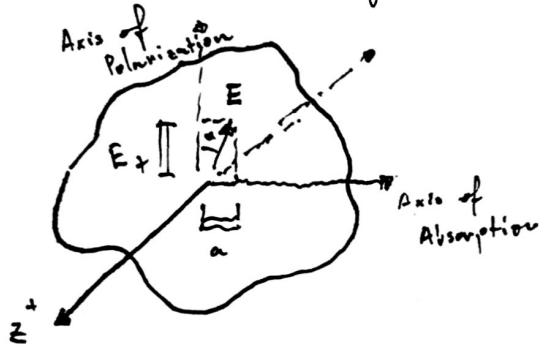


# Experimental Mechanics: 1 Oct 2017

## Notes on Birefringence

- Polariscopes: use linear polarizers through a transparent model material
- Plane polarizer for plane wave; circularly with wave plane
- Linear or Plane Polarizer

→ Thin material between light source and camera



$\vec{E}$ : light vector

$E_t$ : transmitted light

$E_a$ : absorbed light

$\alpha$ : angle b/w  $\vec{E}$  & axis of polarization

→ Equation for Light Vector:  $\vec{E} = a \cos \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} (z_0 - ct) \Rightarrow a \cos(\omega t)$

+ initial phase ( $\delta$ ) of light can be neglected

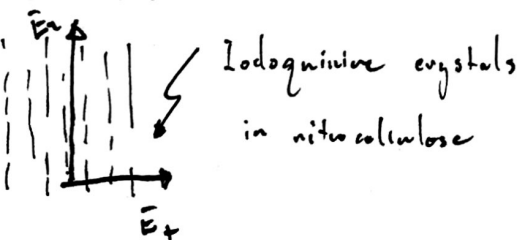
+  $f = c/\lambda$ ;  $\omega = 2\pi f$

→ Break into  $E_t$  and  $E_a$

+  $E_a = a \cos(\omega t) \sin \alpha$

+  $E_t = a \cos(\omega t) \cos \alpha$

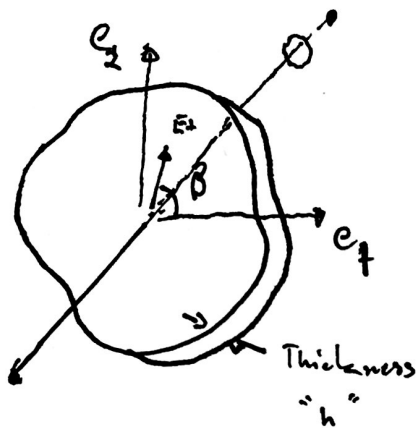
## Polaroid Filters



} sheet: older: replaced w/ H Sheets

- Wave Plate: transmits 2 orthogonal light vectors with different velocities

→ Wave plate after linear polarizer



•  $\beta$ : angle

•  $e_1$ : index of refraction axis (21) / fast axis

→  $n_1$ : index of refraction

→  $c_1$ : velocity of propagation

• Labeled so that  $c_1 > c_2$

•  $E_{t1} = E_1 \cos \beta = a \cos(\omega t) \cos \alpha \cos \beta = k \cos \omega t \cos \beta$  }  $k = a \cos \alpha$

•  $E_{t2} = E_2 \sin \beta = k \cos \omega t \sin \beta$

•  $\delta$ : phase shift due to  $c_1 \neq c_2$  ; w.r.t. air

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \delta_1 &= kn_1 - kn \\ \delta_2 &= kn_2 - kn \end{aligned} \right\} \delta = h(n_2 - n_1); \text{ relative phase difference (linear)}$$

$$\Delta = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \delta = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} h(n_2 - n_1) : \text{Angular phase shift}$$

→ Classification

• Quarter wave:  $\Delta = \pi/2$

• Half wave:  $\Delta = \pi, 2\pi, \dots$

→ Results in

$$\left. \begin{aligned} E_{t1}' &: k \cos \beta \cos \omega t \\ E_{t2}' &: k \sin \beta \cos(\omega t - \Delta) \end{aligned} \right\} E_t' = \sqrt{E_{t1}^2 + E_{t2}^2} \Rightarrow |E_t'| = k \cos$$

