

# Operationality in the Axiomatic Foundations of Relativity Theory

Attila Molnár Gergely Székely

ELTE

2013. July

# Hilbert's 6th problem

# Our Classical approach

# Results in the classical investigations

# The classical approach: SpecRel

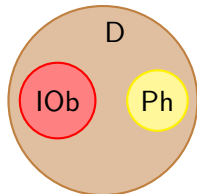
Q



0

One sort for Mathematics:  $\langle Q, +, \cdot, \leq \rangle$

AxEField:  $\langle Q, +, \cdot, \leq \rangle$  is an euclidean field. (like  $\mathbb{R}$ .)

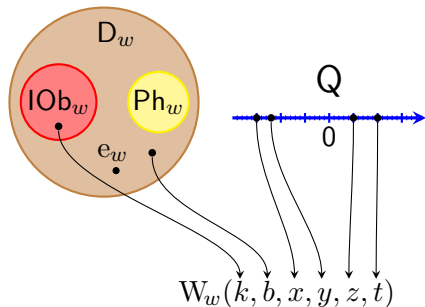


One sort for Physics:

**Domain**  $D$ : the set of bodies

**Photons** Ph: The set of photons.

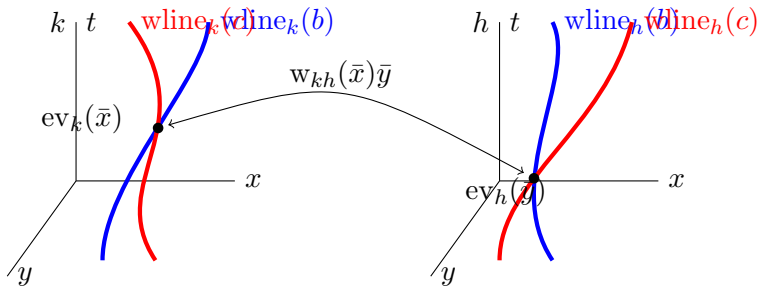
**Inertial Observers** IOb: The set of inertial observers.



**World-view relation  $W$ :** the relation of coordinatization.  
“ $k$  coordinatizes  $b$  at the space-time location  $(x, y, z, t)$ .”



# Some definable concepts



$wline_k(b)$  : The **w**orldline of  $b$  according to  $k$ .

$ev_k(\bar{x})$  : The **e**vent at  $\bar{x}$  according to  $k$ .

$w_{kh}(\bar{x}) = \bar{y}$  : **W**orldview-transformation between observers (inertial coordinate systems).

**AxSelf:** Every observer coordinatizes itself stationary in the origin:

$$(\forall k \in \text{IOb})(\forall \bar{x} \in \text{wline}_k(k)) \quad \bar{x}_s = \bar{0}.$$

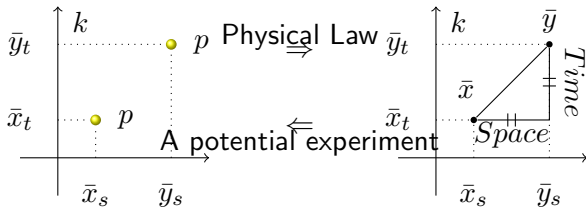
**AxSym:** All observers use the same system of measurements:

$$(\forall k, h \in \text{IOb})(\forall \bar{x}, \bar{x}', \bar{y}, \bar{y}')(|\bar{x}_t - \bar{y}_t| = 0 \wedge |\bar{x}'_t - \bar{y}'_t| = 0 \wedge \wedge \mathbf{w}_{kh}(\bar{x}) = \bar{x}' \wedge \mathbf{w}_{kh}(\bar{y}) = \bar{y}') \rightarrow |\bar{x}_s - \bar{y}_s| = |\bar{x}'_s - \bar{y}'_s|.$$

