CAS SCHOOL, SEP 2022, KAUNAS

INTRODUCTION TO SPECIAL RELATIVITY

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National Research Tomsk State University

Every day example:

plane, airport, bad weather

COPIRIGHTS

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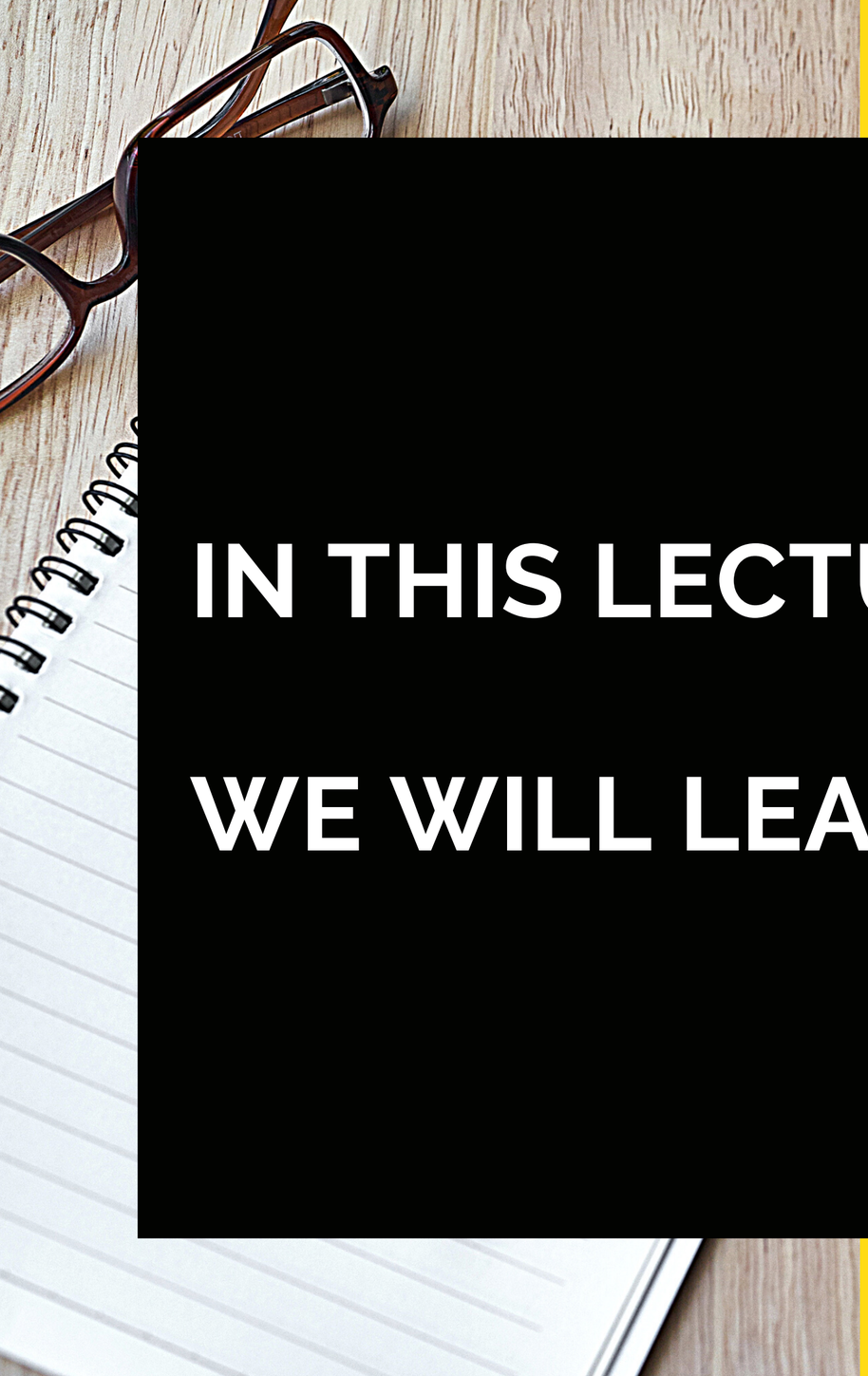
MATERIALS

CAS Website

These slides and the video will be available the CAS school website

Books

- Jurgen Freund, "Special Relativity For Beginners"
- James H. Smith , "Introduction to Special Relativity"
- Mario Conte, William W. MacKay, "An Introduction to the Physics of Particle Accelerators"



IN THIS LECTURE, WE WILL LEARN...

THE TRANSITION

in thinking that led from Galilean Relativity to the Special Theory of Relativity in 1905.

THE POSTULATES

of special relativity, which are the basis of the mathematics of the framework.

THE CONSEQUENCES

of the postulates.

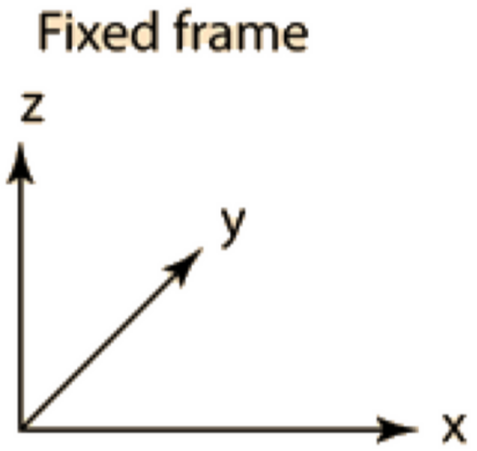
NEWTON'S PRINCIPLE OF RELATIVITY

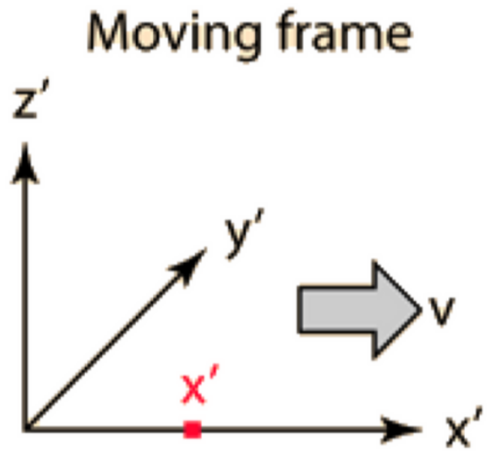
GALILEO GALILEI IN 1632, AND LATER BY NEWTON

"The motions of bodies included in a given space are the same among themselves, whether that space is at rest or moves uniformly forward in a straight line."

GALILEAN TRANSFORMATION

At the time of Newton the relation of the coordinates between two systems in motion with relative velocity v, was defined by the **Galilean transformation of motion**





$$\begin{aligned} x' &= x - v\,t \\ y' &= y \\ z' &= z \\ t' &= t \end{aligned} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{aligned} \mathbf{r}' &= \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{v}t \\ t' &= t \end{aligned}$$

with $\mathbf{r} = (x, \quad y, \quad z)$.

MAXWELL EQUATIONS

DIFFERENTIAL FORM

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{E} = \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_0}$$

GAUSS'S LAW FOR **E**

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$$

GAUSS'S LAW FOR **B**

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{E} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{B}}{\partial t}$$

FARADAY'S LAW
for time-varying
magnetic fields

$$\nabla \times \mathbf{B} = \mu_0 \left(\mathbf{J} + \epsilon_0 \frac{\partial \mathbf{E}}{\partial t} \right)$$

AMPERE(-MAXWELL) LAW
for time-varying
electric fields

THE PROBLEM WITH GALILEAN TRANSFORMATION

- $$\left(\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x'^2}+\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y'^2}+\frac{\partial^2}{\partial z'^2}-\frac{1}{c^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t'^2}\right)\Psi = 0$$

  Maxwell wave equation

- $$x = x' - vt,\ \ y' = y,\ \ z' = z,\ \ t' = t$$

  Galilean transformation

- $$\left(\left[1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}\right]\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2}+\frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2}+\frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}+\frac{2v}{c^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial x\partial t}-\frac{1}{c^2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}\right)\Psi = 0$$

  Maxwell wave equation

MAXWELL EQUATIONS. CONSEQUENCES.

If there is a disturbance in the field such that light is generated, these electromagnetic waves go out in all directions equally and at the same speed:

c = 299 792 458 m/s in vacuum

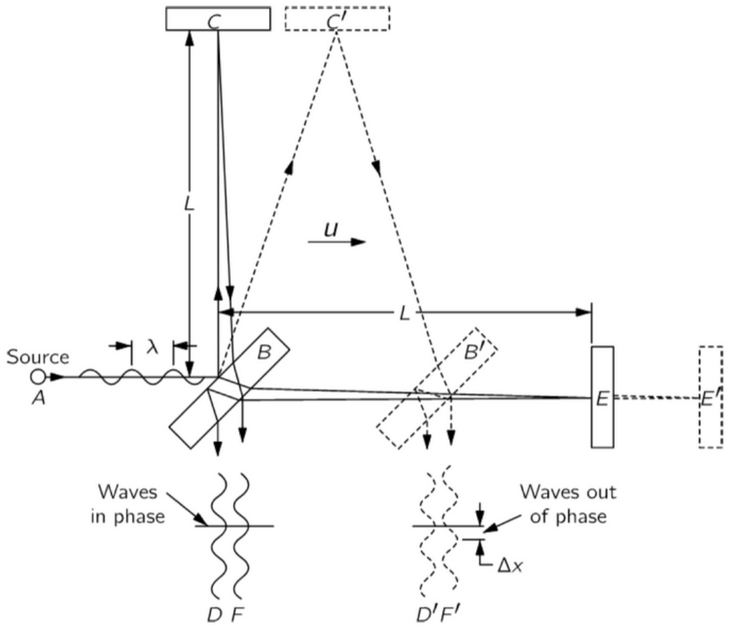
("celeritas" = speed)

If the source of the disturbance is moving, the light emitted goes through space at the same speed **c.**

This is analogous to the case of sound, the speed of sound waves being likewise independent of the motion of the source.

MICHELSON-MORLEY EXPERIMENT (1887)

The goal was to determine the absolute velocity of the earth through this hypothetical “aether”:



A: light source; B: partially silvered glass plate; C and E: mirrors; D and F: super-imposed light beams

$$B \to E: \quad ct_1 = L + ut_1 \Rightarrow t_1 = L/(c-u)$$
$$E \to B: \quad ct_2 = L - ut_2 \Rightarrow t_2 = L/(c+u)$$

$$t_1 + t_2 = \frac{2L}{(1-u^2/c^2)}$$

$$B \to C: \quad (ct_3)^2 = L^2 + (ut_3)^2 \Rightarrow t_3 = L/\sqrt{c^2-u^2}$$
$$C \to B: \quad t_4 = t_3$$

If there is an “aether drift” then

$$t_1 + t_2 \neq t_3 + t_4$$

The apparatus was amply sensitive to observe such an effect, but no time difference was found — the velocity of the earth through the aether could not be detected. The result of the experiment was null.

