

**Multivariable Calculus**  
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**Lecture – 29**  
**Vector Differentiation**

Hello friends, so, today we are going to start vector calculus, and in the first lecture of very a vector calculus we are going to introduce vector differentiation. Basically, in this lecture we will talk about what we mean by vector function then we will talk about limit continuity and then differentiability. We will see some applications of differentiability for measuring the length of the curve for a given interval of the parameter, and then we will introduce the concept of arc length.

There are 2 types of quantity scalar quantity and vector quantity. In the scalar quantity, we use to have only magnitude; however, in a vector quantity together with magnitude we used to have direction also. So, based on those vector quantity here we are going to define vector function.

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**Definitions**

**Vector function**  
A vector function  $\nu : D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  with  $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is called a vector function. Here,  $D$  is called the domain of  $\nu$ . The image (or range) of  $\nu$  is  $\nu(D) \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ . When  $m = 1$  one says  $\nu$  is a scalar field.

Consider  $\vec{\nu} = \vec{\nu}(P) = \nu_1 \hat{i} + \nu_2 \hat{j} + \nu_3 \hat{k}$  defined at each point  $P \in D$ . In cartesian co-ordinates, we can write  $\vec{\nu} = \nu_1(x, y, z) \hat{i} + \nu_2(x, y, z) \hat{j} + \nu_3(x, y, z) \hat{k}$ . Here  $\nu_i$ 's are called the component functions of  $\nu$ .

**Example.** The velocity field  $\vec{v}(P)$  defined at any point  $P$  on a rotating body defines a vector field.

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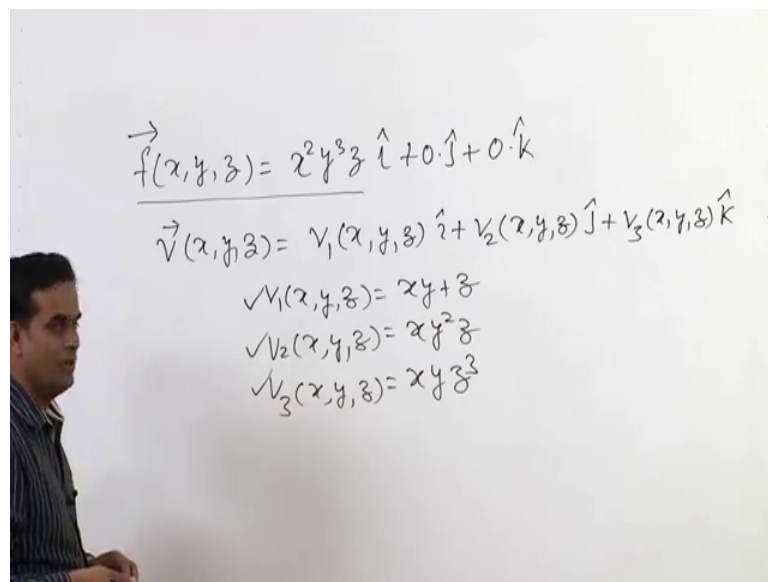
So, a vector function  $\nu$  that is from domain  $D$  to  $\mathbb{R}^m$  where  $D \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$  is called a vector function. Here these the domain of  $\nu$ , the image of  $\nu$  is  $\nu(D)$  which is a subset of  $\mathbb{R}^m$ , if we are having  $m$  equals to 1, then we say that  $\nu$  is a scalar field, means a scalar function. So, if we define vector function on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , then we can have this  $\nu$ ,  $\nu$  is a

function of point  $p$ , it is given a  $\nu_1 \hat{i} + \nu_2 \hat{j} + \nu_3 \hat{k}$ ; which is defined at each point  $p$  belongs to the domain  $D$ .

In Cartesian coordinates, we can write vector  $\nu$  equals to  $\nu_1 x y z \hat{i} + \nu_2 x y z \hat{j} + \nu_3 x y z \hat{k}$ . So, here  $\nu_1$ ,  $\nu_2$  and  $\nu_3$ , all these 3 are scalar functions of  $x y z$ , and they are the components along  $\hat{i}$  direction, along  $\hat{j}$  direction, and along  $\hat{k}$  direction. For example, the velocity field defined at any point  $p$  on a rotating body defines a vector field.

So, if I am having a function like this  $f$  of  $x y z$ , let us say something  $x^2 y^3 z$ .

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The whiteboard contains the following handwritten equations:

$$\vec{f}(x, y, z) = x^2 y^3 z \hat{i} + 0 \cdot \hat{j} + 0 \cdot \hat{k}$$

$$\vec{v}(x, y, z) = \nu_1(x, y, z) \hat{i} + \nu_2(x, y, z) \hat{j} + \nu_3(x, y, z) \hat{k}$$

$$\nu_1(x, y, z) = x y + z$$

$$\nu_2(x, y, z) = x y^2 z$$

$$\nu_3(x, y, z) = x y z^3$$

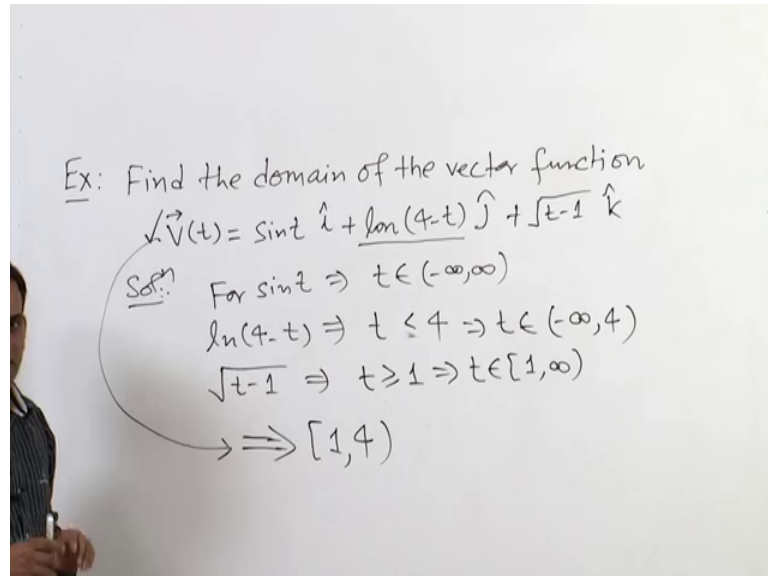
Then it is a scalar function; however, if I am having  $\nu_1 x y z \hat{i} + \nu_2 x y z \hat{j} + \nu_3 x y z \hat{k}$ , then it is a vector function here,  $\nu_1 x y z$  for example, you can take some function of  $x y z$ . So, let us say  $x y + z$ .  $\nu_2 x y z$  is again a function of  $x y z$ . So, let us say  $x y^2 z$ , and  $\nu_3 x y z$  equals to  $x y z^3$  and let us say  $z^3$  ok.

