

# Multiphysics Simulation Methods in Computer Graphics

Daniel Holz<sup>1,2</sup>, Stefan Rhys Jeske<sup>3</sup>, Fabian Löschner<sup>3</sup>, Jan Bender<sup>3</sup>, Yin Yang<sup>4</sup>, Sheldon Andrews<sup>2</sup>

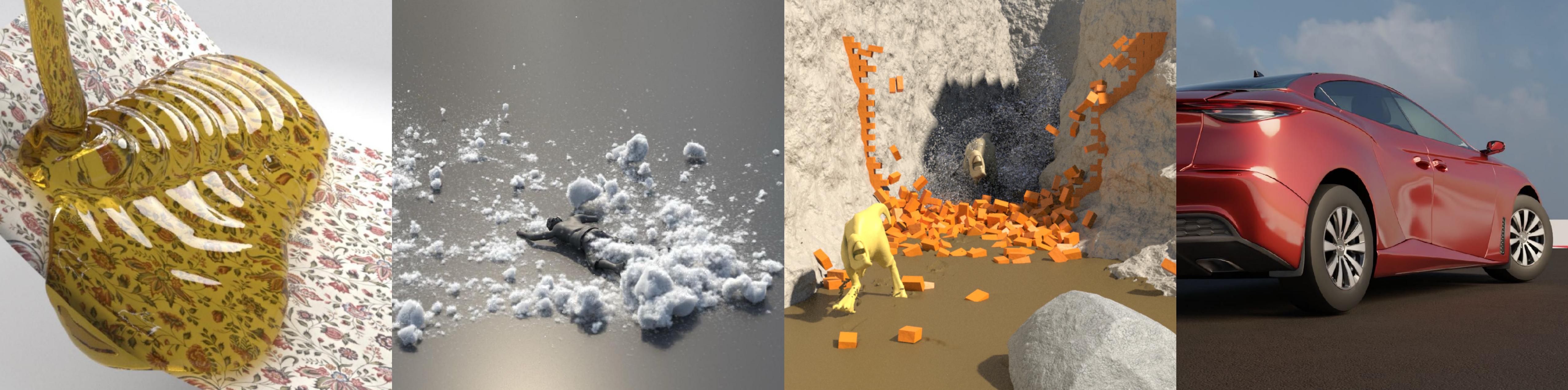


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# Part II

# Energy-based multiphysics modeling

Daniel Holz<sup>1,2</sup>, Stefan Rhys Jeske<sup>3</sup>, Fabian Löschner<sup>3</sup>, Jan Bender<sup>3</sup>, Yin Yang<sup>4</sup>, Sheldon Andrews<sup>2</sup>



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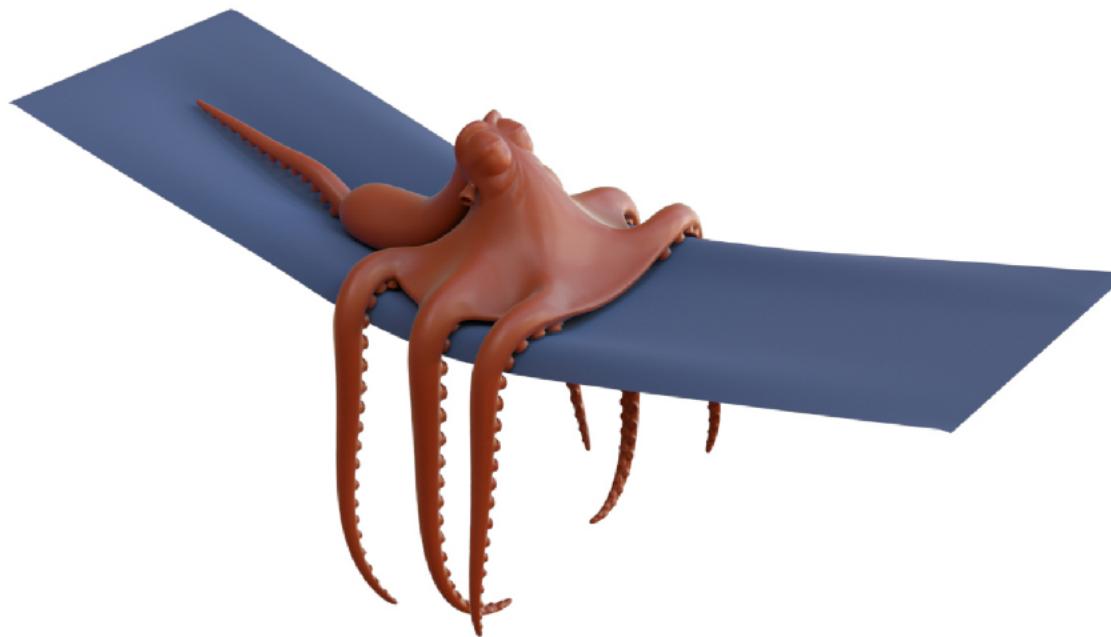


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# Elastic Energies in Computer Graphics

## Deformable Solids



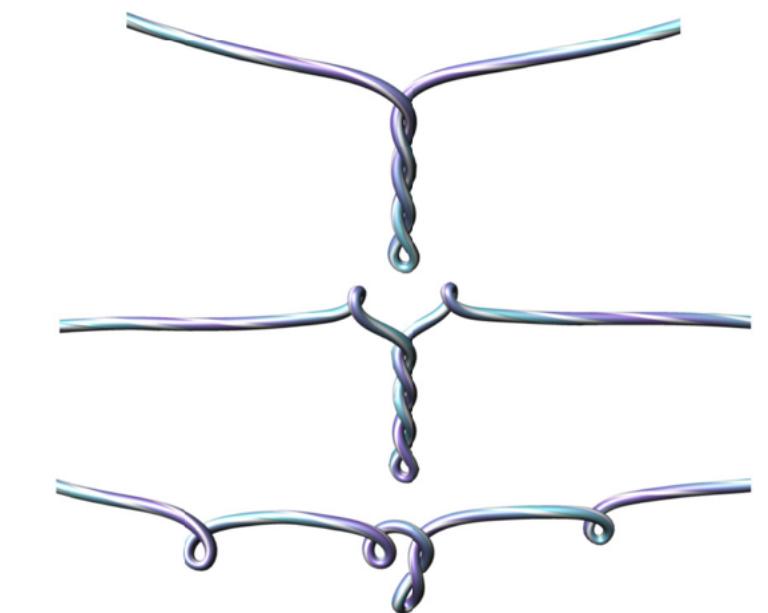
Dynamic Deformables [Kim, Eberle 2022]

## Cloth & Shells



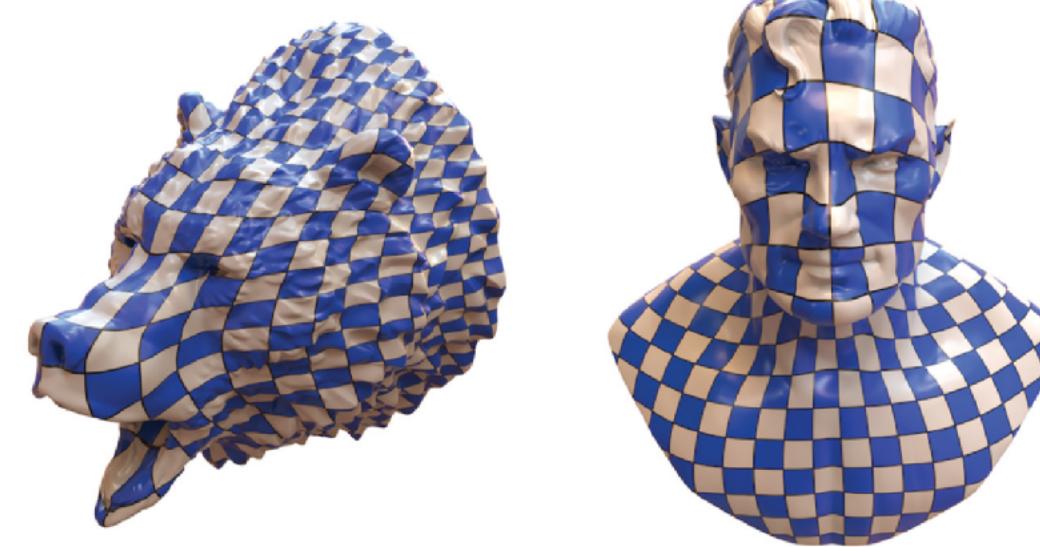
Progressive Dynamics for Cloth and Shell Animation  
[Zhang et al. 2024]

## Rods



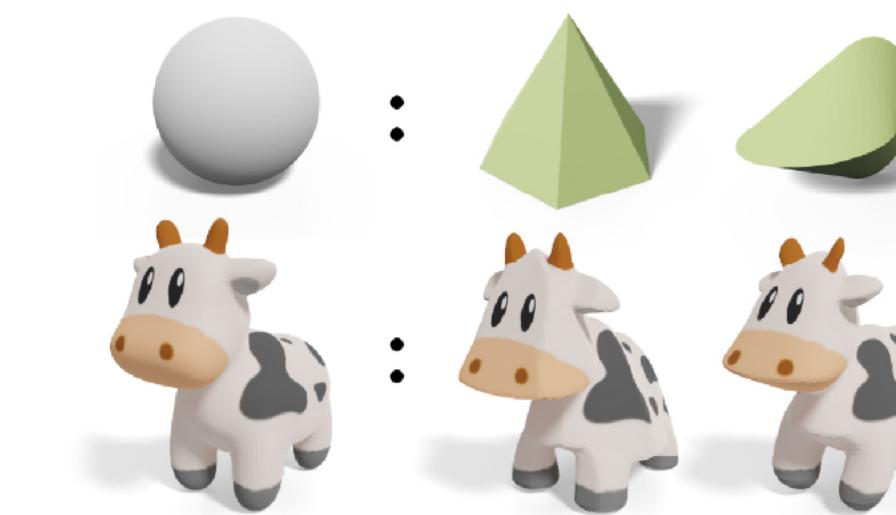
Discrete Elastic Rods  
[Bergou et al. 2008]

## Surface Parametrization



Analytic Eigensystems [Smith et al. 2019]

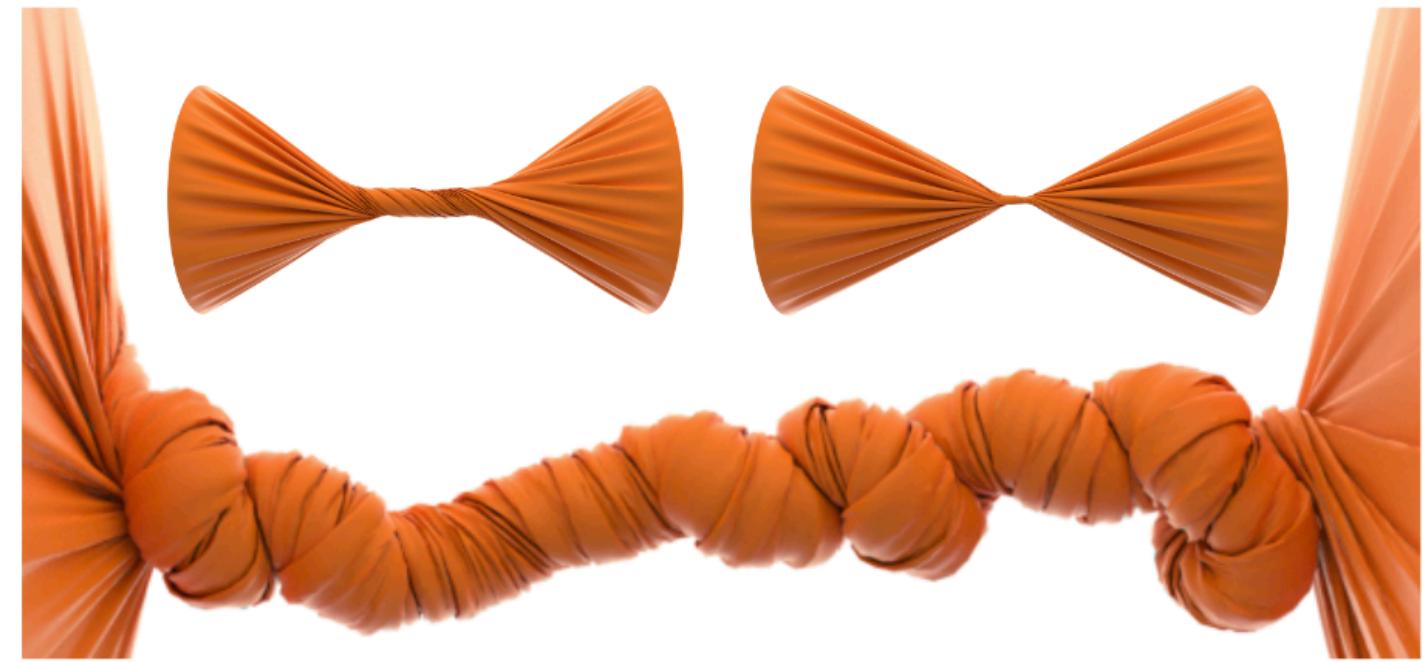
## Shape Stylization & Optimization



Normal-Driven Spherical Shape Analogies  
[Liu, Jacobson 2021]

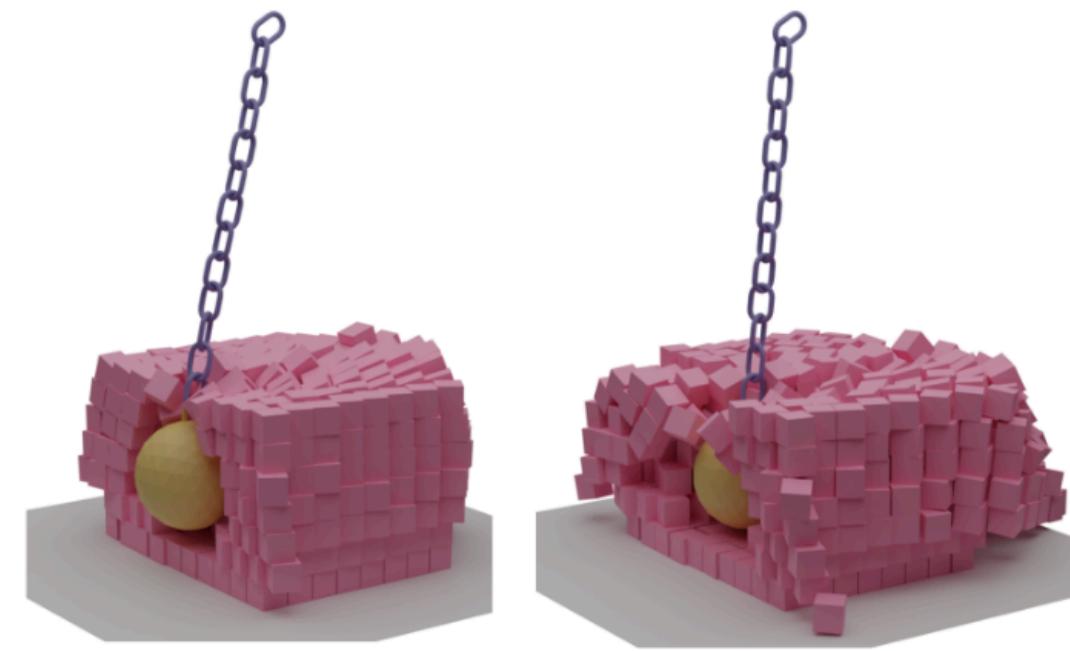
# Multiphysics Energies

## Contact



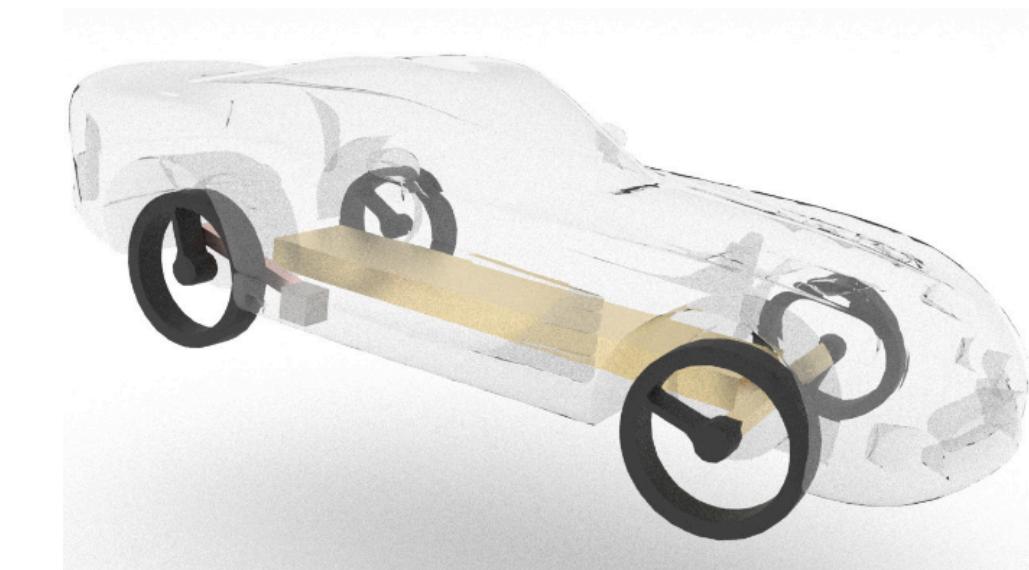
Codimensional Incremental Potential Contact [Li et al. 2021]

