

# Oscillations and Waves

## Oscillations

Consider a driven harmonic oscillator subject to damping:  $m\ddot{x} + b\dot{x} + kx = F(t)$

This can be written in the canonical form:

$$\ddot{x} + 2\delta\dot{x} + \omega_0^2 x = \frac{F}{m}$$

$$\omega_0^2 = \sqrt{k/m}$$

$$\delta = b/2m$$

↳ we define the **quality factor** as the number of radians of oscillation required for energy (not amplitude!) to fall by a factor of  $e$ :

$$Q = \frac{\omega_0}{2\delta}$$

The solution to the driven SHM equation is a linear superposition of the transient response (i.e complementary function) and the steady state (particular integral)

With no driving force, we can easily solve the homogeneous equation  $p^2 + 2\delta p + \omega_0^2 = 0$

$$\Rightarrow p_{1,2} = -\delta \pm \sqrt{\delta^2 - \omega_0^2}$$

↳ the relative values of  $\delta$  and  $\omega_0$  determine the regime

• Light damping:  $\delta < \omega_0$ ,  $Q > 0.5$

$$\hookrightarrow p = \delta \pm i\omega_d, \quad \omega_d = \sqrt{\omega_0^2 - \delta^2}$$

$$\therefore z(t) = Ae^{-\delta t} e^{i\omega_d t} \quad \leftarrow A = A_0 e^{i\phi}$$

$$\therefore x(t) = a_0 e^{-\delta t} \cos(\omega_d t + \phi) \quad \leftarrow \text{note: two constants}$$

↳ here we treat SHM as the real part of a complex phasor, rotating ↗ on an Argand diagram.  
↳ energy decays twice as fast as amplitude

• Heavy damping:  $\delta > \omega_0$ ,  $Q < 0.5$

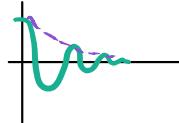
↳ resulting motion is the sum of two exponentials  
 $x(t) = A e^{-p_1 t} + B e^{-p_2 t}$

↳ at large times, the exponential with smaller decay rate will dominate.

• Critical damping:  $\delta = \omega_0$ ,  $Q = 0.5$

↳ most rapid approach to equilibrium, with no overshoot

$$x(t) = (A + Bt) e^{-\delta t}$$

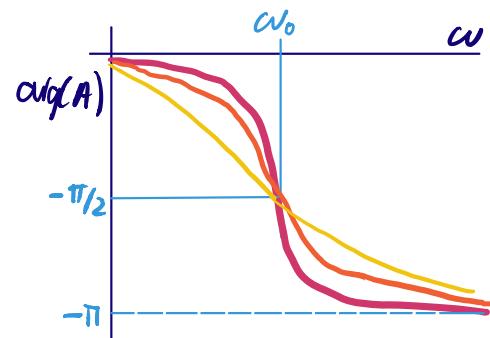
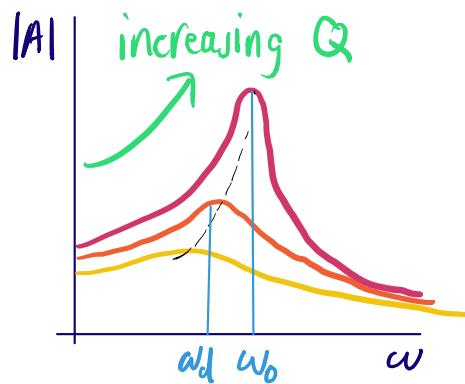


## Driven harmonic oscillators

- If the forcing function is sinusoidal, i.e. of the form  $f e^{i\omega t}$ , we use a trial solution  $A e^{i\omega t}$ , where  $A = A_0 e^{i\phi}$ . We find that

$$A = \frac{f}{\omega_0^2 - \omega^2 + 2i\gamma\omega} \quad \leftarrow f = \frac{F_0}{m}$$

↳ the response function is just  $A e^{i\omega t} / F(t)$



- Response at different regimes:

↳ low freq - motion controlled by spring stiffness  
 $x = f/\omega_0^2 \cos \omega t$

↳ high freq - motion controlled by inertia  
 $x = -f/\omega_0^2 \cos \omega t$  (antiphase)

↳ at resonance, the response is  $Q$  times larger than the  $\omega \rightarrow 0$  limit

- The velocity response can be found by differentiation:
  - ↳ it has maximum value at  $\omega = \omega_0$  regardless of damping
  - ↳ velocity is in phase with the driving force at resonance.
- Acceleration resonance occurs above  $\omega_0$ .

- The **power** of an oscillator can be found by multiplying the real parts of  $\hat{F}$  and  $\hat{v}$ .

$$P = \text{Re}(\hat{F}) \text{Re}(\hat{v}) = \frac{1}{2} (\hat{F} + \hat{F}^*) \cdot \frac{1}{2} (\hat{v} + \hat{v}^*)$$

$$\therefore \langle P \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}(\hat{F}_0 \hat{v}_0^*)$$

↳ hence, mean power depends on the phase difference between force and velocity. Maximum power when  $F$  and  $v$  are in phase.

↳ in a damped oscillator, the mean power dissipation is given by  $\langle P \rangle = \frac{1}{2} b |v_0|^2$

- The width of a power resonance curve can be characterised by its **half-power bandwidth**

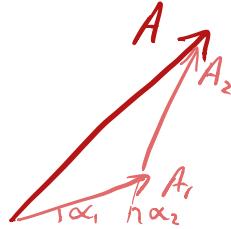
$$\omega_{hp} = \sqrt{\gamma^2 + \sqrt{\omega_0^2 + \gamma^2}} \Rightarrow \Delta\omega = 2\gamma$$

↳ this provides an alternative definition for the quality factor:  $\frac{\Delta\omega}{\omega_0} = \frac{1}{Q}$  ie high  $Q$  oscillators have narrow resonance peaks

- Because the harmonic oscillator is a linear system, when multiple driving forces are applied we can consider each individually then sum those solutions.
- If the two driving frequencies are the same, we can use phasor analysis:  

$$A^2 = A_1^2 + A_2^2 + 2A_1A_2 \cos(\alpha_2 - \alpha_1)$$

↳ when two sources are coherent, the resulting power can quadruple
- With different driving frequencies, we see **beating**, with a fast oscillation at  $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 + \omega_2)$  enveloped by a slower wave with angular frequency  $\frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 - \omega_2)$ .

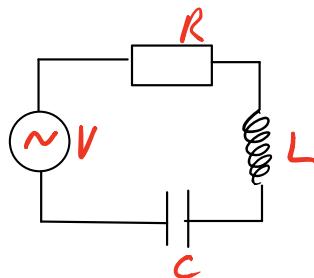


### Electrical resonance

- By Kirchoff's voltage law:

$$V_L + V_R + V_C = V(t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \ddot{q} + \frac{R}{L} \dot{q} + \frac{1}{LC} q = \frac{V(t)}{L}$$



- This is clearly SHM with  $\omega_0^2 = \frac{1}{LC}$ ,  $\gamma = \frac{R}{2L}$ 
  - ↳ inductance  $\leftrightarrow$  mass, resistance  $\leftrightarrow$  damping, 1/capacitance  $\leftrightarrow$  spring constant.
  - ↳ for RLC circuits, the quality factor is:  $Q = \frac{1}{R} \sqrt{\frac{L}{C}}$
  - ↳ current is greatest when  $\omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{LC}}$  (velocity resonance)
  - ↳ dissipated power is given by  $\langle P \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}[V_o I_o^*]$

## Waves

- A wave is described by  $\psi(x, t) = f(x \pm ct)$ 
  - ↳ by taking partial derivatives, we can derive the 1D wave equation:  $\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2}$

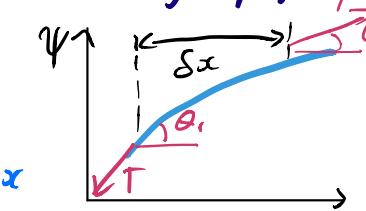
↳ if  $c$  is constant, the wave is **non-dispersive**

↳ because the equation is linear, waves obey superposition

- Eg a string under tension experiences a restoring force towards the axis:

$$F = T \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \Big|_x - \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \Big|_{x+\delta x} \right) = -T \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} \delta x$$

$$\text{↳ by NII, } \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = \frac{T}{\rho} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2}, \text{ hence } c = \sqrt{\frac{T}{\rho}}$$



- A harmonic wave has a displacement that varies sinusoidally with time at any  $x$ .

$$\psi(x, t) = \text{Re} \{ A e^{i(\omega t - kx)} \}$$

↳  $k$  is the wavenumber:  $k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$

- The general wave equation is

$$\frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \nabla^2 \psi$$

- In 3D, a harmonic plane wave is described by:

$$\psi(r, t) = \text{Re} \{ A \exp(i(\omega t - \underline{k} \cdot \underline{r})) \}$$

- ↳ the wavenumber becomes a wavevector
- ↳ by taking  $\partial/\partial t$  (ie multiplying by  $i\omega$ ) and the grad (ie multiplying by  $-ik$ ), we can show that:

$$c^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{|k|^2}$$

- A spherical wave does not vary with  $\theta, \phi$ . We can show by substitution that a valid solution is:

$$\Psi(r, t) = \frac{f(r \pm ct)}{r}, \text{ e.g. } \hat{\Psi}(r, t) = \frac{Ae^{i(\omega t - kr)}}{r}$$

- ↳ the  $1/r$  dependence is consistent with the inverse square law for power.

