

Physics 391
Lesson 17 Preflight

1. How is linearly polarized light described mathematically? In other words, what mathematical properties must the phases and amplitudes of the components of the electric field have?

2. What do you need to change mathematically to go from a description of a linearly polarized wave to a circularly polarized wave?

3. What do you need to change mathematically to go from a description of a circularly polarized wave to an elliptically polarized wave?