

47. If a grating just resolves two wavelengths whose average is λ_{avg} and whose separation is $\Delta\lambda$, then its resolving power is defined by $R = \lambda_{\text{avg}}/\Delta\lambda$. The text shows this is Nm , where N is the number of rulings in the grating and m is the order of the lines. Thus $\lambda_{\text{avg}}/\Delta\lambda = Nm$ and

$$N = \frac{\lambda_{\text{avg}}}{m \Delta\lambda} = \frac{656.3 \text{ nm}}{(1)(0.18 \text{ nm})} = 3650 \text{ rulings} .$$