

In[1]:= (\*4-momenta in the LAB frame, before collision\*)

$$\text{In[2]:= } \mathbf{p1LAB} = \left\{ \frac{m1 c}{\sqrt{1 - v1^2 / c^2}}, \frac{m1 v1}{\sqrt{1 - v1^2 / c^2}} \right\}; \text{MatrixForm}[\mathbf{p1LAB}]$$

$$\mathbf{p2LAB} = \left\{ \frac{m2 c}{\sqrt{1 - v2^2 / c^2}}, \frac{m2 v2}{\sqrt{1 - v2^2 / c^2}} \right\};$$

**MatrixForm**[p2LAB]

Out[2]/MatrixForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{c m1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v1^2}{c^2}}} \\ \frac{m1 v1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v1^2}{c^2}}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Out[3]/MatrixForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{c m2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v2^2}{c^2}}} \\ \frac{m2 v2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v2^2}{c^2}}} \end{pmatrix}$$

In[4]:= (\*Lorentz boost with general velocity v\*)

$$\Delta[\mathbf{v}_] := \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - v^2 / c^2}} \{ \{1, -v / c\}, \{-v / c, 1\} \}$$

**MatrixForm**[\Delta[v]]

Out[5]/MatrixForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} & -\frac{v}{c \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \\ -\frac{v}{c \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \end{pmatrix}$$

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In[6]:= (*Find the velocity V of the center of mass (COM) frame where total momentum is 0*)
 $\Delta[v] \cdot (p1LAB + p2LAB)$  // MatrixForm
sol = Solve[ ( $\Delta[v] \cdot (p1LAB + p2LAB)$ ) [[2]] == 0, v] // FullSimplify
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Out[6]/MatrixForm=

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \frac{\frac{c m1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}}} + \frac{c m2}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}}}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}}} - \frac{v \left( \frac{m1 v1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}}} + \frac{m2 v2}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}} \right)}{c \sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \\ - \frac{v \left( \frac{c m1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}}} + \frac{c m2}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}} \right)}{c \sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}}} + \frac{\frac{m1 v1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}}} + \frac{m2 v2}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}}}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \end{array} \right)$$

... Solve: There may be values of the parameters for which some or all solutions are not valid.

$$\text{Out[7]} = \left\{ \left\{ v \rightarrow \frac{m2 \sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}} v2 + m1 v1 \sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}}{m2 \sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}} + m1 \sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}} \right\} \right\}$$

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In[8]:= V = (v /. sol) [[1]] (*V denotes the velocity of the COM frame in the LAB frame*)
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$$\text{Out[8]} = \frac{m2 \sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}} v2 + m1 v1 \sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}}{m2 \sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}} + m1 \sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}}$$

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In[9]:= (*Transform to the COM frame, but don't write in v=V yet,
it would look very complicated*)
MatrixForm[p1COM =  $\Delta[v] \cdot p1LAB$ ]
MatrixForm[p2COM =  $\Delta[v] \cdot p2LAB$ ]
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Out[9]/MatrixForm=

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \frac{c m1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}}} - \frac{m1 v v1}{c \sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}}} \\ - \frac{m1 v}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}}} + \frac{m1 v1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v1^2}{c^2}}} \end{array} \right)$$

Out[10]/MatrixForm=

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \frac{c m2}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}} - \frac{m2 v v2}{c \sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}} \\ - \frac{m2 v}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}} + \frac{m2 v2}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v2^2}{c^2}}} \end{array} \right)$$

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In[11]:= (*The important physical
input: in the COM frame the collision flips the spatial part of the 4-
momenta. This is the only way energy- and momentum-conservation can hold.*)
(*The 2nd p stands for prime in the variable names,
i.e. 4-momenta after collision: the 3-momentum is flipped, the energy is the same*)
MatrixForm[p1pCOM = {{1, 0}, {0, -1}}.p1COM]
MatrixForm[p2pCOM = {{1, 0}, {0, -1}}.p2COM]
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Out[11]//MatrixForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{c m_1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v_1^2}{c^2}}} - \frac{m_1 v v_1}{c \sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v_1^2}{c^2}}} \\ \frac{m_1 v}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v_1^2}{c^2}}} - \frac{m_1 v_1}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v_1^2}{c^2}}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Out[12]//MatrixForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{c m_2}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v_2^2}{c^2}}} - \frac{m_2 v v_2}{c \sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v_2^2}{c^2}}} \\ \frac{m_2 v}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v_2^2}{c^2}}} - \frac{m_2 v_2}{\sqrt{1-\frac{v^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1-\frac{v_2^2}{c^2}}} \end{pmatrix}$$

