

Theoretical 2: Solution

Relativistic Correction on GPS Satellite

Part A. Single accelerated particle

1. The equation of motion is given by

$$F = \frac{d}{dt}(\gamma mv) \quad (1)$$

$$= \frac{mc\dot{\beta}}{(1 - \beta^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

$$F = \gamma^3 ma, \quad (2)$$

where $\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}$ and $\beta = \frac{v}{c}$. So the acceleration is given by

$$a = \frac{F}{\gamma^3 m}. \quad (3)$$

2. Consider the following systems, a frame S' is moving with respect to another frame S, with velocity u in the x direction. If a particle is moving in the S' frame with velocity v also in x direction, then the particle velocity in the S frame is given by

$$v = \frac{u + v'}{1 + \frac{uv'}{c^2}}. \quad (4)$$

If the particles velocity changes with respect to the S' frame, then the velocity in the S frame is also change according to

$$dv = \frac{dv'}{1 + \frac{uv'}{c^2}} - \frac{u + v'}{(1 + \frac{uv'}{c^2})^2} \frac{udv'}{c^2}$$

$$dv = \frac{1}{\gamma^2} \frac{dv'}{(1 + \frac{uv'}{c^2})^2}. \quad (5)$$

The time in the S' frame is t' , so the time in the S frame is given by

$$t = \gamma \left(t' + \frac{ux'}{c^2} \right), \quad (6)$$

so the time change in the S' frame will give a time change in the S frame as follow

$$dt = \gamma dt' \left(1 + \frac{uv'}{c^2} \right). \quad (7)$$

The acceleration in the S frame is given by

$$a = \frac{dv}{dt} = \frac{a'}{\gamma^3} \frac{1}{(1 + \frac{uv'}{c^2})^3}. \quad (8)$$

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If the S' frame is the proper frame, then by definition the velocity $v = 0$. Substitute this to the last equation, we get

$$a = \frac{a'}{\gamma^3}. \quad (9)$$

Combining Eq.(3) and Eq.(9), we get

$$a' = \frac{F}{m} \equiv g. \quad (10)$$

3. Eq.(9) can be rewrite as

$$\begin{aligned} c \frac{d\beta}{dt} &= \frac{g}{\gamma^3} \\ \int_0^\beta \frac{d\beta}{(1-\beta^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} &= \frac{g}{c} \int_0^t dt \\ \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} &= \frac{gt}{c} \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

$$\beta = \frac{\frac{gt}{c}}{\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{gt}{c}\right)^2}}. \quad (12)$$

4. Using Eq.(12), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^x dx &= \int_0^t \frac{gt dt}{\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{gt}{c}\right)^2}} \\ x &= \frac{c^2}{g} \left(\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{gt}{c}\right)^2} - 1 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

5. Eq.(3) can also be rewrite as follow

$$c \frac{d\beta}{\gamma d\tau} = \frac{g}{\gamma^3} \quad (14)$$

$$\int_0^\beta \frac{d\beta}{1-\beta^2} = \frac{g}{c} \int_0^t d\tau$$

$$\ln \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} + \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} \right) = \frac{g\tau}{c} \quad (15)$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{1+\beta}{1-\beta}} = e^{\frac{g\tau}{c}}$$

$$\beta \left(e^{\frac{g\tau}{c}} + e^{-\frac{g\tau}{c}} \right) = e^{\frac{g\tau}{c}} - e^{-\frac{g\tau}{c}}$$

$$\beta = \tanh \frac{g\tau}{c}. \quad (16)$$

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6. The time dilation relation is

$$dt = \gamma d\tau. \quad (17)$$

From eq.(16), we have

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}} = \cosh \frac{g\tau}{c}. \quad (18)$$

Combining this equations, we get

$$\int_0^t dt = \int_0^\tau d\tau \cosh \frac{g\tau}{c}$$

$$t = \frac{c}{g} \sinh \frac{g\tau}{c}. \quad (19)$$

Part B. Minkowski Diagram

1. The following figure shows the situation

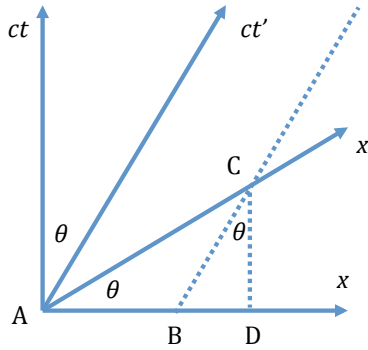


Figure 1: Minkowski Diagram

where $\tan \theta = \beta$, $\sin \theta = \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{1 + \beta^2}}$, and $\cos \theta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \beta^2}}$.

