

The background features a dark blue gradient with faint, light blue circular patterns and a scale. The scale is a large arc on the left side, with tick marks and numbers ranging from 40 to 260 in increments of 10. Several smaller circles with dashed outlines and arrows are scattered across the background, suggesting a mathematical or geometric theme.

Discrete Differential - Curves

USTC, 2024 Spring

Qing Fang, fq1208@mail.ustc.edu.cn

<https://qingfang1208.github.io/>

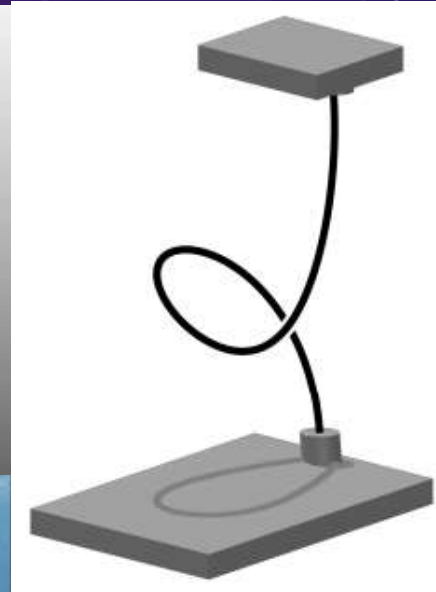
Applications of curves

- Geometry



Applications of curves

➤ Geometry



➤ Physics



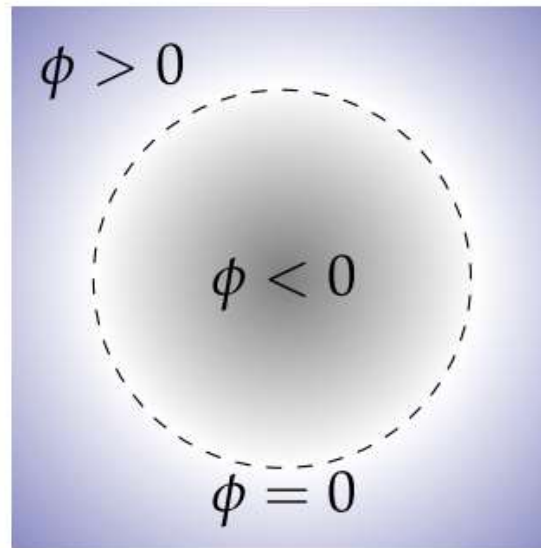
Smooth Plane Curve

The background features a dark blue gradient with a field of small white stars. On the right side, there are several technical diagrams: a large circular scale with degree markings from 0 to 210, a smaller circular diagram with concentric circles and arrows, and another circular diagram with dashed lines and arrows. In the bottom left corner, there is a partial circular diagram with arrows.

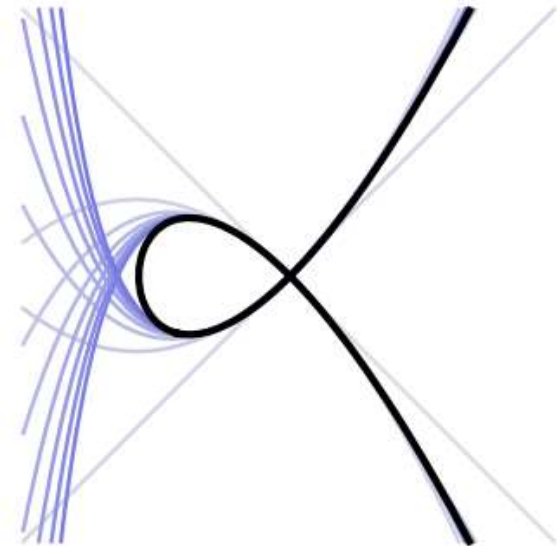
Representation of curves

- Implicit

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$



$$y^2 - x^2 + x^3 = 0$$



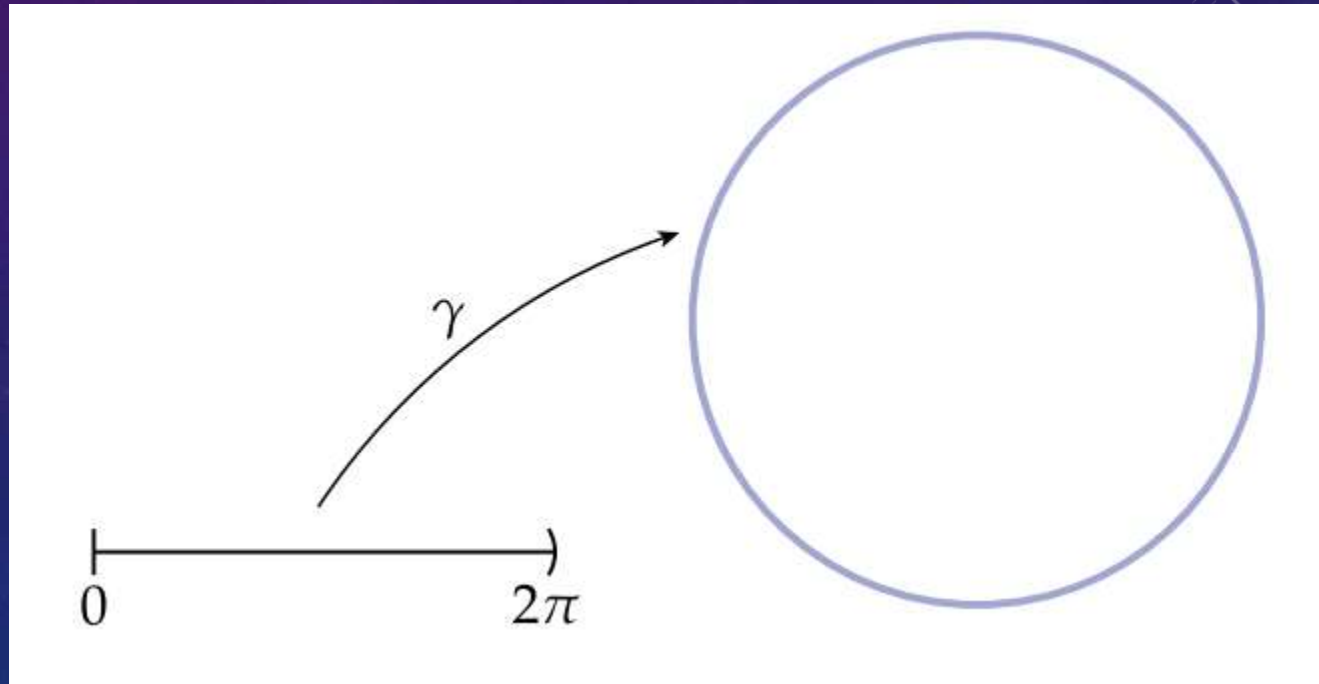
Representation of curves

- Implicit

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1$$

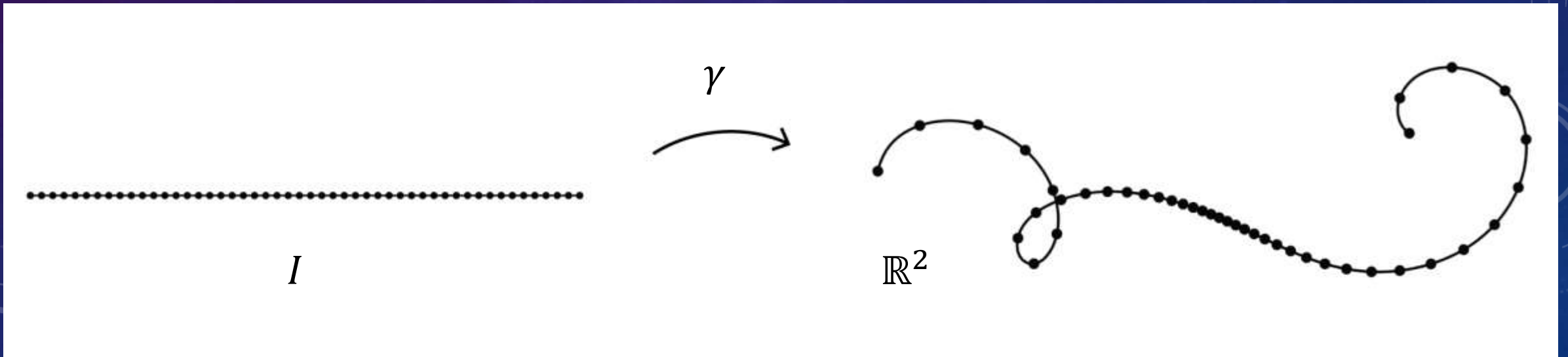
- Explicit

$$\begin{cases} x(\theta) = \cos \theta \\ y(\theta) = \sin \theta \end{cases}$$



Parameterized curve

- A parametrized plane curve is a **continuous** function $\gamma : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$, where the domain $I \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ is some (connected) interval on the real line.



