

Problem Set 5

Physics, summer 2020/21

- 1) **(4p.)** Suppose a cosmic ray colliding with a nucleus in the Earth's upper atmosphere produces a muon that has a velocity $v=0.950c$. The muon then travels at constant velocity and lives $1.52\mu\text{s}$ as measured in the muon's frame of reference. (You can imagine this as the muon's internal clock.) How long does the muon live as measured by an Earth-bound observer?
- 2) **(3p.)** A particle is traveling through the Earth's atmosphere at a speed of $0.750c$. To an Earth-bound observer, the distance it travels is 2.50 km . How far does the particle travel in the particle's frame of reference?
- 3) **(4p.)** What is the momentum of an electron traveling at a speed $0.985c$? The rest mass of the electron is $9.11\times 10^{-31}\text{kg}$.

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