A general Lorentz boost

Consider a boost in a general direction:

simply $(3 \times 1)^{1/2}$ for boost in x-direction take \times component in $(5 \times 1)^{1/2}$ The time component must change as $x' = y(x' - \sqrt[3]{5} \cdot \overline{x})$ for $\sqrt[5]{5} = \sqrt[3]{5}$

The components orthogonal to the direction of motion don't change

$$X_{\perp} = X_{\perp}$$

and the components parallel to the direction of motion change as

$$\overline{X}_{11} = \gamma(\overline{X}_{11} - \overline{\beta} + C)$$
 as $\overline{\beta}$ is in the same direction as \overline{X}_{11}

We can rewrite \overline{X}' as

$$\overline{X} = \overline{X}_{1} + \overline{X}_{1} = \overline{X}_{1} + y(\overline{X}_{1} - \overline{P} + C)$$

$$= \overline{X} - \overline{X}_{11} + y(\overline{X}_{1} - \overline{P} + X^{\circ})$$

$$= \overline{X} - \overline{X}_{11} + y(\overline{X}_{1} - \overline{P} + X^{\circ})$$

$$= \overline{X} + (Y - 1) \overline{X}_{1} - y \overline{P} x^{\circ}$$

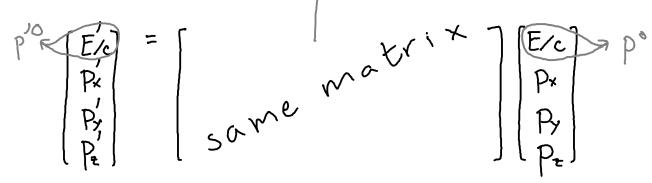
$$(x')' = x' + (Y - 1) \overline{P} - y \overline{P} x^{\circ}$$

$$(x')' = x' + (Y - 1) \overline{P} - y \overline{P} x^{\circ}$$

$$\overline{X}_{\parallel} = \frac{\overline{\beta} \cdot \overline{X} \cdot \overline{\beta}}{\overline{\beta}^{2}} = \overline{X} + (Y - 1) \left(\frac{\overline{\beta} \cdot \overline{X}}{\overline{\beta}^{2}} \right) \overline{\beta} - \overline{X} \overline{\beta} \times^{\alpha}$$

We may now collect the results into one transformation matrix:

But this is true for any contravatiant 4-vector => it is true for the 4-momentum!



Invariance of the metric

(Not in Rindler)

Let
$$X = \begin{pmatrix} x^{\circ} \\ x^{\circ} \\ x^{3} \end{pmatrix}$$
 denote a 4-vector

We know that $(x)^2 = x \cdot x$ is invariat

index form:

$$(x)^{2} = \underbrace{\sum_{x \in \mathcal{Y}} x^{\alpha} g_{x, \nu} x^{\nu}}_{x^{\alpha} y_{x, \nu}} \Leftrightarrow \underbrace{x^{\alpha} g_{x, \nu} x^{\nu}}_{x^{\alpha}$$

As no system is special we may assume we know $g' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ and check that g is the same (rather than opposite):

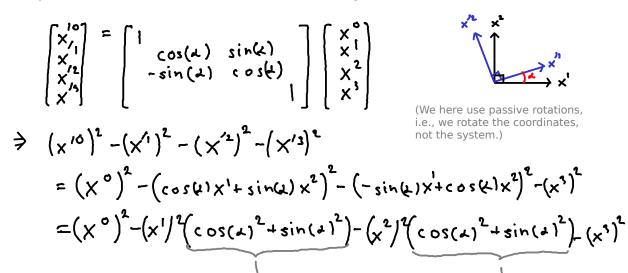
Recall for x-boost:
$$\Lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma & -\gamma & \gamma \\ -\gamma & \gamma \end{bmatrix} = \Lambda^{\mathsf{T}}$$

giving us:

This shouldn't be a surprise, we have already seen that a Lorentz boost leaves $(x)^2$ invariant.

as a tensor => g special! It makes sense to ask what is the most general linear transformation that leaves the metric invariant. In fact it's easy to guess the answer:

- 1) Lorentz boosts in any direction (Clearly x-direction is not special)
 - => 3 degrees of freedom
- 2) Spatial rotations, we know from linear algebra:



and again we may as well rotate in any other plane => 3 degrees of freedom.

- 3) Space inversion $\overline{x} \rightarrow -\overline{x}$
 - => Discrete symmetry => no continuous degree of freedom
- 4) Time reversal $t \rightarrow -t$
 - => Discrete symmetry => no continuous degree of freedom

The set of all transformations above is referred to as the Lorentz transformations, or the Lorentz group. This set of transformations is very important as it leaves the laws of physics invariant. Observers related by Lorentz transformations may disagree on numerical values, but they agree on the form of physical laws.

A group is a well-defined mathematical concept which is very important in theoretical physics, but it's not part of this course. The physically essential properties are that for each transformation there is an inverse transformation in the group and that two transformations after each other also correspond to a transformation in the group. First boosting in x-direction, then in y-direction is the same as first boosting in x-direction (with some larger boost) and then rotating by some angle, so it's not surprising that boosts and rotations form a "group".

Def of group: Let a,b,c \in G

· abe G + a,b

- + ba 3a 6 G S.t.a a=1
- . (ab) c = a(bc) Ya,bc
- there is an identity
- e, s.t. ea=ae=a ∀ a

We search all transformations of form $q = \Lambda^T q \Lambda$

$$g = \Lambda^T g \Lambda$$

that leave g invariant. (We have proved that this is true for boosts.)