- A cylindrical wave can be generated from a line source (e.g. diffraction slit)

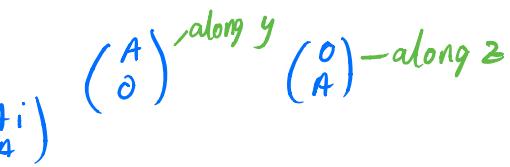
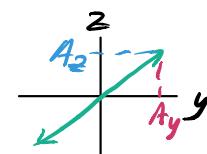
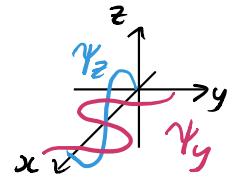
- ↳ we may guess a  $1/\sqrt{r}$  dependence to conserve power:

$$\Psi(r, t) = \frac{f(r \pm ct)}{\sqrt{r}}$$

- ↳ this is not a solution, but is a good approx for  $r \gg \lambda$  (far away from slit).

## Polarisation

- A transverse wave can be disturbed along two axes (because of superposition).
  - ↳ the relative amplitudes and phases define the polarisation
- In general:  $\Psi_y = A_y \cos(\omega t - kx)$   
 $\Psi_z = A_z \cos(\omega t - kz + \phi)$
- Linear polarisation arises when  $\phi=0$ 
  - ↳ any linearly polarised wave can be resolved into two orthogonal components with the same phase.
- Circular polarisation occurs when  $A_y = A_z$  but  $\phi = (m + \frac{1}{2})\pi$ 
  - ↳ displacement vector traces a corkscrew
- The general case is elliptical polarisation:
  - ↳ two amplitudes and an angle are needed to specify
  - ↳ waves can be partially polarised - in which case another parameter specifies the unpolarised power.
- Polarised waves can be represented with 2-vectors ( $y$  and  $z$  components):
  - e.g. linearly polarised  $\begin{pmatrix} A \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  along  $y$
  - e.g. circular  $\begin{pmatrix} A_i \\ A_i \end{pmatrix}$
  - e.g.  $\begin{pmatrix} A \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$  - along  $z$



## Reflection and transmission

- Wave impedance relates the transverse force to the transverse velocity (NOT wave velocity)

$$\text{impedance} = \frac{\text{driving force}}{\text{transverse velocity}}$$

↳ for a string:  $Z = \rho c = \sqrt{T\mu}$

- For a wave with transverse velocity  $\hat{u}$ :

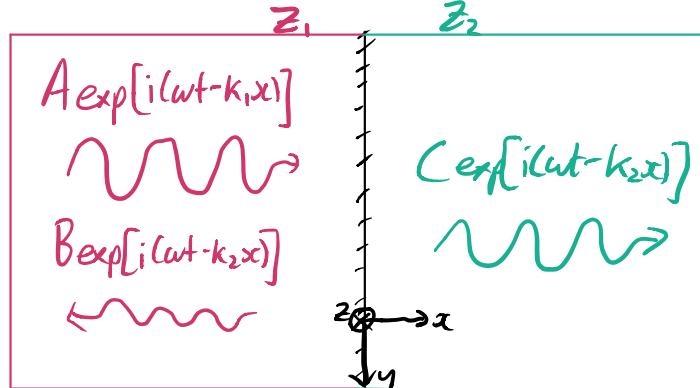
$$\langle P \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re}(\hat{F}\hat{u}^*) = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re}(\hat{z}) |\hat{u}|^2$$

- ↳ if  $Z$  is real and the wave is harmonic:

$$\langle P \rangle = \frac{1}{2} Z \omega^2 A_0^2$$

↳ this can also be derived by considering KE and PE per unit length:  $KE = \frac{1}{2} \rho \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} \right)^2$   $PE = \frac{1}{2} T \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right)^2$

- Consider a harmonic wave approaching a boundary:



↳ B.C.s at  $x=0$ :  $\psi$  is continuous  
 $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x}$  is continuous  $\leftarrow$  related to transverse force

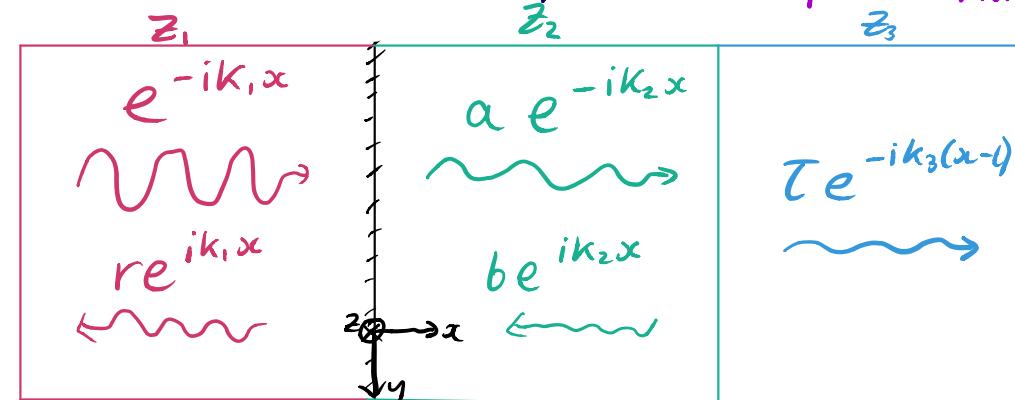
$$\therefore A + B = C \text{ and } Z_1(A - B) = Z_2 C$$

↳ the reflection coefficient and transmission coefficient:

$$r = \frac{B}{A} = \frac{Z_1 - Z_2}{Z_1 + Z_2} \quad T = 1 + r = \frac{2Z_1}{Z_1 + Z_2}$$

- The power coefficients are found by squaring  $T$  and  $r$  (technically square modulus).

↳ To reduce reflections at interfaces, we can use impedance matching



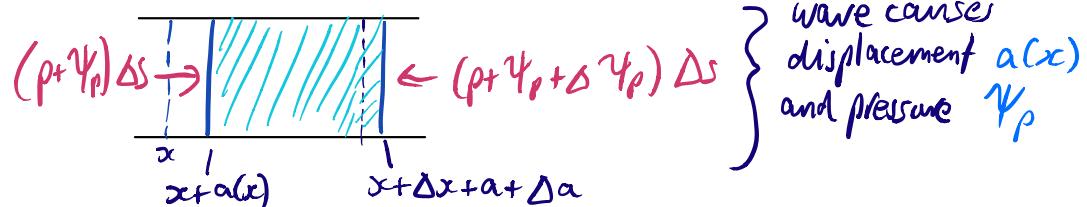
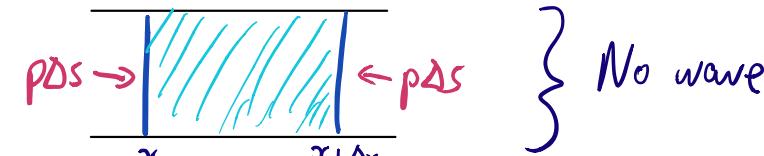
↳ to simplify algebra: drop  $e^{iwt}$ , set incident amplitude to 1, add a phase shift  $e^{ik_3 l}$  to the transmission, and define  $\gamma = e^{-ik_2 l}$

↳ match boundary conditions to find  $r, a, b, T$

- If we choose a quarter wavelength of material, the reflected waves from each boundary are out of phase.
- ↳ we also note that the effective impedance of the layer and substrate is given by  $Z_{\text{eff}} = Z_2^2 / Z_3$
- ↳ so to match impedances, we need  $Z_2 = \sqrt{Z_1 Z_3}$
- ↳ in practice,  $Z$  for a material can be found via  $Z = \frac{Z_0}{n}$

## Longitudinal waves

- Longitudinal waves displace the medium in the same direction as they propagate  $\Rightarrow$  no polarisation.
- Sound waves propagate by compressions and rarefactions of a medium (caused by pressure waves)
- We analyse an infinitesimal column of gas with area  $\Delta S$  and equilibrium pressure  $p$ .



