

# geometric optimization

CIX Summer School 2022 | Saarbrücken



**Prof. Alexandra Ion**  
interactive structures lab



*hi, I am alex.*

**Assistant Professor**  
at CMU HCII



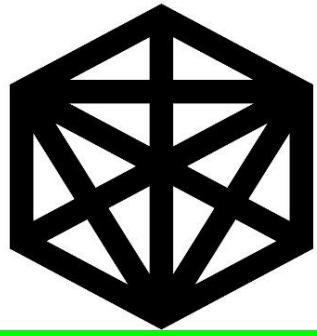
open positions

*Postdoc, 2020:*  
ETH Zurich  
Olga Sorkine-Hornung, Graphics



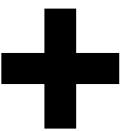
*PhD, 2019:*  
Hasso Plattner Institute  
Patrick Baudisch, HCI





interactive structures lab

**digital fabrication**



**interactive structures**

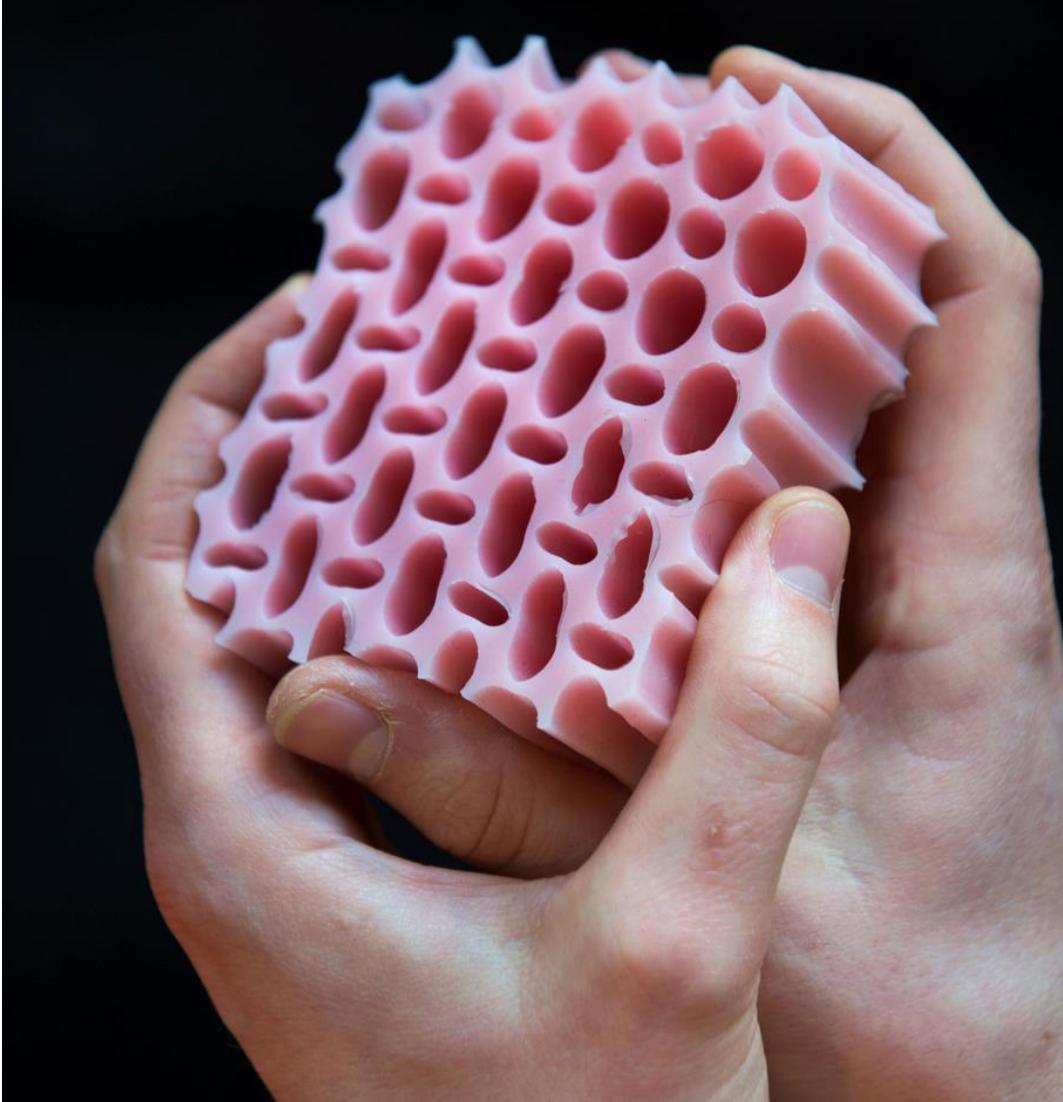


image: [formlabs.com](http://formlabs.com)

digital fabrication

# interactive structures

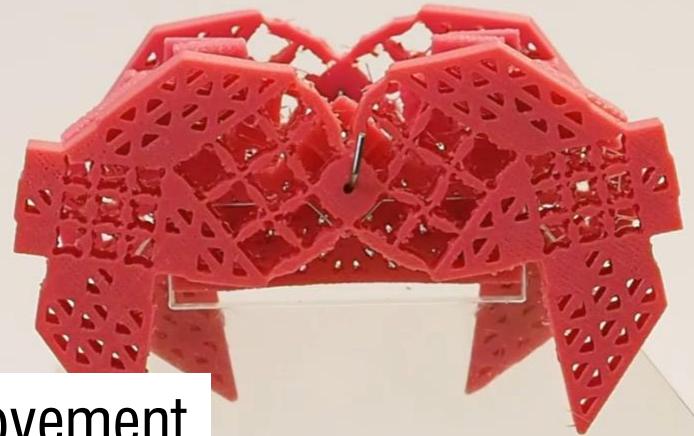
structures that **embed functionality**

such that they can react to **simple input**  
with **complex behavior**.

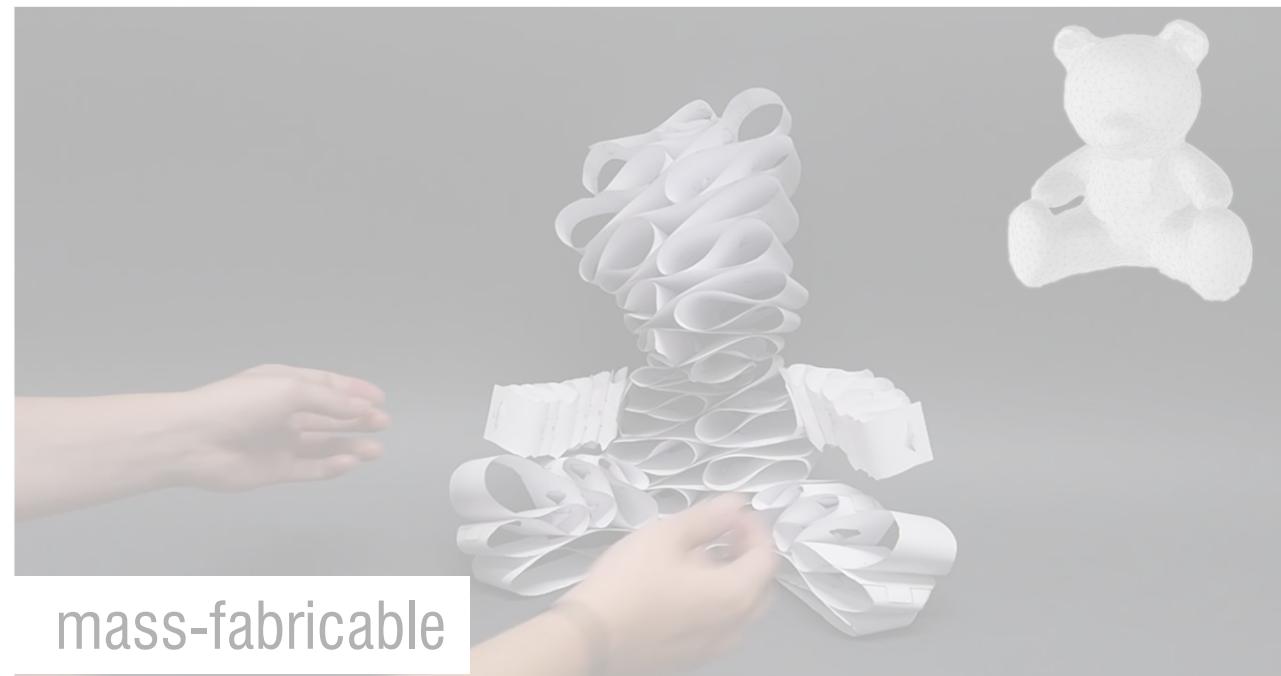
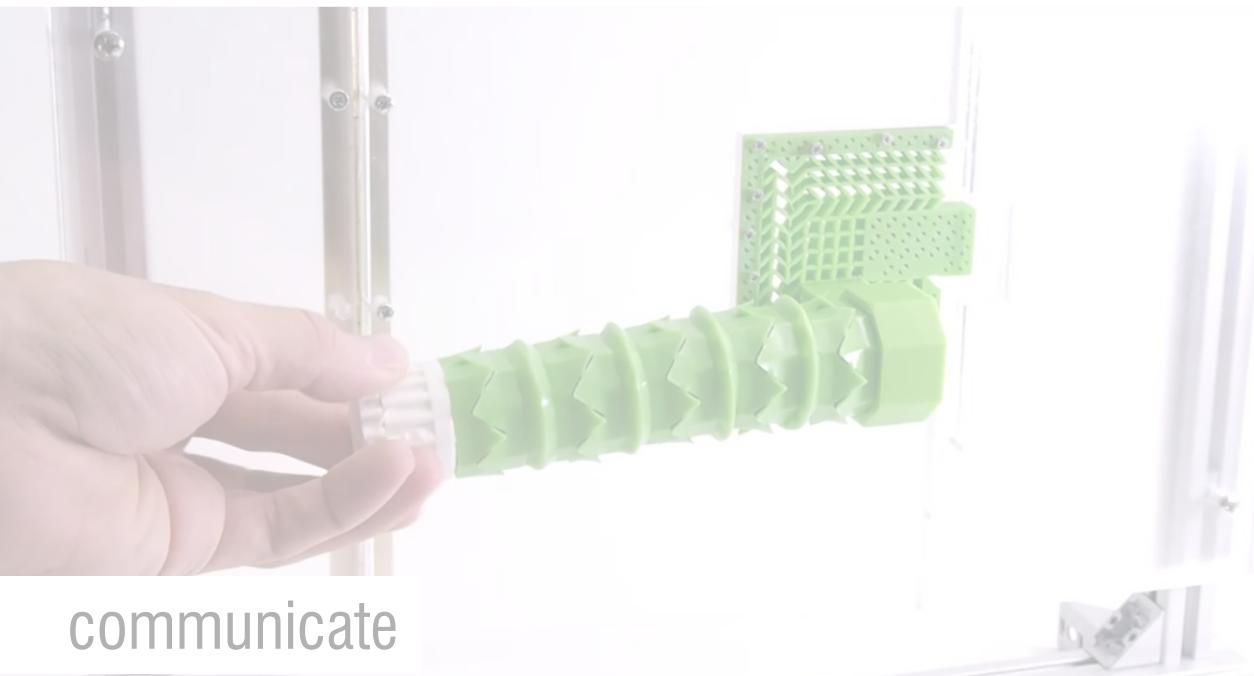
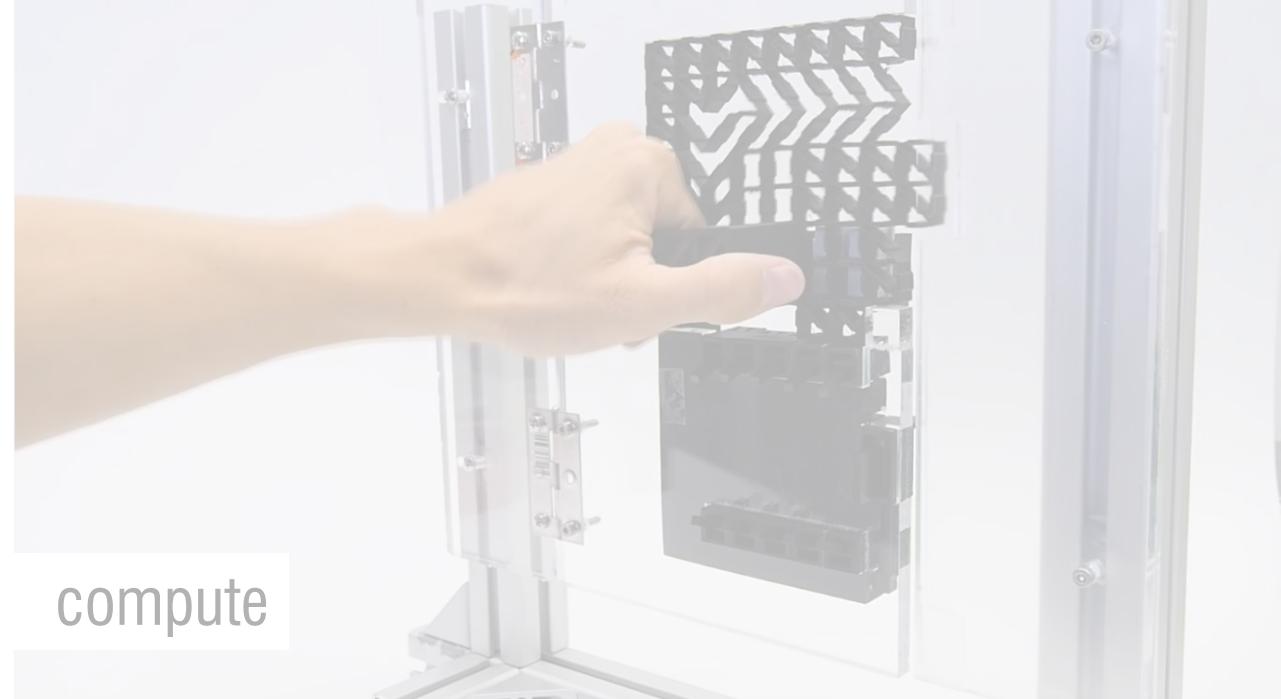


interactive structures



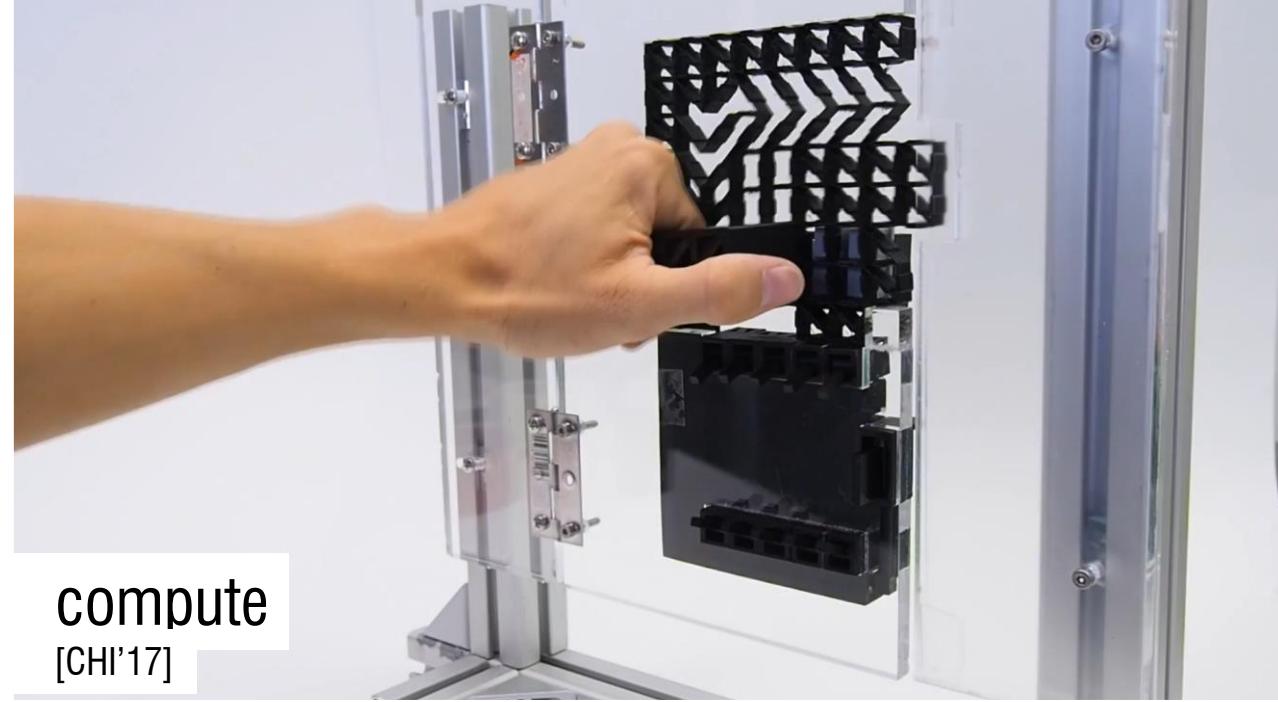


robotic movement  
[UIST'16]

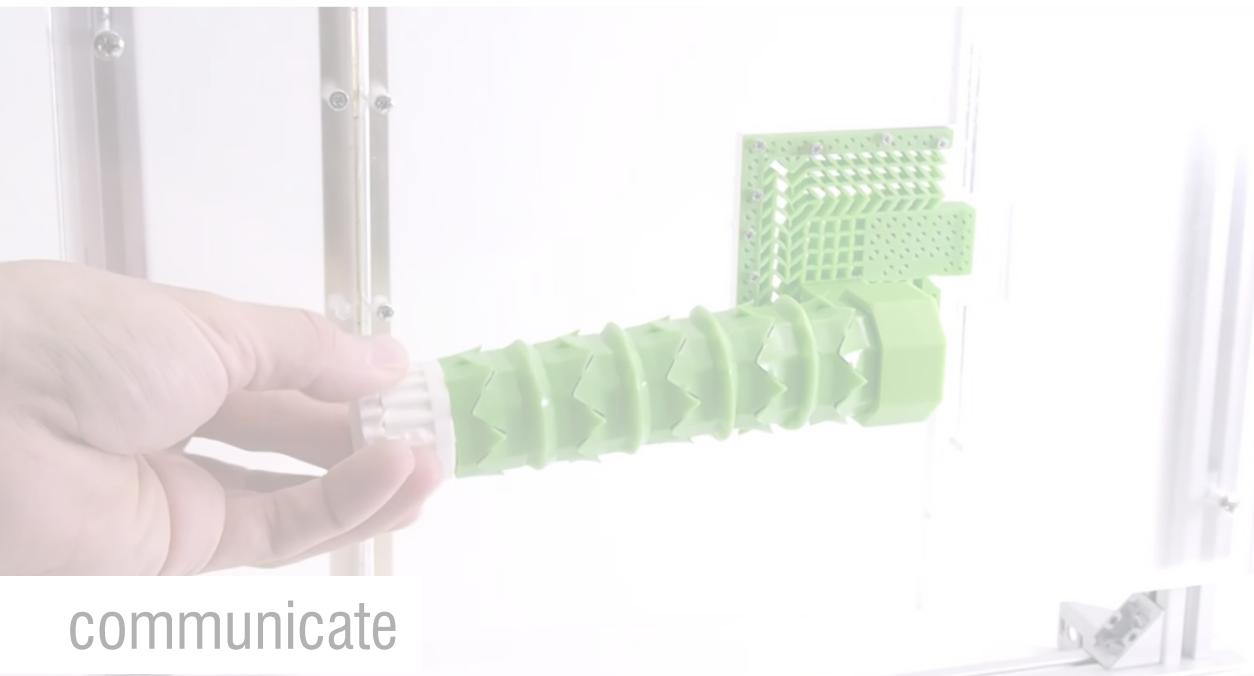




robotic movement



compute  
[CHI'17]



