

Computational Photonics
Tutorial 4:
Gratings / Fourier modal method

21 June 2023

Dr. Markus Nyman, markus.nyman@kit.edu
M.Sc. Nigar Asadova, nigar.asadova@kit.edu

Exercises for everyone:

- ▶ Task 1: Eigenmodes of a grating layer
- ▶ Task 2: Multi-mode transfer matrix method, diffraction efficiencies

Extended exercises:

- ▶ Task 3*: Numerically stable formulation (S-matrix method)

Computational Photonics

Seminar 7, July 10, 2020

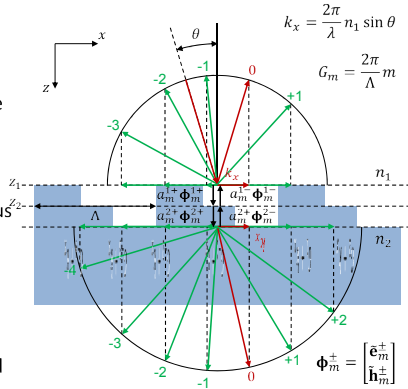
Fourier Modal Method (FMM)

- Implementation of the 1D version of the Fourier mode solver in TE polarization
- Calculation of the diffraction efficiencies of a multi-layer grating in reflection and transmission



FMM fundamentals

- The grating is divided into z-invariant layers
- In each layer the Bloch modes are calculated in a Fourier basis
- The boundary value problem is solved by matching the continuous transverse electric and magnetic field components at the layer interfaces
- In the homogeneous regions the Bloch modes are plane waves and correspond to the reflected and transmitted diffraction orders



TE eigenmodes of a grating layer

- Each layer is z-invariant and periodic

$$\varepsilon(x, z) = \varepsilon(x) \text{ with } \varepsilon(x + \Lambda) = \varepsilon(x)$$

- Maxwell's equations for TE field components E_y , H_x and H_z

$$-\frac{\partial}{\partial_z} E_y = i\omega\mu_0 H_x, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial_x} E_y = i\omega\mu_0 H_z, \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial_z} H_x - \frac{\partial}{\partial_x} H_z = -i\omega\varepsilon_0\varepsilon(x)E_y$$

- Combining yields Helmholtz equation

$$\frac{\partial^2}{\partial_x^2} E_y + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial_z^2} E_y + k_0^2 \varepsilon(x) E_y = 0$$

- Bloch modes

$$E_y(x, z) = e_y(x) e^{ik_x x + i\beta z} \text{ with } e_y(x + \Lambda) = e_y(x)$$

- Expansion of periodic quantities into Fourier series

$$e_y(x) = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \tilde{e}_m e^{iG_m x}, \quad \varepsilon(x) = \sum_{m=-\infty}^{\infty} \tilde{\varepsilon}_m e^{iG_m x}, \quad G_m = m \frac{2\pi}{\Lambda}$$

TE eigenmodes of a grating layer

- Inserting into Helmholtz equation yields

$$\beta^2 \sum_m \tilde{e}_m e^{iG_m x} = k_0^2 \sum_m \sum_n \tilde{\epsilon}_m \tilde{e}_n e^{i(G_m + G_n)x} - \sum_m (G_m + k_x)^2 \tilde{e}_m e^{iG_m x}$$

- For all $x \rightarrow$ has to hold for each grating vector G_m individually

$$\beta^2 \tilde{e}_m e^{iG_m x} = k_0^2 \sum_n \tilde{\epsilon}_{m-n} \tilde{e}_n e^{i(G_{m-n} + G_n)x} - (G_m + k_x)^2 \tilde{e}_m e^{iG_m x}$$

- Truncating to $m \in [-N, N]$ yields an algebraic eigenvalue problem

$$\beta^2 \Phi_e = [k_0^2 \hat{\epsilon} - \hat{\mathbf{K}}^2] \Phi_e = \hat{\mathbf{M}} \Phi_e$$

TE eigenmodes of a grating layer

- Algebraic eigenvalue problem

$$\beta^2 \boldsymbol{\Phi}_e = [k_0^2 \hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} - \hat{\mathbf{K}}^2] \boldsymbol{\Phi}_e = \hat{\mathbf{M}} \boldsymbol{\Phi}_e$$

