

Lecture 23: Intensity

Incoherent Sources: If the phase difference between the waves emitted by the sources varies randomly then the sources are called incoherent sources.

Coherent Sources: If the phase difference between the waves emitted by the sources remains constant then the sources are called coherent sources.

Intensity in Double-Slit Interference:

Let us assume, at point P the electric field components of the waves from the two slits are

$$E_1 = E_0 \sin \omega t$$

$$E_2 = E_0 \sin (\omega t + \varphi)$$

Where, ω = angular frequency of the waves.

φ = phase difference between the waves.

E_0 = amplitude of the waves.

In Fig-1, the waves with components E_1 and E_2 are represented by phasors of magnitude E_0 at time t that rotate around the origin at angular speed ω .

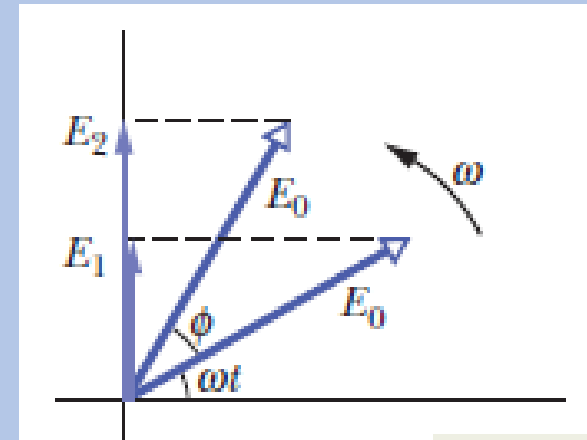


Fig-1

In Fig-2, the vector addition of the two phasors gives the phasor representing the resultant wave, with amplitude E and phase constant $\beta = \frac{\phi}{2}$.

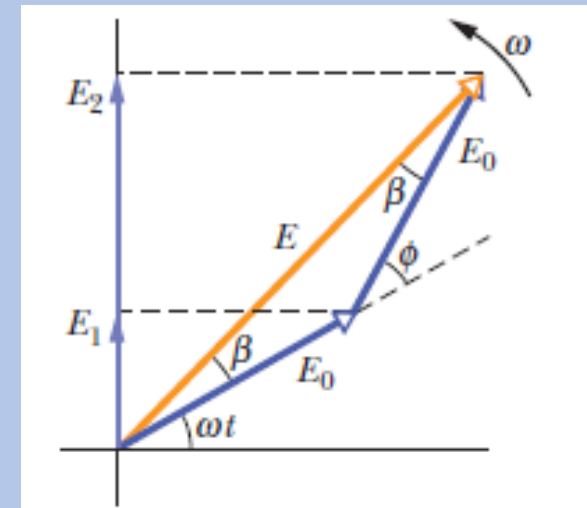


Fig-2

$$E^2 = E_0^2 + E_0^2 + 2E_0 \cdot E_0 \cos \varphi$$

$$\Rightarrow E^2 = 2E_0^2 + 2E_0^2 \cos \varphi$$

$$\Rightarrow E^2 = 2E_0^2(1 + \cos \varphi)$$

$$\Rightarrow E^2 = 2E_0^2 \cdot 2 \cos^2 \frac{\varphi}{2}$$

$$\therefore E^2 = 4E_0^2 \cos^2 \frac{\varphi}{2} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

Now, we know that the intensity of an electromagnetic wave is proportional to the square of its amplitude. Therefore, if I_0 is the intensity of the individual waves and I is the intensity of the resultant wave then,

$$\frac{I}{I_0} = \frac{E^2}{E_0^2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{I}{I_0} = \frac{4E_0^2 \cos^2 \frac{\varphi}{2}}{E_0^2}$$

$$\therefore I = 4I_0 \cos^2 \frac{\varphi}{2} \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

Again the phase difference,

$$\varphi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \times \textit{path difference}$$

$$\therefore \varphi = \frac{2\pi d}{\lambda} \sin\theta$$

Condition for Intensity Maxima and Minima

From equation (2), we can see that intensity maxima will occur when,

$$\frac{\varphi}{2} = m\pi$$

$$\Rightarrow \varphi = 2m\pi$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2\pi d}{\lambda} \sin\theta = 2m\pi$$

$$\therefore d\sin\theta = m\lambda \quad [m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots]$$

