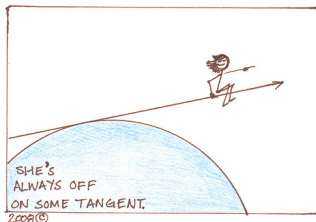
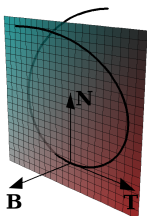


## 1.3: TNB: Unit Tangent $T$ (Pointer Finger)

**Example:**  $\alpha(t) = (r \cos(\omega t), r \sin(\omega t), 0)$  with  $r, \omega \in \mathbb{R} + \text{constant}$

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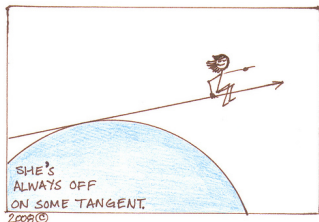
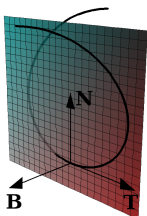
[brownsharpie.courtneygibbons.org/wp-content/comics/2008-08-22-off-on-a-tangent.jpg](http://brownsharpie.courtneygibbons.org/wp-content/comics/2008-08-22-off-on-a-tangent.jpg)

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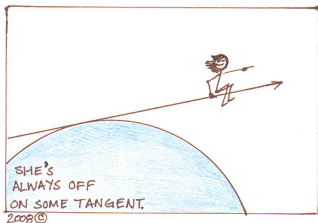
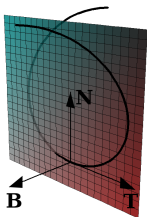
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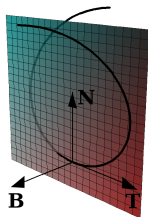
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## $N$ the Unit Normal (Middle Finger) and $\vec{\kappa}$ Curvature



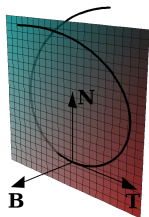
$$T(t) = (-\sin(\omega t), \cos(\omega t), 0)$$

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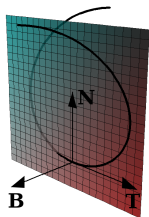
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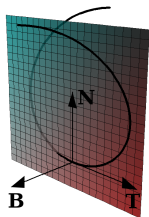
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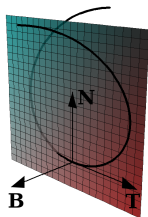
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Why is  $T'$  perpendicular to  $T$ ? (this shows  $N$  is too)

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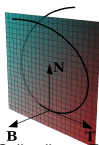
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$2T \cdot T' = 0$ . Then  $T \cdot T' = 0$  and as long as neither is 0, then they are perpendicular.

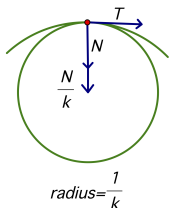


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Tracking the motion of  $T$  via  $T'$  tells us how the curve *curves*  
 $T$  turns towards  $N$ . Also,  $\kappa$  tells us how fast  $T$  turns

$$\vec{\kappa} = \frac{T'(t)}{|\alpha'(t)|}, \quad \kappa = |\vec{\kappa}|, \quad N = \frac{\vec{\kappa}}{\kappa}$$

## Osculating Circle



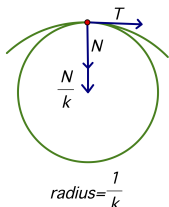
- Best fit circle is the osculating circle radius  $\frac{1}{\kappa}$  and center  $\alpha(t) + \frac{N}{\kappa}$   
osculating plane  $((x, y, z) - \alpha(t)) \cdot T \times N = 0$

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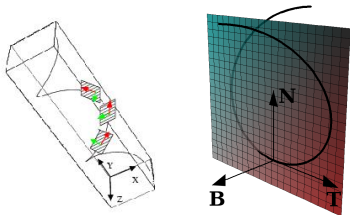
$$T \times N = \vec{k} = (0, 0, 1)$$

$$\text{osculating plane } (x - r \cos(\omega t), y - r \sin(\omega t), z - 0) \cdot (0, 0, 1) = 0$$

osculating circle center  $(0,0,0)$  and radius  $r$

## $B$ the Unit Binormal (Thumb)

$T$  and  $N$  form a plane, called the osculating plane and  $B$ , the binormal, is normal to that plane.

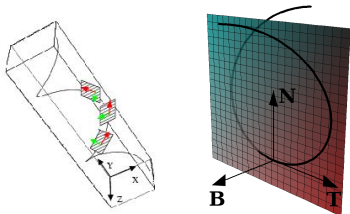


<http://cs-www.cs.yale.edu/homes/li-gang/research/CurveStereo/index.html>, CC-BY-SA-3.0  
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We unitized other vectors to form  $T$  and  $N$ . Why is  $B = T \times N$  also a unit vector?

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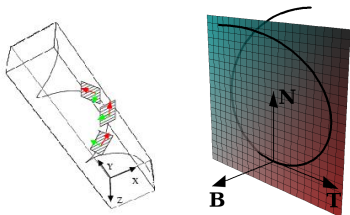
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$$|B| = |T| \times |N| = |T||N| \sin \theta$$



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$$|B| = |T \times N| = |T||N| \sin \theta = 1 \cdot 1 \cdot \sin 90 = 1$$

$$B' = -\tau N = (0, 0, 0) \text{ so } \tau = 0.$$