

# 11 - Designing Interpolating Curves

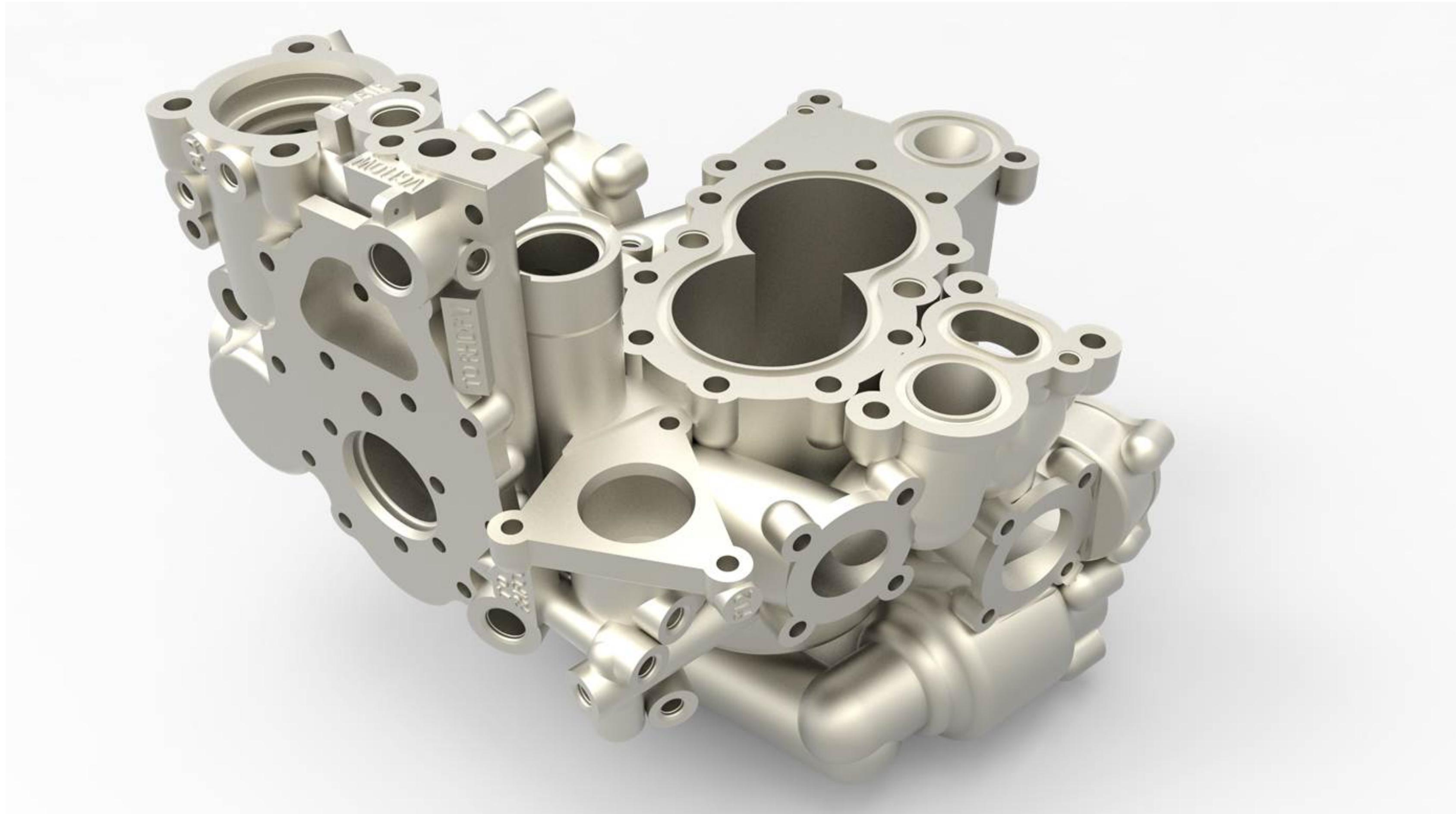
Acknowledgement: Daniele Panozzo, Olga Sorkine-Hornung,  
Alexander Sorkine-Hornung, Ilya Baran

CAP 5726 - Computer Graphics - Fall 18 – Xifeng Gao



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# How do we model shapes?

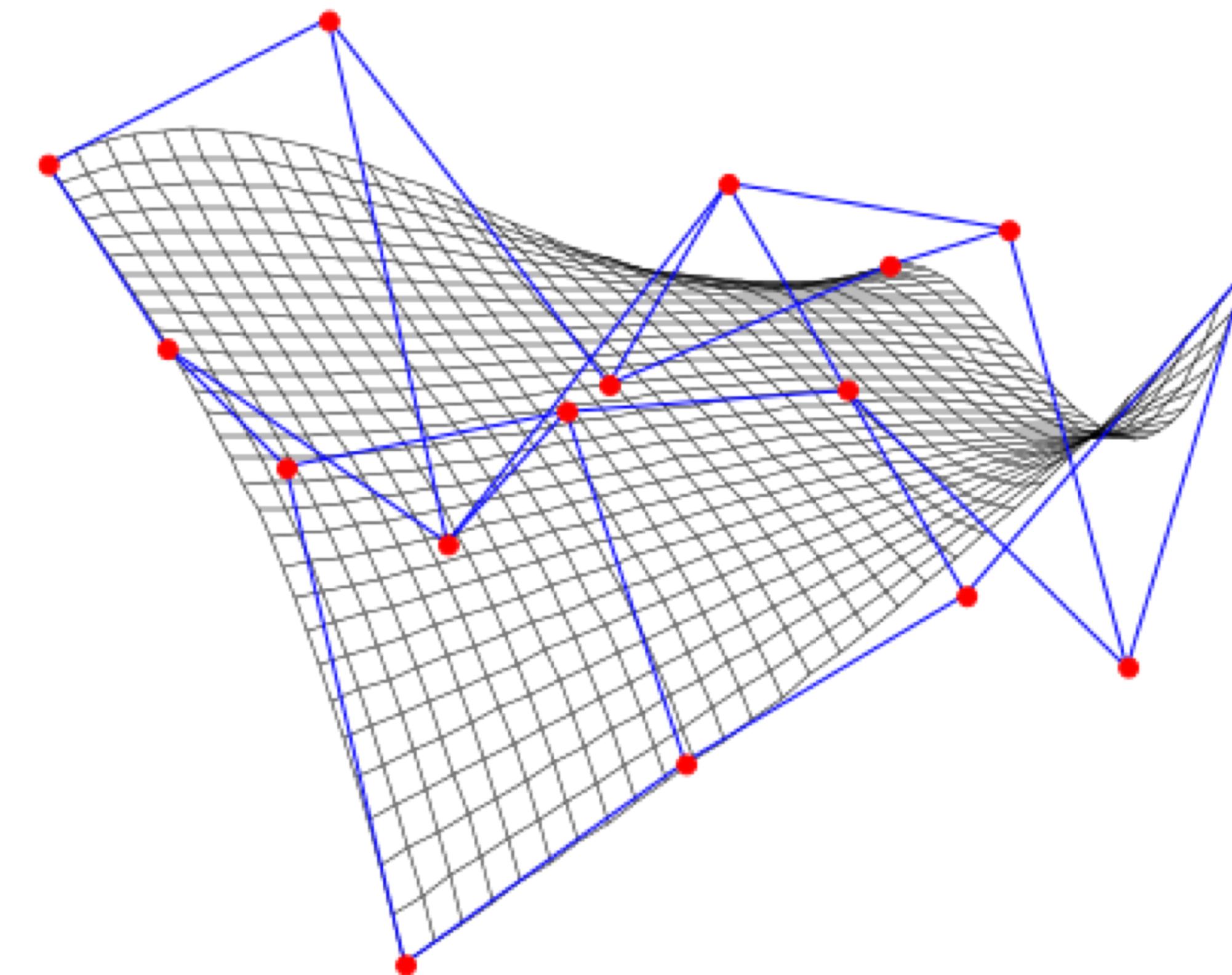
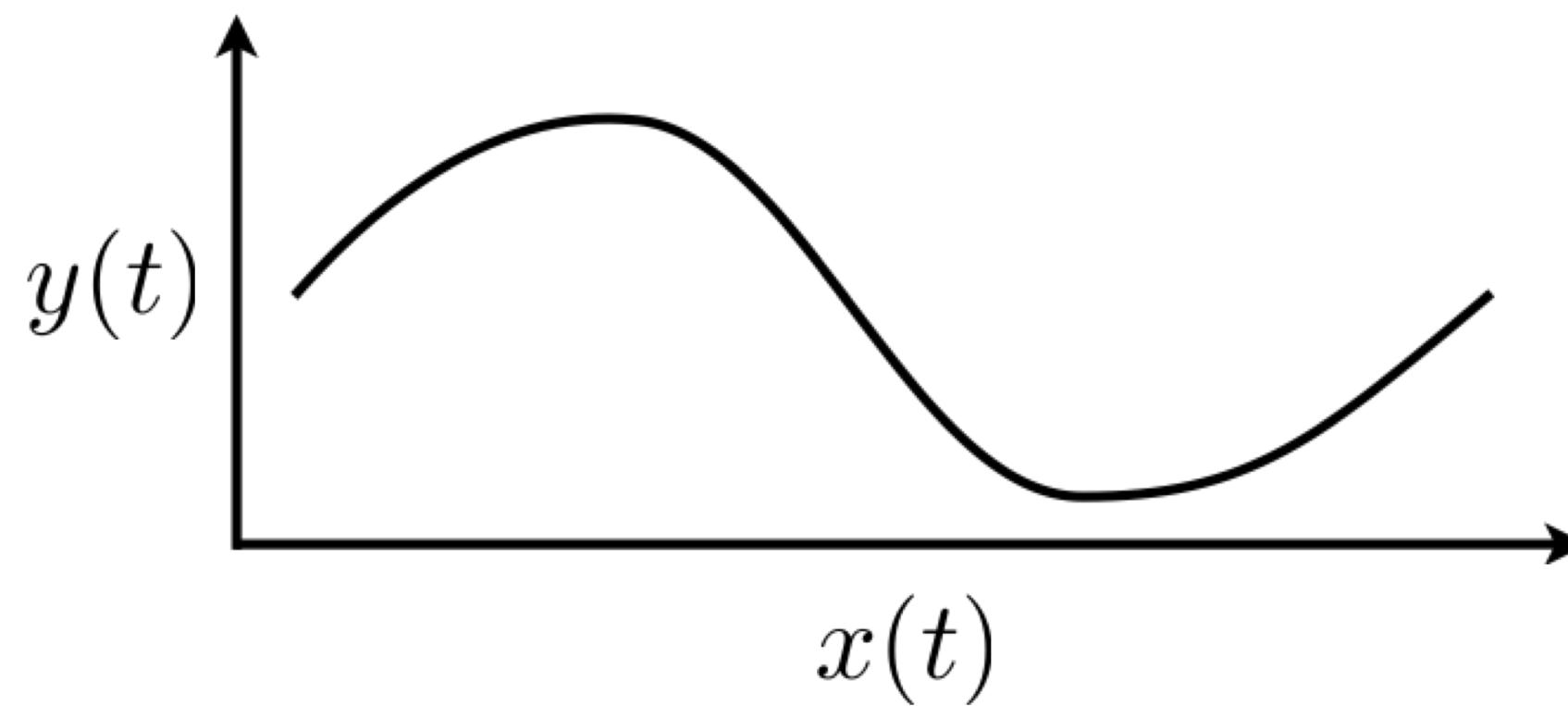