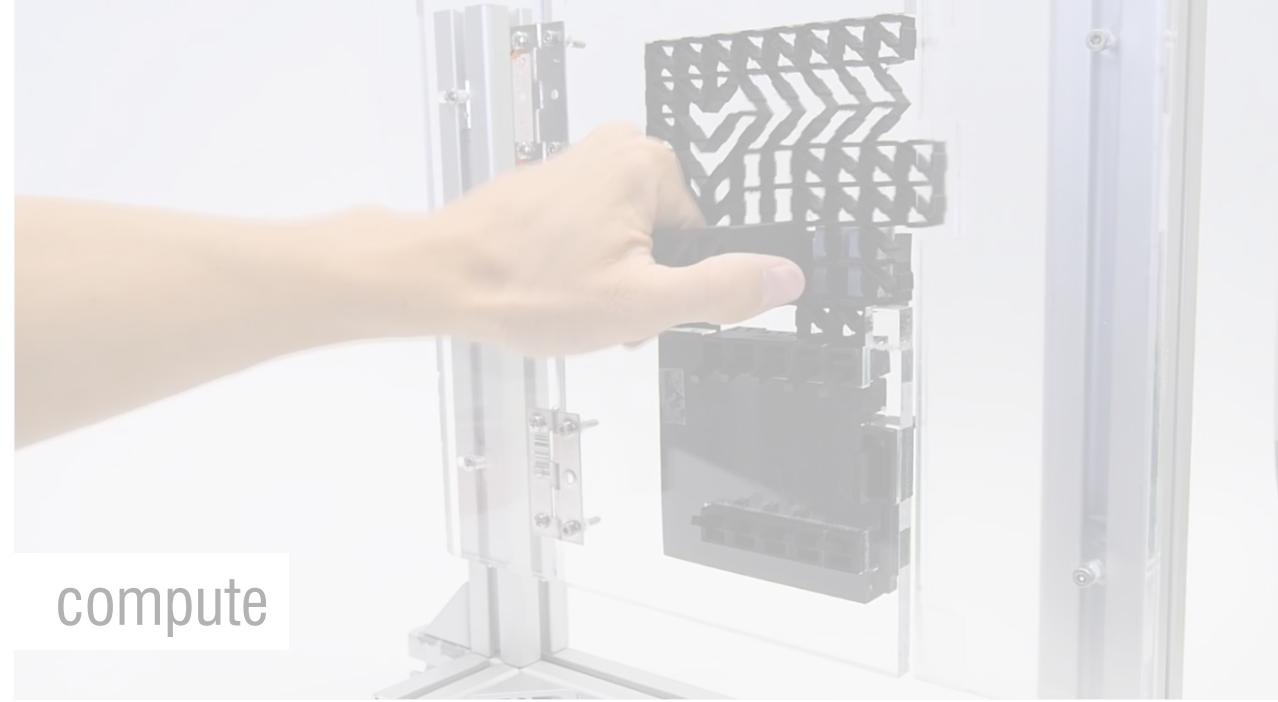
communicate



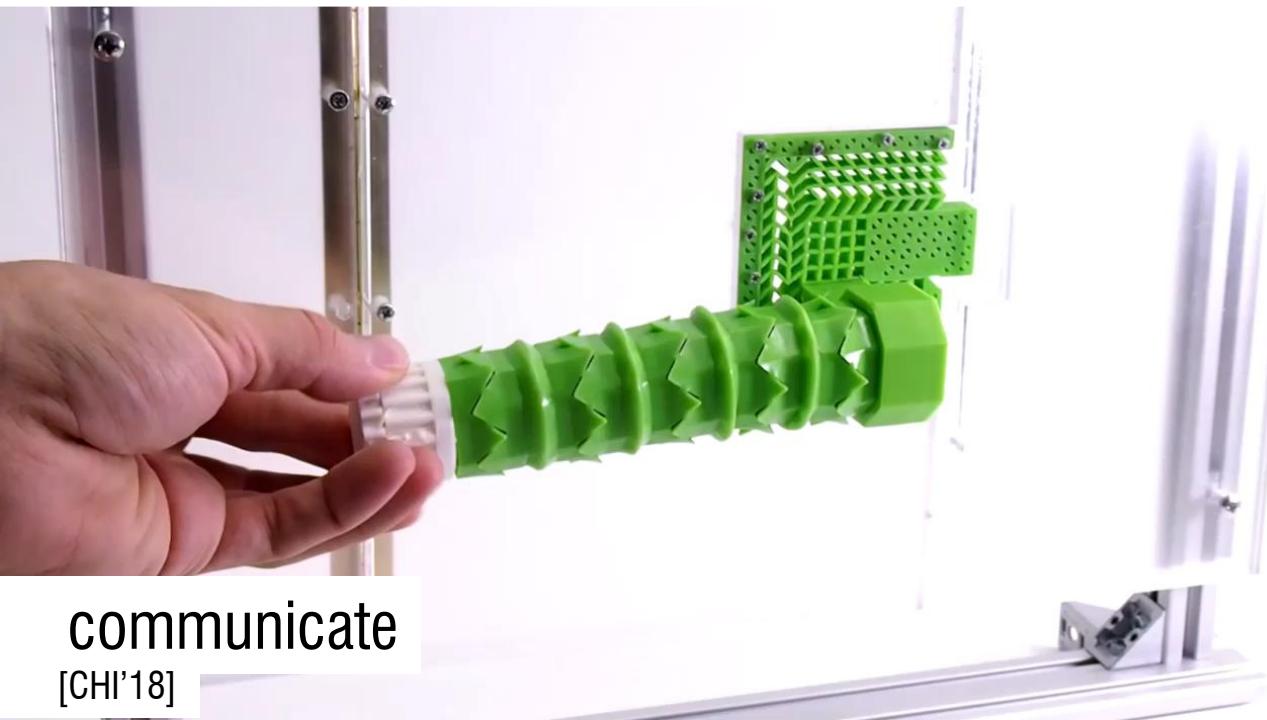
mass-fabricable



robotic movement



compute



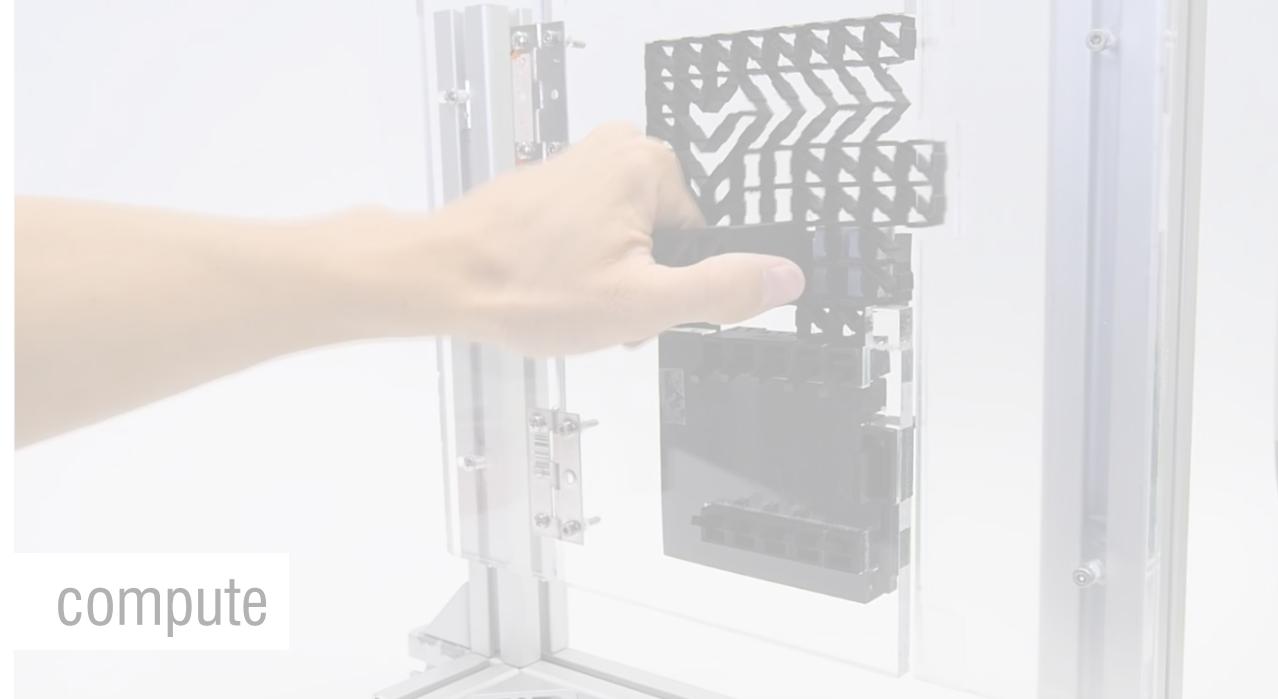
communicate  
[CHI'18]



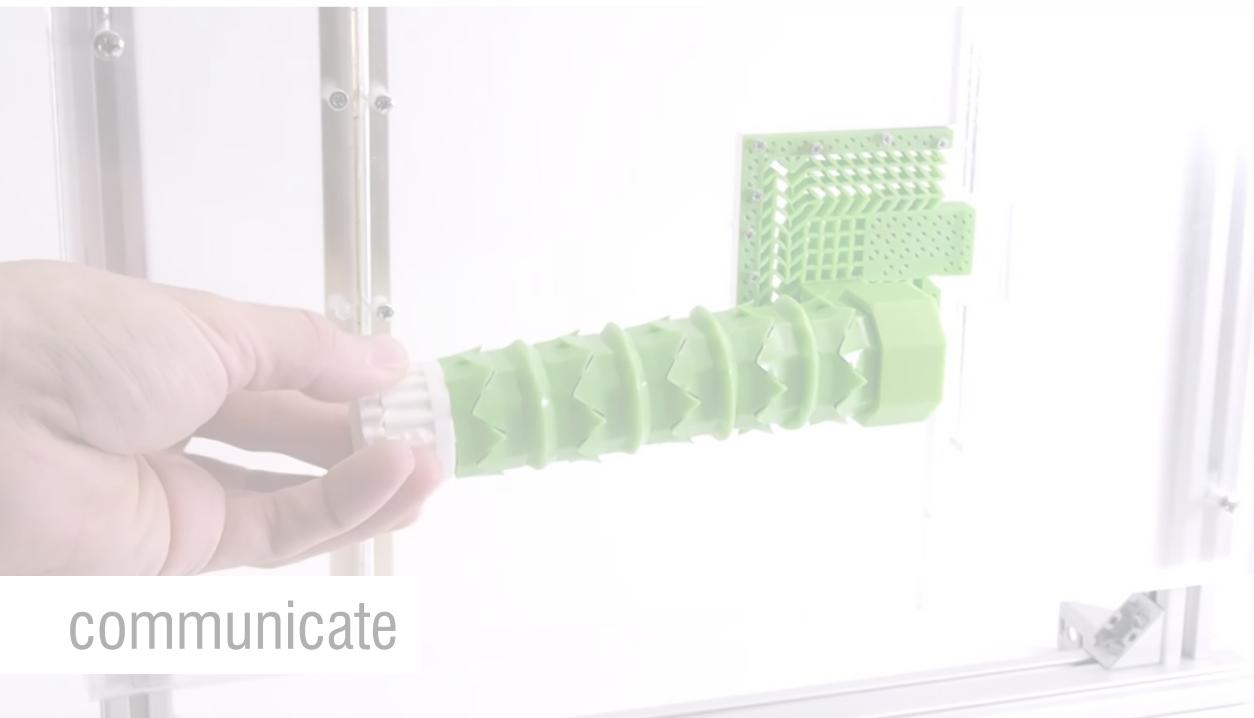
mass-fabricable



robotic movement



compute



communicate



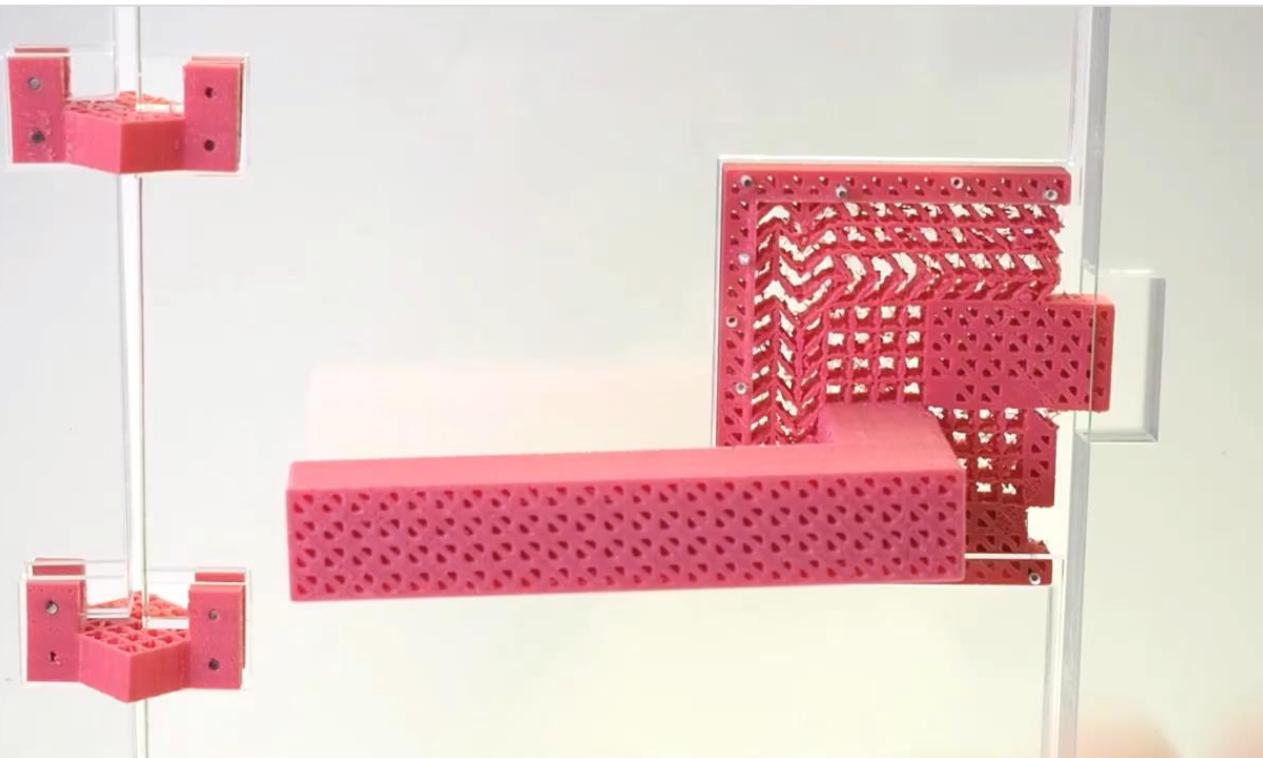
mass-fabricable  
[CHI'21]

HCI + geometry + engineering + design

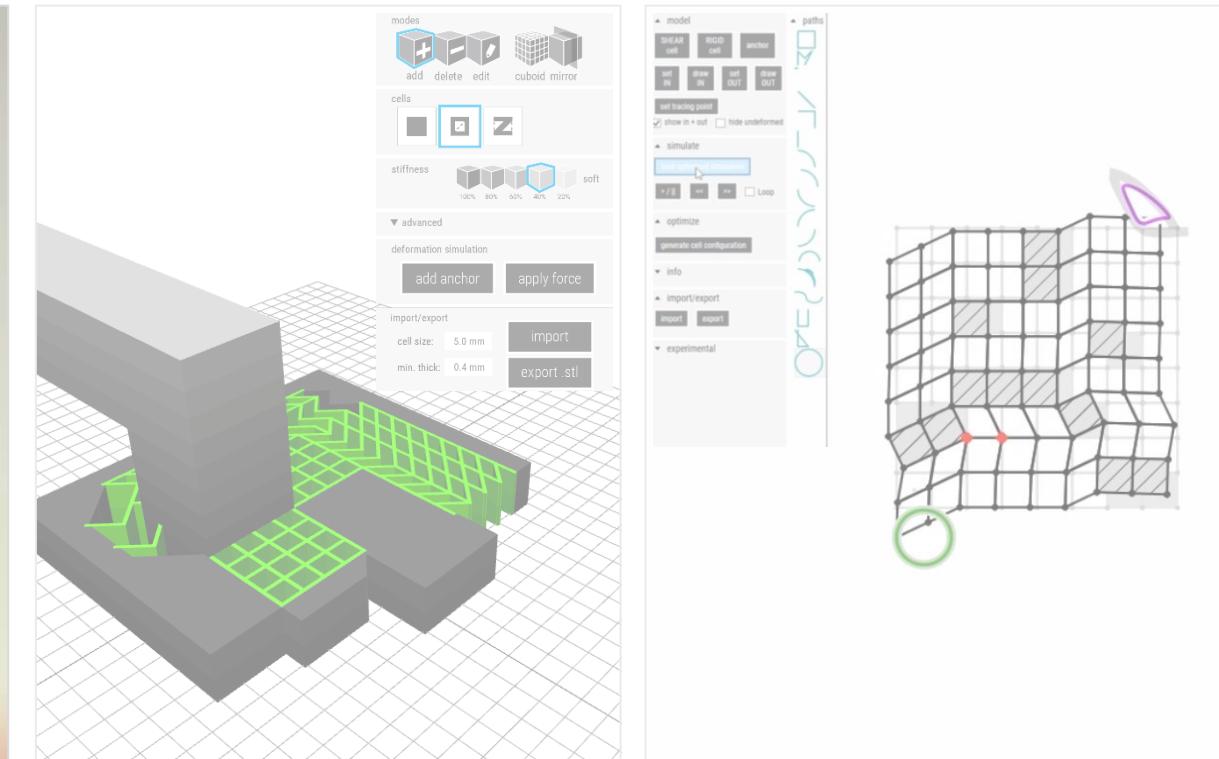
# the work we do in the lab

example: Metamaterial Mechanisms

[UIST'16, CHI'19]



structures



editor

inverse design



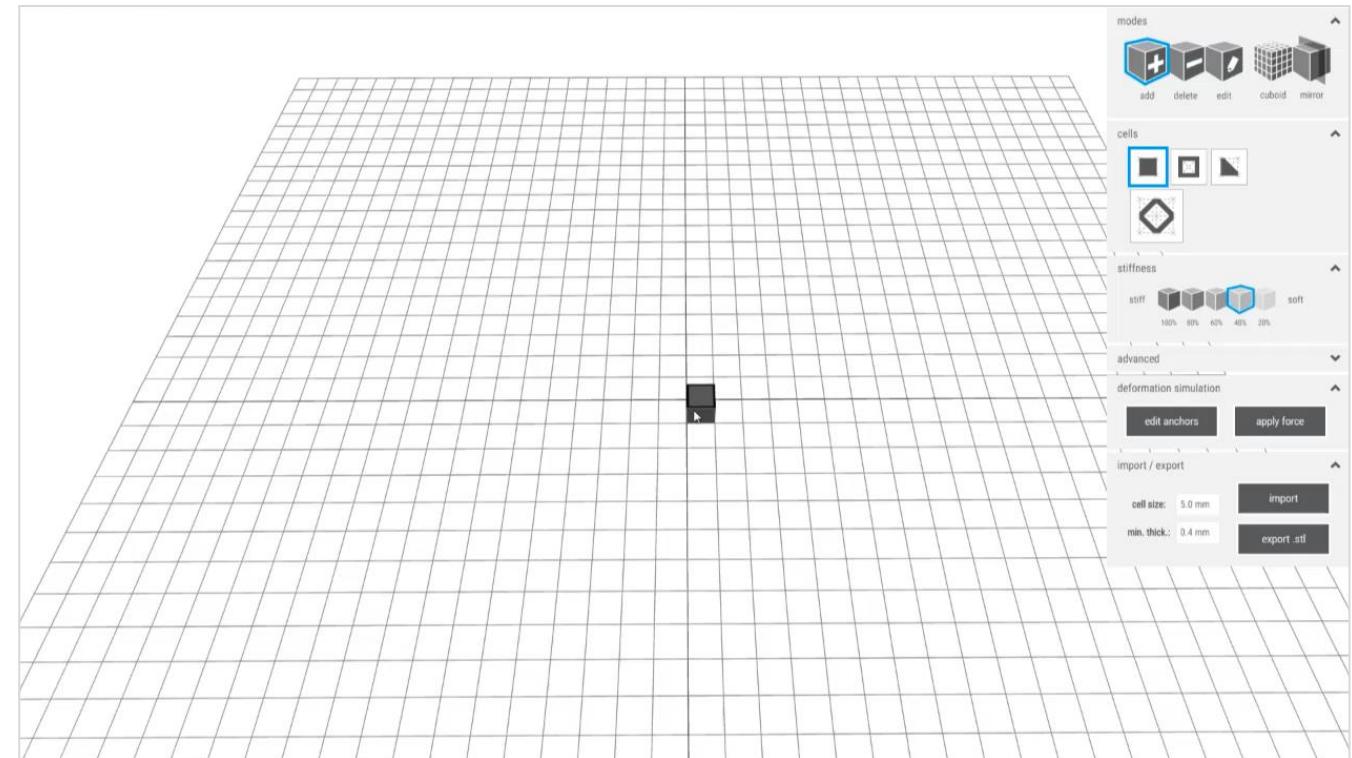
# the work we do in the lab

example: Metamaterial Mechanisms

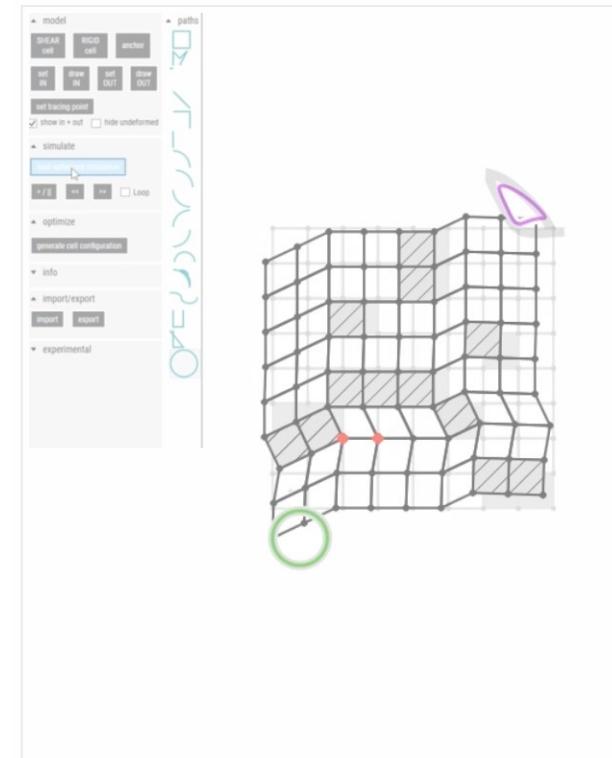
[UIST'16, CHI'19]



