Special Relativity

Lorentz-Einstein transformations between coordinate systems S and S' with S' moving in +x direction at speed v relative to S

Lorentz factor:
$$\gamma \equiv (1 - v^2/c^2)^{-1/2}$$

$$t = \gamma(t' + vx'/c^{2})$$

$$x = \gamma(x' + vt')$$

$$y = y'$$

$$z = z'$$

$$t' = \gamma(t - vx/c^{2})$$

$$x' = \gamma(x - vt)$$

$$y' = y$$

$$z' = z$$

$$\Delta x = \gamma(\Delta x' + v\Delta t')$$

$$\Delta t = \gamma(\Delta t' + v\Delta t'/c^{2})$$

$$\Delta x/\Delta t = (\Delta x' + v\Delta t')/(\Delta t' + v\Delta x'/c^{2})$$

$$\Delta x' = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta x/\Delta t = v$$

$$\Delta t' = \gamma(\Delta t - v\Delta t)/(\Delta t - v\Delta x/c^{2})$$

$$\Delta x' = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta x/\Delta t = v$$

$$\Delta x = 0 \Rightarrow \Delta x'/\Delta t' = -v$$

S measures the speed of S' to be v, and S' measures the speed of S to be -v

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Relativity of Time Dilation Relativity of Length Contraction 

S duration: \Delta x = 0 \implies \Delta t = \Delta t'/\gamma S length: \Delta t = 0 \implies \Delta x = \Delta x'/\gamma S length: \Delta t' = 0 \implies \Delta x' = \Delta x/\gamma
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S' clock is stationary in the S' frame with $\Delta x' = 0$, and moves at speed v relative to S. That means $\Delta x = \gamma(\Delta x' + v\Delta t') = v\Delta t$, so $\Delta x = \gamma v\Delta t' = v\Delta t$ which leaves $\Delta t' = \Delta t/\gamma$. The time between two events $\Delta t'$ as measured by the S' clock is smaller than the time duration Δt measured by the S clock by a factor of γ :

$$\Delta t' = \gamma \left(\Delta t - \frac{v \Delta x}{c^2} \right) = \gamma \left(\Delta t - \frac{v^2 \Delta t}{c^2} \right) = \gamma \Delta t \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right) = \gamma \Delta t \frac{1}{\gamma^2} = \frac{\Delta t}{\gamma}$$

As seen by S, the S' clock runs slower than the S clock by a factor of γ . As seen by S, any physical process in S' takes longer to complete by a factor of γ than in S' (time dilation). As seen by S' any physical process in S takes longer to complete by a factor of γ than in S' (time dilation is symmetric in SR).

S' ruler oriented parallel to the x-axis moves at speed v. The distance between the end points of the ruler as measured by S is Δx with $\Delta t = 0$ between the two end-point events, which means

$$\Delta x' = \gamma (\Delta x - v \Delta t) = \gamma \Delta x$$

S' measures its co-moving ruler length to be bigger than what S measures it to be by a factor of γ . In other words, as seen by S the S' ruler is shorter than an identical S ruler by a factor of γ . Any object co-moving with S' is shortened in the direction of motion by a factor of γ relative to what its measured length is in S (Lorentz contraction). Any object co-moving with S is shortened in the direction of motion by a factor of γ relative to what its measured length is in S' (Lorentz contraction is symmetric in SR).

Invariant Spacetime Interval

$$-\Delta \tau^2 = \Delta \sigma^2 = -c^2 \Delta t^2 + \Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2 + \Delta z^2 = -c^2 \Delta t'^2 + \Delta x'^2 + \Delta y'^2 + \Delta z'^2$$

timelike interval ($\Delta \tau = \text{proper time}$): $\Delta \tau^2 > 0$ $\Delta \sigma^2 < 0$ lightlike interval (null separation): $\Delta \tau^2 = \Delta \sigma^2 = 0$ spacelike interval ($\Delta \sigma = \text{proper distance}$): $\Delta \tau^2 < 0$ $\Delta \sigma^2 > 0$

$$\gamma^{2} = \left(1 - \frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}\right)^{-1}$$

$$\Delta t' = \gamma \left(\Delta t - \frac{v\Delta x}{c^{2}}\right) \qquad \Delta x' = \gamma (\Delta x - v\Delta t) \qquad \Delta y' = \Delta y \qquad \Delta z' = \Delta z$$

$$-c^{2}\Delta t^{2} + \Delta x^{2} + \Delta y^{2} + \Delta z^{2} = -c^{2}\gamma^{2} \left(\Delta t - \frac{v\Delta x}{c^{2}}\right)^{2} + \gamma^{2} (\Delta x - v\Delta t)^{2} + \Delta y^{2} + \Delta z^{2}$$

