

WAVE MOTION AND SOUND II

Intended Learning Outcomes – after this lecture you will learn:

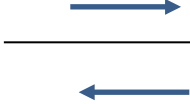
1. standing wave as the result of superposition of incident and reflected wave trains
2. beats due to interference of two traveling waves with *slightly* different frequencies
3. Doppler effect in sound

Textbook Reference: 15.7-15.8, 16.7-16.8

Standing wave – result of superposition between incident and reflected waves

continuous incident
wave train (not pulse)

$$A \cos(kx - \omega t)$$



For open boundary condition, reflected wave is

$$A \cos(kx + \omega t)$$

Resulting wave:

$$y(x, t) = A \cos(kx - \omega t) + A \cos(kx + \omega t)$$

$$= 2A \underbrace{\cos kx}_{\text{sinusoidal amplitude}} \underbrace{\cos \omega t}_{\text{time variation}}$$

⚠ not propagating because no $\cos(kx - \omega t)$ term

For fixed boundary condition, reflected wave is $-A \cos(kx + \omega t)$

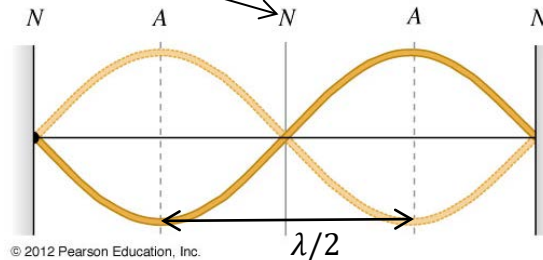
resulting wave:

$$y(x, t) = A \cos(kx - \omega t) - A \cos(kx + \omega t)$$

$$= 2A \sin kx \sin \omega t$$

node – zero amplitude, called
destructive interference

antinode – maximum amplitude,
called **constructive interference**



Demonstration:

1. [Standing wave applet](#)



2. [Standing waves on vibrating string](#)



For a string of length L clamped on both ends, **normal modes** of vibration are those standing waves that can be fitted into the string

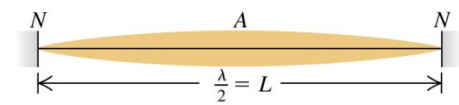
Normal mode frequencies are

$$L = n \frac{\lambda}{2} \Rightarrow \lambda_n = \frac{2L}{n}, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

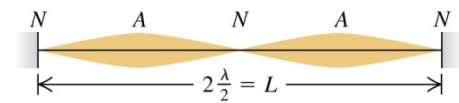
and frequencies are

$$f_n = n \left(\frac{v}{2L} \right) = n f_1, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots$$

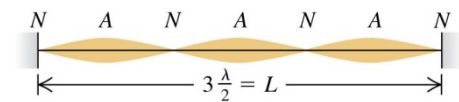
(a) $n = 1$: fundamental frequency, f_1



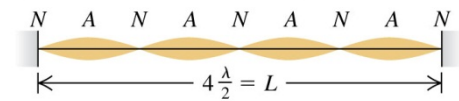
(b) $n = 2$: second harmonic, f_2 (first overtone)



(c) $n = 3$: third harmonic, f_3 (second overtone)



(d) $n = 4$: fourth harmonic, f_4 (third overtone)



