

INDIAN INSTITUTE
OF

TECHNOLOGY **BOB BAY**

PHYSICS DEPT.

NO. 2380994 CLASS

BATCH P15/8

NAME V. CHIDVILAS REDDY

EXPT. No. 1

LABORATORY

DATE

DIFFRACTION OF LIGHT:

IM:

To observe the intensity patterns generated by the diffraction of a laser beam when passed through a ~~single slit~~ double slit and to measure the sizes of these diffracting elements, upto micro-meter scale (i.e. micron) accuracy.

Apparatus:

- 1) Optical Rail
- 2) Diode Laser (wavelength 650nm)
- 3) Kinematic laser mount
- 4) Power supply for laser
- 5) Pinhole detector
- 6) Cell mount with diffraction cell
- 7) Output measurement unit
- 8) Linear translation stage
- 9) Slit box

Theory:

When light rays are partially obstructed, they tend to show amount of bending around the obstacle which results in a pattern of illuminated and dark spots on a screen. This is known as diffraction. This bending of light can be explained by Huygen's principle which states that every point on the wavefront that arrives at the aperture acts as a source of spherical waves and these secondary waves interfere on the screen to give the diffraction pattern.

① Diffraction of light by double slit :

$$I(\theta) = I_0 \cos^2\left(\frac{\pi d \sin\theta}{\lambda}\right) \left(\frac{\sin\beta}{\beta}\right)^2$$

$$\text{where } \beta = \frac{\pi a \sin\theta}{\lambda}$$

where a = width of each slit

d = separation b/w slits

Conditions for maxima : $d \sin\theta = m\lambda$

Conditions for minima : $d \sin\theta = \left(\frac{2m+1}{2}\right)\lambda$

where $m = \pm 1, \pm 2, \pm 3, \dots$

In this experiment $d > a$,

From the positions of maxima,
we can find slit separation,

$$d = \frac{m\lambda}{\sin(\theta_m)}, \quad \theta_m = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{y_m}{D}\right)$$

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Observations:

① Diffraction by double slit:

S.No	Main scale reading (mm)	Circular scale reading (mm)	Total reading (mm)	Intensity (uA)
1.	11 mm	$45 \times 0.01 = 0.45$	11.45	42.0
2.	11.5	$25 \times 0.01 = 0.25$	11.75	31.5
3.	11.5	$45 \times 0.01 = 0.45$	11.95	14.3
4.	12	$32 \times 0.01 = 0.32$	12.32	2.6
5.	12.5	$10 \times 0.01 = 0.10$	12.60	10.7
6.	12.5	$30 \times 0.01 = 0.30$	12.80	23.6
7.	13	$18 \times 0.01 = 0.18$	13.18	39.2
8.	13	$43 \times 0.01 = 0.43$	13.43	32.3
9.	13.5	$12 \times 0.01 = 0.12$	13.62	20.5
10.	14	$7 \times 0.01 = 0.07$	14.07	2.3
11.	14.5	$18 \times 0.01 = 0.18$	14.68	26.6
12.	14.5	$42 \times 0.01 = 0.42$	14.92	31.8
13.	15	$40 \times 0.01 = 0.40$	15.40	14

