



# PHYSICS OF HEARING

NJ-OER TOPIC-17

# Learning Outcomes

- Describe sound as a longitudinal wave.
- Describe the relationship between the speed of sound, its frequency, and its wavelength.
- Describe the effects on the speed of sound as it travels through various media.
- Describe the effects of temperature on the speed of sound.
- Define sound intensity, and sound pressure level.
- Calculate sound intensity levels in decibels (dB).
- Define Doppler effect, Doppler shift, and sonic boom.
- Calculate the frequency of a sound heard by someone observing Doppler shift.
- Define antinode, node, fundamental, overtones, and harmonics for standing waves.
- Identify sound interference.
- Calculate the length of a tube using sound wave measurements.

# Concepts

$v$  = speed of wave

$v_s$  = speed of source

$v_o$  = speed of observer

$f$  = frequency

$\lambda$  = wavelength

$F$  = force

$I$  = Intensity of a sound wave

0 dB = threshold of hearing =  $1.0 \times 10^{-12} \text{ W/m}^2$

$\beta$  = sound intensity level, decibel value

$P$  = power

$\mu$  = mass/length

$f_o$  = frequency of observer

$f_s$  = frequency of source

$f_n$  = frequency of  $n$ th harmonic

$f_{\text{beat}}$  = beat frequency

# Units

## SI UNITS

Frequency is in HZ

Wavelength is in meters

Velocity is in m/s

Power is in Watts

Intensity is in W/m<sup>2</sup>

$\beta$  is a logarithmic scale for intensity and it is in dB

# Formulas and Constants

$$f = 1/T$$

$$v = \lambda f = \lambda / T$$

$$v^2 = F/(\mu)$$

$$\mu = m/L$$

$$v = 331 (T_k/273)^{1/2}$$

$$f_o = f_s (V \pm V_o) / (V \mp V_s) \quad \text{Doppler shift}$$

$$f_n = n(v/2L) \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \quad (\text{harmonics for pipe Open-open/Closed-closed})$$

$$f_n = n(v/4L) \quad n = 1, 3, 5, \dots \quad (\text{harmonics for pipe open at one end})$$

$$f_{\text{beat}} = |f_1 - f_2|$$

$$I = P/A$$

$$I = P/(4\pi r^2)$$

$$(I_1)/(I_2) = (R_1)^2/(R_2)^2$$

$$I_0 = 1.0 \times 10^{-12} \text{ W/m}^2$$

$$\beta = (10 \text{ db}) \log \frac{I}{I_0}$$

# USEFUL TABLES

Ratios of Intensities and Corresponding Differences in Sound Intensity Levels

| $I_2/I_1$ | $\beta_2 - \beta_1$ |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 2.0       | 3.0 dB              |
| 5.0       | 7.0 dB              |
| 10.0      | 10.0 dB             |

Speed of Sound in Various Media

| Medium                 | $v_w$ (m/s) |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Gases at 0°C           |             |
| Air                    | 331         |
| Carbon dioxide         | 259         |
| Oxygen                 | 316         |
| Liquids at 20°C        |             |
| Ethanol                | 1160        |
| Mercury                | 1450        |
| Water, fresh           | 1480        |
| Sea water/Human tissue | 1540        |
| Solids                 |             |
| Vulcanized rubber      | 54          |
| Polyethylene           | 920         |
| Marble                 | 3810        |
| Glass, Pyrex           | 5640        |

# CLASSWORK POWER AND INTENSITY

Q1) A rectangular receiver with length 0.3 m and height 0.6 m receives 24 Watts of power.

a) What is the sound intensity at the receiver's location.

b) What is the sound intensity in decibel.

c) What is the power of the source considering that it is 5 meters away from the receiver.

Q2) A sound speaker produces 12W power.

a) What is the intensity at 7 meters away.

b) What is the power received by a circular receiver with radius 0.4 meters.

