

(The variation of intensity due to superposition of waves

1. Interference from coherent sources are known as Interference.
Talk [It is superposition of two waves with same frequency travelling with same velocity in same direction.] When the wavelengths of the waves lie in visible region, the interference is known as interference of light.]

(i) ^X Let, \vec{E} = electromagnetic field, associated with light.

Let it be assumed light travels in (+) X direction.

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_0 \sin(\omega t - kx)$$

Let, E_1 & E_2 be two waves travelling in X direction with same frequency & velocity but with a phase difference.

$$E_1 = E_{01} \sin(\omega t - kx)$$

$$E_2 = E_{02} \sin(\omega t - kx + \delta)$$

$\delta \rightarrow$ phase diff.

$E_{01}, E_{02} \rightarrow$ amplitude of E_1 & E_2 resp.

As the waves travel in same direction, the magnitude of the resultant wave is the algebraic sum of mag. of E_1 & E_2 .

$$E = E_{01} \sin(\omega t - kx) + E_{02} \sin(\omega t - kx + \delta)$$

$$= E_{01} \sin(\omega t - kx) + E_{02} \sin(\omega t - kx) \cos \delta \\ + E_{02} \sin \delta \cos(\omega t - kx)$$

$$= (E_{01} + E_{02} \cos \delta) \sin(\omega t - kx) \\ + E_{02} \sin \delta \cos(\omega t - kx)$$

Let, $R \cos \theta = E_{01} + E_{02} \cos \delta \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\} \quad \text{--- } ①$

$$R \sin \theta = E_{02} \sin \delta \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \\ \end{array} \right\}$$

$$\therefore R^2 = (E_{01} + E_{02} \cos \delta)^2 + (E_{02} \sin \delta)^2$$

$$E = R \sin(\omega t - kx + \theta)$$

\swarrow
Resultant Amplitude

$$R = \sqrt{E_{01}^2 + E_{02}^2 + 2 E_{01} E_{02} \cos \delta} \quad \text{--- } ②$$

Intensity of $\propto (\text{Amplitude})^2$
Wave

$$\therefore I_1 = \text{Intensity of } E_1 \\ = k E_{01}^2 \quad \dots \textcircled{3}$$

$$I_2 = \text{Intensity of } E_2 \\ = k E_{02}^2 \quad \dots \textcircled{4}$$

$$I = \text{Resultant Intensity} \\ = k R^2 \quad \dots \textcircled{5}$$

From eqn (2), (3), (4) & (5),

$$\boxed{I = I_1 + I_2 + 2\sqrt{I_1 I_2} \cos \delta} \dots \textcircled{6}$$

I depends on δ .

Maximum I occurs at $\cos \delta = 1$

$$\delta = 0 \text{ or } 2n\pi$$

$$\therefore I_{\max} = (\sqrt{I_1} + \sqrt{I_2})^2 \quad \dots \textcircled{7}$$

$$\text{at } \delta = 2n\pi, n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$$

Minimum I occurs at $\cos \delta = -1$
 $\delta = (2n+1)\pi$

$$I_{\min} = (\sqrt{I_1} - \sqrt{I_2})^2$$

Let it be assumed that phase difference arises due to path difference only.

$$E_1 = E_{01} \sin(\omega t - kx_1)$$

$$E_2 = E_{02} \sin(\omega t - kx_2)$$

Phase difference = $\delta = k(x_1 - x_2)$

$$\delta = k \Delta x$$

$$k = 2\pi/\lambda$$

Maxima occurs at $\delta = 2n\pi = k \Delta x$

$$\text{or, } \frac{2\pi \Delta x}{\lambda} = 2n\pi$$

$$\boxed{\Delta x = n\lambda} \quad \dots \quad (9)$$

for minimum, $\delta = (2n+1)\pi = k \Delta x$

$$\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta x = (2n+1)\pi$$

$$\Delta x = \left(\frac{2n+1}{2}\right) \cdot \lambda$$

$$\boxed{\Delta x = (2n+1) \frac{\lambda}{2}} \quad \dots \quad (10)$$

At positions satisfied by (9)
Max. intensity is obtained &
these positions are very bright.