Reparameterization

- Two parametrizations $\gamma_1 : I_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ and $\gamma_2 : I_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ are said to yield the same curve if there exists a **continuous and continuously invertible** function $\phi : I_1 \rightarrow I_2$, called a reparameterization, such that $\gamma_1(t) = \gamma_2(\phi(t))$ for all $t \in I_1$; in short $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2 \circ \phi$

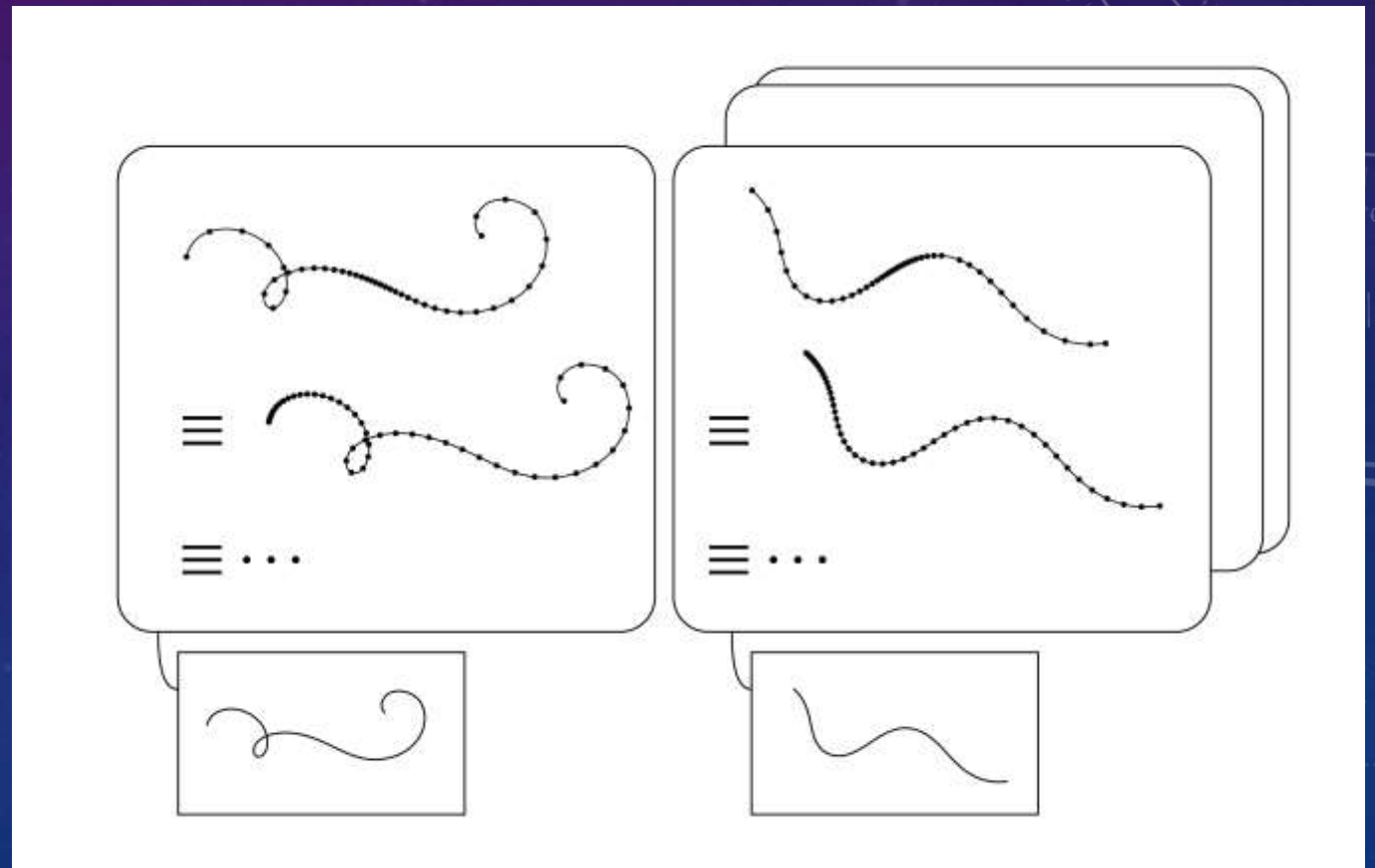
Reparameterization

$$\gamma_1 : I_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\gamma_2 : I_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\Rightarrow \gamma_1 = \gamma_2 \circ \phi$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_1 &= \\ \gamma_2 &= \\ \Rightarrow \gamma_1 &= \end{aligned}$$



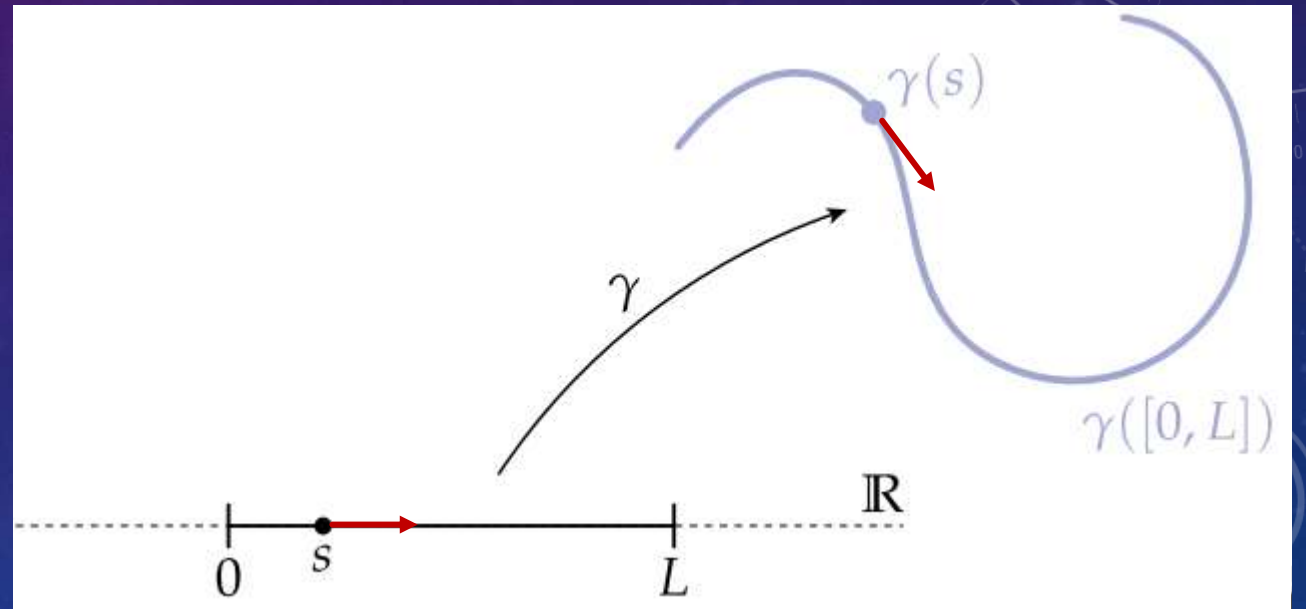
Differential of a curve

➤ $\gamma'(s) = \lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0} \frac{\gamma(s+\delta) - \gamma(s)}{\delta}$

➤ Tangent to a curve

Unit tangent: $T(s) = \frac{\gamma'(s)}{|\gamma'(s)|}$

Arc length parameterized



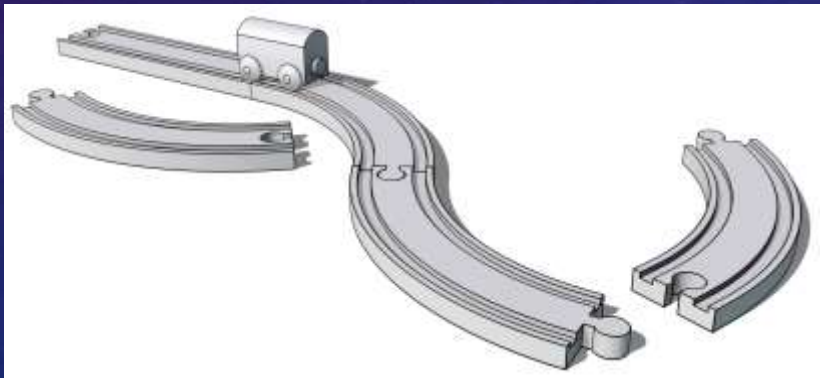
Regular curves

- A parametrized curve $\gamma : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is regular if γ has continuous first derivative, and has **non-vanishing speed** $|\gamma'(s)| \neq 0$ for all $s \in I$.
- Every regular parametrized curve $\gamma : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ can be reparametrized by its arclength.

$$I = [a, b], L = \int_a^b |\gamma'(t)| dt \implies \phi: [0, L] \rightarrow [a, b], \phi(s) = a + \int_0^s \frac{1}{|\gamma'(t)|} dt$$

k -th order smooth curves

- A regular parametrized curve is **k -th order smooth** if γ has continuous k -th derivative, write as $C^k(I, \mathbb{R}^2)$. If in addition $|\gamma'| \neq 0$, then γ is called a C^k regular parameterized curve.



$$C^1(I, \mathbb{R}^2), |\gamma'| \neq 0$$

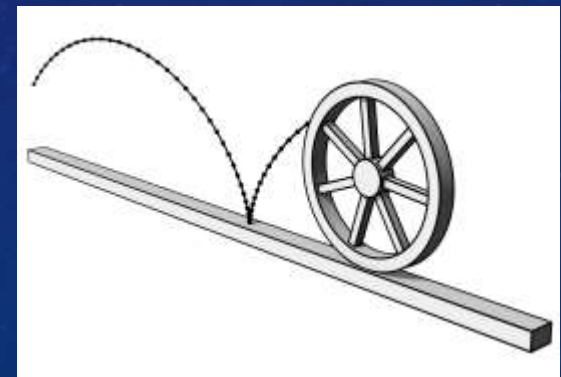
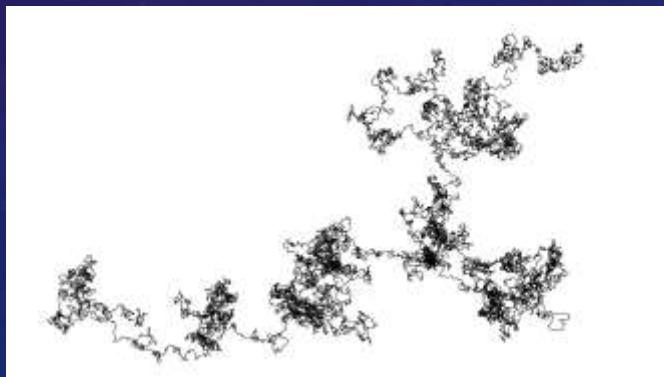


$$C^2(I, \mathbb{R}^2), |\gamma'| \neq 0$$

Irregular $C^k(I, \mathbb{R}^2)$

➤ $y = x^2 \rightarrow \gamma(s) = (s, s^2)$

➤ $y = |x| \rightarrow \tilde{\gamma}(s) = \begin{cases} (s^3, s^3), s \geq 0 \\ (s^3, -s^3), s < 0 \end{cases}$

