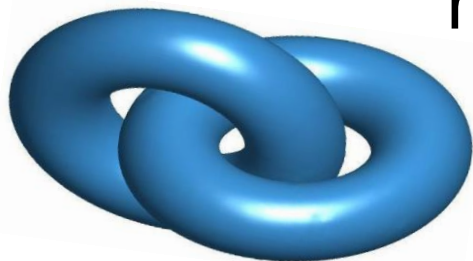
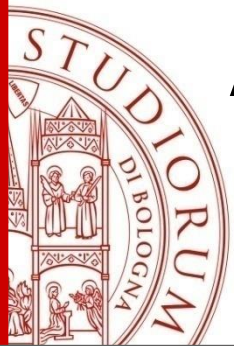


# Introduction to Geometric Modeling

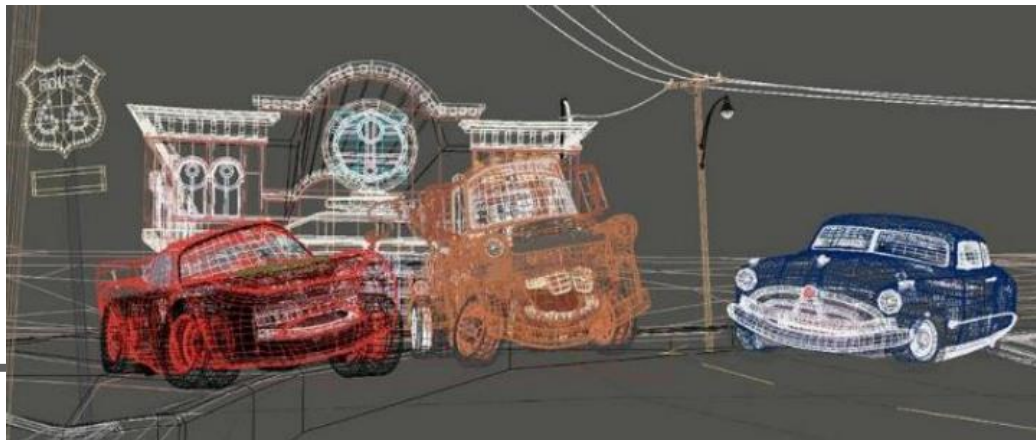
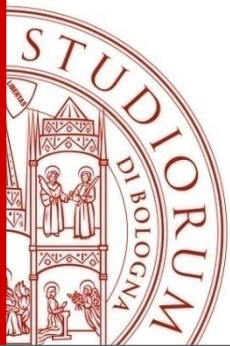
Computer graphics is rooted in the ability to mathematically describe reality.



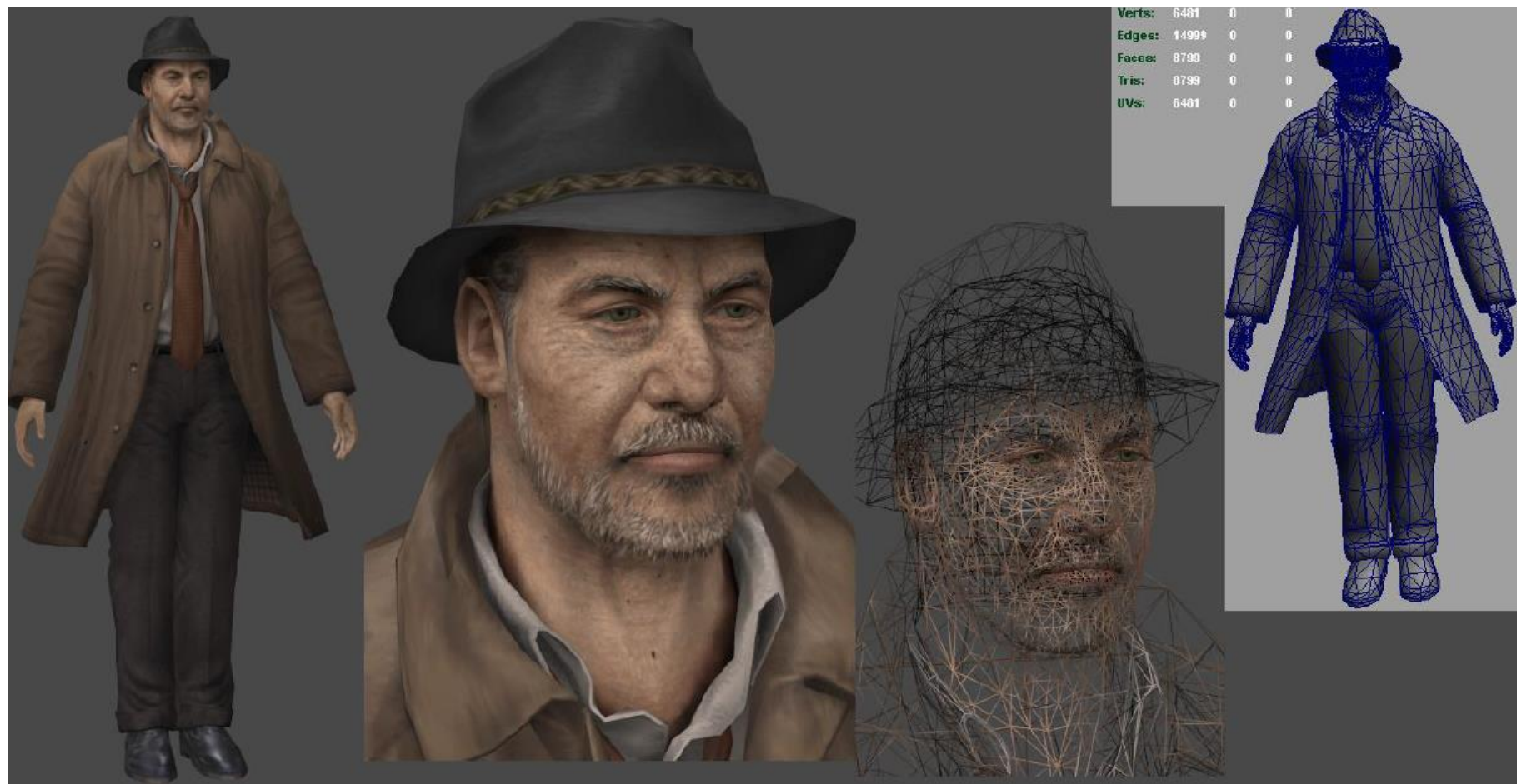
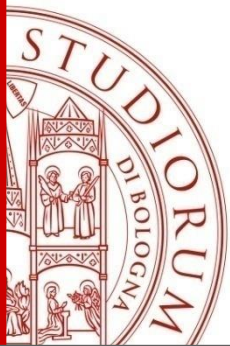


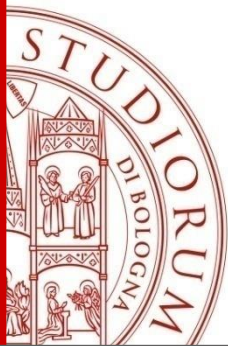
A complex object is represented by simple primitives, like points and lines..



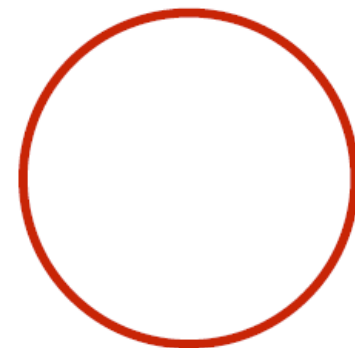






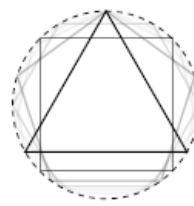


# CG & Modeling



- Representing shape
- Editing a shape/scene
  - Easy/Intuitive
  - fast
- Visualize a shape/scene
  - Fast

DISCRETE

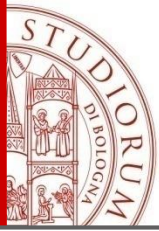


IMPLICIT

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

EXPLICIT

$$(\underbrace{\cos \theta}_x, \underbrace{\sin \theta}_y)$$



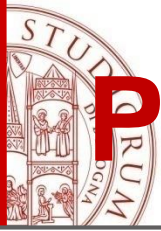
# Geometric Primitives

- 0 dimension: points
- 1 dimension: lines/curves
- 2 dimension: mesh/surfaces
- 3 dimension: volumes

## Representation:

There are many ways to describe geometry:

- Implicit
- Explicit, **Parametric**



# Points: implicit representation

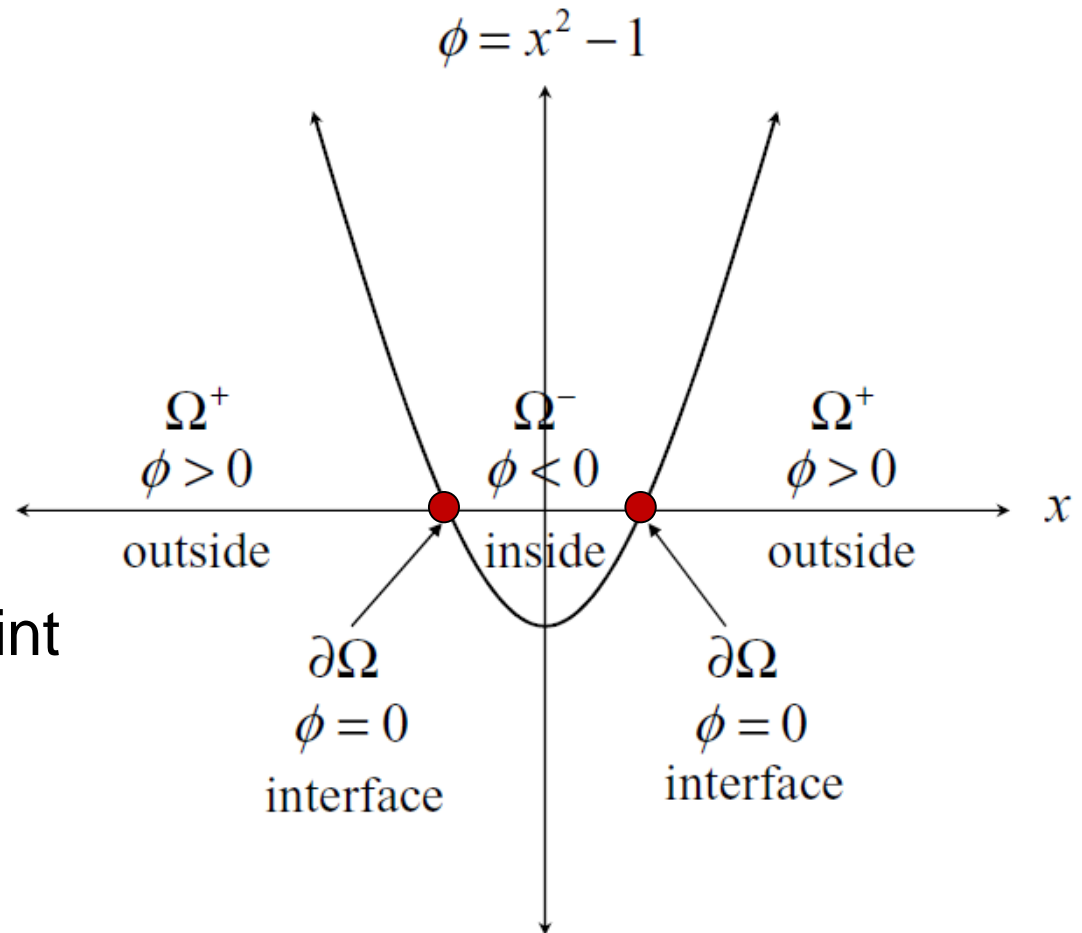
Points  $x$  are defined by an implicit function  $\phi(x)$  such that

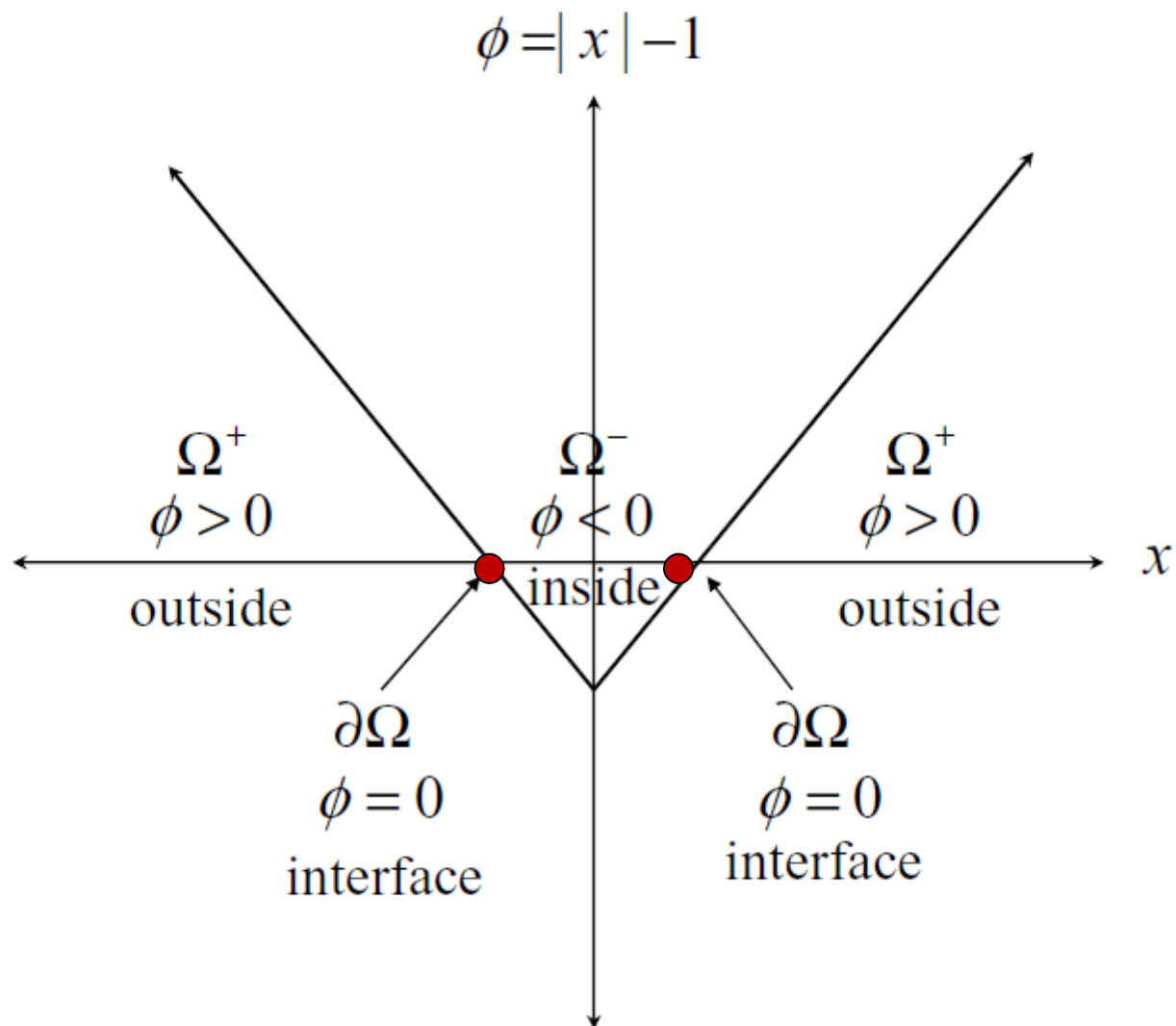
$$\phi(x) = 0 \text{ (isocontour)}$$

Interface (points)

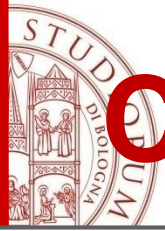
$$\partial \Omega = \{-1, 1\}$$

In 1D, the interface is a point which split  $\mathbb{R}$  into two subdomains (pos. e neg.)









# Curve: implicit representation

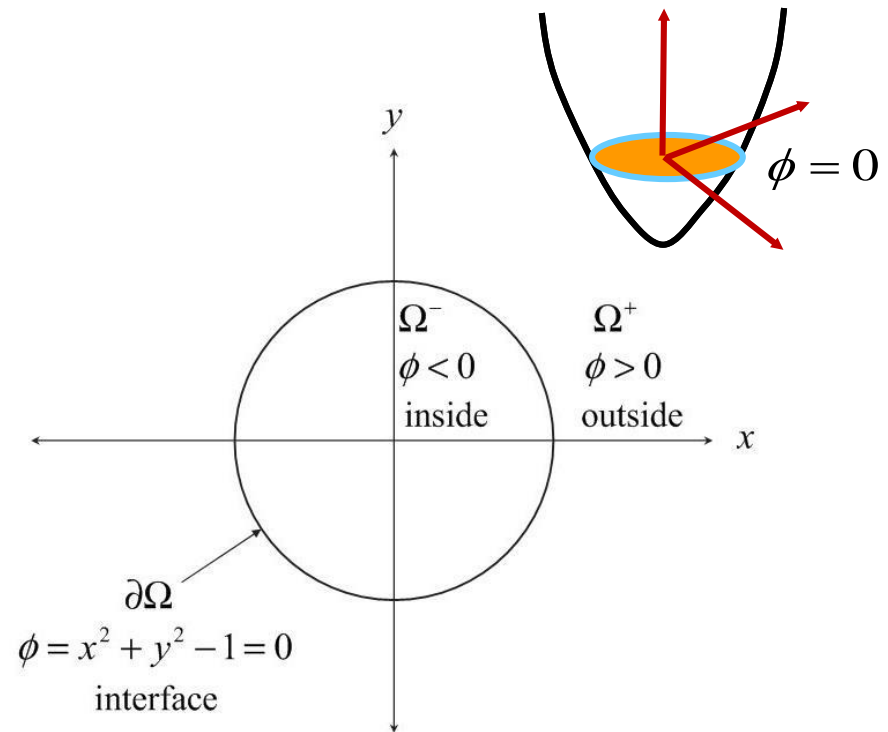
- The curve is described by the set of points  $(x,y)$  which satisfy  $\phi(x,y) = 0$  (isocontour)
- Example:

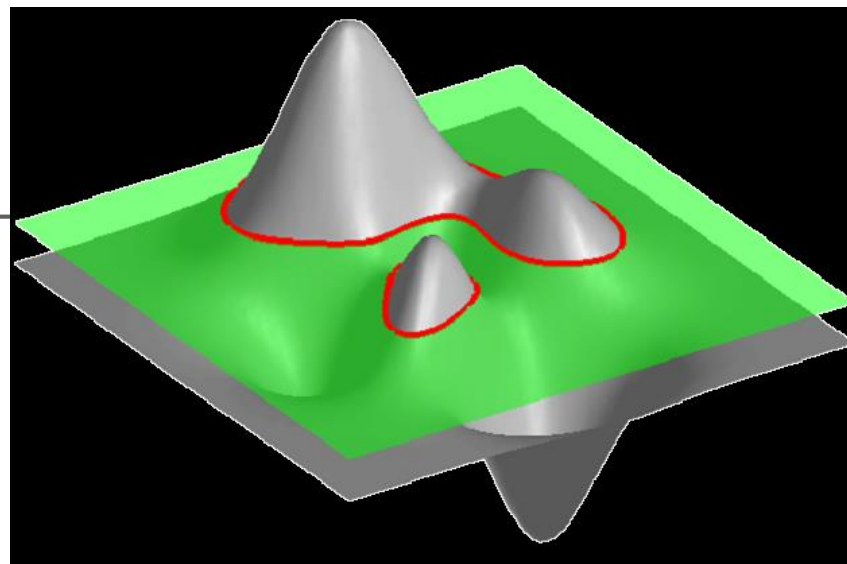
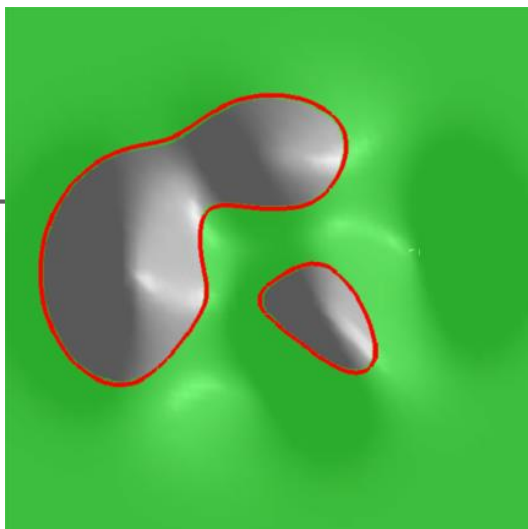
$$\phi(x,y) = x^2 + y^2 - 1.$$

Interface (curve)

$$\partial \Omega = \{x/ \ ||x|| = 1\}$$

In 2D, the interface is a curve which separates  $\mathbb{R}^2$  into two subdomains.

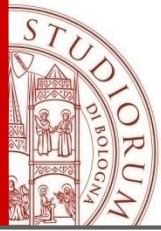




- Gradient of an implicit function
- The gradient is perpendicular to the isolevels
- The gradient has the direction of the outward normal  $\vec{N}$  of the interface

$$\vec{N} = \frac{\nabla \phi}{|\nabla \phi|}$$

$$\nabla \phi(x, y) = \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \right)$$



# Explicit Representation

- **Point**: represented by its 2D/3D coords
- **Curve**: explicitly define points on it

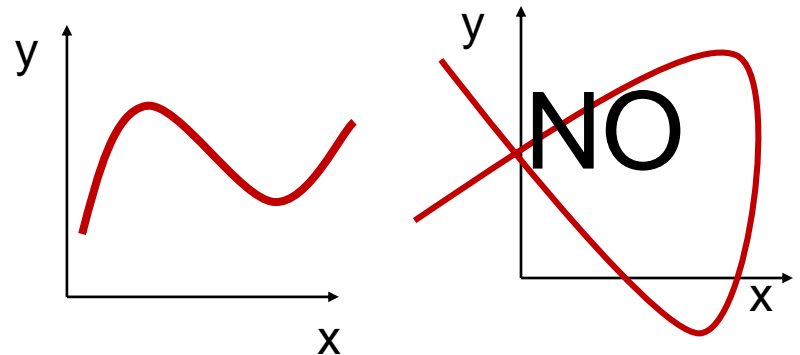
**Curve: defined by moving a point in space with 1 degree of freedom**

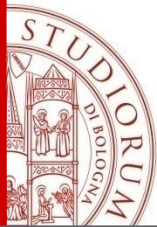
## 1) Function Representation

Most familiar form of curve in 2D

$$y=f(x)$$

## 2) Parametric Equation

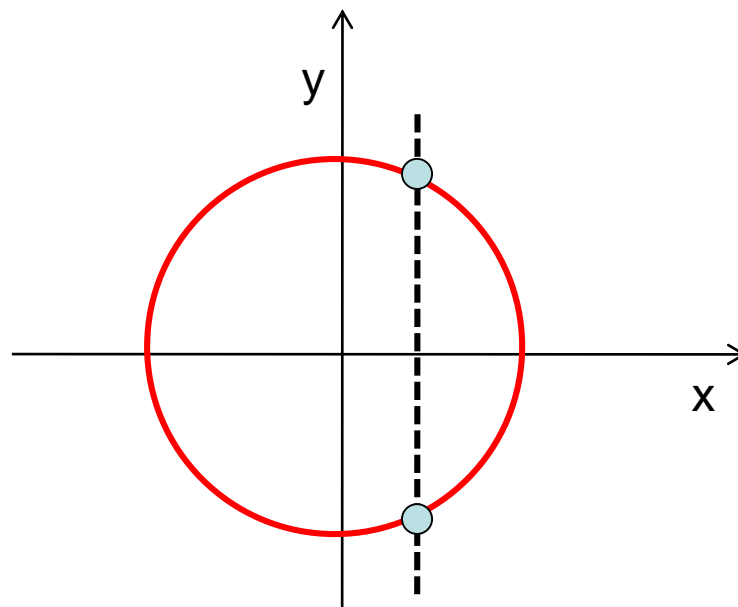
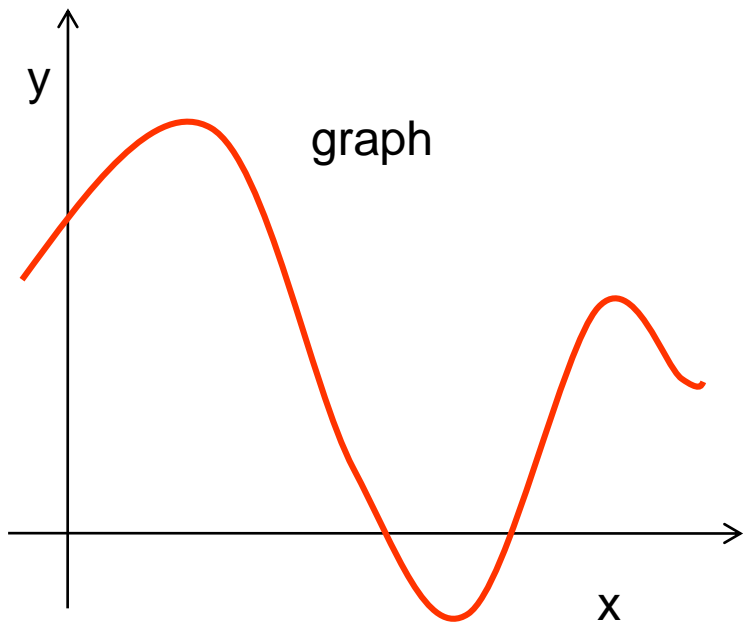