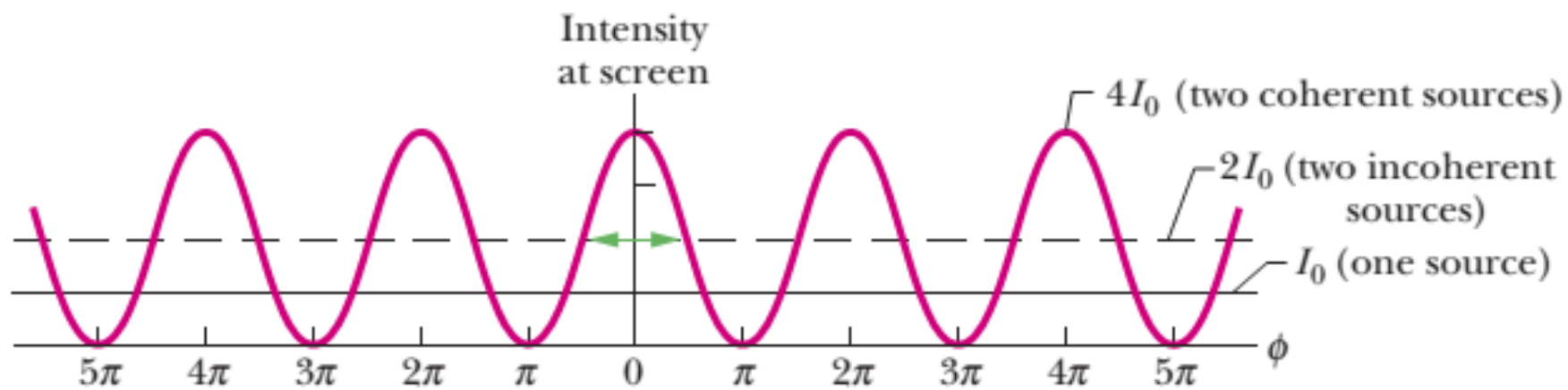
Again the intensity minima will occur when,

$$\frac{\varphi}{2} = \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right) \pi$$

$$\Rightarrow \varphi = 2 \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right) \pi$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2\pi d}{\lambda} \sin\theta = 2 \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right) \pi$$

$$\therefore d \sin\theta = \left(m + \frac{1}{2}\right) \lambda \quad [m = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots]$$



Sample Problem 35.02. In a double-slit interference pattern, what is the distance on screen C between adjacent maxima near the center of the interference pattern? The wavelength λ of the light is 546 nm , the slit separation d is 0.12 mm , and the slit–screen separation D is 55 cm .

Given,

The wavelength of the light is $\lambda = 546 \text{ nm} = 546 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}$

The slit separation $d = 0.12 \text{ mm} = 0.12 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}$

The slit–screen separation $D = 55 \text{ cm} = 0.55 \text{ m}$

The position of the m th maxima, $y_m = \frac{m\lambda D}{d}$

And the position of the next maxima, $y_{m+1} = \frac{(m+1)\lambda D}{d}$

So, the distance between the adjacent maxima, $\Delta y = Y_{m+1} - Y_m$

$$\Delta y = \frac{(m+1)\lambda D}{d} - \frac{m\lambda D}{d}$$

$$\Delta y = \frac{m\lambda D + \lambda D - m\lambda D}{d}$$

$$\Delta y = \frac{\lambda D}{d} = \frac{(546 \times 10^{-9}) \times 0.55m}{0.12 \times 10^{-3}}$$

$$\therefore \Delta y = 2.50 \times 10^{-3}m$$

29. Two waves of the same frequency have amplitudes 1.00 and 2.00. They interfere at a point where their phase difference is 60.0° . What is the resultant amplitude?

Given: The amplitude of the waves, $E_1 = 1$ and $E_2 = 2$

Phase difference = 60.0° .

The resultant amplitude, $E = ?$

$$E = \sqrt{E_1^2 + E_2^2 + 2E_1 \cdot E_2 \cos \varphi}$$

$$\Rightarrow E = \sqrt{1^2 + 2^2 + 2 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 \cos 60^\circ}$$

$$\therefore E = 2.65$$

29. Two waves of the same frequency have amplitudes 1.00 and 2.00. They interfere at a point where their phase difference is 60.0° . What is the resultant amplitude?

Note: The following slides are the intensity theory without phasor. Now it is your choice to follow one of them.

