

# Michael Interferometer

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**Abstract.** An experiment was designed and attempted to build a Michaelson Interferometer and quantify the interferences patterns observed. The experiment was conducted using a HNLS008L laser, beam splitter, and mirrors. The fringe contrast was calculated to be 0.5.

## INTRODUCTION

Invented by Albert Abraham Michelson 1887 [2], the Michaelson Interferometer is a configuration of mirrors and beam splitters which can be used to quantify the interference patterns of light. It has been instrumental in the development of quantum mechanics and the theory of relativity. The Michaelson Interferometer is used in a variety of applications, including the measurement of the speed of light, the refutation of the existance of the ether, and the study of quantum mechanics.

Michaelson Interferometers work on the basic principle of interference. In the experimental setup, a beam of light is split into two paths by a 50:50 beam splitter. The two beams are then reflected by mirrors and recombined at the beam splitter. The recombined beams interfere with each other, creating a pattern of light and dark fringes. The fringe contrast is a measure of the visibility of the fringes and is calculated using (1).

$$F = \frac{V_{\max} - V_{\min}}{V_{\max} + V_{\min}} \quad (1)$$

Depending on the relative path difference,  $d$ , between the two reflected beams, there will be a time delay,  $\tau$  defined by (2) [2].

$$\tau = \frac{d}{c} \quad (2)$$

With the resultant intensity quantified by (3) [2].

$$I = 2I_0 [1 + \cos(\omega t)] \quad (3)$$

## METHODOLOGY

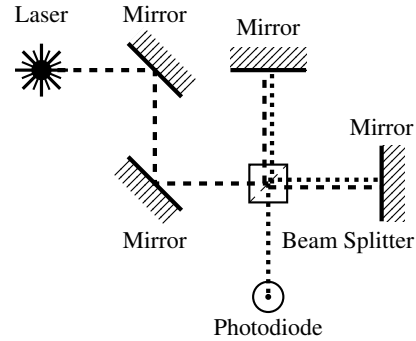


FIGURE 1: Figure

## RESULTS & ANALYSIS

## DISCUSSION

## CONCLUSION

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## REFERENCES

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## Appendix

### Raw Data

### Analysis Code

#### *Toolkit*

---

```

1  # -*- coding: utf-8 -*-
2  """
3  Created on Tue Jan 23 12:34:34 2024
4  Updated on Mon Oct 14 21:22:09 2024
5  Updated on Mon Feb 10 09:51:03 2025
6
7  Lab Toolkit
8
9  @author: Aditya K. Rao
10 @github: @adirao-projects
11 """
12 import numpy as np
13 from scipy.optimize import curve_fit
14 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
15 import matplotlib.gridspec as gridspec
16 import os
17 import math
18 import textwrap
19
20 #from uncertainties import ufloat
21
22 font = {'family' : 'DejaVu Sans',
```

```

23         'size'      : 30}
24
25 plt.rc('font', **font)
26
27 def curve_fit_data(xdata, ydata, fit_type, override=False,
28                   override_params=(None,), uncertainty=None,
29                   res=False, chi=False, uncertainty_x=None,
30                   model_function_custom=None, guess=None):
31
32     def chi_sq_red(measured_data:list[float], expected_data:list[float],
33                   uncertainty:list[float], v: int):
34         if type(uncertainty)==float:
35             uncertainty = [uncertainty]*len(measured_data)
36         chi_sq = 0
37
38         # Converting summation in equation into a for loop
39         for i in range(0, len(measured_data)):
40             chi_sq += (pow((measured_data[i] \
41                           - expected_data[i]),2)/(uncertainty[i]**2))
42
43         chi_sq = (1/v)*chi_sq
44
45         return chi_sq
46
47
48     def residual_calculation(y_data: list, exp_y_data) -> list[float]:
49         residuals = []
50         for v, u in zip(y_data, exp_y_data):
51             residuals.append(u-v)
52
53         return residuals
54
55     def model_function_linear_int(x, m, c):
56         return m*x+c
57
58     def model_function_exp(x, a, b, c):
59         return a*np.exp**(b*x)
60
61     def model_function_log(x, a, b):
62         return b*np.log(x+a)
63
64     def model_function_linear_int_mod(x, m, c):
65         return m*(x+c)
66
67     def model_function_linear(x, m):
68         return m*x
69
70     def model_function_xlnx(x, a, b, c):
71         return b*x*(np.log(x)) + c
72
73     def model_function_lnx(x, a, b, c):
74         return b*(np.log(x)) + c
75
76     def model_function_sqrt(x, a):

