

① Midterm 2 → next Thursday  
 See Canvas front page

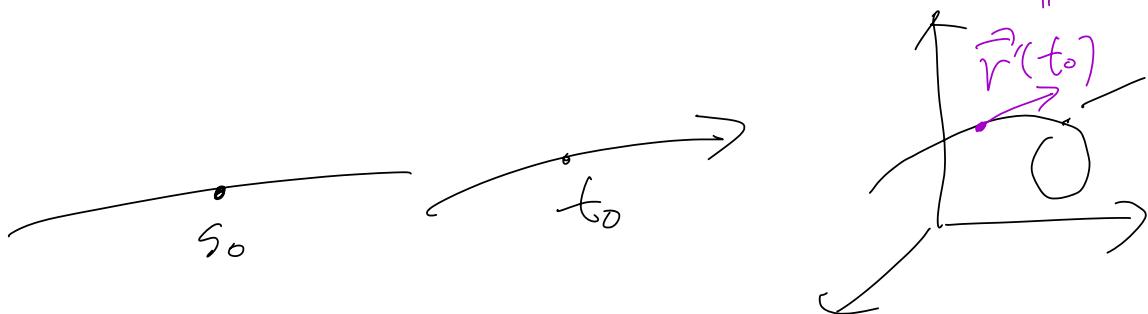
Recap:

- Chain rule

$$\vec{r}(s) = \vec{r}(t(s))$$

$$\begin{matrix} \mathbb{R} & \rightarrow & \mathbb{R} & \rightarrow & \mathbb{R}^3 \\ s & & t & & \vec{r} \end{matrix}$$

$$\frac{d}{ds} \vec{r}(s_0) = \frac{d}{dt} \vec{r}(t_0) \cdot \frac{dt}{ds}(s_0)$$



- Arc length fn

$$s(t) = \int_a^t \|\vec{r}(z)\| dz \xrightarrow{\text{inverse}} t = t(s)$$

- Arc length reparametrization

$\vec{r}(t(s)) \rightarrow \text{unit speed}$

$$[a, b] = \{a \leq x \leq b\}$$

$$(a, b] = \{a < x \leq b\}$$

$$(a, b) = \{a < x < b\}$$

**Def** (Unit tangent vector)

Given a smooth path  $\vec{r}: [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ ,

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

is called the unit tangent vector at  $t$ .

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \|\vec{T}(t)\| = \left\| \frac{\vec{r}'(t)}{\|\vec{r}'(t)\|} \right\| = \frac{\|\vec{r}'(t)\|}{\|\vec{r}'(t)\|} = 1 \quad (\text{unit})$$

\textcircled{2} Since  $\vec{r}$  is smooth,  $\|\vec{r}'(t)\| \neq 0$ . (No problem dividing by  $\|\vec{r}'(t)\|$ .)

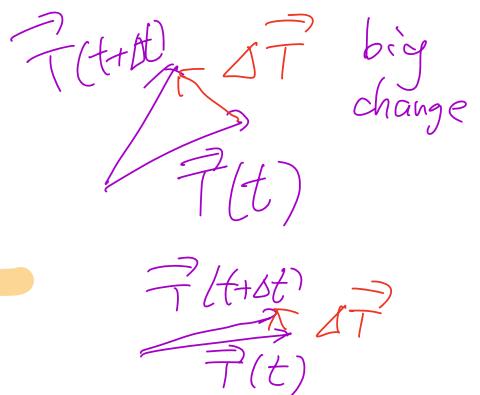
\textcircled{3} If  $\vec{r}$  is parametrized by arc length  $s$ ,

$$\vec{r}(s) = \vec{T}(s) \quad \text{b/c } \|\vec{r}'(s)\| = 1.$$

## Def (Curvature)

Let  $\vec{r}(s)$  be a  $C^2$  smooth path, where  $s$  is the arc length. Then, curvature is defined:

$$k(s) = \left\| \vec{T}'(s) \right\|$$



④ This exactly reflects our motivation mentioned earlier.

④ WARNING

If the curve is not parametrized by arc length, this you cannot use this definition. In that case, you either

- (a) reparametrize it and compute  $\left\| \vec{T}'(s) \right\|$ .
- (b) or, use the formula below.