**AxEv:** The observers coordinatize the same events.

$$(\forall k, h \in \text{IOb})(\forall \bar{x})(\exists \bar{y}) \quad w_{kh}(\bar{x}) = \bar{y}.$$

AxPh: For any inertial observer, the speed of light is 1.  
Furthermore, it is possible to send out a light signal in any direction.



$$(\forall k \in \text{IOb})(\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y})$$

$$[(\exists p \in \text{Ph}) \bar{x}, \bar{y} \in \text{wline}_k(p)] \leftrightarrow \frac{|\bar{x}_s - \bar{y}_s|}{|\bar{x}_t - \bar{y}_t|} = 1$$

In SpecRel,

“ $\exists b\varphi$ ”

means that

“There exists a **potential** body such that  $\varphi$ .”

Then what is the difference in SpecRel between

a **law** of Physics

and

a postulate saying that  
an **experiment** is executable?

Nothing.

That is the price of **extensionality**.

But what does this “extensionality” means?

Roughly speaking. . .

In an extensional framework, we treat Physics exactly in the same way as Mathematics:



A classical model of SpecRel is a **rigid totality**:

- Everything that could happen, happened already.
- There is nothing that **could have happened otherwise**.

But contrary to Mathematics, contrafactuals seem to be meaningful in Physics.

$2+2=4$ , but it could have happened that  $2+2=5$ .

vs.

*b* did not collided with *e* but it could have happened that they collided.

How can we keep the **rigor** of Mathematical Logic,  
without the **rigidity** of it?

How can we keep the **rigor** of Mathematical Logic,  
without the **rigidity** of it?

There are intensional logics.

The modal solution:

Modal Logic:

“a logic of some transformations between classical models”

Practically, a modal model is

- a set of classical models (“worlds”),
- and there is a relation on it, representing transformations between classical models.

KEP EGY KUSZA MODELLROL!!

# Advantages of a Modal framework

The advantages of the modal approach:

- A natural axiomatization of Special Relativity: Difference between formalizations of
  - laws of Physics,
  - potential experiments.

# Advantages of a Modal framework

The advantages of the modal approach:

- A natural axiomatization of Special Relativity: Difference between formalizations of
  - laws of Physics,
  - potential experiments.

- **New opportunities:**

SpecRel has an extension: SpecRelDyn. Its new primitive function:

$m_k(b)$ : “the relativistic mass of  $b$  according to  $k$ ”

If we are in a modal framework, we can use ideas of **operationalism** and **define** this function using **kinematical** terms.

# Modal (New) Approach: MSpecRel

Q

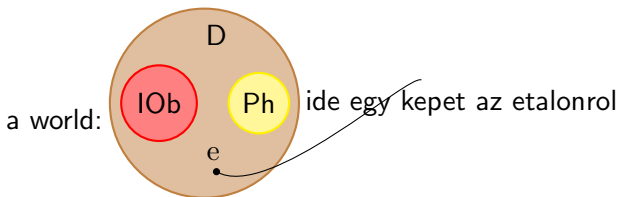


0

One **Classical** sort for Mathematics:  $\langle Q, +, \cdot, \leq \rangle$

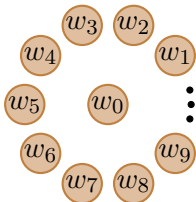
AxEField:  $\langle Q, +, \cdot, \leq \rangle$  is an euclidean field. (like  $\mathbb{R}$ .)



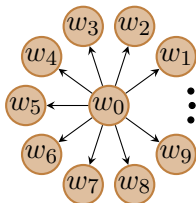


- One **Modal** sort for Physics: Each world has a
- Domain**  $D$ : The domain of quantification, i.e., the set of **actual** or **existing** bodies in  $w$ .
  - Photons**  $Ph$ : The set of photons in  $w$ .
  - Inertial Observers**  $IOb$ : The set of inertial observers in  $w$ .
  - The standard-mass object**  $\varepsilon$ .

