

## Three-Dimensional Analytic Geometry and Vectors

### Section 11.1 Three-Dimensional Coordinate Systems

#### Distance formula in three dimensions

The distance  $|P_1P_2|$  between the points  $P_1(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  and  $P_2(x_2, y_2, z_2)$  is

$$|P_1P_2| := \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2 + (z_2 - z_1)^2}$$

#### Equation of a sphere

An equation of a sphere with center  $C(h, k, l)$  and radius  $r$  is

$$r^2 := (x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 + (z - l)^2$$

In particular, if the center is the origin  $O$ , then an equation of the sphere is

$$r^2 := x^2 + y^2 + z^2$$

### Section 11.2 Vectors

Given the points  $A(x_1, y_1, z_1)$  and  $B(x_2, y_2, z_2)$ , the vector  $\mathbf{a}$  with representation  $AB$  is  $\mathbf{a} = \langle x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1, z_2 - z_1 \rangle$

The length of the three-dimensional vector  $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$  is  $|\mathbf{a}| := \sqrt{a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2}$

#### Vector Addition

if  $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \langle b_1, b_2 \rangle$ , then the vector  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b}$  is defined by  $\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{b} = \langle a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2 \rangle$  similarly, for three-dimensional vectors,  $\langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle + \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle = \langle a_1 + b_1, a_2 + b_2, a_3 + b_3 \rangle$

#### Multiplication of a vector by a scalar

If  $c$  is a scalar and  $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2 \rangle$ , then the vector  $c\mathbf{a}$  is defined by  $c\mathbf{a} = \langle ca_1, ca_2 \rangle$  similarly, for three-dimensional vectors,  $c\langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle = \langle ca_1, ca_2, ca_3 \rangle$

### Section 11.3 The Dot Product

#### Definition

If  $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$ , then the dot product of  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  is the number  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}$  given by

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} := a_1 \cdot b_1 + a_2 \cdot b_2 + a_3 \cdot b_3$$

#### Theorem

If  $\theta$  is the angle between the vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ , then  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} := |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \cos(\theta)$

If  $\theta$  is the angle between the nonzero vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$ , then  $\cos(\theta) := \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}|}$

$\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are orthogonal if and only if  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} := 0$

Scalar projection of  $\mathbf{b}$  onto  $\mathbf{a}$ :  $b := \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}|}$

Vector projection of  $\mathbf{b}$  onto  $\mathbf{a}$ :  $\mathbf{b} := \left( \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}|} \right) \cdot \frac{\mathbf{a}}{|\mathbf{a}|}$  which is  $\frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{(|\mathbf{a}|)^2} \cdot \mathbf{a}$

## Section 11.4 The Cross Product

### Definition

If  $\mathbf{a} = \langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle$  and  $\mathbf{b} = \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle$ , then the cross product of  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  is the vector  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \langle a_2b_3 - a_3b_2, a_3b_1 - a_1b_3, a_1b_2 - a_2b_1 \rangle$

### Theorem

The vector  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$  is orthogonal to both  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$

### Theorem

### Corollary

Two nonzero vectors  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  are parallel if and only if  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{0}$

## Section 11.5 Equations of Lines and Planes

$\mathbf{r} := \mathbf{r}_0 + t \cdot \mathbf{v}$  is the vector equation of a line L

$x := x_0 + a \cdot t$

$y := y_0 + b \cdot t$  are the parametric equations of the line L

$z := z_0 + c \cdot t$

$\frac{x - x_0}{a} = \frac{y - y_0}{b} = \frac{z - z_0}{c} = t$  is the symmetric equation of the line L

$\mathbf{n} \cdot (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_0) := 0$  is the vector equation of a plane P

To obtain a scalar equation for the plane, we write  $\mathbf{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$ ,  $\mathbf{r} = \langle x, y, z \rangle$ , and  $\mathbf{r}_0 = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle$ , then we obtain the following:  $\langle a, b, c \rangle \cdot \langle x - x_0, y - y_0, z - z_0 \rangle = 0$

$a \cdot (x - x_0) + b \cdot (y - y_0) + c \cdot (z - z_0) := 0$  scalar equation of the plane through  $P_0(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  with normal vector  $\mathbf{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  we can write the equation of a plane as  $ax + by + cz = d$ .

