

## Transformation laws in special relativity

Lorentz transformation: The system S' is moving with velocity  $(v_x, v_y, v_z) = (v, 0, 0)$  relative to the S system. The Lorentz transformations are

$$x' = \gamma(x - vt), \quad y' = y, \quad z' = z, \quad (1)$$

$$t' = \gamma\left(t - \frac{v}{c^2}x\right), \quad (2)$$

where  $\gamma = 1/(1 - \beta^2)^{1/2}$  and  $\beta = v/c$ . The inverse Lorentz transformation corresponds to  $v \rightarrow -v$ .

Velocity addition: An object moves with velocity  $(u_x, u_y, u_z)$  in the S-system. The components of the velocity in the S'-system are

$$u'_x = \frac{u_x - v}{1 - \frac{vu_x}{c^2}}, \quad (3)$$

$$u'_y = \frac{u_y}{\gamma\left(1 - \frac{vu_x}{c^2}\right)}, \quad u'_z = \frac{u_z}{\gamma\left(1 - \frac{vu_x}{c^2}\right)}. \quad (4)$$

The inverse transformation corresponds to  $v \rightarrow -v$ .

Doppler effect: A source in the S'-system emits light waves with a frequency  $f'$ . The frequency measured in S is

$$f = \frac{f'}{\gamma(1 + \beta \cos(\alpha))}, \quad (5)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the angle between the line of sight and the  $x$ -axis. If the source is moving along the  $x$ -axis then  $\alpha = 0$  and

$$f = f' \sqrt{\frac{1 - \beta}{1 + \beta}}. \quad (6)$$

If S' is approaching rather than receding  $\beta \rightarrow -\beta$ .

Aberration of starlight: If the light is emitted at an angle  $\alpha'$  with respect to the  $x'$ -axis, then the angle  $\alpha$  observed by S is

$$\cos(\alpha) = \frac{\cos(\alpha') + \beta}{1 + \beta \cos(\alpha')}. \quad (7)$$