





# Special relativity and steps towards general relativity: SR

B.F. Roukema + ...  
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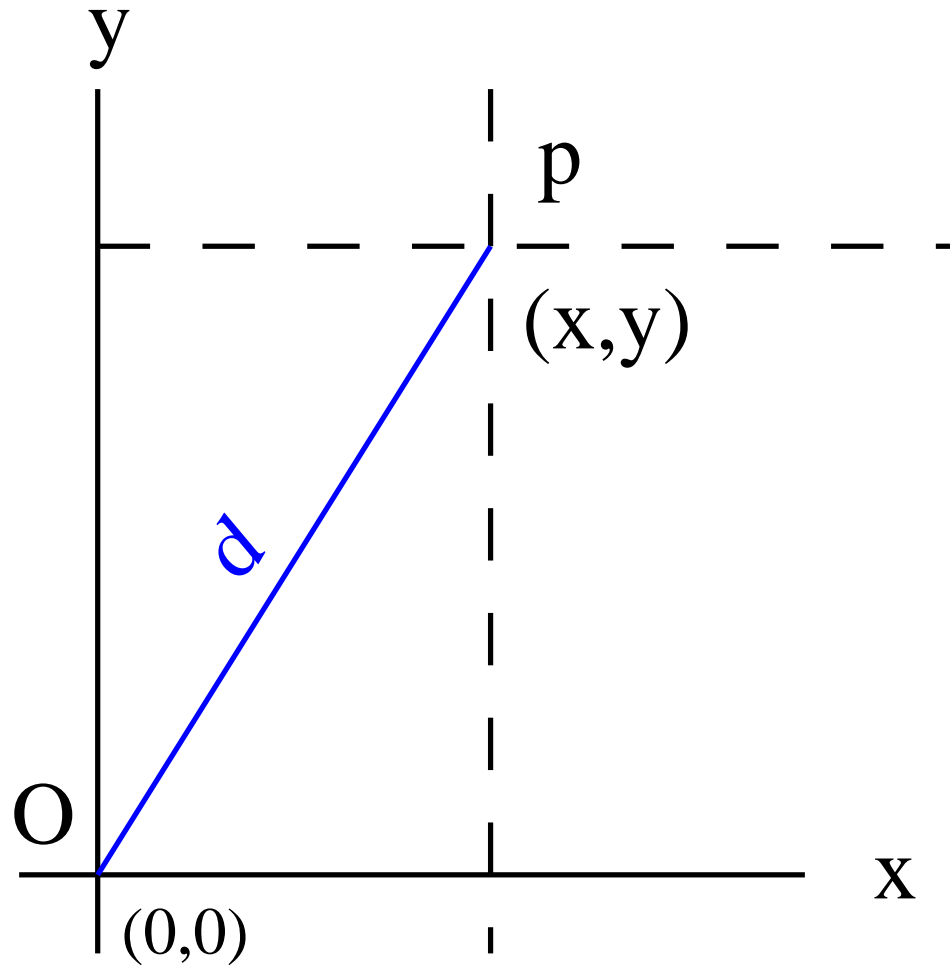
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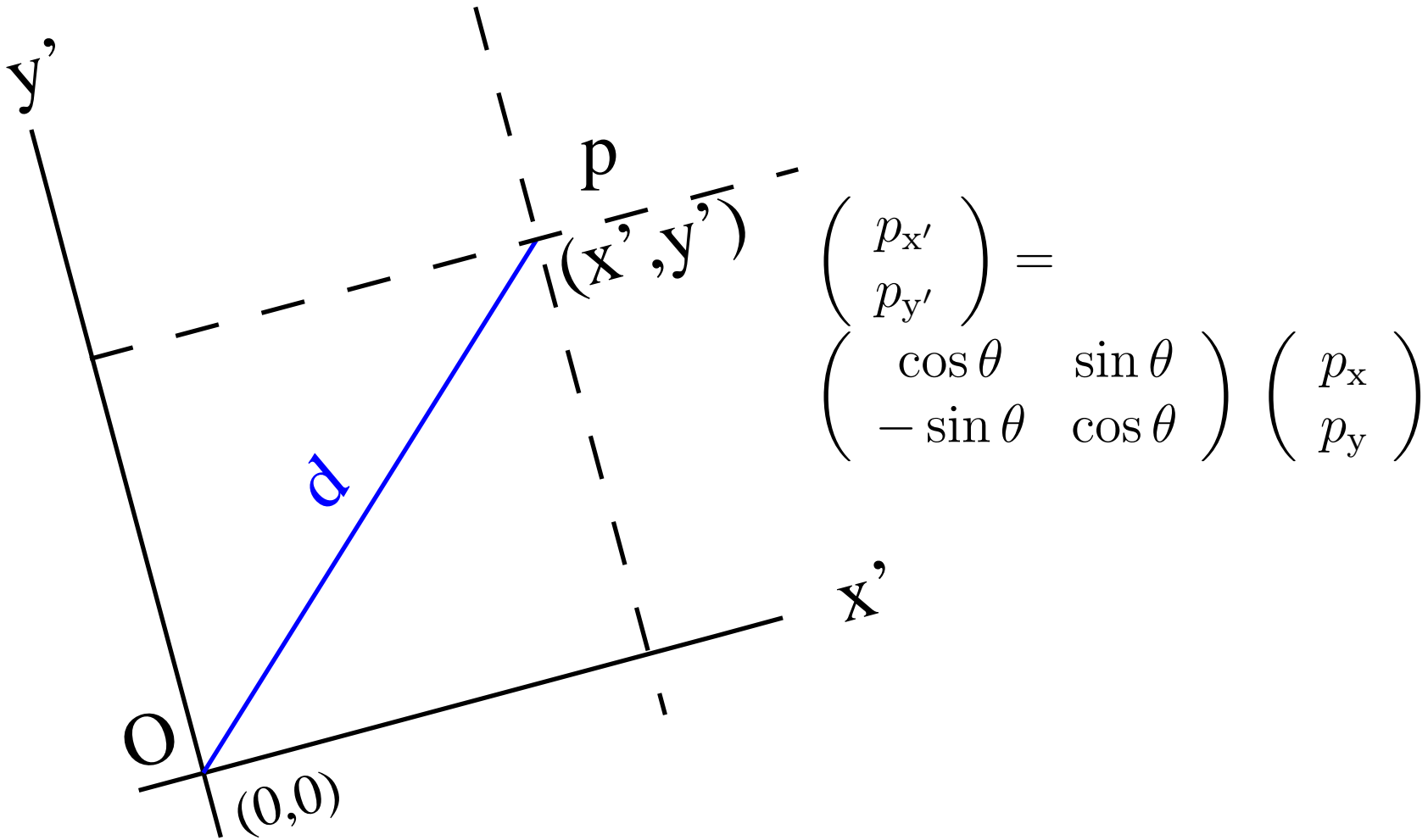
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- GR: spacetime = a solution of the w:Einstein field equations

# SR: Minkowski spacetime



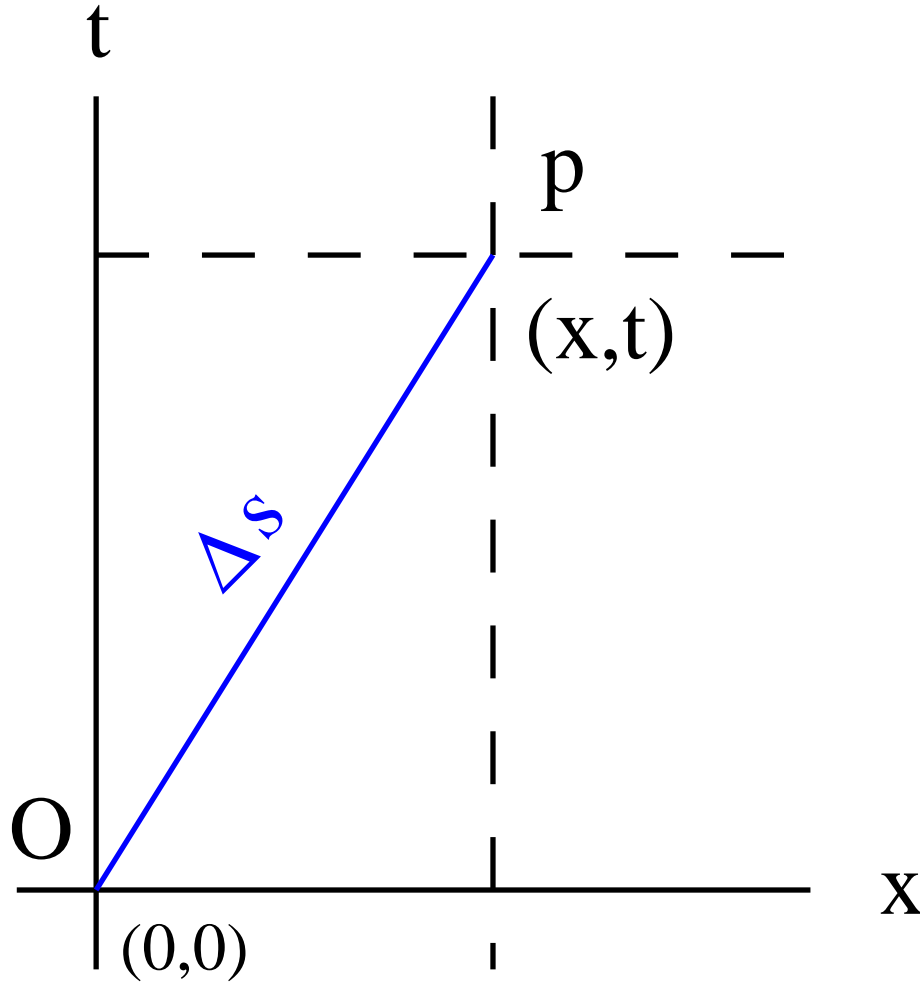
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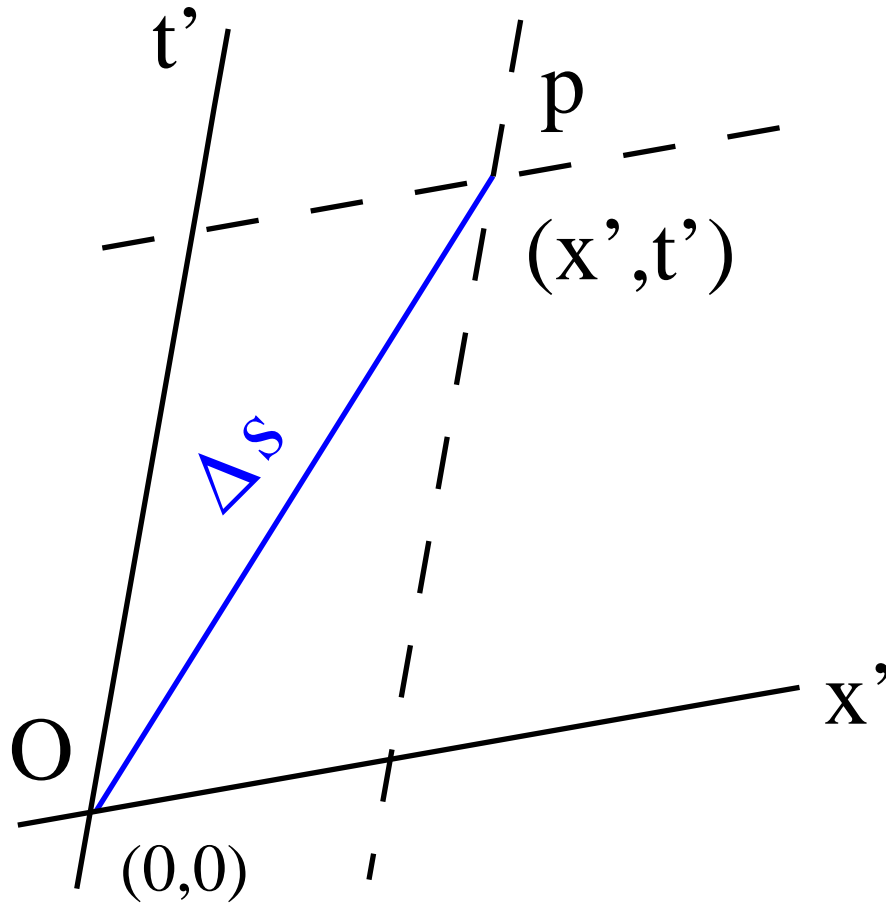
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$= \frac{1 \text{ s}}{1 \text{ s}} = 1$  (dimensionless)

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B's worldline in B's coordinate system is:

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in A's coordinate system, B's worldline is:

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where velocity  $\boxed{\beta := v/c \equiv v = \tanh \phi}$

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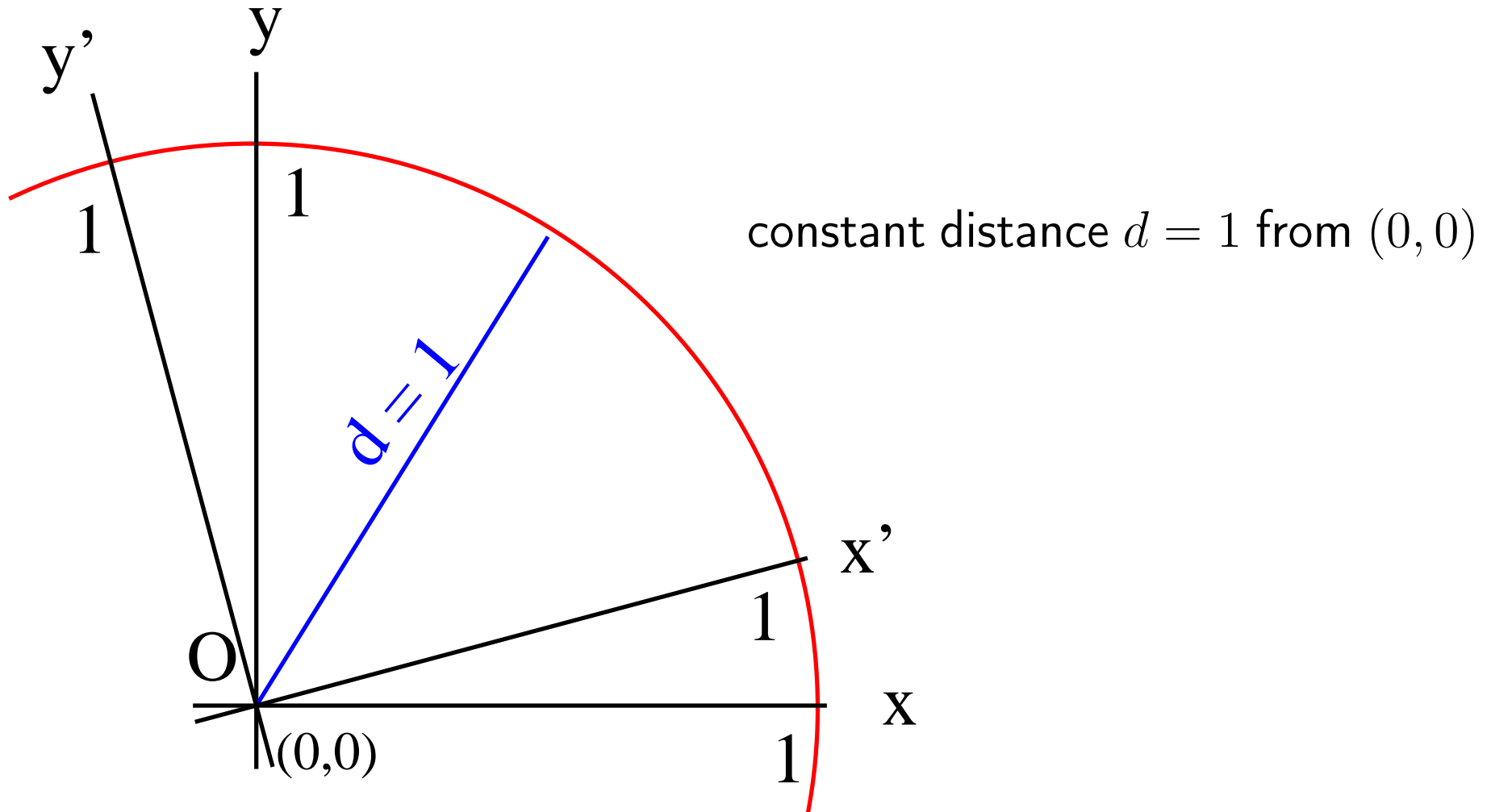
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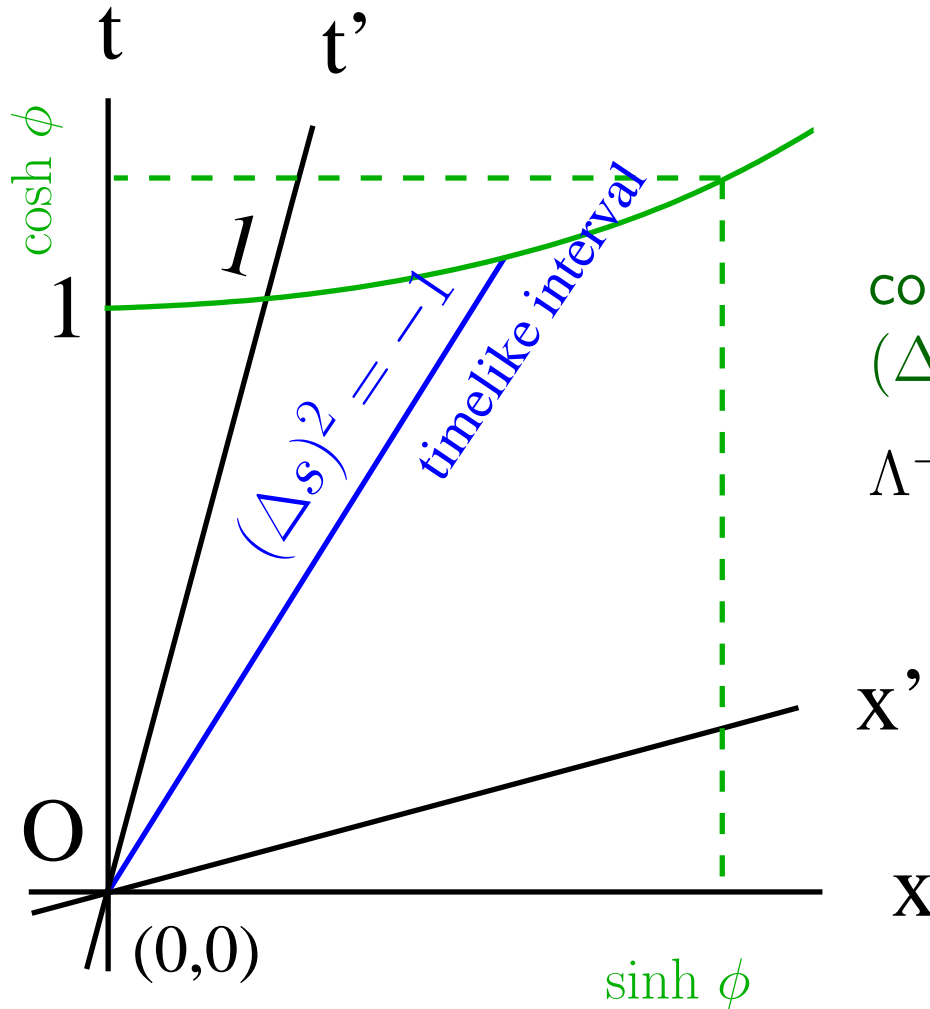
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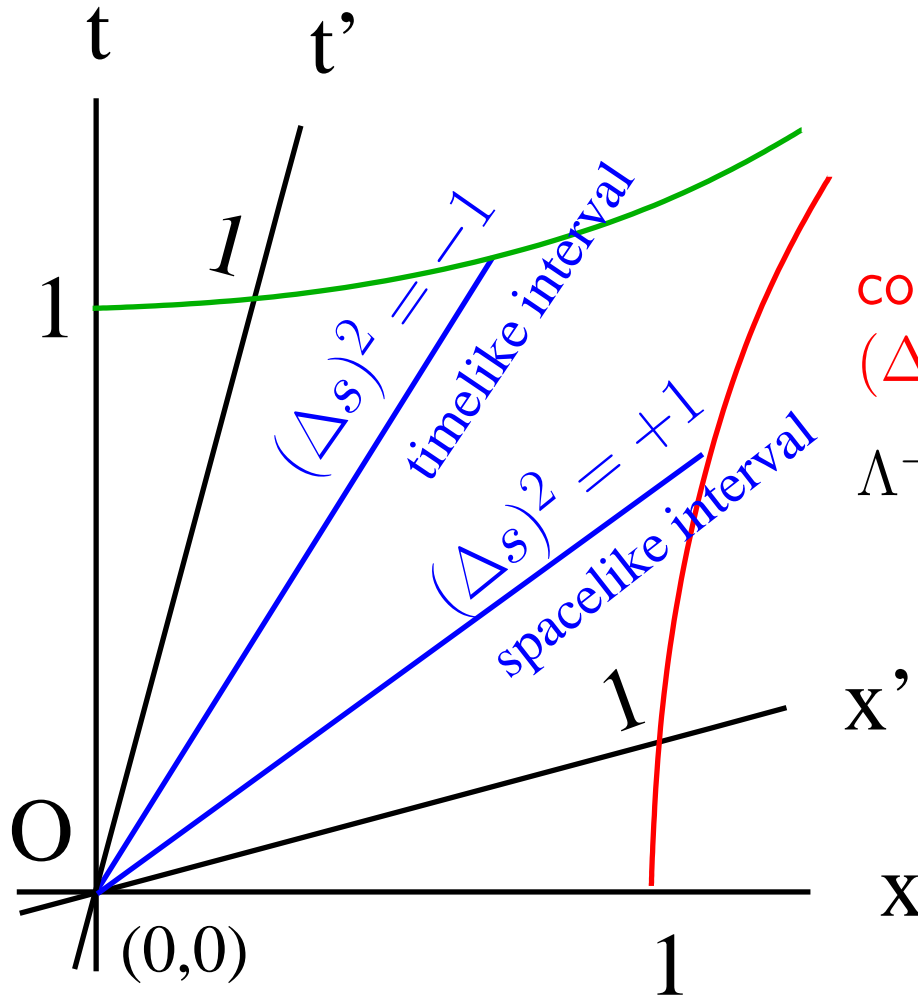
$(\Delta s)^2 = -1$  from  $(0, 0)$

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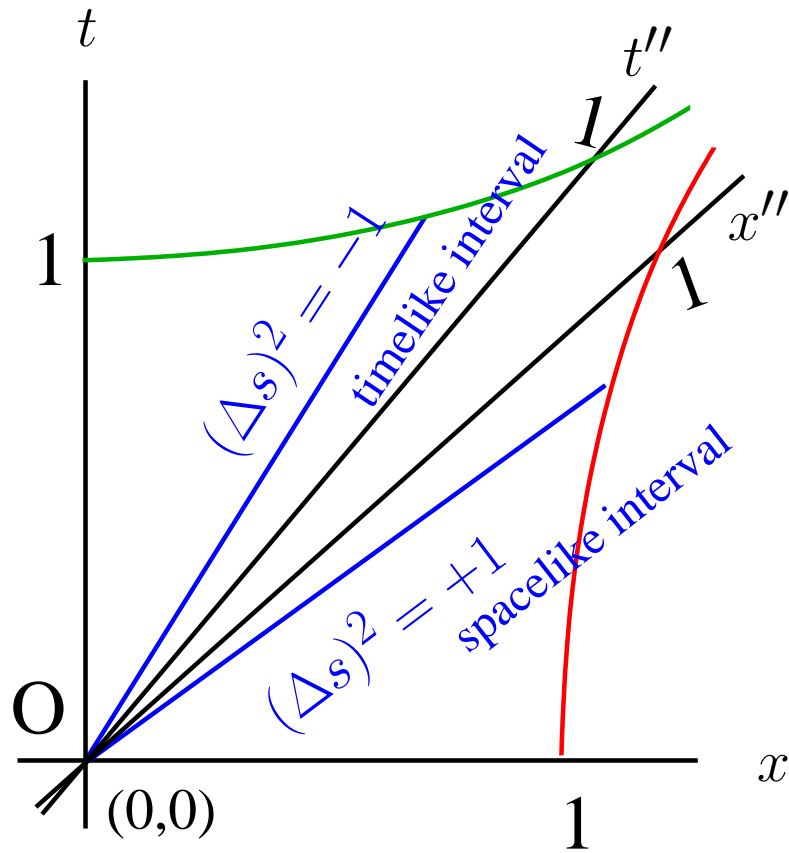


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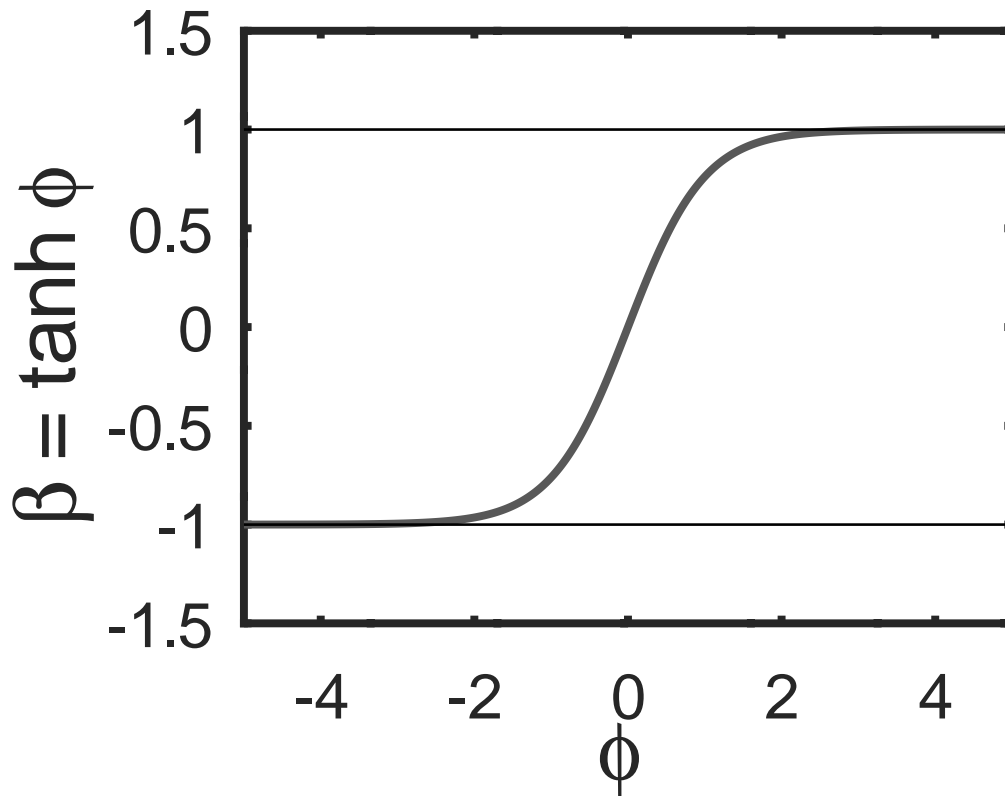


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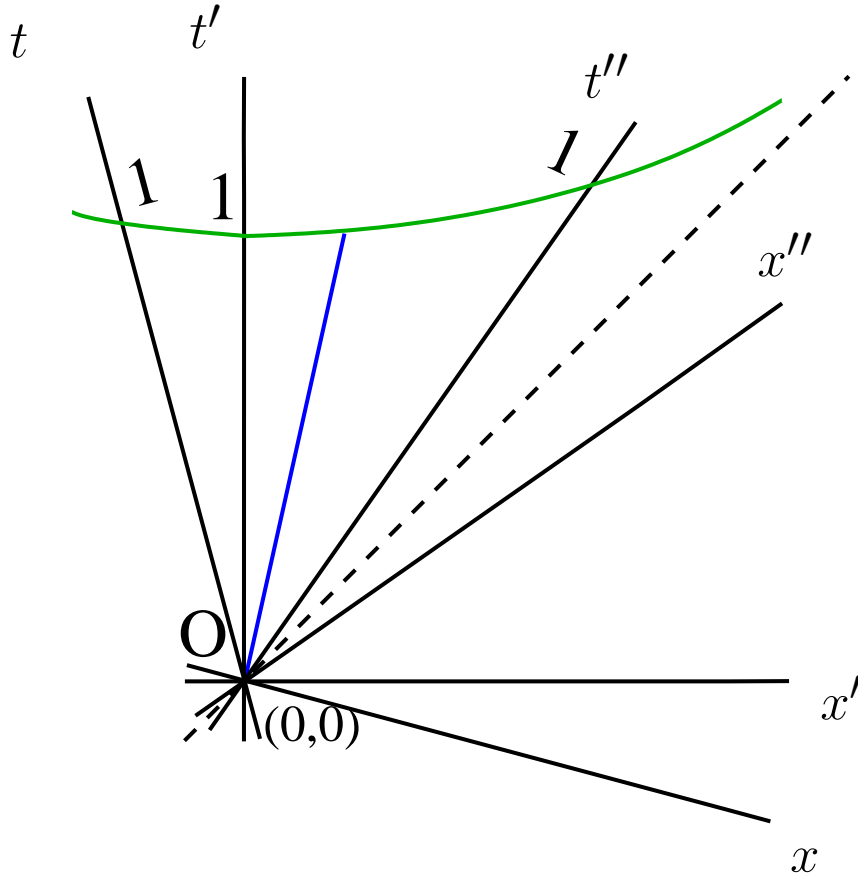
[w:Michelson-Morley experiment \(1887\)](#)

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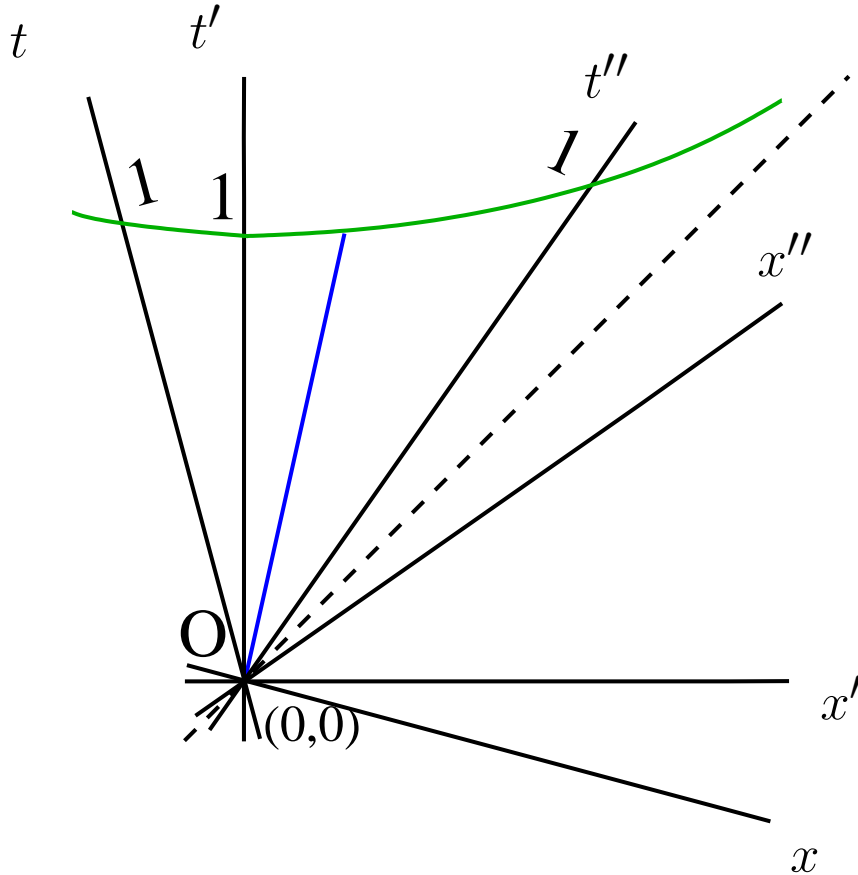


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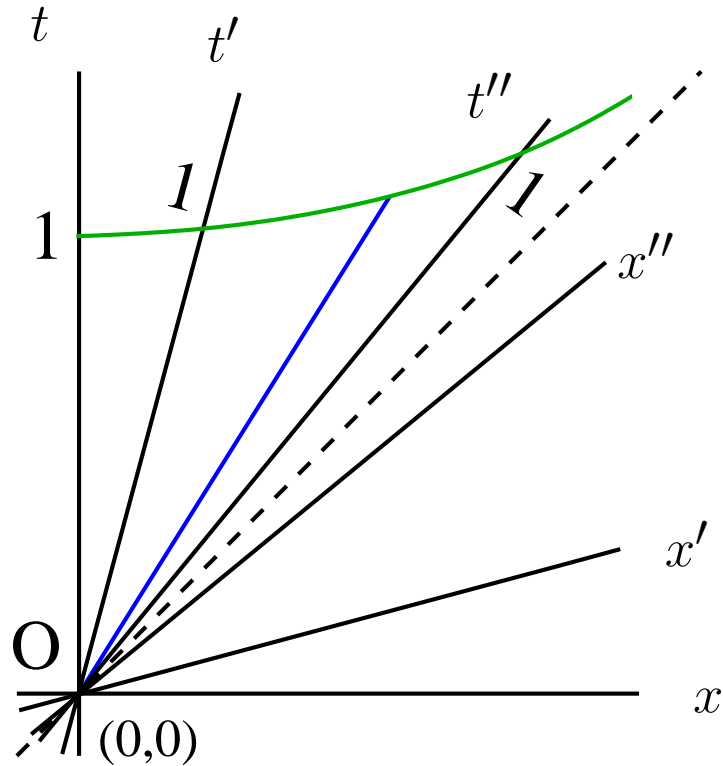


$$\begin{pmatrix} x'' \\ t'' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cosh \phi_2 & -\sinh \phi_2 \\ -\sinh \phi_2 & \cosh \phi_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x' \\ t' \end{pmatrix}$$

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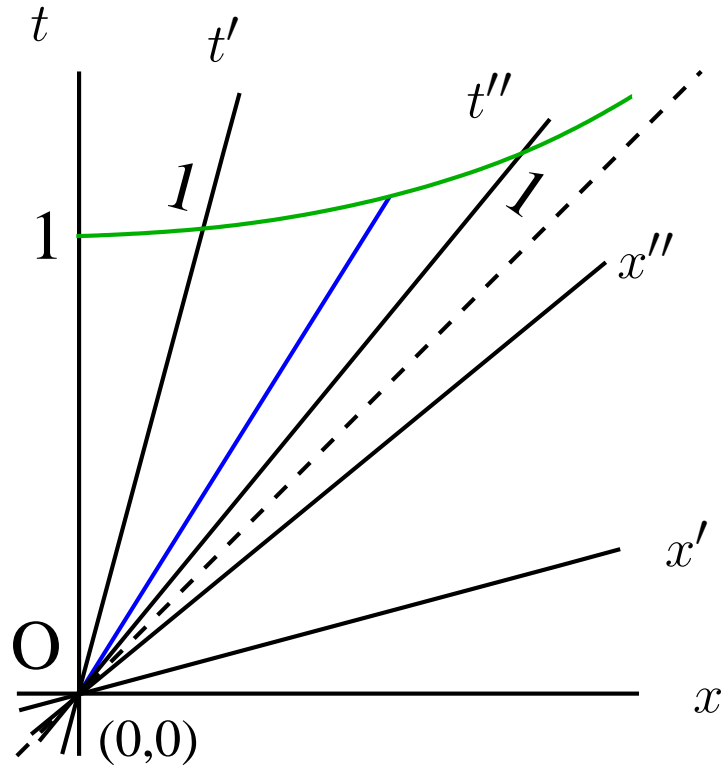


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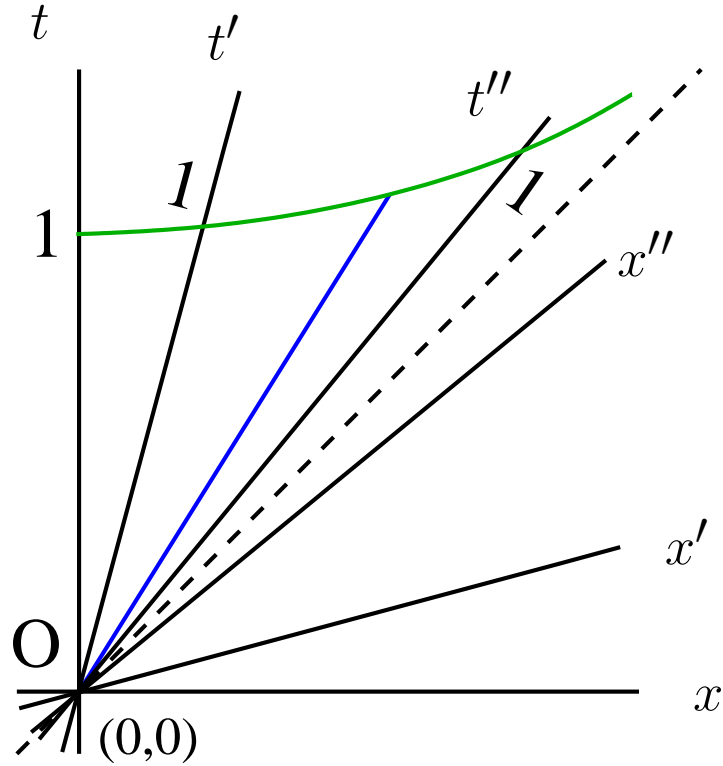
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$$\begin{pmatrix} x'' \\ t'' \end{pmatrix} = \Lambda(\phi_2) \left[ \Lambda(\phi_1) \begin{pmatrix} x \\ t \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

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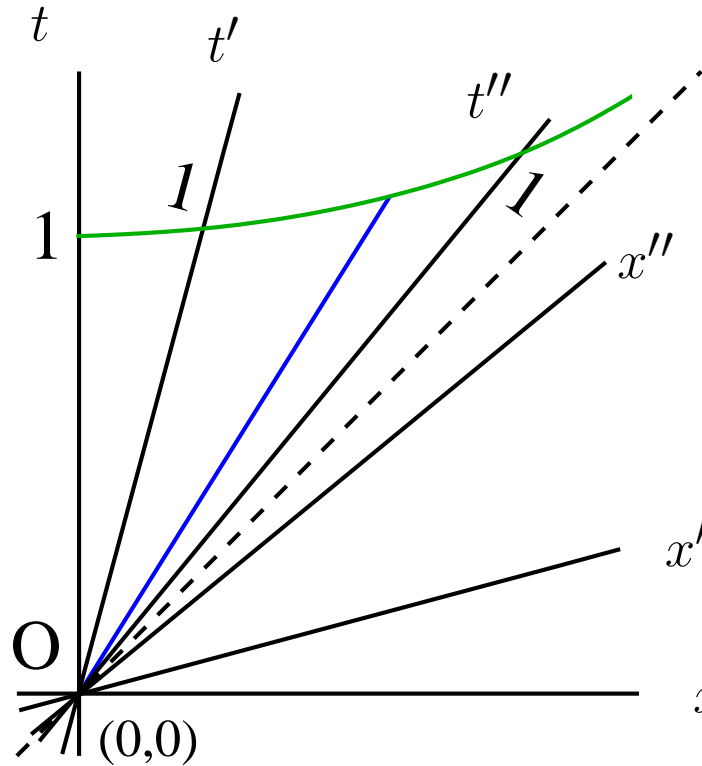
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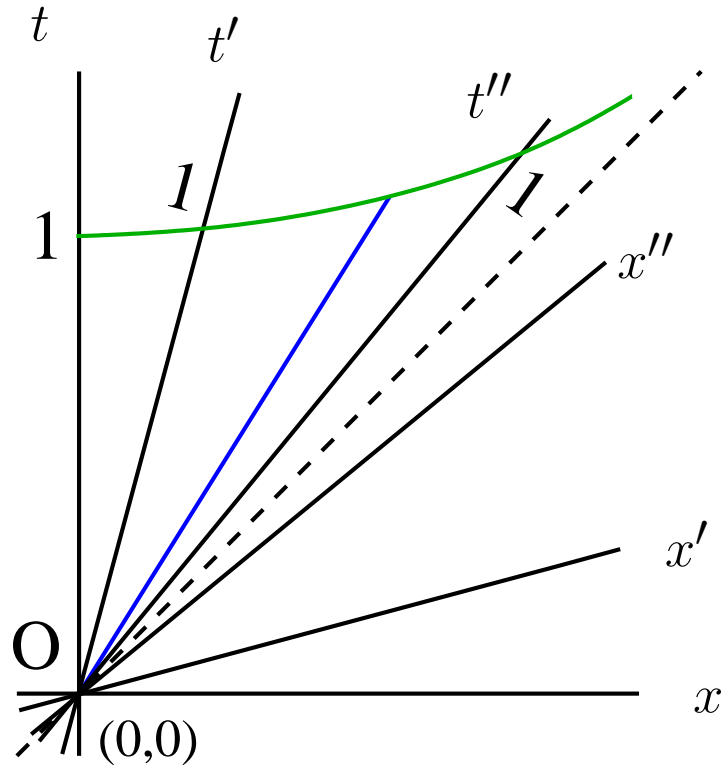
$$\begin{pmatrix} x'' \\ t'' \end{pmatrix} = [\Lambda(\phi_2)\Lambda(\phi_1)] \begin{pmatrix} x \\ t \end{pmatrix}$$

but  $\Lambda(\phi_2)\Lambda(\phi_1) = \Lambda(\phi_1 + \phi_2)$  (property of this matrix group)



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interstellar ark travels at  $\beta_1 = 0.1$  from Sun, sends out rocket at  $\beta_2 = 0.5$ ; rocket's speed  $\beta_3$  in Sun frame =?