The line AC represents the stick with proper length equal L in the S' frame.

The length AC is equal to $\sqrt{\frac{1 + \beta^2}{1 - \beta^2}} L$ in the S frame.

The stick length in the S frame is represented by the line AB

$$\begin{aligned} AB &= AD - BD \\ &= AC \cos \theta - AC \sin \theta \tan \theta \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{1 + \beta^2}{1 - \beta^2}} L \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \beta^2}} - \sqrt{\frac{1 + \beta^2}{1 - \beta^2}} L \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{1 + \beta^2}} \beta \\ AB &= \sqrt{1 - \beta^2} L. \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

This result is the same with the result from Lorentz transformation calculation.

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2. The figure below show the setting of the problem.

The line AB represents the stick with proper length equal L in the S frame.

The length AB is equal to $\sqrt{\frac{1-\beta^2}{1+\beta^2}}L$ in the S' frame.

The stick length in the S' frame is represented by the line AC

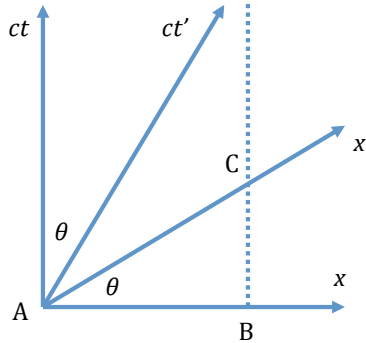


Figure 2: Minkowski Diagram

$$AC = \frac{AB}{\cos \theta} = \sqrt{1 - \beta^2}L. \quad (21)$$

3. The position of the particle is given by eq.(13).

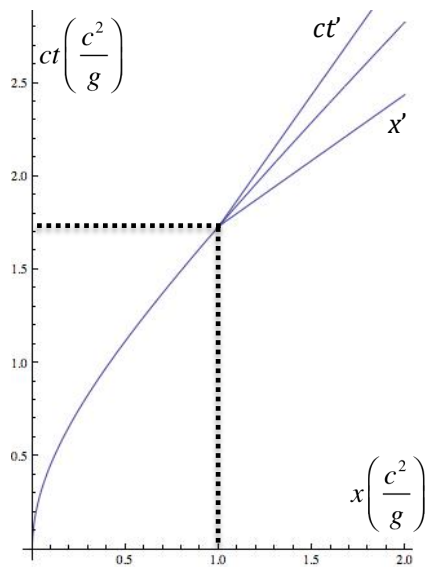


Figure 3: Minkowski Diagram

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Part C. Flight Time

1. When the clock in the origin time is equal to t_0 , it emits a signal that contain the information of its time. This signal will arrive at the particle at time t , while the particle position is at $x(t)$. We have

$$c(t - t_0) = x(t) \quad (22)$$

$$t - t_0 = \frac{c}{g} \left(\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{gt}{c} \right)^2} - 1 \right)$$

$$t = \frac{t_0 2 - \frac{gt_0}{c}}{2 1 - \frac{gt_0}{c}}. \quad (23)$$

When the information arrive at the particle, the particle's clock has a reading according to eq.(19). So we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{c}{g} \sinh \frac{g\tau}{c} &= \frac{t_0 2 - \frac{gt_0}{c}}{2 1 - \frac{gt_0}{c}} \\ 0 &= \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{gt_0}{c} \right)^2 - \frac{gt_0}{c} \left(1 + \sinh \frac{g\tau}{c} \right) + \sinh \frac{g\tau}{c} \\ \frac{gt_0}{c} &= 1 + \sinh \frac{g\tau}{c} \pm \cosh \frac{g\tau}{c}. \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

Using initial condition $t = 0$ when $\tau = 0$, we choose the negative sign

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{gt_0}{c} &= 1 + \sinh \frac{g\tau}{c} - \cosh \frac{g\tau}{c} \\ t_0 &= \frac{c}{g} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{g\tau}{c}} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

As $\tau \rightarrow \infty$, $t_0 = \frac{c}{g}$. So the clock reading will freeze at this value.