↳ the fractional change in the column volume caused by the wave is  $\frac{\Delta V}{V} = \frac{\Delta S \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \Delta x}{\Delta S \Delta x} = \frac{\partial a}{\partial x}$

$$\hookrightarrow \text{similarly } F_{\text{net}} = \Delta P \Delta S = - \frac{\partial \Delta p}{\partial x} \Delta x \Delta S$$

• Because the pressure changes rapidly, there is no time for heat exchange  $\Rightarrow$  adiabatic process,  $\rho V^\gamma = \text{const}$

$$\Rightarrow dp = \gamma \rho \frac{\Delta V}{V} = - \partial p \frac{\partial a}{\partial x}$$

↳  $\Delta p$  is the pressure change from the wave, i.e.  $\Delta p = \Psi_p$

$$\therefore \frac{\partial \Psi_p}{\partial x} = -\gamma p \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial x^2} - \gamma \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} \frac{\partial a}{\partial x}$$

↳ ratio of 2nd/1st terms on RHS  $\sim a/x$  so  
is negligible. Hence  $F_{\text{net}} \propto \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial x^2}$

• By NII,  $F_{\text{net}} = \rho \Delta x \Delta S \ddot{a}$   
 $\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\rho}{\rho} \frac{\partial^2 a}{\partial x^2}$

↳ nondispersive wave with

$$c = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma p}{\rho}} = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma RT}{M}}$$

• It is easier to measure changes in pressure:

$$\Psi_p = -\gamma p \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \quad \& \quad a = a_0 e^{i(\omega t - kx)} \Rightarrow \Psi_p = i \gamma p k a$$

↳ i.e. pressure leads displacement by  $\pi/2$

↳ the acoustic impedance  $Z$  is the impedance per unit area:

$$Z = \frac{\text{Force}}{\text{velocity} \times \text{area}} = \frac{\Psi_p \Delta S}{\dot{a} \Delta S} = \frac{i \gamma p k a}{i w a} = V_p = \sqrt{\gamma p}$$

• The intensity of a wave is the mean power per unit area

$$I = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Re}[\Psi_p \dot{a}^*] = \frac{1}{2} L a^2 / a_0 / ^2 = \frac{|A_0|^2}{2 Z}$$

$$a = a_0 e^{i(\omega t - kx)}$$

$$\Psi_p = A_0 e^{i(\omega t - kx)}$$

• The decibel scale is a logarithmic relative scale:

$$\hookrightarrow \text{sound pressure level} = 20 \log_{10} (\rho_{\text{rms}} / \rho_{\text{ref}})$$

↳  $\rho_{\text{ref}} = 20 \mu \text{Pa}$ , roughly the threshold of human hearing.

$$\hookrightarrow \text{alternatively: } \text{DBA} = 10 \log_{10} (I / I_{\text{ref}}), I_{\text{ref}} = 10^{-12} \text{ W m}^{-2}$$

• Longitudinal waves also occur in liquids and solids.  
The derivation is similar except for the relationship between pressure and volume. In general:

$$\Delta p = \Psi_p = -k \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \quad \leftarrow k \text{ is the elastic modulus}$$

$$\hookrightarrow \text{the wave speed is then } c = \sqrt{\frac{k}{\rho}}$$

↳ for gases and liquids we use the bulk modulus since pressure is isotropic:  $\Delta p = -B \frac{\Delta V}{V}$

↳ solids are more complex because of shear stresses and Poisson's ratio. However, for thin bars we can just use Young's modulus  $\sigma = Y \frac{\partial a}{\partial x} \Rightarrow c = \sqrt{Y \rho}$

## Standing waves

• Standing waves form from the superposition of forward/backward waves with some B.C.  $\Psi(x, t) = X(x)T(t)$ .

• e.g. for a string of length  $L$  with  $\Psi(0, t) = \Psi(L, t) = 0$ ,  $\Psi = A \cos(\omega t - kx) - A \cos(\omega t + kx) = 2A \sin(\omega t) \sin(kx)$ .

↳ B.C.s satisfied when  $k = n\pi/L$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}^+$

## Damped waves

- Assume a damping force  $\propto$  transverse speed

$$\therefore \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} - \Gamma \frac{\partial y}{\partial t} \quad \Gamma = \beta/m, \beta \text{ is the damping const}$$

$\hookrightarrow$  if we try harmonic waves, K must be complex

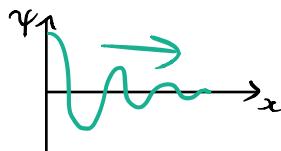
$$k = k_r - ik_i \Rightarrow k_r^2 - k_i^2 = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2}; \quad 2k_r k_i = \frac{\Gamma \omega}{c^2}$$

- For light damping  $\Gamma \ll \omega$  so  $k_r \approx \frac{\omega}{c}$ ,  $k_i \approx \frac{\Gamma}{2c}$

$$\therefore y(x,t) = e^{-k_i x} \operatorname{Re}[D e^{i(\omega t + k_r x)}]$$

$\hookrightarrow$  decaying travelling wave

$\hookrightarrow$  'damping length' set by  $k_i$ , and independent of wavelength.



- For heavy damping  $\Gamma \gg \omega \Rightarrow -i\Gamma\omega \approx c^2 k^2$

$$\therefore k' = k_r \approx k_i \approx \pm \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma \omega}{2c^2}}$$

← real and imag parts are equal

$\hookrightarrow$  wave decays over a short distance since decay length varies as  $\omega^{-0.5}$ .

- The impedance of the wave now has frequency dependence:

$$Z = \frac{-T \frac{\partial y}{\partial x}}{\frac{\partial y}{\partial t}} = T \frac{k}{\omega} = T \omega (k_r - ik_i)$$

$\hookrightarrow$  light damping:  $Z(\omega) = Z_0 (1 - \frac{i\Gamma}{2\omega})$

$\hookrightarrow$  heavy damping:  $Z(\omega) = Z_0 (1-i) \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma}{2\omega}}$

- For a boundary between two (possibly damped) media, we can use the same reflection coefficient

$\hookrightarrow$  for light damping,  $r(\omega) = \frac{i\Gamma}{2\omega}$ , i.e little reflection  
 $\hookrightarrow$  for heavy damping,  $r(\omega) \approx -1$ , i.e antiphase reflection

- The dispersion relation is the relationship between  $\omega$  and  $k$ . For non-dispersive systems,  $\omega = ck$ .

- For a lightly damped wave, the propagating wave has phase  $\omega t - kr x$  so the phase speed is

$$v_\phi = \frac{\omega}{k_r} = c \left(1 + \frac{\Gamma^2}{4c^2 k_r^2}\right)^{-1/2}$$

$\hookrightarrow$  wave speed now depends on wavelength so this wave is dispersive.

- Dispersion can occur without damping, e.g. a stiff string that resists bending:  $\frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \left( \frac{\partial^2 y}{\partial x^2} - \alpha \frac{\partial^4 y}{\partial x^4} \right)$

$\hookrightarrow$  the harmonic solution has  $\omega = \pm ck\sqrt{1+\alpha k^2}$

$\hookrightarrow$  there is no loss of energy, but low wavelength waves are more affected by the stiffness (faster wave)

- This is relevant for piano tuning. Because we have  $v_\phi(\lambda)$ ,  $f_0 = v_\phi(2L)/2L$ ,  $f_1 = v_\phi(L)/L \Rightarrow f_1/f_0 > 2$ . In practice, we will thus tune the higher octave string to match  $f_1$  instead of  $2f_0$  to prevent beats.

## Group velocity

- Consider two equal-amplitude waves with slightly different frequencies propagating together.

$$\Psi = \cos(\omega_1 t - k_1 x) + \cos(\omega_2 t - k_2 x), \quad \omega_1 = \omega_2, \quad k_1 \approx k_2$$

$$\Rightarrow \Psi = 2\cos(\omega_1 t - k_1 x)\cos(\omega_1 t - k_1 x)$$

where  $\omega_r = \frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 + \omega_2)$   $\omega_i = \frac{1}{2}(\omega_1 - \omega_2)$

thus there is a high frequency wave with speed  $v_\phi \approx \omega_r/k_1 \approx \omega_r/k_2$  modulated by a lower frequency envelope with group velocity:

$$V_g = \frac{\partial \omega_r}{k_r} = \frac{\omega_1 - \omega_2}{k_1 - k_2} \approx \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k}$$

- Alternatively, we can consider the speed of the 'peak' of a group. At the peak, all components add in phase, hence  $(\omega t - kx + \phi)$  is constant for all components



- For a nondispersive wave,  $\frac{\omega}{k} = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k}$  for all  $\omega$  so the group maintains its shape. For dispersive waves, crests may move relative to the envelope.

- $V_g$  is important because it is the rate of information propagation.

- The range of wavevectors in a group is inversely related to the spatial extent of the group.  $\Delta k \Delta x \approx 1$

- If the group contains wavevectors in the band  $k_0 \pm \Delta k$ , the max and min velocities in the group are

$$v_{\min} = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k} \Big|_{k_0 - \Delta k} \quad v_{\max} = \frac{\partial \omega}{\partial k} \Big|_{k_0 + \Delta k}$$

in a time  $t$ , the wave spreads by:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta x &\approx \Delta x_0 + (v_{\max} - v_{\min})t \\ &\approx \Delta x_0 + 2 \frac{\partial^2 \omega}{\partial k^2} \Big|_{k_0} \Delta k t \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \Delta x \approx \Delta x_0 + 2 \frac{\partial^2 \omega}{\partial k^2} \Big|_{k_0} \frac{t}{\Delta x_0}$$

using:  
 $\Delta k \Delta x \approx 1$

## Water waves

- Water waves are complex because they have both longitudinal and transverse propagation (in quadrature).
- For deep water, we can model the dispersion relation as:

$$\omega^2 = g k + \sigma k^3 / \rho$$

gravity  $\uparrow$  surface tension

- Ripples are surface tension driven:

$$\omega \approx \sqrt{\frac{\sigma k^3}{\rho}} \Rightarrow V_g \approx \frac{3}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\sigma k}{\rho}} = \frac{3}{2} V_\phi$$

anomalous dispersion because speed  $\downarrow$  as  $\uparrow$

- Gravity waves have longer wavelengths and are inertia-driven.

$$\omega = \sqrt{g k} \Rightarrow V_g = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{g}{k}} = \frac{1}{2} V_\phi$$

normal dispersion since speed  $\uparrow$  as  $\uparrow$

- If  $\lambda$  exceeds the water depth  $h$ , gravity waves are mainly longitudinal and have a dispersion relationship:

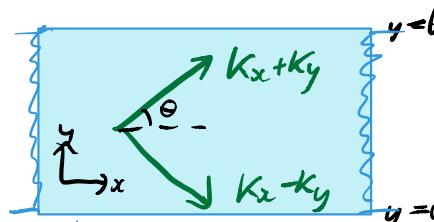
$$\omega^2 = ghk^2 \left(1 - \frac{h^2 k^2}{3}\right)$$

↳ For very shallow water,  $\omega \approx \sqrt{gh}$  so the waves are approximately nondispersive.