# Curves: function representation

- Cannot represent all curves
- Vertical lines
- Circles

- Single-valued,
- no transformations

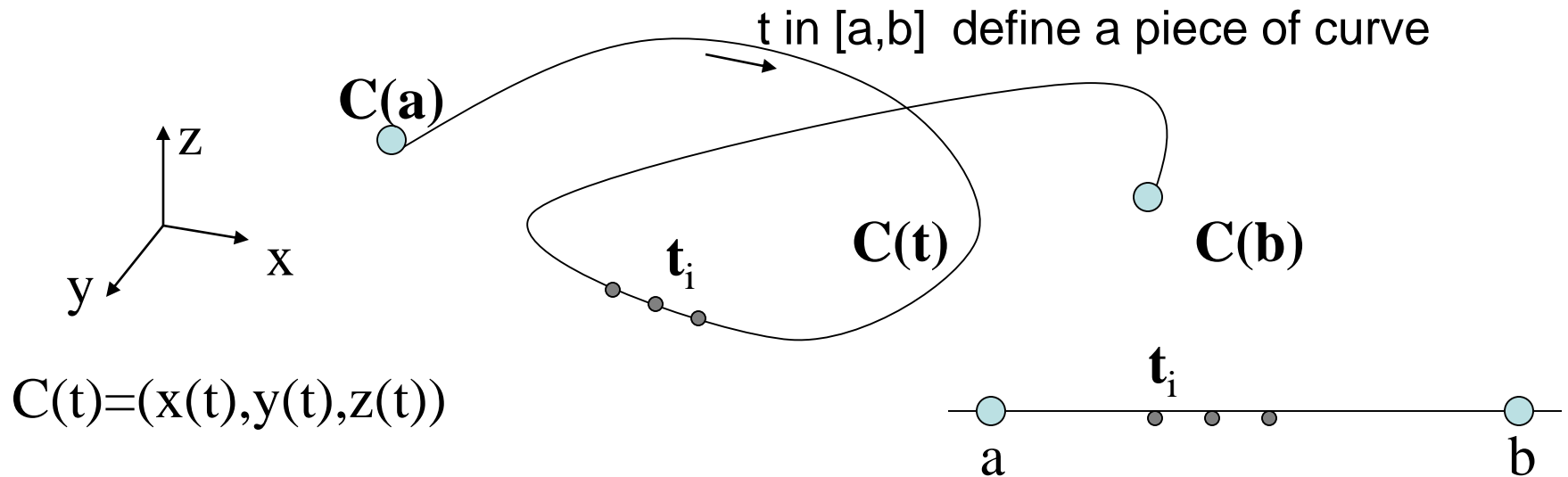


# Curve: parametric form

A parametric curve in space is a vector function

**$C(t)=(x(t),y(t),z(t))$**  of the parameter  $t \in [a,b]$

Upon variation of  $t$ , the coordinates  $(x(t), y(t), z(t))$  represent a point that moves on the curve.

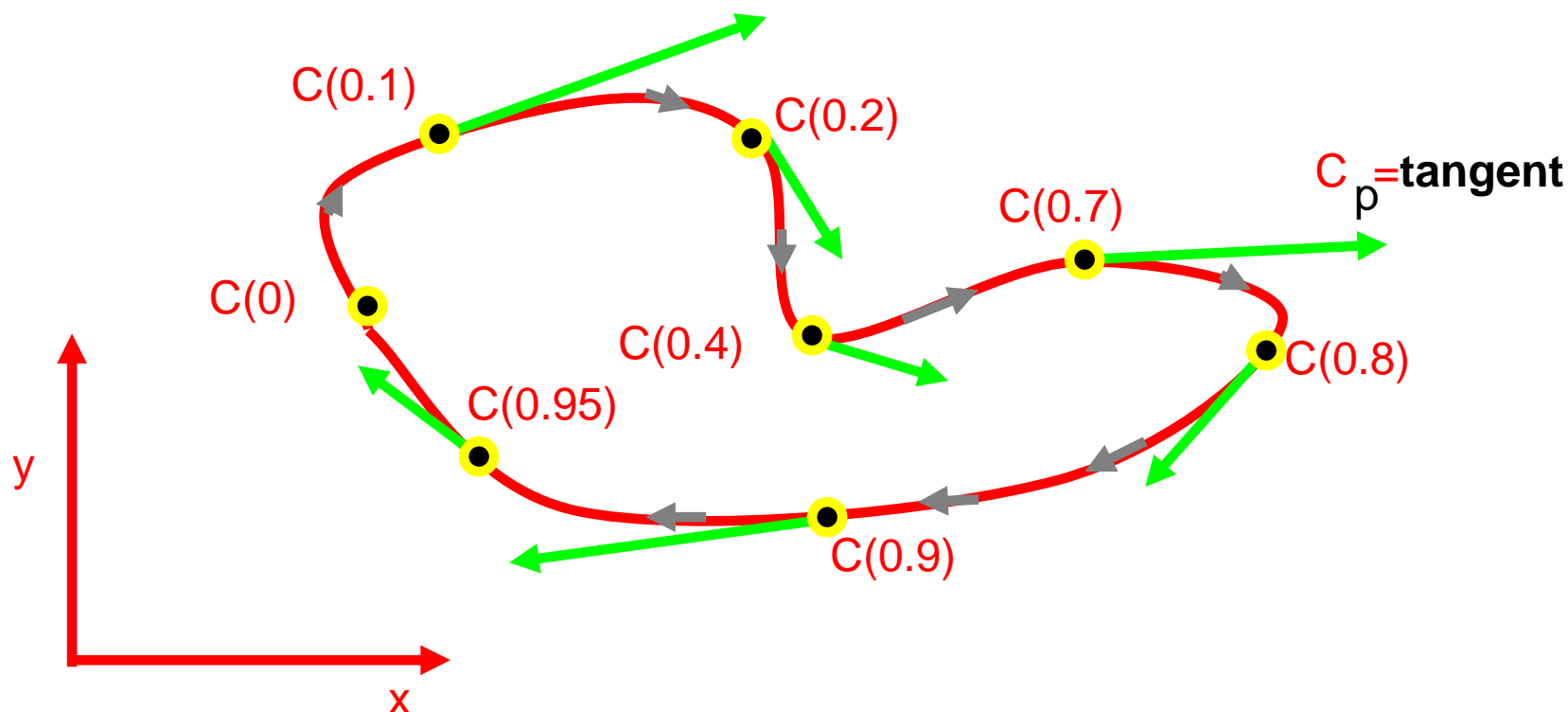


**In geometric modeling curves and surfaces are described in parametric form**



# Tangent vector

$C(t)=(x(t),y(t))$ ,  $t \in [0,1]$  parametric domain



point motion speed on the curve :

derivatives at t  $C'(t)=(x'(t),y'(t))$

# Example

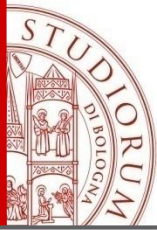
- Parametric Curve of degree n (n=3)

$$C(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} t + \begin{pmatrix} -9 \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} t^2 + \begin{pmatrix} 4 \\ 4 \end{pmatrix} t^3$$

- Derivative of a parametric curve (hodograph)

$$C'(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x'(t) \\ y'(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 6 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} -18 \\ -6 \end{pmatrix} t + \begin{pmatrix} 12 \\ 12 \end{pmatrix} t^2$$

It 's a parametric curve of degree n-1



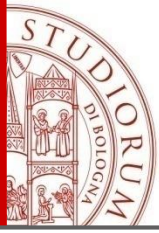
- Function curves are special cases of parametric curves

$$y = f(x) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad C(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) \\ y(t) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} t \\ f(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

- From parametric to implicit curves  $f(x,y)=0$

$$C(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x(t) = x_0 + t(x_1 - x_0) \\ y(t) = y_0 + t(y_1 - y_0) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} t = \frac{x - x_0}{x_1 - x_0} \\ t = \frac{y - y_0}{y_1 - y_0} \end{pmatrix}$$

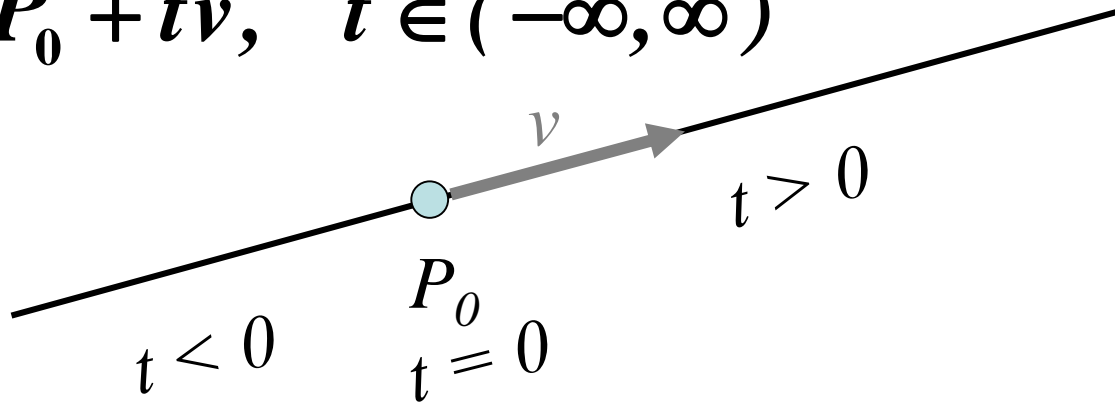
$$\Rightarrow \frac{x - x_0}{x_1 - x_0} = \frac{y - y_0}{y_1 - y_0}$$



