

## 13.1 Vector functions and space curves

1. vector functions
2. space curves

### 0.1 Vector functions

**Define:** A *vector(-valued) function* 向量函數 is a function

$$\mathbf{r}(t) : \text{Domain} \subseteq \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \text{Range} \subseteq V_n. \text{ (主要在 } V_3 \text{)}$$

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle = f(t)\mathbf{i} + g(t)\mathbf{j} + h(t)\mathbf{k}$$

where  $f(t), g(t), h(t)$  are called *component functions* 分量函數 of  $\mathbf{r}$ .

- Note:** 1.  $t$  是獨立的變數, 通常用來代表時間 (time)。  
 2. 定義域 = 分量函數都有定義處 = 分量函數定義域的交集。(看分量函數!)

**Define: (Limit)** If  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$ , then

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow a} \mathbf{r}(t) = \langle \lim_{t \rightarrow a} f(t), \lim_{t \rightarrow a} g(t), \lim_{t \rightarrow a} h(t) \rangle$$

provided the limit of the component functions exist.

**Precise Definition:** (equivalent, see Exercise 13.1.54)

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow a} \mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{L} \text{ or } \mathbf{r}(t) \rightarrow \mathbf{L} \text{ as } t \rightarrow a.$$

if  $\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists \delta > 0, \exists 0 < |t - a| < \delta \implies |\mathbf{r}(t) - \mathbf{L}| < \varepsilon$ .

(只要  $t$  離  $a$  有  $\delta$  這麼近,  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  離  $\mathbf{L}$  就有  $\varepsilon$  這麼近。)

(兩個向量之差的長度很小  $\iff$  兩者 (的方向與長度) 差不多一樣。)

**Note:** 分量函數極限都存在, 整個才有極限存在。(看分量函數!)

**Limit Law 極限律:** 加減常數倍, 內外積。(Exercise 13.1.53)

If  $\lim_{t \rightarrow a} \mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{L}$  and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow a} \mathbf{s}(t) = \mathbf{M}$  exist (極限存在), then

$$1 \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow a} (\mathbf{r}(t) \pm \mathbf{s}(t)) = \mathbf{L} \pm \mathbf{M}$$

$$2 \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow a} c\mathbf{r}(t) = c\mathbf{L}$$

$$3 \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow a} (\mathbf{r}(t) \bullet \mathbf{s}(t)) = \mathbf{L} \bullet \mathbf{M}$$

$$4 \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow a} (\mathbf{r}(t) \times \mathbf{s}(t)) = \mathbf{L} \times \mathbf{M}$$

**Define: (Continuity)** A vector function  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  is *continuous* at  $a$  if

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow a} \mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{r}(a).$$

**Note:**  $\lim_{t \rightarrow a} f(t) = f(a)$ ,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow a} g(t) = g(a)$ ,  $\lim_{t \rightarrow a} h(t) = h(a)$ , 分量函數都連續。  
(看分量函數!)

**Example 0.1** Find the domain of  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle t^3, \ln(3-t), \sqrt{t} \rangle$ .

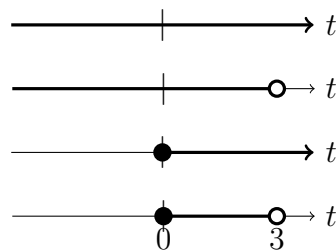
看分量函數:  $t^3$ , domain  $\mathbb{R} = (-\infty, \infty)$ ;

$\ln(3-t)$ , domain  $3 > t$ ,  $(-\infty, 3)$ ;

$\sqrt{t}$ , domain  $t \geq 0$ ,  $[0, \infty)$ .

So the domain of  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  is

$$(-\infty, \infty) \cap (-\infty, 3) \cap [0, \infty) = [0, 3).$$



**Example 0.2** Find  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \mathbf{r}(t)$ , where  $\mathbf{r}(t) = (1 + t^3)\mathbf{i} + te^{-t}\mathbf{j} + \frac{\sin t}{t}\mathbf{k}$ .

