

# Time Dilation Paradox [mln52]

Consider two reference frames  $S$  and  $S'$  in relative motion. An observer in  $S$  determines that time in  $S'$  is slowed, whereas an observer in  $S'$  determines that time in  $S$  is slowed. How can both observers be right?

Clocks 1 and 2 are synchronized in  $S$  for all times.

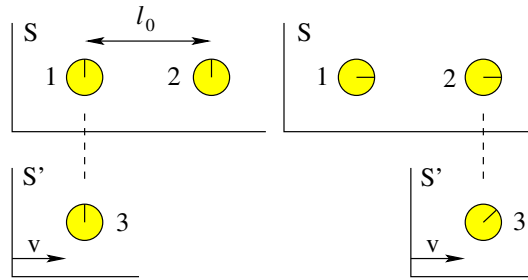
Clocks 1 and 3 are synchronized at  $t = 0$ .

## View from frame $S$ :

Proper distance between clocks 1 and 2:  $\ell_0$ .

Reading of clock 2 when clock 3 arrives there:  $t = \ell_0/v$ .

Time elapsed in  $S'$ :  $t' = (\ell_0/v)\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$ .



## View from frame $S'$ :

Distance between clocks 1 and 2:  $\ell' = \ell_0\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$ .

Reading of clock 3 when it reaches clock 2:  $t' = \ell'/v = (\ell_0/v)\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$ .

Time elapsed in  $S$ :  $\Delta t = t'\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2} = (\ell_0/v)(1 - v^2/c^2)$ .

Initial reading of clock 2 as viewed from  $S'$ :  $t_i = \ell_0 v/c^2$ .

Final reading of clock 2:  $t_i + \Delta t = \ell_0/v$ .

