



On Flc-Focal Curves According Flc-Frame

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Author's contribution

The sole author designed, analysed, interpreted and prepared the manuscript.

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Abstract

In this study, we first characterize focal curves by examining the FLC-frame in three-dimensional Euclidean space. We then derive the relationship between the curvatures of a curve and the focal curvatures. Finally, we present some new conditions for curves with constant curvatures in \mathbb{E}^3 .

Keywords: Flc-frame; focal curve; focal curvatures.

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1 Background on Flc-Frame

Consider the tridimensional Euclidean space \mathbb{E}^3 with inner product

$$\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle = dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2,$$

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where $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{E}^3$ is a rectangular coordinate system. Consider the curve $\alpha : I \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^3$, which is differentiable in the Euclidean 3-space and is defined on an open interval I . The Frenet frame is defined as follows [1]

$$t = \frac{\alpha'}{\|\alpha'\|}, \quad b = \frac{\alpha' \wedge \alpha''}{\|\alpha' \wedge \alpha''\|}, \quad n = b \wedge t, \tag{1.1}$$

satisfying

$$\begin{bmatrix} t' \\ n' \\ b' \end{bmatrix} = \|\alpha'\| \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \kappa & 0 \\ -\kappa & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & -\tau & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ n \\ b \end{bmatrix}. \tag{1.2}$$

Here, κ and τ are differentiable functions defined on I , referred to as the curvature and torsion of α , respectively. The vectors t , n and b represent the tangent, principal normal, and binormal vectors of α , respectively.

In addition to the Frenet frame, it is possible to establish other frame along a three-dimensional curve such as: Bishop frame, q-frame, alternative frame and others [2, 3, 4]. Recently, Dede [5] introduced a newframe along a polynomial space curve, called as Flc-frame. The computation of Flc-frame is easier than the Frenet frame and has some advantages, such as (see [6]):

- i) There are no singular points of order 1, that is, there is no $t_0 \in I$ such that $\alpha''(t_0) = 0$, in the FLC frame, whereas the Frenet frame exhibits irregular behavior at a first-order singular point.
- ii) The chances of inflection points occurring, that is, points $t_0 \in I$ such that $\alpha(t_0) \wedge \alpha''(t_0) = 0$, are lower in the FLC frame than in the Frenet frame.

Discussion of the Flc-frame and its application to the tube surfaces can be found in [5], on geometry of focal surfaces in [7], in the analysis of Smarandache ruled surfaces in [8].

Let $\alpha(t)$ be a polynomial space curve of degree n . The Flc-frame is given by

$$t = \frac{\alpha'}{\|\alpha'\|}, \quad D_1 = \frac{\alpha' \wedge \alpha^{(n)}}{\|\alpha' \wedge \alpha^{(n)}\|}, \quad D_2 = D_1 \wedge t, \tag{1.3}$$

where the prime ' indicates the differentiation with respect to t and the notation $\alpha^{(n)}$ expresses the n th derivative of the curve α with respect to t [5]. The new vectors D_1 and D_2 are called as *binormal-like vector* and *normal-like vector*, respectively.

Calculations show that the derivatives of the Flc-frame satisfy [5]

$$\begin{bmatrix} t' \\ D_2' \\ D_1' \end{bmatrix} = \|\alpha'\| \begin{bmatrix} 0 & d_1 & d_2 \\ -d_1 & 0 & d_3 \\ -d_2 & -d_3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} t \\ D_2 \\ D_1 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{1.4}$$

where

$$d_1 = \frac{\langle \alpha' \wedge \alpha'', \alpha' \wedge \alpha^{(n)} \rangle}{\|\alpha'\|^3 \|\alpha' \wedge \alpha^{(n)}\|}, \quad d_2 = \frac{\det(\alpha'', \alpha', \alpha^{(n)})}{\|\alpha'\|^2 \|\alpha' \wedge \alpha^{(n)}\|}, \quad d_3 = \frac{\det(\alpha', \alpha'', \alpha^{(n)}) \langle \alpha', \alpha^{(n)} \rangle}{\|\alpha'\|^2 \|\alpha' \wedge \alpha^{(n)}\|} \tag{1.5}$$

are called the curvatures of the Flc-frame.