$$-c^{2}\Delta t^{2} + \Delta x^{2} = -c^{2}\gamma^{2} \left(\Delta t^{2} - 2\frac{v\Delta x\Delta t}{c^{2}} + \frac{v^{2}\Delta x^{2}}{c^{4}}\right) + \gamma^{2} (\Delta x^{2} - 2v\Delta t\Delta x + v^{2}\Delta t^{2})$$

$$-c^{2}\Delta t^{2} + \Delta x^{2} = \gamma^{2} \left(-c^{2}\Delta t^{2} + 2v\Delta x\Delta t - \frac{v^{2}\Delta x^{2}}{c^{2}} + \Delta x^{2} - 2v\Delta t\Delta x + v^{2}\Delta t^{2}\right)$$

$$-c^{2}\Delta t^{2} + \Delta x^{2} = \left(1 - \frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}\right)^{-1} \left[-c^{2}\Delta t^{2} \left(1 - \frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}\right) + \Delta x^{2} \left(1 - \frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}\right)\right]$$

$$-c^{2}\Delta t^{2} + \Delta x^{2} = -c^{2}\Delta t^{2} + \Delta x^{2}$$

$$\Delta t = \gamma \left(\Delta t' + \frac{v \Delta x'}{c^2} \right) \quad \Delta x = \gamma (\Delta x' + v \Delta t') \quad \Delta y = \Delta y' \quad \Delta z = \Delta z'$$

$$-c^2 \gamma^2 \left(\Delta t' + \frac{v \Delta x'}{c^2} \right)^2 + \gamma^2 (\Delta x' + v \Delta t')^2 + \Delta y'^2 + \Delta z'^2 = -c^2 \Delta t'^2 + \Delta x'^2 + \Delta y'^2 + \Delta z'^2$$

$$-c^2 \gamma^2 \left(\Delta t'^2 + 2 \frac{v \Delta x' \Delta t'}{c^2} + \frac{v^2 \Delta x'^2}{c^4} \right) + \gamma^2 \left(\Delta x'^2 + 2v \Delta t' \Delta x' + v^2 \Delta t'^2 \right) = -c^2 \Delta t'^2 + \Delta x'^2$$

$$\gamma^2 \left(-c^2 \Delta t'^2 - 2v \Delta x' \Delta t' - \frac{v^2 \Delta x'^2}{c^2} + \Delta x'^2 + 2v \Delta t' \Delta x' + v^2 \Delta t'^2 \right) = -c^2 \Delta t'^2 + \Delta x'^2$$

$$\left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right)^{-1} \left[-c^2 \Delta t'^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right) + \Delta x'^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right) \right] = -c^2 \Delta t'^2 + \Delta x'^2$$

$$-c^2 \Delta t'^2 + \Delta x'^2 = -c^2 \Delta t'^2 + \Delta x'^2$$

Transverse Light Bounce (used to derive time dilation)

Direction of motion of S' wrt S at speed v is from source event to destination event Let mirror M_{\perp} be offset from source event perpendicular to direction of motion Let point P be midway between source and destination events S distance in direction of motion from source to P: $v\Delta t$ S' (proper) distance from source to mirror M_{\perp} at time of source event: $\Delta y' = c\Delta t'$ S and S' transverse distances are equal (no length contraction), so S distance from P to mirror M_{\perp} at time of bounce: $\Delta y' = c\Delta t'$ S light path (diagonal) distance from source to mirror M_{\perp} at time of bounce: $\Delta y = c\Delta t$

Pythagorean formula: $(c\Delta t)^2 = (v\Delta t)^2 + (c\Delta t')^2$

$$c^{2}\Delta t^{2} = v^{2}\Delta t^{2} + c^{2}\Delta t'^{2}$$

$$\Delta t^{2}(c^{2} - v^{2}) = c^{2}\Delta t'^{2}$$

$$\Delta t^{2} = \frac{c^{2}}{c^{2} - v^{2}}\Delta t'^{2} = \left(1 - \frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}\right)^{-1}\Delta t'^{2}$$

$$\Delta t = \left(1 - \frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}\right)^{-1/2}\Delta t'$$

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

 $\gamma > 1$: S time duration Δt is greater (by a factor of γ) than S' time duration $\Delta t'$ time dilation: S sees S'clock ticks slower than S clock

Direction of Motion Light Bounce (used with time dilation to derive length contraction)