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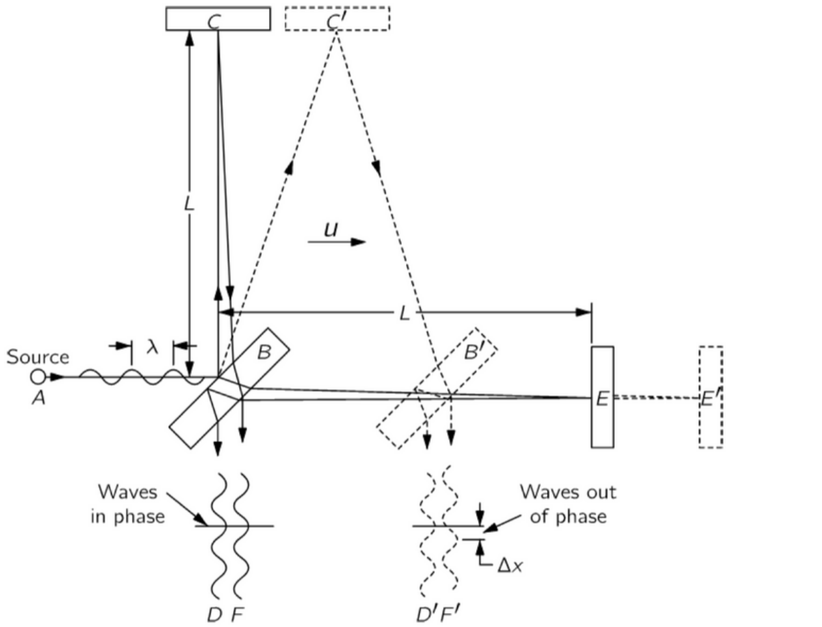

A: light source; B: partially silvered glass plate; C and E: mirrors; D and F: super-imposed light beams

Light travels at a fixed and constant speed in any medium, regardless of the relative velocity of the light-source and the light-observer ->

This is unlike any other phenomenon described in mechanics, and implies that Newton's Mechanics is incomplete.

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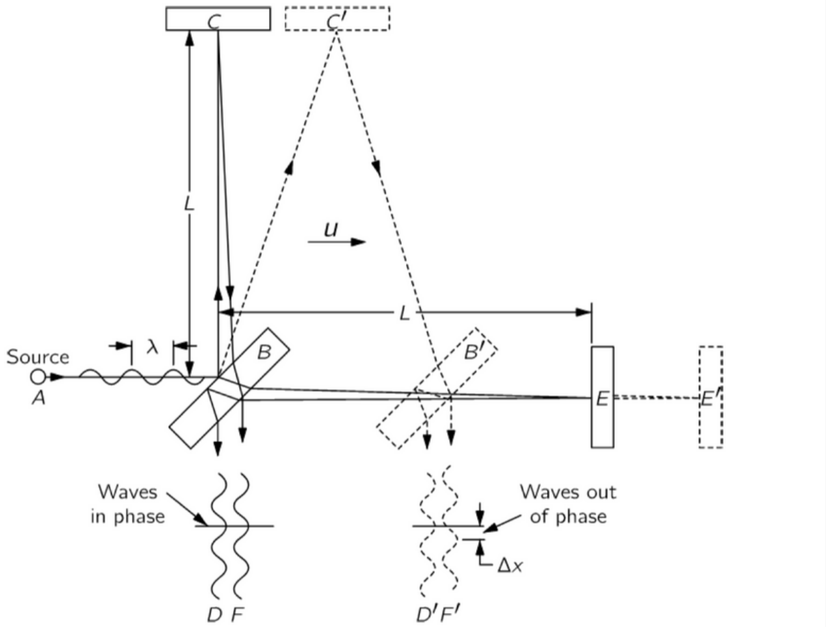

A: light source; B: partially silvered glass plate; C and E: mirrors; D and F: super-imposed light beams

No medium is required for light to propagate; unlike a mechanical oscillatory phenomenon (wave), to exist light requires no medium to be distorted ->

this implies Maxwell's Equations are complete

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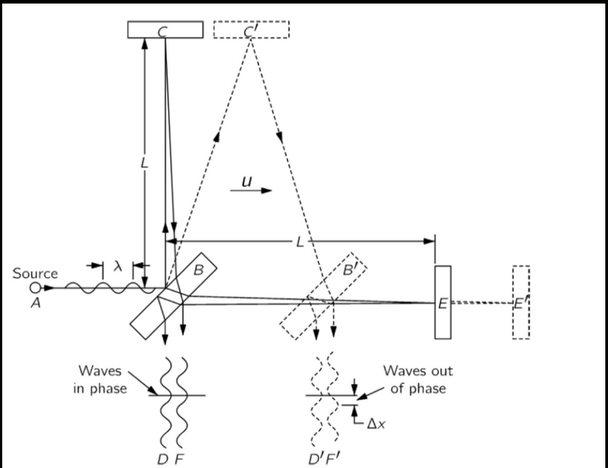


A: light source; B: partially silvered glass plate; C and E: mirrors; D and F: super-imposed light beams

These lessons would not be absorbed fully until 1905, when Albert Einstein published the definitive papers explaining how to reconcile mechanics, electricity and magnetism, and the Michelson-Morley experiment

"If the Michelson–Morley experiment had not brought us into serious embarrassment, no one would have regarded the relativity theory as a (halfway) redemption." Einstein

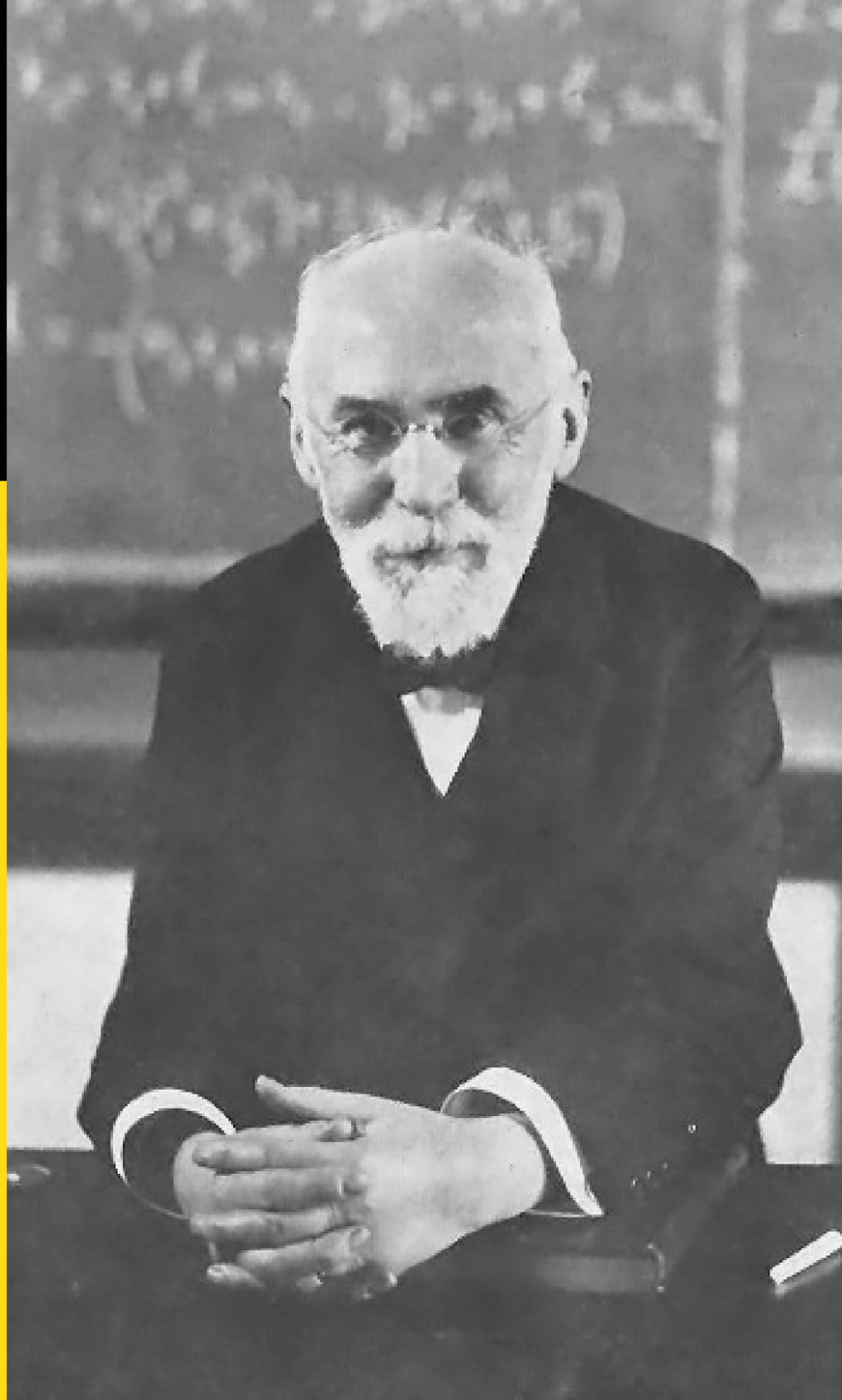
"COMPRESSION OF BODIES IN THE AETHER"

HENDRIK LORENTZ

replacement for the Galilean Relativity equations

THE EFFECTS OF THE AETHER ON BODIES IN MOTION

- ·Mechanical bodies would compress along the direction of motion in the aether, with a precise mathematical description for the process
- In transforming observations from the aether frame to other frames of reference, he would conceive of an alteration of time that also had a mathematical description



