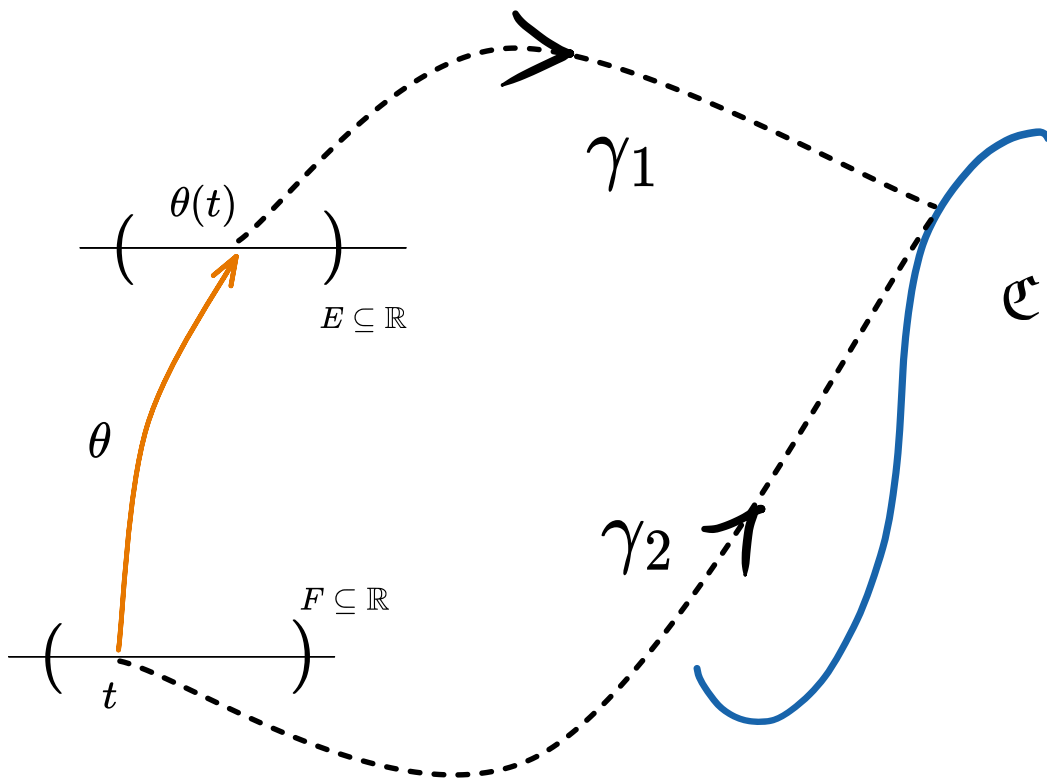


## Info

This note [found here](#)  
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is written (completely with human hands) by [Rupadarshi Ray](#),  
created on September 3, 2022 4:37:05 PM,  
and was last modified on June 12, 2026 11:40:39 AM.

## Reparameterization of a *parameterized* curve

### Definition. Reparameterizations of *parameterized* curves



Given two parameterized curves  $\gamma_1 : E \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $\gamma_2 : F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ , then  $\gamma_2$  is called a **reparameterization** of  $\gamma_1$  if there exists a *diffeomorphism*  $\theta : F \rightarrow E$  such that

$$\gamma_2(t) = (\gamma_1 \circ \theta)(t), \forall t \in F$$

This  $\theta$  is a "*coordinate transformation*" where the previous coordinate was  $t$  and the final coordinate is  $\theta(t)$ .

## orientation

Any diffeomorphism  $\theta$  is strictly monotonic,

$$\theta' > 0 \text{ or } < 0$$

Thus we can define a measurement of the sign of this change.

Definition. **Orientation preservation**

$$\alpha_O[\theta] := \frac{\theta'}{|\theta'|} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \theta' > 0 \\ -1 & \text{if } \theta' < 0 \end{cases}$$

If  $\alpha_O[\theta] = 1$ , then  $\theta$  is called a **orientation preserving transformation**, and when it is  $-1$ , it is **orientation reversing**.

Obviously,  $\alpha_O^2 = 1$  for any  $\theta$ . This is an important property to check because

$$(\gamma \circ \theta)'(t) = (\gamma' \circ \theta)(t) \theta'(t)$$

so, orientation preserving transformations keep the direction of velocity the same, and orientation reversing, reserves the direction of velocity.

Set of all diffeomorphisms of a curve

$$CT[\text{curve } \mathcal{C}] := \{\theta \mid \theta \text{ is a diffeomorphism of } \mathcal{C}\}$$

is a **group** under composition of function

$$(CT[\text{curve } \mathcal{C}], \circ)$$

and **reparameterization** is a **group action** on set of all parameterizations of the curve.

The transformations include:

- Ones that preserve speed at every point

$$\theta(t) = \pm t + t_0$$

- Ones that scale velocity by  $\lambda$

$$\theta(t) = \lambda t$$

## parameterization properties

The quantities that change with parameterization in general

- "velocity"

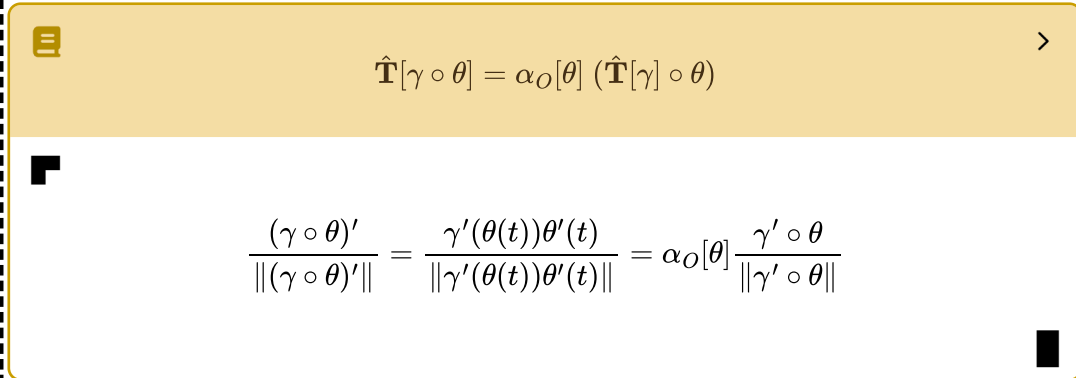
- $\gamma' \rightarrow (\gamma' \circ \theta)(\theta')$
- **"acceleration"**
  - $\gamma'' \rightarrow (\gamma'' \circ \theta)(\theta')^2 + (\gamma' \circ \theta)(\theta'')$

## geometric properties

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The quantities that change with parameterization in a particular way

- [Arc length](#)
- [Tangent unit of a curve](#)

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      - [curvature](#) Curvature of a curve
      - [reparameterization](#) Reparameterization of a parameterized curve
      - [tangent](#) Tangent of a curve
      - [unit speed](#) Unit speed parameterization of a curve