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \mathbf{r}(t) = \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} (1 + t^3) \right] \mathbf{i} + \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} te^{-t} \right] \mathbf{j} + \left[ \lim_{t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\sin t}{t} \right] \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{k}.$$

**Recall:** 向量函數的定義域? 極限? 連續? 分量函數! 分量函數! 分量函數!

## 0.2 Space curves

**Define:** A **space curve** 空間曲線  $C$  is the set of all point

$$(x, y, z) = (f(t), g(t), h(t)).$$

$$x = f(t), \quad y = g(t), \quad z = h(t),$$

are called **parametric equations** 參數方程式 of  $C$  and  $t$  is called a **parameter** 參數. Then

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle f(t), g(t), h(t) \rangle$$

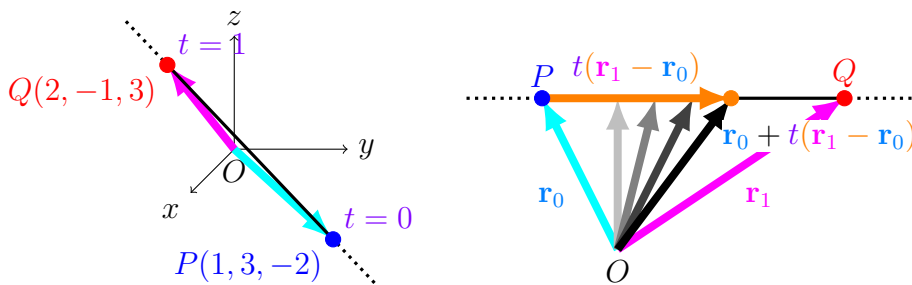
is the **position vector** 位置向量 of the point  $P(f(t), g(t), h(t))$  on  $C$ .  
(用向量函數表示空間曲線。)

**Example 0.3** Describe the curve defined by  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle 1 + t, 2 + 5t, -1 + 6t \rangle$ .

A line through  $(1, 2, -1)$  and parallel to  $\langle 1, 5, 6 \rangle$ . ■

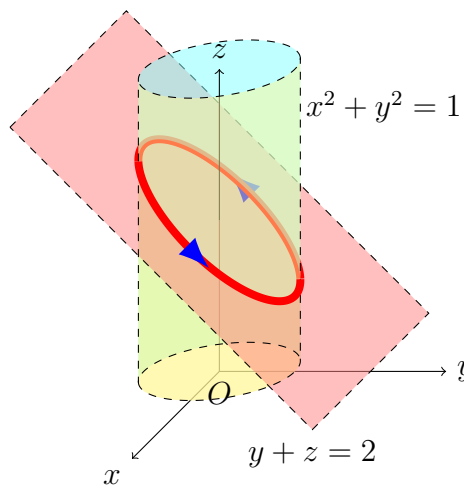
**Example 0.4** Find a vector equation and parametric equations for the line segment joining  $P(1, 3, -2)$  and  $Q(2, -1, 3)$ .

Let  $\mathbf{r}_0$ ,  $\mathbf{r}_1$  and  $\mathbf{r}$  be position vectors of  $P$ ,  $Q$  and point  $(x, y, z)$  on  $\overline{PQ}$ .  
 Then  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{r}_0 + t(\mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{r}_0) = (1 - t)\mathbf{r}_0 + t\mathbf{r}_1 = (1 - t)\langle 1, 3, -2 \rangle + t\langle 2, -1, 3 \rangle$ ,  
 向量方程式:  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle 1 + t, 3 - 4t, -2 + 5t \rangle$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ .  
 參數方程式:  $x = 1 + t$ ,  $y = 3 - 4t$ ,  $z = -2 + 5t$ ,  $0 \leq t \leq 1$ . (注意範圍) ■



**Example 0.5** Find a vector function representing the curve of intersection of the cylinder  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  and the plane  $y + z = 2$ .

