

# Lorentz Transformation of $E$ and $\vec{p}$

in  $S$

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

$$p_x = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} u_x$$

$$p_y = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} u_y$$

$$p_z = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} u_z$$

$$\gamma_u = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}}$$

$$\gamma_{u'} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u'^2/c^2}}$$

in  $S'$

$$E' = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-u'^2/c^2}} c^2$$

$$p'_x = \gamma_{u'} m_0 u'_x$$

$$p'_y = \gamma_{u'} m_0 u'_y$$

$$p'_z = \gamma_{u'} m_0 u'_z$$

$$\begin{aligned} 1 - \frac{u'^2}{c^2} &= 1 - \frac{(u_x'^2 + u_y'^2 + u_z'^2)}{c^2} = 1 - \frac{(u_x - v)^2}{(1 - v^2/c^2)^2} + \frac{u_y^2}{\gamma^2 (1 - v^2/c^2)^2} + \frac{u_z^2}{\gamma^2 (1 - v^2/c^2)^2} = \\ &= \frac{c^2 (1 - v^2/c^2)^2 - \left[ u_x^2 - 2u_x v + v^2 - \frac{u_x^2}{\gamma^2} + \frac{u_x^2}{\gamma^2} + \frac{u_y^2}{\gamma^2} + \frac{u_z^2}{\gamma^2} \right]}{c^2 (1 - v^2/c^2)^2} = \\ &= \frac{c^2 - 2v u_x + \sqrt{\frac{v^2}{c^2} u_x^2} - u_x^2 + 2v u_x - v^2 + \frac{u_x^2}{\gamma^2} - \frac{u^2}{\gamma^2}}{c^2 (1 - v^2/c^2)^2} \\ &= \frac{c^2 - u_x^2/\gamma^2 - v^2 + u_x^2/\gamma^2 - u^2/\gamma^2}{c^2 (1 - v^2/c^2)^2} = \frac{c^2/\gamma^2}{c^2 (1 - v^2/c^2)^2} = \frac{c^2}{c^2 \gamma^2 (1 - v^2/c^2)^2} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-u'^2/c^2}} = \frac{\gamma (1 - \frac{v}{c^2} u_x)}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}}$$

$$E = \gamma \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} (1 - \frac{v}{c^2} u_x) c^2 = \gamma \left[ \gamma_u m_0 c^2 - \gamma_u m_0 u_x v \right] = \gamma \left[ E - v p_x \right]$$

$$p_x' = \gamma \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} (1 - \frac{v}{c^2} u_x) \frac{(u_x - v)}{(1 - \frac{v}{c^2} u_x)} = \gamma \left[ \gamma_u m_0 u_x - \gamma_u m_0 c^2 \frac{v}{c^2} \right] = \gamma \left[ p_x - \frac{v}{c^2} E \right]$$

$$p_y' = \gamma \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} (1 - \frac{v}{c^2} u_x) \frac{u_y}{(1 - \frac{v}{c^2} u_x)} = p_y$$

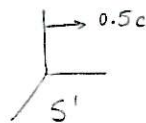
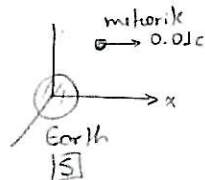
$$p_z' = p_z$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} E' = \gamma (E - v p_x) \\ p_x' = \gamma (p_x - \frac{v}{c^2} E) \\ p_y' = p_y \\ p_z' = p_z \end{array} \right. \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} E = \gamma (E' + v p_x') \\ p_x = \gamma (p_x' + \frac{v}{c^2} E') \\ p_y = p_y' \\ p_z = p_z' \end{array} \right.$$

### Example 2.3

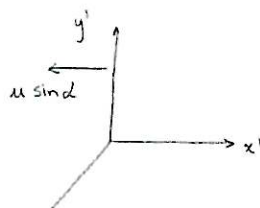
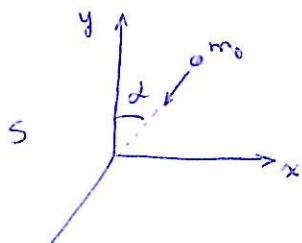
Suppose a micrometeorite of mass  $10^{-9} \text{ kg}$  moves past Earth at a speed of  $0.01c$ . What values will be measured for the energy and momentum of the particle by an observer in a system  $S'$  moving relative to Earth at  $0.5c$  in the same direction as the micrometeorite?

Let's assume  $u_x = 0.01c$  for meteorite  $v = 0.5c$  in the x-direction for  $S'$



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} E = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} c^2 = \frac{10^{-9} (2 \times 10^8)^2}{\sqrt{1-10^{-4}}} = (1.00005 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg}) c^2 \\ p_x = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1-u^2/c^2}} u_x = (1.00005 \times 10^{-11} \text{ kg}) c \end{array} \right. \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \gamma_{v'} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-0.5^2}} = 1.1547 \\ E' = \gamma_{v'} (E - v p_x) = 1.14898 \times 10^{-9} \text{ kg } c^2 \\ p_x' = \gamma_{v'} (p_x - \frac{v}{c^2} E) = -56.6 \times 10^{-11} \text{ kg } c \end{array} \right.$$

Example 2.4 Suppose that a particle with mass  $m_0$  and energy  $E$  is moving toward the origin of a system  $S$  such that its velocity  $\vec{u}$  makes an angle  $\alpha$  with the  $y$ -axis, as shown in the figure. Using the Lorentz transformation for energy and momentum, determine the energy  $E'$  of the particle measured by an observer in  $S'$ , which moves relative to  $S$  so that the particle moves along the  $y'$ -axis.



$$v = -u \sin \alpha$$

↓  
in  $S'$  the particle has only the vertical motion along  $y'$

$$E' = \gamma_{\vec{v}} (E + u \sin \alpha p_x)$$

*S' sees S moving in the +x direction*

$$p_x = \frac{m_0}{\sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2}} (-u \sin \alpha)$$

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

$$E' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{u^2 \sin^2 \alpha}{c^2}}} \left( E - \frac{u^2 \sin^2 \alpha m_0}{\sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2}} \right) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{u^2 \sin^2 \alpha}{c^2}}} \left( E - E \frac{u^2 \sin^2 \alpha}{c^2} \right) = \frac{E (1 - u^2/c^2 \sin^2 \alpha)}{\sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2 \sin^2 \alpha}}$$

$$E' = E \sqrt{1 - u^2/c^2 \sin^2 \alpha}$$

when  $u \rightarrow c \Rightarrow E' = E \cos \alpha$