## Rigid Bodies



Intersection-free Rigid Body Dynamics [Ferguson et al. 2021]

## Multibody Systems



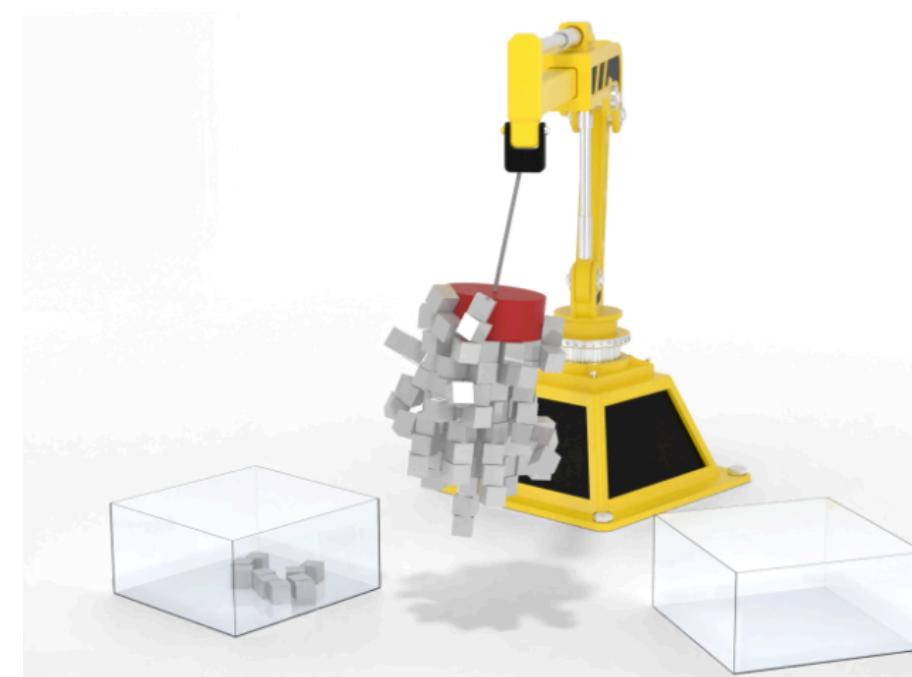
A Unified Newton Barrier Method for Multibody Dynamics  
[Chen et al. 2022]

## Fluids



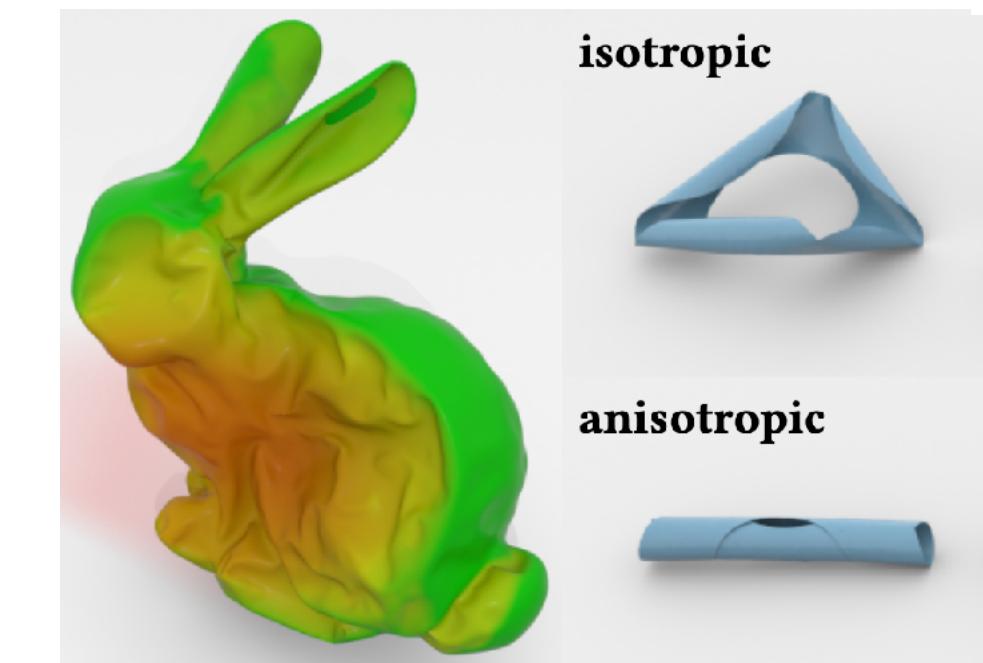
A Contact Proxy Splitting Method for Lagrangian Solid-Fluid Coupling  
[Xie et al. 2023]

## Magnetism



Strongly Coupled Simulation of Magnetic Rigid Bodies  
[Westhofen et al. 2024]

## Heating & Wetting



Physical Simulation of Environmentally Induced Thin Shell Deformation  
[Chen et al. 2018]

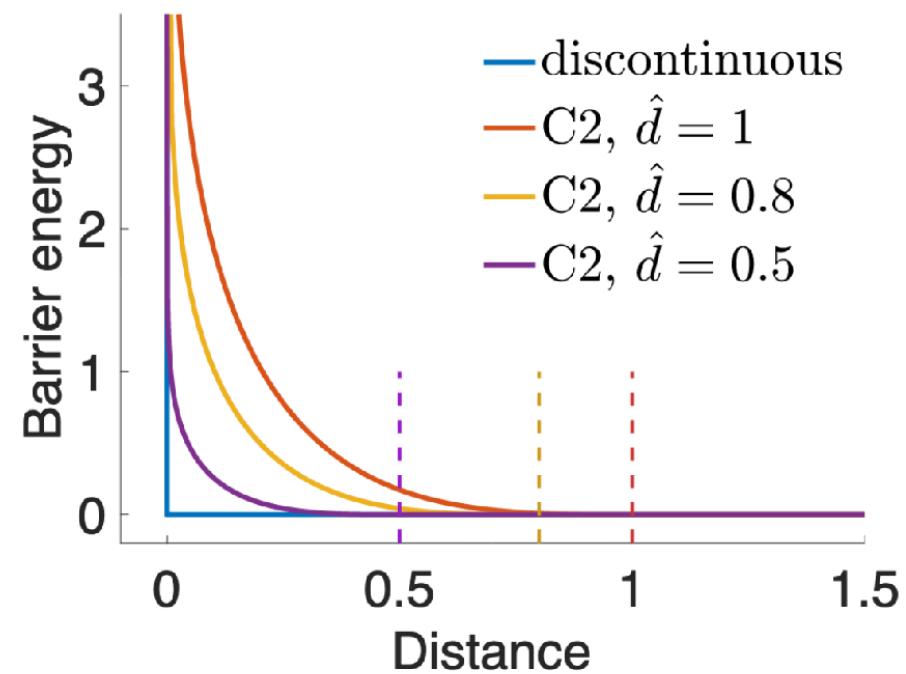
# Energy-Based Multiphysics Modeling

Unifying mathematical formulation

- Physical systems modeled by **scalar potentials**
- Constraints modeled by **barrier potentials** or penalties

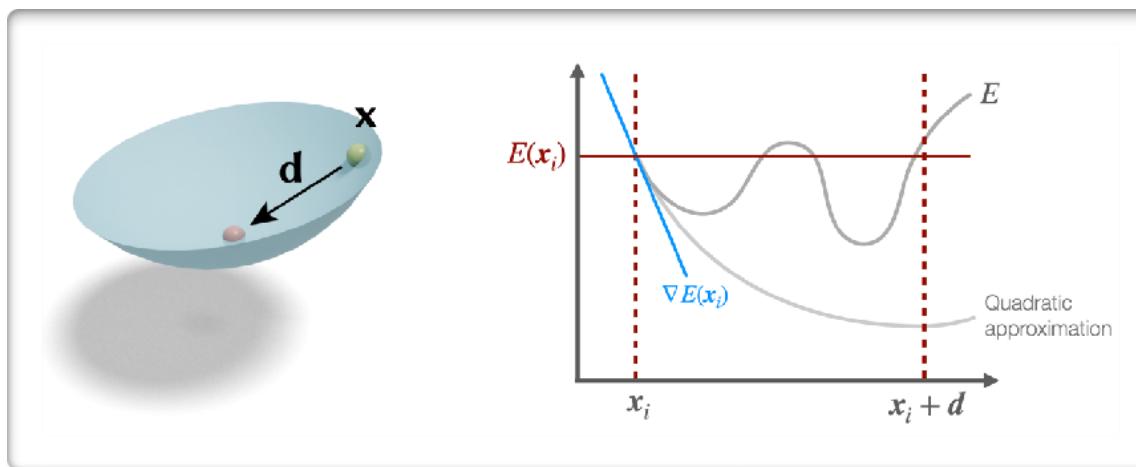
Typically

- ...leads to fully implicit, **primal** formulation
- ...solved as **unconstrained optimization** problem



Incremental Potential Contact [Li et al. 2020]

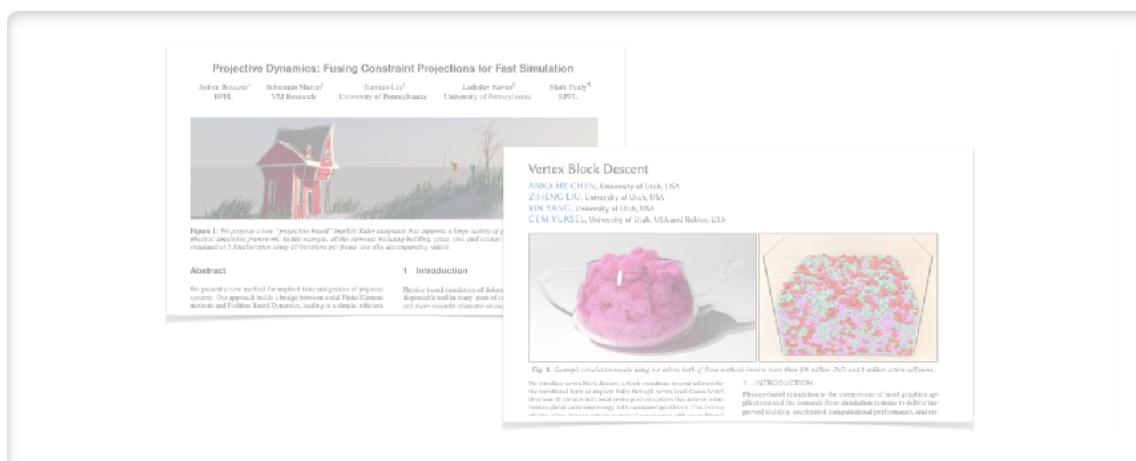
# Outline



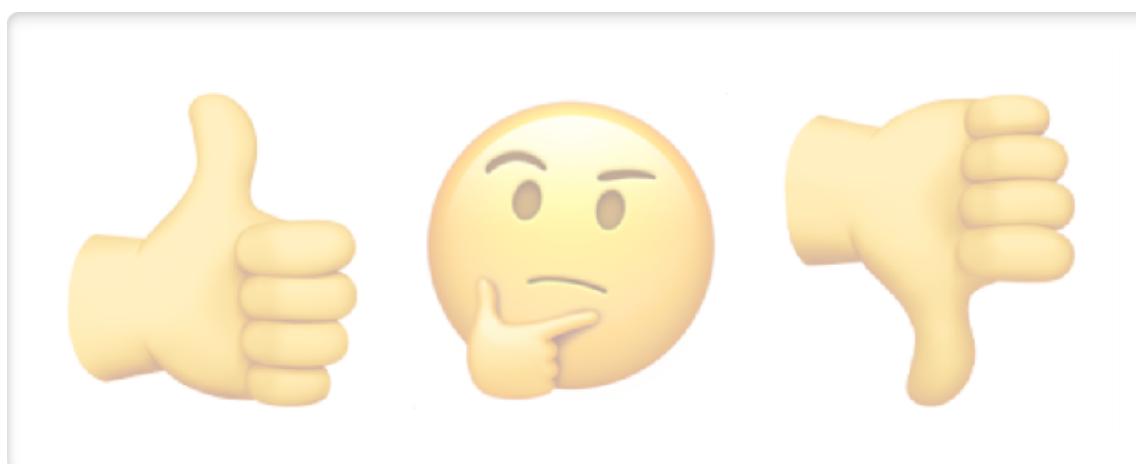
## 1. Mathematical foundations



## 2. Physical models and coupling



## 3. Related methods (VBD, PD)



## 4. Summary: Models & Properties

# Optimization-Based Time Integration

- Example: Discretize Equations of Motion with BE

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{x}} = \sum_i f_i(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{discretized as} \quad \mathbf{M} \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}^{\text{prev}} - \Delta t \mathbf{v}^{\text{prev}}}{\Delta t^2} - \sum_i f_i(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$

- Define  $E(\mathbf{x})$  such that  $\nabla E(\mathbf{x}) = 0$  solves EoM

$$E(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2\Delta t^2}(\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}})^\top \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{x} - \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) + \sum_i \phi_i(\mathbf{x}) \quad \text{where} \quad f_i(\mathbf{x}) = -\nabla \phi_i(\mathbf{x})$$

# Optimization-Based Time Integration

---

- Incremental potential of BE:

$$E(\boldsymbol{x}) = \frac{1}{2\Delta t^2}(\boldsymbol{x} - \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}})^\top \mathbf{M}(\boldsymbol{x} - \tilde{\boldsymbol{x}}) + \sum_i \phi_i(\boldsymbol{x})$$

- Minimize to solves balance of forces

$$\min_{\boldsymbol{x}} E(\boldsymbol{x})$$

- Physical effects modeled by scalar potentials  $\phi_i(\boldsymbol{x})$  with

$$\boldsymbol{f}_i(\boldsymbol{x}) = -\nabla \phi_i(\boldsymbol{x})$$

# Minimizing the Incremental Potential

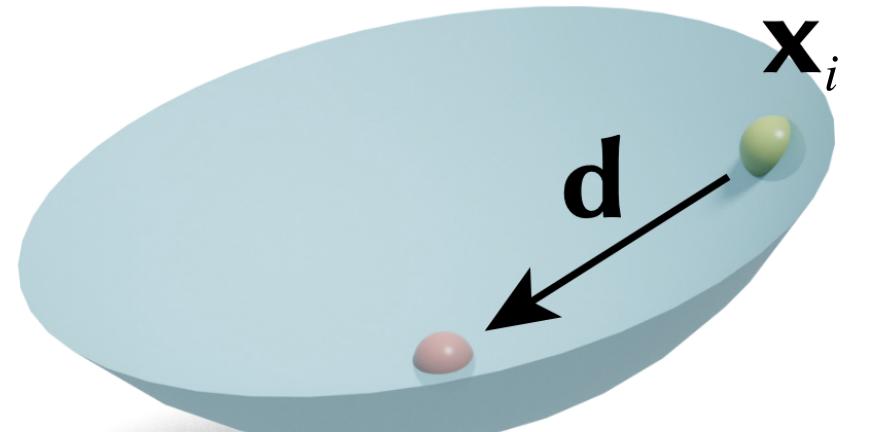
Newton's method: find direction  $\mathbf{d}$  that minimizes quadratic approximation around  $\mathbf{x}_i$

$$\min_{\mathbf{d}} E(\mathbf{x}) + \nabla E(\mathbf{x}_i)^T \mathbf{d} + \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{d}^T \mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}_i) \mathbf{d} \quad \text{solved by} \quad \mathbf{d} = -\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x}_i)^{-1} \nabla E(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

...if objective is convex

Problems in practice:

★ **Forces are non-linear:** full step  $\mathbf{d}$  might overshoot actual minimum



