

## Solutions to Exercise Session, March 7, 2016

### 1. Two Formulas.

(a) Let  $\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  be two functions of class  $C^1$ . Show that

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \mathbf{f}(t), \mathbf{g}(t) \rangle = \langle \mathbf{f}'(t), \mathbf{g}(t) \rangle + \langle \mathbf{f}(t), \mathbf{g}'(t) \rangle.$$

**Solution.** By the definition of the scalar product and the properties of the derivative (linearity and the product rule), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} \langle \mathbf{f}(t), \mathbf{g}(t) \rangle &= \frac{d}{dt} \sum_{k=1}^n f_k(t) g_k(t) \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n f'_k(t) g_k(t) + f_k(t) g'_k(t) \\ &= \langle \mathbf{f}'(t), \mathbf{g}(t) \rangle + \langle \mathbf{f}(t), \mathbf{g}'(t) \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

(b) Let  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, a_2, a_3), \mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, b_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . The cross product  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$  of  $\mathbf{a}$  and  $\mathbf{b}$  is defined by

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{pmatrix} a_2 b_3 - a_3 b_2 \\ a_3 b_1 - a_1 b_3 \\ a_1 b_2 - a_2 b_1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Calculate

$$\langle \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{a} \rangle, \langle \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{b} \rangle \text{ and } \langle \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \rangle.$$

Let  $\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be two functions of class  $C^1$ . Show that

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\mathbf{f}(t) \times \mathbf{g}(t)) = \mathbf{f}'(t) \times \mathbf{g}(t) + \mathbf{f}(t) \times \mathbf{g}'(t).$$

**Solutions.**

$$\langle \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{a} \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{b} \rangle = 0$$

and

$$\langle \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a} \rangle \langle \mathbf{b}, \mathbf{b} \rangle - \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \rangle^2.$$

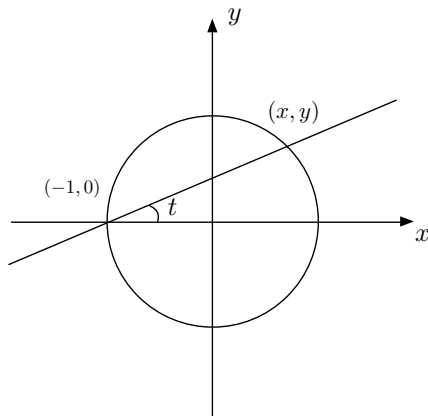
Let  $\mathbf{f} = (f_1, f_2, f_3)$  and  $\mathbf{g} = (g_1, g_2, g_3)$ . We only write the computation for the first component:

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{f}(t) \times \mathbf{g}(t) \right)_1 &= \frac{d}{dt} (f_2(t) g_3(t) - f_3(t) g_2(t)) = \\ &= f'_2(t) g'_3(t) + f_2(t) g''_3(t) - f'_3(t) g'_2(t) - f_3(t) g''_2(t) = (\mathbf{f}'(t) \times \mathbf{g}(t) + \mathbf{f}(t) \times \mathbf{g}'(t))_1. \end{aligned}$$

2. **parameterization of a circle.** Consider the unit circle in the 2D plane:

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1. \tag{1}$$

- (a) Find a trigonometric parameterization  $\theta \rightarrow (x(\theta), y(\theta))$  of the unit circle.
- (b) **Rational Parameterization.** Consider the line that meets the circle at the point  $(-1, 0)$  and another point  $(x, y)$  that has the slope  $t$ . Find the parameterization of the circle  $t \rightarrow (x(t), y(t))$ . What is the computational difference between this parameterization and the one in (a)?



**Solution.**

- (a) The trigonometric parameterization is given by  $(\cos(\theta), \sin(\theta))$  where  $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$ .
- (b) the line passes through the point  $(-1, 0)$  that has the slope  $t$ . The equation of the line then can be written as  $y = tx + t$ . We find the coordinates of the points that the line and circle meet by solving the following system of equations

$$\begin{cases} x^2 + y^2 = 1 \\ y = tx + t \end{cases}$$

By substituting  $y$  into the first equation we get

$$(1 + t^2)x^2 + 2t^2x + t^2 - 1 = 0 \implies (x + 1)((1 + t^2)x + t^2 - 1) = 0$$