35-3: Intensity in Double-Slit Interference

bright fringe: $d \sin\theta = m\lambda$ for $m = 0, 1, 2, 3 \dots$

dark fringe: $d \sin\theta = (m + \frac{1}{2}) \lambda$ for $m = 0, 1, 2, 3 \dots$

These two equations tell how to locate the maxima and minima of the double slit interference pattern on screen as a function of the angle.

Here we wish to derive an expression for the intensity of the fringes as a function of the angle. Suppose that the waves emerged from the slits are coherent sinusoidal plane waves. Electric field components of the light waves of point P are not in phase and vary with time as

$$E_1 = E_0 \sin \omega t$$

$$E_2 = E_0 \sin (\omega t + \varphi)$$

For simplicity, we have chosen the point P to be the origin so that the kx dependence in the wave function is eliminated.

Resultant wave: superposition principle

$$\begin{aligned}E &= E_1 + E_2 \\&= E_0 \sin \omega t + E_0 \sin (\omega t + \varphi) \\&= E_0 \{ \sin \omega t + \sin (\omega t + \varphi) \} \\&= E_0 \{ \sin \omega t + \sin (\omega t + \varphi) \} \\&= E_0 \left\{ 2 \sin \left(\frac{\omega t + \omega t + \varphi}{2} \right) \cos \left(\frac{\omega t - \omega t - \varphi}{2} \right) \right\} \\&= 2E_0 \sin \left(\frac{2\omega t + \varphi}{2} \right) \cos \left(\frac{-\varphi}{2} \right) \\&= 2E_0 \sin \left(\omega t + \frac{\varphi}{2} \right) \cos \left(\frac{\varphi}{2} \right) \\E &= [2E_0 \cos \left(\frac{\varphi}{2} \right)] \sin \left(\omega t + \frac{\varphi}{2} \right)\end{aligned}$$

Amplitude of the resultant wave = $2E_0 \cos \left(\frac{\varphi}{2} \right)$

oscillating term = $\sin \left(\omega t + \frac{\varphi}{2} \right)$

$$E_m = 2E_0 \cos\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right)$$

$$E_m^2 = \left(2E_0 \cos\frac{\phi}{2}\right)^2$$

$$E_m^2 = 4E_0^2 \cos^2 \frac{\phi}{2}$$

Intensity of an electromagnetic wave is proportional to the square of its amplitude.

The resultant wave with amplitude E_m has an intensity I that is proportional to E_m^2 .

$$I \propto E_m^2 \quad [\text{resultant wave}]$$

$$I = kE_m^2 \quad \dots \dots \dots (1) \quad [k = \text{constant}]$$

Each wave with amplitude E_0 has an intensity I_0 that is proportional to E_0^2 .

$$I_0 \propto E_0^2 \quad [\text{each wave}]$$

$$I_0 = kE_0^2 \quad \dots \dots \dots (2) \quad [k = \text{constant}]$$

$$(1) / (2)$$

$$\frac{I}{I_0} = \frac{kE_m^2}{kE_0^2} = \frac{E_m^2}{E_0^2} = \frac{4E_0^2 \cos^2 \frac{\varphi}{2}}{E_0^2} = 4\cos^2 \frac{\varphi}{2}$$

$$I = 4I_0 \cos^2 \frac{\varphi}{2}$$

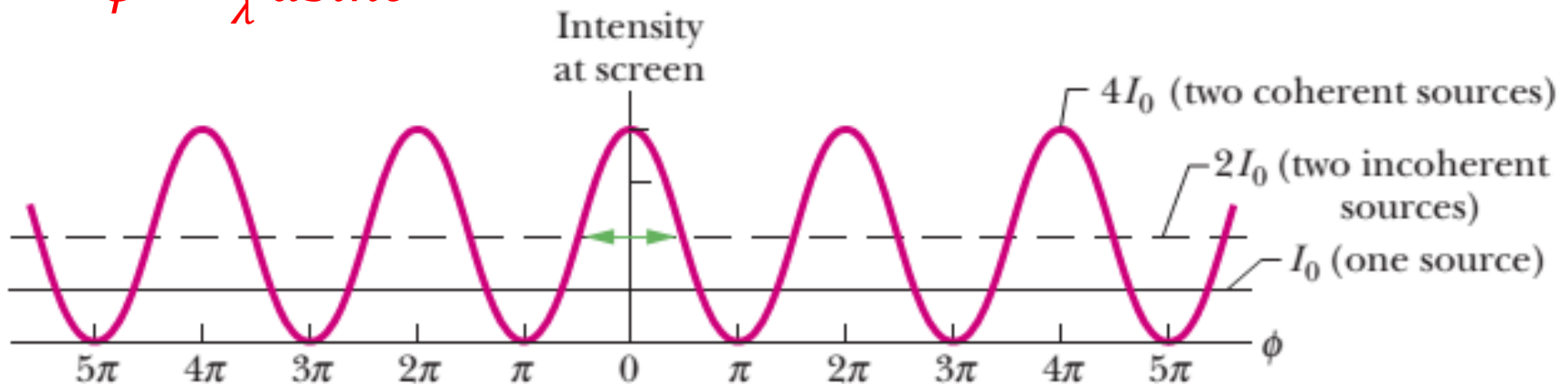
Phase difference φ : The phase difference φ is associate with path difference, $S_1b = d\sin\theta$ as $E_2 = E_0 \sin(\omega t + \varphi)$.