👉 Solution: Line search using  $E(\mathbf{x})$

★ **Indefiniteness:** Objective might not be convex everywhere

Introduction to Optimization for Simulation  
Honglin Chen 2024

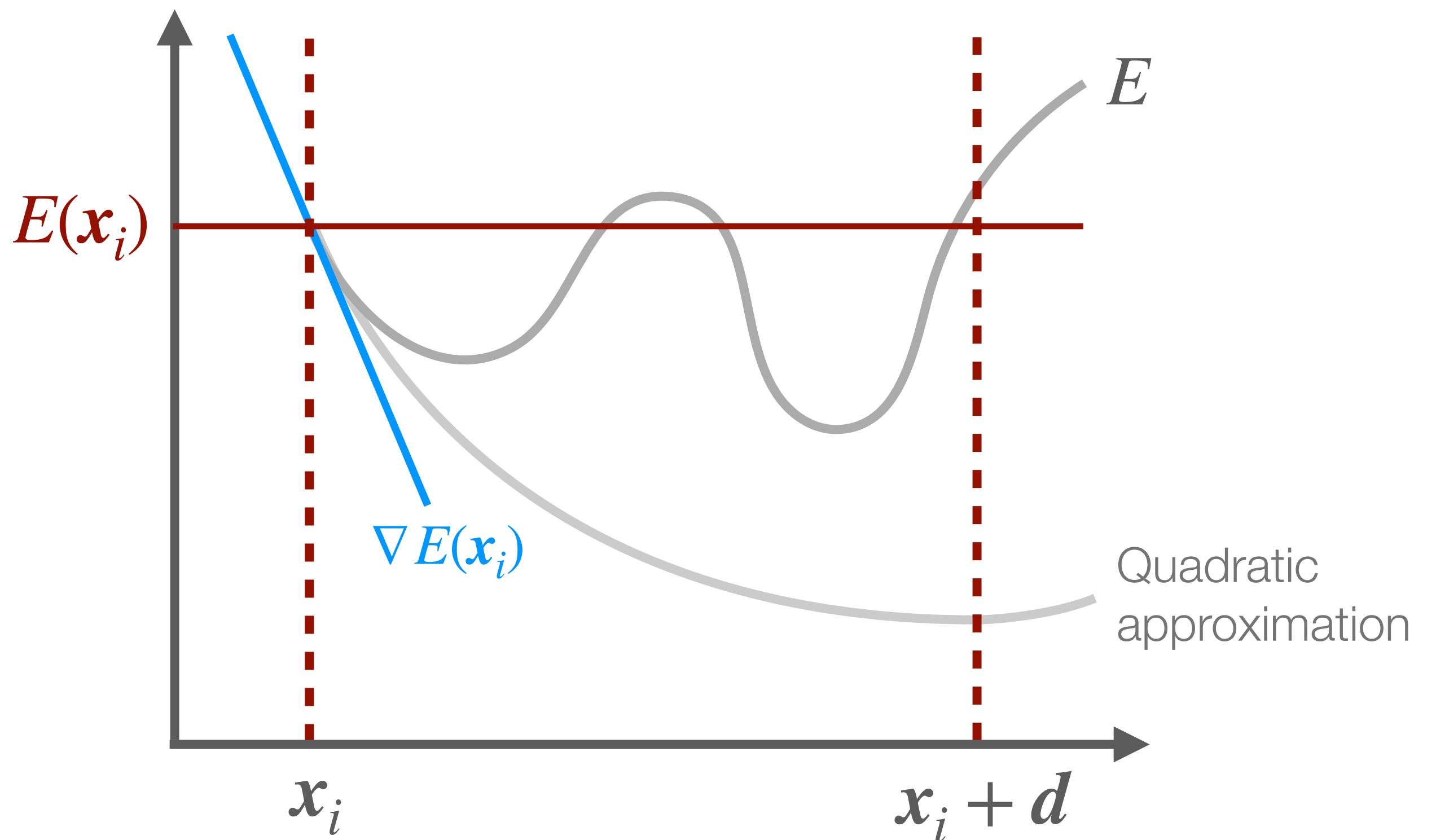
👉 Solution: “Projected Newton”, project  $\mathbf{H}(\mathbf{x})$  to positive semi-definiteness (PSD)

# Backtracking Line Search

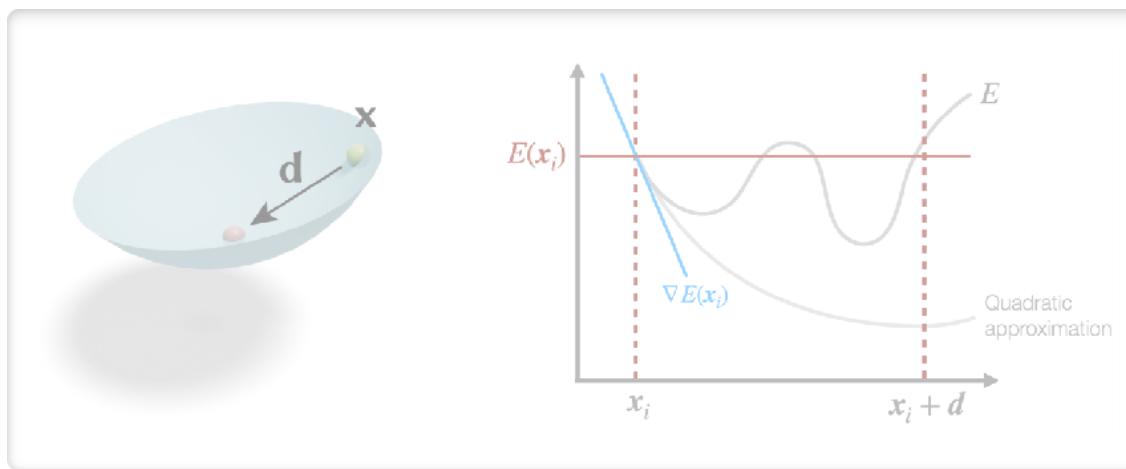
Goal: Find step length  $\alpha \in [0,1]$  such that step  $\alpha d$  decreases objective

$$\rightarrow \text{i.e. } E(\mathbf{x}_i + \alpha \mathbf{d}) < E(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

- Halve  $\alpha$  until condition satisfied
- Simplest form of Armijo condition
- CCD can be incorporated



# Outline



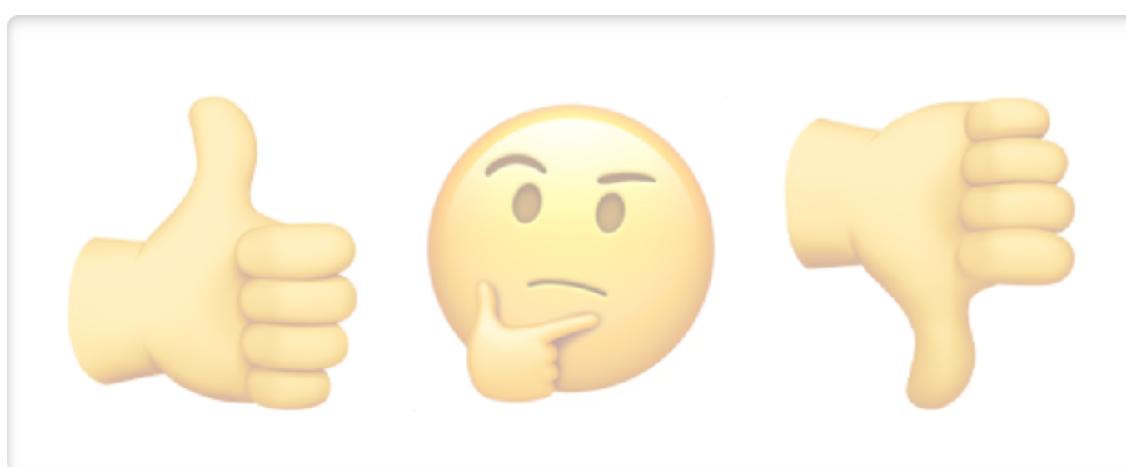
## 1. Mathematical foundations



## 2. Physical models and coupling



## 3. Related methods (VBD, PD)



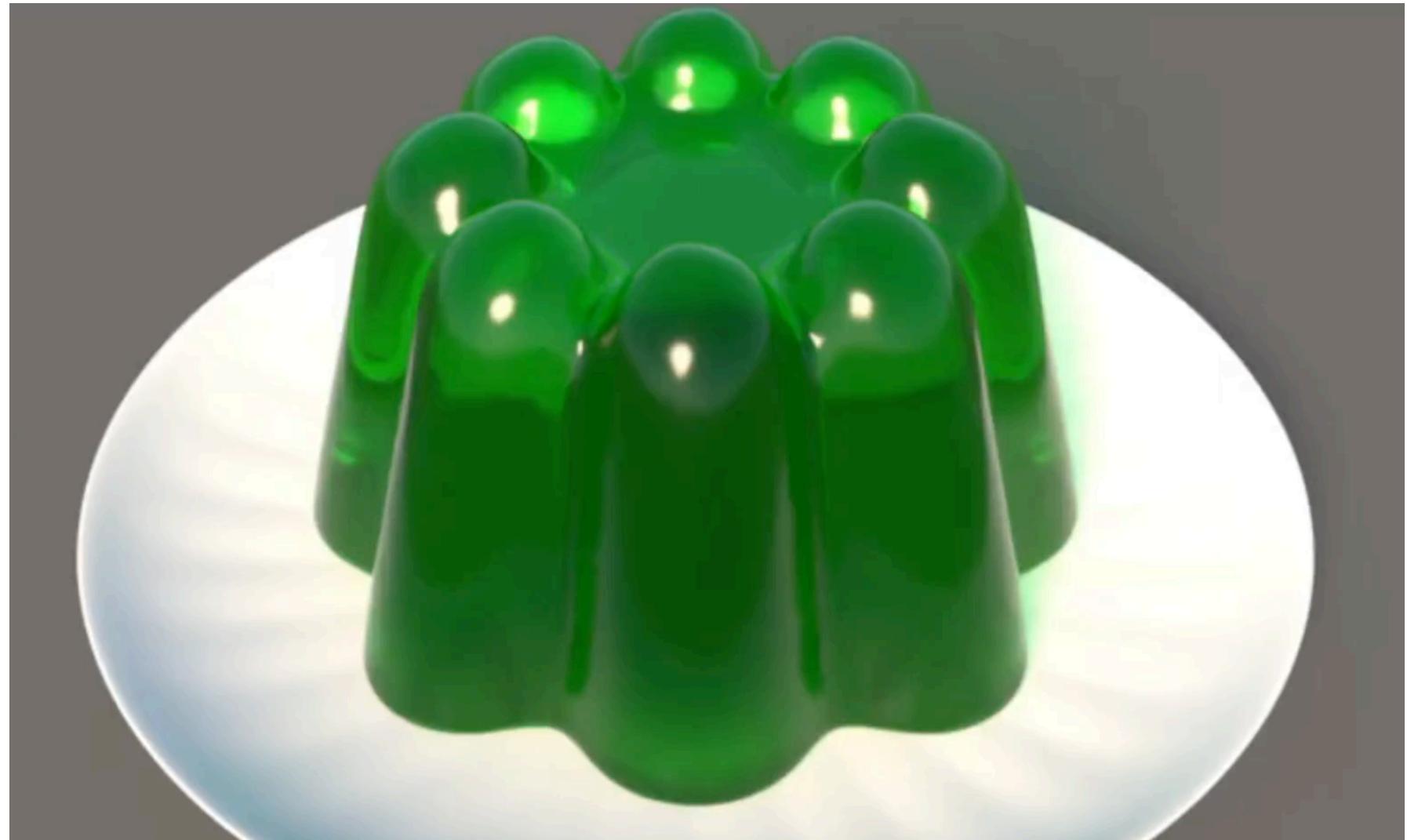
## 4. Summary: Models & Properties

# Elastic Deformations

- Naturally described using energies
- Change in shape → change in internal energy

- Simple spring-based models

$$\rightarrow \text{e.g. } E_{\text{spring}} = \frac{1}{2}k\|x_i - x_j\|^2/l_0$$



Higher-Order Time Integration for Deformable Solids [Löschner et al. 2020]

- Continuum-based models: **strain energy densities**

$$\rightarrow \text{e.g. Stable Neo-hookean: } \Psi_{\text{SNH}} = \frac{\mu}{2}(\text{tr}(\mathbf{F}^T \mathbf{F}) - 3) - \mu(\det \mathbf{F} - 1) + \frac{\lambda}{2}(\det \mathbf{F} - 1)^2$$

# Elastic Deformables using FEM

- Continuum-based models: **strain energy densities**

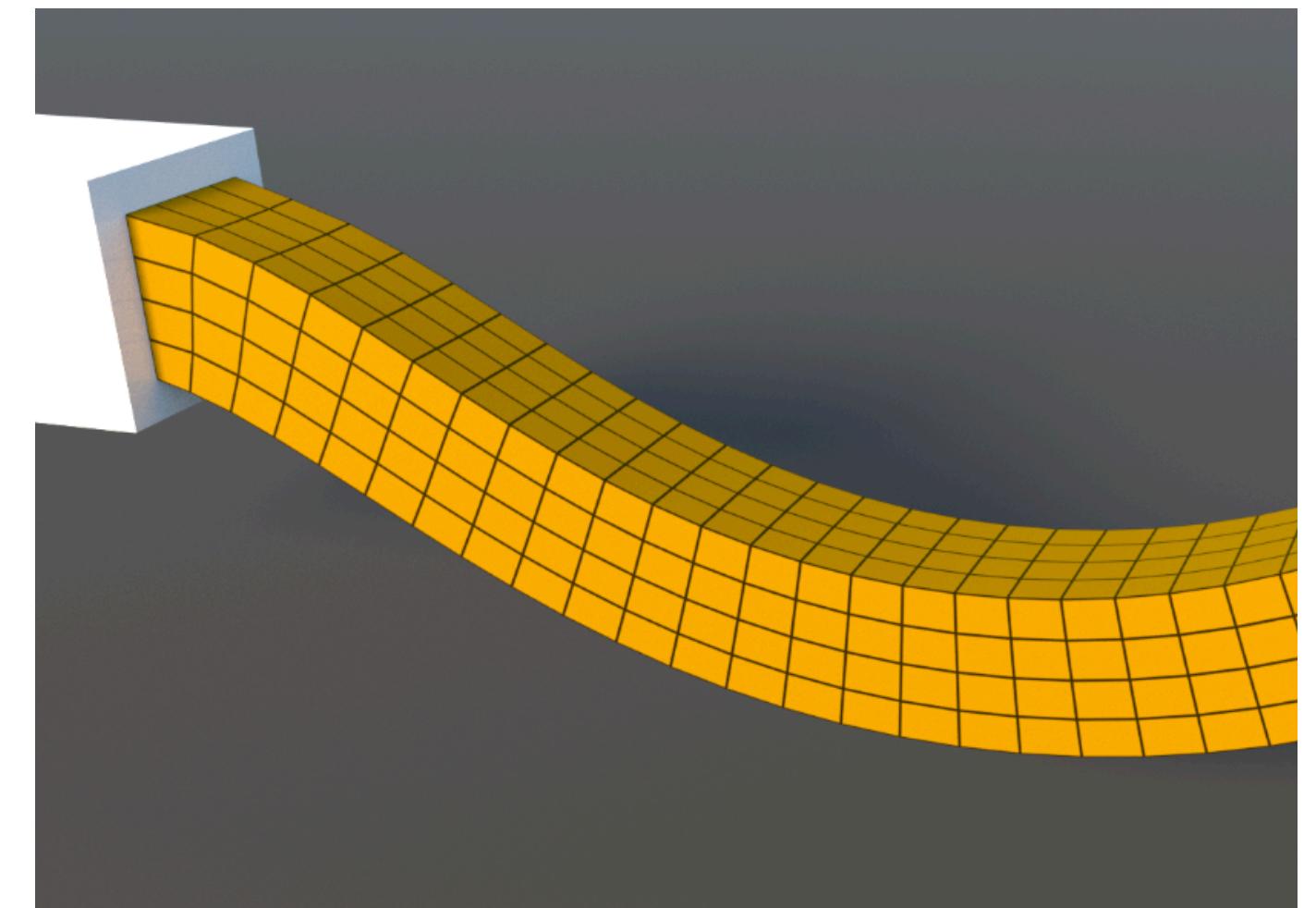
→ e.g. Stable Neo-hookean:  $\Psi_{SNH} = \frac{\mu}{2}(\text{tr}(\mathbf{F}^\top \mathbf{F}) - 3) - \mu(\det \mathbf{F} - 1) + \frac{\lambda}{2}(\det \mathbf{F} - 1)^2$

- Discretization with FEM yields **energy per element**

→ e.g. for linear elements:  $E_{\text{strain}}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i^{N_{\text{Ele}}} V_i \Psi(\mathbf{F}_i(\mathbf{x}))$

- Forces:  $\mathbf{f} = -\nabla E_{\text{strain}}$ , stiffness matrix:  $\mathbf{K} = -\frac{\partial^2 E_{\text{strain}}}{\partial \mathbf{x}^2}$

