A new approach on helices in Euclidean $n$-space

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Abstract. In this work, we give some new characterizations for inclined curves and slant helices in $n$-dimensional Euclidean space $E^n$. Moreover, we consider the pre-characterizations about inclined curves and slant helices and restructure them.

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1. Introduction

The helices share common origins in the geometries of the platonic solids, with inherent hierarchical potential that is typical of biological structures. The helices provide an energy-efficient solution to close-packing in molecular biology, a common motif in protein construction, and a readily observable pattern at many size levels throughout the body. The helices are described in a variety of anatomical structures, suggesting their importance to structural biology and manual therapy [10].

In [9], Özdamar and Hacisalihoğlu defined harmonic curvature functions $H_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq n - 2$) of a curve $\alpha$ in $n$-dimensional Euclidean space $E^n$. They generalized inclined curves in $E^3$ to $E^n$ and then gave a characterization for the inclined curves in $E^n$:

“A curve $\alpha$ is an inclined curve if and only if $\sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H_i^2 = \text{constant}$.” (1)

Harmonic curvature functions have an important role in characterizations of general helices in higher dimensions. Because the notion of a general helix can be generalized to higher dimension in different ways. But, these ways are not easy to show which curves are general helices and finding the axis of a general helix is complicated in higher dimension. Thanks to harmonic curvature functions, we can easily obtain the axis of such curves. Moreover, this way is confirmed in 3-dimensional spaces.

Then, Izumiya and Takeuchi defined a new kind of helix (slant helix) and gave a characterization of slant helices in Euclidean 3-space $E^3$ [7]. In 2008, Önder et al.
defined a new kind of slant helix in Euclidean 4-space $E^4$ which is called a $B_2$-slant helix and they gave some characterizations of these slant helices in Euclidean 4-space $E^4$ [8]. And then in 2009, Gök et al. defined a new kind of slant helix in Euclidean $n$-space $E^n$, $n > 3$, which they called a $V_n$-slant helix and they gave some characterizations of these slant helices in Euclidean $n$-space [5]. The new kind of helix is a generalization of a $B_2$-slant helix to Euclidean 4-space $E^4$. On the other hand, Camcı et al. give some characterizations for a non-degenerate curve to be a generalized helix by using its harmonic curvatures in Euclidean $n$-space [3].

Since Özdamar and Hacısalihoğlu defined harmonic curvature functions, lots of authors have used them in their papers to characterize inclined curves and slant helices. In these studies, they gave some characterizations similar to (1) for inclined curves and slant helices. But, Camcı et al. see for the first time that the characterization of inclined curves in (1) is true for the case necessity but not true for the case sufficiency and gave an example of inclined curve in order to show why the case sufficiency is not true [3]. Also, they gave a property of inclined curves [3, Theorem 3.3, p. 2594]. But, they did not obtain when the condition of curves to be inclined. And then, Gök et al. [5] corrected the characterization of a $B_2$-slant helix ([8, Theorem 3.1, p. 1436]) like the characterization in (1). But, they also did not give the answer of the question: When the condition of curves to be inclined? After them, Ahmad and Lopez [1] and Ahmad and Melih [2] gave the definition of $G_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq n$) functions and obtain a characterization of inclined curves and slant helices, that is, $V_1$ and $V_2$-slant helix, respectively.

In this paper, we investigate the answer of the following question by the similar method in Theorem 4.1 in [4]:

When do the conditions of inclined curves and slant helices in Euclidean $n$-space $E^n$ which are similar to (1) turn to be necessary and sufficient?

2. Preliminaries

Let $\alpha : I \subset \mathbb{R} \rightarrow E^n$ be an arbitrary smooth curve in $E^n$. Recall that the curve $\alpha$ is said to be a curve of unit speed (or parameterized by its arclength) if $\langle \alpha'(s), \alpha'(s) \rangle = 1$ where $\langle , \rangle$ denotes the standard inner product of $\mathbb{R}^n$ given by

$$\langle X, Y \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i y_i$$

for each $X = (x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n), Y = (y_1, y_2, \ldots, y_n) \in \mathbb{R}^n$. In particular, the norm of a vector $X \in \mathbb{R}^n$ is given by

$$\|X\|^2 = \langle X, X \rangle.$$

Let $\{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\}$ be the moving Frenet frame along the unit speed curve $\alpha$. Here $V_i$ ($i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$) denotes the $i$th Frenet vector field. Then the Frenet formulas are
A new approach on helices in Euclidean $n$-space

where $k_i (i = 1, 2, \ldots, n-1)$ denotes the $i$th curvature function of the curve [6]. If all of the curvatures $k_i (i = 1, 2, \ldots, n-1)$ of the curve vanish nowhere in $I \subset \mathbb{R}$, the curve is said to be non-degenerate and of order $n$.