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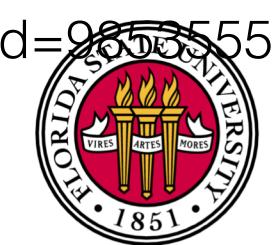


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# Building blocks: curves and surfaces



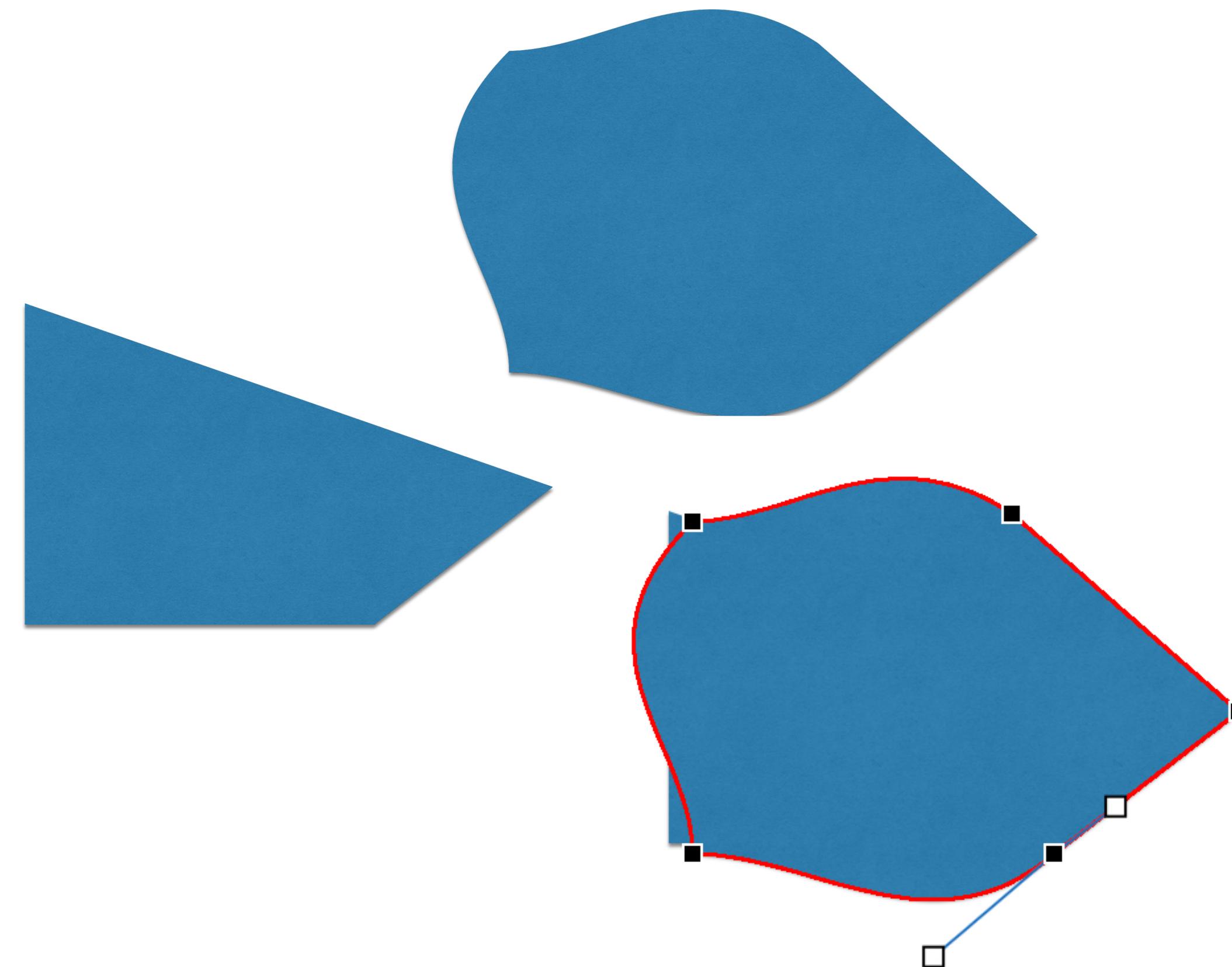
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# A modeling session

- Demo with PowerPoint



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# Modeling curves

- We need **mathematical concepts** to characterize the desired curve properties
- Notions from **curve geometry** help with designing user interfaces for curve creation and editing

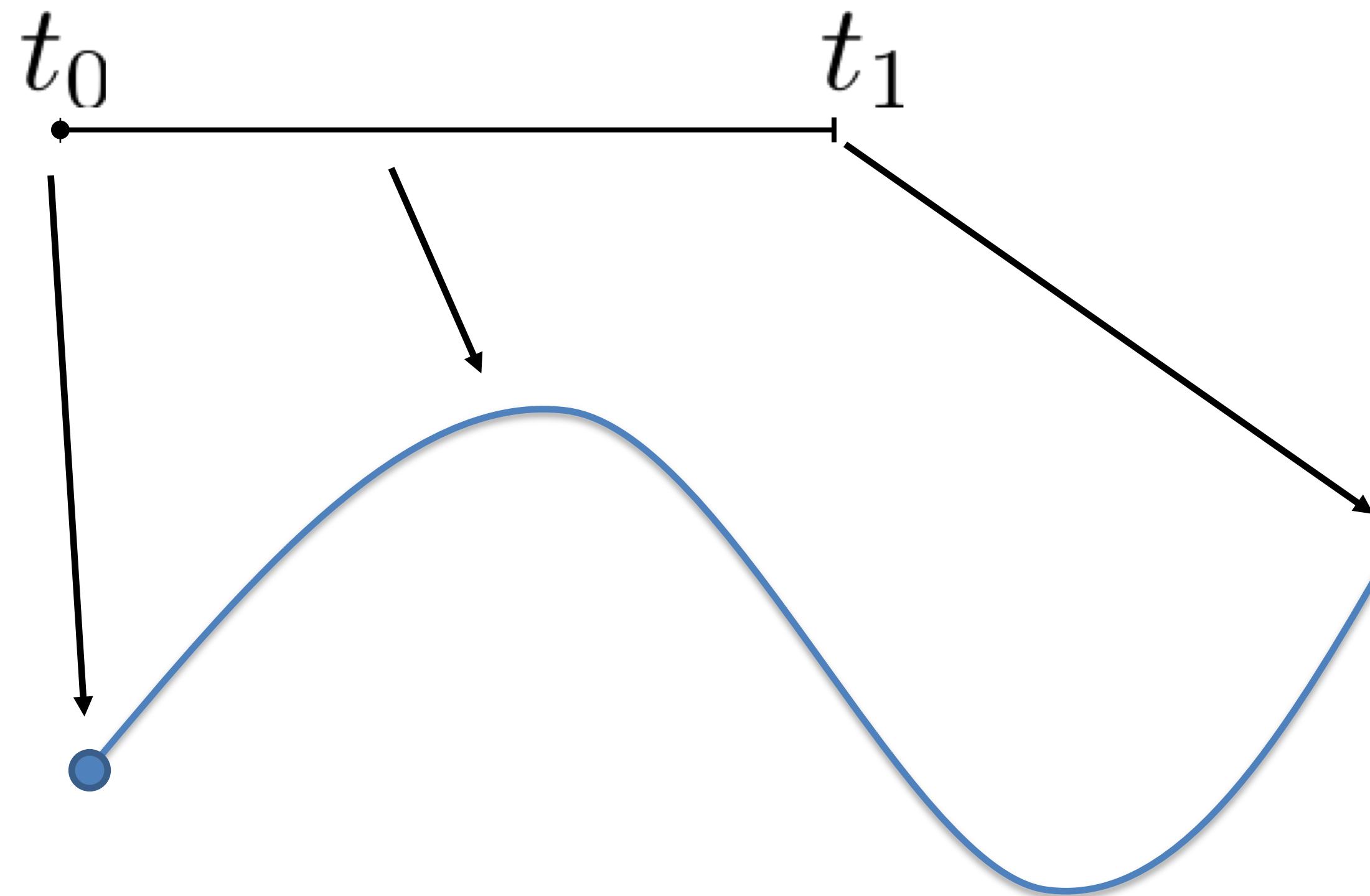


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# 2D parametric curve

$$\mathbf{p}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix}, \quad t \in [t_0, t_1]$$

- $\mathbf{p}(t)$  must be continuous

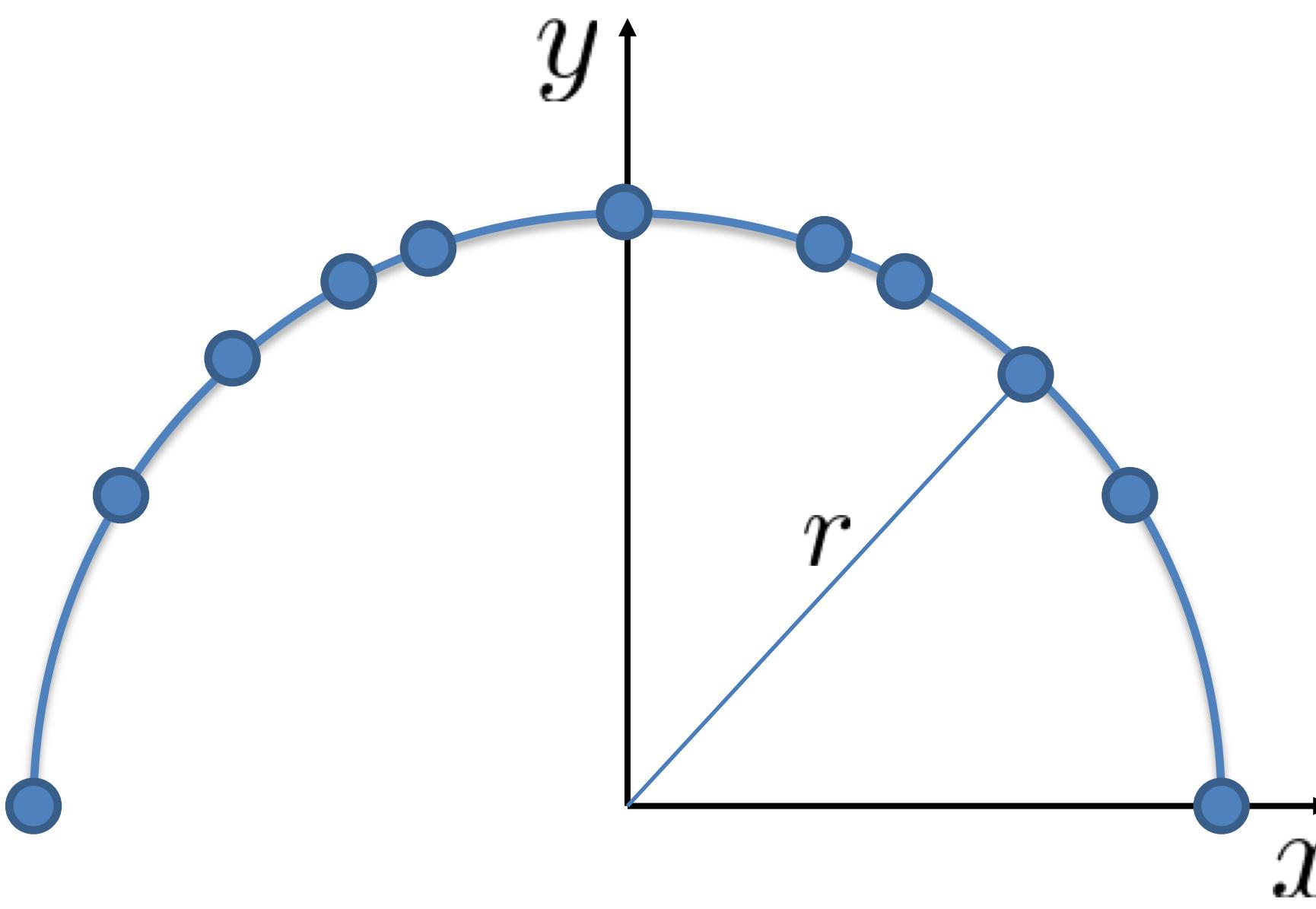


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A curve can be parameterized in many different ways