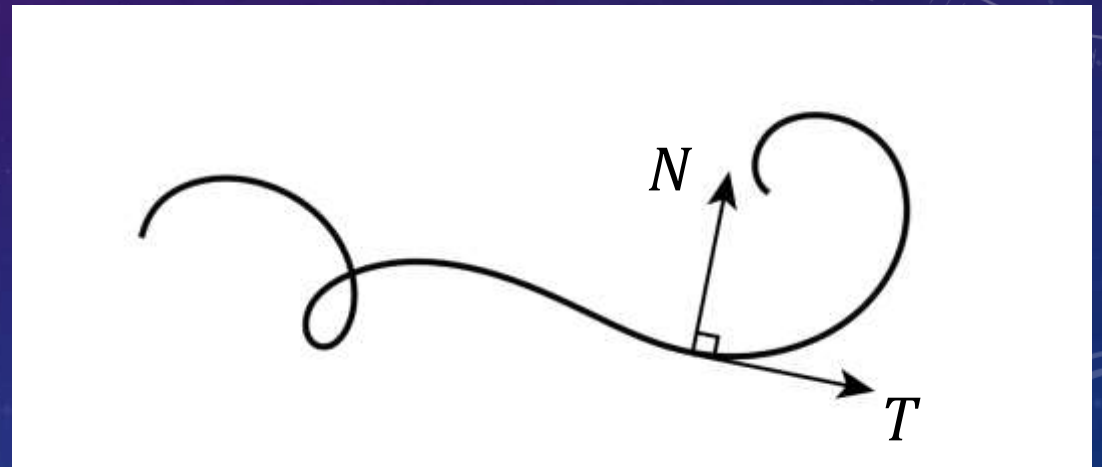


Curvature

- The rate of change of T

$$\langle T, T \rangle = 1 \implies \left\langle \frac{dT}{ds}, T \right\rangle = 0$$

$$\kappa = \left\langle \frac{dT}{ds}, N \right\rangle$$



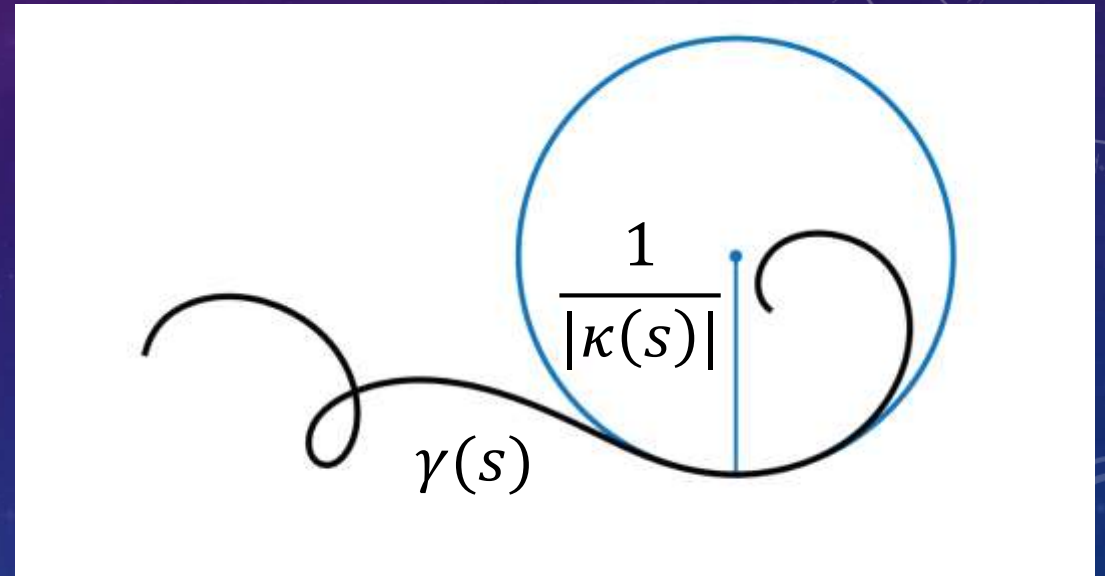
Osculating circle

➤ Circle: $\gamma(s) = \begin{bmatrix} R \cos(s/R) \\ R \sin(s/R) \end{bmatrix}$

$$T(s) = \begin{bmatrix} -\sin(s/R) \\ \cos(s/R) \end{bmatrix}$$

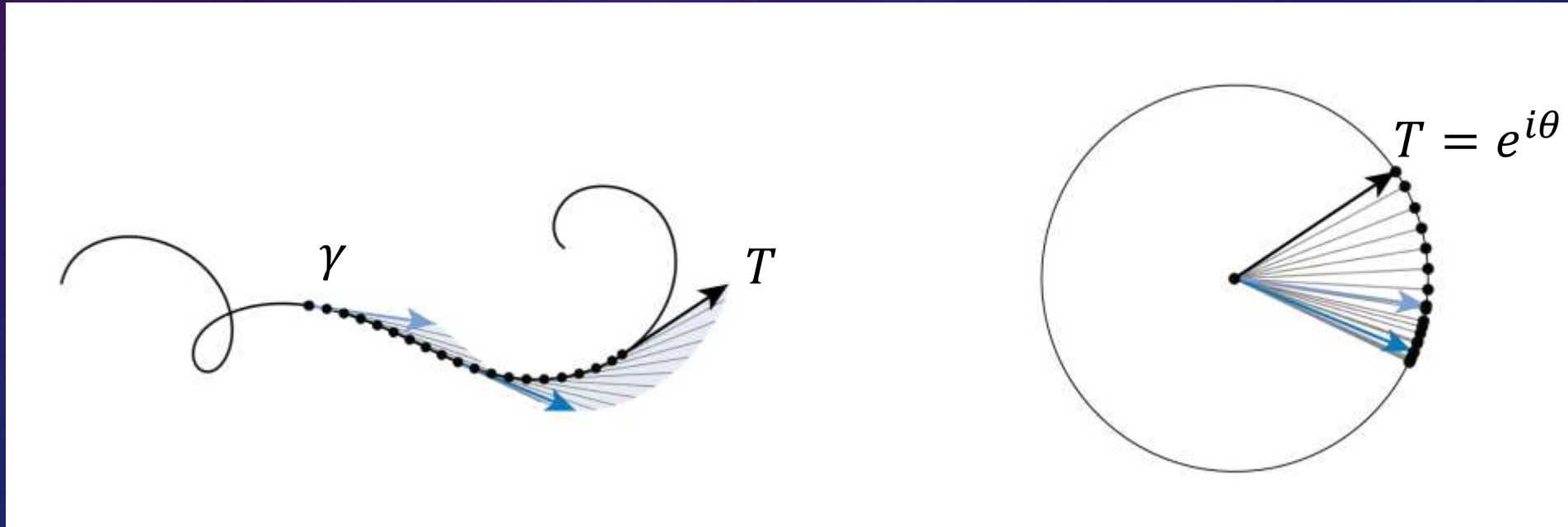
$$N(s) = \begin{bmatrix} -\cos(s/R) \\ -\sin(s/R) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow T(s) = \frac{1}{R} N(s)$$



Turning angle

As $T(s) = \cos \theta(s) + i \sin \theta(s) = e^{i\theta(s)}$, we can define $\theta: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \bmod 2\pi$



Turning angle

As $T(s) = \cos \theta(s) + i \sin \theta(s) = e^{i\theta(s)}$, we can define $\theta: I \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \bmod 2\pi$

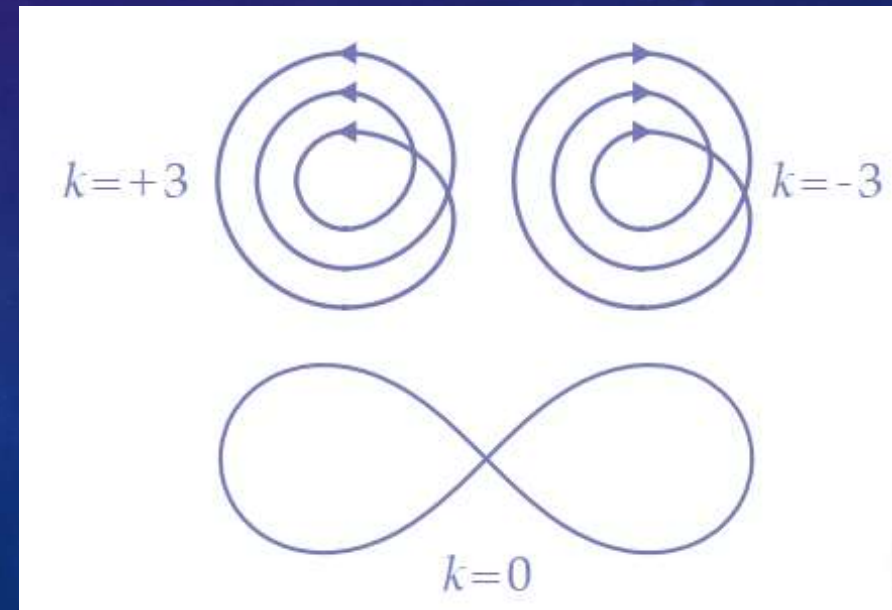
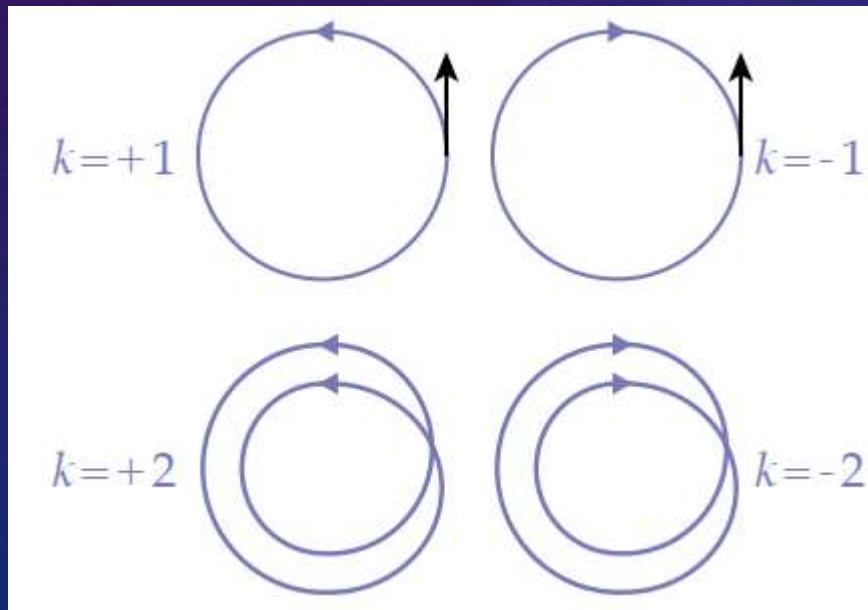
$$\frac{d}{ds} T = \frac{d}{ds} e^{i\theta(s)} = i \frac{d\theta}{ds} e^{i\theta} = \frac{d\theta}{ds} N \implies \kappa = \frac{d\theta}{ds}$$