- Minimization solves balance of forces



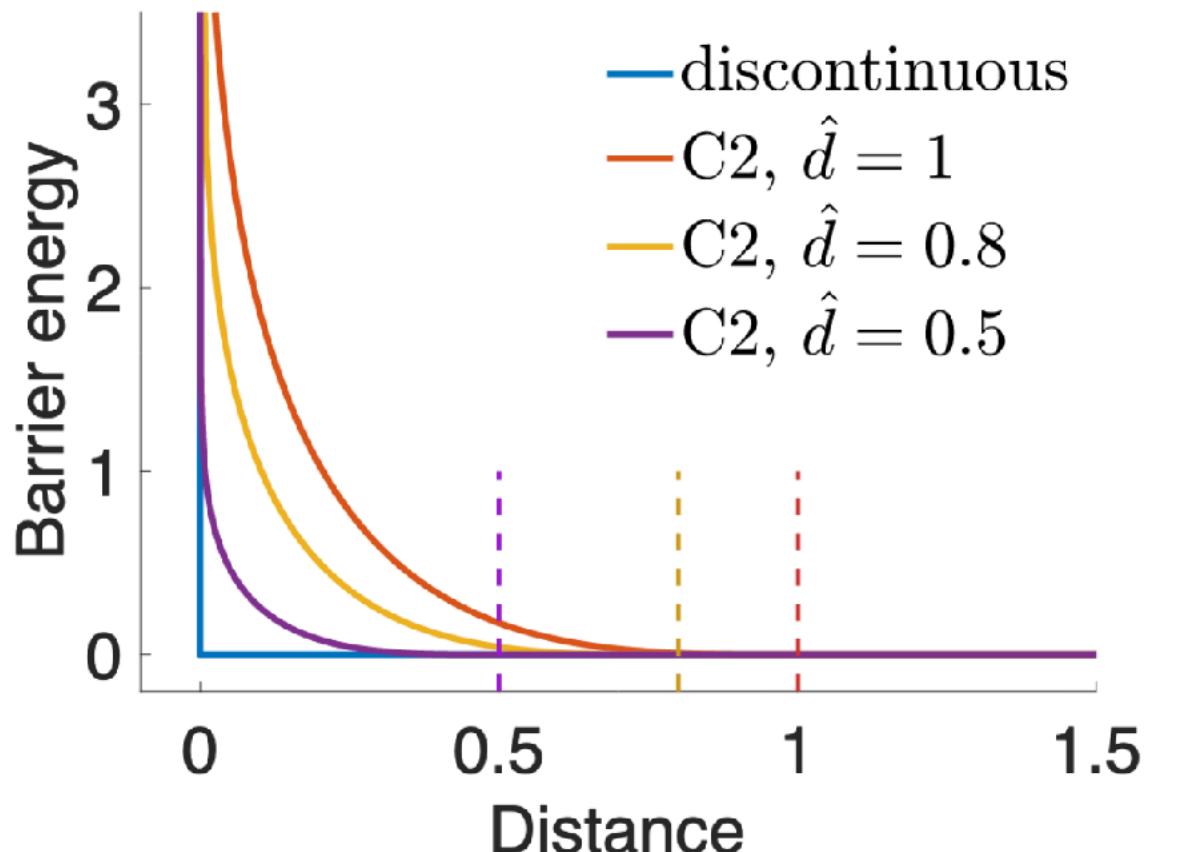
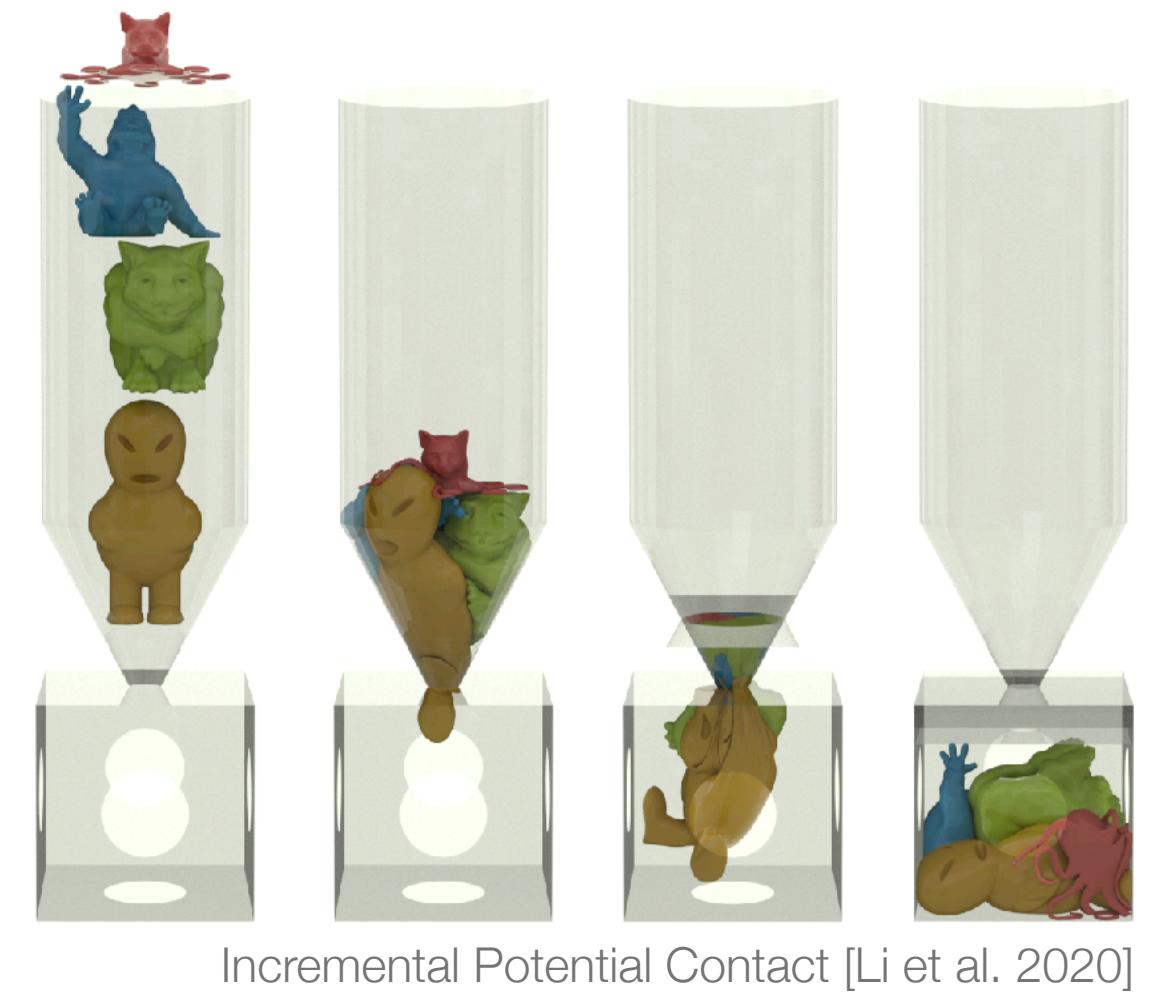
# Modelling dynamic contact

- Incremental Potential Contact [Li et al. 2020]
  - ↳ Goal: intersection-free simulations in unconstrained optimization
- Introduce smoothly clamped barriers:

$$b(d, \hat{d}) = \begin{cases} -(d - \hat{d})^2 \ln\left(\frac{d}{\hat{d}}\right), & 0 < d < \hat{d} \\ 0 & d \geq \hat{d} \end{cases}$$

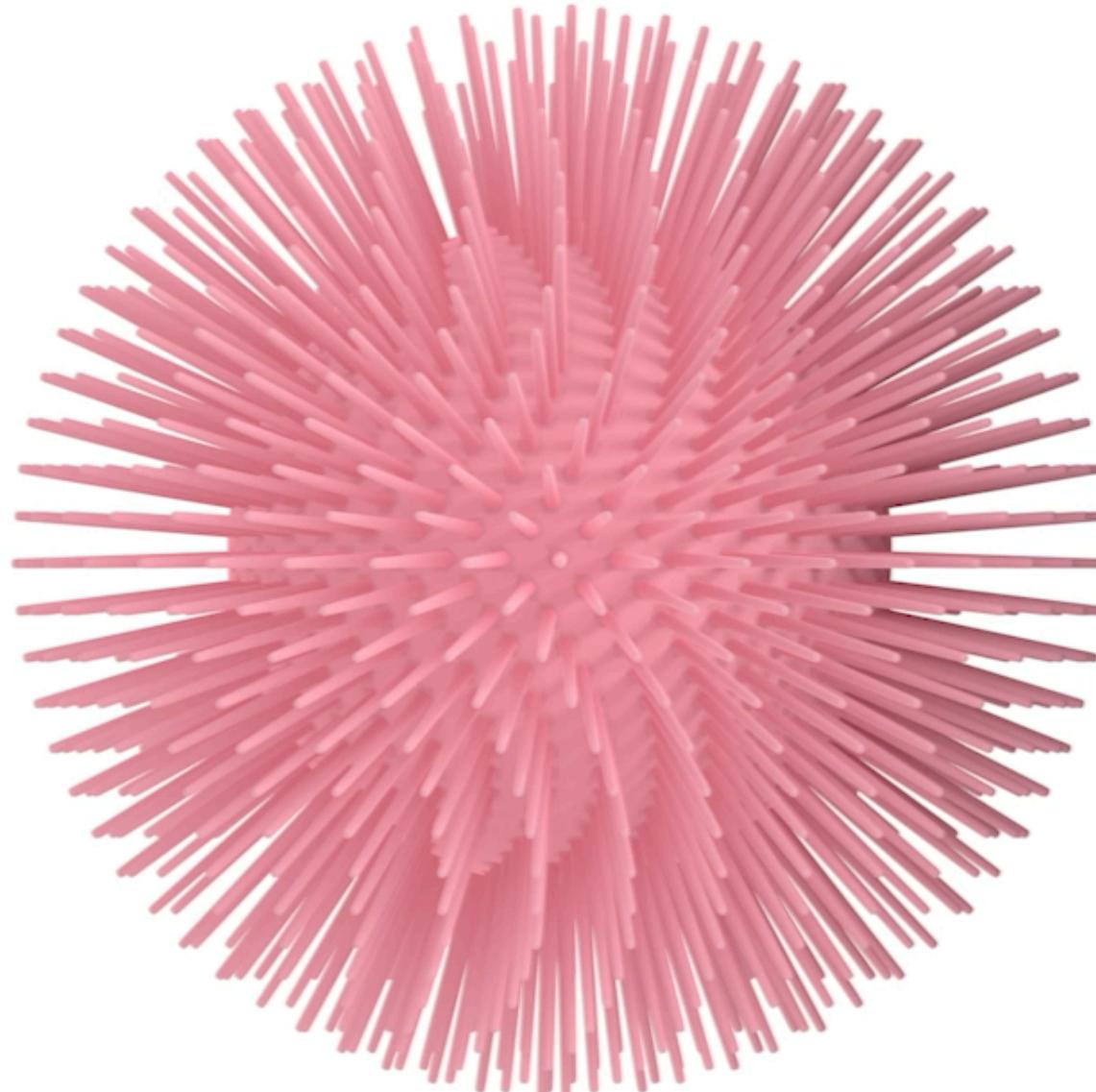
With contact potential  $E_C(\mathbf{x}) = \kappa \sum_{k \in C} b(d_k(\mathbf{x}))$

- Apply barriers to all triangle-vertex and edge-edge pairs  $k \in C$
- Filtered line search: CCD determines upper bound for step



# Intersection-free dynamic contact

**IPC**

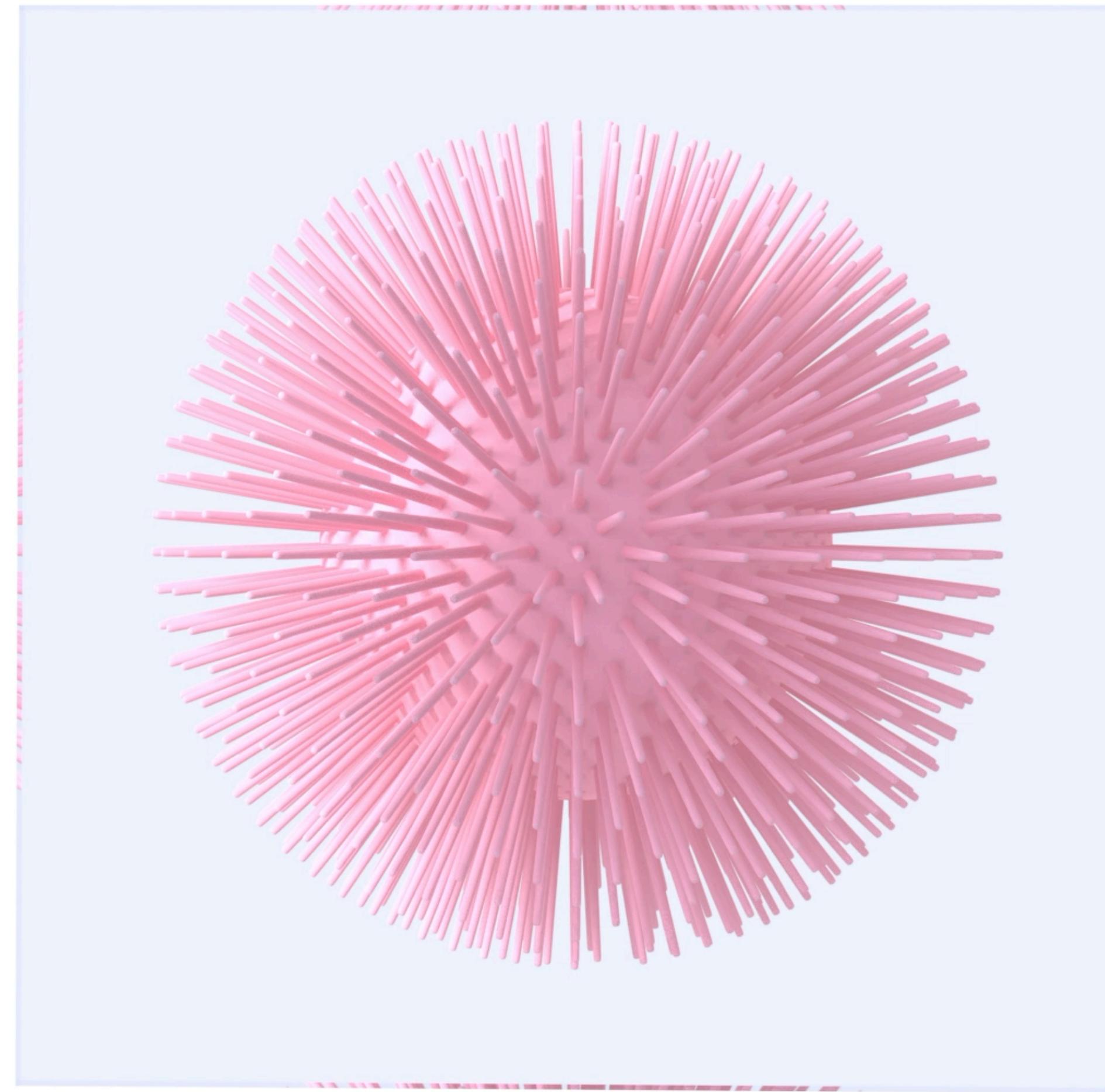


**tetrahedra: 2314K**

**contacts per step (max): 105K**

**dt: 0.001**

**$\mu$ : 0**



# Intersection-free dynamic contact

---



**tetrahedra: 181K**  
**contacts per step (max): 277K**  
**dt: 0.01**  
 **$\mu$ : 0**

# Intersection-free dynamic contact

## High-Order Incremental Potential Contact for Elastodynamic Simulation on Curved Meshes

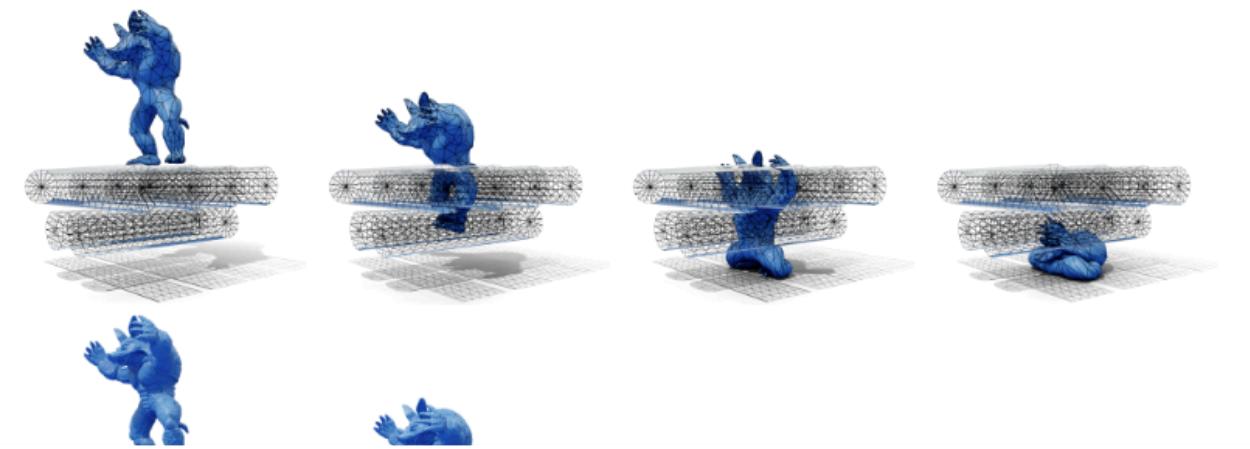
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## GIPC: Fast and Stable Gauss-Newton Optimization of IPC Barrier Energy

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TAKU KOMURA, The University of Hong Kong, TransGP, Hong Kong



Fig. 1. We offer a robust method enabling simultaneous construction and projection of approximated IPC barrier Hessians to positive semi-definite state for faster implicit time integration. A multilayered cloth animation is shown, where contacts are resolved using our method, which ensures fast convergence rates without numerical eigendecompositions of local barrier Hessians.

