

# UNIT 4: ORD and CD

(Part I: Polarized Light)

M.Sc. Semester II

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# Syllabus

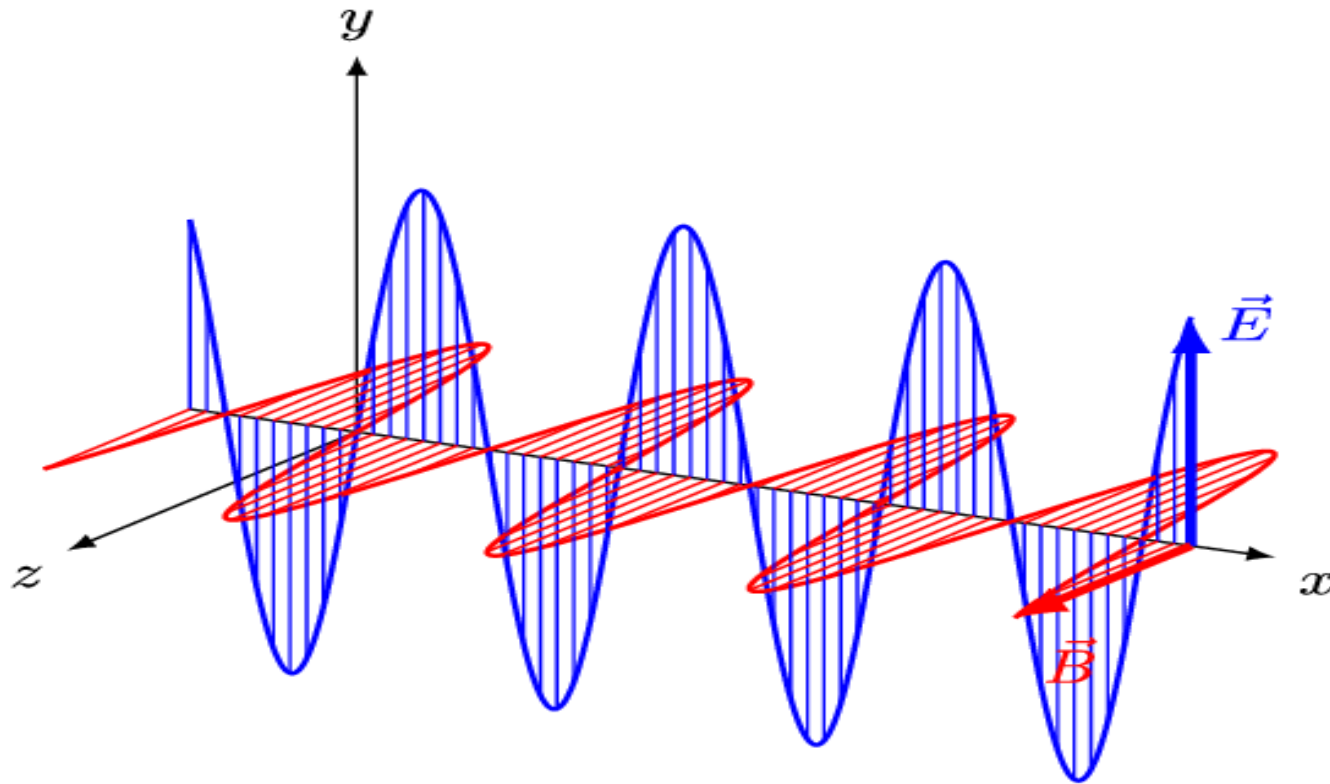
- Basic Principles of ORD and CD techniques;
- ORD and Cotton effect, Faraday and Kerr effects;
- Applications in determining absolute configuration of metal complexes.

# Basic Principles

- Interaction between electromagnetic radiation and matter is the basis of spectroscopy.
- Chiroptical Spectroscopy: When the matter under consideration is made up of chiral molecules, a special branch of spectroscopy come into picture, known as *chiroptical spectroscopy*. It is the study of chiral systems using optical spectroscopy methods.
- To understand the principles of chiroptical spectroscopy, it is necessary to gain insight into the properties of electromagnetic radiation, chiral molecules, and the interaction between them.

# Polarization of light

An electromagnetic wave is associated with electric and magnetic fields oscillating perpendicular to each other.



For Simplicity, our discussion will only be restricted to Electric Field,  $E$ .

**Plane polarized light:** If light is represented to propagate along z axis, with its electric field oscillating in the xz plane, then light is said to be x-polarized or linearly polarized along the x axis or plane polarized in the xz plane.

