

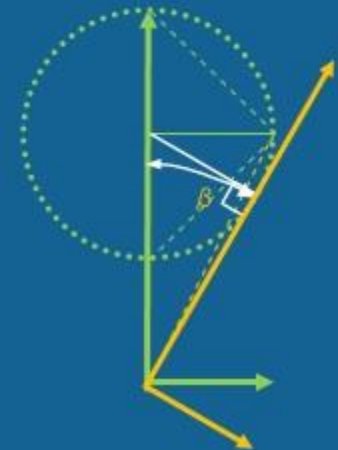
# Riding on a Light Beam

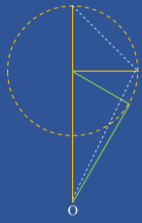


## The Brehme Angle and The Velocity Triangle

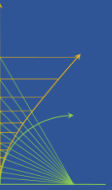
Lewis F. McIntyre  
CS-AAPT  
March 21, 2020

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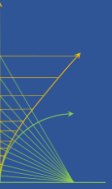
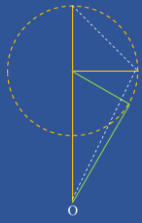




# AGENDA



- The Lorentz Transformation
- Other Graphical Solutions
  - Minkowski Diagram
  - Brehme Diagram
- The Brehme Angle & Velocity Triangle
- Rotated Reference Frames, Translating at  $c$  in Direction of Time
- Events, Observations and Measurements
- Communications Between Reference Frames by Doppler Shift
- Multiple Reference Frames and the Invariant  $c\tau$



# The Lorentz Transformation

- **SIMPLE ENOUGH! TRANSFORMS MEASUREMENT FROM ONE REFERENCE FRAME TO ANOTHER**

$$x_2 = \frac{x_1 + \left(\frac{v}{c}\right) ct_1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

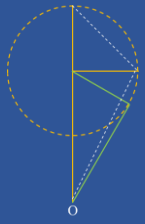
$$ct_2 = \frac{ct_1 + \left(\frac{v}{c}\right) x_1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

- **FOR  $v \ll c$ ,  $x \ll ct$ , BECOMES THE GALILEAN TRANSFORM:**

$$x_2 \cong x_1 + vt_1$$

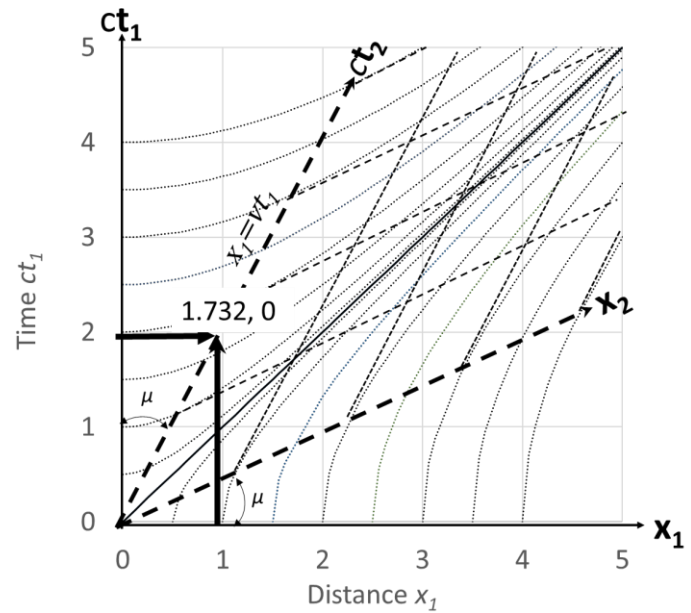
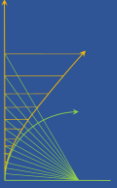
$$ct_2 \cong ct_1$$