structures



editor



inverse design



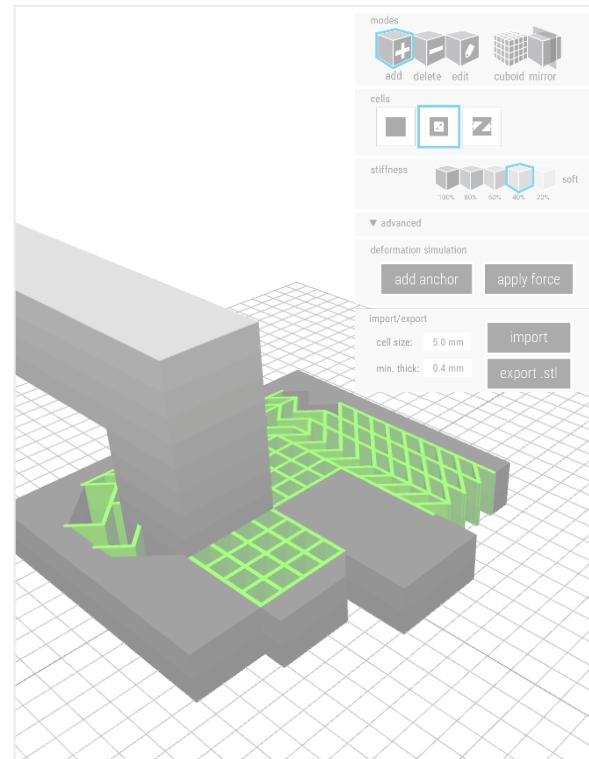
# the work we do in the lab

example: Metamaterial Mechanisms

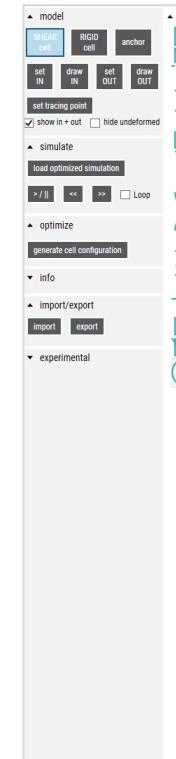
[UIST'16, CHI'19]



structures



editor

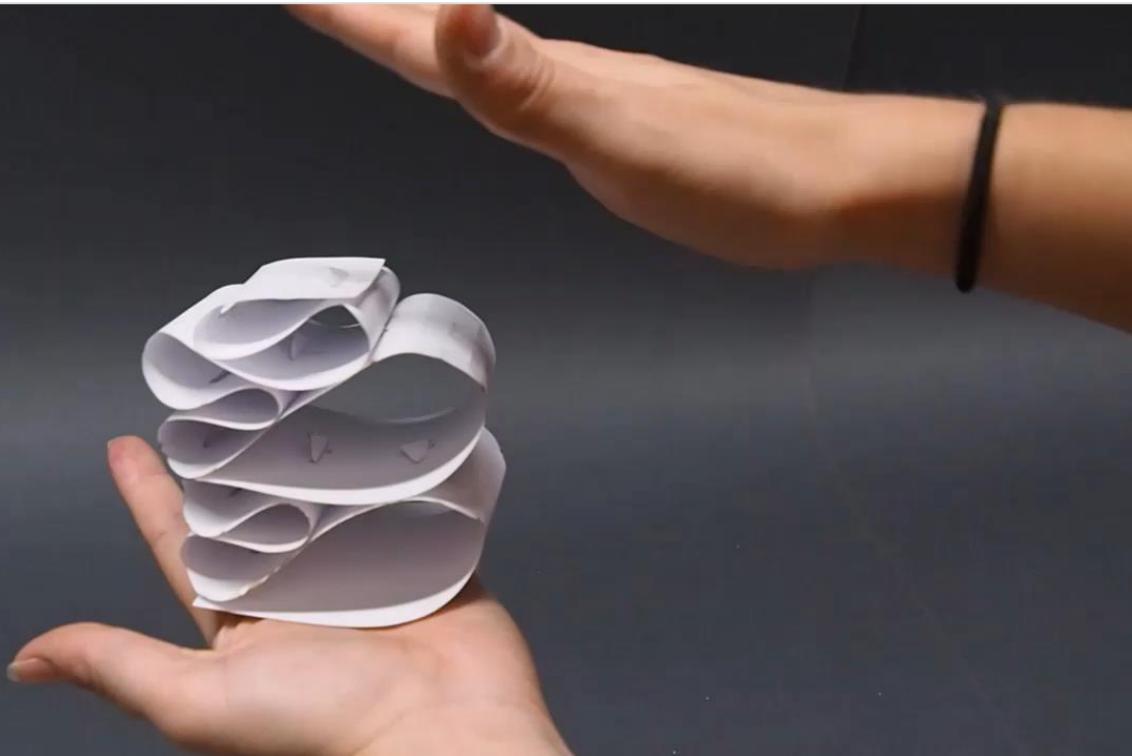


inverse design

combinatorial optimization, meta-heuristics

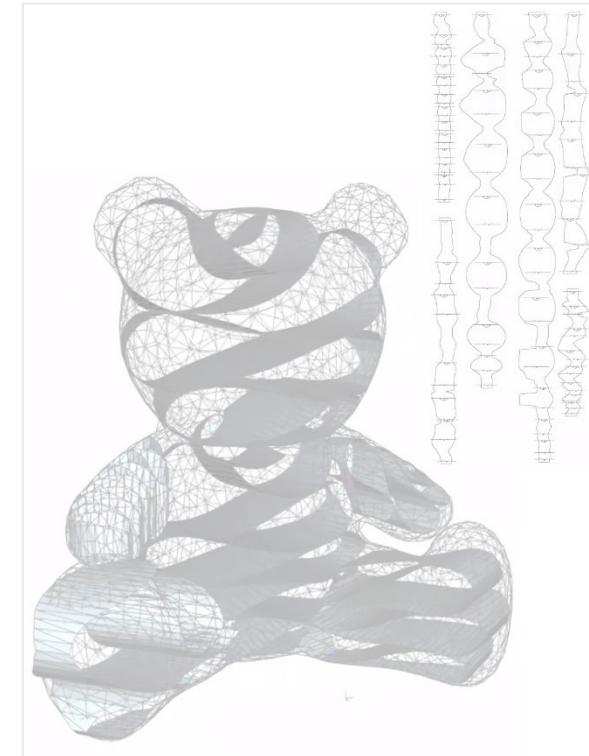
# the work we do in the lab

example: Developable Metamaterials [CHI'21]



structures

developable, mass-manufacturable, easy to assemble



inverse design



impactful applications



# the work we do in the lab

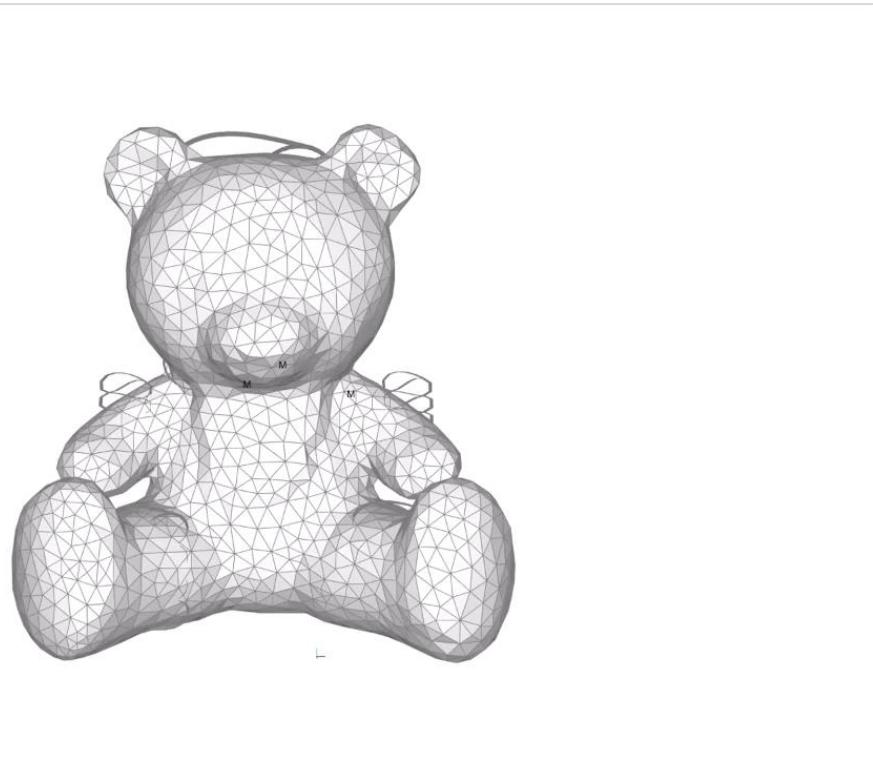
example: Developable  
Metamaterials [CHI'21]



structures

inverse design

thin shells, physics simulation, shape optimization



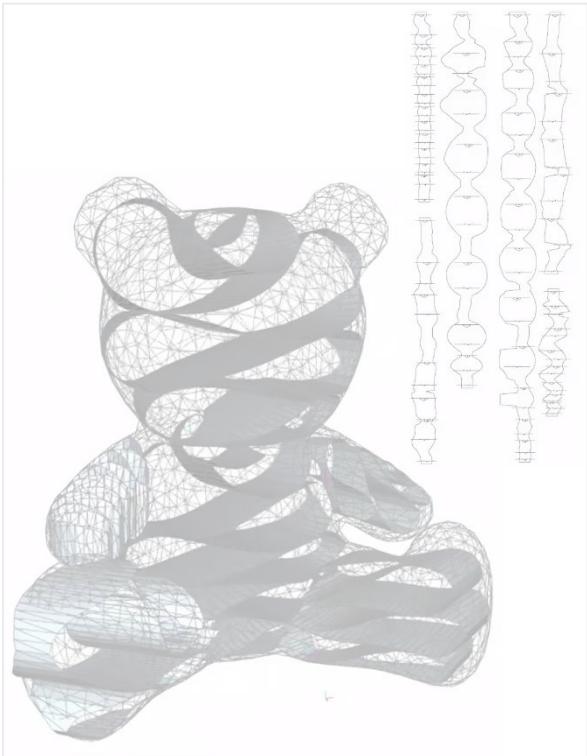
impactful applications

# the work we do in the lab

example: Developable  
Metamaterials [CHI'21]



structures



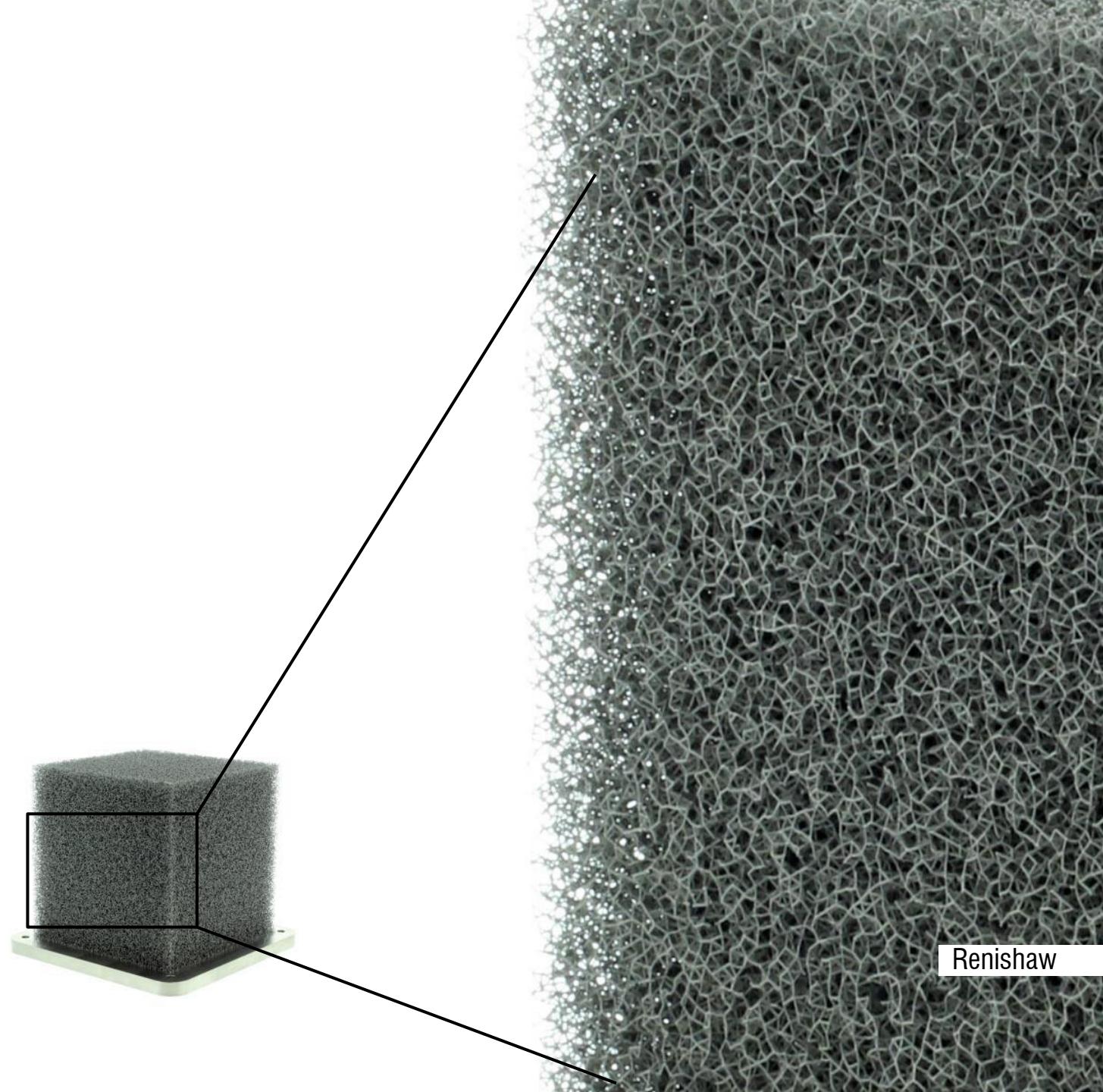
inverse design

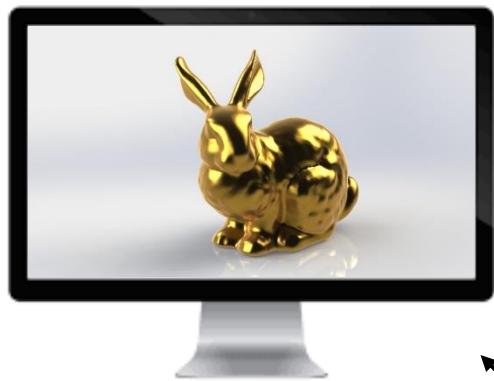


impactful applications

customizable, affordable, sensorized and actuated prostheses

# Geometric complexity

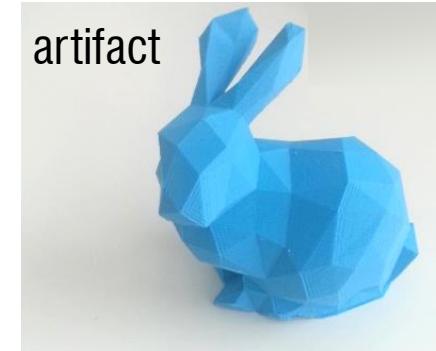




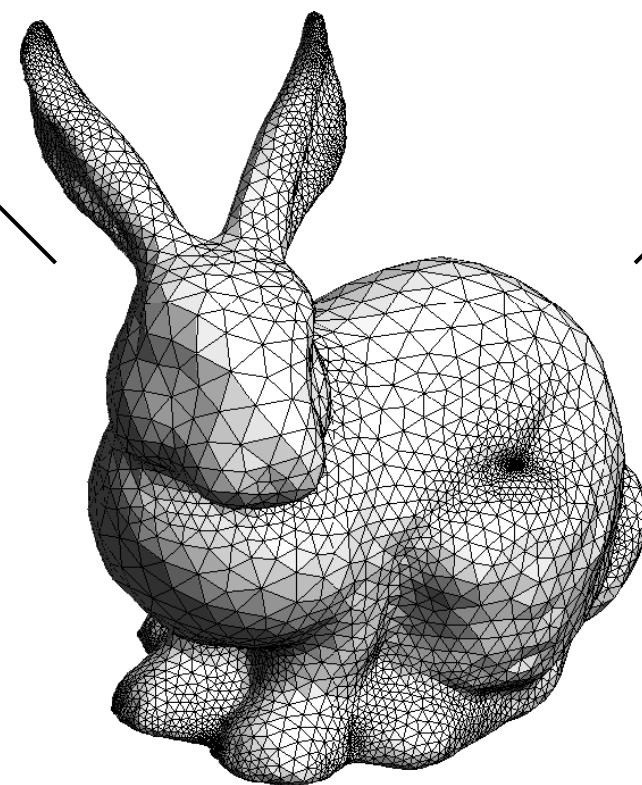
2D output



3D output

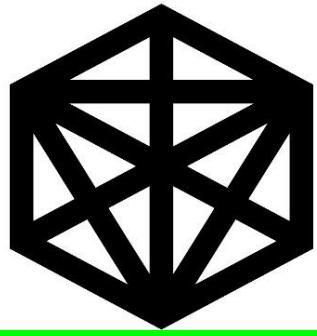


artifact



**geometry**

**geometry**



interactive structures lab

# basics of geometry processing

11big

# Mesh representation

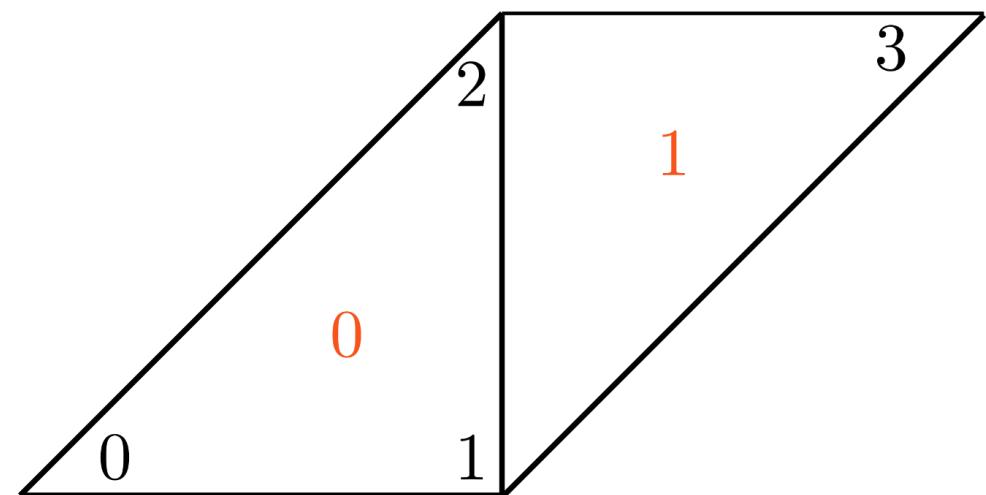
Triangles with vertices V and faces F

```
Eigen::MatrixXd V;
```

```
Eigen::MatrixXi F;
```

$$V = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

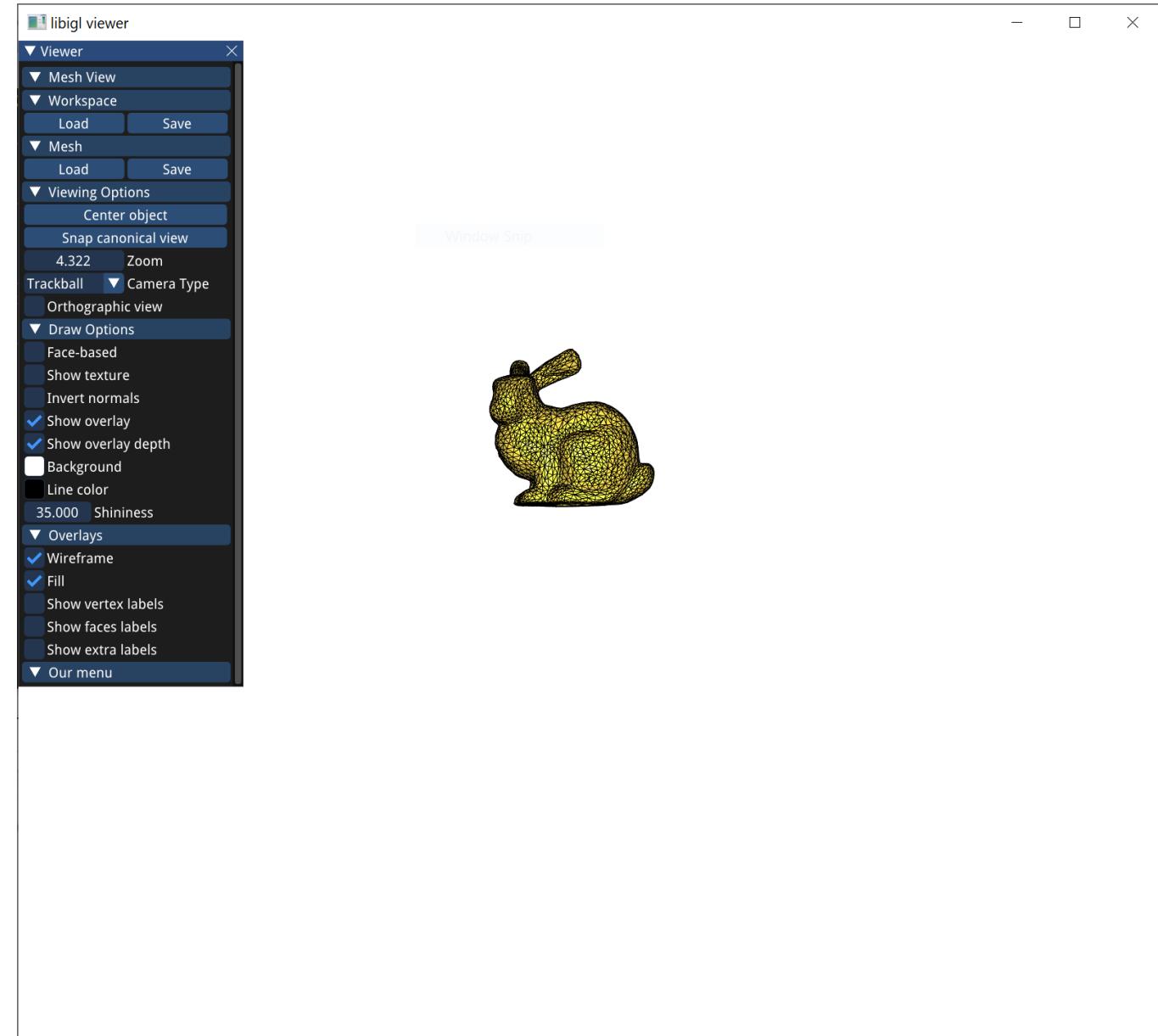
$$F = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$