Q3) Ten drummers produces 34dB sound intensity from a 2 meters distance.

a) What would be the sound intensity of 100 drummers heard from a 2 meters distance (in decibel)

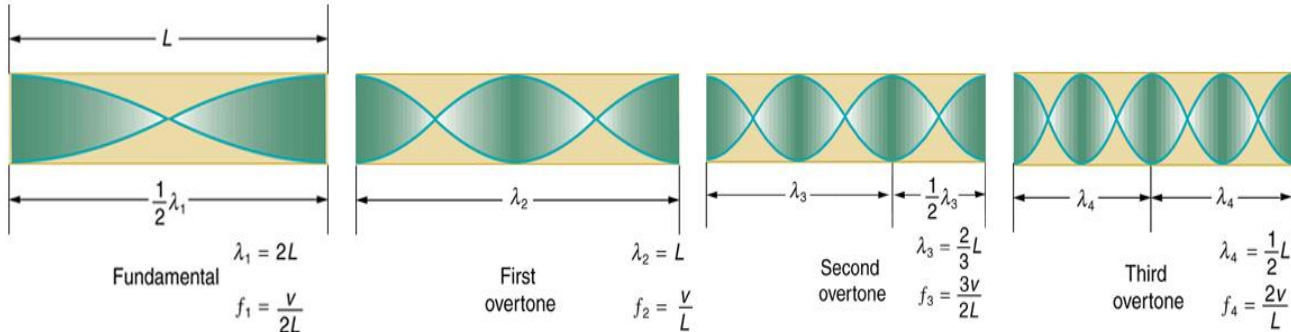
b) What would be the sound intensity of 100 drummers heard from a 20 meters distance (in decibel)

Q4) A sound wave produces 10,000 Pascal pressure difference at 0 degrees temperature. Find its intensity

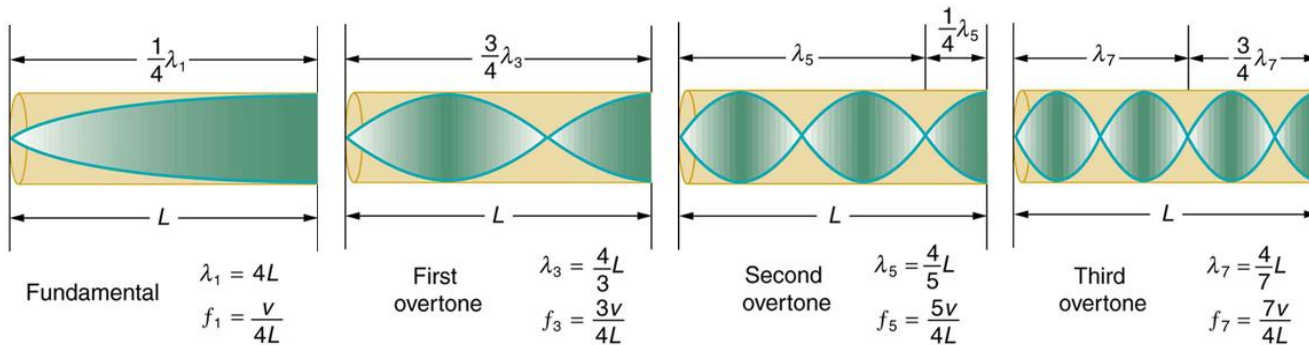
$$I = P/A \quad I = P/(4\pi r^2) \quad (I_1)/(I_2) = (R_1)^2/(R_2)^2 \quad I = (\Delta p^2) /(\rho v) \quad v = 331 (T_k/273)^{1/2} \quad \rho(\text{air}) = 1.225 \text{ kg/m}^3$$

$$I_0 = 1.0 \times 10^{-12} \text{ W/m}^2 \quad \beta = 10 \log (I/I_0) \quad \text{rules for } \beta: \text{ If intensity increases 10 times, add ten to } \beta$$

# STANDING WAVES



Typical standing waves for a woodwind instrument with both sides open or closed  $n=1,2,3,\dots$



Typical standing waves for a woodwind instrument with only one side open  $n=1,3,5,\dots$

Q) Find the wavelengths and the frequencies for each graph. Consider  $L=0.420$  m and  $v = 340$  m/s



# ADVANCED CLASSWORK FOR STANDING WAVES

A tube with length "L", produces sound with frequency "fn" by forming standing waves with n number of antinodes. Air is at the temperature "T" in Kelvin.