- **BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**



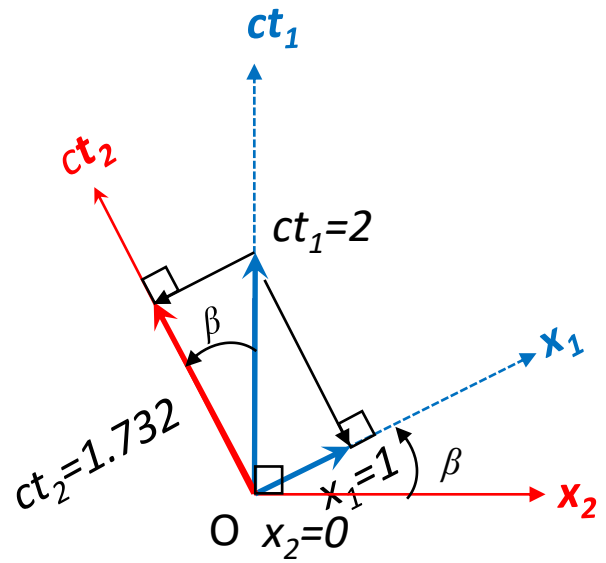
# GRAPHICAL SOLUTIONS

## Minkowski and Brehme Diagrams



**Minkowski Diagram**

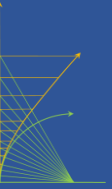
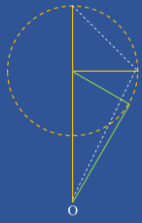
World Line  $x=vt$  and Constant  $c\tau = \sqrt{(ct_1)^2 - x_1^2}$



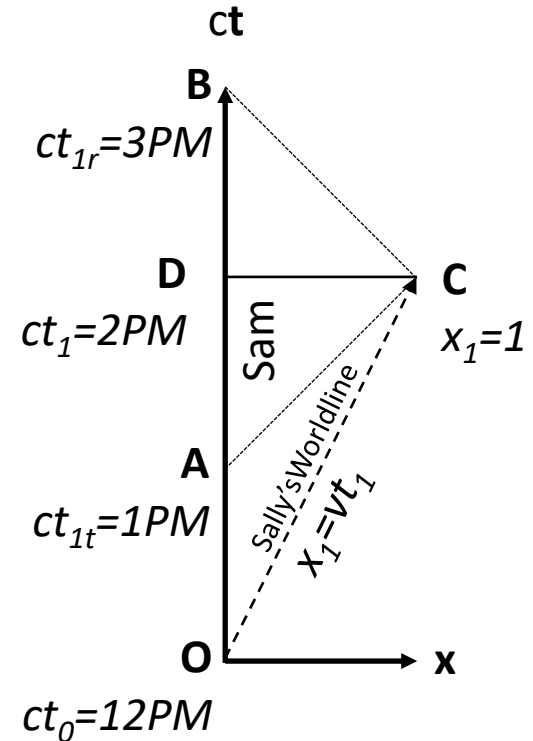
**Brehme Diagram**

Reference Frame Orthogonalities  
Expanded/Reduced by Brehme Angle  $B = \sin^{-1}(v/c)$

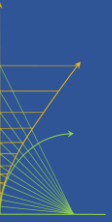
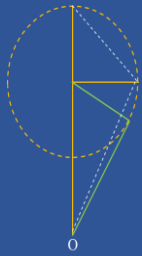
# WHAT TIME IS IT, SALLY?



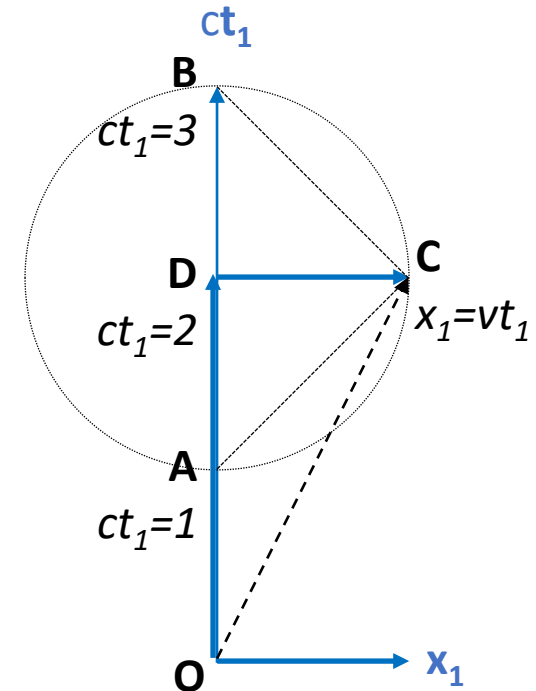
- SALLY LEAVES EARTH
  - $ct_0 = 12\text{PM}$
  - $v/c = 0.5c$
- SAM TRACKS SALLY BY RADAR ON HER WORLDLINE  $x_1 = vt_1$
- AT  $ct_{1t} = 1\text{PM}$ , SAM ASKS SALLY WHAT TIME IT IS
- AT  $ct_{1r} = 3\text{PM}$  SAM GETS HER REPLY AND COMPUTES BY RADAR EQUATION:
  - $x_1 = (ct_{1r} - ct_{1t})/2 = 1 \text{ light hour}$
  - $ct = (ct_{1r} + ct_{1t})/2 = 2\text{PM}$
  - $v = x/ct = 0.5$
- *BUT SALLY SAID HER CLOCK READ 1:43PM WHEN SHE GOT HIS REQUEST!*