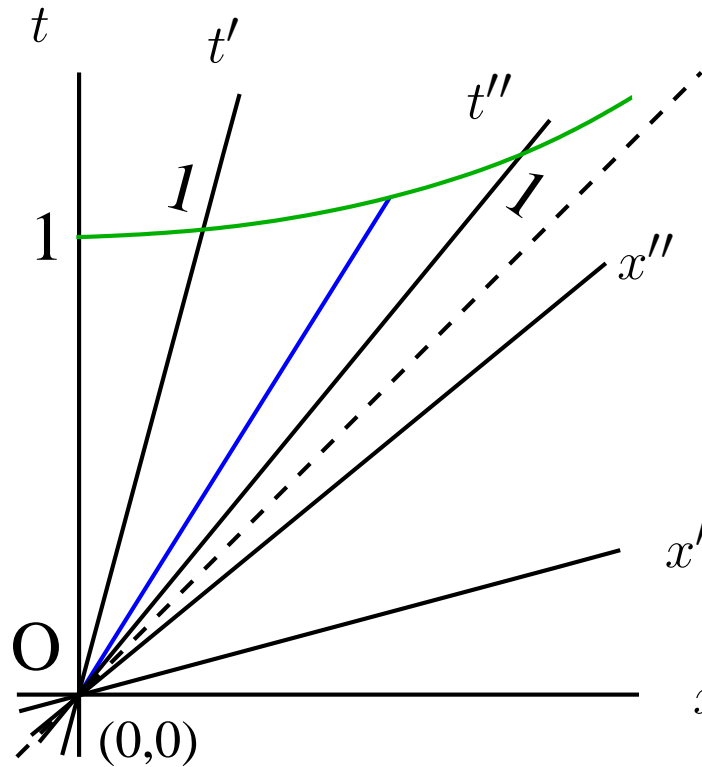
$$\begin{pmatrix} x'' \\ t'' \end{pmatrix} = [\Lambda(\phi_2)\Lambda(\phi_1)] \begin{pmatrix} x \\ t \end{pmatrix}$$

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cf. rotation by  $\theta_1$  "plus" rotation by  $\theta_2 =$  rotation by  $(\theta_1 + \theta_2)$

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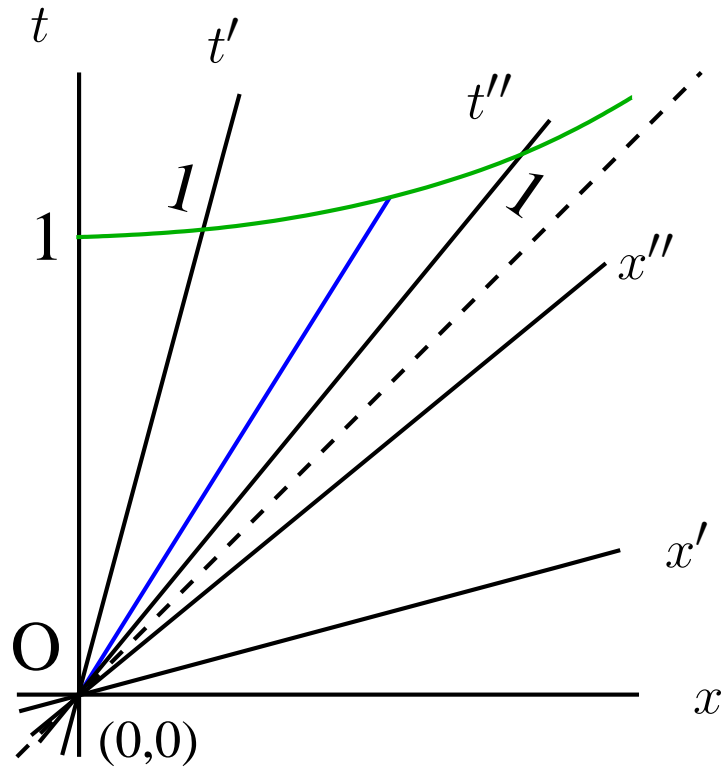
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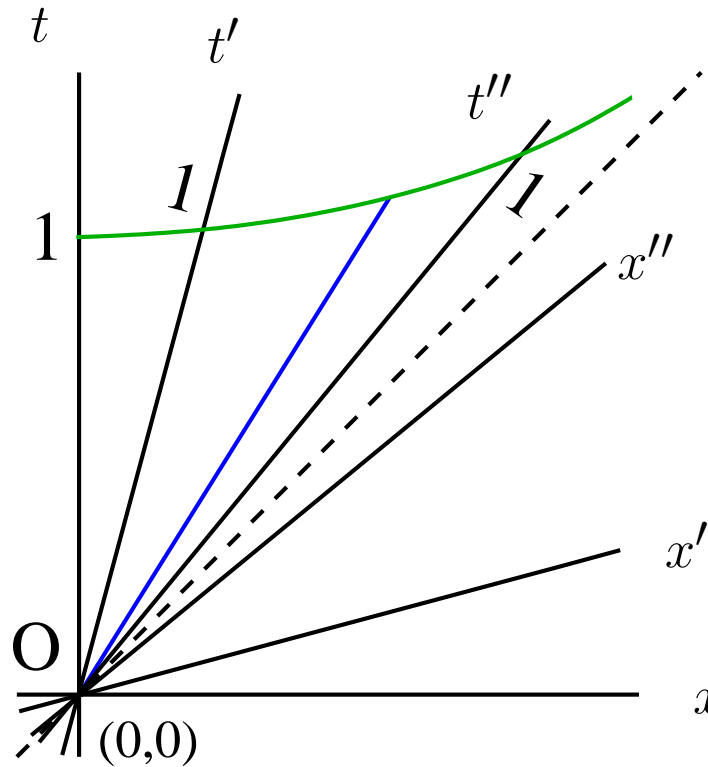
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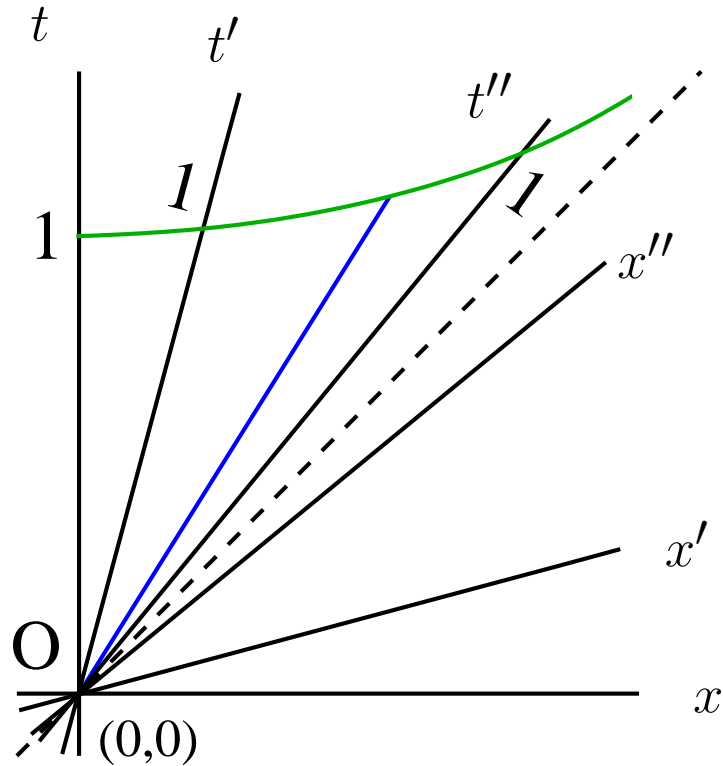
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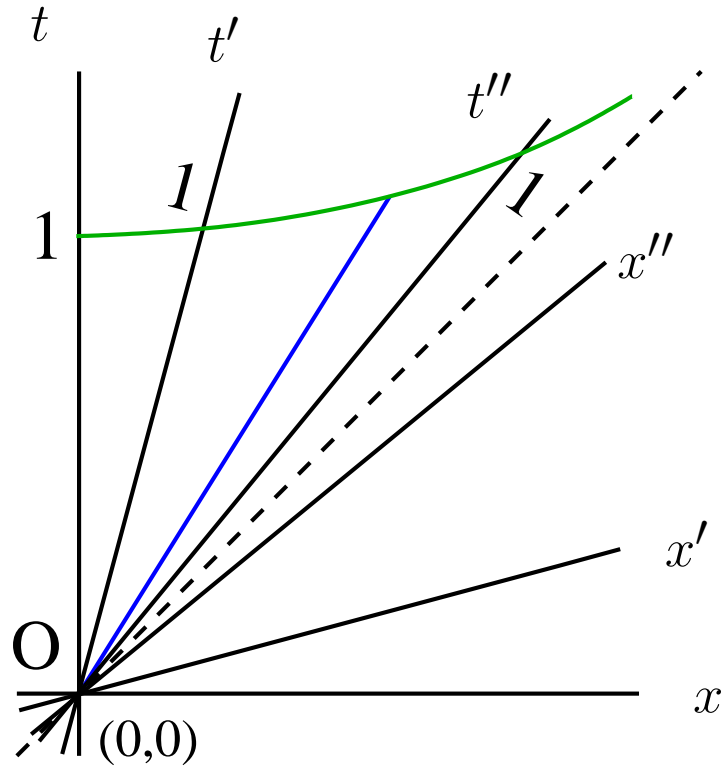
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# SR: Lorentz factor



$\Lambda$ : alternative to hyperbolic trig functions

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$\Lambda$ : alternative to hyperbolic trig functions

$$\Lambda(\phi) := \begin{pmatrix} \cosh \phi & -\sinh \phi \\ -\sinh \phi & \cosh \phi \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\cosh \phi := \frac{e^{\phi} + e^{-\phi}}{2}$$

$$\sinh \phi := \frac{e^{\phi} - e^{-\phi}}{2}$$

w:hyperbolic function



# SR: Lorentz factor

$\Lambda$ : alternative to hyperbolic trig functions

$$\Lambda(\beta) := \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & -\beta\gamma \\ -\beta\gamma & \gamma \end{pmatrix}$$

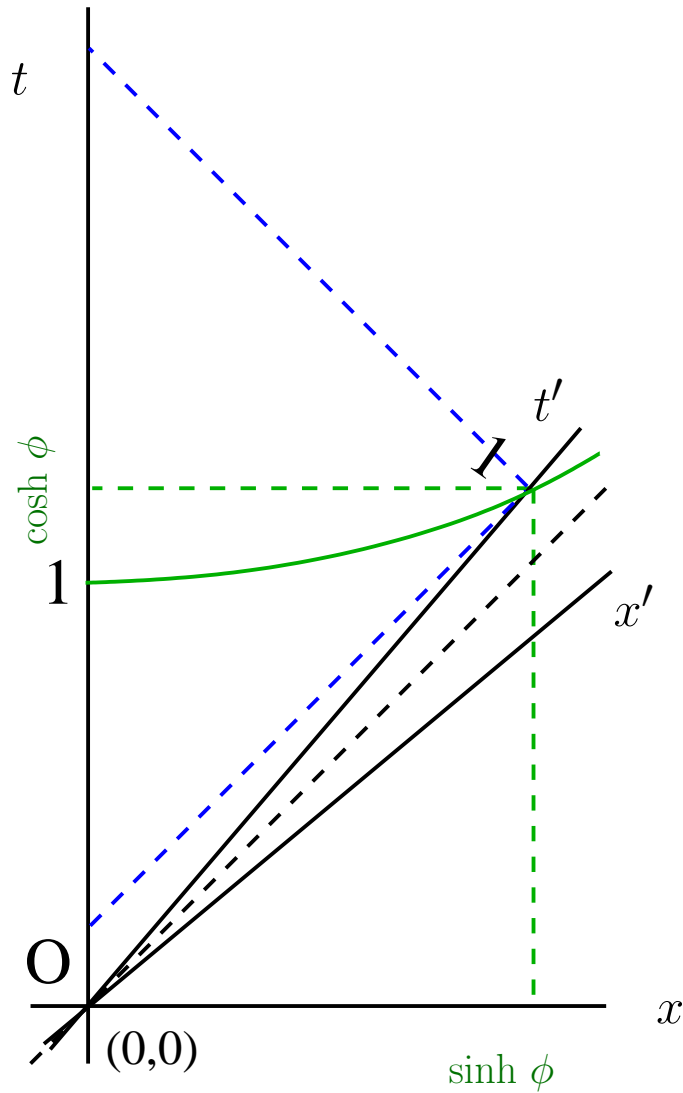
$$\beta = \tanh \phi$$

$$\gamma := (1 - \beta^2)^{-1/2} = \text{Lorentz factor}$$

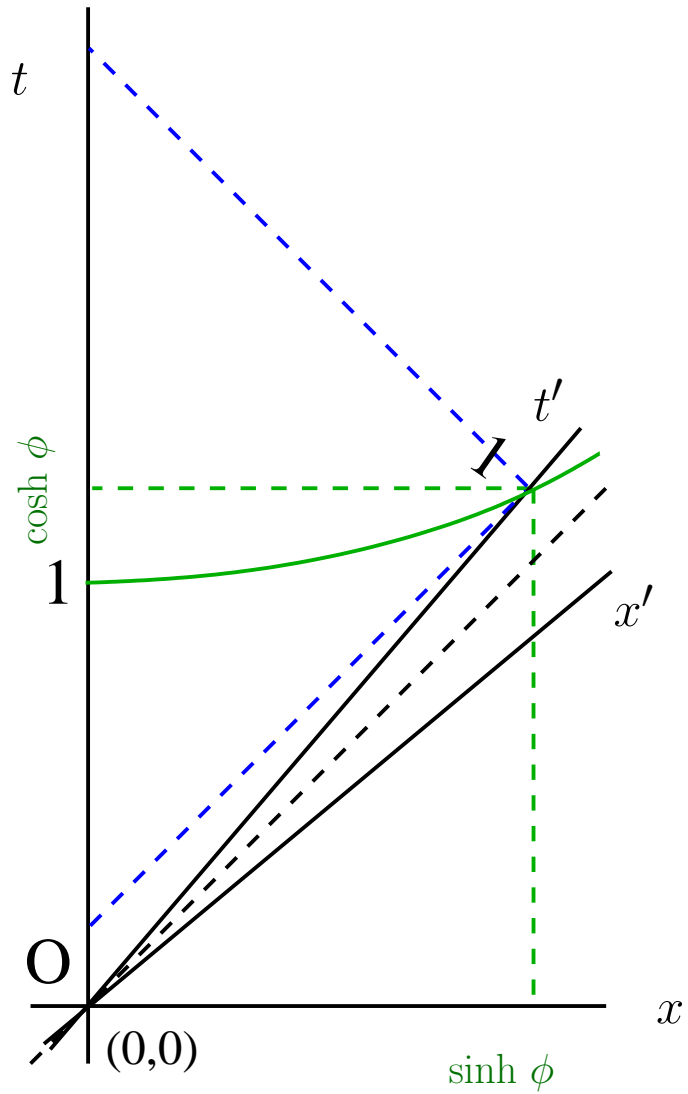
$$\gamma = \cosh \phi$$

$$\beta\gamma = \sinh \phi$$

# SR: worldline time dilation

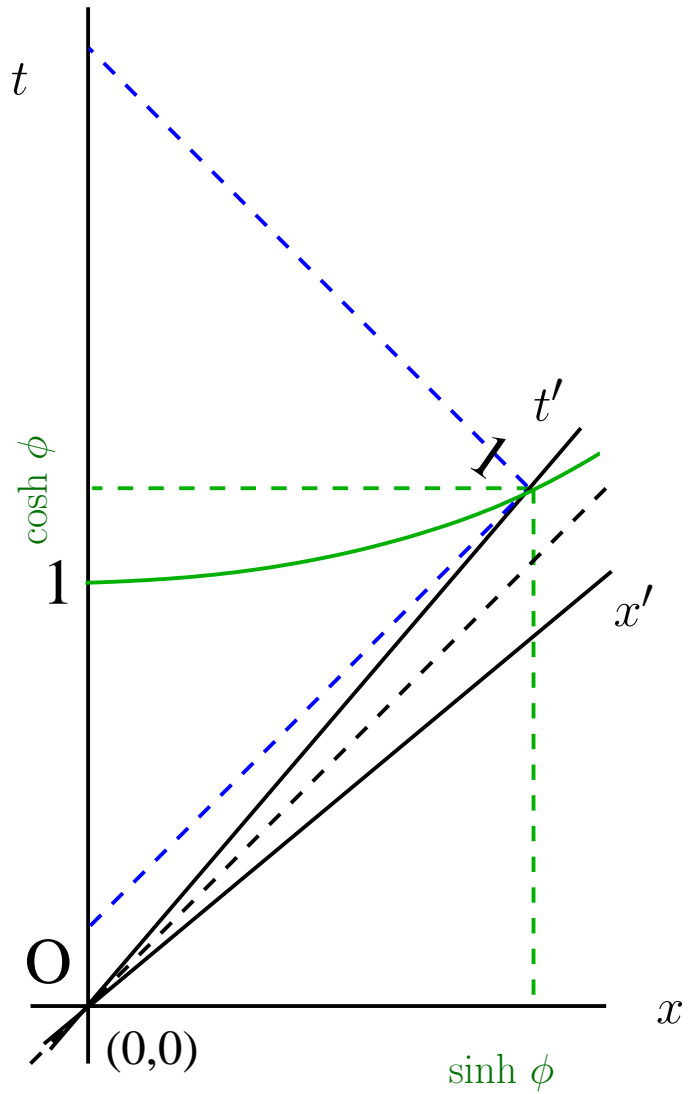


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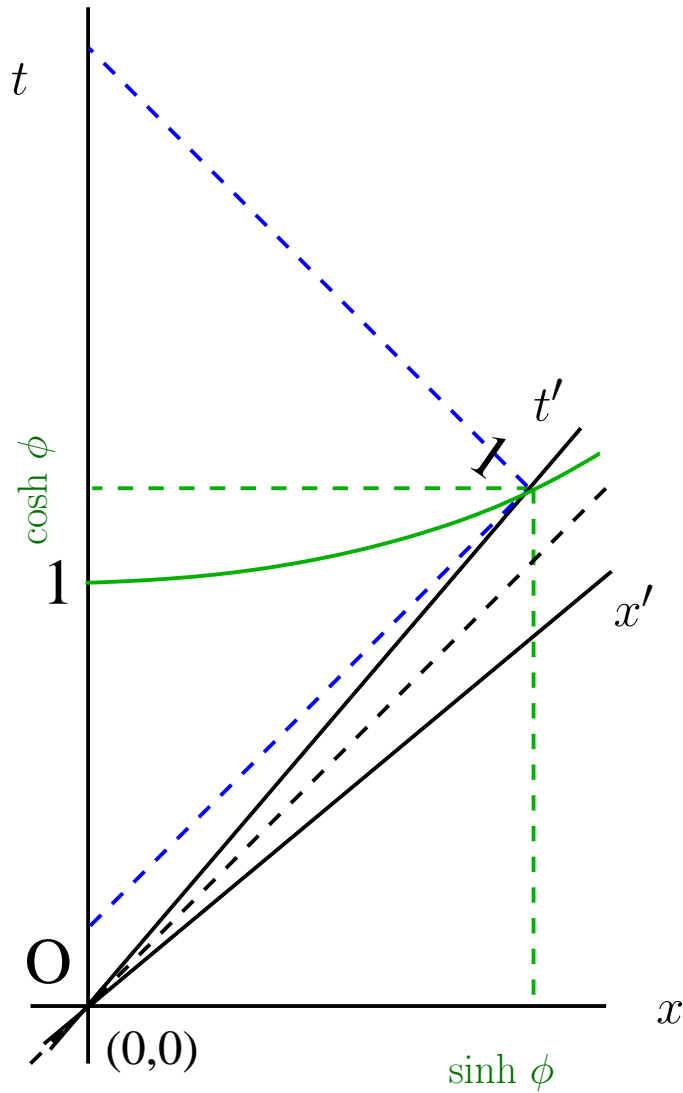
$$\cosh \phi \equiv \gamma$$

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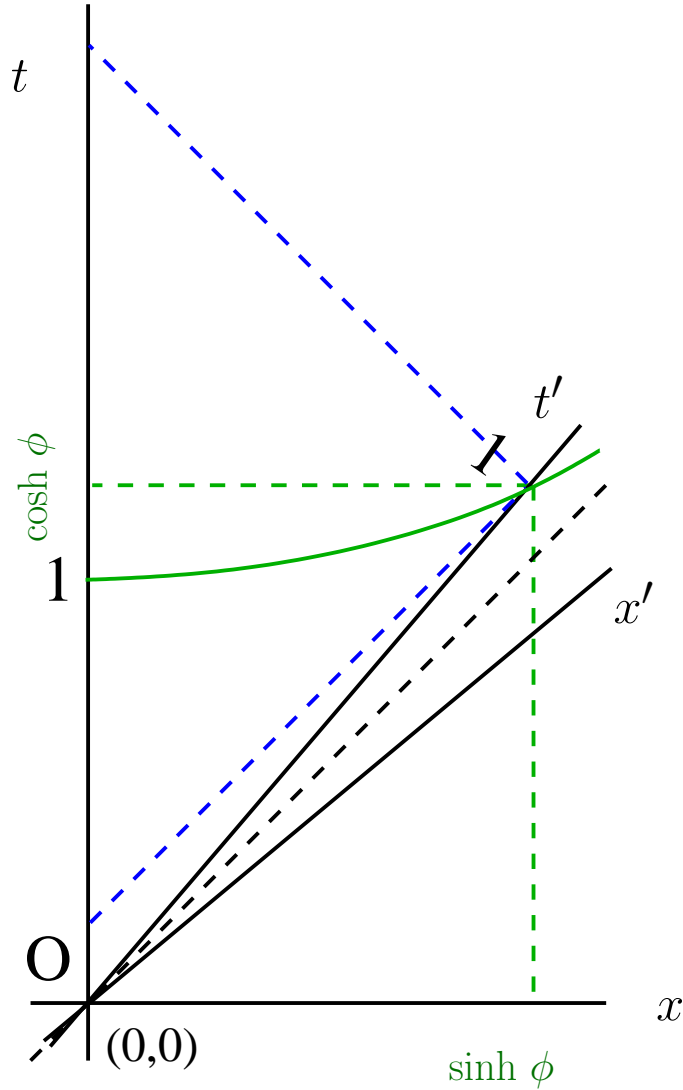
$$\cosh \phi \equiv \gamma \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}}$$

# SR: worldline time dilation



$$\cosh \phi \equiv \gamma \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} > 1$$

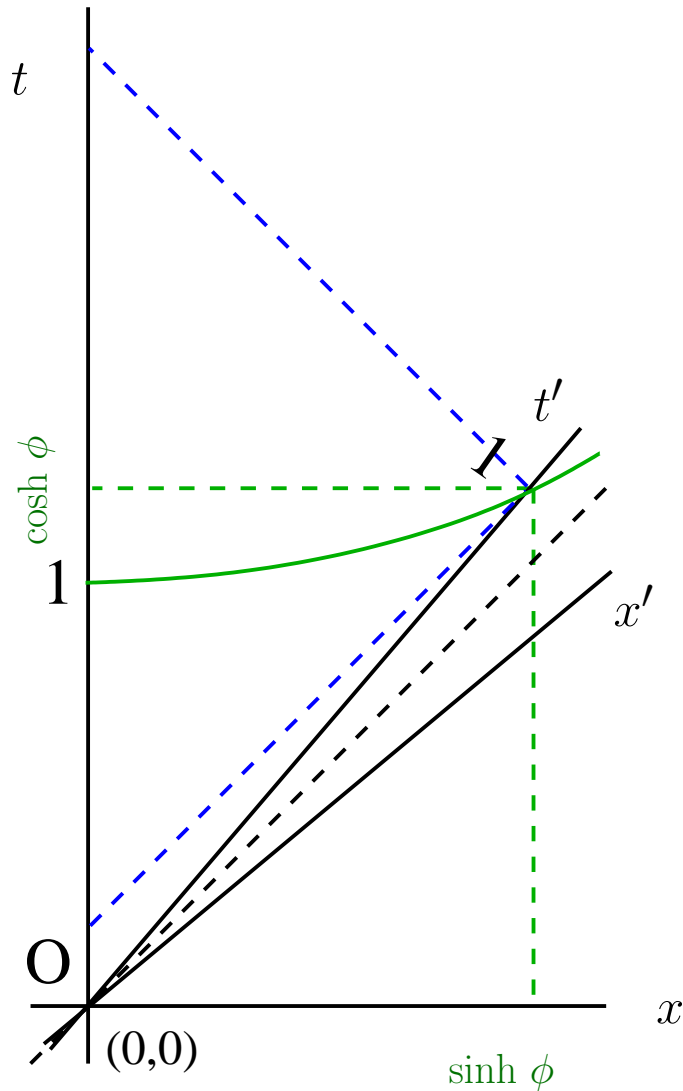
# SR: worldline time dilation



worldline "time dilation"

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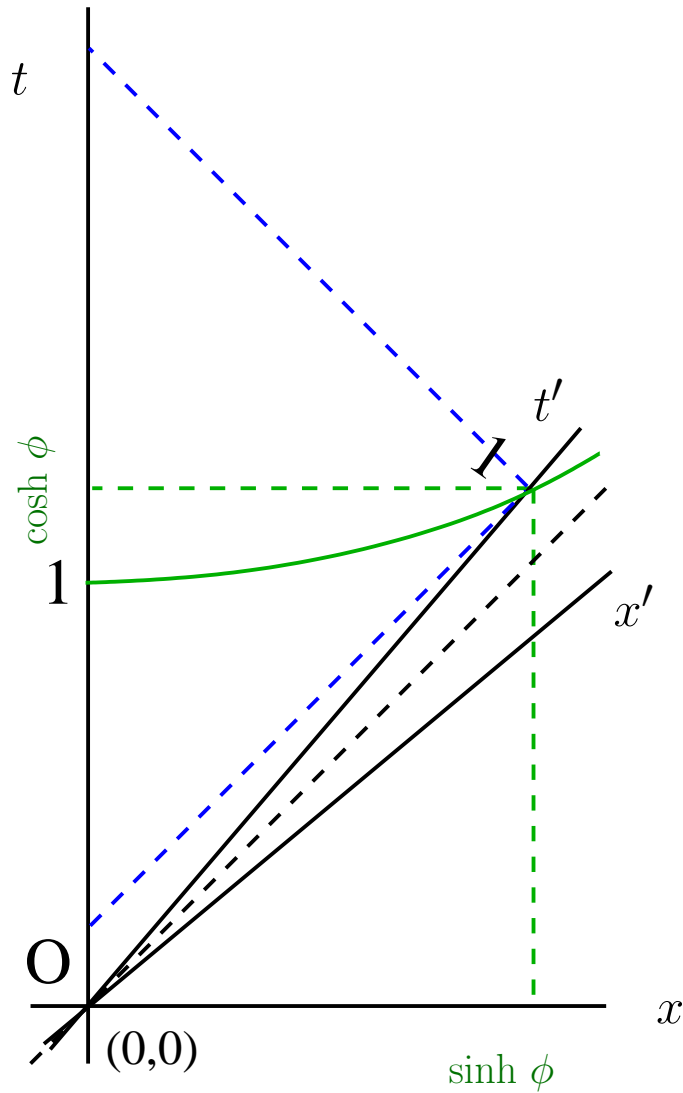


worldline "time dilation"

muons: mean lifetime  
2197 ns  $\ll$  15 km

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# SR: worldline time dilation



worldline "time dilation"

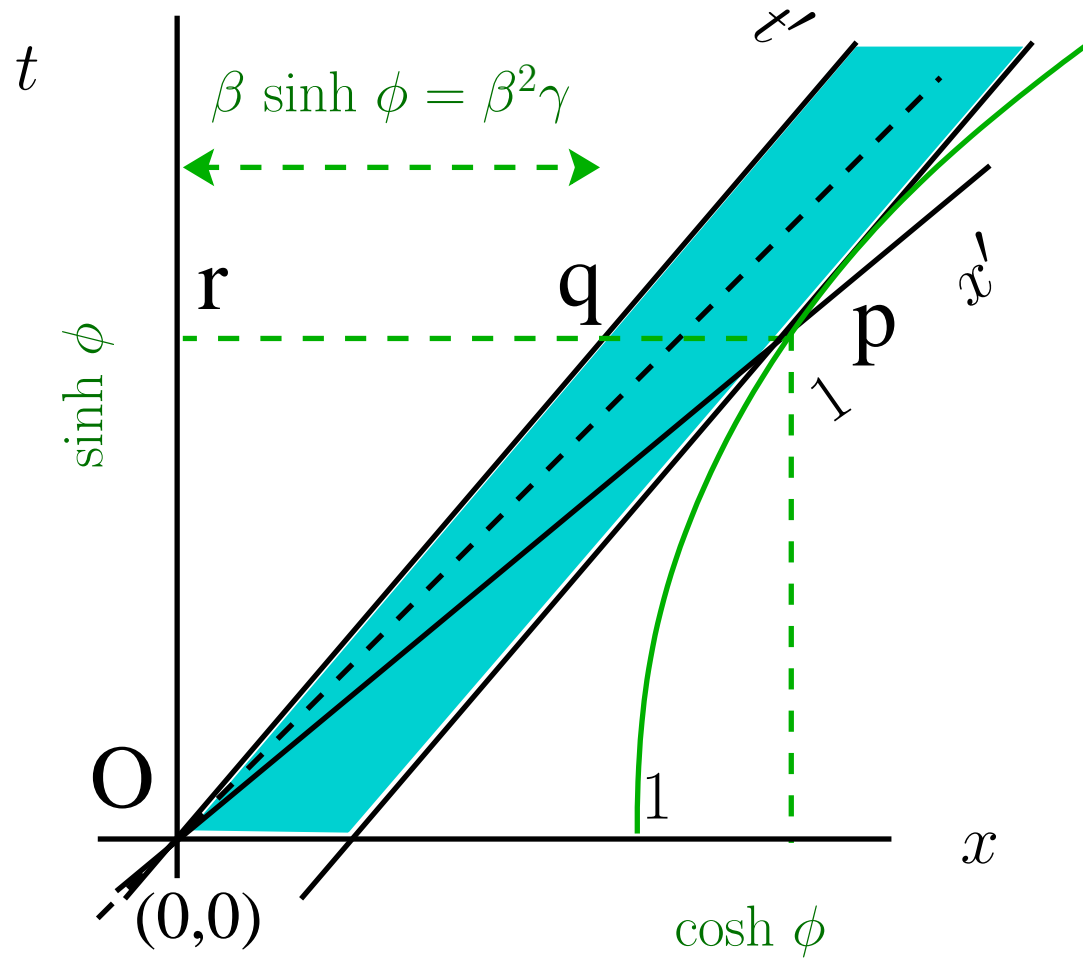
muons: mean lifetime  
2197 ns  $\ll$  15 km

time dilation  $\Rightarrow$  muons can  
hit the ground

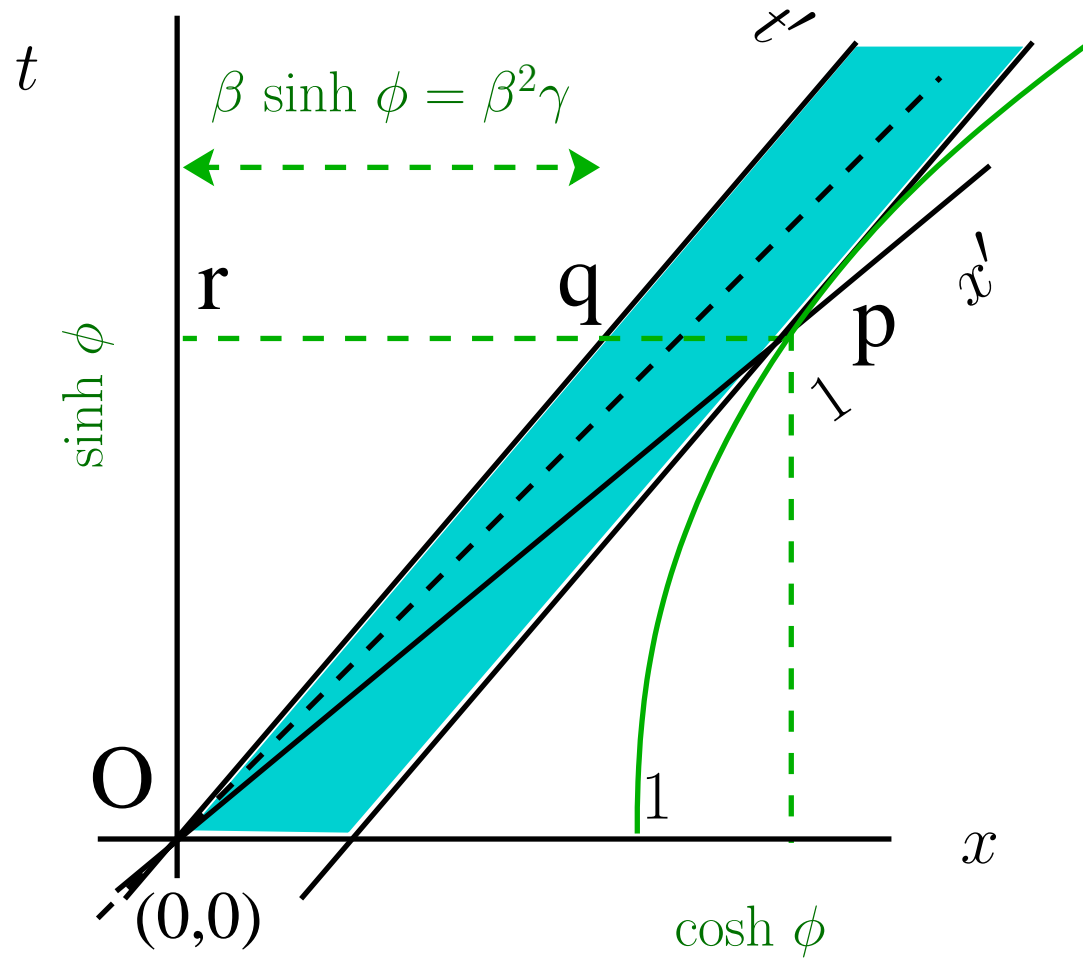
$$\cosh \phi \equiv \gamma \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} > 1$$



# SR: worldsheet space contraction

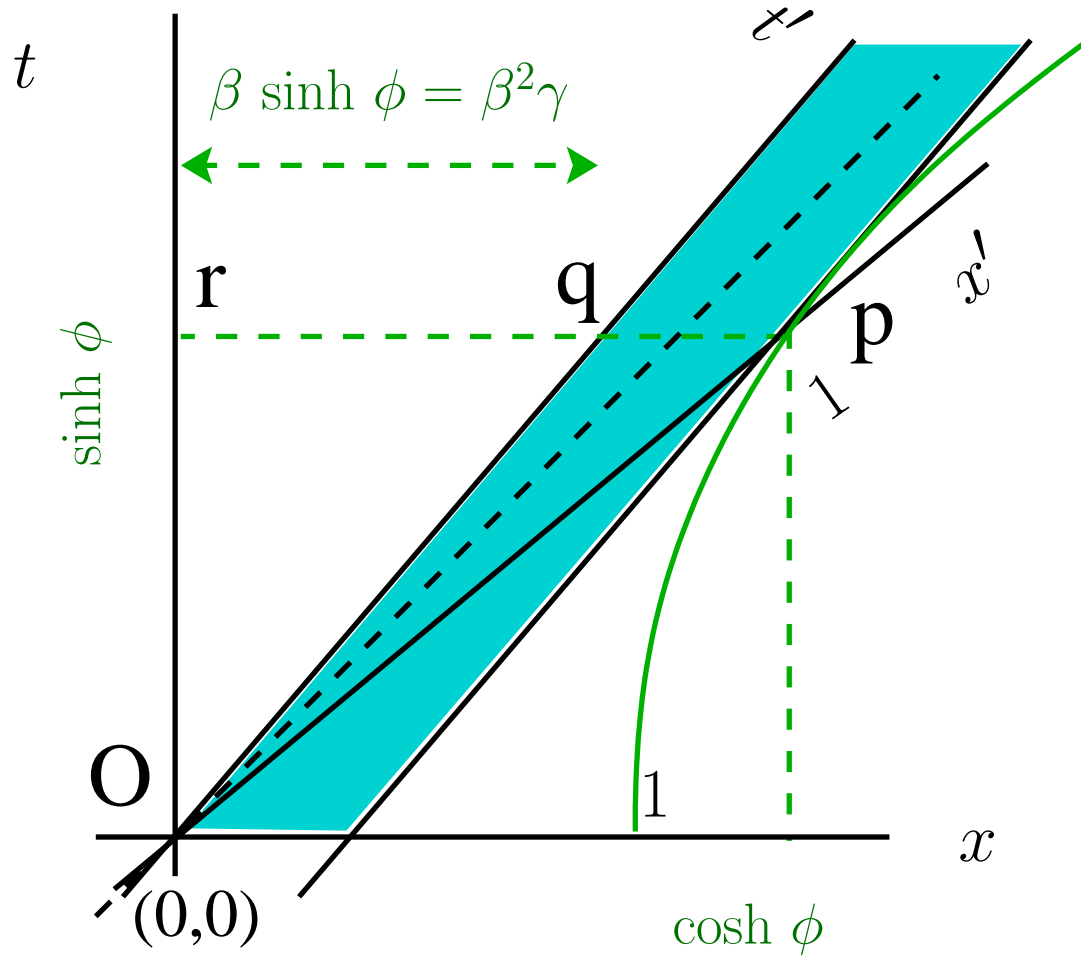


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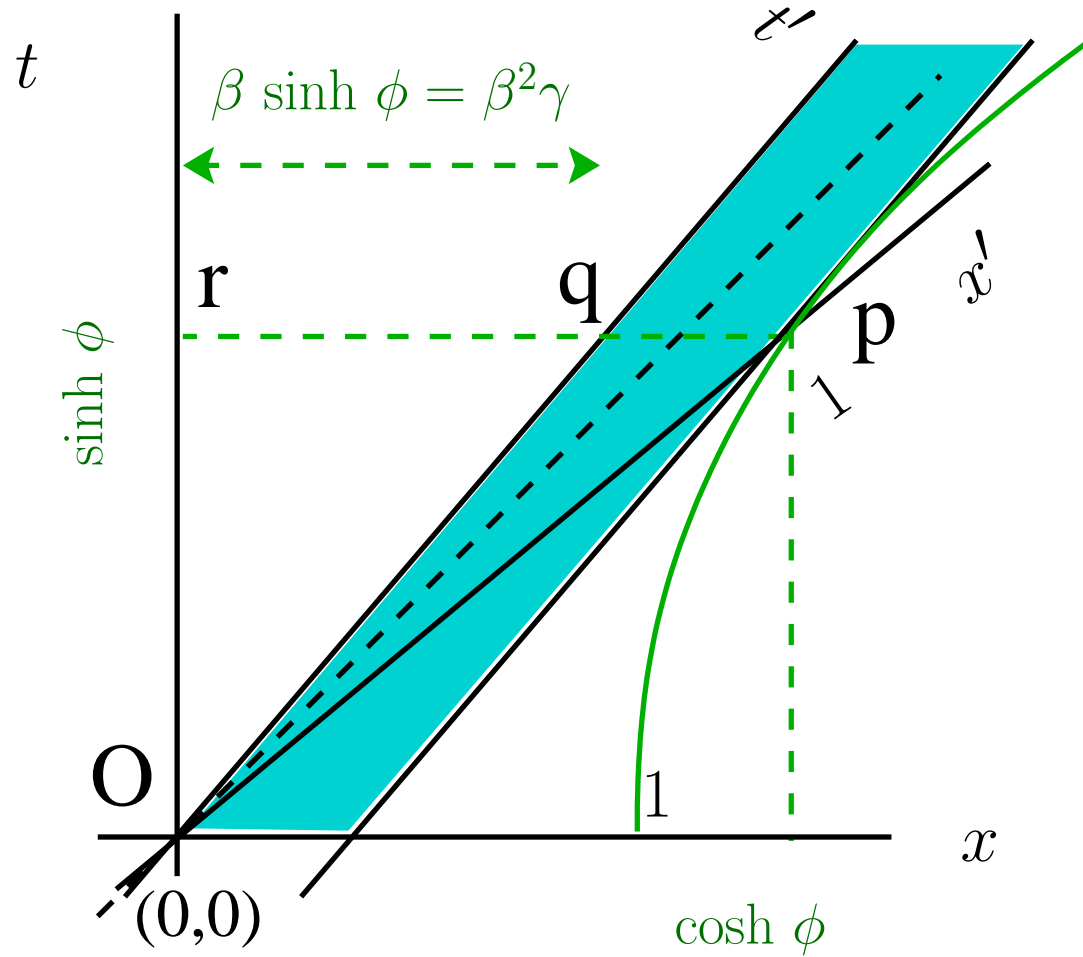
$$\sqrt{\Delta s^2(q, p)} =$$

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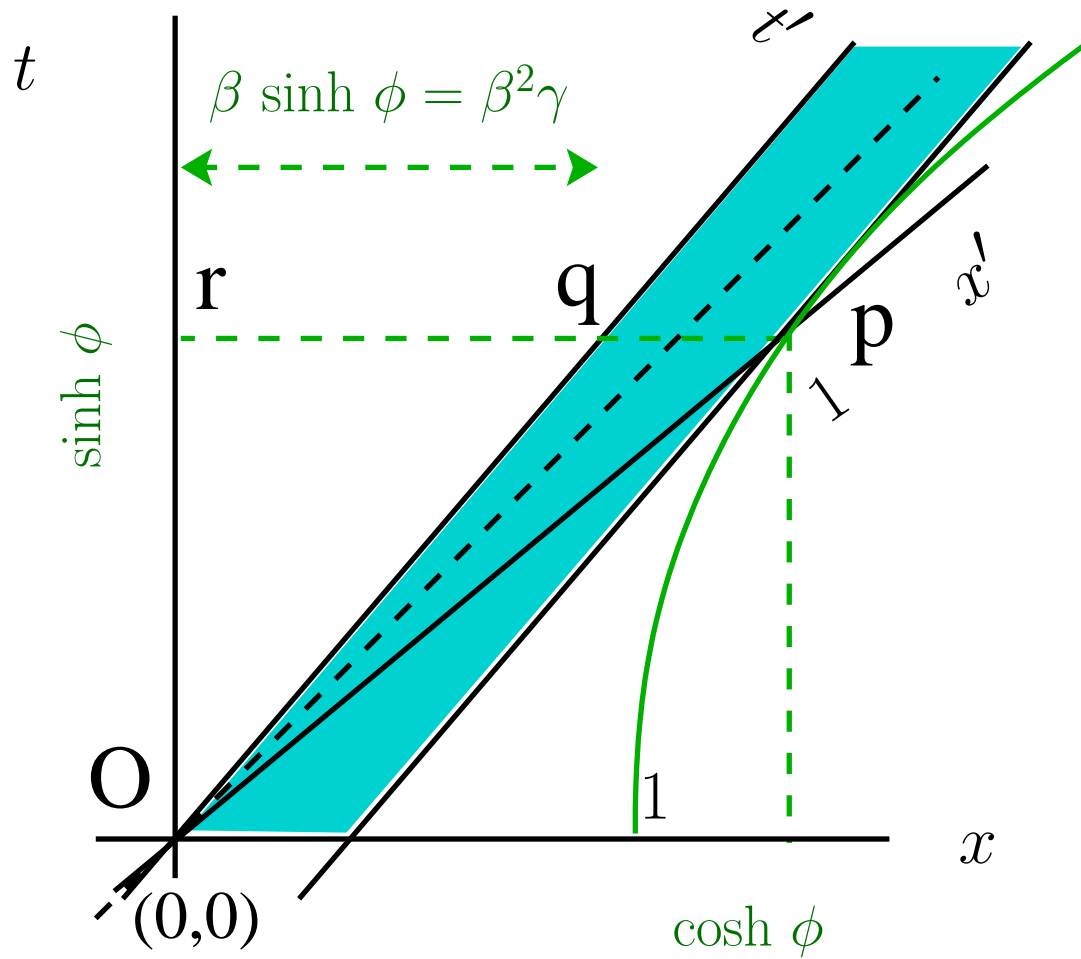
$$\sqrt{\Delta s^2(q, p)} = \cosh \phi - \beta \sinh \phi$$