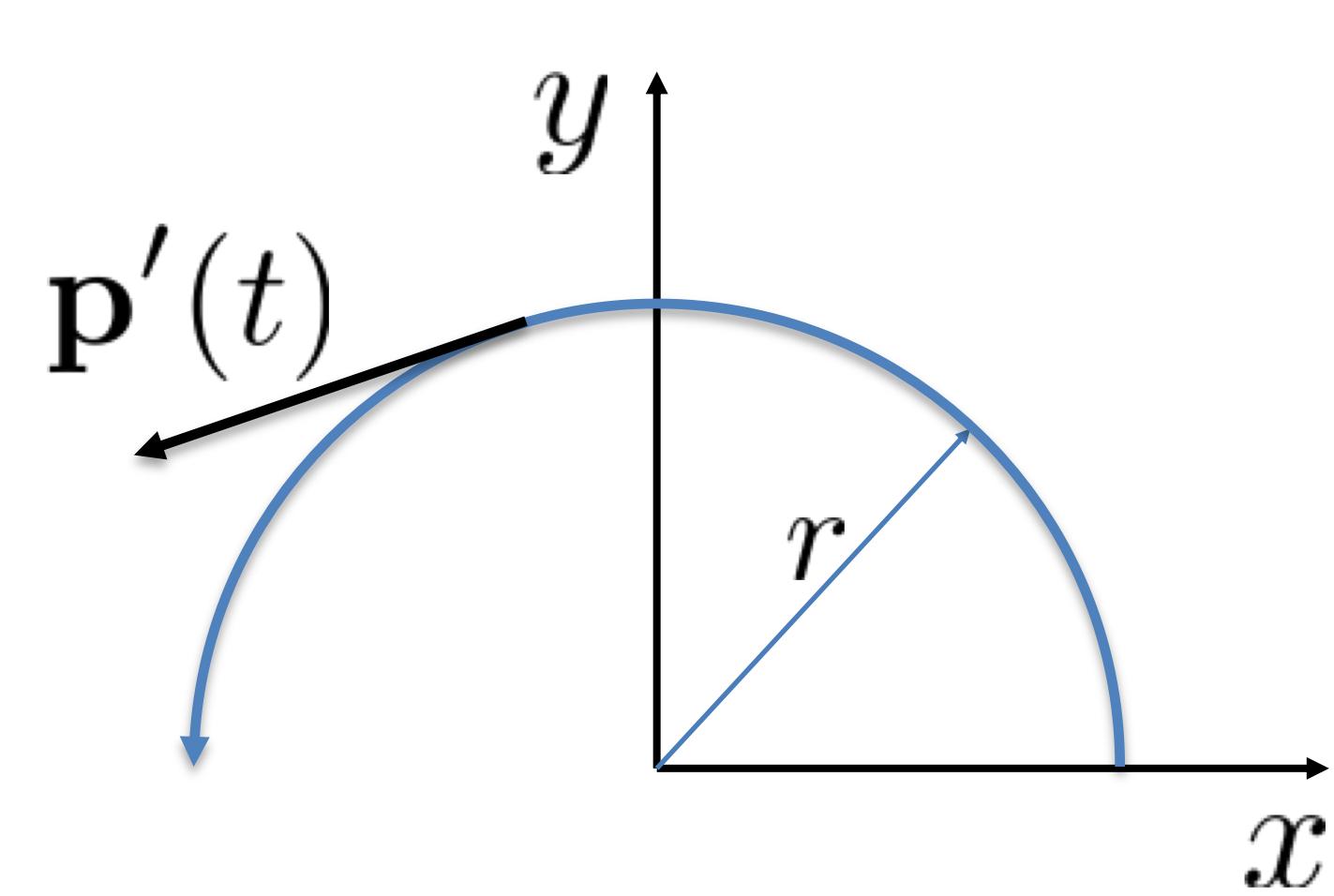
$$\begin{pmatrix} r \cos t \\ r \sin t \end{pmatrix}, t \in [0, \pi]$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -rt \\ r\sqrt{1-t^2} \end{pmatrix}, t \in [-1, 1]$$



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# Tangent vector



$$\mathbf{p}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} r \cos t \\ r \sin t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{p}'(t) = \begin{pmatrix} -r \sin t \\ r \cos t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\|\mathbf{p}'(t)\| = \text{speed}$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{p}'(t)}{\|\mathbf{p}'(t)\|} = \mathbf{T}(t) = \text{unit tangent}$$

Parametrization-independent!

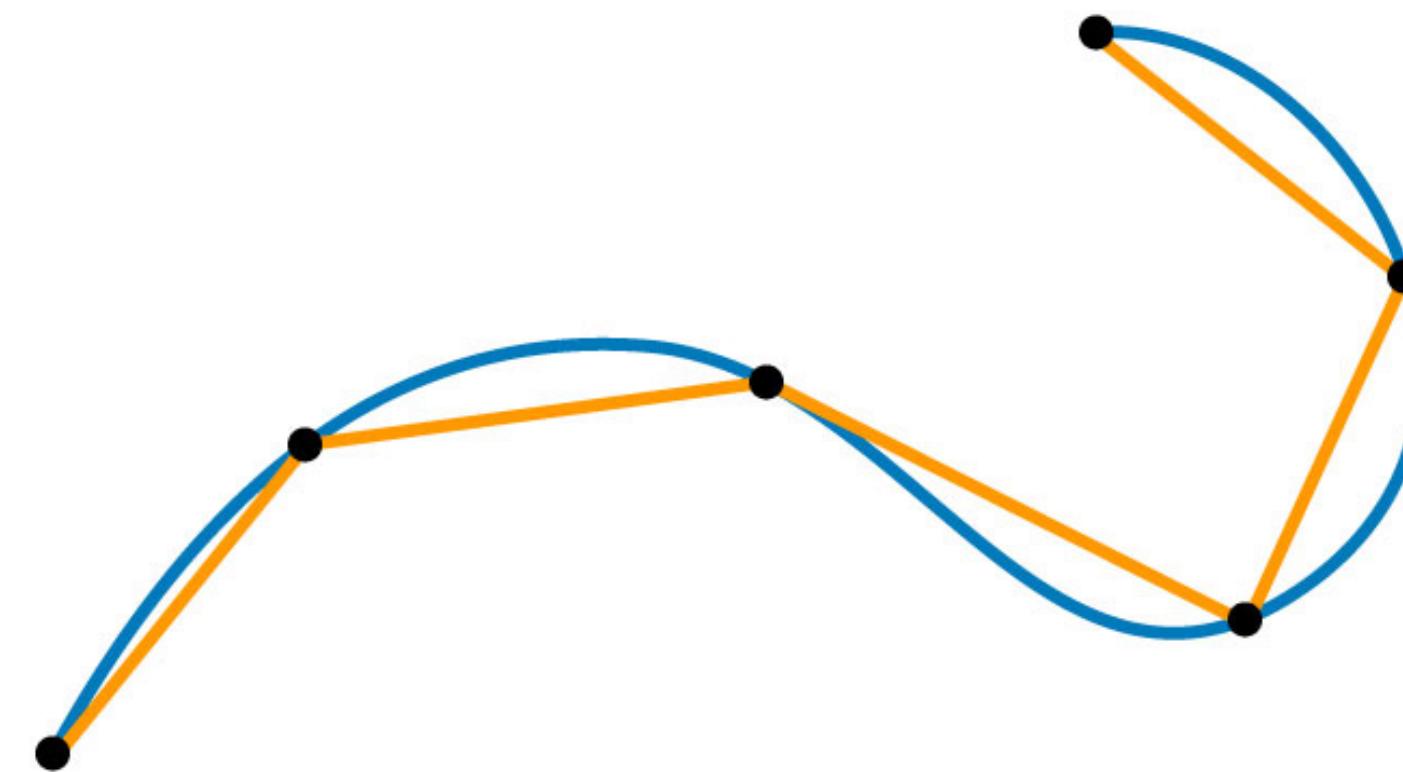


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# Arc length

- How long is the curve between  $t_0$  and  $t$ ? How far does the particle travel?
- Speed is  $\|\mathbf{p}'(t)\|$ , so:

$$s(t) = \int_{t_0}^t \|\mathbf{p}'(t)\| dt$$



- Speed is nonnegative, so  $s(t)$  is non-decreasing

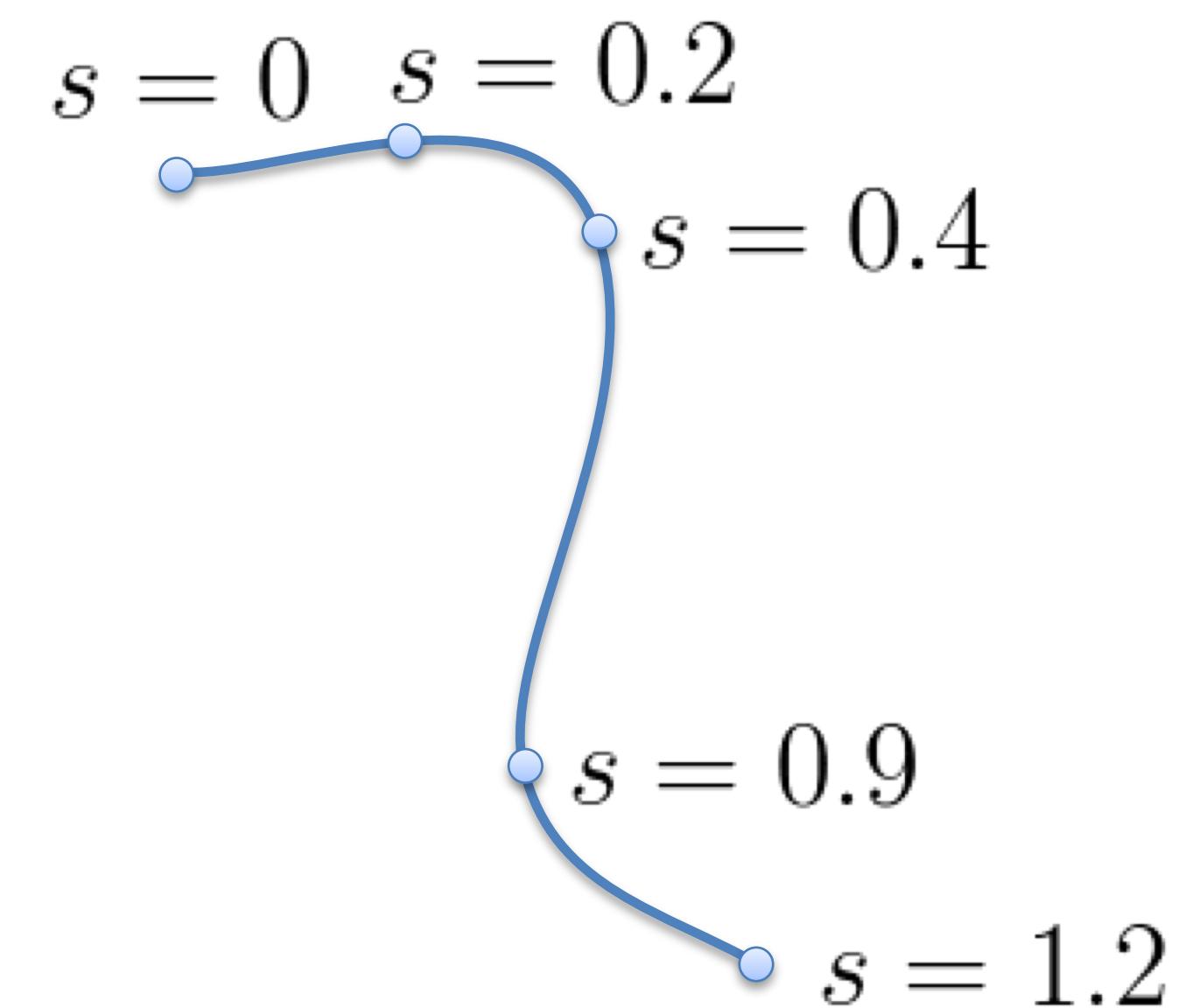


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# Arc length parameterization

