

# **Curves: Gauss Map, Turning Number Theorem, Parallel Transport**

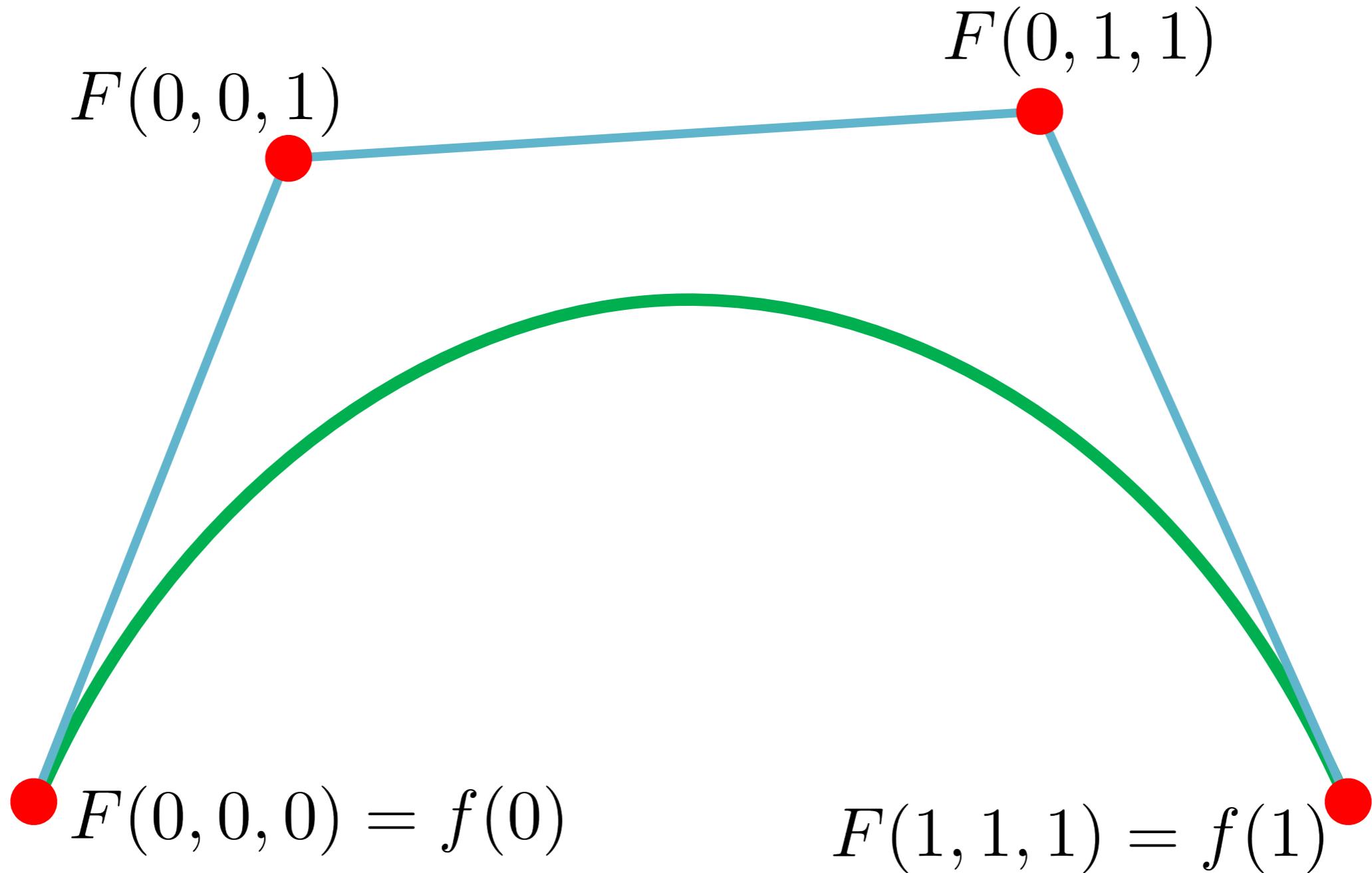
Instructor: Hao Su

Credit: Justin Solomon



What do these  
calculations look like **in**  
**software?**

# Old-School Approach



Piecewise smooth approximations

# Question

What is the arc length of a cubic Bézier curve?

$$\int_a^b \|\gamma'(t)\| dt$$

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What is the arc length of a cubic Bézier curve?

$$\int_a^b \|\gamma'(t)\| dt$$

Not known in closed form.

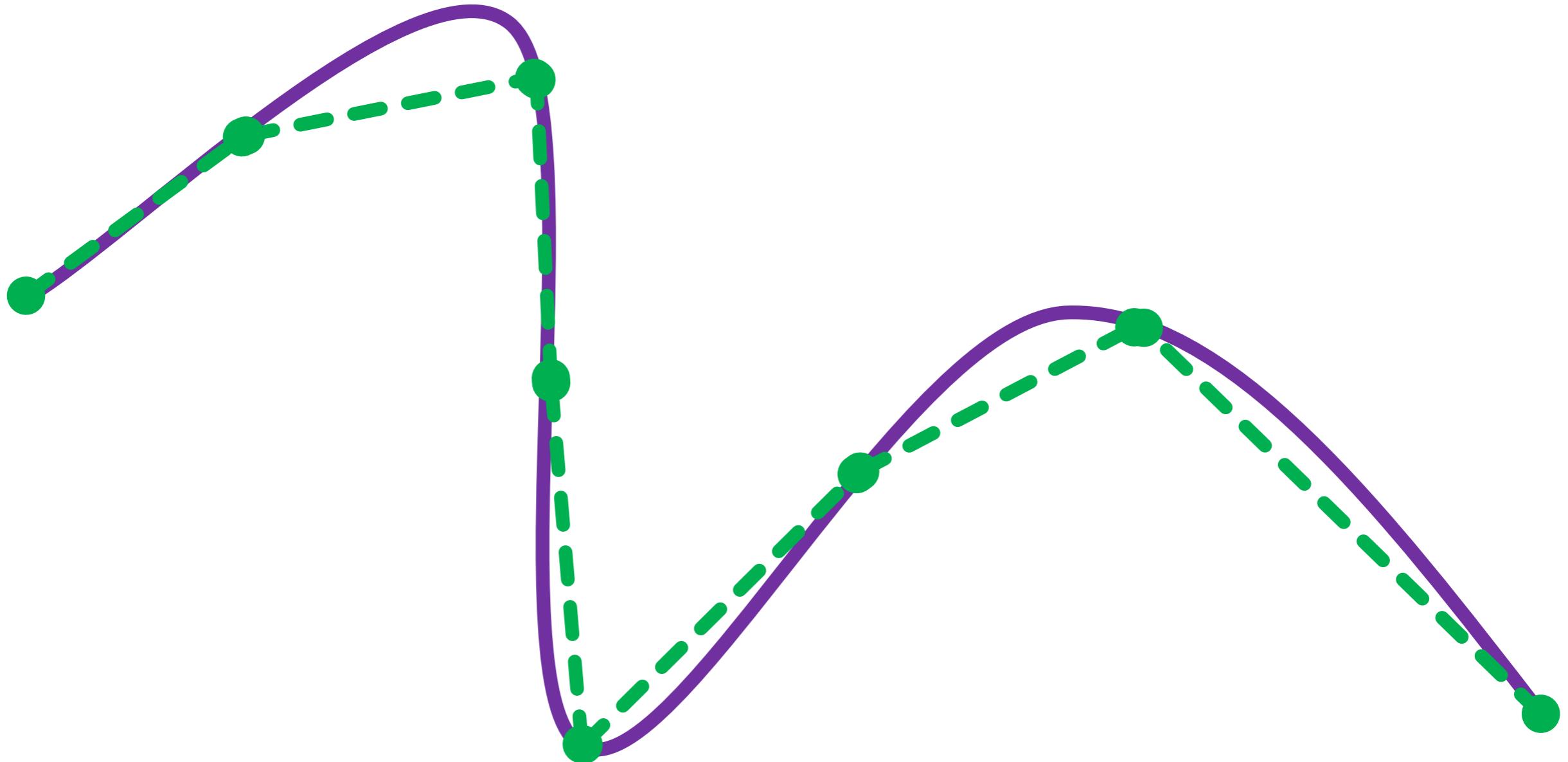
*Sad fact:*

Closed-form  
expressions rarely exist.  
When they do exist, they  
usually are messy.

# Only Approximations Anyway

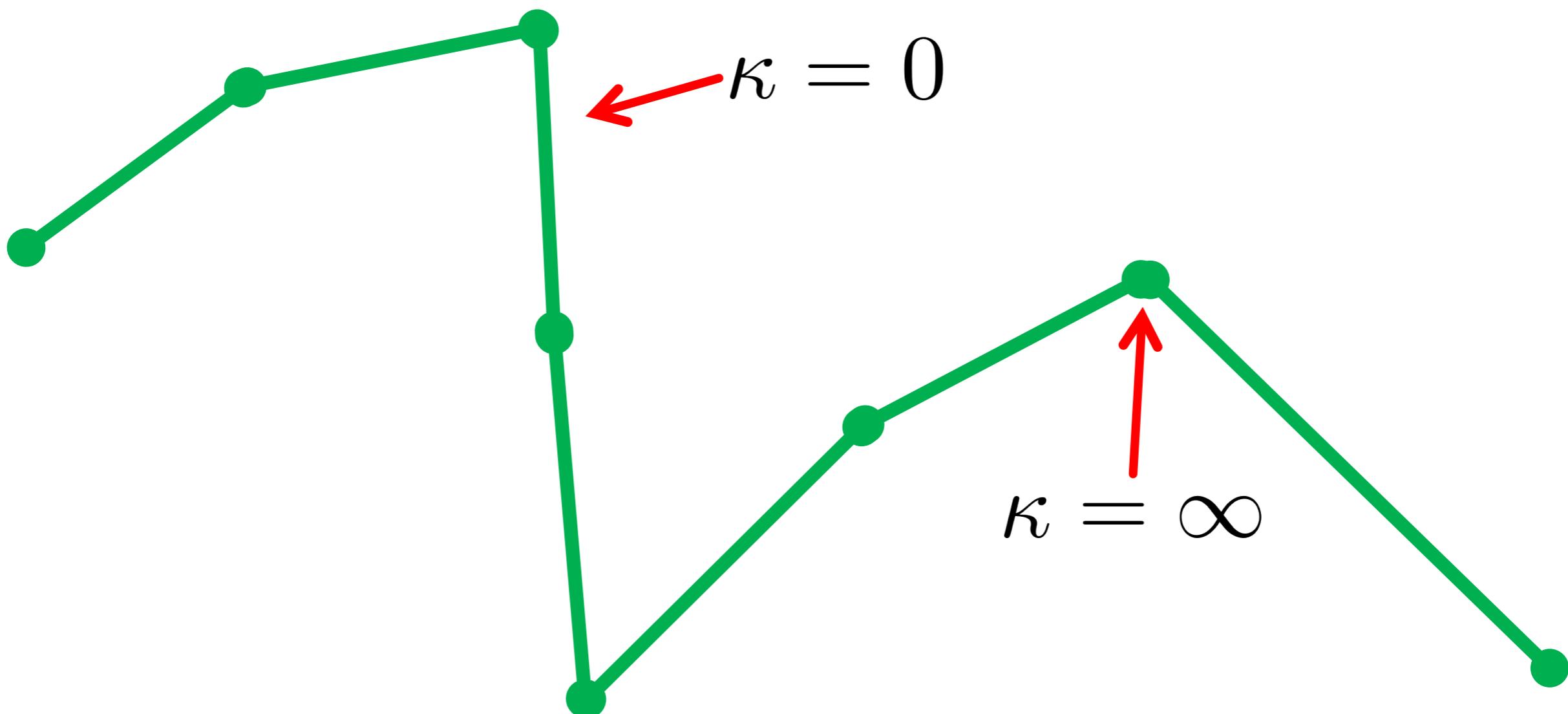
$\{\text{Bézier curves}\} \subsetneq \{\gamma : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3\}$

# Equally Reasonable Approximation



Piecewise linear

# Big Problem



Boring differential structure

# Finite Difference Approach

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{1}{h} [f(x + h) - f(x)]$$

**THEOREM:** As , [insert statement].

# Reality Check

$$f'(x) \approx \frac{1}{h} [f(x+h) - f(x)]$$

THEOREM: If  $f$  is differentiable at  $x$ , then  $f'$  is continuous at  $x$ .  
$$f'(x) = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x+h) - f(x)}{h}$$

## Two Key Considerations

- Convergence to continuous theory
- Discrete behavior

# Goal

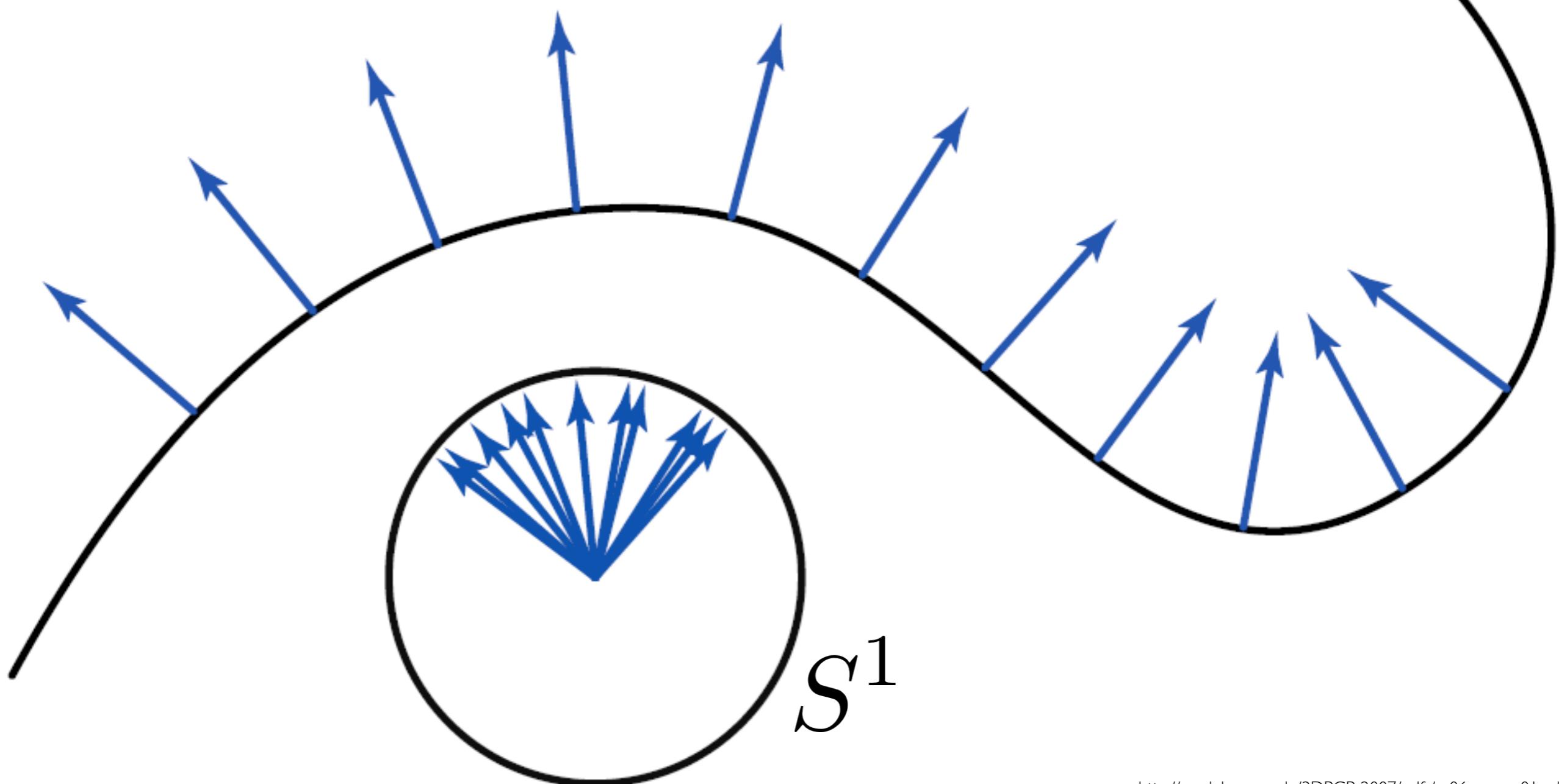
Examine discrete theories of  
differentiable curves.

# Goal

Examine discrete theories of differentiable curves.

