

For a good portion of this homework, when work is not shown, *Mathematica* was utilized. The code for it can be found at the end.

1. Section 1.2 Problem 1

- (a)  $\kappa = 1$
- (b)  $\kappa = \sqrt{\frac{1}{(1+s^2)^2}}$
- (c)  $\kappa = \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\frac{1}{2-2s^2}}$

2. Section 1.2 Problem 3

For this portion, all results will be found in the *Mathematica* code at the end due to the results being too painful to type in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

3. Section 1.2 Problem 4

We wish to show that  $\kappa = \frac{|f''|}{(1+(f')^2)^{3/2}}$  for a plane curve. Begin by noting that  $\kappa = \frac{\|\alpha' \times \alpha''\|}{\|\alpha'\|^3}$ . Also note that since  $f(x)$  is a plane curve,  $\tau = 0$ . Let  $\alpha(x) = (x, f(x), 0)$ , where the z component is zero because of a lack of torsion. Now, it can easily be shown that  $\alpha'(x) = (1, f'(x), 0)$  and  $\alpha''(x) = (0, f''(x), 0)$ . Since the numerator of  $\kappa = \|\alpha' \times \alpha''\|$ , we can find the cross product of the given function's first and second derivatives to be  $|f''(x)|$ . Likewise, it is known that  $|\alpha'(x)| = (1 + (f'(x))^2)^{1/2}$ . By cubing this, it is seen that  $|\alpha'(x)|^3 = (1 + (f'(x))^2)^{3/2}$ .

$$\therefore \kappa = \frac{\|\alpha' \times \alpha''\|}{\|\alpha'\|^3} = \frac{|f''|}{(1+(f')^2)^{3/2}} \quad \square$$

4. Section 1.2 Problem 11

We wish to show that

$$\tau(s(t)) = \frac{\alpha' \cdot (\alpha'' \times \alpha''')}{|\alpha' \times \alpha''|^2}$$

To begin, note that the triple product may be rewritten to  $\alpha''' \cdot (\alpha' \times \alpha'')$ . From class, we know that  $(\alpha' \times \alpha'') = \kappa v^3 \mathbf{B}$ . Likewise,  $\alpha'' = v' \mathbf{T} + \kappa v^2 \mathbf{N}$ .

We begin by calculating  $\frac{d}{dt} \alpha''(t)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha''' &= v'' \mathbf{T} + v' v^2 \kappa \mathbf{N} + 2vv' \kappa \mathbf{N} + v^3 \kappa' \mathbf{N} + v^3 \kappa \mathbf{N}' \\ &= v'' \mathbf{T} + v' v^2 \kappa \mathbf{N} + 2vv' \kappa \mathbf{N} + v^3 \kappa' \mathbf{N} + v^3 \kappa (\tau \mathbf{B} - \kappa \mathbf{T}) \\ &= v'' \mathbf{T} + v' v^2 \kappa \mathbf{N} + 2vv' \kappa \mathbf{N} + v^3 \kappa' \mathbf{N} + v^3 \kappa \tau \mathbf{B} - v^3 \kappa^2 \mathbf{T} \end{aligned}$$

Now, note that  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{T}, \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{N} = 0$  and  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B} = |\mathbf{B}|^2$ . So,  $\alpha''' \cdot (\alpha' \times \alpha'') = \alpha''' \cdot \kappa v^3 \mathbf{B}$ .

$\implies \alpha''' \cdot (\alpha' \times \alpha'') = \tau \kappa v^3 \mathbf{B} \cdot v^3 \kappa \mathbf{B} = |\kappa v^3 \mathbf{B}|^2 \tau$  because  $\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{T}$ , and  $\mathbf{N}$  are orthogonal. By dividing by  $|\alpha' \times \alpha''|^2$ , this becomes  $\tau$ !

$$\therefore \frac{\alpha''' \cdot (\alpha' \times \alpha'')}{|\alpha' \times \alpha''|^2} = \tau \quad \square$$

5. Section 1.2 Problem 15

- (a) Begin by assuming that  $\beta = \alpha + \lambda \mathbf{T} + \eta \mathbf{N}$ , where  $\eta$  is an arbitrary variable. We wish to show that  $\eta = \mu$ .  $\mu$  is defined as  $|\beta - \alpha|$ , as given in the problem. Rearrange the above equation and dot both sides by  $\mathbf{N}$  to get

$$(\beta - \alpha) \cdot \mathbf{N} = \lambda \mathbf{T} \mathbf{N} + \eta \mathbf{N} \mathbf{N}.$$

Note that  $\mathbf{T} \cdot \mathbf{N} = 0$  and  $\mathbf{N} \cdot \mathbf{N} = 1$ . Thus, the above can be rewritten to  $(\beta - \alpha) \cdot \mathbf{N} = \eta$ . By taking the absolute value of both sides, we can see that

$$|(\beta - \alpha)| |\mathbf{N}| = |\beta - \alpha| = |\eta| = \eta.$$

Thus,  $\eta = \mu$ , so  $\mathbf{N}$  has the coefficient  $\mu$ .