So, as I told you these 3 are the components along the different direction  $\hat{i}$ ,  $\hat{j}$  and  $\hat{k}$  here  $\hat{i}$ ,  $\hat{j}$  and  $\hat{k}$  are the unit vectors, those are mutually perpendicular to each other, and they are not coplanar, they cannot be contained in a plane.

Now, if we talk about this scalar function  $f$ , and if I had a direction here with this function, then I will say it as a vector function. Because here component in  $\hat{j}$  direction will be 0, and component in  $\hat{k}$  direction will also be 0. So, these are some examples of vector function.

Now we will talk about domain of a vector function. So, for that we can explain with this example.

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Ex: Find the domain of the vector function

$$\vec{V}(t) = \sin t \hat{i} + \ln(4-t) \hat{j} + \sqrt{t-1} \hat{k}$$

Soln:

For  $\sin t \Rightarrow t \in (-\infty, \infty)$

$\ln(4-t) \Rightarrow t \leq 4 \Rightarrow t \in (-\infty, 4)$

$\sqrt{t-1} \Rightarrow t \geq 1 \Rightarrow t \in [1, \infty)$

$\Rightarrow [1, 4)$

So, find the domain of the vector function so, let us take function is  $\sin t$  equals to  $\sin t$  plus  $\log 4$  minus  $t$ , this is the component along  $j$  direction. And finally, a square root  $t$  minus 1 along  $k$  direction.

So now we need to find out the domain of this vector function. So, here  $\sin t$  is defined for all real values of  $t$ . So, for  $\sin t$ , domain is  $t$  belongs to minus infinity to infinity. Now take the second component of this vector function so that is  $\log 4$  minus  $t$ . So, as you know, here this  $t$  is defined when  $t$  is less than less than 4, because if  $t$  will become equals to 4, it will become 0, or if  $t$  is greater than 4, this will become negative where  $\log$  is no defined.

So, it means here  $t$  belongs to minus infinity to 4. And finally, we are having a square root  $t$  minus 1. So, for this I am having this would be greater than equals to 1, then only this square root is defined. So, it means  $t$  belongs to one to infinity. Now the domain of this vector function is the intersection of all these 3 regions. And that intersection is given by the interval 1 to 4 so, this is close from 1 and open from the side 4. So, this is the domain of this vector function.

So, in this way we can calculate the domain of a given vector function; means, you need to find out the domain of each and every component of the vector function, and then find the intersection of all those. Now we will talk about the parametric representation of a curve.

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**Parametric Representations**

**Curve: Parametric Representation**

A curve  $C$  in 2-D  $x - y$  plane can be parameterized by

$$x = x(t), y = y(t) \quad ; a \leq t \leq b$$

The position vector of a point  $P$  on the curve  $C$  can be written as

$$\vec{\gamma}(t) = x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j}$$

Therefore the position vector of a point  $P$  on the curve defines a vector field/function. Similarly for space curve, we have

$$\vec{\gamma}(t) = x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j} + z(t)\hat{k} \quad ; a \leq t \leq b$$

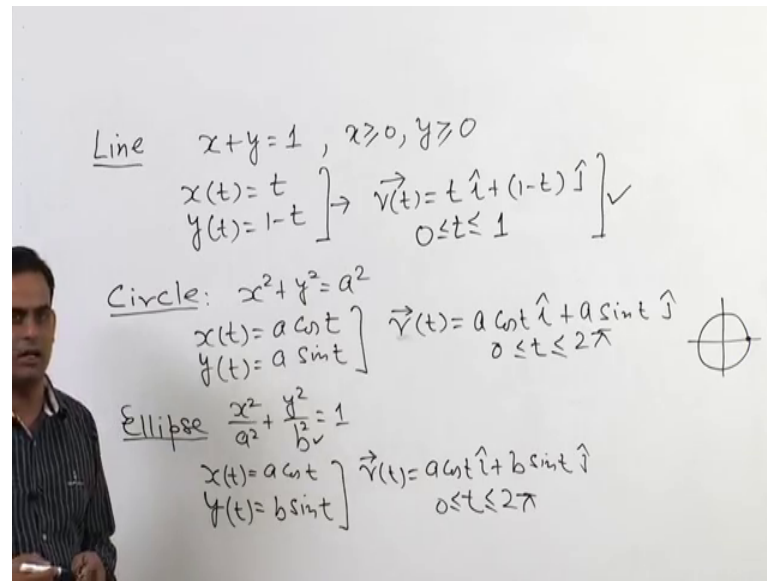
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. So, let us say a curve  $c$  in 2 dimensional  $xy$  plane can be parameterized by  $x$  equals  $2x$  and  $y$  equals to  $y$ . So, here we are defining that  $x$  and  $y$  are the functions of  $t$ , and where  $t$  is between  $a$  to  $b$ . The position vector of a point  $b$  on the curve  $c$  can be written now in the form of a vector function, and it is given as  $\gamma(t) = x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j}$ .


So, please note that now this  $x(t)$  and  $y(t)$  can be written explicitly in terms of  $t$ , and hence, this vector function  $\gamma$  become a function of  $t$ . Therefore, the position vector of a point  $p$  on the curve defines a vector function. Similarly, for a space curve we are having the position vector of a point  $p$   $h(x(t)\hat{i} + y(t)\hat{j} + z(t)\hat{k})$  and  $t$  is between  $a$  to  $b$ .

Let us take few examples of this parametric representation.

