

Your comments/questions/jokes

- Did you do anything exciting during summer so far?
 - Started teaching PHYS 214

From last semester:

- Why don't we normally detect destructive interference in everyday life?
 - Most of the time, separated wave sources are not *coherent*, so no interference.
- Calculating frequency? It's so easy it Hertz

Some announcements

- We set up the iClicker system to allow you to use the smartphone app.
- There is only one day on which each exam can be taken. The first exam is on Thursday, June 23, and it covers units 1-4 inclusive. Sign up on the CBTF scheduler!
- Can you see each other's responses to the checkpoint? ("student log")

no

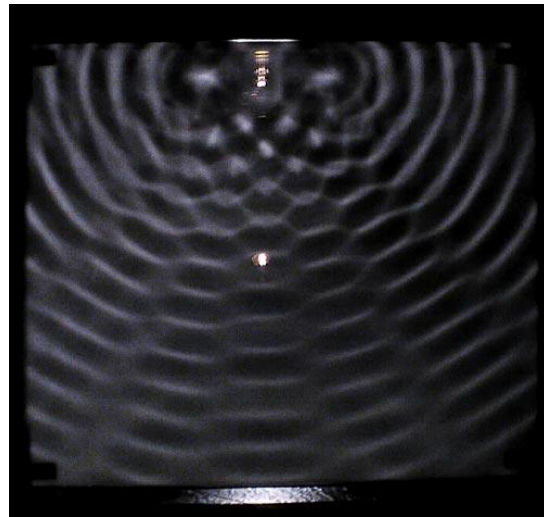
Lecture 2: Interference



Whoa

Today

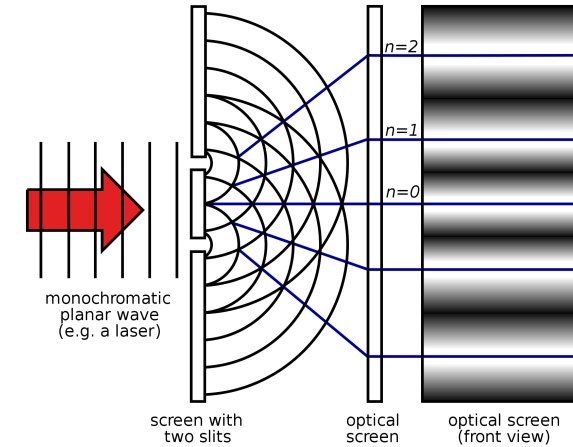
Interference between two *coherent* wave-generating sources



Waves in water



Sound from two speakers

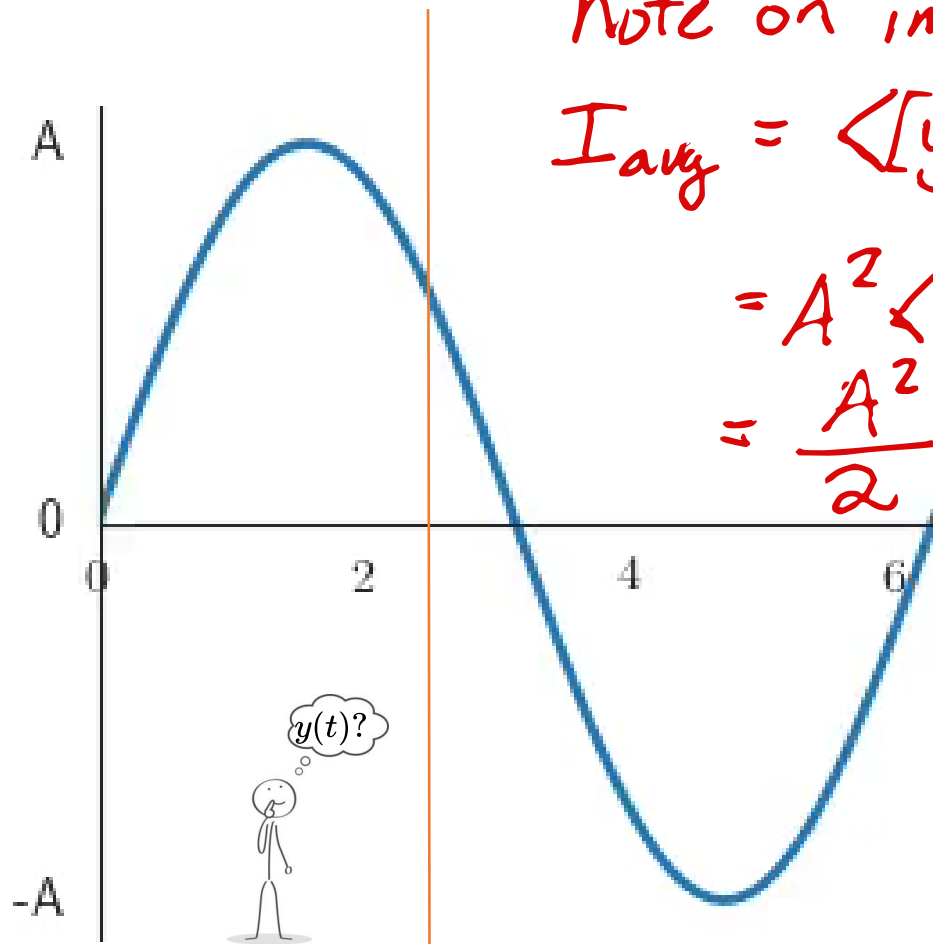


Light traveling through two slits

Two perfectly *coherent* sources have exactly the same phase relationship at all times, e.g. two sinusoidal sources synchronized at the same frequency

"coherent" does not imply "in phase"
but "in phase" implies "coherent"

Phasors are graphical tools that represent sinusoidally oscillating quantities

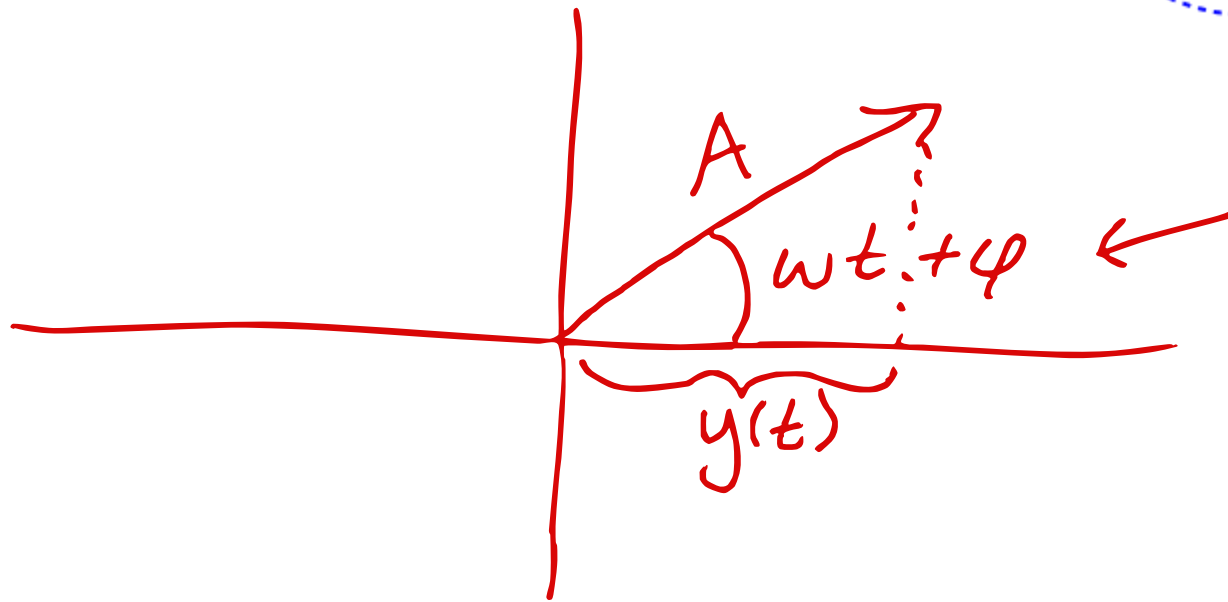
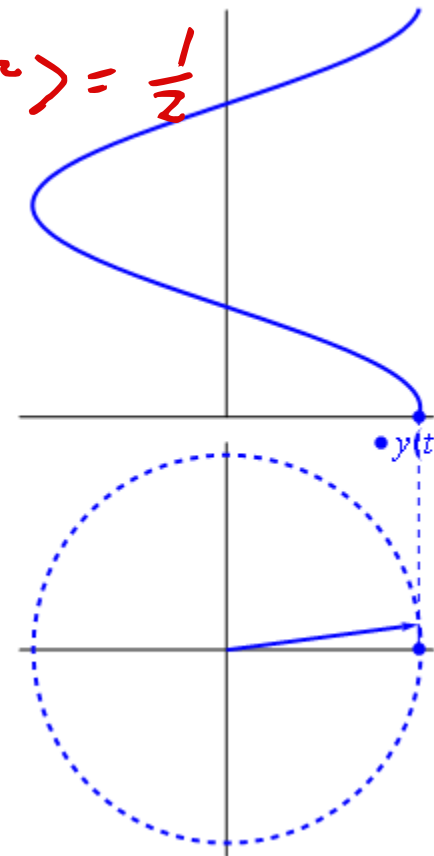


