

# Ongoing Advancement of the Physics Toolbox

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Bennett Lessard  
John McGinley  
Konrad Perry  
Kyle Pydynkowski

# Outline

- I. Introduction (Bennie Jones – MGE)
- II. Doppler Lab (Kyle Pydynkowski - ME)
- III. Applets (Bennett Lessard - ECE)
- IV. Energy Lab (Konrad Perry - AE)
- V. Energy Video (John McGinley - ME)
- VI. Overall Conclusion (Bennie Jones - MGE)

# I. Introduction

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By Bennie Jones

# Project Goals

- Give the first year students a more hands on experience
- Aid in the transition from high school to college
- Develop a Physics toolbox

# My Goals

- Help in the designing process for the physics department
- Enhance my knowledge of physics
- Suggest how to grab the attention of incoming freshmen
- Make sure the tools are interesting, eye popping, and comprehensible

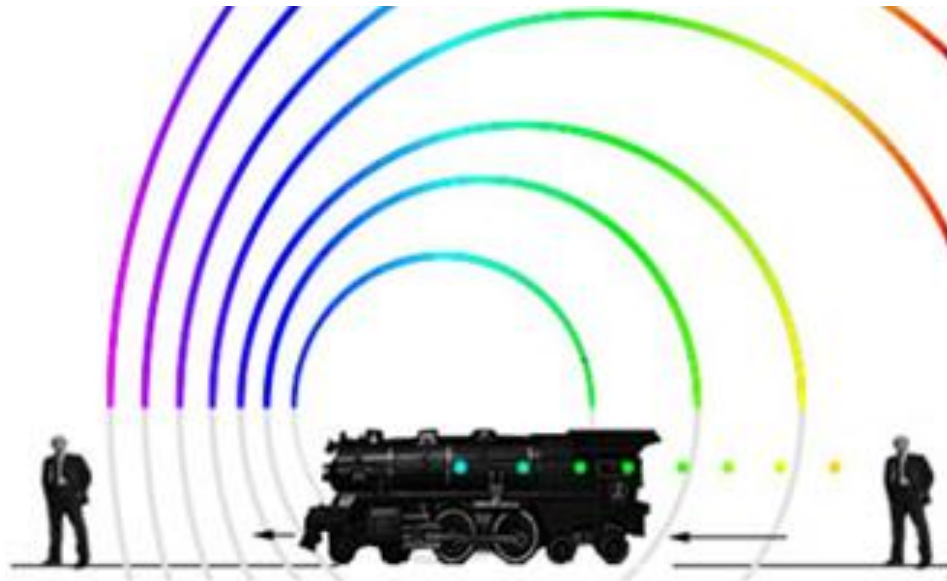
# II. Doppler Effect Experiment

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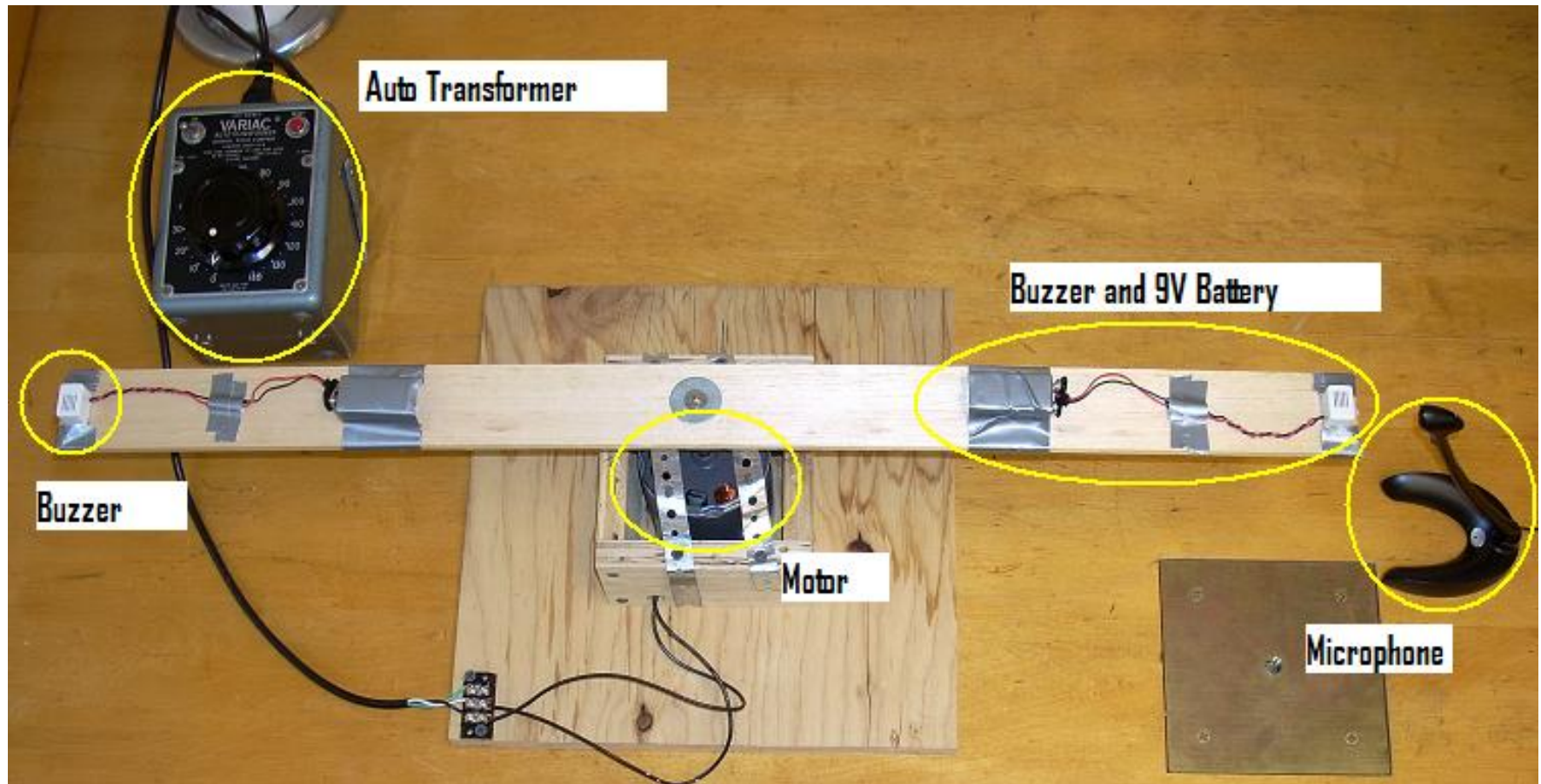
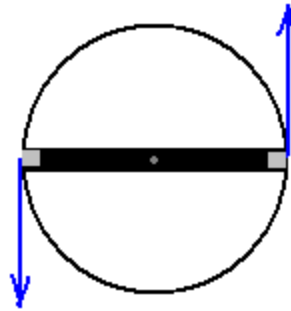
By Kyle Pydynkowski

