

62.3: Length Contraction

Another consequence of the postulates is that a moving body will appear to be shortened in the direction of motion; this effect is called length contraction. The length of a moving body will appear to be shortened by this same factor of γ :

$$L = \frac{L_0}{\gamma} \quad (62.3.1)$$

Here L_0 is the length of the body when it is at rest, and is called the proper length. Since $\gamma \geq 1$, the moving body will be shorter when it is moving.

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