



which implies

$$x = \frac{(\Delta y)^2}{n\lambda} - n\lambda. \quad (1)$$

Now we can plug in numerical quantities and  $n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots$  into Eq. (1) to find

$$\begin{aligned} x(n=1) &= \frac{(2\text{ m})^2}{0.43\text{ m}} - (0.43\text{ m}) = 8.87\text{ m}, \\ x(n=2) &= \frac{(2\text{ m})^2}{2(0.43\text{ m})} - 2(0.43\text{ m}) = 3.79\text{ m}, \\ x(n=3) &= \frac{(2\text{ m})^2}{3(0.43\text{ m})} - 3(0.43\text{ m}) = 1.81\text{ m}, \\ x(n=4) &= \frac{(2\text{ m})^2}{4(0.43\text{ m})} - 4(0.43\text{ m}) = 0.61\text{ m}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that  $x$  is undefined for  $n = 0$  and is negative for  $n > 4$ . Plugging in  $n = -1, -2, -3, \dots$  would also give us negative values. None of these makes sense since we are interested only in the positive  $x$  axis.

For destructive interference, we have to satisfy

$$\left(n + \frac{1}{2}\lambda\right) = \sqrt{x^2 + (\Delta y)^2} - x,$$

and solving for  $x$  in the same manner as before gives us

$$x = \frac{(\Delta y)^2}{(n + 1/2)\lambda} - \left(n + \frac{1}{2}\right)\lambda. \quad (2)$$

Plugging in numerical quantities and  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  into Eq. (2),

$$\begin{aligned} x(n=0) &= \frac{(2\text{ m})^2}{(1/2)(0.43\text{ m})} - \frac{1}{2}(0.43\text{ m}) = 18.4\text{ m}, \\ x(n=1) &= \frac{(2\text{ m})^2}{(3/2)(0.43\text{ m})} - \frac{3}{2}(0.43\text{ m}) = 5.56\text{ m}, \\ x(n=2) &= \frac{(2\text{ m})^2}{(5/2)(0.43\text{ m})} - \frac{5}{2}(0.43\text{ m}) = 2.65\text{ m}, \\ x(n=3) &= \frac{(2\text{ m})^2}{(7/2)(0.43\text{ m})} - \frac{7}{2}(0.43\text{ m}) = 1.15\text{ m}, \\ x(n=4) &= \frac{(2\text{ m})^2}{(9/2)(0.43\text{ m})} - \frac{9}{2}(0.43\text{ m}) = 0.13\text{ m}. \end{aligned}$$

Again,  $x < 0$  for  $n < 0$  and  $n > 4$ , which are not sensible.

In order to find the frequency for which there is no destructive interference on the  $x$  axis, we should look at  $n = 0$ , since this gives us the point with the largest value of  $x$ . If we plug  $n = 0$  into Eq. (2) and set  $x = 0$ , we are requiring that destructive interference can only occur at the origin. Solving for the wavelength  $\lambda$  tells us the smallest wavelength at which there is still destructive interference. We find

$$0 = \frac{(\Delta y)^2}{\lambda/2} - \frac{\lambda}{2} \implies \frac{\lambda}{2} = \frac{(\Delta y)^2}{\lambda/2} \implies \frac{\lambda^2}{4} = (\Delta y)^2 \implies \lambda = 2\Delta y.$$

But if  $\lambda > 2\Delta y$ , then

$$\frac{(\Delta y)^2}{\lambda/2} < \frac{1}{2}\lambda,$$

and Eq. (2) tells us

$$x = \frac{(\Delta y)^2}{\lambda/2} - \frac{1}{2}\lambda < 0.$$

This means there is no destructive interference on the  $x$  axis. Thus, we need to satisfy

$$\lambda = \frac{v}{f} > 2\Delta y \quad \implies \quad f < \frac{v}{2\Delta y}.$$

Plugging in numbers, we find

$$f < \frac{344 \text{ m s}^{-1}}{2(2 \text{ m})} = 86 \text{ Hz}.$$