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## CHARACTERIZATIONS OF FRENET CURVES IN GALILEAN 3-SPACE

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**Abstract.** The aim of this paper is to prove that the distance function of every Frenet curve in  $G_3$  satisfies a 4-th order differential equation. Also, we show that if  $\alpha$  is a unit speed Frenet curve in  $G_3$ , then  $\langle \alpha(s), T(s) \rangle = s + c$  if and only if  $\alpha$  is a rectifying curve. Finally, we obtain some characterizations of spherical curves and helices via the 4-th order differential equation (4).

**Keywords:** Galilean Space; rectifying curves; spherical curves; helices.

**2010 AMS Subject Classification:** 53A35, 51A05.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Curves satisfying particular relationships with respect to their curvatures are of greater significance in the theoretical study of differential geometry and applications. The rectifying curves and the helices are two of these famous curves [1, 2, 3, 4, 5].

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A curve  $\alpha$  is referred to as a curve of Frenet if  $\kappa > 0$  and  $\tau \neq 0$ . The distance function  $d$  of  $\alpha$  is denoted by the equation  $d(s) = \|\alpha(s)\|$ . The distance function  $d$  plays an important role in obtaining the characterization of rectifying curves in addition to curvature and torsion [2].

A helix is a curve whose tangent makes a constant angle with a fixed direction (axis) [6]. There is a well-known general helix classification, a curve is called general helix if and only if  $\frac{\kappa}{\tau} = \text{constant}$  [6].

The geometry of Manifolds in the de-Sitter space  $S_1^2$  [7], Minkowski space [8, 9] represented as a popular topics for many researchers.

Galilean space is the space of Galilean relativity. More details about Galilean space and pseudo-Galilean space can be seen in the following references [10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16]. The Galilean relativity geometry serves as a bridge to special relativity from the Euclidean geometry. The curve geometry in Euclidean space was developed along time ago. Mathematicians have started studying curves and surfaces in Galilean space in recent years [6, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21],[22].

In this article, we first prove that the distance function of each Frenet curve in  $G_3$  satisfies a differential equation of 4-th order. Finally, we give some characterizations of rectifying curves, spherical curves, and helices as a consequence of this differential equation.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

The Cayley-Klein space is equipped with a signature projective metric  $(0,0,+,+)$  represented Galilean three-dimensional space  $G_3$ . The absolute of Galilean geometry is the ordered triple  $(w, f, I)$  where  $w$  is the ideal plane (absolute), the line  $f$  in  $w$  (absolute line) and  $I$  is elliptic point of involution  $(0, 0, x_2, x_3) \rightarrow (0, 0, x_3, -x_2)$  [17].

Suppose that  $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$  and  $\vec{y} = (y_1, y_2, y_3)$  are two vectors in  $G_3$ . Galilean scalar product can be written in  $G_3$  as

$$\langle \vec{x}, \vec{y} \rangle_{G_3} = \begin{cases} x_1 y_1 & \text{if } x_1 \neq 0 \text{ or } y_1 \neq 0; \\ x_2 y_2 + x_3 y_3 & \text{if } x_1 = 0 \text{ and } y_1 = 0. \end{cases}$$

Norm of the vector  $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)$  is defined by  $\|\vec{x}\|_{G_3} = \sqrt{\langle \vec{x}, \vec{x} \rangle_{G_3}}$ .

If  $\vec{x}$  and  $\vec{y}$  are vectors in Galilean space  $G_3$ , then the vector product of  $\vec{x}$  and  $\vec{y}$  is

$$\vec{x} \times \vec{y} = \begin{cases} \begin{vmatrix} 0 & e_2 & e_3 \\ x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ y_1 & y_2 & y_3 \end{vmatrix} & \text{if } x_1 \neq 0 \text{ or } y_1 \neq 0, \\ \begin{vmatrix} e_1 & e_2 & e_3 \\ x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ y_1 & y_2 & y_3 \end{vmatrix} & \text{if } x_1 = 0 \text{ and } y_1 = 0. \end{cases}$$

