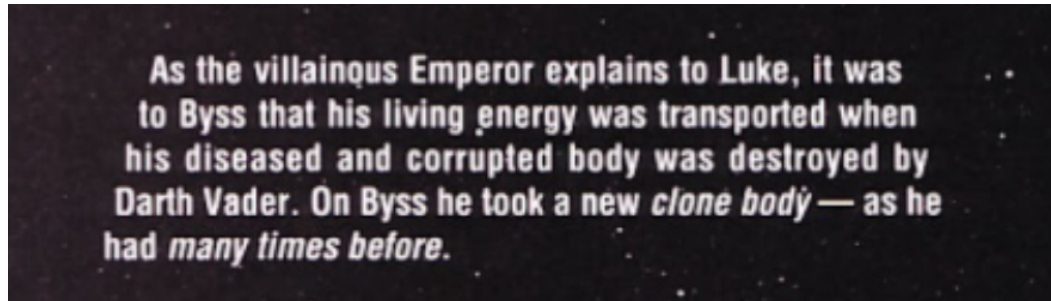


Feat: Palpatine's soul goes through space for 1 year

Statements:



Issue 3 of Dark Empire (Released in 1992)

also same year:

But in that moment, when flashing blue energy rushed from exploded flesh, the Emperor entered a bodiless transitional state. As a conscious Dark Force he was translated across the Galaxy...

dark empire endnotes

He had spent over a year disembodied, formless, drifting through the maddening void of the Dark Side.

--Dark Empire Sourcebook (Released in 1993)

Then we got a 2001 retcon, that instead of his spirit drifting out in space, he teleported to a minion:

The moment the Emperor "died" at the Battle of Endor, Droga fell into an inexplicable insanity, butchering his crew and causing the Emperor's Shadow to plunge into Kaal's oceans. Even as he perished, Palpatine used the dark side knowledge the Sith Lords had granted him years earlier to rend space itself and transmigrate his essence across lightyears to Droga's body. The infusion of Palpatine's overwhelming dark side energies reduced Droga to incoherent madness.

--Gamer #5 (Released in 2001)

however

incoming second retcon:

Following the destruction of the Death Star, Palpatine's consciousness spent over a year drifting across space. On reaching Byss, he awakened and recuperated in the body of a clone, one of many kept in reserve.

--The Ultimate Visual Guide (Released in 2005)

Palpatine's body was destroyed. Separated from his clones, Palpatine was forced to survive in the maddening, bodiless existence of the void. Through sheer will he retained his identity, crossing the gulf of space to again take up residence in his clone body.

--The Complete Star Wars Encyclopedia (Released in 2008)

ultimate visual guide and encyclopedia reaffirm his soul drifted through space to get to his clone bodies

to be more explicit this is an actual feat:

EMPEROR: The Rebels had their chance! They had years to reclaim the galaxy, while my disincorporate mind drifted across the empty reaches of space, to return to this cloning chamber. I spent five years in hiding, while your friends tried to fulfill their dream.

Source: Dark Empire Audio Drama Script

This time was so abrupt and unexpected... so unpleasant that it felt as if, perhaps, a part of his being had been left in space over Endor.

He had spent over a year disembodied, formless, drifting through the maddening void of the Dark Side.

He had never foreseen having to transport his spirit so far across space. He had nearly dispersed forever, but he had survived, and now needed never to fear death again.

Source: Dark Empire Sourcebook

But in that moment, when flashing blue energy rushed from exploded flesh, the Emperor entered a bodiless transitional state. As conscious Dark Force he was translated across the Galaxy...

In the clone labs on Byss, a young Emperor opened his eyes... And laughed. He had won. The Empire would survive.

Source: Dark Empire Endnotes

HIS body destroyed, the Emperor's spirit journeyed to Byss. Entering one of his many clone bodies, the Emperor was born again. However, the long journey had taken a lot out of him, and Palpatine had to bide his time. Drawing his loyal dark side adepts to him and growing stronger every day by absorbing the energies of prisoners on Byss, Palpatine watched and waited.

Source: Factfiles

Summary:

- When Vader kills Palpatine inside the second Death Star, Palpatine's physical form exploded and he survived as pure Dark Side energy
- He then wandered through the void of space, traversing the Galaxy until reaching his cloning laboratories on Byss, where he inhabited one of his many bodies and lived again
- Palpatine's traversing of the Galaxy lasted around one year. The effort tired him out so badly he needed to drain life from others for a while

Essentially, Palpatine traveled from the moon of Endor all the way to Byss over a period of one year.

