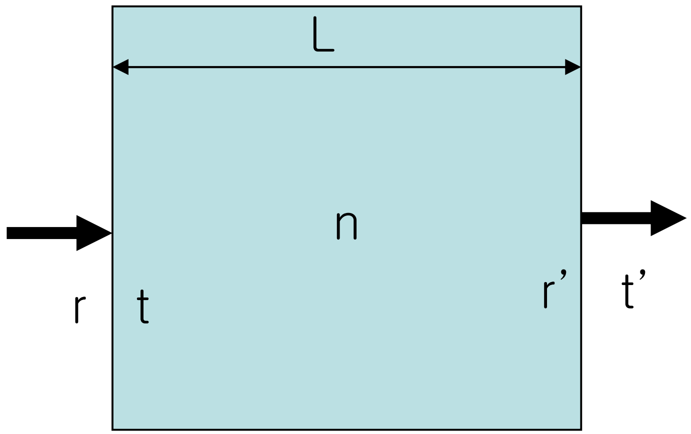
Lect. 10: Interferometers



$$T = \frac{I_{out}}{I_{in}} = \frac{(1-R)^2}{(1-R)^2 + 4R\sin^2(kL)} \quad (R = r'^2)$$

Fabry-Perot Interferometer

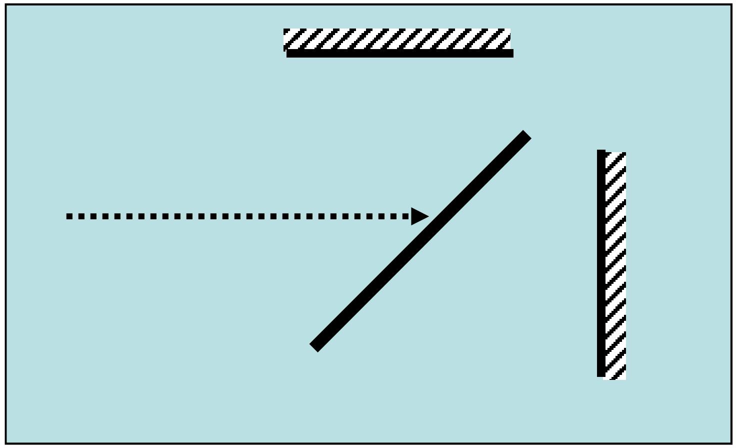
Charles Fabry
(1867-1945)

Alfred Perot
(1863-1925)

FP Interferometer can be also realized with two parallel partially reflecting mirrors

Lect. 10: Interferometers

Michelson Interferometer

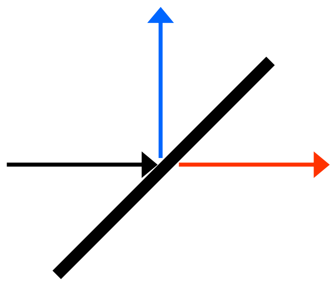


Two mirrors and one beam splitter

Albert Michelson
(1852~1931)
Nobel Prize in Physics in 1907

Beam Splitter:

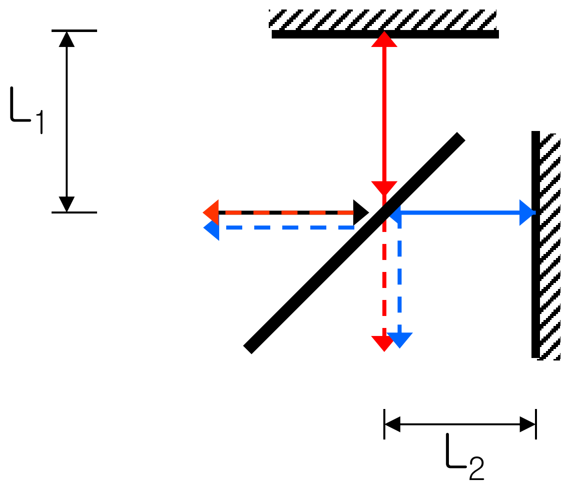
Parallel partially reflecting mirror



$$R = \frac{1}{2}, \quad T = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$r = ?, \quad t = ?$$

