

The formula for computing PSF of high NA objective is that

$$\mathbf{E}(r_p, \theta_p, \varphi_p) = -\frac{ik}{2\pi} \iint \cos^2 \theta \cdot \mathbf{P}(\theta, \varphi) \cdot \sin \theta e^{ikr_p (\cos \theta \cos \theta_p + \sin \theta \sin \theta_p \cos(\varphi - \varphi_p))} d\theta d\varphi, \text{ ----- (1)}$$

Where: $\mathbf{P}(\theta, \varphi)$ is conversion matrix for polarization state from initial state (incident light polarization) to focal region.

$$\mathbf{P}(\theta, \varphi) = R^{-1} C R \mathbf{P}_0 = \begin{bmatrix} \vec{p}_x \\ \vec{p}_y \\ \vec{p}_z \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 + (\cos \theta - 1) \cos^2 \varphi & (\cos \theta - 1) \cos \varphi \sin \varphi & -\sin \theta \cos \varphi \\ (\cos \theta - 1) \cos \varphi \sin \varphi & 1 + (\cos \theta - 1) \sin^2 \varphi & -\sin \theta \sin \varphi \\ \sin \theta \cos \varphi & -\sin \theta \sin \varphi & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \text{ ----(2)}$$

There is one paper from Lars Egil Helseth: "Focusing of atoms with strongly confined light potentials" explained it in detail.

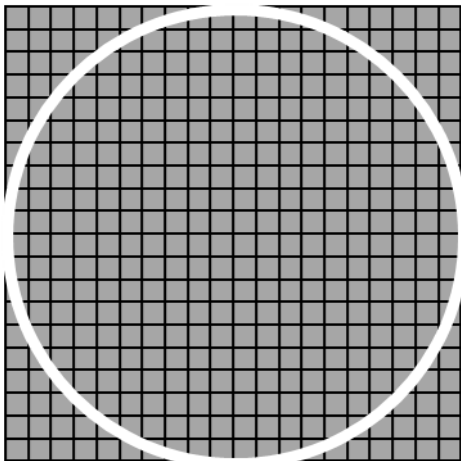
Yes, I've tried the idea which you proposed in your post before.

<<I now rather think that you have to average over waves entering under slightly different angles or from different points (depending on the characteristics of the incoherent light source!>>

Coherent (normal case)

The figure illustrates the diffraction grid on the exit pupil of aperture.

The white circle is the lens aperture, the ray outside of this circle has no contribution to forming of PSF in the focal region.



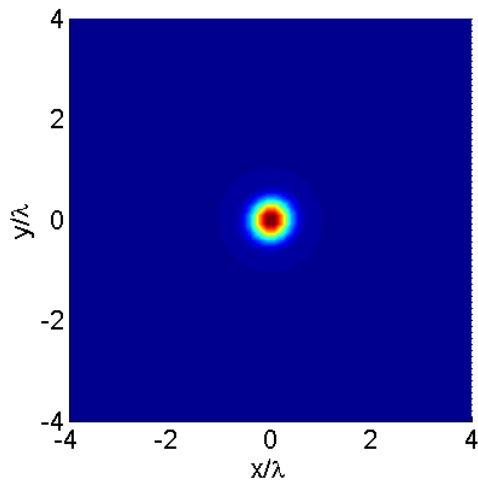
In the case of coherent, all the light is mature coherent, so

$$E_{\text{total}} = E_{\theta=0} \dots + E_{\theta=i} \dots + E_{\theta=\alpha},$$

$$0 \leq i \leq \alpha$$

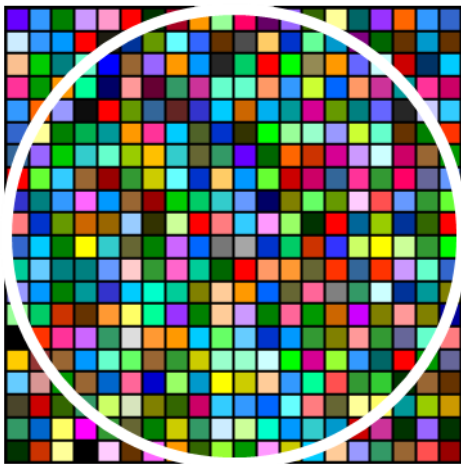
$$I_{\text{total}} = E E^*.$$

Shape of focusing spot in focal region. Xy plane.



Incoherent

The figure bellow is illustrate the diffraction grid on the exit pupil of aperture, the random color indicate the random phase.



But In the case of incoherent, there is no interaction between each ray, so

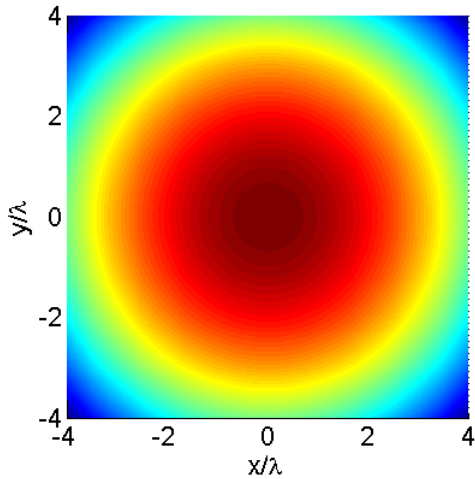
$$I_{\theta=i} = E_i E_i^*$$

$$I_{\text{total}} = I_{\theta=0} + I_{\theta=1} + \dots + I_{\theta=\alpha},$$

$$0 \leq i \leq \alpha$$

But the result is really depends on how small angle you choose and how much rays for each small angle.

Here the small angle is $\alpha/200$. For each small angle there are ten rays. If I choose only one ray, for instance, $\theta = \alpha/2$, $\varphi = 2\pi/2$, the electromagnetic field in focal is planar wave. And the corresponding intensity $I = (E)^2$, is constant everywhere.



If I choose small angle and less rays for each, the PSF is even bigger and bigger.

Is it same case which you proposed in your post? (if I understood correctly)

Perhaps, maybe the diffraction formula is no longer suitable in the incoherent case.