

CASMA 225

Calc 3

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Chapter 1

Vectors

1.1 Review

1.1.1 Basics

Definition 1.1.1: Notation

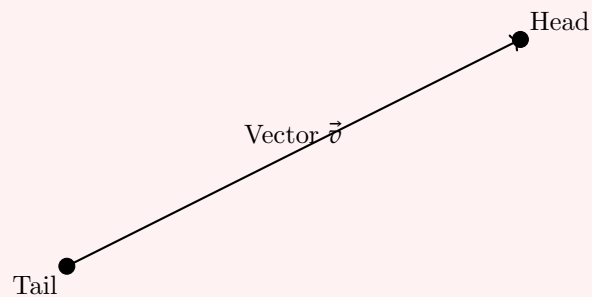
Drawn Vectors: \vec{v}

Typed Vectors: \mathbf{v}

Definition 1.1.2: Velocity

Magnitude of the velocity: $|\vec{v}|$
Direction of the velocity: $dir(\vec{v})$

Definition 1.1.3: Heads and Tails

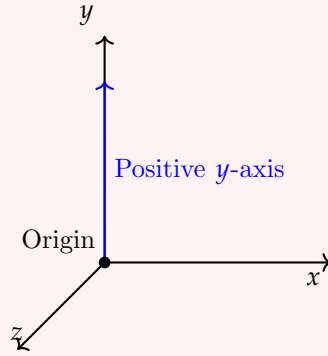


Note:-

Scalar is like a 1 directional vector, either positive or negative, and its magnitude is the absolute value of the scalar

1.1.2 Notation

Definition 1.1.4: Positive y axis



Definition 1.1.5: Standard Basis Vectors

In an n -dimensional space \mathbb{R}^n , the standard basis vectors are a set of n vectors where each vector has a 1 in one component and 0 in all other components. These vectors are denoted as \mathbf{e}_i for $i = 1, 2, \dots, n$. The i -th standard basis vector in \mathbb{R}^n is written as:

$$\mathbf{e}_i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \text{ (in the } i\text{-th position)} \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

For example, in \mathbb{R}^3 (three-dimensional space), the standard basis vectors are:

$$\mathbf{e}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{e}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{e}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

These vectors span the entire vector space \mathbb{R}^n , meaning any vector $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ can be written as a linear combination of the standard basis vectors:

$$\mathbf{v} = v_1 \mathbf{e}_1 + v_2 \mathbf{e}_2 + \dots + v_n \mathbf{e}_n,$$

where v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n are the components of the vector \mathbf{v} .

1.2 Operations

1.2.1 Dot Product

Definition 1.2.1: Dot (Scalar) Product Definition

The **scalar product** (or **dot product**) of two vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} in \mathbb{R}^n is defined as:

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + \cdots + a_nb_n$$

In \mathbb{R}^3 , for vectors $\mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{pmatrix}$, the dot product is:

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3$$

The dot product can also be expressed in terms of the magnitudes of \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} and the angle θ between them:

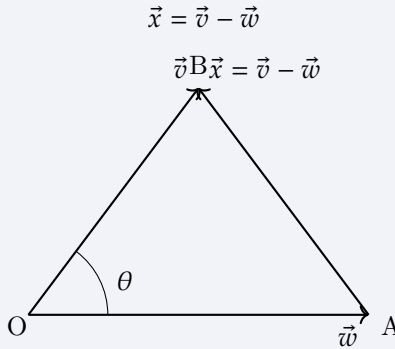
$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = |\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}| \cos \theta$$

The dot product is a scalar quantity and is zero when the vectors are orthogonal (perpendicular).
Useful to find the angle between the two vectors being dot product together,

Theorem 1.2.1 Dot Product Proof

We are given the vectors \vec{v} and \vec{w} , and we want to express the dot product in terms of their magnitudes and the angle between them.

Start with the relationship:



The above diagram illustrates the vectors \vec{v} , \vec{w} , and their difference $\vec{x} = \vec{v} - \vec{w}$, forming a triangle. The angle θ is between \vec{v} and \vec{w} .

The magnitude squared of \vec{x} is:

$$|\vec{x}|^2 = |\vec{v}|^2 + |\vec{w}|^2 - 2|\vec{v}||\vec{w}| \cos \theta$$

This is the expansion of the law of cosines.

Now, from the equation:

$$|\vec{x}|^2 = \sqrt{((v_x - w_x)^2 + (v_y - w_y)^2)}$$

We conclude:

$$|\vec{x}|^2 = |\vec{v}|^2 + |\vec{w}|^2 - 2(\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w})$$

Thus, we can express the dot product $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}$ as:

$$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = |\vec{v}||\vec{w}| \cos \theta$$

1.2.2 Applications

Note:-

The dot product of two vectors $\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w}$ can take different values, leading to various interpretations of the relationship between the vectors. Below is a table describing some key cases:

Dot Product Value	Interpretation	Relationship Between Vectors
$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = 0$	$\cos \theta = 0$	Vectors are perpendicular (orthogonal), $\theta = 90^\circ$
$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} > 0$	$0 < \theta < 90^\circ$	Vectors form an acute angle , pointing in the same general direction
$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} < 0$	$90^\circ < \theta < 180^\circ$	Vectors form an obtuse angle , pointing in opposite general directions
$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = \vec{v} \vec{w} $	$\cos \theta = 1$	Vectors are parallel and point in the same direction , $\theta = 0^\circ$
$\vec{v} \cdot \vec{w} = - \vec{v} \vec{w} $	$\cos \theta = -1$	Vectors are parallel but point in opposite directions , $\theta = 180^\circ$

Definition 1.2.2: Vector Product (Cross Product)

The **vector product** (or **cross product**) of two vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} in \mathbb{R}^3 is a vector \mathbf{c} that is perpendicular to both \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , and its magnitude is given by:

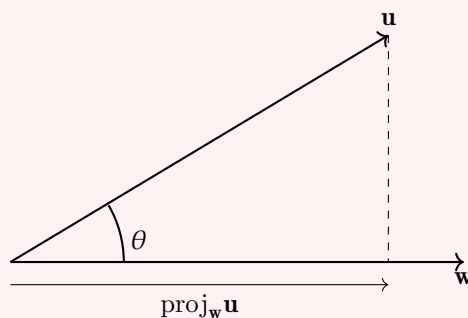
$$|\mathbf{c}| = |\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}| = |\mathbf{a}||\mathbf{b}| \sin \theta$$

where θ is the angle between \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} . The cross product is calculated as:

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} = (a_2b_3 - a_3b_2)\hat{i} - (a_1b_3 - a_3b_1)\hat{j} + (a_1b_2 - a_2b_1)\hat{k}$$

The result of a cross product is a vector perpendicular to the plane formed by \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , with a direction given by the right-hand rule.

Definition 1.2.3: Vector Projections



$$\text{scal}_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{u} = |\mathbf{u}| \cdot \cos \theta = \frac{\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{|\mathbf{w}|}$$

$$\text{proj}_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{u} = |\mathbf{u}| \cos \theta \left(\frac{\mathbf{w}}{|\mathbf{w}|} \right)$$

$$\text{proj}_{\mathbf{w}} \mathbf{u} = \left(\frac{\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{u}}{\mathbf{w} \cdot \mathbf{w}} \right) \mathbf{w}$$

1.3 Matrix Determinants

Definition 1.3.1: Matrix Representation

A matrix is a collection of numbers arranged in a grid format, where each element is positioned based on its row and column. A general $m \times n$ matrix is written as:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \cdots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \cdots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \cdots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$$

For example, a 2×2 matrix is given by:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}$$

A 3×3 matrix is:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix}$$

Matrices can be considered as a collection of vectors where each row or column can represent a vector.