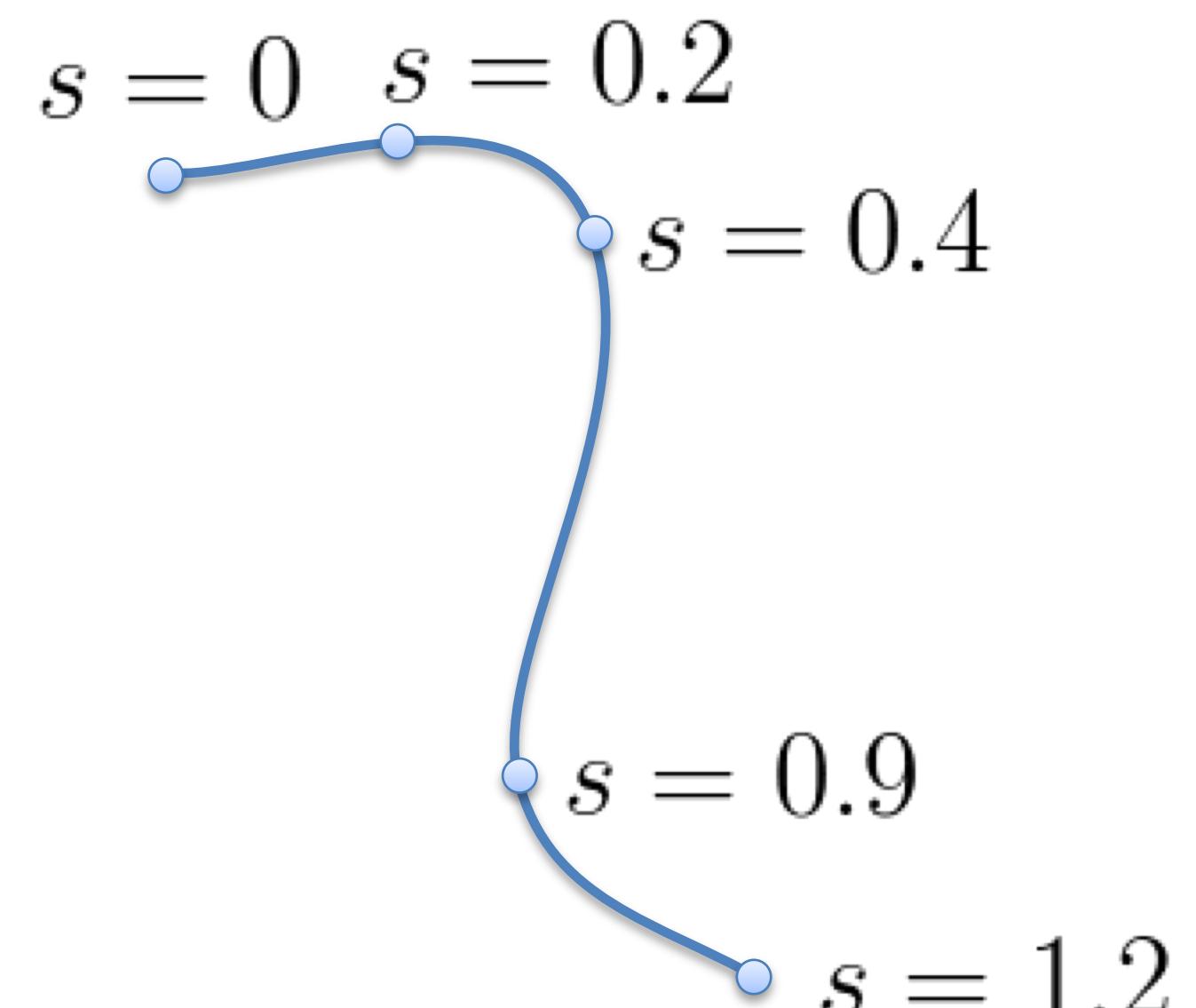
- Every curve has a natural parameterization:

$\mathbf{p}(s)$ , such that  $\|\mathbf{p}'(s)\| = 1$



# Arc length parameterization

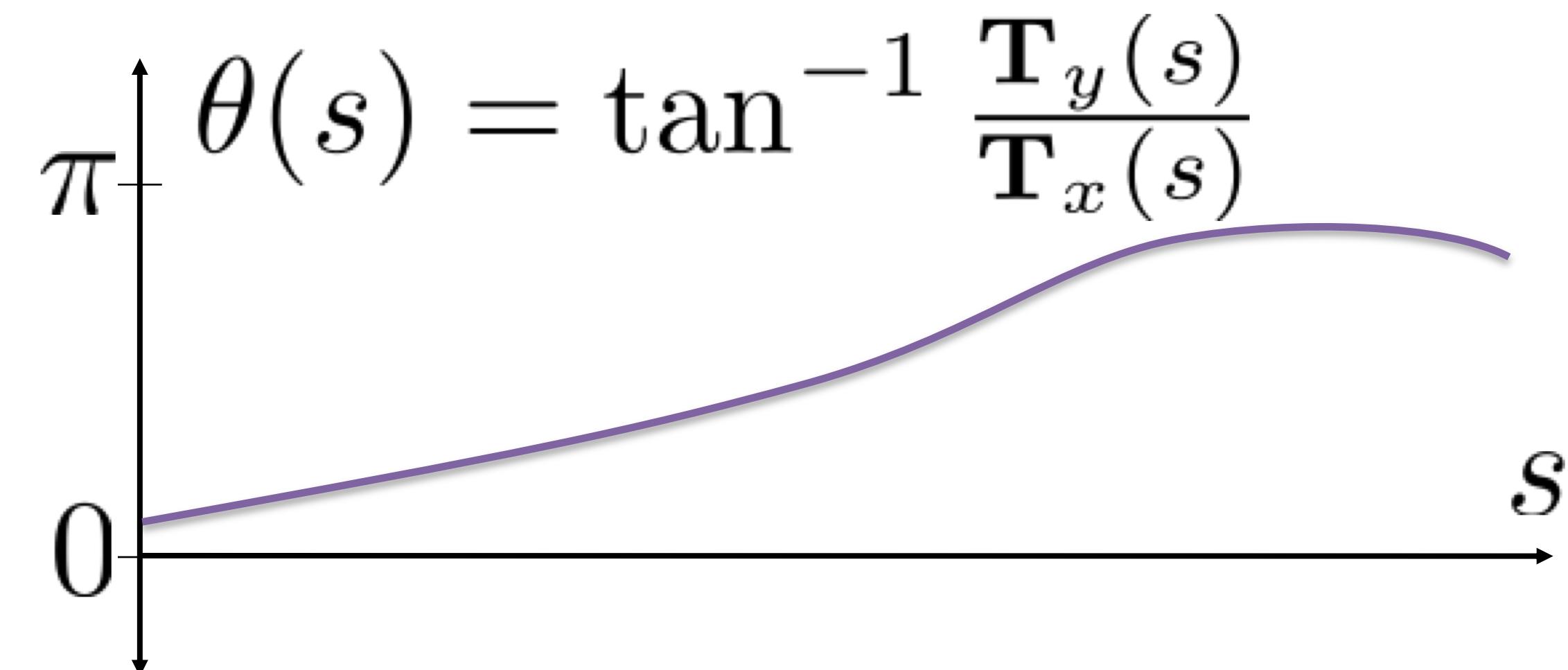
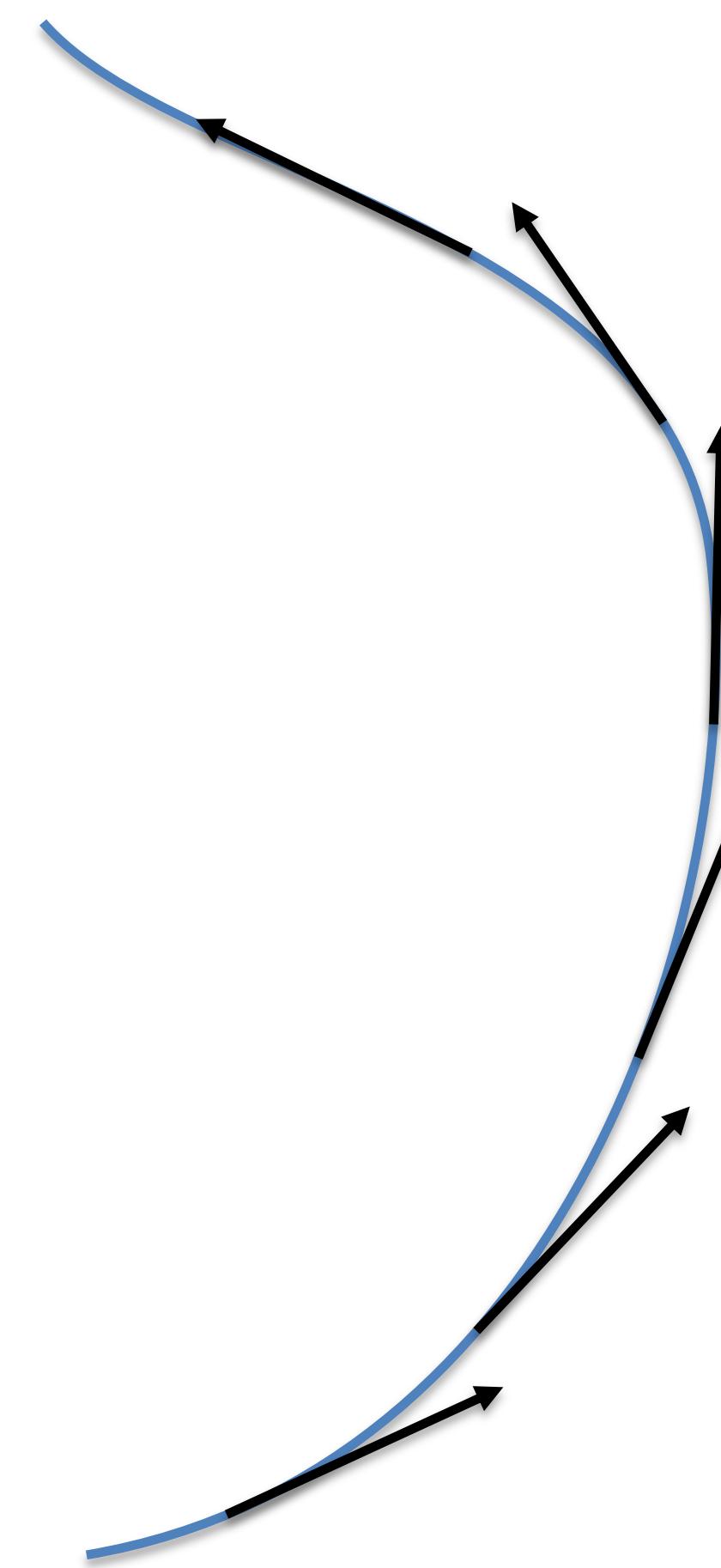
- Every curve has a natural parameterization:  
 $\mathbf{p}(s)$ , such that  $\|\mathbf{p}'(s)\| = 1$
- Isometry between parameter domain and curve
- Tangent vector is unit-length:  $\mathbf{p}'(s) = \mathbf{T}(s)$