# SR: worldsheet space contraction



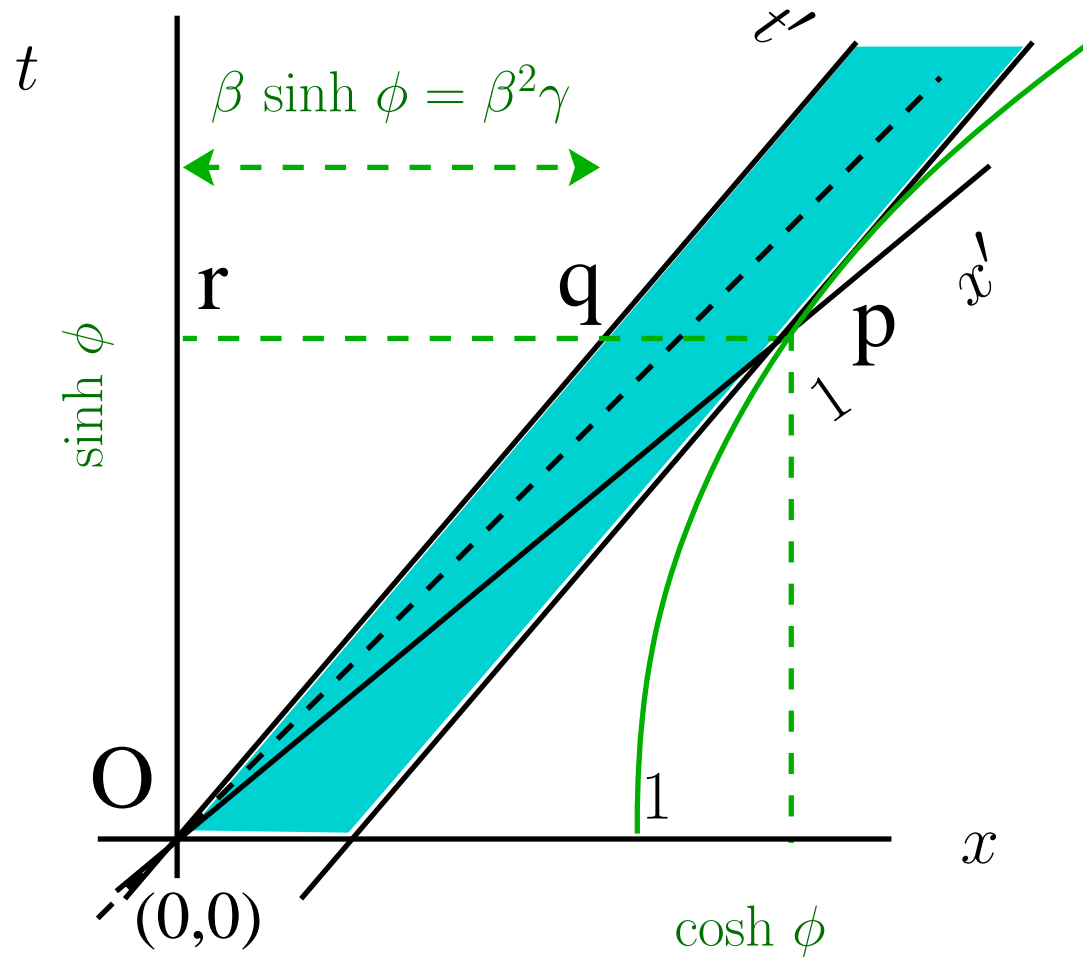
$$\sqrt{\Delta s^2(q, p)} = \gamma - \beta\beta\gamma$$

# SR: worldsheet space contraction



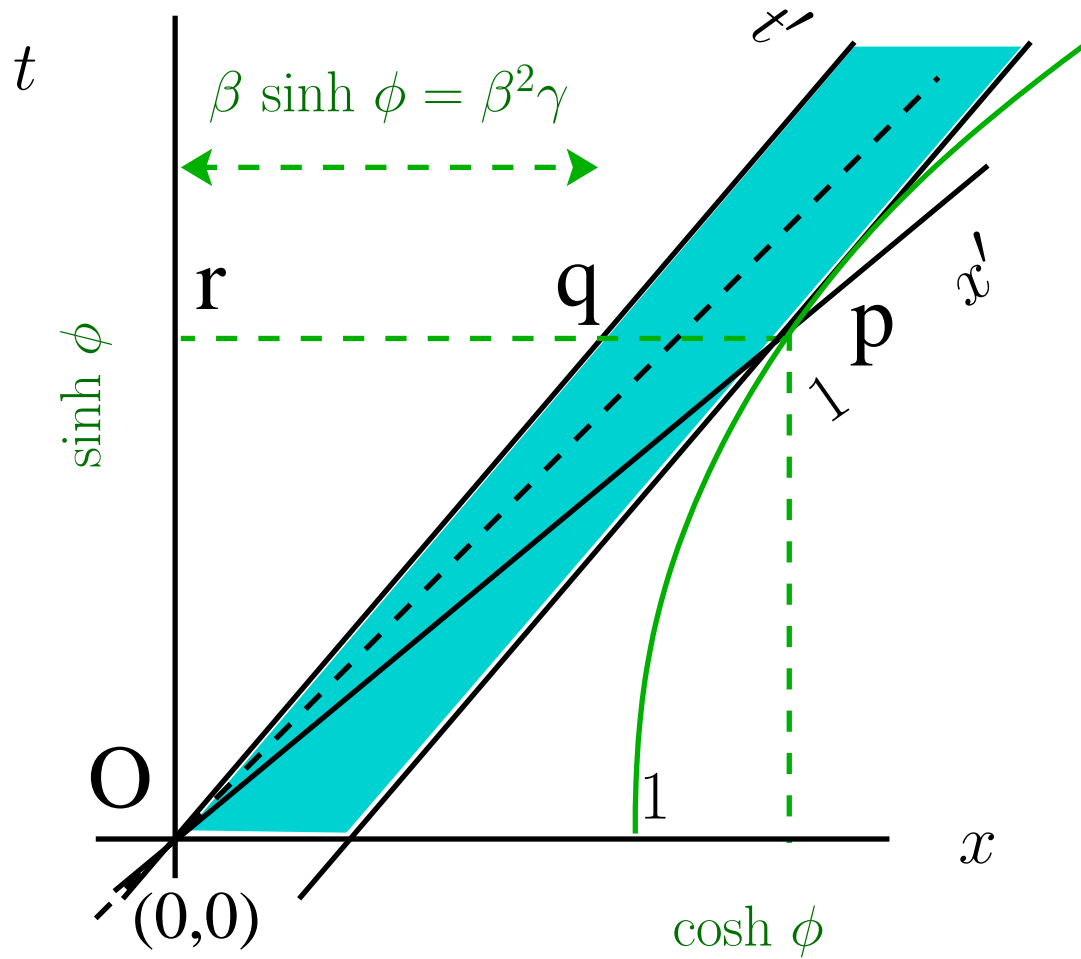
$$\sqrt{\Delta s^2(q, p)} = (1 - \beta^2)\gamma$$

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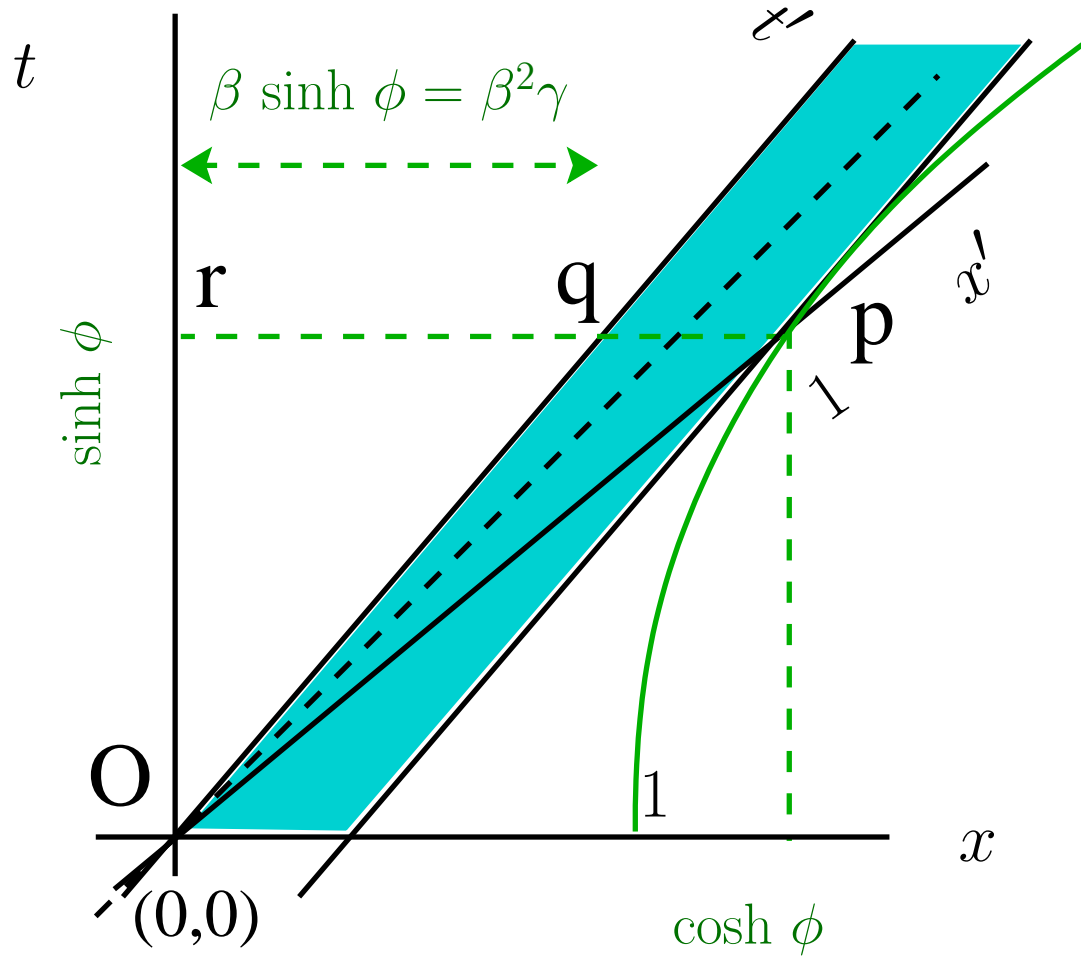
$$\sqrt{\Delta s^2(q, p)} = (1 - \beta^2)^{1+(-1/2)}$$

# SR: worldsheet space contraction



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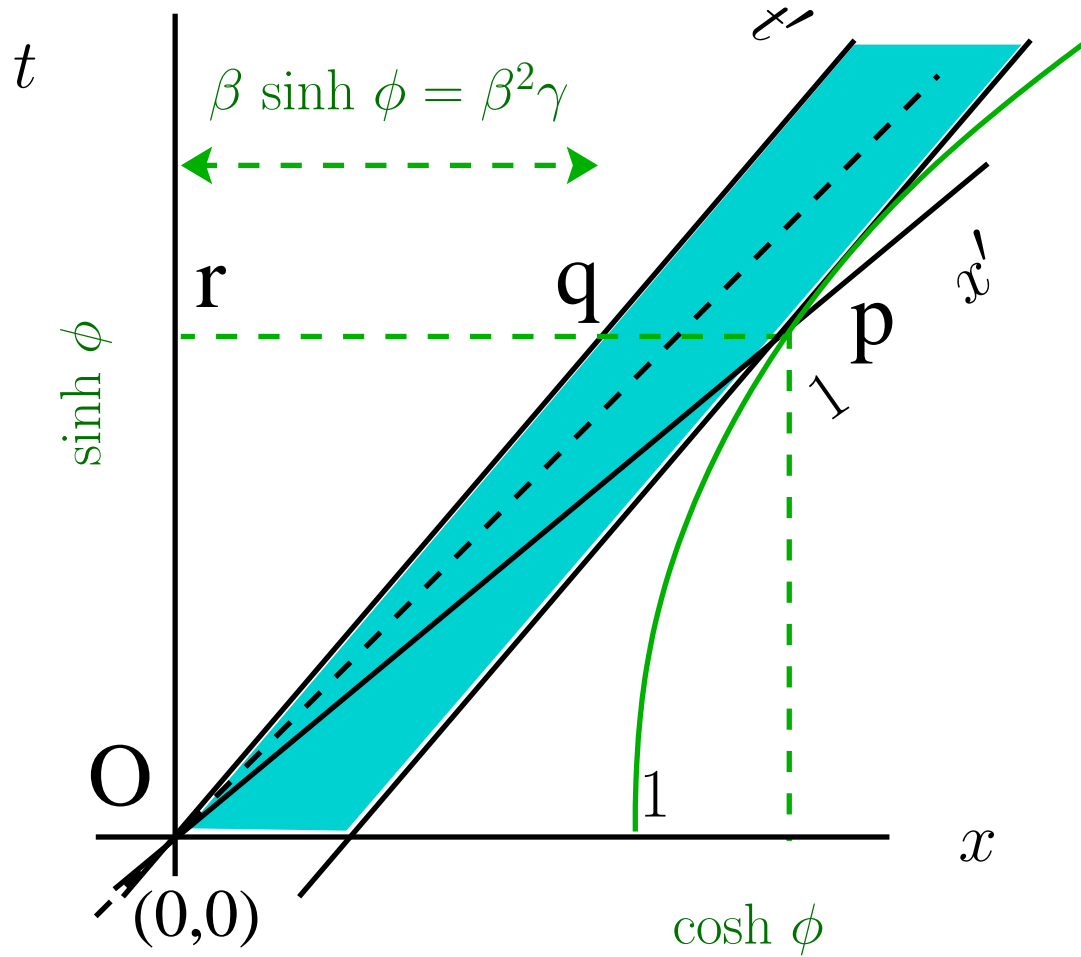
# SR: worldsheet space contraction



$$\sqrt{\Delta s^2(q, p)} = \gamma^{-1} < 1$$

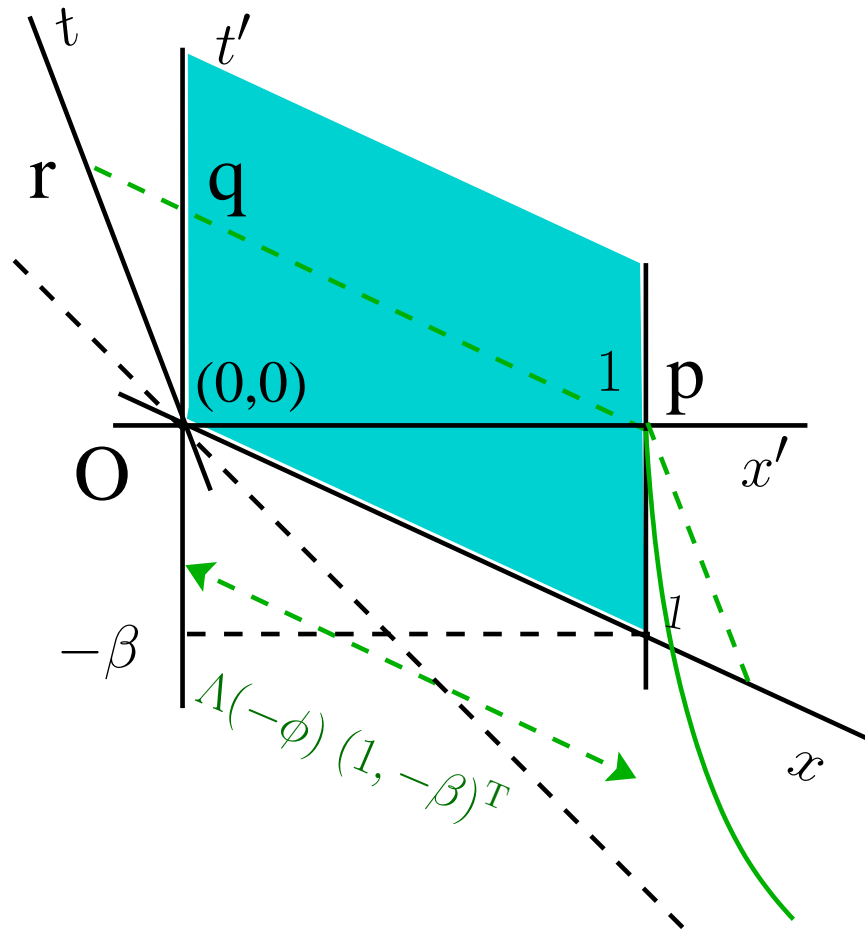


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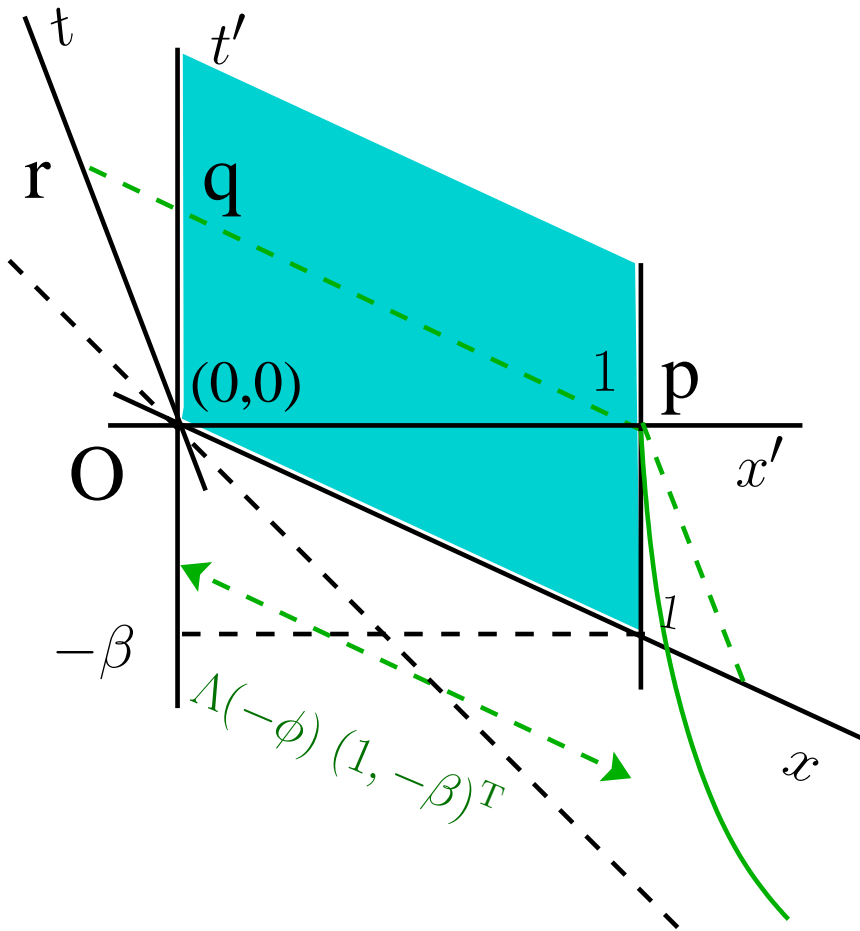


$$\sqrt{\Delta s^2(q, p)} = \gamma^{-1} < 1 \quad \text{worldsheet "space contraction"}$$

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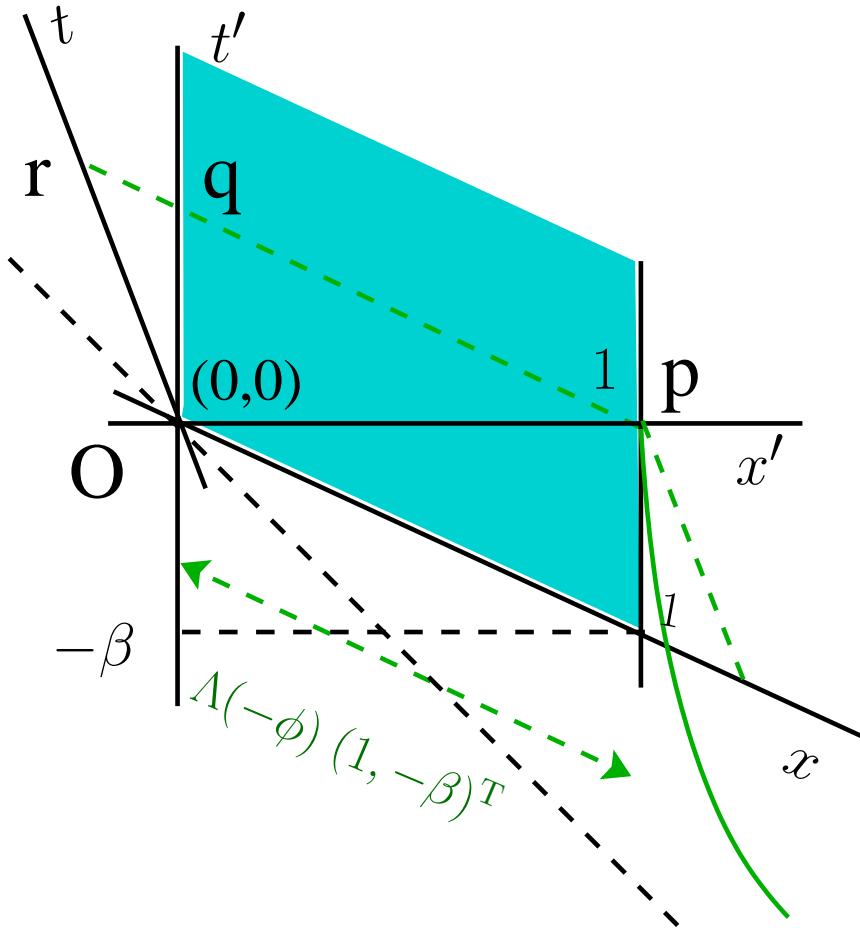


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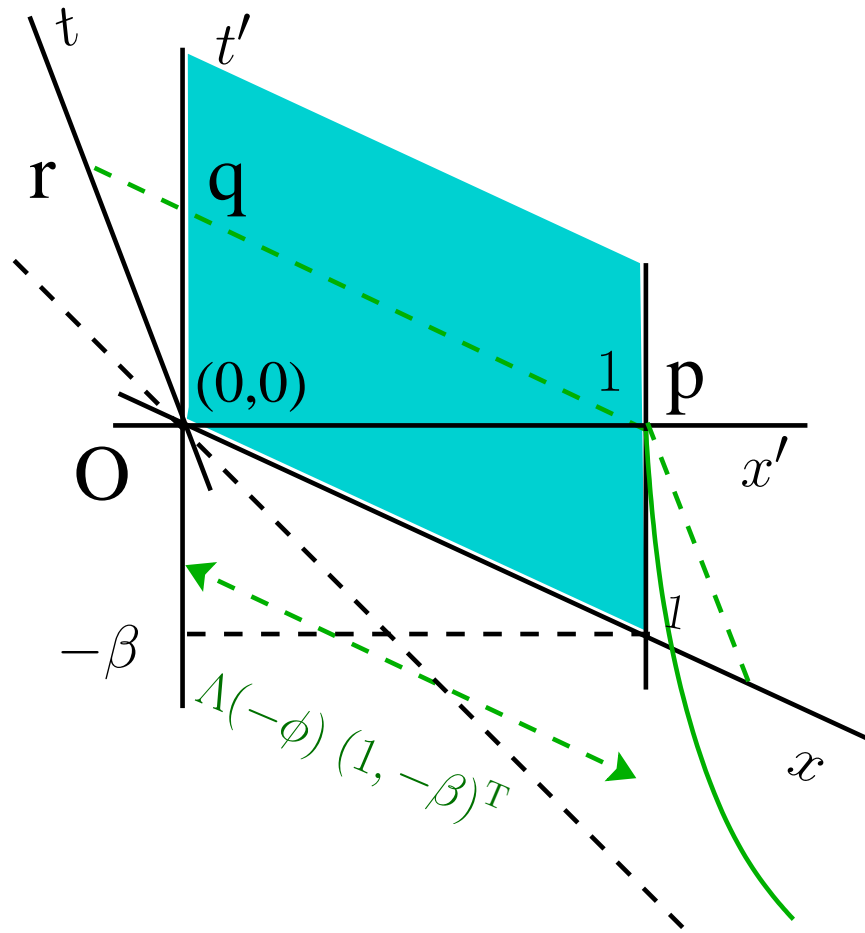
$$\Lambda^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\beta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cosh \phi - \beta \sinh \phi \\ \sinh \phi - \beta \cosh \phi \end{pmatrix}$$

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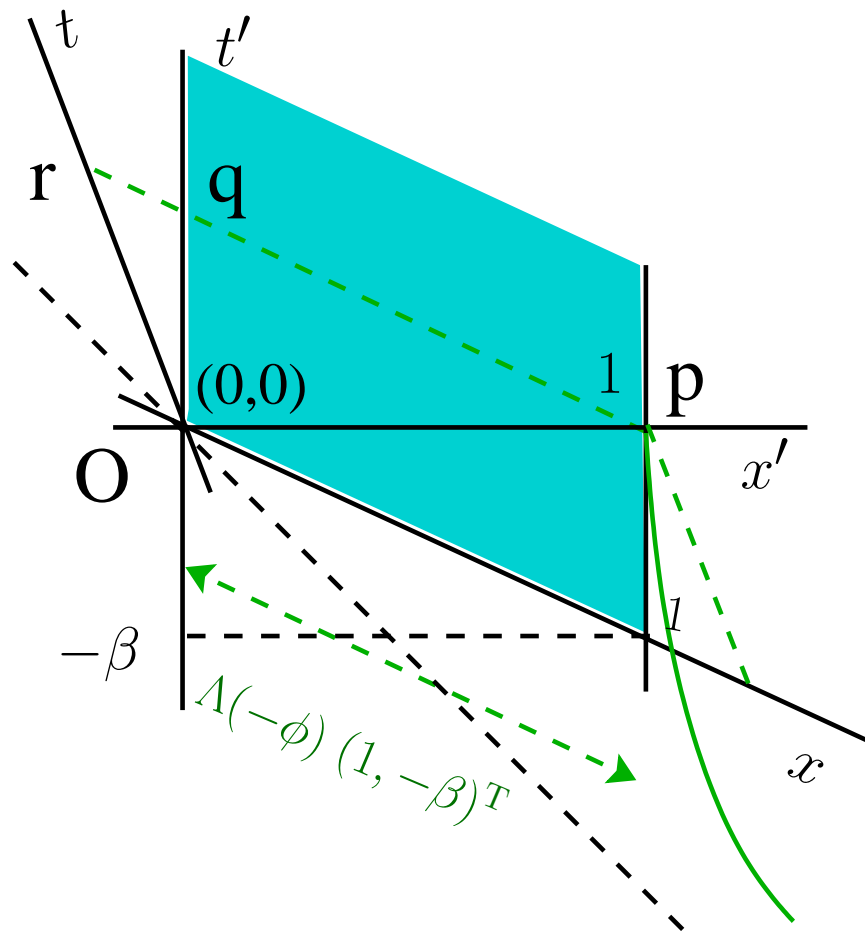
$$\Lambda^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\beta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cosh \phi (1 - \beta^2) \\ \cosh \phi (\tanh \phi - \tanh \phi) \end{pmatrix}$$

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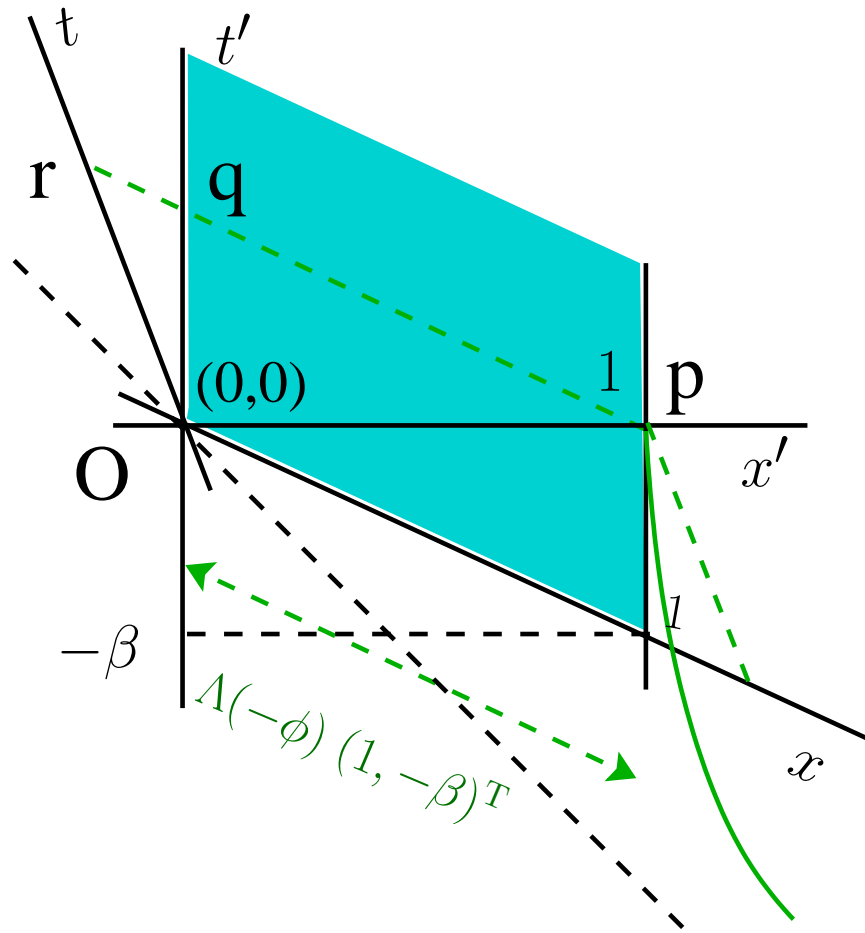
$$\Lambda^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\beta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma(1 - \beta^2) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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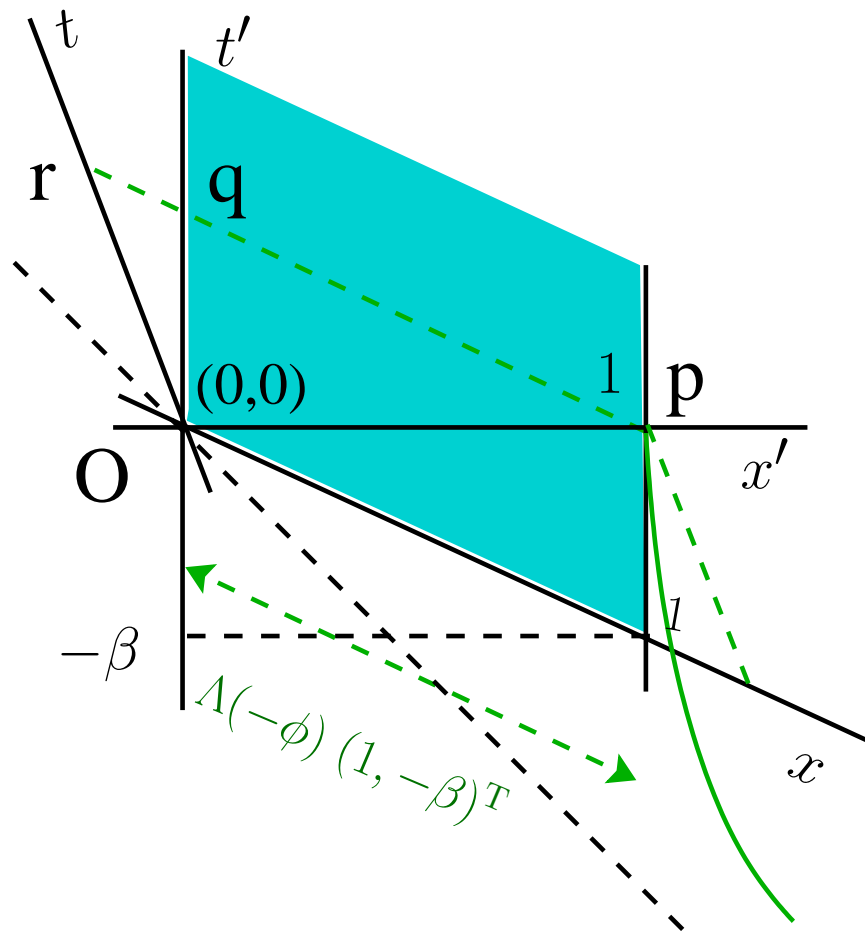
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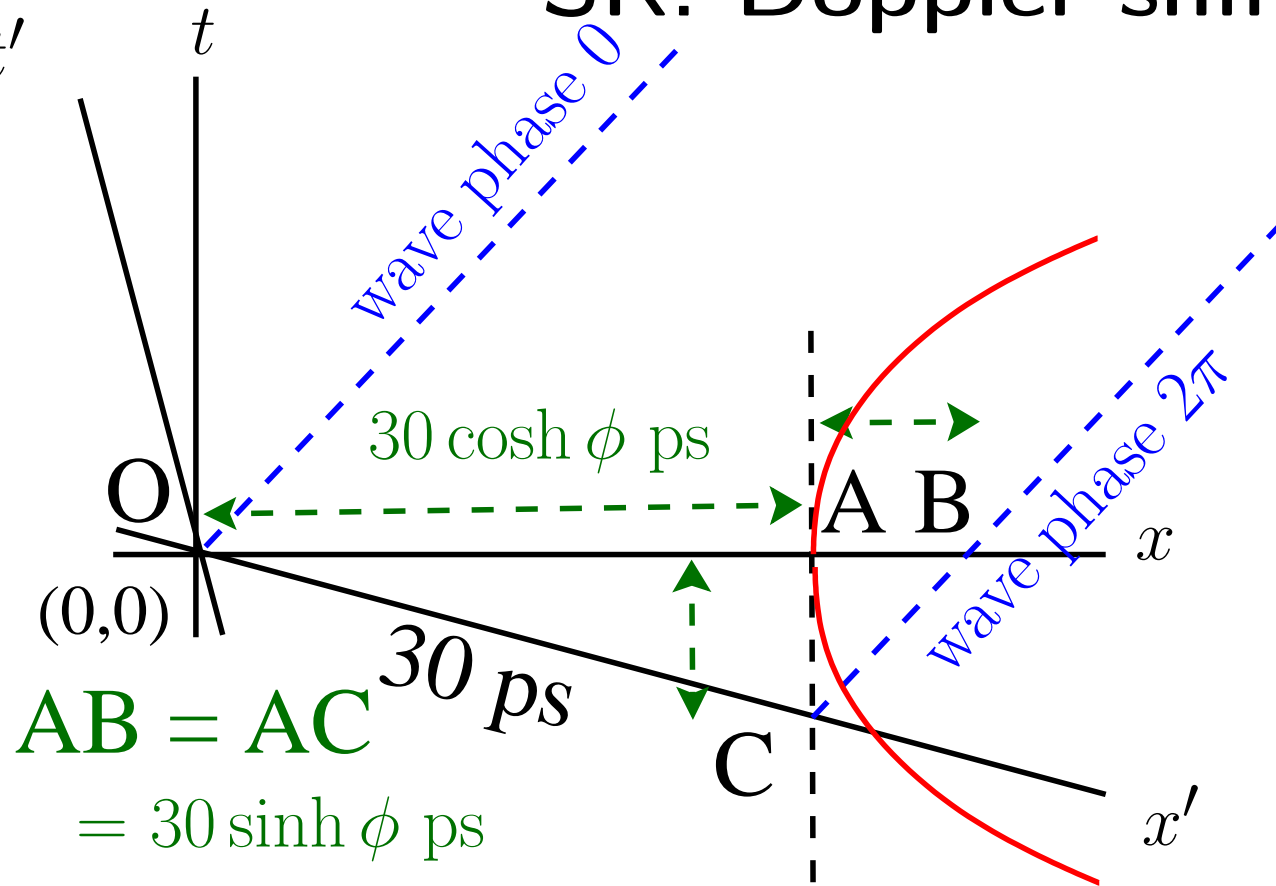
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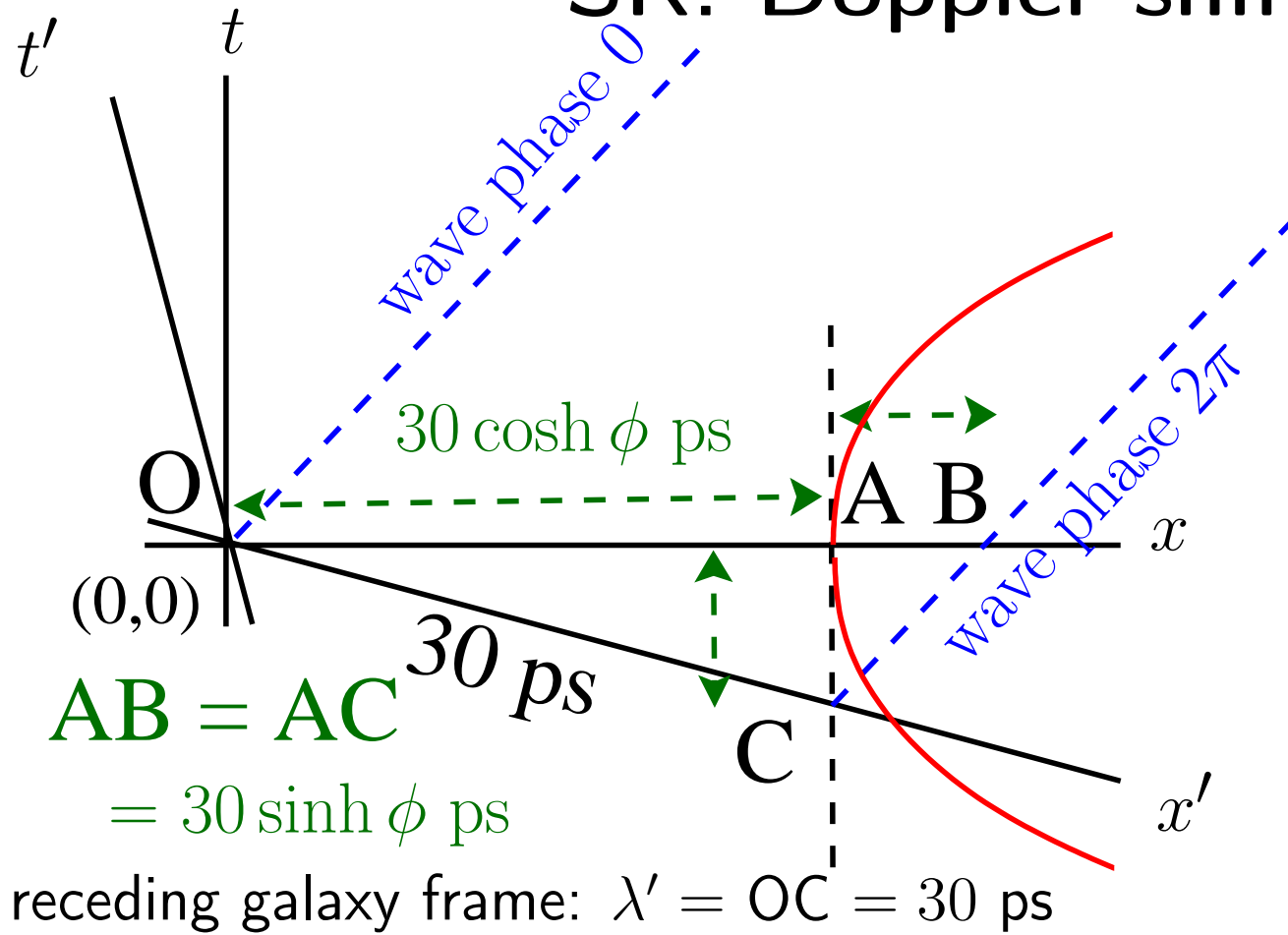
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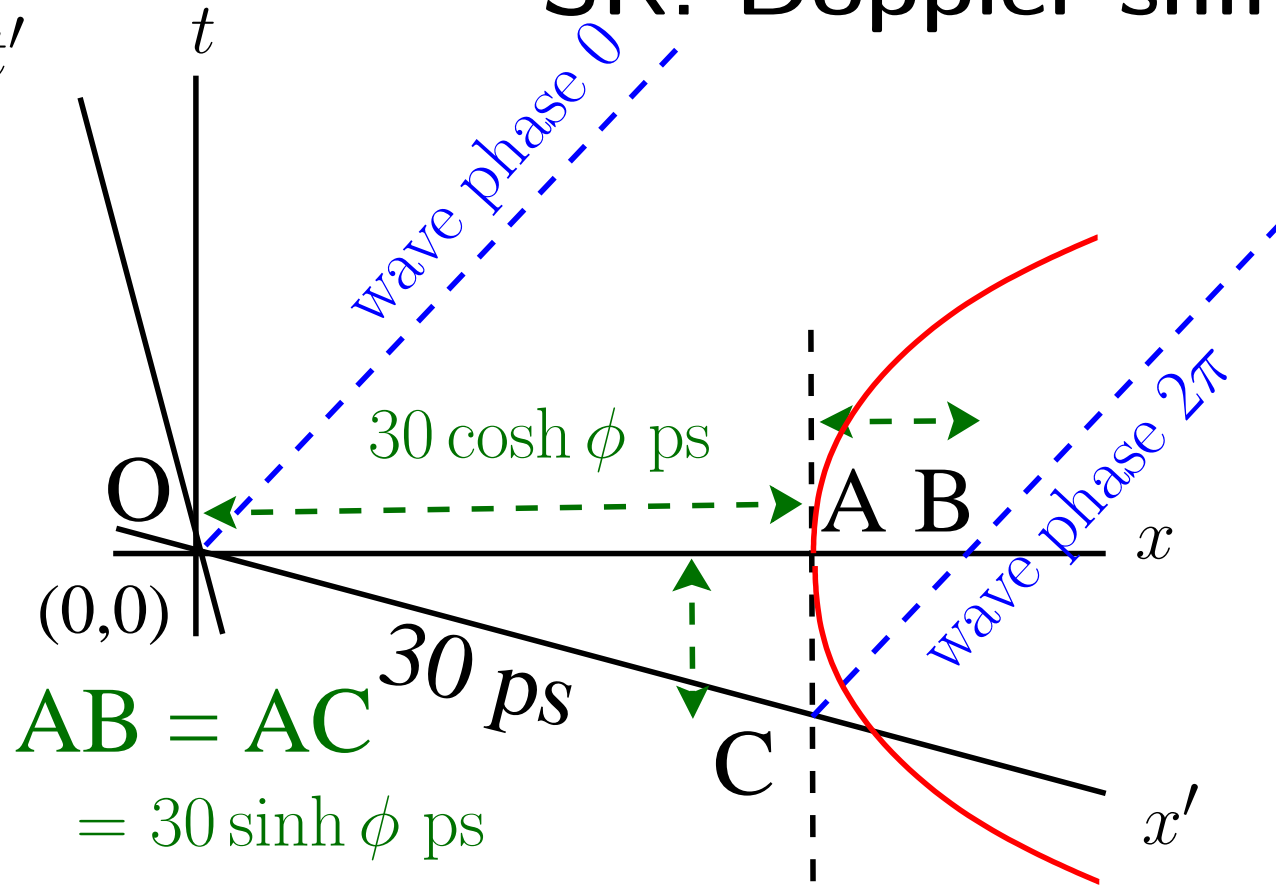
# SR: Doppler shift