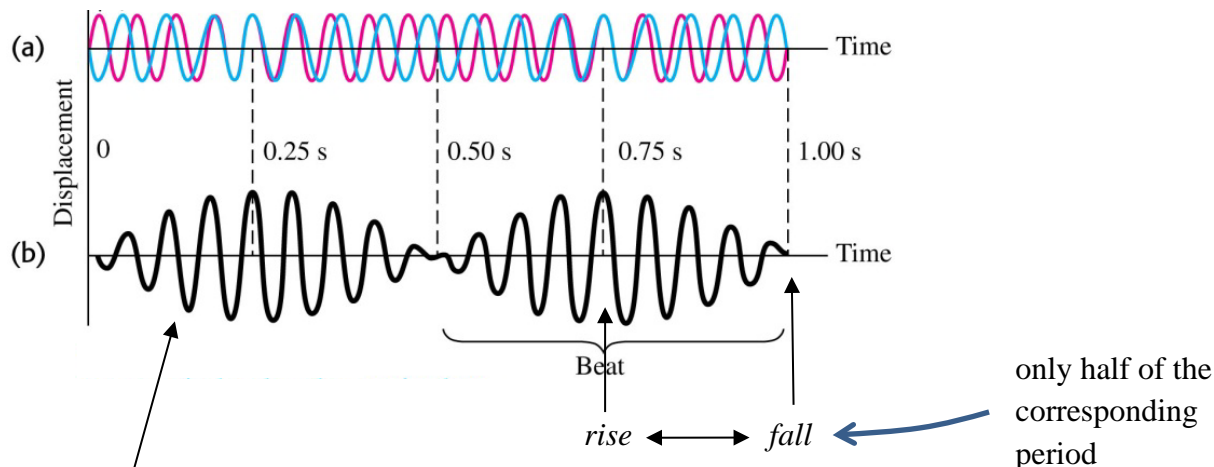
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Beats – interference of two traveling waves with *slightly* different frequencies

Consider two waves at a fixed spatial point $x_0 = 0$ for simplicity

$$y_a(t) = A \cos(-2\pi f_a t + \phi_a)$$

$$y_b(t) = A \cos(-2\pi f_b t + \phi_b)$$



Resulting note at the same point $x_0 = 0$:

$$y_a(t) + y_b(t)$$

$$= 2A \cos\left(-2\pi \frac{f_a + f_b}{2} t + \frac{\phi_a + \phi_b}{2}\right) \cos\left(-2\pi \frac{f_a - f_b}{2} t + \frac{\phi_a - \phi_b}{2}\right)$$

fast varying with frequency
 $\frac{1}{2}(f_a + f_b) \approx f_a \approx f_b$

slow varying with frequency $\frac{1}{2}|f_a - f_b|$, hear rise
and fall in intensity with period

$$T = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{2}|f_a - f_b|} = \frac{1}{|f_a - f_b|}$$

Beat frequency $f_{\text{beat}} = |f_a - f_b|$

Demonstration

1. [Beats](#)



2. [Beats animation](#)



Question

A tuning fork vibrates at 440 Hz, while a second tuning fork vibrates at an unknown frequency. They produce a tone that rises and falls in intensity three times per second. The frequency of the second tuning fork is (434 Hz / 437 Hz / 443 Hz / 446 Hz / either 434 or 446 Hz / either 437 or 443 Hz).

Answer: see inverted text on P. 552

Doppler effect – frequency changes when source and/or observer are “moving”

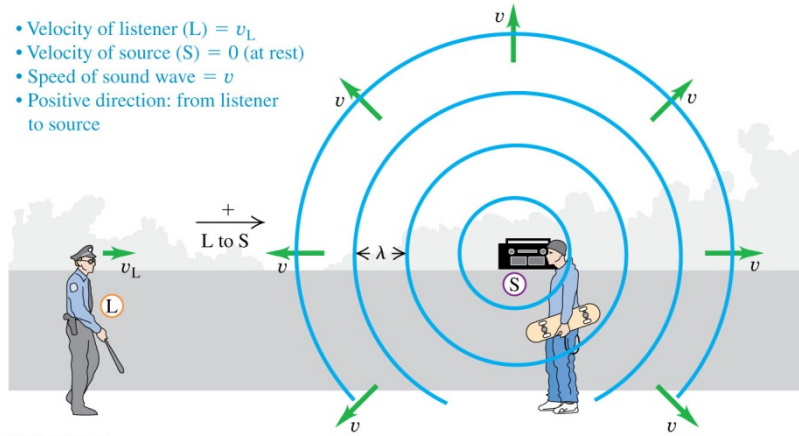
Demonstration – [a passing-by fire truck](#)



Consider mechanical wave (sound as an example) only, *all speeds relative to the medium* (air), which is assumed to be stationary.

