

# PID and Pure Pursuit Control

Sanjiban Choudhury

TAs: Matthew Rockett, Gilwoo Lee, Matt Schmittle

# The Control API

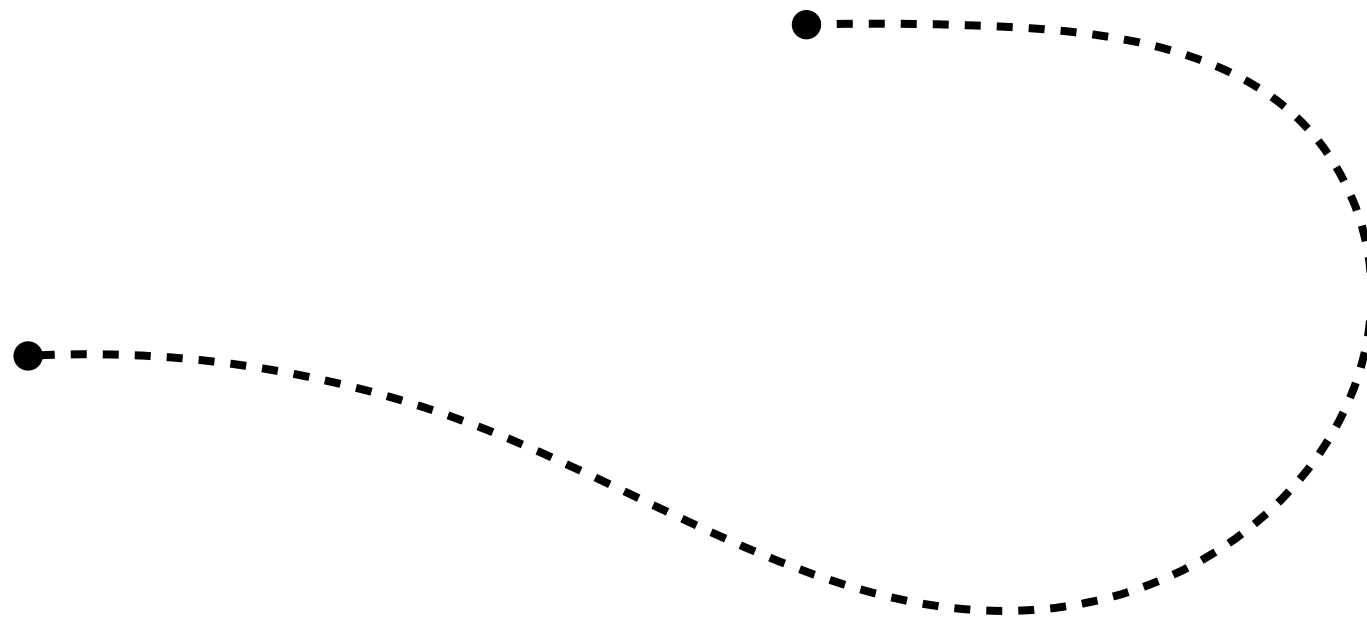
Input



Output

# The Control API

$$x(\tau), y(\tau), \theta(\tau), v(\tau)$$



Input

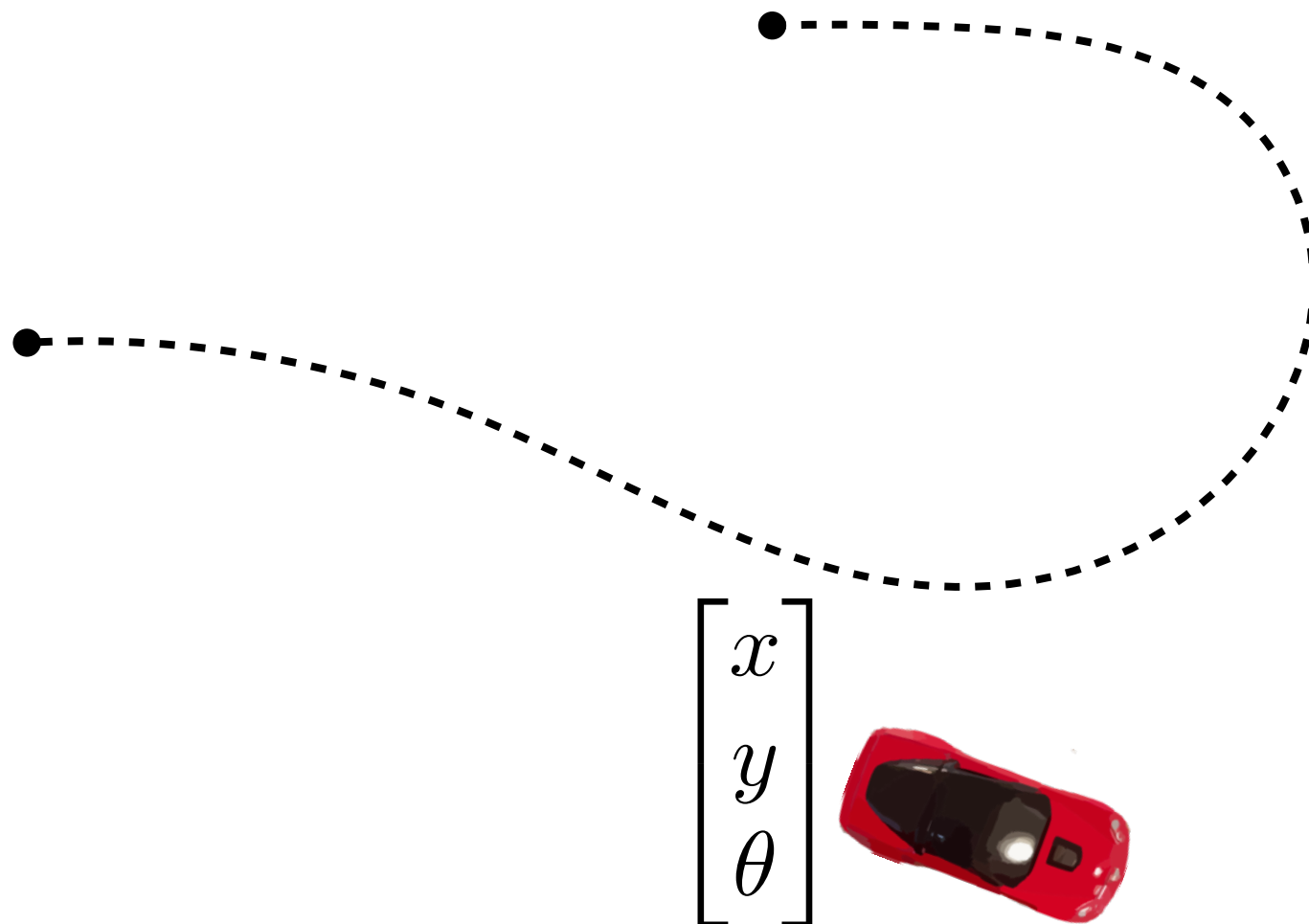
1. Reference path



Output

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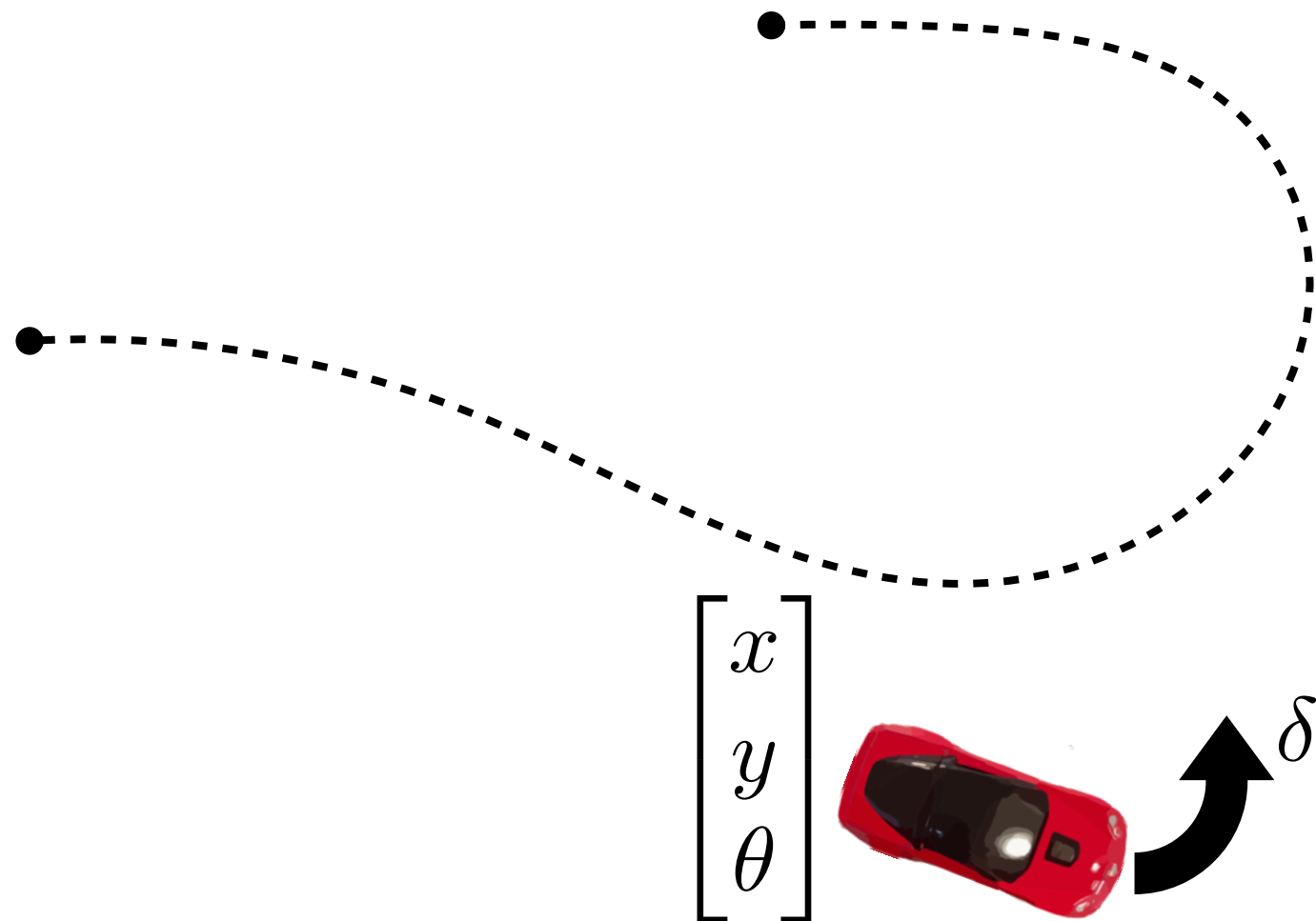
1. Reference path
2. Current state



Output

# The Control API

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1. Reference path
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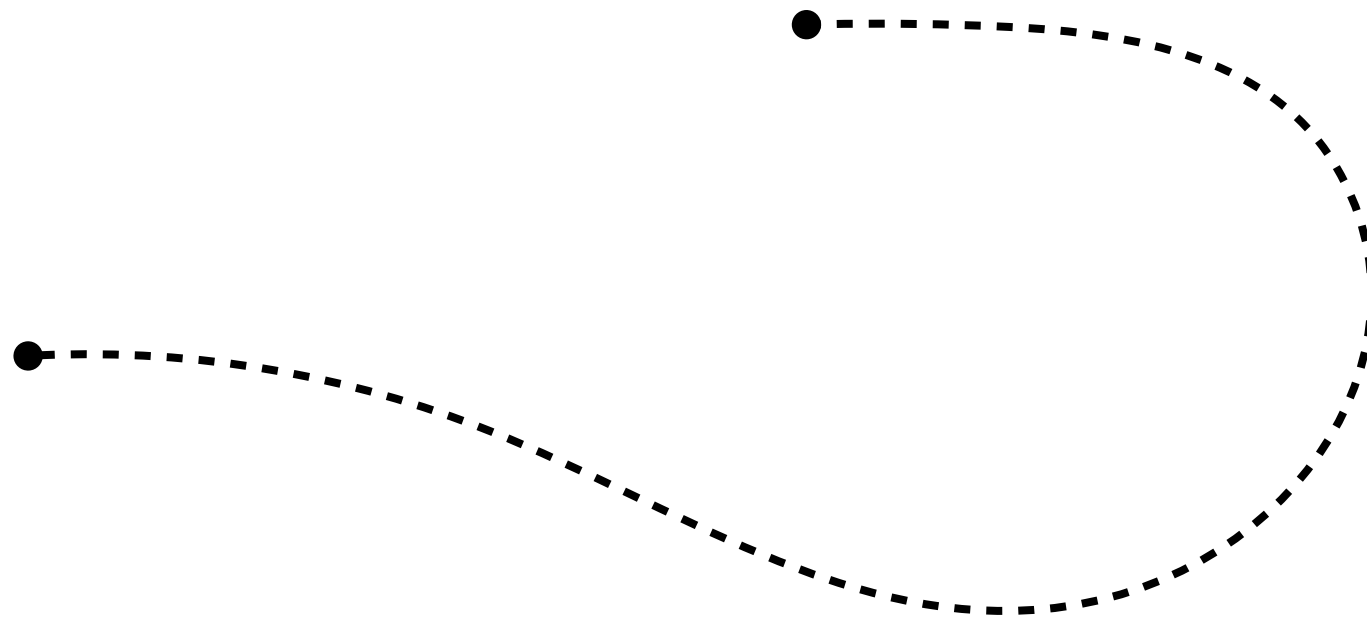
Output

Control action

# Steps to designing a controller

1. Get a reference path / trajectory to track
2. Pick a point on the reference
3. Compute error to reference point
4. Compute control law to minimize error

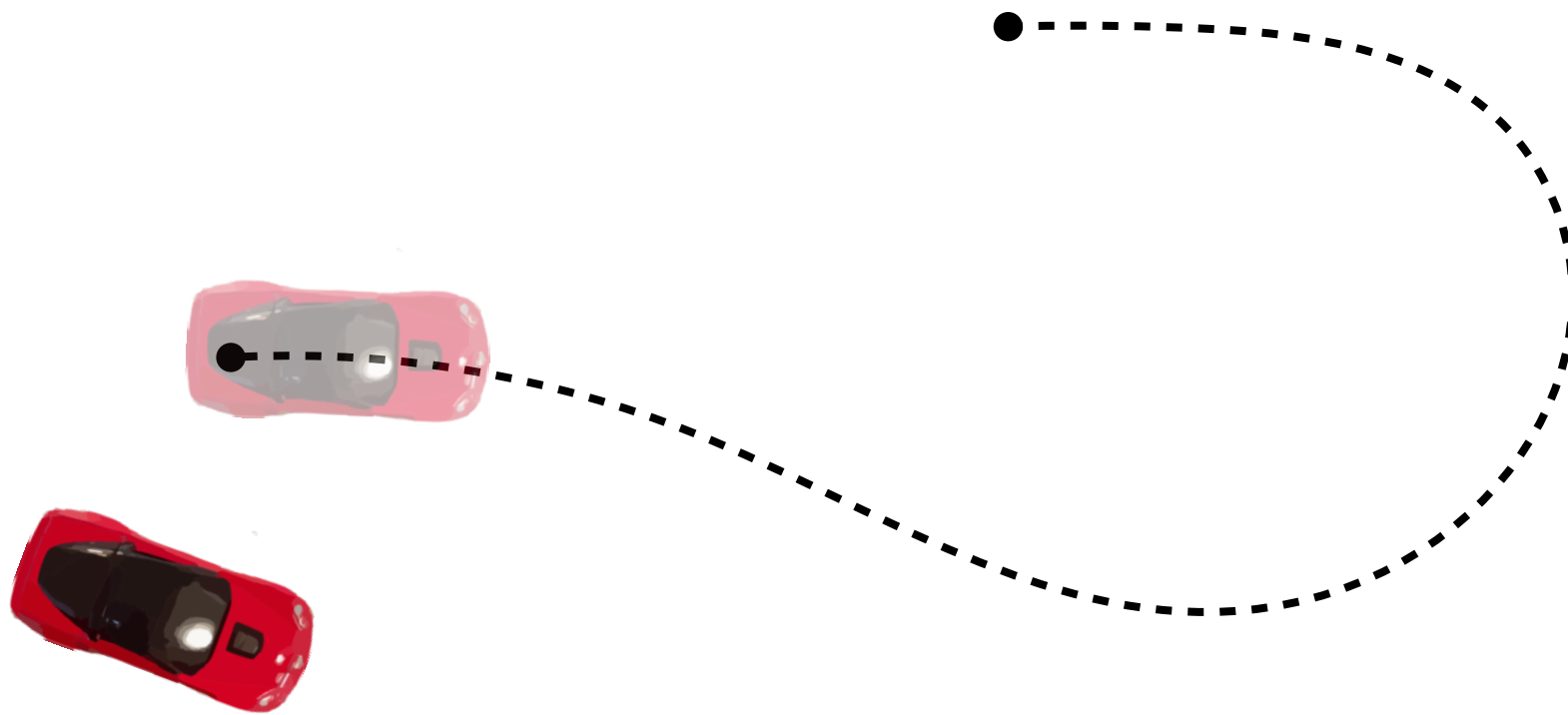
# Rough idea of what happens across timesteps



Robot is trying to **track a desired state** on the reference path

(Take an action to drive down **error** between desired and current state)

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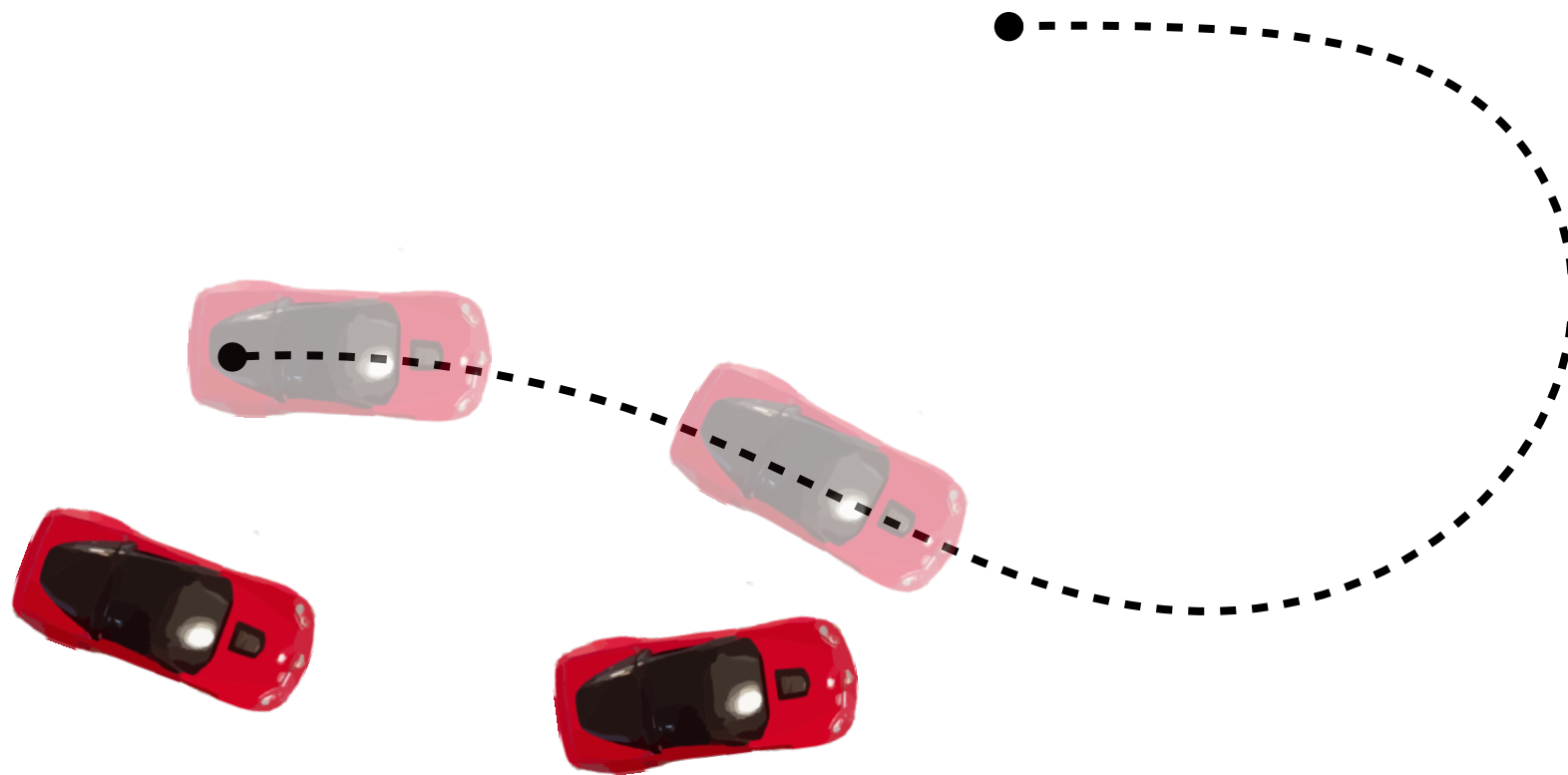