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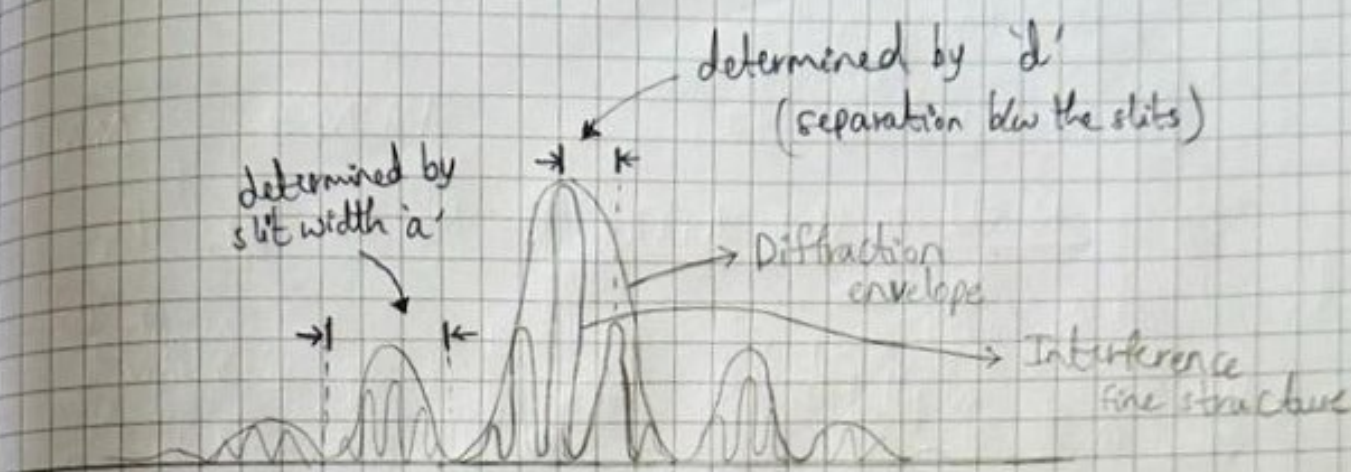
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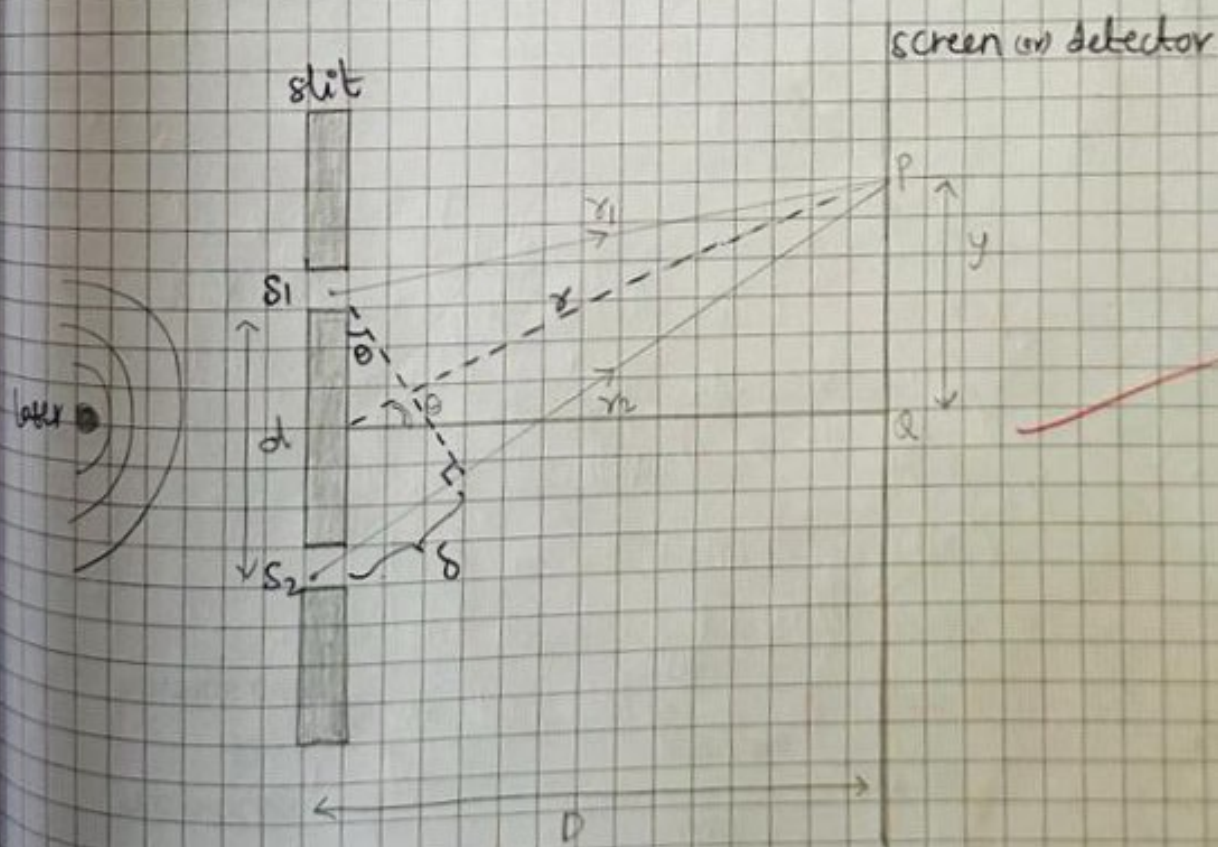
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S.No	Main scale reading (mm)	Circular scale reading (mm)	Total reading (mm)	Intensity (uA)
14.	15.5	$30 \times 0.01 = 0.30$	15.80	1.9
15.	16.	$40 \times 0.01 = 0.40$	16.40	18.5
16.	16.5	$12 \times 0.01 = 0.12$	16.62	22.6
17.	10.5	$40 \times 0.01 = 0.40$	10.90	13.3
18.	10.5	$10 \times 0.01 = 0.10$	10.60	2.6
19.	10	$20 \times 0.01 = 0.20$	10.20	17.7
20.	10.	$0 \times 0.01 = 0.00$	10.00	30.9
21.	9.5	$21 \times 0.01 = 0.21$	9.71	39.2
22.	9	$30 \times 0.01 = 0.30$	9.30	20.4
23.	8.5	$35 \times 0.01 = 0.35$	8.85	2.3
24.	8	$40 \times 0.01 = 0.40$	8.40	19
25.	8	$25 \times 0.01 = 0.25$	8.25	26.7
26.	8	$0 \times 0.01 = 0.00$	8.00	32.6
27.	7.5	$0 \times 0.01 = 0.00$	7.50	13.5
28.	7	$10 \times 0.01 = 0.10$	7.10	1.9
29.	6.5	$40 \times 0.01 = 0.40$	6.90	5.3
30.	6	$30 \times 0.01 = 0.30$	6.30	24.7



