

# 1 Lecture (25)

## Curvature

- ① The tangent unit vector to  $C$  at point  $P$  is

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

where  $\vec{r}(t) = f(t)\vec{i} + g(t)\vec{j} + h(t)\vec{k}$

- ② The principal normal unit vector

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

- ③ The curvature of the curve  $C$  where the curve  $C$  is represented by

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

is

$$K = \frac{\|\vec{T}'(t)\|}{\|\vec{r}'(t)\|}, \quad \|\vec{r}'(t)\| \neq 0$$

Kappa

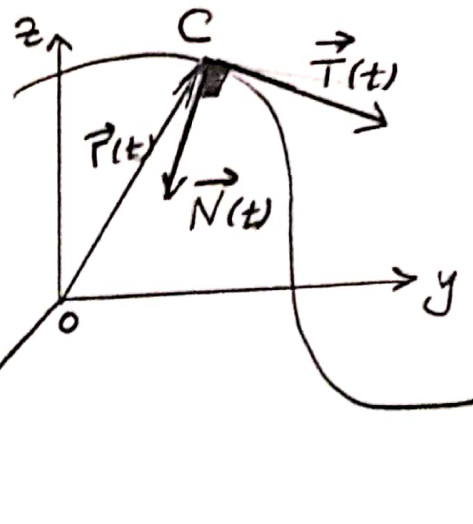
- ④ The radius of curvature is

$$\rho = \frac{1}{K}$$

Ex ① Find  $\vec{T}(t)$ ,  $\vec{N}(t)$ ,  $K$  and  $\rho$  at  $t=1$  for the curve given by  $\vec{r}(t) = 2t\vec{i} + t^2\vec{j} - \frac{1}{3}t^3\vec{k}$

Ans:  $\vec{r}'(t) = 2\vec{i} + 2t\vec{j} - t^2\vec{k}$

$$\|\vec{r}'(t)\| = \sqrt{4 + 4t^2 + t^4} = \sqrt{(t^2+2)^2} = t^2+2 \quad \text{(i)}$$



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\* The tangent unit vector

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

$$\vec{T}(t) = \frac{2\vec{i} + 2t\vec{j} - t^2\vec{k}}{t^2 + 2}$$

at  $t=1$   $\vec{T}(1) = \frac{2\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - \vec{k}}{3} = \frac{1}{3} \langle 2, 2, -1 \rangle$  } ①

\* the principal normal unit vector

$$\vec{N}(t) = \frac{\vec{T}'(t)}{\|\vec{T}'(t)\|}$$
 ②

①  $\vec{T}'(t) = \frac{(t^2+2)(2\vec{j} - 2t\vec{k}) - 2t(2\vec{i} + 2t\vec{j} - t^2\vec{k})}{(t^2+2)^2}$  ②'

$$\vec{T}'(t) = \frac{-4t\vec{i} + (2t^2 + 4 - 4t^2)\vec{j} + (-2t^3 - 4t + 2t^3)\vec{k}}{(t^2+2)^2}$$

$$\vec{T}'(t) = \frac{-4t\vec{i} + (4 - 2t^2)\vec{j} - 4t\vec{k}}{(t^2+2)^2}$$
 ③

$$\|\vec{T}'(t)\| = \sqrt{\frac{16t^2 + (4 - 2t^2)^2 + 16t^2}{(t^2+2)^4}}$$

$$\|\vec{T}'(t)\| = \sqrt{\frac{4t^4 + 16t^2 + 16}{(t^2+2)^4}} = \frac{(2t^2 + 4)}{(t^2+2)^2}$$

$$\|\vec{T}'(t)\| = \frac{2(t^2+2)}{(t^2+2)^2} = \frac{2}{t^2+2}$$
 (ii)

\* Subs. ③ and (ii)

in ②  $\Rightarrow \vec{N}(t) = \frac{-4t\vec{i} + (4 - 2t^2)\vec{j} - 4t\vec{k}}{2(t^2+2)}$

$$\vec{N}(t) = \frac{-2t\vec{i} + (2 - t^2)\vec{j} - 2t\vec{k}}{t^2+2}$$

at  $t=1$   $\vec{N}(1) = \frac{-1}{3} \langle 2, -1, 2 \rangle$  } ④

3 (1), (4)  $\Rightarrow$

$$\vec{T}(1) \cdot \vec{N}(1) = \frac{1}{3} \langle 2, 2, -1 \rangle \cdot \frac{1}{3} \langle 2, -1, 2 \rangle$$

$$\vec{T}(1) \cdot \vec{N}(1) = \frac{-4}{9} + \frac{2}{9} + \frac{2}{9} = 0$$

clearly,  $\vec{T}(t) \cdot \vec{N}(t) = 0 \Rightarrow \vec{T}(t) \perp \vec{N}(t)$

\* The curvature  $K$

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

(i), (ii)  $\Rightarrow$

$$K = \frac{2}{t^2+2} \left( \frac{1}{t^2+2} \right)$$

$$K = \frac{2}{(t^2+2)^2}$$

at  $t=1$   $K = \frac{2}{9}$ , and radius of curvature is

$$\rho = \frac{9}{2} \quad \#$$

~~Note~~

You can get  $\vec{N}(1)$  directly by using (2)' as follows.

$$\vec{T}'(1) = \frac{3(2\vec{j} - 2\vec{k}) - 2(2\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - \vec{k})}{9}$$

$$\therefore \vec{T}'(1) = \frac{-4\vec{i} + 2\vec{j} - 4\vec{k}}{9} = \frac{-2}{9} \langle 2, -1, 2 \rangle$$

$$\Rightarrow \|\vec{T}'(1)\| = \frac{2}{9} \sqrt{4+1+4} = \frac{6}{9} = \frac{2}{3}$$

$$\therefore \vec{N}(1) = \frac{\vec{T}'(1)}{\|\vec{T}'(1)\|} = \frac{-2/9 \langle 2, -1, 2 \rangle}{2/3}$$

$$\therefore \vec{N}(1) = \frac{-1}{3} \langle 2, -1, 2 \rangle \quad \#$$