Solutions to the book: do Carmo, Differential Geometry of Curves and Surfaces

Meng-Gen Tsai plover@gmail.com

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Chapter 1: Curves

1-1. Introduction

Classical differential geometry: the study of local properties of curves and surfaces.

Global differential geometry: the study of the influence of the local properties on the behavior of the entire curve and surface.

No exercises.

1-2. Parametrized Curves

Exercise 1-2.1.

Find a parametrized curve $\alpha(t)$ whose trace is the circle $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ such that $\alpha(t)$ runs clockwise around the circle with $\alpha(0) = (0,1)$.

Proof. $\alpha(t) = (\sin t, \cos t), t \in \mathbb{R}$. \square

Exercise 1-2.2.

Let $\alpha(t)$ be a parametrized curve which does not pass through the origin. If $\alpha(t_0)$ is the point of the trace of α closest to the origin and $\alpha'(t_0) \neq 0$, show that the position vector $\alpha(t_0)$ is orthogonal to $\alpha'(t_0)$.

Proof. Let $f(t) = |\alpha(t)|^2 = \alpha(t) \cdot \alpha(t)$. f(t) is differentiable and f(t) has a local minimum at a point $t = t_0 \in I$. So $f'(t_0) = 0$. [Theorem 5.8 in W. Rudin, Principles of Mathematical Analysis, 3rd edition.] Since

$$f'(t) = 2\alpha(t) \cdot \alpha'(t),$$

 $f'(t_0) = 2\alpha(t_0) \cdot \alpha'(t_0) = 0$, or $\alpha(t_0) \cdot \alpha'(t_0) = 0$. Since $\alpha(t_0) \neq 0$ and $\alpha'(t_0) \neq 0$, $\alpha(t_0)$ is orthogonal to $\alpha'(t_0)$. \square

Exercise 1-2.3.

A parametrized curve $\alpha(t)$ has a property that its second derivative $\alpha''(t)$ is identically zero. What can be said about α ?

Proof.

- (1) $\alpha(t)$ is a straight line.
- (2) Since $\alpha''(t)$ is identically zero, $\alpha'(t) = a$ is a constant. [Theorem 5.11 in W. Rudin, Principles of Mathematical Analysis, 3rd edition.] Define $f(t) = \alpha(t) at$ (on I). Since $f'(t) = \alpha'(t) a = 0$, $f(t) = \alpha(t) at = b$ is a constant again. Therefore, $\alpha(t) = at + b$, which is a straight line (on I).

Exercise 1-2.4.

Let $\alpha: I \to \mathbb{R}^3$ be a parametrized curve and let $v \in \mathbb{R}^3$ be a fixed vector. Assume that $\alpha'(t)$ is orthogonal to v for all $t \in I$ and that $\alpha(0)$ is orthogonal to v. Prove that $\alpha(t)$ is orthogonal to v for all $t \in I$.

Need to assume that $\alpha(t) \neq 0$ for all $t \in I$.

Proof. Given any $t \neq 0 \in I$. (Nothing to do at t = 0.) Define $f: I \to \mathbb{R}$ by $f(t) = \alpha(t) \cdot v$. By the mean value theorem, there exists a point ξ between 0 and t such that

$$f(t) - f(0) = f'(\xi)(t - 0),$$

where $f'(t) = \alpha'(t) \cdot v + \alpha(t) \cdot v' = \alpha'(t) \cdot v$. Note that f(0) = 0 since $\alpha(0)$ is orthogonal to v, and $f'(\xi) = 0$ since $\alpha'(t)$ is orthogonal to v. So the identity is reduced to

$$f(t) = 0$$
,

or $\alpha(t) \cdot v = 0$, or $\alpha(t)$ is orthogonal to v. \square

Exercise 1-2.5.

Let $\alpha: I \to \mathbb{R}^3$ be a parametrized curve, with $\alpha'(t) \neq 0$ for all $t \in I$. Show that $|\alpha(t)|$ is a nonzero constant if and only if $\alpha(t)$ is orthogonal to $\alpha'(t)$ for all $t \in I$.

The same trick in Exercise 1-2.2.

Proof. It is equivalent to show that $|\alpha(t)|^2$ is a nonzero constant if and only if $\alpha(t)$ is orthogonal to $\alpha'(t)$ for all $t \in I$. Let

$$f(t) = |\alpha(t)|^2 = \alpha(t) \cdot \alpha(t).$$

Notice that $\alpha'(t) \neq 0$, and thus

 $|\alpha(t)|$ is a nonzero constant $\iff f(t) = |\alpha(t)|^2$ is a nonzero constant $\iff f'(t) = 0$ and f(t) is a nonzero constant $\iff \alpha(t) \cdot \alpha'(t) = 0$ and $\alpha(t)$ is a nonzero constant $\iff \alpha(t)$ is orthogonal to $\alpha'(t)$ for all $t \in I$.

1-3. Regular Curves; Arc Length

Exercise 1-3.1.

Show that the tangent lines to the regular parametrized curve $\alpha(t) = (3t, 3t^2, 2t^3)$ make a constant angle with the line y = 0, z = x.