**Thm** (Curvature formula for general curves)

Let  $\vec{r}(t)$  be a  $C^2$  smooth path  
(not necessarily parametrized by arc length).

Then, its curvature at  $t$  is

$$k(t) = \frac{\|\vec{\alpha}(t) \times \vec{v}(t)\|}{\|\vec{v}(t)\|^3}$$

where  $\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t)$  and  $\vec{\alpha}(t) = \vec{r}''(t)$ .

**Clicker:** What curves would you test for sanity?

Question: Does this formula physically make sense?

(proof of curvature formula)

$$\|\vec{T}'(s)\|^2 = \left\| \frac{d}{ds} \vec{T}(s) \right\|^2 \quad s = s(t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} dt/ds &= \|\vec{r}'(t)\|^{-1} & & \\ &= \left\| \frac{d}{dt} \vec{T}(t) \cdot \frac{dt}{ds} \right\|^2 & & \text{Chain rule.} \\ \vec{r}'(t) &= \vec{v}(t) & & \\ \vec{r}''(t) &= \vec{a}(t) & & \text{product rule} \\ \text{every input is } t & \text{ so omit it} & & (\vec{r}' \cdot \|\vec{r}'\|^{-1})^2 + 0 \\ &= \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}\|^2} \left\| \underbrace{\vec{a} \cdot \|\vec{v}\|^2}_{\|\vec{v}\|^2} - \vec{v} \frac{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{a}}{\|\vec{v}\|} \right\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

Exercise:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Prove} \quad \left( \frac{\vec{c}(t)}{\|\vec{c}(t)\|} \right)' &= \frac{1}{\|\vec{c}(t)\|^2} \left\| \underbrace{\vec{a} \cdot \|\vec{v}\|^2}_{\|\vec{v}\|^2} - \vec{v} (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{a}) \right\|^2 \\ &\cdot \left( \vec{c}'(t) \|\vec{c}(t)\| - \vec{c}(t) \cdot \frac{(\vec{c}(t) \cdot \vec{c}'(t))}{\|\vec{c}(t)\|} \right) \\ &\quad \|\vec{v}\|^2 \|\vec{a}\|^2 + (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{a})^2 \|\vec{v}\|^2 \\ &\quad - 2 \|\vec{v}\|^2 (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{a})^2 \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Exercise: } \rightarrow = \frac{1}{\|\vec{v}\|^6} (\|\vec{v}\|^2 \|\vec{a}\|^2 - (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{a})^2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Prove} \quad \|\vec{v}\|^2 \|\vec{u}\|^2 &= \left\| \frac{\vec{v} \times \vec{u}}{\|\vec{v}\|} \right\|^2 \\ &= (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{u})^2 + \|\vec{v} \times \vec{u}\|^2 \end{aligned}$$

The result follows by taking square root.  $\square$

Example: Predict the curvature and compare it with the one found by definition and the formula.

(A)  $\vec{r}(t) = \vec{p} + t\vec{d}$ , where  $\vec{p}, \vec{d}$  are fixed.

① prediction: 0 (b/c it is a line)

② Definition:

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \vec{d} \quad (r'(t) = (p_1 + td_1)'(p_2 + td_2)')$$

$$s = \int_0^t \|\vec{r}'(t)\| dt \quad (\text{Let's make } (P_3 + td_3) \text{ starting point})$$

$$= \int_0^t \|\vec{d}\| dt = \|\vec{d}\| t$$

$$t = \frac{s}{\|\vec{d}\|}$$

$$\vec{r}(s) = \vec{p} + \frac{s}{\|\vec{d}\|} \vec{d}$$

$$\vec{r}'(s) = \frac{\vec{d}}{\|\vec{d}\|} = \vec{T}(s)$$

$$k(s) = \|\vec{T}'(s)\| = \|\vec{0}\| = 0. \quad (\frac{\vec{d}}{\|\vec{d}\|} \text{ is constant})$$

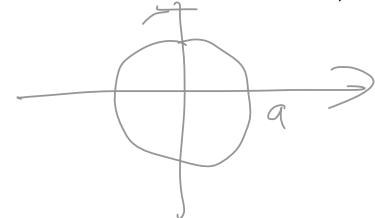
③ formula:  $\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t) = \vec{d}$ ,  $\vec{a}(t) = \vec{v}'(t) = \vec{0}$

$$k(t) = \frac{\|\vec{a}(t) \times \vec{v}(t)\|}{\|\vec{v}(t)\|^3} = 0.$$

(Example continued)  $\rightarrow$  circle with radius  $a$

$$(B) \vec{r}(t) = (a \cos t, a \sin t) \quad (a > 0)$$

$$\text{at } t = \frac{\pi}{6}, \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{\pi}{3}, \frac{\pi}{2}.$$



① prediction: constant.