**Definition 1.** Let $\alpha : I \subset \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{E}^n$ be a curve in $\mathbb{E}^n$ with arc-length parameter $s$ and let $X$ be a unit constant vector of $\mathbb{E}^n$. For all $s \in I$, if

$$\langle V_1, X \rangle = \cos(\varphi), \varphi \neq \frac{\pi}{2}, \varphi = \text{constant},$$

then the curve $\alpha$ is called a general helix or inclined curve ($V_1$-slant helix) in $\mathbb{E}^n$ where $V_1$ is the unit tangent vector of $\alpha$ at its point $\alpha(s)$ [9].

**Definition 2.** Let $\alpha : I \subset \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{E}^n$ be a curve in $\mathbb{E}^n$ with arc-length parameter $s$ and let $X$ be a unit constant vector of $\mathbb{E}^n$. For all $s \in I$, if

$$\langle V_2, X \rangle = \cos(\varphi), \varphi \neq \frac{\pi}{2}, \varphi = \text{constant},$$

then the curve $\alpha$ is called a slant helix or a $V_2$-slant helix in $\mathbb{E}^n$ where $V_2$ is the 2nd vector field of $\alpha$ and $\varphi$ is a constant angle between the vector fields $V_2$ and $X$ [1].

**Definition 3.** Let $\alpha : I \subset \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{E}^n$ be a unit speed curve with nonzero curvatures $k_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq n-1$) in $\mathbb{E}^n$ and let $\{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\}$ denote the Frenet frame of the curve $\alpha$. We call $\alpha$ a $V_n$-slant helix if the $n$-th unit vector field $V_n$ makes a constant angle $\varphi$ with a fixed direction $X$, that is,

$$\langle V_n, X \rangle = \cos(\varphi), \varphi \neq \frac{\pi}{2}, \varphi = \text{constant},$$

along the curve $\alpha$. [5].

From now on, a smooth curve $\alpha$ is supposed to be non-degenerate throughout of this paper.

**3. Inclined curves and their harmonic curvature functions**

In this section, we restructure some known characterizations by using harmonic curvatures for inclined curves.
Definition 4. Let \( \alpha \) be a unit curve in \( E^n \). The harmonic curvatures \( H_i : I \to \mathbb{R} \), \( i = 0, 1, \ldots, n - 2 \), of \( \alpha \) are defined inductively by

\[
H_0 = 0, \quad H_1 = \frac{k_1}{k_2}, \quad H_i = \frac{H_i - 1 + k_i H_{i-2}}{k_{i+1}}
\]

for \( 2 \leq i \leq n - 2 \), where \( k_i \neq 0 \) for \( i = 1, 2, \ldots, n - 1 \) [9].

Lemma 1. Let \( \alpha \) be a unit curve in \( E^n (n \geq 3) \). Suppose \( H_{n-2} \neq 0 \). Then, \( H_1^2 + H_2^2 + \cdots + H_{n-2}^2 \) is a nonzero constant if and only if \( H_{n-2} = -k_{n-1} H_{n-3} \).

Proof. First, we assume that \( H_1^2 + H_2^2 + \cdots + H_{n-2}^2 \) is a nonzero constant. By the definition of \( H_i \), we can write

\[
k_i+1 H_i = H_{i-1} + k_i H_{i-2}, \quad 3 \leq i \leq n - 2.
\]

Hence, in (2), if we take \( i + 1 \) instead of \( i \), we get

\[
H_i = k_{i+2} H_{i+1} - k_{i+1} H_{i-1}, \quad 2 \leq i \leq n - 3
\]

together with

\[
H_1 = k_3 H_2.
\]

On the other hand, since \( H_1^2 + H_2^2 + \cdots + H_{n-2}^2 \) is constant, we have

\[
H_1 H_1' + H_2 H_2' + \cdots + H_{n-2} H_{n-2}' = 0
\]

and so,

\[
H_{n-2} H_{n-2}' = -H_1 H_1' - H_2 H_2' - \cdots - H_{n-3} H_{n-3}'.
\]

By using (3) and (4), we obtain

\[
H_1 H_1' = k_3 H_1 H_2
\]

and

\[
H_i H_i' = k_{i+2} H_i H_{i+1} - k_{i+1} H_{i-1} H_i, \quad 2 \leq i \leq n - 3.
\]

Therefore, by using (5), (6) and (7), algebraic calculus shows that

\[
H_{n-2} H_{n-2}' = -k_{n-1} H_{n-3} H_{n-2}.
\]

Since \( H_{n-2} \neq 0 \), we get the relation \( H_{n-2} = -k_{n-1} H_{n-3} \).