$w_0$

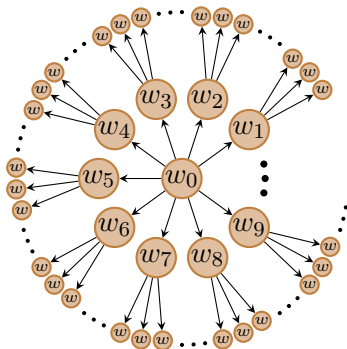


Set of worlds  $S = \{w_0, w_1, \dots\}$ : Names of the extensional models  
 $\langle D_w, \text{Ph}_w, \text{IOb}_w, \varepsilon_w \rangle$ .



**Set of worlds**  $S = \{w_0, w_1, \dots\}$ : Names of the extensional models  $\langle D_w, \text{Ph}_w, \text{IOb}_w, \varepsilon_w \rangle$ .

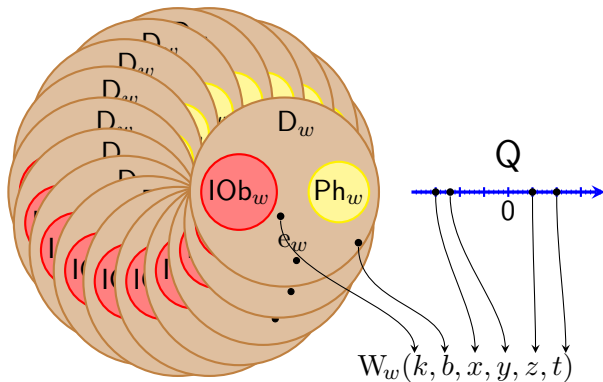
**Alternative Relation**  $R$ : It connects those worlds which are “so similar” that one of them can be thought of as a **transformed version** of the other one.  
(by a “potential experiment”)



Set of worlds  $S = \{w_0, w_1, \dots\}$ : Names of the extensional models  $\langle D_w, \text{Ph}_w, \text{IOb}_w, \varepsilon_w \rangle$ .

Alternative Relation  $R$ : It connects those worlds which are “so similar” that one of them can be thought of as a **transformed version** of the other one.  
(by a “potential experiment”)

# Coordinatization



**World-view relation**  $W_w$ : the relation of coordinatization.  
“ $k$  coordinatizes  $b$  at the space-time location  $(x, y, z, t)$ .”

# Modal Language and Truth

The new logical connectives:  $\diamond$ ,  $\square$ .

$$\begin{aligned} w \models \diamond\varphi[\sigma] &\stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \text{there exists a } v\mathfrak{A}w, \text{ such that } w \models \varphi[\sigma] \\ w \models \square\varphi[\sigma] &\stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \text{for all } v\mathfrak{A}w, \text{ it is true that } w \models \varphi[\sigma] \end{aligned}$$

Some possible interpretations:

- $\diamond\varphi$ : We could make an experiment according to which it will be the case that  $\varphi$ .
- $\diamond\varphi$ : This classical model can be transformed into another in which  $\varphi$  is true.
- $\square\varphi$ :  $\varphi$  is irrefutable by experiments.
- $\square\varphi$ : is invariant under some specific classical model-transformations.

# Determining the alternative relation

to answer the question that  
is the same as  
and this can be calibrated by

what is a potential experiment in MSpec  
to determine the relation  $R$ ,  
postulating a right selection of axioms  
containing  $\square$  and  $\diamond$ .