Note:-

Vector Representation

A matrix can also be viewed as a collection of vectors. For instance, a 3×3 matrix can be interpreted as:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} \vec{v}_1 = \langle a, b, c \rangle \\ \vec{v}_2 = \langle d, e, f \rangle \\ \vec{v}_3 = \langle g, h, i \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

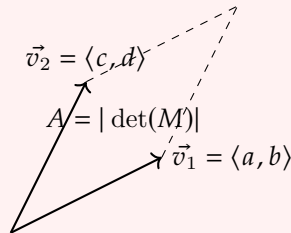
where each row (or column) is treated as a vector in space.

Definition 1.3.2: Determinant of a 2×2 Matrix

The determinant of a 2×2 matrix is given by:

$$\det(M) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc$$

The determinant represents the signed area of the parallelogram formed by the vectors corresponding to the rows (or columns) of the matrix.



Note:-

Geometric Interpretation

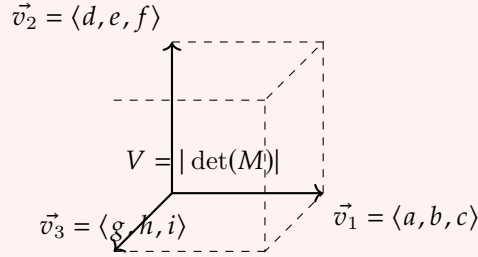
For a 2×2 matrix, the determinant represents the area A of the parallelogram formed by the two vectors $\vec{v}_1 = \langle a, b \rangle$ and $\vec{v}_2 = \langle c, d \rangle$. The magnitude of the determinant gives the area of this parallelogram, and the sign of the determinant indicates the orientation (whether the vectors are ordered clockwise or counterclockwise).

Definition 1.3.3: Determinant of a 3×3 Matrix

The determinant of a 3×3 matrix is calculated as:

$$\det(M) = \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c \\ d & e & f \\ g & h & i \end{pmatrix} = a \det \begin{pmatrix} e & f \\ h & i \end{pmatrix} - b \det \begin{pmatrix} d & f \\ g & i \end{pmatrix} + c \det \begin{pmatrix} d & e \\ g & h \end{pmatrix}$$

The determinant represents the signed volume of the parallelepiped formed by the three vectors corresponding to the rows (or columns) of the matrix.



Note:-

Geometric Interpretation for 3×3

In the 3×3 case, the determinant represents the volume V of the parallelepiped formed by three vectors $\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2, \vec{v}_3$, and the sign indicates whether the orientation is right-handed or left-handed. The magnitude gives the volume.

1.4 Matrix multiplication with 2D Vectors

Definition 1.4.1: Vector Matrix Multiplication

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}, \quad V = \begin{pmatrix} V_1 \\ V_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{j}}M = \langle a_{11}V_1 + a_{12}V_2, a_{21}V_1 + a_{22}V_2 \rangle$$

Given:

$$\hat{i} = \langle 1, 0 \rangle \quad \hat{j} = \langle 0, 1 \rangle$$

We can compute:

$$iM = \langle a_{11}, a_{12} \rangle = a_1$$

$$jM = \langle a_{21}, a_{22} \rangle = a_2$$

Where:

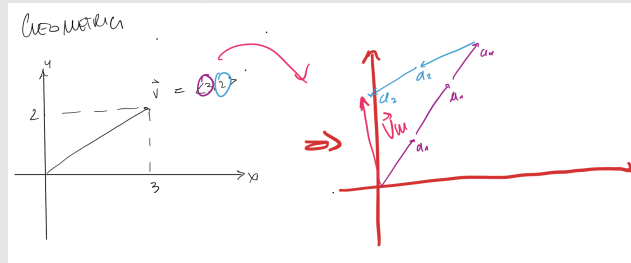
$$\mathbf{V} = V_1\hat{i} + V_2\hat{j}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{V}}M = (V_1\hat{i} + V_2\hat{j})M$$

$$= V_1\hat{i}M + V_2\hat{j}M$$

$$= V_1\mathbf{a}_1 + V_2\mathbf{a}_2$$

Note:-



1.4.1 Effect on Area

Definition 1.4.2: 2D

The original point $(1,1)$ is transformed by the matrix M . This transformation impacts the area and orientation as follows:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

The area after transformation is given by the determinant of the matrix:

$$\text{Area} = \det(M)$$

Where the determinant is calculated as:

$$\det(M) = a_{11}a_{22} - a_{12}a_{21}$$

The determinant also determines the orientation:

$$\det(M) = \begin{cases} A & \text{if } a_1 \text{ to } a_2 \text{ is counterclockwise} \\ -A & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

In the example, the original vectors a_1 and a_2 form an area, and the determinant will tell us if the vectors are oriented in a clockwise or counterclockwise fashion.

If the determinant is negative, the orientation is clockwise, as illustrated:

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \end{pmatrix} < 0$$

Thus, in this case, the transformation results in a clockwise orientation.

1.5 Matrix multiplication with 3D Vectors

Definition 1.5.1: 3D

The matrix M for a 3D transformation is given as:

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & a_{13} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & a_{23} \\ a_{31} & a_{32} & a_{33} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{where} \quad \vec{V} = \langle V_1, V_2, V_3 \rangle$$

The transformation of vector \vec{V} under matrix M is:

$$\hat{V}M = \langle (a_{11}V_1 + a_{12}V_2 + a_{13}V_3), (a_{21}V_1 + a_{22}V_2 + a_{23}V_3), (a_{31}V_1 + a_{32}V_2 + a_{33}V_3) \rangle$$

This can be written in terms of the basis vectors as:

$$(V_1\hat{i} + V_2\hat{j} + V_3\hat{k})M = V_1\vec{a}_1 + V_2\vec{a}_2 + V_3\vec{a}_3$$

Definition 1.5.2: orientation and Volume

- If the determinant of matrix M is negative, the system is **left-handed**, i.e.,

$$\det(M) = -V$$

- The determinant of the matrix M gives the **volume** of the parallelepiped spanned by the vectors a_1, a_2, a_3 :

$$\det(M) = \text{Volume}(V)$$

The volume V is given by:

$$V = \begin{cases} +V & \text{if } \vec{a}_1, \vec{a}_2, \vec{a}_3 \text{ are right-handed (RHS)} \\ -V & \text{otherwise (left-handed)} \end{cases}$$

1.6 Cross Product and Volumes

Definition 1.6.1: Cross Product and Volumes

The volume of a parallelepiped defined by three vectors $\vec{u}, \vec{v}, \vec{w}$ is given by:

$$V = \vec{u} \cdot (\vec{v} \times \vec{w})$$

1.6.1 Link to Matrix Determinants

Definition 1.6.2: Cross Product and Matrix Determinants

Since:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \vec{u} \cdot (\vec{v} \times \vec{w}) &= \det \begin{pmatrix} \vec{u} & \vec{v} & \vec{w} \end{pmatrix} \\
 \det \begin{pmatrix} u_1 & u_2 & u_3 \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \end{pmatrix} &= u_1 \det \begin{pmatrix} v_2 & v_3 \\ w_2 & w_3 \end{pmatrix} - u_2 \det \begin{pmatrix} v_1 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_3 \end{pmatrix} + u_3 \det \begin{pmatrix} v_1 & v_2 \\ w_1 & w_2 \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \vec{u} \cdot \left(\hat{i} \begin{vmatrix} v_2 & v_3 \\ w_2 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} - \hat{j} \begin{vmatrix} v_1 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_3 \end{vmatrix} + \hat{k} \begin{vmatrix} v_1 & v_2 \\ w_1 & w_2 \end{vmatrix} \right) \\
 &= \vec{u} \cdot \det \begin{pmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \vec{u} \cdot (\vec{v} \times \vec{w})
 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$\vec{v} \times \vec{w} = \det \begin{pmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ v_1 & v_2 & v_3 \\ w_1 & w_2 & w_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

