

SINGULAR POINTS OF TUBULAR SURFACES IN MINKOWSKI 3-SPACE

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, we examine singular points of tubular surfaces and its parallel surfaces, which is based on two-parameter spatial motion along a curve in Minkowski 3-space. Related results are presented also.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let $IR^3 = \{(r_1, r_2, r_3) \mid r_1, r_2, r_3 \in IR\}$ be a 3-dimensional vector space, $r = (r_1, r_2, r_3)$ and $s = (s_1, s_2, s_3)$ be two vectors in IR^3 . The Lorentz scalar product of the vectors r and s is defined by

$$\langle r, s \rangle_L = -r_1 s_1 + r_2 s_2 + r_3 s_3.$$

The space $IR_1^3 = (IR^3, \langle, \rangle_L)$ is called a 3-dimensional Lorentz space, or a Minkowski 3-space. The Lorentz vector product of the vectors r and s is defined by

$$r \wedge_L s = (r_2 s_3 - r_3 s_2, r_1 s_3 - r_3 s_1, r_2 s_1 - r_1 s_2).$$

This yields

$$e_1 \wedge_L e_2 = -e_3, e_2 \wedge_L e_3 = e_1, e_3 \wedge_L e_1 = -e_2$$

where e_1, e_2, e_3 are the base of the space IR_1^3 . The vector r in IR_1^3 is called a spacelike vector, a lightlike(null) vector or a timelike vector if $\langle r, r \rangle_L > 0$, $\langle r, r \rangle_L = 0$ or $\langle r, r \rangle_L < 0$ respectively. The norm of the vector r is defined by $\|r\|_L = \sqrt{|\langle r, r \rangle_L|}$, and r is called a unit vector if $\|r\|_L = 1$. Semi-orthogonal matrices provide a rotation by the angle (hyperbolic) t around the vector \vec{c} . The shape of the matrix depends on the type of the vector \vec{c} as seen in [4].

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i) If $\overrightarrow{c(s)}$ is a spacelike vector, then

$$A_1(s, t) = I + C \sinh t + C^2(-1 + \cosh t). \quad (1.1)$$

ii) If $\overrightarrow{c(s)}$ is a timelike vector, then

$$A_2(s, t) = I + C \sin t + C^2(1 - \cos t). \quad (1.2)$$

If C is a semi-skew symmetric matrix, then

$$C(3, 1) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} C \in IR_3^3, \quad C^T = -\varepsilon C \varepsilon, \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & c_3 & -c_2 \\ c_3 & 0 & -c_1 \\ -c_2 & c_1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ c_i \in IR, \quad \varepsilon = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Let \overrightarrow{p} denote the ground vector and P denote the column matrix form of the point. The equations

$$C.P = \overrightarrow{c} \wedge_L \overrightarrow{p} \quad (1.3)$$

and

$$\overrightarrow{c} \wedge_L (\overrightarrow{c} \wedge_L \overrightarrow{p}) = -\langle \overrightarrow{c}, \overrightarrow{p} \rangle_L \overrightarrow{c} + \langle \overrightarrow{c}, \overrightarrow{c} \rangle_L \overrightarrow{p} \quad (1.4)$$

are valid. Therefore, from equation (1.1) if $\overrightarrow{c(s)}$ is a spacelike vector, then

$$A_1(s, t)P = [I + C \sinh t + C^2(-1 + \cosh t)] P.$$

From the equation (1.2) and if $\overrightarrow{c(s)}$ is a timelike vector, then

$$A_2(s, t)P = [I + C \sin t + C^2(1 - \cos t)] P.$$

Using the equations (1.3) and (1.4), we get

$$A_1(s, t)P = \overrightarrow{p} \cosh t + \langle \overrightarrow{c}, \overrightarrow{p} \rangle_L \overrightarrow{c} (1 - \cosh t) + (\overrightarrow{c} \wedge_L \overrightarrow{p}) \sinh t \quad (1.5)$$

and

$$A_2(s, t)P = \overrightarrow{p} \cos t - \langle \overrightarrow{c}, \overrightarrow{p} \rangle_L \overrightarrow{c} (1 - \cos t) + (\overrightarrow{c} \wedge_L \overrightarrow{p}) \sin t. \quad (1.6)$$

