

# Introduction to nanophotonics

## Part 1 :

(Light properties, Black-body/Density of states,  
Quantum theory of light polarization)

Brian Stout

**C.L.A.R.T.E / *Institut Fresnel, U.M.R. 7249***  
<http://www.fresnel.fr/perso/stout/>

Institut Fresnel, CNRS Aix Marseille Université,  
Domaine Universitaire de Saint Jérôme,  
13397 Marseille, France

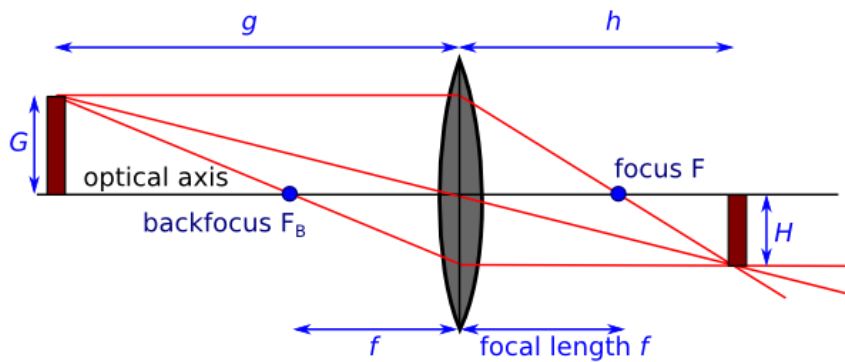
# Part 1:

---

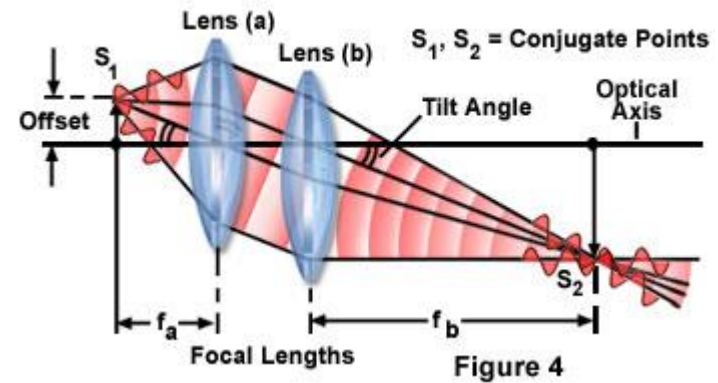
- Properties of light and light propagation
- Density of states and black-body radiation
- Quantum mechanics of light polarization

# Geometric optics approximation - Newton:

$$\lambda \rightarrow 0$$

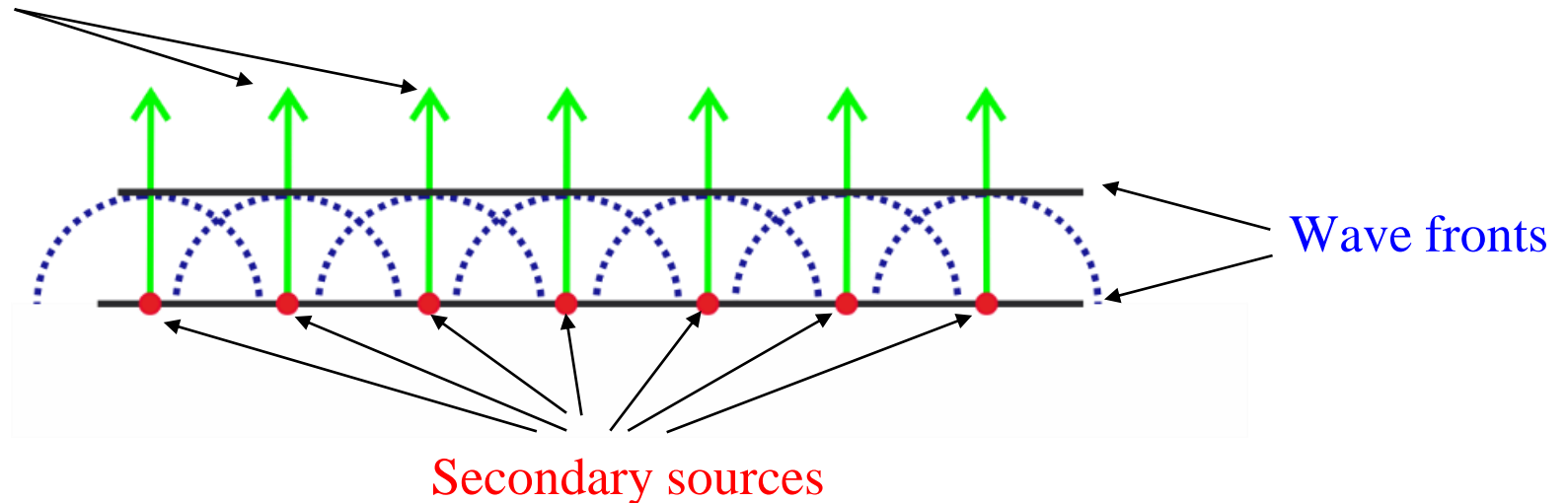


Oblique Wave Through A Simple Twin Lens System



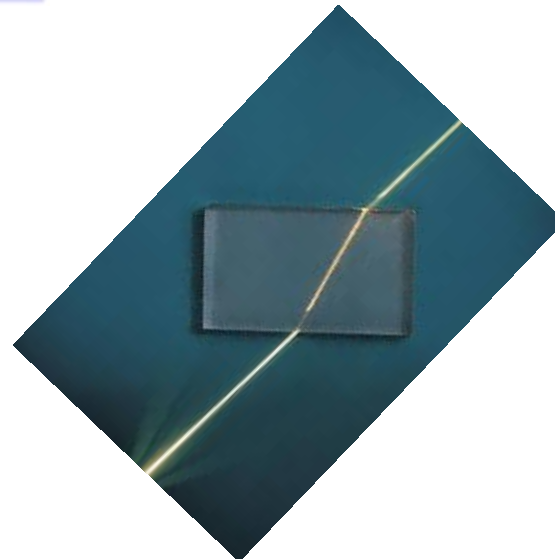
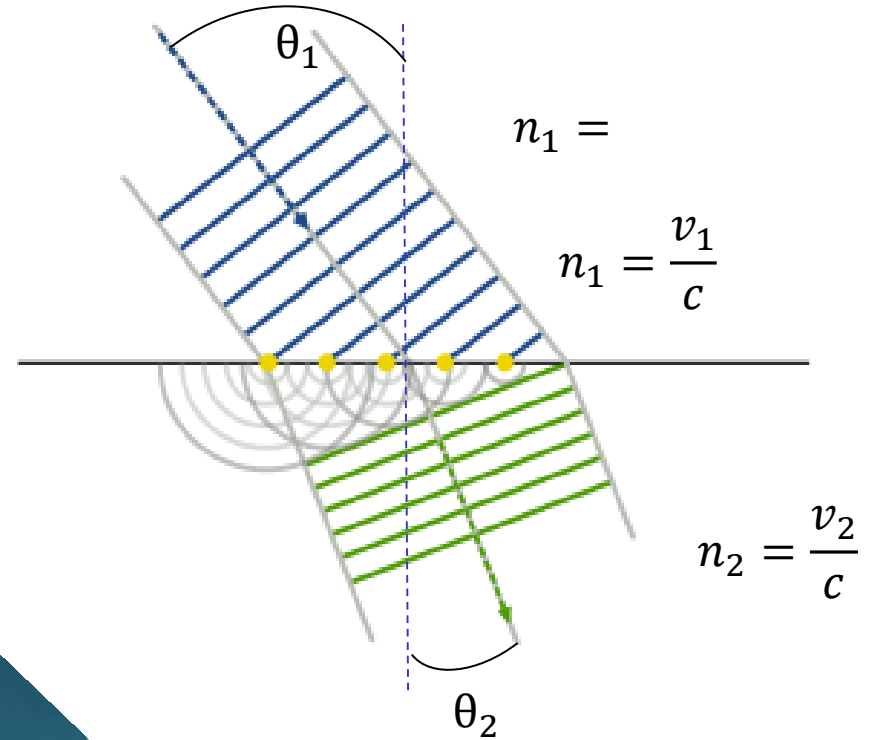
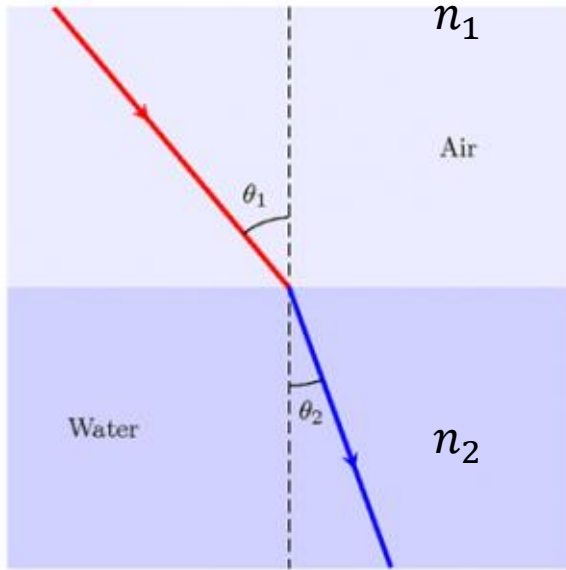
# Light as a wave - Huygens principle

The “**propagation**” of a wave is can be understood as the “**interference**” of secondary sources in the wave fronts



Why do the “**secondary**” waves only propagate in the **forward** direction ?  
Meta-surfaces give us an answer !

# Both Newton's 'particle model' and Huygens's 'wave model' can explain refraction !

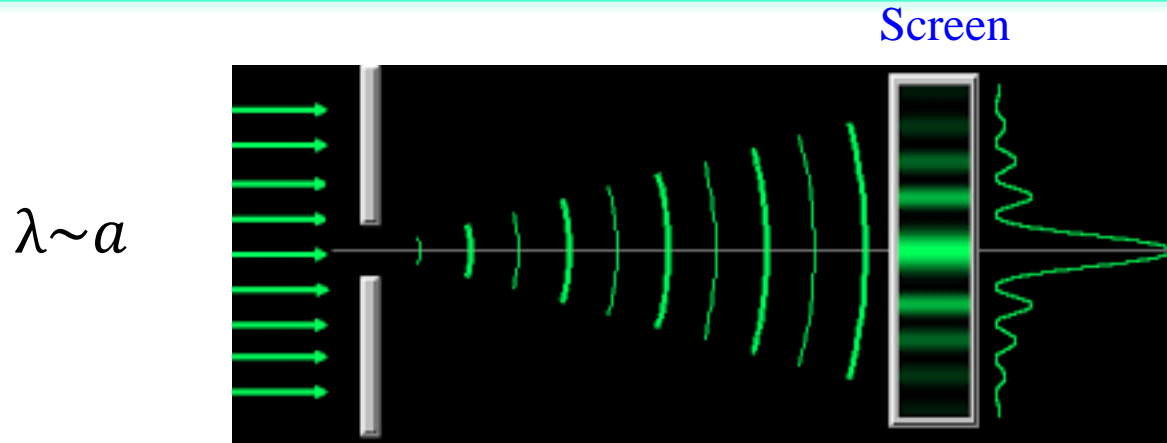


Ibn Sahl (983)

