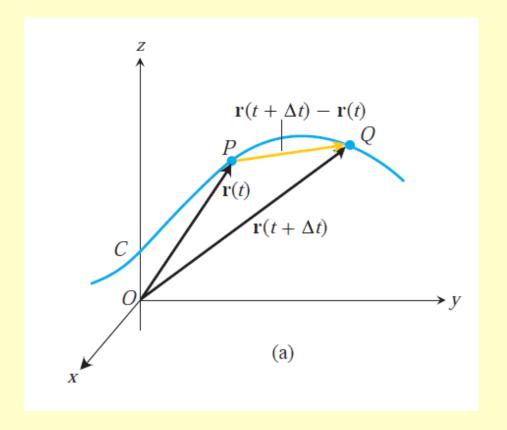
3.6 空间曲线的曲率与挠率

- 一、空间曲线
- 二、Frenet 标架(活动标架)
- 三、曲率与挠率的定义与计算公式

一、空间曲线

$$C: \begin{cases} F(x, y, z) = 0 \\ G(x, y, z) = 0 \end{cases}$$

或 $C: \begin{cases} x = x(t) \\ y = y(t) \\ z = z(t) \end{cases}$



或
$$C: \vec{r} = \vec{r}(t) = \{x(t), y(t), z(t)\}, t \in I$$

向量函数 $\vec{r}(t)$ 可视为映射:

$$\vec{r}: t \in I \subset \mathbb{R}^1 \longrightarrow \{x(t), y(t), z(t)\} \in \mathbb{C} \subset \mathbb{R}^3$$

例1. 螺旋曲线:

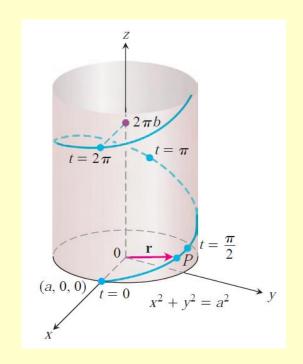
$$C: \vec{r}(t) = \{a\cos t, a\sin t, bt\}, t \in R$$

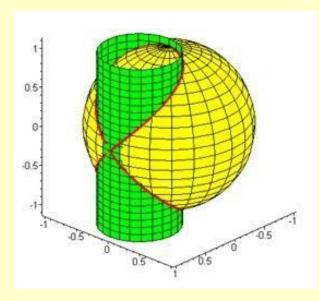
例2. 维维安尼(Viviani)曲线:

$$C: \begin{cases} x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2 \\ x^2 + y^2 = ax \end{cases}$$

$$C: \vec{r}(t) = \left\{ \frac{a}{2} + \frac{a}{2} \cos t, \frac{a}{2} \sin t, a \sin \frac{t}{2} \right\},$$

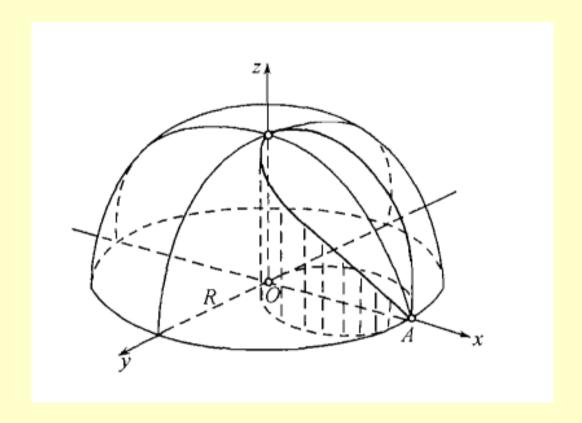
$$t \in [0, 2\pi]$$





例2. 维维安尼(Viviani)曲线:

$$C: \begin{cases} x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2 \\ x^2 + y^2 = ax \end{cases}$$

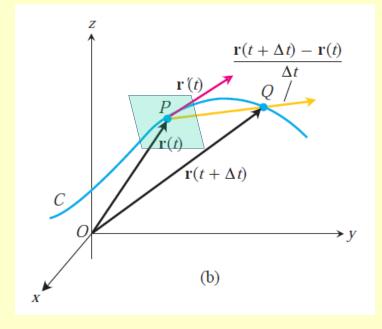


1. 切向量:

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \frac{d\vec{r}(t)}{dt} = \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \frac{\Delta \vec{r}}{\Delta t}$$

$$= \lim_{\Delta t \to 0} \frac{\vec{r}(t + \Delta t) - \vec{r}(t)}{\Delta t}$$

$$= \{x'(t), y'(t), z'(t)\}$$



若 $\vec{r}(t)$ 在 P_0 (对应于 $t = t_0$ 的点)处可导,则 $\vec{r}'(t_0)$ 为曲线

在 P_0 处的切线的方向向量(切向量),切线方程为

$$\vec{\rho} = \vec{r}(t_0) + t \ \vec{r}'(t_0),$$

其中 $\vec{\rho} = \{x, y, z\}$ 为切线上动点 M(x, y, z) 的向径.

法平面方程为: $\vec{r}'(t_0) \cdot (\vec{\rho} - \vec{r}(t_0)) = 0.$

2. 曲线的弧长与弧微分公式:

定理3.5.11(弧长的计算公式)设在 $[\alpha,\beta]$ 上 $\vec{r}'(t)$ 连续,且 $\vec{r}'(t) \neq 0$,则曲线 $\vec{r} = \vec{r}(t)$ $(\alpha \leq t \leq \beta)$ 是可求长的,长度为 $s = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} |\vec{r}'(t)| dt = \int_{\alpha}^{\beta} \sqrt{x'^2(t) + y'^2(t) + z'^2(t)} dt$

证明: (见Page156-157).

注1: 曲线 $\vec{r} = \vec{r}(t)$ ($\alpha \le t \le \beta$) 上从起点 $(x(\alpha), y(\alpha), z(\alpha))$ 到点 P(x(t), y(t), z(t)) 的弧长为:

$$s = s(t) = \int_{\alpha}^{t} |\vec{r}'(\tau)| d\tau = \int_{\alpha}^{t} \sqrt{x'^{2}(\tau) + y'^{2}(\tau) + z'^{2}(\tau)} d\tau$$
$$ds = |\vec{r}'(t)| dt = \sqrt{x'^{2}(t) + y'^{2}(t) + z'^{2}(t)} dt$$

$$ds = \sqrt{x'^{2}(t) + y'^{2}(t) + z'^{2}(t)}dt$$

弧微分公式: $(ds)^2 = (dx)^2 + (dy)^2 + (dz)^2 = (d\vec{r})^2$

注2: 当曲线 C以弧长 s 为参数时,即 $C: \vec{r} = \vec{r}(s) (0 \le s \le l)$

$$\dot{\vec{r}}(s) = \frac{d\vec{r}}{ds} = \frac{d\vec{r}}{dt} \frac{dt}{ds} = \frac{\{x'(t), y'(t), z'(t)\}}{\sqrt{x'^2(t) + y'^2(t) + z'^2(t)}}$$

$$= \{\frac{dx}{ds}, \frac{dy}{ds}, \frac{dz}{ds}\}$$

$$\Rightarrow |\dot{\vec{r}}(s)| = \left|\frac{d\vec{r}}{ds}\right| = 1$$

即 $\dot{r}(s)$ 是单位切向量, 称 s 为自然参数.

DEFINITIONS Velocity, Direction, Speed, Acceleration

If \mathbf{r} is the position vector of a particle moving along a smooth curve in space, then

$$\mathbf{v}(t) = \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt}$$

is the particle's **velocity vector**, tangent to the curve. At any time t, the direction of \mathbf{v} is the **direction of motion**, the magnitude of \mathbf{v} is the particle's **speed**, and the derivative $\mathbf{a} = d\mathbf{v}/dt$, when it exists, is the particle's **acceleration vector**. In summary,

- 1. Velocity is the derivative of position: $\mathbf{v} = \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{dt}$.
- **2.** Speed is the magnitude of velocity: Speed = $|\mathbf{v}|$.
- 3. Acceleration is the derivative of velocity: $\mathbf{a} = \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \frac{d^2\mathbf{r}}{dt^2}$.
- **4.** The unit vector $\mathbf{v}/|\mathbf{v}|$ is the direction of motion at time t.

Differentiation Rules for Vector Functions

Let **u** and **v** be differentiable vector functions of t, **C** a constant vector, c any scalar, and f any differentiable scalar function.