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Line  $x+y=1, x \geq 0, y \geq 0$   
 $\left. \begin{array}{l} x(t)=t \\ y(t)=1-t \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \vec{r}(t)=t\hat{i}+(1-t)\hat{j} \quad 0 \leq t \leq 1$  ✓

Circle:  $x^2+y^2=a^2$   
 $\left. \begin{array}{l} x(t)=a \cos t \\ y(t)=a \sin t \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \vec{r}(t)=a \cos t \hat{i}+a \sin t \hat{j} \quad 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$  

Ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{a^2}+\frac{y^2}{b^2}=1$   
 $\left. \begin{array}{l} x(t)=a \cos t \\ y(t)=b \sin t \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \vec{r}(t)=a \cos t \hat{i}+b \sin t \hat{j} \quad 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$

So, for example, in case of line; so consider a line  $x$  plus  $y$  equals to 1 in the first quadrant. So, here I can write a parametric representation as  $x$  equals to  $t$ . So, if  $x$  become  $t$ , then  $y$  will become 1 minus  $t$ . So,  $y$  will be 1 minus  $t$ , and then the equation of line can be given by the vector function as  $t\hat{i} + (1-t)\hat{j}$ . The interval of  $t$  because here  $x$  is greater than equals to 0,  $y$  is greater than equals to 0. So,  $t$  will be greater than equals to 0, and the same time the maximum value of  $t$  will be less than one. So,  $t$  will be between 0 to 1. So, this is the representation of a line in first quadrant.

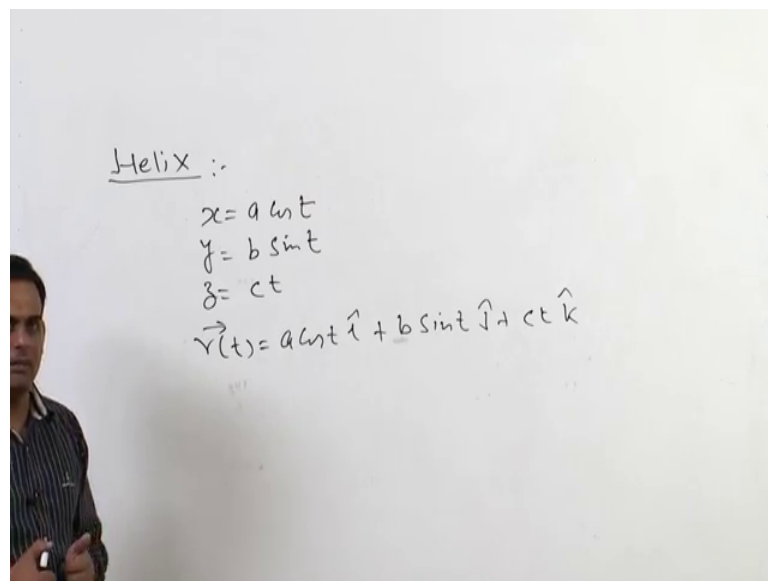
Second thing we are taking a circle so, let us take the simple equation of circle  $x^2 + y^2 = a^2$ . So, it is a circle having center at origin and having the radius  $a$ . Now parametric representation of the circle can be given as  $x$  equals to  $a \cos t$ , and  $y$  equals to  $a \sin t$ . And now the vector function for this circle is the vector  $\vec{r}$  that is a function of  $t$  the function  $x\hat{i} + y\hat{j}$ . And here since it is a circle. So, it will move  $t$  equals to 0, and it will come at  $2\pi$  so, 0 to  $2\pi$ . If we are having a semicircle above  $x$  axis, then  $t$  will be 0 to  $\pi$ , if we are having a semicircle below  $x$  axis, then it will go minus  $\pi$  to 0 you can say.

The next one is ellipse. So, let us take the standard equation of an ellipse. So,  $x^2/a^2 + y^2/b^2 = 1$ . Now find a parametric representation of this ellipse. So, let me write  $x$  as  $a \cos t$ ; which is the same as in the circle; however, the different thing will come here. So,  $y$  was a  $\sin t$  in case of circle, but

here due to this it will become  $b \sin t$ . So, whenever  $a$  equals to  $b$  the ellipse will become circle as you know.

So now, the parametric equation is  $r$  equals to  $a \cos t \hat{i} + b \sin t \hat{j}$ . And  $t$  is again as I told you  $0$  to  $2\pi$ , the same as in case of circle. So, these were the parametric representations of few conics, now if we talk about the space curve.

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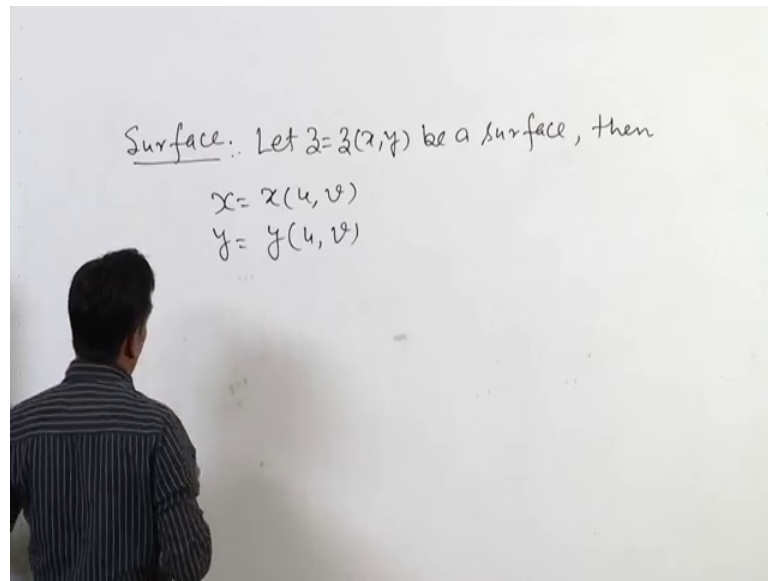


So, let us take the parametric representation of a helix. So, the parametric representation is given as  $x$  equals to  $a \cos t$ ,  $y$  equals to  $b \sin t$  and  $z$  equals to  $ct$ . So, here equation will become  $r$  equals to  $a \cos t \hat{i} + b \sin t \hat{j} + ct \hat{k}$ .

So, this is the vector function representing the position vector of a point  $p$  on an helix at some given value of  $t$ . And here note that if  $a$  equals to  $b$  it will become circular helix. So, in this way we can represent any curve either in 2d or 3d by its parametric representation. And in the parametric representation the position vector of a point lying on the curve will be given by a vector function.

In the similar way, we can represent the parametric surfaces or I will say the parametric representation of surfaces; so in case of surface.

