



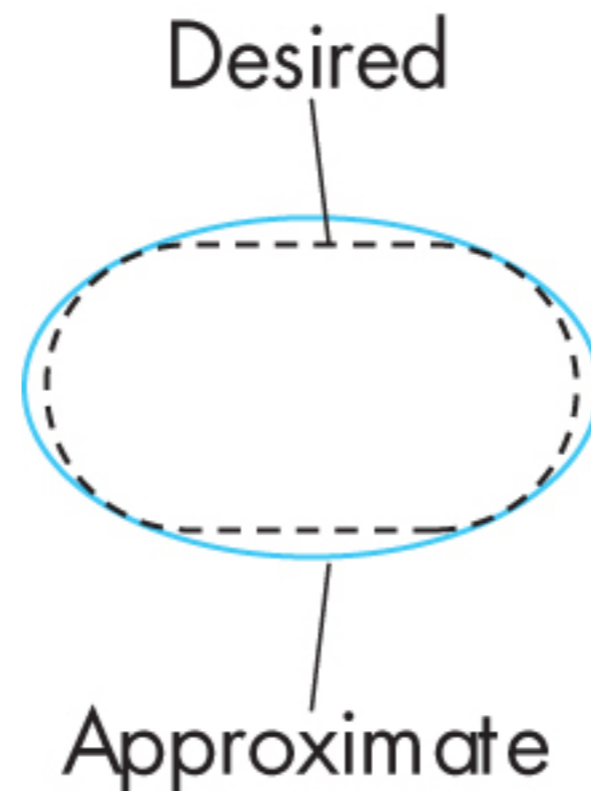
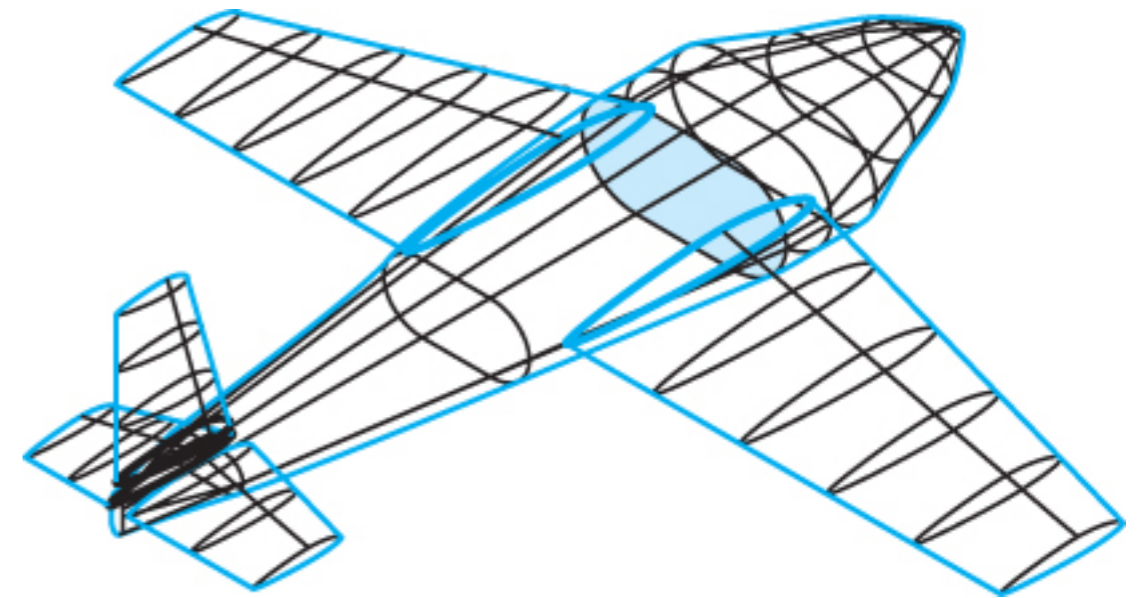
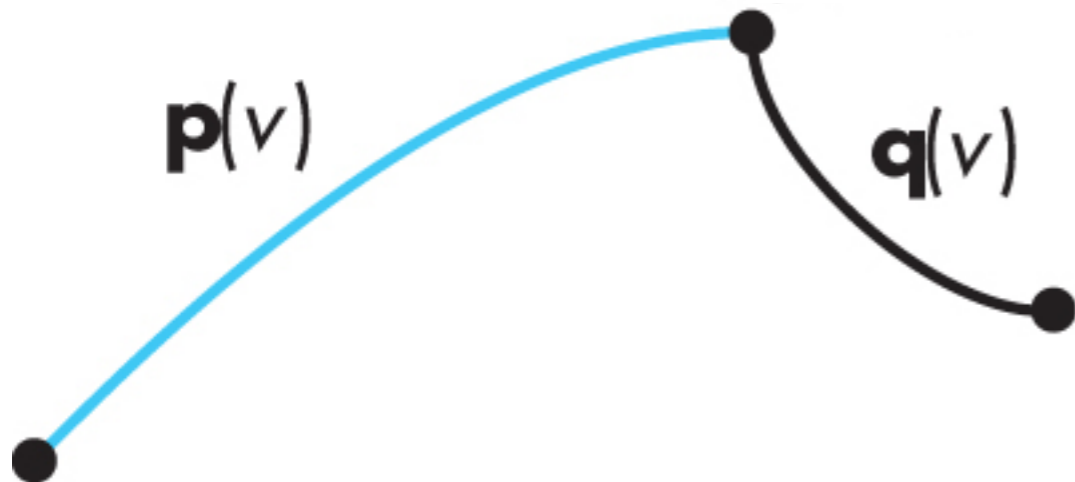
# CS 130 : Computer Graphics

## Curves

Tamar Shinar  
Computer Science & Engineering  
UC Riverside

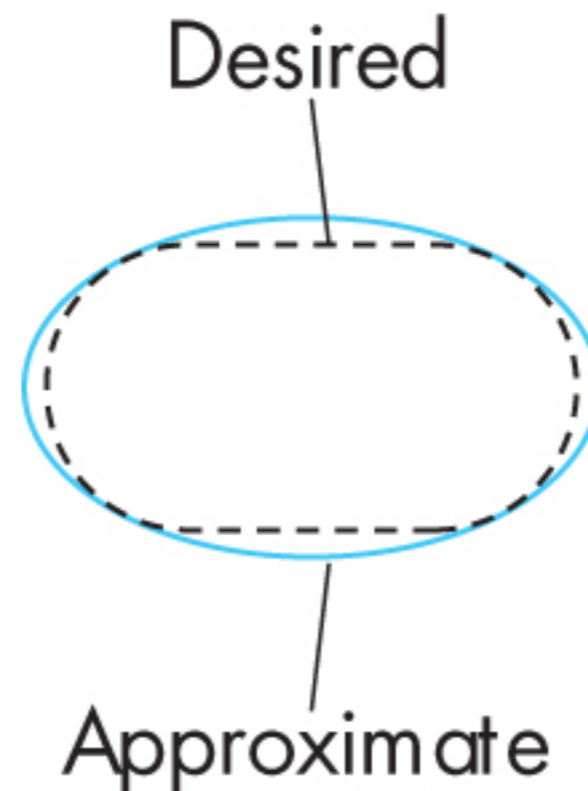
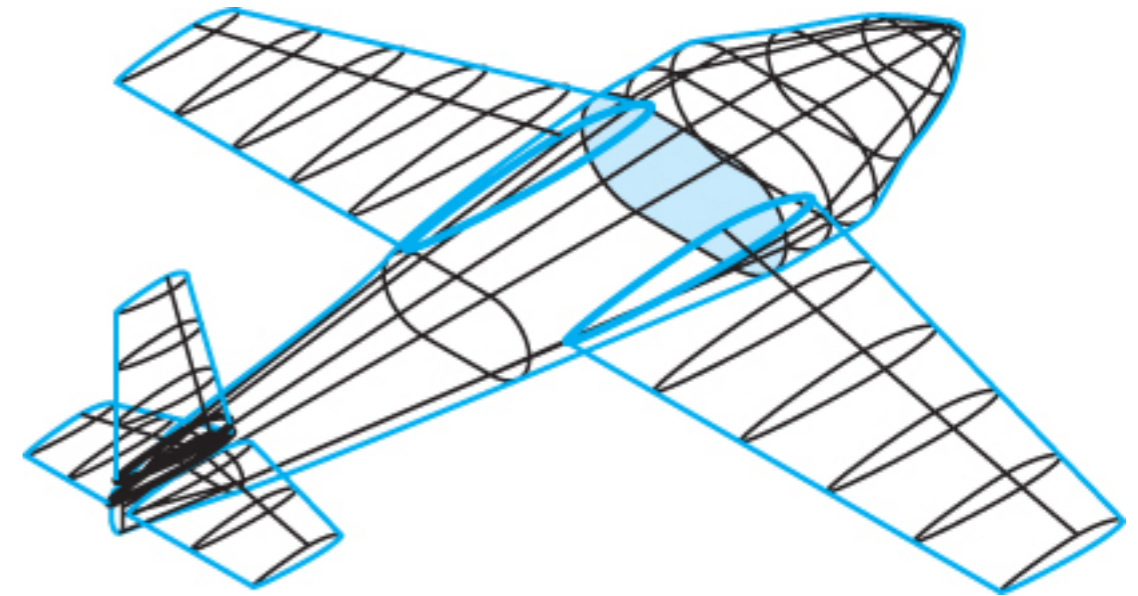
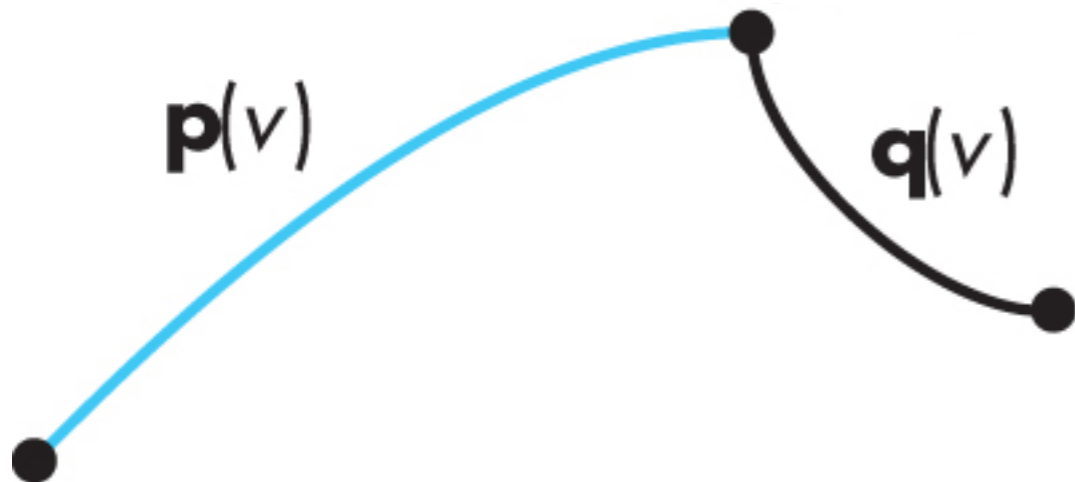
# Design considerations

- local control of shape
  - design each segment independently
- smoothness and continuity
- ability to evaluate derivatives
- stability
  - small change in input leads to small change in output
- ease of rendering



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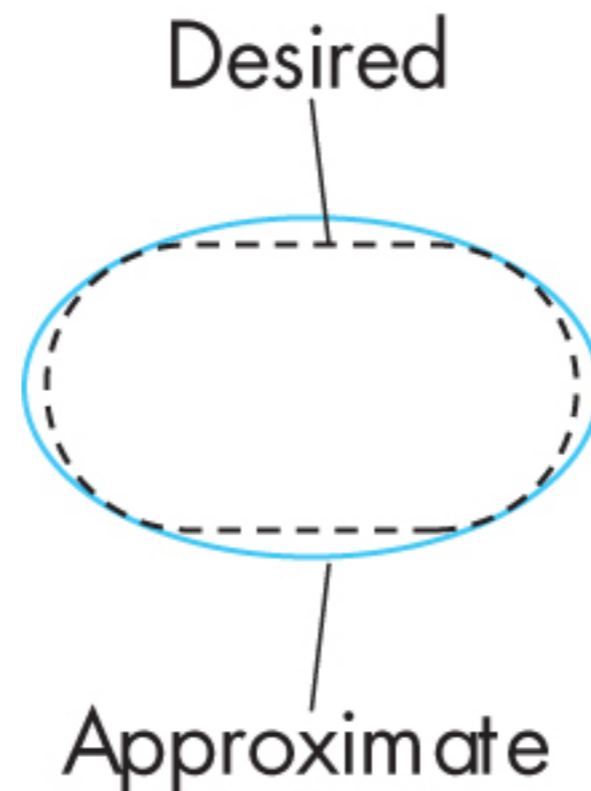
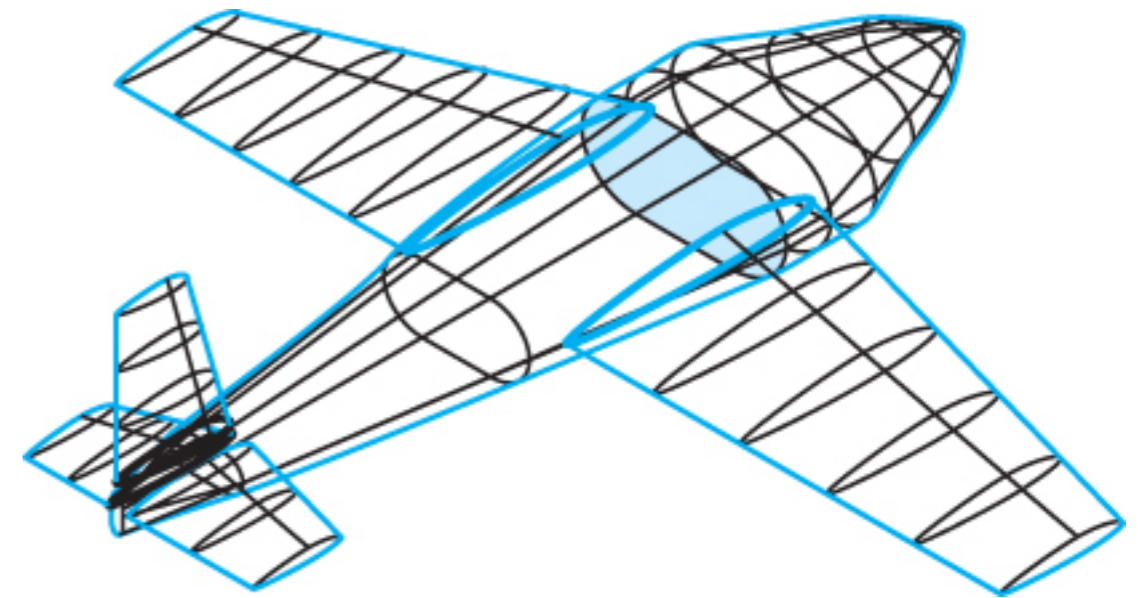
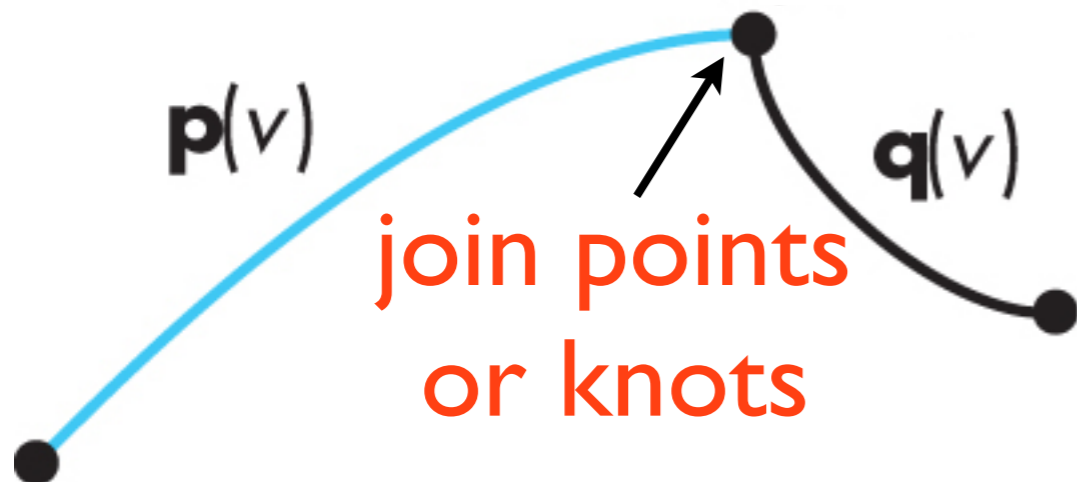
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approximate  
out of a  
number of  
wood strips

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# What is a curve?

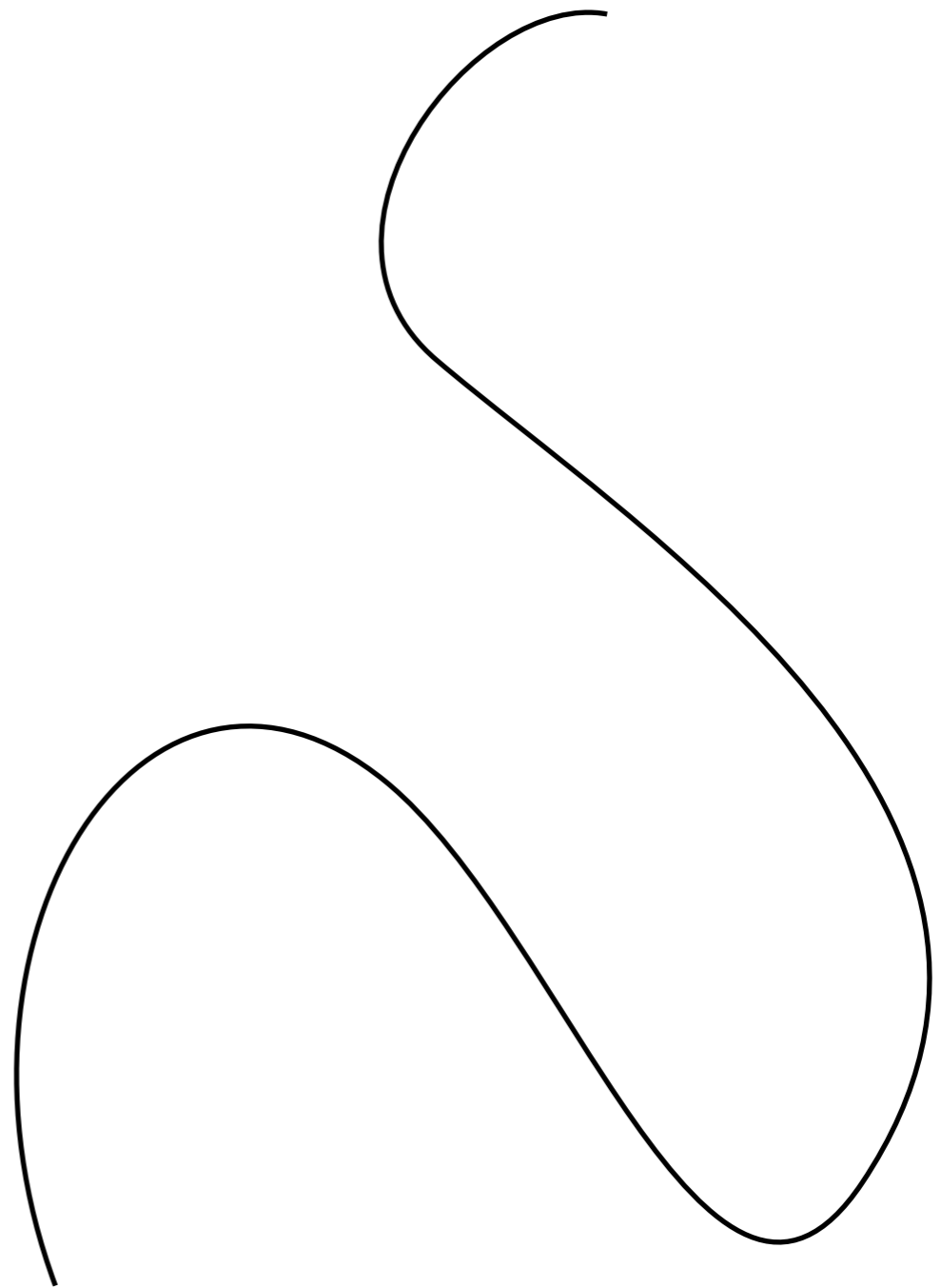
intuitive idea:

draw with a pen

set of points the pen traces

may be 2D, like on paper

or 3D, *space curve*

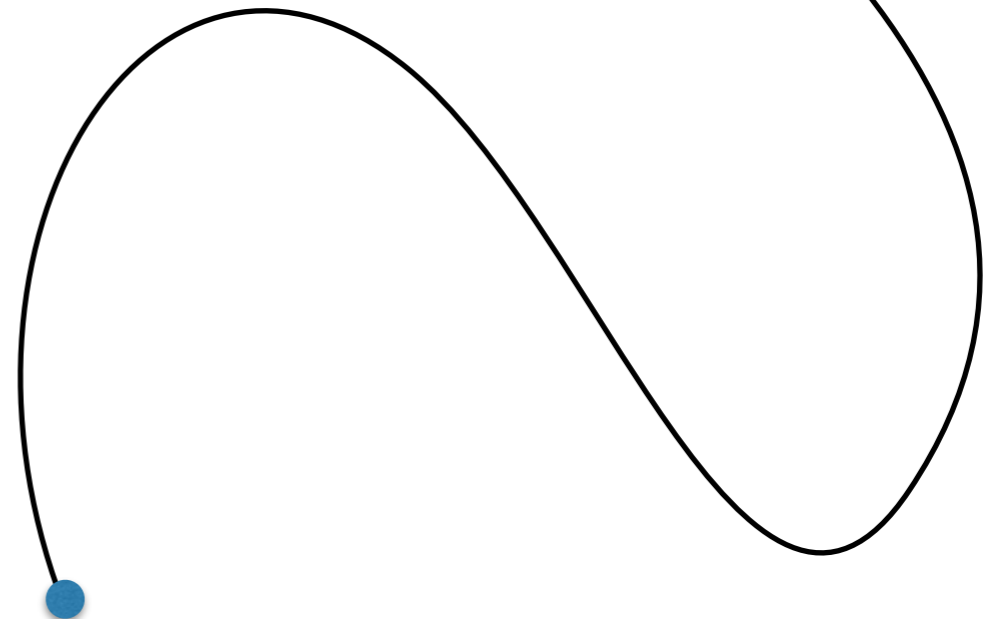
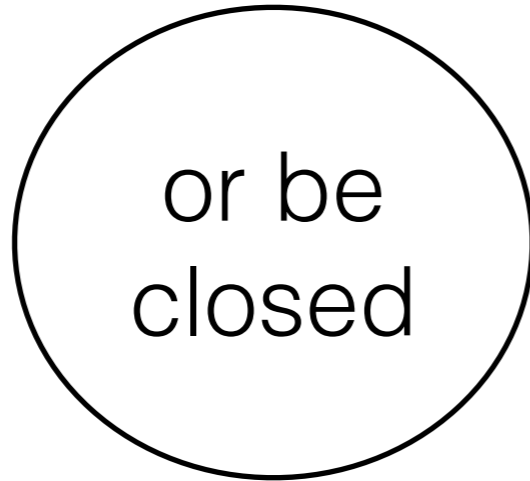
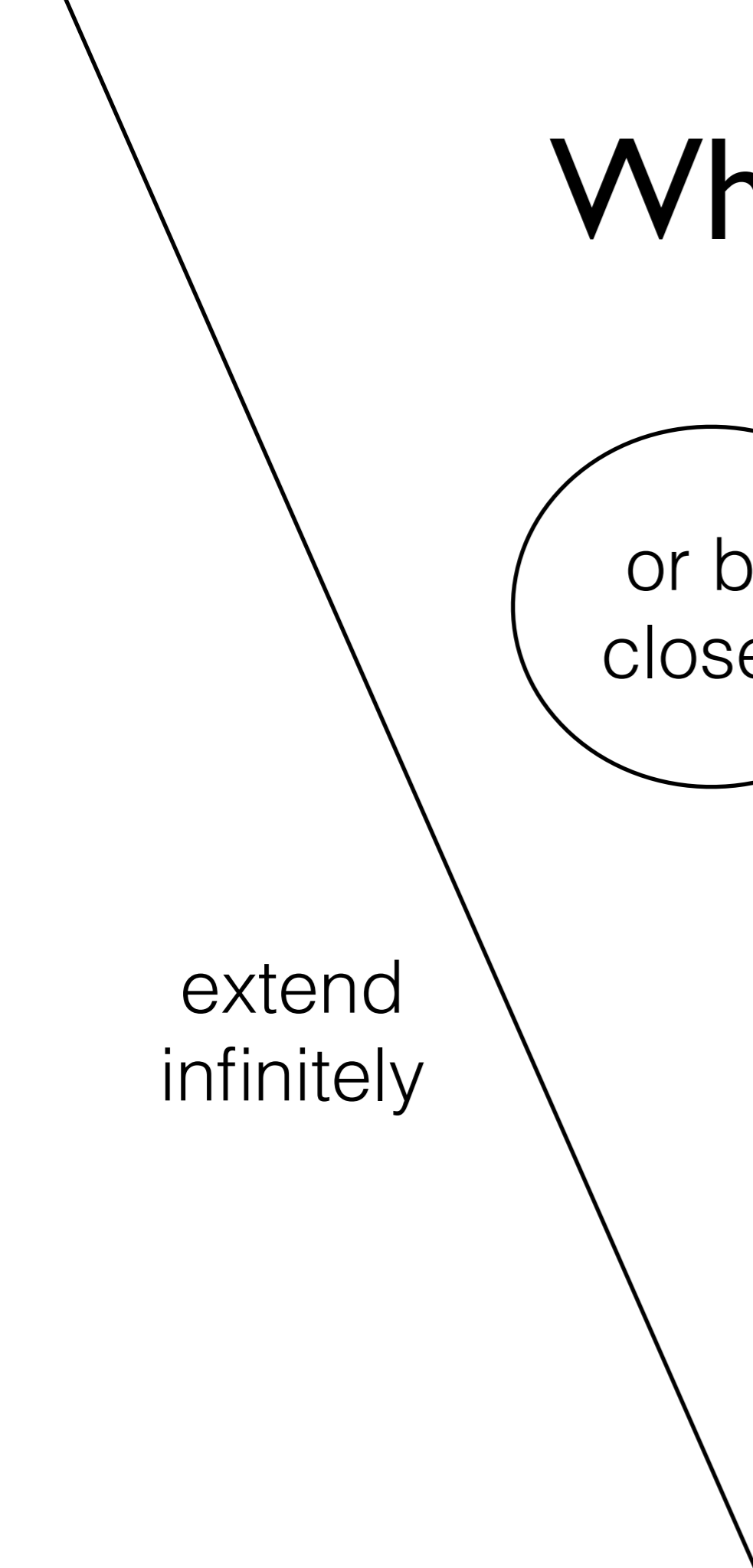


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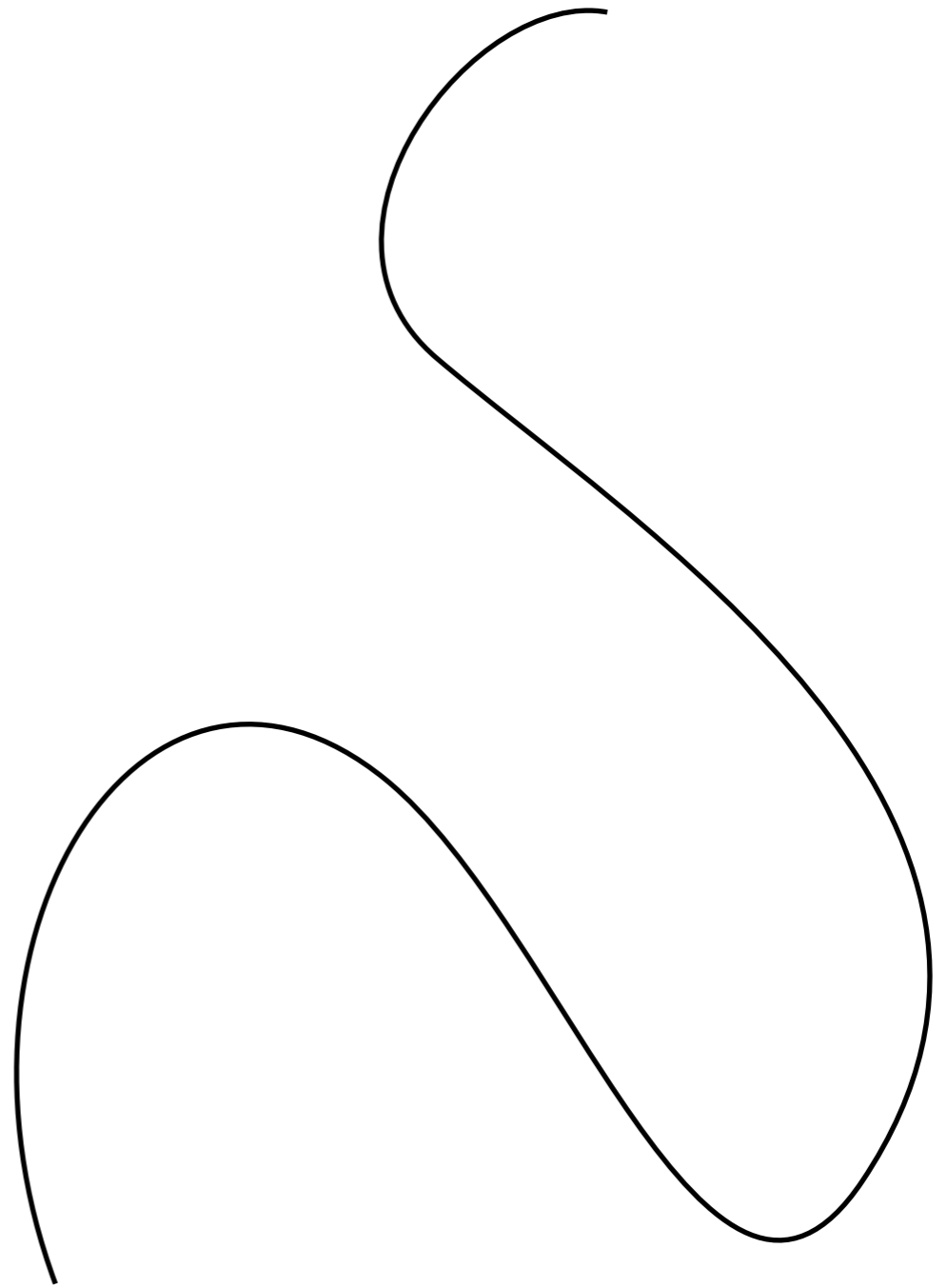
or be  
closed

