2.710 Optics Fall '05

Problem Set #6 Posted Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2005 — Due Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2005

- 1. Two plane waves of the same wavelength are propagating along the directions of wave vectors $\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2$ as shown in the figure below.
 - **1.a)** Describe the interference pattern that would be observed on the plane xy.
 - **1.b)** Describe the interference pattern that would be observed on a plane parallel to xy but one wavelength away towards the positive z direction.
 - **1.c)** Describe the interference pattern that would be observed on the plane yz.

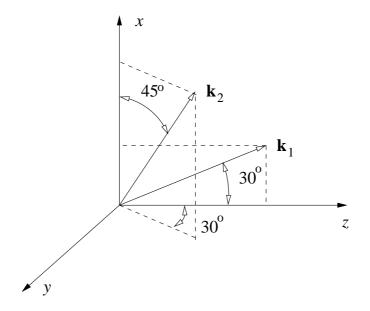


Figure. A

- 2. A plane wave and a spherical wave, both of the same wavelength, are co-propagating as shown in figure B on the next page.
 - **2.a)** Describe the interference pattern that would be observed on a plane perpendicular to the z axis at a distance of 1000λ away from the origin of the spherical wave.
 - **2.b)** Repeat for the plane located 2000λ away from the origin of the spherical wave.
 - **2.c)** What do you observe? Explain in physical term.

2.d) What is the relationship between your result and a Michelson interferometer with a lens inserted in one of the two arms?

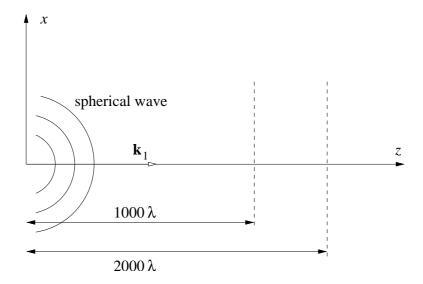


Figure. B

3. Repeat the calculations of the previous problem for the case when the plane wave is propagating off-axis as shown in Figure C below. Explain the differences that you observe.

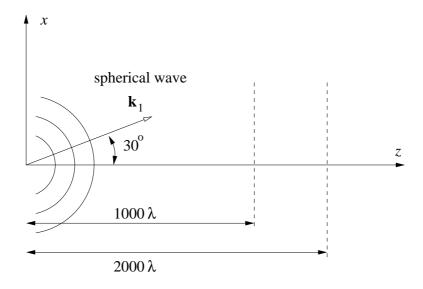


Figure. C

4. Describe the interference pattern between two counter-propagating plane waves. This is sometimes known as a "standing wave." Explain why.

5. A "fan" of N plane waves are propagating symmetrically with respect to the z axis, as shown in figure D below. The angular spacing between successive members of the fan is fixed and equal to $\Delta\theta$. Describe the interference pattern observed on a plane perpendicular to the z axis.

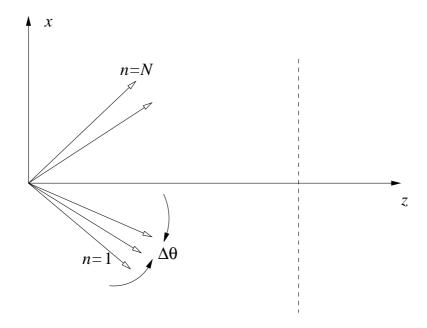


Figure. D