

Theoretical Physics
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Chapter C Solutions. Relativity and Four Vectors

HW-C1. Time Dilation in GPS Satellites. Find the time that a GPS satellite clock in a 12-hour orbit around the Earth loses in microseconds each day.

a) The radius of the orbit to four significant figures. Use Kepler's Third Law

$$r^3 = \frac{GM}{4\pi^2} T^2 = \frac{(6.6743 \times 10^{-11} \frac{\text{N} \cdot \text{m}^2}{\text{kg}^2})(5.9722 \times 10^{24} \text{ kg})}{4\pi^2} (12\text{h} \cdot 3600 \frac{\text{s}}{\text{h}})^2$$

$$r^3 = 1.88429 \times 10^{22} \text{ m}^3 \Rightarrow r = 2.66103 \times 10^7 \text{ m}$$

$$\boxed{r = 2.661 \times 10^7 \text{ m}}$$

b) Orbital speed to four significant figures.

$$v = \frac{2\pi r}{T} = \frac{2\pi(2.66103 \times 10^7 \text{ m})}{12\text{h} \cdot 3600 \frac{\text{s}}{\text{h}}} = 3870.3 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}$$

$$\boxed{v = 3870. \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}}$$

Note the decimal point to indicate that the zero in this case is significant.

c) Time lost per day in microseconds to 3 significant figures. We kept 4 significant figures above to avoid rounding until the end. The speed of light is exactly 299,792,458 m/s.

$$T_{\text{Satellite}} = T_{\text{Earth}} \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}$$

Since $v \ll c$, we can do a Taylor series expansion here using $(1 + x)^n \approx 1 + nx$.

$$T_{\text{Satellite}} = T_{\text{Earth}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right)$$

Are you worried about significant figures? The next term will be the $\frac{v^4}{c^4}$ term. Since

$$\frac{v^2}{c^2} = \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{3870}{300,000,000}\right)^2 = 1.664 \times 10^{-10},$$

the $\frac{v^4}{c^4}$ term is on the order of 10^{-20} , way out there by 10 decimal places.

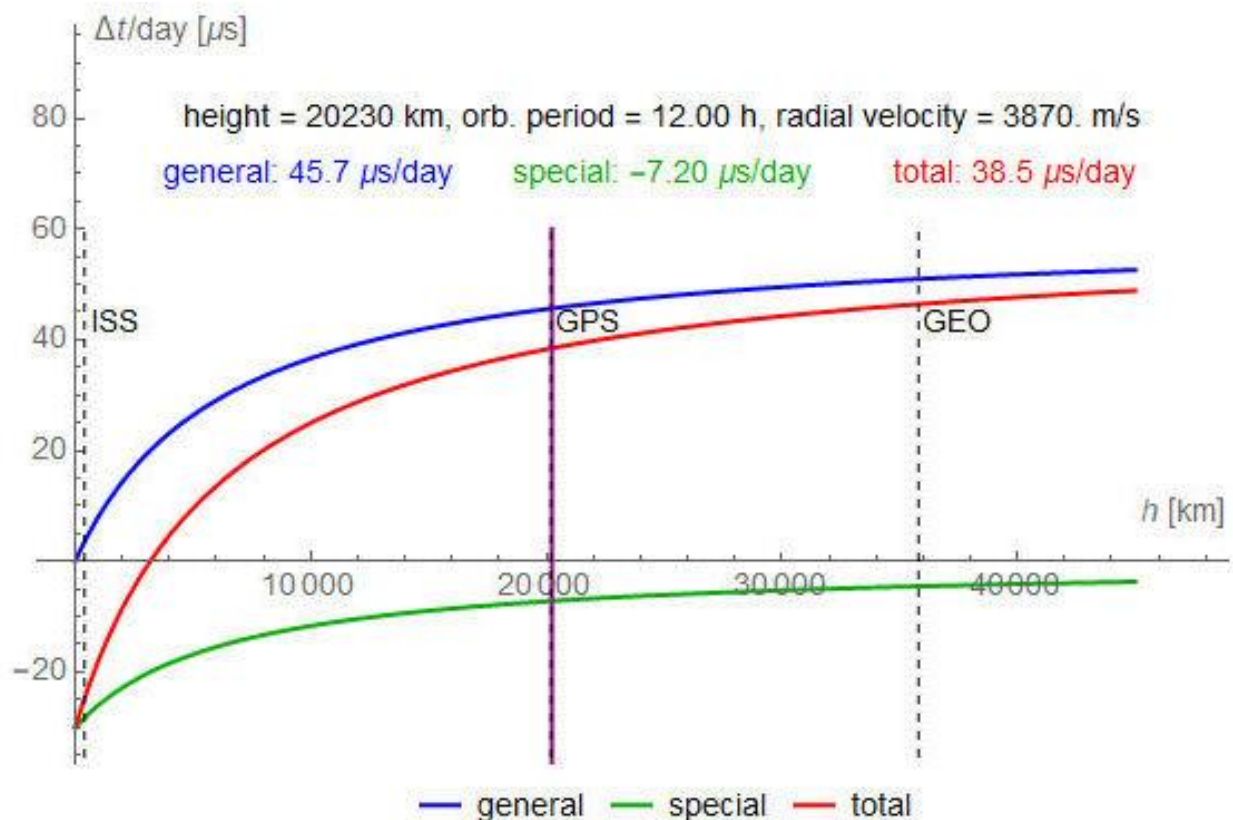
$$T_{\text{Satellite}} = T_{\text{Earth}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{v^2}{c^2}\right). \text{ The time lost is } \Delta T_{\text{Satellite}} = -T_{\text{Earth}} \frac{1}{2} \frac{v^2}{c^2},$$