$$\theta(b) - \theta(a) = \int_a^b \kappa(s) ds$$

Turning number

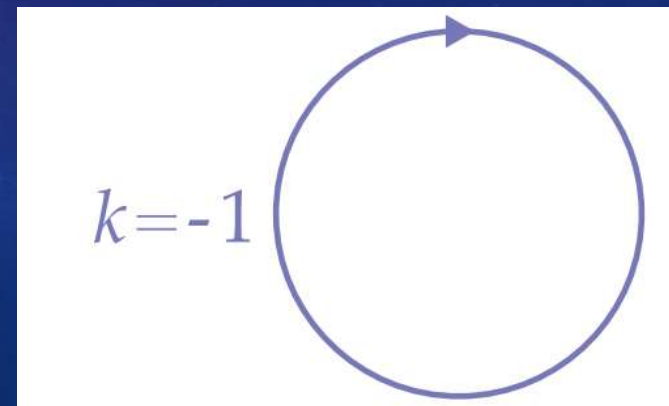
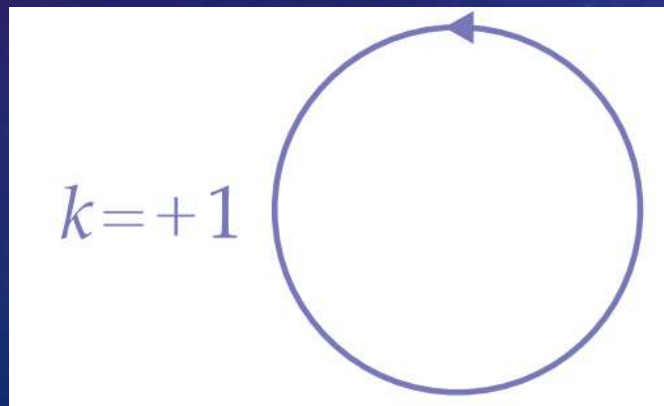
The turning angle $T(s)$ of a close curve is always multiples of 2π . We can define

turning number : $k = \frac{T(L)-T(0)}{2\pi}$



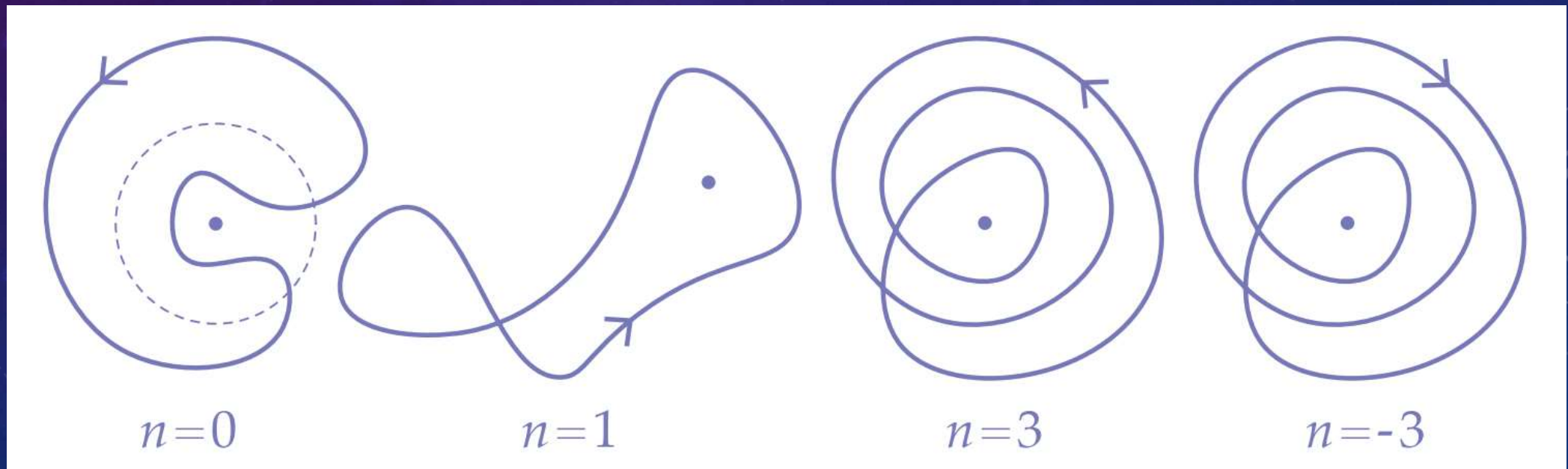
Whitney-Graustein Theorem

- Two curves are related by regular homotopy if one can continuously “deform” one into the other while remaining regular (immersed).
- Theorem** : Two curves have the same turning number k if and only if they are regularly homotopic.



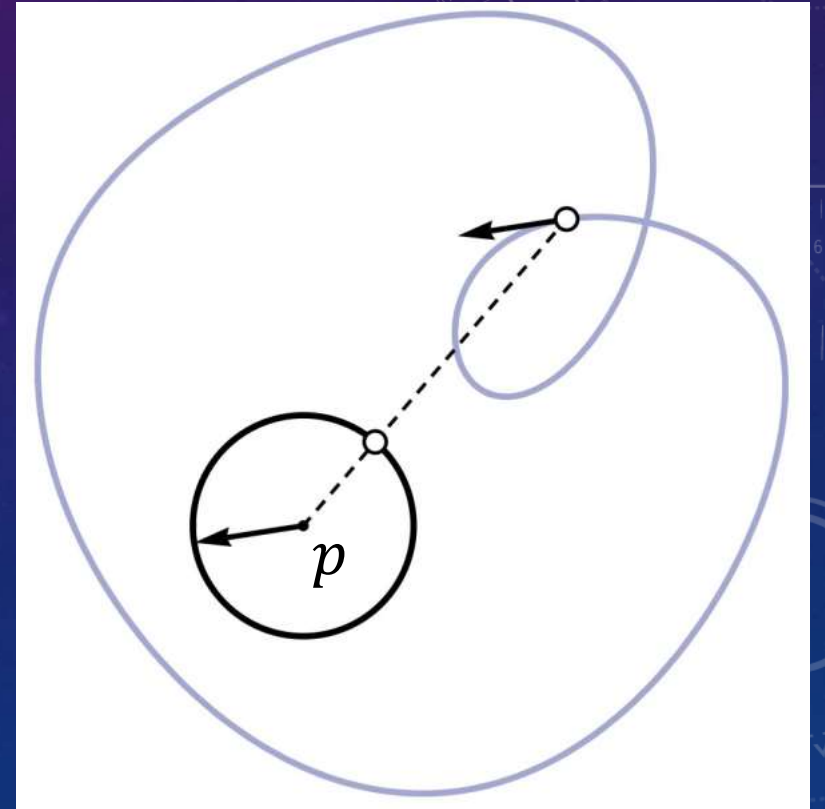
Winding number

Winding number n is the number of times the curve “goes around” a particular point p



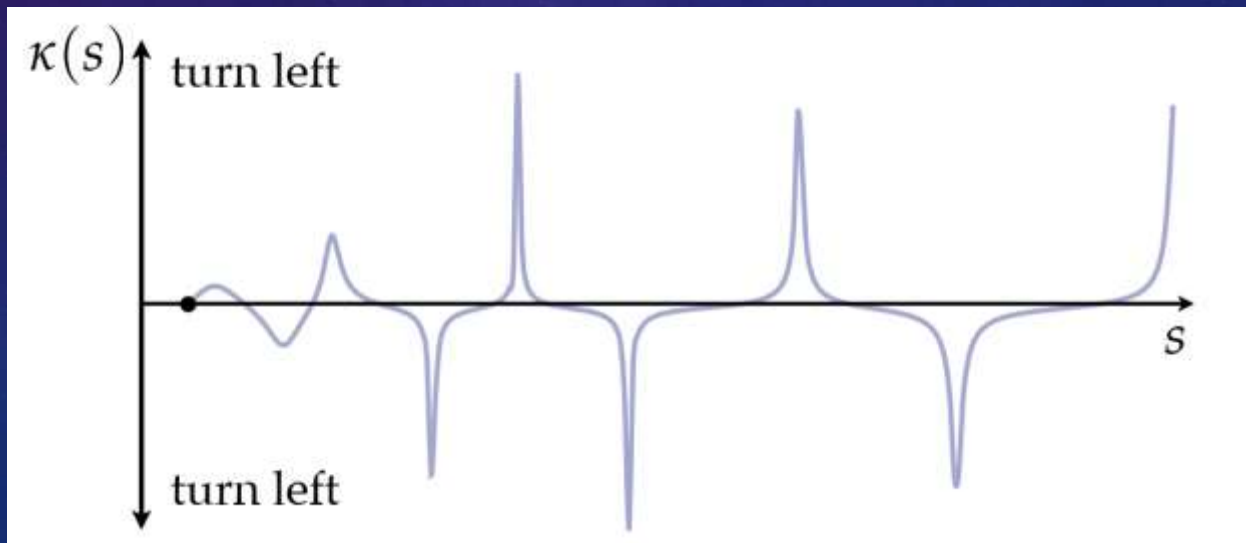
Turning number and winding number

- Turning number k is the winding number of tangent curve $T(s)$ around original point.
- Winding number n is turning number of a new curve obtained by projecting the curve onto the circle around p



Fundamental theorem of plane curves

- Up to rigid motions, an arclength parameterized plane curve is uniquely determined by its curvature.
- Curvature tells us how to “steer” as we move at unit speed.



Recovering a curve from curvature

➤ Given only the curvature function, how can we recover the curve?