At positions satisfied by (10)
min. intensity is obtained &
these positions are least bright.

Relations (9) & (10) ~~also~~ show that
between successive maxima, there
will be one minima & vice-versa.

So, if the intensity is obtained on a screen, a pattern will be obtained, showing alternate bright & dark regions. This pattern is called interference fringe.

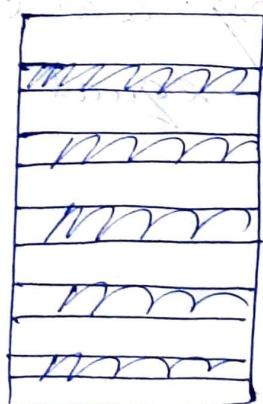
For, $\Delta x = 0 \rightarrow 1^{\text{st}} \text{ zero order max.}$

$\Delta x = \pm \frac{\lambda}{2} \rightarrow 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ (1st)}$

$\Delta x = \pm \lambda \rightarrow 3^{\text{rd}} \text{ (2nd)}$

$\Delta x = \pm \frac{\lambda}{2} \rightarrow 1^{\text{st}} \text{ order min}$

$\Delta x = \pm \frac{3\lambda}{2} \rightarrow 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ " " }$



(ii) Case-1 Let I_1 & I_2 differ by a very large amp. almost such that

$$\sqrt{I_1} \gg \sqrt{I_2} \Rightarrow E_{01} \gg E_{02}$$

$$\begin{aligned} E_{01} + E_{02} &\approx E_{01} - E_{02} \\ \sqrt{I_1} + \sqrt{I_2} &\approx \sqrt{I_1} - \sqrt{I_2} \end{aligned}$$

Consequently, $I_{\max} \approx I_{\min}$

So the pattern will be too indistinct to differentiate between maxima & minima.

Case-2

if $E_{01} = E_{02}$

$$\sqrt{I_1} = \sqrt{I_2} = \sqrt{I_0}$$

$$I_{\max} = 4I_0$$

$$I_{\min} = 0 \rightarrow \text{complete extinction of light.}$$

So, Bright maxima are easily distinguishable against completely dark minima & pattern is distinct.

Thus to get a distinct pattern the two interfering waves should have almost equal amplitudes.

$$E_{01} = E_{02} = E_0$$

$$\sqrt{I_1} = \sqrt{I_2} = \sqrt{I_0}$$

$$I = I_0 + I_0 + 2I_0 \cos \delta$$

$$= 2I_0 (1 + \cos \delta)$$

$$I = 2I_0 \frac{\cos^2 \frac{\delta}{2}}{2}$$

$$I_{\max} = 4I_0 \text{ for } \cos \frac{\delta}{2} = \pm 1$$

$$\text{& } I_{\min} = 0 \text{ for } \cos \frac{\delta}{2} = 0$$

2. If δ is time dependent

So, positions of maxima & minima change continuously & no fixed pattern is obtained on the screen. It is said that sustained interference has not occurred. To obtain sustained interference, δ must be constant with time.

interfering

i.e. the two waves should be in same phase or bear a phase difference i.e. invariant with time. Two such waves are called coherent waves.

Coherence
Coherence is a necessary condition for sustained interference.

• Coherent Sources - Coherent Sources

are the sources which either have no phase difference or have always a constant phase difference between them.

3. (If an electron of the source is excited to a higher energy level it comes back to the ground state by emitting energy in form of electromagnetic waves.

(If wavelength of these waves fall in visible range, light is emitted.)

(Waves are emitted in the form of wave pulses, each pulse arising from a separate transition)

(Phase of emitted wave pulse depends on internal conditions of atom at that time. So, different wave pulses are emitted with different phases varying with time. So, waves from different sources or waves from same source emitted at diff. time may not be coherent & will not produce sustained interference.)