Conversely, we assume that

\[
H_{n-2} = -k_{n-1} H_{n-3}.
\]

By using (8) and \( H_{n-2} \neq 0 \), we can write

\[
H_{n-2} H_{n-2}' = -k_{n-1} H_{n-2} H_{n-3}.
\]
From (7), we have

\[ H_{n-3}H_{n-3}' = k_{n-1}H_{n-3}H_{n-2} - k_{n-2}H_{n-4}H_{n-3}, \]
\[ H_{n-4}H_{n-4}' = k_{n-2}H_{n-4}H_{n-3} - k_{n-3}H_{n-5}H_{n-4}, \]
\[ H_{n-5}H_{n-5}' = k_{n-3}H_{n-5}H_{n-4} - k_{n-4}H_{n-6}H_{n-5}, \]
\[ \vdots \]
\[ H_{2}H_{2}' = k_{4}H_{2}H_{3} - k_{3}H_{1}H_{2} \]

and from (6), we have

\[ H_{1}H_{1}' = k_{3}H_{1}H_{2}. \]

So, algebraic calculus shows that

\[ H_{1}H_{1}' + H_{2}H_{2}' + \cdots + H_{n-5}H_{n-5}' + H_{n-4}H_{n-4}' + H_{n-3}H_{n-3}' + H_{n-2}H_{n-2}' = 0. \tag{10} \]

And, by integrating (10), we can easily obtain that

\[ H_{1}^2 + H_{2}^2 + \cdots + H_{n-2}^2 \]

is a non-zero constant. This completes the proof. \(\square\)

**Theorem 1.** Let \(\alpha\) be an inclined curve and \(X\) the axis of \(\alpha\). Then,

\[ \langle V_{i+2}, X \rangle = H_{i} \langle V_1, X \rangle, \quad 1 \leq i \leq n - 2, \]

where \(\{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\}\) denote the Frenet frame of a curve \(\alpha\) of order \(n \geq 3\) and \(\{H_1, H_2, \ldots, H_{n-2}\}\) denote the harmonic curvature functions of \(\alpha\) [6] or [9].

**Theorem 2.** Let \(\{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\}\) be the Frenet frame of a curve \(\alpha\) of order \(n \geq 3\) and let \(\{H_1, H_2, \ldots, H_{n-2}\}\) be the harmonic curvature functions of \(\alpha\). Then, \(\alpha\) is an inclined curve (with the curvatures \(k_i \neq 0, i = 1, 2, \ldots, n - 1\)) in \(E^n\) if and only if its harmonic curvatures satisfy that

\[ \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H_i^2 \]

is equal to the constant and \(H_{n-2} \neq 0\).

**Proof.** Let \(\alpha\) be an inclined curve. According to Definition 1,

\[ \langle V_1, X \rangle = \cos(\varphi) = \text{constant} \tag{11} \]

where \(X\) is the axis of \(\alpha\). And, from Theorem (1),

\[ \langle V_{i+2}, X \rangle = H_{i} \langle V_1, X \rangle \tag{12} \]
for \(1 \leq i \leq n - 2\). Moreover, from (11) and Frenet equations, we can write \(\langle V_2, X \rangle = 0\). Since the orthonormal system \(\{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\}\) is a basis of \(\chi(E^n)\) (tangent bundle), \(X\) can be expressed in the form

\[
X = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle V_i, X \rangle V_i. \tag{13}
\]

Hence, by using the equations (11), (12) and (13), we obtain

\[
X = \cos(\varphi)V_1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H_i \cos(\varphi)V_{i+2}.
\]

Since \(X\) is a unit vector field (see Definition 1),

\[
\cos^2(\varphi) + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H_i^2 \cos^2(\varphi) = 1
\]

and so

\[
\sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H_i^2 = \tan^2(\varphi) = \text{constant}.
\]

Now, we show that \(H_{n-2} \neq 0\). We assume that \(H_{n-2} = 0\). Then, for \(i = n - 2\) in Theorem 1,

\[
\langle V_n, X \rangle = H_{n-2} \langle V_1, X \rangle = 0.
\]

So, \(\langle D_T V_n, X \rangle = \langle -k_{n-1} V_{n-1}, X \rangle = 0\). We deduce that \(\langle V_{n-1}, X \rangle = 0\). On the other hand, for \(i = n - 3\) in Theorem 1,

\[
\langle V_{n-1}, X \rangle = H_{n-3} \langle V_1, X \rangle.
\]

And, since \(\langle V_{n-1}, X \rangle = 0\), \(H_{n-3} = 0\). Continuing this process, we get that \(H_1 = 0\). Recalling that \(H_1 = \frac{k_1}{k_2}\), we find it is a contradiction because all the curvatures are nowhere zero. Consequently, \(H_{n-2} \neq 0\).