↳ thus when approaching the shore, since speed  $\downarrow$ , amplitude  $\uparrow$  to conserve water

### Guided waves

- Consider a wave travelling in  $+x$  along a 2D membrane



- We consider these waves as having  $k = (k_x, \pm k_y) = (k \cos \theta, \pm k \sin \theta)$
- The total displacement is  $\Psi = A e^{i(\omega t - k_x x)} [e^{-ik_y y} - e^{ik_y y}]$

↳ i.e. travelling wave in  $+x$  with wavevector  $k_x$  modulated by a standing wave with  $k_y = \frac{n\pi}{b}$

$$\therefore \omega^2 = c^2 |k|^2 = c^2 (k_x^2 + \frac{m^2 \pi^2}{b^2}) \quad m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$$

↳ hence the guided waves are dispersive

$$\therefore V_g = \frac{d\omega}{dk_x} = \frac{c^2}{\omega} \sqrt{\frac{\omega^2}{c^2} - \frac{m^2 \pi^2}{b^2}}$$

- Thus the dispersion relation and displacement pattern (waveguide mode) is specified by  $m$ .

- $k_{xc} < |k|$ , so the wavelength of the unguided wave exceeds that of the guided one.
  - Hence the phase velocity is greater than the wave speed, but group velocity is smaller.
  - As  $k_x \rightarrow 0$ ,  $V_\phi \rightarrow \infty$  and  $V_g \rightarrow 0$ .  $V_\phi \rightarrow \omega$  does not violate relativity since the group carries the info.
  - As  $k_x \rightarrow \infty$ , the behaviour approaches an unguided wave.
  - Below the cutoff angular frequency  $\omega_c = \frac{m\pi c}{b}$ ,  $k_{xc}^2$  becomes negative so there is no propagation.
  - If there is a spread of frequencies, multiple modes can be excited, resulting in signal distortion.
- ↳ avoided by choosing  $b$  such that  $\omega$  is below the cutoff freq for mode  $m=2$
- ↳ the guide is then single-moded for  $\omega$ .

- In an optical fibre, data is transmitted via pulses of light.

↳ choose  $\lambda$  with minimal dispersion, but also minimal absorption into the fibre.

↳ the silica core is very thin so only one mode exists

↳ there is dispersion because it's a waveguide, but also because the refractive index depends on  $\lambda$ . Materials are chosen such that these effects cancel.

# Fourier Series

$$f(t) = \frac{1}{2}a_0 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n \cos\left(\frac{2\pi n t}{T}\right) + b_n \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n t}{T}\right)$$

$$a_n = \frac{2}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi n t}{T}\right) dt$$

$$b_n = \frac{2}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) \sin\left(\frac{2\pi n t}{T}\right) dt$$

- For a square wave:  $f(t) = \frac{4}{\pi}(\sin \omega t + \frac{1}{3} \sin 3\omega t + \frac{1}{5} \sin 5\omega t + \dots)$   
 ↳ first few components can be used to approx. response since it drops off rapidly at higher freqs.
- It is sometimes simpler to use a complex representation:

$$f(t) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} C_n e^{i n \omega t} \quad C_n = \frac{1}{T} \int_{-T/2}^{T/2} f(t) e^{-i n \omega t} dt$$

- In the limit, this leads to the Fourier transform.

$$\mathcal{F}[f(t)] = g(\omega) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) e^{-i\omega t} dt$$

$$\mathcal{F}^{-1}[g(\omega)] = f(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} g(\omega) e^{i\omega t} d\omega$$

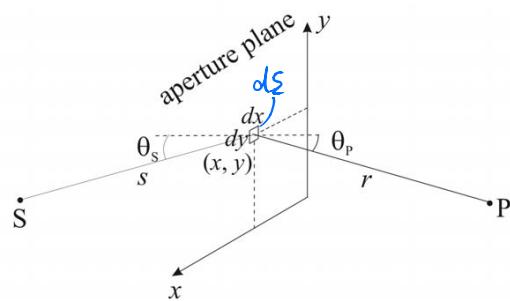
- By definition, if a linear system is driven with  $f(t)$ , the response (in freq domain) is:  $R(\omega) \mathcal{F}[f(t)]$   
 ↳ thus the response (time) is:  $x(t) = \mathcal{F}^{-1}[R(\omega) \mathcal{F}[f(t)]]$

- A single pulse at the origin (i.e. a delta function) has a constant F.T. i.e. it is a mix of all frequencies.
- The convolution of  $f(\omega)$  with a delta function replicates  $f$ , centered at the delta spike.  
 ↳ by imagining another function  $g(x)$  to be an infinite number of spikes with different heights, we see that  $f * g$  causes  $g$  to be 'smeared out' by  $f$ .
- Hence if we know the convolution function for a noisy image, we can use deconvolution.
- If we know how the system responds to a delta function impulse, by linearity we can extend this to any driving force by modelling that force as many delta spikes  
 ↳ essentially the same method as Green's functions

- Useful rules for Fourier transforms:
  - reciprocity  $\mathcal{F}[f(t)] = g(\omega) \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}^{-1}[f(\omega)] = g(-t)$
  - scaling  $\mathcal{F}[f(t/a)] = |a| g(a\omega)$
  - linearity
  - convolution theorem  
 ↳ FT of real function has Hermitian symmetry,  
 i.e.  $\tilde{f}(-\omega) = \tilde{f}(\omega)^*$
  - if  $f(t)$  is real symmetric, so is the FT.

# Diffraction

- Huygens' principle can be used to derive some phenomena, but it predicts a backwards-propagating wavefront.  
↳ to fix this, we use Huygens-Fresnel theory, introducing an inclination factor  $K(\theta)$  which describes the dropoff in intensity as a function of angle.  
↳ Fresnel proposed  $k(\theta) = \frac{1 + \cos\theta}{2}$
- the relative amplitude of the secondary wavelets is  $-i/\lambda$
- Consider a planar aperture  $\Sigma$ , with an element  $(dx, dy)$  located at  $(x, y, 0)$

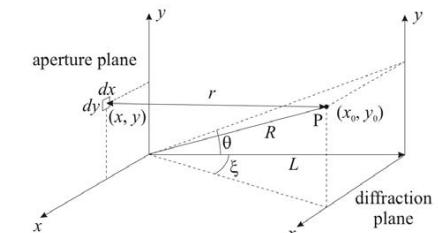


- Consider monochromatic spherical waves from  $S$ , i.e.:  
$$\Psi(L, t) = \operatorname{Re} \left\{ \hat{\Psi}(L) e^{-i\omega t} \right\}$$
  
↳ the wave arriving at  $dS$  is then  $\hat{\Psi}_i(r) = \frac{a_s e^{i k s}}{s}$

- The aperture can change the amplitude and phase, as characterised by a complex aperture function  $\hat{h}(x, y)$ 
  - ↳ then the secondary wavelets are described by  
$$a_s = \hat{A} \hat{\Psi}_i(x, y) \hat{h}(x, y) dx dy$$
    - ↳ relative amplitude of secondary waves
  - $$\therefore d\Psi_p = -\frac{i}{\lambda} \frac{a_s e^{i k s}}{s} \hat{h}(x, y) dx dy K(\theta) e^{\frac{i k r}{r}}$$
  - the obliquity is given by 
$$K = \frac{1}{2} [\cos(\theta_s) + \cos(\theta_p)]$$
  - $$\Rightarrow \Psi_p = \iint_{\Sigma} -\frac{i}{\lambda} \hat{h}(x, y) K(\theta_s, \theta_p) \frac{a_s e^{i k (s+r)}}{s r} dx dy$$
- The diffraction integral allows us to calculate  $\Psi_p$  relatively near the aperture, but it still breaks down for  $r < \lambda$ , i.e. the 'very near-field' case.

