

# Curves, Tangents, Arc Length

**REVIEW:**

- Dot Product sec 9.2
- Cross Product sec 9.3
- General Vector Prop sec 9.1

**Bonus:** pg 370 #4      Read & Due Date Problem  
 pg 376 #28  
 pg 388 #11

Let  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle = x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j} + z(t)\hat{k}$

$\uparrow$                                      $\uparrow$                                      $\uparrow$   
 parametric representation of a curve    Cartesian coordinates    unit vector along x-axis    unit vector along y-axis    unit vector along z-axis  
 $\langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$                              $\langle 0, 1, 0 \rangle$                              $\langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle$

puts our cartesian coordinates in terms of another variable  
 ex: position vs time, velocity vs time, acceleration vs time

Let's look at the parametric representations of a few common curves:

## Circle

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2$$

whenever we have an  $x^2$  &  $y^2$  try to get to the point where  $(\ )^2 + (\ )^2 = 1$   
 then use trig:  $\cos^2 t + \sin^2 t = 1$   
 in this example:

$$\rightarrow \left(\frac{x}{r}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{r}\right)^2 = 1$$

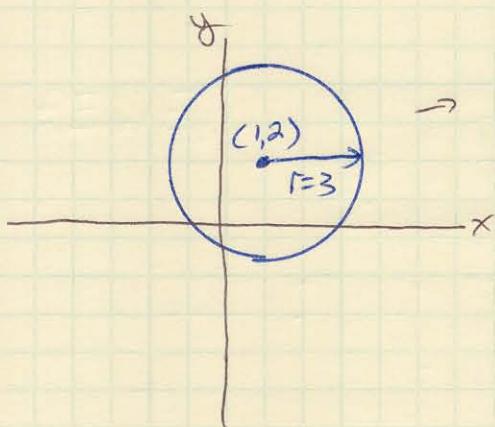
$$\cos^2 t + \sin^2 t = 1$$

$$\left(\frac{x}{r}\right)^2 = \cos^2 t \Rightarrow x = r \cos t \quad ?$$

$$\left(\frac{y}{r}\right)^2 = \sin^2 t \quad y = r \sin t \quad ?$$

what happens if  $x$ ?  
 & changes? let  $\left(\frac{x}{r}\right)^2 = \cos^2 t$ ?  
 &  $\left(\frac{y}{r}\right)^2 = \sin^2 t$ ? in detail!

## offset circle



→ what's the equation?

if center was  $(0, 0)$

$$x^2 + y^2 = r^2$$

since center not origin,  
shift

$$(x-1)^2 + (y-2)^2 = 3^2$$

Now get to form:

$$\left(\frac{x}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{3}\right)^2 = 1$$

$$\rightarrow \left(\frac{x-1}{3}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y-2}{3}\right)^2 = 1$$

$$\frac{\cos^2 t}{\cos^2 t} + \frac{\sin^2 t}{\sin^2 t}$$

$$x = 1 + 3\cos t, y = 2 + 3\sin t$$

## Ellipse

$$\left(\frac{x}{a}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{b}\right)^2 = 1$$

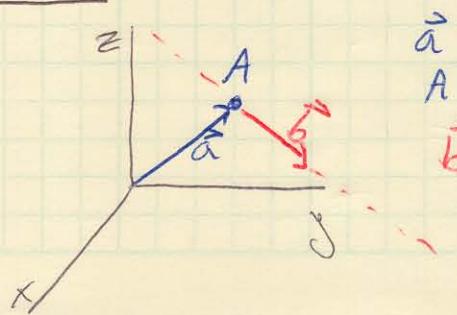
$$\frac{\cos^2 t}{\cos^2 t} + \frac{\sin^2 t}{\sin^2 t} = 1$$

$$x = a \cos t$$

$$y = b \sin t$$

BONUS! Parameterize:  $16x^2 + 9y^2 = 144$

## Line



$\vec{a}$  = vector to start point

A = start point =  $(x_0, y_0, z_0)$

$\vec{b}$  = vector in direction of line  
(think of as the velocity vector)

$$\vec{r}(t) = \vec{a} + t \cdot \vec{b}$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \vec{a} + t \cdot \vec{b}$$

