

Abstract Submitted
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The Cable-Car Model HOMER TILTON, Pima Community College,
FLORENTIN SMARANDACHE, University of New Mexico — A sailing ship which depends on light from the sun to accelerate it remains in that way connected to the sun; its reference is the sun, and its speed is limited to less than the speed of light, c , relative to the sun. Propulsive energy cannot reach a ship traveling away from the sun faster than that. It is limited to the speed of light for the same reason a cable car is limited to the speed of the cable. It is riding on, and being pulled along by, a lightbeam. Einstein wondered what it would be like to ride on a lightbeam. It may simply be like riding on a cable car. A sailing ship is limited to that speed, c , by design, not by some inscrutable, overarching, outranks-everything-else Law of Nature. A speed limit - an actual speed limit - exists for it. On the other hand if the ship carried a back-up rocket it could now be lit to provide additional thrust and further acceleration.

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