

Last time

Day 15

Given a curve $\vec{r}(t) = x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j} + z(t)\hat{k}$
where x' , y' , and z' are continuous fns of t
on $[a, b]$. We define

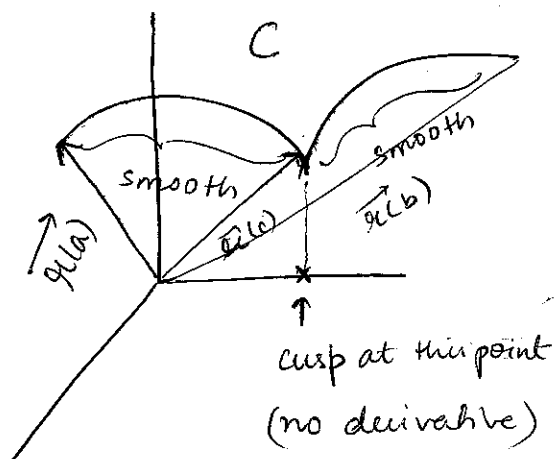
$$L(C) = \int_a^b \sqrt{x'(t)^2 + y'(t)^2 + z'(t)^2} dt$$

↑
Smooth

Arc length of C

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

No derivative at c



Thus, we have def of arc length for piecewise smooth.

Piecewise smooth functions as well.

Ex 1 Find the length of the arc of the circular helix
with vector equation $\vec{r}(t) = \cos t \hat{i} + \sin t \hat{j} + t \hat{k}$ from
the point $(1, 0, 0)$ to the point $(1, 0, 2\pi)$.

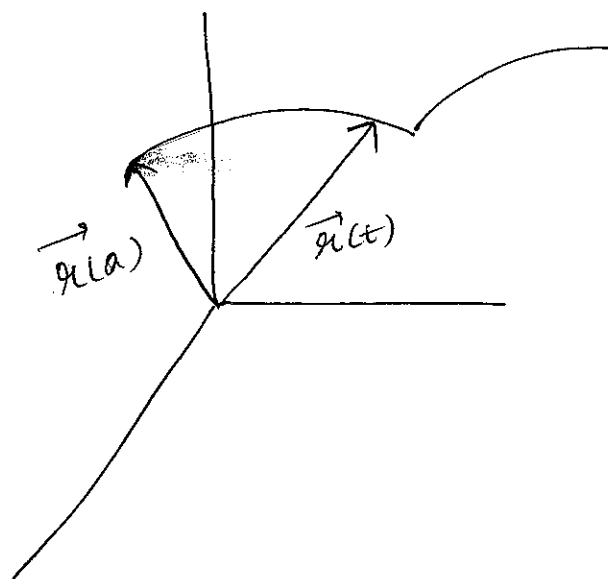
Ex 2 Find the length of the arc of the circular helix with
vector equation $\vec{r}(t) = \cos t \hat{i} + \sin t \hat{j} + t e^{2t} \hat{k}$ from the
point $(1, 0, 1)$ to the point $(1, 0, e^{2\pi})$.

Remark: Different parametrizations of the same curve give rise to the same length of the curve. Arc length is just related to the shape of the curve.

Arc length function

$$s(t) = \int_a^t |\vec{r}'(u)| du$$

→ moving final point



$$s'(t) = |\vec{r}'(t)| \quad \text{FTC}$$

Ex 3 Find arc length function for the curve

$$\vec{r}(t) = \cos t \hat{i} + \sin t \hat{j} + t \hat{k} \text{ starting at}$$

$$(1, 0, 0).$$

Solⁿ

$$s(t) = \int_0^t |-\sin t \hat{i} + \cos t \hat{j} + \hat{k}| dt$$

$$s(t) = \sqrt{2} t$$

$$s(2\pi) = 2\sqrt{2}\pi$$

Ans of Ex 1

$$t = \frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Reparametrize the helix using arc length: (Natural way to parametrizing in terms of arc length)

$$\vec{r}(s) = \cos \frac{s}{\sqrt{2}} \hat{i} + \sin \frac{s}{\sqrt{2}} \hat{j} + \frac{s}{\sqrt{2}} \hat{k}, \quad 0 \leq s$$

Sometimes arc length is used to parametrize the curve to avoid the confusion of too many ways of parametrizing.

Warning: Difficult to compute arc length.

Ex 4 C: $\vec{r}(t) = t\hat{i} + t^2\hat{j} + t^3\hat{k}$, $0 \leq t \leq 1$

$$L(C) = \int_0^1 \sqrt{1 + (2t)^2 + (3t^2)^2} dt$$

$$L(C) = \int_0^1 \sqrt{1 + 4t^2 + 9t^4} dt$$

"Not possible to integrate"

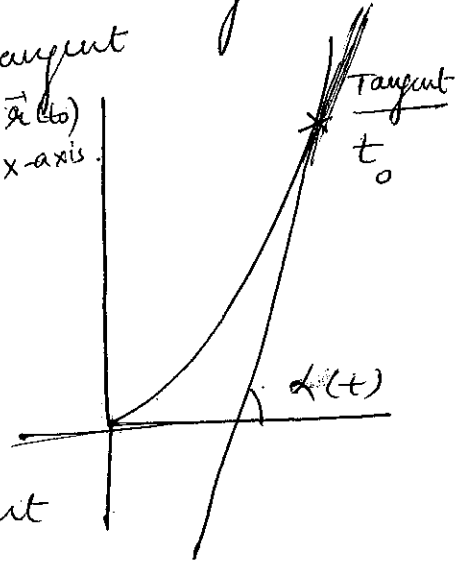
Use approximation method to compute this integral

Curvature at any point measures the change in the direction of the curve.

In plane: $\kappa(t) = \left| \frac{d\alpha(t)}{ds} \right|$

angle that tangent at the point $\vec{r}(t_0)$ makes with x-axis.

arc length.



In space: tangent slope $\rightarrow$ unit tangent vector.

$\kappa(t) = \left| \frac{d\hat{T}(t)}{ds} \right|$ magnitude — NEXT TIME