# Parametric form

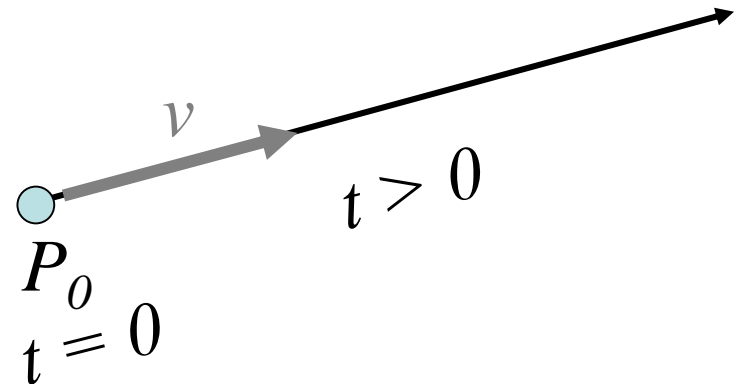
- **Line**

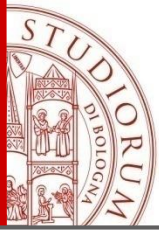
$$C(t) = P_0 + tv, \quad t \in (-\infty, \infty)$$



- **Ray**

$$C(t) = P_0 + tv, \quad t \in (0, +\infty)$$





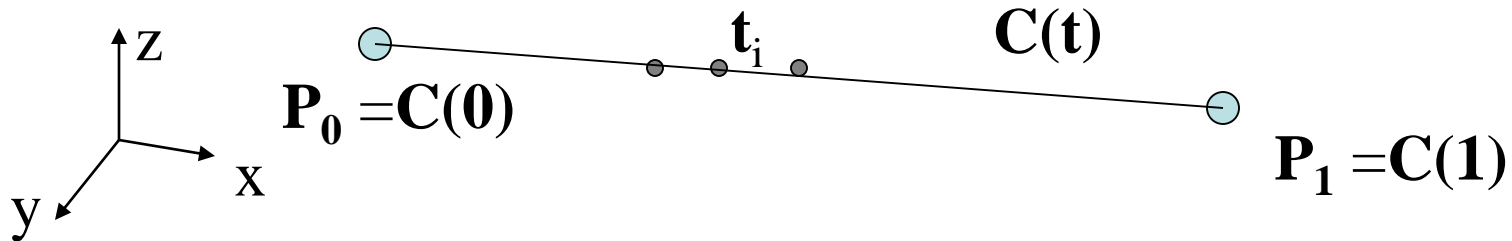
# Segment: parametric form

$$\mathbf{C}(t) = \mathbf{P}_0 + t(\mathbf{P}_1 - \mathbf{P}_0), \quad t \text{ in } [0,1]$$

$$x(t) = x_0 + t(x_1 - x_0)$$

$$y(t) = y_0 + t(y_1 - y_0)$$

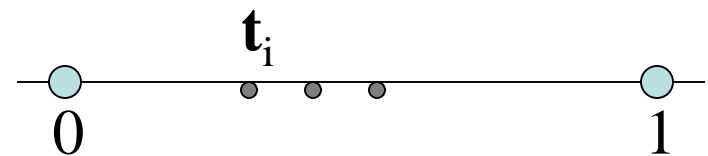
$$z(t) = z_0 + t(z_1 - z_0)$$



$$x(t) = (1-t)x_0 + t x_1$$

$$y(t) = (1-t)y_0 + t y_1$$

$$z(t) = (1-t)z_0 + t z_1$$



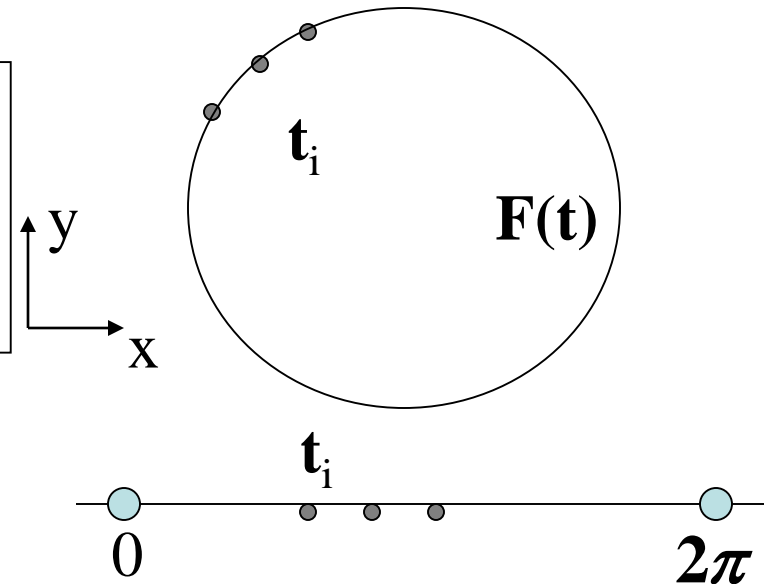


# Circle: parametric form

Upon variation of  $t$ , the coordinates  $(x(t), y(t))$  represent a point that moves on the circle.

Both parametric forms represent the unit circle:

$x(t) = \cos(t)$	$x(t) = 2t/(1+t^2)$
$y(t) = \sin(t)$	$y(t) = (1-t^2)/(1+t^2)$
$t \text{ in } [0, 2\pi]$	$t = [0, 1]$

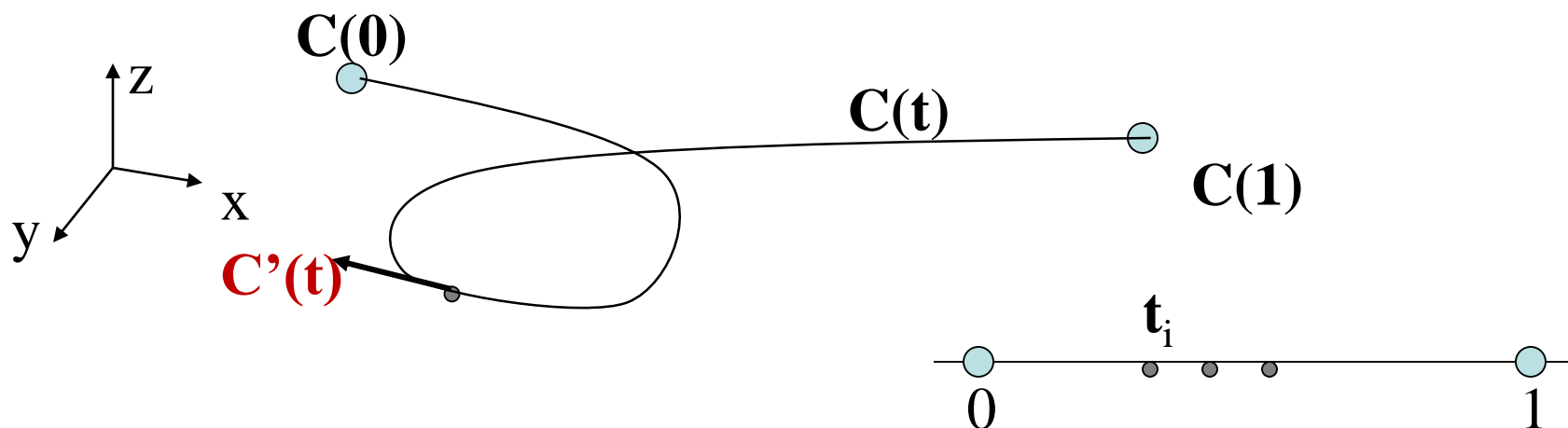


What, then, do they differ?

The parameterization, the motion of the point is different even if the path (the curve) is the same.

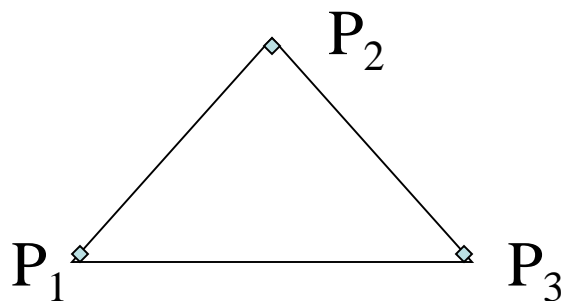
**Physical model:** a particle moving in time.

