Task:

Two trains 210 m and 240 m long run on parallel tracks in the same direction. Speed of the first train is 90 miles/h and the second train crosses the first train in 36 s. Find the time taken by them to cross in the opposite direction.

Solution:

Find:

 t_2

Given:

 $s_{1} - s_{2} = 30 m = 0.019 miles$ $v_{1} = const = 90 \frac{miles}{hour}$ $v_{2} = const$ t = 36 s = 0.01 hour $s_{1} = v_{1} \cdot t = 0.9 miles$ $s_{2} = v_{2} \cdot t$ $s_{2} = s_{1} - 0.019 miles$

 $v_2 = \frac{s_2}{t} = \frac{s_1 - 0.019 \text{ miles}}{t} = 88.136 \frac{\text{miles}}{\text{hour}}$

Since we don't know the initial distance between the trains when they move in the opposite direction (suppose that the initial distance between them in the opposite direction equals

 $s_1 - s_2 = 30 \ m = 0.019 \ miles$):

$$v_1 \cdot t_2 + v_2 \cdot t_2 = 0.019 \text{ miles}$$

$$t_2 = \frac{0.019 \,mms}{v_1 + v_2} = 0.384 \,s$$

Answer:

 $t_2 = 0.384 \, s$