↑ start point      ↑ velocity  
                        ↑ time of travel

### Other Fun:

given  $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 2 + r\cos 4t, 6 + r\sin 4t, 2t \rangle$

Find the non parametric representation:

$$\begin{aligned} 2 + r\cos 4t &= x \\ 6 + r\sin 4t &= y \end{aligned} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{can we work this} \\ \text{into } ( )^2 + ( )^2 = 1? \end{array} \right.$$

$$\begin{aligned} r\cos 4t &= x - 2 \\ r\sin 4t &= y - 6 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \cos 4t &= \frac{x-2}{r} \\ \sin 4t &= \frac{y-6}{r} \end{aligned} \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{what about the } 4t's? \\ \text{what about the } 4t's? \end{array} \right.$$

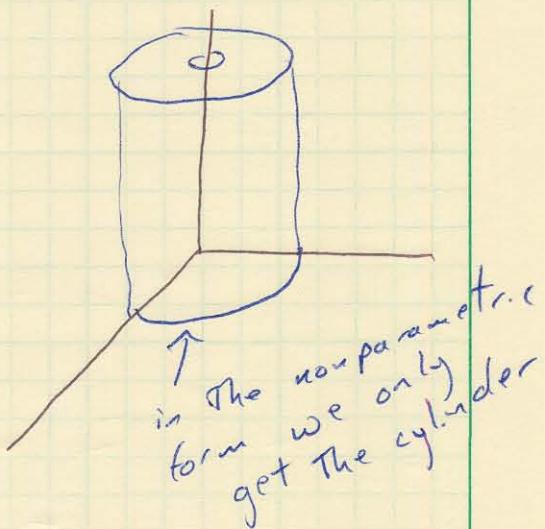
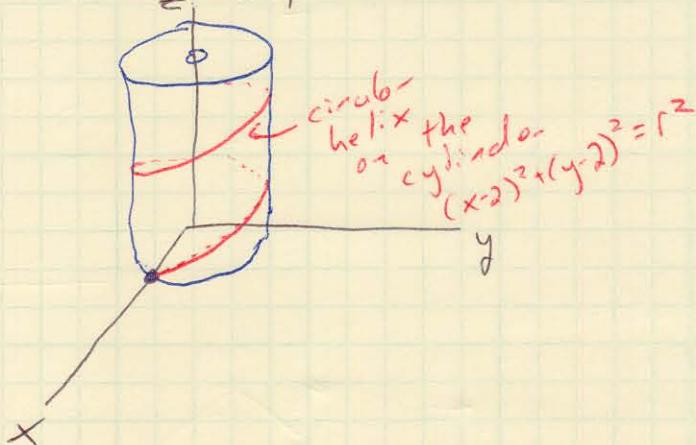
$$\cos^2 4t + \sin^2 4t = 1$$

$$\left(\frac{x-2}{r}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{y-6}{r}\right)^2 = 1$$

$$(x-2)^2 + (y-6)^2 = r^2, -\infty \leq z \leq \infty$$

parametric  
z rep

non parametric



## Tangent to a Curve

use some method used for finding derivative:

$$F'(x) = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{F(x+\Delta x) - F(x)}{\Delta x}$$

tangent

but in vector form:

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta t} [\vec{r}(t+\Delta t) - \vec{r}(t)]$$

$$\text{but } \vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle$$

$$\text{so } \vec{r}'(t) = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{\Delta t} [x(t+\Delta t) - x(t), y(t+\Delta t) - y(t), z(t+\Delta t) - z(t)]$$

