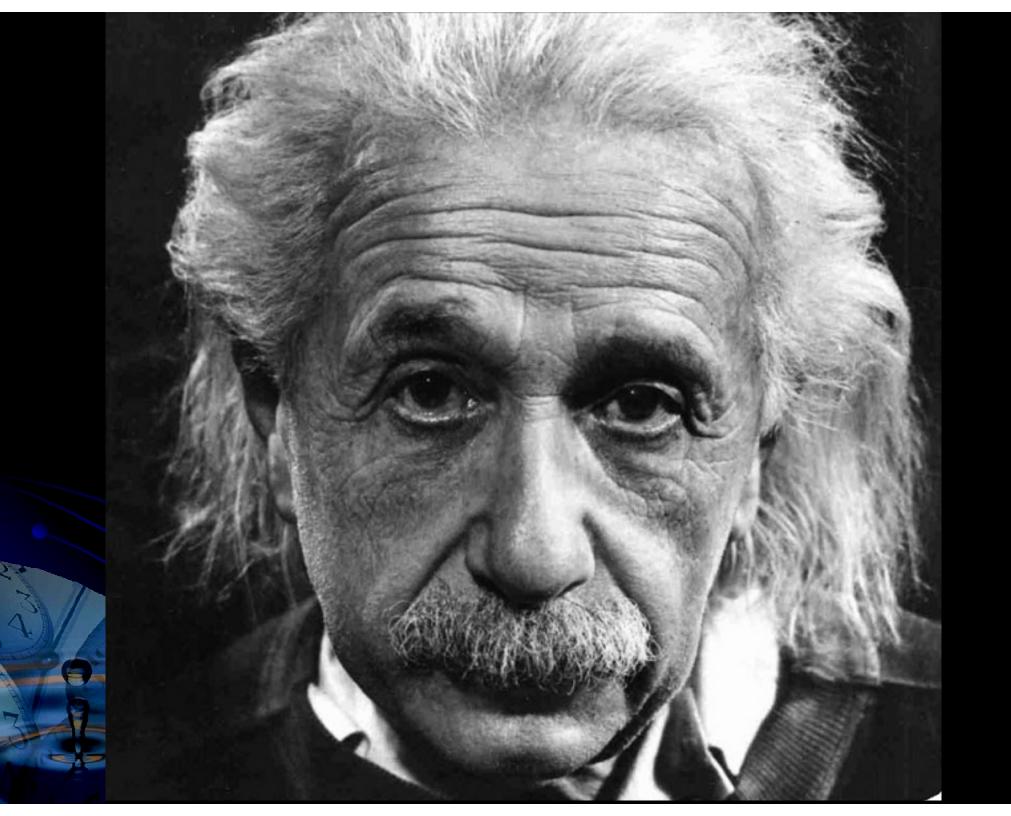
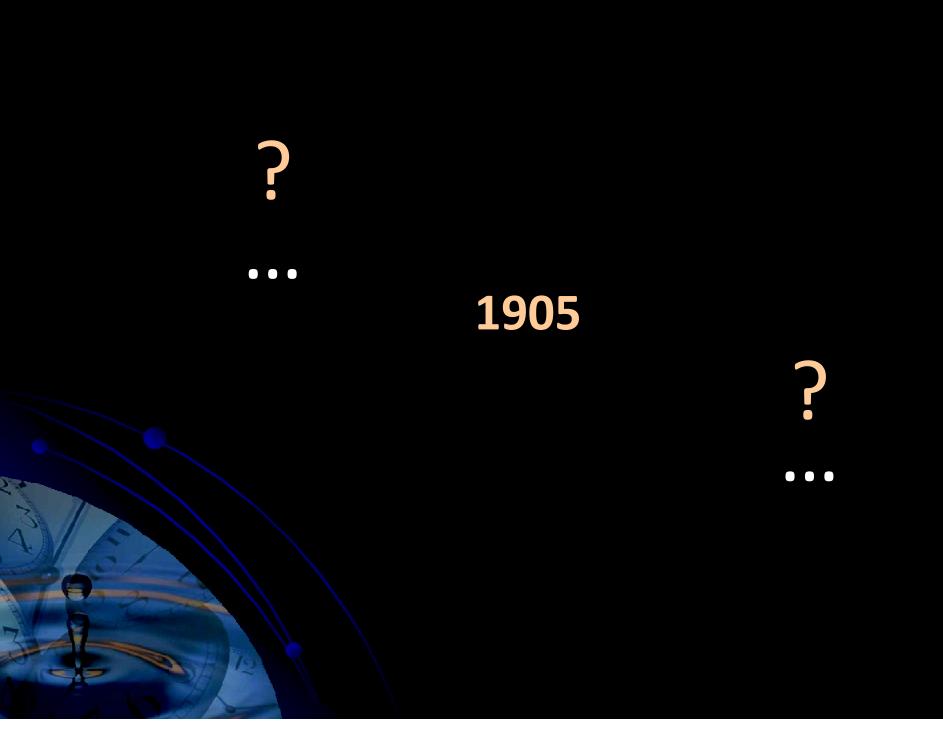
The beginning of...

