



## Polarization Optics

Nicolas Fressengeas

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| Nicolas Fressengeas. Polarization Optics. DEA. Université Paul Verlaine Metz, 2010. cel-00521501v1

**HAL Id: cel-00521501**

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Submitted on 27 Sep 2010 (v1), last revised 6 Feb 2014 (v4)

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# UE SPM-PHY-S07-101

## Polarization Optics

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Document à télécharger sur <http://moodle.univ-metz.fr/>

## Further reading

[Hua94, K85]



S. Huard.

*Polarisation de la lumière.*

Masson, 1994.



G. P. Können.

*Polarized light in Nature.*

Cambridge University Press, 1985.

# Course Outline

## 1 The physics of polarization optics

- Polarization states
- Jones Calculus
- Stokes parameters and the Poincare Sphere

## 2 Polarized light propagation

- Jones Matrices
- Polarizers
- Linear and Circular Anisotropy
- Jones Matrices Composition

## 3 Partially polarized light

- Formalisms used
- Propagation through optical devices

## 1 The physics of polarization optics

### • Polarization states

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# The vector nature of light

Optical wave can be polarized, sound waves cannot

## The scalar monochromatic plane wave

The electric field reads:

$$A \cos(\omega t - kz - \varphi)$$

## A vector monochromatic plane wave

- Electric field is orthogonal to wave and Poynting vectors
- Electric field oscillates in the direction of propagation

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- Electric field is orthogonal to wave and Poynting vectors
- Lies in the wave vector normal plane
- Needs 2 components
  - $E_x = A_x \cos(\omega t - kz - \varphi_x)$
  - $E_y = A_y \cos(\omega t - kz - \varphi_y)$

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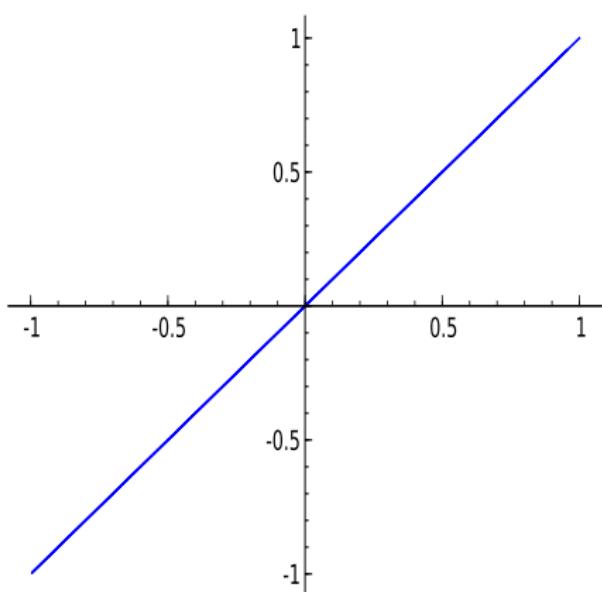
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# Linear and circular polarization states

In phase components

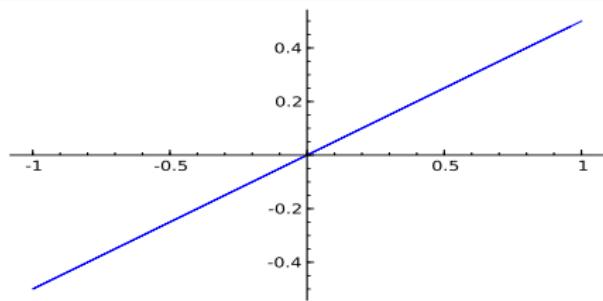
$$\varphi_y = \varphi_x$$



# Linear and circular polarization states

In phase components

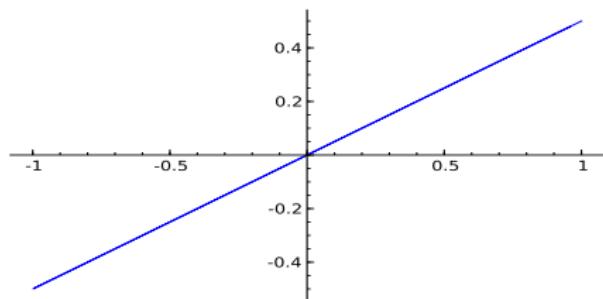
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# Linear and circular polarization states

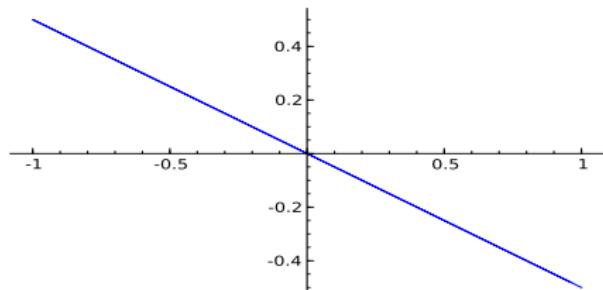
In phase components

$$\varphi_y = \varphi_x$$



$\pi$  shift

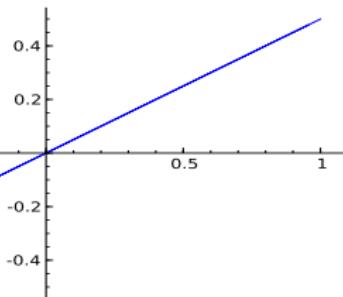
$$\varphi_y = \varphi_x + \pi$$



# Linear and circular polarization states

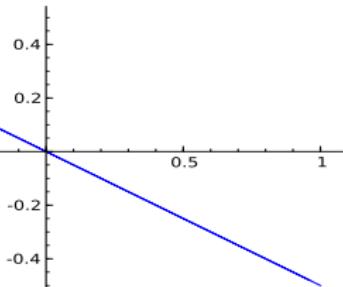
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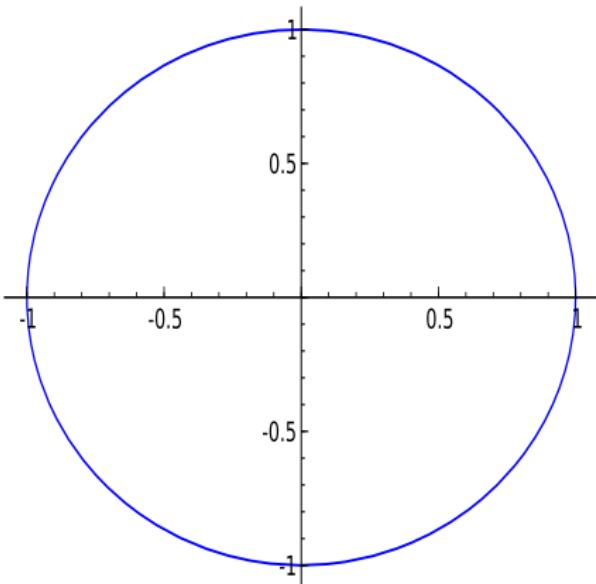
$\pi$  shift