LORENTZ TRANSFORMATION

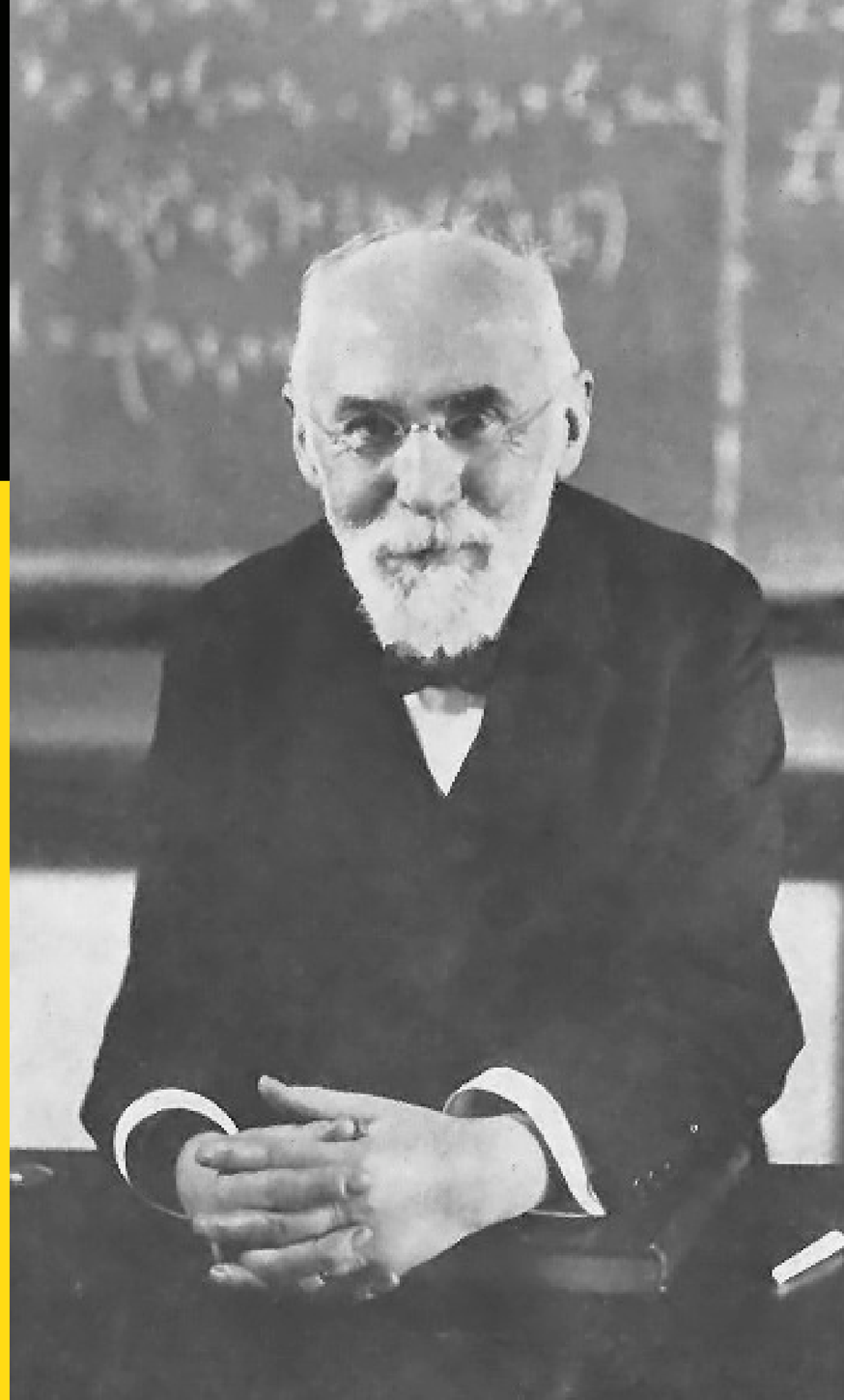
$$L_{\parallel} = L_0\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$$

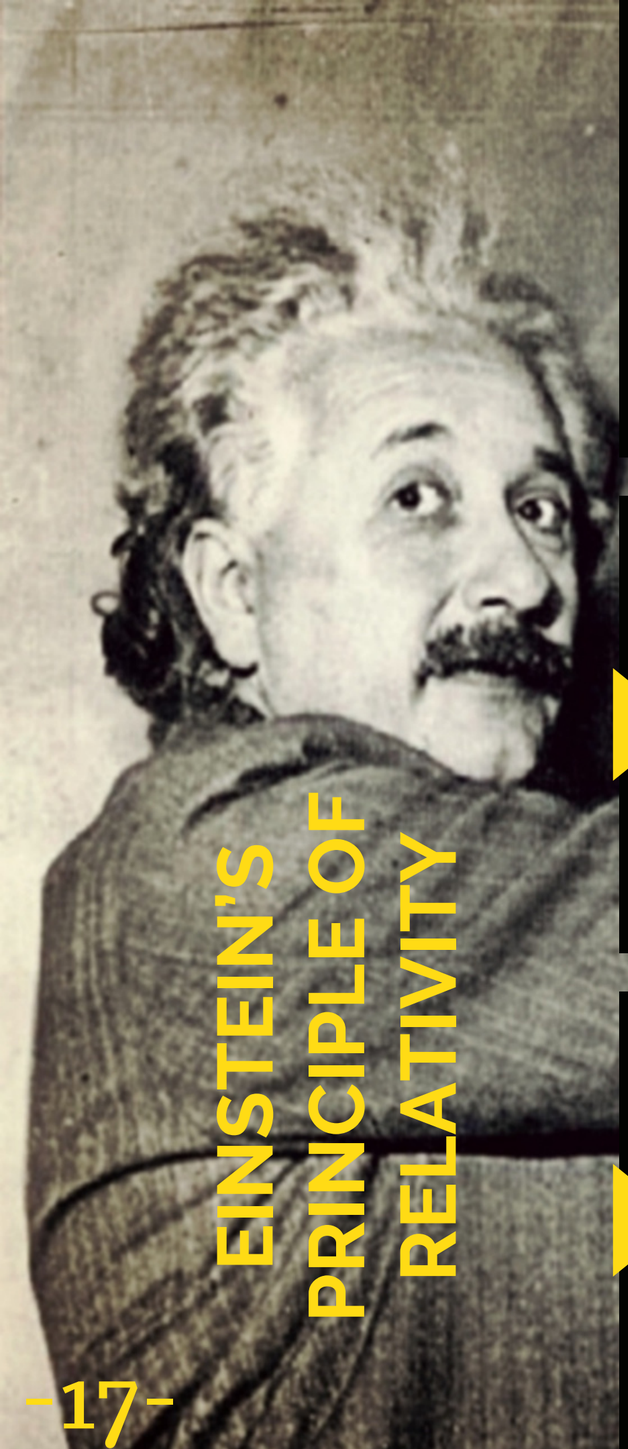
$$x' = \frac{x - vt}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$$

$$y' = y$$

$$z' = z$$

$$t' = \frac{t - vx/c^2}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$$





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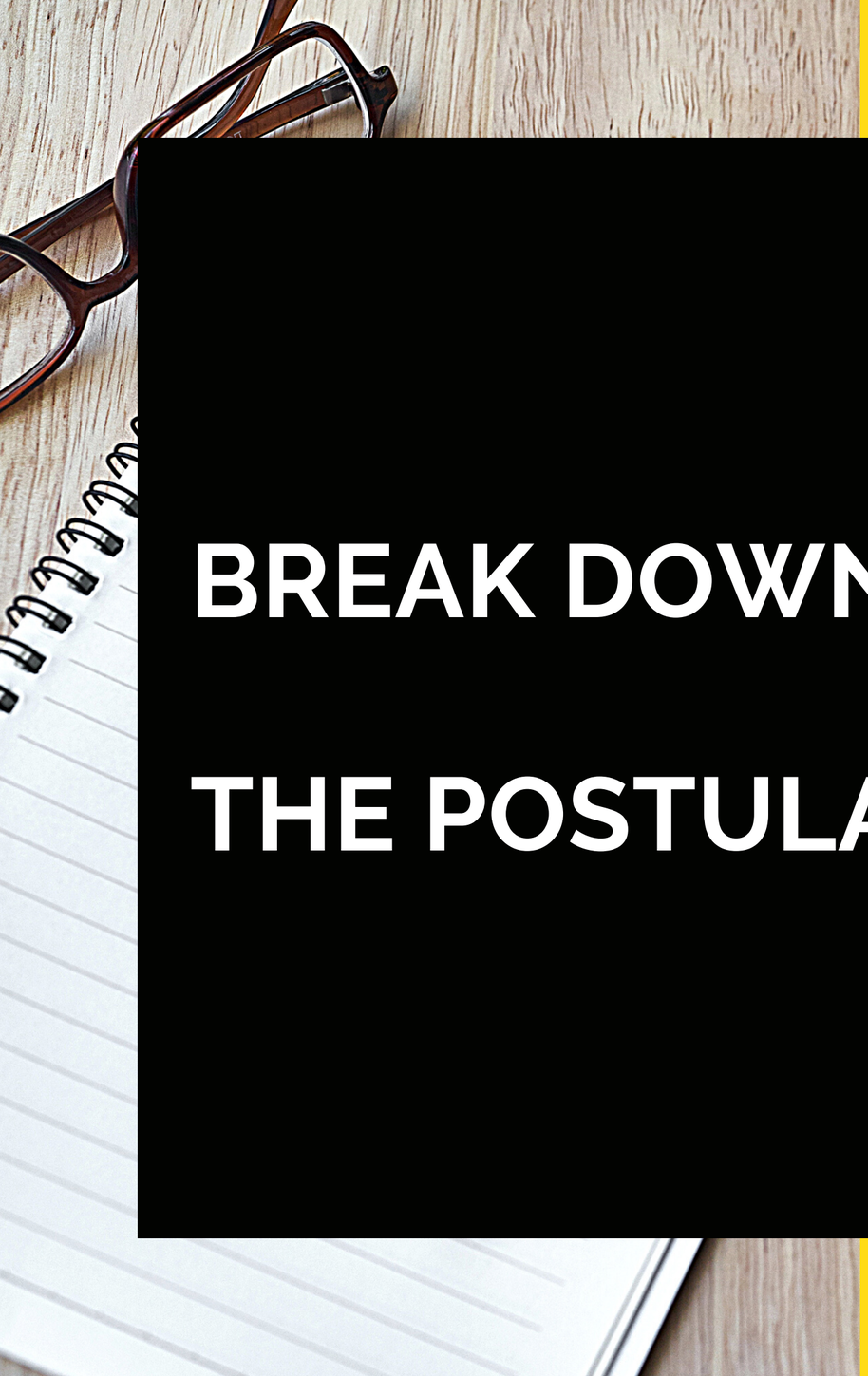