## A Cubic Barrier with Elasticity-Inclusive Dynamic Stiffness

RYOICHI ANDO, zozo, Japan

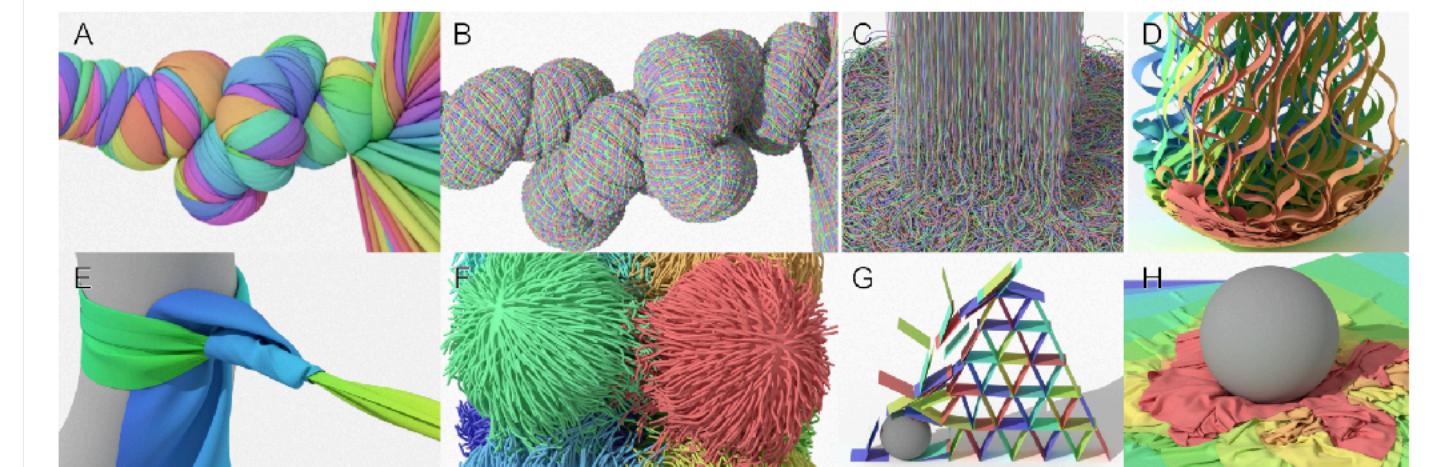


Fig. 1. Five cylindrical shells are individually twisted and bundled together (A). A single woven cylinder is twisted forming intricate buckles (B). A set of lengthy strands are poured into a bowl (C). Fluttering ribbons are poured into a bowl followed by a strong impact from a falling sphere (D). A fishing knot is tightened (E). Eight squishy hairy balls are compressed and released (F). A house of cards collapses with a gentle touch by a rolling sphere (G). Ten sheets are smashed onto the ground by a fast falling heavy sphere (H). Peak contact counts are 168.35 million (A), 17.59 million (D), 6.49 million (C), 6.04 million (B), 5.63 million (H), 2.89 million (F). Average time per video frame is 194s (A), 743s (B), 247s (C), 184s (D), 3.30s (E), 196s (F), 5.04s (G), 77.35s (H).

This paper presents a new cubic barrier with elasticity-inclusive dynamic stiffness for penetration-free contact resolution and strain limiting. We show that our method enlarges tight strain-limiting gaps where logarithmic

purely volumetric approaches ill-suited for codimensional collisions [Allard et al. 2010; Chen et al. 2023; Faure et al. 2008; Tang et al. 2012]. If collisions are unresolvable, one may resort to a rigid impact

## Second-order Stencil Descent for Interior-point Hyperelasticity

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YIN YANG, The University of Utah & Style3D Research, USA

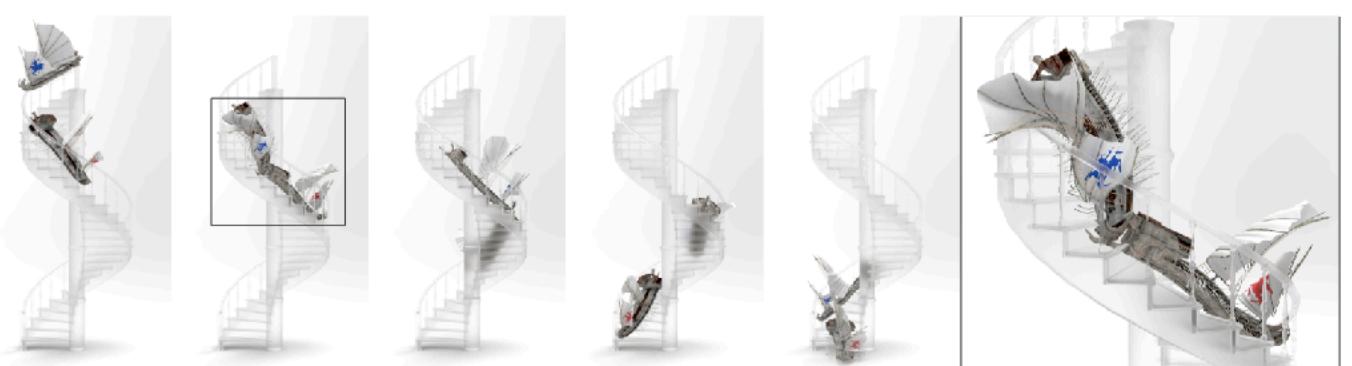


Fig. 1. Falling barbarian ships. We propose a new GPU-based algorithm for generic finite element simulation using interior-point methods. Due to the use of barrier functions, interior-point methods are expensive, and the requirement of per-iteration CCD imposes extra challenges for GPU parallelization. Our method is locally second-order leveraging complex-step finite difference to efficiently estimate local Hessian-vector products. We design a complementary coloring and hybrid sweep scheme to fully exploit the throughput of the GPU. Together with a dedicated warm-start process, our method offers speedup of two orders, even with intense contacts and collisions. As a demonstration, the teaser figure shows snapshots of two barbarian ships falling on a spiral stair. There are nearly one million (974K) elements on the ships. The thin paddles at both sides collide with the staircase and the handrails yielding rich and interesting deformations. Under the time step of  $\Delta t = 1/100$  sec, our simulation faithfully captures all the details but it is 129x faster than the vanilla CPU

## Preconditioned Nonlinear Conjugate Gradient Method for Real-time Interior-point Hyperelasticity

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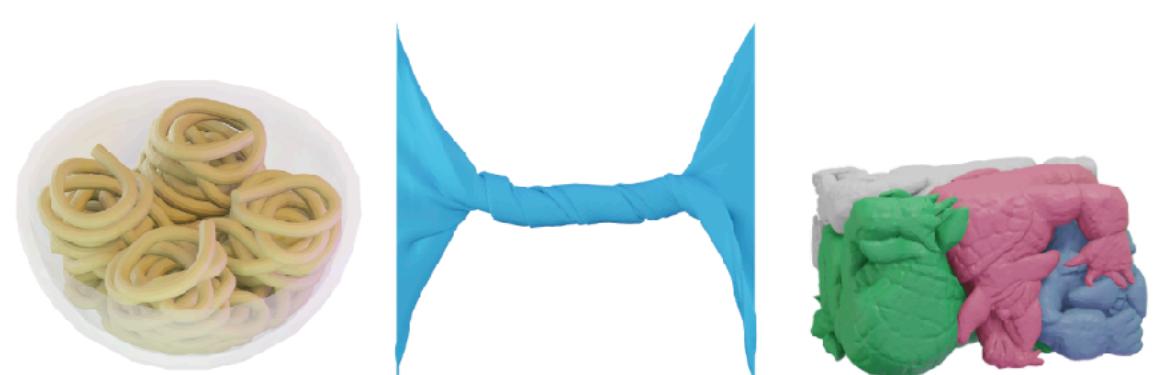


Figure 1: Example simulation results involving complex self-collision scenarios.

## Barrier-Augmented Lagrangian for GPU-based Elastodynamic Contact

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YIN YANG, University of Utah, United States of America  
SHENG LI, Peking University, China  
GUOPING WANG, Peking University, China

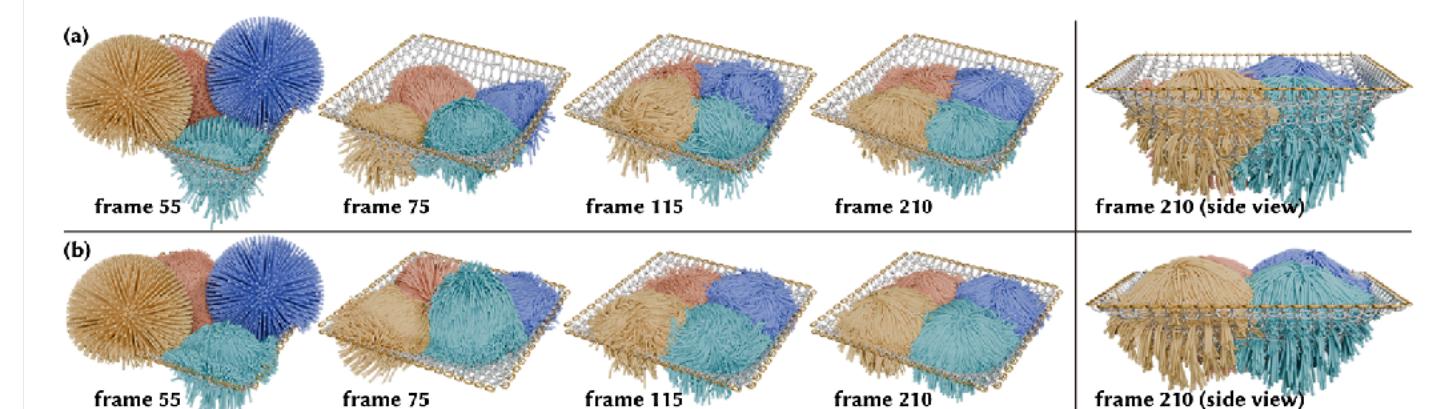


Fig. 1. Puffer Balls on Nets: Simulations among Heterogeneous Materials. In this scenario, we simulate the interaction of four puffer balls with a chain-net characterized by different Young's modulus: (a)  $E = 100$  MPa, and (b)  $E = 1$  GPa. All puffer balls are modeled using the Neo-Hookean elasticity model with  $E = 5 \times 10^5$  Pa. Despite the use of high-resolution meshes with over 1.76 million tetrahedra and a large time step size of 1/30 s, our simulation framework maintains robustness and efficiency. With GPU acceleration implemented, the computation time per frame for scenario (b) is only 427 seconds, without sacrificing accuracy. This represents a notable speedup of 80.1x compared to the IPC [Li et al. 2020], which requires approximately 9.5 hours per frame for the

# Cloth, Shells & Rods

## Shell models (examples...)

**Discrete Shells**

Eitan Grinspun<sup>†</sup>  
Caltech      Anil N. Hirani  
Caltech      Mathieu Desbrun  
USC      Peter Schröder  
Caltech

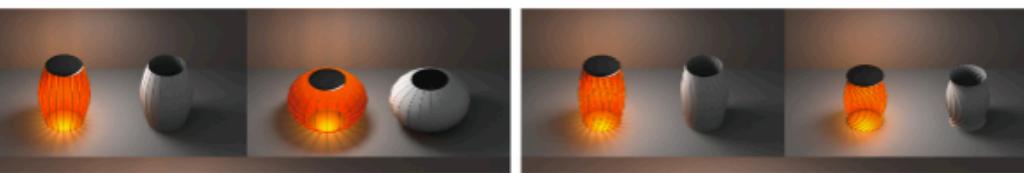
**Abstract**  
*In this paper we introduce a discrete shell model describing the behavior of thin flexible structures, such as hats, leaves, and aluminum cans, which are characterized by a curved undeformed configuration. Previously such models required complex continuum mechanics formulations and correspondingly complex algorithms. We show that a simple shell model can be derived geometrically for triangle meshes and implemented quickly by modifying a standard cloth simulator. Our technique convincingly simulates a variety of curved objects with materials ranging from paper to metal, as we demonstrate with several examples including a comparison of a real and simulated falling hat.*

Categories and Subject Descriptors (according to ACM CCS): I.3.7 [Computer Graphics]: Three-Dimensional Graphics and Realism-Animation; I.6.8 [Simulation and Modeling]: Types of Simulation-Animation.

**Second-Order Finite Elements for Deformable Surfaces**

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Geometrically motivated

**Kirchhoff-Love Shells with Arbitrary Hyperelastic Materials**

JIAHAO WEN, University of Southern California, USA  
JERNE BARBIĆ, University of Southern California, USA



Fig. 1. Our technique can simulate Kirchhoff-Love thin shells with arbitrary hyperelastic materials: We show a thin-shell cloth draped against a human body in two poses, for three nonlinear materials. The Symmetric ARAP and Co-rotational materials include odd powers of principal stretches in their definitions, and cannot be simulated using prior work. Observe the different folds, and silhouette changes, under the three different materials. Kirchhoff-Love shells are commonly used in many branches of engineering, including computer graphics, but have so far been simulated only under limited nonlinear options. We derive the Kirchhoff-Love thin-shell mechanical energy for an arbitrary 3D volumetric hyperelastic material, including isotropic materials, anisotropic materials, and materials whereby the energy includes both even and odd powers of the principal stretches.

**Multi-Layer Thick Shells**

F. LÖSCHNER<sup>1</sup>, J. A. FERNÁNDEZ-FERNÁNDEZ<sup>2</sup>, S. R. JESKE<sup>1</sup> and J. BENDER<sup>1</sup>  
RWTH Aachen University, Germany



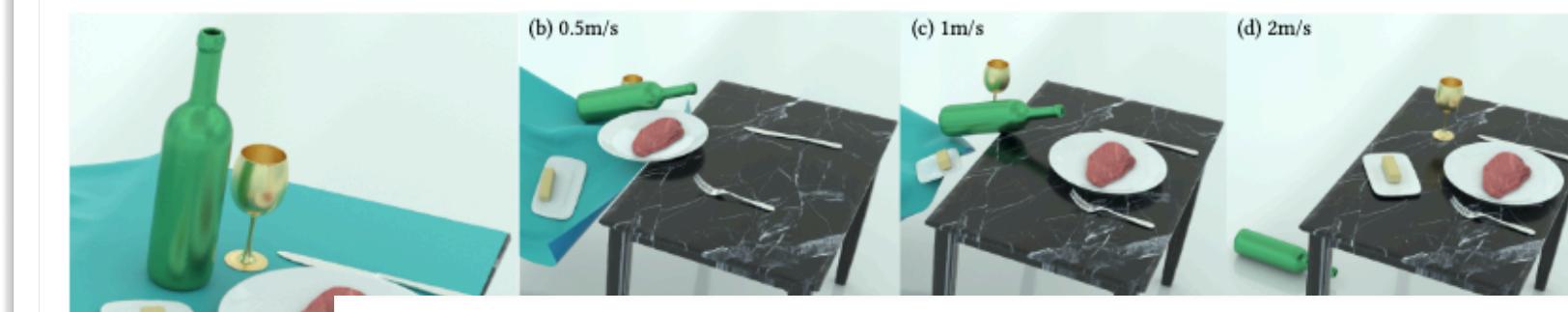
Figure 1: Two scenes with curved geometries demonstrate our incremental potential formulation of a Cosserat shell model. It is strongly coupled to other systems through fractional contact based on "High-Order IPC" [FJF23]. Left: An initially wrinkled "sheet of papirus"

Continuous models

## Intersection-free contact

### Codimensional Incremental Potential Contact

MINCHEN LI, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Pennsylvania, & Adobe Research  
DANNY M. KAUFMAN, Adobe Research  
CHENFANFU JIANG, University of California, Los Angeles & University of Pennsylvania



### A Cubic Barrier with Elasticity-Inclusive Dynamic Stiffness

RYOICHI ANDO, ZOZO, Japan

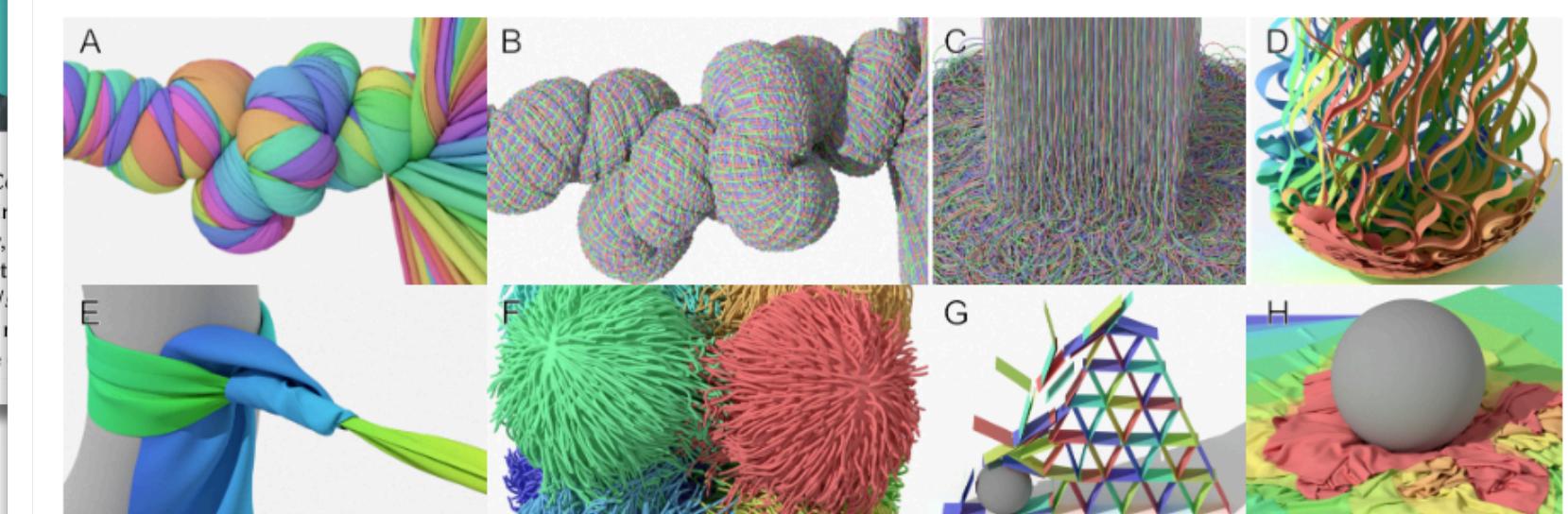


Fig. 1. Table cloth pull: Our method can simulate a cloth being pulled accurately, controllable strain rate. A cloth is laid on a table with heavy objects, while accurately resolving the contact. (a) Initial state. (b) Pull speed increase at 1m/s. (c) The cloth is stetched on table with heavy objects. (d) Wrinkling behaviors in the cloth. Fig. 1. Five cylindrical shells are individually twisted and bundled together (A). A single woven cylinder is twisted forming intricate buckles (B). A set of lengthy strands are poured into a bowl (C). Fluttering ribbons are poured into a bowl followed by a strong impact from a falling sphere (D). A fishing knot is tightened (E). Eight squishy hairy balls are compressed and released (F). A house of cards collapses with a gentle touch by a rolling sphere (G). Ten sheets are smashed onto the ground by a fast falling heavy sphere (H). Peak contact counts are 168.35 million (A), 17.59 million (D), 6.49 million (C), 6.04 million (B), 5.63 million (H), 2.89 million (F). Average time per video frame is 194s (A), 745s (B), 247s (C), 184s (D), 3.30s (E), 196s (F), 5.04s (G), 77.35s (H).

