

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?

Thm Let $\vec{r}(t)$ be a C^2 -smooth path. Then, its acceleration has following decomposition.

$$\vec{a}(t) = \vec{a}_T(t) + \vec{a}_N(t), \text{ where}$$

$$\vec{a}_T(t) = \frac{d^2 s}{dt^2} \vec{T}(t) \quad \vec{T} + \vec{N}$$

$$\vec{a}_N(t) = \|\vec{v}(t)\| T'(t) \quad \text{--- } \textcircled{1}$$

$$= \|\vec{v}(t)\|^2 k(t) N(t) \quad \text{--- } \textcircled{2}$$

⑥ \vec{a}_T changes speed, while \vec{a}_N changes the direction.

⑦ Usually, ① is easier to compute while ② tells us the relation b/w \vec{a}_N and curvature.

⑧ Notation warning: Some authors and our HW4-#6 use a_T and a_N to denote the scalar part of \vec{a}_T and \vec{a}_N , resp. (ans to HW4-#6 is a number, not vector)

proof) To make use of $\vec{T} \perp \vec{T}'$ and $\vec{T}' \parallel \vec{N}$, express velocity as
 $\vec{T} = \frac{\vec{v}}{\|\vec{v}\|}$
 $\vec{v}(t) = \|\vec{v}(t)\| \vec{T}(t)$. Then,
 $\vec{a}(t) = \vec{v}'(t) = \|\vec{v}(t)\|' \vec{T}(t) + \|\vec{v}(t)\| \vec{T}'(t)$
of s · v rule (a) \vec{a}_T (b) \vec{a}_N

(a) is immediate by realizing

$$\|\vec{v}(t)\|' = \left(\frac{ds}{dt}\right)' = \frac{d^2s}{dt^2} \quad (\text{hence } \textcircled{1} \text{ follows})$$

(2) : First, note that

$$\begin{aligned} k(t_0) &= \left\| \frac{d}{ds} \vec{T}(t(s_0)) \right\| \quad (t_0 = t(s_0)) \\ &= \left\| \vec{T}'(t_0) \cdot \frac{dt(s_0)}{ds} \right\| = \left\| \vec{T}'(t_0) \right\| \cdot \left\| \frac{dt(s_0)}{ds} \right\| \\ &= \frac{\left\| \vec{T}'(t_0) \right\|}{\left\| \vec{v}(t_0) \right\|} = \left[\frac{ds}{dt} \right]^{-1} = \frac{1}{\left\| \vec{v}(t_0) \right\|} \end{aligned}$$

Now, drop subscript from t_0 , and conclude :

$$\left\| \vec{v}(t) \right\| \vec{T}'(t) = \left\| \vec{v}(t) \right\|^2 \underbrace{\frac{\left\| \vec{T}'(t) \right\|}{\left\| \vec{v}(t) \right\|}}_{k(t)} \underbrace{\frac{\vec{T}'(t)}{\left\| \vec{T}'(t) \right\|}}_{\vec{N}(t)}$$

⑥ For explicit calculations, an intermediate step in the proof can be more practical.

$$\vec{a} = (\vec{v})' = \left(\|\vec{v}\| \vec{T} \right)' = \underbrace{\|\vec{v}\|'}_{\substack{\text{product rule} \\ \vec{a}_T}} \cdot \vec{T} + \underbrace{\|\vec{v}\|}_{\vec{a}_N} \vec{T}'$$

This is a good example of how proofs can be useful.

Clicker What should you do if you obtained $\vec{a} = \vec{a}_T + \vec{a}_N$, but you want only scalar part of \vec{a}_T and \vec{a}_N (short answer)

$$\vec{u} = \frac{\|\vec{u}\|}{\|\vec{u}\|} \vec{u} = \widehat{\|\vec{u}\|} \widehat{\vec{u}}$$

But be careful of sign (i.e. same dir? or opposite dir?)

$$\vec{a}_T = \|\vec{a}_T\| \left(\frac{\vec{a}_T}{\|\vec{a}_T\|} \right) \rightarrow \text{check if 1st component has the same sign as } \vec{v} \text{ or } \vec{T}.$$

same sign $\rightarrow \|\vec{a}_T\|$ is what
we are looking for

opposite sign $\rightarrow = -\|\vec{a}_T\| \left(-\frac{\vec{a}_T}{\|\vec{a}_T\|} \right)$

This is what
we want.