$$\varphi_y = \varphi_x + \pi$$



$\pi/2$  shift

$$\varphi_y = \varphi_x \pm \pi/2$$

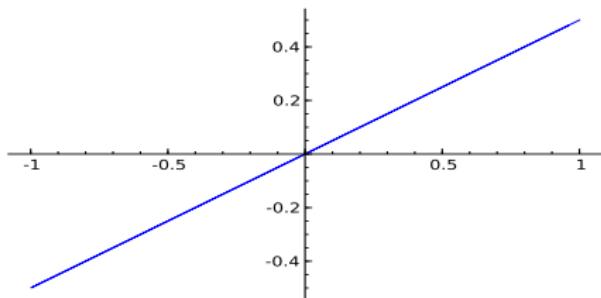


Left or Right

# Linear and circular polarization states

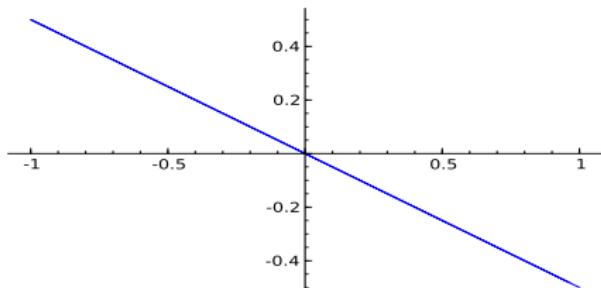
In phase components

$$\varphi_y = \varphi_x$$



$\pi$  shift

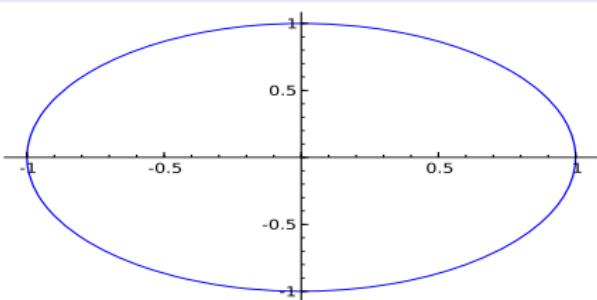
$$\varphi_y = \varphi_x + \pi$$



N. Fressengeas

$\pi/2$  shift

$$\varphi_y = \varphi_x \pm \pi/2$$

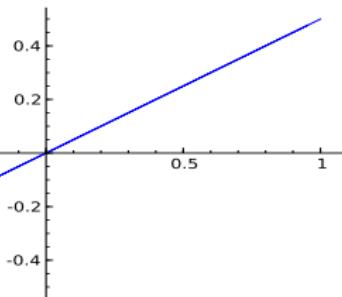


Left or Right

# Linear and circular polarization states

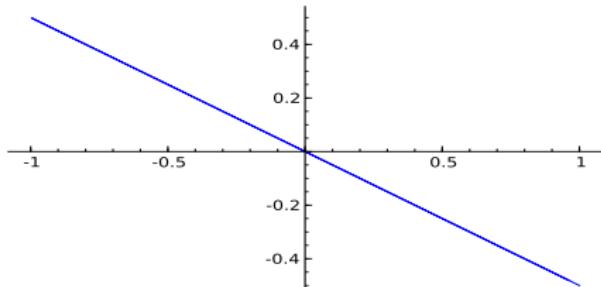
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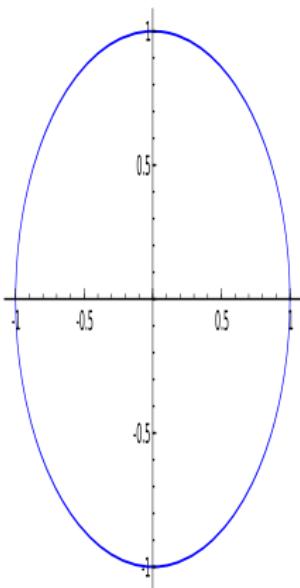
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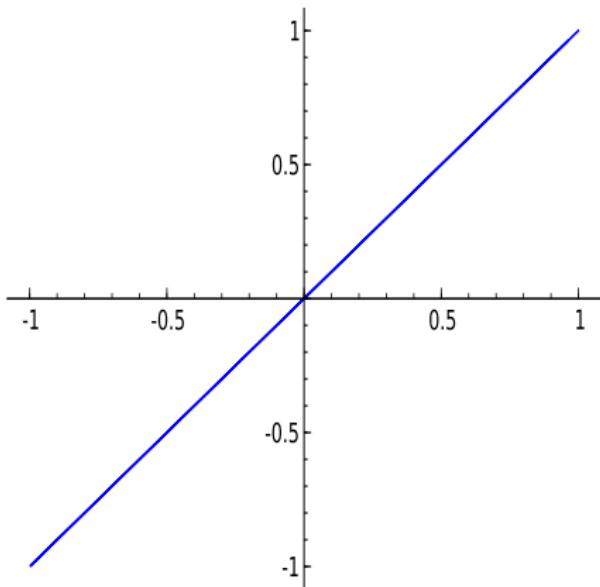