Case I: Source not moving (relative to the medium)

- Velocity of listener (L) = v_L
- Velocity of source (S) = 0 (at rest)
- Speed of sound wave = v
- Positive direction: from listener to source



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⚠ f_S fixed and λ does not change

Listener “hits” wave fronts with speed $v + v_L$

Time to hit 2 consecutive wave fronts

$$T = \frac{\lambda}{v + v_L}$$

$$\therefore f_L = \frac{1}{T} = \frac{v + v_L}{\lambda}$$

$\nearrow \lambda = v/f_S$

$$= \left(\frac{v + v_L}{v} \right) f_S$$

If listener *approaching* source, $v_L > 0$ and $f_L > f_S$, hear a higher pitch

If listener *leaving* source, $v_L < 0$ and $f_L < f_S$, hear a lower pitch

Case II: Source moving

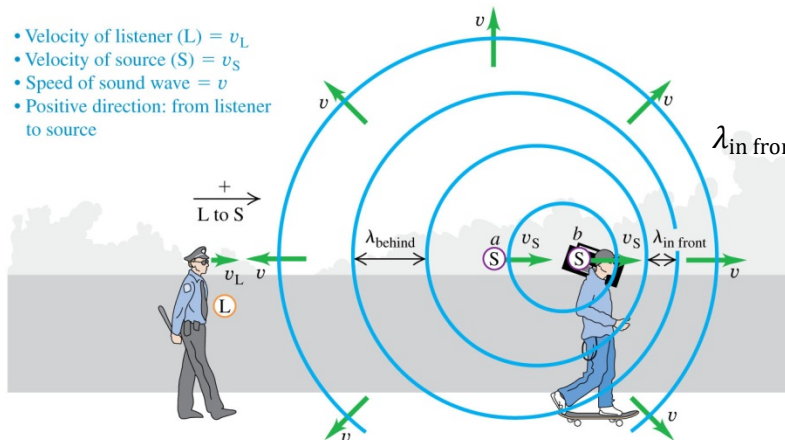
⚠ f_S remains fixed but λ changes.

Distance between consecutive wave fronts:

$$\lambda_{\text{behind}} = \frac{v + v_S}{f_S}$$

$$f_L = \frac{v + v_L}{\lambda_{\text{behind}}} \Rightarrow \boxed{f_L = \left(\frac{v + v_L}{v + v_S} \right) f_S}$$

- Velocity of listener (L) = v_L
- Velocity of source (S) = v_S
- Speed of sound wave = v
- Positive direction: from listener to source



$$\lambda_{\text{in front}} = \frac{v - v_S}{f_S}$$

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- ⚠ Sign convention for v_L and v_S – the direction pointing *from listener to source* is taken to be +ve – check that the formula works in all possible cases
- ⚠ If listener at rest ($v_L = 0$), source approaching listener, then $v_S (> / <) 0$, and $f_L (> / <) f_S$
- ⚠ What if $v_S > v$? A condition called **supersonic**, leads to **shock wave**. Read textbook if you are interested.

Question

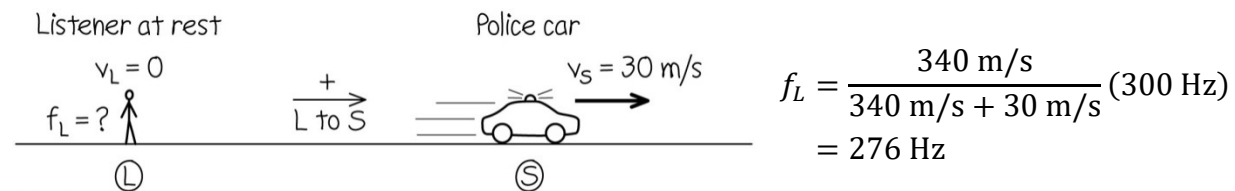
In an outdoor concert with wind blowing steadily at 10 m/s from the performer towards you, is the sound you hear Doppler-shifted?

