

# Sim2Real

A practitioner's guide to build your first deformable object simulator

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*Forward and Inverse Physically-based  
Simulation of Deformable Objects*



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AICFVE, BFA

## Real2sim

An inverse simulation recipe to  
model your deformable objects

# Sim2Real

A practitioner's guide to build your first  
deformable object simulator

Tiantian Liu

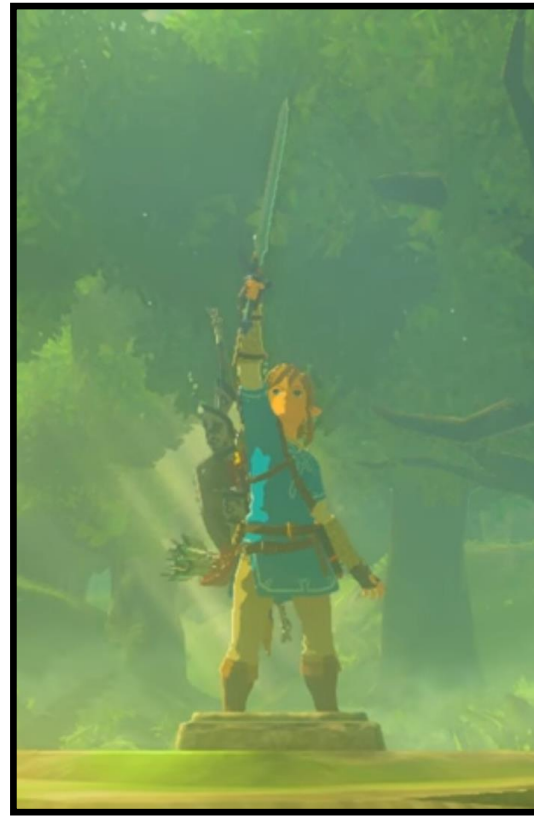
Microsoft Research Asia

2020.05.14 Xi'an

# Computer graphics is a lot of fun



1986

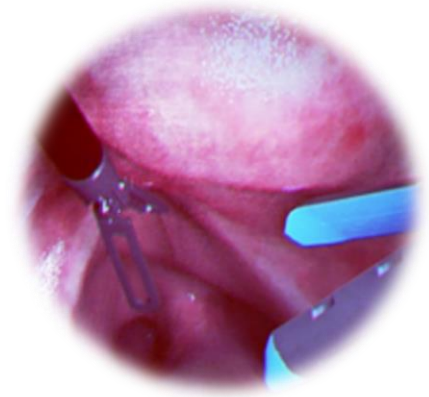


2017

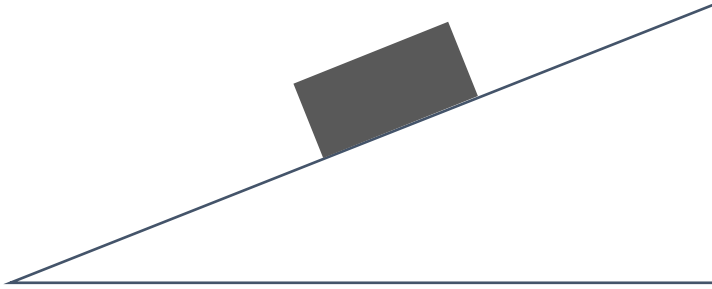


Our real lives are surrounded by deformable objects...