# THE BREHME ANGLE AND THE VELOCITY TRIANGLE



- DRAW A CIRCLE ABOUT  $D=ct_1$ , OF RADIUS  $x_1$ 
  - A is Time of Emission of Radar Pulse, Sam's Query
  - B is Time of Receipt of Radar Pulse, and Sally's Reply
  - C is Sally's Location Determined by A and B
    - $x_1=(3-1)/2=1$
    - $ct_1=(3+1)/2=2$
    - $v=x_1/ct_1=0.5c$

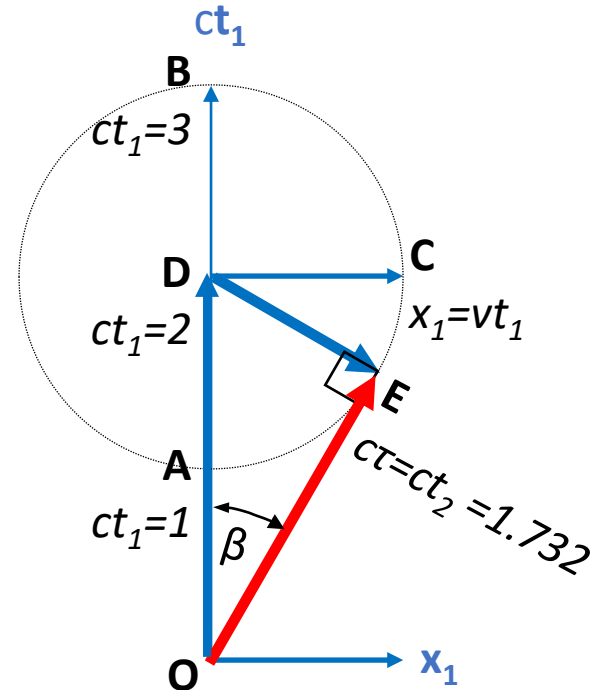


# THE BREHME ANGLE AND THE VELOCITY TRIANGLE

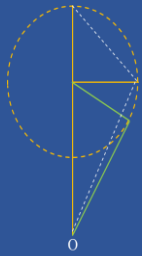
- DRAW LINE FROM O TANGENT TO CIRCLE AT E
- OE IS THE INVARIANT

$$c\tau = ct_2 = \sqrt{(ct_1)^2 - x_1^2} = ct_1 \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2}$$

- VELOCITY TRIANGLE IS ODE
- OE SEPARATED FROM SAM'S TIME AXIS OD BY *Brehme Angle*  $\beta = \sin^{-1}(v/c)$
- E, SALLY'S ACTUAL TIME OF RECEIPT AND TRANSMISSION, IS ALSO ON THE INFERENCEAL CIRCLE



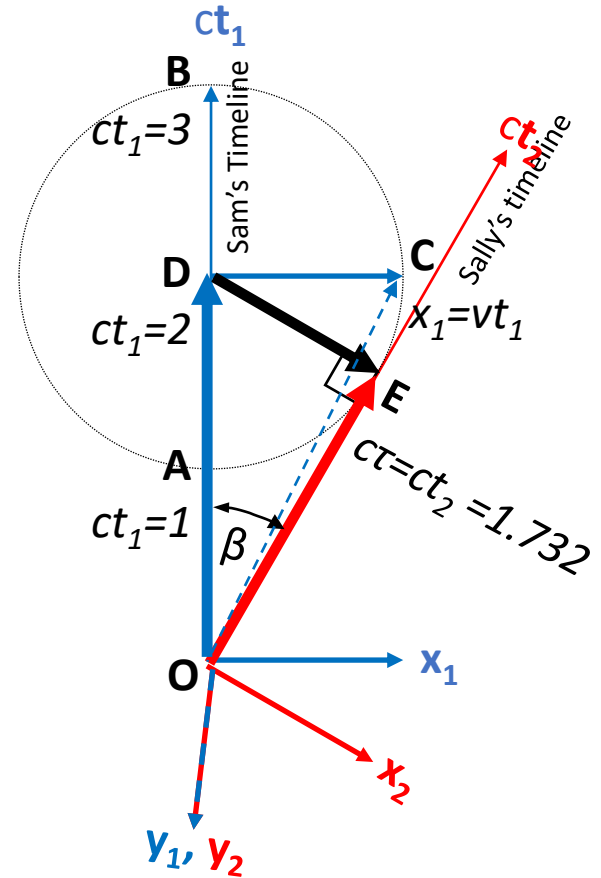
# THE BREHME ANGLE AND THE VELOCITY TRIANGLE