Suppose that  $\alpha : I \rightarrow G_3$  is a unit speed curve in Galilean 3-space  $G_3$  with Frenet-apparatus  $\{\kappa, \tau, T, N, B\}$ , where the curvature, torsion, unit tangent, unit principal normal and unit binormal of  $\alpha$  are denoted in Galilean 3-space by  $\kappa$ ,  $\tau$ ,  $T$ ,  $N$  and  $B$  [12]. For the curve  $\alpha(s) = (s, y(s), z(s))$ , we have [6]

$$(1) \quad \kappa(s) = \|\alpha''(s)\|_{G_3} = \sqrt{y''^2(s) + z''^2(s)},$$

$$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} \tau(s) &= \frac{\det(\alpha'(s), \alpha''(s), \alpha'''(s))}{\kappa^2(s)}, \\ T(s) &= \alpha'(s) = (1, y'(s), z'(s)), \\ N(s) &= \frac{\alpha''(s)}{\kappa(s)} = \frac{1}{\kappa(s)}(0, y''(s), z''(s)), \\ B(s) &= \frac{1}{\kappa(s)}(0, -z''(s), y''(s)). \end{aligned}$$

In addition, Frenet formulae can be written as

$$\frac{d}{ds} \begin{bmatrix} T(s) \\ N(s) \\ B(s) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \kappa & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & -\tau & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T(s) \\ N(s) \\ B(s) \end{bmatrix}.$$

### 3. FRENET CURVES IN GALILEAN 3-SPACE

In this section we will define the Frenet curve and will prove that if  $\alpha$  is a Frenet curve in  $G_3$ , then the distance function for  $\alpha$  satisfies a 4-th order differential equation.

**Definition 1.** In Galilean 3-space  $G_3$ , a curve  $\alpha$  is referred to as a Frenet curve if  $\kappa > 0$  and  $\tau \neq 0$ .

**Definition 2.** For a curve  $\alpha : I \rightarrow G_3$ ,  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$ , parametrized by the invariant parameter  $s$ , the distance function  $d(s)$  is defined by  $d(s) = \langle \alpha(s), \alpha(s) \rangle^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Moreover, we can define the function  $h(s) = \langle \alpha(s), T(s) \rangle$ .

We can easily prove the next proposition.

**Proposition 1.** *Each unit speed Frenet curve  $\alpha = \alpha(s)$  in  $G_3$  satisfies the following differential equations*

$$(1) \quad h'''(s) = \langle \alpha(s), T'''(s) \rangle .$$

$$(2) \quad h'''(s) = (2\kappa'\tau + \kappa\tau') \langle \alpha(s), B(s) \rangle + (\kappa'' - \kappa\tau^2) \langle \alpha(s), N(s) \rangle .$$

**Lemma 1.** *Let  $\alpha : I \rightarrow G_3$  be Frenet unit speed curve. We can easily prove the following statements.*

$$(3) \quad \begin{cases} \langle \alpha(s), T(s) \rangle' = 1 + \kappa \langle \alpha(s), N(s) \rangle, \\ \langle \alpha(s), N(s) \rangle' = \tau \langle \alpha(s), B(s) \rangle, \\ \langle \alpha(s), B(s) \rangle' = -\tau \langle \alpha(s), N(s) \rangle. \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 1.** *If  $\alpha(s)$  is Frenet curve of unit speed in  $G_3$ , then  $\alpha(s)$  satisfies the 4-th order differential equation of the form*

$$(4) \quad (\rho \sigma) h''' + ((\sigma\rho)' + \sigma\rho') h'' + ((\sigma\rho')' + \frac{\rho}{\sigma}) h' = (\sigma\rho')' + \frac{\rho}{\sigma}.$$

where  $\rho = \kappa^{-1}$ ,  $\sigma = \tau^{-1}$ ,  $h(s) = d(s)d'(s)$  and  $' = \frac{d}{ds}$ .

