

Sample Solutions

Consider the sample curve $\vec{r}(t) = \left(2t\cos(t), 2t\sin(t), \frac{1}{3}t^3\right)$.

Compute each of the following. Show your work. Simplify where possible.

1. velocity

$$\vec{v}(t) = (2\cos(t) - 2t\sin(t), 2\sin(t) + 2t\cos(t), t^2)$$

2. acceleration

$$\vec{a}(t) = (-4\sin(t) - 2t\cos(t), 4\cos(t) - 2t\sin(t), 2t)$$

3. jerk

$$\vec{j}(t) = (-6\cos(t) + 2t\sin(t), -6\sin(t) - 2t\cos(t), 2)$$

4. speed (HINT: The quantity in the square root is a perfect square.)

$$|\vec{v}(t)| = \sqrt{[2\cos(t) - 2t\sin(t)]^2 + [2\sin(t) + 2t\cos(t)]^2 + [t^2]^2} = \sqrt{4 + 4t^2 + t^4} = 2 + t^2$$

5. arclength between $t = 0$ and $t = 1$

$$L = \int_{(0,0,0)}^{\left(2\cos(1), 2\sin(1), \frac{1}{3}\right)} ds = \int_0^1 |\vec{v}(t)| dt = \int_0^1 (2 + t^2) dt = \left[2t + \frac{1}{3}t^3\right]_0^1 = \frac{7}{3}$$

6. unit tangent vector

$$\hat{T} = \frac{\vec{v}}{|\vec{v}(t)|} = \frac{1}{2 + t^2} \vec{v} = \left(\frac{2\cos(t) - 2t\sin(t)}{2 + t^2}, \frac{2\sin(t) + 2t\cos(t)}{2 + t^2}, \frac{t^2}{2 + t^2} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{v} \times \vec{a} &= \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ 2\cos(t) - 2t\sin(t) & 2\sin(t) + 2t\cos(t) & t^2 \\ -4\sin(t) - 2t\cos(t) & 4\cos(t) - 2t\sin(t) & 2t \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \hat{i}(2t(2 + t^2)\sin(t)) - \hat{j}(2t(2 + t^2)\cos(t)) + \hat{k}(4t^2 + 8) \\ &= (2t(2 + t^2)\sin(t), -2t(2 + t^2)\cos(t), 4(2 + t^2)) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{8. } |\vec{v} \times \vec{a}| &= \sqrt{[2t(2 + t^2)\sin(t)]^2 + [-2t(2 + t^2)\cos(t)]^2 + [4(2 + t^2)]^2} \\ &= (2 + t^2) \sqrt{[2t\sin(t)]^2 + [-2t\cos(t)]^2 + [4]^2} = (2 + t^2) \sqrt{4t^2 + 16} = 2(2 + t^2) \sqrt{t^2 + 4} \end{aligned}$$

9. unit binormal vector

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{B} &= \frac{\vec{v} \times \vec{a}}{|\vec{v} \times \vec{a}|} = \frac{1}{2(2 + t^2) \sqrt{t^2 + 4}} (2t(2 + t^2)\sin(t), -2t(2 + t^2)\cos(t), 4(2 + t^2)) \\ &= \left(\frac{t\sin(t)}{\sqrt{t^2 + 4}}, \frac{-t\cos(t)}{\sqrt{t^2 + 4}}, \frac{2}{\sqrt{t^2 + 4}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

10. unit normal vector

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{N} &= \vec{B} \times \vec{T} = \frac{1}{(2+t^2)\sqrt{t^2+4}} \begin{vmatrix} \hat{i} & \hat{j} & \hat{k} \\ t\sin(t) & -t\cos(t) & 2 \\ 2\cos(t)-2t\sin(t) & 2\sin(t)+2t\cos(t) & t^2 \end{vmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{(2+t^2)\sqrt{t^2+4}} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{i}(-t^3\cos(t)-2(2\sin(t)+2t\cos(t)))-\hat{j}(t^3\sin(t)-2(2\cos(t)-2t\sin(t))) \\ +\hat{k}(t\sin(t)(2\sin(t)+2t\cos(t))+t\cos(t)(2\cos(t)-2t\sin(t))) \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{(2+t^2)\sqrt{t^2+4}} (-4\sin(t)-(4t+t^3)\cos(t), 4\cos(t)-(4t+t^3)\sin(t), 2t)\end{aligned}$$