Conversely, we assume that \(\sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H_i^2 = \tan^2(\varphi) = \text{constant}\) and \(H_{n-2} \neq 0\). We consider the vector field

\[
X = \cos(\varphi)V_1 + \sum_{i=3}^{n} H_{i-2} \cos(\varphi)V_i.
\]
We shall verify that $X$ is parallel along $\alpha$, i.e. $D_V X = 0$. We have,

$$D_V X = D_V (\cos(\varphi) V_1) + \sum_{i=3}^{n} D_V_i (H_{i-2} \cos(\varphi) V_i)$$

$$= \cos(\varphi) D_V V_1 + \sum_{i=3}^{n} (H'_{i-2} \cos(\varphi) V_i + H_{i-2} \cos(\varphi) D_V V_i)$$

$$= \cos(\varphi) (k_1 V_2 + \sum_{i=3}^{n-1} (H'_{i-2} V_i - k_{i-1} H_{i-2} V_{i-1} + k_i H_{i-2} V_{i+1})$$

$$+ H'_{n-2} V_n - k_{n-1} H_{n-2} V_{n-1}).$$

On the other hand, by using (3), we can write

$$H'_{i-2} = k_i H_{i-1} - k_{i-1} H_{i-3} \quad \text{(14)}$$

for $4 \leq i \leq n - 1$ together with (4). Moreover, from Lemma 1, we know that

$$H'_{n-2} = -k_{n-1} H_{n-3} \quad \text{(15)}$$

Therefore, by using (4), (14) and (15), an algebraic calculus shows that $D_V X = 0$.

Since

$$\|X\| = \cos^2(\varphi) + \sum_{i=3}^{n} H_{i-2}^2 \cos^2(\varphi)$$

$$= \cos^2(\varphi) \left( 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H_i^2 \right)$$

$$= \cos^2(\varphi) \left( 1 + \tan^2(\varphi) \right)$$

$$= 1,$$

$X$ is a unit vector field. Furthermore, $\langle V_1, X \rangle = \cos(\varphi) = \text{constant}$. Hence, we deduce that $\alpha$ is an inclined curve.

**Remark 1.** The following corollary is the restructuring of Theorem 3.4 in [3].

**Corollary 1.** Let $\{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\}$ be the Frenet frame of a curve $\alpha$ of order $n \geq 3$ and let $\{H_1, H_2, \ldots, H_{n-2}\}$ be the harmonic curvature functions of $\alpha$. Then, $\alpha$ is an inclined curve (with the curvatures $k_i \neq 0$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n - 1$) in $E^n$ if and only if $H'_{n-2} = -k_{n-1} H_{n-3}$ and $H_{n-2} \neq 0$.

**Proof.** It is obvious by using Lemma 1 and Theorem 2.

**4. $V_n$-slant helices and their harmonic curvature functions**

In this section, we restructure some known characterizations by using harmonic curvatures for $V_n$-slant helices.
Definition 5. Let \( \alpha : I \subset \mathbb{R} \to E^n \) be a unit speed curve with nonzero curvatures \( k_i \) (i = 1, 2, ..., n - 1) in \( E^n \). Harmonic curvature functions \( H^*_i : I \subset \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R} \) of \( \alpha \) are defined inductively by

\[
H^*_0 = 0, \quad H^*_1 = \frac{k_{n-1}}{k_{n-2}}, \quad H^*_i = \left\{ k_{n-i}H^*_{i-2} - H^*_{i-1} \right\} \frac{1}{k_{n-(i+1)}}
\]

for \( 2 \leq i \leq n - 2 \) [5].

Lemma 2. Let \( \alpha \) be a unit curve in \( E^n \) of order \( n \geq 3 \). When \( H^*_{n-2} \neq 0 \), the sum \( H^*_{1} + H^*_{2} + \cdots + H^*_{n-2} \) is a nonzero constant if and only if \( H^*_{n-2} = k_1H^*_n \).