- The Fourier components are stored in a column vector

$$\boldsymbol{\Phi}_e = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{e}_{-N} \\ \vdots \\ \tilde{e}_N \end{bmatrix}$$

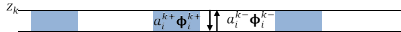
- $\hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}$ is a Toeplitz matrix where $\hat{\epsilon}_{mn} = \tilde{\epsilon}_{m-n}$

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\epsilon}_0 & \tilde{\epsilon}_{-1} & \cdots & \tilde{\epsilon}_{-2N} \\ \tilde{\epsilon}_1 & \tilde{\epsilon}_0 & \cdots & \tilde{\epsilon}_{-2N+1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \tilde{\epsilon}_{2N} & \tilde{\epsilon}_{2N-1} & \cdots & \tilde{\epsilon}_0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- $\hat{\mathbf{K}} = k_x \mathbb{I} + \text{diag}[G_{-N}, \dots, G_N]$ is a diagonal matrix

$$\hat{\mathbf{K}} = \begin{bmatrix} G_{-N} + k_x & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & G_{-N+1} + k_x & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & G_N + k_x \end{bmatrix}$$

TE eigenmodes of a grating layer

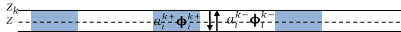


- $\hat{\mathbf{M}}$ has $2N + 1$ rows and columns $\rightarrow 2N + 1$ eigenvalues and eigenvectors
- Each eigenvector $\Phi_{e,i}^k$ contains the Fourier components of the periodic part of the electric field $e_{y,i}^k(x)$ of the i^{th} mode in layer k
- The total field is decomposed into a superposition of **forwards** (+) and **backwards** (-) propagating eigenmodes with amplitudes a_i^{k+} and a_i^{k-}
- The Fourier components $\Phi_{h,i}^{k\pm}$ of the periodic part of the normalized transverse magnetic field $-i\omega\mu_0 h_{x,i}^k(x)$ of the forwards (+) and backwards (-) modes in layer k are given by

$$-i\omega\mu_0 H_x = \frac{\partial}{\partial z} E_y \rightarrow \Phi_{h,i}^{k\pm} = \pm\beta_i^k \Phi_{e,i}^{k\pm}$$

- β_i^k is the propagation constant of the i^{th} **forwards** mode in layer k
- The electric Fourier components of the forwards and backwards modes are the same $\Phi_{e,i}^{k-} = \Phi_{e,i}^{k+} = \Phi_{e,i}^k$

TE eigenmodes of a grating layer



- The Fourier components of the total electromagnetic field at position z in layer k (starting at $z = z_k$) are given by

$$\begin{bmatrix} \tilde{\mathbf{e}}^k(z) \\ \tilde{\mathbf{h}}^k(z) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\Phi}_e^k & \hat{\Phi}_e^k \\ \hat{\Phi}_e^k \hat{\beta}^k & -\hat{\Phi}_e^k \hat{\beta}^k \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{p}}^{k+}(z - z_k) & 0 \\ 0 & \hat{\mathbf{p}}^{k-}(z - z_k) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}^{k+} \\ \mathbf{a}^{k-} \end{bmatrix}$$

- With

$$\mathbf{a}^{k\pm} = [a_1^{k\pm}, \dots, a_{2N+1}^{k\pm}]^T$$

$$\hat{\Phi}_e^k = [\Phi_{e,1}^k, \dots, \Phi_{e,2N+1}^k] = \begin{bmatrix} \tilde{e}_{-N,1}^k & \dots & \tilde{e}_{-N,2N+1}^k \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \tilde{e}_{N,1}^k & \dots & \tilde{e}_{N,2N+1}^k \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\hat{\beta}^k = \text{diag}[\beta_1^k, \dots, \beta_{2N+1}^k]$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{p}}^{k\pm}(z) = \text{diag}[e^{\pm i\beta_1^k z}, \dots, e^{\pm i\beta_{2N+1}^k z}]$$

TE eigenmodes of a grating layer

- The regions before and after the grating are homogeneous

$$\varepsilon(x, z) = \varepsilon = \text{const}$$

- The eigenmodes of the homogeneous regions are plane waves and correspond to the reflected and transmitted diffraction orders:

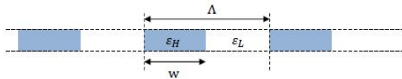
$$\widehat{\Phi}_e = \mathbb{I}, \quad \widehat{\beta} = \sqrt{k_0^2 \varepsilon \mathbb{I} - \widehat{\mathbf{K}}^2}$$

Tasks

1. Implement the function **fmm1d_TE_layer_modes** that calculates the TE eigenmodes of a single grating layer in the Fourier domain.
2. Solve the boundary value problem in order to calculate the amplitudes and diffraction efficiencies of the transmitted and reflected diffraction order (function **fmm1d_te**).

