

7. The condition for a minimum of intensity in a single-slit diffraction pattern is  $a \sin \theta = m\lambda$ , where  $a$  is the slit width,  $\lambda$  is the wavelength, and  $m$  is an integer. To find the angular position of the first minimum to one side of the central maximum, we set  $m = 1$ :

$$\theta_1 = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{\lambda}{a} \right) = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{589 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}}{1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}} \right) = 5.89 \times 10^{-4} \text{ rad} .$$

If  $D$  is the distance from the slit to the screen, the distance on the screen from the center of the pattern to the minimum is

$$y_1 = D \tan \theta_1 = (3.00 \text{ m}) \tan(5.89 \times 10^{-4} \text{ rad}) = 1.767 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m} .$$

To find the second minimum, we set  $m = 2$ :

$$\theta_2 = \sin^{-1} \left( \frac{2(589 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m})}{1.00 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}} \right) = 1.178 \times 10^{-3} \text{ rad} .$$

The distance from the center of the pattern to this second minimum is  $y_2 = D \tan \theta_2 = (3.00 \text{ m}) \tan(1.178 \times 10^{-3} \text{ rad}) = 3.534 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}$ . The separation of the two minima is  $\Delta y = y_2 - y_1 = 3.534 \text{ mm} - 1.767 \text{ mm} = 1.77 \text{ mm}$ .