Distance D from a point  $P(x_0, y_0, z_0)$  to the plane  $ax + by + cz + d = 0$

$$D := \frac{|a \cdot x_0 + b \cdot y_0 + c \cdot z_0 + d|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

## Section 11.6 Quadric Surfaces

Ellipsoids  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} := 1$  Hyperboloids  $\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} - \frac{z^2}{c^2} := 1$  Cones  $\frac{z^2}{c^2} := \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2}$

Paraboloids  $\frac{z}{c} := \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2}$  Quadric Cylinders  $1 := \frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2}$

## Section 11.7 Vector Function and Space Curves

We now study functions whose values are vectors because such functions are needed to describe curves in space and the motion of particles in space.

A **vector-valued function**, or **vector function**, is simply a function whose domain is a set of real numbers and whose range is a set of vectors.

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

provided the limits of the component functions exist.

### Derivatives and Integrals

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

#### Theorem

If  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle = f(t)\mathbf{i} + g(t)\mathbf{j} + h(t)\mathbf{k}$ , where  $f, g$ , and  $h$  are differentiable functions, then  $\mathbf{r}'(t) = \langle f'(t), g'(t), h'(t) \rangle = f'(t)\mathbf{i} + g'(t)\mathbf{j} + h'(t)\mathbf{k}$

#### Theorem

Suppose  $u$  and  $v$  are differentiable vector functions,  $c$  is a scalar, and  $f$  is a real-valued function, then:

$$\frac{d}{dt} (u(t) + v(t)) = \frac{d}{dt} (u(t)) + \frac{d}{dt} (v(t))$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} (c u(t)) = c \frac{d}{dt} (u(t))$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} (f(t) u(t)) = \frac{d}{dt} (f(t)) u(t) + f(t) \frac{d}{dt} (u(t))$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} (u(t) \cdot v(t)) = \frac{d}{dt} (u(t)) \cdot v(t) + u(t) \cdot \frac{d}{dt} (v(t))$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} (u(t) \times v(t)) = \left[ \frac{d}{dt} (u(t)) \times v(t) \right] + \left[ u(t) \times \frac{d}{dt} (v(t)) \right]$$

$$\frac{d}{dt} (u(f(t))) = \frac{d}{df} (u) \frac{d}{dt} (f(t)) \quad \text{Chain Rule}$$

### Section 11.8 Arc Length and Curvature

Recall that we defined the length of a plane curve  $x = f(t)$ ,  $y = g(t)$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$ , as the limit of lengths of inscribed polygons and, for the case where  $f'$  and  $g'$  are continuous, we arrived at the formula:

$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{[f'(t)]^2 + [g'(t)]^2} dt = \int_a^b \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2} dt$$

The length of a space curve is defined in exactly the same way. Suppose that the curve has the vector equation  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$ , or equivalently, the parametric equations  $x=f(t)$ ,  $y=g(t)$ , and  $z=h(t)$ , where  $f'$ ,  $g'$ , and  $h'$  are continuous. If the curve is traversed exactly once as  $t$  increases from  $a$  to  $b$ , then it can be shown that its length is:

$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{[f'(t)]^2 + [g'(t)]^2 + [h'(t)]^2} dt = \int_a^b \sqrt{\left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dz}{dt}\right)^2} dt$$

Notice that both of the arc length formulas (1) and (2) can be put into the more compact form

$$L = \int_a^b |\mathbf{r}'(t)| dt$$

#### Definition

The **curvature** of a curve is  $k = \left| \frac{dT}{ds} \right|$  where  $\mathbf{T}$  is the unit tangent vector.

