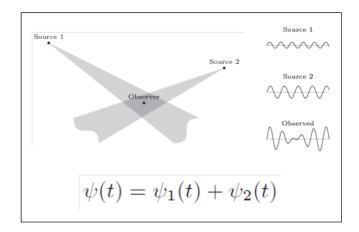
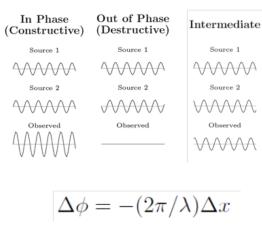
### Wave Interference



# When the disturbances from two sources combine the instantaneous amplitudes add

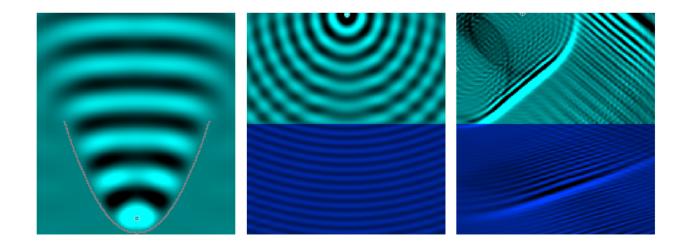




$$\Delta \ell = n\lambda$$

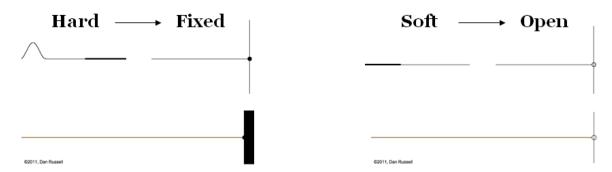
$$\Delta \ell = (n + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$$

Reflection and refraction of waves provide a mechanical model for light and sound

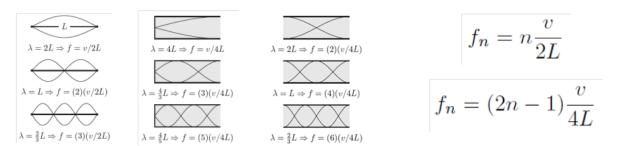


http://www.falstad.com/ripple/ http://www.falstad.com/mathphysics.html

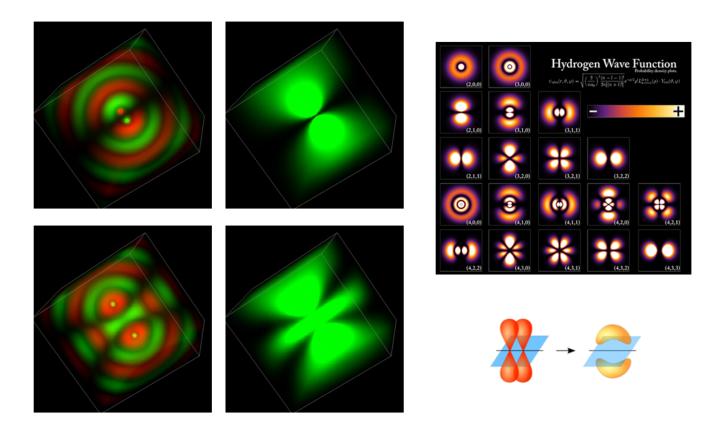
### Reflection off a boundary acts as a second source that can produce standing waves



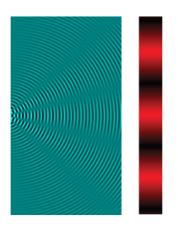
http://www.acs.psu.edu/drussell/Demos/

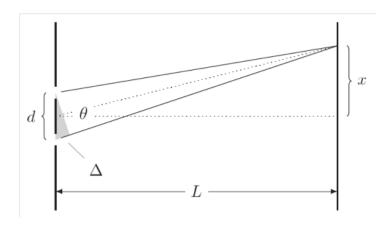


Three-dimensional standing waves are used to build microphones, antenna, and atoms



Double slit experiment provides definitive evidence for the wave nature of light

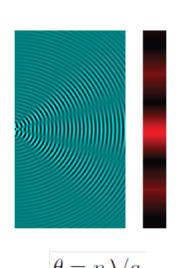




$$\sin\theta = n\lambda/d$$

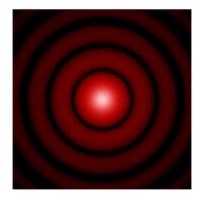
$$\Delta \ell = d \sin \theta$$

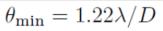
Single slit diffraction can be understood as the interference of a series of single sources



$$\theta = n\lambda/a$$

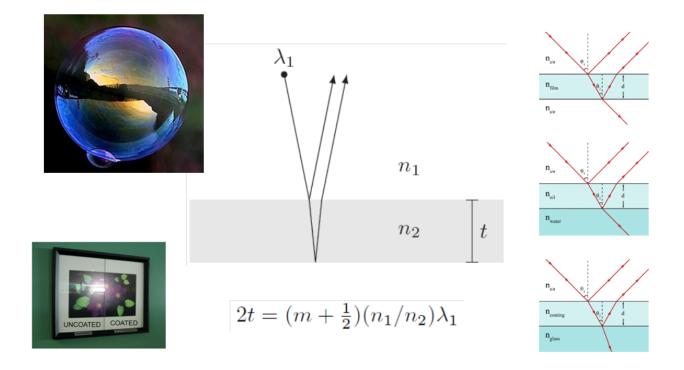
$$I = \left[ \left( \frac{\lambda}{\pi a \theta} \right) \sin \left( \frac{\pi a \theta}{\lambda} \right) \right]^2$$







### Iridescence in nature is usually from thin-film interference



## The difference between incandescent and laser light is the coherence of the waves