Left or Right

# The elliptic polarization state

The polarization state of ANY monochromatic wave

$$\varphi_y - \varphi_x = \pm 0$$



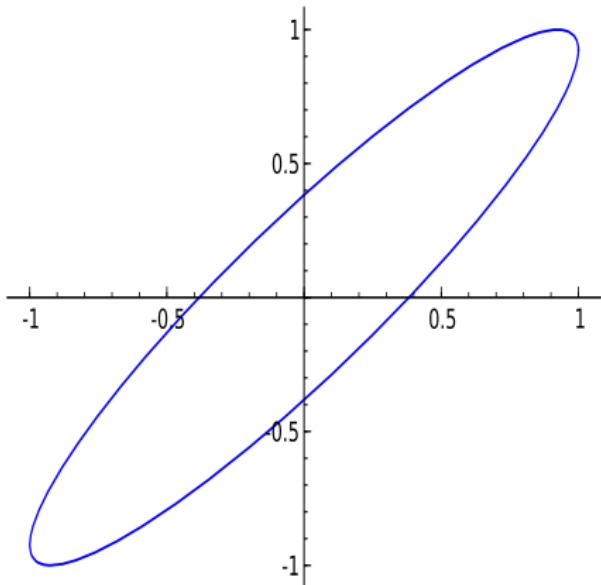
## Electric field

- $E_x = A_x \cos(\omega t - kz - \varphi_x)$
- $E_y = A_y \cos(\omega t - kz - \varphi_y)$

# The elliptic polarization state

The polarization state of ANY monochromatic wave

$$\varphi_y - \varphi_x = \pm\pi/8$$



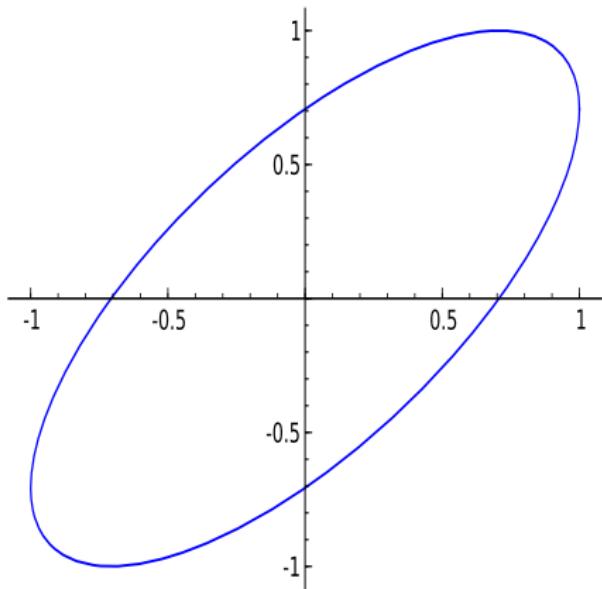
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$$\varphi_y - \varphi_x = \pm\pi/4$$



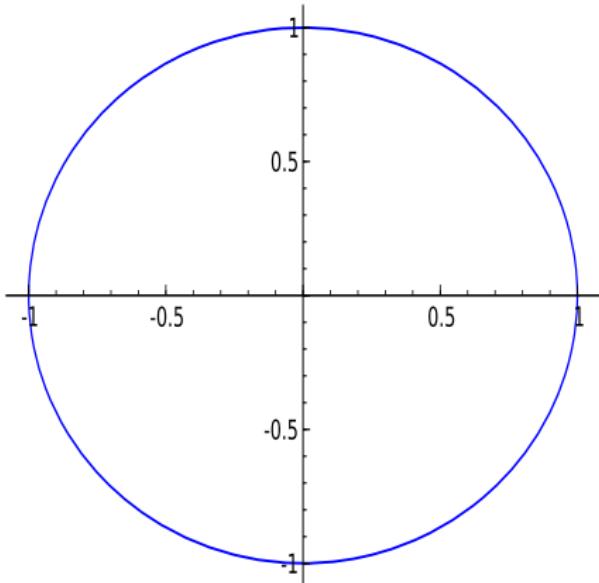
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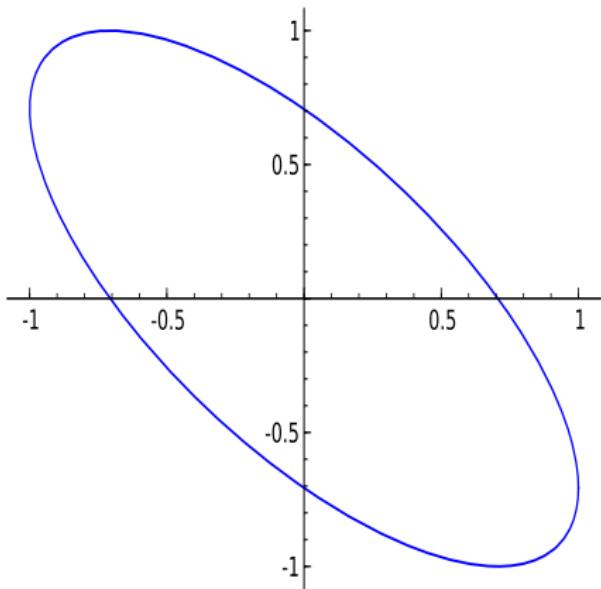
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The polarization state of ANY monochromatic wave

$$\varphi_y - \varphi_x = \pm 3\pi/4$$



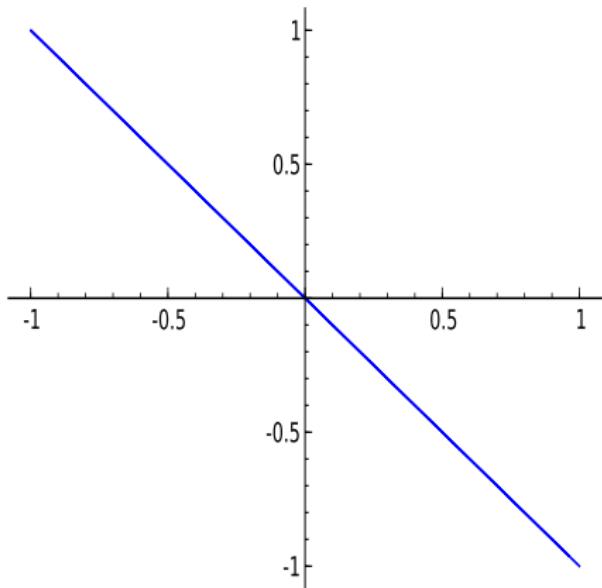
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The polarization state of ANY monochromatic wave

