

## Basic formulas of Einstein's theory of relativity

$\Delta t = \gamma \Delta t_0$	time dilation
$L = L_0 / \gamma$	length contraction
$m = \gamma m_0$	mass change
$K. E. = m_0 c^2 (\gamma - 1)$	relativistic kinetic energy
$V_{\text{net}} = (v + U) / (1 + vU/c^2)$	velocity addition law
$E = mc^2$	mass-energy equivalence

where:

$\Delta t_0, L_0, m_0$  are time, length, and mass in the rest frame

$\Delta t, L, m$  are time, length, and mass as viewed by an outside observer

$$\gamma = (1 - v^2 / c^2)^{-1/2}$$

$v$  = the velocity of the rest frame

$U$  = the velocity of something within the rest frame

$c$  = the speed of light,  $3 \times 10^8$  meters/second

Extremely Useful Approximation:  $(1 + x)^n \approx 1 + nx$  if  $x$  is very small.