1. Constant Function Rule:
$$\frac{d}{dt}\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{0}$$

2. Scalar Multiple Rules:
$$\frac{d}{dt}[c\mathbf{u}(t)] = c\mathbf{u}'(t)$$

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

3. Sum Rule:
$$\frac{d}{dt}[\mathbf{u}(t) + \mathbf{v}(t)] = \mathbf{u}'(t) + \mathbf{v}'(t)$$

4. Difference Rule:
$$\frac{d}{dt}[\mathbf{u}(t) - \mathbf{v}(t)] = \mathbf{u}'(t) - \mathbf{v}'(t)$$

5. Dot Product Rule:
$$\frac{d}{dt}[\mathbf{u}(t)\cdot\mathbf{v}(t)] = \mathbf{u}'(t)\cdot\mathbf{v}(t) + \mathbf{u}(t)\cdot\mathbf{v}'(t)$$

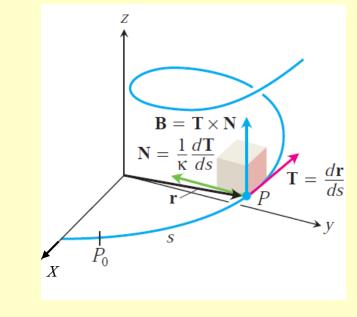
6. Cross Product Rule:
$$\frac{d}{dt}[\mathbf{u}(t) \times \mathbf{v}(t)] = \mathbf{u}'(t) \times \mathbf{v}(t) + \mathbf{u}(t) \times \mathbf{v}'(t)$$

7. Chain Rule:
$$\frac{d}{dt}[\mathbf{u}(f(t))] = f'(t)\mathbf{u}'(f(t))$$

二、Frenet 标架(活动标架)

$$C: \vec{r} = \vec{r}(s) \ (0 \le s \le l)$$

对于曲线上的每一点 P ,可取三个互相垂直的方向,构成一个标架.



引理: 若 $|\vec{a}(t)| = C$,则 $\vec{a}'(t) \cdot \vec{a}(t) = 0$,即 $\vec{a}'(t) \perp \vec{a}(t)$.

证明: $\vec{a}(t) \cdot \vec{a}(t) = |\vec{a}(t)|^2 = C^2$, 两边对 t 求导即得.

注: 令
$$\vec{T}(s) = \dot{\vec{r}}(s)$$
,则 $|\vec{T}(s)| = |\dot{\vec{r}}(s)| = 1$,由引理知 $\dot{\vec{T}}(s) \perp \vec{T}(s)$ 或 $\ddot{\vec{r}}(s) \perp \dot{\vec{r}}(s)$

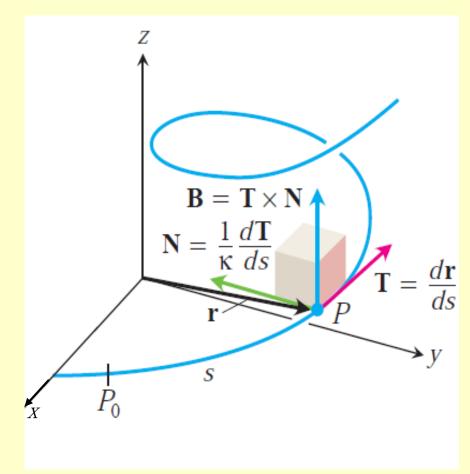
(1)
$$\mathfrak{R} \qquad \vec{T}(s) = \dot{\vec{r}}(s)$$

——单位切向量

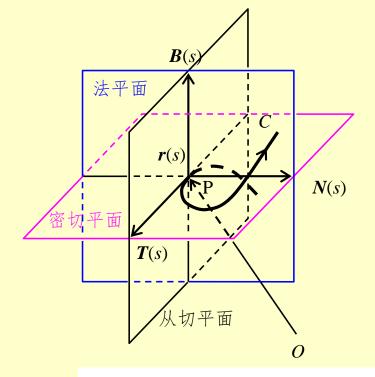
(2)
$$\mathbb{R} \quad \vec{N}(s) = \frac{\dot{\vec{T}}(s)}{\left|\dot{\vec{T}}(s)\right|} = \frac{\ddot{\vec{r}}(s)}{\left|\ddot{\vec{r}}(s)\right|}$$

——主法向量

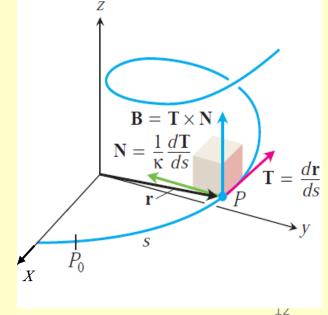
——副法向量



定义: 过P点切与 $\vec{T}(s)$ 垂直的平面称为法平面; 过P点且与 $\vec{B}(s)$ 垂直的平面称为密切平面; 过P点 且与 $\vec{N}(s)$ 垂直的平面称为从切平面.