## Fraunhofer Diffraction

- Consider the diffraction pattern on a plane, with planar waves incident normally at the aperture



$$r^2 = L^2 + (x_0 - x)^2 + (y_0 - y)^2 \Rightarrow r \approx R - \frac{x_0 x + y_0 y}{R} + \frac{x^2 + y^2}{2R}$$

use binomial expansion  $\rightarrow$  negligible for large  $R$

↳ specifically, we can ignore the second term if  $\frac{k(x_0^2 + y_0^2)}{2R} \ll \pi \Rightarrow R \gg \frac{D^2}{\lambda}$  ← max extent of aperture

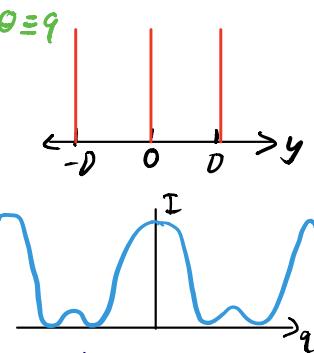
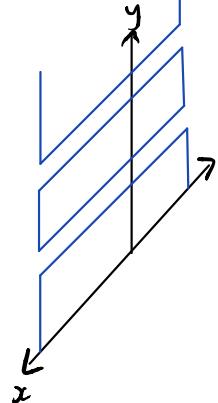
- With the approximation that  $K(\theta) \approx 1$ , and using  $\Psi_\Sigma$  as the incident wave (constant for plane wave), we have the Fraunhofer integral:

$$\Psi_p \propto \iint_{\Sigma} \Psi_\Sigma f(x,y) \exp\left[-ik\frac{(x_0x+y_0y)}{R}\right] dx dy$$

- For 1D diffraction, with patterns extending in  $-\infty < x < \infty$ , the integral over  $x$  is just a multiplicative constant. Using a small angle approx  $\sin\theta \approx y_0/R$ :

$$\Psi_p \propto \int h(y) e^{-iky \sin\theta} dy$$

$$\Rightarrow \Psi_p(k \sin\theta) \propto \mathcal{F}\{h(y)\}$$



- e.g for 3 narrow slits

$$h(y) = \delta(y+D) + \delta(y) + \delta(y-D)$$

$$\therefore \Psi_p \propto e^{iqD} + 1 + e^{-iqD} = 1 + 2\cos(qD)$$

$$\therefore I_p(q) = I_0 (1 + 2\cos(qD))^2$$

↳ we can extend this to  $N$  narrow slits, resulting in:

$$I_p = I_0 \operatorname{sinc}^2(NqD/2)$$

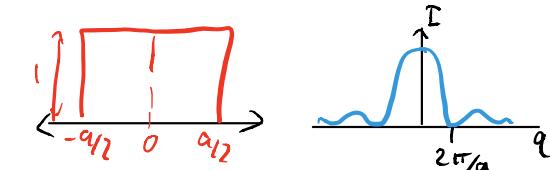
↳ As  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , the diffraction pattern tends to a delta comb

↳ the separation of primary maxima is  $G = 2\pi/D$

↳  $N-2$  subsidiary maxima and  $N-1$  zeroes.

- e.g for a wide aperture:

$$I_p(q) \propto a^2 \operatorname{sinc}^2\left(\frac{qa}{2}\right)$$



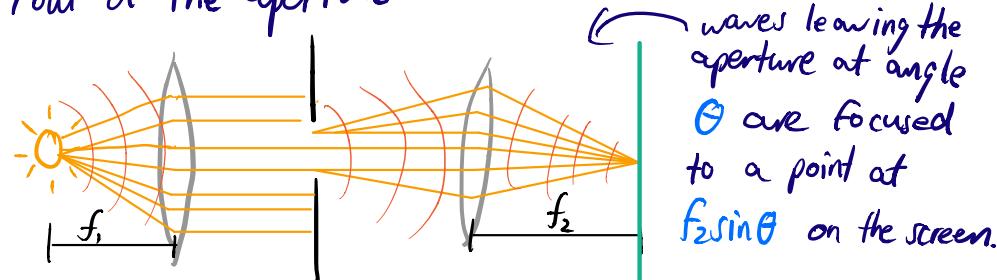
- More complicated diffraction patterns can be analysed with the convolution theorem:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{SPACE} & \quad \begin{array}{c} a \\ \hline -D/2 \quad D/2 \end{array} \\ & = \quad \begin{array}{c} | \\ -D/2 \quad D/2 \end{array} * \quad \begin{array}{c} a \\ \hline -D/2 \quad D/2 \end{array} \\ \text{FREQUENCY} & \quad \begin{array}{c} \Psi_p(q) \\ \hline \cos q \quad \operatorname{sinc} q \end{array} \\ & = \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \times \end{array} \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore I_p(q) = I_0 \cos^2\left(\frac{qD}{2}\right) a^2 \operatorname{sinc}^2\left(\frac{qa}{2}\right)$$

↳ this modulation may lead to missing orders where a peak is expected due to a minimum in the envelope.

- If we introduce some phase-shift at the aperture, the diffraction pattern shifts.
- In practice, to make use of Fraunhofer diffraction we can use lenses to ensure that plane waves are coming in/out of the aperture



- Fraunhofer diffraction can also be used for 2D apertures, using  $\sin\theta \approx y/R$  and  $\sin\xi \approx \frac{x_0}{r}$ , with  $q = k \sin\theta$  and  $p = k \sin\xi$ . This gives the 2D Fourier Transform:

$$\therefore \Psi_p(p, q) \propto \iint_{\Sigma} \hat{h}(x, y) e^{-i(pxt+qy)} dx dy$$

↳ this is easy to evaluate if  $\hat{h}(x, y)$  is separable into  $\hat{f}(x)\hat{g}(y)$  - then it is the product of two 1D FTs.

- A circular aperture is not separable in  $x, y$ . The Fraunhofer integral evaluates to:

$$\Psi_p(q) \propto \frac{\Psi_0 d^2}{2} \frac{J_1(qd/2)}{qd/2} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{1st order Bessel Function of the} \\ \text{first kind} \end{matrix}$$

↳ the diffraction pattern has its first zero at  $\boxed{\sin\theta = \frac{1.22\lambda}{d}}$

↳ the region inside the first zero is the **Airy disc**, containing 86% of the energy flux.

- Babinet's principle states that the diffracted intensities of an aperture and its complement are the same, except for the undiffracted beam



$$\Psi_1 \propto \iint_A e^{-i(pxt+qy)} dx dy$$

$$\Psi_2 \propto \iint_{\text{all space}} e^{-i(pxt+qy)} dx dy - \iint_A e^{-i(pxt+qy)} dx dy$$

$$\therefore \Psi_2 \propto \delta(p, q) - \Psi_1$$

## Spectral line emission

- Spectral lines arise from transitions between quantum states.
- They have a finite width because there is a small uncertainty in their energy, because a quantum state has some lifetime.
- The electric field decays as  $E(t) = E_0 e^{-\alpha t} \cos \omega_0 t$

$$\therefore I(\omega) \propto \frac{1}{(\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \gamma^2}$$

↳ Lorentzian power spectrum

- Particle collisions limit the coherence of emitted waves.
- ↳ mean collision time depends on the number density of particles, collision cross section  $\Sigma$ , and  $V_{rms}$

$$T_c \sim \frac{1}{n \Sigma V_{rms}} \Rightarrow \Delta \omega \sim n \Sigma V_{rms}$$

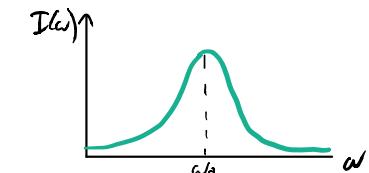
- Because the atom will be moving when it emits light, there is a Doppler shift:  $\omega \approx \omega_0 (1 + \frac{u_x}{c})$   $\omega_0$  is the rest-frame freq.

↳ hence a signal component with freq  $\omega$  came from an atom with speed  $u_x \approx c(\omega - \omega_0)/\omega_0$

↳ the 1D Boltzmann distribution gives:

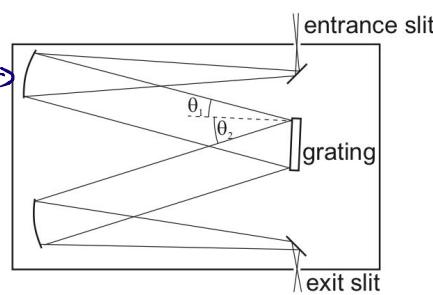
$$p(u_x) \propto \exp\left(\frac{-mu_x^2}{2k_B T}\right) \Rightarrow I(\omega) \propto \exp\left(-\frac{mc^2(\omega - \omega_0)^2}{2ab^2 k_B T}\right)$$

- ↳ hence the spectrum is Gaussian. This may be dominant at higher altitudes (less atmospheric pressure broadening).
- Generally, spectra will be the convolution of Lorentzian/Gaussian.



- Spectra are normally measured using grating spectrometers.

concave mirrors have less chromatic aberration than lenses



- ↳ a concave mirror reflects focused incident light onto a diffraction grating at a specific angle
  - ↳ light is then diffracted according to:  $D(\sin\theta_2 - \sin\theta_1) = m\lambda$
- $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{grating equation} \\ \text{with non-normal} \\ \text{incidence.} \end{array} \right\}$   
order of maximum

## Resolution

- For a diffraction grating of finite width, the intensity peaks will be finite-width peaks  $\propto \text{sinc}^2(NqD/2)$

↳ for illumination at two wavelengths (normal incidence), there will be peaks at

$$D\sin\theta_2 = m\lambda \quad D\sin\theta_{2'} = m(\lambda + \delta\lambda)$$

↳ the first minimum for the  $m$ th primary maximum for the  $\lambda$  pattern is at  $D\sin\theta_2 = m\lambda + \frac{\lambda}{n-1}$

- The Rayleigh criterion states that the peaks will be resolved if the maximum of one pattern coincides with the minimum of the other.

- Define  $R = \frac{\lambda}{\delta\lambda}$  as the chromatic resolving power of the grating:  $R = \frac{\lambda}{\delta\lambda} = mN$  ← number of slits

↳ hence it is easier to distinguish higher-order peaks.

- In geometrical optics, lenses produce point images from point objects. But in physical optics, the finite circular extent of the lens produces an Airy disc.