Note on intensity:
 $I_{avg} = \langle [y(t)]^2 \rangle$

$$= A^2 \langle \cos^2 \rangle$$
$$= \frac{A^2}{2}$$

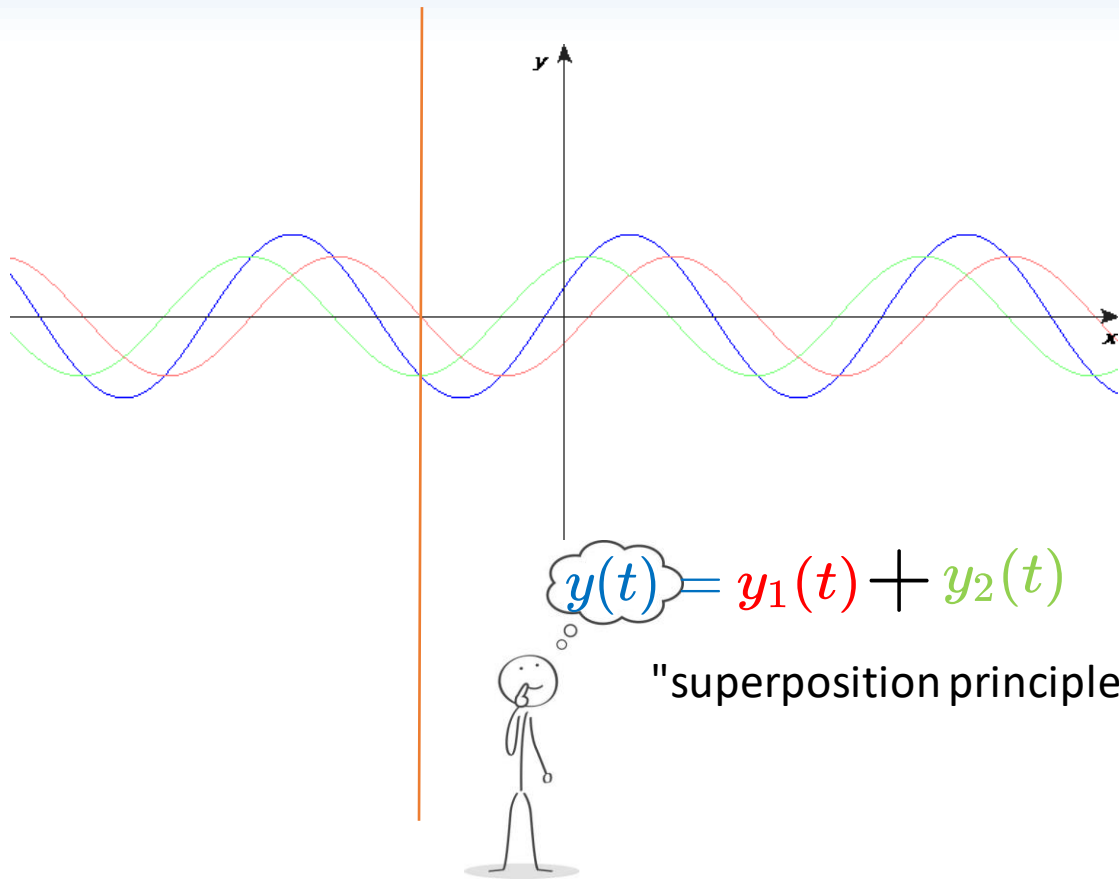
brackets mean "time average"
 $y(t) = A \cos(\omega t + \varphi)$

$$\langle \cos^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2}$$



as t increases,
phasor rotates
CCW

Adding harmonic waves is easier with phasors



$$y_1(t) = A_1 \cos(\omega t + \varphi_1)$$

$$y_2(t) = A_2 \cos(\omega t + \varphi_2)$$

What is the intensity experienced by the observer?

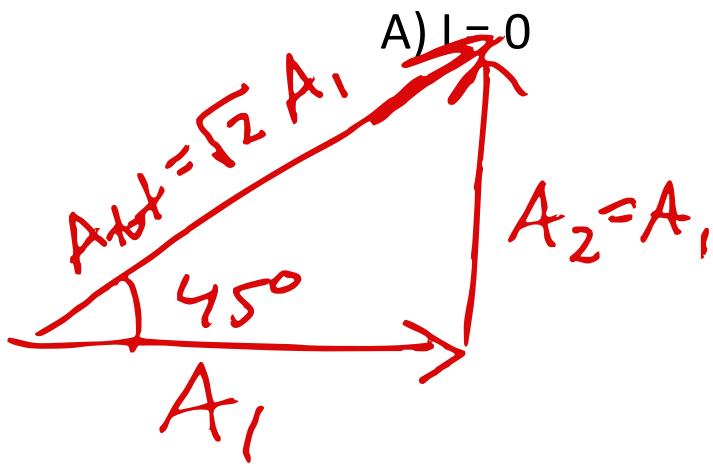
1. Draw and label the phasor diagram
2. Add the phasors like vectors
3. Find the length of the resultant
4. Take the square: $I = \frac{A^2}{2}$

If $A_1 = A_2$, what is the intensity at a point where $\varphi_1 = 0$ and $\varphi_2 = \pi/2$?

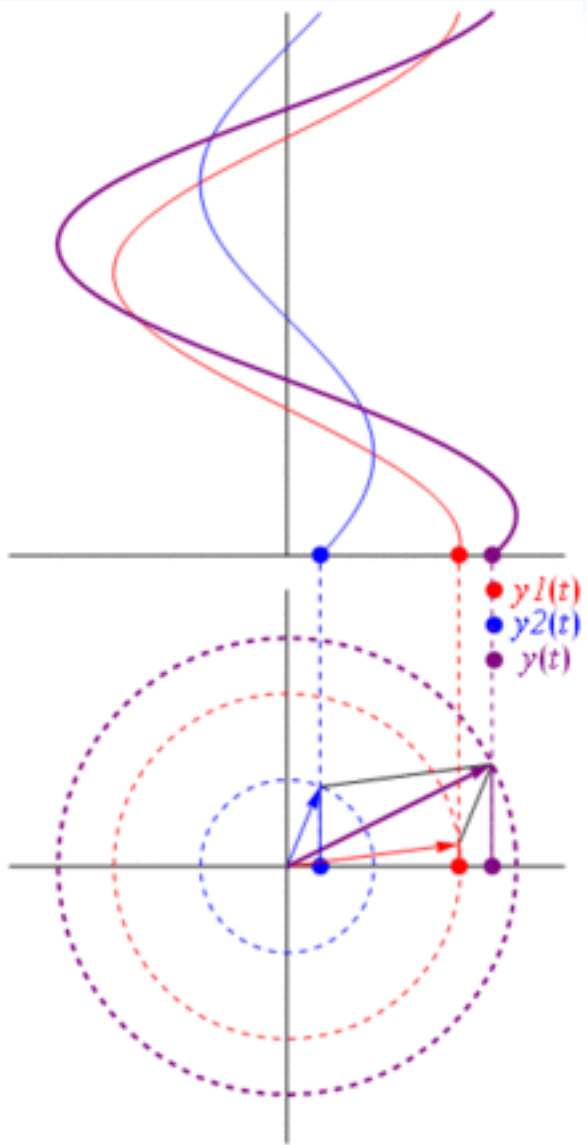
A) $I = 0$

B) $I = 2(A_1)^2$

C) $I = (A_1)^2$

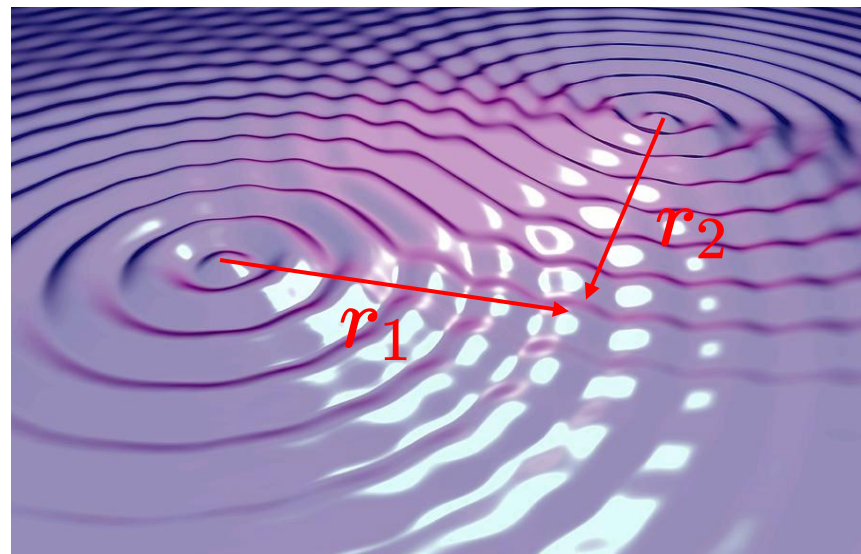
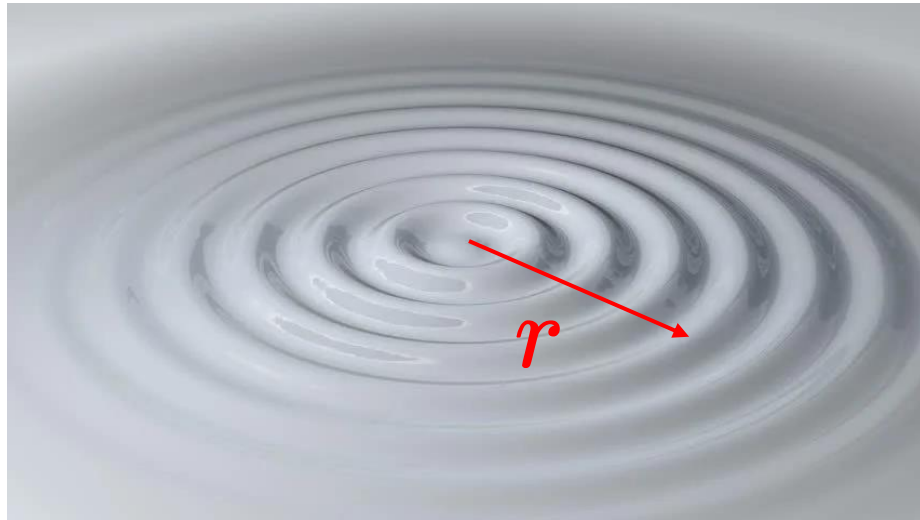


$$I = \frac{A_{tot}^2}{2} = \frac{2 A_1^2}{2}$$



$y(t)$ has same ω
 as y_1 and y_2 ,
 but typically different
 phase offset.

