

# NCERT 12.10 5Q

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**Question:** In Young's double-slit experiment using monochromatic light of wavelength  $\lambda$ , the intensity of light at a point on the screen where path difference is  $\lambda$ , is  $K$  units. What is the intensity of light at a point where path difference is  $\lambda/3$ ?

**Solution:**

Given,

Parameter	Description
$\lambda$	Wavelength of monochromatic light
$K$	Intensity of light at path difference $\lambda$
$\Delta x$	Path difference
$A = A_1 = A_2$	Amplitudes of light waves
$\omega$	Angular frequency
$k$	Wave number
$\phi, \phi_1, \phi_2$	Phases
$\Delta\phi$	Phase differences between two waves
$y_1(t)$	Displacement produced by $S_1$
$x_1, x_2$	Distance travelled by the respective waves
$y_2(t)$	Displacement produced by $S_2$
$I_1 = I_2 = I_o$	Intensities of coherent waves
$I_{\text{net}}, I_R$	Net Intensities of resulting waves

TABLE 1  
Parameters

Path difference =  $\lambda$

The general equation of light wave is:

$$y(t) = A \sin(\omega t - kx) \quad (1)$$

where,

$$\text{phase} = \phi = \omega t - kx$$

$$\text{wave number} = k = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda}$$

In, Young's double-slit experiment the light waves coming out from the source  $S$  fall on both  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  slits which behave like coherent sources since the light waves coming from both slits are from the same

original source. Hence, the light waves coming out from the slits are coherent.

The equation of light wave coming out from the slit  $S_1$  is:

$$y_1(t) = A_1 \sin(\omega t - kx_1) \quad (2)$$

The equation of light wave coming out from the slit  $S_2$  is:

$$y_2(t) = A_2 \sin(\omega t - kx_2) \quad (3)$$

where,

$$\therefore \phi_1 = \omega t - kx_1 \quad (4)$$

$$\phi_2 = \omega t - kx_2 \quad (5)$$

Since, the waves coming out from the slits are from the same source their frequency, wavelength, wave number and amplitude will be the same.

$$A_1 = A_2$$

The resultant wave resulting from the superposition of the two waves is the sum of two individual waves:

From (2)&(3)  $\Rightarrow$

$$y_{\text{res}}(t) = y_1(t) + y_2(t) \quad (6)$$

$$y_{\text{res}}(t) = A \sin(\omega t - kx_1) + A \sin(\omega t - kx_2)$$

$$\therefore \sin A + \sin B = 2 \sin\left(\frac{C+D}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{C-D}{2}\right)$$

$$\Rightarrow y_{\text{res}} = 2A \sin\left(\omega t + \frac{k(x_1 + x_2)}{2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{k(x_2 - x_1)}{2}\right) \quad (7)$$

$$\Rightarrow y_{\text{res}} = 2A \cos\left(\frac{k\Delta x}{2}\right) \sin\left(\omega t - \frac{k(x_1 + x_2)}{2}\right) \quad (8)$$

Here, The amplitude of the resulting wave is:

$$A_{\text{net}} = 2A \cos\left(\frac{k\Delta x}{2}\right) \quad (9)$$

$$\because I \propto |\vec{A}|^2$$

$$I = KA_{\text{net}}^2 \quad (10)$$

$$\therefore I = K \left(2A \cos\left(\frac{k\Delta x}{2}\right)\right)^2$$

$$I = 4KA^2 \cos^2\left(\frac{k(x_2 - x_1)}{2}\right)$$

$$\therefore I = 4I_o \cos^2\left(\frac{k\Delta x}{2}\right) \quad (11)$$

Subtracting equations(2)and(3)  $\Rightarrow$

$$\phi_1 - \phi_2 = \omega t - kx_1 - (\omega t - kx_2)$$

$$\Delta\phi = k(x_2 - x_1)$$

$$\Delta\phi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta x \quad (12)$$

$$\text{Phase difference} = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \times \text{Path difference}$$

From (12)  $\Rightarrow$

$$k\Delta x = \Delta\phi$$

$$\therefore I_{\text{net}} = 4I_o \cos^2\left(\frac{\Delta\phi}{2}\right) \quad (13)$$

The intensity of light is defined as the energy transmitted per unit area in one unit of time. The square of the wave's amplitude is generally determined as the intensity of the light. Intensities are equal

for monochromatic light waves.

The variation of distance covered by two waves from their sources to the point where they meet is known as Path difference.

The disparity in phases of two particles at any two moments where their position and motion are the same is known as Phase difference.

$$\because \text{path difference} = \lambda$$

From (12)  $\Rightarrow$

$$\Delta\phi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \times \lambda$$

$$\text{Phase difference} = \Delta\phi = 2\pi \quad (14)$$

$$\because I_{\text{net}} = K$$

From, (13)  $\Rightarrow$

$$\therefore K = 4I_1 \cos^2\left(\frac{2\pi}{2}\right)$$

$$K = 4I_1$$

$$\therefore I_1 = \frac{K}{4} \quad (15)$$

$$\text{When path difference} = \frac{\lambda}{3}$$

From (12)  $\Rightarrow$

$$\Delta\phi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \times \frac{\lambda}{3}$$

$$\text{Phase difference} = \Delta\phi = \frac{2\pi}{3} \quad (16)$$

Hence, Resultant intensity,

$$I_R = 4I_o \cos^2\left(\frac{2\pi}{3}\right)$$

$$I_R = 4I_o \left(\frac{-1}{2}\right)^2$$

$$I_R = 4I_o \left(\frac{1}{4}\right)$$

$$I_R = I_1 \quad (17)$$

From the above result (15)  $\Rightarrow$

$$\begin{aligned} i.e., I_1 &= \frac{K}{4} \\ \therefore I_R &= \frac{K}{4} \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

Hence, the Intensity of light at a point where path difference is  $\frac{\lambda}{3}$  is  $\frac{K}{4}$  units.