

633.

Problem 45.19 (RHK)

Source A of long-range radio waves leads source B by 90° . The distance r_A to a detector is greater than the distance r_B by 100 m. We have to find the phase difference at the detector. Both sources have a wavelength of 400 m.

Source:



It is given that the radio wave emitted by source A leads the wave of the same wavelength emitted by source B by $\pi/2$. The two waves can therefore be described by the functions

$$y_A = A \sin \left(\omega t - \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} r_A + \frac{\pi}{2} \right),$$

$$y_B = A \sin \left(\omega t - \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} r_B \right).$$

The phase difference at the detector will therefore be

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\phi &= -\frac{2\pi r_A}{\lambda} + \frac{\pi}{2} + \frac{2\pi r_B}{\lambda} \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{2\pi(r_A - r_B)}{\lambda}. \end{aligned}$$

It is given that the difference between the distances to the detector from the two sources is 400 m. That is

$$r_A - r_B = 400 \text{ m.}$$

The wavelength of the radio waves is 100 m. We thus find that the difference in phase between the two waves at the detector will be

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\phi &= \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{2\pi(r_A - r_B)}{\lambda} \\ &= \frac{\pi}{2} - \frac{2\pi \times 100}{400} = 0.\end{aligned}$$