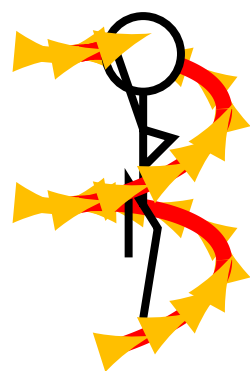
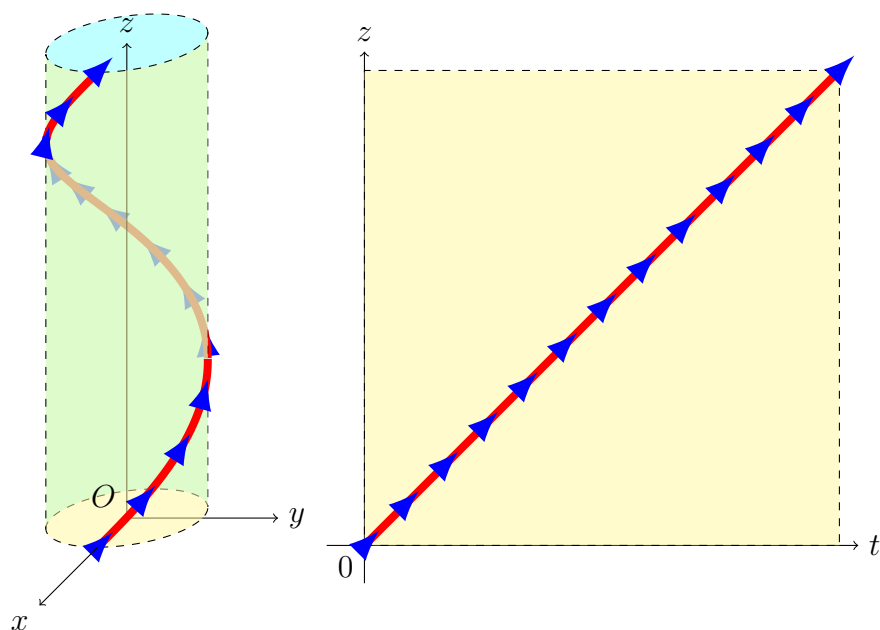
$x^2 + y^2 = 1 \implies x = \cos t, y = \sin t$ ,  
 $y + z = 2 \implies z = 2 - \sin t$ .  
 $\mathbf{r}(t) = \cos t \mathbf{i} + \sin t \mathbf{j} + (2 - \sin t) \mathbf{k}$   
 $(= \langle \cos t, \sin t, 2 - \sin t \rangle)$ . ■  
 (這個過程稱為 **parametrization** 參數化 of the curve.)



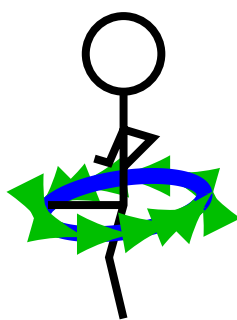
**Example 0.6** Sketch the curve whose vector equation is

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \cos t \mathbf{i} + \sin t \mathbf{j} + t \mathbf{k}$$

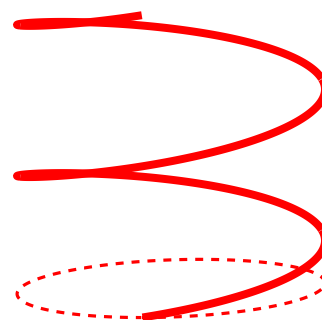
A **helix** [ˈhɪlɪks] 螺旋, the curve spirals upward around the (circular) cylinder  $x^2 + y^2 = 1$  as  $t$  increases. ■