Proof. $\alpha'(t) = (3, 6t, 6t^2)$. The line y = 0, z = x is $\beta(t) = (1, 0, 1)$. The cosine of the angle θ between these to curves is

$$\cos \theta = \frac{(3,6t,6t^2) \cdot (1,0,1)}{|(3,6t,6t^2)||(1,0,1)|}$$

$$= \frac{3+6t^2}{\sqrt{3^2+(6t)^2+(6t^2)^2}\sqrt{2}}$$

$$= \frac{3+6t^2}{\sqrt{9+36t^2+36t^4}\sqrt{2}}$$

$$= \frac{3+6t^2}{\sqrt{(3+6t^2)^2}\sqrt{2}}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}.$$

(Notice $3+6t^2>0$ for all $t\in\mathbb{R}$.) That is, the angle between α' and β is a constant $(=\pi/4)$. \square

Exercise 1-3.2. (Cycloid)

A circular disk of radius 1 in the plane xy rolls without slipping along the x axis. The figure described by a point of the circumference of of the disk is called a **cycloid** (Figure 1-7 in Mantredo P. do Carmo, Differential Geometry of Curves and Surfaces).

- (a) Obtain a parametrized curve $\alpha : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^2$ the trace of which is the cycloid and determine its singular points.
- (b) Compute the arc length of the cycloid corresponding to a complete rotation of the disk.

Proof of (a).

(1) Since

$$\begin{cases} x = t - \sin t \\ y = 1 - \cos t, \end{cases}$$

we define $\alpha(t) = (t - \sin t, 1 - \cos t)$.

(2) $\alpha'(t) = (1 - \cos t, \sin t)$. $\alpha'(t) = 0$ if and only if $t = 2n\pi$ where $n \in \mathbb{Z}$. That is, all singular points are $\alpha(2n\pi) = (2n\pi, 0)$ where $n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

 $Proof\ of\ (b).$ The arc length of the cycloid corresponding to a complete rotation of the disk is

$$\int_0^{2\pi} |\alpha'(t)| dt = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{(1 - \cos t)^2 + (\sin t)^2} dt$$

$$= \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{2} \sqrt{1 - \cos t} dt$$

$$= \int_0^{2\pi} 2 \sin \frac{t}{2} dt$$

$$= \left[-4 \cos \frac{t}{2} \right]_{t=0}^{t=2\pi}$$

$$= 8$$

Supplement. The cycloid is not an algebraic curve.

Exercise 1-3.3. (Cissoid of Diocles)

Let 0A = 2a be the diameter of a circle \mathbb{S}^1 and 0Y and AV be the tangents to \mathbb{S}^1 at 0 and A, respectively. A half-line r is drawn from 0 which meets the circle \mathbb{S}^1 at C and the line AV at B. On 0B mark off the segment 0p = CB. If we rotate r about 0, the point p will describe a curve called the **cissoid of Diocles**. By taking 0A as the x axis and 0Y as the y axis, prove that

(a) The tract of

$$\alpha(t) = \left(\frac{2at^2}{1+t^2}, \frac{2at^3}{1+t^2}\right), \qquad t \in \mathbb{R},$$

is the cissoid of Diocles ($t = \tan \theta$; see Figure 1-8 in Mantredo P. do Carmo, Differential Geometry of Curves and Surfaces).

- (b) The origin (0,0) is a singular point of the cissoid.
- (c) As $t \to \infty$, $\alpha(t)$ approaches the line x = 2a, and $\alpha'(t) \to (0, 2a)$. Thus, as $t \to \infty$, the curve and its tangent approach the line x = 2a; we say that x = 2a is an **asymptote** to the cissoid.

Proof of (a).

(1) The polar equations of the circle \mathbb{S}^1 and the half-line r is

$$r = 2a\cos\theta,$$

$$r = 2a \sec \theta$$
,

respectively.

(2) By construction, the polar equation of the cissoid is

$$r = 2a \sec \theta - 2a \cos \theta = 2a \frac{\sin^2 \theta}{\cos \theta} = 2a \sin \theta \tan \theta.$$

(3) Put $t = \tan \theta$, we have

$$x = r\cos\theta = 2a\sin^2\theta = \frac{2at^2}{1+t^2},$$

$$y = r\sin\theta = tx = \frac{2at^3}{1+t^2}.$$

So

$$\alpha(t) = (x,y) = \left(\frac{2at^2}{1+t^2}, \frac{2at^3}{1+t^2}\right).$$

Supplement. The cissoid is an algebraic curve $=V((x^2+y^2)x=2ay^2)$.

Proof of (b). Note that $\alpha(0) = (0,0)$ and

$$\alpha'(t) = \left(\frac{4at}{(t^2+1)^2}, \frac{2at^2(t^2+3)}{(t^2+1)^2}\right).$$

Hence $\alpha'(0) = (0,0)$. That is, (0,0) is a singular point of the cissoid. (In fact, the origin is the unique singular point of the cissoid.) \square

Proof of (c).

(1) Note that

$$\begin{split} &\lim_{t\to\pm\infty}x(t)=\lim_{t\to\pm\infty}\frac{2at^2}{1+t^2}=2a,\\ &\lim_{t\to\pm\infty}y(t)=\lim_{t\to\pm\infty}\frac{2at^3}{1+t^2}=\pm\infty. \end{split}$$

Hence, $\alpha(t)$ approaches the line x = 2a as $t \to \pm \infty$.

(2) Similarly,

$$\lim_{t \to \pm \infty} x'(t) = \lim_{t \to \pm \infty} \frac{4at}{(t^2 + 1)^2} = 0,$$

$$\lim_{t \to \pm \infty} y'(t) = \lim_{t \to \pm \infty} \frac{2at^2(t^2 + 3)}{(t^2 + 1)^2} = 2a.$$

Therefore, $\alpha'(t) \to (0, 2a)$ as $t \to \pm \infty$.

