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Example. Determine the distance that a particle travels from its initial position (1,0,0) to any point on the curve

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In our example, $s=\sqrt{2}t$, so $t=\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}$. Substituting,

$$\vec{\mathbf{r}}(s) = \cos\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\vec{\mathbf{i}} + \sin\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\vec{\mathbf{j}} + \frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\vec{\mathbf{k}}.$$

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Definition: The curvature $\kappa(t)$ of a curve ("kappa") tells how quickly $\vec{\mathbf{T}}$ is changing with respect to distance traveled.

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The circle that lies along the curve has radius $1/\kappa$. (!)

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Question: Should $\kappa(t)$ be a constant?

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Solve for a_T , a_N in terms of $\vec{\mathbf{r}}(t)$.

First, $\vec{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{a}} = v \vec{\mathbf{T}} \cdot (v' \vec{\mathbf{T}} + \kappa v^2 \vec{\mathbf{N}})$

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

ightharpoonup All acceleration is toward \vec{T} and \vec{N} . (Not to \vec{B} .)

 a_T Toward $\vec{\mathbf{T}}$: $a_T = v'$ is rate of change of speed.

 a_N Toward $\vec{\mathbf{N}}$: $a_N = \kappa v^2$. Curvature times speed squared!

First,
$$\vec{\mathbf{v}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{a}} = v \vec{\mathbf{T}} \cdot (v' \vec{\mathbf{T}} + \kappa v^2 \vec{\mathbf{N}}) = vv' \vec{\mathbf{T}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{T}} + \kappa v^3 \vec{\mathbf{T}} \cdot \vec{\mathbf{N}}$$

The curvature tells us about the centripetal force we feel.

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Example. Find tang'l, normal comp's of acceleration for $\vec{\mathbf{r}} = \langle t, 2t, t^2 \rangle$.