

Phys 5B: Diffraction

BY KAMERON GILL

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- Diffraction: consequence of wave nature of light

2-slit interference: narrow slits (width D)

$$D \ll d \quad D \ll \lambda$$

If D is not much less than λ , then light waves from different parts of slit interfere.

- If there is no path length difference or no phase difference, then it is a constructive interference

$$\sin\Theta = 0$$

- If top and bottom wave differ in path length by λ

they are both different by $\frac{\lambda}{2}$ compared to middle

All destructively interference $\lambda = D\sin\Theta \Rightarrow \sin\Theta = \frac{\lambda}{D}$ minima!

- In general, minima occur at $D\sin\Theta = m\lambda$

$$\text{Phase difference } \beta = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} D\sin\Theta$$

Path length difference $D\sin\Theta$

- Maxima occurs at $D\sin\Theta = (m + \frac{1}{2})\lambda$

- Path length difference $\Delta PLD = \Delta y \sin\Theta$

- Phase Difference $\Delta\beta = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta y \sin\Theta$

- $N = \frac{D}{\Delta y}$

- if $\Delta\beta = 0 \Rightarrow (\Theta = 0)$

$$E_{\Theta} = N \Delta E_0 = E_0 \quad \Delta E_0 = \frac{E_0}{N}$$

$$\beta = N \Delta\beta \quad \text{Phase difference top vs bottom}$$

- if $\Delta\beta > 0$,

$$E_{\Theta} < E_0$$

$$\beta = N \Delta\beta = N \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta y \sin\Theta = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} D \sin\Theta$$

- $E_{\Theta} = 0$

$$N \Delta\beta = 2\pi \quad \frac{D}{\Delta y} \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta y \sin\Theta = 2\pi$$

$$E_{\Theta} = E_0 \frac{\sin\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)}{\frac{\beta}{2}} \Rightarrow I_{\Theta} = I_0 \left(\frac{\sin\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)}{\frac{\beta}{2}} \right)^2 \quad \text{intensity for single slit}$$

- Combine double slit

$$I_{\Theta} = I_0 \cos^2\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right) \Rightarrow I_{\Theta} = I_0 \left(\frac{\sin\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right)}{\frac{\beta}{2}} \right)^2 \cos^2\left(\frac{\beta}{2}\right) \quad \frac{\beta}{2} = \frac{\pi}{\lambda} D \sin\Theta \quad \frac{\beta}{2} = \frac{\pi}{\lambda} d \sin\Theta$$