Let α be a space curve given by

$$\alpha : I \rightarrow IR_1^3, \quad s \rightarrow \alpha(s)$$

be differentiable for $s \in I \subset IR$. In addition, let a vector field $c(s)$ defined along the curve $\alpha(s)$ be given by

$$\begin{aligned} c : \alpha(I) &\rightarrow \bigcup_{s \in I} T_{IR_1^3} \\ s \rightarrow c(s) &= (\alpha(s), \overrightarrow{c(s)}) = \overrightarrow{c(s)}|_{\alpha(s)}. \end{aligned}$$

Let $C(s)$ be a semi-skew symmetric matrix defined by the vector \vec{c} for all $s \in I$. The matrices $A_1(s, t)$ and $A_2(s, t)$ are semi-orthogonal matrices defined by $C(s)$. The moving Frenet frame defined along the curve $\alpha(I)$ is $\{\alpha(s), \vec{T}(s), \vec{N}(s), \vec{B}(s)\}$ and p is a fixed point in this frame. With these notations and assumptions we can give the following definition:

Definition 1.1. *The motion $\varphi(s, t)(P) = A_{1,2}(s, t)P + \alpha(s)$ is called the two parameter motion defined along the curve in Minkowski 3-space [2].*

Here, $\varphi(s, t)(P)$ indicates a trajectory level. We now give some properties of $\varphi(s, t)(P)$. We will always use the frame $\{\vec{T}, \vec{N}, \vec{B}\}$ instead of the Frenet frame

$$\{\vec{T}(s), \vec{N}(s), \vec{B}(s)\}$$

in the remainder of this paper. We will also choose the tangent vector field \vec{T} instead of the vector field \vec{c} . A trajectory of the point P indicates a surface under the two parameter motion. The equation of this surface is

i) If \vec{c} is a spacelike vector, then from equations (1.1) and (1.5), we have

$$\varphi_1(s, t)(P) = \vec{p} \cosh t + \langle \vec{T}, \vec{p} \rangle_L (1 - \cosh t) \vec{T} + \sinh t. (\vec{T} \wedge_L \vec{p}) + \alpha(s). \tag{1.7}$$

ii) If \vec{c} is a timelike vector, then from equations (1.2) and (1.6), we have

$$\varphi_2(s, t)(P) = \vec{p} \cos t - \langle \vec{T}, \vec{p} \rangle_L (1 - \cos t) \vec{T} + \sin t. (\vec{T} \wedge_L \vec{p}) + \alpha(s). \tag{1.8}$$

2. CHARACTERIZATIONS OF TUBULAR SURFACES

i) If $\alpha(s)$ is a spacelike curve, then tangent \vec{T} is a spacelike and we have the following cases:

a) \vec{T} spacelike, \vec{N} timelike and \vec{B} spacelike. In this case and from equation (1.7) we have [2]

$$M_1(s, t) = \alpha(s) + \lambda (\vec{N} \cosh t + \vec{B} \sinh t) \tag{2.1}$$

where $\vec{p} = \lambda \vec{N}$, $\lambda \in IR$, $\lambda > 0$.

Thus, equation (2.1) is the parametric equation of a tubular surface defined along the curve $\alpha(s)$ in Minkowski 3-space.

b) \vec{T} spacelike, \vec{N} spacelike and \vec{B} timelike. In this case and from equation (1.7) we have

$$M_2(s, t) = \alpha(s) + \lambda (\vec{N} \cosh t - \vec{B} \sinh t) \tag{2.2}$$

where $\vec{p} = \lambda \vec{N}$, $\lambda \in IR$, $\lambda > 0$.