1.7 Cross Product Polynomial Multiplication

Definition 1.7.1: Properties

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{i} \times \hat{j} &= \hat{k}, & \hat{j} \times \hat{k} &= \hat{i}, & \hat{k} \times \hat{i} &= \hat{j} \\
 \hat{j} \times \hat{i} &= -\hat{k}, & \hat{i} \times \hat{i} &= \hat{j} \times \hat{j} = \hat{k} \times \hat{k} = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Example 1.7.1 (Example: Cross Product)

Let $\vec{v} = 2\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 3\hat{k}$ and $\vec{w} = \hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k}$. The cross product $\vec{v} \times \vec{w}$ is computed as:

$$\vec{v} \times \vec{w} = (2\hat{i} - \hat{j} - 3\hat{k}) \times (\hat{i} + \hat{j} + \hat{k})$$

Expanding the cross product term by term:

$$= 2\hat{i} \times \hat{i} + 2\hat{i} \times \hat{j} + 2\hat{i} \times \hat{k} - \hat{j} \times \hat{i} - \hat{j} \times \hat{j} - \hat{j} \times \hat{k} - 3\hat{k} \times \hat{i} - 3\hat{k} \times \hat{j} - 3\hat{k} \times \hat{k}$$

Using the cross product identities:

$$= 0 + 2\hat{k} + 2(-\hat{j}) - (-\hat{k}) + 0 - \hat{i} - 3\hat{j} + 3\hat{i} + 0$$

Combining like terms:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= (3\hat{i} - \hat{i}) + (-2\hat{j} - 3\hat{j}) + (2\hat{k} + \hat{k}) \\
 &= 2\hat{i} - 5\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus, the final result is:

$$\vec{v} \times \vec{w} = 2\hat{i} - 5\hat{j} + 3\hat{k}$$

1.8 Torque

Definition 1.8.1: Torque and Angular Momentum

Continue with Torque

Parametric Equations

Definition 1.8.2: Parametric Equations

A parametric equation expresses a set of quantities as explicit functions of an independent parameter. In a two-dimensional case, a parametric equation for a curve can be represented as:

$$\langle x, y \rangle t = \langle f(t), g(t) \rangle$$

and in three dimensions as:

$$\langle x, y, z \rangle t = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$$

Note:-

For example, consider the curve in the plane given by the equation $y = f(x) = x^2 + 1$. This describes a parabola in Cartesian coordinates.

Theorem 1.8.1 Parametric unit circle in Cartesian coordinates

A unit circle in parametric form can be represented as:

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

which corresponds to the parametric equations:

$$\langle x, y \rangle t = \langle \cos(t), \sin(t) \rangle$$

1.8.1 Examples

Note:-

The parametric equation:

$$\langle x, y \rangle t = \langle 4 \cos(t), 3 \sin(t) \rangle$$

At specific values of t , we can compute the points:

$$t = 0 \implies \langle 4, 0 \rangle$$

$$t = \frac{\pi}{2} \implies \langle 0, 3 \rangle$$

$$t = \pi \implies \langle -4, 0 \rangle$$

$$t = \frac{3\pi}{2} \implies \langle 0, -3 \rangle$$

Definition 1.8.3: Parametric for a Helix

$$\langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle = \langle 4 \cos(t), 3 \sin(t), 0.1t \rangle$$

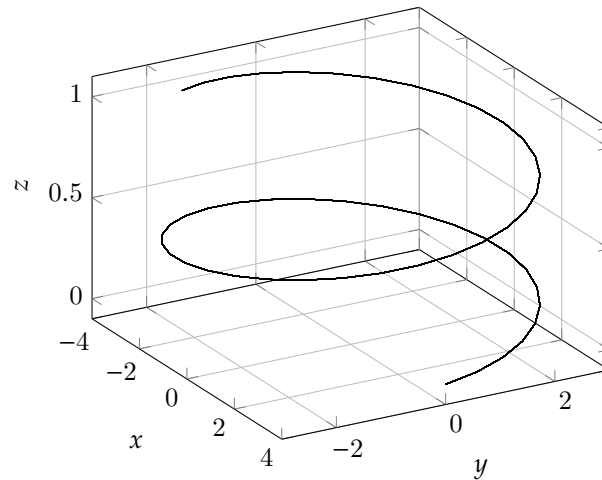


Figure 1.1: 3D plot of a parametric helix.

Theorem 1.8.2 Parametric Equation of a Line

The parametric equation of a line can be expressed as:

$$\langle x, y, z \rangle t = \mathbf{OP} + \mathbf{V}t$$

Where:

- $\mathbf{OP} = \langle x_0, y_0, z_0 \rangle$ is the position vector to the initial point P ,
- $\mathbf{V} = \langle v_x, v_y, v_z \rangle$ is the direction vector of the line.

Question 1: 3D Parametric Equation of a Line

- $\mathbf{OP} = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle$ is the position vector to the initial point P ,
- $\mathbf{V} = \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle$ is the direction vector of the line.

Thus, the parametric equation of the line becomes:

$$\langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle = \langle 1, 2, 3 \rangle + t\langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle$$

$$x(t) = 1 + t, \quad y(t) = 2 + t, \quad z(t) = 3 + t$$

Or simply:

$$\langle x, y, z \rangle t = \langle 1 + t, 2 + t, 3 + t \rangle$$

Solution:

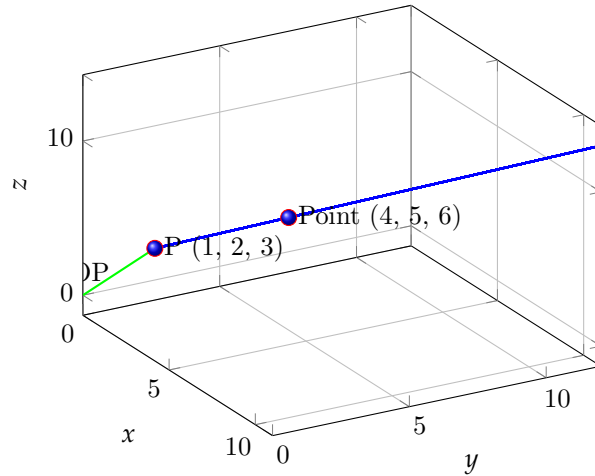


Figure 1.2: 3D plot of a parametric line with vector \mathbf{OP} and points.

1.9 Distance from a Point to a Line

Definition 1.9.1: Parametric Equation of the Line

The line is represented by:

$$\mathbf{l} = \mathbf{OP} + t\mathbf{V}$$

Where:

- \mathbf{OP} is the position vector of a point on the line,
- \mathbf{V} is the direction vector of the line.

Theorem 1.9.1 Distance from a Point to a Line

The distance d from a point Q to the line l is given by:

$$d = \frac{|\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{PQ}|}{|\mathbf{V}|}$$

Where:

- \mathbf{PQ} is the vector from point P on the line to the point Q ,
- $\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{PQ}$ is the cross product of the direction vector \mathbf{V} and the vector \mathbf{PQ} .

1.9.1 Example

Question 2: Find the distance from the point $Q = (3, 4, 0)$ to the line l given by the parametric equation

$$\mathbf{l} = \langle t, 1, 2t \rangle = \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle + t\langle 1, 0, 2 \rangle$$

with point $P = (0, 1, 0)$ and direction vector $\mathbf{V} = \langle 1, 0, 2 \rangle$.