11. curvature

$$\kappa = \frac{|\vec{v} \times \vec{a}|}{|\vec{v}|^3} = \frac{2(2+t^2)\sqrt{t^2+4}}{(2+t^2)^3} = \frac{2\sqrt{t^2+4}}{(2+t^2)^2}$$

12. torsion

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{v} \times \vec{a} \cdot \vec{j} &= (2t(2+t^2)\sin(t), -2t(2+t^2)\cos(t), 4(2+t^2)) \cdot (-6\cos(t)+2t\sin(t), -6\sin(t)-2t\cos(t), 2) \\ &= 4(2+t^2)^2 \\ |\vec{v} \times \vec{a}|^2 &= [2(2+t^2)\sqrt{t^2+4}]^2 = 4(2+t^2)^2(t^2+4) \\ \tau &= \frac{\vec{v} \times \vec{a} \cdot \vec{j}}{|\vec{v} \times \vec{a}|^2} = \frac{4(2+t^2)^2}{4(2+t^2)^2(t^2+4)} = \frac{1}{t^2+4}\end{aligned}$$

13. tangential acceleration (compute in 2 ways)

$$\begin{aligned}a_T &= \vec{a} \cdot \hat{T} = (-4\sin(t)-2t\cos(t), 4\cos(t)-2t\sin(t), 2t) \cdot \frac{1}{2+t^2} (2\cos(t)-2t\sin(t), 2\sin(t)+2t\cos(t), t^2) \\ &= \frac{2t^3+4t}{2+t^2} = 2t \\ a_T &= \frac{d|\vec{v}|}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt}(2+t^2) = 2t\end{aligned}$$

14. normal acceleration (compute in 2 ways)

$$\begin{aligned}a_N &= \vec{a} \cdot \hat{N} = (-4\sin(t)-2t\cos(t), 4\cos(t)-2t\sin(t), 2t) \\ &\quad \cdot \frac{1}{(2+t^2)\sqrt{t^2+4}} (-4\sin(t)-(4t+t^3)\cos(t), 4\cos(t)-(4t+t^3)\sin(t), 2t) \\ &= \frac{2(2+t^2)(t^2+4)}{(2+t^2)\sqrt{t^2+4}} = 2\sqrt{t^2+4} \\ a_N &= \kappa|\vec{v}|^2 = \frac{2\sqrt{t^2+4}}{(2+t^2)^2} (2+t^2)^2 = 2\sqrt{t^2+4}\end{aligned}$$

15. mass of a wire between $t = 0$ and $t = 1$ with linear density $\rho = x^2 + y^2$

$$M = \int_{(0,0,0)}^{(2\cos(1), 2\sin(1), \frac{1}{3})} \rho ds = \int_0^1 \rho(r(t)) |\vec{v}(t)| dt = \int_0^1 (4t^2)(2+t^2) dt = \left[8\frac{t^3}{3} + 4\frac{t^5}{5} \right]_0^1 = \frac{8}{3} + \frac{4}{5} = \frac{52}{15}$$

16. work to move a bead along the wire from $t = 0$ to $t = 1$ with the force $\vec{F} = (-y, x, 0)$

$$\vec{F}(\vec{r}(t)) = (-2t\sin(t), 2t\cos(t), 0) \quad \vec{v}(t) = (2\cos(t)-2t\sin(t), 2\sin(t)+2t\cos(t), t^2)$$

$$W = \int_{(0,0,0)}^{(2\cos(1), 2\sin(1), \frac{1}{3})} \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{s} = \int_0^1 \vec{F}(r(t)) \cdot \vec{v}(t) dt = \int_0^1 4t^2 dt = \left[4\frac{t^3}{3} \right]_0^1 = \frac{4}{3}$$