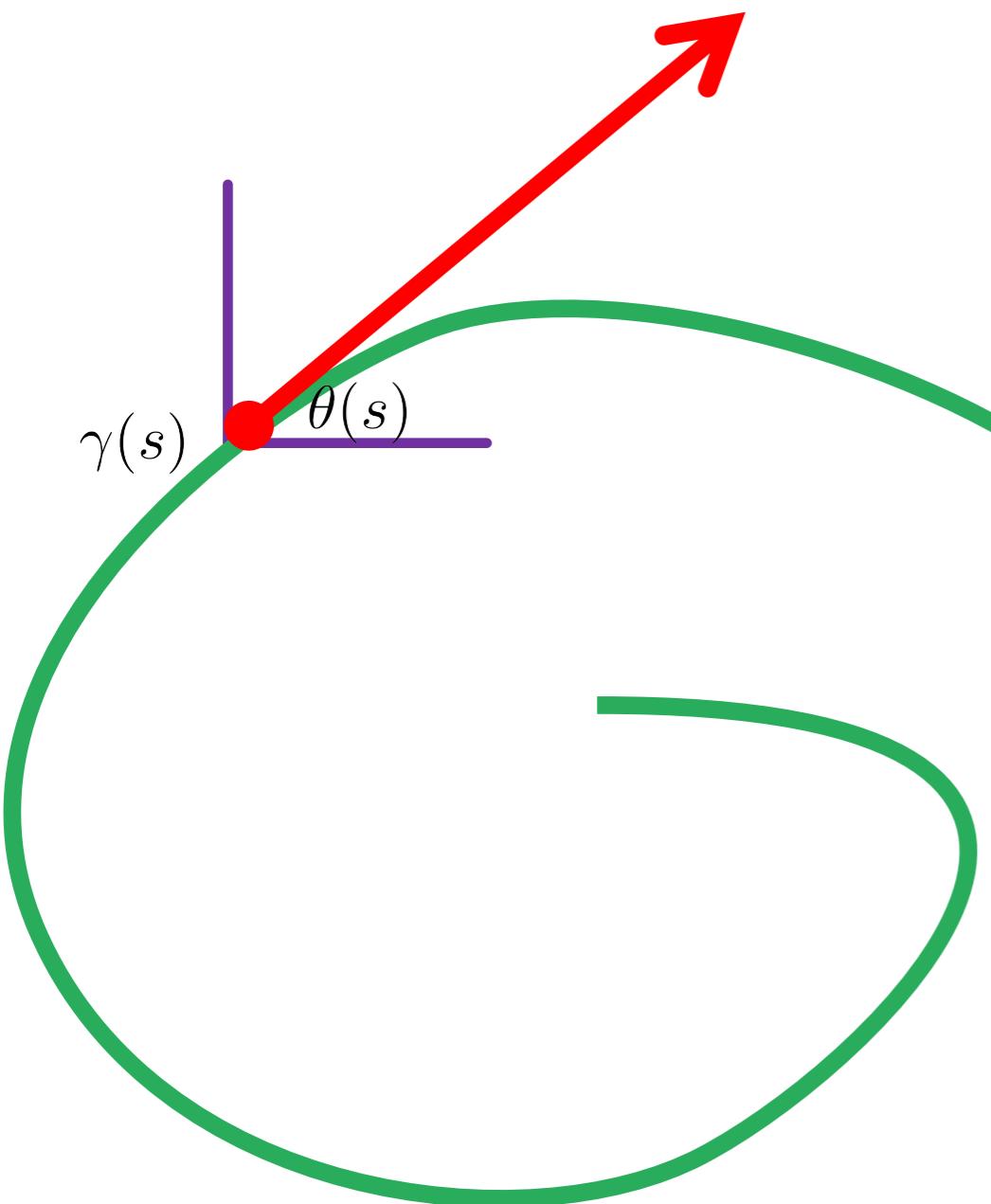
# Gauss Map

Normal map from curve to  $S^1$



# Signed Curvature on Plane Curves

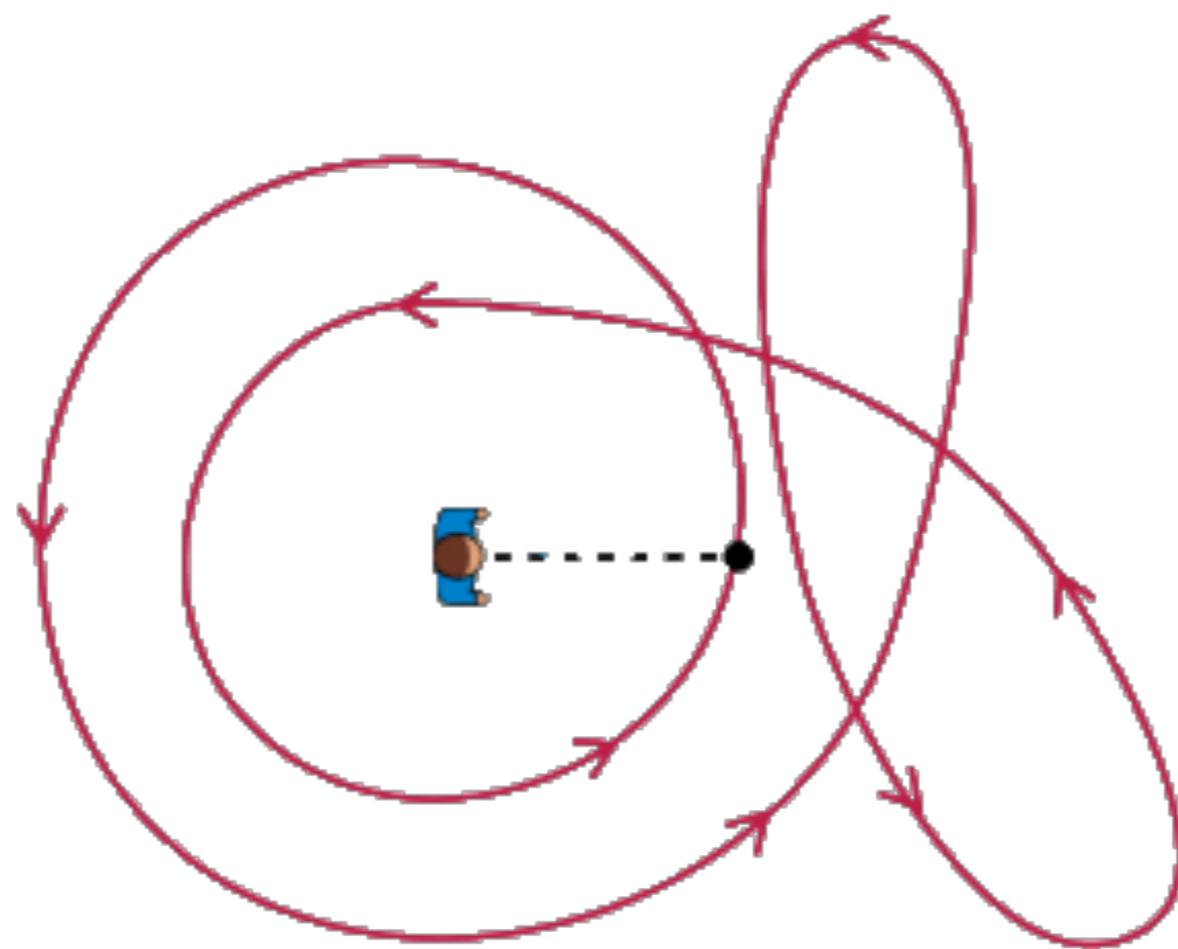
$$T(s) = (\cos \theta(s), \sin \theta(s))$$



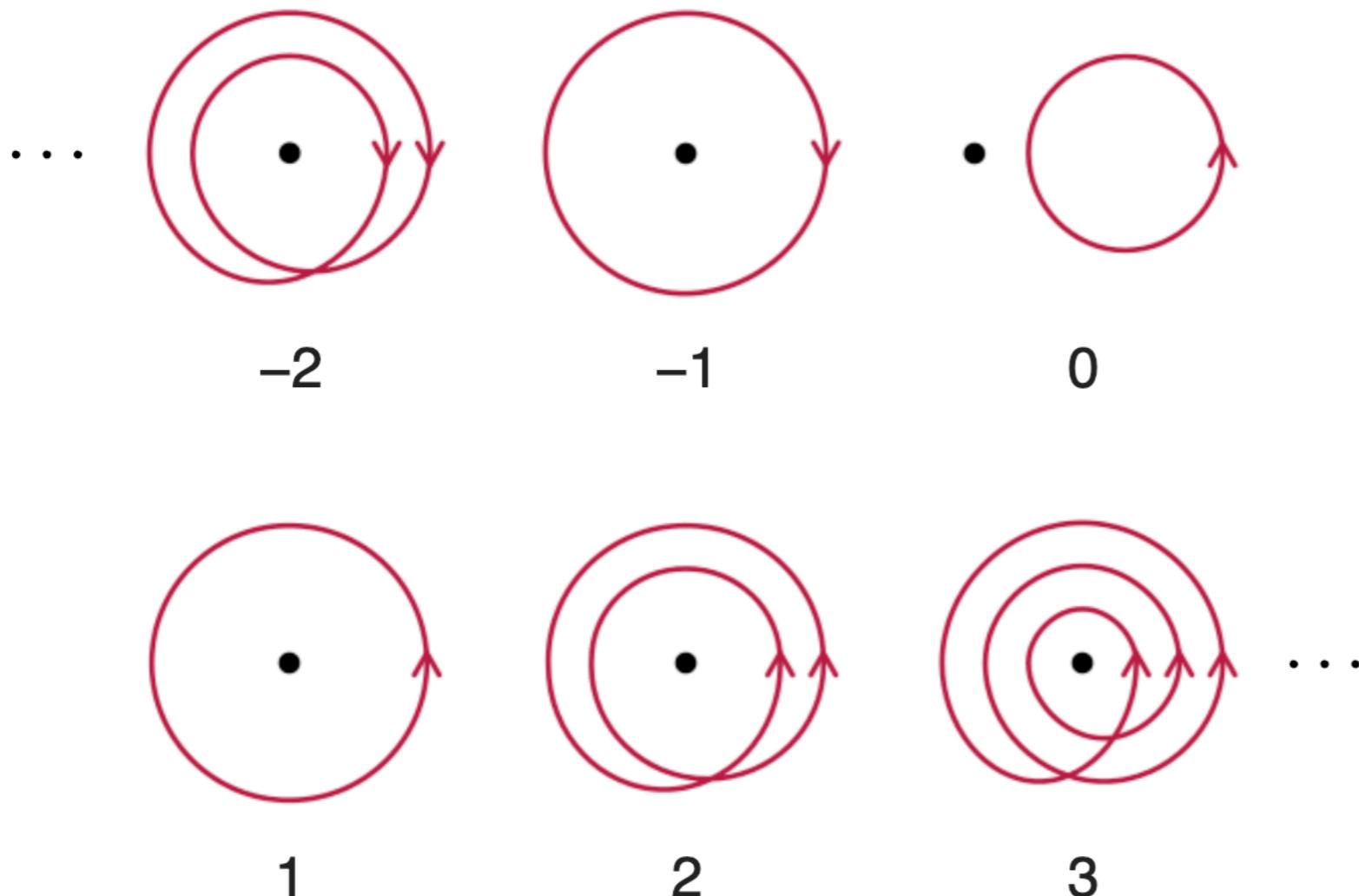
$$\begin{aligned} T'(s) &= \theta'(s)(-\sin \theta(s), \cos \theta(s)) \\ &:= \kappa(s)N(s) \end{aligned}$$

# Winding Number

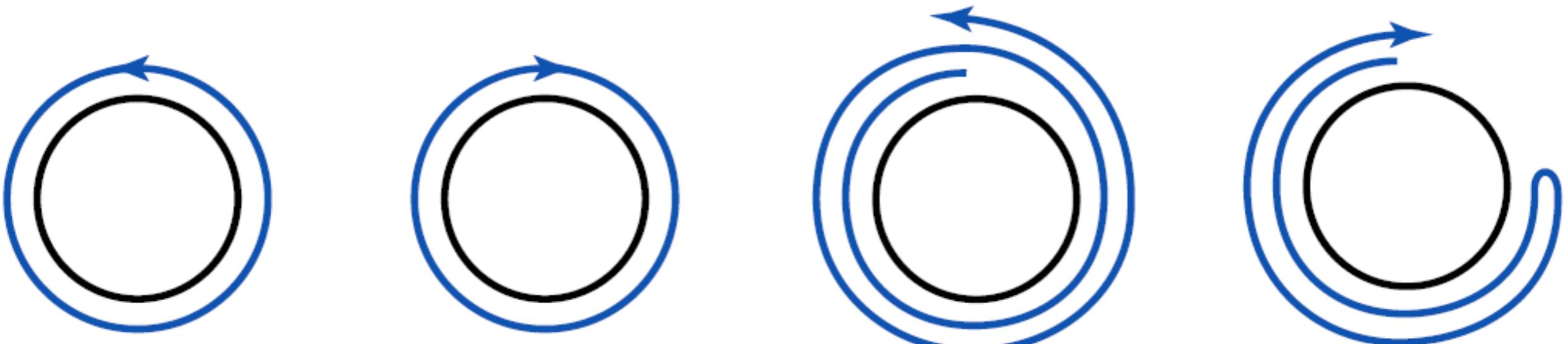
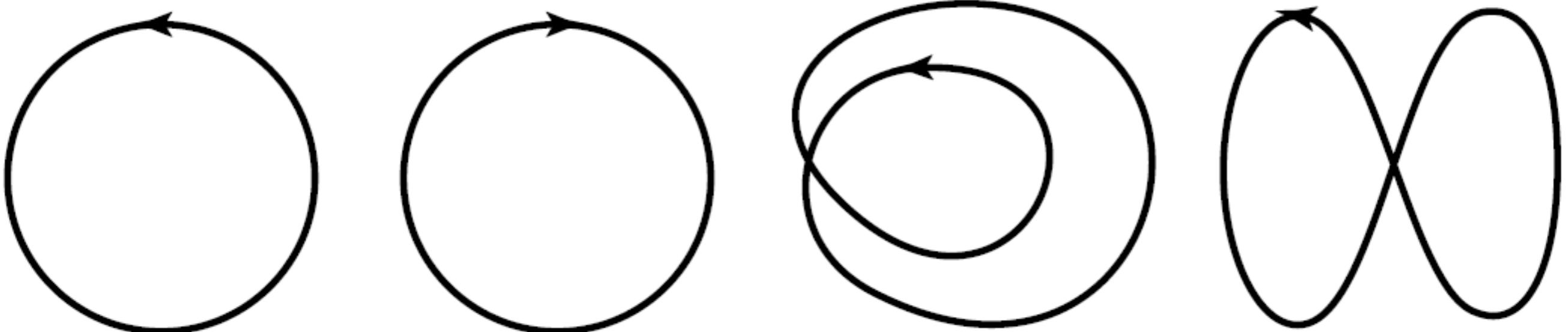
- The total number of times that curve travels counterclockwise around the point.
- The winding number depends on the orientation of the curve, and is **negative** if the curve travels around the point clockwise.