Task 1: Layer modes

- Implement a function that calculates the Bloch modes of a grating layer with a binary permittivity distribution
- Handle homogeneous layers explicitly to ensure the expected ordering of the modes (test if permittivity is a scalar or if all entries of the vector are equal)



- Test with the following parameters:
 - $\lambda = 1.064 \mu\text{m}$, $k_x = 0$
 - $\Lambda = 3 \mu\text{m}$, $w = 1.5 \mu\text{m}$
 - $\epsilon_L = 1$, $\epsilon_H = 4$
 - Use $N = 25$ for the Fourier expansion of the electric Field
 - Sample the spatial permittivity distribution with $N_x = 1001$ points
- Calculate the spatial field distributions $e_{y,i}(x)$ of the propagating modes

Task 1: Layer modes

```
def fmm1d_te_layer_modes(perm, period, k0, kx, N):  
    '''Calculates the TE eigenmodes of a one-dimensional grating layer.  
    Arguments  
    -----  
        perm: 1d-array  
              permittivity distribution  
        period: float  
              grating period  
        k0: float  
            vacuum wavenumber  
        kx: float  
            transverse wave vector  
        N: int  
            number of positive Fourier orders  
    Returns  
    -----  
        beta: 1d-array  
              propagation constants of the eigenmodes  
        phie: 2d-array  
              Fourier coefficients of the eigenmodes (each column corresponds to one mode)  
    ...  
    pass
```


Task 1: Implementation hints

- The spatial coordinates are $x = (0:N_x-1)/N_x \cdot \text{period}$
- The Fourier expansion of the permittivity is given by

$$\text{perm_ft} = \text{fft}(\text{perm})/N_x$$
 assuming $N_x = \text{length}(\text{perm})$, dividing by N_x ensures that perm_ft is scaled correctly, i.e. that its first element is equal to the average of perm

$$\text{perm_ft}(1) == \text{mean}(\text{perm})$$
- Keep in mind that in Numpy/Scipy the vector returned by $\text{fft}()$ contains first the positive, then negative frequencies:

$$\hat{\epsilon}_m = [\hat{\epsilon}_0, \hat{\epsilon}_1, \dots, \hat{\epsilon}_{n^+}, \hat{\epsilon}_{-n^-}, \dots, \hat{\epsilon}_{-1}]$$

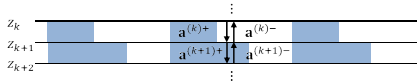
$$n^+ = \lfloor (N_x - 1)/2 \rfloor$$

$$n^- = \lfloor (N_x - 1)/2 \rfloor$$
- Make sure that $n^+ = \lfloor (N_x - 1)/2 \rfloor \geq 2N$, otherwise you will not have enough Fourier components to fill the Toeplitz matrix
- Don't use $\text{fftshift}()$ unless you know exactly what you are doing
- For the construction of the matrix, you can use the function $\text{toeplitz}()$ in `scipy.linalg`

Task 1: Implementation hints

- In **Python** block matrices can be assembled using either the function `numpy.block()` or you have to combine `numpy.hstack()` and `numpy.vstack()`
- When you take the square root of the eigenvalues β_i^2 to calculate the propagation constants β_i of the modes, make sure that the obtained propagation constants belong to forward modes, i.e. $\Re\{\beta_i\} + \Im\{\beta_i\} > 0$, otherwise reverse β_i