Direction of motion of S' wrt S at speed v is from source event to destination event Let mirror M_{\parallel} be ahead of source event in direction of motion Let M_{\perp} and M_{\parallel} be at the same S'(proper) distance from source event: $\Delta y' = \Delta x' = c\Delta t'$ Let Δx be S distance from source to M_{\parallel} (at source event time) Let Δt_1 be S time from source event to bounce event at M_{\parallel} Let Δt_2 be S time from bounce at M_{\parallel} to destination event Let Δt be S time from source event to destination event: $\Delta t = 2\gamma \Delta t' = \Delta t_1 + \Delta t_2$ (here Δt is full roundtrip tick, $\Delta t'$ is halftick)

S distance from source event to bounce at
$$M_{\parallel} = \Delta x + v \Delta t_1 = c \Delta t_1$$

$$\Delta x = \Delta t_1 (c - v)$$

$$\Delta t_1 = \Delta x / (c - v)$$

S distance from source event to destination event =
$$v\Delta t = c\Delta t_1 - c\Delta t_2$$

 $v\Delta t = c\Delta t_1 - c(\Delta t - \Delta t_1) = 2c\Delta t_1 - c\Delta t$
 $\Delta t(c+v) = 2c\Delta t_1 = 2c\Delta x/(c-v)$

$$\Delta t = 2\gamma\Delta t' = 2c\Delta x/(c^2 - v^2) = 2c^{-1}\Delta x/\left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)$$

$$\Delta x = \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-1/2} \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)c\Delta t' = \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{1/2}\Delta x'$$

$$\Delta x = \gamma^{-1}\Delta x'$$

 $\gamma > 1$: S length Δx is less (by a factor of γ) than S' length $\Delta x'$ length contraction in direction of motion S sees S' measuring rods shorter (in direction of motion) than S measuring rods

Light Bounce at Angle from Direction of Motion (use time dilation and length contraction)

Direction of motion of S' wrt S at speed v is from source event to destination event Let mirror M_{θ} be offset from source event at S' angle θ' to direction of motion Let $\Delta t'$ be S' time duration from source event to bounce at mirror M_{θ} Let M_{\perp} , M_{\parallel} and M_{θ} be at the same S'(proper) distance from source event: $r' = c\Delta t'$ Let $\Delta x'$ and $\Delta y'$ be S'(proper) coordinates of M_{θ}

$$\Delta x' = r' \sin \theta' \quad \Delta y' = r' \cos \theta' \quad \tan \theta' = \sin \theta' / \cos \theta' = \Delta y' / \Delta x'$$
$$r'^2 = \Delta x'^2 + \Delta y'^2 = r'^2 \sin^2 \theta' + r'^2 \cos^2 \theta'$$

$$x' = \gamma(x - vt) \qquad x = \gamma(x' + vt')$$

$$x' = (x - vt) \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-1/2} \qquad x = (x' + vt') \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-1/2}$$

$$(x')^2 = (x - vt)^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-1} \qquad x^2 = (x' + vt')^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-1}$$

$$(x')^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right) = x^2 - 2vt + v^2t^2 \qquad x^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right) = (x')^2 + 2vt' + v^2(t')^2$$

$$(x')^2 - (x')^2 \frac{v^2}{c^2} - x^2 + 2vt - v^2t^2 = 0 \qquad x^2 - x^2 \frac{v^2}{c^2} - (x')^2 - 2vt' - v^2(t')^2 = 0$$

$$v^2t^2 + (x')^2 \frac{v^2}{c^2} - 2vt + x^2 - (x')^2 = 0 \qquad v^2(t')^2 + x^2 \frac{v^2}{c^2} + 2vt' + (x')^2 - x^2 = 0$$

$$v^2 \left(t^2 + \frac{(x')^2}{c^2}\right) - 2vt + x^2 - (x')^2 = 0 \qquad v^2 \left((t')^2 + \frac{x^2}{c^2}\right) + 2vt' + (x')^2 - x^2 = 0$$

$$v^2 \left(t' - \frac{x^2}{c^2}\right) + 2vt' + (x')^2 - x^2 = 0$$

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$$v^2 \left(t' - \frac{x^2}{c^2}\right) + 2vt' + (x')^2 - x^2 = 0$$

 $\frac{dx'}{dt'} = \gamma \left(\frac{dx}{dt'} - v \frac{dt}{dt'} \right)$

 $\frac{dx}{dt} = \gamma \left(\frac{dx'}{dt} - \nu \frac{dt'}{dt} \right)$

$$t' = \gamma \left(t - \frac{vx}{c^2} \right) \qquad x' = \gamma (x - vt) \qquad y' = y \qquad z' = z$$

$$t = \gamma \left(t' + \frac{vx'}{c^2} \right) \qquad x = \gamma (x' + vt') \qquad y = y' \qquad z = z'$$

$$\gamma \equiv \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right)^{-1/2}$$

