

Recall: Curvature is

$$K = \left| \frac{d\vec{T}}{ds} \right| = \frac{|\vec{r}'(t) \times \vec{r}''(t)|}{|\vec{r}'(t)|^3}$$

Entry Task:  $f(x) = x^2 - 6x$

At what point  $(x, y, z)$  is the curvature maximum?

## 2D Curvature:

For,  $y = f(x)$ , we form:

$$\mathbf{r}(x) = \langle x, f(x), 0 \rangle.$$

$$\mathbf{r}'(x) = \langle 1, f'(x), 0 \rangle$$

$$\mathbf{r}''(x) = \langle 0, f''(x), 0 \rangle$$

$$|\mathbf{r}'(x)| = \sqrt{1 + (f'(x))^2}$$

$$\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}'' = \langle 0, 0, f''(x) \rangle$$

$$K(x) = \frac{|\mathbf{r}' \times \mathbf{r}''|}{|\mathbf{r}'|^3} = \frac{|f''(x)|}{(1 + (f'(x))^2)^{3/2}}$$

### 13.4 Position, Velocity, Acceleration

If  $t = \text{time}$  and position is given by

$$\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle x(t), y(t), z(t) \rangle$$

then

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{r}'(t) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbf{r}(t+h) - \mathbf{r}(t)}{h} \\ &= \frac{\text{change in position}}{\text{change in time}} \\ &= \text{velocity} = \mathbf{v}(t)\end{aligned}$$

$$|\mathbf{r}'(t)| = \frac{\text{change in dist}}{\text{change in time}} = \text{speed} = \frac{ds}{dt}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{r}''(t) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbf{r}'(t+h) - \mathbf{r}'(t)}{h} \\ &= \frac{\text{change in velocity}}{\text{change in time}} \\ &= \text{acceleration} = \mathbf{a}(t)\end{aligned}$$

*Example:* Let  $t$  be **time in seconds** and assume the position of an object (in **feet**) is given by  $\mathbf{r}(t) = \langle t, 2e^{-t}, 0 \rangle$ . Compute  $\mathbf{r}'(t)$ ,  $|\mathbf{r}'(t)|$ , and  $\mathbf{r}''(t)$  and  $\mathbf{r}'(0)$ ,  $|\mathbf{r}'(0)|$ , and  $\mathbf{r}''(0)$ .

**HUGE application:**  
**Modeling ANY motion problem.**

Newton's 2<sup>nd</sup> Law of Motion states  
Force = mass · acceleration

$$\mathbf{F} = m \cdot \mathbf{a} , \text{ so}$$

$$\mathbf{a} = \frac{1}{m} \cdot \mathbf{F}$$

If  $\mathbf{F} = \langle 0,0,0 \rangle$ , then all the forces  
'balance out' and the object has no  
acceleration. (Velocity will remain  
constant)

If  $\mathbf{F} \neq \langle 0,0,0 \rangle$ , then acceleration will  
occur, and we integrate (or solve a  
differential equation) to find velocity and  
position.

That is how we can model ALL motion  
problems!

*HW Example:* An object of mass 10 kg is  
being acted on by the force

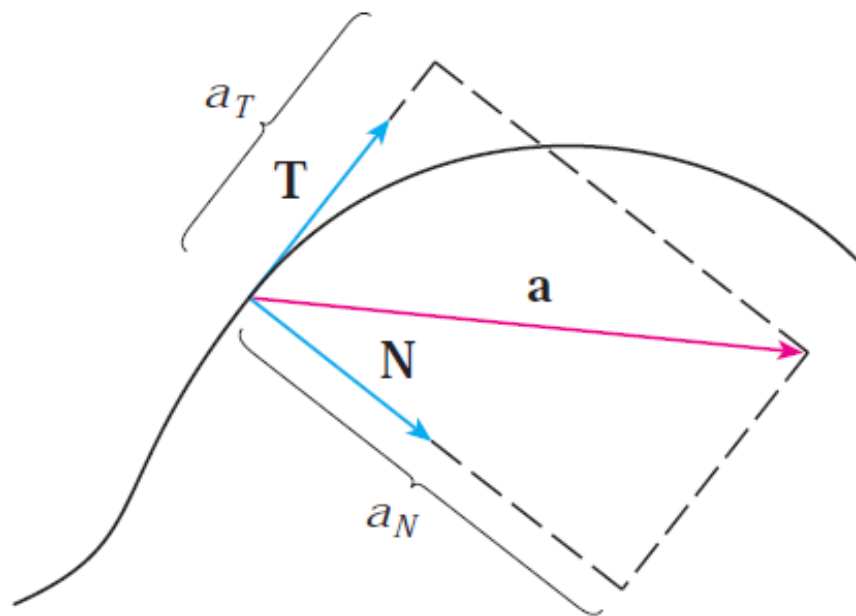
$$\mathbf{F} = \langle 130t, 10e^t, 10e^{-t} \rangle.$$

You are given

$$\mathbf{v}(0) = \langle 0, 0, 1 \rangle \text{ and } \mathbf{r}(0) = \langle 0, 1, 1 \rangle.$$

Find the position function.

## Measuring and describing acceleration



Recall:  $\text{comp}_{\mathbf{b}}(\mathbf{a}) = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{|\mathbf{b}|} = \text{length}$ .

We define the tangential and normal components of acceleration by:

$$a_T = \text{comp}_{\mathbf{T}}(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{T} = \text{tangential}$$

$$a_N = \text{comp}_{\mathbf{N}}(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{N} = \text{normal}$$

For computing use,

$$a_T = \frac{\vec{r}' \cdot \vec{r}''}{|\vec{r}'|} \quad \text{and} \quad a_N = \frac{|\vec{r}' \times \vec{r}''|}{|\vec{r}'|}$$

For interpreting use,

$$a_T = v' = \frac{d}{dt} |r'(t)| = \text{“deriv. of speed”}$$

$$a_N = kv^2 = \text{curvature} \cdot (\text{speed})^2$$

*Example:*

$$\vec{r}(t) = \langle \cos(t), \sin(t), t \rangle$$

Find the tangential and normal components of acceleration.

*Deriving interpretations:*

Note that:  $\mathbf{a} = a_T \mathbf{T} + a_N \mathbf{N}$

Let  $v(t) = |\vec{v}(t)| = \text{speed}$ .

$$1. \vec{T}(t) = \frac{\vec{r}'(t)}{|\vec{r}'(t)|} = \frac{\vec{v}(t)}{v(t)} \text{ implies } \vec{v} = v\vec{T}.$$

$$2. \kappa(t) = \frac{|\vec{T}'(t)|}{|\vec{r}'(t)|} = \frac{|\vec{T}'|}{v(t)} \text{ implies } |\vec{T}'| = \kappa v.$$

$$3. \vec{N}(t) = \frac{\vec{T}'(t)}{|\vec{T}'(t)|} = \frac{\vec{T}'}{\kappa v} \text{ implies } \vec{T}' = \kappa v \vec{N}.$$

Differentiating the first fact above gives

$$\vec{a} = \vec{v}' = v'\vec{T} + v\vec{T}', \text{ so}$$

$$\vec{a} = \vec{v}' = v'\vec{T} + \kappa v^2 \vec{N}.$$

*Conclusion:*

$$a_T = v' = \frac{d}{dt} |r'(t)| = \text{“deriv. of speed”}$$

$$a_N = \kappa v^2 = \text{curvature} \cdot (\text{speed})^2$$