- **VELOCITY TRIANGLE ODE:**
  - Sally's  $ct_2$  Time Axis through OE
  - Sally's  $x_2$  Spatial Axis Normal to OE, in Direction of Motion
- **WORLDLINES AND TIMELINES**
  - Minkowski Worldline OC
    - Locus of Successive Measurement of Sally by Sam
  - Timelines OD and OE (NEW)
    - Locus of Proper Clock Ticks from O by Sam and Sally
- **TRIGONOMETRIC LORENTZ TRANSFORM**

$$x_1 = \frac{x_2 + ct_2 \cdot \sin(\beta)}{\cos(\beta)}$$

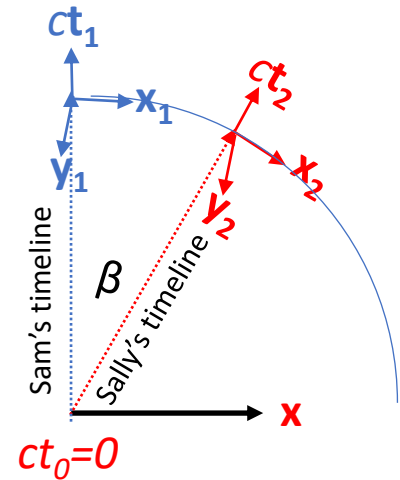
$$ct_1 = \frac{ct_2 + x_2 \cdot \sin(\beta)}{\cos(\beta)}$$

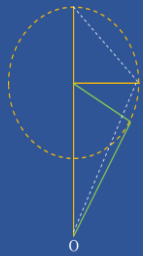




# ROTATED REFERENCE FRAMES PROPAGATING AT $c$ .

- LIGHT PROPAGATES AS A SPHERE EXPANDING AT  $c$  IN FOUR-DIMENSIONAL SPACE
  - $(c\Delta t)^2 = \Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2 + \Delta z^2$
- ALL MATTER PROPAGATES AT PROPER VELOCITY  $c$  IN A SINGLE DIRECTION
  - That direction defines its timeline unit vector  $ct$
  - Spatial axes' unit vectors  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}$  normal to  $ct$ .
- RELATIVE VELOCITY IS PROJECTION OF ONE BODY'S PROPER VELOCITY ONTO SPATIAL PLANES OF ANOTHER
  - Through  $\beta$  and Lorentz Transform
  - Does Not Exist as an Independent Variable
  - Maximum Relative Velocity  $c$  at  $\beta=90^\circ$





# EVENTS, OBSERVATIONS & MEASUREMENTS



## DEFINITION

- NORMALLY NEGLIGIBLY SEPARATED IN TIME OR SPACE FOR  $v \ll c$ : NOT TRUE FOR HIGHER  $v$ !
- EVENT: Proper Event with Zero Spatial Coordinates that Generates Light (Time of Transmission)
- OBSERVATION: Proper Time (Zero Spatial Coordinates) of Receipt of Light from an Event in One Reference Frame By an Observer in Another Reference Frame (Time of Receipt)
- MEASUREMENT: Determination of  $ct, x$  Coordinates in Observer's Reference Frame.
  - AFFECTED BY THE DOPPLER SHIFT DUE TO RELATIVE MOTION BETWEEN EVENT AND OBSERVER!

