

Arc Length Parameterization

* most of the time we can evaluate these integrals by a substitution or factoring into a perfect square

1. Find the length of the following curves over the following intervals.

(a) $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 2t, \ln t, t^2 \rangle$, $1 \leq t \leq 4$

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{r}'(t) &= \langle 2, \frac{1}{t}, 2t \rangle \\ \|\vec{r}'(t)\| &= \sqrt{2^2 + \left(\frac{1}{t}\right)^2 + (2t)^2} = \sqrt{4 + \frac{1}{t^2} + 4t^2} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{t^2}(4t^4 + 4t^2 + 1)} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{t^2}(2t^2 + 1)^2} = \frac{1}{t}(2t^2 + 1) = 2t + \frac{1}{t}\end{aligned}$$

perfect square

$$\begin{aligned}L &= \int_1^4 \|\vec{r}'(t)\| dt = \int_1^4 (2t + \frac{1}{t}) dt = (t^2 + \ln t) \Big|_1^4 = 4^2 + \ln 4 - (1^2 + \ln 1) \\ &= 16 + \ln 4 - 1 = \boxed{15 + \ln 4}\end{aligned}$$

(b) $\vec{r}(t) = \langle t, 4t^{3/2}, 2t^{3/2} \rangle$, $0 \leq t \leq 3$.

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{r}'(t) &= \langle 1, 4 \cdot \frac{3}{2} t^{1/2}, 2 \cdot \frac{3}{2} t^{1/2} \rangle = \langle 1, 6t^{1/2}, 3t^{1/2} \rangle \\ \|\vec{r}'(t)\| &= \sqrt{1 + (6t^{1/2})^2 + (3t^{1/2})^2} = \sqrt{1 + 36t + 9t} = \sqrt{1 + 45t}\end{aligned}$$

$$L = \int_0^3 \|\vec{r}'(t)\| dt = \int_0^3 \sqrt{1+45t} dt$$

$$\begin{aligned}&= \int_1^{13b} \sqrt{u} \frac{du}{45} = \frac{1}{45} \int_1^{13b} u^{1/2} du \\ &= \frac{1}{45} \cdot \frac{2}{3} u^{3/2} \Big|_1^{13b} = \frac{2}{135} u^{3/2} \Big|_1^{13b} \\ &= \frac{2}{135} \left((13b)^{3/2} - 1^{3/2} \right) = \boxed{\frac{2}{135} \left((13b)^{3/2} - 1 \right)}\end{aligned}$$

substitution: take $u = 1+45t$
 $du = 45dt$
 $\Rightarrow dt = \frac{du}{45}$

* bounds: when $t=0$, $u=1$
 $t=3$, $u=1+45(3)$
 $= 136$

2. Consider the line parallel to $\vec{v} = \langle 3, 4, 12 \rangle$ and passing through the point $(0, 1, -12)$.

- (a) Find an equation for this line of the form $\vec{r}(t) = \dots$
- (b) Find the velocity of a point whose motion is described by your equation above.
- (c) Find the speed and the arc length from a point $t = 0$.
- (d) Reparameterize with respect to arc length.

$$(a) \vec{r}(t) = \langle 0, 1, -12 \rangle + t \langle 3, 4, 12 \rangle = \langle 3t, 1+4t, -12+12t \rangle$$

$$(b) \vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t) = \langle 3, 4, 12 \rangle$$

$$(c) \text{speed} = \|\vec{v}(t)\| = \|\vec{r}'(t)\| = \|\langle 3, 4, 12 \rangle\| = \sqrt{3^2+4^2+12^2} = \sqrt{9+16+144} = \sqrt{169} = 13$$

$$\text{Arc length function: } s(t) = \int_0^t \|\vec{r}'(u)\| du = \int_0^t 13 du = 13u \Big|_0^t = 13t$$

$$(d) \text{Solve for } t \text{ in terms of } s: s = 13t \Rightarrow t = \frac{s}{13}$$

$$\text{Substitute back into } \vec{r}: \boxed{\vec{r}(s) = \left\langle \frac{3s}{13}, 1 + \frac{4s}{13}, -12 + \frac{12s}{13} \right\rangle}$$

$$\text{observe the velocity now is } \vec{v}(s) = \vec{r}'(s) = \left\langle \frac{3}{13}, \frac{4}{13}, \frac{12}{13} \right\rangle$$

$$\text{which has magnitude } \|\vec{v}(s)\| = \|\vec{r}'(s)\| = \sqrt{\frac{3^2}{13^2} + \frac{4^2}{13^2} + \frac{12^2}{13^2}} = 1$$

3. Now choose two other points along the same line, and find the equation of the line using these two other points. ** Answers will vary.*

- (a) Find an equation for this line of the form $\vec{r}(t) = \dots$
- (b) Find the velocity of a point whose motion is described by your equation above.
- (c) Find the speed and the arc length from a point $t = 0$.
- (d) Reparameterize with respect to arc length.

(a) Two points: plug in $t=0$ and $t=2$ into 2(a) formula to get two other points on the same line:
 $(0, 1, -12), (6, 9, 12)$ has direction $\vec{u} = \langle 6-0, 9-1, 12-(-12) \rangle = \langle 6, 8, 24 \rangle$
 This line has the formula $\vec{r}(t) = \langle 0, 1, -12 \rangle + t \langle 6, 8, 24 \rangle = \langle 6t, 8t+1, 24t-12 \rangle$

(b) $\vec{v}(t) = \vec{r}'(t) = \langle 6, 8, 24 \rangle$
 (c) Speed = $\|\vec{v}(t)\| = \|\vec{r}'(t)\| = \sqrt{6^2 + 8^2 + 24^2} = \sqrt{2^2 \cdot 3^2 + 2^2 \cdot 4^2 + 2^2 \cdot 12^2} = 2\sqrt{3^2 + 4^2 + 12^2} = 26$
 arc length function $s(t) = \int_0^t \|\vec{r}'(u)\| du = \int_0^t 26 du = 26t$

(d) solve for t in terms of s : $s = 26t \rightarrow t = \frac{s}{26}$

plug back into $\vec{r}(t)$: $\vec{r}(s) = \left\langle \frac{6s}{26}, \frac{8s}{26} + 1, \frac{24s}{26} - 12 \right\rangle$

* notice the velocity of $\vec{r}(s)$ is $\vec{v}(s) = \left\langle \frac{6}{26}, \frac{8}{26}, \frac{24}{26} \right\rangle = \left\langle \frac{3}{13}, \frac{4}{13}, \frac{12}{13} \right\rangle$ and has magnitude 1

What do you notice about the velocity vector in both cases? How does it relate to the original vector you started with? How can you explain the similarities and differences?

- The velocity vector of the reparametrized equations are the same and has magnitude 1 (* note: depending on how you chose your points, the velocity vectors of the reparametrized equations could be going in opposite directions, BUT should still have magnitude 1)
- Velocity vectors of reparametrized equations are a scalar multiple of the original velocity vectors