

Chapter 1

Fourier Optics, following Goodman

These will be my notes on fourier optics following the presentation of Joseph Goodman's widely used text "Introduction to Fourier Optics". I will be using the fourth edition, from 2017.

1.1 Introduction and chapter 2

The text opens (in chapter two) with a discussion of linear systems, which is an emphasis that hasn't been as clear in other treatments of the text, though obvious lies at the heart of optical physics. The text also immediately appeals to the language of linear systems theory, which is a bit of a barrier to entry. But basically there is a focus on reducing the problem so how a system responds to what Goodman refers to as 'elementary' stimuli. One can then use the linearity of the system to build up a response to more complicated stimuli.

1.1.1 Fourier 2d

We repeat Goodmans definitions of Fourier analysis in two dimensional systems to establish the notation. we define the Fourier transform of a function $g(x, y)$ as $\mathcal{F}\{g\}$ to be

$$\mathcal{F}\{g\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(x, y) e^{-i2\pi(f_x x + f_y y)} dx dy \quad (1.1)$$

where apparently Goodman uses j for i because he is a monster (copilot wrote that monster comment Liouville), but i will probably use i ? i haven't decided lol. The inverse Fourier transform $\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{G\}$ is then defined as

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}\{G\} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} G(f_x, f_y) e^{i2\pi(f_x x + f_y y)} df_x df_y \quad (1.2)$$

where $G(f_x, f_y)$ is the Fourier transform of $g(x, y)$. Notice that this convention includes the 2π in the exponent of the forward transform, which is not always the case, but its objectively the best convention. For 1.2 and 1.1 to be meaningful, we must have some conditions on g

1. g must be absolutely integrable over the entire $x - y$ plane
2. g must be continuous everywhere except at a finite number of finite discontinuities and a finite number of extrema in any finite rectangle.
3. g must have no infinite discontinuities.

These conditions are a common set to be used, but one can weaken or strengthen them as needed, apparently. A nice quote from Bracewell is given here "physical possibility is a valid sufficient condition for the existence of a Fourier transform". But certain functions are weird, like this limit form of the Dirac delta function

$$\delta(x, y) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} N^2 \exp[-N^2 \pi(x^2 + y^2)] \quad (1.3)$$

but we can define generalized transforms for the functions in the defining sequence, and then take the limit of the transforms. for the above, we have

$$\mathcal{F}\{\delta\} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{F}\{N^2 \exp[-N^2 \pi(f_x^2 + f_y^2)]\} = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \exp\left[-\frac{\pi(f_x^2 + f_y^2)}{N^2}\right] = 1. \quad (1.4)$$

Goodman notes that it is useful to think of Fourier tranforms as decomposiiton into elemenary functions of the form

$$\exp[-i2\pi(f_x x + f_y y)] \quad (1.5)$$

This form shows how the elemntary functions are plane waves in the $x - y$ plane, with the dircition of the wave ggiven by the angle

$$\theta = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{f_y}{f_x}\right) \quad (1.6)$$

and the wavelength given by

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{\sqrt{f_x^2 + f_y^2}} \quad (1.7)$$

1.1.2 theorem and identities

Several theorems are given, i wont even list the linearity conditions here, but also have the Similarity theorem which is

$$\mathcal{F}\{g(ax, by)\} = \frac{1}{|ab|} \mathcal{F}\{g(x, y)\} \quad (1.8)$$

which shows how scaling behaves recipricolly in real and Fourier space. The shift theorem is:

$$\mathcal{F}\{g(x - x_0, y - y_0)\} = e^{-i2\pi(f_x x_0 + f_y y_0)} \mathcal{F}\{g(x, y)\} \quad (1.9)$$

which shows how a shift in real space is a phase shift in Fourier space (i'm not sure i appreciated that before). Raylieghs or Parsevals theorem is

