

88. (a) The minimum path length difference occurs when both rays are nearly vertical. This would correspond to a point as far up in the picture as possible. Treating the screen as if it extended forever, then the point is at $y = \infty$.

(b) When both rays are nearly vertical, there is no path length difference between them. Thus at $y = \infty$, the phase difference is $\phi = 0$.

(c) At $y = 0$ (where the screen crosses the x axis) both rays are horizontal, with the ray from S_1 being longer than the one from S_2 by distance d .

(d) Since the problem specifies $d = 6.00\lambda$, then the phase difference here is $\phi = 6.00$ wavelengths and is at its maximum value.

(e) With $D = 20\lambda$, use of the Pythagorean theorem leads to

$$\phi = \frac{L_1 - L_2}{\lambda} = \frac{\sqrt{d^2 + (d+D)^2} - \sqrt{d^2 + D^2}}{\lambda} = 5.80$$

which means the rays reaching the point $y = d$ have a phase difference of roughly 5.8 wavelengths.

(f) The result of the previous part is “intermediate” – closer to 6 (constructive interference) than to $5\frac{1}{2}$ (destructive interference).