# Winding Number



# Turning Numbers



+1

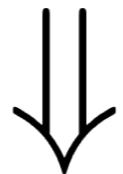
-1

+2

0

# Recovering Theta

$$\theta'(s) = \kappa(s)$$



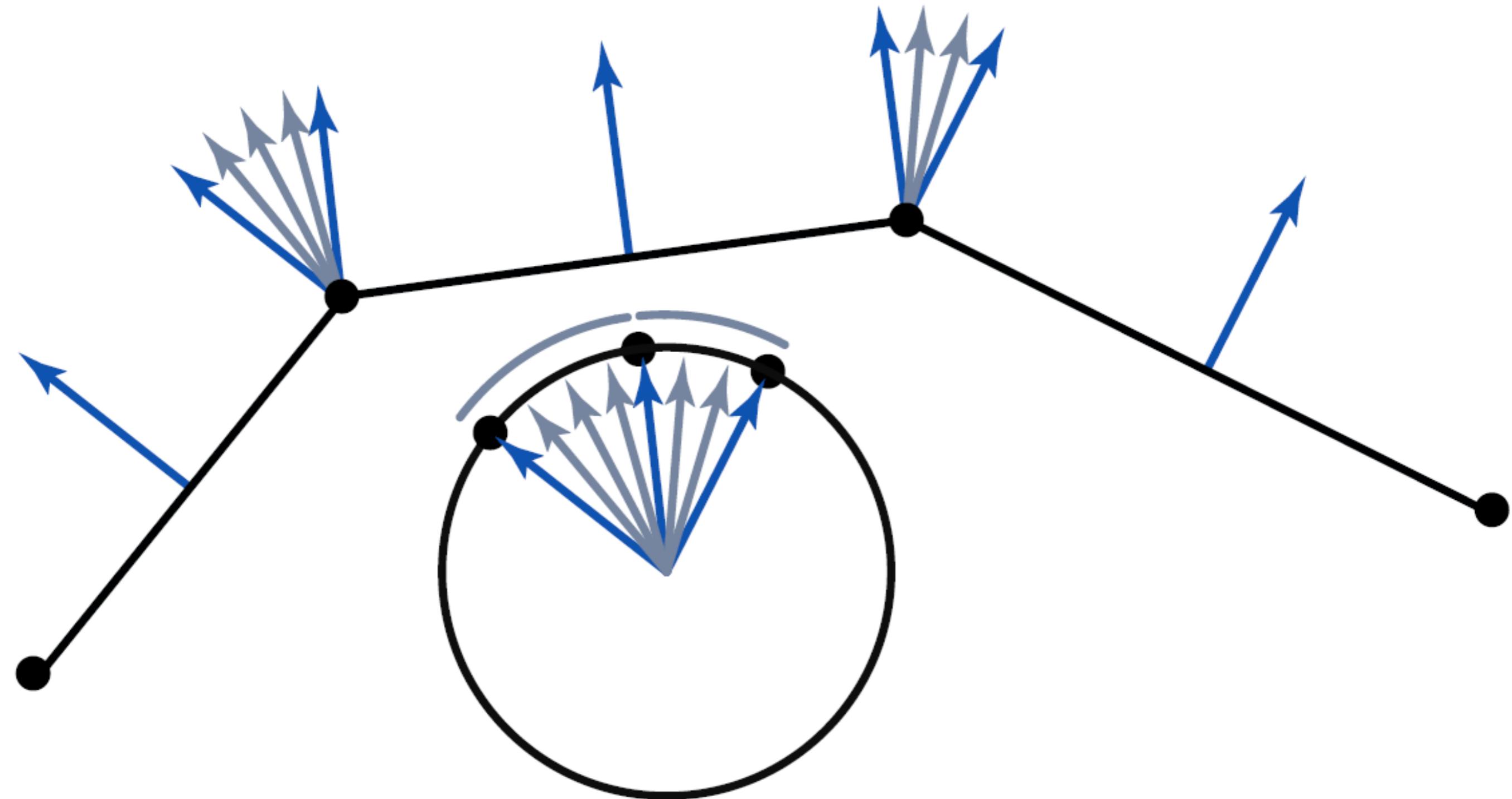
$$\Delta\theta = \int_{s_0}^{s_1} \kappa(s) ds$$

# Turning Number Theorem

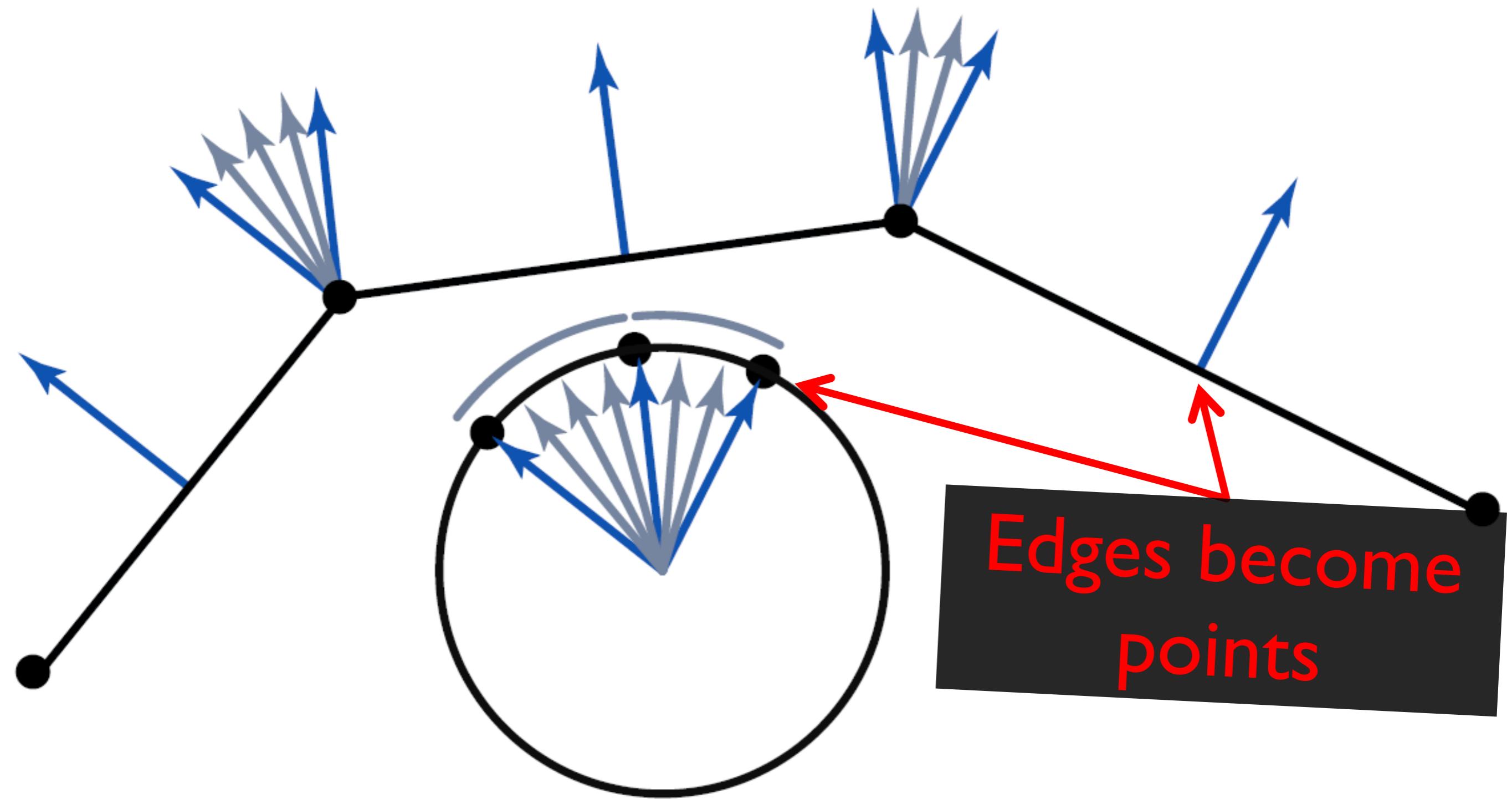
$$\int_{\Omega} \kappa(s) ds = 2\pi k$$

A “global” theorem!

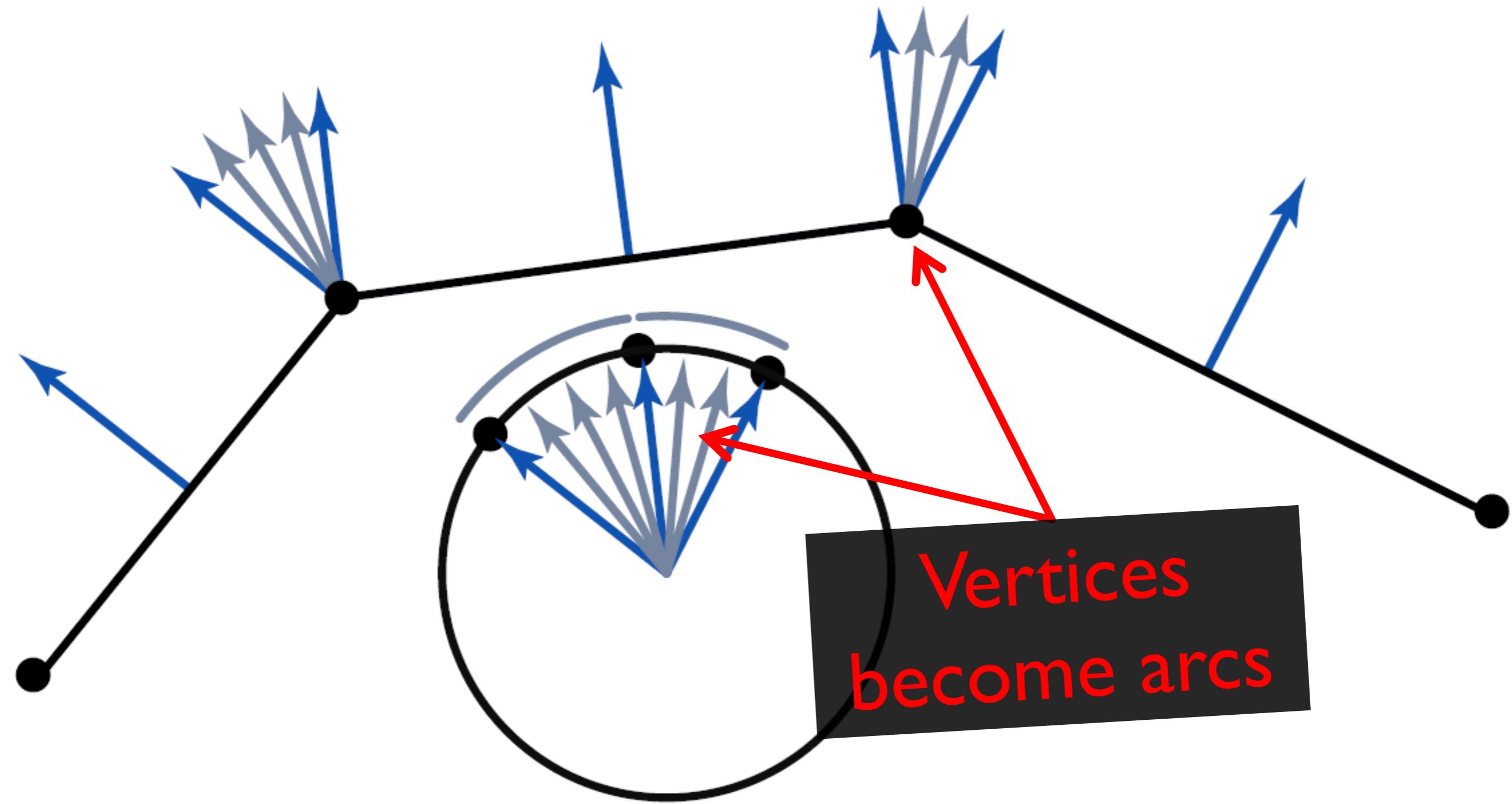
# Discrete Gauss Map



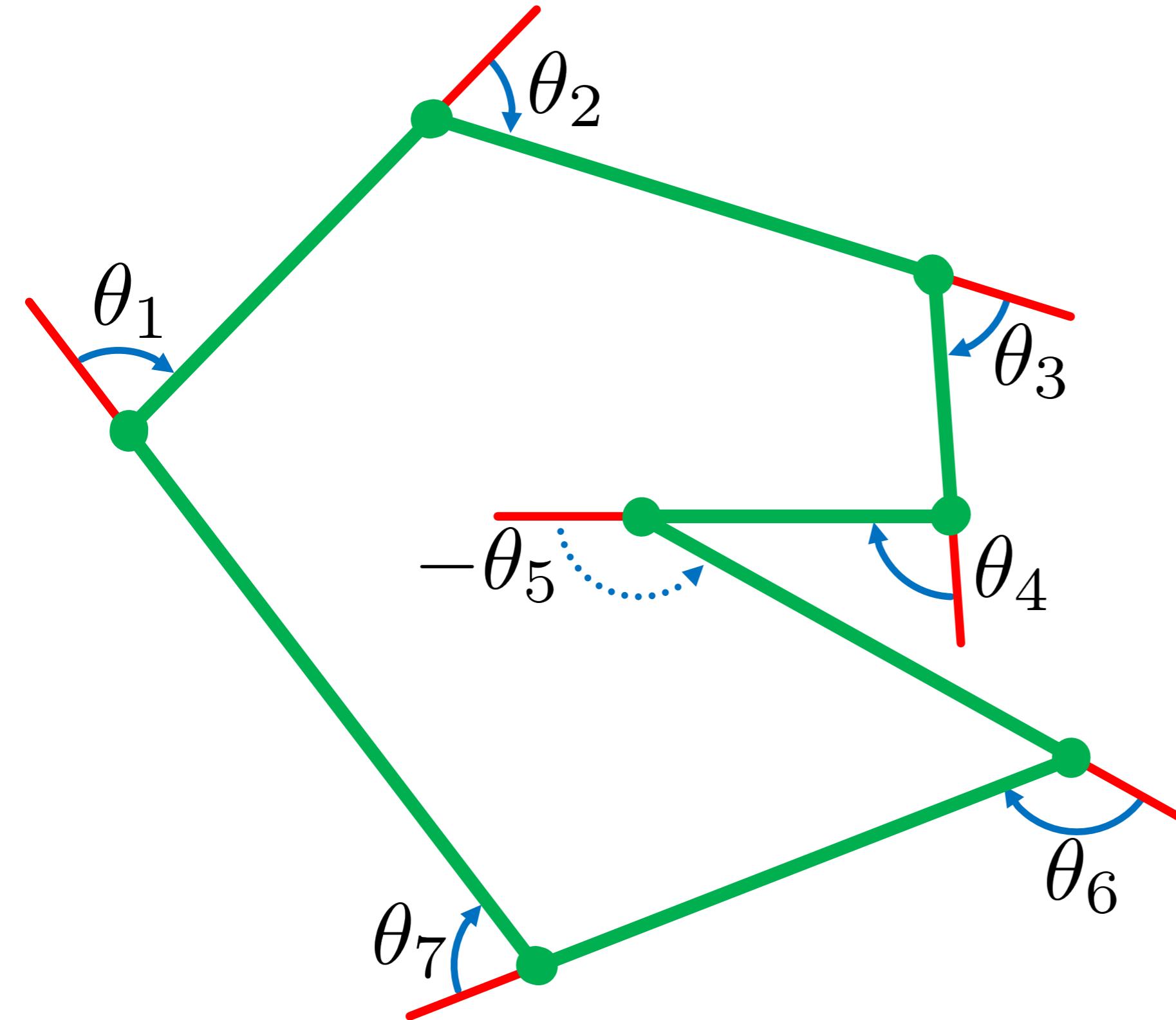
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# Discrete Gauss Map