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |g(x, y)|^2 dx dy = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |G(f_x, f_y)|^2 df_x df_y \quad (1.10)$$

which is a statement of conservation of energy. The convolution theorem is

$$\mathcal{F}\{g \otimes h\} = G(f_x, f_y) H(f_x, f_y) \quad (1.11)$$

which is a statement of the fact that convolution in real space is multiplication in Fourier space. The autocorrelation theorem is

$$\mathcal{F}\left\{\int_{\infty} g(\xi, \eta) g^*(\xi - x, \eta - y) dx dy\right\} = |G(f_x, f_y)|^2 \quad (1.12)$$

which is a special case of the convolution theorem for the case where $h = g^*(x, y)$. The differentiation theorem is

$$\mathcal{F}\left\{\frac{\partial^n g}{\partial x^n}\right\} = (i2\pi f_x)^n G(f_x, f_y) ??? \quad (1.13)$$

idk this. The rotation theorem for $\mathcal{F}\{g(r, \theta)\} = G(\rho, \phi)$ is that $g(r, \theta + \theta_0)$ is a rotation of $G(\rho, \phi + \theta_0)$ by an identical angle θ_0 . in rectangular coordinates, this is

$$\mathcal{F}\{g(x \cos \theta - y \sin \theta, x \sin \theta + y \cos \theta)\} = e^{-i2\pi f_x x_0} G(f_x \cos \theta + f_y \sin \theta, f_y \cos \theta - f_x \sin \theta) \quad (1.14)$$

The shear theorem is

$$\mathcal{F}\{g(x + ay, y)\} = e^{-i2\pi a f_y y} G(f_x, f_y) \quad (1.15)$$

and similarly for the other shear. Goodman also points out that sperability is a useful property, where if $g(x, y) = f(x)h(y)$ then $G(f_x, f_y) = F(f_x)H(f_y)$.

1.1.3 Local spatial frequency

Consider the function

$$g(x, y) = a(x, y) \exp [i\phi(x, y)] \quad (1.16)$$

where $a(x, y)$ is the slowly varying amplitude and $\phi(x, y)$ is the phase. The local spatial frequency is defined as the gradient of the phase

$$\vec{f}^{(l)} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \right) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \nabla \phi \quad (1.17)$$

for the case $g(x, y) = \exp [i2\pi(f_x x + f_y y)]$, we have $\vec{f}^{(l)} = (f_x, f_y)$, which is the local spatial frequency. The local spatial frequency is a vector, and the magnitude of the vector is the local spatial frequency magnitude. in this simple case its exactly as we would naively guess. Next we consider a space limited function $g(x, y)$, which is zero outside of some region

$$g(x, y) = \exp [i\pi\beta(x^2 + y^2)] \text{rect} \left[\frac{x}{L_x} \right] \text{rect} \left[\frac{y}{L_y} \right] \quad (1.18)$$

where $\text{rect}[x]$ is the rectangular function, which is 1 for $|x| < 1/2$ and zero otherwise. The local spatial frequencies are then

$$f_x^{(l)} = \beta x \text{rect} \left[\frac{x}{L_x} \right], \quad f_y^{(l)} = \beta y \text{rect} \left[\frac{y}{L_y} \right] \quad (1.19)$$

This time the local spatial frequency is not constant, but varies linearly with position, and is confined to a rectangle in the $x - y$ plane.

It is tempting to think tht since the local spatial frequencies are bounded to a rectangle, that the Fourier transform of $g(x, y)$ will be confined to a rectangle in Fourier space. However, this is not the case! The shape of the spectrum depends fundamentally on the product $\frac{L_x L_y}{4} \beta$ which will be called the Fresnel number. We shall see that for Fresnel numbers greater than unity, the local spatial frequency distribution can yield good results about the shape and extent of the spectrum, but for Fresnel numbers less than unity, the local spatial frequency distribution is not a good approximation to the spectrum.

The Fourier transform of 1.18 is , according to the definition,

$$G(f_x, f_y) = \int_{-L_x/2}^{L_x/2} \int_{-L_y/2}^{L_y/2} \exp [i\pi\beta(x^2 + y^2)] e^{-i2\pi(f_x x + f_y y)} dx dy \quad (1.20)$$

blah blah blah, i'm not going to do the math here, i dont think the result is mporantant yet either. but the point is that the spectrum is not confined to a rectangle in Fourier space, but rather is a function of the Fresnel number.

1.1.4 chapter 2

theres a whole thing about the Wigner distribution function, which is a way to represent the local spatial frequency distribution. i've never heard of it before. i will ignore it for now. then theres a section about linear systems, which brings up impulse response AKA point spread functions.

