

1. Prob 11.2

The relevant transforms between K'/K'' , K/K' and K/K'' are

$$x'' = f(v_2^2)x' - v_2 f(v_2^2)t' \quad t'' = g(v_2^2)t' - v_2 h(v_2^2)x' \quad (1)$$

$$x' = f(v_1^2)x - v_1 f(v_1^2)t \quad t' = g(v_1^2)t - v_1 h(v_1^2)x \quad (2)$$

$$x'' = f(v_3^2)x - v_3 f(v_3^2)t \quad t'' = g(v_3^2)t - v_3 h(v_3^2)x \quad (3)$$

Plugging (2) into (1) gives

$$\begin{aligned} x'' &= [f(v_2^2)f(v_1^2) + v_2 v_1 f(v_2^2)h(v_1^2)]x - [v_1 f(v_1^2)f(v_2^2) + v_2 f(v_2^2)g(v_1^2)]t \\ t'' &= [g(v_2^2)g(v_1^2) + v_2 v_1 h(v_2^2)f(v_1^2)]t - [v_1 g(v_2^2)h(v_1^2) + v_2 h(v_2^2)f(v_1^2)]x \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Matching (3) and (4) requires

$$f(v_3^2) = f(v_2^2)f(v_1^2) + v_2 v_1 f(v_2^2)h(v_1^2) \quad (5)$$

$$v_3 f(v_3^2) = v_1 f(v_1^2)f(v_2^2) + v_2 f(v_2^2)g(v_1^2) \quad (6)$$

$$g(v_3^2) = g(v_2^2)g(v_1^2) + v_2 v_1 h(v_2^2)f(v_1^2) \quad (7)$$

$$v_3 h(v_3^2) = v_1 g(v_2^2)h(v_1^2) + v_2 h(v_2^2)f(v_1^2) \quad (8)$$

From problem 11.1, we know $f = g$, so equating the RHS of (5) and (7) gives

$$f(v_2^2)h(v_1^2) = h(v_2^2)f(v_1^2) \implies h/f = \text{constant} \quad (9)$$

which is also consistent with (6) and (8).

If we denote the constant $1/C^2$ (subject to the experimental verification that $h/f > 0$), then we can use the relation (developed in problem 11.1) $f^2 - v^2 f h = 1$, to recover the Lorentz transformation

$$f = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/C^2}} \quad (10)$$

2. Prob 11.3

Let K' be moving with velocity v_1 in the x -direction relative to K . Let K'' be moving with velocity v_2 in the x -direction relative to K' . Then the K/K' , K'/K'' Lorentz transformations are

$$t' = \gamma_{v_1} \left(t - \frac{v_1 x}{c^2} \right) \quad x' = \gamma_{v_1} (x - v_1 t) \quad (11)$$

$$t'' = \gamma_{v_2} \left(t' - \frac{v_2 x'}{c^2} \right) \quad x'' = \gamma_{v_2} (x' - v_2 t') \quad (12)$$

With (11) plugged into (12), we get

$$\begin{aligned} t'' &= \gamma_{v_2} \left[\gamma_{v_1} \left(t - \frac{v_1 x}{c^2} \right) - \frac{v_2 \gamma_{v_1} (x - v_1 t)}{c^2} \right] & x'' &= \gamma_{v_2} \left[\gamma_{v_1} (x - v_1 t) - v_2 \gamma_{v_1} \left(t - \frac{v_1 x}{c^2} \right) \right] \\ &= \gamma_{v_1} \gamma_{v_2} \left[\left(1 + \frac{v_1 v_2}{c^2} \right) t - \left(\frac{v_1 + v_2}{c^2} \right) x \right] & &= \gamma_{v_1} \gamma_{v_2} \left[\left(1 + \frac{v_1 v_2}{c^2} \right) x - (v_1 + v_2) t \right] \\ &= \gamma_{v_1} \gamma_{v_2} \left(1 + \frac{v_1 v_2}{c^2} \right) \left[t - \left(\frac{v_1 + v_2}{1 + \frac{v_1 v_2}{c^2}} \right) \frac{x}{c^2} \right] & &= \gamma_{v_1} \gamma_{v_2} \left(1 + \frac{v_1 v_2}{c^2} \right) \left[x - \left(\frac{v_1 + v_2}{1 + \frac{v_1 v_2}{c^2}} \right) t \right] \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

If we define

$$v \equiv \frac{v_1 + v_2}{1 + \frac{v_1 v_2}{c^2}} \quad (14)$$

then elementary algebra shows

$$\gamma_v = \gamma_{v_1} \gamma_{v_2} \left(1 + \frac{v_1 v_2}{c^2} \right) \quad (15)$$

which enables us to deem v as the velocity of K'' relative to K , and consistently read (13) as the Lorentz transformations between K/K''

$$t'' = \gamma_v \left(t - \frac{vx}{c^2} \right) \quad x'' = \gamma_v (x - vt) \quad (16)$$