Now, we must show that  $\lambda = 0$ . Because  $\alpha(s)$  and  $\beta(s)$  are parallel, it is true that  $\beta' + \alpha' = 0$ . By moving  $\alpha$  to the left side and taking the derivative of  $\beta = \alpha + \lambda \mathbf{T} + \mu \mathbf{N}$ , it can be seen that

$$\beta' - \alpha' = \lambda' \mathbf{T} + \lambda \kappa \mathbf{N} - \mu \kappa \mathbf{T}$$

By noting that  $\beta' = T_\beta$  and that  $\alpha = -\beta$ , this can be rewritten to

$$2\mathbf{T}_\beta = (\lambda' - \mu \kappa) \mathbf{T}_\beta + (\lambda \kappa) \mathbf{N}_\beta.$$

As can be seen by this equation, for it to be true,  $\lambda = 0$ . Therefore,  $\beta(s) = \alpha(s) + \mu \mathbf{N}_\beta$ , and the chord  $\mu$  is normal to the curve at both points by definition of the vector  $\mathbf{N}$ .  $\square$

- (b) From part (a), we know that  $\alpha' = -\beta'$ . We want to show that  $\frac{1}{\kappa_\alpha} + \frac{1}{\kappa_\beta} = \mu$ . As proved above,  $\beta = \alpha + \mu \mathbf{N}_\alpha$  and  $\alpha = \beta + \mu \mathbf{N}_\beta$ . Differentiating both sides gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{T}_\beta &= \mathbf{T}_\alpha + \mu(-\kappa_\alpha \mathbf{T}_\alpha) & \mathbf{T}_\alpha &= \mathbf{T}_\beta + \mu(-\kappa_\beta \mathbf{T}_\beta) \\ -\mathbf{T}_\alpha &= \mathbf{T}_\alpha + \mu(-\kappa_\alpha \mathbf{T}_\alpha) & -\mathbf{T}_\beta &= \mathbf{T}_\beta + \mu(-\kappa_\beta \mathbf{T}_\beta) \\ -2\mathbf{T}_\alpha &= -\mu \kappa_\alpha \mathbf{T}_\alpha & -2\mathbf{T}_\beta &= -\mu \kappa_\beta \mathbf{T}_\beta \\ \frac{1}{\kappa_\alpha} &= \frac{\mu}{2} & \frac{1}{\kappa_\beta} &= \frac{\mu}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Adding these equations gives  $\frac{\mu}{2} + \frac{\mu}{2} = \frac{1}{\kappa_\alpha} + \frac{1}{\kappa_\beta} = \mu$ .  $\square$

#### 6. Section 1.2 Problem 20

- (a) Let  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  have the same normal line. At  $t$ ,  $\beta(t)$  is some distance along the normal line from  $\alpha(t)$ . This gives us that  $\beta(s) = \alpha(s) + r(s) \mathbf{N}_\alpha$ . We wish to show that  $r(s)$  is a constant. Begin by differentiating to obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{T}_\beta &= \mathbf{T}_\alpha + r' \mathbf{N}_\alpha - r \kappa \mathbf{T}_\alpha + r \tau \mathbf{B}_\alpha \\ &= (1 - r \kappa) \mathbf{T}_\alpha + r' \mathbf{N}_\alpha + r \tau \mathbf{B}_\alpha \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\mathbf{N}_\alpha$  and  $\mathbf{N}_\beta$  are on the same line, any vector orthogonal to one must be orthogonal to the other. Thus, we dot the above expression by  $\mathbf{N}_\alpha$  to obtain

$$\mathbf{T}_\beta \cdot \mathbf{N}_\alpha = (1 - r \kappa) \mathbf{T}_\alpha \cdot \mathbf{N}_\alpha + r' \mathbf{N}_\alpha \cdot \mathbf{N}_\alpha + r \tau \mathbf{B}_\alpha \cdot \mathbf{N}_\alpha.$$

$\implies 0 = r'$ , so thus  $r(s)$  is a constant.

- (b) We wish to show that the angle between  $\mathbf{T}_\beta$  and  $\mathbf{T}_\alpha$  is constant. To do this, begin with the statement found in (a) to say  $\beta = \alpha + r \mathbf{N}$ , where  $\beta$  is not necessarily arclength parametrized. By differentiating, we find  $\beta' = \mathbf{T}_\alpha + r(-\kappa \mathbf{T}_\alpha + \tau \mathbf{B}_\alpha)$  or

$$v_\beta \mathbf{T}_\beta = (1 - r \kappa_\alpha) \mathbf{T}_\alpha + (r \tau_\alpha) \mathbf{B}_\alpha,$$

where  $\mathbf{T}_\beta$  is the unit tangent for  $\beta$ . By dividing through by  $v_\beta$  we obtain

$$\mathbf{T}_\beta = \frac{(1 - r \kappa_\alpha)}{v_\beta} \mathbf{T}_\alpha + \frac{(r \tau_\alpha)}{v_\beta} \mathbf{B}_\alpha.$$

Now, replace the two fractions with  $f$  and  $g$ , respectively. Then, by differentiation the following is obtained:

$$v_\beta \kappa_\beta \mathbf{N}_\beta = f' \mathbf{T}_\alpha + f(\kappa_\alpha \mathbf{N}_\alpha) + g' \mathbf{B}_\alpha + g(-\tau_\alpha \mathbf{N}_\alpha)$$

Notice that the left-hand side has no  $\mathbf{T}_\alpha$  or  $\mathbf{B}_\alpha$  terms, so therefore  $f', g' = 0$ .