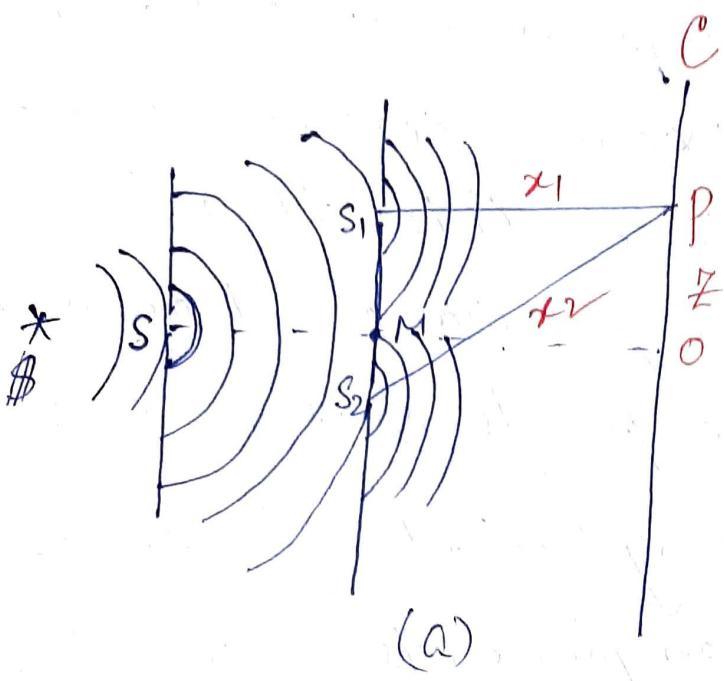
(For sustained interference,
the interfering waves should be
emitted from same source at same
time. To achieve this it is
required a single wave should be
split into two parts & made to
interfere. Being parts of same
wave the components are coherent.)

There are two ways to split the
waves:

- 1) Division of Wavefront
- 2) Division of amplitude.)

4. □ Division of Wavefront :

Young's Double Slit Experiment:



(a)

$S \rightarrow$ a narrow slit placed in front of source.

S_1 & $S_2 \rightarrow$ Two other narrow slits in front of S , such that S_1 & S_2 are equidistant.

$C \rightarrow$ a Screen, which interference pattern is obtained.

$$d = S_1 S_2$$

$D \rightarrow$ distance bet. double slits & screen.

$P \rightarrow$ a point on C where two waves interfere.

$M \rightarrow$ mid pt. of $S_1 S_2$

$O \rightarrow$ \perp dropped from M on C .

$Z = \text{distance PO}$

$x_1 = \text{path } S_1 P$

$x_2 = n \cdot S_2 P$

(Assuming air medium, path diff
bet interfering waves
 $= (x_1 - x_2) / \lambda$)

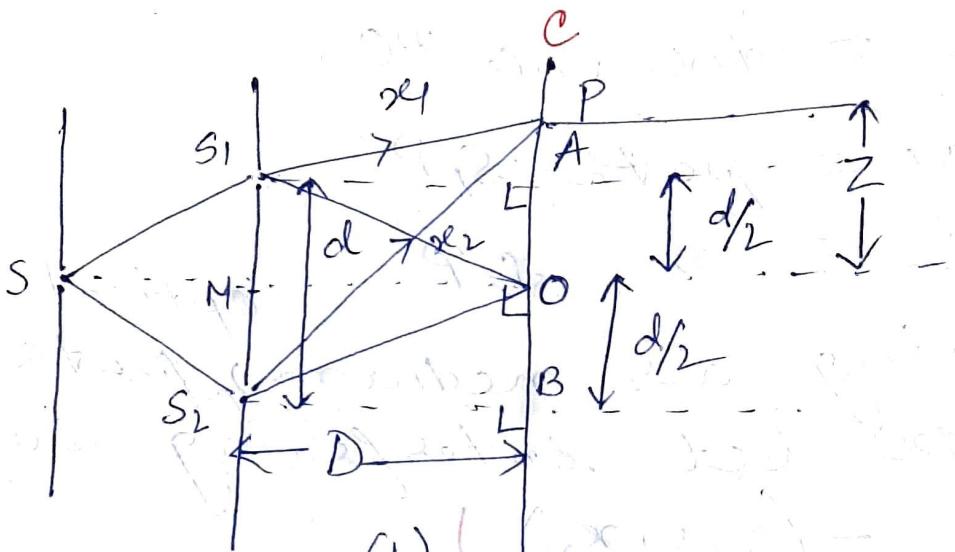
(S serves as point source & it
kicks out spherical wavefront.