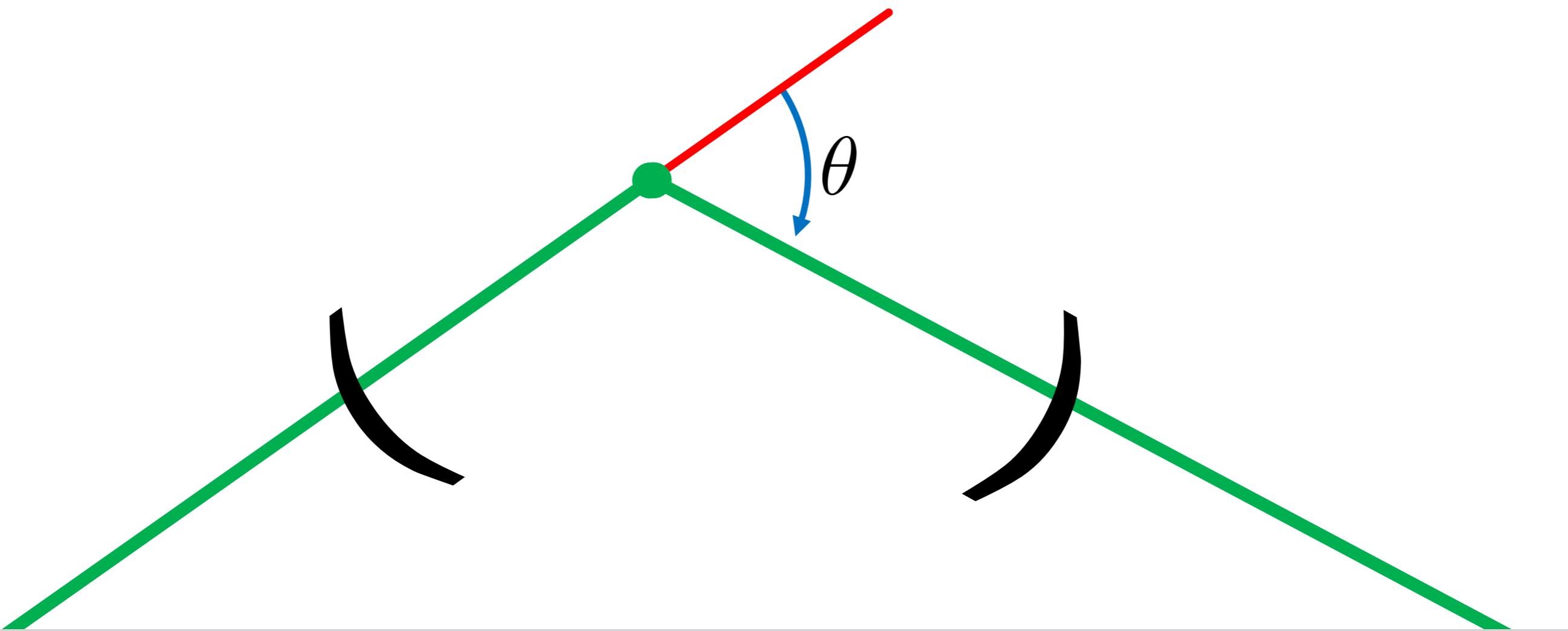


# Key Observation



$$\sum_i \theta_i = 2\pi k$$

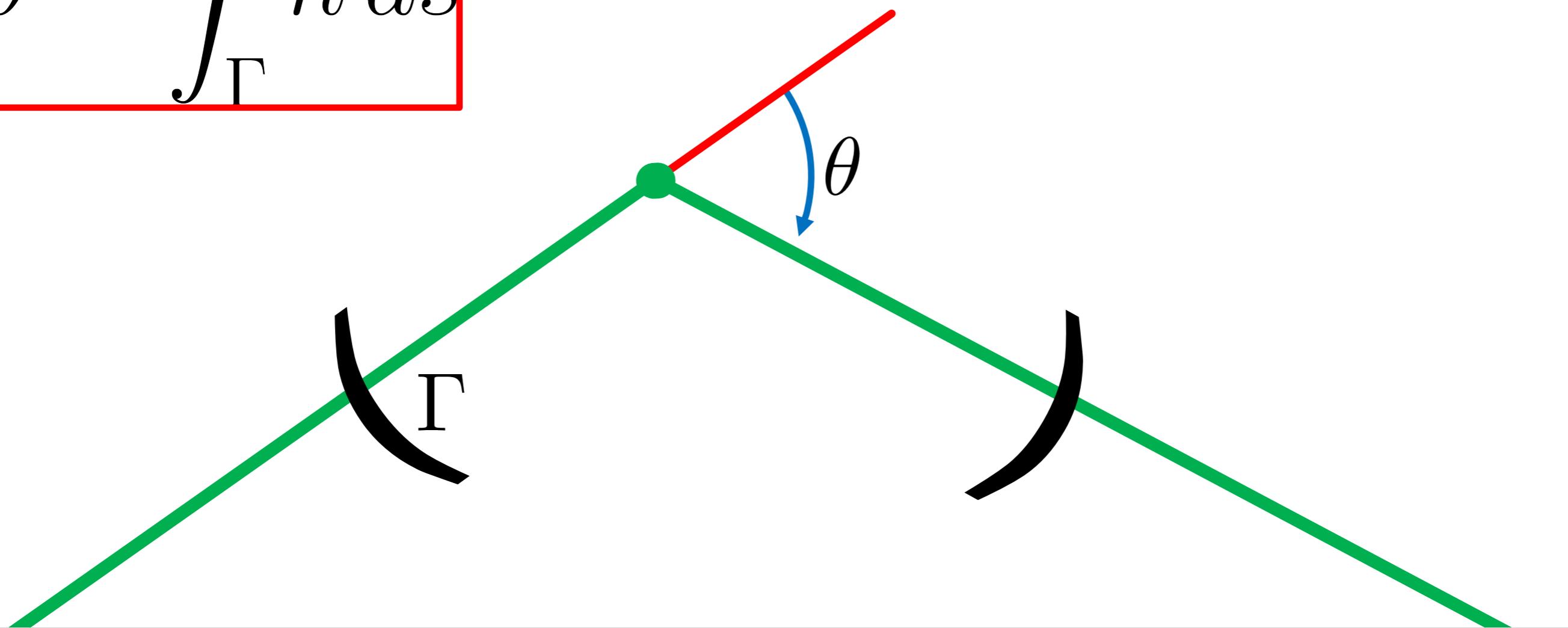
# What's Going On?



Total change in curvature

# What's Going On?

$$\theta = \int_{\Gamma} \kappa ds$$

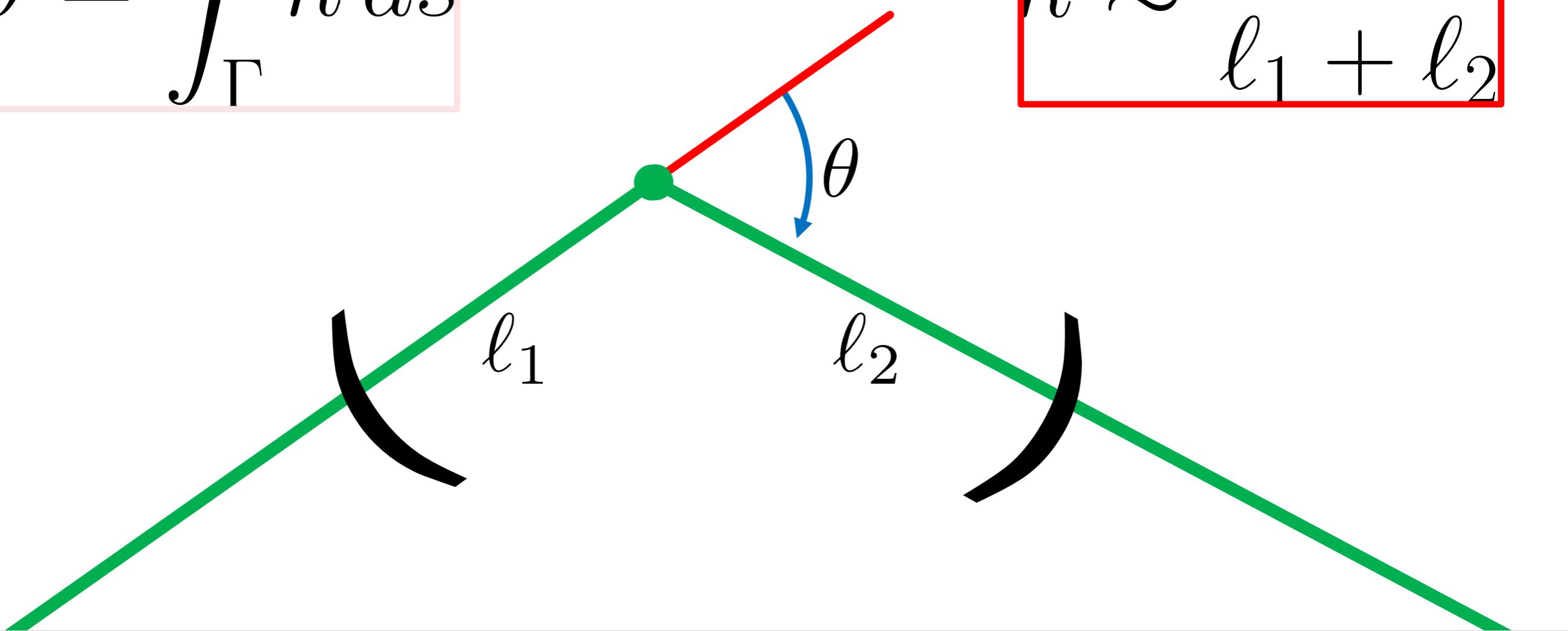


Total change in curvature

# What's Going On?

$$\theta = \int_{\Gamma} \kappa ds$$

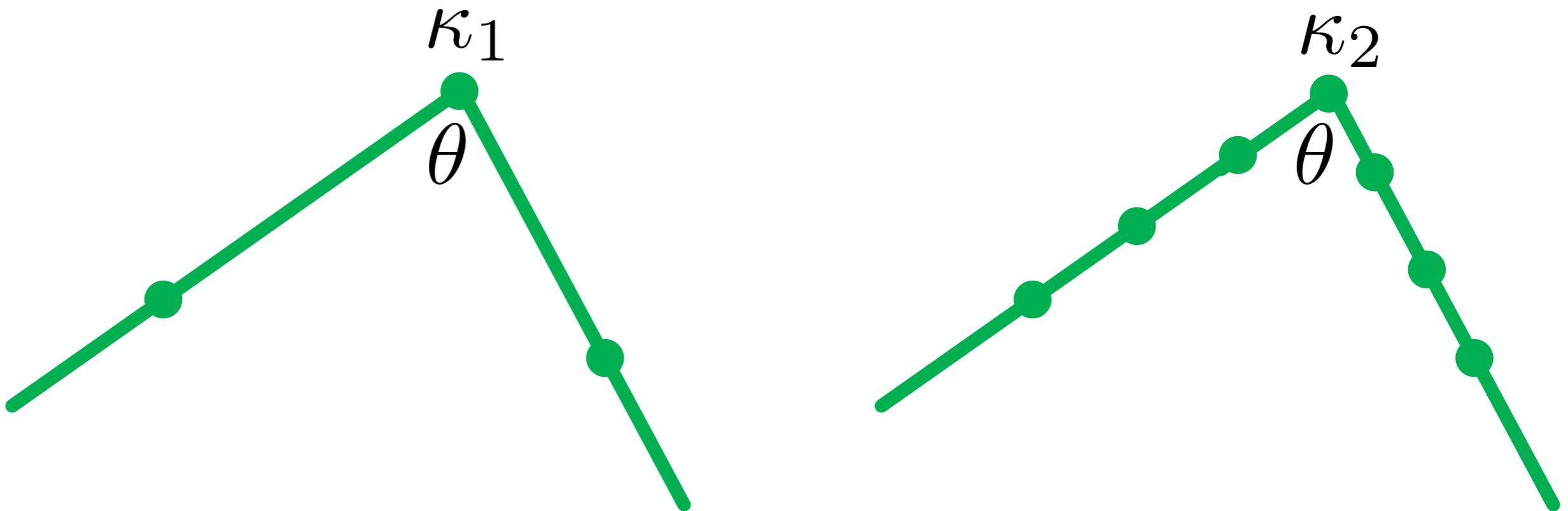
$$\kappa \approx \frac{\theta}{\ell_1 + \ell_2}$$