Goodman brings up invariant linear systems, which are systems where the impulse response $h(t; \tau)$ is time invariant, that is, the response at τ following an impulse at t depends only on $\tau - t$. This is typically how electrical circuits behave. in optics, however, the impulse response is not time invariant, but rather space invariant. That is, the response at x, y following an impulse at x_0, y_0 depends only on $x - x_0$ and $y - y_0$. This is because the speed of light is finite.

That leads to a discussion on the utility of transfer functions, which are how the system behaves in the frequency domain and are helpful for simplifying the math.

Then follows a lengthy section on sampling, and reconstruction of a signal from its samples. This is a very important topic, but i will skip it for now. But the Whittaker-Shannon sampling theorem is important. as is the concept of the Nyquist frequency. they also discuss he space badwidth product.

Then section 2.5 is about the discrete Fourier transform, which is a way to numerically calculate the Fourier transform of a discrete set of data. This is important, but i will skip it for now. 2.6 covers the projection slice theorem, which i think is intuitively obvious. section 2.7 very breifly covers phase retrieval.

1.2 chapter 3, Scalar diffraction theory

This chapter is about the scalar diffraction theory, which is the theory of diffraction of scalar waves. This is a good approximation for light when the wavelength is much smaller than the smallest dimension of the aperture. This is a good approximation for most optical systems.

I will skip the first four sections, since they are about the Kirchoff integral theorem, which i have already covered in the optics2 notes. Also the treatment of Born and Wolf is much more clearly written. most because of the figures.

1.2.1 3.5 The Rayleigh Sommerfeld diffraction theory

The assumptions of Kirchoff in deriving the Kirchoff integral theorem include that the field and its dervitive are simultaneously zero for all points on the screen. This mathematically means the field must be zero everywhere for an analytic function, a basic theorem of complex analysis. Additionally, the boundary conditions at the edge of the aperture mean the field is not identical to the n perturbed field. However, the criticism that motivate Sommerfeld were those raised by Poincare, namely that the theory itself is not self consistent, as onemoves the observation point closer to the aperture, the field diverges from its assumed value. but whevver its fine.

Consider the Kirchoff integral theorem as given by Goodman (3-30):

$$U(P_0) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_{\mathcal{A}} \left[G \frac{\partial U(P)}{\partial n} - U(P) \frac{\partial G}{\partial n} \right] dS \quad (1.21)$$

where G is the appropriate greens function (remember i have notes on greens functions in the math notes). Sommerfeld pointed out that with a sitable choice of the Green's function, one of the terms in the integrand can be eleminated. Via he method of images, one can show that the Greens functions which kill the first and second term in the integrand are, respectively

$$G_- = \frac{e^{ikr}}{r} - \frac{e^{ikr'}}{r'} \quad (1.22)$$

and

$$G_+ = \frac{e^{ikr}}{r} + \frac{e^{ikr'}}{r'} \quad (1.23)$$

where r is the distance from P_0 to P on the aperture and r' is the distance from the fictitious image point P'_0 to the point P on the aperture. clearly G_- and G_+ are the Greens functions which kill off the first and second terms in the integrand of 1.21 respectively. doing some math yields the first Sommerfeld solution for the field at P_0 as

$$U_I(P_0) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathcal{A}} U(P) \left[ik - \frac{1}{r} \right] \frac{e^{ikr}}{r} \cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}) dS \quad (1.24)$$

where $\cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r})$ is the cosine of the angle between the normal to the aperture and the distance vector from the source to the point on the aperture. This is the first Sommerfeld solution in its full form (3-35 in Goodman).

this can be written as a convolution:

$$U_I(x, y, z) = h(x, y, z) * U(x, y, 0) \quad (1.25)$$

where $h(x, y, z)$ is the impulse response of the system which we may write as

$$h(x, y, z) = \frac{z}{2\pi r} \left[ik - \frac{1}{r} \right] \frac{e^{ikr}}{r} \quad (1.26)$$

where z/r is the relevant cosine term.