Circular waves, two-source interference setup



$$y = A \cos(kr - \omega t + \phi)$$

Amplitude decreases with r (why must it?)

but we ignore that

energy conservation

*energy spreads out as waves
move away, so intensity must be
lower*

$$y_1 = A_1 \cos(kr_1 - \omega t + \phi_1) \text{ at } \text{larger } r$$

$$y_2 = A_2 \cos(kr_2 - \omega t + \phi_2) \text{ at } \text{larger } r$$

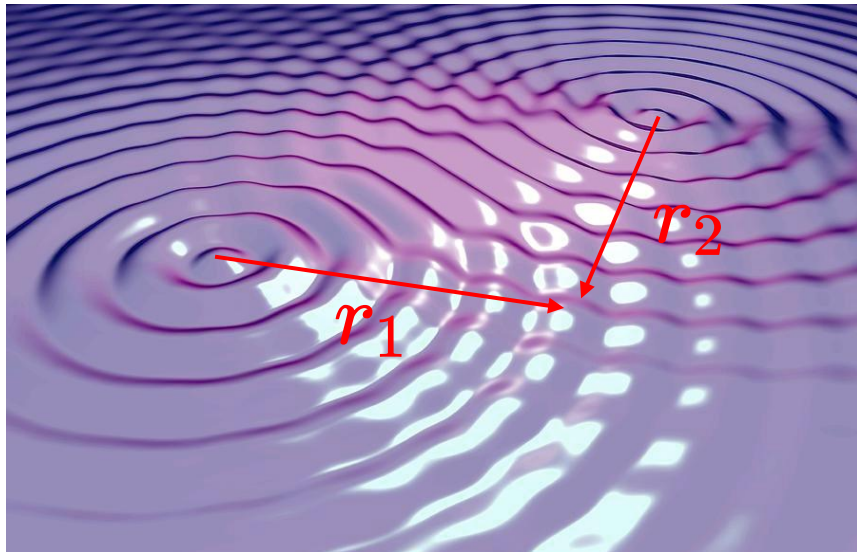
$$y = y_1 + y_2 \quad \text{superposition principle}$$

*not valid for all
types of waves, but
for many important
cases*

*(shallow water waves,
light, sound,
quantum mechanical
matter waves)*

Ripple tank demo

two-source interference solution

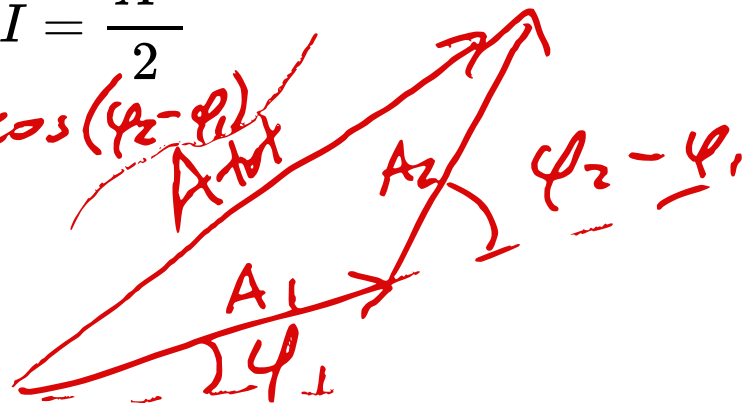


If A_1 different from A_2 , the easiest way is with phasors.

1. Draw and label the phasor diagram
2. Add the phasors like vectors
3. Find the length of the resultant
4. Take the square: $I = \frac{A^2}{2}$

$$A_{tot}^2 = A_1^2 + A_2^2 + 2A_1A_2 \cos(\varphi_2 - \varphi_1)$$

Law of cosines



$$y_1 = A_1 \cos(kr_1 - \omega t + \phi_1)$$

$$y_2 = A_2 \cos(kr_2 - \omega t + \phi_2)$$

$$y = y_1 + y_2 \quad \text{superposition principle}$$

$$\varphi_2 = -(\phi_2 + kr_2)$$

From trig identities, if $A_1 = A_2$ we could show

$$y = 2A_1 \cos\left(\frac{k(r_1 - r_2) + \phi_1 - \phi_2}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{k(r_1 + r_2) + \phi_1 + \phi_2}{2} - \omega t\right)$$

amplitude at observer

Oscillating part

Intensity is proportional to (that)²

$$\varphi_1 = -(\phi_1 + kr_1)$$

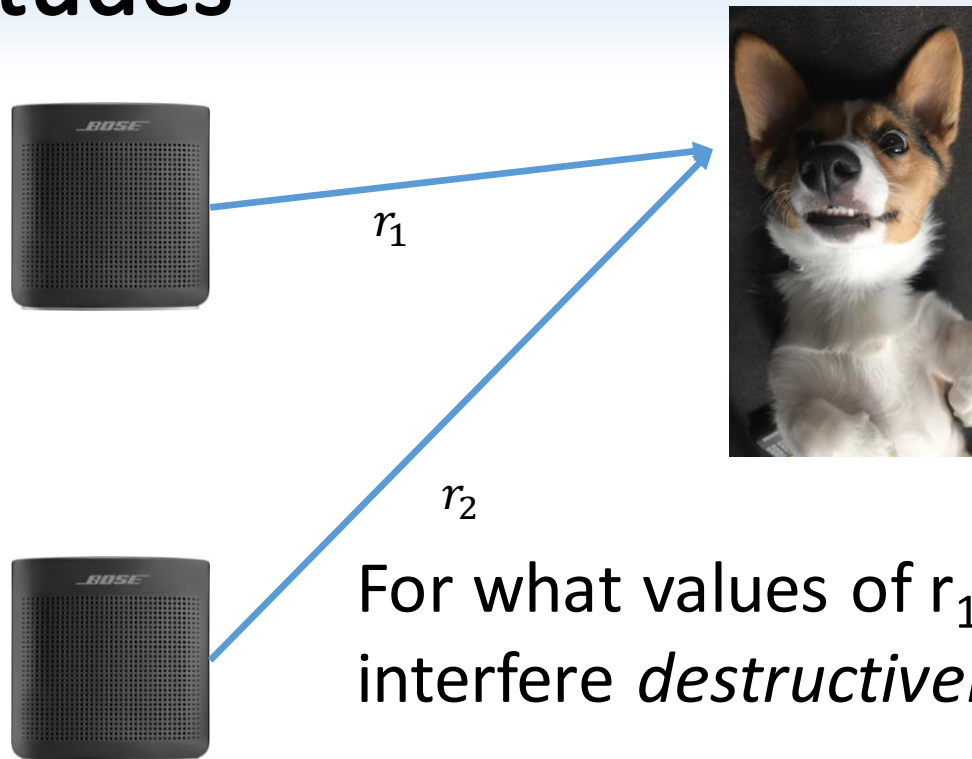
$$\varphi_2 = -(\phi_2 + kr_2)$$

curly φ vs regular ϕ

notation is not

standard!

Two speakers emitting in phase with equal amplitudes



$$f_1 = A \cos\left(\frac{2\pi r_1}{\lambda} - \omega t\right)$$
$$f_2 = A \cos\left(\frac{2\pi r_2}{\lambda} - \omega t\right)$$

arg₁
arg₂

For what values of $r_1 - r_2$ will the waves interfere *destructively* at the observer?

A) $r_1 - r_2 = 0, \pm\lambda, \pm 2\lambda, \dots$

C) $r_1 - r_2 = 0, \pm 2\lambda, \pm 4\lambda, \dots$

B) $r_1 - r_2 = \pm \frac{\lambda}{2}, \pm \frac{3\lambda}{2}, \dots$

D) $r_1 - r_2 = \pm \frac{\lambda}{4}, \pm \frac{\lambda}{2}, \dots$

for a crest of 1 to meet a trough of 2, we need

$$\text{arg}_2 - \text{arg}_1 = (2n+1)\pi \quad (\text{an odd multiple of } \pi)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} (r_2 - r_1) = (2n+1)\pi \Rightarrow r_2 - r_1 = \frac{2n+1}{2} \lambda = 0, \pm \frac{\lambda}{2}, \pm \frac{3\lambda}{2}, \dots$$

Checkpoint

An observer is a distance r_1 and r_2 respectively from two wave sources that emit in phase.

Which quantity alone would allow you to compute whether the waves interfere destructively or constructively?

a) The wavelength λ .