**Coherent waves:** Two or more waves that have the same frequency and the same relationship between corresponding points at all times are referred to as *coherent waves*.

By combining the x-polarized and y-polarized **coherent light** wave components, one can generate a variety of polarization states.

➤ x-polarized wave component propagating in time t is represented by

$$F_x = F_{x0} \cos 2\pi\nu t = F_{x0} \cos\Theta_t$$

➤ y-polarized wave component propagating in time t is represented by

$$F_y = F_{y0} \cos 2\pi\nu t = F_{y0} \cos\Theta_t$$

Where,  $F_{x0}$  = Maximum amplitude of wave component  $F_x$

$F_{y0}$  = Maximum amplitude of wave component  $F_y$



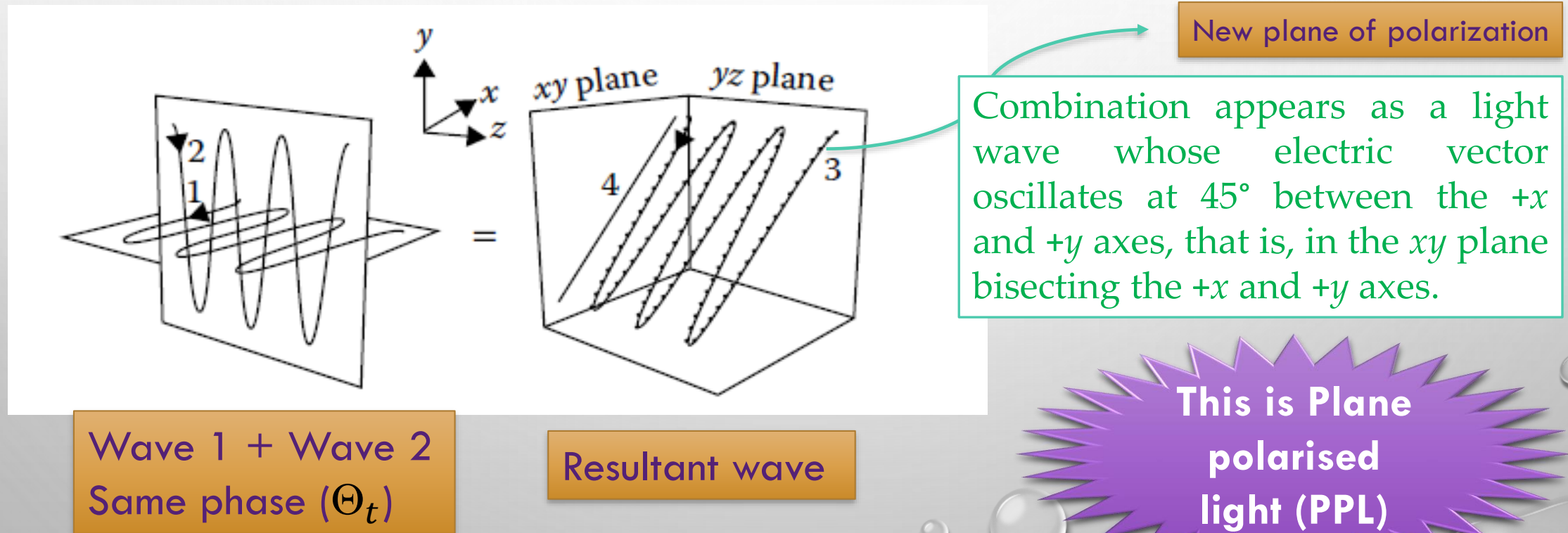
For a coherent wave,

$$F_{x0} = F_{y0} = F_0$$

If we combine both waves, the resulting linearly polarized light is represented by Equation

$$F = F_0 (\mathbf{u} \cos\Theta_t + \mathbf{v} \cos\Theta_t)$$

where  $\mathbf{u}$  and  $\mathbf{v}$  are unit vectors along the  $x$  and  $y$  axes, respectively.



## CIRCULARLY POLARIZED LIGHT

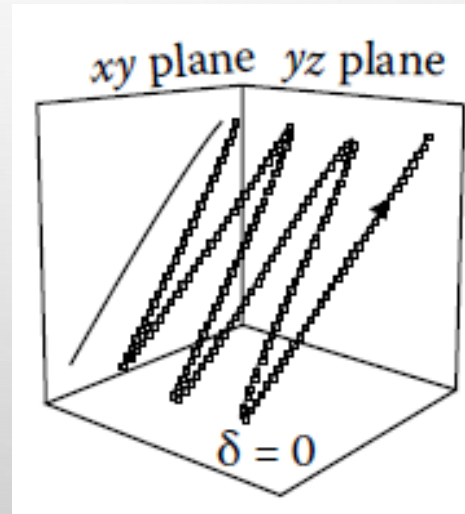
- Light wave of different phase combine to form Circularly polarized light.

$$F = F_0 [\mathbf{u} \cos\Theta_t + \mathbf{v} \cos(\Theta_t + \delta)]$$

If the wave in the  $xz$  plane is represented by  $F_0 \cos\Theta_t$  and that in the  $yz$  plane by  $F_0 \cos(\Theta_t + \delta)$ , then these waves are said to have a phase difference of  $\delta$ .