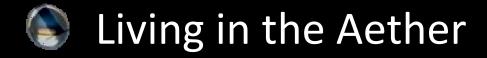
the Relativity Theory

Monica Valencia-S

IMPRS Retreat - October 13 - 15 2010

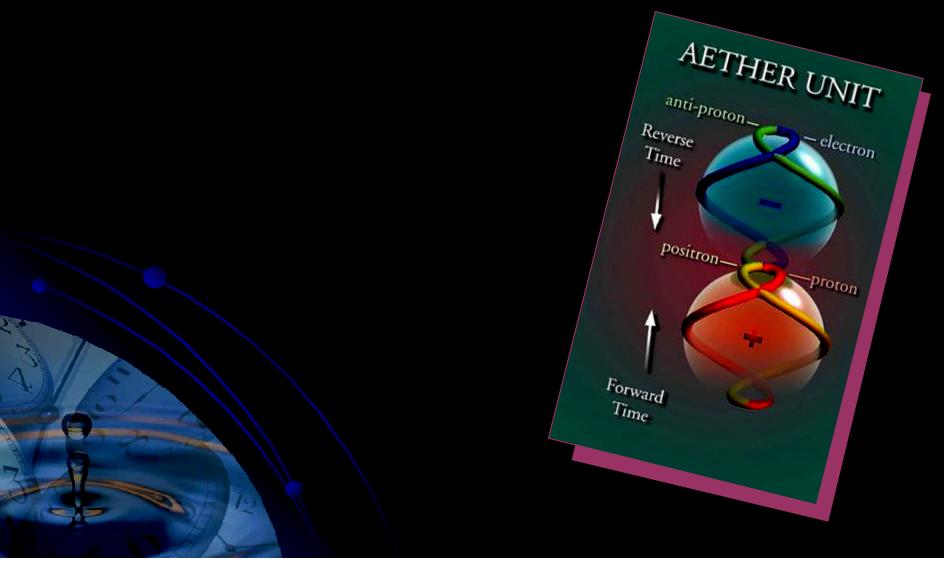






Lorentz, Poincare, Einstein

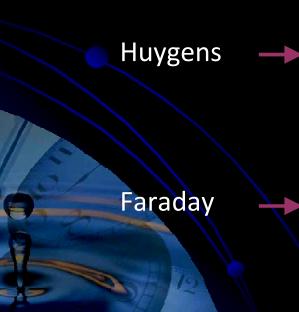




"even for scientific purposes only, all space had been filled three or four times over with aethers" (Maxwell, 9th ed *Encyclopedia Britanica*)



"even for scientific purposes only, all space had been filled three or four times over with aethers" (Maxwell, 9th ed *Encyclopedia Britanica*)



