

# Variational Time Integrators

Symposium on Geometry Processing Course 2015

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# Time Integrator

Differential equations in time describe physical paths

Solve for these paths on the computer



Non-damped, Non-Driven Pendulum

# Methods of Time Integration

## Non-damped, Non-Driven Pendulum



Explicit

“artificial driving”



Variational

“reasonable”

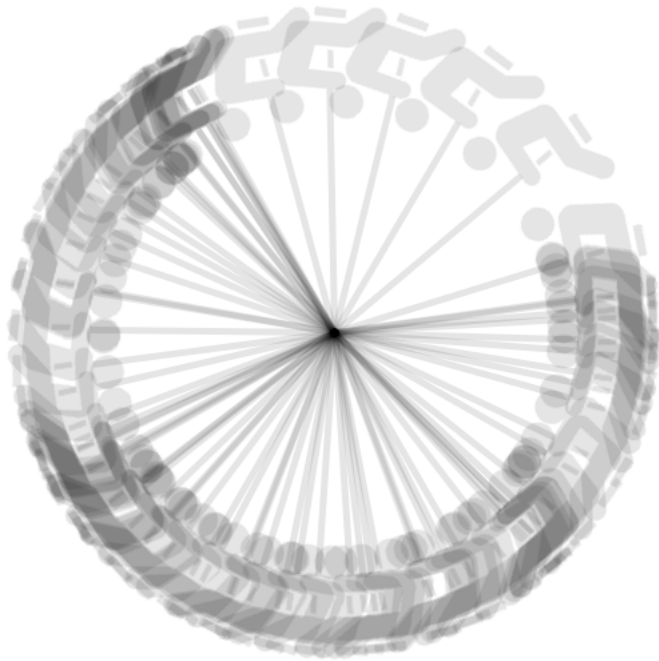


Implicit

“artificial damping”

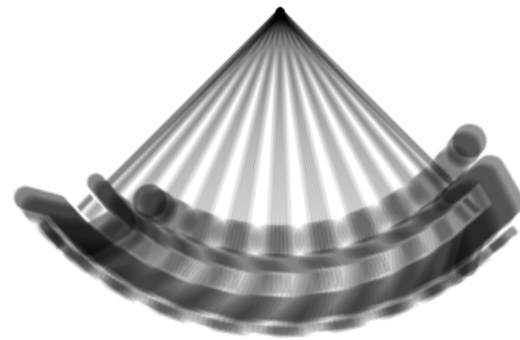
# Methods of Time Integration

## Non-damped, Non-Driven Pendulum



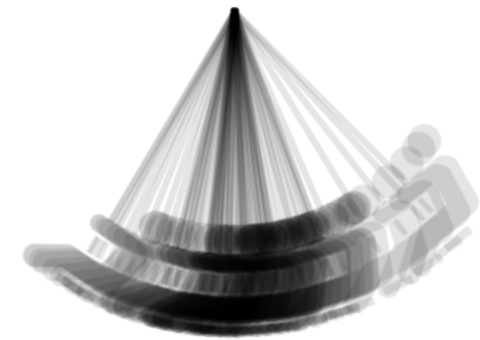
Explicit

“artificial driving”



Variational

“reasonable”



Implicit

“artificial damping”



Part One:  
Reinterpreting Newtonian Mechanics  
(what does “variational” mean?)

Part Two:  
Why Use Variational Integrators?

# A Butchering of Feynman's Lecture



[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/physics/laureates/1965/feynman-bio.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1965/feynman-bio.html)

## Principle of Least Action (Feynman Lectures on Physics Volume II.19)

# Newtonian Mechanics

Closed mechanical system  $q(t), \dot{q}(t)$

Kinetic energy  $T(\dot{q}) = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{q}^2$

Potential energy  $U(q)$

Total energy  $T(\dot{q}) + U(q)$

# Newtonian Mechanics

A physical path satisfies the vector equation

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \textit{force} & & \textit{mass} & & \textit{acceleration} \\ \boxed{F} & = & \boxed{m} & & \boxed{\ddot{q}} \end{array}$$

Worked out using force balancing

Difficult to compute with Cartesian coordinates

# Lagrangian Reformulation

Goal:

Derive Newton's equations from a scalar equation

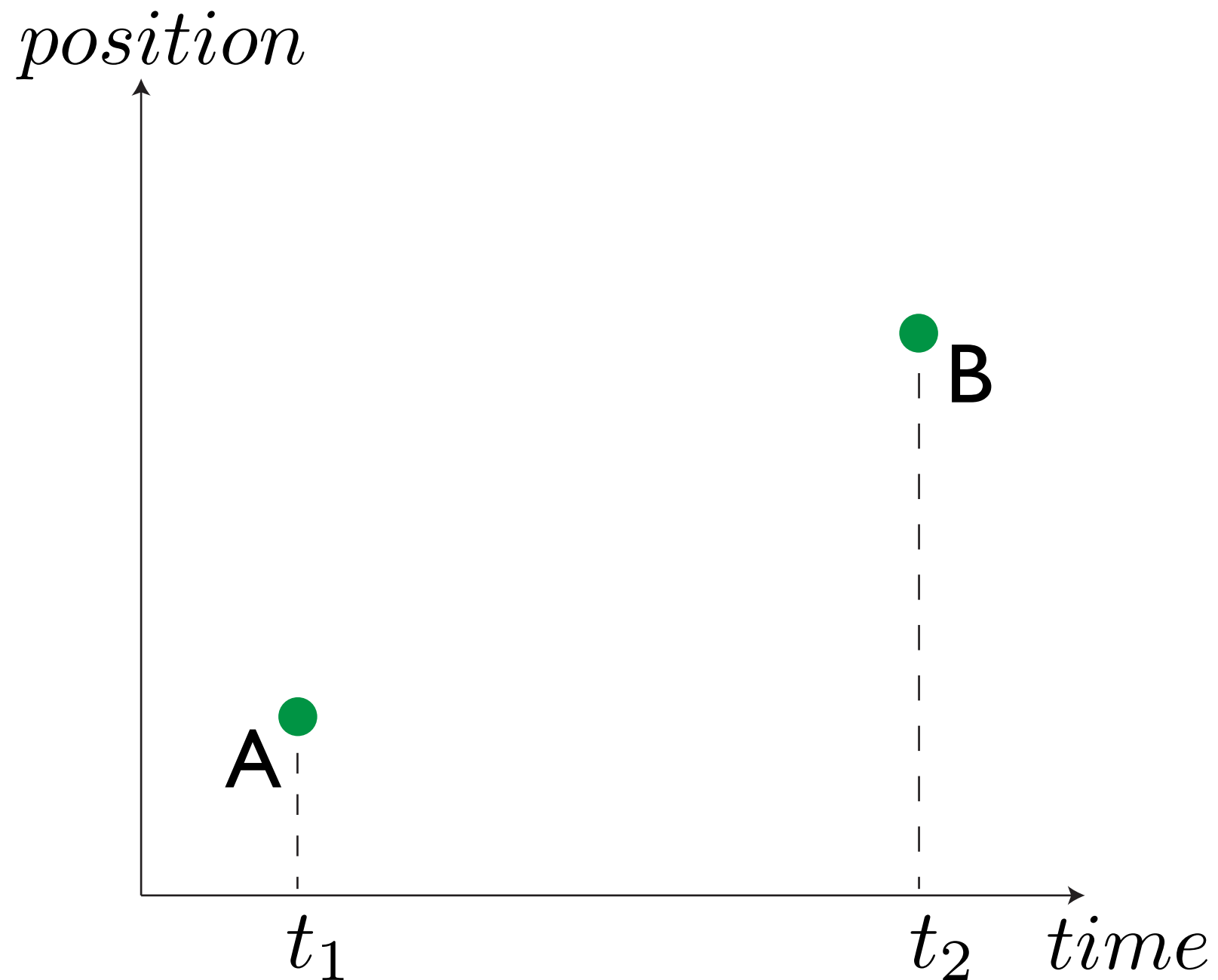
Why?

Works in every choice of coordinates

Highlights variational structure of mechanics

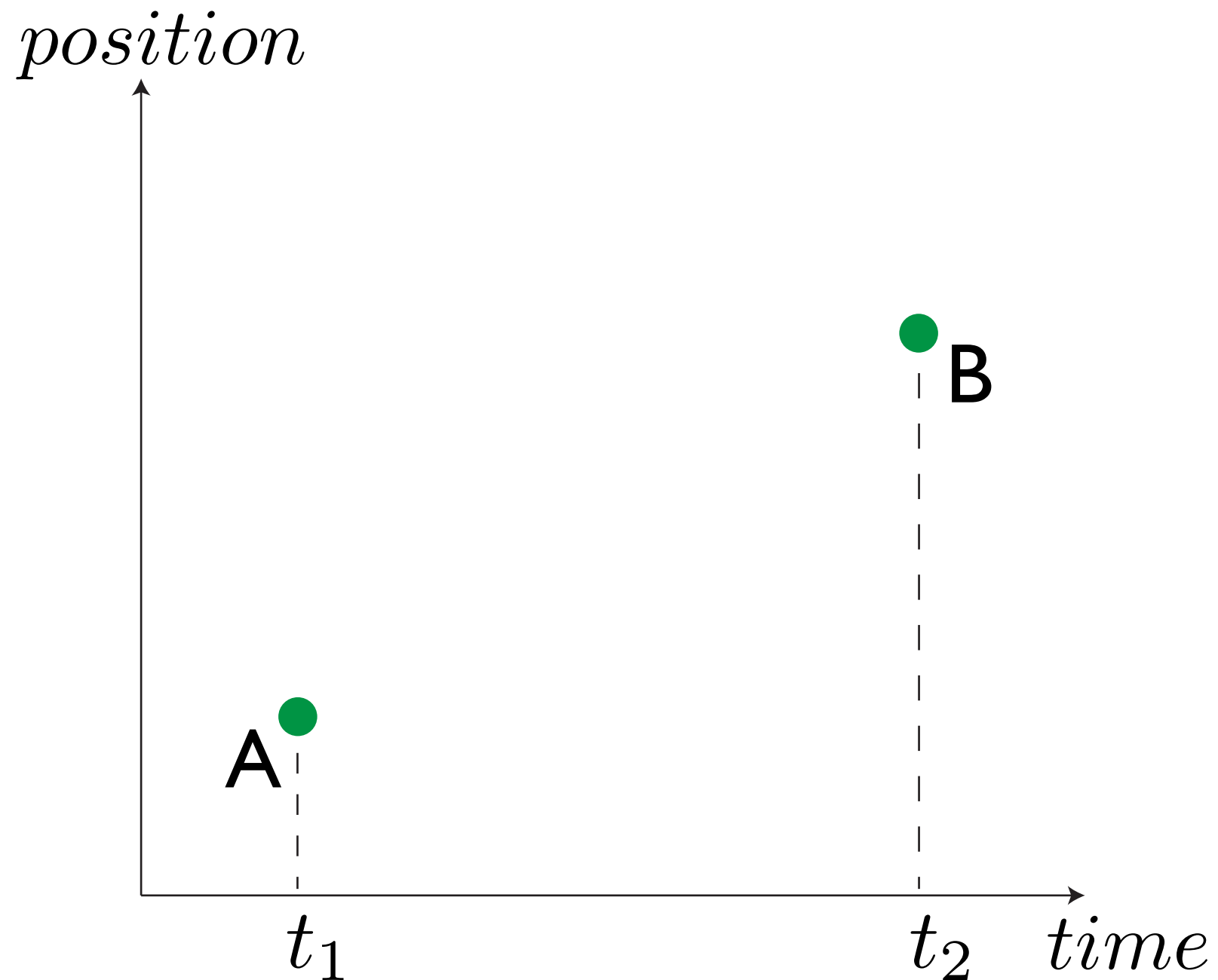
Energy is easy to write down

# Particle in a Gravitational Field



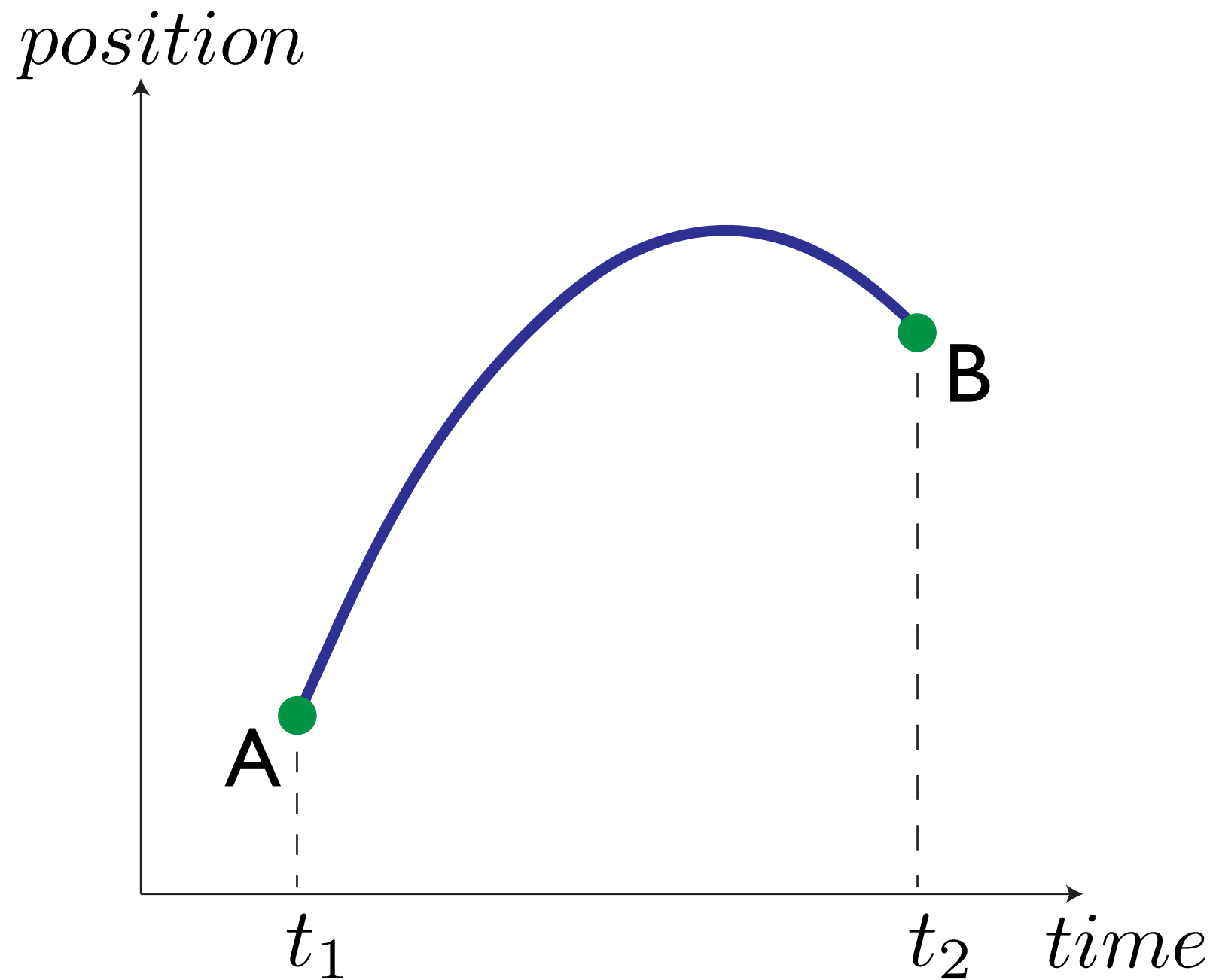
“Throw a ball in the air from  $(t_1, A)$  catch at  $(t_2, B)$ ”

# Particle in a Gravitational Field



What path does the ball take to get from A to B in a given amount of time?

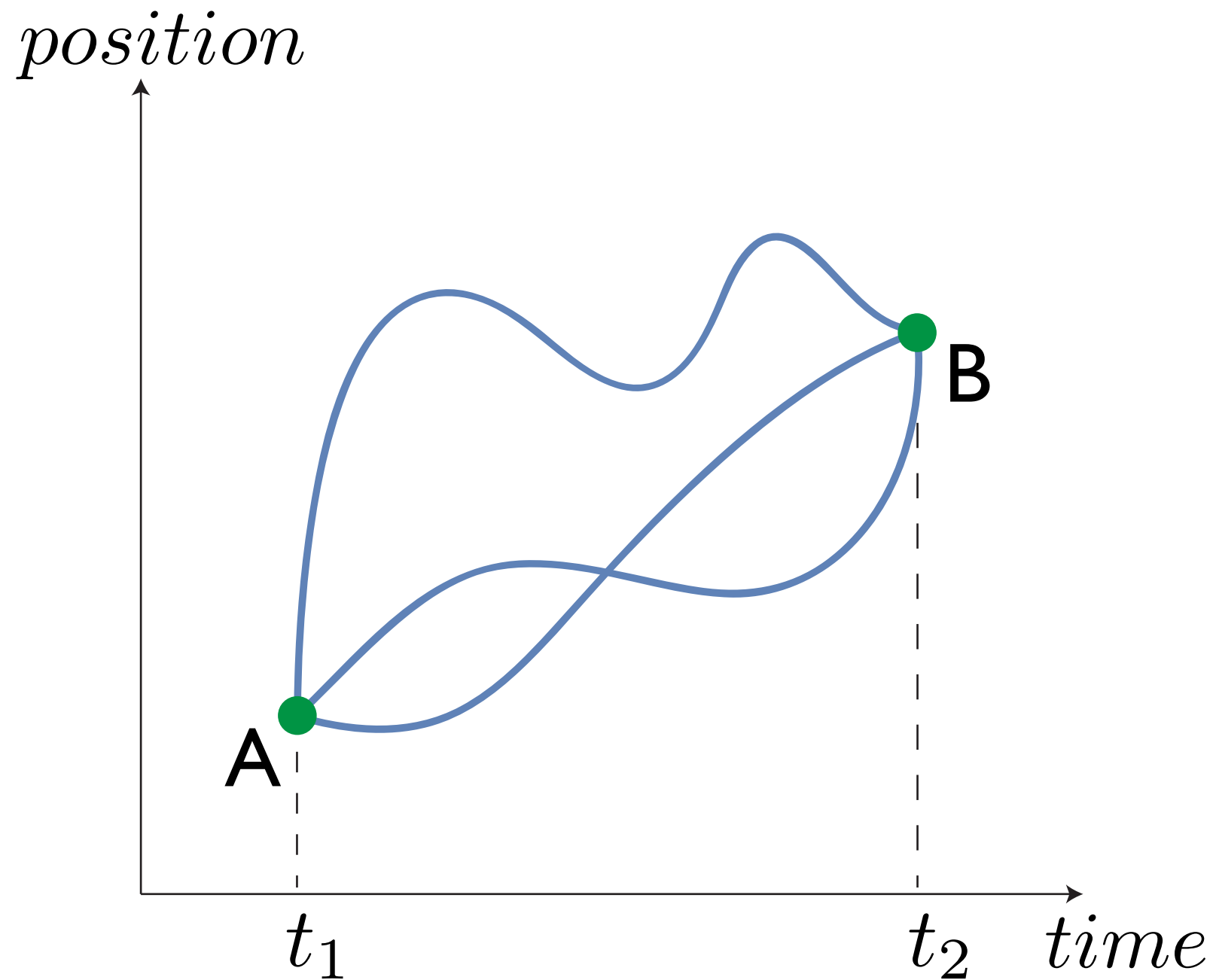
# Particle in a Gravitational Field



Physical path is unique and a parabola

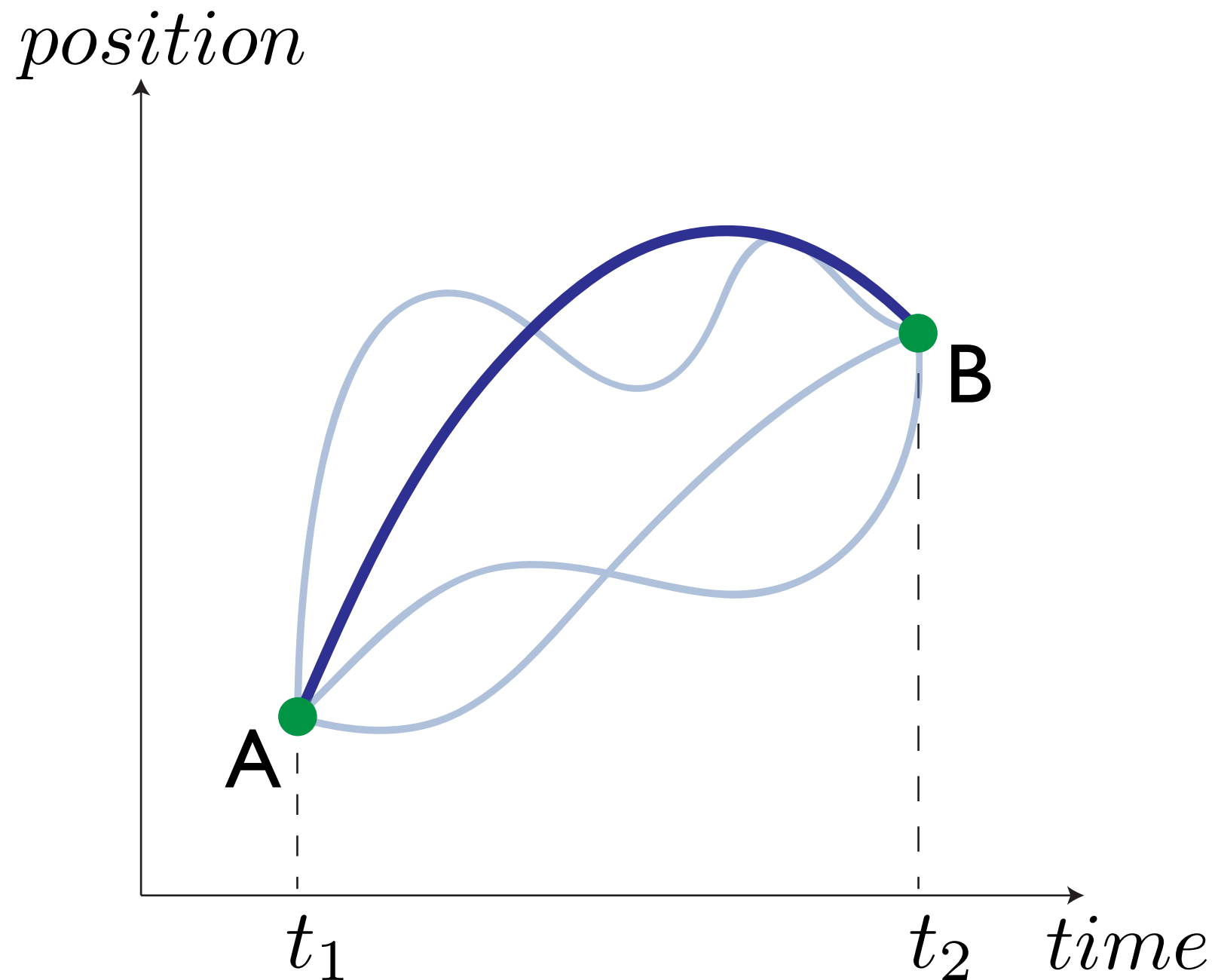


# Particle in a Gravitational Field



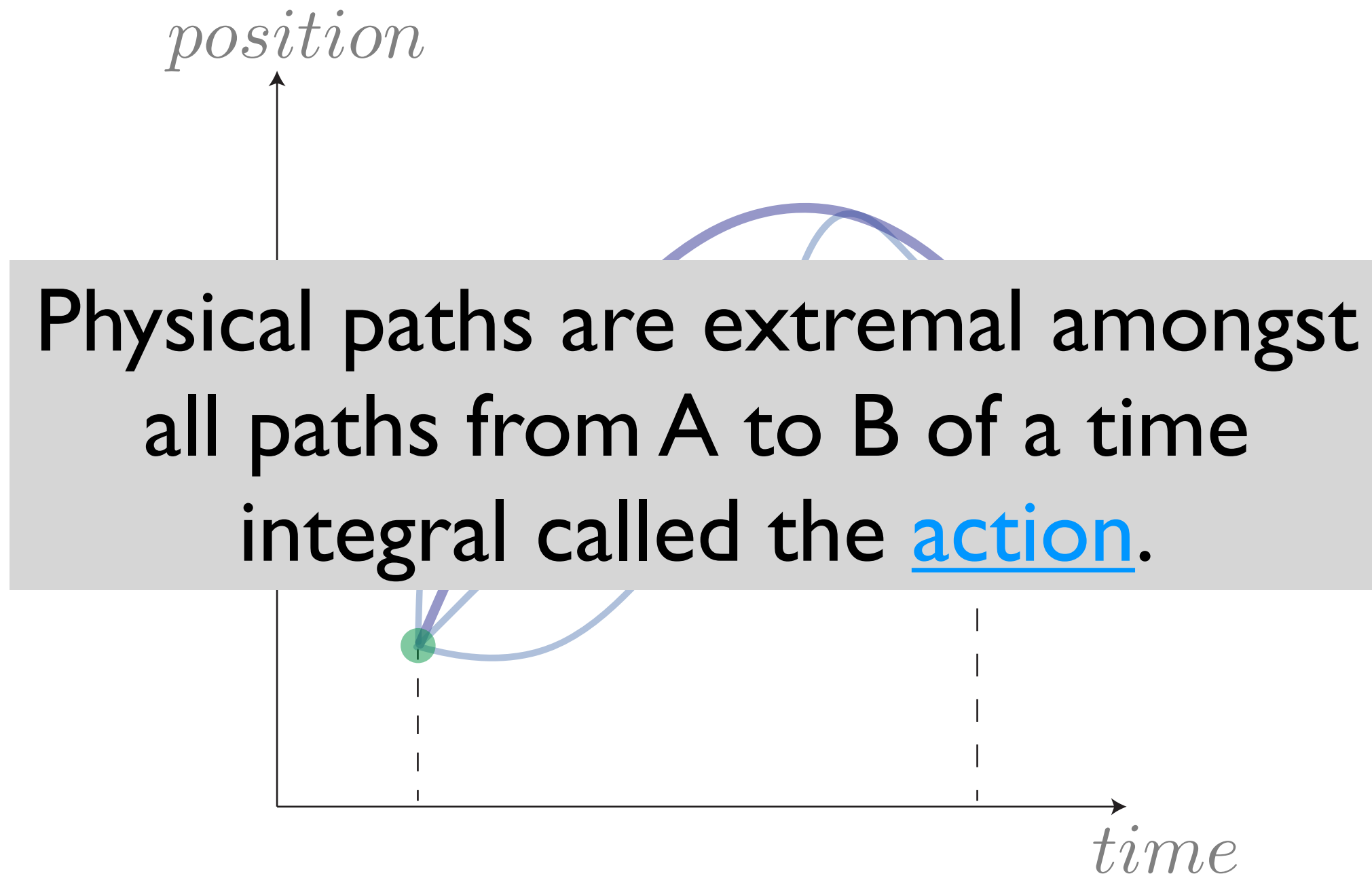
...but there are many possible paths

# Particle in a Gravitational Field



How are physical paths special among all paths  
from A to B?

# Hamilton's Principle of Stationary Action



# Hamilton's Principle of Stationary Action

Physical paths are extrema of a time integral called the action

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \underbrace{T(\dot{q}) - U(q)}_{\substack{\text{Lagrangian} \\ \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q})}} dt$$

(Lagrangian is not the total energy  $T(\dot{q}) + U(q)$ )

# Hamilton's Principle of Stationary Action

Physical paths extremize the action

$$S = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}) dt$$
$$\mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}) = T(\dot{q}) - U(q)$$

...but how we find an extremal path in the space of all paths?