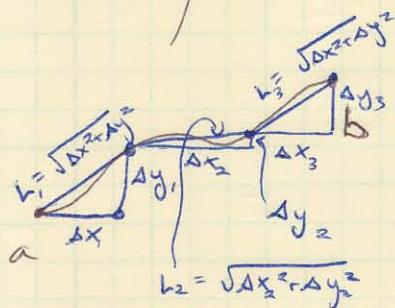
$$= \langle x'(t), y'(t), z'(t) \rangle$$

unit tangent:

$$\hat{u} = \frac{1}{\|\vec{r}'\|} \vec{r}'$$

## Arc length

Find length of curve  $C$ ,



$$l = \sum L$$

but we know

$$x'(t) \approx \frac{\Delta x}{\Delta t} \quad y'(t) \approx \frac{\Delta y}{\Delta t}$$

$$\text{so } \Delta x \approx x'(t)\Delta t, \Delta y \approx y'(t)\Delta t$$

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \sqrt{\Delta x^2 + \Delta y^2} \\ &= \sqrt{(x'(t)\Delta t)^2 + (y'(t)\Delta t)^2} \\ &= \sqrt{x'(t)^2 + y'(t)^2} \Delta t \end{aligned}$$

$$l \approx \sum_{i=1}^n \sqrt{x'(t)^2 + y'(t)^2} \Delta t$$

Leading to

$$l = \int_a^b \sqrt{x'(t)^2 + y'(t)^2} dt$$

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t) \rangle$$

$$l = \int_a^b |\vec{r}'(t)| dt$$

$$l = \int_a^b \sqrt{\vec{r}'(t) \cdot \vec{r}'(t)} dt$$

arc length as a function of t

(how far did you travel after t seconds)

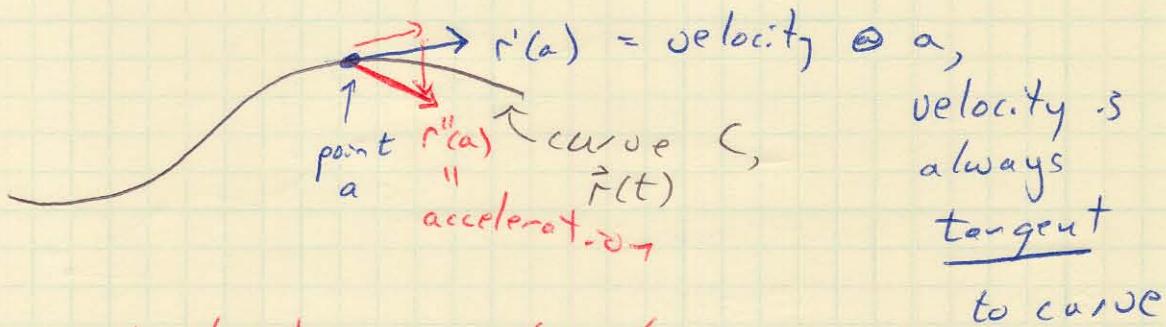
$$s(t) = \int_a^t \sqrt{r'(t) \cdot r'(t)} dt$$

### Velocity & Acceleration

If  $\vec{r}(t)$  is position, Then

$\vec{r}'(t)$  is velocity =  $\vec{v}(t)$

$\vec{r}''(t)$  is acceleration =  $\vec{v}'(t) = \vec{a}(t)$



Acceleration consists of  
normal component &  
tangential component

$$\vec{a} = \vec{a}_{tan} + \vec{a}_{norm}$$

$$\vec{a}_{tan} = \frac{\vec{a} \cdot \vec{v}}{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}} \vec{v} = \underbrace{(\vec{a} \cdot \vec{v})}_{\text{scalar}} \underbrace{\left( \frac{\vec{v}}{\vec{v} \cdot \vec{v}} \right)}_{\text{unit tangent vector}} \vec{v}$$

vector

component of  $\vec{a}$  in  $\vec{v}$  direction

$$\vec{a}_{norm} = \vec{a} - \vec{a}_{tan}$$