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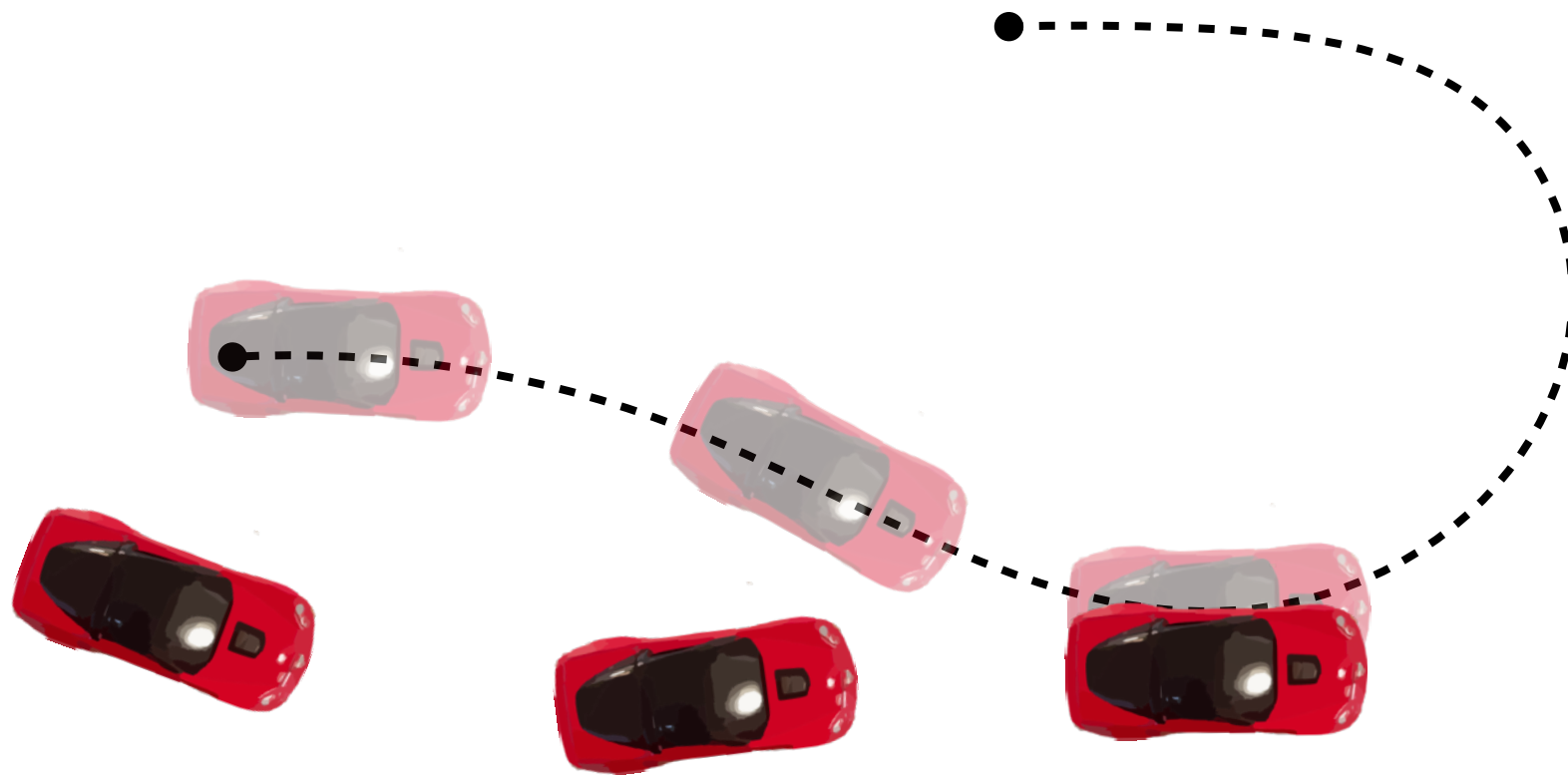
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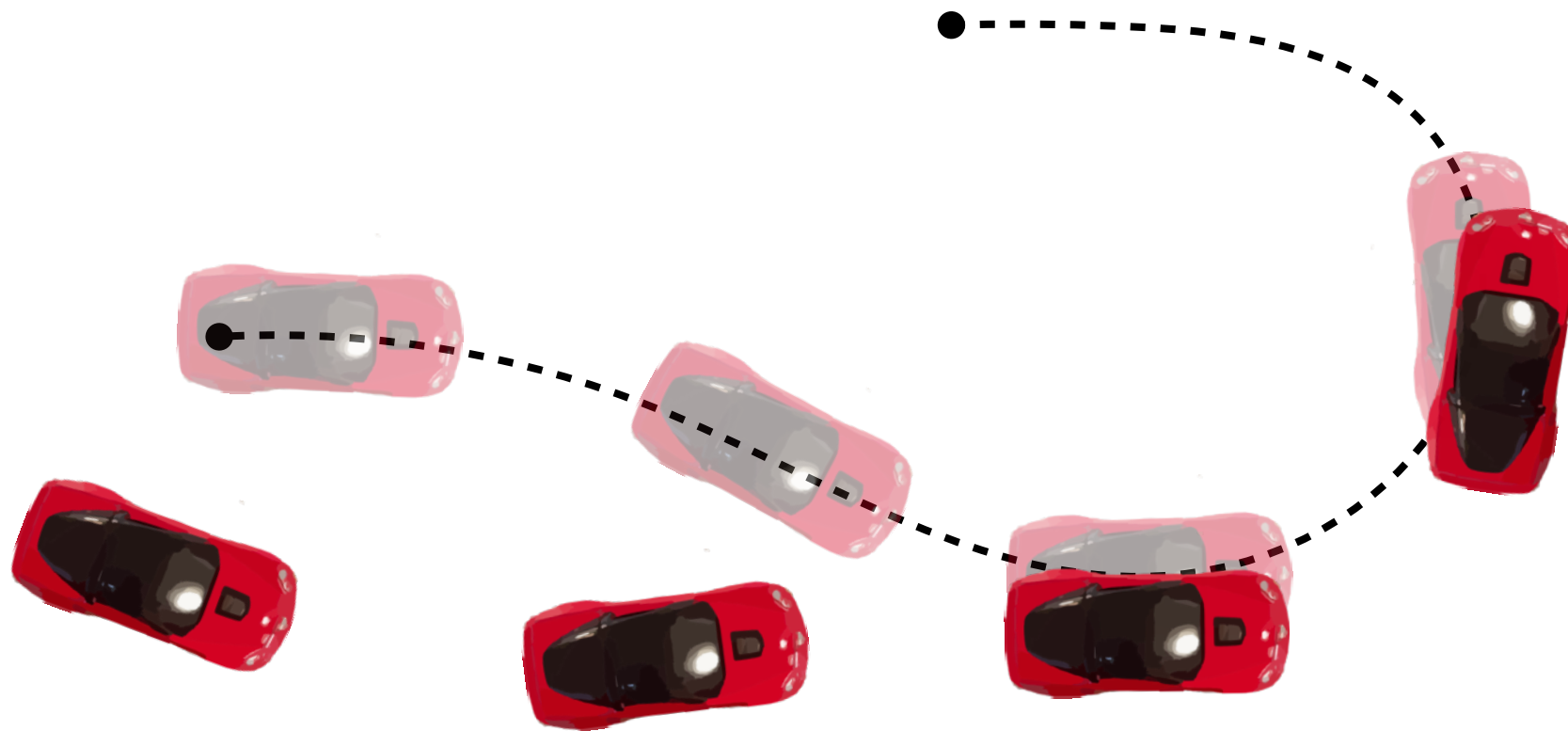
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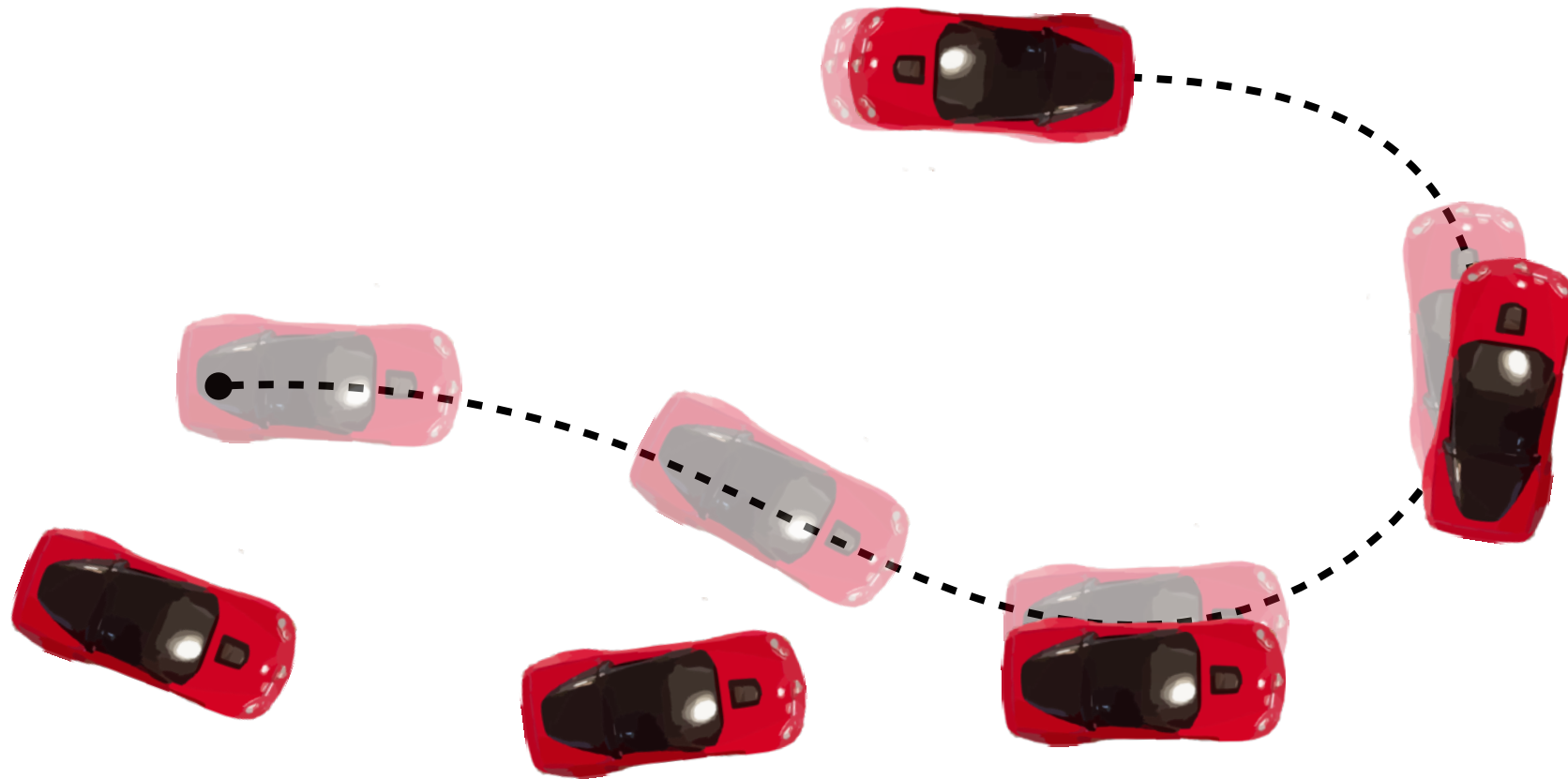
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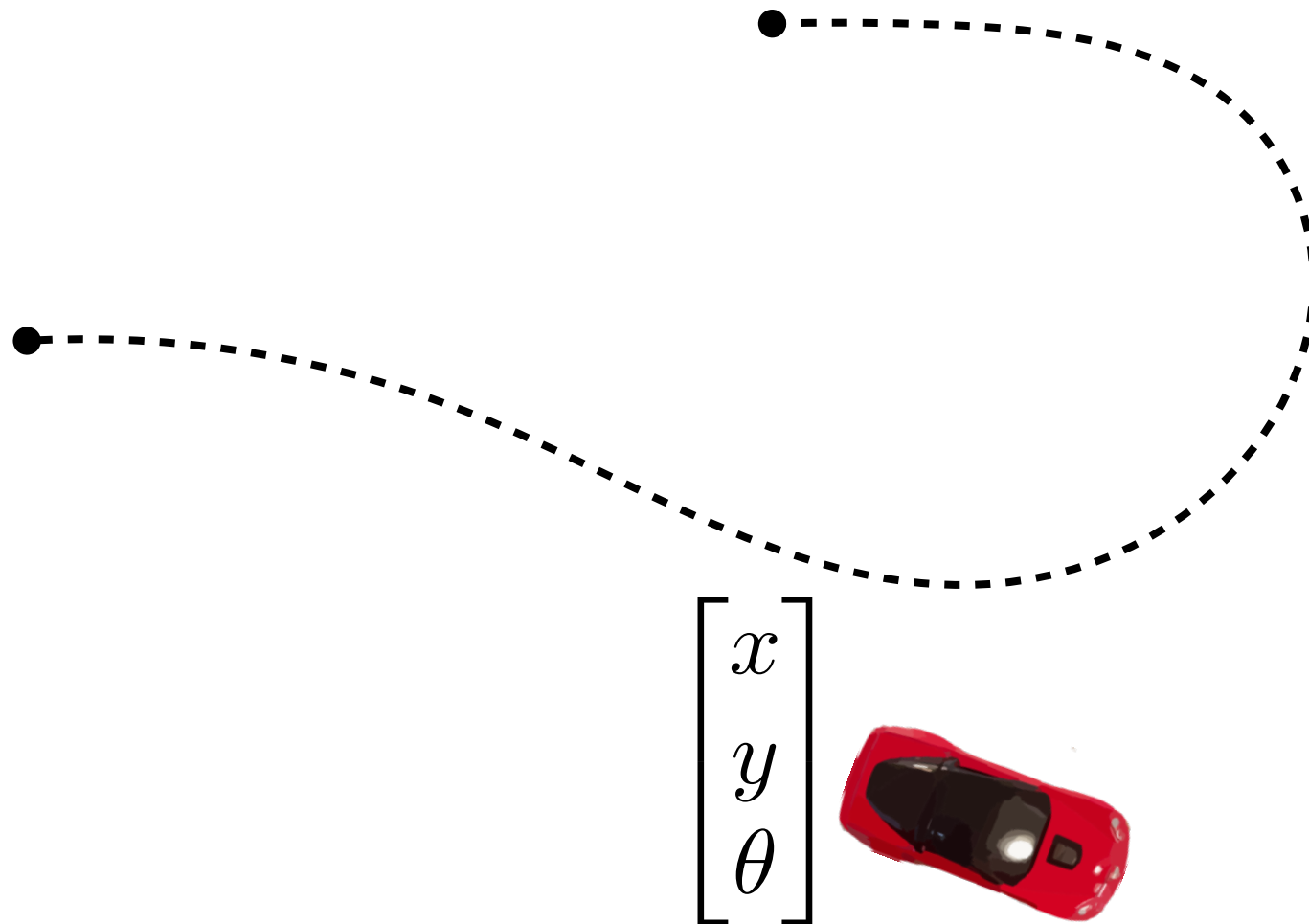
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# Steps to designing a controller

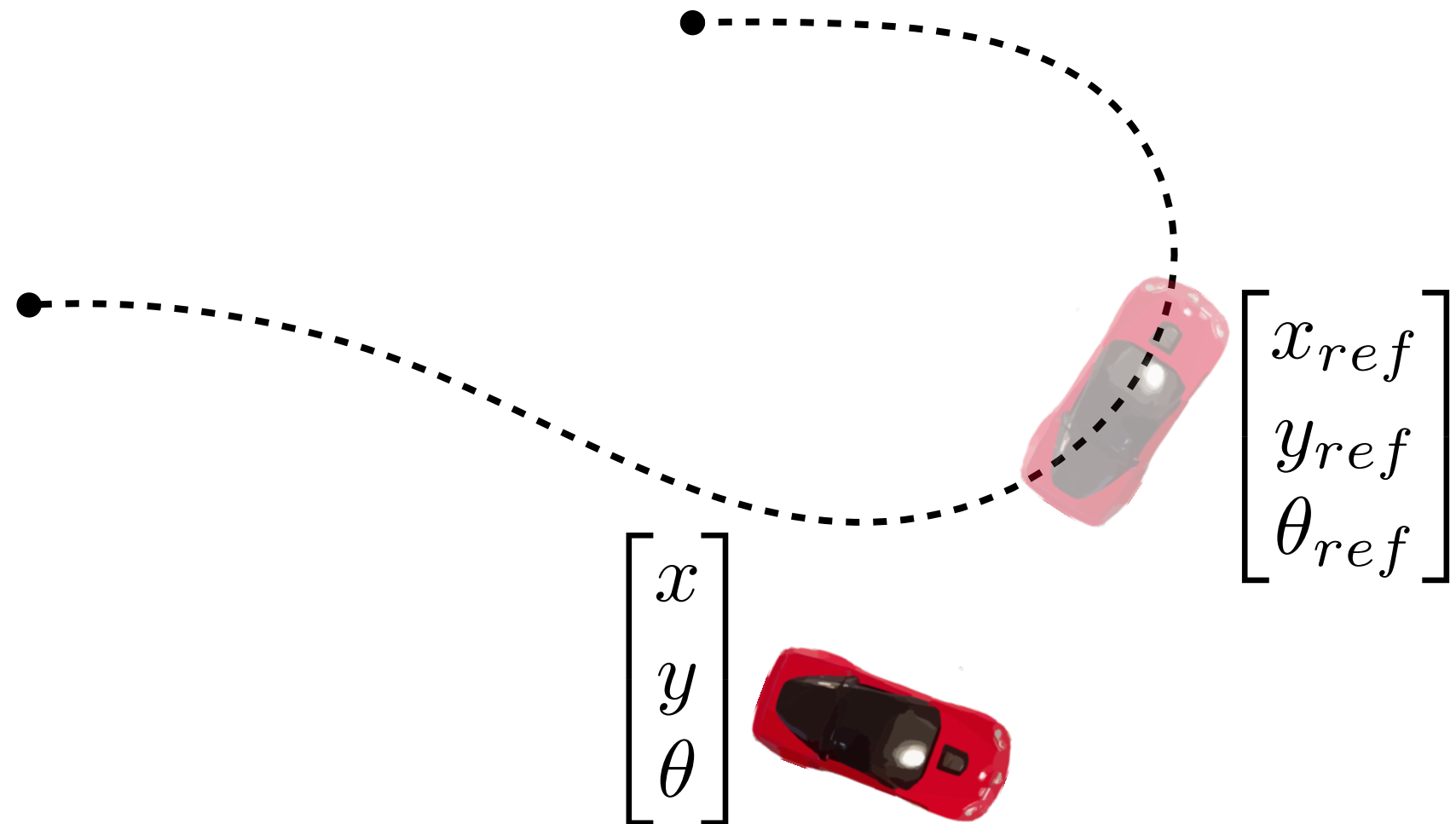
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# Step 1: Get a reference path

$$x(\tau), y(\tau), \theta(\tau), v(\tau)$$



# Step 2: Pick a reference (desired) state

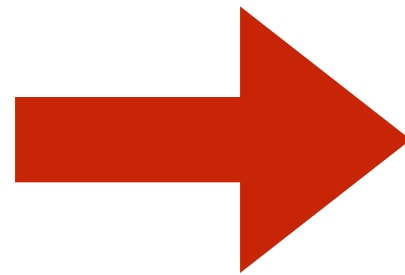


E.g. Pick nearest state / pick state L distance ahead

# Step 3: Compute error to this state

Error is simply the state of the car expressed in  
the frame of the reference (desired) state

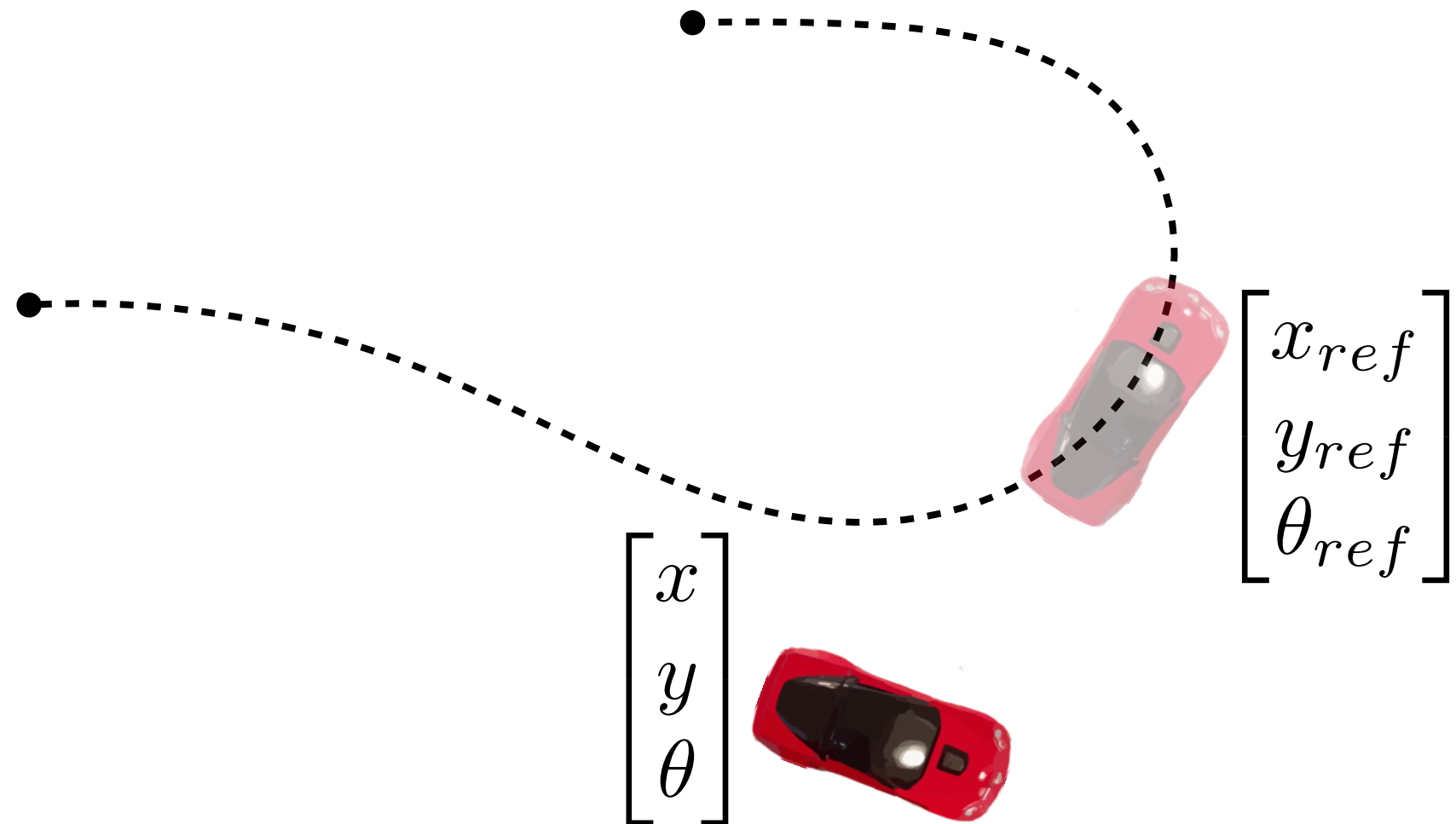
$$\begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ \theta \end{bmatrix}$$



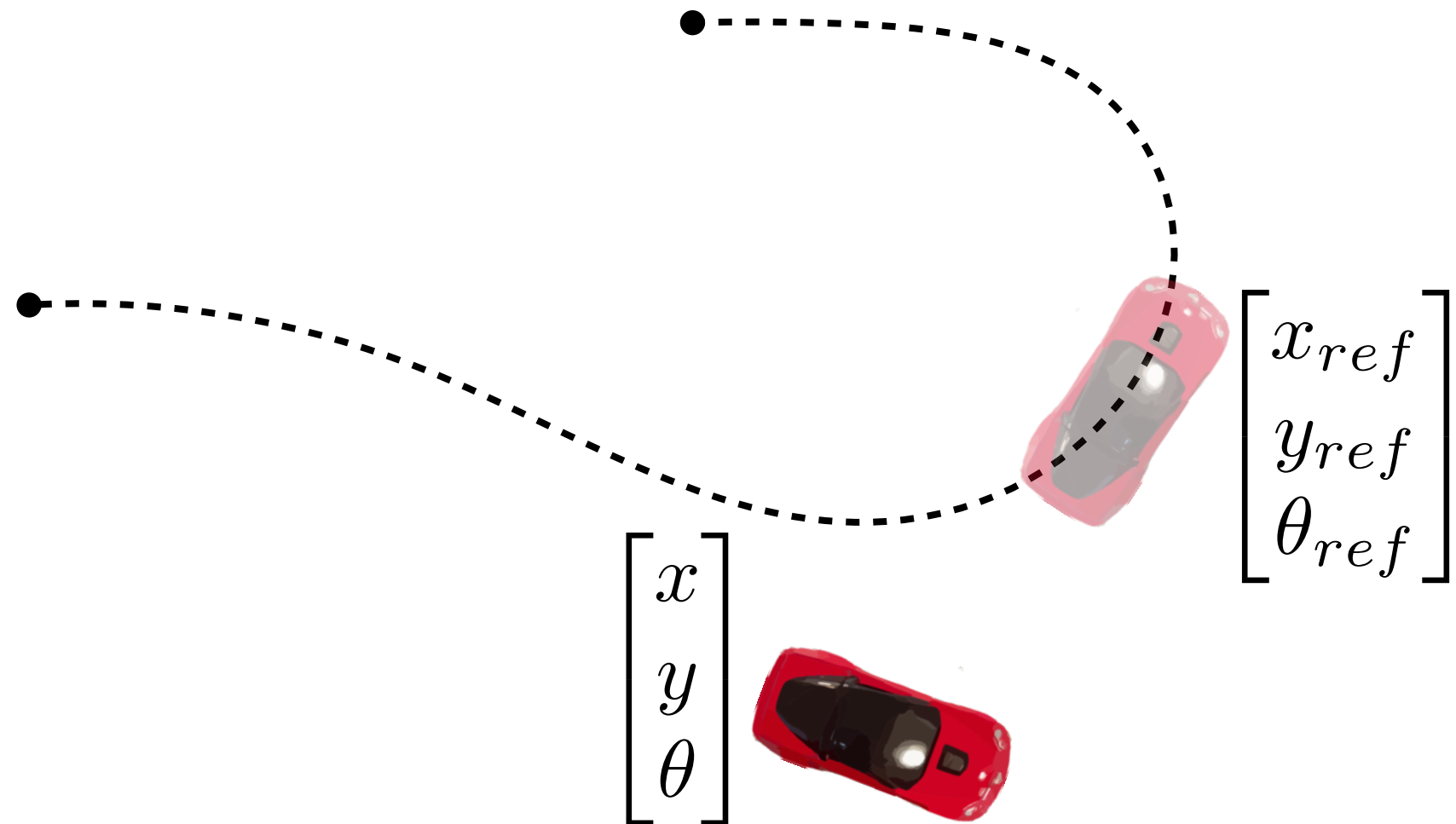
$$\begin{bmatrix} e_{at} \\ e_{ct} \\ \theta_e \end{bmatrix}$$