*Proof.* By differentiating  $h(s) = \langle \alpha(s), T(s) \rangle$  and using (3), we get

$$(5) \quad \rho(s) (h'(s) - 1) = \langle \alpha(s), N(s) \rangle .$$

By differentiating (5), we obtain

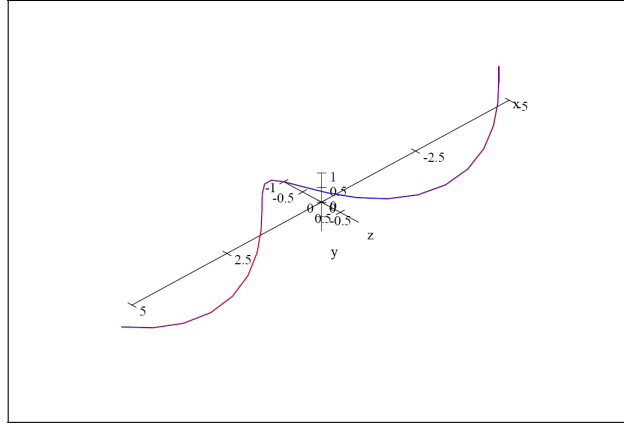
$$(6) \quad \sigma(s) \rho(s) h''(s) + \sigma(s) \rho'(s) (h'(s) - 1) = \langle \alpha(s), B(s) \rangle .$$

After differentiating (6), and considering (5), we get

$$(\sigma \rho) h''' + ((\sigma \rho)' + \sigma \rho') h'' + ((\sigma \rho')' + \frac{\rho}{\sigma}) h' = (\sigma \rho')' + \frac{\rho}{\sigma} .$$

□

**Example 1.** Suppose that  $\alpha(s) = (s, -\cos(s), \sin(s))$ .



$$\alpha(s) = (s, -\cos(s), \sin(s)).$$

By simple computation, we get the Frenet vectors of  $\alpha(s)$  as :

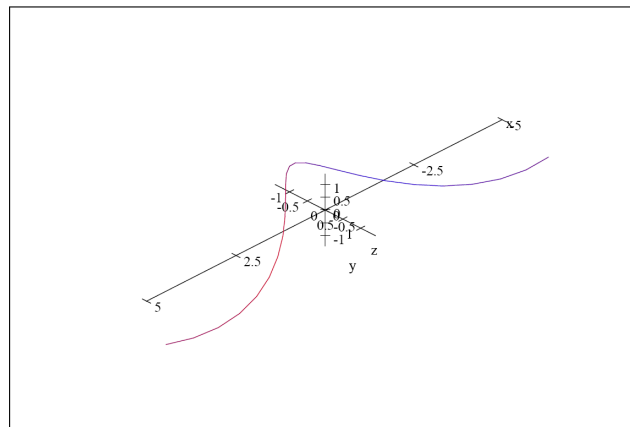
$$T = (1, \sin s, \cos s),$$

$$N = (0, \cos s, -\sin s),$$

$$B = (0, \sin s, \cos s).$$

respectively. The curvature of  $\alpha(s)$  is  $\kappa = 1$ , and the torsion of  $\alpha(s)$  is  $\tau = -1$ . Finally,  $h'(s) = 1$  and hence equation (4) is satisfied.

**Example 2.** Consider the curve  $\beta(s) = (s, \sin(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}) - \cos(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}), \sin(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}) + \cos(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}))$ .



$$\beta(s) = (s, \sin(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}) - \cos(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}), \sin(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}) + \cos(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}})).$$

By calculations, we have the distance function of  $\beta$  is  $d(s) = s$ . The tangent, normal, and binormal vectors of  $\beta$  are

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \left(1, \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right), \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right)\right), \\ N &= \sqrt{2}\left(0, -\frac{1}{2}\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right), -\frac{1}{2}\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right)\right), \\ B &= \sqrt{2}\left(0, \frac{1}{2}\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right), -\frac{1}{2}\sin\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\cos\left(\frac{s}{\sqrt{2}}\right)\right). \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, the curvature of  $\beta(s)$  is  $\kappa = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$ , the torsion of  $\beta(s)$  is  $\tau = \frac{-1}{2\sqrt{2}}$  and  $h'(s) = 1$  which satisfies equation (4).

#### 4. SOME EXAMPLES OF FRENET CURVES IN $G_3$

In this section, we can easily use theorem 1 for useful characterizations of rectifying curves, spherical curves and helices in  $G_3$ .