Total change in curvature

# Interesting Distinction

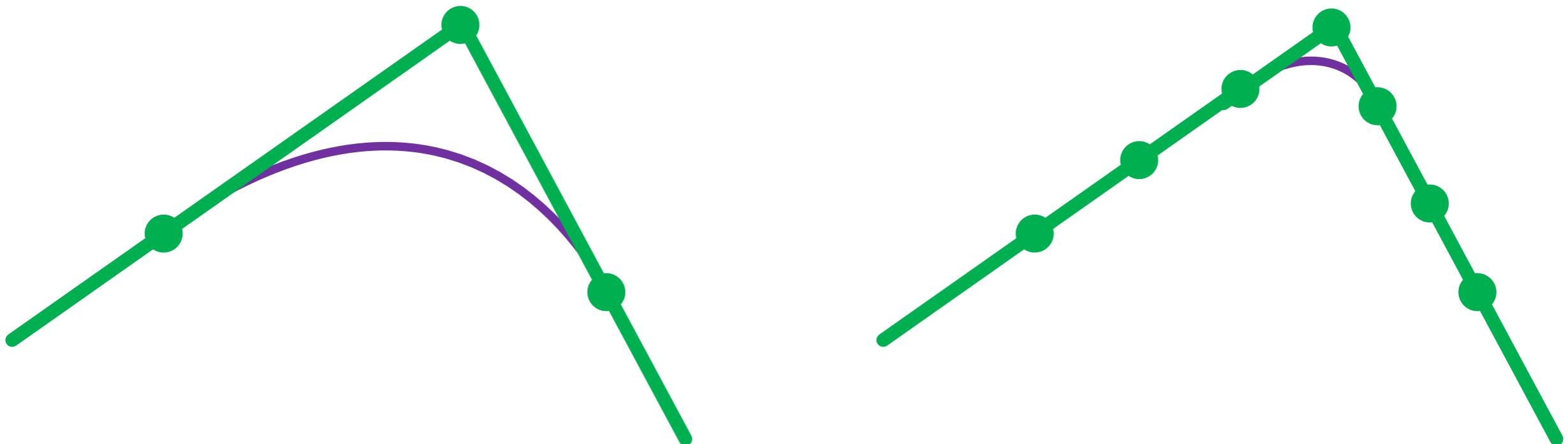
$$\kappa_1 \neq \kappa_2$$



Same integrated curvature

# Interesting Distinction

$$\kappa_1 \neq \kappa_2$$

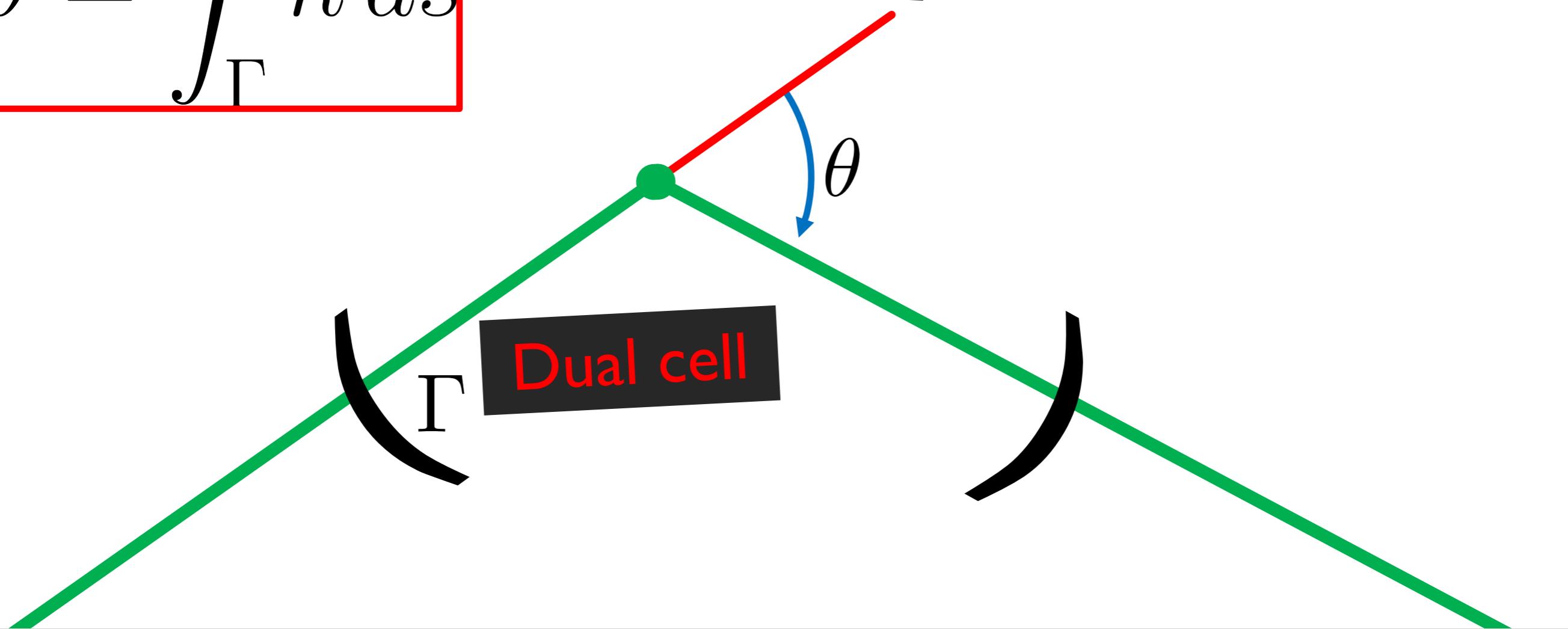


Same integrated curvature

# What's Going On?

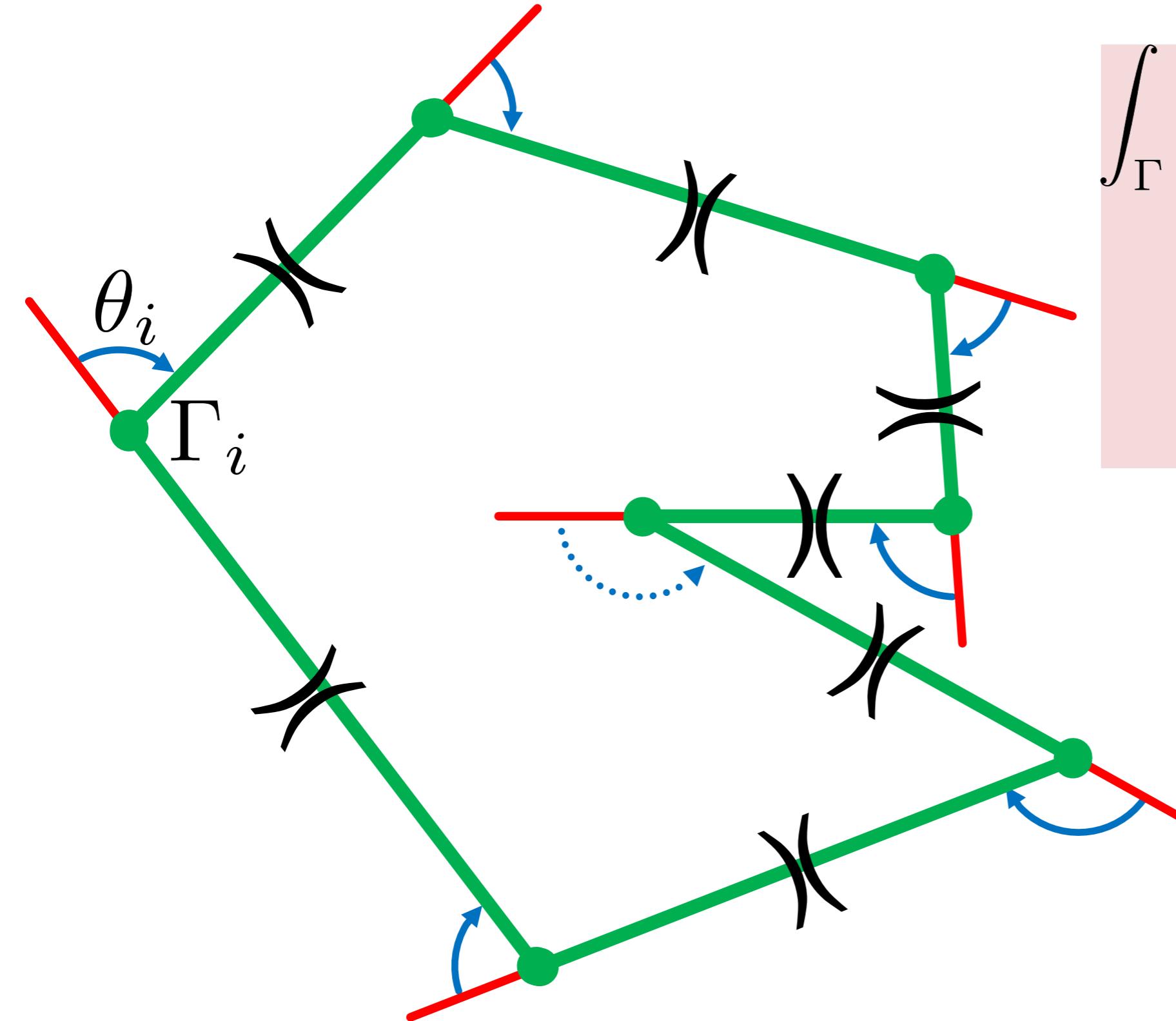
$$\theta = \int_{\Gamma} \kappa ds$$

Integrated  
quantity



Total change in curvature

# Discrete Turning Angle Theorem



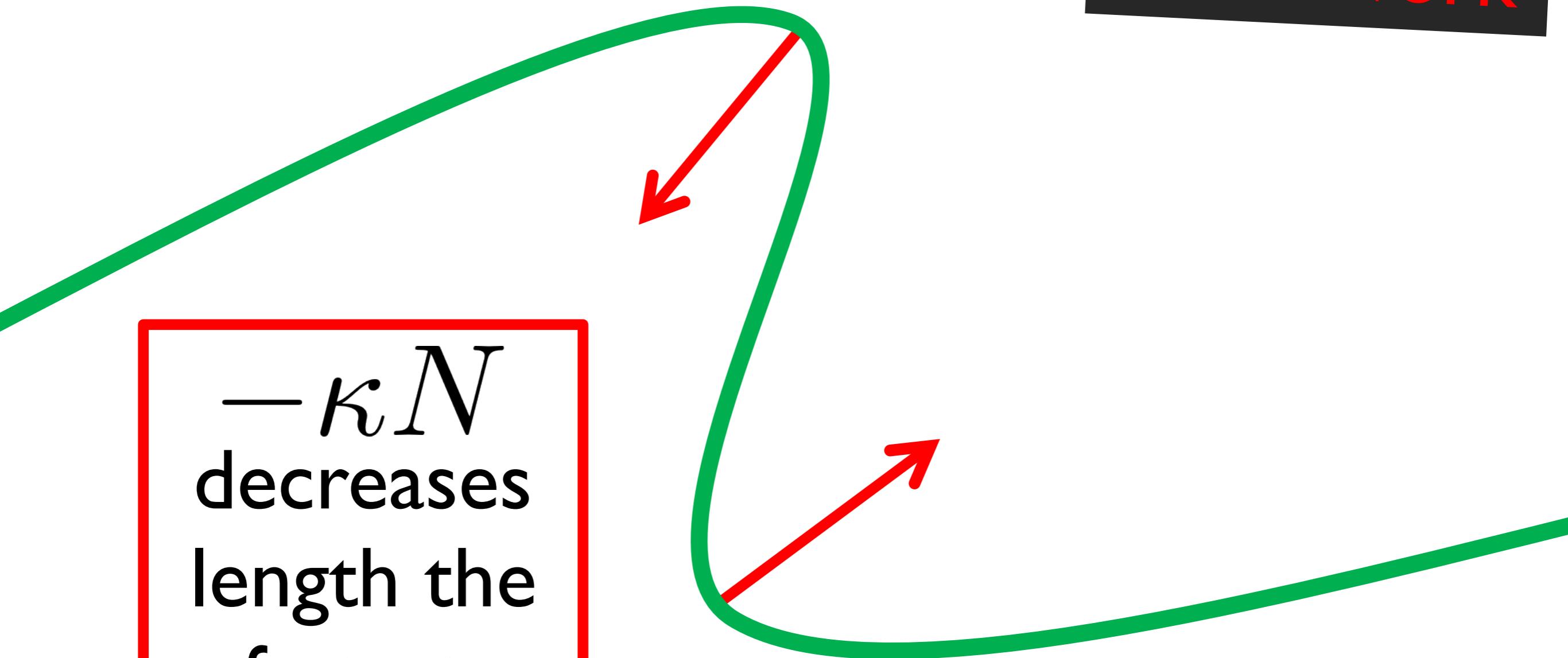
$$\begin{aligned}\int_{\Gamma} \kappa ds &= \sum_i \int_{\Gamma_i} \kappa ds \\ &= \sum_i \theta_i \\ &= 2\pi k\end{aligned}$$

Preserved  
structure!

# Alternative Definition

Homework

$-\kappa N$   
decreases  
length the  
fastest.



# Remaining Question

Does discrete curvature  
converge in limit?

Yes!

# Remaining Question

Questions:

- Type of convergence?
- Sampling?
- Class of curves?

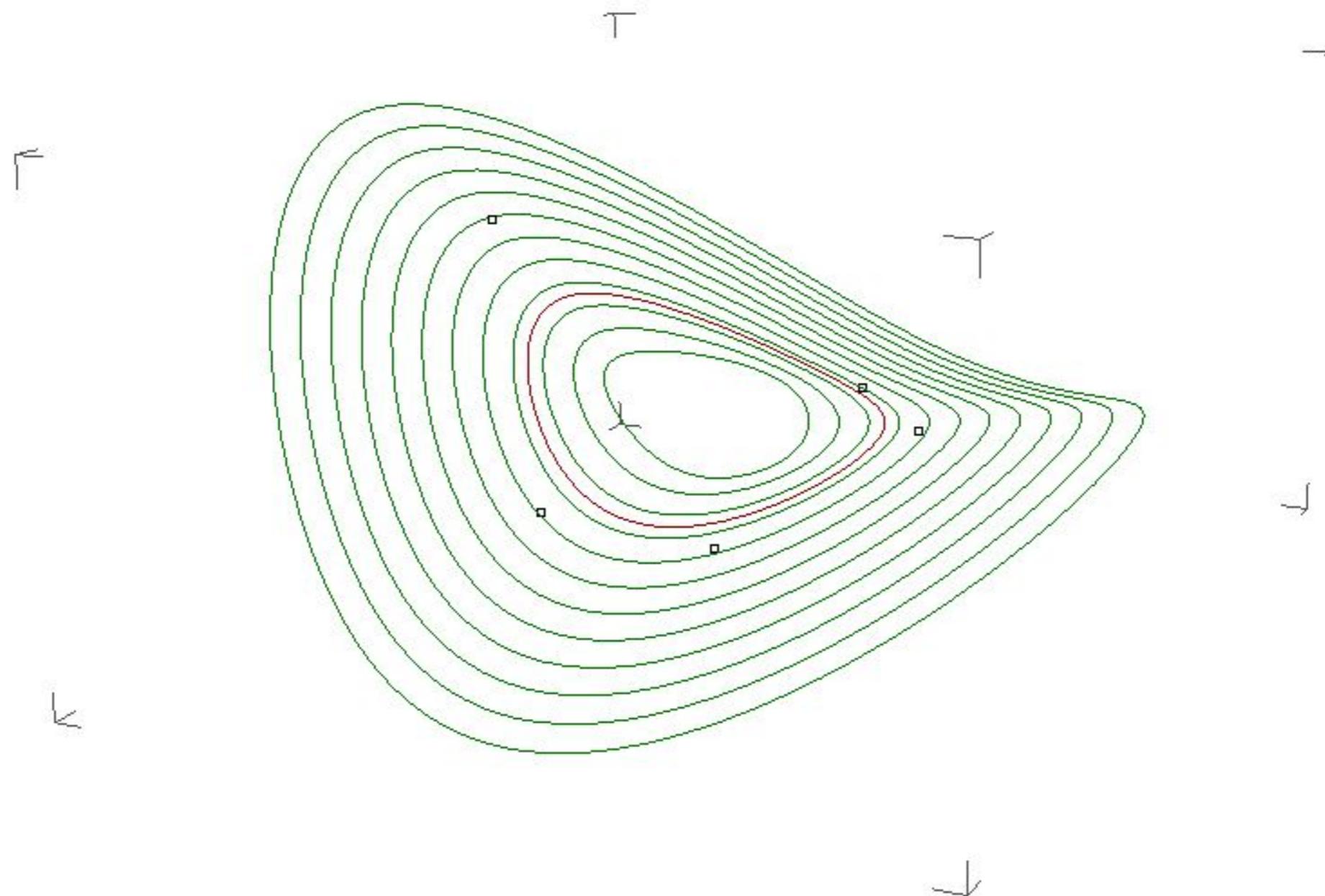
Does discrete curvature  
converge in limit?

Yes!

# Discrete Differential Geometry

- **Different** discrete behavior
- **Same** convergence

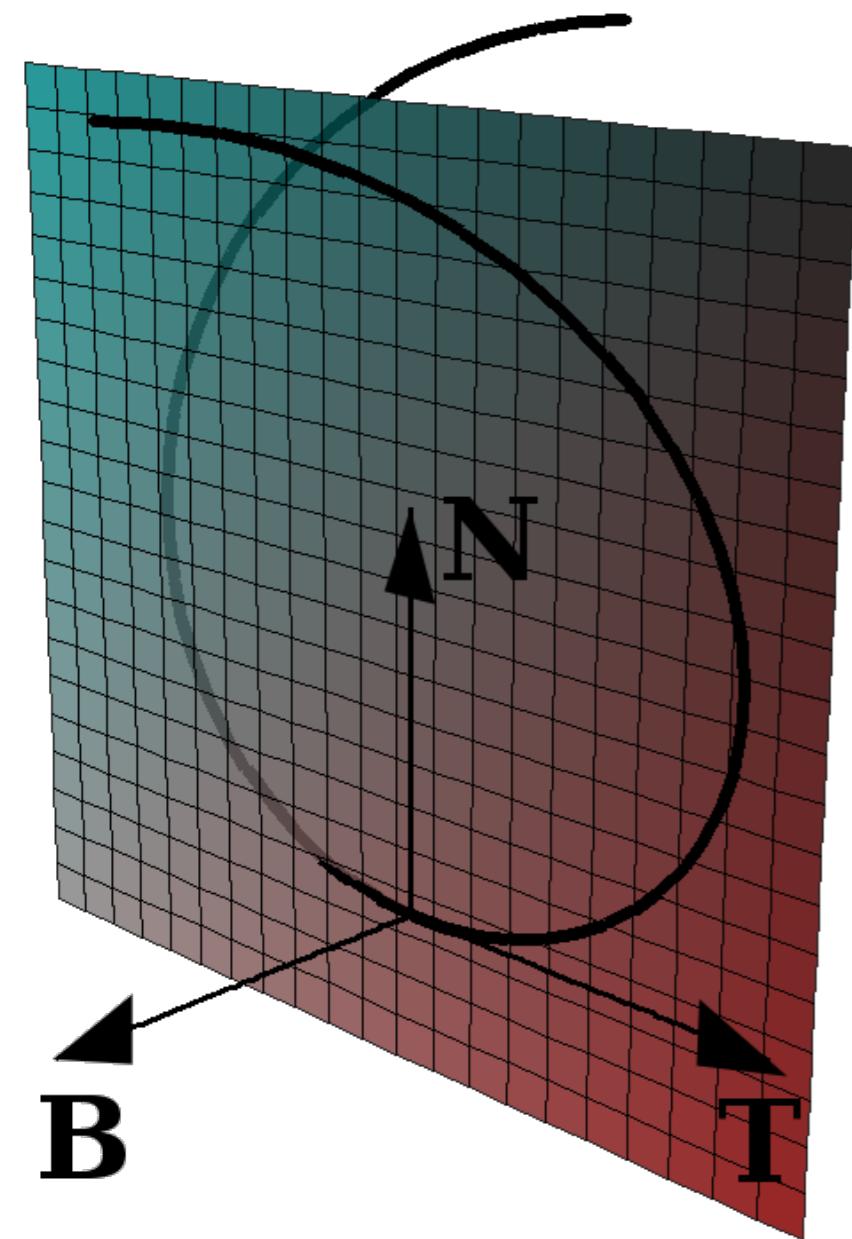
# Next



<http://www.grasshopper3d.com/forum/topics/offseting-3d-curves-component>

# Curves in 3D

# Frenet Frame



$$\frac{d}{ds} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \kappa & 0 \\ -\kappa & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & -\tau & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$

# Potential Discretization

$$T_j = \frac{p_{j+1} - p_j}{\|p_{j+1} - p_j\|}$$

$$B_j = t_{j-1} \times t_j$$

$$N_j = b_j \times t_j$$

Discrete Frenet frame

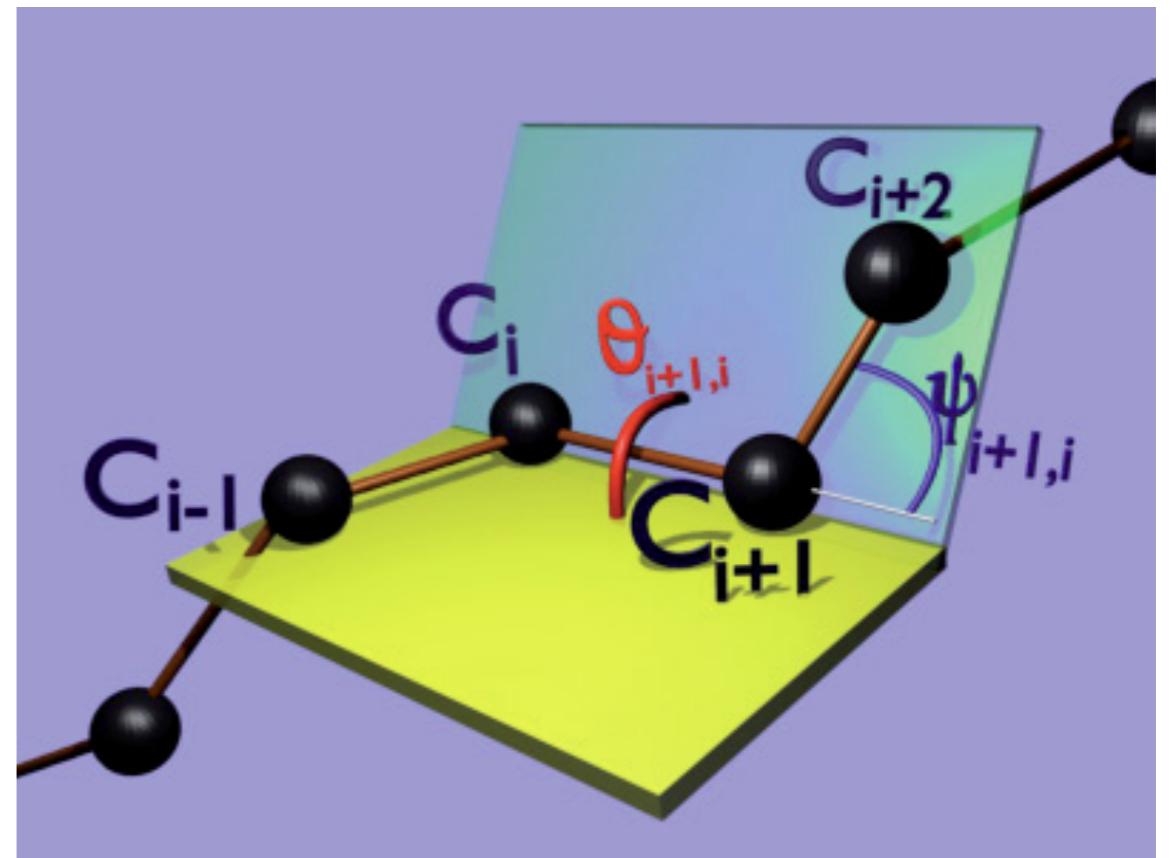
Discrete frame introduced in:

The resultant electric moment of complex molecules

Eyring, Physical Review, 39(4):746—748, 1932.