Solution: The vector \mathbf{PQ} from $P = (0, 1, 0)$ to $Q = (3, 4, 0)$ is:

$$\mathbf{PQ} = \langle 3, 4, 0 \rangle - \langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle = \langle 3, 3, 0 \rangle$$

Now, we compute the cross product $\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{PQ}$:

$$\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{PQ} = \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 1 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 3 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = \hat{i}(0 - 6) - \hat{j}(0 - 6) + \hat{k}(3 - 0) = \langle -6, -6, 3 \rangle$$

Next, calculate the magnitude of the cross product:

$$|\mathbf{V} \times \mathbf{PQ}| = \sqrt{(-6)^2 + (-6)^2 + 3^2} = \sqrt{36 + 36 + 9} = \sqrt{81} = 9$$

The magnitude of the direction vector \mathbf{V} is:

$$|\mathbf{V}| = \sqrt{1^2 + 0^2 + 2^2} = \sqrt{1 + 4} = \sqrt{5}$$

Finally, the distance d is:

$$d = \frac{9}{\sqrt{5}} = \frac{9\sqrt{5}}{5}$$

1.10 Intersection of Two Parametric Lines

Definition 1.10.1: Intersection of Parametric Lines

To find the intersection point of two parametric lines, we need to equate their parametric equations and solve for the parameters.

Question 3: Find the intersection of the lines l_1 and l_2 given by the parametric equations

$$\begin{aligned} l_1 &= \langle x, y \rangle(t) = \langle 0, 1 \rangle + t\langle 1, 0 \rangle \\ l_2 &= \langle 1, 1 \rangle + s\langle -2, 1 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Solution: Equating the two parametric equations:

$$\langle 0, 1 \rangle + t\langle 1, 0 \rangle = \langle 1, 1 \rangle + s\langle -2, 1 \rangle$$

This gives the system of equations:

$$0 + t = 1 - 2s$$

$$1 + 0 = 1 + s$$

From the second equation, we find:

$$s = 0$$

Substitute $s = 0$ into the first equation:

$$t = 1$$

Thus, the lines intersect when $t = 1$ and $s = 0$.

The intersection point is:

$$\langle 0, 1 \rangle + 1 \cdot \langle 1, 0 \rangle = \langle 1, 1 \rangle$$

Therefore, the lines intersect at $(1, 1)$.

1.11 Planes

Definition 1.11.1: Plane Equation

Given a point $P_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$ on the plane and a normal vector $\vec{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$, the equation of the plane can be expressed as:

$$a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0$$

Note:-**Vector Form**

Alternatively, the plane equation can also be derived using the dot product form:

$$\overrightarrow{PQ} \cdot \vec{n} = 0$$

Where $P = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$ and $Q = (x, y, z)$. This leads to the scalar equation of the plane.

Theorem 1.11.1 Equation of a Plane

If a plane passes through the point $P_0 = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$ and has a normal vector $\vec{n} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$, the equation of the plane is:

$$a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0$$

Question 4: Example

Given the point $P_0 = (1, -2, 3)$ and the normal vector $\vec{n} = \langle -2, -4, -6 \rangle$, find the equation of the plane.

Solution: Using the plane equation $a(x - x_0) + b(y - y_0) + c(z - z_0) = 0$, substitute $a = -2$, $b = -4$, $c = -6$, and $P_0 = (1, -2, 3)$:

$$-2(x - 1) - 4(y + 2) - 6(z - 3) = 0$$

Expanding this equation:

$$-2x + 2 - 4y - 8 - 6z + 18 = 0$$

Simplifying:

$$-2x - 4y - 6z + 12 = 0$$

Or:

$$2x + 4y + 6z = 12$$

1.12 Vector Valued Functions

Definition 1.12.1: Parametric Curves

A parametric curve is defined as:

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

where t is a real number as input, and the output is a vector.

Question 5: Example

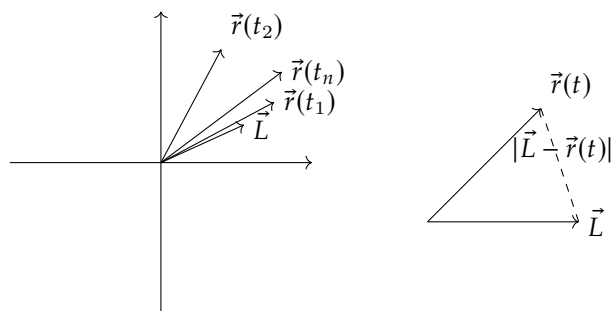
Let $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^2, t + 1, \sqrt{t - 2} \rangle$. Determine the domain of $\vec{r}(t)$.

Solution: The domain of $\vec{r}(t)$ is $t \geq 2$.

Definition 1.12.2: Limits of Vector Functions

The limit of a vector function $\vec{r}(t)$ as $t \rightarrow a$ can be visualized geometrically as the vector approaching a point \vec{L} . If the magnitude of the difference between \vec{L} and $\vec{r}(t)$ approaches zero, we can define:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow a} \vec{r}(t) = \vec{L} \quad \text{if} \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow a} |\vec{L} - \vec{r}(t)| = 0$$



Note:-

Component-wise Limits

The limit of a vector function can be evaluated by taking the limit of each of its components:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow a} \vec{r}(t) = \langle \lim_{t \rightarrow a} x(t), \lim_{t \rightarrow a} y(t), \lim_{t \rightarrow a} z(t) \rangle$$

Question 6: Example

Consider the vector function $\vec{r}(t) = \langle \frac{t^2+2t+1}{t+1}, t, t-2 \rangle$, as $t \rightarrow -1$.

Solution: The limits of each component as $t \rightarrow -1$ are:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow -1} \vec{r}(t) = \langle 0, -1, -3 \rangle$$

1.13 Calculus and Vector Valued Functions

1.13.1 Derivative

Theorem 1.13.1 Derivative of vector functions

Consider the vector-valued function in 3D:

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

where $f(t)$, $g(t)$, and $h(t)$ are differentiable functions. The derivative of $\vec{r}(t)$ is defined as:

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

Expanding $\vec{r}(t+h) - \vec{r}(t)$:

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

This gives us:

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

Thus, the derivative becomes:

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \left\langle \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{h}, \frac{g(t+h) - g(t)}{h}, \frac{h(t+h) - h(t)}{h} \right\rangle$$

Since $f(t)$, $g(t)$, and $h(t)$ are differentiable, we apply the definition of derivatives for each component:

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \left\langle \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{h}, \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{g(t+h) - g(t)}{h}, \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{h(t+h) - h(t)}{h} \right\rangle$$
$$\vec{r}'(t) = \langle f'(t), g'(t), h'(t) \rangle$$

Therefore, the derivative of the vector-valued function $\vec{r}(t)$ in 3D is:

$$\boxed{\vec{r}'(t) = \langle f'(t), g'(t), h'(t) \rangle}$$

Definition 1.13.1: Vector Representation

Let $\vec{r}(t)$ be a vector-valued function that describes the position of a particle over time t :

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

where $x(t)$, $y(t)$, $z(t)$ are differentiable functions. The following terms describe important properties of the function:

1. **Position** at time t : $\vec{r}(t)$
2. **Velocity** (tangent vector) $\vec{r}'(t) = \langle x'(t), y'(t), z'(t) \rangle$
3. **Speed** $|\vec{r}'(t)|$, the magnitude of the velocity.
4. **Acceleration** $\vec{r}''(t) = \langle x''(t), y''(t), z''(t) \rangle$

Definition 1.13.2: Unit Tangent Vector

The unit tangent vector is given by:

$$\hat{T}(t) = \frac{\vec{r}'(t)}{|\vec{r}'(t)|}$$

This is the unit vector in the direction of the velocity vector $\vec{r}'(t)$, which represents the direction of motion.

