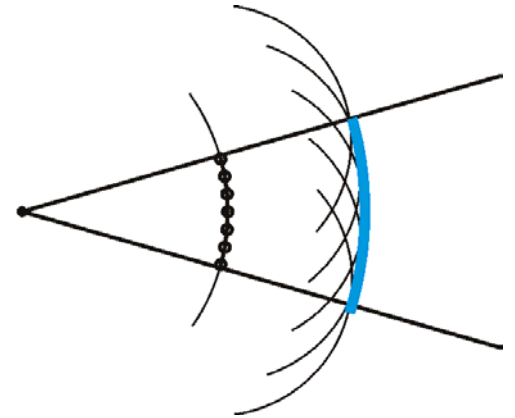


## Physical or wave optics

(other model)

Its bases: **Huygens–Fresnel-principle**

According to the **Huygens principle**, elementary waves originate from every point of a wavefront, and the new wavefront is the common envelope of these elementary waves.



The laws of rectilinear propagation, the reflection and refraction can be described by this model as well.

**Fresnel** supplemented this by observing that the **superposition principle is also in effect** during the formation of the new wave front, which is nothing else than the quantitative formulation of the empirical fact that waves will propagate through each other without disturbance. **Interference.**

**Waves** (we learned about them earlier; dynamics, „repetition”)

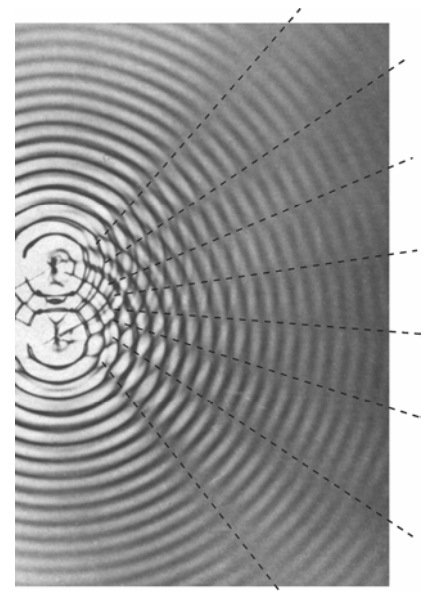
E.g. „water wave”: it can be observed directly.

Because it changes slowly enough (low frequency,  $f$ ) and the typical (wave) size is large enough (long wavelength,  $\lambda$ ).

„**Light waves**” are different.

At certain conditions **patterns** can be formed, which don't or slowly change in time, and their size is much larger than the wavelength,  $\lambda$ .

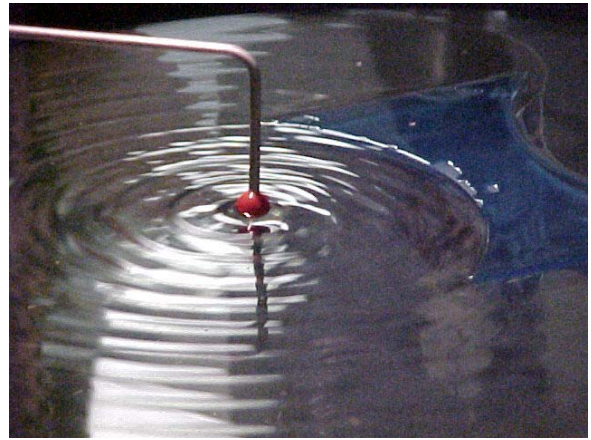
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**Interference** (two or more waves meet)

