
Homework 1

Exercise 1 *The curve traced out by a point P on the circumference of a circle as the circle rolls along a straight line is called a cycloid. Assume that the circle has radius r and that the point P is initially located at the origin of the x -axis.*

- (i) *Determine the parametric curve defined by the point P ,*
- (ii) *Determine the tangent line at any point of the cycloid,*
- (iii) *When is this tangent line horizontal or vertical ?*
- (iv) *Find the area under one arch of the cycloid,*
- (v) *Find the length of one arch of the cycloid.*

Exercise 2 *Write a parametric equation for the tangent line at any point of the curve given by*

$$g : \mathbb{R} \ni t \mapsto (e^{3t}, e^{-3t}, t, 1) \in \mathbb{R}^4.$$

Exercise 3 *Consider the spiral in \mathbb{R}^3 defined by the function*

$$f : \mathbb{R} \ni t \mapsto (\cos(t), \sin(t), t) \in \mathbb{R}^3.$$

Determine the equation of the plane perpendicular to the spiral for any $t \in \mathbb{R}$.

Exercise 4 *Find the length of the spiral of the previous exercise between $t = 0$ and $t = 1$.*

Exercise 5 *Consider the parametric curve given by*

$$c : \mathbb{R} \ni t \mapsto (e^t \cos(t), e^t \sin(t))$$

Show that the tangent vector to the curve makes a constant angle with the position vector, i.e. with the vector $c(\cdot)$.

Exercise 6 *Consider a parametric curve $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^d$ of class C^2 , and us call the osculating plane at t the plane passing by $f(t)$ and defined by the two vectors $f'(t)$ and $f''(t)$. Obviously this plane is well defined only if these two vectors are not parallel.*

- (i) *Determine the osculating plane at any t for the spiral defined in Exercise 3.*
- (i) *More generally, for any parametric curve f of class C^2 and for any diffeomorphism φ of class C^2 , show that the osculating plane defined by f or by the new parametric curve $f \circ \varphi$ **at the same point** are equal.*