1. $\theta(s) = \theta(0) + \int_a^b \kappa(t) dt$

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

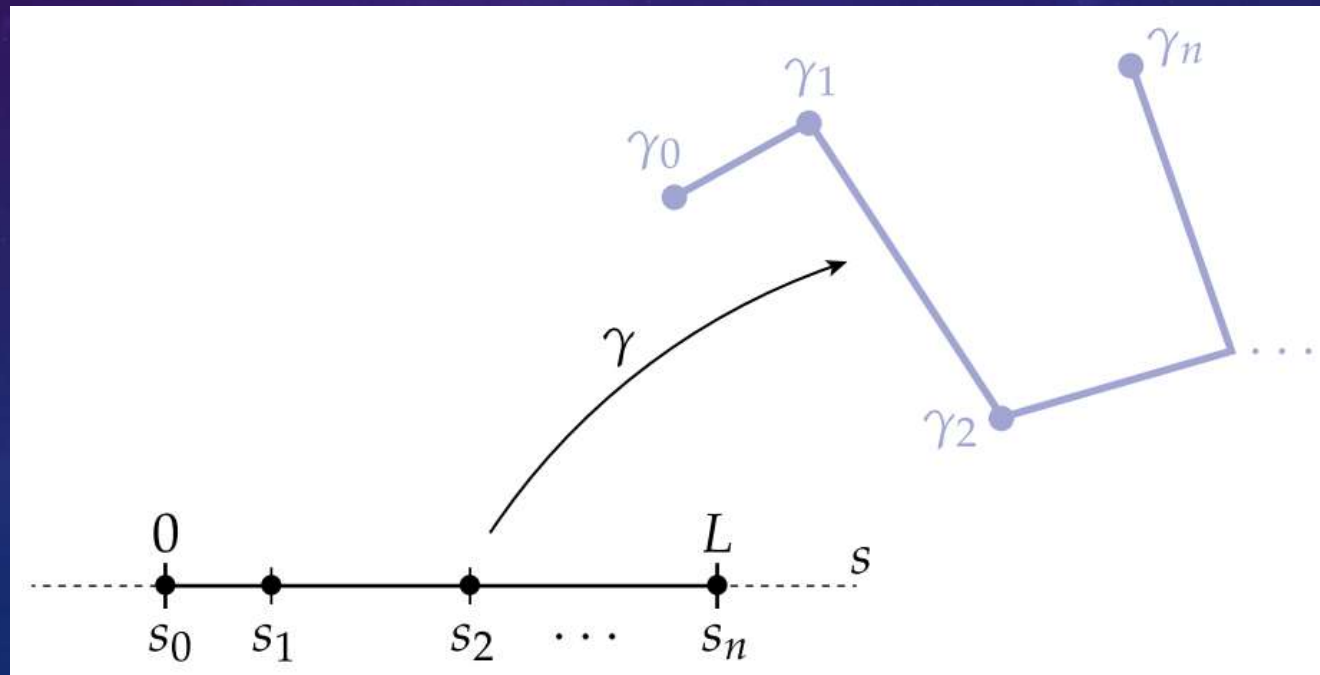
3. $\gamma(s) = \int_0^s T(t) dt$

Discrete Plane Curve



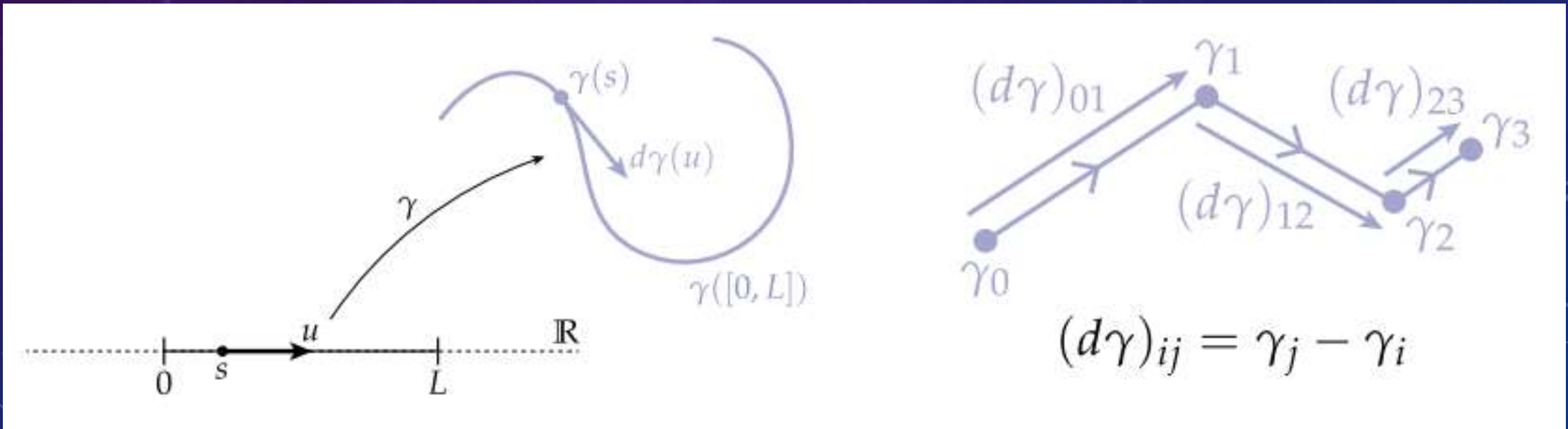
Polygonal curve

- A discrete plane curve, or more precisely a polygonal curve is a map $\gamma : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ where I is the ordered index set $I = (s_0, s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}, s_n)$



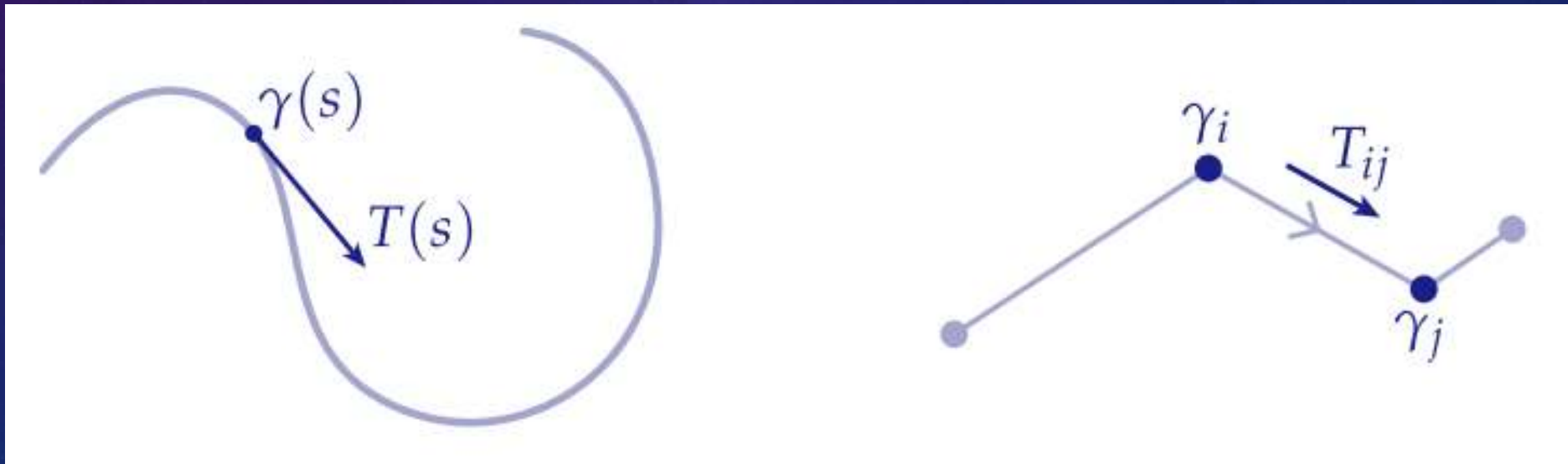
Discretization

- Differential → edge vector: $(d\gamma)_{ij} = \gamma_j - \gamma_i$



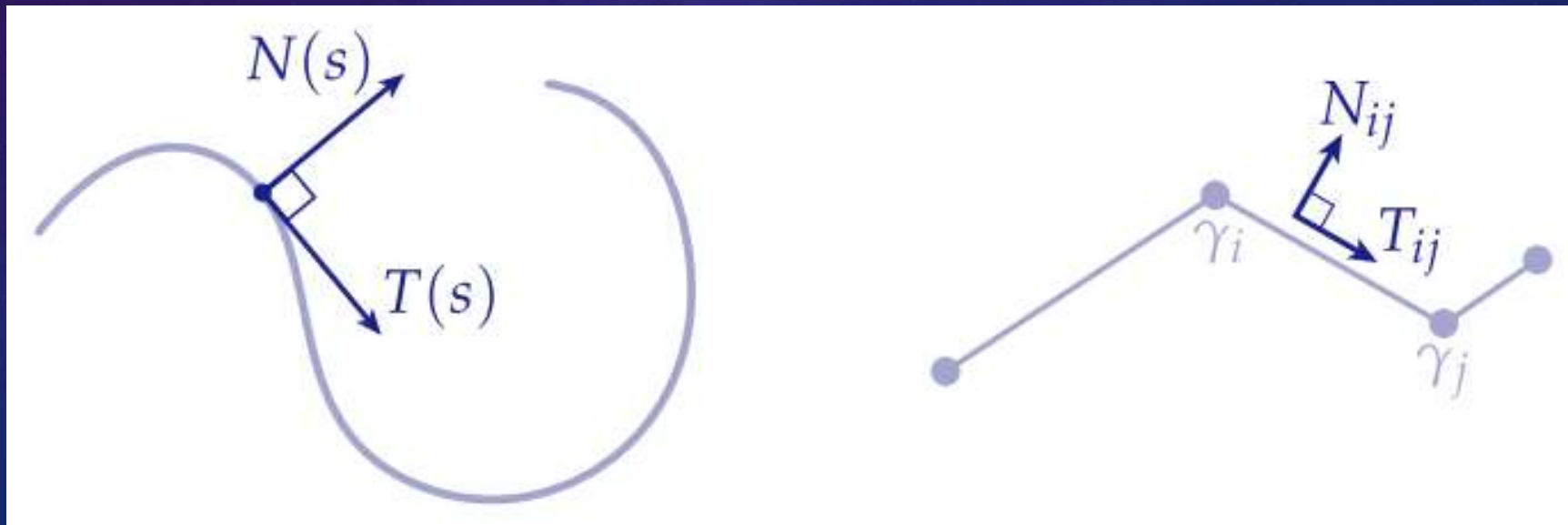
Discretization

- Differential \rightarrow edge vector: $(d\gamma)_{ij} = \gamma_j - \gamma_i$
- Discrete tangent vector: $T_{ij} = (d\gamma)_{ij} / |(d\gamma)_{ij}|$



Discretization

- Differential \rightarrow edge vector: $(d\gamma)_{ij} = \gamma_j - \gamma_i$
- Discrete tangent: $T_{ij} = (d\gamma)_{ij} / |(d\gamma)_{ij}|$. Discrete normal: $N_{ij} = iT_{ij}$