(3) By (1)(2), the curve and its tangent approach the line x=2a as $t\to\pm\infty$, or x=2a is an asymptote to the cissoid.

Exercise 1-3.4. (Tractrix)

Let $\alpha:(0,\pi)\to\mathbb{R}^2$ be given by

$$\alpha(t) = \left(\sin t, \cos t + \log \tan \frac{t}{2}\right),$$

where t is the angle that the y axis makes with the vector $\alpha(t)$. The trace of α is called the **tractrix**. (Figure 1-9 in Mantredo P. do Carmo, Differential Geometry of Curves and Surfaces). Show that

- (a) α is a differentiable parametrized curve, regular except at $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$.
- (b) The length of the segment of the tangent of the tractrix between the point of tangency and the y axis is constantly equal to 1.

Proof of (a).

$$\alpha'(t) = \left(\cos t, -\sin t + \frac{1}{\tan\frac{t}{2}} \frac{1}{\cos^2\frac{t}{2}} \frac{1}{2}\right)$$
$$= \left(\cos t, -\sin t + \frac{1}{2\sin\frac{t}{2}\cos\frac{t}{2}}\right)$$
$$= \left(\cos t, \frac{\cos^2 t}{\sin t}\right)$$

exists. And $\alpha'(t) = 0$ if and only if $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$. That is, there is an unique singular point at $t = \frac{\pi}{2}$. \square

Proof of (b). The the tangent line of the tractrix through the regular point t is parametrized by $\beta : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}^2$ which is defined by

$$\begin{split} \beta(u) &= u\alpha'(t) + \alpha(t) \\ &= \left(u\cos t + \sin t, u\frac{\cos^2 t}{\sin t} + \cos t + \log\tan\frac{t}{2}\right). \end{split}$$

By construction, this tangent line $\beta(u)$ meets the tractrix at u=0, and meets the y-axis when $u\cos t + \sin t = 0$ or $u=-\tan t$. So the length of the segment is

$$|\beta(0) - \beta(-\tan t)| = \sqrt{(-\tan t \cos t)^2 + \left(-\tan t \frac{\cos^2 t}{\sin t}\right)^2}$$
$$= \sqrt{(\sin t)^2 + (\cos t)^2}$$
$$= 1.$$

Exercise 1-3.5. (Folium of Descartes)

Let $\alpha:(-1,+\infty)\to\mathbb{R}^2$ be given by

$$\alpha(t) = \left(\frac{3at}{1+t^3}, \frac{3at^2}{1+t^3}\right).$$

Prove that:

- (a) For t = 0, α is tangent to the x axis.
- (b) As $t \to +\infty$, $\alpha(t) \to (0,0)$ and $\alpha'(t) = (0,0)$.
- (c) Take the curve the the opposite orientation. Now, as $t \to -1$, the curve and its tangent approach the line x + y + a = 0.

The figure obtained by completing the trace of α in such a way that it becomes symmetric relative the line y = x is called the **folium of Descartes** (See Figure 1-10 in Mantredo P. do Carmo, Differential Geometry of Curves and Surfaces).

Proof of (a). Note that

$$\alpha'(t) = \left(\frac{3a(1-2t^3)}{(1+t^3)^2}, \frac{3at(2-t^3)}{(1+t^3)^2}\right).$$

Hence, $\alpha'(0) = (3a, 0)$, or α is tangent to the x axis when t = 0. \square

Proof of (b).

(1)

$$\begin{split} \lim_{t\to +\infty} \alpha(t) &= \lim_{t\to +\infty} \left(\frac{3at}{1+t^3}, \frac{3at^2}{1+t^3}\right) \\ &= \left(\lim_{t\to +\infty} \frac{3at}{1+t^3}, \lim_{t\to +\infty} \frac{3at^2}{1+t^3}\right) \\ &= (0,0). \end{split}$$

(2)

$$\lim_{t \to +\infty} \alpha'(t) = \lim_{t \to +\infty} \left(\frac{3a(1 - 2t^3)}{(1 + t^3)^2}, \frac{3at(2 - t^3)}{(1 + t^3)^2} \right)$$

$$= \left(\lim_{t \to +\infty} \frac{3a(1 - 2t^3)}{(1 + t^3)^2}, \lim_{t \to +\infty} \frac{3at(2 - t^3)}{(1 + t^3)^2} \right)$$

$$= (0, 0).$$

Proof of (c).

(1) Note that

$$\lim_{t \to -1^{+}} \alpha(t) = \lim_{t \to -1^{+}} \left(\frac{3at}{1+t^{3}}, \frac{3at^{2}}{1+t^{3}} \right)$$

$$= \left(\lim_{t \to -1^{+}} \frac{3at}{1+t^{3}}, \lim_{t \to -1^{+}} \frac{3at^{2}}{1+t^{3}} \right)$$

$$= (-\infty, +\infty)$$

and

$$\begin{split} \lim_{t \to -1^+} (x(t) + y(t)) &= \lim_{t \to -1^+} \left(\frac{3at}{1 + t^3} + \frac{3at^2}{1 + t^3} \right) \\ &= \lim_{t \to -1^+} \frac{3at}{1 - t + t^2} \\ &= -a. \end{split}$$

Therefore, as $t \to -1$, the curve approaches the line x + y + a = 0.