Variation of this phase difference between **0** and  **$2\pi$**  will lead to changes in the polarization state of the resulting wave.

If Phase Difference is Zero;  $\delta = 0$



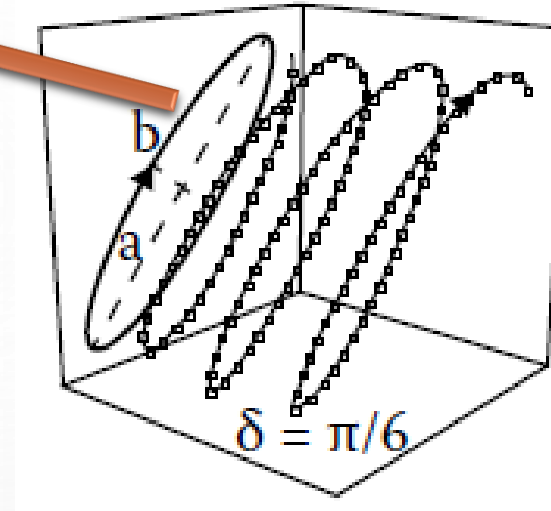
Plane  
polarised  
light

- The polarization of the resulting wave at  $\delta = 0$  is linear with its polarization axis at  $45^\circ$  from  $+x$  and  $+y$  axes.

## Polarization Ellipse

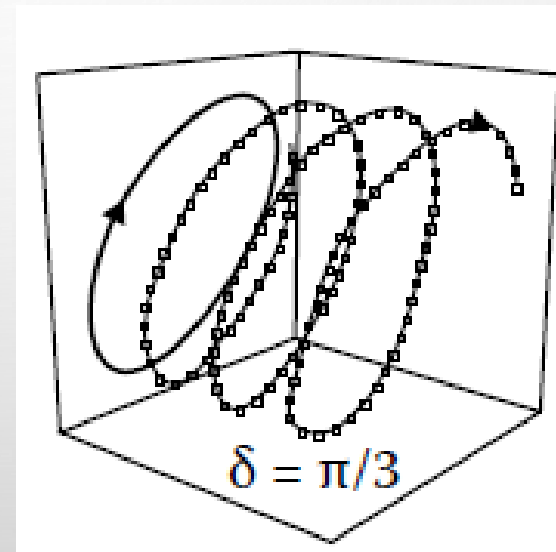
If Phase Difference is  $30^\circ$ ;  $\delta = \pi/6$

