

\* Explain length contraction, time dilation and relativistic law of velocity addition on the basis of Lorentz - Einstein transformation.

length contraction:-

For establishing Lorentz - Fitzgerald contraction, let us consider a rod whose length in stationary frame is,

$$l = x_2 - x_1 \dots \dots \dots (i)$$

The same length appears to be  $l'$  in  $S'$  such that

$$l' = x'_2 - x'_1 \dots \dots \dots (ii)$$

We have to find the relation between  $l$  and  $l'$ .

If  $v =$  uniform velocity of  $S'$  relative to  $S$  along  $x$ -direction, then Lorentz - Einstein transformation relation gives,

$$x' = \frac{x - vt}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \dots \dots \dots (iii)$$

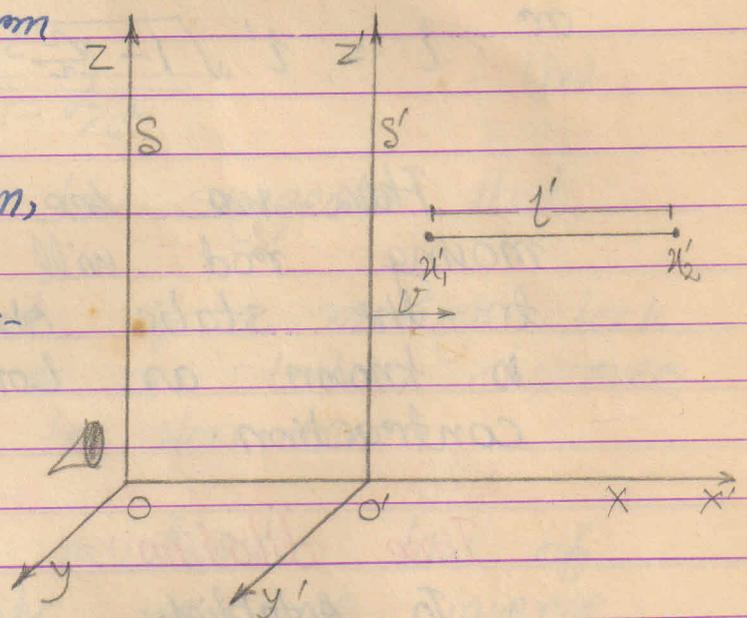


Figure - 1

Using this result with  $x'_2$  and  $x'_1$  we have

$$x'_2 = \frac{x_2 - vt}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

and 
$$x_1' = \frac{x_1 - vt}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

Substituting these values in equation (ii) we obtain,

$$l' = x_2' - x_1' = \frac{x_2 - x_1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

Using the value of  $x_2 - x_1$  from equation (i) we obtain,

$$l' = \frac{l}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

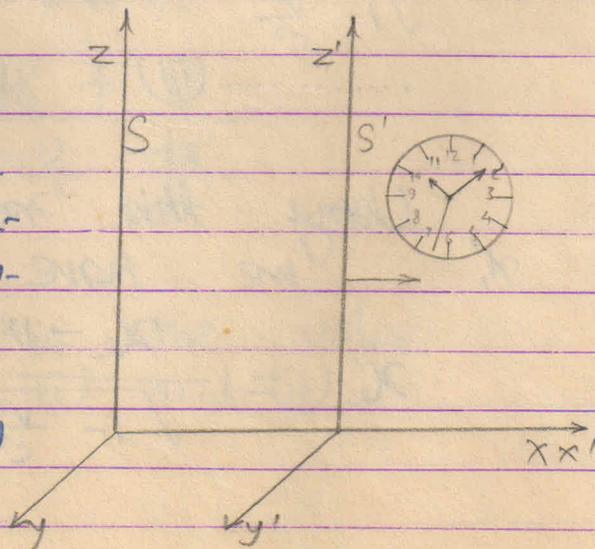
or 
$$l = l' \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}} \dots \dots \dots (iv)$$

Thus we see that the moving rod will appear shorter to the static observer. This is known as Lorentz-Fitzgerald contraction.

### Time dilation :-

To establish time dilation relation with the help of Lorentz-Einstein transformation we use,

$$t' = \frac{t - \frac{vx}{c^2}}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \dots \dots (i)$$



where,  $c$  is velocity of light in vacuum, primed quantity is for moving frame and unprimed for static frame.

Also, for moving frame,

$$x = vt \quad \dots \dots \dots (ii)$$

Using this value of  $x$  in equation (i) we obtain,

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

$$\text{or, } t' = \frac{t \times (1 - v^2/c^2)}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$$

$$\text{or } t' = t \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2} \quad \dots \dots \dots (iii)$$

$$\text{or } t = \frac{t'}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} \quad \dots \dots \dots (iv)$$

Equation (iii) or (iv) suggests that

$$t > t'$$

i.e., The second, of a moving clock appears dilated to a static observer. The clock will be slow down.

**Relativistic law of relative velocity:**

To obtain relativistic law of relative velocity, we use inverse Lorentz - Einstein transformation relations, reason is that here velocity is to be reckoned relative to the moving frame.

Here we have for the static and moving frame the relation is

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = u \quad \text{for } S \quad \dots \dots \dots (i)$$

$$\text{and } \frac{dx'}{dt'} = u' \quad \text{for } S' \quad \dots \dots \dots (ii)$$

The inverse Lorentz-Einstein transformation relations are,

$$x = \frac{x' + vt'}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} \dots \dots \dots (iii)$$

and  $t = \frac{t' + vx'/c^2}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} \dots \dots \dots (iv)$

~~Now inverse Lorentz-Einstein transformation relations are,~~

Now taking differentials of equations (iii) and (iv) both sides we obtain,

$$dx = \frac{dx' + v dt'}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} \dots \dots (v)$$

and  $dt = \frac{dt' + v dx'/c^2}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}} \dots \dots (vi)$

Now dividing equation (v) by equation (vi) we obtain,

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{dx' + v dt'}{dt' + v dx'/c^2}$$

or,  $\frac{dx}{dt} = \frac{dx'/dt' + v}{1 + \frac{v}{c^2} \frac{dx'}{dt'}}$

Using in this the value from equation (i) and (ii) we obtain,

$$U = \frac{u' + v}{1 + u'v/c^2} \dots \dots \dots (vii)$$

This is known as relativistic relative velocity. It is valid for velocity  $v$  comparable to that of light. For practical life

$$v \ll c$$

Thus  $\frac{v}{c^2} \longrightarrow 0$

And we obtain,

$$U = u' + v \dots \dots \dots (viii)$$

This is ordinary law of vector addition.

