

Re: Generalized Pursuit Curve Problem

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2004-09/1224.html>

From: Hero (*Hero.van.Jindelt_at_gmx.de*)

Date: 09/06/04

Date: 6 Sep 2004 11:16:24 -0700

Here's one more from Mamikon, which You might understand
(for me this one will take some time)

<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~mamikon/Article.html>

You have to scroll to the
right side for the english text.

Now, what i make from Your problem:

A moving point traces out a curve. You can describe it with
vector-arrows in a coordinate system. And You have a parameter,
let's say the length of arc (equals the distance the point travelled)

You differentiate with this parameter – the result is a moving
vector-arrow of unit-length with the (oriented) direction of
the tangent to the curve. The tips (arrow-heads) of these vectors
create a second curve (and the area between the two curves is
only dependent on the difference of direction between a
starting-point and an end-point (for a concave curve) and not
the distance travelled, says Mamikon)

(Now multiply these vector-arrows, which indicate the direction of
travel by minus one, or let them show to the opposite direction.

Then You can consider the original moving point as a dog always
runing into the direction of the arrowhead(the fox), which
created the second curve).

After this You can advance, let's say to variable speed.

Have fun with it

Hero