At each instant  $t$ , the position of the particle is  $(x(t), y(t), z(t))$ ; two paths (curves) may be identical even if the velocity (parameterization) is different.

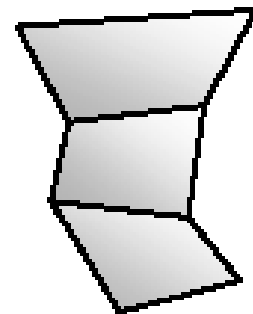
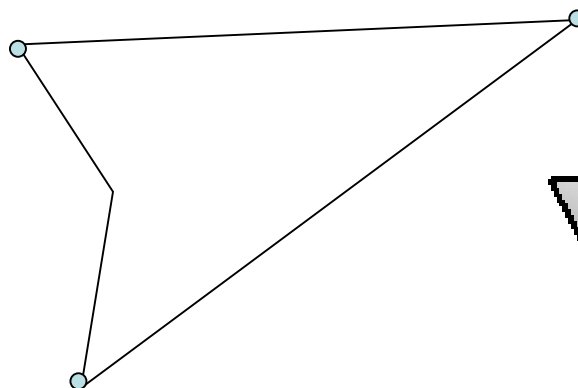
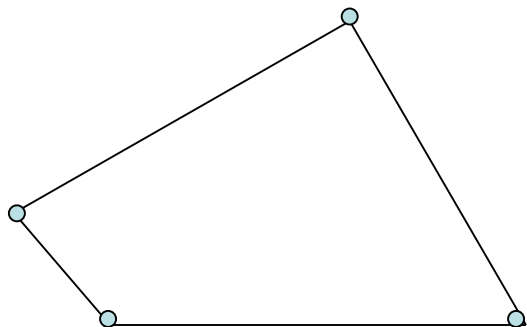


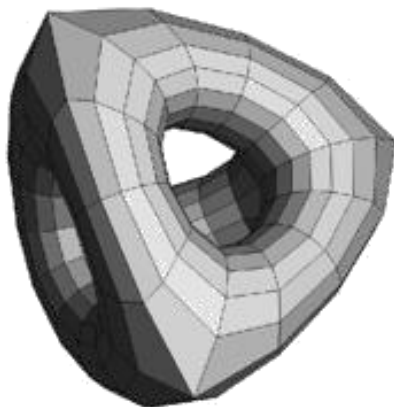
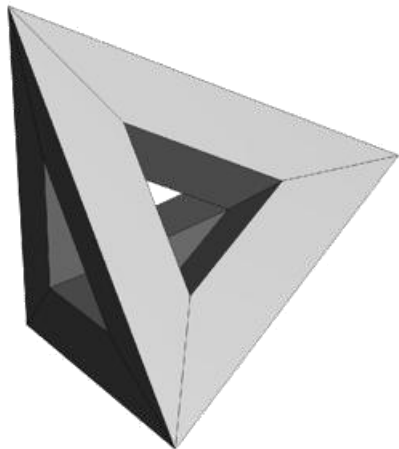
# 3D Geometric Primitives

## ➤ 2D/3D polygons



In 3D: poly must be planar!



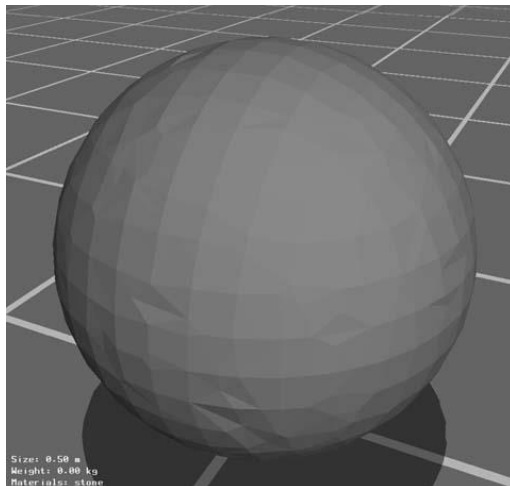


## Polygonal mesh

Set of **edges**, **vertices** and **faces** connected in such a way that:  
each edge is shared by at most two adjacent faces,  
one side connects two vertices,  
the faces are sequences of closed sides,  
a vertex is shared by at least two sides.

# Limits of Polygonal Meshes

- flat facets
- fixed resolution
- difficult editing
- no natural parameterization

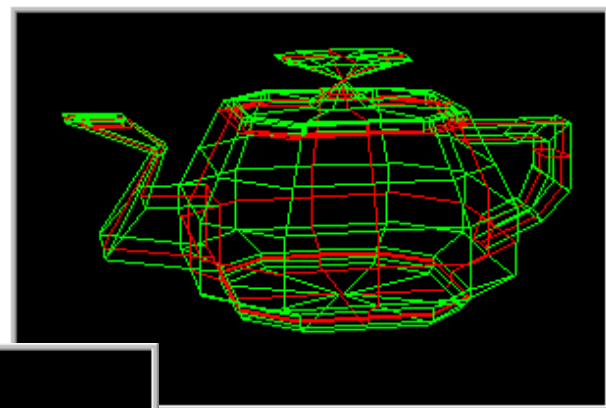




# Smooth Surfaces

- Explicit / Implicit
- Naturally curved
- Closed / open
- Defined by control points / curves / interpolation / approximation
- planes

- Bézier Patch
- Spline Surfaces/NURBS

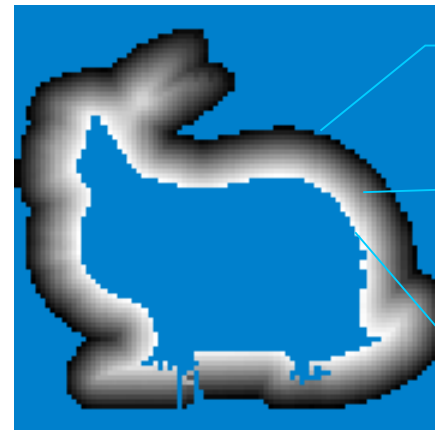




# Surface: implicit representation

- Implicit surfaces represent a surface as a particular isocontour of a higher dimensional embedding function on  $\mathbb{R}^3$   $\phi(x,y,z)=0$   
E.g., unit sphere is all points  $x$  such that  $x^2+y^2+z^2=1$
- The inside region  $\Omega_-$ , the outside region is  $\Omega_+$ , and the surface  $\partial\Omega$  are all defined by the function:

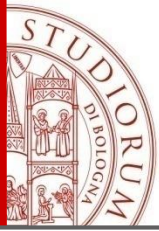
$\phi(x,y,z) < 0$       inside  
 $\phi(x,y,z) > 0$       outside  
 $\phi(x,y,z) = 0$       on



$\phi(\mathbf{x}) > 0$

$\phi(\mathbf{x}) = 0$

$\phi(\mathbf{x}) < 0$



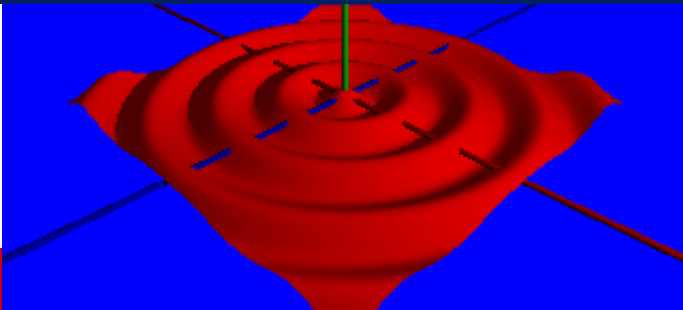
# Types of Implicit Surfaces

- Polynomial or *Algebraic*
- Non polynomial or *Transcendental*
  - Exponential, trigonometric, etc.
- Computational
  - Interpolation:  
Generate surfaces that  
interpolate boundary points
  - PDEs



$$(2x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 1)^3 - (0.1x^2 + y^2)z^3 = 0$$

$$|\nabla d(x)| = 1, \quad d(x) = 0, \quad x \in S$$



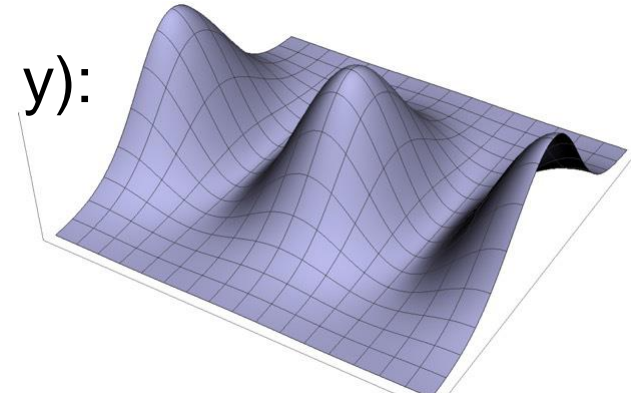
# Surfaces:

## Explicit representation

**a) function form**  $z = f(x, y)$

$z$  is the high of the point on the plane  $(x, y)$ :

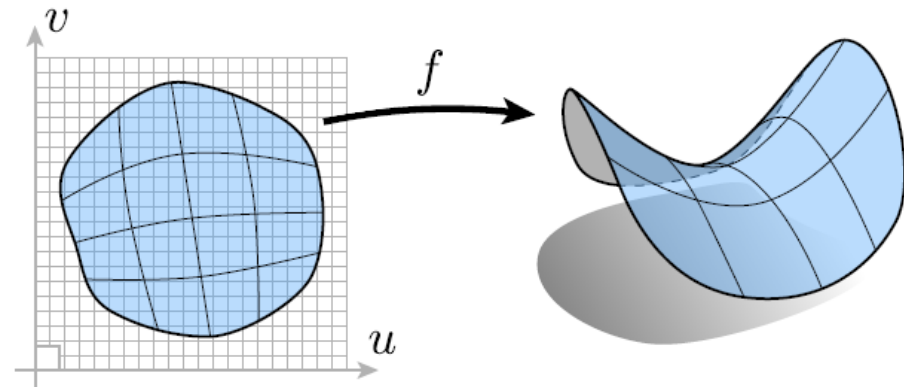
- single-valued
- No vertical tangent planes
- No changes



**b) parametric form**

not have these problems,

- Extend parametric curves
- Parametric variables  $u$  and  $v$



- Isoparametric curves  $f(\underline{u}, v)$  and  $f(u, \underline{v})$ , for  $\underline{u}, \underline{v}$  fixed

$$f : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3; \quad (u, v) \rightarrow (x(u, v), \quad y(u, v), \quad z(u, v))$$

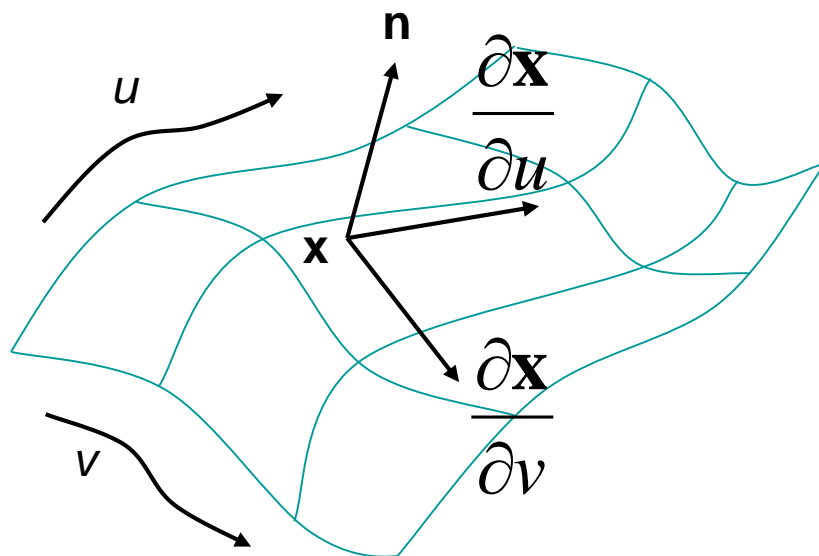
# Parametric Surface

- Derivatives**

The two tangent vectors define a tangent plane at  $(u,v)$   
 To calculate the normal to the surface at a point  $(u,v)$ , we compute the two tangents in this point and evaluate their cross product (normalized)

$$\mathbf{n}^* = \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial u} \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial v}$$

$$\mathbf{n} = \frac{\mathbf{n}^*}{|\mathbf{n}^*|}$$



Useful to understand what is the outer side of a face

# Continuity

- $C^0$  curves/surfaces
  - without holes
  - "watertight"
- $C^1$  curves/surfaces
  - with continuous derivatives
  - "smooth, no faced"
- $C^2$  curves/surfaces
  - with continuous second derivatives
  - Important for shading and CAD/CAM

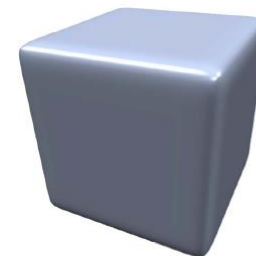
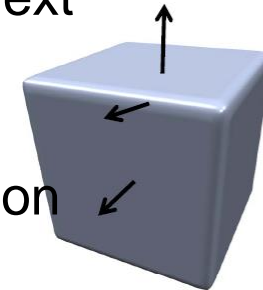
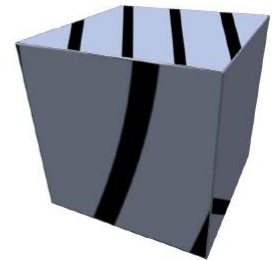
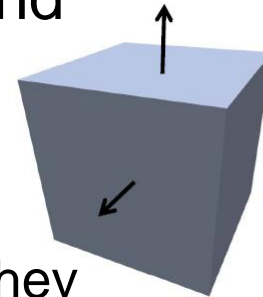


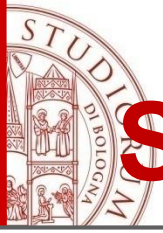


# Visual surface analysis

Visually evaluates surface smoothness and continuity using a stripe map

- Position continuity  $G^0 = C^0$ 
  - If the stripes have kinks or jump sideways as they cross the connection from one surface to the next
- Tangent continuity  $G^1$ 
  - If the stripes line up as they cross the connection but turn sharply at the connection, the position and tangency between the surfaces match
- Curvature continuity  $G^2$ 
  - If the stripes match and continue smoothly over the connection, this means that the position, tangency, and curvature between the surfaces match.





# Surfaces: Explicit vs. Implicit form

---

## ❑ Evaluation:

(I) Grid vs. (E) explicit evaluation

## ❑ Classification of points as inside/outside to a given interface:

(I) check the sign of  $\phi(x)$

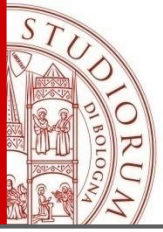
(E) no easy for explicit form

## ❑ Boolean Operation

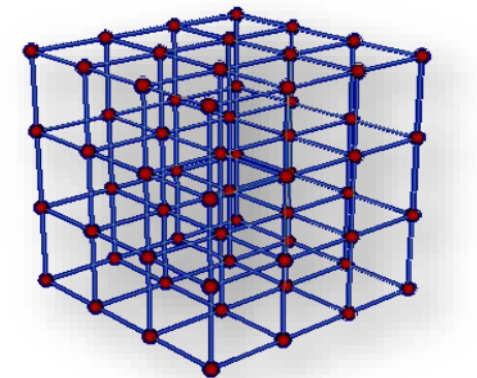
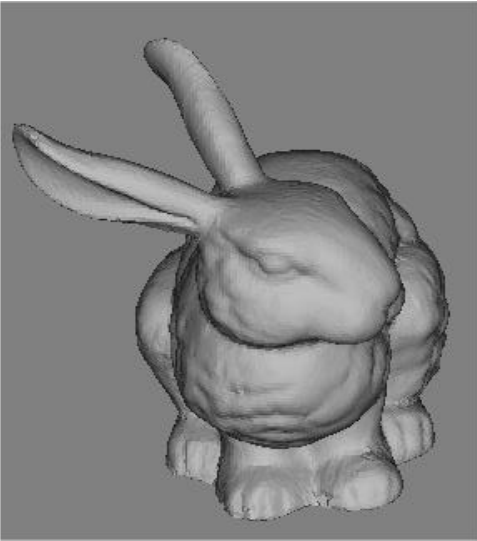
(I) easy