**4.1. Rectifying Curves in  $G_3$ .** In this subsection we will introduce rectifying curves in terms of the distance function and apply theorem 1 on it.

**Definition 3.** [5] Let  $\alpha$  be a curve in Galilean 3-dimensional space  $G_3$ . If the position vector of  $\alpha$  always lies in its rectifying plane, then  $\alpha$  is called rectifying curve.

H. Oztekin [5] prove that if  $\alpha$  is a Frenet unit speed curve in  $G_3$ , then  $\langle \alpha(s), T(s) \rangle = s + c$  if and only if  $\alpha$  is a rectifying curve.

Now we prove the following corollary.

**Corollary 1.** Every rectifying curve in  $G_3$  satisfies the fourth order differential equation (4).

*Proof.* Assume that  $\alpha$  is a rectifying curve, then  $d(s) = \sqrt{s^2 + ms + n}$  is the distance function, where  $m \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $n \in \mathbb{R} - \{0\}$ . Therefore

$$d'(s) = \frac{2s + m}{2\sqrt{s^2 + ms + n}},$$

which gives

$$h(s) = s + c,$$

with  $c = \frac{m}{2}$  which satisfies equation (4). □

**4.2. Spherical Curves in  $G_3$ .** In this subsection, we will consider the spherical curves in  $G_3$ . We also give some classifications of such curves according to theorem 1.

**Definition 4.** [5, 24] Galilean sphere of radius  $r$  and center  $m$  is defined by the relation

$$S^2(m, r) = \{\varphi - m \in G_3 : \langle \varphi - m, \varphi - m \rangle = \pm r^2\}$$

Moreover, spherical curves are the special space curves that lies on the sphere [23]. So we will give the next proposition for Frenet unit speed curve to be a spherical curve in  $G_3$ .

**Proposition 2.** Let  $\alpha = \alpha(s)$  be a Frenet curve of unit speed in  $G_3$ . Subsequently, if  $\alpha(s)$  is spherical curve, it fulfills the relation  $(\sigma \rho')' + \frac{\rho}{\sigma} = 0$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\alpha(s)$  be a spherical curve that lies on a sphere of radius  $a$ . We consider the sphere is centered at the origin without loss of generality, so the distance function  $d(s) = a$  which gives  $h(s) = d(s)d'(s) = 0$ . By substituting in the equation (4), we have  $(\sigma \rho')' + \frac{\rho}{\sigma} = 0$ .  $\square$

**Example 3.** Consider the spherical curve  $\alpha(s) = (s, y(s), z(s))$  with curvature  $\kappa(s) = \frac{1}{s}$ ,  $s > 0$  and substituting in the equation  $(\sigma \rho')' + \frac{\rho}{\sigma} = 0$ , we can easily obtain  $\tau(s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{c_1 - s^2}}$  where  $c_1$  is constant. Substituting for  $\kappa(s) = \frac{1}{s}$  and  $\tau(s) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{c_1 - s^2}}$  in the equations (1) and (2) we will obtain the following differential equations

$$(7) \quad y'' + z'' = \frac{1}{s^2},$$

$$(8) \quad y''z''' - y'''z'' = \frac{1}{s^2\sqrt{c_1 - s^2}}.$$

By integrating equation (7) twice with respect to  $s$ , which yields

$$(9) \quad y(s) = a_2 + a_1s - \ln s - z(s).$$

Next we differentiate equation (7) with respect to  $s$ , which yields

$$(10) \quad z''' = -\frac{2}{s^3} - y'''.$$

By making use of (7) and (10) one gets from (8) that

$$y'' \left( -\frac{2}{s^3} - y''' \right) - y''' \left( \frac{1}{s^2} - y'' \right) = \frac{1}{s^2 \sqrt{c_1 - s^2}} \Rightarrow$$

$$(11) \quad \frac{y'''}{s^2} + \frac{2}{s^3} y'' = \frac{-1}{s^2 \sqrt{c_1 - s^2}}.$$

Writing  $y''(s) = u(s) \Rightarrow y''' = u'(s)$  in (11) and multiplying both sides by  $s^2$ , we obtain

$$(12) \quad u' + \frac{2}{s}u = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{c_1 - s^2}},$$

which is a linear first order differential equation, its integrating factor  $\mu = \exp\left(\int \frac{2}{s} ds\right) = s^2$ .