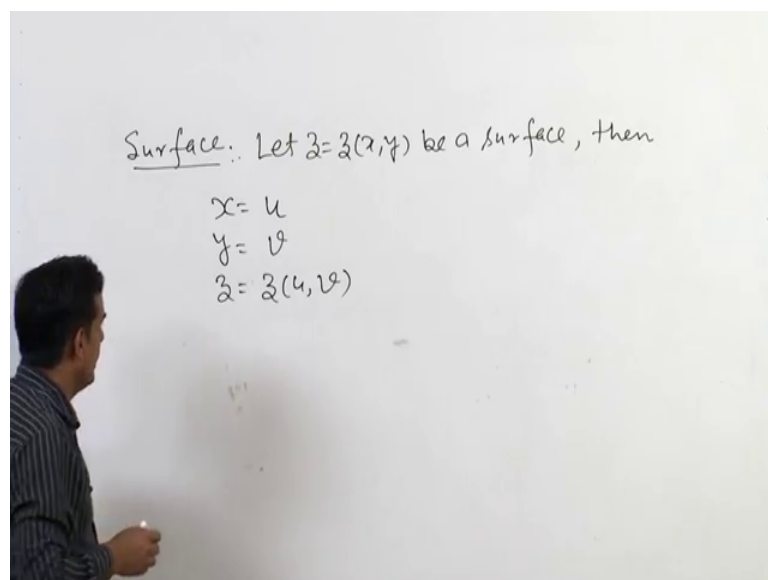
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So, let  $z$  equal to 0 of  $x, y$  be a surface, then the parametric representation of the surface is given by the 2 parameters family.

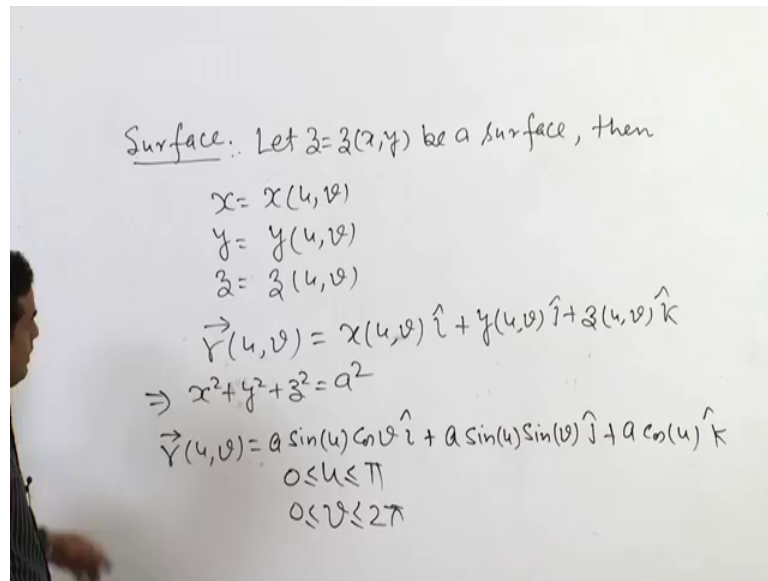
So, I am taking here  $u$  and  $v$   $x$  equals to  $x(u, v)$   $y$  equals to  $y(u, v)$ , or better I will write  $x$  equals to  $u$   $y$  equals to  $v$ .

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And then my  $z$  will become  $z$  of  $uv$ . That is one of the way we can use for some surfaces, or the more general one will be as I told you  $x$  is  $x$  of  $u, v$   $y$  of  $u, v$  and  $z$  of  $uv$ .

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Surface: Let  $z = z(x, y)$  be a surface, then

$$\begin{aligned}x &= x(u, v) \\y &= y(u, v) \\z &= z(u, v)\end{aligned}$$
$$\vec{r}(u, v) = x(u, v)\hat{i} + y(u, v)\hat{j} + z(u, v)\hat{k}$$
$$\Rightarrow x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = a^2$$
$$\vec{r}(u, v) = a \sin(u) \cos(v)\hat{i} + a \sin(u) \sin(v)\hat{j} + a \cos(u)\hat{k}$$
$$\begin{aligned}0 &\leq u \leq \pi \\0 &\leq v \leq 2\pi\end{aligned}$$

And here surface will become the position vector of a point  $p$  on the surface is given by  $x$   $u$   $v$   $i$  plus  $y$   $u$   $v$   $j$  plus  $z$   $u$   $v$   $k$ .

For example, if we are having a surface let us say this so, this is we know that it is a sphere of radius  $a$ . So now, parametric representation of this surface is given by  $r$   $u$   $v$   $a \sin u \cos v$ . And this is the component along  $i$  direction plus,  $a \sin u \sin v$ , this is the component along  $j$  direction, and then finally,  $a \cos u$  that will be the component along  $k$  directions. So, here you will lie between  $0$  to  $\pi$  for the given sphere. And we will be between  $0$  to  $2\pi$ ,  $n$ . So, this is I am writing just from the transformation from Cartesian coordinates to a spherical coordinates; so  $x$  component  $y$  component and  $z$  component. So, in this way we can represent any surface by parametric representation ok.

Now, we will come to some basic definitions from calculus.



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**Vector Calculus-I**

**Limit of a vector Field**

A vector function  $\vec{r}(t)$  of a real variable  $t$  is said to have the limit  $\vec{l}$  as  $t \rightarrow t_0$ , if  $\vec{r}(t)$  is defined in some neighbourhood of  $t_0$  (possibly except at  $t_0$ ) and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} |\vec{r}(t) - \vec{l}| = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \vec{r}(t) = \vec{l}$$

**Example.** Compute  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} \vec{r}(t) = [t^3, \frac{\sin 3(t-1)}{t-1}, e^{2t}]$

$$= [\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} t^3, \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} \frac{\sin 3(t-1)}{t-1}, \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} e^{2t}]$$

$$= [1, 3, e^2]$$

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For vector functions, so, limit of a vector function, a vector function  $\vec{r}(t)$  of a real variable  $t$  is said to have a limit  $\vec{l}$ . So, please note that here  $\vec{l}$  is a constant vector. So,  $\vec{l}$  is a vector quantity here, as  $t$  tending to  $t_0$ , if  $\vec{r}(t)$  is defined in some neighborhood of  $t_0$ , possibly except at  $t_0$ , and  $\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} |\vec{r}(t) - \vec{l}| = 0$ , or this I can write in this way that  $\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \vec{r}(t) = \vec{l}$ .