Expanding sphere in
$$S'$$
:
$$(r')^2 = (ct')^2 = (x')^2 + (y')^2 + (z')^2$$

$$\left[c\gamma \left(t - \frac{vx}{c^2} \right) \right]^2 = \left[\gamma (x - vt) \right]^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

$$c^2 \gamma^2 \left(t - \frac{vx}{c^2} \right)^2 = \gamma^2 (x - vt)^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

$$\left(ct - \frac{vx}{c} \right)^2 = (x - vt)^2 + y^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right) + z^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right)$$

$$c^2 t^2 - 2tvx + \frac{v^2 x^2}{c^2} = x^2 - 2xvt + v^2 t^2 + y^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right) + z^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right)$$

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

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

Expanding sphere in S:
$$r^2 = (ct)^2 = x^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

$$c^2 \left[\gamma \left(t' + \frac{vx'}{c^2} \right) \right]^2 = \left[\gamma (x' + vt') \right]^2 + (y')^2 + (z')^2$$

$$c^2 \gamma^2 \left(t' + \frac{vx'}{c^2} \right)^2 = \gamma^2 (x' + vt')^2 + (y')^2 + (z')^2$$

$$\left(ct' + \frac{vx'}{c} \right)^2 = (x' + vt')^2 + (y')^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right) + (z')^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right)$$

$$c^2 (t')^2 + 2t'vx' + \frac{v^2 (x')^2}{c^2} = (x')^2 + 2x'vt' + v^2 (t')^2 + (y')^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right) + (z')^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right)$$

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

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

$$(r')^2 = (ct')^2 = (x')^2 + (y')^2 + (z')^2$$

Expanding circle centered at origin of $S: (ct)^2 = x^2 + y^2$

Moving ellipse centered at (vt, 0): $\frac{(x - vt)^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = 1$

$$\frac{b}{a} = \gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \qquad a^2 = b^2 \left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right) \qquad \frac{v^2}{c^2} = 1 - \frac{a^2}{b^2} \qquad \frac{v}{c} = \frac{\sqrt{b^2 - a^2}}{b}$$

Solve for x(t) by eliminating y:

$$y^{2} = c^{2}t^{2} - x^{2} = b^{2} \left[1 - \frac{(x - vt)^{2}}{a^{2}} \right] = \frac{b^{2}}{a^{2}} [a^{2} - (x - vt)^{2}]$$

$$\frac{a^{2}}{b^{2}} (c^{2}t^{2} - x^{2}) = a^{2} - x^{2} + 2xvt - v^{2}t^{2}$$

$$\left(1 - \frac{a^{2}}{b^{2}} \right) x^{2} - 2vtx + \frac{a^{2}}{b^{2}} c^{2}t^{2} + v^{2}t^{2} - a^{2} = 0$$

$$x = \frac{2vt \pm \sqrt{4v^{2}t^{2} - 4\left(1 - \frac{a^{2}}{b^{2}}\right)\left(\frac{a^{2}}{b^{2}}c^{2}t^{2} + v^{2}t^{2} - a^{2}\right)}}{2\left(1 - \frac{a^{2}}{b^{2}}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{vt \pm \sqrt{v^{2}t^{2} - \frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}\left[\left(1 - \frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}\right)c^{2}t^{2} + v^{2}t^{2} - a^{2}\right]}}{\frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}}$$

$$= \frac{c^{2}}{v^{2}} \left(vt \pm \sqrt{v^{2}t^{2} - \frac{v^{2}}{c^{2}}\left[c^{2}t^{2} - a^{2}\right]}\right)$$

$$x = \frac{c^2}{v} \left(t - \frac{a}{c} \right)$$
 use minus sign so initial contact is on the left

