

Outline

- 1 Electromagnetic Waves
- 2 Interference
- 3 Coherence

Motivation

- understand electromagnetic radiation and its propagation from astronomical sources to astronomical detectors
- understand how to analyse data from telescopes at all wavelengths
- different detection techniques at different wavelengths

Fundamentals of Electromagnetic Waves

Electromagnetic Waves in Matter

- electromagnetic waves are a direct consequence of *Maxwell's equations*
- optics: interaction of electromagnetic waves with matter as described by *material equations*

Maxwell's Equations in Matter

$$\begin{aligned}\nabla \cdot \vec{D} &= 4\pi\rho \\ \nabla \times \vec{H} - \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{D}}{\partial t} &= \frac{4\pi}{c} \vec{j} \\ \nabla \times \vec{E} + \frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} &= 0 \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{B} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Linear Material Equations

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{D} &= \epsilon \vec{E} \\ \vec{B} &= \mu \vec{H} \\ \vec{j} &= \sigma \vec{E}\end{aligned}$$

Symbols

\vec{D} electric displacement
 ρ electric charge density
 \vec{H} magnetic field vector
 c speed of light in vacuum
 \vec{j} electric current density
 \vec{E} electric field vector
 \vec{B} magnetic induction
 t time

Symbols

ϵ dielectric constant
 μ magnetic permeability
 σ electrical conductivity

Wave Equation in Matter

- static, homogeneous medium with no net charges ($\rho = 0$)
- for most materials $\mu = 1$
- combination of Maxwell's and material equations leads to differential equations for a damped (vector) wave

$$\nabla^2 \vec{E} - \frac{\mu\epsilon}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{E}}{\partial t^2} - \frac{4\pi\mu\sigma}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} = 0$$

$$\nabla^2 \vec{H} - \frac{\mu\epsilon}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \vec{H}}{\partial t^2} - \frac{4\pi\mu\sigma}{c^2} \frac{\partial \vec{H}}{\partial t} = 0$$

- \vec{E} and \vec{H} are equivalent
- interaction with matter almost always through \vec{E}
- but: at interfaces, boundary conditions for \vec{H} are crucial
- damping controlled by conductivity σ

Plane-Wave Solutions

Plane Vector Wave ansatz

$$\vec{E} = \vec{E}_0 e^{i(\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x} - \omega t)}$$

\vec{k} spatially and temporally constant *wave vector*

\vec{k} normal to surfaces of constant phase

$|\vec{k}|$ *wave number*

\vec{x} spatial location

ω *angular frequency* ($2\pi \times$ frequency)

t time

\vec{E}_0 a (generally complex) vector independent of time and space

- damping if \vec{k} is complex

- real electric field vector given by real part of \vec{E}

Complex index of refraction

- after doing temporal derivatives \Rightarrow Helmholtz-equation

$$\nabla^2 \vec{E} + \frac{\omega^2 \mu}{c^2} \left(\epsilon + i \frac{4\pi\sigma}{\omega} \right) \vec{E} = 0,$$

- *dispersion relation* between \vec{k} and ω

$$\vec{k} \cdot \vec{k} = \frac{\omega^2 \mu}{c^2} \left(\epsilon + i \frac{4\pi\sigma}{\omega} \right)$$

- *complex index of refraction*

$$\tilde{n}^2 = \mu \left(\epsilon + i \frac{4\pi\sigma}{\omega} \right), \quad \vec{k} \cdot \vec{k} = \frac{\omega^2}{c^2} \tilde{n}^2$$

Transverse Waves

- plane-wave solution must also fulfill Maxwell's equations

$$\vec{E}_0 \cdot \vec{k} = 0, \quad \vec{H}_0 \cdot \vec{k} = 0$$

$$\vec{H}_0 = \frac{\tilde{n}}{\mu |\vec{k}|} \times \vec{E}_0$$

- isotropic media: electric, magnetic field vectors normal to wave vector \Rightarrow transverse waves
- \vec{E}_0 , \vec{H}_0 , and \vec{k} orthogonal to each other, right-handed vector-triple
- conductive medium \Rightarrow complex \tilde{n} , \vec{E}_0 and \vec{H}_0 out of phase
- \vec{E}_0 and \vec{H}_0 have constant relationship \Rightarrow consider only one of two fields