may have  
endpoints

extend  
infinitely



# How do we specify a curve?



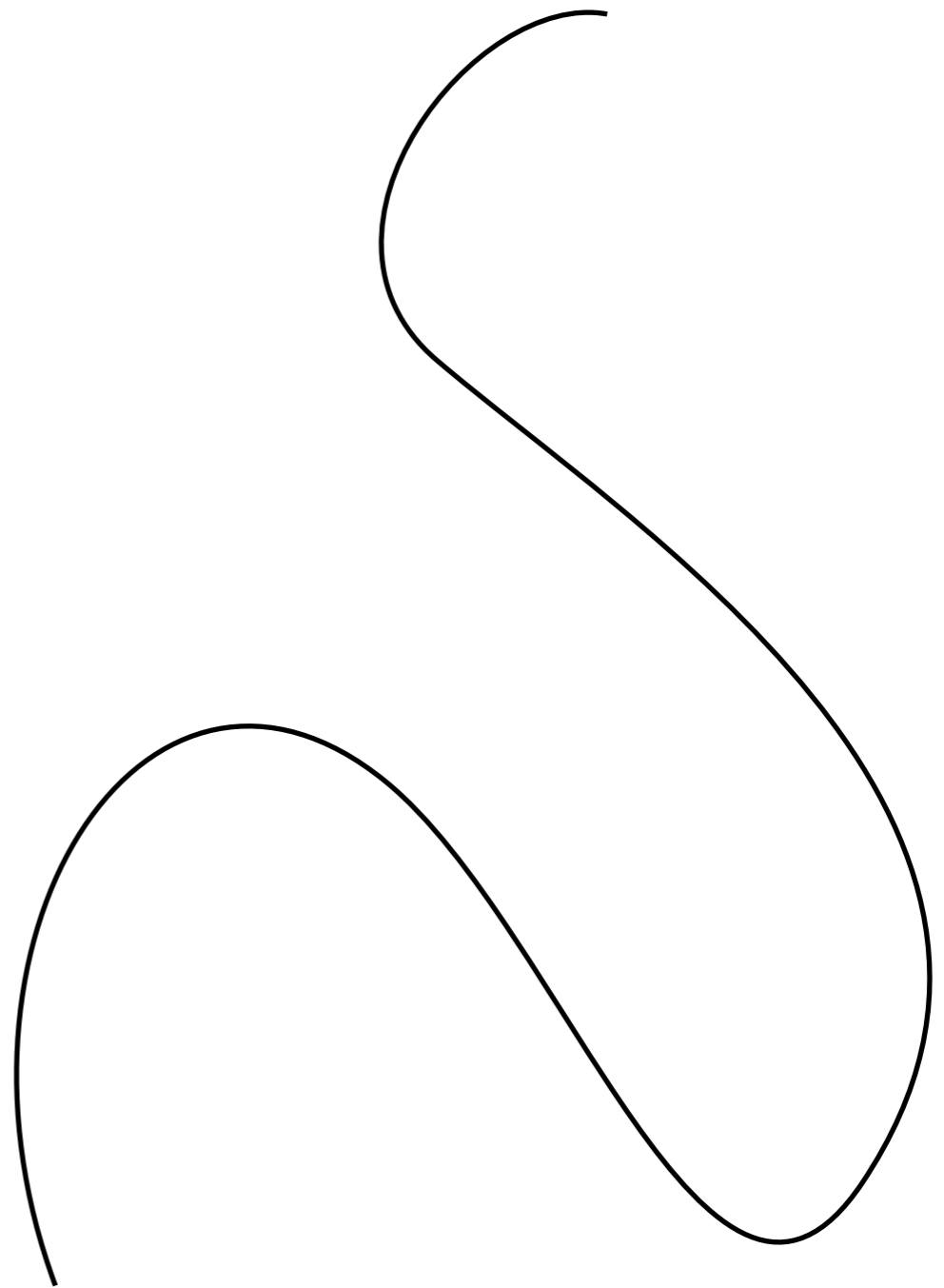


# How do we specify a curve?

*Implicit*

$$(2D) \quad f(x,y) = 0$$

test if  $(x,y)$  is on the curve

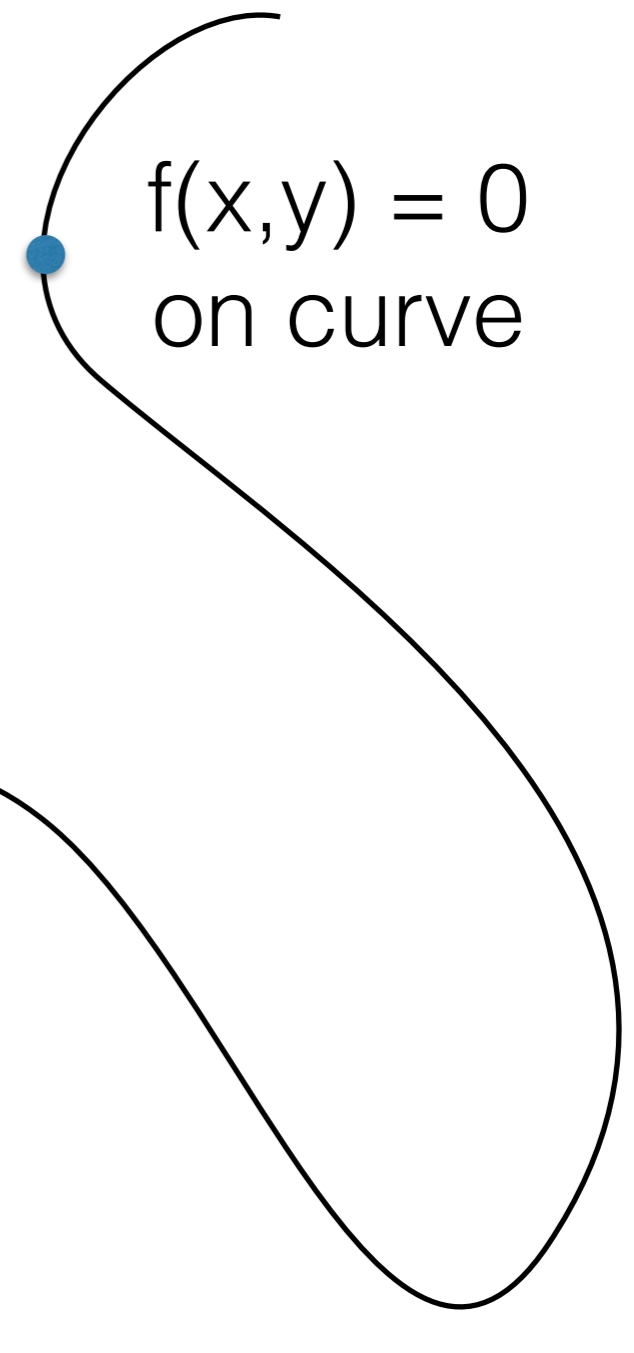


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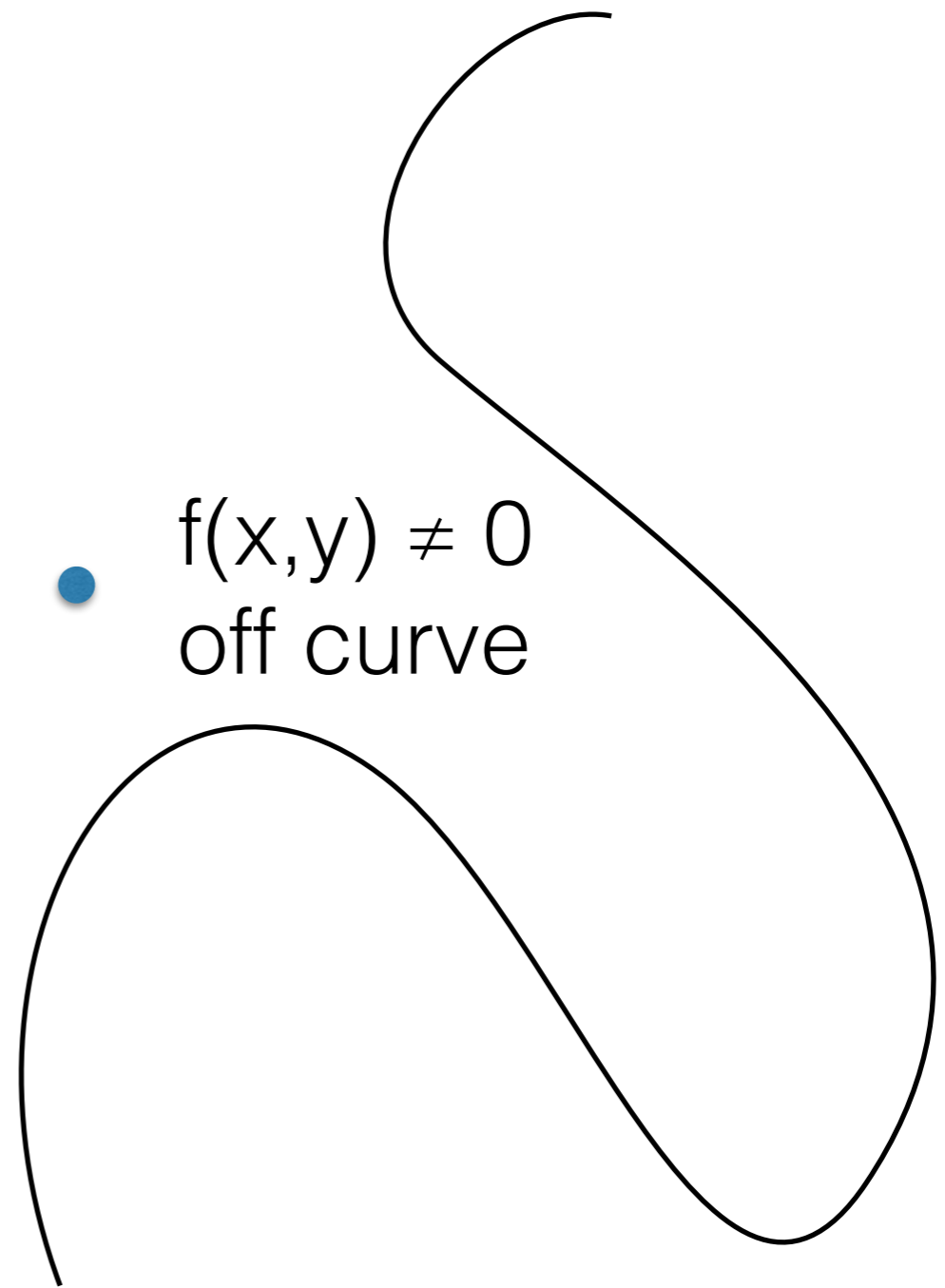


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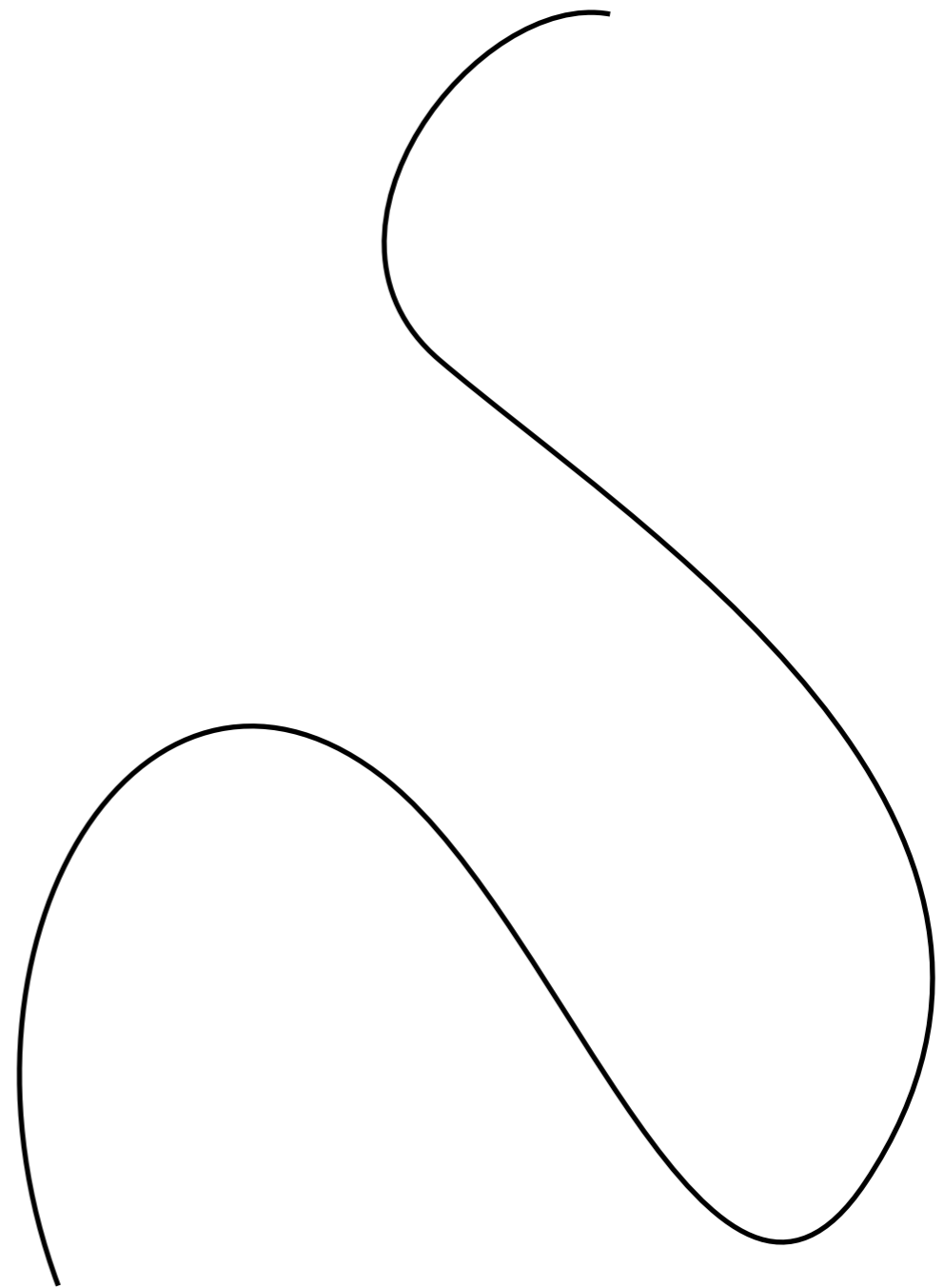
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*Parametric*

$$(2D) \ (x,y) = \mathbf{f}(t)$$

$$(3D) \ (x,y,z) = \mathbf{f}(t)$$

map free *parameter*  $t$   
to points on the curve



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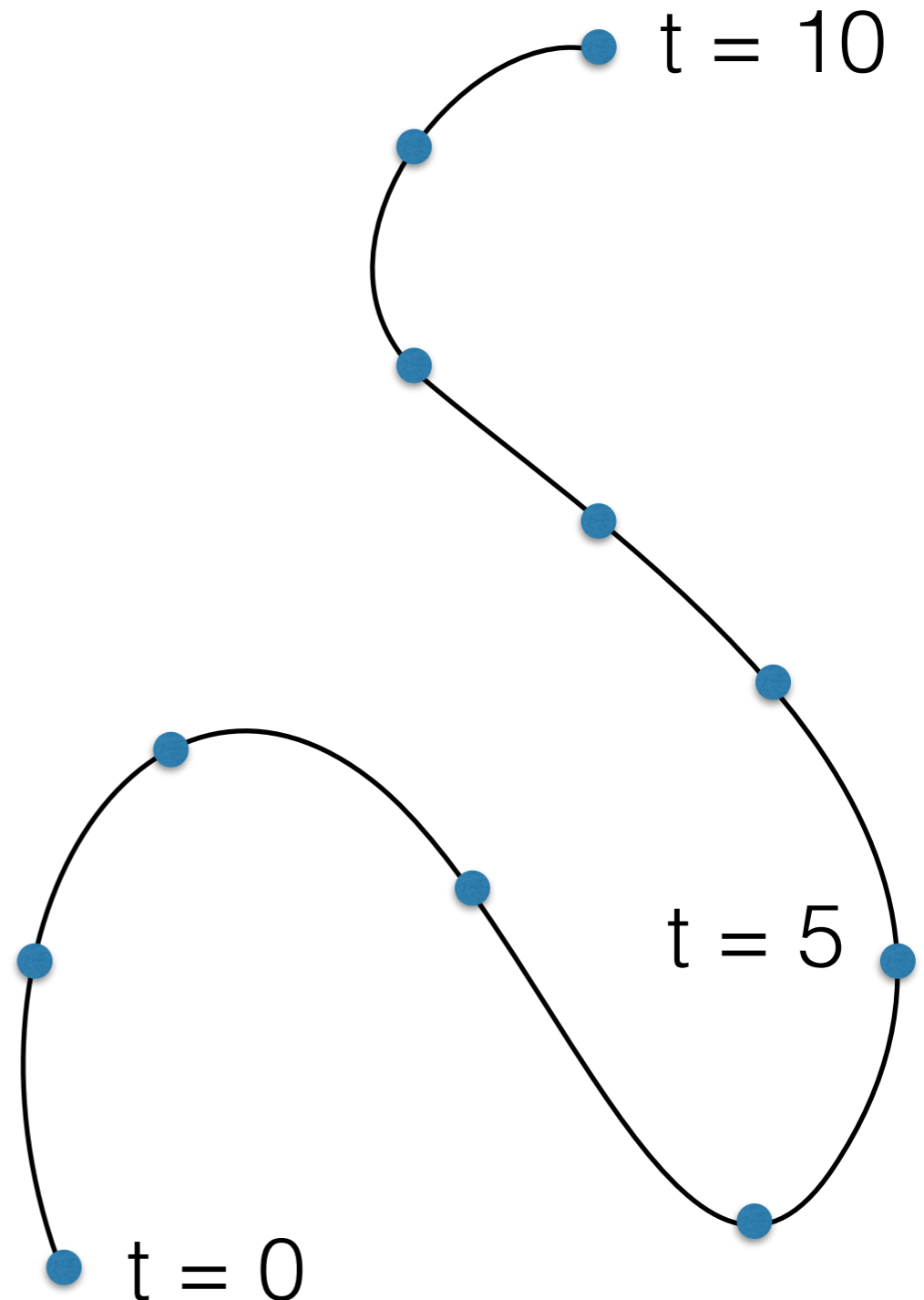
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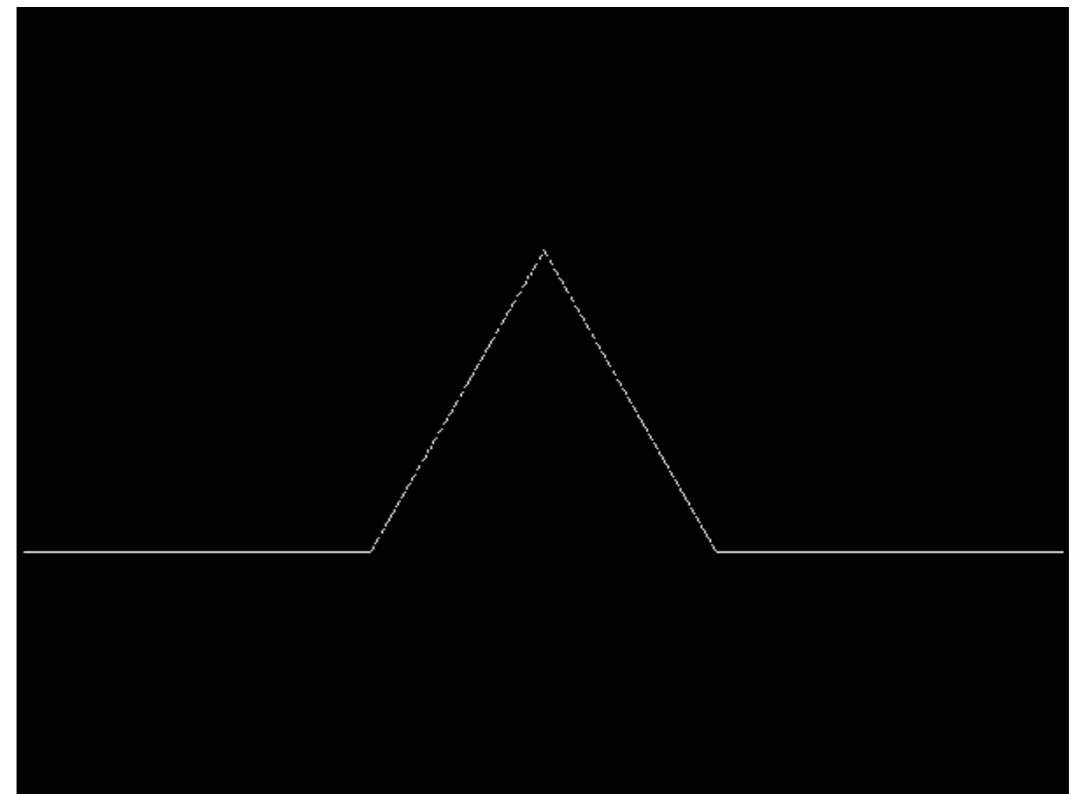
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to points on the curve

*Procedural*

e.g., fractals,  
subdivision schemes



[George Reese]

**Fractal: Koch Curve**

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*Parametric*

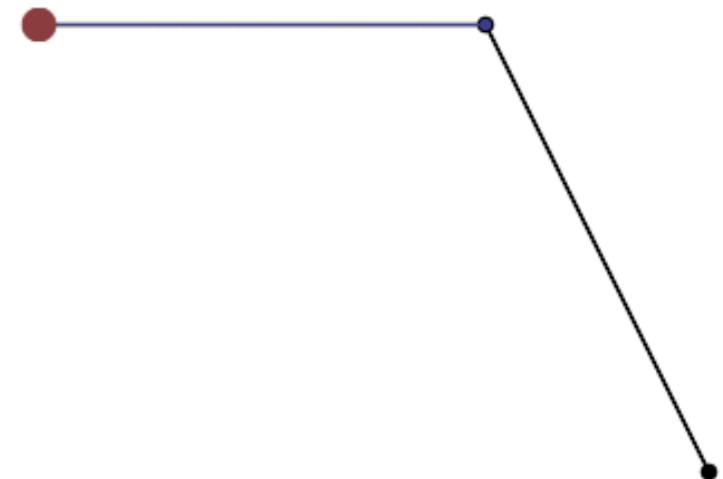
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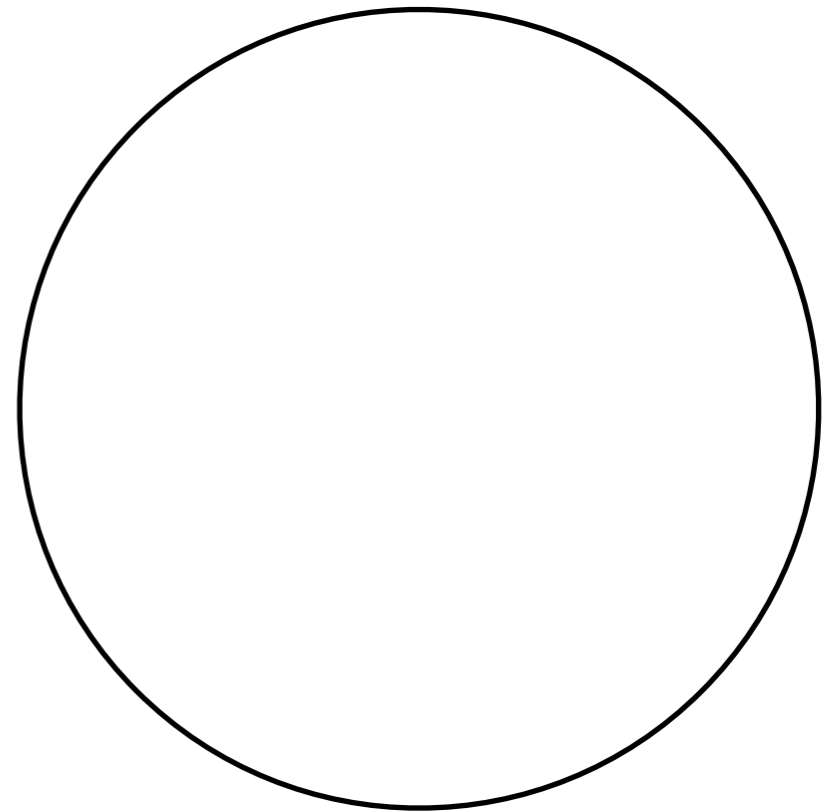
*Procedural*

e.g., fractals,  
subdivision schemes



**Bezier Curve**

A curve may have multiple  
representations

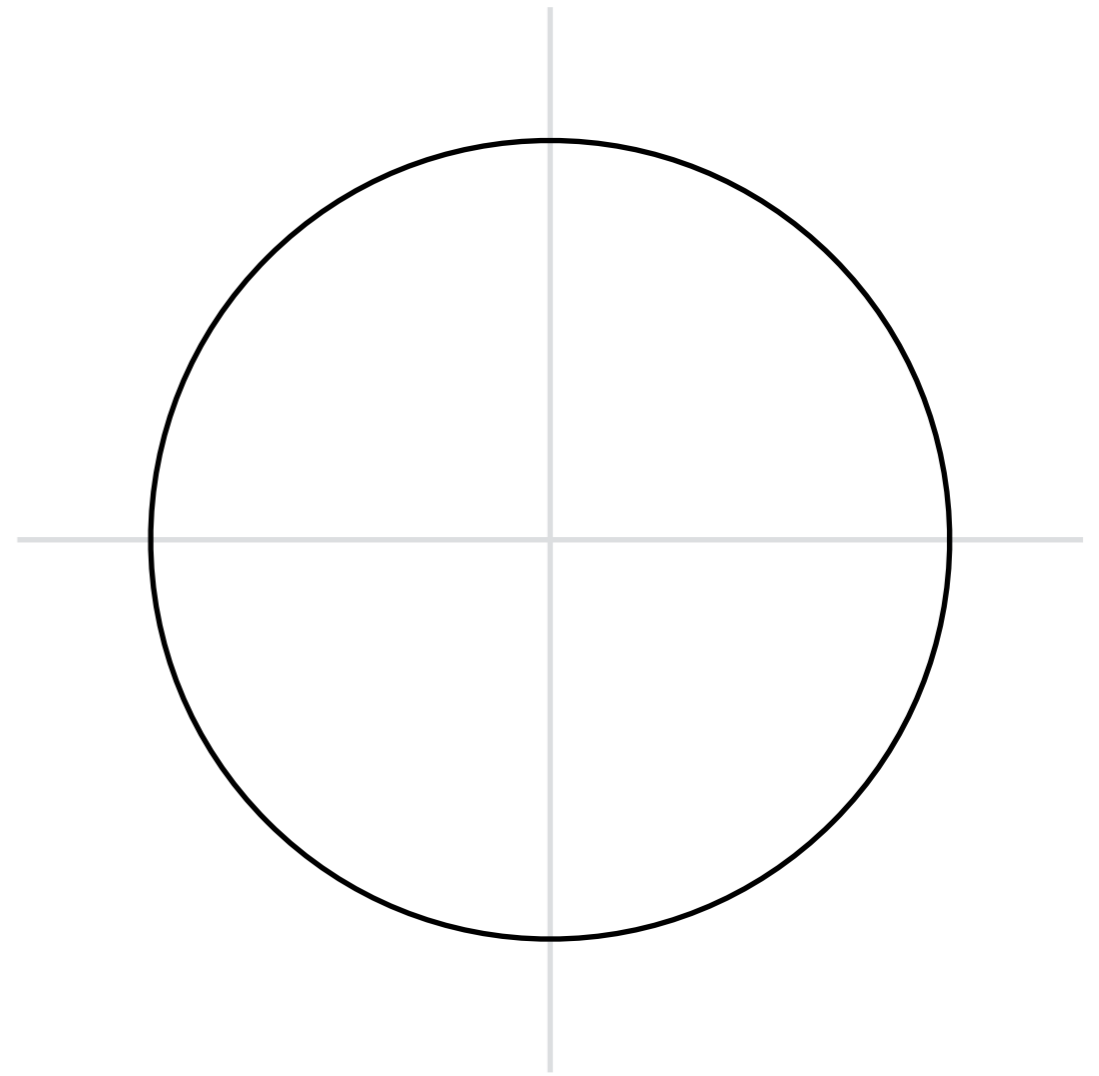




# A curve may have multiple representations

*Implicit*

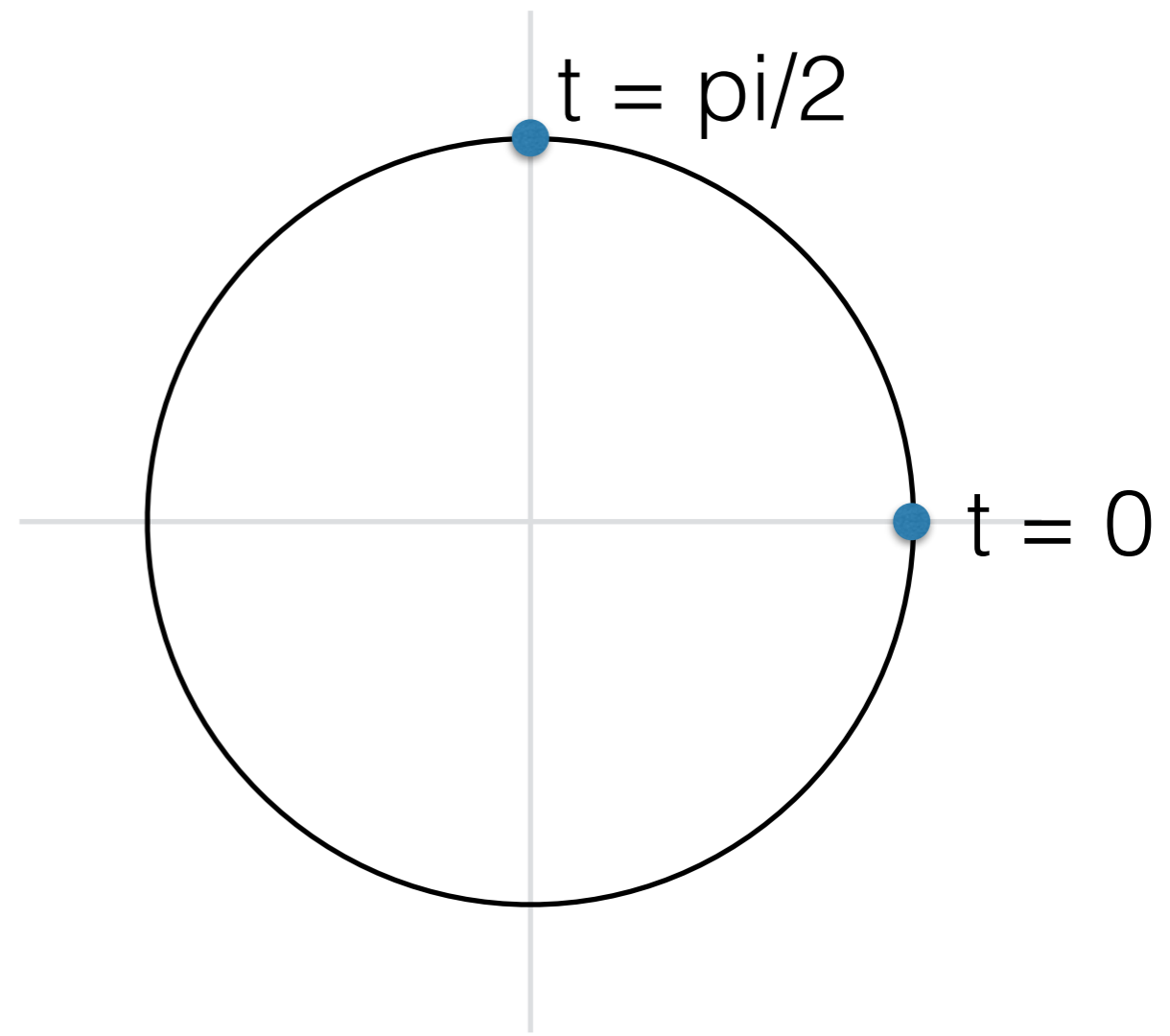
$$f(x,y) = x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0$$



# A curve may have multiple representations

*Parametric*

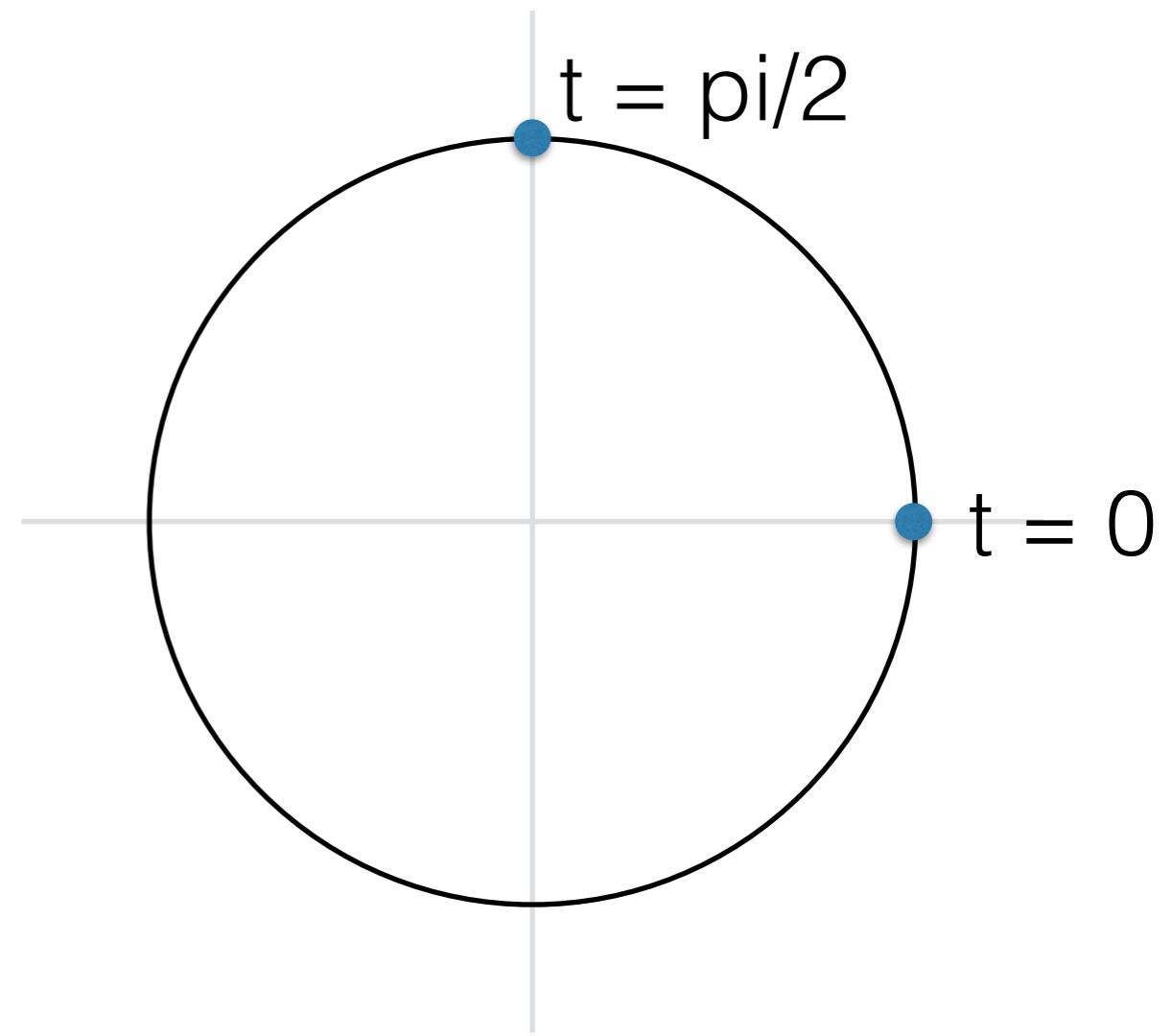
$$(x,y) = \mathbf{f}(t) = (\cos t, \sin t)$$



# A curve may have multiple representations

*Parametric*

$$(x,y) = \mathbf{f}(t) = (\cos t, \sin t), \\ t \text{ in } [0, 2\pi)$$

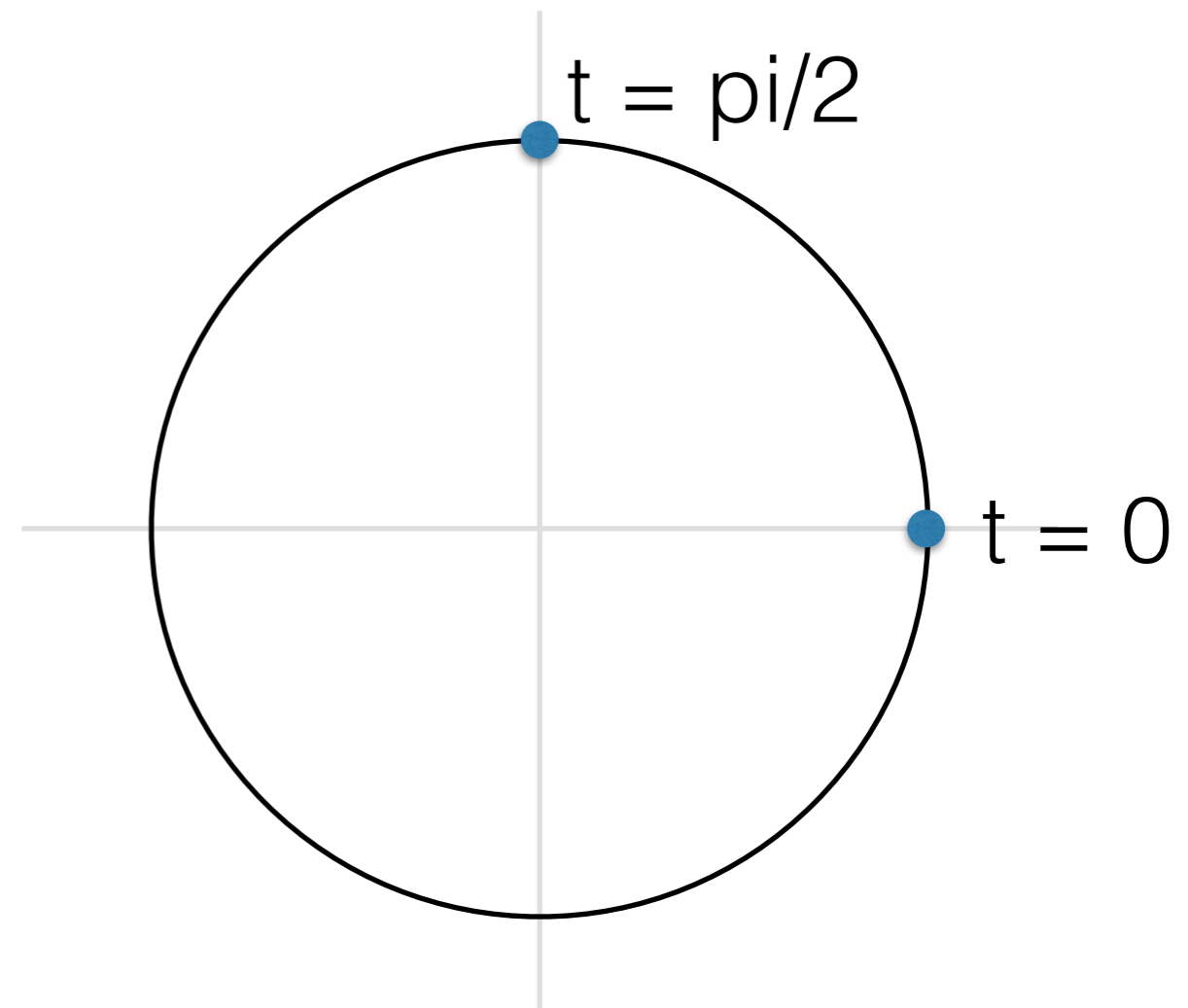


Same curve (set of points),  
but different mathematical representation!