To use this fact, we will now compute  $\langle \mathbf{T}_\beta, \mathbf{T}_\alpha \rangle$ . Using the first derivative found above, it is easy to see that

$$\mathbf{T}_\beta \cdot \mathbf{T}_\alpha = \frac{1 - r\kappa_\alpha}{v_\beta}.$$

Since the dot product can be defined as  $|\mathbf{T}_\beta||\mathbf{T}_\alpha|\cos\theta$ , where  $|\mathbf{T}_\beta|, |\mathbf{T}_\alpha| = 1$ , this becomes

$$\frac{1 - r\kappa_\alpha}{v_\beta} = \cos\theta \quad \text{or} \quad \cos^{-1}\left(\frac{1 - r\kappa_\alpha}{v_\beta}\right) = \theta$$

But since, from above,  $f' = 0$ , we can say that  $\theta$  is a constant. □

(c) From (b), we know that

$$1 - r\kappa_\alpha = v_\beta C_1 \quad \text{and} \quad r\tau_\alpha = v_\beta C_2$$

where  $C_1, C_2$  are constants. By rearranging the second equation, we obtain  $-\frac{C_1}{C_2}r\tau_\alpha = -v_\beta C_1$ . When these two equations are added together, it results in

$$1 = r\kappa + c\tau$$

as desired. □

(d) Begin with the fact that  $1 = r\kappa + c\tau$ , which was found in (c). Taking this equation's derivative gives  $0 = r\kappa' + c\tau'$ , since  $r, c$  are constants their derivatives are zero. By dividing by the constant  $r$ , this becomes  $0 = \kappa' + j\tau'$ , where  $j$  is the new constant. From this, it is apparent that  $\kappa = \tau + m$ , where  $m$  is an arbitrary constant. Plugging this result back into the original equation gives  $1 = r(\tau + m) + c\tau$ . Collecting terms, we find that

$$\frac{1 - rm}{r + c} = \tau.$$

This proves that  $\tau$  is a constant.

We will now use this fact to show that infinitely many  $\beta$  result in a circular helix. Let  $\beta_i = \alpha + r_i \mathbf{N}_\alpha$  and  $\beta_j = \alpha + r_j \mathbf{N}_\alpha$ . These are both Bertrand mates to  $\alpha$ . Thus, it is true that  $1 = r_i \kappa + c_i \tau$  and  $1 = r_j \kappa + c_j \tau$ . We can state that these are equivalent and rearrange them to show

$$\begin{aligned} r_i \kappa + c_i \tau &= r_j \kappa + c_j \tau \\ (r_i - r_j) \kappa + (c_i - c_j) \tau &= 0 \\ (c_i - c_j) \tau &= (r_j - r_i) \kappa \\ \implies \frac{\tau}{\kappa} &= \frac{r_j - r_i}{c_i - c_j} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, since  $\tau/\kappa$  is a constant,  $\alpha$  is a generalized helix by Proposition 2.5 of the textbook. But from what was shown above,  $\tau$  is a constant. Thus, for  $\tau/\kappa$  to be constant with  $\tau$  already constant,  $\kappa$  must also be constant. But a circular helix is defined as having constant  $\tau$  and  $\kappa$ , so  $\alpha$  must be a circular helix. □

## 7. Section 1.2 Problem 22

Since  $\alpha = c \int_a^t (\mathbf{Y} \times \mathbf{Y}') du$ , we can say that  $\alpha' = c(\mathbf{Y} \times \mathbf{Y}')$ . Also  $\alpha'' = c[(\mathbf{Y}' \times \mathbf{Y}') \times (\mathbf{Y} \times \mathbf{Y}'')] = c(\mathbf{Y} \times \mathbf{Y}'')$ . Finally  $\alpha''' = c[(\mathbf{Y}' \times \mathbf{Y}'') \times (\mathbf{Y} \times \mathbf{Y}''')] = c(\mathbf{Y}' \times \mathbf{Y}'')$ , since  $\mathbf{Y}$  is  $\mathcal{C}^2$ ,  $\mathbf{Y}''' = 0$ . From Problem 11, we know that

$$\tau(s(t)) = \frac{\alpha' \cdot (\alpha'' \times \alpha''')}{|\alpha' \times \alpha''|^2}.$$

I was unable to complete this problem, but I believe that my setup is correct and will ultimately show that  $\tau = \frac{1}{c}$ .

Work was collaborated on with Hollis Neel.