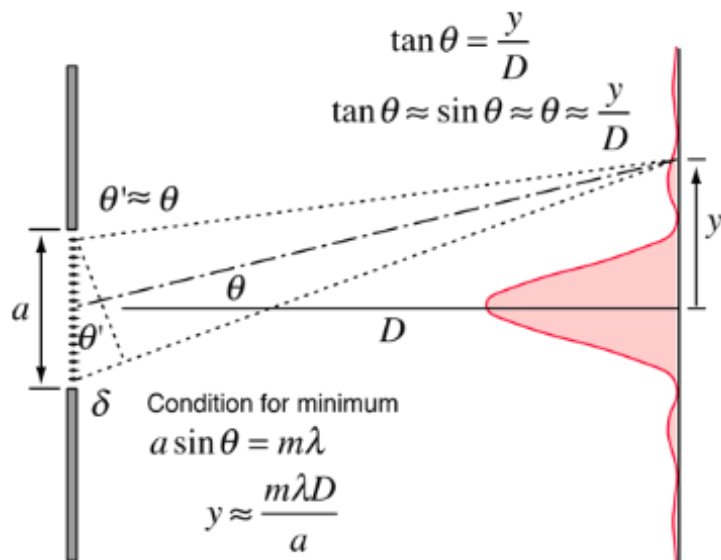
Snell (1621) Descartes (1637)

$$n_1 \sin \theta_1 = n_2 \sin \theta_2$$

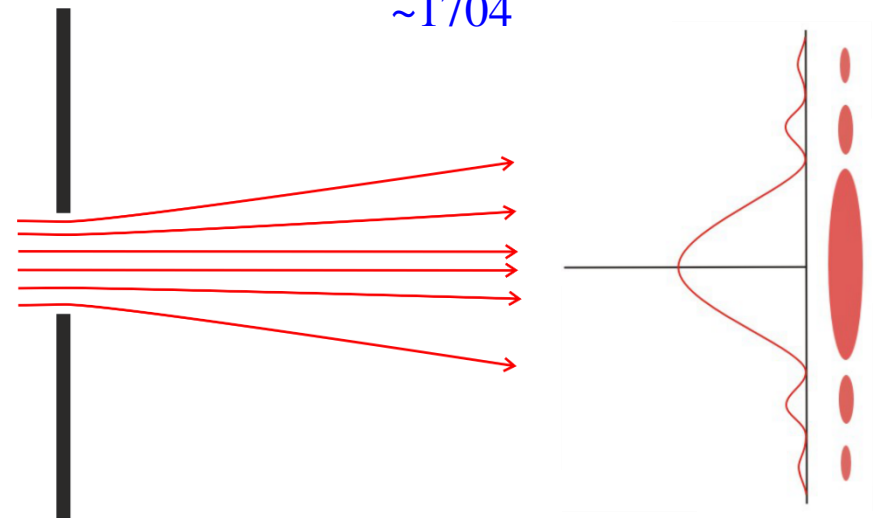
# Need a wave theory of light needs to describe **diffraction** (Grimaldi ~1665)



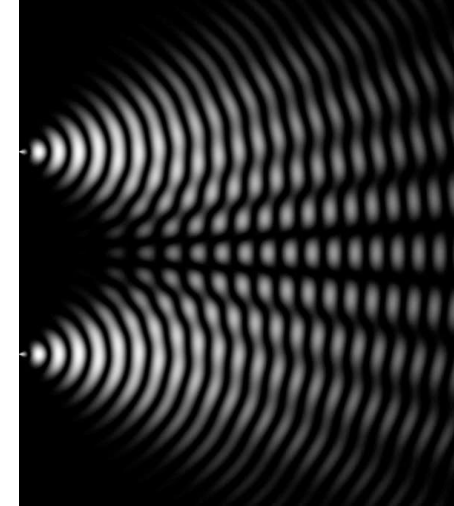
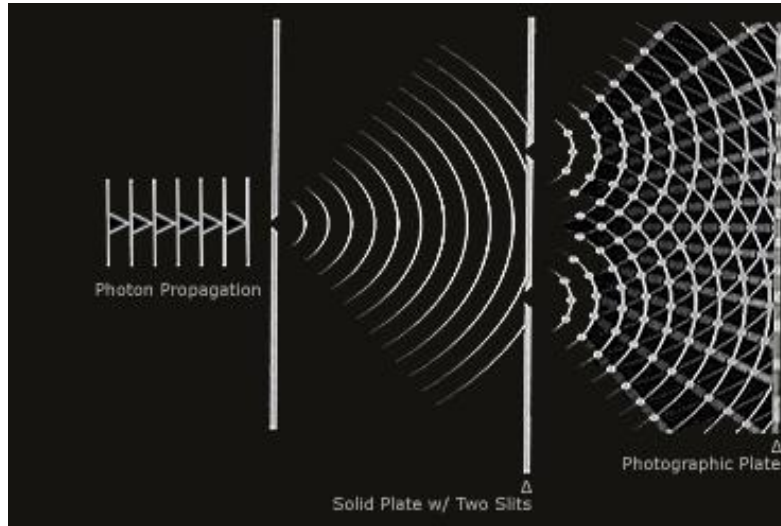
Textbook wave diffraction theory



Newton's particle theory of diffraction  
~1704



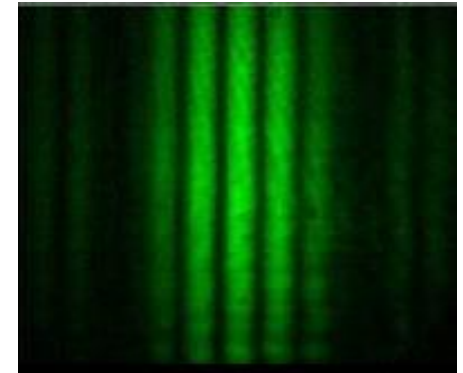
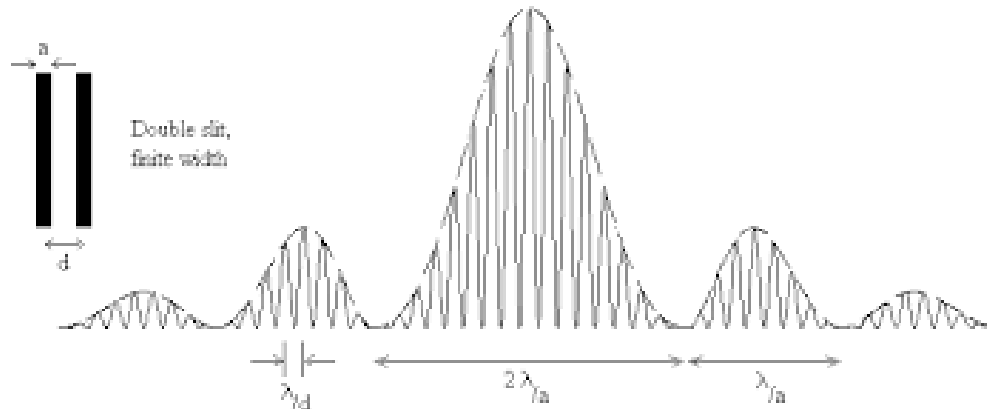
# Young's double slit experiment demonstrated the Interference of light waves (1801)



## Wave interference



## Double slit interference "screen view"



# Rayleigh-Sommerfeld diffraction theory ~1900

Fresnel (1819), Green's theorem (1828), Kirchhoff (1883)

‘Exact’ Rayleigh-Sommerfeld formula  
(acoustics, scalar light, quantum mechanics ?)

$$E(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{i\lambda} \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y, 0) \left(1 + \frac{i}{kr}\right) \frac{\exp(ikr)}{r} F(\theta) dXdY$$

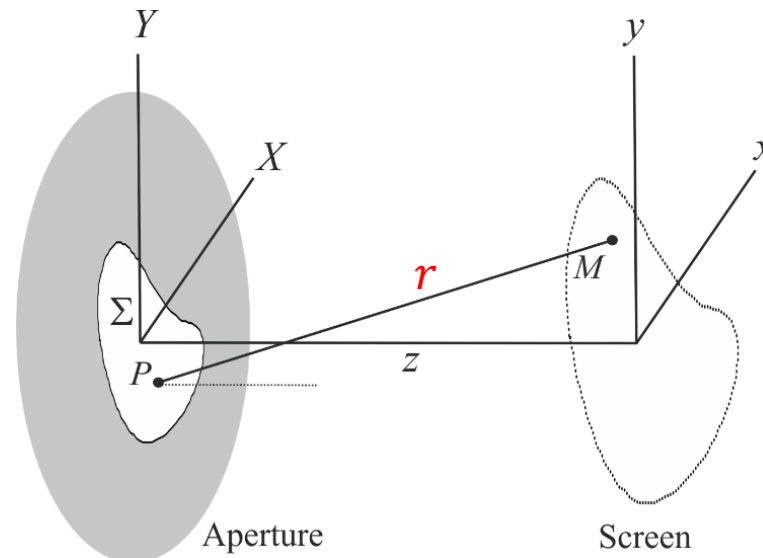
$$r = PM = \sqrt{z^2 + (x - X)^2 + (y - Y)^2}$$

‘Obliquity’ factor

$$F(\theta) = \cos \theta = \frac{z}{r}$$

wave number

$$k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$





## Green's theorem (1828)

$$\iiint_V (U\Delta G - G\Delta U) d\mathbf{r} = \oiint_S \left( U \frac{\partial G}{\partial n} - G \frac{\partial U}{\partial n} \right) ds$$

Where  $\frac{\partial}{\partial n}$  signifies a partial derivative in the outward normal direction at each point on S

$$\Delta U(\mathbf{r}) + k^2 U(\mathbf{r}) = 0$$

Green functions :

$$\Delta G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') + k^2 G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = -\delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$$

$$G(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_0) = G(|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_0|) = G(r_{10}) = \frac{e^{ikr_{10}}}{4\pi r_{10}}$$

$$\frac{\partial G(r_{10})}{\partial n} = \cos(\hat{\mathbf{n}}, \hat{\mathbf{r}}_{10}) \left( ik - \frac{1}{r_{10}} \right) \frac{e^{ikr_{10}}}{4\pi r_{10}}$$

## Interlude on the scalar Green's function

Homogeneous wave equation :  $\Delta U(\mathbf{r}) + k^2 U(\mathbf{r}) = 0$

Inhomogeneous wave equation :  $\Delta \psi(\mathbf{r}) + k^2 \psi(\mathbf{r}) = -j(\mathbf{r})$

Green functions :

$$(\Delta + k^2)G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = -\delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$$

$$G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = (\Delta + k^2)^{-1}$$

$$\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \int d\mathbf{r}' G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') j(\mathbf{r}')$$

$$(\Delta + k^2)\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \int d\mathbf{r}' (\Delta + k^2)G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') j(\mathbf{r}') = - \int d\mathbf{r}' \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') j(\mathbf{r}') = -j(\mathbf{r})$$

## Interlude on the scalar Green's function

How do we know/find that the solution to  $(\Delta + k^2)G(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = -\delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$

$$\text{Is : } G(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_0) = G(|\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_0|) = G(r_{10}) = \frac{e^{ikr_{10}}}{4\pi r_{10}}$$

$$\Delta\psi(r, \theta, \phi) = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2(r\psi)}{\partial r^2} + \frac{1}{r^2 \sin^2 \theta} \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \left( \sin \theta \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \theta} \right) + \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial \phi^2} \right]$$

$$\mathbf{r}_0 \rightarrow \mathbf{0}$$

$$\mathbf{r} \equiv \mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_0 \quad G(r, \theta, \phi) = \frac{e^{ikr}}{4\pi r}$$

$$\longrightarrow \Delta G(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2 \left( r \frac{e^{ikr}}{4\pi r} \right)}{\partial r^2} = \frac{1}{4\pi r} \frac{\partial^2 (e^{ikr})}{\partial r^2} = -\frac{k^2 e^{ikr}}{4\pi r} = -k^2 G(\mathbf{r})$$


$$\longrightarrow (\Delta + k^2) \frac{e^{ikr}}{4\pi r} = 0 \quad r \neq 0$$


## Interlude on the scalar Green's function

$$(\Delta + k^2)G(\mathbf{r}) = -\delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{r}) \qquad G(r) = \frac{e^{ikr}}{4\pi r}$$

Integrate this equation over an infinitely small volume around  $\mathbf{r} = \mathbf{0}$

$$\int_{V \rightarrow 0} d\mathbf{r} (\Delta + k^2)G(\mathbf{r}) = - \int_{\tilde{V}} d\mathbf{r} \delta^{(3)} = -1$$

  $\int_{V \rightarrow 0} d\mathbf{r} \Delta G(\mathbf{r}) = -1 \qquad \Delta G(\mathbf{r}) = \nabla \cdot \nabla G(\mathbf{r})$

  $\int_{V \rightarrow 0} d\mathbf{r} \nabla \cdot \frac{\mathbf{r}}{4\pi r^3} = 1 \quad ? \qquad r \rightarrow 0 \qquad \nabla G(\mathbf{r}) \rightarrow -\frac{\mathbf{r}}{4\pi r^3}$

