A truck moving at a speed of  $v = 144 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{hr}} = 40 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$  passes a car moving at a speed of  $u = 72 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{hr}} = 20 \text{ m/s}$ . If the truck sounds its horn at a frequency of  $f_0 = 500 \text{ Hz}$ , what is the frequency of sound heard by the person the car?

## Solution

The change of frequency (the Doppler shift) is

$$\Delta f = \frac{v - u}{c} f_0$$

Here  $c = 343 \frac{m}{s}$  is the speed of a sound in air.

So

$$\Delta f = \frac{40 - 20}{343} 500 \approx 29 \text{ Hz.}$$
  
Finally, the frequency of sound heard by the person the car is  
$$f = \Delta f + f_0 = 29 + 500 = 529 \text{ Hz.}$$

Answers: 529 Hz.

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