Complete the table below using the known quantities and the formula.

| f Frequency<br>Hz | Wavelength<br>(m) | n | Length (m) | Type of tube    | Temperature | Velocity |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|------------|-----------------|-------------|----------|
| f4=?              |                   | 4 | 0.50       | both end closed |             | 331 m/s  |
| f5=?              |                   | 5 | 0.80       | one end closed  | 300K        |          |
|                   |                   |   | 0.75       | both end open   |             | 343      |
|                   | 0.44              |   | 0.66       |                 |             | 340      |

$$v = \lambda f$$

$$f_n = n(v/2L) \quad n = 1, 2, 3, \dots \text{ (harmonics for pipe Open-open/Closed-closed)}$$

$$f_n = n(v/4L) \quad n = 1, 3, 5, \dots \text{ (harmonics for pipe open at one end)}$$

# DOPPLER EFFECT

Doppler effect is a frequency shift, it doesn't affect the velocity but it effects the wavelength as well. Doppler formula relates frequency heard by the observer to the original source frequency.

| Formula                                     | Motion   |
|---|--|
| $f_{obs} = f_s \frac{v + v_{obs}}{v - v_s}$ | Observer and source move towards one another   |
| $f_{obs} = f_s \frac{v - v_{obs}}{v + v_s}$ | Observer and source move away from one another |
| $f_{obs} = f_s \frac{v + v_{obs}}{v + v_s}$ | Observer moves towards, source moves away      |
| $f_{obs} = f_s \frac{v - v_{obs}}{v - v_s}$ | Observer moves away, source moves towards      |

$f_{obs}$  = frequency observed

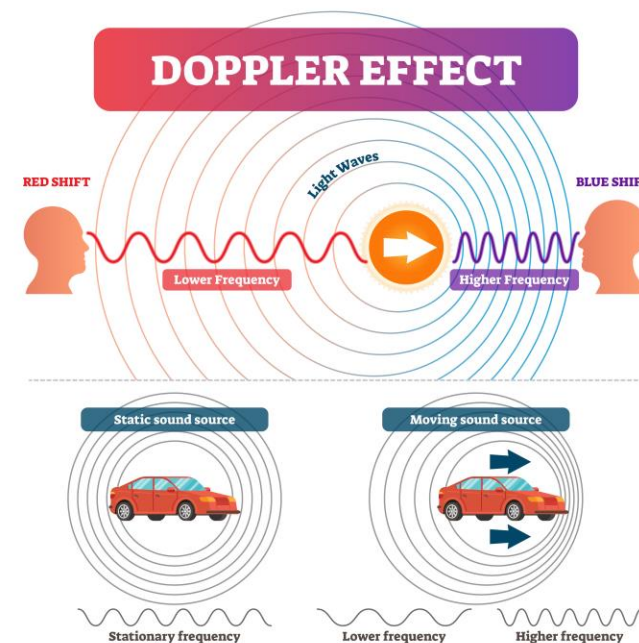
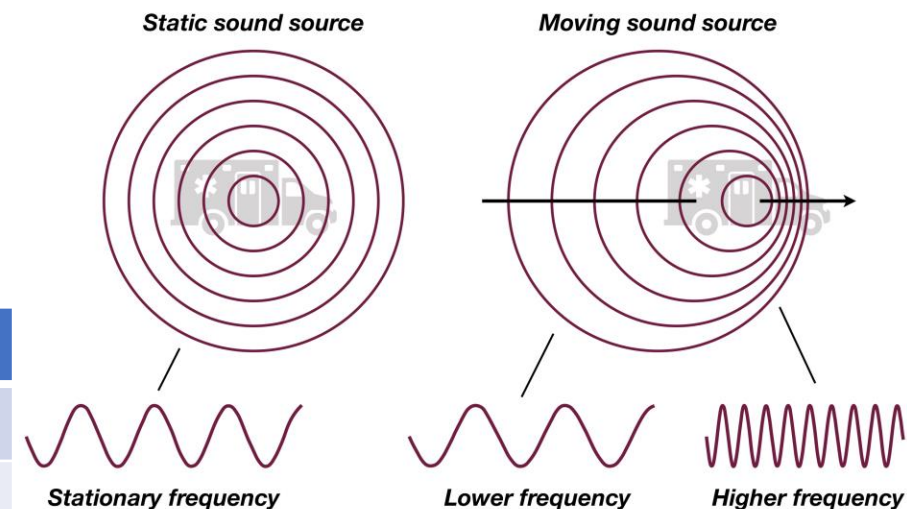
$f_s$  = frequency of the source

