

# Chapter 8 Solutions

1. a) The angle of the first minimum is

$$\begin{aligned}a \sin \theta &= \lambda \\0.01 \times 10^{-3} m \sin \theta &= 500 \times 10^{-9} m \\ \theta &= 2.866^\circ\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the position on the screen is

$$\begin{aligned}\tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\ \tan 2.866^\circ &= \frac{y}{200 \text{ cm}} \\ y &= 10.0 \text{ cm}\end{aligned}$$

- b) The angle of the second minimum is

$$\begin{aligned}a \sin \theta &= 2\lambda \\0.01 \times 10^{-3} m \sin \theta &= 2 \cdot 500 \times 10^{-9} m \\ \theta &= 5.74^\circ\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the position on the screen is

$$\begin{aligned}\tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\ \tan 5.74^\circ &= \frac{y}{200 \text{ cm}} \\ y &= 20.1 \text{ cm}\end{aligned}$$

2. If the central maximum is 4 cm wide, then the distance between the first minimum and the centre of the central maximum is 2 cm. So, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\ \tan \theta &= \frac{2 \text{ cm}}{500 \text{ cm}} \\ \theta &= 0.2292^\circ\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} a \sin \theta &= \lambda \\ a \sin 0.2292^\circ &= 560 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} \\ a &= 0.14 \text{ mm} \end{aligned}$$

- 3.** If the central maximum is 50 cm wide, then the distance between the first minimum and the centre of the central maximum is 25 cm. So, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\ \tan \theta &= \frac{25 \text{ cm}}{160 \text{ cm}} \\ \theta &= 8.88^\circ \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} a \sin \theta &= 2\lambda \\ 0.01 \text{ m} \sin 8.88^\circ &= \lambda \\ \lambda &= 1.544 \text{ mm} \end{aligned}$$

- 4.** 0.5 cm from the centre of the central maximum, the angle is

$$\begin{aligned} \tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\ \tan \theta &= \frac{0.5 \text{ cm}}{200 \text{ cm}} \\ \theta &= 0.1432^\circ \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the value of  $\alpha$  is

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha &= \frac{a \sin \theta}{\lambda} 2\pi \\ &= \frac{0.1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m} \cdot \sin 0.1432^\circ}{600 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}} 2\pi \\ &= 2.618 \text{ rad} \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the intensity is

$$\begin{aligned}
 I &= I_0 \left( \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)} \right)^2 \\
 &= I_0 \left( \frac{\sin(1.309)}{(1.309)} \right)^2 \\
 &= 0.5445I_0
 \end{aligned}$$

- 5.** If the central maximum is 4 cm wide, then the distance between the first minimum and the centre of the central maximum is 2 cm. So, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\
 \tan \theta &= \frac{2\text{cm}}{300\text{cm}} \\
 \theta &= 0.382^\circ
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}
 a \sin \theta &= \lambda \\
 a \sin 0.382^\circ &= 450 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} \\
 a &= 6.75 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m}
 \end{aligned}$$

With the new wavelength, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 a \sin \theta &= \lambda \\
 6.75 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m} \sin \theta &= 650 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} \\
 \theta &= 0.5517^\circ
 \end{aligned}$$

So, the position of the first minimum on the screen is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\
 \tan 0.5517^\circ &= \frac{y}{300\text{cm}} \\
 y &= 2.889\text{cm}
 \end{aligned}$$

The width of the central maximum is twice this value, so it is 5.778 cm.