# My Goals

- Creative Idea
  - Keep the interest of students
- First Doppler Effect lab
- Use classroom learning and a new idea to explain the same topic

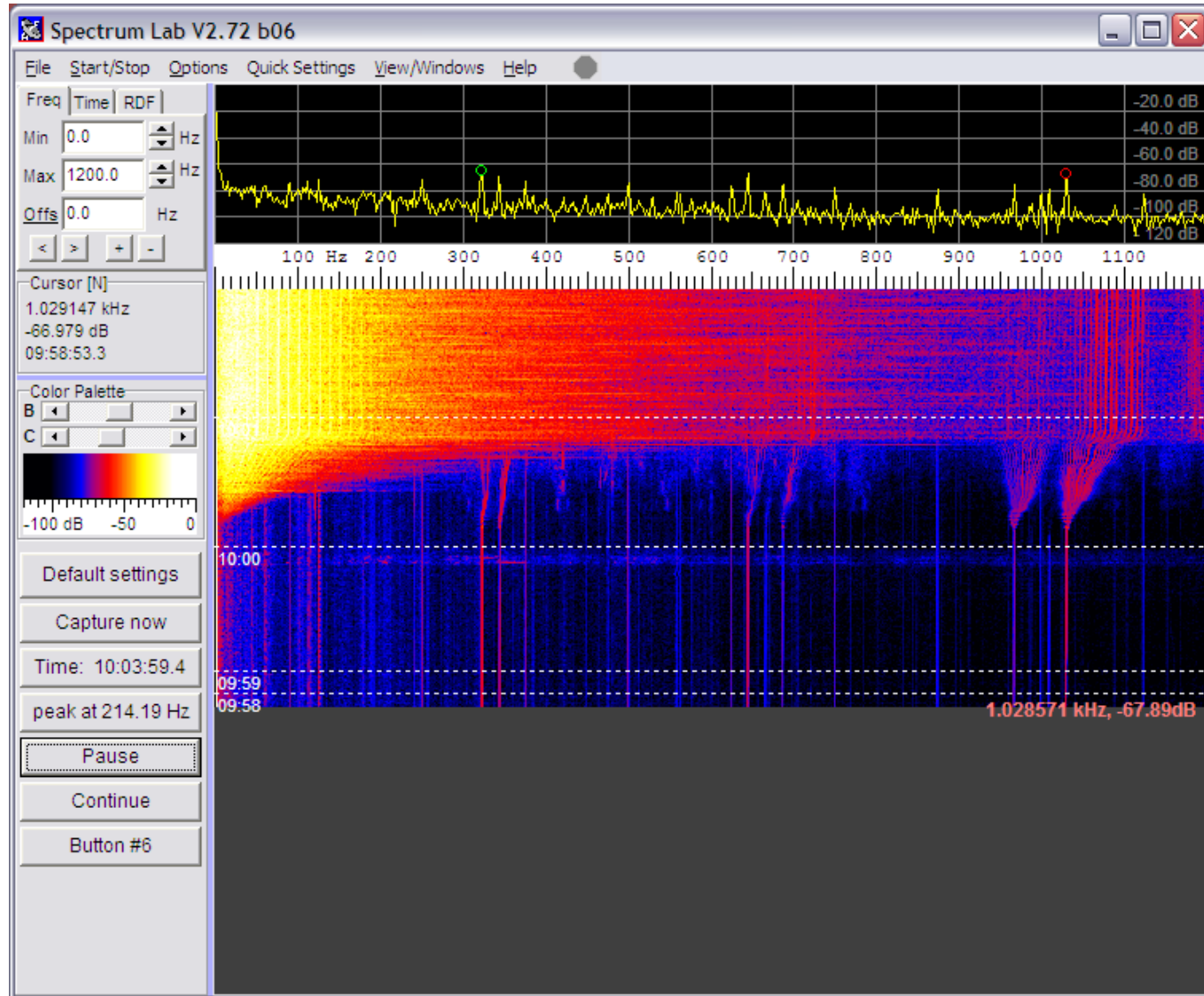


# Setup

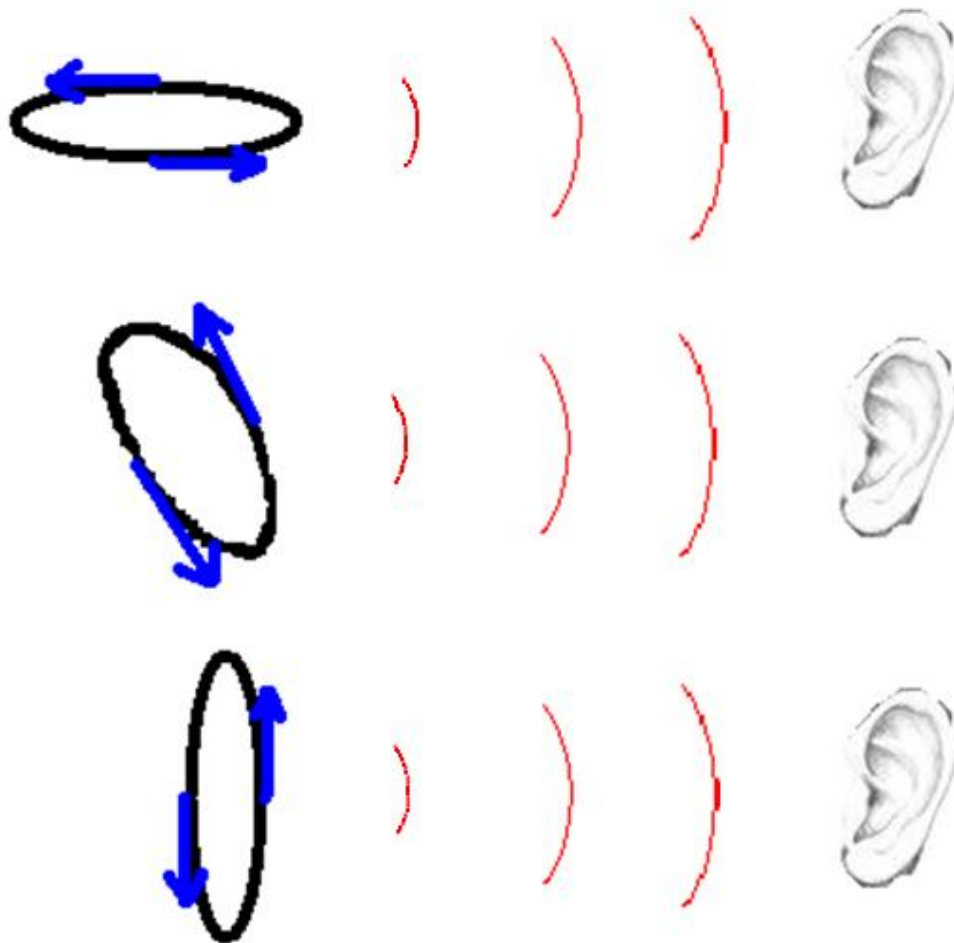




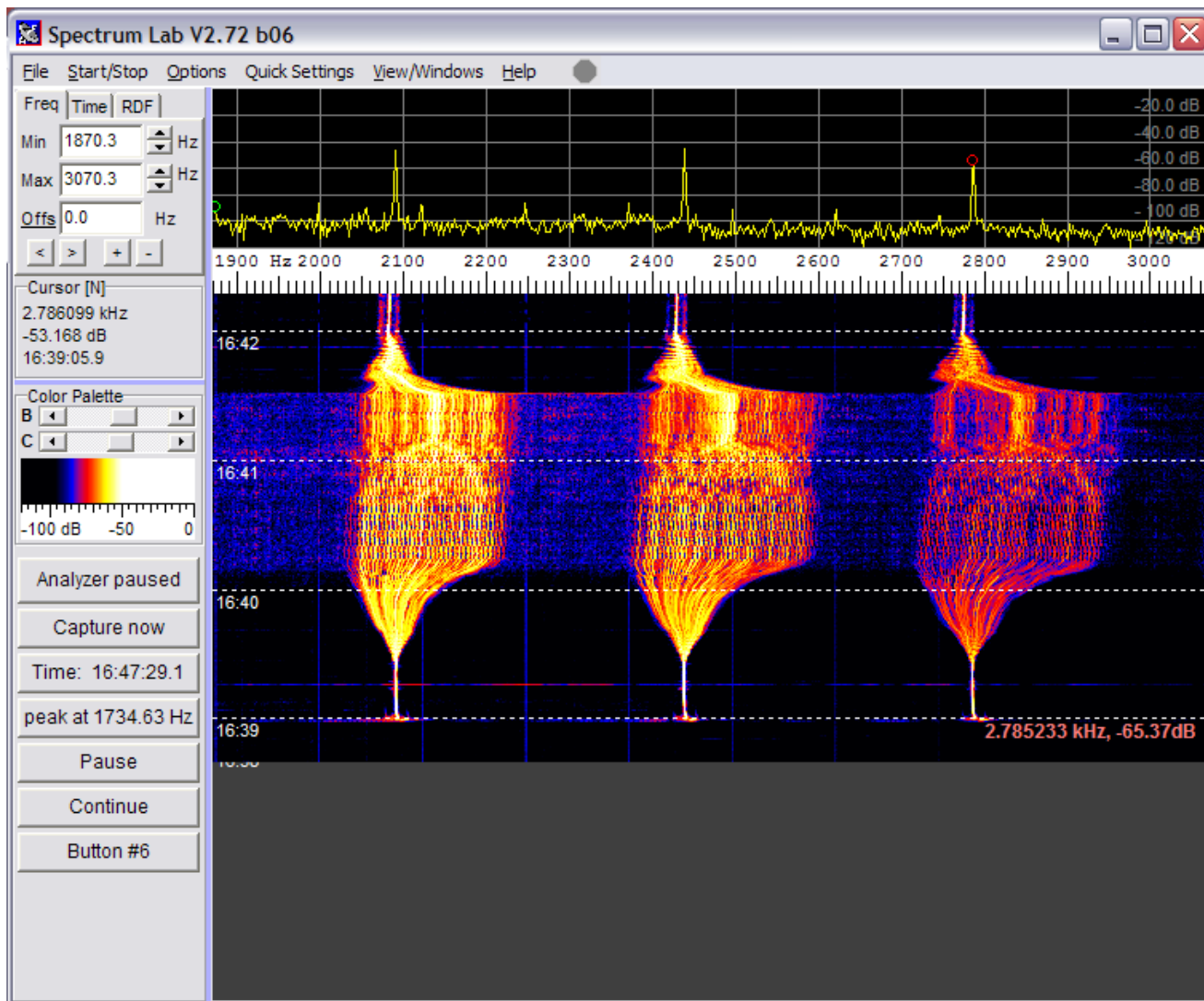
# Spectrum Lab



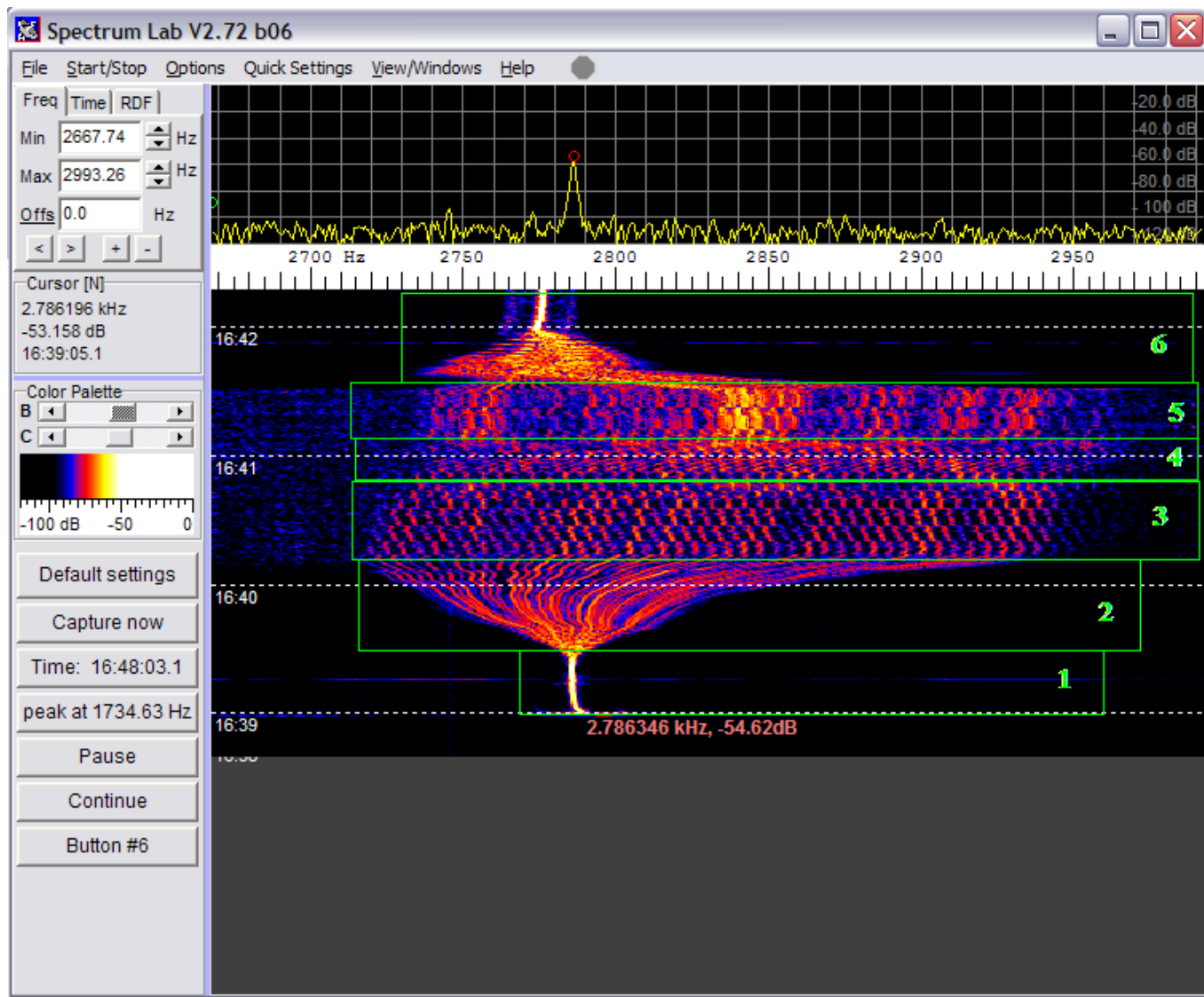
# Experiment



# Results



# Results



# Going Forward

- Different Buzzer
  - Louder
  - Single frequency peak
- Completion of Lab