We could find a solution $U_{II}(P_0)$ by using the other Greens function, but Dirichlet boundary conditions are generally easier and more intuitive to work with, so we will use the first Sommerfeld solution. The second

Sommerfeld solution is given by equations 3-39, 3-40 in Goodman. They are derived using the same method of images, but with the Greens function G_+ . It is given by

$$U_{II}(P_0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\mathcal{A}} \frac{\partial U(P)}{\partial n} \frac{e^{ikr}}{r} dS \quad (1.27)$$

Rayleigh-Sommerfeld diffraction formula

The full expression for the first Sommerfeld solution is given by eq. (1.24), but we now simplify it by assuming the far field, which kills the $1/r^2$ term in the integrand. This gives us:

$$U_I(P_0) = \frac{1}{i\lambda} \int_{\mathcal{A}} U(P) \frac{e^{ikr}}{r} \cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}) dS \quad (1.28)$$

At this point in the derivations of the Sommerfeld solutions we have not specified the form of $U(P)$, but we will do so now. We will assume that the field on the aperture is given by a spherical wave, which is a good approximation for the case of a point source at a large distance from the aperture. The field on the aperture is then given by:

$$U(P) = A \frac{e^{ikr_{21}}}{r_{21}} \quad (1.29)$$

Then eq. (1.28) becomes

$$U_I(P_0) = \frac{A}{i\lambda} \int_{\mathcal{A}} \frac{e^{ik(r_{21}+r_{01})}}{r_{21}r_{01}} \cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}_{01}) dS \quad (1.30)$$

eq. (1.27) requires computing

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial U(P)}{\partial n} &= ik \frac{\cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}_{21})}{r_{21}} e^{ikr_{21}} - \frac{\cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}_{21})}{r_{21}^2} e^{ikr_{21}} \\ &= \left(ik - \frac{1}{r_{21}} \right) \frac{\cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}_{21})}{r_{21}} e^{ikr_{21}} \end{aligned} \quad (1.31)$$

We kill the second term by assuming large distance from the source and we thus get Then eq. (1.27) becomes

$$U_{II}(P_0) = -\frac{A}{i\lambda} \int_{\mathcal{A}} \frac{e^{ik(r_{21}+r_{01})}}{r_{21}r_{01}} \cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}_{21}) dS \quad (1.32)$$

where the difference between the two is the overall sign and the cosine term. The cosine terms is generally nearly -1 so they are quite similar.

1.2.2 3.6 Kirchoff vs Sommerfeld

By the way, so far we have been assuming a spherical wave, name that on the aperture the field U is given by

$$U(P) = A \frac{e^{ikr_0}}{r_0} \quad (1.33)$$

where r_0 is the distance from the source to the point on the aperture. Then, For the three case of the Kirchoff theory, Sommerfeld solution I and Sommerfeld solution II, the field at P_0 is given by

$$U(P_0) = \frac{A}{i\lambda} \int_{\mathcal{A}} \frac{e^{ik(r+r_0)}}{rr_0} \psi dS \quad (1.34)$$

where the obliquity factor ψ is given in each case by

$$\psi = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} [\cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}) - \cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}_0)] & \text{Kirchoff} \\ \cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}) & \text{Sommerfeld I} \\ -\cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}_0) & \text{Sommerfeld II} \end{cases} \quad (1.35)$$

and we can see that the Sommerfeld solutions are the same as the Kirchhoff solution except for the obliquity factor. In fact, the Kirchhoff solution is the average of the two Sommerfeld solutions. For the case of an infinitely distance point source, things simplify even more. Goodman notes that the Kirchhoff solution is less restricted in that it does not require a planar aperture, but the Sommerfeld solutions do. This is not a big deal, but it is a difference.

A note about the distances. Goodman defines the observation point to be P_0 , the point on the aperture to be P_1 and the source to be P_2 , (figure 3.7 in Goodman). The distance from P_0 to P_1 is $\mathbf{r}_{01} = \mathbf{r}_0$ in my language (pointing from P_1 to P_0 in his), the distance from P_2 to P_1 is $\mathbf{r}_{21} = \mathbf{r}$. The vector \mathbf{n} points from source to aperture, and is normal to the aperture.