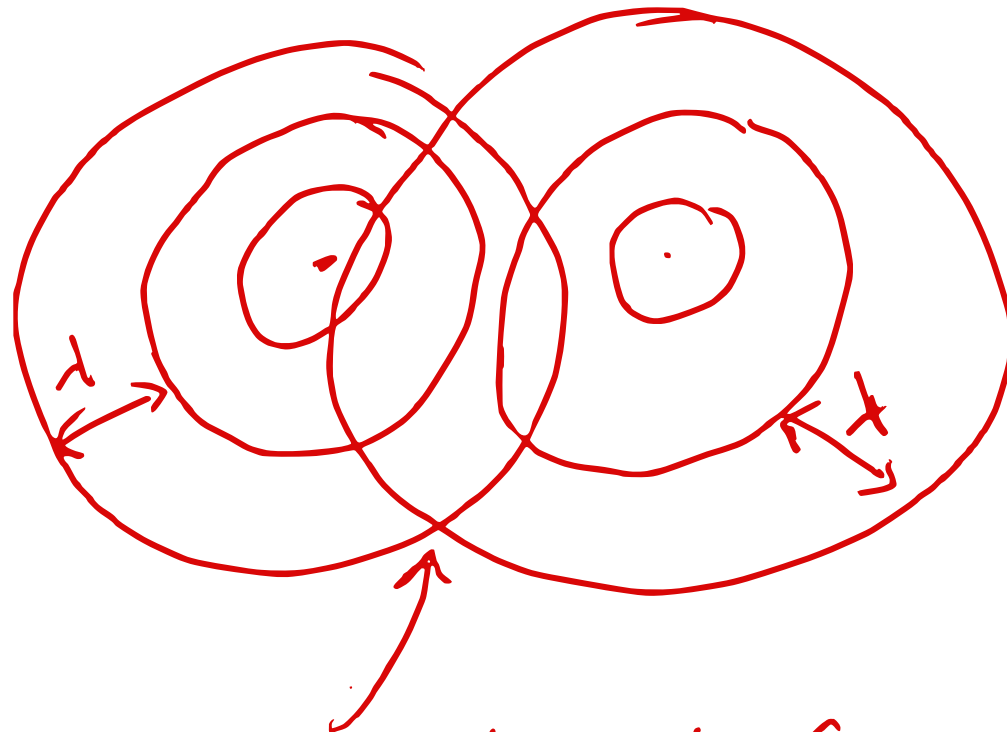
b) The frequency f

c) The amplitudes A_1 and A_2

d) λ and f

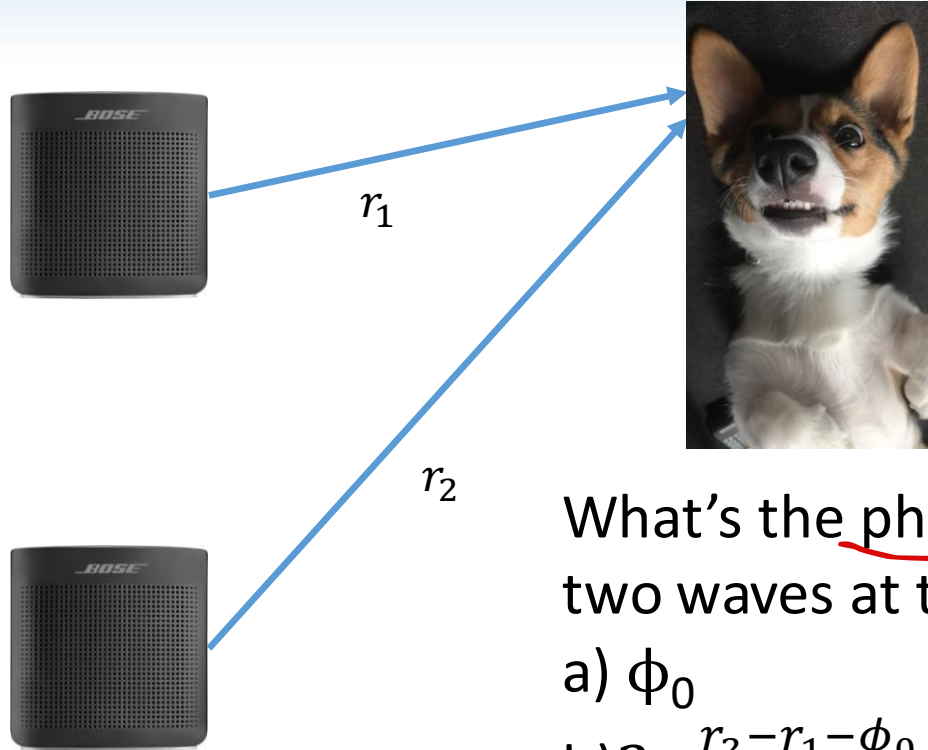
e) λ and A_1 and A_2

see previous page!



constructive interference when crest meets crest or trough meets trough.

What if we change the phase offset?



$$f_1 = A \cos\left(\frac{2\pi r_1}{\lambda} - \omega t\right) \quad \text{arg}_1$$

$$f_2 = A \cos\left(\frac{2\pi r_2}{\lambda} - \omega t + \phi_0\right) \quad \text{arg}_2$$

$\text{arg}_2 - \text{arg}_1$ (or $\text{arg}_1 - \text{arg}_2$)

What's the phase difference between these two waves at the listener's position?

a) ϕ_0

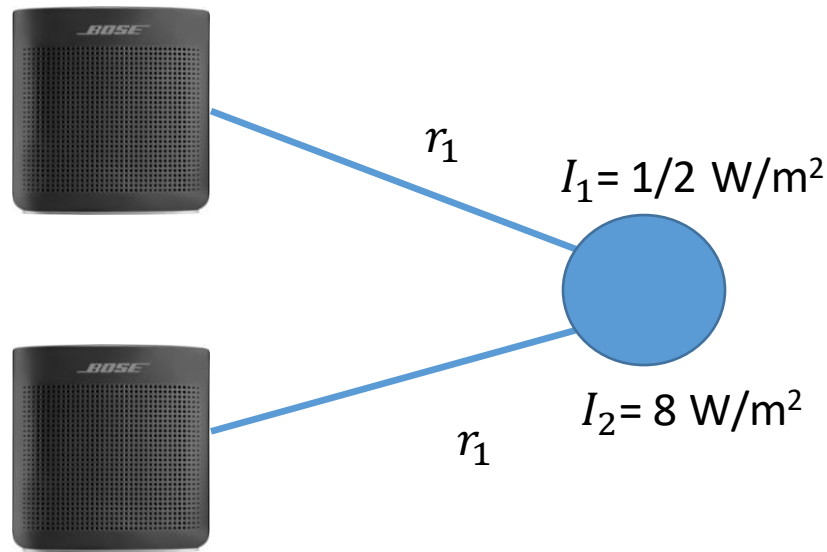
b) $2\pi \frac{r_2 - r_1 - \phi_0}{\lambda}$

c) $2\pi \frac{r_2 - r_1 + \phi_0}{\lambda}$

d) $2\pi \frac{(r_2 - r_1)}{\lambda} - \phi_0$

e) $2\pi \frac{(r_2 - r_1)}{\lambda} + \phi_0$

Combining phasors practice



harmonic waves, same frequency, coherent,

Two speakers, different amplitudes.

Same distance, π phase difference at observer.

What's the phasor diagram?

$$I_1 = \frac{A_1^2}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow A_1 = \sqrt{2I_1} = 1$$