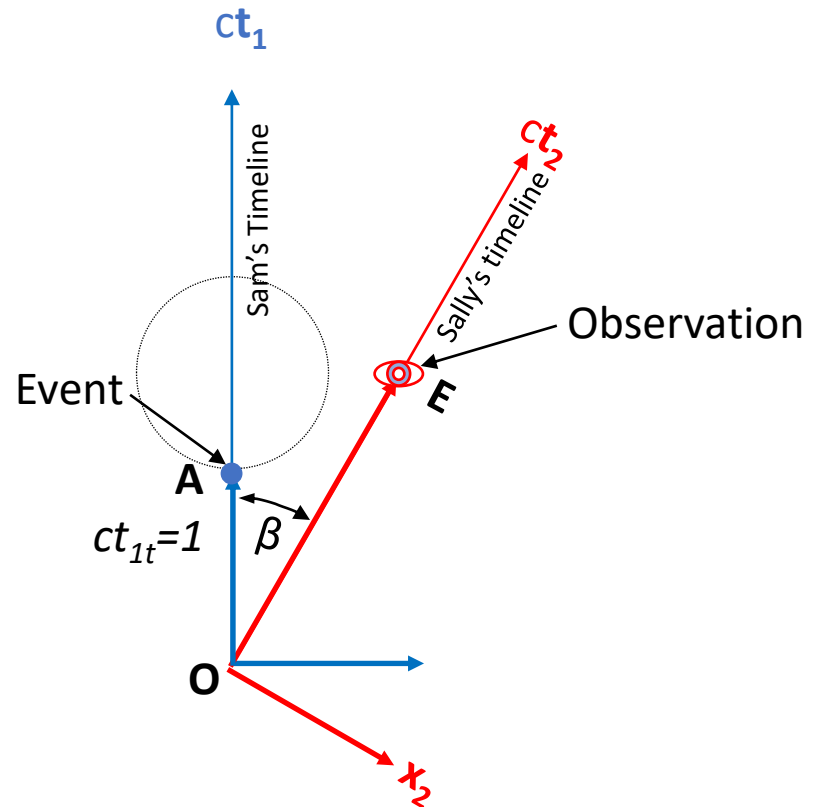
# COMMUNICATING BETWEEN REFERENCE FRAMES

## Sam's Request to Sally

- Sam's Request is Doppler Shifted Along Path AFE from the Time of His Transmission to Sally's Time of Receipt:

$$ct_{2r} = ct_{1t} \frac{1 + \sin(\beta)}{\cos(\beta)}$$

*Equal units of space in the reference frame of origination, to equal units of time in reference frame of receipt.*



