

PROOF OF $E = mc^2$

We already have, $F = \frac{dp}{dt}$ (particle at rest)

Then the particle's final kinetic Energy,

$$K = \int_{x_i}^{x_f} F dx = \int_{x_i}^{x_f} \frac{dp}{dt} dx = \int_{p_i}^{p_f} \frac{dx}{dt} dp = \int_{p_i}^{p_f} v dp$$

Integrating by parts and using initial condition, $p_i = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} K &= p_f v_f - \int_0^{v_f} p dv \\ &= \frac{mv_f^2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v_f^2}{c^2}}} - \int_0^{v_f} \frac{mv}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} dv \\ &= \frac{mv_f^2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v_f^2}{c^2}}} - mc^2 \left(\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}} - 1 \right) \end{aligned}$$

and eventually the expression becomes,

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

and consequently, the above formula reduces to

$$K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 \quad \text{or} \quad K = \frac{p^2}{2m} \quad \text{in low speed limit.}$$