The wavefront is obstructed except
at S_1 & S_2 . Unobstructed part
from wavefront at S_1 & S_2 serves
as point sources of secondary
waves.

These waves are actually primary
wavefronts divided into two parts
which are coherent.

So, they interfere.)

(To achieve same intensity
for interfering waves, S_1 & S_2
should be of same length.)



(b)

$A \& B \rightarrow$ feet of \perp drawn from
 $S_1 \& S_2$ on C .

$\triangle S_1 AP$

$$x_1^2 = S_1 A^2 + PA^2 \\ = D^2 + (z - \frac{d}{2})^2$$

$$x_1^2 = D^2 \left[1 + \frac{(z - \frac{d}{2})^2}{D^2} \right] \quad \#2$$

$$\therefore x_1 = D \left[1 + \frac{(z - \frac{d}{2})^2}{D^2} \right]^{1/2}$$

Assuming $d, z \ll D$

$$x_1 = D \left[1 + \frac{(z - \frac{d}{2})^2}{2D^2} \right] \\ = D + \frac{(z - \frac{d}{2})^2}{2D}$$

Similarly,

$$x_2 = D + \frac{(z + \frac{d}{2})^2}{2D}$$

(2)

$$x_1 - x_2 = D + \frac{(z + d/2)}{2D} - D - \frac{(z - d/2)}{2D}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2D} \left[z^2 + \frac{d^2}{4} + dz - z^2 - \frac{d^2}{4} + dz \right]$$

$$= \frac{dz}{D}$$

So, $\boxed{\Delta x = \frac{dz}{D}}$

Corresponding phase diff.

$$\delta = \frac{k \Delta z}{D}$$

$$\delta = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \cdot \frac{\Delta z}{D}$$

For max to occurring,

$$\delta = I \pi$$

$$\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \cdot \frac{\Delta z}{D} = I \pi$$

$$\boxed{\frac{\Delta z}{D} = n \lambda} \quad \dots \textcircled{3}$$

For min to occur,

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

\textcircled{4}

$z \rightarrow$ distance of n^{th} fringe from O.

If $n=1$ in ③,

$$z = \frac{\lambda D}{d} \rightarrow 1^{\text{st}} \text{ order max.}$$

At zero order maxima,

$$n=0$$

$$\therefore z=0$$

It is formed at O.

(The screen exhibits alternate maxima or minima. All maxima being of same intensity & all minima being completely dark)

5. Fringe Width

Fringe width is the diff. of z bet. successive maxima or successive minima.

$$\frac{dz}{D} = n\lambda$$

$$\therefore \frac{d}{D} \cdot dz = n\lambda$$

For successive maxima,

$$n=1, \therefore dz = \beta$$

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

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

If Screen ^{is} moved away or S_1 & S_2 are made to come closer, β increases. So the fringes flared out.

If Screen ^{is} moved closer, or S_1 & S_2 are separated farther, β decreases & its fringes contract.

① If white light is used:

$$\frac{dz}{D} = n\lambda$$

$$z = \frac{n\lambda D}{d}$$

$$\frac{z \propto \lambda}{}$$

For non zero n , z will be diff. for diff. λ . So colours will split out showing a spectrum to each order.