↳ the angular radius of the disc is  $\alpha \approx \frac{1.22\lambda}{D}$

↳ the actual radius is  $\frac{1.22\lambda}{D} f$  ← focal length

↳ the Rayleigh criterion thus limits the angular resolution of the telescope.

↳ if a telescope produces images of the order  $\frac{1.22\lambda}{D}$ , it is diffraction-limited.

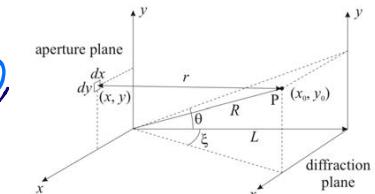
## Fresnel diffraction

- If we are in the very-near field regime ( $R \sim \frac{D^2}{\lambda}$ ), we can no longer ignore the higher-order phase terms like we did for Fraunhofer diffraction. This is Fresnel diffraction.

- As before,  $r \approx R - \frac{x_0x + y_0y}{R} + \frac{x^2 + y^2}{2R}$

↳ assume we are on-axis  $\therefore x_0 = y_0 = 0$ , can change coordinates otherwise.

↳  $\frac{x^2 + y^2}{2R}$  is no longer negligible

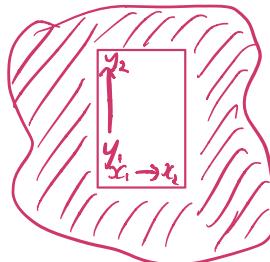


$$\therefore \Psi_p(0,0) \propto \iint_{\Sigma} h(x,y) \exp\left(ik \frac{x^2+y^2}{2R}\right) dx dy$$

↳ this is only tractable for simple apertures.

- Consider a rectangular aperture:

↳ let  $u = x \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi R}}$      $v = y \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi R}}$



$$\therefore \Psi_p \propto \int_{u_1}^{u_2} \exp\left(\frac{i\pi u^2}{2}\right) du \int_{v_1}^{v_2} \exp\left(\frac{i\pi v^2}{2}\right) dv$$

↳ we define the **Fresnel Integrals**:

$$C(w) = \int_0^w \cos\left(\frac{i\pi u^2}{2}\right) du \quad S(w) = \int_0^w \sin\left(\frac{i\pi u^2}{2}\right) du$$

i.e.  $\int_0^w \exp\left(\frac{i\pi u^2}{2}\right) du = C(w) + iS(w)$

- The locus of  $C(w) + iS(w)$  is the **Cornu spiral**

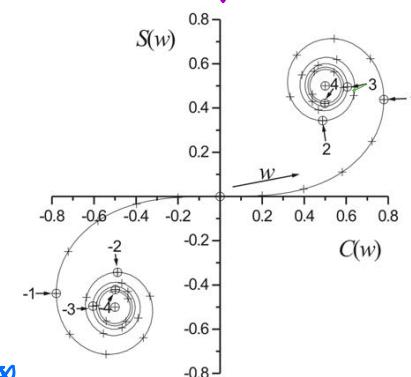
↳ arc length between points

$w_1$  and  $w_2$  is  $w_2 - w_1$ , i.e.

$w$  is the distance from the origin measured along the curve

↳ radius of curvature is  $\frac{1}{\pi w}$

↳ curve is odd, and gradually spirals to  $I(0.5, 0.5)$  as  $w \rightarrow \infty$



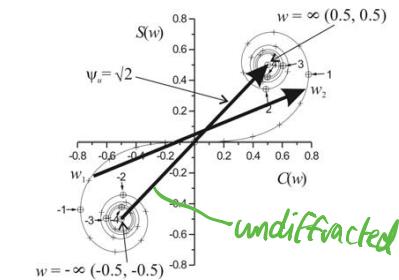
- For a single 1D slit:

$$\Psi_p \propto \int_{w_1}^{w_2} \exp\left(\frac{i\pi u^2}{2}\right) du = [C(w_2) + iS(w_2)] - [C(w_1) + iS(w_1)]$$

↳ this is equivalent to a vector between points  $w_1, w_2$ .

↳ the undiffracted beam is the vector between spiral centres, having length  $\sqrt{2}$

↳ intensity  $\propto$  square of length



- To find the pattern at other points, the origin must be moved so that it is exactly between  $S$  and the observation point, to satisfy the Fresnel conditions

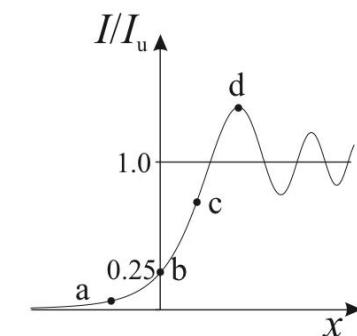
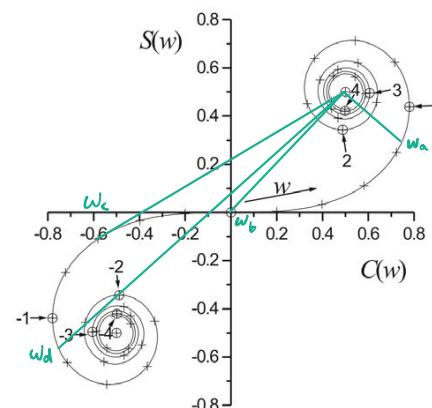
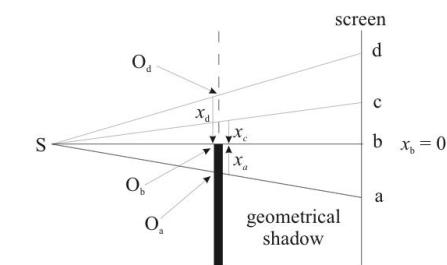
- For diffraction around an edge:

a.  $x_2 = \infty$      $x_1 = x_a > 0$

b.  $x_2 = \infty$      $x_1 = x_b = 0$

c.  $x_2 = \infty$      $x_1 = x_c < 0$

d.  $x_2 = \infty$      $x_1 = x_d$



↳ well outside the shadow ( $x \rightarrow \infty$ ), intensity  $\approx$  undiffracted

↳ amplitude falls as  $\sim \frac{1}{w}$  inside the shadow.

- For a narrow finite slit, the integral width is always  $\Delta w = d\sqrt{2/\lambda R}$  but the starting  $w_1$  changes as the origin moves.  
↳ the spanning vector is thus between two points separated by a constant arc length  $\Delta w$ .
- For a wide finite slit,  $\Delta w$  is large so the ends of the spanning vector are in the tightly-spiralled region, hence rapidly oscillating fringes.

### Fresnel diffraction for a circular aperture

- The full expression for the diffracted amplitude is found by examining the geometry:

$$\Psi_p \propto \iint_{\Sigma} \frac{h(x,y) K(\theta) \exp(ik \frac{x^2+y^2}{2R})}{r_1 r_2} dx dy$$

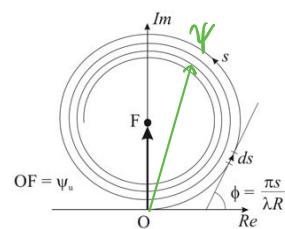
$\frac{1}{R} = \frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{b}$

↳ making use of circular symmetry, consider the aperture to be composed of annular elements  $s = p^2 = x^2 + y^2$   $ds = 2\pi p dp = \pi r_1 r_2$

$$\therefore \Psi_p \propto \int_{s=0}^{s=r_a^2} \frac{K(\theta) \exp(\frac{i\pi s}{\lambda R})}{\sqrt{a^2+s} \sqrt{b^2+s}} \cdot \pi r_1 r_2 ds$$

- This integral can be analysed with phasors:

↳ the phase  $\phi = \pi s / \lambda R$  increases linearly with  $s$  and elemental contributions are of the order  $ds \Rightarrow$  approximately circular



- ↳  $K(\theta)$  decreases with  $s$ , since for aperture elements further away from the centre, the point  $P$  will be at a greater angle away from undiffracted.
- ↳ the denominator increases with  $s$ , thus the modulus of the integrand decreases with  $s \Rightarrow$  radius of the phasor circle is decreasing
- ↳ the diffracted amplitude is the length of a vector from  $O$  to some point a distance  $s$  along the curve.
- The diffracted amplitude varies considerably depending on  $s$ , from  $\Psi \approx 0 \rightarrow \Psi \approx 2\Psi_u$ , separated by phase  $\phi = \pi$ .

↳ the  $n$ th Fresnel half-period zone is the annular region between

$$(n-1)\pi \leq \phi(s) \leq n\pi$$

$$(n-1)\pi R \leq p^2 \leq n\pi R$$

↳ note that odd-numbered zones

add to amplitude, while even zones subtract

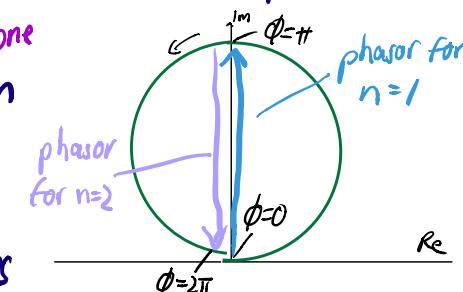
↳ the area of each zone is the same:  $\pi(r_n^2 - r_{n-1}^2) = \pi\lambda R$ .