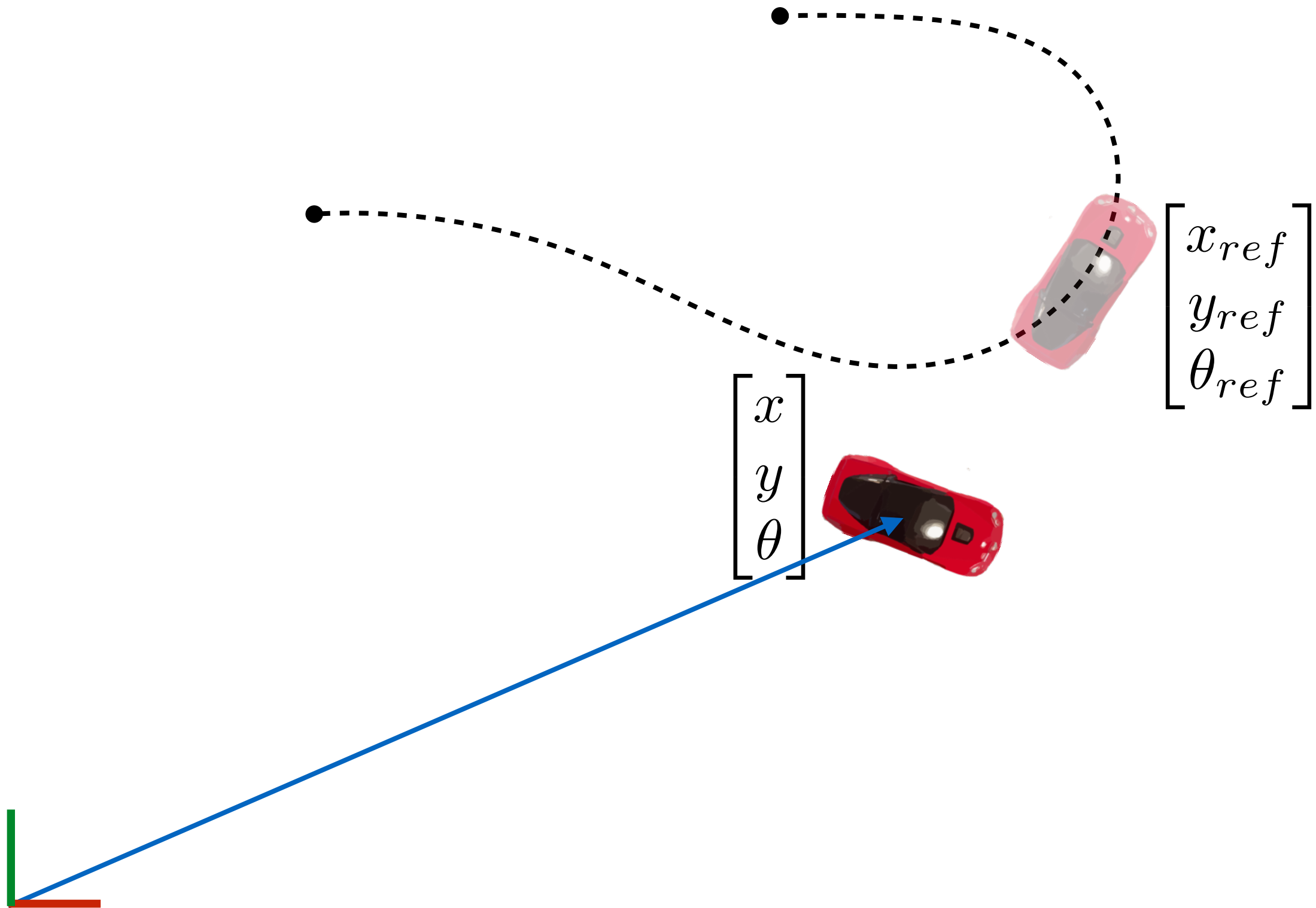
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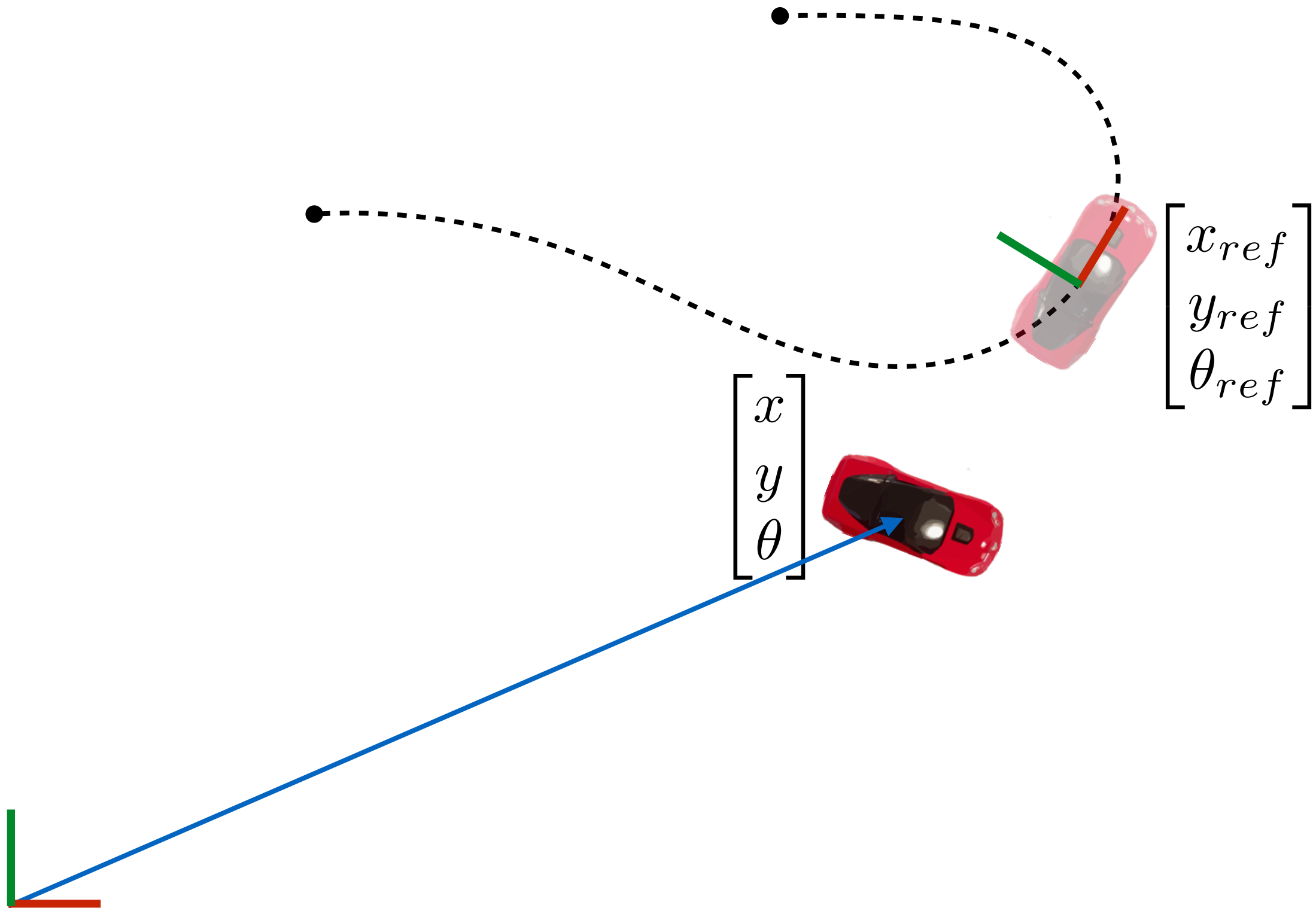
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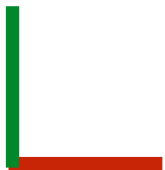
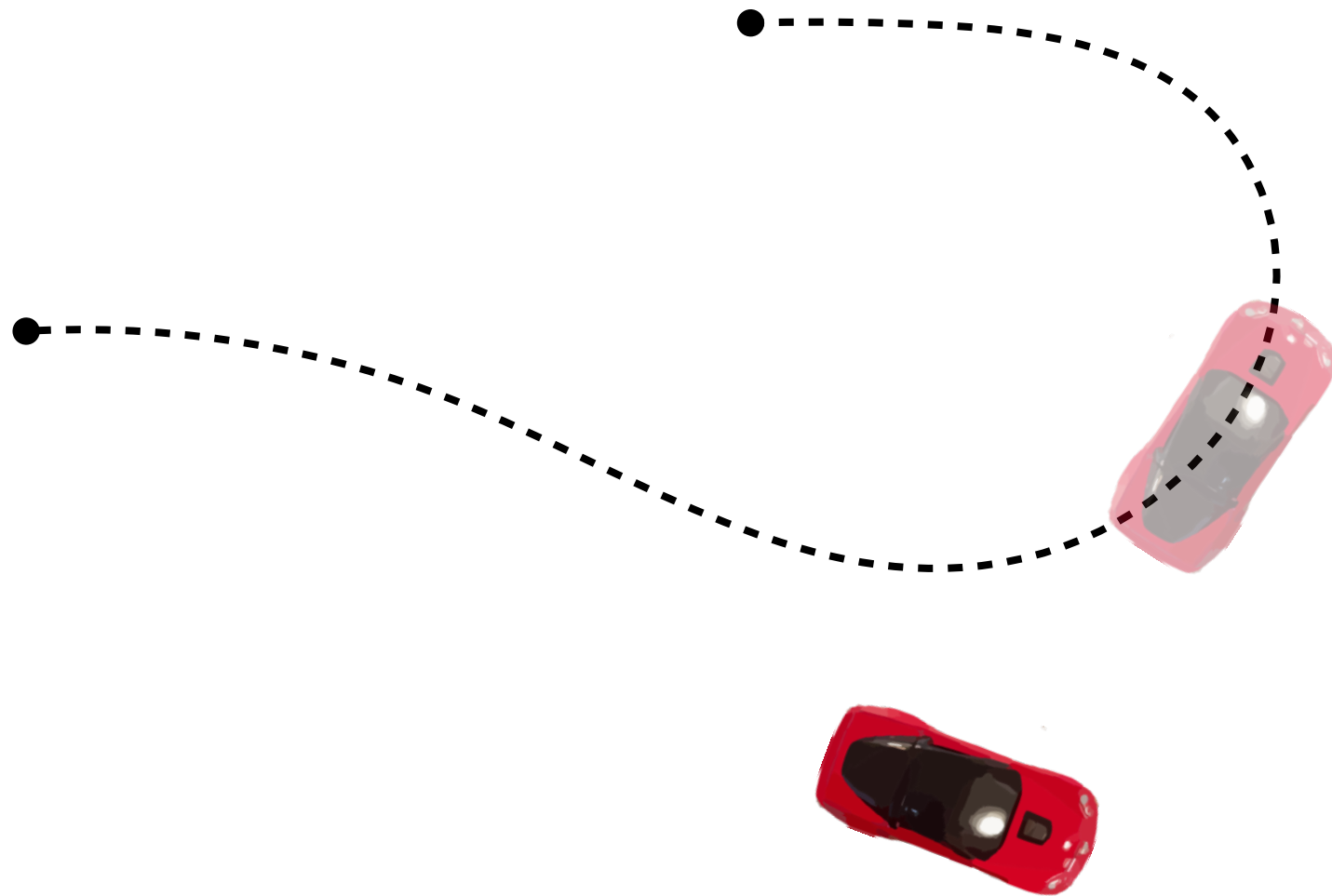
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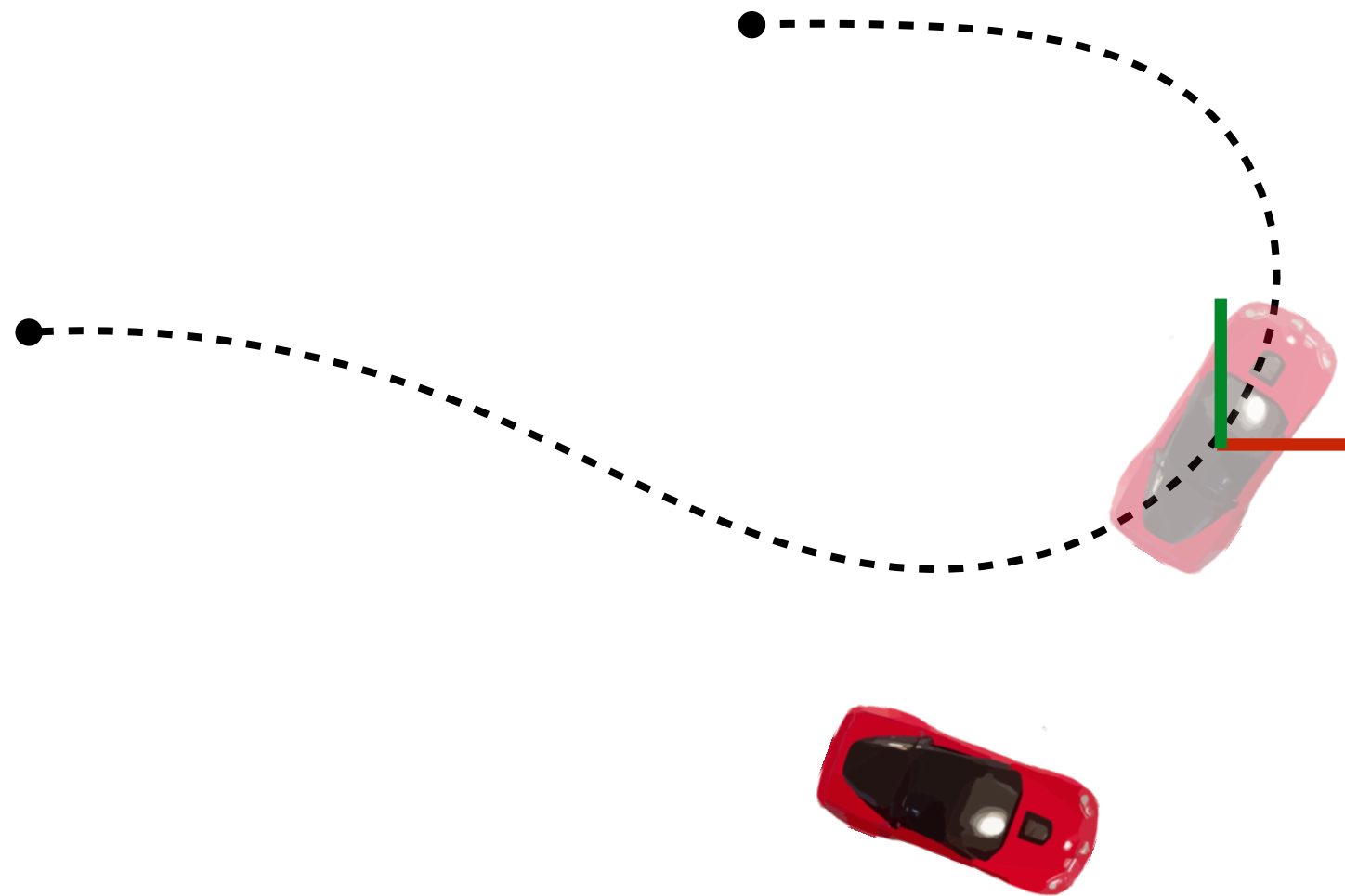
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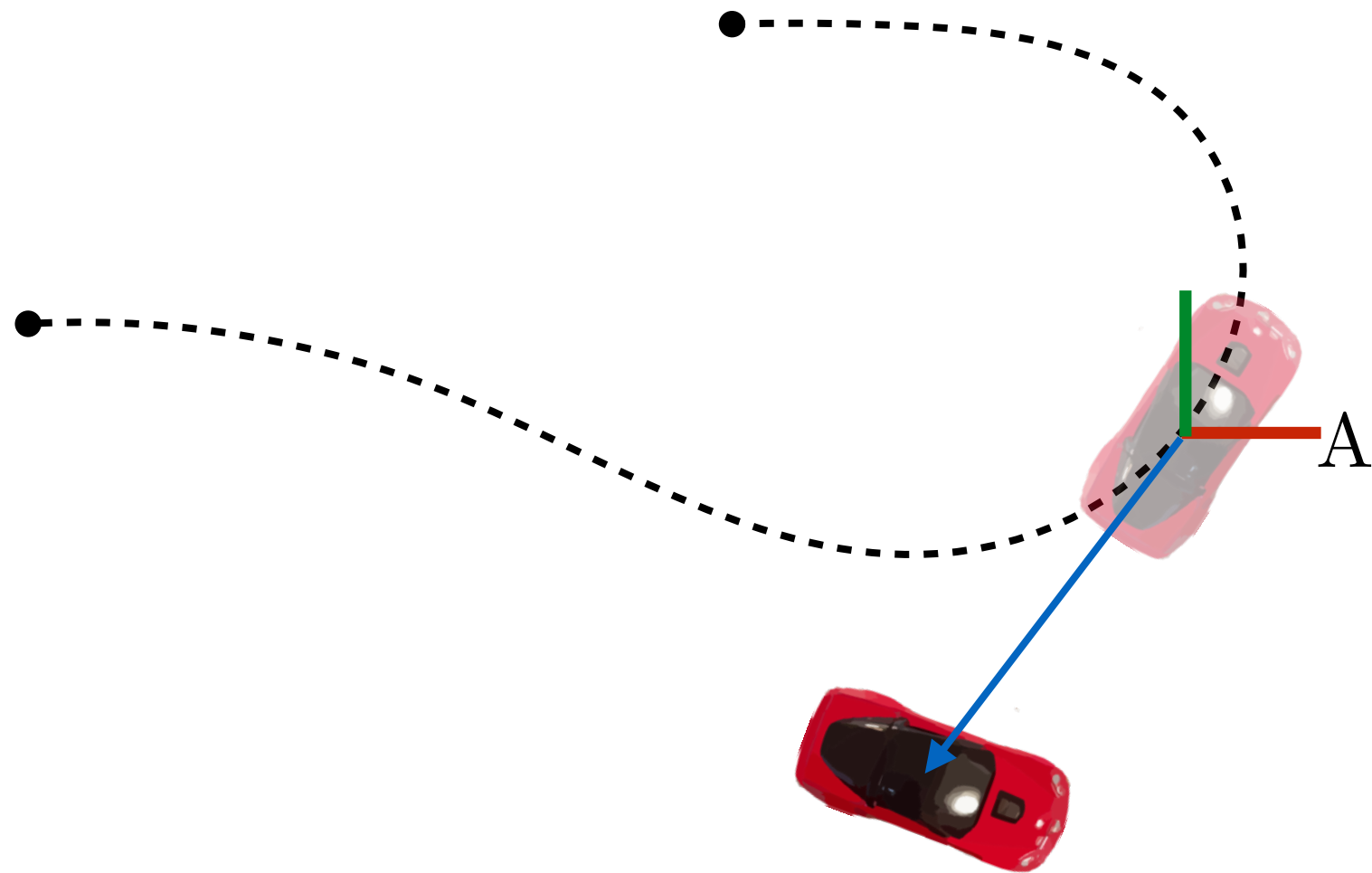
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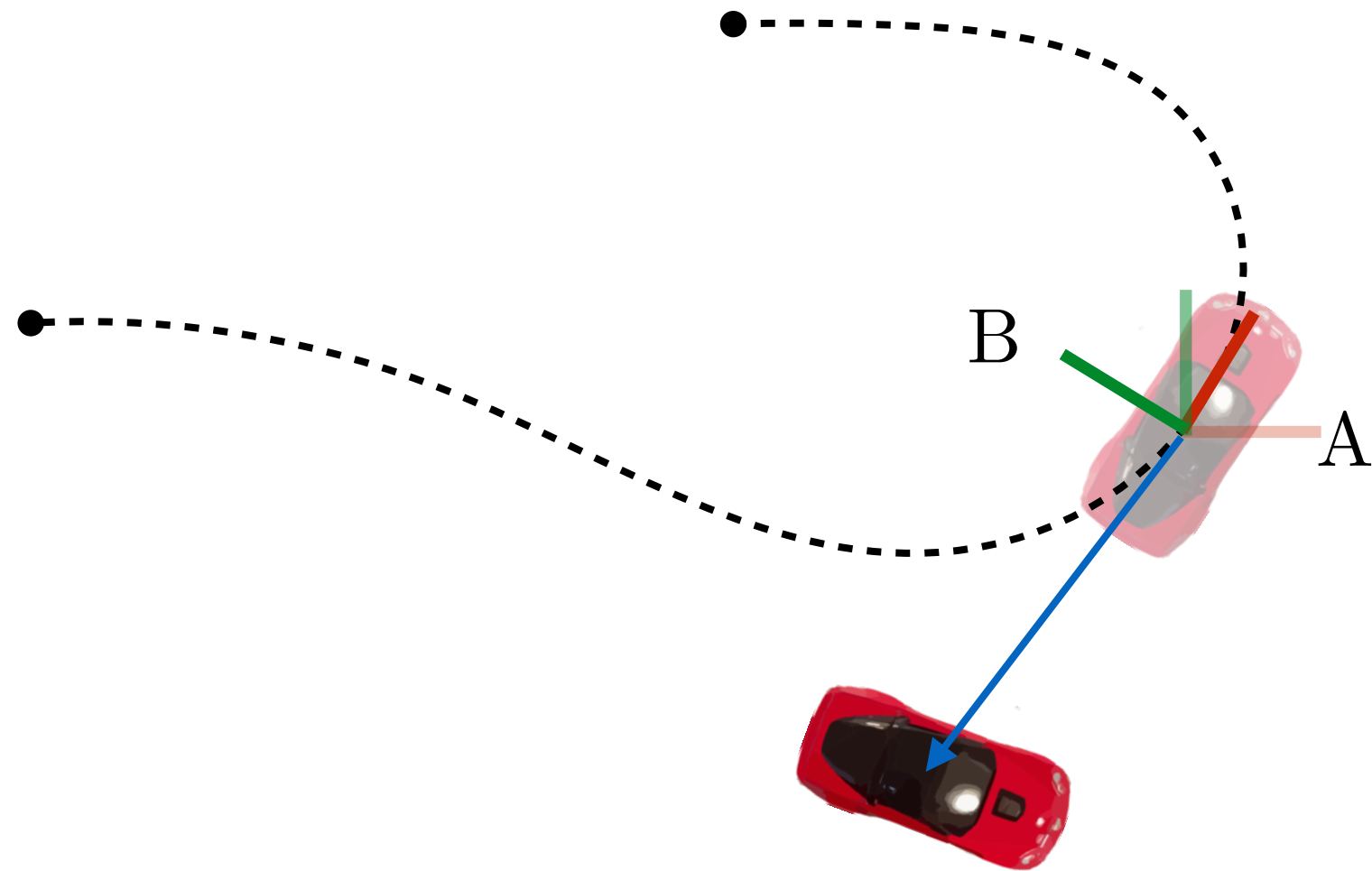
# Step 3: Compute error to this state