Question 7: Example

Consider the following vector-valued function:

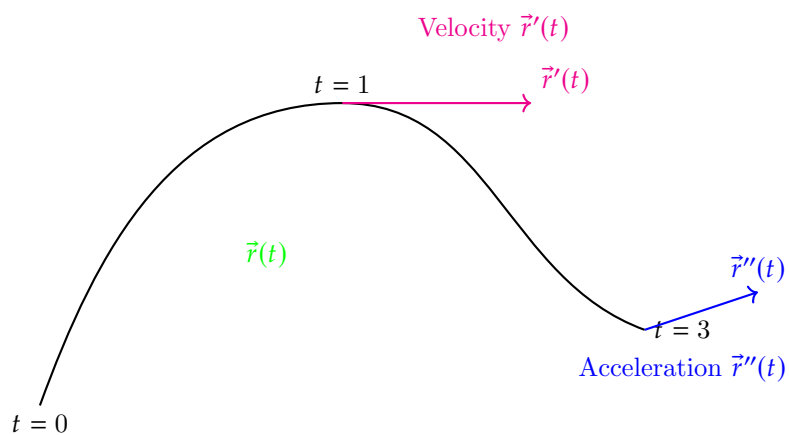
$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle 1 + t^2, 2 + t^2, 3 + t^2 \rangle$$

Taking the derivative:

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \langle 2t, 2t, 2t \rangle$$

This describes a line with a constant acceleration:

$$\vec{r}''(t) = \langle 2, 2, 2 \rangle$$



Definition 1.13.3: Derivatives of Parametric Curves in terms of t

Given a parametric curve defined by:

$$x = f(t), \quad y = g(t)$$

where t is the parameter, we want to find the derivative $\frac{dy}{dx}$, which represents the slope of the tangent to the curve at any point t .

Step 1: Finding the Derivatives of x and y with respect to t To find $\frac{dy}{dx}$, we need to find both $\frac{dx}{dt}$ and $\frac{dy}{dt}$. These are given by:

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = f'(t), \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = g'(t)$$

Step 2: Using the Chain Rule The derivative $\frac{dy}{dx}$ can be found by using the chain rule as follows:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}}$$

Substituting the expressions for $\frac{dx}{dt}$ and $\frac{dy}{dt}$, we obtain:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{g'(t)}{f'(t)}$$

Step 3: Simplifying the Result The expression $\frac{dy}{dx}$ provides the slope of the curve at any point t in terms of the parameter.

Example 1.13.1 (Consider the parametric equations:)

$$x = 6 \sin t, \quad y = 6 \cos t$$

To find $\frac{dy}{dx}$, we calculate the derivatives with respect to t :

$$\frac{dx}{dt} = 6 \cos t, \quad \frac{dy}{dt} = -6 \sin t$$

Then, we apply the formula:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} = \frac{-6 \sin t}{6 \cos t}$$

Simplifying the expression:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\tan t$$

Therefore, the slope of the tangent line to the parametric curve at any point t is:

$$\frac{dy}{dx} = -\tan t$$

Definition 1.13.4: Chain Rule Derivation

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = \frac{dy}{du} \cdot \frac{du}{dt} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{\frac{dy}{dt}}{\frac{dx}{dt}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{du}{dt}$$

Question 8: Example

Slope of

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos(t), \sin(t) \rangle$$

At $t = \frac{\pi}{3}$:

Solution:

$$\cos\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$$

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \langle -\sin(t), \cos(t) \rangle$$

At $t = \frac{\pi}{3}$:

$$\vec{r}'\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \left\langle -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle$$

Slope Calculation

$$\text{slope} = \frac{\frac{-1}{2}}{\frac{-\sqrt{3}}{2}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$$

Vector Notation

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \langle -\sin(t), \cos(t) \rangle \quad \text{so} \quad \vec{r}'\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = \left\langle -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \right\rangle$$

1.13.2 Chain Rule

Definition 1.13.5: Chain Rule for VV

Let $g : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $\vec{r}(t)$ be a vector function. The derivative of the composition of functions is:

$$\frac{d}{dt}[g(\vec{r}(t))] = g'(\vec{r}(t)) \cdot \vec{r}'(t)$$

where $g'(\vec{r}(t))$ is the derivative of g with respect to the vector function $\vec{r}(t)$ and $\vec{r}'(t)$ is the derivative of the vector function $\vec{r}(t)$ with respect to t . This rule is useful for differentiating scalar functions composed with vector-valued functions.

Question 9: Example

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos^2 t, -3t + \cos^3 t \rangle = \vec{r}(g(t))$$

$$y = \cos t, \quad \vec{r} = \langle t^2, -3t, 3t^3 \rangle$$

$$g' = -\sin t, \quad \dot{\vec{r}} = \langle 2t, 3t^2 \rangle$$

Thus, the derivative is:

$$\vec{s}(t) = \frac{d}{dt}(g(y(t))\vec{r}(g(t))) = g'(t) \cdot \dot{\vec{r}}(g(t))$$

$$= -\sin t \cdot \langle 2 \cos t, 3 \cos^2 t \rangle$$

1.13.3 Product Rule

Definition 1.13.6: Product rule for VV

Let $g(t) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, $\vec{r}(t) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$, and $\vec{s}(t) : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be vector functions. Then, the product rule is:

$$\frac{d}{dt} (g(t)\vec{r}(t)) = g'(t)\vec{r}(t) + g(t)\dot{\vec{r}}(t)$$

For vector dot products:

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\vec{r}(t) \cdot \vec{s}(t)) = \vec{r}'(t) \cdot \vec{s}(t) + \vec{r}(t) \cdot \vec{s}'(t)$$

For vector cross products:

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\vec{r}(t) \times \vec{s}(t)) = \vec{r}'(t) \times \vec{s}(t) + \vec{r}(t) \times \vec{s}'(t)$$

1.13.4 Integrals

Definition 1.13.7: Integral of Vector-Valued Functions

Let $\vec{r}(t) : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ be a continuous vector-valued function. The definite integral of $\vec{r}(t)$ over the interval $[a, b]$ is defined as:

$$\int_a^b \vec{r}(t) dt = \left\langle \int_a^b r_1(t) dt, \int_a^b r_2(t) dt, \dots, \int_a^b r_n(t) dt \right\rangle$$

where $\vec{r}(t) = \langle r_1(t), r_2(t), \dots, r_n(t) \rangle$. This means that the integral of a vector-valued function is the vector whose components are the integrals of the respective component functions.

For example, if $\vec{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$, then:

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

This can be extended to cases where $\vec{r}(t)$ represents the position of a particle over time, and the integral represents the net displacement of the particle over the interval $[a, b]$.

Question 10: Find the integral of the vector-valued function

Calculate the integral of the vector-valued function $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^2, \sin t, e^t \rangle$ over the interval $t \in [0, 1]$.

Solution:

The vector-valued function is given as:

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle t^2, \sin t, e^t \rangle$$

We can integrate each component of the vector separately over the interval $[0, 1]$:

$$\int_0^1 \vec{r}(t) dt = \left\langle \int_0^1 t^2 dt, \int_0^1 \sin t dt, \int_0^1 e^t dt \right\rangle$$

Now, solving each integral:

1. For $\int_0^1 t^2 dt$:

$$\int_0^1 t^2 dt = \left[\frac{t^3}{3} \right]_0^1 = \frac{1^3}{3} - \frac{0^3}{3} = \frac{1}{3}$$

2. For $\int_0^1 \sin t dt$:

$$\int_0^1 \sin t \, dt = [-\cos t]_0^1 = -\cos(1) + \cos(0) = 1 - \cos(1)$$

3. For $\int_0^1 e^t \, dt$:

$$\int_0^1 e^t \, dt = [e^t]_0^1 = e^1 - e^0 = e - 1$$

Thus, the result of the integral is:

$$\int_0^1 \vec{r}(t) \, dt = \left\langle \frac{1}{3}, 1 - \cos(1), e - 1 \right\rangle$$

Question 11: Find the position vector of a ball in 3D space

A ball is thrown from the origin with an initial velocity vector $\vec{v}(0) = \langle 1, 3, 5 \rangle$ m/s, and experiences a constant acceleration vector $\vec{a}(t) = \langle 0, 0, -10 \rangle$ m/s². Find the position vector $\vec{r}(t)$ of the ball at any time t .

