The Problem of Time: Force as the Cause of Change of the Course of Time

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Abstract

Material processes occurring in a physical system under the action of a force field necessarily influence the course of time along the trajectory of motion of particle. A general relationship is obtained which relates the course of time on one path section of a particle when moving in a force field to that on the other path section in the same inertial reference frame. According to the results obtained, the force in relativistic mechanics is not only the cause of acceleration of particle relative to an inertial frame of reference, but also the cause of change in the course of time along the particle's trajectory. ***Therein lies the physical content of the dynamical principle underlying the special theory of relativity (relativistic mechanics).*** *The applications of the theory developed to homogeneous fields - to the field of gravity and electromagnetic field, and to the gravitational field produced by a point mass particle are considered. Physical properties of the state of imponderability of particle in an external force field are investigated. It is noted that the change in the course of time in a force field is in no way connected with the change in space-time metric and is a direct consequence of the causality principle of relativistic mechanics.* ***The existence of dependence of the course of time on the state of motion of particle in a force field points to the feasibility of controlling the course of time using force fields.***

Time is among the most common concepts, which are used constantly both in everyday life and in science. This is because all the events and material processes in the world happen in space and develop in time and, hence, the laws that govern space-time connections are the most general and hold for all the forms of matter. Nevertheless, time remains one of the most mysterious concepts of physics; its physical essence is not adequately revealed up till now [1-4]. The concept of time with difficulty yields to logical analysis.

From the point of view of common sense the essence of time is that time characterizes the duration of events and processes, indicates their natural sequence, at which the present, going away to the past, gives place to the future.

Isaac Newton gave a clear-cut characteristic of the concept of time, to which the majority of physicists adheres: "The absolute, true, and mathematical time in itself and by virtue of its nature flows uniformly and regardless to any other object". Though, according to Newton, time flows equally and uniformly and does not depend on the processes, occurring in the world, the daily experience speaks in favour of the fact that the course of time is not uniform. Depending on circumstances in our history, it seems to us that time either flies swiftly or hangs heavy on our hands; sometimes it even changes suddenly, by leaps. In connection with these speculations the question arises of whether the subjective sensations of non-uniformity in the course of time familiar to everyone have an objective basis.

In Newtonian mechanics time is of an absolute character, it does not change as one passes from one inertial reference frame to another and represents merely a parameter, whose change at the will of explorer results in the change of state of a mechanical system in accordance with the equation of motion.

In relativistic mechanics time remains a parameter describing the development of system. But now time and space are intimately linked with each other to form a single system, i.e. the 4-dimensional space-time. In going from one inertial frame of reference to another time gets entangled with spatial coordinates, so that time in one reference frame represents a "mixture" of time and coordinates in the other. Time ceases to be universal, the same in all inertial reference frames; it takes on a relative character.

The indissoluble association of time and space takes on special importance in the light of the concept of physical field, which was called by Einstein the most important discovery in physics after Newton. According to this concept, the occurrence in space of a force field means that space turns into a physical environment, which is capable to interact directly with other bodies and gains, thus, physical properties, becoming an active participant of physical processes. In view of the fact that **space and time are indissolubly related to each other, the presence of a force field in some area of space must necessarily result in the appearance of physical properties of time caused by the motion of body in this area.**

Thus, from the synthesis of the notion of space-time and of the idea of physical field it follows with necessity that **the course of time in a given region of space should depend on physical processes in this region, i.e. time, as well as space, should have physical properties [5-8].**

It should be emphasized that in special theory of relativity (STR) time and spatial coordinates are independent and formally equal in rights quantities, which determine the position of elementary events in space-time. On the other hand, time stands out in relation to spatial coordinates. The special role of time is due, from the viewpoint of geometry, to the pseudoeuclidity of geometry of the 4-dimensional space. From the physical point of view, it is associated with the dynamical principle (causality principle), according to which the state of motion of a physical system at an instant of time t uniquely defines its behaviour at the next instant of time $t+0$. The significance of dynamical principle lies in the fact that it relates the temporal evolution of system to the physical processes caused by force fields and in doing so it allows one to determine the course of time in the system, its possible dependence upon the character of physical processes, and not just the sequence of events and their duration.