For zero order $n=0$

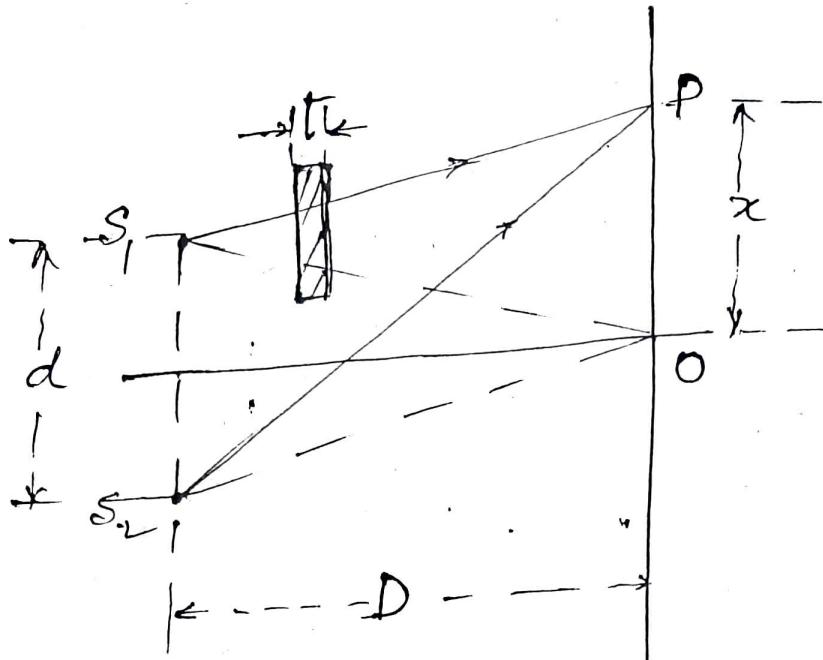
$$z=0 \text{ for all } \lambda$$

So all colours will meet

meet there giving white colour.
Zero order max. is called
achromatic fringe.

At higher orders max's
min of diff. colours overlap
at random giving at uniform
illumination thereby.

9. Displacement of the fringe system by a thin film



The central (bright) fringe is formed at O in the absence of the film. With the introduction of the film of thickness t and refractive index n in the path S_1O , the central fringe now shifts to a point P where $OP = x$.

It follows that

the optical path S_2P (in air)

= the optical path S_1P through
the film.

$$\text{or, } S_2P = (S_1P - t) + nt .$$

$$\text{or, } S_2P - S_1P = (n-1)t .$$

$$\text{or, } d \cdot \frac{x}{D} = (n-1)t .$$

$$\therefore x = (n-1) \frac{D}{d} \cdot t .$$

Since $\beta = \frac{D}{d} \cdot \lambda ,$

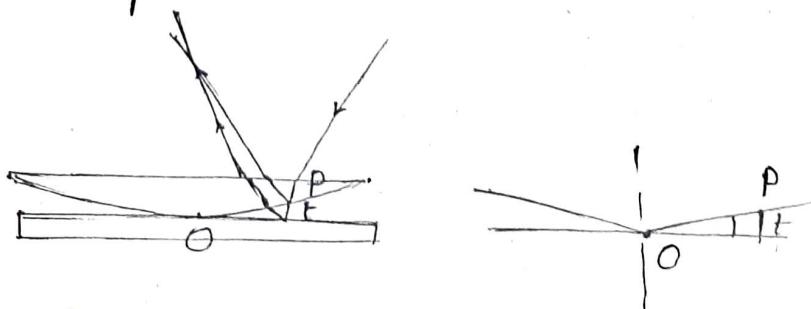
$$x = (n-1) \frac{\beta}{\lambda} \cdot t .$$

13.

Newton's rings

- (i) Division of amplitude class
- (ii) Fringes of equal thickness
- (iii) Circular fringes with the central fringe dark (with reflected system)
- (iv) Localised fringes

In Newton's ring experiment, a film (air or liquid) is created by placing a planoconvex lens on a glass plate.