For \vec{a}_N , no worries since
we know the scalar part is
positive.

$$\vec{a}_N = \|\vec{a}_N\| \underbrace{\frac{\vec{a}_N}{\|\vec{a}_N\|}}_{\vec{N}}$$

Example: Suppose a particle's position at time t is described by

$\vec{r}(t) = (\cos t + ts \sin t, -s \sin t + t \cos t, t^2/2)$ ($t > 0$). Find the acceleration and decompose it into tangential and normal components \vec{a}_T and \vec{a}_N

$$\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t) = (-s \sin t + s \sin t + t \cos t, -\cancel{\cos t} + \cancel{\cos t} - t \sin t, t)$$

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

$$\begin{aligned}\|\vec{v}(t)\| &= \|t(\cos t, -\sin t, 1)\| \\ &= t \|(cos t, -sin t, 1)\| \\ &= t \sqrt{\cos^2 t + (-\sin t)^2 + 1^2} \\ &= \sqrt{2} t.\end{aligned}$$

$$\vec{T}(t) = \|\vec{v}(t)\| \cdot \vec{v}(t) = \sqrt{2} t \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\cos t, -\sin t, 1) \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{a}(t) &= \vec{v}'(t) = \cancel{\sqrt{2}} \cdot \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\cos t, -\sin t, 1) \right) \\ &\stackrel{\text{product rule}}{=} \text{scalar part of } \vec{a}_T + \sqrt{2} t \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (-\sin t, -\cos t, 0) \right) \\ &= \vec{a}_N\end{aligned}$$

same sign
($t > 0$)

$\vec{T}(t)$

$\vec{v}(t)$

$(\cos t, -\sin t, 1)$

NT 2.8 Local geometry of 3D curves.

(Frenet frame / TNB system)

Motivation : We studied local behaviors
of a curve : near a point

- direction of curve $\rightarrow \vec{T}(s)$
- how it is bent $\rightarrow k(s) \vec{N}(s)$

But these are not enough to give a complete descriptions of curves.

It turns out studying how the osculating plane changes gives the whole picture of curves.

Clicker What should we study for this mission?
(A) $(\vec{T})'$ (B) $(\vec{N})'$ (C) $(\vec{T} \times \vec{N})'$

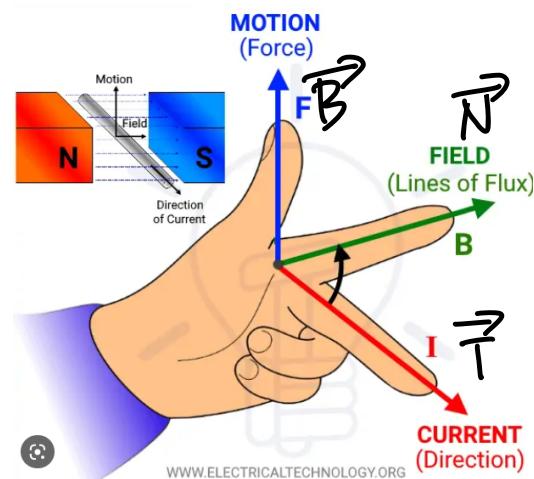
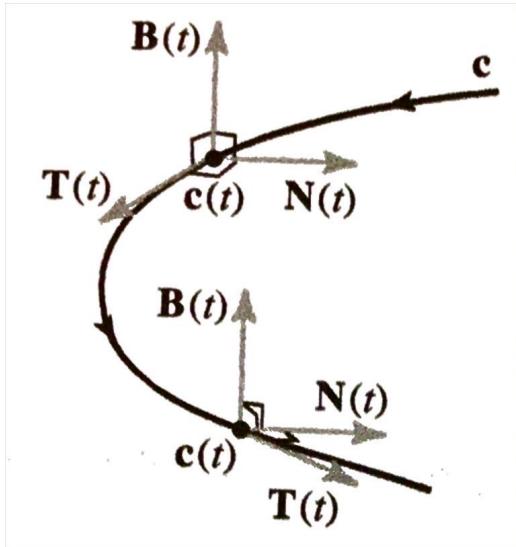
Learning objective:

- I can find TNB frame and torsion.
- I can explain behaviors of a curve based on k, τ, T, N, B

Def (binormal vector)

Given a C^2 -smooth curve \vec{r}

$\vec{B}(t) = \vec{T}(t) \times \vec{N}(t)$ is called binormal vector, where $\vec{T}(t)$ and $\vec{N}(t)$ are unit tangent and principal normal vector of \vec{r} .



Left hand rule.

- ⑤ $\vec{T}(t), \vec{N}(t), \vec{B}(t)$ are called Frenet frame, or TNB frame.
- ⑥ $\frac{d}{ds} \vec{B}(s)$ let us know how fast the osculating plane changes \rightarrow "twist."

Thm

Given a C^2 -smooth curve parametrized by arc length $\vec{r}(s)$, its TNB frame, the curvature $k(s)$, and the torsion $\tau(s)$ satisfy

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{T}'(s) &= k(s) \vec{N} \\ \vec{N}'(s) &= -k(s) \vec{T} + \tau(s) \vec{B} \\ \vec{B}'(s) &= -\tau(s) \vec{N}\end{aligned}$$

where,

$$\tau(s) := -\vec{N}(s) \cdot \vec{B}'(s)$$

- ① Everything is defined for arc length parametrization.
- ② There is a formula for $\tau(t)$, but it is not considered an acceptable tool in this course. (learning purpose)
- ③ Note that the curvature is always positive (or zero) while the torsion can be both positive and negative.
- ④ In this course, the formulas in the 1st box is not the focus.

(proof) For ease of notation, omit input s , and all derivatives are $\frac{d}{ds}$.