Yes !  $\int_{\tilde{V}} d\mathbf{r} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) = \int_S \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{r}) \cdot d\mathbf{S} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \int_{V \rightarrow 0} d\mathbf{r} \nabla \cdot \frac{\mathbf{r}}{4\pi r^3} = \int_{S \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{4\pi r^2} \cdot 4\pi r^2 = 1$

$$F(\theta) = \cos \theta = \frac{z}{r}$$

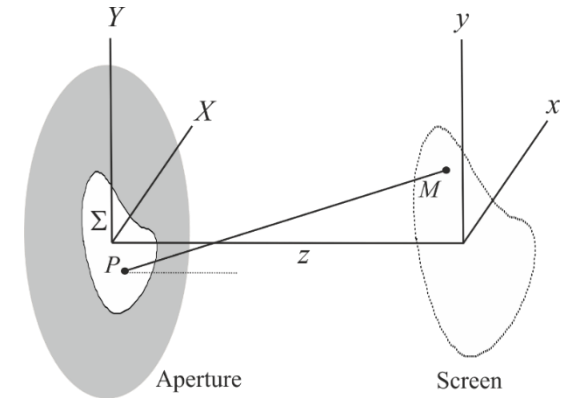
$$k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

## Approximations to Sommerfeld diffraction formula

$$E(x, y, z) = \frac{1}{i\lambda} \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y, 0) \left(1 + \frac{i}{kr}\right) \frac{\exp(ikr)}{r} F(\theta) dXdY$$

$$\cong \frac{1}{i\lambda} \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y, 0) \frac{\exp(ikr)}{r} F(\theta) dXdY$$

$$r = PM = \sqrt{z^2 + (x - X)^2 + (y - Y)^2} \cong z \left(1 + \frac{[(x - X)^2 + (y - Y)^2]}{2z^2}\right)$$

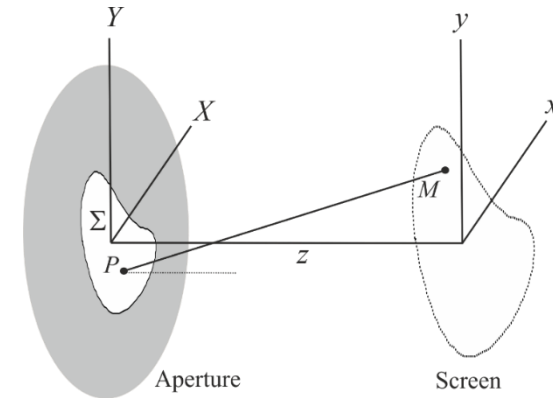


Fresnel-Kirchhoff intermediate-field ‘approximation’ :

$$E(x, y, z) \cong \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y, 0) \exp\left\{\frac{i\pi}{\lambda z} [(x - X)^2 + (y - Y)^2]\right\} dXdY$$

# Fourier Optics

$$E(x, y, z) \cong \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y, 0) \exp \left\{ \frac{ik}{2z} [(x - X)^2 + (y - Y)^2] \right\} dXdY$$



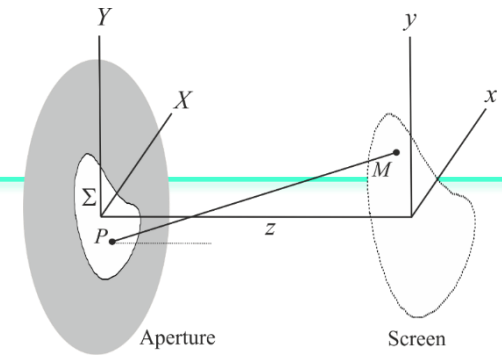
$$E(x, y, z) \cong \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} \exp \left[ \frac{ik}{2z} (x^2 + y^2) \right] \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y, 0) e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(X^2+Y^2)} e^{\frac{ik}{z}(xX+yY)} dXdY$$

Fresnel-Kirchhoff diffraction :

$$E(x, y, z) \cong C \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y) e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(X^2+Y^2)} e^{-\frac{ik}{z}(xX+yY)} dXdY \propto \mathcal{F} \left\{ E(X, Y) e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(X^2+Y^2)} \right\}$$

(‘Parabolic’ wavelets)

# Fourier Optics in the 'far field'



Fresnel-Kirchhoff diffraction :

$$E(x, y, z) \cong C \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y) e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(X^2+Y^2)} e^{-\frac{ik}{z}(xX+yY)} dXdY \propto \mathcal{F} \left\{ E(X, Y) e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(X^2+Y^2)} \right\}$$

Fraunhofer diffraction :  $e^{\frac{ik}{2z}(X^2+Y^2)} \rightarrow 1 \quad z \gg X, Y$

$$E(x, y, z) \cong C \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y) dXdY \propto \mathcal{F}\{E(X, Y)\}$$

$$\mathcal{F}\{E(X, Y)\} = \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y) e^{-\frac{ik}{z}(xX+yY)} dXdY = \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y) e^{-ik(X\sin\theta_X+Y\sin\theta_Y)} dXdY$$

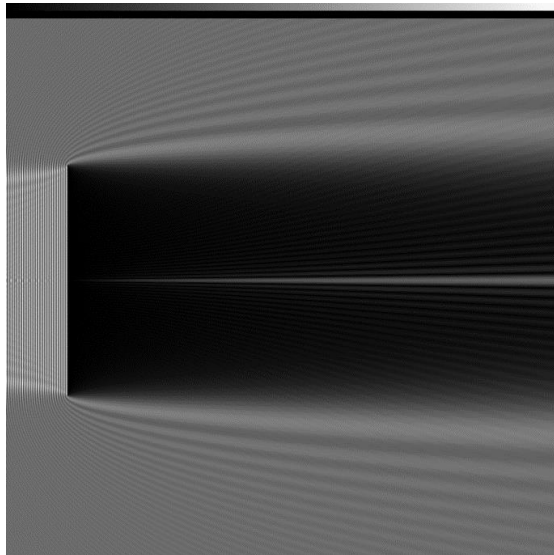
$$\sin\theta_X \equiv \frac{X}{z}$$

$$\sin\theta_Y \equiv \frac{Y}{z}$$

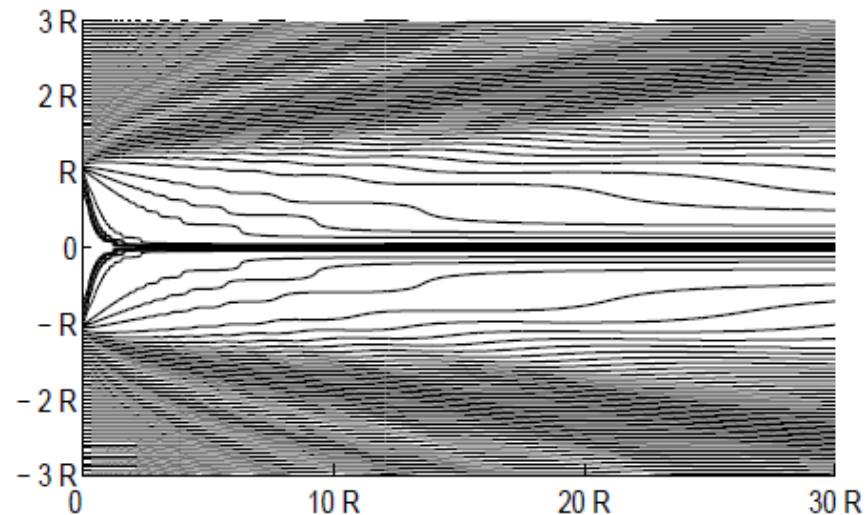
# Newton's Particle theory woefully fails to explain the Poisson-Fresnel-Arago "spot"

$$E(x, y, z) = \frac{e^{ikz}}{i\lambda z} \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y, 0) \exp\left\{\frac{i\pi}{\lambda z} [(x - X)^2 + (y - Y)^2]\right\} dXdY$$

Side views of the 'Poisson' spot 'simulations'



$|E|^2$

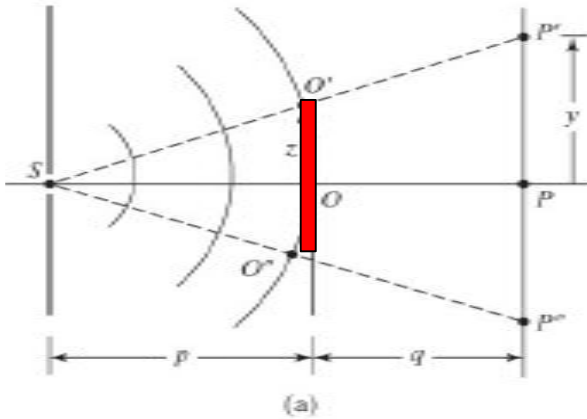


$\vec{S}$



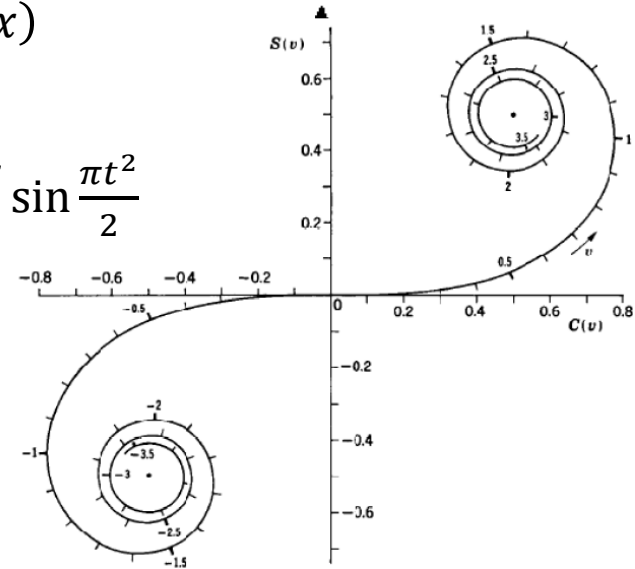
# What actually impressed the French academy ?

$$E(x, y, z) = K(z) \iint_{\Sigma} E(X, Y, 0) \exp\left\{\frac{i\pi}{\lambda z} [(x - X)^2 + (y - Y)^2]\right\} dXdY$$

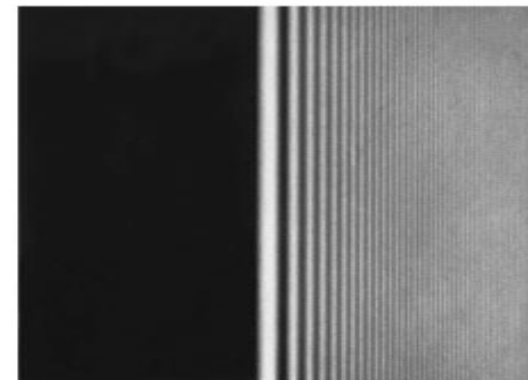
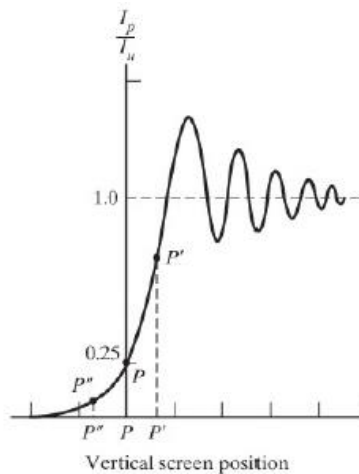


$$I(x) = \int_0^x e^{\frac{i\pi t^2}{2}} dt = C(x) + iS(x)$$

$$C(x) = \int_0^x \cos \frac{\pi t^2}{2} dt \quad S(x) = \int_0^x \sin \frac{\pi t^2}{2} dt$$