$$\cos t \mathbf{i} + \sin t \mathbf{j} + ct \mathbf{k}$$



$$\cos t \mathbf{i} + \sin t \mathbf{j} + 0 \mathbf{k}$$

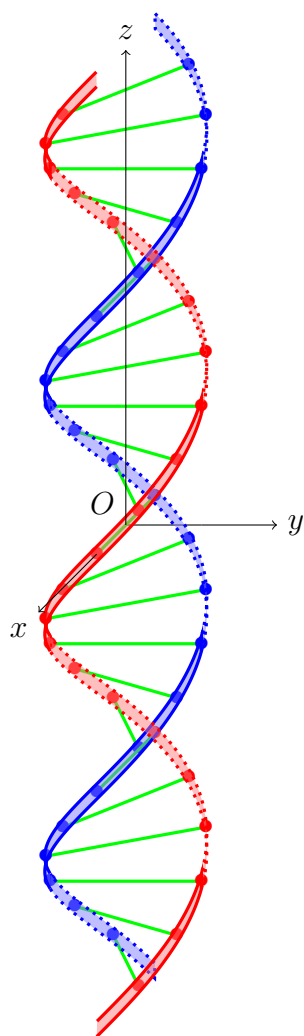


$$a \cos t \mathbf{i} + b \sin t \mathbf{j} + ct \mathbf{k}$$

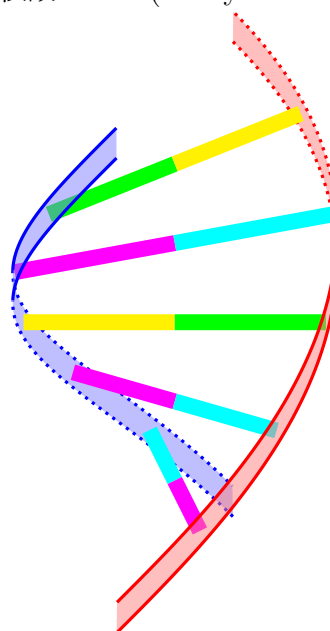
*double helix* 雙螺旋

$$x = \cos t \quad y = \sin t \quad z = t$$

$$x = -\cos t \quad y = -\sin t \quad z = t$$



◆ 脫氧核糖核酸 DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid)



雙螺旋結構

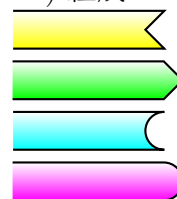
由四種 (ATGC) 核鹼基 (nucleobase) 組成:

腺嘌呤 (Adenine)

胸腺嘧啶 (Thymine)

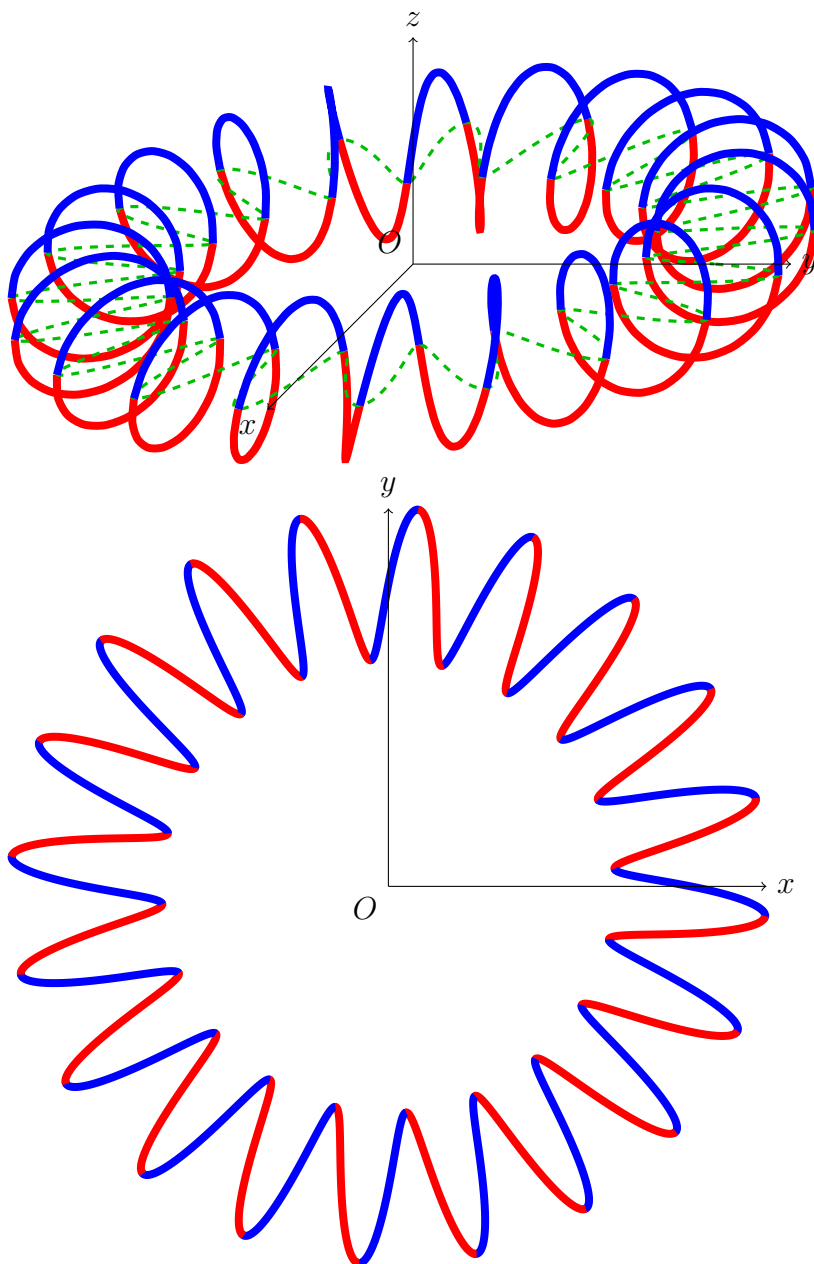
鳥嘌呤 (Guanine)