Corollary 1.1. *If the degree of polynomial space curve is two, then the Flc-frame coincides with the Frenet frame with curvatures $d_1 = \kappa, d_2 = 0$ and $d_3 = \tau = 0$ [6].*

A focal curve or generalized evolute is the geometric locus given by the centers of the osculating circles of a given curve. With applications ranging from Dynamical Systems Theory to Surface Engineering [9], the focal curve can be expressed in terms of the frame of the initial curve and in a parametrization the coefficients called focal curvatures are obtained. These curves are studied in different spaces and frames, for example in [10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]. Motivated by these, in this paper, we study the focal curves according Flc-frame in \mathbb{E}^3 .

2 Focal Curves According Flc-Frame in \mathbb{E}^3

Let $\alpha : I \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^3$ be a regular space curve in the three-dimensional Euclidean space \mathbb{E}^3 with nonzero curvature κ and torsion τ . The focal curve of α is the curve given by the equation

$$\beta(t) = \alpha(t) + \varphi_1(t)n(t) + \varphi_2(t)b(t), \tag{2.1}$$

where n is a principal unit normal vector field of α , b is a binormal unit vector field of α . The coefficients $\varphi_1(t)$ and $\varphi_2(t)$ are smooth functions called focal curvatures of α [16].

In terms of the Flc-frame, the focal curve of α is given by

$$\beta(t) = \alpha(t) + \varphi_1(t)D_2(t) + \varphi_2(t)D_1(t). \tag{2.2}$$

Theorem 2.1. Consider a unit speed curve $\alpha : I \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^3$ and its corresponding focal curve β . Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \beta(s) = & \alpha(s) + e^{-\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \left[\int e^{\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \frac{d_3}{d_2} ds + C \right] D_2 \\ & + \left\{ \frac{1}{d_2} - \frac{d_1}{d_2} e^{-\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \left[\int e^{\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \frac{d_3}{d_2} ds + C \right] \right\} D_1, \end{aligned} \tag{2.3}$$

where C is a constant of integration.

Proof. Suppose α is a curve with unit speed and β represents its focal curve in \mathbb{E}^3 .

Differentiating the equation (2.2) and using (1.4), we obtain

$$\beta' = (1 - d_1 \varphi_1 - d_2 \varphi_2)t + (\varphi_1' - d_3 \varphi_2)D_2 + (d_3 \varphi_1 + \varphi_2')D_1. \tag{2.4}$$

From equation (2.4), the first two components vanish, we get

$$1 - d_1 \varphi_1 - d_2 \varphi_2 = 0, \tag{2.5}$$

$$\varphi_1' - d_3 \varphi_2 = 0. \tag{2.6}$$

From equation (2.5),

$$\varphi_2 = \frac{1 - d_1 \varphi_1}{d_2}.$$

In (2.6),

$$\varphi_1' + \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} \varphi_1 = \frac{d_3}{d_2}.$$

By integrating this equation, we find

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_1 &= e^{-\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \left[\int e^{\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \frac{d_3}{d_2} ds + C \right], \\ \varphi_2 &= \frac{1}{d_2} - \frac{d_1}{d_2} e^{-\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \left[\int e^{\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \frac{d_3}{d_2} ds + C \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting in the equation (2.2), the result follows. □

As an immediate consequence of the above theorem, we have:

Corollary 2.2. Consider a unit speed curve $\alpha : I \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^3$ and its corresponding focal curve β in \mathbb{E}^3 . Then, the focal curvatures of β are

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_1 &= e^{-\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \left[\int e^{\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \frac{d_3}{d_2} ds + C \right], \\ \varphi_2 &= \frac{1}{d_2} - \frac{d_1}{d_2} e^{-\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \left[\int e^{\int \frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} ds} \frac{d_3}{d_2} ds + C \right].\end{aligned}$$

Based on Theorem 2.1, we can state the following corollary:

Corollary 2.3. Consider a unit speed curve $\alpha : I \rightarrow \mathbb{E}^3$ and its focal curve β in \mathbb{E}^3 . If d_1, d_2 and d_3 are constants, then the focal curvatures of β are

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_1 &= \frac{1}{d_1} + C e^{-\frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} s}, \\ \varphi_2 &= \frac{1}{d_2} - \frac{d_1}{d_2} \left(\frac{1}{d_1} + C e^{-\frac{d_1 d_3}{d_2} s} \right).\end{aligned}$$

3 Conclusion

The study of focal curves in the Flc-frame provides a new view of these curves, revealing new characteristics that were not evident in other frames. In this study we characterise focal curves in euclidean space according Flc-frame and then deduce relationships between the curvature of a curve and its focal curvatures.

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Competing Interests

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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