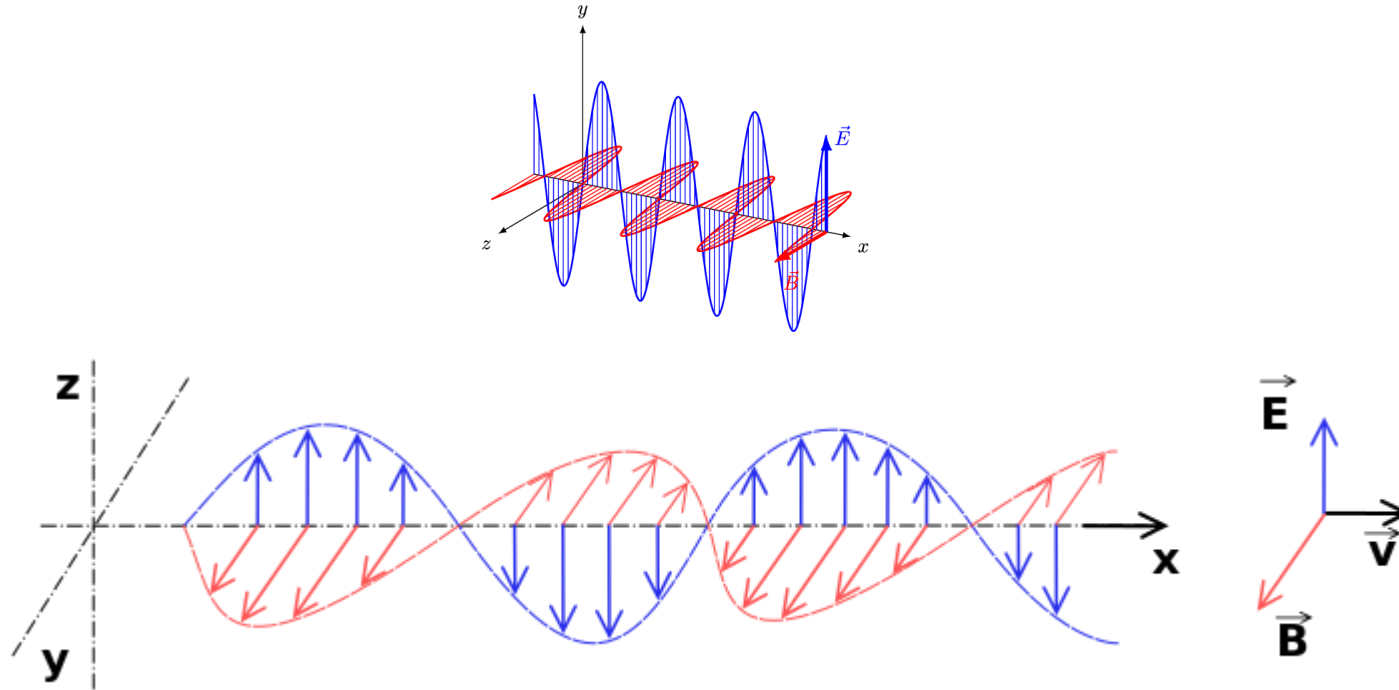


- Precise measurements
- Rigorous mathematics
- Parameter free theory



$$|E|^2 / |E_0|^2$$

Since Maxwell's 1865 theory  
light is an **electromagnetic wave**



**Explains most of the physics of the Fresnel Institute !  
("photonics")**

It took ~100 years before one began to seriously explain light phenomena in terms of Maxwell equations (why is that ?)

# Maxwell's equations of electromagnetism in free space

Maxwell equations in free space :

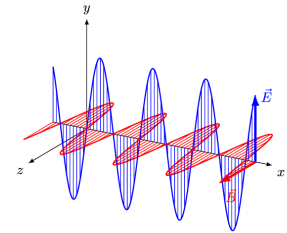
$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} &= 0 & \nabla \times \mathbf{E} &= -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} &= 0 & \nabla \times \mathbf{B} &= \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{c^2 \partial t} \end{aligned}$$

$$\epsilon_0 \mu_0 = \frac{1}{c^2}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) &= -\frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{c^2 \partial t^2} \\ \nabla \times \nabla \times \mathbf{A} &\equiv \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}) - \Delta \mathbf{A} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$\Delta \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{c^2 \partial t^2} = 0$$

$$\Delta \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t) - \frac{\partial^2 \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}, t)}{c^2 \partial t^2} = 0$$

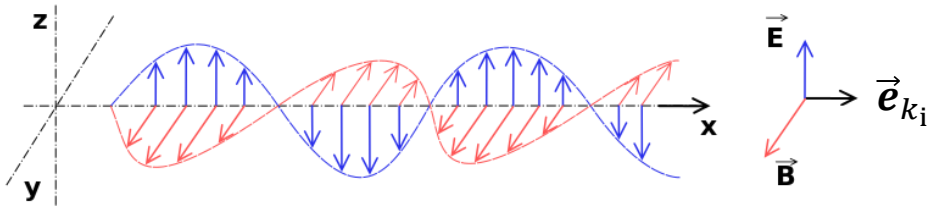


$$\mathbf{E}(\mathbf{r}, t) = \epsilon \vec{e}_p e^{i(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \omega t)}$$

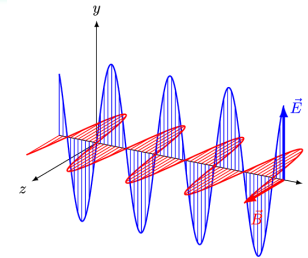
$$\omega \equiv 2\pi\nu$$

$$k \equiv |\mathbf{k}| \equiv \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} = \frac{\omega}{c}$$

# Introduction to Quantum Physics with polarization



Incident 'plane' wave *approximation*



Time averaged *Poynting* vector

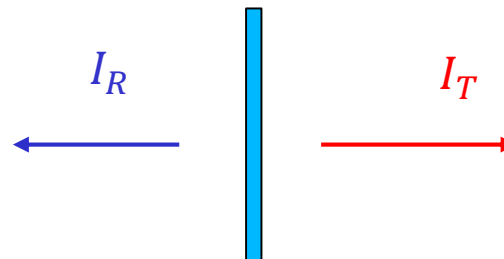
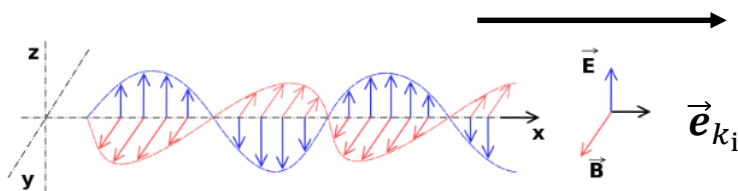
$$\langle \vec{\Pi}_{\text{inc}} \rangle_T = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} \{ \vec{E}_{\text{inc}}^* \times \vec{H}_{\text{inc}} \} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_b \epsilon_0}{\mu_b \mu_0}} \|\vec{E}_{\text{inc}}\|^2 \vec{e}_{k_i} = \frac{\epsilon_0 c^2}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_b}{\mu_b}} \|\vec{E}_{\text{inc}}\|^2 \vec{e}_{k_i}$$

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMmhSext9Q8>

$$I \propto \|\vec{\Pi}_{\text{inc}} \cdot \vec{e}_{k_i}\| \propto \|\vec{E}_{\text{inc}}\|^2$$

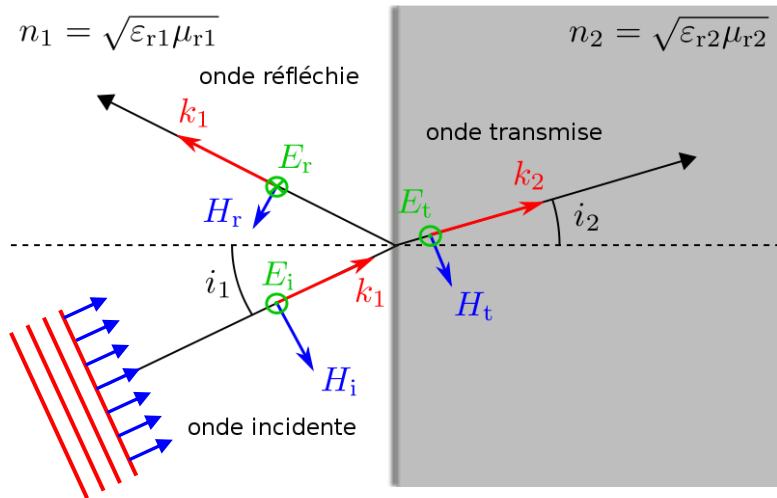
$$I = I_R + I_T \quad \text{Energy conservation !}$$

Perfect *lossless* polarizer

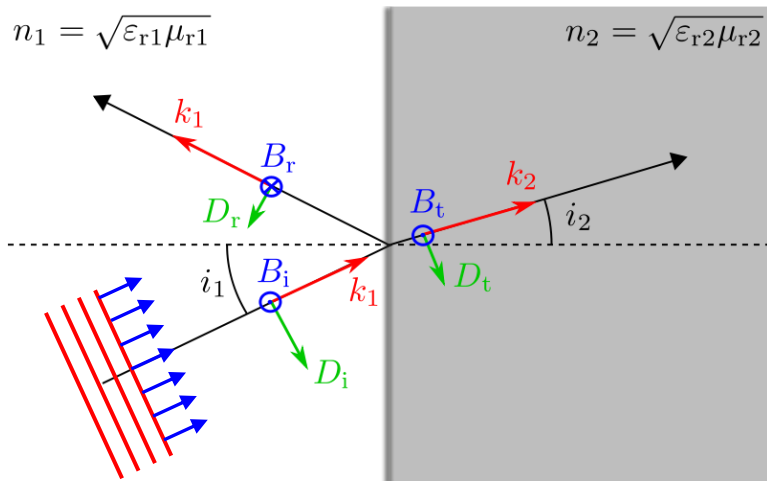


# Wave equations remain indispensable to describe light propagation like Fresnel coefficients

## s-polarization



## p-polarization



Fresnel coefficients  
plane waves, planar interface,

$$r_s = r_{\perp} = \frac{n_1 \cos \theta_i - n_2 \cos \theta_t}{n_1 \cos \theta_i + n_2 \cos \theta_t}$$

$$t_s = t_{\perp} = \frac{2n_1 \cos \theta_i}{n_1 \cos \theta_i + n_2 \cos \theta_t}$$

$$r_p = r_{\parallel} = \frac{n_2 \cos \theta_i - n_1 \cos \theta_t}{n_1 \cos \theta_t + n_2 \cos \theta_i}$$

$$t_p = t_{\parallel} = \frac{2n_1 \cos \theta_i}{n_1 \cos \theta_t + n_2 \cos \theta_i}$$

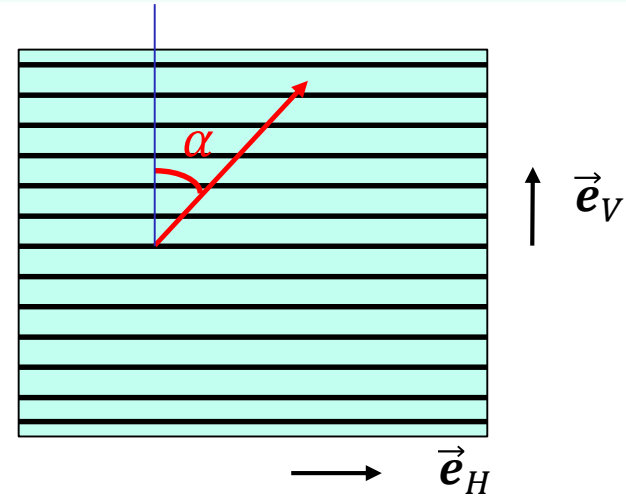
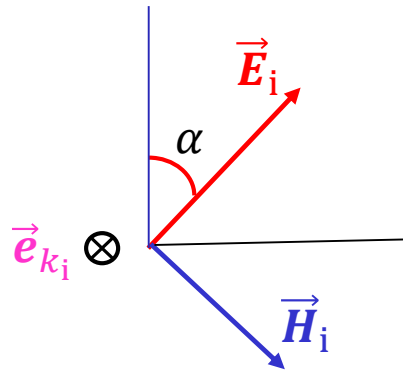
$$n(\omega) = \sqrt{\epsilon_r(\omega)\mu_r(\omega)}$$

# Malus Law : Polarizer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZUw1qJOfIU>

Polarized incident 'plane' wave

$$\vec{\Pi}_i = \frac{1}{2} \text{Re}\{\vec{E}_i^* \times \vec{H}_i\}$$



$$I = I_R + I_T = \kappa_R I + \kappa_T I$$

Energy conservation !

$$\kappa_R + \kappa_T = 1 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} \kappa_T = \cos^2 \alpha \\ \kappa_R = \sin^2 \alpha \end{cases}$$