So for  $t \in [-\pi/2, \pi/2]$

$$x(t) = \frac{1 - t^2}{1 + t^2}, \quad y(t) = \frac{2t}{1 + t^2}$$

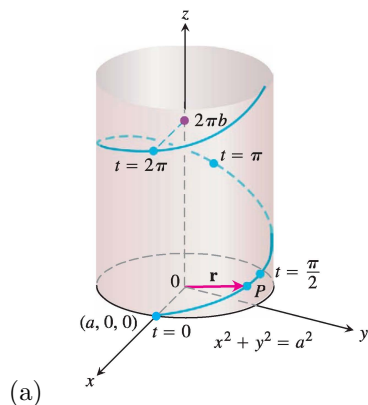
The benefit of this parameterization is that for any rational number  $t$  we receive a rational number for  $x$  and  $y$  so there is no need for approximating irrational values when dealing with  $\sin$  and  $\cos$ .

3. **Helix.** Consider the curve

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} a \cos(t) \\ a \sin(t) \\ bt \end{pmatrix}$$

for  $a, b > 0$ .

- (a) Draw the curve for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ . Use a commercial software if you can e.g. MATLAB, Mathematica or etc.
- (b) Find the curvature  $\kappa$  for the helix.
- (c) What is the largest value  $\kappa$  can have for a given value  $b$ .



(d) What is the length of the curve for  $t \in [0, 2\pi]$ .

**Solution.**

(b) The curvature  $\kappa$  of  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  is given by,

$$\kappa(t) = \frac{\|\mathbf{r}'(t) \times \mathbf{r}''(t)\|}{\|\mathbf{r}'(t)\|^3}.$$

and we have

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \begin{pmatrix} -a \sin(t) \\ a \cos(t) \\ b \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{r}''(t) = \begin{pmatrix} -a \cos(t) \\ -a \sin(t) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) \times \mathbf{r}''(t) = \begin{pmatrix} ab \sin(t) \\ -ab \cos(t) \\ a^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\|\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''\| = \sqrt{a^2 b^2 + a^4}, \quad \|\mathbf{r}'\| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

Hence

$$\kappa = \frac{a}{a^2 + b^2}$$

(c) We set the derivative with respect to  $a$  to be zero

$$\kappa'(a) = \frac{-a^2 + b^2}{(a^2 + b^2)^2} = 0 \implies a = b.$$

It is easy to check that for  $a = b$ ,  $\kappa$  attains its maximum.

(d) The formula for the length of a curve is given by

$$L = \int_a^b |\mathbf{r}'(t)| dt$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} L &= \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{a^2 \sin^2(t) + a^2 \cos^2(t) + b^2} dt \\ &= \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} dt \\ &= 2\pi \sqrt{a^2 + b^2} \end{aligned}$$

4. **Free movement.** Let  $\mathbf{r} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be a curve of class  $C^2$  such that  $\ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t) = \mathbf{0}$ . For  $m > 0$ , we introduce the momentum  $\mathbf{p}(t) = m\dot{\mathbf{r}}(t)$  and the angular momentum  $\mathbf{L}(t) = \mathbf{r}(t) \times \mathbf{p}(t)$ .

(a) Show that  $\mathbf{L}(t)$  is constant.

(b) Show that the energy  $E(t) := \frac{\langle \mathbf{p}(t), \mathbf{p}(t) \rangle}{2m}$  is constant.

**Solutions.**  $\mathbf{L}(t)$  is of class  $C^1$  and, by exercise 3,  $\dot{\mathbf{L}}(t) = m\dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \times \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) + m\mathbf{r}(t) \times \ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t) = \mathbf{0}$ . By the mean value theorem (see Analyse 1) each component of  $\mathbf{L}(t)$  is constant so  $\mathbf{L}(t)$  is constant. The energy is of class  $C^1$ . It is constant since  $\dot{\mathbf{p}}(t) = m\ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t) = \mathbf{0}$  and, by exercise 3,

$$\dot{E}(t) = \frac{\langle \dot{\mathbf{p}}(t), \mathbf{p}(t) \rangle}{2m} + \frac{\langle \mathbf{p}(t), \dot{\mathbf{p}}(t) \rangle}{2m} = 0,$$

and we conclude again with the mean value theorem.