  - Setup
  - Write-up

# III. Applets

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By Bennett Lessard

# My Goals

- Advance Java Knowledge
- Produce Applets For Web
  - Assisting Applets
  - Simulation Applets
- Explanatory Text Surrounding Applets
- Why Use Applets?
  - One Applet Can Be Applied To Many Areas

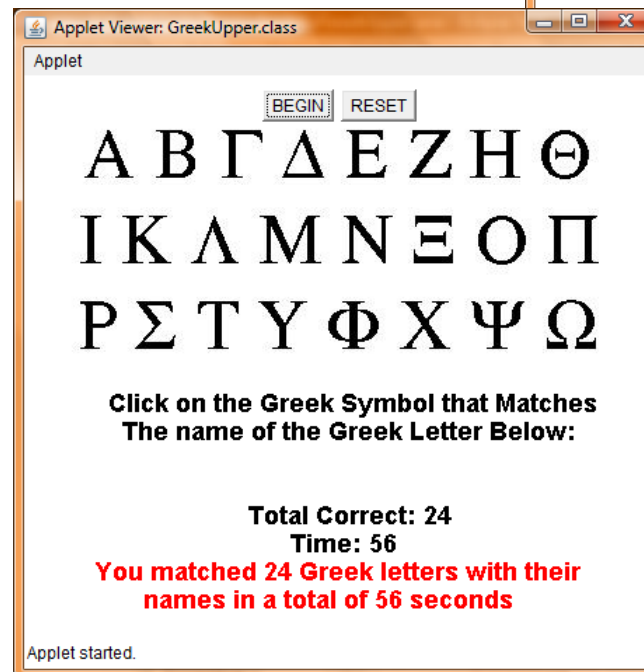
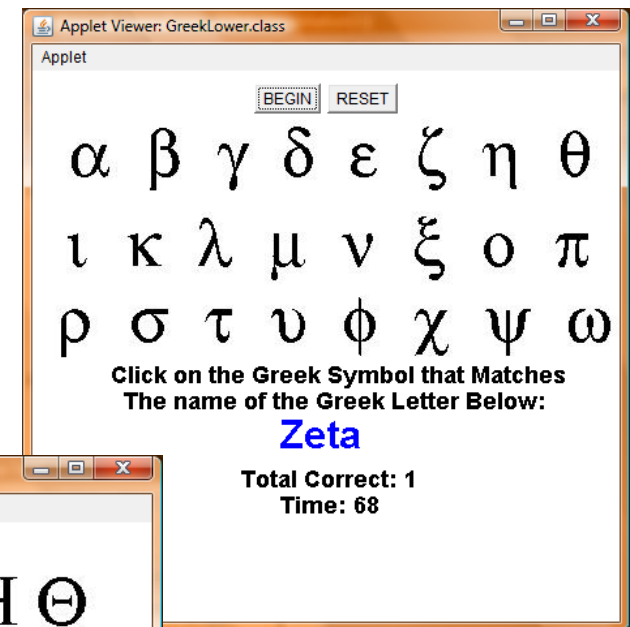
# Applets Created

- Assisting Applets
  - Greek Letters
    - Upper Case and Lower Case
  - Powers of Ten
    - 3 Different Applets
  - Statistical Analysis Tool
- Simulation Applets
  - Projectile Motion
  - Collisions
  - Hooke's Law



# Greek Letters

- Upper and Lower Case
- Various Uses of Greek Letters



# Powers of 10

- 3 Versions
- Kilograms to Microfarads

Applet Viewer: Power10.class

Applet

nano	tera	k	p
micro	pico	M	f
kilo	femto	n	u
mega	centi	G	T
milli	giga	m	c

BEGIN RESET

Click on the Prefix and Abbreviation  
That Matches the Power of Ten Below:

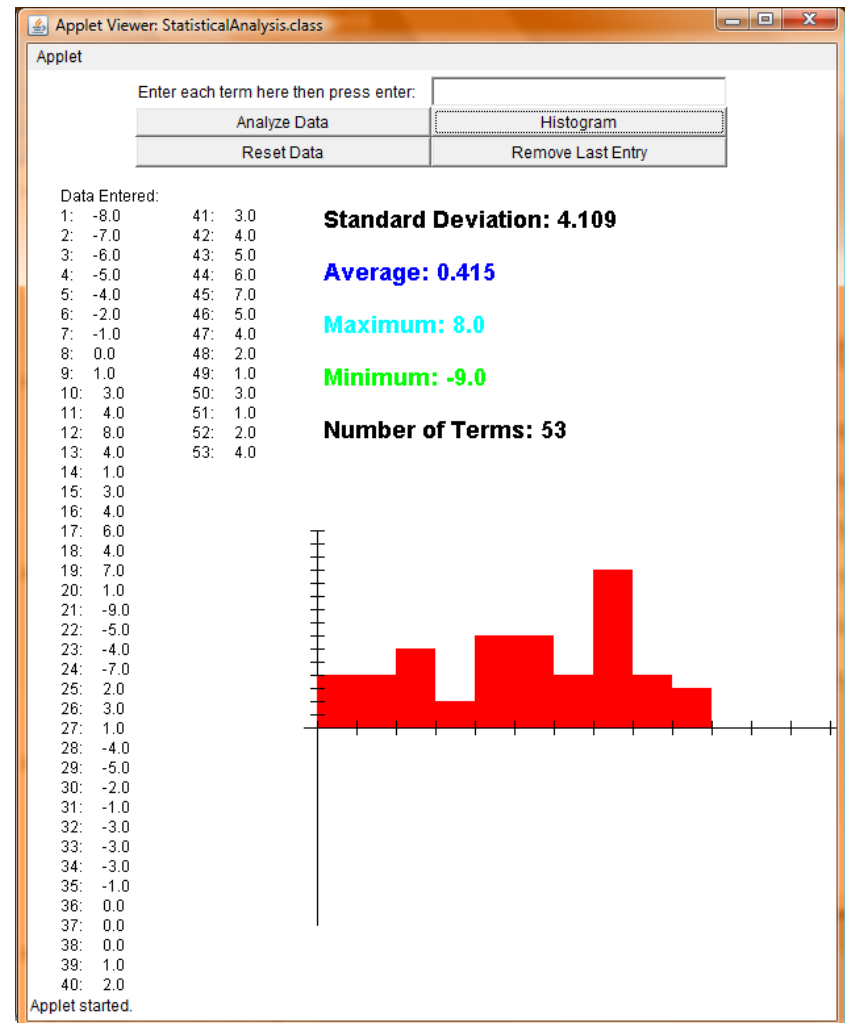
**10<sup>-3</sup>**

Time: 16  
Number Correct: 0

Applet started.

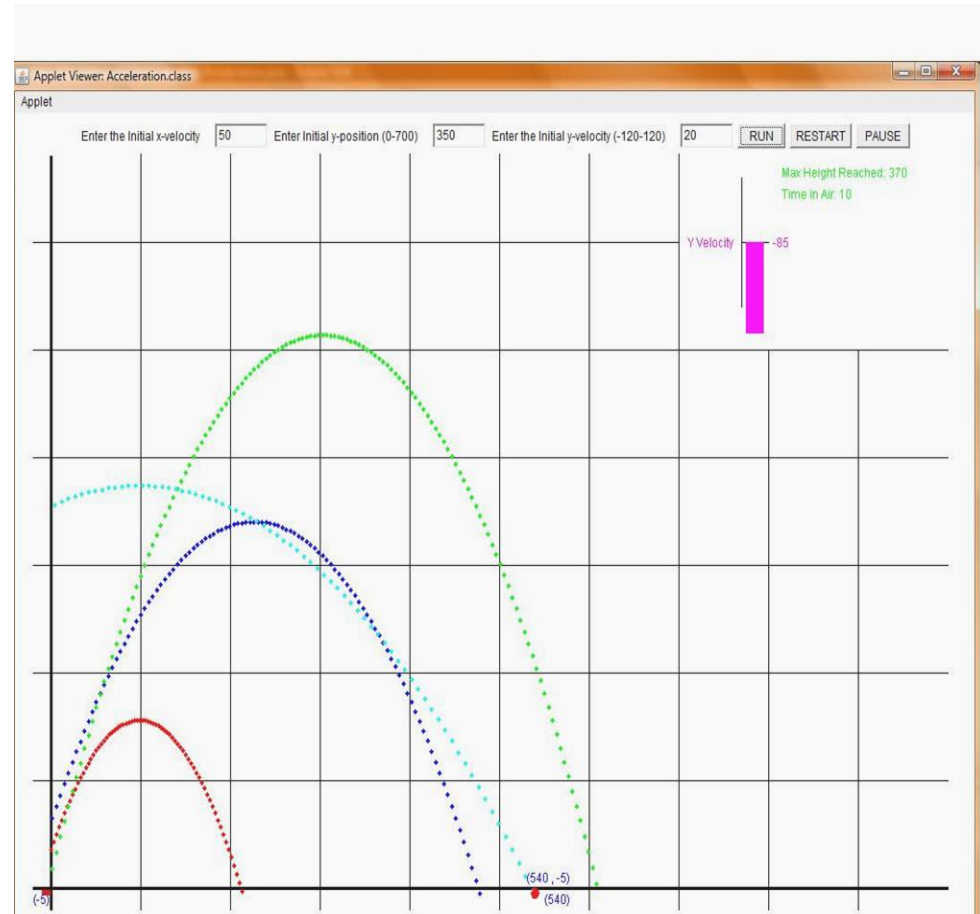
# Statistical Analysis Tool

- User Enters Data
- Standard Deviation
- Mean, Max, Min, Number of Terms
- Plots Data, Auto Scaling
- Histogram Capabilities



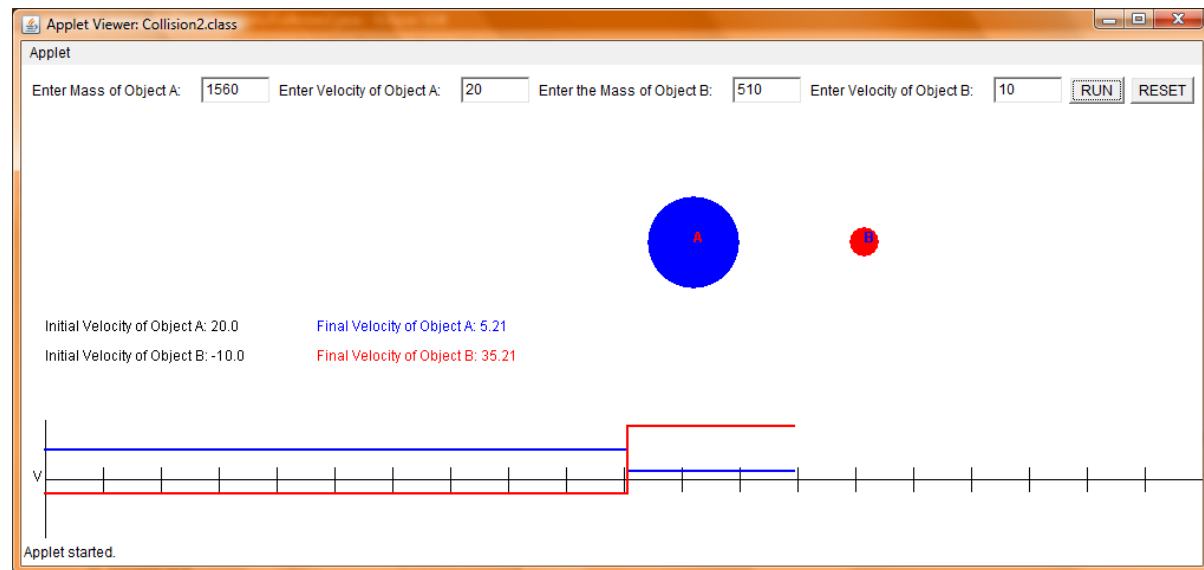
# Projectile Motion

- Simulates Projectile Motion
- User Enters Velocities and Height
- Max Height
- Time in Air
- Position Readings



