

Contents

1	Photon Interferences: History and Fundamental Aspects	1
1.1	The History of Light	1
1.1.1	Before Newton	1
1.1.2	Newton and Huygens: Two Opposite Approaches	3
1.1.3	Young: The Discovery and Formulation of Interferences	5
1.1.4	Michelson and Morley: A Genius and Decisive Experiment	7
1.1.5	The Quanta Revolution and Corpuscular Vision	8
1.1.6	Two Crucial Experiments	9
1.2	Characteristics of Interferences	11
1.2.1	Conditions for Interferences	11
1.2.2	Coherence in Time and in Space	13
1.2.3	Contrast and Visibility of Fringes	13
	References	17
2	Interferences with Massive Particles	19
2.1	The De Broglie Wave-Particle Duality	19
2.1.1	The Concept of Wave-Particle Duality	19
2.1.2	The First Evidence for Wave Behavior of Massive Particles	20
2.2	Interferences with Massive Particles	20
2.2.1	Interferences with Neutrons	20
2.2.2	Interferences with Atoms	23
2.2.3	Interferences with Small Molecules	28
2.2.4	Interferences with Large Molecules and Clusters	30
2.2.5	Interferences with Bose-Einstein Condensates	32
	References	33

3	Electron Interferences Using Macroscopic and Nanoscopic Interferometers	35
3.1	Electron Interferences with Macroscopic Interferometers	35
3.1.1	Interferences Using an Electron Beam: The Young Experiment Revisited	35
3.1.2	Feynman Thought Experiment	36
3.1.3	Interferences Using an Attenuated Electron Beam	37
3.2	Electron Interferences with Nanoscopic Interferometers	41
3.2.1	Fundamental Interest of the Approach	41
3.2.2	Processes in Atomic Collisions	42
3.2.3	Approximations in the Collision and Post-collision Calculations	45
3.3	The Role of Electrons in Ion Interferences	46
3.3.1	Elastic Process in Asymmetric and Symmetric Collisions	46
3.3.2	Resonant Electron Capture in Symmetric Collisions	49
3.3.3	Electron Capture in Asymmetric Collisions	53
3.4	Electron Emission in Atomic Collisions: Young 1801	57
3.4.1	Photoionization of Molecules	57
3.4.2	Ionization of H_2 by Ion Impact	64
3.4.3	Electron Capture	83
3.4.4	Ionization of H_2 by Electron Impact	85
3.5	Electron Emission in Atomic Collisions: Young 1804	91
3.5.1	Principle of the Experiment	91
3.5.2	Interpretation of the Spectra	92
3.6	Other Sources of Interferences	94
3.6.1	Interferences Between Direct Ionization and Autoionization	94
3.6.2	Interferences Between Auger Lines	96
	References	98
4	Young-Type Electron Interferences Using Single Electron Sources	101
4.1	Principle of a Single-Electron Experiment	101
4.1.1	Analogy with Photon Experiments	101
4.1.2	An ideal Single-Electron Experiment	101
4.1.3	Visibility of the Expected Fringes	103
4.1.4	Limitations of the Contrast	104
4.1.5	Coherence Time and Coherence Length	106
4.2	Realization of the Experiment	106
4.2.1	One and Two Event Probabilities	106
4.2.2	The Experimental Setup	108
4.2.3	Spectral Analysis for 30 keV $He^{2+} + H_2$ Collisions	109
4.2.4	Evolution of Oscillations with Interference Parameters	112

4.3	The Origin of the Oscillations in Electron Interferences	114
4.4	Analogy with the Photon Interference Experiment	117
4.4.1	Relevance of the Analogy	117
4.4.2	The Young Double-Slit Experiment with Photons Revisited	118
4.4.3	Electron Interferences Revisited	120
4.5	Summary	122
	References	124
5	A Theoretical Description of Young-Type Interferences	
	Following Auger Electron Emission	125
5.1	Quantum Mechanical Description	125
5.1.1	Collision Diagrams	125
5.1.2	Basic Quantum Mechanics Formalism	126
5.1.3	Application to Ion-Atom Collisions	128
5.1.4	Application to Ion-Molecule Collisions	137
5.2	A Semi-classical View of Interferences	140
5.2.1	Introduction	140
5.2.2	Basis of the Model	143
5.2.3	Preliminary Results: Angular Distribution	148
	References	150
	Appendix 1: System of Atomic Units	151
	Appendix 2: Scattering Cross Section	155
	Appendix 3: Interference Term in H_2 Ionization	157
	Appendix 4: Post Collision Interaction in Atomic Collisions	163
	Appendix 5: Path Interference Model	171
	Appendix 6: Oscillations in the Width and Wavelength Distribution in Photon Interference Experiments	177
	Appendix 7: Oscillations at Maximum of Electron Energy Distribution	183
	Appendix 8: Fast Fourier Transform	191
	Appendix 9: Recoil Ion Momentum and Capture Process	199
	Appendix 10: Gamma and Hypergeometric Functions	203
	Appendix 11: Visibility of Interference Pattern	207
	Conclusion and Perspectives	211
	Index	221

Young-Type Interferences with Electrons
Basics and Theoretical Challenges in Molecular Collision
Systems

Frémont, F.

2014, XI, 227 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-38478-3