

Curves, surfaces up to Gauss

① Frenet-Serret formulas

(1)



(2)  $d\theta = \kappa ds + d\int(1-\mu)$

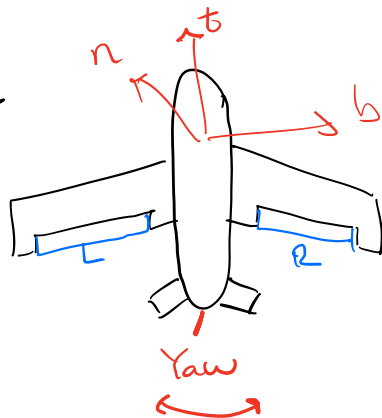
$\Rightarrow$  degree = # of preimages.

w/ sign.  
(Also (drawing picture))

arclength param

Q: When are two curves  $\alpha, \beta: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  the same up to rigid motions?

A: Use an airplane without Yaw



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Pitch} \\ \text{Roll} \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{yaw} \\ \Delta_L + \Delta_R \\ \Delta_L - \Delta_R \end{array}$$

Minor technicality: If pitch = 0, roll doesn't change path.  
Simplest sol'n: Assume pitch  $\neq 0$ ; wlog pitch  $> 0$ .

### Frenet Frame (1847)

Defn If  $\alpha: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  is a curve (param by arclength), define

$t(s) = \alpha'(s)$  tangent

$\kappa(s) = |t'(s)| = |\alpha''(s)|$  curvature (compare signed curv)

Assuming  $\kappa \neq 0$ , define

$n(s) = \frac{\alpha''(s)}{\kappa(s)}$  normal (check  $n \perp t$ )

$b(s) = t \wedge n$  binormal (cross product)

$F = [t \ n \ b]$  is the Frenet Frame of  $\alpha$

The span( $t, n$ ) is the osculating plane.

Can think of  $F: I \rightarrow SO(3)$   $F^T F = id.$

Write  $F' = \frac{dF}{dt} \in T_F SO(3)$

$$(F^T)' F + F^T F' = 0 \iff (F^{-1} F')^T + F^{-1} F' = 0$$

$$\iff F^{-1} F' \text{ is skew-symmetric}$$

Recall Lie algebra of  $SO(3) \leftrightarrow T_e SO(3) =$  skew-sym  
 $\leftrightarrow$  infinitesimal vector fields

$\Rightarrow \exists$  canonical map  $d_{F^{-1}}: T_F SO(3) \rightarrow T_e SO(3)$

For matrices  $d_{F^{-1}}(F') = \underbrace{F^{-1} F'}_{\substack{\text{as matrices} \\ \text{w/ } F^{-1} \text{ basis}}} \rightsquigarrow F^{-1} dF$  MacCarter Form.

$F^{-1} F'$ :

$$[t \ n \ b]' = [t \ n \ b] \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -x & -y \\ x & 0 & -z \\ y & z & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Since the Frenet Frame is orthonormal,  $F^T F = I$ ,  
 $F^{-1} F'$  is skew-symmetric

$$\Rightarrow [t' \ n' \ b'] = [t \ n \ b] \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\square & \square \\ \square & 0 & \square \\ -\square & -\square & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Because  $t' \cdot n = \kappa$  and  $t' \cdot b = 0$ , this matrix is actually of the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\kappa & 0 \\ \kappa & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & -\tau & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

sign convention  
do Cartan

Where  $\tau$  is a new property, called torsion.

Defn The torsion is  $b' \cdot n$ .

Remark: pitch is  $k$  and roll is  $\tau$ .