Proof. First, we assume that \( H^*_{1} + H^*_{2} + \cdots + H^*_{n-2} \) is a nonzero constant. By the definition of \( H^*_{i} \), we can write

\[
k_{n-(i+1)}H^*_i = k_{n-i}H^*_{i-2} - H^*_{i-1}, \quad 3 \leq i \leq n - 2.
\]

Hence, in (16), if we take \( i + 1 \) instead of \( i \), we get

\[
H^*_{i} = k_{n-(i+1)}H^*_{i-1} - k_{n-(i+2)}H^*_{i+1}, \quad 2 \leq i \leq n - 3
\]

together with

\[
H^*_{1} = -k_{n-3}H^*_2.
\]

On the other hand, since \( H^*_{1} + H^*_{2} + \cdots + H^*_{n-2} \) is constant, we have

\[
H^*_{1}H^*_{1} + H^*_{2}H^*_{2} + \cdots + H^*_{n-2}H^*_{n-2} = 0
\]

and so,

\[
H^*_{n-2}H^*_{n-2} = -H^*_{1}H^*_{1} - H^*_{2}H^*_{2} - \cdots - H^*_{n-3}H^*_{n-3}.
\]

By using (17) and (18), we obtain

\[
H^*_{1}H^*_{1} = -k_{n-3}H^*_1H^*_2
\]

and

\[
H^*_{1}H^*_{i} = k_{n-(i+1)}H^*_{i-1} - k_{n-(i+2)}H^*_{i+1}, \quad 2 \leq i \leq n - 3.
\]

Therefore, by using (19), (20) and (21), algebraic calculus shows that

\[
H^*_{n-2}H^*_{n-2} = k_1H^*_nH^*_n.
\]

Since \( H^*_{n-2} \neq 0 \), we get the relation \( H^*_{n-2} = k_1H^*_n \).

Conversely, we assume that

\[
H^*_{n-2} = k_1H^*_n.
\]

By using (22) and \( H^*_{n-2} \neq 0 \), we can write

\[
H^*_{n-2}H^*_{n-2} = k_1H^*_nH^*_n.
\]
From (21), we have

\begin{align*}
\text{for } i & = n - 3, \quad H^*_{n-3}H'^*_{n-3} = k_2H^*_{n-4}H^*_{n-3} - k_1H^*_{n-3}H^*_{n-2}, \\
\text{for } i & = n - 4, \quad H^*_{n-4}H'^*_{n-4} = k_3H^*_{n-5}H^*_{n-4} - k_2H^*_{n-4}H^*_{n-3}, \\
\text{for } i & = n - 5, \quad H^*_{n-5}H'^*_{n-5} = k_4H^*_{n-6}H^*_{n-5} - k_3H^*_{n-5}H^*_{n-4}, \\
& \vdots \\
\text{for } i & = 2, \quad H'^*_n = k_{n-3}H^*_2 - k_{n-4}H^*_2H^*_3
\end{align*}

and from (20), we have

$$H^*_iH'^*_i = -k_{n-3}H^*_1H^*_2.$$ 

So, algebraic calculus shows that

$$H^*_iH'^*_i + H'^*_2H^*_2 + \cdots + H'^*_{n-3}H'^*_n = 0. \tag{24}$$

And, by integrating (24), we can easily say that

$$H^*_1^2 + H^*_2^2 + \cdots + H^*_n^2$$

is a nonzero constant. This completes the proof. \qed

**Proposition 1** (see [5]). Let \( \alpha : I \subset \mathbb{R} \rightarrow E^n \) be an arc-lengthed parametrized curve in \( E^n \) and \( X \) a unit constant vector field of \( \mathbb{R}^n \). We denote by \( \{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\} \) the Frenet frame of the curve \( \alpha \) and by \( \{H^*_1, H^*_2, \ldots, H^*_n\} \) the harmonic curvature functions of the curve \( \alpha \). If \( \alpha : I \subset \mathbb{R} \rightarrow E^n \) is an \( V_n \)-slant helix with \( X \) as its axis, then we have for all \( i = 0, 1, \ldots, n - 2 \)

$$\langle V_{n-(i+1)}, X \rangle = H^*_i \langle V_n, X \rangle.$$

**Remark 2.** The following Theorem is new version of Theorem 4 in [5] which adds the sufficiency case.

**Theorem 3.** Let \( \{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\} \) be the Frenet frame of a curve \( \alpha \) of order \( n \geq 3 \) and let \( \{H^*_1, H^*_2, \ldots, H^*_n\} \) be the harmonic curvature functions of \( \alpha \). Then, \( \alpha \) is a \( V_n \)-slant helix (with the curvatures \( k_i \neq 0, i = 1, 2, \ldots, n - 1 \)) in \( E^n \) if and only if it satisfies that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H^*_i^2$$

is equal to constant and \( H^*_{n-2} \neq 0 \).