First, we already know

$$\vec{T}' = k \vec{N}$$

Also note $\vec{N} \cdot \vec{N} = 0$ since \vec{N} has constant length. Therefore, when we decompose \vec{N}' using TNB frame, it does not have \vec{N} component. That is,

$$\vec{N}' = a \vec{T} + b \vec{B} \quad \text{--- (x)}$$

for some scalar function $a(s)$ and $b(s)$.

Now, differentiating $\vec{B} = \vec{T} \times \vec{N}$ and using the product rule for cross product

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{B}' &= \underbrace{\vec{T}' \times \vec{N}}_{=0 \text{ b/c } \vec{T}' \parallel \vec{N}} + \vec{T} \times \vec{N}' = \vec{T} \times \vec{N}' \\ &= b \vec{T} \times \vec{B} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \vec{T} \times (a \vec{T} + b \vec{B}) \quad \vec{N}' = a \vec{T} + b \vec{B} \\ &= b \vec{T} \times \vec{B} \quad \vec{T} \times \vec{B} = -\vec{N} \\ &= -b \vec{N} \end{aligned}$$

Here $b(s)$ tells us how fast \vec{B} changes.

Call it **torsion** and label $\tau(s)$.

Plug this back into (*). Then, we are left to show $a(s) = -k(s)$. To show this, differentiate $\vec{N} \cdot \vec{T} = 0$ to get

$$\vec{N}' \cdot \vec{T} + \vec{T}' \cdot \vec{N} = 0 \Rightarrow$$

$$\vec{N}' \cdot \vec{T} = -\underbrace{\vec{T}' \cdot \vec{N}}_{= k \vec{N}} = -(k \vec{N}) \cdot \vec{N} = -k$$

But taking dot product with \vec{T} on both sides of (*), we have

$$-k = \vec{N}' \cdot \vec{T} = a \underbrace{\vec{T} \cdot \vec{T}}_{=1} + b \underbrace{\vec{B} \cdot \vec{T}}_{=0} = a$$

Thus, we showed all relation b/w $\vec{T}, \vec{N}, \vec{B}$ and their derivatives.

Lastly, it follows

$$\tau(s) = -\vec{N}(s) \cdot \vec{B}'(s)$$

by taking dot product with \vec{N} on $\vec{B}' = -\tau \vec{N}$. □

Example : Find the torsion of the helix

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

(You will end finding everything: k, τ, T, N, B)

Step 1: reparametrize it.

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

$$s = \int_0^t \sqrt{(-a \sin \theta)^2 + (a \cos \theta)^2 + b^2} d\theta = \int_0^t \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} d\theta$$

$$= t \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} \Rightarrow t = \frac{s}{\sqrt{a^2 + b^2}} \quad \text{Put } C = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

Step 2: carry out calculations.

$$\vec{r}(s) = \left(a \cos\left(\frac{s}{C}\right), a \sin\left(\frac{s}{C}\right), \frac{bs}{C} \right)$$

$$\vec{T}(s) = \vec{r}'(s) = \left(-\frac{a}{C} \sin\left(\frac{s}{C}\right), \frac{a}{C} \cos\left(\frac{s}{C}\right), \frac{b}{C} \right)$$

$$\vec{T}'(s) = \left(-\frac{a}{C^2} \cos\left(\frac{s}{C}\right), -\frac{a}{C^2} \sin\left(\frac{s}{C}\right), 0 \right)$$

$$= \frac{a}{C^2} \left(-\cos\left(\frac{s}{C}\right), -\sin\left(\frac{s}{C}\right), 0 \right)$$

$\underbrace{k(s)}_{\text{already unit vector}} \rightarrow \vec{N}(s)$

\hookrightarrow if not $\vec{N} = \text{normalized ver.}$

Thus,

$$k(s) = \frac{a}{r^2} = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2}$$

$$\vec{N}(s) = \left(-\cos\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), -\sin\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), 0 \right)$$

$$\vec{B}(s) = \vec{T}(s) \times \vec{N}(s) \quad (\text{order matters})$$

$$= \begin{vmatrix} \vec{x} & \vec{y} & \vec{k} \\ -\frac{a}{c} \sin\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), \frac{a}{c} \cos\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), \frac{b}{c} \\ -\cos\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), -\sin\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), 0 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \left(\frac{b}{c} \sin\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), -\frac{b}{c} \cos\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), \frac{a}{c} \right)$$

$$\tau(s) = -\vec{B}'(s) \cdot \vec{N}(s)$$

$$= - \left(\frac{b}{c^2} \cos\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), +\frac{b}{c^2} \sin\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), 0 \right)$$

$$\cdot \left(-\cos\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), -\sin\left(\frac{s}{c}\right), 0 \right)$$

$$= + \frac{b}{c^2} = \frac{b}{\tilde{a}^2 + \tilde{b}^2}$$

Thm (Congruence of 3D curves)

Two 3D curves with non-zero curvature are congruent if and only if their arc length parametrizations have the same curvature and torsion at each $0 \leq s \leq l$, where l is the length of the two curves.
(proof omitted)

Thm 3D curve is a line or part of a line if and only if the curvature is zero everywhere.
(proof omitted)

Thm 3D curve is contained in a plane if and only if the torsion is zero everywhere.
(proof omitted)