Physics 5I Introduction to Physics I – HONORS SECTION

Homework #2 – Due Friday October 21

1. Giancoli, Chapter 3, Problem 83 (time for round trip of total distance D on river, (a) parallel and (b) perpendicular to flow).

2. (a) Suppose that in the Michelson interferometer experiment pictured at right, the earth is moving in the horizontal direction at v = 30 km/s, that light is moving at speed c = 300,000 km/s, and that each path from the half-silvered mirror to the mirror and back has length D. Apply the results of problem 1 to calculate the lengths of time for the light to follow the horizontal path and the vertical path.



(b) The 1887 Michelson-Morley experiment used this experimental setup to try to measure this

difference in the length of time to follow these paths. The experiment had the sensitivity to detect a difference 1/40 of the expected one, but it detected no difference. This could be explained if the apparatus was contracted by a factor f in the direction of motion, called the Lorentz-Fitzgerald contraction. Find f.

- 3. Giancoli, Chapter 4, Problem 72 (bicyclist on hill with air resistance).
- 4. Giancoli, Chapter 5, Problem 40 (roller coaster problem).
- 5. Giancoli, Chapter 5, Problem 66 (raindrop drag problem).
- 6. Giancoli, Chapter 5, Problem 68 (sky diver drag problem).