Use Lagrange's [variational calculus](#)

# Finding an Extremal Path

1. Action of path

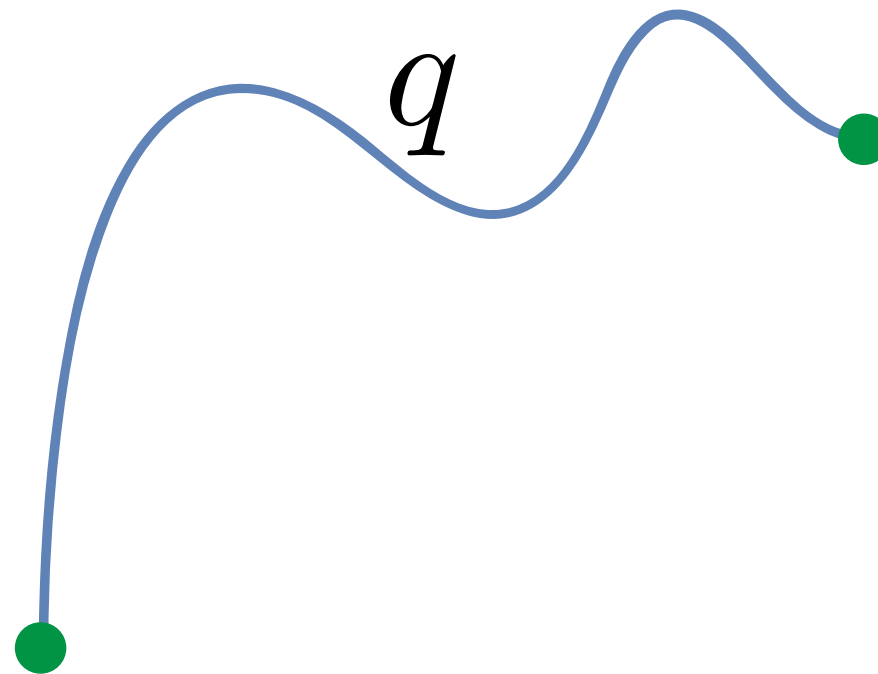
$$S(q)$$

2. Differentiate action

$$\delta S(q)$$

3. Study when

$$\delta S(q) = 0$$



Analogous to regular calculus

# Defining the Variation of an Action

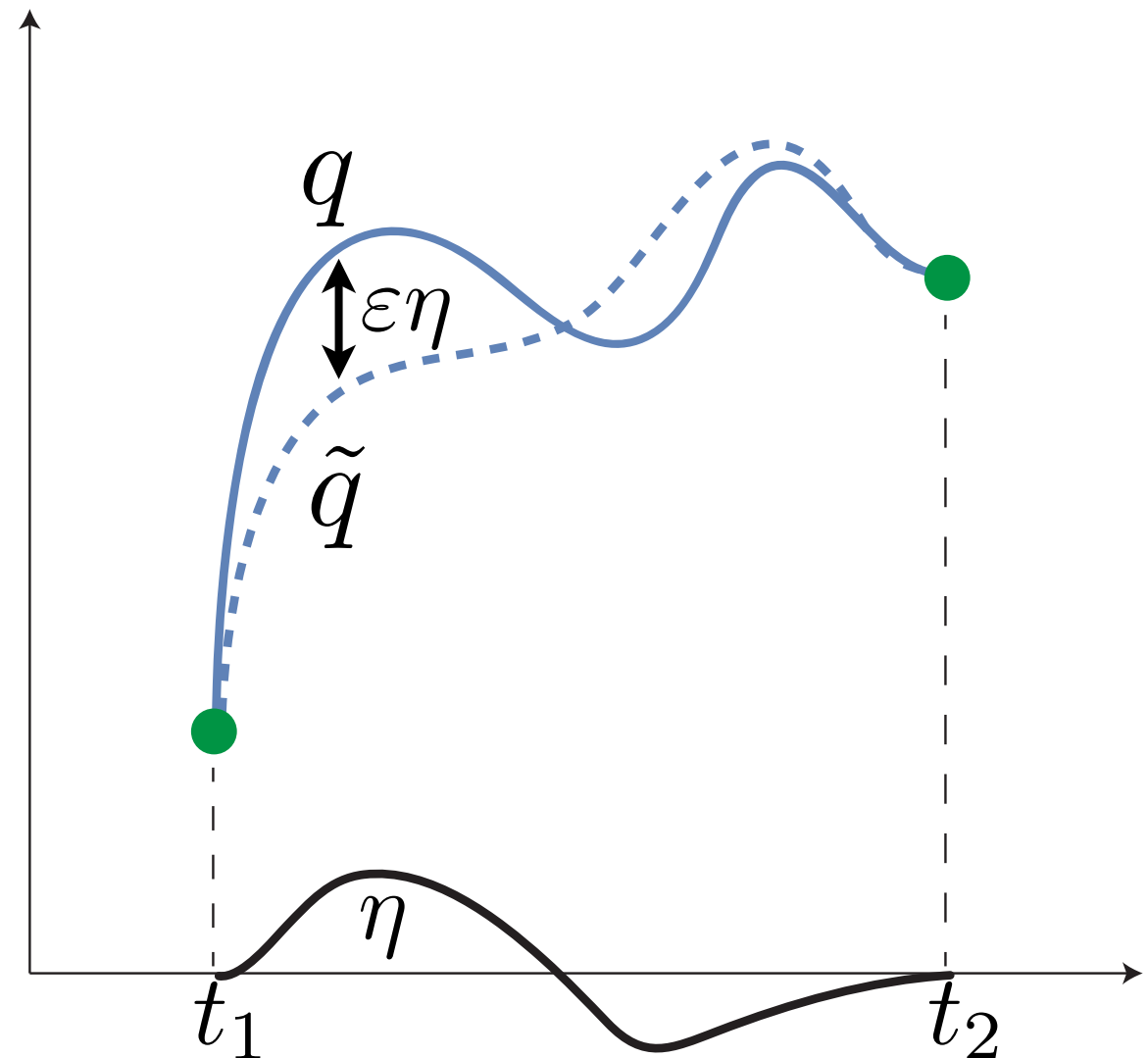
Arbitrary smooth offset  $\eta(t)$

Perturbed curve

$$\tilde{q}(t) = q(t) + \varepsilon\eta(t)$$

Curves share endpoints

$$\eta(t_1) = \eta(t_2) = 0$$

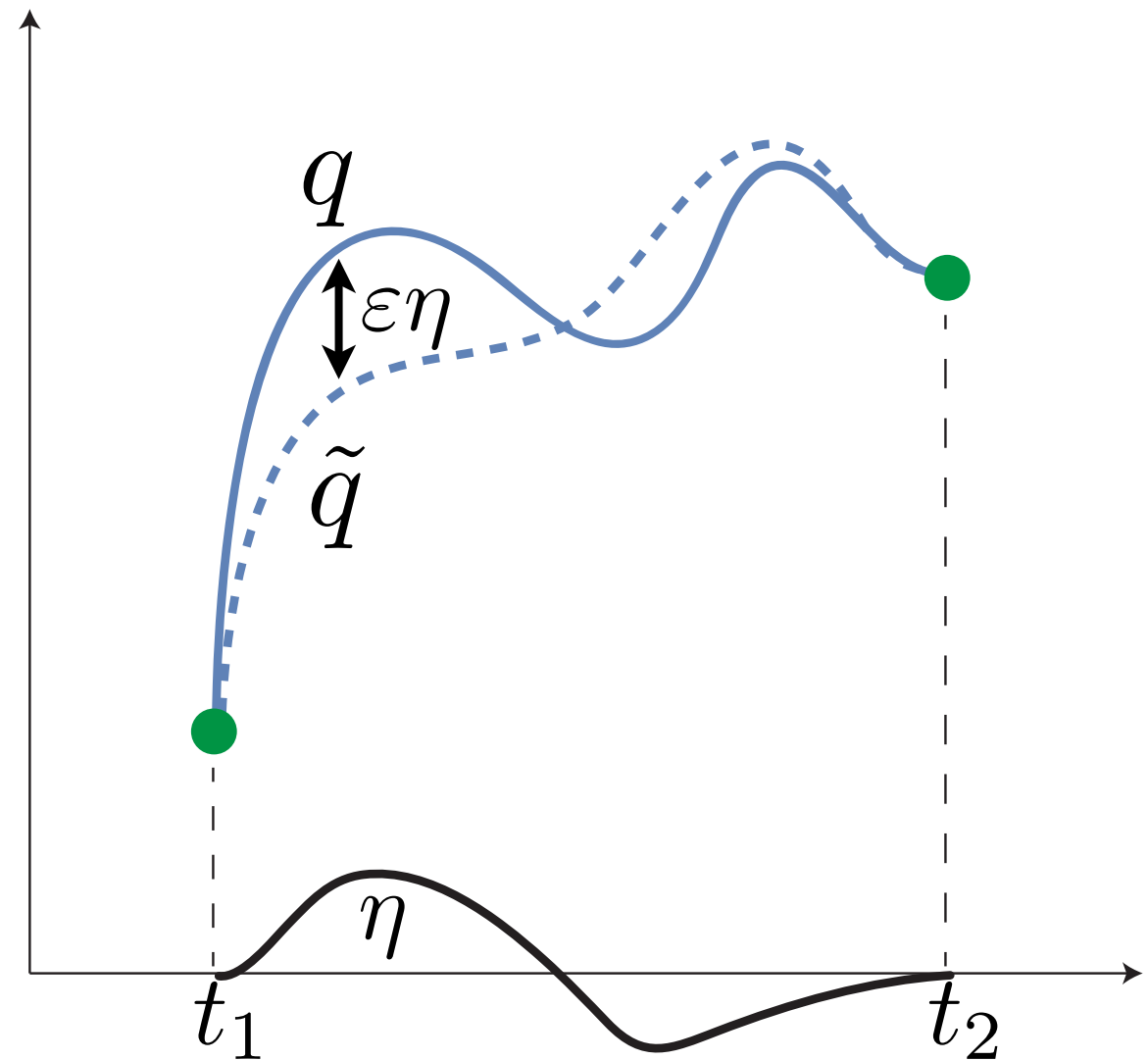


# Defining the Variation of an Action

## First Variation of the Action (in direction eta)

$$\delta_{\eta} S(q) := \left. \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} S(q + \varepsilon\eta) \right|_{\varepsilon=0}$$

Reduce to single variable calculus!





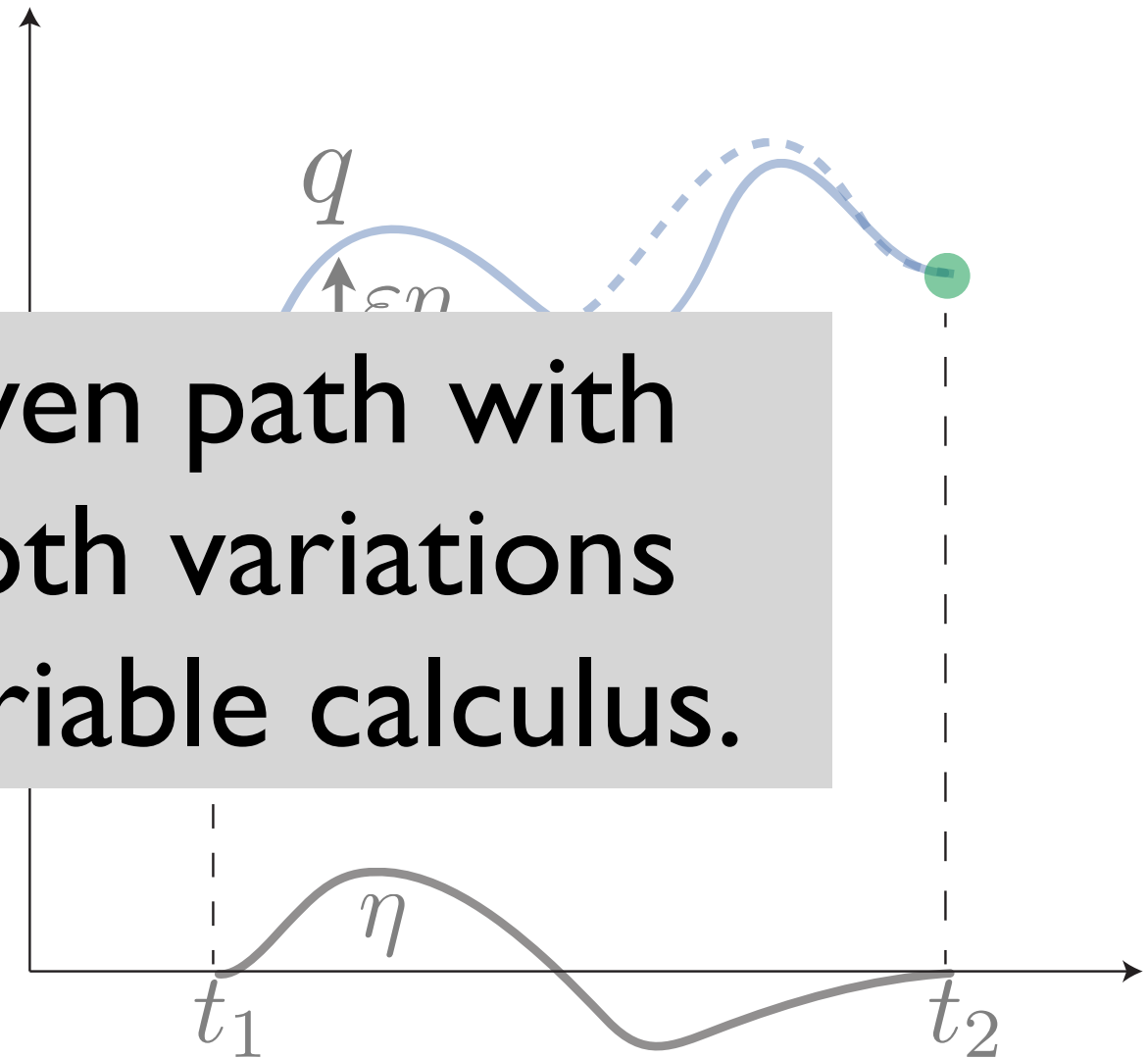
# Defining the Variation of an Action

## First Variation of the Action (in direction eta)

Differentiating a given path with respect to all smooth variations reduces to single variable calculus.

Reduce to single variable calculus!

$\delta_\eta S(q)$

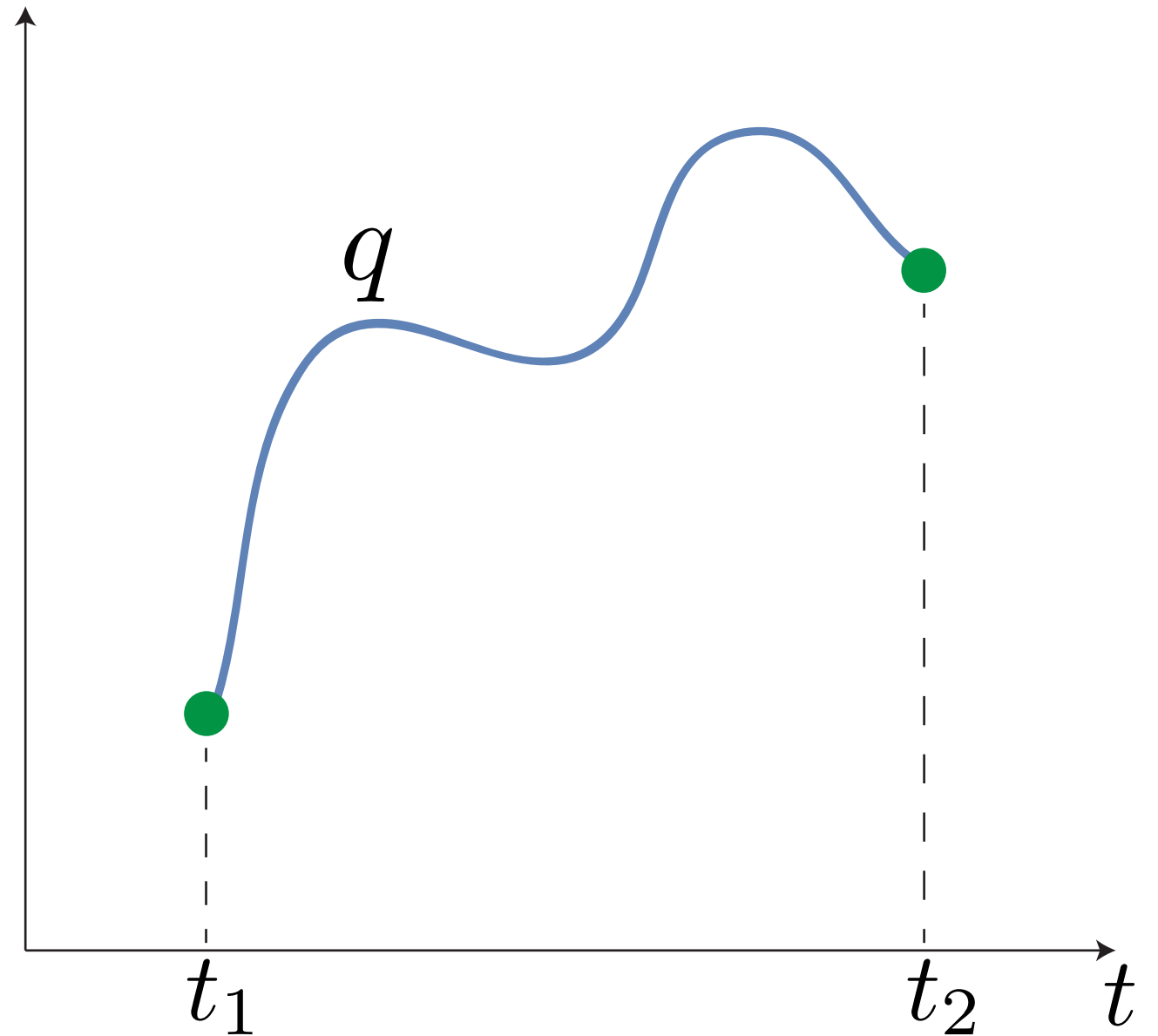


# Particle Example: Setup

$$mass = 1$$

$$T(\dot{q}) = \frac{\dot{q}^2}{2}$$

$$\mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}) = \frac{\dot{q}^2}{2} - U(q)$$



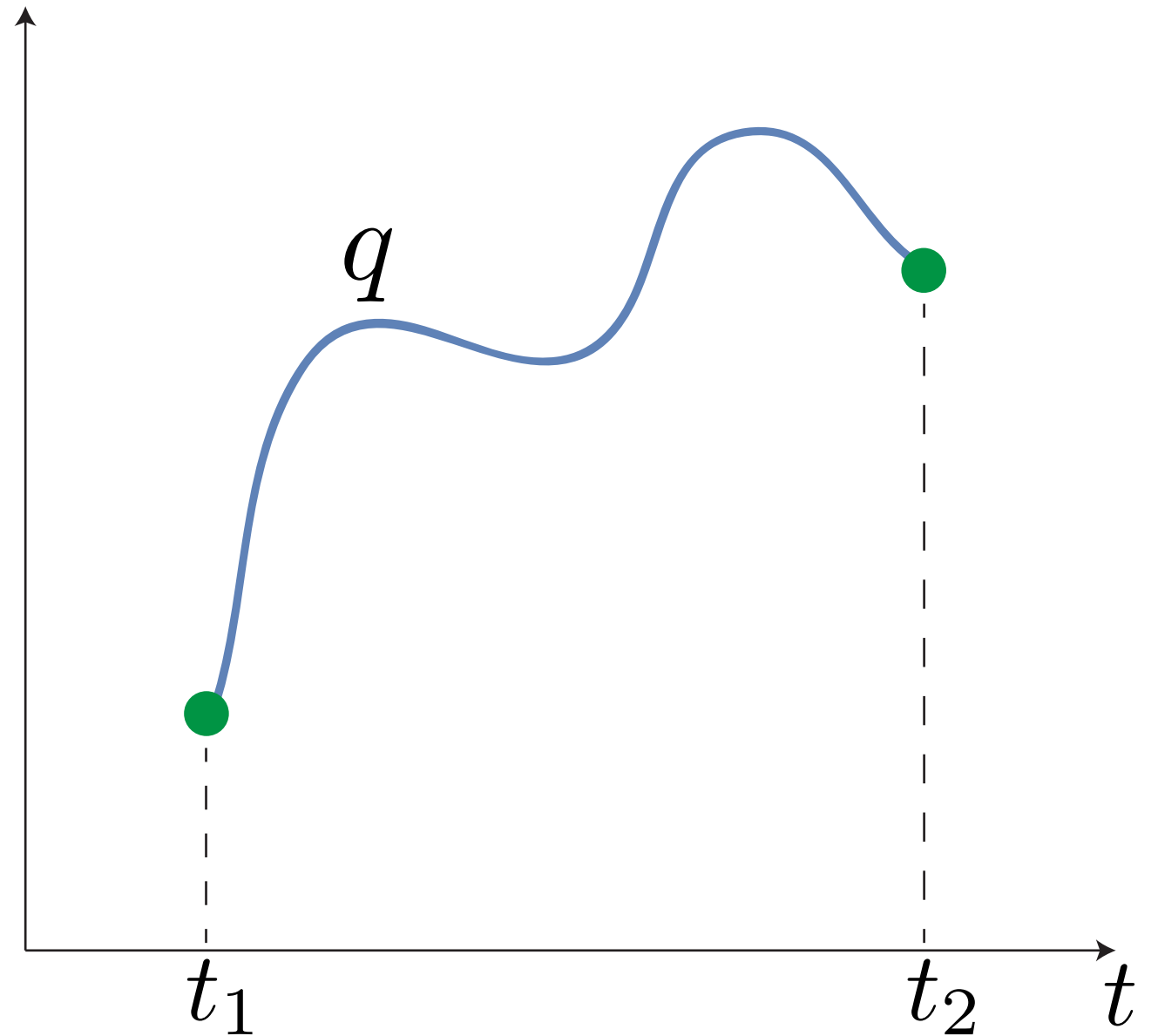
$$S(q) = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \frac{\dot{q}(t)^2}{2} - U(q(t)) dt$$

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# Particle Example: Investigating the Variation

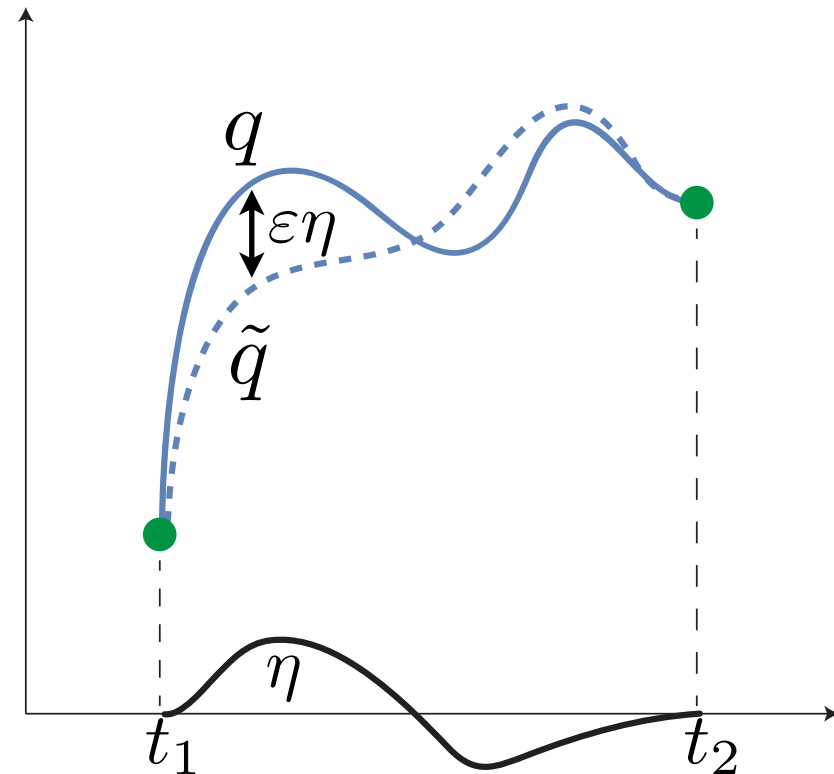
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$$\delta_\eta S(q) = \left. \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} S(q + \varepsilon\eta) \right|_{\varepsilon=0}$$

$$= \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \left. \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} \left( \frac{(\dot{q} + \varepsilon\dot{\eta})^2}{2} - U(q + \varepsilon\eta) \right) \right|_{\varepsilon=0} dt$$

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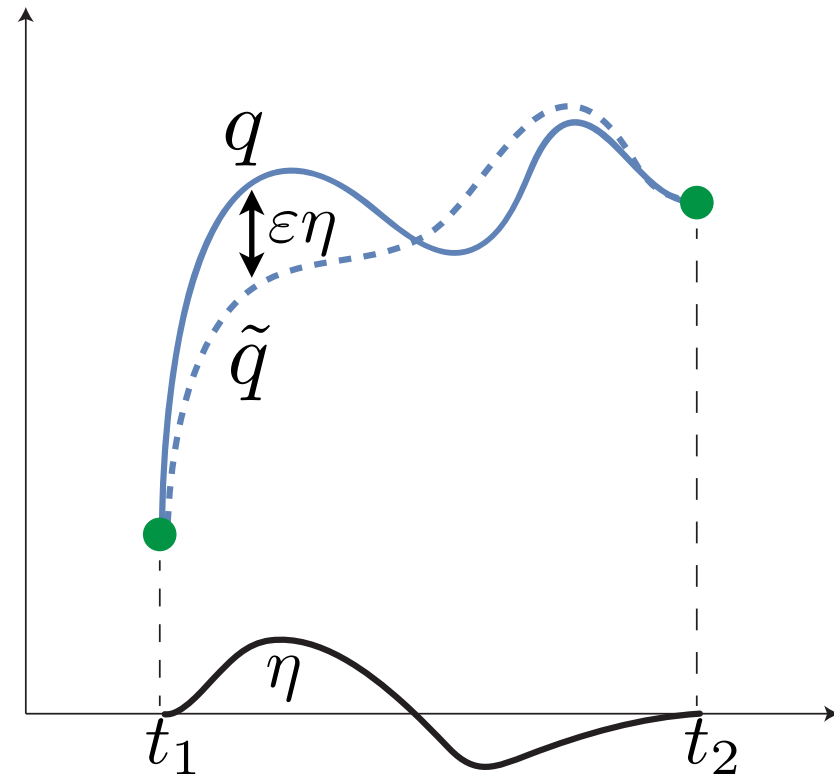
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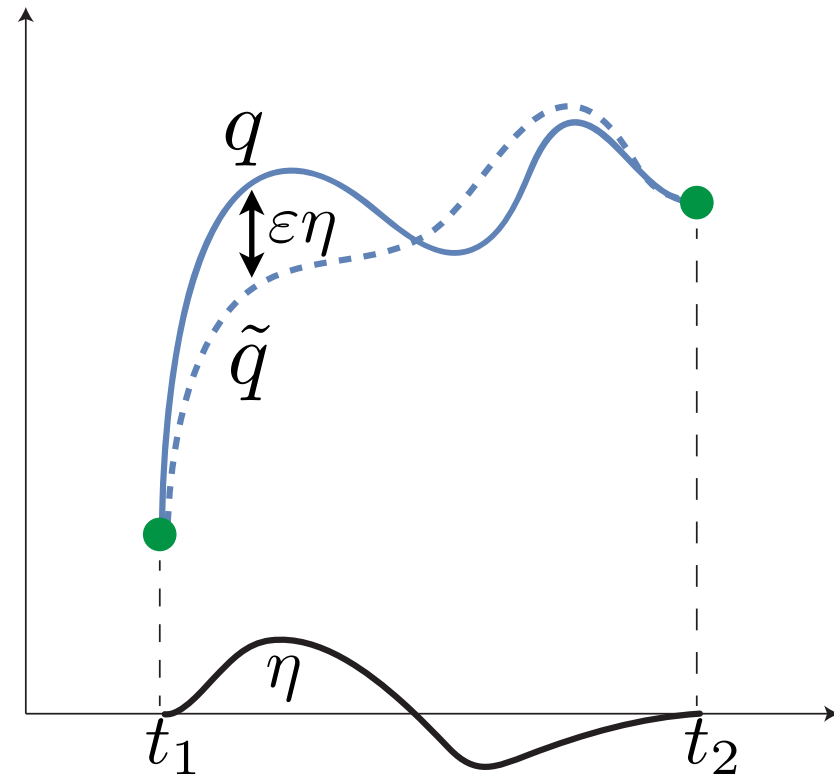
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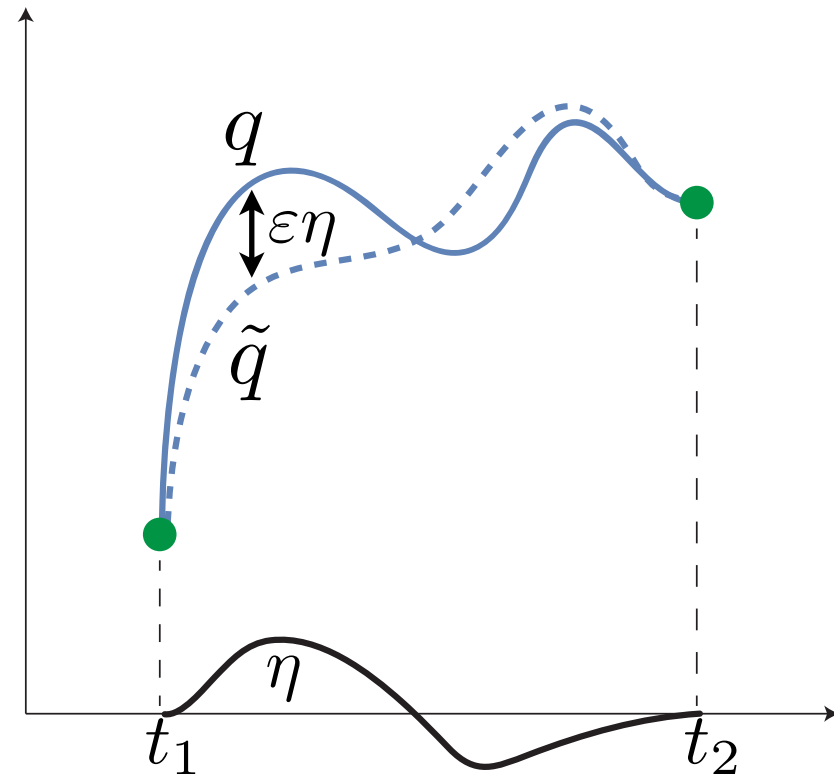
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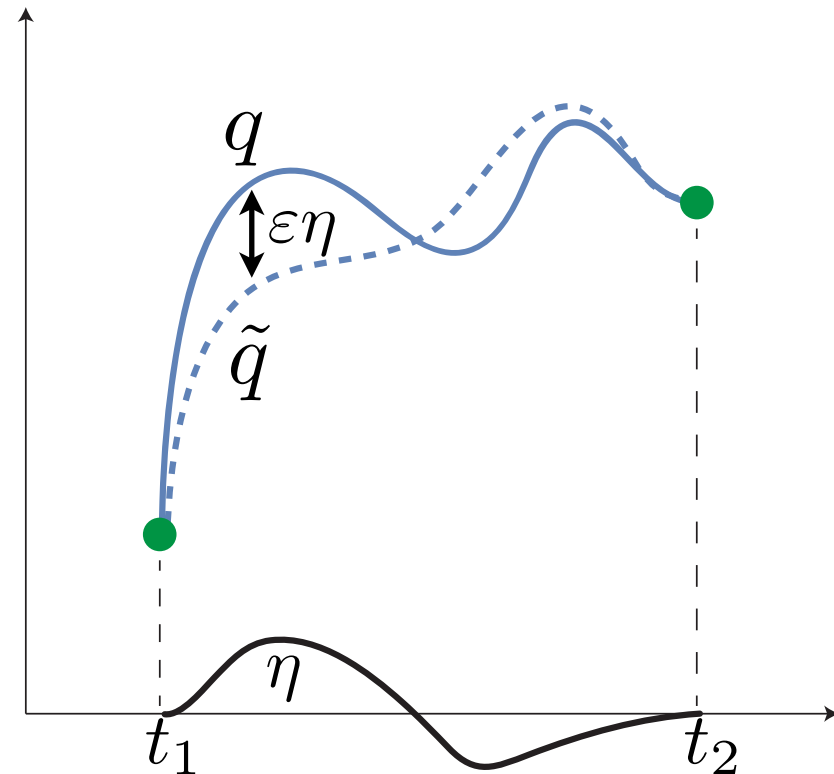
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# Variational Trick: Essential Integration by Parts

$$\delta_{\eta} S(q) = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \dot{q}(t) \dot{\eta}(t) - U'(q(t)) \eta(t) dt$$

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \dot{q}(t) \dot{\eta}(t) dt = \dot{q}(t) \eta(t) \Big|_{t_1}^{t_2} - \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \ddot{q}(t) \eta(t) dt$$

$$\delta_{\eta} S(q) = - \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (\ddot{q}(t) + U'(q(t))) \eta(t) dt$$

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get rid of derivatives of the offset

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0

recall offset vanishes at endpoints

$$\delta_{\eta} S(q) = - \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (\ddot{q}(t) + U'(q(t))) \eta(t) dt$$

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# Variational Trick: Essential Integration by Parts

$$\delta_{\eta} S(q) = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \dot{q}(t) \dot{\eta}(t) - U'(q(t)) \eta(t) dt$$

Integrate by parts to get rid of the derivatives of the smooth offset.  
This requires the offset to vanish at the boundary.

$$\delta_{\eta} S(q) = - \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (\ddot{q}(t) + U'(q(t))) \eta(t) dt$$

# Particle Example: Investigating the Variation

$$\delta_{\eta} S(q) = - \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (\ddot{q}(t) + U'(q(t))) \eta(t) dt$$

When is  $\delta_{\eta} S(q) = 0$  for all offsets  $\eta$ ?

# Fundamental Lemma of Variational Calculus

For a continuous function  $G$  if

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} G(t)\eta(t) dt = 0$$

for all smooth functions  $\eta(t)$  with  $\eta(t_1) = \eta(t_2) = 0$ ,

then  $G$  vanishes everywhere in the interval.



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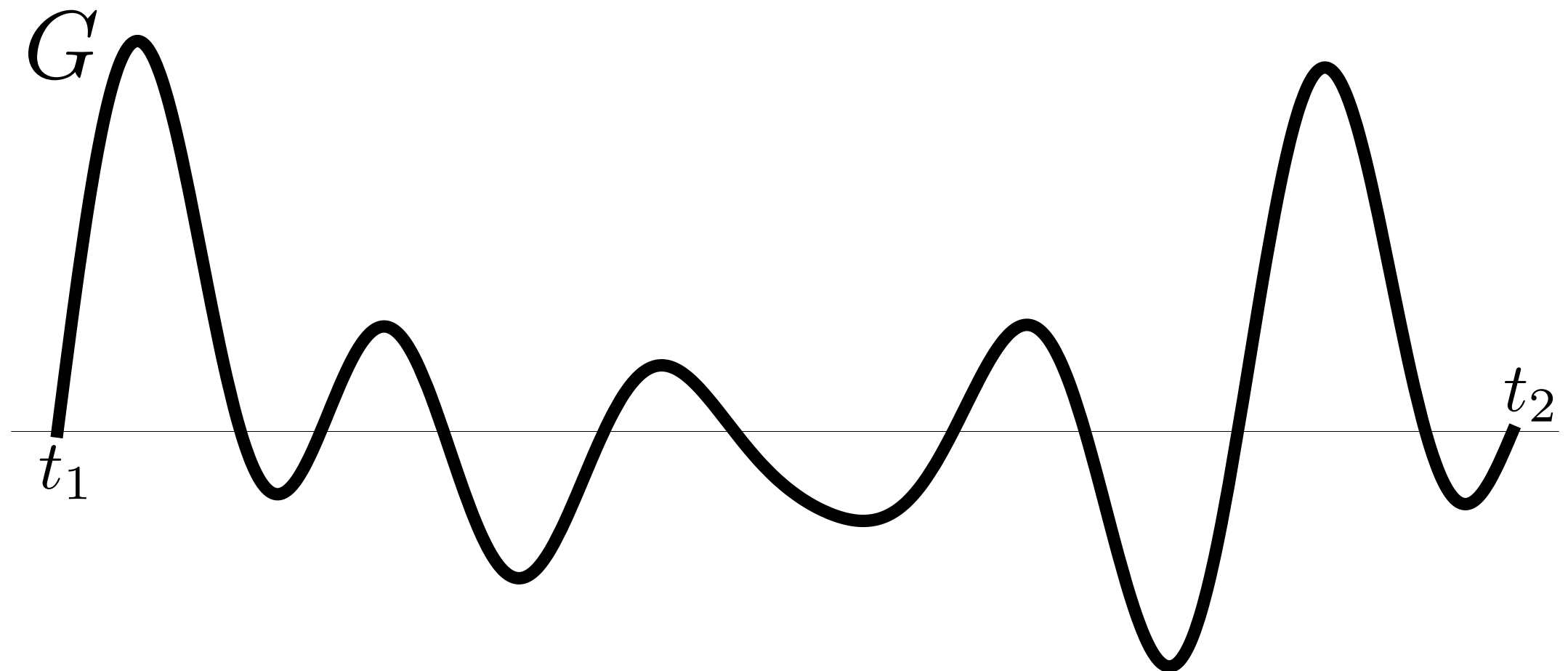
then  $G$  vanishes everywhere in the interval.