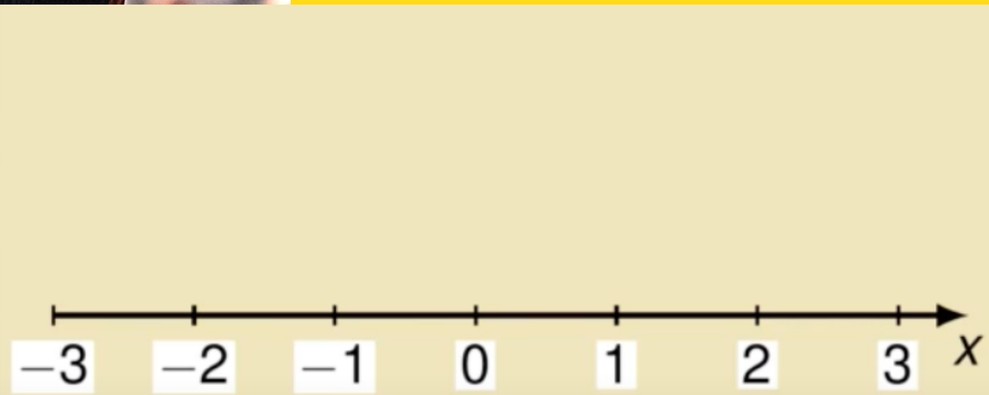
BREAK DOWN THE POSTULATES

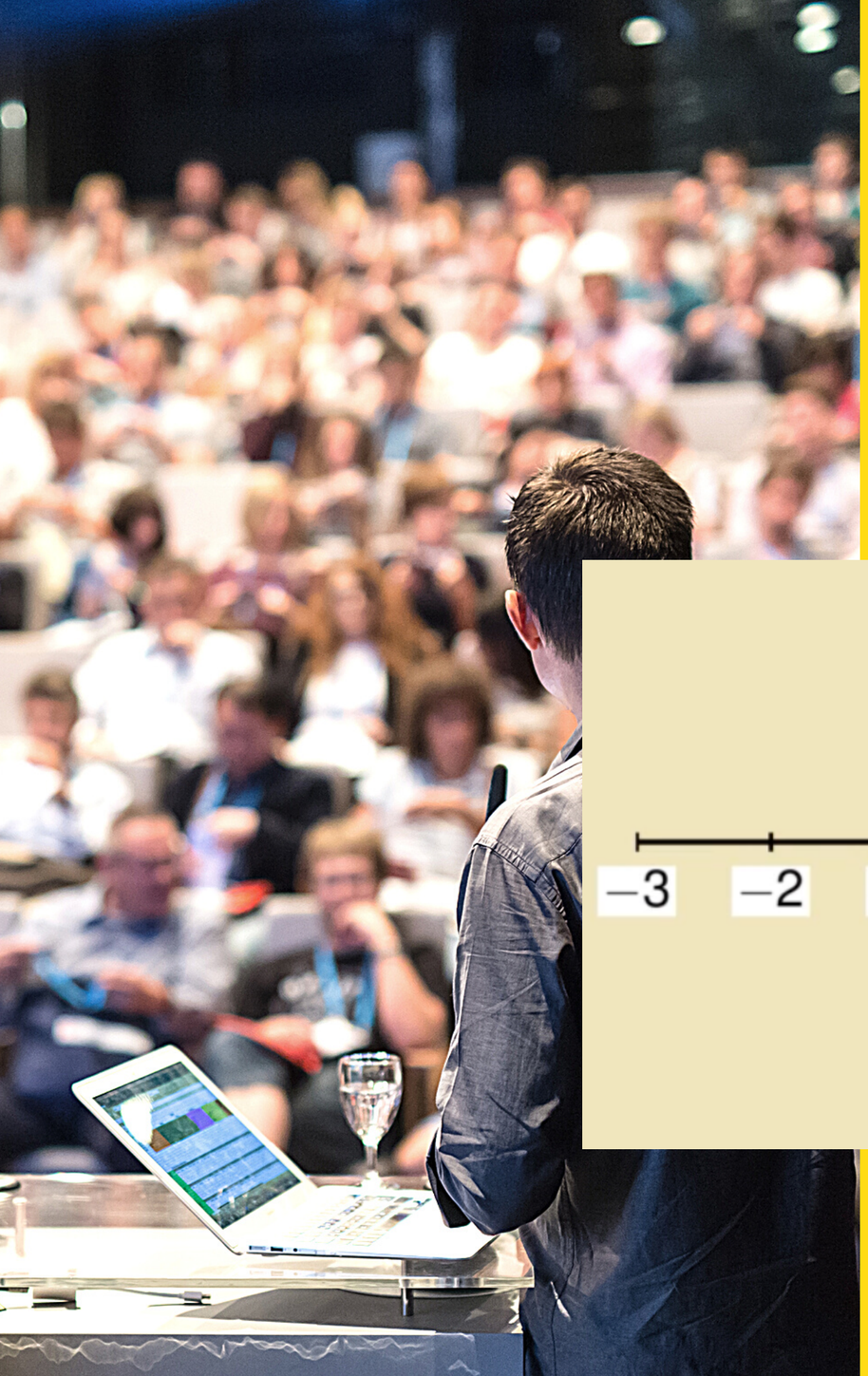
- "EVENT"
- "FRAME OF REFERENCE"
- "SIMULTANEITY"
- "SPEED OF LIGHT"

"EVENT"

IS ANYTHING WITH A LOCATION IN SPACE

AND TIME





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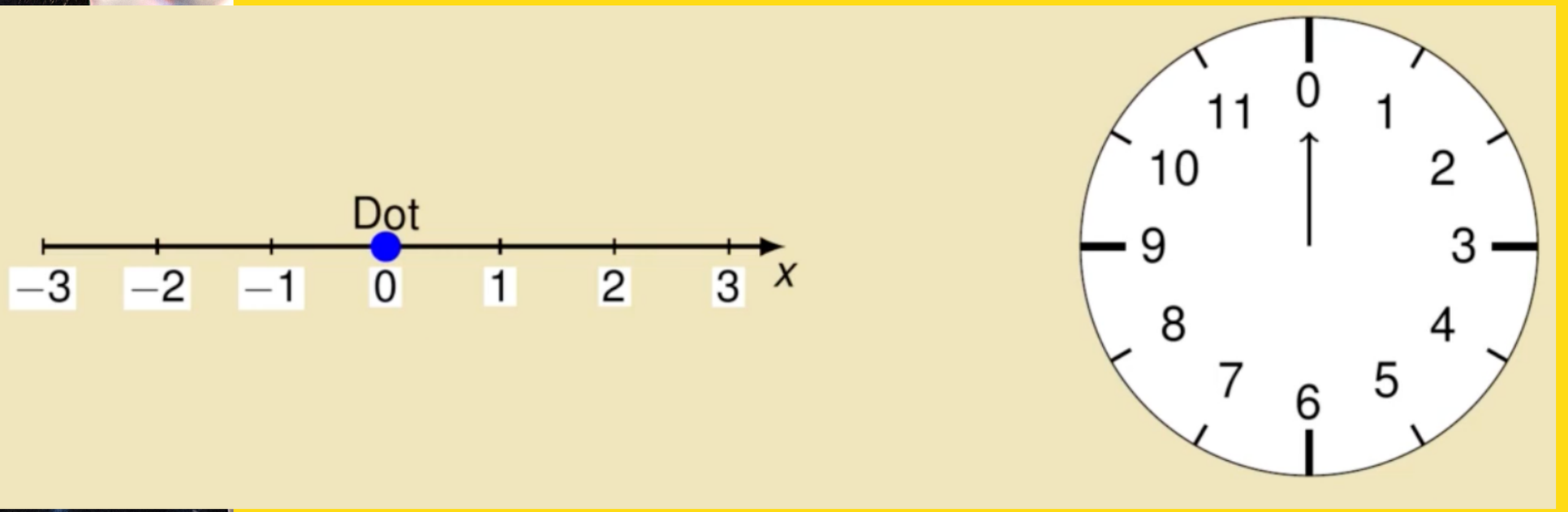