Position in frame A

$${}^A e = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} x_{ref} \\ y_{ref} \end{bmatrix}$$

# Step 3: Compute error to this state



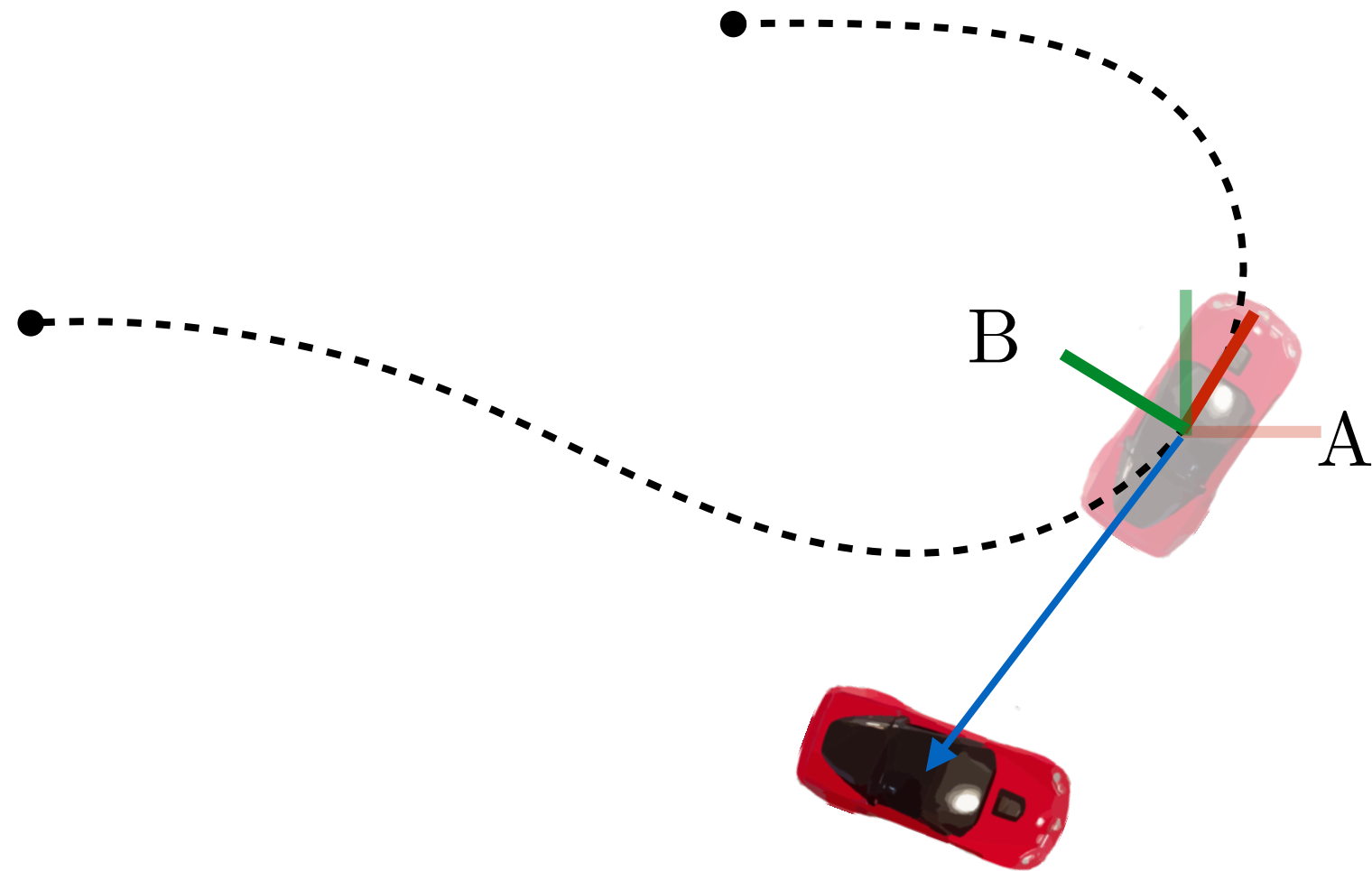
We want position in frame B

$${}^B e = {}^B_A R \quad {}^A e$$

(rotation of  
A w.r.t B)



# Step 3: Compute error to this state

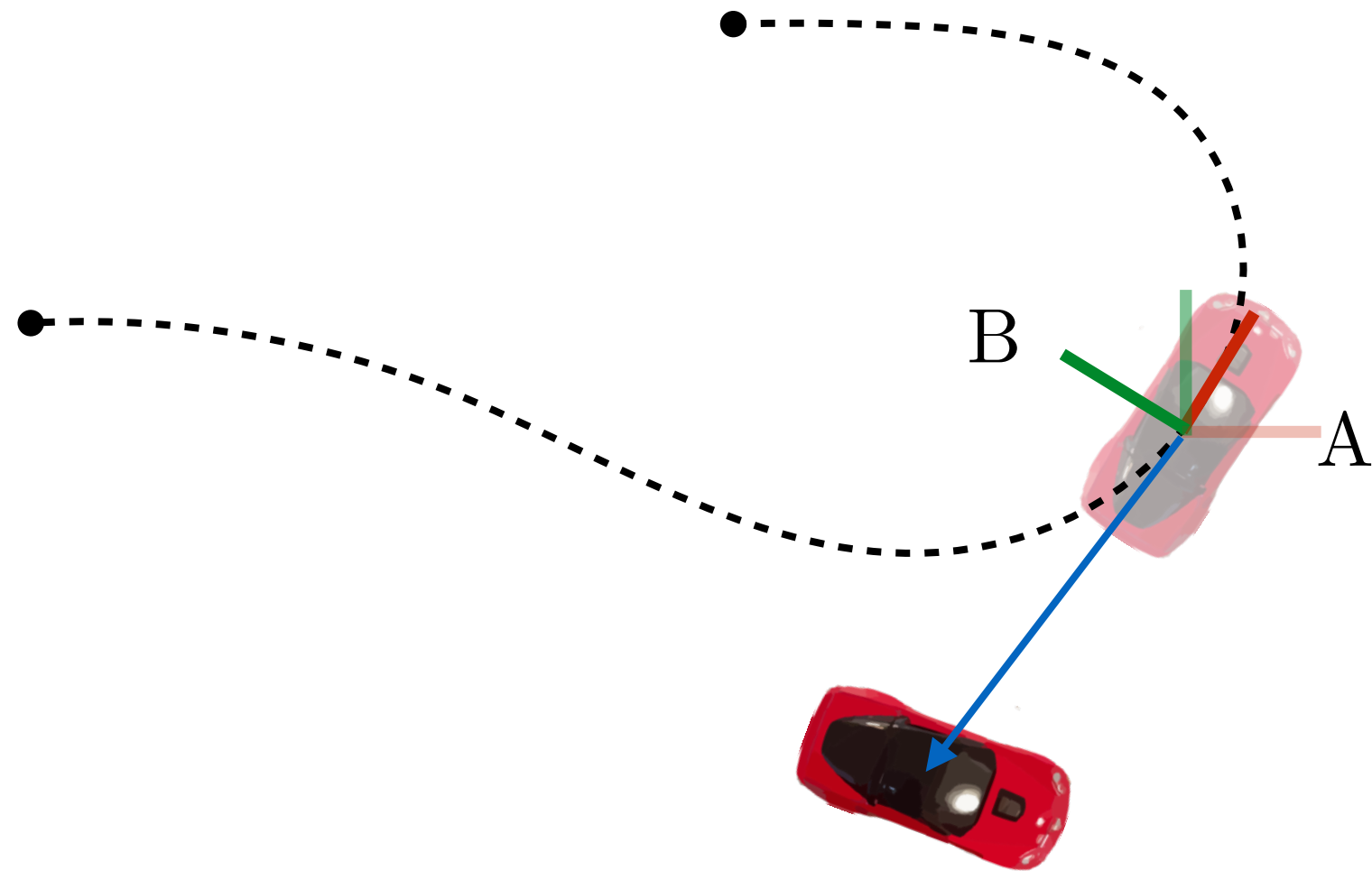


We want position in frame B

$${}^B_e = {}^B_A R \quad {}^A_e = R(-\theta_{ref}) \left( \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} x_{ref} \\ y_{ref} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

(rotation of A w.r.t B)      (rotation of A w.r.t B)

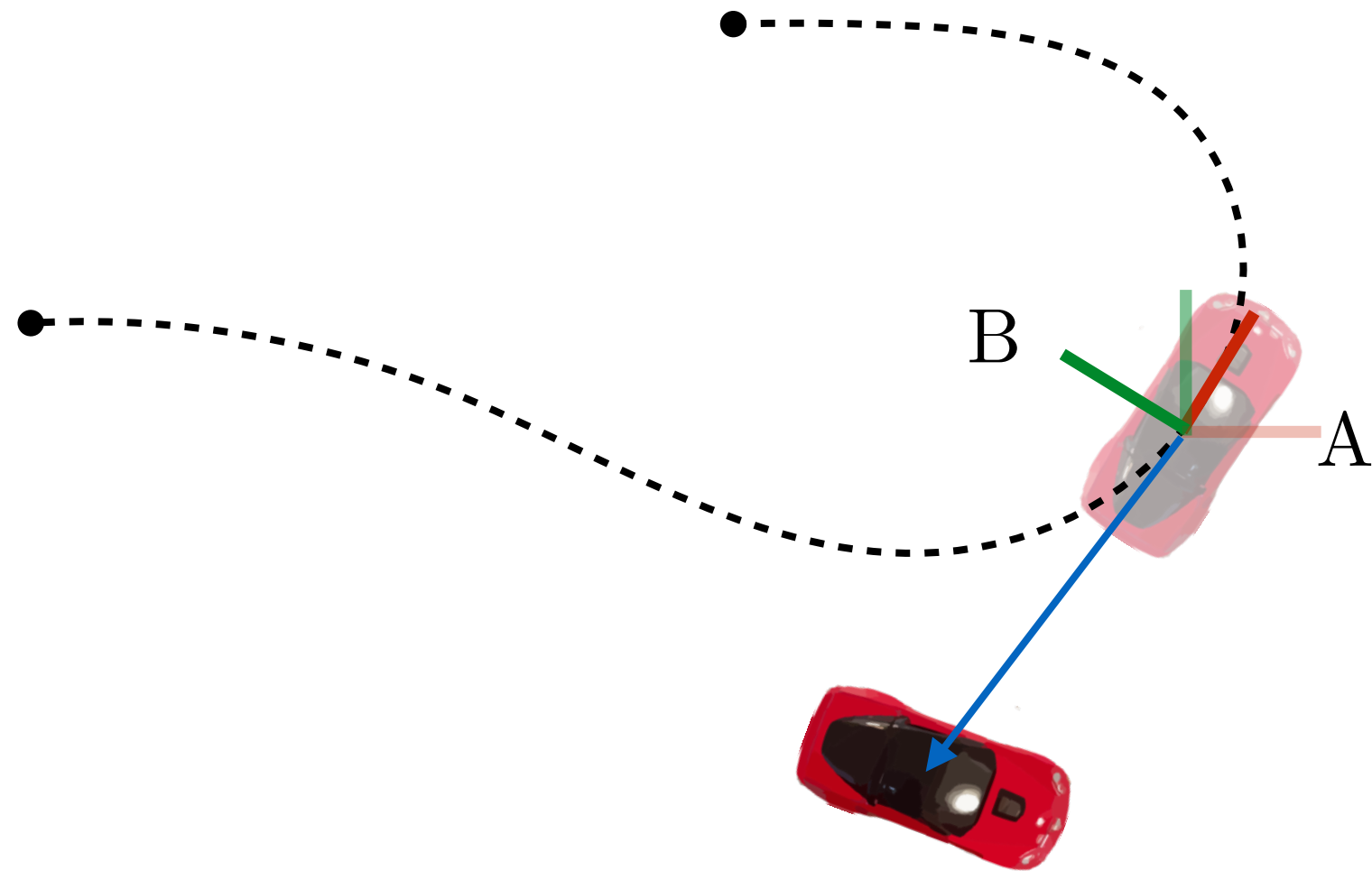
# Step 3: Compute error to this state



We want position in frame B

$${}^B e = \begin{bmatrix} e_{at} \\ e_{ct} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\theta_{ref}) & \sin(\theta_{ref}) \\ -\sin(\theta_{ref}) & \cos(\theta_{ref}) \end{bmatrix} \left( \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} x_{ref} \\ y_{ref} \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

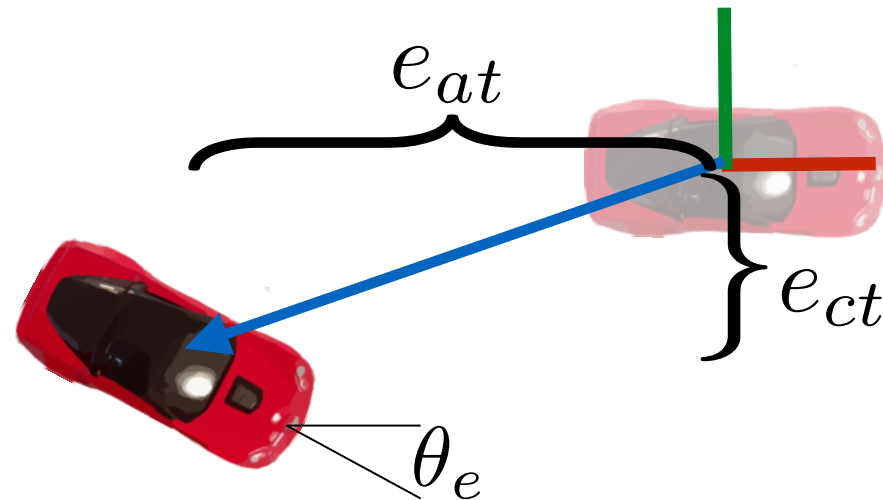
# Step 3: Compute error to this state



We heading in frame B

$$\theta_e = \theta - \theta_{ref}$$

# Step 3: Compute error to this state

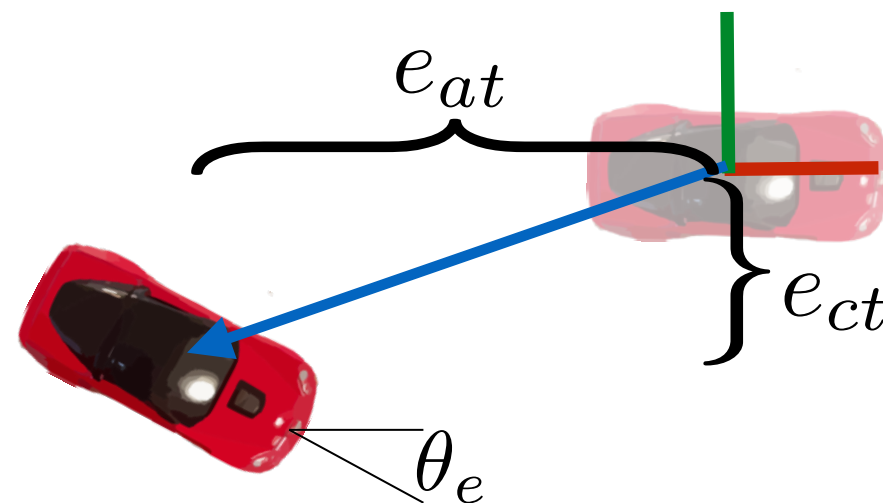


(Along-track)  $e_{at} = \cos(\theta_{ref})(x - x_{ref}) + \sin(\theta_{ref})(y - y_{ref})$

(Cross-track)  $e_{ct} = -\sin(\theta_{ref})(x - x_{ref}) + \cos(\theta_{ref})(y - y_{ref})$

(Heading)  $\theta_e = \theta - \theta_{ref}$

# Some things to note



1. We will **only control steering angle**; speed set to reference speed
2. Hence, no real control on along-track error. Ignore for now.
3. Some control laws will only minimize cross-track error, others both heading and cross-track error.

# Step 4: Compute control law

Compute control action based on instantaneous error

$$\underset{\text{control}}{u} = K \underset{\text{error}}{(e)}$$

Different laws have different trade-offs,  
make different assumptions,  
look at different errors

# Different control laws

1. PID control

2. Pure-pursuit control

3. Lyapunov control

4. LQR

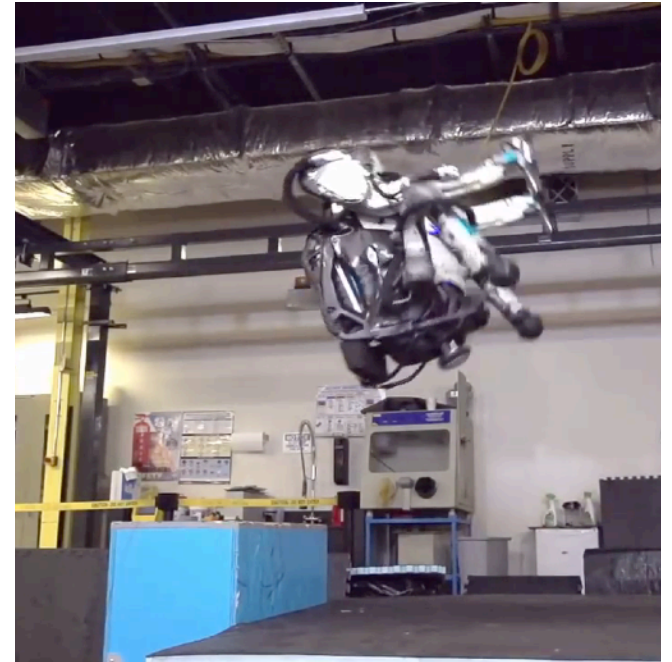
5. MPC

# Proportional–integral–derivative (PID) controller



Used widely in industrial  
control from 1900s

Regulate temp, press, speed etc



Do not try this  
with PID!!!



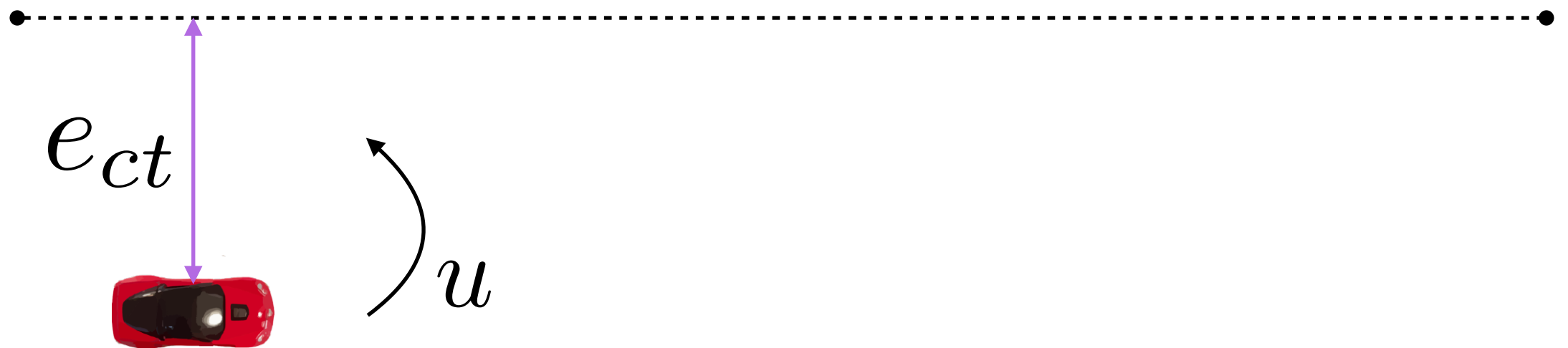
# PID control overview

Select a control law that tries to drive error to zero (and keep it there)



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# Some intuition ...

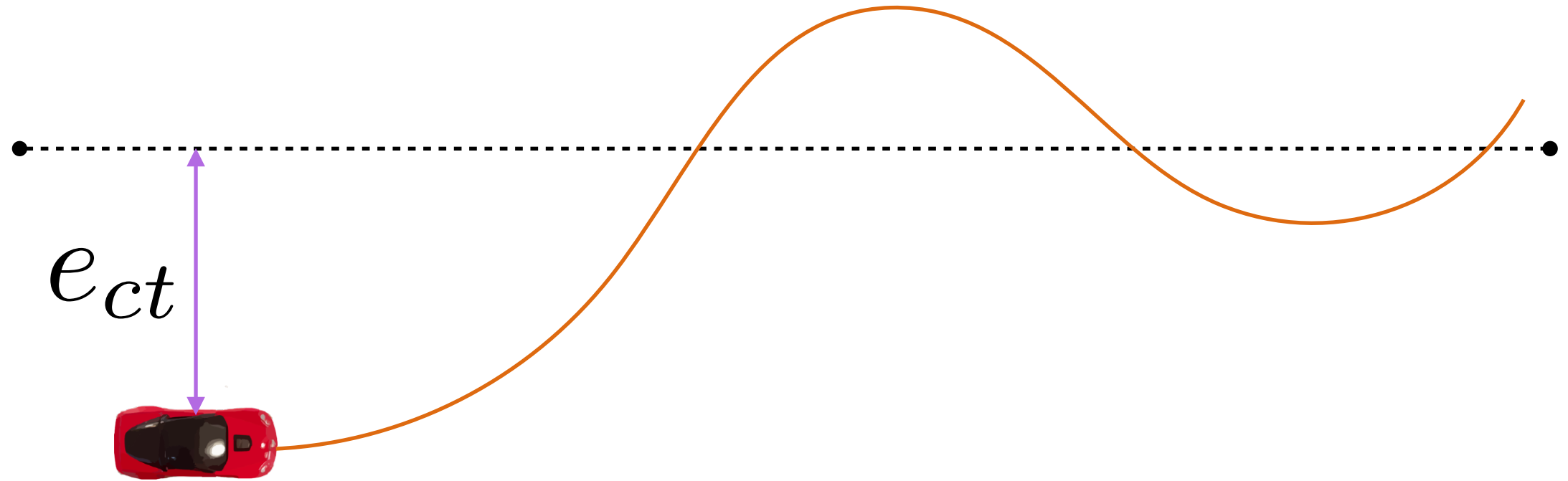
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Proportional - get rid of the current error!

Integral - if I am accumulating error, try harder!

Derivative - if I am going to overshoot, slow down!

