

## Summary of Lorentz transformations of some 3-vectors

for Physics 495, *An Introduction to Special Relativity*

9 October, 2001

From measurements made in frame S' to measurements made in frame S.

S measures S' to be moving with constant velocity  $\vec{v}$ , with  $\gamma = \gamma_v \equiv 1/\sqrt{1-v^2}$ .

**1.** For components of ordinary 4-vectors

a. for the location 4-vector,  $\tilde{x} = (\vec{r}, t)$ :

$$\vec{r}_{\parallel} = \gamma (\vec{r}'_{\parallel} + t' \vec{v}) , \quad \vec{r}_{\perp} = \vec{r}'_{\perp} , \quad t = \gamma (t' + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{r}') ,$$

$$\text{or} \quad \vec{r} = \gamma [(\vec{r}' \cdot \hat{v})\hat{v} + t'\vec{v}] + \hat{v} \times (\vec{r}' \times \hat{v}) = \vec{r}' + (\gamma - 1)(\vec{r}' \cdot \hat{v})\hat{v} + \gamma t' \vec{v} .$$

b. for the energy-momentum 4-vector,  $\tilde{p} = (\vec{p}, E)$ :

$$\vec{p}_{\parallel} = \gamma (\vec{p}'_{\parallel} + E' \vec{v}) , \quad \vec{p}_{\perp} = \vec{p}'_{\perp} , \quad E = \gamma (E' + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{p}') ,$$

$$\text{or} \quad \vec{p} = \gamma [(\vec{p}' \cdot \hat{v})\hat{v} + E'\vec{v}] + \hat{v} \times (\vec{p}' \times \hat{v}) = \vec{p}' + (\gamma - 1)(\vec{p}' \cdot \hat{v})\hat{v} + \gamma E' \vec{v} .$$

**2.** For the 3-velocity,  $\vec{u}$  and its associated  $\gamma_u \equiv 1/\sqrt{1-u^2}$ , where the 4-velocity  $\tilde{u} = \gamma_u (\vec{u}, 1)$ :

$$\vec{u}_{\parallel} = \frac{\vec{u}'_{\parallel} + \vec{v}}{1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}'}, \quad \vec{u}_{\perp} = \frac{\gamma^{-1} \vec{u}'_{\perp}}{1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}'}, \quad \gamma_u = \gamma_{u'} (1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}') ,$$

$$\text{or} \quad \vec{u} = \frac{\gamma^{-1} \vec{u}' + \vec{v} + (1 - \gamma^{-1})(\hat{v} \cdot \vec{u}')\hat{v}}{1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}'} = \frac{[\hat{v} \cdot \vec{u}' + v]\hat{v} + \gamma^{-1} \hat{v} \times (\vec{u}' \times \hat{v})}{1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}'}$$

**3.** For the 3-acceleration,  $\vec{a} \equiv d\vec{u}/dt$ , where the 4-acceleration,  $\tilde{a} = \gamma_u^2 (\vec{a} + \gamma_u^2 (\vec{u} \cdot \vec{a}), \gamma_u^2 (\vec{u} \cdot \vec{a}))$ :

$$\vec{a}_{\parallel} = \frac{\gamma^{-3}}{(1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}')^3} \vec{a}'_{\parallel} , \quad \vec{a}_{\perp} = \frac{\gamma^{-2}}{(1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}')^3} \{ \vec{a}'_{\perp} + \vec{v} \times (\vec{a}' \times \vec{u}') \}$$

$$= \frac{1 - v^2}{(1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}')^2} \left\{ \vec{a}'_{\perp} - \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{a}'}{1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}'} \vec{u}'_{\perp} \right\}$$

$$\text{or} \quad \vec{a} = \frac{\gamma^{-3}}{(1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}')^3} \left\{ \vec{a}'_{\parallel} + \gamma \vec{a}'_{\perp} + \gamma \vec{v} \times (\vec{a}' \times \vec{u}') \right\} .$$

**4.** For the force-vector,  $\vec{F}$  and its associated quantity,  $\dot{E} = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{u}$ , acting on an object with velocity

$\vec{u}$ , where the 4-vector equation is  $\tilde{K} = \gamma_u (\vec{F}, \dot{E})$ :

$$\vec{F}_{\parallel} = \frac{\vec{F}'_{\parallel} + (\vec{u}' \cdot \vec{F}')\vec{v}}{1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}'}, \quad \vec{F}_{\perp} = \frac{\gamma^{-1} \vec{F}'_{\perp}}{1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}'},$$

$$\text{or} \quad \vec{F} = \frac{[(\hat{v} \cdot \vec{F}') + v(\vec{u}' \cdot \vec{F}')] \hat{v} + \gamma^{-1} \hat{v} \times (\vec{F}' \times \hat{v})}{1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}'} = \frac{\gamma^{-1} \vec{F}' + (1 - \gamma^{-1})(\hat{v} \cdot \vec{F}')\hat{v} + (\vec{u}' \cdot \vec{F}')\vec{v}}{1 + \vec{v} \cdot \vec{u}'}$$

$$\text{and} \quad \vec{F} = \gamma_u m [\vec{a} + \gamma_u^2 (\vec{u} \cdot \vec{a})\vec{u}] \Rightarrow \vec{F}_{\parallel \vec{u}} = \gamma_u^3 m \vec{a}_{\parallel \vec{u}}, \quad \vec{F}_{\perp \vec{u}} = \gamma_u m \vec{a}_{\perp \vec{u}} .$$