



Math for the people, by the people.

orientation

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Let α be a rectifiable, Jordan curve in \mathbb{R}^2 and z_0 be a point in $\mathbb{R}^2 - \text{Im}(\alpha)$ and let α have a winding number $W[\alpha : z_0]$. Then $W[\alpha : z_0] = \pm 1$; all points inside α will have the same index and we define the **orientation** of a Jordan curve α by saying that α is **positively oriented** if the index of every point in α is $+1$ and **negatively oriented** if it is -1 .