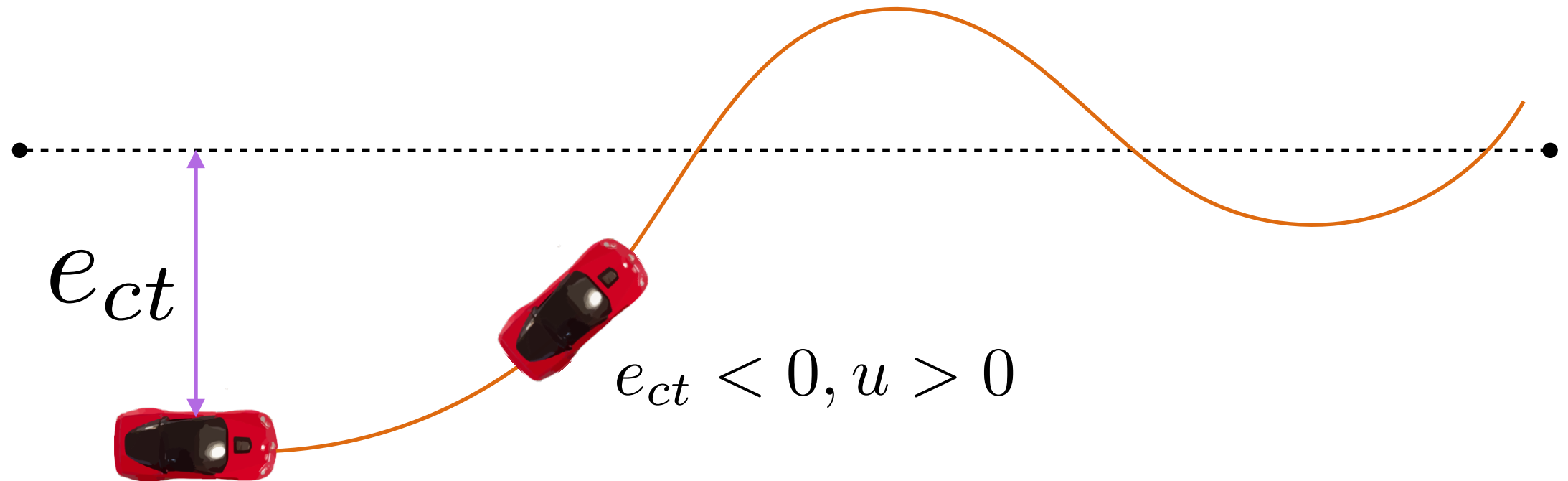
# Proportional control



$$u = -K_p e_{ct}$$

(Gain)

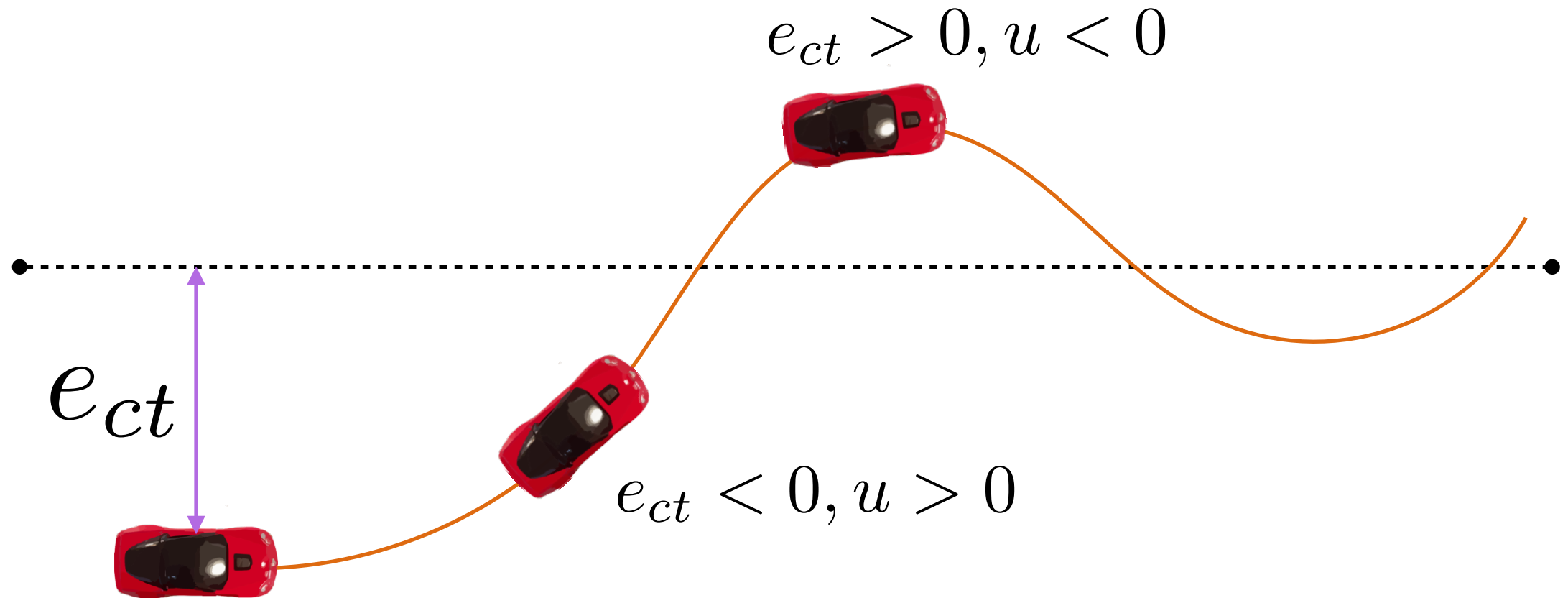
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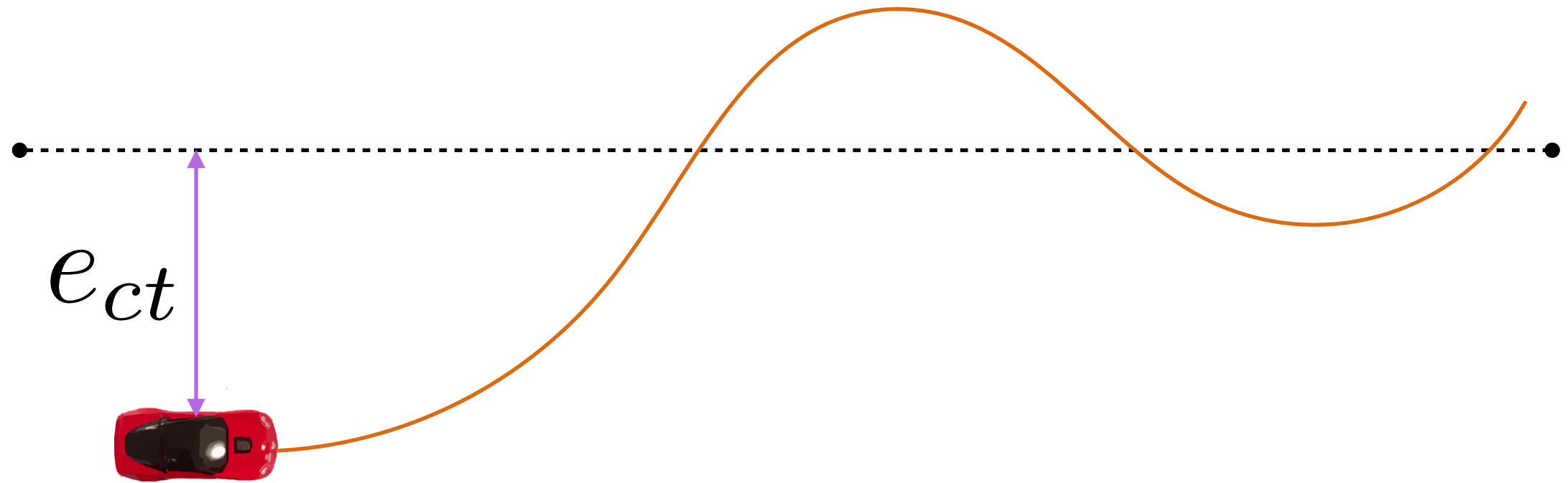
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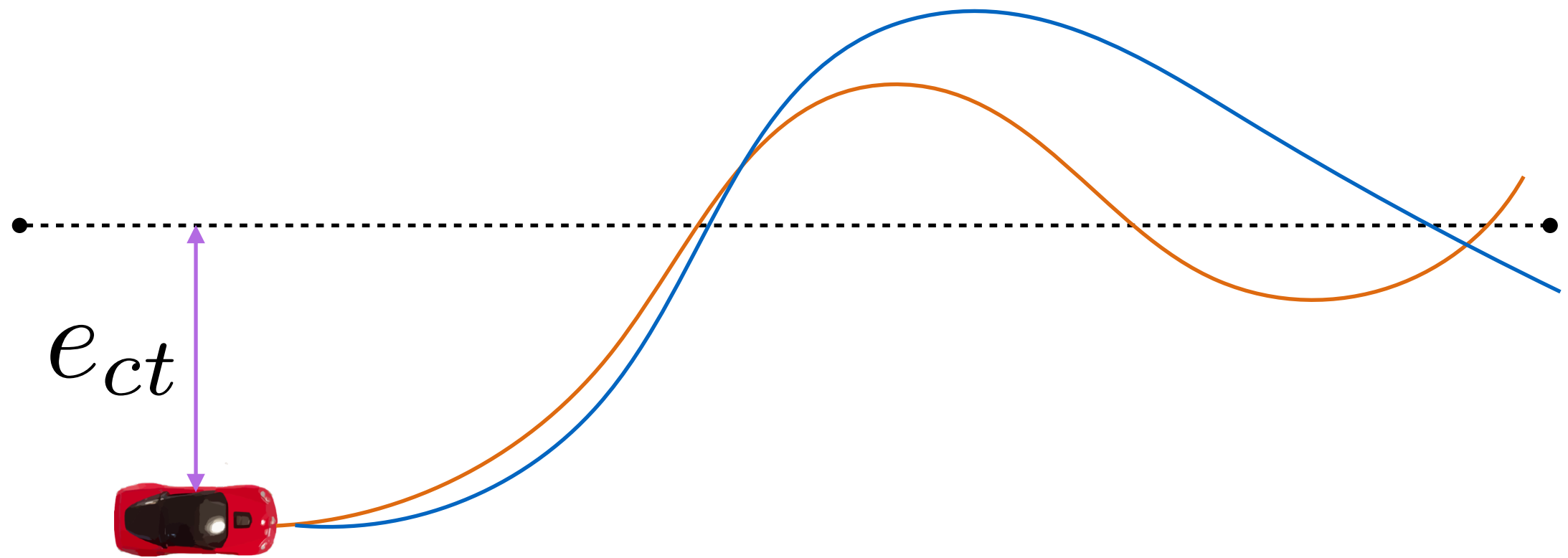
(Gain)

# The proportional gain matters!



What happens when gain is low?

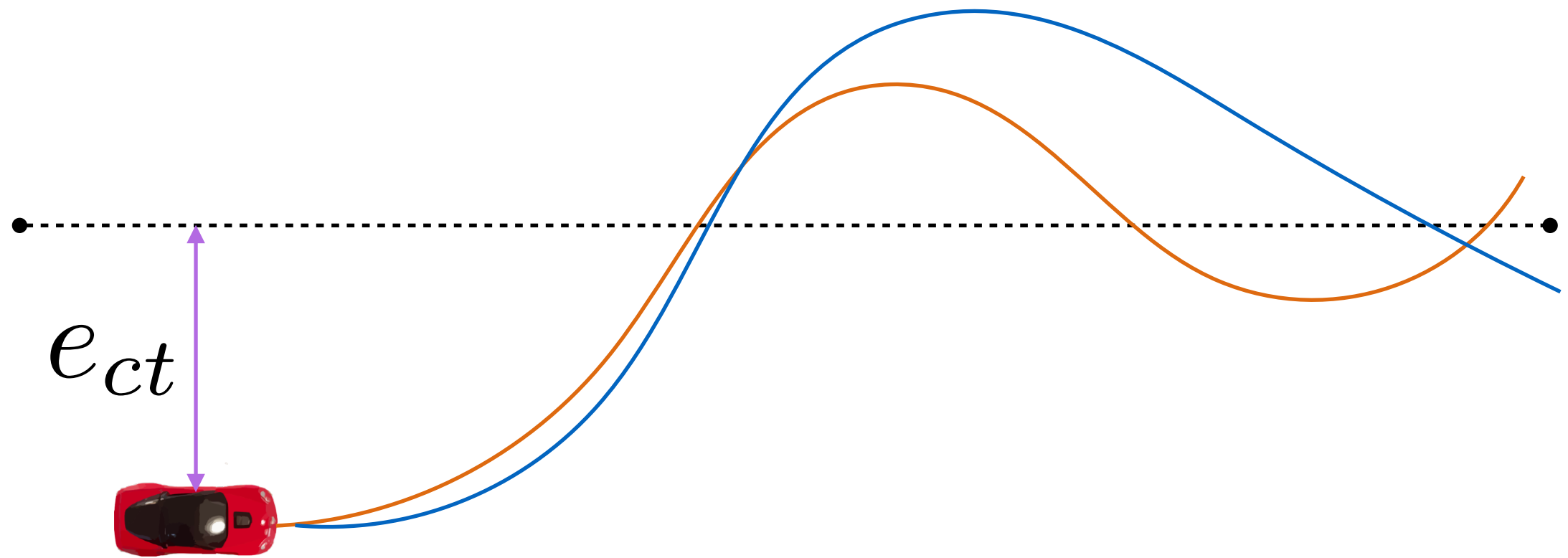
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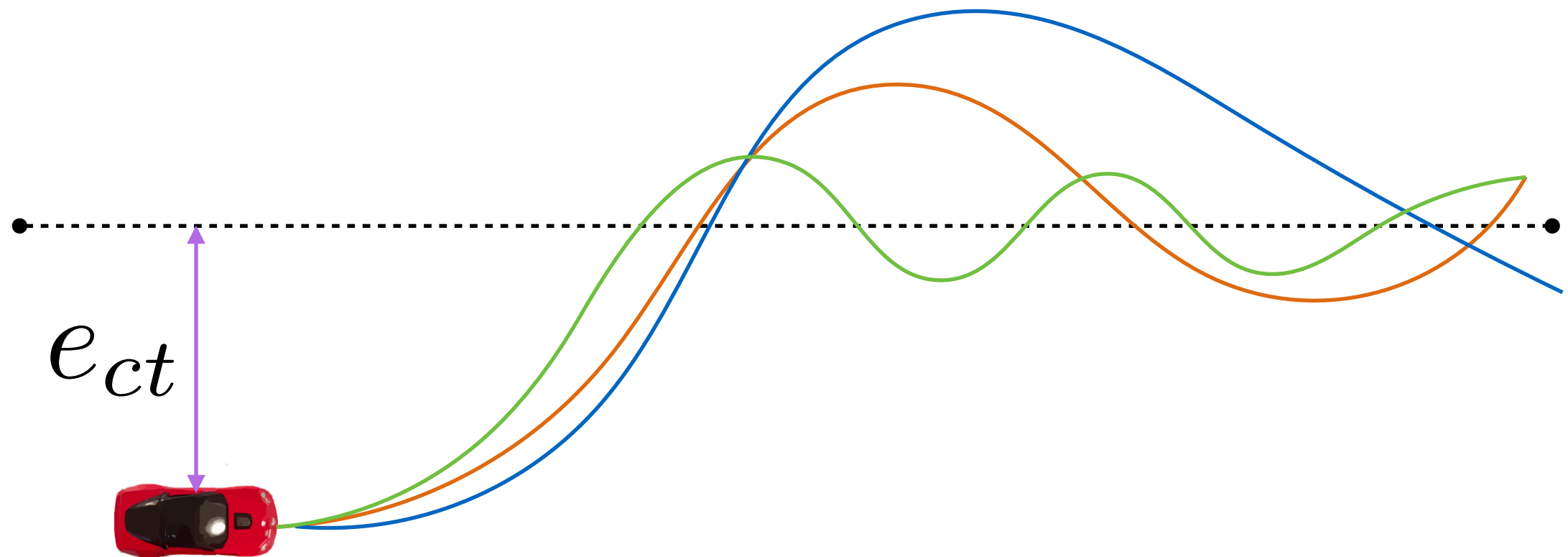
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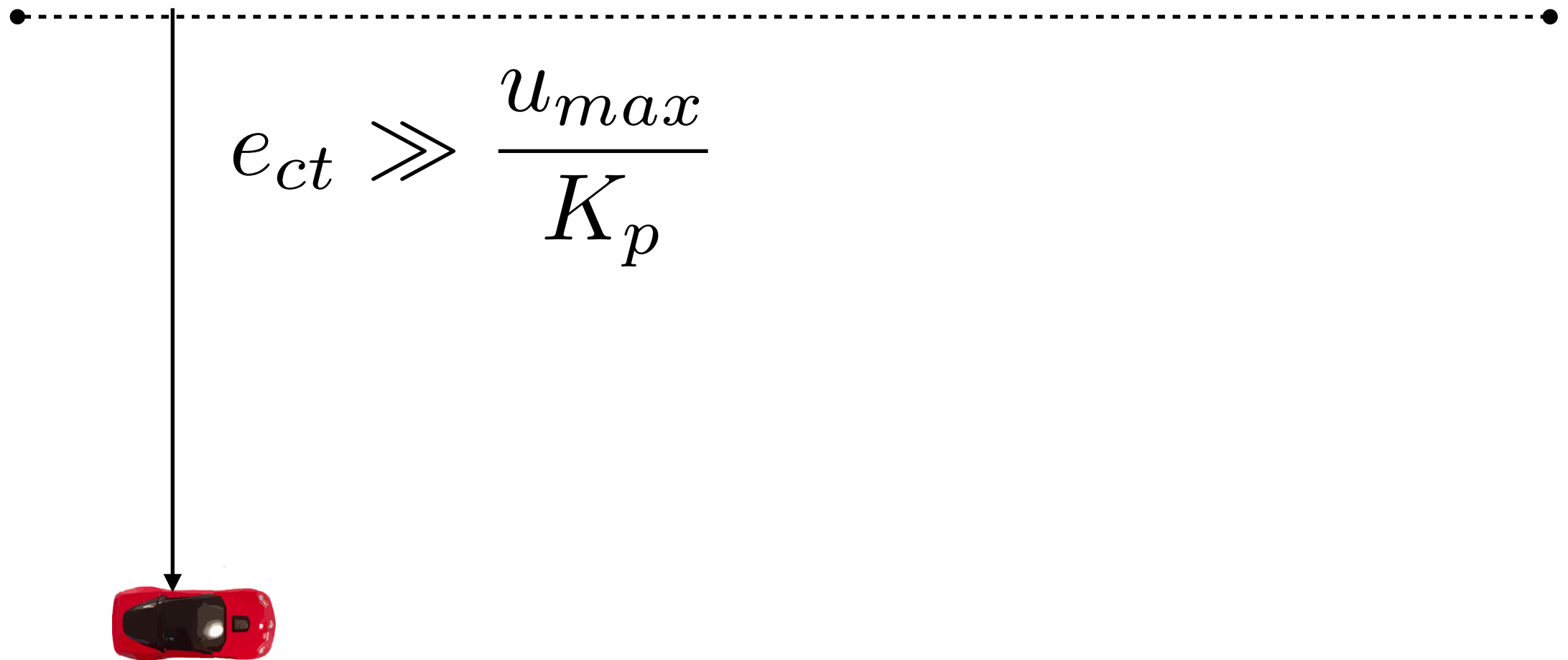


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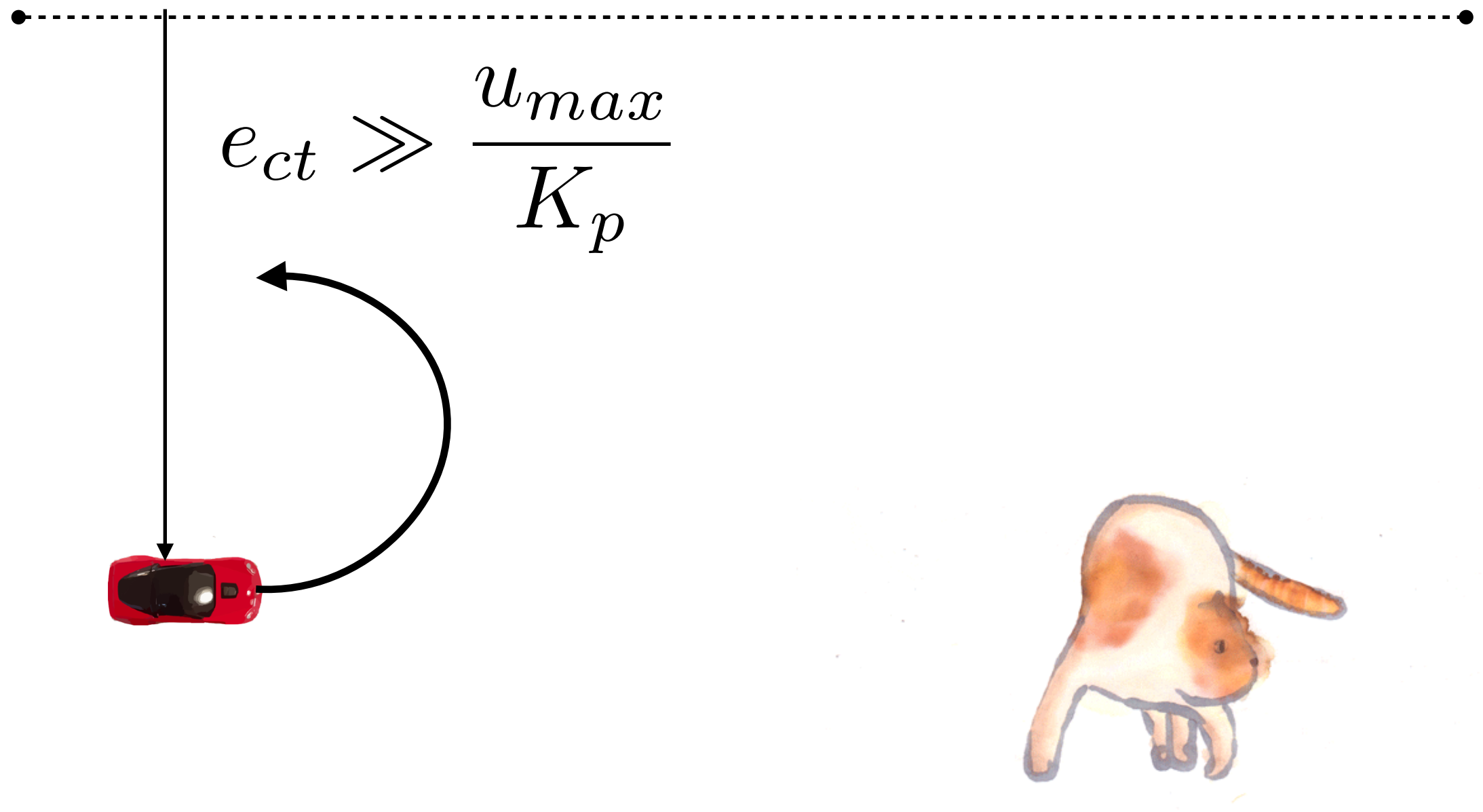
# Proportional term

What happens when gain **is too high**?