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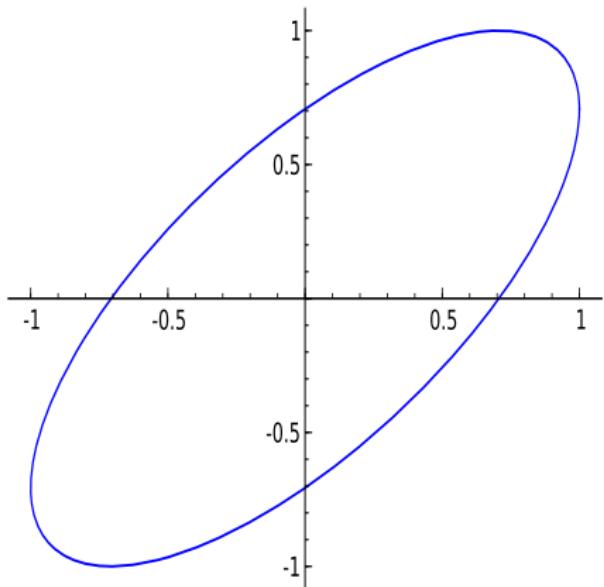
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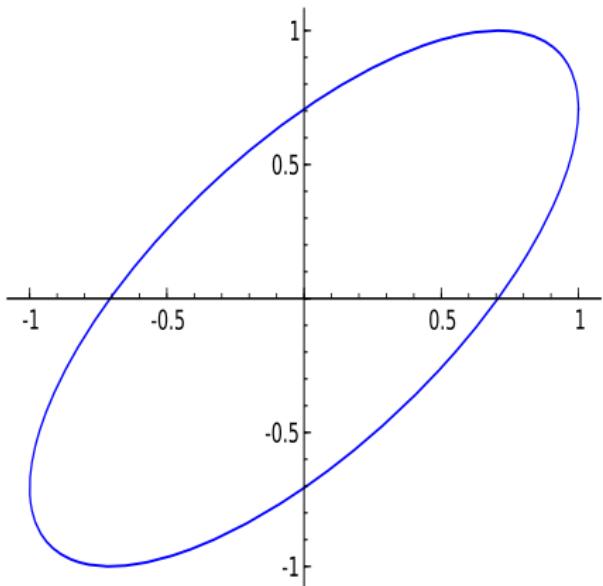
## 4 real numbers

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- $A_y, \varphi_y$

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## 4 real numbers

- $A_x, \varphi_x$
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## 2 complex numbers

- $A_x \exp(i\varphi_x)$
- $A_y \exp(i\varphi_y)$

## 1 The physics of polarization optics

- Polarization states
- **Jones Calculus**
- Stokes parameters and the Poincare Sphere

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- Jones Matrices
- Polarizers
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## 3 Partially polarized light

- Formalisms used
- Propagation through optical devices

# Polarization states are vectors

Monochromatic polarizations belong to a 2D vector space based on the Complex Ring

ANY elliptic polarization state  $\iff$  Two complex numbers

A set of two ordered complex numbers is one 2D complex vector

## Canonical Basis

$$\left( \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

## Polarization Basis

Two independent polarizations :

- Crossed Linear
- Reversed circular
- ...
- YOUR choice

## Link with optics ?

- These two vectors represent two polarization states
- We must decide which ones !

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# Examples : Linear Polarizations

## Canonical Basis Choice

- $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$  : horizontal linear polarization
- $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$  : vertical linear polarization

## Examples : Linear Polarizations

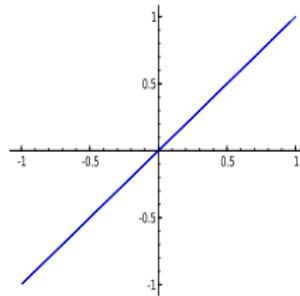
### Canonical Basis Choice

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Tilt

$$\theta = \pi/4$$

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$



## Examples : Linear Polarizations

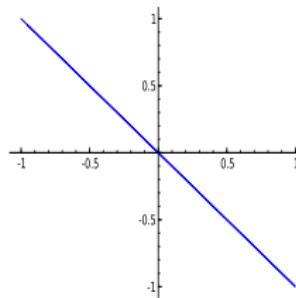
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Tilt

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# Examples : Linear Polarizations

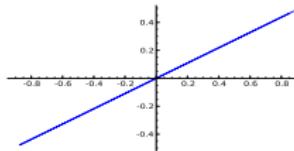
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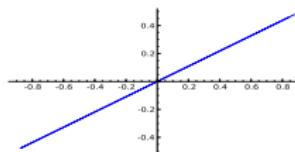
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### Linear polarization Jones vector

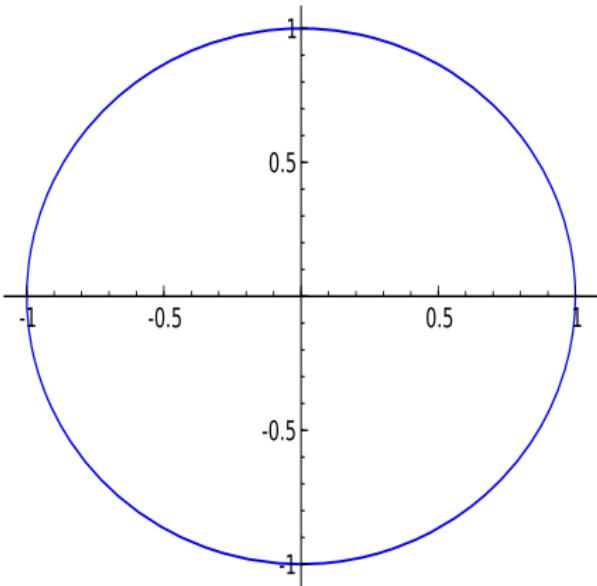
- Linear Polarization : two **in phase** components
- Two **real** numbers

