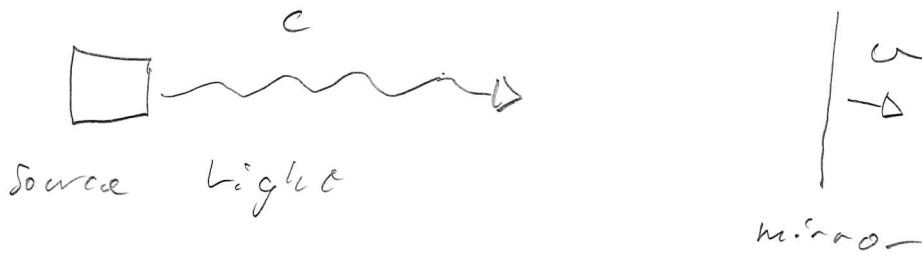


# Problem Set 8

## Kristian Tarr

### Problem I

 $X_{\perp}$ 


$$p^\mu = (E/c, \vec{p}) \quad , \quad E = h\nu \quad , \quad \vec{p} = \left( \frac{h\nu}{c}, 0, 0 \right)$$

$$\nu_{\text{emitted}} = \nu_0$$

 $S_0$ 

$$p^\mu = \left( \frac{E}{c}, \vec{p} \right) = \left( \frac{h\nu_0}{c}, \frac{h\nu_0}{c}, 0, 0 \right) \text{ in frame } S, \text{ (the laboratory frame)}$$

We use Lorentz transformation to find the four-momentum in frame  $S'$  (the rest frame of the mirror)

$$p'^\mu = L^\mu_\nu p^\nu \quad , \quad \text{where } L = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & -\beta\gamma & 0 & 0 \\ -\beta\gamma & \gamma & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad ,$$

$$p'^0 = L^0_0 p^0 + L^0_1 p^1 = \frac{h\nu_0}{c} \gamma (1 - \beta) = \frac{h}{c} \nu'_0$$

We see the frequency in the new frame is now  $\nu'_0 = \nu_0 \gamma (1 - \beta)$ . When reflected, the light is moving in the opposite direction, so  $-\beta \rightarrow +\beta$  and we have  $\nu'_r = \nu_0 (1 + \beta) \gamma$

I b)  $S' \rightarrow S$

$$p'^{\mu} = \left( \frac{h\nu_r'}{c}, \frac{h\nu_r'}{c}, 0, 0 \right)$$

$$p'^{\mu} = L^{\mu}_{\nu} p^{\nu} \Rightarrow p^{\nu} = (L^{\mu}_{\nu})^{-1} p'^{\mu} = L^{\nu}_{\mu} p'^{\mu}$$

$$\text{where } L^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & \gamma\beta & 0 & 0 \\ \gamma\beta & \gamma & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

So

$$p^0 = \gamma \frac{h\nu_r'}{c} (1 + \beta) = \gamma^2 \frac{h}{c} \nu_0 (1 + \beta)^2 = \frac{h}{c} \nu_0 \frac{(1 + \beta)^2}{1 - \beta^2} = \frac{h}{c} \nu_0 \frac{1 + \beta}{1 - \beta}$$

and we see that

$$\nu_r = \nu_0 \frac{1 + \beta}{1 - \beta}$$

### Problem 2

a)

$$K = (\gamma - 1)mc^2 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} - 1 = \frac{K}{mc^2} = \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow 1 = (\alpha + 1) \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow v = c \sqrt{1 - (\alpha + 1)^{-2}}$$

b) Particle 1:  $p_1 = \gamma m v$ ,  $E_1 = \cancel{mc^2} + \gamma mc^2$   $\gamma mc^2$