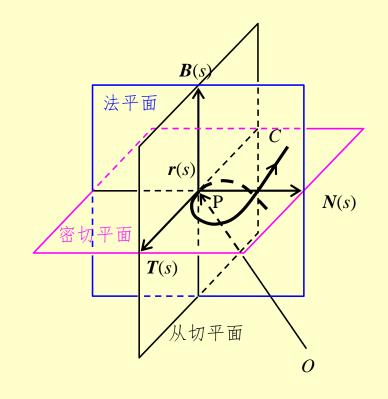


称 $\vec{T}(s)$ 、 $\vec{N}(s)$ 、 $\vec{B}(s)$ 及以上三平面构成的标架为曲线C在P点的活动标架,或 Frenet标架,也称为基本三棱形.



密切平面的性质:

过空间曲线上点P的切线和P点的邻近一点Q可作一平面 π , 3Q点沿着曲线趋于P时,平面 π 的极限位置就是曲线在P点的密切平面.

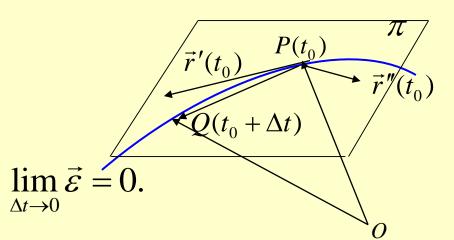


密切平面是与曲线最贴近的一个切平面,在讨论曲线的性质是起着很重要的作用.

证明: 曲线C: $\vec{r} = \vec{r}(t)$,则

$$\overrightarrow{PQ} = \overrightarrow{r}(t_0 + \Delta t) - \overrightarrow{r}(t_0)$$

$$= \overrightarrow{r}'(t_0)\Delta t + \frac{1}{2}(\overrightarrow{r}''(t_0) + \overrightarrow{\varepsilon})\Delta t^2$$



因为向量 $\vec{r}'(t_0)$ 和 \overrightarrow{PQ} 都在平面 π 上,所以它们的线性组合 $\frac{2}{\Delta t^2} [\overrightarrow{PQ} - \vec{r}'(t_0) \Delta t] = \vec{r}''(t_0) + \vec{\varepsilon}$

也在平面 π上.

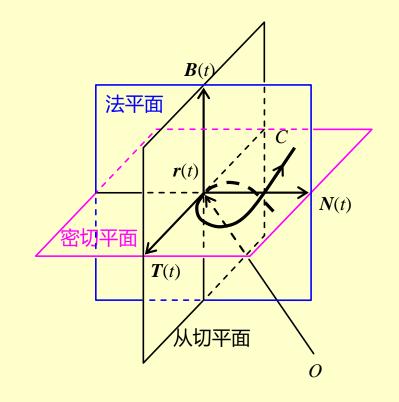
两边取极限得 $\vec{r}''(t_0)$ 在极限平面上. 故若 $\vec{r}'(t_0) \times \vec{r}''(t_0) \neq 0$,则它是极限平面的一个法向量,又

$$\vec{B}(s) = \vec{T}(s) \times \vec{N}(s) = \dot{\vec{r}}(s) \times \ddot{\vec{r}}(s) / |\ddot{\vec{r}}(s)| / / \vec{r}'(t) \times \vec{r}''(t)$$

所以,该极限平面即为P点的密切平面.

Frenet 公式 (曲线论的基本公式):

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{T} \\ \dot{N} \\ \dot{B} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & k(s) & 0 \\ -k(s) & 0 & \tau(s) \\ 0 & -\tau(s) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$



其中,k(s) 为曲线的曲率,刻画了曲线的弯曲程度.