(2) Note that

$$\lim_{t \to -1^{+}} \frac{y'(t)}{x'(t)} = \lim_{t \to -1^{+}} \frac{\frac{3a(1-2t^{3})}{(1+t^{3})^{2}}}{\frac{3at(2-t^{3})}{(1+t^{3})^{2}}}$$

$$= \lim_{t \to -1^{+}} \frac{1-2t^{3}}{t(2-t^{3})}$$

$$= -1.$$

Hence, as $t \to -1$, its tangent also approaches the line x + y + a = 0.

Exercise 1-3.6. (Logarithmic spiral)

Let $\alpha(t) = (ae^{bt}\cos t, ae^{bt}\sin t)$, $t \in \mathbb{R}$, a and b constants, a > 0, b < 0, be a parametrized curve.

- (a) Show that as $t \to +\infty$, $\alpha(t)$ approaches the origin 0, spiraling around it (because of this, the trace of α is called the **logarithmic spiral**; See Figure 1-11 in Mantredo P. do Carmo, Differential Geometry of Curves and Surfaces).
- (b) Show that $\alpha'(t) \to (0,0)$ as $t \to +\infty$ and that

$$\lim_{t \to +\infty} \int_{t_0}^t |\alpha'(t)| dt$$

is finite; that is, α has finite arc length in $[t_0, \infty)$.

Proof of (a).

(1) Note that

$$\lim_{t \to +\infty} x(t) = \lim_{t \to +\infty} \frac{\overbrace{a \cos t}^{\text{bounded}}}{\underbrace{e^{-bt}}_{\to +\infty}} = 0$$

and $\lim_{t\to+\infty} y(t) = 0$ (by the similar argument). Hence $\alpha(t)$ approaches the origin 0 as $t\to+\infty$.

(2) $\alpha(t) = (ae^{bt}\cos t, ae^{bt}\sin t)$ is moving in counter-clockwise on a circle path and sweeping out a length ae^{bt} as t is moving from t_0 to $+\infty$. Note that $t \mapsto ae^{bt}$ is decreasing strictly (as t is moving from t_0 to $+\infty$). Hence α spiraling around the origin.

Proof of (b).

(1) Note that

$$\alpha'(t) = (ae^{bt}(\underbrace{b\cos t - \sin t}_{\text{bounded}}), ae^{bt}(\underbrace{b\sin t + \cos t}_{\text{bounded}})).$$

As $t \to +\infty$, $\alpha'(t) \to (0,0)$.

(2) As

$$\int_{t_0}^{+\infty} |\alpha'(t)| dt = \int_{t_0}^{+\infty} ae^{bt} \sqrt{b^2 + 1} dt$$

$$= \left[\frac{a}{b} e^{bt} \sqrt{b^2 + 1} \right]_{t=t_0}^{t=+\infty}$$

$$= -\frac{a}{b} e^{bt_0} \sqrt{b^2 + 1}$$

$$< +\infty,$$

 α has finite arc length in $[t_0, \infty)$.

Exercise 1-3.7.

A map $\alpha: I \to \mathbb{R}^3$ is called **a curve of class** \mathcal{C}^k if each of the coordinate functions in the expression $\alpha(t) = (x(t), y(t), z(t))$ has continuous derivatives up to order k. If α is merely continuous, we say that α is of class \mathcal{C}^0 . A curve α is called **simple** is the map α is one-to-one. Thus, the curve $\alpha(t) = (t^3 - 4t, t^2 - 4)$ $(t \in \mathbb{R})$ is not simple.

Let $\alpha: I \to \mathbb{R}^3$ be a simple curve of class \mathcal{C}^0 . We say that α has a **weak tangent** at $t = t_0 \in I$ if the line determined by $\alpha(t_0 + h)$ and $\alpha(t_0)$ has a limit position when $h \to 0$. We say that α has a **strong tangent** at $t = t_0 \in I$ if the line determined by $\alpha(t_0 + h)$ and $\alpha(t_0 + k)$ has a limit position when $h, k \to 0$. Show that

- (a) $\alpha(t)=(t^3,t^2),\,t\in\mathbb{R},$ has a weak tangent but not a strong tangent at t=0.
- (b) If $\alpha: I \to \mathbb{R}^3$ is of class \mathcal{C}^1 and regular at $t = t_0$, then it has a strong tangent at $t = t_0$.
- (c) The curve given by

$$\alpha(t) = \begin{cases} (t^2, t^2), & t \ge 0, \\ (t^2, -t^2), & t \le 0, \end{cases}$$

is of class C^1 but not of class C^2 . Draw a sketch of the curve and its tangent vectors.

Proof of (a).

(1) Note that $\alpha(0)=(0,0)$ and $\alpha(h)=(h^3,h^2)$. The line passing $\alpha(0)$ and $\alpha(h)$ is

$$(x-0)(h^2-0) - (y-0)(h^3-0) = 0$$

$$\iff x - hy = 0.$$

As $h \to 0$, the line has a limit position x = 0. Therefore, $\alpha(t)$ has a weak tangent.

(2) The line passing $\alpha(h)$ and $\alpha(k)$ is

$$(x - k^2)(h^2 - k^2) - (y - k^3)(h^3 - k^3) = 0$$

$$\iff (x - k^2)(h + k) - (y - k^3)(h^2 + hk + k^2) = 0.$$

As $h \to 0$, the line has a limit position

$$(x - k^2) - (y - k^3)k = 0$$

 $\iff x - ky + k^4 - k^2 = 0.$

As $k \to 0$, the line has a limit position x = 0.