This paper presents a new cubic barrier with elasticity-inclusive dynamic stiffness for penetration-free contact resolution and strain limiting. We show that our method enlarges tight strain-limiting gaps where logarithmic barriers struggle and enables highly scalable contact-rich simulation.

CCS Concepts: • Computing methodologies → Physical simulation.

purely volumetric approaches ill-suited for codimensional colliders [Allard et al. 2010; Chen et al. 2023; Faure et al. 2008; Tang et al. 2012]. If collisions are irresolvable, one may resort to a rigid impact zone [Harmon et al. 2008; Huh et al. 2001; Provot 1997], rigidifying and delaying the collision resolution to the next step [Bridson et al.

# Rigid Bodies & Affine Bodies

- DOF per rigid body: translation  $\mathbf{x}_i \in \mathbb{R}^3$  and rotation vector  $\boldsymbol{\theta}_i \in \mathbb{R}^3$
- Inertial term for rotation DOF:

$$E_R(\mathbf{R}(\boldsymbol{\theta})) = \sum_i^{N_{rb}} \left( \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\mathbf{R}_i \mathbf{J}_i \mathbf{R}_i^T) - \text{tr}(\mathbf{R}_i \mathbf{J}_i \tilde{\mathbf{R}}_i^T) \right)$$

with  $\tilde{\mathbf{R}}_i = \mathbf{R}_i^{\text{prev}} + h\dot{\mathbf{R}}_i^{\text{prev}} + h^2\tau_i \mathbf{J}_i^{-1}$

- Non-linear mapping from DOF to vertices
  - Small time steps or “curved CCD” for intersection-free contact
- Alternative: **Affine Bodies**
  - Body embedded in a single tetrahedron
  - Use any stiff material model ( $E > 10^8 \text{ Pa}$ )

## Intersection-free Rigid Body Dynamics

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 MINCHEN LI, University of California, Los Angeles and University of Pennsylvania  
 TESEO SCHNEIDER, New York University and University of Victoria  
 FRANCISCA GIL-URETA, New York University  
 TIMOTHY LANGLOIS, Adobe Research  
 CHENFANFU JIANG, University of California, Los Angeles and University of Pennsylvania  
 DENIS ZORIN, New York University  
 DANNY M. KAUFMAN, Adobe Research  
 DANIELE PANIZZO, New York University

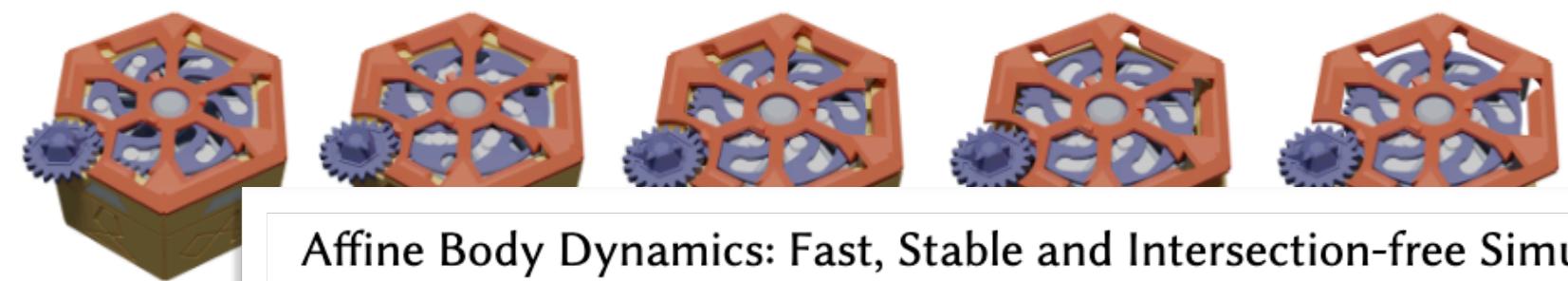


Fig. 1. **Expanding Lock**  
 central spiral is rotated  
 intersection-free guard

## Affine Body Dynamics: Fast, Stable and Intersection-free Simulation of Stiff Materials

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 DANNY M. KAUFMAN, Adobe Research, USA  
 MINCHEN LI, University of California, Los Angeles & TimeStep Inc., USA  
 CHENFANFU JIANG, University of California, Los Angeles & TimeStep Inc., USA  
 YIN YANG, Clemson University, University of Utah & TimeStep Inc., USA

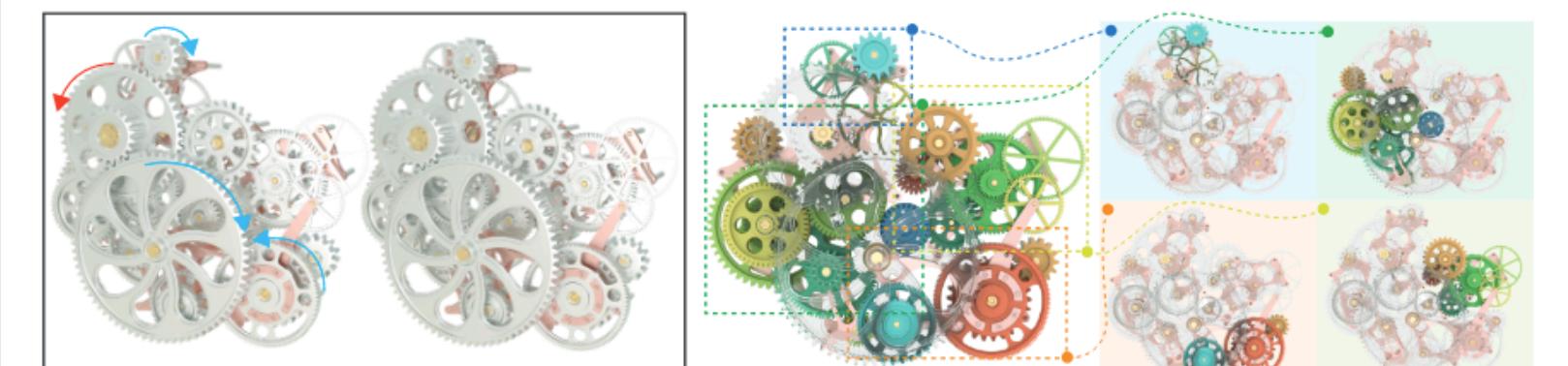
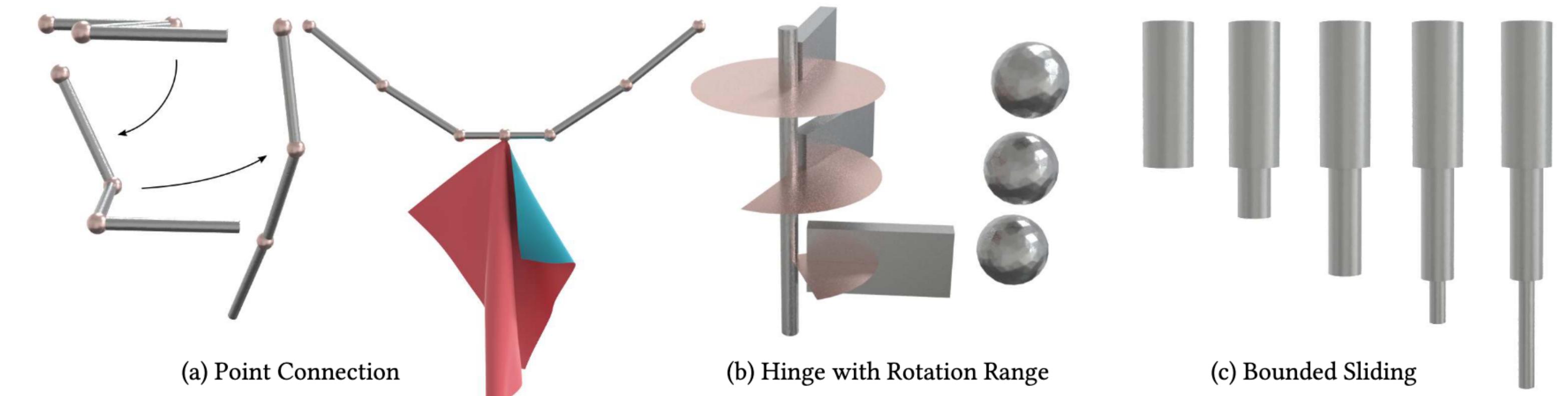
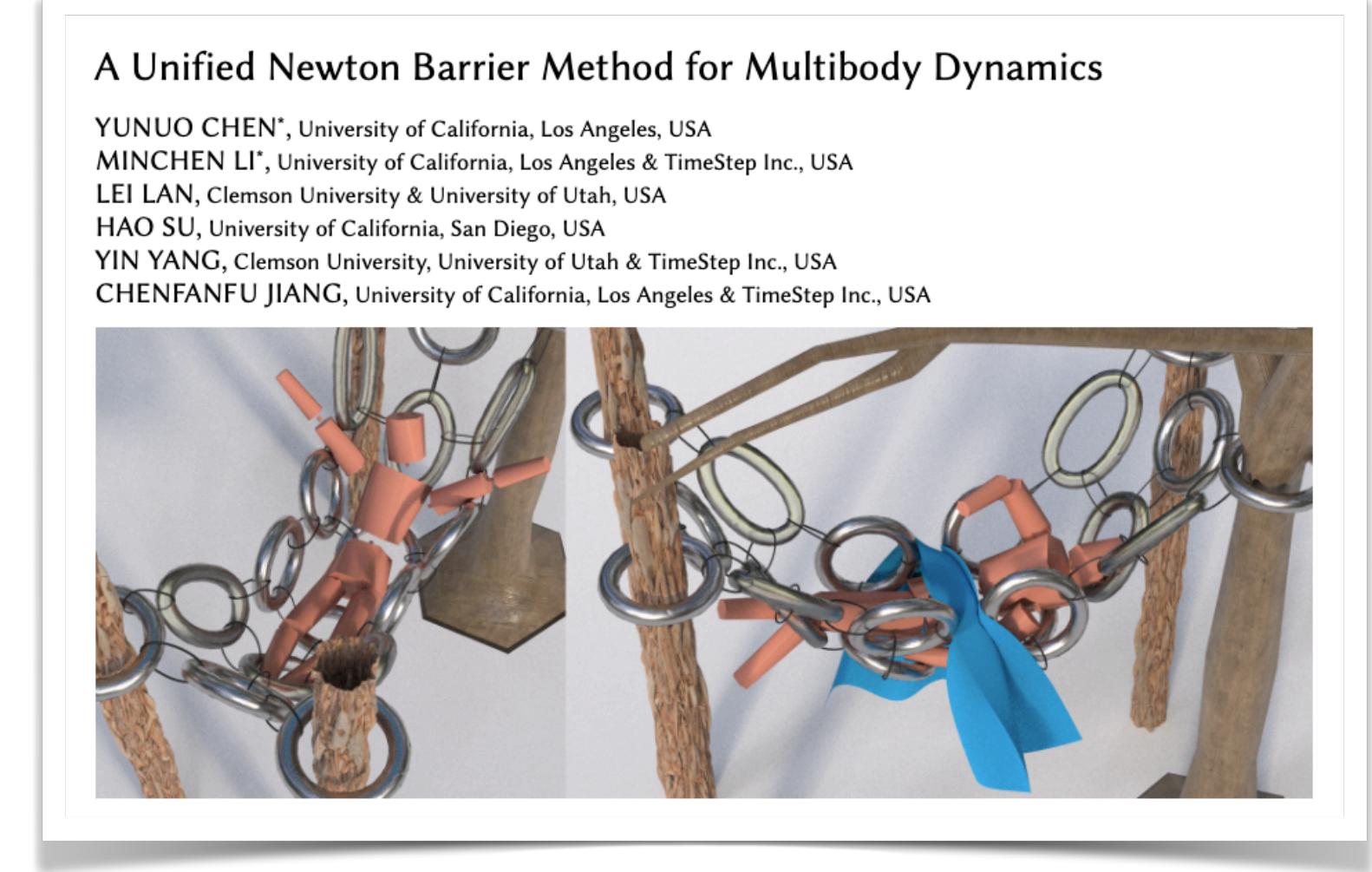


Fig. 1. **Geared system.** We propose an affine body dynamics (ABD) framework to efficiently and robustly simulate close-to-rigid contacting objects. ABD eases collision and contact processing costs over rigid body modeling while obtaining high-quality, intersection-free trajectories leveraging barrier-based frictional contact modeling. In this challenging stress-test benchmark we simulate a complex geared system composed of 28 toothed gears with frictional contact resolving all interactions. The combined gear set mesh is comprised of over 2.45M surface triangles. A torque applied to the actuated gear (red arrow) drives the motion of the entire system via contact, with over a quarter of all surface elements in active contact in every time step. Here we find that *all the existing rigid body simulation algorithms, including rigid-IPC, fail to make progress*, while ABD robustly simulates the example to completion. ABD enables large time step sizes (e.g., with  $\Delta t = 1/50 \text{ sec}$ ) even for such challenging, large displacement (rotation) contact processing. For a time step size of  $1/100 \text{ sec}$ , ABD simulates each step in less than 12 sec on an intel i9 CPU (multi-threaded), while the simulation runs interactively on a 3090 GPU (5-10 steps per second).

