Tutorial Worksheet

Show all your work.

1. The initial position and velocity of an object moving with acceleration $\mathbf{a} = e^t \mathbf{i}$ are $\mathbf{r}(0) = 2\mathbf{i} + 3\mathbf{j} + 2\mathbf{k}$ and $\mathbf{v}(0) = \mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j} + \mathbf{k}$. Find its position at time t.

Solution: To find velocity, we integrate the acceleration:

$$\mathbf{v}(t) = \int \mathbf{a}(t) dt = \int \langle e^t, 0, 0 \rangle dt = \langle e^t, 0, 0 \rangle + \mathbf{c}.$$

Now we solve for **c** using the initial velocity: $\mathbf{v}(0) = \langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle = \langle e^0, 0, 0 \rangle + \mathbf{c}$, so $\mathbf{c} = \langle 0, 1, 1 \rangle$. Therefore $\mathbf{v}(t) = \langle e^t, 0, 0 \rangle + \langle 0, 1, 1 \rangle = \langle e^t, 1, 1 \rangle$.

Then we integrate again to find position:

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \int \mathbf{v}(t) dt = \int \langle e^t, 1, 1 \rangle dt = \langle e^t, t, t \rangle + \mathbf{c}.$$

The initial position lets us solve for **c**. Since $\mathbf{r}(0) = \langle 2, 3, 2 \rangle = \langle e^0, 0, 0 \rangle + \mathbf{c}$, we get $\mathbf{c} = \langle 1, 3, 2 \rangle$, and so $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle e^t, t, t \rangle + \langle 1, 3, 2 \rangle$.

2. Find the equations for the normal and osculating planes to the curve $\mathbf{r}(t) = 2\cos(3t)\mathbf{i} + t\mathbf{j} + 2\sin(3t)\mathbf{k}$ at the point $(-2, \pi, 0)$.

Solution: Setting $\mathbf{r}(t_0) = \langle -2, \pi, 0 \rangle$, we see from the **j** coordinate that $t_0 = \pi$. The normal plane is a plane perpendicular to the tangent vector $\mathbf{r}'(\pi)$ and containing the point $(-2, \pi, 0)$. We compute

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \langle -6\sin(3t), 1, 6\cos(3t) \rangle$$

giving $\mathbf{r}'(\pi) = \langle 0, 1, -6 \rangle$. Therefore the equation of the normal plane is

$$\langle 0,1,-6\rangle \mathrel{\raisebox{.3ex}{$\scriptstyle\bullet$}} \langle x,y,z\rangle = \langle 0,1,-6\rangle \mathrel{\raisebox{.3ex}{$\scriptstyle\bullet$}} \langle -2,\pi,0\rangle$$

which is $y - 6z = \pi$.

The osculating plane is a plane perpendicular to the binormal vector $\mathbf{B}(\pi)$ and containing the point $(-2, \pi, 0)$. The binormal is in the direction of $\mathbf{r}'(\pi) \times \mathbf{r}''(\pi)$. We have

$$\mathbf{r}''(t) = \langle -18\cos(3t), 0, -18\sin(3t) \rangle$$

so $\mathbf{r}''(\pi) = \langle 18, 0, 0 \rangle$. Then we get

$$\mathbf{r}'(\pi) \times \mathbf{r}''(\pi) = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 0 & 1 & -6 \\ 18 & 0 & 0 \end{vmatrix} = \langle 0, -6 \cdot 18, -18 \rangle = (-18) \langle 0, 6, 1 \rangle$$

Using (0,6,1) as the normal vector to the osculating plane, the equation is

$$\langle 0, 6, 1 \rangle \cdot \langle x, y, z \rangle = \langle 0, 6, 1 \rangle \cdot \langle -2, \pi, 0 \rangle = 6\pi$$

3. Find the unit tangent, unit normal, and binormal vectors to the curve $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle t^2, t^3, t^4 + t^2 \rangle$ at t = 1.

Solution: First we compute the first and second derivatives:

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \langle 2t, 3t^2, 4t^3 + 2t \rangle \text{ and } \mathbf{r}'(1) = \langle 2, 3, 6 \rangle.$$

$$\mathbf{r}''(t) = \langle 2, 6t, 12t^2 + 2 \rangle$$
 and $\mathbf{r}''(1) = \langle 2, 6, 14 \rangle$.

The unit tangent $\mathbf{T}(1)$ is a unit vector in the direction of $\mathbf{r}'(1)$, so

$$\mathbf{T}(1) = \frac{1}{|\langle 2, 3, 6 \rangle|} \langle 2, 3, 6 \rangle = \frac{1}{7} \langle 2, 3, 6 \rangle.$$

The binormal $\mathbf{B}(1)$ is a unit vector in the direction of $\mathbf{r}'(1) \times \mathbf{r}''(1)$.

$$\mathbf{r}'(1) \times \mathbf{r}''(1) = \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 2 & 3 & 6 \\ 2 & 6 & 14 \end{vmatrix} = \langle 6, -16, 6 \rangle.$$

$$\mathbf{B}(1) = \frac{1}{|\langle 6, -16, 6 \rangle|} \langle 6, -16, 6 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{82}} \langle 3, -8, 3 \rangle.$$

Finally, the unit normal vector is $\mathbf{N}(1) = \mathbf{B}(1) \times \mathbf{T}(1)$.

$$\mathbf{N}(1) = \frac{1}{7\sqrt{82}} \begin{vmatrix} \mathbf{i} & \mathbf{j} & \mathbf{k} \\ 3 & -8 & 3 \\ 2 & 3 & 6 \end{vmatrix} = \frac{1}{7\sqrt{82}} \left\langle -57, -12, 25 \right\rangle.$$

4. Find the length of the curve $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle e^{2t}, t, 2e^t \rangle$ on the interval $0 \le t \le 3$.

Solution: First compute the derivative:

$$\mathbf{r}'(t) = \left\langle 2e^{2t}, 1, 2e^t \right\rangle$$

$$|\mathbf{r}'(t)| = \sqrt{4e^{4t} + 4e^{2t} + 1} = \sqrt{(2e^{2t} + 1)^2} = 2e^{2t} + 1$$

(because $2e^{2t} + 1$ is always positive). Now the arc length formula gives

$$L = \int_0^3 |\mathbf{r}'(t)| dt = \int_0^3 (2e^{2t} + 1) dt = e^{2t} + t \Big]_0^3 = (e^6 + 3) - (1 + 0) = e^6 + 2.$$