

We consider a particle moving along the x axis with speed u . It is described by the 4-vector

$$x^\mu = (t, ut, 0, 0)$$

We now boost to a frame moving with velocity v , also along the x -axis, using the Lorentz transformation matrix

$$\Lambda^{\mu'}_{\mu} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & -v\gamma & 0 & 0 \\ -v\gamma & \gamma & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x^{\mu'} &= \Lambda^{\mu'}_{\mu} x^\mu = (\gamma t, -t v \gamma, 0, 0) + (-v u t \gamma, u t \gamma, 0, 0) \\ &= (\gamma t(1 - uv), \gamma t(u - v), 0, 0) \Rightarrow \end{aligned}$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} t' &= \gamma t(1 - uv) \\ x' &= \gamma t(u - v) \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow \boxed{v' = \frac{x'}{t'} = \frac{u - v}{1 - uv}}$$

This is the relativistic velocity formula for particles moving collinearly.