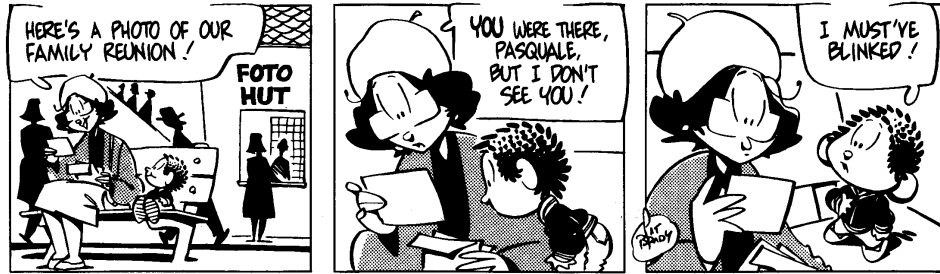


May 1, 2013

Physics 132

Prof. E. F. Redish

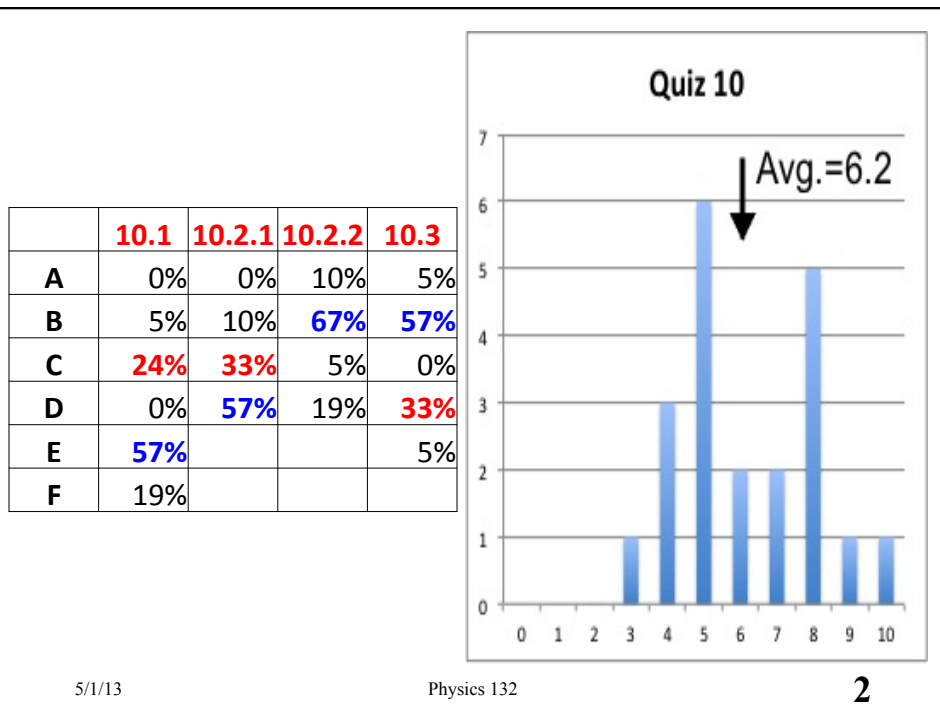
■ **Theme Music: Kronos Quartet**
Tashweesh (Interference)
 ■ **Cartoon: Pat Brady**
Rose is Rose



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Physics 132

1



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Physics 132

2

Foothold wave ideas: Huygens' Principle



- The critical structure for waves are the lines or surfaces of equal phases: wavefronts.
- Each point on the surface of a wavefront acts as a point source for outgoing spherical waves (wavelets).
- The sum of the wavelets produces a new wavefront.
- The waves are slower in a denser medium.
- The reflection principle and Snell's law follow from the assumptions of the wave model.

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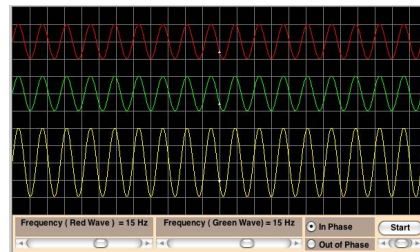
Physics 132

3

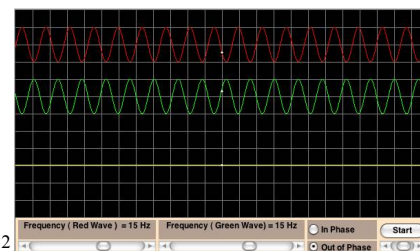
Beats

- When we add two waves of the same frequency,

– if their phases differ by $0, 2\pi, 4\pi, \dots$ they add (constructive interference).



– if their phases differ by $\pi, 3\pi, 5\pi, \dots$ they cancel



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Phase difference and path difference

- Our two waves from different sources have a phase difference, $\phi_1 - \phi_2$ because we are different distances from the two sources.

$$y = A \sin(kr_1 - \omega t) + A \sin(kr_2 - \omega t)$$

$$y = A \sin(\phi_1 - \omega t) + A \sin(\phi_2 - \omega t)$$

- The phase difference depends on the path difference:

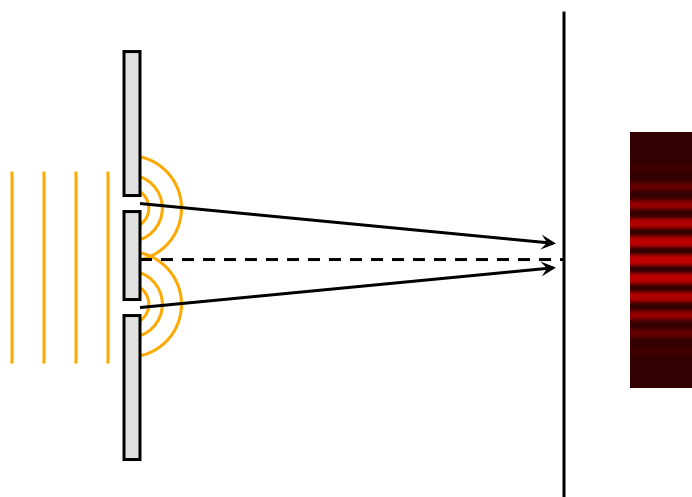
$$\phi_1 - \phi_2 = kr_1 - kr_2 = k(r_1 - r_2) = k\Delta r = 2\pi \frac{\Delta r}{\lambda}$$

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Physics 132

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A First Test: Interference



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6

A First Test: Interference

θ

a

Δr

When $\Delta r = n\lambda$, waves add.

When $\Delta r = (n+1/2)\lambda$, waves cancel

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$y = L \tan \theta \approx L\theta$

L

y

a

θ

Δr

$\Delta r = a \sin \theta \approx a\theta$

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Slits are really much, much closer than shown so this point is almost all the way to the left.

Maximum when $\Delta r = n\lambda$

Minimum when $\Delta r = (n + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$

$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{L}$

For small angles, $\sin \theta \sim \theta$, $\tan \theta \sim \theta \Rightarrow \frac{\Delta r}{a} = \frac{y}{L} \Rightarrow y = \Delta r \left(\frac{L}{a} \right)$

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