

Motion in space

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Example. Show that if a particle moves with constant speed, then the velocity and acceleration vectors are orthogonal.

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The distance travelled from time 0 to time t is $s(t) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$.

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

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

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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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How much of the acceleration is toward \vec{T} , \vec{N} , and \vec{B} ?

Differentiate $\vec{v}(t) = v(t)\vec{T}(t)$. (magnitude (speed) times unit direction)

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

- ▶ All acceleration is toward \vec{T} and \vec{N} . (Not to \vec{B} .)
- a_T Toward \vec{T} : $a_T = v'$ is rate of change of speed.
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Example. Find tang'l, normal comp's of acceleration for $\vec{r} = \langle t, 2t, t^2 \rangle$.