Polarization

- spatially, temporally constant vector \vec{E}_0 lays in plane perpendicular to propagation direction \vec{k}
- represent \vec{E}_0 in 2-D basis, unit vectors \vec{e}_1 and \vec{e}_2 , both perpendicular to \vec{k}

$$\vec{E}_0 = E_1 \vec{e}_1 + E_2 \vec{e}_2.$$

E_1, E_2 : arbitrary complex scalars

- damped plane-wave solution with given ω, \vec{k} has 4 degrees of freedom (two complex scalars)
- additional property is called *polarization*
- many ways to represent these four quantities

Scalar Wave

- electric vector of wave field at position \vec{r} at time t is $\tilde{E}(\vec{r}, t)$
- complex notation to easily express amplitude and phase
- real part of complex quantity is the physical quantity

Quasi-Monochromatic Light

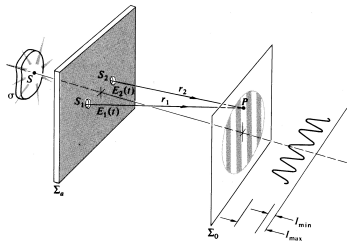
- monochromatic light: purely theoretical concept
- monochromatic light wave always fully polarized
- real life: light includes range of wavelengths \Rightarrow *quasi-monochromatic light*
- quasi-monochromatic: superposition of mutually incoherent monochromatic light beams whose wavelengths vary in narrow range $\delta\lambda$ around central wavelength λ_0

$$\frac{\delta\lambda}{\lambda} \ll 1$$

- measurement of quasi-monochromatic light: integral over measurement time t_m
- amplitude, phase (slow) functions of time for given spatial location
- *slow*: variations occur on time scales much longer than the mean period of the wave

Interference

Young's Double Slit Experiment



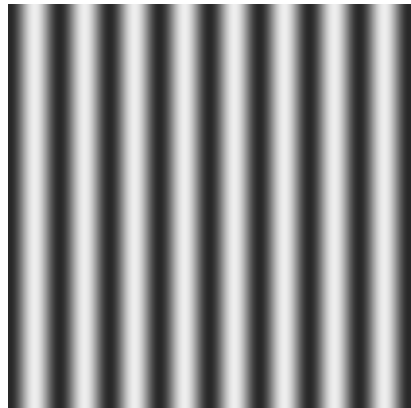
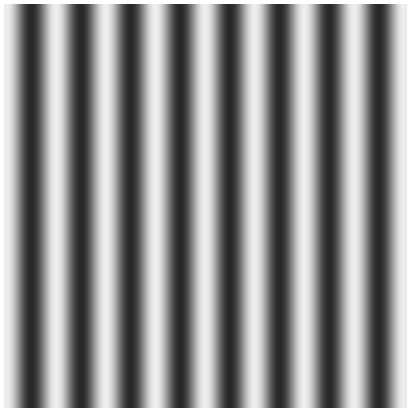
- monochromatic wave
- infinitely small holes (pinholes)
- source S generates fields $\tilde{E}(\vec{r}_1, t) \equiv \tilde{E}_1(t)$ at S_1 and $\tilde{E}(\vec{r}_2, t) \equiv \tilde{E}_2(t)$ at S_2
- two spherical waves from pinholes interfere on screen
- electrical field at P

$$\tilde{E}_P(t) = \tilde{C}_1 \tilde{E}_1(t - t_1) + \tilde{C}_2 \tilde{E}_2(t - t_2)$$

- $t_1 = r_1/c$, $t_2 = r_2/c$
- r_1, r_2 : path lengths to P from S_1, S_2
- propagators $\tilde{C}_{1,2} = \frac{i}{\lambda}$

no tilt

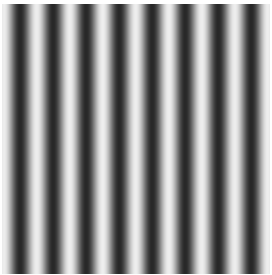
tilt by $0.5 \lambda/d$



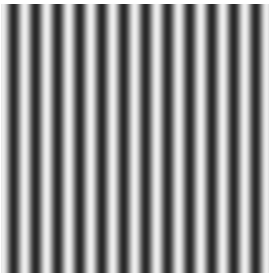
Change in Angle of Incoming Wave

- phase of fringe pattern changes, but not fringe spacing
- tilt of λ/d produces identical fringe pattern

