

Is an absolute rest frame U, necessary for measurements involving translational/inertial motion within Special Relativity?

The expression for gamma ( $\gamma$ ), the scaling factor for coordinate transformations is

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{v}{c}\right)^2}} \quad (1)$$

with v the speed of the observer relative to U.

In the following the speed of the observer relative to U will be noted as a lower case letter corresponding to the upper case letter identifying the observer.

The coordinate transformations for A are

$$x_A = \gamma(x - vt) \quad (2)$$

and

$$t_A = \gamma(t - vx) \quad (3)$$

which can be rewritten with  $a = v/c$  and  $c=1$ , as

$$= x(1 - a)/\sqrt{1 - a^2} = x\sqrt{\frac{(1 - a)}{(1 + a)}} \quad (4)$$

and

$$= t(1 - a)/\sqrt{1 - a^2} = t\sqrt{\frac{(1 - a)}{(1 + a)}} \quad (5)$$

For a second observer B

$$x_B = x\sqrt{\frac{(1 - b)}{(1 + b)}} \quad (6)$$

$$t_B = t\sqrt{\frac{(1 - b)}{(1 + b)}} \quad (7)$$

To eliminate a common variable, x and t from (4) and (5) are substituted into (6) and (7) yielding

$$x_B = x_A\sqrt{\frac{(1 + a)}{(1 - a)}}\sqrt{\frac{(1 - b)}{(1 + b)}} \quad (8)$$

$$t_B = t_A\sqrt{\frac{(1 + a)}{(1 - a)}}\sqrt{\frac{(1 - b)}{(1 + b)}} \quad (9)$$

Simplifying the velocity terms in (8) yields

$$\sqrt{\frac{(1 - ab - (b - a))}{(1 - ab + (b - a))}} \quad (10)$$

which is rewritten as

$$\sqrt{\frac{(1 - s)}{(1 + s)}} \quad (11)$$

with

$$s = \frac{b - a}{1 - ab} \quad (12)$$

the expression for calculating the relative velocity for A and B.

The x and t measurements of A and B are related via (8) and (9), as functions of relative velocity (12) and independently of U.