Hence the solution of equation (12) is given by

$$s^2 u(s) = \int \frac{-s^2}{\sqrt{c_1 - s^2}} ds + \alpha_1 \Rightarrow$$

$$(13) \quad y''(s) = \frac{\sqrt{c_1 - s^2}}{2s} - \frac{c_1}{2s^2} \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{s}{\sqrt{c_1 - s^2}} \right) + \frac{\alpha_1}{s^2}.$$

By integrating equation (13), with respect to  $s$ , we get

$$y'(s) = \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{s} \right) \frac{c_1}{2} \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{s}{\sqrt{c_1 - s^2}} \right) + \frac{\sqrt{c_1}}{2} \ln \left( \frac{2c_1 + 2\sqrt{c_1 - s^2}}{s} \right) +$$

$$(14) \quad \frac{s}{4} \sqrt{c_1 - s^2} - \frac{\alpha_1}{s} + \alpha_2.$$

Finally by integrating equation (14), we have

$$\begin{aligned} y(s) = & \frac{5c_1 s^2 + 2c_1^2 - s^4}{12\sqrt{c_1 - s^2}} + \left( \frac{s}{2} + 1 + \ln s \right) \frac{c_1}{2} \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{s}{\sqrt{c_1 - s^2}} \right) + \\ & \frac{ic_1}{4} \text{Li}_2 \left( e^{-2\sinh^{-1} \left( \frac{is}{\sqrt{c_1}} \right)} \right) + \frac{\sqrt{c_1}}{2} s \ln \left( 2s \left( \sqrt{c_1(c_1 - s^2)} + c_1 \right) \right) + \\ & \frac{ic_1}{2} \ln s \left( \ln \left( \sqrt{1 - \frac{s^2}{c_1}} + \frac{is}{\sqrt{c_1}} \right) \right) - \frac{ic_1}{4} \left( \sinh^{-1} \left( \frac{is}{\sqrt{c_1}} \right) \right)^2 - \\ & \frac{ic_1}{2} \left( \sinh^{-1} \left( \frac{is}{\sqrt{c_1}} \right) \right) \ln \left( 1 - e^{-2\sinh^{-1} \left( \frac{is}{\sqrt{c_1}} \right)} \right) - \alpha_1 \ln s + \alpha_2 s + \alpha_3. \end{aligned}$$



The function  $\text{Li}_a(z)$  is a polylogarithm function and it is defined by

$$\text{Li}_a(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{a^n}, \quad |z| < 1.$$

Substituting  $y(s)$  in the equation (9), we will obtain  $z(s)$ .

**4.3. Helices in  $G_3$ .** In this subsection, the definitions of general helix and circular helix in  $G_3$  will be introduced. The sufficient condition for the general helix to be Frenet curve will be considered.

**Definition 5.** [6, 24] Let  $\alpha$  be a curve in Galilean 3-dimensional space  $G_3$ , and let  $\{T, N, B\}$  be the Frenet frame along  $\alpha$ . A curve such that  $\frac{\kappa}{\tau}$  equals constant is called a general helix.

**Definition 6.** [6] Let  $\alpha$  be a curve in Galilean 3-dimensional space  $G_3$ , and let  $\{T, N, B\}$  be Frenet frame along  $\alpha$ . If there are positive constants  $\kappa$  and  $\tau$  along  $\alpha$ , then  $\alpha$  is referred to as a circular helix.

There exists some properties of general and circular helix which will be used in proving the next theorem [6].

$$(1) \quad T''' - KT' = 3\kappa'N'$$

$$(2) \quad T''' - KT' = 3\lambda\tau'N'$$

$$(3) \quad T''' - \tilde{K}B' = 3\kappa'N'$$

$$(4) \quad T''' - \tilde{K}B' = 3\lambda\tau'N'$$

where  $K = \frac{\kappa''}{\kappa} - \tau^2$ ,  $\tilde{K} = \frac{-\kappa''}{\tau} + \kappa\tau$ , and  $\lambda = \frac{\kappa}{\tau}$ .