Thus, equation (2.2) is the parametric equation of a tubular surface defined along the curve $\alpha(s)$ in Minkowski 3-space.

ii) If $\alpha(s)$ is a timelike curve, then the tangent \vec{T} is a timelike and we have the following:

The tangent \vec{T} timelike, \vec{N} spacelike and \vec{B} spacelike. In this case and from equation (1.8), we have [2]

$$M_3(s, t) = \alpha(s) + \lambda \left(\vec{N} \cos t + \vec{B} \sin t \right) \quad (2.3)$$

where $\vec{p} = \lambda \vec{N}$, $\lambda \in IR$, $\lambda > 0$.

Thus, equation (2.3) is the parametric equation of a tubular surface defined along the curve $\alpha(s)$ in Minkowski 3-space.

3. SINGULAR POINTS OF THE TUBULAR SURFACE $M_1(s, t)$

From equation (2.1) we have

$$M_{1s} \wedge_L M_{1t} = \lambda(1 + \lambda\kappa \cosh t) \left(\vec{N} \cosh t + \vec{B} \sinh t \right)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial M_1}{\partial s} &= M_{1s} = (1 + \lambda\kappa \cosh t) \vec{T} + (\lambda\tau \sinh t) \vec{N} + (\lambda\tau \cosh t) \vec{B} \\ \frac{\partial M_1}{\partial t} &= M_{1t} = (\lambda \sinh t) \vec{N} + (\lambda \cosh t) \vec{B} \end{aligned}$$

and the Frenet formula (see [5])

$$\vec{T}' = \kappa \vec{N}, \vec{N}' = \kappa \vec{T} + \tau \vec{B}, \vec{B}' = \tau \vec{N}.$$

Here κ and τ are the curvature and torsion of curve $\alpha(s)$, respectively. The singular points are the points on the surface $M_1(s, t)$ such that

$$M_{1s} \wedge_L M_{1t} = 0$$

or equivalently

$$(1 + \lambda\kappa \cosh t) = 0.$$

Thus, we have the following theorem:

Theorem 3.1. *The point $M_1(s_0, t_0)$ of a surface $M_1(s, t)$ is a singular point if and only if*

$$(1 + \lambda\kappa(s_0) \cosh(t_0)) = 0.$$

Corollary 3.2. *If the vector M_{1s} is on the normal plane which is constructed using \vec{N} and \vec{B} , then all points on the surface are singular.*

Corollary 3.3. *If $\kappa = 0$ then $(1 + \lambda\kappa \cosh t) \neq 0$.*

Theorem 3.4. *If M_1 is a cylindrical tubular surface then it has no singular points on M_1 .*

Proof. $\kappa = 0$ on the cylindrical tubular surface. For $\kappa = 0$, $(1 + \lambda\kappa \cosh t) = 1 \neq 0$. \square

Corollary 3.5. *Singular points on the tubular surface are independent of τ , the torsion of the curve $\alpha(s)$, and only depend on the curvature κ of the curve $\alpha(s)$.*

Theorem 3.6. *Let $\alpha(s)$ be a Lorentzian circle. In this case, $\kappa = \text{const.}$ and the singular points satisfy*

$$\cosh t = -\frac{1}{\lambda\kappa} = a$$

or equivalently, the singular points (s, t) on M_1 satisfy

$$t = \ln \left(a + \sqrt{a^2 - 1} \right), \quad 1 \leq a.$$

We next find which points on which surfaces are singular points of M_1 .