- $a$  = Major axis;  $b$  = Minor axis
- Here  $a \gg b$



If Phase Difference is  $60^\circ$ ;  $\delta = \pi/3$

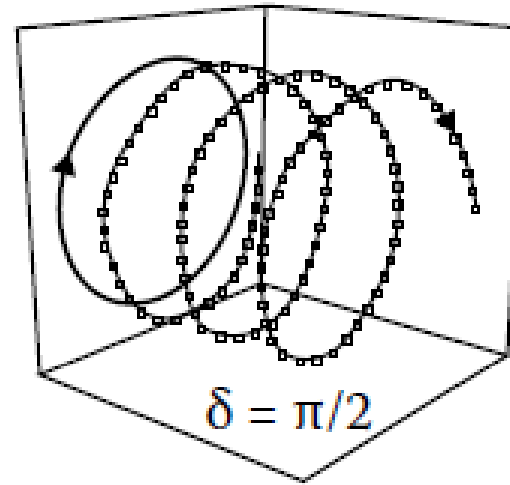
- Minor axis,  $b$  increases gradually





If Phase Difference is  $90^\circ$ ;  $\delta = \pi/2$

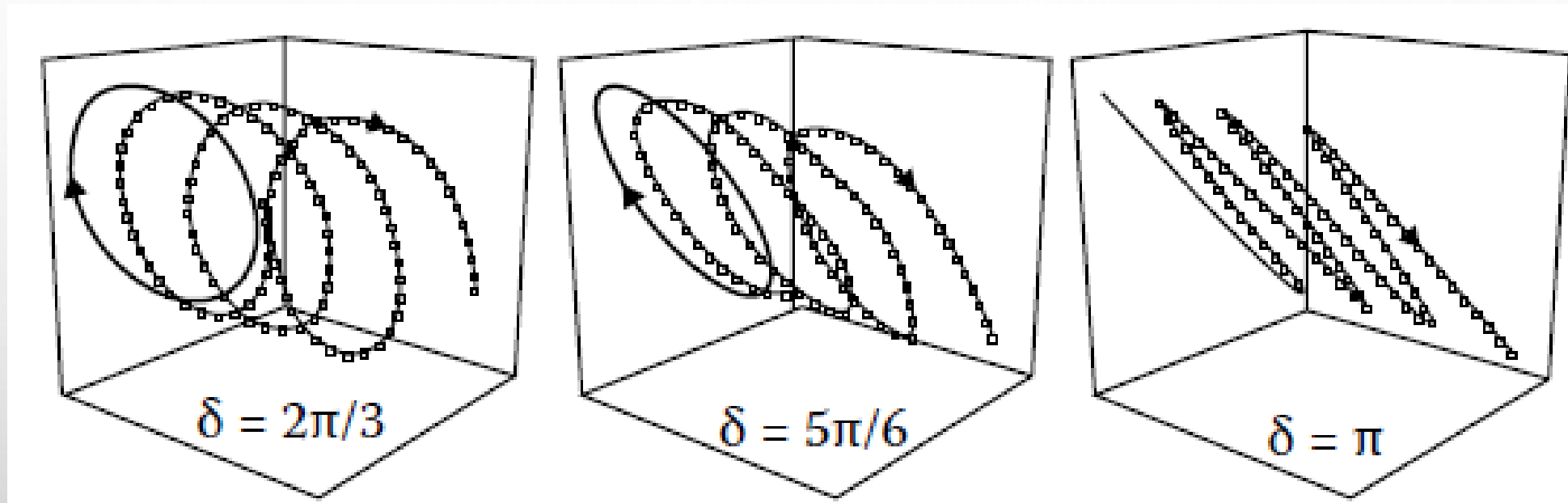
$a = b$ , Circularly Polarized Light



RIGHT  
CIRCULARLY  
POLARIZED  
LIGHT (RCP)

- The electric vector rotates in a clockwise direction
- The angle between the major axis of the polarization ellipse and  $+x$  axis is called the azimuth and designated as  $\theta$ .

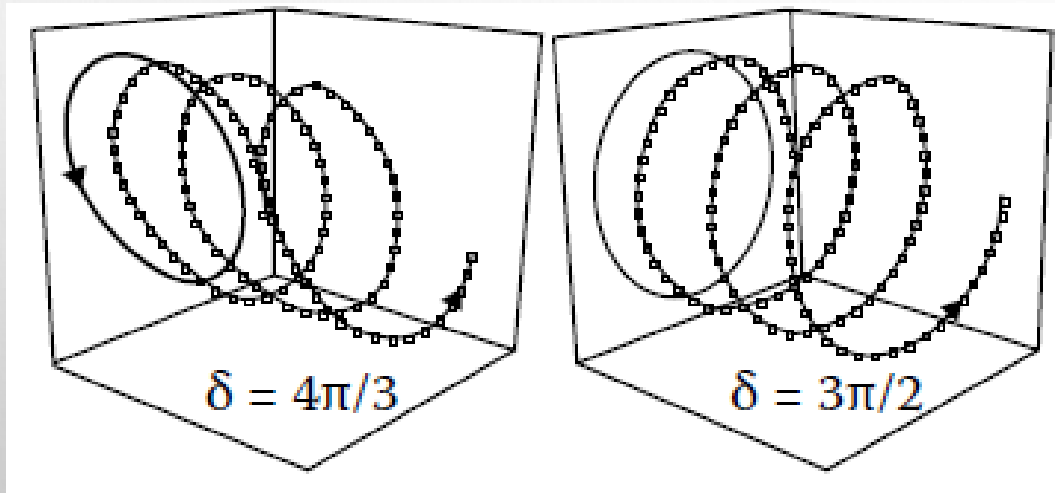
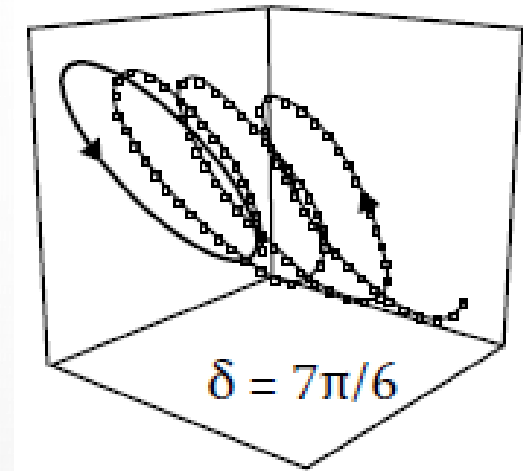
$$F_{RCP} = F_0 [\mathbf{u} \cos\Theta_t + \mathbf{v} \cos(\Theta_t + \pi/2)] = F_0 (\mathbf{u} \cos\Theta_t - \mathbf{v} \sin\Theta_t)$$