**Solution - b.** Alternately we can apply the mean value theorem to solve for  $\mathbf{r}(t)$ . The equation  $\dot{\mathbf{p}}(t) = m\ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t) = \mathbf{0}$  implies that  $\mathbf{p}(t)$  is constant, ie  $\mathbf{p}(t) = \mathbf{p}_0 = m\mathbf{v}_0$  for a  $\mathbf{p}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . It follows that  $\dot{\mathbf{r}} - (\mathbf{v}_0)t = \mathbf{0}$  and so  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{v}_0t + \mathbf{r}_0$  for a  $\mathbf{r}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . By a direct calculation, it follows that

$$\mathbf{L}(t) = m\mathbf{r}_0 \times \mathbf{v}_0, \quad E(t) := \frac{\langle \mathbf{p}_0, \mathbf{p}_0 \rangle}{2m} = \frac{m\langle \mathbf{v}_0, \mathbf{v}_0 \rangle}{2}.$$

5. **Harmonic oscillator in three dimensions.** Let  $\mathbf{r} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  be a curve of class  $C^2$  such that  $\ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t) = -\omega^2\mathbf{r}(t)$ ,  $\omega > 0$ . For  $m > 0$ , we introduce the momentum  $\mathbf{p}(t) = m\dot{\mathbf{r}}(t)$  and the angular momentum  $\mathbf{L}(t) = \mathbf{r}(t) \times \mathbf{p}(t)$ .

(a) Show that  $\mathbf{L}(t)$  is constant.

(b) Show that the energy  $E(t) := \frac{\langle \mathbf{p}(t), \mathbf{p}(t) \rangle}{2m} + \frac{m\omega^2\langle \mathbf{r}(t), \mathbf{r}(t) \rangle}{2}$  is constant.

**Solutions.** Using the equation  $\ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t)$  we find as above

$$\dot{\mathbf{L}}(t) = m\dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \times \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) + m\mathbf{r}(t) \times \ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t) = \mathbf{0} + m\mathbf{r}(t) \times (-\omega^2\mathbf{r}(t)) = \mathbf{0}$$

and we conclude by the mean value theorem (see exercise above). Similarly, the energy is of class  $C^1$ , and using the equation for  $\ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t)$  and the properties of the scalar product (symmetry, linearity in each component) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{E}(t) &= \frac{\langle \dot{\mathbf{p}}(t), \mathbf{p}(t) \rangle}{2m} + \frac{\langle \mathbf{p}(t), \dot{\mathbf{p}}(t) \rangle}{2m} + \frac{m\omega^2\langle \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t), \mathbf{r}(t) \rangle}{2} + \frac{m\omega^2\langle \mathbf{r}(t), \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \rangle}{2} \\ &= m\langle \ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t), \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \rangle + m\omega^2\langle \mathbf{r}(t), \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \rangle \\ &= m\langle \ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t) + \omega^2\mathbf{r}(t), \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \rangle \\ &= m\langle \mathbf{0}, \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \rangle = 0. \end{aligned}$$

**Remark.** Usually, we don't know which quantities are constant (we say "conserved"). To find them, we multiply the equation by some appropriate functions. For example, if we take the cross product of the equation  $\ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t) = -\omega^2\mathbf{r}(t)$  with  $\mathbf{r}(t)$ , we find

$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \times \mathbf{r}(t) = -\omega^2\mathbf{r}(t) \times \mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{0}$$

which brings us to  $\dot{\mathbf{L}}(t) = \mathbf{0}$ . If we take the scalar product of  $\ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t) = -\omega^2\mathbf{r}(t)$  with  $\dot{\mathbf{r}}(t)$ , we find

$$\langle \ddot{\mathbf{r}}(t), \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \rangle = -\langle \omega^2\mathbf{r}(t), \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \rangle$$

which is equivalent to

$$\frac{d}{dt} \langle \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t), \dot{\mathbf{r}}(t) \rangle = -\omega^2 \frac{d}{dt} \langle \mathbf{r}(t), \mathbf{r}(t) \rangle$$

hence the conservation of the energy.

