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Absolute and Relative Time JOHN M. KULICK — Relative time is defined as the time interval that separates points in spacetime as expressed by the speed of light. Absolute time, also called "Cosmic" or "historical" time demarcates a point's temporal location relative to the beginning of time. A hypothetical geometric relationship between the two dimensions of time allows all relative or local measures of time remain proportionally the same but from a historical perspective, relative time is slowing down. Gravitational relationships observed in the past would appear to be moving too fast for the amount of matter observed within the system. The effect of gravity becomes temporally dependant.

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