<https://libigl.github.io/tutorial/>

# Let's go!

Run **0\_compilation\_test**



# Quick refs

**libigl:** great tutorials, courses, etc

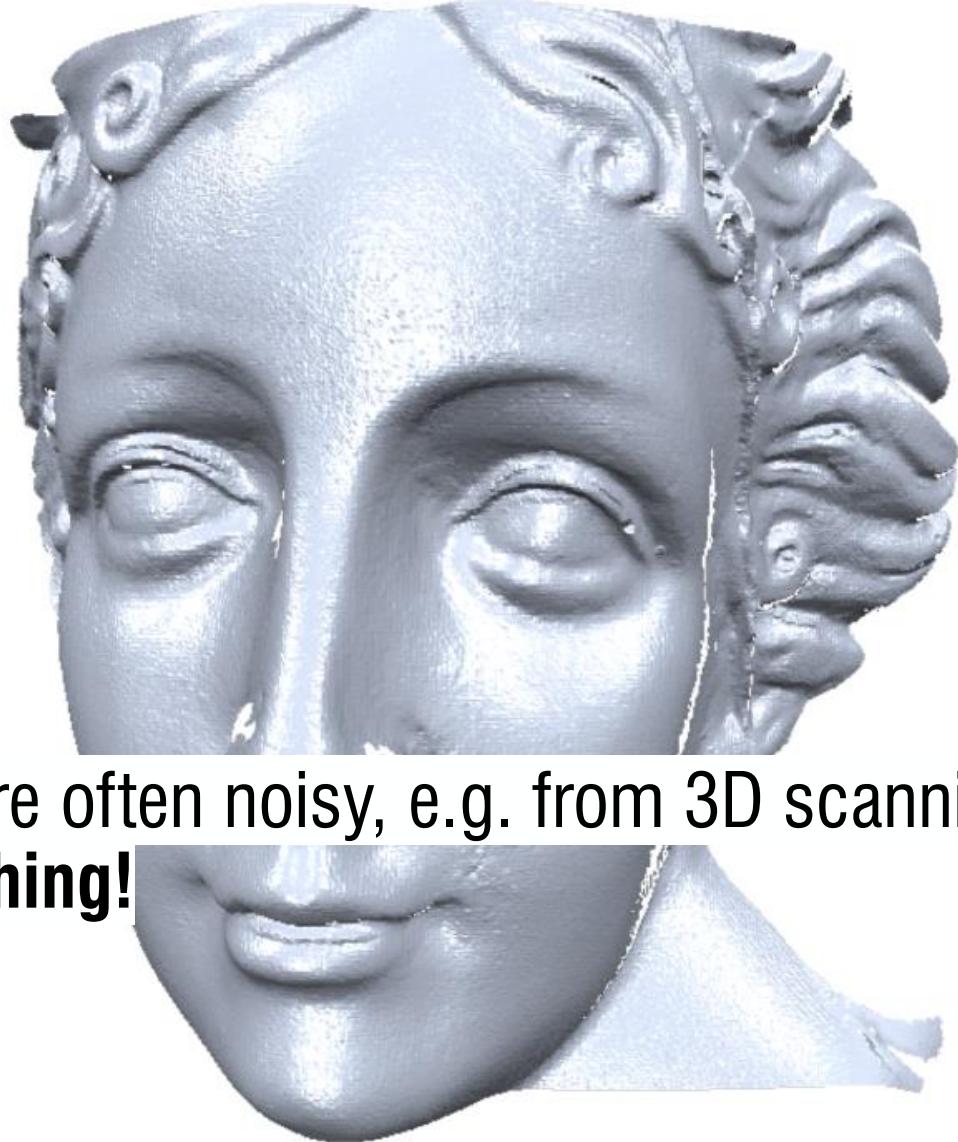
<https://libigl.github.io/tutorial>

<https://libigl.github.io/tutorial/#other-matlab-style-functions>

API: none really, but search in [github](#) (one-function one-file principle)

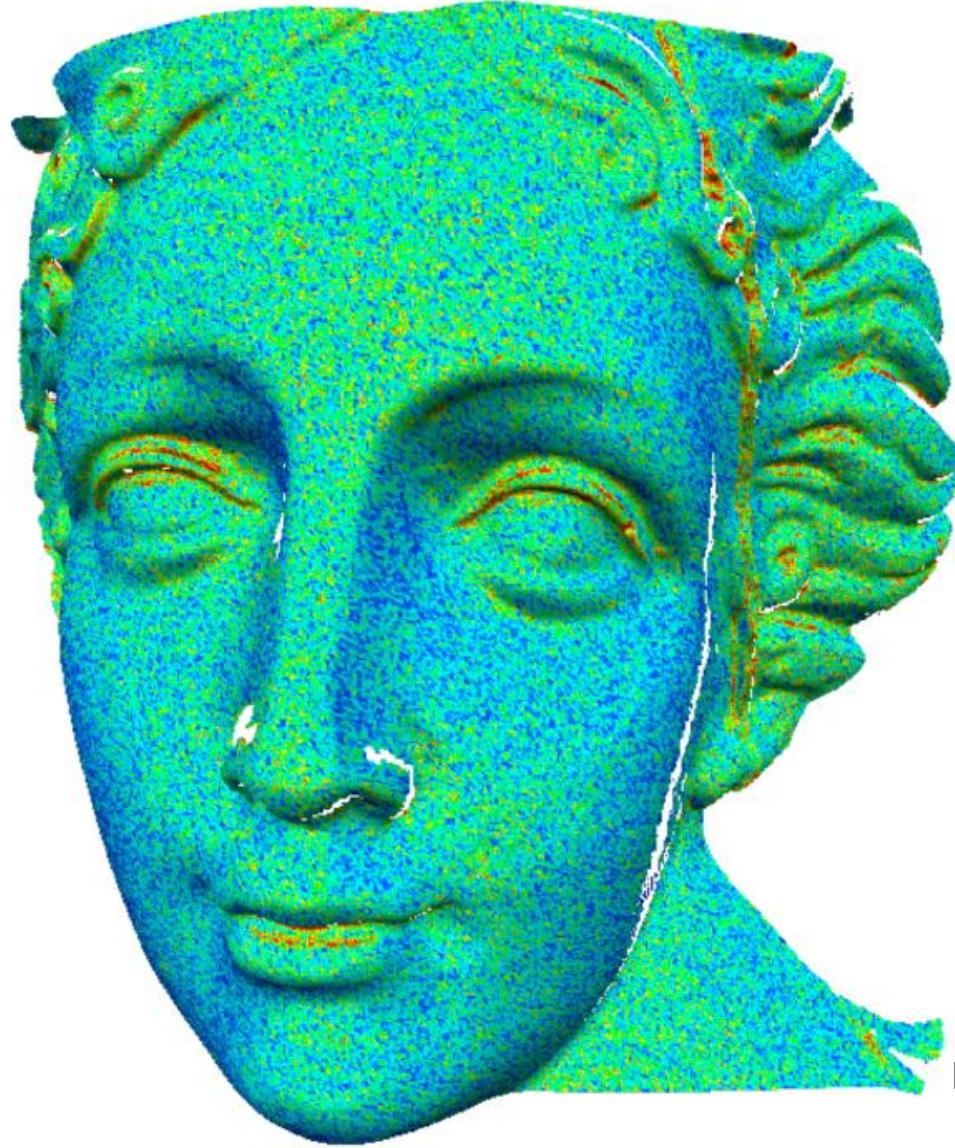
→ IGL, main contributors Alec Jacobson & Danielle Panozzo 

**Eigen:** [https://eigen.tuxfamily.org/dox/group\\_\\_QuickRefPage.html](https://eigen.tuxfamily.org/dox/group__QuickRefPage.html)

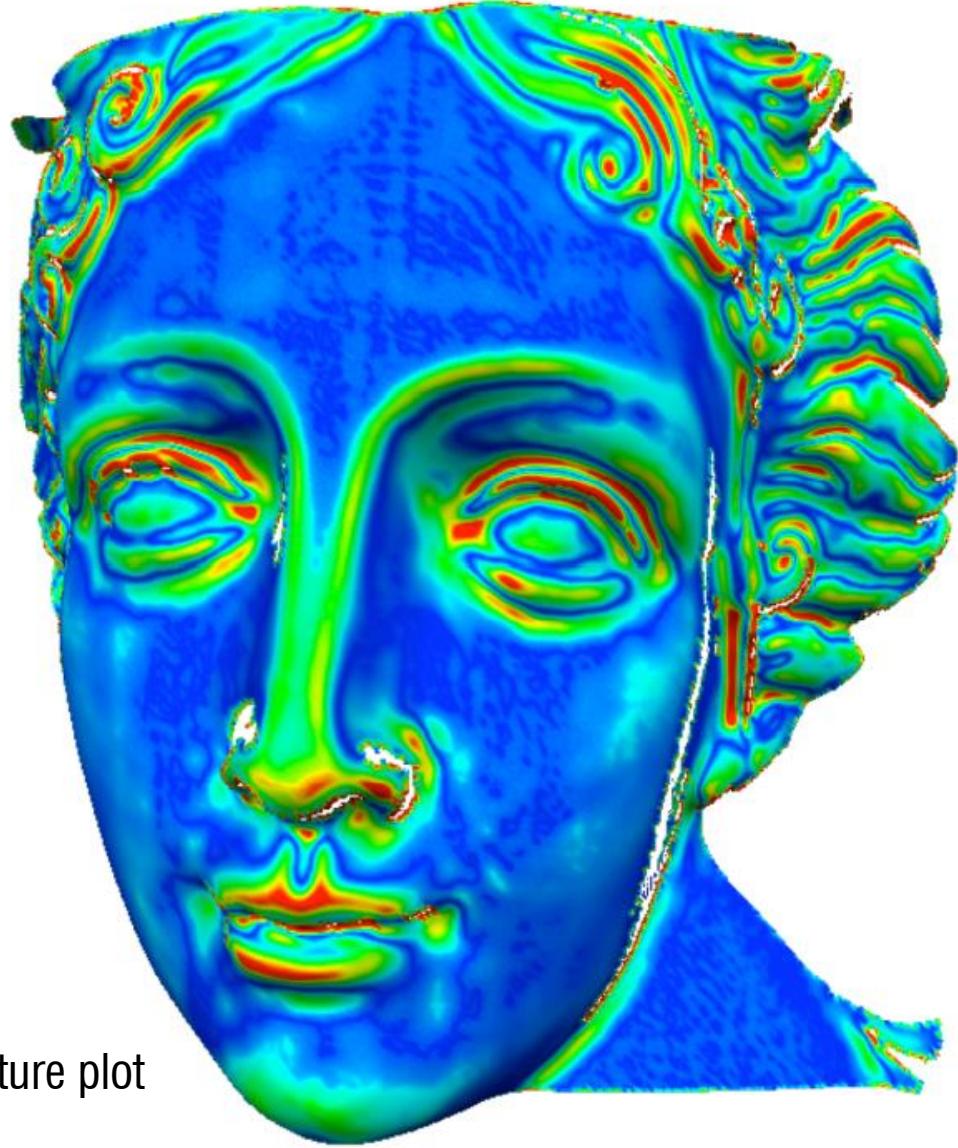


meshes are often noisy, e.g. from 3D scanning  
→ **smoothing!**

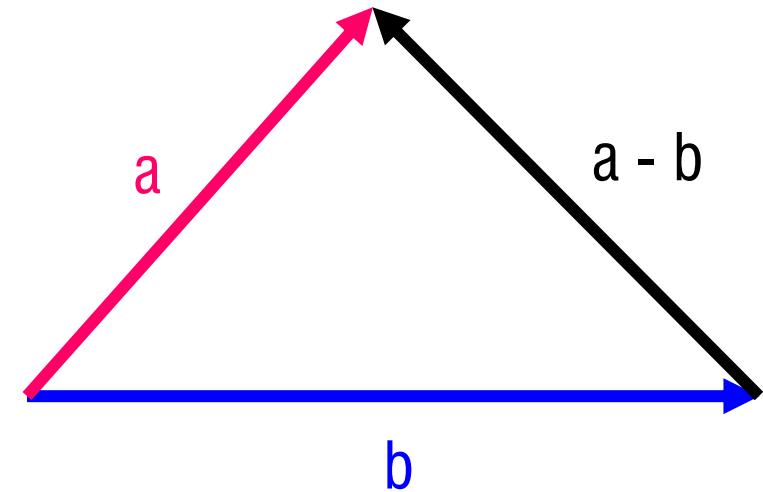
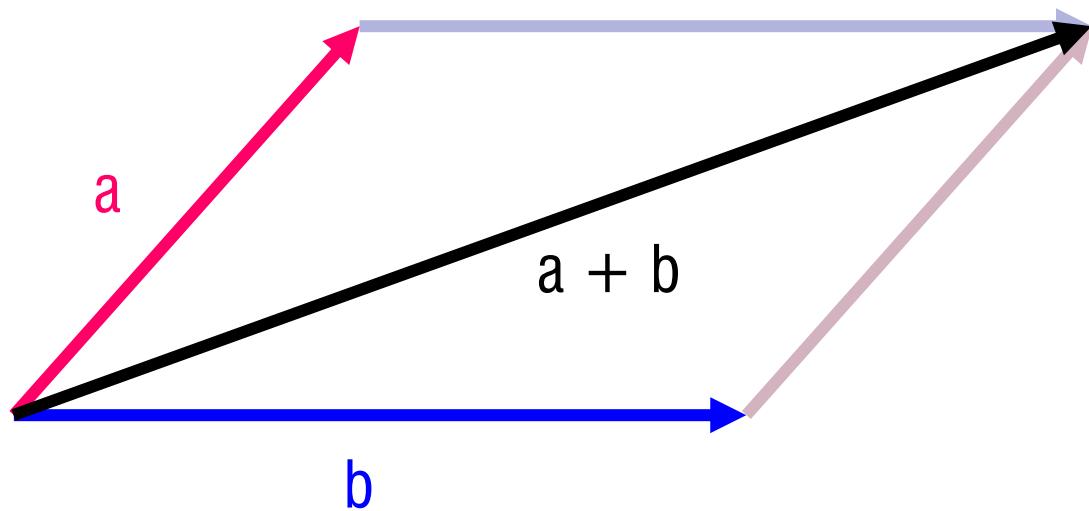




mean curvature plot

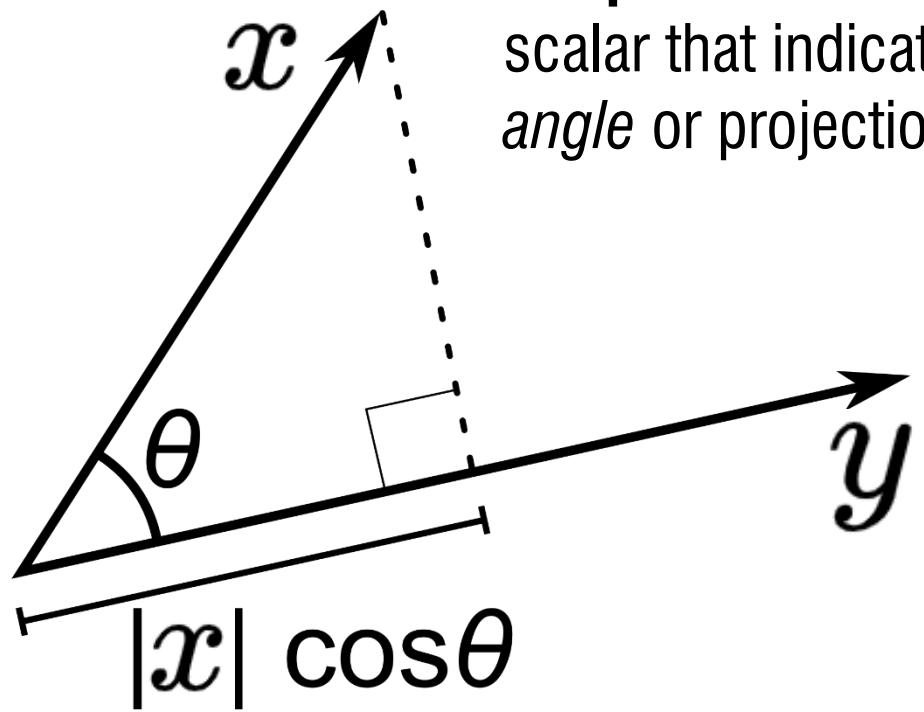


# Vector cheat sheet



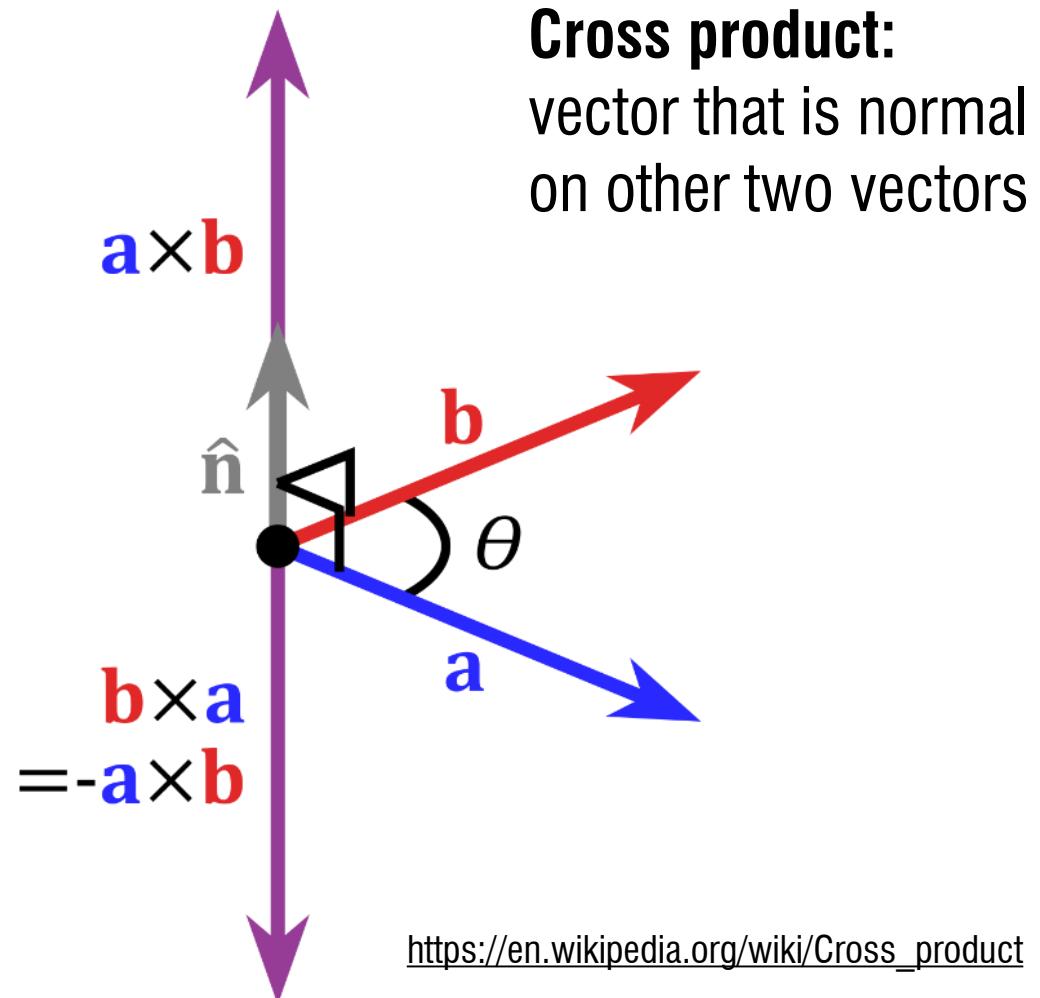
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euclidean\\_vector](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euclidean_vector)