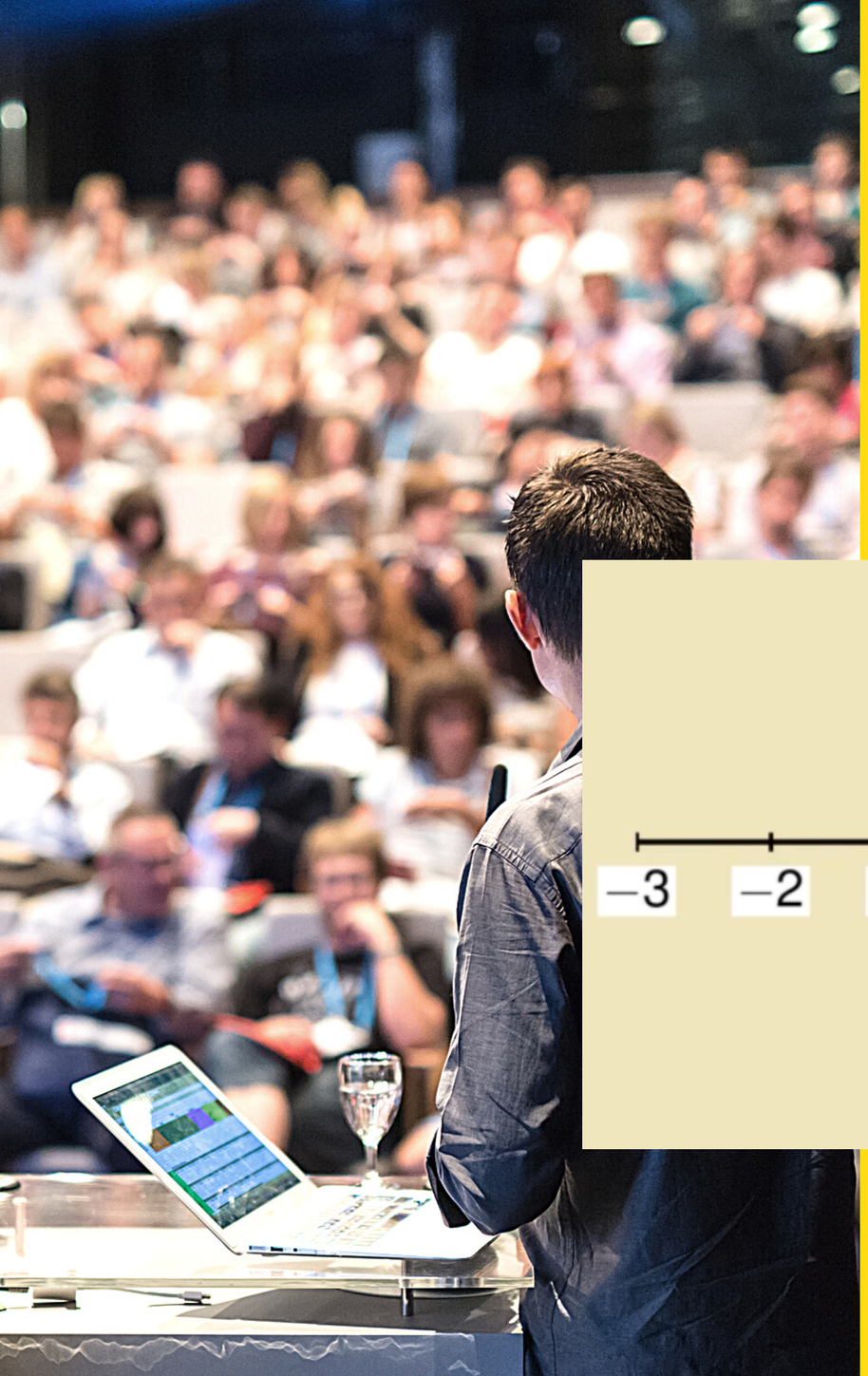

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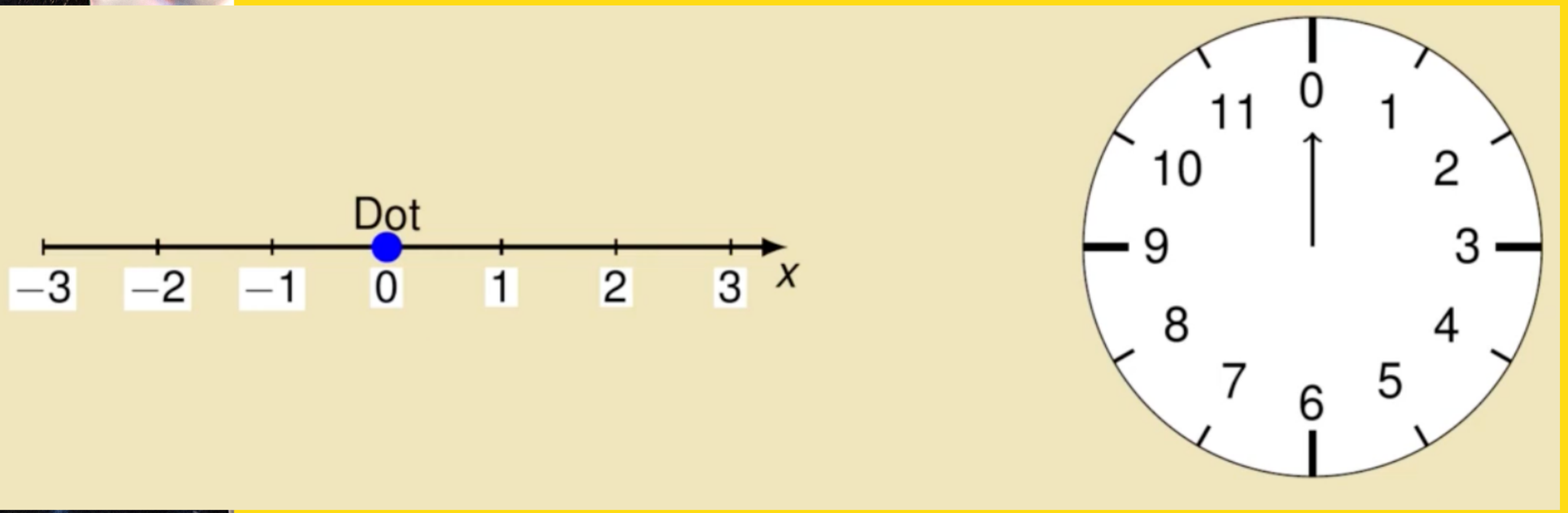
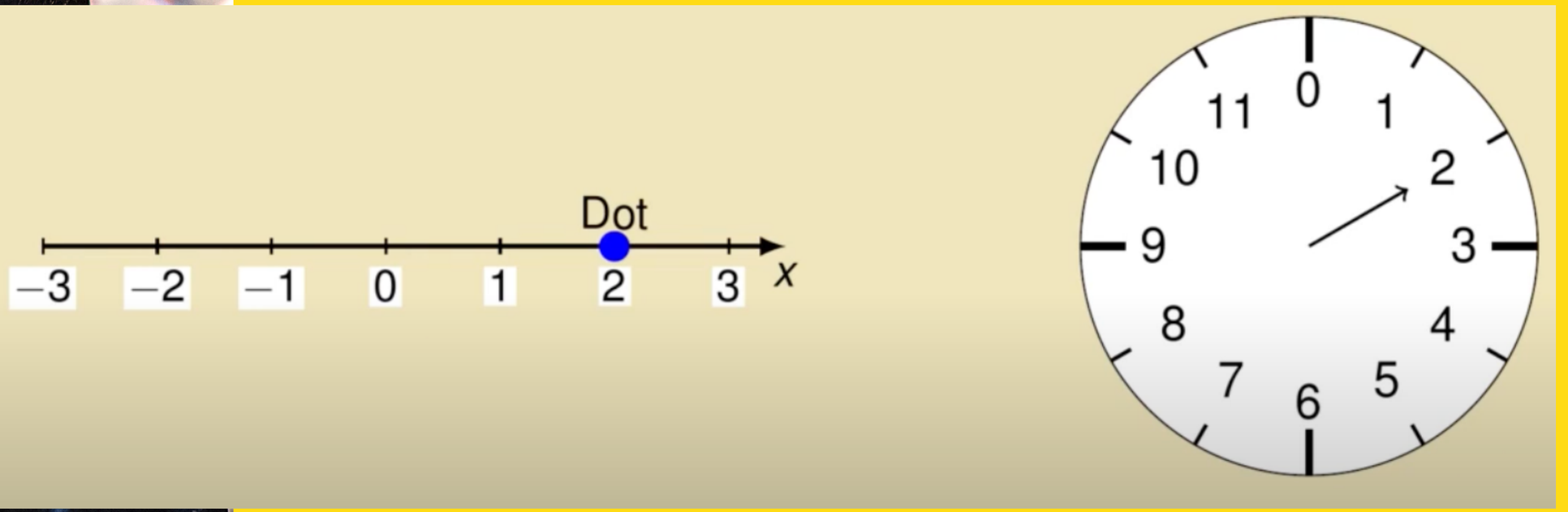


The dot is at position x=0 m at time t=0 s

"EVENT"

IS ANYTHING WITH A LOCATION IN SPACE

AND TIME



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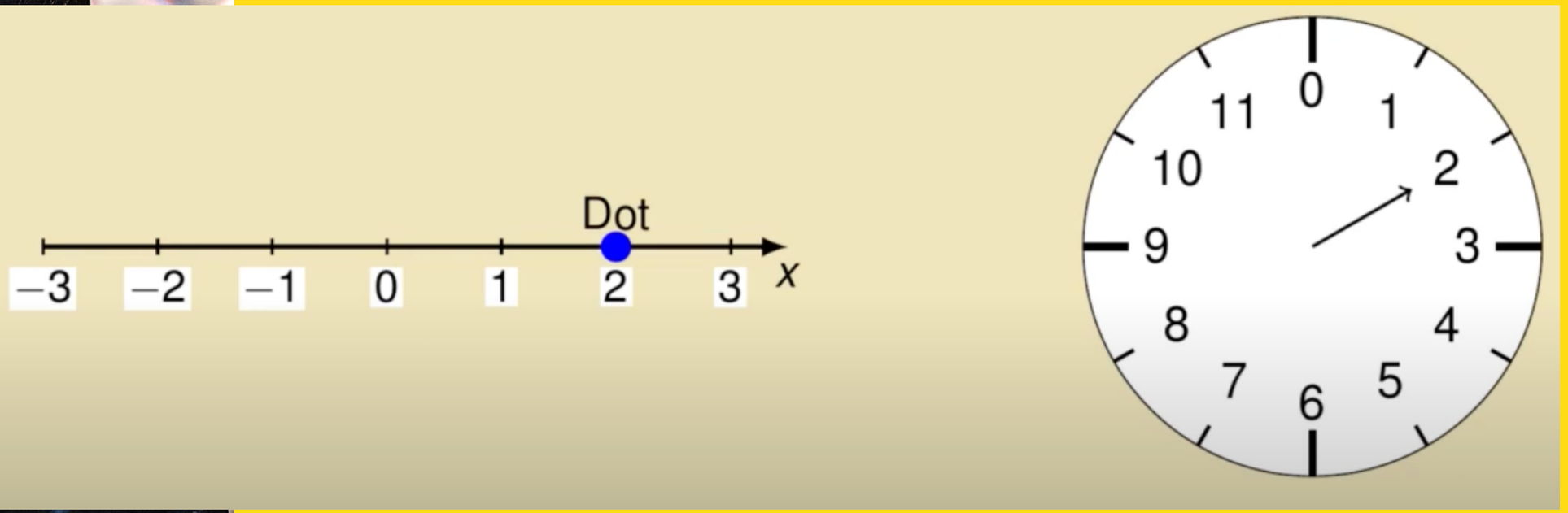
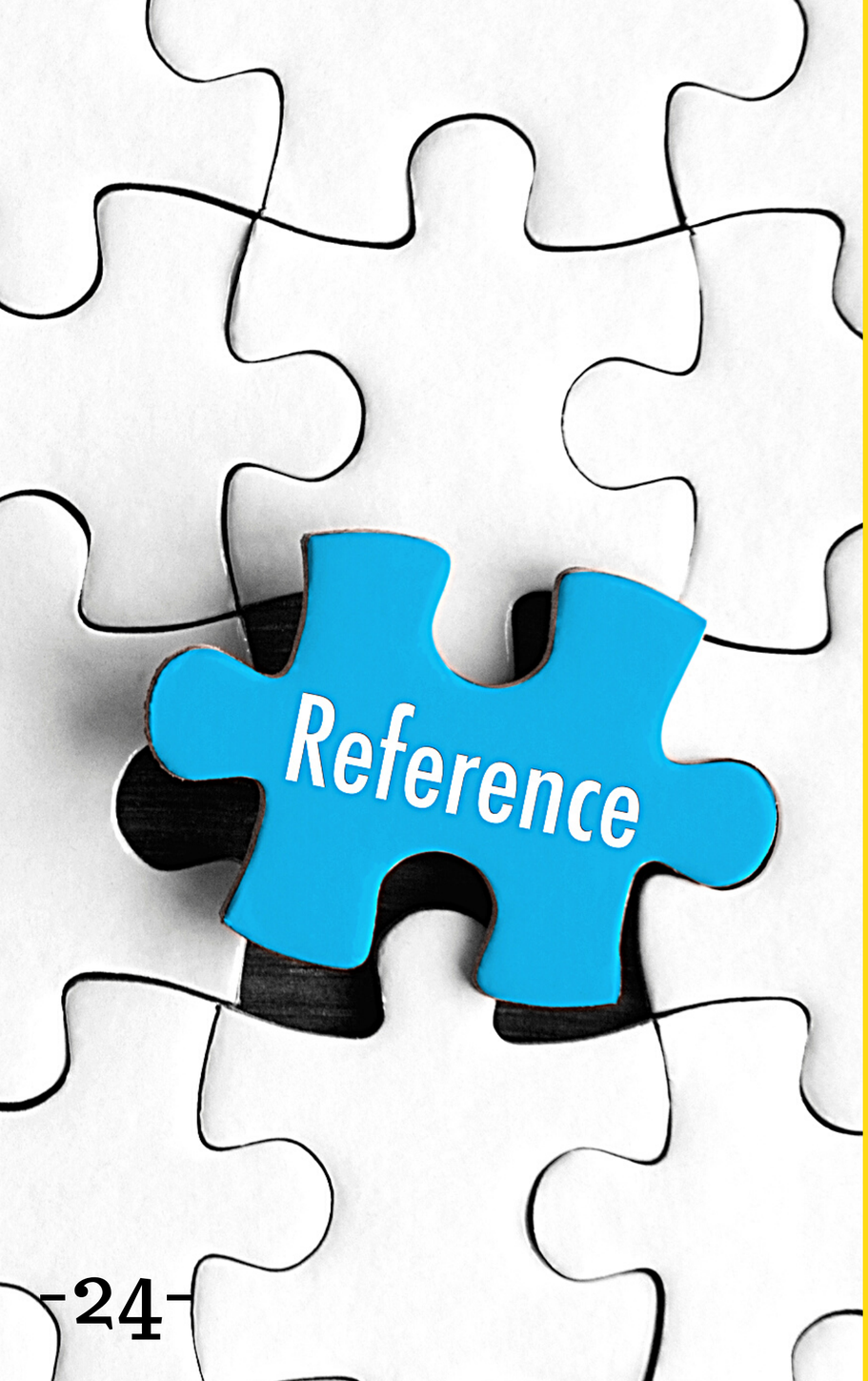
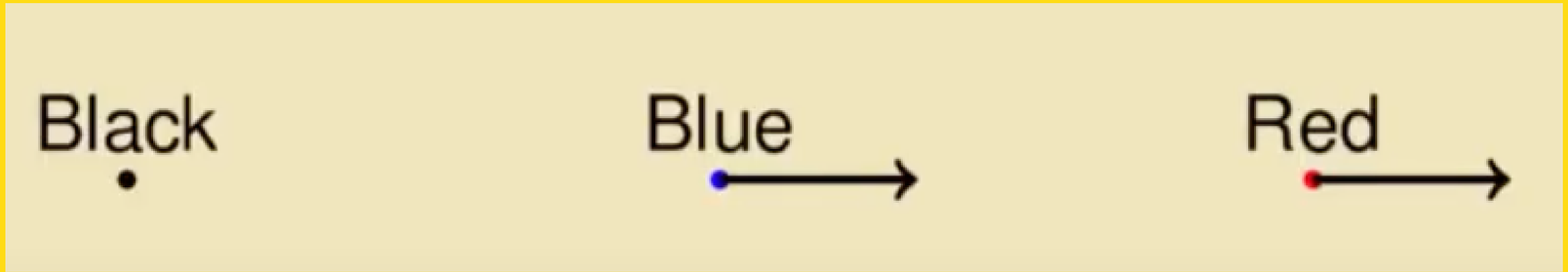