# A curve may have multiple representations

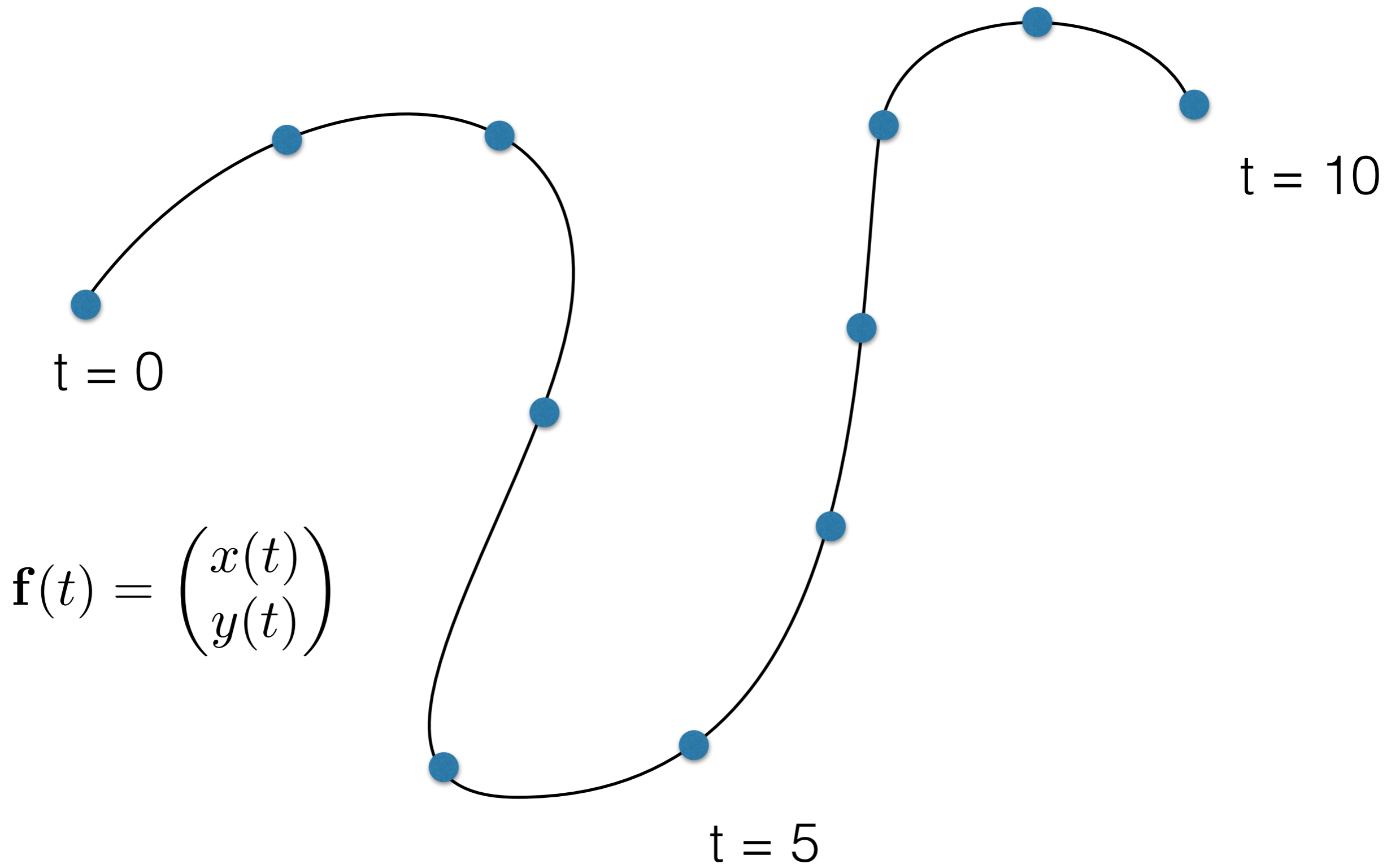
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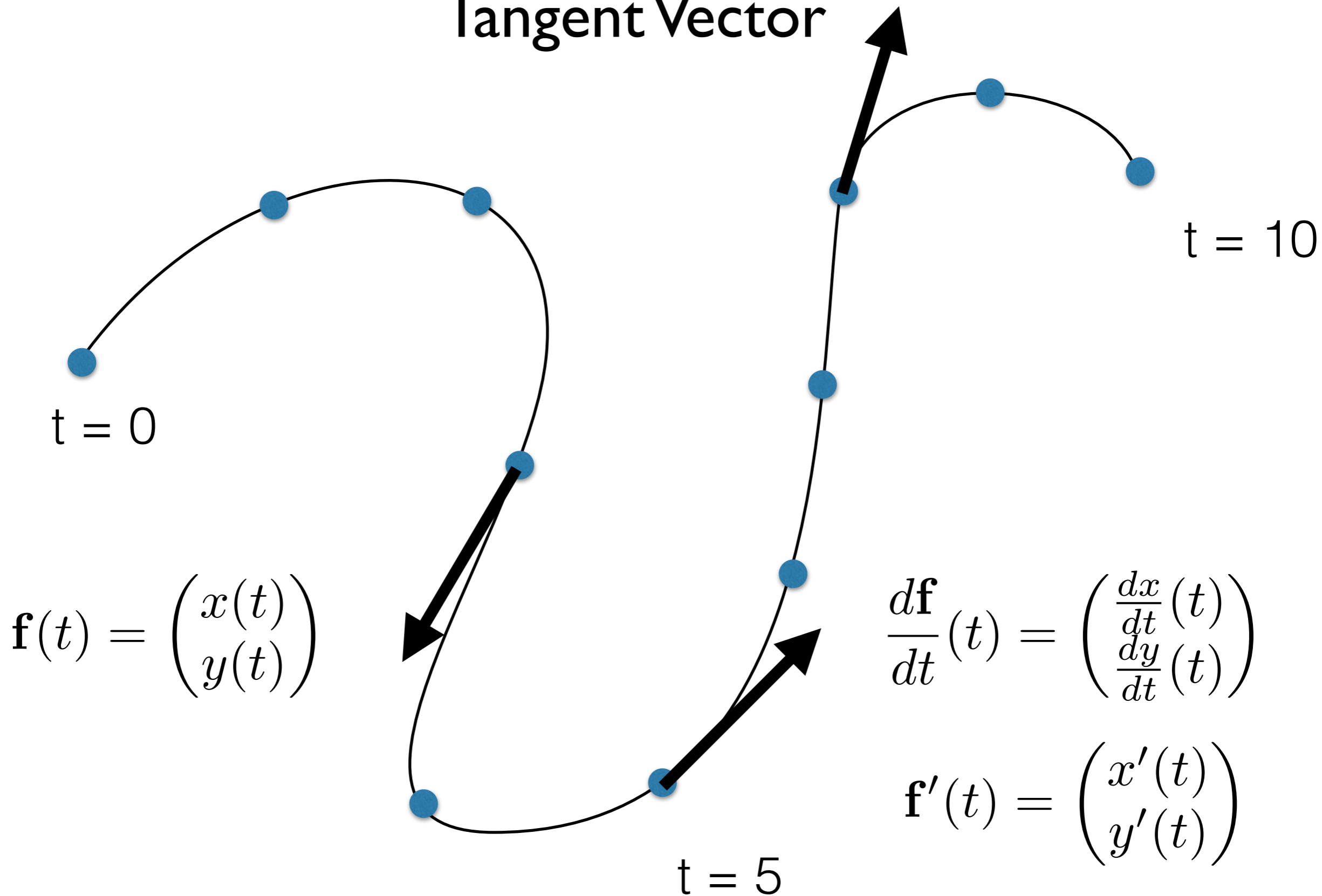


We will focus on parametric representations

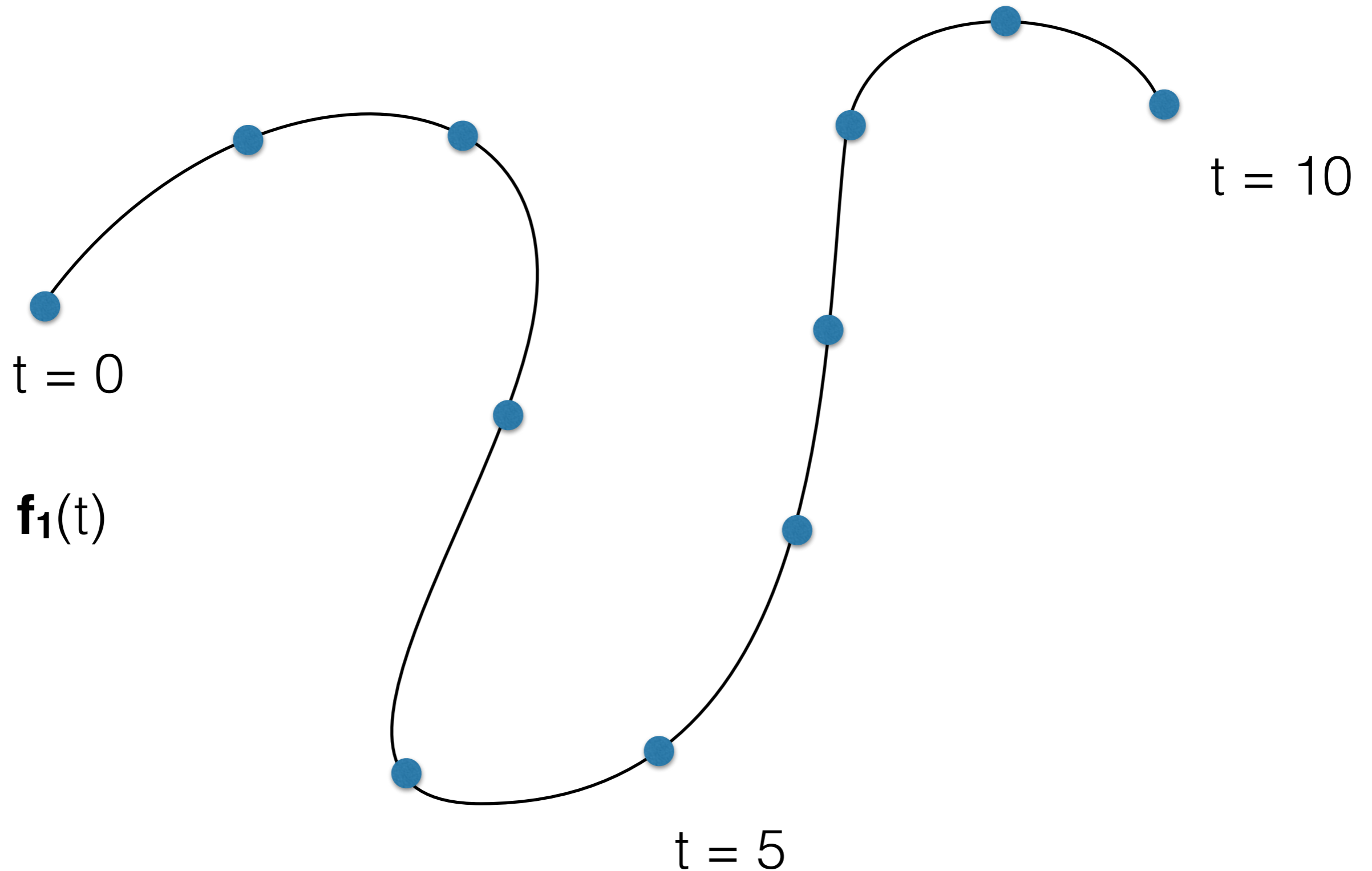
# Parametric Form



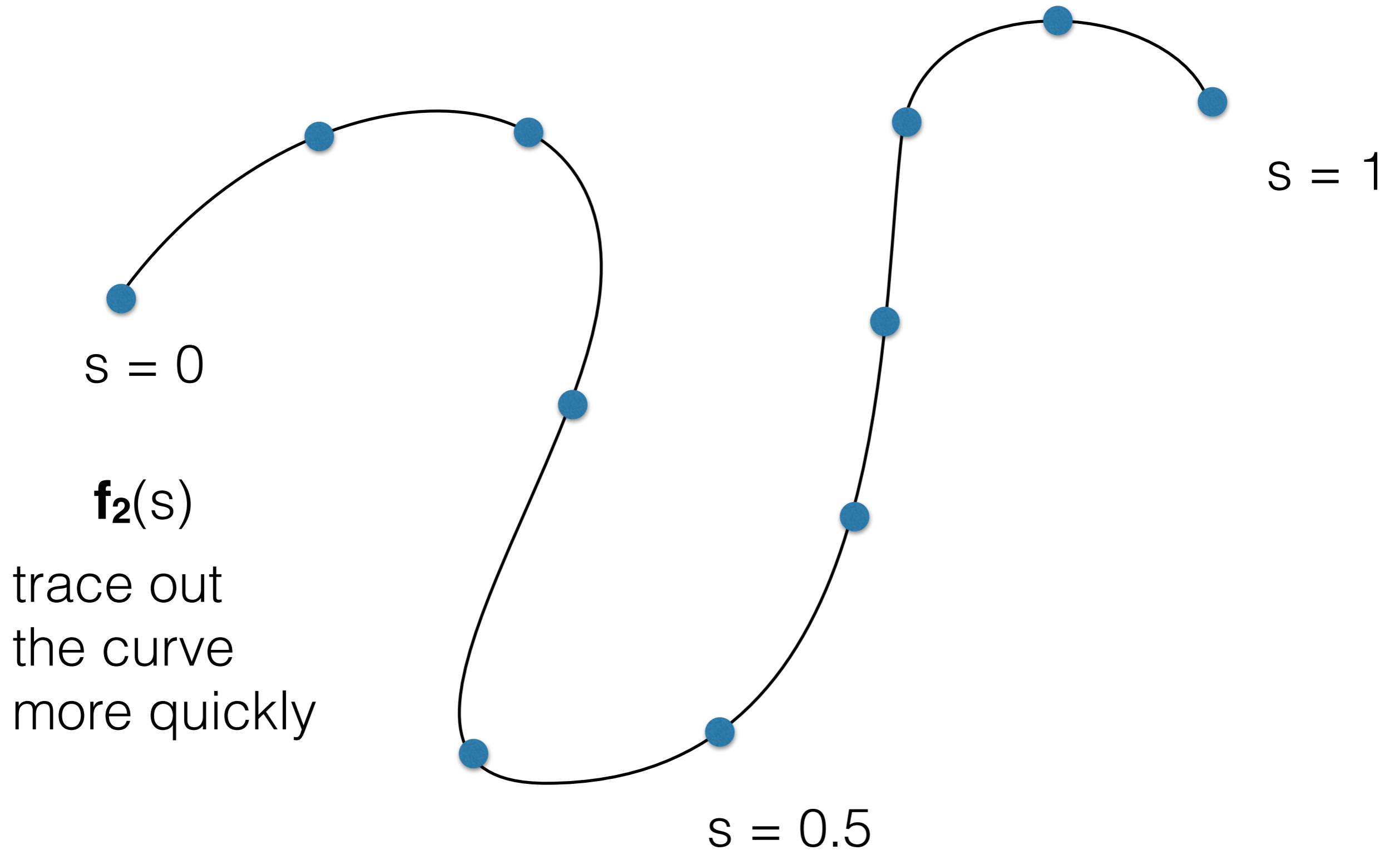
# Parametric Form Tangent Vector



# Parameterization, re-parameterization

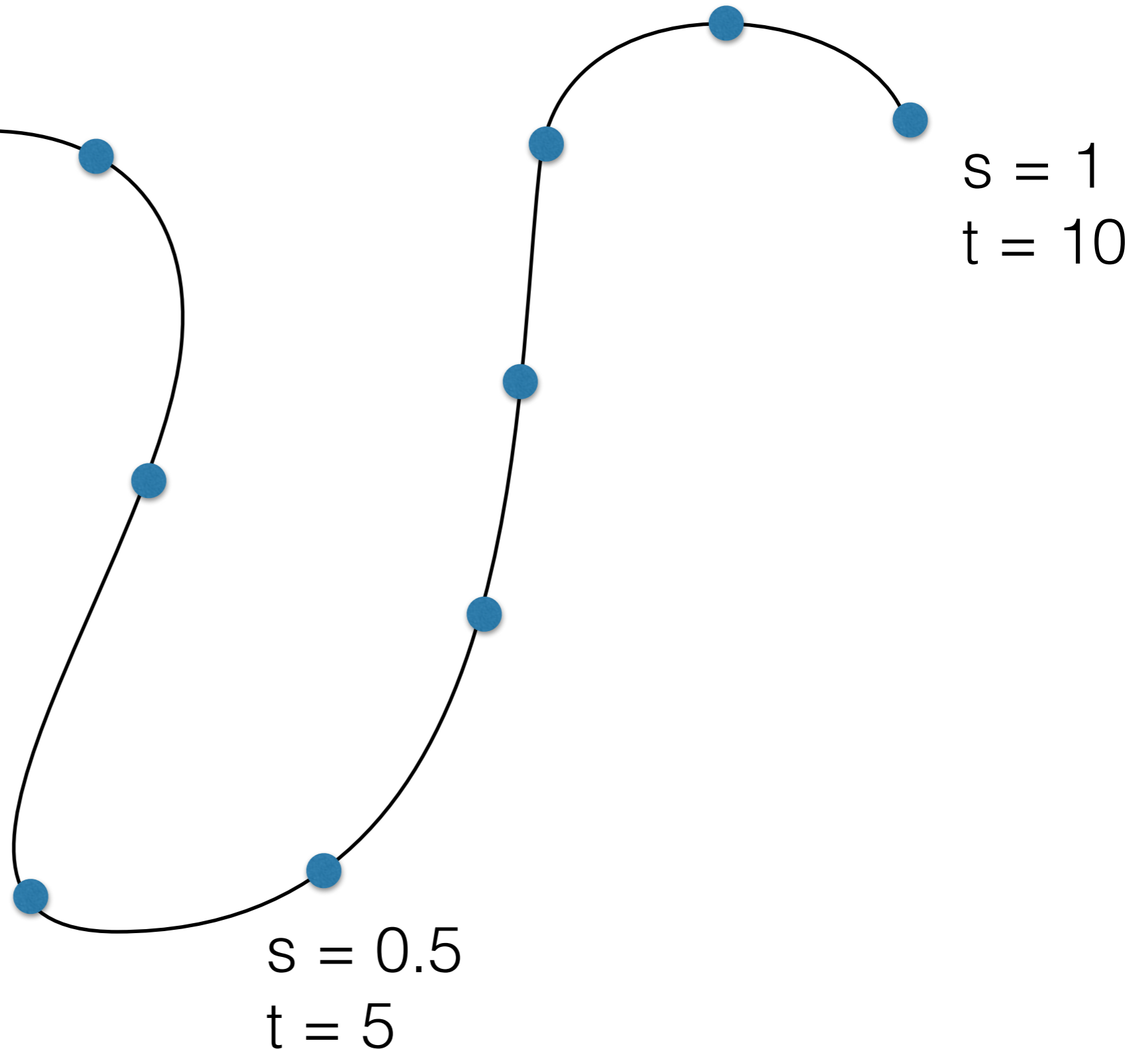
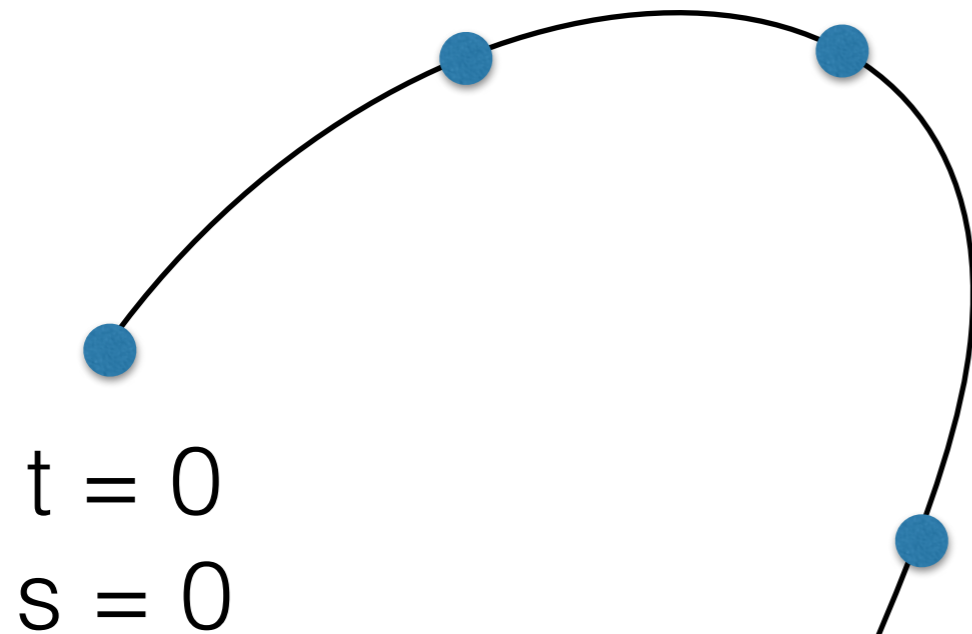


# Parameterization, re-parameterization





# Parameterization, re-parameterization



relationship:

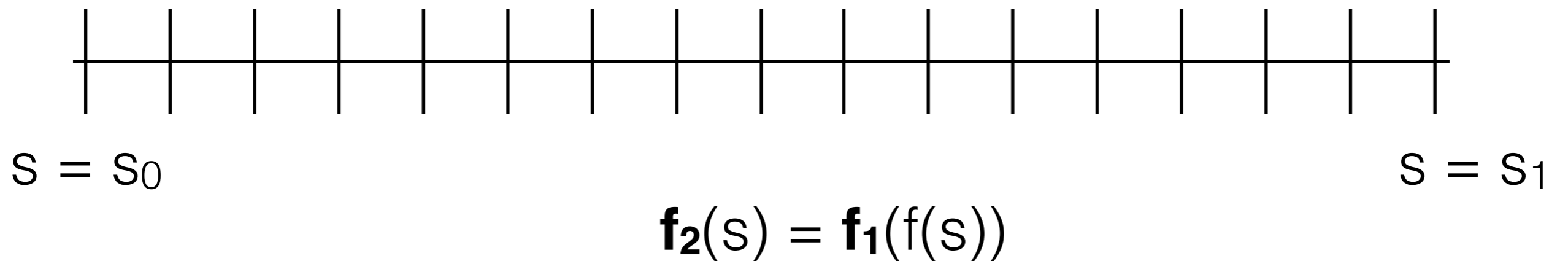
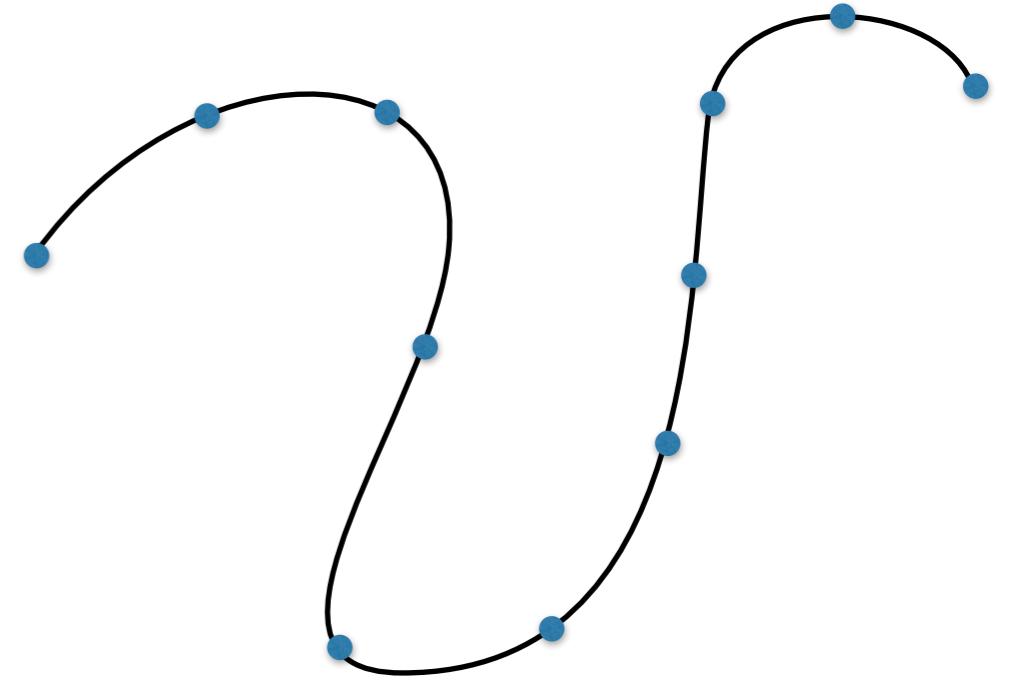
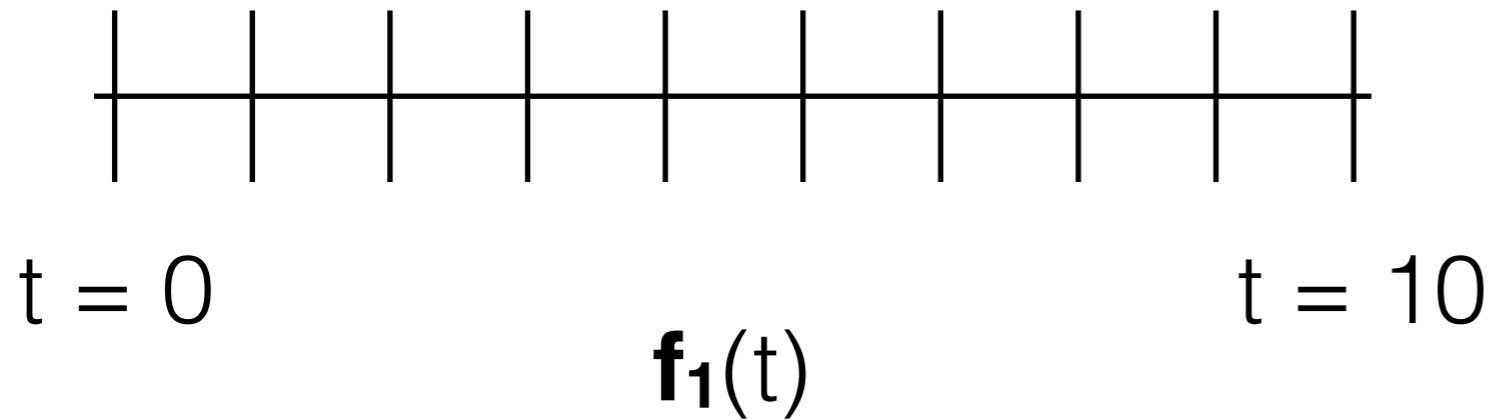
$$t = 10 * s$$