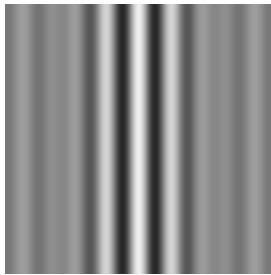
long wavelength



short wavelength



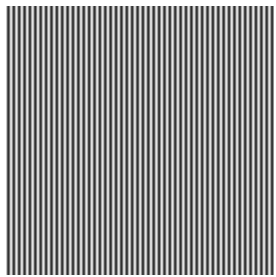
wavelength average



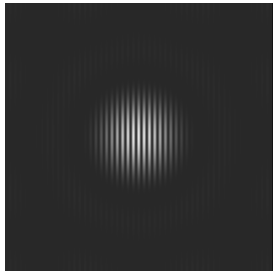
Change in Wavelength

- fringe spacing changes, central fringe broadens
- integral over 0.8 to 1.2 of central wavelength
- intergral over wavelength makes fringe envelope

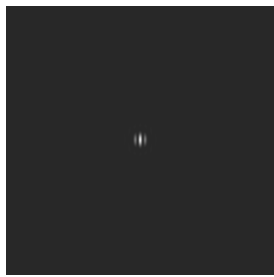
2 pinholes



2 small holes



2 large holes



Finite Hole Diameter

- fringe spacing only depends on separation of holes and wavelength
- the smaller the hole, the larger the 'illuminated' area
- fringe envelope is an Aity pattern (diffraction pattern of a single hole)

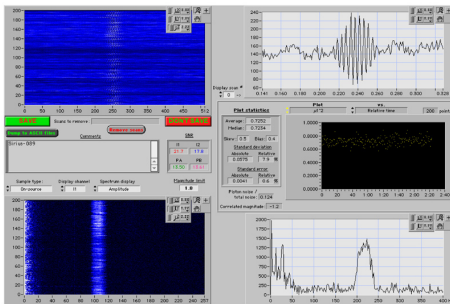
Visibility

- “quality” of fringes described by **Visibility function**

$$V = \frac{I_{\max} - I_{\min}}{I_{\max} + I_{\min}}$$

- I_{\max} , I_{\min} are maximum and adjacent minimum in fringe pattern

First Fringes from VLT Interferometer



'First Fringes' from Sirius with VLT

Mutual Coherence

- total field in point P

$$\tilde{E}_P(t) = \tilde{C}_1 \tilde{E}_1(t - t_1) + \tilde{C}_2 \tilde{E}_2(t - t_2)$$

- irradiance at P , averaged over time

$$I = \mathbf{E} |\tilde{E}_P(t)|^2 = \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_P(t) \tilde{E}_P^*(t) \right\}$$

- writing out all the terms

$$\begin{aligned} I = & \tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_1^* \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t - t_1) \tilde{E}_1^*(t - t_1) \right\} \\ & + \tilde{C}_2 \tilde{C}_2^* \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_2(t - t_2) \tilde{E}_2^*(t - t_2) \right\} \\ & + \tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_2^* \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t - t_1) \tilde{E}_2^*(t - t_2) \right\} \\ & + \tilde{C}_1^* \tilde{C}_2 \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1^*(t - t_1) \tilde{E}_2(t - t_2) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Mutual Coherence (continued)

- as before

$$\begin{aligned} I = & \tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_1^* \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t - t_1) \tilde{E}_1^*(t - t_1) \right\} \\ & + \tilde{C}_2 \tilde{C}_2^* \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_2(t - t_2) \tilde{E}_2^*(t - t_2) \right\} \\ & + \tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_2^* \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t - t_1) \tilde{E}_2^*(t - t_2) \right\} \\ & + \tilde{C}_1^* \tilde{C}_2 \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1^*(t - t_1) \tilde{E}_2(t - t_2) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

- *stationary* wave field, time average independent of absolute time

$$I_{S_1} = \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t) \tilde{E}_1^*(t) \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad I_{S_2} = \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_2(t) \tilde{E}_2^*(t) \right\}$$

- irradiance at P is now

$$\begin{aligned} I = & \tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_1^* I_{S_1} + \tilde{C}_2 \tilde{C}_2^* I_{S_2} + \tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_2^* \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t - t_1) \tilde{E}_2^*(t - t_2) \right\} \\ & + \tilde{C}_1^* \tilde{C}_2 \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1^*(t - t_1) \tilde{E}_2(t - t_2) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

Mutual Coherence (continued)

- as before

$$I = \tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_1^* I_{S_1} + \tilde{C}_2 \tilde{C}_2^* I_{S_2} + \tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_2^* \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t - t_1) \tilde{E}_2^*(t - t_2) \right\} \\ + \tilde{C}_1^* \tilde{C}_2 \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1^*(t - t_1) \tilde{E}_2(t - t_2) \right\}$$