# Transfer Matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} T_{i+1} \\ N_{i+1} \\ B_{i+1} \end{pmatrix} = R_{i+1,i} \begin{pmatrix} T_i \\ N_i \\ B_i \end{pmatrix}$$

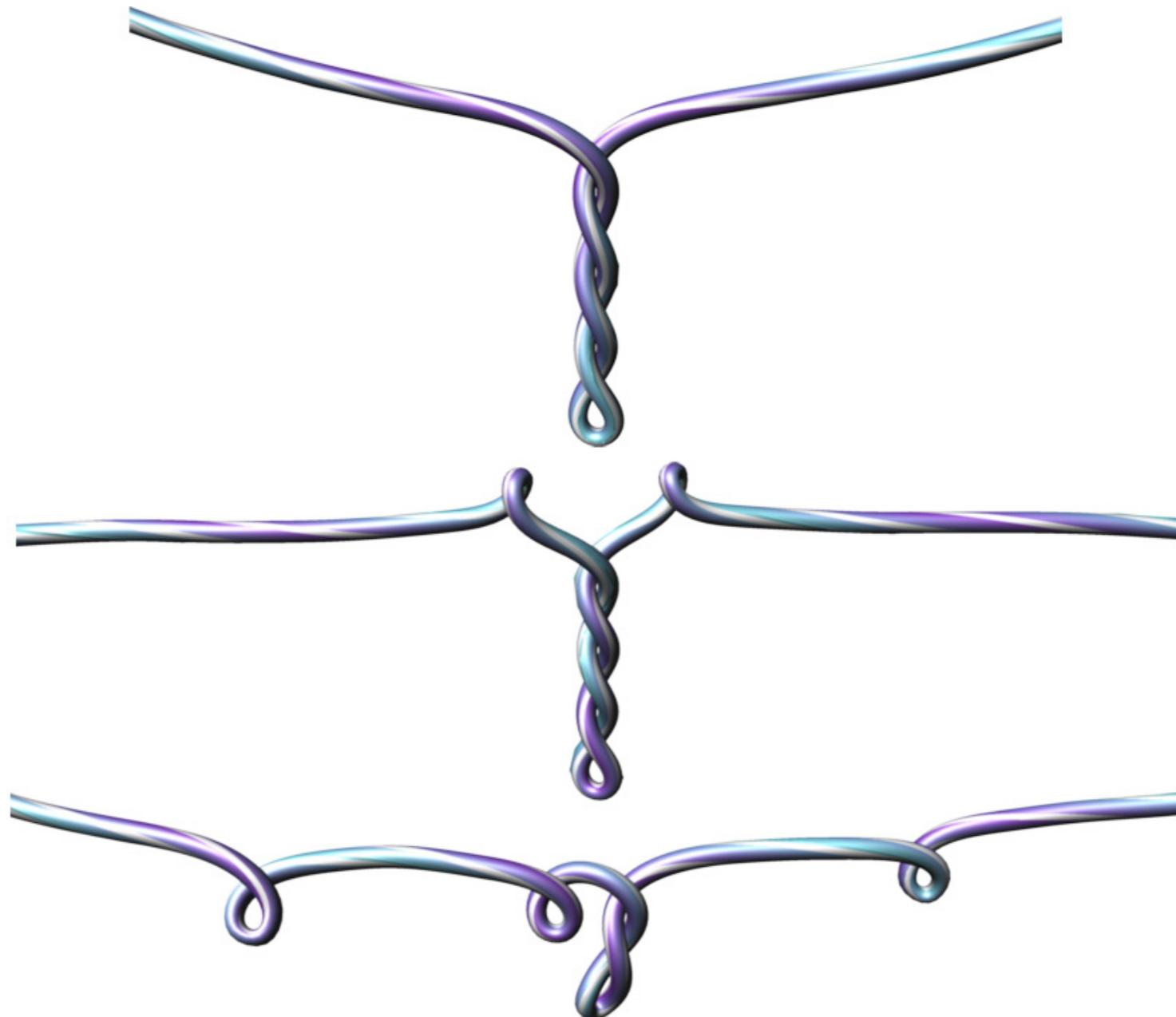


Discrete construction that works for fractal curves  
and converges in continuum limit.

Discrete Frenet Frame, Inflection Point Solitons, and Curve Visualization  
with Applications to Folded Proteins

Hu, Lundgren, and Niemi  
Physical Review E 83 (2011)

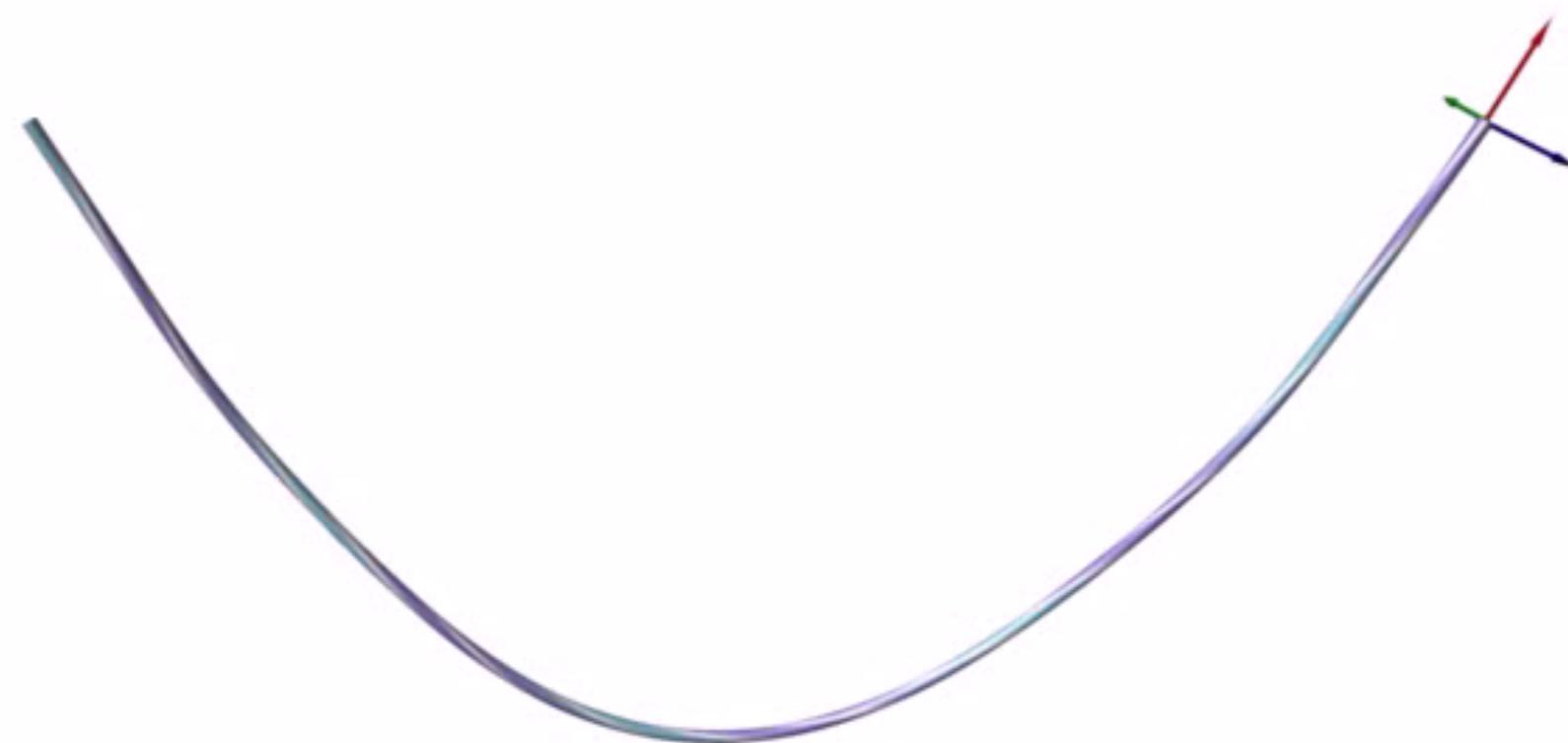
# Segments Not Always Enough



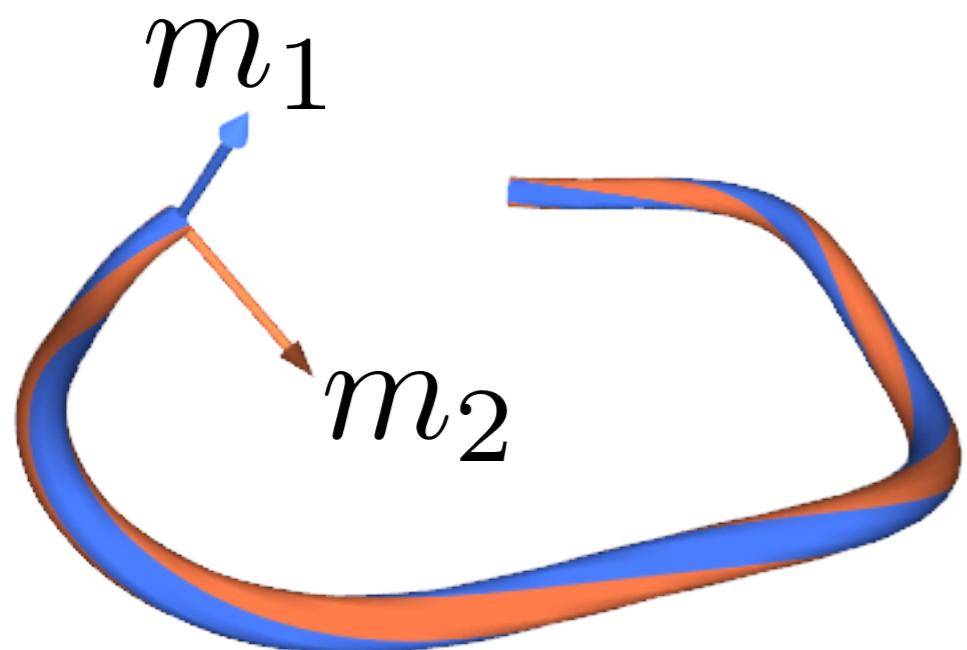
Discrete Elastic Rods

Bergou, Wardetzky, Robinson, Audoly, and Grinspun  
SIGGRAPH 2008

# Simulation Goal



# Adapted Framed Curve



$$\Gamma = \{\gamma(s); T, m_1, m_2\}$$

Material frame

# Bending Energy

$$E_{\text{bend}}(\Gamma) := \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Gamma} \alpha \kappa^2 \, ds$$

Punish turning the steering wheel

---

$$\kappa N = T'$$

$$= (T' \cdot T)T + (T' \cdot m_1)m_1 + (T' \cdot m_2)m_2$$

$$= (T' \cdot m_1)m_1 + (T' \cdot m_2)m_2$$

$$:= \omega_1 m_1 + \omega_2 m_2$$

# Bending Energy

$$E_{\text{bend}}(\Gamma) := \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Gamma} \alpha(\omega_1^2 + \omega_2^2) \, ds$$

Punish turning the steering wheel

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# Twisting Energy

$$E_{\text{twist}}(\Gamma) := \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Gamma} \beta m^2 ds$$

Punish non-tangent change in material frame

---

$$m := m'_1 \cdot m_2$$

$$= \frac{d}{dt} (m_1 \cdot m_2) - m_1 \cdot m'_2$$

$$= -m_1 \cdot m'_2$$

# Twisting Energy

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Swapping and does not affect !

# Which Basis to Use

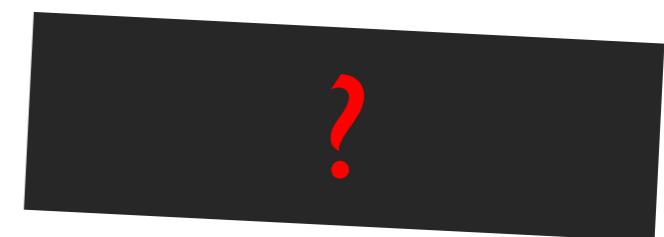
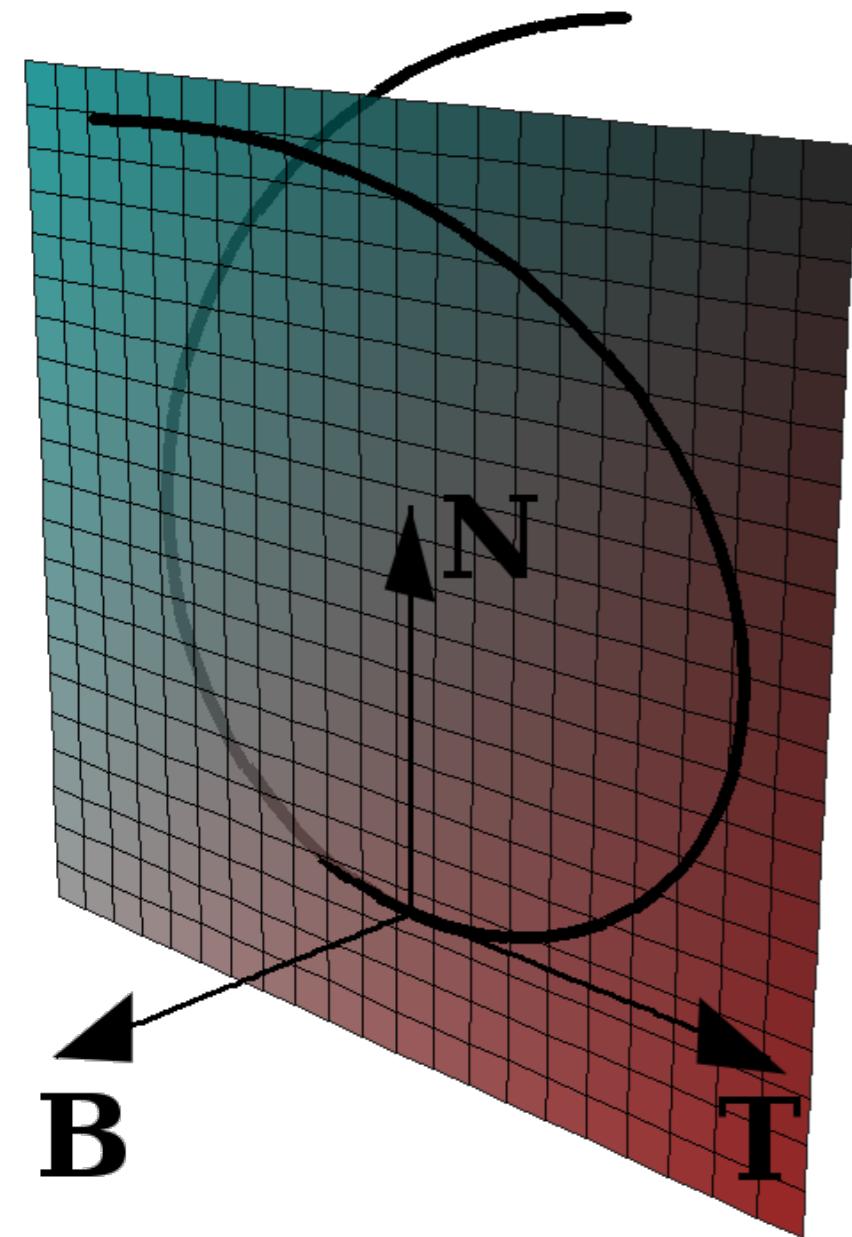
## THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO FRAME A CURVE

RICHARD L. BISHOP

The Frenet frame of a 3-times continuously differentiable (that is,  $C^3$ ) non-degenerate curve in euclidean space has long been the standard vehicle for analysing properties of the curve invariant under euclidean motions. For arbitrary moving frames, that is, orthonormal basis fields, we can express the derivatives of the frame with respect to the curve parameter in terms of the frame itself, and due to orthogonality the coefficient matrix is always skew-symmetric. Thus it generally has three nonzero entries. The Frenet frame gains part of its special significance from the fact that one of the three derivatives is always zero. Another feature of the Frenet frame is that it is *adapted* to the curve: the members are either tangent to or perpendicular to the curve. It is the purpose of this paper to show that there are other frames which have these same advantages and to compare them with the Frenet frame.

**1. Relatively parallel fields.** We say that a normal vector field  $M$  along a curve is *relatively parallel* if its derivative is tangential. Such a field turns only whatever amount is necessary for it to remain normal, so it is as close to being parallel as possible without losing normality. Since its derivative is perpendicular to it, a relatively parallel normal field has constant length. Such fields occur classically in

# Frenet Frame: Issue



$$\frac{d}{ds} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \boxed{\kappa} & 0 \\ -\kappa & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & -\tau & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$

# Cross Product as Matrix Multiplication

$$\mathbf{a} \times \mathbf{b} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -a_z & a_y \\ a_z & 0 & -a_x \\ -a_y & a_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} b_x \\ b_y \\ b_z \end{bmatrix} = [\mathbf{a}_\times] \mathbf{b}$$

$$[\mathbf{a}_\times] = - [\mathbf{a}_\times]^T$$

“skew-symmetric matrix”

# Darboux Vector of Frenet Frame

In terms of the Frenet-Serret apparatus, the Darboux vector  $\omega$  can be expressed as<sup>[3]</sup>

$$\Omega = \tau \mathbf{T} + \kappa \mathbf{B} \quad (1)$$

and it has the following [symmetrical](#) properties:<sup>[2]</sup>

$$\Omega \times \mathbf{T} = \mathbf{T}',$$

$$\Omega \times \mathbf{N} = \mathbf{N}',$$

$$\Omega \times \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{B}',$$

which can be derived from Equation (1) by means of the [Frenet-Serret theorem](#) (or vice versa).