2. When the particles clock has a reading τ_0 , its position is given by eq.(13), and the time t_0 is given by eq.(19). Combining this two equation, we get

$$x = \frac{c^2}{g} \left(\sqrt{1 + \sinh^2 \frac{g\tau_0}{c}} - 1 \right). \quad (26)$$

The particle's clock reading is then sent to the observer at the origin. The total time needed for the information to arrive is given by

$$t = \frac{c}{g} \sinh \frac{g\tau_0}{c} + \frac{x}{c} \quad (27)$$

$$= \frac{c}{g} \left(\sinh \frac{g\tau_0}{c} + \cosh \frac{g\tau_0}{c} - 1 \right)$$

$$t = \frac{c}{g} \left(e^{\frac{g\tau_0}{c}} - 1 \right) \quad (28)$$

$$\tau_0 = \frac{c}{g} \ln \left(\frac{gt}{c} + 1 \right). \quad (29)$$

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The time will not freeze.

Part D. Two Accelerated Particles

1. $\tau_2 = \tau_1$.
2. From the diagram, we have

$$\tan \theta = \beta = \frac{ct_2 - ct_1}{x_2 - x_1}. \quad (30)$$

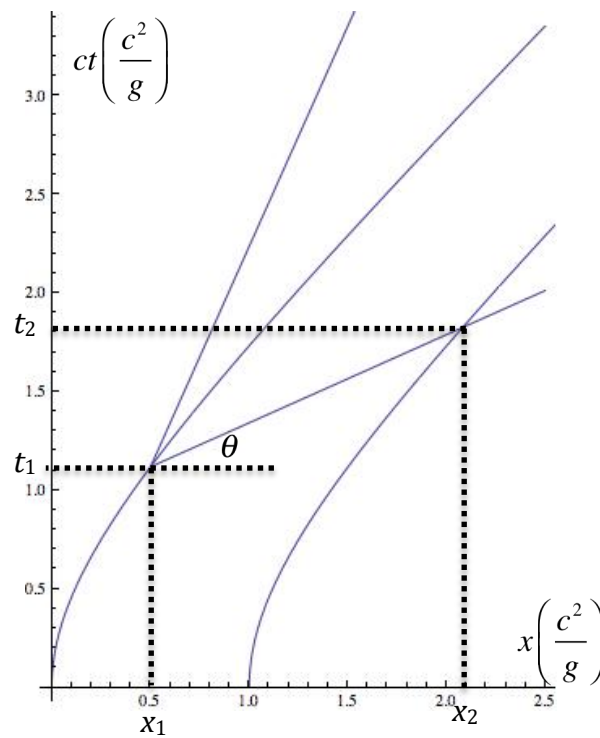


Figure 4: Minkowski Diagram for two particles

Using eq.(13), and eq.(19) along with the initial condition, we get

$$x_1 = \frac{c^2}{g} \left(\cosh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} - 1 \right), \quad (31)$$

$$x_2 = \frac{c^2}{g} \left(\cosh \frac{g\tau_2}{c} - 1 \right) + L. \quad (32)$$

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Using eq.(16), eq.(19), eq.(31) and eq.(32), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\tanh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} &= \frac{c \left(\frac{c}{g} \sinh \frac{g\tau_2}{c} - \frac{c}{g} \sinh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} \right)}{L + \frac{c^2}{g} (\cosh \frac{g\tau_2}{c} - 1) - \frac{c^2}{g} (\cosh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} - 1)} \\ &= \frac{\sinh \frac{g\tau_2}{c} - \sinh \frac{g\tau_1}{c}}{\frac{gL}{c^2} + \cosh \frac{g\tau_2}{c} - \cosh \frac{g\tau_1}{c}} \\ \frac{gL}{c^2} \sinh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} &= \sinh \frac{g\tau_2}{c} \cosh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} - \cosh \frac{g\tau_2}{c} \sinh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} \\ \frac{gL}{c^2} \sinh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} &= \sinh \frac{g}{c} (\tau_2 - \tau_1).\end{aligned}\quad (33)$$

So $C_1 = \frac{gL}{c^2}$.

3. From the length contraction, we have

$$L' = \frac{x_2 - x_1}{\gamma_1} \quad (34)$$

$$\frac{dL'}{d\tau_1} = \left(\frac{dx_2}{d\tau_2} \frac{d\tau_2}{d\tau_1} - \frac{dx_1}{d\tau_1} \right) \frac{1}{\gamma_1} - \frac{x_2 - x_1}{\gamma_1^2} \frac{d\gamma_1}{d\tau_1}. \quad (35)$$

Take derivative of eq.(31), eq.(32) and eq.(33), we get

$$\frac{dx_1}{d\tau_1} = c \sinh \frac{g\tau_1}{c}, \quad (36)$$

$$\frac{dx_2}{d\tau_2} = c \sinh \frac{g\tau_2}{c}, \quad (37)$$

$$\frac{gL}{c^2} \cosh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} = \cosh \frac{g}{c} (\tau_2 - \tau_1) \left(\frac{d\tau_2}{d\tau_1} - 1 \right). \quad (38)$$