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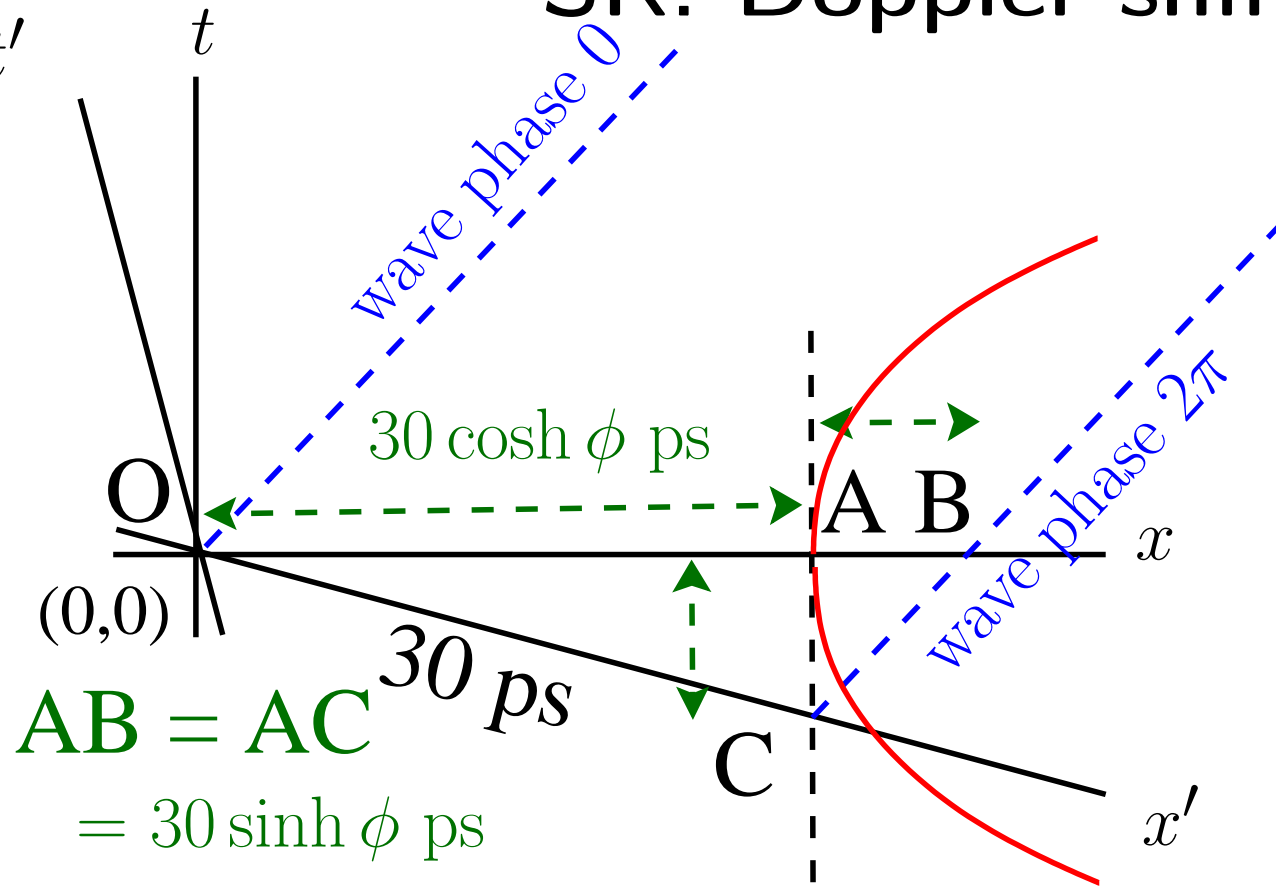
# SR: Doppler shift



receding galaxy frame:  $\lambda' = OC = 30 \text{ ps}$

Sun frame:  $\lambda = OB,$

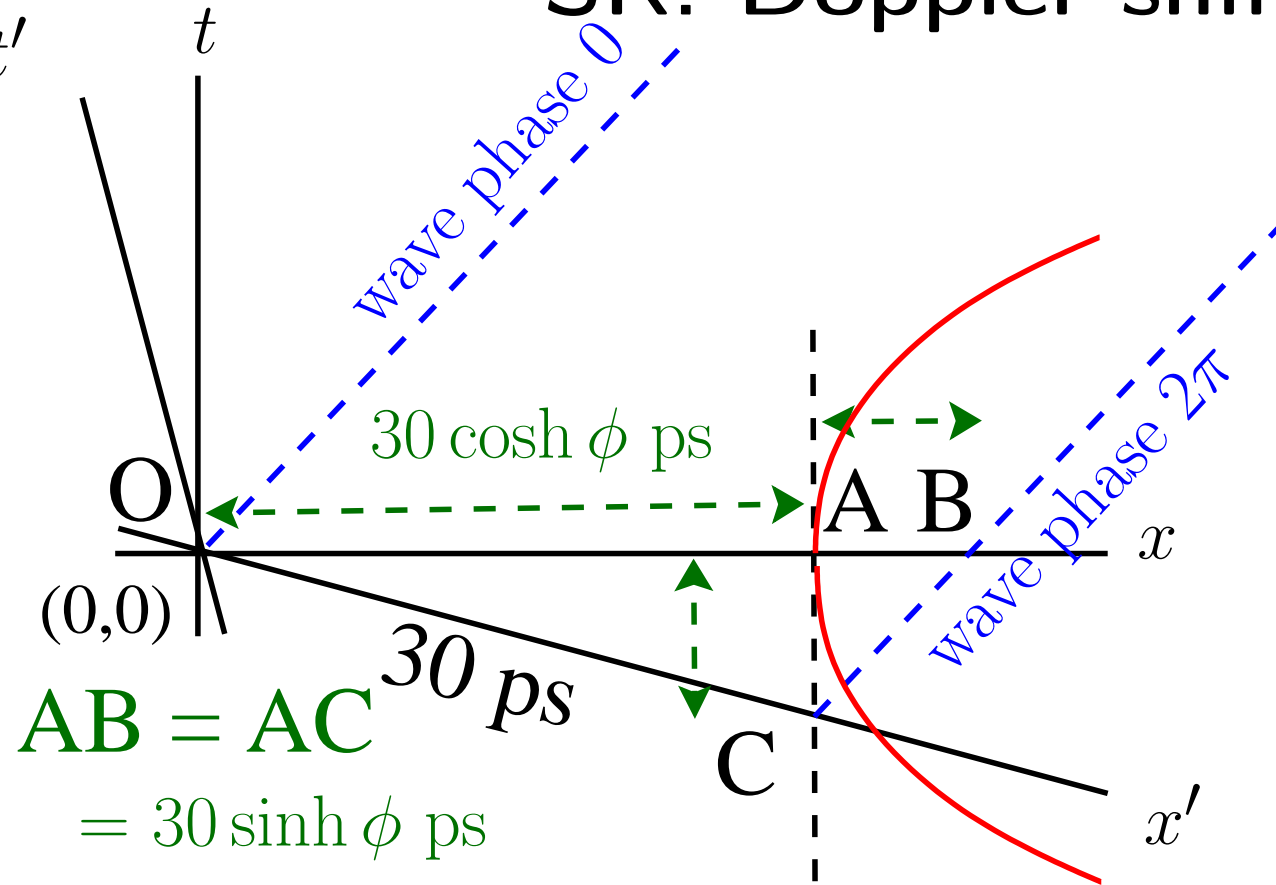
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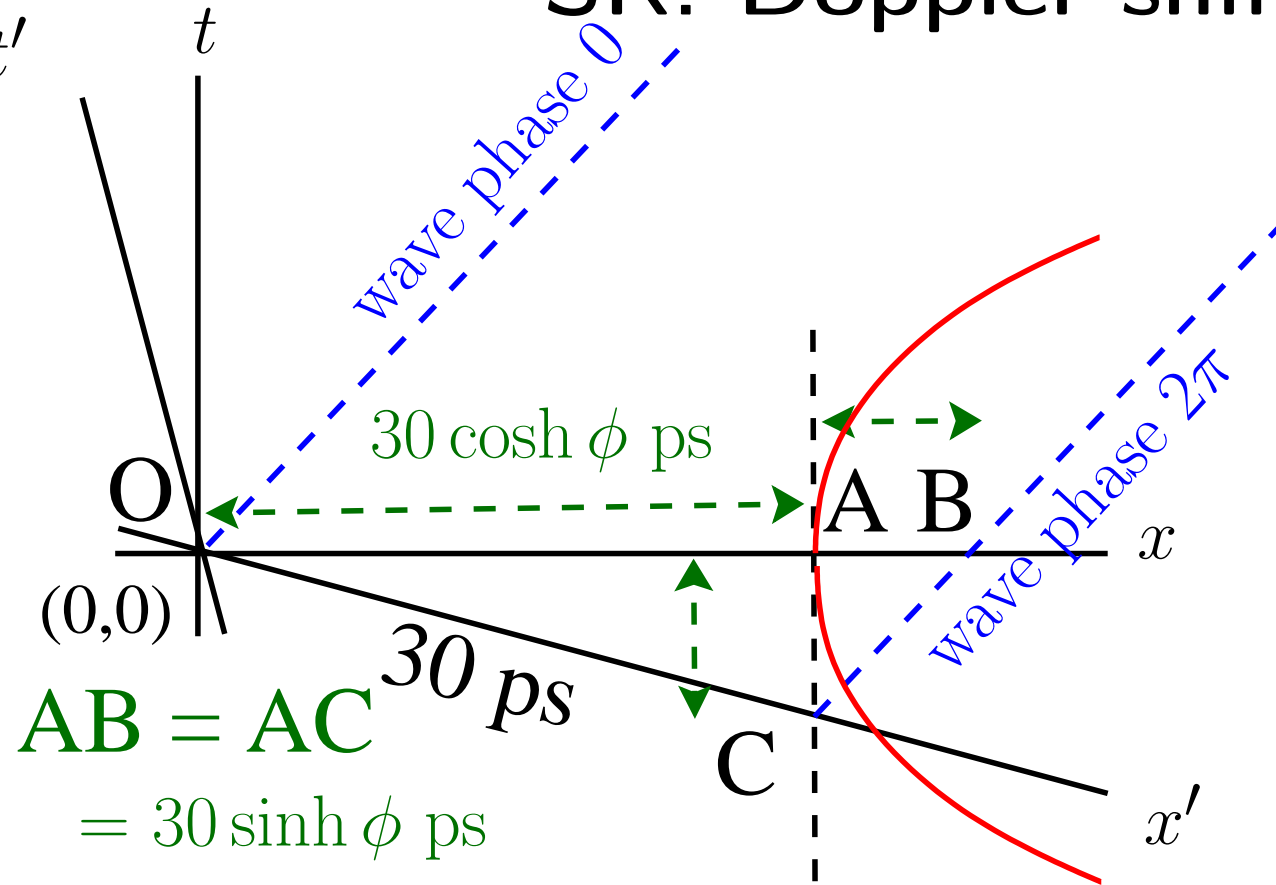
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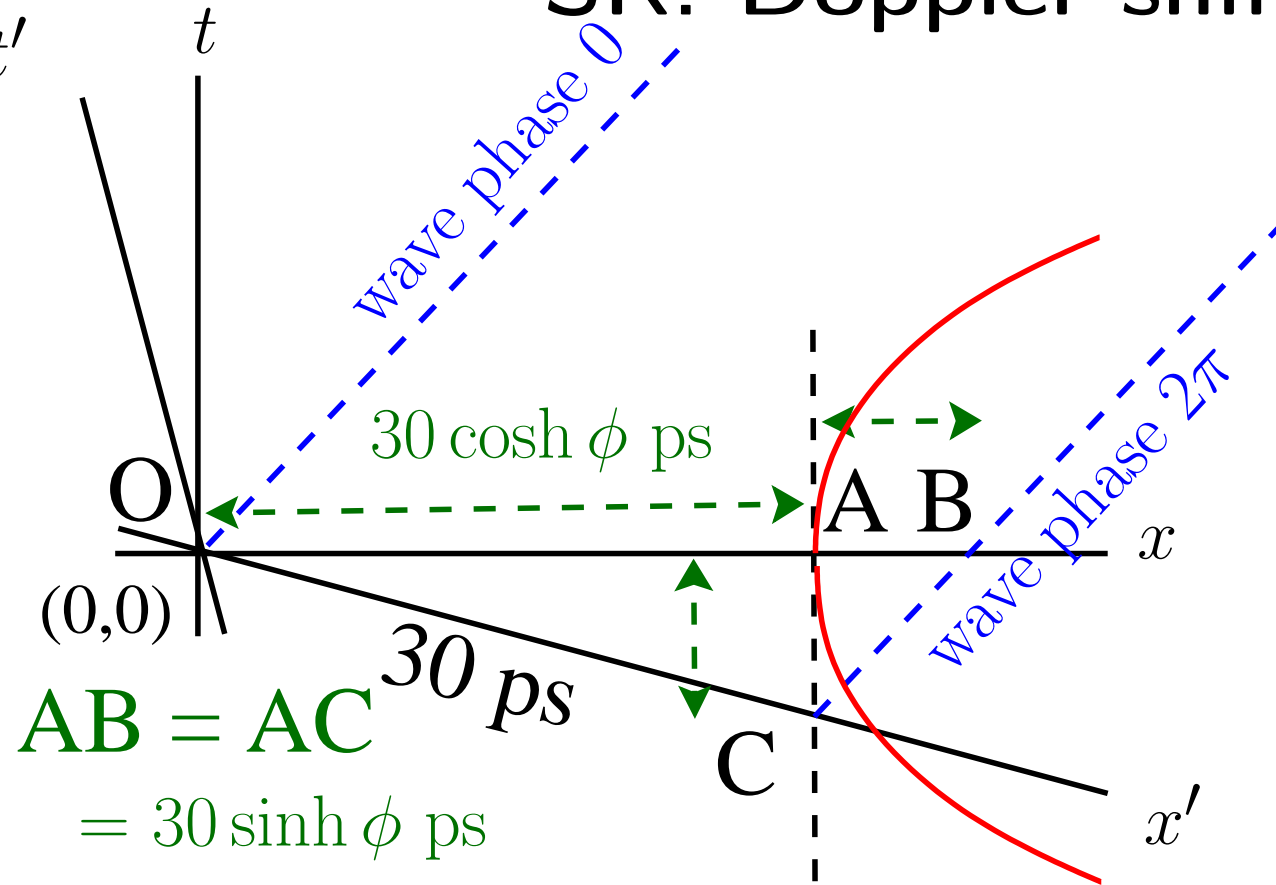
$$AB = AC = 30 \sinh \phi \text{ ps}$$

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$$1 + z := \lambda' / \lambda = OB / OC = \cosh \phi + \sinh \phi$$

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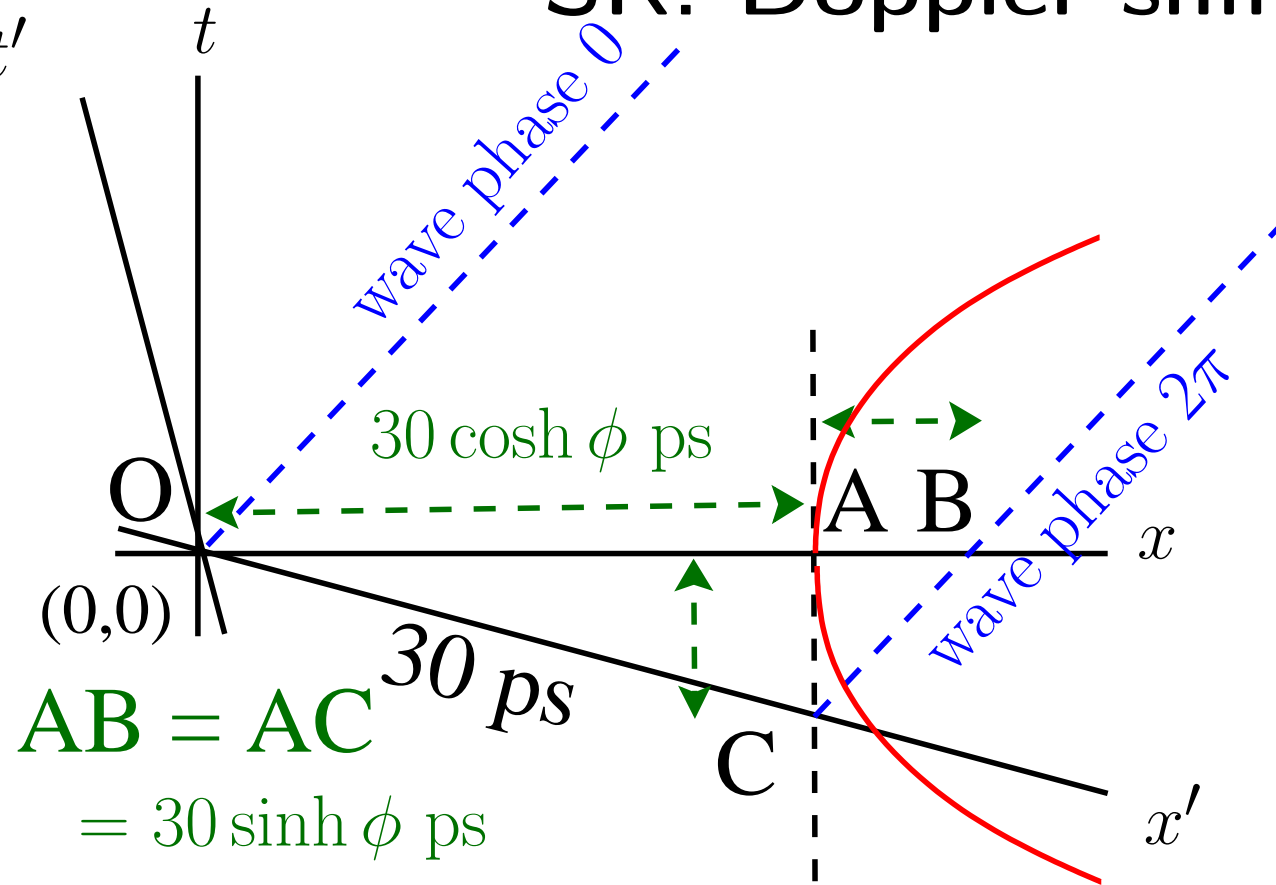
$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{AB} &= \mathbf{AC} \\
 &= 30 \sinh \phi \text{ ps}
 \end{aligned}$$

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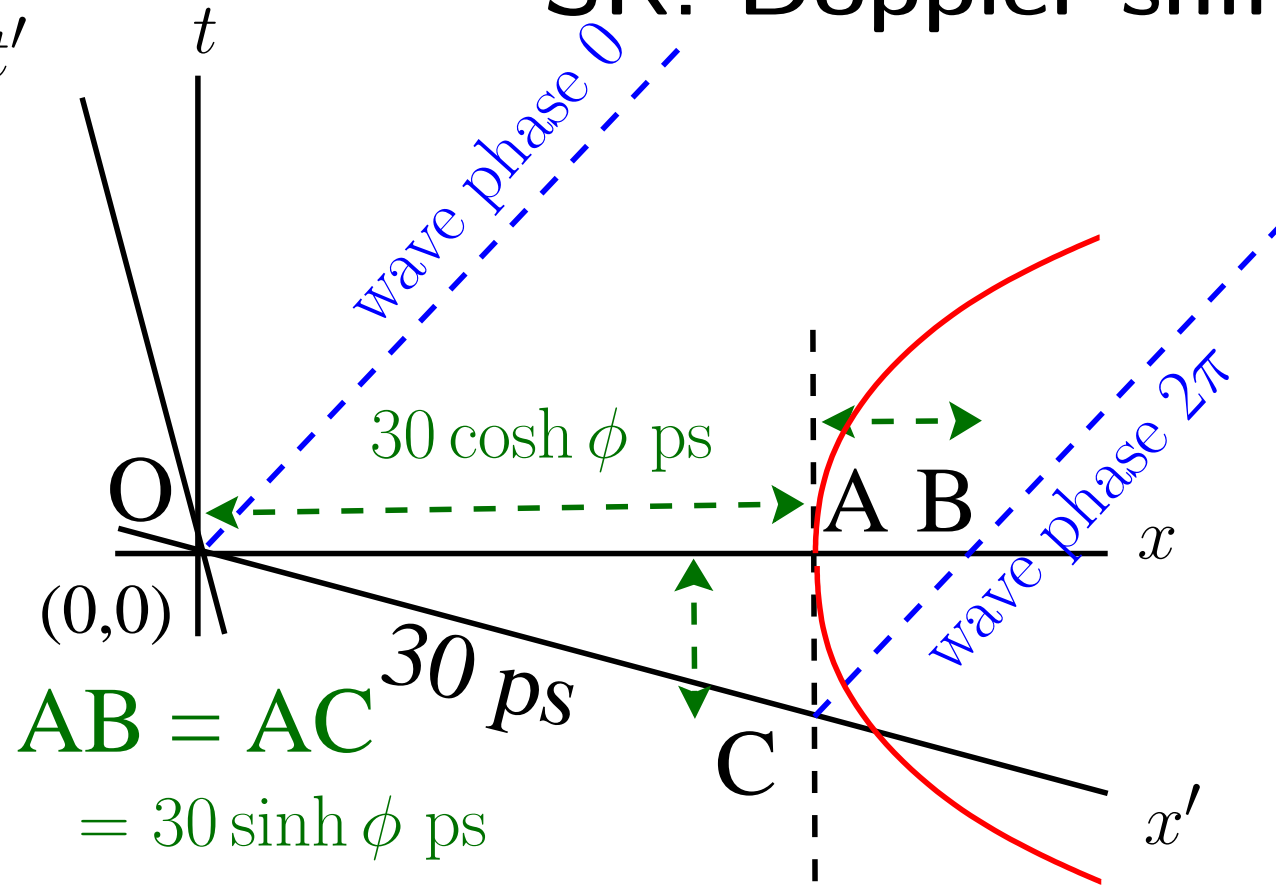
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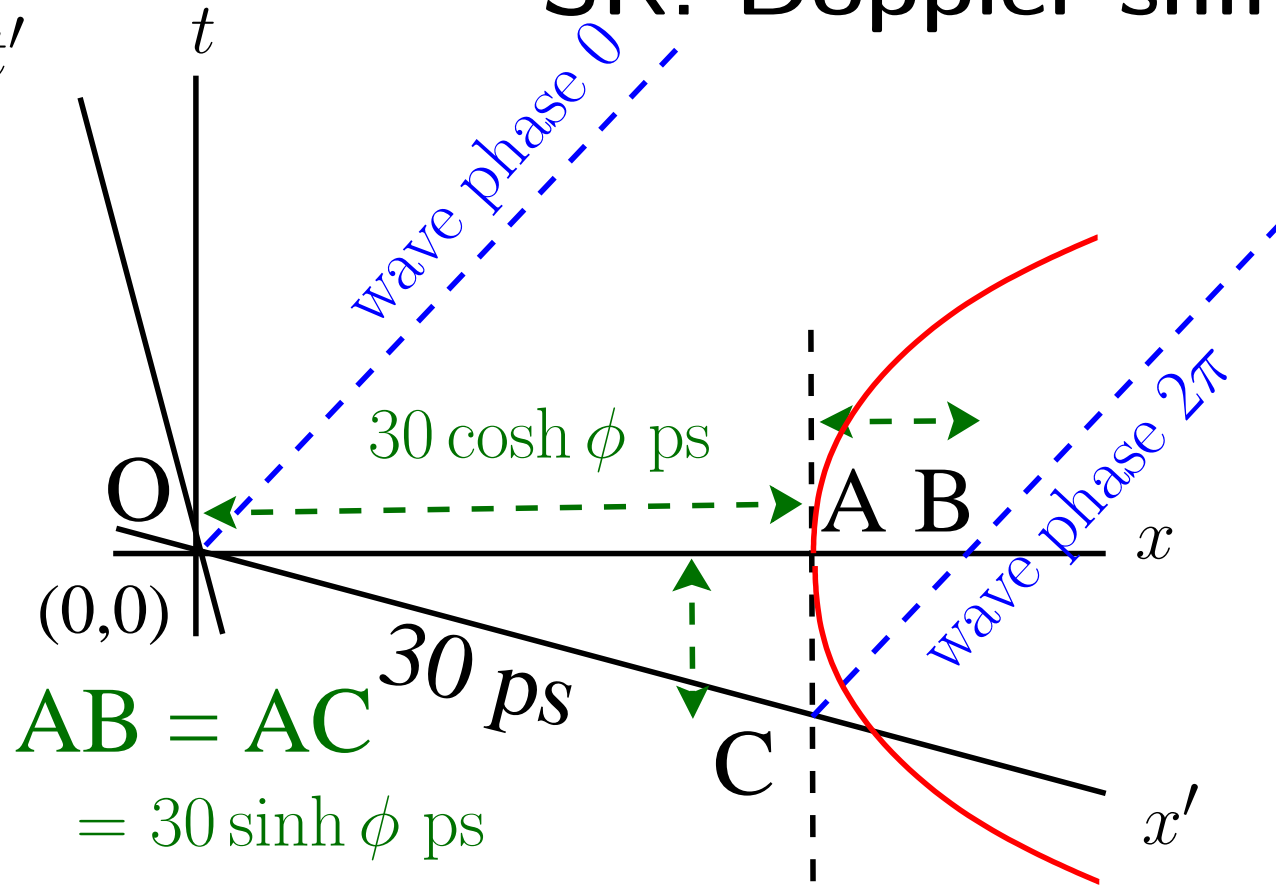
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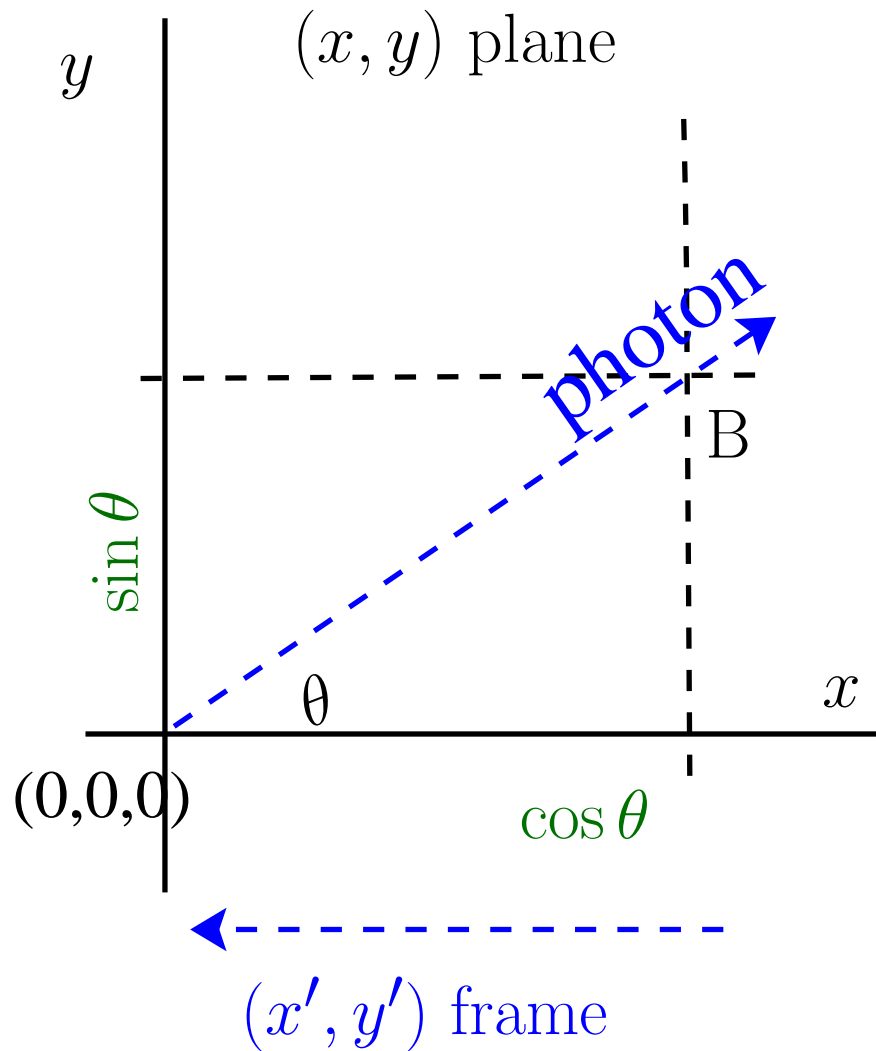
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redshift  $1 + z = e^\phi = \sqrt{\frac{1+\beta}{1-\beta}}$

$\Rightarrow$  when  $\phi \ll 1$ ,  $z \approx \phi \approx \beta$  (w: Taylor series)

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event B:  $(x, y, t) = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta, 1)$

$$\Lambda^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & 0 & \beta\gamma \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ \beta\gamma & 0 & \gamma \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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event B:  $(x, y, t) = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta, 1)$

$$\Lambda^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma \cos \theta + \beta \gamma \\ \sin \theta \\ \beta \gamma \cos \theta + \gamma \end{pmatrix}$$

# SR: relativistic aberration

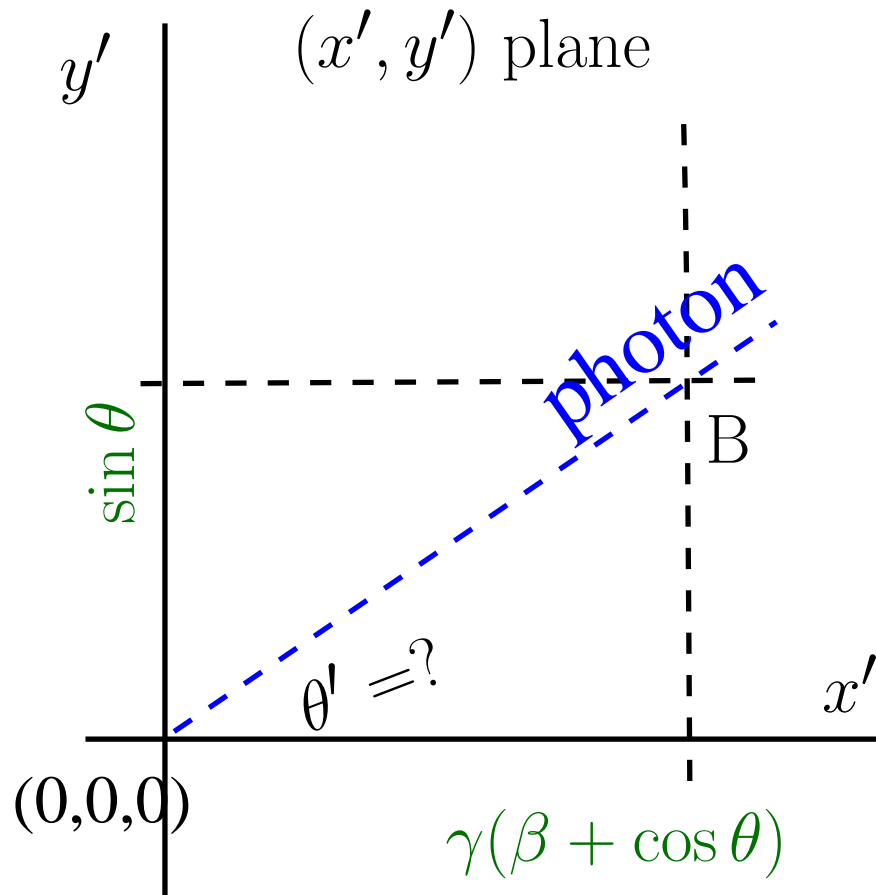
event B:  $(x, y, t) = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta, 1)$

$$\Lambda^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta \\ \sin \theta \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma(\cos \theta + \beta) \\ \sin \theta \\ \gamma(1 + \beta \cos \theta) \end{pmatrix}$$



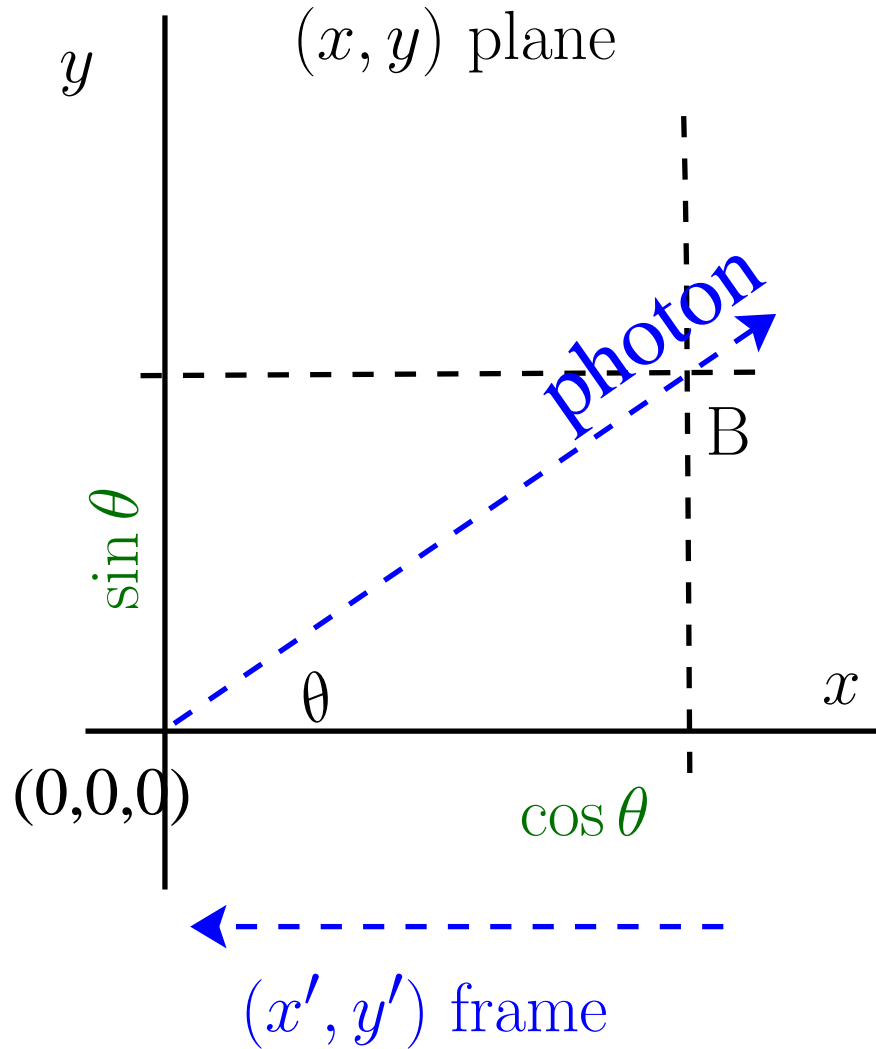
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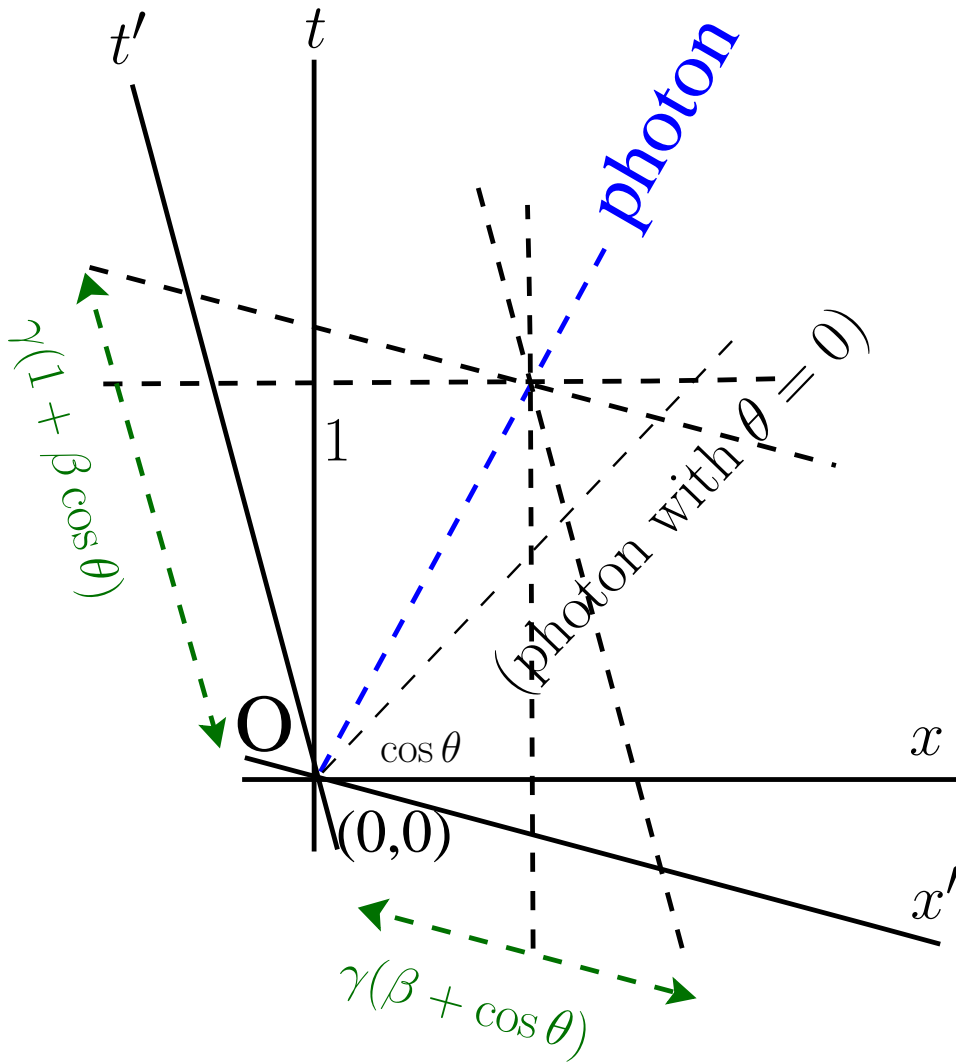
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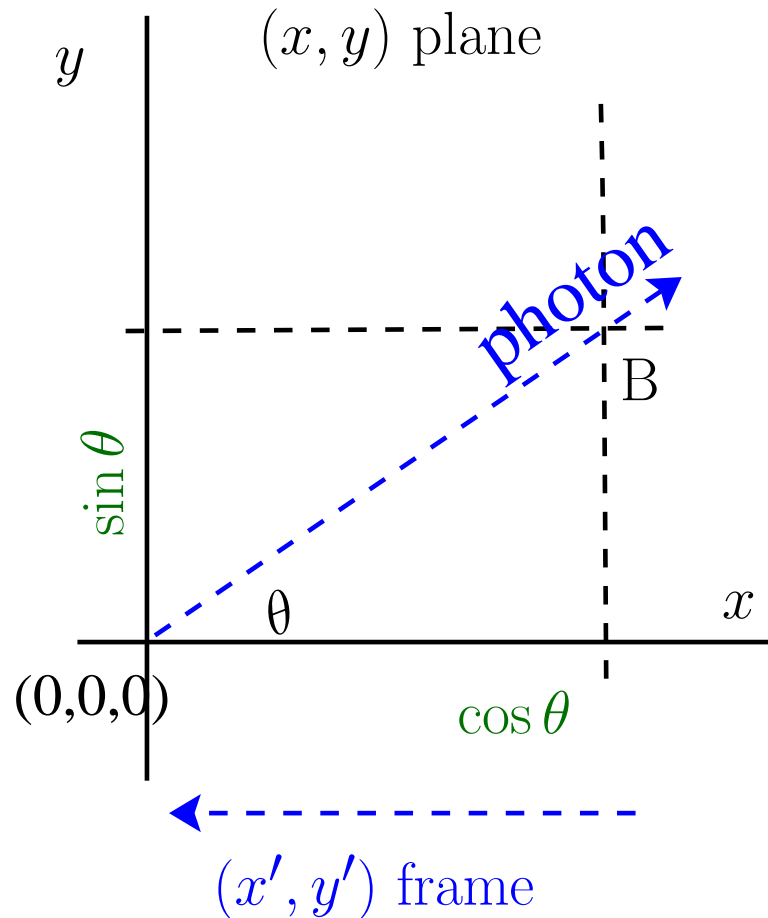
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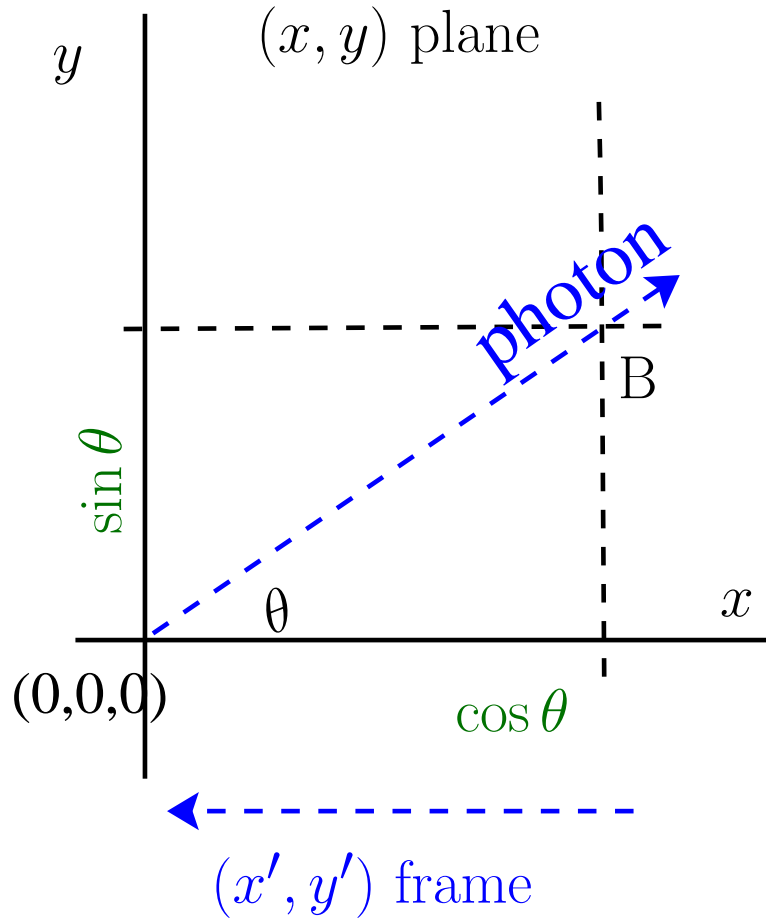
# SR: relativistic aberration

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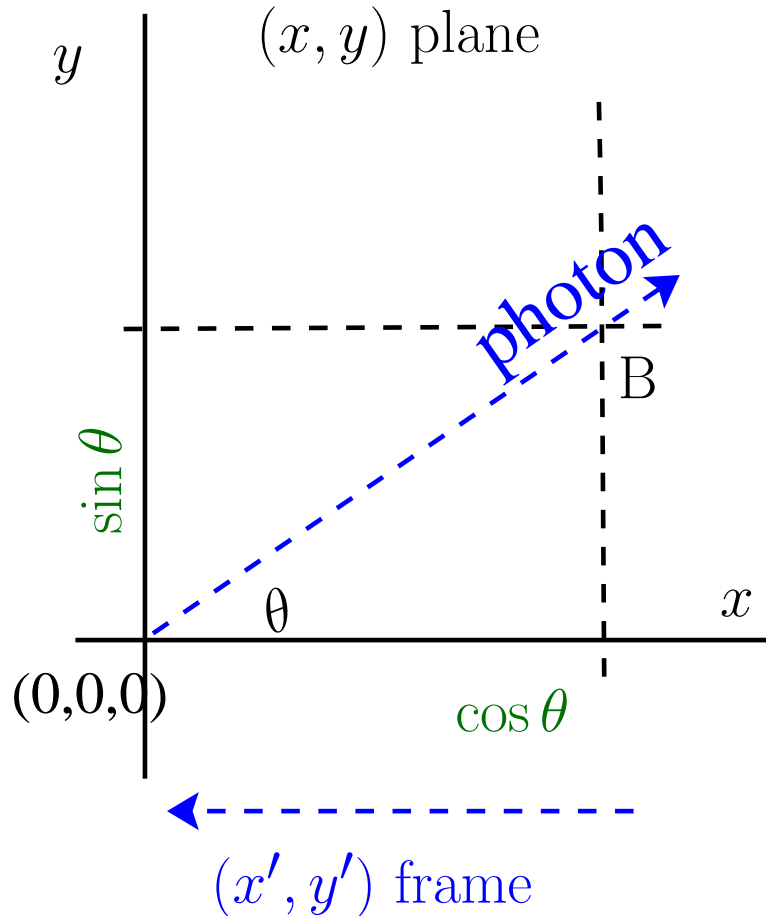
event B:  $(x, y, t) = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta, 1)$



$$\tan \theta' = \frac{\sin \theta}{\gamma(\beta + \cos \theta)}$$

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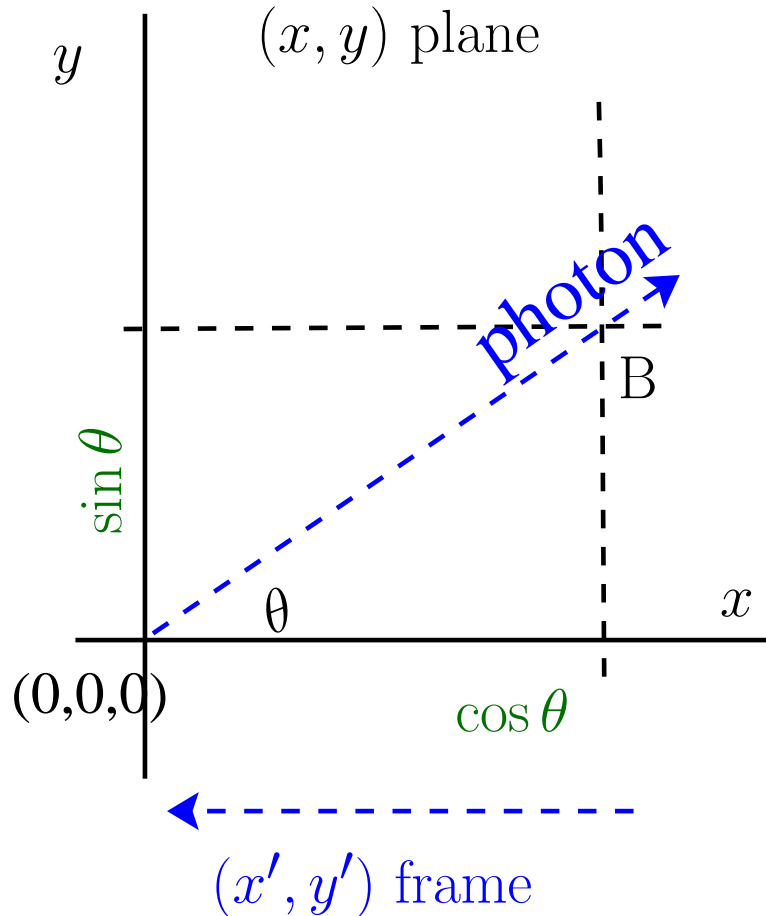
event B:  $(x, y, t) = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta, 1)$



$$\tan \theta' = \frac{\sin \theta}{\gamma(\beta + \cos \theta)} < \tan \theta \text{ if } 0 < \beta < 1 \quad \underline{\text{w: Relativistic aberration}}$$