At the point of contact,

$$t = 0$$

but the path difference between the two interfering beams originating at the point of contact will be $\pm \lambda/2$ owing to reflection. Hence a dark

spot is formed at the point of contact. At a point P corresponding to film thickness t , either constructive or destructive interference would take place depending ^{on} the path difference between the interfering beams originating at P. Locus of points like P will be a circle about O. Hence circular fringes, alternately bright and dark with O as centre are formed.

E x

With reference to the figure showing experimental arrangement,

S

G — optically flat glass plate

Th

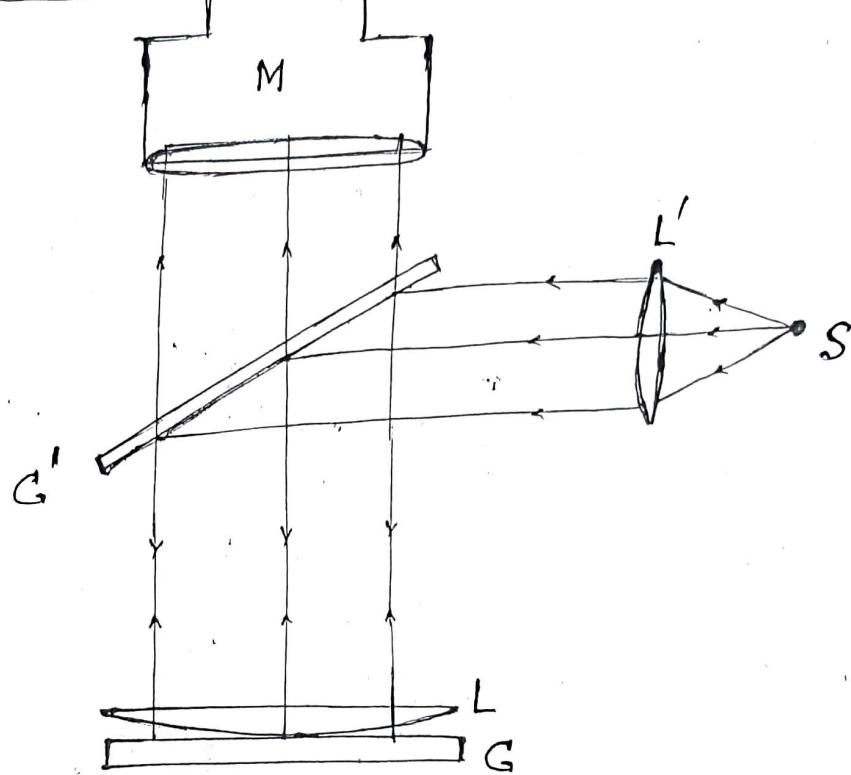
L — plano-convex lens of large radius of curvature

G' — a glass plate inclined at 45° with the vertical

f

M — travelling microscope)

Experimental arrangement



S — a wide monochromatic source placed at the focal plane of the lens L' .

Theory

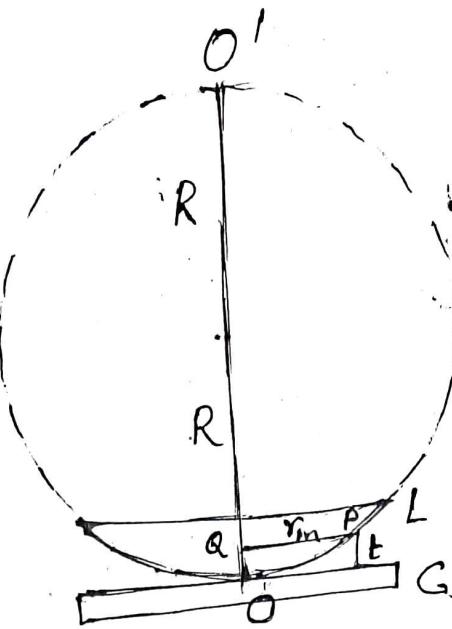
For normal incidence,

$$2nt = (m + \frac{1}{2})\lambda \quad m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

for a bright ring.

