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virtual speed of neutrino

abstract: Recently opera researchers found neutrino is travelling faster

than light thus violating special theory of relativity.Here I have tried to show

that it can also be explained without violating special theory of relativity.

keywords: special theory of relativity,neutrino,antineutrino, infinitesimally

small.

Theory

The Oscillation Project with Emulsion-tRacking Apparatus (OPERA) is a

Scientific experiment for detecting tau neutrinos from muon neutrino

Oscillations. In September 2011, OPERA researchers observed muon

neutrinos traveling apparently at faster than the speed of light. The

neutrinos were calculated to have arrived 60 ns sooner than light would

have if traversing the same distance in a vacuum.

Now, from special theory of relativity we know that $m = m_0 / \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}$ where

m_0 is the rest mass of the particle, m is the moving mass of the

particle, v is the velocity of the particle, c is the speed of light. Now as we

can see if $v > c$ then the denominator becomes imaginary. Therefore it is

impossible to travel or get velocity faster than light.

In everyday usage, vacuum is a volume of space that is essentially empty of matter. But we can also think it as a space where neutrino and antineutrino

constantly annihilating each other at almost $\text{time}(t) \rightarrow 0$. Now let us consider

this diagram

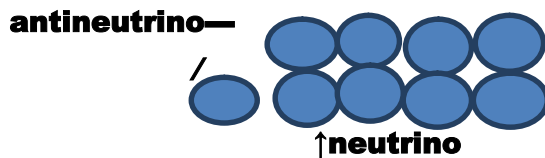


Fig:1

In the Fig:1 I have assumed neutrino and antineutrino are aligned with each other constantly popping in and out of existence in vacuum. Now if we insert a extra neutrino in vacuum as in Fig:1 the antineutrino will immediately

try to annihilate the neutrino diagonally in order to maintain the system at lowest energy level. In this way all the antineutrino will diagonally annihilate the neutrinos as shown in Fig:2.

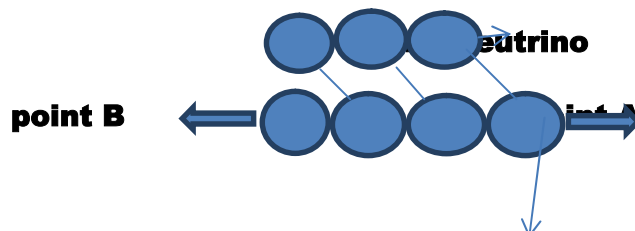


Fig:2

neutrino

Thus from Fig:2 we can see that if we insert a neutrino at point A it may seem

that it has travel to point B. Now if an antineutrino takes time $t \rightarrow 0$

(infinitesimally small) to annihilate a neutrino, then for n number of neutrinos

it will take time $(t_1) = n * t$. But as $t \rightarrow 0$, infinitesimally small, so even for

large values of n, t_1 will also be tends to 0 (infinitesimally small). Thus in

this way we can the problem of speed of neutrino without violating

the special theory of relativity. It may virtually seem that neutrino has

exceed the speed of light but actually not since the neutrino at point B

is always at point B, though it might seem that neutrino at point A has

travelled to point B. But actually the neutrino at point A has got annihilated

and neutrino at point B remains unannihilated. Though we will get

time (t_1) slightly greater than 0 and not 0 since from heisenberg

uncertainty principle $\Delta E \Delta T \geq h$ where $\Delta E = \text{change in energy}$ and $\Delta T = \text{change}$

in time, $h = \text{planck's constant}$.

Conclusion: Thus I have shown that the anomaly in the speed of

neutrino can also be solved without violating special theory of relativity.

References:

- 1. D.Chattopadhyay and P.C.Rakshit, Electricity and magnetism, eighth edition,New Central Book Agency(P) Ltd.**