# Criteria to be a transformed version

- Minimal normal modal propositional logic **K** plus we assume reflexivity (**T**). (for simplicity)

$$\varphi \rightarrow \Diamond\varphi$$

- The standard mass is the same in the accessible worlds (it is a “rigid designator”), i.e.,

$$wRv \Rightarrow e_w = e_v$$

- The denotations of physical terms invariant under potential experiments,

$$b \neq c \rightarrow \Box b \neq c$$

$$b = c \rightarrow \Box b = c$$

# Minimum to be an alternative

## Physical and Mathematical stipulations

- Existing observers remain existing observers.

$$(\forall k \in \text{IOb}) \Box (\underbrace{\exists b \, b = k \wedge \text{IOb}(k)}_{E(b)})$$

- Mathematics is invariant:

$$x + y = z \leftrightarrow \Box x + y = z$$

$$x \cdot y = z \leftrightarrow \Box x \cdot y = z$$

$$x \leq y \leftrightarrow \Box x \leq y$$

# Sketch of a modal Kinematics

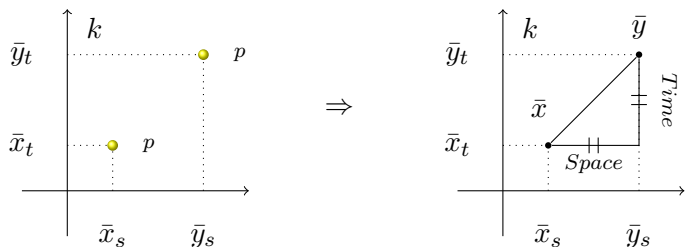
We have

- **AxSelf**: Every observer coordinatizes itself stationary in the origin:
- **AxMSym**: All observers use the same system of measurements:
- **AxMEv**: The observers coordinatize the same events.
- instead of AxPh. . .

# Axiom of Signal Observation

## AxPhObs:

Every observer sees the world-lines of photons as of slope 1.

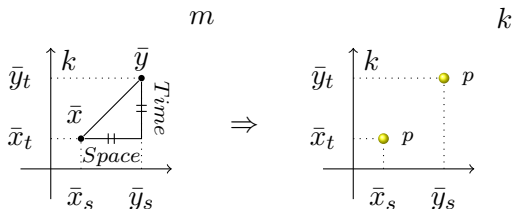


$$(\forall k \in IOb)(\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y})$$

$$(\exists p \in Ph)(\bar{x}, \bar{y} \in \text{wline}_k(p)) \rightarrow \left( \frac{\text{Space}(\bar{x}, \bar{y})}{\text{Time}(\bar{x}, \bar{y})} = 1 \right) \quad (1)$$

# Axiom of Signal Sending

AxPhExp: In every direction **it is possible to send out** a photon.



$$(\forall k \in \text{IOb})(\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y} \in Q^4) \left( \frac{\text{Space}(\bar{x}, \bar{y})}{\text{Time}(\bar{x}, \bar{y})} = 1 \rightarrow \diamond(\exists p \in \text{Ph})(\bar{x}, \bar{y} \in \text{wline}_k(p)) \right) \quad (2)$$

$$\text{MSpecRel} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \{\text{AxSelf}, \text{AxMSym}, \text{AxMEv}, \text{AxPhObs}, \text{AxPhExp}\}$$

## Theorem

*There are boole-invariant translations preserving truth between the classical and modal investigations:*

$$\text{SpecRel} \vdash \varphi \Rightarrow \text{MSpecRel} \vdash \text{Tr}^{+\diamond}(\varphi)$$

$$\text{MSpecRel} \vdash \varphi \Rightarrow \text{SpecRel} \vdash \text{Tr}^{-\diamond}(\varphi)$$

But there is more:

We can define the mass explicitly in MSpecRel.