Diffraction pattern for double slit.



Diagram

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$$\text{So } \theta_m = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{y_m}{D}\right)$$

y_m = distance of m^{th} maxima from central maxima

$$\theta_1 = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{13.18 - 11.45}{1070}\right) = 0.092^\circ$$

$$\theta_1' = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{11.45 - 9.71}{1070}\right) = 0.093^\circ$$

$$\theta_2 = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{11.45 - 8.00}{1070}\right) = 0.184^\circ$$

$$\theta_2' = \tan^{-1}\left(\frac{14.92 - 11.45}{1070}\right) = 0.185^\circ$$

$$d \sin(\theta_m) = m\lambda, \quad d = \frac{m\lambda}{\sin(\theta_m)}$$

$$\Rightarrow d_1 = \frac{1 \times 650 \times 10^{-9}}{\sin(0.092^\circ)} = 0.404 \text{ mm}$$

$$d_1' = 0.403 \text{ mm}$$

$$d_2 = 0.404 \text{ mm}$$

$$d_2' = 0.402 \text{ mm}$$

$$d_{\text{avg}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^4 d_i}{4} = \frac{0.404 + 0.403 + 0.404 + 0.402}{4} = 0.403 \text{ mm}$$

(slit separation)

Precautions:

- 1) Do not touch the inner surface of diffraction
- 2) Avoid backlash error while moving the micrometer scale on the detector.
- 3) Take care while handling all the equipment.
- 4) Avoid looking directly into the laser beam

Calculations:

① Double slit:-

$$y_{\text{central max.}} = 11.45 \text{ mm}$$

$$y_{\text{first maxima}} :- y_1 = 13.18$$

$$y_2' = 9.71$$

$$\text{second maxima} :- y_2 = 8.00 \text{ mm}$$

$$y_2' = \cancel{7.71} \text{ mm} \quad 14.92 \text{ mm}$$

$$D' = 1070 \text{ mm}$$

Diffraction pattern

Intensity (μA) vs total reading (mm)