# Multi-Body Systems

- Coupling deformable & rigid bodies with joints and motors
- Reformulate constraints using penalties and barriers
  - Equality constraints:  $E_{\text{Eq}}(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2}k(c(\mathbf{x}))^2$
  - Inequality constraints:  $E_{\text{Ineq}}(\mathbf{x}) = \kappa b(c(\mathbf{x}))$



# Multi-Body Systems

Strongly coupled systems:

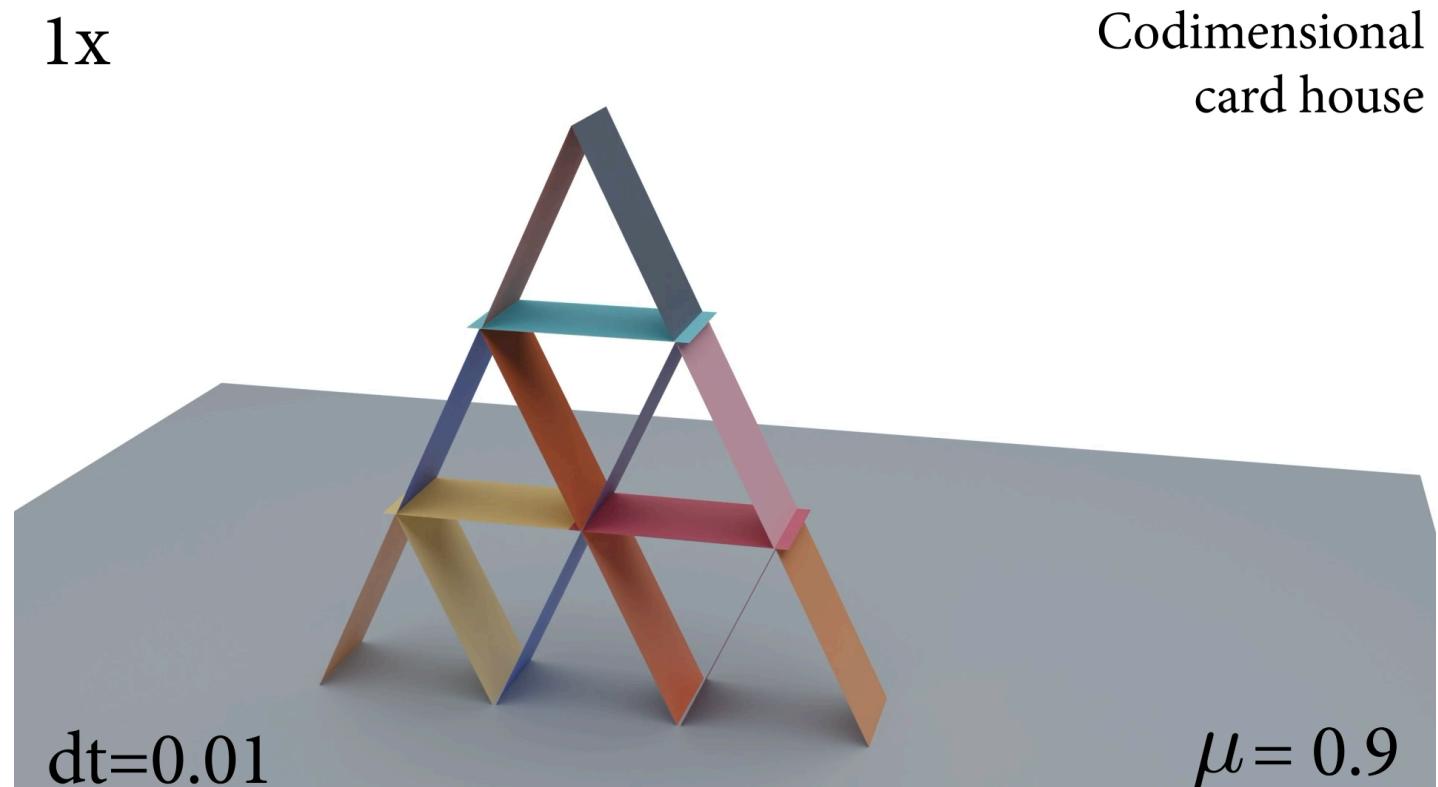
- Rigid bodies for car body and rims
- Tires as deformable solids
- Dampened springs and slider joints for suspension
- Connected with axial joints
- Rotation limits for steering



# Dissipative Forces

- We need scalar potentials  $\phi_i(\mathbf{x})$  such that  $f_i(\mathbf{x}) = -\nabla\phi_i(\mathbf{x})$   
→ Possible for conservative and path-independent forces
- Adaptations required for dissipative/non-conservative forces:

## Friction



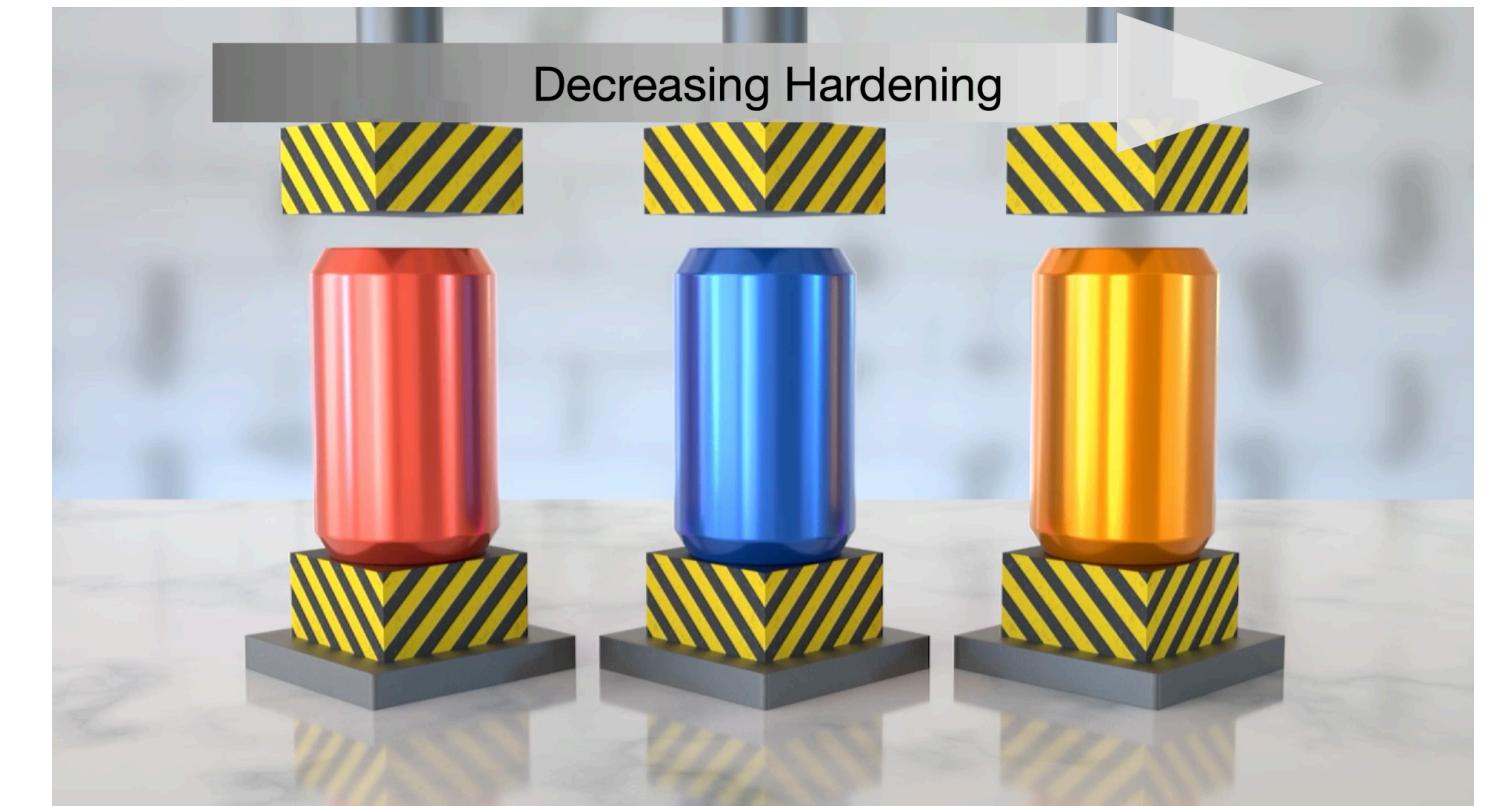
Intersection-free Rigid Body Dynamics [Ferguson et al. 2021]

## Damping



Accurate Dissipative Forces in Optimization Integrators  
[Brown et al. 2018]

## Plasticity



Energetically Consistent Inelasticity for Optimization Time Integration  
[Li et al. 2020]

# Coupling Magnetic Effects

## Magnetic Rigid Bodies



Strongly Coupled Simulation of Magnetic Rigid Bodies [Westhofen et al. 2024]

$$E_{\text{magn}} = - \sum_i V_i \mathbf{M}_i \cdot \mathbf{B}_{\text{ext},i}$$

## Magnetoelastic Thin Shells



Simulation and Optimization of Magnetoelastic Thin Shells [Chen et al. 2022]

$$E_{\text{magn}} = - \sum_i h \mathbf{F}_i \mathbf{M}_i \cdot \mathbf{B}_{\text{ext},i}$$

# FEM & SPH Coupling: Contact Proxy Splitting Method

- Fully Lagrangian formulation
- Models Weakly Compressible SPH using quadratic potentials
  - e.g. incompressibility potential:  $E_I = \sum_i \frac{\kappa_I}{2} V_0 \left( \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_i} - 1 \right)^2$
- Contact model: barriers on particle  $\leftrightarrow$  mesh distances

## A Contact Proxy Splitting Method for Lagrangian Solid-Fluid Coupling

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MINCHEN LI, University of California, Los Angeles, USA  
YIN YANG, University of Utah, USA  
CHENFANFU JIANG, University of California, Los Angeles, USA



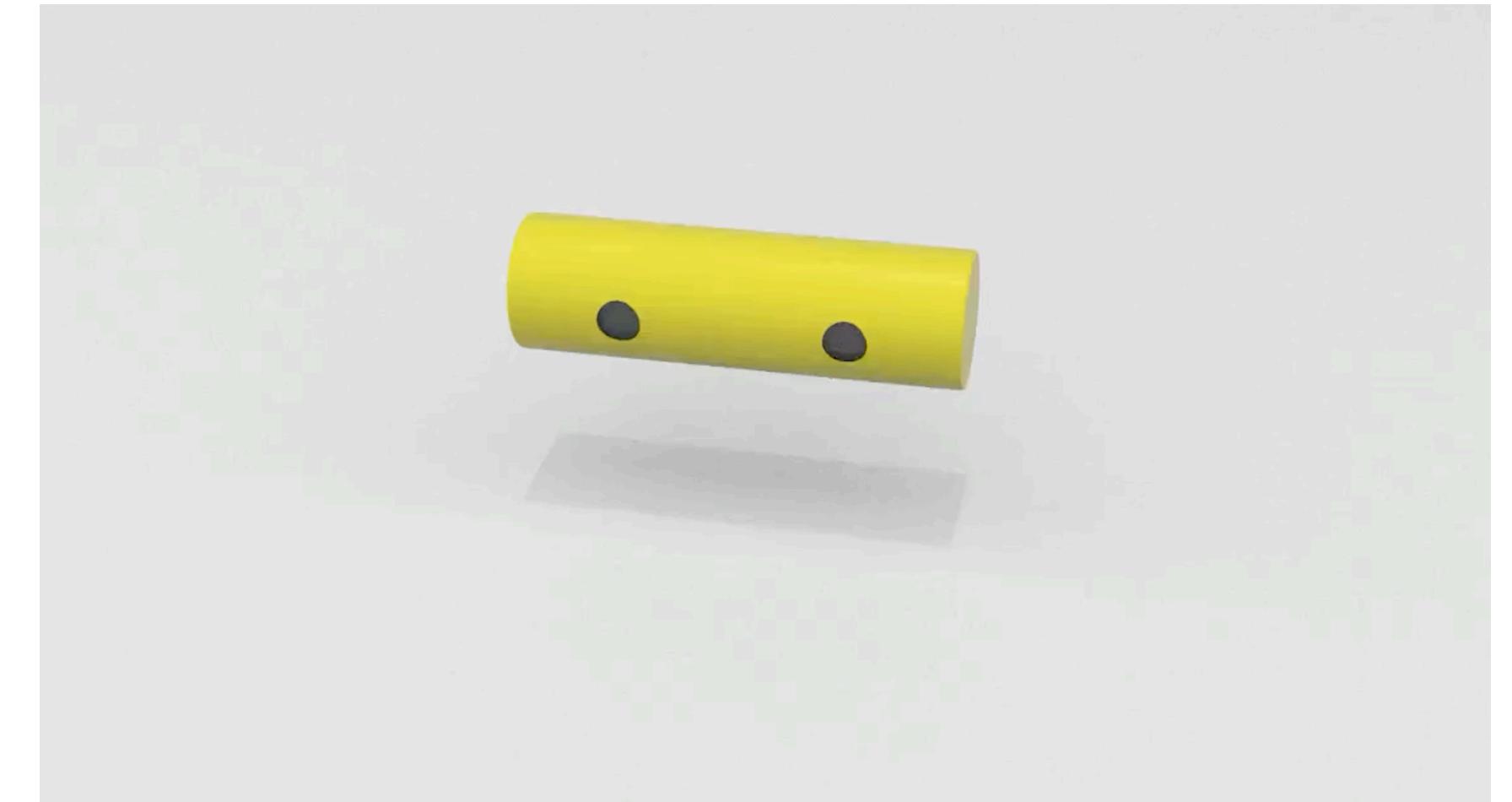
Fig. 1. Kick water. Our method accurately captures the complex interactions between the water, the multi-layer skirt, and the mannequin body without any interpenetration as the mannequin wearing the skirt kicks in a swimming pool and sends water flying.

Problems of fully implicit formulation:

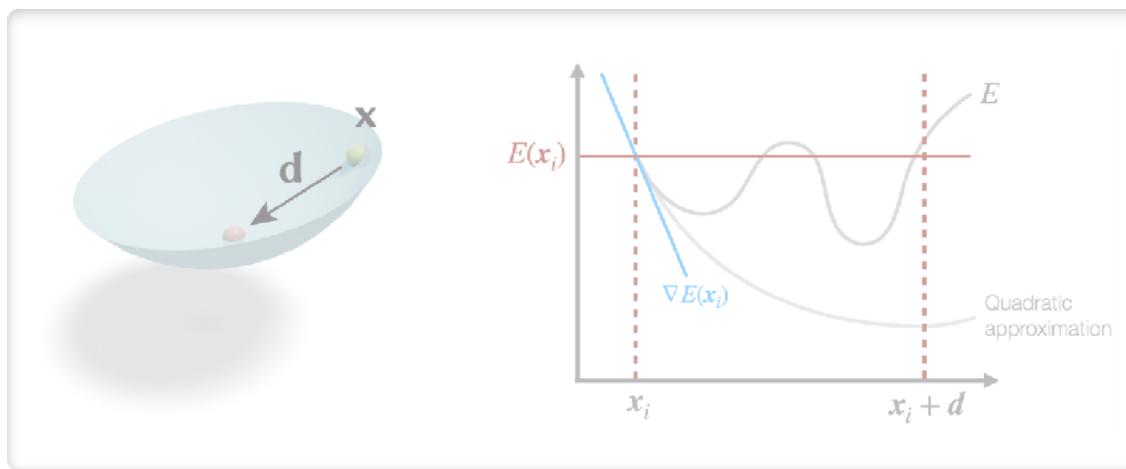
- “Connectivity” of SPH particles (neighbors of neighbors)
- Nonlinearity of barriers and deformables

Splitting approach:

1. Solve **fluid** phase with **linearized contact** forces
2. Solve **deformables** with **full contact** potential & **fluid proxy**



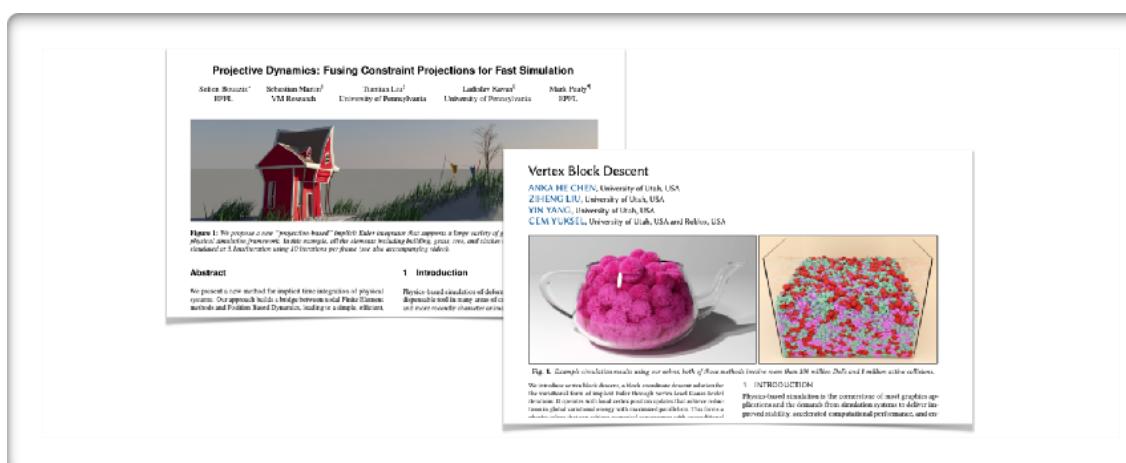
# Outline



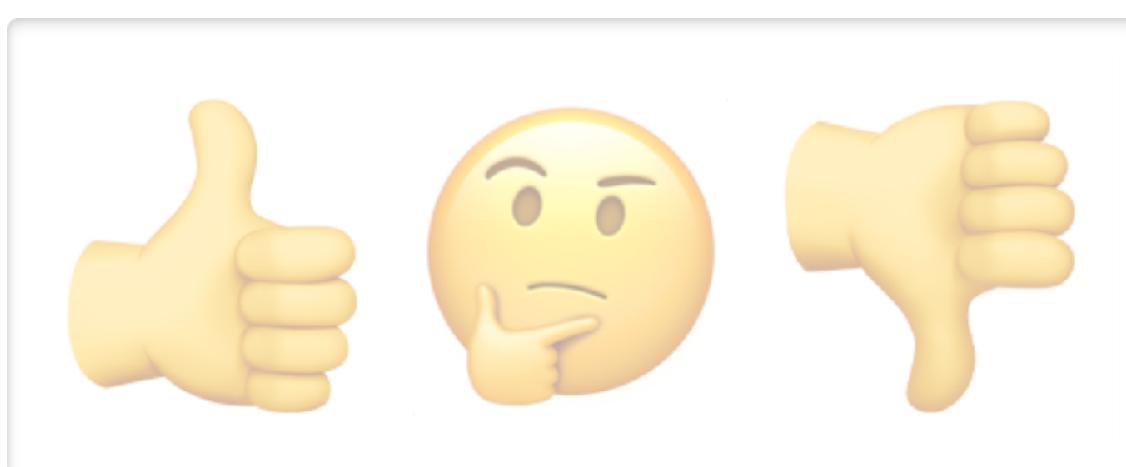
## 1. Mathematical foundations



## 2. Physical models and coupling



## 3. Related methods (VBD, PD)



## 4. Summary: Models & Properties

# Projective Dynamics

- Introduces local/global split
- Local: Non-linear constraint projections
  - Per constraint, find closest “target positions”  $p_i$  that satisfy  $C_i(p_i) = 0$
- Global: for fixed  $p_i$ , minimize BE incremental potential

