

Doppler Shift for E-M Waves

What's Different from Sound or Water Waves ?

Sound /Water Waves :

You can calculate (no relativity needed)

BUT

Result is somewhat complicated: is source or observer moving wrt medium?

Electromagnetic Waves :

You need relativity (time dilation) to calculate

BUT

Result is simple: only depends on relative motion of source & observer

$$f' = f \left(\frac{1 + \beta}{1 - \beta} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\beta = v/c$$

$\beta > 0$ if source & observer are approaching

$\beta < 0$ if source & observer are separating