The last equation can be rearrange to get

$$\frac{d\tau_2}{d\tau_1} = \frac{\frac{gL}{c^2} \cosh \frac{g\tau_1}{c}}{\cosh \frac{g}{c} (\tau_2 - \tau_1)} + 1. \quad (39)$$

From eq.(30), we have

$$x_2 - x_1 = \frac{c(t_2 - t_1)}{\beta_1} = \frac{c}{\tanh \frac{g\tau_1}{c}} \left(\frac{c}{g} \sinh \frac{g\tau_2}{c} - \frac{c}{g} \sinh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} \right). \quad (40)$$

Combining all these equations, we get

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dL_1}{d\tau_1} &= \left(c \sinh \frac{g\tau_2}{c} \frac{\frac{gL}{c^2} \cosh \frac{g\tau_1}{c}}{\cosh \frac{g}{c} (\tau_2 - \tau_1)} + c \sinh \frac{g\tau_2}{c} - c \sinh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} \right) \frac{1}{\cosh \frac{g\tau_1}{c}} \\ &\quad - \frac{c^2}{g} \left(\sinh \frac{g\tau_2}{c} - \sinh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} \right) \frac{1}{\tanh \frac{g\tau_1}{c}} \frac{1}{\cosh^2 \frac{g\tau_1}{c}} \frac{g}{c} \sinh \frac{g\tau_1}{c} \\ \frac{dL_1}{d\tau_1} &= \frac{gL}{c} \frac{\sinh \frac{g\tau_2}{c}}{\cosh \frac{g}{c} (\tau_2 - \tau_1)}.\end{aligned}\quad (41)$$

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So $C_2 = \frac{gL}{c}$.

Part E. Uniformly Accelerated Frame

- Distance from a certain point x_p according to the particle's frame is

$$L' = \frac{x - x_p}{\gamma} \tag{42}$$

$$L' = \frac{\frac{c^2}{g_1} (\cosh \frac{g_1 \tau}{c} - 1) - x_p}{\cosh \frac{g_1 \tau}{c}}$$

$$L' = \frac{c^2}{g_1} - \frac{\frac{c^2}{g_1} + x_p}{\cosh \frac{g_1 \tau}{c}}. \tag{43}$$

For L' equal constant, we need $x_p = -\frac{c^2}{g_1}$.

- First method:** If the distance in the S' frame is constant $= L$, then in the S frame the length is

$$L_s = L \sqrt{\frac{1 + \beta^2}{1 - \beta^2}}. \tag{44}$$

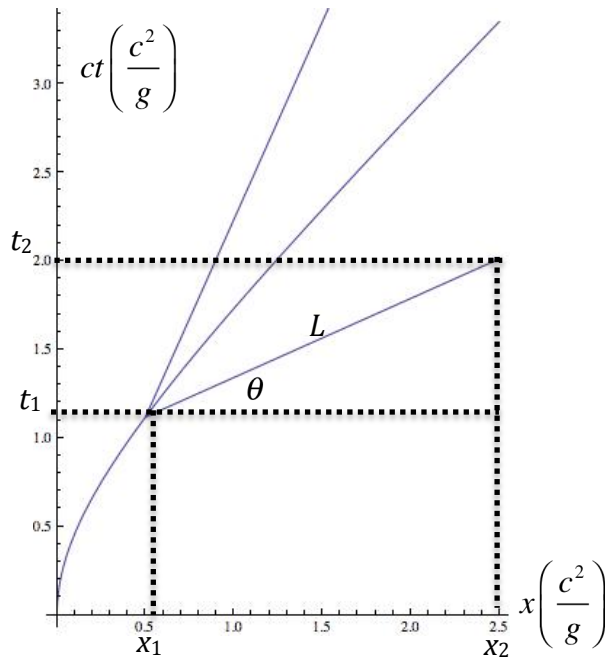


Figure 5: Minkowski Diagram for two particles

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So the position of the second particle is

$$x_2 = x_1 + L_s \cos \theta \quad (45)$$

$$= \frac{c^2}{g_1} \left(\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{g_1 t_1}{c} \right)^2} - 1 \right) + L \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{g_1 t_1}{c} \right)^2}$$

$$x_2 = \left(\frac{c^2}{g_1} + L \right) \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{g_1 t_1}{c} \right)^2} - \frac{c^2}{g_1}. \quad (46)$$