The dot is at position x=2m at time t=2s

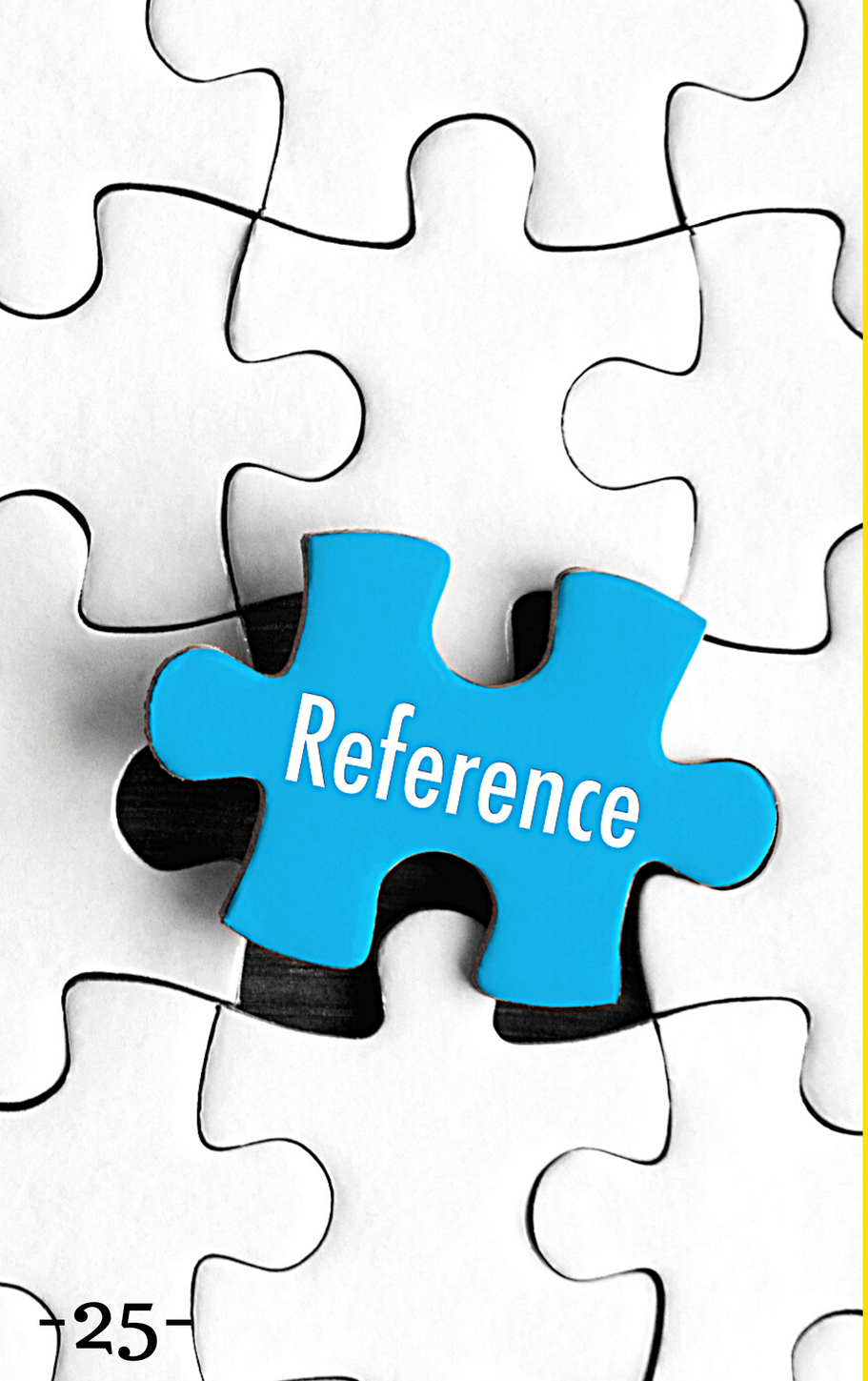


"FRAME OF REFERENCE"

IS ANY OBJECT OR SYSTEM ALL OF WHOSE PARTS MOVE AT THE SAME VELOCITY WITH RESPECT TO AN AGREED-UPON REFERENCE POINT IN SPACE.



Do the red dot and blue dot share the same or different frames of reference?



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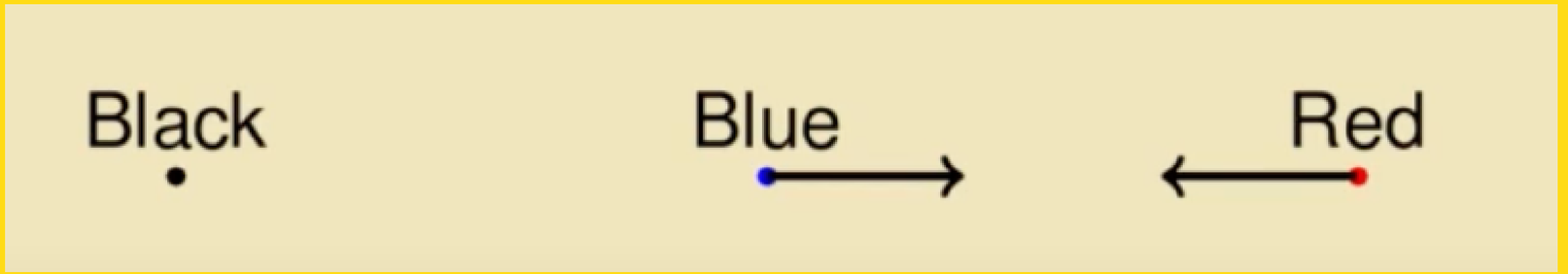


Do the red dot and blue dot share the same or different frames of reference NOW?

"SIMULTANEITY"

TWO EVENTS (OR MORE) ARE SAID TO BE SIMULTANEOUS

(THAT IS, TO POSSESS OF SIMULTANEITY), IF THEY ARE

OBSERVED TO OCCUR AT THE SAME MOMENT IN TIME

Think really hard about
whether events are simultaneous,
and **for whom**
(which observers in which frames of reference) they are simultaneous.

Modern Speed of Light

The speed of light, based on modern definitions of the meter and the second, is defined to be exactly $299,792,458 \mathrm{m/s}$. Light travels roughly one foot in one billionth of a second (1ft/ns).

"THE SPEED OF LIGHT"

IT IS THE NUMBER OF METERS LIGHT CAN TRAVEL, ONCE EMITTED BY A SOURCE, IN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME.

***Galileo Galilei**: attempted to measure this by uncovering a lantern, having an assistant on a distant hill who uncovers their lantern upon seeing his, and upon seeing the assistant's lantern light he recorda the time for the round trip, taking into account human reaction time*

LORENTZ TRANSFORMATION

VELOCITY:

$$\beta = \frac{v}{c} \qquad \in [0, 1]$$

LORENTZ FACTOR:

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}} \qquad \in [1, \infty)$$

LORENTZ TRANSFORMATION

$$
\begin{aligned}
x' &= \gamma\left(x - \beta ct\right) \\
y' &= y \\
z' &= z \\
ct' &= \gamma\left(ct - \beta x\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