**Proof.** Suppose \( \alpha \) is a \( V_n \)-slant helix. According to Definition 3,

$$\langle V_n, X \rangle = \cos(\varphi) = \text{constant} \tag{25}$$

where \( X \) is the axis of \( \alpha \). From Proposition 1 we have

$$\langle V_{n-(i+1)}, X \rangle = H^*_i \langle V_n, X \rangle \tag{26}$$
A. Şenol, E. Zıplar, Y. Yaylı and İ. Gök

for $1 \leq i \leq n - 2$. Moreover, from (25) and Frenet equations, we can write

$$\langle V_{n-1}, X \rangle = 0.$$ Since the orthonormal system $\{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\}$ is a basis of $\mathcal{E}(E^n)$ (tangent bundle), $X$ can be expressed in the form

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \langle V_i, X \rangle V_i.$$ (27)

Hence, by using the equations (25), (26) and (27), we obtain

$$X = \cos(\varphi)V_n + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H^*_i \cos(\varphi)V_{n-(i+1)}.$$

Since $X$ is a unit vector field (see Definition 3),

$$\cos^2(\varphi) + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H^*_i \cos^2(\varphi) = 1$$

and so

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H^*_i \cos^2(\varphi) = \tan^2(\varphi) = \text{constant}.$$ 

Now, we show that $H^*_{n-2} \neq 0$. We assume that $H^*_{n-2} = 0$. Then, for $i = n - 2$ in (26),

$$\langle V_1, X \rangle = H^*_{n-2} \langle V_n, X \rangle = 0.$$ 

So, $\langle D_T T, X \rangle = \langle k_1 V_2, X \rangle = 0$. We deduce that $\langle V_2, X \rangle = 0$. On the other hand, for $i = n - 3$ in (26),

$$\langle V_2, X \rangle = H^*_{n-3} \langle V_n, X \rangle.$$ 

And since $\langle V_2, X \rangle = 0$ and $H^*_{n-3} = 0$. Continuing this process, we get that $H^*_i = 0$. Let us recall that $H^*_i = \frac{k_{n-1}}{k_{n-2}}$, thus we have a contradiction because all the curvatures are nowhere zero. Consequently, $H^*_{n-2} \neq 0$.

Conversely, we assume that $\sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H^*_i \cos^2(\varphi) = \text{constant}$ and $H^*_{n-2} \neq 0$. We take the vector field

$$X = \cos(\varphi)V_n + \sum_{i=3}^{n} H^*_{i-2} \cos(\varphi)V_{n-(i-1)},$$
and it is parallel along $\alpha$, i.e. $D\nu_1 X = 0$. By direct calculation, we have

$$D\nu_1 X = D\nu_1 (\cos(\varphi)\nu_n) + \sum_{i=3}^{n} D\nu_1 (H_{i-2}^* \cos(\varphi)\nu_{n-(i-1)})$$

$$= \cos(\varphi) D\nu_1 \nu_n + \sum_{i=3}^{n} (H_{i-2}'' \cos(\varphi)\nu_{n-(i-1)} + H_{i-2}^* \cos(\varphi) D\nu_1 \nu_{n-(i-1)})$$

$$= \cos(\varphi) (-k_{n-1} \nu_{n-1}$$

$$+ \sum_{i=3}^{n-1} (H_{i-2}' \nu_{n-(i-1)} - k_{n-i} H_{i-2}^* \nu_{n-i} + k_{n-(i-1)} H_{i-2}^* \nu_{n-(i-2)})$$

$$+ H_{n-2}'' \nu_1 + k_1 H_{n-2}^* \nu_2).$$

Here, in the case $n = 3$ we omit the term of sum.

On the other hand, by using (17), we can write

$$H_{i-2}'' = k_{n-(i-1)} H_{i-3}^* - k_{n-i} H_{i-1}^*$$

(28)

for $4 \leq i \leq n - 1$ together with (18). Moreover, from Lemma 2, we know that

$$H_{i-2}'' = k_1 H_{n-3}^*$$

(29)

Therefore, by using (18), (28), (29) and by the definition of $H_1^*$, and the Einstein tensor, algebraic calculus shows that $D\nu_1 X = 0$. Since

$$\|X\| = \cos^2(\varphi) + \sum_{i=3}^{n} H_{i-2}^{*2} \cos^2(\varphi)$$

$$= \cos^2(\varphi) \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-2} H_i^{*2}\right)$$

$$= \cos^2(\varphi) \left(1 + \tan^2(\varphi)\right)$$

$$= 1,$$

$X$ is a unit vector field. Furthermore, $\langle \nu_n, X \rangle = \cos(\varphi) = \text{constant}$. Hence, we deduce that $\alpha$ is a $\nu_n$-slant helix.

**Remark 3.** The following corollary is a restructuring of Theorem 2 in [5].

**Corollary 2.** Let $\{\nu_1, \nu_2, \ldots, \nu_n\}$ be the Frenet frame of a curve $\alpha$ of order $n \geq 3$ and let $\{H_1^*, H_2^*, \ldots, H_{n-2}^*\}$ be the harmonic curvature functions of $\alpha$. Then, $\alpha$ is a $\nu_n$-slant helix (with the curvatures $k_i \neq 0$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n-1$) in $E^n$ if and only if $H_{n-2}'' = k_1 H_{n-3}^*$ and $H_{n-2}^* \neq 0$.