the most important phenomenon in connection with waves

Incoherent and coherent waves



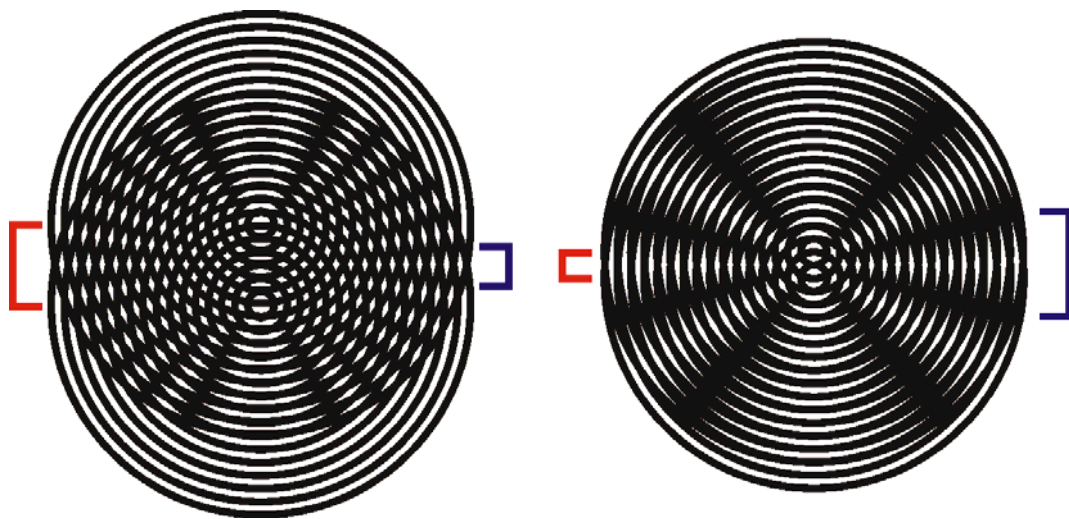
Rise of coherent waves is controlled in space and time, they are synchronized somehow.

## Light interference

Nothing but the produced patterns can be observed.

Conditions for existent of observable patterns in the case of point like sources:

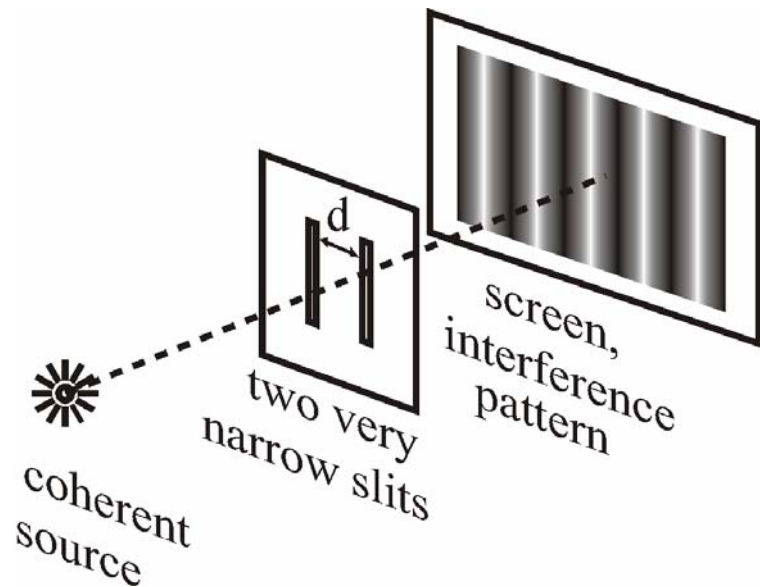
1. coherent waves (e.g. difference of phases ( $\Delta\phi$ ) is constant)
2. distance of sources is commensurable with the wavelength ( $\lambda$ ).



The smaller the distance of sources (red mark),  
the bigger the typical size of the pattern (blue mark).

