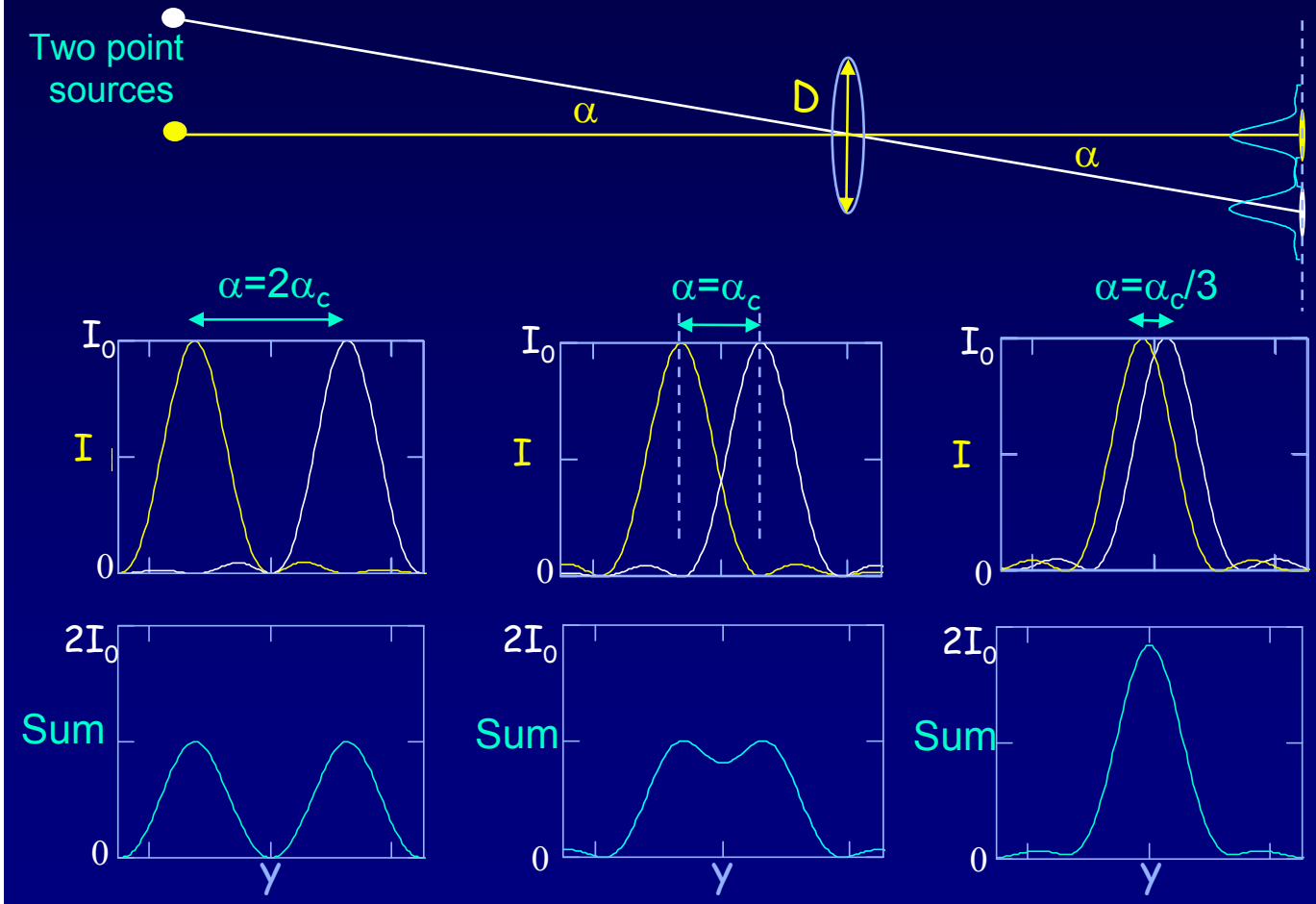
Angular Resolution (from L5)

Diffraction also limits our ability to "resolve" (*i.e.*, distinguish) two point sources. Consider two point sources (e.g., stars) with angular separation α viewed through a circular aperture or lens of diameter D.



Just as before, Rayleigh's Criterion define the images to be resolved if the central maximum of one image falls on the first minimum of the second image.

$$\alpha_c = 1.22\frac{\lambda}{D}$$

NOTE:
No interference!!
Why not?