# Definition of Mass

## Definition (Inertial body)

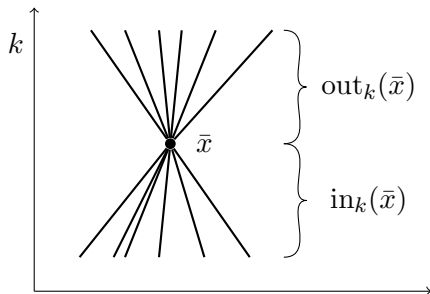
Inertial bodies are the bodies with straight (line-subset) world-lines.

$$\text{IB}(b) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} (\exists k \in \text{IOb})(\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y}, \bar{z} \in \text{wline}_k(b))$$

$$(\bar{x}_t \leq \bar{y}_t \leq \bar{z}_t \rightarrow |\bar{x} - \bar{y}| + |\bar{y} - \bar{z}| = |\bar{x} - \bar{z}|)$$



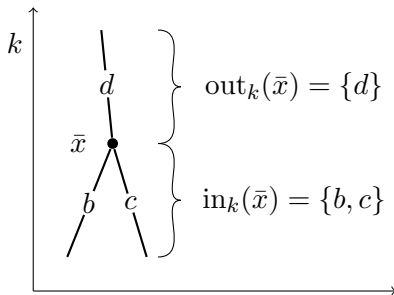
# Incoming and Outgoing



## Definition (Incoming and Outgoing Inertial Bodies)

$$\text{in}_k(\bar{x}) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \{b \in \text{IB} : b \in \text{ev}_k(\bar{x}) \wedge (\forall \bar{y} \in \text{wline}_k(b)) \bar{y}_t < \bar{x}_t \vee \bar{y} = \bar{x}\}$$

$$\text{out}_k(\bar{x}) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \{b \in \text{IB} : b \in \text{ev}_k(\bar{x}) \wedge (\forall \bar{y} \in \text{wline}_k(b)) \bar{y}_t > \bar{x}_t \vee \bar{y} = \bar{x}\}$$



## Definition (Collision)

A (2-body) inelastic collision happens when two bodies comes and one body left.

$$\text{inecoll}_{k, \bar{x}}(b, c : d) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \left( \begin{array}{l} b, c, d \in E \\ b \neq c \\ \text{in}_k(\bar{x}) = \{b, c\} \\ \text{out}_k(\bar{x}) = \{d\} \end{array} \right)$$

The “missing variables” are bounded by existential quantification:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{inecoll}_{k,\bar{x}}(b, c) &\stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} (\exists d \in \text{IB}) \text{inecoll}_{k,\bar{x}}(b, c : d) \\ \text{inecoll}_k(b, c) &\stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} (\exists \bar{x}) \text{inecoll}_{k,\bar{x}}(b, c) \\ \text{inecoll}(b, c) &\stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} (\exists k \in \text{IOb}) \text{inecoll}_k(b, c) \end{aligned}$$

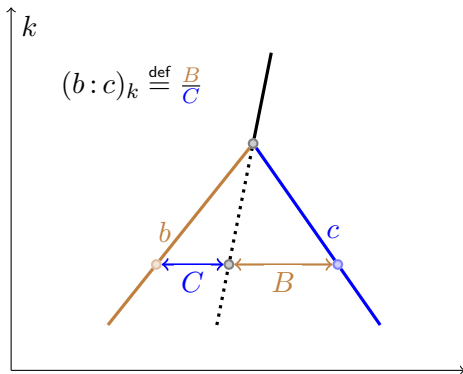
## Definition (Covering Line)

$$\overline{\text{wline}}_k(d) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \left\{ \bar{z} : (\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y} \in \text{wline}_k(d)) \left( \begin{array}{l} |\bar{x} - \bar{y}| + |\bar{y} - \bar{z}| = |\bar{x} - \bar{z}| \vee \\ |\bar{x} - \bar{z}| + |\bar{z} - \bar{y}| = |\bar{x} - \bar{y}| \vee \\ |\bar{z} - \bar{x}| + |\bar{x} - \bar{y}| = |\bar{z} - \bar{y}| \end{array} \right) \right\}$$

$$\overline{\text{wline}}_k(d, t) = \bar{s} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \langle \bar{s}, t \rangle \in \overline{\text{wline}}_k(d)$$

$$\text{wline}_k(d, t) = \bar{s} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \langle \bar{s}, t \rangle \in \text{wline}_k(d)$$