If $S_1b = \lambda$, then $\varphi = 2\pi$

$$\frac{\varphi}{S_1b} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

$$\frac{\varphi}{d\sin\theta} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

$$\varphi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} d\sin\theta$$



Phase difference φ :

The phase difference φ is associate with path difference, $S_1b = d\sin\theta$ as $E_2 = E_0 \sin(\omega t + \varphi)$.

If $S_1b = \lambda$, then $\varphi = 2\pi$

$$\frac{\varphi}{S_1b} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

$$\frac{\varphi}{d\sin\theta} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

$$\varphi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}d\sin\theta$$

What will be the graphical representation of a Phasor?

Forms of Complex numbers:

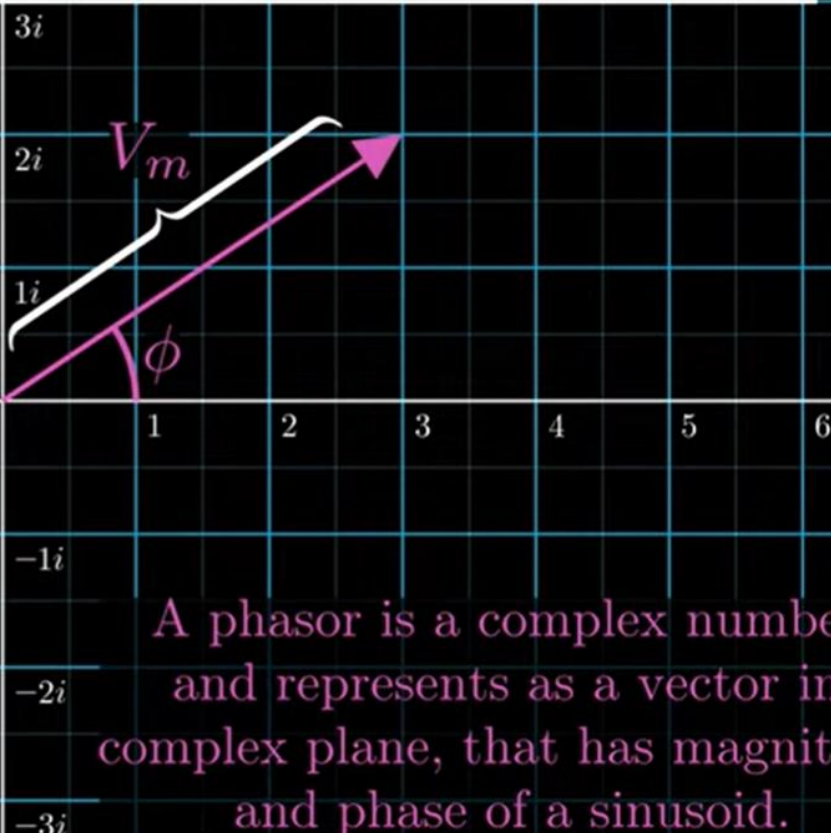
$$Z = x + jy \text{ (Rectangular)}$$

$$Z = r \angle \theta \text{ (Polar)}$$

$$Z = r e^{j\theta} \text{ (Exponential)}$$

$$v(t) = V_m \cos(\omega t + \phi)$$

$$V = V_m \angle \phi \text{ (Phasor)}$$



A phasor is a complex number and represents as a vector in complex plane, that has magnitude and phase of a sinusoid.

Phasors

A complex number that represents the amplitude and phase of a sinusoid is called as PHASOR.