The curvature is easier to compute if it is expressed in terms of the parameter  $t$  instead of  $s$ , so we use the Chain Rule to write

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = \frac{dT}{ds} \cdot \frac{ds}{dt} \quad \text{and} \quad k = \left| \frac{dT}{ds} \right| = \left| \frac{\left(\frac{dT}{dt}\right)}{\left(\frac{ds}{dt}\right)} \right| \quad \text{but } ds/dt = |\mathbf{r}'(t)|, \text{ so } k(t) := \frac{|\mathbf{T}'(t)|}{|\mathbf{r}'(t)|}$$

#### Theorem

The curvature of the curve given by the vector function  $\mathbf{r}$  is  $k(t) := \frac{|\mathbf{r}'(t) \times \mathbf{r}''(t)|}{\left[|\mathbf{r}'(t)|\right]^3}$

$$k(x) := \frac{|\mathbf{r}''(x)|}{\left[1 + [\mathbf{r}'(x)]^2\right]^{\frac{3}{2}}}$$

Example 1:

Find the length of the arc to the circular helix with vector equation  $r(t)=\cos(t)i+\sin(t)j+tk$  from the point  $(1,0,0)$  to the point  $(1,0,2\pi)$ .

Since  $r'(t) = -\sin(t)i + \cos(t)j + k$ , we have

$$|r'(t)| = \sqrt{(-\sin(t))^2 + \cos^2(t)} = \sqrt{2}$$

The arc from  $(1,0,0)$  to  $(1,0,2\pi)$  is described by the parameter interval  $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$  and so we have

$$L = \int_0^{2\pi} |r'(t)| dt = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{2} dt = 1 \cdot 2\sqrt{2} \pi$$

Example 2:

Reparametrize the helix  $r(t)=\cos(t)i+\sin(t)j+tk$  with respect to arc length measured from  $(1,0,0)$  in the direction of increasing  $t$ .

The initial point  $(1,0,0)$  corresponds to the parameter value  $t = 0$ . From Example 1 we have

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = |r'(t)| = \sqrt{2} \quad \text{and so} \quad s := s(t) \quad s(t) := \int_0^t |r'(u)| du = \int_0^t \sqrt{2} du = \sqrt{2} \cdot t$$

Therefore  $t := \frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}$  and the required reparametrization is obtained by substituting for  $t$ :

$$r(t(s)) = \cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right) i + \sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right) j + \left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right) k$$

Example 3:

Show that the curvature of a circle of radius  $a$  is  $1/a$

We can take the circle to have center the origin, and then a parametrization is

$$r(t) = a \cdot \cos(t) i + a \cdot \sin(t) j \quad \text{therefore} \quad r'(t) = -a \cdot \sin(t) i + a \cdot \cos(t) j \quad \text{and} \quad |r'(t)| = a$$

$$\text{so} \quad T(t) = \frac{r'(t)}{|r'(t)|} = -\sin(t) i + \cos(t) j \quad \text{and} \quad T'(t) = -\cos(t) i - \sin(t) j$$

$$\text{This gives} \quad |T'(t)| = 1 \quad \text{so we have} \quad k(t) = \frac{|T'(t)|}{|r'(t)|} = \frac{1}{a}$$

This shows that small circles have large curvatures and large circles have small curvatures

Example 4:

Find the curvature of the twisted cubic  $r(t)=\langle t, t^2, t^3 \rangle$  at a general point and at  $(0,0,0)$

We first compute the required ingredients:

$$r'(t)=\langle 1, 2t, 3t^2 \rangle \text{ and } r''(t)=\langle 0, 2, 6t \rangle$$

$$|r'(t)| := \sqrt{1 + 4t^2 + 9t^4} \quad r'(t) \times r''(t) := \begin{bmatrix} i & j & k \\ 1 & 2t & 3t^2 \\ 0 & 2 & 6t \end{bmatrix} = 6t^2 i + 6t j + 2 k$$

$$|r'(t) \times r''(t)| := \sqrt{36t^4 + 36t^2 + 4} = 2\sqrt{9t^4 + 9t^2 + 1}$$

$$\text{so } k(t) = \frac{|r'(t) \times r''(t)|}{|r'(t)|^3} := \frac{2\sqrt{1 + 9t^2 + 9t^4}}{(1 + 4t^2 + 9t^4)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \quad \text{at the origin the curve is } k(0) = 2$$