So, this is the definition of limit, and if I take a particular example like finds a limit.

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Ex: Find limit  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} \vec{r}(t)$ , where

$$\vec{r}(t) = t^3 \hat{i} + \frac{\sin 3(t-1)}{t-1} \hat{j} + e^{2t} \hat{k}$$

Soln:  $\lim_{t \rightarrow 1} \vec{r}(t) = \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} x(t) \hat{i} + \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} y(t) \hat{j} + \lim_{t \rightarrow 1} z(t) \hat{k}$

$$\vec{l} = 1 \hat{i} + 3 \hat{j} + e^2 \hat{k}$$

Limit  $t$  tending to 1 of a vector function  $\vec{r}(t)$  where  $\vec{r}(t)$  is given as  $t^3 \hat{i} + \sin 3t \hat{j} + e^{2t} \hat{k}$ .

So, a polynomial we are having the component along  $\hat{i}$  direction, a trigonometric function along  $\hat{j}$  direction and an exponential function along  $\hat{k}$  direction. So, here solution of this will be. So, the limit  $t$  tending to 1  $\vec{r}(t)$  is a vector having limit  $t$  tending to 1  $x \hat{i}$ ; where  $x$  is  $t^3$  plus limit  $t$  tending to 1,  $y \hat{j}$  along  $\hat{j}$  direction. So,  $y$  is  $\sin 3t$  minus 1 upon  $t$  minus 1, and plus limit  $t$  tending to 1  $z \hat{k}$ . So,  $z$  is  $e^{2t}$ . Now limit  $t$  tending to 1  $t^3$  will become one. So, one in to  $\hat{i}$  plus when  $t$  is tending to 1 let us see the limit of this function.

So, what will happen when  $t$  is tending to 1? It is not defined means it is having an indeterminate form. So, what we need to do we have to use L hospital rule and here, when I will use L hospital rule here. So, it will become  $3 \cos 3t$  minus 1 upon 1. So, it will become  $3 \cos t$  minus 1, and when  $t$  is one it will become  $3 \cos 0$ . So, it will be  $\cos 0$  is 1. So,  $3 \hat{j}$  plus finally, this will become  $e^2 \hat{k}$ . So, this is the limit of this function.

So, please note that here limit is again coming as a vector quantity. So, in this way we can compute the limit of a vector function.

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Vector calculus-II

Continuity

A vector function  $\vec{v}(t)$  is said to be continuous at  $t = t_0$  if it is defined in some neighbourhood of  $t_0$  and

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \vec{v}(t) = \vec{v}(t_0)$$

If  $\vec{v}(t) = v_1(t)\hat{i} + v_2(t)\hat{j} + v_3(t)\hat{k}$ , then  $\vec{v}(t)$  is continuous at  $t = t_0$  if its all three components  $v_i$ 's are continuous at  $t = t_0$ .



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Similarly, we can define the term continuity for the vector functions. So, a vector function  $\vec{u}(t)$  said to be continuous at  $t$  equals to  $t_0$  if it is define in some

neighborhood of  $t_0$  and limit  $t$  tending to  $t_0$   $\lim_{t \rightarrow t_0} \mathbf{r}(t) = \mathbf{r}(t_0)$ . So, in terms of component, we will say a vector function  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  is continuous at  $t = t_0$ , if all of its components are continuous at  $t = t_0$ .

Now we will come to next term, that is the differentiable  $t$ . So, differentiation of a vector function.

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**Differentiation of Vector Function**

A vector function  $\vec{r}(t)$  is said to be differentiable at a point  $t$  if the limit

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{r}(t + \Delta t) - \vec{r}(t)}{\Delta t}$$

exists. The vector  $\vec{r}'(t)$  is called derivative of  $\vec{r}(t)$ . In terms of components :

$$\vec{r}'(t) = [\dot{r}_1(t), \dot{r}_2(t), \dot{r}_3(t)]$$

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So, a vector function  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  is said to be differentiable at a point  $t$  if the limit  $\mathbf{r}'(t)$  that is equals to  $\lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathbf{r}(t + \Delta t) - \mathbf{r}(t)}{\Delta t}$  exist, and if this limit exists this will be equals to derivative of  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  at  $t$ .

So, in terms of components we can write  $\mathbf{r}'(t)$  that is the derivative of  $\mathbf{r}(t)$  again it will be a vector function, its  $i$  component will become  $\dot{r}_1(t)$ ,  $j$  component will become  $\dot{r}_2(t)$  and  $k$  component will become  $\dot{r}_3(t)$  some rules for differentiability.

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**Differentiation rule**

Let  $\vec{u}(t)$  and  $\vec{v}(t)$  be two vector functions of  $t$ . Then,

1 
$$\frac{d(\vec{u} \pm \vec{v})}{dt} = \frac{d(\vec{u})}{dt} \pm \frac{d(\vec{v})}{dt}$$

2 
$$\frac{d(\vec{u} \cdot \vec{v})}{dt} = \vec{u} \cdot \frac{d(\vec{v})}{dt} + \vec{v} \cdot \frac{d(\vec{u})}{dt}$$

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So, if  $u$  and  $v$  be 2 vector functions of  $t$  then  $\frac{d(u \pm v)}{dt}$  will become  $\frac{du}{dt} \pm \frac{dv}{dt}$ . Similarly,  $\frac{d(u \cdot v)}{dt}$  will become  $u \cdot \frac{dv}{dt} + v \cdot \frac{du}{dt}$ . So, the rule as we the same do as we are having in case of scalar functions.

If we are having product of 2 vector functions  $u$  and  $v$ , then differentiation of this with respect to  $t$  is given by the first function as such  $\frac{dv}{dt}$  plus second function as such differentiation of first. We are having few more remarks about differentiation. So, the necessary and sufficient condition for the vector  $v(t)$  to be constant is that its first derivative should be 0 vector.

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The slide contains three sections, each with a blue header 'Differentiation rule' and a light blue background for the text:

- Section 1: The necessary and sufficient condition for the vector  $\vec{v}(t)$  to be constant is  $\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = 0$ .
- Section 2: The necessary and sufficient condition for the vector  $\vec{v}(t)$  to have a constant magnitude is  $\vec{v} \cdot \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = 0$ .
- Section 3: The necessary and sufficient condition for the vector  $\vec{v}(t)$  to have a constant direction is  $\vec{v} \times \frac{d\vec{v}}{dt} = 0$ .