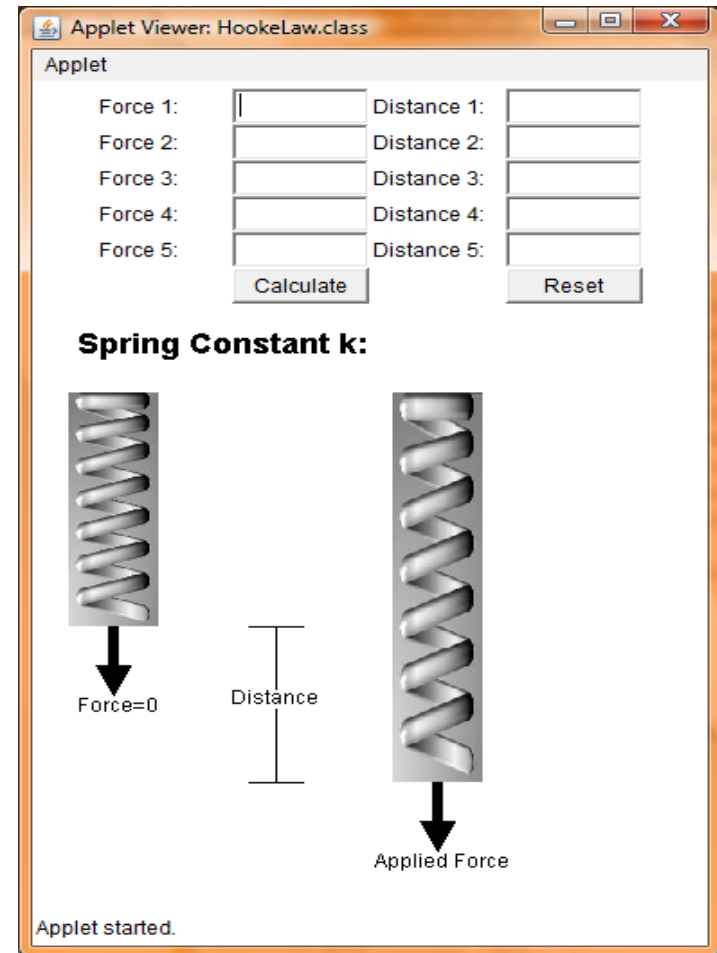
# Collision

- Elastic Collisions
- Physics Equations
- Objects size
- Velocity Graph



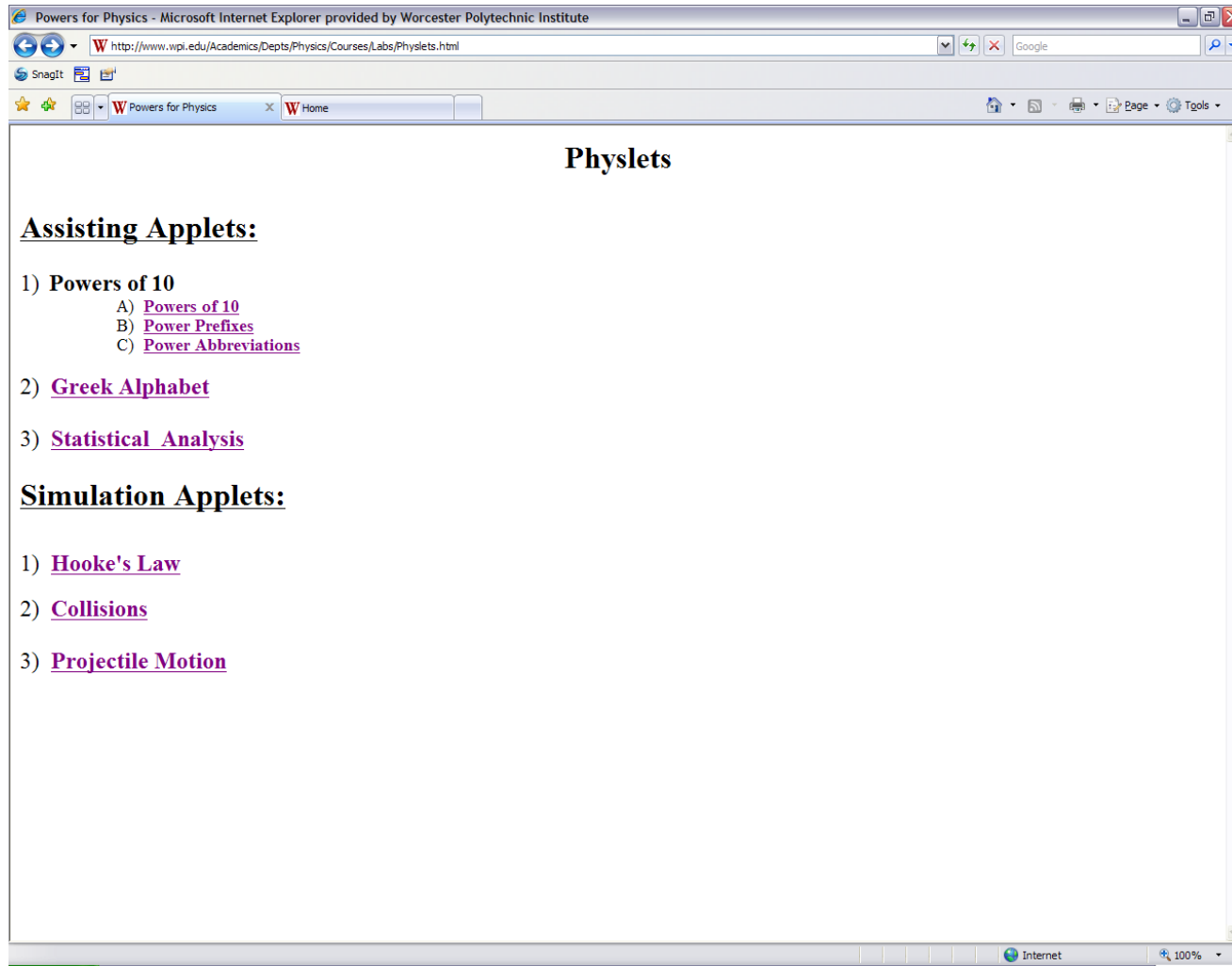
# Hooke's Law

- Calculates Spring Constant



# Available Online At...

<http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/Depts/Physics/Courses/Labs/Physlets.html>



# Going Forward

- Specific to created applets
  - Projectile Motion
  - Collision
  - Statistical Analysis Tool
- Other Applet Ideas
  - Significant Digits
  - Unit Conversion
  - Physics Topics
- Web Development