# Vector cheat sheet



**Dot product:**  
scalar that indicates  
*angle* or projection

$$\angle(x, y) = \arccos \frac{\langle x, y \rangle}{\|x\| \|y\|}$$



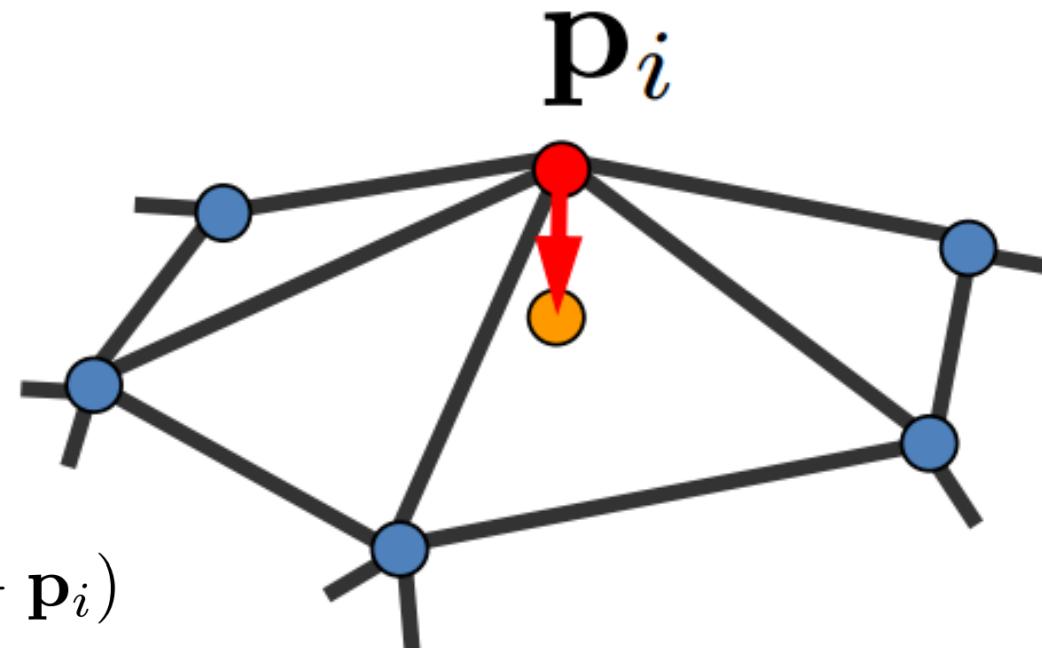
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross\\_product](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross_product)

# Smoothing using Laplace-Beltrami operator

High-pass filter: extracts local surface detail

Detail = ***smooth***(surface) – surface

Assumption: smoothing = averaging



$$\delta_i = \frac{1}{W_i} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} w_{ij} (\mathbf{p}_j - \mathbf{p}_i)$$

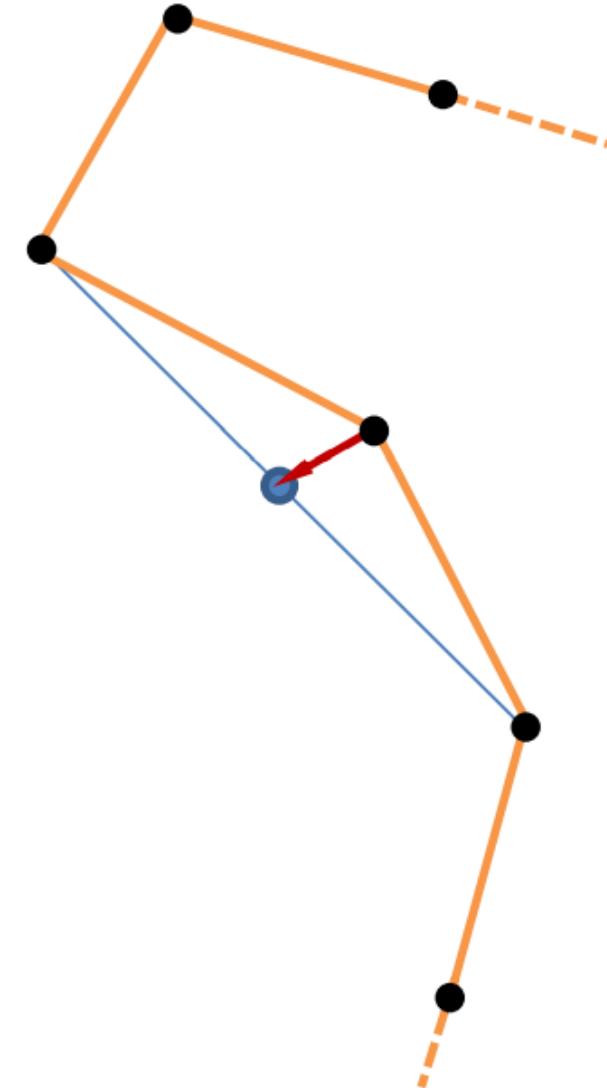
Olga Sorkine-Hornung, ETH, Shape Modeling course

# Smoothing curves

Let's look at a simple discrete curve first (DDG!)

Laplace in 1D = second derivative:

$$L(\mathbf{p}_i) = \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{p}_{i-1} - \mathbf{p}_i) + \frac{1}{2}(\mathbf{p}_{i+1} - \mathbf{p}_i)$$



Olga Sorkine-Hornung, ETH, Shape Modeling course

Any drawbacks?

**<30sec brainstorming>**

Let's see...

**compile 1\_curve\_smoothing**

# Laplace-Beltrami weighing schemes

Ignoring the geometry:

$\delta_{\text{uniform}} : W_i = 1, w_{ij} = 1/|N(i)|$

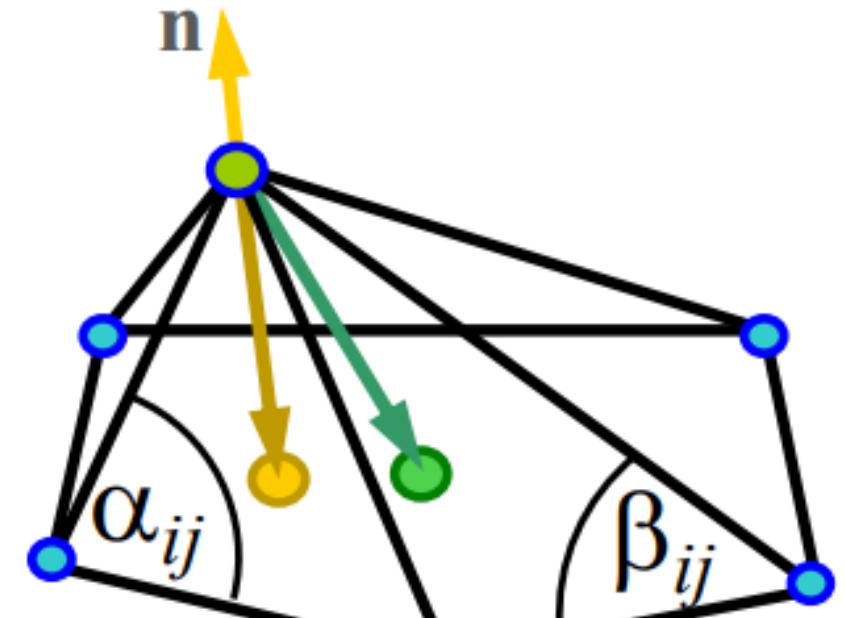
Integrate over Voronoi region of the vertex:

$\delta_{\text{cotan}} : w_{ij} = 0.5(\cot \alpha_{ij} + \cot \beta_{ij})$

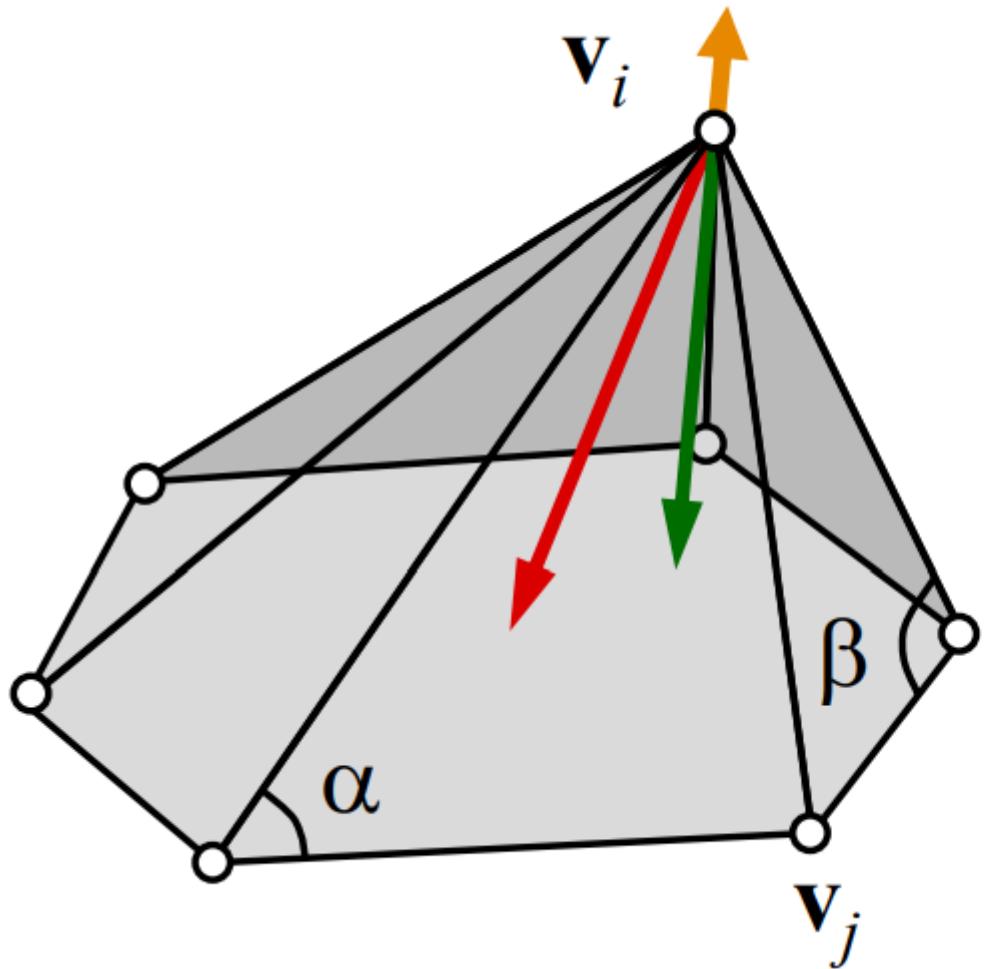


$$W_i = A_i$$

$$\delta_i = \frac{1}{W_i} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}(i)} w_{ij} (\mathbf{p}_j - \mathbf{p}_i)$$

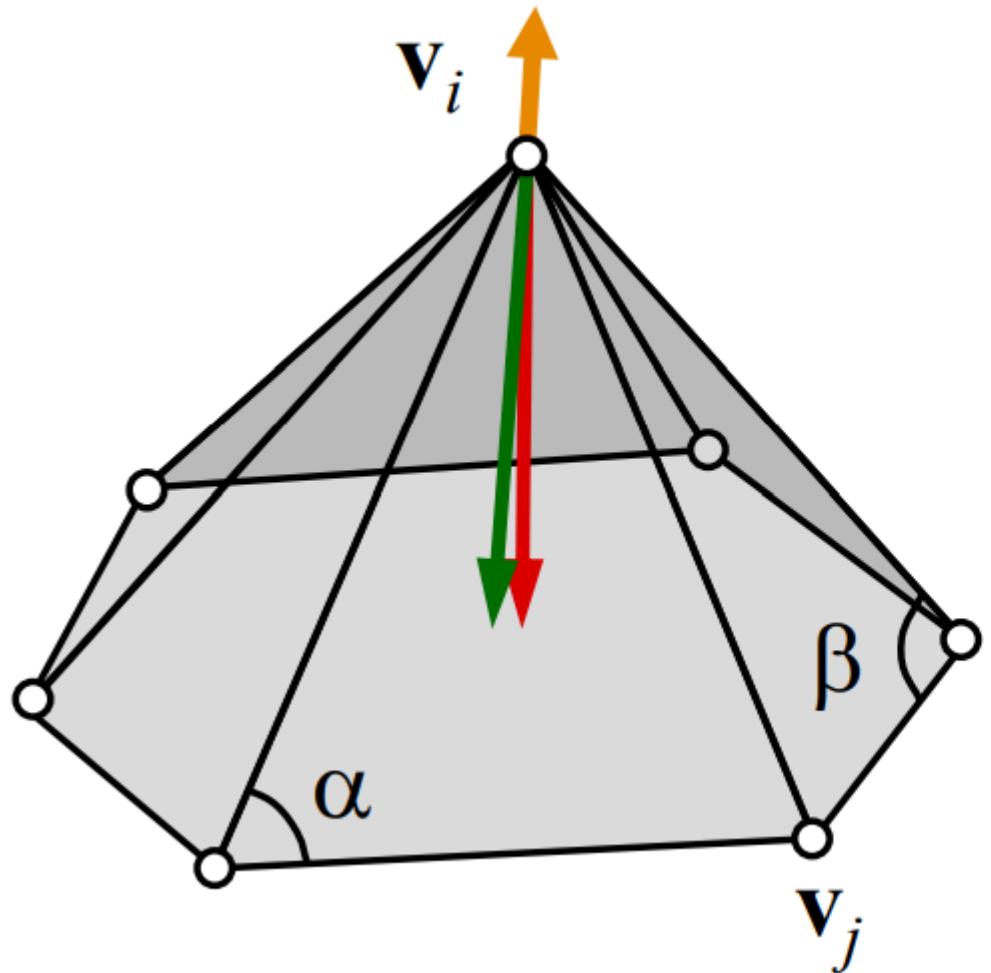


Olga Sorkine-Hornung, ETH, Shape Modeling course



- Uniform Laplacian  $L_u(v_i)$
- Cotangent Laplacian  $L_c(v_i)$
- Normal
- For nearly equal edge lengths  
**Uniform  $\approx$  Cotangent**

Olga Sorkine-Hornung, ETH, Shape Modeling course



- Uniform Laplacian  $L_u(v_i)$
  - Cotangent Laplacian  $L_c(v_i)$
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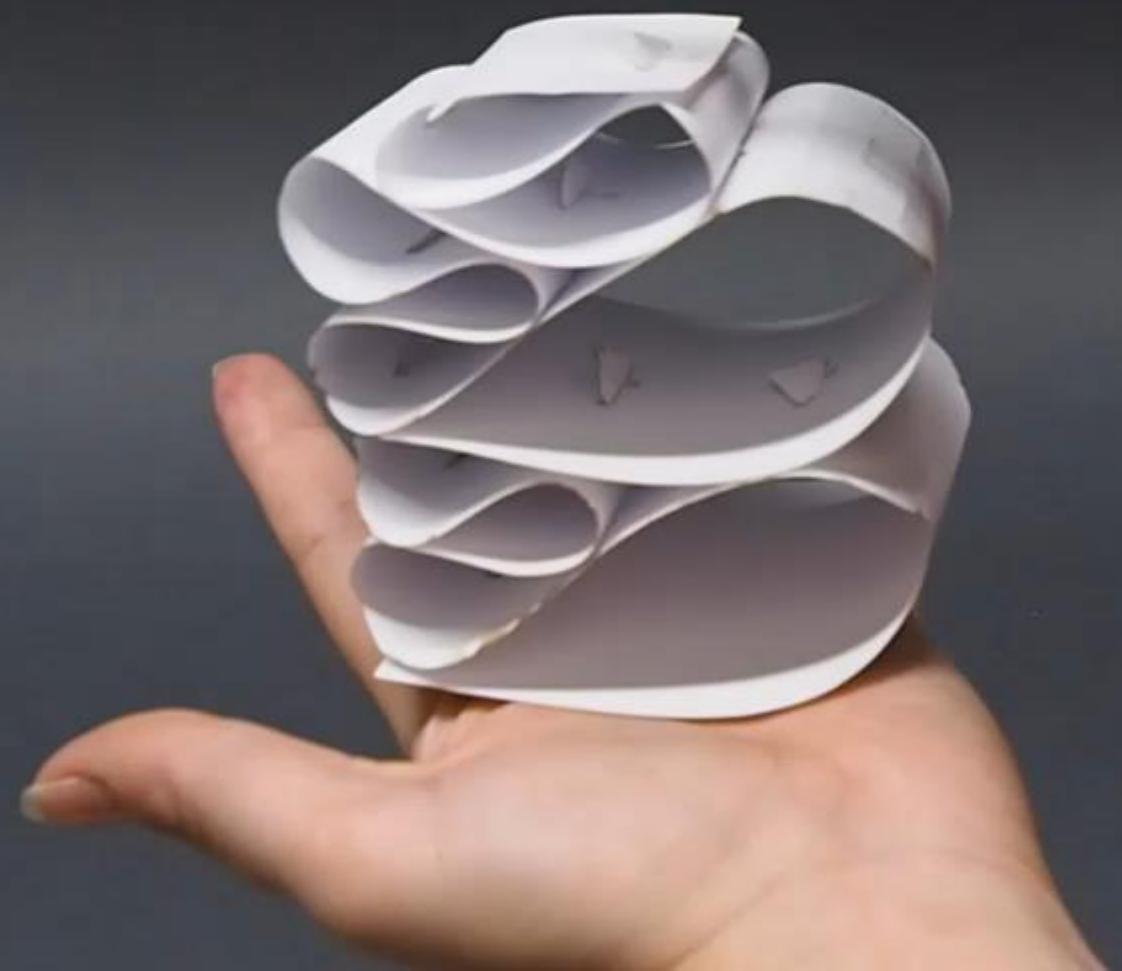
Olga Sorkine-Hornung, ETH, Shape Modeling course

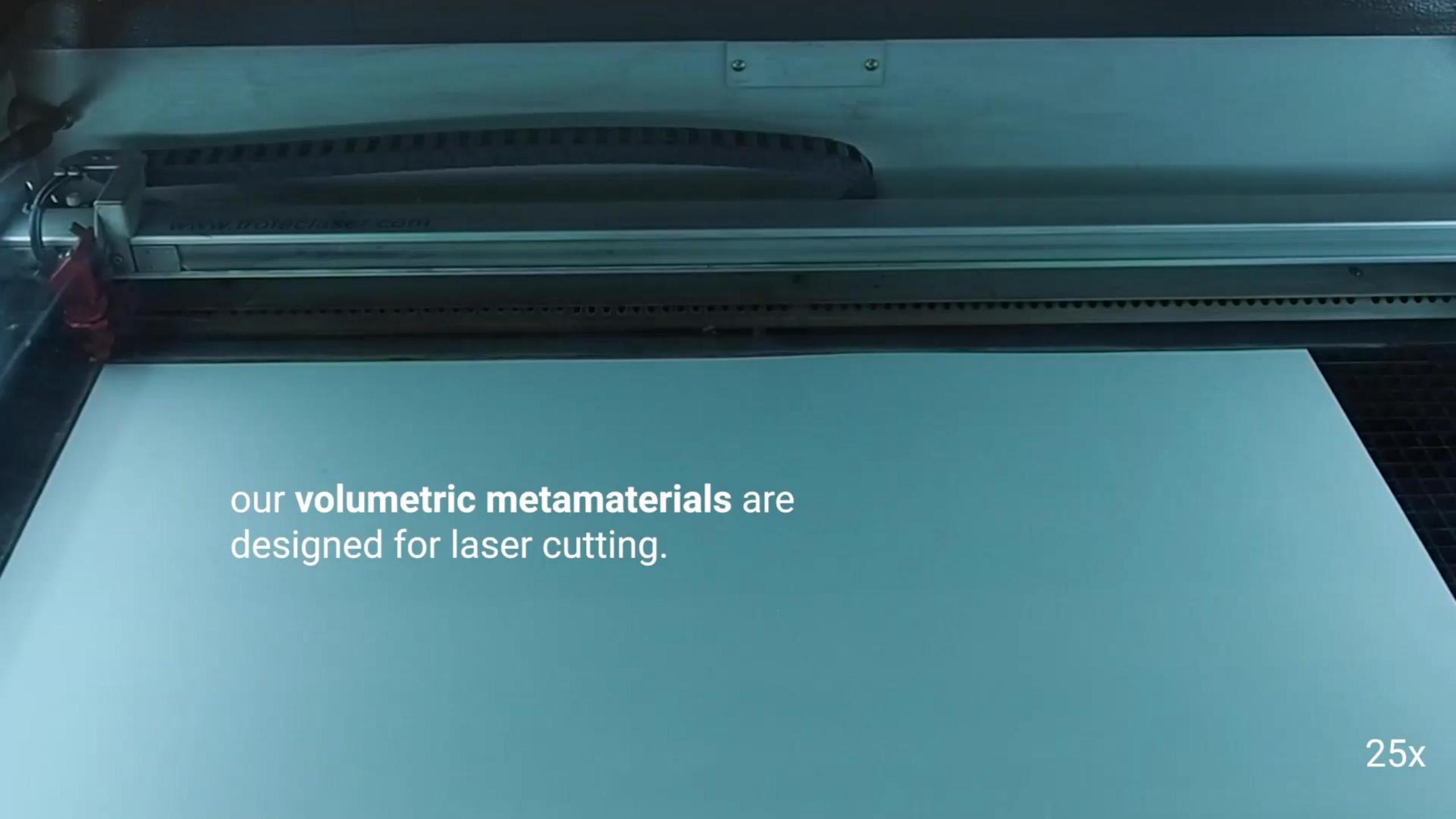
Let's see this in **2\_mesh\_smoothing**