(3) On the other hand, as h=-k we have $y-k^3=0$. As $k\to 0$, the line has a limit position y=0, contrary to (2). Therefore, $\alpha(t)$ has a strong tangent.

Proof of (b).

(1) The line L passing $\alpha(t_0 + h)$ and $\alpha(t_0 + k)$ is

$$x(s) = x(t_0) + \frac{x(t_0 + h) - x(t_0 + k)}{h - k}s,$$

$$y(s) = y(t_0) + \frac{y(t_0 + h) - y(t_0 + k)}{h - k}s,$$

$$z(s) = z(t_0) + \frac{z(t_0 + h) - z(t_0 + k)}{h - k}s.$$

(2) By the mean value theorem,

$$\frac{x(t_0+h) - x(t_0+k)}{h-k} = x'(t_0+\xi)$$

for some ξ between h and k. Since $\alpha \in \mathcal{C}^1$, $x(t) \in \mathcal{C}^1$. Hence

$$\lim_{h,k\to 0} \frac{x(t_0+h) - x(t_0+k)}{h-k} = \lim_{h,k\to 0} x'(t_0+\xi)$$
$$= \lim_{\xi\to 0} x'(t_0+\xi)$$
$$= x'(t_0).$$

Similarly, we have $\lim_{h,k\to 0}\frac{y(t_0+h)-y(t_0+k)}{h-k}=y'(t_0)$ and $\lim_{h,k\to 0}\frac{z(t_0+h)-z(t_0+k)}{h-k}=z'(t_0)$. Since α is regular, $\lim_{h,k\to 0}L$ is a non degenerate line

$$x(s) = x(t_0) + x'(t_0)s,$$

 $y(s) = y(t_0) + y'(t_0)s,$
 $z(s) = z(t_0) + z'(t_0)s$

and thus $\lim_{h,k\to 0} L$ is a strong tangent at $t=t_0$.

Proof of (c).

(1) Since

$$\alpha'(t) = \begin{cases} (2t, 2t), & t \ge 0, \\ (2t, -2t), & t \le 0, \end{cases}$$

 α is of class \mathcal{C}^1 .

(2) Since

$$\alpha''(t) = \begin{cases} (2,2), & t > 0, \\ \text{undefined}, & t = 0 \\ (2,-2), & t < 0, \end{cases}$$

 α is not of class \mathcal{C}^2 .

(Skip drawing a sketch of the curve and its tangent vectors.) \square

Exercise 1-3.8.

Let $\alpha: I \to \mathbb{R}^3$ be a differentiable curve and let $[a,b] \subseteq I$ be a closed interval. For every partition

$$a = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_n = b$$

of [a, b], consider the sum

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} |\alpha(t_i) - \alpha(t_{i-1})| = l(\alpha, P),$$

where P stands for the given partition. The norm |P| of a partition P is defined as

$$|P| = \max(t_i - t_{i-1}), i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Geometrically, $l(\alpha, P)$ is the length of a polygon inscribed in $\alpha([a, b])$ with vertices in $\alpha(t_i)$ (see Figure 1-3 in Mantredo P. do Carmo, Differential Geometry of Curves and Surfaces). The point of the exercise is to show that the arc length of $\alpha([a, b])$ is, in some sense, a limit of lengths of inscribed polygons. Prove that given $\varepsilon > 0$ there exists $\delta > 0$ such that if $|P| < \delta$ then

$$\left| \int_{a}^{b} |\alpha'(t)| dt - l(\alpha, P) \right| < \varepsilon.$$

Assume that $\alpha'(t)$ is continuous.

Proof. Given $\varepsilon > 0$.

(1) Since $\alpha'(t)$ is continuous on a compact set [a, b], $\alpha'(t)$ is uniformly continuous, that is, there there exists $\delta > 0$ such that

$$|\alpha'(s) - \alpha'(t)| < \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)}$$
 whenever $|s-t| < \delta$.

(2) Let $P = \{a = t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n = b\}$ be a partition of [a, b], with $\Delta t_i = t_i - t_{i-1} < \delta$ for all $i = 1, \dots, n$. If $t_{i-1} \le t \le t_i$, it follows that

$$|\alpha'(t_i)| - \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)} \le |\alpha'(t)| \le |\alpha'(t_i)| + \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)}.$$

Hence,

$$\int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} |\alpha'(t)| dt$$

$$\geq |\alpha'(t_i)| \Delta t_i - \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)} \Delta t_i$$

$$= \left| \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} [\alpha'(t) + \alpha'(t_i) - \alpha'(t)] dt \right| - \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)} \Delta t_i$$

$$\geq \left| \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \alpha'(t) dt \right| - \left| \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} [\alpha'(t_i) - \alpha'(t)] dt \right| - \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)} \Delta t_i$$

$$\geq |\alpha(t_i) - \alpha(t_{i-1})| - \frac{\varepsilon}{b-a} \Delta t_i$$

and

$$\int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} |\alpha'(t)| dt
\leq |\alpha'(t_i)| \Delta t_i + \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)} \Delta t_i
= \left| \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} [\alpha'(t) + \alpha'(t_i) - \alpha'(t)] dt \right| + \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)} \Delta t_i
\leq \left| \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} \alpha'(t) dt \right| + \left| \int_{t_{i-1}}^{t_i} [\alpha'(t_i) - \alpha'(t)] dt \right| + \frac{\varepsilon}{2(b-a)} \Delta t_i
\leq |\alpha(t_i) - \alpha(t_{i-1})| + \frac{\varepsilon}{b-a} \Delta t_i.$$

(3) If we add these inequalities, we obtain

$$l(\alpha, P) - \varepsilon \le \int_a^b |\alpha'(t)| dt \le l(\alpha, P) + \varepsilon.$$

Exercise 1-3.9.