Goodman proceeds by choosing to focus on the first Rayleigh-Sommerfeld solution in the far field form given by eq. (1.28). The spherical wave source is not necessarily presumed in later portions. The theories only differ in their results very close to the aperture, which is unsurprising, although Goodman doesn't articulate precisely when version of the RS solutions are used, I believe it is the most simplified ones. Goodman also notes that while Kirchhoff theory is internally inconsistent (RS are not), the RS theory requires planar screens, which Kirchhoff does not. It's not clear to me if the theories suffer at large angles $\cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}_{21})$.

1.2.3 3.7 Further discussion of the Huygens Fresnel principle

The Huygens Fresnel principle is the familiar statement of Huygens principle, with extra details. Goodman provides a “quasi-physical” interpretation, based off this reinterpretation of Sommerfeld I.

$$U(P_0) = \frac{1}{i\lambda} \int_{\mathcal{A}} U(P) \frac{e^{ik(r)}}{r} \cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}) dS \quad (1.36)$$

That interpretation is that the field at P_0 is the sum of the contributions from all points on the aperture, where each contribution is a secondary source spherical wave with the following four properties:

1. the amplitude of the secondary wave is proportional to the amplitude of the primary wave at the point on the aperture
2. the amplitude is inversely proportional to the wavelength
3. the phase of the secondary wave *leads* the phase of the primary wave by a quarter period
4. the secondary wave is attenuated by the factor $\cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r})$

I still don't get the leading phase thing. motivate it from the derivative of the field at P on the aperture. Goodman writes: “Since our basic monochromatic field disturbance is a clockwise rotating phasor of the form $\exp(-i2\pi\nu t)$, the derivative of this function is proportional to both ν and $-i = 1/i$ ”. I don't get it. oh wait... I do get it, I had a sign error in my head about the time relationship.

1.3 Goodman Chapter 4, Fresnel and Fraunhofer

1.3.1 Goodman 4.1.2, starting point before Fresnel

Skipping section much of 4.1 which is about physics, but section 4.1.2 defines the geometry. I do not understand why Goodman has chosen the conventions for labeling points and directions as he has, but oh well. It is the same as in Goodman section 3.5.

The formula we are using from the previous chapter of Goodman is, as previously stated, the first RS formula,

$$U_I(P_0) = \frac{1}{i\lambda} \int_{\mathcal{A}} U(P) \frac{e^{ikr}}{r} \cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}) dS. \quad (1.37)$$

The cosine term is trivially $\cos(\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{r}) = \frac{z}{r_{01}}$ and thus we can write our starting point before invoking the Fresnel approximation:

$$U(x, y, z) = \frac{z}{i\lambda} \int_{\mathcal{A}} U(\xi, \eta) \frac{e^{ikr_{01}}}{r_{01}^2} d\xi d\eta. \quad (1.38)$$

where ξ and η are the coordinates of the aperture and the distance r_{01} is precisely

$$r_{01} = \sqrt{z^2 + (x - \xi)^2 + (y - \eta)^2} \quad (1.39)$$

This is our starting point before making the Fresnel approximations. We have first invoked the inherent approximation of the scalar theory, namely that the aperture is large which respect to the wavelength, see the discussion at the end of Goodman 3.2 for refresher; this has been fundamental in our entire discussion of the scalar theory. We have also invoked the far-field assumption, namely that $r_{01} \gg \lambda$. This was done in section Goodman 3.5.2.

1.3.2 Goodman 4.2, The Fresnel Approximation

With eq. (1.38) as our starting point, we apply the binomial expansion and approximate:

$$r_{01} \approx z \left[1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{x - \xi}{z} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{y - \eta}{z} \right)^2 \right] \quad (1.40)$$

For the r_{01} which appears in the denominator, we are typically quite safe in further approximating $r_{01} \approx z$. However, in the exponent changes on the order of the wavelength are significant, and we shall therefore keep the higher order terms in eq. (1.40). Factoring out the z contribution to the integrand gives:

$$U(x, y, z) = \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} \int U(\xi, \eta, 0) \exp \left\{ \frac{ik}{2z} [(x - \xi)^2 + (y - \eta)^2] \right\} \quad (1.41)$$

This is our first form of the *Fresnel diffraction integral* or the Fresnel diffraction formula.

