

Interference

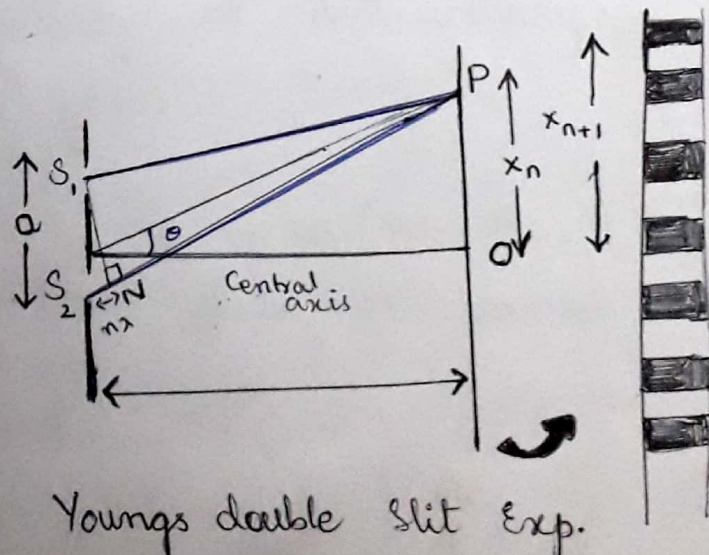
The superposition of two waves of same wavelength or frequency (monochromatic) with a const. phase difference (coherence) combine so that their energies are not uniformly distributed in space but give maxima and minima or an interference pattern is called Interference.

Using monochromatic source of light INTERFERENCE can be achieved in two ways.

1. Division of wavefront.
i.e. Youngs double slit Expt.
2. Division of Amplitude
i.e. Newtons Rings, Thin films.

✓ Youngs Double slit Expt.

Consider a monochromatic source of light which passes through two slits S_1 and S_2 at a distance d from each other.



Youngs double slit Exp.

The optical path difference (OPD) betⁿ S_2P and S_1P provide the necessary condition.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{OPD} &= S_2P - S_1P \\ &= S_2N \end{aligned}$$

$$\sin \theta = \frac{S_2N}{d}$$

$$S_2N = d \sin \theta$$

The condition for Constructive interference [in phase] is

$$d \sin \theta = n\lambda$$

and the condition for interference (out of phase) is

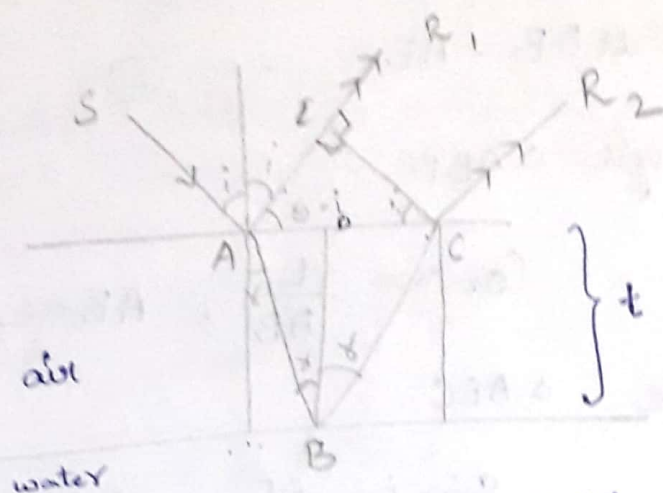
$$d \sin \theta = (n + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$$

where $n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$

An interference pattern is observed on the screen which is made of evenly distributed bright and white patches called as interference.



DIVISION OF AMPLITUDE INTERFERENCE FROM THIN FILMS.



Consider a thin film of thickness t and refractive index μ . The monochromatic source S is incident at an angle i and gets partly refracted at an angle r and get reflected at the point B and emerged from the point C as R_2 .

The two rays AR_1 and $ABCR_2$ interfere to give a steady interference pattern as they satisfy both conditions i.e. monochromatic and coherence.

The optical path length (OPL) is defined as $\mu \times$ Geometrical path length. $OPL = \mu \times G.P.L.$

The OPD between the two waves defines where they interfere constructively or destructively.

In case of thin films.

$$OPD = \mu (AB + BC) - AE \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

We drop a normal from C on AR .

where

$$CE \perp AR.$$

$$AB = BC$$

$$OPD = 2\mu AB - AE \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

In a triangle $\triangle ABD$

$$\cos \gamma = \frac{t}{AB} ; AB = \frac{t}{\cos \gamma} \quad \text{--- (3)}$$

In a triangle, $\triangle AEC$.

$$\sin i = \frac{AE}{AC} , AE = AC \sin i \quad \text{--- (4)}$$

$$AD = DC$$

$$AC = 2AD$$

$$\tan \gamma = \frac{AD}{DB}$$

In a triangle $\triangle ADB$.