Require this for general Lorentz transformations and see what we get:

$$\Rightarrow \det(\Lambda_g \Lambda) = \det(g) = -1$$

$$= -1$$

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(no phase)
$$\det(\Lambda_g \Lambda) = \det(\Lambda_g \Lambda) = -1$$
Transformations with

- $J_{e} \cdot (\Lambda) = |$ are called proper. Rotations and boosts are proper.
- $d_{\bullet}t(\Lambda) = -1$ are called improper. They involve space inversion or time reflection.

From now on we will concern ourselves only with proper Lorentz transformations.

=> we are interested in matrices with $det(\Lambda) = 1$

One can argue that these matrices can be generated by some matrix L with $T_r(L)=0$, meaning that

To see this, assume that L can be diagonalized by some matrix O:

$$OLO^{-1} = D$$
 for some diagonal matrix D

(less important for course)

But then we may rewrite the diagonalized version of Λ :

Now we have:
$$\det(\Lambda) = \det(\Lambda) = \det$$

Using Taylor expansion one can prove

But we also have:
$$g \wedge \overline{g} = g \wedge \overline{g} \wedge \overline{h}^{-1} = g^2 \wedge \overline{h}^{-1} = h^{-1} = e^{-\frac{1}{2}}$$

From which we conclude:

$$g L^{T}g = -L \Leftrightarrow g L^{T} = -L g^{-1} \Leftrightarrow (Lg)^{T} = -Lg$$

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(for proper Lorentz transformations)

Thus in general L can be written using 6 parameters

(I define L with another sign compared to HUB, to be consistent with the rotation on p. 3.)

(Only in 3 dimensions can a rotation be labeled by one axis, in general labeled by the directions that mix.)

The matrices J_1, J_2, J_3 generate rotations and K_1, K_2, K_3 generate boosts.

To see this consider for example a boost in the x-direction i.e.

$$\frac{\ddot{\eta} = (\eta, 0, 0)}{\ddot{\omega} = 0} \Rightarrow L = -\eta K_1 = -\eta \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

For the upper left 2x2 block of Λ we then have $\zeta = 0$

$$e^{-\eta \ell} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \ell^{n} (-\eta)^{n}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(-\eta)^{2n}} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)!} \ell^{n+1} \ell^{n+1}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)!} \ell^{n+1} \ell^{n+1} \ell^{n+1}$$

$$= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(2n+1)!} \ell^{n+1} \ell$$

This we recognize as a boost in the x-direction!

$$\Rightarrow \Lambda = \begin{cases} \cos h(\eta) - \sinh(\eta) \\ -\sinh(\eta) \cos h(\eta) \end{cases}$$

The parameter η is nothing but the <u>rapidity!</u>

By similar calculations it is easy to show that J_1, J_2, J_3 indeed generate rotations.

For example, a rotation in the xy-plane using the parameter ω gives

Comparing the above expressions for Λ we see that rapidities play the same role for boosts as angles do for rotations. They mix a spatial direction with time instead of mixing 2 spatial directions.

Ex: Tensor transformation for E- and B-fields.

We have seen that the electric and magnetic fields are part of an antisymmetric rank $\binom{2}{2}$ tensor:

Warning: different books define
$$E_{*}$$
 $O - c B_{*} - E_{*}$ $C - c B_{*}$ $C - c B_$

Consider constant electric and magnetic fields and calculate how they are transformed in another system.

We may consider a boost in x-direction

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} A & A & A \\ A & A & A \end{bmatrix}$$

$$V_{w} D = \frac{3 \times A}{3 \times A}$$

 $\Lambda^{\circ}_{\circ} = \Lambda^{\circ}_{\circ} = Y$, $\Lambda^{\circ}_{\circ} = \Lambda^{\circ}_{\circ} = -AY$, $\Lambda^{\circ}_{\circ} = \Lambda^{\circ}_{\circ} = 1$, all others are 0

A rank $\binom{2}{b}$ -tensor transforms as

$$E_{y} = \frac{3x_{y}}{3x_{y}} \frac{3x_{y}}{3x_{y}} E_{y} = V_{y} V_{y} E_{y}$$

$$= E_{x} \chi_{s}(-\beta_{s}+1) = E_{x}$$

$$= (-\beta_{x})(-\beta_{s}+1) = E_{x}$$

$$= (-\beta_{x})(-\beta_{s}+1) = E_{x}$$

$$= (-\beta_{x})(-\beta_{s}+1) = E_{x}$$

The electric field <u>parallel</u> to the direction of the boost doesn't change!

$$B^{x}_{1} = \frac{c}{t}$$

$$B^{x}_{3} = \frac{c}{t}$$

B-field parallel to boost doesn't change!

$$E_{1}, E_{y} = F^{20}$$

$$E_{y} = F^{20} = \Lambda^{2} \Lambda^{0} F^{0}$$

$$= \Lambda^{2} \Lambda^{0} F^{20} + \Lambda^{2} \Lambda^{0} F^{21}$$

$$= 1 \cdot r E_{y} + 1 (-\beta r) c B_{z}$$

$$\Rightarrow E_{y} = r(E_{y} - v B_{z})$$

For the electric field orthogonal to the boost, the B-fields mix in!

contribution from magnetic field!

$$B_{y} = \frac{F}{E^{3}}$$

$$= (-81)(-\frac{F}{E}) + \frac{13}{2}$$

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For B-fields orthogonal to the direction of boost, the E-field mix in.

Warning: If E and B-fields depend on position we also have to transform the position to evaluate the fields in the right point, and if we need derivatives of the fields we need to take space contraction and time dilation into account.