

64. Consider two light rays crossing each other at the middle of the lens (see Fig. 37-42(c)). The rays come from opposite sides of the circular dot of diameter D , a distance L from the eyes, so we are using the same notation found in Sample Problem 37-6 (which is in the textbook supplement). Those two rays reach the retina a distance L' behind the lens, striking two points there which are a distance D' apart. Therefore,

$$\frac{D}{L} = \frac{D'}{L'}$$

where $D = 2 \text{ mm}$ and $L' = 20 \text{ mm}$. If we estimate $L \approx 450 \text{ mm}$, we find $D' \approx 0.09 \text{ mm}$. Turning our attention to Fig. 37-42(d), we see

$$\theta = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\frac{1}{2}D'}{x} \right)$$

which we wish to set equal to the angle in Eq. 37-12. We could use the small angle approximation $\sin \theta \approx \tan \theta$ to relate these directly, or we could be “exact” – as we show below:

$$\text{If } \tan \phi = \frac{b}{a}, \quad \text{then } \sin \phi = \frac{b}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}} .$$

Therefore, this “exact” use of Eq. 37-12 leads to

$$1.22 \frac{\lambda}{d} = \sin \theta = \frac{\frac{1}{2}D'}{\sqrt{x^2 + (D'/2)^2}}$$

where $\lambda = 550 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mm}$ and $1 \text{ mm} \leq x \leq 15 \text{ mm}$. Using the value of D' found above, this leads to a range of d values: $0.015 \text{ mm} \leq d \leq 0.23 \text{ mm}$.