- 6.** If the central maximum is 10 cm wide, then the distance between the first minimum and the centre of the central maximum is 5 cm. So, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\ \tan \theta &= \frac{5\text{cm}}{400\text{cm}} \\ \theta &= 0.716^\circ\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\lambda}{a} &= \sin \theta \\ &= \sin 0.716^\circ \\ &= 0.0125\end{aligned}$$

At the second maximum, we have

$$\begin{aligned}a \sin \theta &= 2\lambda \\ \sin \theta &= 2 \frac{\lambda}{a} \\ \sin \theta &= 2 \cdot 0.0125 \\ \sin \theta &= 0.02499 \\ \theta &= 1.432^\circ\end{aligned}$$

So, the position of the second minimum on the screen is

$$\begin{aligned}\tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\ \tan 1.432^\circ &= \frac{y}{400\text{cm}} \\ y &= 10.002\text{cm}\end{aligned}$$

The distance between the second minimum and the first minimum is therefore

$$\Delta y = 10.002\text{cm} - 5\text{cm} = 5.002\text{cm}$$

- 7.** The first minimum at  $20^\circ$  indicates that

$$a \sin 20^\circ = \lambda$$

$$\sin 20^\circ = \frac{\lambda}{a}$$

Therefore, the angle of the second minimum is

$$a \sin \theta = 2\lambda$$

$$\sin \theta = 2 \frac{\lambda}{a}$$

$$\sin \theta = 2 \sin 20^\circ$$

$$\sin \theta = 0,68404$$

$$\theta = 43,16^\circ$$

For the 3rd minimum, we have

$$a \sin \theta = 3\lambda$$

$$\sin \theta = 3 \frac{\lambda}{a}$$

$$\sin \theta = 3 \sin 20^\circ$$

$$\sin \theta = 1,026$$

As there is no solution, there is no third minimum.

**8.** a) We have

$$\frac{d}{a} = \frac{0.2mm}{0.04mm} = 5$$

This means that  $m_d = 4$ . The number of maximum is therefore  $2 \times 4 + 1 = 9$ .

b) 3 cm from the centre of the central maximum, the angle is

$$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{L}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{3cm}{240cm}$$

$$\theta = 0.7162^\circ$$

The value of  $\Delta\phi$  is thus

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\phi &= \frac{d \sin \theta}{\lambda} 2\pi \\ &= \frac{0.2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m} \cdot \sin 0.7162^\circ}{600 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}} 2\pi \\ &= 26.178 \text{ rad}\end{aligned}$$

The value of  $\alpha$  is

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= \frac{a \sin \theta}{\lambda} 2\pi \\ &= \frac{0.04 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m} \cdot \sin 0.7162^\circ}{600 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}} 2\pi \\ &= 5.236 \text{ rad}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the intensity is

$$\begin{aligned}I_{tot} &= 4I_0 \left( \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)} \right)^2 \cos^2 \frac{\Delta\phi}{2} \\ &= 4I_0 \left( \frac{\sin\left(\frac{5.236}{2}\right)}{\left(\frac{5.236}{2}\right)} \right)^2 \cos^2 \frac{26.178}{2} \\ &= 0.1097I_0\end{aligned}$$

c) The angle of the first interference maximum is

$$\begin{aligned}d \sin \theta &= \lambda \\ \sin \theta &= \frac{\lambda}{d}\end{aligned}$$

The value of  $\Delta\phi$  is therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\phi &= \frac{d \sin \theta}{\lambda} 2\pi \\ &= \frac{d \frac{\lambda}{d}}{\lambda} 2\pi \\ &= 2\pi\end{aligned}$$

The value of  $\alpha$  is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha &= \frac{a \sin \theta}{\lambda} 2\pi \\
 &= \frac{a \frac{\lambda}{d}}{\lambda} 2\pi \\
 &= \frac{a}{d} 2\pi \\
 &= \frac{0.04\text{mm}}{0.2\text{mm}} 2\pi \\
 &= \frac{2\pi}{5}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the intensity is

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{tot} &= 4I_0 \left( \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)} \right)^2 \cos^2 \frac{\Delta\phi}{2} \\
 &= 4I_0 \left( \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\pi}{5}\right)}{\left(\frac{\pi}{5}\right)} \right)^2 \cos^2 \frac{2\pi}{2} \\
 &= 3.5I_0
 \end{aligned}$$

As the intensity of the central interference maximum is  $4I_0$ , the ratio of intensity is

$$ratio = \frac{3.5I_0}{4I_0} = 0.875$$

The intensity is thus 87.5% of the intensity of the central interference maximum.