- (a) Let $\alpha: I \to \mathbb{R}^3$ be a curve of class \mathcal{C}^0 (compare Exercise 1-3.7). Use the approximation by polygons described in Exercise 1-3.8 to give a reasonable definition of arc length of α .
- (b) (A Nonrectifiable Curve.) The following example shows that, with any reasonable definition, the arc length of a C^0 curve in a closed interval may be unbounded. Let $\alpha:[0,1]\to\mathbb{R}^2$ be given as $\alpha(t)=(t,t\sin(\frac{\pi}{t}))$ if $t\neq 0$, and $\alpha(0)=(0,0)$. Show, geometrically, that the arc length of the portion of the curve corresponding to $\frac{1}{n+1}\leq t\leq \frac{1}{n}$ is at least $\frac{2}{n+\frac{1}{2}}$. Use this to show that the length of curve in the interval $\frac{1}{N}\leq t\leq 1$ is greater than $2\sum_{n=1}^{N-1}\frac{1}{n+1}$, and thus it tends to infinity as $N\to\infty$.

Proof of (a). Define

$$l(\alpha) = \sup\{l(\alpha, P) : P \text{ is a partition of } [a, b]\}.$$

Note. (Theorem 6.17 in Tom. M. Apostol, Mathematical Analysis, 2nd edition.). α is rectifiable if and only α is of bounded variation on [a, b].

Proof of (b).

- (1) Consider a partition $P = \left\{\frac{1}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n+\frac{1}{2}}, \frac{1}{n}\right\}$ of $\left[\frac{1}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n}\right]$. So that $\alpha(\frac{1}{n+1}) = \alpha(\frac{1}{n}) = 0$ and $\alpha(\frac{1}{n+\frac{1}{2}}) = \pm 1$.
- (2) Thus,

The arc length of the portion of α over $\left[\frac{1}{n+1}, \frac{1}{n}\right]$

 \geq The sum of each length of the individual chords

$$= \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n+\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{1}{n+1}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{n+\frac{1}{2}}\right)^2} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+\frac{1}{2}}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1}{n+\frac{1}{2}}\right)^2}$$

$$\geq \frac{2}{n+\frac{1}{2}}.$$

(3) So

The arc length of
$$\alpha$$
 over $\left[\frac{1}{N},1\right]$

$$=\sum_{n=1}^{N-1}\left\{\text{The arc length of }\alpha\text{ over }\left[\frac{1}{n+1},\frac{1}{n}\right]\right\}$$

$$\geq\sum_{n=1}^{N-1}\frac{2}{n+\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$>2\sum_{n=1}^{N-1}\frac{1}{n+1}.$$

It tends to infinity as $N \to \infty$, or α is nonrectifiable.

Exercise 1-3.10. (Straight Lines as Shortest)

Let $\alpha:I\to\mathbb{R}^3$ be a parametrized curve. Let $[a,b]\subseteq I$ and set $\alpha(a)=p,$ $\alpha(b)=q.$

(a) Show that, for any constant vector v, |v| = 1,

$$(q-p) \cdot v = \int_a^b \alpha'(t) \cdot v dt \le \int_a^b |\alpha'(t)| dt.$$

$$v = \frac{q - p}{|q - p|}$$

and show that

$$|\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)| \le \int_a^b |\alpha'(t)| dt;$$

that is, the curve of shortest length from $\alpha(a)$ to $\alpha(b)$ is the straight line joining these points.

Assume $p \neq q$ (otherwise $v = \frac{q-p}{|q-p|}$ is meaningless).

Proof of (a). Let $f(t) = \alpha(t) \cdot v$ defined on I. By the fundamental theorem of calculus,

$$\int_a^b f'(t)dt = f(b) - f(a).$$

Since $f'(t) = \alpha'(t) \cdot v$,

$$(\alpha(b) - \alpha(a)) \cdot v = \int_a^b \alpha'(t) \cdot v dt.$$

Therefore,

$$(q-p) \cdot v = \int_{a}^{b} \alpha'(t) \cdot v dt$$

$$\leq \int_{a}^{b} |\alpha'(t) \cdot v| dt$$

$$\leq \int_{a}^{b} |\alpha'(t)| |v| dt$$

$$= \int_{a}^{b} |\alpha'(t)| dt.$$

Proof of (b). $|v| = \frac{|q-p|}{|q-p|} = 1$. So,

$$(q-p) \cdot \frac{q-p}{|q-p|} \le \int_a^b |\alpha'(t)| dt,$$

 $|q-p| \le \int_a^b |\alpha'(t)| dt.$

1-4. The Vector Product in \mathbb{R}^3

Exercise 1-4.1.

Check whether the following bases are positive:

- (a) The basis $\{(1,3),(4,2)\}\ in \mathbb{R}^2$.
- (b) The basis $\{(1,3,5), (2,3,7), (4,8,3)\}$ in \mathbb{R}^3 .

