1.10 Transformation between inertial frames.

Consider two inertial frames K and K' with parallel axes at t = t' = 0 that are moving with the relative velocity v in the x direction.

a.) Show that the linear transformation between the coordinates in K and K' is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} t'\\ x'\\ y'\\ z' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} At + Bx\\ Dt + Ex\\ y\\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} At + Bx\\ A(x - vt)\\ y\\ z \end{pmatrix}$$
(14)

b.) Show that requiring the invariance of

$$\Delta s^2 \equiv c^2 t^2 - x^2 - y^2 - z^2 = c^2 t'^2 - x'^2 - y'^2 - z'^2 \tag{15}$$

leads to Lorentz transformations.

c.) What is the condition leading to Galilean transformations?

a.) The origin x' = 0 of K' correspond in K to x = vt. Then

$$0 = Dt + Evt \quad \Rightarrow \quad D = -Ev$$

The origin x = 0 of K correspond in K' to x' = -vt'. Then

$$t' = At \tag{16}$$

$$-vt' = Dt \quad \Rightarrow \quad t' = -\frac{D}{v}t = At$$
 (17)

and thus A = -D/v and hence A = E.

b.) Square the terms on the RHS of

$$t^{2} - x^{2} = (At - Bx)^{2} - A^{2}(x - vt)^{2},$$

order them as $t^2(\cdots) - x^2(\cdots) + 2tx(\cdots)$ and compare coefficients to the LHS. This gives $A = \gamma$ and $B = -\beta\gamma$.

c.) Absolute time t = t' requires A = 1 and B = 0