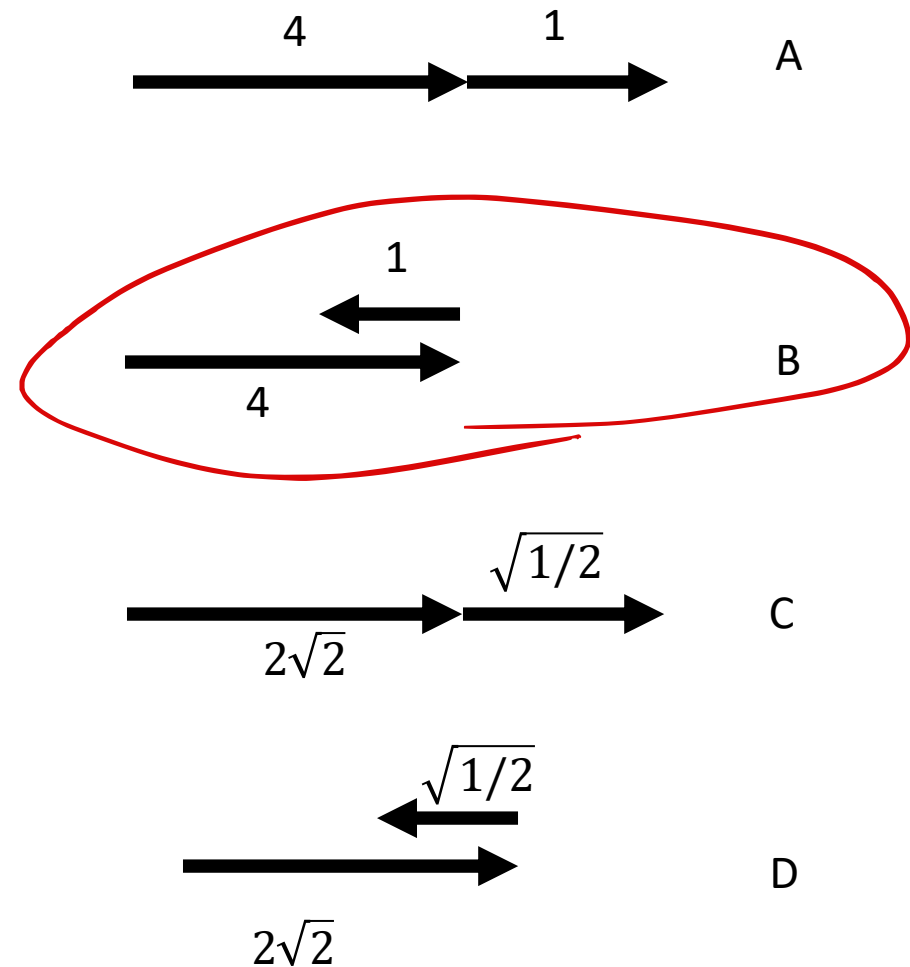
similarly $A_2 = 4$



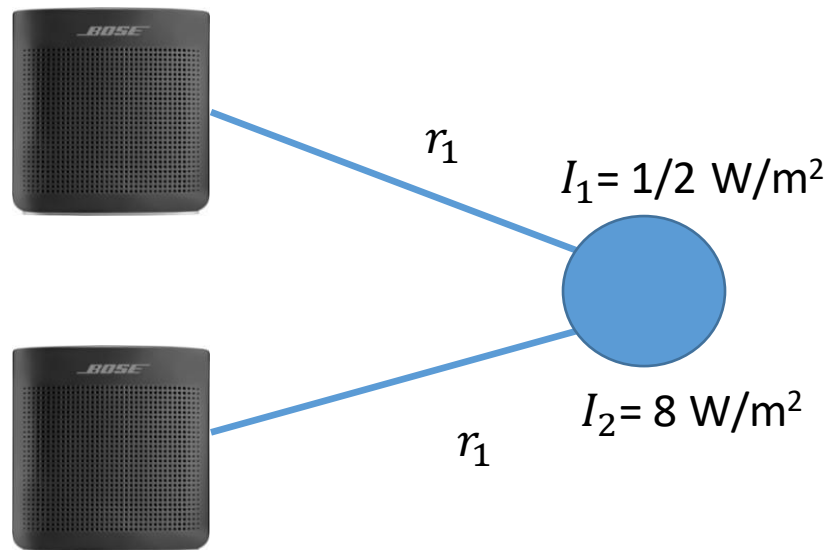
(180° angle between the A_1 & A_2 phasors)



btw, $A_{tot} = 3 \dots$



Combining phasors practice

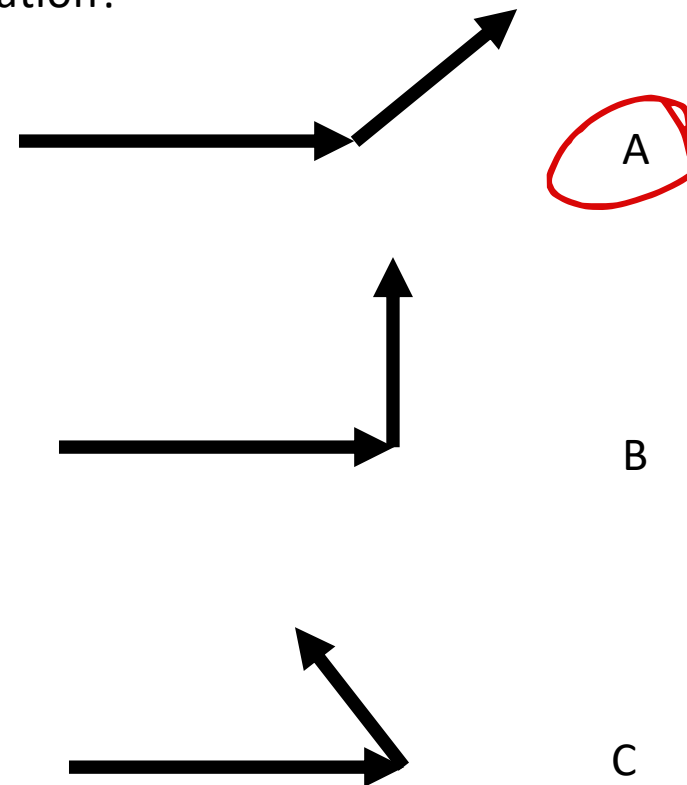


harmonic waves, same frequency, coherent,

Two speakers, different amplitudes.

Same distance, $\frac{\pi}{4}$ phase difference at observer.

Which phasor diagram corresponds to this situation?

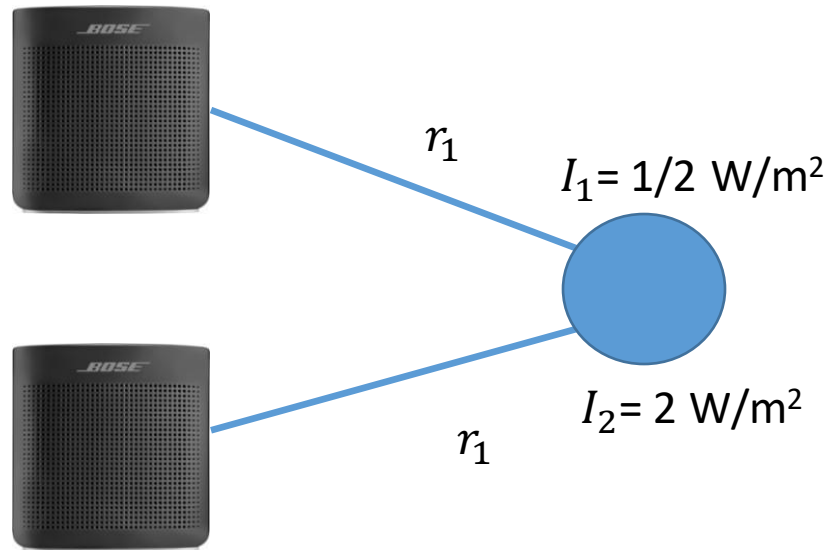


$$f_1 = A_1 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi r_1}{\lambda} - \omega t + \frac{\pi}{4}\right)$$

$$f_2 = A_2 \cos\left(\frac{2\pi r_1}{\lambda} - \omega t\right)$$

or

Combining amplitudes practice



harmonic waves, same frequency, coherent,

Two speakers, different amplitudes.

Same distance, **same phase at the source (in phase)**.

What's the intensity at the observer?

a) 0.5 W/m²

b) 2.5 W/m²

c) 3 W/m²

d) 4.5 W/m²

e) 9 W/m²

same phase @ source and same distance \Rightarrow same arg at observer



i.e. zero phase diff.

$$A_1 = \sqrt{2I_1} = 1$$

$$A_2 = \sqrt{2I_2} = 2$$

$$\Rightarrow A_{tot} = 3$$

$$I_{tot} = \frac{A_{tot}^2}{2} = \frac{9}{2} = 4.5$$

Intermediate summary

If two waves are same amplitude and same wavelength:

$$I = 2A^2 \cos^2 \frac{\varphi}{2}$$

$$\varphi = \frac{2\pi\delta}{\lambda} + \Delta\phi_0$$

$$\delta = r_1 - r_2$$

Maxima at $\varphi = 2\pi m$

Minima at $\varphi = 2\pi \left(m + \frac{1}{2} \right)$

(m is any integer)

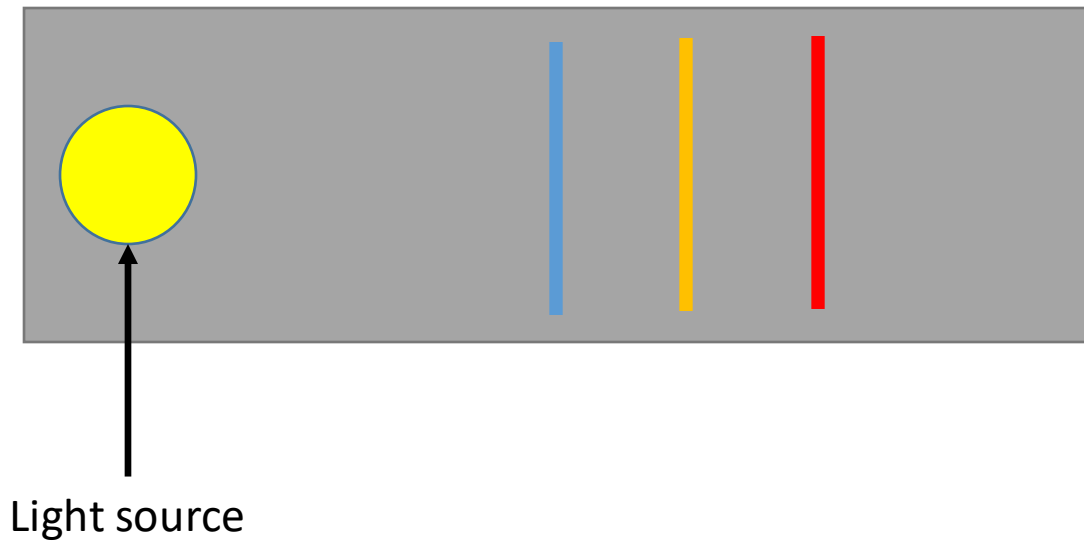
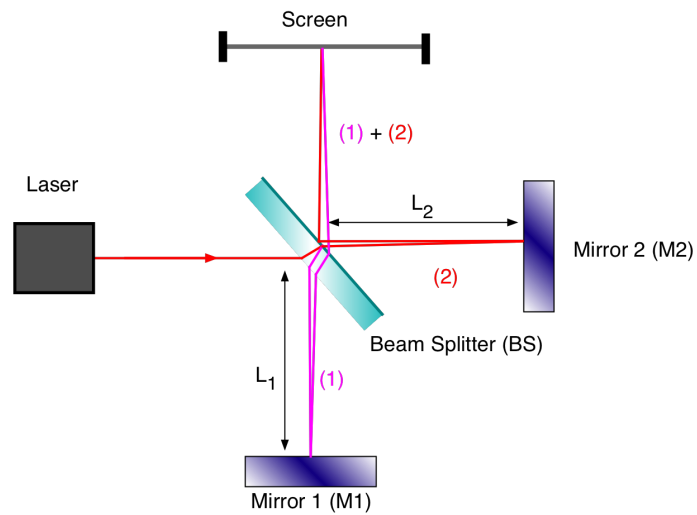
For more sources, or for different amplitudes:

Amplitude \leftrightarrow length of vector
Phase \leftrightarrow angle of vector at t=0
offset with respect to horizontal axis

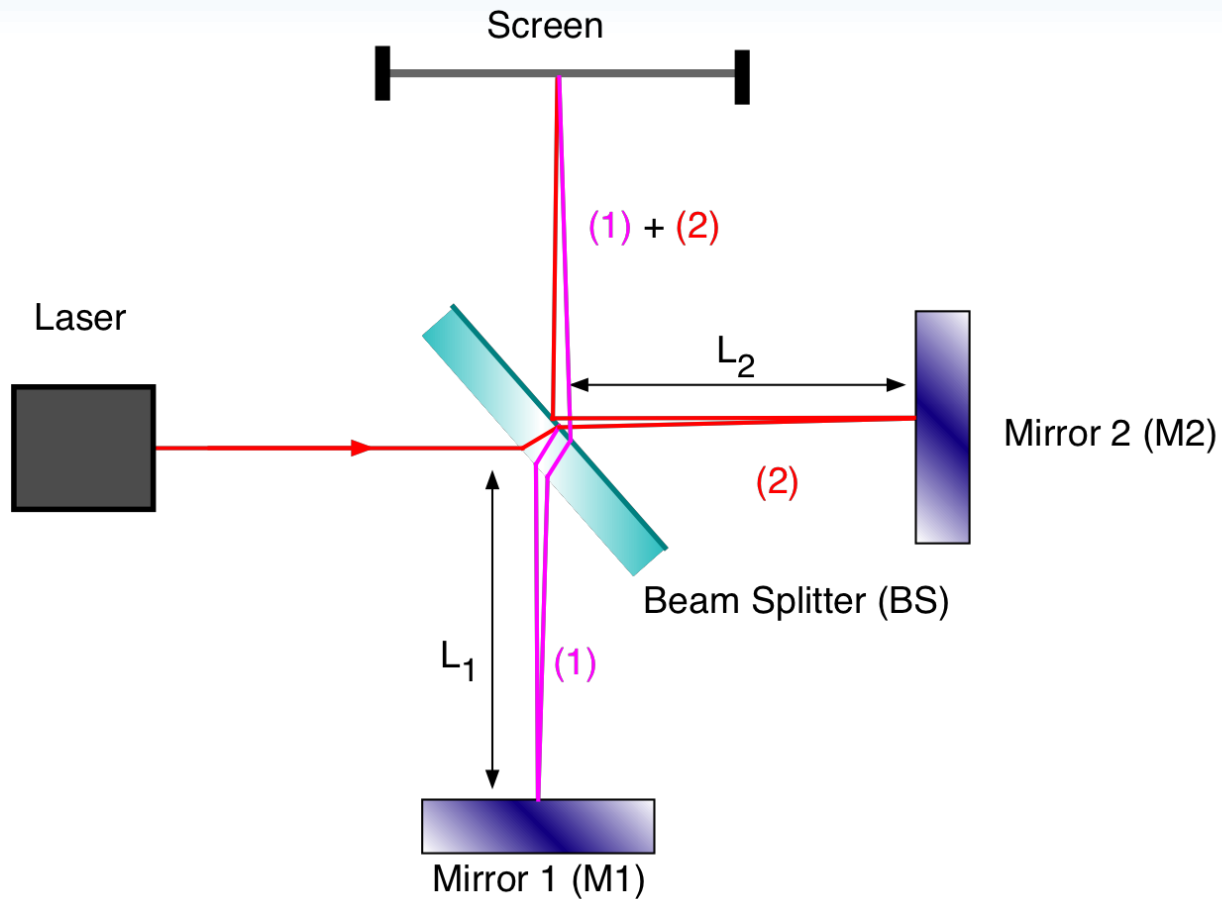
Use law of cosines:

$$c^2 = a^2 + b^2 + 2ab \cos \theta$$

Practice with interference



Interferometer



Example of path-length dependent interference. We know the lengths of the arms L_2 and L_1 .

What is $r_2 - r_1$?