Equation eq. (1.41) is quite clearly a convolution, and we are going to skip that for now because it doesn't matter to this portion.

By factoring out the portion of the exponential which is independent of the integration variables we find another form of the Fresnel diffraction formula

$$U(x, y, z) = \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(x^2+y^2)} \int U(\xi, \eta, 0) e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(\xi^2+\eta^2)} e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{\lambda z}(x\xi+y\eta)} d\xi d\eta \quad (1.42)$$

This second form of the Fresnel diffraction formula shows how the observed field $U(x, y, z)$ is the Fourier transform of the quantity $U(\xi, \eta, 0) e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(\xi^2+\eta^2)}$. In other words, it is the transform of the field at the aperture with an additional quadratic phase. Therefore we can write it as

$$U(x, y, z) = \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(x^2+y^2)} \mathcal{F} \left[U(\xi, \eta, 0) e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(\xi^2+\eta^2)} \right] \left(\frac{x}{\lambda z}, \frac{y}{\lambda z} \right) \quad (1.43)$$

Equation's eqs. (1.41) to (1.43) are all equivalent expressions of the Fresnel diffraction formula. Its approximations are (1) large aperture vs wavelength, (2) far field vs wavelength, and (3) the approximation of the binomial theorem in this section, which is related to the stationary phase approximation.

Goodman 4.2.1, Positive and negative Phases

this section is dedicated to discussing the annoying sign confusion of the problem, which depend on the convention used by the phasors (goodman chooses Clockwise, i.e. fields oscillate at $\exp -i\omega t$). This is a helpful conversation but not required for my present purpose yet. It also jumps the gun in its discussion of the relationship between the quadratic phase and spherical wavelets.

Goodman 4.2.2 and 4.2.3, Accuracy of the Fresnel Approximation

The derivation of the Fresnel diffraction formulas has relied upon the Huygens-Fresnel principle, which treats every point of a field as a source for an outgoing spherical wavelet, and the field at a given observation point is the sum of contributions from all the other points. Inspection of the Fresnel diffraction formulas shows that these spherical secondary wavelets have been replaced by wavelets with quadratic-phase wavefronts. (I think

this is most directly seen in the form of eq. (1.41); i think that the prefactor in eqs. (1.42) and (1.43) are not fundamentally the replacement being made). This was done specifically when the binomial approximation for the distance to the observation point from the aperture was invoked.

A naive measure of the accuracy of this approach thus requires that the higher order terms dropped from the binomial expansion must be small. This turns out to be much too pessimistic. Rather, the requirement for validity of the approximation is that the value of the integral not change significantly with the addition of higher terms. Goodman shows how the behavior of this integral (which is quite appropriately given in terms of Fresnel integrals) is not so sensitive to higher order contributions. Goodman further describes how much of the aperture region contributes the main portion of the integral. This concept is alluded to be closely related to the *principle of stationary phase*.

Goodman 4.2.4 through 4.2.6

the next three sections deal with other details, 4.2.4 in particular returns to the convolution insight I skipped earlier, and discusses the power spectrum.

1.3.3 Goodman 4.3 the Fraunhofer Approximation

The Fraunhofer approximation builds upon the Fresnel approximation by further supposing that the quadratic phase ($e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(\xi^2+\eta^2)}$) added to the field $U(\xi, \eta, 0)$ at the aperture may be replaced with unity. It is the Fraunhofer approximation which is the most pure manifestation of the concept that the field in the far field is the Fourier transform of the field over the aperture.

Goodman has several insightful comments which I will not delve into now. They include the (more stringent) limitations of regimes of validity and how these are ameliorated by certain geometries or via a lens. The effect of lens's is in Chapter 6 of Goodman.