# Bishop Frame and its Darboux Vector

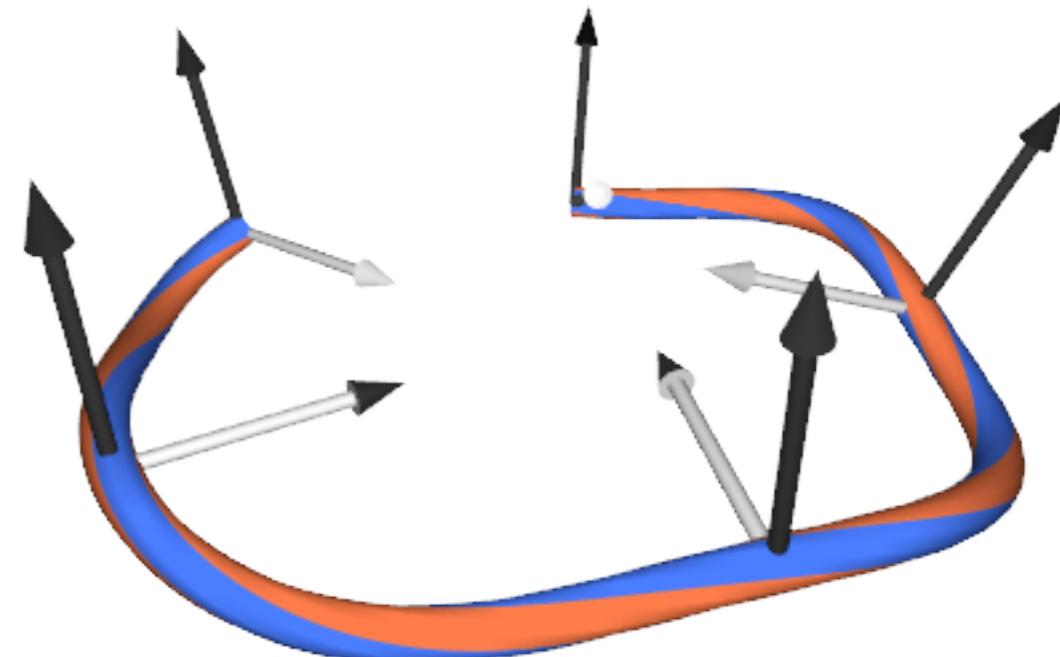
$$T' = \Omega \times T$$

$$u' = \Omega \times u$$

$$v' = \Omega \times v$$

$\Omega := \kappa B$  (“curvature binormal”)

Darboux vector



# Bishop Frame

$$T' = \Omega \times T$$

$$u' = \Omega \times u$$

$$v' = \Omega \times v$$

$\Omega := \kappa B$  (“curvature binormal”)

$$u' \cdot v \equiv 0$$

No twist  
("parallel transport")

# Curve-Angle Representation

$$m_1 = u \cos \theta + v \sin \theta$$

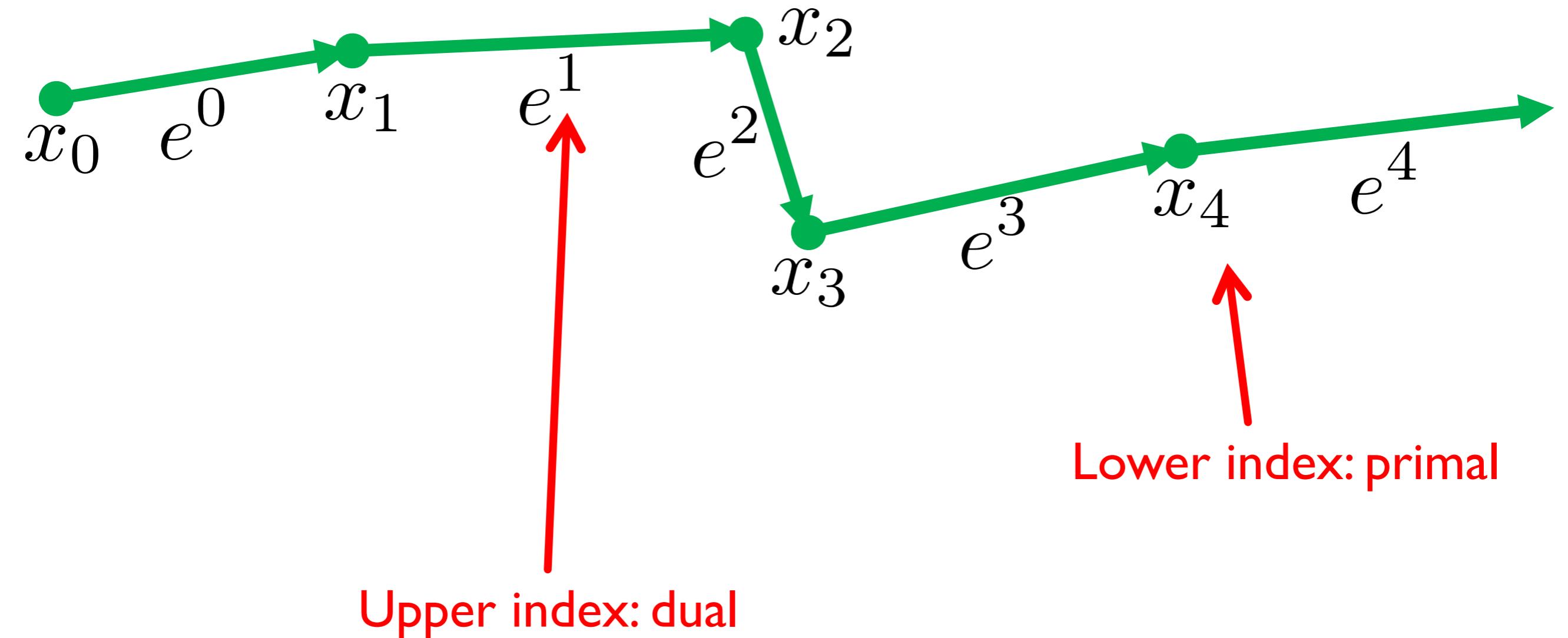
$$m_2 = -u \sin \theta + v \cos \theta$$

$$E_{\text{twist}}(\Gamma) := \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Gamma} \beta(\theta')^2 \, ds$$

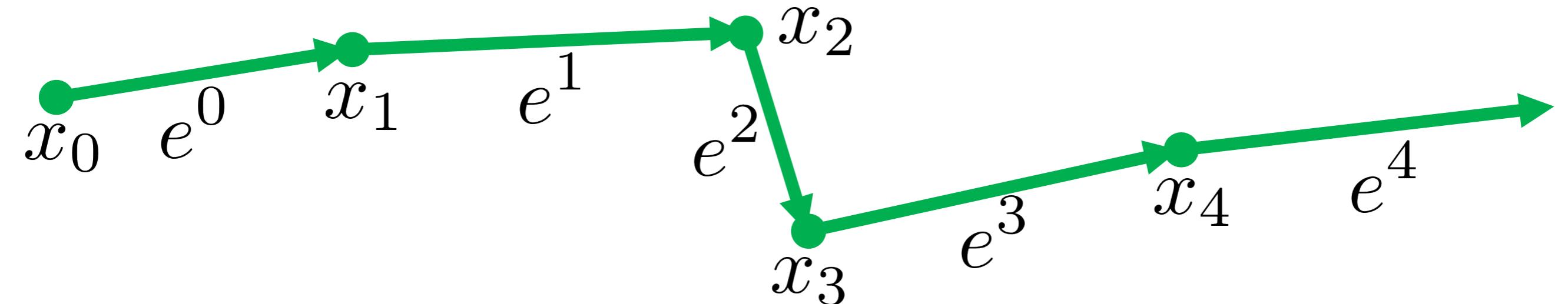
Degrees of freedom for elastic energy:

- Shape of curve
- Twist angle

# Discrete Kirchoff Rods



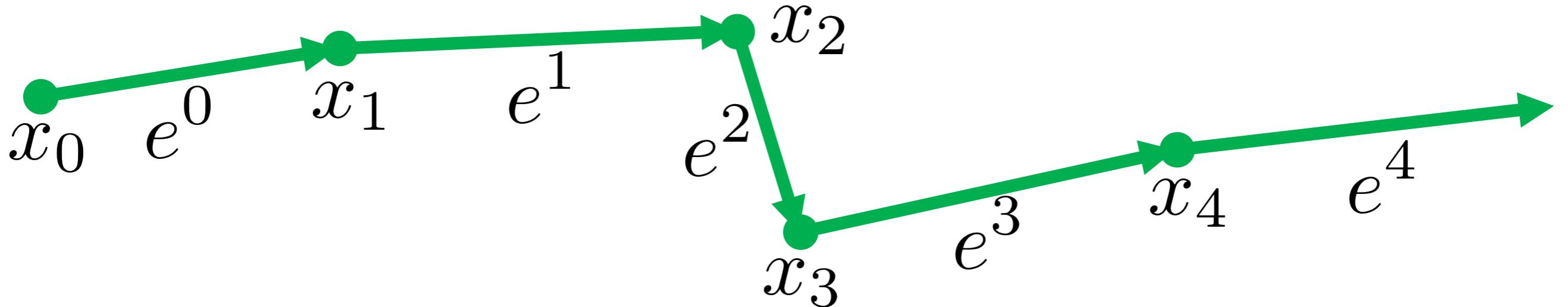
# Discrete Kirchoff Rods



$$T^i := \frac{e^i}{\|e^i\|}$$

Tangent unambiguous on edge

# Discrete Kirchoff Rods

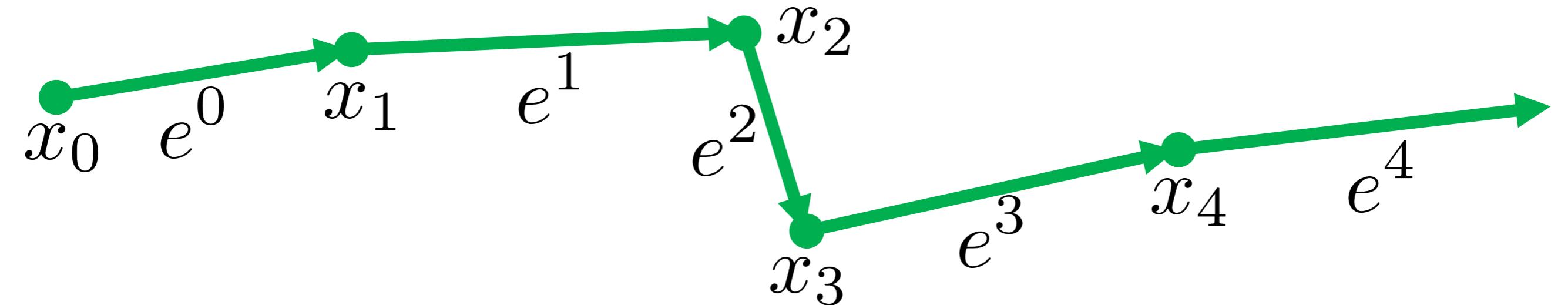


$$\kappa_i := 2 \tan \frac{\phi_i}{2}$$

Yet another curvature!

Integrated curvature

# Discrete Kirchoff Rods



$$\kappa_i := 2 \tan \frac{\phi_i}{2}$$

$$(\kappa B)_i := \frac{2e^{i-1} \times e^i}{\|e^{i-1}\| \|e^i\| + e^{i-1} \cdot e^i}$$

Orthogonal to osculating plane, norm

Yet another curvature!

Darboux vector

# Bending Energy

$$\begin{aligned} E_{\text{bend}}(\Gamma) &:= \frac{\alpha}{2} \sum_i \left( \frac{(\kappa B)_i}{\ell_i/2} \right)^2 \frac{\ell_i}{2} \\ &= \alpha \sum_i \frac{\|(\kappa B)_i\|^2}{\ell_i} \end{aligned}$$

Can extend for  
natural bend

Convert to pointwise and integrate

# Discrete Parallel Transport

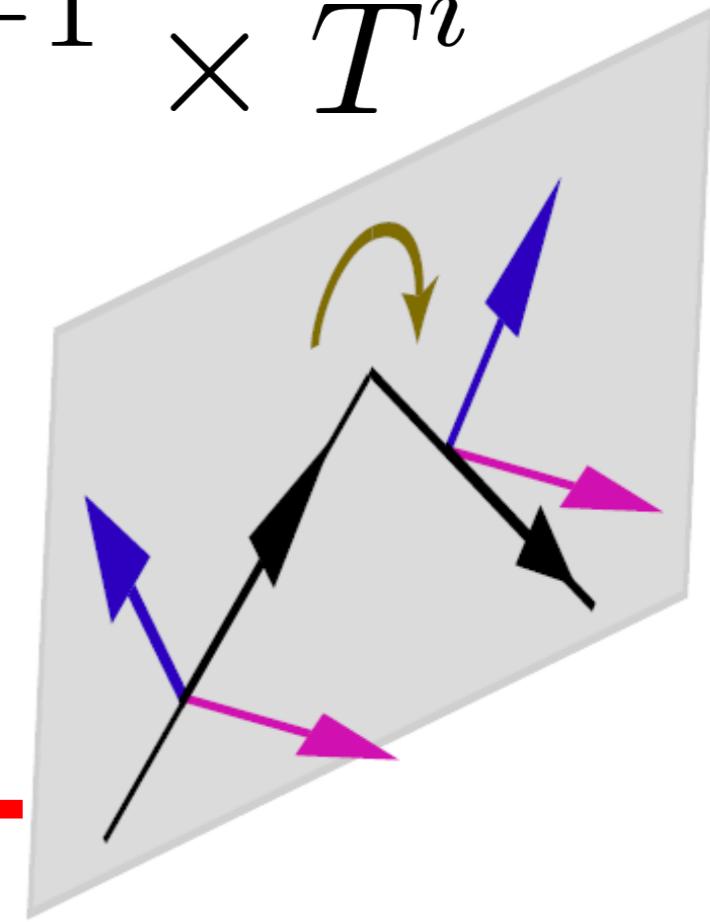
- Map tangent to tangent
- Preserve binormal
- Orthogonal

$$P_i(T^{i-1}) = T^i$$

$$P_i(T^{i-1} \times T^i) = T^{i-1} \times T^i$$

$$u^i = P_i(u^{i-1})$$

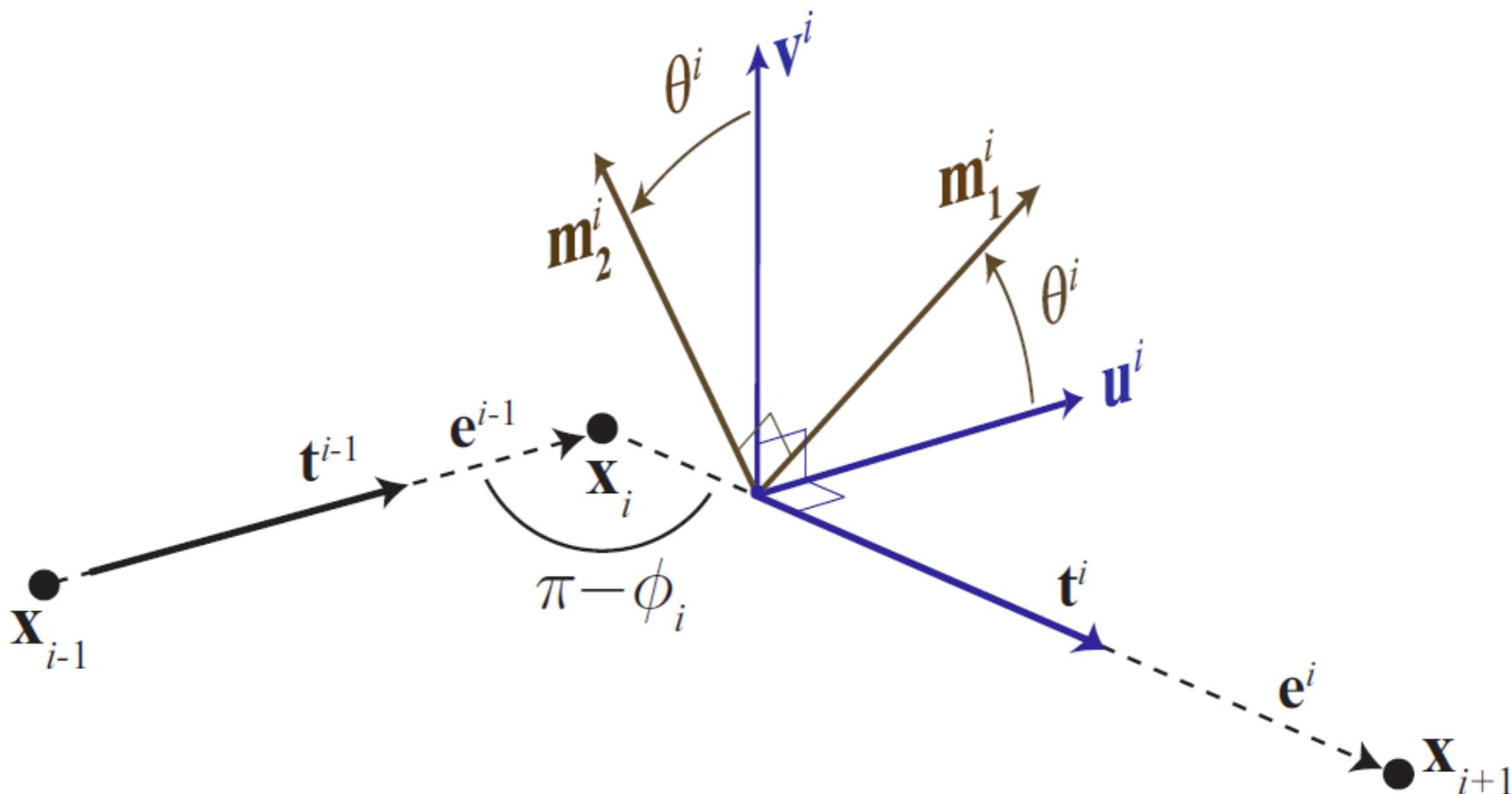
$$v^i = T^i \times u^i$$



# Discrete Material Frame

$$m_1^i = u^i \cos \theta^i + v^i \sin \theta^i$$

$$m_2^i = -u^i \sin \theta^i + v^i \cos \theta^i$$



# Discrete Twisting Energy

$$E_{\text{twist}}(\Gamma) := \beta \sum_i \frac{(\theta^i - \theta^{i-1})^2}{\ell_i}$$

Note can be arbitrary

# Simulation

\omit{physics}

Worth reading!