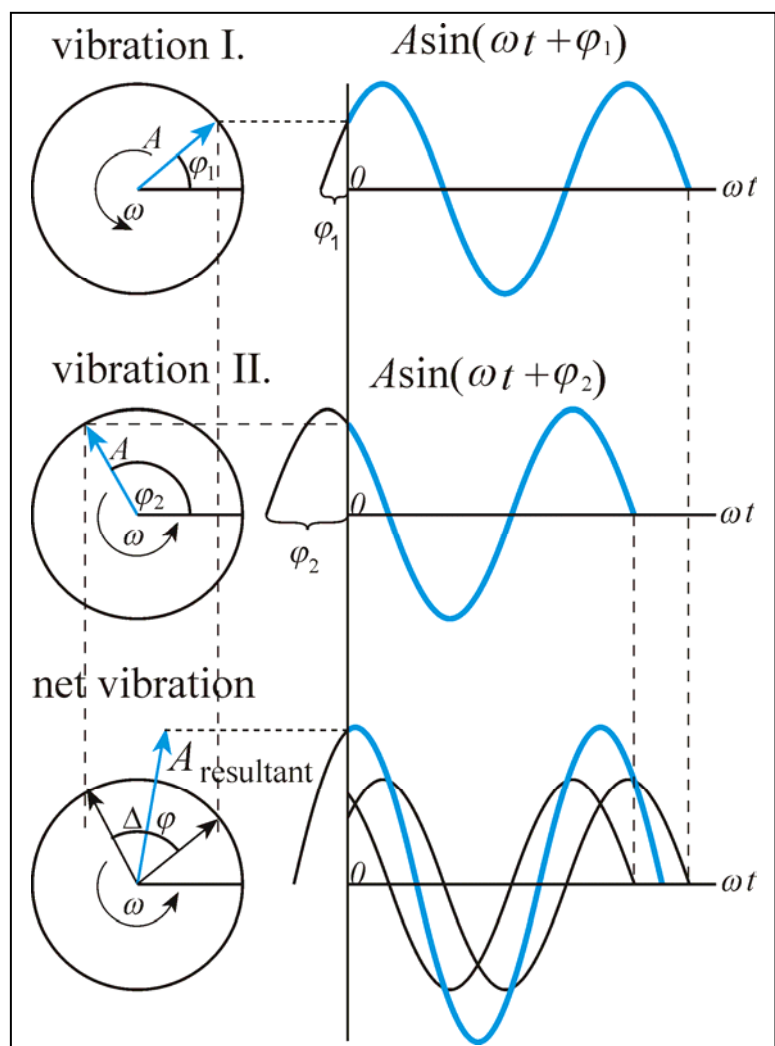
## Typical experiment and pattern of light interference

### Young's double slit experiment (diffraction)



The places of **constructive** and **destructive** interference are determined by the **difference in phase** ( $\Delta\phi$ ).

At a certain place the vibrational states are demonstrated by rotating vectors:

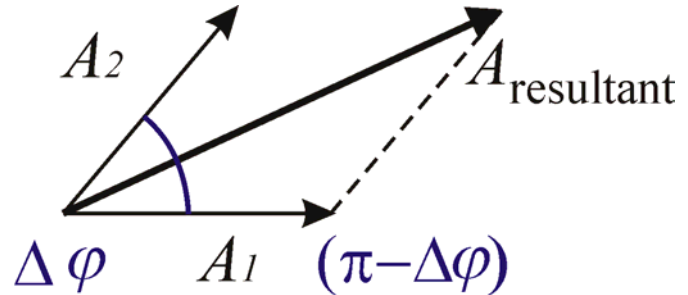


The amplitude of the net vibration ( $A_{\text{resultant}}$ ) is given by the **vector sum** of the components ( $A$ ).

Our eyes are sensitive to the **light-power** ( $P$ ), that is proportional to the square of the amplitude.

Thus  $A_{\text{resultant}}^2 \sim P_{\text{res.}}$ , and  $A_{\text{res.}} = A_1 + A_2$  hence  $P_{\text{res.}} \neq P_1 + P_2$ .

Resultant ( $A_{\text{resultant}}$ ) of two vectors ( $A_1, A_2$ ), or the square of it, if the angle between them is  $\Delta\varphi$ :



$$P \sim A_{\text{resultant}}^2 = A_1^2 + A_2^2 - 2A_1 A_2 \cos(\pi - \Delta\varphi) \quad (\text{cosine theorem})$$

