

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

62: Special Relativity

The classical mechanics described by Sir Isaac Newton begins to break down at very high velocities, i.e. at velocities near the speed of light $c = 299,792.458 \text{ km/s}$. For bodies moving at a significant fraction of the speed of light, Newton's mechanics needs to be modified. The necessary modifications were developed by physicist Albert Einstein in the early 20th century, in a theory now called the special theory of relativity.

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