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# Curvature

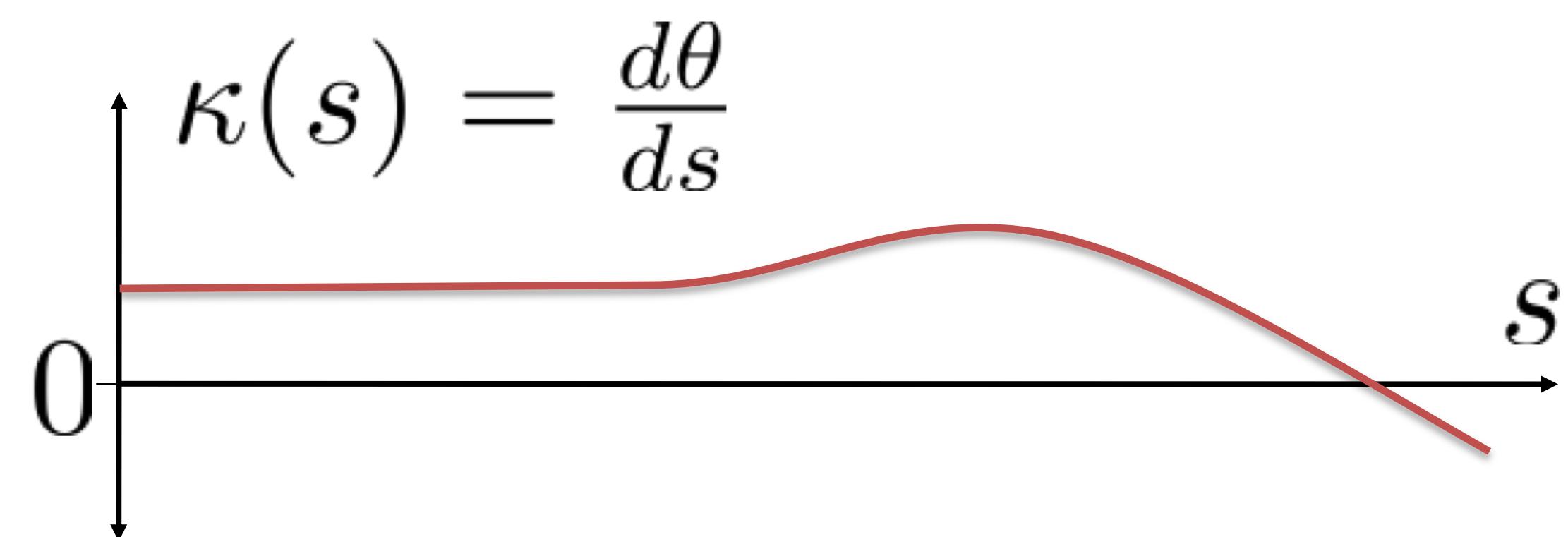
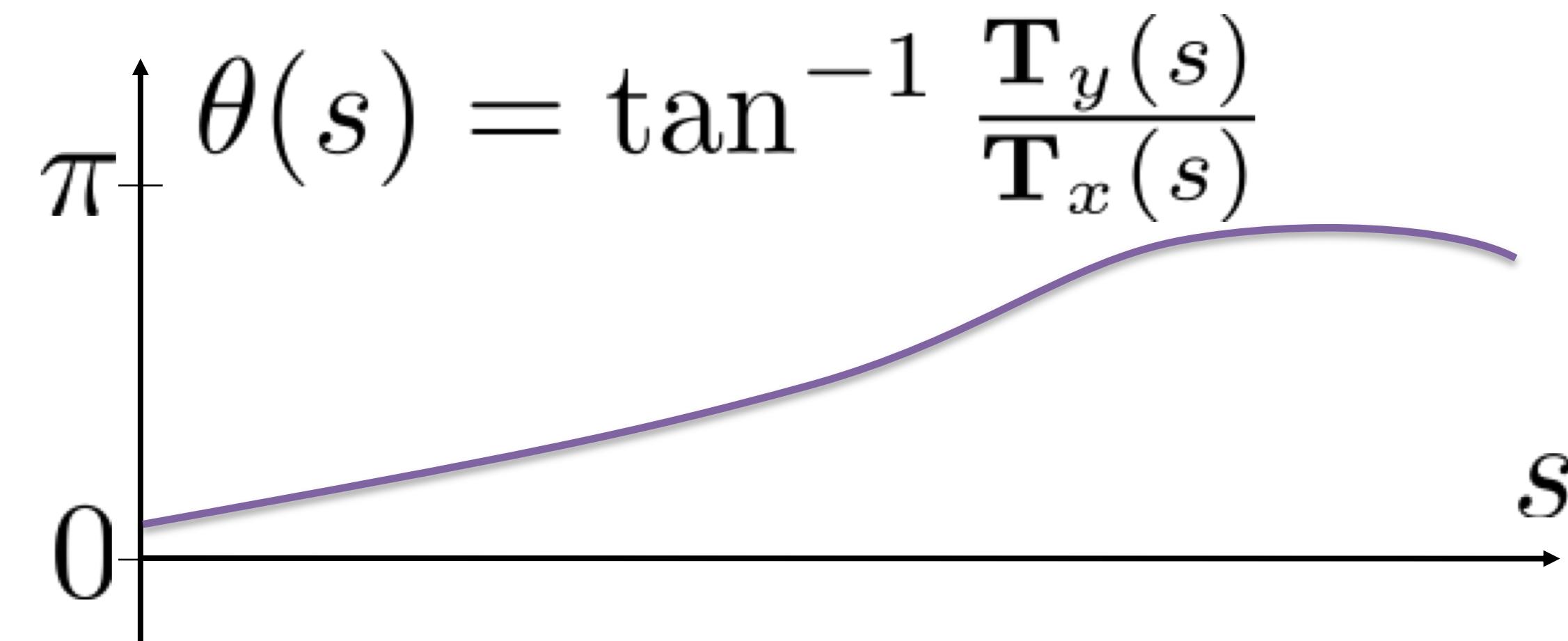
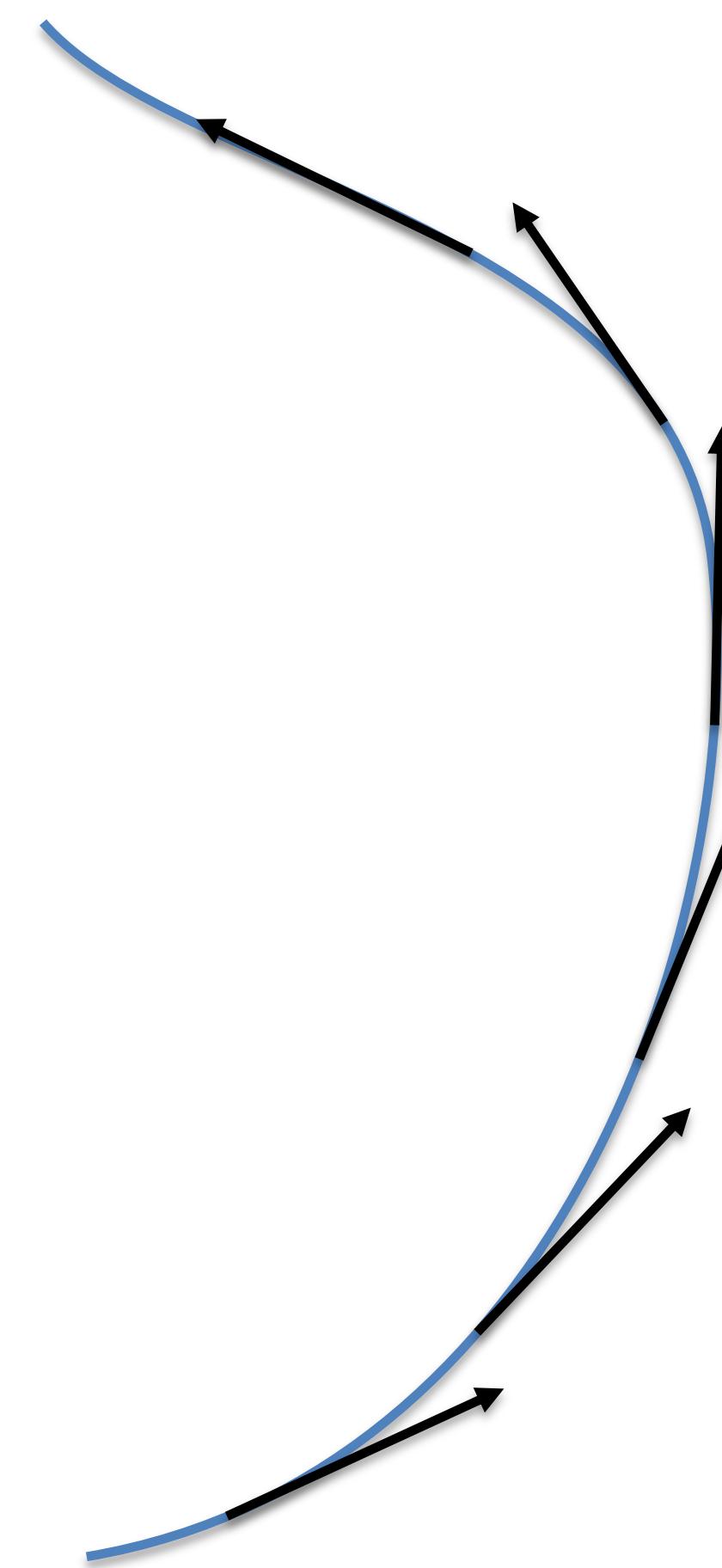
- How much does the curve turn per unit  $s$  ?



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# Curvature

- How much does the curve turn per unit  $s$  ?



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# Curvature profile

- Given  $\kappa(s)$ , we can get  $\theta(s)$  up to a constant by integration.