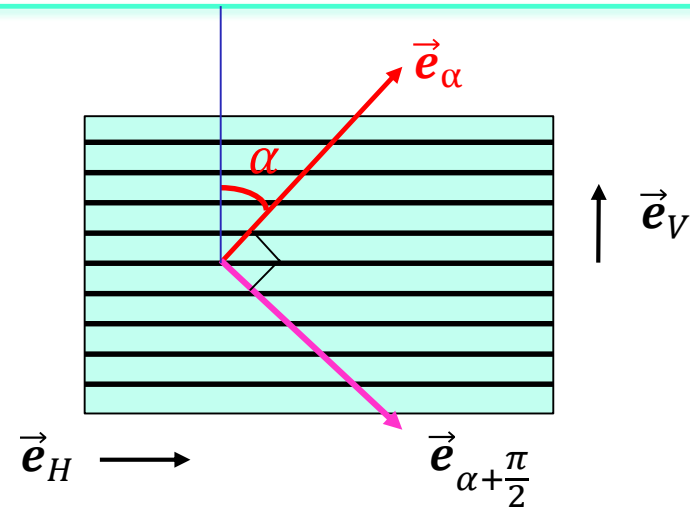
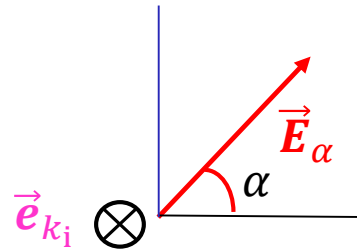
Electric field is a **vector** :

$$\vec{E}_i = \vec{E}_\alpha = \mathcal{E}(\cos \alpha \vec{e}_V + \sin \alpha \vec{e}_H) = \|\vec{E}\| \vec{e}_\alpha = \mathcal{E} \vec{e}_\alpha$$

$$I \propto \|\vec{E}\|^2 = |\mathcal{E}|^2$$

# Basis vectors for electric field polarization

Linearly polarized incident 'plane' wave



$$\vec{e}_\alpha = \cos \alpha \vec{e}_V + \sin \alpha \vec{e}_H$$

$$\vec{E}_\alpha = E \vec{e}_\alpha$$

$$\vec{e}_{\alpha+\frac{\pi}{2}} = \cos\left(\alpha + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \vec{e}_V + \sin\left(\alpha + \frac{\pi}{2}\right) \vec{e}_H$$

$$= -\sin \alpha \vec{e}_V + \cos \alpha \vec{e}_H$$

$$\vec{e}_\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_\alpha = 1$$

$$\vec{e}_{\alpha+\frac{\pi}{2}} \cdot \vec{e}_{\alpha+\frac{\pi}{2}} = 1$$

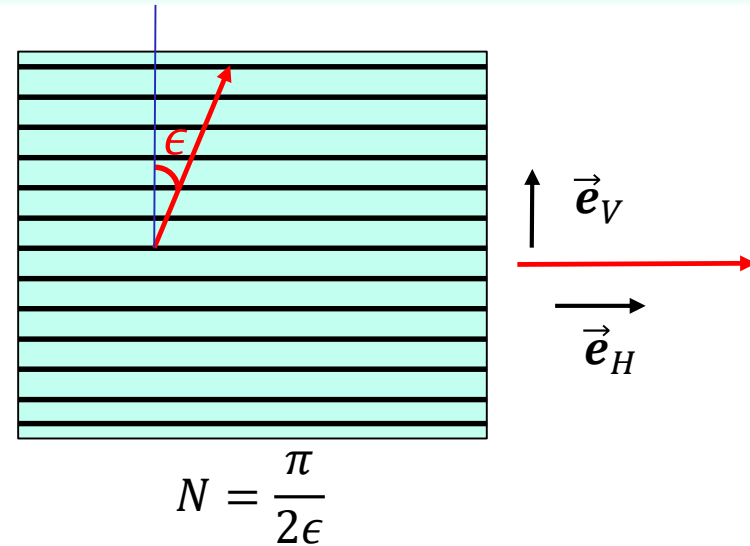
$$\vec{e}_\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_{\alpha+\frac{\pi}{2}} = \vec{e}_{\alpha+\frac{\pi}{2}} \cdot \vec{e}_\alpha = 0$$

# Measurement influences propagation

## Multiple polarizers

Power transmission and reflection coefficients

$$T_1 \equiv \frac{I_T}{I} = \cos^2 \epsilon$$
$$T_1 \equiv \frac{I_T}{I} = \cos^2 \epsilon$$



Polarization  $\vec{e}_V$  to  $\vec{e}_H$

$$T_N = \cos^2 \epsilon \times \cos^2 \epsilon \dots \cos^2 \epsilon$$

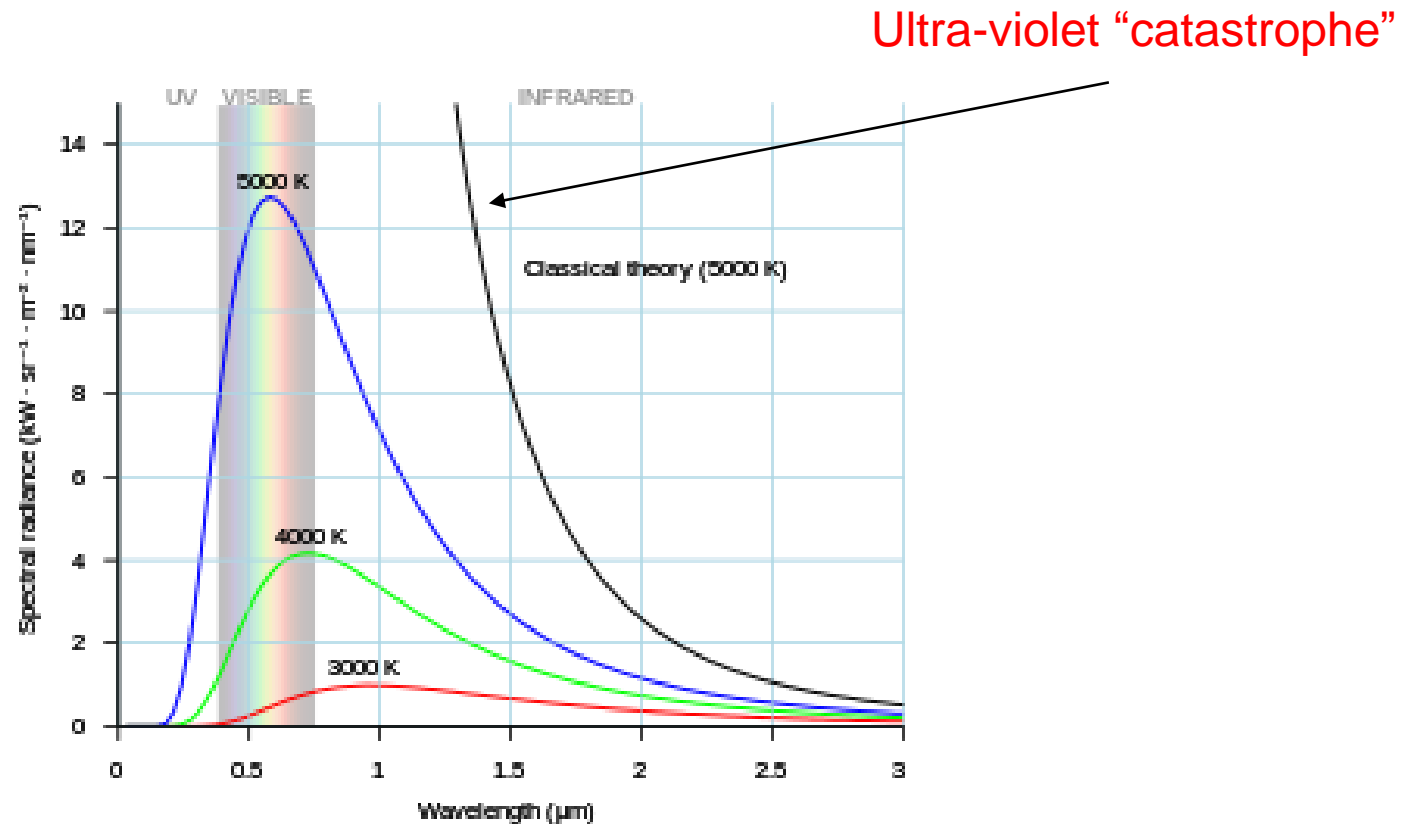
$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} (\cos^2 \epsilon)^N = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} (\cos^2 \epsilon)^{\frac{\pi}{2\epsilon}} \cong \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon^2}{2}\right)^{\frac{\pi}{2\epsilon}} \cong \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \left(1 - \frac{\pi}{2\epsilon} \frac{\epsilon^2}{2}\right) = 1$$



# Quantum theory got started with light!

## Black body radiation Planck (1900)

Thermal radiation states, density of states, and Planck's black-body radiation formula



# Thermal Radiation : $E_{n_\ell} = n_\ell \hbar \omega_\ell$

Thermal Radiation States of a Single Field Mode (incoherent superposition!)

Density matrix of a mode  $\ell$  : 
$$\hat{\rho}_\ell = \sum_{n_\ell=0}^{\infty} p_{n_\ell} |\psi_{n_\ell}\rangle \langle \psi_{n_\ell}| = \sum_{n_\ell=0}^{\infty} p_{n_\ell} |n_\ell\rangle \langle n_\ell|$$

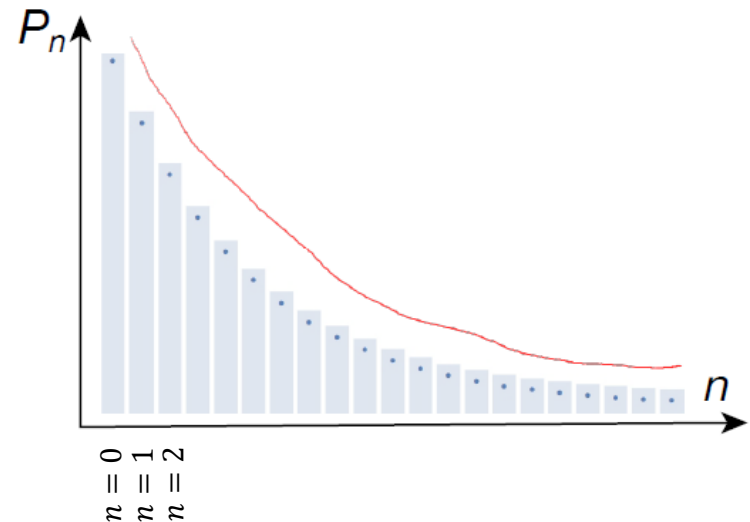
Boltzmann probability distribution 
$$p_{n_\ell, \text{Th}} = \frac{e^{-\frac{E_{n_\ell}}{k_B T}}}{Z_\ell}$$

$Z_\ell$  is chosen such that:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} p_{n_\ell} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-\frac{E_{n_\ell}}{k_B T}}}{Z_\ell} = \frac{1}{Z_\ell} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = 1$$

$x \equiv e^{-\frac{\hbar \omega}{k_B T}}$

$$\Rightarrow Z_\ell = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x} = \frac{1}{1 - e^{-\frac{\hbar \omega}{k_B T}}}$$



# Useful properties of density matrices:

$$\text{Tr}\{\hat{\rho}\} = 1$$

$$\text{Expectation values : } \langle \hat{A} \rangle = \text{tr}\{\hat{\rho}\hat{A}\} = \text{tr}\{\rho A\}$$

$$\text{Time evolution (von Neumann equation) : } i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \hat{\rho} = [\hat{H}, \hat{\rho}]$$

$$\text{Pure states: } \text{tr}\{\rho^2\} = 1 \quad \text{Ex: } \rho = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \quad \rho^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \\ \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{Mixed states } \text{tr}\{\rho^2\} < 1 \quad \text{Ex: } \rho = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix} \quad \rho^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{4} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Average thermal mode occupation