$v_s$  = speed of the source, (this is a + quantity, sign comes from the table)

$v_{obs}$  = speed of the observer, (this is a + quantity, sign comes from the table)

$v$  = speed of sound

## The Doppler effect



# CLASSWORK DOPPLER EFFECT

Using the sign convention table,  
answer the following questions.

Stationary means  $v=0$

Take speed of sound as 340m/s

| Formula                           | Motion   |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| $f_{obs}=f_s (v+v_{obs})/(v-v_s)$ | Observer and source move towards one another   |
| $f_{obs}=f_s (v-v_{obs})/(v+v_s)$ | Observer and source move away from one another |
| $f_{obs}=f_s (v+v_{obs})/(v+v_s)$ | Observer moves towards, source moves away      |
| $f_{obs}=f_s (v-v_{obs})/(v-v_s)$ | Observer moves away, source moves towards      |

Q1) A police car has siren with frequency 1000Hz. The car is moving with a speed of 34m/s

a)What is the frequency heard by a stationary observer when the car is approaching

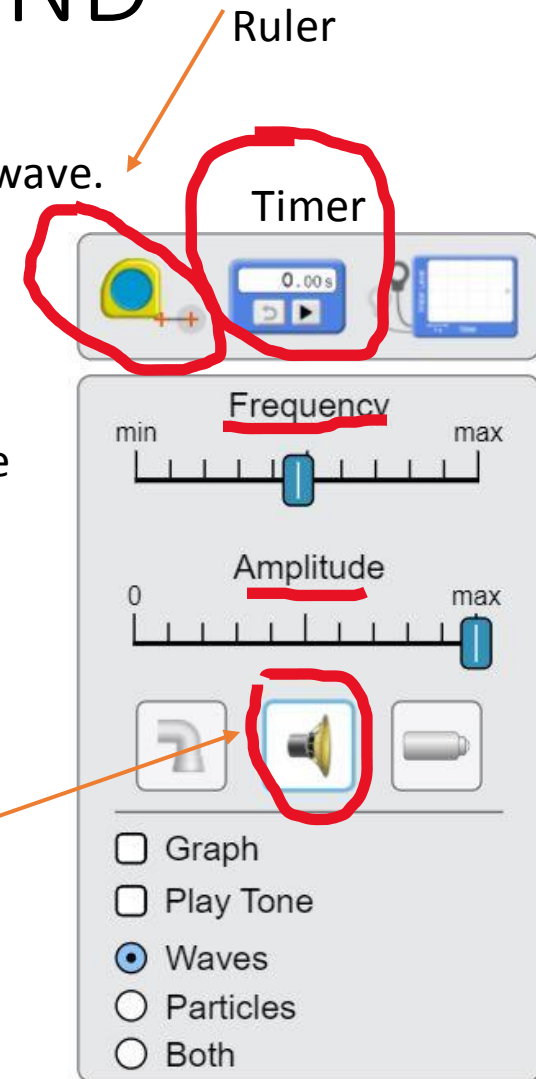
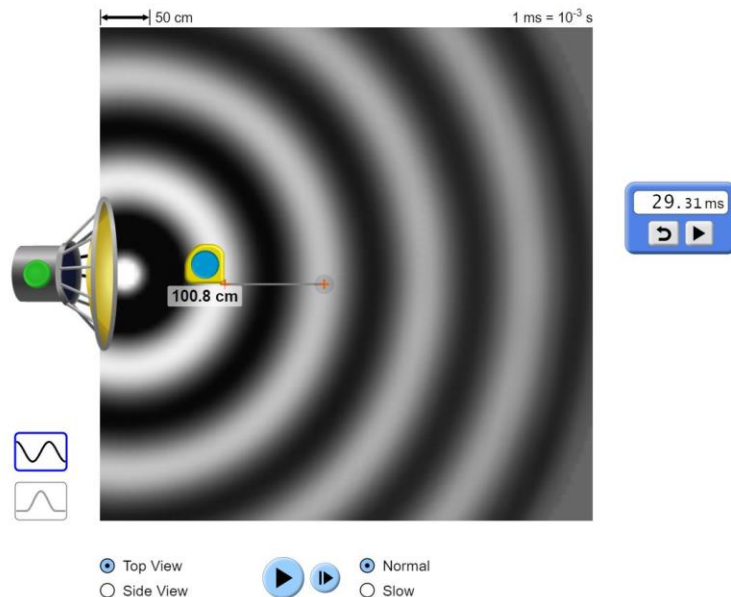
b)What is the frequency heard by a stationary observer when the car is moving away

