

Week 2  
2.2

$$F^{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \Lambda^T F^{\mu\nu} \Lambda$$

$$F^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -E_x & -E_y & -E_z \\ E_x & 0 & -B_z & B_y \\ E_y & B_z & 0 & -B_x \\ E_z & -B_y & B_x & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The wave vector is in  $\hat{y}$ , polarization (by convention is  $\vec{E}$ ) is in  $\hat{z}$ , so  $\vec{B}$  is in direction  $\vec{k} \times \vec{E} = \hat{y} \times \hat{z} = \hat{x}$ .  
Then we have  $F^{\mu\nu}$

$$F^{\mu\nu} \text{ (as observed by } O) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & -E_z \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -B_0 \\ E_z & 0 & B_0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Lambda = \text{boost in } \hat{z} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & 0 & 0 & -\gamma\beta \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -\gamma\beta & 0 & 0 & \gamma \end{pmatrix}$$

$F^{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A^\nu - \partial_\nu A^\mu$ , where  $A^\mu = (\Phi/c, \vec{A})$   
transforms as a tensor, we wish to find  $F'^{\mu\nu}$  as observed by  $O'$ , this will give us a complete description of the EM wave in  $O'$  frame.



The corresponding  $\vec{E}'$ ,  $\vec{B}'$  are

$$\vec{E}' = (0, \gamma\beta B_0, \gamma^2(1-\beta^2)E_0)$$

$$\vec{B}' = (\gamma B_0, 0, 0)$$

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-\beta^2}} \Rightarrow \gamma^2(1-\beta^2) = 1, \text{ then}$$

$$\vec{E}' = (0, \gamma\beta B_0, E_0)$$

$$\vec{B}' = (\gamma B_0, 0, 0)$$

Comparing this with the original polarization  $\vec{E} = (0, 0, E_0)$ , we see that the polarization direction has changed, it now gained an  $\hat{y}$  component, now in  $y$ - $z$  plane. Since  $\vec{B}'$  is still in the  $\hat{x}$  plane,  $\vec{E}'$  and  $\vec{B}'$  remain orthogonal, we are good, but this implies the wave vector  $\vec{k}'$  must differ from  $\hat{k}$  &  $\hat{y}$ .

As a check, we compute  $\vec{k}' = \vec{E}' \times \vec{B}'$

$$= -\gamma^2\beta B_0^2 \hat{z} + \gamma B_0 E_0 \hat{y}$$

$$\Rightarrow \vec{k}' = (0, \gamma B_0 E_0, -\gamma^2\beta B_0^2)$$

$$B_0 = \frac{1}{c^2} E_0, \text{ in our formalism, } c=1 \Rightarrow B_0 = E_0$$

This renders the direction of  $\vec{k}'$  as

$$\vec{k}' \propto (0, \gamma E_0^2, -\gamma^2 \beta E_0^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{\vec{k}' \propto (0, 1, -\gamma\beta)}$$

This would be consistent if  $(\frac{\omega}{c}, \vec{k})$  is a 4-vector:

$$k'^M = \Lambda^M_{\ \mu} k^\mu = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & & & -\gamma\beta \\ & 1 & & \\ & & 1 & \\ -\gamma\beta & & & \gamma \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\omega}{c} \\ \vec{k} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} |\mathbf{k}| \gamma \\ 0 \\ |\mathbf{k}| \\ -|\mathbf{k}| \gamma \beta \end{pmatrix}$$

which also gives

$$\boxed{\vec{k}' \propto (0, 1, -\gamma\beta)}$$