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Special and General Relativity (PHZ 4601/5606) Fall 2017 Solutions Set 4

10. Time in Minkowski space.

We use natural units, c = 1.

- (1) The coordinates of B_0 are (t, x) = (75, 60).
- (2) The proper time of B is then $\tau = \sqrt{t^2 x^2} = 45$.
- (3) At position A_2 the time on the clock of A is 135.
- (4) The coordinates of position B_1 are (t,x)=(25,20) so that $\tau=\sqrt{t^2-x^2}=15$ holds.
- (5) The light signal from B reaches A at time 45 at position A_0 , which agrees with the time of B at B_0 .
- (6) The coordinates of B₂ are (t, x) = (225, 180) and the clock of B shows $\tau = \sqrt{t^2 x^2} = 135$.
- (7) The times agree. That has to be the case, because the travel of A in the rest frame of B does just mirror (opposite velocity signs) the travel of B in the rest frame of B.