

Balashov on Special Relativity, Coexistence, and Temporal Parts

Gilmore, Cody (2002) Balashov on Special Relativity, Coexistence, and Temporal Parts.

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Abstract

Yuri Balashov has argued that endurantism (the view that material objects persist by being wholly present at each moment of their careers) is untenable in the context of Minkowski spacetime. Balashov's argument runs through two main theses concerning the relation of coexistence, or temporal co-location. (1) Coexistence must turn out to be an absolute or objective matter; and in Minkowski spacetime coexistence must be grounded in the relation of spacelike separation. (2) If endurantism is true, then (1) leads to absurd conclusions; but if perdurantism is true, then (1) is harmless. I object to both theses. Against (1), I argue that coexistence is better construed as being relative to a hyperplane of simultaneity. Against (2), I argue that the consequences of (1) given endurantism are no worse than the consequences of (1) given perdurantism.

Keywords: Balashov, persistence, endurance, perdurance, endurantism, perdurantism, three-dimensionalism, four-dimensionalism, temporal parts, wholly present, special relativity, Minkowski, coexistence

Subjects: [Specific Sciences: Physics: Relativity Theory](#)
[Specific Sciences: Physics](#)

ID Code: 2983

Deposited By: [Gilmore, Cody](#)

Deposited On: 15 October 2006

Additional Information: This paper was published in *Philosophical Studies* 109: 241-263 (June 2002).