

## CHARACTERIZATION OF GENERAL HELIX IN THE 3 - DIMENSIONAL LORENTZ-HEISENBERG SPACE

BENDEHIBA SENOUSI AND MOHAMMED BEKKAR

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ABSTRACT. In this paper, making use of method in [2], [6], [9], we obtained characterizations of a curve with respect to the Frenet frame of the three-dimensional Lorentz-Heisenberg space  $H_3$ . We prove that all of the non-geodesic non-null timelike biharmonic curves in  $H_3$  are helices.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the theory of curves in Lorentzian space, one of the important and interesting problems is the characterizations of a regular curve. In 1845, de Saint Venant first proved that a space curve is a general helix if and only if the ratio of curvature to torsion be constant (see [14] for details). In [9] T. Ikawa obtained the following equation

$$D_X^3 X - (k^2 - \tau^2)D_X X = 0,$$

for the circular helices which corresponds to the case that the curvatures  $k$  and  $\tau$  of a timelike curve  $\gamma$  on the Lorentzian manifold  $M$  are constant.

In [6] N. Ekmekçi and H. H. Hacısalihoğlu generalized T. Ikawa's result to the case of general helices and gave the following characterization

$$D_X^3 X - \left(\frac{3k'}{k}\right)D_X^2 X - \left(\frac{k''}{k} - \frac{3k'}{k^2} + k^2 - \tau^2\right)D_X X = 0$$

for timelike curve with its tangent vector fields on any point.

In [7] N. Ekmekçi and K. İlarslan obtained characterizations of timelike null helices in terms of principal normal or binormal vector fields. H. Balgetir, M. Bektas and M. Ergüt in [2] obtained a geometric characterization of null Frenet curve with constant ratio of curvature and torsion. In [12] A. O. Ogrenmis, M. Ergut and M. Bektas obtained characterizations of helix for a curve with respect to the Frenet frame in 3-dimensional Galilean space  $G_3$ .

Recently, in [11] Y. Nakanishi prove the following lemma.

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**Lemma 1.1.** *A unit speed curve  $c$  in  $M_c$  is a helix if and only if there exist a constant  $\lambda$  such that*

$$D_X^3 X = \lambda D_X X.$$

This paper generalizes the lemma stated above to the case of a general helix.

## 2. PRELIMINARIES

**2.1. Lorentz-Heisenberg group.** Let  $H_3$  be the Lorentz-Heisenberg group endowed with a left-invariant lorentzian metric

$$(2.1) \quad g_\lambda = dx^2 + dy^2 - (dz + \lambda(ydx - xdy))^2, \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

The following set of left-invariant vector fields forms an orthonormal basis for the corresponding Lie algebra:

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & -\lambda y \\ 0 & 1 & \lambda x \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \partial_x \\ \partial_y \\ \partial_z \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $\partial_x = \frac{\partial}{\partial x}$ ,  $\partial_y = \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ ,  $\partial_z = \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ .

The characterising properties of this algebra are the following commutation relations:

$$[e_1, e_2] = 2\lambda e_3, \quad [e_1, e_3] = [e_2, e_3] = 0,$$

with

$$g_\lambda(e_1, e_1) = g_\lambda(e_2, e_2) = 1, \quad g_\lambda(e_3, e_3) = -1.$$

The Levi-Civita connection  $\nabla$  of the left-invariant metric  $g_\lambda$  is explicitly given as follows

$$(2.3) \quad \begin{pmatrix} \nabla_{e_1} e_1 \\ \nabla_{e_1} e_2 \\ \nabla_{e_1} e_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda \\ 0 & \lambda & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla_{e_2} e_1 \\ \nabla_{e_2} e_2 \\ \nabla_{e_2} e_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -\lambda \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -\lambda & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla_{e_3} e_1 \\ \nabla_{e_3} e_2 \\ \nabla_{e_3} e_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \lambda & 0 \\ -\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The dual coframe field  $\omega = (\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3)$  associated to  $B = (e_1, e_2, e_3)$  is a triplet of 1-forms which  $\omega_i(e_j) = \delta_{ij}$ . This coframe field is given by

$$(\omega_1, \omega_2, \omega_3) = (dx, dy, dz + \lambda(ydx - xdy)).$$

Note that the 1-form  $\eta_3$  is a *contact form* on  $H_3$ .