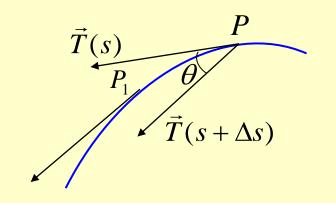
τ(s) 为曲线的挠率,刻画了曲线的扭转(偏离密切平面)的程度. 曲率和挠率是曲线的内蕴不变量,它们唯一地决定了曲线的形状.

三、曲率与挠率的定义与计算公式

设空间曲线C为 C^3 的,且以s为参数.

曲率的定义: C在P点的曲率定义为

$$k(s) = \lim_{\Delta s \to 0} \left| \frac{\Delta \theta}{\Delta s} \right|.$$



曲率的几何意义是曲线的切向量对于弧长的旋转速度.

曲率越大,曲线的弯曲程度就越大.

定理: 若
$$C: \vec{r} = \vec{r}(s) \ (0 \le s \le l)$$
 ,则 $k(s) = |\vec{r}(s)|$.

若
$$C: \vec{r} = \vec{r}(t) (\alpha \le t \le \beta)$$
,则 $k(t) = \frac{|\vec{r}'(t) \times \vec{r}''(t)|}{|\vec{r}'(t)|^3}$.

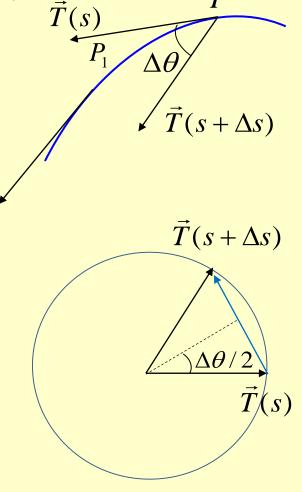
定理: 若
$$C: \vec{r} = \vec{r}(s) \ (0 \le s \le l)$$
 ,则 $k(s) = |\vec{r}(s)|$.

证明: 如图,
$$\vec{T}(s) = \dot{\vec{r}}(s)$$
, $|\vec{T}(s)| = |\dot{\vec{r}}(s)| = 1$.

$$\left| \vec{T}(s + \Delta s) - \vec{T}(s) \right| = 2 \sin \frac{\Delta \theta}{2},$$

$$\left|\frac{\vec{T}(s+\Delta s)-\vec{T}(s)}{\Delta s}\right| = \frac{2\sin\frac{\Delta\theta}{2}}{\left|\Delta s\right|} = \left|\frac{\sin\frac{\Delta\theta}{2}}{\frac{\Delta\theta}{2}}\right| \left|\frac{\Delta\theta}{\Delta s}\right|,$$

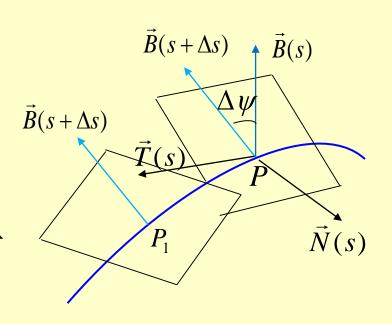
$$k(s) = \lim_{\Delta s \to 0} \left| \frac{\Delta \theta}{\Delta s} \right| = \lim_{\Delta s \to 0} \left| \frac{\vec{T}(s + \Delta s) - \vec{T}(s)}{\Delta s} \right|$$
$$= \lim_{\Delta s \to 0} \left| \frac{\dot{\vec{r}}(s + \Delta s) - \dot{\vec{r}}(s)}{\Delta s} \right| = \left| \ddot{\vec{r}}(s) \right|.$$



挠率的定义: 与曲率类似有

$$\tau(s) = \lim_{\Delta s \to 0} \left| \frac{\Delta \psi}{\Delta s} \right|.$$

挠率的绝对值是曲线的副法向量对于 弧长的旋转速度.



定理: 若
$$C: \vec{r} = \vec{r}(s) (0 \le s \le l)$$
 ,则

$$\tau(s) = -\frac{\dot{\vec{R}}(s) \cdot \vec{N}(s)}{\left| \vec{r}(s) \right|^2} = \frac{\left[\dot{\vec{r}}(s), \ddot{\vec{r}}(s), \ddot{\vec{r}}(s) \right]}{\left| \ddot{\vec{r}}(s) \right|^2}.$$

若
$$C: \vec{r} = \vec{r}(t) (\alpha \le t \le \beta)$$
,则 $\tau(t) = \frac{[\vec{r}'(t), \vec{r}''(t), \vec{r}'''(t)]}{|\vec{r}'(t) \times \vec{r}''(t)|^2}$.