- with time difference $\tau = t_2 - t_1$ last two terms become

$$\tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_2^* \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t + \tau) \tilde{E}_2^*(t) \right\} + \tilde{C}_1^* \tilde{C}_2 \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1^*(t + \tau) \tilde{E}_2(t) \right\}$$

- this is equivalent to

$$2 \operatorname{Re} \left[\tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_2^* \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t + \tau) \tilde{E}_2^*(t) \right\} \right]$$

- propagators \tilde{C} purely imaginary: $\tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_2^* = \tilde{C}_1^* \tilde{C}_2 = |\tilde{C}_1| |\tilde{C}_2|$
- cross-term becomes

$$2 |\tilde{C}_1| |\tilde{C}_2| \operatorname{Re} \left[\mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t + \tau) \tilde{E}_2^*(t) \right\} \right]$$

Mutual Coherence (continued)

- irradiance at point P is now

$$I = \tilde{C}_1 \tilde{C}_1^* I_{S_1} + \tilde{C}_2 \tilde{C}_2^* I_{S_2} + 2|\tilde{C}_1||\tilde{C}_2| \operatorname{Re} \left[\mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t + \tau) \tilde{E}_2^*(t) \right\} \right]$$

- **mutual coherence function** of wave field at S_1 and S_2

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_{12}(\tau) = \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t + \tau) \tilde{E}_2^*(t) \right\}$$

- irradiance at point P becomes

$$I = |\tilde{C}_1|^2 I_{S_1} + |\tilde{C}_2|^2 I_{S_2} + 2|\tilde{C}_1||\tilde{C}_2| \operatorname{Re} \tilde{\Gamma}_{12}(\tau)$$

- $I_1 = |\tilde{C}_1|^2 I_{S_1}$, $I_2 = |\tilde{C}_2|^2 I_{S_2}$ are irradiances at P from a single aperture

$$I = I_1 + I_2 + 2|\tilde{C}_1||\tilde{C}_2| \operatorname{Re} \tilde{\Gamma}_{12}(\tau)$$

Self-Coherence

- if $S_1 = S_2$, mutual coherence function becomes autocorrelation function

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_{11}(\tau) = \tilde{R}_1(\tau) = \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t + \tau) \tilde{E}_1^*(t) \right\}$$

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_{22}(\tau) = \tilde{R}_2(\tau) = \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_2(t + \tau) \tilde{E}_2^*(t) \right\}$$

- autocorrelation functions are also called *self-coherence functions*
- for $\tau = 0$

$$I_{S_1} = \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t) \tilde{E}_1^*(t) \right\} = \Gamma_{11}(0) = \mathbf{E} \left\{ |\tilde{E}_1(t)|^2 \right\}$$

$$I_{S_2} = \mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_2(t) \tilde{E}_2^*(t) \right\} = \Gamma_{22}(0) = \mathbf{E} \left\{ |\tilde{E}_2(t)|^2 \right\}$$

- autocorrelation function with zero lag ($\tau = 0$) represent (average) irradiance (power) of wave field at S_1, S_2

Complex Degree of Coherence

- using selfcoherence functions

$$|\tilde{C}_1||\tilde{C}_2| = \frac{\sqrt{I_1}\sqrt{I_2}}{\sqrt{\Gamma_{11}(0)}\sqrt{\Gamma_{22}(0)}}$$

- normalized mutual coherence defines the **complex degree of coherence**

$$\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau) \equiv \frac{\tilde{\Gamma}_{12}(\tau)}{\sqrt{\Gamma_{11}(0)}\sqrt{\Gamma_{22}(0)}} = \frac{\mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t + \tau) \tilde{E}_2^*(t) \right\}}{\sqrt{\mathbf{E} \left\{ |\tilde{E}_1(t)|^2 \right\}} \sqrt{\mathbf{E} \left\{ |\tilde{E}_2(t)|^2 \right\}}}$$

- irradiance in point P as *general interference law for a partially coherent radiation field*

$$I = I_1 + I_2 + 2\sqrt{I_1 I_2} \operatorname{Re} \tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)$$

