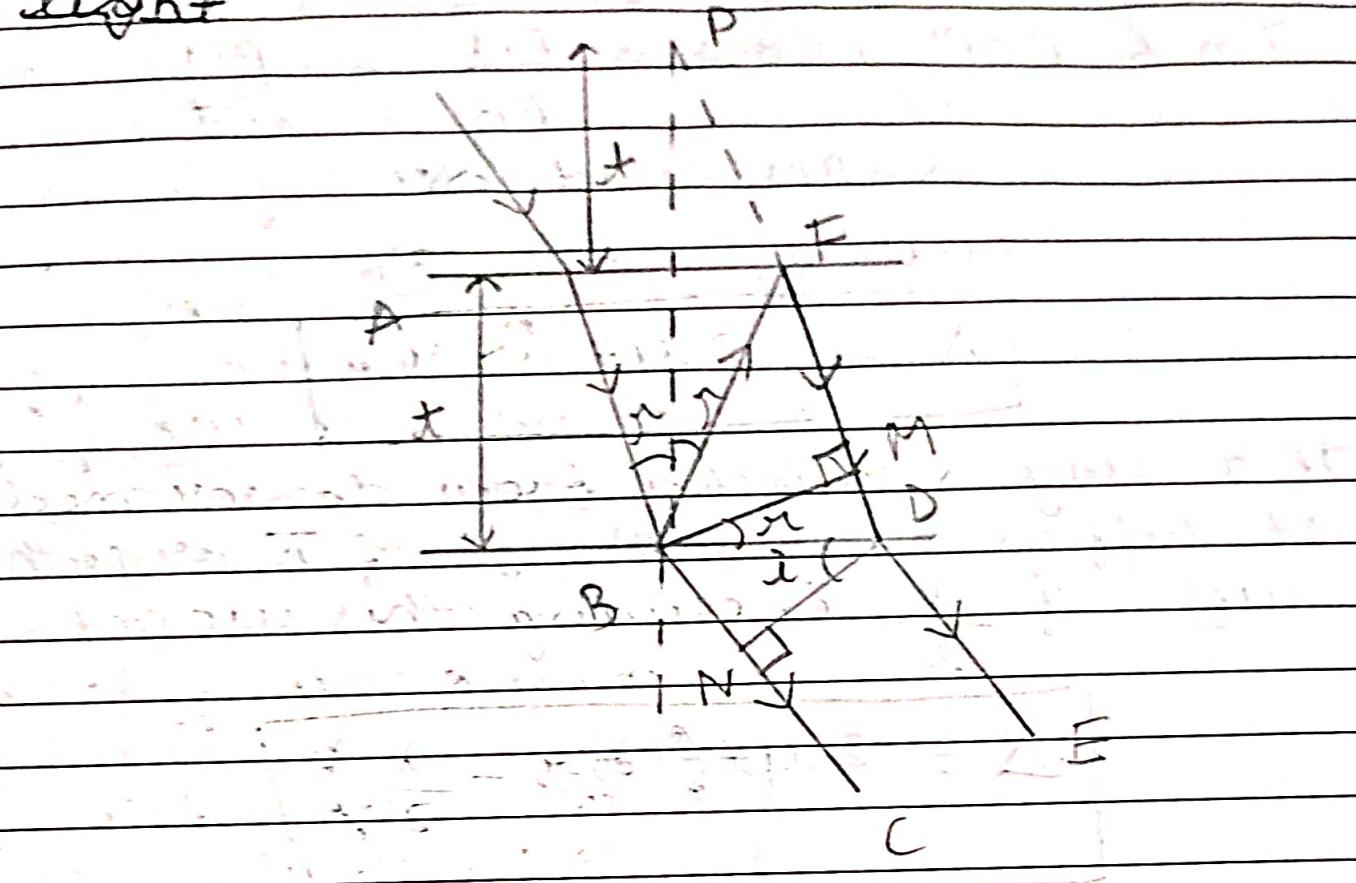
$$2nt \cos \alpha = (n+1)\lambda$$

$$\boxed{2nt \cos \alpha = m\lambda}$$

$$m = n+1$$

$$m = 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

* Interference due to transmitted light



Path diff. b/w BC & DE

$$\Delta = (BF + FD)n - BN \times 1 - \text{---} \quad (1)$$

In $\triangle BND$, $\sin r = \frac{DM}{BD}$

$$n = \frac{\sin i}{\sin r} = \frac{BN}{DM}$$

$$BN = n DM$$

Putting in eq(1)

$$\Delta = (BF + FD)n - n DM$$

$$\therefore PF = BF$$

$$\Delta = (PF + FD)n - n DM$$

$$= PDn - n DM$$

$$= n(PD - DM)$$

$\Delta = 2t \cos r$ (2)
In $\triangle PBM$, $\cos r = \frac{PM}{PB} = \frac{PM}{2t}$

$PM = 2t \cos r$
Putting in eq (2)

$$\boxed{\Delta = 2t \cos r}$$

For maxima, $2t \cos r = m\lambda$

For minima, $2t \cos r = (2n+1) \frac{\lambda}{2}$

* the interference pattern due to transmitted light is complementary to the pattern due to reflected light.

Q-1) A parallel beam of light of wavelength 5890 \AA is incident on a thin glass plate of refractive index 1.5 such that angle of refraction is 60° . Calculate the smallest thickness of the plate which will appear dark by reflection.

So $\lambda = 5890 \text{ \AA}$
 $n = 1.5$, $r = 60^\circ$

$$2t \cos r = m\lambda$$

for minimum thickness, $m=1$
 $2 \times 1.5 \times t \times \cos 60^\circ = 1 \times 5890 \times 10^{-10}$

$$t = \frac{5890 \times 10^{-10}}{1.5}$$

$$t = 3.93 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$$

Q-2) A soap film of refractive index 1.33 is illuminated with light of different wavelength at an angle of 45° there is complete destructive interference for $\lambda = 5890 \text{ \AA}$ find the minimum thickness of the film

$$\underline{\text{Sol}} \quad \lambda = 5890 \text{ \AA} = 5890 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}$$

$$n = 1.33 \rightarrow i = 45^\circ, m = 1$$

$$\mu = \frac{\sin i}{\sin r}$$

$$1.33 = \frac{\sin 45}{\sin r}$$

$$\sin r = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} \times 1.33}$$

$$\sin r = 0.5316$$

$$\cos r = 32.11$$

$$2 \mu t \cos r = m \lambda$$

$$2 \times 1.33 \times t \times 32.11 = 1 \times 5890 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$t = \frac{5890 \times 10^{-10}}{2 \cdot 2531}$$

$$t = 2614.17 \times 10^{-10}$$

$$t = 2.61 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}$$

Q-3) A thin film of soap solution is illuminated by white light at an angle of incidence $i = \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{4}{5}\right)$ in reflected