

Chapter 13 Vector Functions (4 lectures)

§13.1 Vector Functions and Space Curves

• vector-valued functions

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle = f(t)\vec{i} + g(t)\vec{j} + h(t)\vec{k}$$

• Domain

$$\text{Dom}(\vec{r}(t)) = \left\{ t \mid f(t), g(t), h(t) \text{ are well defined} \right\}$$
$$= \text{Dom}(f) \cap \text{Dom}(g) \cap \text{Dom}(h)$$

Example (#2)

$$\vec{r}(t) = \left\langle \frac{t-2}{t+2}, \sin t, \ln(9-t^2) \right\rangle, \text{Dom}(\vec{r}) = ?$$

• limit

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow a} \vec{r}(t) = \left\langle \lim_{t \rightarrow a} f(t), \lim_{t \rightarrow a} g(t), \lim_{t \rightarrow a} h(t) \right\rangle$$

• continuity

$\vec{r}(t)$ is continuous at $a \iff$

examples

$$\#3 \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \left\langle e^{-3t}, \frac{t^2}{\sin^2 t}, \cos 2t \right\rangle$$

$$\#5 \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \left\langle \frac{1+t^2}{1-t^2}, \tan^{-1} t, \frac{1-e^{-2t}}{t} \right\rangle$$

• representations of curves in 2D

(1) graphs

(2) level curves

(3) parametric curves

• space curves

$$C = \{ (f(t), g(t), h(t)) \mid t \in I \}$$

parametric
equations of C

$$\begin{cases} x = f(t) \\ y = g(t) \\ z = h(t) \end{cases}$$

$$\text{or } \langle x, y, z \rangle = \vec{r}(t)$$

Ex. 3 Describe the curve defined by $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 1+t, 2+5t, -1+6t \rangle$

Ex. 4 Sketch the curve whose vector equation is $\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos t, \sin t, t \rangle$.

Ex. 5 Find a vector equation and parametric equations for the line segment that joins the points $(1, 3, -2)$ and $(2, -1, 3)$.

Ex. (#8) Sketch the curve of $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^3, t^2 \rangle$. Indicate the direction in which t increases

Ex. (#30) At what points does the helix $\vec{r}(t) = \langle \sin t, \cos t, t \rangle$ intersect the sphere $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 5$?

Ex. (#48) Two particles travel along the space curves

$$\vec{r}_1(t) = \langle t, t^2, t^3 \rangle, \vec{r}_2(t) = \langle 1+2t, 1+6t, 1+14t \rangle, \text{ for } t \geq 0$$

Do the particles collide? Do their paths intersect?

§13.2 Derivatives and Integrals of Vector Functions

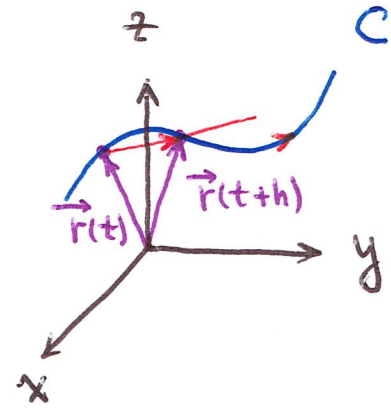
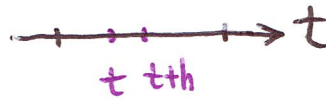
$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$$

• derivative

$$\frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} = \vec{r}'(t) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{r}(t+h) - \vec{r}(t)}{h}$$

=

• vector equation of tangent line at $\vec{r}(t_0)$



Ex. 1 Let $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 1+t^3, t e^{-t}, \sin 2t \rangle$. (a) $\vec{r}'(t) = ?$ (b) Find the unit tangent vector at the point where $t=0$.

Ex. 2 Let $\vec{r}(t) = \langle \sqrt{t}, 2-t \rangle$, find $\vec{r}'(t)$ and sketch the position vector $\vec{r}(1)$ and the tangent vector $\vec{r}'(1)$.

Ex. 3 Find parametric equations for the tangent line to the helix with para. eq.
$$\begin{cases} x = 2 \cos t \\ y = \sin t \\ z = t \end{cases}$$
 at the point $(0, 1, \frac{\pi}{2})$.

Differentiation Rules

$\vec{u}(t), \vec{v}(t)$ — diff. vector functions, $f(t)$ — diff. scalar function
 c — constant

$$(1) \frac{d}{dt} [\vec{u}(t) + \vec{v}(t)] = \vec{u}'(t) + \vec{v}'(t); \quad (2) \frac{d}{dt} [c \vec{u}(t)] = c \vec{u}'(t)$$

$$(3) \frac{d}{dt} [f(t) \vec{u}(t)] = f'(t) \vec{u}(t) + f(t) \vec{u}'(t)$$

$$(4) \frac{d}{dt} [\vec{u}(t) \cdot \vec{v}(t)] = \vec{u}'(t) \cdot \vec{v}(t) + \vec{u}(t) \cdot \vec{v}'(t)$$

$$(5) \frac{d}{dt} [\vec{u}(t) \times \vec{v}(t)] = \vec{u}'(t) \times \vec{v}(t) + \vec{u}(t) \times \vec{v}'(t)$$

$$(6) \frac{d}{dt} [\vec{u}(f(t))] = f'(t) \vec{u}'(f(t))$$

Proof of (4)

Ex. 4 Show that if $|\vec{r}(t)| = c$ (a constant), then $\vec{r}'(t) \perp \vec{r}(t)$ for all t .