$$\mathbf{f}_1(t) = \mathbf{f}_1(10 * s)$$

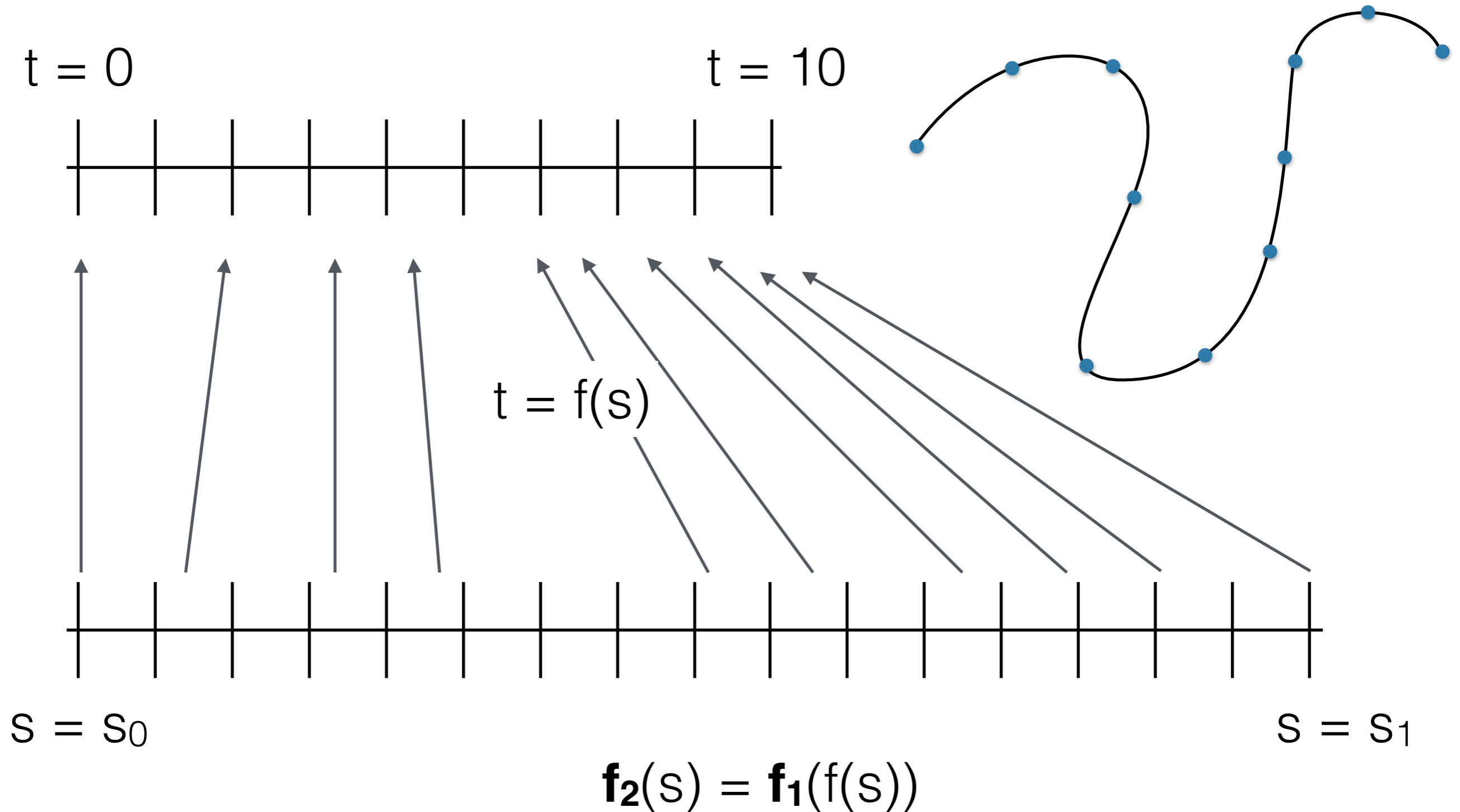
$$= \mathbf{f}_1(f(s))$$

$$= \mathbf{f}_2(s)$$

# Parameterization, re-parameterization

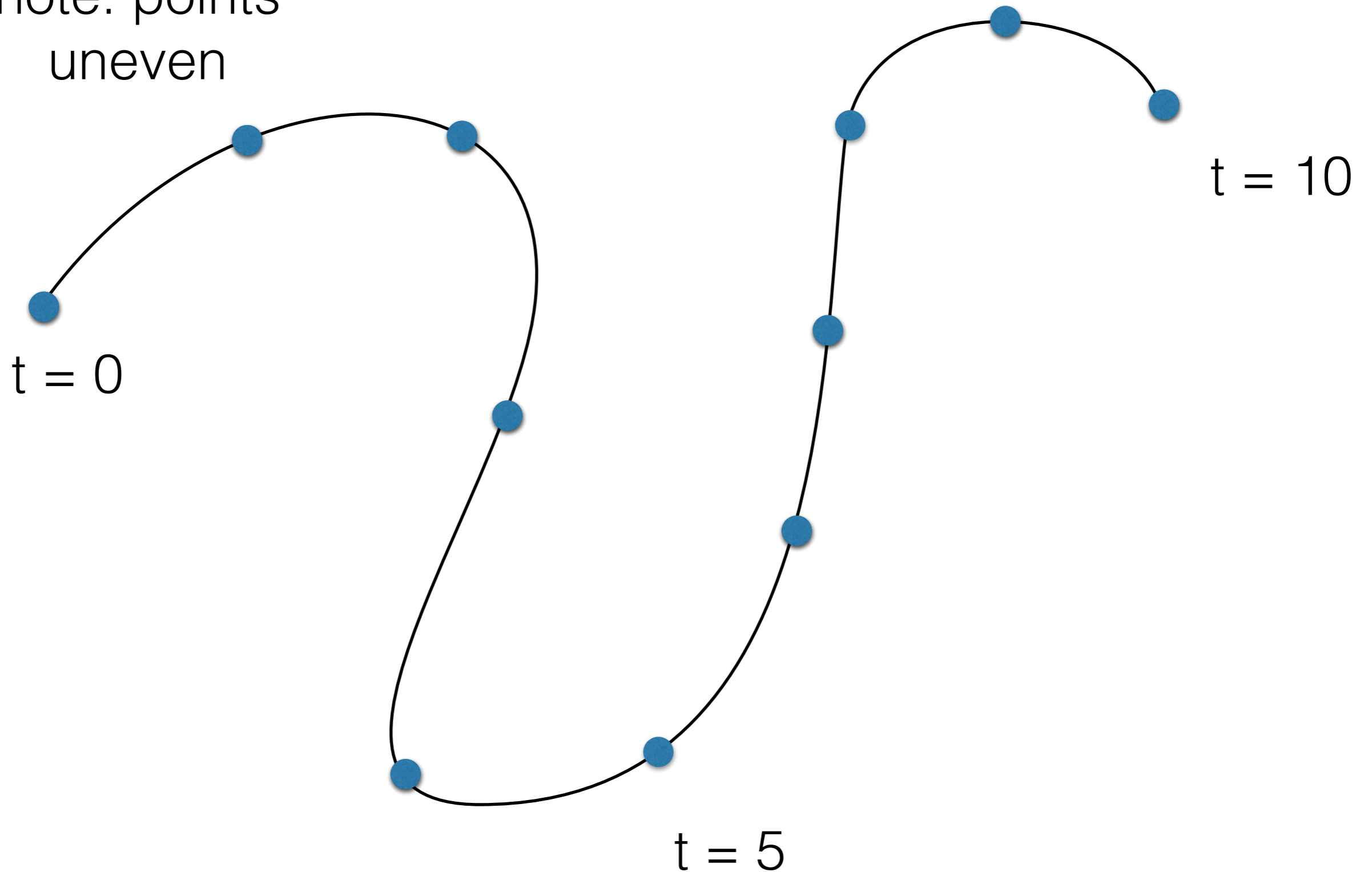


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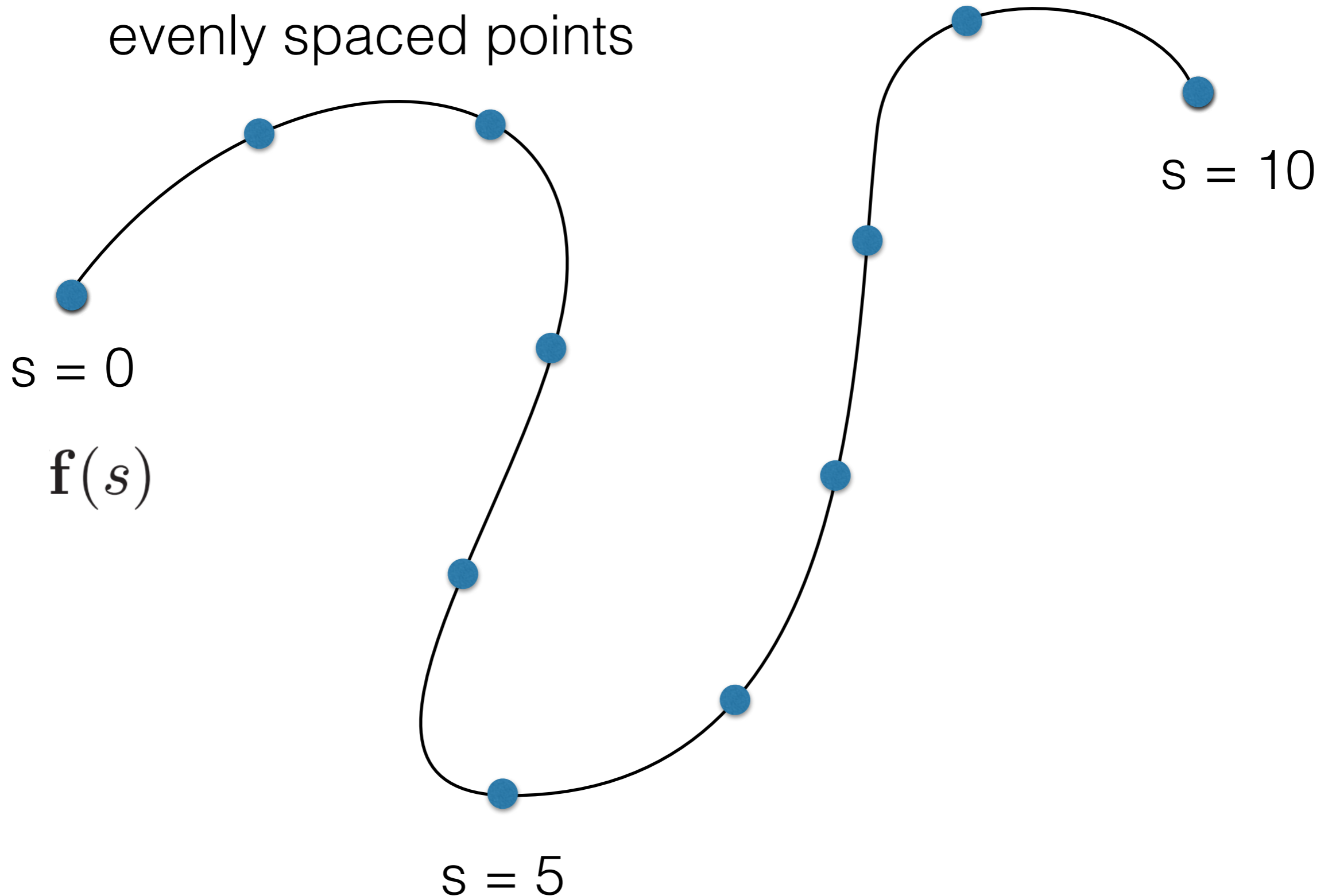
# Natural parameterization

note: points  
uneven



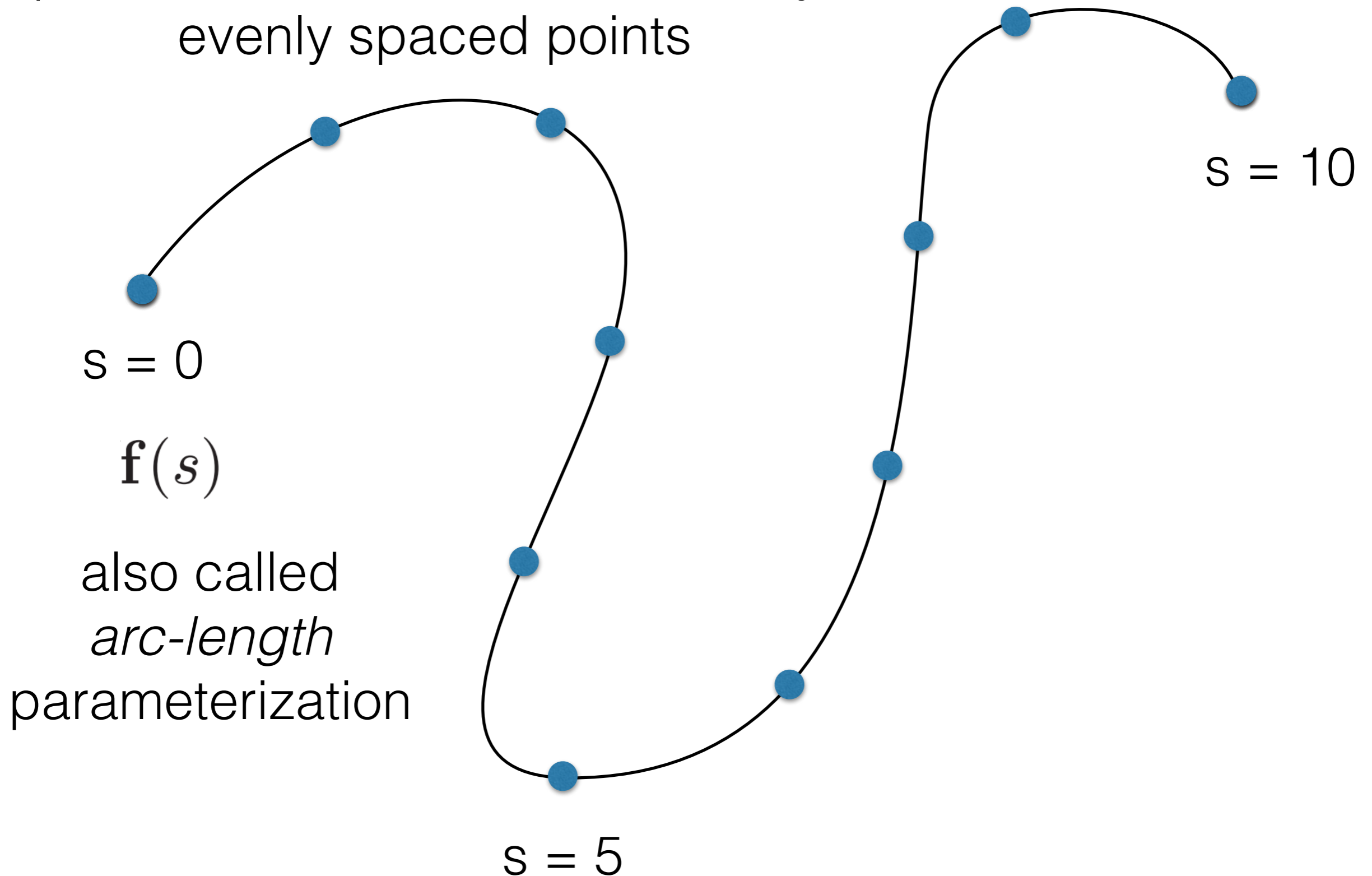
# Natural parameterization

pen moves at a constant velocity:  
evenly spaced points



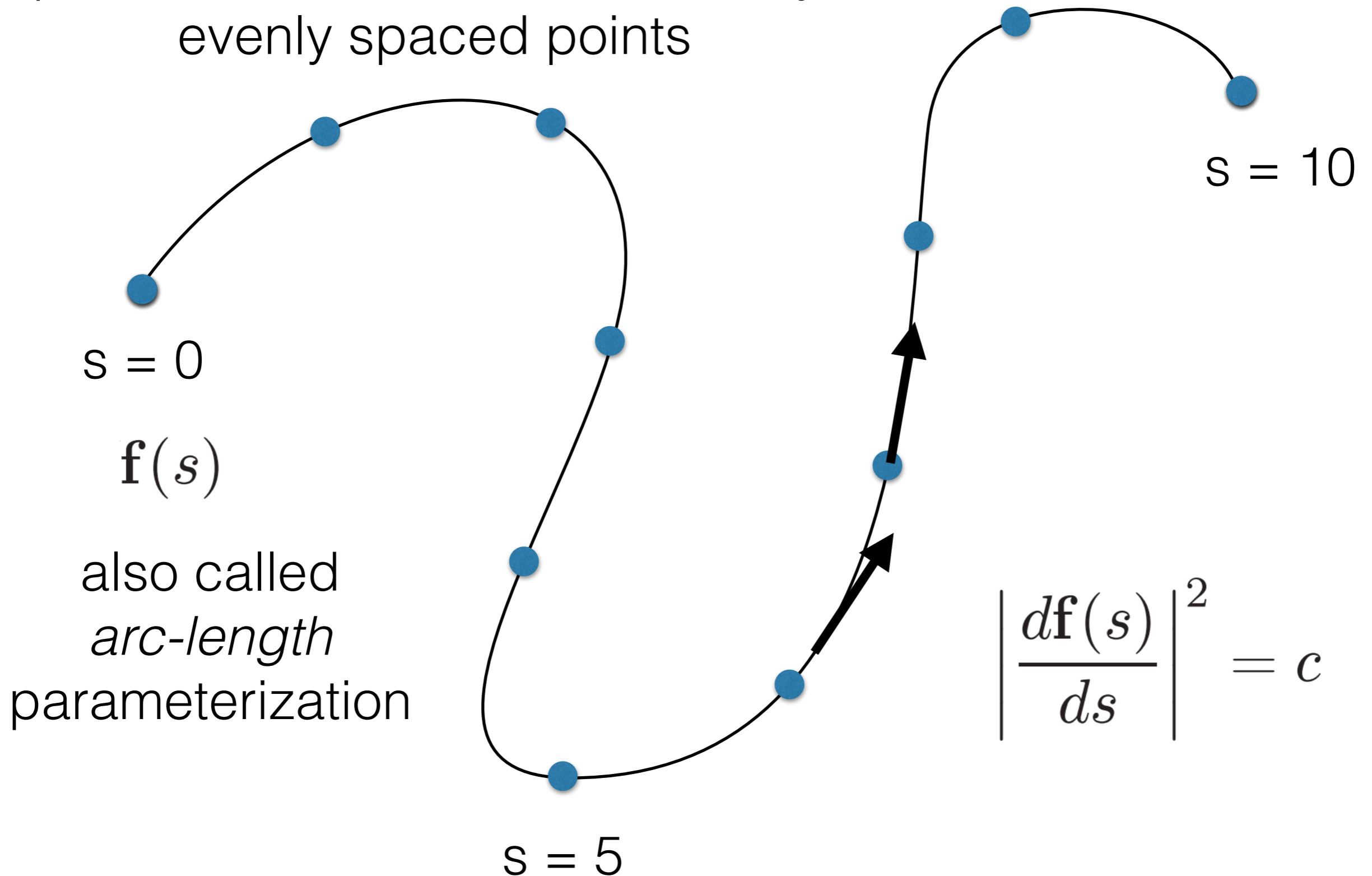
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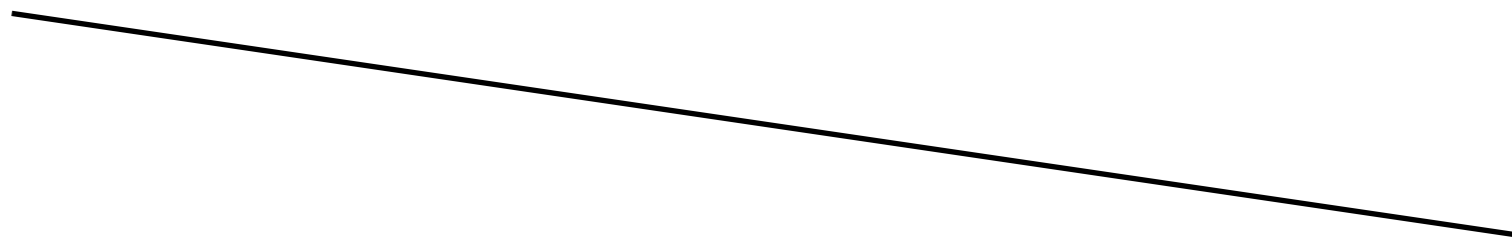
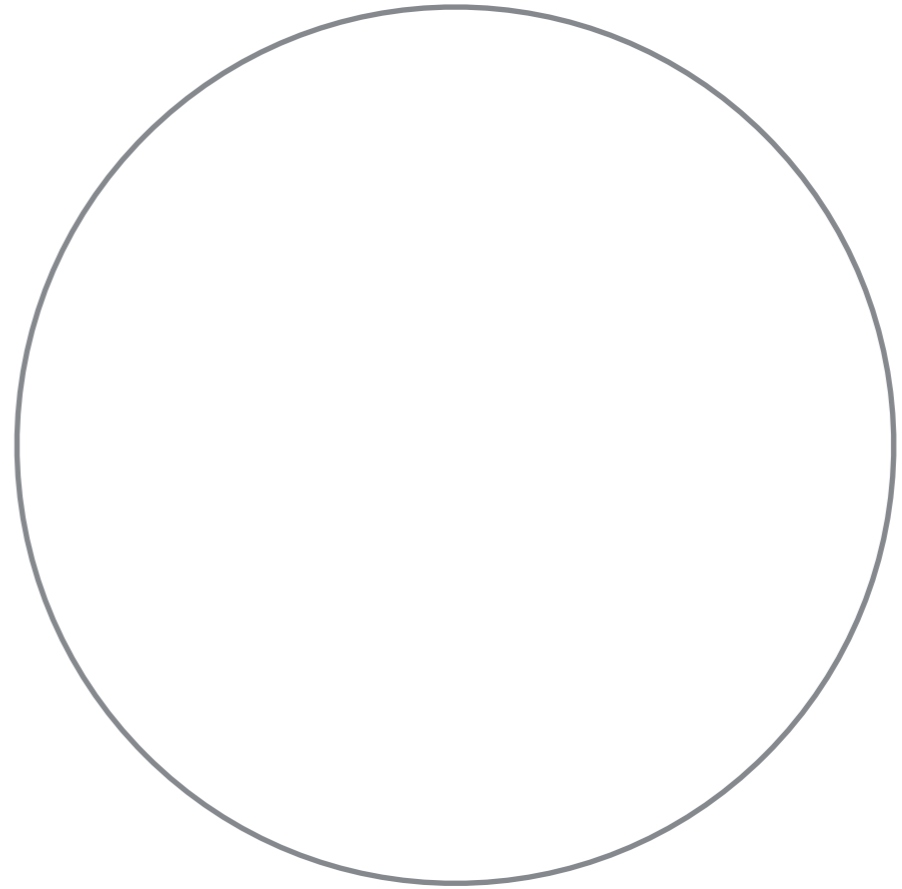
pen moves at a constant velocity:  
evenly spaced points



# piecewise parametric representation

sometimes easy  
to find a parametric  
representation

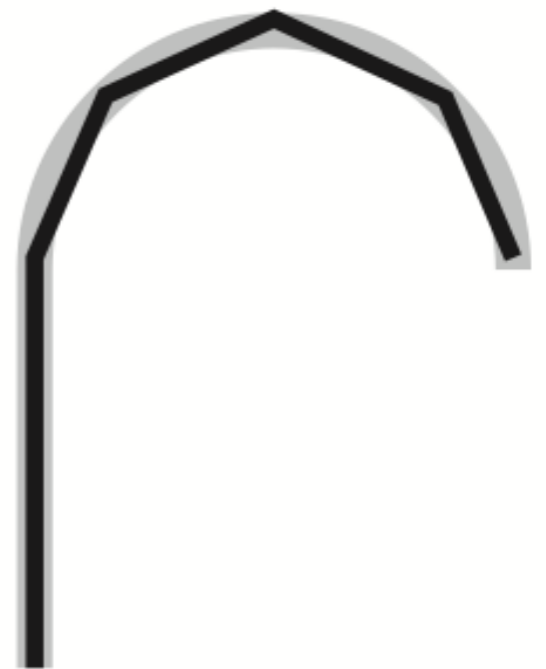
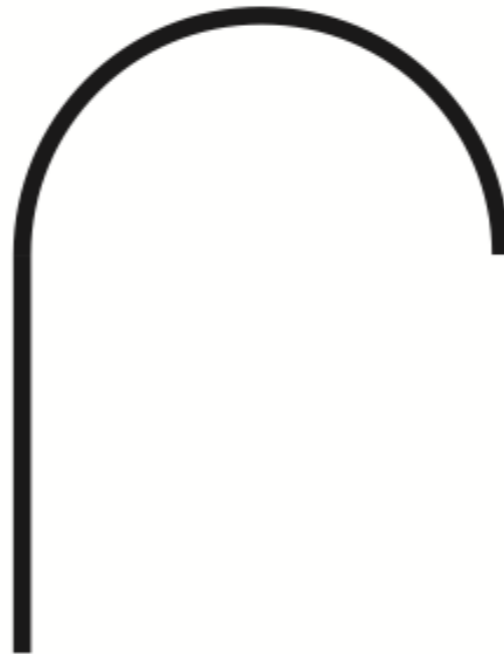
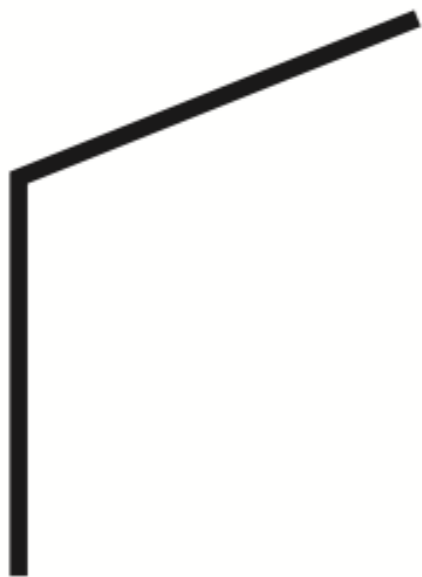
e.g., circle, line segment





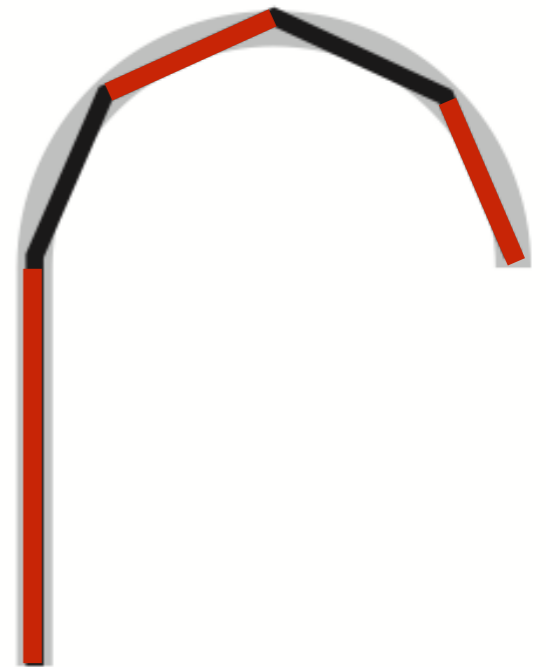
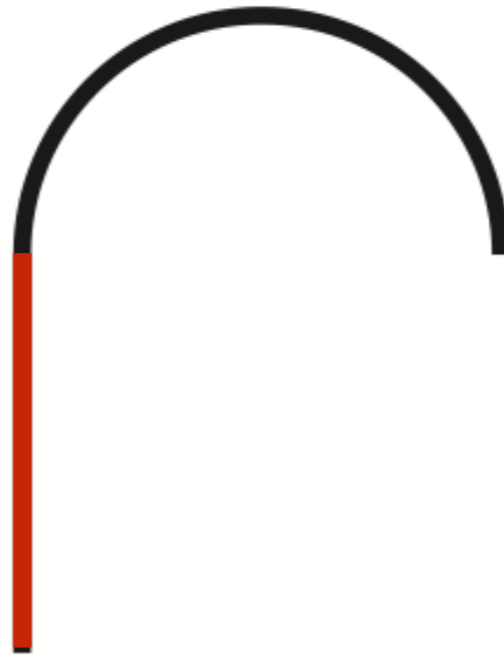
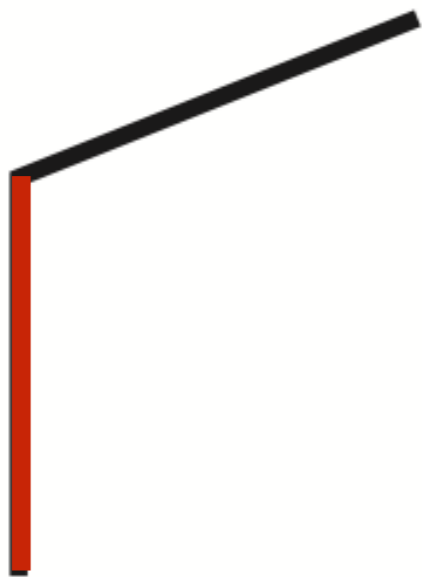
# piecewise parametric representation

in other cases, not obvious



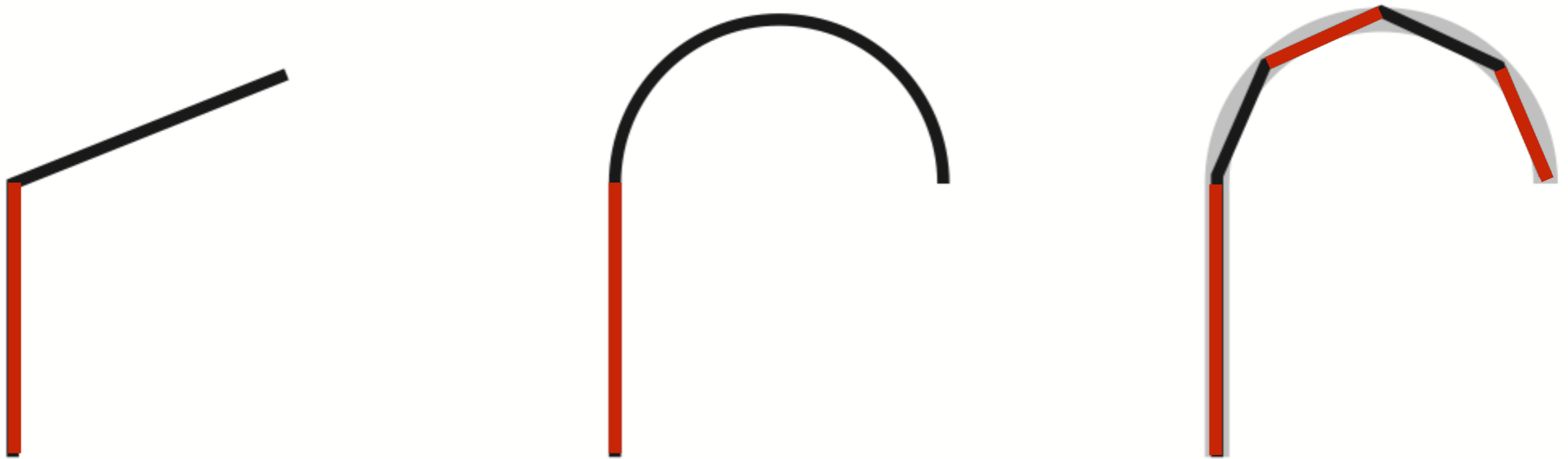
# piecewise parametric representation

strategy: break into simpler pieces



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strategy: break into simpler pieces

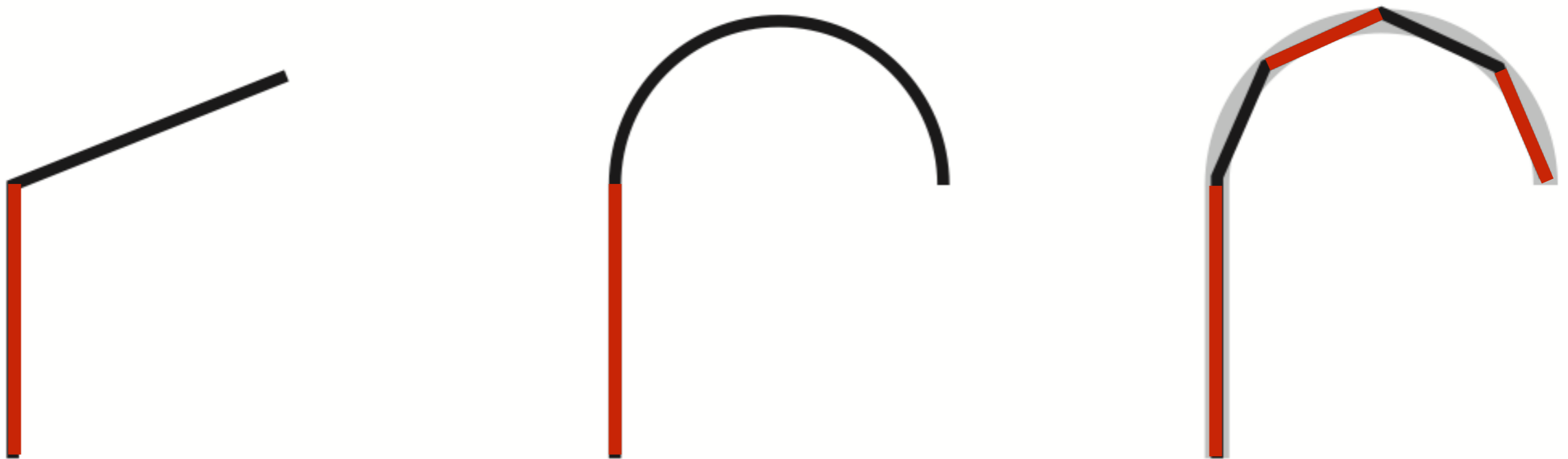


switch between functions that represent pieces:

$$\mathbf{f}(u) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{f}_1(2u) & u \leq 0.5 \\ \mathbf{f}_2(2u - 1) & u > 0.5 \end{cases}$$