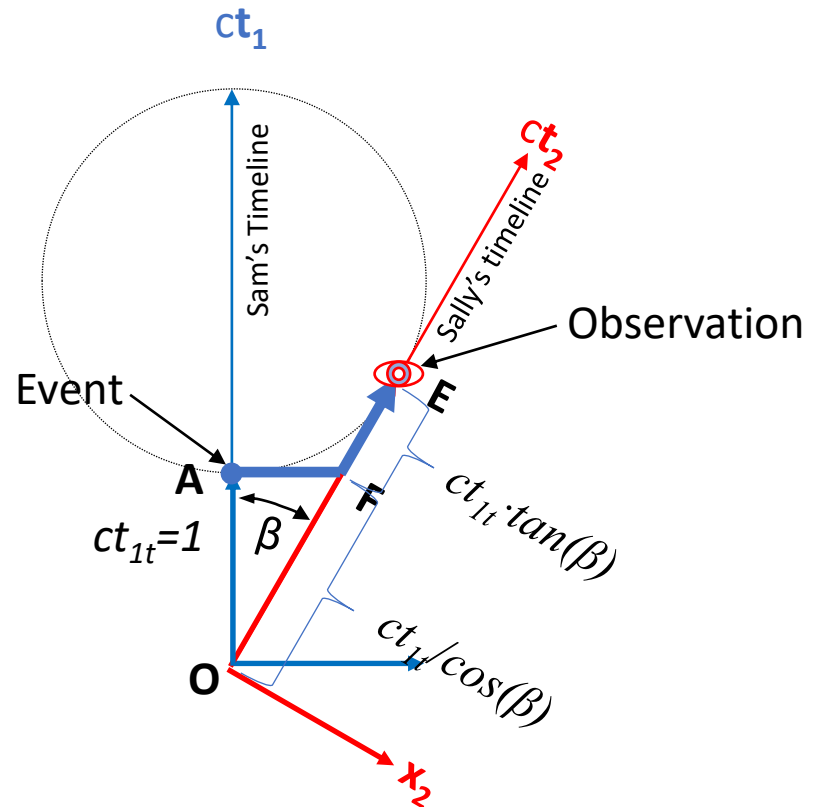
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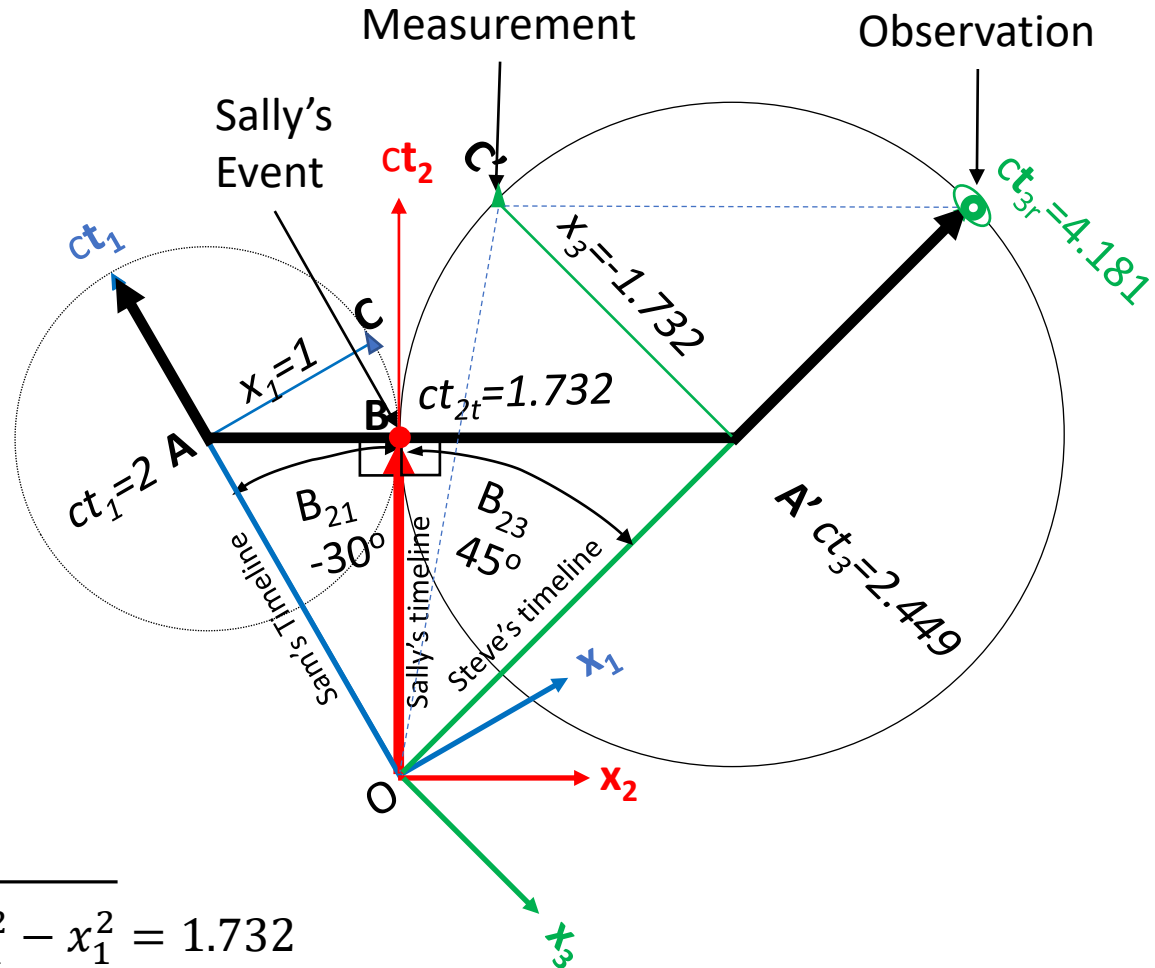






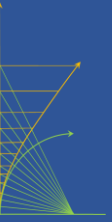
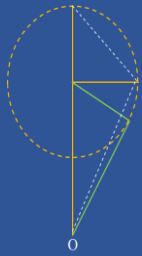
# COMMUNICATING BETWEEN REFERENCE FRAMES

All Reference Frames Agree on Proper Time of the Event



$$c\tau = \sqrt{ct_3^2 - x_3^2} = \sqrt{ct_1^2 - x_1^2} = 1.732$$





# SUMMARY

- **VELOCITY TRIANGLE**
  - Separates Event, Observation and Measurement
  - Eliminates “Rubber Rulers” and “Asynchronous Clocks”
  - The Measurement of One Clock by Another Affected by Relativistic Doppler Shift
- **PROVIDES MORE CLEAR, LESS MYSTERIOUS DEMONSTRATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF RELATIVITY USING SIMPLE GEOMETRY**
  - Additive Velocities
  - Mass, Momentum and Energy
- **CAN BE APPLIED TO ACCELERATED (NON-INERTIAL) SYSTEMS**