# IV. Energy Lab

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Konrad Perry

# My Goals

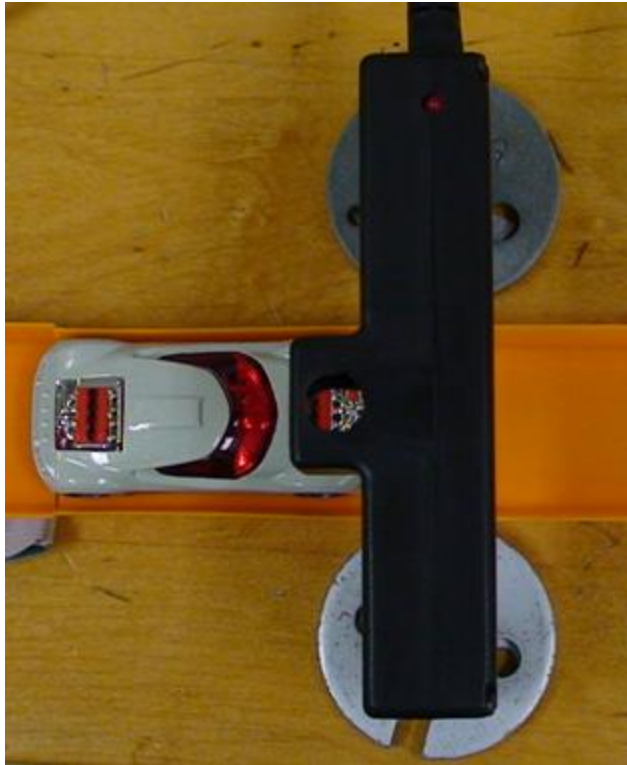
- Portray energy in a new light
- Excite Incoming Freshman
- Involve students
- Complement classroom learning

# Hot Wheels Energy Lab

- Attempted Experiments
  - Photogates
  - Collision -- X
  - Force Sensor
  - Launch/Jump -- X
- Chosen Experiments
  - Photogates
  - Force Sensor



# Photogate Experiment

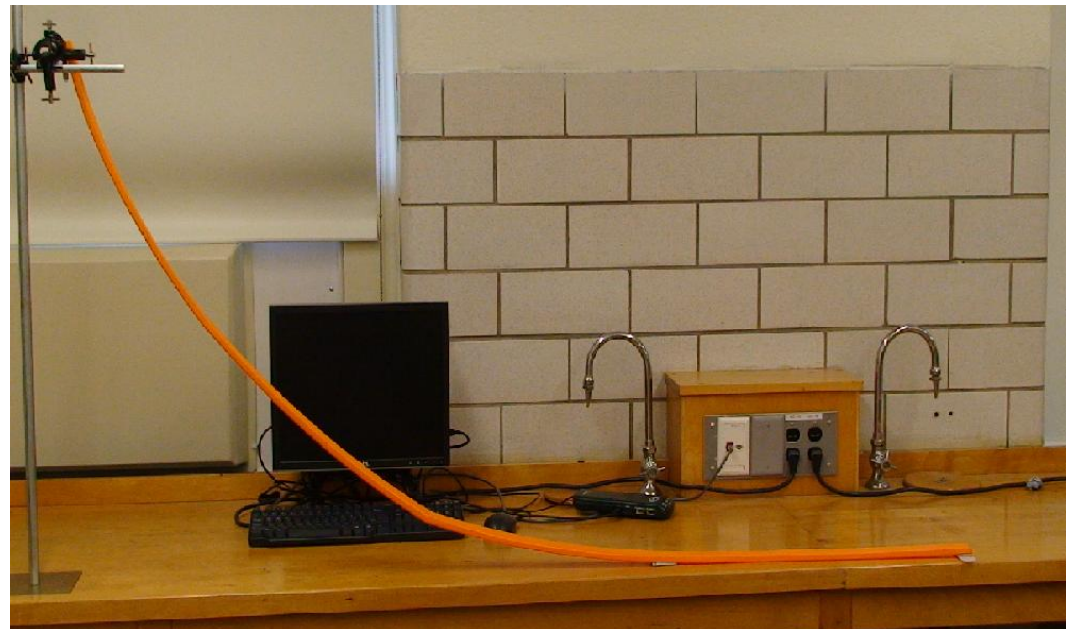


# Force Sensor Experiment



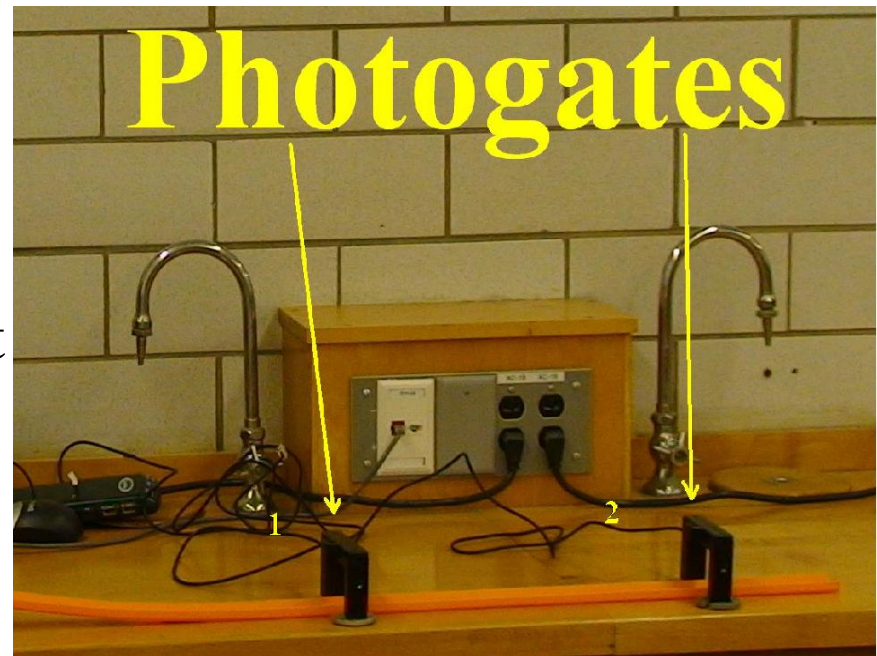
# Lab Procedure

- Setup
- Photogate Experiment
- Force Sensor Experiment
- Data Sheet
- Lab Worksheet



# Lab Procedure

- Setup
- Photogate Experiment →
- Force Sensor Experiment
- Data Sheet
- Lab Worksheet





# Lab Procedure

- Setup
- Photogate Experiment
- Force Sensor Experiment →
- Data Sheet
- Lab Worksheet





# Data: Photogate

1<sup>st</sup> Height: 35 cm

Expected Velocity (m/s): 2.619

Photogate	Trial 1 Velocity (m/s)	Trial 2 Velocity (m/s)	Trial 3 Velocity (m/s)	Average Velocity (m/s)
1	2.544	2.532	2.524	2.533
2	2.500	2.469	2.483	2.485