Q2) Sound source with 450 HZ frequency is moving with a speed of 17m/s towards East. What is the frequency heard by an observer located East of the sound source and moving with a speed 42m/s towards East.

Q3) A moving sound source is observed as 95HZ when moving towards the observer and it's observed as 90HZ when moving away from the observer. What is the speed of the source. What is the original source frequency (This is a problem with two equations and two unknowns)

# ACTIVITY ON WAVE PROPERTIES OF SOUND

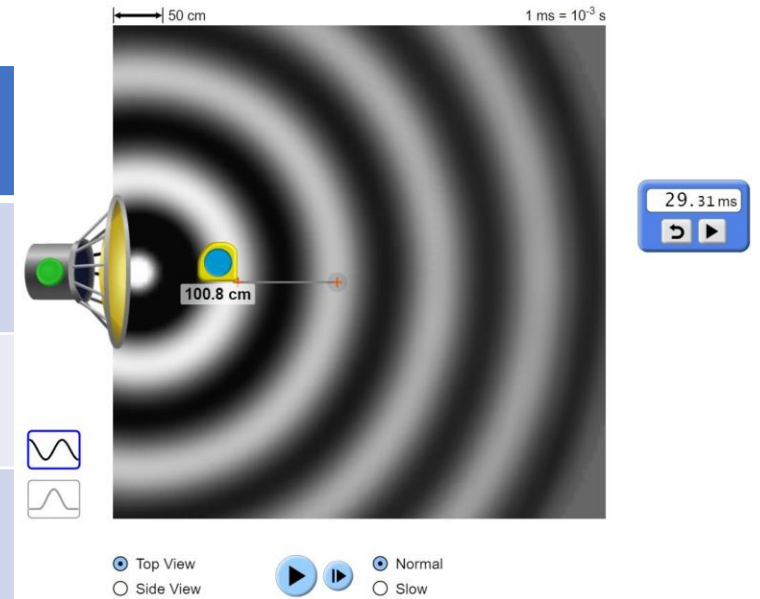
Open the link <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulations/wave-interference> and click on the app. Choose the middle option under the amplitude tab on the right. This will make the wave a sound wave. Choose your frequency and amplitude using the slider tool. Drag the timer and the ruler tool. Start your times and start your source. Count 10 waves and stop the timer and the source. Timer gives you the time for 10 oscillations. To find the period, divide this number by 10. Use  $f=1/T$  formula to calculate the frequency. Measure the wavelength using the ruler tool. Using  $v= \text{frequency} * \text{wavelength}$  calculate the speed of sound. Using  $v=331 (T/273)^{1/2}$  estimate the temperature of the environment. Change the frequency and amplitude and repeat.