- Neglecting  $K(\theta)$  and  $r_1, r_2$  variation (i.e. assuming circular phasor diag), each zone contributes equally to the amplitude:

↳ For an aperture of radius  $r_a$ , there will be a certain number  $N$  of zones, where  $r_a^2 = N\lambda R$

↳ if  $N$  is even, all zone pairs cancel so  $\Psi_p \sim 0$ .

↳ if  $N$  is odd, one zone will remain so  $\Psi_p \sim 2\Psi_u$ .



- For large apertures, as the phasor spirals in, the zone contributions decrease and the zones are narrower

 Check this!

- Consider a circular obstruction of radius  $r_a$  on the axis. The inner zones up to  $\rho = r_a$  are obscured, while outer zones are unobstructed.

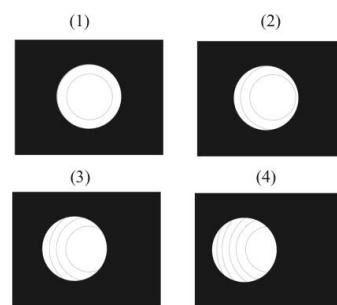
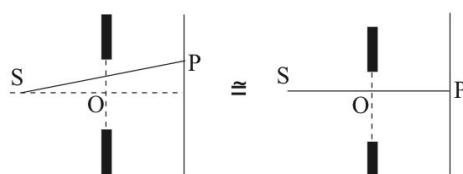
↳ we thus integrate from  $\rho = r_a \rightarrow \rho = \infty$ ,  
i.e. from  $\phi_a = \frac{\pi r_a^2}{2R} \rightarrow \phi = \infty$

↳ the diffracted amplitude is the length of the vector from  $A$  to the centre of the spiral

↳ if  $r_a$  is not too large (hence  $\phi_a$  not too large)  
 $|AF| \approx |OF|$ , hence the diffracted intensity is similar to if there were no obstruction

↳ this is Poisson's spot, a phenomenon that Fraunhofer diffraction (and Babinet's principle) does not explain.

- Off-axis, we can make the approximation that the aperture shifts sideways across the zone structure



↳ there is an oscillation in  $|\Psi_p|^2$  as  $P$  moves off-axis, as the ratio of odd/even zone area changes

- \* ↳ the diffraction pattern thus consists of circular fringes with spacing  $\approx$  the zone width at the edge of the aperture  
↳ a long way off-axis, there will be many narrow zones so their contributions cancel → intensity decreases rapidly.

- At Fresnel zone plate blocks alternate half-period zones, resulting in a high intensity  
↳ this can be seen by adding half-spirals

↳ the obstructions should be placed at alternating segments between:

$$\rho_1 = \sqrt{\lambda R}, \rho_2 = \sqrt{2\lambda R}, \rho_3 = \sqrt{3\lambda R} \dots$$

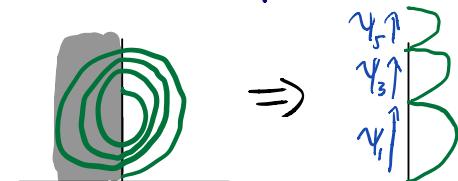
↳ the net amplitude is  $\Psi_p \approx 2N\Psi_u$  where  $N$  is the number of open zones in the plate

↳ thus the plate acts as a lens with an effective focal length of

$$f = R = \frac{\rho_n^2}{n\lambda}$$

↳ since  $f \propto \frac{1}{\lambda}$ , this is a highly chromatic lens

- As point  $P$  moves along the axis towards the plate,  $R$  decreases. When  $R = f/2m$ , each open area admits an even number of Fresnel zones, so  $\Psi_p > 0$

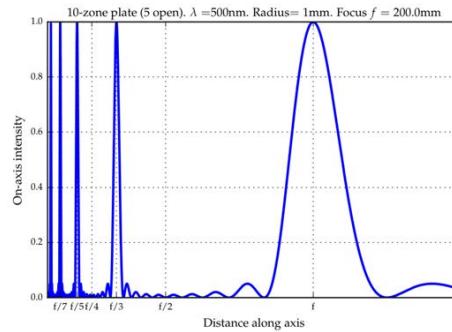


↳ hence there are zeroes at  $R = f/2m$

↳ likewise, there are maxima at  $R = f/2m+1$ , where each zone plate admits an odd number of Fresnel zones so  $\Psi_0 \rightarrow 2N\Psi_0$

↳ in reality, the obliquity factor would reduce the intensity of the maxima

• Although this 'lens' is poor, it may be the only option at high frequencies, since refractive indices  $\rightarrow 1$ .



## Interference

- The superposition of two monochromatic waves is:

$$\Psi = \text{Re}[\Psi_1 e^{-i\omega_1 t} + \Psi_2 e^{-i\omega_2 t}]$$

↳ using  $\text{Re}[\hat{A}] = \frac{1}{2}(\hat{A} + \hat{A}^*)$ , we can expand

$$I \propto (\text{Re}[\Psi])^2$$

$$I \propto \frac{1}{2} |\Psi_1|^2 + \frac{1}{2} |\Psi_2|^2 + \text{Re}[\Psi_1 \Psi_2^* e^{i(\omega_2 - \omega_1)t}] + \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}[\Psi_1^2 e^{-2i\omega_1 t} + \Psi_2^2 e^{-2i\omega_2 t} + 2\Psi_1 \Psi_2 e^{-i(\omega_1 + \omega_2)t}]$$

these terms vary more rapidly than the response time of most detectors, hence avg to zero

↳ the time-average intensity is thus:

$$\langle I \rangle \propto \frac{1}{2} \langle a_1^2 \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle a_2^2 \rangle + \langle a_1 a_2 \text{Re}[e^{i(\phi_1 - \phi_2 - (\omega_1 - \omega_2)t)}] \rangle$$

↳ interference phenomena require the third term to be nonzero.

- If the detector averages over a time  $\tau$ , we will not see interference if  $(\omega_1 - \omega_2)\tau \gg 1$ . i.e we need  $\omega_1 \approx \omega_2$

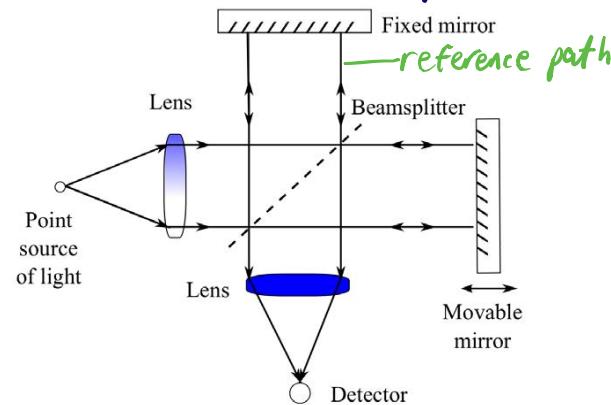
- In practice,  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  of independent sources vary randomly and rapidly - interference is typically only seen when light from a single source is split and recombined, giving a stable  $\phi_1 - \phi_2$

- In **wavefront division**, the interfering waves are derived from different spatial points on a coherent wavefront - e.g slit diffraction.

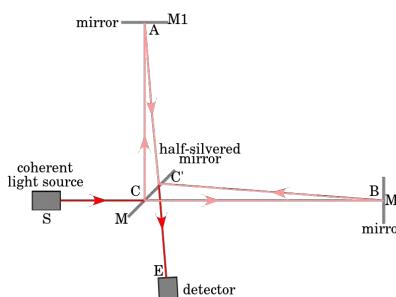
- In **amplitude division**, interfering waves are derived by dividing the wavefront's amplitude at a point, e.g reflection/transmission at an interface

## The Michelson Interferometer

- The Michelson interferometer uses amplitude division:



- ↳ the path difference between splitted beams is varied by moving one mirror.
- ↳ the system must be kept rigid to control the path difference.
- ↳ there will either be constructive or destructive interference
- ↳ if we record intensity as a function of mirror position, we see a fringe pattern
- An alternative setup, which also works for extended sources, tilts the mirrors. Hence fringes are seen at the detector, even with both mirrors fixed.



- For a monochromatic point source with  $k = 2\pi/\lambda$  ( $\omega_1 = \omega_2$ ):  

$$\langle I \rangle \propto \frac{1}{2} \langle a_1^2 \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle a_2^2 \rangle + \langle a_1 a_2 \text{Re}[e^{ikx}] \rangle$$

↳  $kx = \phi_1 - \phi_2$  is the phase difference,  $x$  is the path difference (i.e. 2x the diff in beamsplitter-mirror distances)  
 $I(x) = I_0 (1 + \text{Re}[e^{ikx}])$  ← averaging, implicit  
↳ hence the fringe spacing tells us the wavelength.
- If the light is not monochromatic, each wavelength will form its own set of fringes. Total intensity is the sum of fringe patterns.