Boundary value problem

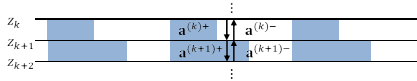


- Problem:
 - N layers, incident wave $\mathbf{a}^{(0)+}$ is known
 - Wanted: amplitudes of the reflected and transmitted modes $\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{a}^{(0)-}$ and $\mathbf{T} = \mathbf{a}^{(N+1)+}$
- At the interface between two layers the transverse electric and magnetic fields are continuous ($d_k = z_{k+1} - z_k$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k+1)} & \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k+1)} \\ \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k+1)} \hat{\beta}^{(k+1)} & -\hat{\Phi}_e^{(k+1)} \hat{\beta}^{(k+1)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{p}}^{(k+1)+}(0) & 0 \\ 0 & \hat{\mathbf{p}}^{(k+1)-}(0) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}^{(k+1)+} \\ \mathbf{a}^{(k+1)-} \end{bmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k)} & \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k)} \\ \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k)} \hat{\beta}^{(k)} & -\hat{\Phi}_e^{(k)} \hat{\beta}^{(k)} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{p}}^{(k)+}(d_k) & 0 \\ 0 & \hat{\mathbf{p}}^{(k)-}(d_k) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}^{(k)+} \\ \mathbf{a}^{(k)-} \end{bmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

- $\hat{\mathbf{p}}^{(k+1)\pm}(0) = \mathbb{I}$

Boundary value problem



- Interface transfer matrix

$$\hat{\mathbf{t}}(k, k+1) = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k+1)} & \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k+1)} \\ \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k+1)} \hat{\beta}^{(k+1)} & -\hat{\Phi}_e^{(k+1)} \hat{\beta}^{(k+1)} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k)} & \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k)} \\ \hat{\Phi}_e^{(k)} \hat{\beta}^{(k)} & -\hat{\Phi}_e^{(k)} \hat{\beta}^{(k)} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Layer transfer matrix

$$\hat{\mathbf{T}}(k, k+1) = \hat{\mathbf{t}}(k, k+1) \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{p}}^{(k)+}(d_k) & 0 \\ 0 & \hat{\mathbf{p}}^{(k)-}(d_k) \end{bmatrix}$$

- With

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}^{(k+1)+} \\ \mathbf{a}^{(k+1)-} \end{bmatrix} = \hat{\mathbf{T}}(k, k+1) \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}^{(k)+} \\ \mathbf{a}^{(k)-} \end{bmatrix}$$

- **Transfer matrices can be stacked** (Pay attention to the correct multiplication order! Matrix multiplication is not commutative.)

$$\hat{\mathbf{T}}(0, k+1) = \hat{\mathbf{T}}(k, k+1) \hat{\mathbf{T}}(0, k)$$

Transfer matrix algorithm (T-matrix algorithm)

- Start in the homogeneous layer before the grating

$$- \hat{\Phi}_e^0 = \mathbb{I}_{2N+1}, \quad \hat{\beta}^0 = \sqrt{k_0^2 \varepsilon_{\text{in}} \mathbb{I}_{2N+1} - \hat{\mathbf{K}}^2}, \quad d_0 = 0$$

$$- \hat{\mathbf{T}}(0,0) = \mathbb{I}_{2(2N+1)}$$

- For each layer $i = 1 \dots N$

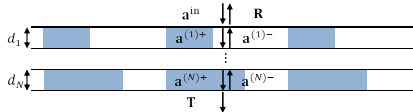
- Calculate layer modes and propagation constants $\hat{\Phi}_e^i$ and $\hat{\beta}^i$
- Calculate layer T-matrix $\hat{\mathbf{T}}(i-1, i) \leftarrow (\hat{\beta}^{i-1}, \hat{\Phi}_e^{i-1}, d_{i-1}, \hat{\beta}^i, \hat{\Phi}_e^i)$
- Update stack T-matrix $\hat{\mathbf{T}}(0, i) = \hat{\mathbf{T}}(i-1, i) \hat{\mathbf{T}}(0, i-1)$

- In the homogeneous layer after the grating

$$- \hat{\Phi}_e^{N+1} = \mathbb{I}_{2N+1}, \quad \hat{\beta}^{N+1} = \sqrt{k_0^2 \varepsilon_{\text{out}} \mathbb{I}_{2N+1} - \hat{\mathbf{K}}^2}, \quad d_{N+1} = 0$$

