



The Clock Paradox in Luise Lange (1891–1978)

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In the late 1920s Luise Lange published two articles on the relativity of time. In them she criticized alleged philosophical refutations of the theory of relativity of time, known simply as “the clock paradox” or “the twin paradox.” Lange demonstrated that the so-called “clock paradox” was not paradoxical at all. Rather it was based upon a misunderstanding of the theory of the relativity of time and conflicted with common-sense beliefs. There was, she argued, a false premise regarding the symmetrical motions of the clocks or twins. The false premise led to what she identified as a pair of false solutions to the alleged paradox. One false “solution” was that acceleration was necessary in order to explain this thought experiment. The other false solution she identified as the claim that a complete solution to the clock paradox can only be found within the framework of a general theory of relativity.

Primary Sources:

Lange, Luise 1927a. The Clock Paradox in the Theory of Relativity. *The American Mathematical Monthly* 34, 22–30.

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Secondary Sources:

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