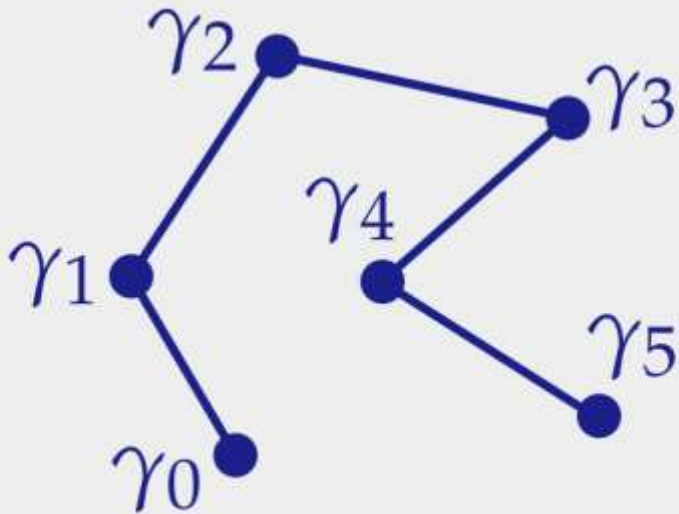


Discretization

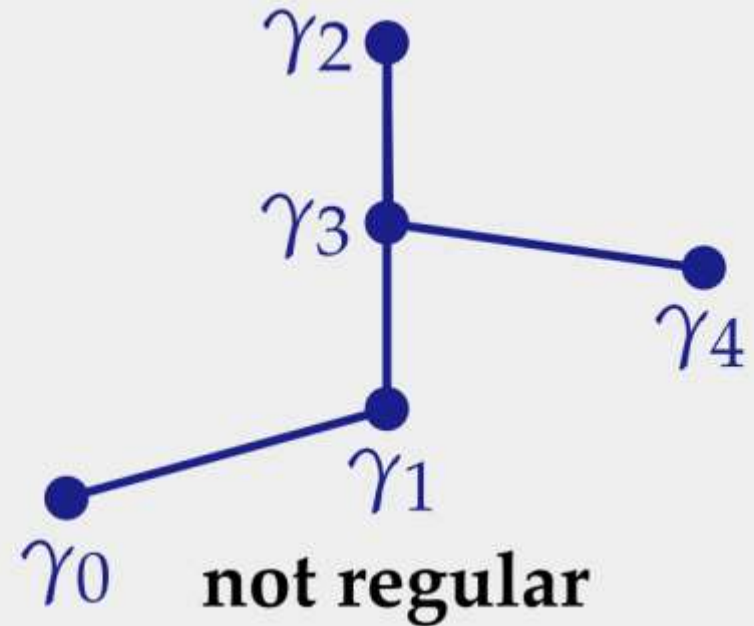
- Differential \rightarrow edge vector: $(d\gamma)_{ij} = \gamma_j - \gamma_i$
- Discrete tangent: $T_{ij} = (d\gamma)_{ij} / |(d\gamma)_{ij}|$. Discrete normal: $N_{ij} = iT_{ij}$
- Arc length parametrized: $|(d\gamma)_{ij}| \equiv c > 0$ for all edges.

Regular discrete curve

- A polygonal curve is called regular if $|(d\gamma)_{ij}| \neq 0$ and $T_{ij} \neq -T_{ji}$ for all edges.