# Ruffles

thin sheets, such as paper,  
have a **very low bending stiffness**



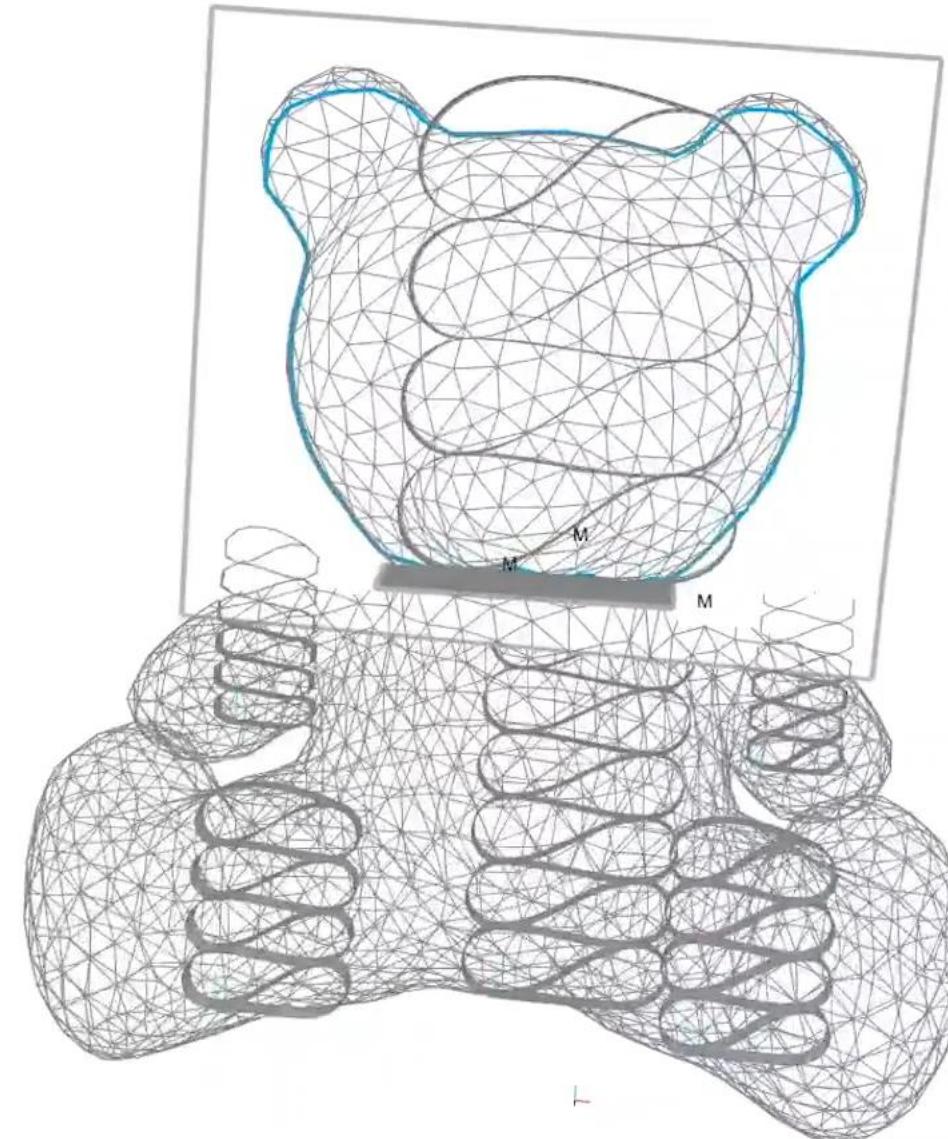


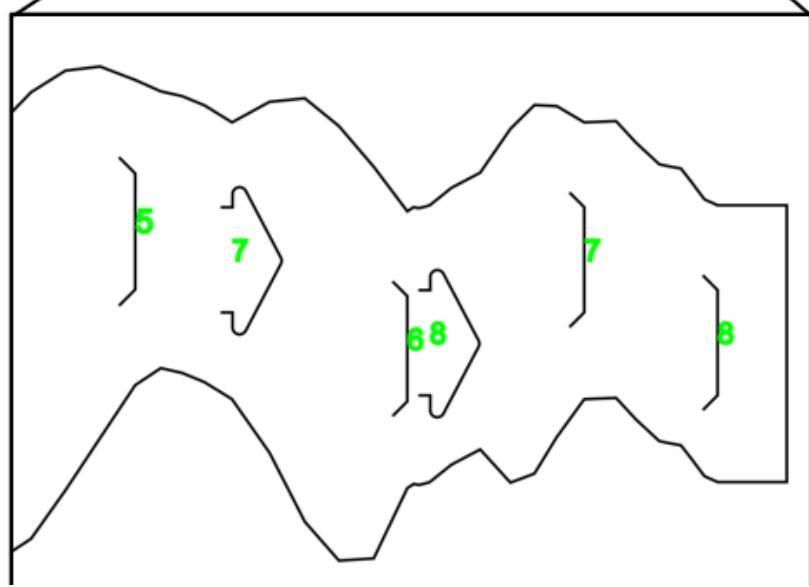
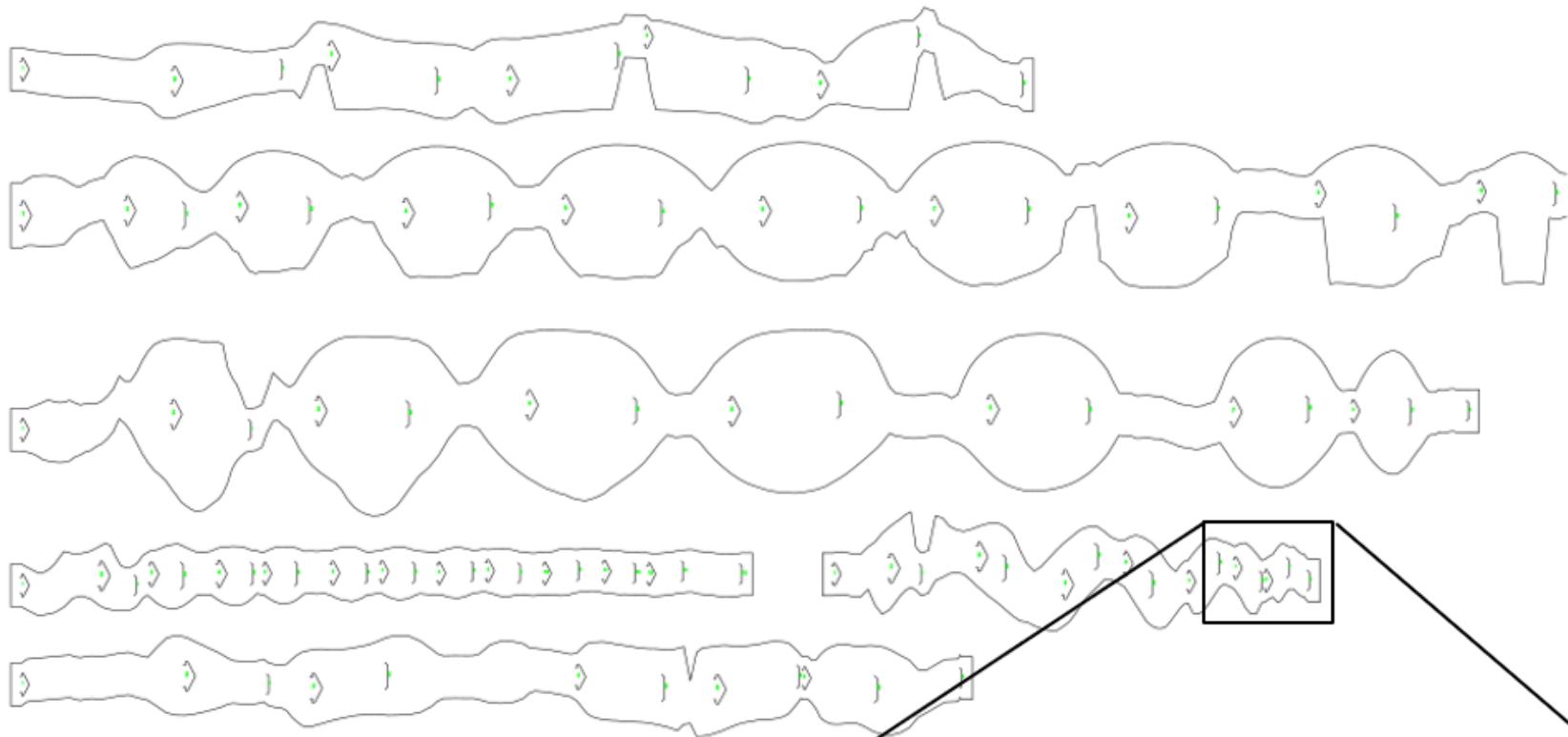
A close-up view of a large industrial laser cutting machine. The machine has a dark, metallic frame with various mechanical components and cables visible. A red safety light is attached to the left side of the machine. The background is dark, suggesting a workshop or factory environment.

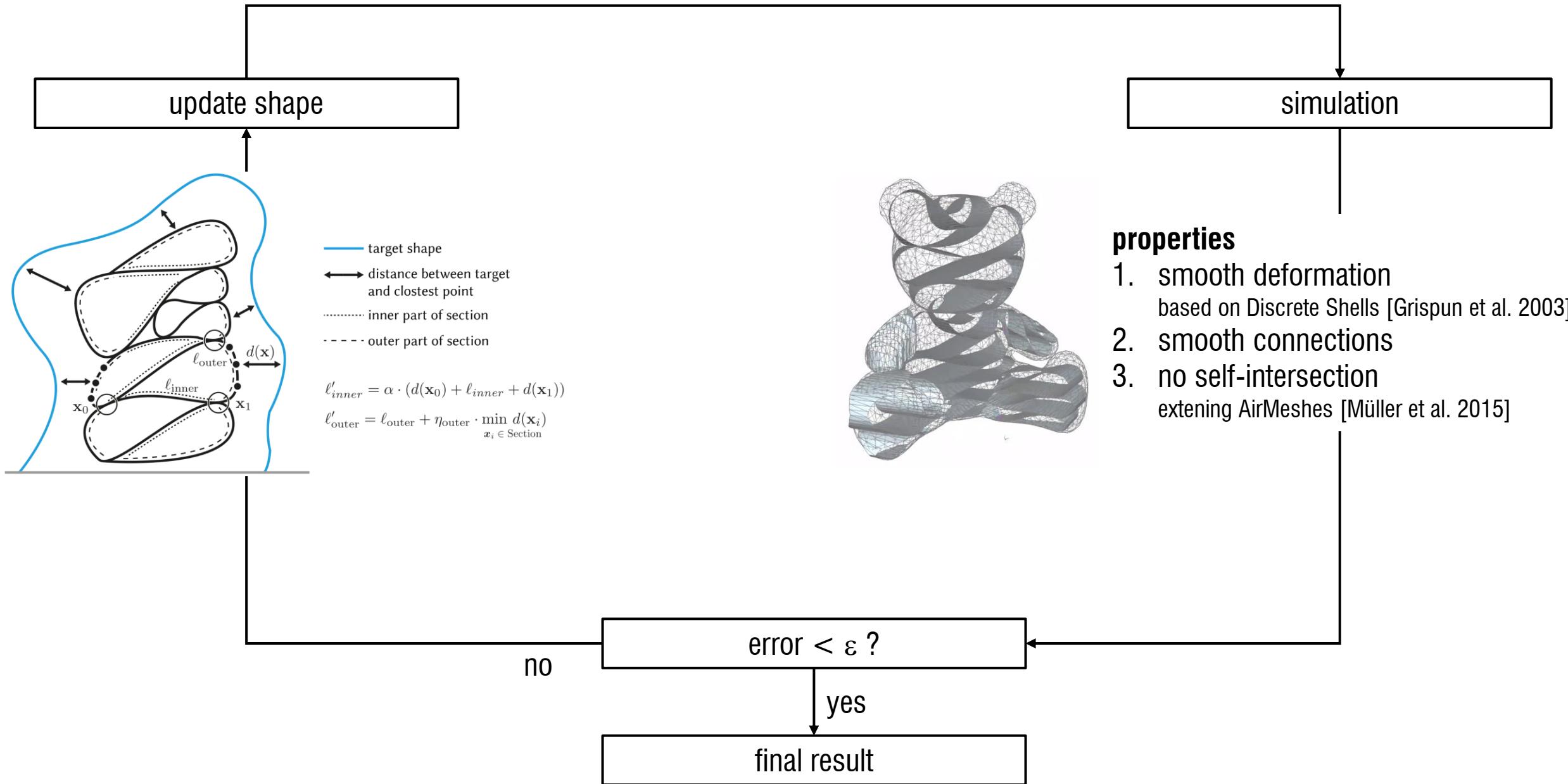
our **volumetric metamaterials** are  
designed for laser cutting.

25x

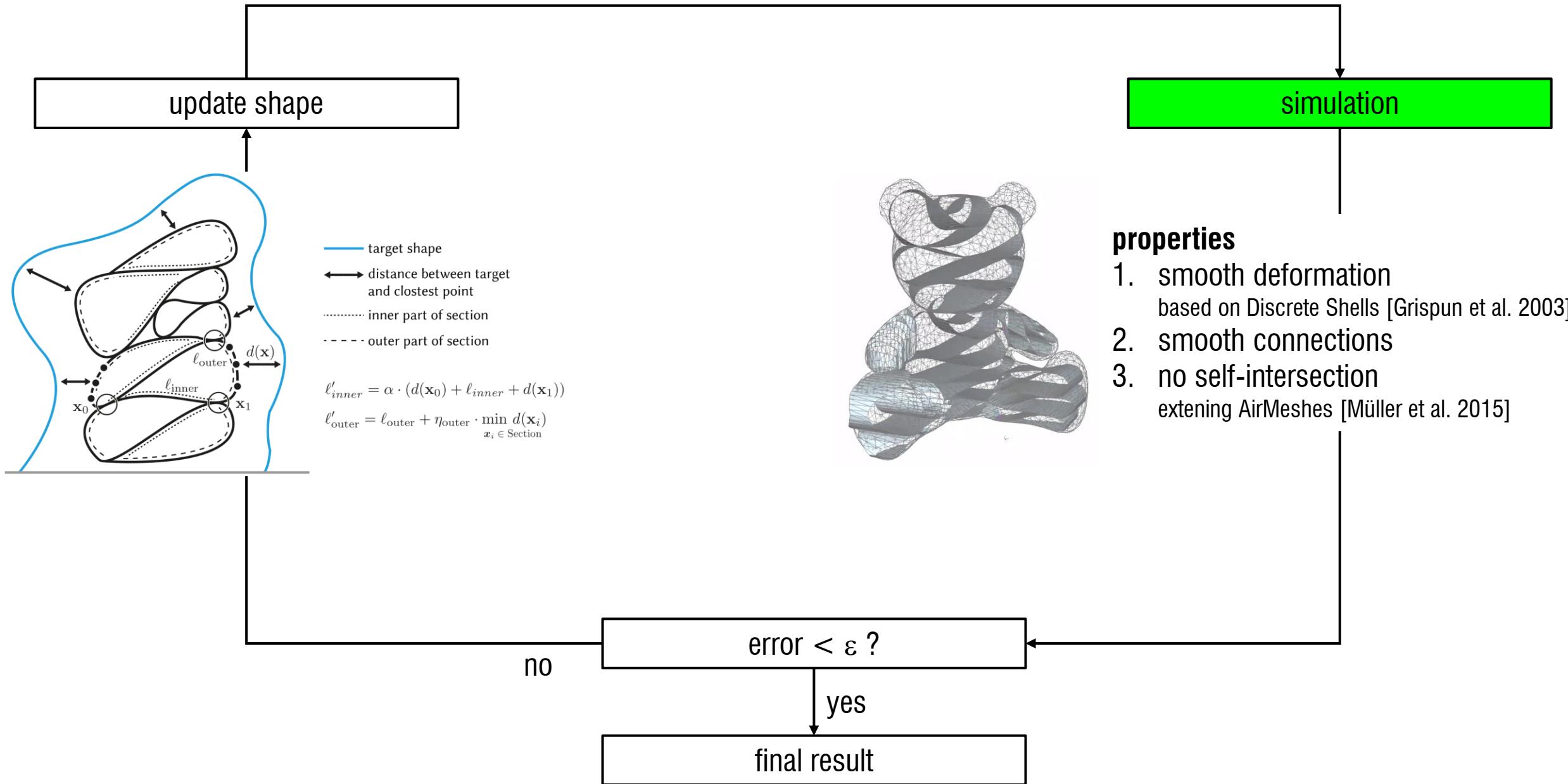






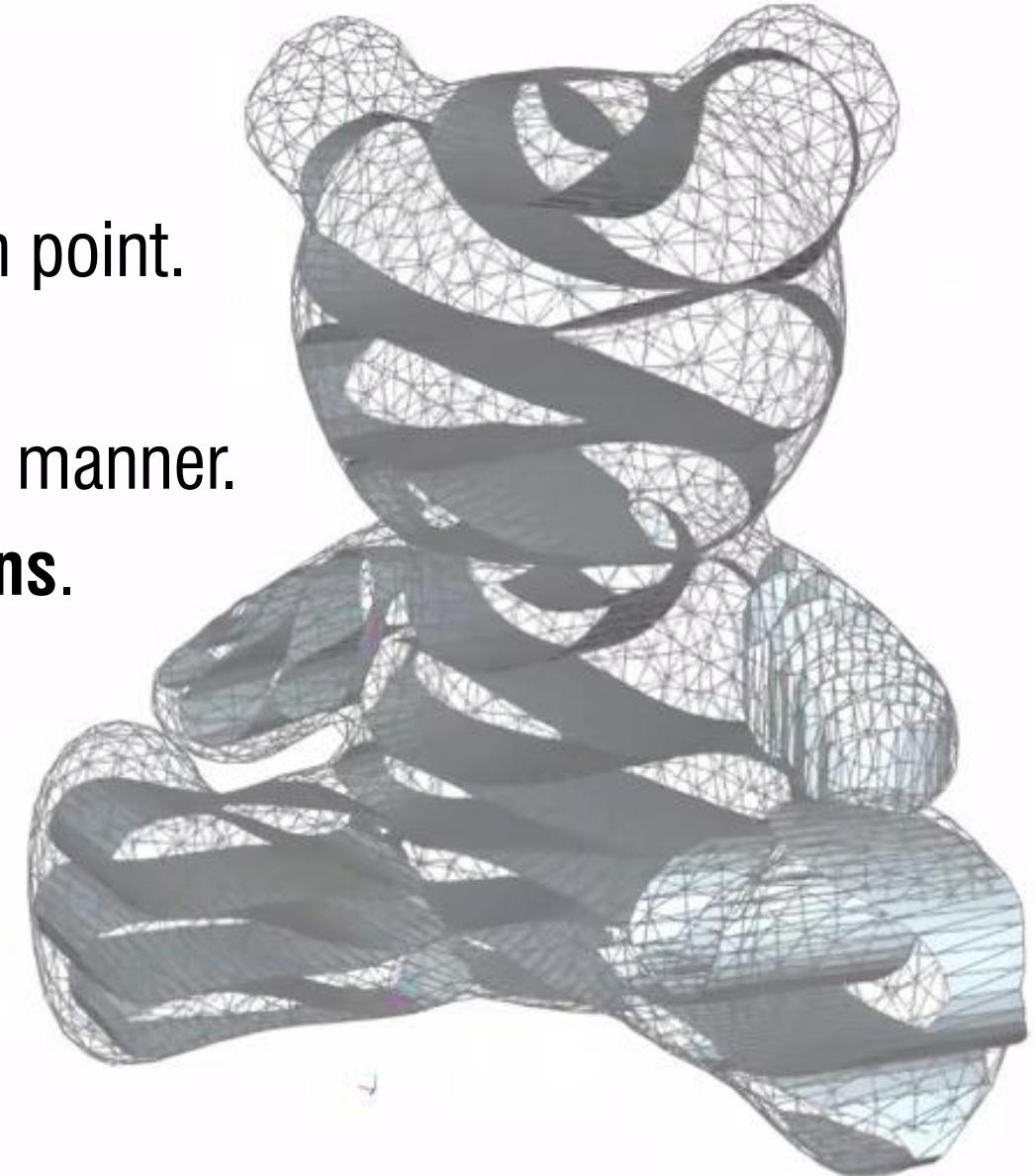


# **inner: simulation**



# properties

1. The ruffle deforms **smoothly** at any given point.
2. The ruffle does **not stretch**, like paper.
3. The ruffle **connections** meet in a smooth manner.
4. The ruffle does not have **self-intersections**.