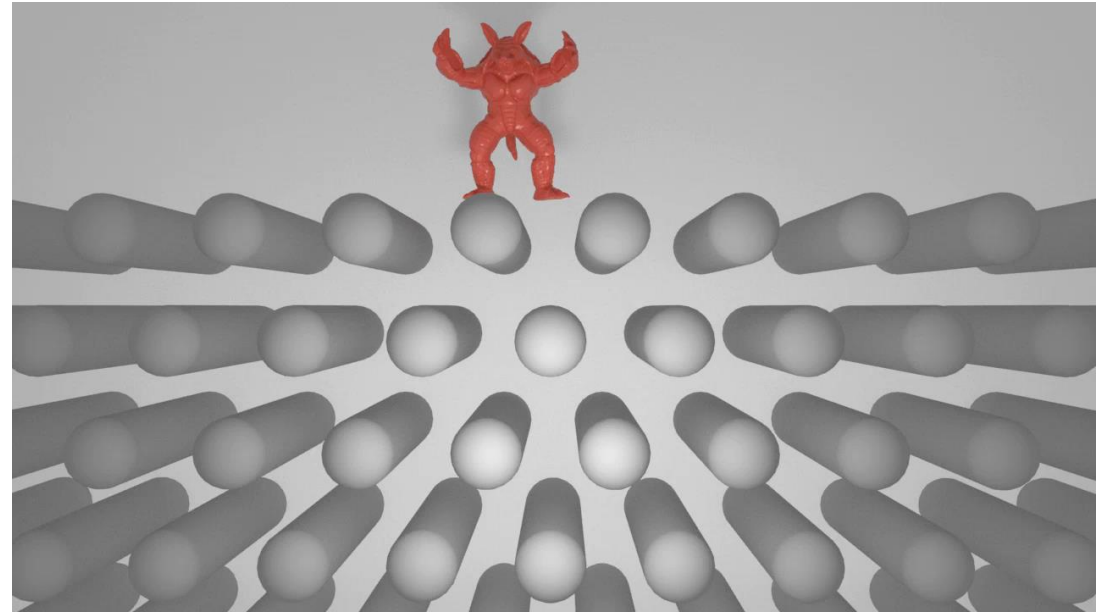
... so be our virtual lives



# A practitioner's guide to build your first deformable object simulator



Some details

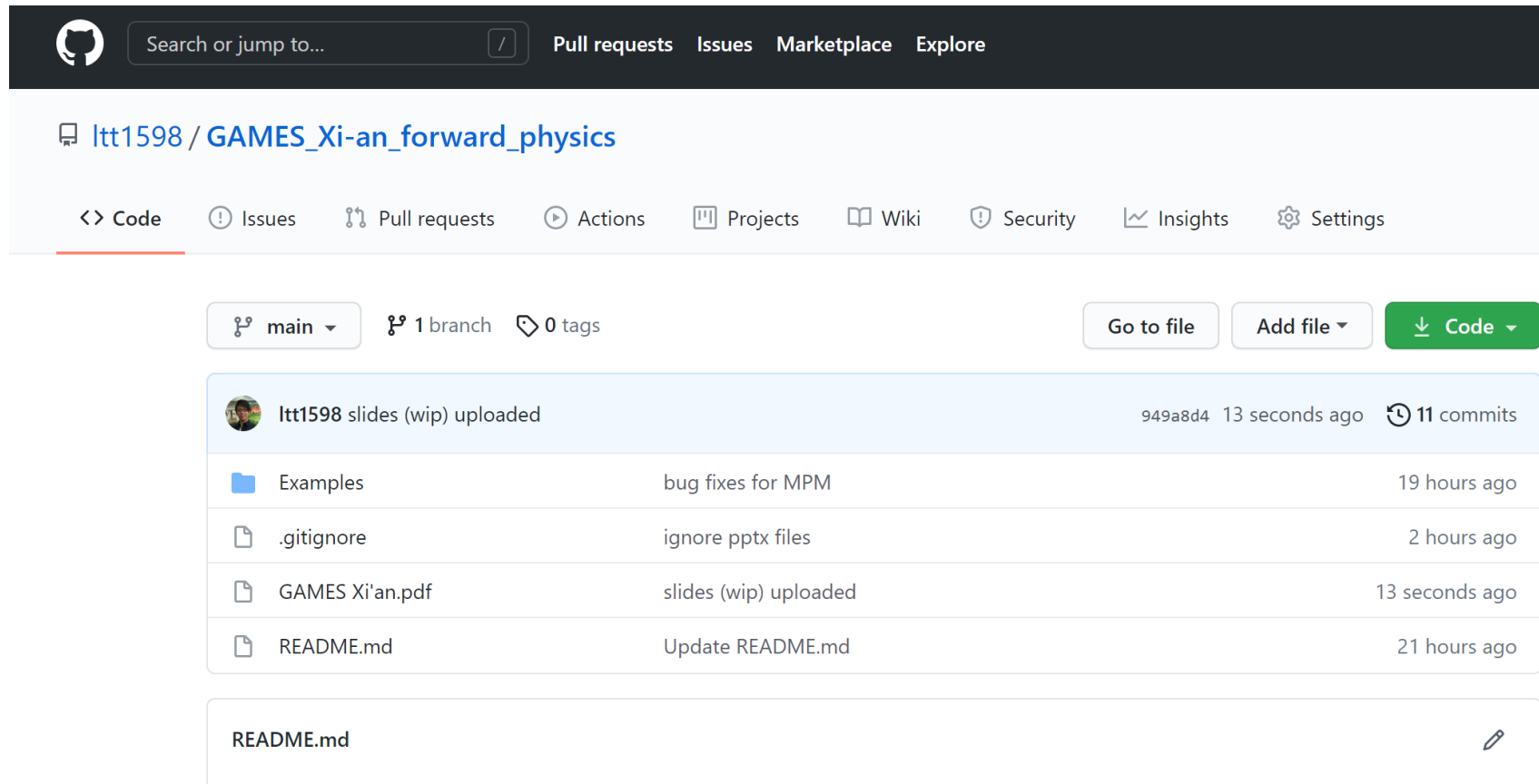


# From laws of physics to executables

- Equations of motion
- Integration in time
- Describing deformation
  - A simple (but useful) model: mass-spring system
  - Constitutive models
- Spatial discretization
  - Finite element method
  - Material point method

# Course Notes and Sample Code

- [https://github.com/Itt1598/GAMES\\_Xi-an\\_forward\\_physics](https://github.com/Itt1598/GAMES_Xi-an_forward_physics)



The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository `Itt1598 / GAMES_Xi-an_forward_physics`. The repository is in the `main` branch with 1 branch and 0 tags. The commit history shows a recent commit by `Itt1598` titled "slides (wip) uploaded" with a commit hash of `949a8d4` and 11 commits in total. The file list includes `Examples`, `.gitignore`, `GAMES Xi'an.pdf`, and `README.md`.

File	Commit Message	Time Ago
Examples	bug fixes for MPM	19 hours ago
.gitignore	ignore pptx files	2 hours ago
GAMES Xi'an.pdf	slides (wip) uploaded	13 seconds ago
README.md	Update README.md	21 hours ago

The `README.md` file is currently selected, showing the title `README.md` and an edit icon.



# Things not covered in this course...

- Derivations in continuum mechanics / geometric integrators
- Strong form v.s. weak form & basis functions
- Detailed algorithms in nonlinear optimization and linear solvers
- Damping / Collisions / Contact



# Equations of motion

- Define  $\frac{d}{dt} q := \dot{q}$

- We have:

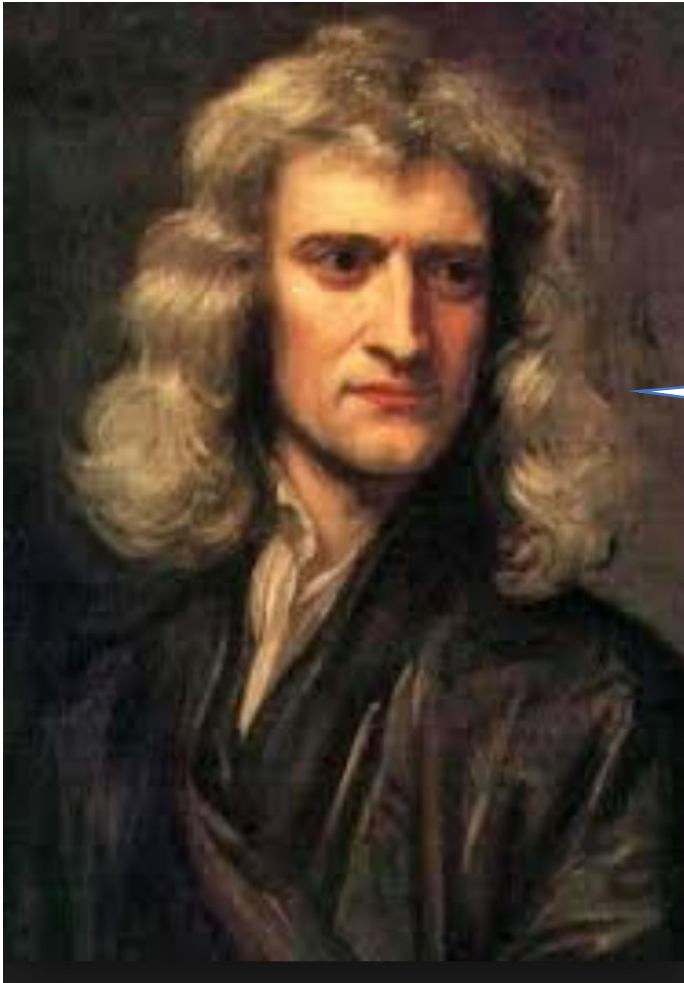
- $\dot{x} = v$

- $\dot{v} = a$

- Or simply:

- $\ddot{x} = a$

# Equations of motion

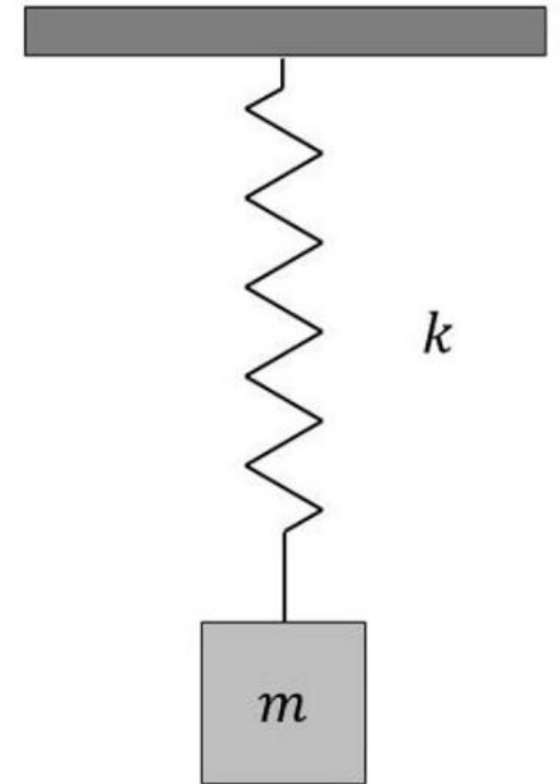


$$\mathbf{f} = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{a}$$

# Equations of motion (linear ODE)

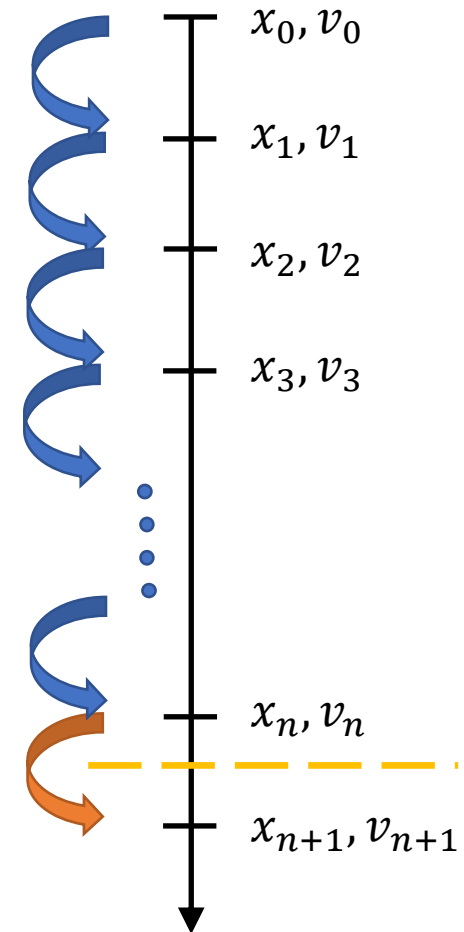
- $M\ddot{x} = f(x)$
- For linear materials, we have  $f(x) = -K(x - X)$ 
  - We, therefore, yield a linear differential equation:
    - $M\ddot{x} + K(x - X) = 0$
    - Or sometimes:  $M\ddot{u} + Ku = 0$  (define displacement  $u := x - X$ )

Note: linear materials are widely used for small deformations, such as in physically based **sound simulation** (for rigid bodies) and **topology optimization**



# Equations of motion (general cases)

- $M\ddot{x} = f(x)$
- $\dot{x} = v$
- $\dot{v} = a = M^{-1}f$
- $x(t_n + h) = x(t_n) + \int_0^h v(t_n + t)dt$
- $v(t_n + h) = v(t_n) + \int_0^h M^{-1}f(t_n + t)dt$



# Time integration

- $x(t_n + h) = x(t_n) + \int_0^h v(t_n + t) dt$
- $v(t_n + h) = v(t_n) + \int_0^h M^{-1} f(t_n + t) dt$

# Time integration (explicit)

- Explicit(forward) Euler integration
  - $x_{n+1} = x_n + hv_n$
  - $v_{n+1} = v_n + hM^{-1}f(x_n)$

Note: Forward Euler is **extremely fast**, but it will also **increase the system energy** gradually. It is **seldom used** for the existence of symplectic Euler integration.

# Time integration (explicit)

- Symplectic Euler integration

- $v_{n+1} = v_n + hM^{-1}f(x_n)$

- $x_{n+1} = x_n + hv_{n+1}$

Note: Symplectic Euler is as **fast** as forward Euler, it is **momentum preserving**, it has an **oscillating system Hamiltonian**. It is often THE explicit integration method to use. It has been widely used in **accuracy-centric applications** (astronomy simulation / molecular dynamics etc).