# piecewise parametric representation

strategy: break into simpler pieces



switch between functions that represent pieces:

$$\mathbf{f}(u) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{f}_1(2u) & u \leq 0.5 \\ \mathbf{f}_2(2u - 1) & u > 0.5 \end{cases}$$

map the inputs to  
 $\mathbf{f}_1$  and  $\mathbf{f}_2$   
to be from 0 to 1

# Curve Properties

Local properties:

continuity

position

direction

curvature

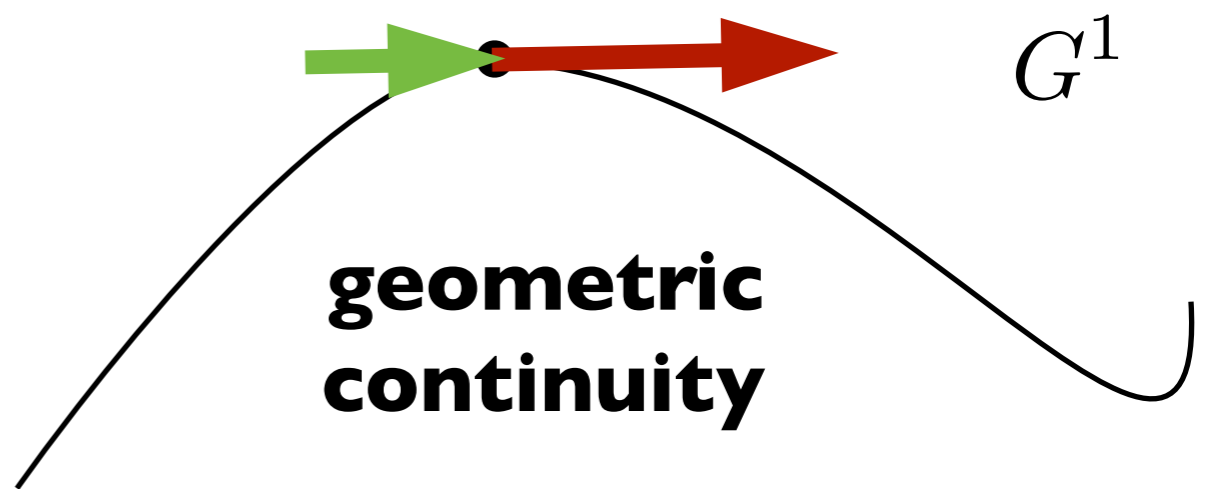
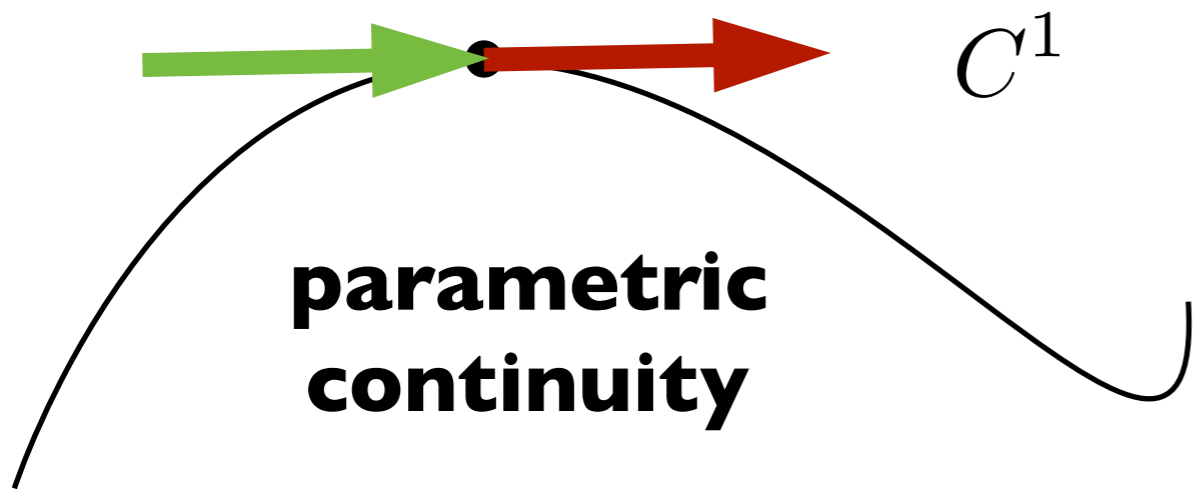
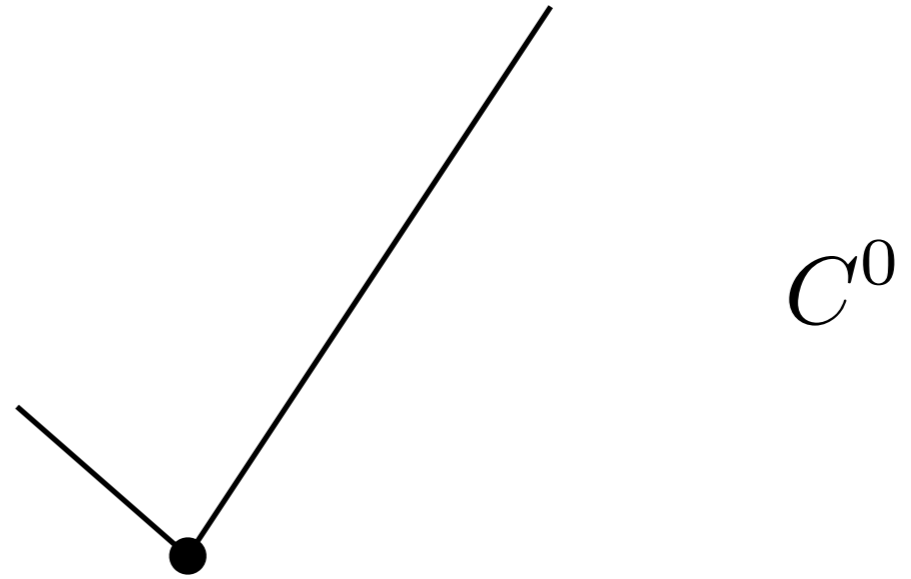
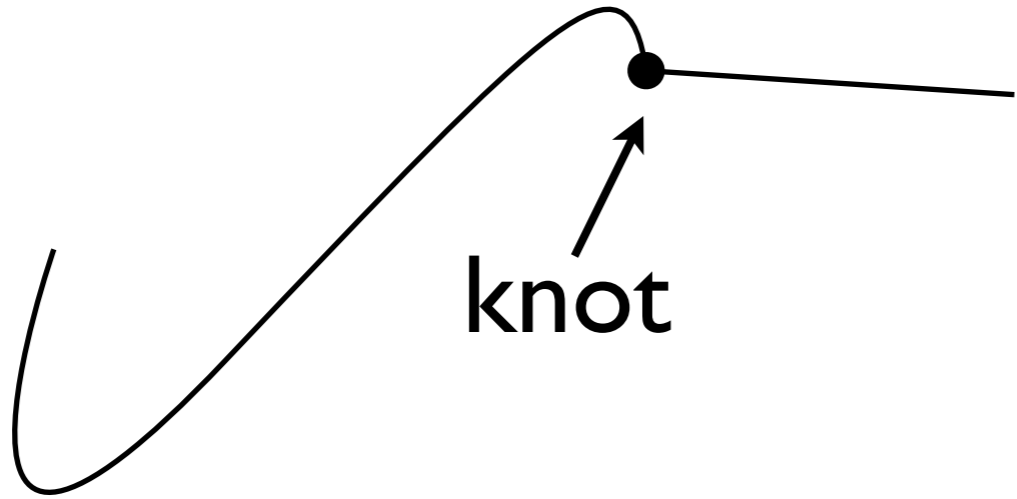
Global properties (examples):

closed curve

curve crosses itself

Interpolating vs. non-interpolating

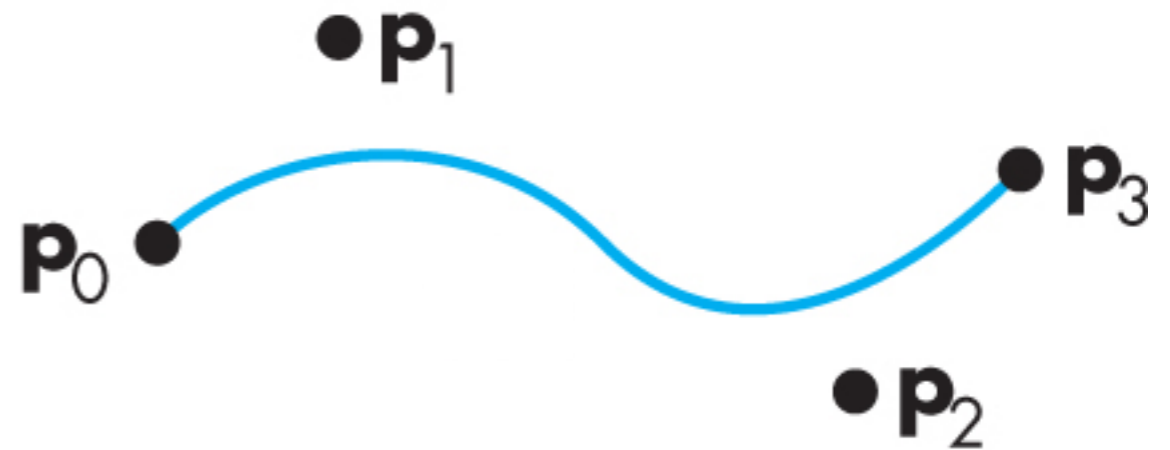
# Continuity: stitching curve segments together



# Interpolating vs. Approximating Curves



**Interpolating**



**Approximating**  
(non-interpolating)

# Finding a Parametric Representation



# Polynomial Pieces

$$f(u) = a_0 + a_1u + a_2u^2 + \cdots + a_nu^n$$

# Polynomial Pieces

**coefficients** **n = degree**

$f(u) = a_0 + a_1u + a_2u^2 + \dots + a_nu^n$

The diagram illustrates the components of a polynomial. The word "coefficients" is positioned above the terms  $a_0$ ,  $a_1u$ , and  $a_nu^n$  in the equation, with three arrows pointing from it to each of these terms. The text "n = degree" is positioned above the exponent  $n$  in the term  $a_nu^n$ , with an arrow pointing from it to the  $n$ .

# Polynomial Pieces

**coefficients** **n = degree**

$f(u) = a_0 + a_1u + a_2u^2 + \dots + a_nu^n$

“canonical form” (monomial basis)

# *Blending functions* are more convenient basis than monomial basis



- “canonical form” (monomial basis)

$$\mathbf{f}(u) = \mathbf{a}_0 + \mathbf{a}_1 u + \mathbf{a}_2 u^2 + \mathbf{a}_3 u^3$$

- “geometric form” (blending functions)

$$\mathbf{f}(u) = b_0(u)\mathbf{p}_0 + b_1(u)\mathbf{p}_1 + b_2(u)\mathbf{p}_2 + b_3(u)\mathbf{p}_3$$

*Blending functions* are more convenient basis than monomial basis

$$f(u) = a_0 + a_1u + a_2u^2 + a_3u^3$$

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ u \\ u^2 \\ u^3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{a} = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$f(u) = \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{a}$$

*Blending functions* are more convenient basis than monomial basis

$$C\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{p}$$

$$\mathbf{a} = C^{-1}\mathbf{p} = B\mathbf{p}$$

$$\mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} p_0 \\ p_1 \\ p_2 \\ p_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$f(u) = \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{u}^T (B\mathbf{p})$$

$$= (\mathbf{u}^T B)\mathbf{p}$$

$$= \mathbf{b}(u)^T \mathbf{p}$$

$$\mathbf{b}(u) = \begin{pmatrix} b_0(u) \\ b_1(u) \\ b_2(u) \\ b_3(u) \end{pmatrix}$$

# *Blending functions* are more convenient basis than monomial basis

$$C\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{p}$$

$$\mathbf{a} = C^{-1}\mathbf{p} = B\mathbf{p}$$

$$\mathbf{p} = \begin{pmatrix} p_0 \\ p_1 \\ p_2 \\ p_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(u) &= \mathbf{u}^T \mathbf{a} = \mathbf{u}^T (B\mathbf{p}) \\ &= (\mathbf{u}^T B)\mathbf{p} \\ &= \mathbf{b}(u)^T \mathbf{p} \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{b}(u) =$$

**Some  
examples  
<whiteboard>**

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_0(u) \\ b_1(u) \\ b_2(u) \\ b_3(u) \end{pmatrix}$$

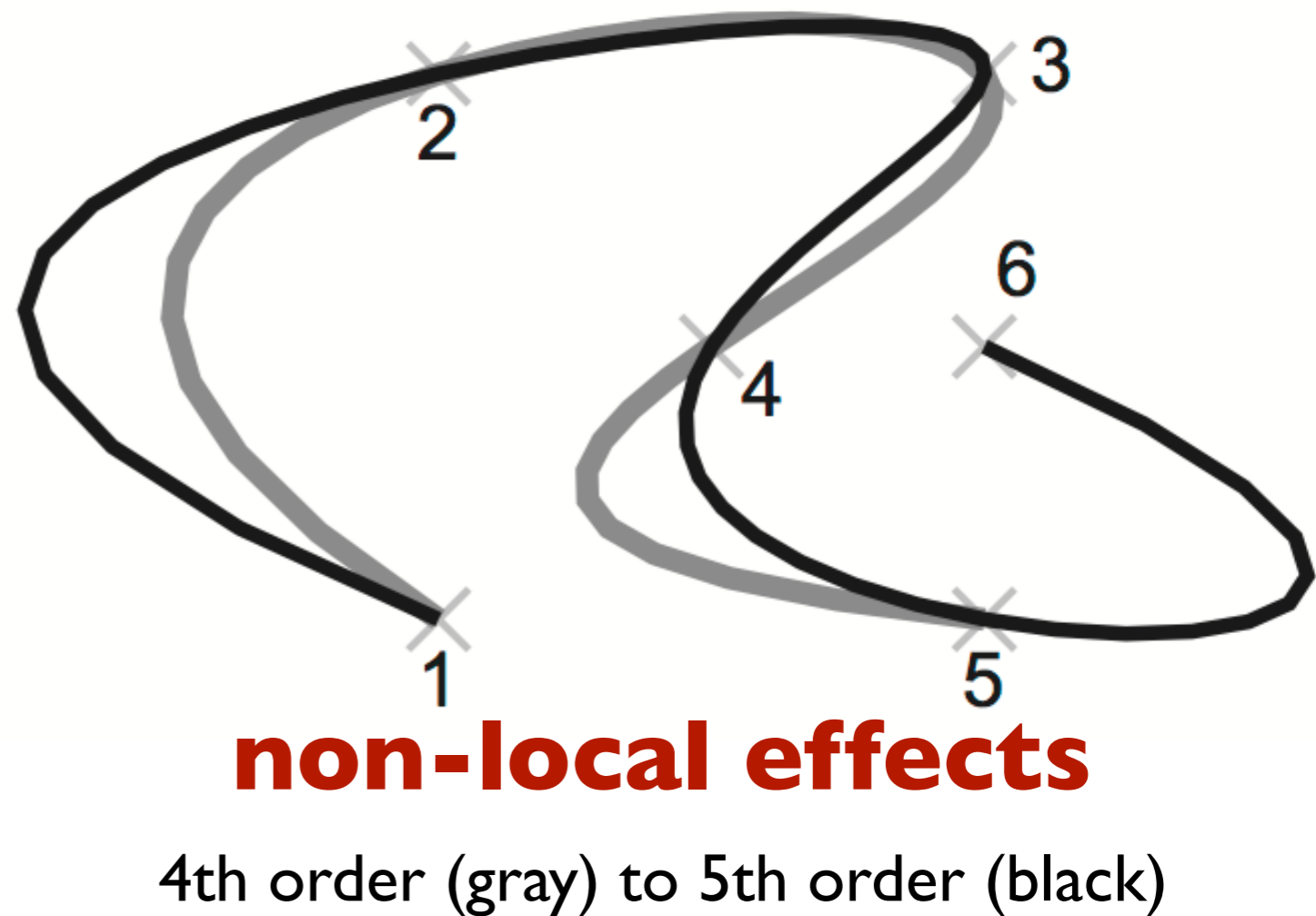
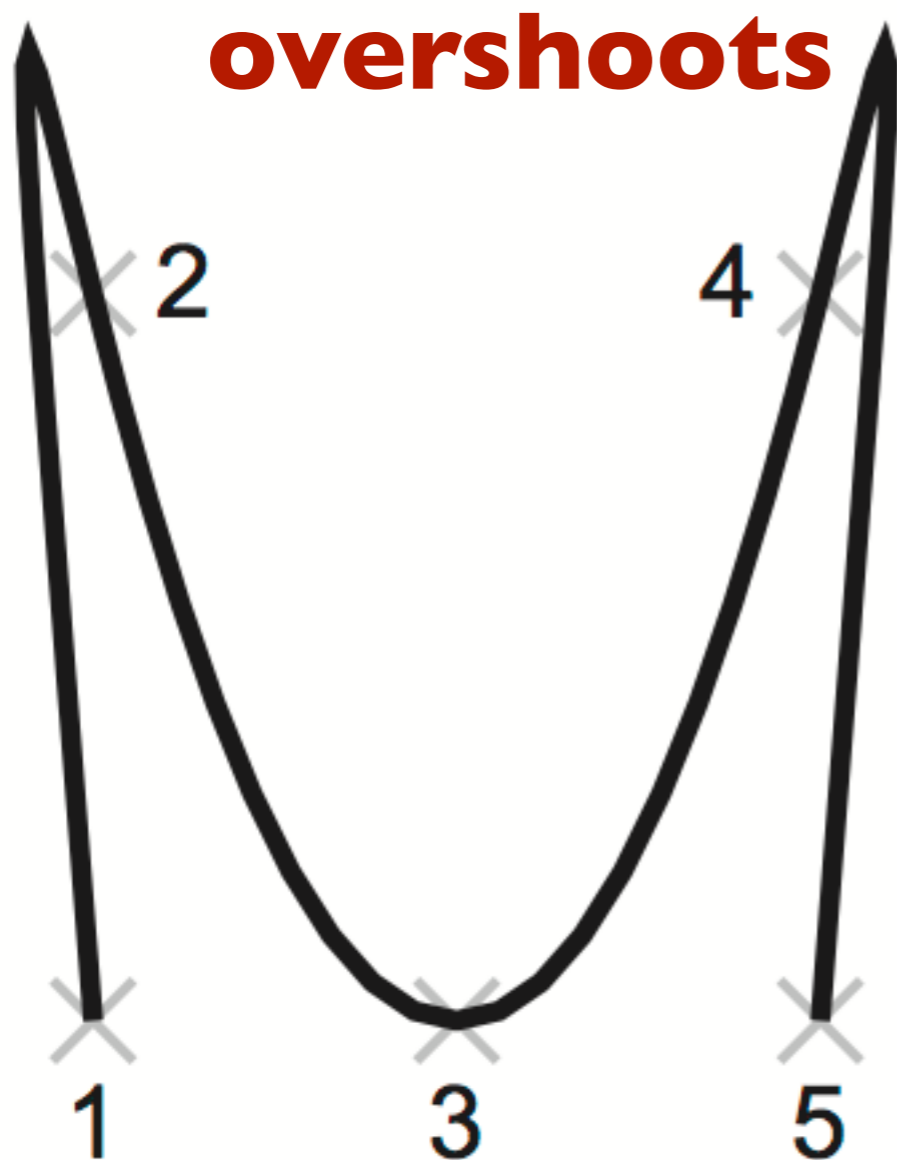
# Interpolating Polynomials



# Interpolating polynomials

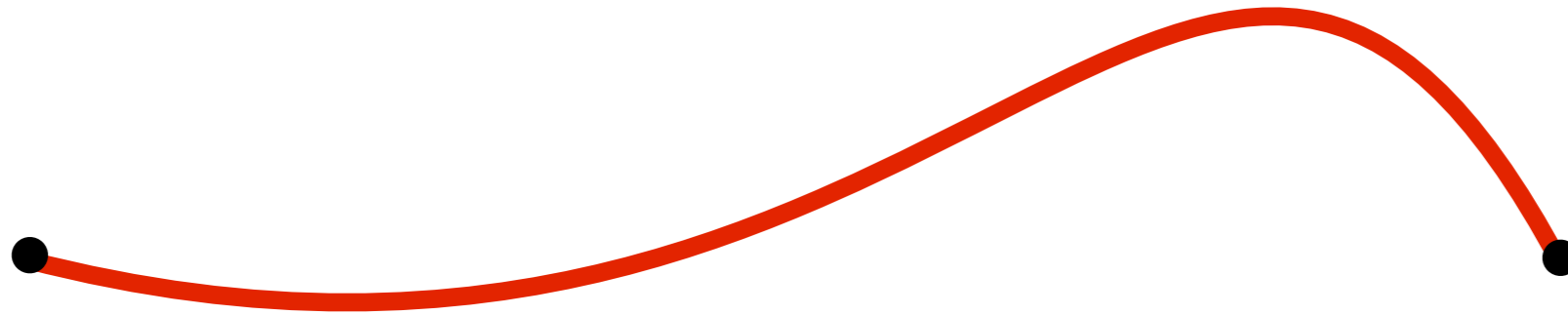
- Given  $n+1$  data points, can find a unique interpolating polynomial of degree  $n$
- Different methods:
  - Vandermonde matrix
  - Lagrange interpolation
  - Newton interpolation

higher order interpolating polynomials are rarely used



# Piecewise Polynomial Curves

# Cubics



$$\mathbf{f}(u) = \mathbf{a}_0 + \mathbf{a}_1 u + \mathbf{a}_2 u^2 + \mathbf{a}_3 u^3$$

- Allow up to  $C^2$  continuity at knots
- need 4 control points
  - may be 4 points on the curve, combination of points and derivatives, ...
- good smoothness and computational properties

# Advantages of Cubics

- allow for C2 continuity (C1 often not enough, more than C2 unnecessary)
- $n$  piecewise cubics for  $n+3$  points give minimum curvature curve
- symmetry: position and derivatives can be specified at beginning and end
- good tradeoff between numerical issues and smoothness

# We can get any 3 of 4 properties

1. piecewise cubic
2. curve interpolates control points
3. curve has local control
4. curves has  $C^2$  continuity at knots

# Natural Cubics

- $C^2$  continuity
- $n$  points  $\rightarrow n-1$  cubic segments
- control is non-local :(
- ill-conditioned  $x()$
- properties 1, 2, 4 (piecewise cubic, curve interpolates control points, curves has  $C^2$  continuity at knots)

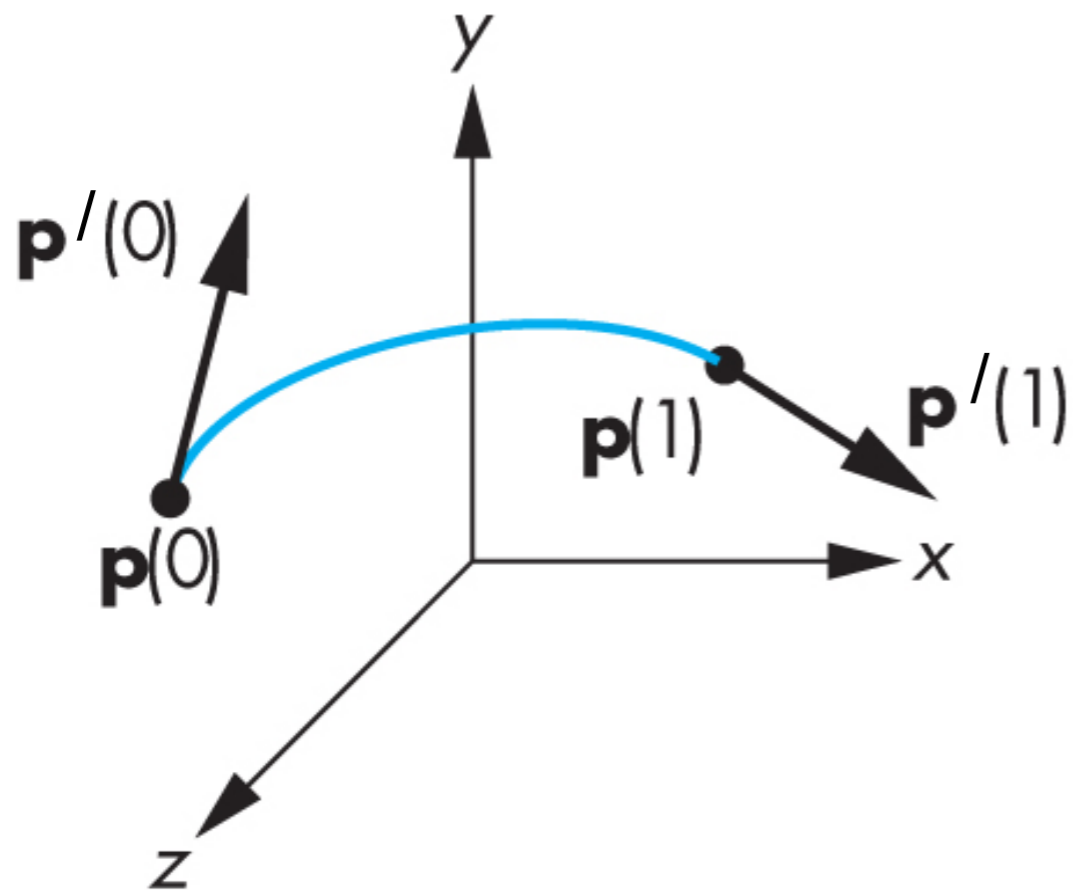
# Cubic Hermite Curves

- C1 continuity
- specify both positions and derivatives
- properties 1, 2, 3 (piecewise cubic, curve interpolates control points, curve has local control)

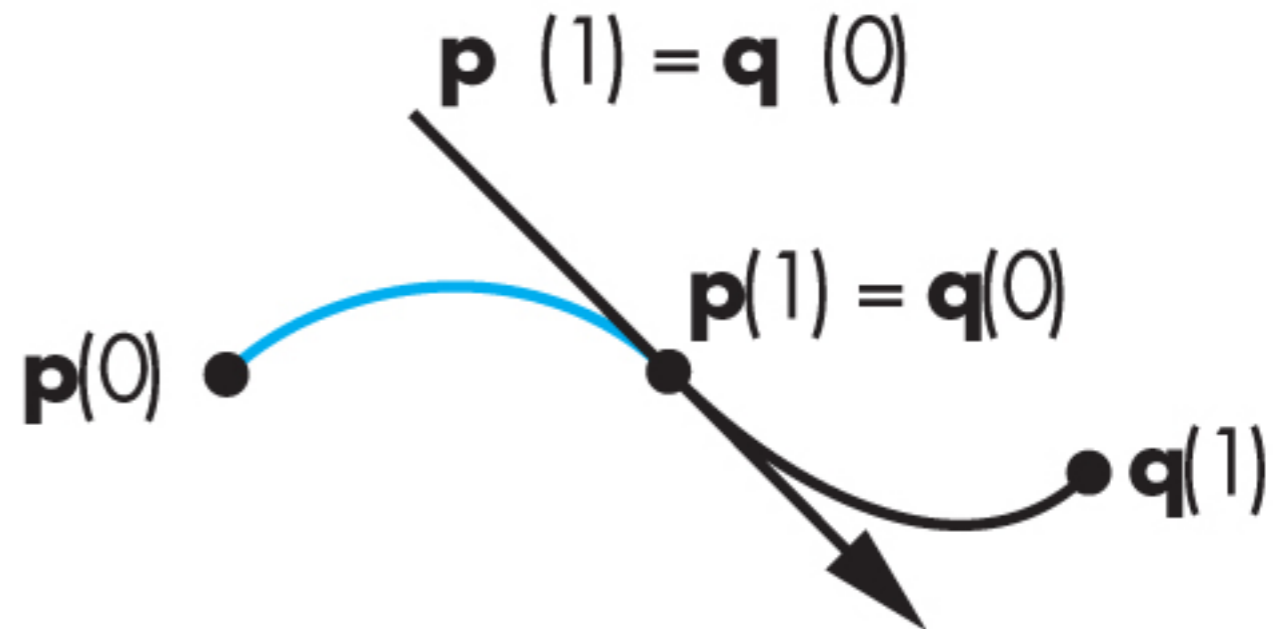


# Cubic Hermite Curves

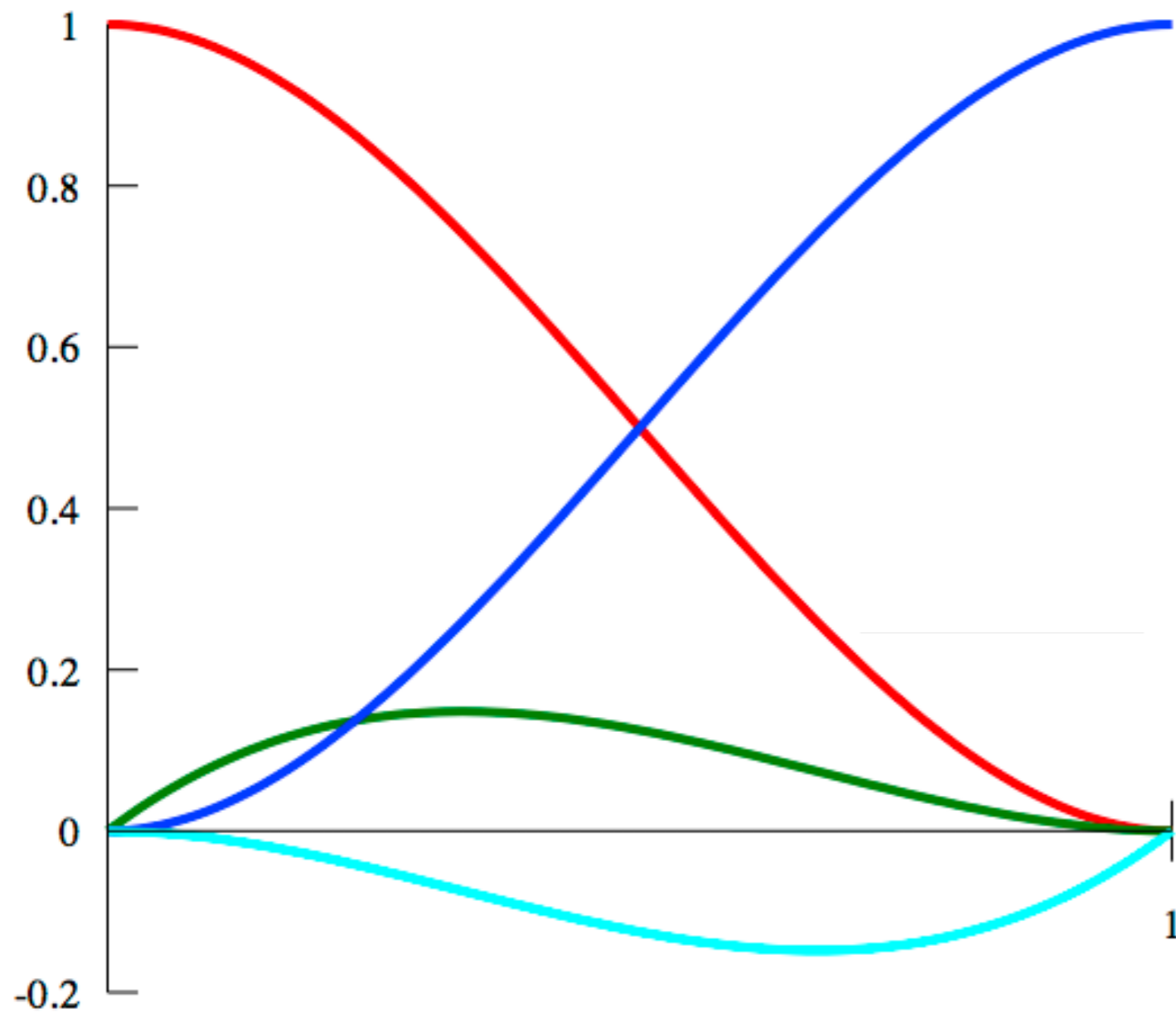
Specify endpoints  
and derivatives



construct  
curve with  
 $C^1$  continuity



# Hermite blending functions



$$b_0(u) = 2u^3 - 3u^2 + 1$$

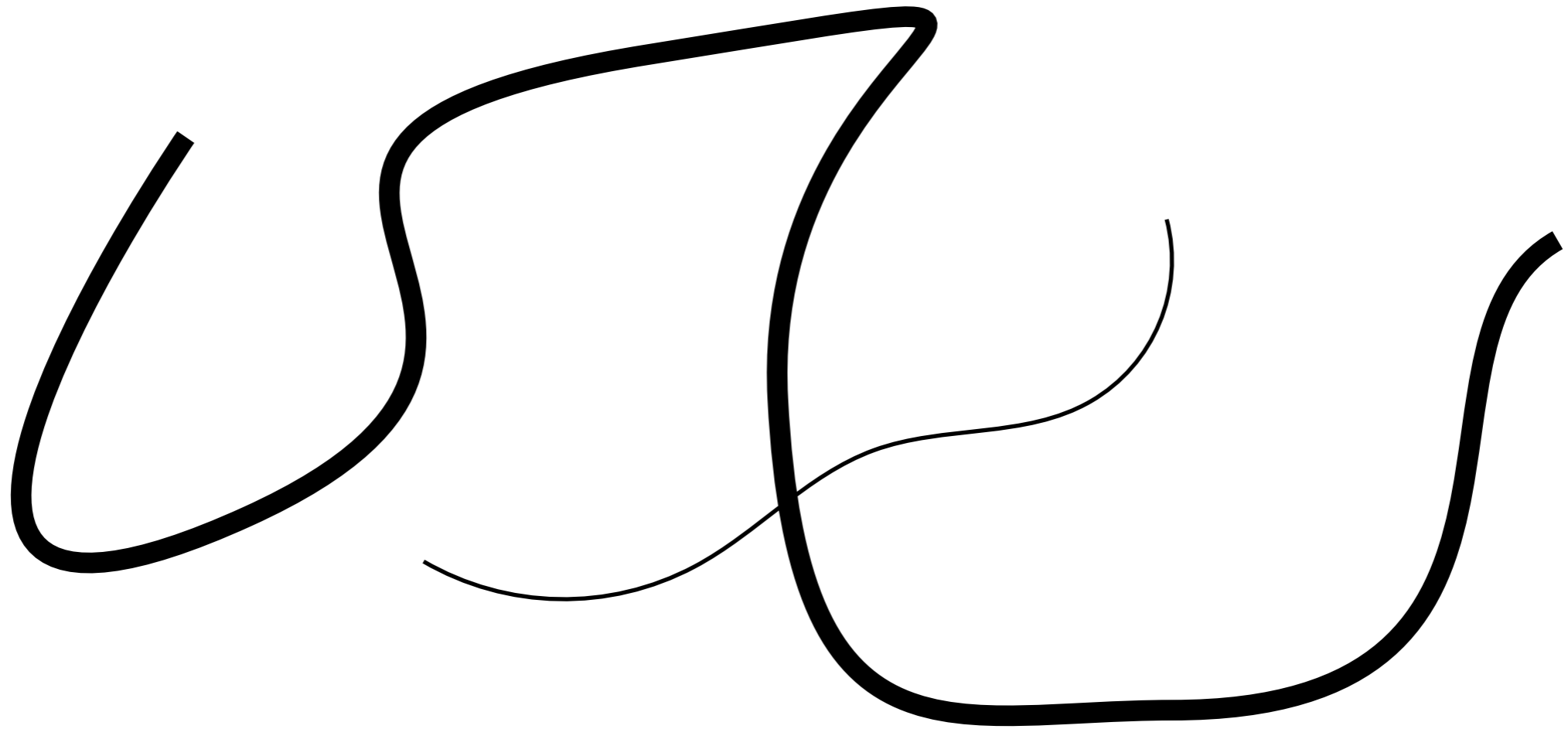
$$b_1(u) = -2u^3 + 3u^2$$

$$b_2(u) = u^3 - 2u^2 + u$$

$$b_3(u) = u^3 - u^2$$

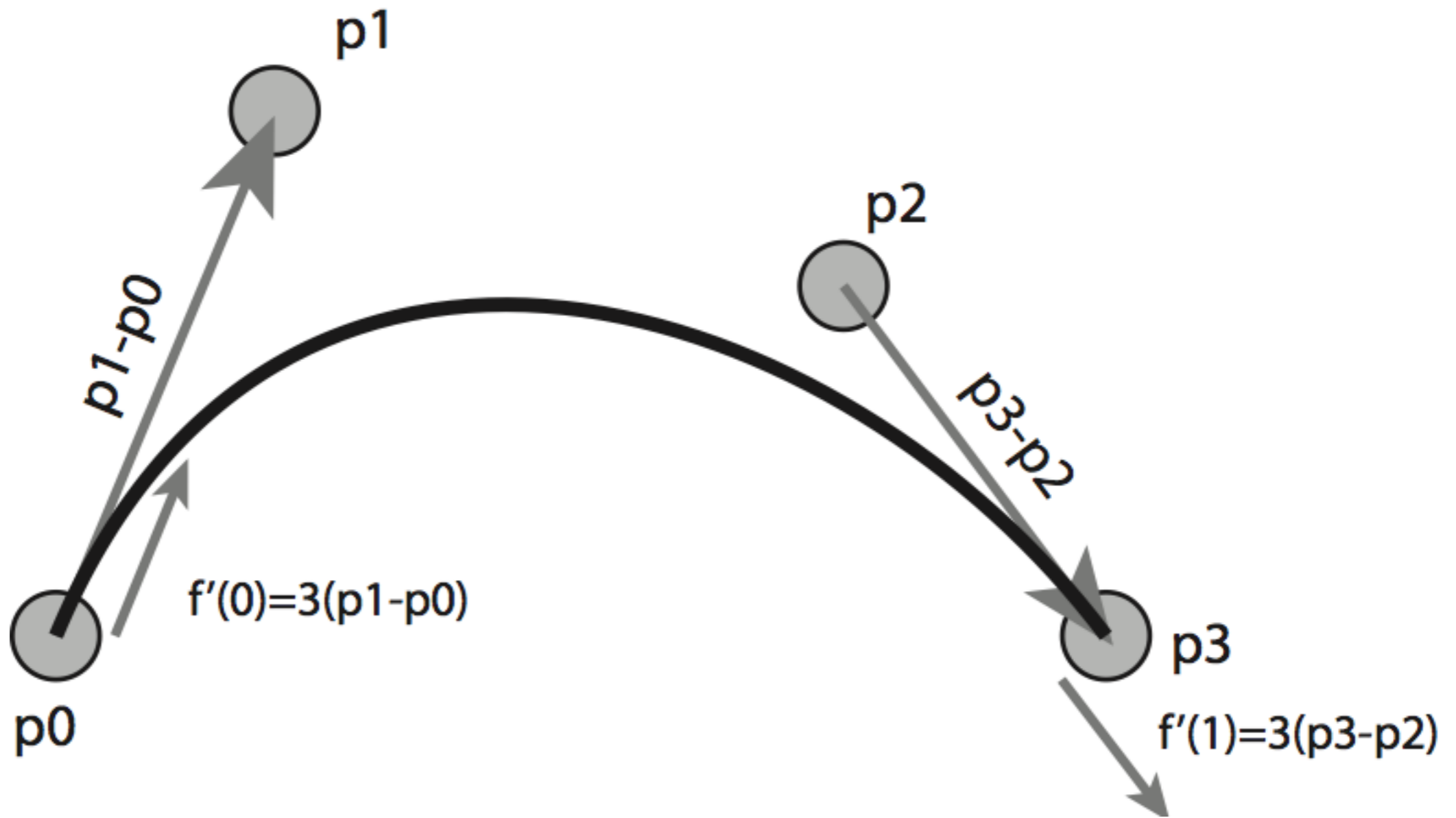
[Wikimedia Commons]

