

## Transverse and Longitudinal Pulses on Springs



**Purpose:** To demonstrate the two principle types of wave motion by propagating transverse and longitudinal pulses on springs.

**Location:** room 146, shelf N5

You will need two people to do this demo, one on each end of the spring. A sharp transverse snap of the long spring will launch a transverse pulse (top right photo). You can launch a longitudinal wave by compressing a section of the “slinky” spring with your hands (bottom left photo), then abruptly releasing it (bottom right photo). Although the photos show the demos being done on the floor, the transverse pulse demo can be done while standing as well.