② formula:  $\vec{v}(t) = (-a \sin t, a \cos t)$

$$\vec{a}(t) = \vec{v}'(t) = (-a \cos t, -a \sin t)$$

$$\|\vec{a}(t) \times \vec{v}(t)\| = \text{abs} \begin{vmatrix} -a \cos t & -a \sin t \\ -a \sin t & a \cos t \end{vmatrix}$$

↑  
(see below)

$$= \text{abs} \begin{vmatrix} -a & \cos t & \sin t \\ -a \sin t & a \cos t & 0 \end{vmatrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{linearity} \\ \text{of determinant} \\ \text{in each row.} \end{matrix}$$

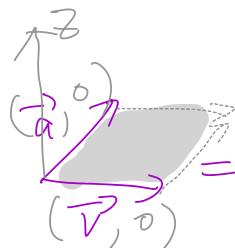
$$= \text{abs} \begin{vmatrix} -a^2 & \cos t & \sin t \\ -\sin t & \cos t & 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= a^2.$$

$$\|\vec{v}(t)\| = \sqrt{(-a \sin t)^2 + (a \cos t)^2} = a$$

$$k(t) = \frac{a^2}{(a)^3} = \frac{1}{a}$$

$$\|\vec{a} \times \vec{v}\| = \text{area of}$$



$= \text{abs} \left( \text{signed area of } \vec{a} \right)$

$$= \text{abs} \left( \left| \frac{\vec{a}}{\vec{v}} \right| \right)$$

## NT. 2.7 Principle unit normal vector and osculating circle

### Motivation

When we say "instantaneous velocity is 55 mi/hr now," we are implicitly comparing with a constant velocity:

"we are driving as fast as a vehicle at a constant rate that travels 55 miles in an hour."

Likewise, when we study curvatures of a curve, it is very natural to compare it with another shape that has a constant curvature.

Clicker What is that shape?

Discuss and type in (open).

Circle.

**Thm** Any smooth paths of constant length is orthogonal to its derivative. That is, if

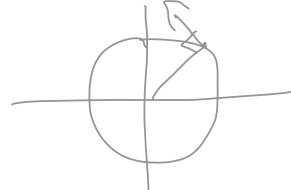
$$\|\vec{r}(t)\| = \underbrace{\text{const}}_{=C} \Rightarrow \vec{r}'(t) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) = 0.$$

(proof)

$\vec{r}(t)$  must live in a sphere

$$C^2 = \|\vec{r}(t)\|^2 = \vec{r}(t) \cdot \vec{r}(t). \text{ Take } \frac{d}{dt}$$

$$\text{Then, } 0 = \cancel{\vec{r}'(t) \cdot \vec{r}(t)}$$



**Cor**

$$\vec{T}(t) \cdot \vec{T}'(t) = 0.$$

**Def** (principal unit normal)

Given a smooth curve with a parametrization  $\vec{r}(t)$ , the (principal) unit normal (vector) is defined

