



A car travels at speed v to the East along road. It emits radio waves of frequency $f = 2.4 \text{ GHz}$.

Suppose $v = 0.7c$. What are frequencies measured by police officers A (to East) and B (to South)?

$$A: f' = f \frac{\sqrt{1+v/c}}{\sqrt{1-v/c}} = 2.38 f = 5.7 \text{ GHz}$$

$$B: f' = f \frac{1}{\gamma} = f \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}} = 0.71 f = 1.7 \text{ GHz}$$

If car travels at a small relativistic speed, $v \ll c$, then

$$A: f' = f \frac{\sqrt{1+v/c}}{\sqrt{1-v/c}} = f \left(1 + \frac{v}{c}\right)^{1/2} \left(1 - \frac{v}{c}\right)^{-1/2} \\ \approx f \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{v}{c}\right) \left(1 + \frac{1}{2} \frac{v}{c}\right) \approx f \left(1 + \frac{v}{c}\right)$$

$$B: f' = f \frac{1}{\gamma} = f \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}} = f \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{1/2} \approx f \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)$$

So the difference in frequency

$$|\Delta f| = |f' - f| = \begin{cases} \approx f \frac{v}{c} & \text{for A } \underline{\text{bigger}} \\ \approx f \left(\frac{1}{2} \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right) & \text{for B} \end{cases}$$