- Integrating

$$\mathbf{p}(s) = \mathbf{p}_0 + \int_{s_0}^{s_1} \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta(s) \\ \sin \theta(s) \end{pmatrix} ds$$

reconstructs the curve up to rigid motion.



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# Curvature of a circle

- Curvature of a circle:

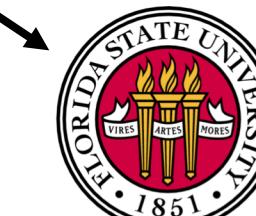
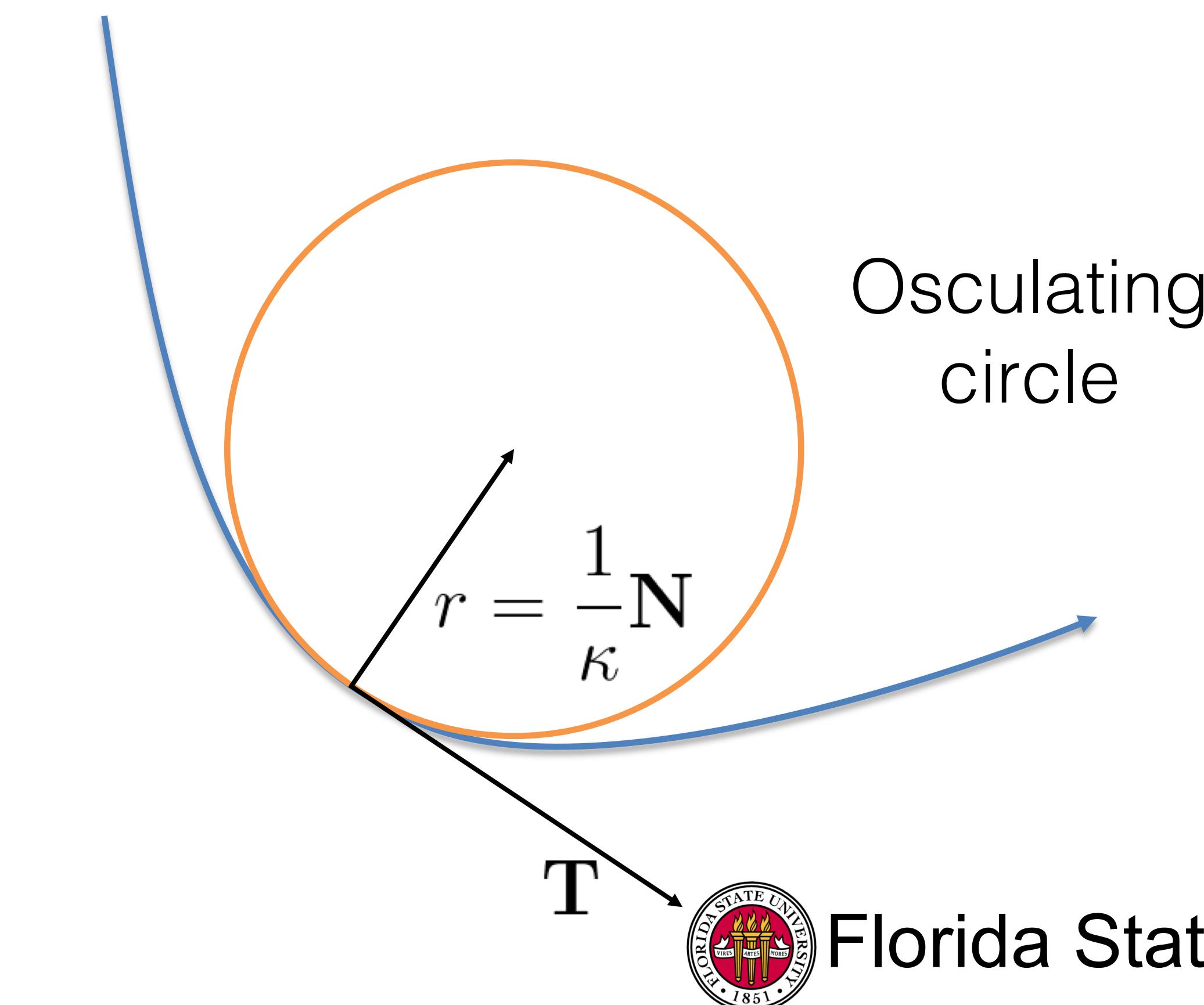
$$\mathbf{p}(s) = \begin{pmatrix} r \cos(s/r) \\ r \sin(s/r) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{p}'(s) = \begin{pmatrix} -\sin(s/r) \\ \cos(s/r) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\theta(s) &= \tan^{-1} \frac{\cos(s/r)}{-\sin(s/r)} \\ &= s/r - \pi/2\end{aligned}$$

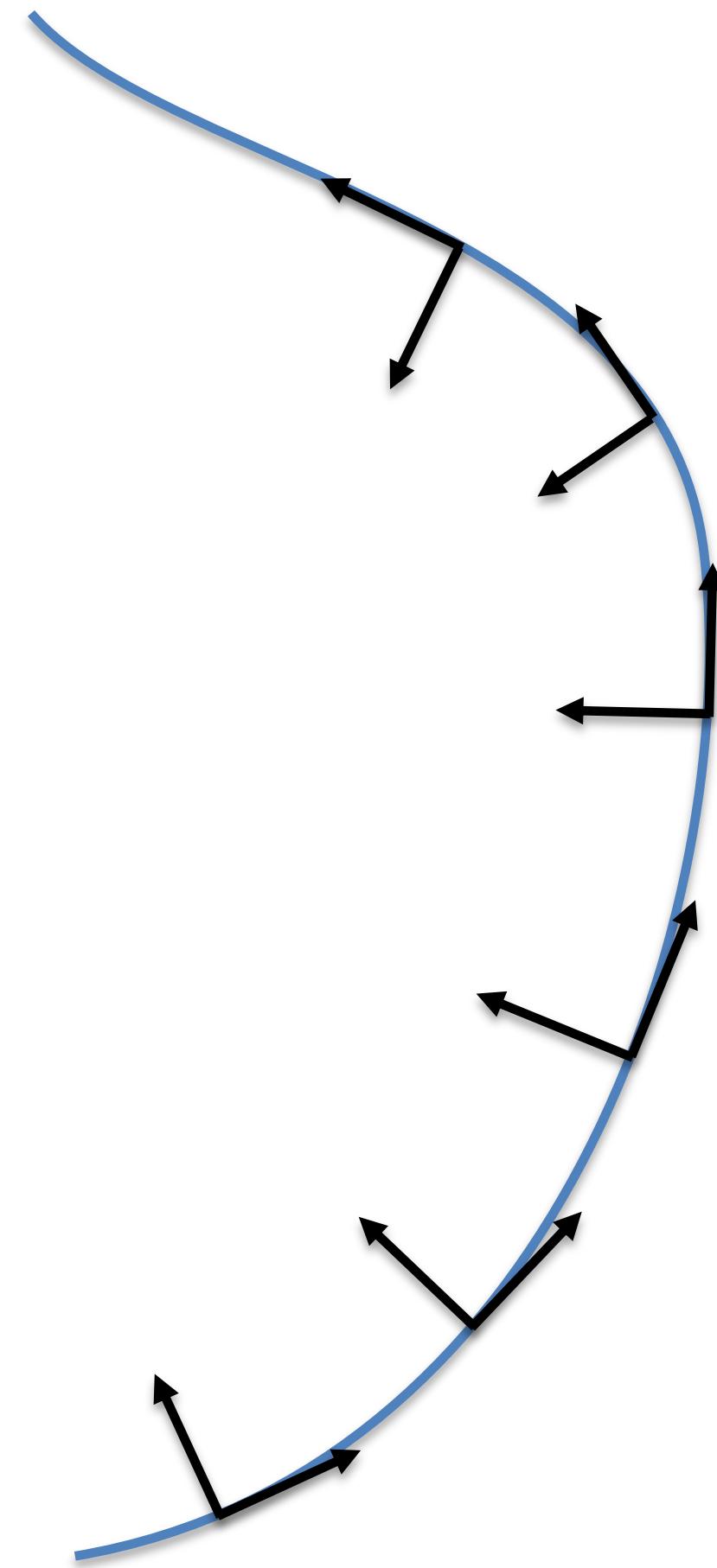
$$\kappa(s) = 1/r$$

$$\mathbf{N}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{T}(t) = \text{Unit Normal}$$



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# Frenet Frame



$$\mathbf{T}'(s) = \kappa(s)\mathbf{N}(s)$$

$$\mathbf{N}'(s) = -\kappa(s)\mathbf{T}(s)$$

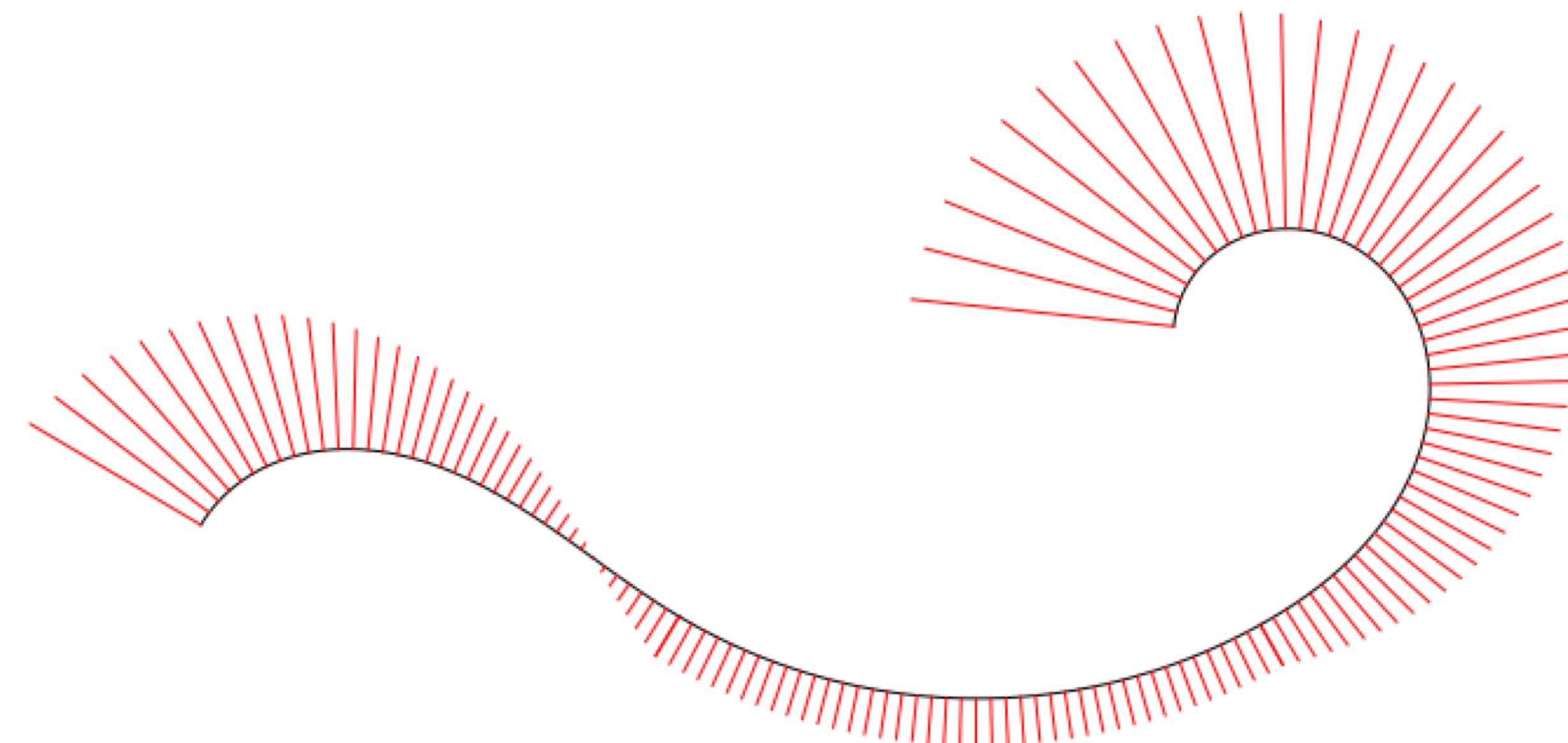
$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{T}' \\ \mathbf{N}' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \kappa \\ -\kappa & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{T} \\ \mathbf{N} \end{pmatrix}$$



