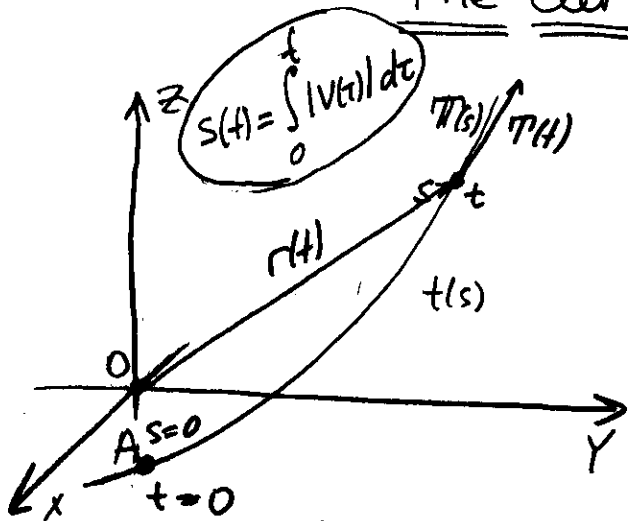


The Curvature



$t \Leftrightarrow \text{point} \Leftrightarrow s$
 (time) distance From point A

Many ways to parametrize curve:

1) $\vec{r}(t)$, t is time $\Rightarrow \begin{cases} x = f(t) \\ y = g(t) \\ z = h(t) \end{cases}$

2) $\vec{r}(s)$, s is the distance along the curve

$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} x = f(s) \\ y = g(s) \\ z = h(s) \end{cases}$

different functions, but the same curve

Q: Is there a quantity that is independent on the choice of parameter

Consider the rate of change of the unit tangent vector with respect to the distance travelled, or how the trajectory curves:

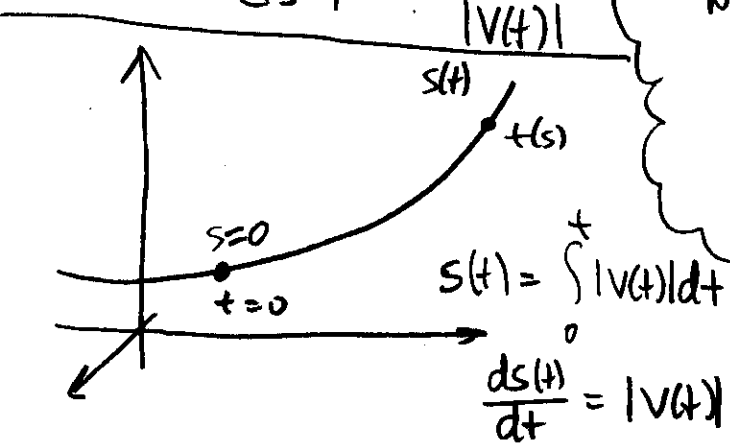
Curvature (vector) = $\frac{d\vec{T}(s)}{ds}$

SCALAR Curvature = $\left| \frac{d\vec{T}(s)}{ds} \right| = k/s$

Computing Curvature in terms of 't'

$$\frac{d\vec{T}(s)}{ds} = \frac{d\vec{T}(t(s))}{ds} = \frac{d\vec{T}(t(s))}{dt} \cdot \frac{dt}{ds} = \vec{T}'(t) \cdot \frac{1}{|v(t)|} = \frac{\vec{T}'(t)}{|v(t)|}$$

$$k = \left| \frac{d\vec{T}(s)}{ds} \right| = \frac{|\vec{T}'(t)|}{|v(t)|}$$



Also, Normal vector $\vec{N} = \frac{d\vec{T}(s)}{ds} = \frac{1}{k} \frac{d\vec{T}(s)}{ds}$
 (vector curvature is NORMAL to the curve)

Binormal vector

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