# Time integration (implicit)

- Implicit (backward) Euler integration
  - $v_{n+1} = v_n + hM^{-1}f(x_{n+1})$
  - $x_{n+1} = x_n + hv_{n+1}$
- Or simply a nonlinear root-finding problem:
  - $x_{n+1} = x_n + hv_n + h^2M^{-1}f(x_{n+1})$



# Time integration (implicit)

- Solving for implicit Euler
  - $x_{n+1} = x_n + hv_n + h^2 M^{-1} f(x_{n+1})$
- Baraff-Witkin style / semi-implicit Euler / one step of Newton
  - $x_{n+1} = x_n + \delta x, f(x_{n+1}) \approx f(x_n) + \nabla_x f(x_n) \delta x$
  - Boils down to one linear solve:
    - $(M - h^2 \nabla_x f(x_n)) \delta x = hMv_n + h^2 f(x_n)$
    - $v_{n+1} = \frac{\delta x}{h}, x_{n+1} = x_n + \delta x$

# Time integration (implicit)

- Solving for implicit Euler

- $x_{n+1} = x_n + hv_n + h^2 M^{-1} f(x_{n+1})$

- Full Newton solve:

- assume conservative force  $f(x) = -\nabla_x E(x)$

- define  $g(x) = \frac{1}{2} \|x - (x_n + hv_n)\|_M^2 + h^2 E(x)$

- $x_{n+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_x g(x)$

- Why?  $\nabla_x g(x_{n+1}) = x_{n+1} - (x_n + hv_n) - h^2 M^{-1} f(x_{n+1})$

# Time integration (implicit)

- Implicit Euler integration

- $v_{n+1} = v_n + hM^{-1}f(x_{n+1})$

- $x_{n+1} = x_n + hv_{n+1}$

Note: Implicit Euler is often **expensive** due to the nonlinear optimization, it **damps the Hamiltonian** from the oscillating components, it is often **stable for large time-steps** and is widely used in performance-centric applications. (game / MR / design / animation)

# Time integration (wrap-up)

- As long as we know the conservative energy function  $E(x)$ :
  - We can compute  $f = -\nabla_x E$ , to integrate explicit schemes
  - We can use  $\nabla_x E$  and  $\nabla_x^2 E$ , to minimize  $\frac{1}{2} \|x - (x_n + hv_n)\|_M^2 + h^2 E(x)$ , in order to integrate implicit schemes

# Time integration (example)

- Gravitational energy:

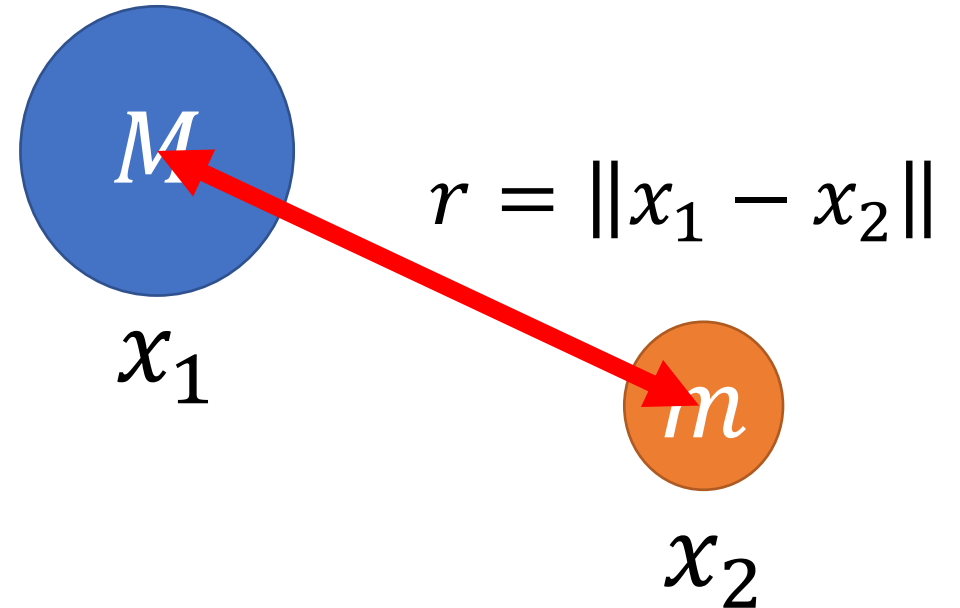
- $E = -\frac{GMm}{r}$

- Compute gradient (gravitational force)

- $\frac{\partial E}{\partial x_1} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial r} * \frac{\partial r}{\partial x_1} = \frac{GMm}{r^2} * \frac{x_1 - x_2}{r}$

- $f(x_1) = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial x_1}$

- $f(x_2) = -f(x_1)$



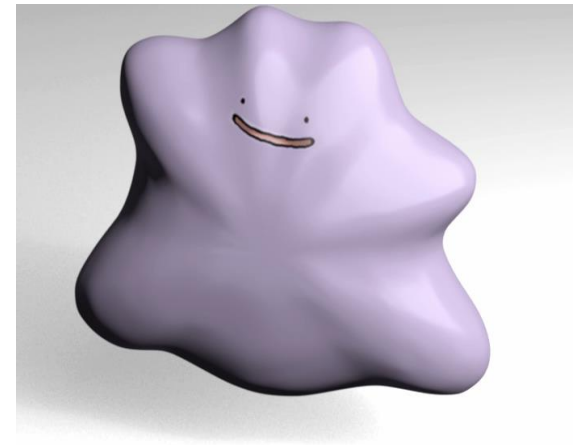
# The N-body problem

```
66     # compute gravitational force
67     for i in range(N):
68         p = pos[i]
69         for j in range(N):
70             if i > j: # bad memory footprint and load balance
71                 diff = p-pos[j]
72                 r = diff.norm(1e-5)
73
74                 # gravitational force  $-(GMm / r^2) * (diff/r)$  for i
75                 f = -G * m * m * (1.0/r)**3 * diff
76
77                 # assign to each particle
78                 force[i] += f
79                 force[j] += -f
```

```
93     for i in range(N):
94         #symplectic euler
95         vel[i] += dt*force[i]/m
96         pos[i] += dt*vel[i]
```