- 9.** a) We notice that the 8<sup>th</sup>-order interference maximum is close to  $y = 5$  cm. (Any maximum or minimum can be used). At this position, the angle is

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\
 \tan \theta &= \frac{5\text{cm}}{200\text{cm}} \\
 \theta &= 1.432^\circ
 \end{aligned}$$

For the 8<sup>th</sup>-order maximum, we have

$$d \sin \theta = 8\lambda$$

$$d \sin 1.432^\circ = 8 \cdot 650 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}$$

$$d = 2.0806 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m} = 0.20806 \text{ mm}$$

As this is a little approximate, let's say 0.2 mm.

b) We notice that the 1<sup>st</sup>-order diffraction minimum is close to  $y = 3.2 \text{ cm}$ . (Any minimum can be used). At this position, the angle is

$$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{L}$$

$$\tan \theta = \frac{3.2 \text{ cm}}{200 \text{ cm}}$$

$$\theta = 0.9167^\circ$$

For the first-order minimum, we have

$$a \sin \theta = \lambda$$

$$a \sin 0.9167^\circ = 650 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}$$

$$a = 4.063 \times 10^{-5} \text{ m} = 0.04063 \text{ mm}$$

As this is a little approximate, let's say 0.04 mm.

**10.** The angle of the first-order minimum is

$$\sin \theta = 1.22 \frac{\lambda}{a}$$

$$\sin \theta = 1.22 \frac{560 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}}{0.1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}}$$

$$\theta = 0.39145^\circ$$

Therefore, the distance between the centre of the diffraction pattern and the first minimum on the screen is

$$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{L}$$

$$\tan 0.3914^\circ = \frac{y}{200 \text{ cm}}$$

$$y = 1.366 \text{ cm}$$



- 11.** If the central maximum has a 6 mm diameter, then the distance between the first minimum and the centre of the central maximum is 3 mm. So, we have

$$\begin{aligned}\tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\ \tan \theta &= \frac{0.3\text{cm}}{180\text{cm}} \\ \theta &= 0.0955^\circ\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\sin \theta &= 1.22 \frac{\lambda}{a} \\ \sin 0.0955^\circ &= 1.22 \frac{620 \times 10^{-9}\text{m}}{a} \\ a &= 4.538 \times 10^{-4}\text{m} = 0.4538\text{mm}\end{aligned}$$

- 12.** According to the Babinet's principle, the diffraction pattern obtained with a hair is identical to the pattern obtained with a slit. Thus, the width of the hair is the same as the width of the slit that corresponds to the same diffraction pattern. So, this problem will be treated as a slit problem.

The angle of the first minimum is

$$\begin{aligned}\tan \theta &= \frac{y}{L} \\ \tan \theta &= \frac{0,065\text{m}}{9,67\text{m}} \\ \theta &= 0,3851^\circ\end{aligned}$$

The width of the hair is then found with

$$\begin{aligned}a \sin \theta &= \lambda \\ a \sin 0,3851^\circ &= 523 \times 10^{-9}\text{m} \\ a &= 7,78 \times 10^{-5}\text{m} \\ a &= 77,8\mu\text{m}\end{aligned}$$

**13.** The critical angle is

$$\begin{aligned}\sin \theta_c &= 1.22 \frac{\lambda}{a} \\ \sin \theta_c &= 1.22 \frac{550 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m} / 1.33}{3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}} \\ \theta_c &= 0.009635^\circ\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the distance is

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_c (\text{rad}) &= \frac{d}{L} \\ 1.6817 \times 10^{-4} \text{ rad} &= \frac{0.02 \text{ m}}{L} \\ L &= 118.9 \text{ m}\end{aligned}$$