## Fourier transform spectroscopy

- Broadband light (e.g. white light) leads to blurred, colourful fringe patterns.
- Let the measured intensity of light in a wavenumber range  $k \rightarrow k + dk$  be  $2S(k)dk$ . The total intensity at a point is the sum of all waves:  

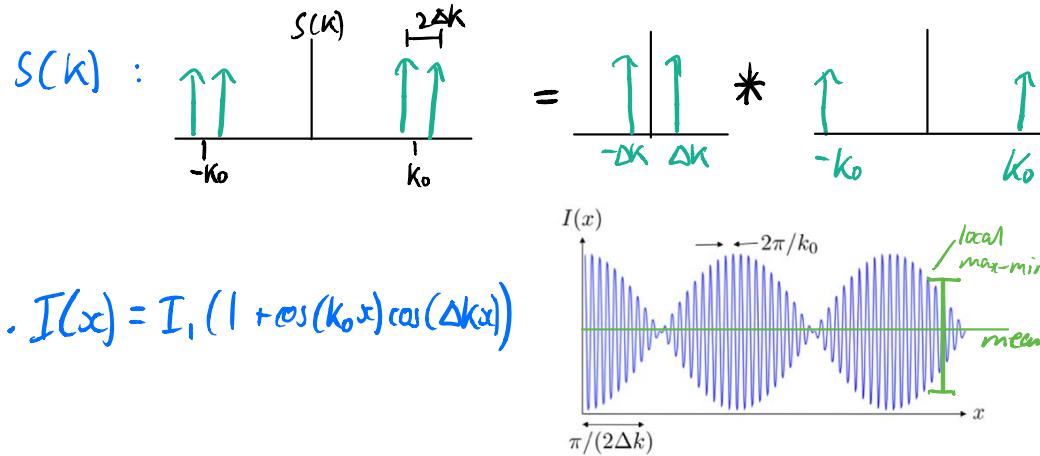
$$I(x) = 2 \int_0^\infty S(k) (1 + \text{Re}[e^{ikx}]) dk$$

↳ if we also define  $S(k)$  for negative  $k$ :  

$$I(x) = I_0 + \int_{-\infty}^\infty S(k) e^{ikx} dk$$
       $I_0 = \int_{-\infty}^\infty S(k) dk$   
is the total intensity
- ↳ thus the spectrum  $\propto$  the Fourier transform of intensity

$$S(k) \propto \mathcal{F}[I(x) - I_0]$$

- This result is used in the FT IR spectrometer, which characterises molecules by their vibration frequencies.
- FT spectroscopy is capable of a higher spectral resolution than a diffraction grating, but takes longer since many intensity measurements must be made as a mirror moves.
- If a light source has two closely spaced wavelengths  $k_0 \pm \Delta k$ , its intensity pattern will be a product of cosines



- The fringe contrast/visibility quantifies the visibility of the high-freq signal as the ratio of the local min-max disturbance to the mean intensity

$$\text{visibility} = \frac{I_{\max} - I_{\min}}{I_{\max} + I_{\min}}$$

- $\Delta k$  can be found from the zeroes of the fringe contrast.

- FT spectroscopy has a finite resolving power because only a finite range of  $x$  is sampled:
  - $I'(x) = I(x) * w(x) \leftarrow$  top hat function, width  $d$
  - $\therefore S'(k) \propto S(k) * \text{sinc}(\frac{x d}{\lambda})$
  - hence the true spectrum is blurred by a sinc function with width  $\Delta k = 2\pi/d$ , so the resolving power is:

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\lambda}{|\Delta k|} = \frac{\lambda}{d} = \frac{w}{\lambda}$$

as with a diffraction grating, resolving power improves as more-distant points on the wavefront are sampled

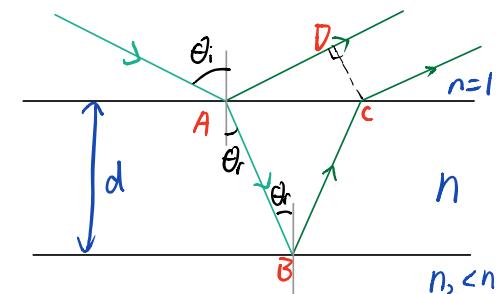
### Thin film interference

- Amplitude division interference can occur naturally when light is incident on a thin film
- The path difference (including the refractive indices):

$$\begin{aligned} x &= n(AB + BC) - AD \\ &= \frac{2nd}{\cos \theta_r} - 2d \tan \theta_r \sin \theta_r \end{aligned}$$

applying Snell's law,  $\sin \theta_i < n \sin \theta_r$   
 $\Rightarrow x = 2nd \cos \theta_r$

the phase difference is  $kx + \pi$ , since **A** is high  $\rightarrow$  low impedance while **B** is low  $\rightarrow$  high impedance



- Using the standard interference expression (assuming equal amplitude):

$$I(s) = I_0(1 - \text{Re}[e^{is}]), \quad s = 2ndk\cos\theta_r$$

minus from  $\pi$  phase diff

$\hookrightarrow$  maximum reflection intensity occurs when  $\text{Re}[e^{is}] = 0$

$$s = (2m+1)\pi \Rightarrow n\cos\theta_r = \frac{(2m+1)}{4}\lambda$$

- For an extended source, light will be coming in at many different angles. Thus different reflected angles will correspond to either constructive or destructive interference. These are **fringes of equal inclination**. If incident beams are near-normal, circular fringes will be observed (**Haidinger fringes**)

- A more common case is when the films have nonuniform thickness (e.g. soap films). We then observe **fringes of equal thickness**, i.e. for near-normal incidence bright regions will be seen whenever  $2nd = (m + \frac{1}{2})\lambda, m \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

$\hookrightarrow$  another example is if a spherical surface forms an airgap with some other surface. The resulting fringes are **Newton's rings**



### The Fabry-Pérot etalon

- The **Fabry-Pérot etalon** consists of two half-silvered mirrors sandwiching air. Because the reflection coeff. is high, we must consider interference from multiple beams.

- Assume that both mirrors have reflection coeff  $r$ , and transmission coefficients  $t, t'$

$\hookrightarrow$  each successive beam acquires an amplitude factor  $R = r^2$  and a phase shift of  $2dk\cos\theta$

$\hookrightarrow$  the total intensity is the squared sum of the geometric progression:

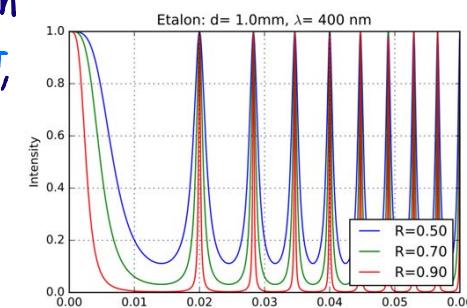
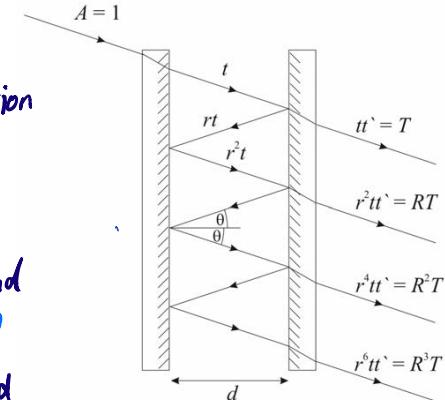
$$|A|^2 = \left| \frac{T}{1 - Re^{is}} \right|^2 = \frac{T^2}{1 + R^2 - 2R\cos s}$$

- The result is a fringe pattern with sharp peaks at  $s = 2m\pi$ , where there is an integer number of half-wavelengths between mirrors.

- We can either use the etalon with normal incidence and vary  $d$ , or use an extended source and observe circular fringes.

- At  $s = 2m\pi$ , the max intensity is  $\frac{T^2}{1-R^2}$ . To find the width of the peaks, it helps to rewrite the intensity as:

$$|A|^2 = \frac{T^2}{(1-R)^2} \left( \frac{1}{1 + (4R/(1-R))^2 \sin^2(\pi/2)} \right)$$



↳ the width at half-intensity is then given by:

$$\left(\frac{4R}{(1-R)^2}\sin^2(\delta_{1/2})\right) = 1 \Rightarrow \delta_{1/2} = \frac{1-R}{\sqrt{R}} \leftarrow \text{small angle approx}$$

↳ the finesse  $F$  is the ratio of the separation of peaks to their full-width at half maximum  $2\delta_{1/2}$

$$\Rightarrow F = \frac{\pi\sqrt{R}}{1-R}$$

- Hence for high reflection coefficients, the etalon has much better resolution than the Michelson interferometer.

↳ assume that two components can be resolved if they are

separated by  $2\delta_{1/2}$

$$\delta = 2kd\cos\theta = \frac{4\pi d\cos\theta}{\lambda} \Rightarrow d\delta = -\frac{4\pi d\cos\theta}{\lambda^2} d\lambda$$

$$\therefore \frac{\lambda}{\Delta\lambda} = \frac{2\pi d\cos\theta}{\lambda\delta_{1/2}} \xrightarrow{\text{at max intensity}} \frac{\lambda}{\Delta\lambda} = \frac{m\pi}{\delta_{1/2}} = mF$$

- An issue in spectroscopy is that neighbouring orders for different wavelengths will overlap - the wavelength diff. at which overlapping occurs is the free spectral range

↳ at normal incidence, peaks are at  $2d = m\lambda$

$$\therefore \frac{2d}{\lambda^2} \Delta\lambda \approx \Delta m \Rightarrow \frac{m}{\lambda} (\Delta\lambda)_{fsr} = 1 \leftarrow \begin{matrix} \text{set } \Delta m = 1 \text{ by} \\ \text{definition of} \\ \text{fsr.} \end{matrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\Delta\lambda)_{fsr} = \frac{\lambda}{m}$$

↳ etalons are ideal for measuring fine structures of narrow spectra.