# Extension and Speedup

## Discrete Viscous Threads

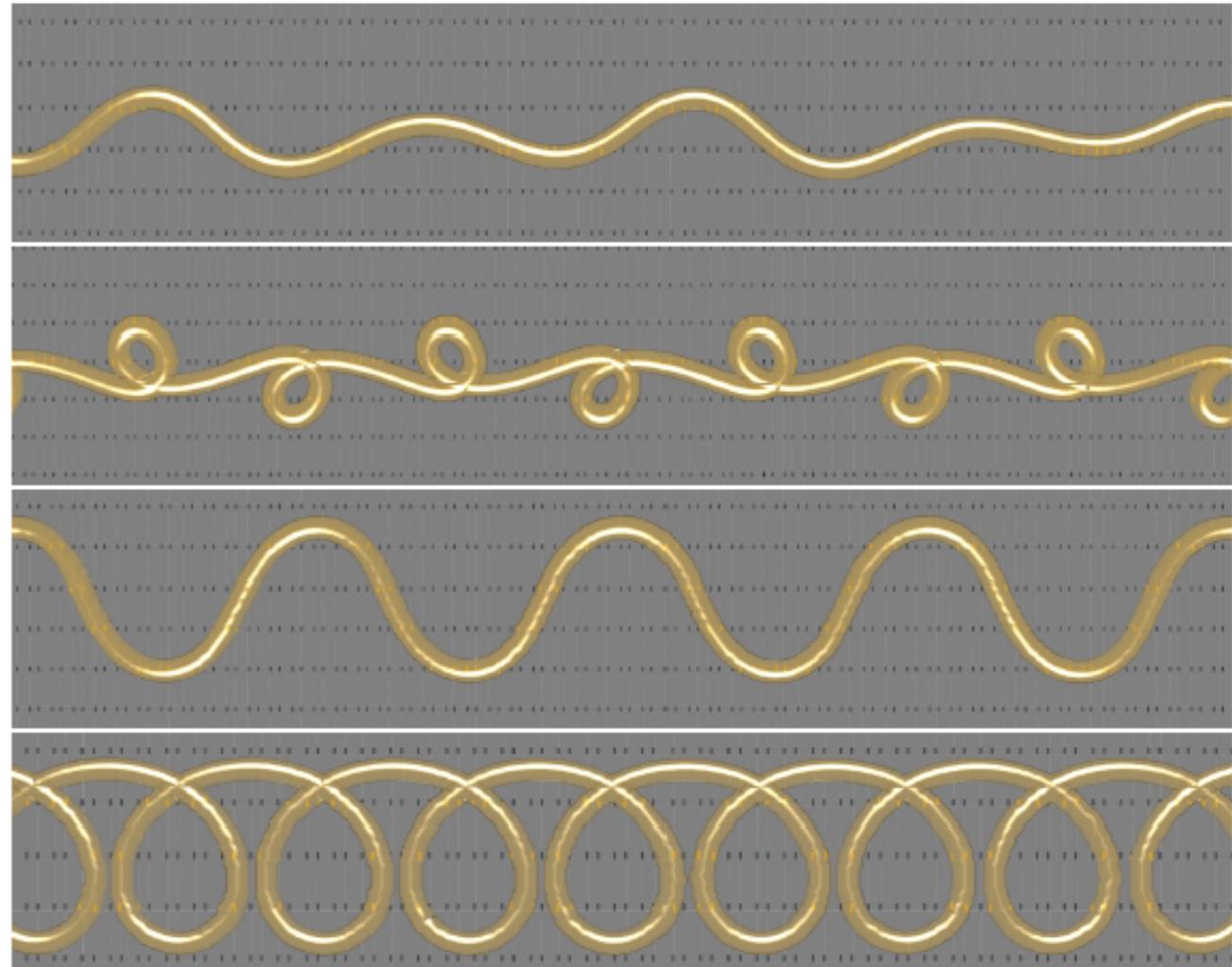
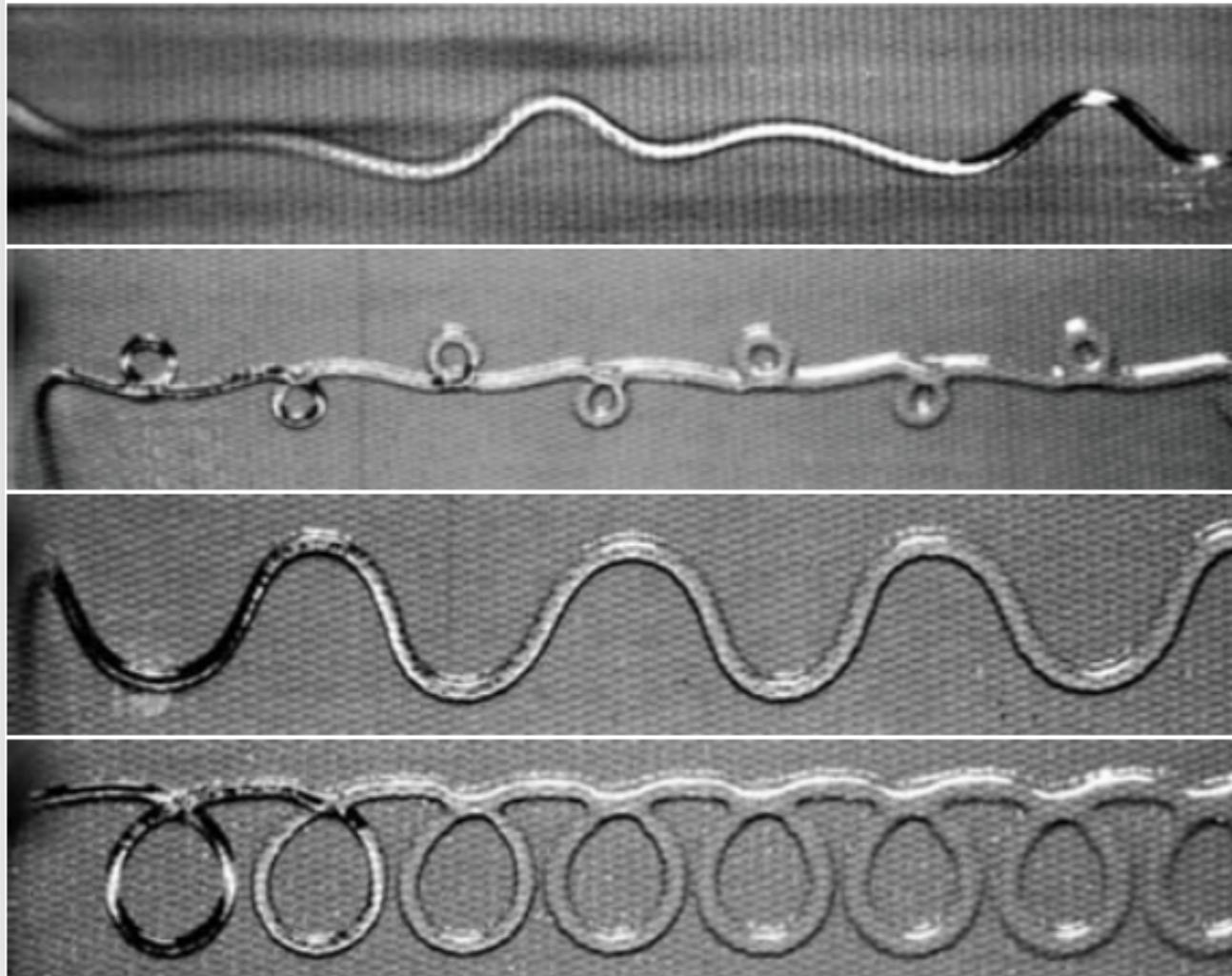
Miklós Bergou  
Columbia University

Basile Audoly  
UPMC Univ. Paris 06 & CNRS

Etienne Vouga  
Columbia University

Max Wardetzky  
Universität Göttingen

Eitan Grinspun  
Columbia University



# Extension and Speedup

## Discrete Viscous Threads

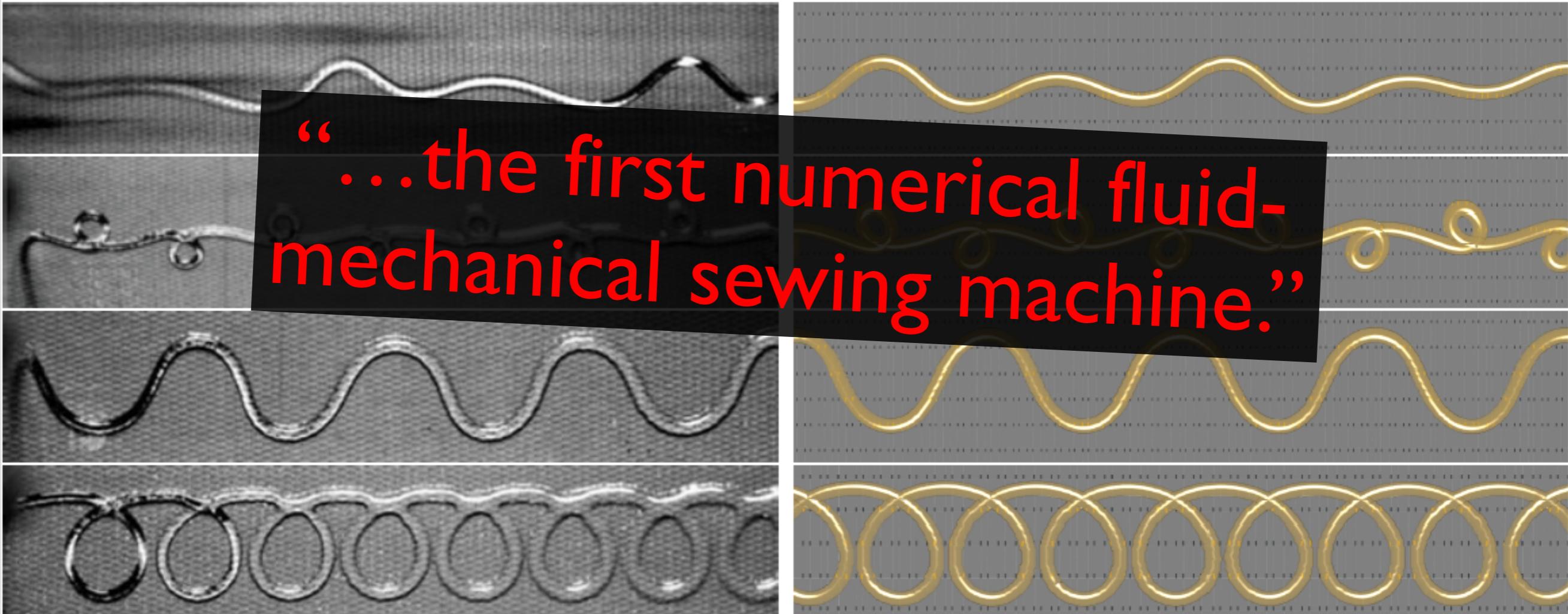
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Eitan Grinspun  
Columbia University



“...the first numerical fluid-mechanical sewing machine.”

# Morals

One curve,  
three curvatures.

$$\theta \quad 2 \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \quad 2 \tan \frac{\theta}{2}$$

# Morals

Easy theoretical object, hard  
to use.

$$\frac{d}{ds} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \kappa & 0 \\ -\kappa & 0 & \tau \\ 0 & -\tau & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$

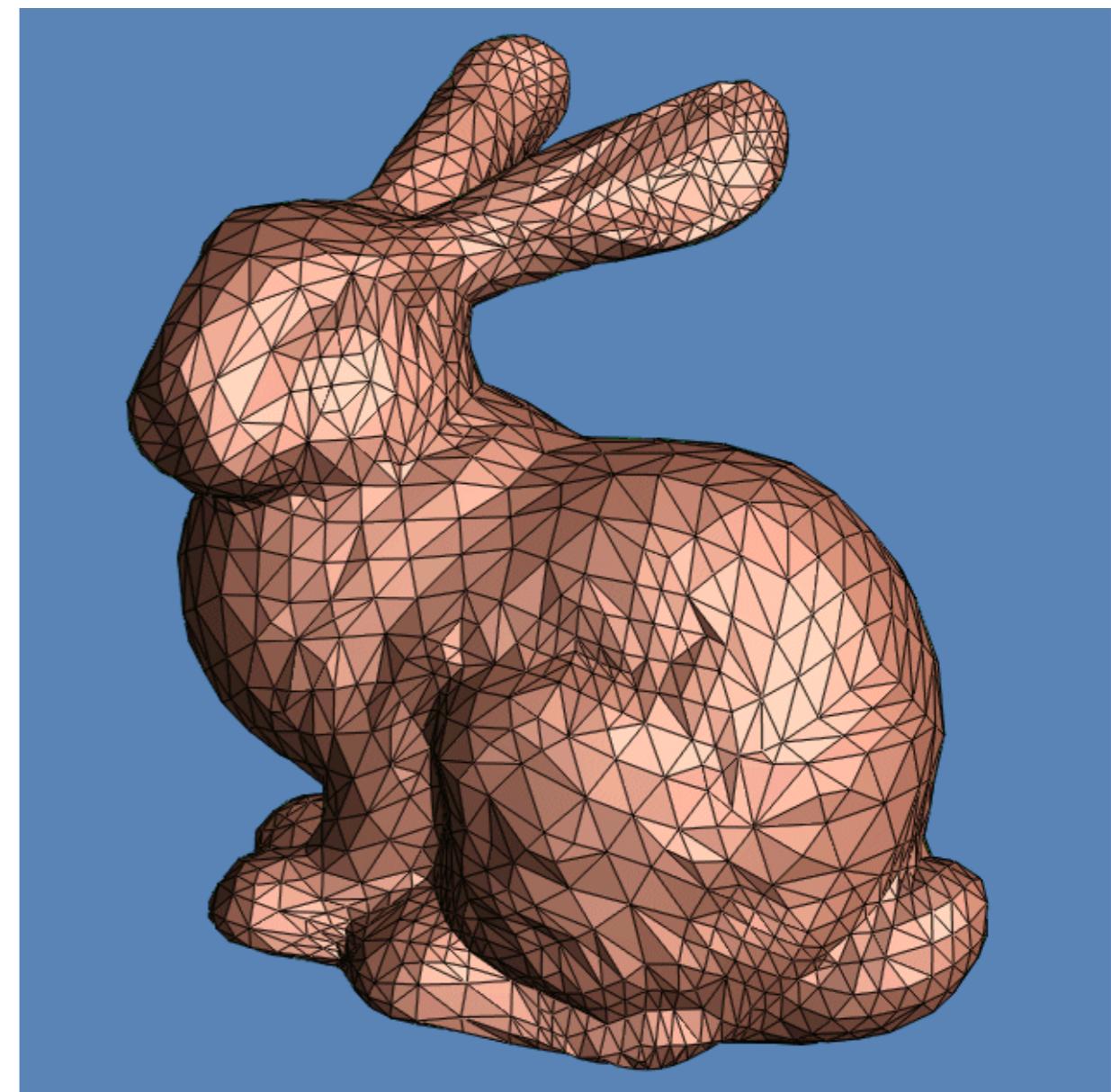
# Morals

Proper frames and DOFs go  
a long way.

$$m_1^i = u^i \cos \theta^i + v^i \sin \theta^i$$

$$m_2^i = -u^i \sin \theta^i + v^i \cos \theta^i$$

# Next



<http://graphics.stanford.edu/data/3Dscanrep/stanford-bunny-cebal-ssh.jpg>  
<http://www.stat.washington.edu/wxs/images/BUNMID.gif>

# Surfaces