**14.** The critical angle is

$$\begin{aligned}\sin \theta_c &= 1.22 \frac{\lambda}{a} \\ \sin \theta_c &= 1.22 \frac{550 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}}{0.25 \text{ m}} \\ \theta_c &= 1.538 \times 10^{-4}^\circ\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_c (\text{rad}) &= \frac{d}{L} \\ 2.684 \times 10^{-6} \text{ rad} &= \frac{d}{200,000 \text{ m}} \\ d &= 0.5368 \text{ m}\end{aligned}$$

**15.** The angle is

$$\begin{aligned}\theta_c (\text{rad}) &= \frac{d}{L} \\ &= \frac{8 \times 10^7 \text{ km}}{4.73 \times 10^{13} \text{ km}} \\ &= 1.691 \times 10^{-6} \text{ rad}\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned}\sin \theta_c &= 1.22 \frac{\lambda}{a} \\ \sin 1.691 \times 10^{-4} \text{ rad} &= 1.22 \frac{550 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}}{a} \\ a &= 0.3967 \text{ m}\end{aligned}$$

**16.** The intensity is

$$I = I_0 \left( \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2$$

At a maximum (or a minimum), we must have  $dI/d\alpha = 0$ . Thus, we must have

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dI}{d\alpha} &= 0 \\ \frac{d}{d\alpha} \left( I_0 \left( \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right)^2 \right) &= 0 \\ I_0 2 \left( \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \right) \left( \frac{\cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{2}}{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) \cdot \frac{1}{2}}{\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)^2} \right) &= 0\end{aligned}$$

There are two possibilities for this derivative to vanish. First possibility: the first term in parentheses vanishes.

$$\frac{\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\frac{\alpha}{2}} = 0$$

The solution of this equation is

$$\frac{\alpha}{2} = M\pi$$

where  $M = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ . We recognize this solution: those are the minimum of intensity.

Second possibility: the second term in parentheses vanishes.

$$\frac{\cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{\alpha}{2}} - \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\cdot\frac{1}{2}}{\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)^2} = 0$$

The solution leads to

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{\cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\frac{1}{2}}{\frac{\alpha}{2}} &= \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\cdot\frac{1}{2}}{\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)^2} \\ \cos\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right) &= \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)}{\frac{\alpha}{2}} \\ \frac{\alpha}{2} &= \tan\left(\frac{\alpha}{2}\right)\end{aligned}$$

This equation is not easy to solve. Among other things, it can be solved with a software like Maple or with the given internet site.

Here is the solution according to the internet site.

**Input:**

$x = \tan(x)$  [Open code](#)

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**Alternate forms:**

$x = \frac{\sin(x)}{\cos(x)}$

$x = \frac{i(e^{-ix} - e^{ix})}{e^{-ix} + e^{ix}}$

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**Alternate form assuming x is real:**

$x = \frac{\sin(2x)}{\cos(2x) + 1}$

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**Numerical solutions:** [More digits](#)

$x \approx \pm 10.9041216594289\dots$

$x \approx \pm 7.72525183693771\dots$

$x \approx \pm 4.49340945790906\dots$

$x = 0$

$x \approx 14.0661939128315\dots$

The first maximum is thus at  $x = 4.49341$ . (The approximation in which the maxima were assumed to be exactly between the minima gives 4.7124) Thus,

$$\frac{\alpha}{2} = 4.49341$$

$$\alpha = 8.98682$$

Since

$$\alpha = \frac{a \sin \theta}{\lambda} 2\pi$$

the angle is

$$\frac{a \sin \theta}{\lambda} 2\pi = 8.98682$$

$$\frac{0.1 \times 10^{-3} m \sin \theta}{600 \times 10^{-9} m} 2\pi = 8.98682$$

$$\sin \theta = 0.00858178$$

$$\theta = 0.4917^\circ$$

Therefore, the distance is

$$\tan \theta = \frac{y}{L}$$

$$\tan 0.4917^\circ = \frac{y}{2m}$$

$$y = 0.01716m$$

$$y = 1.716cm$$