

Below are three questions about a helix. They will be graded as if they were multiple choice questions. This means that there will be no partial credit! Clearly place the result of your final calculation in a box, so that the grader can see which answer you would have picked if this was a multiple choice test. However, answers without supporting work receive no credit.

A circular helix is the graph of the vector valued function

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = (\cancel{r \cos t}, \cancel{r \cos t}, ct) \quad (r \cos t, r \sin t, ct)$$

where  $r, c$  are constants ( $r$  is positive).

1. Derive a general formula for the curvature of the helix in terms of  $r$  and  $c$ .
2. Derive a formula for the *sine* of the angle  $\phi$  between the binormal vector  $\mathbf{B}(t)$  and the vertical vector  $\mathbf{k} = (0, 0, 1)$  in terms of  $r, c$ . (Hint: first calculate  $\mathbf{B}$ , then  $\cos \phi$ , and then use  $\cos^2 \phi + \sin^2 \phi = 1$ .)
3. Derive a formula for the torsion of the helix in terms of  $r, c$ . (The general torsion formula is found on page 906 in the book, as part (d) of exercise 51.)

$$K(t) \text{ w.r.t. } r, c \in \mathbb{R}, r > 0$$

$$K \doteq \frac{T'}{|T|} \text{ or } \left| \frac{dT}{ds} \right|$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{r}(t) &= (r \cos t, r \sin t, ct) & \mathbf{T} &= \frac{\mathbf{r}'}{|\mathbf{r}'|} = \frac{(-r \sin t, r \cos t, c)}{\sqrt{r^2 + c^2}} \\ \mathbf{r}'(t) &= (-r \sin t, r \cos t, c) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dT}{ds} &= \frac{d\mathbf{T}}{dt} \cdot \frac{dt}{ds} = \mathbf{T}' \cdot \frac{1}{|\mathbf{r}'|} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + c^2}} (-r \cos t, -r \sin t, 0) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + c^2}} \\ &= \frac{r}{r^2 + c^2} (\cos t, \sin t, 0) \end{aligned}$$

$$K = \left| \frac{dT}{ds} \right| = \frac{r}{r^2 + c^2} |\cos t, \sin t, 0| = \frac{r}{r^2 + c^2} \sqrt{\cos^2 + \sin^2} = \frac{r}{r^2 + c^2}$$

$$K(r, c) = \frac{r}{r^2 + c^2}$$

find  $\angle$  m btw  $\mathbb{B}$  and  $\hat{\mathbf{k}}$ . wrt.  $r, c$ .

$$\mathbb{B} = \mathbb{T} \times \mathbb{N}$$

$$\mathbb{T} = \frac{(-r \sin t, +r \cos t, c)}{\sqrt{r^2 + c^2}}$$

$$\mathbb{N} = \frac{\mathbb{T}'}{|\mathbb{T}'|} = \frac{(-r \cos t, -r \sin t, 0)}{\sqrt{r^2 + c^2}} \sqrt{\left(\frac{r^2}{r^2 + c^2}\right)}$$

$$\mathbb{N} = (-\cos t, -\sin t, 0)$$

$$\mathbb{B} = (c \sin t, c \cos t, +r \sin^2 t + r \cos^2 t) = \frac{(c \sin t, c \cos t, r)}{\sqrt{c^2 + r^2}}$$

$$\frac{\mathbb{B} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}}}{|\mathbb{B}| |\hat{\mathbf{k}}|} = \cos \phi$$

$$\mathbb{B} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}} = (0 + 0 + r)$$

$$|\mathbb{B}| = \sqrt{c^2 + r^2}$$

$$|\hat{\mathbf{k}}| = 1$$

$$\therefore \cos \phi = \frac{r}{\sqrt{c^2 + r^2}}$$

Compare / look back @  $K = \frac{r}{r^2 + c^2}$

$$\sin \phi = \sqrt{1 - \cos^2 \phi} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{r^2}{r^2 + c^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{r^2 + c^2}{r^2 + c^2} - \frac{r^2}{r^2 + c^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{c^2}{r^2 + c^2}}$$

$$\sin \phi = \frac{c}{\sqrt{r^2 + c^2}}$$

$$\tau = ?$$

$$\tau = -\frac{dB}{ds} \cdot N$$

$$B = (c \sin t, c \cos t, r) / \sqrt{r^2 + c^2}$$

$$N = (-\cos t, -\sin t, 0)$$

$$\frac{dB}{ds} = \frac{dB}{dt} \frac{dt}{ds} = (c \cos t, -c \sin t, 0) \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{r^2 + c^2}^2}$$

$$-\frac{dB}{ds} = \frac{(-c \cos t, +c \sin t, 0)}{\sqrt{r^2 + c^2}}$$

$$\tau = \frac{+c \cos^2}{\sqrt{r^2 + c^2}^2} + \frac{+c \sin^2}{\sqrt{r^2 + c^2}^2} + 0 = \frac{+c (\cos^2 + \sin^2)}{\sqrt{r^2 + c^2}^2} = \boxed{\frac{+c}{r^2 + c^2}}$$

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

$$= \frac{\begin{vmatrix} -r \sin t & r \cos t & c \\ -r \cos t & -r \sin t & 0 \\ r \sin t & -r \cos t & 0 \end{vmatrix}}{|c r \sin t, -c r \cos t, r^2 \sin^2 + r^2 \cos^2|^2}$$

$$= \frac{[(0 + 0 + c r^2 \cos^2 t) - (-c r^2 \sin^2 t + 0 + 0)]}{\sqrt{c^2 r^2 \sin^2 + c^2 r^2 \cos^2 + r^4}}$$
$$c r^2 / c^2 r^2 + r^4 = \boxed{\frac{c}{c^2 + r^2}} \quad \checkmark \checkmark$$