...believable, but why?

# Fundamental Lemma of Variational Calculus

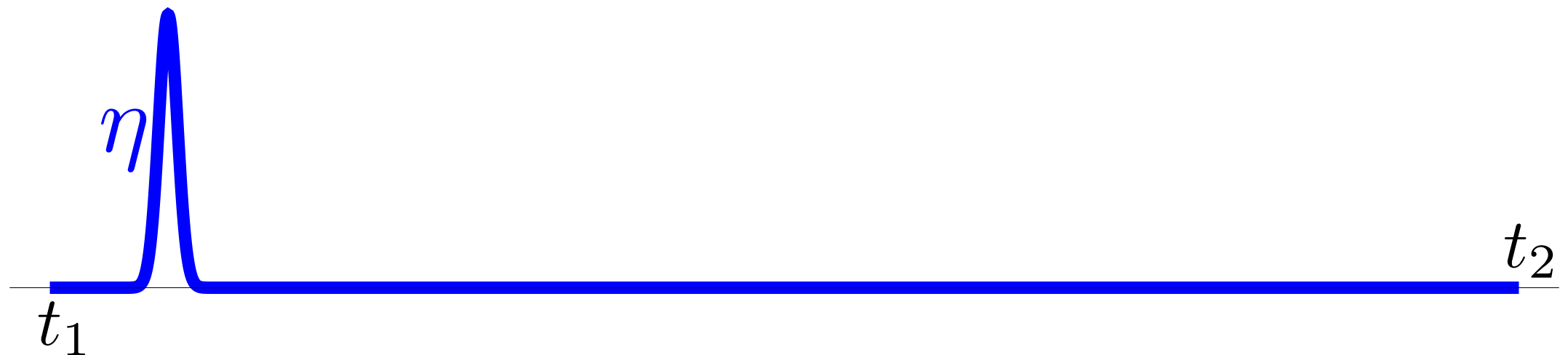
If  $\int_{t_1}^{t_2} G(t)\eta(t) dt = 0$  for all offsets  $\eta(t)$  zero at  $t_1, t_2$   
then  $G$  vanishes on the interval.

Assume



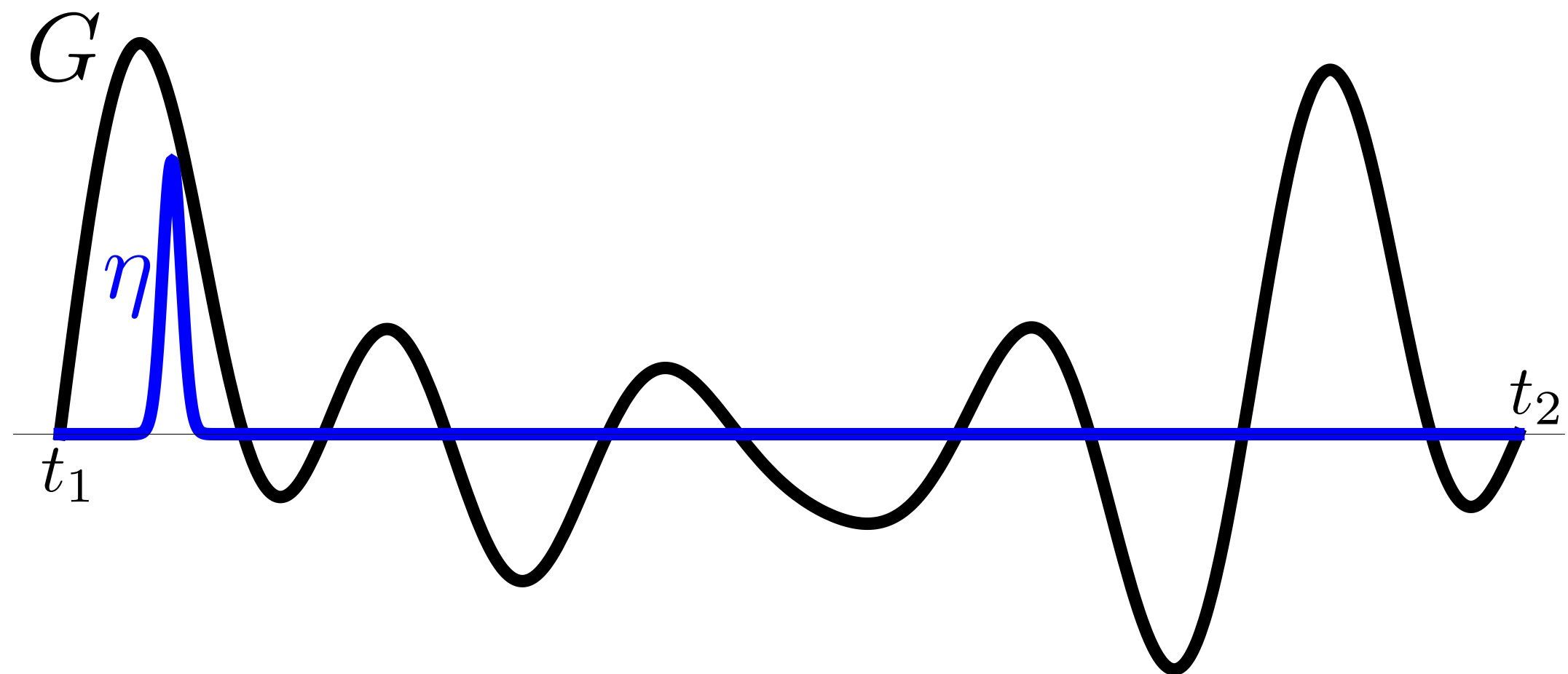
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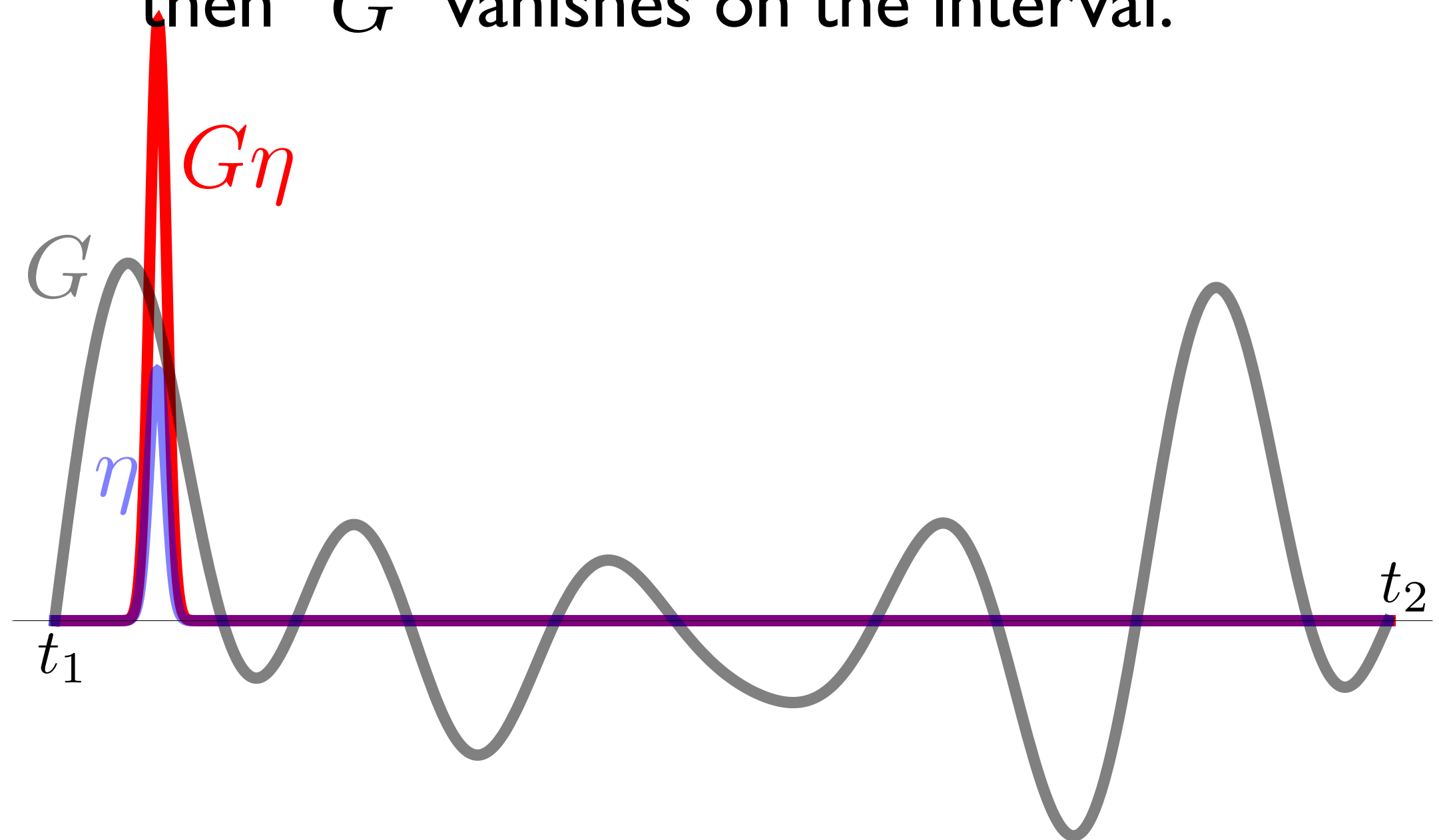
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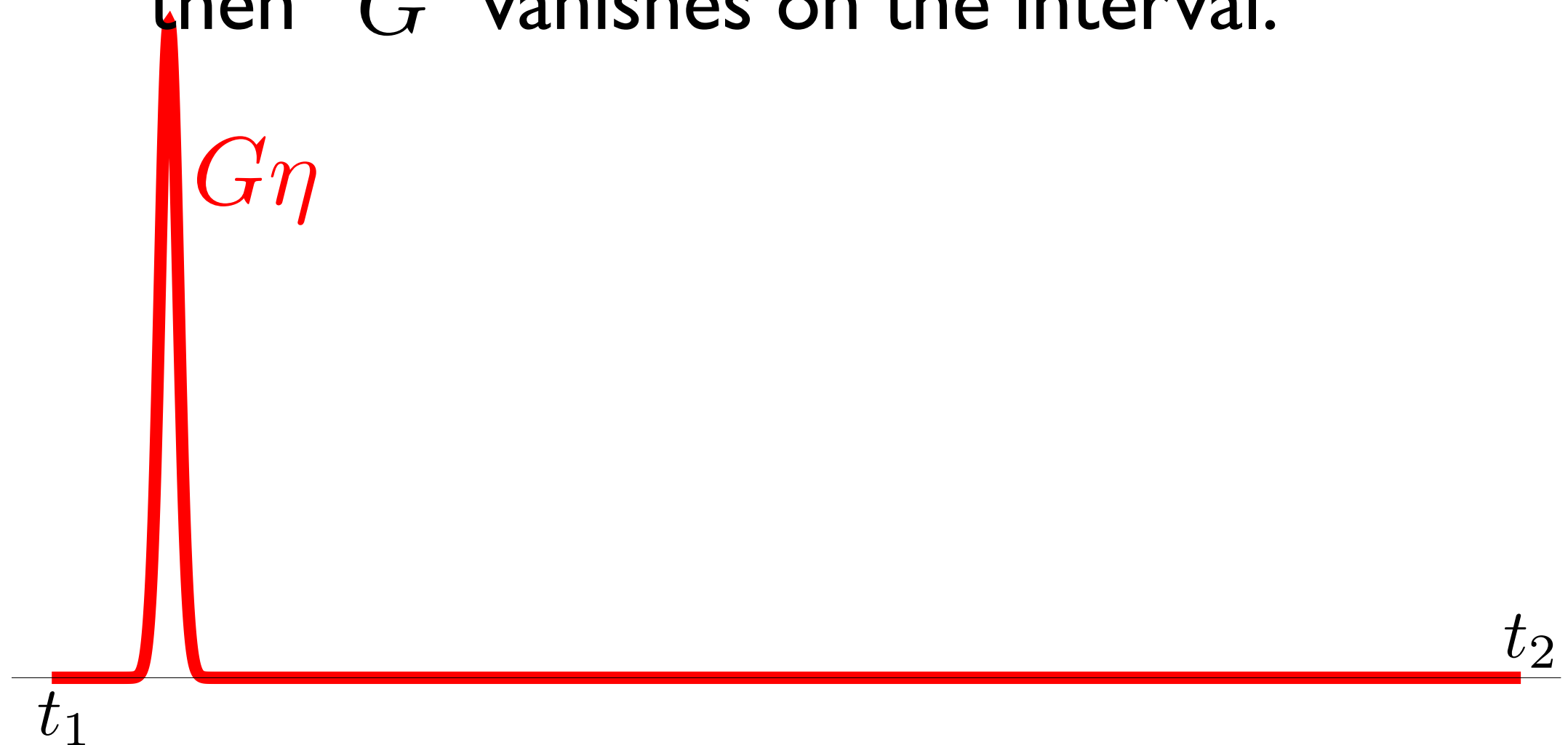
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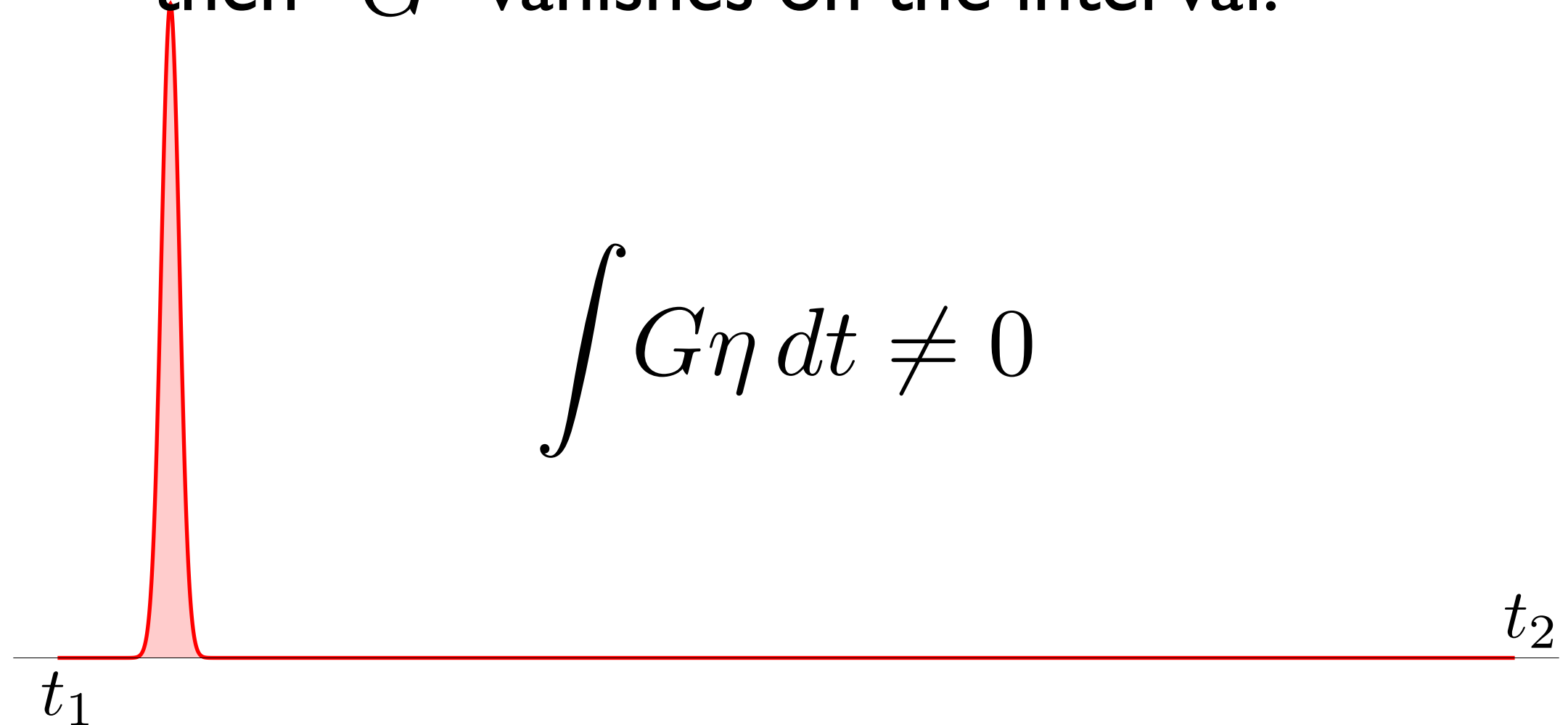
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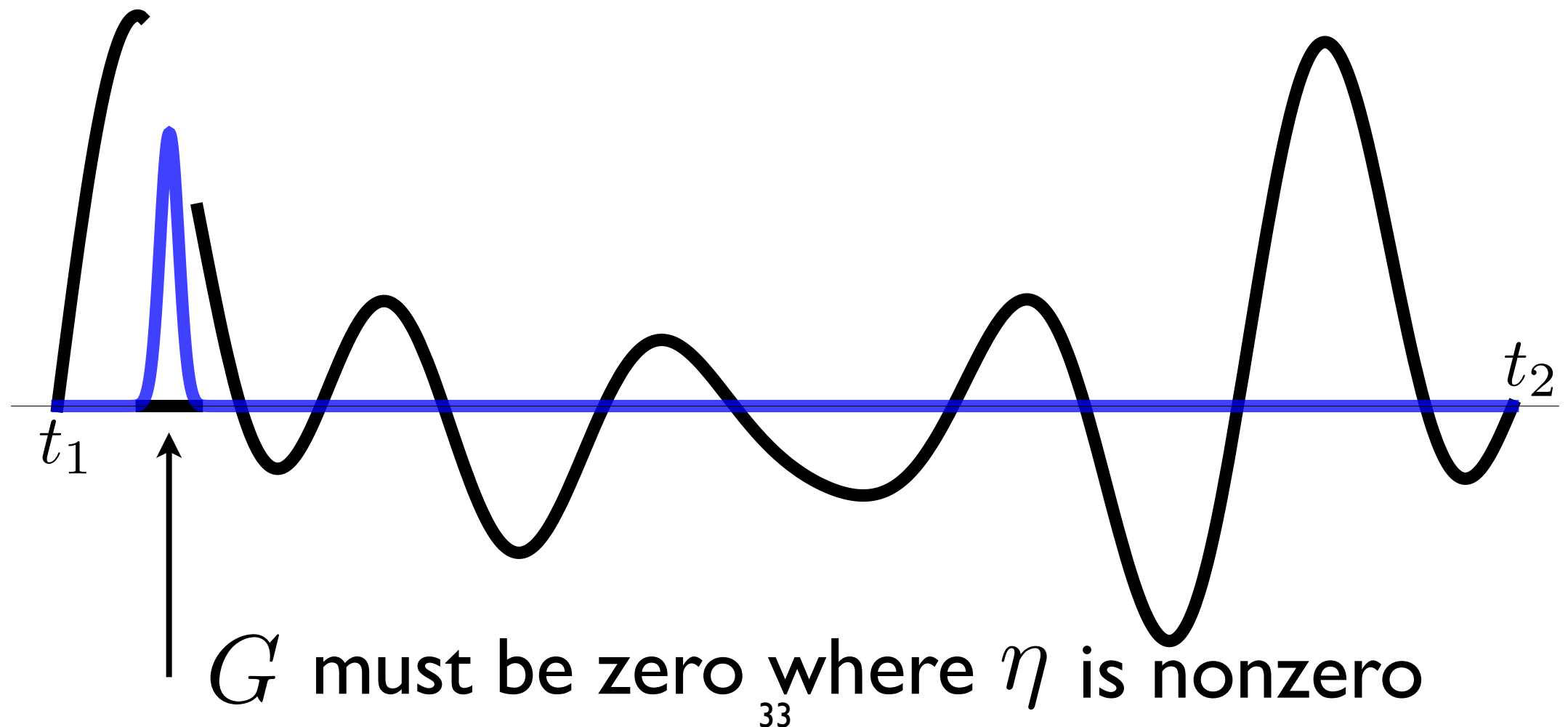
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$$\int G\eta dt \neq 0$$

# Fundamental Lemma of Variational Calculus

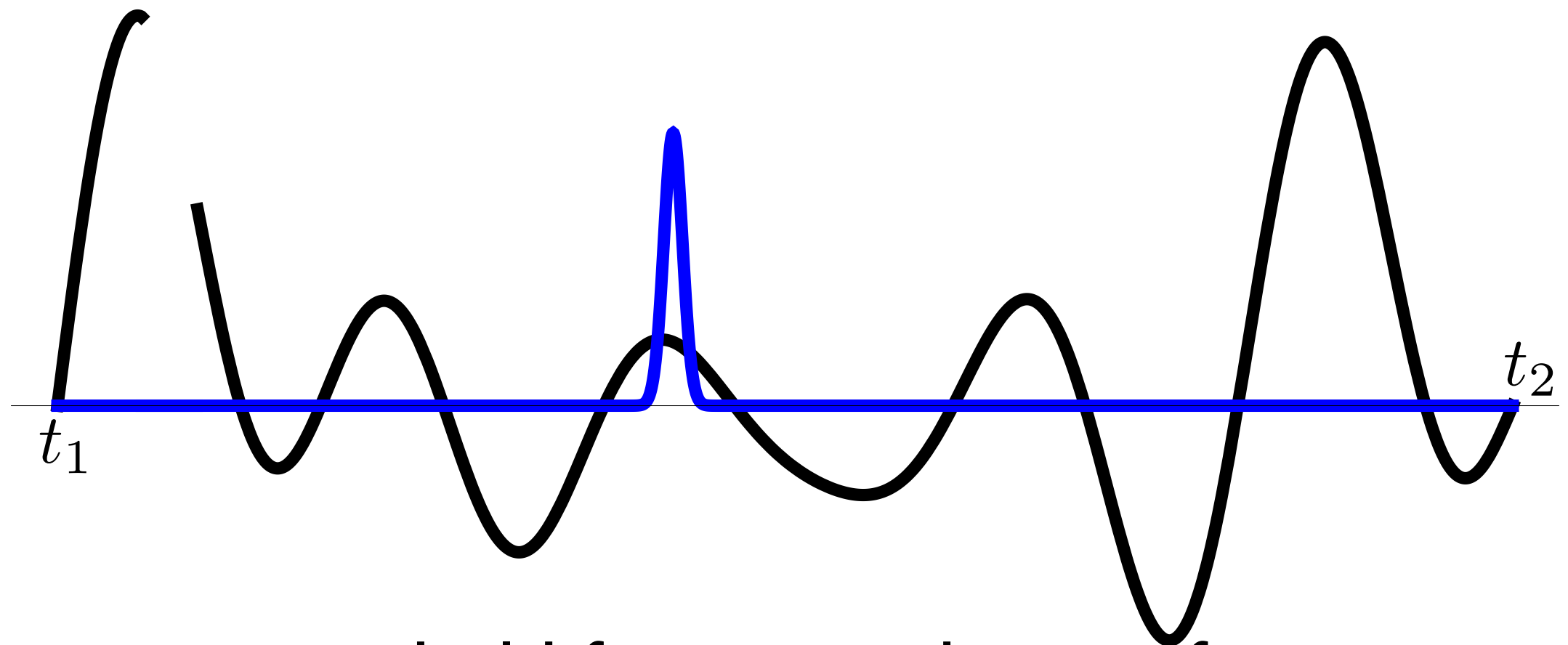
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must hold for every choice of  $\eta$

# Fundamental Lemma of Variational Calculus

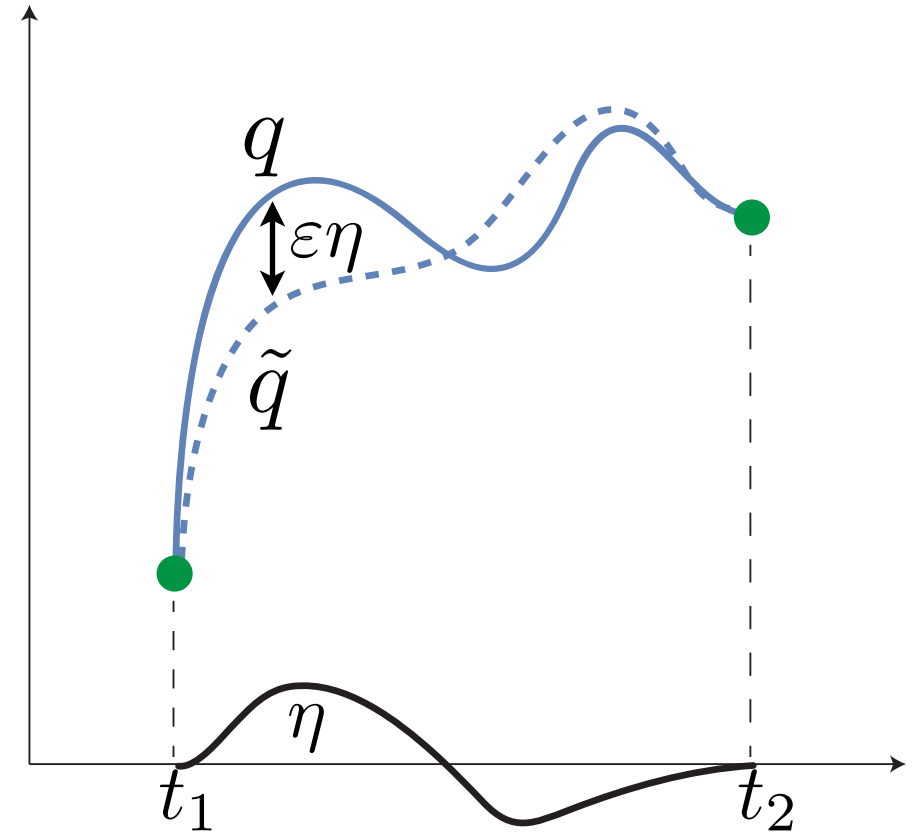
If  $\int_{t_1}^{t_2} G(t)\eta(t) dt = 0$  for all offsets  $\eta(t)$  zero at  $t_1, t_2$   
then  $G$  vanishes on the interval.

So  $G$  vanishes everywhere in the interval.



# Particle Example: Deriving Euler-Lagrange Equations

Where were we?



$$\delta_{\eta} S(q) = - \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (\ddot{q}(t) + U'(q(t))) \eta(t) dt$$

When is  $\delta_{\eta} S(q) = 0$  for all offsets  $\eta$ ?

# Particle Example: Deriving Euler-Lagrange Equations

$$\delta_{\eta} S(q) = - \int_{t_1}^{t_2} (\ddot{q}(t) + U'(q(t))) \eta(t) dt$$

Apply Fundamental Lemma

$$\delta_{\eta} S(q) = 0 \iff \underbrace{\ddot{q}(t) + U'(q(t))}_{\text{Euler-Lagrange equations}} = 0$$

Euler-Lagrange equations

# Particle Example: Deriving Euler-Lagrange Equations

$$\delta_n S(q) = - \int^{t_2} (\ddot{a}(t) + U'(a(t))) n(t) dt$$

Apply the Fundamental Lemma to see  
when the derivative vanishes

$$\delta_\eta S(q) = \int G(q, \dot{q}, \ddot{q}) \eta dt = 0$$

and recover the Euler-Lagrange equations.

Euler-Lagrange Equations

# Particle Example: Lagrangian Reformulation

$$\delta S(q) = 0 \iff \underbrace{\ddot{q}(t) + U'(q(t))}_{\text{Euler-Lagrange equations}} = 0$$

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Wait... this looks familiar!

$m \ddot{q}(t) + U'(q(t)) = 0$  is Newton's law

(reinserting mass)

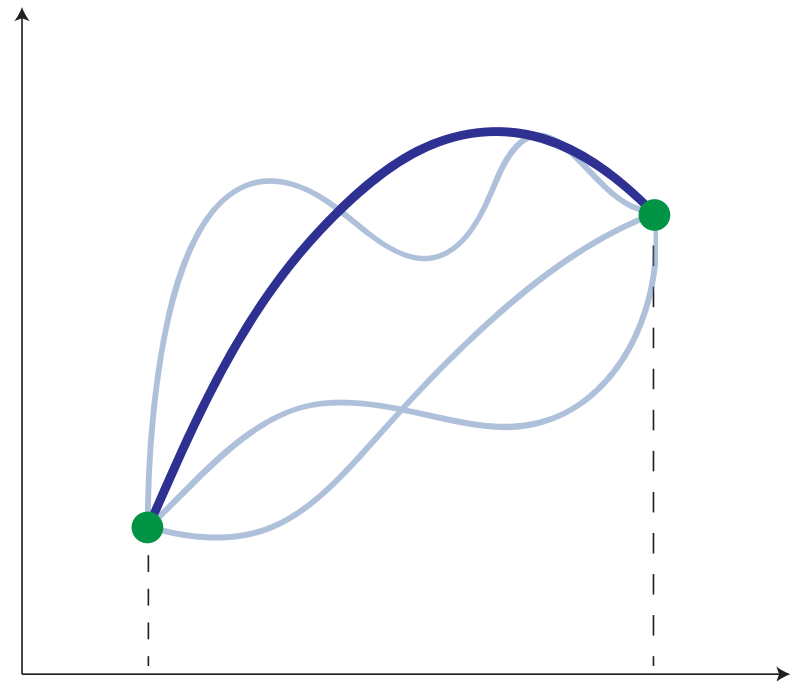
(force is derivative of potential energy)



# Lagrangian Reformulation Summary

## Principle of Stationary Action

A path connecting two points is a physical path precisely when the first derivative of the action is zero.



## Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}) = T(\dot{q}) - U(q)$$

## Action

$$S = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathcal{L}(q(t), \dot{q}(t)) dt$$

## Euler-Lagrange Equations

$$\delta S(q) = 0 \iff F = m\ddot{q}$$

Fundamental  
Lemma

# (general) Principle of Stationary Action

“Variational principles” apply to many systems, e.g., special relativity, quantum mechanics, geodesics, etc.

Key is to find Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L}(t, q(t), \dot{q}(t))$

$$\delta S(q) = 0 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \frac{d\mathcal{L}(t, q, \dot{q})}{dq} = - \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{d\mathcal{L}(t, q, \dot{q})}{d\dot{q}} \right)$$

Fundamental  
Lemma

so general Euler-Lagrange equations are  
the equations of interest

# (general) Principle of Stationary Action

“Variational principles” apply to many systems, e.g., special relativity, quantum mechanics, geodesics, etc.