# Collision Ratio



## Definition (Ratio of Collision)

$$(b:c)_k = r \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \text{inecoll}(b, c) \wedge \wedge (\exists t < \text{locinecoll}_k(b, c)) r = \frac{|\text{loc}_k(c, t) - \overline{\text{wline}}_k(d, t)|}{|\text{loc}_k(b, t) - \overline{\text{wline}}_k(d, t)|}$$

## Definition (Colliding Experiments)

In a world  $w$  a body  $c$  is **collidable** to  $b$  according to  $k$  iff

- $b$  is an existing inertial body in  $w$
- $k$  is an existing inertial observer in  $w$ ,
- there is an alternative world  $w'$  where these are still existing, inertial,
- in  $w'$  there is an inertial body  $c$  colliding with  $b$ .

We call such a  $\langle w, w', k, b, c \rangle$  tuple a **colliding (thought-)experiment**.

But we are interested in those collidings,  
where the  $b$  has the same speed/world-line as before.

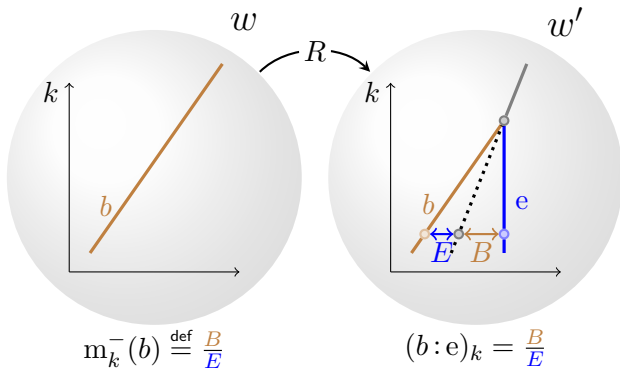
## Definition

In a world  $w$  a body  $c$  is **relevantly** collidable to  $b$  according to  $k$

iff

the world-line of  $b$  before the collision is the same in both world according to  $k$ , that is,

$$(\forall t \leq \text{locinecoll}_k(b : c)_t) \text{wline}_k(b, t)_w = \text{wline}_k(b, t)_{w'}.$$



## Definition (Direct Measurement)

A colliding experiment  $\langle w, w', k, b, c \rangle$  is a **direct measurement** iff it is relevant,  $c$  is the etalon and it is stationary according to  $k$ .

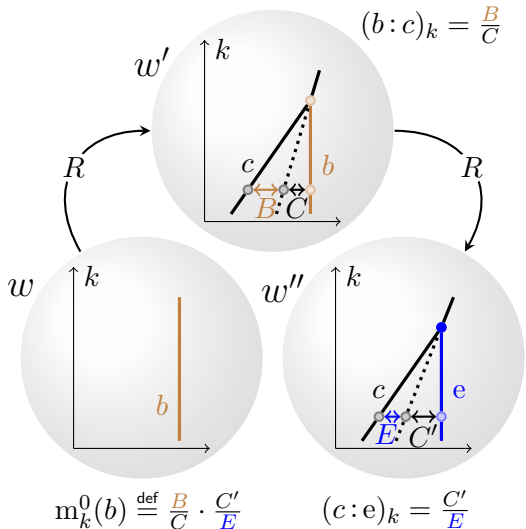


# Indirect Measurement

## Definition (Indirect Measurement)

A colliding experiment  $\langle w, w', k, b, c \rangle$  is an **indirect measurement** iff

- it is relevant,
- $b$  is stationary,
- there exists a direct measurement  $\langle w', w'', k, c, \varepsilon \rangle$ .