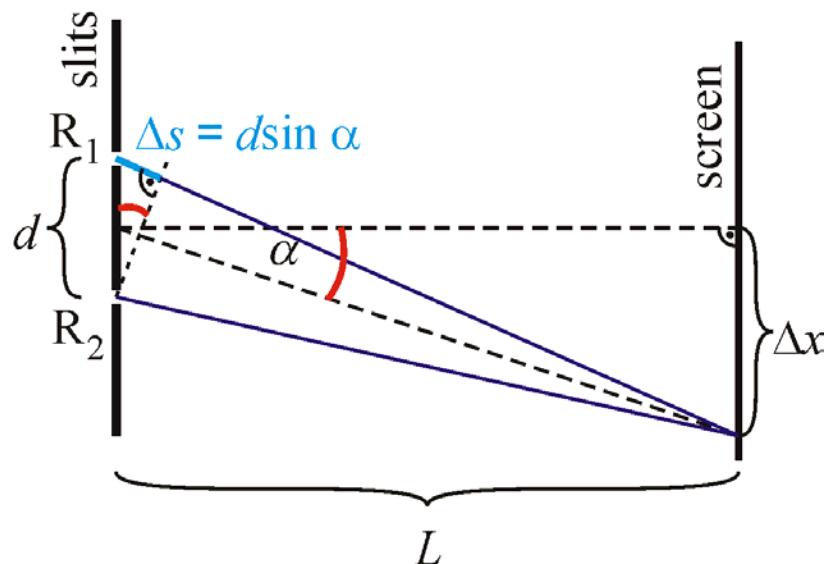
$$P \sim A_{\text{resultant}}^2 = A_1^2 + A_2^2 + 2A_1 A_2 \cos\Delta\varphi$$

$$\text{If } A_1 = A_2 = A, \quad \text{then } A_{\text{resultant}}^2 = 2A^2 (1 + \cos\Delta\varphi)$$

The **difference in phase** ( $\Delta\varphi$ ) is determined by the relation of **difference in path length** ( $\Delta s$ ) and the **wavelength** ( $\lambda$ ).

$$\text{If } L \gg d,$$

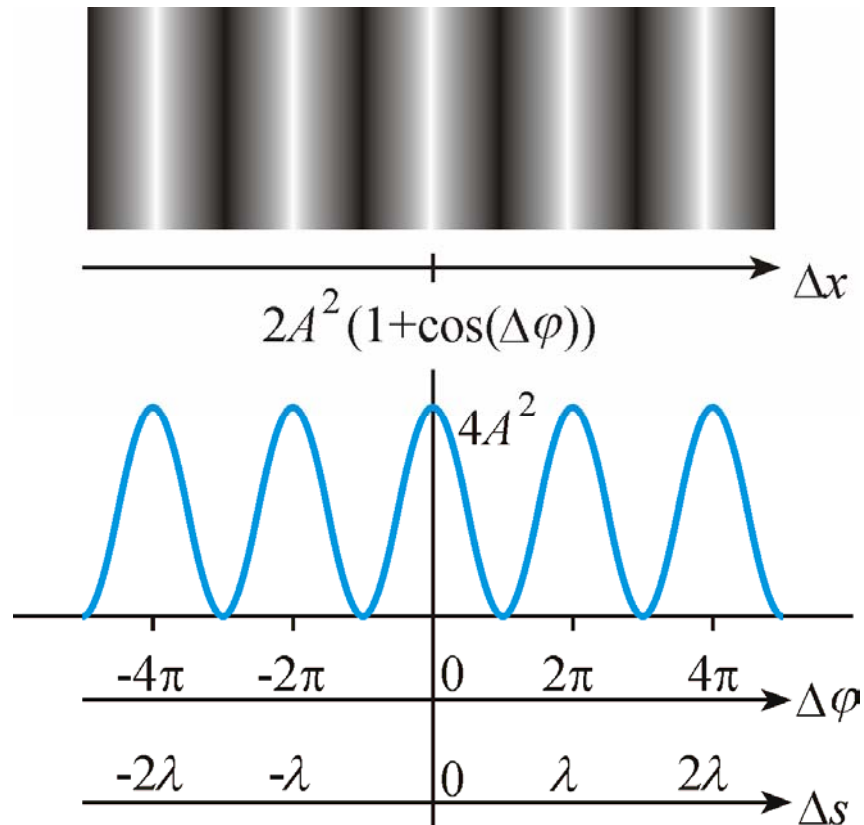
the **difference in path length**  
 $\Delta s = d \sin \alpha$ .