In a linear polarization basis

# Examples : Circular Polarizations

In the same canonical basis choice : linear polarizations

$$\varphi_y - \varphi_x = \pm\pi/2$$



## Electric field

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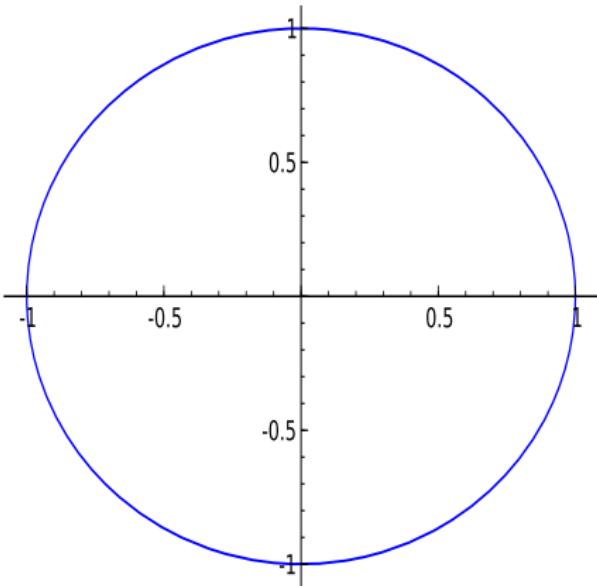
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# About changing basis

A polarization state Jones vector is basis dependent

## Some elementary algebra

- The polarization vector space dimension is **2**
- Therefore : two non colinear vectors form a basis
- Any polarization state can be expressed as the sum of two non colinear other states
- Remark : two colinear polarization states are identical

## Homework

Find the transformation matrix between the two following bases :

- Horizontal and Vertical Linear Polarizations
- Right and Left Circular Polarizations

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# Relationship between Jones and Poynting vectors

Jones vectors also provide information about intensity

Choose an orthonormal basis

$(J_1, J_2)$

- Hermitian product is null :  $\overline{J_1} \cdot J_2 = 0$
- Each vector norm is unity :  $\overline{J_1} \cdot J_1 = \overline{J_2} \cdot J_2 = 0$

Hermitian Norm is Intensity

Simple calculations show that :

- If each Jones component is one complex electric field component
- The Hermitian product is proportional to beam intensity

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# Polarization as a unique complex number

If the intensity information disappears, polarization is summed up in one complex number

Rule out the intensity

Norm the Jones vector to **unity**

Put 1 as first component

- Multiplying Jones vector by a complex number does not change the polarization state
- Norm the first component to 1 :  $\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ \xi \end{bmatrix}$
- The sole  $\xi$  describes the polarization state

Choose between the two

Either you norm the vector, or its first component. Not both !

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# The Stokes parameters

A set of 4 dependent real parameters that can be measured

## Sample Jones Vector

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_x \exp(+i\varphi/2) \\ A_y \exp(-i\varphi/2) \end{bmatrix}$$

$P_0$

Overall Intensity

$$P_0 = A_x^2 + A_y^2 = I$$

$P_1$

Intensity Différence

$$P_1 = A_x^2 - A_y^2 = I_x - I_y$$

$P_2$

$\pi/4$  Tilted Basis

$$J_{\pi/4} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} A_x e^{-i\varphi/2} + A_y e^{+i\varphi/2} \\ A_x e^{-i\varphi/2} - A_y e^{+i\varphi/2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P_2 = I_{\pi/4} - I_{-\pi/4} = 2A_x A_y \cos(\varphi)$$

$P_3$

Circular Basis

$$J_{\text{cir}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} A_x e^{-i\varphi/2} - i A_y e^{+i\varphi/2} \\ A_x e^{-i\varphi/2} + i A_y e^{+i\varphi/2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P_3 = I_L - I_R = 2A_x A_y \sin(\varphi)$$

# The Stokes parameters

A set of 4 dependent real parameters that can be measured

## Sample Jones Vector

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$P_1$

Intensity Différence

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$P_2$

$\pi/4$  Tilted Basis

$$J_{\pi/4} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} A_x e^{-i\varphi/2} + A_y e^{+i\varphi/2} \\ A_x e^{-i\varphi/2} - A_y e^{+i\varphi/2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P_2 = I_{\pi/4} - I_{-\pi/4} = 2A_x A_y \cos(\varphi)$$

$P_3$

Circular Basis

$$J_{\text{cir}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} A_x e^{-i\varphi/2} - i A_y e^{+i\varphi/2} \\ A_x e^{-i\varphi/2} + i A_y e^{+i\varphi/2} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P_3 = I_L - I_R = 2A_x A_y \sin(\varphi)$$

# The Stokes parameters

A set of 4 dependent real parameters that can be measured

## Sample Jones Vector

$$\begin{bmatrix} A_x \exp(+i\varphi/2) \\ A_y \exp(-i\varphi/2) \end{bmatrix}$$

$P_0$

Overall Intensity

$$P_0 = A_x^2 + A_y^2 = I$$

$P_1$

Intensity Différence

$$P_1 = A_x^2 - A_y^2 = I_x - I_y$$

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4 dependent parameters

$$P_0^2 = P_1^2 + P_2^2 + P_3^2$$

# The Stokes parameters

A set of 4 dependent real parameters that can be measured

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## Homework

Find the reverse relationship :  $\varphi, A_x, A_y$  from the Stokes parameters



# The Poincare Sphere

Polarization states can be described geometrically on a sphere

Recall the Stokes parameters

$$P_0^2 = P_1^2 + P_2^2 + P_3^2$$

Normalized Stokes parameters

$$S_i = P_i / P_0$$

Unit Radius Sphere

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 S_i = 1$$

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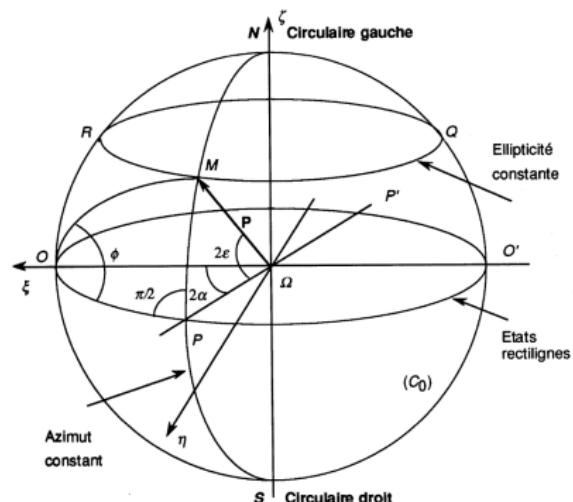
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$(S_1, S_2, S_3)$  on a unit radius sphere