6. Find the derivative of,

$$f(t) = \langle \mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{v}(t) \rangle.$$

When  $\mathbf{u}(t)$  and  $\mathbf{v}(t)$  are given as,

$$\mathbf{u}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -3t^2 \\ 4t^3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} t \\ \cos t \\ \sin t \end{pmatrix}.$$

- (a)  $f'(t) = 1 - 6t \cos t + 15t^2 \sin t + 4t^3 \cos t$   
(b)  $f'(t) = 6t \cos t + 15t^2 \sin t + 4t^3 \cos t$   
(c)  $f'(t) = 3t \cos t + 7t^2 \sin t + 4t^3 \cos t$   
(d)  $f'(t) = 1 - 3t \cos t + 11t^2 \sin t + 4t^3 \cos t$

**Solutions.** (a) is correct.

The product rule for derivatives of dot products says that,

$$f'(t) = \langle \mathbf{u}(t), \mathbf{v}'(t) \rangle + \langle \mathbf{u}'(t), \mathbf{v}(t) \rangle$$

Now for the given  $\mathbf{u}(t)$  and  $\mathbf{v}(t)$ ,

$$\mathbf{u}'(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ -6t \\ 12t^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v}'(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -\sin t \\ \cos t \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus,

$$f'(t) = (1 + 3t^2 \sin t + 4t^3 \cos t) + (-6t \cos t + 12t^2 \sin t)$$

And so,

$$f'(t) = 1 - 6t \cos t + 15t^2 \sin t + 4t^3 \cos t.$$

7. Which of the following integrals gives the length of the curve,

$$\mathbf{c}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 2t^2 \\ t \end{pmatrix}, \quad 0 \leq t \leq 4.$$

- (a)  $I = \int_0^4 \sqrt{16t^2 + 1} \, dt$   
(b)  $I = 2 \int_0^4 |16t^2 + 1| \, dt$   
(c)  $I = \int_0^2 \sqrt{16t^2 + 1} \, dt$   
(d)  $I = 2 \int_0^2 |16t^2 + 1| \, dt$

**Solutions. (a) is correct.**

The arc length for the curve  $\mathbf{c}(t)$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$ , is given by the integral expression,

$$I = \int_a^b \|\mathbf{c}'(t)\| dt.$$

For the given  $\mathbf{c}(t)$  we have,

$$\mathbf{c}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 4t \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Consequently, the curve has

$$\text{arc length} = \int_0^4 \sqrt{16t^2 + 1} dt.$$

8. Find the unit tangent vector  $\mathbf{T}(t)$  to the graph of the vector function

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \sin t \\ 4t \\ 3 \cos t \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$(a) \quad \mathbf{T}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{5} \cos t \\ \frac{4}{5} \\ \frac{3}{5} \sin t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(b) \quad \mathbf{T}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \sin t \\ 4t \\ 3 \cos t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(c) \quad \mathbf{T}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \sin t \\ -4 \\ 3 \cos t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$(d) \quad \mathbf{T}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{5} \cos t \\ \frac{4}{5} \\ -\frac{3}{5} \sin t \end{pmatrix}$$

**Solutions. (d) is correct.**

The unit tangent vector  $\mathbf{T}(t)$  to  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  is given by

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

For the given  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  we have,

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \cos t \\ 4 \\ -3 \sin t \end{pmatrix}$$

while,

$$|\mathbf{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{3^2(\cos^2 t + \sin^2 t) + (4)^2} = 5.$$

Consequently,

$$\mathbf{T}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{3}{5} \cos t \\ \frac{4}{5} \\ -\frac{3}{5} \sin t \end{pmatrix}$$

9. Determine the curvature,  $\kappa$ , of the curve

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} t^2 \\ 0 \\ 4t \end{pmatrix}$$

(a)  $\kappa(t) = \frac{8t}{4t^2+16}$

(b)  $\kappa(t) = \frac{8}{(4t^2+16)^{1/2}}$

(c)  $\kappa(t) = \frac{8t}{(4t^2+16)^{3/2}}$

(d)  $\kappa(t) = \frac{8}{(4t^2+16)^{3/2}}$

**Solutions.** (d) is correct

The curvature  $\kappa$  of  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  is given by,

$$\kappa(t) = \frac{\|\mathbf{r}'(t) \times \mathbf{r}''(t)\|}{\|\mathbf{r}'(t)\|^3}.$$

So for the given  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  we have,

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 2t \\ 0 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{r}''(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Thus

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) \times \mathbf{r}''(t) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 8 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\|\mathbf{r}'(t) \times \mathbf{r}''(t)\| = \sqrt{8^2} = 8, \quad \|\mathbf{r}'(t)\| = (4t^2 + 16)^{1/2}.$$

Hence,

$$\kappa(t) = \frac{8}{(4t^2 + 16)^{3/2}}.$$