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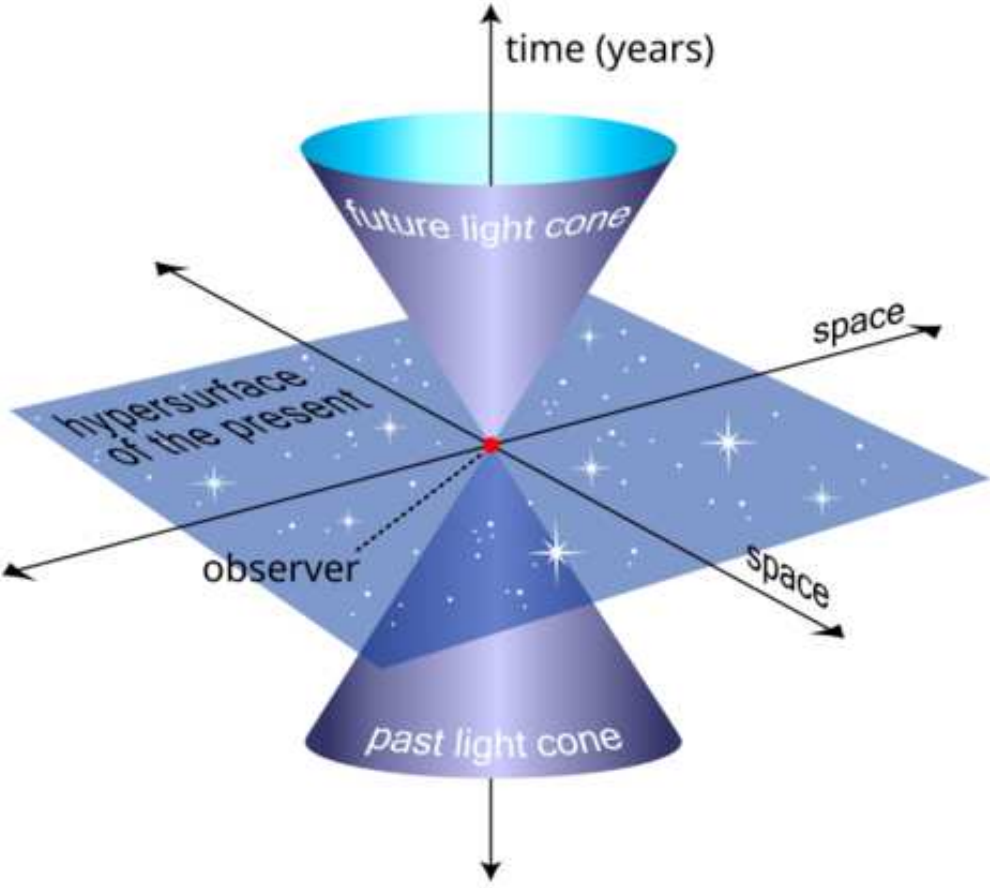
event B:  $(x, y, t) = (\cos \theta, \sin \theta, 1)$



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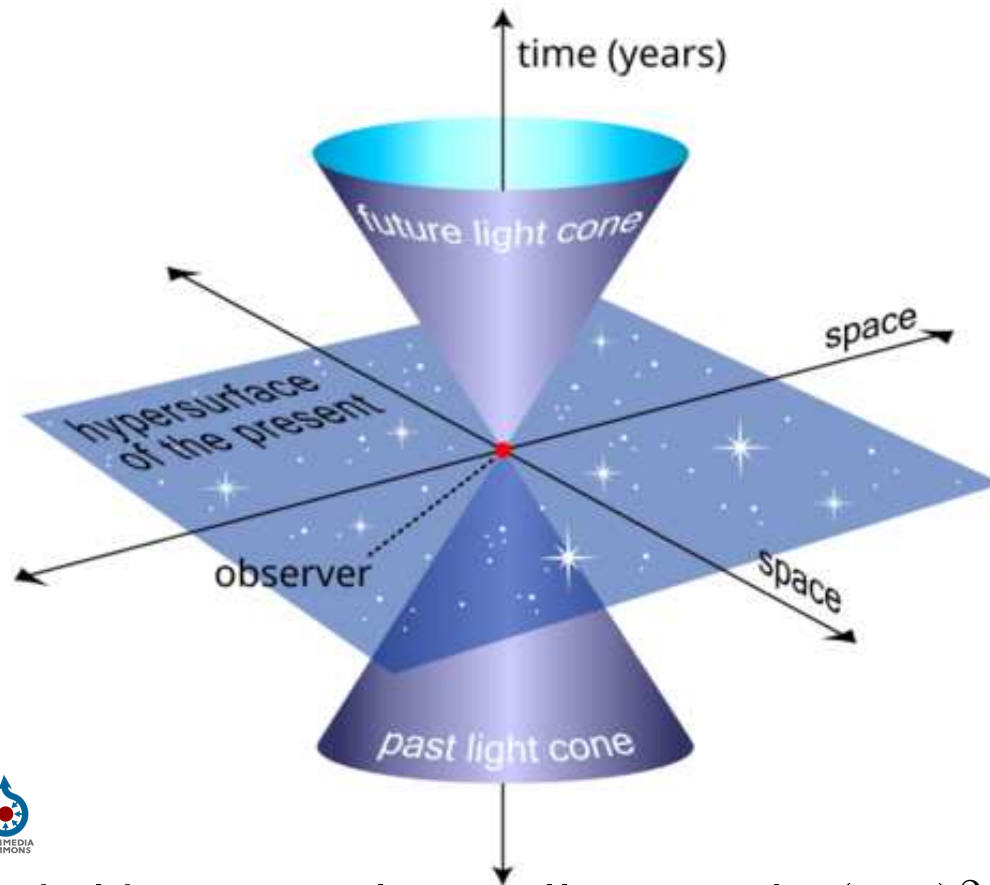
$\Rightarrow$  relativistic beaming, e.g. AGN jets

# SR: world line



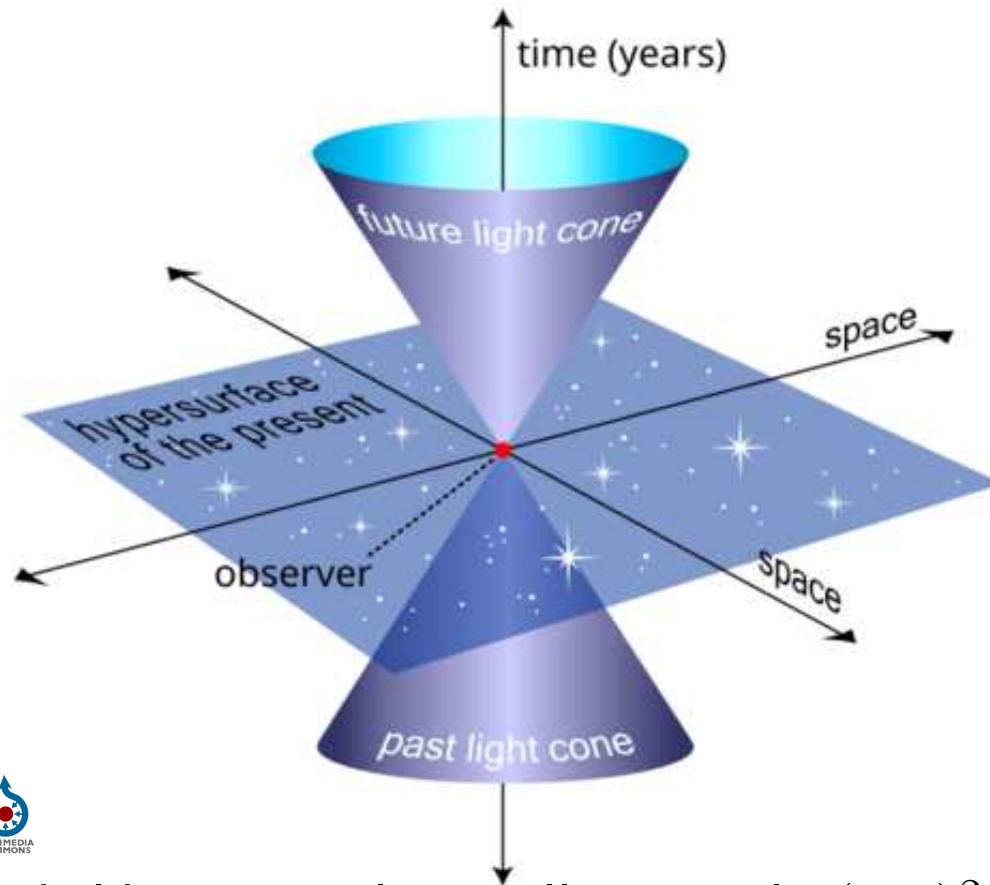


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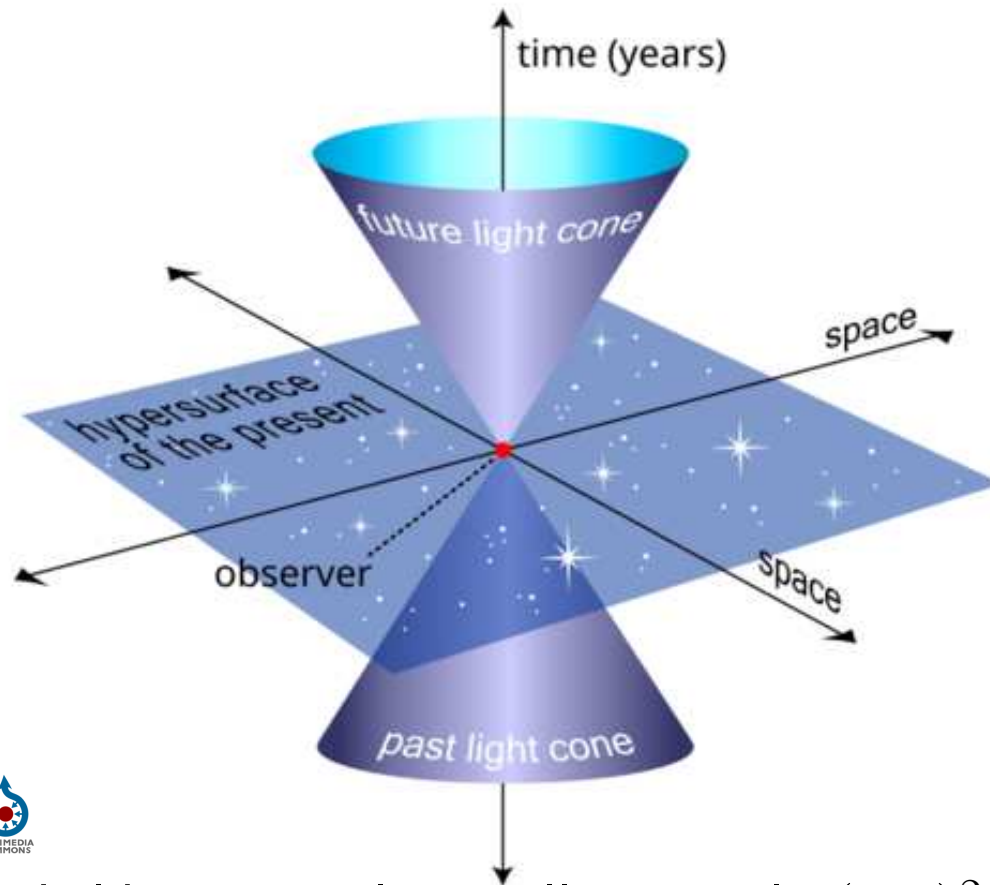
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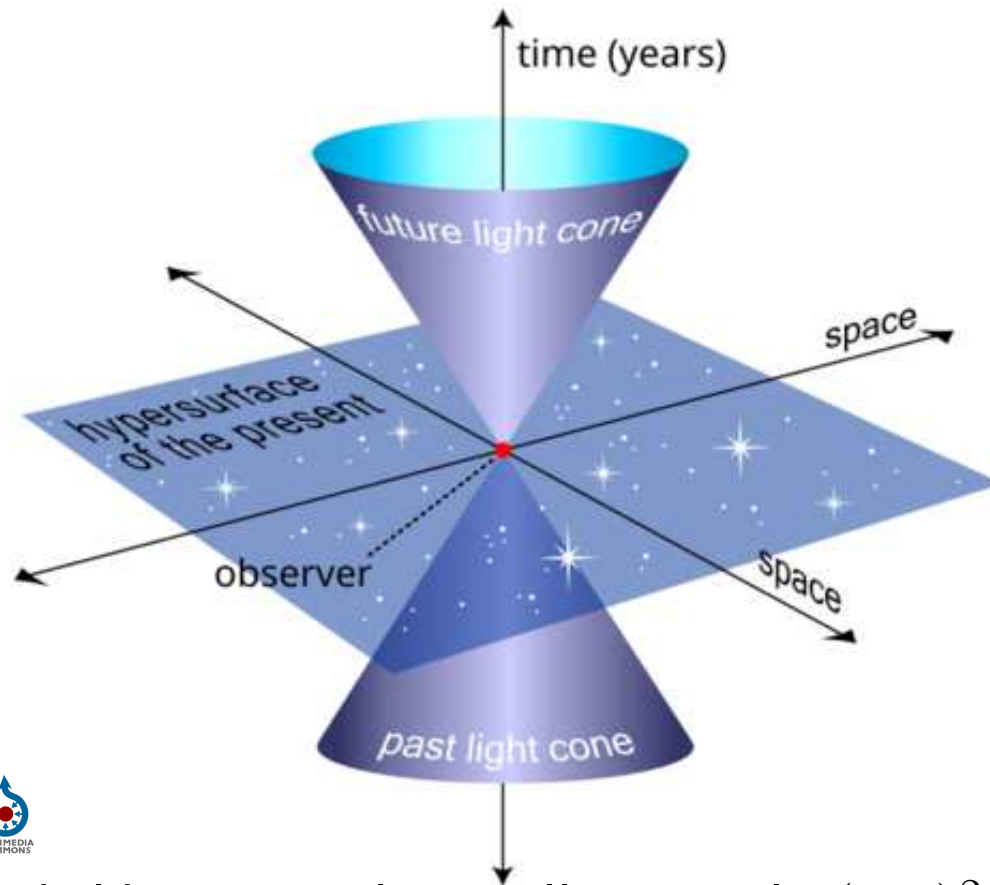
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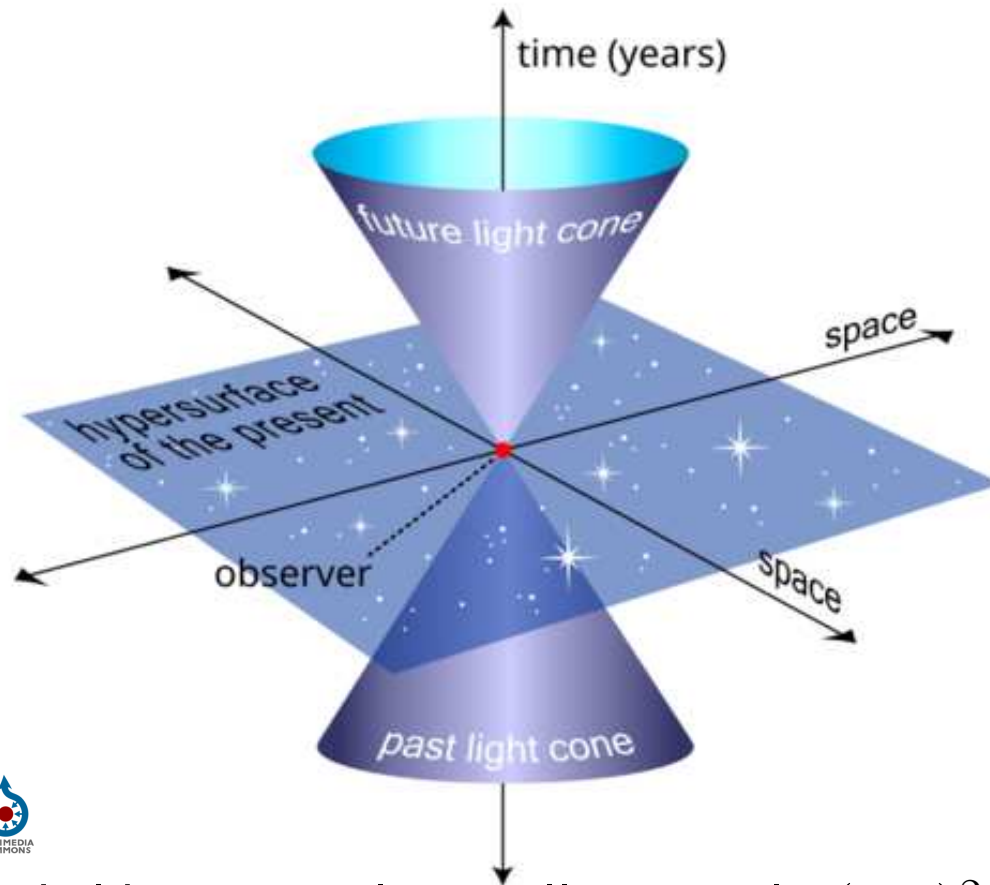
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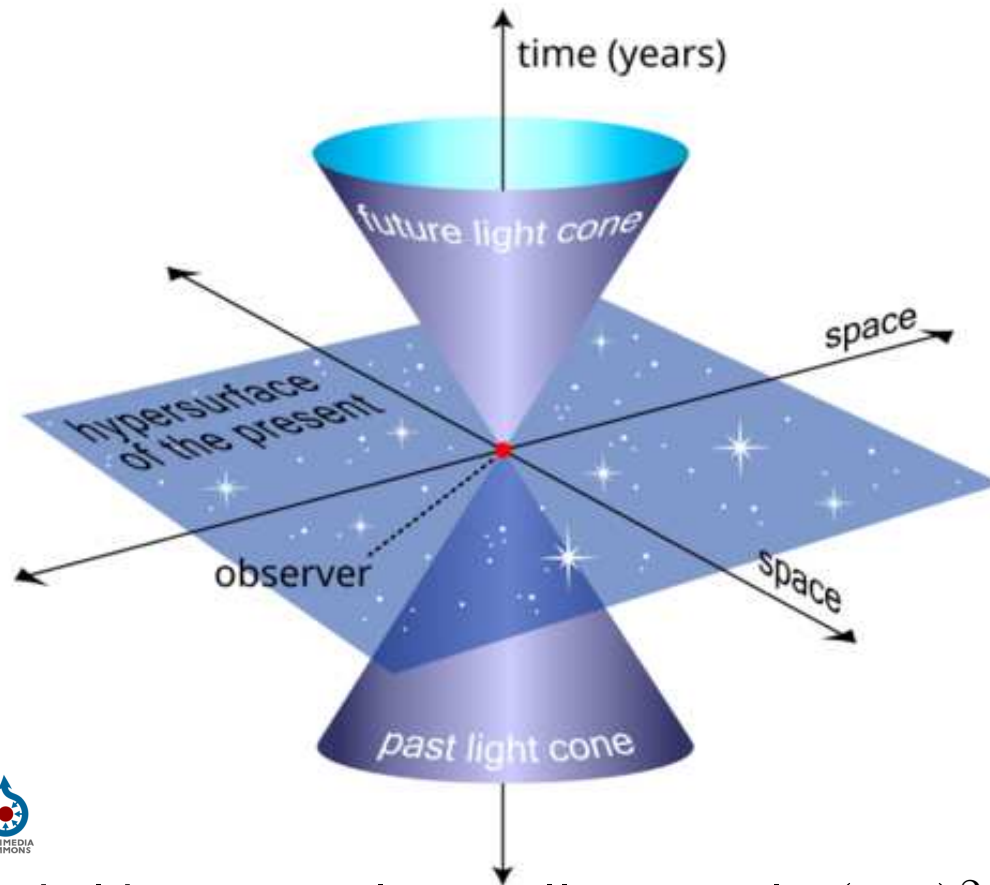
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+ elsewhere (subset: *reference-frame-dependent* "now")  
+ here-now

# SR: world line

Lorentz transform of world line



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Lorentz transform of world line



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# SR: world line

## Lorentz transform of world line



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- $\frac{dt}{dt_{\text{thinking}}}$  can be positive or negative

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Lorentz transform of world line



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often  $d\tau$  is useful for integrating

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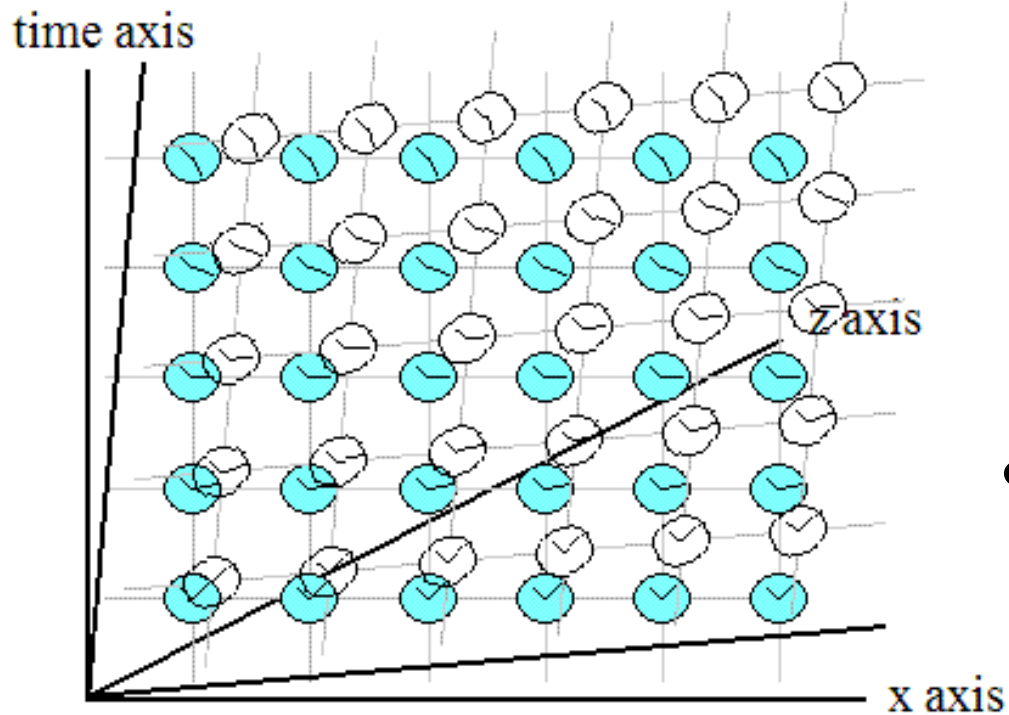
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- Which of the above assume tachyonic communication?

# SR: Rietdijk–Putnam argument

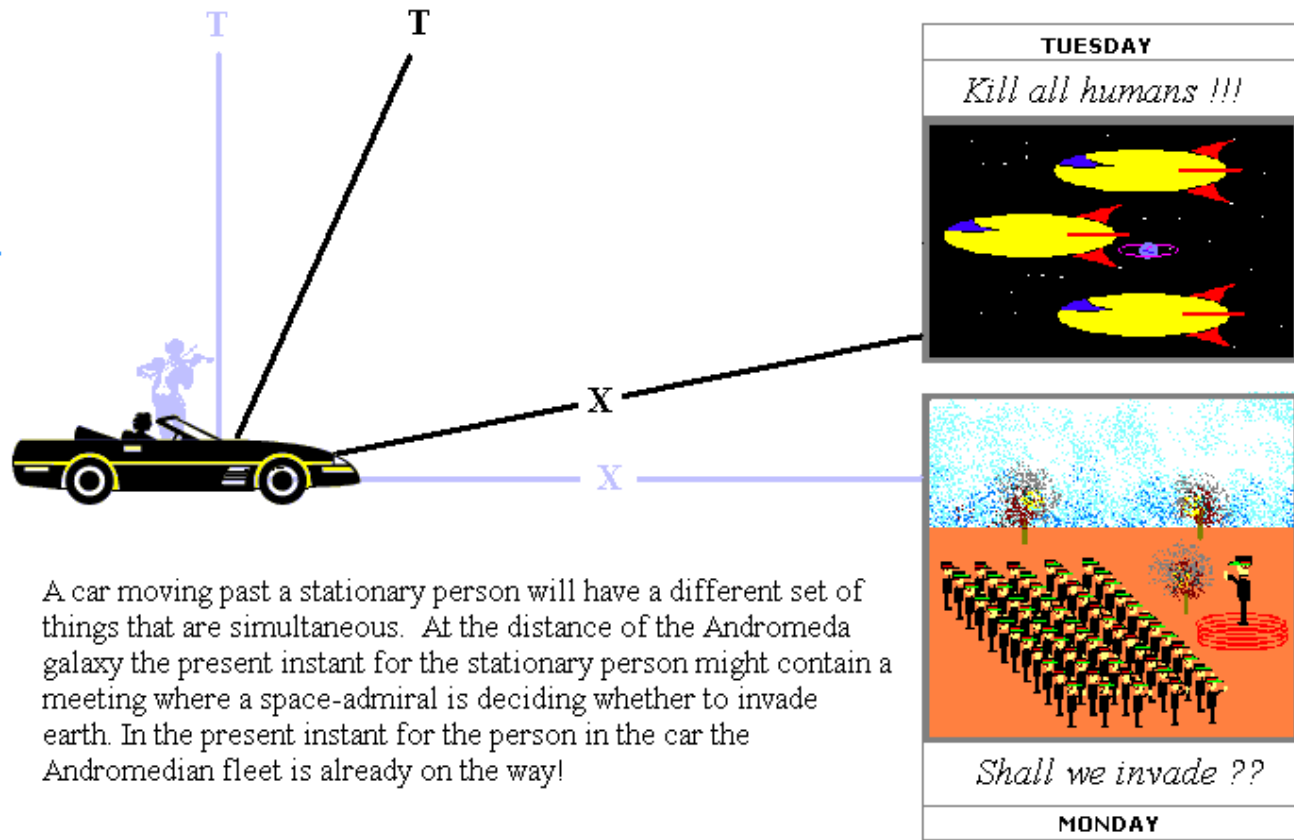


- each observer can synchronise clocks + rods

Relativity shows that the inertial frames of reference of relatively moving objects do not overlap each other.

# SR: Rietdijk–Putnam argument

## The Andromeda Paradox



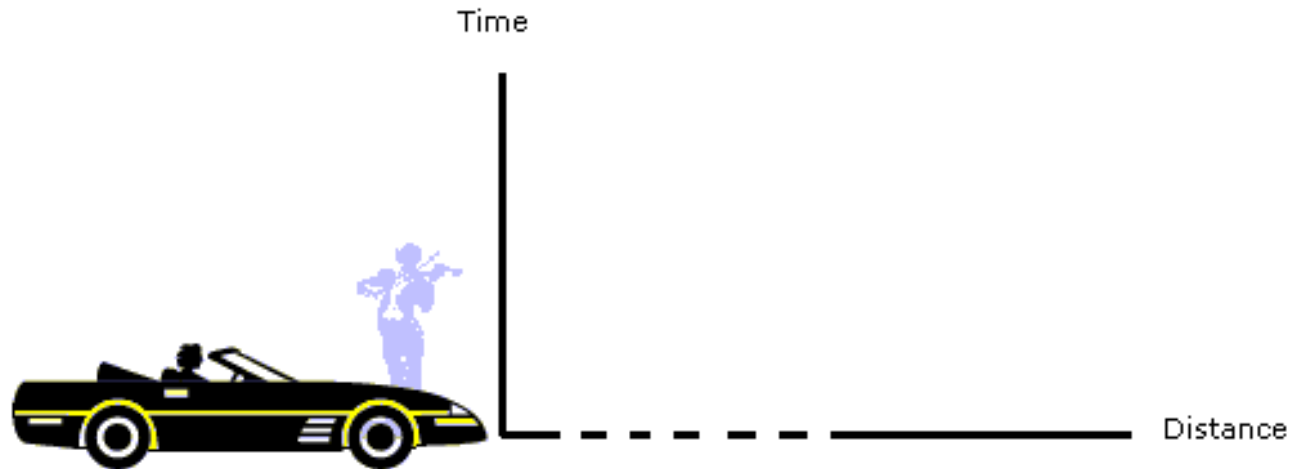
A car moving past a stationary person will have a different set of things that are simultaneous. At the distance of the Andromeda galaxy the present instant for the stationary person might contain a meeting where a space-admiral is deciding whether to invade earth. In the present instant for the person in the car the Andromedian fleet is already on the way!

[w:Rietdijk–Putnam argument](#)

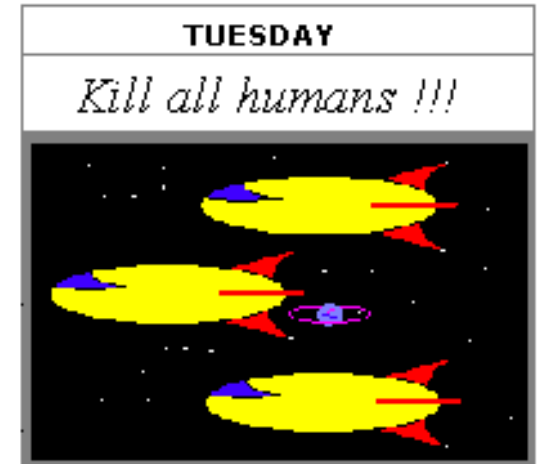


Roger Penrose version: the “Andromeda paradox”

# SR: Rietdijk–Putnam argument



For the car driver the stationary man and the invasion fleet are all events in the present moment.

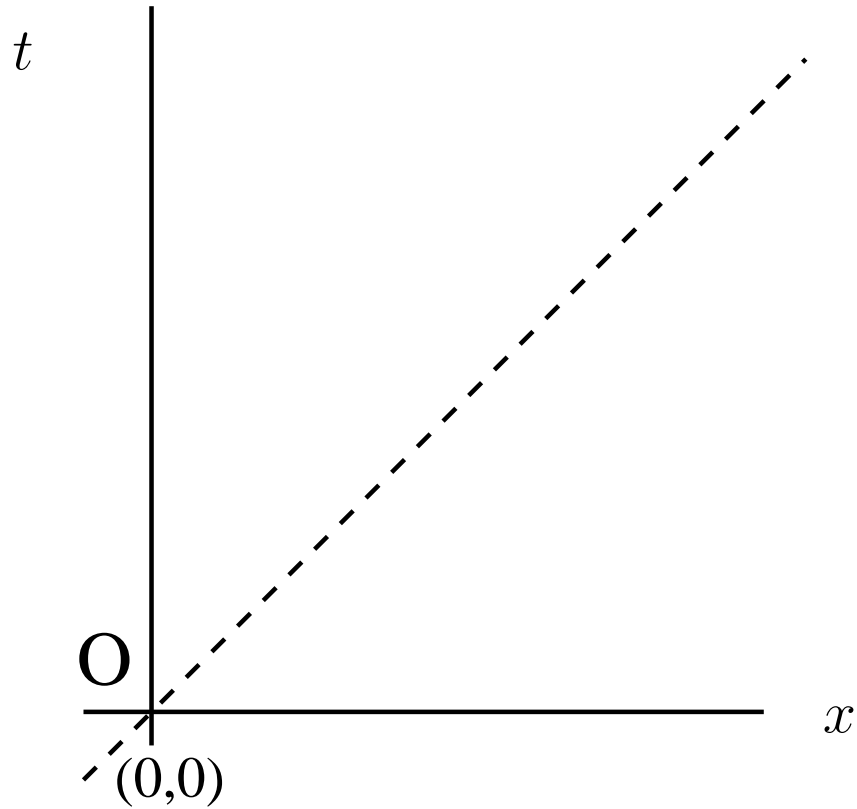


[w:Rietdijk-Putnam argument](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rietdijk-Putnam_argument)



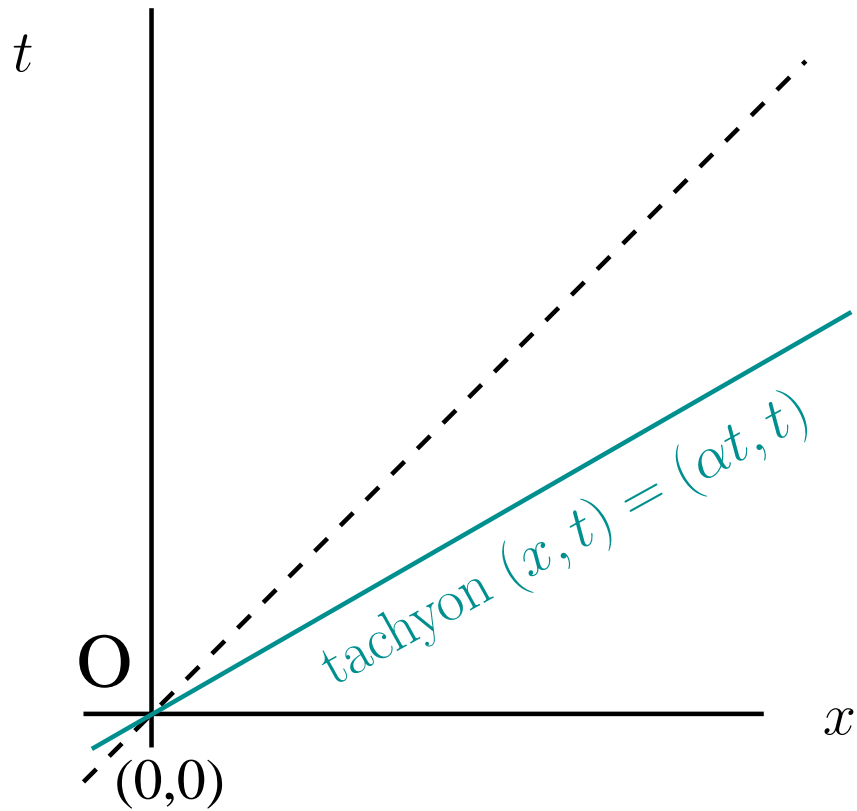
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# SR: tachyons and causality



observer "at rest"

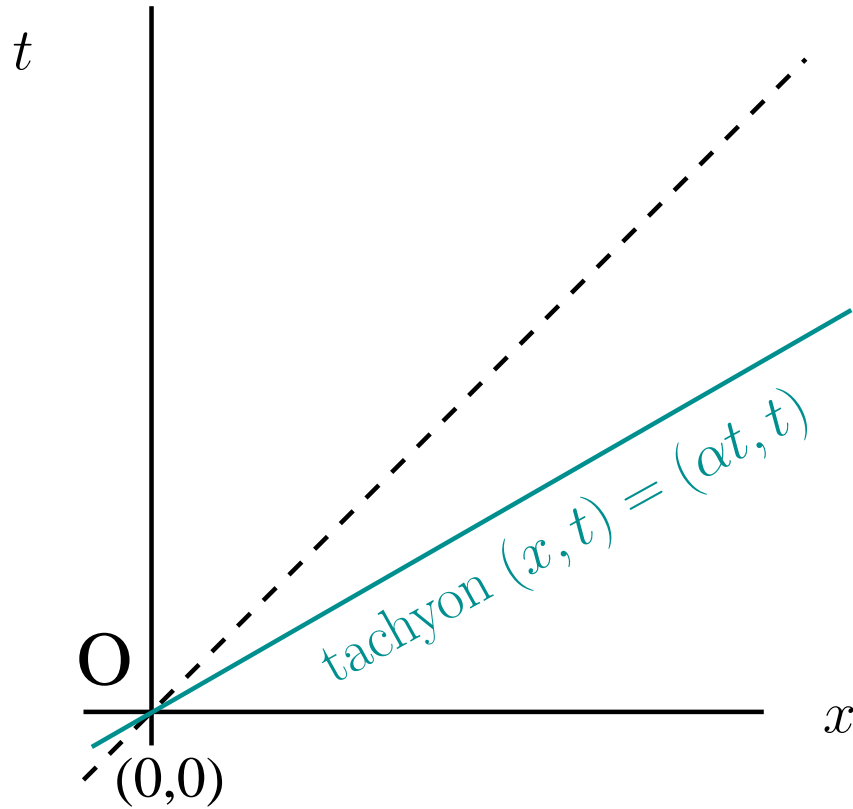
# SR: tachyons and causality



add a tachyon with speed  $\alpha > 1$



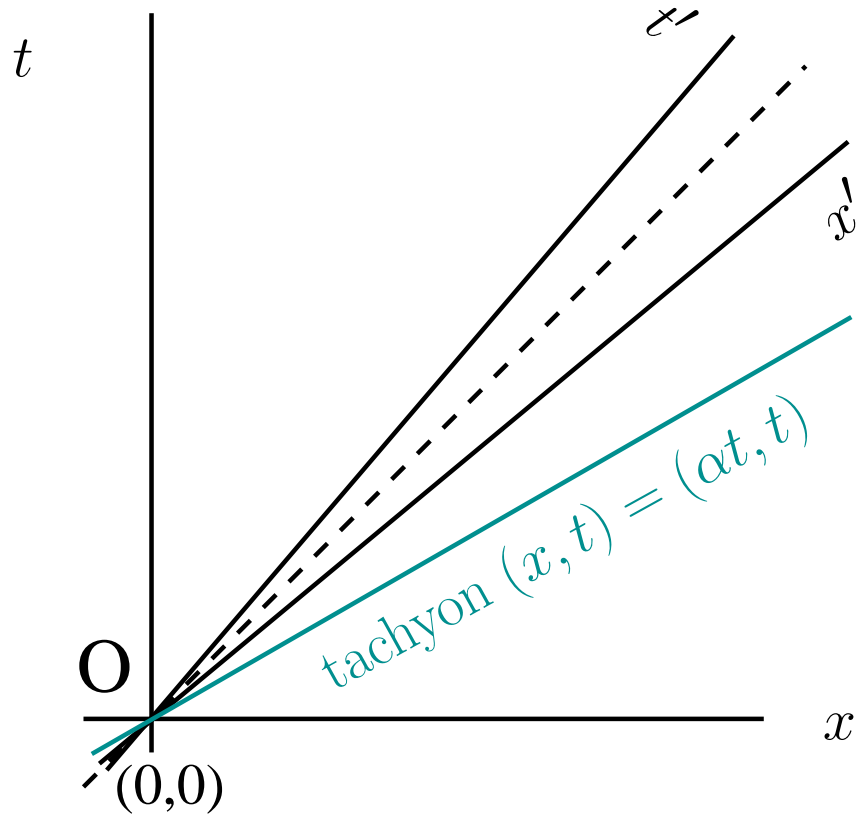
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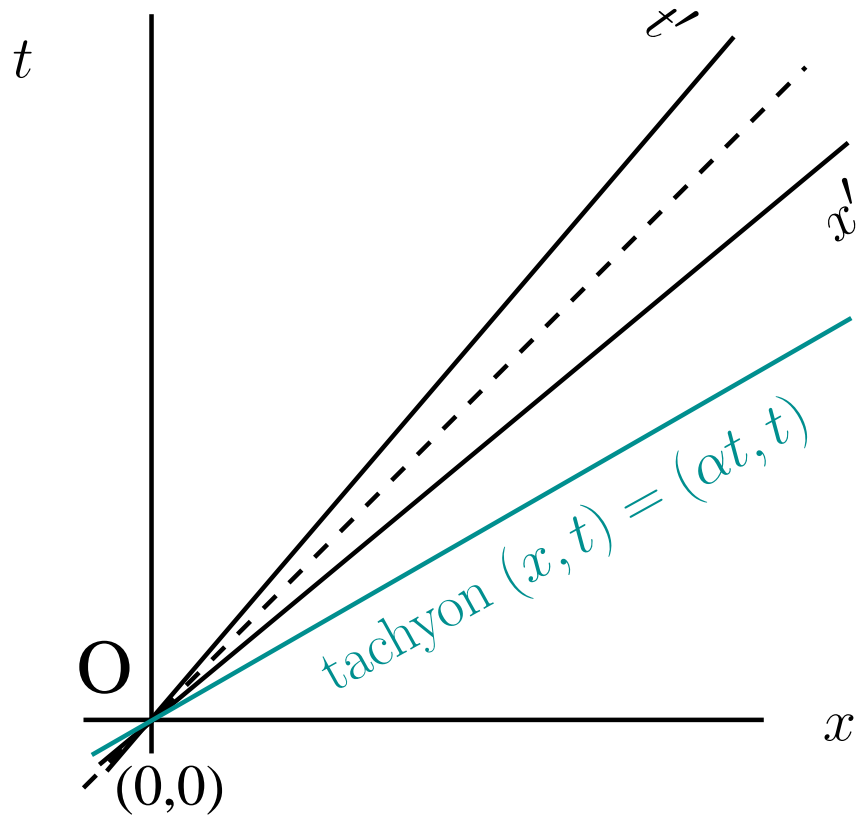


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# SR: tachyons and causality



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rocket frame:  $(\alpha t, t)$  becomes  $\Lambda (\alpha t, t)^T$

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$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ t' \end{pmatrix} = \Lambda \begin{pmatrix} \alpha t \\ t \end{pmatrix} =$$

# SR: tachyons and causality

$$\begin{pmatrix} x' \\ t' \end{pmatrix} = \Lambda \begin{pmatrix} \alpha t \\ t \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma \alpha t - \beta \gamma t \\ -\alpha \beta \gamma t + \gamma t \end{pmatrix}$$

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same sequence of spacetime events = tachyon spacetime path:

$t$  increases for observer "at rest",

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- rocket: tachyon absorbed at origin

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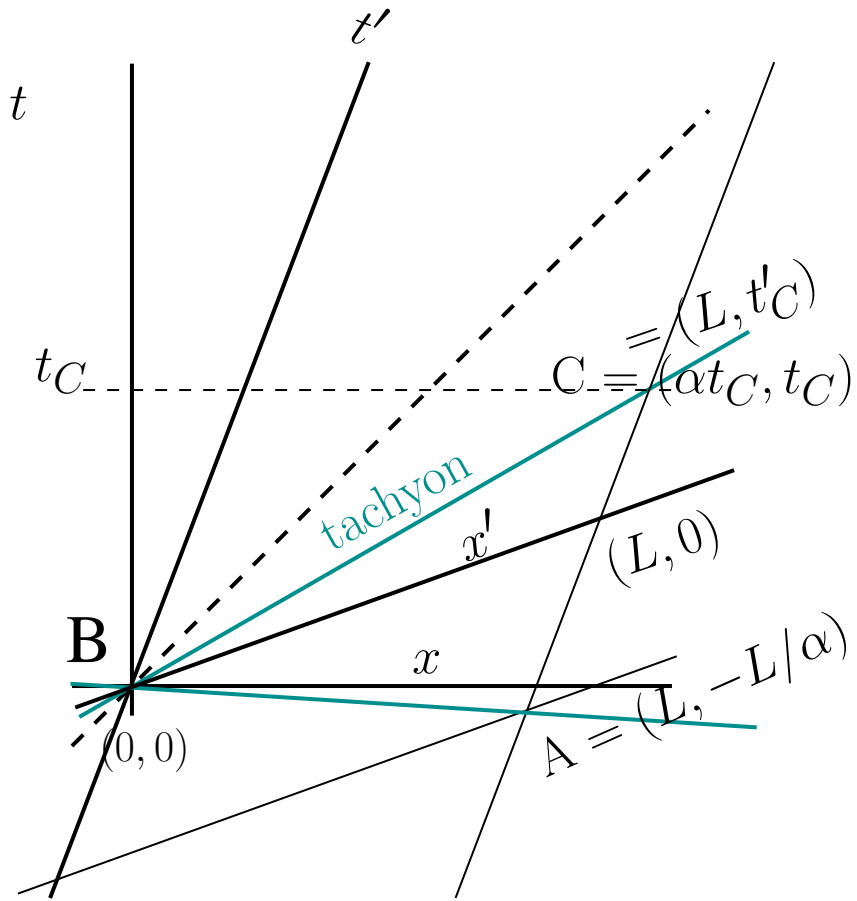
$t'$  decreases for rocket observer (with  $\beta > 1/\alpha$ )

- observer at rest: tachyonic neutrino emitted at CERN?
- rocket: tachyonic neutrino absorbed at CERN?

