

Space curve $\mathbf{r}(t) = x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j} + z(t)\hat{k}$

Velocity $\mathbf{v}(t) = \mathbf{r}'(t)$ (defⁿ)

Speed $|\mathbf{v}(t)| = s'(t)$ (defⁿ)

Distance along curve $s(t) = \int_{t_0}^t |\mathbf{v}(t)| dt$ (defⁿ)

Unit tangent $\mathbf{T} = \frac{\mathbf{r}'(t)}{|\mathbf{r}'(t)|} = \mathbf{r}'(s)$ (defⁿ)

Unit normal $\mathbf{N} = \frac{\mathbf{T}'(t)}{|\mathbf{T}'(t)|} = \frac{1}{\kappa} \mathbf{T}'(s)$ (defⁿ)

Unit binormal $\mathbf{B} = \mathbf{T} \times \mathbf{N}$ (defⁿ)

Curvature $\kappa = \frac{|\mathbf{T}'(t)|}{|\mathbf{v}(t)|} = |\mathbf{T}'(s)|$ (defⁿ)

Torsion $\tau = -\mathbf{B}'(s) \cdot \mathbf{N}$ (defⁿ)

Practical Calculations

$$T = \frac{\mathbf{v}}{|\mathbf{v}|}$$

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

$$B = T \times N$$

$$\kappa = \frac{|\mathbf{v} \times \dot{\mathbf{v}}|}{|\mathbf{v}|^3}$$

" $\dot{}$ " is time derivative

$$\tau = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} \dot{x} & \dot{y} & \dot{z} \\ \ddot{x} & \ddot{y} & \ddot{z} \\ \ddot{\ddot{x}} & \ddot{\ddot{y}} & \ddot{\ddot{z}} \end{vmatrix}}{|\mathbf{v} \times \dot{\mathbf{v}}|^2}$$

$$\mathbf{a} = \dot{\mathbf{v}} = a_T T + a_N N$$

$$a_T = \frac{d}{dt} |\mathbf{v}| \quad a_N = \kappa [s'(t)]^2 = \kappa |\mathbf{v}|^2$$