The Riemannian curvature tensor is given by

$$R(X, Y, Z, T) = g_\lambda(R(X, Y)Z, T).$$

If we put

$$R_{abc} = R(e_a, e_b)e_c, \quad R_{abcd} = R(e_a, e_b, e_c, e_d),$$

where the indices  $a, b, c$  and  $d$  take the values 1, 2, 3.

Then the components of the curvature tensor field are

$$(2.4) \quad \begin{aligned} R_{121} &= 3\lambda^2 e_2, & R_{131} &= R_{232} = -\lambda^2 e_3, \\ R_{1212} &= 3\lambda^2, & R_{1313} &= R_{2323} = \lambda^2. \end{aligned}$$

For tangent vectors

$$X = x_1 e_1 + x_2 e_2 + x_3 e_3, \quad Y = y_1 e_1 + y_2 e_2 + y_3 e_3$$

in  $H_3$ , the Lorentzian exterior product  $X \wedge_L Y$  is computed as

$$(2.5) \quad X \wedge_L Y = (x_2 y_3 - x_3 y_2) e_1 + (x_3 y_1 - x_1 y_3) e_2 + (x_2 y_1 - x_1 y_2) e_3.$$

The product

$$(2.6) \quad g_\lambda(X \wedge_L Y, Z) = [X, Y, Z]$$

is called the mixed product.

**2.2. Biharmonic maps.** First we should recall some notions and results related to the harmonic and the biharmonic maps between Riemannian manifolds.

Harmonic maps  $\psi : (M, g) \rightarrow (N, \tilde{g})$  between Riemannian manifolds are the critical points of the energy functional

$$E_1 : C^\infty(M, N) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad E_1(\psi) = \frac{1}{2} \int_M |d\psi|^2 v_g,$$

and is characterized by the vanishing of the first tension field

$$\tau_1(\psi) = \text{trace} \nabla d\psi.$$

We remind that the bienergy of  $\psi$  is given by

$$E_2 : C^\infty(M, N) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad E_2(\psi) = \frac{1}{2} \int_M |\tau(\psi)|^2 v_g,$$

and the bitension field  $\tau_2(\psi)$  has the expression

$$\tau_2(\psi) = -\Delta^\psi \tau(\psi) - \text{trace}_g R^N(d\psi, \tau(\psi)) d\psi,$$

where  $\Delta^\psi = -\text{trace}(\nabla^\psi)^2 = -\text{trace}(\nabla^\psi \nabla^\psi - \nabla_{\nabla^\psi}^\psi)$ .

A smooth map  $\psi$  is *biharmonic* if it satisfies the following biharmonic equation

$$\tau_2(\psi) = 0.$$

Biharmonic maps are the critical points of the bienergy functional  $E_2$ . We call proper biharmonic the non-harmonic biharmonic maps. Biharmonic curves  $\psi$  of a Riemannian manifold are the solutions of the fourth order differential equation

$$(2.7) \quad \nabla_{\phi'}^3 \phi' - R(\phi', \nabla_{\phi'} \phi') \phi' = 0.$$

3. TIMELIKE BIHARMONIC CURVES IN  $H_3$ 

In this section we study the non-geodesic non-null timelike biharmonic curves in  $H_3$ . We show that every timelike biharmonic curve in the Lorentzian Heisenberg group  $H_3$  is a helix.

Eells and Sampson in [5] introduced the notion of biharmonic maps as a natural generalization of the well-known harmonic maps. Chen and Ishikawa in [4] classified biharmonic curves in semi-Euclidean 3-space. The biharmonic curves in the Heisenberg group  $\mathbb{H}_3$  are investigated in [3].

Let  $\phi : I \rightarrow H_3$  be a non geodesic timelike biharmonic curve in  $H_3$  parametrized by arclength and let  $\{T, N, B\}$  be the orthonormal moving Frenet frame along the curve  $\phi$  in  $H_3$  such that  $T = \phi'$  is the unit vector field tangent to  $\phi$ ,  $N$  is the unit vector field in the direction  $\nabla_T T$  normal to  $\phi$  (principal normal) and  $B = T \wedge_L N$  (binormal vector). Then we have the following Frenet equations

$$(3.1) \quad \begin{pmatrix} \nabla_T T \\ \nabla_T N \\ \nabla_T B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & k & 0 \\ k & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & -\tau & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix},$$

where

$$k^2 = g_\lambda(\tau_1(\phi), \tau_1(\phi)) = g_\lambda(\nabla_T T, \nabla_T T),$$

is the curvature of  $\phi$  and  $\tau$  is its torsion.