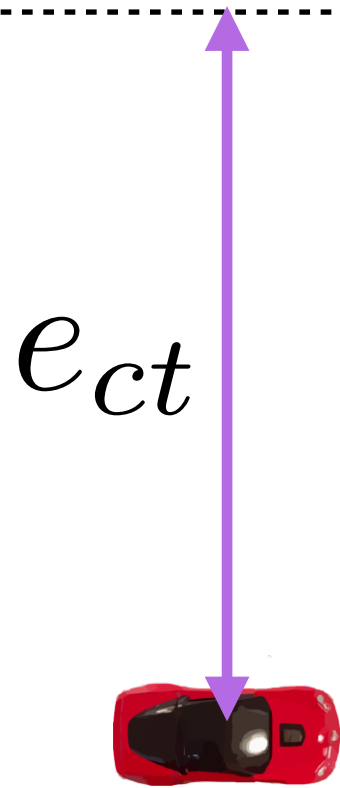


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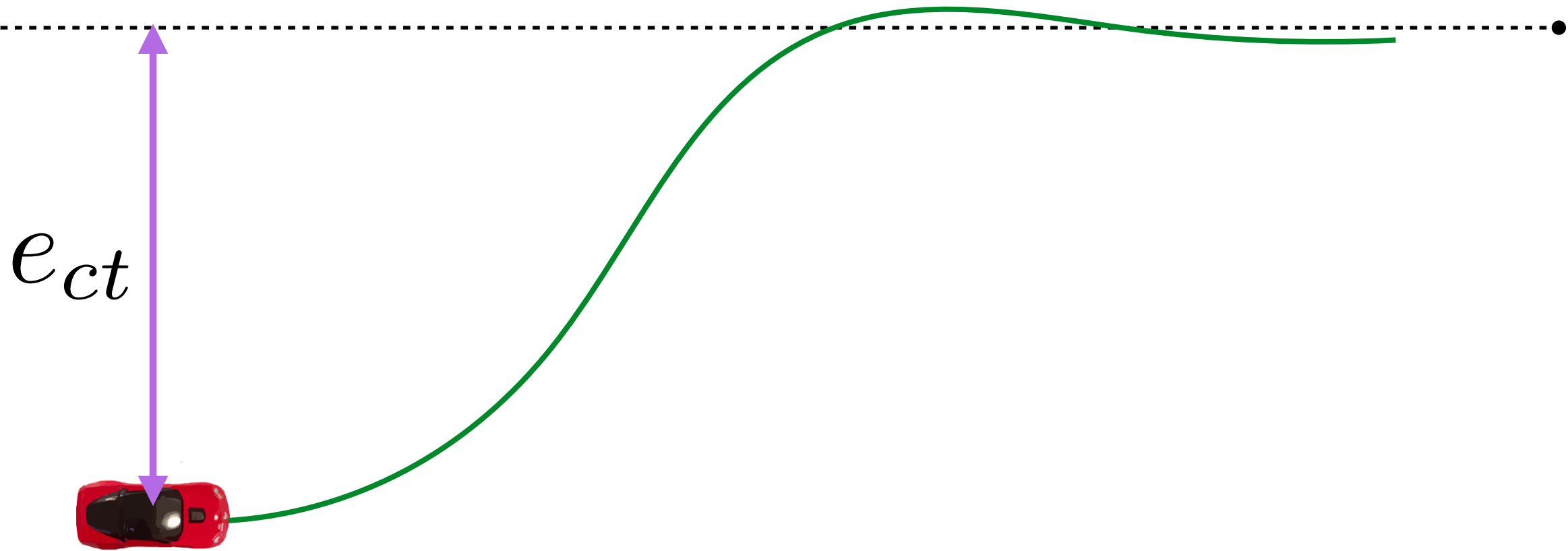


# Proportional derivative control



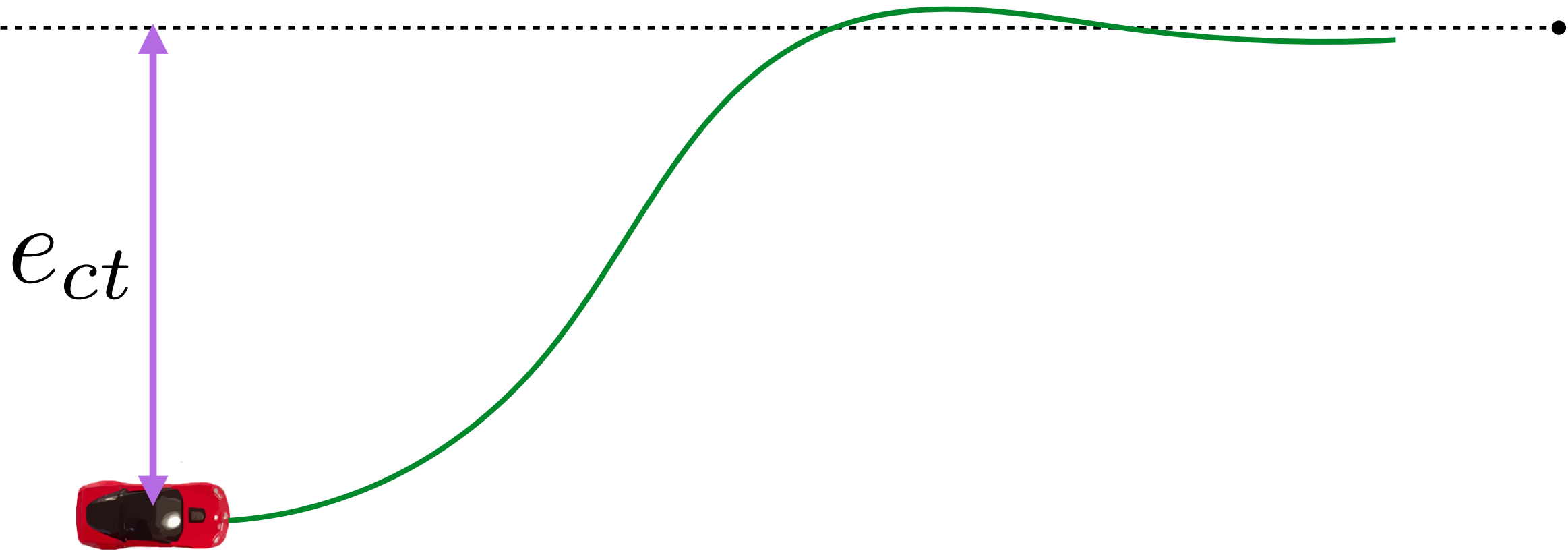
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# Proportional derivative control



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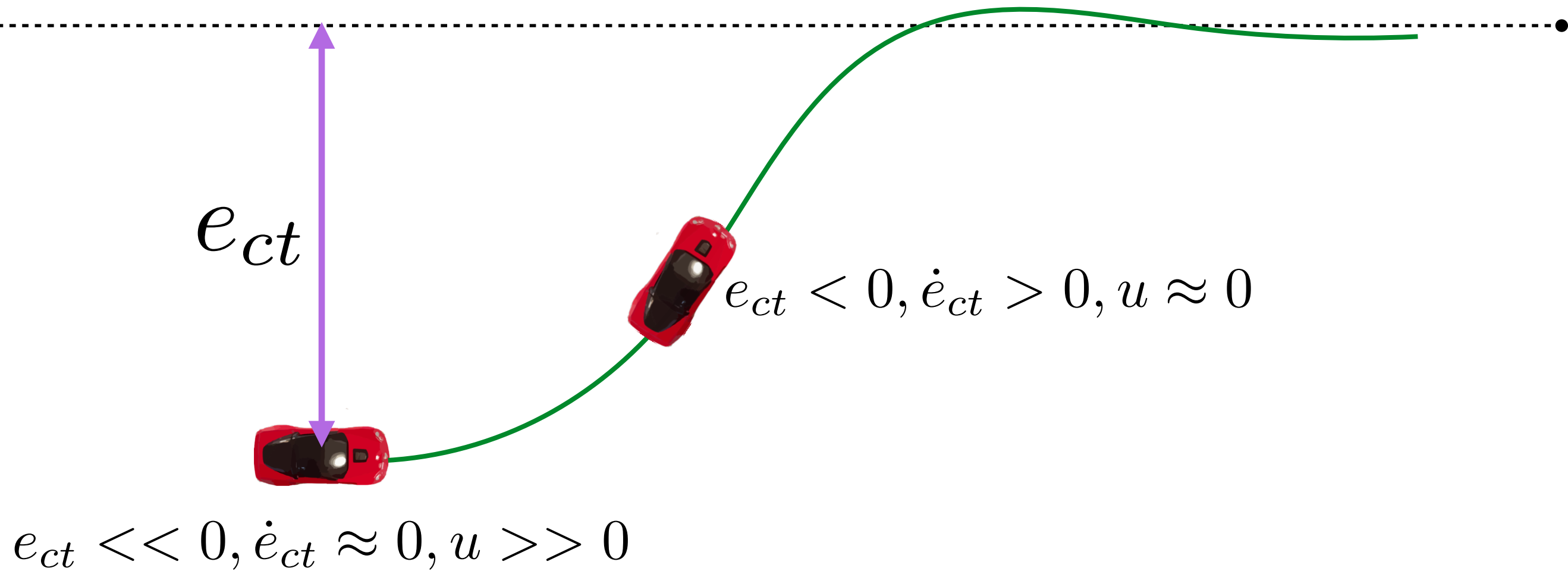
# Proportional **derivative** control



$$e_{ct} \ll 0, \dot{e}_{ct} \approx 0, u \gg 0$$

$$u = - (K_p e_{ct} + K_d \dot{e}_{ct})$$

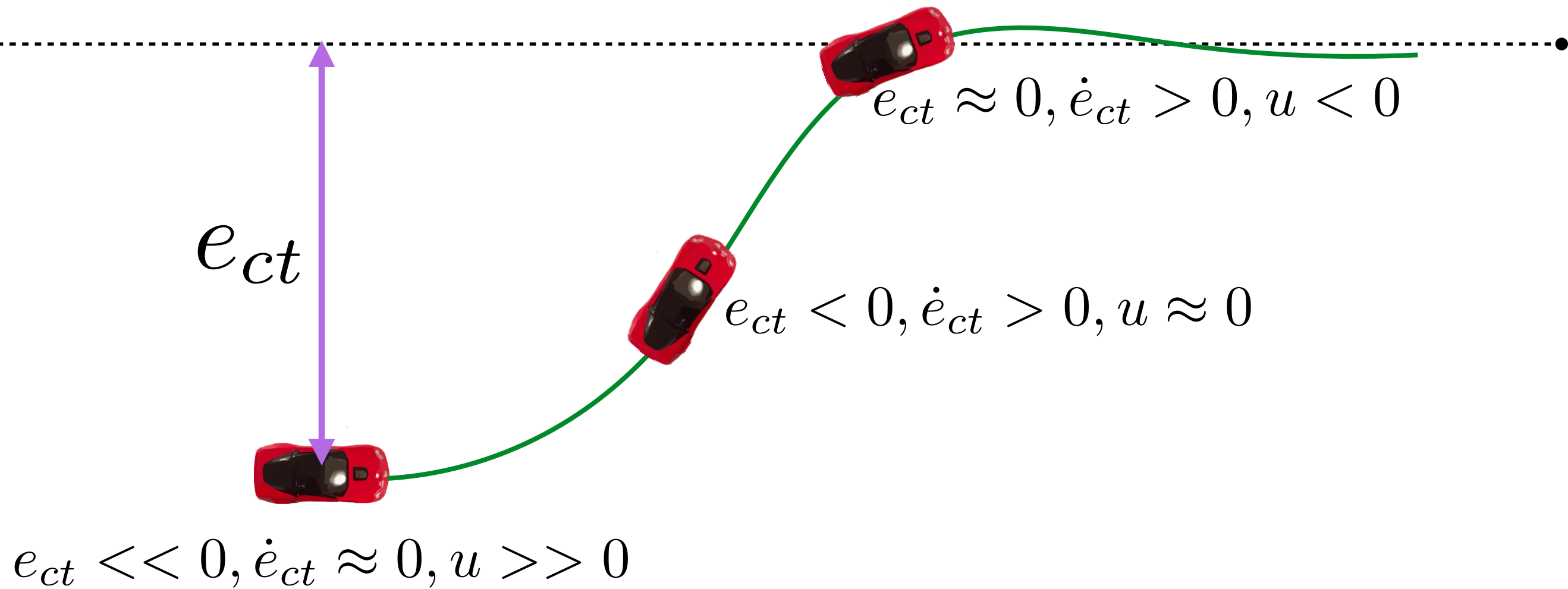
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$$\begin{aligned}\dot{e}_{ct} &= -\sin(\theta_{ref})\dot{x} + \cos(\theta_{ref})\dot{y} \\ &= -\sin(\theta_{ref})V \cos(\theta) + \cos(\theta_{ref})V \sin(\theta) \\ &= V \sin(\theta - \theta_{ref}) = V \sin(\theta_e)\end{aligned}$$

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New control law! Penalize error in cross track **and in heading**

$$u = - (K_p e_{ct} + K_d V \sin \theta_e)$$

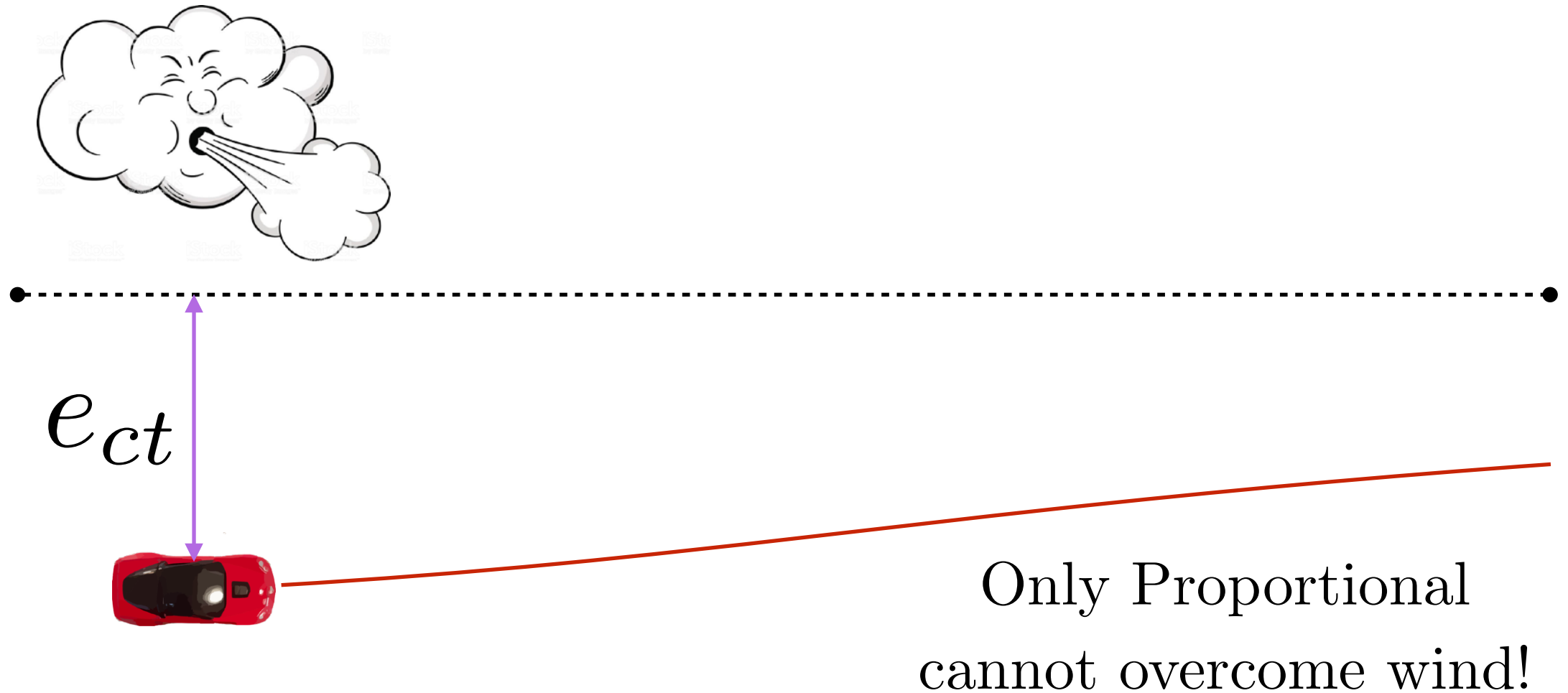
# Proportional **integral** control



$$u = - \left( K_p e_{ct} + K_i \int e_{ct}(t) dt \right)$$

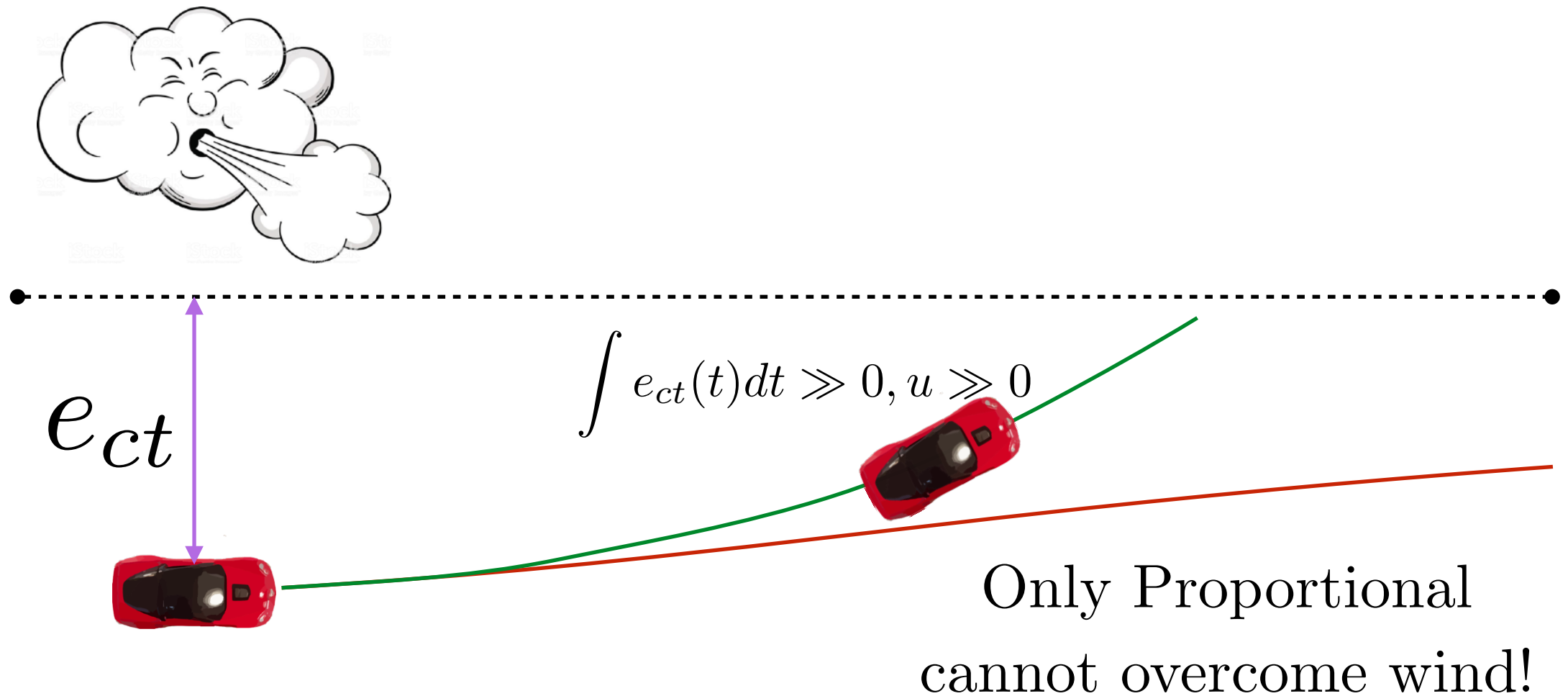


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# Different control laws

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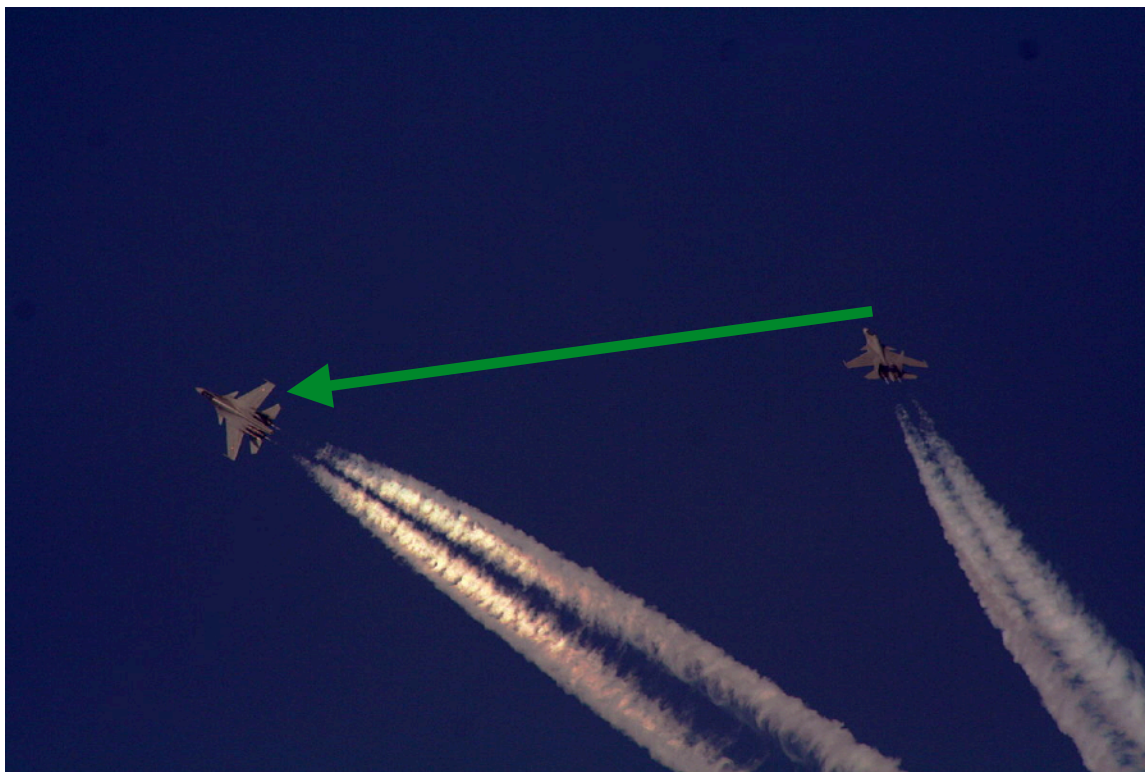
2. Pure-pursuit control

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# Pure Pursuit Control



Aerial combat in which aircraft **pursues** another aircraft by pointing its nose directly towards it

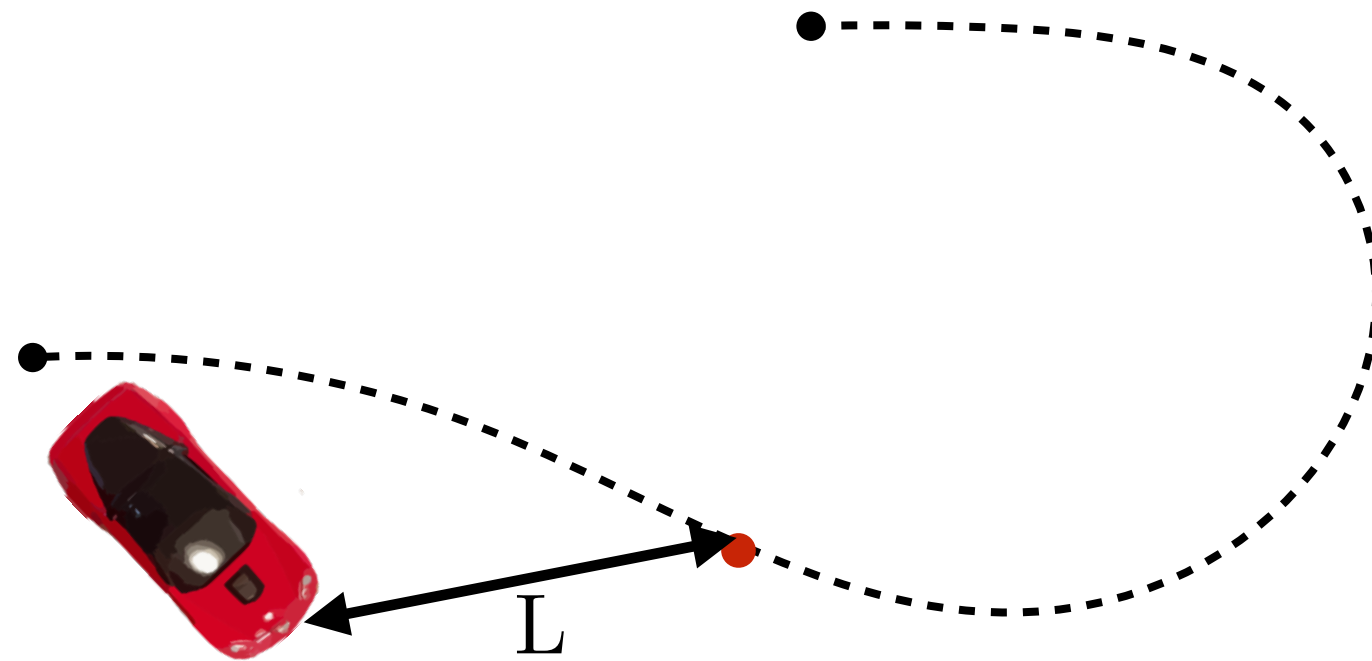


Similar to  
carrot on a stick!