The Euler-Lagrange equations for a general Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L}(t, q(t), \dot{q}(t))$  are

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}(t, q, \dot{q})}{dq} = - \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{d\mathcal{L}(t, q, \dot{q})}{d\dot{q}} \right).$$

Lemma

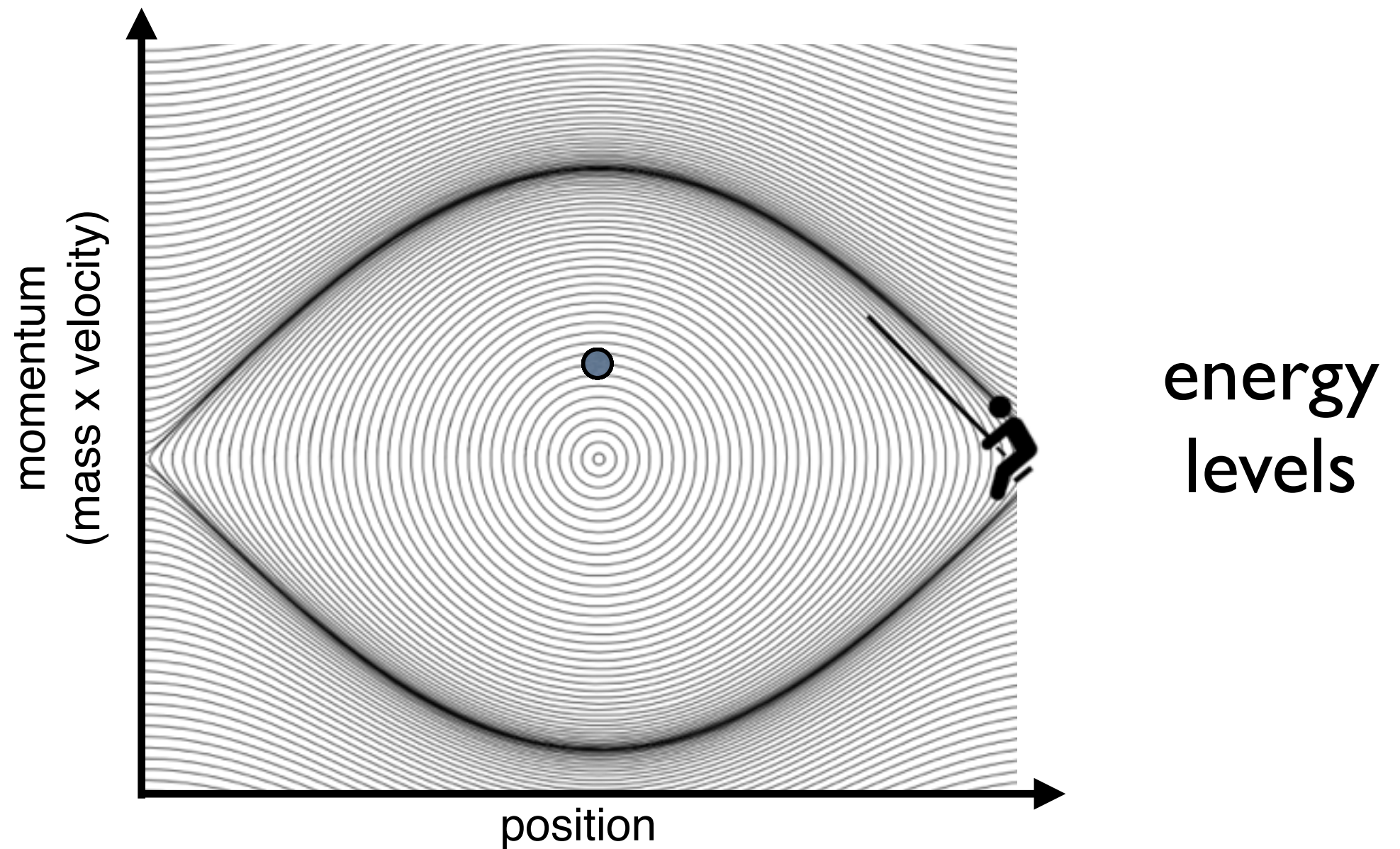
so general Euler-Lagrange equations are  
the equations of interest

# Noether's Theorem

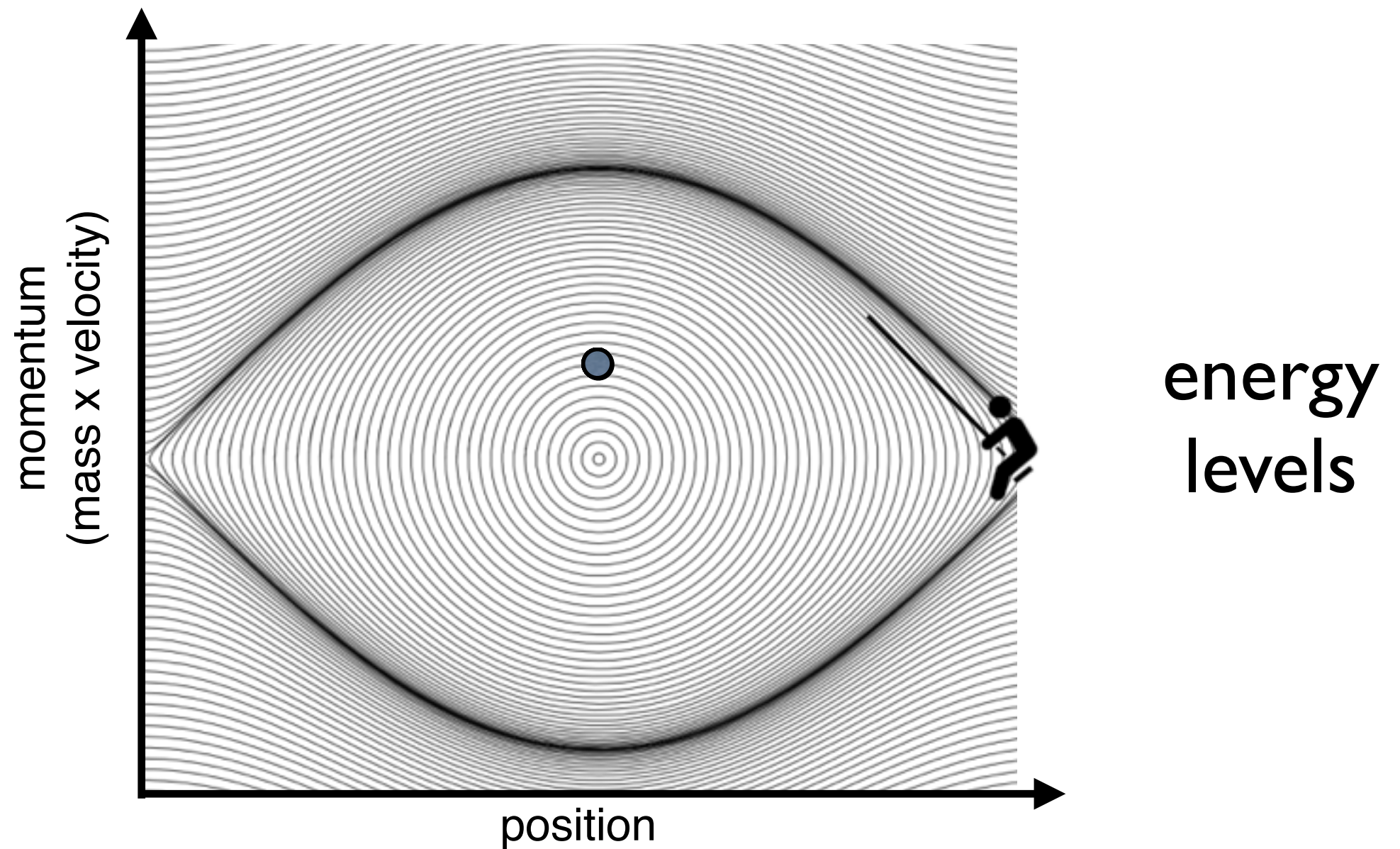
Continuous symmetries of the Lagrangian imply conservation laws for the physical system.

Continuous Symmetry	Conserved Quantity
Translational	Linear momentum
Rotational (one dimensional)	Angular momentum
Time	Total energy

# Lagrangian Paths are Symplectic



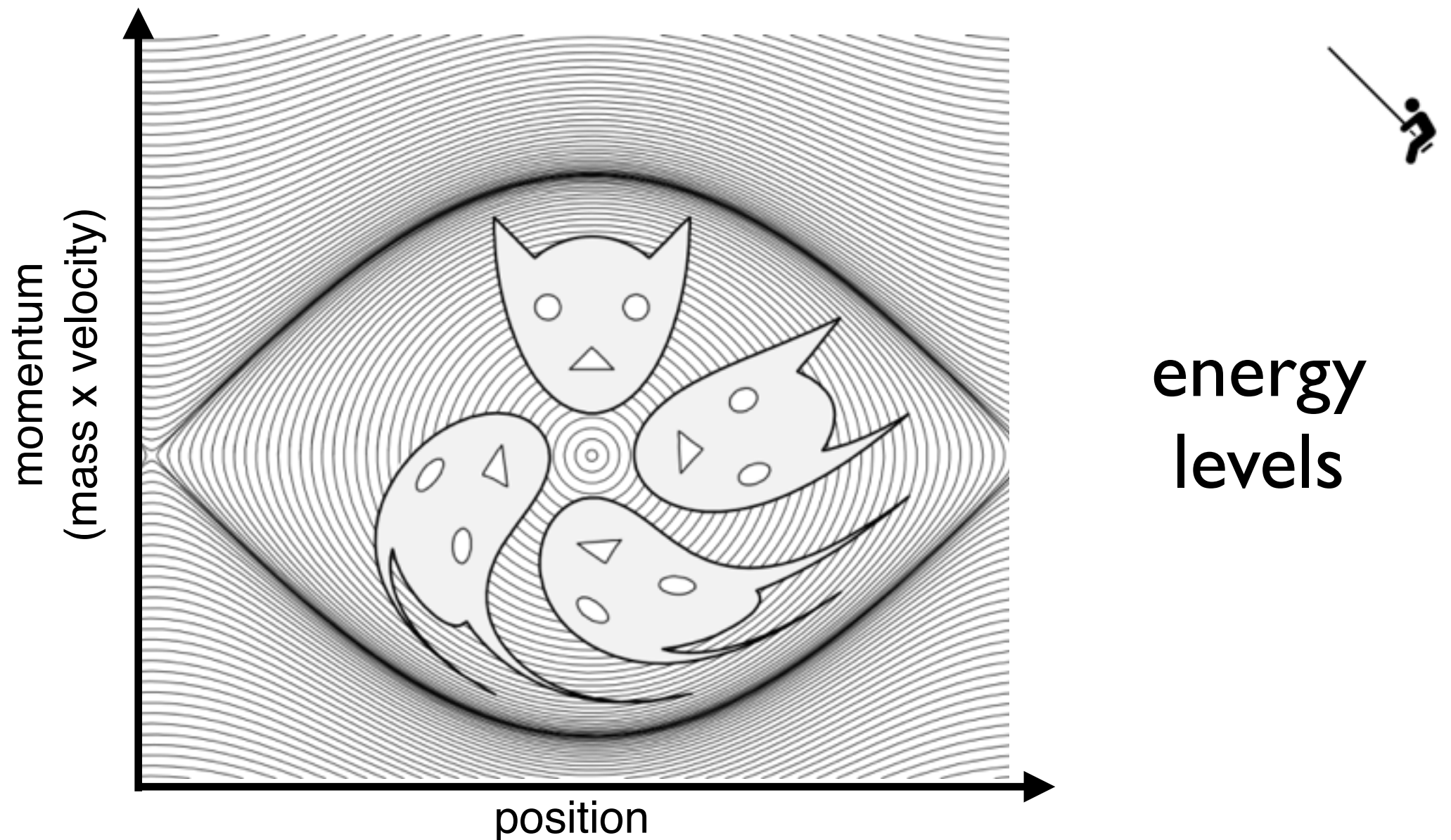
# Lagrangian Paths are Symplectic





# Lagrangian Paths are Symplectic

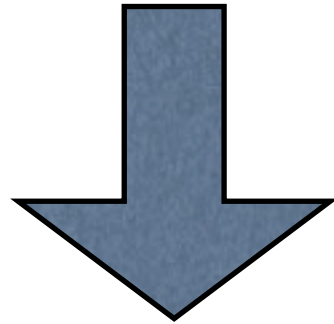
Image from Hairer, Lubich, and Wanner 2006



in 2D equivalent to area conservation in phase space  
(in higher dimensions implies volume conservation)

# Variational Time Integrators

Discretize Lagrangian



Apply Variational Principle



Arrive at Discrete Equations of Motion

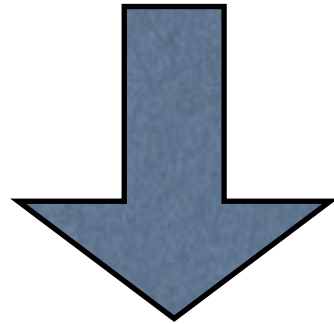
(as opposed to discretizing equations directly)

Discrete Hamilton's Principle



# Discrete Noether's Theorem

Discretize Lagrangian



Arrive at Discrete Equations of Motion

Continuous symmetries of the discrete Lagrangian imply conserved quantities throughout entire discrete motion.

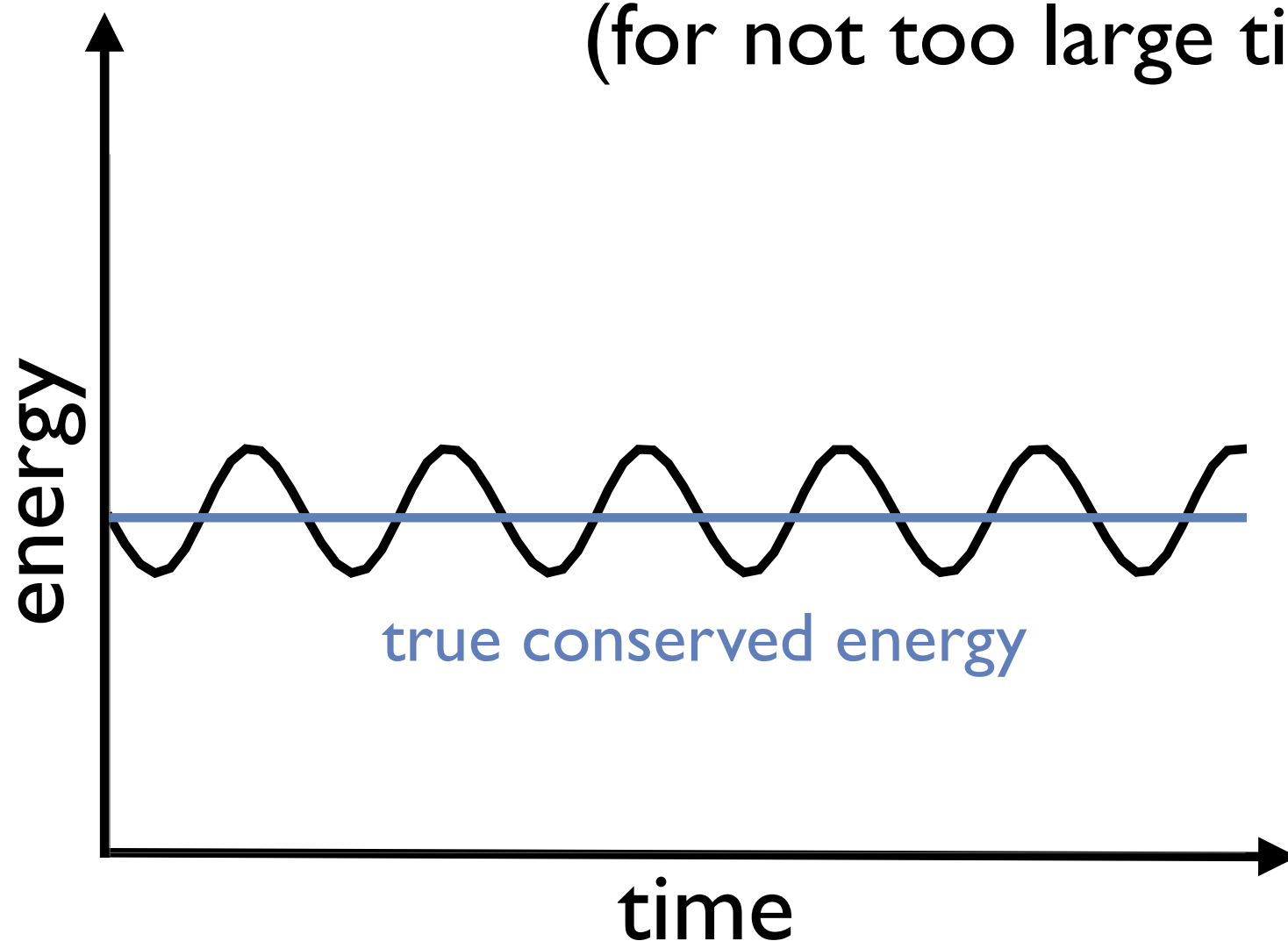
(for not too large time steps)

# Discrete Variational Integrators are Symplectic

... time is now discrete, so total energy is not conserved.

But, discrete symplectic structure guarantees bounded oscillation around true energy level

(for not too large time steps)



LUNCH



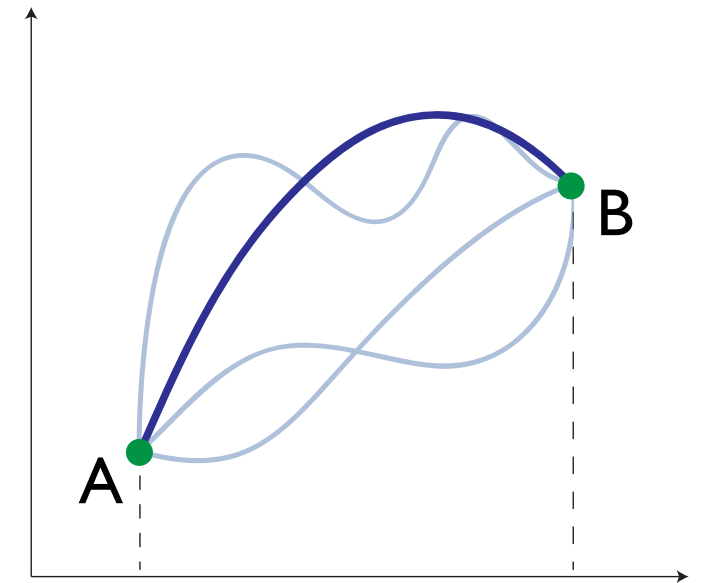
BREAK

# Part Two:

## Why Use Variational Integrators?

# Quick Recap

Physical paths are extremal amongst all paths from A to B of the action integral

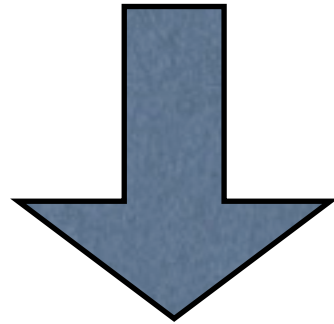


Action is the integral of the Lagrangian,  
kinetic minus potential energy

Symmetries of Lagrangian and symplectic  
structure give rise to conservation laws

# Variational Time Integrators

Discretize Action (integral of Lagrangian)



Apply Variational Principle



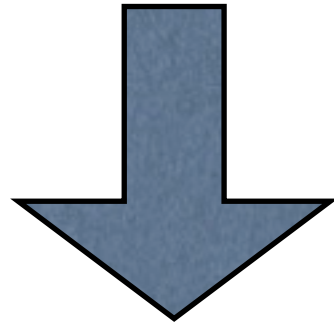
Arrive at Discrete Equations of Motion

(as opposed to discretizing equations directly)

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# Discrete Noether's Theorem

Discretize Lagrangian



Arrive at Discrete Equations of Motion

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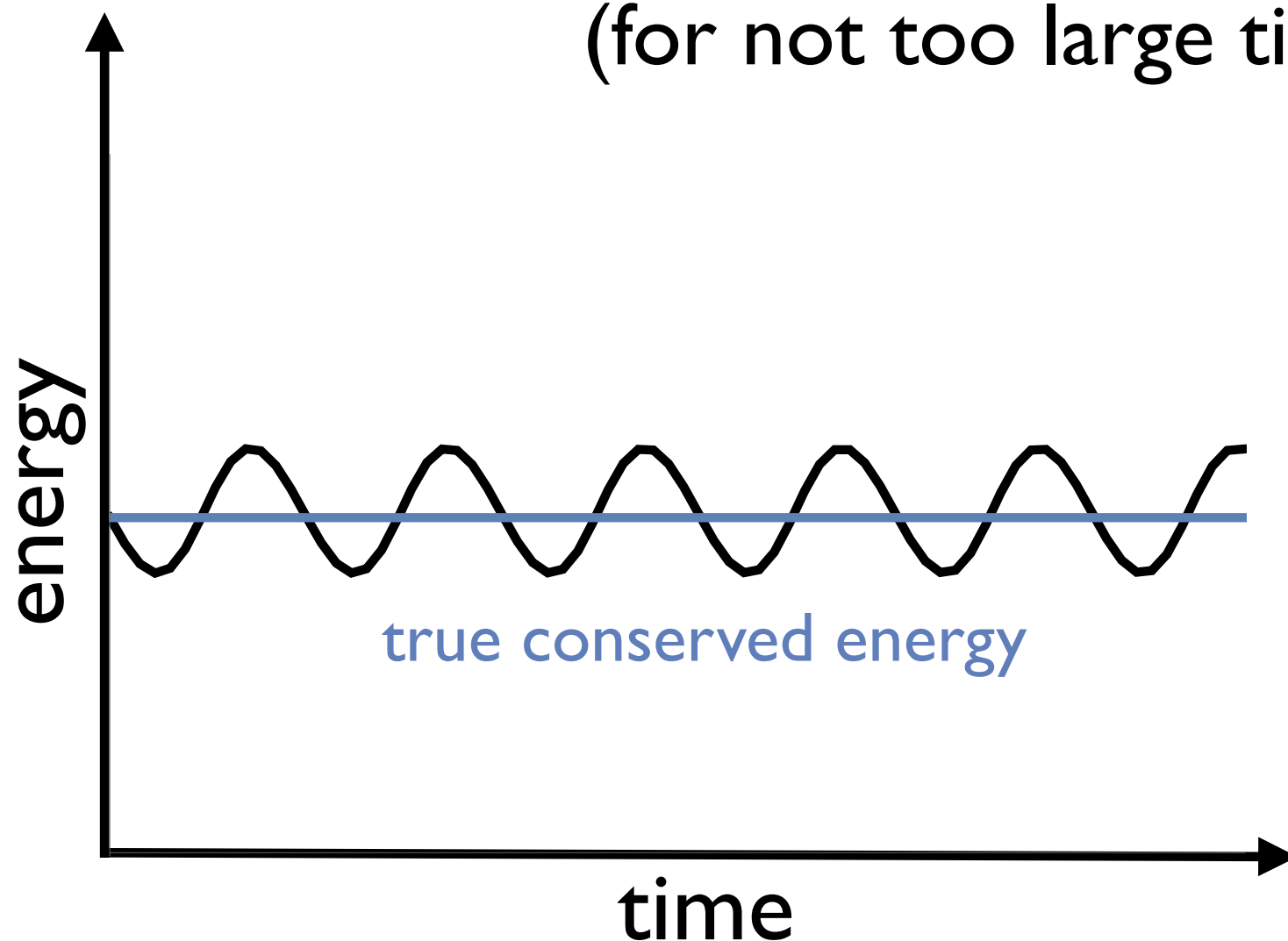
e.g., conservation of linear and angular momentum  
(for not too large time steps)

# Discrete Variational Integrators are Symplectic

... time is now discrete, so total energy is not conserved.

But, discrete symplectic structure guarantees bounded oscillation around true energy level

(for not too large time steps)

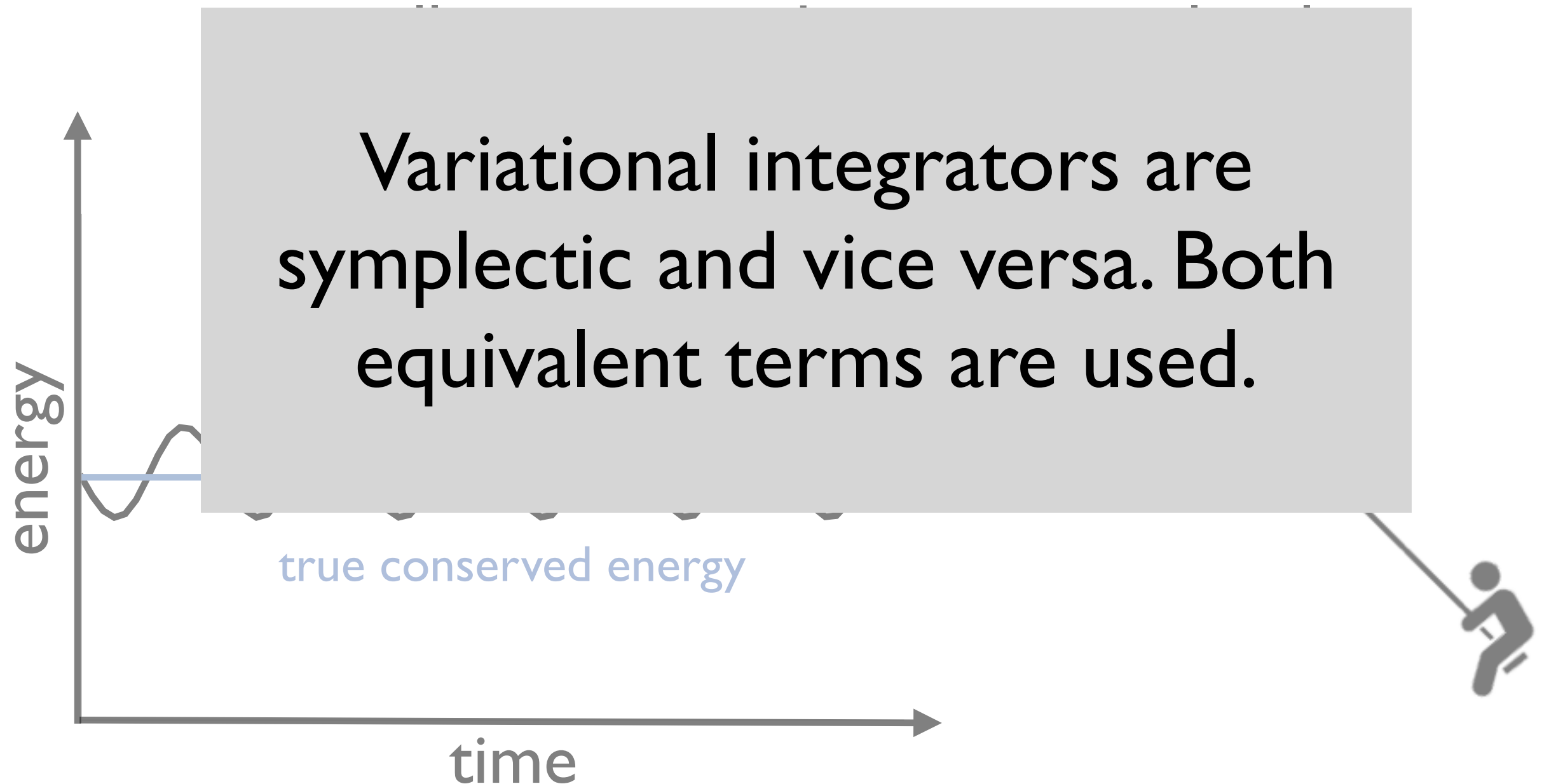




# Discrete Variational Integrators are Symplectic

... time is now discrete, so total energy is not conserved.

But, discrete symplectic structure guarantees bounded

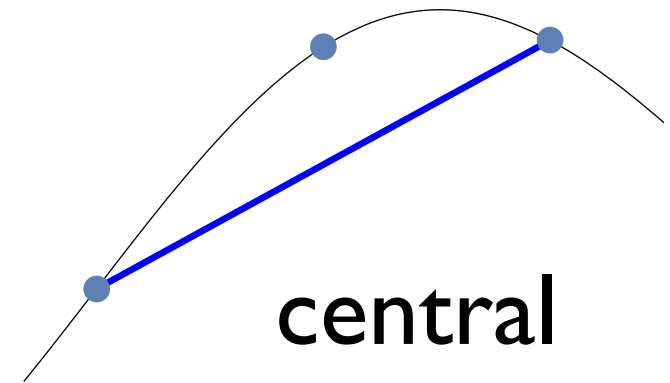
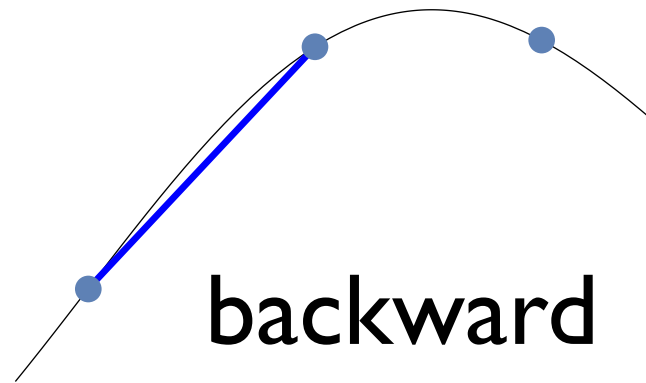
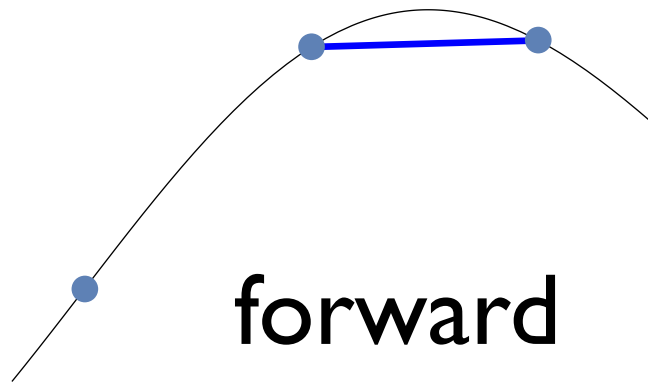


# Building a Variational Time Integrator

I. Choose a finite difference scheme for  $\dot{q}$ , e.g.,

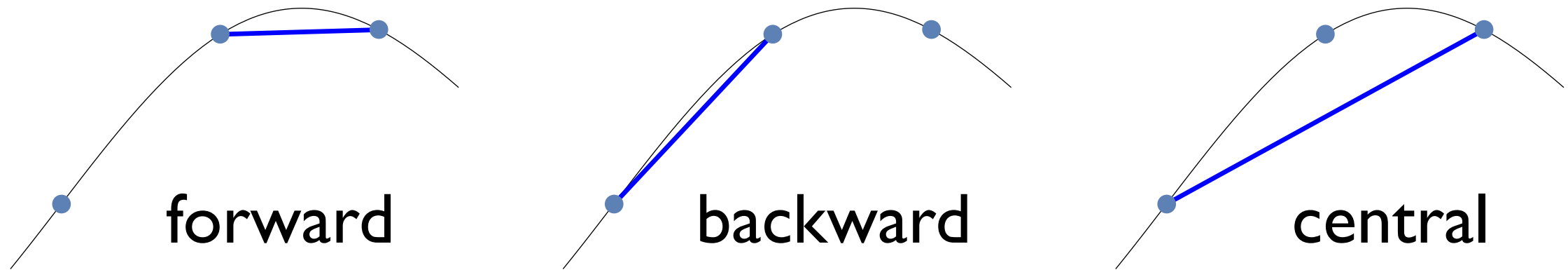
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# Building a Variational Time Integrator

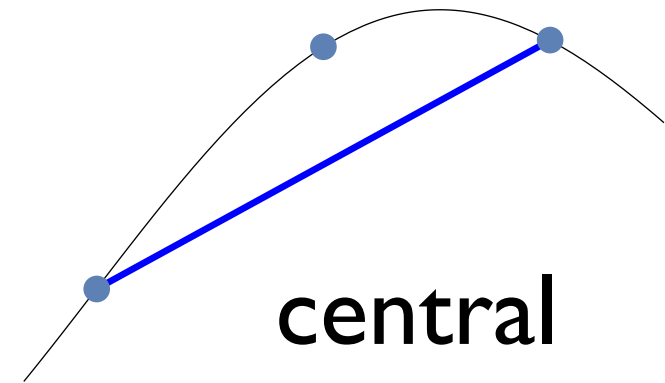
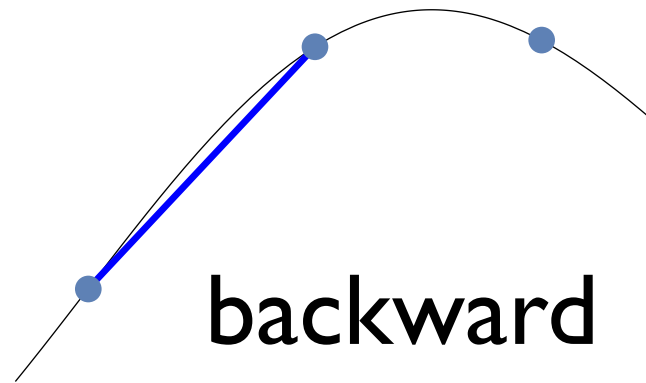
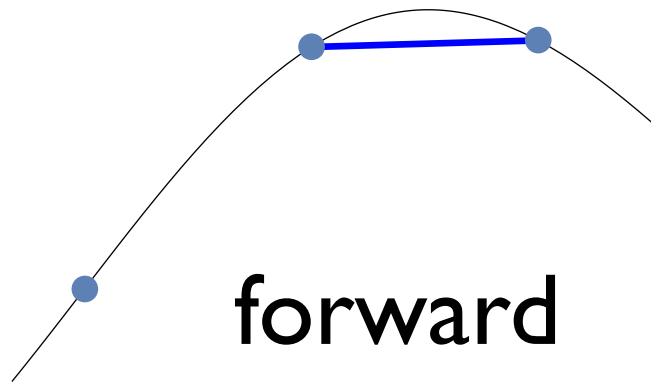
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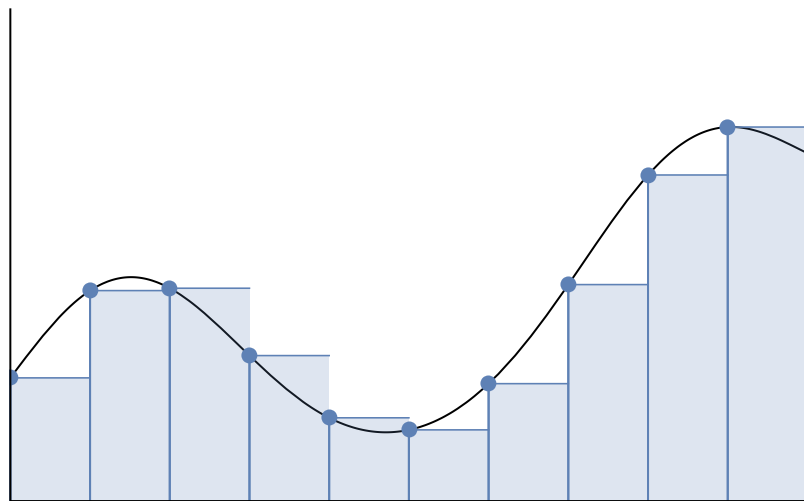
2. Choose a quadrature rule to integrate action, e.g.,