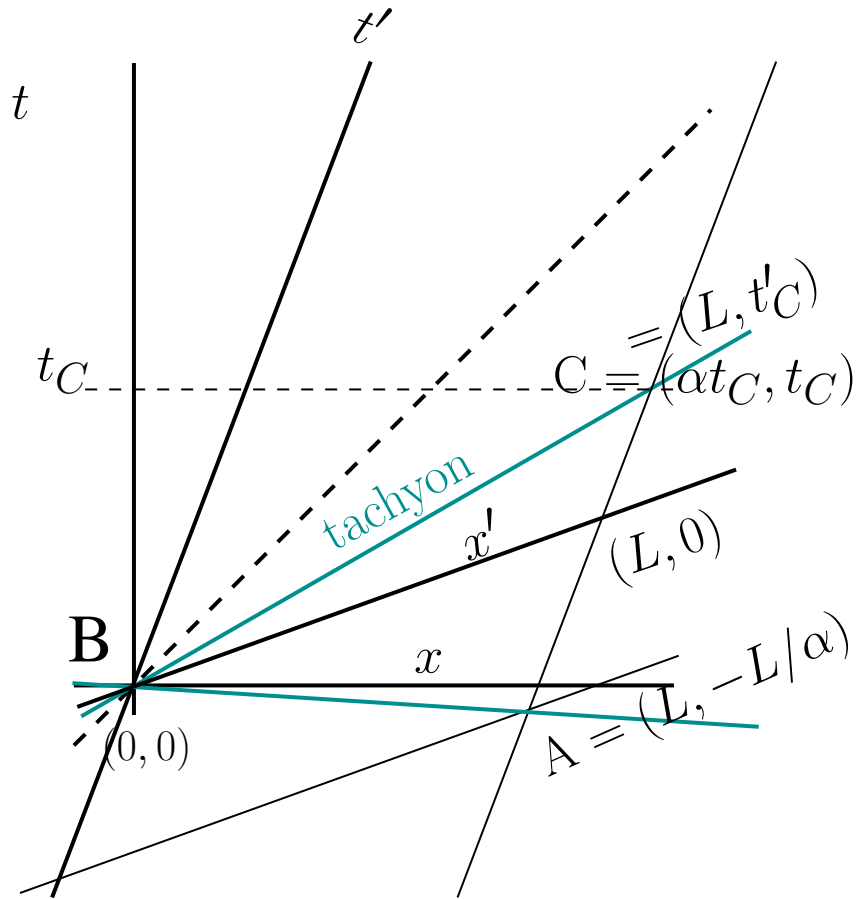
w:2011 OPERA faster-than-light neutrino anomaly:

CERN → Gran Sasso

# SR: tachyonic antitelephone

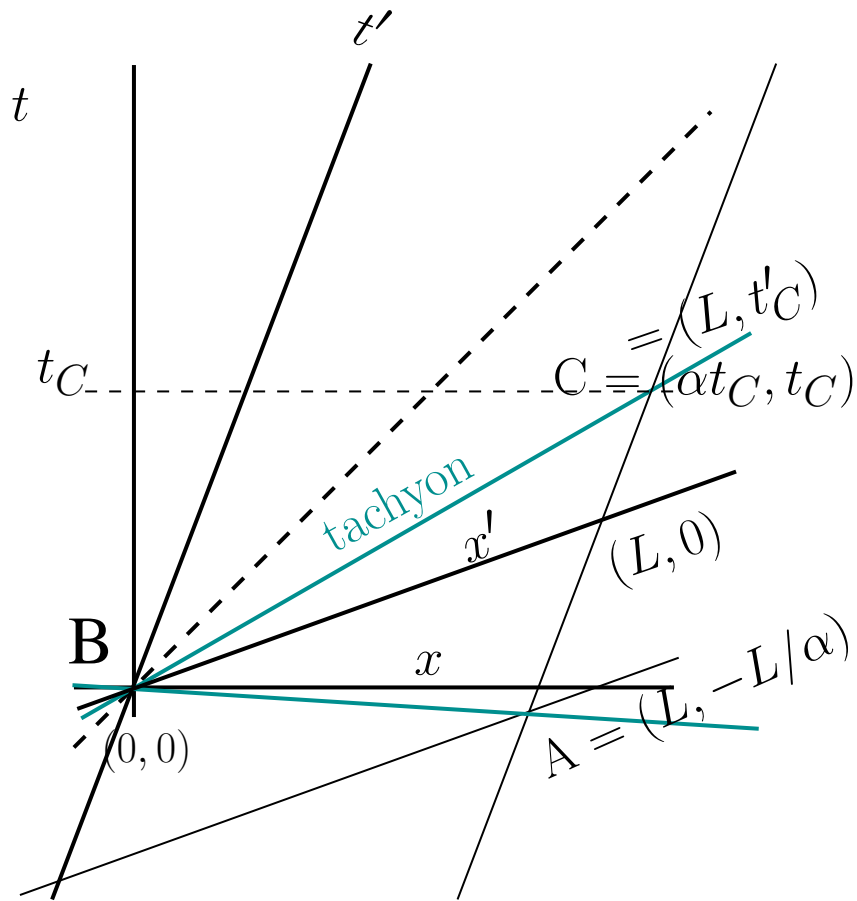


# SR: tachyonic antitelephone



B stationary:  $(x, t)$  frame

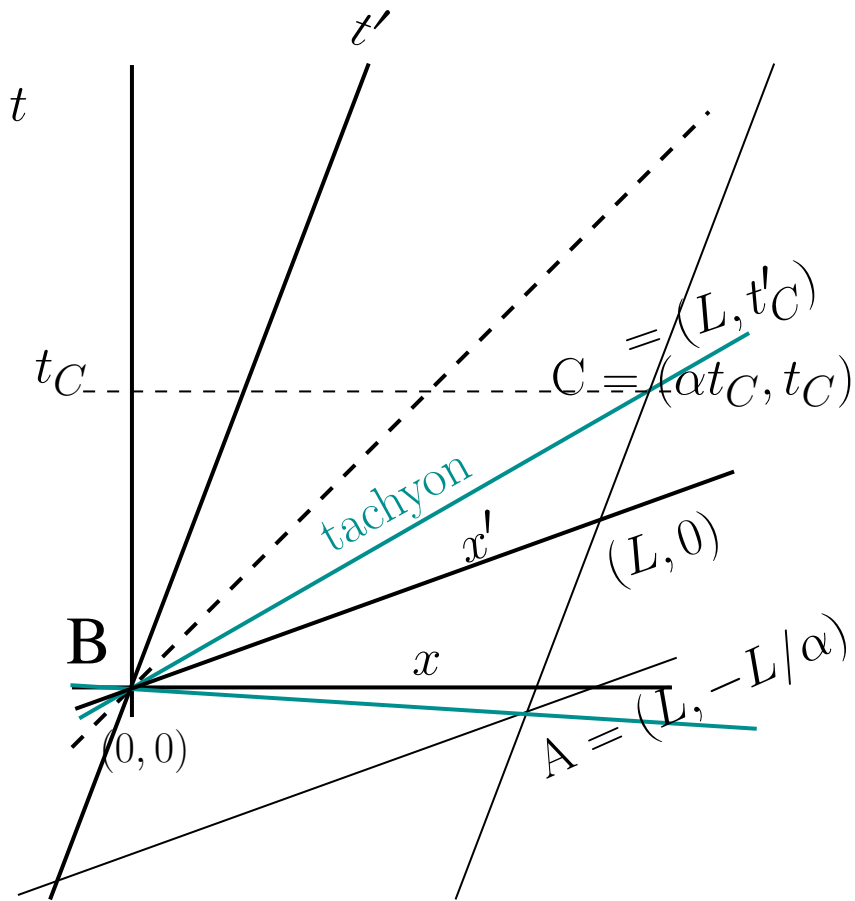
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B stationary:  $(x, t)$  frame

A moving at speed  $\beta$ :  $(x', t')$  frame

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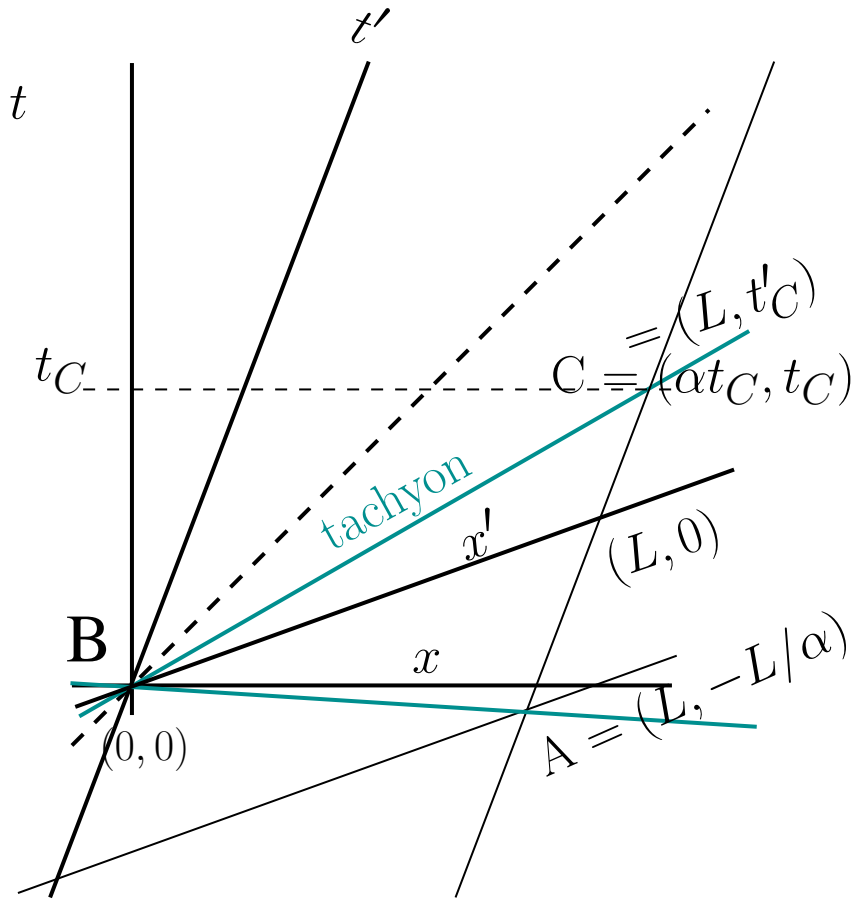


A: tachyon at  $\alpha > 1$  to B

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A moving at speed  $\beta$ :  $(x', t')$  frame

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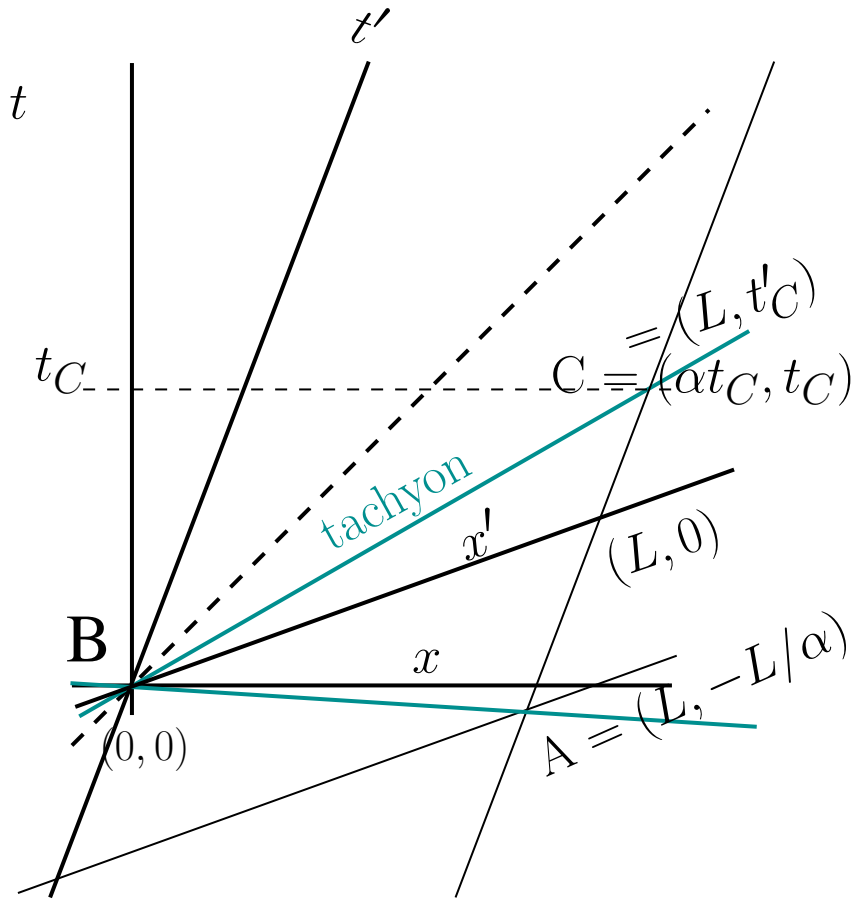
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A moving at speed  $\beta$ :  $(x', t')$  frame



# SR: tachyonic antitelephone

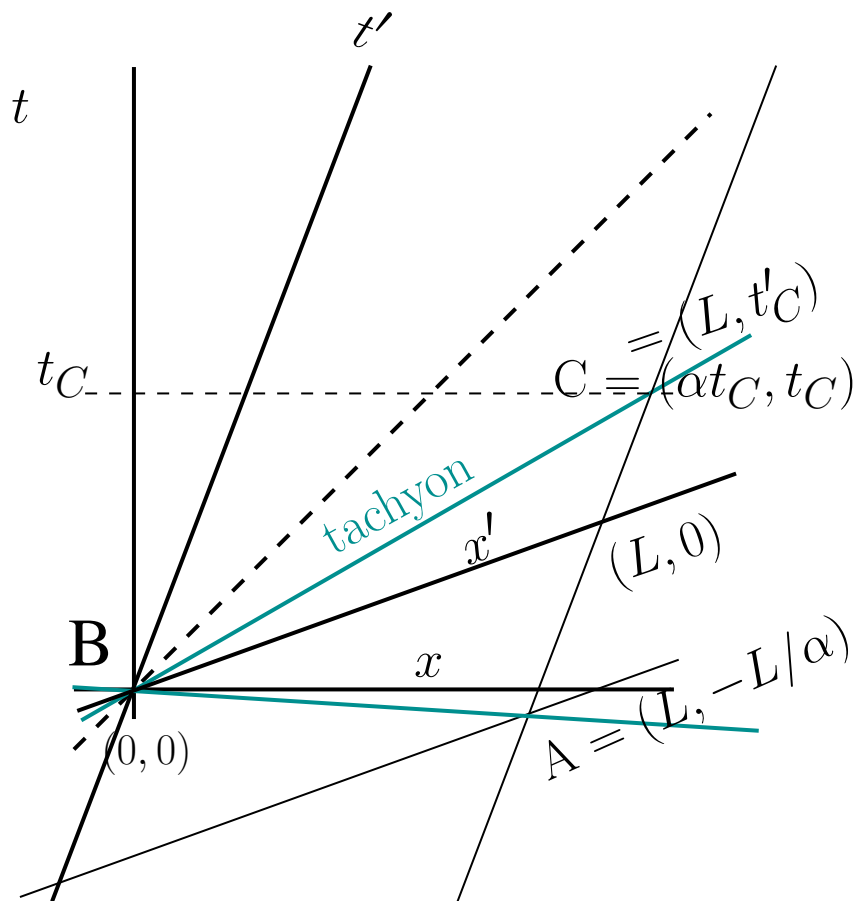


$$C: \begin{pmatrix} L \\ t'_C \end{pmatrix} = \Lambda \begin{pmatrix} \alpha t_C \\ t_C \end{pmatrix}$$

B stationary:  $(x, t)$  frame

A moving at speed  $\beta$ :  $(x', t')$  frame

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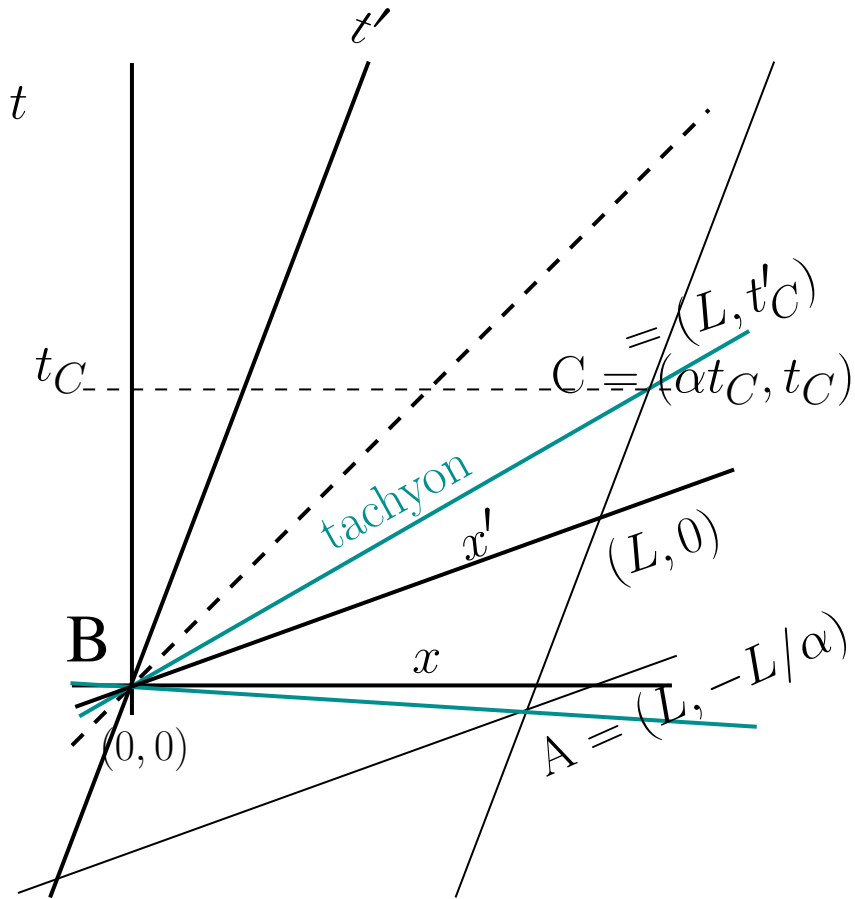
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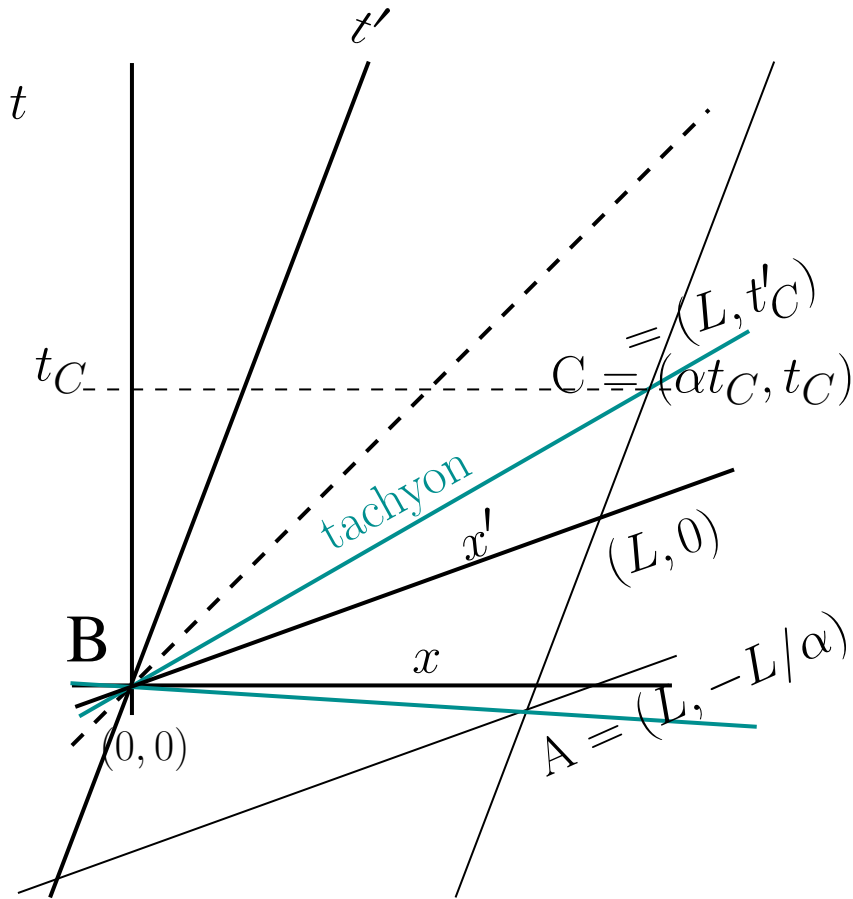
$$\begin{pmatrix} L \\ t'_C \end{pmatrix} = \gamma t_C \begin{pmatrix} \alpha - \beta \\ -\alpha\beta + 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$t'_C = \gamma t_C (1 - \alpha\beta)$$

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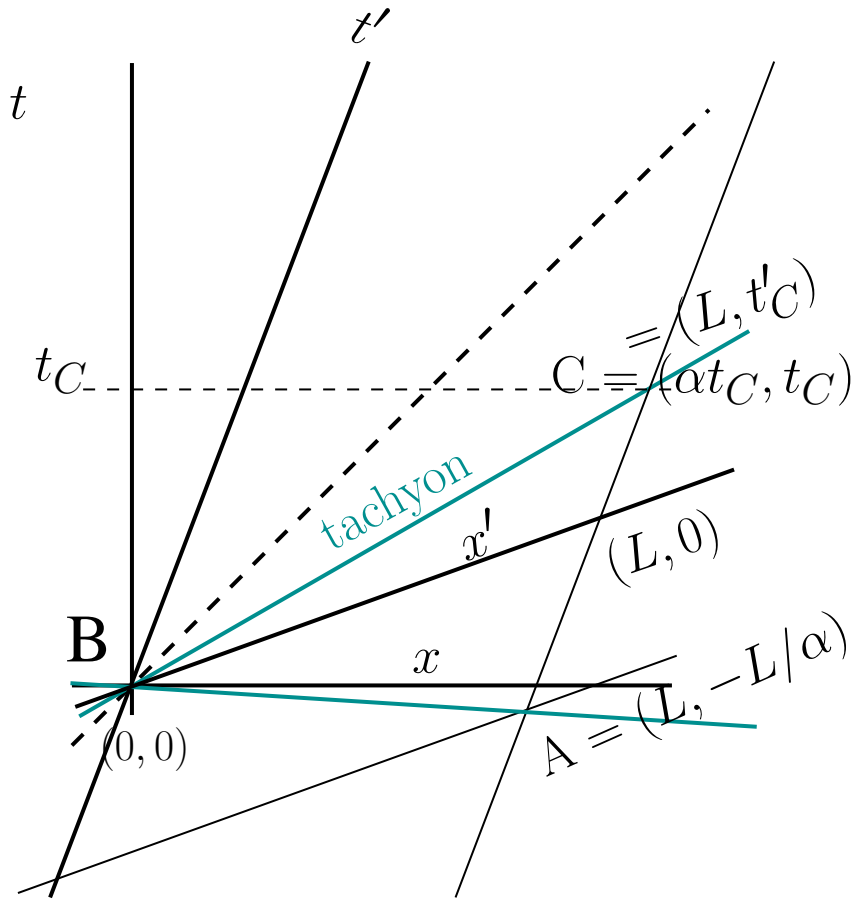
$$\begin{pmatrix} L \\ t'_C \end{pmatrix} = \gamma t_C \begin{pmatrix} \alpha - \beta \\ -\alpha\beta + 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$t'_C = \gamma \frac{L}{\gamma(\alpha - \beta)} (1 - \alpha\beta)$$

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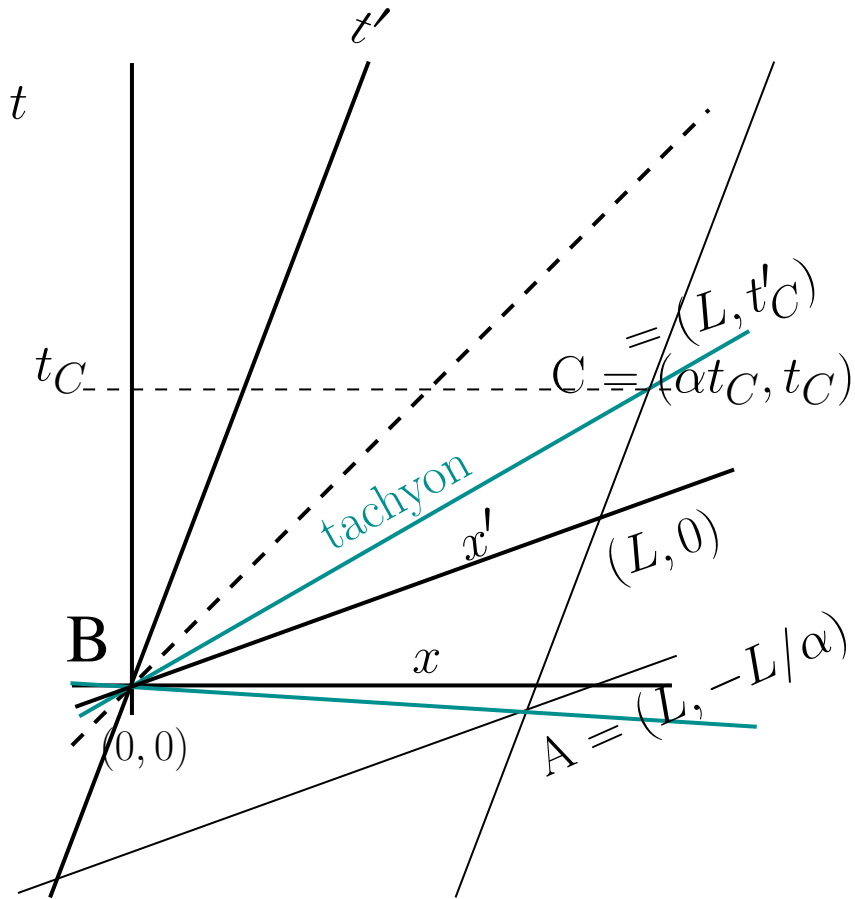
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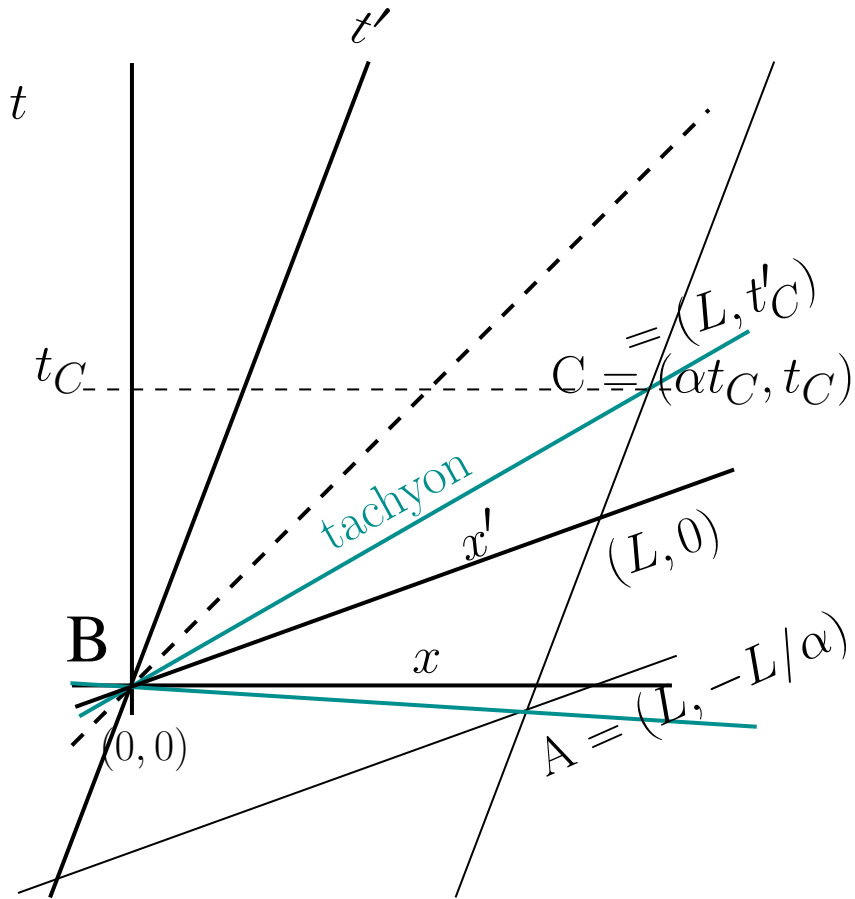
$$t'_C = L \frac{1 - \alpha\beta}{\alpha - \beta}$$

$$t'_C - t'_A = L \left( \frac{1 - \alpha\beta}{\alpha - \beta} + \frac{1}{\alpha} \right)$$

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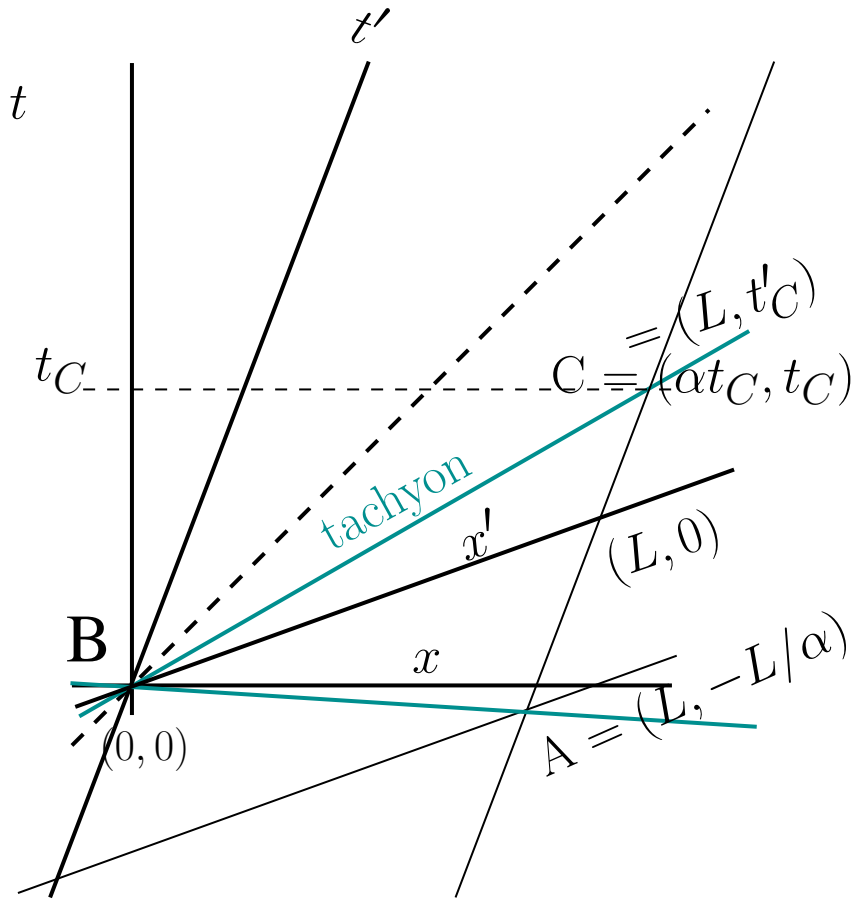
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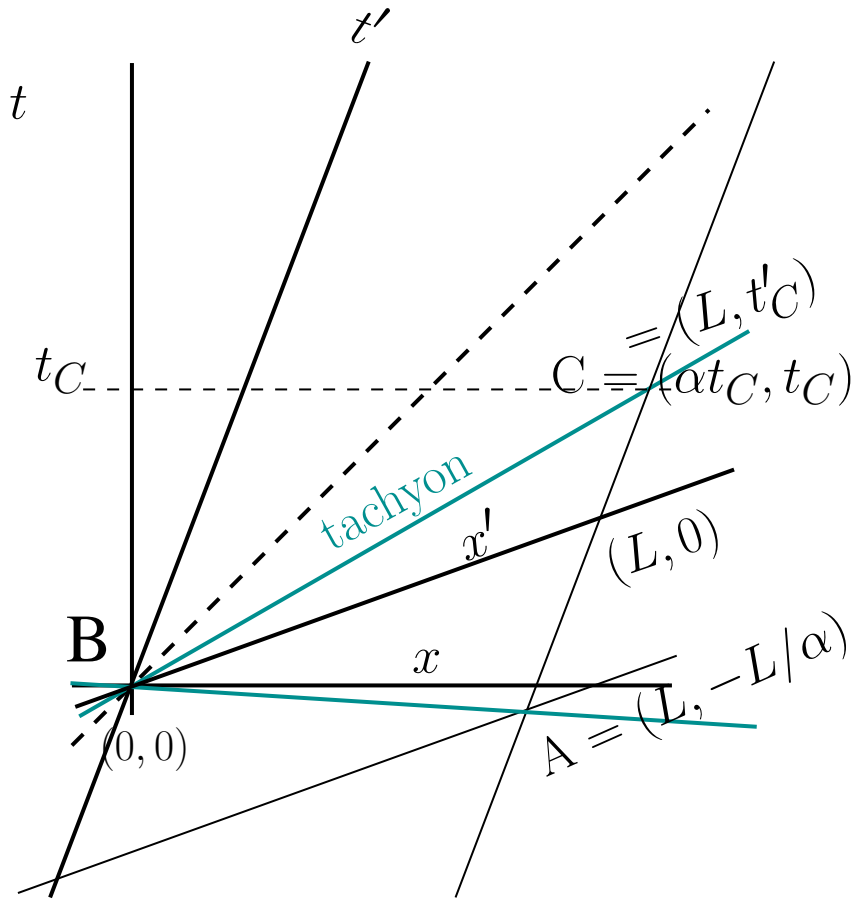
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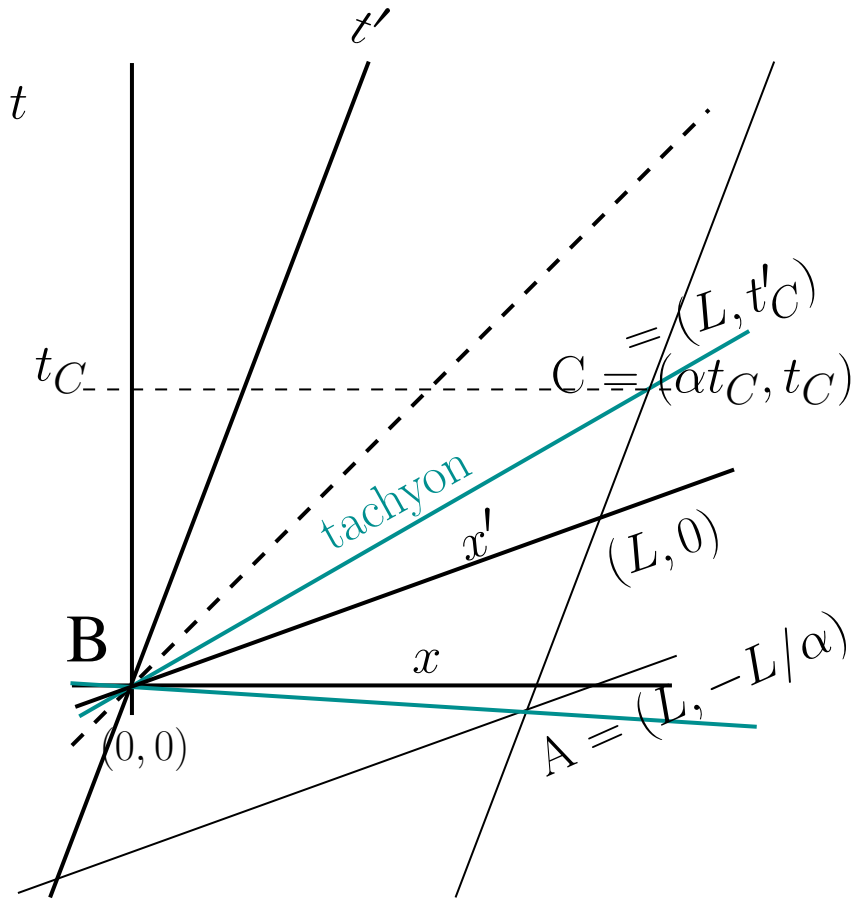
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$$< 0 \text{ if } \beta > \frac{2\alpha}{\alpha^2 + 1}$$

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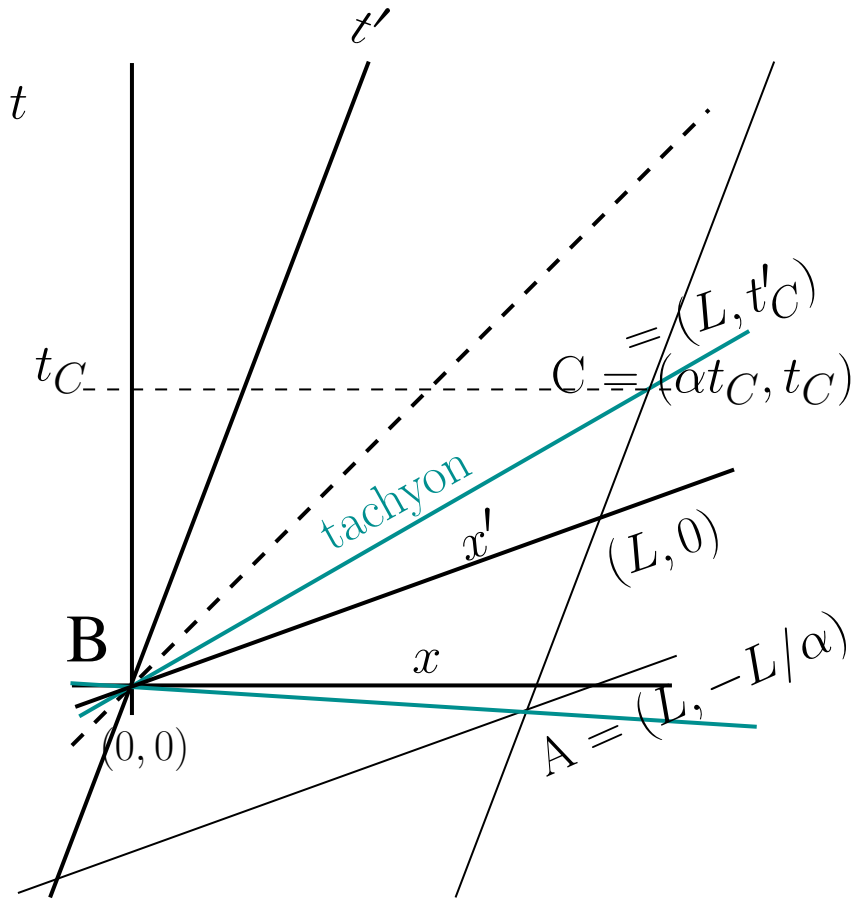
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A receives tachyonic response at C before sending it

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A receives tachyonic response at C before sending it

w: tachyonic antitelephone

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# SR: pole-barn/ladder paradox