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So, it is a 0 vector.

The other remark is the necessary and sufficient condition for the vector  $\vec{v}(t)$  to have a constant magnitude. So, here we are talking about constant function, here we are talking about constant magnitude, is that the dot product of that particular vector function together with its derivative equals to 0.

And the final remark is the necessary and sufficient condition for the vector  $\vec{v}$  to have a constant direction is the cross product of vector  $\vec{v}$  together with  $\frac{d\vec{v}}{dt}$  equals to 0. So, we can prove it very easily just by taking the constant magnitude, and then by taking the constant direction. Now one more important application of differentiation of a vector function; so if  $\vec{r}(t)$  be the position vector of a moving particle with respect to the origin, then the first derivative of  $\vec{r}$  with respect to  $t$  denotes the velocity of the particle at time  $t$ .

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Velocity and acceleration of a vector function

**Definition**

Let  $\vec{r}(t)$  be the position vector of a moving particle with respect to the origin. Then,

- $\vec{r}'(t)$  denotes the velocity of the particle at time  $t$ .
- $\vec{r}''(t)$  denotes the acceleration of the particle at time  $t$ .

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And the second derivative of  $r$  with respect to  $t$  denotes the acceleration of the particle at time  $p$ .

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Velocity and acceleration of a vector function

**Example**

A particle is moves along the curve  $x(t) = t^3 + 1$ ,  $y(t) = t^2$  and  $z(t) = 2t + 5$ , where  $t$  is the time. Find the velocity and acceleration vectors at  $t = 1$ .

**Answer**

Velocity=  $3\hat{i} + 2\hat{j} + 2\hat{k}$

Acceleration=  $6\hat{i} + 2\hat{j}$

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So, let us take this example. So, a particle is moving along the curve  $x$   $t$  equals  $2 t$  cube plus 1,  $y$   $t$  equals  $2 t$  square and  $z$  at  $t$  equals to  $2 t$  plus 5. So, basically the position vector of a point  $p$  on this curve will be  $r$   $t$  equals  $2 t$  cube plus 1  $i$  plus  $t$  square  $j$  plus  $2 t$  plus 5, where  $t$  is the time find a velocity and acceleration vectors at  $t$  equals to 1. So,  $r$  dash  $t$  will become  $3 t$  square  $i$  plus  $2 t$   $j$  plus  $2 k$ . So, at  $t$  equals to 1  $3 I$  plus  $2 j$  plus  $2 k$ .

So, that is the velocity. Again if I will differentiate the velocity one more time then it will become  $6t\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j} + 0\mathbf{k}$  and at  $t$  equals to 1 it will become  $6\mathbf{i} + 2\mathbf{j}$  that is the acceleration vector.

Now, another application of this particular concept that is the differentiation is the tangent to a curve.

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**Tangent to a Curve**



The tangent to a curve  $C$  at a point  $P$  of  $C$  is the limiting position of a straight line  $L$  through  $P$  and  $Q$  of  $C$  as  $Q$  approaches  $P$  along  $C$ .

If  $C$  is given by  $\vec{r}(t)$ , with  $P$  and  $Q$  corresponding to  $t$  and  $t + \Delta t$ , respectively, then the following vector has the direction of  $L$ :  $\frac{\vec{r}(t + \Delta t) - \vec{r}(t)}{\Delta t}$ . In the limiting case this becomes

$$\vec{r}'(t) = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\vec{r}(t + \Delta t) - \vec{r}(t)}{\Delta t}$$

The derivative, if it exists and non-zero, we call  $\vec{r}'(t)$  as tangent vector of  $C$  at  $P$  because it has the direction of the tangent. The unit tangent vector is given by

$$\vec{u}(t) = \frac{\vec{r}'(t)}{|\vec{r}'(t)|}$$



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So, the tangent to a curve  $c$  at a point  $p$  of  $c$  is the limiting position of a straight-line  $l$  through  $p$  and  $q$  of  $c$  as  $q$  approaches  $p$  along  $c$ . So, this is the limiting case and if we put let us assume that  $\vec{r}(t)$  be the position vector of a point on the curve  $c$  and  $p$  and  $q$  are the points corresponding to value  $t$  and  $t + \Delta t$ , then this particular tangent will become  $\frac{\vec{r}(t + \Delta t) - \vec{r}(t)}{\Delta t}$  which is limiting condition that is limit  $\Delta t$  tending to 0,  $\vec{r}(t + \Delta t) - \vec{r}(t)$  upon  $\Delta t$ , and you know it is the derivative also.

So, basically derivative gives the tangent on a given point. The unit tangent vector is given by just  $\vec{u}(t)$  that is  $\vec{r}'(t)$  over magnitude of  $\vec{r}'(t)$ .

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**Examples**

**Question** Find the tangent to the ellipse  $\frac{x^2}{4} + y^2 = 1$  at  $P(\sqrt{2}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}})$

**Solution:** Parametric representation of ellipse is

$$\vec{r}(t) = 2\cos(t)\hat{i} + \sin(t)\hat{j} \quad ; 0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$$

implies

$$\vec{r}'(t) = -2\sin(t)\hat{i} + \cos(t)\hat{j}$$
$$\vec{r}'(t) \text{ at } P \text{ i.e. } (t = \frac{\pi}{4}) \text{ is } [-\sqrt{2}, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}]$$

. Thus the tangent line is  $q(t) = \sqrt{2}(1-t)\hat{i} + \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\right)(1+t)\hat{j}$