# Building a Variational Time Integrator

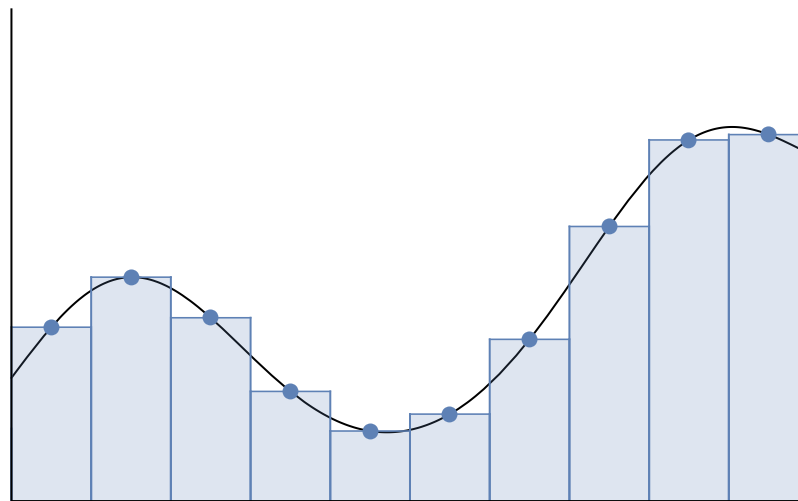
1. Choose a finite difference scheme for  $\dot{q}$ , e.g.,



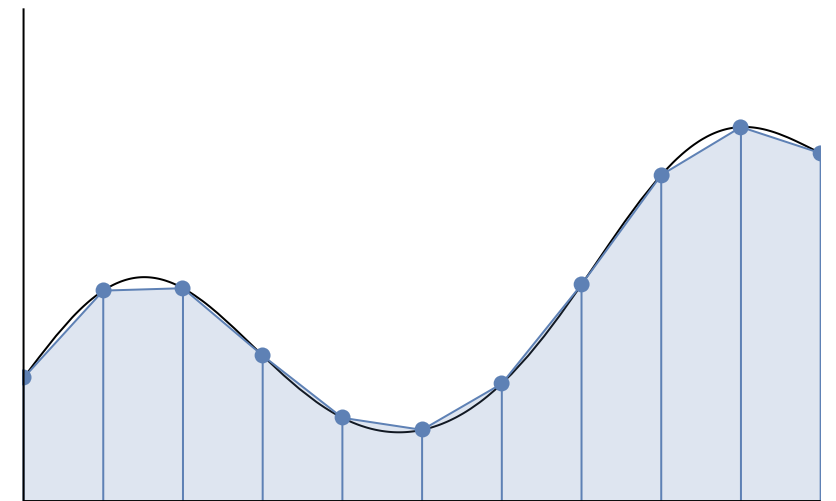
2. Choose a quadrature rule to integrate action, e.g.,



rectangular



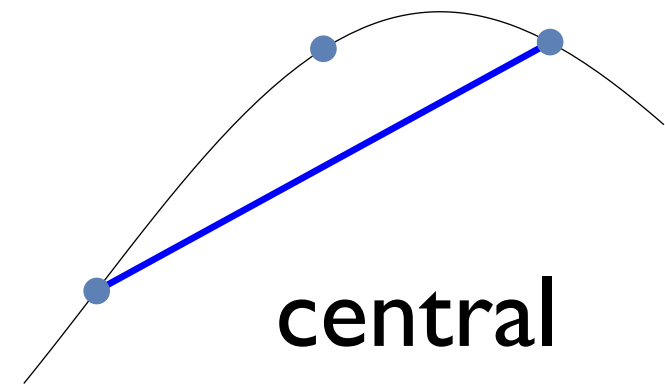
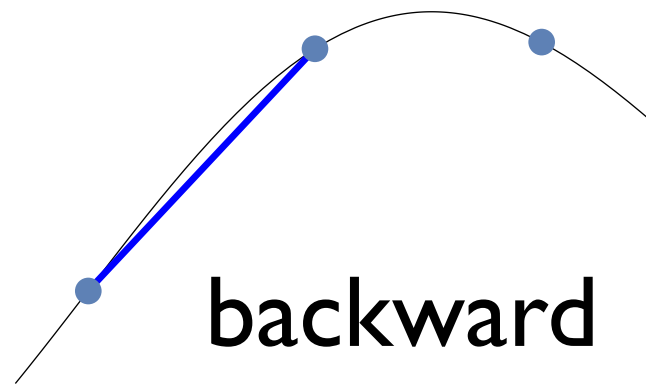
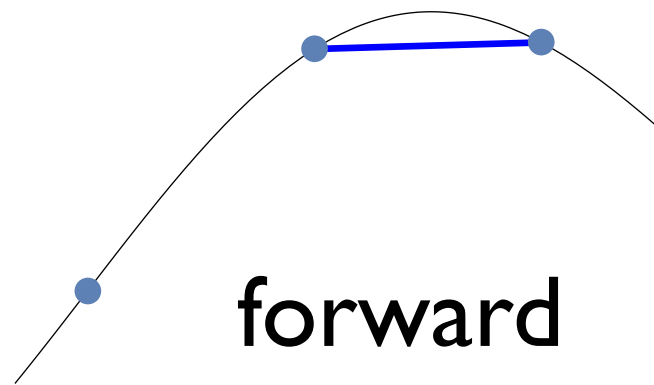
midpoint



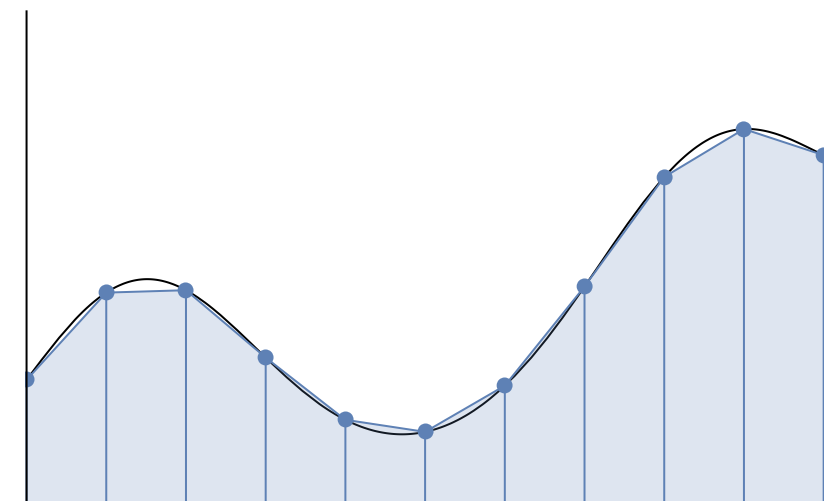
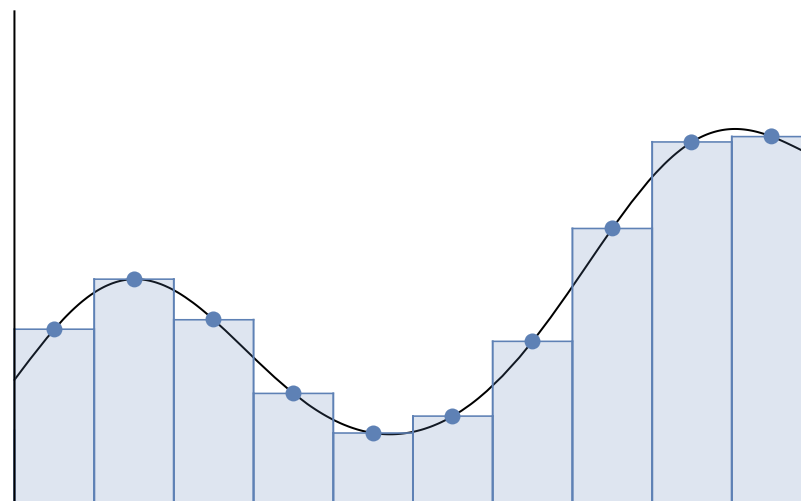
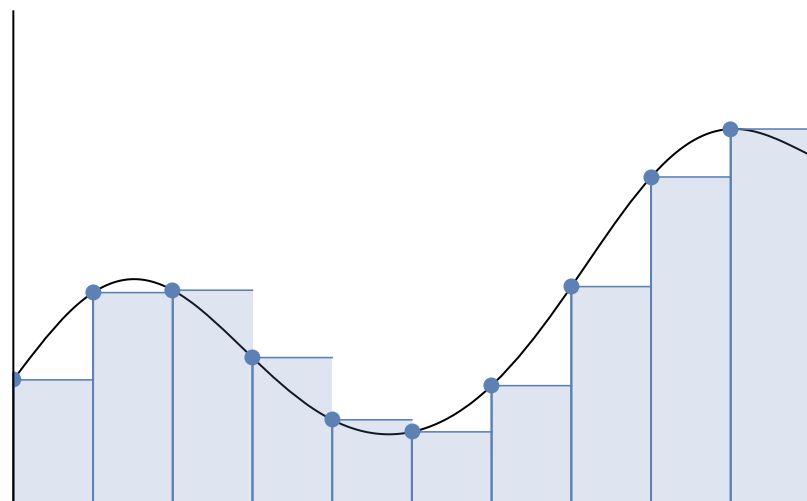
trapezoid

# Building a Variational Time Integrator

1. Choose a finite difference scheme for  $\dot{q}$ , e.g.,

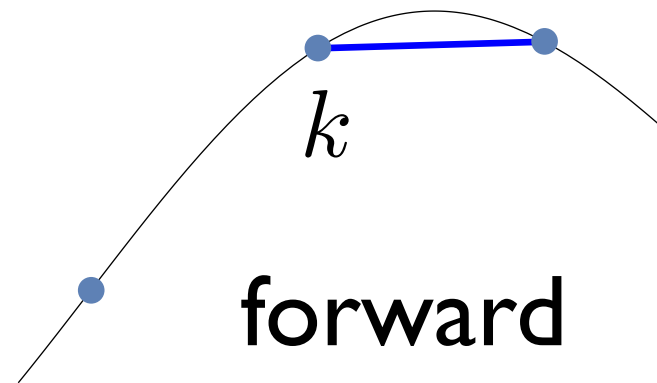


2. Choose a quadrature rule to integrate action, e.g.,

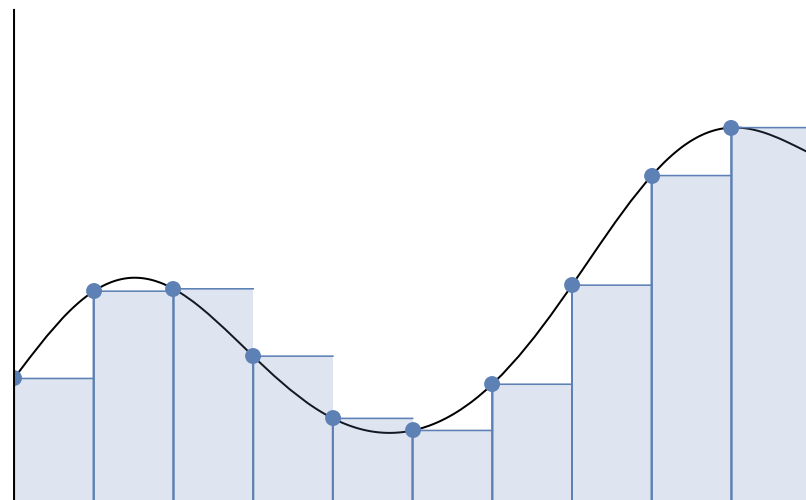


3. Apply variational principle

# Discrete Variational Principle Example



$$\dot{q} \approx \dot{q}_k = \frac{q_{k+1} - q_k}{\Delta t}$$

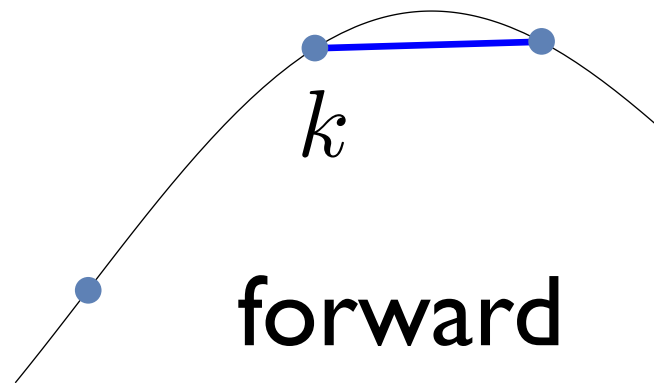


$$\int_t^{t+\Delta t} \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}) dt \approx \Delta t \mathcal{L}(q_k, \dot{q}_k)$$

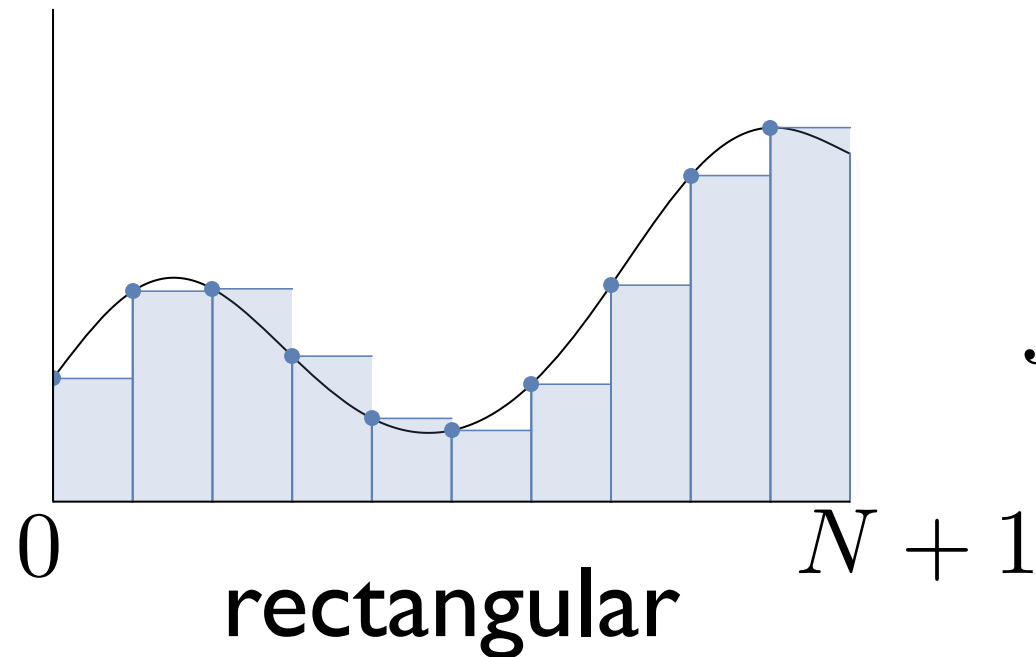
rectangular

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}) dt \approx \sum_{k=0}^N \mathcal{L}(q_k, \dot{q}_k) \Delta t$$

# Discrete Variational Principle Example



$$\dot{q} \approx \dot{q}_k = \frac{q_{k+1} - q_k}{\Delta t}$$

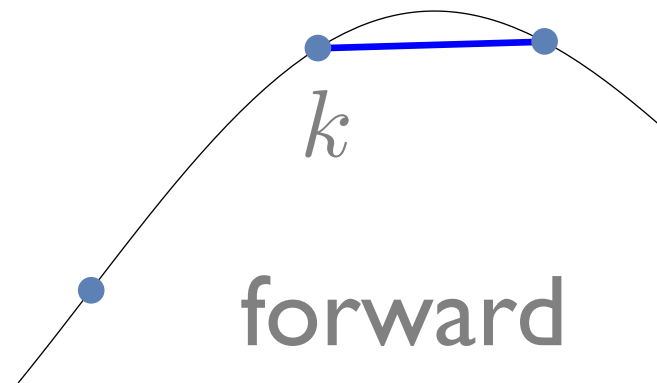


$$\int_t^{t+\Delta t} \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}) dt \approx \Delta t \mathcal{L}(q_k, \dot{q}_k)$$

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}) dt \approx \sum_{k=0}^N \mathcal{L}(q_k, \dot{q}_k) \Delta t$$



# Discrete Variational Principle Example

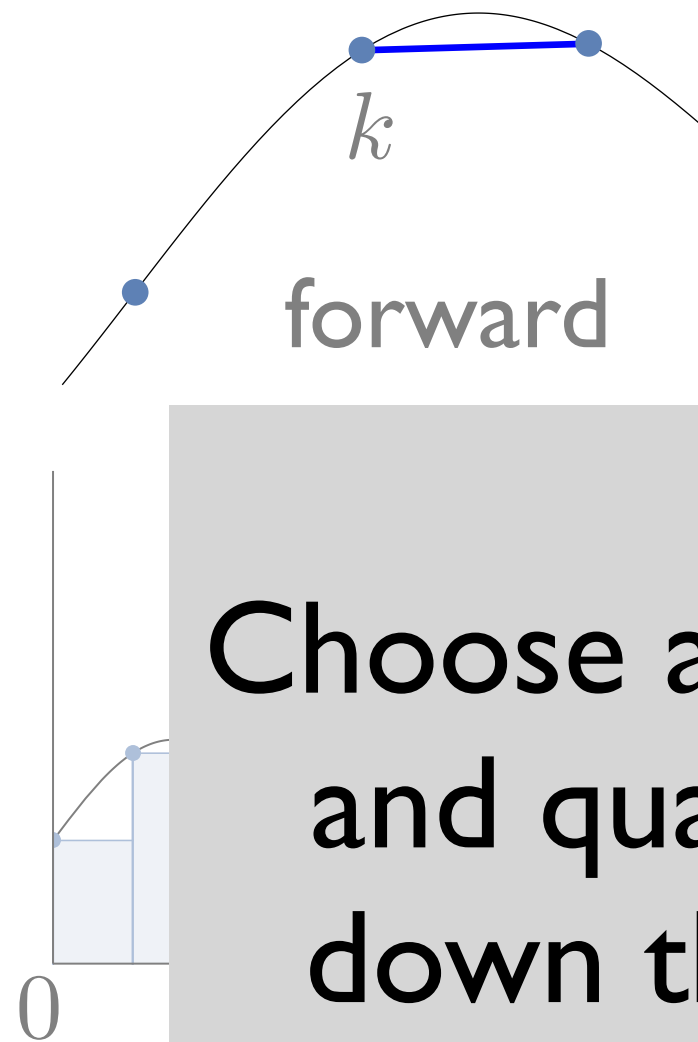


$$\dot{q} \approx \dot{q}_k = \frac{q_{k+1} - q_k}{\Delta t}$$

Choose a finite difference scheme and quadrature rule and write down the discrete action sum.

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}) dt \approx \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \mathcal{L}(q_k, \dot{q}_k) \Delta t$$

# Discrete Variational Principle Example



$$\dot{q} \approx \dot{q}_k = \frac{q_{k+1} - q_k}{\Delta t}$$

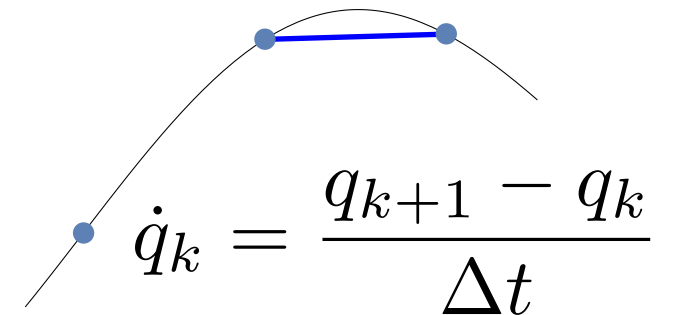
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$(q_k, \dot{q}_k)$

$$\int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathcal{L}(q, \dot{q}) dt \approx \sum_{k=0}^{N-1} \mathcal{L}(q_k, \dot{q}_k) \Delta t$$

# Discrete Variational Principle Example

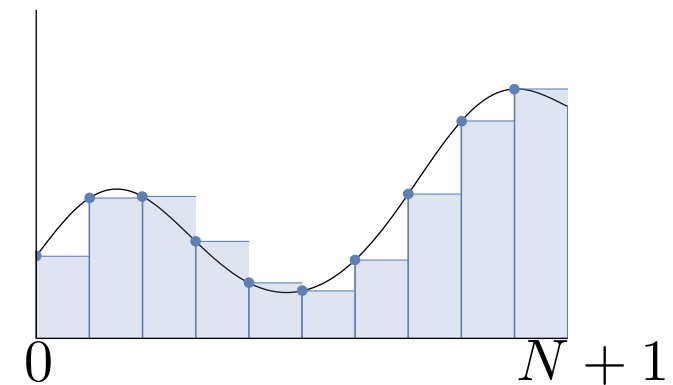
$$S_{\Delta t} = \sum_{k=0}^N \left( \frac{m}{2} \dot{q}_k^2 - U(q_k) \right) \Delta t$$



A diagram showing a curved path segment between two points. A blue line segment connects the two points, representing the discrete approximation of the path. The points are marked with blue dots. The formula for the discrete velocity is given as:

$$\dot{q}_k = \frac{q_{k+1} - q_k}{\Delta t}$$

$$\delta_{\eta} S_{\Delta t} = \left. \frac{d}{d\varepsilon} S_{\Delta t}(q_k + \varepsilon \eta_k) \right|_{\varepsilon=0}$$

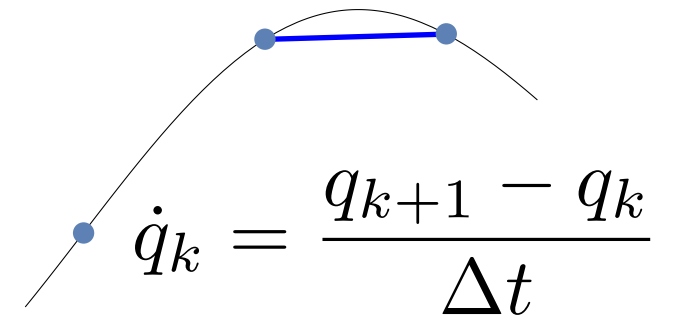


$$= \sum_{k=0}^N (m \dot{q}_k \dot{\eta}_k - U'(q_k) \eta_k) \Delta t$$

$$\left( \dot{\eta}_k = \frac{\eta_{k+1} - \eta_k}{\Delta t} \right)$$

# Discrete Variational Principle Example

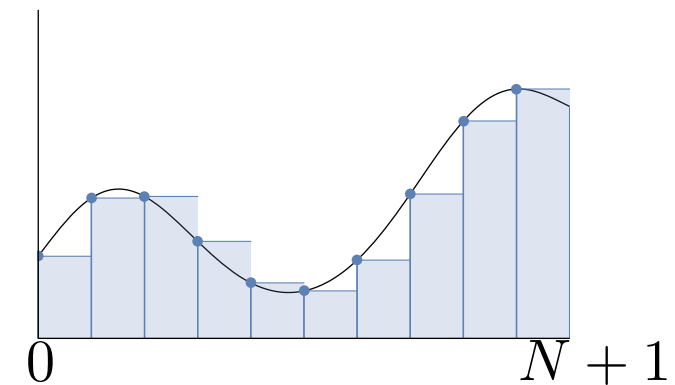
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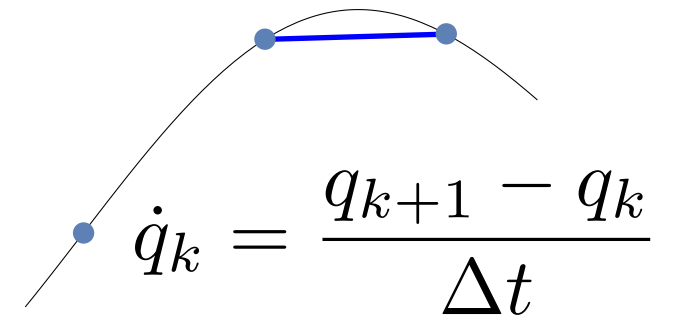


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# Discrete Variational Principle Example

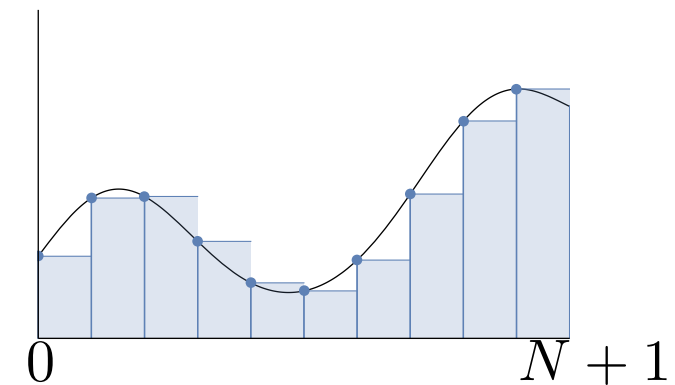
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# Discrete Variational Principle Example

$$\delta_{\eta} S_{\Delta t} = \sum_{k=0}^N (m \dot{q}_k \dot{\eta}_k - U'(q_k) \eta_k) \Delta t$$

# Discrete Variational Principle Example

$$\delta_{\eta} S_{\Delta t} = \sum_{k=0}^N (m \dot{q}_k \dot{\eta}_k - U'(q_k) \eta_k) \Delta t$$

get rid of derivatives of the offset

# Discrete Variational Principle Example

$$\delta_{\eta} S_{\Delta t} = \sum_{k=0}^N (m \dot{q}_k \dot{\eta}_k - U'(q_k) \eta_k) \Delta t$$

get rid of derivatives of the offset

## Summation by Parts

$$\sum_{k=0}^N \dot{q}_k \dot{\eta}_k \Delta t = bdr y - \sum_{k=0}^N \ddot{q}_k \eta_{k+1} \Delta t$$



# Discrete Variational Principle Example

$$\delta_{\eta} S_{\Delta t} = \sum_{k=0}^N (m \dot{q}_k \dot{\eta}_k - U'(q_k) \eta_k) \Delta t$$

get rid of derivatives of the offset

## Summation by Parts

$$\sum_{k=0}^N \dot{q}_k \dot{\eta}_k \Delta t = \cancel{\text{bdry}} - \sum_{k=0}^N \ddot{q}_k \eta_{k+1} \Delta t$$

0

recall offset vanishes at boundary

$$\eta_{N+1} = \eta_0 = 0$$

# Discrete Variational Principle Example

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_{\eta} S_{\Delta t} &= - \sum_{k=0}^N m \ddot{q}_k \eta_{k+1} \Delta t - \sum_{k=0}^N U'(q_k) \eta_k \Delta t \\&= - \sum_{k=0}^N m \left( \frac{\dot{q}_{k+1} - \dot{q}_k}{\Delta t} \right) \eta_{k+1} \Delta t - \sum_{k=0}^N U'(q_k) \eta_k \Delta t \\&= - \sum_{k=0}^N \left( m \frac{\dot{q}_{k+1} - \dot{q}_k}{\Delta t} + U'(q_{k+1}) \right) \eta_{k+1} \Delta t\end{aligned}$$

# Discrete Variational Principle Example

$$\begin{aligned}\delta_{\eta} S_{\Delta t} &= - \sum_{k=0}^N m \ddot{q}_k \eta_{k+1} \Delta t - \sum_{k=0}^N U'(q_k) \eta_k \Delta t \\&= - \sum_{k=0}^N m \left( \frac{\dot{q}_{k+1} - \dot{q}_k}{\Delta t} \right) \eta_{k+1} \Delta t - \sum_{k=0}^N U'(q_k) \eta_k \Delta t \\&= - \sum_{k=0}^N \left( m \frac{\dot{q}_{k+1} - \dot{q}_k}{\Delta t} + U'(q_{k+1}) \right) \eta_{k+1} \Delta t\end{aligned}$$

# Discrete Variational Principle Example

$$\delta_{\eta} S_{\Delta t} = - \sum_{k=0}^N m \ddot{q}_k \eta_{k+1} \Delta t - \sum_{k=0}^N U'(q_k) \eta_k \Delta t$$

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shift index

$$= - \sum_{k=0}^N \left( m \frac{\dot{q}_{k+1} - \dot{q}_k}{\Delta t} + U'(q_{k+1}) \right) \eta_{k+1} \Delta t$$

# Discrete Variational Principle Example

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta_{\eta} S_{\Delta t} &= - \sum_{k=0}^N m \ddot{q}_k \eta_{k+1} \Delta t - \sum_{k=0}^N U'(q_k) \eta_k \Delta t \\
 &= - \sum_{k=0}^N m \left( \frac{\dot{q}_{k+1} - \dot{q}_k}{\Delta t} \right) \eta_{k+1} \Delta t - \sum_{k=0}^N U'(q_k) \eta_k \Delta t \\
 &= - \sum_{k=0}^N \left( m \frac{\dot{q}_{k+1} - \dot{q}_k}{\Delta t} + U'(q_{k+1}) \right) \eta_{k+1} \Delta t
 \end{aligned}$$

shift index

$(\eta_{N+1} = \eta_0 = 0)$

# Discrete Variational Principle Example

$$\delta_{\eta} S_{\Delta t} = - \sum_{k=0}^N \left( m \frac{\dot{q}_{k+1} - \dot{q}_k}{\Delta t} + U'(q_{k+1}) \right) \eta_{k+1} \Delta t$$