SCALE: 1 cm along y-axis
1 cm in x-axis = 3 μA
= 1 mm

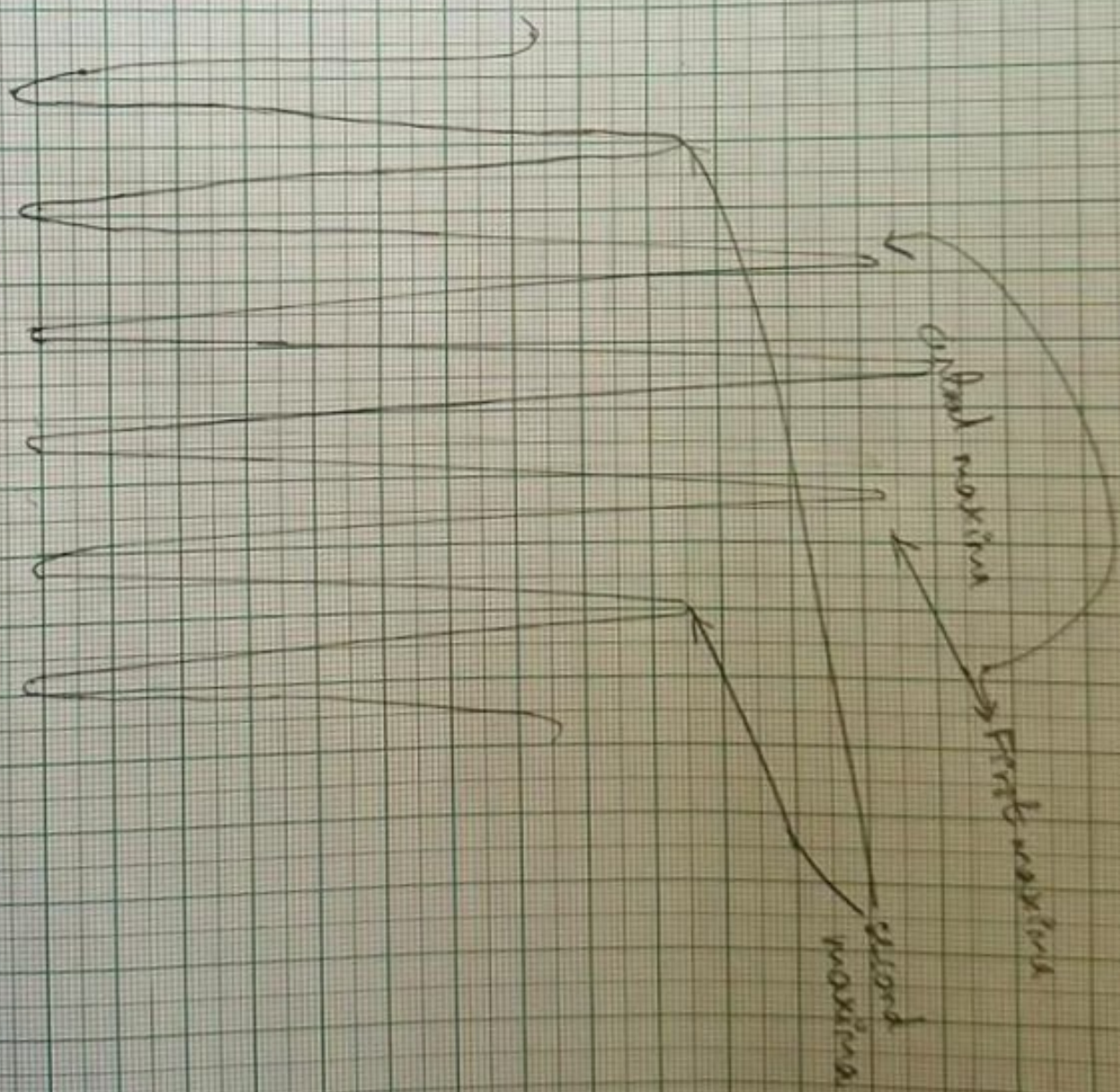
Intensity (μA)

Total reading (mm)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

X



$$\delta d = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^4 (d_i - d_{avg})^2}{4}} = 1.22 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mm} \\ = 0.0012 \text{ mm}$$

Ratio of slit width to slit separation = $\frac{a}{d} = \frac{1}{7}$

$$\text{i.e. } \frac{d}{a} = 7$$

(since I got around 14 to 15 maxima in one ^{diffraction} order)

Result:

→ slit separation = $0.403 \text{ mm} \pm 0.0012 \text{ mm}$

→ $\frac{d}{a} = 7$