**Proof.** It is obvious by using Lemma 2 and Theorem 3. \qed
5. Slant helices and their $G_i$ differentiable functions

In this section, we restructure some known characterizations of slant helices by using differentiable functions which are similar to harmonic curvature functions.

**Definition 6.** Let $\alpha : I \to E^n$ be a unit speed curve (with the curvatures $k_i \neq 0$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n - 1$) in $E^n$. Define the functions $G_i$ inductively by

$$G_1 = \int k_1(s) ds, \quad G_2 = 1, \quad G_3 = \frac{k_1}{k_2} G_1, \quad G_i = \frac{1}{k_{i-1}} [k_{i-2} G_{i-2} + G'_{i-1}]$$

where $4 \leq i \leq n$ [1].

**Lemma 3.** Let $\alpha$ be a unit curve in $E^n$. Suppose $G_n \neq 0$. Then, $G_2^2 + G_3^2 + \cdots + G_n^2$ is a nonzero constant if and only if $G_n = -k_{n-1} G_{n-1}$.

**Proof.** First, we assume that $G_2^2 + G_3^2 + \cdots + G_n^2$ is a nonzero constant. By the definition of $G_i$, we can write

$$k_{i-1} G_i = G'_{i-1} + k_{i-2} G_{i-2}, \quad 5 \leq i \leq n.$$  \hspace{1cm} (31)

Hence, in (31), if we take $i + 1$ instead of $i$, we get

$$G'_{i} = k_i G_{i+1} - k_{i-1} G_{i-1}, \quad 4 \leq i \leq n - 1.$$  \hspace{1cm} (32)

On the other hand, since $G_1^2 + G_2^2 + \cdots + G_n^2$ is constant, we have

$$G_1 G'_1 + G_2 G'_2 + \cdots + G_n G'_n = 0$$

and so,

$$G_n G'_n = -G_1 G'_1 - G_2 G'_2 - \cdots - G_{n-1} G'_{n-1}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (34)

By using (32) and (33), we obtain

$$G_2 G'_2 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad k_3 G_3 G'_4 = G_1 G'_1 + G_2 G'_2$$  \hspace{1cm} (35)

and

$$G_i G'_i = k_i G_i G_{i+1} - k_{i-1} G_{i-1} G_i, \quad 4 \leq i \leq n - 1.$$  \hspace{1cm} (36)

Therefore, by using (34), (35) and (36), algebraic calculus shows that

$$G_n G'_n = -k_{n-1} G_{n-1} G_n.$$  \hspace{1cm} (37)
A new approach on helices in Euclidean $n$-space

By using (37) and $G_n \neq 0$, we can write

$$G_nG_n = -k_{n-1}G_{n-1}G_n.$$  

(38)

From (36), we have

for $i = n - 1$,  
$$G_{n-1}G'_{n-1} = k_{n-1}G_{n-1}G_n - k_{n-2}G_{n-2}G_{n-1},$$

for $i = n - 2$,  
$$G_{n-2}G'_{n-2} = k_{n-2}G_{n-2}G_{n-1} - k_{n-3}G_{n-3}G_{n-2},$$

for $i = n - 3$,  
$$G_{n-3}G'_{n-3} = k_{n-3}G_{n-3}G_{n-2} - k_{n-4}G_{n-4}G_{n-3},$$

and so, from (38) and the last system, we have

$$G_4G'_4 = k_4G_4G_5 - k_3G_3G_4$$

and so, from (38) and the last system, we have

$$G_4G'_4 + G_5G'_5 + \cdots + G_nG'_n = -k_3G_3G_4$$

(39)

by doing algebraic calculus. On the other hand, from (35), we know that

$$G_2G'_2 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad k_3G_3G_4 = G_3G'_3 + G_3G'_3.$$  

(40)

Finally, from (39) and (40) we obtain

$$G_1G'_1 + G_2G'_2 + \cdots + G_nG'_n = 0.$$  

(41)

And by integrating (41) we can easily say that

$$G_1^2 + G_2^2 + \cdots + G_n^2$$

is a nonzero constant. This completes the proof. 

Corollary 3. Let $\alpha : I \subset \mathbb{R} \to E^n$ be an arc-lengthed parametrized curve with nonzero curvatures $k_i$ ($1 \leq i \leq n - 1$) in $E^n$ and $X$ a unit constant vector field of $\mathbb{R}^n$. $\{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\}$ denote the Frenet frame of the curve $\alpha$. If $\alpha : I \subset \mathbb{R} \to E^n$ is a $V_2$-slant helix with $X$ as its axis, then we have for all $i = 1, \ldots, n$

$$\langle V_i, X \rangle = G_i \langle V_2, X \rangle.$$  

Proof. It is obvious by using the proof of Theorem 1.2 in [1].