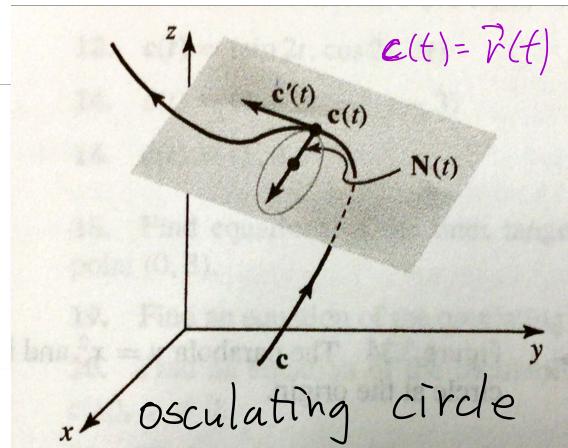
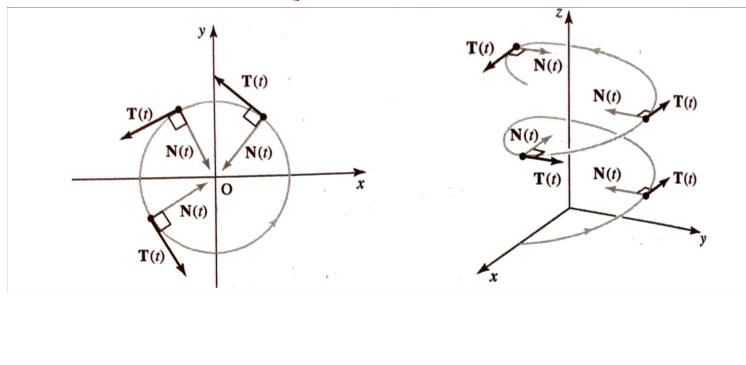
$$\vec{N}(t) = \frac{\vec{T}'(t)}{\|\vec{T}'(t)\|},$$

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

②  $\vec{N}$  tells us in what direction the curve is bent "in the current plane."

(Curves "instantaneously live" in a plane)

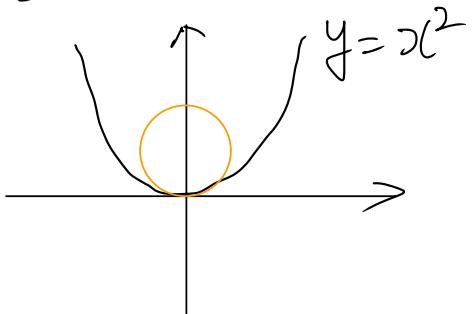
③ For circles,  $\vec{N}(t)$  points to its center.



Def (osculating plane and circle)

Let  $\vec{r}$  be a  $C^2$  smooth path with  $\vec{r}''(t) \neq \vec{0}$ . The plane spanned by  $\vec{T}(t)$  and  $\vec{N}(t)$  passing through  $\vec{r}(t)$  is called osculating plane. And the circle on that plane with radius  $1/|k(t)|$  that is tangent to the curve at  $\vec{r}(t)$  and its center is on the side of  $\vec{N}(t)$  is called osculating circle.

**Example:** Find the largest radius of a wheel that can roll smoothly inside the parabola  $y = x^2$  in 2D world.



The curvature of the wheel must be larger than anywhere on the parabola.

Find the largest curvature.

Vector form:  $\vec{r}(t) = (t, t^2)$

$$\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t) = (1, 2t)$$

$$\vec{\alpha}(t) = \vec{v}'(t) = (0, 2)$$

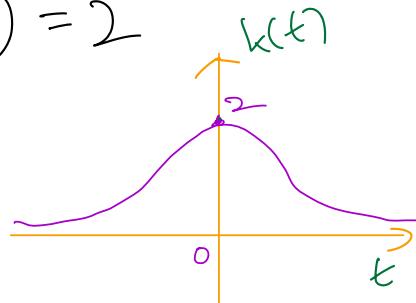
$$\|\vec{v}(t)\| = \sqrt{1+4t^2} = \sqrt{1+4t^2}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\|\vec{\alpha}(t) \times \vec{v}(t)\| &= \text{abs} \left( \begin{vmatrix} 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 2t \end{vmatrix} \right) \\ &= \text{abs}(-2) = 2\end{aligned}$$

$$k(t) = \frac{2}{(\sqrt{1+4t^2})^3} = \frac{2}{(1+4t^2)^{3/2}}$$

(based on "Example circle")

Thus, the radius of wheel must be less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ .



## NT 2.8 Applications to kinematics

Goal: Better understanding of movements of a particle in a general setting.  
/\* All physical applications of calculus so far under very limited circumstances.  
(e.g., movement in 1D space, or 2D movement under a constant acceleration—gravity, etc.) \*/

Learning objective:

After this lecture, I can decompose the acceleration of a given movement  $\vec{r}(t)$  into tangential ( $\vec{a}_T$ ) and normal ( $\vec{a}_N$ ) components.