Medium/ substratum for the propagation of light waves

Tubes responsible for electrically charged and magnetized bodies

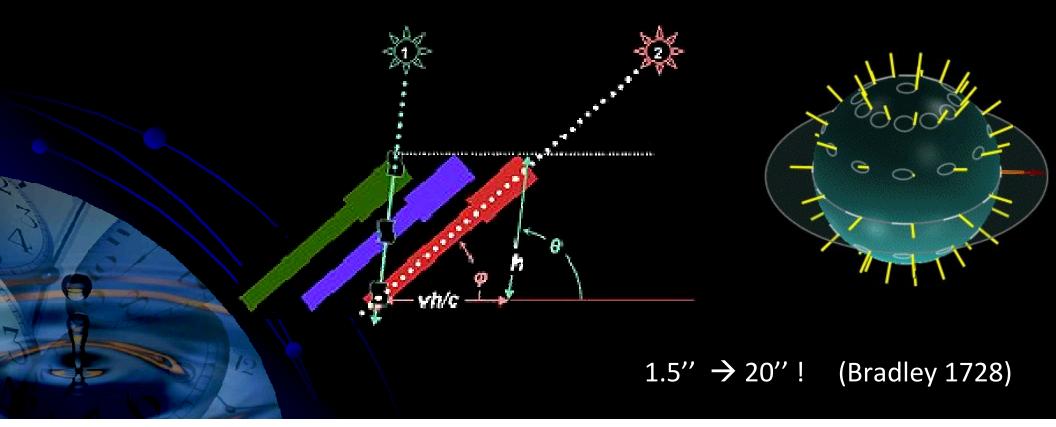
Mendeleev



1800-1807 Thomas Young

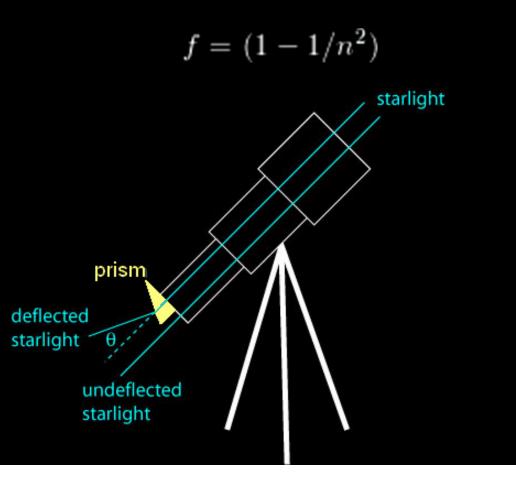
Aberration \rightarrow Aether is not "dragged" by the Earth

"The aberration of light which according to the emission theory results directly from the composition of two rectilinear motions is explained more easily by the wave theory"



1800-1807 Thomas Young Aberration → Aether is not "dragged" by the Earth

1818 Letter Fresnel to Arago" Partially dragged aether"



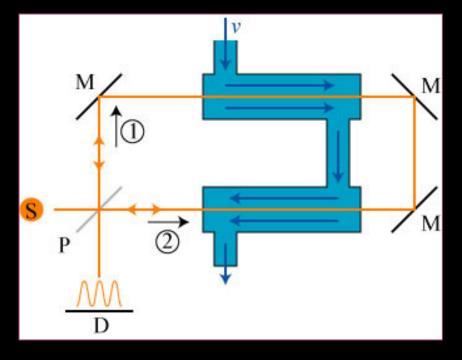
1800-1807 Thomas Young

Aberration \rightarrow Aether is not "dragged" by the Earth

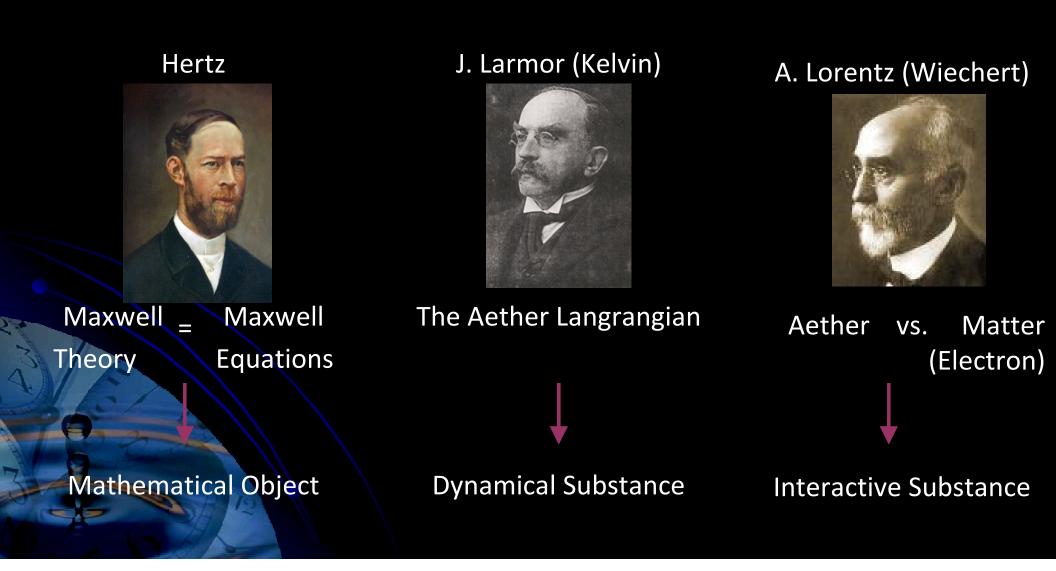
1818 Letter Fresnel to Arago" Partially dragged aether"