注1: (1) $k \equiv 0 \Leftrightarrow \text{曲线} C$ 是直线.

(2)
$$k \equiv \frac{1}{a}(a \neq 0) \Leftrightarrow$$
 曲线*C*是半径为 *a* 的圆.

(3) $\tau \equiv 0 \Leftrightarrow 曲线C$ 是平面曲线.

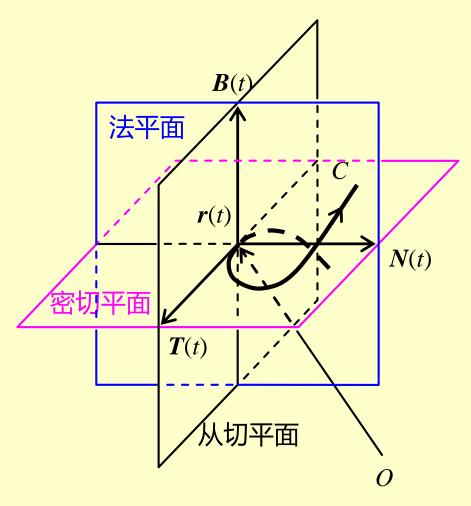
注2: 设曲线 C 是平面曲线,

若C 是的方程为, $\vec{r}(t) = \{x(t), y(t)\}$,则

$$k = \frac{|x'y'' - x''y'|}{(x'^2 + y'^2)^{3/2}}.$$

 $k = \frac{|x'y'' - x''y'|}{(x'^2 + y'^2)^{3/2}}.$ 若C是的方程为,y = y(x) ,则 $k = \frac{|y''|}{(1 + y'^2)^{3/2}}.$

Frenet 标架



$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{T} \\ \dot{N} \\ \dot{B} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & k(s) & 0 \\ -k(s) & 0 & \tau(s) \\ 0 & -\tau(s) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$

$$N(t) \qquad k = |\dot{\vec{r}}(s)| = \frac{|\dot{\vec{r}}'(t) \times \vec{r}''(t)|}{|\dot{\vec{r}}'(t)|^3}$$

$$\tau = \frac{(\dot{\vec{r}}(s) \times \ddot{\vec{r}}(s)) \cdot \ddot{\vec{r}}(s)}{|\ddot{\vec{r}}(s)|^2}$$

$$= \frac{(\dot{\vec{r}}'(t) \times \dot{\vec{r}}''(t)) \cdot \dot{\vec{r}}'''(t)}{|\dot{\vec{r}}'(t) \times \dot{\vec{r}}''(t)|^2}$$

Formulas for Curves in Space

Unit tangent vector:

$$T = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|}$$

Principal unit normal vector:

$$\mathbf{N} = \frac{d\mathbf{T}/dt}{|d\mathbf{T}/dt|}$$

Binormal vector:

$$\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{T} \times \mathbf{N}$$

Curvature:

$$\kappa = \left| \frac{d\mathbf{T}}{ds} \right| = \frac{|\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{a}|}{|\mathbf{v}|^3}$$

Torsion:

$$\tau = -\frac{d\mathbf{B}}{ds} \cdot \mathbf{N} = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} \dot{x} & \dot{y} & \dot{z} \\ \ddot{x} & \ddot{y} & \ddot{z} \\ \ddot{x} & \ddot{y} & \ddot{z} \end{vmatrix}}{|\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{a}|^2}$$

Tangential and normal scalar components of acceleration:

$$a_{\rm T} = \frac{d}{dt} |\mathbf{v}|$$

 $\mathbf{a} = a_{\mathrm{T}}\mathbf{T} + a_{\mathrm{N}}\mathbf{N}$

$$a_{\rm N} = \kappa |\mathbf{v}|^2 = \sqrt{|\mathbf{a}|^2 - a_{\rm T}^2}$$

【例1 】 分别求椭圆 $C: \mathbf{r}(t) = \{a\cos t, b\sin t, 0\} \ (a > b > 0)$ 在长轴上顶点A(a, 0, 0) 及短轴上顶点B(0, b, 0) 处的曲率和挠率.