Theorem 3.7. *If $\lambda = -\frac{1}{\kappa} = \text{const.}$ then all points on the curve ($t = 0$), which is the locus of centre of curvature of the curve $\alpha(s)$, are singular points of surface M_1 .*

Proof. Since $(1 + \lambda\kappa \cosh t) = 0$ for $t = 0$, $(1 + \lambda\kappa) = 0$, i.e., $\lambda = -\frac{1}{\kappa} = \text{const.}$ and the parametric curve of the surface is $M_1(s, 0) = \alpha(s) - \frac{1}{\kappa}\vec{N}$. This curve is the locus of centre of curvature of the curve $\alpha(s)$. Since for $t = 0$ and $\lambda = -\frac{1}{\kappa}$, $(1 + \lambda\kappa \cosh t) = 1 - 1 = 0$ at the points on this curve, these points are singular. \square

Theorem 3.8. *Let $\kappa = \text{const.}$ for all s . With the conditions of $t = \text{const.}$ and $\lambda = -\frac{1}{a\kappa}$ ($\cosh t = a$) on the surface M_1 all points on the curve $\alpha(s)$ (Lorentzian circle, helix) are singular.*

Proof. Since $(1 + \lambda\kappa \cosh t) = 1 - \frac{1}{a\kappa}\kappa \cosh t = 0$, these points are singular. \square

Theorem 3.9. *Let $\alpha(s)$ be the Bertrand curve. On the conditions of $t = 0$ and $\lambda = -\frac{1}{\kappa} = \text{const.}$ the points on $\beta(s)$ curve, which is the couple of the $\alpha(s)$ curve, are singular.*

Proof. Let $\beta(s) = \alpha(s) + \eta\vec{N}$, $\eta = \lambda = -\frac{1}{\kappa}$ for the $\alpha(s)$ Bertrand curve. Then we have

$$(1 + \lambda\kappa \cosh t) = 1 - \lambda\frac{1}{\lambda} = 0.$$

\square

4. SINGULAR POINTS OF THE PARALLEL TUBULAR SURFACE $M_1^*(s, t)$

Definition 4.1. *The parallel surface of the surface $M_1(s, t)$ defined by*

$$M_1^*(s, t) = M_1(s, t) + \mu U_1(s, t),$$

where

$$U_1 = \frac{M_{1s} \wedge_L M_{1t}}{\|M_{1s} \wedge_L M_{1t}\|_L}$$

is the unit normal of the surface M_1 .

Theorem 4.2. *The parallel surface $M_1^*(s, t)$ of the tubular surface $M_1(s, t)$ is still tubular surface [3], where*

$$M_1^*(s, t) = \alpha(s) + (\lambda + \mu) \left(\vec{N} \cosh t + \vec{B} \sinh t \right).$$

Now, let's investigate whether or not the points on surface $M_1(s, t)$ and its parallel surface $M_1^*(s, t)$ are the same. The normal of the parallel surface $M_1^*(s, t)$ is

$$M_{1s}^* \wedge_L M_{1t}^* = (\lambda + \mu) (1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) \left((\cosh t) \vec{N} + (\sinh t) \vec{B} \right),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial M_1^*}{\partial s} &= M_{1s}^* = (1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) \vec{T} \\ &\quad + ((\lambda + \mu) \tau \sinh t) \vec{N} + ((\lambda + \mu) \tau \cosh t) \vec{B} \\ \frac{\partial M_1^*}{\partial t} &= M_{1t}^* = ((\lambda + \mu) \sinh t) \vec{N} + ((\lambda + \mu) \cosh t) \vec{B}. \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 4.3. *The singular points (s, t) on the surface $M_1(s, t)$ are not singular on the parallel surface $M_1^*(s, t)$.*

Proof. The points (s, t) on the parallel surface $M_1^*(s, t)$ are singular points if and only if

$$(1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) = 0.$$

But

$$(1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) = 1 + \lambda \kappa \cosh t + \mu \kappa \cosh t = 0,$$

which is impossible if $\mu = 0$. Therefore, the points (s, t) on $M_1^*(s, t)$ are not singular. \square

Theorem 4.4. *The point $M_1^*(s_0, t_0)$ of the parallel surface $M_1^*(s, t)$ is singular point if and only if $(1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa(s_0) \cosh t_0) = 0$.*

Proof. The point (s_0, t_0) on the surface M_1^* is singular point if and only if

$$M_{1s}^*(s_0, t_0) \wedge_L M_{1t}^*(s_0, t_0) = 0 \Leftrightarrow (1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa(s_0) \cosh t_0) = 0.$$

