Problem 20.65 (RHK)

A device that contains a transmitter and a receiver of waves in a single instrument is used to measure the speed V of a target object (idealised as a flat plate) that is moving directly toward the unit, by analysing waves reflected from it. (a) We have to apply the Doppler equations twice, first with the target as observer and with the target as a source, and have to show that the frequency v_r of the reflected waves at the receiver is related to their source frequency v_s by

$$v_r = v_s \left(\frac{v+V}{v-V}\right),$$

where v is the speed of the waves. (b) In great many practical applications, V = v. in this case, we have to show that the equation above becomes



159.

Solution:

(a)

Let the speed of the target which is moving toward the instrument be V.

Let the source frequency be v_s and λ be the wavelength of the waves emitted by the transmitter of the instrument. Frequency of the waves received by the target, v', by the Doppler effect will be

$$v' = v_s + \frac{V}{\lambda} = v_s + \frac{V}{v/v_s} = v_s \left(1 + \frac{V}{v}\right).$$

Now the moving target becomes a moving source. We will now calculate the frequency v_r measured by the stationary detector.

Let λ_r be the wavelength measured by the detector. As the source is moving toward the detector with speed V and is emitting waves of frequency ν' the wavelength λ_r will be

$$\lambda_r = \frac{v}{v'} - \frac{V}{v'} = \frac{1}{v'} (v - V).$$

Substituting for ν' , we get

$$\lambda_r = rac{\left(v - V
ight)}{
u_s \left(1 + V/v
ight)},$$

and

$$v_r = \frac{v}{\lambda_r} = v_s \frac{(v+V)}{(v-V)}.$$

(b)

In great many practical situations V = v, then



We thus find

or

$$\frac{v_{\rm r} - v_{\rm s}}{v_{\rm s}} = \frac{2V}{v}$$