Solve for y(t)

$$y^{2} = c^{2}t^{2} - x^{2} = c^{2}t^{2} - \left[\frac{c^{2}}{v}\left(t - \frac{a}{c}\right)\right]^{2} = c^{2}t^{2} - \frac{c^{4}}{v^{2}}\left(t - \frac{a}{c}\right)^{2} = c^{2}\left[t^{2} - \frac{c^{2}}{v^{2}}\left(t - \frac{a}{c}\right)^{2}\right]$$

$$y = \pm c \sqrt{t^2 - \frac{c^2}{v^2} \left(t - \frac{a}{c}\right)^2}$$

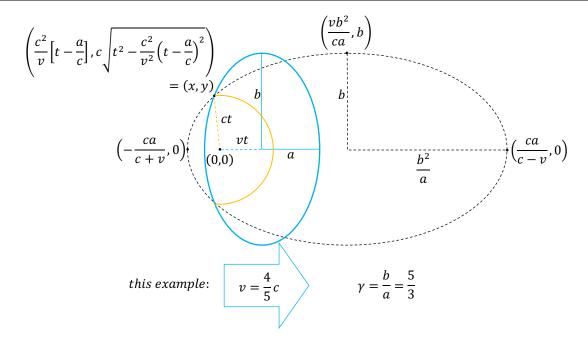
Find ellipse of reflection points by eliminating t

$$x = \frac{c^2}{v^2} \left(vt - \frac{v}{c} a \right) \qquad \frac{v^2}{c^2} x + \frac{v}{c} a = vt$$

$$1 = \frac{(x - vt)^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = \frac{\left(x - \frac{v^2}{c^2}x - \frac{v}{c}a\right)^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} = \frac{\left[x\left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right) - \frac{v}{c}a\right]^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2}$$
$$= \frac{\left[x - \frac{v}{c}a\left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-1}\right]^2}{\left[a\left(1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)^{-1}\right]^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2}$$

$$1 = \frac{\left[x - \frac{v}{c} \frac{b^2}{a}\right]^2}{\left[\frac{b^2}{a}\right]^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2}$$

ellipse centered at $\left(\frac{vb^2}{ca}, 0\right)$ with semiaxes $\frac{b^2}{a}$ and b, foci at (0,0) and $\left(\frac{2vb^2}{ca}, 0\right)$



Check mid contact
$$(x, y) = (vt, b) : (ct)^2 = (vt)^2 + b^2$$

$$t^2(c^2 - v^2) = b^2 \qquad t = \frac{b}{\sqrt{c^2 - v^2}} = \frac{ca}{c^2 - v^2}$$

$$x = \frac{c^2}{v} \left[\frac{b}{\sqrt{c^2 - v^2}} - \frac{b}{c} \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}} \right] = \frac{b}{\sqrt{c^2 - v^2}} \frac{c^2}{v} \left[1 - \frac{\sqrt{c^2 - v^2}}{c} \sqrt{\frac{c^2 - v^2}{c^2}} \right]$$

$$= t \left[\frac{c^2}{v} - \frac{\sqrt{c^2 - v^2}}{v} \sqrt{c^2 - v^2} \right] = vt \left[\frac{c^2}{v^2} - \left(\frac{c^2}{v^2} - 1 \right) \right] = vt$$

Check left contact
$$(x,y) = (-ct,0)$$
: $\frac{(-ct-vt)^2}{a^2} = 1$

$$(ct+vt)^2 = a^2 \qquad t(c+v) = a \qquad t = \frac{a}{c+v}$$

$$x = \left[v\left(\frac{a}{c+v}\right) - \frac{v}{c}a\right]\frac{c^2}{v^2} = c\left[\frac{c}{v}\left(\frac{a}{c+v}\right) - \frac{1}{v}a\right] = c\left[\frac{c}{v}\left(\frac{a}{c+v}\right) - \frac{c+v}{v}\left(\frac{a}{c+v}\right)\right]$$

$$= c\left(\frac{a}{c+v}\right)\left[\frac{c}{v} - \frac{c+v}{v}\right] = -c\left(\frac{a}{c+v}\right) = -ct$$

Check right contact
$$(x,y) = (ct,0)$$
:
$$\frac{(ct-vt)^2}{a^2} = 1$$
$$(ct-vt)^2 = a^2 \qquad t(c-v) = a \qquad t = \frac{a}{c-v}$$
$$x = \left[v\left(\frac{a}{c-v}\right) - \frac{v}{c}a\right]\frac{c^2}{v^2} = c\left[\frac{c}{v}\left(\frac{a}{c-v}\right) - \frac{1}{v}a\right] = c\left[\frac{c}{v}\left(\frac{a}{c-v}\right) - \frac{c-v}{v}\left(\frac{a}{c-v}\right)\right]$$
$$= c\left(\frac{a}{c-v}\right)\left[\frac{c}{v} - \frac{c-v}{v}\right] = c\left(\frac{a}{c-v}\right) = ct$$

$$t = 0$$

$$t = \frac{a}{c+v}$$

$$t = \frac{ca}{c^2 - v^2}$$

$$t = \frac{a}{c - v}$$

$$t = \frac{2ca}{c^2 - v^2}$$