Proof of (a). Write u = (1,3) and v = (4,2). Then

$$\det(u, v) = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 4 & 2 \end{vmatrix} = -10 < 0.$$

Thus $\{u, v\}$ is negative w.r.t. the natural order basis $\{e_1 = (1, 0), e_2 = (0, 1)\}$. \square

Proof of (b). Write u = (1, 3, 5), v = (2, 3, 7), w = (4, 8, 3). Then

$$\det(u, v, w) = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 3 & 5 \\ 2 & 3 & 7 \\ 4 & 8 & 3 \end{vmatrix} = 39 > 0.$$

Thus $\{u, v, w\}$ is positive w.r.t. the natural order basis $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$. \square

Exercise 1-4.2.

A plane P contained in \mathbb{R}^3 is given by the equation ax+by+cz+d=0. Show that the vector v=(a,b,c) is perpendicular to the plane and that $|d|/\sqrt{a^2+b^2+c^2}$ measures the distance from the plane to the origin (0,0,0).

Say v is a normal vector of E.

In general, the distance from the plane E to any point $(x_0, y_0, z_0) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ is

$$\frac{|ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0 + d|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}.$$

Proof.

(1) To show v=(a,b,c) is perpendicular to the plane, it suffices to show that $v\cdot u=0$ for any vector u lying on the plane E. Write $u=\overrightarrow{PQ}$ where $P=(x_1,y_1,z_1)\in E$ and $Q=(x_2,y_2,z_2)\in E$. Hence $u=(x_2-x_1,y_2-z_1)$

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 $y_1, z_2 - z_1$).

$$v \cdot u = (a, b, c) \cdot (x_2 - x_1, y_2 - y_1, z_2 - z_1)$$

$$= a(x_2 - x_1) + b(y_2 - y_1) + c(z_2 - z_1)$$

$$= (ax_2 + by_2 + cz_2) - (ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1)$$

$$= (-d) - (-d)$$

$$= 0.$$

(2) Pick any point $(x_1, y_1, z_1) \in E$. The distance from the plane E to the point (x_0, y_0, z_0) is

$$\begin{vmatrix} (x_1 - x_0, y_1 - y_0, z_1 - z_0) \cdot \frac{v}{|v|} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} (x_1 - x_0, y_1 - y_0, z_1 - z_0) \cdot \frac{(a, b, c)}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{|a(x_1 - x_0) + b(y_1 - y_0) + c(z_1 - z_0)|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

$$= \frac{|(ax_1 + by_1 + cz_1) - (ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0)|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

$$= \frac{|-d - (ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0)|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}$$

$$= \frac{|ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0 + d|}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2 + c^2}}.$$

Exercise 1-4.3.

Determine the angle of intersection of the two planes 5x + 3y + 2z - 4 = 0 and 3x + 4y - 7z = 0.

Proof.

- (1) The angle of intersection of the two planes is equal to a angle between two normal vectors of planes.
- (2) Let
 - (a) the angle of intersection of the two planes be θ .
 - (b) the normal vector of 5x + 3y + 2z 4 = 0 be $n_1 = (5, 3, 2)$.
 - (c) the normal vector of 3x + 4y 7z = 0 be $n_2 = (3, 4, -7)$.

(3) Hence,

$$\cos \theta = \frac{n_1 \cdot n_2}{|n_1||n_2|} = \frac{13}{2\sqrt{703}}.$$

$$\theta = \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{13}{2\sqrt{703}}\right).$$

Exercise 1-4.4.

Given two planes $a_i x + b_i y + c_i z + d_i = 0$, i = 1, 2, prove that a necessary and sufficient condition for them to be parallel is

$$\frac{a_1}{a_2} = \frac{b_1}{b_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2},$$

where the convention is made that if a denominator is zero, the corresponding numerator is also zero (we say that two planes are parallel if they either coincide or do not intersect).

Proof.

(1) Write

$$E_i: a_i x + b_i y + c_i z + d_i = 0.$$

By Exercise 1-4.2, the vector (a_i, b_i, c_i) is perpendicular to the plane E_i .

(2) Hence,

$$E_1$$
 is parallel to $E_2 \Longleftrightarrow (a_1,b_1,c_1)$ is parallel to (a_2,b_2,c_2)

$$\iff \frac{a_1}{a_2} = \frac{b_1}{b_2} = \frac{c_1}{c_2}.$$

(where the convention is made that if a denominator is zero, the corresponding numerator is also zero).

Exercise 1-4.7.

Prove that a necessary and sufficient condition for the plane

$$ax + by + cz + d = 0$$

and the line

$$x - x_0 = u_1 t$$
, $y - y_0 = u_2 t$, $z - z_0 = u_3 t$

to be parallel is

$$au_1 + bu_2 + cu_3 = 0.$$

Proof. Write

$$E: ax + by + cz + d = 0$$

 $L: x - x_0 = u_1 t, \quad y - y_0 = u_2 t, \quad z - z_0 = u_3 t.$

By Exercise 1-4.2, the vector (a, b, c) is perpendicular to the plane E. Hence,

$$E$$
 is parallel to $L \Longleftrightarrow (a,b,c)$ is perpendicular to L

$$\iff (a,b,c) \text{ is perpendicular to } u = (u_1,u_2,u_3)$$

$$\iff 0 = (a,b,c) \cdot (u_1,u_2,u_3) = au_1 + bu_2 + cu_3.$$

Exercise 1-4.8.