Example 5:

Find the curvature of the parabola  $y=x^2$  at the points  $(0,0)$ ,  $(1,1)$ , and  $(2,4)$

since  $y' = 2x$  and  $y'' = 2$ , we get

$$k(x) = \frac{\left| \frac{d^2}{dy^2} \right|}{\left[ 1 + \left( \frac{d}{dy} \right)^2 \right]^{\frac{2}{3}}} = \frac{2}{(1 + 4x^2)^{\frac{2}{3}}}$$

The curvature at  $(0,0)$  is  $k(0) = 2$ .  
At  $(1,1)$  it is  $k(1) = 2/(5)^{2/3} = 0.18$ .  
At  $(2,4)$  it is  $k(2) = 2/(17)^{2/3} = 0.03$ .

Example 6:

Find the unit normal and binormal vectors for the circular helix  $r(t) = \cos(t)i + \sin(t)j + tk$

$$\frac{d}{dr}(t) = -\sin(t)i + \cos(t)j + k \quad \left| \frac{d}{dr}(t) \right| = \sqrt{2}$$

$$T(t) := \frac{\frac{d}{dr}(t)}{\left| \frac{d}{dr}(t) \right|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-\sin(t)i + \cos(t)j + k)$$

$$\frac{dT}{dt}(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(-\cos(t)i - \sin(t)j) \quad \frac{dT}{dt}(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$$

$$N(t) = \frac{\frac{dT}{dt}(t)}{\left| \frac{dT}{dt}(t) \right|} = -\cos(t)i - \sin(t)j = (-\cos(t), -\sin(t), 0)$$

This shows that the normal vector at a point on the helix is horizontal and points toward the z-axis. The binormal vector is

$$B(t) := T(t) \times N(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} i & j & k \\ -\sin(t) & \cos(t) & 1 \\ -\cos(t) & -\sin(t) & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\sin(t), -\cos(t), 1)$$

Example 7:

Find the equation of the normal plane and osculating plane of the helix in *Example 6* at the point  $P(0,1,\pi/2)$ .

The normal plane at P has normal vector  $r'(\pi/2) = \langle -1, 0, 1 \rangle$ , so an equation is

$$-1(x-0) + 0(y-1) + 1\left(z - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad z := x + \frac{\pi}{2}$$

The osculating plane at P contains the vectors  $T$  and  $N$ , so its normal vector is  $T \times N = B$ . From *Example 6* we have

$$B(t) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\sin(t), -\cos(t), 1) \quad B\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$$

A simpler normal vector is  $\langle 1, 0, 1 \rangle$ , so an equation of the osculating plane is

$$1(x-0) + 0(y-1) + 1\left(z - \frac{\pi}{2}\right) = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad z := -x + \frac{\pi}{2}$$

Example 8:

Find and graph the osculating circle of the parabola  $y=x^2$  at the origin.

From *Example 5* the curvature of the parabola at the origin is  $k(0)=2$ . So the radius of the osculating circle at the origin is  $1/k = 1/2$  and its center is  $(0, 1/2)$ . Its equation is therefore

$$x^2 + \left(y - \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{4}$$

We use parametric equations of this circle:

$$x := \frac{1}{2} \cos(t)$$

$$y := \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \sin(t)$$

**Section 11.9 Motion In Space: Velocity And Acceleration**

In this section we show how the ideas of tangent and normal vectors and curvature can be used in physics to study the motion of an object, including its velocity and acceleration, along a space curve.