**AxCollRel:** Every colliding experiment is relevant.

$$\begin{array}{l} (\forall k \in \text{IOb}) \\ (\forall b \in \text{IB}) \\ (\forall \bar{x}, \bar{y}) \end{array} \left( \left( \begin{array}{l} \bar{y}_t \leq \bar{x}_t \\ W(k, b, \bar{y}) \end{array} \right) \rightarrow \Box((\exists c \in \text{IB}) \text{inecoll}_{k, \bar{x}}(b, c) \rightarrow W(k, b, \bar{y})) \right)$$

**AxDir:** According to any inertial observer, every relatively moving inertial body is collidable uniquely with the stationary etalon.

$$\begin{array}{l} (\forall k \in \text{IOb}) \\ (\forall b \in \text{IB}) \\ (\exists r) \end{array} \left( \begin{array}{l} \Diamond(\mathbf{v}_k(\varepsilon) = 0 \wedge (b : \varepsilon)_k = r) \\ \Box(\mathbf{v}_k(\varepsilon) = 0 \rightarrow (b : \varepsilon)_k = r) \end{array} \right)$$

**AxIndir:** For every inertial observer, every resting body is involved in an indirect measurement, and the result of it is unique, that is, invariant under the choice of the transmitting body.

$$\begin{array}{l} (\forall k \in \text{IOb}) \\ (\forall b \in \text{IB}) \end{array} \mathbf{v}_k(b) = 0 \rightarrow (\exists! r) \left( \begin{array}{l} \Diamond(\exists c \in \text{IB}) r = (b : c)_k \cdot m_k^-(c) \\ \Box(\forall c' \in \text{IB}) r = (b : c')_k \cdot m_k^-(c') \end{array} \right)$$

## Definition (“Moving Mass”)

If AxDir is assumed, then mass of relatively moving body is the collision ratio granted by the direct measurement(s):

$$m_k^-(b) = r \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \diamond(v_k(\varepsilon) = 0 \wedge (b:\varepsilon)_k = r)$$

## Definition (Rest Mass)

If AxDir and AxIndir are assumed, then the rest mass of a stationary body is product of the collision ratios granted by the indirect measurement(s):

$$m_k^0(b) = r \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} v_k(b) = 0 \wedge \diamond(\exists c \in \text{IB})(r = (b:c)_k \cdot m_k^-(c))$$

In case of the rest mass, we can omit naming the observer:

$$m_0(b) = r \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} (\exists k \in \text{IOb}) m_k^0(b) = r.$$

## Definition (Relativistic Mass)

$$m_k(b) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \begin{cases} m_k^-(b), & \text{if } v_k(b) \neq 0, \\ m_k^0(b), & \text{if } v_k(b) = 0. \end{cases}$$

# Example: Rest mass of the etalon

$$m_0(\varepsilon) = (\varepsilon : c)_k \cdot m_k^-(c) = (\varepsilon : c)_k \cdot (c : \varepsilon)_k = 1$$

In one of the colliding bodies is at rest according to an observer, then it is true that the collision ratio is the ratio of masses:

$$(b:c)_k = \frac{1}{(c:b)_k} = \frac{m_k^-(b)}{(c:b)_k \cdot m_k^-(b)} = \frac{m_k^-(b)}{m_k^0(c)} = \frac{m_k(b)}{m_k(c)}.$$

but this is contingent in general.

**AxCenter:** The ratio of a collision is the ratio of the masses of the colliding bodies.

$$\begin{array}{l} (\forall k \in \text{IOb}) \\ (\forall b, c \in \text{IB}) \end{array} \left( \left( \begin{array}{l} v_k(b) \neq 0 \\ v_k(c) \neq 0 \\ \text{inecoll}(b, c) \end{array} \right) \rightarrow (b:c)_k = \frac{m_k(b)}{m_k(c)} \right)$$

This axiom builds the bridge between the worlds in the case of collisions: From now on, every collision will be governed by possible collisions with the etalon.

But sometimes, one standard-mass is not enough.

Sometimes we need every observer to have its own standard-mass. These will be the **standard-mass equivalents**.