Solution:

The velocity vector $\vec{v}(t)$ is found by integrating the acceleration vector $\vec{a}(t)$:

$$\vec{v}(t) = \int_0^t \vec{a}(s) \, ds + \vec{v}(0)$$

Given that $\vec{a}(t) = \langle 0, 0, -10 \rangle$, we integrate each component:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v}(t) &= \int_0^t \langle 0, 0, -10 \rangle \, ds + \langle 1, 3, 5 \rangle \\ &= \langle 0, 0, -10t \rangle + \langle 1, 3, 5 \rangle \\ \vec{v}(t) &= \langle 1, 3, 5 - 10t \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Now, to find the position vector $\vec{r}(t)$, we integrate the velocity vector $\vec{v}(t)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{r}(t) &= \int_0^t \vec{v}(s) \, ds \\ &= \int_0^t \langle 1, 3, 5 - 10s \rangle \, ds \end{aligned}$$

Integrating each component:

1. For the first component:

$$\int_0^t 1 \, ds = t$$

2. For the second component:

$$\int_0^t 3 \, ds = 3t$$

3. For the third component:

$$\int_0^t (5 - 10s) \, ds = [5s - 5s^2]_0^t = 5t - 5t^2$$

Thus, the position vector is:

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle t, 3t, 5t - 5t^2 \rangle$$

1.14 Arc Length

The arc length of a smooth curve given by a vector-valued function can be calculated using an integral. Let the position vector of a curve be represented as:

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

where t is the parameter over some interval $[a, b]$.

Definition 1.14.1: Arc Length Formula

The arc length L of the curve $\vec{r}(t)$ over the interval $[a, b]$ is given by:

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

where $\vec{r}'(t)$ is the derivative of the position vector, representing the velocity vector of the curve. To find $|\vec{r}'(t)|$, we use the following:

$$|\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{(f'(t))^2 + (g'(t))^2 + (h'(t))^2}.$$

Therefore, the arc length formula can be explicitly written as:

$$L = \int_a^b \sqrt{(f'(t))^2 + (g'(t))^2 + (h'(t))^2} dt.$$

Question 12: Example: Eagle Spiraling

Consider an example where an eagle is spiraling in space, and its position at time t (in minutes) is given by:

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle 250 \cos(t), 250 \sin(t), 100t \rangle \quad (\text{in feet}).$$

Solution:

To find the velocity vector, we differentiate each component of $\vec{r}(t)$:

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \langle -250 \sin(t), 250 \cos(t), 100 \rangle \quad (\text{in feet per minute}).$$

The magnitude of the velocity vector $|\vec{r}'(t)|$ is:

$$|\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{(-250 \sin(t))^2 + (250 \cos(t))^2 + (100)^2}.$$

Simplifying, we obtain:

$$|\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{250^2 \sin^2(t) + 250^2 \cos^2(t) + 100^2}.$$

Using the Pythagorean identity $\sin^2(t) + \cos^2(t) = 1$, we find:

$$|\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{250^2 + 100^2} = \sqrt{62500 + 10000} = \sqrt{72500} \approx 269.3 \quad (\text{feet per minute}).$$

Therefore, the speed of the eagle is approximately 269.3 feet per minute.

Question 13: Calculating Distance Over Time

Find the total distance over 10 minutes

Solution:

To find the total distance traveled by the eagle over a period of 10 minutes, we compute the arc length:

$$\text{Distance} = \int_0^{10} |\vec{r}'(t)| dt = \int_0^{10} 269.3 dt.$$

Evaluating the integral:

$$\text{Distance} = 269.3 \cdot (10 - 0) = 2693 \text{ feet.}$$

Thus, over 10 minutes, the eagle travels approximately 2693 feet.

Definition 1.14.2: Arc Length Function

The arc length function, denoted by $S(t)$, is defined as:

$$S(t) = \text{distance traveled along the curve from } t = a.$$

It is given by the integral:

$$S(t) = \int_a^t |\vec{r}'(s)| \, ds.$$

This function essentially converts the vector quantity $\vec{r}(t)$ into a 1-dimensional scalar that measures the total distance traveled without considering direction.

The arc length function $S(t)$ effectively flattens the vector $\vec{r}(t)$ into a scalar by integrating the magnitude of the velocity vector $\vec{r}'(s)$ over the interval $[a, t]$.

Example 1.14.1 (Application: Reparametrization by Arc Length)

One common use of the arc length function is to reparametrize the curve so that it is traveled at unit speed.

Given the inverse function of $S(t)$, denoted as $S^{-1}(t)$, we wish to compare:

$$\vec{r}(S^{-1}(t)) \quad \text{with} \quad \vec{r}(t).$$

If $S(t)$ is given by:

$$S(t) = \int_a^t |\vec{r}'(p)| \, dp,$$

then $S'(t) = |\vec{r}'(t)|$.

To differentiate $\vec{r}(S^{-1}(t))$, we use the chain rule:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \vec{r}(S^{-1}(t)) = \frac{1}{S'(S^{-1}(t))} \vec{r}'(S^{-1}(t)).$$

Since $S'(S^{-1}(t)) = |\vec{r}'(S^{-1}(t))|$, we have:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \vec{r}(S^{-1}(t)) = \frac{\vec{r}'(S^{-1}(t))}{|\vec{r}'(S^{-1}(t))|}.$$

This shows that the derivative of $\vec{r}(S^{-1}(t))$ is a unit vector, implying that $\vec{r}(S^{-1}(t))$ describes the same curve as $\vec{r}(t)$, but at unit speed.

By reparametrizing the curve with respect to arc length, we achieve a uniform traversal of the curve at constant unit speed. The transformation $\vec{r}(S^{-1}(t))$ provides a way to describe the geometry of the curve without the influence of varying speed.

Question 14: Worked Example

Consider the position of an eagle as it spirals upward over time. The position vector $\vec{r}(t)$ is given by:

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle 250 \cos(t), 250 \sin(t), 100t \rangle \quad (\text{in feet}),$$

where t is in minutes.

Step 1: Find the Speed of the Eagle

The velocity vector is obtained by differentiating the position vector:

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \langle -250 \sin(t), 250 \cos(t), 100 \rangle.$$

The speed is the magnitude of the velocity vector:

$$|\vec{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{(-250 \sin(t))^2 + (250 \cos(t))^2 + 100^2} = \sqrt{62500 + 10000} = 269.3 \quad (\text{feet per minute}).$$

Step 2: Arc Length Function $S(t)$

To find the arc length function $S(t)$, which represents the distance traveled along the curve from $t = 0$ to $t = t$:

$$S(t) = \int_0^t |\vec{r}'(p)| \, dp.$$

Since the speed is constant:

$$S(t) = \int_0^t 269.3 \, dp = 269.3t.$$

Thus, at time t , the eagle has traveled $269.3t$ feet.