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In[13]:= (*Transform back to the LAB frame: Lorentz transformation with -v. *)
FullSimplify[MatrixForm[p1pLAB = Δ[-v].p1pCOM]]
FullSimplify[MatrixForm[p2pLAB = Δ[-v].p2pCOM]]
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Out[13]//MatrixForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{c m_1 (c^2 + v (v - 2 v_1))}{(c^2 - v^2) \sqrt{1-\frac{v_1^2}{c^2}}} \\ - \frac{m_1 (v^2 v_1 + c^2 (-2 v + v_1))}{(c^2 - v^2) \sqrt{1-\frac{v_1^2}{c^2}}} \end{pmatrix}$$

Out[14]//MatrixForm=

$$\begin{pmatrix} \frac{c m_2 (c^2 + v (v - 2 v_2))}{(c^2 - v^2) \sqrt{1-\frac{v_2^2}{c^2}}} \\ - \frac{m_2 (v^2 v_2 + c^2 (-2 v + v_2))}{(c^2 - v^2) \sqrt{1-\frac{v_2^2}{c^2}}} \end{pmatrix}$$

In[15]:= **(\*We get the end result,  
i.e. the 4-momenta expressions after collision in the LAB frame,  
in terms of the masses and incoming velocities, if we substitute V in the place of v\*)  
FullSimplify[MatrixForm[p1pLAB /. v -> V]]  
FullSimplify[MatrixForm[p2pLAB /. v -> V]]**

Out[15]//MatrixForm=

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \frac{c m_1 \left( v_2 \left( -m_1^2 v_2 + m_2^2 (-2 v_1 + v_2) \right) + c^2 \left( m_1^2 + m_2^2 + 2 m_1 m_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} \right) \right)}{m_1^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} v_2^2 + m_2^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} v_2^2 + 2 m_1 m_2 v_1 v_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} - c^2 \left( m_1^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} + m_2^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} + 2 m_1 m_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} \right)} \\ \frac{m_1 \left( - \left( (m_1^2 + m_2^2) v_1 v_2^2 \right) + c^2 \left( m_1^2 v_1 - m_2^2 (v_1 - 2 v_2) + 2 m_1 m_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} v_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} \right) \right)}{m_1^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} v_2^2 + m_2^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} v_2^2 + 2 m_1 m_2 v_1 v_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} - c^2 \left( m_1^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} + m_2^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} + 2 m_1 m_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} \right)} \end{array} \right)$$

Out[16]//MatrixForm=

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \frac{c m_2 \left( v_1 \left( -m_2^2 v_1 + m_1^2 (v_1 - 2 v_2) \right) + c^2 \left( m_1^2 + m_2^2 + 2 m_1 m_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} \right) \right)}{2 m_1 m_2 v_1 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} v_2 + m_1^2 v_1^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} + m_2^2 v_1^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} - c^2 \left( 2 m_1 m_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} + m_1^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} + m_2^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} \right)} \\ \frac{m_2 \left( - \left( (m_1^2 + m_2^2) v_1^2 v_2 \right) + c^2 \left( m_1^2 (2 v_1 - v_2) + m_2^2 v_2 + 2 m_1 m_2 v_1 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} \right) \right)}{2 m_1 m_2 v_1 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} v_2 + m_1^2 v_1^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} + m_2^2 v_1^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} - c^2 \left( 2 m_1 m_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} + m_1^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} + m_2^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} \right)} \end{array} \right)$$

In[17]:= **(\*Checking 4-momentum conservation\*)  
p1LAB + p2LAB // MatrixForm  
p1pLAB + p2pLAB // MatrixForm // FullSimplify  
(\*The two should be equal, if the transformation velocity v is V,  
which brings us into the COM frame\*)  
p1LAB + p2LAB == p1pLAB + p2pLAB /. v -> V // FullSimplify**

Out[17]//MatrixForm=

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \frac{c m_1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}}} + \frac{c m_2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}}} \\ \frac{m_1 v_1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}}} + \frac{m_2 v_2}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}}} \end{array} \right)$$

Out[18]//MatrixForm=

$$\left( \begin{array}{c} \frac{c m_2 v \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} (v - 2 v_2) + c m_1 v (v - 2 v_1) \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} + c^3 \left( m_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} + m_1 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} \right)}{(c^2 - v^2) \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}}} \\ \frac{-m_2 v^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} v_2 - m_1 v^2 v_1 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} + c^2 \left( m_2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} (2 v - v_2) + m_1 (2 v - v_1) \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}} \right)}{(c^2 - v^2) \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_1^2}{c^2}} \sqrt{1 - \frac{v_2^2}{c^2}}} \end{array} \right)$$

Out[19]= True