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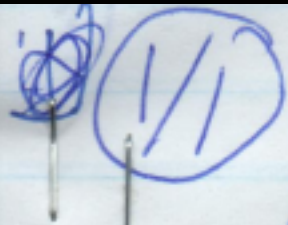
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 A hand-drawn diagram showing a circle with two vertical lines inside, representing a light wave's polarization state.

Light wave in z direction.

$$\vec{E} = e^{i(kz - \omega t)} (\epsilon_x, \epsilon_y, 0)$$

(ϵ_x, ϵ_y) : complex 2d vector

Linear polarization

etc, etc $\epsilon_x = \epsilon_0 \cos \theta, \epsilon_y = \epsilon_0 \sin \theta$

Circular polarization

near $\epsilon_x = \frac{\epsilon_0}{\sqrt{2}}, \epsilon_y = \pm i \frac{\epsilon_0}{\sqrt{2}}$

General elliptic polarization

general complex ϵ_x, ϵ_y

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