

Relativistic Mass

Lorentz transf. \Rightarrow need modification of the equations of mechanics so that they remain INVARIANT under the transformation from one inertial frame to another

RELATIVISTIC mechanics

Newton's 2nd law in the form $\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$ is (not) relativistically invariant but

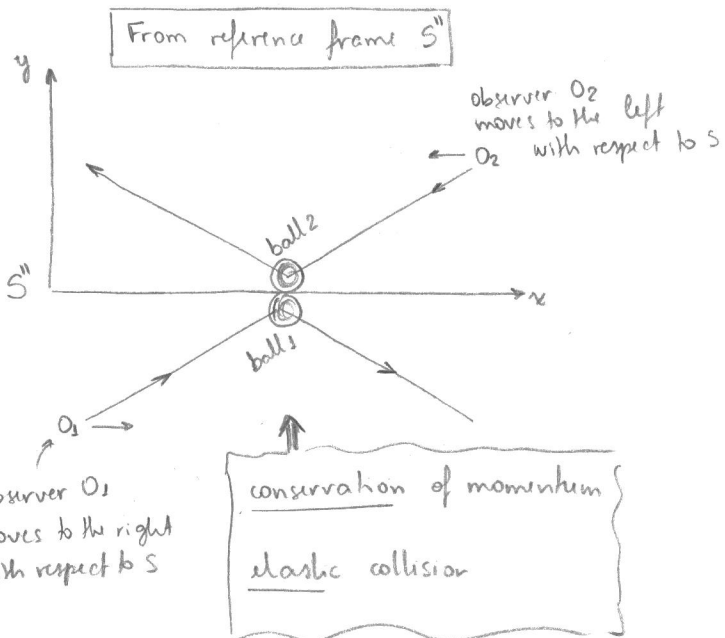
$\vec{F} = \frac{d\vec{p}}{dt}$ is relativistically invariant if the relativistic momentum \vec{p} is used

~~Equation~~

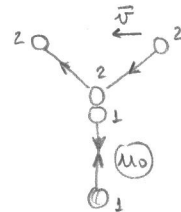
$$\vec{p} = m(v)\vec{v}$$

\hookrightarrow mass is a function of v

Thought experiment

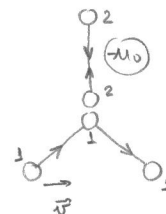


From the reference frame of O_1 (S)



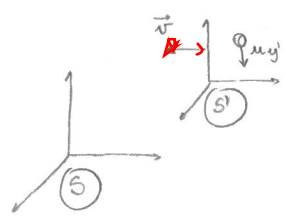
\vec{v} : velocity of O_2 with respect to O_1

From the reference frame of O_2 (S')



\vec{v} : velocity of O_1 with respect to O_2

→) From the reference frame of O_1 (S)



Ball 1 moves along the y axis with velocity $u_{y_1} = u_0$

Ball 2 has an x and y components of its velocity

$$\text{Ball 2} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_{x_2} = \frac{u_{x_2}' + v}{1 + \frac{v}{c^2} u_{x_2}'} \quad \xrightarrow{u_{x_2}' = 0} \quad u_{x_2} = v \\ u_{y_2} = \frac{u_{y_2}'}{\gamma \left(1 + \frac{v}{c^2} u_{x_2}'\right)} \quad \xrightarrow{u_{y_2}' = -u_0} \quad u_{y_2} = -\frac{u_0}{\gamma} \end{array} \right.$$

u_{y_2} is smaller than u_{y_1} , because time taken for ② to travel in S (O_1) is greater than measured in S' (O_2)

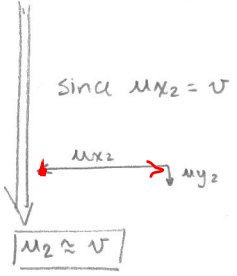
Before collision $u_{y_1} = u_0$ After collision $u_{y_1} = -u_0$
 collision $u_{y_2} = -\frac{u_0}{\gamma}$ collision $u_{y_2} = \frac{u_0}{\gamma}$

to guarantee conservation of momentum in $S \Rightarrow m(v)$

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{(before collision)} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{(after collision)} \\ m(u_0) u_0 - m(u) u_{y_2} = -m(u_0) u_0 + m(u) u_{y_2} \end{array}$$

$$\frac{m(u)}{m(u_0)} = \frac{u_0}{u_{y_2}} = \frac{u_0}{u_0 \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$$