$$x' = \frac{x - vt}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$$

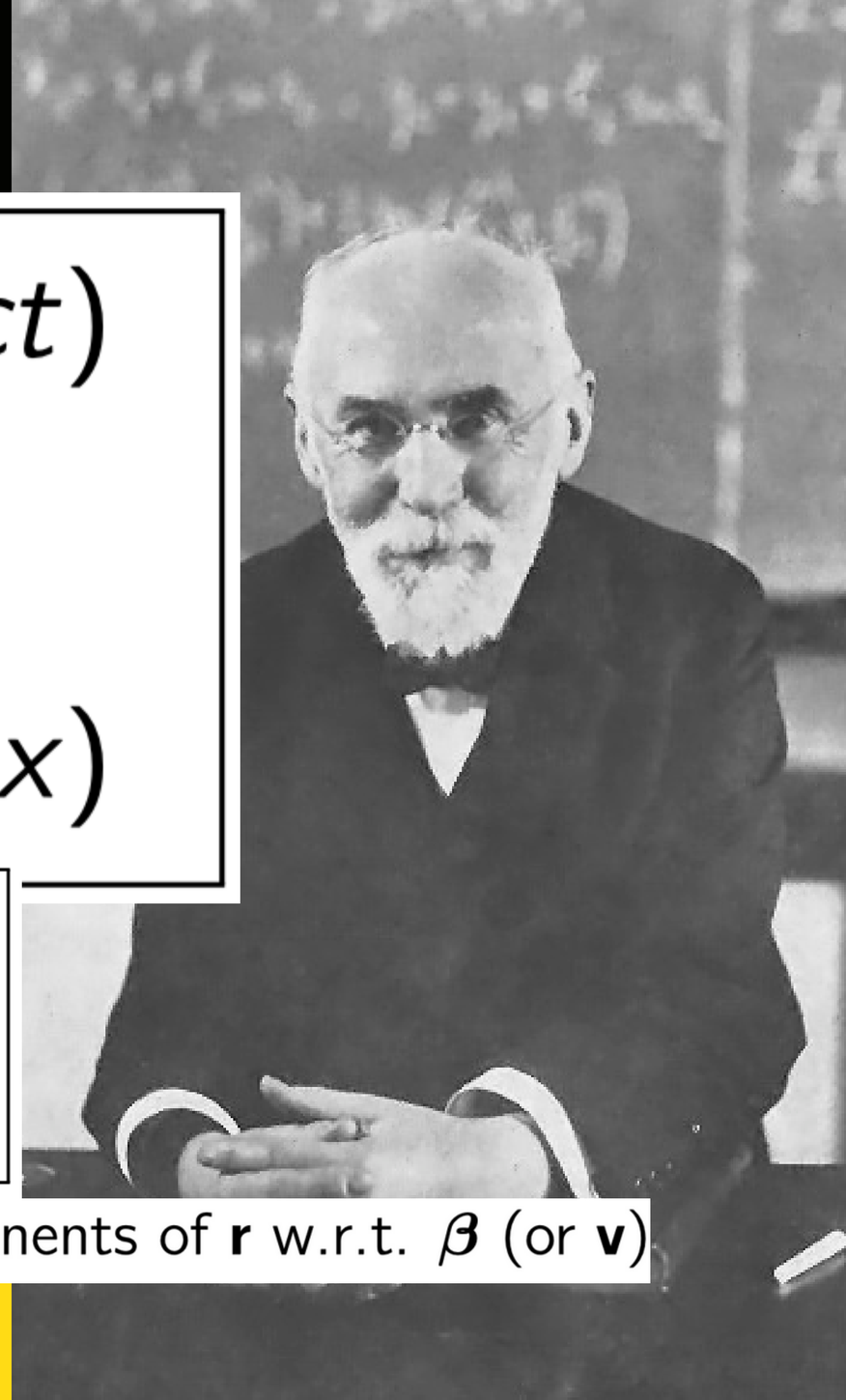
$$y' = y$$

$$z' = z$$

$$t' = \frac{t - vx/c^2}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{r}'_{\parallel} &= \gamma\left(\mathbf{r}_{\parallel} - \boldsymbol{\beta} ct\right) \\
\mathbf{r}'_{\perp} &= \mathbf{r}_{\perp} \\
ct' &= \gamma\left(ct - \mathbf{r}_{\parallel} \cdot \boldsymbol{\beta}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\mathbf{r}_{\parallel}$ and $\mathbf{r}_{\perp}$ are the components of $\mathbf{r}$ w.r.t. $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ (or $\mathbf{v}$)



LENGTH CONTRACTION

or Lorentz contraction, is the solution that Lorentz proposed to solve the Michelson-Morley experiment:

is the phenomenon that a moving object's length is measured to be shorter than its proper length, which is the length as measured in the object's own rest frame

$$\Delta x' = \frac{\Delta x}{\gamma}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} \qquad \in [1, \infty)$$

$$\beta = \frac{v}{c} \qquad \in [0, 1]$$

TIME DILATION

is a difference in the elapsed time measured by two clocks, due to them having a velocity relative to each other

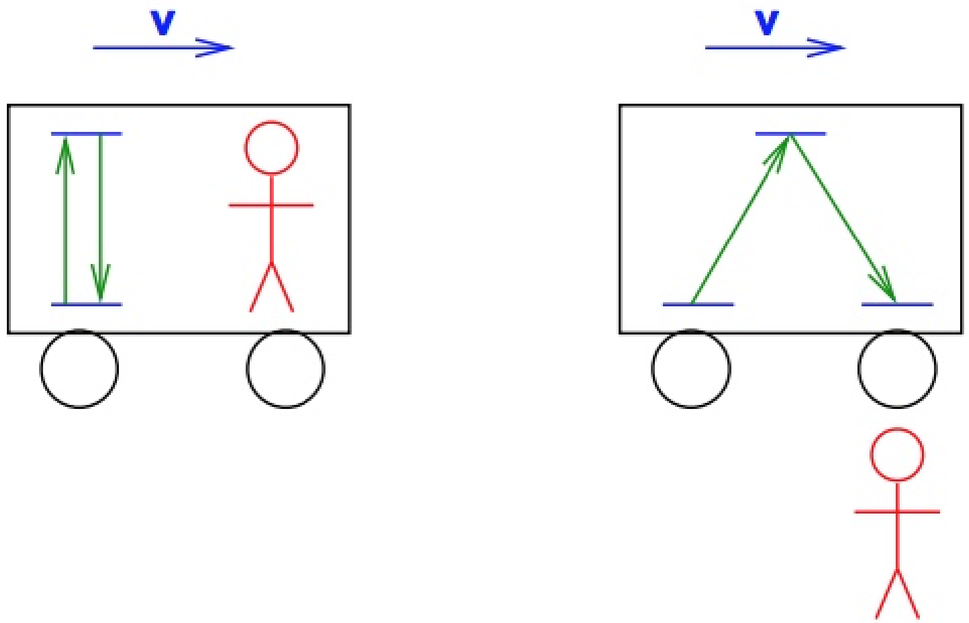
$$\Delta t' = \gamma \Delta t$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}} \qquad \in [1, \infty)$$

$$\beta = \frac{v}{c} \qquad \in [0, 1]$$

TIME DILATION

Reflection of light between 2 mirrors seen inside moving frame and from outside



Frame moving with velocity v

Seen from outside the path is longer, but c must be the same ..

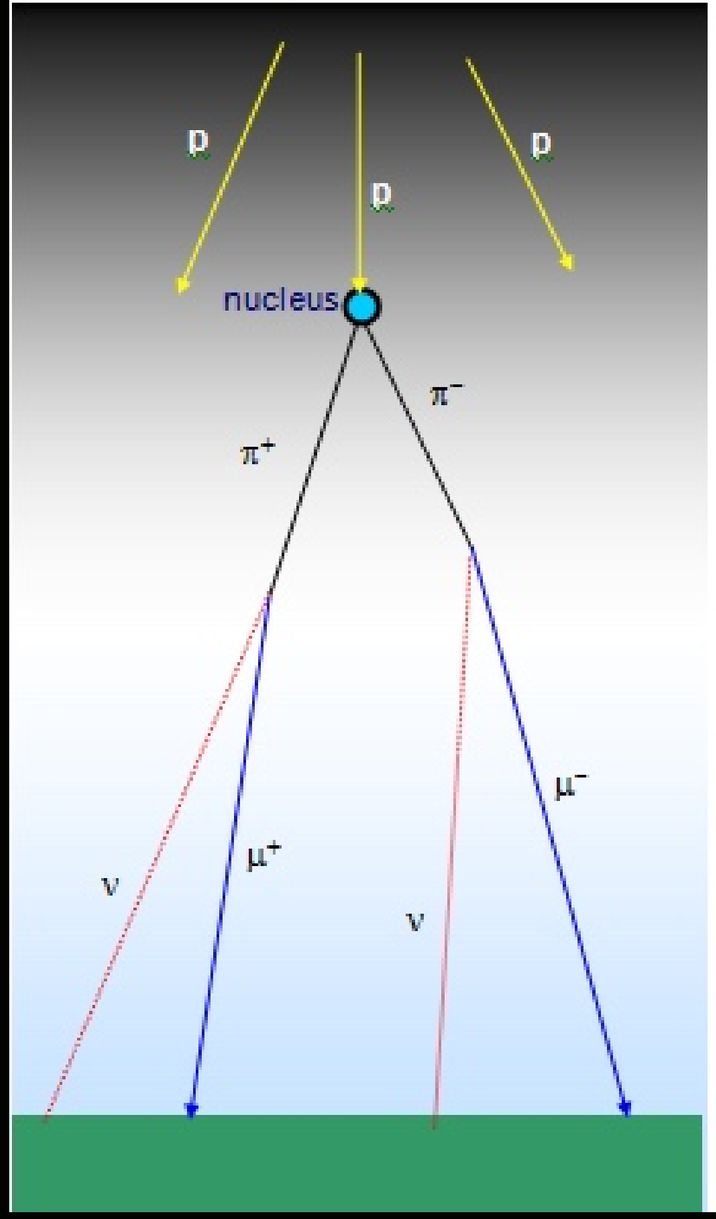
MUON DECAY IN THE ATMOSPHERE

MUONS ARE FORMED IN COLLISIONS OF COSMIC RAYS WITH NUCLEI OF ATMOSPHERE'S ATOMS, AT HEIGHTS OF ABOUT 12000

- The half-life of a muon is 2.2 microseconds and so even moving at 0.994 c they would only expect to travel about 660 m before half of them decayed.
- As they are formed at 12000 m altitude it would take 40 μs, or about 20 half lives, to reach the ground.. This would mean that only 1/2 ^20 of the original number would be detected.
- The fact that the proportion is much higher than this means that the muons are living longer.
- Their relativistic factor is:

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - 0.994^2}} = 9.1424$$

Their time slows down, and 2.2 μs become about γ times longer, or Lengths contract and the 12000m become 12000/γ m.



SOME CLARIFICATION

1. **Lorentz Contraction:**
    a. It is not the matter that is compressed (what Lorentz thought)
    b. It is the space that is modified (Einstein)
2. **Time Dilation**
    a. It is not the clock that is changed (what Lorentz and others thought
    b. It is the time that is modified (Einstein)
3. **EINSTEIN'S MAIN CONTRIBUTION: TO BELIEVE IT!**

PROPER DEFINITIONS

PROPER MASS:

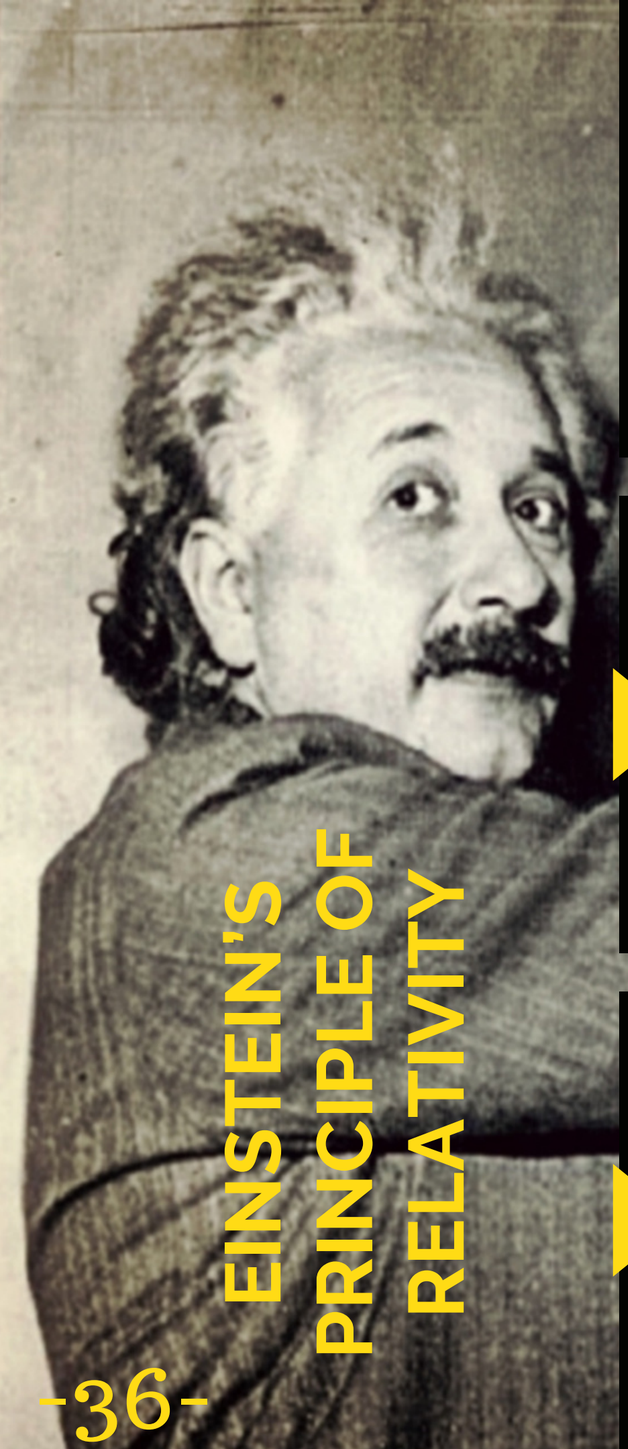
mass of a body at rest

PROPER TIME:

time as measured
in its own frame

PROPER LENGHT:

length as measured in its own frame



EINSTEIN'S PRINCIPLE OF RELATIVITY

IN ALBERT EINSTEIN'S ORIGINAL TREATMENT, IN 1905, THE PRINCIPLE OF RELATIVITY IS BASED ON **TWO POSTULATES**:

1. SPECIAL PRINCIPLE OF RELATIVITY:

The laws of physics are invariant (i.e. identical) in all inertial frames of reference (i.e. non-accelerating frames of reference).

2. INVARIANCE OF C:

The speed of light in a vacuum is the same for all observers, regardless of the motion of the light source or observer.

1905, Albert Einstein , "On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies".

EINSTEIN POSTULATES CONSEQUENCES: SPECIAL PRINCIPLE OF RELATIVITY

1. All physical laws (e.g. Newton's Laws or Maxwell's Equations) all have the same observed form in all inertial reference frames. This is "helpful" in that the basic laws of physics are not dependent on your state of motion.
2. But as a consequence of this, it is impossible to tell from the laws of physics in your frame whether you are in motion or not.

There is no such thing as an absolute state of rest or motion - all motion is relative.

EINSTEIN POSTULATES CONSEQUENCES: INVARIANCE OF C

1. All observers agree that light moves at a fixed speed - this is the singular invariant independent of states of relative motion;
2. But as a consequence of this, the belief that time or space or both are experienced in the same way by observers in different states of motion must be abandoned.

There is no such thing as an absolute measure of time or space; measurements in one frame of reference need not agree with those in another, but all observers will agree that light signals travel at a fixed speed.

EINSTEIN POSTULATES CONSEQUENCES

1. Space and time are NOT independent quantities
2. Relativistic phenomena (with relevance for accelerators):
    a. No speed of moving objects can exceed speed of light
    b. (Non-) Simultaneity of events in independent frames
    c. Lorentz Contraction and Time Dilation
    d. Relativistic Doppler effect – change in frequency (and wavelength) of light, caused by the relative motion of the source and the observer
3. There are no absolute time and space, no absolute motion

Inertial system: It is not possible to know whether one is moving or not

DEFINITIONS

m	rest mass	MeV/c^2
$E_0 = mc^2$	rest energy	MeV
$E = \gamma mc^2$	total energy	MeV
$K = E - mc^2$	kinetic energy	MeV
$\mathbf{v}$	velocity	m/s
$\boldsymbol{\beta} = \mathbf{v}/c$	relativistic velocity	–
$\gamma = 1/\sqrt{1 - \boldsymbol{\beta} \cdot \boldsymbol{\beta}}$	lorentz factor	–
$\mathbf{P} = \boldsymbol{\beta}\gamma mc$	momentum	MeV/c
$E^2 = (Pc)^2 + \left(mc^2\right)^2$	total energy	MeV

DEFINITIONS AND PRACTICAL UNITS

$$\beta = \frac{v}{c} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{\gamma^2}}$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2})}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1 - \beta_r^2)}}$$

β_r **relativistic speed:** $\beta_r = [0, 1]$

LHC: $\beta_r \approx 0.999999991$

γ **Lorentz factor:** $\gamma = [1, \infty)$

LHC: $\gamma \approx 7461$

USEFUL RELATIONS AND QUANTITIES

$E^2 = P^2c^2 + m^2c^4$	total energy	MeV
$\mathbf{P}c = E\boldsymbol{\beta}$	total momentum times c	
$m_e = 0.510999$	rest mass of the electron	MeV/c^2
$m_p = 938.272$	rest mass of the proton	MeV/c^2
$m_\mu = 105.66$	rest mass of the muon	MeV/c^2

Frequent subdivisions

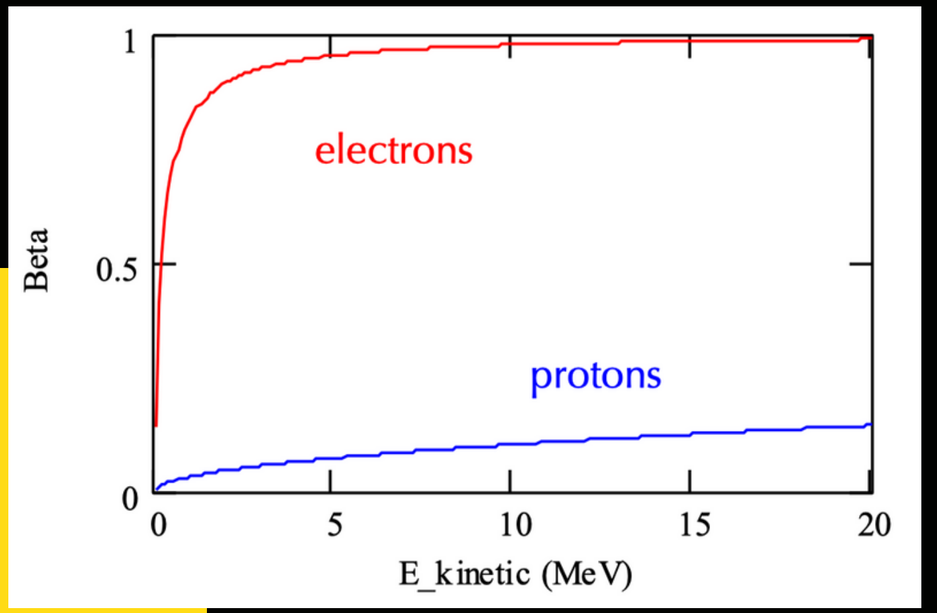
$\gamma \simeq 1$	non-relativistic
$\gamma > 1$	relativistic
$\gamma \gg 1$	ultra-relativistic

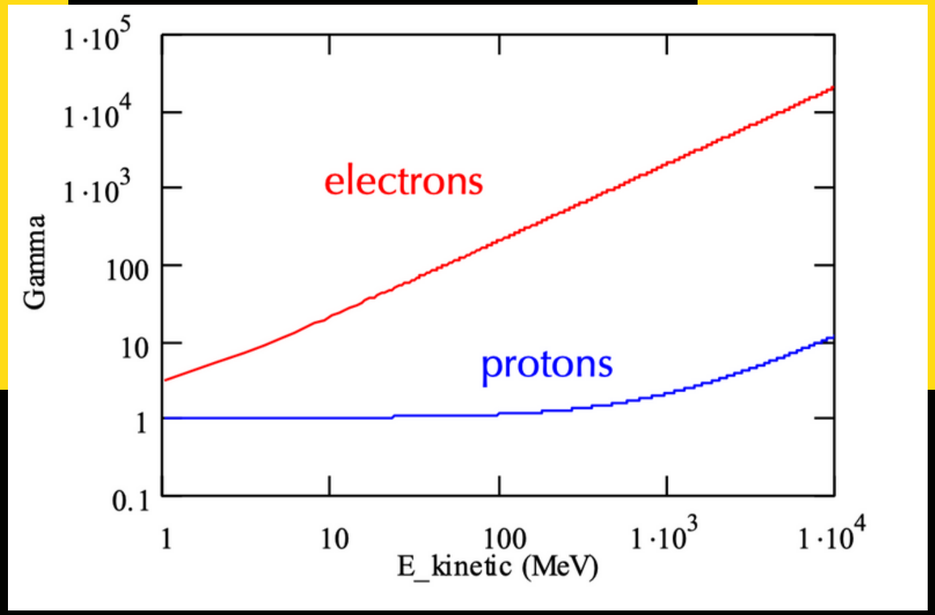
EXAMPLES

total energy

rest energy

$$\gamma = \frac{E}{E_0} = \frac{m}{m_0} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}$$





$$\beta = \frac{v}{c} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{\gamma^2}}$$

Normalized velocity

TRANSFORMATIONS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

$$\begin{cases} E_x = \gamma\left(E'_x + vB'_y\right) \\ E_y = \gamma\left(E'_y - vB'_x\right) \\ E_z = E'_z \end{cases}$$

Unprimed quantities are in the lab frame, primed quantities in the a frame moving with velocity **v** along the **z** axis

$$\begin{cases} B_x = \gamma\left(B'_x - vE'_y/c\right) \\ B_y = \gamma\left(B'_y + vE'_x/c\right) \\ B_z = B'_z \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbf{E} = \gamma\left(\mathbf{E}' - \mathbf{v}\times\mathbf{B}'\right) - \frac{\gamma^2}{1+\gamma}\left(\mathbf{v}\cdot\mathbf{E}'\right)\mathbf{v}$$

$$\gamma = 1/\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$$

In compact 3d vector form for a frame moving with arbitrary velocity **v**

"For a charge moving in an electromagnetic field, the force experienced by the charge is equal to the electric force, transformed into the rest frame of the charge" A. Einstein

EVERY DAY EXAMPLE: GPS SATELLITE

- 20’000 km above ground, (unlike popular believe: not on geostationary orbits)
- Orbital speed 14’000 km/h (i.e. relative to observer on earth)
- On-board clock accuracy 50 ns
- Navigation accuracy 15 meters

Do we correct for relativistic effects ?

EVERY DAY EXAMPLE: GPS SATELLITE

Orbital speed 14000 km/h ≈3.9 km/s

-> $\beta \approx 1.3 \times 10^{-5}$, $\gamma \approx 1.000000000084$

Small, but accumulates **7 µs** during one day compared to reference time on earth!

After one day: your position wrong by ≈2 km !! (including general relativity error is 10 km per day)

Special relativity: 7µs slower, general relativity: 45 µs faster

Countermeasures:

(1) Minimum **4 satellites** (avoid reference time on earth)

(2) Detune data transmission frequency from **1.023 MHz** to **1.022999999543 MHz** prior to launch

THE END

Thank you for your attention!

I would like to thank as well my colleagues who gave the EM course previously (and I could profit from it while preparing the lecture): A. Latina, S. Sekula

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