Michelson Interferometer:



Four outputs:

Side
1: r r
2: t t

Bottom
1: r t
2: t r

Assuming $E_{in} = 1$,

$$E_{out,\,side} = re^{-jkl_1}(-1)e^{-jkl_1}r + te^{-jkl_2}(-1)e^{-jkl_2}t = -r^2e^{-j2kl_1} - t^2e^{-j2kl_2}$$

$$E_{out,\,bottom} = re^{-jkl_1}(-1)e^{-jkl_1}t + te^{-jkl_2}(-1)e^{-jkl_2}r = -rte^{-j2kl_1} - rte^{-j2kl_2}$$

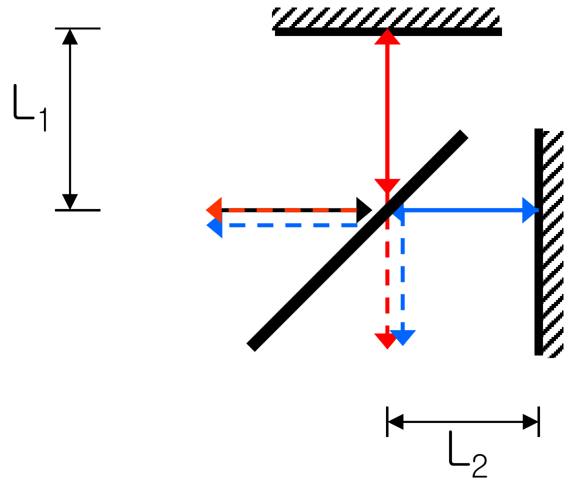
Lect. 10: Interferometers

With $r = t = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$,

$$E_{out,\,side} = -r^2 e^{-j2kl_1} - t^2 e^{-j2kl_2}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}\left(e^{-j2kl_1} + e^{-j2kl_2}\right) = -\frac{1}{2} e^{-jk(l_1+l_2)}\left(\mathrm{e}^{-jk(l_1-l_2)} + \mathrm{e}^{jk(l_1-l_2)}\right)$$

$$I_{out,\,side} = \left|E_{out,\,side}\right|^2 = \cos^2[k(l_1 - l_2)]$$



$$E_{out,\,bottom} = -rte^{-j2kl_1} - rte^{-j2kl_2}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}\left(e^{-j2kl_1} + e^{-j2kl_2}\right)$$

$$I_{out,\,bottom} = \left|E_{out,\,bottom}\right|^2 = \cos^2[k(l_1 - l_2)]$$

Against energy conservation!

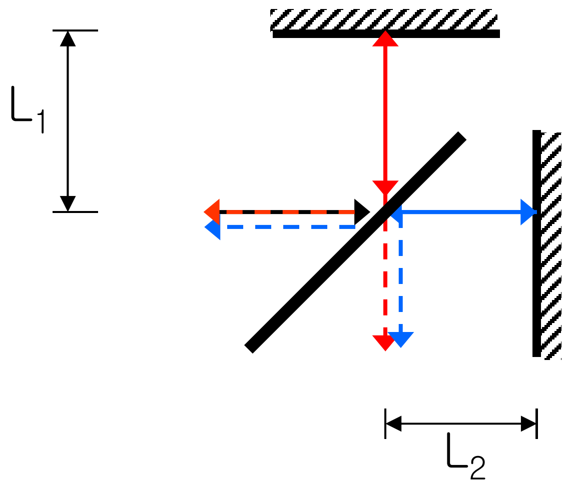
With $r = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$, $t = j\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