a) $L_2 - L_1$

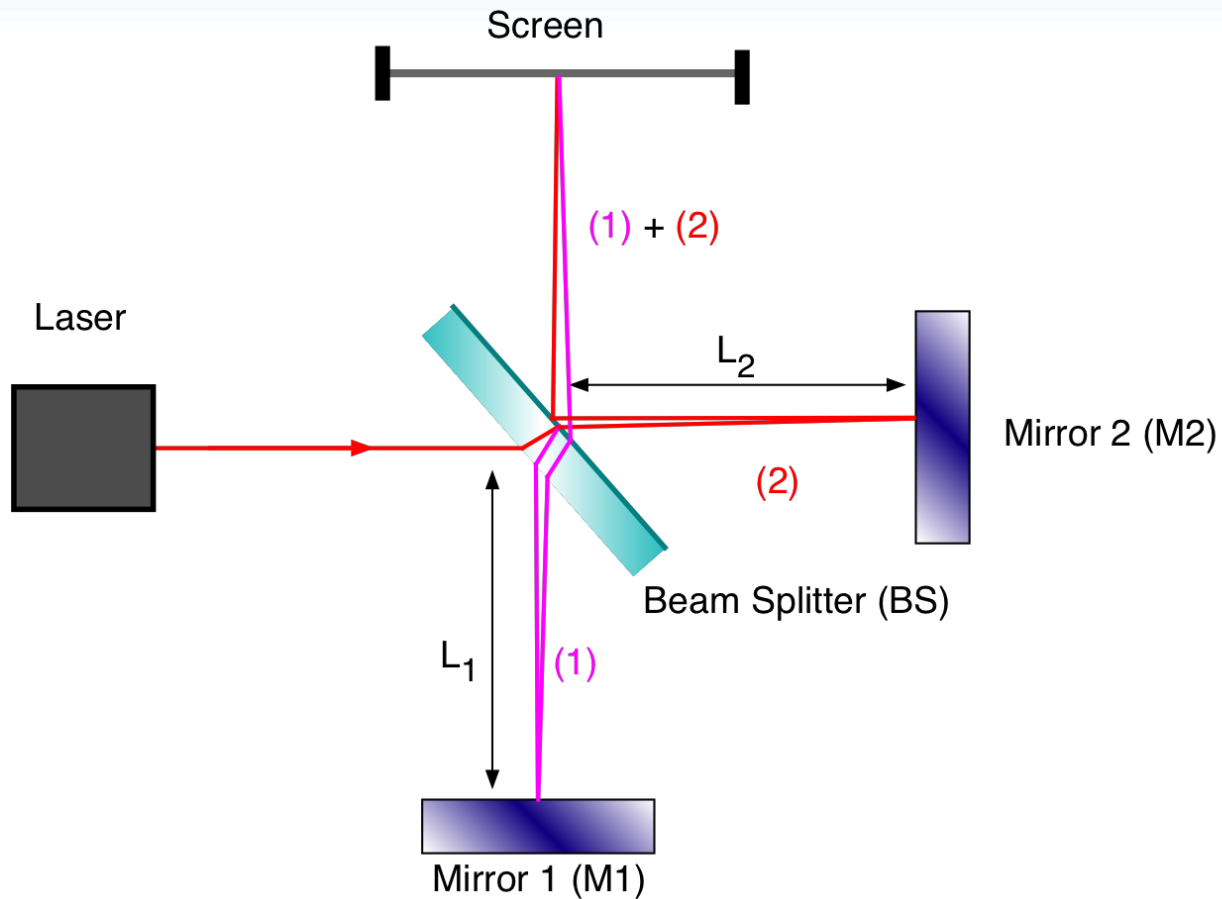
b) $2L_2 - 2L_1$

c) $d \sin \theta$

d) $2d \sin \theta$

e) Need the path from the laser

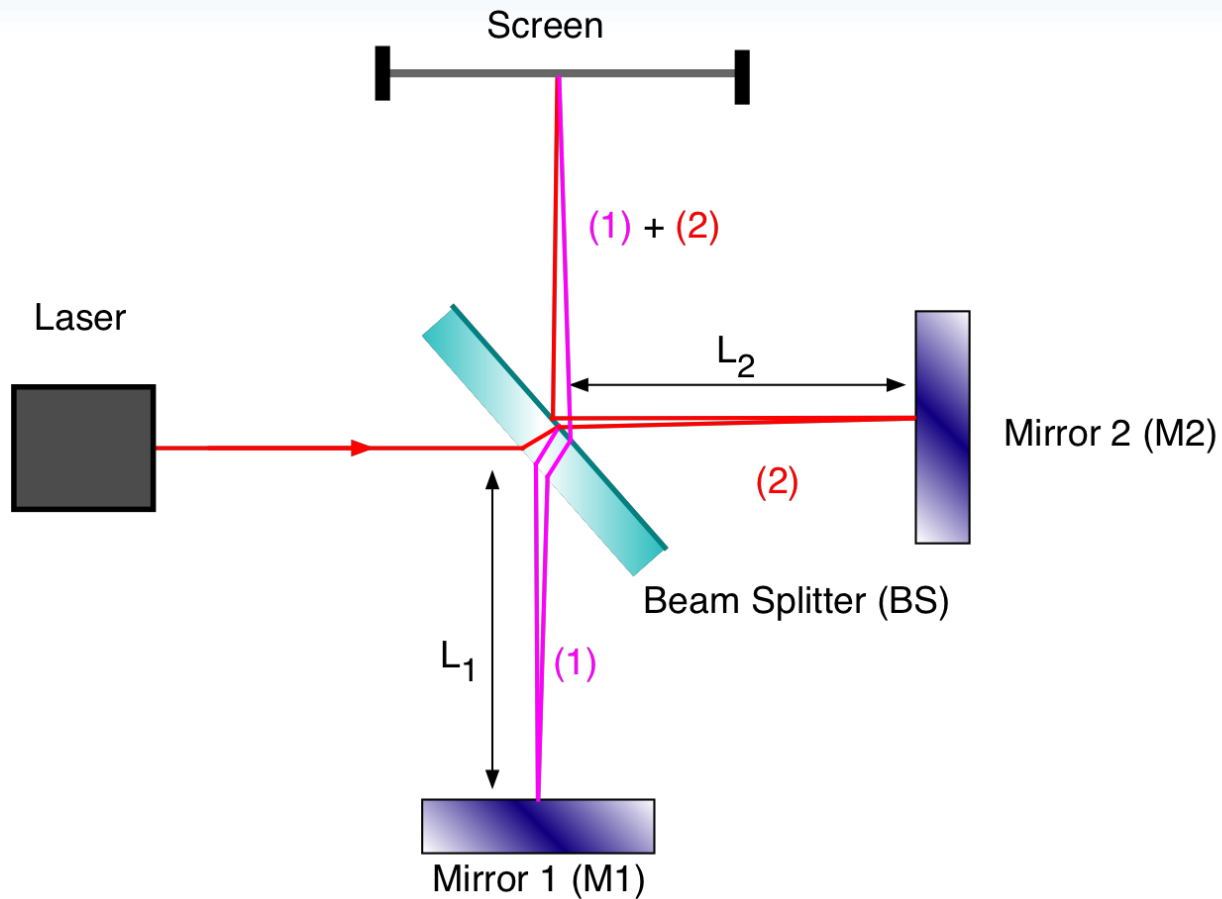
Interferometer problem



Laser has wavelength λ . We observe maximal intensity at the screen. What is the **phase difference** between the two paths?

- a) $2\pi n$
- b) λn
- c) $2\pi(n + \frac{1}{2})$
- d) $\lambda(n + \frac{1}{2})$

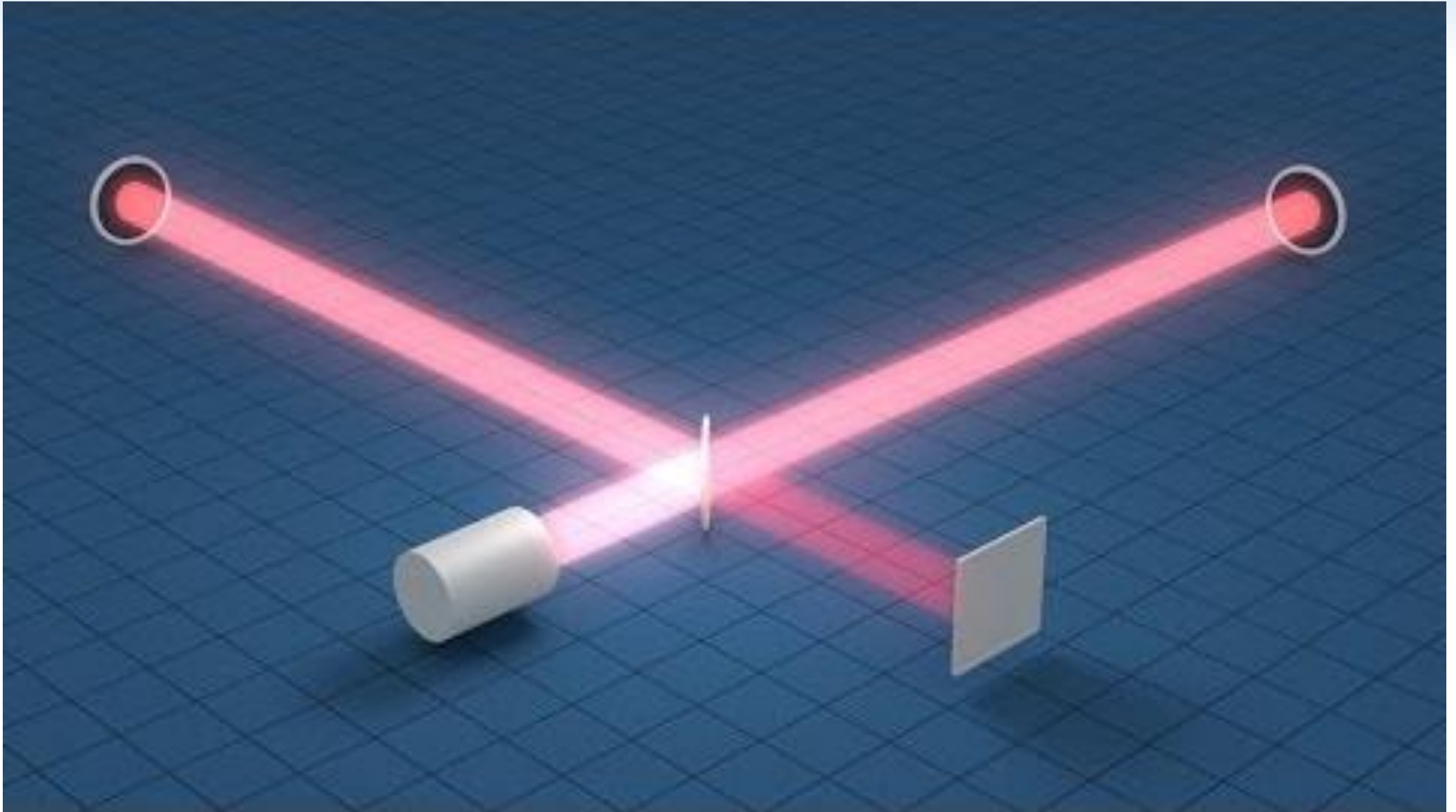
Interferometer problem



Laser has wavelength λ . We observe maximal intensity at the screen. How far must we move mirror 1 to find the next maximum?

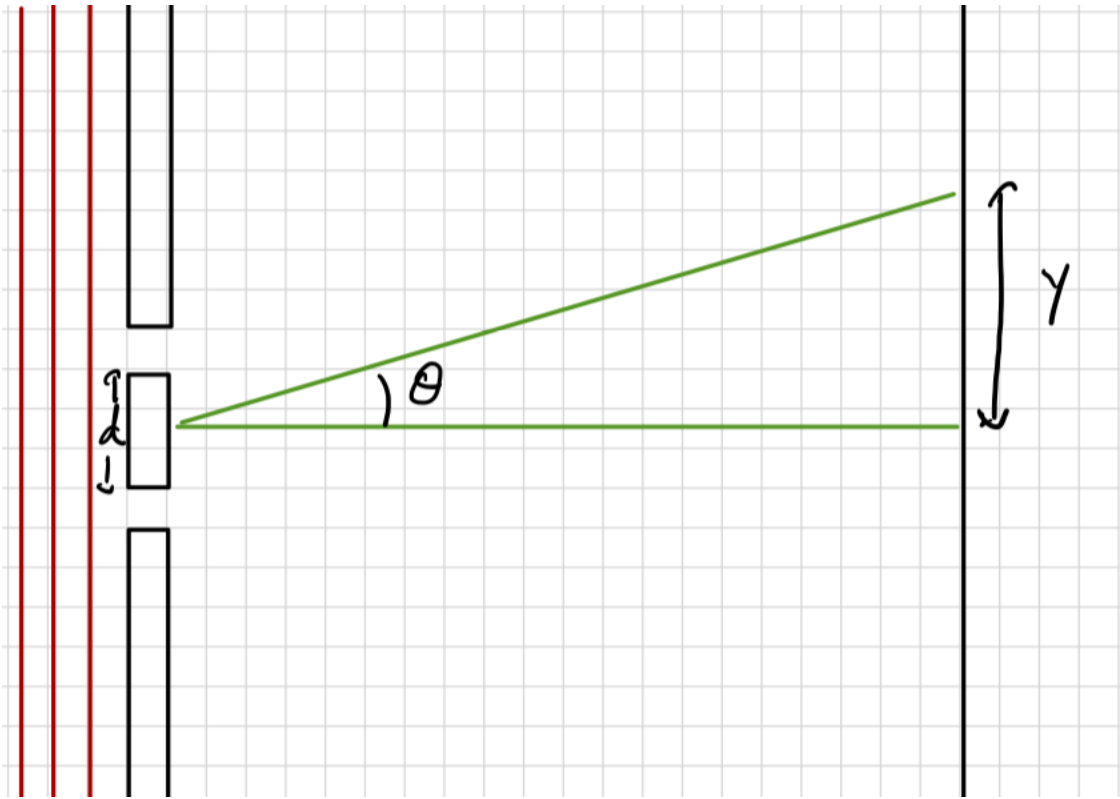
- a) 2π
- b) λ
- c) π
- d) $\frac{\lambda}{2}$

Application: LIGO



https://youtu.be/tQ_telUb3tE

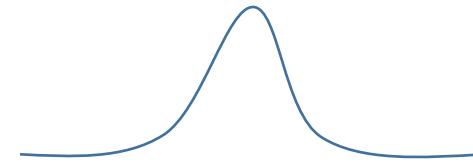
Two-slit experiment



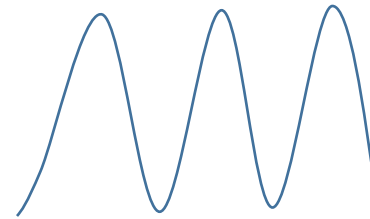
coherent, monochromatic

Each slit acts as a source for light. They are in phase with each other.