Thermal radiation state of a single electromagnetic mode

Attn! : we drop the mode index  $\ell$

$$\bar{n}_\omega \equiv \langle \hat{n} \rangle = \text{Tr}(\hat{n} \hat{\rho}_{n_\ell, \text{Th}}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n p_n = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n e^{-\frac{E_n}{k_B T}} = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n e^{-\frac{n \hbar \omega}{k_B T}} \quad E_n = n \hbar \omega$$

$$= \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n \left( e^{-\frac{\hbar \omega}{k_B T}} \right)^n = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n x^n \quad x \equiv e^{-\frac{\hbar \omega}{k_B T}}$$

$$Z = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{n \hbar \omega}{k_B T}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \frac{1}{1-x}$$

$$= \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x \frac{d}{dx} x^n = \frac{1}{Z} x \frac{d}{dx} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \frac{1}{Z} x \frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{1-x}$$

$$= \frac{1}{Z} \frac{x}{(1-x)^2} = \frac{x}{1-x} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{x} - 1} = \frac{1}{e^{\frac{\hbar \omega}{k_B T}} - 1}$$

$$\bar{n}_{\omega_\ell} = \frac{1}{e^{\frac{\hbar \omega_\ell}{k_B T}} - 1}$$

# Bose-Einstein distribution (for photons)

$$\bar{n}_\omega = \frac{1}{e^{\hbar\omega/k_B T} - 1}$$

$\bar{n}_\omega$  : average photon number in mode

$$\bar{E}_\omega = \bar{n}_\omega \hbar\omega$$

$\bar{E}_\omega$  : Average photon energy

$\hbar\omega$  : Single photon energy

## Planck radiation formula

$$u(\omega)d\omega = \bar{n}_\omega \hbar\omega \frac{dN}{d\omega} d\omega \frac{1}{V}$$

$u(\omega)d\omega$  : Energy density in the frequency interval  $\{\omega, \omega + d\omega\}$

$\frac{dN}{d\omega} d\omega$  : # of states in the frequency interval  $\{\omega, \omega + d\omega\}$

$V$  volume of the 'box'

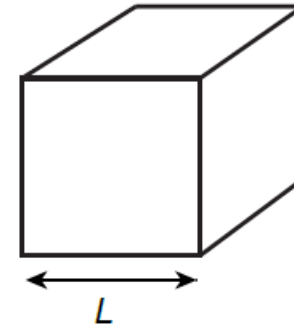
# Density of states in a box : $\frac{dN}{d\omega}$

Discretized radiation modes

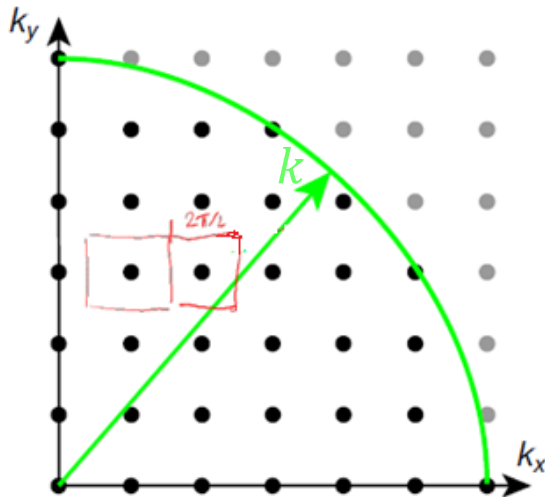
$$k_x = \frac{2\pi}{L} n_x \quad k_y = \frac{2\pi}{L} n_y$$

$$k_z = \frac{2\pi}{L} n_z$$

$$n_i \in -\infty, \dots, -1, 0, 1, 2, \dots, \infty$$



$$V = L^3$$



$$N(k) = 2 \frac{\frac{4\pi}{3} k^3}{\left(\frac{2\pi}{L}\right)^3} = 2 \frac{V}{6\pi^2} k^3$$

2 polarization states per  $k$ -vector

$$dN = \frac{V}{\pi^2} k^2 dk$$

$$dN = \frac{V}{\pi^2 c^3} \omega^2 d\omega$$

$$k = \frac{\omega}{c} \quad dk = \frac{d\omega}{c}$$

$$dN = \frac{V}{\pi^2 c^3} \omega^2 d\omega$$

$$\boxed{\frac{dN}{d\omega} = \frac{V}{\pi^2 c^3} \omega^2}$$

# Planck radiation formula :

$$u(\omega)d\omega = \bar{n}_\omega \hbar\omega \frac{dN}{d\omega} \frac{1}{V} d\omega$$

$$\text{Density of states : } \frac{dN}{d\omega} = \frac{V\omega^2}{\pi^2 c^3}$$

$$\text{Density of states per unit volume : } \frac{dn}{d\omega} \equiv \frac{1}{V} \frac{dN}{d\omega} = \frac{\omega^2}{\pi^2 c^3}$$

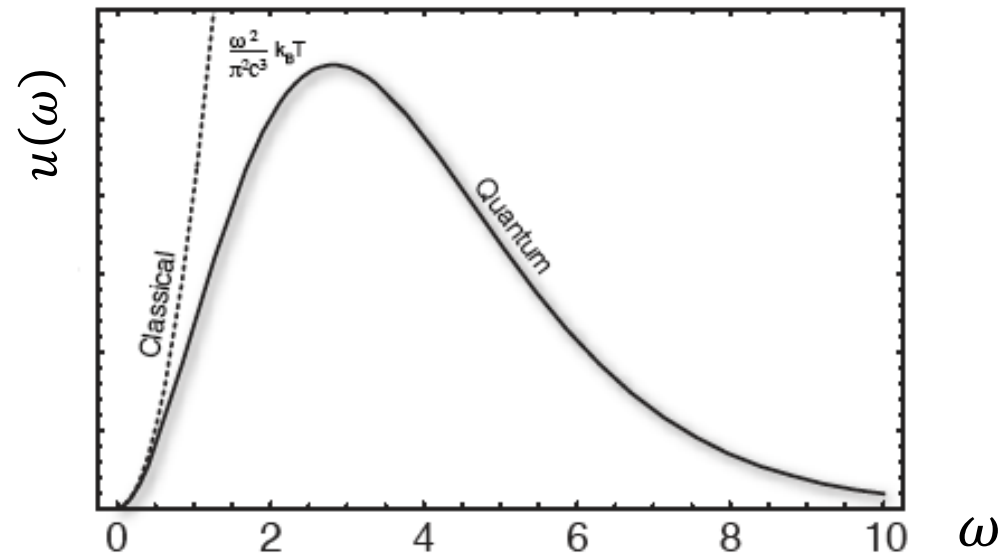
$$u(\omega) = \frac{1}{e^{\hbar\omega/k_B T} - 1} \hbar\omega \frac{\omega^2}{\pi^2 c^3}$$

$$\bar{n}_\omega = \frac{1}{e^{\hbar\omega/k_B T} - 1}$$

$$u(\omega) = \frac{\hbar\omega^3}{\pi^2 c^3} \frac{1}{e^{\hbar\omega/k_B T} - 1}$$

# Planck radiation formula vs classical prediction :

$$u(\omega) = \frac{1}{e^{\hbar\omega/k_B T} - 1} \hbar\omega \frac{\omega^2}{\pi^2 c^3} = \frac{\hbar\omega^3}{\pi^2 c^3} \frac{1}{e^{\hbar\omega/k_B T} - 1}$$



$$\hbar\omega/k_B T \rightarrow 0$$

Classical prediction for the density of states  $u(\omega) \cong \frac{\omega^2}{\pi^2 c^3} k_B T$



# Photon fluctuations in black-body radiation :

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \hat{n}^2 \rangle &= \text{Tr}(\hat{n}^2 \hat{\rho}_{n_\ell, \text{Th}}) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 p_n = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 e^{-\frac{E_n}{k_B T}} = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 x^n \\
 &= \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} n^2 x^n = \frac{1}{Z} x \frac{d}{dx} x \frac{d}{dx} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} x^n = \frac{1}{Z} x \frac{d}{dx} x \frac{d}{dx} \frac{1}{1-x} \\
 &= \frac{1}{Z} x \frac{d}{dx} x (1-x)^{-2} = \frac{1}{Z} [x(1-x)^{-2} + 2x^2(1-x)^{-3}] \\
 &= x(1-x)^{-1} + 2x^2(1-x)^{-2} \\
 &= \frac{1}{\frac{1}{x} - 1} + \frac{2}{\left(\frac{1}{x} - 1\right)^2} = \langle \hat{n} \rangle + 2\langle \hat{n} \rangle^2 \quad x \equiv e^{-\frac{\hbar\omega}{k_B T}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\langle \hat{n}^2 \rangle = \langle \hat{n} \rangle + 2\langle \hat{n} \rangle^2 = \bar{n}_\omega + 2\bar{n}_\omega^2$$

# Photon fluctuations in black-body radiation :

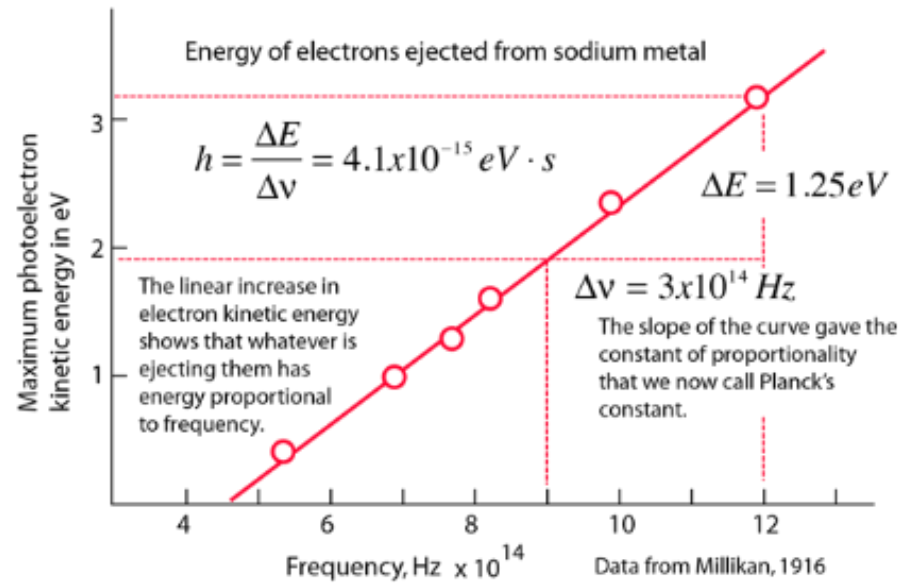
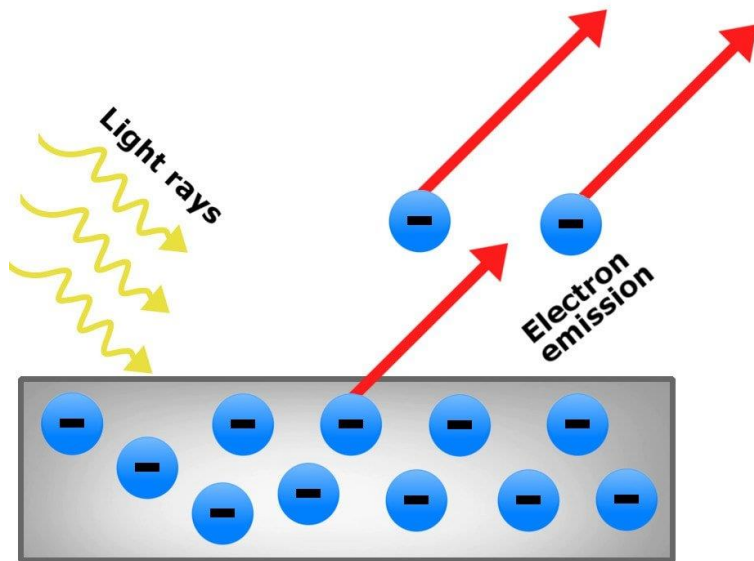
$$(\Delta n)^2 = \langle \hat{n}^2 \rangle - \langle \hat{n} \rangle^2 = \bar{n}_\omega + \bar{n}_\omega^2$$

