



SI150V Introductory Relativity Theory 4.5 credits

Inledande relativitetsteori

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years

Establishment

Course syllabus for SI150V valid from Autumn 2013

Grading scale

P, F

Education cycle

First cycle

Main field of study

Physics, Technology

Specific prerequisites

General requirements: Completed upper secondary education including documented proficiency in Swedish corresponding to Swedish 3/Swedish B and English corresponding to English 6/English A. Specific requirements: knowledge of Mathematics corresponding to Mathematics 3C/D, Physics corresponding to Physics 2/B and Chemistry corresponding to Chemistry 1/A is required.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

After completing the course you should be familiar with basic concepts in both the theory of relativity and the mechanics prior to Einstein, for example, invariance and symmetry, observers and reference frames. You should have gained insight into the contradictions between the Newtonian mechanics and Maxwell's equations that led to the revolution of relativity. You should be able to transform time and space between observer that move relative to each other and realize how these transformations lead to length contraction and tidsdilatation. Realize the connection between mass and energy to have insight in how relativistic phenomena are exploited in technological applications.

Course contents

Translations and simple rotations, the notion of invariance in physics, the definition of space and time in Newtonian mechanics, Galileiinvarians, addition of velocities in Newtonian mechanics, the concepts of inertial and rest frames of reference, Lorentz time transformation, the nature of light and speed, the Michelson-Morley experiment and Lorentzcontractionen, simultaneity, length contraction, the twin paradox, relativistic kinematics and relativistic reactions.

Disposition

Internet based distance learning with interactive problems and examination. Contact with teachers through a web interface.

Course literature

Webbaserat studiematerial, finns på kursens hemsidor.

Examination

- INL1 - Assignment, 1.5 credits, grading scale: P, F
- INL2 - Assignment, 1.5 credits, grading scale: P, F
- INL3 - Assignment, 1.5 credits, grading scale: P, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

Other requirements for final grade

Three completed sets of problems.

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.