

Measuring the wavelength of light waves using a beam splitter

7.5mm Radius

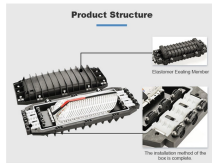


Overview

The Michelson interferometer is an optical device that splits a beam of light into two paths, reflects them back, and recombines them to create an interference pattern. By analyzing these patterns, precise measurements of the wavelength of light and the refractive index of air can be made. Interferometers generally are used to measure very small displacements by using the wave property of light (or other radiation e.g. X-rays). They measure changes of the interference pattern when waves with different phases overlap. Using a beam splitter, a light source is split into two arms.



Measuring the wavelength of light waves using a beam splitter



By counting the number of fringes that pass the detector as the mirror is moved, the displacement of the mirror and the wavelength of the light can be accurately determined.



In this experiment, a beam of monochromatic light, such as from a He-Ne laser, is split into two beams using a beam splitter. These beams travel along different paths, are reflected by mirrors, and then ...



Michelson's interferometer has become widely used for measuring the wavelength of light, for measuring extremely small distances, and for investigating optical media.



Using a beam splitter, a light source is split into two arms. Each of those light beams is reflected back toward the beamsplitter which then combines their amplitudes using the superposition principle.



Michelson Interferometer is probably best known in connection with the Michelson-Morley experiment, in which an unsuccessful attempt was made to demonstrate the existence of an “ether”, a hypothetical ...



According to this principle, the incident beam of light falls on a beam splitter, which reflects roughly half of the intensity of the wave front in one direction and transmits the other half of the intensity of the ...



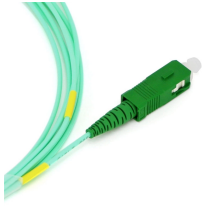
A beam splitter divides a single light source into two perpendicular beams, which travel through two separate arms before recombining. The interference pattern formed by these beams reveals subtle ...



Introduction to The Michelson Interferometer
Components of The Michelson Interferometer
Working Principle
Path Length Difference and Fringes
Applications
Chapter Summary
When light from the source reaches the beam splitter, it splits into two beams traveling along different paths, reflected by the mirrors. The beams then recombine at the beam splitter and interfere with each other. The interference pattern is detected by the detector. By adjusting the position of one of the mirrors, the path length difference between...
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Michelson Interferometer is probably best known in connection with the Michelson-Morley experiment, in which an unsuccessful attempt was made to demonstrate ...



There are two interferometer arms (each one extending from the beam splitter to an end mirror), which are completely separated in this design. The beams are aligned such that the overlap of the two ...



The Michelson interferometer (invented by the American physicist Albert A. Michelson, 1852–1931) is a precision instrument that produces interference fringes by splitting a light beam into ...



When mirror M_2 is moved by a small distance, the optical path difference between the two beams changes, causing the fringe pattern to shift. By counting the number of fringes that cross a reference ...

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