1851 Fizeau ExperimentVelocity of light in moving water isdifferent from it in still water (0.44 v)

$$V = \frac{c}{n} + v\left(1 - \frac{1}{n^2}\right)$$



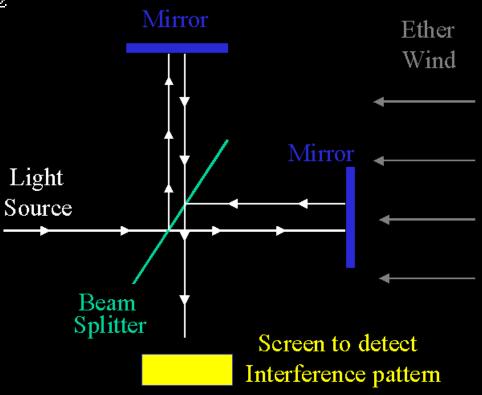
Is it dragged? Partially dragged? What IS it???



Michelson & Michelson-Morley Experiments

$$t_{2} = \frac{I}{c + v} + \frac{I}{c - v} = \frac{2I}{c(1 - v^{2}/c^{2})}$$
$$t_{1} = \frac{I}{\sqrt{c^{2} - v^{2}}} + \frac{I}{\sqrt{c^{2} - v^{2}}} = \frac{2I}{c\sqrt{1 - v^{2}/c^{2}}}$$



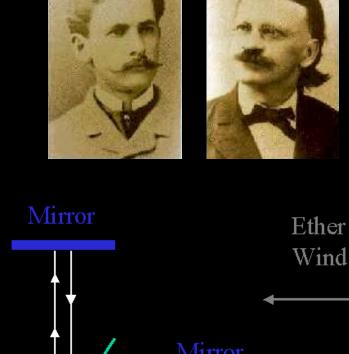


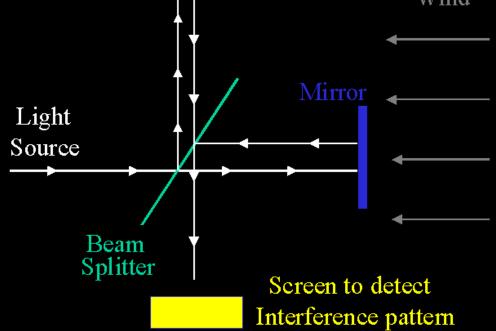
Michelson & Michelson-Morley Experiments

$$t_{2} = \frac{J}{c + v} + \frac{J}{c - v} = \frac{2J_{2}}{c\sqrt{1 - v^{2}/c^{2}}\sqrt{1 - v^{2}/c^{2}}}$$
$$t_{1} = \frac{J}{\sqrt{c^{2} - v^{2}}} + \frac{J}{\sqrt{c^{2} - v^{2}}} = \frac{2J_{1}}{c\sqrt{1 - v^{2}/c^{2}}}$$

$$I_{\rm c} = J_{\rm t} \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}$$

"Easy" solution: Fitzgerald contraction (1889)







H. A. Lorentz

1892 "Maxwell's Electromagnetic theory and its application to moving bodies" Lorentz force $\mathbf{F} = q (\mathbf{E} + \mathbf{v/c} \times \mathbf{B})$ Maxwell Equations \rightarrow Valid only in Aether's ref. frame