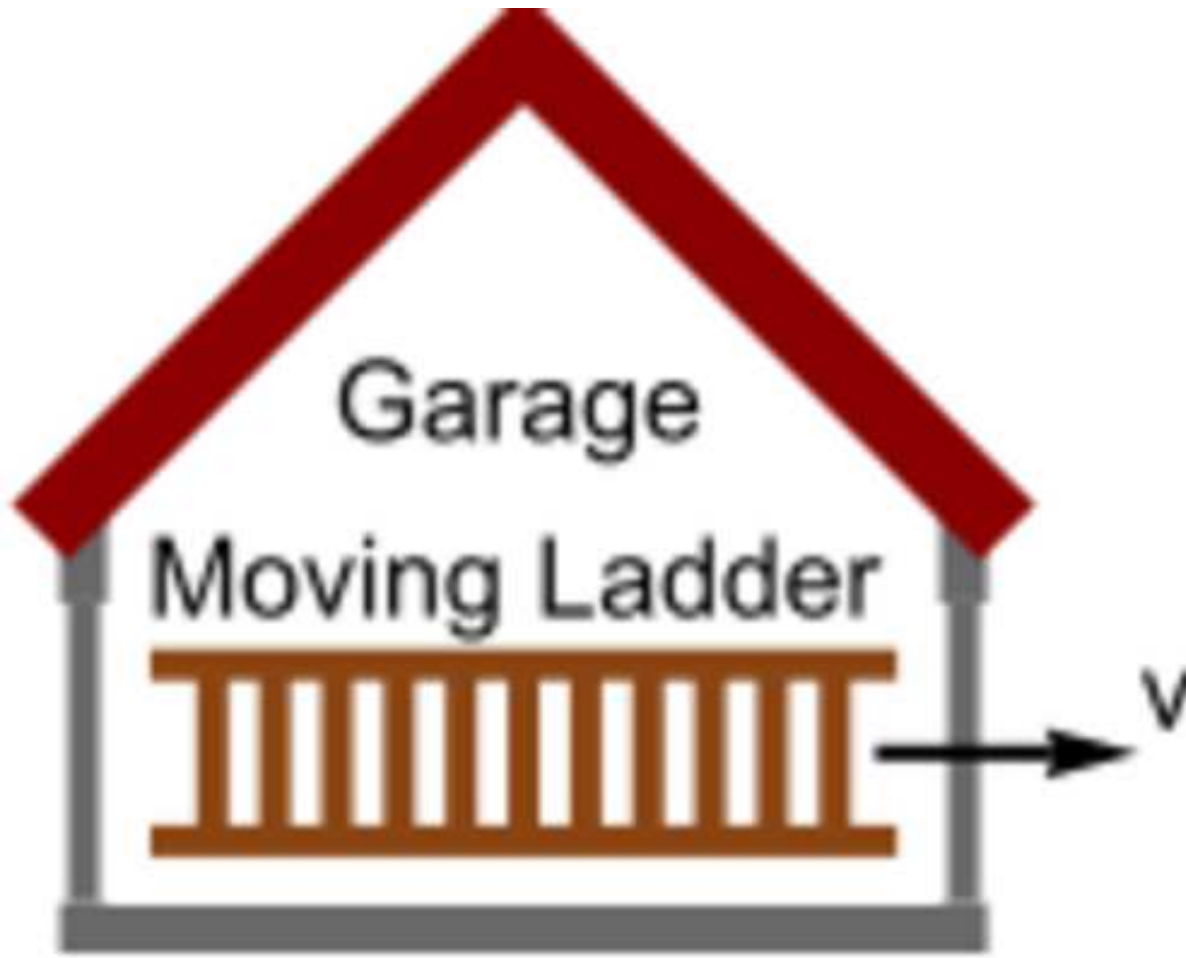


# SR: pole-barn/ladder paradox



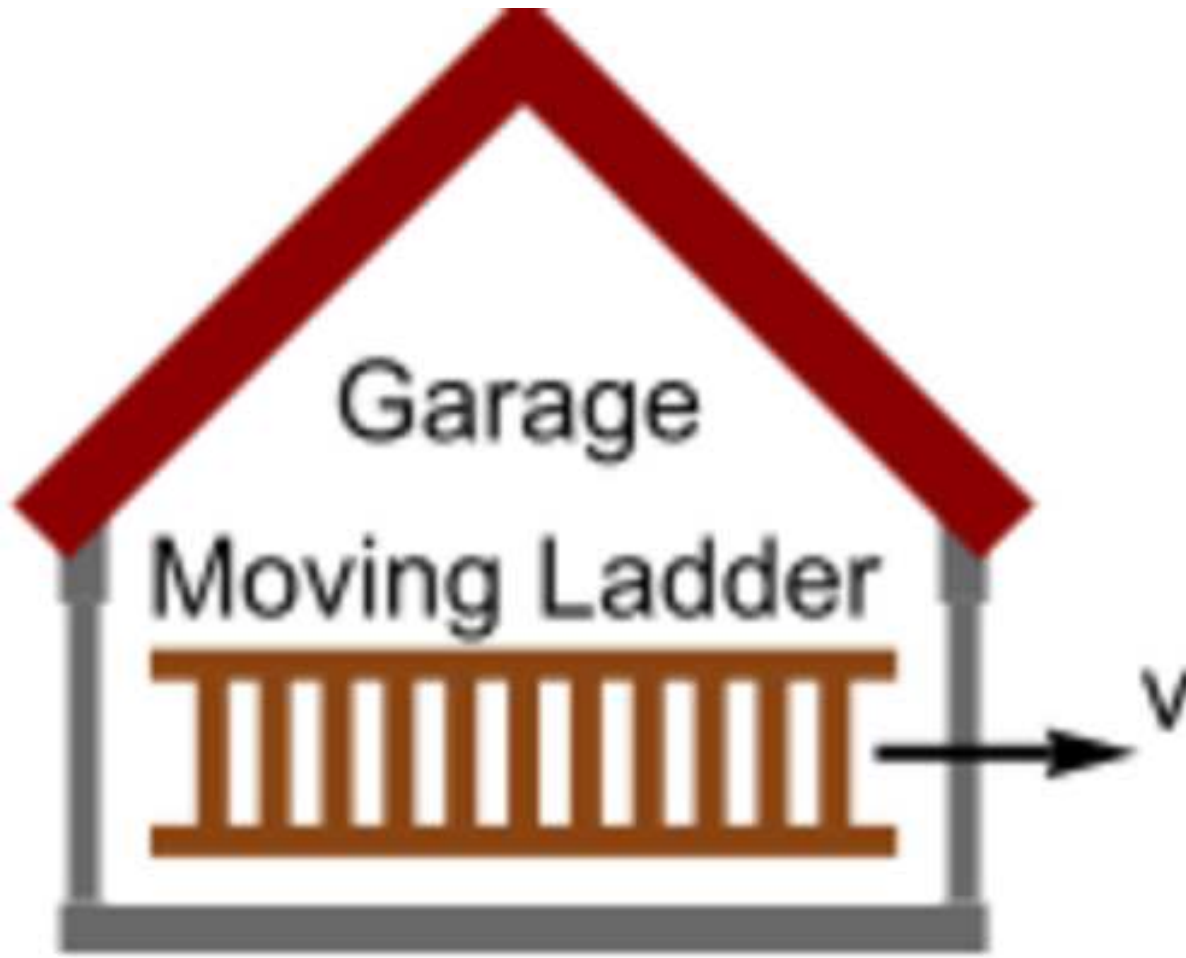
- ladder of length  $29.9\gamma$  ns, garage length 30 ns  
(both at rest)

# SR: pole-barn/ladder paradox



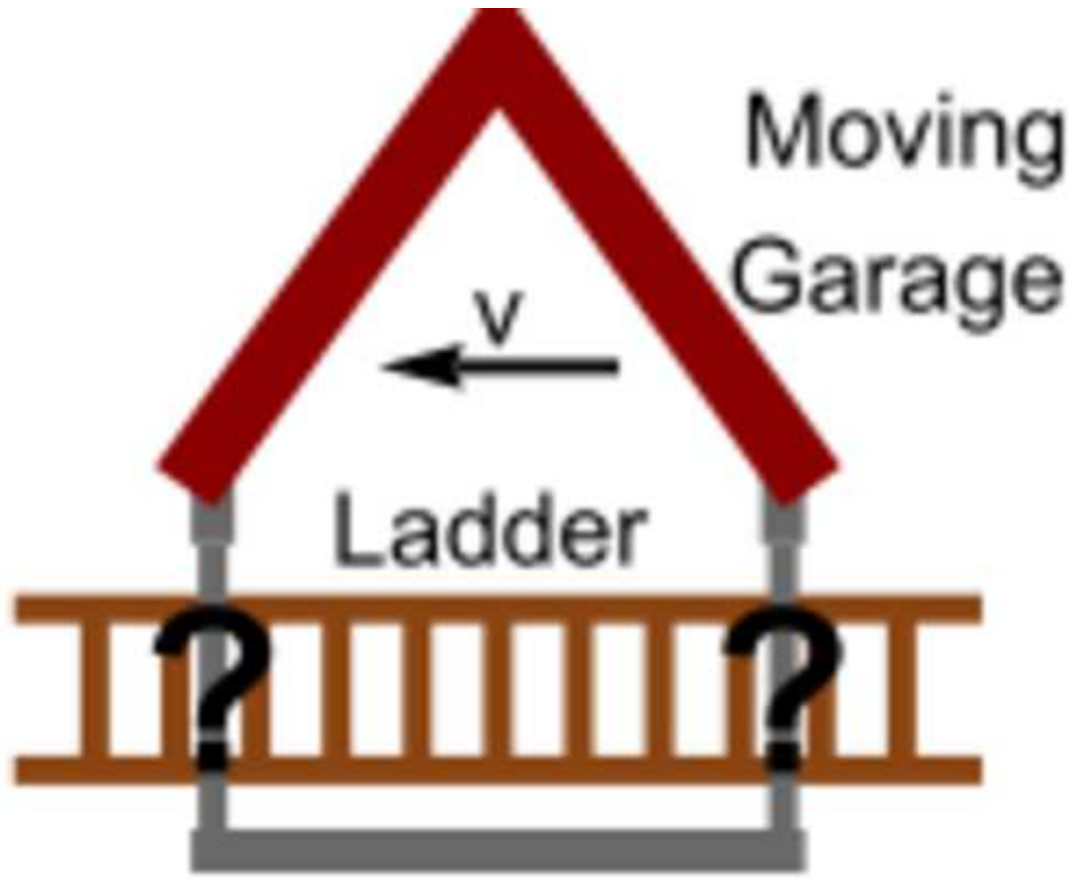
- ladder of length  $29.9\gamma$  ns, garage length 30 ns
- instantaneously close front + back doors

# SR: pole-barn/ladder paradox



- ladder of length  $29.9\gamma$  ns, garage length 30 ns
- instantaneously close front + back doors
- $29.9\gamma$  ns /  $\gamma < 30$  ns  $\Rightarrow$  OK

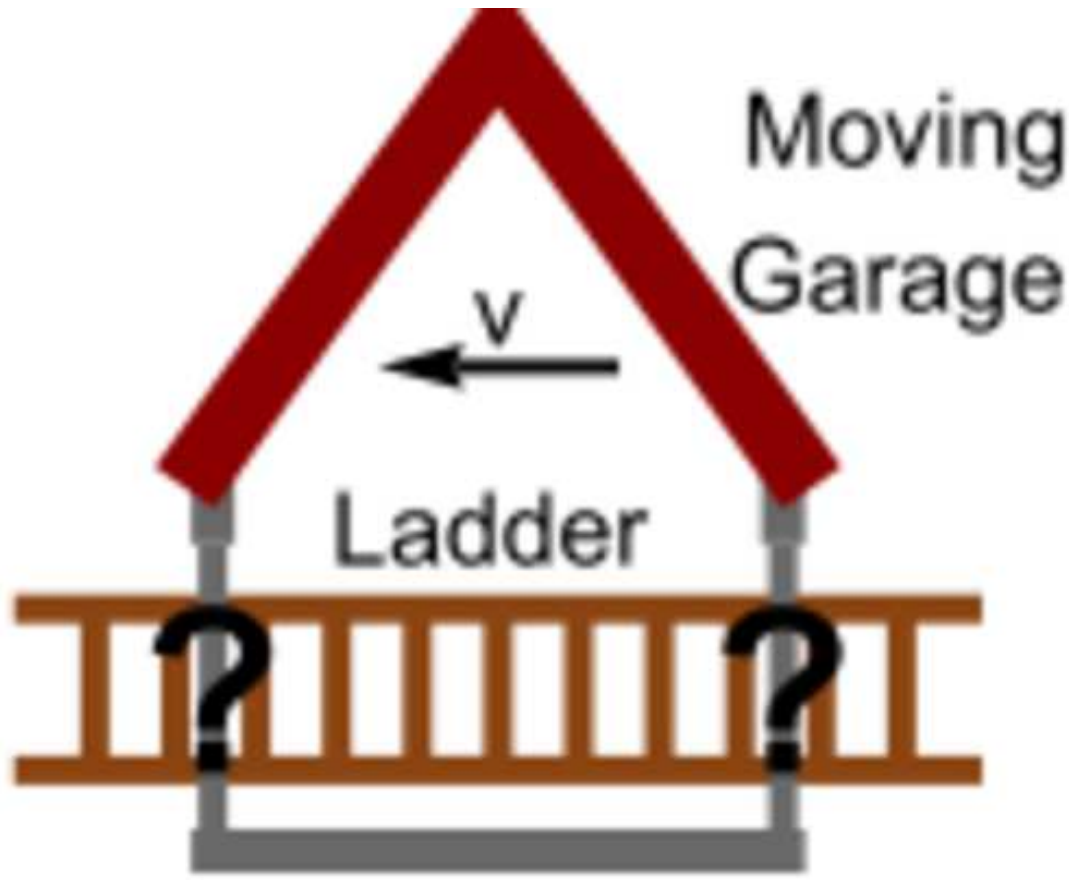
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- ladder of length  $29.9\gamma$  ns, garage length 30 ns
  - instantaneously close front + back doors
  - ladder frame: garage  $30/\gamma$  ns long  $\ll 29.9\gamma$  ns!!
- Is this possible or not?

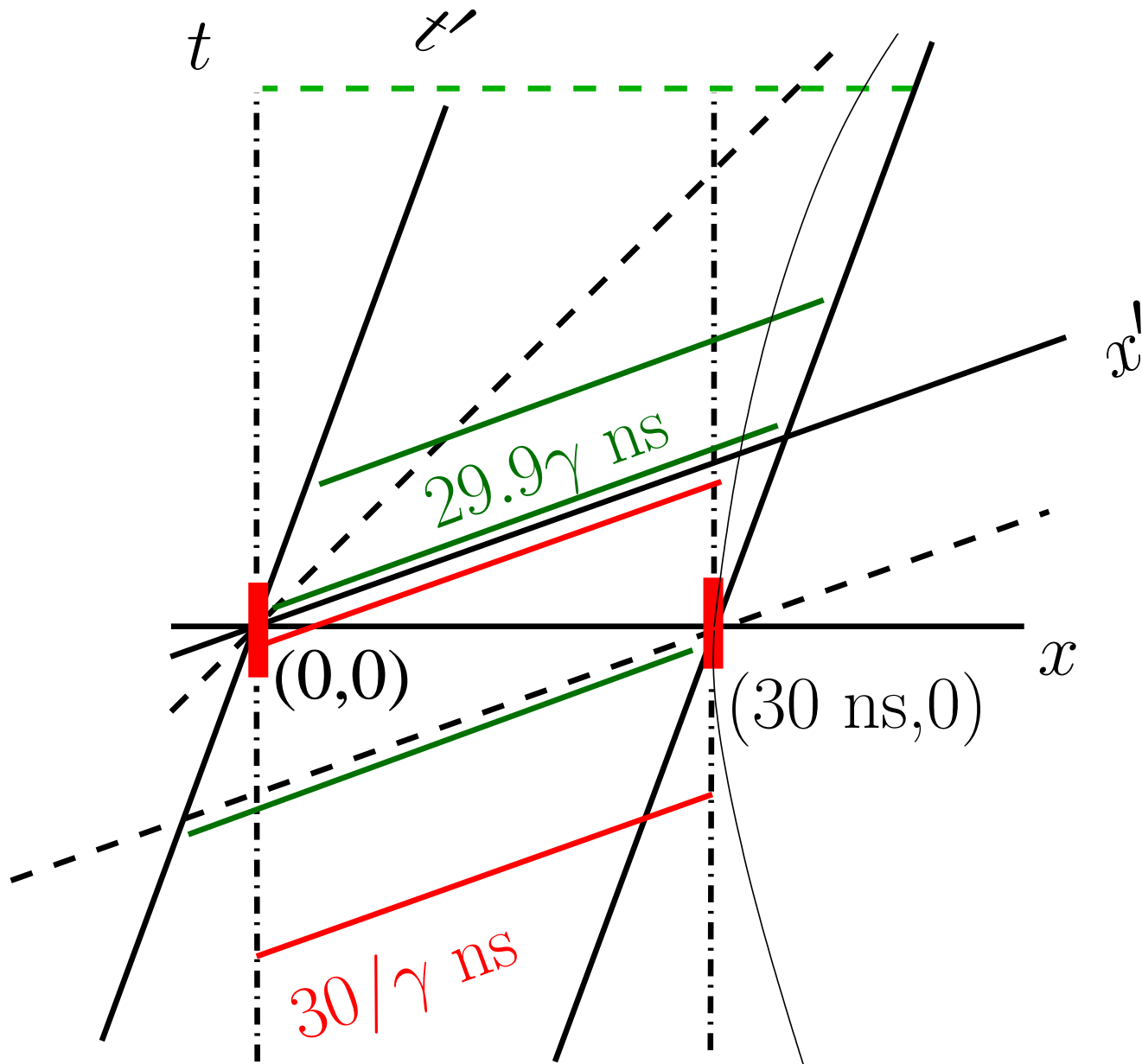


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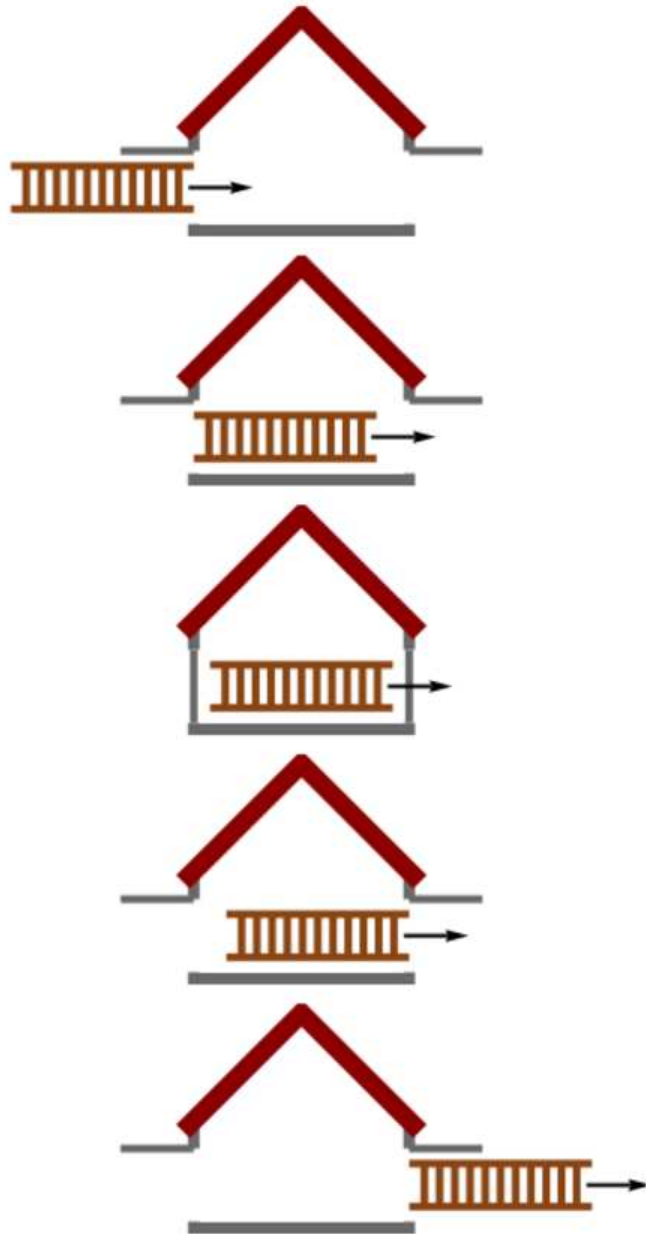


- ladder of length  $29.9\gamma$  ns, garage length 30 ns
  - instantaneously close front + back doors
  - ladder frame: garage  $30/\gamma$  ns long  $\ll 29.9\gamma$  ns!!
- Is this possible or not? Make a spacetime diagram.

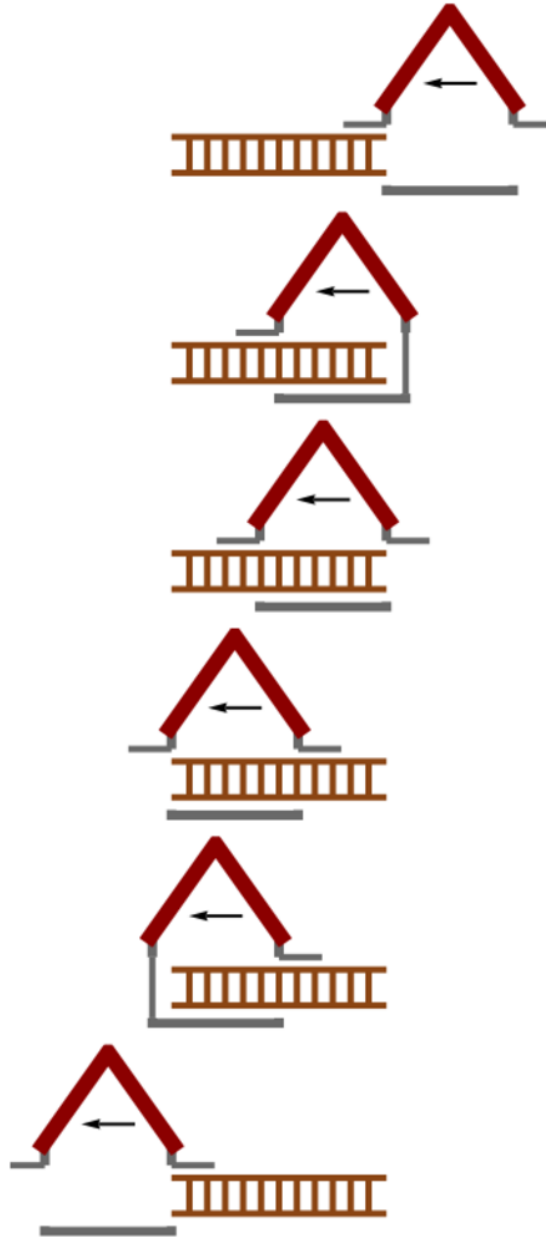
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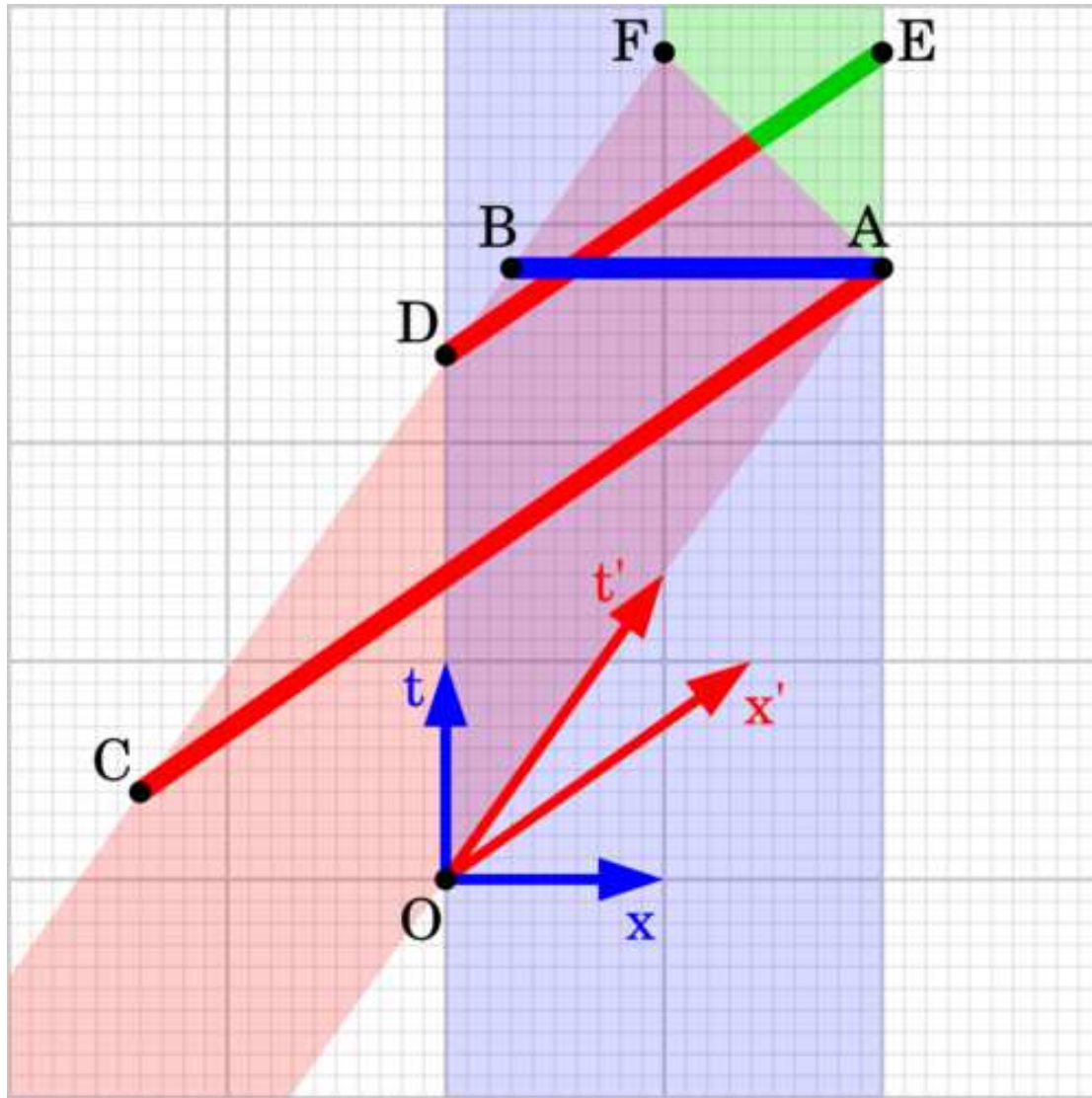
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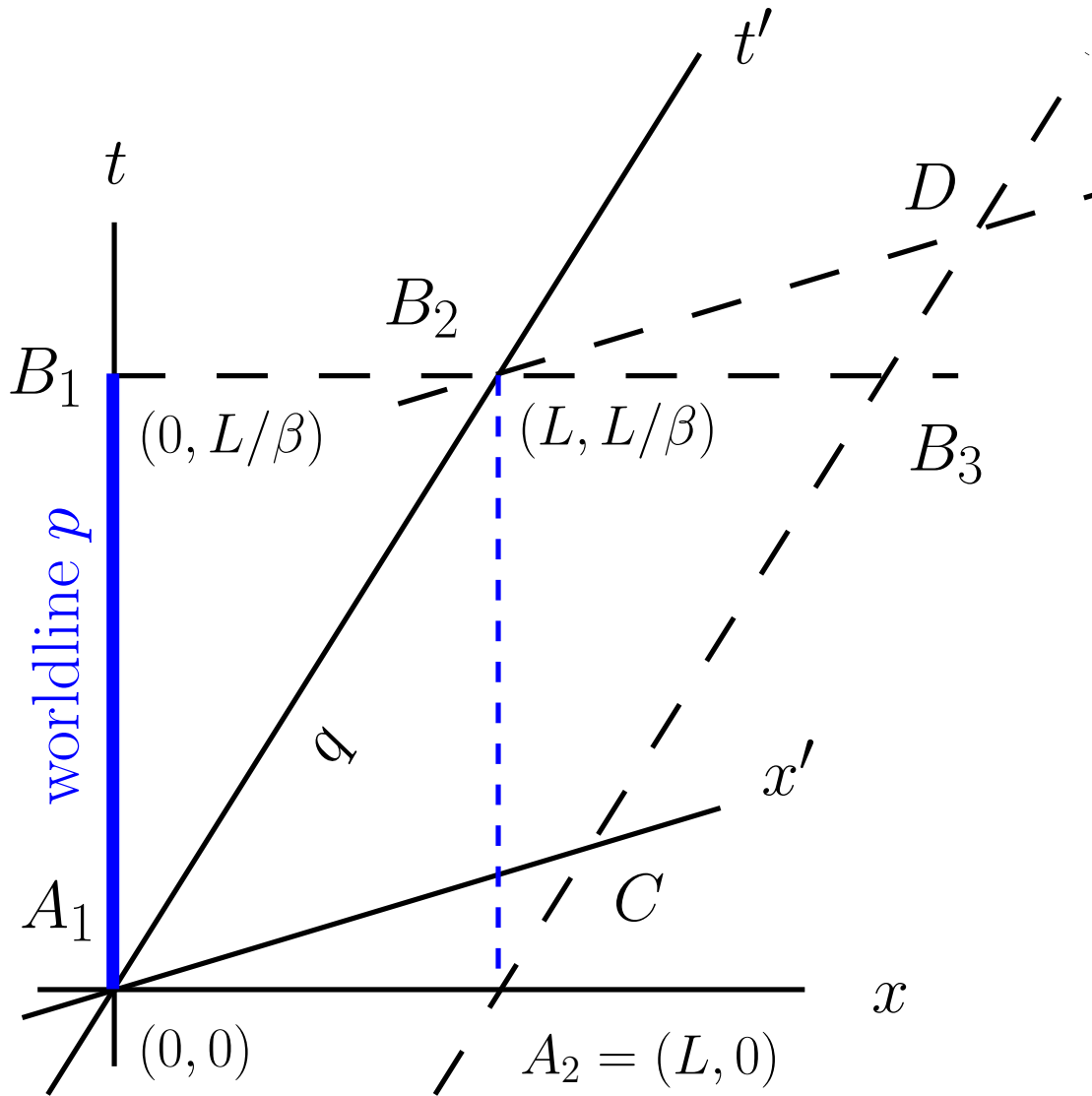
# SR: pole-barn/ladder paradox



w:Ladder paradox

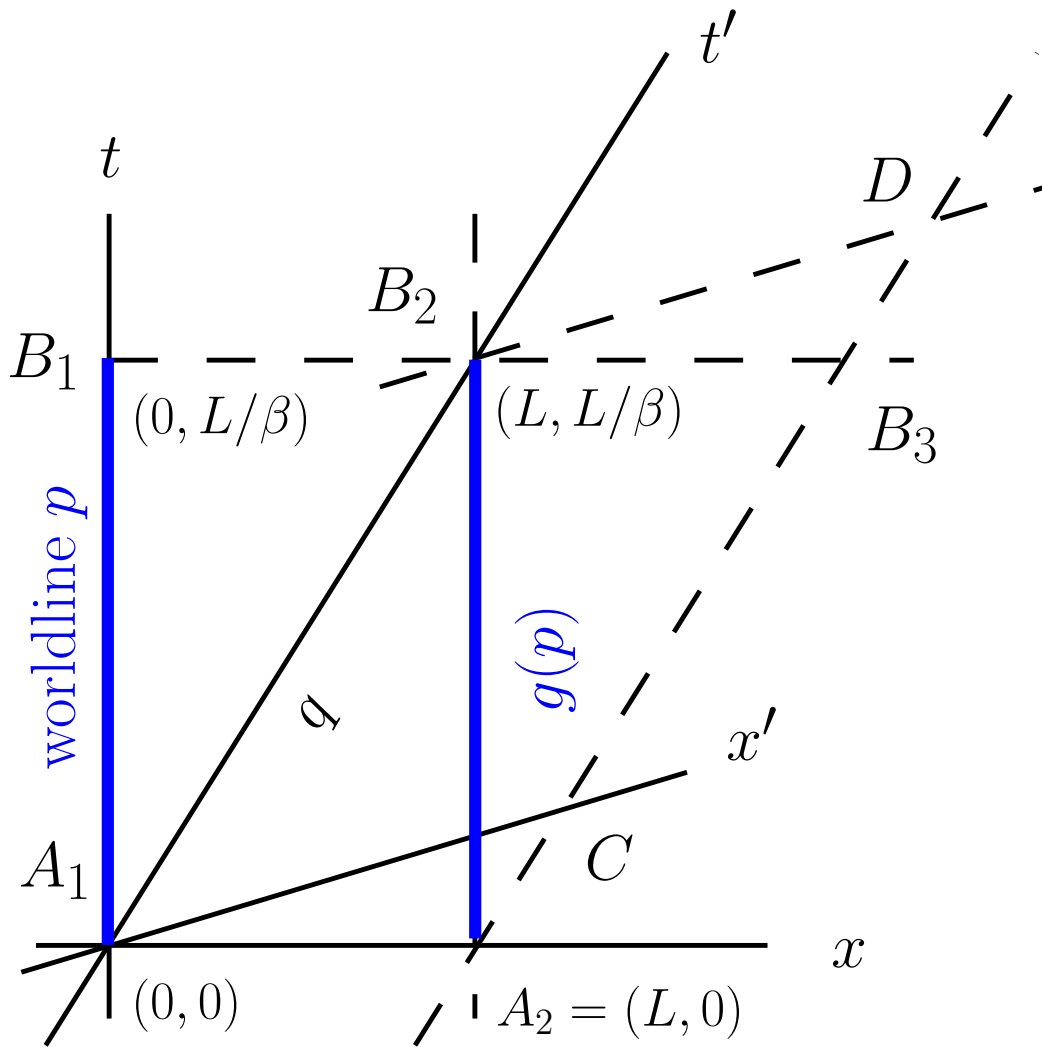


# SR: twins paradox



simply connected Minkowski

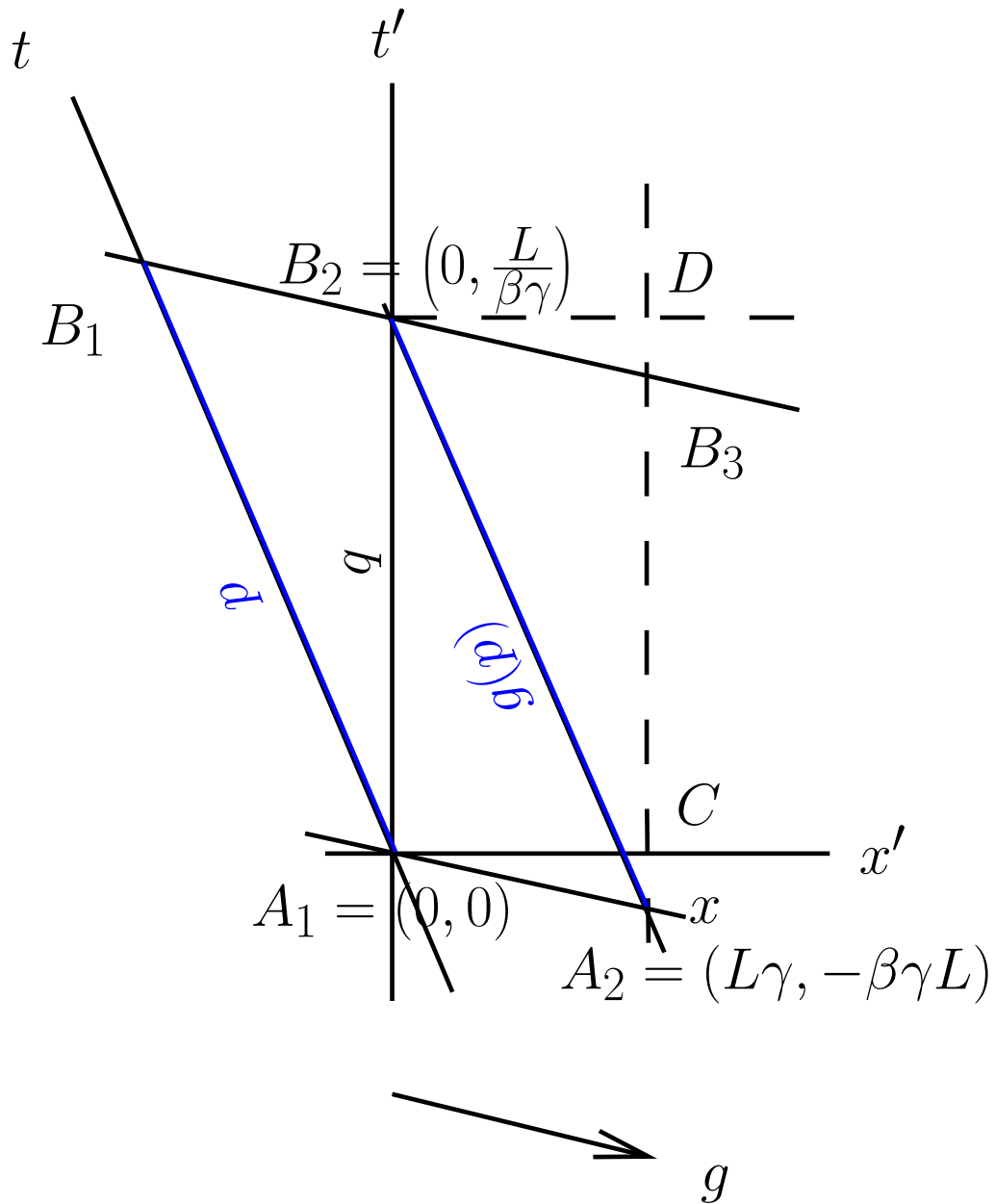
# SR: twins paradox



holonomy  $g$

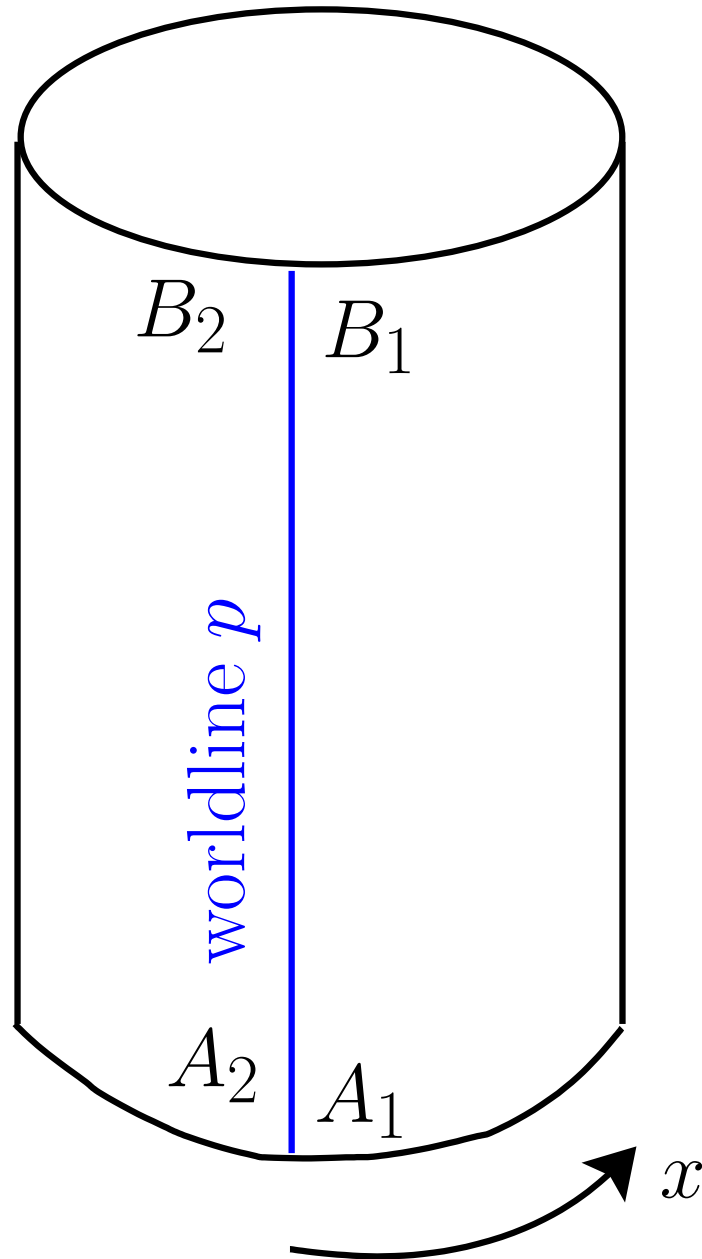
→  
identify spacetime events

# SR: twins paradox

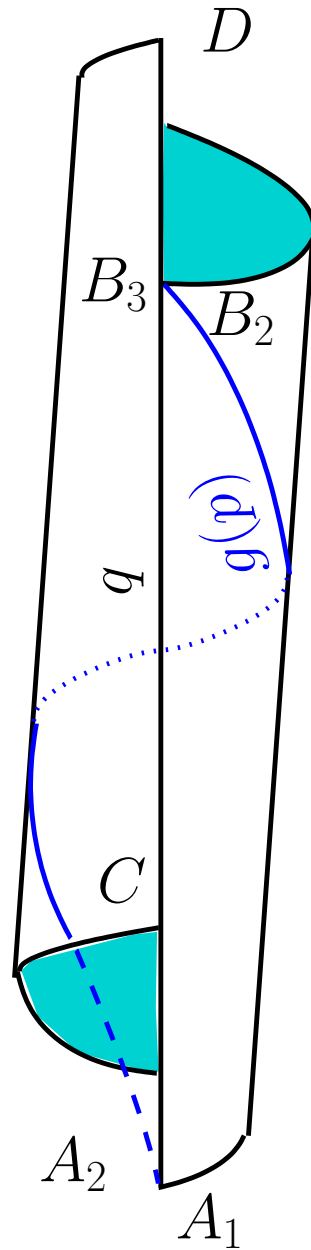




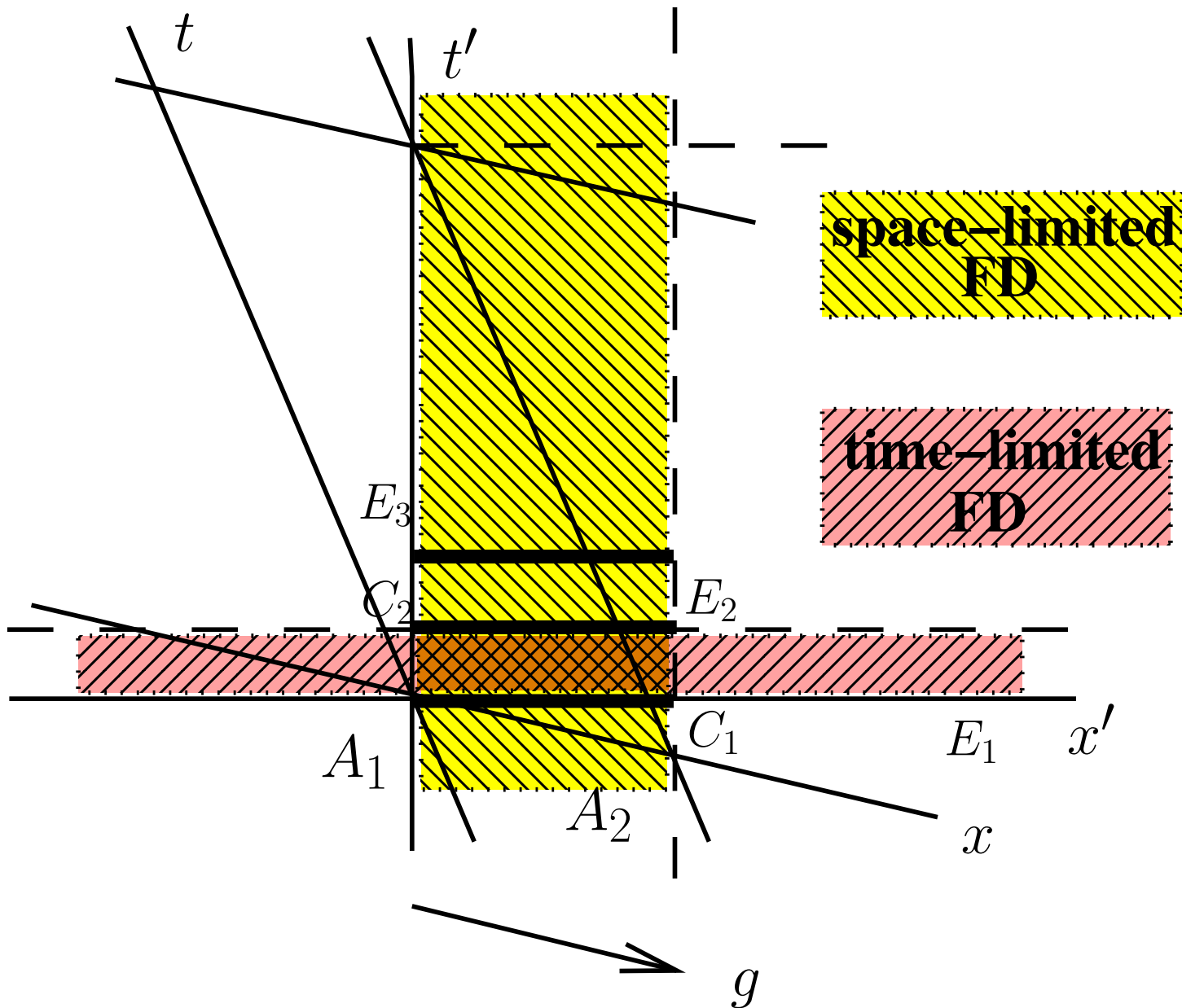
# SR: twins paradox



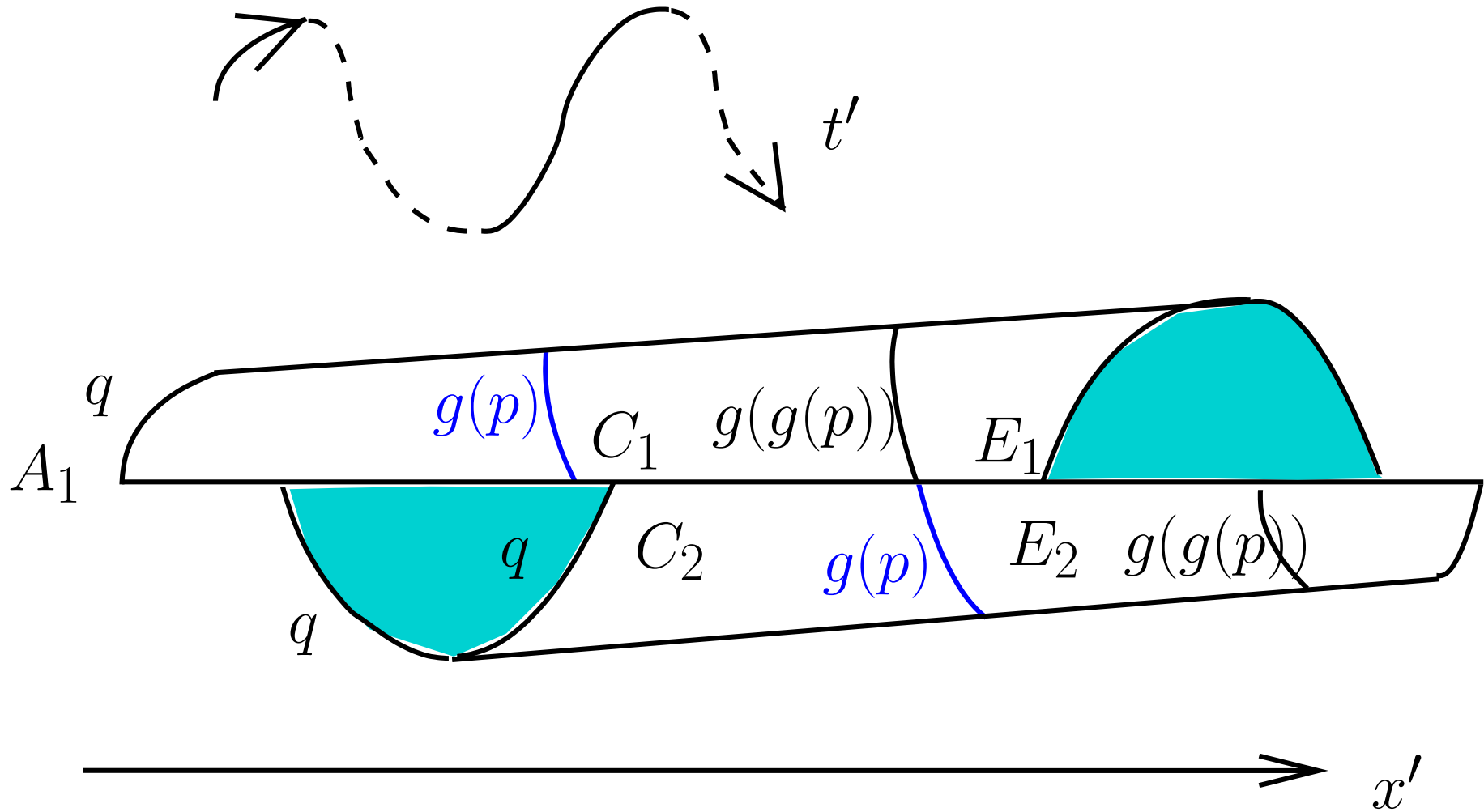
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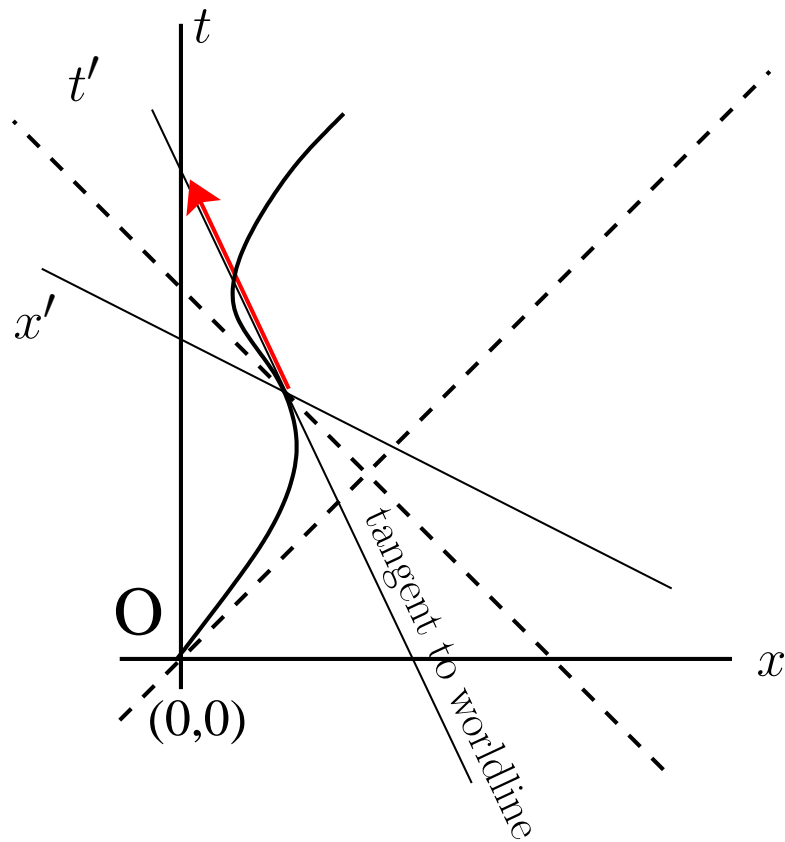
Roukema & Bajtlik 2008, MNRAS, 390, 655 [arXiv:astro-ph/0606559](https://arxiv.org/abs/astro-ph/0606559)