Calc:

https://vsbattles.fandom.com/wiki/User_blog:Matthew_Schroeder/Star_Wars_-_Dark_Empire:_The_Speed_of_the_Sith_Spirit

34,000c

This is consistent with palpatine doing this a second time, in a smaller time frame, between 9 and 10 aby

☰ Star Wars (Legends) - Return of the Sith Spirit

Low End: 7 days
7.445993E+14 m/s, or 2,483,715.92c

High End: 2 days
2.606097E+15 m/s, or 8,693,003.89c

Even lowballing it to shit and saying it took a full year still gives us 47,632.92c

Can anyone scale?

Sith spirits vary in power. Most end up way weaker than when alive, like Freedon Nadd for example. Some end up relative enough, like Marka Ragnos. Some exceed when they were living, like Exar Kun, though he used a ritual.

Technically the spirit flying through space doesn't need MFTL reactions in the first place.

You can spot planets and stars from millions of kilometres away.

Especially in this case, given it's an intangible spirit that has super senses.

You could probably argue that Palpatine couldn't physically move his body that fast compared to a spirit, given he has actual mass and synapses.

[A Jedit Knight named Brand reacts to and stops Palpatine's soul from claiming the infant Anakin Solo as his vessel.](#) Brand is mostly a machine at this point and just before reacting was mortally injured by force lightning. It may be an outlier for someone as weak as Brand to pull this off.

In regards to scaling to Palpatine's body, [Luke in their first duel parries him but loses in strength.](#) He most likely scales to Palpatine's body in speed. I'm disregarding their second duel, as [Luke was amped by Leia for that duel.](#)

Does Vader scale?

Vader is usually argued to scale to Dark Empire Luke. I will break down why this is flawed by posting the quotes used to argue this and going in depth.

- 1. Well, children love power because children are powerless. And so their fantasies all center on having power. And who's more powerful than Darth Vader, you know? And, some, you know, will be attracted to Luke Skywalker because he's the good guy. But ultimately, we all know that Darth Vader's more powerful than he is.***
<https://billmoyers.com/content/mythology-of-star-wars-george-lucas/>

If you read the full quote, this has nothing to do with Vader being above Dark empire Luke

child patients. And they've said that the most popular character among the children is Darth Vader.

GEORGE LUCAS: Well, children love power because children are the powerless. And so their fantasies all center on having power. And who's more powerful than Darth Vader, you know? And, some, you know, will be attracted to Luke Skywalker because he's the good guy. But ultimately, we all know that Darth Vader's more powerful than he is.

BILL MOYERS: Did you feel pow ...

GEORGE LUCAS: And as time goes on, you discover that he is more powerful because he's the — he's the ultimate father who is all powerful.

BILL MOYERS: This is where I disagree somewhat with our friend Joseph Campbell who said that the young man has to slay his father before he can become an adult himself. It seems to me, and I think you're right on here, that the — that the young man has to identify — has to recognize and acknowledge that he is his father and is not his father.

It's about Vader being a father. At best the whole conversation is referring to actual power is referring to the original trilogy and not after that.

2. *She pointed a finger at Luke, and before Luke even recognized her evil intent, a ripple of Force slammed into him. White lights exploded behind his eyes, and the right side of his face felt as if it had been smashed by a hammer. His left arm and right leg crumpled under their unbearable weight, and he dropped to the ground on one knee, stunned. All the noise and blaster fire and screams of pain died away, became a distant roaring. Gethzerion pointed at him again, twitched her finger, and his eyes lost focus. He felt the hammer blow to his left temple, dropped to his side and rolled over to his back, gasping. Luke stared up at the sky, watching streams of rocks hurtling above him—some propelled by the Force, others hurled by rancors.*

Time seemed to slow. His head throbbed, pounding to the same rhythm as the beating of his heart. His face had gone cold, numb, and Luke realized distantly that Gethzerion's spell had ripped open blood vessels in his brain, and he was about to die, one among hundreds of fatalities on this battlefield.

So this is how it would have been, if Vader had tried to kill me. (The Courtship of Princess Leia)

This takes place in 8 aby, before Dark Empire. [Here Lukes notes the beatdown is what would have happened if Vader went all out in ROTJ, which is true.](#) [Vader has statements of being conflicted](#) and holding back in that fight, and Luke needed a rage amp to win. This is not however saying 8 aby Luke is weaker than Vader, only comparing the beatdown.