From (3.1) we have

$$(3.2) \quad \nabla_T^3 T = (3kk')T + (k'' + k^3 - k\tau^2)N + (2k'\tau + k\tau')B,$$

where  $k' = \frac{dk}{ds}$ ,  $k'' = \frac{d^2k}{ds^2}$ ,  $\tau' = \frac{d\tau}{ds}$ .

Using (2.4) one obtains

$$(3.3) \quad R(T, N, T, N) = \lambda^2(1 + 4B_3^2), \quad R(T, N, T, B) = 4\lambda^2 B_3 N_3,$$

where

$$\begin{cases} T = T_1 e_1 + T_2 e_2 + T_3 e_3 \\ N = N_1 e_1 + N_2 e_2 + N_3 e_3 \\ B = T \wedge_L N = B_1 e_1 + B_2 e_2 + B_3 e_3. \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 3.1.** *Let  $\phi : I \rightarrow H_3$  be a timelike curve parametrized by arclength.  $\phi$  is a non geodesic biharmonic curve if and only if*

$$(3.4) \quad \begin{cases} k = \text{constant} \neq 0 \\ k^2 - \tau^2 = \lambda^2(1 + 4B_3^2) \\ \tau' = 4\lambda^2 B_3 N_3. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* The biharmonic equation of  $\phi$  is:

$$(3.5) \quad \begin{aligned} \tau_2(\phi) &= \nabla_T^3 T - R(T, \nabla_T T)T \\ &= (3kk')T + (k'' + k^3 - k\tau^2)N + (2k'\tau + k\tau')B - kR(T, N)T \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

From (3.5) it follows that  $\phi$  is biharmonic curve if and only if

$$\begin{cases} kk' = 0 \\ k'' + k^3 - k\tau^2 = kR(T, N, T, N) \\ 2k'\tau + k\tau' = kR(T, N, T, B). \end{cases}$$

Since  $k \neq 0$  ( $\phi$  is a non geodesic)

$$(3.6) \quad \begin{cases} k = \text{constant} \neq 0 \\ k^3 - k\tau^2 = kR(T, N, T, N) = k\lambda^2(1 + 4B_3^2) \\ k\tau' = kR(T, N, T, B) = k4\lambda^2 B_3 N_3. \end{cases}$$

These, together with (3.6), complete the proof of the theorem.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.1.** *If  $\tau = 0$  and  $k = \text{constant} \neq 0$  for a timelike curve  $\phi$ .  $\phi$  is a non geodesic biharmonic curve if and only if*

$$\begin{cases} k^2 = \lambda^2(1 + 4B_3^2) \\ B_3 N_3 = 0. \end{cases}$$

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $\phi : I \rightarrow H_3$  be a timelike curve with  $k = \text{constant}$ . If*

$$B_3 N_3 \neq 0,$$

*then  $\phi$  is not biharmonic.*

*Proof.* From (3.1) and (2.3) we have

$$\begin{cases} \nabla_T T = (T_1' - 2\lambda T_2 T_3)e_1 + (T_2' + 2\lambda T_1 T_3)e_2 + (T_3')e_3 \\ \nabla_T N = (N_1' - \lambda(T_2 N_3 + T_3 N_2))e_1 + (N_2' + \lambda(T_1 N_3 + T_3 N_1))e_2 + (N_3' + \lambda B_3)e_3 \\ \nabla_T B = (B_1' - \lambda(T_2 B_3 + T_3 B_2))e_1 + (B_2' + \lambda(T_1 B_3 + T_3 B_1))e_2 + (B_3' + \lambda N_3)e_3. \end{cases}$$

It follows that the third component of these vectors are given by

$$(3.7) \quad \begin{cases} g_\lambda(\nabla_T T, e_3) = -T_3' \\ g_\lambda(\nabla_T N, e_3) = -(N_3' + \lambda B_3) \\ g_\lambda(\nabla_T B, e_3) = -(B_3' + \lambda N_3). \end{cases}$$