(discrete) Fundamental Lemma of Calculus of Variations

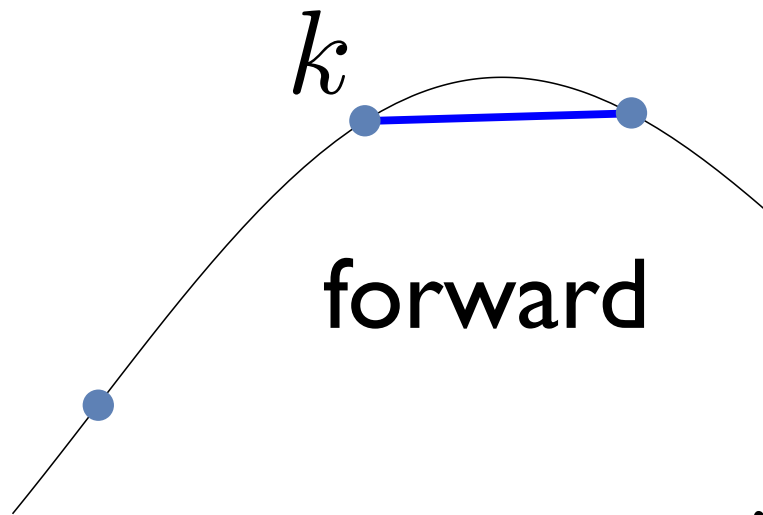
$$\delta S_{\Delta t} = 0 \iff \underbrace{-U'(q_{k+1}) = m \frac{(\dot{q}_{k+1} - \dot{q}_k)}{\Delta t}}_{\text{discrete Euler-Lagrange}}$$

discrete Euler-Lagrange

Recall:

$$\delta S(q) = 0 \iff F = m\ddot{q}$$

# Discrete Variational Integrator Scheme



$$\dot{q}_k = \frac{q_{k+1} - q_k}{\Delta t}$$

$$-U'(q_{k+1}) = m \frac{(\dot{q}_{k+1} - \dot{q}_k)}{\Delta t}$$

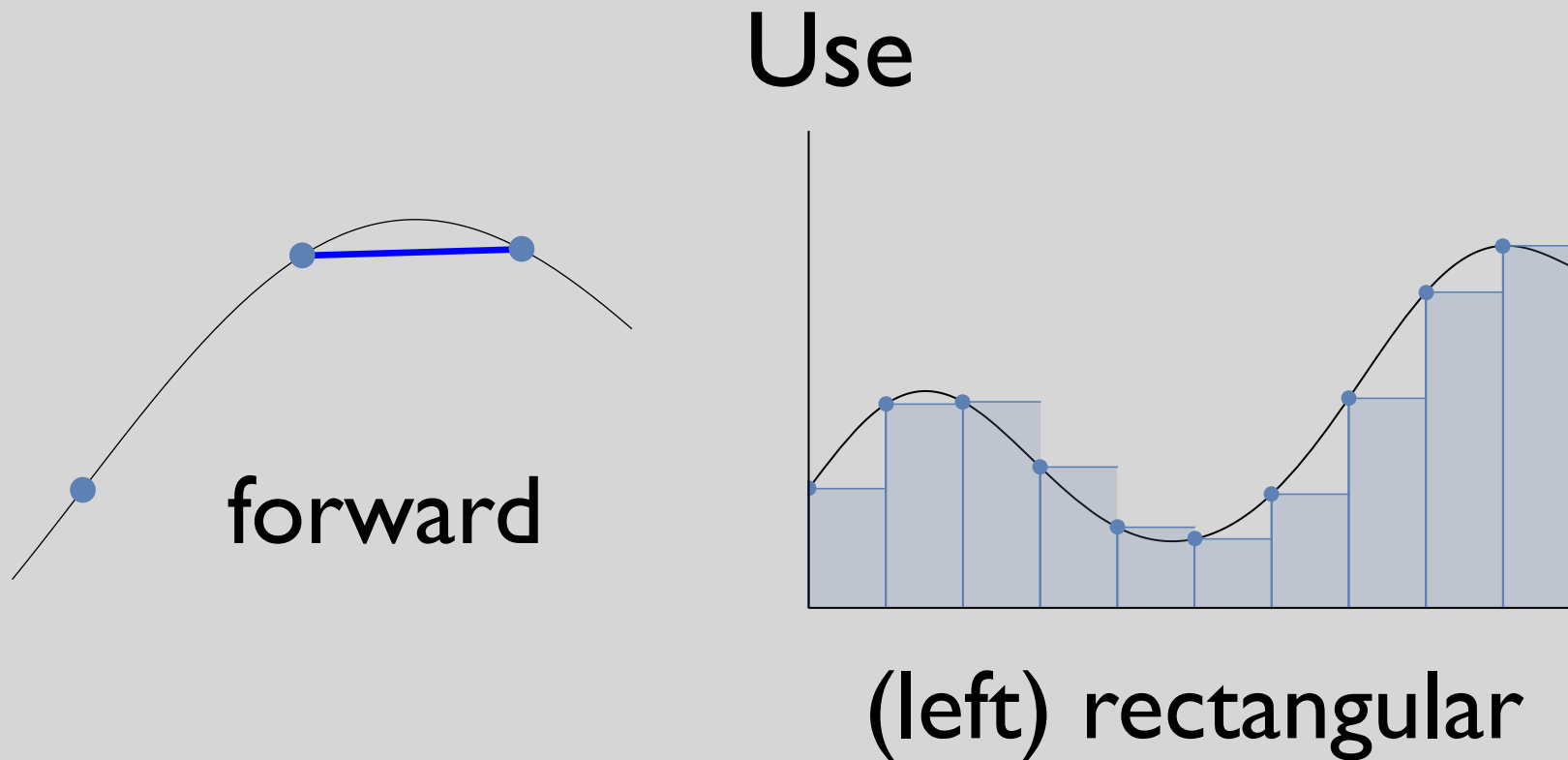
Symplectic (variational) Euler

$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_k$$

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} (-U'(q_{k+1}))$$

$$(q_k, \dot{q}_k) \mapsto (q_{k+1}, \dot{q}_{k+1})$$

# Discrete Variational Integrator Scheme



## Symplectic Euler Method A

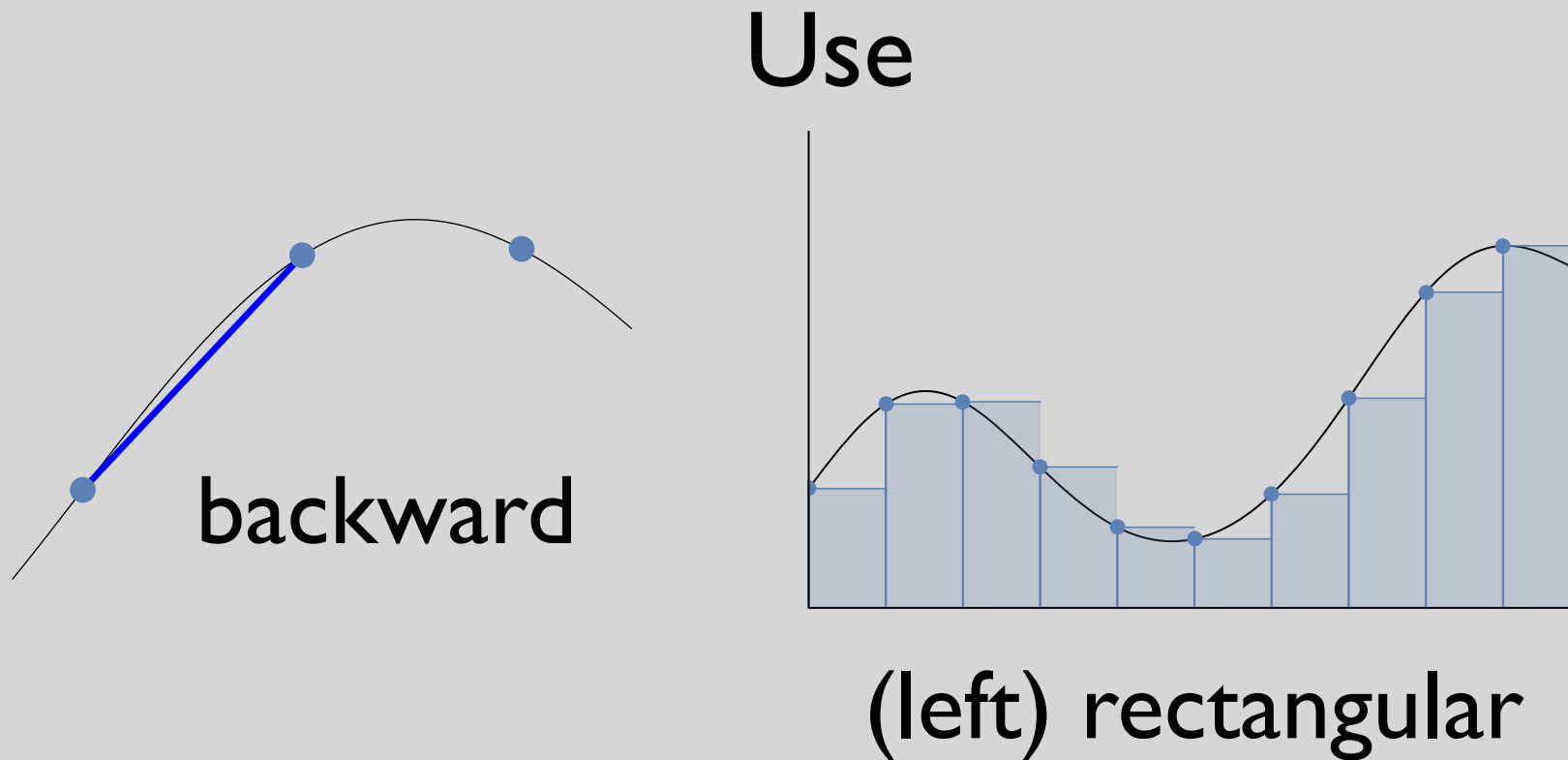
$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_k$$

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} (-U'(q_{k+1}))$$

$$(q_k, \dot{q}_k) \mapsto (q_{k+1}, \dot{q}_{k+1})$$



# Discrete Variational Integrator Scheme



## Symplectic Euler Method B

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} (-U'(q_k))$$

$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_{k+1}$$

$$(q_k, q_k) \mapsto (q_{k+1}, q_{k+1})$$

# Time Integration Schemes

Great... we know how to derive a variational integrator, but what other integrators are there?

Where do they come from?

Why are they used?

How do they compare?

# First Order Integration Schemes

## Explicit Euler

Use (forward) first order Taylor approximation of motion

$$\begin{aligned} q(t + \Delta t) &= q(t) + \dot{q}(t)\Delta t + \frac{\ddot{q}(t)}{2}\Delta t^2 + \dots \\ \dot{q}(t + \Delta t) &= \dot{q}(t) + \ddot{q}(t)\Delta t + \frac{\dddot{q}(t)}{2}\Delta t^2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

# First Order Integration Schemes

## Explicit Euler

$$q(t + \Delta t) = q(t) + \dot{q}(t)\Delta t$$

$$\dot{q}(t + \Delta t) = \dot{q}(t) + \ddot{q}(t)\Delta t$$

# First Order Integration Schemes

## Explicit Euler

$$q(t + \Delta t) = q(t) + \dot{q}(t)\Delta t$$

$$\dot{q}(t + \Delta t) = \dot{q}(t) + \ddot{q}(t)\Delta t$$

use Newton's law

$$F = -U'(q) = m\ddot{q}$$

$$m\dot{q}(t + \Delta t) = m\dot{q}(t) + \Delta t(-U'(q(t)))$$

# First Order Integration Schemes

## Explicit Euler

$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_k$$

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} (-U'(q_k))$$

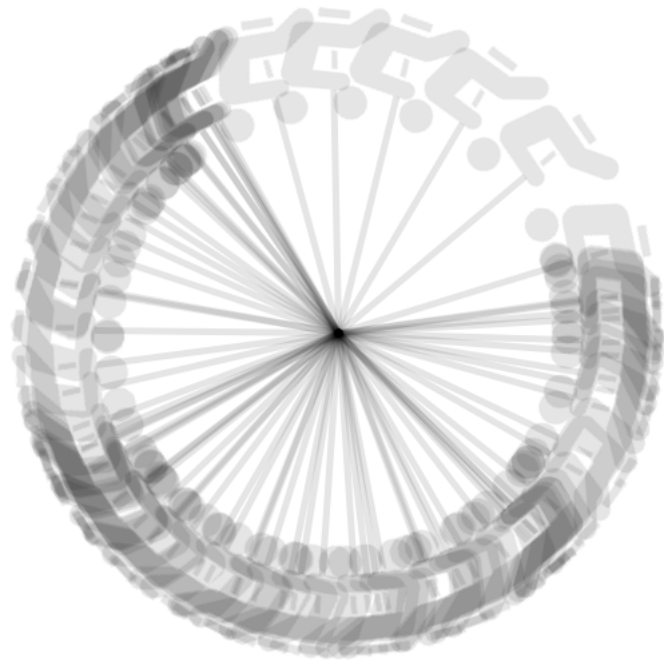
Cheap to compute -- explicit dependence of variables

but

adds artificial driving

“unstable” for large time steps  
(drastically deviates from true trajectories)

# Explicit Euler

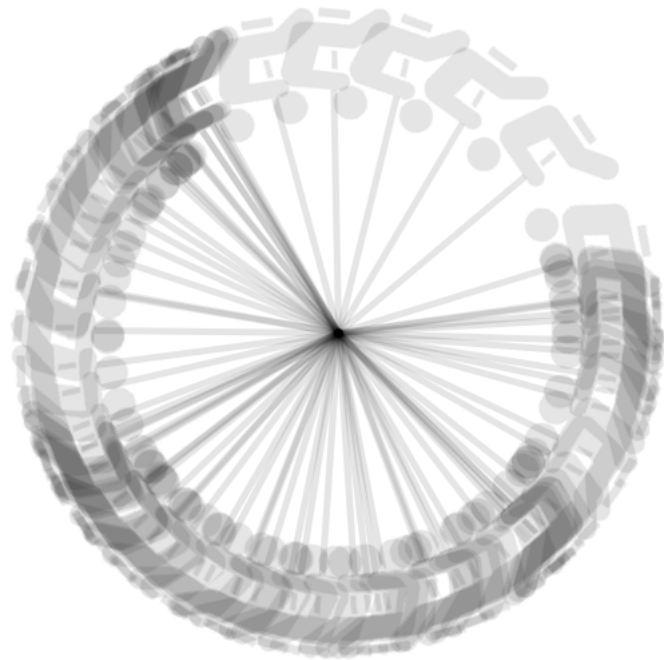


$$2^{-6}$$

step size in seconds

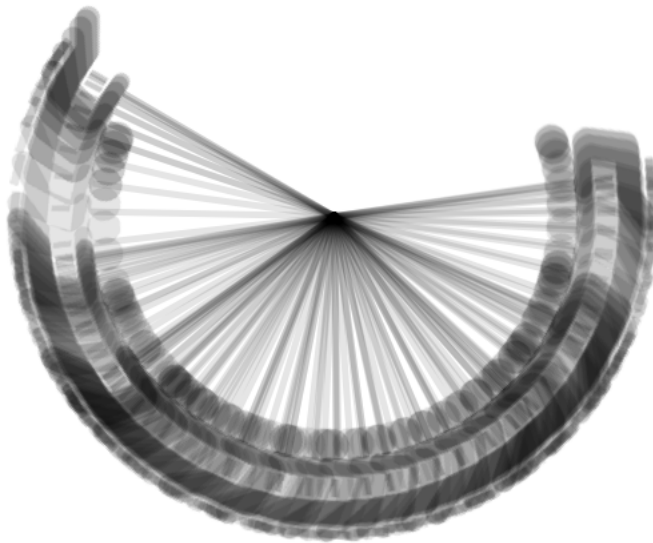


# Explicit: Time Step Refinement

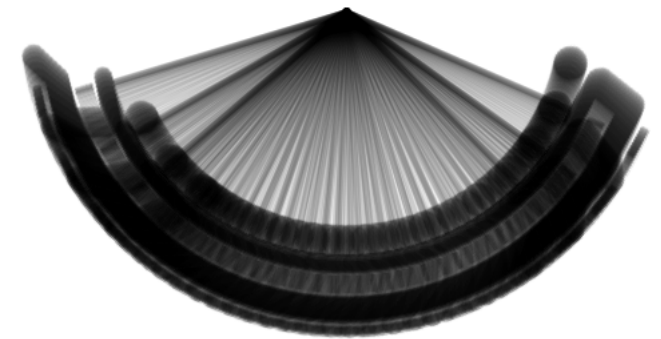


$$2^{-6}$$

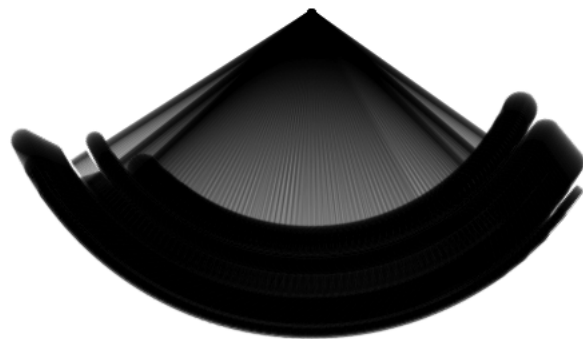
step size in seconds



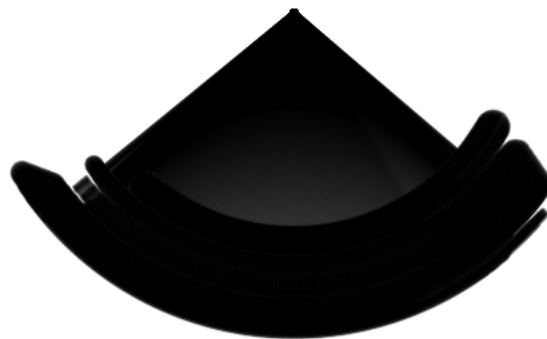
$$2^{-7}$$



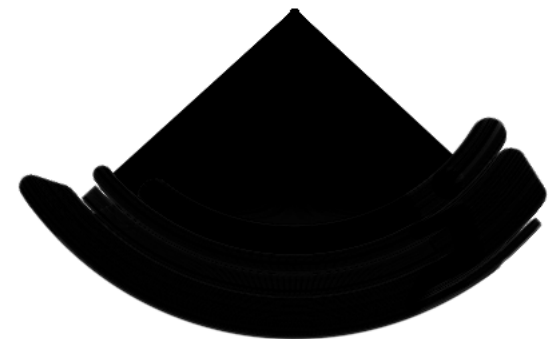
$$2^{-8}$$



$$2^{-9}$$



$$2^{-10}$$



$$2^{-11}$$



# First Order Integration Schemes

## Explicit (forward) Euler

$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_k$$

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} (-U'(q_k))$$

## Implicit (backward) Euler

$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_{k+1}$$

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} (-U'(q_{k+1}))$$

motion “implicitly” depends on variables

# First Order Integration Schemes

## Implicit Euler

$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_{k+1}$$

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} (-U'(q_{k+1}))$$

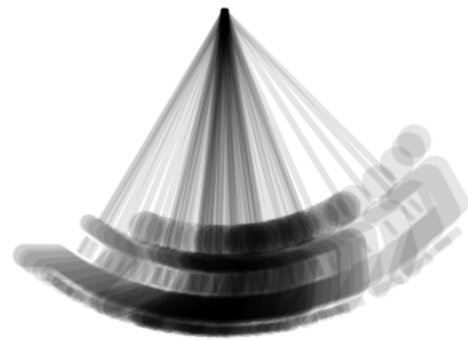
“stable” for large time steps  
(stays close to true trajectories)

but

adds artificial damping

more expensive -- nonlinear solve for implicit variables

# Implicit Euler

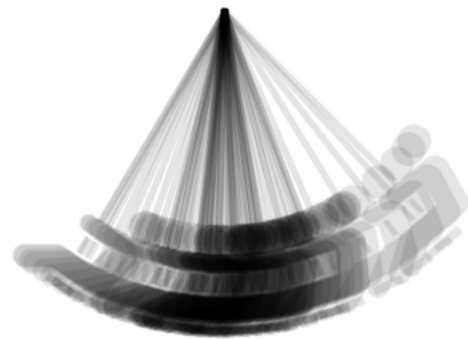


$$2^{-6}$$

step size in seconds

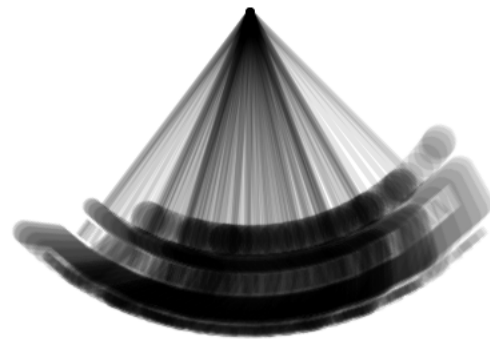


# Implicit: Time Step Refinement

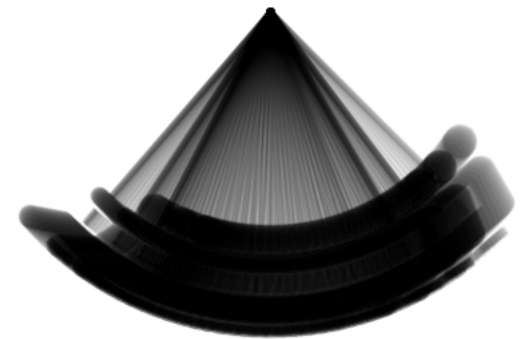


$$2^{-6}$$

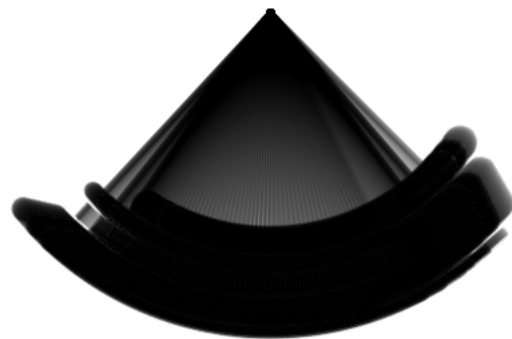
step size in seconds



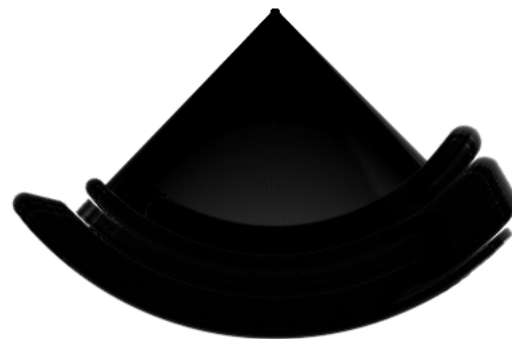
$$2^{-7}$$



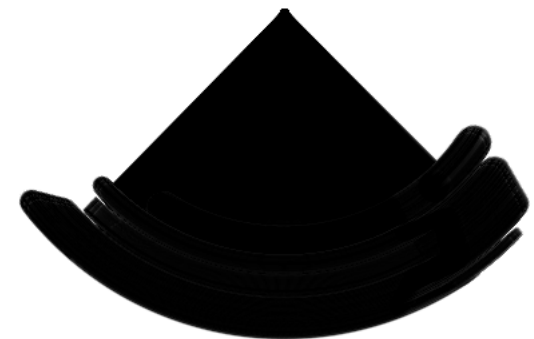
$$2^{-8}$$



$$2^{-9}$$



$$2^{-10}$$



$$2^{-11}$$

# First Order Integration Schemes

## Symplectic Euler Method A

$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_k$$

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} (-U'(q_{k+1}))$$

## Symplectic Euler Method B

$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_{k+1}$$

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} (-U'(q_k))$$

also called “semi-implicit” Euler methods

# First Order Integration Schemes

Symplectic Euler Methods, e.g.,

$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_{k+1}$$

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} (-U'(q_k))$$

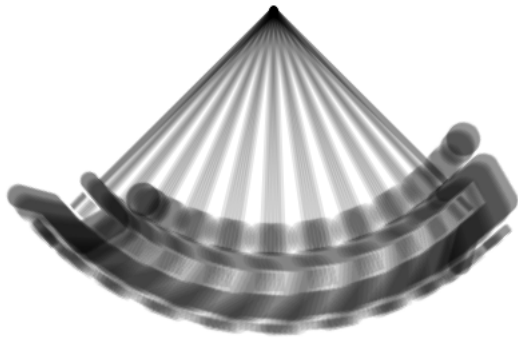
as cheap as Explicit Euler

bounded energy oscillation  
(little artificial damping/driving)