\square

Corollary 4.5. *If the vector M_{1s}^* is on the normal plane, constructed by \vec{N} and \vec{B} , then all the points on the surface are singular.*

Corollary 4.6. *If $\kappa = 0$, then $(1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) \neq 0$.*

Theorem 4.7. *If M_1^* is a cylindrical tubular surface there are not any singular points on M_1^* .*

Proof. $\kappa = 0$ on the cylindrical tubular surface. For $\kappa = 0$, $(1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) = 1 \neq 0$. \square

Corollary 4.8. *Singular points on the tubular surface M_1^* are independent of τ , which is torsion of the curve $\alpha(s)$, and only depend on the κ curvature of the curve $\alpha(s)$.*

Theorem 4.9. *Let $\alpha(s)$ be a Lorentzian circle. Then, since $\kappa = \text{const.}$, if*

$$\cosh t = -\frac{1}{(\lambda + \mu) \kappa} = a$$

and

$$t = \ln \left(a + \sqrt{a^2 - 1} \right), \quad 1 \leq a$$

the points (s, t) on the surface M_1^* are singular.

We now examine which points on which curves are singular for $t = 0$ in parametric curves.

Theorem 4.10. *If $\lambda + \mu = -\frac{1}{\kappa} = \text{const.}$ all points on the curve ($t = 0$), which is the locus of the centre of curvature of the curve $\alpha(s)$, are singular points of surface M_1^* .*

Proof. Since $(1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) = 0$ for $t = 0$, $(1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa) = 0$, i.e $\lambda + \mu = -\frac{1}{\kappa} = \text{const.}$ which implies

$$M_1^*(s, 0) = \alpha(s) - \frac{1}{\kappa} \vec{N}.$$

This curve is the locus of the centre of curvature of the curve $\alpha(s)$. Since for $t = 0$ and $\lambda + \mu = -\frac{1}{\kappa}$, $(1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) = 1 - 1 = 0$ at the points on this curve, these points are singular. \square

Theorem 4.11. *Let $\kappa = \text{const.}$ for all s . With the conditions of all $t = \text{const.}$ and $\lambda + \mu = -\frac{1}{a\kappa}$ ($\cosh t = a$) on the surface M_1^* all points on the curve $\alpha(s)$ (Lorentzian circle, helix) are singular.*

Proof. Since $(1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) = 1 - \frac{1}{a\kappa} \kappa \cosh t = 0$, these points are singular. \square

Theorem 4.12. *Let $\alpha(s)$ be the Bertrand curve. On the conditions of $t = 0$ and $\lambda + \mu = -\frac{1}{\kappa} = \text{const.}$ the points on the curve $\beta(s)$, the couple of the curve $\alpha(s)$, are singular.*

Proof. Let $\beta(s) = \alpha(s) + \delta \vec{N}$, $\delta = \lambda + \mu = -\frac{1}{\kappa}$ for the Bertrand curve $\alpha(s)$. For the points on this curve

$$(1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) = 1 - (\lambda + \mu) \frac{1}{(\lambda + \mu)} = 0$$

is obtained. □

5. SINGULAR POINTS OF THE TUBULAR SURFACE $M_2(s, t)$

From equation (2.2) we have

$$M_{2s} \wedge_L M_{2t} = \lambda(1 - \lambda\kappa \cosh t) \left(\vec{N} \cosh t - \vec{B} \sinh t \right)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} M_{2s} &= (1 - \lambda\kappa \cosh t) \vec{T} - (\lambda\tau \sinh t) \vec{N} + (\lambda\tau \cosh t) \vec{B} \\ M_{2t} &= (\lambda \sinh t) \vec{N} - (\lambda \cosh t) \vec{B} \end{aligned}$$

and the Frenet formula (see [5]),

$$\vec{T}' = \kappa \vec{N}, \vec{N}' = -\kappa \vec{T} + \tau \vec{B}, \vec{B}' = \tau \vec{N}.$$

Here κ and τ are curvature and torsion of the curve $\alpha(s)$, respectively. $M_{2s} \wedge_L M_{2t} = 0$ if and only if $(1 - \lambda\kappa \cosh t) = 0$. The study of the geometric properties the singular points can be done using the same methods as in Section 3.

