

37. (a) Maxima of a diffraction grating pattern occur at angles  $\theta$  given by  $d \sin \theta = m\lambda$ , where  $d$  is the slit separation,  $\lambda$  is the wavelength, and  $m$  is an integer. The two lines are adjacent, so their order numbers differ by unity. Let  $m$  be the order number for the line with  $\sin \theta = 0.2$  and  $m + 1$  be the order number for the line with  $\sin \theta = 0.3$ . Then,  $0.2d = m\lambda$  and  $0.3d = (m + 1)\lambda$ . We subtract the first equation from the second to obtain  $0.1d = \lambda$ , or  $d = \lambda/0.1 = (600 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m})/0.1 = 6.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}$ .
- (b) Minima of the single-slit diffraction pattern occur at angles  $\theta$  given by  $a \sin \theta = m\lambda$ , where  $a$  is the slit width. Since the fourth-order interference maximum is missing, it must fall at one of these angles. If  $a$  is the smallest slit width for which this order is missing, the angle must be given by  $a \sin \theta = \lambda$ . It is also given by  $d \sin \theta = 4\lambda$ , so  $a = d/4 = (6.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m})/4 = 1.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}$ .
- (c) First, we set  $\theta = 90^\circ$  and find the largest value of  $m$  for which  $m\lambda < d \sin \theta$ . This is the highest order that is diffracted toward the screen. The condition is the same as  $m < d/\lambda$  and since  $d/\lambda = (6.0 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m})/(600 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}) = 10.0$ , the highest order seen is the  $m = 9$  order. The fourth and eighth orders are missing, so the observable orders are  $m = 0, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, \text{ and } 9$ .