- helps understand [w:Ehrenfest paradox](#)

# SR: 4-velocity, 4-momentum

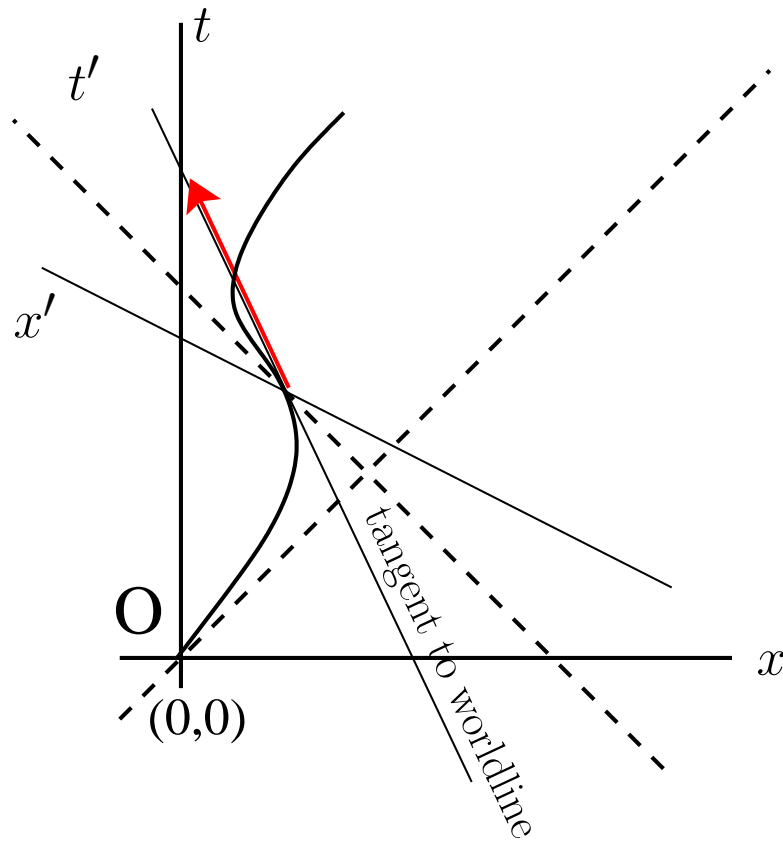
choose  $x$  axis so that 3-velocity  $u_{\text{Galilean}} = (\beta, 0, 0)^T$  for observer with  $(t, x, y, z)^T$  coord system

# SR: 4-velocity, 4-momentum



- in  $(t, x)$  spacetime 2-plane, extend from scalar speed  $\beta$  to spacetime vector = tangent to worldline

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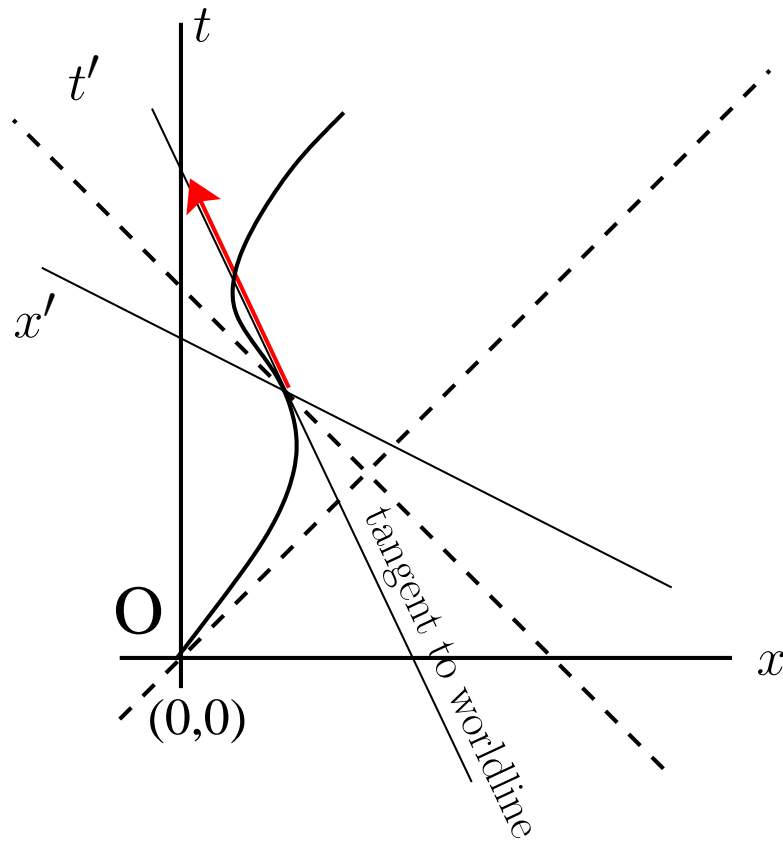


$$(u^t, u^x) := \left( \frac{d}{d\tau} t(\tau), \frac{d}{d\tau} x(\tau) \right)$$

w:four-velocity

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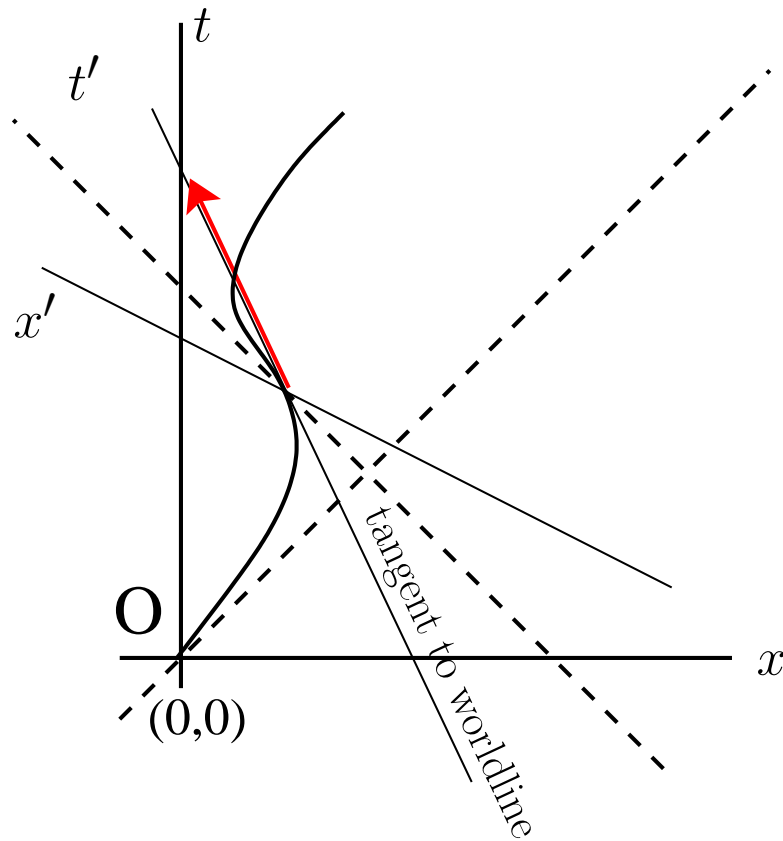
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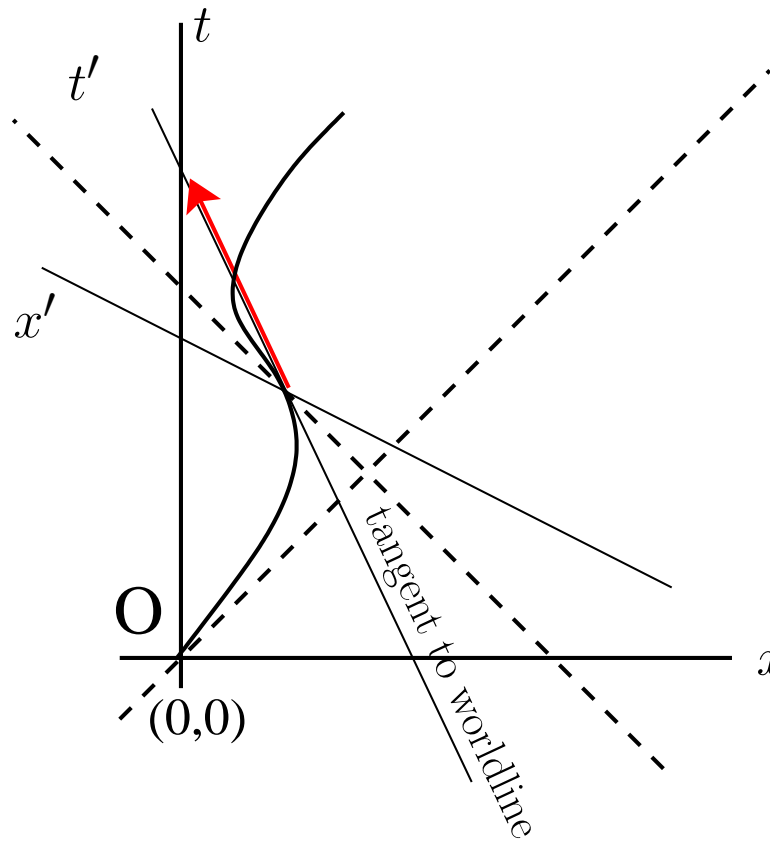
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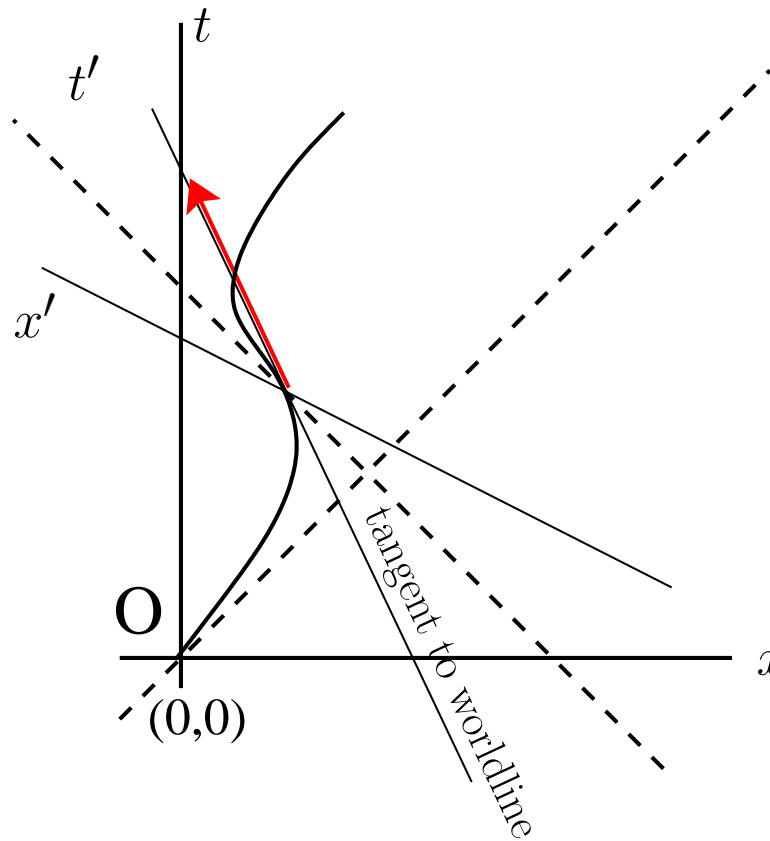
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Want  $\vec{u}$  Lorentz invariant  $\Rightarrow$

$$(u^t, u^x)^T = \Lambda^{-1} (1, 0)^T$$

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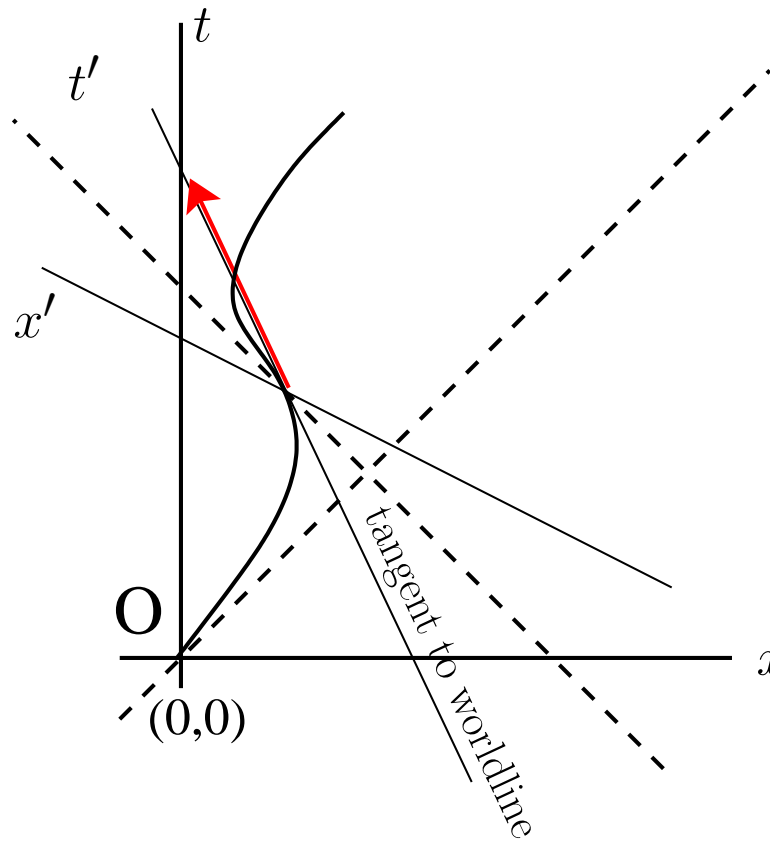
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Want  $\vec{u}$  Lorentz invariant  $\Rightarrow$   
 $(u^t, u^x)^T = \Lambda^{-1}(1, 0)^T = \gamma(1, \beta)^T$

4D:  $\vec{u} = \gamma(1, \beta^x, \beta^y, \beta^z)^T$

notation in this pdf:

$\vec{u}$  = 4-vector,  ${}^{(3)}\vec{u}$  = spatial component

- in  $(t, x)$  spacetime 2-plane, extend from scalar speed  $\beta$  to spacetime vector = tangent to worldline

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$$= \gamma \frac{d}{dt}(x, y, z)^T$$

$$\neq \frac{d}{dt}(x, y, z)^T \text{ except if } \beta = 0 \Leftrightarrow \gamma = 1$$



# SR: 4-velocity, 4-momentum

momentum:  $\vec{p} := m\vec{u} = m\gamma(1, \beta^x, \beta^y, \beta^z)^T$ , where  $m = \text{constant}$

w:invariant mass

$x$  ... = tensor-style component notation, not powers

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What does the time component of momentum =  $p^0 = m\gamma$  mean physically?

- first look at spatial component in a given ref. frame

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let us define 4-acceleration, 4-force

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Euclidean norm:  $\|\vec{x}\|^2 = \sum_{\mu} (x^{\mu})^2$

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w:Einstein summation sum is implicit

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Minkowski pseudo-norm:  $\|\vec{x}\|^2 = -x^0x^0 + \delta_{ij}x^ix^j$

$\delta_{ij} = 1$  if  $i = j$ , otherwise  $= 0$ ;  $i, j \in 1, 2, 3$

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sign convention:  $(-, +, +, +)$  or  $(+, -, -, -)$  are common

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similarly:  $\|\vec{a}\|^2$ ,  $\|\vec{f}\|^2$  **invariant**

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$$= \int_0^{\beta_2} \frac{{}^{(3)}\vec{f}}{\gamma} \cdot d\vec{x}$$

$$= \int_0^{\vec{x}_2} \frac{d}{dt}(m\beta\gamma) dx$$

(assume  ${}^{(3)}\vec{f}/\gamma \parallel \vec{x}$ )

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 &\Rightarrow K + m = m\gamma \text{ drop "}_2\text{"}
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in  $(x, t)$  frame,  
 $K =$  work done

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Yes.

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**WARNING:** assume that 4-momentum vectors at different space-time positions can be translated; NOT the case in curved spacetime

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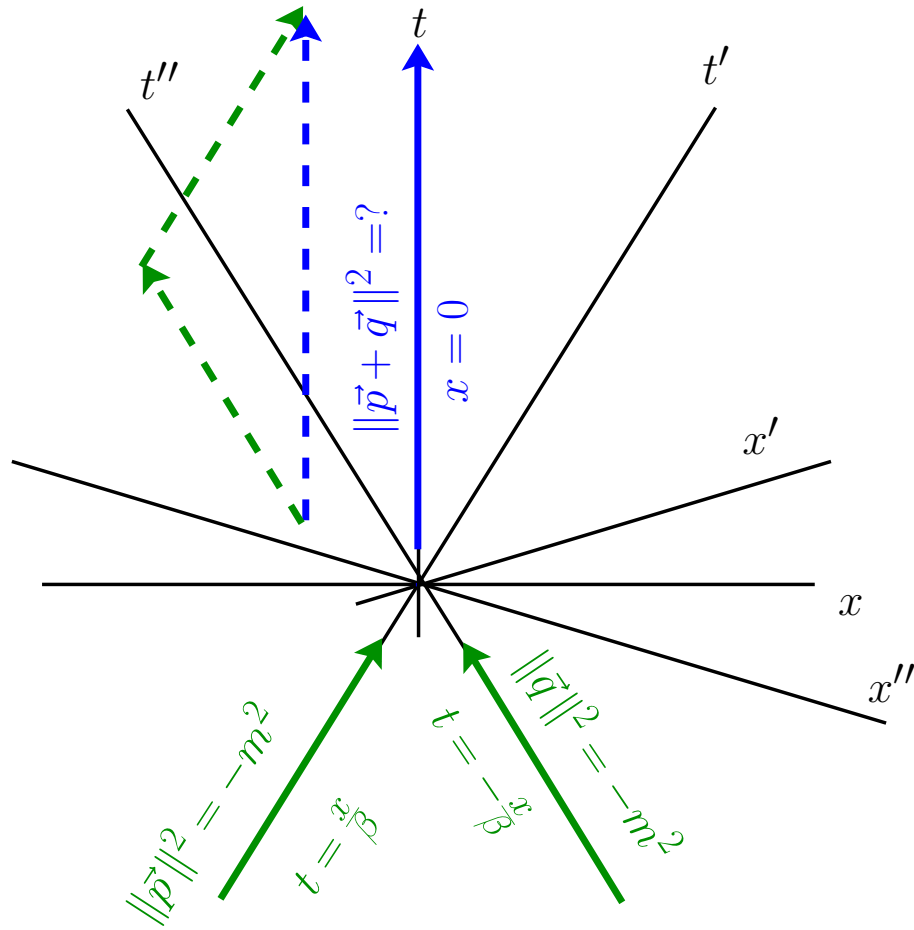
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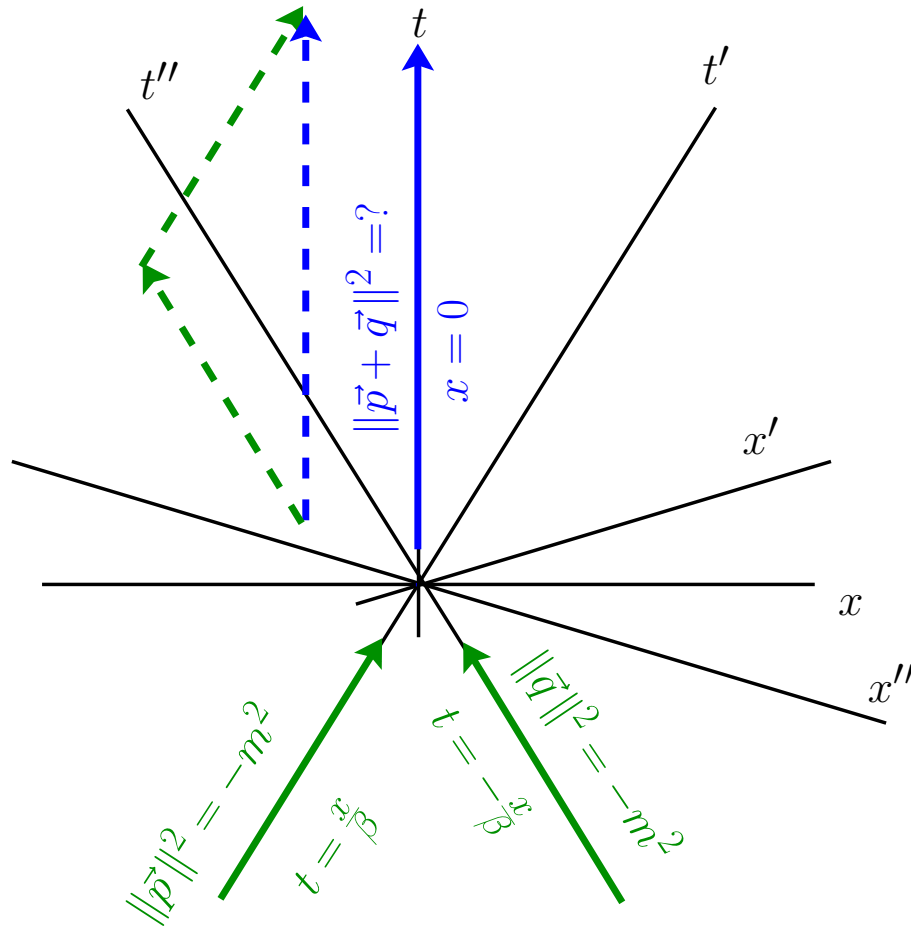
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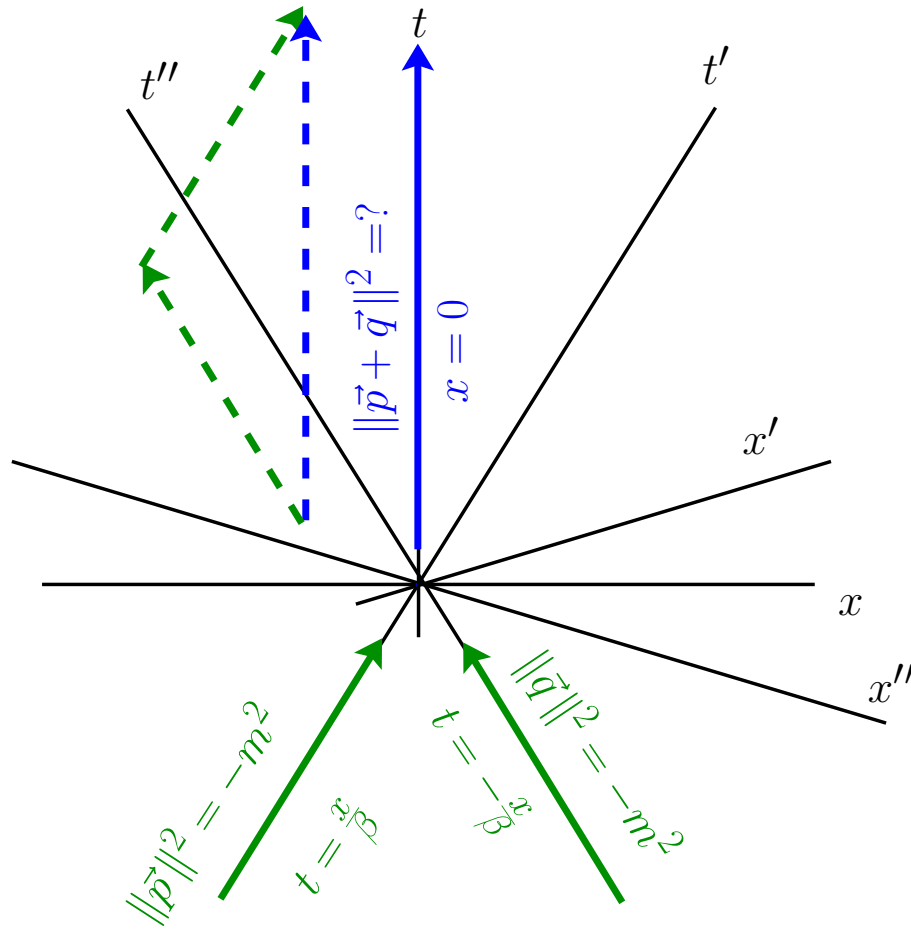
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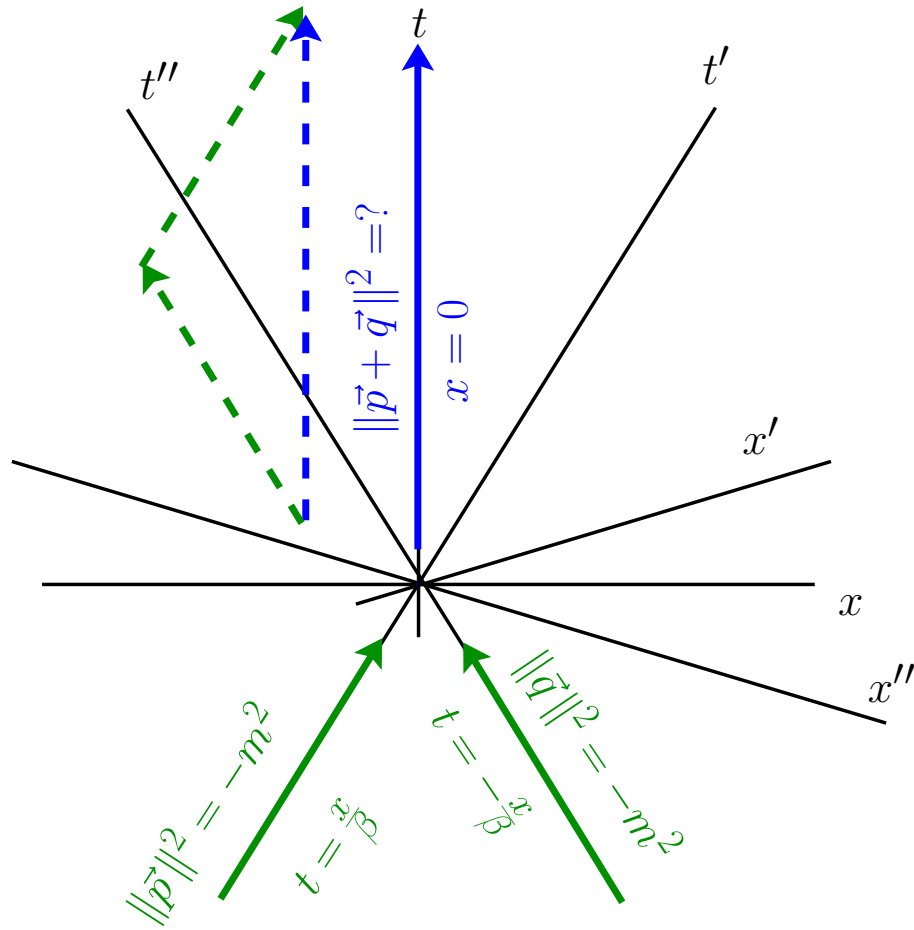
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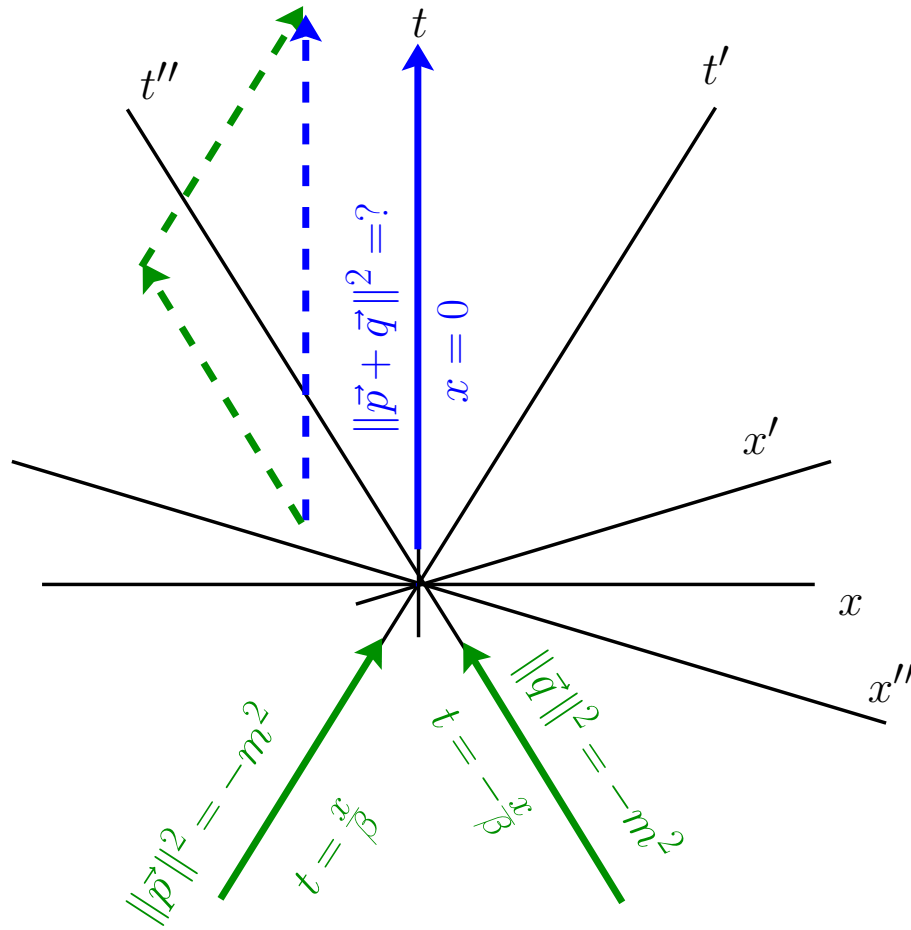
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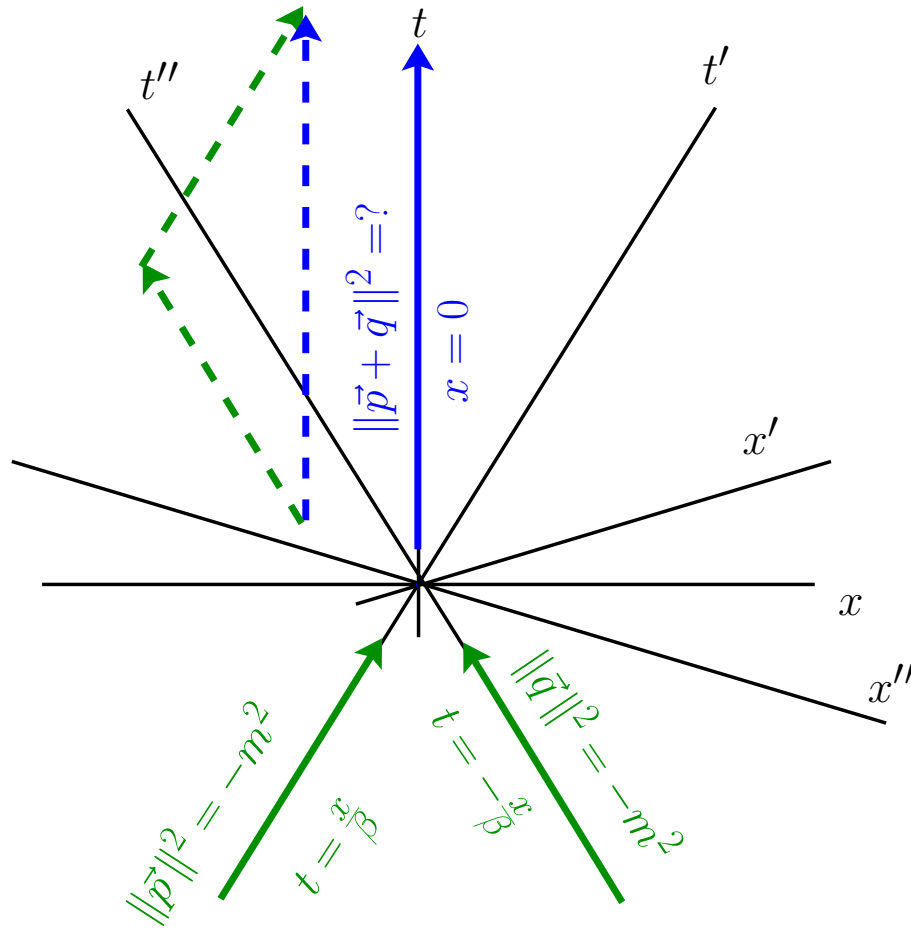
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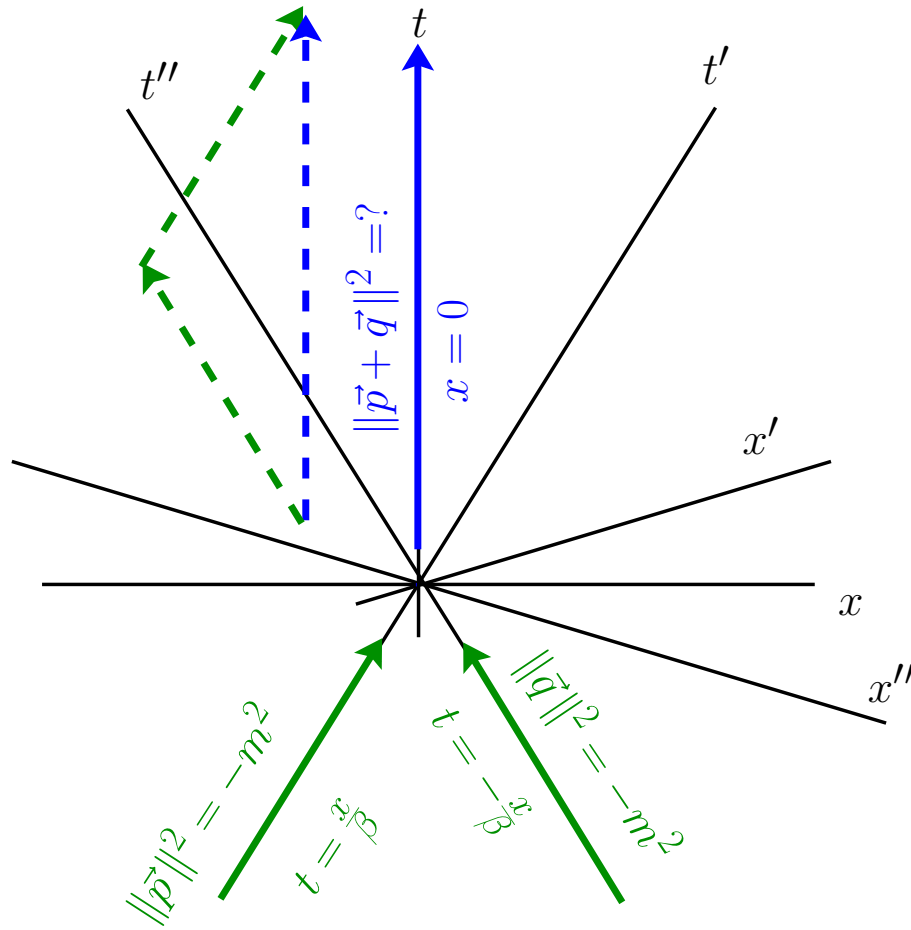
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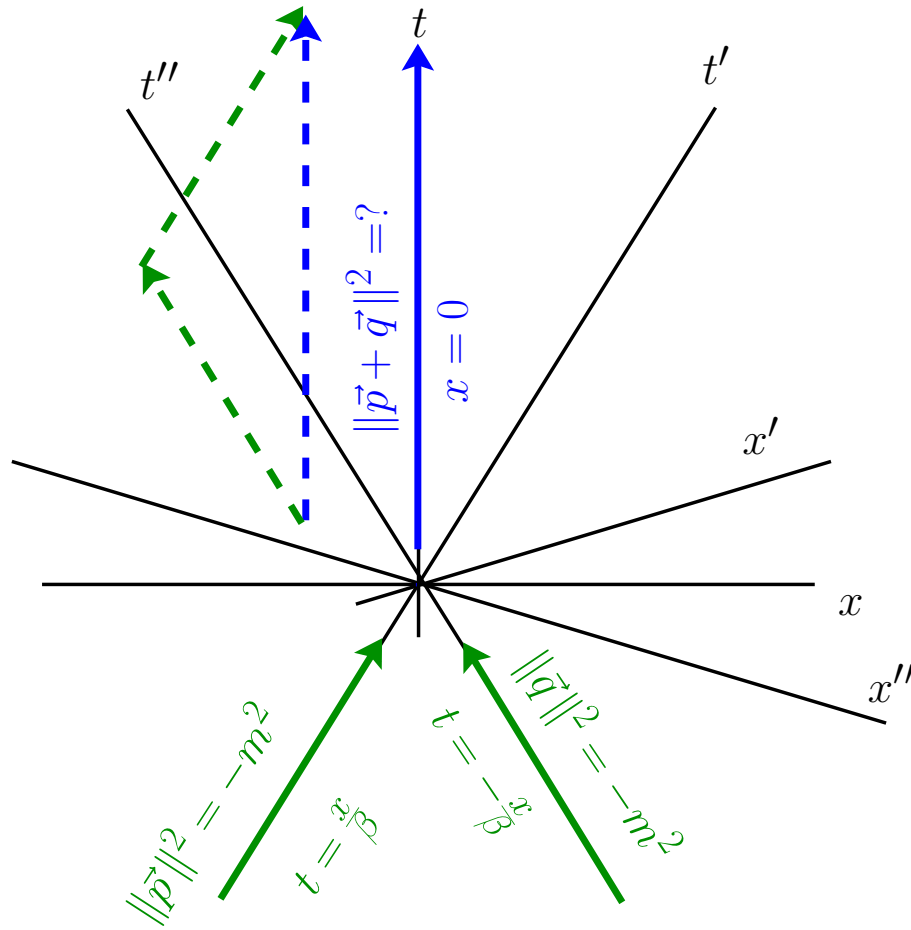
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system mass is invariant, but can be divided into  $p^0$  and  $p^i, i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  components in many different ways

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