Step 3: Reparametrize by Arc Length

The inverse of the arc length function $S(t)$, denoted as $S^{-1}(t)$, is given by:

$$S^{-1}(t) = \frac{t}{269.3}.$$

Now, to reparametrize the curve by arc length, we substitute $S^{-1}(t)$ into the original position vector $\vec{r}(t)$:

$$\vec{r}(S^{-1}(t)) = \left\langle 250 \cos\left(\frac{t}{269.3}\right), 250 \sin\left(\frac{t}{269.3}\right), 100 \frac{t}{269.3} \right\rangle.$$

Interpretation

This reparametrization gives the position of the eagle as a function of the distance traveled (in feet), rather than as a function of time. It provides a way to describe the motion of the eagle along the curve such that the eagle is moving at a constant speed of 1 foot per unit of time.

1.15 Curvature of a Vector-Valued Function

Curvature is a measure of the "sharpness" or "bendiness" of a curve. For a smooth curve given by a vector-valued function $\vec{r}(t)$, the curvature at a point is related to how quickly the direction of the curve is changing.

1.15.1 Osculating Circle

The concept of curvature is closely tied to the idea of an **osculating circle**. At any point on the curve, the osculating circle is the circle that best approximates the curve's curvature at that point. This circle: - Has the same tangent as the curve $\vec{r}(t)$ at the point $\vec{r}(t_0)$. - Its radius is a measure of the "tightness" of the curve's bend at that point.

The radius of the osculating circle is denoted as:

$$R(t),$$

where $R(t)$ is the radius of curvature of the curve at time t .

Curvature $\kappa(t)$

The curvature $\kappa(t)$ of the curve $\vec{r}(t)$ at the point $\vec{r}(t_0)$ is defined as the reciprocal of the radius of the osculating circle:

$$\kappa(t) = \frac{1}{R(t)}.$$

A smaller radius $R(t)$ indicates a tighter bend and thus a larger curvature $\kappa(t)$, whereas a larger radius corresponds to a gentler curve and smaller curvature.

The osculating circle provides a geometric interpretation of curvature, serving as the best circular approximation to the curve at any given point. The curvature $\kappa(t)$ quantifies how sharply the curve bends at that point, with the relationship:

$$\kappa(t) = \frac{1}{R(t)}.$$

Definition 1.15.1: Osculating Circle of a Straight Line

A straight line is a curve with no curvature. Thus, the curvature $\kappa(t)$ of a straight line is zero at all points. To understand why, consider the definition of the osculating circle.

For any curve $\vec{r}(t)$, the osculating circle at a point $\vec{r}(t_0)$ is defined as the circle that "best fits" the curve at that point. Mathematically, this means:

$$\kappa(t) = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\text{change in angle}}{\text{arc length}},$$

where $\kappa(t)$ is the curvature of the curve. However, for a straight line, the change in angle is always zero, so:

$$\kappa(t) = 0.$$

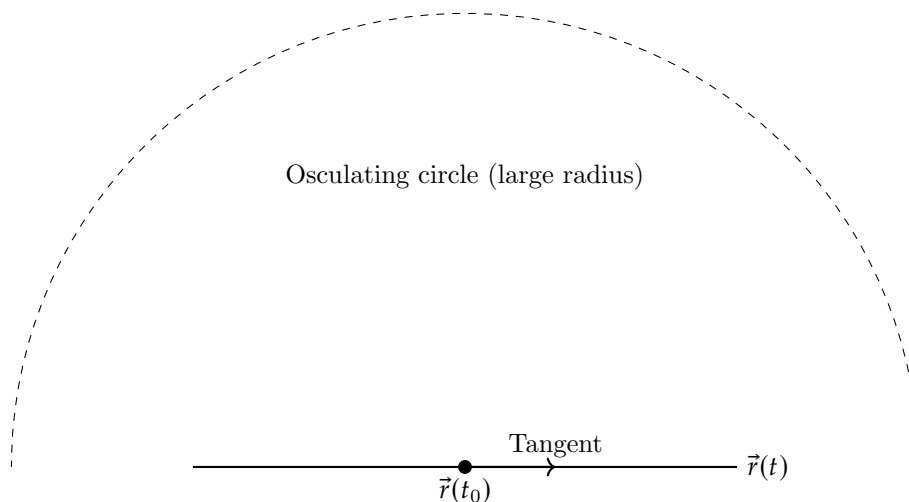
Since curvature is the reciprocal of the radius of the osculating circle $R(t)$, a zero curvature implies an infinite radius:

$$R(t) = \frac{1}{\kappa(t)} \rightarrow \infty.$$

Therefore, the osculating circle of a straight line is effectively a circle with infinite radius, meaning it is "flattened" into a straight line.

Diagram

Below is a diagram to illustrate the concept of the osculating circle of a straight line:



The dashed arc represents the osculating circle with an infinitely large radius, approximating the straight line at $\vec{r}(t_0)$.

To approach the concept of osculating circles for vector-valued functions, we break down the analysis into four key points:

1. Tangent Vector at t_0

The tangent vector to the curve at time t_0 is given by:

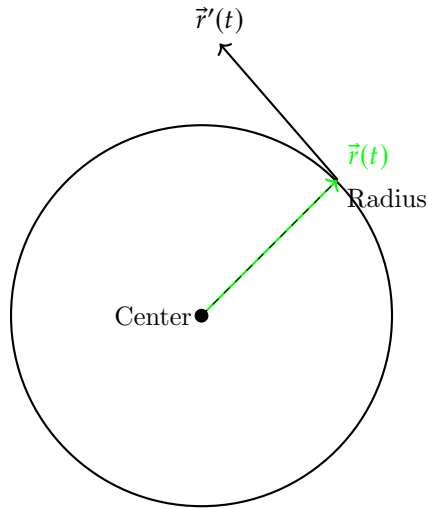
$$\vec{T}(t) = \frac{\vec{r}'(t)}{|\vec{r}'(t)|}.$$

This vector is the unit tangent vector at any point on the curve.

2. If $\vec{r}(t)$ Describes a Circle

Suppose that $\vec{r}(t)$ describes a circular path. In this case:

- The vector $\vec{r}(t)$ is always parallel to the radius of the circle.
- The velocity vector $\vec{r}'(t)$ is also perpendicular to $\vec{r}(t)$.



3. Acceleration Vector $\vec{a}(t)$

For a circular path, the acceleration vector $\vec{a}(t)$ points toward the center of the circle. Hence,

$\vec{a}(t)$ is opposite to $\vec{r}(t)$ and directed towards the center.

This implies:

$$\vec{a}(t) \perp \vec{r}'(t), \quad \vec{a}(t) \perp \vec{T}(t).$$

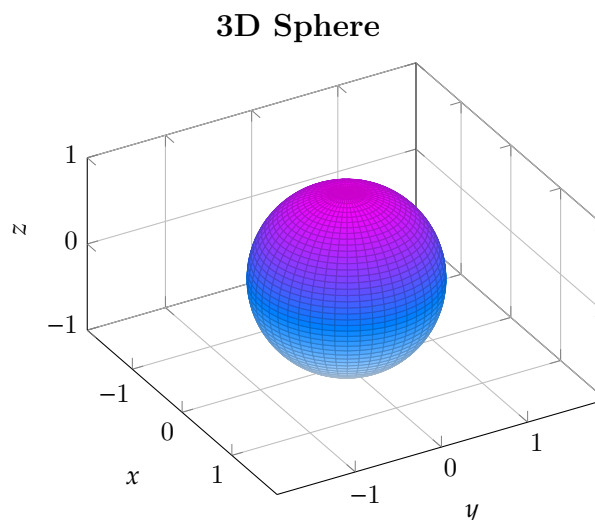
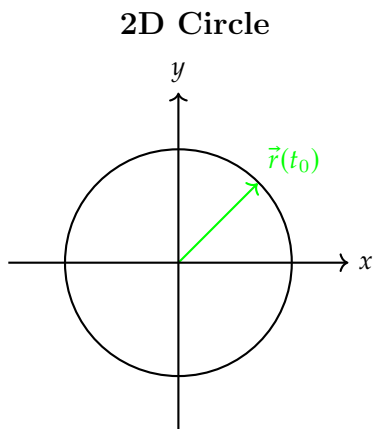
4. Constant Speed and Perpendicularity

Suppose that $\vec{r}(t)$ describes a curve with constant speed:

$$|\vec{r}'(t)| = C, \quad C \in \mathbb{R}.$$

For both 2D and 3D, the curve will either be a circle or a sphere with a fixed radius. The velocity and acceleration vectors, $\vec{r}'(t)$ and $\vec{a}(t)$, maintain a perpendicular relationship:

$$\vec{r}(t) \cdot \vec{v}(t) = 0.$$



Deriving the Perpendicularity

Let $\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t)$ be the velocity vector. Then:

$$\vec{r}'(t) \cdot \vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} (\vec{r} \cdot \vec{r}).$$

Differentiating:

$$= \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} (|\vec{r}'(t)|^2) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d}{dt} C^2 = 0,$$

since C is constant.