The time of the second particle is

$$ct_2 = ct_1 + L_s \sin \theta \quad (47)$$

$$= ct_1 + L \sqrt{\frac{1 + \beta^2}{1 - \beta^2}} \frac{\beta}{\sqrt{1 + \beta^2}}$$

$$ct_2 = t_1 \left(c + \frac{g_1 L}{c} \right). \quad (48)$$

Substitute eq.(48) to eq.(46) to get

$$x_2 = \left(\frac{c^2}{g_1} + L \right) \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{g_1 t_2}{c \left(1 + \frac{g_1 L}{c^2} \right)} \right)^2} - \frac{c^2}{g_1}$$

$$x_2 = \left(\frac{c^2}{g_1} + L \right) \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{g_1 t_2}{\left(1 + \frac{g_1 L}{c^2} \right) c} \right)^2} - \frac{c^2}{g_1}. \quad (49)$$

From the last equation, we can identify

$$g_2 \equiv \frac{g_1}{1 + \frac{g_1 L}{c^2}}. \quad (50)$$

As for confirmation, we can substitute this relation to the second particle position to get

$$x_2 = \frac{c^2}{g_2} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{g_2 t_2}{c} \right)^2} - \frac{c^2}{g_1}. \quad (51)$$

Second method: In this method, we will choose g_2 such that the special point like the one describe in the question 1 is exactly the same as the similar point for the proper acceleration g_1 .

For first particle, we have $x_{p1} g_1 = c^2$

For second particle, we have $(L + x_{p1}) g_2 = c^2$

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Combining this two equations, we get

$$g_2 = \frac{c^2}{L + \frac{c^2}{g_1}}$$

$$g_2 = \frac{g_1}{1 + \frac{g_1 L}{c^2}}. \quad (52)$$

3. The relation between the time in the two particles is given by eq.(48)

$$t_2 = t_1 \left(1 + \frac{g_1 L}{c^2} \right)$$

$$\frac{c^2}{g_2} \sinh \frac{g_2 \tau_2}{c} = \frac{c^2}{g_1} \sinh \frac{g_1 \tau_1}{c} \left(1 + \frac{g_1 L}{c^2} \right)$$

$$\sinh \frac{g_2 \tau_2}{c} = \sinh \frac{g_1 \tau_1}{c}$$

$$g_2 \tau_2 = g_1 \tau_1 \quad (53)$$

$$\frac{d\tau_2}{d\tau_1} = \frac{g_1}{g_2} = 1 + \frac{g_1 L}{c^2}. \quad (54)$$

Part F. Correction for GPS

1. From Newtons Law

$$\frac{GMm}{r^2} = m\omega^2 r \quad (55)$$

$$r = \left(\frac{gR^2 T^2}{4\pi^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \quad (56)$$

$$r = 2.66 \times 10^7 \text{ m.}$$

The velocity is given by

$$v = \omega r = \left(\frac{2\pi g R^2}{T} \right)^{\frac{1}{3}}$$

$$= 3.87 \times 10^3 \text{ m/s.} \quad (57)$$

2. The general relativity effect is

$$\frac{d\tau_g}{dt} = 1 + \frac{\Delta U}{mc^2} \quad (58)$$

$$\frac{d\tau_g}{dt} = 1 + \frac{gR^2}{c^2} \frac{R-r}{Rr}. \quad (59)$$

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After one day, the difference is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\tau_g &= \frac{gR^2}{c^2} \frac{R-r}{Rr} \Delta T \\ &= 4.55 \times 10^{-5} \text{s.}\end{aligned}\tag{60}$$

The special relativity effect is

$$\frac{d\tau_s}{dt} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}\tag{61}$$

$$\begin{aligned}&= \sqrt{1 - \left(\left(\frac{2\pi g R^2}{T} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \right) \frac{1}{c^2}} \\ &\approx 1 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\left(\frac{2\pi g R^2}{T} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \right) \frac{1}{c^2}.\end{aligned}\tag{62}$$

After one day, the difference is

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta\tau_s &= -\frac{1}{2} \left(\left(\frac{2\pi g R^2}{T} \right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \right) \frac{1}{c^2} \Delta T \\ &= -7.18 \times 10^{-6} \text{s.}\end{aligned}\tag{63}$$

The satellite's clock is faster with total $\Delta\tau = \Delta\tau_g + \Delta\tau_s = 3.83 \times 10^{-5} \text{s}$.

3. $\Delta L = c\Delta\tau = 1.15 \times 10^4 \text{m} = 11.5 \text{km}$.