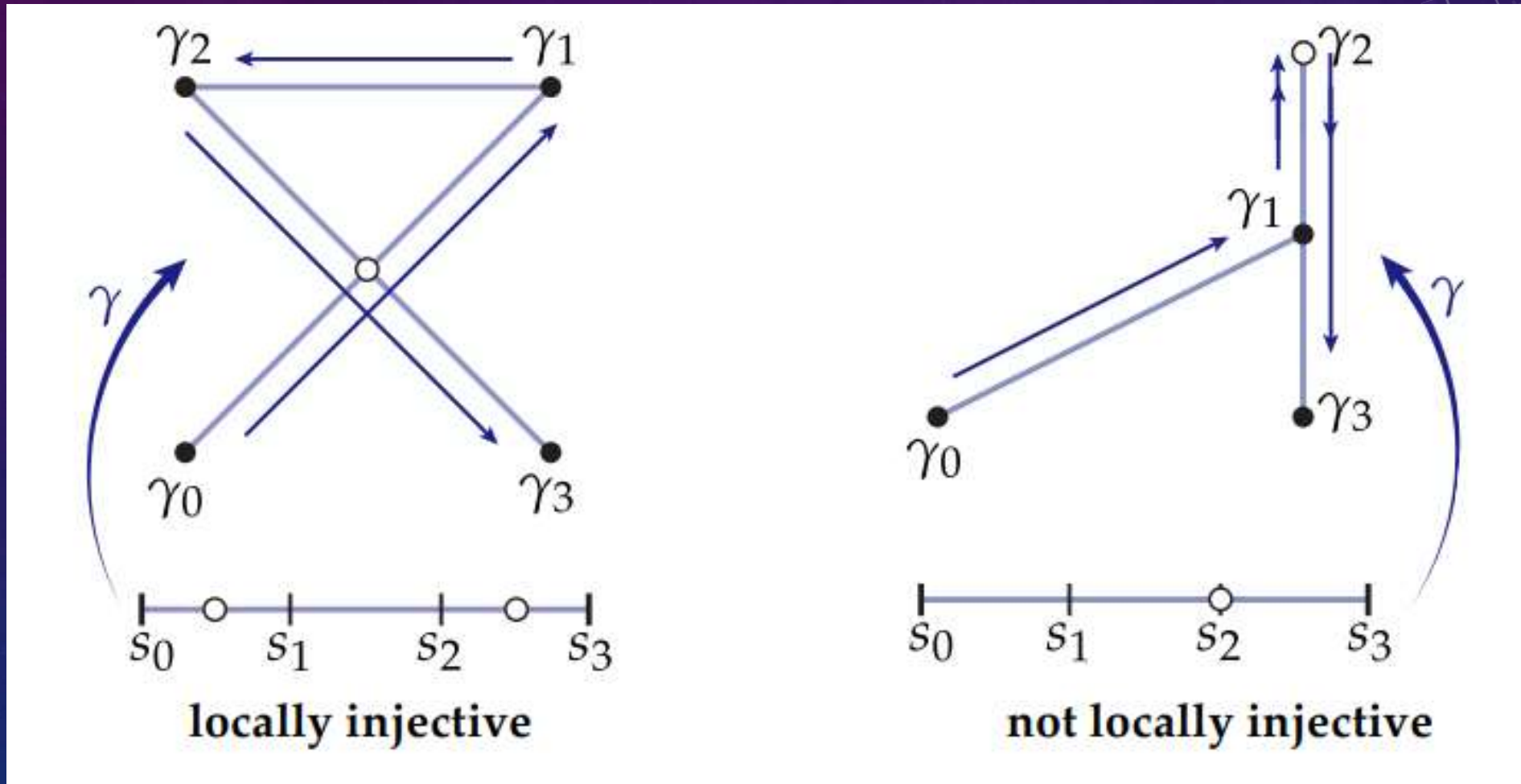


regular



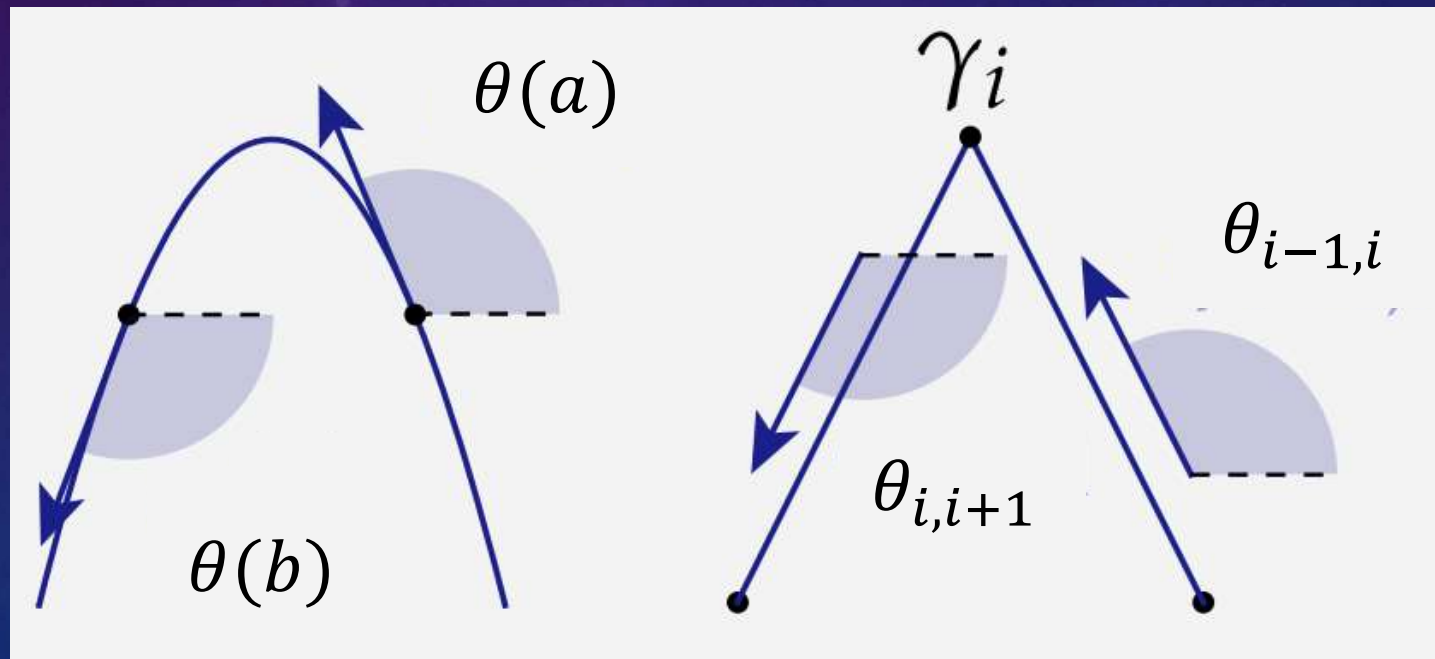
not regular

Regular discrete curve \Leftrightarrow locally injective map



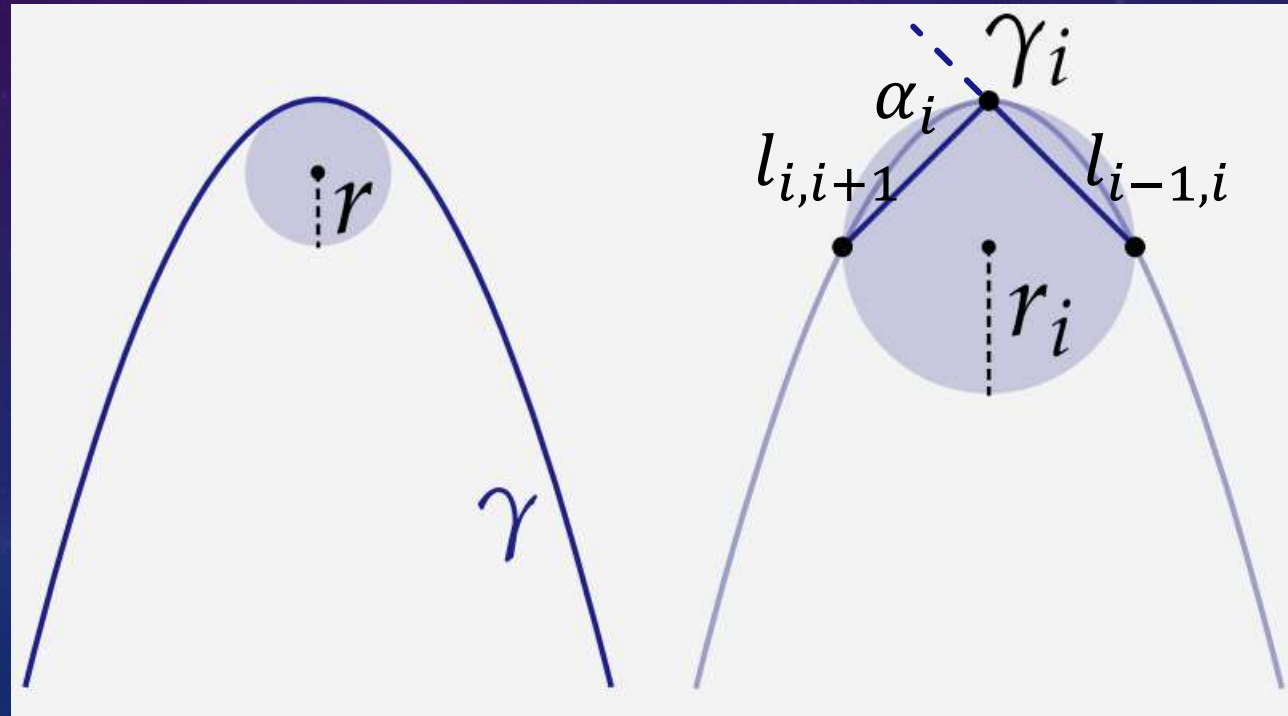
Discrete curvature

- $\theta(b) - \theta(a) = \int_a^b \kappa(s) ds \Rightarrow$ vertex exterior angle (turning angle)



Discrete curvature

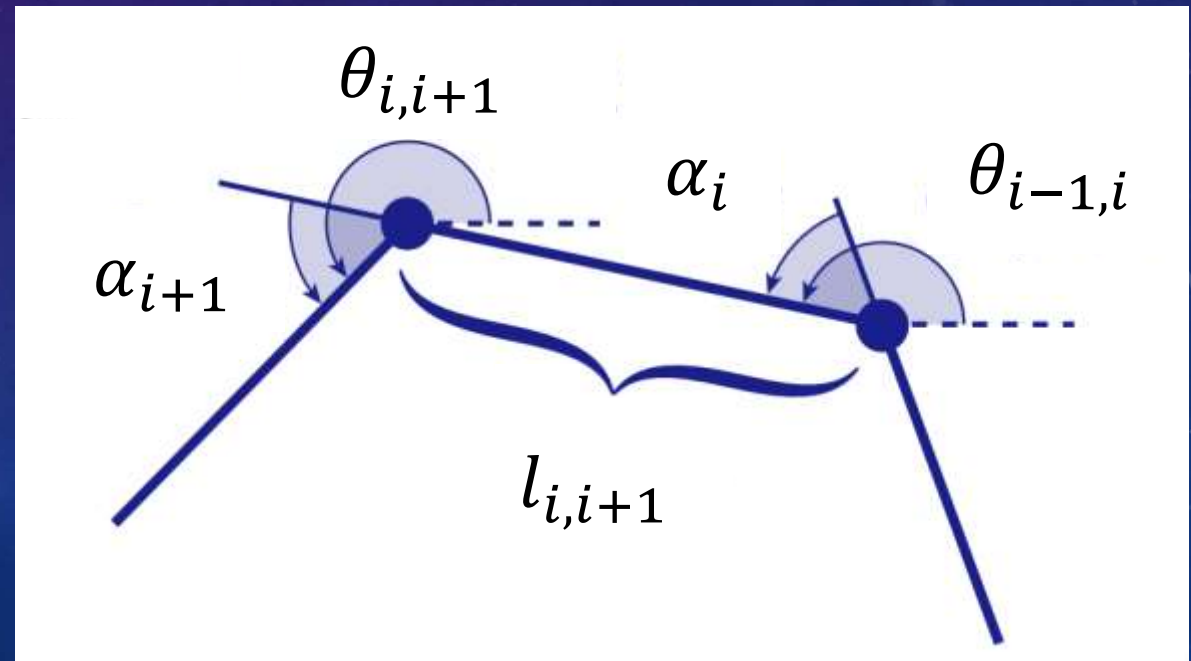
- Osculating circle \Rightarrow vertex osculating circle



Fundamental theorem of discrete plane curves

- Up to rigid motions, a regular discrete plane curve is uniquely determined by its edge lengths and turning angles.

- $\theta_{i,i+1} = \theta_{0,1} + \sum_{k=1}^i \alpha_k$
- $T_{i,i+1} = (\cos \theta_{i,i+1}, \sin \theta_{i,i+1})$
- $\gamma_i = \gamma_0 + \sum_{k=1}^i T_{k-1,k}$

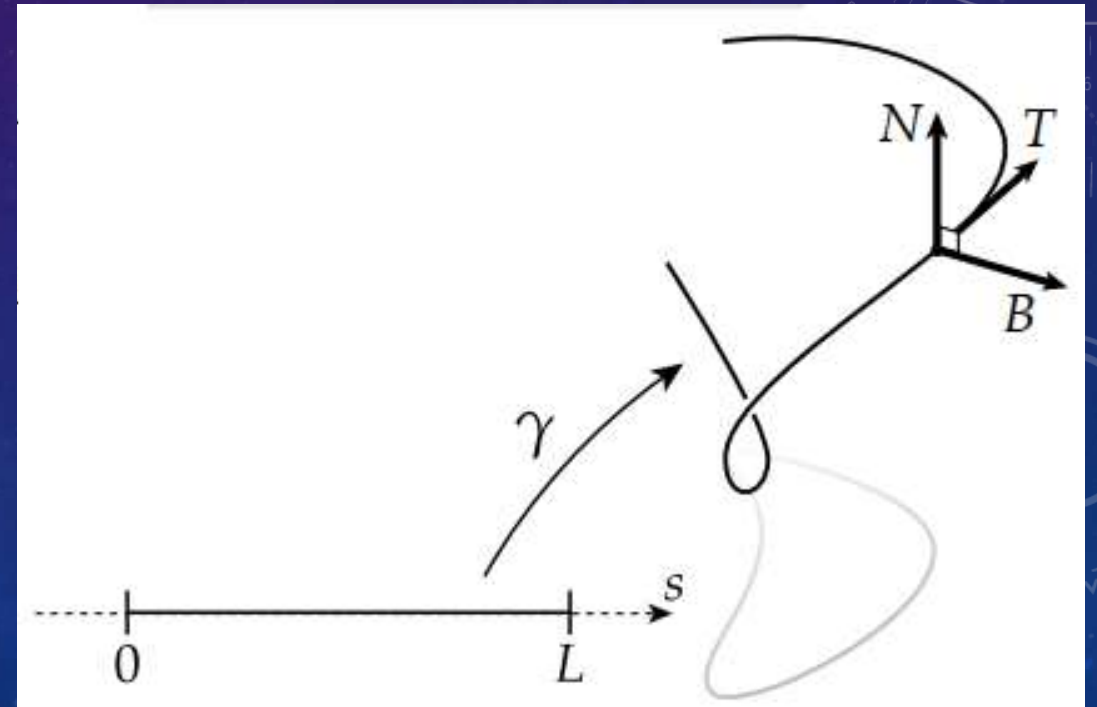


Smooth Space Curve

The background features a gradient from dark purple to blue, overlaid with a field of small white stars. Several technical diagrams are visible: a circular scale with degree markings (90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210) and arrows on the right side; a circular diagram with concentric lines and arrows in the bottom right; and a circular diagram with a dashed arrow in the bottom left.

Frame of curves

- A function $N: I \rightarrow \mathbb{S}^2$ satisfying $\langle N, T \rangle \equiv 0$ is a normal vector field.
- $B = T \times N$ is called binormal vector field.
- $\{T, N, B\}$ is an orthonormal basis (or frame).



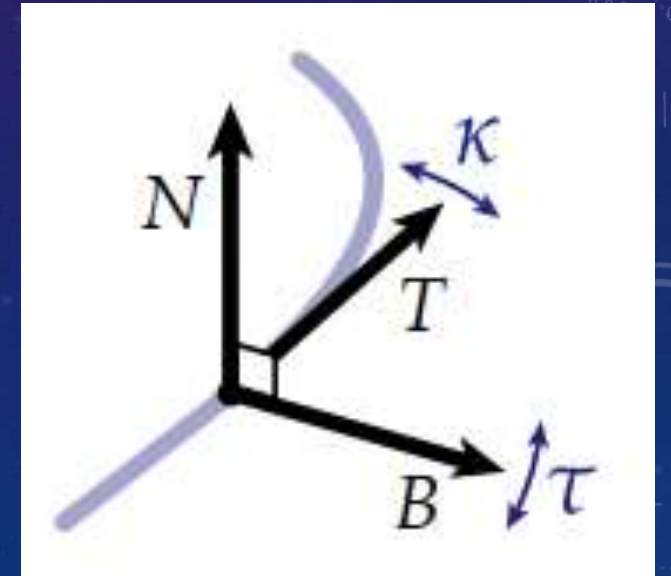
Frenet–Serret frame

- As $\langle T, T \rangle \equiv 1 \Rightarrow \left\langle \frac{dT}{ds}, T \right\rangle \equiv 0$, set $N = \frac{dT}{ds} / \left| \frac{dT}{ds} \right|$ ($\kappa = \left| \frac{dT}{ds} \right| \neq 0$)
- Torsion τ : $\langle N, N \rangle \equiv 1 \Rightarrow \left\langle \frac{dN}{ds}, N \right\rangle \equiv 0$, set $\frac{dN}{ds} = \sigma T + \tau B$
- We have $\sigma = \left\langle \frac{dN}{ds}, T \right\rangle = -\left\langle \frac{dT}{ds}, N \right\rangle = -\kappa$, $\frac{dB}{ds} = -\tau N$

Fundamental theorem of space curves

- Given the curvature and torsion of an arc-length parameterized space curve, we can recover the curve itself.