【解】 注意到点A和点B对应的参数值分别为 $t=0, t=\pi/2,$ 直接计算得到

$$|\mathbf{r}'(0)| = b, \quad |\mathbf{r}'(\pi/2)| = a,$$
 $|\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''| = ab,$

于是A点处的曲率 $k_A = \frac{ab}{b^3}$,B点处的曲率 $k_B = \frac{ab}{a^3}$,显然 $k_A > k_B$,这正说明椭圆C在长轴顶点处的弯曲程度比C在短轴顶点处的弯曲程度高,换句话说,椭圆C在短轴顶点邻近比长轴顶点邻近平坦.

至于挠率,因为曲线C是平面曲线,其挠率处处为0.

特别地, 若 a = b, 即 C 是圆, 这时, 容易验证圆上每一点处的曲率都相等, 且等于半径的倒数, 这一方面表明圆在其上每一点处的弯曲程度都相同, 同时也表明半径愈大, 弯曲程度愈小. 这些事实的几何直观是不言而语的. ■

【例2 】 求圆柱螺线 $r(t) = \{a\cos t, a\sin t, bt\}$ 的曲率和挠率, 这里 a, b > 0.

【解】 直接计算得到

$$|\mathbf{r}'| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}, \quad |\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''| = a\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}, \quad (\mathbf{r}', \mathbf{r}'', \mathbf{r}''') = a^2b,$$

代入曲率和挠率的计算公式立即得

$$k = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2}, \qquad \tau = \frac{b}{a^2 + b^2}.$$

由此可见圆柱螺线的曲率和挠率均为常数,今后将证明其逆命题也成立,即曲率和挠率均为非零常数的曲线一定是圆柱螺线.■

【例3 】 求曲线 $r(t) = \{\cos^3 t, \sin^3 t, \cos 2t\}$ 的曲率和挠率,这里 $0 < t < \pi/2$. 【解】 直接计算得到 $|r'(t)| = \frac{5}{2} \sin 2t$,可见 t 不是弧长参数,所以将 r'(t) 单位化后得

到
$$\alpha = r'(t)/|r'(t)| = \{-\frac{3}{5}\cos t, \frac{3}{5}\sin t, -\frac{4}{5}\},$$

$$\beta = \frac{\ddot{r}}{|\ddot{r}|} = \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{|\dot{\alpha}|} = \frac{\frac{d\alpha}{dt} \frac{dt}{ds}}{\left|\frac{d\alpha}{dt} \frac{dt}{ds}\right|} = \{\sin t, \cos t, 0\},\$$

 $\gamma = \alpha \times \beta = \{\frac{4}{5}\cos t, -\frac{4}{5}\sin t, -\frac{3}{5}\}.$ 于是曲线的曲率

 $k = \left| \frac{d\alpha}{ds} \right| = \left| \frac{d\alpha}{dt} \right| \cdot \left| \frac{dt}{ds} \right| = \frac{\left| \frac{d\alpha}{dt} \right|}{\left| \frac{dr}{dt} \right|} = \frac{6}{25 \sin 2t}.$

为了计算挠率,由定义
$$\tau = -\frac{d\gamma}{ds} \cdot \boldsymbol{\beta}$$
,而 $\frac{d\gamma}{ds} = \frac{d\gamma}{dt} \cdot \frac{dt}{ds}$,故
$$\tau = -\frac{\frac{d\gamma}{dt} \cdot \boldsymbol{\beta}}{|\underline{dr}|}.$$

简单计算得曲线的挠率

所以

【例6 】 将圆柱螺线 $r(t) = \{a\cos t, a\sin t, bt\}$ 化为自然参数表示.

【解】 因为 $r'(t) = \{-a\sin t, a\cos t, b\}$, 所以圆柱螺线从t = 0起计算的弧长为

$$s(t) = \int_0^t |\mathbf{r}'(t)| dt = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} t,$$

因此我们有 $t = \frac{s}{\sqrt{a^2+b^2}}$,则用弧长s作参数,圆柱螺线的自然参数方程为

$$r(s) = \{a\cos\frac{s}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}, a\sin\frac{s}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}, \frac{bs}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}}\}.$$