# Example: keynote curve tool

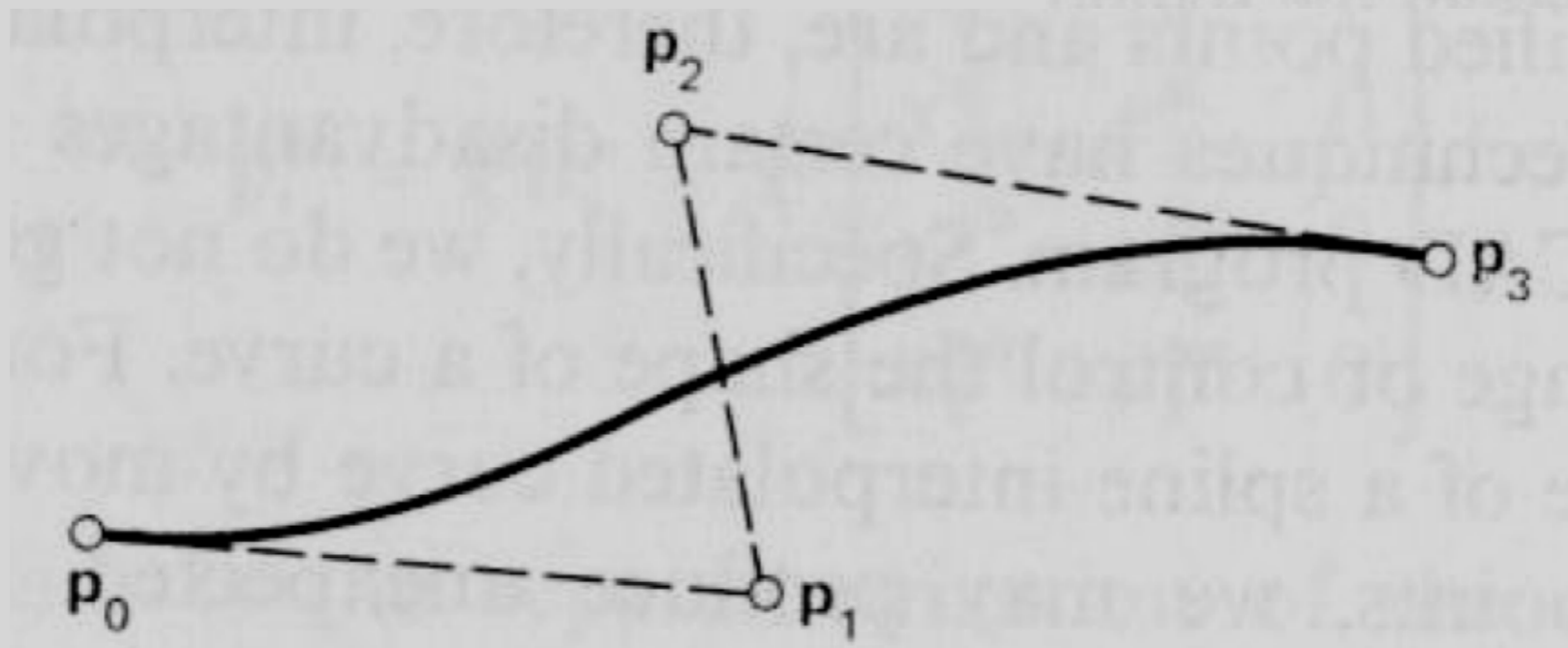
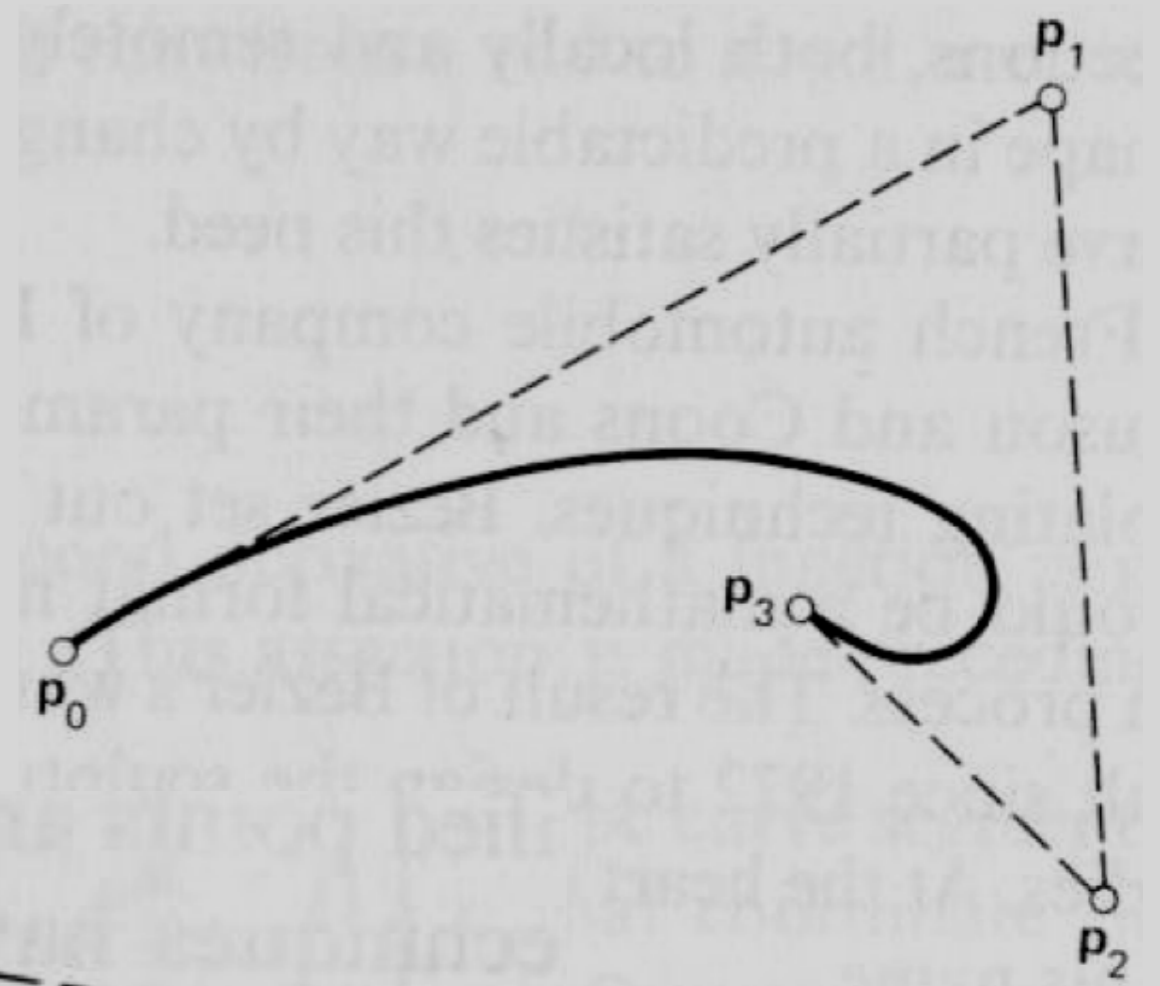
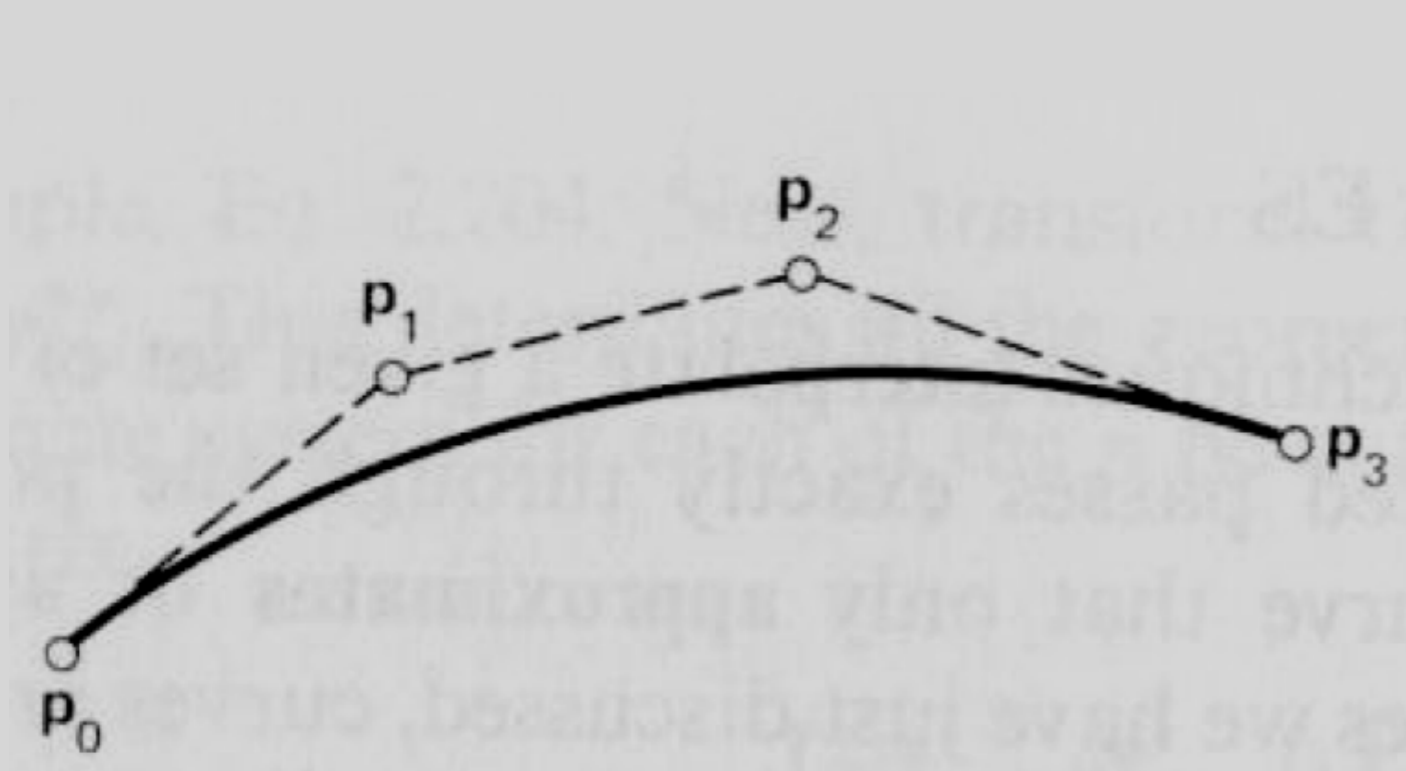


# Cubic Bezier Curves

# Cubic Bezier Curves



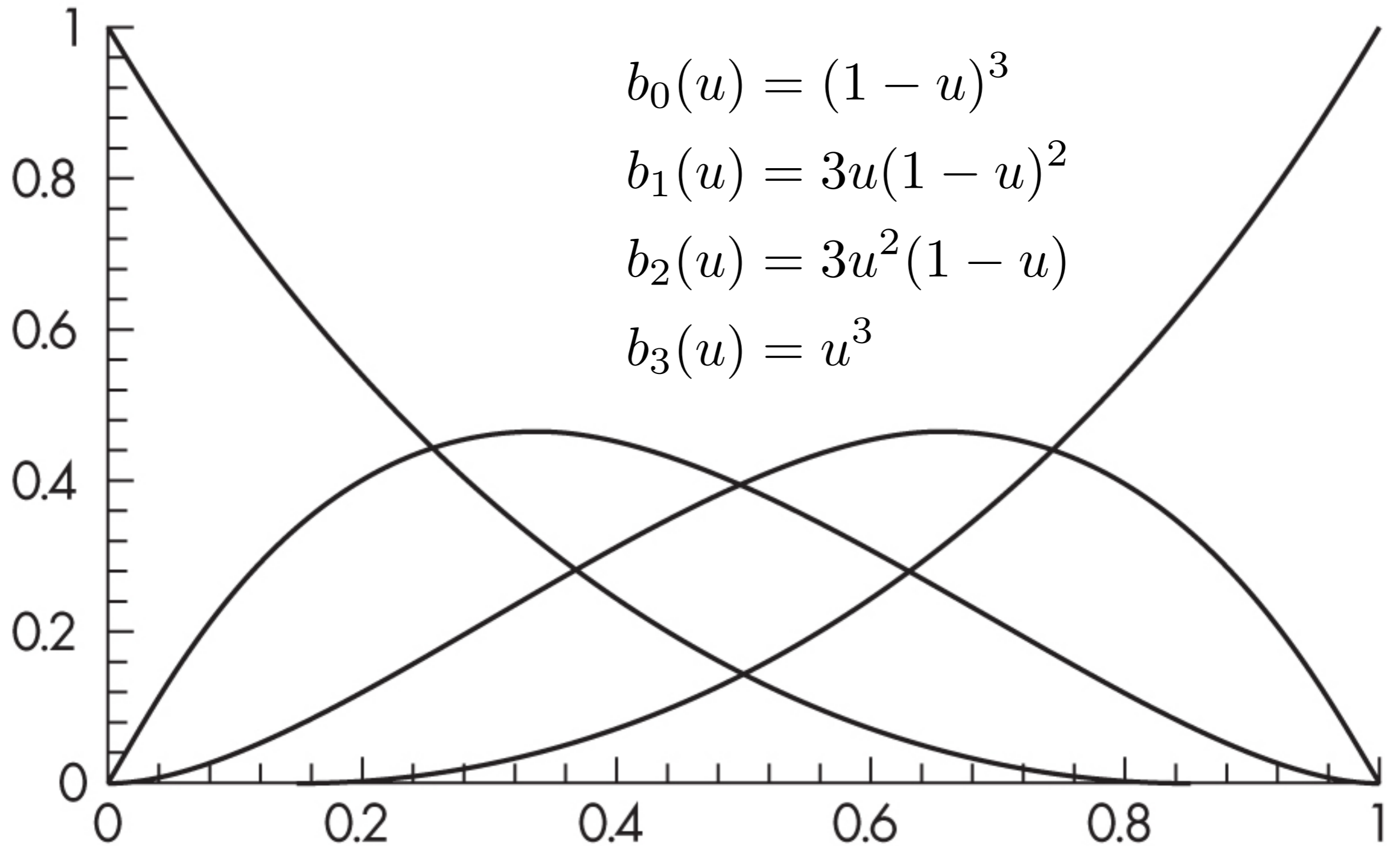
# Cubic Bezier Curve Examples



# Cubic Bezier blending functions

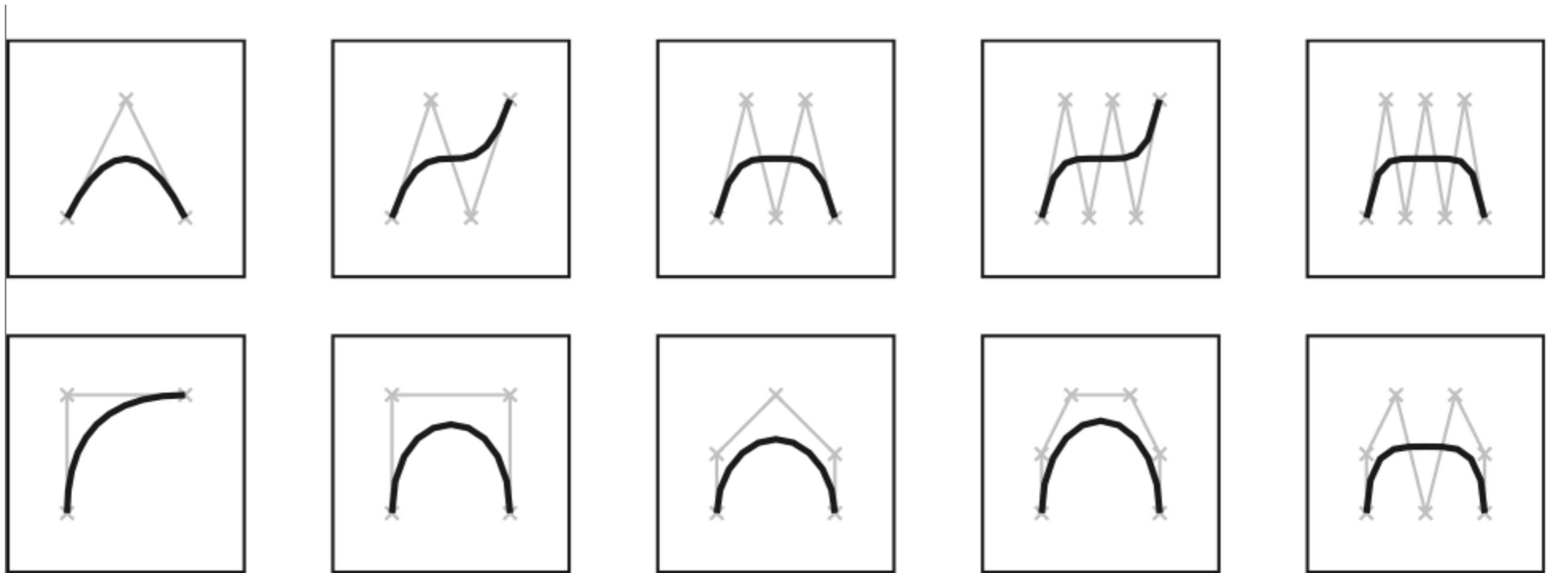
<whiteboard>

# Cubic Bezier blending functions





# Bezier Curves Degrees 2-6



# Bernstein Polynomials

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- The blending functions are a special case of the Bernstein polynomials

$$b_{kd}(u) = \frac{d!}{k!(d-k)!} u^k (1-u)^{d-k}$$

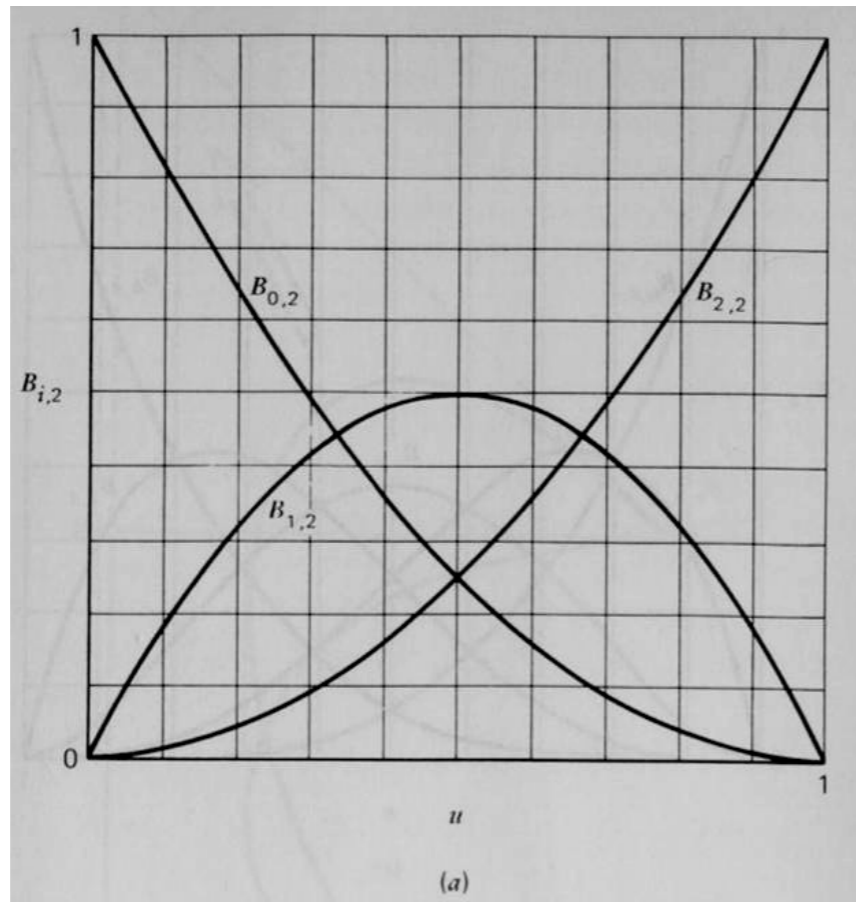
- These polynomials give the blending polynomials for any degree Bezier form

All roots at 0 and 1

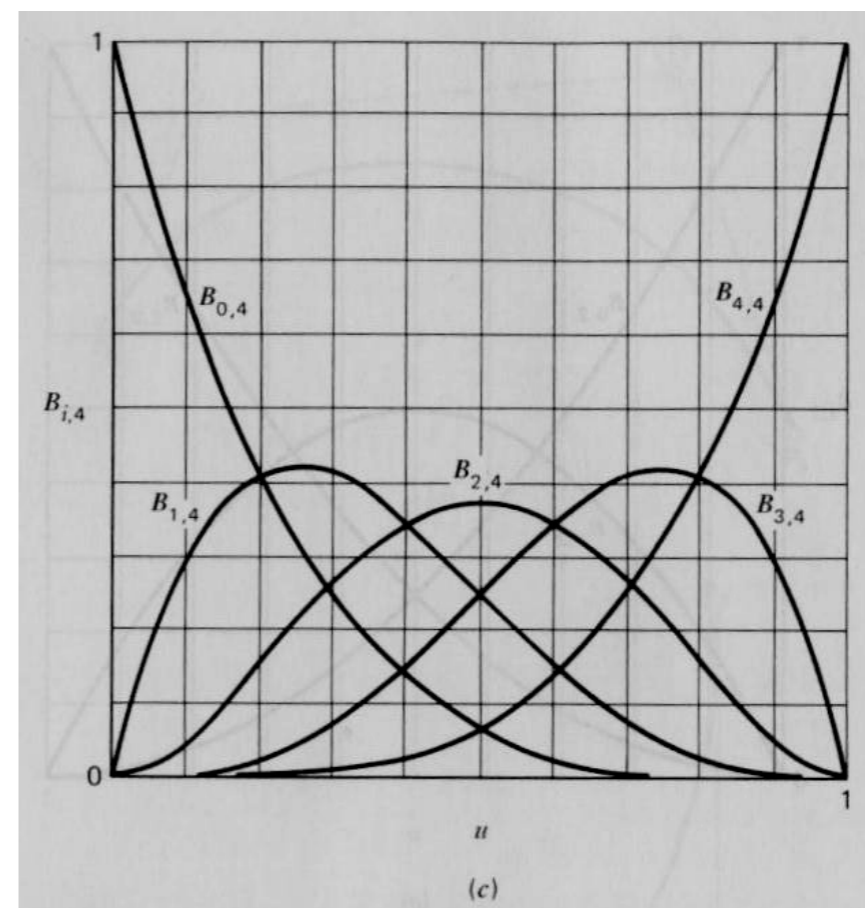
For any degree they all sum to 1

They are all between 0 and 1 inside (0,1)

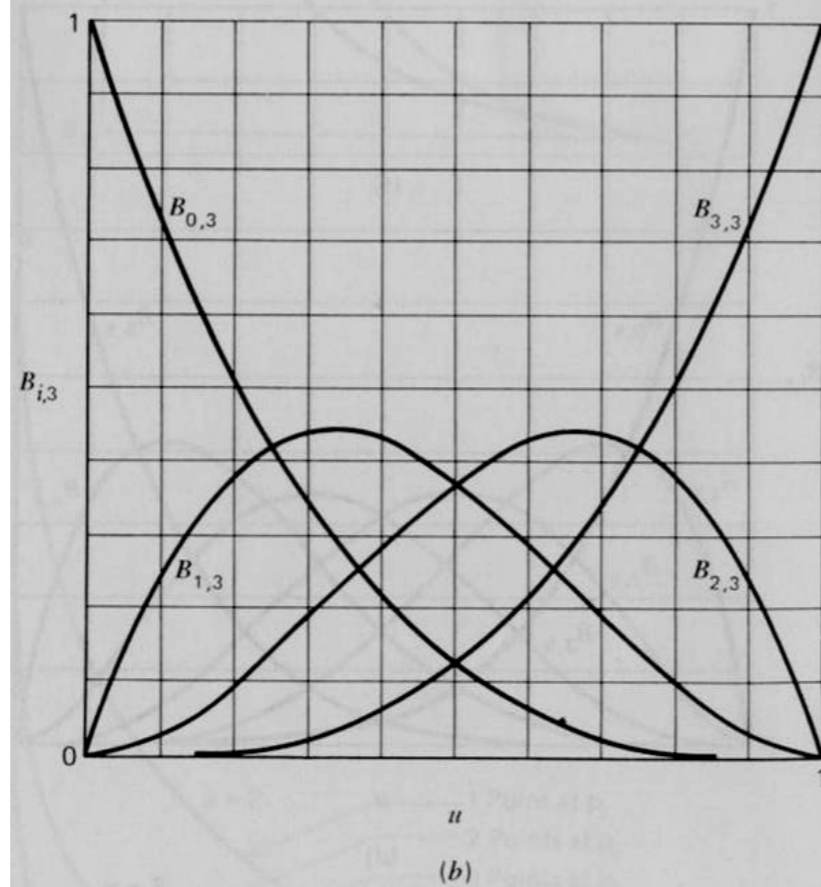
$d = 2$



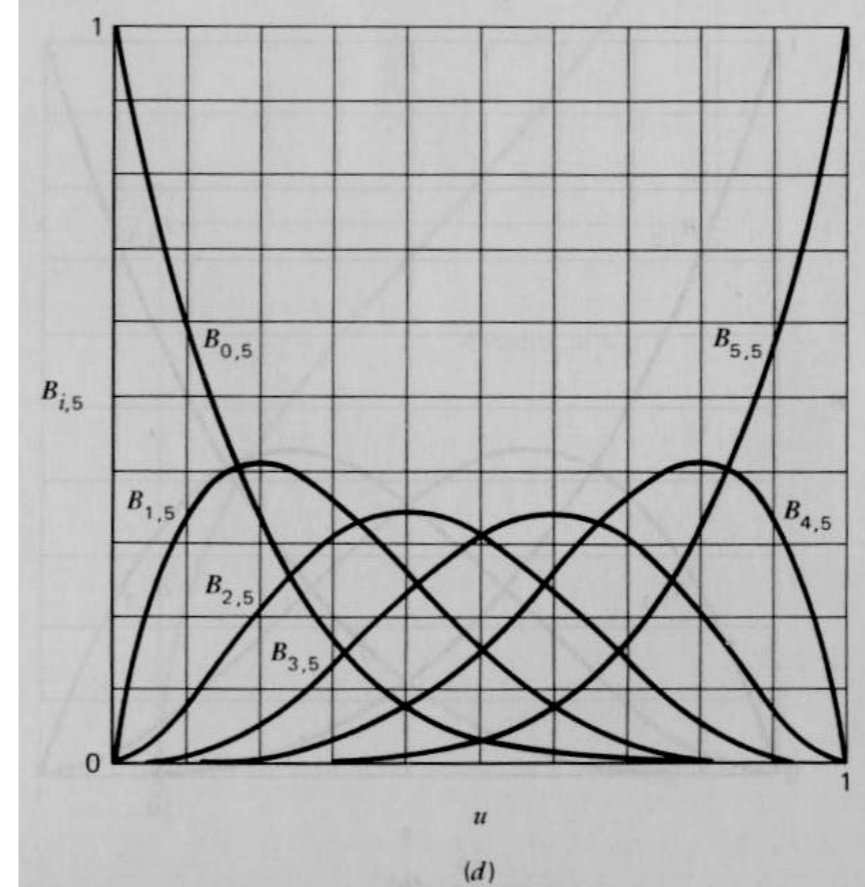
$d = 4$



$d = 3$

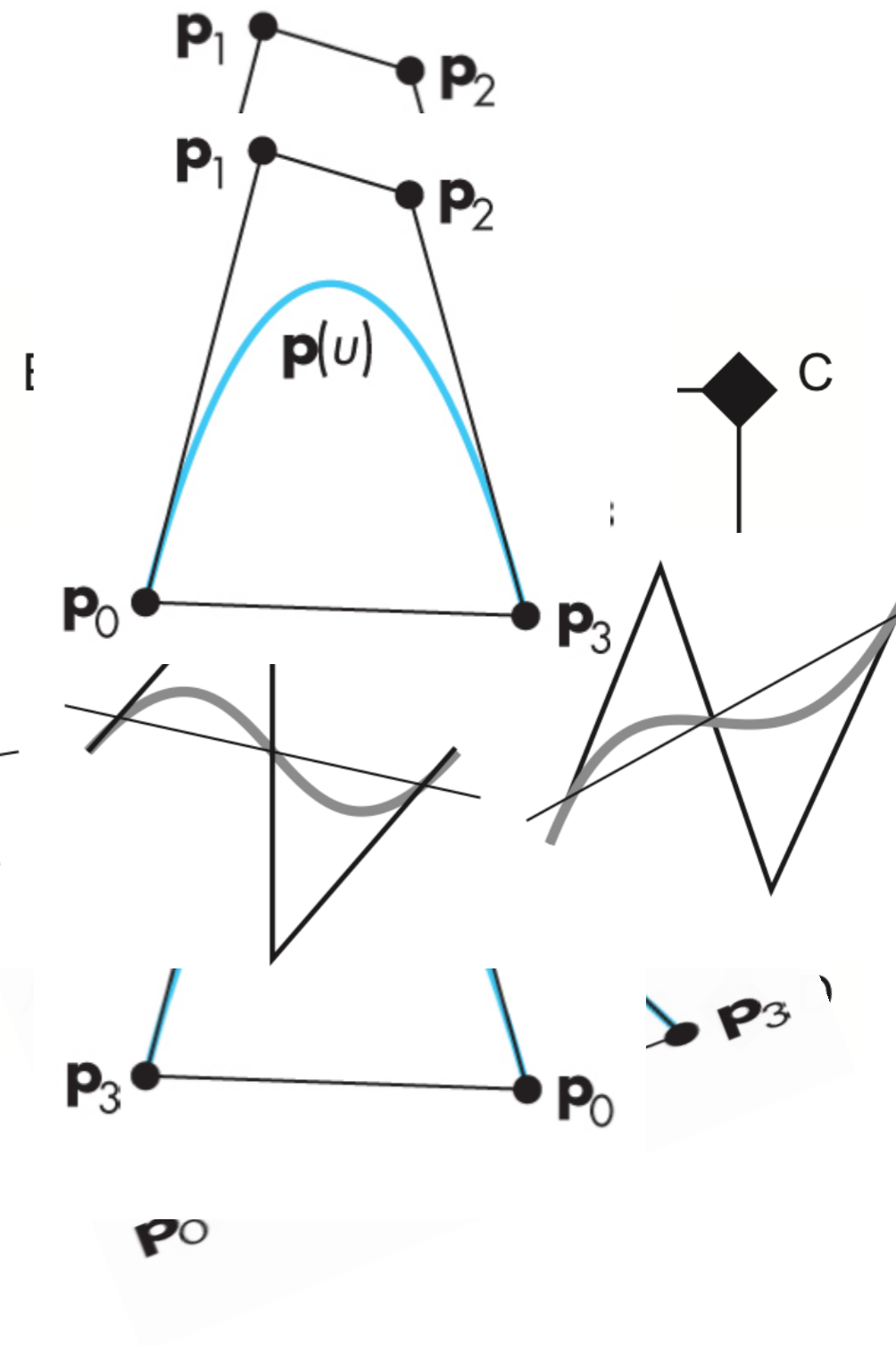
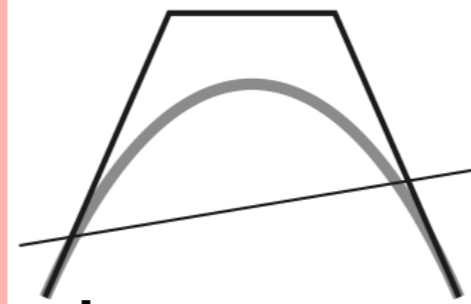