Figures from [Hua94]

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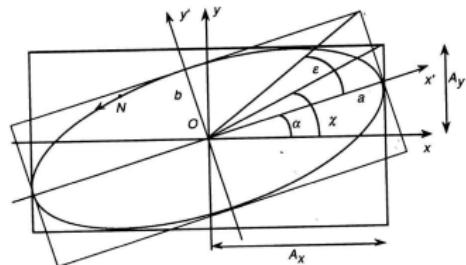
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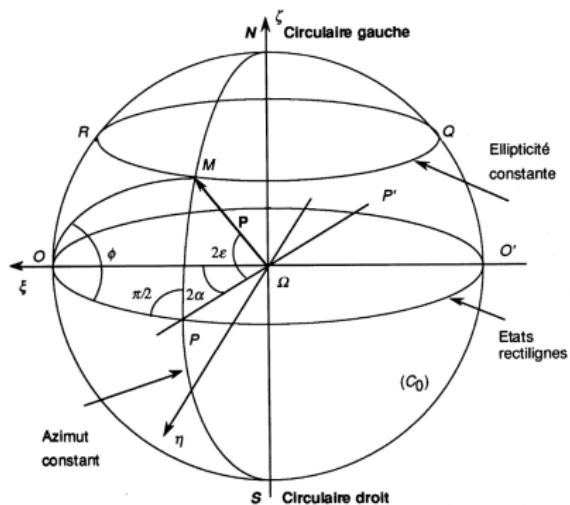
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General Polarisation



$(S_1, S_2, S_3)$  on a unit radius sphere



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# Eigen Polarization states

Polarization states that do not change after propagation in an anisotropic medium

## Eigen Polarization states

- Do not change
- Except for Intensity

### Linear Anisotropy Eigen Polarizations

- Elliptical and Linear Polarizations
- Elliptical Polarizations are Transformed into other ellipses
- Linear Polarizations are Transformed into other linear polarizations

### Circular Anisotropy

# Eigen Polarization states

Polarization states that do not change after propagation in an anisotropic medium

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## Linear Anisotropy Eigen Polarizations

- Quarter and half wave plates and Birefringent materials
- Eigen Polarizations are linear along the eigen axes

## Circular Anisotropy

→ What's called optical activity?

→ What's called elliptical polarization?

→ What's called birefringence?

→ What's called dichroism?

→ What's called retardation?

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### Circular Anisotropy

→ no linear polarization axis

→ light intensity remains constant in every direction

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- e.g. in Faraday rotators and in gyratory non linear crystals
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## Orthogonality

2 eigen polarization states are orthonormal

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# Jones Matrices

2D Linear Algebra to compute polarization propagation through devices

## Jones matrices in the eigen basis

- Let  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$  be the two eigenvalues of a given device
- e.g. for linear anisotropy :  $\lambda_i = e^{n_i k_0 \Delta z}$
- Jones Matrix is  $\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix}$

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## Homework

Find half and quarter wave plates Jones Matrices

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## In another basis

- Let  $\vec{J}_1 = \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \end{bmatrix}$  and  $\vec{J}_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -\bar{v} \\ \bar{u} \end{bmatrix}$  be the orthonormal eigen vectors
- $$\begin{cases} \mathbf{M}\vec{J}_1 = \lambda_1 \vec{J}_1 \\ \mathbf{M}\vec{J}_2 = \lambda_2 \vec{J}_2 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 u\bar{u} + \lambda_2 v\bar{v} & (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) u\bar{v} \\ (\lambda_1 - \lambda_2) v\bar{u} & \lambda_2 v\bar{u} + \lambda_1 v\bar{v} \end{bmatrix}$$

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# The particular case of non absorbing devices

Jones matrix is a unitary operator when  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 1$

## Nor absorbing neither amplifying devices

- $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = 1$
- $\text{Det}(\mathbf{M}) = 1$
- $\mathbf{M} \cdot \overline{\mathbf{M}^t} = \overline{\mathbf{M}^t} \cdot \mathbf{M} = I$
- $\mathbf{M}$  is a unitary operator

## Unitary operator properties

- Norm is conserved : Intensity is unchanged after propagation
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# Jones Matrix of a polarizer

In its eigen basis

- A polarizer is designed for :
  - Full transmission of one linear polarization
  - Zero transmission of its orthogonal counterpart

- Eigen basis Jones matrix :  $P_x = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$  or  $P_y = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

When transmitted polarization is  $\theta$  tilted

Change base through  $\theta$  rotation Transformation Matrix

$$R(-\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) & -\sin(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) & \cos(\theta) \end{bmatrix}$$

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## Homework

Find again the  $\theta$  tilted polarizer Jones Matrix by using physics arguments only



# Intensity transmitted through a polarizer

From natural or non polarized light

Half the intensity is transmitted

From linearly polarized light

- Transmitted Jones vector in polarizer eigen basis:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) \\ \sin(\theta) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Transmitted Intensity :  $\cos^2(\theta)$

MALUS law

From circularly polarized light

Show that whatever the polarizer orientation, the transmitted intensity is half the incident intensity.