Approximation: $u_0 \ll v \Rightarrow u_{y_2} = u_0 \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2} \ll v$



$u_0 \approx 0$
 $u_2 \approx v$

$$m(v) = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}$$

m_0 is the classically measured mass of the particle (mass of the particle at rest)

mass of an object in motion with respect to an observer is LARGER than measured when it is at rest

→ Conservation of momentum is valid in relativity provided we write

$$\vec{p} = \frac{m_0 \vec{u}}{\sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2}}$$

mass
 $m(u) = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2}}$

→ in the reference frame of O_1 (S) $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} p_{y1} + p_{y2} \text{ (before collision)} \\ \text{and} \\ p_{y1} + p_{y2} \text{ (after collision)} \end{array} \right.$ only changes signs, so for momentum to be conserved $p_{y1} + p_{y2} = 0$

Proof

$$p_{y1} = \frac{m_0 u_{y1}}{\sqrt{1 - u_0^2/c^2}}$$

$$p_{y2} = \frac{m_0 u_{y2}}{\sqrt{1 - (u_{x2}^2 + u_{y2}^2)/c^2}}$$

and so $p_{y1} + p_{y2} = 0$

showing it

$$p_{y2} = \frac{-m_0 u_0 \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}{\sqrt{1 - (v^2 + u_0^2 - \frac{u_0^2 v^2}{c^2})/c^2}} = \frac{-m_0 u_0 \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}{\sqrt{(\frac{1 - v^2}{c^2}) - \frac{u_0^2}{c^2} (\frac{1 - v^2}{c^2})}} = \frac{-m_0 u_0 \sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2} \sqrt{1 - u_0^2/c^2}}$$

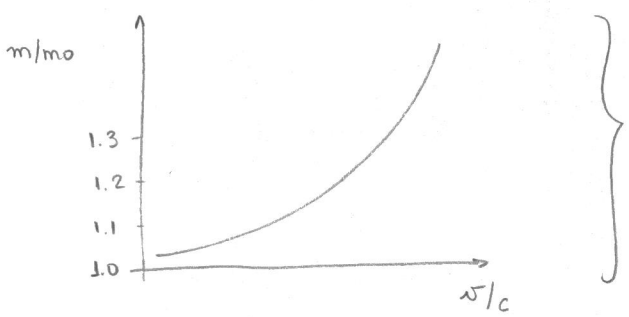
$$p_{y2} = -p_{y1}$$

Bucherer 1909

1st experimental confirmation of the dependence of mass on velocity

e^- of high velocity → technique similar to the one used by Thomson to measure q/m

$$q u B = m \frac{u^2}{R} \Rightarrow \frac{q}{m} = \frac{u}{R B}$$



prove that $\overline{m(v)}$
and that $\underline{c = 2.998 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}}$

Example 2-1

For what value of (u/c) will the measured mass of an object $\frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}}$ exceed the rest mass by a fraction f ?

↳ that is, $\frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} = m_0 + m_0 f$

$$f = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} - 1 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{(1-u^2/c^2)} = (f+1)^2 \Rightarrow 1-u^2/c^2 = \frac{1}{(f+1)^2}$$

$$u^2/c^2 = \frac{(f+1)^2 - 1}{(f+1)^2} \Rightarrow u/c = \frac{\sqrt{f^2 + 2f}}{(f+1)} \Rightarrow \boxed{u/c = \frac{\sqrt{f(f+2)}}{f+1}}$$

Example 2-2

A high-speed interplanetary probe with a mass $m = 50,000 \text{ kg}$ has been sent toward Pluto at a speed $u = 0.8c$. What is its momentum as measured by Mission Control on Earth? If, preparatory to landing on Pluto, the probe's speed is reduced to $0.4c$, by how much does its momentum change?

$$p_{0.8c} = \frac{m_0 u}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} = \frac{50 \times 10^3 (0.8c)}{\sqrt{1-(0.8)^2}} = \boxed{2.0 \times 10^{13} \text{ kg m/s}}$$

$$p_{0.8c} - p_{0.4c} = 2.0 \times 10^{13} - \frac{50 \times 10^3 (0.4c)}{\sqrt{1-(0.4)^2}} = 2.0 \times 10^{13} - 6.5 \times 10^{12} = \boxed{1.6 \times 10^{13} \text{ kg m/s}}$$