As the phase difference angle increases and reaches  $180^\circ$ , the minor axis become zero and also the polarization plane changes by  $90^\circ$

As the phase difference angle increases beyond  $180^\circ$ , the direction of Circularly polarized light changes.

Ultimately, it become Left Circularly Polarized light at  $270^\circ$



LEFT CIRCULARLY  
POLARIZED LIGHT  
(LCP)

$$F_{LCP} = F_0 [\mathbf{u} \cos \Theta_t + \mathbf{v} \cos(\Theta_t + 3\pi/2)] = F_0 (\mathbf{u} \cos \Theta_t + \mathbf{v} \sin \Theta_t)$$

## Points to Ponder

- Right circular polarization (RCP) can be generated from two orthogonal linearly polarized components with equal amplitudes and a phase difference of  $\pi/2$ . Similarly, left circular polarization (LCP) can be generated from those components with a difference of  $3\pi/2$  or  $-\pi/2$ .
- The superposition of RCP and LCP gives linear polarization:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{RCP} + F_{LCP} &= F_0 (\mathbf{u} \cos\Theta_t - \mathbf{v} \sin\Theta_t) + F_0 (\mathbf{u} \cos\Theta_t + \mathbf{v} \sin\Theta_t) \\ &= 2F_0 (\mathbf{u} \cos\Theta_t) = 2F_x \end{aligned}$$

where  $\Theta_t = 2\pi\nu t$ . That means, linearly polarized light with its electric vector along x axis can be seen as the average of RCP and LCP:

$$F_x = \frac{F_{RCP} + F_{LCP}}{2}$$

## Dependence of Resulting Polarization on the Differences in Amplitudes and Phases of $x$ -Polarized and $y$ -Polarized Coherent Wave Components Propagating in $z$ Direction

Amplitudes	Phase Difference <sup>a</sup>	Polarization State	Sense of Rotation	$\theta$ <sup>b</sup>
$E_{x0} = E_{y0}$	$\delta = 0$	Linear		$45^\circ$
	$\pi/2 > \delta > 0$	Elliptical	Clockwise	$45^\circ$
	$\delta = \pi/2$	Right circular	Clockwise	
	$\delta = \pi > \delta > \pi/2$	Elliptical	Clockwise	$135^\circ$
	$\delta = \pi$	Linear		$135^\circ$
	$\delta = 3\pi/2 > \delta > \pi$	Elliptical	Counterclockwise	$135^\circ$
	$\delta = 3\pi/2$	Left circular	Counterclockwise	
	$\delta = 2\pi > \delta > 3\pi/2$	Linear	Counterclockwise	$45^\circ$
$E_{x0} > E_{y0}; E_{y0} \neq 0$	$\delta = 0$	Linear		$0 > \theta < 45^\circ$
$E_{x0} < E_{y0}; E_{x0} \neq 0$	$\delta = 0$	Linear		$90^\circ > \theta > 45^\circ$
$E_{x0} > E_{y0}; E_{y0} \neq 0$	$\delta = \pi/2$	Elliptical	Clockwise	$0^\circ$
$E_{x0} < E_{y0}; E_{x0} \neq 0$	$\delta = \pi/2$	Elliptical	Clockwise	$90^\circ$

<sup>a</sup> Phase  $\delta$  is introduced into the  $y$ -polarized component.

<sup>b</sup>  $\theta$ , referred to as the azimuth, is between the  $+x$  axis and the major axis of the polarization ellipse. Linear polarization can be viewed as a special case of elliptical polarization by collapsing the ellipse so that its minor axis vanishes and its major axis becomes the linear polarization axis.





*Reference*

**CHIROPTICAL SPECTROSCOPY**  
**Fundamentals and Applications**  
**Prasad L. Polavarapu**

Next.....

Interaction of polarized light with Chiral molecules

CD and ORD