$$\tan \gamma = \frac{AD}{t} \quad \text{--- (5)}$$

from Eq 4

$$AE = AC \cdot \sin i$$

$$(AC = 2AD)$$

$$AE = \sin i (2AD)$$

from Eq 5

$$AD = (t \cdot \tan \gamma)$$

$$AE = \sin i (2t \cdot \tan \gamma)$$

$$OPD = 2\mu AB - AE$$

$$= 2\mu \left[\frac{t}{\cos \gamma} \right] - \sin i (2t \cdot \tan \gamma)$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{\sin \theta}{\cos \theta}$$

$$AE = \frac{2\mu t}{\cos \gamma} - \sin i \cdot 2t \cdot \frac{\sin \gamma}{\cos \gamma}$$

$$\frac{OPD}{AE} = \frac{2ut}{\cos \gamma} - \frac{\sin \gamma \cdot (2t) \sin \gamma}{\cos \gamma}$$

$$\frac{OPD}{AE} = \frac{2ut}{\cos \gamma} [1 - \sin^2 \gamma]$$

$$\frac{OPD}{AE} = \frac{2ut}{\cos \gamma} (\cos^2 \gamma)$$

$$\frac{OPD}{AE} = 2ut \cos \gamma$$

$$2ut \cos \gamma = n\lambda$$

where

$$n = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots$$

① $t < \lambda$ 1st term $2ut/\cos \gamma$ is negligible

OPD is always $\lambda/2$

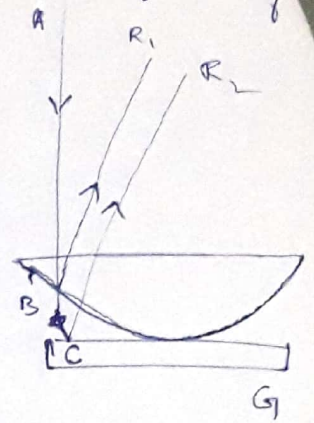
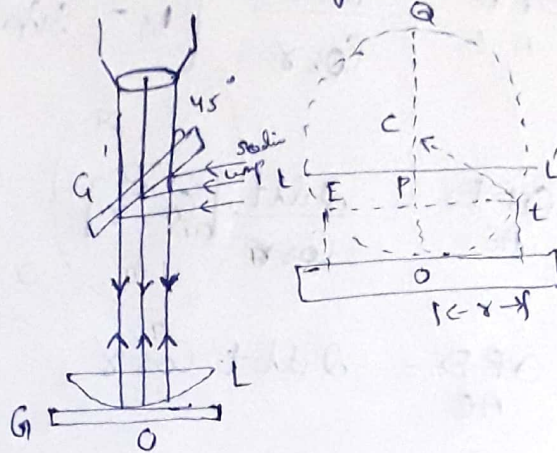
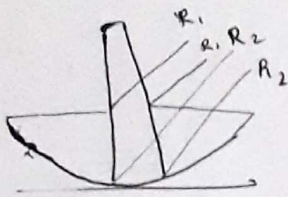
and all points will be dark.

NEWTON'S RINGS.

When a plano convex lens is placed on a plane glass plate with its convex surface downwards and air films of increasing thickness is formed.

If the monochromatic light around the point is allowed to fall normally and the lens is viewed in reflecting light, alternate dark and bright concentric rings around the point of contact are seen.

Newtons rings are formed due to interference between wave reflected from the top and bottom surface of the air film between the plates.



$$AM \times MB = CM \times MD$$

$$CM = MD = r_n$$

$$2\mu t / \cos r = (n + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$$

(Bright)

$$2\mu t / \cos r = n\lambda$$

(dark)

for normal incidence $r = 0$

$$\cos r = 1$$

$$\mu = 1 \text{ (air)}$$

$$\text{Bright} \rightarrow 2t = (n + \frac{1}{2})\lambda \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

$$\text{dark} \rightarrow 2t = n\lambda \quad \text{--- (2)}$$

The central spot is dark for reflected light

(for transmitted light, it is bright).

and the rings are perfectly circular and with equal thickness.

$$AO \times OB = OC \times OD$$

$$AO = OB = \text{radius of ring } (r_n)$$

$$r_n^2 = OC \times OD$$

$$= (2R - t) \times t$$

$$r_n^2 = 2Rt - t^2$$

$$r_n^2 = 2Rt$$

(t^2 much less $2Rt$)

$$r_n = \sqrt{2Rt}, \quad D_n = 2\sqrt{2Rt}$$

we know that, $2t = n\lambda$

$$D_n = 2\sqrt{n\lambda R}$$

$$D_n^2 = 4Rn\lambda$$

Similarly $D_m^2 = 4Rm\lambda$

Subtracting both Equations.

$$D_m^2 - D_n^2 = 4Rm\lambda - 4Rn\lambda$$

$$D_m^2 - D_n^2 = 4Rm\lambda - 4Rn\lambda$$

$$D_m^2 - D_n^2 = 4R\lambda(m - n)$$

$$\lambda = \frac{(D_m^2 - D_n^2)}{4R(m - n)}$$

This is the method used to find the wavelength of a monochromatic light source in lab.