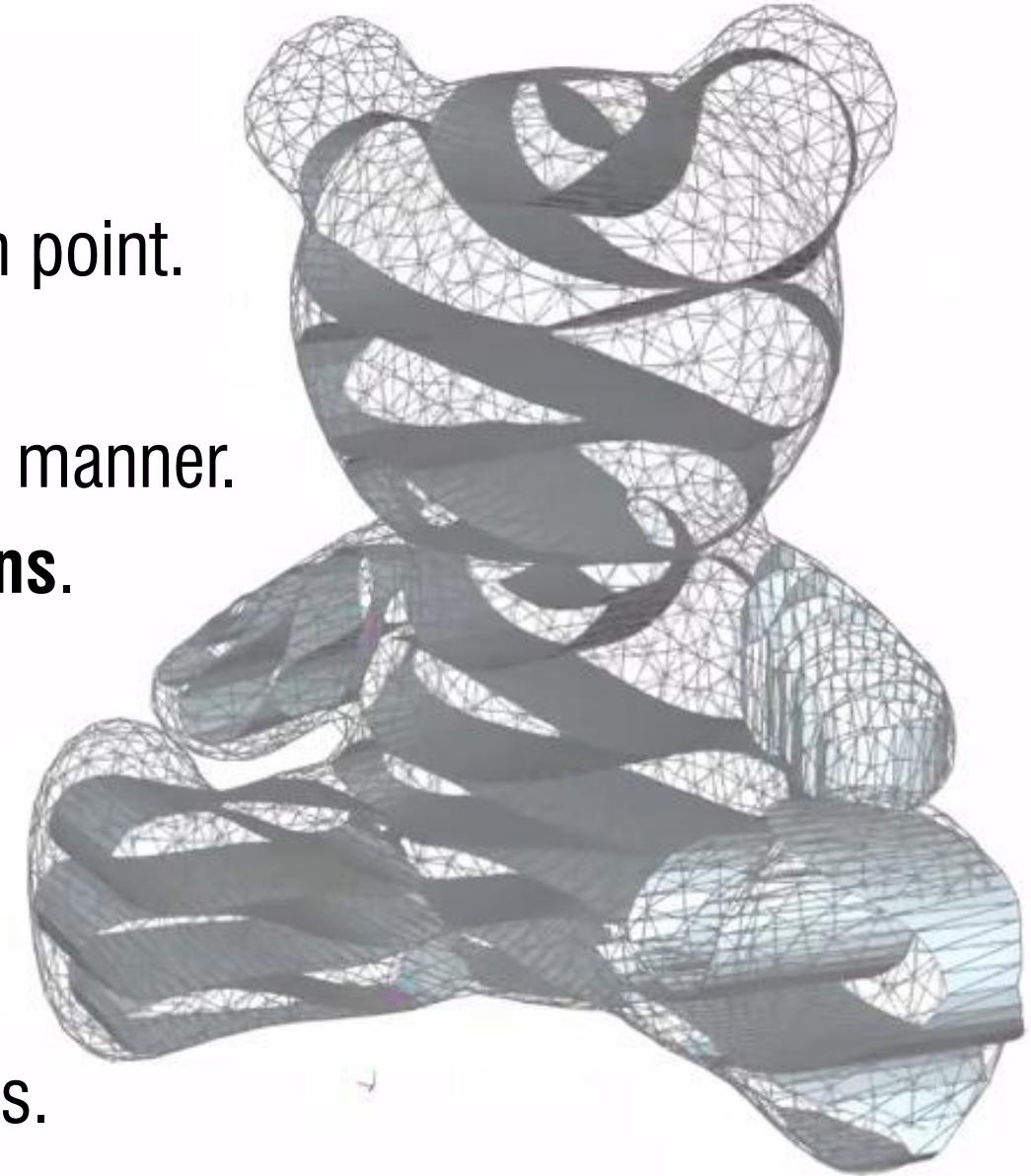
# properties

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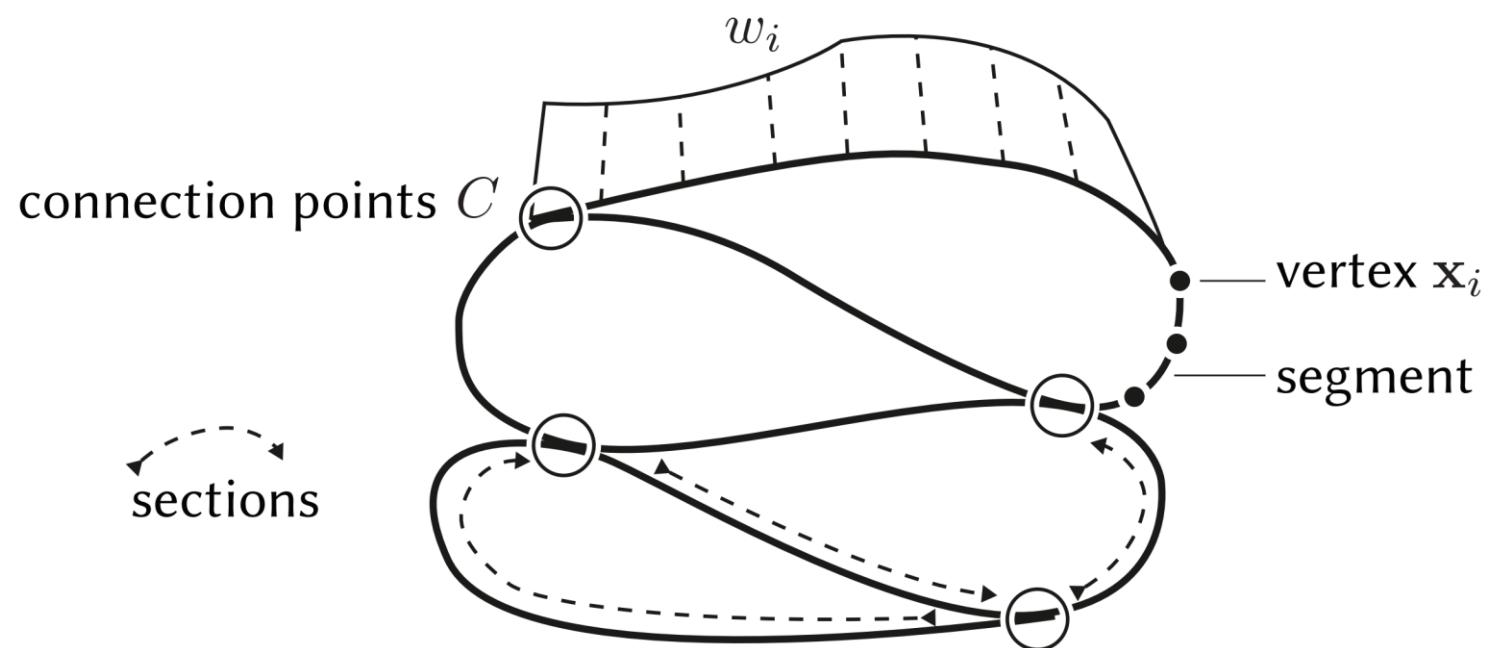
The simulation will be a minimizer

$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} E(\mathbf{x})$$

where the energy **E(x)** models the properties.

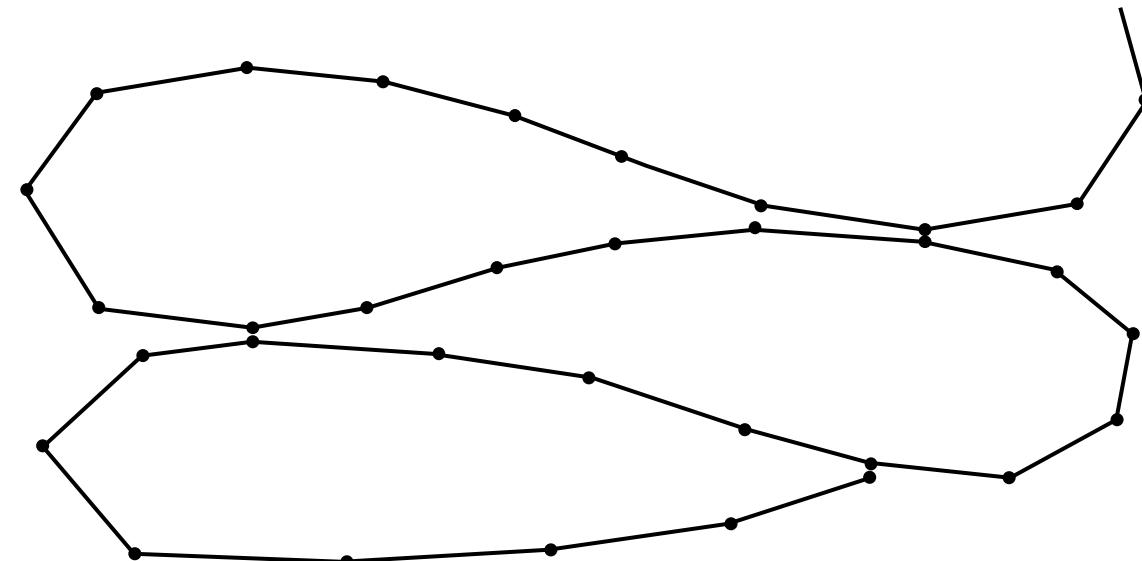


# notation



# properties → energies

1. The ruffle deforms **smoothly** at any given point.

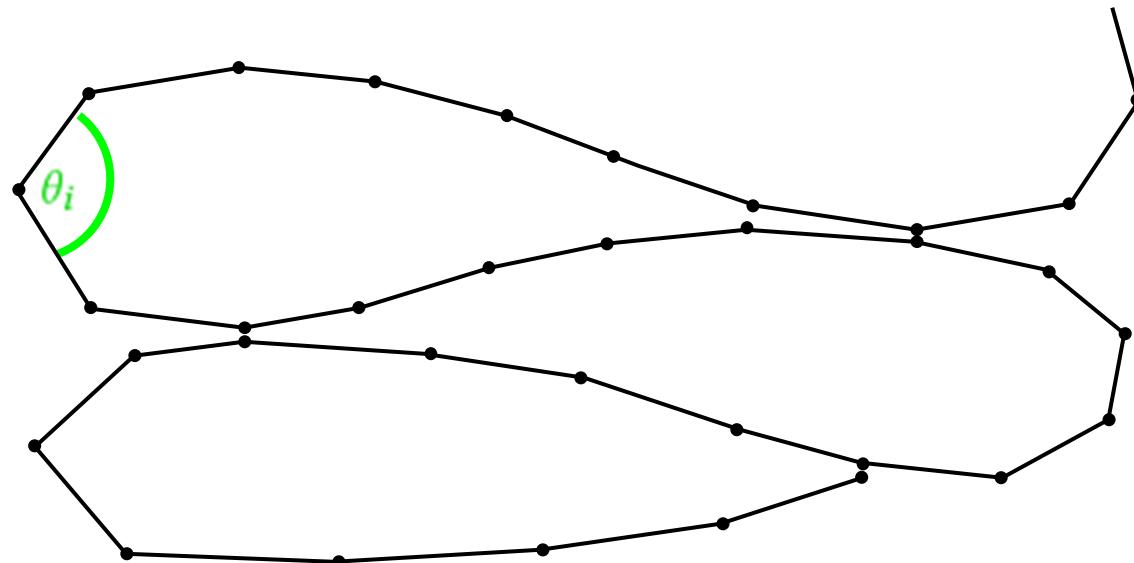


We want to get a small energy when the paper is at rest (*flat*), and a higher number the more we deform it. How would you model this smoothness energy?

**<30sec brainstorming>**

# properties → energies

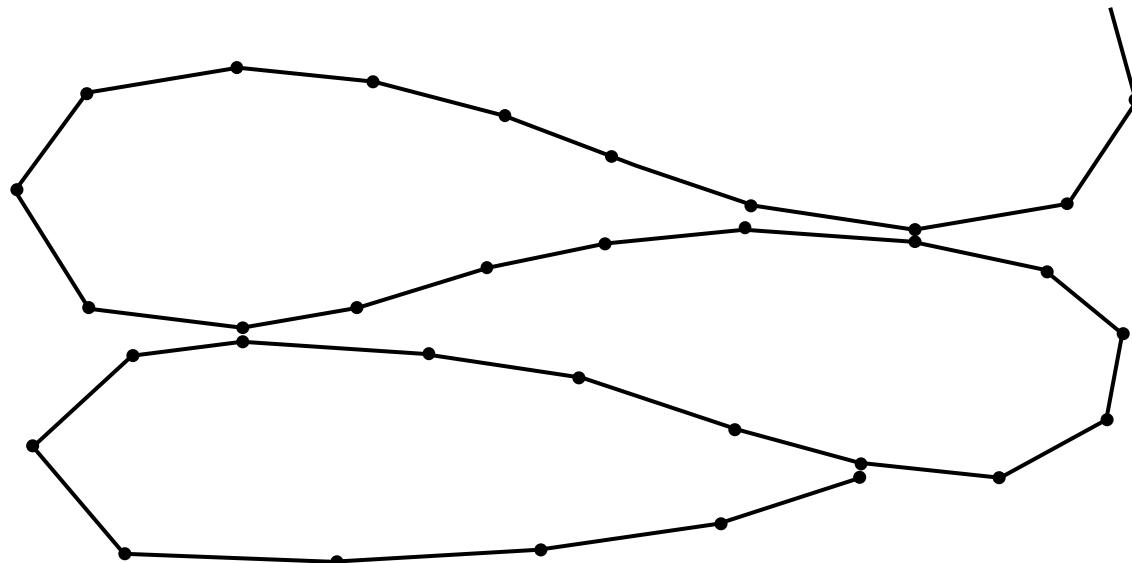
1. The ruffle deforms **smoothly** at any given point.



$$E_B(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=2}^{N-1} (\theta_i - \pi)^2 w_i / \bar{\ell}_i$$

# properties → energies

2. The ruffle does **not stretch**, like paper.

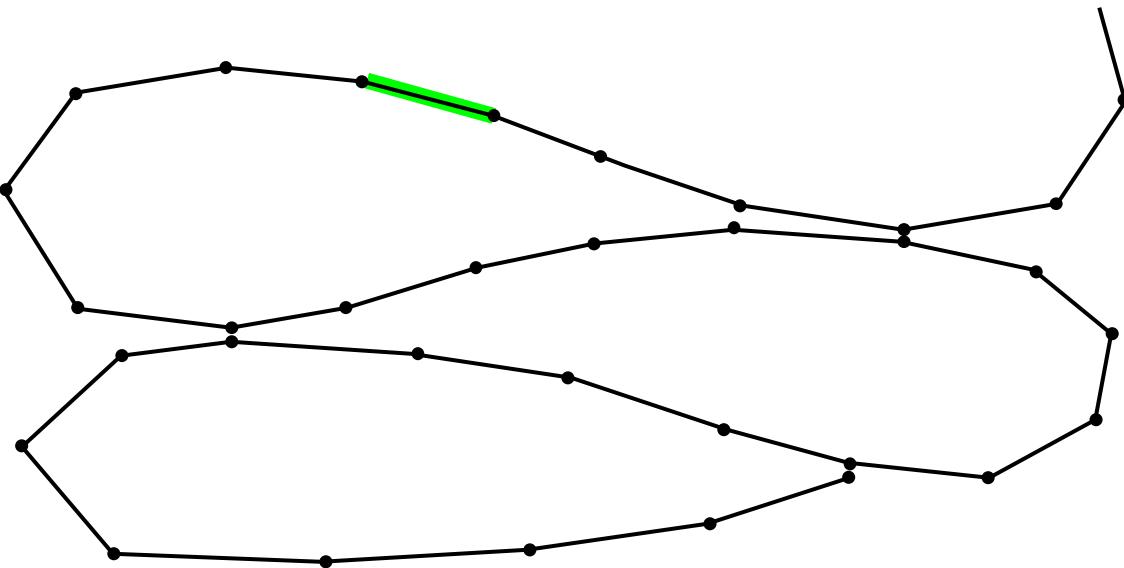


We want: small energy when the *lengths* stay the same, higher energy when deformed. How would you model this stretch energy?

**<30sec brainstorming>**

# properties → energies

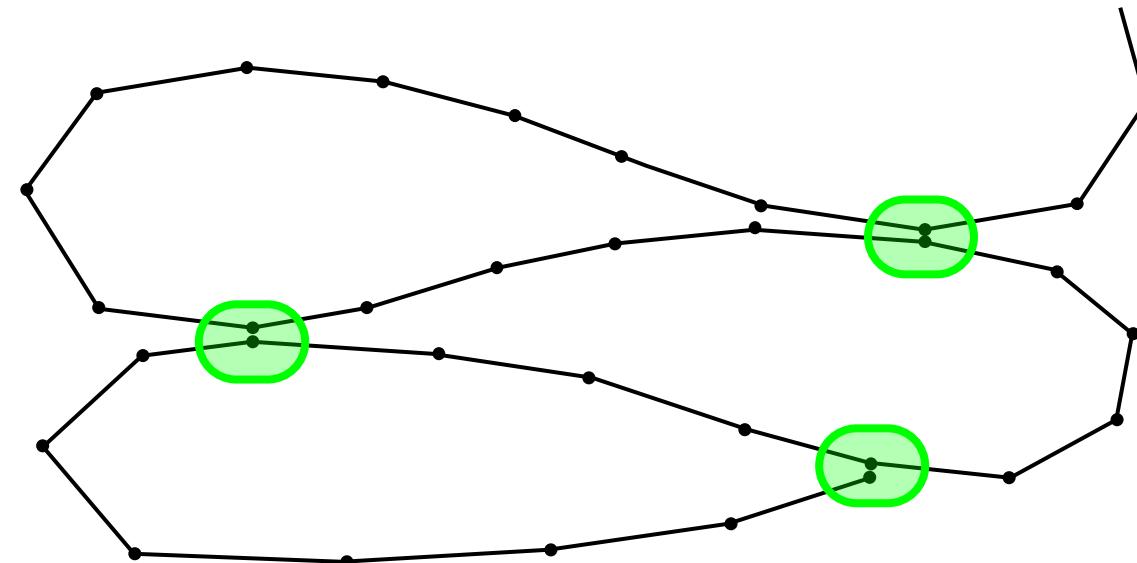
2. The ruffle does **not stretch**, like paper.



$$E_M(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} (\|\mathbf{x}_{i+1} - \mathbf{x}_i\| - \ell_i)^2$$

# properties → energies

3. The ruffle **connections** meet in a smooth manner.

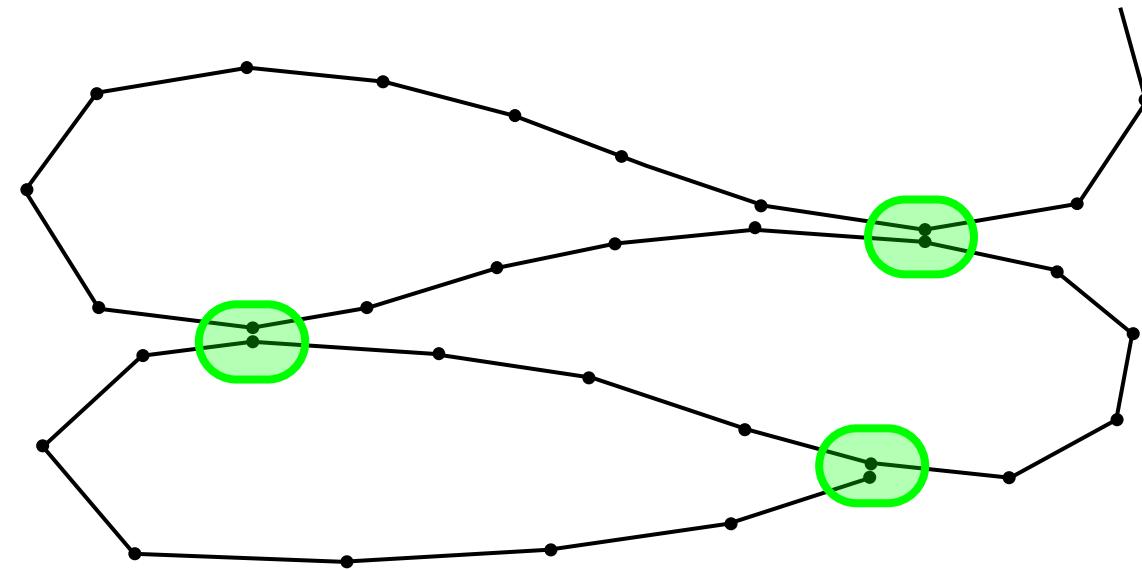


We want: small energy when the *tangents* are the same, higher energy when different. How would you model this stretch energy?