Proof

Ex. (#49) Find $f'(2)$, where $f(t) = \vec{u}(t) \cdot \vec{v}(t)$
 $\vec{u}(2) = \langle 1, 2, -1 \rangle$, $\vec{u}'(2) = \langle 3, 0, 4 \rangle$, and $\vec{v}(t) = \langle t, t^2, t^3 \rangle$.

• Integrals

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$$

$$\int_a^b \vec{r}(t) dt = \left\langle \int_a^b f(t) dt, \int_a^b g(t) dt, \int_a^b h(t) dt \right\rangle$$

example (#35)

$$\int_0^2 \langle t, -t^3, 3t^5 \rangle dt$$

§13.3 Arc Length and Curvature

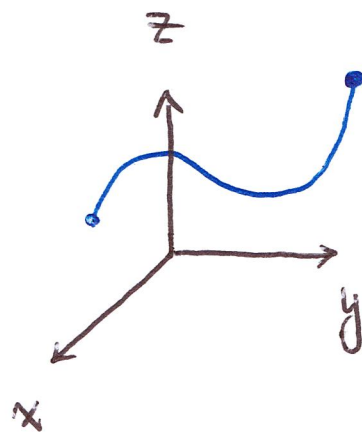
• arc length

$L =$

Curve: $\vec{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$

$t \in [a, b]$

traced exactly once



example (#4) $\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos t, \sin t, \ln \cos t \rangle$, $t \in [0, \frac{\pi}{4}]$, $L = ?$

(hint: $\int \sec t \, dt = \int \frac{1}{\cos t} \, dt = \ln |\sec t + \tan t| + C$)

• parametrizations of a curve

C : unit circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ $\angle$

• arc length function

$$s = s(t) = \int_a^t |\vec{r}'(u)| du \implies \frac{ds}{dt} = |\vec{r}'(t)|$$

• parametrization w.r.t. arc length s

$$s = s(t) \implies t = t(s)$$

$$\vec{r}(t) \implies \vec{p}(s) = \vec{r}(t(s))$$

Ex. (#14) Reparametrize $\vec{r}(t) = \langle e^{2t} \cos(2t), z, e^{2t} \sin(2t) \rangle$ w.r.t. arc length from $t=0$ in the direction of increasing t .

• Curvature (how a curve turns or bends)

Def. (1) $\vec{r}(t)$ is smooth $\iff$

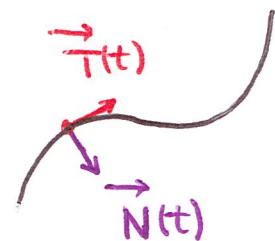
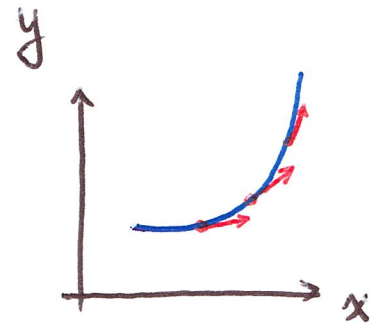
(2) C is a smooth curve $\iff$

(3) the unit tangent vector $\vec{T}(t) =$

(4) curvature of a curve $\kappa =$
(measurement of how quickly
the curve changes direction)

(5) principal unit normal vector $\vec{N}(t) =$

(6) binormal vector $\vec{B}(t) =$



examples

#19 $\vec{r}(t) = \langle e^t, t, e^{-t} \rangle$, find $\vec{T}, \vec{N}, \kappa$

example Find curvature of a circle with radius a .

§ 13.4 Motion in Space: Velocity and Acceleration

$\vec{r}(t)$ — the position of a moving particle

$\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t)$ — the velocity

$|\vec{v}(t)|$ — the speed

$$|\vec{v}(t)| = |\vec{r}'(t)| = \frac{ds}{dt}$$

$\vec{a}(t) = \vec{v}'(t) = \vec{r}''(t)$ — the acceleration

Ex. 1 The position vector of an object moving in a plane given by $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^3, t^2 \rangle$.
Find its velocity, speed, and acceleration when $t=1$ and illustrate geometrically.

Ex. 2 Find the velocity, acceleration, and speed of a particle with position vector $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^2, e^t, te^t \rangle$.

Ex. 3 A moving particle starts at an initial position $\vec{r}(0) = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$ with initial velocity $\vec{v}(0) = \langle 1, -1, 1 \rangle$. Its acceleration is $\vec{a}(t) = \langle 4t, 6t, 1 \rangle$.
Find $\vec{v}(t)$ and $\vec{r}(t)$.

Ex. 4 An object with mass m that moves in a circular path with constant angular speed ω has position vector $\vec{r}(t) = \langle a \cos(\omega t), a \sin(\omega t) \rangle$. Find the force acting on the object and show that it is directed toward the origin.

Newton's Second Law of Motion $\vec{F}(t) = m \vec{a}(t)$

Ex. 5 A projectile is fired with angle of elevation α and initial velocity $\vec{v}_0$.

Assume that air resistance is negligible and the only external force is due to gravity.

Find the position function $\vec{r}(t)$ of the projectile.

What value of α maximizes the range (the horizontal distance traveled)?

$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a} = \langle 0, -mg \rangle, \quad g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$$