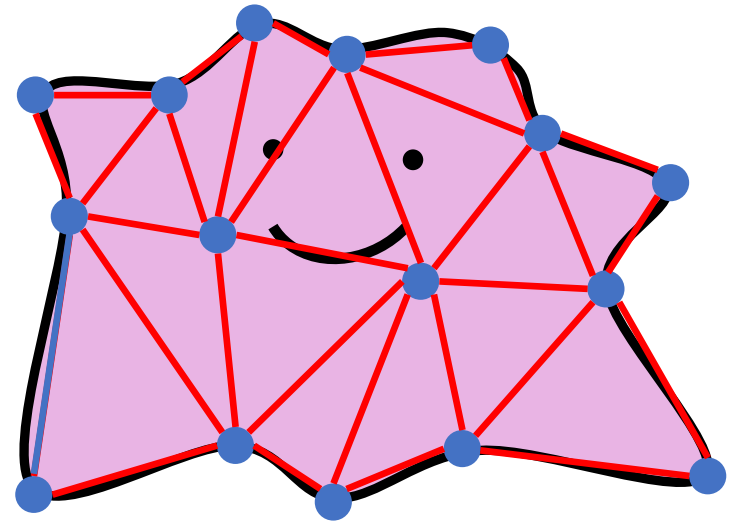
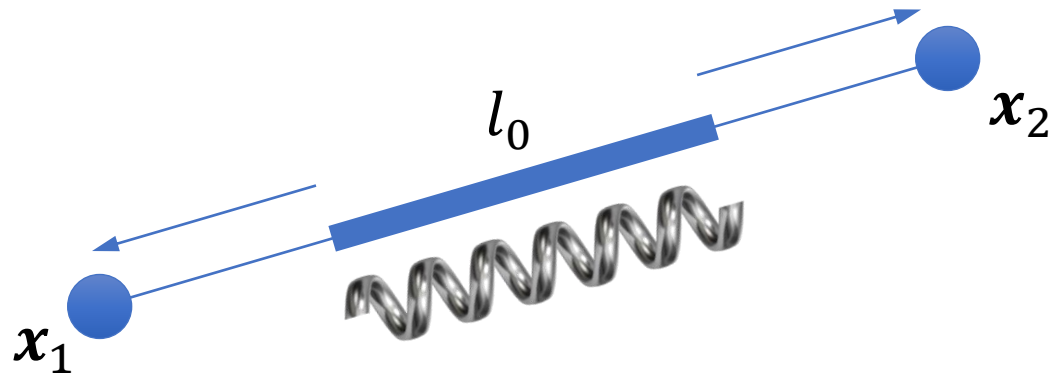
# How about deformable objects?

- How to describe deformation?
- Elastic energy (force)?



# Mass-spring system

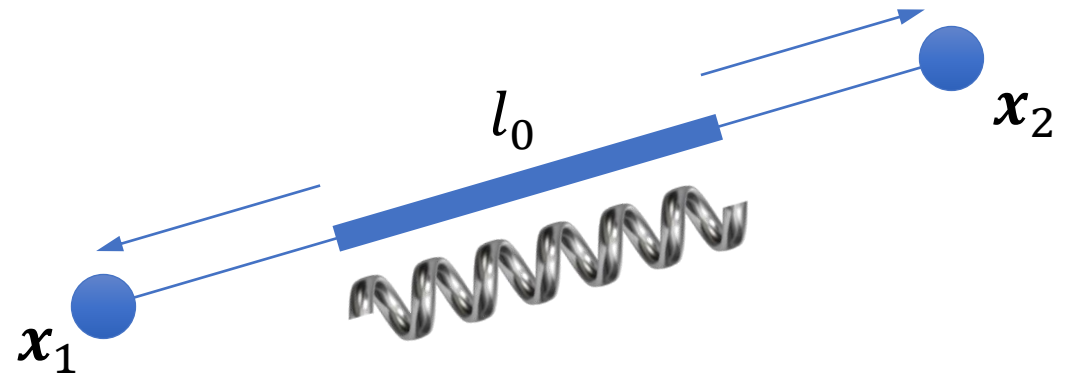
-- A simple yet useful discrete deformation model





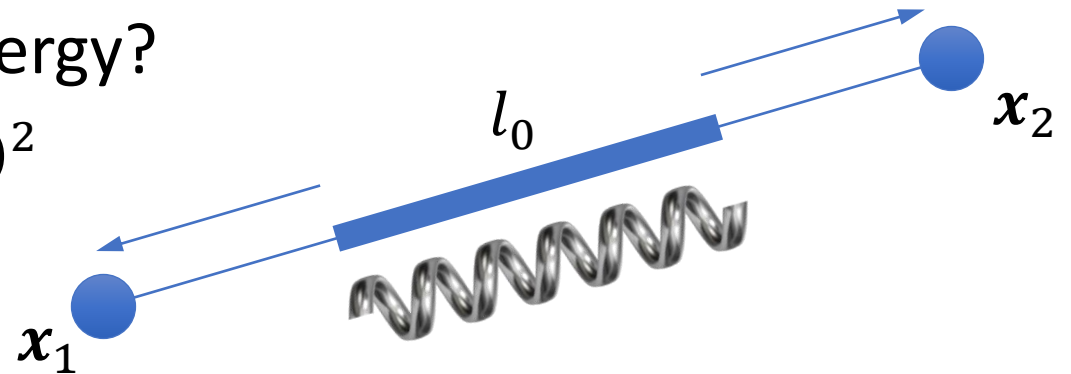
# Mass-spring system

- How to define the deformation?
  - Spring current length:  $l = \|x_1 - x_2\|$
  - Spring rest-length:  $l_0$
  - “Deformation”:  $l - l_0$



# Mass-spring system

- How to define the deformation?
  - Spring current length:  $l = \|x_1 - x_2\|$
  - Spring rest-length:  $l_0$
  - “Deformation”:  $l - l_0$
- How to define the deformation energy?
  - Hooke’s Law:  $E(x_1, x_2) = \frac{1}{2}k(l - l_0)^2$



# Mass-spring system

- Elastic energy:

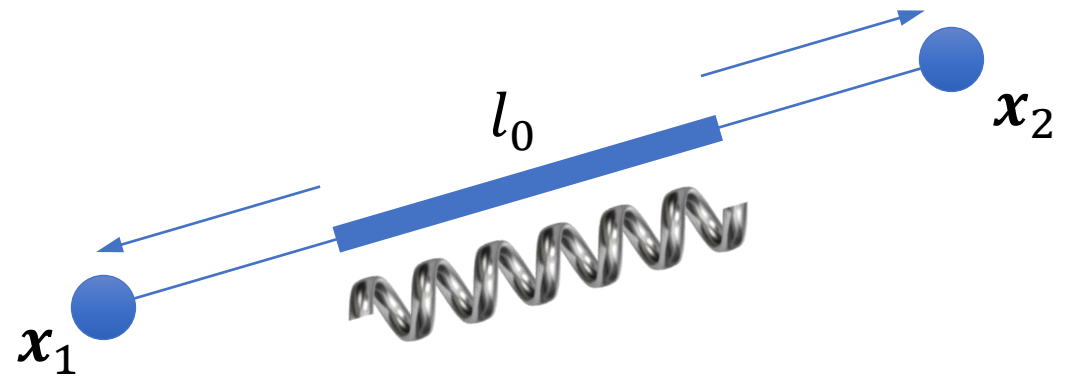
- $E = \frac{1}{2}k(l - l_0)^2$

- Gradient:

- $\frac{\partial E}{\partial x_1} = \frac{\partial E}{\partial l} * \frac{\partial l}{\partial x_1} = k(l - l_0) * \frac{x_1 - x_2}{l_0}$