Remark 4. The following Theorem is new version of Theorem 1.2 in [1].

Theorem 4. Let $\{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\}$ be the Frenet frame of a curve $\alpha$ of order $n \geq 3$. Then, $\alpha$ is a $V_2$-slant helix (with the curvatures $k_i \neq 0$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n - 1$) in $E^n$ if and only if

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} G_i^2$$

is equal to constant and $G_n \neq 0$. Here,

$$G_1 = \int k_1(s)ds, \ G_2 = 1, \ G_3 = \frac{k_1}{k_2}G_1, \ G_i = \frac{1}{k_{i-1}}[k_{i-2}G_{i-2} + G'_{i-1}]$$

where $4 \leq i \leq n$. 

Proof. Let $\alpha$ be a $V_2$-slant helix. According to Definition 2,

$$\langle V_2, X \rangle = \cos(\varphi) = \text{constant}, \quad (42)$$

where $X$ is the axis of $\alpha$. And from Corollary 3

$$\langle V_i, X \rangle = G_i \langle V_2, X \rangle \quad (43)$$

for $1 \leq i \leq n$. Since the orthonormal system $\{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\}$ is a basis of $\kappa(E^n)$ (tangent bundle), $X$ can be expressed in the form

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (V_i, X) V_i. \quad (44)$$

Hence, by using the equations (42), (43) and (44), we obtain

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^{n} G_i \cos(\varphi) V_i.$$

Since $X$ is a unit vector field (see Definition 2),

$$\cos^2(\varphi) \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} G_i^2 \right) = 1$$

and so

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} G_i^2 = \frac{1}{\cos^2(\varphi)} = \text{constant}.$$

Now, we are going to show that $G_n \neq 0$. We assume that $G_n = 0$. Then, for $i = n$ in (43),

$$\langle V_n, X \rangle = G_n \langle V_2, X \rangle = 0.$$

So, $\langle DT V_n, X \rangle = \langle -k_{n-1} V_{n-1}, X \rangle = 0$. We deduce that $\langle V_{n-1}, X \rangle = 0$. On the other hand, for $i = n - 1$ in (43),

$$\langle V_{n-1}, X \rangle = G_{n-1} \langle V_2, X \rangle.$$

And since $\langle V_{n-1}, X \rangle = 0$, we obtain $G_{n-1} = 0$. Continuing this process, we get that $G_3 = 0$. Let us recall that $G_3 = \frac{k_1}{k_2} \int k_1(s) \, ds$, thus we have a contradiction because all the curvatures are nowhere zero. Consequently $G_n \neq 0$.

Conversely, we assume that $\sum_{i=1}^{n} G_i^2 = \frac{1}{\cos^2(\varphi)} = \text{constant}$ and $G_n \neq 0$. We consider the vector field

$$X = \sum_{i=1}^{n} G_i \cos(\varphi) V_i.$$
Then, by taking account
\[ G_1 = \int k_1(s)ds, \quad G_2 = 1, \quad G_3 = \frac{k_1}{k_2}G_1, \quad G_i = \frac{1}{k_{i-1}} \left[ k_{i-2}G_{i-2} + G'_{i-1} \right], \quad 4 \leq i \leq n \]
and Frenet equations, an algebraic calculus shows that \( D_{V_1}X = 0 \). That is, \( X \) is a constant along \( \alpha \). Also, since
\[
\|X\| = \sum_{i=1}^{n} G_i^2 \cos^2(\varphi)
\]
\[
= \cos^2(\varphi) \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} G_i^2 \right)
\]
\[
= \cos^2(\varphi) \frac{1}{\cos^2(\varphi)}
\]
\[
= 1,
\]
\( X \) is a unit vector field. Furthermore, \( \langle V_2, X \rangle = \cos(\varphi) = \text{constant} \). Hence, we deduce that \( \alpha \) is a \( V_2 \)-slant helix.

**Remark 5.** The following corollary is a restructuring of Theorem 3.1 in [1].

**Corollary 4.** Let \( \{V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_n\} \) be the Frenet frame of a curve \( \alpha \) of order \( n \geq 3 \). Then, \( \alpha \) is a \( V_2 \)-slant helix in \( E^n \) if and only if \( G'_n = -k_{n-1}G_{n-1} \) and \( G_n \neq 0 \), where the functions \( \{G_1, G_2, \ldots, G_n\} \) are defined in (30).

**Proof.** It is obvious by using Lemma 3 and Theorem 4. \( \square \)

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