胞嘧啶 (Cytosine)



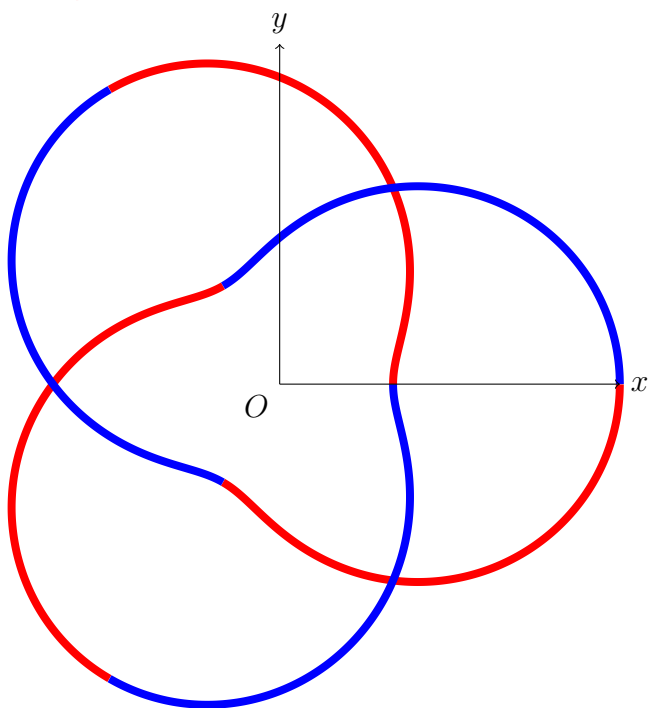
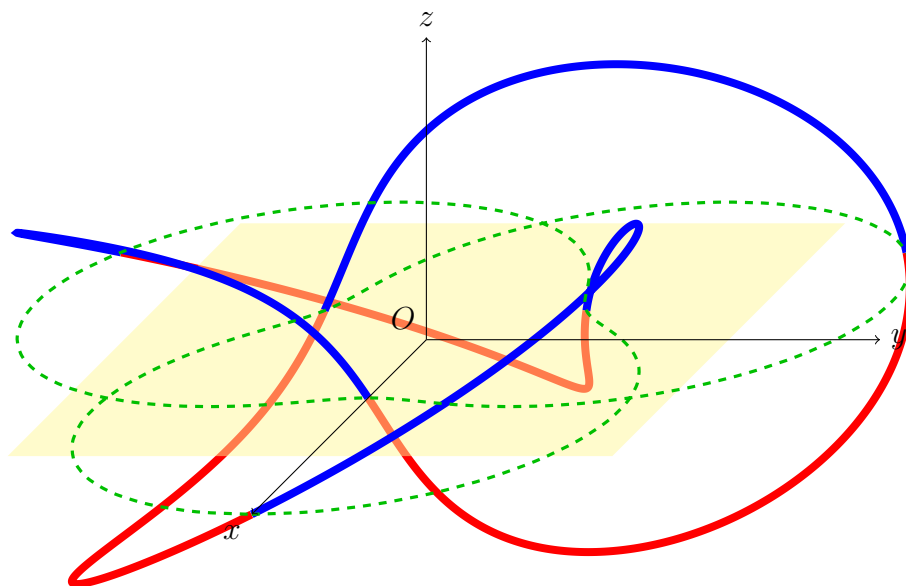
*toroidal spiral* ['torɔɪdəl 'spɑɪrəl] 圓環螺線

$$x = (4 + \sin 20t) \cos t \quad y = (4 + \sin 20t) \sin t \quad z = \cos 20t$$



***trefoil knot*** [ˈtrifɔɪl nat] 三葉型紐結

$$x = (2 + \cos 1.5t) \cos t \quad y = (2 + \cos 1.5t) \sin t \quad z = \sin 1.5t$$



*twisted cubic* ['twɪstɪd 'kjuːbɪk] 三次繞線

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle t, t^2, t^3 \rangle$$