(r and t should have $\pi/2$ phase difference in order to satisfy energy conservation)

$$E_{out,\,side} = -r^2 e^{-j2kl_1} - t^2 e^{-j2kl_2}$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2}\left(e^{-j2kl_1} - e^{-j2kl_2}\right) = -\frac{1}{2}e^{-jk(l_1+l_2)}\left(\mathrm{e}^{-jk(l_1-l_2)} - \mathrm{e}^{jk(l_1-l_2)}\right)$$

$$I_{out,\,side} = \left|E_{out,\,side}\right|^2 = \sin^2[k(l_1 - l_2)]$$



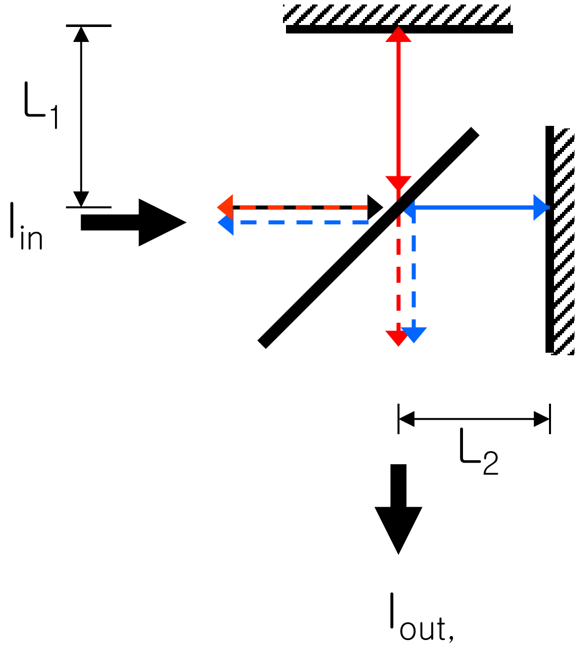
$$E_{out,\,bottom} = -rte^{-j2kl_1} - rte^{-j2kl_2}$$

$$= -\frac{j}{2}\left(e^{-j2kl_1} + e^{-j2kl_2}\right)$$

$$I_{out,\,bottom} = \left|E_{out,\,bottom}\right|^2 = \cos^2[k(l_1 - l_2)]$$

Lect. 10: Interferometers

Michelson Interferometer:



$$\frac{I_{out,bottom}}{I_{in}} = \cos^2[k(l_1 - l_2)]$$

$k(l_1 - l_2)$ can be measured very precisely

➔ Wavelength measurement

Michelson-Morley experiment:

Speed of light is always the same

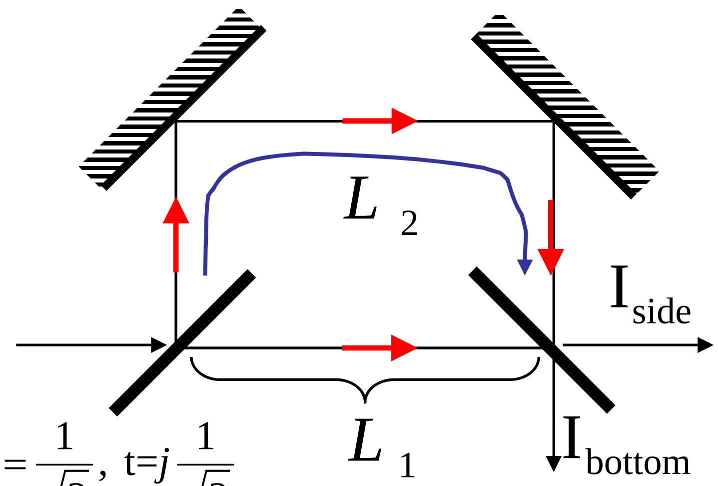
➔ Einstein's special relativity

Recently, used for detecting gravitational waves

LIGO : Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory

Lect. 10: Interferometers

Mach-Zehnder Interferometer:



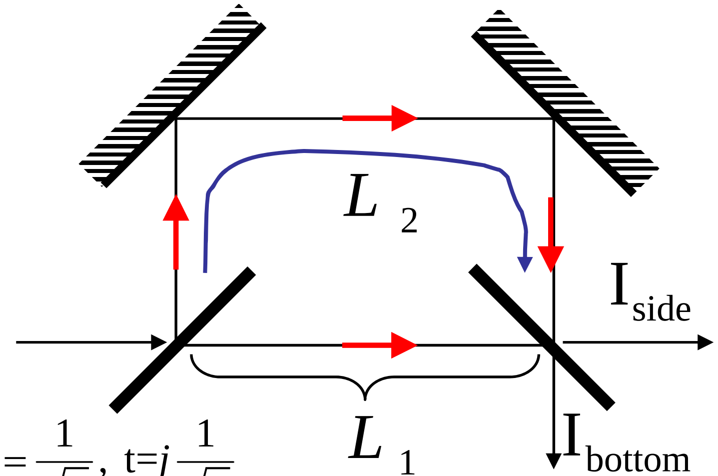
$r = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$, $t = j\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

Ludwig Mach (1879~1951):
Austrian, Son of Ernst Mach

Ludwig Zehnder (1854~1949):
Swiss, Student of Röntgen

Lect. 10: Interferometers

Mach-Zehnder Interferometer:



$r = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$, t=$j\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$

Assuming $E_{in} = 1$,

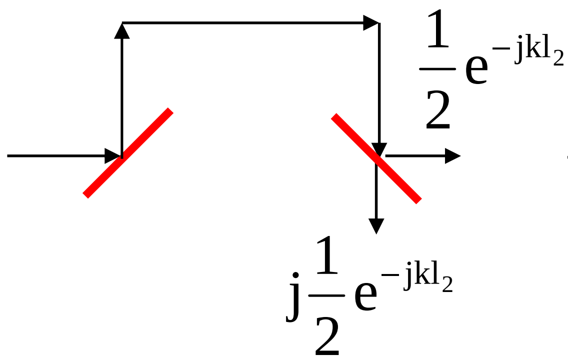
$$E_{out,\,side} = \frac{1}{2}\left(e^{-jkl_2} - e^{-jkl_1}\right) = \frac{1}{2}e^{-jk\frac{l_2+l_1}{2}}\left(e^{-jk\frac{l_2-l_1}{2}} - e^{jk\frac{l_2-l_1}{2}}\right)$$

$$I_{out,\,side} = \sin^2\left(k\frac{l_1-l_2}{2}\right)$$

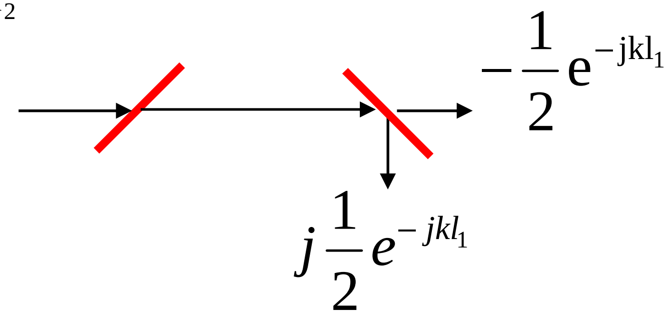
$$E_{out,\,bottom} = \frac{j}{2}\left(e^{-jkl_1} + e^{-jkl_2}\right) = \frac{j}{2}e^{-jk\frac{l_1+l_2}{2}}\left(e^{-jk\frac{l_1-l_2}{2}} + e^{jk\frac{l_1-l_2}{2}}\right)$$

$$I_{out,\,bottom} = \cos^2\left(k\frac{l_1-l_2}{2}\right)$$

Case#1



Case#2



Lect. 10: Interferometers

Can any EM wave cause interference?

➔ Only EM waves having clear phase relationship experience interference: coherent

How large ($l_1 - l_2$) can be?

➔ As long as two separated waves are coherent or within coherent length
Separated waves become incoherent due to intrinsic phase noises