From (3.1) we have

$$(3.8) \quad \begin{cases} g_\lambda(\nabla_T T, e_3) = -kN_3 \\ g_\lambda(\nabla_T N, e_3) = -kT_3 - \tau B_3 \\ g_\lambda(\nabla_T B, e_3) = \tau N_3. \end{cases}$$

By comparing (3.7) and (3.8) we obtain

$$(3.9) \quad \begin{cases} T_3' = kN_3 \\ N_3' = kT_3 + \tau B_3 - \lambda B_3 \\ B_3' = -\tau N_3 - \lambda N_3. \end{cases}$$

Assume now that  $\phi$  is biharmonic, then using (3.4) and

$$\tau' = 4\lambda^2 B_3 N_3 \neq 0,$$

we obtain

$$(3.10) \quad \tau = -\frac{B_3'}{N_3}.$$

From (3.9), we obtain  $\lambda N_3 = 0$ , which is a contradiction.  $\square$

**Corollary 3.2.**  *$\phi : I \rightarrow H_3$  is timelike non geodesic biharmonic curve if and only if*

$$\begin{cases} k = \text{constant} \neq 0 \\ \tau = \text{constant} \\ k^2 - \tau^2 = \lambda^2(1 + 4B_3^2) \\ B_3 N_3 = 0. \end{cases}$$

4. TIMELIKE GENERAL HELIX IN  $H_3$ 

**Definition 4.1.** Let  $\phi$  be a curve in 3- dimensional Lorentz-Heisenberg  $H_3$  and  $\{T, N, B\}$  be the Frenet frame on  $H_3$  along  $\phi$ .

- 1) If both  $k$  and  $\tau$  are positive constant along  $\phi$ , then is called circular helix with respect to Frenet frame.
- 2) A curve  $\phi$  such that

$$\frac{k}{\tau} = c, \quad c \in \mathbb{R},$$

is called a general helix with respect to Frenet frame.

If  $k = \text{constant} \neq 0$  and  $\tau = 0$ , then the curve  $\phi$  is a circle.

**Theorem 4.1.** Let  $\phi$  be a curve in 3- dimensional Lorentz-Heisenberg  $H_3$ .  $\phi$  is a general helix with respect to the Frenet frame  $\{T, N, B\}$  if and only if

1)

$$(4.1) \quad \nabla_T^3 T - \sigma_1(s) \nabla_T T = 3k' \nabla_T N,$$

where  $\sigma_1(s) = \frac{1}{k}(k'' + k^3 - k\tau^2)$ .

2)

$$(4.2) \quad \nabla_T^3 B - \sigma_2(s) \nabla_T B + 3\tau' \nabla_T N = 0,$$

where  $\sigma_2(s) = \tau^2 - k^2 - \frac{\tau''}{\tau}$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\phi$  is general helix with respect to the Frenet frame  $\{T, N, B\}$ .

Then from (3.1), we have

$$(4.3) \quad \nabla_T^3 T = (k'' + k^3 - k\tau^2)N + (3kk')T + (2k'\tau + k\tau')B$$

$$(4.4) \quad N = \left(\frac{1}{k}\right) \nabla_T T, \quad B = \left(\frac{1}{\tau}\right) \nabla_T N - \left(\frac{k}{\tau}\right) T.$$

Since  $\phi$  is general helix, we have

$$(4.5) \quad k'\tau = k\tau'.$$

If we substitute the equation (4.4) and (4.5) in (4.3), we obtain (4.1).

Conversely let us assume that the equation (4.1) holds. Differentiating covariantly (4.4) we obtain

$$\nabla_T N = -\left(\frac{k'}{k^2}\right) \nabla_T T + \left(\frac{1}{k}\right) \nabla_T^2 T$$

and so

$$(4.6) \quad \begin{aligned} \nabla_T^2 N &= \left(-\frac{k'}{k^2}\right)' \nabla_T T - 2\left(\frac{k'}{k^2}\right) \nabla_T^2 T + \left(\frac{1}{k}\right) \nabla_T^3 T \\ &= k'T + (k^2 - \tau^2)N + \left(\frac{k'\tau}{k}\right)B. \end{aligned}$$

Also we obtain

$$(4.7) \quad \nabla_T^2 N = k'T + (k^2 - \tau^2)N + \tau'B.$$

Since (4.6) and (4.7) are equal, then

$$(4.8) \quad \tau' = \frac{k'\tau}{k}.$$

From (4.8), we obtain

$$\frac{k}{\tau} = \text{constant.}$$

This means that  $\phi$  is a general helix.