2<sup>nd</sup> Height: 45 cm

Expected Velocity (m/s): 2.968

Photogate	Trial 1 Velocity (m/s)	Trial 2 Velocity (m/s)	Trial 3 Velocity (m/s)	Average Velocity (m/s)
1	2.788	2.845	2.816	2.816
2	2.751	2.796	2.686	2.744

3<sup>rd</sup> Height: 55 cm

Expected Velocity (m/s): 3.283

Photogate	Trial 1 Velocity (m/s)	Trial 2 Velocity (m/s)	Trial 3 Velocity (m/s)	Average Velocity (m/s)
1	3.172	3.168	3.162	3.167
2	3.106	3.100	3.095	3.100

# Relationship

Height (m)	V (m/s)	$\sqrt{Y} * 4.427$ (m/s)	% Dev. (Theory)	% Dev. (Friction)
.35	2.533	2.619	-3.28%	-1.89%
.45	2.816	2.969	-5.15%	-2.56%
.55	3.167	3.283	-3.53%	-2.12%

# Data: Force Sensor

Mass of Car (kg): .0343

Length of Car: .075m

1<sup>st</sup> Height

	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3	Average
Max Force (N)	12.40	12.36	12.73	12.50
Impulse ( $N*s$ )	.0925	.0924	.0929	.0926

Expected Impulse ( $N*s$ ): .0898

2<sup>nd</sup> Height

	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3	Average
Max Force (N)	15.43	16.16	15.67	15.75
Impulse ( $N*s$ )	.1043	.1074	.1053	.1056

Expected Impulse ( $N*s$ ): .1019

3<sup>rd</sup> Height

	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3	Average
Max Force (N)	20.98	20.56	20.19	20.58
Impulse ( $N*s$ )	.1199	.1187	.1209	.1198

Expected Impulse ( $N*s$ ): .1126

# Difficulties in Experimentation

- Force Sensor Issues
- Data Sampling Rates
- Time Constraints
- Equations



# Going Forward

- Lessons Learned
- For the Future

# V. Energy Video

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By John McGinley

# My Goals

- Provide an additional tool for learning
- Excite students
- Helpful demonstration of labs

# The Video





# Part 1 (Introduction)

- Attention Grabbing



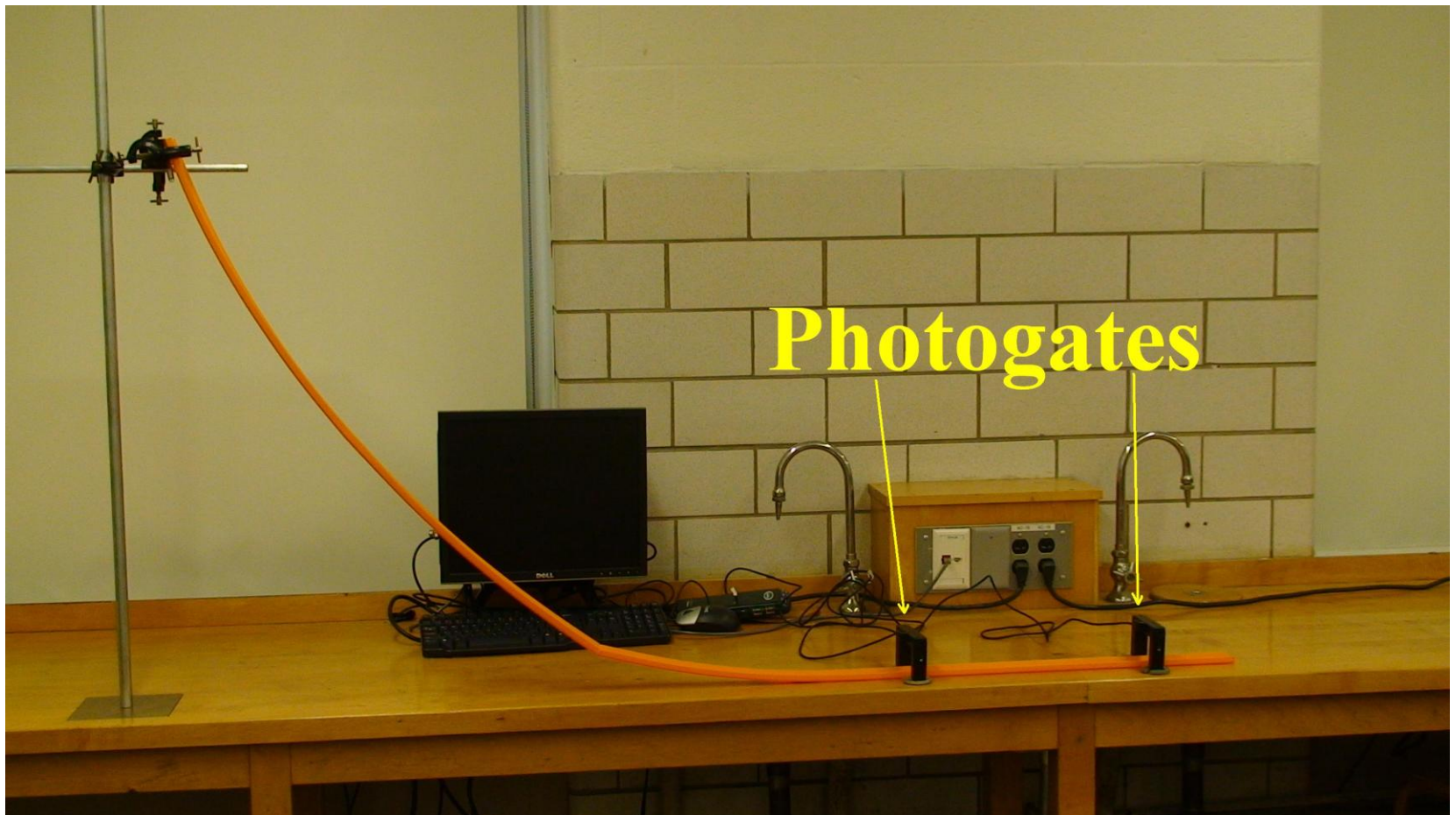
## Part 2 (Materials)

- Show materials used



## Part 3 (Photogate)

- Provide a visual aid of the final Photogate setup





# Part 4 (Force Sensor)

- Provide a visual aid of the final force sensor setup



# Part 5 (Conclusion)

- Leave the students interested



# Going Forward

- Lessons learned
- Present material in several ways
- Create videos for other lab experiments

# VI. Overall Conclusion

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By Bennie Jones

# My Part

- Organizational team-manager
- Head critique
- Unbiased experiment and applet evaluator
- Editor and moderator



# Conclusions

- Beginning feelings about Physics labs
- Ran through trials several times
  - Reworked, reworded, sharpened and shined
- Ending feelings about Physics lab

# Going Forward

- Sample crowd
- Conduct surveys
- Implementation in classroom

# Questions?