**<30sec brainstorming>**

# properties → energies

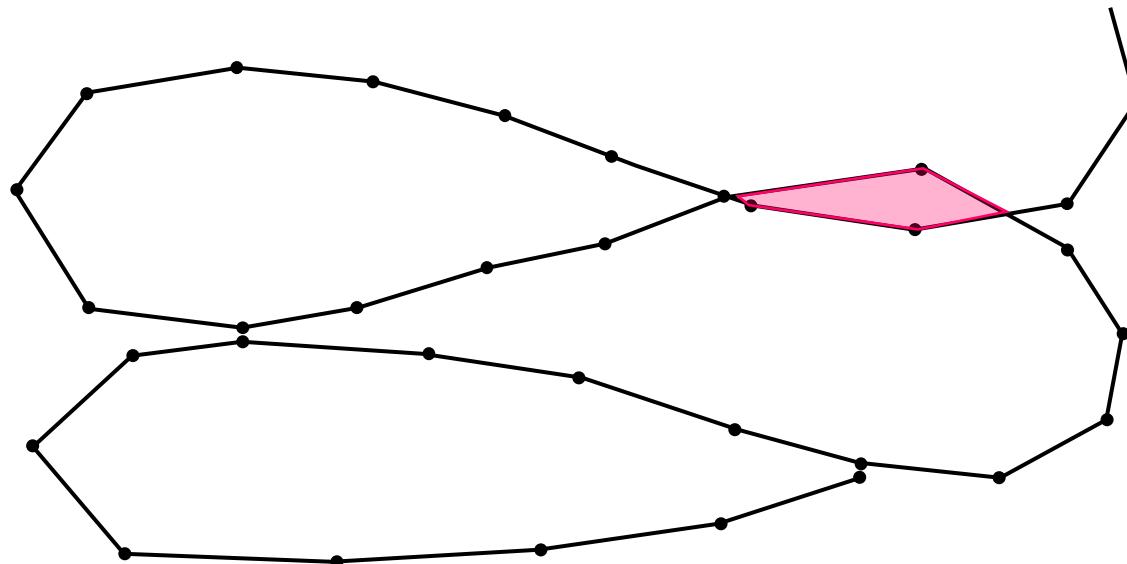
3. The ruffle **connections** meet in a smooth manner.



$$E_C(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{(i,j) \in C} (\theta_{ij}^+ - \pi)^2 w_i / \bar{\ell}_{ij}^+ + (\theta_{ij}^- - \pi)^2 w_i / \bar{\ell}_{ij}^-$$

# properties → energies

4. The ruffle does not have **self-intersections**.

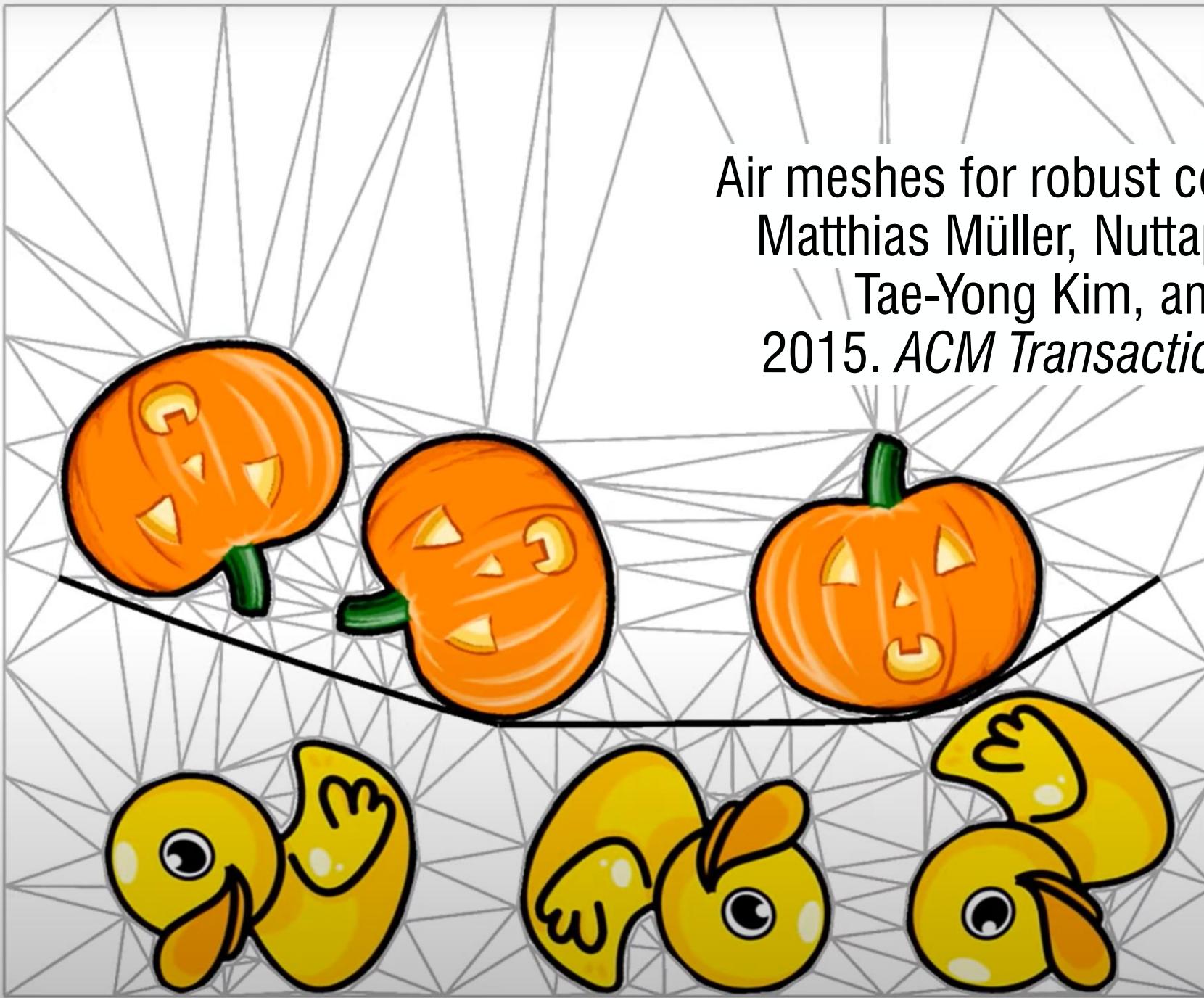


We want: small energy at no intersection, high energy otherwise. This is a long-standing challenge in engineering.

We use...

[Video](#)

Air meshes for robust collision handling.  
Matthias Müller, Nuttapong Chentanez,  
Tae-Yong Kim, and Miles Macklin.  
2015. *ACM Transactions on Graphics*.



# Simulation

Putting it all together

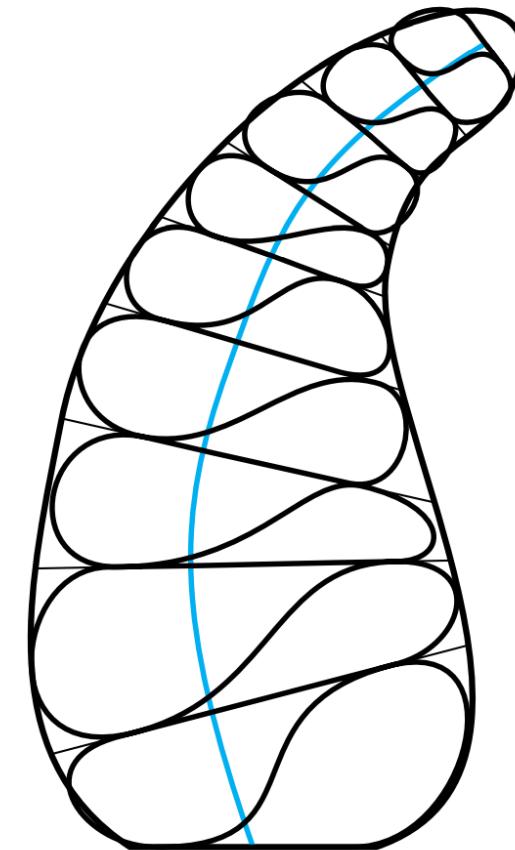
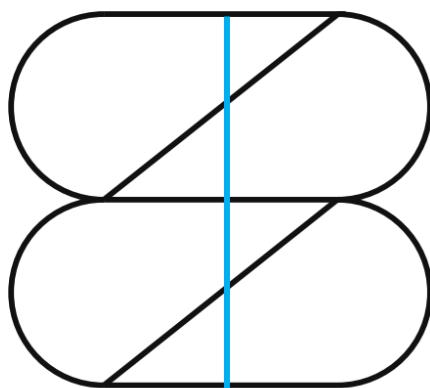
$$E(\mathbf{x}) = k_M E_M(\mathbf{x}) + k_B(E_B(\mathbf{x}) + E_C(\mathbf{x})) + k_{AM} E_{AM}(\mathbf{x})$$

and solve for

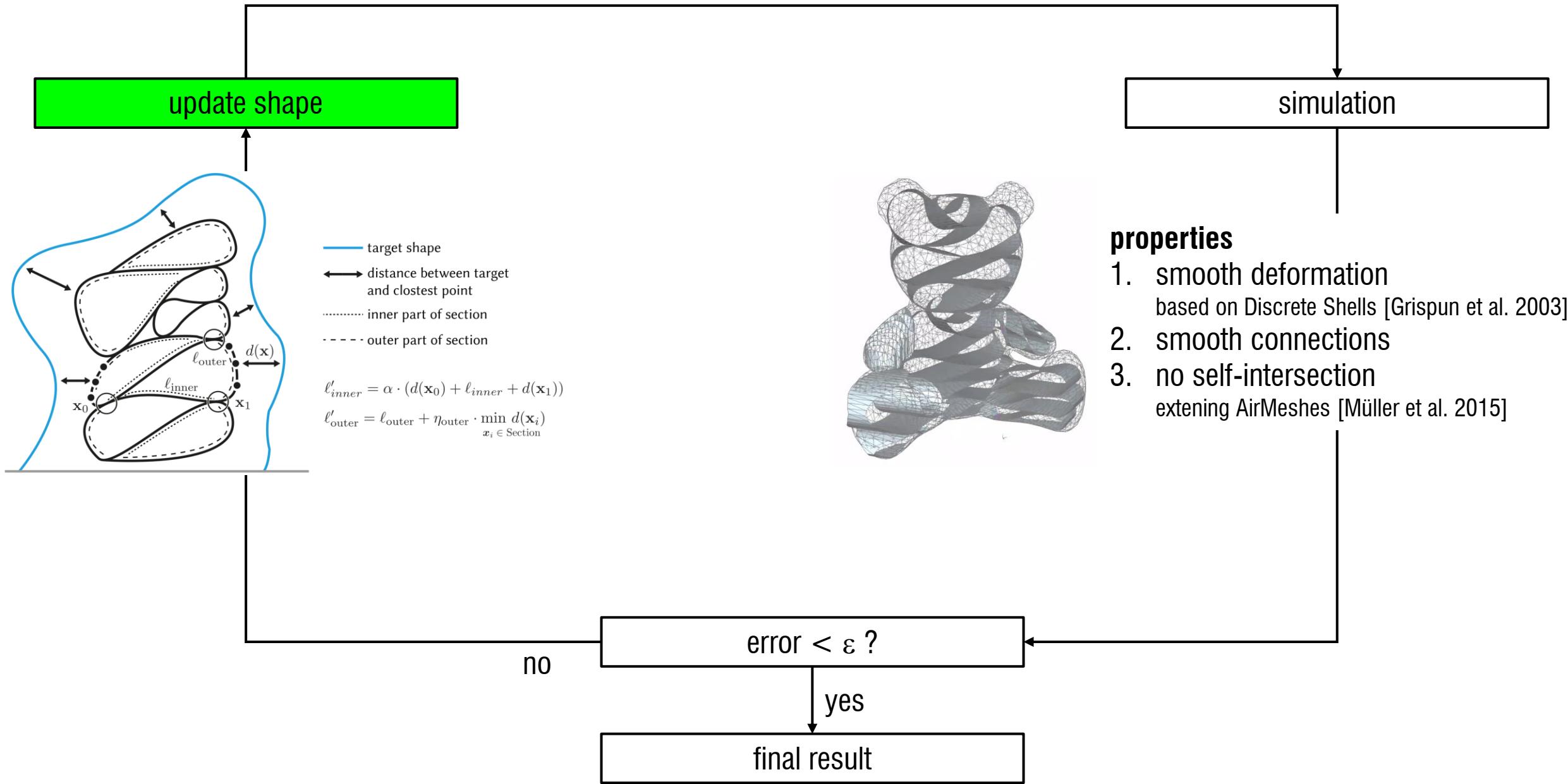
$$\mathbf{x}^* = \arg \min_{\mathbf{x}} E(\mathbf{x})$$

# Initial guess

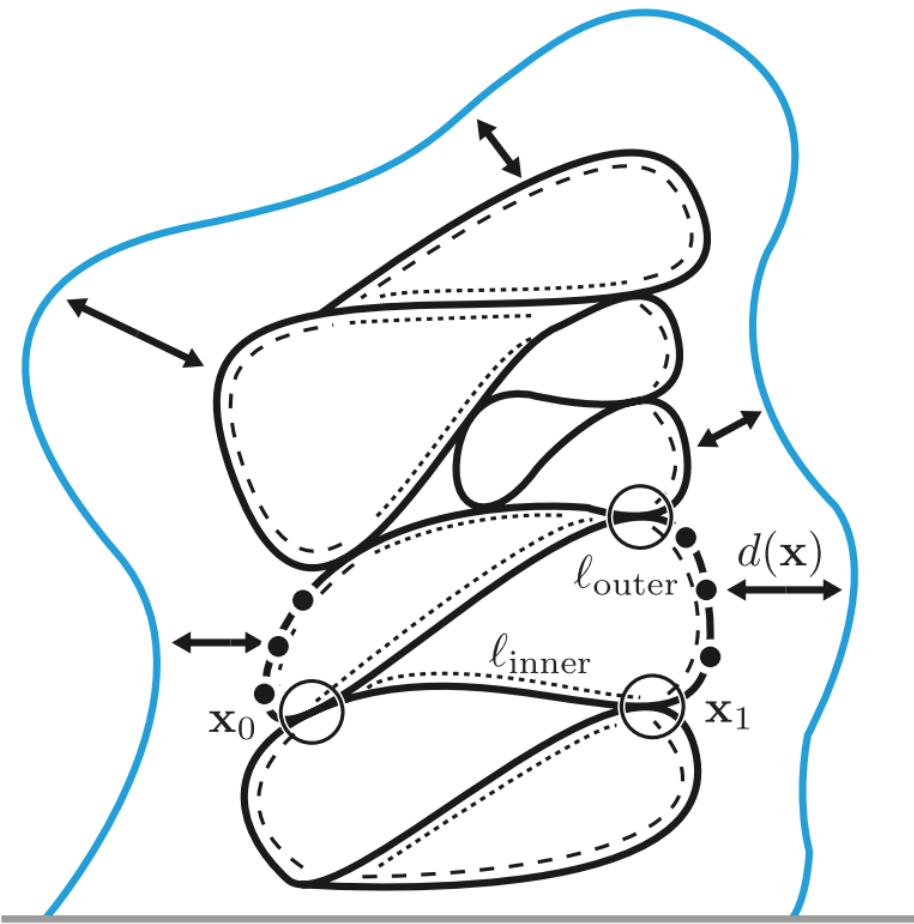
Ruffle construction by *generator curve*



# **outer: optimization**



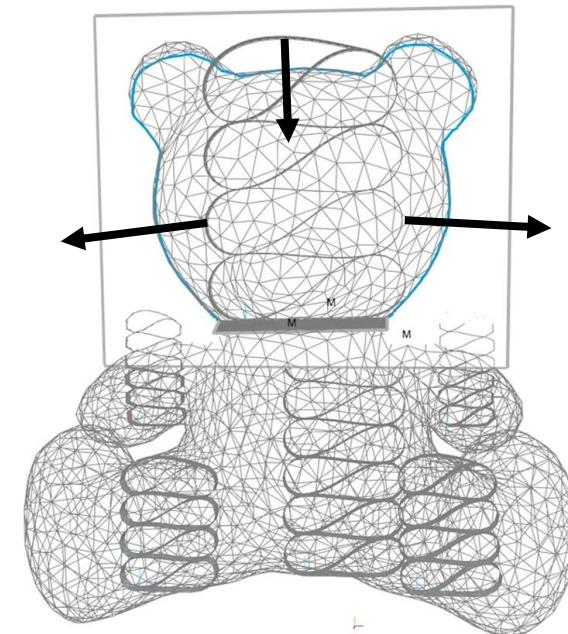
# shape approximation

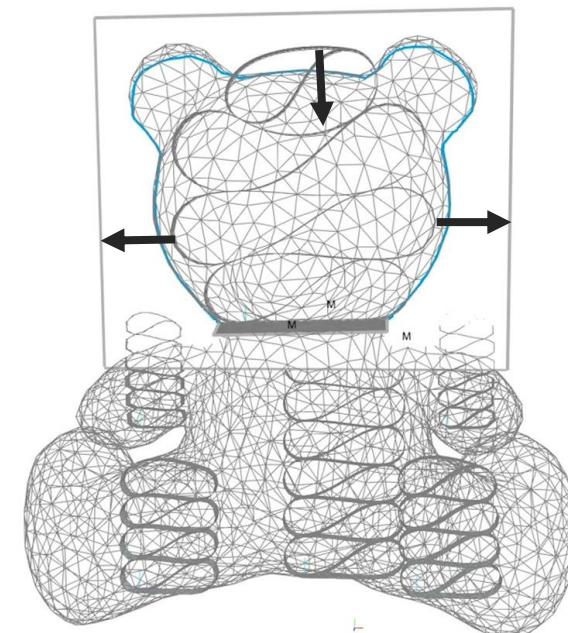


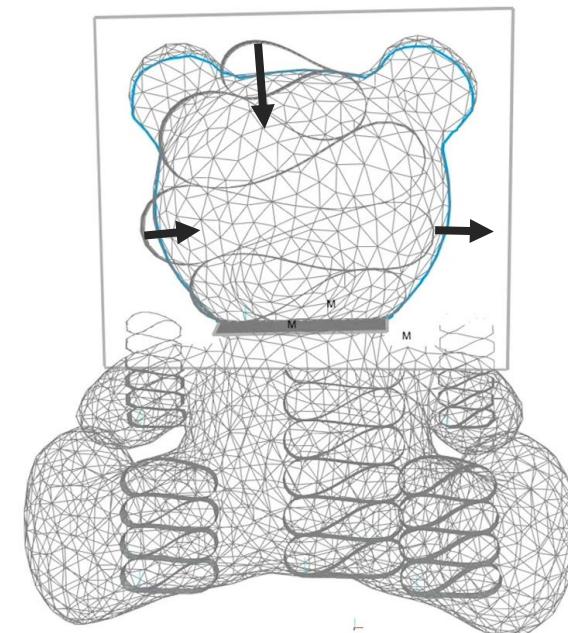
- target shape
- ↔ distance between target and closest point
- inner part of section
- - - outer part of section

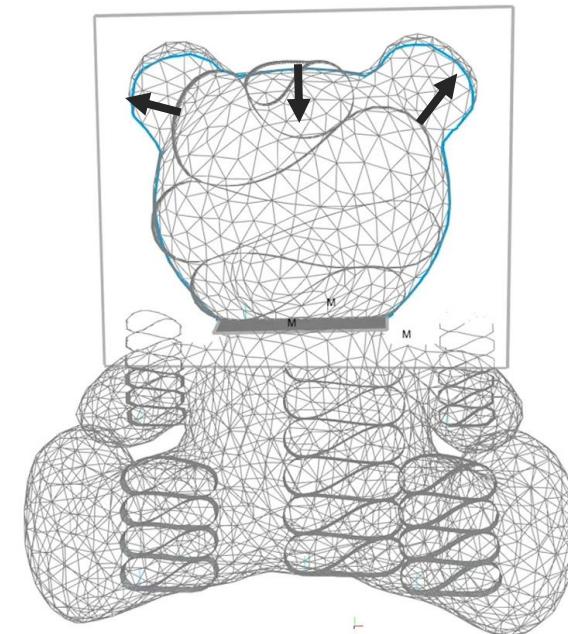
$$\ell'_{inner} = \alpha \cdot (d(\mathbf{x}_0) + \ell_{inner} + d(\mathbf{x}_1))$$

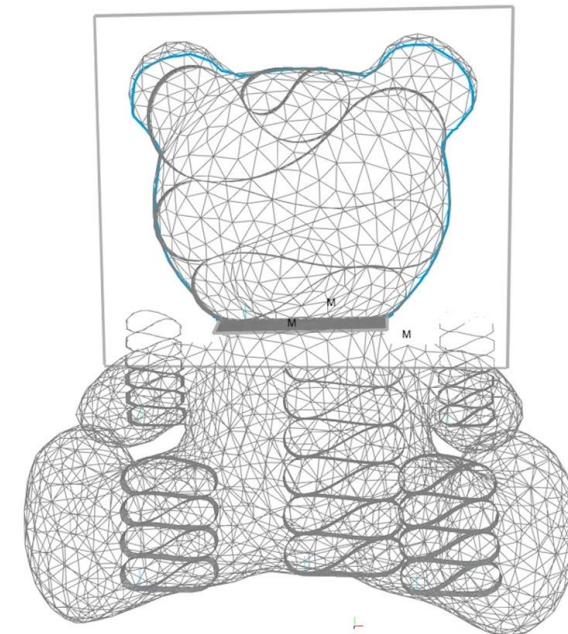
$$\ell'_{outer} = \ell_{outer} + \eta_{outer} \cdot \min_{\mathbf{x}_i \in \text{Section}} d(\mathbf{x}_i)$$











# scope



**current**  
optimize shape

**next**  
→ optimize for **forces**

# **summary**

# Summary

Geometry is awesome

Generate & edit meshes, send to 3D printer → physical objects!

Generate complex materials

# Useful tools & data

MeshLab

Open Flipper

Meshes: <https://github.com/libigl/libigl-tutorial-data>

end