conserved linear and angular momentum

also unstable for very large time steps

# Symplectic Euler (Method B)

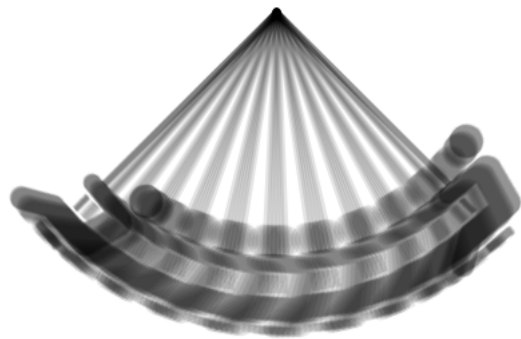


$$2^{-6}$$

step size in seconds

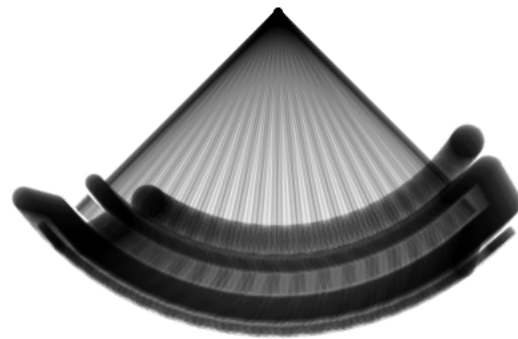


# Symplectic: Time Step Refinement

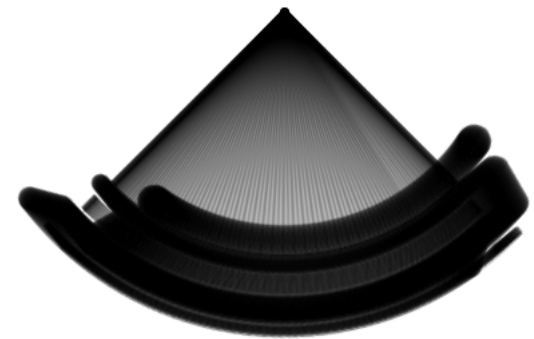


$$2^{-6}$$

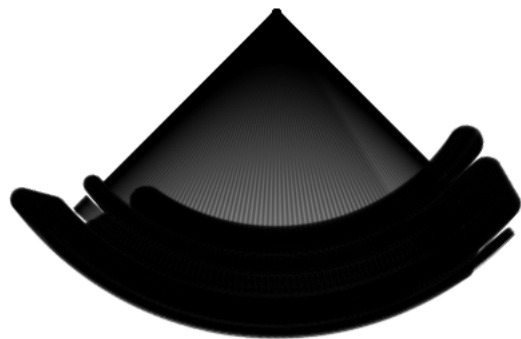
step size in seconds



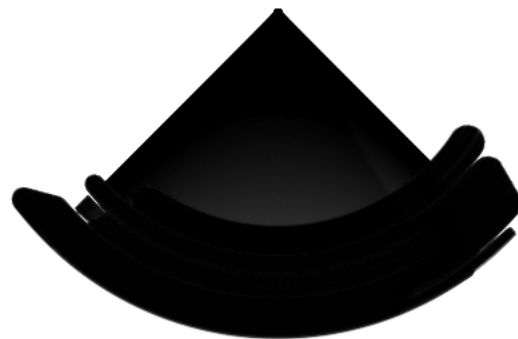
$$2^{-7}$$



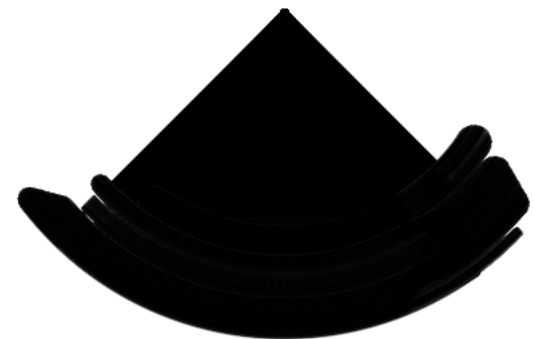
$$2^{-8}$$



$$2^{-9}$$



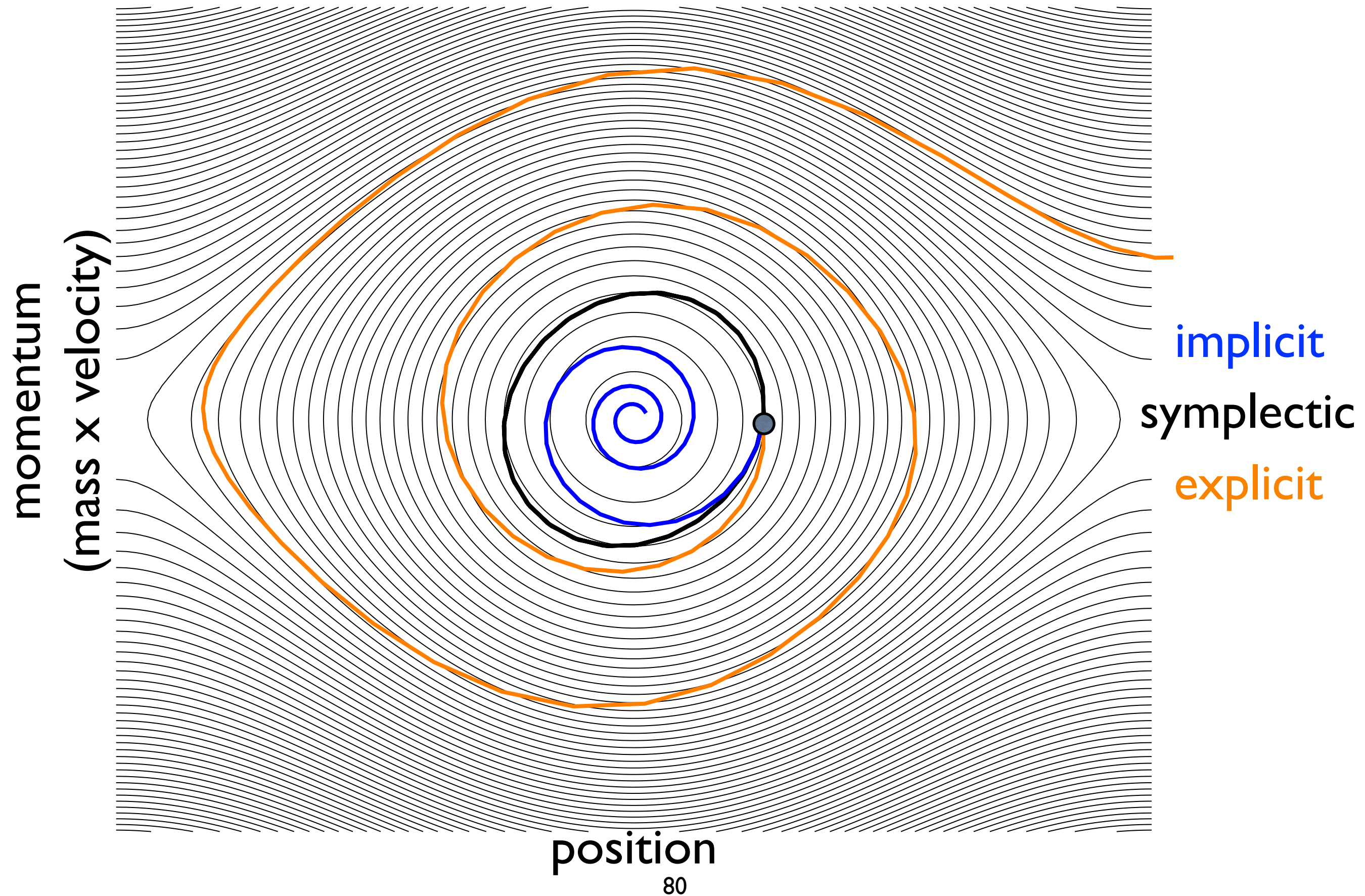
$$2^{-10}$$



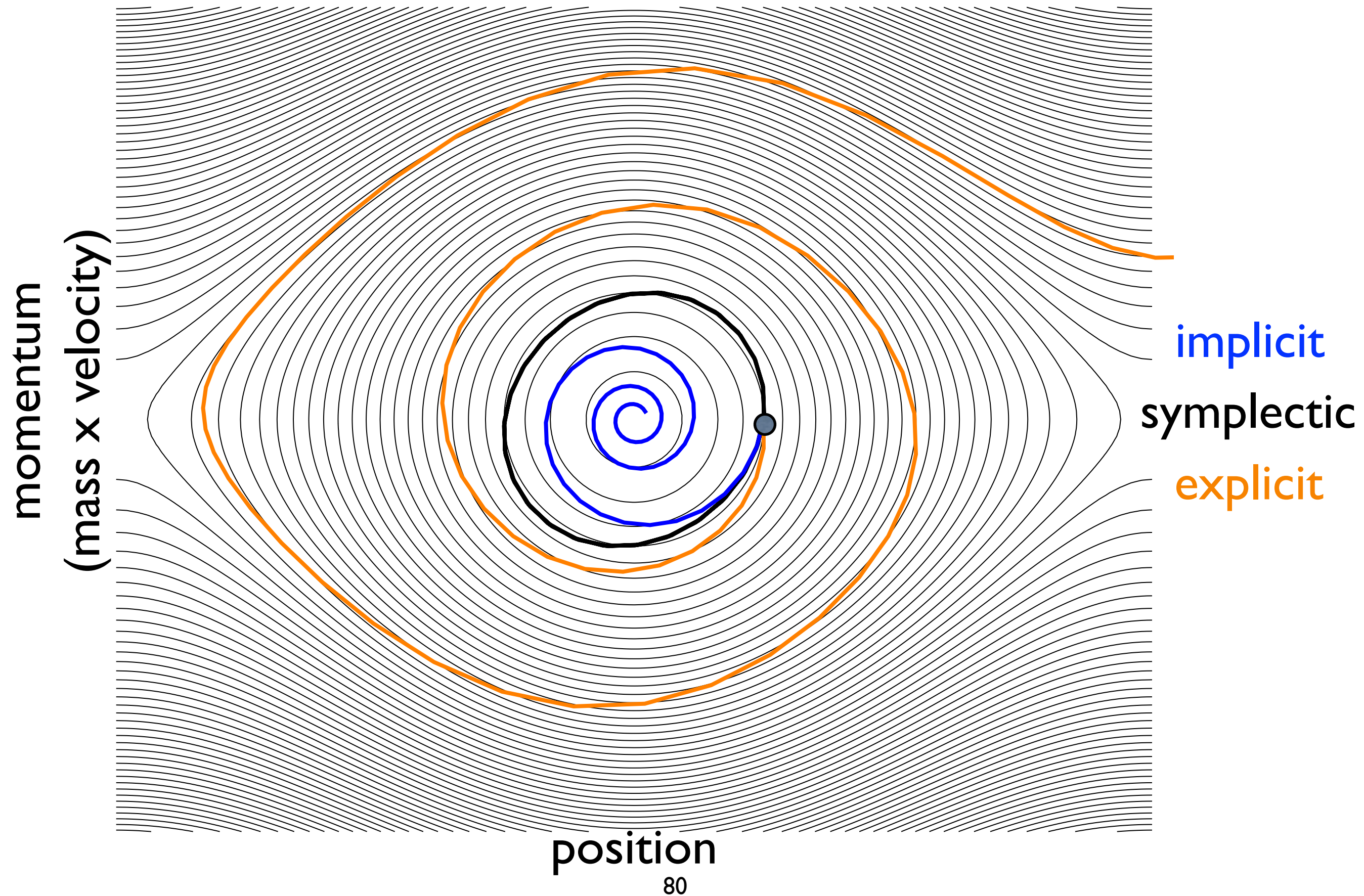
$$2^{-11}$$



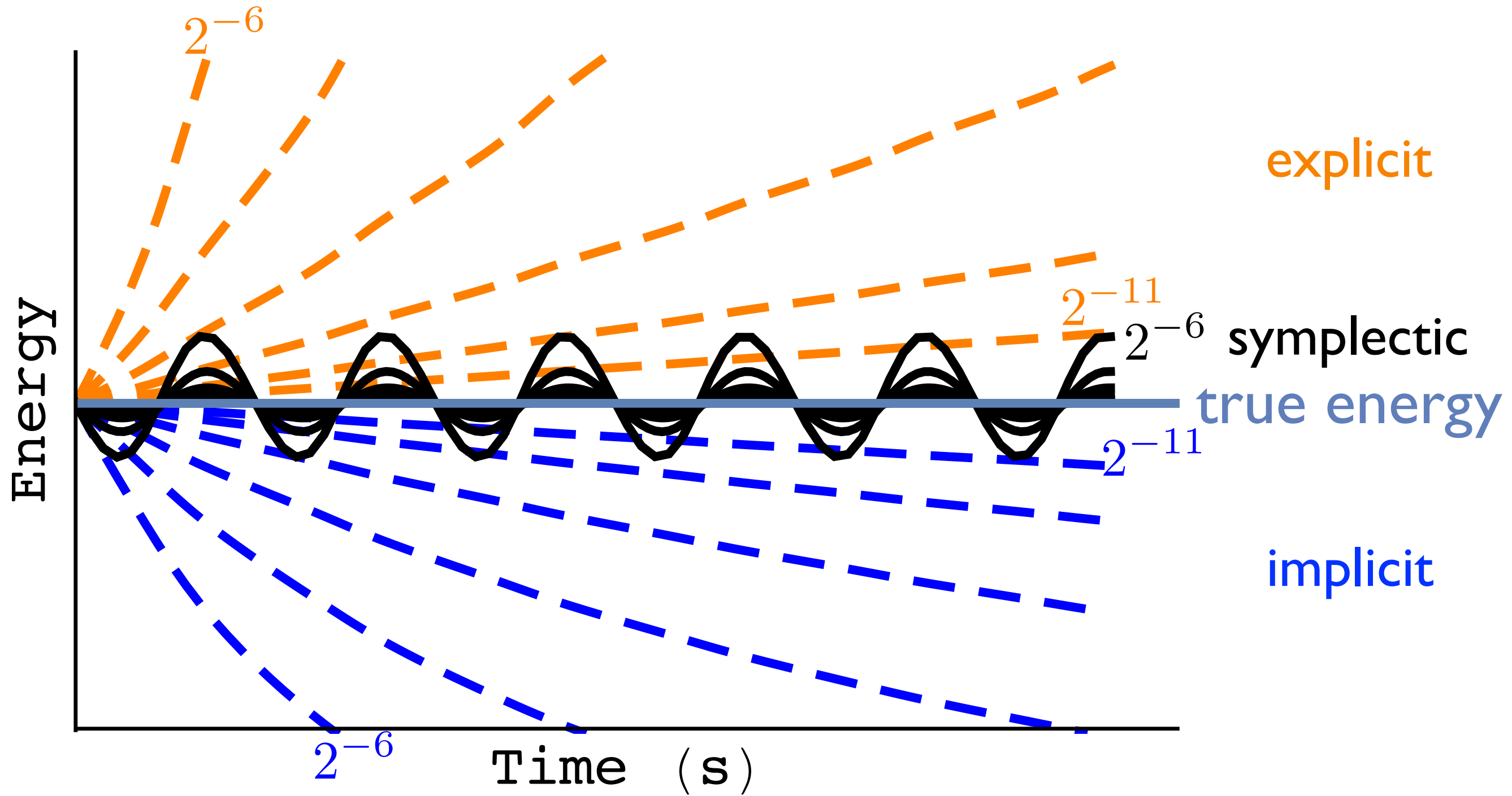
# Phase Space (energy levels)



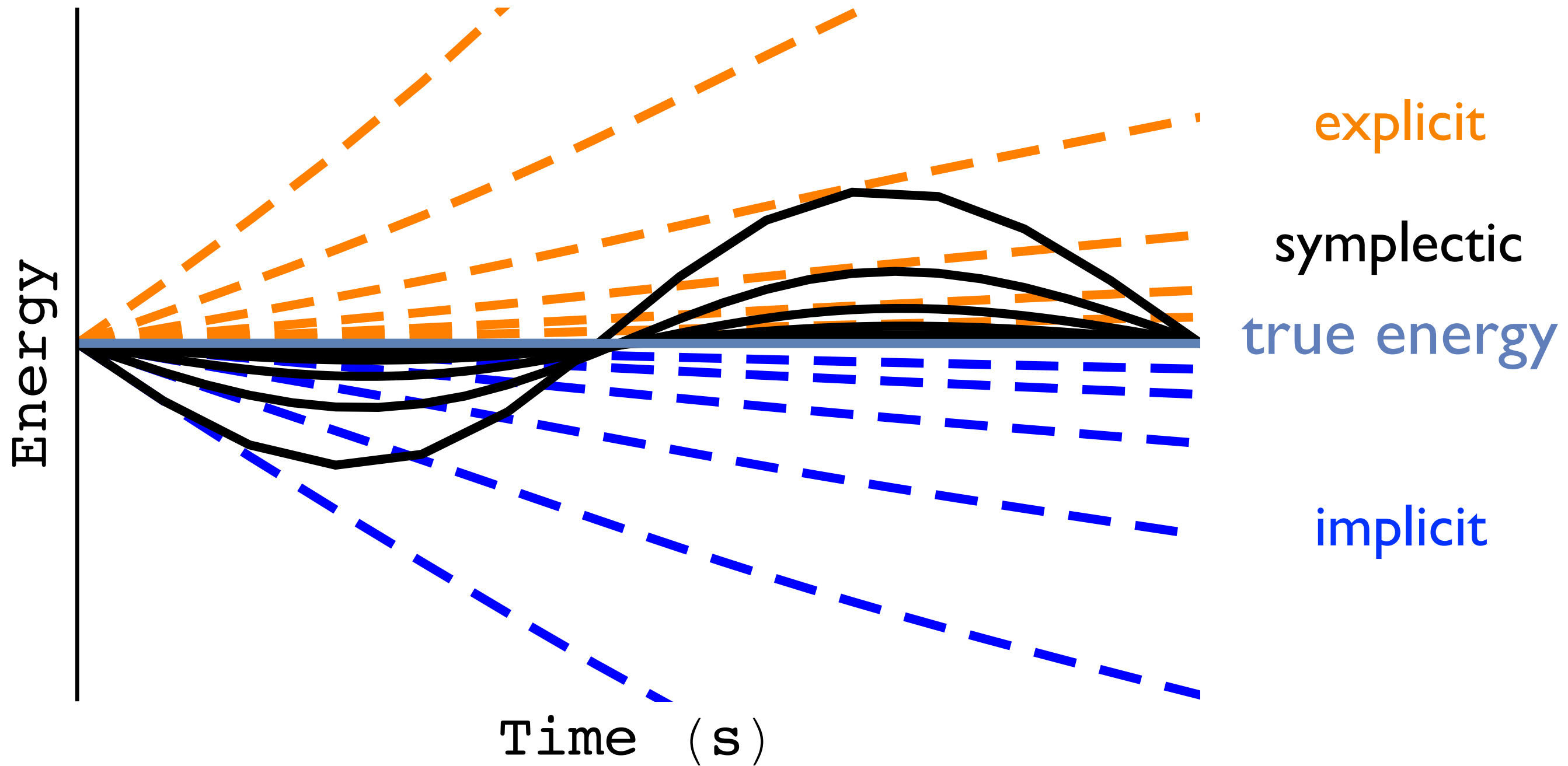
# Phase Space (energy levels)



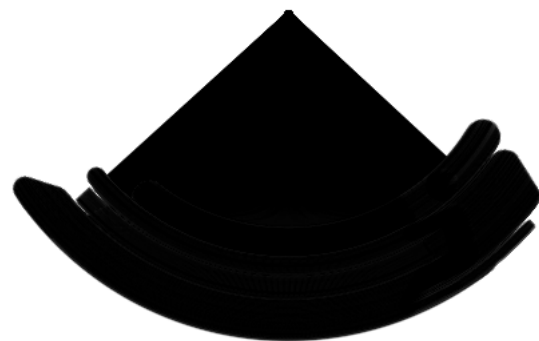
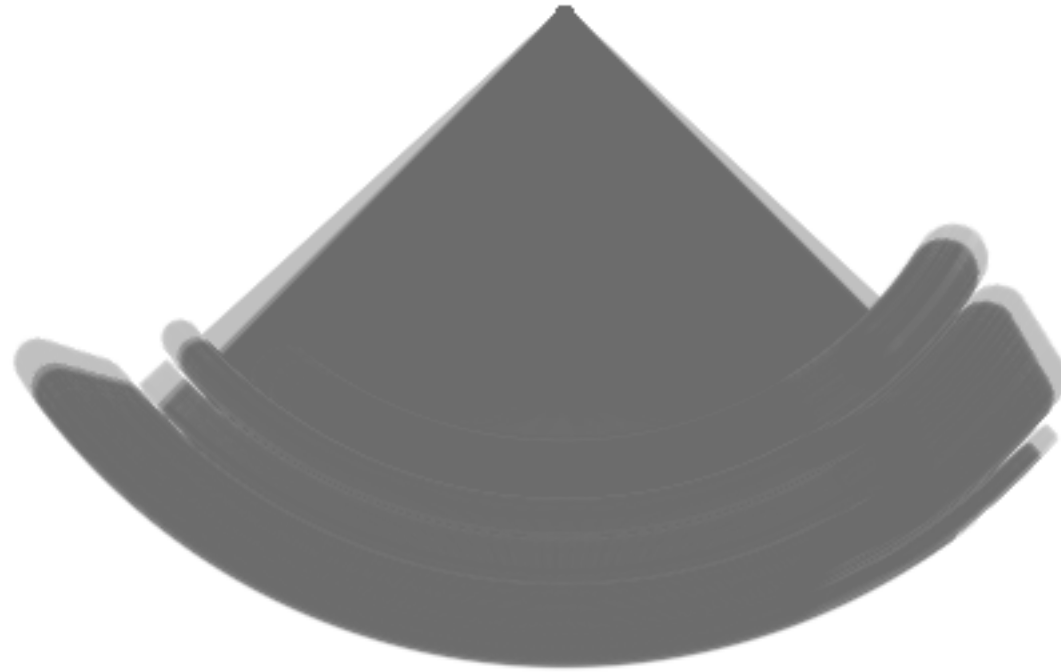
# Energy Landscape Under Step Refinement



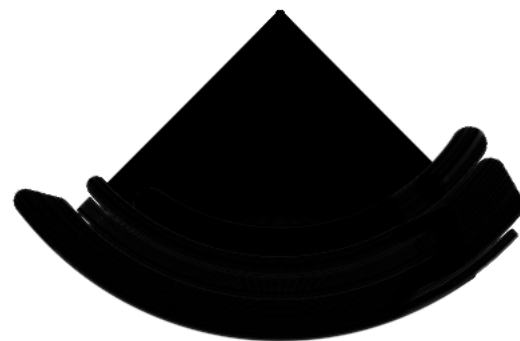
# Energy Landscape Near Time Zero



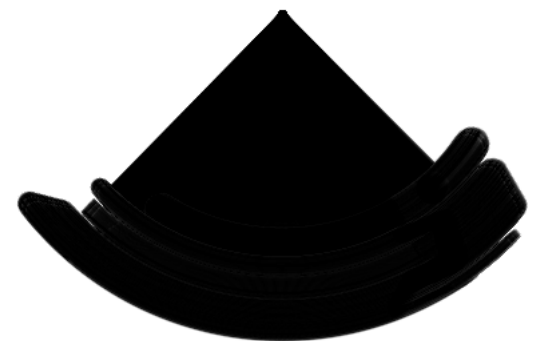
# Very Small Time Step



explicit



symplectic

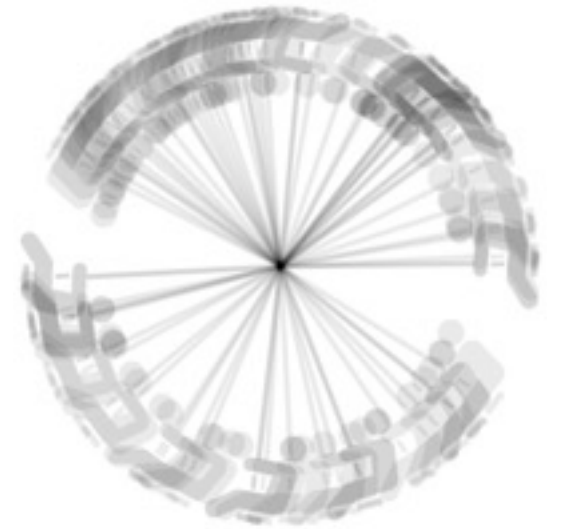
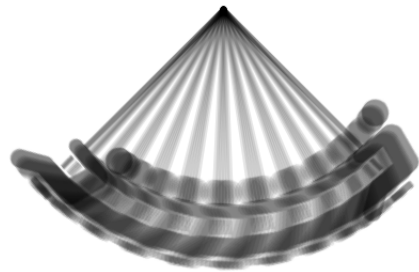


implicit



# Large Time Steps: Symplectic vs Implicit

Sym



$\Delta t$

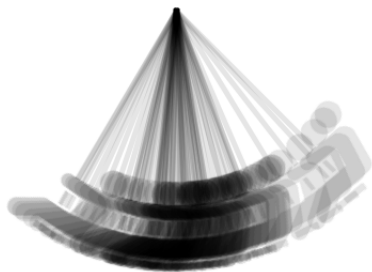
$2^{-6}$

$2^{-5}$

$2^{-4}$

$2^{-3}$

Imp



Symplectic unstable region shown in largest time step

Implicit is stable, but damping is time step dependent

# Three Integrators Summary



Explicit

cheap

artificial driving

unstable



Variational

cheap

good energy

unstable for large  $\Delta t$

momenta conserved



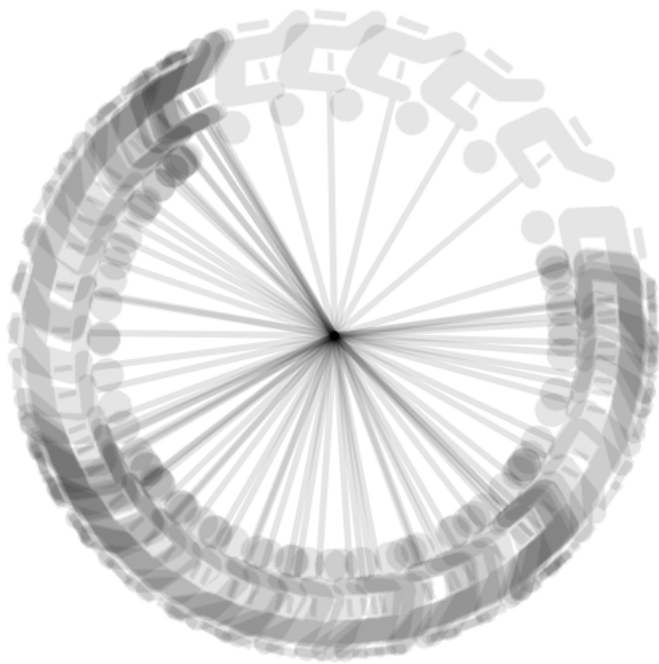
Implicit

more expensive

artificial damping

stable

# Three Integrators Summary

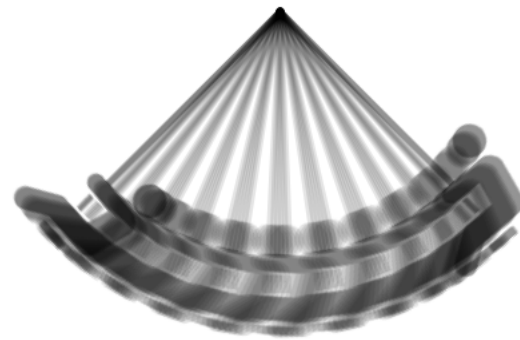


## Explicit

cheap

artificial driving

unstable



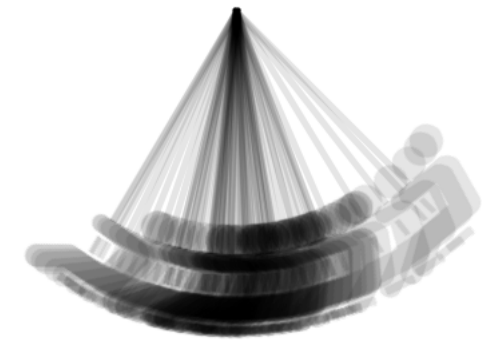
## Variational

cheap

good energy

unstable for large  $\Delta t$

momenta conserved



## Implicit

more expensive

artificial damping

stable



# Three Integrators Summary

## Variational Integrators

cheap

good energy

momenta conserved

but (can't have it all!)

unstable for large  $\Delta t$

# Damped Systems

Want to include non-conservative forces, too

$$m\ddot{q} = -U'(q) + f(q, \dot{q})$$

Systems with non-conservative forces satisfy the

## Lagrange-D'Alembert Principle

$$\delta_{\eta} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathcal{L}(q(t), \dot{q}(t)) dt + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(q(t), \dot{q}(t)) \cdot \eta dt = 0$$

variation of action in  
direction eta

integral of force  
in direction of  
variation, eta

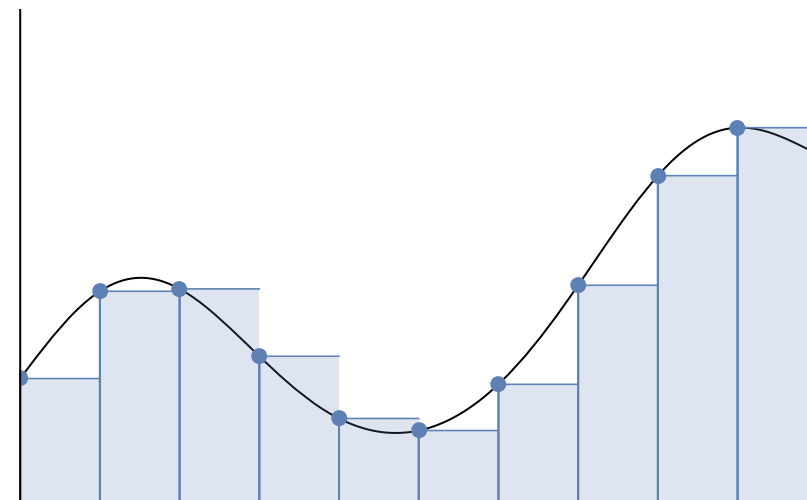
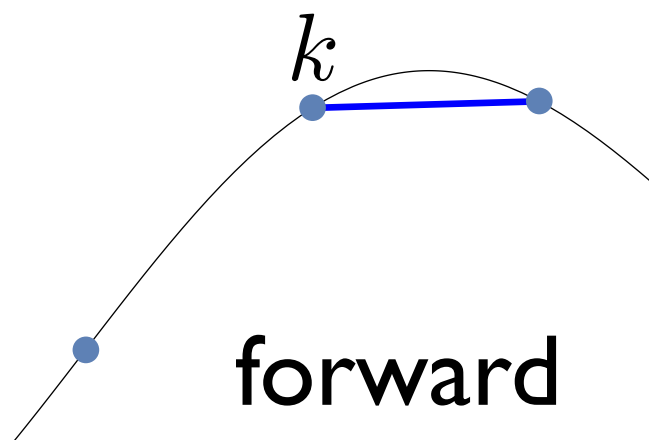
modification of Principle of Stationary Action

# Damped Systems

## Lagrange-D'Alembert Principle

$$\delta_{\eta} \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \mathcal{L}(q(t), \dot{q}(t)) dt + \int_{t_1}^{t_2} f(q(t), \dot{q}(t)) \cdot \eta dt = 0$$

Discretize using Variational Principle with:

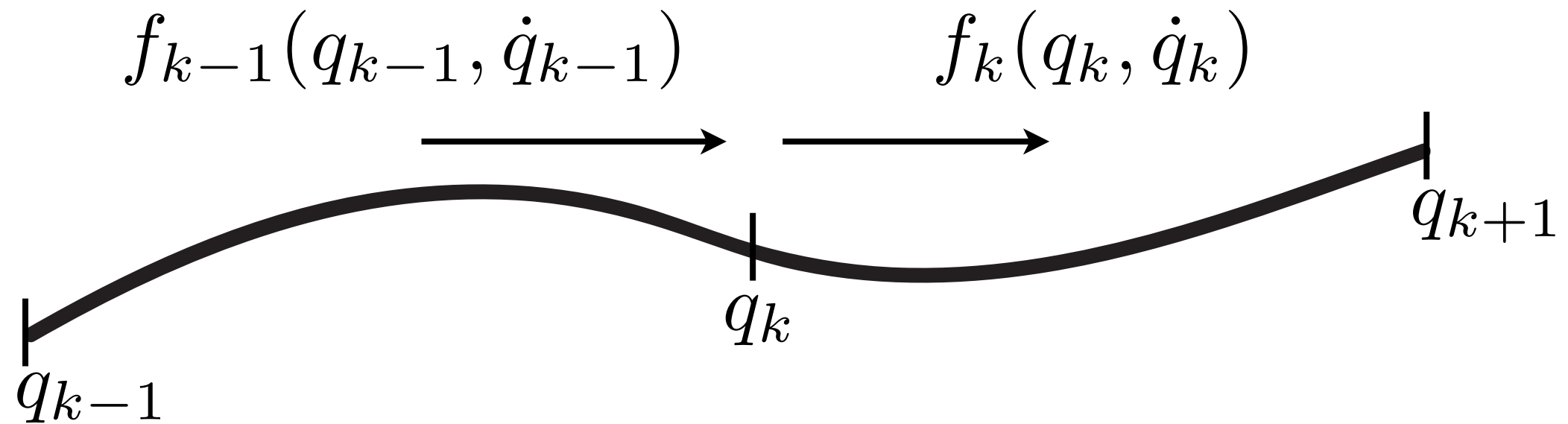


rectangular

(Forced Symplectic Euler Method)

# Discrete Lagrange-D'Alembert Principle

## Forced Symplectic Euler Method B

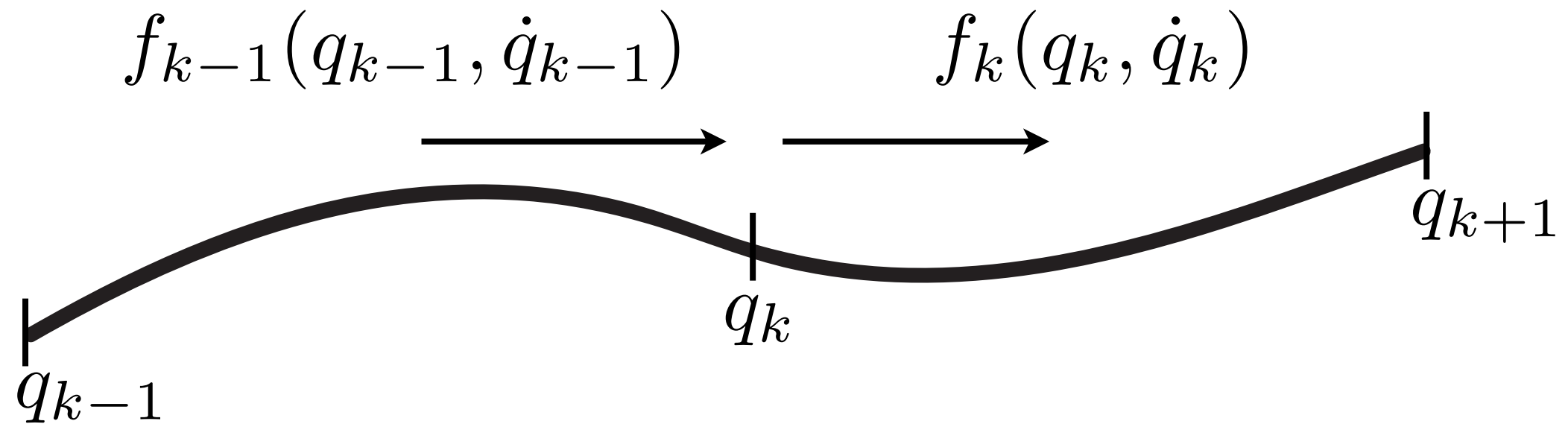


$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_{k+1}$$

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} \left( -U'(q_k) + \frac{f_{k-1} + f_k}{2} \right)$$

# Discrete Lagrange-D'Alembert Principle

## Forced Symplectic Euler Method B



$$q_{k+1} = q_k + \Delta t \dot{q}_{k+1}$$

$$\dot{q}_{k+1} = \dot{q}_k + \Delta t m^{-1} \left( -U'(q_k) + \frac{f_{k-1} + f_k}{2} \right)$$

e.g., air resistance

$$f_k = -c \dot{q}_k$$

# Variational Damped Pendulum

30% damped



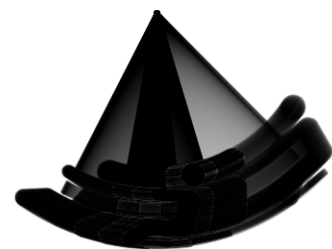
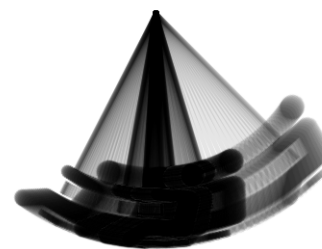
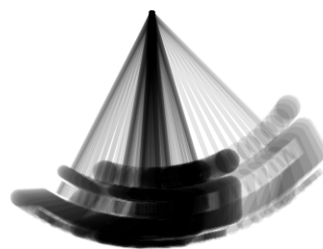
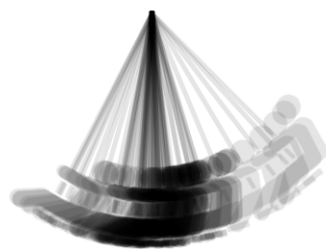
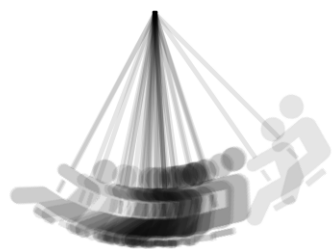
non-damped



# Variational Damped Pendulum

30% damped

non-damped



behavior independent of step size  
(within stable region)

# Variational Damped Pendulum



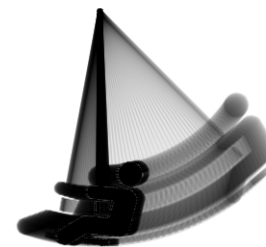
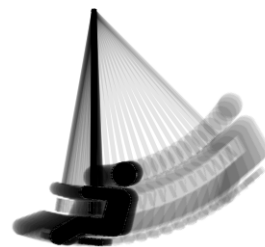
non-damped



30% damped



80% damped

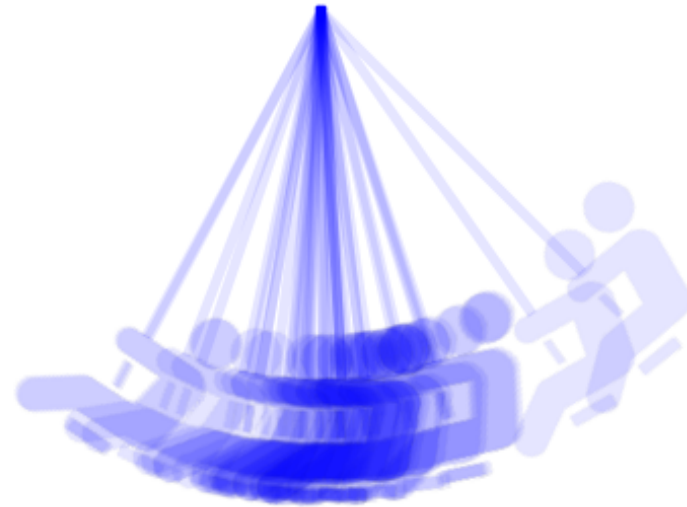


behavior independent of step size  
(within stable region)