The idea about the existence of the physical properties of time belongs to N. Kozyrev [9]. By introducing into mechanics an additional parameter taking into account the directivity of the course of time, Kozyrev has formulated causal (asymmetrical) mechanics from which it follows that time has physical properties. According to the results of theoretical and experimental investigations conducted by Kozyrev and his followers [9-13], events can proceed not only in time, but also with the help of time, **information being transmitted not through force fields, but via a temporal channel, and the transfer of information happens instantaneously. The appearance of additional forces, associated with the physical properties of time and capable to fulfill work, testifies that time can serve as a power source.**

In the papers by I. Eganova [12] and M. Lavrent'ev and I. Eganova [13] it is stated the problem of direct experimental research of the physical properties of time to ascertain the relations of a new type between phenomena and to discover new methods to change the state of substance. In [14] O. Jefimenko investigated the dynamical effect of the slowing-down of time.

According to [6-8], the conclusion that physical properties of time exist follows strictly from relativistic mechanics, without introducing any additional hypotheses. The physical properties of time are of purely dynamical nature: their existence results from dynamical principle. **The availability of physical properties of time is manifested in that time has a local inhomogeneity: its course along the trajectory of motion of a point particle in a force field is continuously changed, and this change in the course of time is a result of the action upon the particle of a force field in the inertial reference frame, in which the motion is considered.**

Editor's note: The author gives a detailed consideration of the physical content of the local dynamical inhomogeneity of time. Considering the motion of a classical point particle under the action of a force field in the inertial reference frames, that moves relatively to each other, Valentin P. Oleinik derives 73 equations, that help him to obtain the following conclusion (mathematical details and physical reasoning may be found in http://temporology.bio.msu.ru/OLEINIK/oleinik.htm.*)*

The elucidation of the physical nature of time is one of the most important problems of theoretical physics. The purpose of research on the problem of time is to study the physical properties of time, i.e. to ascertain the possible interrelation between time and material processes. In particular, it is of interest to find out

- whether the flow of time depends upon physical processes and whether the back influence exists (i.e influence of the change of the time course on physical processes);
- what mechanisms of the change of the course of time are available;
- what factors are capable to speed up or to slow down the flow of time.

In papers [5-8] on the basis of Lorentz transformations relating to coordinates of points, lying on the trajectory of motion of particle in a force field, the phenomenon of local dynamical inhomogeneity of time is predicted. The main result consists in the proof that material processes occurring in a physical system under the action of a force field necessarily influence the course of time along the trajectory of motion of particle. The case in point is the change of the course of time along particle's trajectory in one inertial reference frame as compared with that in the other.

In this paper the next step is made: the relationship is obtained which relates the course of time on one path section of a particle when moving in a force field to that on the other path section in the same inertial reference frame. The main idea underlying the approach developed results from the analysis of Lorentz transformations and consists in that **the course of time of a particle moving by inertia, i.e. of a particle being not exposed to force, should be uniform.**

As is well known [17,18], the existence of dependence of the course of time upon the gravitational field potential is predicted with the general theory of relativity (GTR). According to GTR ([17], p.303), time flows differently at the different points of space in one and the same reference frame. Since "gravitational field is nothing more nor less than a change of the space-time metric" ([17], p.313), one can assert, apparently, that the change in the course of time is due, in the view of GTR, to the change of the 4-space metric. It should be emphasized that in the present paper gravitational field is considered as an ordinary force field, and the particle motion is supposed to occur in pseudo-Euclidian space-time. The main formulas of the article, (22) and (25), describe the change in the course of time in an arbitrary force field at different spatial points in one and the same inertial reference frame. As is seen from the results received, the change in the course of time in a force field is in no way connected with the change of space-time metric. It is conditioned by the force field action on particle in inertial reference frame and is a direct consequence of the dynamical principle underlying relativistic mechanics.

It should be emphasized that the existence of dependence of the course of time on the state of motion of particle in a force field points to the feasibility of controlling the course of time using force fields.

Note an important peculiarity of the non-inertial reference frame, in which the imponderability state of a particle is attained: **there is such a space-time region in which the reference frame at hand can be approximately considered as inertial.** In connection with the fact that such reference frames (it is natural to call them **quasiinertial** in contradistinction to the **true inertial** reference frames) are, generally speaking, not equivalent to each other (see previous section), the derivation of a rigorous criterion for inertial reference frame acquires especial significance. The dynamical criteria for defining the inertial and non-inertial states are considered in the papers by B. I. Peschevitsky [19]. The heliocentric reference frame seems to be among the quasiinertial reference frames, being inertial with adequate accuracy only in a restricted region of space (for example, within the limits of our Galaxy) [16].

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