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## Linear anisotropy eigen polarization vectors

- Two orthogonal polarization directions
- Two different refraction indexes  $n_1$  and  $n_2$
- Two linear eigen modes along the eigen directions

Jones Matrix in the eigen basis

$$\begin{bmatrix} e^{in_1 k \Delta z} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{in_2 k \Delta z} \end{bmatrix} = e^{i\psi} \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\phi/2} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\phi/2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Express phase delay only

Quarter and Half wave plates

Homework

- Find the Jones Matrices of Quarter and Half wave plates
- Find their action on tilted linear polarization (special case for  $\pi/4$  tilt)
- Find their action on circular polarization

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## What is circular anisotropy ?

- Two orthogonal circular eigen polarization states
- Two different refraction indexes  $n_L$  and  $n_R$

Jones Matrix in the circular eigen basis      Express phase delay only

$$\begin{bmatrix} e^{in_L k \Delta z} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{in_R k \Delta z} \end{bmatrix} = e^{i\psi} \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\phi/2} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\phi/2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Jones Matrix in a linear polarization basis

Rotation matrix

- use  $\mathbf{P}_{\text{Cir}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ i & -i \end{bmatrix}$  transformation matrix
- $\mathbf{P}_{\text{Cir}} M \mathbf{P}_{\text{Cir}}^{-1} = e^{i\psi} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\phi/2) & \sin(\phi/2) \\ -\sin(\phi/2) & \cos(\phi/2) \end{bmatrix}$

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- Two different refraction indexes  $n_L$  and  $n_R$

Jones Matrix in the circular eigen basis      Express phase delay only

$$\begin{bmatrix} e^{in_L k \Delta z} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{in_R k \Delta z} \end{bmatrix} = e^{i\psi} \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\phi/2} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\phi/2} \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\phi/2} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\phi/2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Jones Matrix in a linear polarization basis

Rotation matrix

- use  $\mathbf{P}_{\text{Cir}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ i & -i \end{bmatrix}$  transformation matrix

- $\mathbf{P}_{\text{Cir}} M \mathbf{P}_{\text{Cir}}^{-1} = e^{i\psi} \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\phi/2) & \sin(\phi/2) \\ -\sin(\phi/2) & \cos(\phi/2) \end{bmatrix}$

## What is circular anisotropy ?

- Two orthogonal circular eigen polarization states
- Two different refraction indexes  $n_L$  and  $n_R$

Jones Matrix in the circular eigen basis      Express phase delay only

$$\begin{bmatrix} e^{in_L k \Delta z} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{in_R k \Delta z} \end{bmatrix} = e^{i\psi} \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\phi/2} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\phi/2} \end{bmatrix} \approx \begin{bmatrix} e^{i\phi/2} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\phi/2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Jones Matrix in a linear polarization basis      Rotation matrix

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  - Stokes parameters and the Poincare Sphere
- 2 Polarized light propagation
  - Jones Matrices
  - Polarizers
  - Linear and Circular Anisotropy
  - Jones Matrices Composition
- 3 Partially polarized light
  - Formalisms used
  - Propagation through optical devices

# Jones Matrices Composition

The Jones matrices of cascaded optical elements can be composed through Matrix multiplication

## Matrix composition

- If a  $\vec{J}_0$  incident light passes through  $\mathbf{M}_1$  and  $\mathbf{M}_2$  in that order
- First transmission:  $\mathbf{M}_1 \vec{J}_0$
- Second transmission:  $\mathbf{M}_2 \mathbf{M}_1 \vec{J}_0$
- Composed Jones Matrix :  $\mathbf{M}_2 \mathbf{M}_1$  Reversed order

## Beware of non commutativity

- Matrix product does not commute in general
- Think of the case of a linear anisotropy followed by optical activity
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# Stokes parameters for partially polarized light

Generalize the coherent definition using the statistical average intensity

## Stokes Vector

$$\vec{S} = \begin{bmatrix} P_0 \\ P_1 \\ P_2 \\ P_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \langle I_x + I_y \rangle \\ \langle I_x - I_y \rangle \\ \langle I_{\pi/4} - I_{-\pi/4} \rangle \\ \langle I_L - I_R \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

## Polarization degree

$$0 \leq p \leq 1$$

$$p = \frac{\sqrt{P_1^2 + P_2^2 + P_3^2}}{P_0}$$

## Stokes decomposition

$$\vec{S} = \begin{bmatrix} P_0 \\ P_1 \\ P_2 \\ P_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} pP_0 \\ P_1 \\ P_2 \\ P_3 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} (1-p)P_0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \vec{S}_P + \vec{S}_{NP}$$

## Polarized and depolarized sum

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# The Jones Coherence Matrix

Jones Vectors are out

- They describe phase differences
- Meaningless when not monochromatic

Jones Coherence Matrix

- If  $\vec{J} = \begin{bmatrix} A_x(t) e^{i\varphi_x(t)} \\ A_y(t) e^{i\varphi_y(t)} \end{bmatrix}$
- $\Gamma_{ij} = \langle \vec{J}_i(t) | \overline{\vec{J}_j(t)} \rangle$
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Coherence Matrix: explicit formulation

$$\Gamma = \begin{bmatrix} \Gamma_{xx} & \Gamma_{xy} \\ \Gamma_{yx} & \Gamma_{yy} \end{bmatrix}$$

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Trace is Intensity

$$\text{Tr}(\Gamma) = I$$

Base change

Transformation  $P$

$$P^{-1} \Gamma P$$

Relationship with Stokes parameters

from definition

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Inverse relationship

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Gamma_{xx} \\ \Gamma_{yy} \\ \Gamma_{xy} \\ \Gamma_{yx} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -i \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & i \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} P_0 \\ P_1 \\ P_2 \\ P_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

# Coherence Matrix: further properties

## Polarization degree

$$p = \sqrt{\frac{P_1^2 + P_2^2 + P_3^2}{P_0^2}} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{4(\Gamma_{xx}\Gamma_{yy} - \Gamma_{xy}\Gamma_{yx})}{(\Gamma_{xx} + \Gamma_{yy})^2}} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{4\text{Det}(\Gamma)}{\text{Tr}(\Gamma)^2}}$$