Prove that the distance ρ between the nonparallel lines

$$x - x_0 = u_1 t,$$
 $y - y_0 = u_2 t,$ $z - z_0 = u_3 t,$
 $x - x_0 = v_1 t,$ $y - y_0 = v_2 t,$ $z - z_0 = v_3 t$

is given by

$$\rho = \frac{|(u \wedge v) \cdot r|}{|u \wedge v|}$$

where $u = (u_1, u_2, u_3), v = (v_1, v_2, v_3), r = (x_0 - x_1, y_0 - y_1, z_0 - z_1).$

Proof.

$$\rho = |r| |\cos \angle (u \wedge v, r)| = |r| \frac{|(u \wedge v) \cdot r|}{|u \wedge v| |r|} = \frac{|(u \wedge v) \cdot r|}{|u \wedge v|}.$$

It is well-defined $(|u \wedge v| > 0)$ since two lines are nonparallel. \square

Exercise 1-4.11.

- (a) Show that the volume V of a parallelepiped generated by three linearly independent vectors $u, v, w \in \mathbb{R}^3$ is given by $V = |(u \wedge v) \cdot w|$, and introduce an **oriented volume** in \mathbb{R}^3 .
- (b) Prove that

$$V^2 = \begin{vmatrix} u \cdot u & u \cdot v & u \cdot w \\ v \cdot u & v \cdot v & v \cdot w \\ w \cdot u & w \cdot v & w \cdot w \end{vmatrix}.$$

Proof of (a).

- (1) We can calculate the volume V by multiplying the area of the base $|u \wedge v|$ and the height h.
- (2) Note that

$$h = |w| |\cos \angle (u \wedge v, w)| = |w| \frac{|(u \wedge v) \cdot w|}{|u \wedge v| |w|} = \frac{|(u \wedge v) \cdot w|}{|u \wedge v|}.$$

It is well-defined since u and v are linearly independent. Therefore,

$$V = |u \wedge v|h = |(u \wedge v) \cdot w|.$$

(3) The oriented volume is defined by

$$(u \wedge v) \cdot w$$
.

Proof of (b). Recall $(u \wedge v) \cdot w = \det(u, v, w)$. Also note that $\det((u, v, w)^T) = \det(u, v, w)$. So

$$\begin{vmatrix} u \cdot u & u \cdot v & u \cdot w \\ v \cdot u & v \cdot v & v \cdot w \\ w \cdot u & w \cdot v & w \cdot w \end{vmatrix} = \det((u, v, w) \cdot (u, v, w)^T)$$
$$= \det(u, v, w) \det((u, v, w)^T)$$
$$= \det(u, v, w)^2$$
$$= ((u \wedge v) \cdot w)^2$$
$$= V^2.$$

Exercise 1-4.13.

Let $u(t) = (u_1(t), u_2(t), u_3(t))$ and $v(t) = (v_1(t), v_2(t), v_3(t))$ be differentiable maps from the interval (a, b) into \mathbb{R}^3 . If the derivatives u'(t) and v'(t) satisfy the conditions

$$u'(t) = au(t) + bv(t),$$
 $v'(t) = cu(t) - av(t),$

where a, b, and c are constants, show that $u(t) \wedge v(t)$ is a constant vector.

Proof. Since

$$\begin{split} \frac{d}{dt}(u(t) \wedge v(t)) &= u'(t) \wedge v(t) + u(t) \wedge v'(t) \\ &= (au(t) + bv(t)) \wedge v(t) + u(t) \wedge (cu(t) - av(t)) \\ &= au(t) \wedge v(t) + u(t) \wedge (-av(t)) \\ &= a(u(t) \wedge v(t)) + (-a)(u(t) \wedge v(t)) \\ &= (0, 0, 0), \end{split}$$

 $u(t) \wedge v(t)$ is a constant vector. \square

1-5. The Local Theory of Curves Parametrized by Arc Length

Exercise 1-5.2.

Show that the torsion τ of α is given by

$$\tau(s) = -\frac{\alpha'(s) \wedge \alpha''(s) \cdot \alpha'''(s)}{|\kappa(s)|^2}.$$

Proof.

(1) Take inner product n(s) to the definition of torsion $\tau(s)n(s)=b'(s)$, we have

$$\tau(s) = b'(s) \cdot n(s).$$

Since $b'(s) = t(s) \wedge n'(s)$, we have to compute n'(s) first.

(2) Compute n'(s).

$$n'(s) = \frac{d}{ds} \left(\frac{\alpha''(s)}{\kappa(s)} \right) = \frac{\alpha'''(s)}{\kappa(s)} - \frac{\alpha''(s)\kappa'(s)}{\kappa(s)^2}.$$

(3) By (1)(2),

$$\begin{split} \tau(s) &= b'(s) \cdot n(s) \\ &= (t(s) \wedge n'(s)) \cdot n(s) \\ &= \left(\alpha'(s) \wedge \left(\frac{\alpha'''(s)}{\kappa(s)} - \frac{\alpha''(s)\kappa'(s)}{\kappa(s)^2}\right)\right) \cdot \frac{\alpha''(s)}{\kappa(s)} \\ &= \left(\alpha'(s) \wedge \frac{\alpha'''(s)}{\kappa(s)}\right) \cdot \frac{\alpha''(s)}{\kappa(s)} \\ &= \frac{\alpha'(s) \wedge \alpha'''(s) \cdot \alpha''(s)}{|\kappa(s)|^2}, \end{split}$$

or

$$\tau(s) = \frac{\alpha'(s) \wedge \alpha'''(s) \cdot \alpha''(s)}{\alpha''(s)^2}.$$

- 1-6. The Local Canonical Form
- 1-7. Global Properties of Plane Curves