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# Curvature normal

- Points inward
- $-\kappa(s)\mathbf{N}(s)$  useful for evaluating curve quality



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# Smoothness

Two kinds, parametric and geometric:

$C^1$ :  $\mathbf{p}(t)$  is continuously differentiable

$G^1$ :  $\mathbf{p}(s)$  is continuously differentiable

Parametrization-Independent

$$C^1 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \cos t \\ \sin t \end{pmatrix}$$

$$G^1 \quad \begin{pmatrix} \cos \hat{t} \\ \sin \hat{t} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{t} = \begin{cases} t + 1 & \text{if } t < 1 \\ 2t & \text{if } t \geq 1 \end{cases}$$



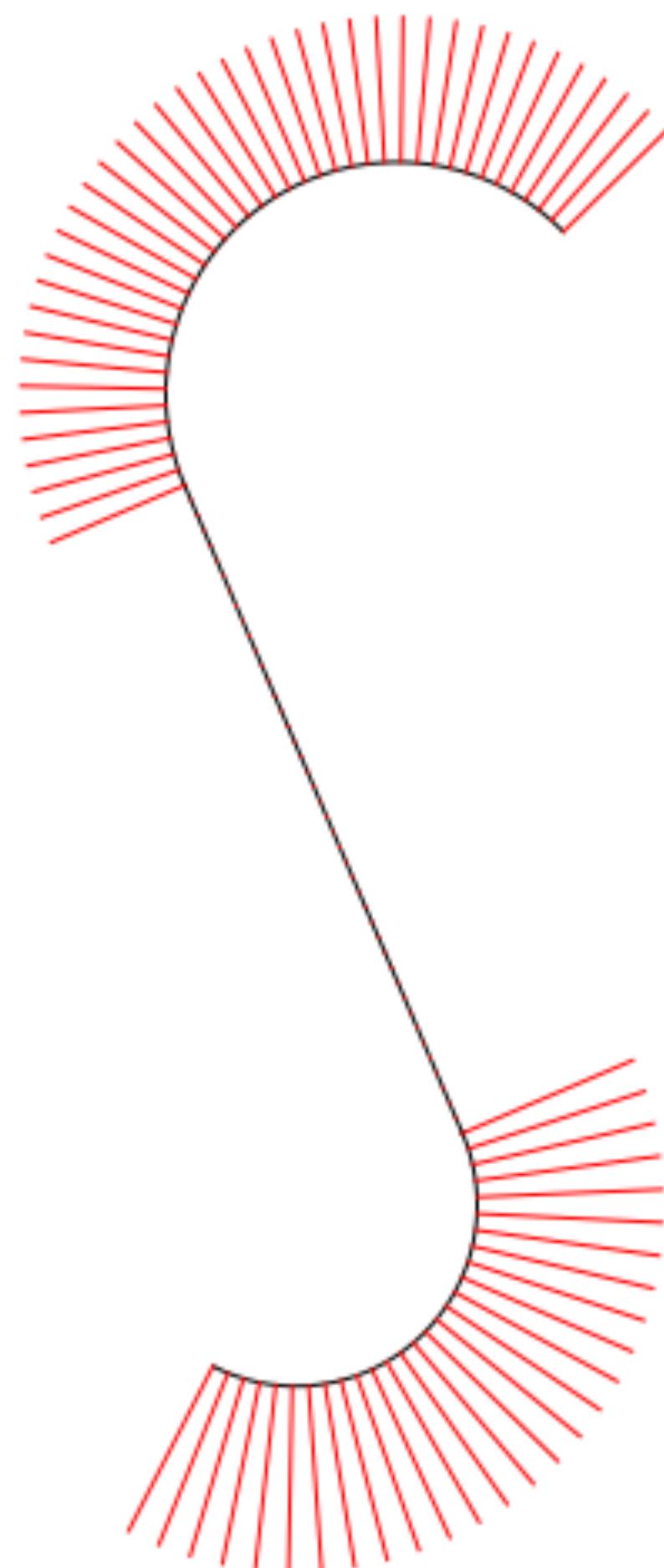
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# Smoothness example

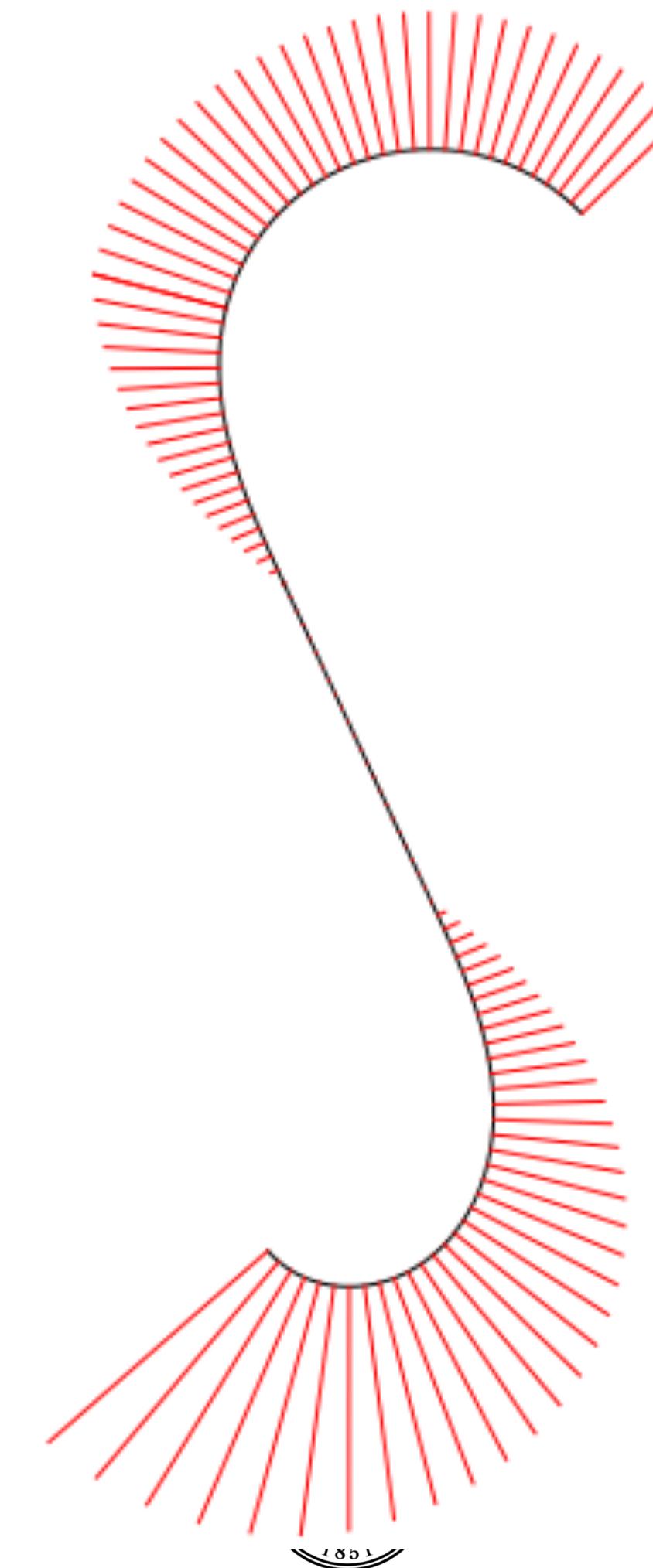
$G^0$



$G^1$

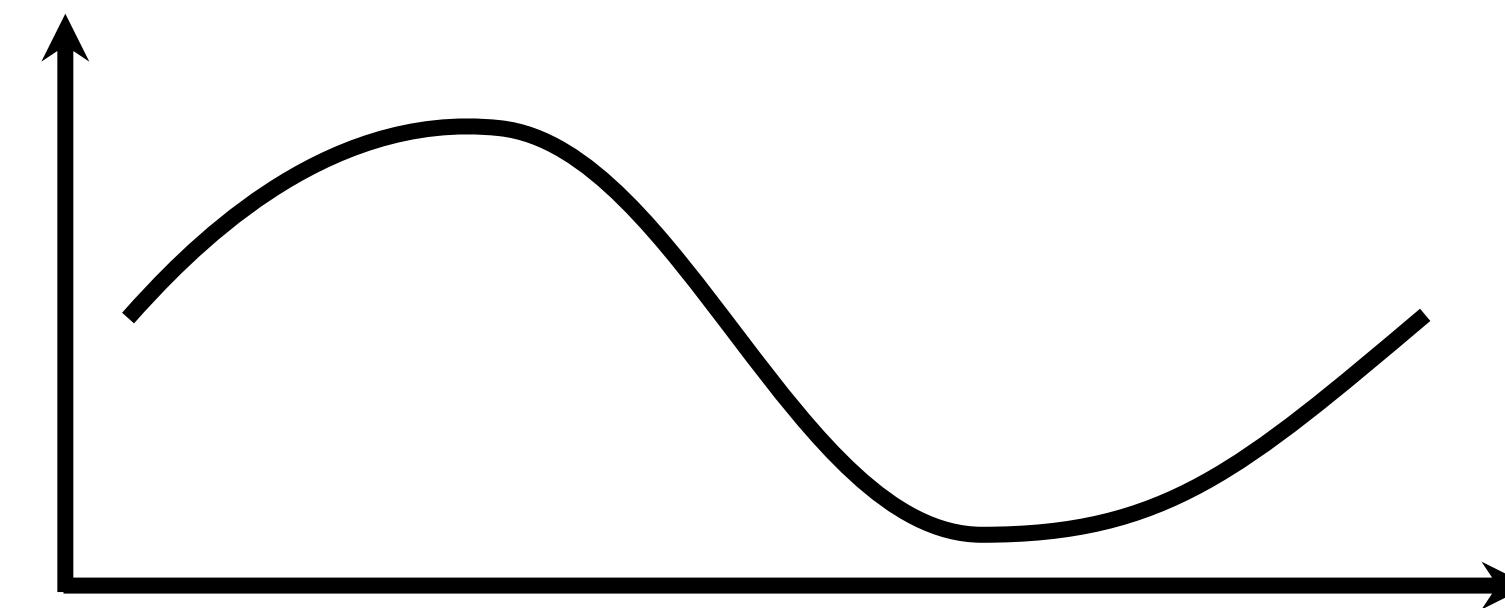


$G^2$



# Recap on parametric curves

$$\mathbf{p}(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix}, \quad t \in [t_0, t_1]$$