Fund. Thm. of space curves:

- ①  $\forall k > 0, \tau$  on  $I$ ,  $\exists \alpha: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$  w/ curvature  $k$ , torsion  $\tau$
- ② Such  $\alpha$  is unique up to rigid motions

① is actually way harder than in 2D bc  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -k \\ k & -\tau \end{bmatrix}$  need not commute w/  $\begin{bmatrix} 0 & -k \\ k & -\tau \end{bmatrix}$ , so you can't nec diagonalize

Need Fund. Thm. of linear ODE  $\leftarrow$  Aside  $F' = FA$

$$\alpha = \int t$$

$$\Rightarrow F' \in e^{M} F_0$$

Completeness then  $\Rightarrow$  exists for all  $t$  &  $s$ .

② Linearity If  $F, \tilde{F}$  solve same eqn, define  $M$  by  $F(t_0) = M\tilde{F}(t_0)$

$$F' = F A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -k \\ k & -\tau \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\tilde{F}' = \tilde{F} A \quad \tilde{F} = M F$$

$$M'F + MF' = MFA \Rightarrow M'F = 0 \Rightarrow M = \text{const}$$

$\Rightarrow$  differ by LT multiplication by (orthogonal)  $M$

Then  $t = F \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\tilde{t} = M F \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} = M t$$

Integrate again  $\leadsto \tilde{x} = Mx + \begin{bmatrix} x_0 \\ y_0 \\ z_0 \end{bmatrix}$

↓

Now, if  $\alpha: I \rightarrow S \subseteq \mathbb{R}^3$  is an arclength-parametrized curve on an oriented surface  $S$ , the Darbour Frame of  $\alpha$  is the orthonormal framing  $[T \ V \ N]$  where

$$T(s) = \alpha'(s)$$

$$N(s) = N_{\alpha(s)}$$

$$V(s) = N(s) \wedge T(s)$$

(See Exercise 4-4.14)

Rules:

- Don't need to assume  $\kappa \neq 0$
- (Exercise) A more natural definition is
  - $T(s)$  is the unit tangent to trace( $\alpha$ ) determined by the orientation of  $\alpha$
  - $V(s)$  is  $T(s)^\perp$  in the tangent space of  $S$  at  $\alpha(s)$ , where the meaning of  $\perp$  is determined by the orientation of  $S$



- $N(s)$  is  $T \wedge V$  (where the connection for  $\wedge$  is determined by the orientation of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ !)

Since  $[T \ V \ N]$  is orthonormal, we still have

$$[T' \ V' \ N'] = [T \ V \ N] \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a & -b \\ a & 0 & -c \\ b & c & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

For some functions  $a(s), b(s), c(s)$ , (see lectures 4.1 and 4.2)

which are now invariants up to rigid motion of the pair  $(\alpha, S)$ .

$$\langle T', T \rangle = \frac{1}{2}(\|T'\|^2) = 0$$

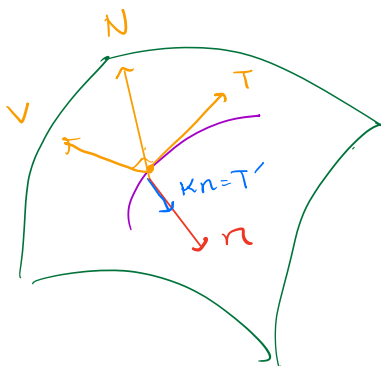
Airplane analogy: now we have a rudder

Defn.  $\langle T', N \rangle = b = -\langle N', T \rangle$  is the normal curvature of  $\alpha$  in  $S$ . Do Carmo calls this  $k_n$ .

more on these later

- $\langle T', V \rangle = a = -\langle V', T \rangle$  is the geodesic curvature of  $\alpha$  in  $S$ .
- $\langle V', N \rangle = c = -\langle N', V \rangle$  is the geodesic torsion of  $\alpha$  in  $S$ .

