

Re: SR Postulate on Speed of Light

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.physics.relativity/2005-05/msg01692.html>

- *From:* "Curious" <anthonyroseuk-curious@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 22 May 2005 15:06:38 -0700
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Look, to you Tim, and David Smith – you're still misunderstanding me. Probably because I mixed two thoughts.

1. 'Reality' as opposed to perception: If we cannot tell whether the 'real' speed of light is constant (or even if there is such a thing as a 'real' speed of light), this doesn't remove the question from physics. It just removes the answer from physics. For now. In future we may be able to answer this in some way by physics. If you had asked a caveman how far away the stars are, would he have been able to tell? But if we had left curiosity about this question up to philosophers alone we would never have answered it. So all I'm saying is, there is no wall dividing questions up between philosophy and physics. They rather co-operate on the question. But perhaps you misunderstand what I mean by philosophy. I don't mean airy-fairy wonderings about angels on pins. I'm thinking of the great philosophers who have analysed the science of logic and enhanced our ability to use the power of reason to deduce correct conclusions and detect false ones. Which leads me to my other thought: about paradoxes.

2. A theory has to be logical. Not common sensical. Just logical. That's all I'm saying. SRT/GR may be logical. I personally have my doubts, not because of time dilation in itself, but because of the paradoxes – if they are indeed there. But if I can see how my (currently tentative) opinion might be wrong I'll change it quicker than greased lightning. But at the end of the day if a theory's predictions *don't* make sense, if the theory does indeed predict paradoxes, then putting the paradoxes into the philosophy section doesn't save it. But you probably agree with me there.

And for the record, just because thousands believe it doesn't make it right. Look how many people 'knew' the world was flat (because otherwise you would fall off.) Sometimes the pressure of not seeing any other option, or the love of an elegant lateral thought, or a long-held allegiance that takes a life of its own, or peer pressure alone, can cause large numbers of people to hold to a group opinion. I don't think I'm clever than them all – just more arrogant.

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- *Follow-Ups:*

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- ◆ **Re: SR Postulate on Speed of Light**
◇ From: Ben Rudiak-Gould
- ◆ **Re: SR Postulate on Speed of Light**
◇ From: shuba
- ◆ **Re: SR Postulate on Speed of Light**
◇ From: Bilge
- ◆ **Re: SR Postulate on Speed of Light**
◇ From: N:dlzc D:aol T:com \((dlzc\)

• **References:**

- ◆ **SR Postulate on Speed of Light**
◇ From: john_doe_ph_d
- ◆ **Re: SR Postulate on Speed of Light**
◇ From: Harry
- ◆ **Re: SR Postulate on Speed of Light**
◇ From: Curious
- ◆ **Re: SR Postulate on Speed of Light**
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