

## 1. VECTORS

- Dot product:  $\langle a_1, a_2, a_3 \rangle \cdot \langle b_1, b_2, b_3 \rangle = a_1b_1 + a_2b_2 + a_3b_3$ .
  - Angle between two vectors:  $\cos(\theta) = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{a}| \cdot |\mathbf{b}|}$
  - Perpendicular and orthogonal:  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = 0$
  - Projection of  $\mathbf{b}$  onto  $\mathbf{a}$ :  $\frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a}} \mathbf{a}$
  - Work: Force  $\cdot$  Displacement
  - Rules:  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{a} = |\mathbf{a}|^2$ ;  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{a}$ ;  $\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c}$ ;  
 $(c\mathbf{a}) \cdot \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{a} \cdot (c\mathbf{b}) = c(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b})$ ;  $\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{0} = 0$ .
  
- Cross product:  $\begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} = \begin{vmatrix} a_2 & a_3 \\ b_2 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} - \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_3 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{j} + \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 \\ b_1 & b_2 \end{vmatrix} \mathbf{k}$ 
  - Vector orthogonal to two vectors:  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}$  is orthogonal to both  $\mathbf{a}$  and to  $\mathbf{b}$ .
  - Area of parallelogram:  $A = |\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}|$
  - Angle between two vectors:  $|\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}| = |\mathbf{a}| |\mathbf{b}| \sin(\theta)$
  - Rules:  $\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = -\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{a}$ ;  $\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} + \mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{c}$ ;  
 $(c\mathbf{a}) \times \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{a} \times (c\mathbf{b}) = c(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b})$ ;
  - $\mathbf{a} \times (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{c} \\ \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} \end{vmatrix}$  &  $(\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \times \mathbf{c} = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{b} & \mathbf{a} \\ \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{c} & \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{c} \end{vmatrix}$
  
- Triple scalar product:  $\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})$ 
  - To calculate:  $\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = \begin{vmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & a_3 \\ b_1 & b_2 & b_3 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \end{vmatrix}$
  - Volume of parallelepiped:  $|\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c})|$
  - Rule:  $\mathbf{a} \cdot (\mathbf{b} \times \mathbf{c}) = (\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{c}$ .
  
- Equations of a line
  - Vector equation:  $t \langle v_1, v_2, v_3 \rangle + \langle c_1, c_2, c_3 \rangle$
  - Symmetric equation:  $\frac{x - c_1}{v_1} = \frac{y - c_2}{v_2} = \frac{z - c_3}{v_3}$  with adjustments when  $v_i = 0$ .
  
- Equation of a plane: normal vector  $\mathbf{N} = \langle a, b, c \rangle$  and point  $\langle p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle$  gives the equation  $\mathbf{N} \cdot \langle x, y, z \rangle = \mathbf{N} \cdot \langle p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle$ .

## 2. CURVES

2.1. **Parametrization.** Vector valued function  $\mathbf{r}(t)$ ,  $a \leq t \leq b$ . A parametrization is smooth provided  $\mathbf{r}'(t) \neq \mathbf{0}$ . A smooth parametrization orients the curve.

2.2. **Arc Length.** Arc length between points  $\mathbf{p}_1$  and  $\mathbf{p}_2$ : find  $t_1$  and  $t_2$  such that  $\mathbf{r}(t_i) = \mathbf{p}_i$  and if the parametrization is smooth, the arc length is  $\int_{t_1}^{t_2} |\mathbf{r}'(t)| dt$  provided  $t_1 < t_2$ .

$$\frac{ds}{dt} = |\mathbf{r}'(t)|$$

2.3. **Tangent vector(s).** A tangent vector to the curve at  $t$  is  $\mathbf{r}'(t)$ . At a point  $\mathbf{p}$  find  $c$  such that  $\mathbf{r}(c) = \mathbf{p}$  and use  $\mathbf{r}'(c)$ .

2.4. **Velocity and acceleration.** Velocity =  $\mathbf{r}'(t)$ , speed =  $|\mathbf{r}'(t)|$ . Acceleration =  $\mathbf{r}''(t)$ .

2.5. **Frenet-Serret frame.** Unit tangent  $\mathbf{T}(t)$ , unit normal  $\mathbf{N}(t)$ , and unit binormal,  $\mathbf{B}(t)$ . These three unit vectors are mutually orthogonal and  $\mathbf{T}(t)$ ,  $\mathbf{N}(t)$ ,  $\mathbf{B}(t)$  is a right-handed frame.

$$\mathbf{r}''(t) = a_{\mathbf{T}}(t)\mathbf{T}(t) + a_{\mathbf{N}}(t)\mathbf{N}(t) \text{ where } a_{\mathbf{T}}(t) = \frac{d|\mathbf{r}'(t)|}{dt} \text{ and } a_{\mathbf{N}}(t) = \kappa(t) |\mathbf{r}'(t)|^2.$$

If you actually want to compute  $a_{\mathbf{T}}(t)$  use  $a_{\mathbf{T}}(t) = \frac{\mathbf{r}'(t) \cdot \mathbf{r}''(t)}{|\mathbf{r}'(t)|}$ .

If you actually want to compute  $\kappa(t)$  use  $\kappa(t) = \frac{|\mathbf{r}'(t) \times \mathbf{r}''(t)|}{|\mathbf{r}'(t)|^3}$ .

If you actually want to compute  $a_{\mathbf{N}}(t)$  use  $a_{\mathbf{N}}(t) = \frac{|\mathbf{r}'(t) \times \mathbf{r}''(t)|}{|\mathbf{r}'(t)|}$ .

If you actually want to compute the vectors in the Frenet-Serret frame

- $\mathbf{T}(t)$ : take  $\mathbf{r}'(t)$  and make it unit length.
- $\mathbf{B}(t)$ : take  $\mathbf{r}'(t) \times \mathbf{r}''(t)$  and make it unit length.
- $\mathbf{N} = \mathbf{B} \times \mathbf{T}$ : take  $(\mathbf{r}'(t) \times \mathbf{r}''(t)) \times \mathbf{r}'(t) = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{r}''(t) & \mathbf{r}'(t) \\ \mathbf{r}''(t) \cdot \mathbf{r}'(t) & \mathbf{r}'(t) \cdot \mathbf{r}'(t) \end{vmatrix}$  and make it unit length.

If you want any of these quantities at a single value of  $t$ , compute  $\mathbf{r}'(t)$  and  $\mathbf{r}''(t)$  at the point and then work with vectors of numbers.

The *osculating plane* to a curve at a point is the plane spanned by  $\mathbf{T}(t)$  and  $\mathbf{N}(t)$ . A normal vector to this plane is  $\mathbf{B}(t)$ . If you actually want to find an equation for the osculating plane, use  $\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''$  for the normal vector.

The *normal plane* to a curve at a point is the plane with normal vector  $\mathbf{T}$  through the point.

2.6. **Antiderivatives.** Find the equation of a curve given an equation for velocity,  $\mathbf{v}(t)$ .  $\int \mathbf{v}(t) dt$  is the family of curves with that velocity. One can also compute the velocity from the acceleration up to a constant vector.