- $f(x_1) = -\frac{\partial E}{\partial x_1}$

- $f(x_2) = -f(x_1)$

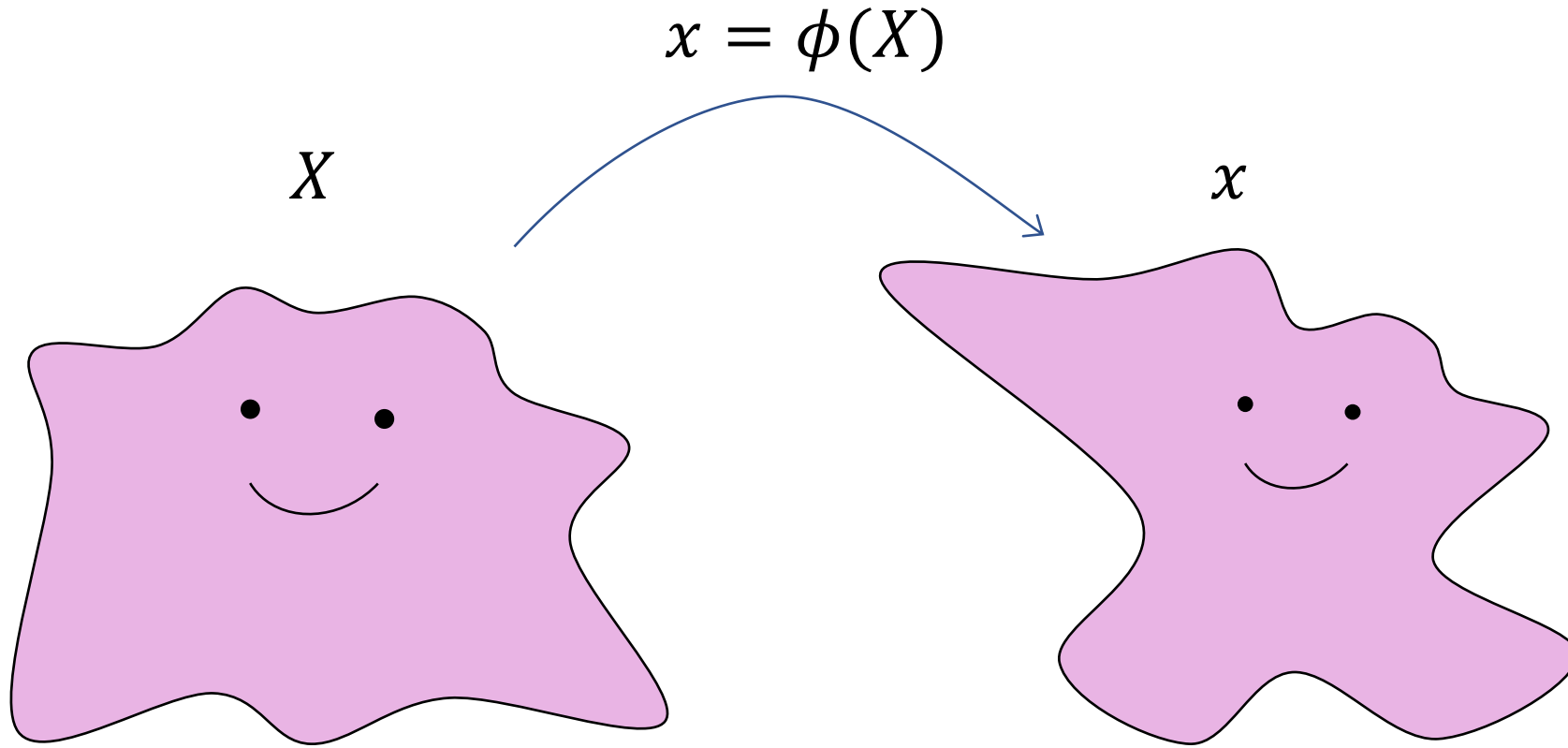


# Mass-spring system (example)

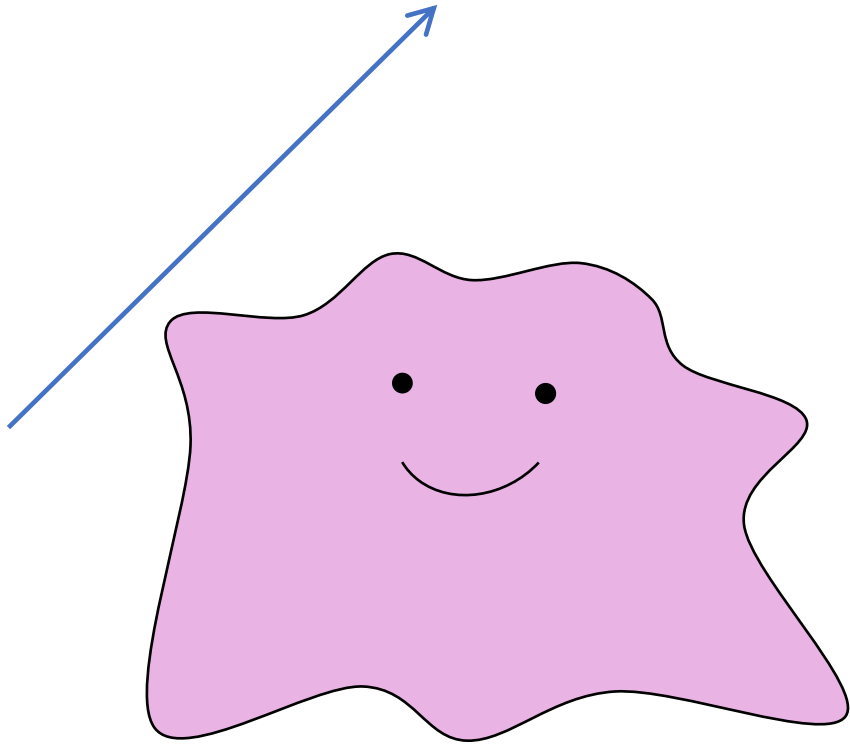
```
123     # gradient of elastic potential
124     for i in range(N_edges):
125         a, b = edges[i][0], edges[i][1]
126         r = x[a]-x[b]
127         l = r.norm()
128         l0 = spring_length[i]
129         k = YoungsModulus[None]*l0 # stiffness in Hooke's law
130         gradient = k*(l-l0)*r/l
131         grad[a] += gradient
132         grad[b] += -gradient

145     for i in range(N):
146         # symplectic integration
147         # elastic force + gravitation force, dividing mass to get the acceleration
148         acc = -grad[i]/m - [0.0, g]
149         v[i] += dh*acc
150         x[i] += dh*v[i]
```