The character who gives this beat is [Gethzerion](#), a character even Palaptine was not willing to fight because of her power.

3. **"Yes, that mask inspired terror throughout the galaxy but the feeble heart within was forever possessed by the impotent side of the Force. You can be far stronger than he was." (Dark Empire #1)**

"Yes... you have that talent... you are a Skywalker, after all... You can be like him... You can be greater than he was!" (Dark Empire Endnotes)

In context this means like Palps is trying to seduce Luke to the dark side and like, saying he can be a greater right hand than his father ever was, not like "you are still weaker than vader".

<https://cdn.discordapp.com/attachments/992900159602172024/1002064155861327932/unknown.png>

Fortunately (from his point of view), he found the Jedi Holocron. Fortunately (from his point of view), there was the science of cloning. Fortunately, death and its dive into annihilation could be postponed...perhaps forever.

“YOUR FATHER KNEW THE DARK SIDE WELL”

Luke is, perhaps, learning more about the Dark Side than he wants to know. The more the Emperor reveals, the more Luke is repulsed. The sheer depravity of the man would shake the soul of the strongest Jedi.

But Luke must continually remind himself of his vow to *conquer the Dark Side from within*.

Luke's father understood these secrets, these powers, and willingly used them to crush and enslave multitudes of Galactic citizens.

“Your Father knew the Dark Side well...especially my teachings of *weakness*. How he could inspire fear! Yes...you have that talent...you are a Skywalker, after all... You can be like him... You can be *greater* than he was!”

CAN LUKE REALLY CONQUER THE DARK SIDE?

“I have taken the first steps down the road that my Father took... What if I fail in my purpose? What if I lose my grip, what if I become exactly like him? What if I become an enslaver, a despot...or a murderer?”

“But my Father — my *real* father — is *free*. And Darth Vader is *dead*.”

Reminding himself of that, Luke finds the strength to go on with his daring mission. While pretending to be the apt and willing student of the Emperor, Luke does everything he can to *sabotage* the Emperor's attack on Calamari!

As Supreme Commander of the Imperial Forces, Luke has access to the top-secret codes that govern the Emperor's new World Devastators from afar.

The codes are beamed through a priority hyperspace communications channel to the onboard computers that control every aspect of the Devastators' operation and function.

When Lando Calrissian and Wedge Antilles watch a great Devastator go down in the Calamari Sea, Lando *knows* something strange is going on — “Whoever's in *charge* of those monsters is an idiot! You'd almost think he *wants* to lose!”

Indeed, the man in charge *does* want to lose. Because his name is Luke Skywalker, he is a Jedi Master, and he is working for the Rebel Alliance!

THE EMPEROR HAS TAKEN LUKE'S BETRAYAL INTO ACCOUNT

Does the Emperor know of his protégé's lack of *obedience*? Of course he does.

“I expected to take some damage from him. Any worthy opponent is going to inflict injury... If he doesn't, he's not worth troubling with!”

“Let a few Devastators be destroyed. Let Skywalker think he's getting the best of me. As long as he believes he's succeeding, I have him in my grasp.”

“And as long as I hold him, the more vulnerable he becomes, to the unfathomable power of the Dark Side...”

“Think what he'll do when he is fully *mine* — when he is working for the Empire, working to help us win!”

Conferring with his most trusted officers, the Emperor counters every move that Luke makes. Quietly the Emperor cuts his losses and maximizes his wins over his opponent.

“One day soon Skywalker will wake up and find that he can no longer go back to his friends. He will look in a mirror and he will see his true face, the face of power...the face of the Dark Side.”

Tldr:

The three citations for Vader supposedly being on the level of Luke and dark empire are kind of out of context

The Lucas interview was talking about Vader back in the movies and not by the time of dark empire

The Leia book quote is referring to an enemy on par with Sidious and is not saying that Vader is stronger than he was at that time

And the dark empire end notes are not Sidious saying that he's weaker than Vader. Just saying Luke could be a better student in the dark side/right hand

In which case that reduces Vader's scaling options to:

We assume Palpatine's body scales to his soul and find a way to scale Vader to that

Or

Scale Vader to Brand. Which may or may not be an outlier for the Brand considering that he was literally on death's door from the Force lightning.

Most likely he doesn't scale to DE Palpatine in speed.

[On top of everything, Cronal states Luke is stronger than Vader one year after ROTJ.](#)