2) Suppose that  $\phi$  is general helix with respect to the Frenet frame. Then, from (3.1), we have

$$(4.9) \quad \nabla_T^3 B = -(k'\tau + 2\tau'k)T + (\tau^3 - k^2\tau - \tau'')N - 3\tau\tau'B$$

$$(4.10) \quad N = -\left(\frac{1}{\tau}\right)\nabla_T B, \quad B = \frac{1}{\tau}\nabla_T N - \frac{k}{\tau}T.$$

Now we replace (4.10) in the above expression of  $\nabla_T^3 B$ , and we obtain (4.2).

Conversely (4.2) holds.

Differentiating covariantly of

$$N = -\left(\frac{1}{\tau}\right)\nabla_T B,$$

we obtain

$$(4.11) \quad \nabla_T^2 N = -\left(\frac{1}{\tau}\right)''\nabla_T B - 2\left(\frac{1}{\tau}\right)'\nabla_T^2 B - \left(\frac{1}{\tau}\right)\nabla_T^3 B.$$

If we use (3.1) and (4.2) we get,

$$(4.12) \quad \nabla_T^2 N = \left(\frac{\tau'k}{\tau}\right)T + (k^2 - \tau^2)N + \tau'B.$$

Also we obtain

$$(4.13) \quad \nabla_T^2 N = k'T + (k^2 - \tau^2)N + \tau'B.$$

By comparing (4.12) and (4.13), we obtainwe obtain

$$\left(\frac{k}{\tau}\right)' = 0.$$

From this, we have

$$\frac{k}{\tau} = \text{constant.}$$

Then  $\phi$  is a general helix. □

**Corollary 4.1.** *Let  $\phi$  be a curve in  $H_3$ .  $\phi$  is a circular helix with respect to the Frenet frame  $\{T, N, B\}$  if and only if*

1)

$$\nabla_T^3 B - (\tau^2 - k^2)\tau N = 0$$

2)

$$\nabla_T^3 T + k(\tau^2 - k^2)N = 0.$$

**Theorem 4.2.** *Let  $\phi$  be a curve in  $H_3$ .  $\phi$  is a general helix with respect to the Frenet frame  $\{T, N, B\}$ , then*

$$(4.14) \quad \nabla_T^3 T + \sigma_1(s)\nabla_T B = 3k'\nabla_T N,$$

where  $\sigma_1(s) = \frac{1}{\tau}(k'' + k^3 - k\tau^2)$ .

*Proof.* Suppose that  $\phi$  is general helix with respect to the Frenet frame  $\{T, N, B\}$ . If we substitute (4.10) in (3.2), we obtain (4.14). □

**Corollary 4.2.** *Let  $\phi$  be a general helix in  $H_3$ .  $\phi$  is a non geodesic timelike biharmonic curve if*

$$R(T, \nabla_T N)T = 3k' \nabla_T N - \sigma_1(s) \nabla_T B.$$

**Theorem 4.3.**  *$\phi$  is a general helix in  $H_3$  if and only if*

1)

$$[\nabla_T T, \nabla_T^2 T, \nabla_T^3 T] = 0,$$

2)

$$[\nabla_T B, \nabla_T^2 B, \nabla_T^3 B] = 0,$$

3)

$$[\nabla_T N, \nabla_T^2 N, \nabla_T^3 N] = 0.$$

*Proof.* 1) From (2.6) and

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla_T T \\ \nabla_T^2 T \\ \nabla_T^3 T \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & k & 0 \\ k^2 & k' & \tau k \\ 3kk' & k'' + k^3 - k\tau^2 & 2\tau k' + k\tau' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix},$$

we have

$$[\nabla_T T, \nabla_T^2 T, \nabla_T^3 T] = g(\nabla_T T \wedge_L \nabla_T^2 T, \nabla_T^3 T) = k^5 \left(\frac{\tau}{k}\right)'$$

Since  $\phi$  is general helix, we have

$$[\nabla_T T, \nabla_T^2 T, \nabla_T^3 T] = 0.$$

The proof is completed.