Spatial and Temporal Coherence

- complex degree of coherence

$$\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau) \equiv \frac{\tilde{\Gamma}_{12}(\tau)}{\sqrt{\Gamma_{11}(0)\Gamma_{22}(0)}} = \frac{\mathbf{E} \left\{ \tilde{E}_1(t + \tau) \tilde{E}_2^*(t) \right\}}{\sqrt{\mathbf{E} \left\{ |\tilde{E}_1(t)|^2 \right\} \mathbf{E} \left\{ |\tilde{E}_2(t)|^2 \right\}}}$$

- measures both
 - *spatial coherence* at S_1 and S_2
 - *temporal coherence* through time lag τ
- $\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)$ is a complex variable and can be written as:

$$\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau) = |\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)| e^{i\psi_{12}(\tau)}$$

- $0 \leq |\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)| \leq 1$
- phase angle $\psi_{12}(\tau)$ relates to
 - phase angle between fields at S_1 and S_2
 - phase angle difference in P resulting in time lag τ

Coherence of Quasi-Monochromatic Light

- quasi-monochromatic light, mean wavelength $\bar{\lambda}$, frequency $\bar{\nu}$, phase difference ϕ due to optical path difference:

$$\phi = \frac{2\pi}{\bar{\lambda}}(r_2 - r_1) = \frac{2\pi}{\bar{\lambda}}c(t_2 - t_1) = 2\pi\bar{\nu}\tau$$

- with phase angle $\alpha_{12}(\tau)$ between fields at pinholes S_1, S_2

$$\psi_{12}(\tau) = \alpha_{12}(\tau) - \phi$$

- and

$$\text{Re } \tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau) = |\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)| \cos [\alpha_{12}(\tau) - \phi]$$

- intensity in P becomes

$$I = I_1 + I_2 + 2\sqrt{I_1 I_2} |\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)| \cos [\alpha_{12}(\tau) - \phi]$$

Visibility of Quasi-Monochromatic, Partially Coherent Light

- intensity in P

$$I = I_1 + I_2 + 2\sqrt{I_1 I_2} |\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)| \cos[\alpha_{12}(\tau) - \phi]$$

- maximum, minimum I for $\cos(\dots) = \pm 1$
- visibility V at position P

$$V = \frac{2\sqrt{I_1}\sqrt{I_2}}{I_1 + I_2} |\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)|$$

- for $I_1 = I_2 = I_0$

$$I = 2I_0 \{1 + |\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)| \cos[\alpha_{12}(\tau) - \phi]\}$$

$$V = |\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)|$$

Interpretation of Visibility

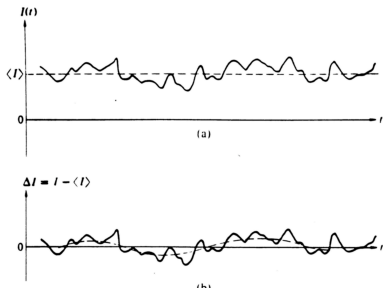
- for $I_1 = I_2 = I_0$

$$I = 2I_0 \{1 + |\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)| \cos [\alpha_{12}(\tau) - \phi]\}$$
$$V = |\tilde{\gamma}_{12}(\tau)|$$

- *modulus of complex degree of coherence = visibility of fringes*
- modulus can therefore be measured
- shift in location of central fringe (no optical path length difference, $\phi = 0$) is measure of $\alpha_{12}(\tau)$
- measurements of visibility and fringe position yield amplitude and phase of complex degree of coherence

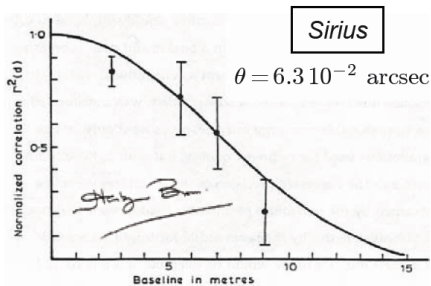
Intensity Interferometry

Basic Idea



- intensity fluctuations are also partially coherent
- random superposition of wave packets results in Gaussian distribution of amplitude fluctuations
- intensity cross-correlation $\mathbf{E} \{ \Delta I_1(t + \tau) \Delta I_2(t) \}$ between two different parts of incoming wave is not zero
- implies correlation between photons from thermal sources

Hanbury Brown and Twiss



- intensity interferometry can measure stellar diameters
- diameter of Sirius in 1956 by Hanbury Brown and Twiss
- only light buckets are needed to collect photons
- basic principle was doubted by many
- classical explanation (see exercises)
- quantum-mechanical explanation: “photon bunching”, Bose-Einstein statistics makes photons to be bunched together