- Calculate layer T-matrix $\hat{\mathbf{T}}(N, N+1) \leftarrow (\hat{\beta}^N, \hat{\Phi}_e^N, d_N, \hat{\beta}^{N+1}, \hat{\Phi}_e^{N+1})$
- Update stack T-matrix $\hat{\mathbf{T}}(0, N+1) = \hat{\mathbf{T}}(N, N+1) \hat{\mathbf{T}}(0, N)$

Reflection and transmission coefficients



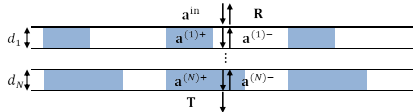
- Incident waves:
 - $a^{(0)+} = a^{\text{in}}, a_m^{\text{in}} = \delta_{mN+1}$
 - $a^{(N+1)-} = 0$
- Reflected and transmitted diffraction orders

$$\mathbf{R} = \mathbf{a}^{(0)-}, \quad \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{a}^{(N+1)+}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{T} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = \hat{\mathbf{T}}(0, N+1) \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}^{\text{in}} \\ \mathbf{R} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{11} & \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{12} \\ \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{21} & \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{22} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{a}^{\text{in}} \\ \mathbf{R} \end{bmatrix}$$

- Solving for $\mathbf{R}$ and $\mathbf{T}$ yields
 - $\mathbf{R} = -\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{22}^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{21} \mathbf{a}^{\text{in}}$
 - $\mathbf{T} = (\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{11} - \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{12} \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{22}^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{21}) \mathbf{a}^{\text{in}}$

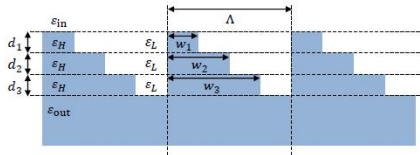
Diffraction efficiencies



- Reflection and transmission coefficients
 - $\mathbf{R} = -\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{22}^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{21} \mathbf{a}^{\text{in}}$
 - $\mathbf{T} = (\hat{\mathbf{t}}_{11} - \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{12} \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{22}^{-1} \hat{\mathbf{t}}_{21}) \mathbf{a}^{\text{in}}$
- Diffraction efficiencies of the m^{th} diffraction order
 - z-component of Poynting vector in Fourier space: $\tilde{S}_{z,m} \propto \Re\{\beta_m\} |\tilde{e}_m|^2$
 - $\eta_{R/T,m} = \tilde{S}_{z,m}^{R/T} / \tilde{S}_z^{\text{in}}$
 - $\boldsymbol{\eta}_R = \frac{1}{\Re\{\beta^{\text{in}}\}} \Re\{\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(0)}\} (\mathbf{R} \circ \mathbf{R}^*)$
 - $\boldsymbol{\eta}_T = \frac{1}{\Re\{\beta^{\text{in}}\}} \Re\{\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}^{(N+1)}\} (\mathbf{T} \circ \mathbf{T}^*)$
 - $(\mathbf{A} \circ \mathbf{A})$ means elementwise product of $\mathbf{A}$ and $\mathbf{B}$ (Hadamard product)

Task 2: Diffraction efficiencies of a multilayer grating

- Implement a function that calculates the TE diffraction efficiencies and reflection and transmission coefficients of a multilayer grating with the T-matrix algorithm



- Calculate the diffraction efficiencies for the following parameters
 - $\lambda = 1.064 \text{ } \mu\text{m}, \theta \in \{-30^\circ, 0^\circ, 30^\circ\}$
 - $\Lambda = 3 \text{ } \mu\text{m}, w_i = i \cdot \Lambda/4, d_i = 0.25 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$
 - $\varepsilon_{\text{in}} = \varepsilon_L = 1, \varepsilon_{\text{out}} = \varepsilon_H = 4$
 - Use $N = 20$ for the Fourier expansion of the electric Field
 - Sample the spatial permittivity distribution with $N_x = 1001$ points

Task 2: Diffraction efficiencies of a multilayer grating

Side questions to examine:

- What happens when
 - the number of positive Fourier components is increased to $N = 40$
 - the layer thicknesses are increased to $d_i = 0.5 \mu\text{m}$
- Why does this happen?