6. SINGULAR POINTS OF THE PARALLEL TUBULAR SURFACE $M_2^*(s, t)$

Theorem 6.1. *The parallel surface $M_2^*(s, t)$ of the tubular surface $M_2(s, t)$ is still tubular surface.*

$$M_2^*(s, t) = \alpha(s) + (\lambda + \mu) \left(\vec{N} \cosh t - \vec{B} \sinh t \right).$$

Now, let's investigate whether or not the points on surface $M_2(s, t)$ and its parallel surface $M_2^*(s, t)$ are the same. The normal of the parallel surface $M_2^*(s, t)$ is

$$M_{2s}^* \wedge_L M_{2t}^* = (\lambda + \mu) (1 - (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) \left((\cosh t) \vec{N} - (\sinh t) \vec{B} \right),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} M_{2s}^* &= (1 - (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cosh t) \vec{T} - ((\lambda + \mu) \tau \sinh t) \vec{N} + ((\lambda + \mu) \tau \cosh t) \vec{B} \\ M_{2t}^* &= ((\lambda + \mu) \sinh t) \vec{N} - ((\lambda + \mu) \cosh t) \vec{B}. \end{aligned}$$

The study can be carried out using the same technique as in Section 4.

7. SINGULAR POINTS OF THE TUBULAR SURFACE $M_3(s, t)$

From equation (2.3), we have

$$M_{3s} \wedge_L M_{3t} = \lambda(1 + \lambda\kappa \cos t) \left(-\vec{N} \cos t - \vec{B} \sin t \right)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} M_{3s} &= (1 + \lambda\kappa \cos t) \vec{T} - (\lambda\tau \sin t) \vec{N} + (\lambda\tau \cos t) \vec{B} \\ M_{3t} &= -(\lambda \sin t) \vec{N} + (\lambda \cos t) \vec{B} \end{aligned}$$

and the Frenet formula (see [5])

$$\vec{T}' = \kappa \vec{N}, \vec{N}' = \kappa \vec{T} + \tau \vec{B}, \vec{B}' = -\tau \vec{N}$$

where κ and τ are curvature and torsion of $\alpha(s)$ curve, respectively. $M_{3s} \wedge M_{3t} = 0$ if and only if $(1 + \lambda\kappa \cos t) = 0$. The study is similar to Section 5.

8. SINGULAR POINTS OF THE PARALLEL TUBULAR SURFACE $M_3^*(s, t)$

Theorem 8.1. *The $M_3^*(s, t)$ parallel surface of $M_3(s, t)$, a tubular surface, is still a tubular surface.*

$$M_3^*(s, t) = \alpha(s) + (\lambda + \mu) \left(\vec{N} \cos t + \vec{B} \sin t \right).$$

Now, let's investigate whether or not the points on surface $M_3(s, t)$ and its parallel surface $M_3^*(s, t)$ are the same. The normal to the parallel surface $M_3^*(s, t)$ is

$$M_{3s}^* \wedge_L M_{3t}^* = (\lambda + \mu) (1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cos t) \left(-(\cos t) \vec{N} - (\sin t) \vec{B} \right),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} M_{3s}^* &= (1 + (\lambda + \mu) \kappa \cos t) \vec{T} - ((\lambda + \mu) \tau \sin t) \vec{N} + ((\lambda + \mu) \tau \cos t) \vec{B} \\ M_{3t}^* &= -((\lambda + \mu) \sin t) \vec{N} + ((\lambda + \mu) \cos t) \vec{B}. \end{aligned}$$

The study is carried out using the same steps as in Section 6.

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