The **difference in phase** is given as:

$$\Delta\varphi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta s = 2\pi \frac{d \sin \alpha}{\lambda} \approx 2\pi \frac{d \Delta x}{\lambda L}$$

## Demonstration:



In the case of many uniform slits, namely **optical grating**, very **sharp maxima** can be observed at places correspond to  $\Delta\varphi = 2k\pi$  or  $\Delta s = k\lambda$ ;  $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  condition.

$$2k\pi = \Delta\varphi \approx 2\pi \frac{d\Delta x}{\lambda L}$$

$L$  and  $\Delta x$  macroscopically measurable. If  $\lambda$  is known, the microscopic  $d$  can be determined, consequently in general:

**we can get microscopic data from macroscopic diffraction pattern.**

**Applications:** determination of the resolving power of microscopes,  
but this is the bases of any diffraction methods as well (x-ray diffraction; determination of **protein structure**).

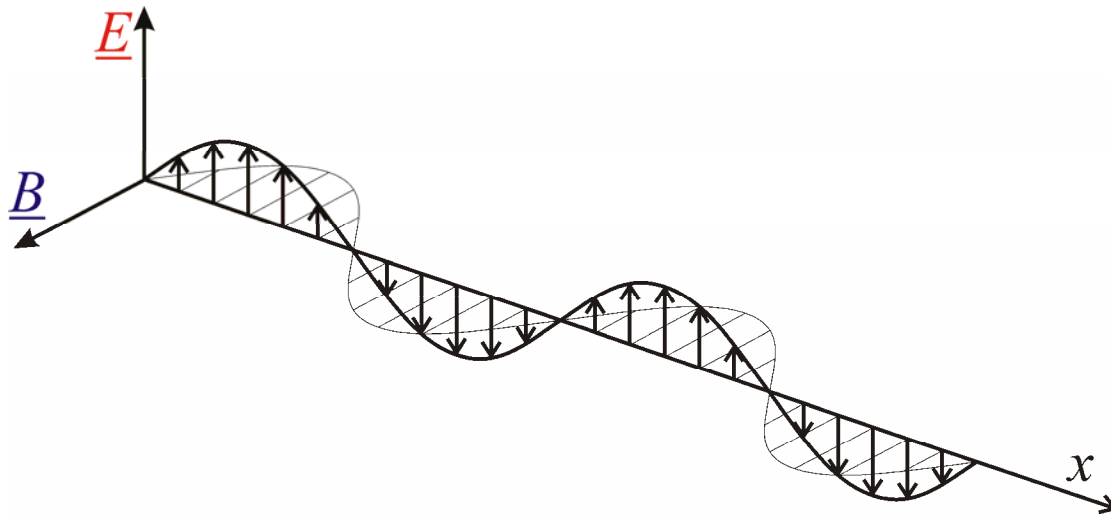


Light is **electromagnetic wave**

**transversal**

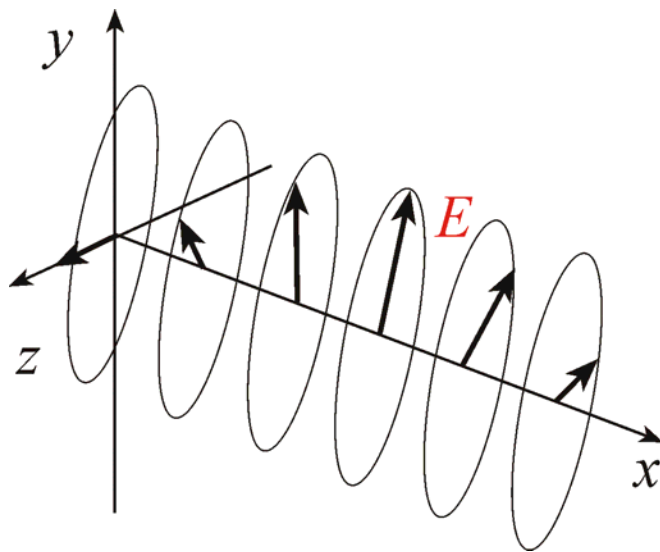
thus can be **polarized**

**linearly polarized light**  
or **plane polarized light**



But

**elliptically polarized light** also exists.



## Optical anisotropy

E.g. in an „anisotropic matter” the **speed of a suitably linearly polarized light depends on the direction of propagation.**

The reason of it is connected to the structure of matter.

**Consequences, applications:** double refraction, polarization microscope