

## 2. Lorentz Transformation

Assumption:

The transformation is linear and of the form:

$$\textcircled{1} x = \gamma(x' + Vt'), \quad y = y', \quad z = z'$$

Assumption:  $t \neq t'$

From the principle of relativity,

$$x' = \gamma(x - Vt) \quad \textcircled{2}$$

Suppose a light pulse leaves the common origin of  $S$  and  $S'$  at  $t = t' = 0$ . Therefore, after a time  $t$  it will travel  $x = ct$  or  $x' = ct'$ .

$$\Rightarrow ct = \gamma(x' + Vt') = \gamma(ct' + Vt') = \gamma(c+V)t' \quad \textcircled{3}$$

$$ct' = \gamma(x - Vt) = \gamma(ct - Vt) = \gamma(c-V)t \quad \textcircled{4}$$

$$t' = \frac{\gamma(c-V)t}{c} \quad \textcircled{6} \quad \text{or } t = \frac{\gamma(c+V)t'}{c} \quad \textcircled{7}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Put  $\textcircled{6}$  into  $\textcircled{3}$ .

$$ct = \gamma(c+V) \cdot \frac{\gamma(c-V)t}{c}$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{V^2}{c^2}}}} \quad \textcircled{8}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Put  $\textcircled{8}$  into  $\textcircled{1}$ ,  $\textcircled{2}$ , and  $\textcircled{7}$

$$\boxed{t = \gamma\left(t' + \frac{Vx'}{c^2}\right)}$$

$$\boxed{x' = \gamma(x - Vt)}$$

$$\boxed{x = \gamma(x' + Vt')}$$