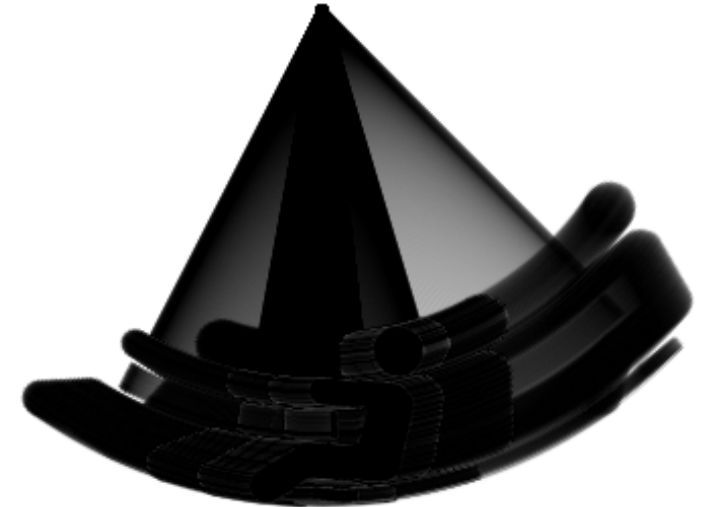


# 30% Damped Pendulum

Variational  
step size  
independent

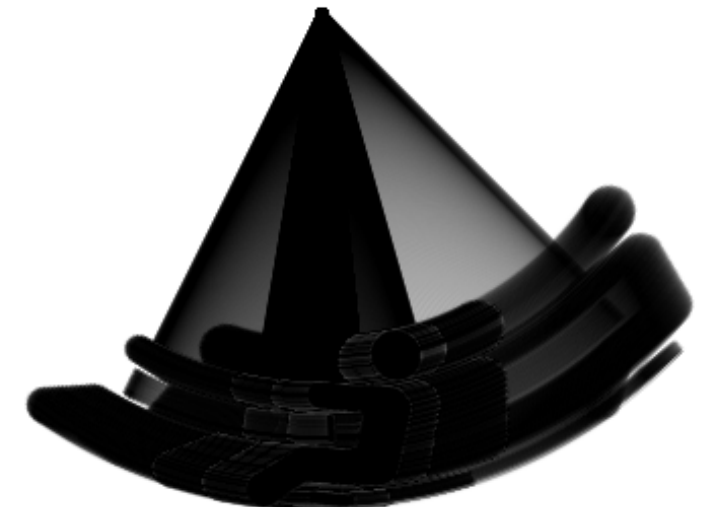
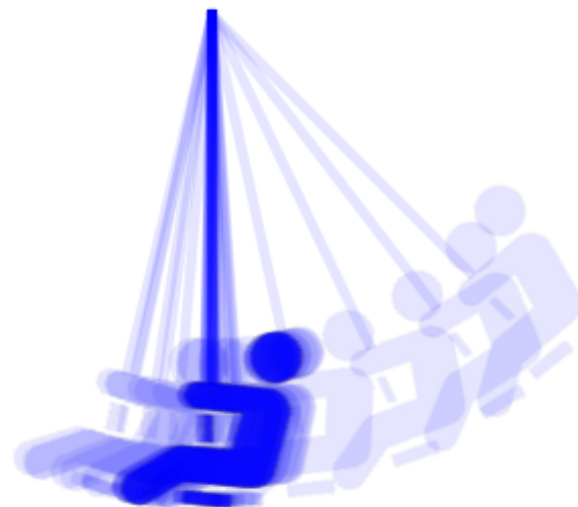


$$2^{-5}$$



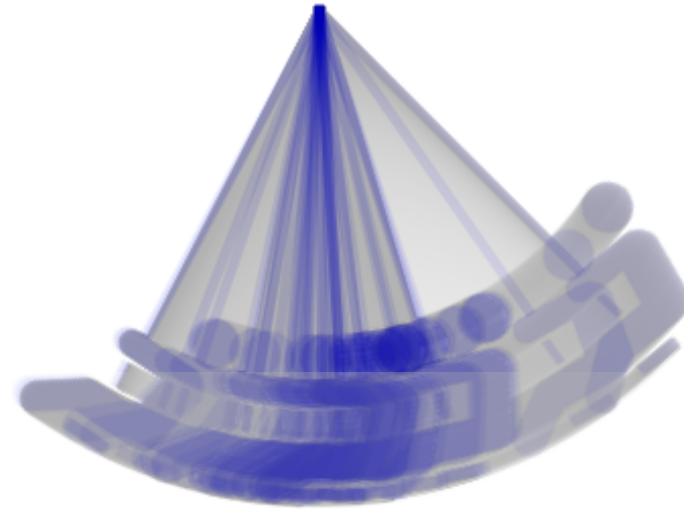
$$2^{-10}$$

Implicit  
step size  
dependent



# 30% Damped Pendulum

Variational  
step size  
independent

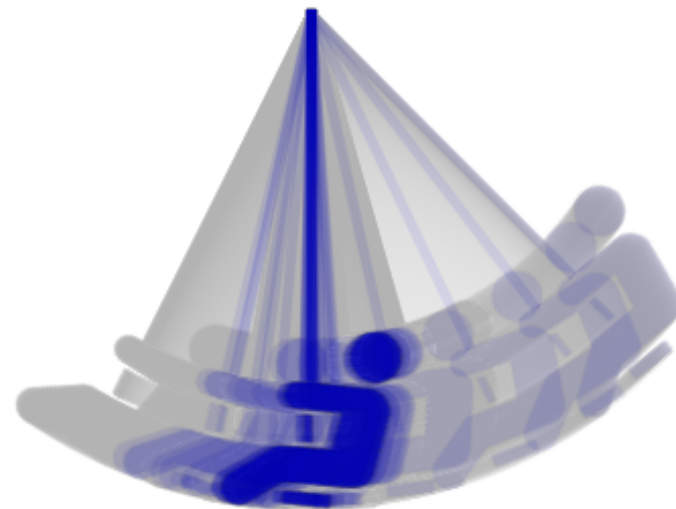


$\Delta t$

$2^{-5}$

$2^{-10}$

Implicit  
step size  
dependent



# 30% Damped Pendulum

## Forced Variational Integrators

cheap

good energy  
behavior

behavior independent of step size  
(in stable region)

Essential for rough previews often  
done in Computer Graphics

Variational

step size  
independent

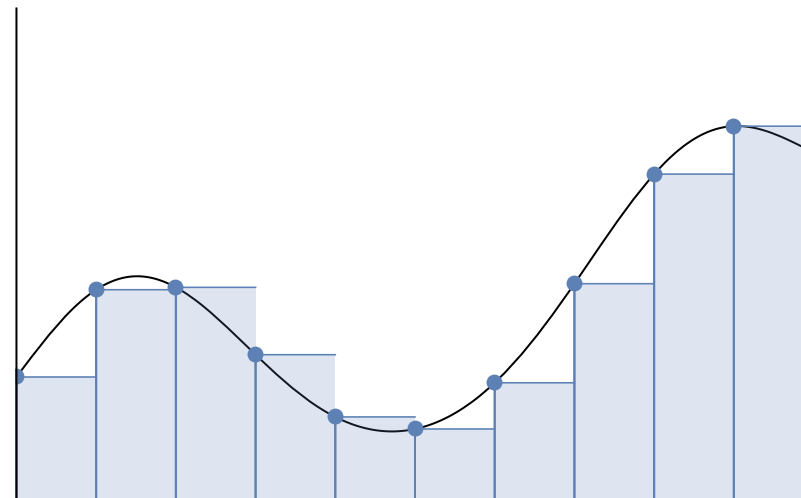
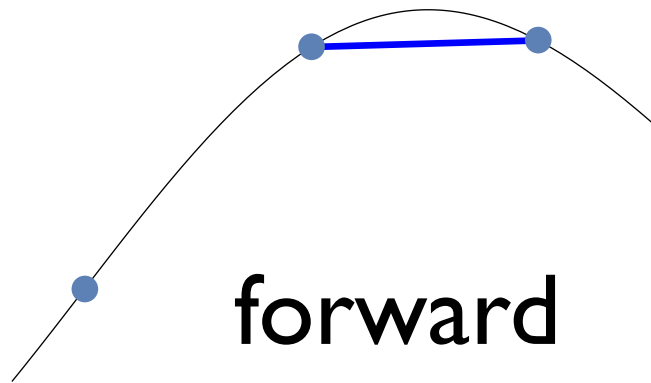
$\Delta t$

Implicit

step size  
dependent

# Higher Order Variational Integrators

Recall:



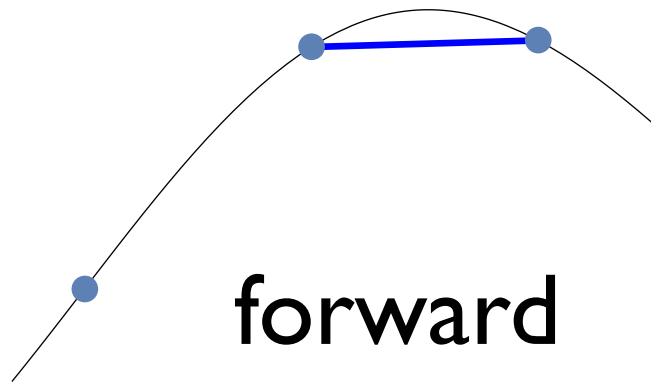
zeroth order  
quadrature

rectangular

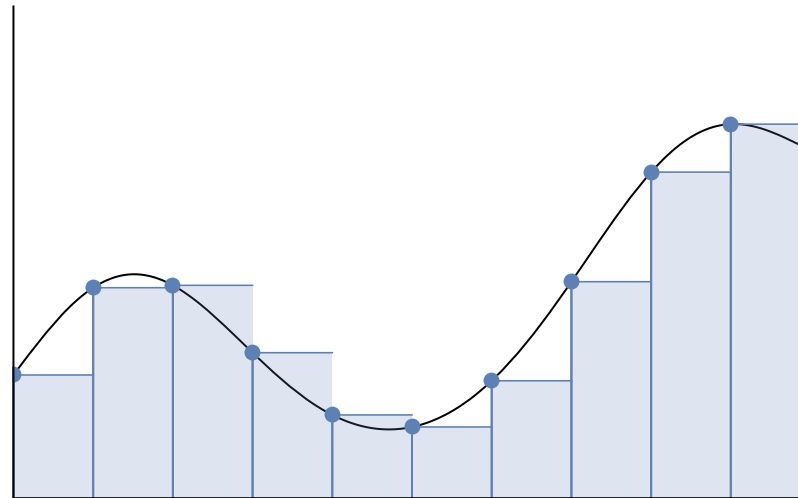
yields first order integration scheme

# Higher Order Variational Integrators

Recall:



forward



rectangular

zeroth order  
quadrature

yields first order integration scheme

Generically:

$r^{\text{th}}$

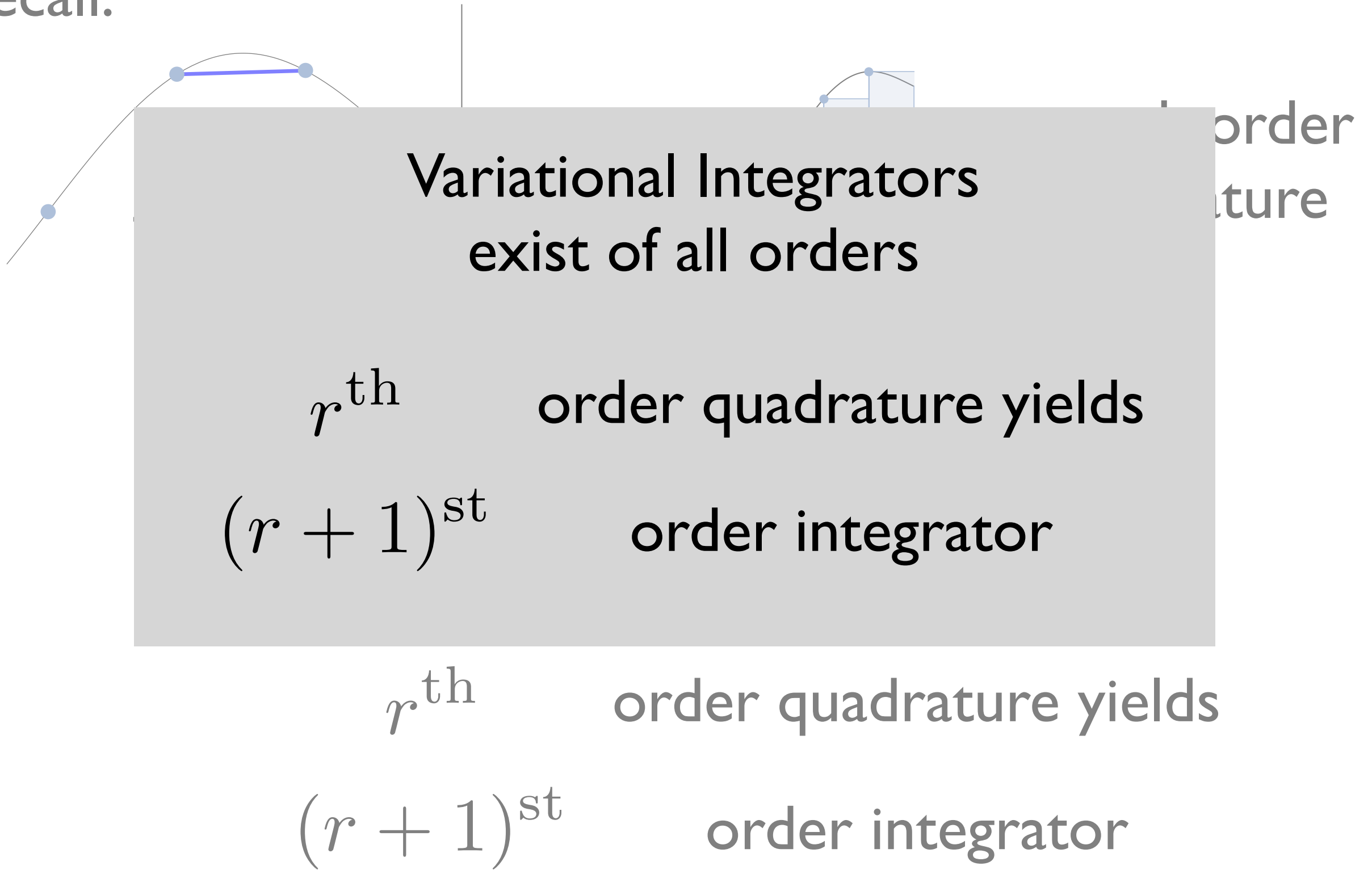
order quadrature yields

$(r + 1)^{\text{st}}$

order integrator

# Higher Order Variational Integrators

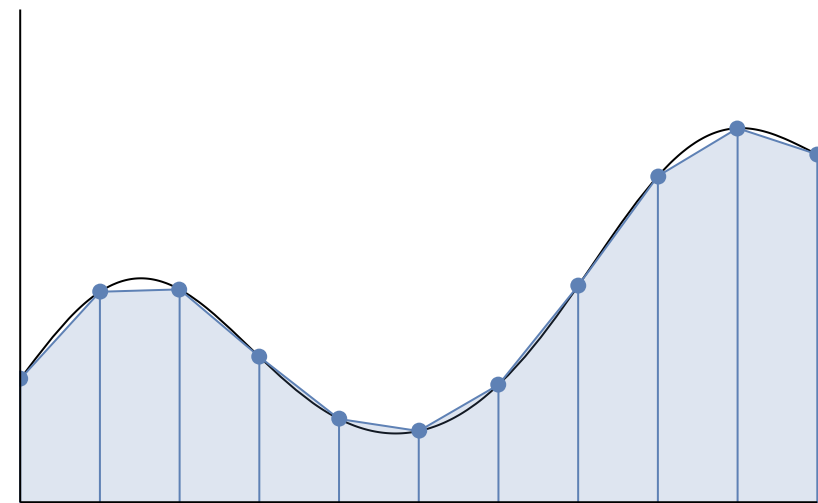
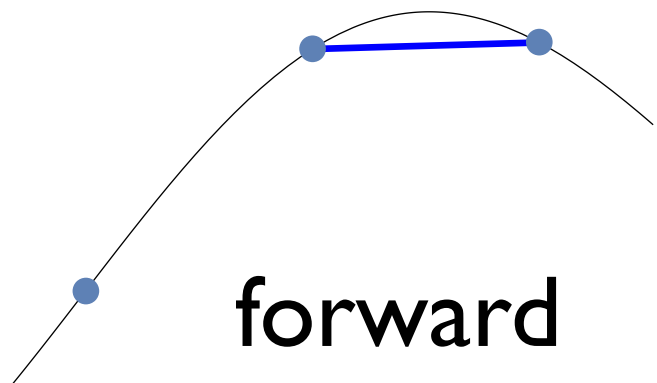
Recall:



# Some Well Known Variational Integrators

(of second order)

Use:



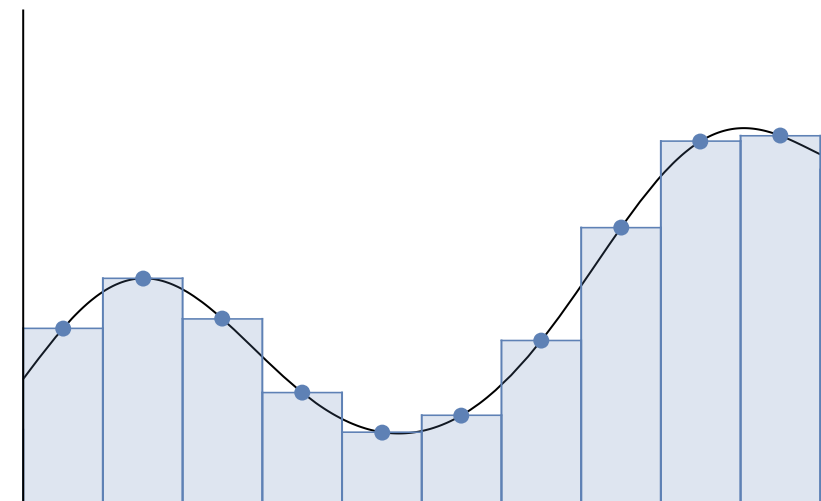
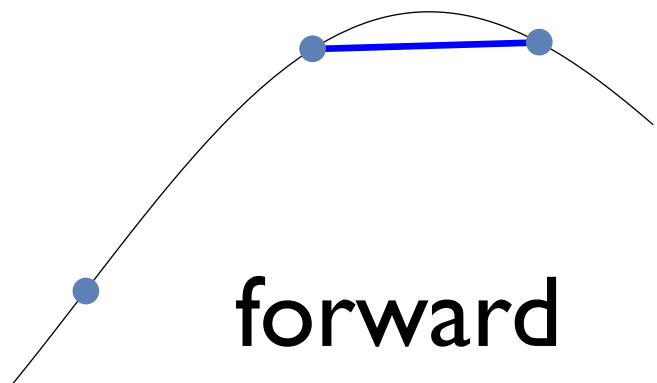
Derive:

Störmer-Verlet Method

# Some Well Known Variational Integrators

## (of second order)

Use:



Derive:      Implicit Midpoint Method

(algebraic miracle, zeroth yields second order)



# Comparison of First and Second Order Integrators

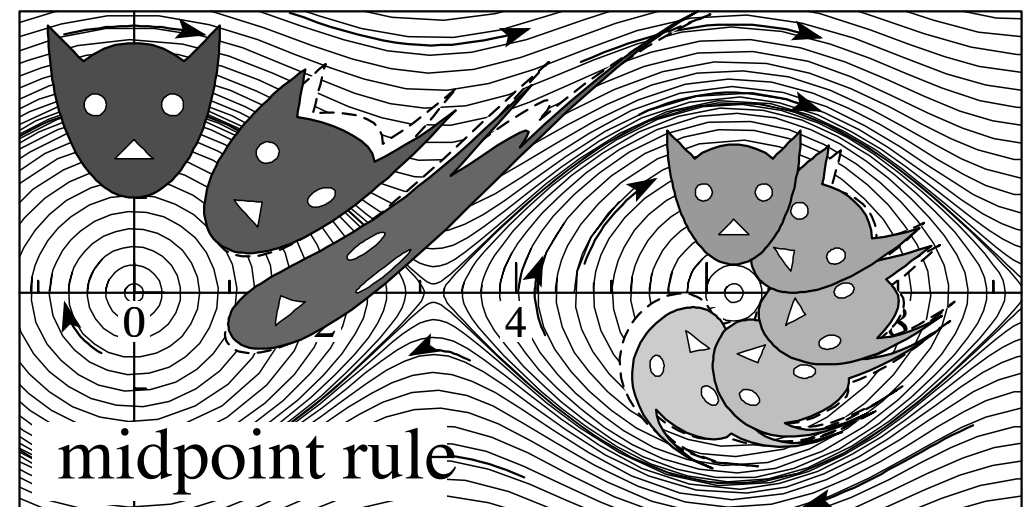
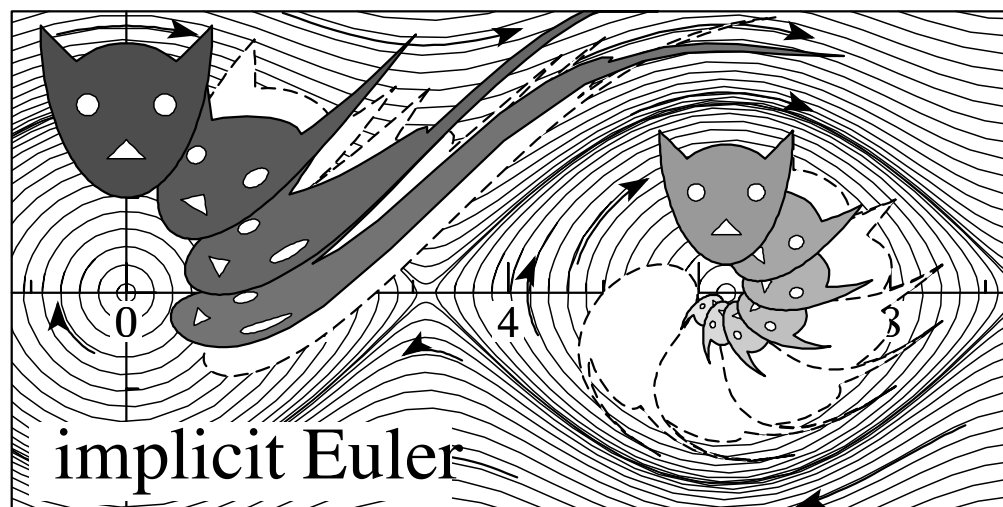
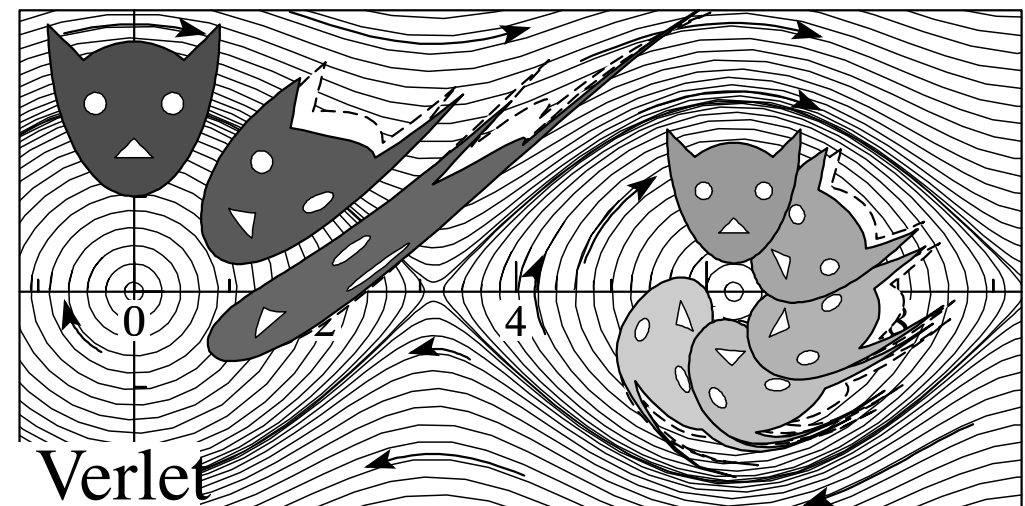
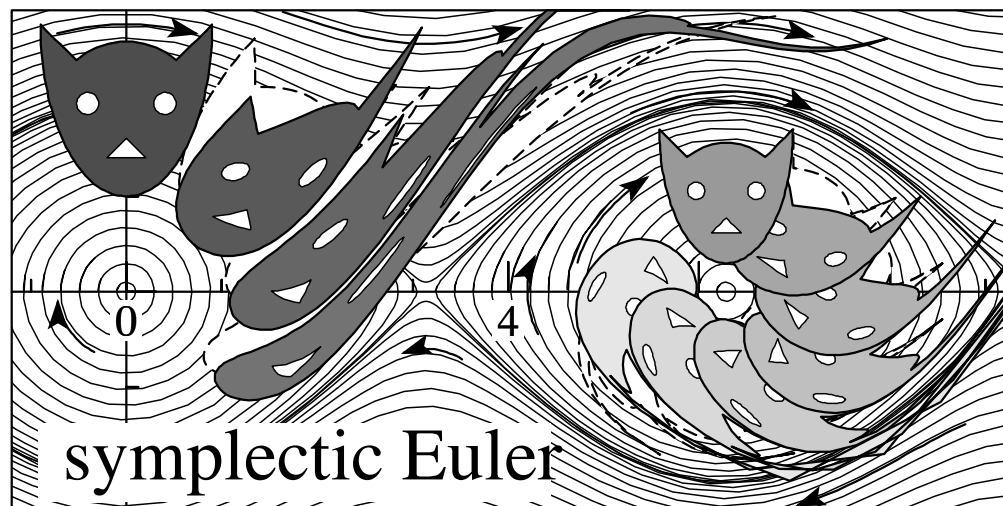
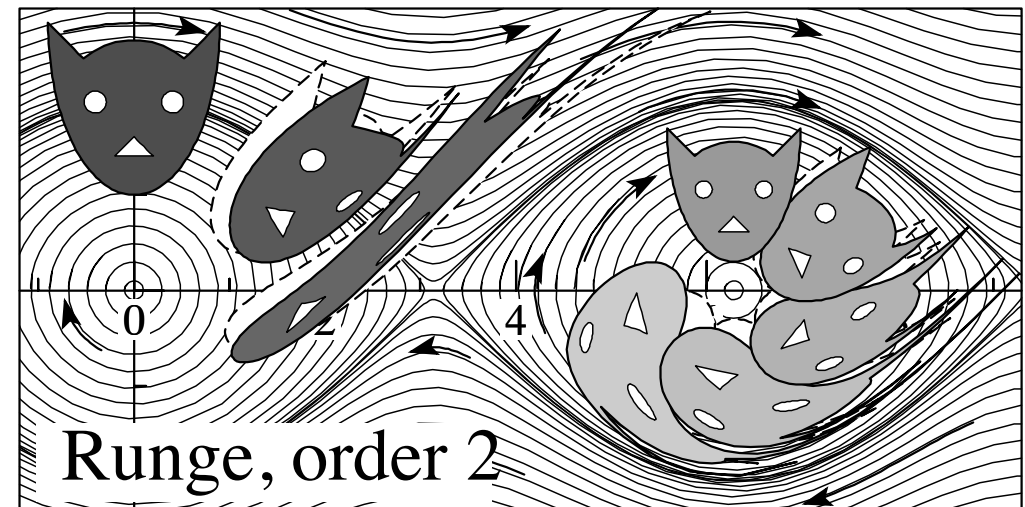
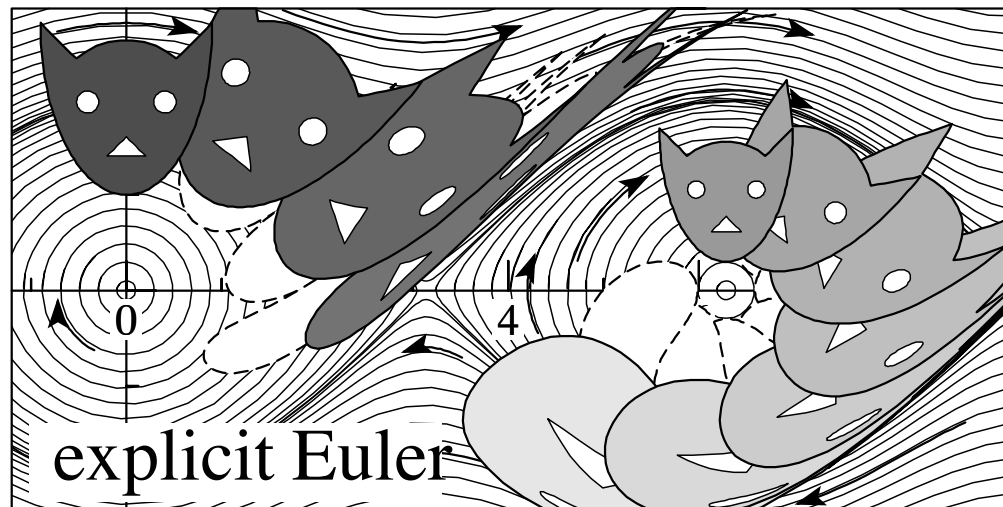


Image from Hairer, Lubich, and Wanner 2006

# Summary: Variational Time Integrators

No more difficult to implement

... but have many advantages ...

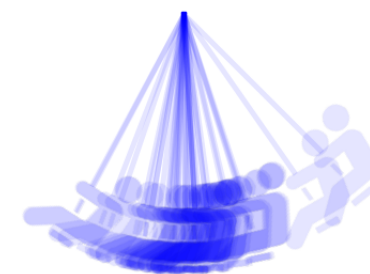
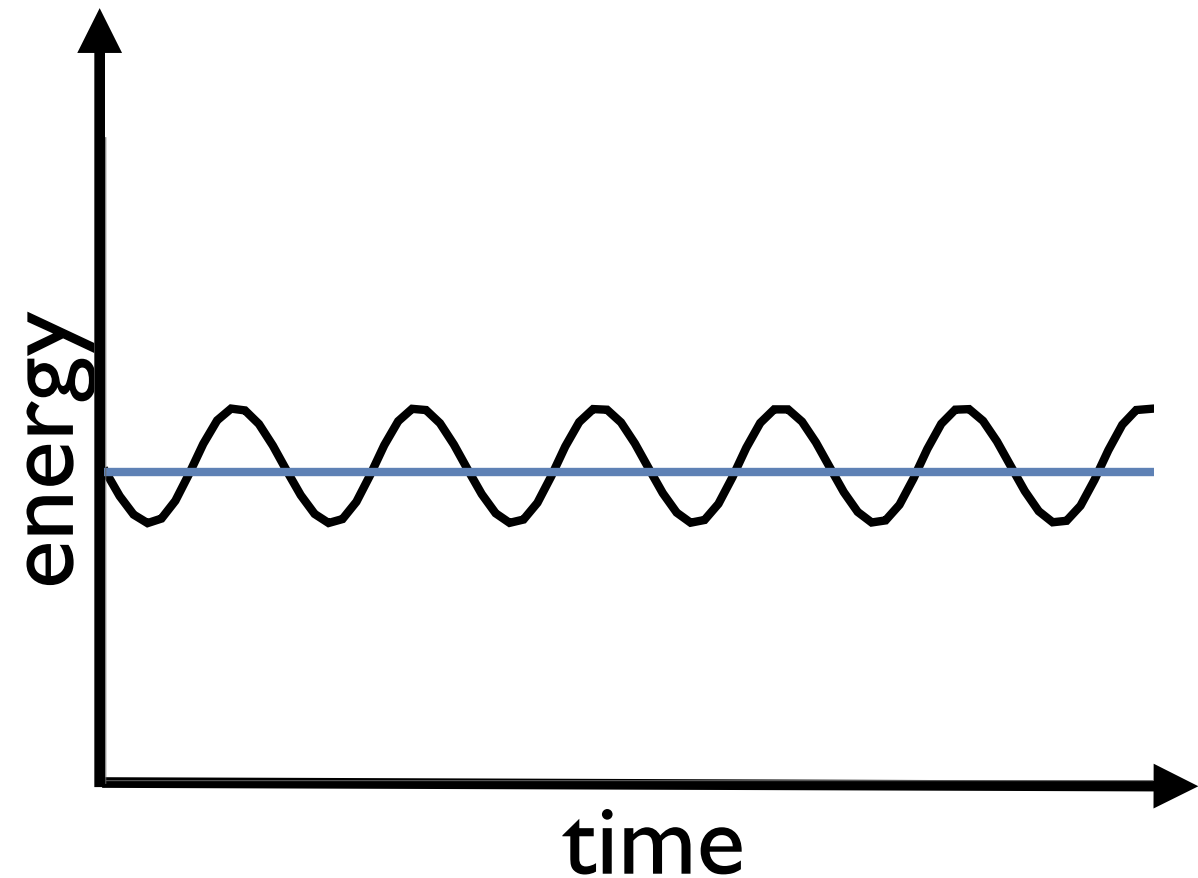
# Summary: Variational Time Integrators

## Discrete Principle of Stationary Action

Symplectic structure guarantees  
good energy behavior

Noether's theorem guarantees  
conservation of momenta

Forced systems have behavior  
independent of step size  
(for stable time steps)



# Questions?

# (very incomplete list of) further reading

## **Principle of Least Action**

Feynman Lectures on Physics II.19

[http://www.feynmanlectures.caltech.edu/II\\_19.html](http://www.feynmanlectures.caltech.edu/II_19.html)

## **Geometric Numerical Integration: Structure-preserving Algorithms for Ordinary Differential Equations.**

Hairer E, Lubich C, Wanner G. Springer; 2002.

## **Variational integrators.**

West, Matthew (2004) Dissertation (Ph.D.), California Institute of Technology.

## **Geometric, variational integrators for computer animation.**

L. Kharevych, Weiwei Yang, Y. Tong, E. Kanso, J. E. Marsden, P. Schröder, and M. Desbrun. 2006. In Proceedings of the 2006 ACM SIGGRAPH/Eurographics symposium on Computer animation (SCA '06).

## **Speculative parallel asynchronous contact mechanics.**

Samantha Ainsley, Etienne Vouga, Eitan Grinspun, and Rasmus Tamstorf. 2012.

ACM Trans. Graph. 31, 6, Article 151 (November 2012), 8 pages. DOI=10.1145/2366145.2366170

# Details of Movies Shown

Pendulum assumptions:

mass equals length equals one

$$-U'(q) = -\sin(q)$$

initial conditions

$$\dot{q}(0) = 0$$

$$q(0) = \pi/4$$

movies at 16 fps