## Γ Decomposition in polarized and depolarized components

- $\Gamma = \Gamma_P + \Gamma_{NP}$
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# Propagation of the Coherence Matrix

## Jones Calculus

- If incoming polarization is  $\overrightarrow{J(t)}$
- Output one is  $\overrightarrow{J'(t)} = \mathbf{M} \overrightarrow{J(t)}$

Coherence Matrix if  $\mathbf{M}$  is unitary

•  $\mathbf{M}$  is unitary:  $\mathbf{M}^{-1} = \mathbf{M}^T$  (conjugate transpose)

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{M}^T = \begin{pmatrix} R & 0 \\ 0 & R^* \end{pmatrix}$$

•  $\mathbf{M}^T \mathbf{M} = \mathbf{I}$

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http://paulberlaime.com/teaching/SPM-PHY-S07-109.html

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Propagating the Jones coherence matrix is difficult if the operator is not unitary

Jones Calculus raises some difficulties

- Coherence matrix OK for partially polarized light
- Propagation through unitary optical devices
  - (linear or circular anisotropy only)
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The Stokes parameters may be an alternative

- Describing intensity, they can be readily measured

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More difficult to propagate through optical devices  
because they are not unitary

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# The projection on a polarization state

Matrix of the polarizer with axis parallel to  $\vec{V}$



## Projection on $\vec{V}$ in Jones Basis

$P_V$

- Orthogonal Linear Polarizations Basis:  $\vec{X}$  and  $\vec{Y}$
- Normed Projection Base Vector :
  - $\vec{V} = A_x e^{-i\frac{\varphi}{2}} \vec{X} + A_y e^{i\frac{\varphi}{2}} \vec{Y}$
  - $\vec{V}^t \vec{V} = 1$
- $P_V = \vec{V} \vec{V}^t$

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<sup>a</sup>Easy to check in the projection eigen basis :  $(\vec{V}, \vec{V}^t)$

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# The Pauli Matrices

A base for the 4D  $2 \times 2$  matrix vector space

$$\sigma_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \sigma_2 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}, \sigma_3 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \sigma_4 = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$\mathbf{P}_V$  decomposition

$$\mathbf{P}_V = \frac{1}{2} (p_0 \sigma_0 + p_1 \sigma_1 + p_2 \sigma_2 + p_3 \sigma_3)$$

# $P_V$ composition and Trace property

## Projection property

$$\overrightarrow{V}^t \cdot \sigma_j \overrightarrow{V} = \left( \overrightarrow{V}^t \overrightarrow{V} \right) \overrightarrow{V}^t \cdot \sigma_j \overrightarrow{V}$$

Projection Trace in its eigen basis

$$(V, V^t)$$

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# P<sub>V</sub> Pauli composition

$$\vec{V}^t \cdot \sigma_j \vec{V} = \text{Tr}(P_V \sigma_j) \quad \text{Tr}(\sigma_i \sigma_j) = 2\delta_{ij}$$

$$\text{Tr}(P_V \sigma_j) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \text{Tr}(\sigma_i \sigma_j) p_i$$

Projection P<sub>V</sub> of the polarization base vectors

- Using  $P_V = \vec{V} \vec{V}^t$ 
  - $P_V \vec{X} = A_x^2 \vec{X} + A_x A_y e^{i\varphi} \vec{Y}$
  - $P_V \vec{Y} = A_y^2 \vec{Y} + A_x A_y e^{-i\varphi} \vec{X}$

# P<sub>V</sub> Pauli composition

$$\vec{V}^t \cdot \sigma_j \vec{V} = \text{Tr}(P_V \sigma_j) \quad \text{Tr}(\sigma_i \sigma_j) = 2\delta_{ij}$$

$$\text{Tr}(P_V \sigma_j) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \text{Tr}(\sigma_i \sigma_j) p_i = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i 2\delta_{ij} p_i$$

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- Using the Pauli basis

$$\begin{aligned} P_V \overrightarrow{X} &= \frac{1}{2} (I + \sigma_1) \overrightarrow{X} + \frac{1}{2} (I - \sigma_1) \overrightarrow{Y} \\ P_V \overrightarrow{Y} &= \frac{1}{2} (I + \sigma_1) \overrightarrow{Y} + \frac{1}{2} (I - \sigma_1) \overrightarrow{X} \end{aligned}$$

# $\mathbf{P}_V$ Pauli composition

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  - $\mathbf{P}_V \overrightarrow{X} = \frac{1}{2} (p_0 + p_1) \overrightarrow{X} + \frac{1}{2} (p_2 + i p_3) \overrightarrow{Y}$
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# P<sub>V</sub> Pauli composition and Stokes parameters

## Stokes parameters as P<sub>V</sub> decomposition on the Pauli base

- $p_0 = P_0 = A_x^2 - a_y^2 = I_x - I_y$
- $p_1 = P_1 = A_x^2 - a_y^2 = I_x - I_y$
- $p_2 = P_2 = 2A_x A_y \cos(\varphi) = I_{\pi/4} - I_{-\pi/4}$
- $p_3 = P_3 = 2A_x A_y \sin(\varphi) = I_L - I_R$

# Propagating through devices: Mueller matrices

$$\vec{V}' = \mathbf{M}_J \vec{V}$$

Projection on  $\vec{V}'$

$$\mathbf{P}_{\vec{V}'} = \vec{V}' \vec{V}'^t$$

Trace relationship

$$P'_i = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{P}_{\vec{V}'} \sigma_i)$$

Mueller matrix

$$\vec{S}' = \mathbf{M}_M \vec{S}$$

$$(M_M)_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left( \mathbf{M}_J \sigma_j \mathbf{M}_J^t \sigma_i \right)$$

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# Mueller matrices and partially polarized light

Time average of the previous study

Mueller matrices are time independent

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Mueller calculus can be extended to...

- Partially coherent light
- Cascaded optical devices

Final homework

Find the Mueller matrix of each :

- Polarizers along eigen axis or  $\theta$  tilted
- half and quarter wave plates
- linearly and circularly birefringent crystal

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