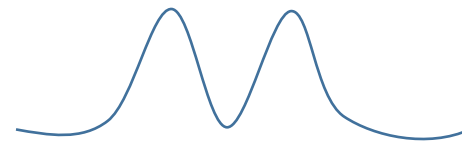
What do you expect to see for $I(y)$?



a) Isolated peak

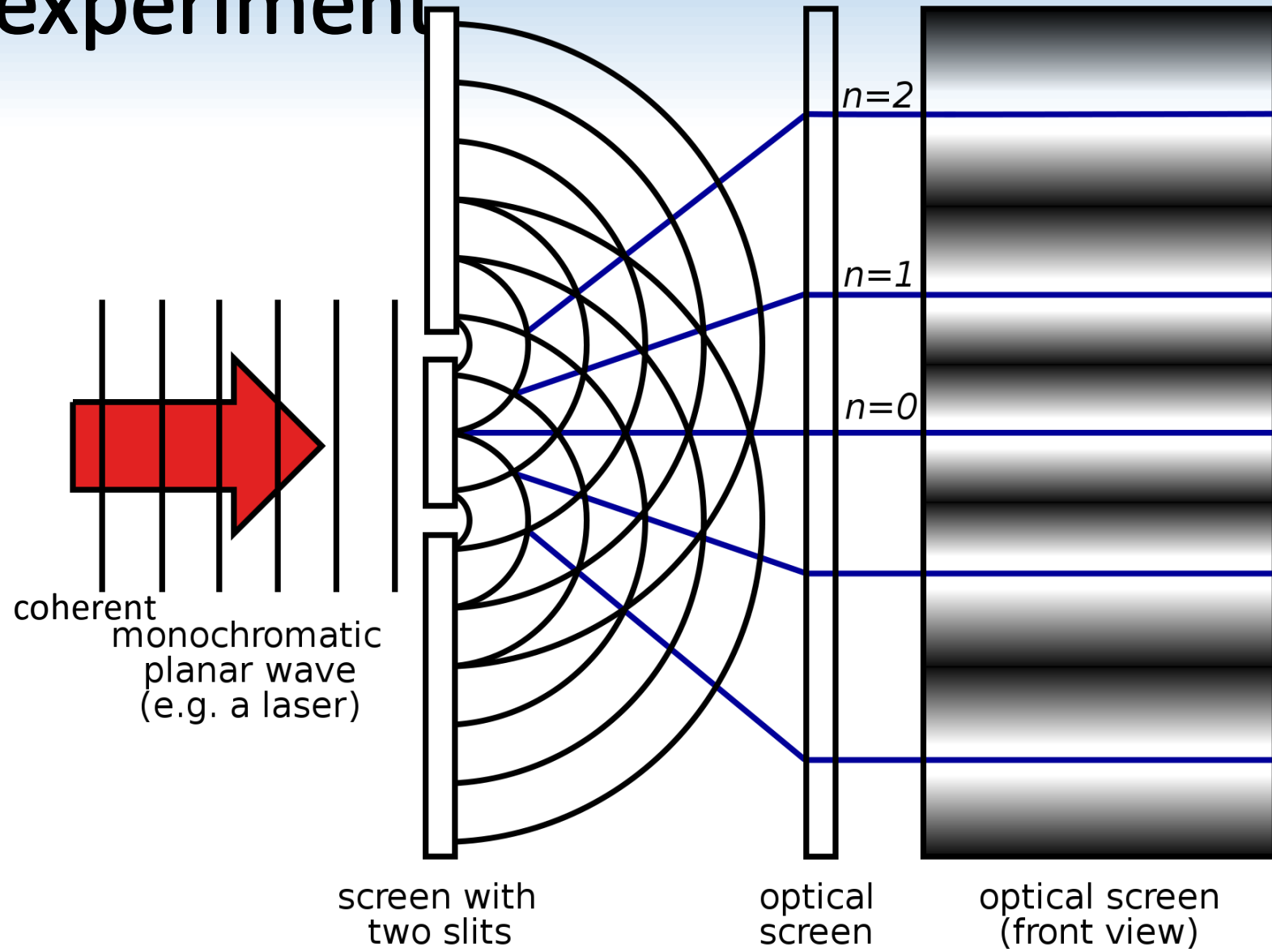


b) Repeating peaks

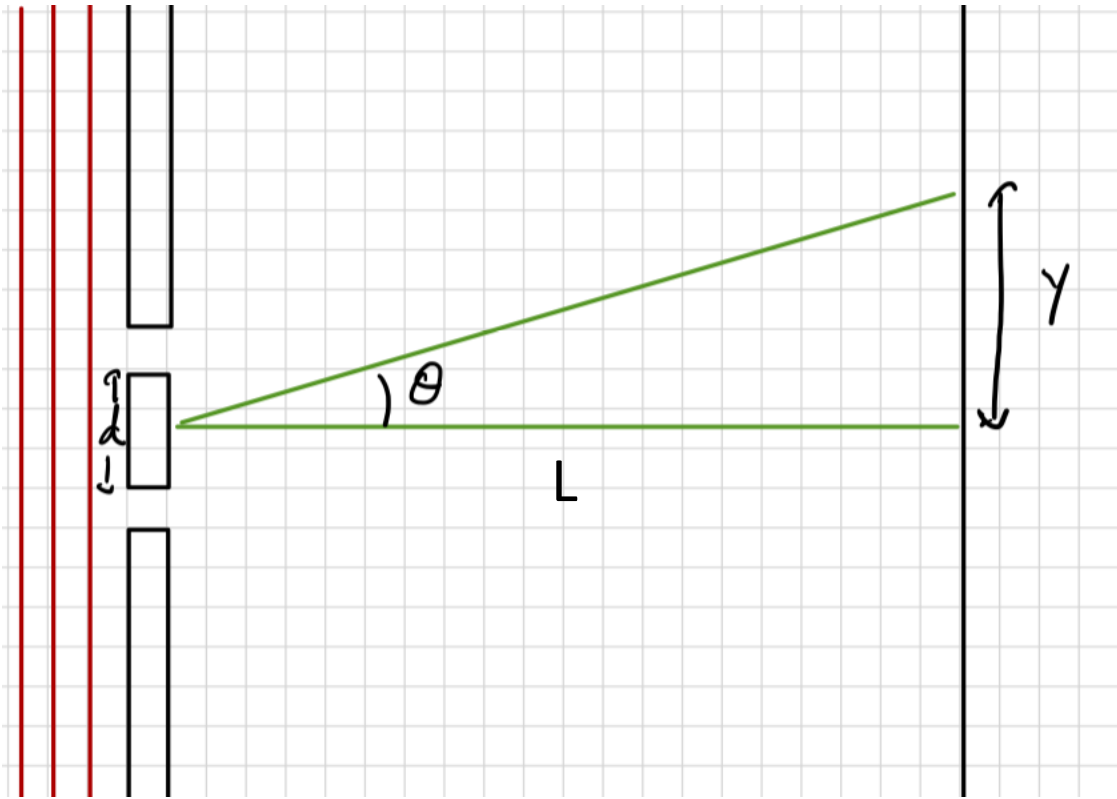


c) Two isolated peaks

Two-slit experiment



Two-slit experiment: distances

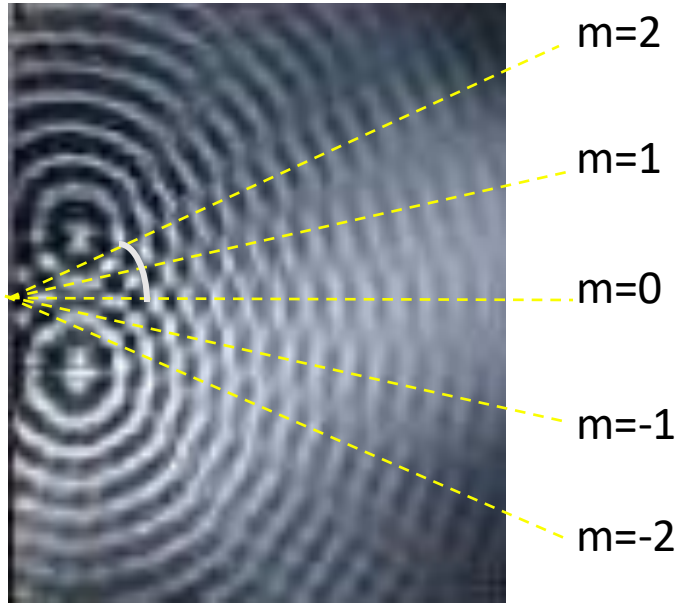


$$E_1(y, t) = E \cos(\omega t - kr_1)$$

$$E_2(y, t) = E \cos(\omega t - kr_2)$$

Approximation: L is very big compared to d and y .

Constructive interference



Constructive interference:

$$\phi = 2m\pi = \frac{2\pi d \sin \theta}{\lambda}$$

What is the formula for $d \sin \theta_{max}$?

- a) $2m\lambda$
- b) 2λ
- c) $2m\pi\lambda$
- d) $m\lambda$

Summary

Waves generated from two sources at distance r_1 and r_2 .

To an observer, looks like

$$y_1(x, t) = A_1 \cos(kr_1 - \omega t + \varphi_1)$$

$$y_2(x, t) = A_2 \cos(kr_2 - \omega t + \varphi_2)$$

To find $y_1 + y_2$, use phasors!

The $kr_i + \varphi_i$ term tells us the angle of the phasor. The relative angle is most important for interference.