$d = 5$

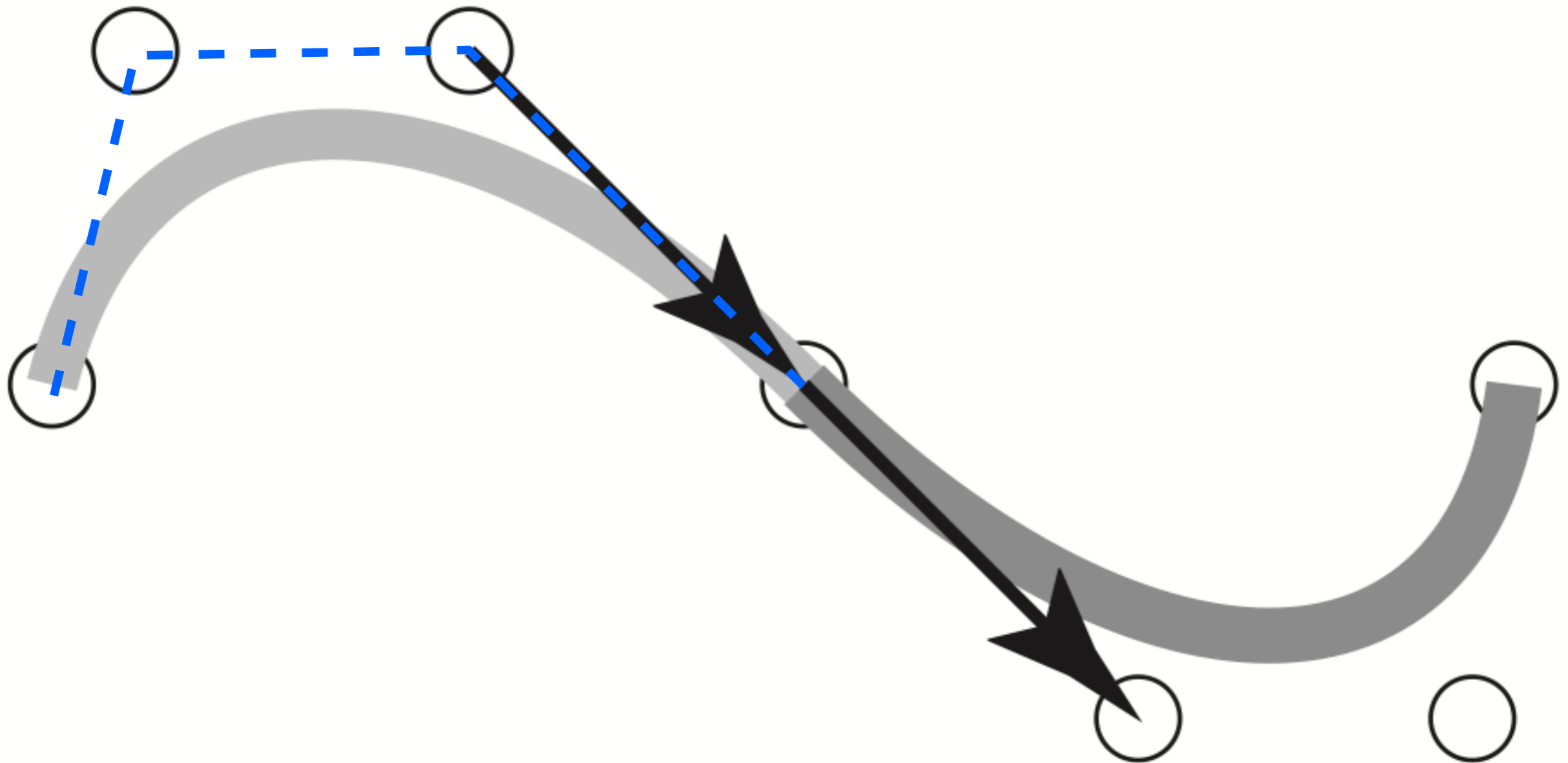


# Bezier Curve Properties

- curve lies in the convex hull of the data
- variation diminishing
- symmetry
- affine invariant
- efficient evaluation and subdivision

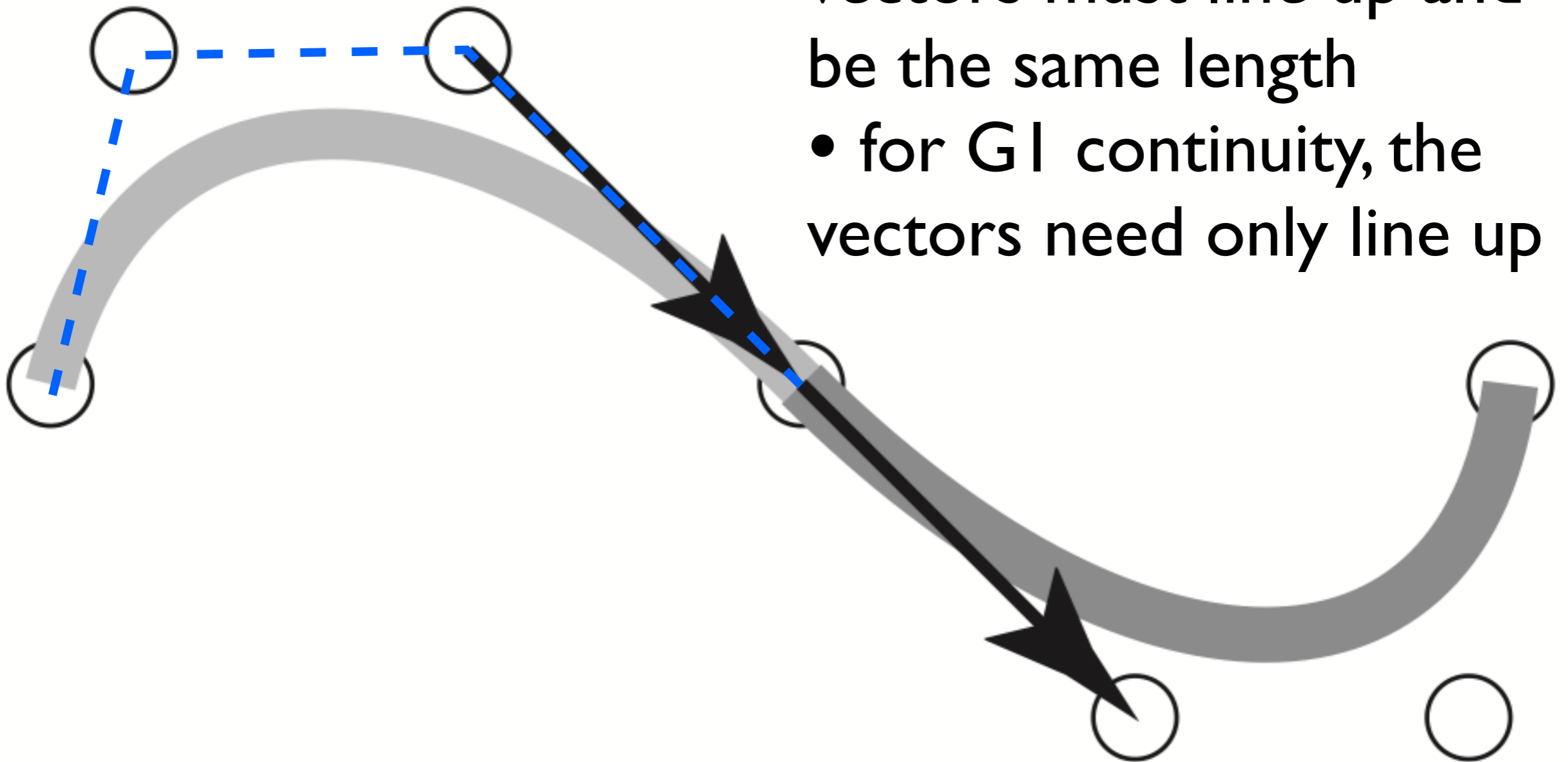


# Joining Cubic Bezier Curves

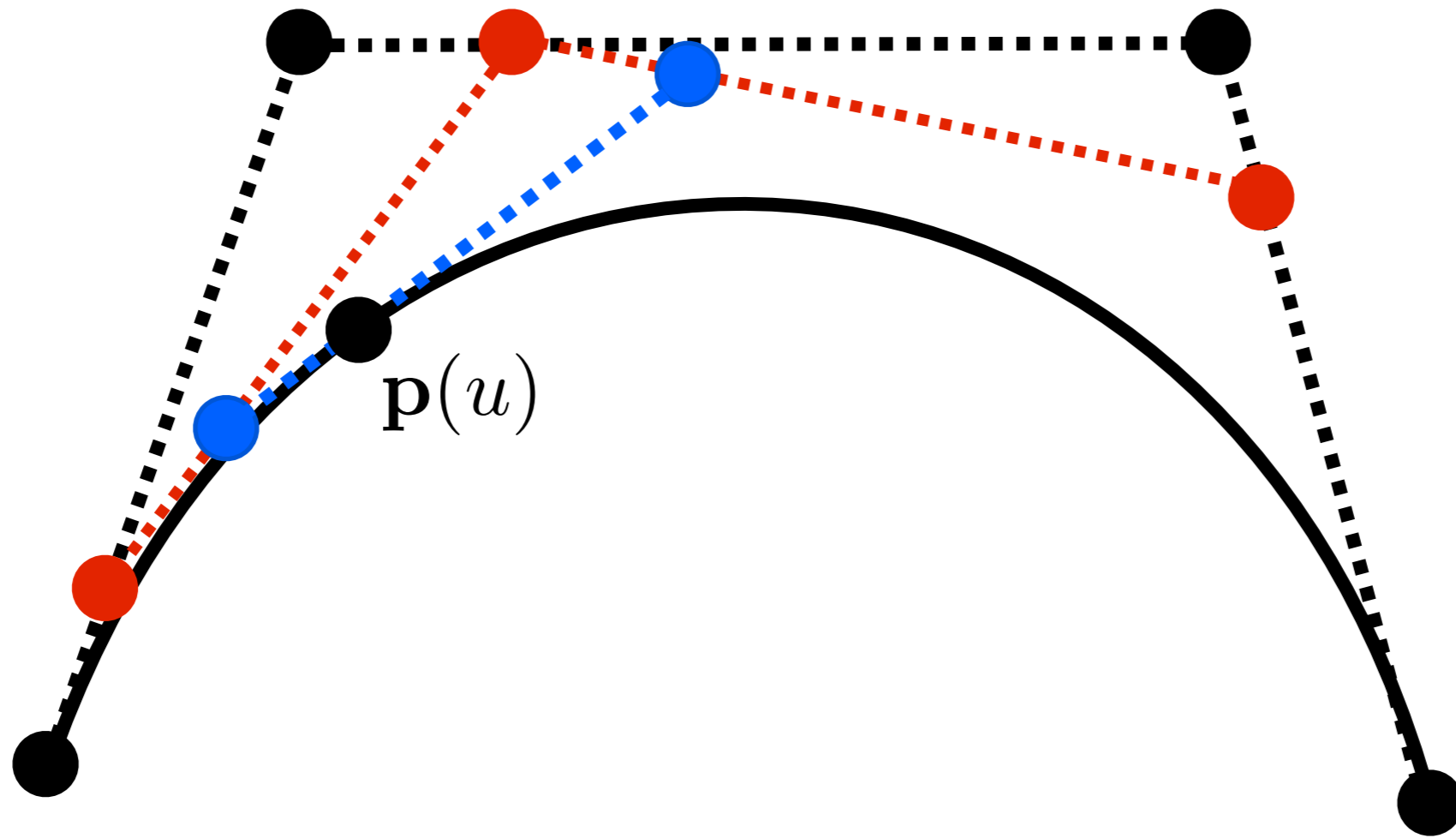


# Joining Cubic Bezier Curves

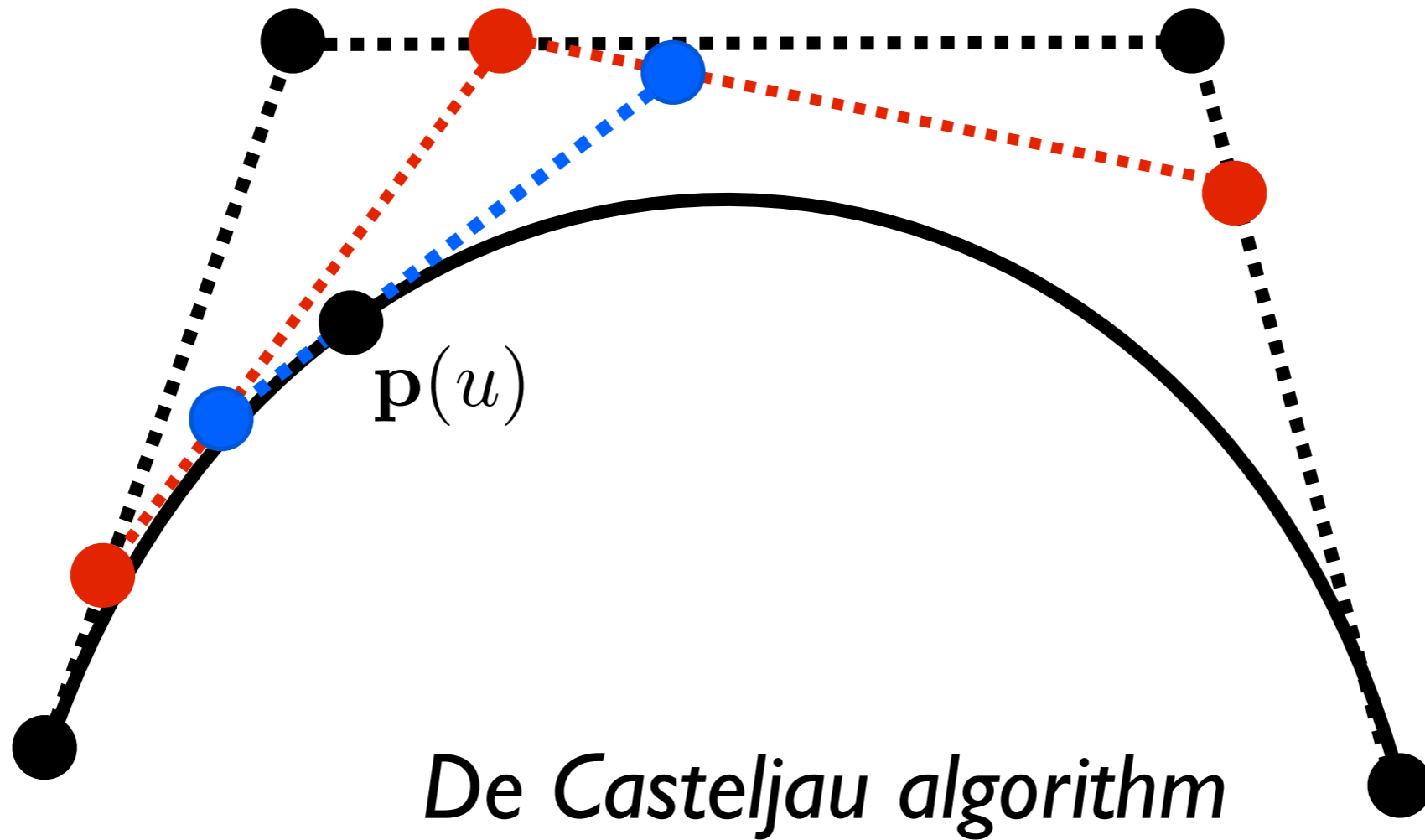
- for C1 continuity, the vectors must line up and be the same length
- for G1 continuity, the vectors need only line up



# Evaluating $p(u)$ geometrically

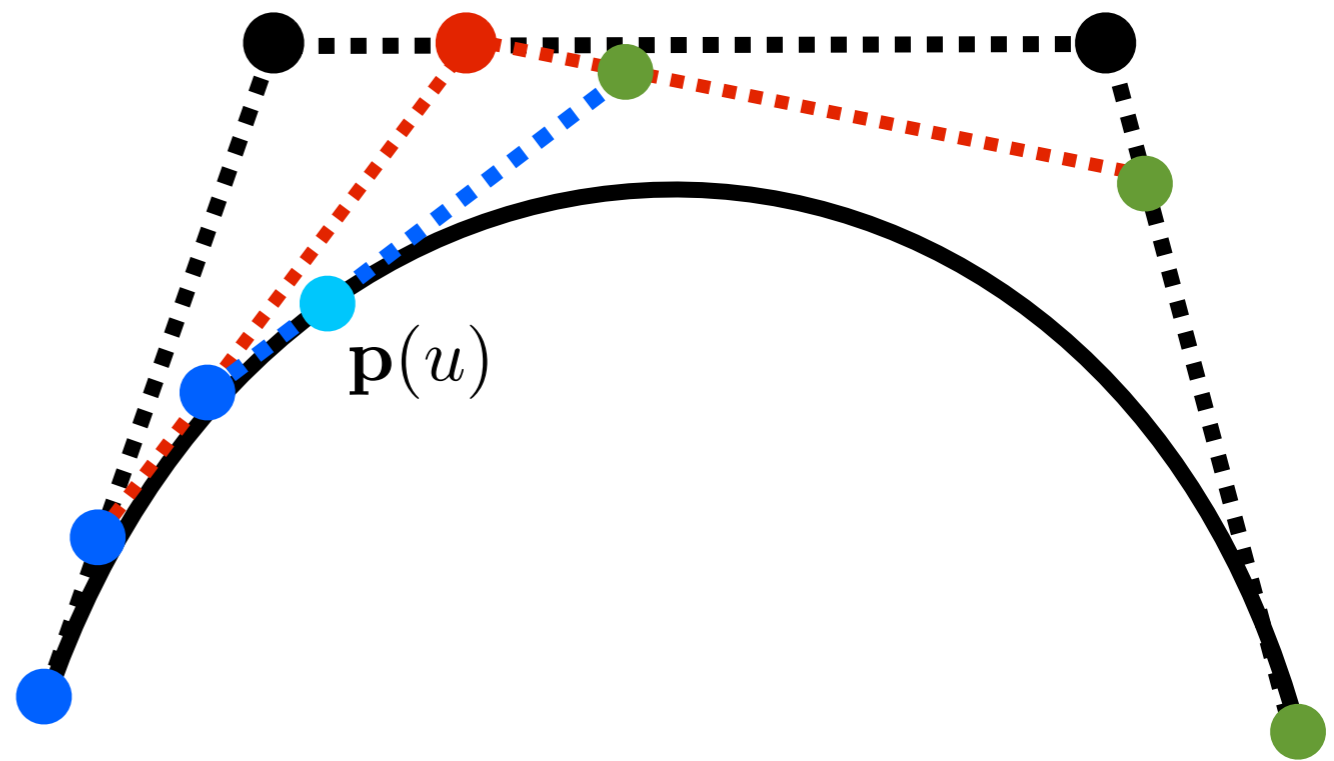
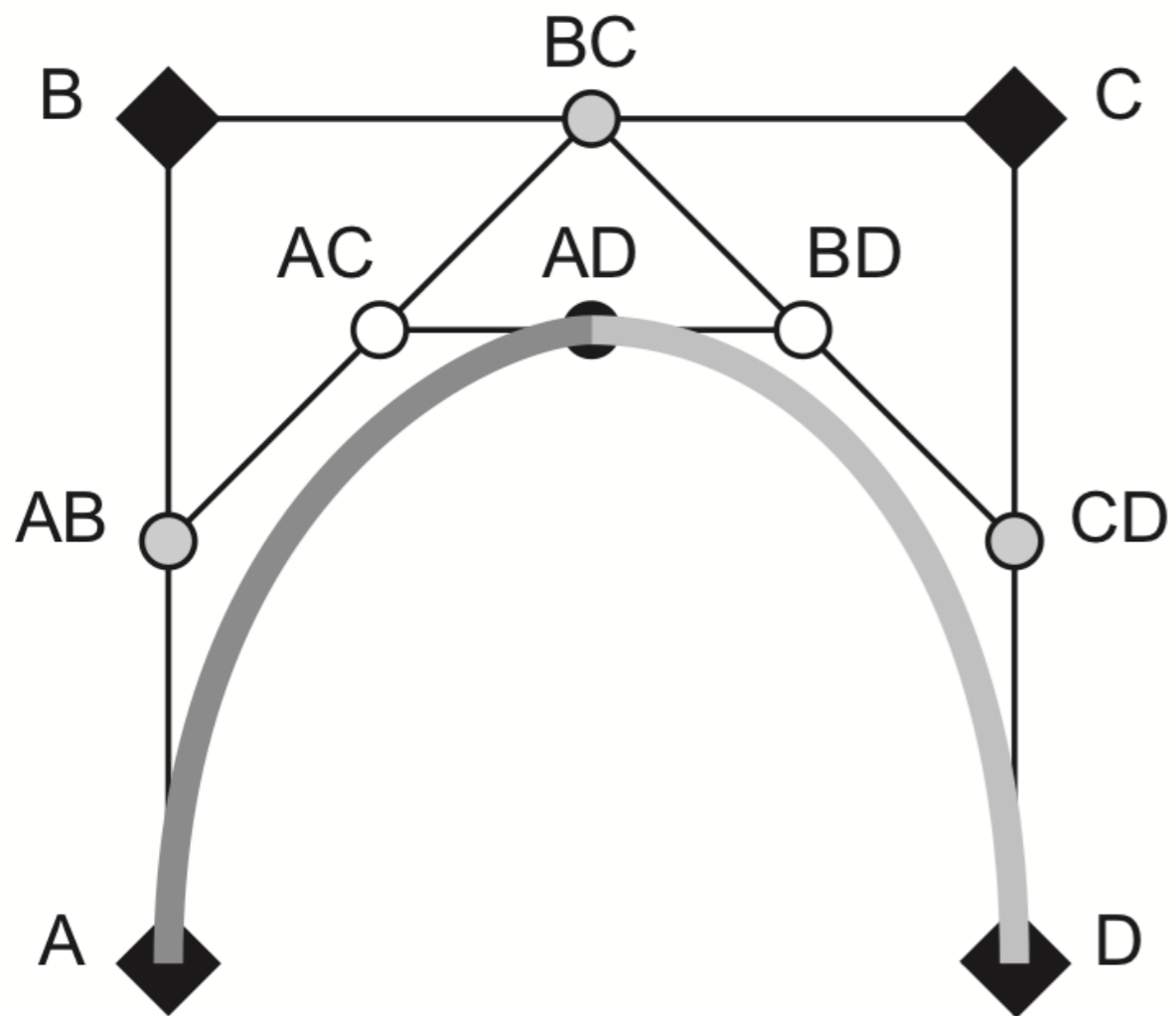


# Evaluating $p(u)$ geometrically

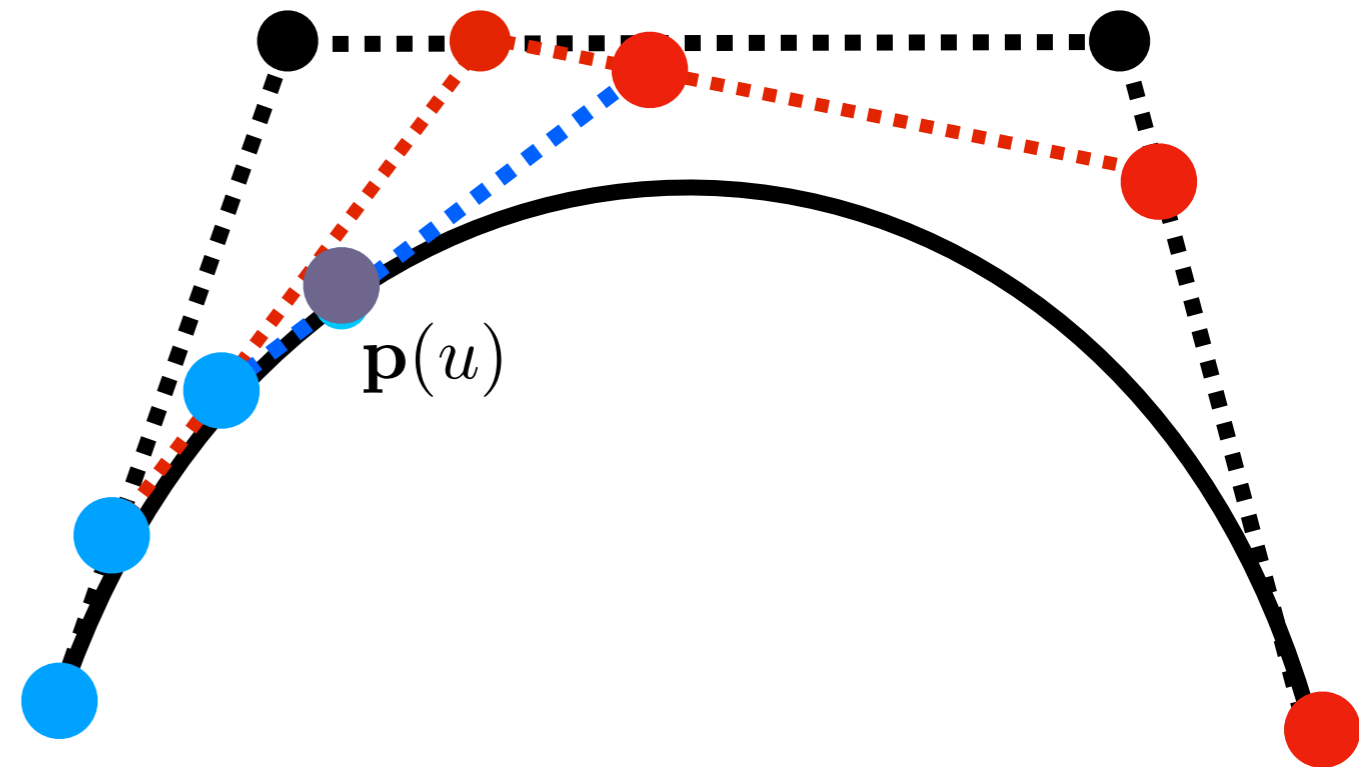
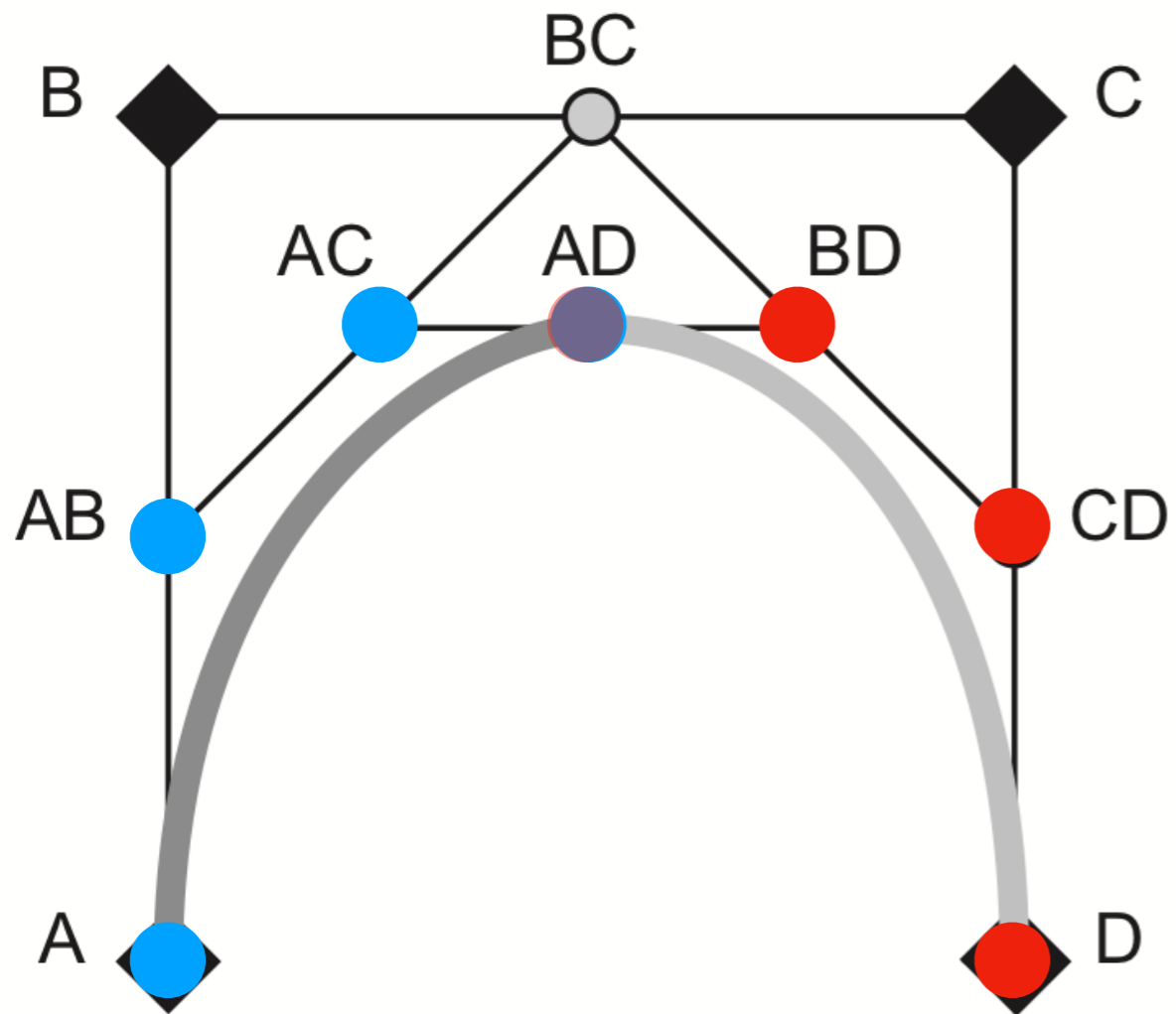