where below we keep the **minus sign (optional)** to remind us that it is time lost.

$$\Delta T_{\text{Satellite}} = -T_{\text{Earth}} \frac{1}{2} \frac{v^2}{c^2} = -24 \text{ h} \cdot \frac{3600 \text{ s}}{\text{h}} \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{3870}{299,792,458}\right)^2$$

$$\Delta T_{\text{Satellite}} = -7.20 \times 10^{-6} \text{ s} \Rightarrow \boxed{\Delta T_{\text{Satellite}} = -7.20 \mu\text{s/day}}$$

It would be nice to check this result since we did many steps. [WOLFRAM](#) has an app.



HW-C2. Perpendicular Velocity Formula. Derive the relativistic formula for the perpendicular velocity transformation where the object moves in the K' frame with speed $\vec{u}' = (u_x', u_y')$ and the K frame measures $\vec{u} = (u_x, u_y)$. The K' frame moves at the usual speed v in the x-direction relative to the K frame. Your answer will be

$$u_y = \frac{u_y' \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}{1 + \frac{u_x' v}{c^2}}.$$

Solution (Start with x and t formulas from the book).

$$x = \frac{x' + vt'}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}, \quad t = \frac{t' + x' \frac{v}{c^2}}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}, \quad \text{and } y = y' \text{ since K' moves in the x direction.}$$

$$\Delta x = \frac{\Delta x' + v\Delta t'}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}, \quad \Delta t = \frac{\Delta t' + \Delta x' \frac{v}{c^2}}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}, \quad \text{and } \Delta y = \Delta y'$$

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t} = \Delta y' \div \frac{\Delta t' + \Delta x' \frac{v}{c^2}}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} = \frac{\Delta y' \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}{\Delta t' + \Delta x' \frac{v}{c^2}}$$

Dividing top and bottom of the right side of $\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta y' \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}{\Delta t' + \Delta x' \frac{v}{c^2}}$ by $\Delta t'$. We get

$$\frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t} = \frac{\Delta y' \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}{1 + \frac{\Delta x' v}{\Delta t' c^2}}, \quad \text{which gives } \boxed{u_y = \frac{u_y' \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}{1 + \frac{u_x' v}{c^2}}}.$$