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



More than Frenet–Serret frame

➤ $\left\langle \frac{dT}{ds}, T \right\rangle \equiv 0, N = \frac{dT}{ds} / \left| \frac{dT}{ds} \right| \Rightarrow$ select any normal field $\langle N, T \rangle \equiv 0$

$$\frac{d}{ds} \begin{bmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \kappa_1 & \kappa_2 \\ -\kappa_1 & 0 & \tau \\ -\kappa_2 & -\tau & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} T \\ N \\ B \end{bmatrix}$$

➤ Twist $\tau = \left\langle \frac{dN}{ds}, B \right\rangle = -\left\langle \frac{dB}{ds}, N \right\rangle$

Bishop frame(no twist)

- $\tau \equiv 0$: How to compute? Solving initial value PDE :

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dN}{ds} = -\kappa_1 T = -\left\langle \frac{dT}{ds}, N \right\rangle T \\ N(0) = N_0 \end{cases}$$

- For a close curve, not always has Bishop frame, e.g. $N(L) \neq N(0)$

Frame with constant twist

- Definition: $\tau \equiv c$.
- Any frame can be modified into a uniformly twisted frame without changing the total twist $\mathcal{T} = \int_0^L \tau(s) ds$.

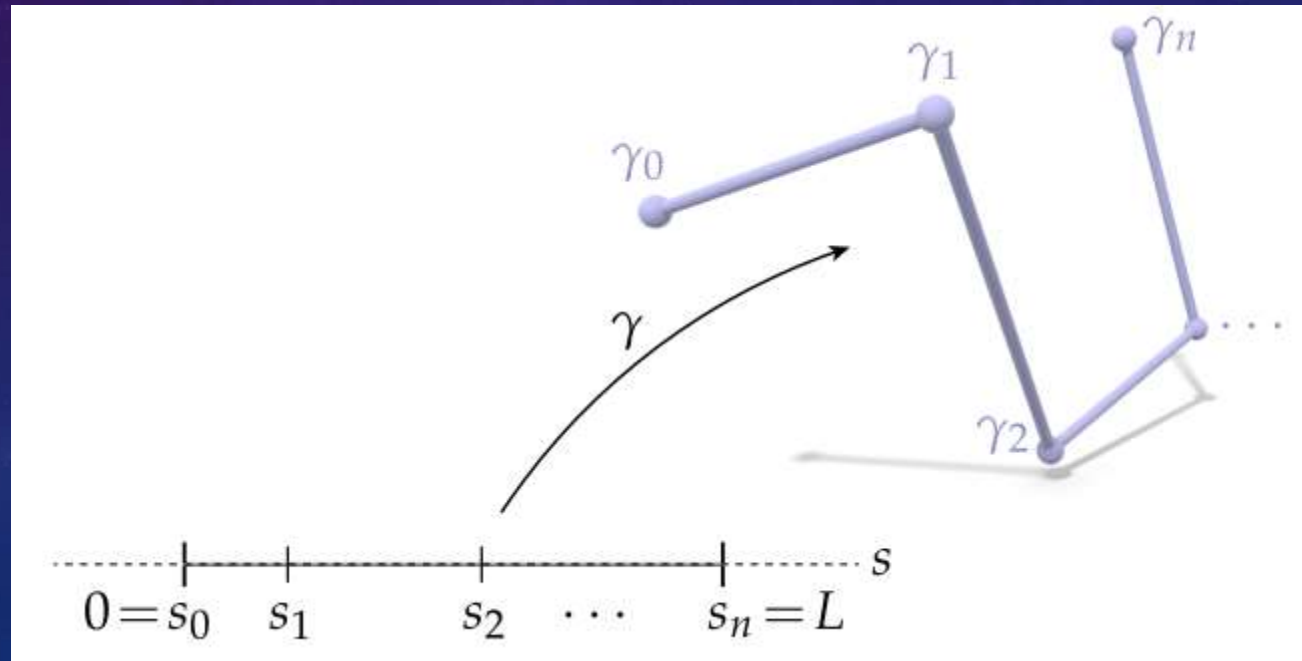
- $c = \frac{\mathcal{T}}{L}$, we have
$$\begin{cases} \frac{dN}{ds} = -\kappa_1 T = -\left\langle \frac{dT}{ds}, N \right\rangle T + \frac{\mathcal{T}}{L} (T \times N) \\ N(0) = N_0 \end{cases}$$

Discrete Space Curve



Polygonal curve

- A discrete space curve, or more precisely a polygonal curve is a map $\gamma : I \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$ where I is the ordered index set $I = (s_0, s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}, s_n)$



Discretization

- Differential \rightarrow edge vector: $(d\gamma)_{ij} = \gamma_j - \gamma_i$
- Discrete tangent: $T_{ij} = (d\gamma)_{ij} / |(d\gamma)_{ij}|$.
- A polygonal curve is called regular if $|(d\gamma)_{ij}| \neq 0$ and $T_{ij} \neq -T_{ji}$ for all edges.
- Discrete normal plane: $T_{ij}^\perp = \{v \in \mathbb{R}^3, \langle v, T_{ij} \rangle = 0\}$, $\{N, B\} \in T_{ij}^\perp$
- Discrete curvature: $\alpha_i = \cos^{-1}(\langle T_{i-1,i}, T_{i,i+1} \rangle)$

Discretization

- Discrete Frenet–Serret binormal vector on vertex γ_i :

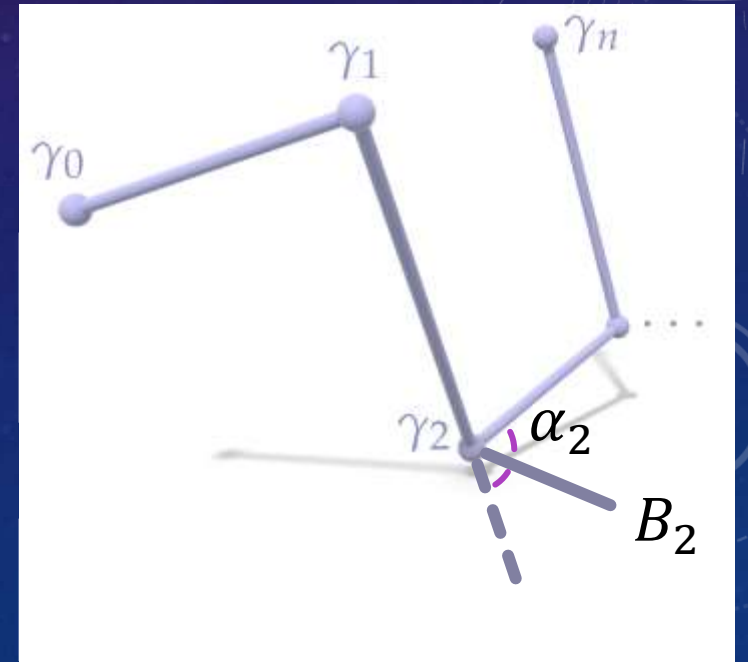
$$B_i = \frac{T_{i-1,i} \times T_{i,i+1}}{|T_{i-1,i} \times T_{i,i+1}|}$$

- Dihedral rotation :

$$R_{B_i}(\alpha_i): T_{i-1,i} \rightarrow T_{i,i+1}$$

- Parallel transport :

$$R_{B_i}(\alpha_i)N_{i-1,i} \rightarrow N_{i,i+1}$$



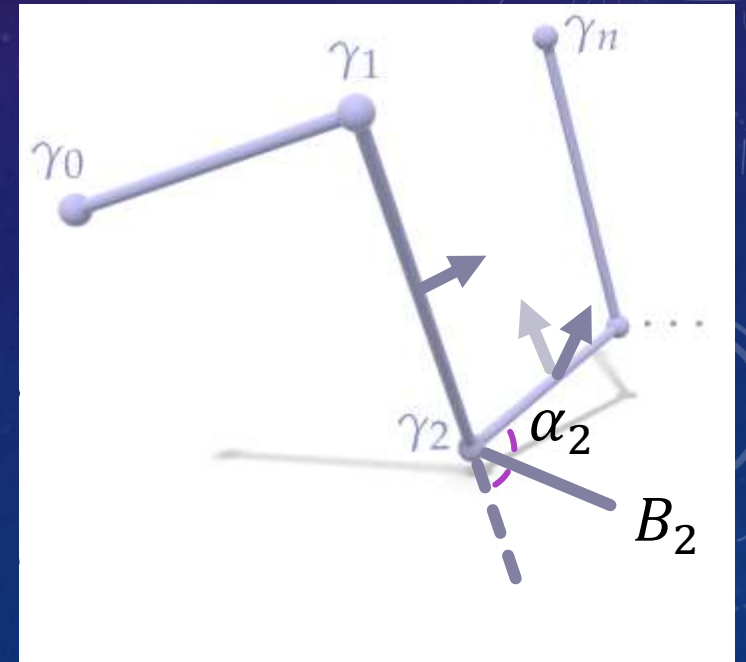
Discretization

- Discrete twist:

$$\beta_i = \cos^{-1} \langle R_{B_i} N_{i-1,i}, N_{i,i+1} \rangle$$

- Constant twist:

$$\beta_i \equiv c$$



Fundamental theorem of discrete space curves

Given:

- Edge lengths $l_{i,i+1}$, curvatures α_i , torsions β_i
- Initial point γ_0 , tangent $T_{0,1}$, and normal $N_{0,1}$

For $i=1,\dots,n$

- $\gamma_i \leftarrow \gamma_{i-1} + l_{i-1,i}T_{i-1,i}$
- $T_{i,i+1} \leftarrow R_{T_{i-1,i} \times N_{i-1,i}}(\alpha_i)T_{i-1,i}$
- $N_{i,i+1} \leftarrow R_{T_{i,i+1}}(\beta_i)R_{T_{i-1,i} \times N_{i-1,i}}(\alpha_i)N_{i-1,i}$

end

