

Quiz 5: Mach-Zender Adjacency Matrix

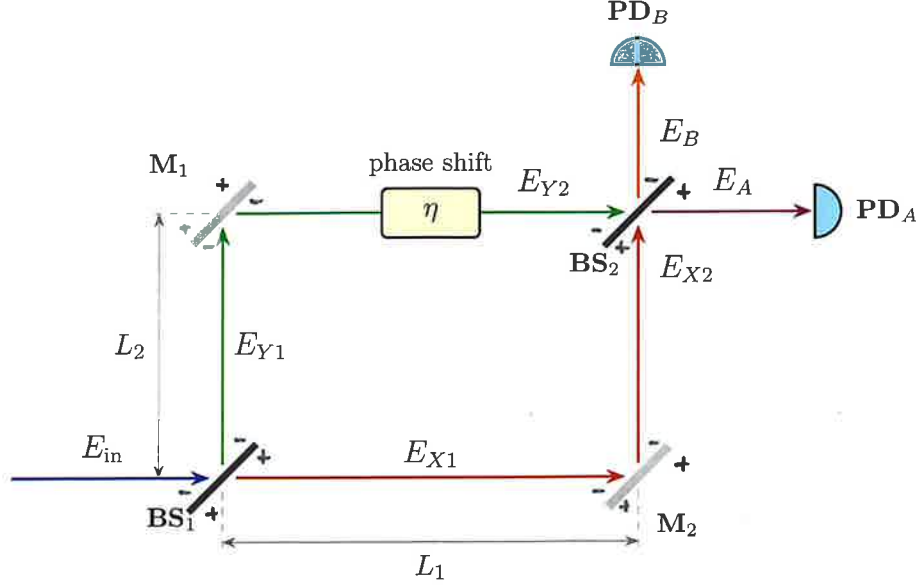
February 25, 2026

Lasers and Optomechanics

Name: Craig Cahillane

Mach-Zender Interferometer

Suppose we have a Mach-Zender interferometer as labeled below, sourced with a input field E_{in} with wavenumber k and with side lengths L_1 and L_2 . In the Y-arm of the Mach-Zender is an optical element that applies a phase-shift η to the beam that passes through. Assume plane-waves for all fields in the interferometer.



For the below questions, use the following field vector \vec{E} to represent the different seven labeled fields of the interferometer:

$$\vec{E} = [E_{in} \ E_{X1} \ E_{Y1} \ E_{X2} \ E_{Y2} \ E_A \ E_B]^T \quad (1)$$

You may also want to use

$$\cos \alpha = \frac{e^{i\alpha} + e^{-i\alpha}}{2}, \quad \sin \alpha = \frac{e^{i\alpha} - e^{-i\alpha}}{2i} \quad (2)$$

1. Write six equations relating the seven fields of the Mach-Zender interferometer. Use parameters $L_1, L_2, \eta, r_{BS1}, t_{BS1}, r_{BS2}, t_{BS2}, r_{M1}, r_{M2}$.
2. Find expressions for field transfer functions $\frac{E_A}{E_{in}}$ and $\frac{E_B}{E_{in}}$. Assume that $r_{BS1} = t_{BS1} = r_{BS2} = t_{BS2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$, and that $r_{M1} = r_{M2} = 1$.
3. Using your result from (2), calculate the power relationships $\frac{P_A}{P_{in}}$ and $\frac{P_B}{P_{in}}$.
4. What would a change in L_1 or L_2 do to E_A and E_B ? What about the power expressions P_A and P_B ?
5. What about a change in η ? Would this impact E_A and E_B or P_A and P_B ?
6. Using your equations from (1), put together an adjacency matrix for the Mach-Zender interferometer.

$$1. E_{x1} = t_{BS1} e^{-ikL_1} E_{in}$$

$$E_{y1} = -r_{BS1} e^{-ikL_2} E_{in}$$

$$E_{x2} = -r_{M2} e^{-ikL_2} E_{x1}$$

$$E_{y2} = -r_{M1} e^{-ikL_1} e^{i\eta} E_{y1}$$

$$E_A = r_{BS2} E_{x2} + t_{BS2} E_{y2}$$

$$E_B = t_{BS2} E_{x2} - r_{BS2} E_{y2}$$

$$2. E_A = -r_{BS2} r_{M2} t_{BS1} e^{-ik(L_1+L_2)} E_{in} + t_{BS2} r_{M1} r_{BS1} e^{-ik(L_1+L_2)} e^{i\eta} E_{in}$$

$$E_B = -\underbrace{t_{BS2}}_{1/\sqrt{2}} \underbrace{r_{M2}}_1 \underbrace{t_{BS1}}_{1/\sqrt{2}} e^{-ik(L_1+L_2)} E_{in} + \underbrace{r_{BS2}}_{1/\sqrt{2}} \underbrace{r_{M1}}_1 \underbrace{r_{BS1}}_{1/\sqrt{2}} e^{-ik(L_1+L_2)} e^{i\eta} E_{in}$$

$$\frac{E_A}{E_{in}} = \frac{1}{2} e^{-ik(L_1+L_2)} [-1 + e^{i\eta}] = \frac{1}{2} e^{-ik(L_1+L_2)} e^{i\eta/2} [-e^{-i\eta/2} + e^{i\eta/2}]$$

$$\frac{E_B}{E_{in}} = \frac{1}{2} e^{-ik(L_1+L_2)} [-1 - e^{i\eta}] = -\frac{1}{2} e^{-ik(L_1+L_2)} e^{i\eta/2} [e^{-i\eta/2} + e^{i\eta/2}]$$

$$\frac{E_A}{E_{in}} = i e^{-ik(L_1+L_2)} e^{i\eta/2} \sin(\eta/2)$$

$$\frac{E_B}{E_{in}} = -e^{ik(L_1+L_2)} e^{i\eta/2} \cos(\eta/2)$$

$$3. \frac{P_A}{P_{in}} = \sin^2(\eta/2)$$

$$\frac{P_B}{P_{in}} = \cos^2(\eta/2)$$

4. Change in L_1 or L_2 is common motion, so yields only a phase rotation in E_A or E_B . No change in P_A or P_B would occur.

5. Change in η would be both common + differential. This rotates + scales $E_A + E_B$

5. (continued). P_A and P_B would see a change in magnitude like $\sin^2(\eta/2)$ and $\cos^2(\eta/2)$.

6. Adjacency Matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} E_{in} \\ E_{x1} \\ E_{y1} \\ E_{x2} \\ E_{y2} \\ E_A \\ E_B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ t_{BS1} e^{-ikL_1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -r_{BS1} e^{-ikL_2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -r_{A2} e^{-ikL_2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -r_{A1} e^{-ikL_1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & r_{BS2} & t_{BS2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & t_{BS2} & -r_{BS2} & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} E_{in} \\ E_{x1} \\ E_{y1} \\ E_{x2} \\ E_{y2} \\ E_A \\ E_B \end{bmatrix}$$