Particle 2:  $p_2 = 0$ ,  $E_2 = mc^2$

Compound:  $p = p_1 + p_2 = \gamma m v$

$$E = E_1 + E_2 = mc^2 + \gamma mc^2 = (1 + \gamma)mc^2$$

$$b) E^2 = M^2 c^4 + p^2 c^2 \Rightarrow M^2 c^4 = (1+\gamma)^2 m^2 c^4 - \gamma^2 m^2 v^2 c^2$$

$$\Rightarrow M^2 = (1+\gamma)^2 m^2 - \gamma^2 m^2 \frac{v^2}{c^2} = \left( \gamma^2 + 2\gamma + 1 - \gamma^2 \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right) m^2$$

$$= m^2 \left( 2 + 1 + \underbrace{\gamma^2 \left( 1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2} \right)}_{\substack{= 1 \\ \gamma^2 \cdot \frac{1}{\gamma^2} = 1}} \right) = m^2 (2\gamma + 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow M = m \sqrt{2\gamma + 1}$$

$$V = c \sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{K}{mc^2} + 1 \right)^{-2}} = c \sqrt{1 - \left( \alpha \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\gamma+1}} + 1 \right)^{-2}}$$

$$K_{\text{before}} = \gamma mc^2 - mc^2 \quad (\text{total energy} - \text{rest energy})$$

$$K_{\text{after}} = E - Mc^2 = (1+\gamma)mc^2 - mc^2 \sqrt{2\gamma+1}$$

$$K_{\text{after}} - K_{\text{before}} = \gamma mc^2 - mc^2 - (1+\gamma)mc^2 + mc^2 \sqrt{2\gamma+1}$$

$$= mc^2 (\gamma - 1 - 1 - \gamma + \sqrt{2\gamma+1})$$

$$= mc^2 (-2 + \sqrt{2\gamma+1})$$

c)

$$\vec{P}_1 = P \cos \theta \hat{i} + P \sin \theta \hat{j}$$

$$\vec{P}_2 = P \cos \theta \hat{i} - P \sin \theta \hat{j}$$

$$|\vec{P}_1| = |\vec{P}_2| \text{ obviously}$$

$$E_1^2 = P_1^2 c^2 + m_1^2 c^4, \quad E_2^2 = m_2^2 c^4 + P_2^2 c^2$$

The masses are the same, and we showed that  $P_1 = P_2$

$$\text{So } E_1 = E_2$$

$$\begin{aligned} d) \quad E_{\text{total}} &= E_1 + E_2 = 2E \Rightarrow E = \frac{1}{2} E_{\text{total}} = \frac{1}{2} [mc^2 + \gamma mc^2] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} mc^2 [1 + \gamma] \end{aligned}$$

$$e) \quad v = \sqrt{1 - (\gamma + 1)^{-2}} c$$

$$p = \frac{P_x}{\cos \theta} = \frac{\frac{1}{2} \gamma m v}{\cos \theta} \quad \leftarrow \text{looking at one particle = half the total momentum}$$

$$E^2 = p^2 c^2 + m^2 c^4$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{4} \cancel{m^2} c^4 (1 + \gamma)^2 = \frac{1}{4} \gamma^2 \frac{\cancel{m^2} v^2}{\cos^2 \theta} c^2 + \cancel{m^2} c^4$$

$$\Rightarrow (1 + \gamma)^2 = \gamma^2 \frac{v^2}{c^2} \cos^{-2} \theta + 4 \Rightarrow \cos^2 \theta = \frac{\gamma^2 v^2}{c^2 ((\gamma + 1)^2 - 4)}$$

$$e) \quad \gamma - 1 = \alpha \Rightarrow \gamma = \alpha + 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \cos^2 \theta = \frac{(\alpha + 1)^2 v^2}{c^2 ((\alpha + 1)^2 - 1)} = \frac{(\alpha + 1)^2 (1 - (\alpha + 1)^{-2})}{c^2 ((\alpha + 1)^2 - 1)}$$

$$= \frac{(\alpha + 1)^2 - 1}{c^2 (\alpha^2 + 4\alpha + 4 - 1)} = \frac{\alpha^2 + 2\alpha + 1 - 1}{c^2 (\alpha^2 + 4\alpha + 3)}$$

$$= \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\alpha + 2}{\alpha + 3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \theta = \arccos \left( \frac{1}{c} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha + 2}{\alpha + 3}} \right)$$