(E) no easy for explicit form

## ❑ Editing



# Implicit : Evaluation



# Implicit : Classification

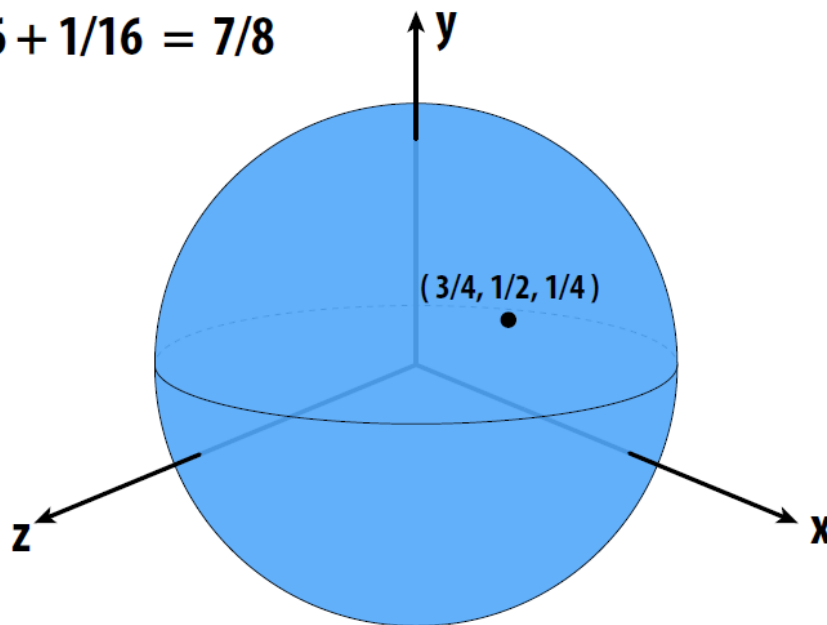
**Check if this point is inside the unit sphere**

**How about the point  $(3/4, 1/2, 1/4)$ ?**

$$9/16 + 4/16 + 1/16 = 7/8$$

$$7/8 < 1$$

**YES.**

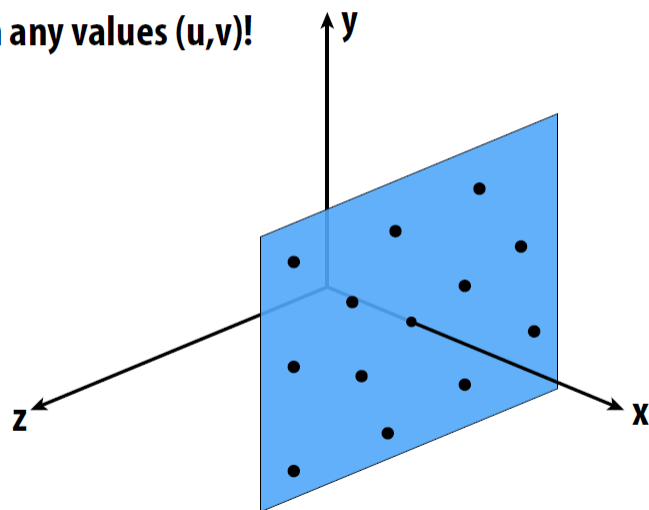


**Implicit surfaces make other tasks easy (like inside/outside tests).**

# Sampling an explicit surface

My surface is  $f(u, v) = (1.23, u, v)$ .

Just plug in any values  $(u, v)$ !



Explicit surfaces make some tasks easy (like sampling).

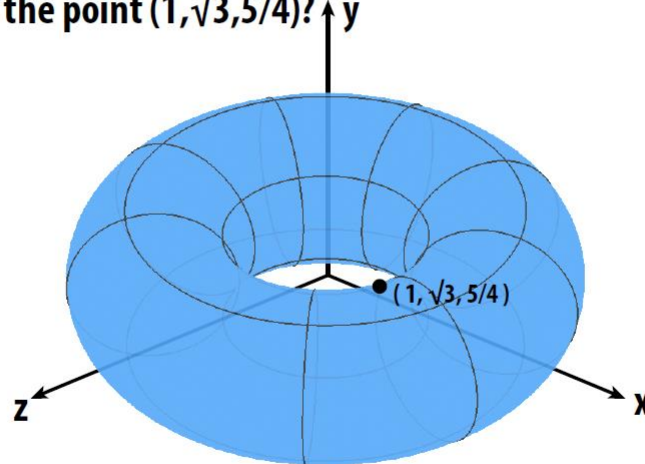
## Explicit

### Check if this point is inside the torus

My surface is  $f(u, v) = (2 + \cos(u))\cos(v), 2 + \cos(u))\sin(v), \sin(u))$

How about the point  $(1, \sqrt{3}, 5/4)$ ?

...NO!



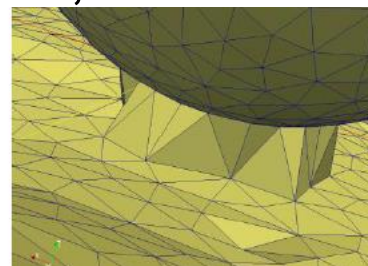
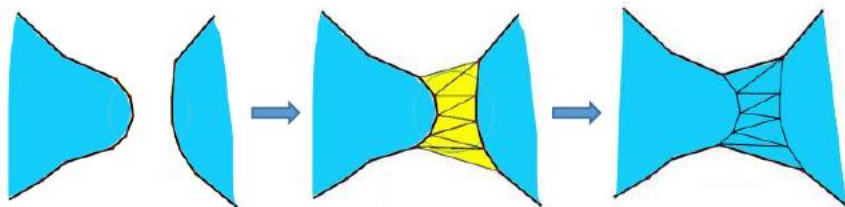
Explicit surfaces make other tasks hard (like inside/outside tests).

# Detect **changes in topology**

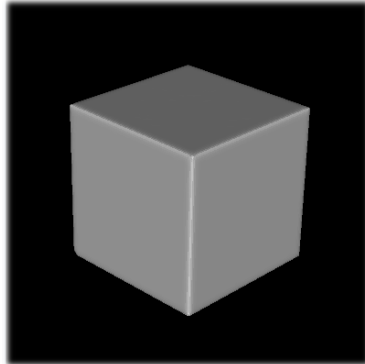
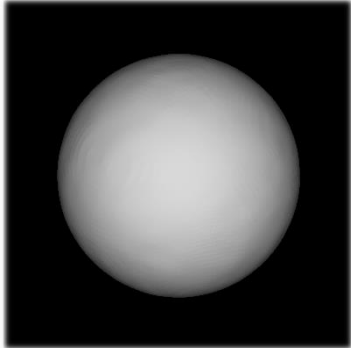
Implicit surfaces are good for handling complicated surfaces like water



whereas a triangle representation has issues with editing, merging and pinching, overturning waves, etc.



# Implicit : Boolean Operations



*UNION*

*INTERSECTION*

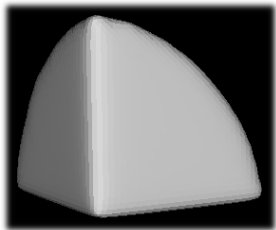
*DIFFERENCE*

$$A \cup B \quad \min(\phi_A(x), \phi_B(x))$$

$$A \cap B \quad \max(\phi_A(x), \phi_B(x))$$

$$A - B \quad \max(\phi_A(x), -\phi_B(x))$$

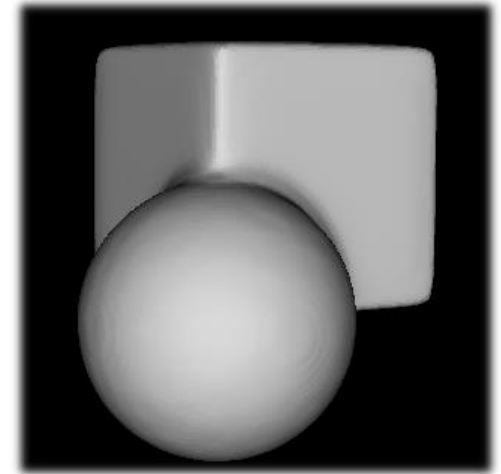
Create complex objects using boolean operators on simple objects



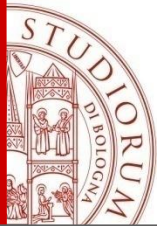
*Intersection*



*Difference  $A - B$*



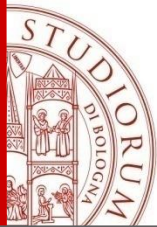
*Union*



**what's the best way to encode  
geometry on a computer?**

**Some representations work better  
than others—depends on the task!**





# Useful Resources

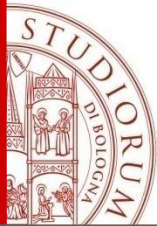
There are many modeling programs that are designed to help you create and modify models

- [Blender\(free\)](#)
- [SketchUp\(free\)](#)
- [Meshlab\(free\)](#)

Other modeling programs include Autodesk 3DSMax, Maya, Rhinoceros, AutoCAD, Lightwave, Bryce, Hexagon, etc.

## Model Database

- [Aim@Shape](#)
- [Archive3D](#) (everyday objects, e.g., desks, chairs, sofa, etc)
- [GrabCAD](#) (mechanical objects, e.g., robots, planes, cars, warships, etc)
- [TurboSquid](#) (largest model database in the world, but only part of them are free)
- [3DWarehouse](#) (architecture, e.g. buildings, bridges, furniture, etc.)



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

**Serena Morigi**

Dipartimento di Matematica

[serena.morigi@unibo.it](mailto:serena.morigi@unibo.it)

<http://www.dm.unibo.it/~morigi>