1.4 Thin lens as a Fourier Transformer

Here we will derive the fact that a thin lens acts as a Fourier transformer. This section demonstrates the special case of a result derived in slightly more generality in the chapter 6 of Goodman, specifically section 6.2.2. Let's begin with the expression for the field $U(x, y, z)$ due to a diffraction through an aperture at the origin, where the field has value $U(\xi, \eta, 0)$. Scalar diffraction theory gives the field under the Fresnel approximation (cite Goodman, equation 4-17) as

$$U(x, y, z) = \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(x^2+y^2)} \int U(\xi, \eta, 0) e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(\xi^2+\eta^2)} e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{\lambda z}(x\xi+y\eta)} d\xi d\eta \quad (1.44)$$

or, equivalently:

$$U(x, y, z) = \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(x^2+y^2)} \mathcal{F} \left[U(\xi, \eta, 0) e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(\xi^2+\eta^2)} \right] \left(\frac{x}{\lambda z}, \frac{y}{\lambda z} \right) \quad (1.45)$$

where we are the unitary Fourier transform operator \mathcal{F} . This approximation is valid when the aperture is small compared to the distance from the aperture to the observation plane, when the distance beyond the aperture is large compared to the wavelength, and when the stationary phase approximation is valid. It is thus perfectly suitable for describing the propagation of a wavefront leaving a spatial light modulator (SLM) and propagating to a lens, and then to a camera. The effect of the lens is to introduce a quadratic phase $e^{-i\frac{k}{2f}(x^2+y^2)}$ to the field, where f is the focal length of the lens (Goodman eq 6.10). Dickey also has this formula, at the beginning of section 2.6.3 but the supplemental material lacks the negative sign both Goodman and Dickey have. The electric field at the camera is thus two applications of the Fresnel formula, one for the propagation from the SLM to the lens, and one for the propagation from the lens to the camera,

with the phase of the lens in between. The field at the camera is thus given by:

$$\begin{aligned}
U(x, y, 2f) &= \left(\frac{e^{ikf}}{i\lambda f} \right) e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(x^2+y^2)} \int \left[U(\xi, \eta, f) \overbrace{e^{-\frac{ik}{2f}(\xi^2+\eta^2)}}^{\text{lens}} \right] \overbrace{e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(\xi^2+\eta^2)}}^{\text{Fresnel}} e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{\lambda f}(x\xi+y\eta)} d\xi d\eta \\
&= \left(\frac{e^{ikf}}{i\lambda f} \right)^2 e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(x^2+y^2)} \int e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(\xi^2+\eta^2)} \left\{ \int U(x', y', 0) \right. \\
&\quad \times \left. e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(x'^2+y'^2)} e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{\lambda f}(\xi x' + \eta y')} dx' dy' \right\} e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{\lambda f}(x\xi+y\eta)} d\xi d\eta \\
&= \left(\frac{e^{ikf}}{i\lambda f} \right)^2 e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(x^2+y^2)} \int U(x', y', 0) \\
&\quad \times \left\{ \int e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(2x\xi+2y\eta)} e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(2\xi x' + 2\eta y')} e^{\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(\xi^2+\eta^2)} e^{\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(x'^2+y'^2)} d\xi d\eta \right\} dx' dy' \tag{1.46} \\
&= \left(\frac{e^{ikf}}{i\lambda f} \right)^2 \int U(x', y', 0) \\
&\quad \times \left\{ \int e^{\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(\xi^2+\eta^2-2x\xi-2y\eta-2\xi x'-2\eta y'+x'^2+y'^2+x^2+y^2)} d\xi d\eta \right\} dx' dy' \\
&= \left(\frac{e^{ikf}}{i\lambda f} \right)^2 \int U(x', y', 0) \underbrace{\left\{ \int e^{\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}((\xi-x-x')^2+(\eta-y-y')^2)} d\xi d\eta \right\}}_{i\lambda f} e^{\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(2x'x-2y'y)} dx' dy' \\
&= -\frac{ie^{i4\pi f/\lambda}}{\lambda f} \mathcal{F}[U(x', y', 0)] \left(\frac{x}{\lambda f}, \frac{y}{\lambda f} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

where we've used completing the square, flipping the order of integration, and evaluated an internal Gaussian integral. The field at the camera is thus the Fourier transform of the field at the SLM, multiplied by a phase factor. We may drop the irrelevant phase factor $e^{i4\pi f/\lambda}$, and the field at the camera is thus precisely the Fourier transform of the field at the SLM. (see goodman section 6.2.2)