With air film, $n = 1$,

$$2t = (m + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$$



From the figure :

$$r_m = OQ \cdot QO'$$

where r_m is the radius of the bright ring corresponding to the film thickness t at P.

$$\text{or, } r_m = t(2R - t) \\ \approx 2Rt \quad \because 2R \gg t$$

$$\text{or, } r_m = R \cdot (m + \frac{1}{2})\lambda, \quad m = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

whence we get

$$r_1 = \left(\frac{\lambda R}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad r_2 = \left(\frac{3\lambda R}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \dots$$

$$r_1 : r_2 : \dots = \sqrt{1} : \sqrt{3} : \dots$$

and when

For dark rings,

$$r_m' = R \cdot m \lambda \quad m = 1, 2, \dots$$

$$r_1' = (\lambda R)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad r_2' = (2\lambda R)^{\frac{1}{2}}, \dots$$

$$r_1' : r_2' : \dots = \sqrt{1} : \sqrt{2} : \dots$$

* [Thus, the radii of the bright rings are proportional to the square roots of the odd natural numbers and the radii of the dark rings are proportional to the square roots of the natural numbers.]

Measurement of wavelength of light

Considering bright rings, the diameters of the rings of orders m and ~~$m+p$~~ ($m+p$) are given by

$$D_m = (m + \frac{1}{2}) \cdot 4\lambda R$$

$$\text{and } D_{m+p} = (m + p + \frac{1}{2}) \cdot 4\lambda R$$

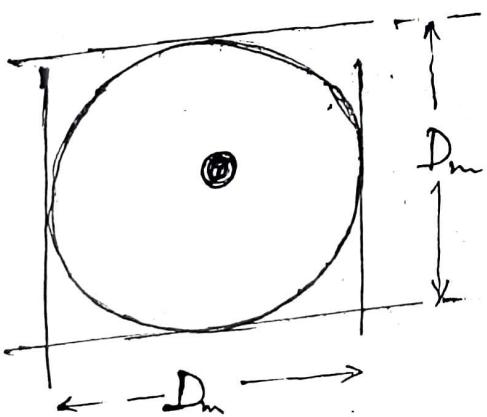
whence we get

$$D_{m+p}^2 - D_m^2 = 4p\lambda R$$

of

$$\text{or, } \lambda = \frac{D_{m+p}^2 - D_m^2}{4pR} \dots \textcircled{1}$$

Eq. ① is used to determine the wavelength of a given monochromatic light by measuring the diameters of two bright rings of different orders using a travelling microscope.



Determination of the refractive index of a liquid

With the liquid film between the glass plate G and the plane-convex lens L, for a bright ring

at
wh

of order m ,

$$2nt = (m + \frac{t}{2})\lambda$$

or, $\frac{r_m'^2}{R} \cdot n = (m + \frac{t}{2})\lambda$

since $r_m'^2 = 2tR$, r_m' being the radius of the ring.

or, $n \cdot d_m^2 = (m + \frac{t}{2})4\lambda R$.

where d_m is the diameter of the ring corresponding to the order m .

Similarly, for the ring of order $(m+p)$ we have

$$n \cdot d_{m+p}^2 = (m + p + \frac{t}{2}) \cdot 4\lambda R.$$

Hence we get

$$n \cdot (d_{m+p}^2 - d_m^2) = 4p\lambda R.$$

With air film, we have

$$D_{m+p}^2 - D_m^2 = 4p\lambda R.$$

whence we obtain

$$\frac{D_{m+p}^2 - D_m^2}{n(d_{m+p}^2 - d_m^2)} = 1$$

or,

$$n = \frac{D_{m+p}^2 - D_m^2}{d_{m+p}^2 - d_m^2} \dots \textcircled{2}$$