Key Idea:

The car is **always** moving  
in a circular arc

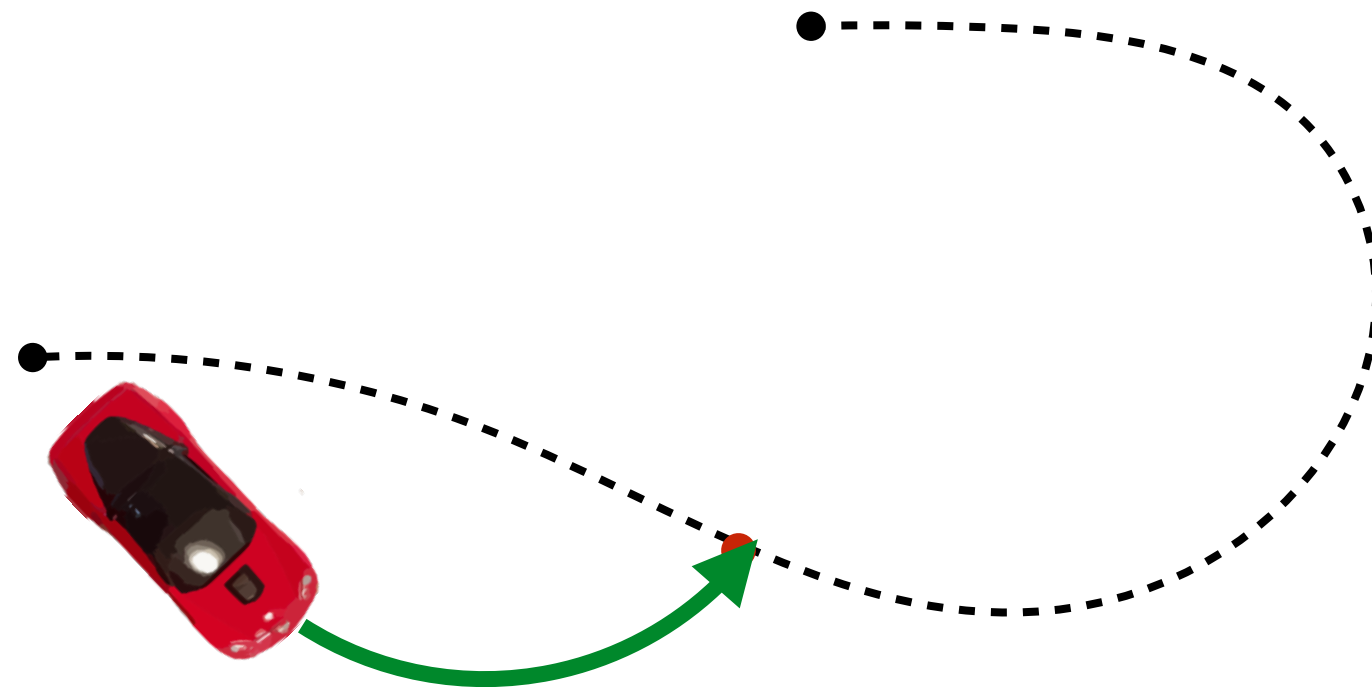
# Consider a reference at a lookahead distance



$$\left\| \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} x_{ref} \\ y_{ref} \end{bmatrix} \right\| = L$$

**Problem:** Can we solve for a steering angle that guarantees that the car will pass through the reference?

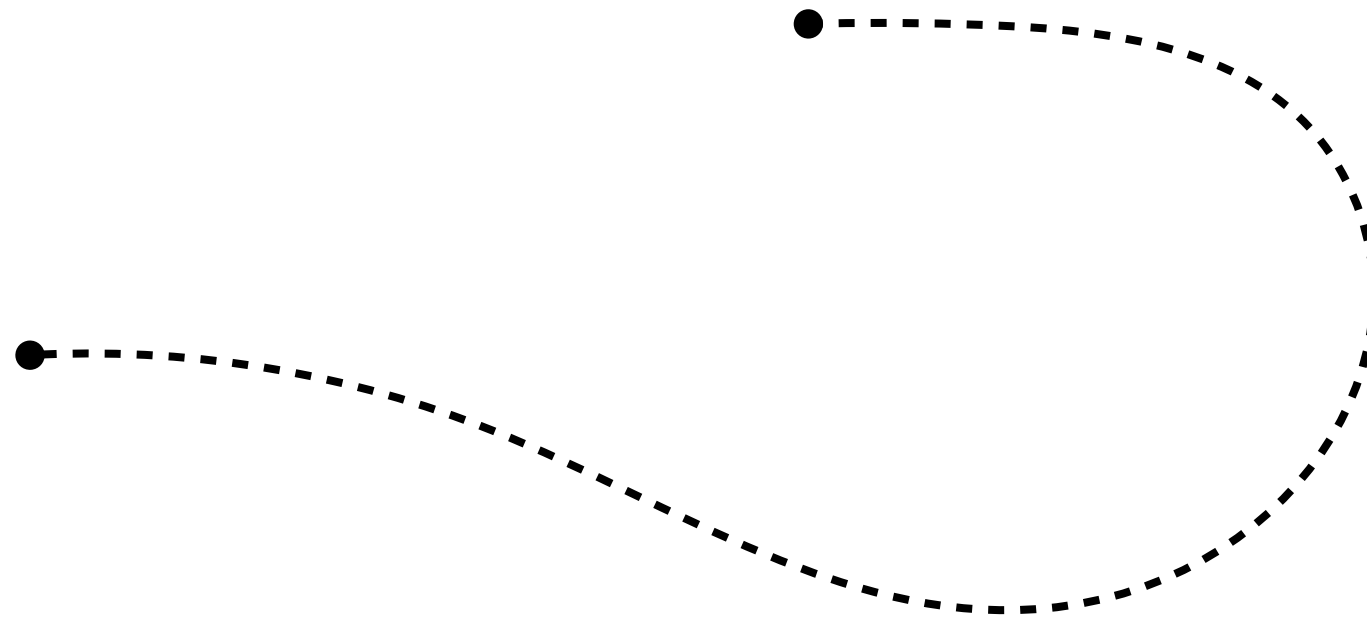
# Solution: Compute a circular arc



We can always solve for a arc that passes through a lookahead point

**Note:** As the car moves forward, the point keeps moving

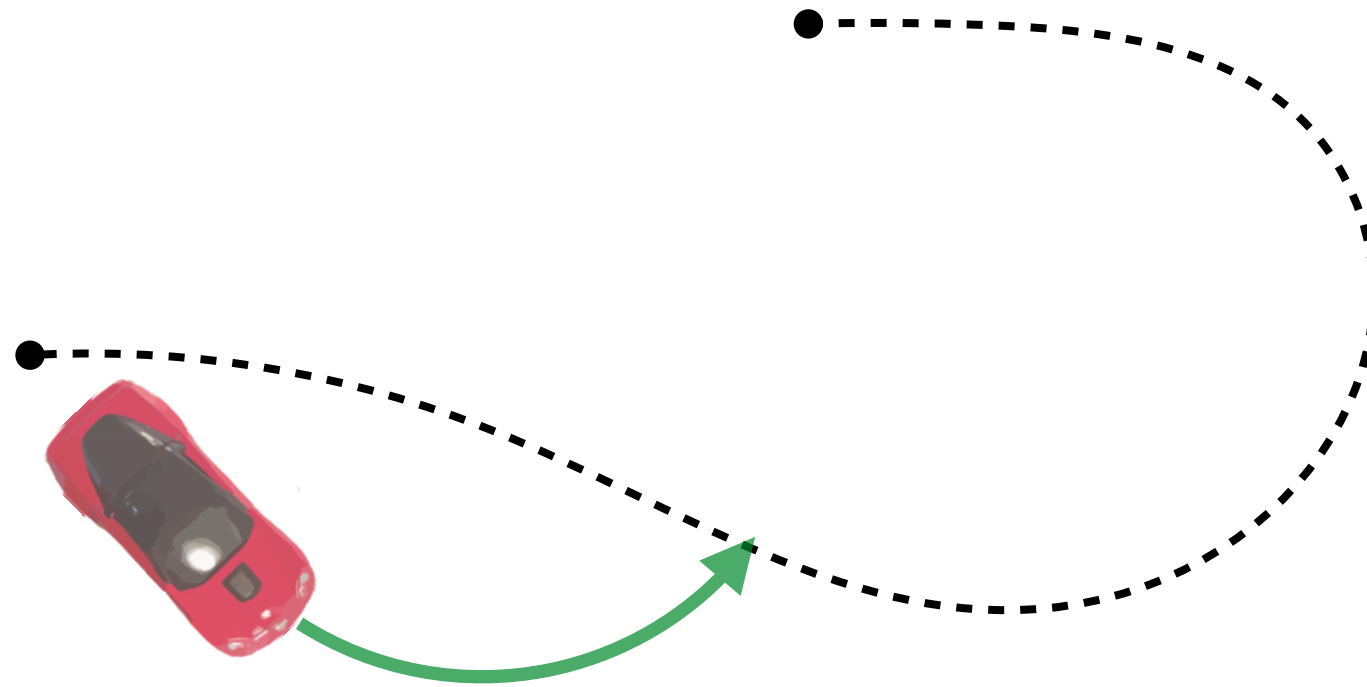
# Pure pursuit: Keep chasing lookahead



1. Find a lookahead and compute arc
2. Move along the arc
3. Go to step 1

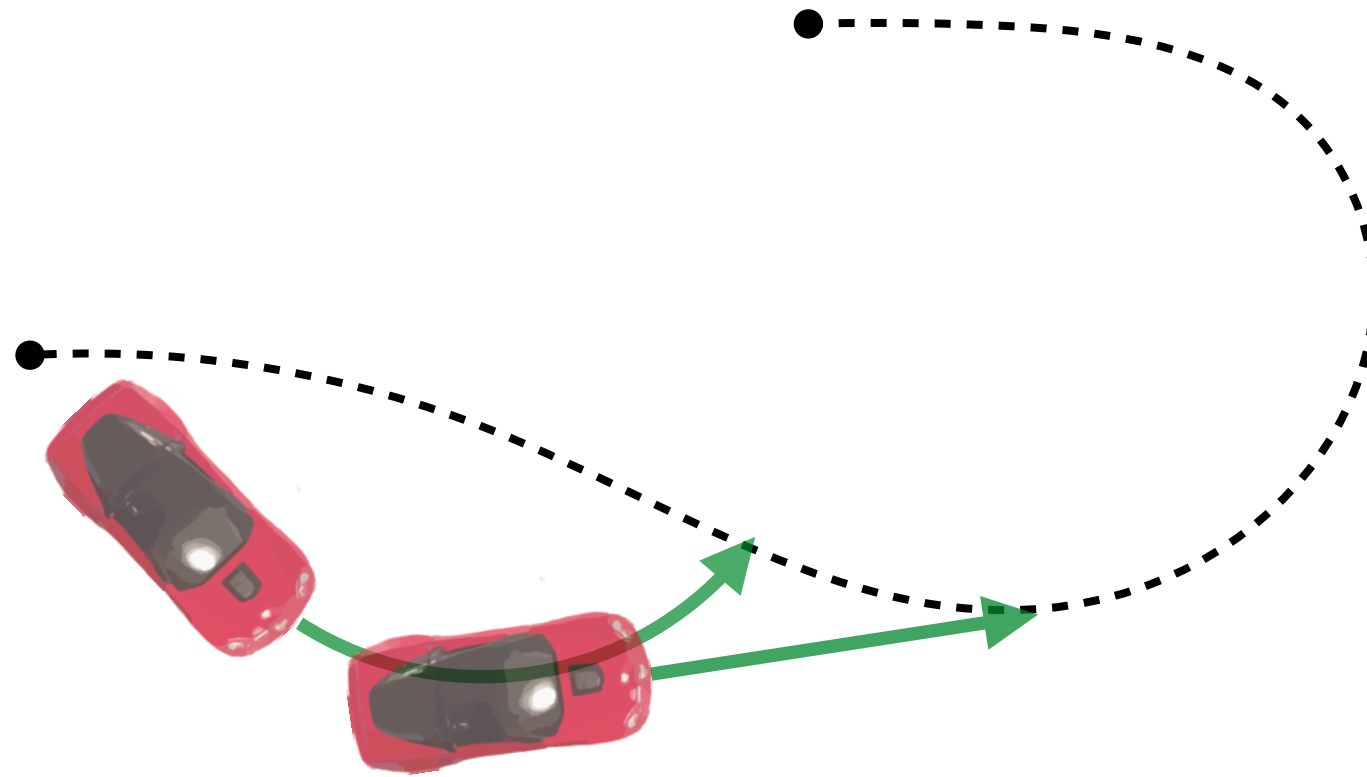


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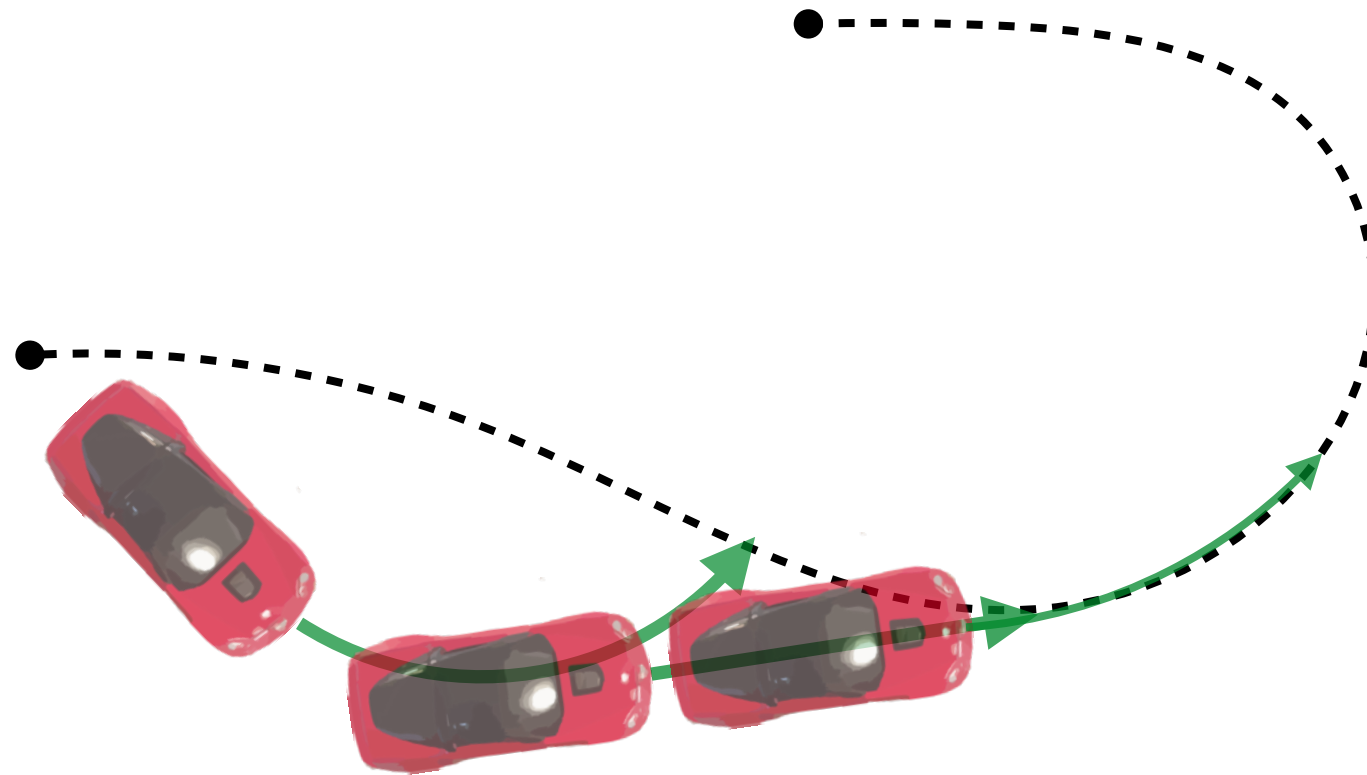
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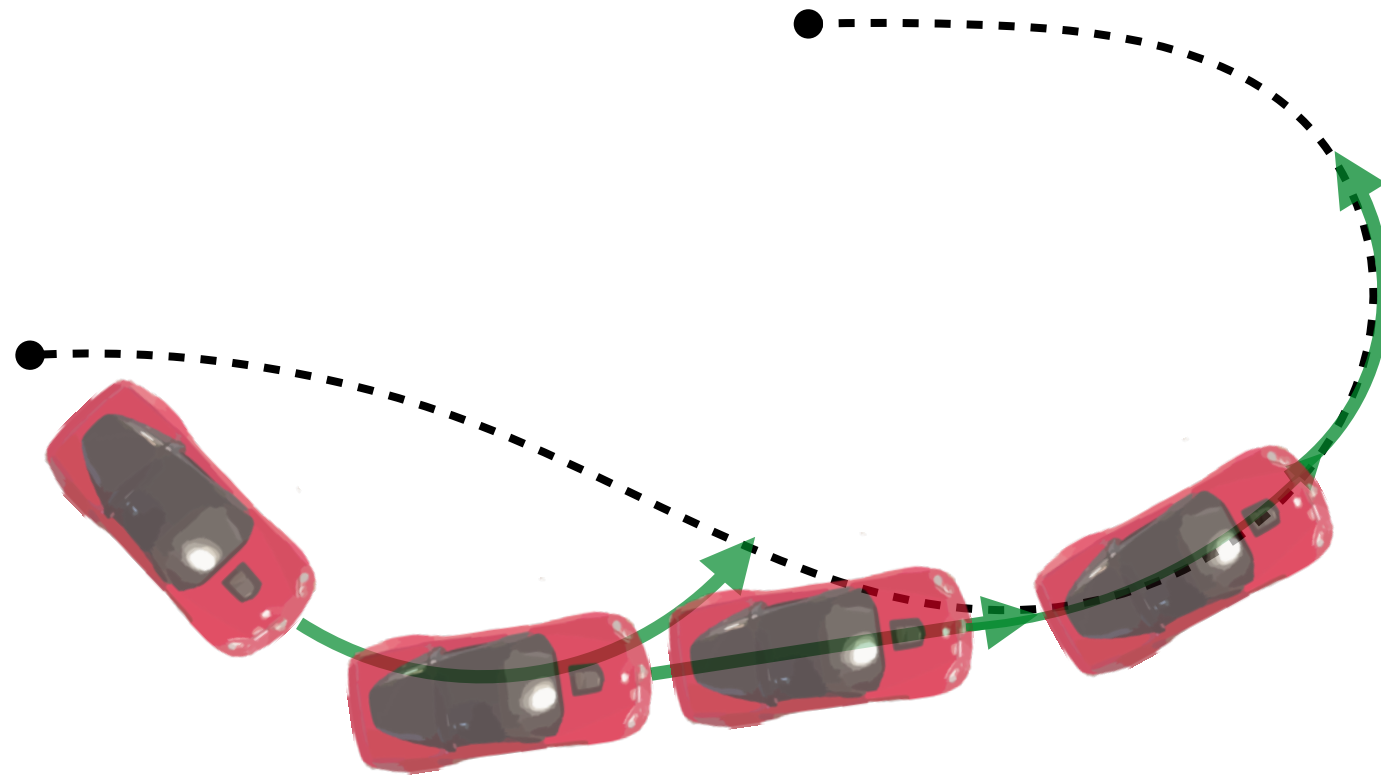
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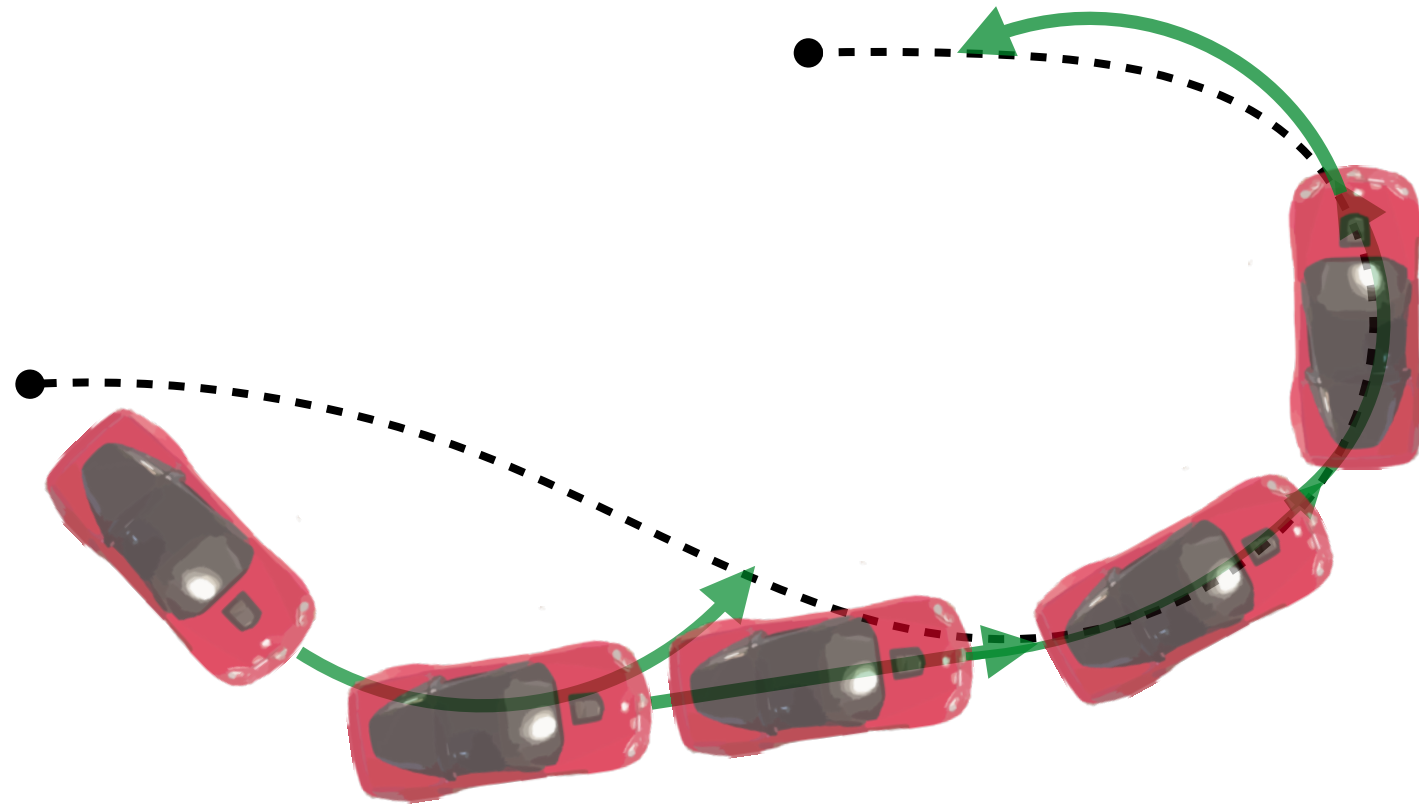
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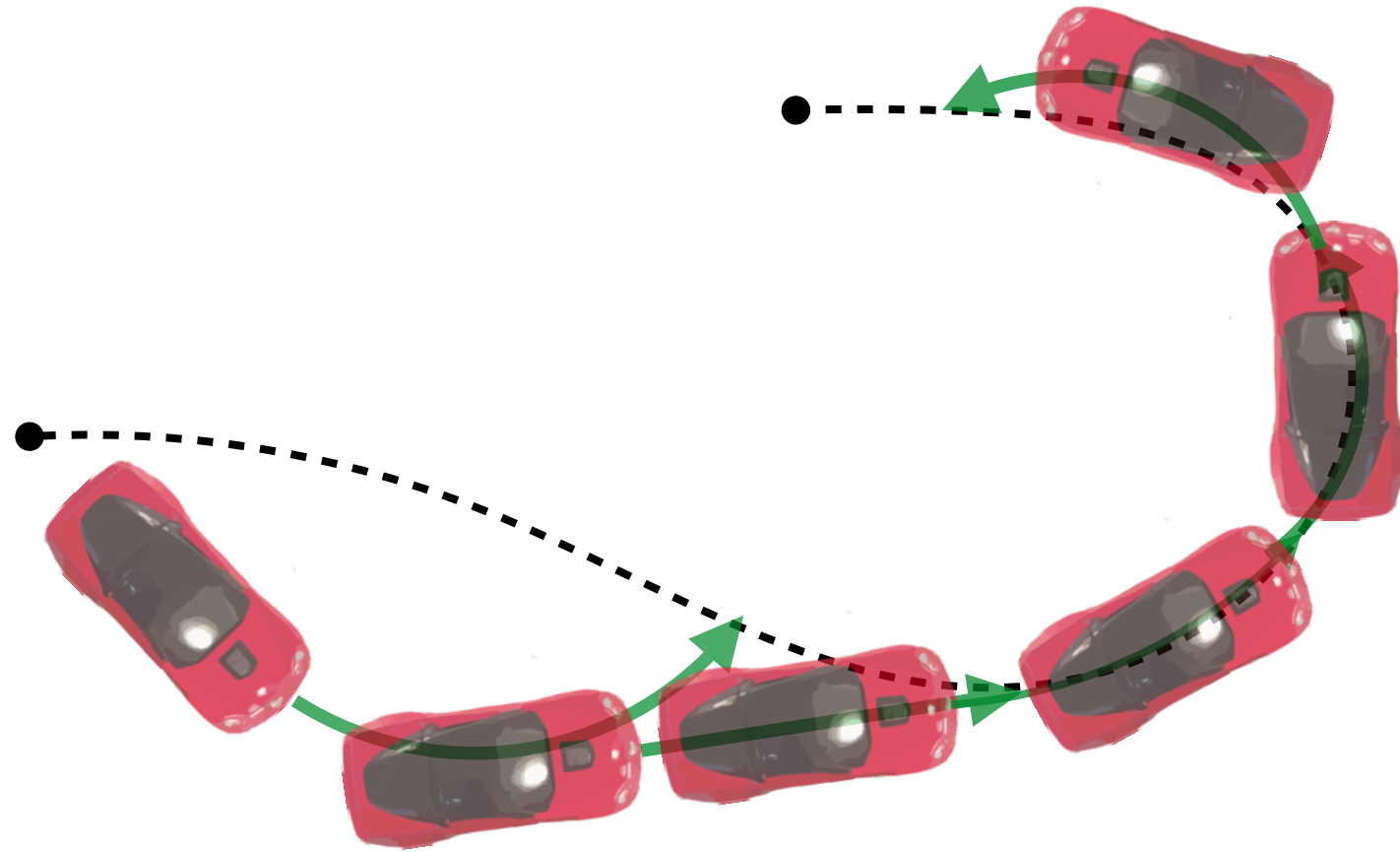
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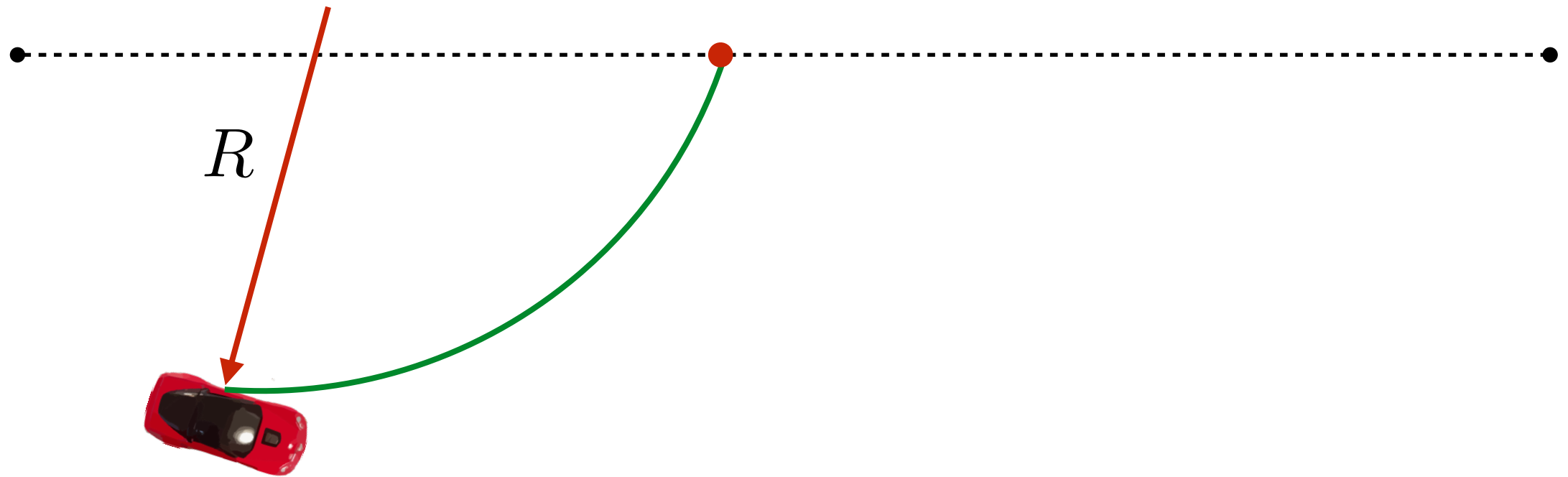
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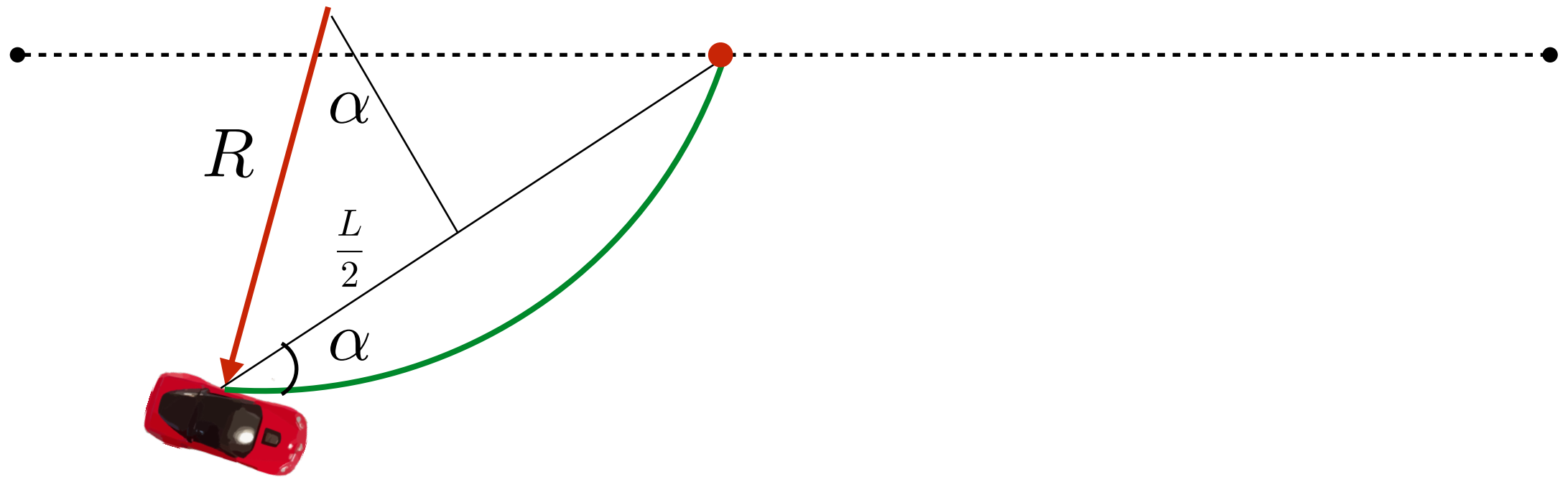


