

8. (13 points) We shall investigate a well-known physical phenomenon, called the “Doppler Effect”. When an electromagnetic signal (e.g. a ray of light) with frequency F_e is emitted from a source moving away with velocity $v > 0$ with respect to a receiver at rest, then the received frequency F_r is different from F_e . The relationship linking the emitted frequency F_e and the received frequency F_r is the Doppler Law:

$$F_r = \sqrt{\frac{1 - v/c}{1 + v/c}} F_e, \quad \text{where } c \text{ is a constant, the speed of light.}$$

For this problem, you might find useful to know that the third order Taylor polynomial for the function $\sqrt{\frac{1+x}{1-x}}$ near $x = 0$ is $1 + x + \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{2}$.

(a) On Earth, nearly all objects travel with velocities v much smaller than the speed of light c , i.e. the ratio v/c is very small. Use this fact to obtain the Doppler Law for slow-moving emitters:

$$F_r \simeq \left(1 - \frac{v}{c}\right) F_e.$$

(b) The relationship in part **(a)** is *not* exact, and an error is made when it is used to approximate the Doppler Law. Find an expression for the “error”, in terms of v , c and F_e . Is the approximation accurate within 1% of F_e if the velocity is at most 10% of the speed of light c ? *Explain.*