

Chapter 26



d is the separation btw the slits and applies when *d* is of similar size as the wavelength λ .

Diffraction from a Single slit





(a) Two slits

Eight slits produce larger, narrower maxima in the same locations, separated by seven minima.







Path difference = $\frac{a}{2}\sin\theta$

$$\frac{a}{2}\sin\theta = \frac{m\lambda}{2}, \quad (m = \pm 1, \pm 2...)$$

$$y_m = R \frac{m\lambda}{a}, \quad (m = \pm 1, \pm 2...)$$

a is the width of the single slit which is much larger than the wavelength of light

Multiple slit diffraction:

The multiple slit problem the conditions found in the double slit exist similarly. The main difference is that the maxima (bright) band get narrower while the dark bands get small bright regions as shown in figure to the left.

Path difference = $d \sin \theta$

 $d\sin\theta = m\lambda, \quad (m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2...)$ $d\sin\theta = (m + \frac{1}{2})\lambda, \quad (m = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2...)$





Thin films

(a) Interference between rays reflected from the two surfaces of a thin film

Light reflected from the upper and lower surfaces of the film comes together in the eye at *P* and undergoes interference.

Some colors interfere constructively and others destructively, creating

the color bands we see. P

For thin films the path difference is 2t. The conditions for constructive or destructive interference $2t = m\lambda'$ constructive $2t = (m + \frac{1}{2})\lambda'$ destructive with $\lambda' = \frac{\lambda_0}{2}$

For thin films there is a phase shift (p.s.) of $\frac{1}{2} \lambda'$ when light reflects from a surface if the incident ray is in media of lower n_a than refracted ray n_b . No p.s. occurs if the convers ie., $n_a > n_b$. An odd number of p.s. will have the effect of swapping the constructive destructive interference criteria for the path difference.

Circular Aperture and resolving power

The first dark ring is :

$$\sin\theta_1 = 1.22\frac{\lambda}{D}$$

The minimum separation of two object (Rayleigh's criterion)

$$\theta_{res} = 1.22 \frac{\lambda}{D}$$