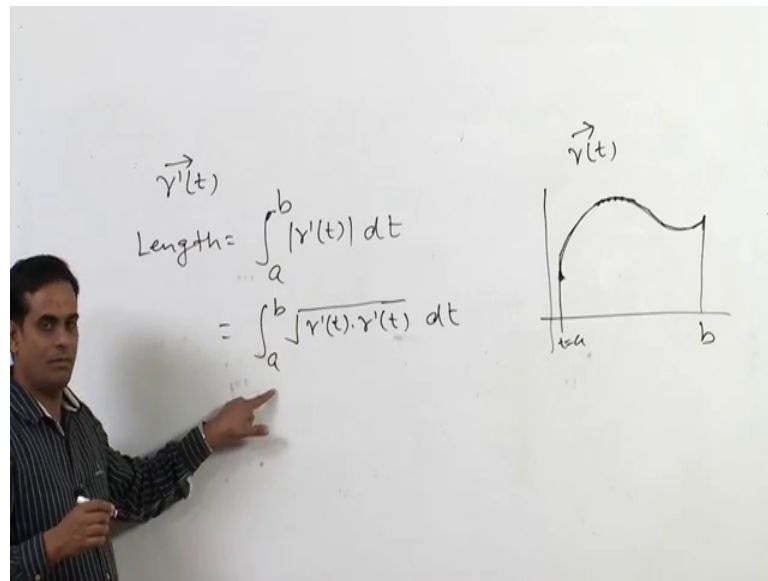
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So, let us take this particular example. So, find a tangent to the ellipse  $x^2$  upon 4 plus  $y^2$  equals to 1 at  $p$  equals to root 2 1 upon root 2. So, first of all, we need to find out the parametric representation of this ellipse. So, parametric representation is given by  $2 \cos t \hat{i} + \sin t \hat{j}$ , where  $t$  is between 0 to  $2\pi$ . Now we will calculate  $\vec{r}'(t)$ . So, minus 2 sin  $t$  the differentiation of  $2 \cos t$ , and  $\sin t$  will come  $\cos t$ . Now  $\vec{r}'(t)$  at  $p$  it means  $p$  is root 2 n 1 upon root 2. So, according to this the value of  $t$  satisfy this point on this curve is  $\pi$  by 4. So, at  $\pi$  by 4 it will become minus root 2 upon 1 upon root 2. So, in this way we can calculate the tangent line.

Finally, a very important concept, that is how to measure the length of a given curve.



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So, let us I am having a curve, let us take a curve in plane, which is at any point position vector is given by  $\vec{r}(t)$ . Now I need to find out length of this curve. So, let us say  $t$  equals to  $a$  and  $t$  equals to  $b$ . So, length of this curve, between when  $t$  is between  $a$  to  $b$ .

. So, how to find this length, the basic idea of finding the length of a curve is plot the tangent at each point find the length of those tangent vectors and add all of them; however, it will be an approximation like if I am finding like this. So, how to refine this particular approximation? It means, take the tangent at infinite number of points on the curve between  $a$  to  $b$  so that we will find out tangent at each point and add the length of all those tangent.

So, in this way, as you know if curve is given by  $\vec{r}(t)$  then tangent is  $\vec{r}'(t)$  and length of tangent. So, length of the curve is given by integration over  $a$  to  $b$ . Why I am taking this integration? Because I am adding all the tangents, and then  $\vec{r}'(t) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt$ . That is basically  $a$  to  $b$  a square root  $\vec{r}'(t) \cdot \vec{r}'(t) dt$  so, this is the length. So, this particular thing will give the length of the curve between  $t$  equals to  $a$  to  $t$  equals to  $b$ .

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**Length of a Curve**

**Example**  
Find the length of the arc in one period of the cycloid  $x = t - \sin t$ ,  $y = 1 - \cos t$ .  
The values of  $t$  run from 0 to  $2\pi$ .

implies

$$\vec{r}(t) = (t - \sin t)\hat{i} + (1 - \cos t)\hat{j}$$
$$\vec{v}'(t) = (1 - \cos t)\hat{i} + \sin t\hat{j}$$
$$l = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{(1 - \cos t)^2 + \sin^2 t} dt$$
$$l = 8$$

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. So, is find the length of the arc in one period of the cycloid given by  $x$  equals to  $t$  minus  $\sin t$  and  $y$  equals to  $1$  minus  $\cos t$ . The value of  $t$  run from  $0$  to  $2\pi$ . So, here are the parametric representation of a point  $p$  on the cycloid is given by the position vector  $\vec{r}(t) = t\hat{i} - \sin t\hat{i} + 1\hat{j} - \cos t\hat{j}$ . Now find out the  $\vec{v}'(t)$  so, this will become  $1 - \cos t$ , and this will become  $\sin t$ . So,  $1 - \cos t\hat{i} + \sin t\hat{j}$ .

Now the length of this is  $l = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{(1 - \cos t)^2 + \sin^2 t} dt$ . So, when I will do it it will become  $1 + \cos^2 t - 2\cos t + \sin^2 t$ ; so  $\cos^2 t + \sin^2 t$  will become  $1$ . So, it will become  $\sqrt{2 - 2\cos t}$  so, I can take  $\sqrt{2}$  out. So, it will become  $\sqrt{2} \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{1 - \cos t} dt$  that I can write  $1 - \cos t$  by  $2\sin^2(t/2)$ . And in this way, I can calculate this particular integral, and value will come out to be  $8$ . So, the length of this one period of the cycloid is  $8$ .

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### Length of a Curve

**Example**

Find the length of the curve  $\vec{r}(t) = 2t\hat{i} + 3\sin(2t)\hat{j} + 3\cos(2t)\hat{k}$ , for  $0 \leq t \leq 2\pi$ .

We calculate  $\vec{r}'(t) = 2\hat{i} + 6\cos(2t)\hat{j} - 6\sin(2t)\hat{k}$   
 Here,

$$L = \int_0^{2\pi} \sqrt{4 + 36\cos^2(2t) + 36\sin^2(2t)} dt = \int_0^{2\pi} 2\sqrt{10} dt = 4\pi\sqrt{10}$$



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Similarly, this example here the equation of curve is given by this  $t$  0 to  $2\pi$ . So, if I calculate the length it is coming out  $4\pi\sqrt{10}$ ; finally, the arc length  $s$  of a curve.

