



<http://static.howstuffworks.com/gif/doppler.gif>

- The relationship between the frequency of a moving source and an observer (in one dimension) is represented by the Doppler shift formula as two cases: The observer and source are approaching or receding.

$$\text{Approaching: } f_o = f_s \left( \frac{v + v_o}{v - v_s} \right)$$

$$\text{Receding: } f_o = f_s \left( \frac{v - v_o}{v + v_s} \right)$$

- $f_o$  = observed (heard) frequency
  - $f_s$  = source frequency
  - $v_o$  = observer's velocity
  - $v_s$  = velocity of the source
  - $v$  = speed of sound in medium.
  - We do not need to associate a sign notation with the moving objects; the formula takes that into account.
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- The above are the general formulas for moving observers and sound sources. The formulas become much simpler if one object is moving and the other is not.

## Examples

1. What is the observed frequency of a 525 Hz source moving towards a stationary observer at 75 m/s? Take the speed of sound to be 375 m/s.

$$f_{\text{obs}} = ?$$

$$f_{\text{src}} = 525 \text{ Hz}$$

$$v_{\text{obs}} = 0 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_{\text{src}} = 75 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_{\text{sound}} = 375 \text{ m/s}$$

$$f_{\text{obs}} = f_{\text{src}} \left( \frac{v_{\text{sound}} + v_{\text{obs}}}{v_{\text{sound}} - v_{\text{src}}} \right)$$

$$f_{\text{obs}} = 525 \left( \frac{375 + 0}{375 - 75} \right)$$

$$f_{\text{obs}} = 525 (1.25)$$
$$= 656 \text{ Hz}$$

2. A police siren has a frequency of  $1.8 \times 10^4$  Hz. A crook in his getaway car drives away from the police at 105 m/s. What frequency is heard by the crook if the police car is driving at 85 m/s? The temperature today is 25 °C.

$$f_{obs} = ? \quad \leftarrow v_{sound} = 331 + 0.59 T_{air}$$

$$f_{src} = 18000 \text{ Hz} \quad = \underline{346} \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_{obs} = 105 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_{src} = 85 \text{ m/s}$$

$$f_{obs} = f_{src} \left( \frac{v_{snd} - v_{obs}}{v_{snd} + v_{src}} \right)$$

$$= (18000) \left( \frac{346 - 105}{346 + 85} \right)$$

$$= 18000 \left( \frac{241}{431} \right) = 18000(0.56)$$

$$f_{obs} = 10000 \text{ Hz}$$

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(except 45, 49)