Particle like fluctuations

'Wave like' fluctuations

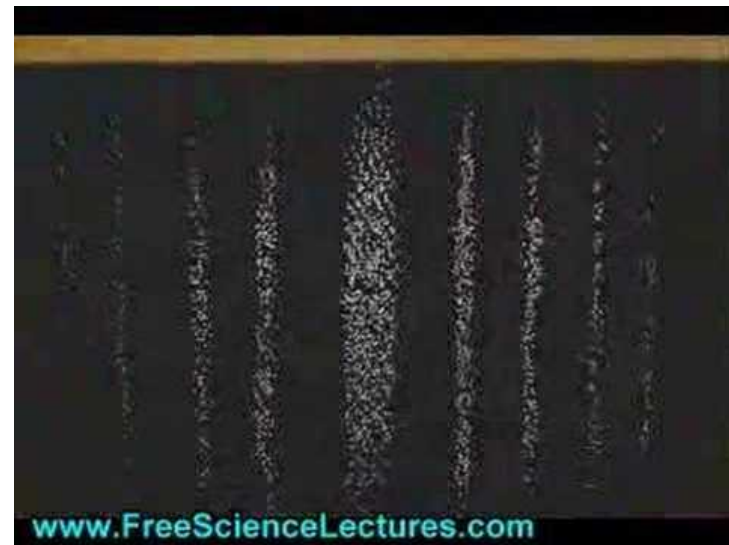
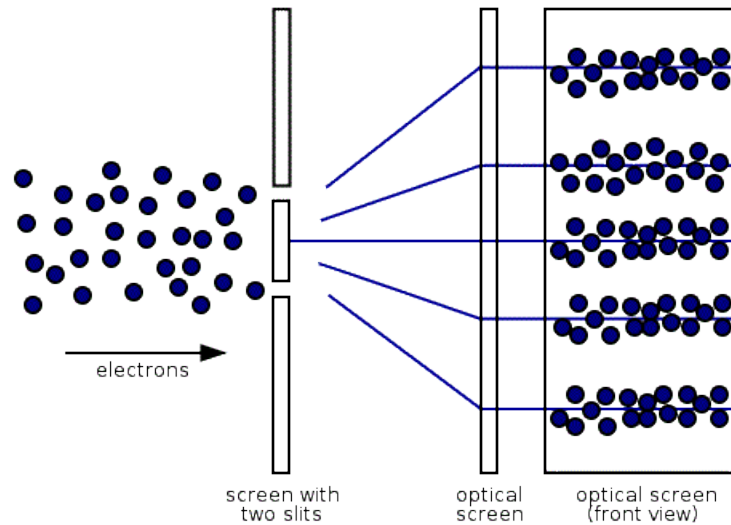
# Light became a particle ? “Lichtquanta”

## Photo-electric Effect (Einstein 1905)



# Quantum mechanics ?

## Particles or waves

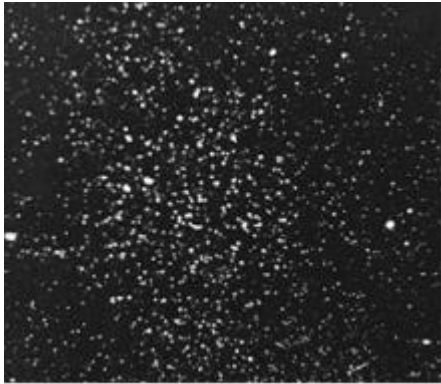


Quantum mechanics played a key role in the technological developments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century

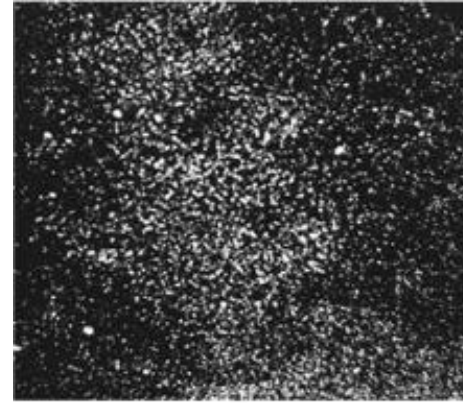
# But do photons truly exist ?

(The semi-classical picture of light can explain blackbody radiation, photo-electric effect, stimulated emission (lasers), ultra-fast photography, ...)

$3 \times 10^3$  photons



$1.2 \times 10^4$  photons



$9.3 \times 10^4$  photons



$2.8 \times 10^7$  photons

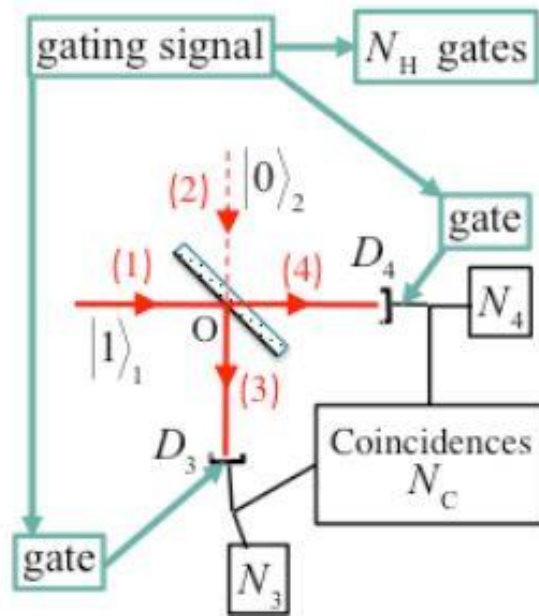


Since the 1980's we know that light obeys quantum mechanical laws!

## 1-photon sources

(Wave particle duality, entanglement, Bell inequalities, quantum cryptography,...)

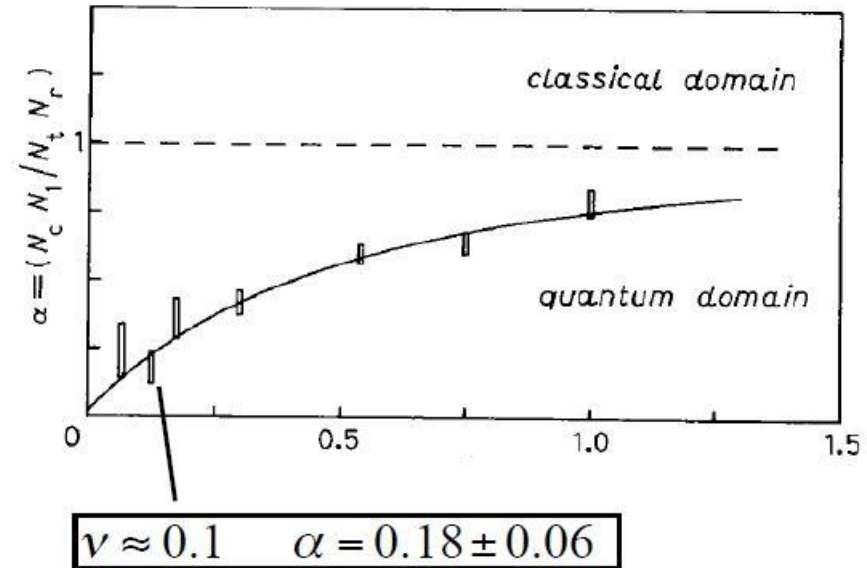
True 'Quantum Optics' often requires 1-photon (2-photon) sources, and low temperatures !



P. Grangier G. Roger and A. Aspect

EUROPHYSICS LETTERS

*Europhys. Lett.*, 1 (4), pp. 173-179 (1986)



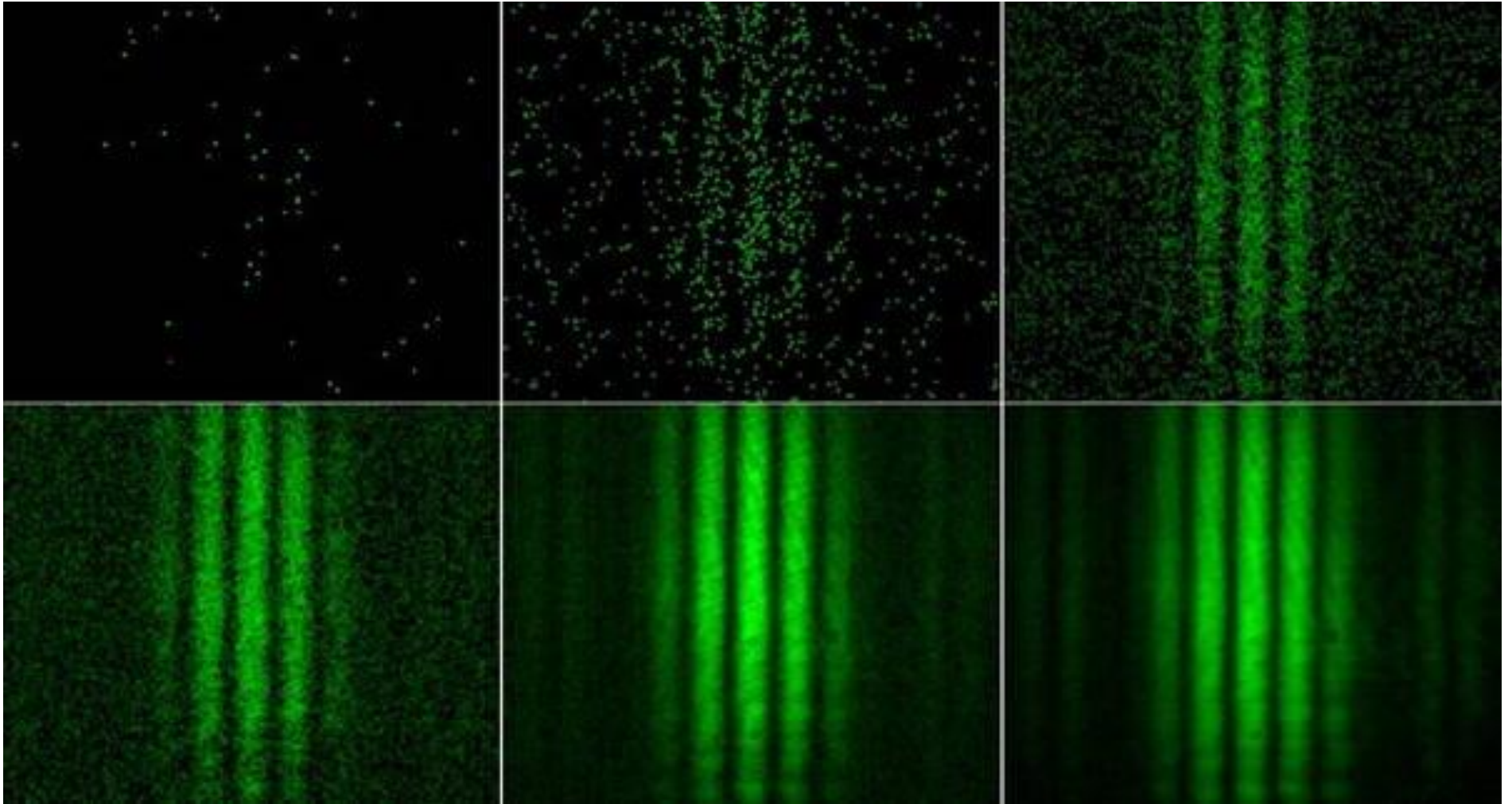
Is this the **second** quantum revolution?