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### Arc Length S of a Curve

**Definition**



If we replace the upper limit of the integral obtained in the Length of the curve by some variable say  $p$  then it no longer remains a constant, but becomes a function of  $p$ . The function obtained is called arc length function or simply the arc length of  $C$ .

$$s(p) = \int_a^p \sqrt{\nu' \cdot \nu'} dt$$

Differentiating above and squaring we get

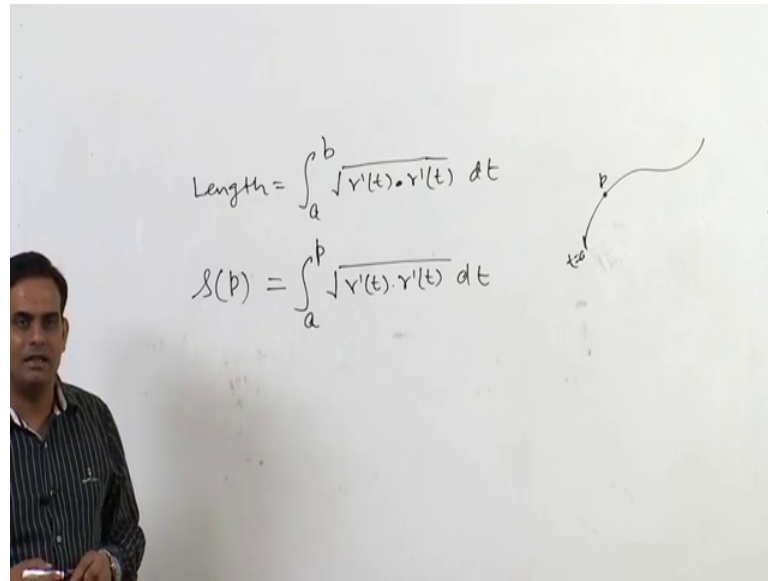
$$\left(\frac{ds}{dt}\right)^2 = \frac{d\nu}{dt} \cdot \frac{d\nu}{dt} = |\nu'(t)|^2 = \left(\frac{dx}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dy}{dt}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{dz}{dt}\right)^2$$

Writing  $d\vec{r} = dx\hat{i} + dy\hat{j} + dz\hat{k}$  and  $ds^2 = d\nu \cdot d\nu = dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2$ .  
 $ds$  is called the linear element of  $C$ .



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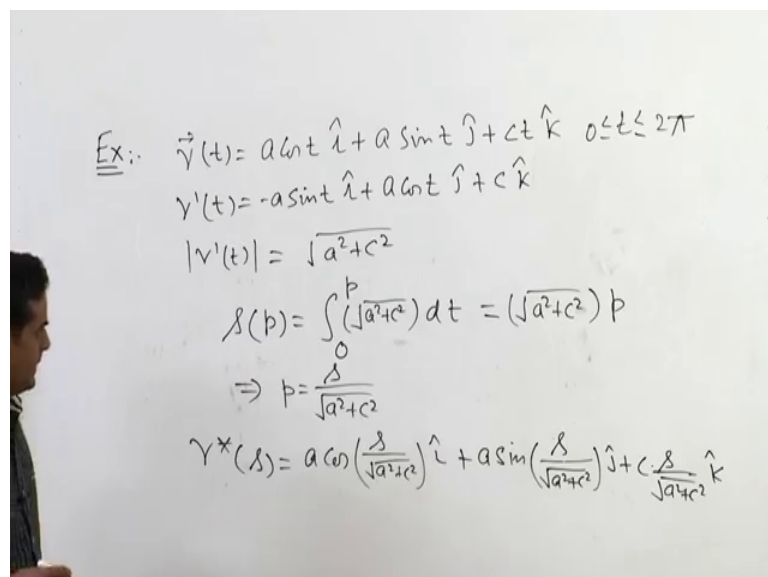
So, if we replace the upper limit of the integral that is basically the length was  $a$  to  $b$  square root  $r$  dash  $t$  dot product with dash  $t$   $dt$ .

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So, what I am doing? If this is the curve so, let us say this is  $t$  equals to  $a$ . So, I want to find out the length in terms of a parameter  $p$ , so that by putting a specific value  $p$ , I can get the length at any point. So, I want to find out length in terms of  $p$ . So, here arc length is  $s$  which is a function of  $p$ . So, initial point is  $a$ , and the upper limit I am replacing with this  $p$ . And then rest of the thing will be same. So, once I will get this, it will come out as a function of  $p$ , and then I can write  $p$  in terms of  $s$ , and then I can change the equation of the curve from  $t$  to  $p$  in terms of  $s$ ; that is the parametric representation in terms of arc length. Let us see it with the help of an example.

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So, find arc length representation of a helix. So, as you know that for an helix, I am having the parametric representation as  $\mathbf{r}(t) = a \cos t \mathbf{i} + a \sin t \mathbf{j} + ct \mathbf{k}$ , and let us take the circular helix  $a \sin t \mathbf{j} + ct \mathbf{k}$ . Now here  $\mathbf{r}'(t)$  will become  $-a \sin t \mathbf{i} + a \cos t \mathbf{j} + c \mathbf{k}$ . The magnitude of  $\mathbf{r}'(t)$  will become  $\sqrt{a^2 + c^2}$ . So, here arc length is  $s$ ; that is, and here let us take  $t$  is between  $0$  to  $2\pi$  in the helix in this one shows  $0$  to  $p = \sqrt{a^2 + c^2} \int_0^{2\pi} dt$ . So, this comes out to be  $\sqrt{a^2 + c^2} \int_0^{2\pi} dt$ .

So, from here I can write  $p$  equals to  $s$  upon  $\sqrt{a^2 + c^2}$ . And from here I can write the arc length representation of the curve. So, it will be  $\mathbf{a}$  in terms of  $s$ . So,  $a \cos \frac{s}{\sqrt{a^2 + c^2}} \mathbf{i} + a \sin \frac{s}{\sqrt{a^2 + c^2}} \mathbf{j} + c \frac{s}{\sqrt{a^2 + c^2}} \mathbf{k}$  which will be the component in  $\mathbf{i}$  direction plus,  $a \sin \frac{s}{\sqrt{a^2 + c^2}}$  in term in the direction  $\mathbf{j}$  plus  $c$  times  $s$  upon  $\sqrt{a^2 + c^2}$  in term in the direction  $\mathbf{k}$ . So, this is called the arc length representation of a given curve. So, what you have to do you have to find out the arc length represent a arc length, then write the parameter which we have chosen for arc length as a function of  $s$ , and then replace that particular thing with that this particular value.

So, in this nature we have learned differentiability continuity limits and various other concepts of vector functions, and then we have seen some applications of differentiability in terms of tangent vector in terms of finding the length of a curve. And finally, we have learn how to write the arc length representation of a curve; which is quite useful to find out a particular position at the curve where we are at a particular value of  $t$ .

So, with this I will end this lecture.

Thank you.