$\alpha \rightarrow 0$  gives

$$\theta = \arccos \left( \frac{1}{c} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \right) = \frac{\pi}{4} \quad \text{if we for some reason set } c = 1$$

$\alpha \rightarrow \infty$

L'Hôpital's rule gives

$$\theta = \arccos \left( \frac{1}{c} (\sqrt{1}) \right) = 0. \quad \text{I think it makes sense that}$$

$\theta \leq \pi/4$ , because  $\theta = \pi/2 = 90^\circ$ . And two particles or billiard balls or whatever can not have a bigger angle between them after impact than  $90^\circ$

3a)  $U^\mu = \frac{dx^\mu}{d\tau}$

$X = (ct, x, 0, 0)$  (only moving in  $x$ -direction)

$U = \left( c \frac{dt}{d\tau}, \frac{dx}{d\tau}, 0, 0 \right)$

$x = \frac{c^2}{a} \cosh\left(\frac{a}{c}(\tau - \tau_I)\right) - x_I$

$t = \frac{c}{a} \sinh\left(\frac{a}{c}(\tau - \tau_I)\right) - t_I$

$\frac{dx}{d\tau} = \frac{c^2}{a} \cdot \frac{a}{c} \sinh\left(\frac{a}{c}(\tau - \tau_I)\right) = c \sinh\left(\frac{a}{c}(\tau - \tau_I)\right)$

$\frac{dt}{d\tau} = \cosh\left(\frac{a}{c}(\tau - \tau_I)\right)$

$\Rightarrow U = \left( c \cosh\left(\frac{a}{c}(\tau - \tau_I)\right), c \sinh\left(\frac{a}{c}(\tau - \tau_I)\right), 0, 0 \right)$

$A = \frac{dU}{d\tau} = a \left( \sinh\left(\frac{a}{c}(\tau - \tau_I)\right), \cosh\left(\frac{a}{c}(\tau - \tau_I)\right), 0, 0 \right)$

$a_0^2 = A^2 = \left( \cosh^2\left(\frac{a}{c}(\tau - \tau_I)\right) - \sinh^2\left(\frac{a}{c}(\tau - \tau_I)\right) \right) a^2 = a^2$

$\Rightarrow a_0 = a$ . The space-time path is hyperbolic because in a Minkowski-diagram, the world line of the spaceship is shaped as a hyperbola when  $a_0$  is constant and approaching the speed is approaching  $c$ .

3b) when leaving Earth  $t=0$  &  $v=0$ ,  $x=0$ ,  $\tilde{t}=0$ ,  $a=g$

$$U = \left( c \frac{dt}{d\tilde{t}}, \frac{dx}{d\tilde{t}}, 0, 0 \right) = \left( c \gamma, \frac{dx}{d\tilde{t}} \frac{d\tilde{t}}{dt}, 0, 0 \right) = (\gamma c, \gamma v, 0, 0)$$

