

Re: So... Lorentz Contractions are *physical* not observed?

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- *From:* "kenseto" <kenseto@xxxxxxxxxxx>
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"Tom Roberts" <tjroberts137@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:1\\$ji.16683\\$2v1.8259@xx](news:1$ji.16683$2v1.8259@xx)

mgconsolidated@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Can anyone provide / point to a definitive answer on whether Lorentz
contractions are physical or an observed effect.

This depends on what you mean by those words.

Here's an analogy: a ladder will fit through a doorway if it is oriented
correctly, and won't fit if it is oriented differently — is this
difference "physical"? — after all neither the length of the ladder nor
the width of the doorway change in any way. This is an example of
GEOMETRICAL PROJECTION — if the projection of the ladder's length onto
the doorway's width is small then it fits, and if that projection is
large then it won't; this depends on their relative orientation.

Instead of the ladder we have a circular metal plate with a diameter of D_p
and the door in the barn is also circular with a diameter of D_b . D_p is larger
than D_b . Now D_p is accelerated to a relativistic speed will it fit through
the smaller D_b door???

Ken Seto

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