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# Control law derivation: Solve for arc

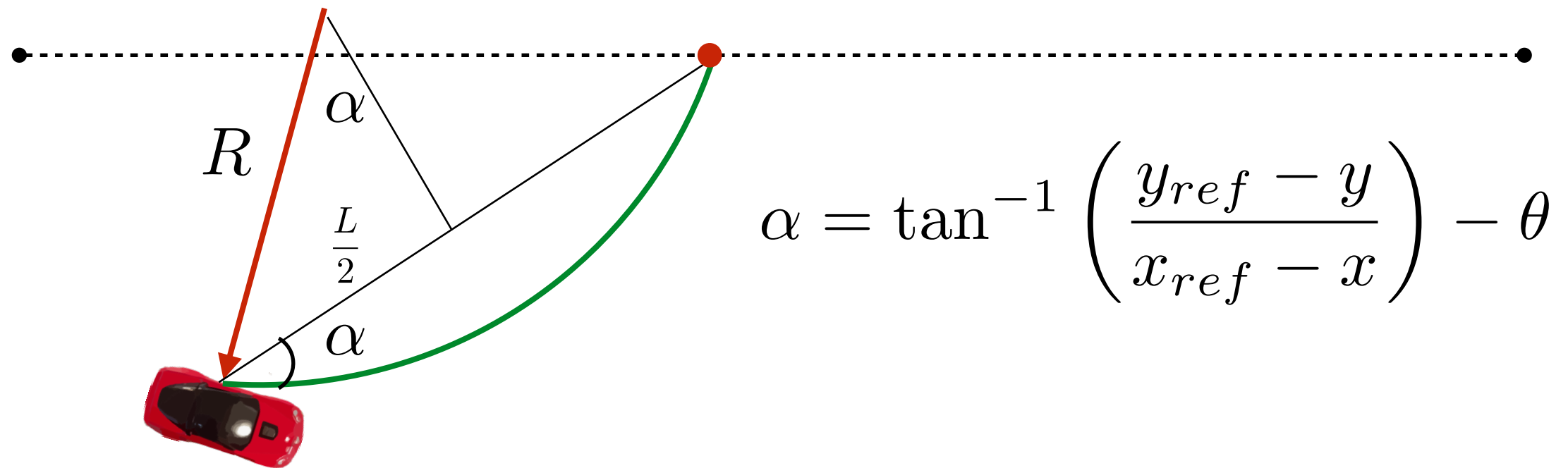


# Control law derivation: Solve for arc

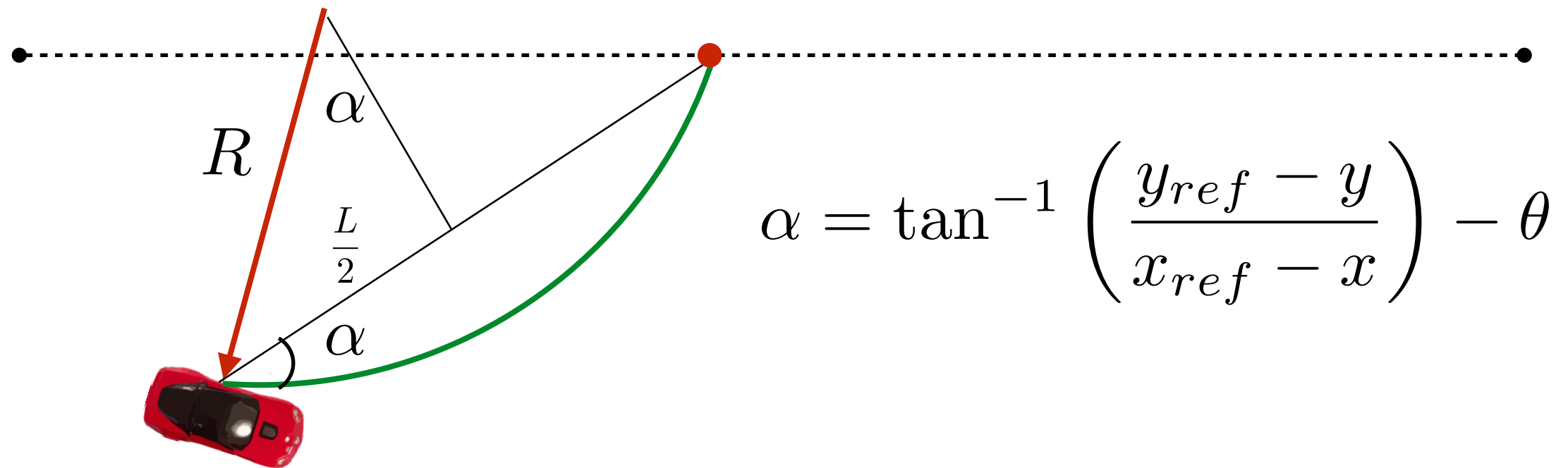




# Control law derivation: Solve for arc



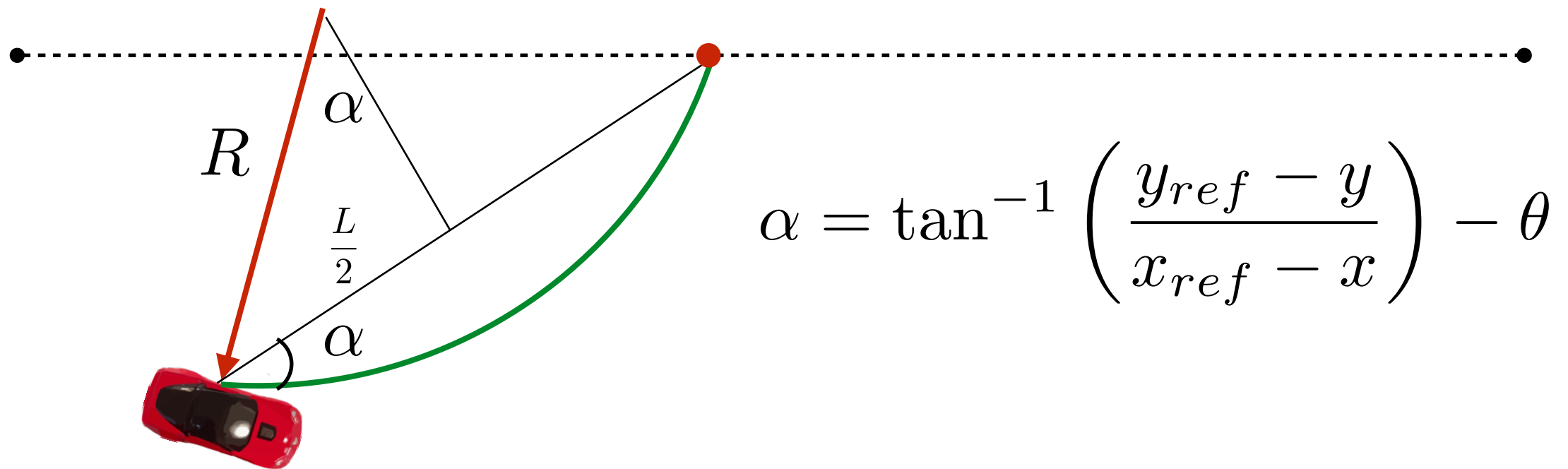
# Control law derivation: Solve for arc



$$\alpha = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{y_{ref} - y}{x_{ref} - x} \right) - \theta$$

$$\sin \alpha = \frac{L}{2R}$$

# Control law derivation: Solve for arc

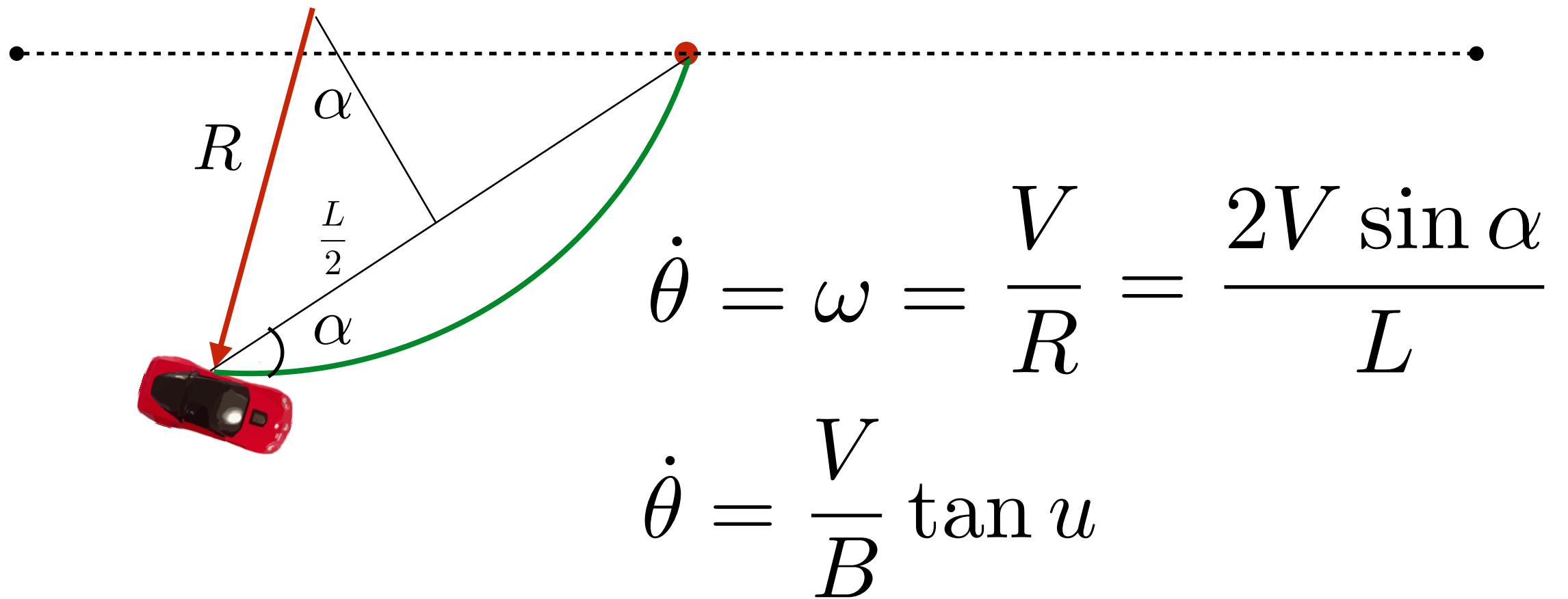


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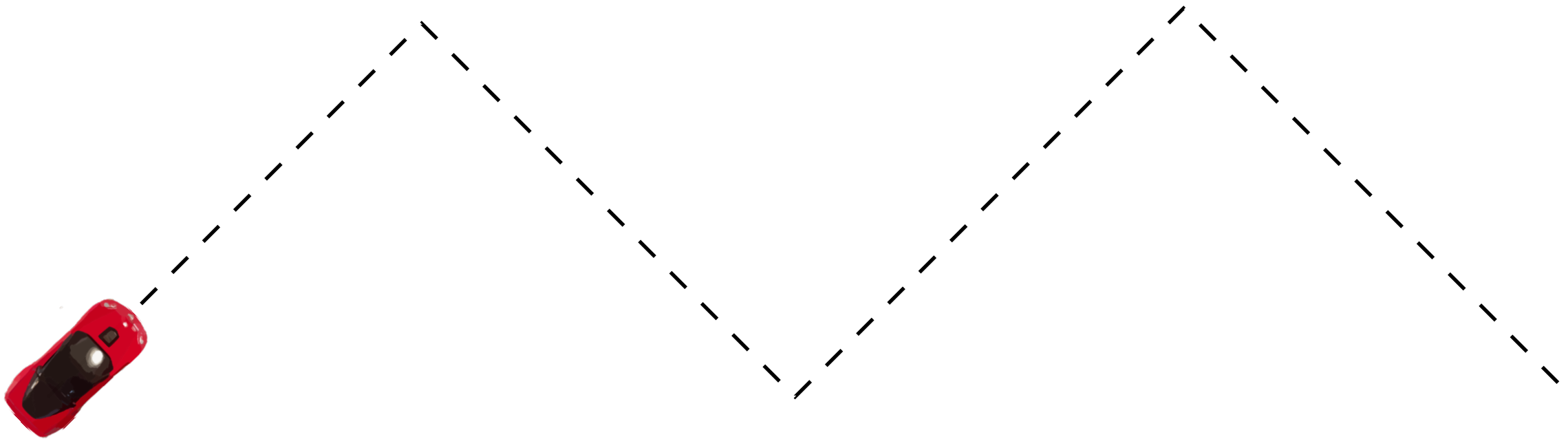
$$R = \frac{L}{2 \sin \alpha}$$

# Control law derivation

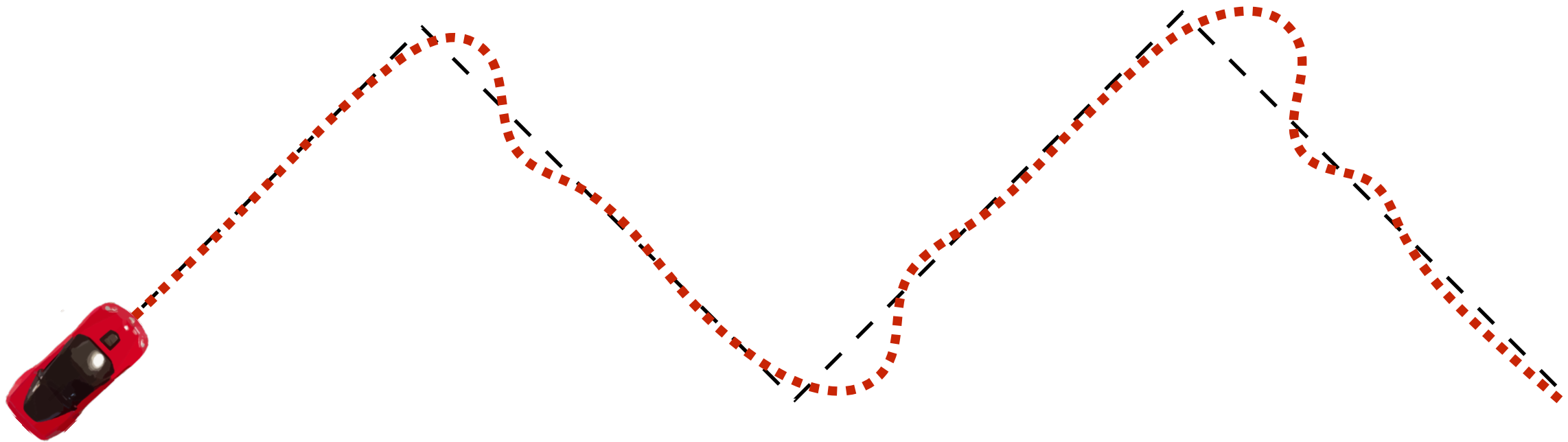


$$u = \tan^{-1} \left( \frac{2B \sin \alpha}{L} \right)$$

# Question: How do I choose L?



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