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A. Reflection of a monochromatic beam from a Fabry-Perot cavity

To describe the behavior of the reflected beam quantitatively, we can pick a point outside the cavity and measure the electric field over time. The magnitude of the electric field of the incident beam can be written

$$E_{\rm inc} = E_0 e^{i\omega t}$$
.

The electric field of the reflected beam (measured at the same point) is

 $E_{ref} = E_1 e^{i\omega t}$.

We account for the relative phase between the two waves by letting E_0 and E_1 be complex. The *reflection coefficient* $F(\omega)$ is the ratio of E_{ref} and E_{inc} , and for a symmetric cavity with no losses it is given by ____/

$$F(\omega) = E_{\rm ref} / E_{\rm inc} = \frac{r \left(\exp\left(i\frac{\omega}{\Delta \nu_{\rm fsr}}\right) - 1 \right)}{1 - r^2 \exp\left(i\frac{\omega}{\Delta \nu_{\rm fsr}}\right)},$$
(3.1)

where r is the amplitude reflection coefficient of each mirror, and $\Delta v_{\text{far}} = c/2L$ is the free spectral range of the cavity of length L.

The beam that reflects from a Fabry-Perot cavity is actually the coherent sum of two different beams: the *promptly reflected beam*, which bounces off the first mirror and never enters the cavity; and a *leakage beam*, which is the small part of the standing wave inside the cavity that leaks back through the first mirror, which is never perfectly reflecting.



Fig. 4. Magnitude and phase of the reflection coefficient for a Fabry–Perot cavity. As in Fig. 1, the finesse is about 12. Note the discontinuity in phase, caused by the reflected power vanishing at resonance.

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