Worksheet for Exploration 9.5: Two Airplanes with Different Land Speeds



Two airplanes (not shown to scale) travel the same round-trip distance between two cities (**position is given in kilometers and time is given in hours**). Both airplanes have the same air speed (200 km/hr), but one airplane (the top airplane with the **blue** wingtip) travels faster or slower relative to the ground because it is subject to a headwind and tailwind. A *positive wind velocity means a tailwind on the outbound part of the trip and a headwind on the inbound part of the trip*. The wind velocity can be changed by entering a value (-199 < v_{wind} < 199) in the text box and registering the value. Restart.

- a. **Before** entering a non-zero value in the text box, determine which airplane will reach its destination first if the top (blue) airplane is subject to a head/tail wind.
- b. Once you have made your determination, play the animation to see if you were right. i. What headwind did you use, and which plane wins?

- c. If you were incorrect, can you now see why you were incorrect? Explain.
 - i. It may help to make a plot of the speed vs. time for each plane.



