

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

Let $\Delta t(\Delta t')$ be $S(S')$ time from source event to destination event (one tick)

S distance in direction of motion from source to P : $v \Delta t/2$

S' (proper) distance from source to mirror M_{\perp} : $\Delta y' = c \Delta t'/2$

S and S' transverse distances Δy and $\Delta y'$ are equal (no length contraction), so

S transverse distance from P to mirror M_{\perp} at S time of bounce: $\Delta y = \Delta y' = c \Delta t'/2$

S light path (diagonal) distance from source to mirror M_{\perp} at time of bounce = $c \Delta t/2$

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

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

$$\boxed{\Delta t = \gamma \Delta t'}$$

$\gamma > 1$: 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