First Form of Lorentz Equations

$$\Sigma'$$
: $x' = \gamma x_r$, $y' = y_r$, $z' = z_r$, $t' = t - (v/c^2)\gamma^2 x_r$

1892 "The relative motion of the Earth and the Ether" First Form of Lorentz Equations → Fitzgerald contraction

H. A. Lorentz

1895 "Versuch einer Theorie der elektrischen und optischen Erscheinungen in bewegten Körper"

Second Form of Lorentz Equations

$$t_{\rm L} = t - (\bar{v}/c^2) \cdot \bar{t}$$

Local time (Ortzeit) & General time (allgemeine Zeit) Approx. Covariance of Maxwell Equations Refers to Michelson-Morley Experiment

Lorentz, Poincare or Einstein, Who is the father? H. A. Lorentz

1904 *"Electromagnetic Phenomena in a system moving with any velocity less than that of light"*

Final Form of Lorentz Equations

§ 4. We shall further transform these formulae by a change of variables. Putting

$$\frac{c^3}{c^2 - w^2} = k^2, \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad \dots \quad (3)$$

and understanding by *l* another numerical quantity, to be determined further on, 1 take as new independent variables

$$x' = k l x$$
, $y' = l y$, $z' = l z$, (4)

$$t' = \frac{l}{k}t - kl\frac{w}{e^2}x, \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots (5)$$

Joseph Larmor

1900 "Aether and Matter"

$$(x', y', z') = (x - vt, y, z), t' = t$$

 $t'' = t' - \frac{v}{c^2} \epsilon x', \quad \epsilon = \left(1 - v^2/c^2\right)^{-1}$



Discovered 4 years earlier the Final Form Lorentz Equations!

Henry Poincaré

1902 "Science and Hypothesis"

"the day will come, when ether becomes derelict as useless"



Henry Poincaré

1904 "L'état actuel et l'avenir de la physique mathématique"
5 June 1905 (Submitted) "Sur dynamique de l'électron"
23 July 1905 (Submitted) "Sur dynamique de l'électron"

(Einstein's paper was submitted on 30 June 1905 and published on 26 September 1905)



Henry Poincaré

SUR LA DYNAMIQUE DE L'ÉLECTRON; Par M. H. Poinoaré (Paris).

Adunanza del 23 luglio 1905

TABLE DES MATIÈRES

INTRODUCTION. Il semble au premier abord que l'aberration de la lumière et les phéne optiques et électriques qui s'y rattachent vont nous fournir un moyen de déte le mouvement absolu de la Terre, ou plutôt son mouvement, non par rapp autres astres, mais par rapport à l'éther. FRESNEL l'avait déjà tenté, mais il bientôt que le mouvement de la Terre n'altère pas les lois de la réfraction réflexion. Les expériences analogues, comme celle de la lunette pleine d'eau celles où on ne tient compte que des termes du 1er ordre par rapport à l'a ne donnèrent non plus que des résultats négatifs; on en découvrit bientôt l'e mais MICHELSON, ayant imaginé une expérience où les termes dépendant d l'aberration devenaient sensibles, échoua à son tour.

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Henry Poincaré

- Discussed null experiments $O(v/c) \& O(v/c)^2$.
- Analyzed the role of the velocity of light on measuring lengths.
- Found transformation Eqs. for the EM field and the charge density.
- Showed that Lorentz Transformations. can be derived from the Principle of least action. (Found a variational principle that is relativistic invariant).
- Derived the relativistic composition of velocities.
- Developed the concept of "Lorentz Group". \rightarrow Aether disappears.
- Developed the idea of the four-vector formalism and the four-dimensional space-time.

Was Einstein aware of all of this?

What he DID know

Work of Helmholtz, Hertz, Maxwell, ...