# ACTIVITY ON WAVE PROPERTIES OF SOUND

Open the link <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulations/wave-interference> and click on the app

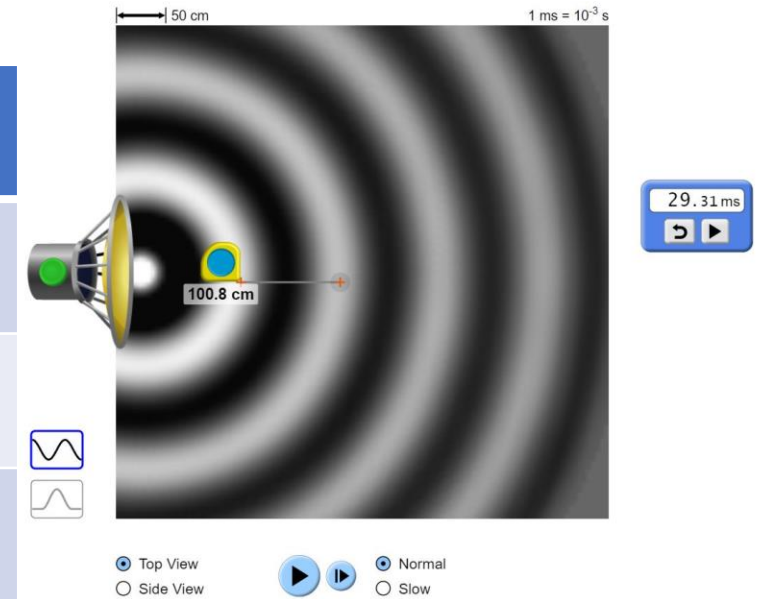
| Type              | Time for 10 waves | Period | Frequency | Wavelength | Speed | Temperature |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|------------|-------|-------------|
| Frequency minimum |                   |        |           |            |       |             |
| Frequency middle  |                   |        |           |            |       |             |
| Frequency middle  |                   |        |           |            |       |             |
| Frequency maximum |                   |        |           |            |       |             |
| Frequency maximum |                   |        |           |            |       |             |



# ACTIVITY ON INTERFERENCES

Open the link <https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulations/wave-interference> and click on the app

| Type              | Time for 10 waves | Period | Frequency | Wavelength | Speed | Temperature |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|------------|-------|-------------|
| Frequency minimum |                   |        |           |            |       |             |
| Frequency middle  |                   |        |           |            |       |             |
| Frequency middle  |                   |        |           |            |       |             |
| Frequency maximum |                   |        |           |            |       |             |
| Frequency maximum |                   |        |           |            |       |             |



# REFERENCES

- Slide 1: Adobe id= 216379246 Hearing test showing ear of young woman with sound waves simulation technology By Pixsooz
- Slide 8: Open Stax College Physics online textbook
- Slide 10 Top image: Adobe id=388859337 The Doppler effect explained by comparing a static and a moving sound source By Dimitrios
- Slide 10 Lower image: Adobe id= 305961504 Doppler effect vector illustration. Labeled educational sound, light graph.
- By VectorMine
- Slides 12-13-14: Screenshot from PhET Interactive Simulations University of Colorado Boulder