1.4.1 with different variables

paper: slm plane is $u(x, y, 0)$ lens plane is $u(v, w, f)$ and image plane is $u(X, Y, 2f)$ me: slm plane is $u(x, y, 0)$ lens plane is $u(v, w, f)$ and image plane is $u(X, Y, 2f)$

$$\begin{aligned}
U(X, Y, 2f) &= \left(\frac{e^{ikf}}{i\lambda f} \right) e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(X^2+Y^2)} \int \left[U(v, w, f) \overbrace{e^{-\frac{ik}{2f}(v^2+w^2)}}^{\text{lens}} \right] \overbrace{e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(v^2+w^2)}}^{\text{Fresnel}} e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{\lambda f}(Xv+Yw)} dv dw \\
&= \left(\frac{e^{ikf}}{i\lambda f} \right)^2 e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(X^2+Y^2)} \int e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(v^2+w^2)} \left\{ \int U(x, y, 0) \right. \\
&\quad \times \left. e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(x^2+y^2)} e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{\lambda f}(vx+wy)} dx dy \right\} e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{\lambda f}(Xv+Yw)} dv dw \\
&= \left(\frac{e^{ikf}}{i\lambda f} \right)^2 e^{\frac{ik}{2f}(X^2+Y^2)} \int U(x, y, 0) \\
&\quad \times \left\{ \int e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(2Xv+2Yw)} e^{-\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(2vx+2wy)} e^{\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(v^2+w^2)} e^{\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(x^2+y^2)} dv dw \right\} dx dy \\
&= \left(\frac{e^{ikf}}{i\lambda f} \right)^2 \int U(x, y, 0) \\
&\quad \times \left\{ \int e^{\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(v^2+w^2-2Xv-2Yw-2vx-2wy+x^2+y^2+X^2+Y^2+2xX+2yY)} e^{\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(-2xX-2yY)} dv dw \right\} dx dy \\
&= \left(\frac{e^{ikf}}{i\lambda f} \right)^2 \int U(x, y, 0) \underbrace{\left\{ \int e^{\frac{i2\pi}{2\lambda f}((v-X-x)^2+(w-Y-y)^2)} dv dw \right\}}_{i\lambda f} e^{\frac{-i2\pi}{2\lambda f}(2xX+2yY)} dx dy \\
&= -\frac{ie^{i4\pi f/\lambda}}{\lambda f} \mathcal{F}[U(x, y, 0)] \left(\frac{X}{\lambda f}, \frac{Y}{\lambda f} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{1.47}$$

1.5 an aside about numerical diffraction packages, move elsewhere

In learning all this about diffraction, I was motivated in part by the desire to understand the numerical diffraction packages that i have been using.

The one i'm the most familiar with right now is the LightPipes package for python. this package is based on code going back to at least the early 90's, and therefore may not incorporate more recent advances in the field. But it is a good place to start, and it has a particularly nice feature where the coordinate system can be transformed from rectilinear to spherical, which lets the grid contract around the focal point of a lens. but its also not quite as fast as i would like. it lso isn't the easiest to use and understand, particularly the coordinate system stuff.

I also found the pyoptica package, which is nice and fast, and well documented down to the level of the math. but it doesn't have the coordinate system stuff, and it doesn't seem to be as well maintained. the lasst commit was two years ago as of this writing. but the code is very well documented, and it is very fast, though much of that is wasted when propagating to the focus of a lens, becuse the grid isn't adaptive.

Probably the most impressive package i found was the Diffractio package, which has a lot of features for field in varius dimensions, and its well documented, with plotting features that are very nice. I haven't used it much yet, but i'm excited to try it out, though i haven't come accross the coordinate system stuff yet, which is a bummer. the algorithms references are pretty recent and up to date, which is nice. its possible that some of the methods i haven't tried out yet have the coordinate system stuff, like the CZT method. i looks like it does actually... i have to try this out.

so i want to answer the question of how thick an optical element with with a given (differential) index of refraction must be to introduce a phase shift of 2π for light of a certain wavelength λ . Well, the phase shift is

given by

$$\phi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} n \Delta L \quad (1.48)$$

right? well if $n = 2$ the wavelength in the material is $\lambda/2$, so a layer of thickness λ will introduce a phase shift of 2π since it will contain two full wavelengths compared to a wavefront propagating through a vacuum, which will have one wavelength.