```

```
77         return a*np.sqrt(x)
78
79     model_functions = {
80         'linear' : model_function_linear,
81         'linear-int' : model_function_linear_int,
82         'xlnx' : model_function_xlnx,
83         'log' : model_function_log,
84         'exp' : model_function_exp,
85         'custom' : model_function_custom
86     }
87
88     try:
89         model_func = model_functions[fit_type]
90
91     except:
92         raise ValueError(f'Unsupported fit-type: {fit_type}')
93
94
95     if not override:
96         new_xdata = np.linspace(min(xdata), max(xdata), num=100)
97
98
99         if type(uncertainty) == int:
100             abs_sig = True
101         else:
102             abs_sig = False
103
104         if guess is not None:
105             popt, pcov = curve_fit(model_func, xdata, ydata, sigma=uncertainty,
106                                   maxfev=20000, absolute_sigma=abs_sig, p0=guess)
107         else:
108             popt, pcov = curve_fit(model_func, xdata, ydata, sigma=uncertainty,
109                                   maxfev=20000, absolute_sigma=abs_sig)
110         param_num = len(popt)
111
112         exp_ydata = model_func(xdata,*popt)
113
114         deg_free = len(xdata) - param_num
115
116         new_ydata = model_func(new_xdata, *popt)
117
118         residuals = None
119         chi_sq = None
120
121         if res:
122             residuals = residual_calculation(exp_ydata, ydata)
123
124         if chi:
125             chi_sq = chi_sq_red(ydata, exp_ydata, uncertainty, deg_free)
126
127         data_output = {
128             'popt' : popt,
129             'pcov' : pcov,
130             'plotx': new_xdata,
```

```

131         'ploty': new_ydata,
132         'chisq' : chi_sq,
133         'residuals' : residuals,
134         'pstd' : np.sqrt(np.diag(pcov))
135     }
136
137     return data_output
138
139 else:
140     return model_func(xdata, *override_params)
141
142
143 def quick_plot_residuals(xdata, ydata, plot_x, plot_y,
144                          residuals, meta=None, uncertainty=[], save=False,
145                          uncertainty_x=[]):
146     """
147     Relies on the python uncertainties package to function as normal, however,
148     this can be overridden by providing a list for the uncertainties.
149     """
150     fig = plt.figure(figsize=(14,14))
151     gs = gridspec.GridSpec(ncols=11, nrows=11, figure=fig)
152     main_fig = fig.add_subplot(gs[:6,:])
153     res_fig = fig.add_subplot(gs[8,:])
154
155     main_fig.grid('on')
156     res_fig.grid('on')
157     if type(uncertainty) is int:
158         uncertainty = [uncertainty]*len(xdata)
159
160     elif len(uncertainty) == 0:
161         for y in ydata:
162             uncertainty.append(y.std_dev)
163
164     if meta is None:
165         meta = {'title' : 'INSERT-TITLE',
166                'xlabel' : 'INSERT-XLABEL',
167                'ylabel' : 'INSERT-YLABEL',
168                'chisq' : 0,
169                'fit-label': "Best Fit",
170                'data-label': "Data",
171                'save-name' : 'IMAGE',
172                'loc' : 'lower right'}
173
174     main_fig.set_title(meta['title'], fontsize = 46)
175     if len(uncertainty_x)==0:
176         main_fig.errorbar(xdata, ydata, yerr=uncertainty, #xerr=uncertainty_x,
177                           markersize='4', fmt='o', color='red',
178                           label=meta['data-label'], ecolor='black')
179     else:
180         main_fig.errorbar(xdata, ydata, yerr=uncertainty, xerr=uncertainty_x,
181                           markersize='4', fmt='o', color='red',
182                           label=meta['data-label'], ecolor='black')
183
184     main_fig.plot(plot_x, plot_y, linestyle='dashed',

