

Physics 1111: Lab 11

Doppler Effect (stationary source, moving observer)

Supplies:

- wheel thingy
- a few meter sticks
- stop watch with lap function
- pencil/paper

Instructions:

- Form into two group of 8-10 students.
- Choose reasonable values for:
 - wave propagation velocity, v
 - wavelength, λ
 - velocity of the observer, v_s
- From these values calculate the expected unshifted period, T , and the observed (shifted) period T' .
- Have 5-6 students walk in a single file line with velocity v , separated by a distance λ , holding out their hands for a high-five.
- Choose an observer from your group. The line of 5-6 students should then high-five the observer as they walk by. Do this twice - once with a stationary observer and again with the observer moving towards the line with velocity v_s .
- While the experiment is running, have another student use a stopwatch to record the time interval between high-fives. Record several time intervals for each experiment and average them.
- Compare your calculated T and T' with your measured T and T' .