Therefore, if $|\vec{r}'(t)| = C$, then:

$$\vec{v}(t) \perp \vec{r}(t).$$

Calculating Curvature

1.15.2 Case 1: $\vec{r}(t)$ travels at unit speed around a circle

We consider the position vector $\vec{r}(t)$ traveling at unit speed around a circle of radius R .

$$\vec{r}(t) = \left\langle R \cos\left(\frac{t}{R}\right), R \sin\left(\frac{t}{R}\right), 0 \right\rangle$$

The velocity vector $\vec{v}(t)$ is then the derivative of the position vector:

$$\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t) = \left\langle -\sin\left(\frac{t}{R}\right), \cos\left(\frac{t}{R}\right), 0 \right\rangle$$

Note that the magnitude of the velocity vector is 1 (unit speed):

$$|\vec{v}(t)| = 1$$

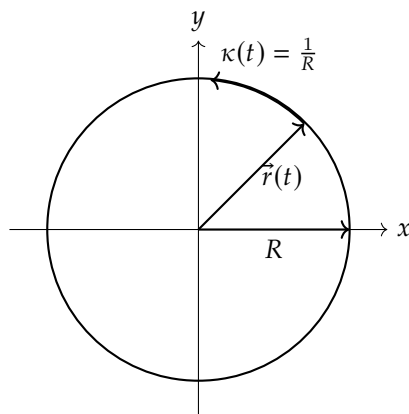
The acceleration vector $\vec{a}(t)$, which is the second derivative of the position vector, is given by:

$$\vec{a}(t) = \vec{r}''(t) = \left\langle -\frac{1}{R} \cos\left(\frac{t}{R}\right), -\frac{1}{R} \sin\left(\frac{t}{R}\right), 0 \right\rangle$$

Definition 1.15.2: The curvature $\kappa(t)$ of the circle

The magnitude of the acceleration vector (centripetal acceleration) is:

$$\kappa(t) = |\vec{r}''(t)| = \frac{1}{R}$$



Note:-

- $\vec{r}(t)$ represents the position of a point moving around a circle of radius R .
- The velocity vector $\vec{v}(t)$ is orthogonal to $\vec{r}(t)$ and has a constant magnitude, indicating uniform circular motion.
- The acceleration vector $\vec{a}(t)$ points towards the center of the circle (centripetal acceleration) and its magnitude is inversely proportional to the radius R , showing that a smaller radius corresponds to a greater acceleration.
- The curvature $\kappa(t)$ is defined as the reciprocal of the radius of the circle, $\frac{1}{R}$.

1.15.3 Case 2: General Curve with Unit Speed

Consider a curve given by the position vector $\vec{r}(t)$, which travels at unit speed along a general curve. This means that the magnitude of the velocity vector is constant:

$$|\vec{v}(t)| = 1.$$

Since the speed is constant, the acceleration vector $\vec{a}(t)$ is orthogonal to the velocity vector:

$$\vec{v}(t) \cdot \vec{a}(t) = 0.$$

This implies that all changes in $\vec{a}(t)$ are perpendicular to the direction of motion (velocity), which aligns with the properties of motion at unit speed.

Claim 1.15.1 Acceleration and the Osculating Circle

The acceleration vector $\vec{a}(t)$ is directed towards the center of curvature of the curve at each point, and its magnitude is related to the curvature. In fact, the acceleration "matches" the behavior of the osculating circle at that point. The osculating circle is the circle that best approximates the curve locally, and its radius of curvature R is inversely proportional to the curvature.

Theorem 1.15.1 Curvature and Acceleration

The curvature $\kappa(t)$ of the curve at time t is defined as the magnitude of the acceleration vector:

$$\kappa(t) = |\vec{a}(t)|.$$

This provides a measure of how sharply the curve is bending at any given point. Since the speed is unitary, the curvature directly corresponds to the acceleration's magnitude.

Example 1.15.1 (Matching the Curve with Its Osculating Circle)

The osculating circle at a point on the curve is chosen so that its first and second derivatives match the

curve's first and second derivatives, respectively:

Choose circle $\vec{C}(t)$ such that $\vec{C}'(t)$ and $\vec{C}''(t)$ match $\vec{r}'(t)$ and $\vec{r}''(t)$.

This ensures that the circle is the best local approximation to the curve at that point, providing insight into the curve's behavior through the curvature.

1.15.4 Case 3: General Curve with Variable Speed

In this case, we analyze a general curve with a variable speed. Unlike the previous case, the magnitude of the velocity vector is not constant:

$$|\vec{v}(t)| \neq 1.$$

This implies that the curve's speed is not uniform, and therefore, the analysis of the curvature will require a different approach.

Let $s(t)$ be the arc length parameter, which is a function of t . The position vector can be reparameterized in terms of arc length:

$$\vec{r}(s^{-1}(t)),$$

where $s^{-1}(t)$ is the inverse function of $s(t)$.

Theorem 1.15.2 Calculating Curvature $\kappa(t)$

To find the curvature, we introduce a parameter t_0 , which satisfies $t_0 = s^{-1}(t)$. Thus, we have:

$$s^{-1}(t_0) = t.$$

The curvature $\kappa(t)$ is then given by:

$$\kappa(t) = \left| \frac{d}{dt_0} \vec{T}(s^{-1}(t_0)) \right|,$$

where $\vec{T}(t)$ is the unit tangent vector.

This can be rewritten as:

$$\kappa(t) = \left| \frac{\frac{d}{dt} \vec{r}(s^{-1}(t))}{|\vec{r}'(s^{-1}(t))|} \right| = \left| \frac{\vec{T}'(s^{-1}(t_0))}{|\vec{r}'(s^{-1}(t_0))|} \right|.$$

The final expression for the curvature is:

$$\kappa(t) = \frac{|\vec{T}'(t)|}{|\vec{r}'(t)|}$$

where $\vec{T}(t) = \frac{\vec{r}'(t)}{|\vec{r}'(t)|}$ is the unit tangent vector to the curve.

Alternatively, the curvature can be found with

$$\kappa(t) = \frac{|\vec{a} \times \vec{v}|}{|\vec{v}|^3}, \quad \kappa(t) = \frac{1}{|\vec{v}|} \left| \frac{d\vec{T}}{dt} \right|, \quad \kappa(t) = \left| \frac{d\vec{T}}{ds} \right|$$

if $y = f(x)$ can be parametrized as

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle t, f(t), 0 \rangle,$$

where

$$x'(t) = 1, \quad x''(t) = 0.$$

This parametrization gives the curvature κ of the curve as

$$\kappa(t) = \frac{|y''(x)|}{(1 + (y'(x))^2)^{3/2}}.$$