

Multiple interference in optical cavities

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Solution: The wave is reflected several times. For the field within the cavity we find, using $r_j = 1 - t_j$,

$$E_{cav}(x) = E_{in} t_1 \sum_n \left[(r_1 r_2)^n e^{ik[2nL+x]} - r_2 (r_1 r_2)^n e^{ik[(2n+2)L-x]} \right] = E_{in} t_1 \frac{e^{ikx} - r_2 e^{ik(2L-x)}}{1 - r_1 r_2 e^{ik2L}},$$

using the Fourier expansion of $(1 - s)^{-1} = \sum_n s^n$. The reflected and transmitted fields are,

$$E_{rfl} = r_1 E_{in} + E_{in} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t_1 (-r_2) (r_1 r_2)^n t_1 e^{ik2(n+1)L} = E_{in} \left(r_1 - \frac{e^{ik2L} t_1^2 r_2}{1 - r_1 r_2 e^{2ikL}} \right)$$

$$E_{trns} = E_{in} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} t_1 (r_1 r_2)^n t_2 e^{ik(2n+1)L} = E_{in} \frac{t_1 t_2 e^{ikL}}{1 - r_1 r_2 e^{2ikL}}.$$

The phase shift is calculated by,

$$\phi = \arctan \frac{\text{Im } E}{\text{Re } E}.$$

