Relativity

Classwork 1 Answers

09Dec04

- 1.  $L = \frac{L_0}{\gamma}$ : So  $\gamma = \frac{20\text{m}}{10\text{m}}$   $\underline{\gamma} = 2$ .  $\gamma = \left(1 - \frac{u^2}{c^2}\right)^{-1/2} \rightarrow 1 - \frac{u^2}{c^2} = \frac{1}{4} \rightarrow \frac{u}{c} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \quad \underline{u} = 2.6 \times 10^8 \text{ ms}^{-1}$ .
- 2. Length of changing room in Paul's frame (P)  $L' = \frac{L}{\gamma} = \frac{10\text{m}}{2} \rightarrow \frac{5\text{m}}{2}$ . 3. Space-time coord. in frame (S) F:  $x_F = L(10\text{m})$ ,  $t_F = L/u$  (38.5 ns) B:  $x_B = 0$ ,  $t_B = L/u$  (38.5 ns)
- 4. Lorentz Transformations for space-time coordinates, x', t' in (P):

$$\begin{aligned} x'_{F} &= \gamma \left( x_{F} - ut_{F} \right) = \gamma \left( L - uL/u \right) = 0 & \text{as expected} \\ x'_{B} &= \gamma \left( x_{B} - ut_{B} \right) = \gamma \left( 0 - uL/u \right) = -\gamma L & \text{as expected} \\ t'_{F} &= \gamma \left( t_{F} - ux_{F}/c^{2} \right) = \gamma \left( L/u - uL/c^{2} \right) = \frac{\gamma L}{u} \left( 1 - u^{2}/c^{2} \right) = \frac{L}{\gamma u} \\ t'_{B} &= \gamma \left( t_{B} - ux_{B}/c^{2} \right) = \gamma \left( L/u - 0 \right) = = \frac{\gamma L}{u} \end{aligned}$$

5. Using  $\gamma = 2$  in expressions for  $t'_F$  and  $t'_B \rightarrow t'_B = 4t'_F$ 

$$t_F = \frac{L}{u} = \frac{10\text{m}}{2.6 \times 10^8 \text{ ms}^{-1}} = 38.5 \text{ ns}$$
  
 $t_B = \frac{L}{u} = 38.5 \text{ ns}$   
 $t'_F = \frac{L}{\mu} = \frac{38.5 \text{ ns}}{2} = 19.2 \text{ ns}$ 

$$t'_{B} = \frac{\gamma L}{u} = -2 \times 38.5 \,\mathrm{ns} = -77.0 \,\mathrm{ns}$$

6. So according to Paul, the Front (*exit*) door OPENS long before the Back (*entrance*) door CLOSES.

His chances are GOOD. He passes through the changing rooms unscathed.