→ Angle Relative to  $e_1$ :  $\tan \gamma = \frac{E_{t2}'}{E_{t1}'} = \frac{\cos(\omega t - \Delta)}{\cos(\omega t)} \tan \beta$

• Conditioned Light using wave plates and linear polarizers

→ 3 defined cases

→ Plane Polarized light:  $\beta = 0$ ;  $\Delta$  has no restriction

$$E_+ = k \cos(\omega t)$$

$$\gamma = 0$$

→ Circularly Polarized light:  $\Delta = \pi/2$ ;  $\beta = \pi/4$  for left;  $\beta = 3\pi/4$  for right

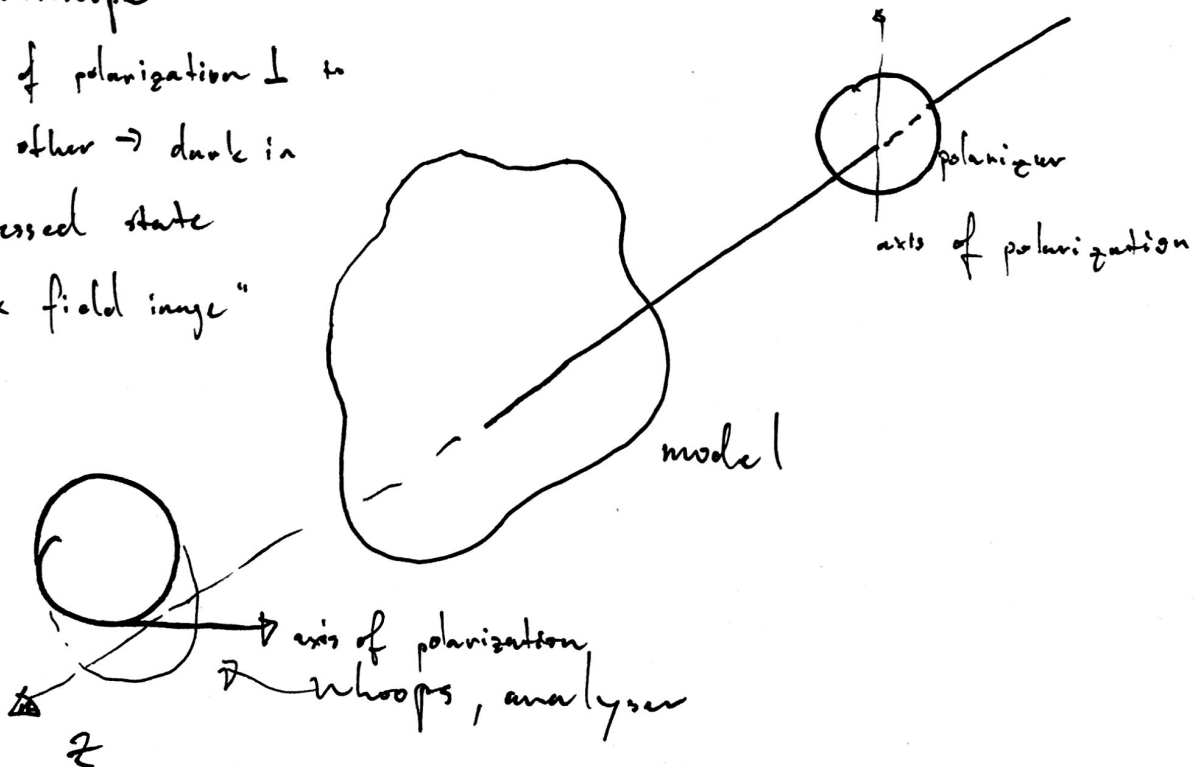
$$\left. \begin{aligned} E_+ &= \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2} k \\ \gamma &= \omega t \end{aligned} \right\} \text{Constant Magnitude, helical shape}$$

→ Elliptically Polarized: quarter wave plate ( $\Delta = \pi/2$ )

$$\left\{ \beta \neq \frac{n\pi}{2}, n \in \mathbb{I} \right\}$$

• Plane Polariscopes

→ Axis of polarization  $\perp$  to each other  $\rightarrow$  dark in unstressed state  
"dark field image"



# Circular Polarizer