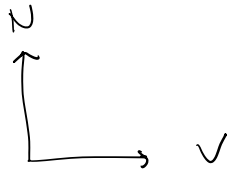
Prop  $\|T'\| = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$



$\Gamma$   $T'$  is in the plane spanned by  $V$  and  $N$  (since  $\alpha$  is arc-length-parametrized) and  $V$  and  $N$  are orthonormal, so

$$k = \|T'\| = \sqrt{\langle T', V \rangle^2 + \langle T', N \rangle^2} = \sqrt{a^2 + b^2}$$

The  $V, N$  plane:



Defn ①. If  $T'$  is parallel to  $V$ ,  $\alpha$  is an asymptotic curve.  
(i.e.  $\langle T', N \rangle = 0$ )

②. If  $T'$  is parallel to  $N$ ,  $\alpha$  is a geodesic of  $S$ .  
(i.e.  $\langle T', V \rangle = 0$ )

make more  
later

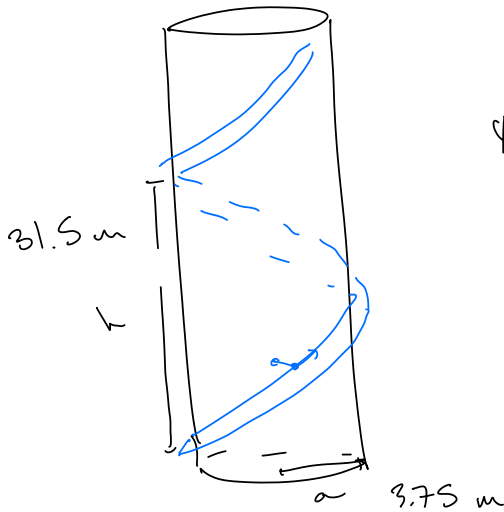
• If  $N'$  is parallel to  $T$ , then  $\alpha$  is a line of curvature of  $S$ .  
(i.e.  $\langle N', V \rangle = 0$ )

①  $\Leftrightarrow (T, V, N)$  Frenet

②  $\Leftrightarrow (T, N, -V)$  Frenet

Moscow's problem:

Test frame



cut out of a flat sheet.  
What radius?

$$\phi(u) = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a \cos u \\ a \sin u \\ h \frac{u}{2\pi} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{d\phi}{du} = \begin{pmatrix} -a \sin u \\ a \cos u \\ \frac{h}{2\pi} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\frac{d^2\phi}{du^2} = \begin{pmatrix} -a \cos u \\ -a \sin u \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$|\dot{\phi}| = \sqrt{a^2 + \frac{h^2}{4\pi^2}} =: c$$

$$L = 2\pi c = \text{length of one section}$$

guess: circle of radius  $c = 6.26 \text{ m}$ ?  
too small

Better guess?

$$s = \frac{u}{c}$$

$$\frac{ds}{du} = \frac{1}{c}$$

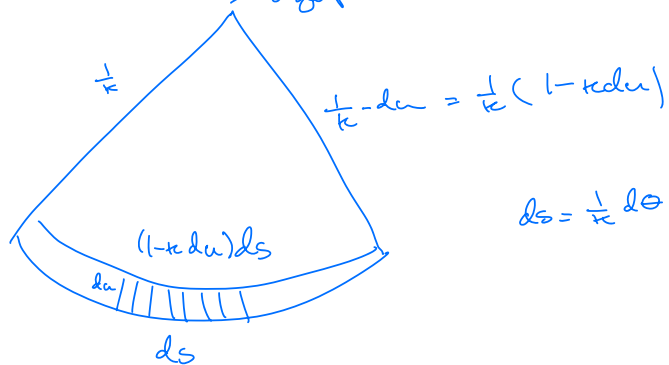
$$\frac{d^2s}{du^2} = \frac{d^2\phi}{du^2} \left(\frac{du}{ds}\right)^2$$

$$K = \frac{a}{c^2}$$

$$\frac{1}{K} \approx 10.45 \text{ m}$$

Darboux Frame = Frenet Frame

→ asymptotic curve



$$ds = \frac{1}{K} d\theta$$