Task 2: Diffraction efficiencies of a multilayer grating

```
def fmm1d_te(lam, theta, period, perm_in, perm_out, layer_perm, layer_thicknesses, N):  
    '''Calculates the TE diffraction efficiencies for a 1D layered grating using the T-matrix method.  
    Arguments  
    -----  
        lam: float  
            vacuum wavelength  
        theta: float  
            angle of incidence in rad  
        period: float  
            grating period  
        perm_in: float  
            permittivity on the incidence side  
        perm_out: float  
            permittivity on the exit side  
        layer_perm: 2d-array  
            permittivity distribution within the grating layers (matrix, each row corresponds to one layer)  
        layer_thicknesses: 1d-array  
            thicknesses of the grating layers  
        N: int  
            number of positive Fourier orders  
    Returns  
    -----  
        eta_r: 1d-array  
            diffraction efficiencies of the reflected diffraction orders  
        eta_t: 1d-array  
            diffraction efficiencies of the transmitted diffraction orders  
        r: 1d-array  
            amplitude reflection coefficients of the reflected diffraction orders  
        t: 1d-array  
            amplitude transmission coefficients of the transmitted diffraction orders  
    ...  
    pass
```

Task 2: Implementation hints

- Use plain numpy arrays, don't use numpy's matrix class
- $A^{-1}B$ corresponds to `numpy.linalg.solve(A, B)`
- BA^{-1} corresponds to `numpy.linalg.solve(A.T, B.T).T`
- AB corresponds to `A@B`
- Changing an 1d-array to a 2d column: `b_as_column = b[:, numpy.newaxis]`
- Changing an 1d-array to a 2d row: `b_as_row = b[numpy.newaxis, :]`
- Matrix-vector multiplication of 2d-array A and 1d-array b corresponds to `A@b[:, numpy.newaxis]`
- The block matrix $\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$ can be built with `numpy.block([[A, B], [C, D]])` or `numpy.vstack([numpy.hstack([A, B]), numpy.hstack([C, D])])`

Task 3*: Numerically stable formulation (S-matrix method)

The transfer matrix method implemented in the previous tasks has $\exp(\pm i\beta d)$ factors that blow up / diminish to nothing for large d , many layers and highly evanescent waves. This leads to loss of precision and large numerical errors for demanding grating structures.

The S-matrix method is more stable. Read the next couple of slides and implement and test the method using the same test case as in Task 2.

If you're interested in a more detailed discussion, this method is explained in Section 3 of [the provided paper \[1\]](#). [1] Lifeng Li, "Formulation and comparison of two recursive matrix algorithms for modeling layered diffraction gratings", *J. Opt. Soc. Am. A* **13**, 1024, 1996.

S-matrix method

Definition of S-matrix: (outgoing fields) = **S** (incoming fields):

$$\begin{bmatrix} a^{2+} \\ a^{1-} \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{S} \begin{bmatrix} a^{1+} \\ a^{2-} \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Putting two S-matrices A and B together (B comes after A); unlike transfer matrices, S-matrices cannot be stacked just by matrix multiplication):

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} B_{11}(I - A_{12}B_{21})^{-1}A_{11} & B_{12} + B_{11}A_{12}(I - B_{21}A_{12})^{-1}B_{22} \\ A_{21} + A_{22}B_{21}(I - A_{12}B_{21})^{-1}A_{11} & A_{22}(I - B_{21}A_{12})^{-1}B_{22} \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

where A_{11} , A_{12} etc. are the upper left, upper right etc. blocks (see next slide). To calculate the transmission and reflection, set $a^{1+} = a_{\text{inc}}$ and $a^{2-} = 0$, and we immediately get

$$t = S_{11}a_{\text{inc}} \quad (3)$$

$$r = S_{21}a_{\text{inc}} \quad (4)$$

S-matrices

S-matrix of an interface between media 1 and 2:

$$\mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_2 & -\Phi_1 \\ \Phi_2\beta_2 & \Phi_1\beta_1 \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \Phi_1 & -\Phi_2 \\ \Phi_1\beta_1 & \Phi_2\beta_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

where Φ and β are blocks defined as in the T-matrix method.

S-matrix of propagation in a medium of thickness d

$$\begin{bmatrix} e^{i\beta d} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\beta d} \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

Note that the $\exp(-i\beta d)$ factor is not present, which helps explain why this method is not as vulnerable to loss of precision.