$$\|\mathbf{p}'(t)\| = \text{speed}$$

$$s(t) = \int_{t_0}^t \|\mathbf{p}'(t)\| dt$$

$$\kappa(s) = \frac{d\theta}{ds} = \mathbf{T}'(s) \cdot \mathbf{N}(s)$$

$$\frac{\mathbf{p}'(t)}{\|\mathbf{p}'(t)\|} = \mathbf{T}(t)$$

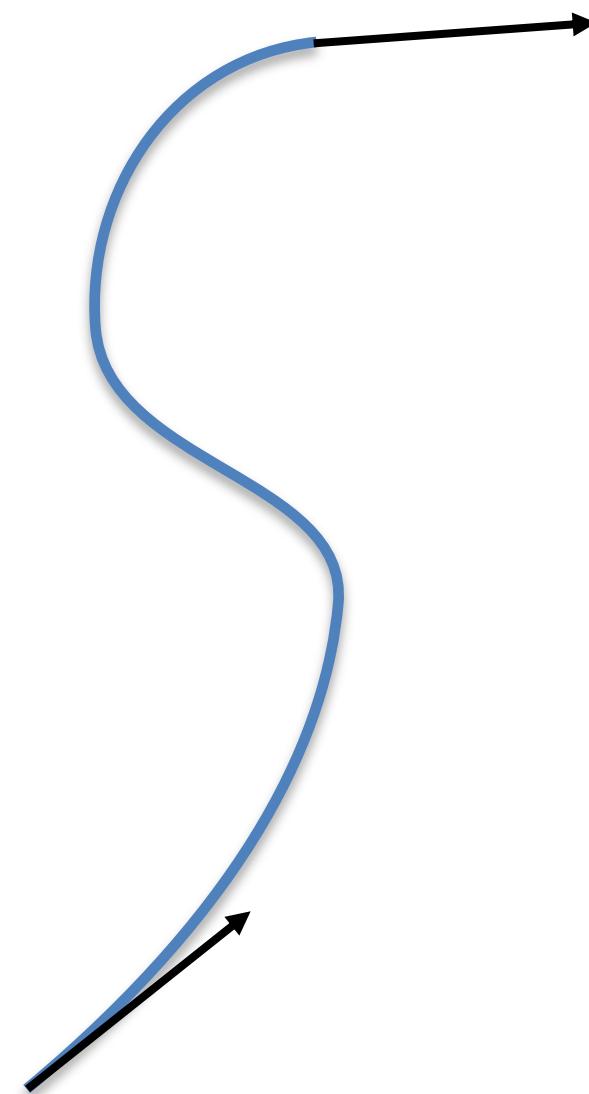


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# Turning

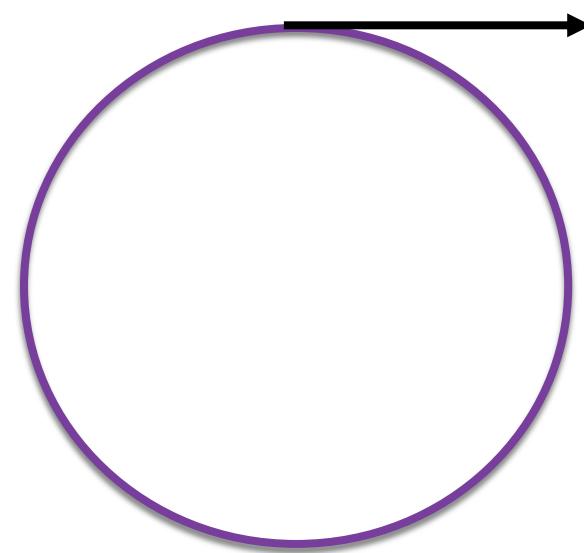
- Angle from start tangent to end tangent:

$$\int_{s_0}^{s_1} \kappa(s) ds = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} \kappa(t) \|\mathbf{p}'(t)\| dt$$



- If curve is closed, the tangent at the beginning is the same as the tangent at the end

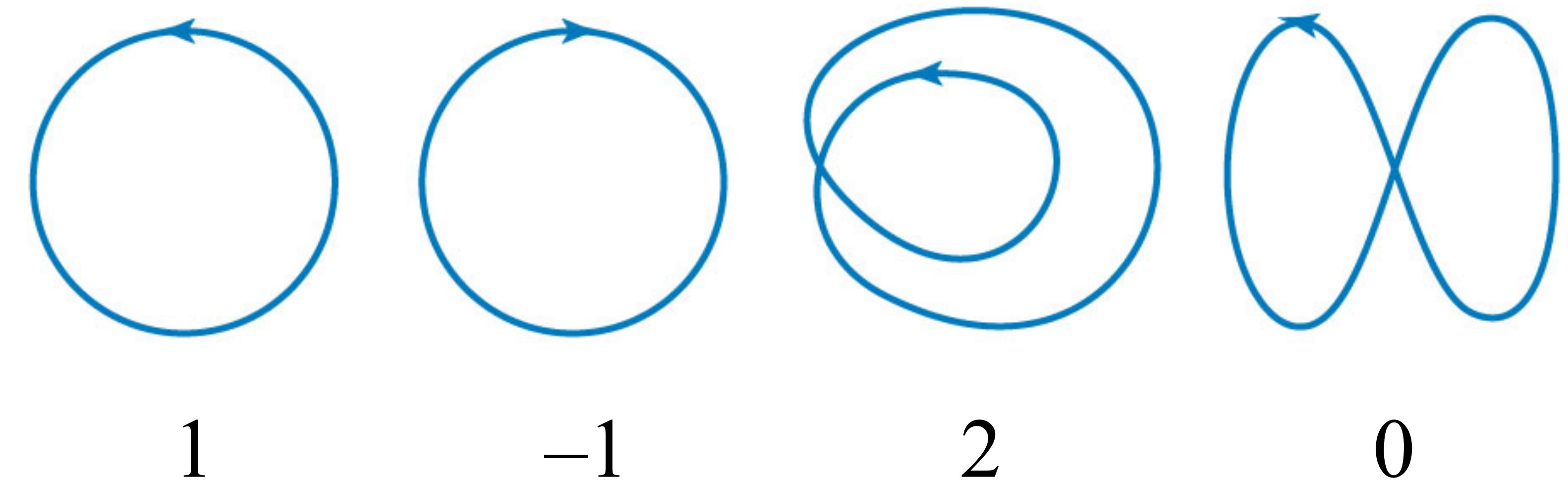
$$\oint_{\mathbf{p}} \kappa(s) ds = 2\pi n$$



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# Turning numbers

$$\oint_{\mathbf{P}} \kappa(s) ds = 2\pi n$$

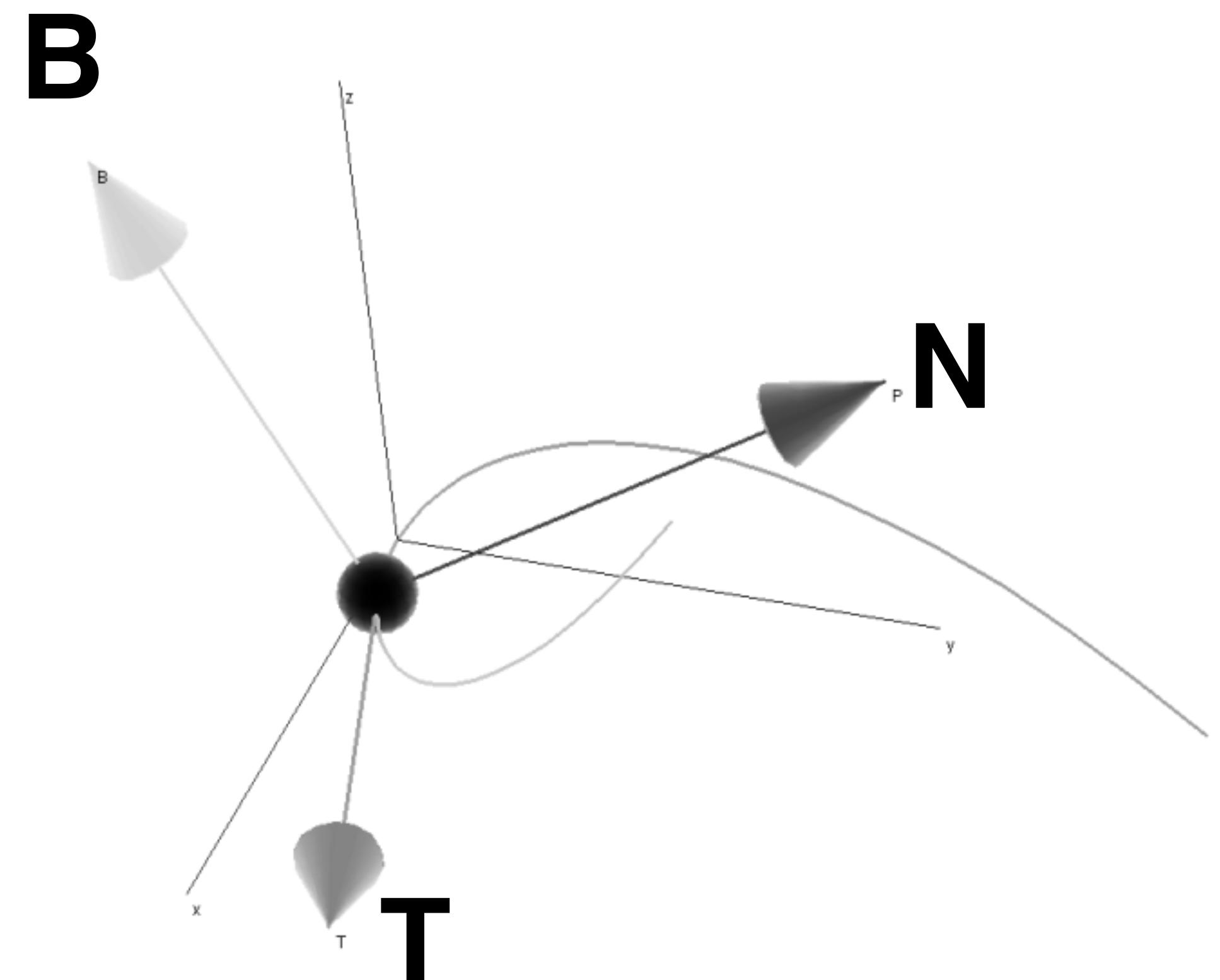


- $n$  measures how many full turns the tangent makes.

# Space curves (3D)

- In 3D, many vectors are orthogonal to  $\mathbf{T}$   
$$\mathbf{N}(s) := \mathbf{T}'(s)/\|\mathbf{T}'(s)\|$$
  
$$\mathbf{B}(s) := \mathbf{T}(s) \times \mathbf{N}(s)$$
- $\mathbf{T}, \mathbf{N}, \mathbf{B}$  are the “Frenet frame”
- $\tau$  is torsion: non-planarity

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{T}' \\ \mathbf{N}' \\ \mathbf{B}' \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \kappa & & \tau \\ -\kappa & & \\ & -\tau & \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{T} \\ \mathbf{N} \\ \mathbf{B} \end{bmatrix}$$



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# References

**Fundamentals of Computer Graphics, Fourth Edition**  
4th Edition by [Steve Marschner, Peter Shirley](#)

Chapter 15