French version : [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_kGqkxQo-Tw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_kGqkxQo-Tw)

English version : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSXpeDgqUO4>

Alain Aspect : <https://www.coursera.org/learn/quantum-optics-single-photon>

# Interference patterns exist even with true 1-photon wave-packets



# Fundamental postulate of quantum mechanics

$$|\psi\rangle = c_1|\psi_1\rangle + c_2|\psi_2\rangle + c_3|\psi_3\rangle + \dots = \sum_n c_n |\psi_n\rangle$$

$$\langle\psi| = c_1^*\langle\psi_1| + c_2^*\langle\psi_2| + c_3^*\langle\psi_3| + \dots = \sum_n c_n^* \langle\psi_n|$$

$c_n$  are **complex-valued** coefficients

$$\langle\psi_m|\psi_n\rangle = \delta_{n,m}$$

$$\langle\psi|\psi\rangle = 1 \quad \longrightarrow$$

$$\sum_{n=0} |c_n|^2 = 1$$

A nice Youtube video explaining quantum mechanics in the framework of light polarization

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZUw1qJOfIU>



# Describing 1 photon

Dirac 'bra' - 'ket' notation  $\langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle = \langle \psi_2 | \psi_1 \rangle^*$

In quantum physics states of a system are described by superpositions of abstract 'vectors':  $|\psi\rangle$

'Kets' :

$$\vec{e}_V \rightarrow |V\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \vec{e}_H \rightarrow |H\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

'Bras' :

$$\langle H| = (0,1) \quad \langle V| = (1,0)$$

$$\vec{e}_H \cdot \vec{e}_H = 1 \rightarrow \langle H|H\rangle = (0,1) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = 1$$

$$\vec{e}_V \cdot \vec{e}_V = 1 \rightarrow \langle V|V\rangle = (1,0) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 1$$

$$\vec{e}_\alpha \cdot \vec{e}_{\alpha+\frac{\pi}{2}} = \vec{e}_{\alpha+\frac{\pi}{2}} \cdot \vec{e}_\alpha = 0 \rightarrow \langle V|H\rangle = (1,0) \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \langle H|V\rangle = (0,1) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

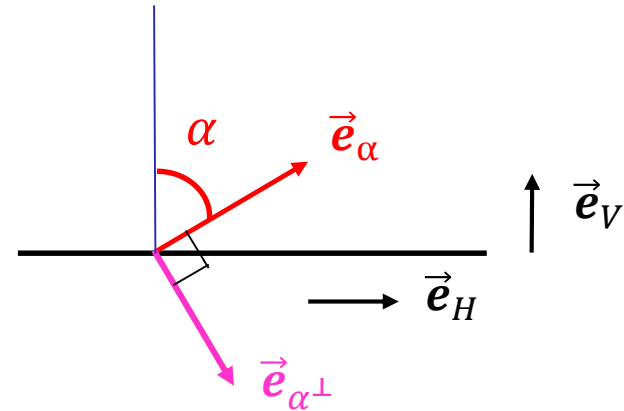
Complete basis of a 2-state system :

$$|V\rangle\langle V| + |H\rangle\langle H| = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} (1,0) + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} (0,1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbb{I}$$

# Alternative basis sets for describing 1 photon states

$$|\alpha\rangle = \cos\alpha|V\rangle + \sin\alpha|H\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\alpha \\ \sin\alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|\alpha^\perp\rangle = \left|\alpha + \frac{\pi}{2}\right\rangle = -\sin\alpha|V\rangle + \cos\alpha|H\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} -\sin\alpha \\ \cos\alpha \end{pmatrix}$$



## Alternative basis sets

$$\langle\alpha|\alpha\rangle = (\cos\alpha, \sin\alpha) \begin{pmatrix} \cos\alpha \\ \sin\alpha \end{pmatrix} = \cos^2\alpha + \sin^2\alpha = 1$$

$$\langle\alpha^\perp|\alpha^\perp\rangle = \left\langle\alpha + \frac{\pi}{2}\left|\alpha + \frac{\pi}{2}\right.\right\rangle = 1$$

$$\langle\alpha|\alpha^\perp\rangle = (\cos\alpha, \sin\alpha) \begin{pmatrix} -\sin\alpha \\ \cos\alpha \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

$$\langle\alpha^\perp|\alpha\rangle = (-\sin\alpha, \cos\alpha) \begin{pmatrix} -\sin\alpha \\ \cos\alpha \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

Complete basis of a 2-state system :

$$|\alpha\rangle\langle\alpha| + |\alpha^\perp\rangle\langle\alpha^\perp| = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\alpha \\ \sin\alpha \end{pmatrix} (\cos\alpha, \sin\alpha) + \begin{pmatrix} -\sin\alpha \\ \cos\alpha \end{pmatrix} (-\sin\alpha, \cos\alpha) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbb{I}$$

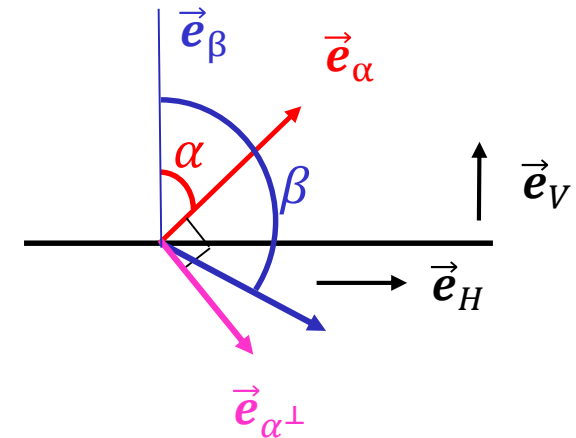
# Born's rule for single particle wave functions

$$P(\text{finding } \psi_1 \text{ given state } \psi_2) = |\langle \psi_1 | \psi_2 \rangle|^2$$

$$|\alpha\rangle = \cos \alpha |V\rangle + \sin \alpha |H\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \alpha \\ \sin \alpha \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P(\text{finding } V \text{ given state } \alpha) = |\langle V | \alpha \rangle|^2 = \cos^2 \alpha$$

$$P(\text{finding } H \text{ given state } \alpha) = |\langle H | \alpha \rangle|^2 = \sin^2 \alpha$$



$$|\beta\rangle = \cos \beta |V\rangle + \sin \beta |H\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \beta \\ \sin \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$P(\alpha|\beta) = |\langle \alpha | \beta \rangle|^2 = \left| (\cos \alpha, \sin \alpha) \begin{pmatrix} \cos \beta \\ \sin \beta \end{pmatrix} \right|^2 = |\cos \alpha \cos \beta + \sin \alpha \sin \beta|^2 = \cos^2(\beta - \alpha)$$

$$P(\alpha^\perp|\beta) = |\langle \alpha^\perp | \beta \rangle|^2 = \left| (-\sin \alpha, \cos \alpha) \begin{pmatrix} \cos \beta \\ \sin \beta \end{pmatrix} \right|^2 = |-\sin \alpha \cos \beta + \cos \alpha \sin \beta|^2 = \sin^2(\beta - \alpha)$$

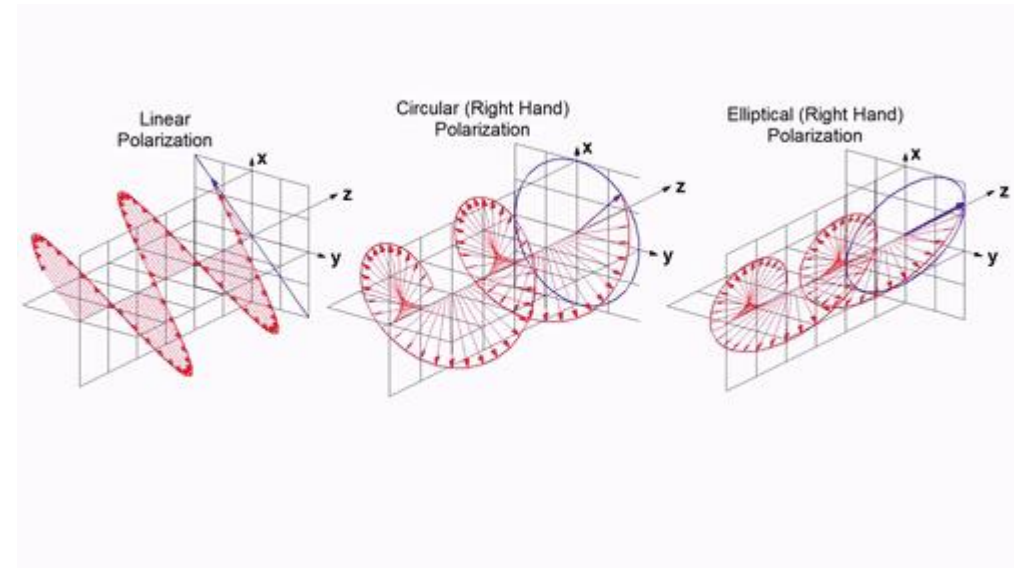
# Superposition with complex coefficients (circular/elliptical polarization)

$$|+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|V\rangle + i|H\rangle) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|V\rangle - i|H\rangle) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\langle +| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\langle V| - i\langle H|) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, -i)$$

$$\langle -| = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\langle V| + i\langle H|) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, i)$$



Complete basis of a 2-state system :

$$|+\rangle\langle +| + |-\rangle\langle -| = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ i \end{pmatrix} (1, -i) + \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -i \end{pmatrix} (1, i) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \mathbb{I}$$

## Two-particle system (Tensor product)

**Tensor product :**  $|V\rangle \otimes |V\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ 0 \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \equiv |VV\rangle$

$$|V\rangle \otimes |H\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \\ 0 \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad |H\rangle \otimes |V\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad |H\rangle \otimes |H\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

**Arbitrary two-particle state vector :**  $|\psi\rangle = a|VV\rangle + b|VH\rangle + c|HV\rangle + d|HH\rangle$

**Normalization :**  $\langle\psi|\psi\rangle = 1 \Rightarrow |a|^2 + |b|^2 + |c|^2 + |d|^2 = 1$

# Product states and Entangled states

**Product state :**  $|\Psi_2\rangle = a|HH\rangle + b|HV\rangle = |H\rangle(C_\alpha|H\rangle + S_\alpha|V\rangle) = |H\rangle|\alpha\rangle$

$$C_\alpha = \cos \alpha , S_\alpha = \sin \alpha ,$$

**Entangled state :**  $|\Phi^+\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|HH\rangle + |VV\rangle)$

**Prove that  $|\Phi^+\rangle$  an Entangled state:**

$$\begin{aligned} |\Phi^+\rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|HH\rangle + |VV\rangle) \stackrel{?}{=} (C_\alpha|H\rangle + S_\alpha|V\rangle) (C_\beta|H\rangle + S_\beta|V\rangle) \\ &= C_\alpha C_\beta |HH\rangle + C_\alpha S_\beta |HV\rangle + S_\alpha C_\beta |VH\rangle + S_\alpha S_\beta |VV\rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$C_\alpha C_\beta = S_\alpha S_\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$C_\alpha S_\beta = S_\alpha C_\beta = 0$$

# Entangled ? Not entangled ? Normalized ?

---

$$|\Psi_1\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|HH\rangle + |HV\rangle + |VH\rangle + |VV\rangle)$$

$$|\Psi_2\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|HH\rangle + |HV\rangle + |VH\rangle - |VV\rangle)$$

$$|\Psi_4\rangle = \cos \theta |HH\rangle + \sin \theta |VV\rangle$$

$$|\Psi_3\rangle = \frac{1}{2}|HH\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{2}}(|VH\rangle + |VV\rangle)$$

# Entangled ? Not entangled ? Normalized ?

## Solution

$$|\Psi_1\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|HH\rangle + |HV\rangle + |VH\rangle + |VV\rangle) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|H\rangle + |V\rangle) \otimes \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|H\rangle + |V\rangle) \text{ not entangled}$$

$$|\Psi_2\rangle = \frac{1}{2}(|HH\rangle + |HV\rangle + |VH\rangle - |VV\rangle) \text{ entangled}$$

$$|\Psi_3\rangle = \frac{1}{2}|HH\rangle + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2\sqrt{2}}(|VH\rangle + |VV\rangle) \text{ entangled}$$

$$|\Psi_4\rangle = \cos \theta |HH\rangle + \sin \theta |VV\rangle, \text{ entangled except when } \theta = 0, \frac{\pi}{2}, \pi,$$

$$\langle \Psi_1 | \Psi_1 \rangle = \langle \Psi_2 | \Psi_2 \rangle = \langle \Psi_3 | \Psi_3 \rangle = \langle \Psi_4 | \Psi_4 \rangle = 1$$



# Entanglement doesn't depend on the basis

---

Show

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\alpha\alpha\rangle + |\alpha^\perp\alpha^\perp\rangle) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|HH\rangle + |VV\rangle)$$

# Entanglement doesn't depend on the basis

Show

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\alpha\alpha\rangle + |\alpha^\perp\alpha^\perp\rangle) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|HH\rangle + |VV\rangle)$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\alpha\alpha\rangle + |\alpha^\perp\alpha^\perp\rangle) = \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(C|H\rangle + S|V\rangle) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(C|H\rangle + S|V\rangle) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(S|H\rangle - C|V\rangle) \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(S|H\rangle - C|V\rangle) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\alpha\alpha\rangle + |\alpha^\perp\alpha^\perp\rangle) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[(C^2 + S^2)|HH\rangle + (CS - SC)|HV\rangle + (SC - CS)|VH\rangle + (S^2 + C^2)|VV\rangle] \\ &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}[|HH\rangle + |VV\rangle] \end{aligned}$$

# Bell states of maximal entanglement

---

$$|\Phi^\pm\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|00\rangle \pm |11\rangle)$$

$$|\Psi^\pm\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|01\rangle \pm |10\rangle)$$

For a Bell state (of a 2-particle system), knowledge of the state of 1 particle perfectly determines the state of the other

Subject of the 2022 Nobel Prize in physics, basis for the most popular form of quantum cryptography.