Properties:

- If a standardmass-equivalents collides with the standard mass, then a median observer coordinatizes the resulting body of the collision at rest. (d)
- If a standardmass-equivalents collides with another equivalent, then a median observer coordinatizes the resulting body of the collision at rest.



## Definition (Median Observer)

An observer  $m$  is **median** of the collision consisting body  $b$  and  $c$  iff the velocity of  $b$  and  $c$  are opposite for  $m$ .

$$\text{MedianOb}_{b,c}(m) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \bar{v}_m(b) + \bar{v}_m(c) = \bar{0}$$

## Definition (Symmetric Collision)

A collision is **symmetric** iff there is a median observer of it coordinatizing the resulting body at rest.

$$\text{SymColl}(b, c) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} \text{inecoll}(b, c) \wedge (\exists m \in \text{MedianOb}_{b,c})(b:c)_m = 1$$

## Theorem (Symmetric Collision Theorem)

*The symmetric collisions have the collision ratio of  $\sqrt{1 - v^2}$  according to the co-moving observers.*

$$\text{MSpecRel} \vdash \begin{array}{l} (\forall b, c \in \text{IB}) \\ (\forall k, l \in \text{IOb}) \end{array} \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{SymColl}(b, c) \\ v_k(b) = 0 \\ v_l(c) = 0 \end{array} \right) \rightarrow (b : c)_k = \sqrt{1 - v_l(k)^2}$$

## Definition (Etalon-equivalence)

A body  $b$  is an **equivalent of the etalon** of  $k$  iff  $b$  is co-moving with  $k$  and whenever it collides with the etalon, it collides with it symmetrically.

$$\text{Et}_k(b) \stackrel{\text{def.}}{\iff} v_k(b) = 0 \wedge \square(\text{inecoll}(b, \varepsilon) \rightarrow \text{SymColl}(b, \varepsilon))$$

**AxPDirM:** For every observer  $k$  and every non-stationary inertial body  $b$  according to  $k$ , there is an alternative world in which  $b$  collides with a resting etalon-equivalent  $e_k$  of  $k$ , and this collision has a median observer.

$$\begin{array}{l} (\forall k \in \text{IOb}) \\ (\forall b \in \text{IB}) \end{array} \diamond (\exists e_k \in \text{Et}_k) \text{inecoll}(b, e_k) \wedge (\exists m) \text{MedianOb}_{b, e_k}(m)$$

$$\text{MSpecRelDyn} \stackrel{\text{def.}}{=} \text{MSpecRel} \cup \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{AxCollRel} \\ \text{AxDir} \\ \text{AxIndir} \\ \text{AxPDirM} \\ \text{AxCenter} \end{array} \right\}$$

# Sketch of the Mass Growth Theorem

## Theorem (Collision of Equivalents)

$\text{MSpecRelDyn} \vdash$  *The equivalents of etalon collides each other symmetrically.*

## Theorem (Mass of the equivalents)

$\text{MSpecRelDyn} \vdash$  *The rest mass of the equivalents of the etalon are 1.*

## Theorem (Etalon-equivalence)

$\text{MSpecRelDyn} \vdash$  *The etalon can substituted by its co-moving equivalents.*

# Sketch of the Mass Increase Theorem

$$\begin{aligned} m_0(b) &= m_h^0(b) && (w) \\ &= (b:c)_h \cdot m_h^-(c) && (w^*) \\ &= (b:e_k)_h \cdot m_h^-(e_k) && (w') \\ &= (b:e_k)_k \cdot (1-v^2) \cdot m_h^-(e_k) && (w') \\ &= (b:e_k)_k \cdot (1-v^2) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-v^2}} && (w') \\ &= (b:e_k)_k \cdot \sqrt{1-v^2} && (w') \\ &= (b:\varepsilon)_k \cdot \sqrt{1-v^2} && (w') \\ &= m_k(b) \cdot \sqrt{1-v^2} && (w) \end{aligned}$$