Answer: see inverted text on P. 557 of textbook

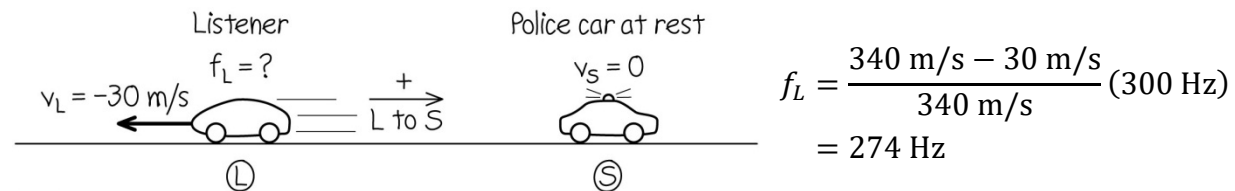
Example 16.15 – 16.17 P. 555

A police car's siren has frequency $f_S = 300$ Hz. Take speed of sound in still air, v , to be 340 m/s

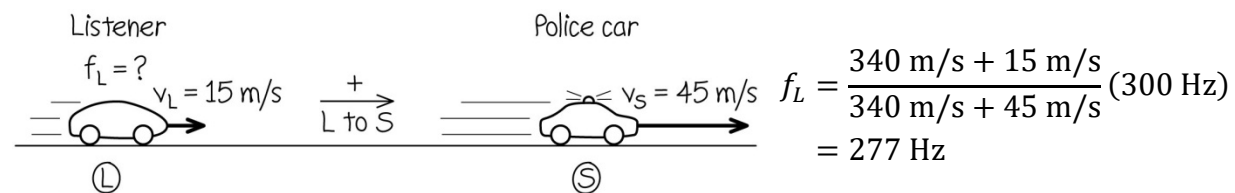
Case I:



Case II:



Case III:



- ⚠ In all 3 cases, the source and listener have the same relative velocity, but different f_L , i.e., cannot use either source or listener as frame of reference because there exist an absolute frame of reference – the medium.
- ⚠ How about waves without medium, such as light? All inertia frame of references are equivalent and Doppler effect can depend on the relative motion of the source and receiver only.

$$f_R = \sqrt{\frac{c - v}{c + v}} f_S$$

v is the relative velocity between source and receiver, +ve if moving away from each other.

Question

If remote star moving away from us, see (red / blue) shift in the light it emits.

Clicker Questions

Q15.9

While a guitar string is vibrating, you gently touch the midpoint of the string to ensure that the string does not vibrate at that point. The lowest-frequency standing wave that could be present on the string vibrates at

- A. the fundamental frequency.
- B. twice the fundamental frequency.
- C. three times the fundamental frequency.
- D. four times the fundamental frequency.
- E. There is not enough information given to decide.

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Q16.8

You hear a sound with a frequency of 256 Hz. The amplitude of the sound increases and decreases periodically: It takes 2 seconds for the sound to go from loud to soft and back to loud. This sound can be thought of as a sum of two waves with frequencies

- A. 256 Hz and 2 Hz.
- B. 254 Hz and 258 Hz.
- C. 255 Hz and 257 Hz.
- D. 255.5 Hz and 256.5 Hz.
- E. 255.75 Hz and 256.25 Hz.

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Q16.9

On a day when there is no wind, you are moving toward a stationary source of sound waves. Compared to what you would hear if you were not moving, the sound that you hear has

- A. a higher frequency and a shorter wavelength.
- B. the same frequency and a shorter wavelength.
- C. a higher frequency and the same wavelength.
- D. the same frequency and the same wavelength.
- E. none of the above.

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Q16.10

On a day when there is no wind, you are at rest and a source of sound waves is moving toward you. Compared to what you would hear if the source were not moving, the sound that you hear has

- A. a higher frequency and a shorter wavelength.
- B. the same frequency and a shorter wavelength.
- C. a higher frequency and the same wavelength.
- D. the same frequency and the same wavelength.
- E. none of the above.

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Ans: Q15.9) B, Q16.8) E, Q16.9) C, Q16.10) A