```

```

185         label=meta['fit-label'])
186
187     main_fig.set_xlabel(meta['xlabel'])
188     main_fig.set_ylabel(meta['ylabel'])
189     main_fig.legend(loc=meta['loc'])
190
191
192     res_fig.errorbar(xdata, residuals, markersize='3', color='red', fmt='o',
193                     yerr=uncertainty, ecolor='black', alpha=0.7)
194     res_fig.axhline(y=0, linestyle='dashed', color='blue')
195     res_fig.set_title('Residuals')
196     save_name = meta["save-name"]
197     plt.savefig(f'figures/{save_name}.png')
198
199 def quick_plot_test(xdata, ydata, plot_x = [], plot_y = [],
200                     uncertainty=[]):
201     plt.figure(figsize=((14,10)))
202
203     plt.title("Test Plot for data")
204     plt.xlabel("X Data")
205     plt.ylabel("Y Data")
206
207     if len(uncertainty) != 0:
208         plt.errorbar(xdata, ydata, yerr=uncertainty, fmt='o')
209     else:
210         plt.scatter(xdata, ydata)
211
212     plt.grid("on")
213     plt.show()
214     plt.savefig('Test.png')
215     plt.close()
216
217 def block_print(data: list[str], title: str, delimiter='=') -> None:
218     """
219     Prints a formatted block of text with a title and delimiter
220
221     Parameters
222     -----
223     data : list[str]
224         Text to be printed (should be input as one block of text).
225     title : str
226         Title of the data being output.
227     delimiter : str, optional
228         Delimiter to be used. The default is '='.
229
230     Returns
231     -----
232     None.
233
234     Examples
235     -----
236     >>> r_log = 100114.24998718781
237     >>> r_dec = 0.007422298127465114
238     >>> data = [f'r^2 value (log): {r_log}',

```

```

239         f'r^2 value (real): {r_dec}']
240     >>> block_print(data, 'Regression Coefficient', '=')
241     ===== Regression Coefficient =====
242     r^2 value (log): 100114.24998718781
243     r^2 value (real): 0.007422298127465114
244     =====
245     ""
246     term_size = os.get_terminal_size().columns
247
248     breaks = 1
249     str_len = len(title)+2
250     while str_len >= term_size:
251         breaks += 1
252         str_len = math.ceil(str_len/2)
253
254
255     str_chunk_len = math.ceil(len(title)/breaks)
256     str_chunks = textwrap.wrap(title, str_chunk_len)
257     output = ''
258     for chunk in str_chunks:
259         border = delimiter*(math.floor((term_size - str_chunk_len)/2)-1)
260         output = f'{border} {chunk} {border}\n'
261
262     output=output[:-1]
263
264     output+= '\n'+ '\n'.join(data) + '\n'
265     output+=delimiter*term_size
266
267     print(output)
268
269 def numerical_methods(method_type, args=None, custom_method=None):
270     def gaussxw(N):
271
272         # Initial approximation to roots of the Legendre polynomial
273         a = np.linspace(3,4*N-1,N)/(4*N+2)
274         x = np.cos(np.pi*a+1/(8*N*N*np.tan(a)))
275
276         # Find roots using Newton's method
277         epsilon = 1e-15
278         delta = 1.0
279         while delta>epsilon:
280             p0 = np.ones(N,float)
281             p1 = np.copy(x)
282             for k in range(1,N):
283                 p0,p1 = p1,((2*k+1)*x*p1-k*p0)/(k+1)
284             dp = (N+1)*(p0-x*p1)/(1-x*x)
285             dx = p1/dp
286             x -= dx
287             delta = max(abs(dx))
288
289         # Calculate the weights
290         w = 2*(N+1)*(N+1)/(N*N*(1-x*x)*dp*dp)
291
292     return x, w

```

```
293
294     def gaussxwab(N,a,b):
295         x,w = gaussxw(N)
296         return 0.5*(b-a)*x+0.5*(b+a),0.5*(b-a)*w
297
298     methods = {
299         'gaussxw' : gaussxw,
300         'gaussxwab' : gaussxwab,
301         'custom' : custom_method
302     }
303
304     try:
305         method = methods[method_type]
306
307     except:
308         raise ValueError(f'Unsupported method-type: {method_type}')
309
310     return method(*args)
311
312
313 def interpolation_methods(method_type, args=None, custom_method=None):
314
315     methods = {
316         'custom' : custom_method
317     }
318
319     try:
320         method = methods[method_type]
321
322     except:
323         raise ValueError(f'Unsupported method-type: {method_type}')
324
325     return method(*args)
```

---