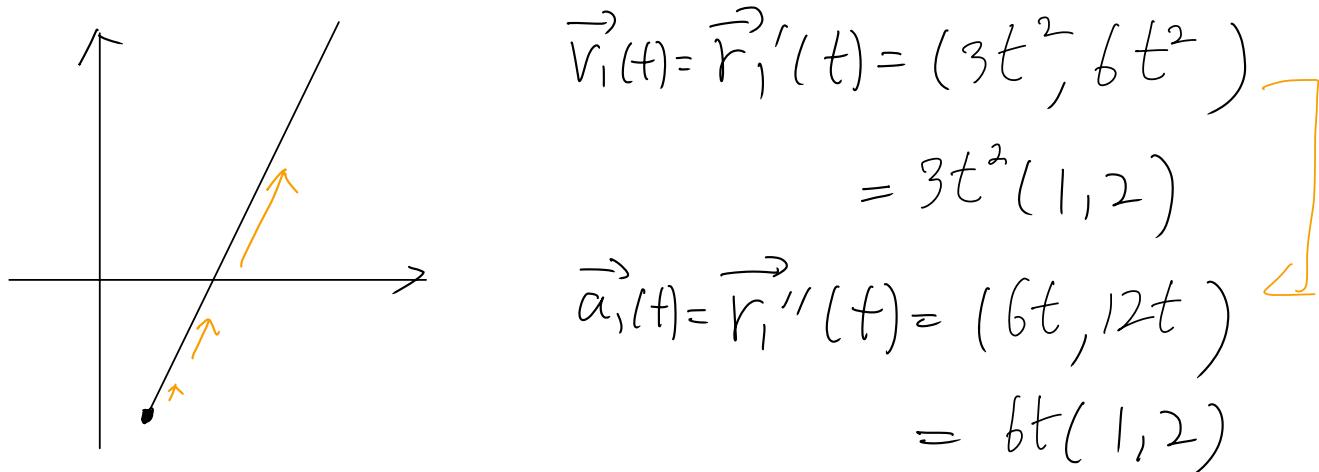
Motivating examples: Two extreme movements  
(2D for simplicity)

Example 1 :

$$\vec{r}_1(t) = (1+t^3, 2t^3 - 3)$$

Notice that this is actually a line

$$\begin{cases} x = 1 + t^3 \\ y = 2t^3 - 3 \end{cases} \rightarrow t^3 = x - 1 \quad y = 2(x-1) - 3 = 2x - 5$$

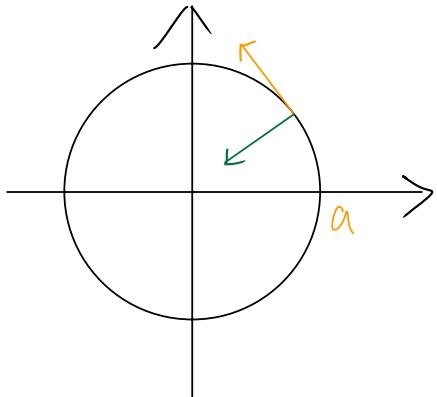


Acceleration acts in the same direction  
of the velocity.  $\rightarrow$  move straight

Example 2:

$$\vec{r}_2(t) = (a \cos bt, a \sin bt)$$

$$(a, b > 0)$$



$$\begin{aligned}\vec{v}_2(t) &= \vec{r}'_2(t) \\ &= (-ab \sin bt, ab \cos bt) \\ \vec{a}_2(t) &= \vec{r}''_2(t) \\ &= (-ab^2 \cos bt, -ab^2 \sin bt)\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{v}_2(t) \cdot \vec{a}_2(t) &= +a^2 b^3 \sin bt \cos bt \\ &\quad - a^2 b^3 \cos bt \sin bt \\ &= 0\end{aligned}$$

Acceleration perpendicular velocity all the time

$$\Rightarrow \text{proj}_{\vec{v}} \vec{a} = \vec{0}$$

$\Rightarrow$  acceleration never changes the speed,  
but only changes the direction of  
the movement.

④ In general, movements in real world possess features of both kinds.

Idea: Isn't it going to be helpful if we can decompose the acceleration into direction of velocity and one perpendicular to it?