2) From (2.6) and

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla_T B \\ \nabla_T^2 B \\ \nabla_T^3 B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\tau & 0 \\ -k\tau & -\tau' & -\tau^2 \\ -k'\tau - 2k\tau' & -\tau'' + \tau^3 - \tau k^2 & -3\tau\tau' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\nabla_T B, \nabla_T^2 B, \nabla_T^3 B] &= \tau^5 \left(\frac{\tau}{k}\right)' \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is completed.

3) From (2.6) and

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla_T N \\ \nabla_T^2 N \\ \nabla_T^3 N \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} k & 0 & \tau \\ k' & k^2 - \tau^2 & \tau' \\ k'' + k^3 - k\tau^2 & 3kk' - 3\tau\tau' & \tau'' - \tau^3 + \tau k^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$

we have

$$[\nabla_T N, \nabla_T^2 N, \nabla_T^3 N] = (\tau^2 - k^2)(k\tau'' - \tau k'') + 3(kk' - \tau\tau')(k'\tau - \tau'k).$$

Since  $\phi$  is general helix, we have

$$\begin{aligned} k\tau'' - \tau k'' &= 0 \\ k'\tau - \tau'k &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is completed.  $\square$



5. SPACELIKE GENERAL HELIX IN  $H_3$ 

Let  $\phi : I \rightarrow H_3$  be a non geodesic spacelike curve parametrized by arclength and let  $\{T, N, B\}$  be the orthonormal moving Frenet frame along the curve  $\phi$  in  $H_3$  such that  $T = \phi'$  is the unit vector field tangent to  $\phi$ . Then we have the following Frenet equations

$$(5.1) \quad \begin{pmatrix} \nabla_T T \\ \nabla_T N \\ \nabla_T B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & k & 0 \\ -k & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & -\tau & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Theorem 5.1.**  $\phi = \phi(s)$  is a general helix in  $H_3$  if and only if

- 1)  $[\nabla_T T, \nabla_T^2 T, \nabla_T^3 T] = 0,$
- 2)  $[\nabla_T B, \nabla_T^2 B, \nabla_T^3 B] = 0,$
- 3)  $[\nabla_T N, \nabla_T^2 N, \nabla_T^3 N] = 0.$

*Proof.* From (2.6) and

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla_T T \\ \nabla_T^2 T \\ \nabla_T^3 T \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & k & 0 \\ -k^2 & k' & \tau k \\ -3kk' & -k'' + k^3 + k\tau^2 & 2\tau k' + k\tau' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\nabla_T T, \nabla_T^2 T, \nabla_T^3 T] &= -k^5 \left(\frac{\tau}{k}\right)' \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is completed.

2) From (2.6) and

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla_T B \\ \nabla_T^2 B \\ \nabla_T^3 B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\tau & 0 \\ k\tau & -\tau' & -\tau^2 \\ k'\tau + 2k\tau' & -\tau'' + \tau^3 + \tau k^2 & -3\tau\tau' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\nabla_T B, \nabla_T^2 B, \nabla_T^3 B] &= -\tau^5 \left(\frac{k}{\tau}\right)' \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is completed.

2) From (2.6) and

$$\begin{pmatrix} \nabla_T N \\ \nabla_T^2 N \\ \nabla_T^3 N \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -k & 0 & \tau \\ -k' & -k^2 - \tau^2 & \tau' \\ -k'' + k^3 + k\tau^2 & -3\tau\tau' - 3kk' & \tau'' - \tau^3 - \tau k^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} [\nabla_T N, \nabla_T^2 N, \nabla_T^3 N] &= \tau^5 \left(\frac{(k/\tau)'}{\tau}\right)' + k^5 \left(\frac{(\tau/k)'}{k}\right)' \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The proof is completed.  $\square$

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DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, FACULTY OF SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF CHLEF, B.P.151, HAY ES-SALEM, CHLEF, ALGERIA  
*E-mail address:* [se\\_bendhiba@yahoo.fr](mailto:se_bendhiba@yahoo.fr)

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, FACULTY OF SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ORAN, P.O. BOX 1524, EL MENOVAR, ORAN, ALGERIA  
*E-mail address:* [bekkar\\_99@yahoo.fr](mailto:bekkar_99@yahoo.fr)