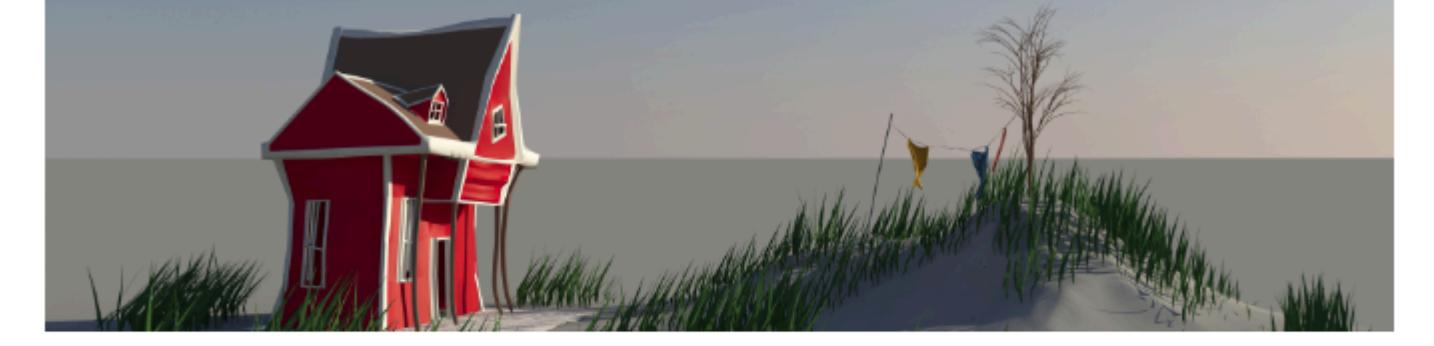
$$E_{\text{PD}}(x, p) = \frac{1}{2\Delta t^2} (x - \tilde{x})^\top M (x - \tilde{x}) + \sum_i d_i(x, p_i)$$

**$E_{\text{PD}}$  has Constant Hessian → Pre-Factorize**

- Where  $d_i(x, p_i)$  are quadratic functions, pulling the DOF  $x$  towards  $p_i$

**Projective Dynamics: Fusing Constraint Projections for Fast Simulation**

Sofien Bouaziz\* Sebastian Martin† Tiantian Liu‡ Ladislav Kavan§ Mark Pauly¶  
EPFL VM Research University of Pennsylvania University of Pennsylvania EPFL



**Figure 1:** We propose a new “projection-based” implicit Euler integrator that supports a large variety of geometric constraints in a single physical simulation framework. In this example, all the elements including building, grass, tree, and clothes (49k DoFs, 43k constraints), are simulated at 3.1ms/iteration using 10 iterations per frame (see also accompanying video).

**Abstract**  
We present a new method for implicit time integration of physical systems. Our approach builds a bridge between nodal Finite Element methods and Position Based Dynamics, leading to a simple, efficient, robust, yet accurate solver that supports many different types of constraints. We propose specially designed energy potentials that can be solved efficiently using an alternating optimization approach. Inspired by continuum mechanics, we derive a set of continuum-based potentials that can be efficiently incorporated within our solver.

**1 Introduction**  
Physics-based simulation of deformable material has become an indispensable tool in many areas of computer graphics. Virtual worlds, and more recently character animations, incorporate sophisticated simulations to greatly enhance visual experience, e.g., by simulating muscles, fat, hair, clothing, or vegetation. These models are often based on finite element discretizations of continuum-mechanics formulations, allowing highly accurate simulation of complex non-linear materials.

# Vertex Block Descent

- Uses a block coordinate descent approach

- Solves **local** (per-vertex) energies:

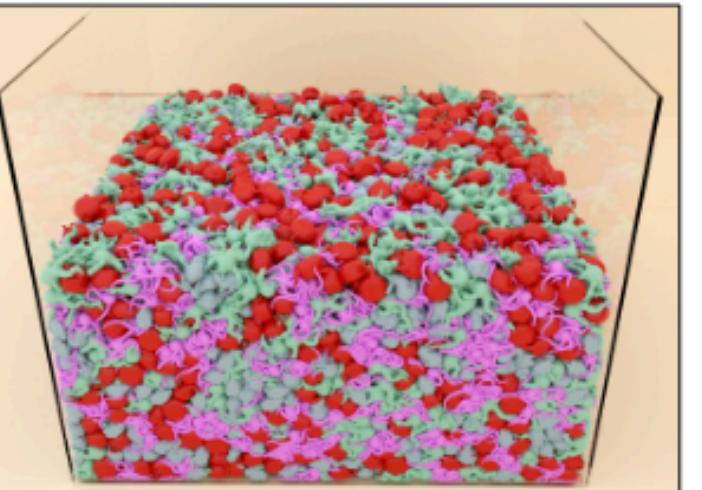
$$E_i(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{m_i}{2\Delta t^2} \|\mathbf{x}_i - \tilde{\mathbf{x}}_i\|^2 + \sum_{j \in \mathcal{V}_i} \phi_j(\mathbf{x})$$

Energies affecting vertex  $i$

- Analytic inversion of local **3x3 Hessians**
- Designed for efficient implementation on GPU
- Alternative to XPBD, but is a **primal** method
- Reduces global energy but does not necessarily converge to its minimum

**Vertex Block Descent**

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ZIHENG LIU, University of Utah, USA  
YIN YANG, University of Utah, USA  
CEM YUKSEL, University of Utah, USA and Roblox, USA

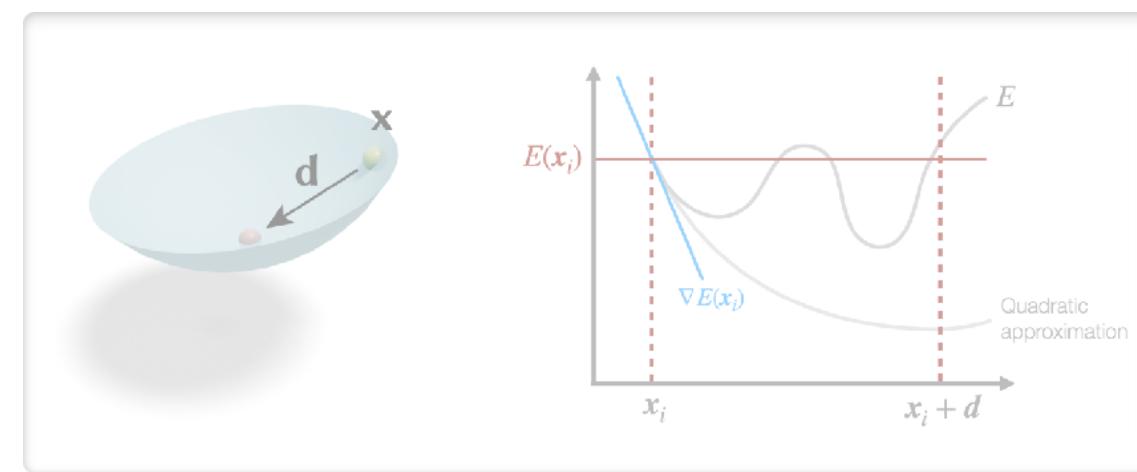


**Fig. 1.** Example simulation results using our solver, both of those methods involve more than 100 million DoFs and 1 million active collisions.

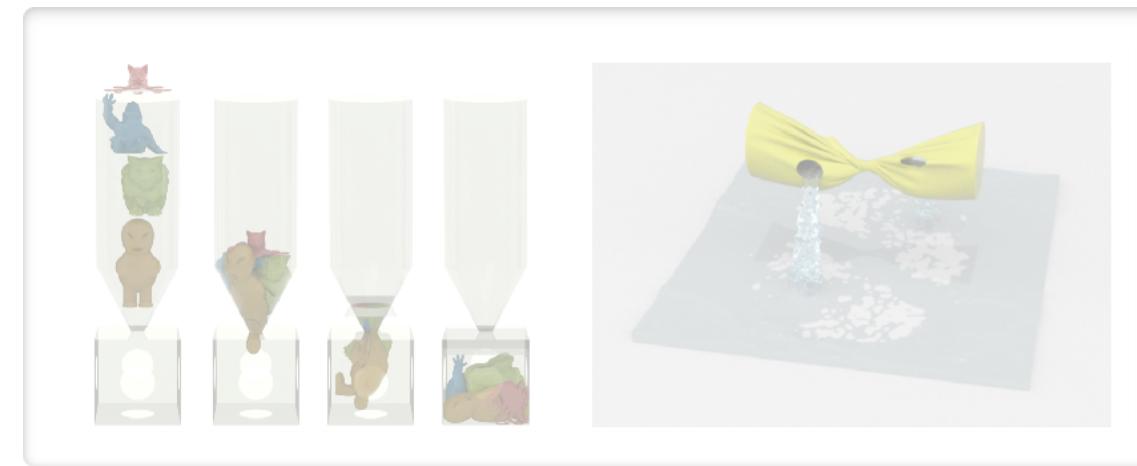
**1 INTRODUCTION**  
Physics-based simulation is the cornerstone of most graphics applications and the demands from simulation systems to deliver improved stability, accelerated computational performance, and enhanced visual realism are ever-growing. Particularly in real-time graphics applications, the stability and performance requirements are so strict that realism can sometimes be begrudgingly considered of secondary importance.  
We present and evaluate our method in the context of elastic body dynamics, providing details of all essential components and showing that it outperforms alternative techniques. In addition, we discuss and show examples of how our method can be used for other simulation systems, including particle-based simulations and rigid bodies.

Notwithstanding the substantial amount of research and groundbreaking discoveries made on physics solvers over the past decades, existing methods still leave some things to be desired. They either deliver high-quality results but fail to meet the computational de-

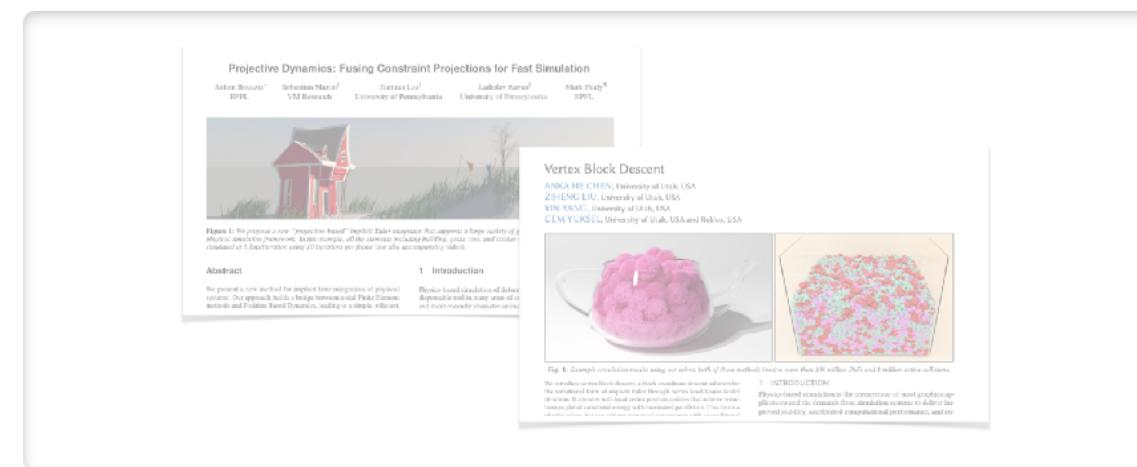
# Outline



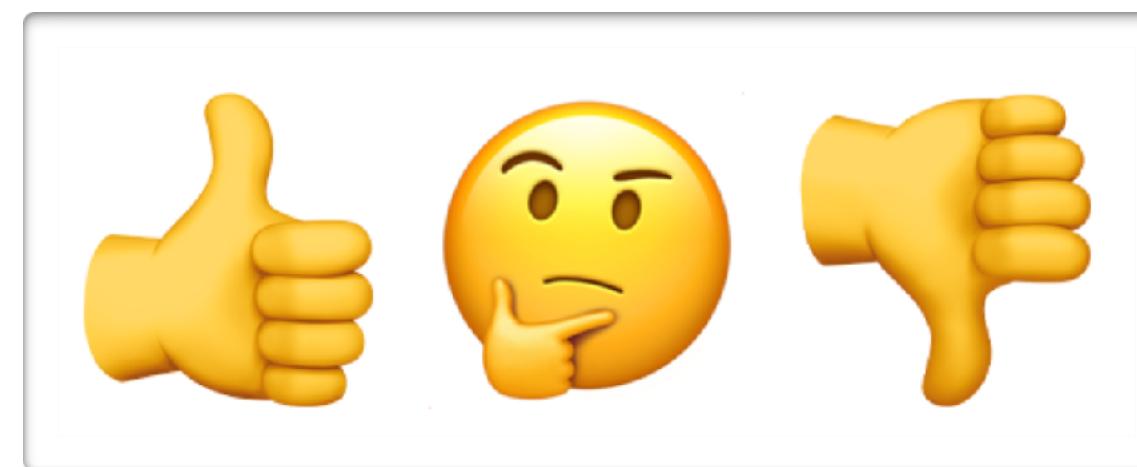
## 1. Mathematical foundations



## 2. Physical models and coupling



## 3. Related methods (VBD, PD)



## 4. Summary: Models & Properties

# Summary: Energy-based Models

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- ★ Deformable solids, cloth, shells and rods
- 👍 Geometrically motivated & continuum-based models
- 👍 Material models: isotropic, anisotropic, example-based, data-driven...
- 👍 Dynamic frictional contact & intersection-free simulations
- 👍 Rigid bodies & multi-body systems
- 👍 Other physical phenomena (e.g. magnetics, heating, wetting...)
- 🤔 “Accurate” friction and certain plasticity models
  - Typically needs approximations (e.g. lagging)
- 🤔 Fluids & granular media
  - Typically needs operator splitting, semi-implicit approaches or constrained optimization

# Summary: Properties of Energy-Based Simulation

👍 **Simple:** in terms of formulation and numerical approach

👍 **Robust convergence:** due to line search & second-order derivatives

🤔 **Primal methods:** Good for high mass ratios, very large stiffness ratios numerically challenging

👎 **Limited to potentials:** no arbitrary dissipative and non-conservative forces

👉 Solution: Adapted and approximate models (for friction, damping and plasticity)

👎 **High computational cost:** problematic for interactive applications

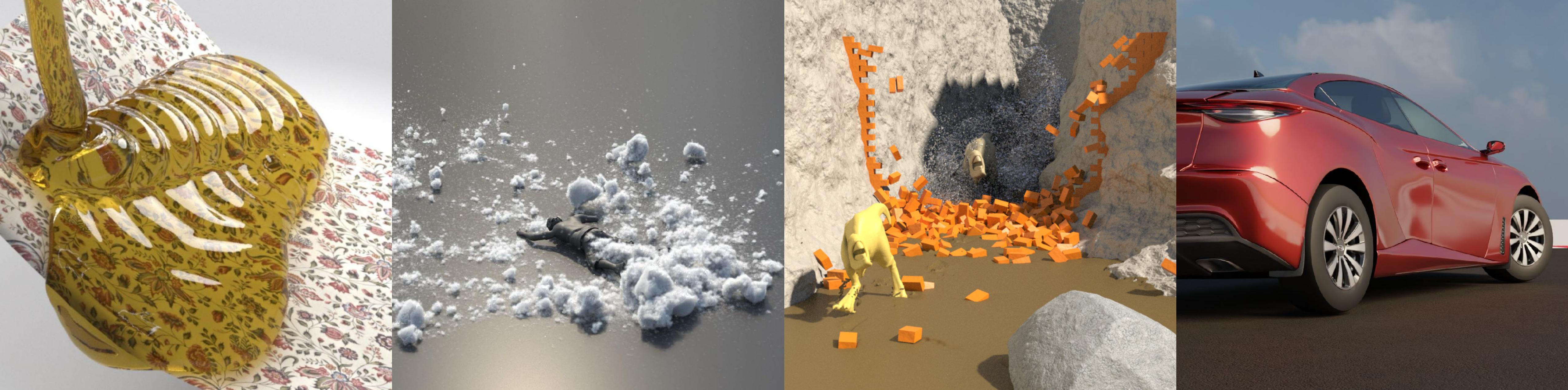
👉 Solution: Related methods for interactive applications, e.g.:

- VBD: Vertex Block Descent [Chen et al. 2024]
- PD: Projective Dynamics [Bouaziz et al. 2014]

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = -\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} \phi(\mathbf{x})$$

or

$$f_D(\mathbf{v}) = -\nabla_{\mathbf{v}} \phi_D(\mathbf{v})$$



# Part II

# Energy-based multiphysics modeling

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