If the curve is a circular helix, then

$$(1) \quad T''' = -\tau^2 T'$$

$$(2) \quad T''' = \kappa\tau B'$$

**Theorem 2.** Let  $\alpha : I \rightarrow G_3$  be a unit speed Frenet curve in  $G_3$ . If  $\alpha$  is a circular helix, then  $h(s)$  satisfies the following equation

$$h(s) = -c_1 \sigma \cos(\tau s) + c_2 \sigma \sin(\tau s) + s + c.$$

where  $\sigma = \frac{1}{\tau}$ ,  $c_1$ ,  $c_2$  and  $c_3$  are constants.

*Proof.* Assume that  $\alpha$  is a circular helix. Then we have  $\rho' = 0$  and  $\sigma' = 0$ . Writing them in equation (4), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma \rho h'''(s) + \frac{\rho}{\sigma} h'(s) - \frac{\rho}{\sigma} &= 0, \\ h'''(s) + \frac{1}{\sigma^2} h'(s) - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} &= 0,\end{aligned}$$

$$(15) \quad h'''(s) + \tau^2 h'(s) - \tau^2 = 0.$$

Let  $h'(s) = y(s)$ , then  $h''(s) = y'(s)$  and  $h'''(s) = y''(s)$ . Writing them in the equation (15), we obtain the following non homogeneous differential equation

$$(16) \quad y''(s) + \tau^2 y(s) = \tau^2.$$

Solving the homogeneous differential equation  $y''(s) + \tau^2 y(s) = 0$ , we obtain

$$(17) \quad y_c = c_1 \sin(\tau s) + c_2 \cos(\tau s),$$

where  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are constants. The particular solution of the non homogeneous equation is  $y_p = A$ , which gives  $y'_p = 0$  and  $y''_p = 0$ . Substituting in equation (16), we get  $\tau^2 A = \tau^2$ , that implies  $A = 1$ . Now, the general solution of the given non homogeneous differential equation is given by

$$y = c_1 \sin(\tau s) + c_2 \cos(\tau s) + 1.$$

Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned}h'(s) &= c_1 \sin(\tau s) + c_2 \cos(\tau s) + 1, \\ h(s) &= \frac{-c_1}{\tau} \cos(\tau s) + \frac{c_2}{\tau} \sin(\tau s) + s + c_3,\end{aligned}$$

and hence,

$$h(s) = -c_1 \sigma \cos(\tau s) + c_2 \sigma \sin(\tau s) + s + c_3.$$

□

**Corollary 2.** Let  $\alpha$  be Frenet curve in  $G_3$ . If  $\alpha$  is a general helix, then

- (1)  $h'''(s) = \langle \alpha(s), KT' + 3 \kappa' N'(s) \rangle$ ; where  $K = \frac{\kappa''}{\kappa} - \tau^2$ .
- (2)  $h'''(s) = \langle \alpha(s), \tilde{K}B' + 3\lambda \tau' N' \rangle$ ; where  $\tilde{K} = -\frac{\kappa''}{\tau} + k\tau$ , and  $\lambda = \frac{k}{\tau} = \text{const.}$

*Proof.* By direct substitution from the properties of the general helix, we obtain the two relations.  $\square$

Moreover, it is clear to prove the following corollary.

**Corollary 3.** *Let  $\alpha$  be a Frenet curve in  $G_3$  and  $\alpha$  be a circular helix. Then*

$$(1) h'''(s) = \langle \alpha(s), -\tau^2 T' \rangle, \text{ and}$$

$$(2) h'''(s) = \langle \alpha(s), \kappa \tau B' \rangle.$$

## 5. CONCLUSION

In this study, Frenet curve in Galilean 3-dimensional space  $G_3$  is defined. It is proved that the distance function  $d(s)$  of each Frenet curve in  $G_3$  satisfies a 4-th order differential equation. Also, rectifying curves, spherical curves, and helices are given. Moreover, some useful characterizations of such curves via this 4-th order differential equation is obtained.

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## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The author(s) declare that there is no conflict of interests.

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