1892 & 1895 Lorentz papers

1902 "Science and hypotheses" Poincaré

Books of E. Mach, D. Hume

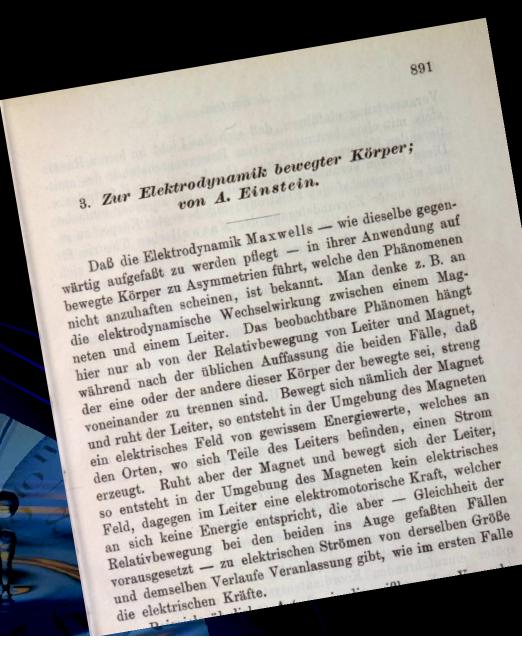
What he COULDN'T know

1904 Lorentz paper

1905 & 1906 Poincaré papers

Results of Michelson-Morley Experiments ?

"On the Electrodynamics of moving bodies"





"On the Electrodynamics of moving bodies"

I. Kinematischer Teil. § 1. Definition der Gleichzeitigkeit. Es liege ein Koordinatensystem vor, in welchem die Newtonschen mechanischen Gleichungen gelten. Wir nennen dies Koordinatensystem zur sprachlichen Unterscheidung von später einzuführenden Koordinatensystemen und zur Präzisierung der Vorstellung das "ruhende System". Ruht ein materieller Punkt relativ zu diesem Koordinatensystem, so kann seine Lage relativ zu letzterem durch starre Maßstäbe unter Benutzung der Methoden der euklidischen Geometrie bestimmt und in kartesischen Koordinaten aus-Wollen wir die Bewegung eines materiellen Punktes beschreiben, so geben wir die Werte seiner Koordinaten in gedrückt werden. Funktion der Zeit. Es ist nun wohl im Auge zu behalten, daß eine derartige mathematische Beschreibung erst dann einen physikalischen Sinn hat, wenn man sich vorher darüber klar geworden ist, was hier unter "Zeit" verstanden wird.

II. Eektrodynamischer Teil. Transformation der Maxwell-Hertzschen Gleichungen für eeren Raum. Über die Natur der bei Bewegung in einem Magnetfeld auftretenden elektromotorischen Kräfte. ie Maxwell-Hertzschen Gleichungen für den leeren nögen gültig sein für das ruhende System K, so daß $\frac{1}{\partial t} \frac{\partial X}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial N}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial M}{\partial z}, \quad \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial L}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial Y}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial Z}{\partial y}, \\ \frac{\partial Y}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial L}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial N}{\partial x}, \quad \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial M}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial Z}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial X}{\partial z}, \\ \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial M}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial y}, \quad \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial N}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial X}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial Y}{\partial z}, \\ \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial Z}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial M}{\partial x} - \frac{\partial L}{\partial y}, \quad \frac{1}{V} \frac{\partial N}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial X}{\partial y} - \frac{\partial Y}{\partial z}, \\ \end{array}$ wobei (X, Y, Z) den Vektor der elektrischen, (L, M, N) den der magnetischen Kraft bedeutet. Wenden wir auf diese Gleichungen die in § 3 entwickelte Transformation an, indem wir die elektromagnetischen Vorgänge auf das dort eingeführte, mit der Geschwindigkeit v hewegte Koordinatensystem beziehen so erhalten wir die

Further Reading

Historical References

Sanchez Ron, Jose Manuel. Origen y Desarrollo de la Relatividad. 2a Ed. Alianza Editorial, Madrid, 1985.

Gamow, George. The Great Physicists from Galileo to Einstein. Dover Publications, NY, 1988.

Pais, Abraham. The Science and the Life of Albert Einstein. Oxford University Press, 1982.

Other Interesting References

Gratzer, Walter. Eurekas y Euforias. Como entender la ciencia a traves de susu anecdotas. Critica, Barcelona, 2002.

Sanchez Ron, Jose Manuel. El Siglode la Ciencia. 2a Ed. Taurus, Madrid, 2000.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS



"Space is curved and time is relative, eh? — Is this your way of asking for a day off?"