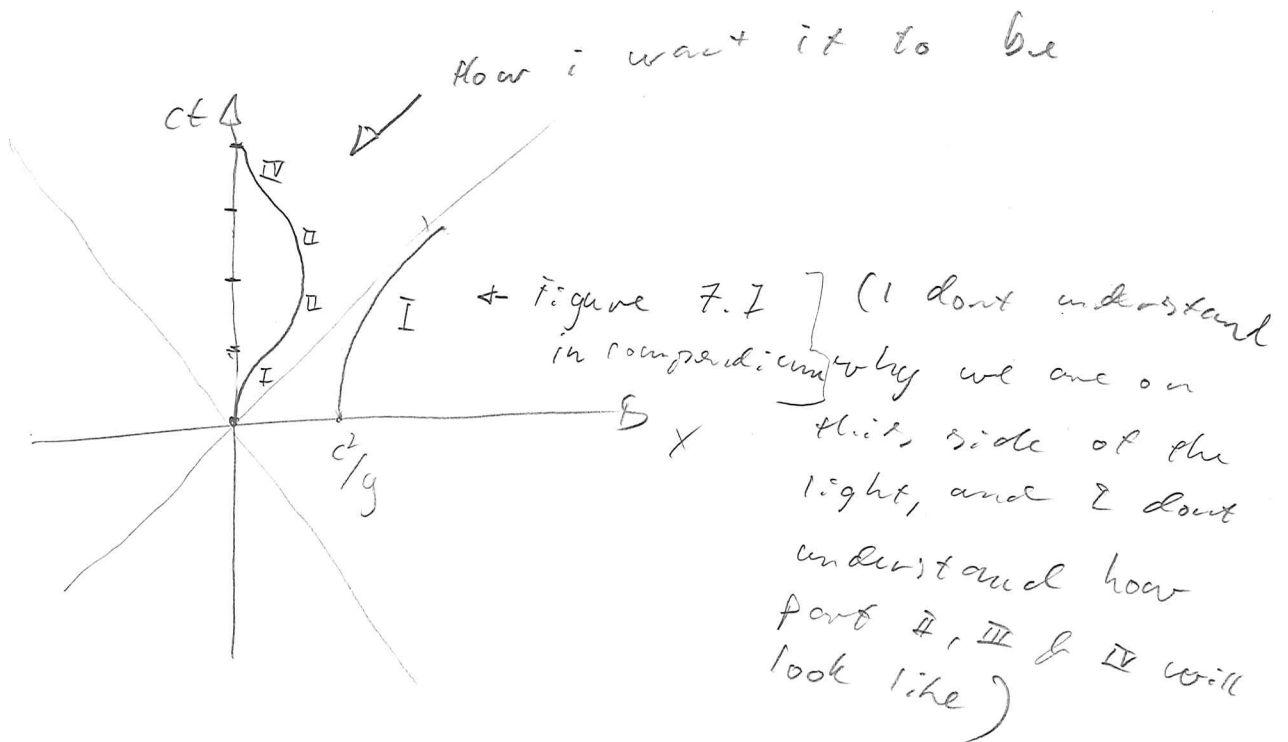
$$= (c \cosh(-), c \sinh(-), 0, 0)$$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma v = c \sinh\left(\frac{g}{c}(-\tilde{t})\right) = 0, \text{ so } \sinh(-) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{t} = 0$$

$$x_i = -\frac{c^2}{g} \cosh\left(\frac{g}{c}(0-0)\right) = -\frac{c^2}{g} \quad \left| \quad x + \frac{c^2}{g} = \frac{c^2}{g} \cosh\left(\frac{g}{c}(\tilde{t})\right)\right.$$

$$t_i = -\frac{c}{g} \sinh\left(\frac{g}{c}(0-0)\right) = 0 \quad \left| \quad t = \frac{c}{g} \sinh\left(\frac{g}{c}\tilde{t}\right)\right.$$



$$3c) \quad \tau_0 = \frac{c}{a_0} = \frac{c}{g} \approx 1 \text{ year}$$

3d) Maximum speed is when the ship is halfway to Proxima.

So

$$x = \frac{c^2}{g} (\cosh(\frac{g}{c} \tau) - 1) = 2.2 \text{ l.y.} = 2.2 \tau_0 c = 2.2 \frac{c^2}{g}$$

$$\Rightarrow \cosh(\frac{g}{c} \tau) - 1 = 2.2$$

$$\Rightarrow \tau \approx 1.86 \tau_0$$

$$v = \frac{x}{t} = \frac{\frac{c^2}{g} (\cosh(\frac{g}{c} \tau) - 1)}{\frac{c}{g} \sinh(\frac{g}{c} \tau)} = c \cdot \frac{2.2}{\sinh(1.86)} = 0.66 c$$