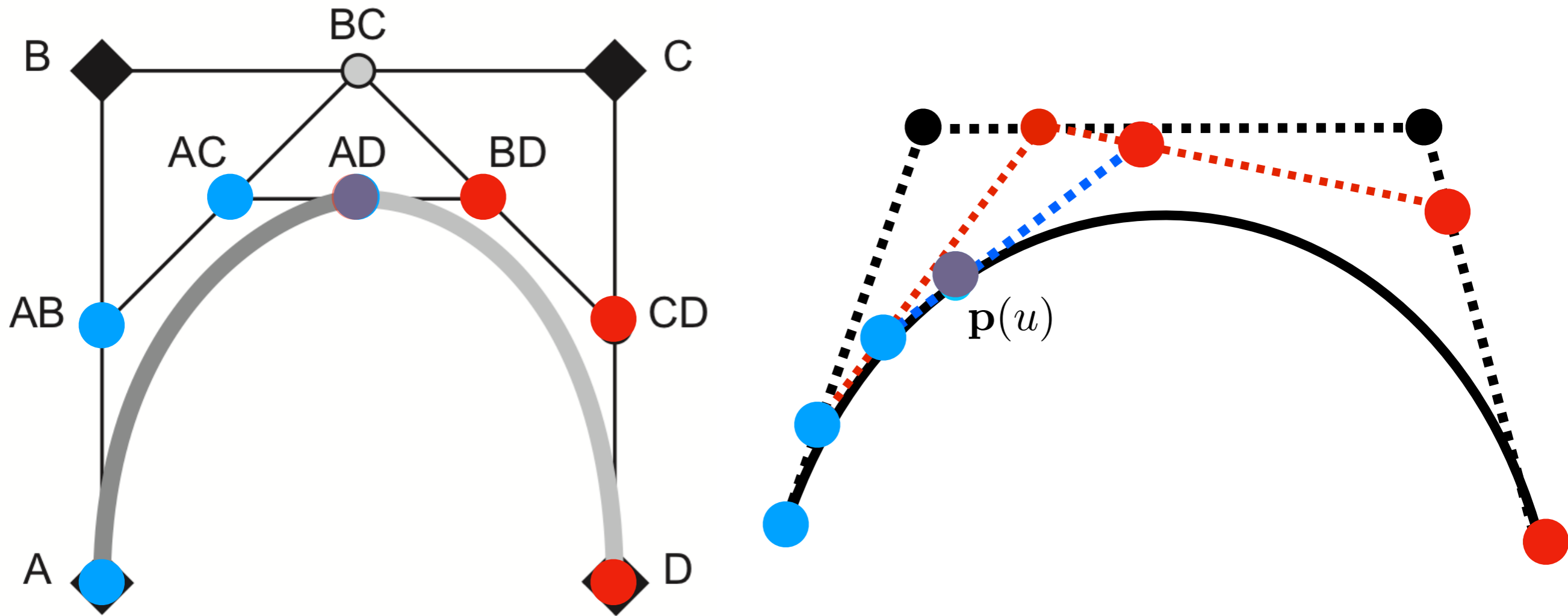
# Bezier subdivision



# Bezier subdivision



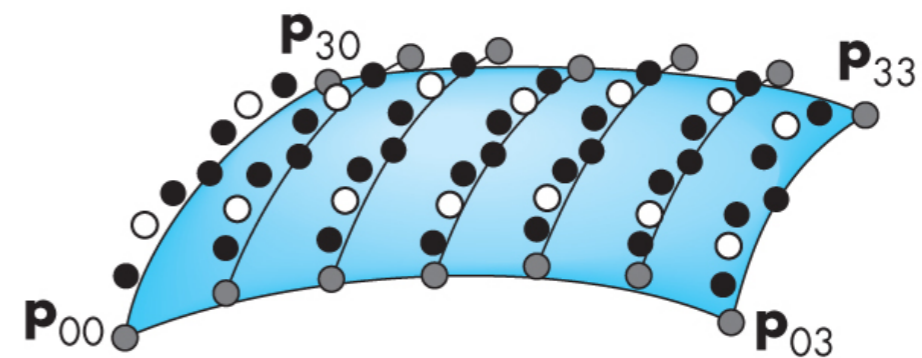
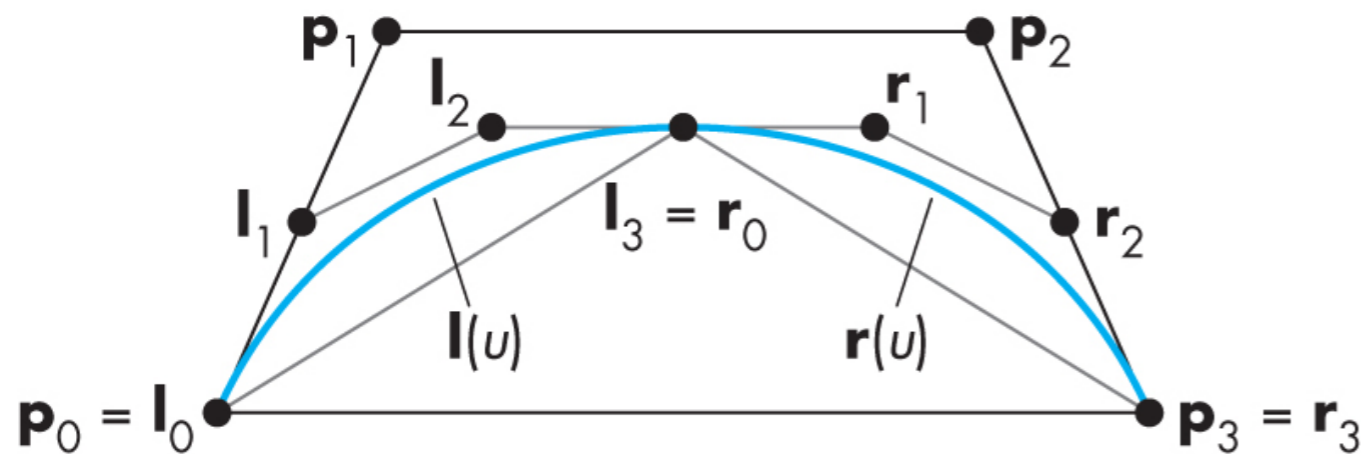
# Bezier subdivision



divid and conquer approach can be used for efficient rendering

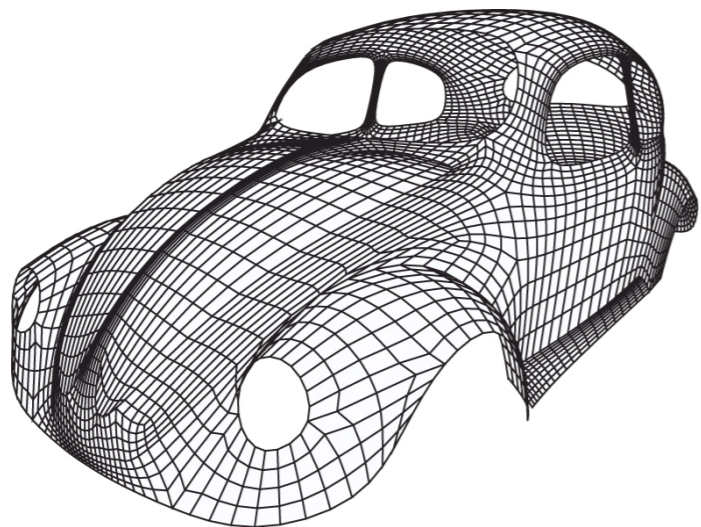
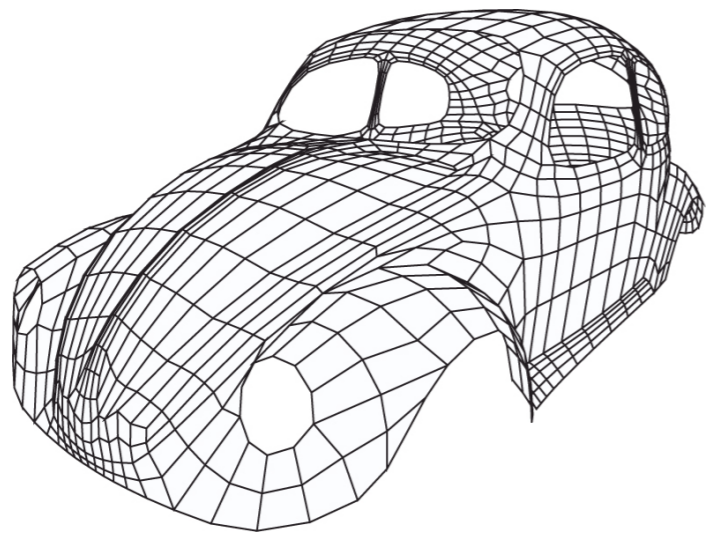
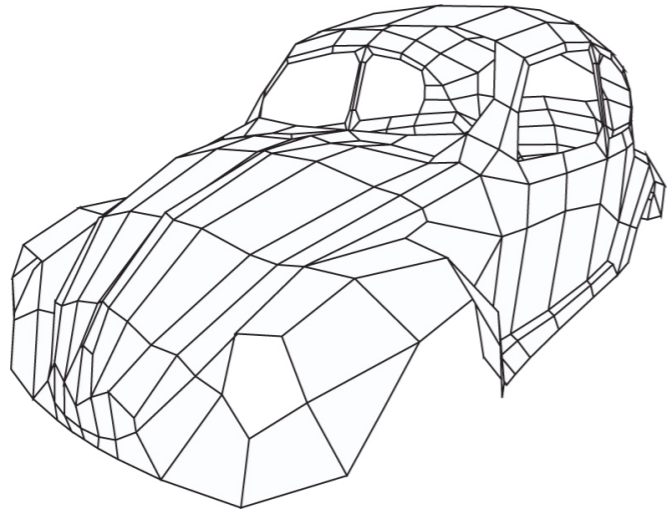
# Recursive Subdivision

- work with convex hull, does not require evaluating the polynomial
- Bezier curves most convenient -- other curves can be be transformed to Bezier
- same approach for surfaces



- New points created by subdivision
- Old points discarded after subdivision
- Old points retained after subdivision

# Recursive Subdivision for Rendering



# Cubic B-Splines

# B-spline properties

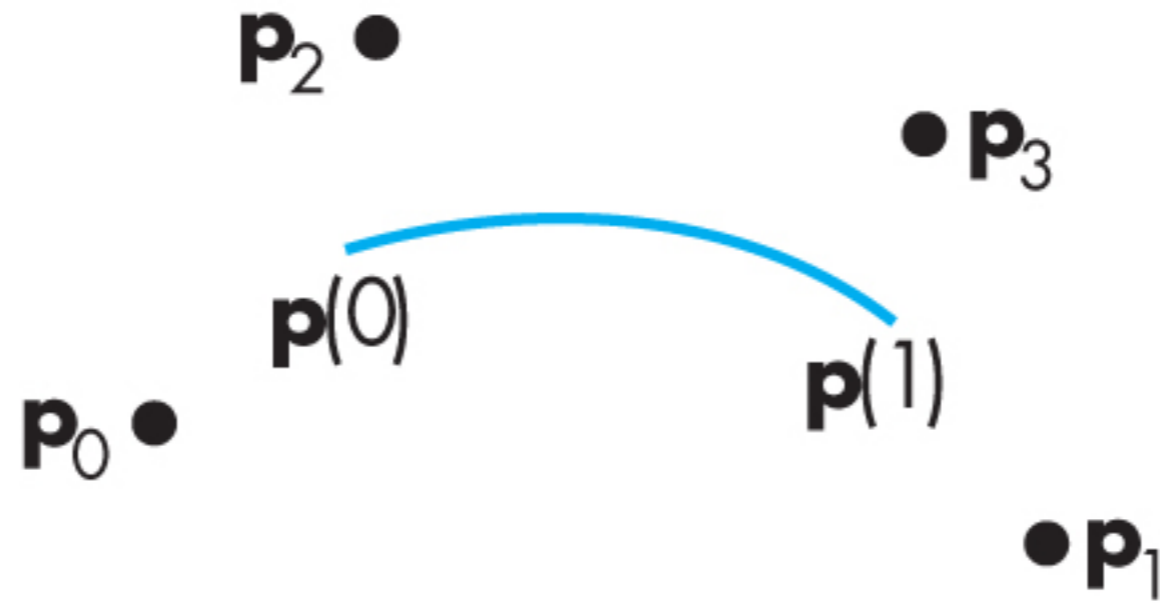
- polynomials of degree  $d$  with  $(d-1)$  continuity
- preferred method for very smooth curves ( $C^2$  or higher)

# B-spline properties

- $C^{(d-1)}$  continuity
- local control - any point on curve depends on  $d+1$  control points
- bounded by convex hull
- variation diminishing property



# Cubic B-Splines



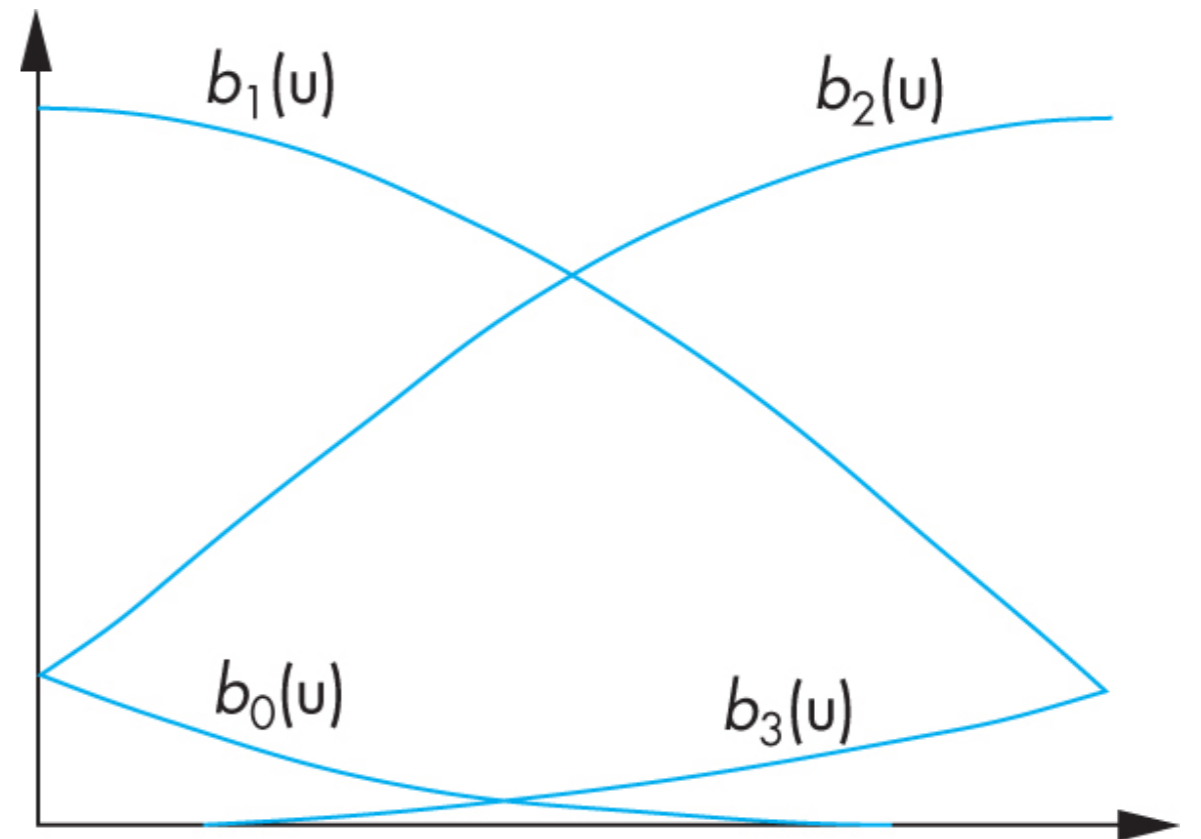
# Spline blending functions

$$b_0(u) = \frac{1}{6}(1 - u)^3$$

$$b_1(u) = \frac{1}{6}(4 - 6u^2 + 3u^3)$$

$$b_2(u) = \frac{1}{6}(1 + 3u + 3u^2 - 3u^3)$$

$$b_3(u) = \frac{1}{6}u^3$$

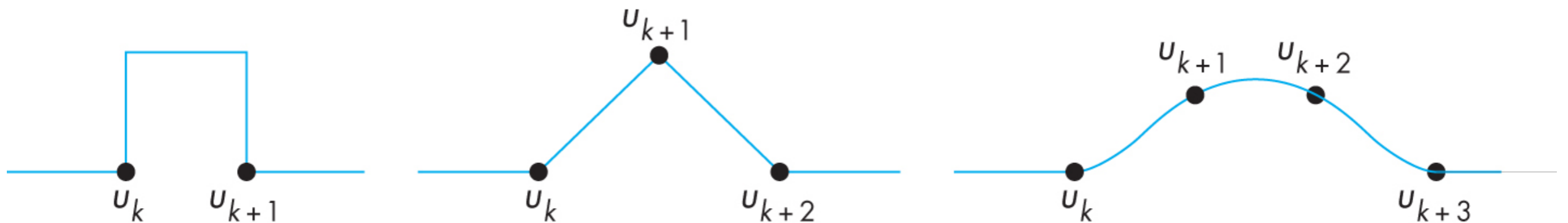


# General Splines

- Defined recursively by *Cox-de Boor recursion formula*

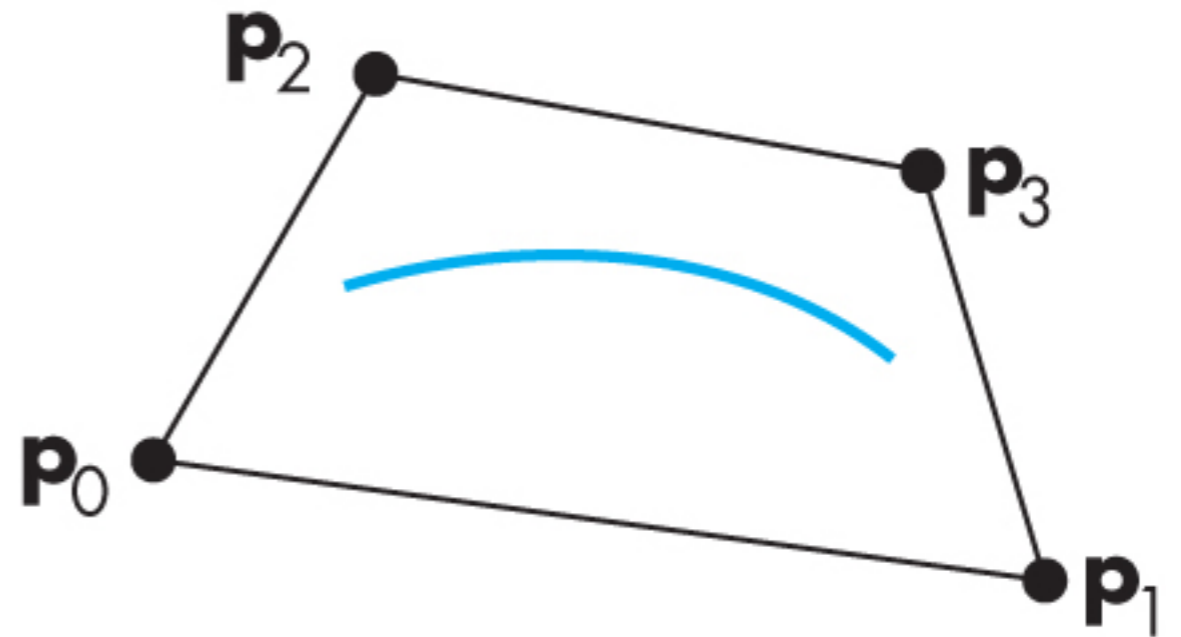
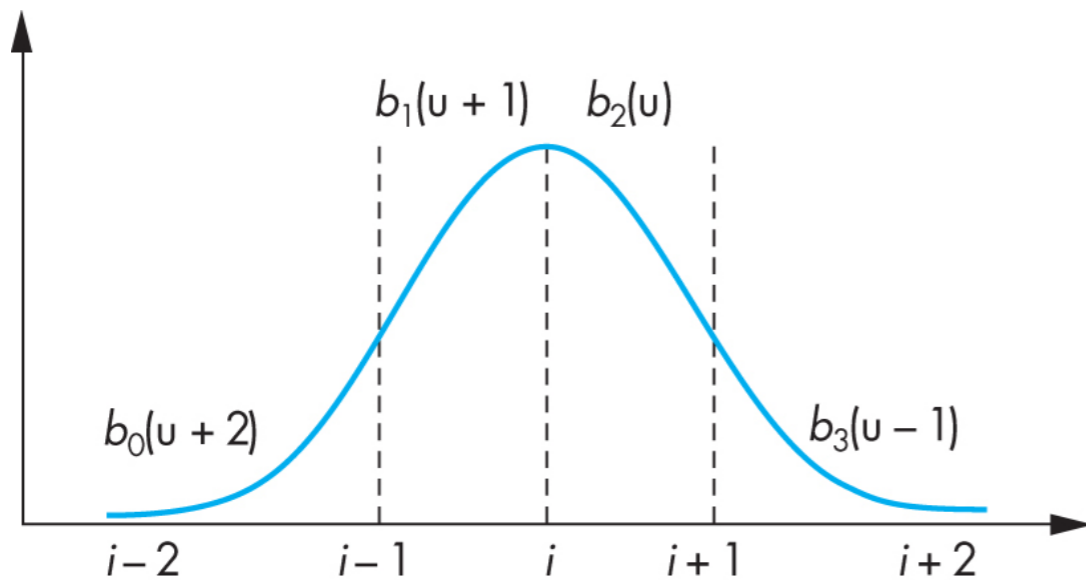
$$b_{j,0}(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } t_j \leq t \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$b_{j,n}(t) := \frac{t - t_j}{t_{j+n} - t_j} b_{j,n-1}(t) + \frac{t_{j+n+1} - t}{t_{j+n+1} - t_{j+1}} b_{j+1,n-1}(t)$$



# Spline properties

Basis functions



convexity

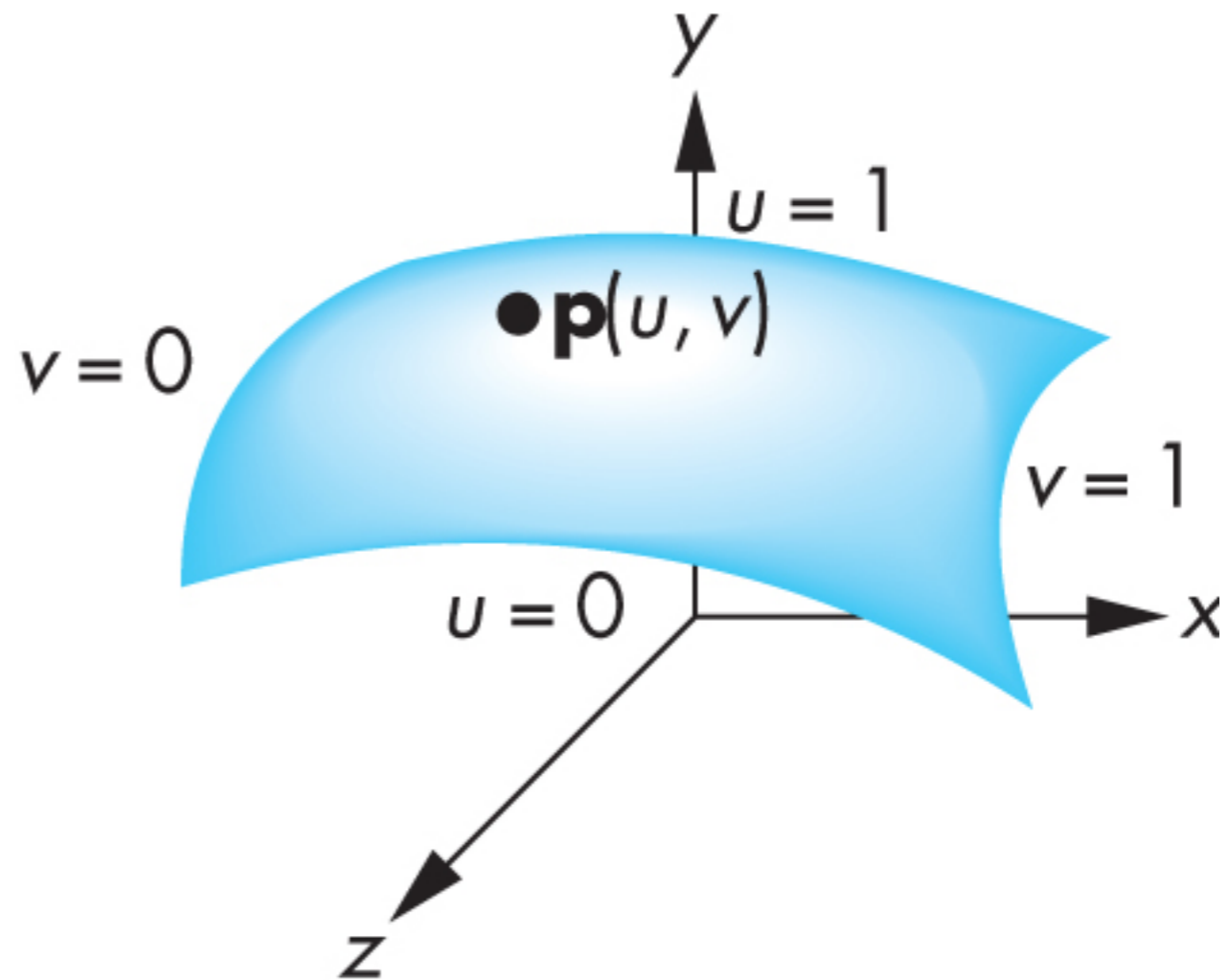
# Surfaces

# Parametric Surface

$$x = x(u, v)$$

$$y = y(u, v)$$

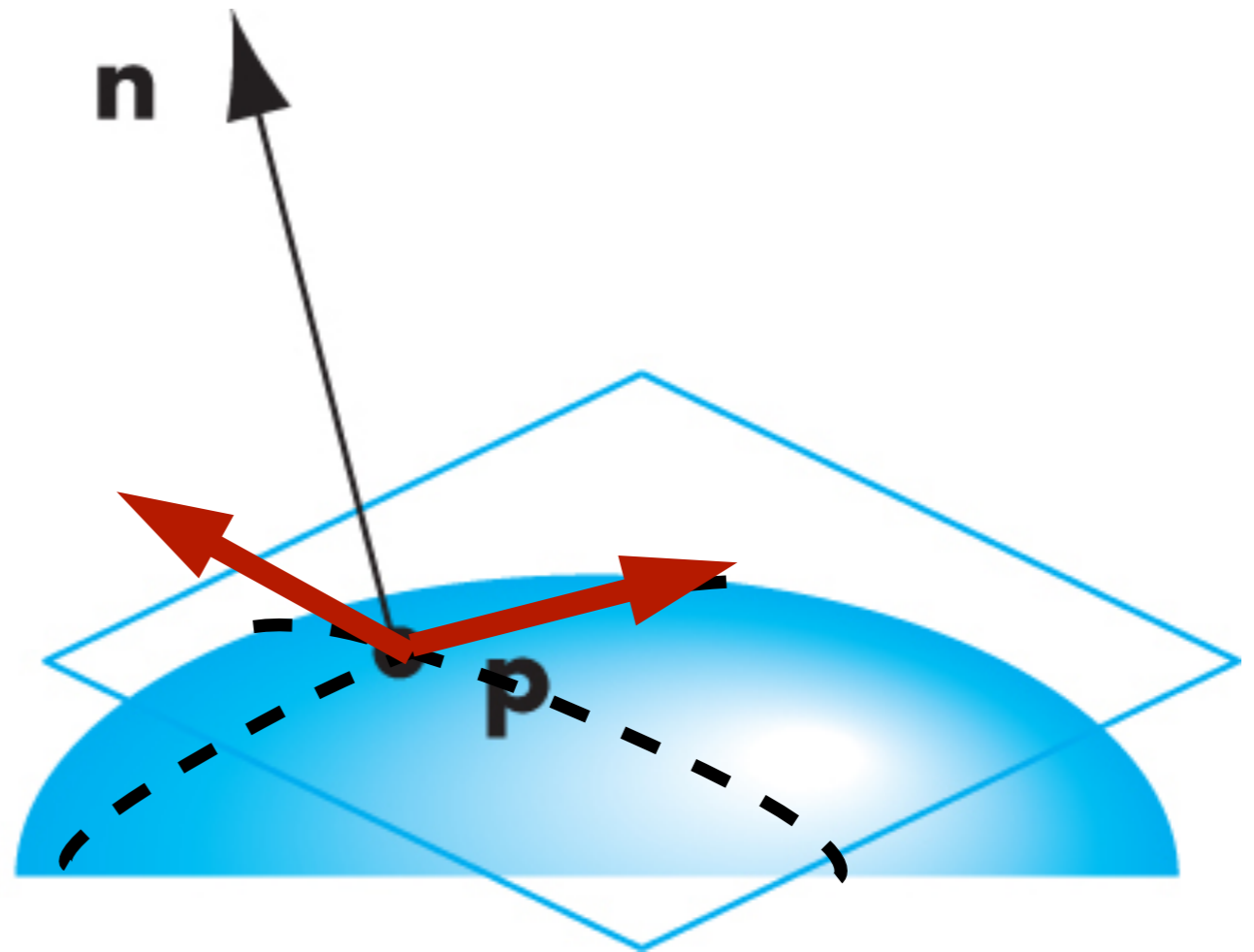
$$z = z(u, v)$$



# Parametric Surface - tangent plane

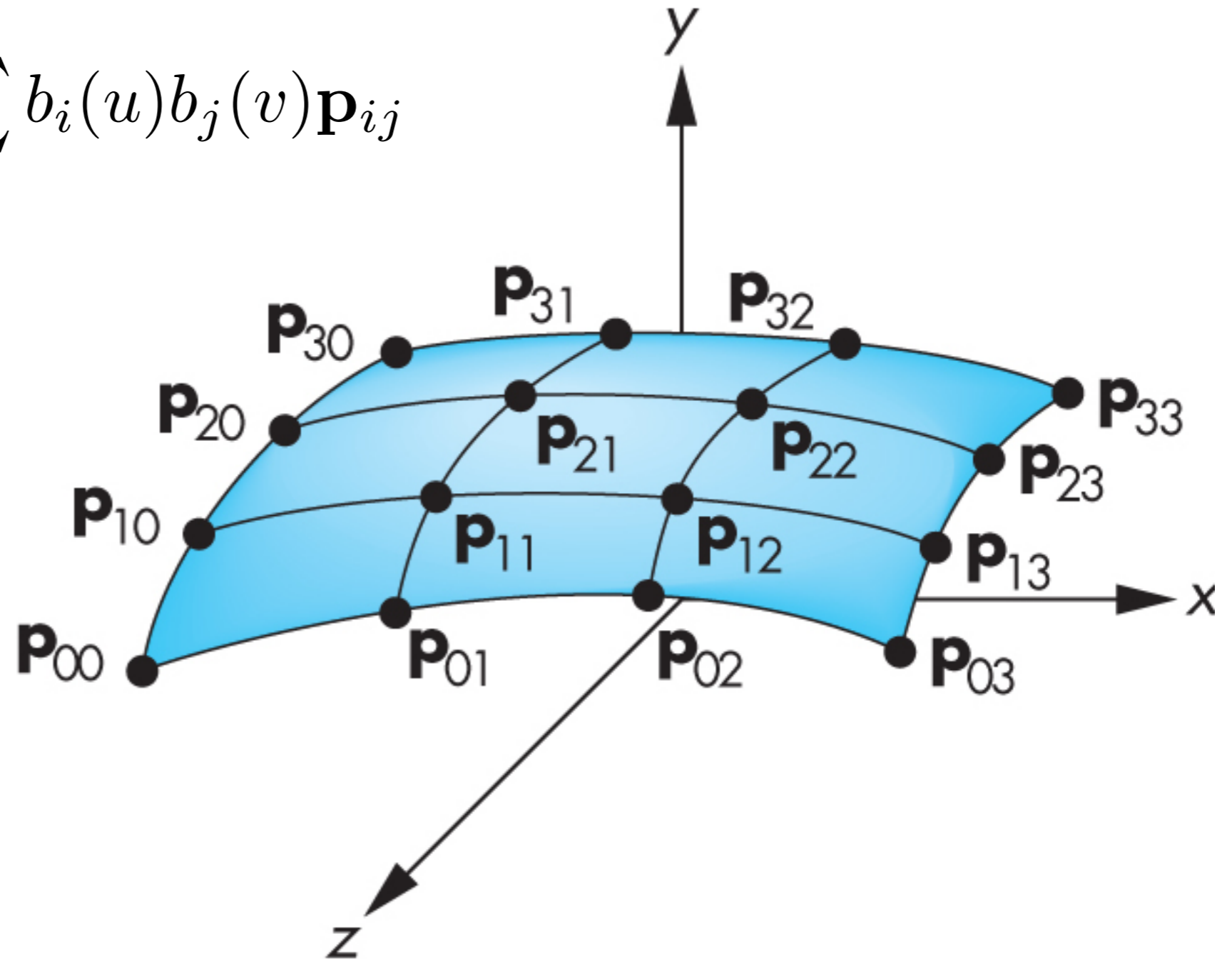
$$\mathbf{t}_u = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial u} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial u} \\ \frac{\partial z}{\partial u} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{t}_v = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial x}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial y}{\partial v} \\ \frac{\partial z}{\partial v} \end{pmatrix}$$



# Bicubic Surface Patch

$$\mathbf{f}(u, v) = \sum_i \sum_j b_i(u) b_j(v) \mathbf{p}_{ij}$$





# Bezier Surface Patch

$$\mathbf{f}(u, v) = \sum_i \sum_j b_i(u) b_j(v) \mathbf{p}_{ij}$$

Patch lies in  
convex hull

