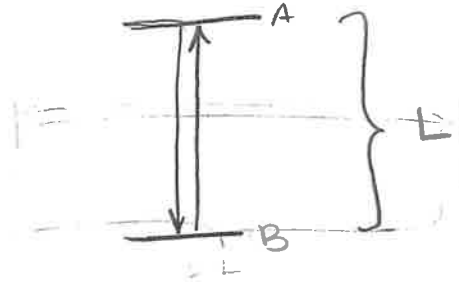


9/12
Black
Holes

Length Contraction

(presented by
Sasha & Eli)

assume there are two mirrors
and a photo moves from $A \rightarrow B$
then $B \rightarrow A$



Then $2T = 2L/c$ but assume $c=1$

So $2T = 2L$ where

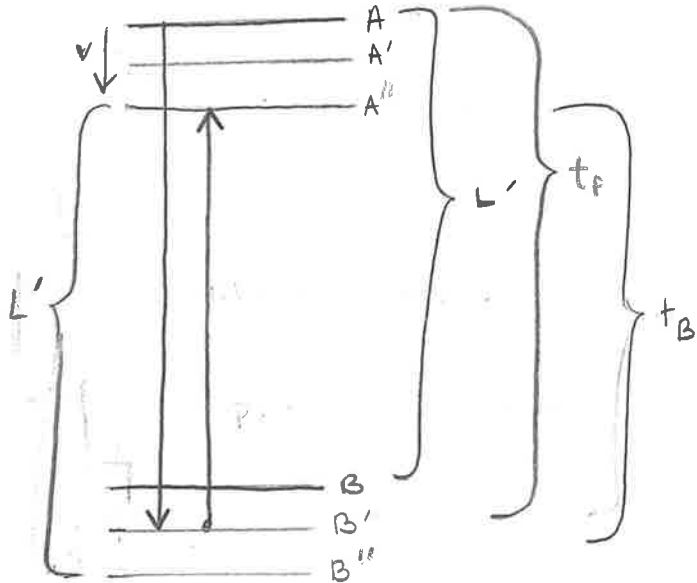
T is the proper time from one mirror to the other for the photon's frame

L is the proper distance from one mirror to the other for the photon's reference frame

Now, assume the mirrors are moving with a velocity of v such that it looks like these three snapshots from observer's perspective:

L' is the distance for an observer watching a photon go by.

(so $L' = A \rightarrow B$
 $A' \rightarrow B'$
 $A'' \rightarrow B''$)



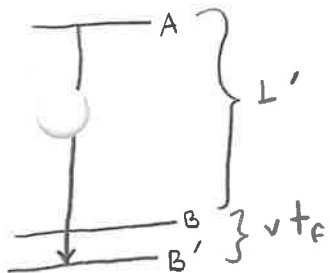
t_f is the time it takes for a photon to move forward from one mirror to the second mirror from the observer's perspective (i.e. $A \rightarrow B'$)

t_B is the time it takes for a photon to reflect backwards from a mirror to the other mirror from observer's perspective (i.e. $B' \rightarrow A''$)

t is the time it takes from the photon to move from one mirror to the other mirror from the observer's perspective.

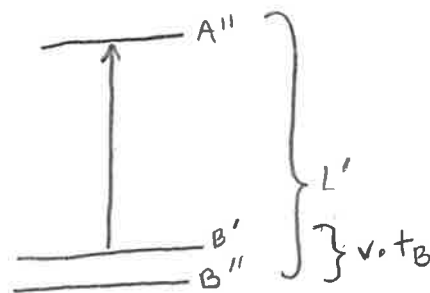
Therefore $t = t_f + t_B$

We can define t_f and t_B as such:



$$t_f = L' + vt_f$$

$$t_f = \frac{L'}{1-v}$$



$$t_B = L' - vt_B$$

$$t_B = \frac{L'}{1+v}$$

Find t :

$$t_f + t_B = \frac{L'}{1-v} + \frac{L'}{1+v} = L' \left(\frac{1}{1-v} + \frac{1}{1+v} \right) = L' \left(\frac{(1+v)(1-v)}{(1+v)(1-v)} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{1-v} + \frac{1}{1+v} \right)$$
$$= L' \left(\frac{1+v}{(1-v)(1+v)} + \frac{1-v}{(1+v)(1-v)} \right) = L' \left(\frac{1+v+1-v}{(1-v)(1+v)} \right) = L' \cdot \frac{2}{1-v^2}$$

$$\boxed{t_f + t_B = \frac{2L'}{1-v^2}}$$

$$t = \frac{t_f + t_B}{2} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{2L'}{1-v^2}$$

$$\boxed{t = \frac{L'}{1-v^2}}$$

Remember Time Dilation?

$$t = \gamma \cdot T$$
$$\frac{L'}{1-v^2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-v^2}} \cdot L$$

remember $T=L$

$$L' = 1-v^2 \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-v^2}} \cdot L$$
$$= \sqrt{1-v^2} \cdot L$$

$$\boxed{L' = \frac{1}{\gamma} \cdot L} \quad *$$

To put it generally: $L' = \frac{L}{\gamma}$

where L' is the distance seen by the observer outside the reference frame or "a person at rest"

where L is the distance by the "person moving with the clock" or the length measured inside the frame of reference.