# A continuous model to describe deformation

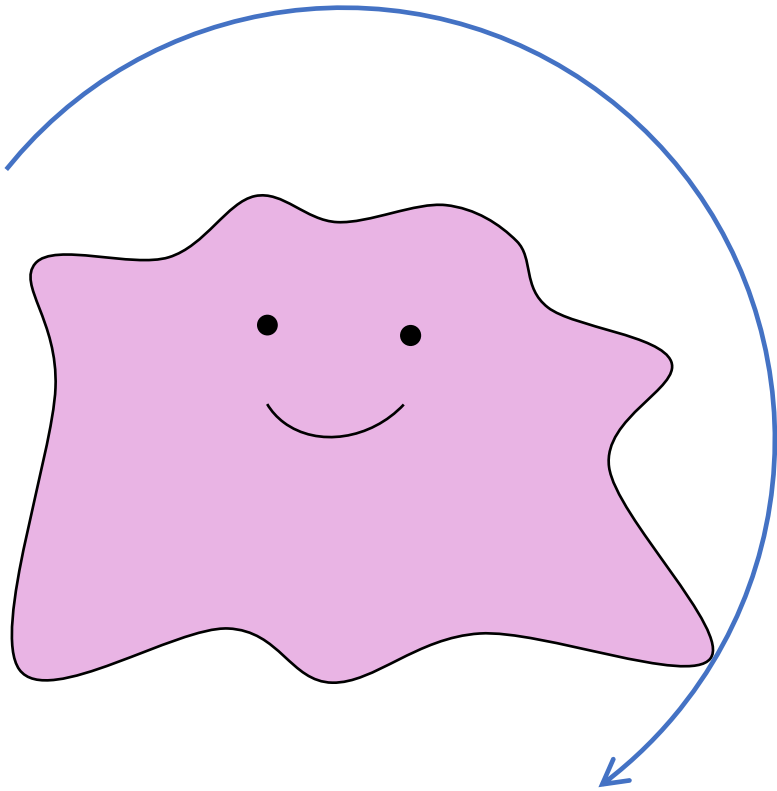


# Deformation map



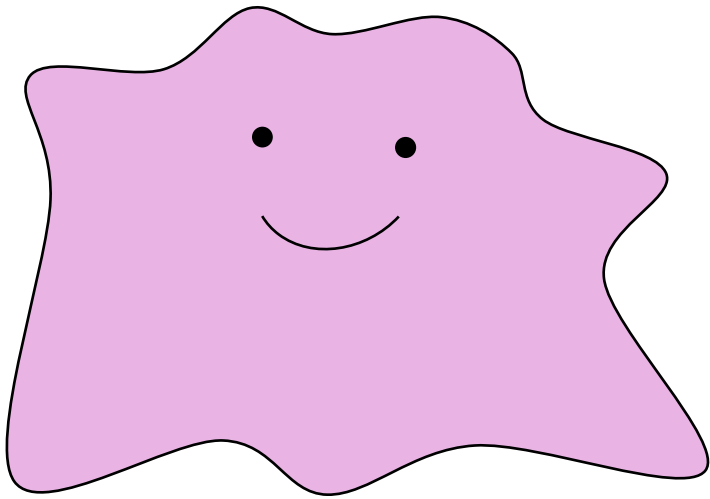
$$\phi(X) = X + t$$

# Deformation map



$$\phi(X) = RX$$

# Deformation map

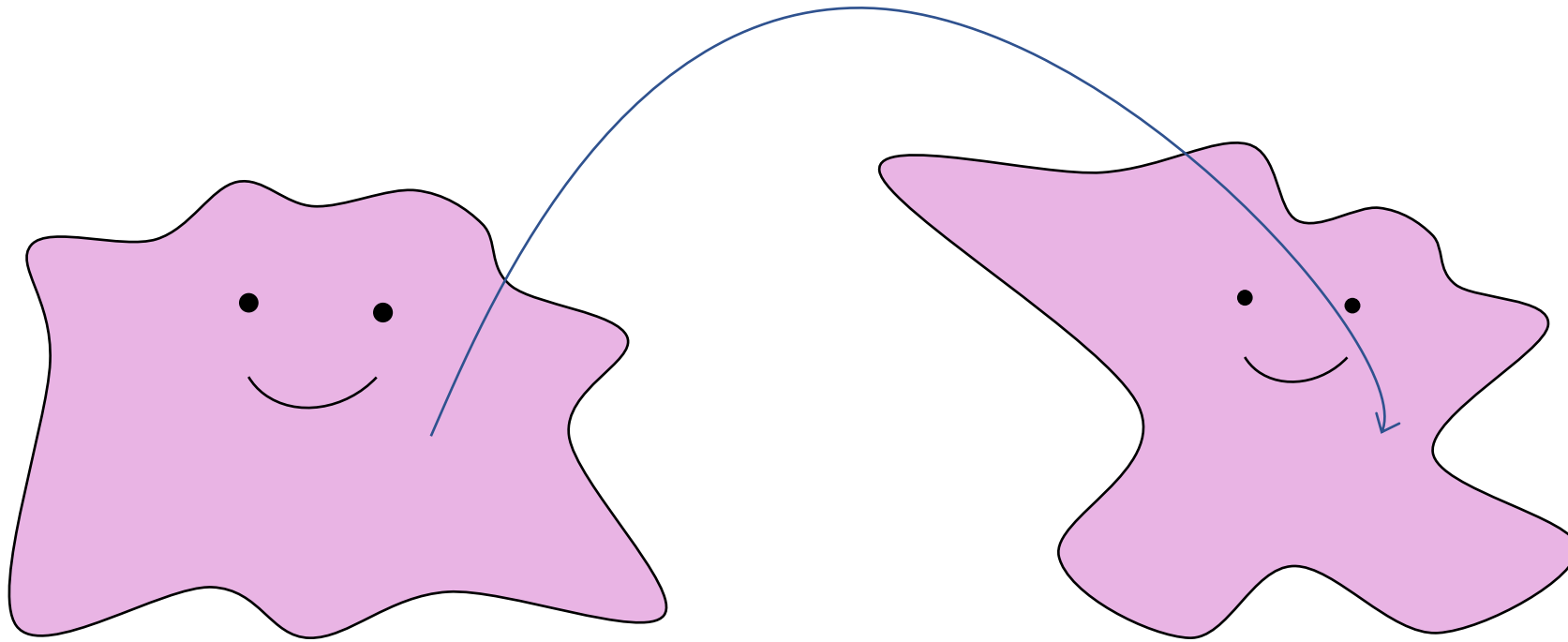


$$\phi(X) = SX$$



# Deformation gradient


$$\phi(X) \approx FX + t$$




# Energy density

- Define:  $\Psi(x) = \Psi(\phi(X))$  is an energy density function at  $x = \phi(X)$ 
  - Recall that  $\phi(X) \approx FX + t$ , we have  $\Psi(x) \approx \Psi(FX + t)$
  - Since the energy density function should be translational invariant
    - i.e.  $\Psi(x) = \Psi(x + t)$
  - ...and  $X$  is the state-independent rest-pose (for elastic materials)
- We have  $\Psi = \Psi(F)$  being a function of the **local deformation gradient** alone.

# What should $\Psi$ Look like?

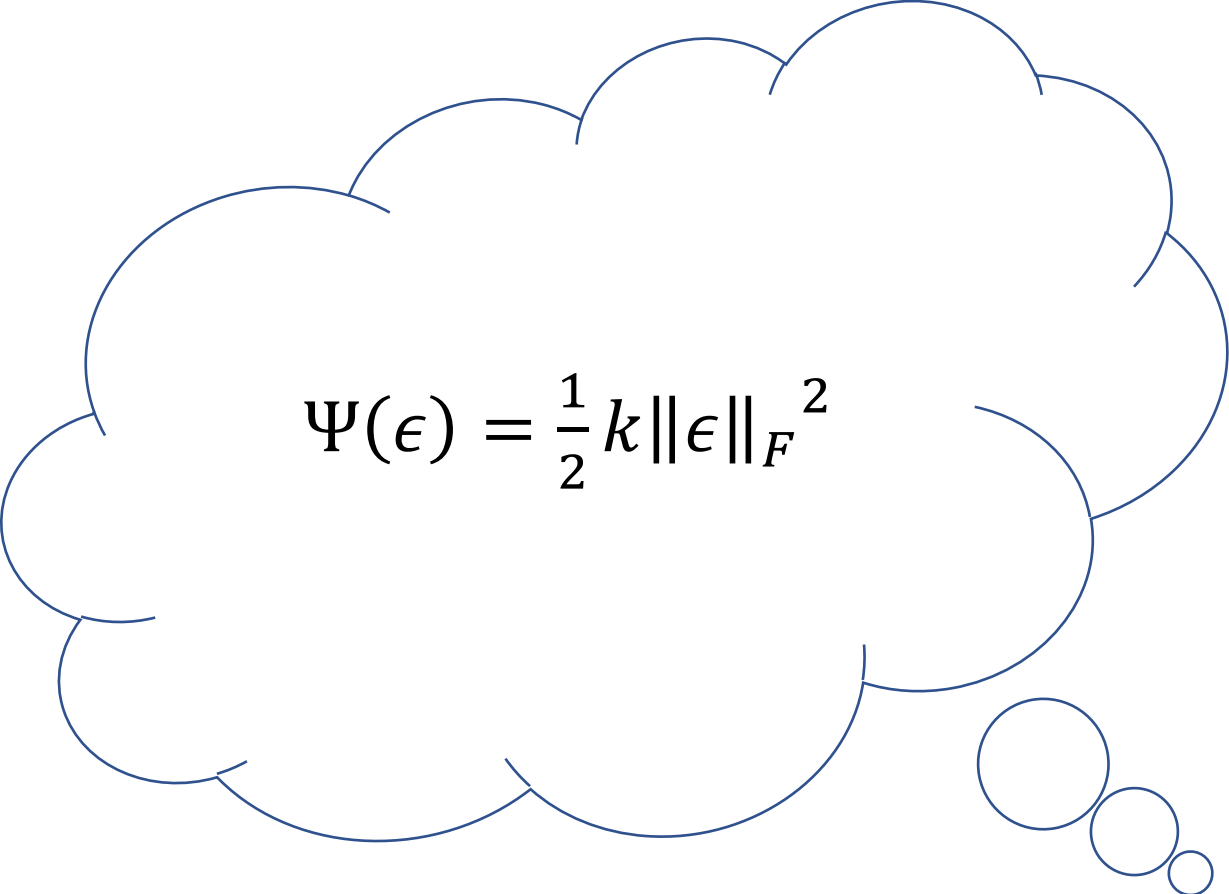
$$\Psi(F) = \frac{1}{2} k \|F - I\|_F^2 ?$$


$$\Psi(F) = \frac{1}{2} k \|F\|_F^2 ?$$


# We want a descriptor to describe **deformation**

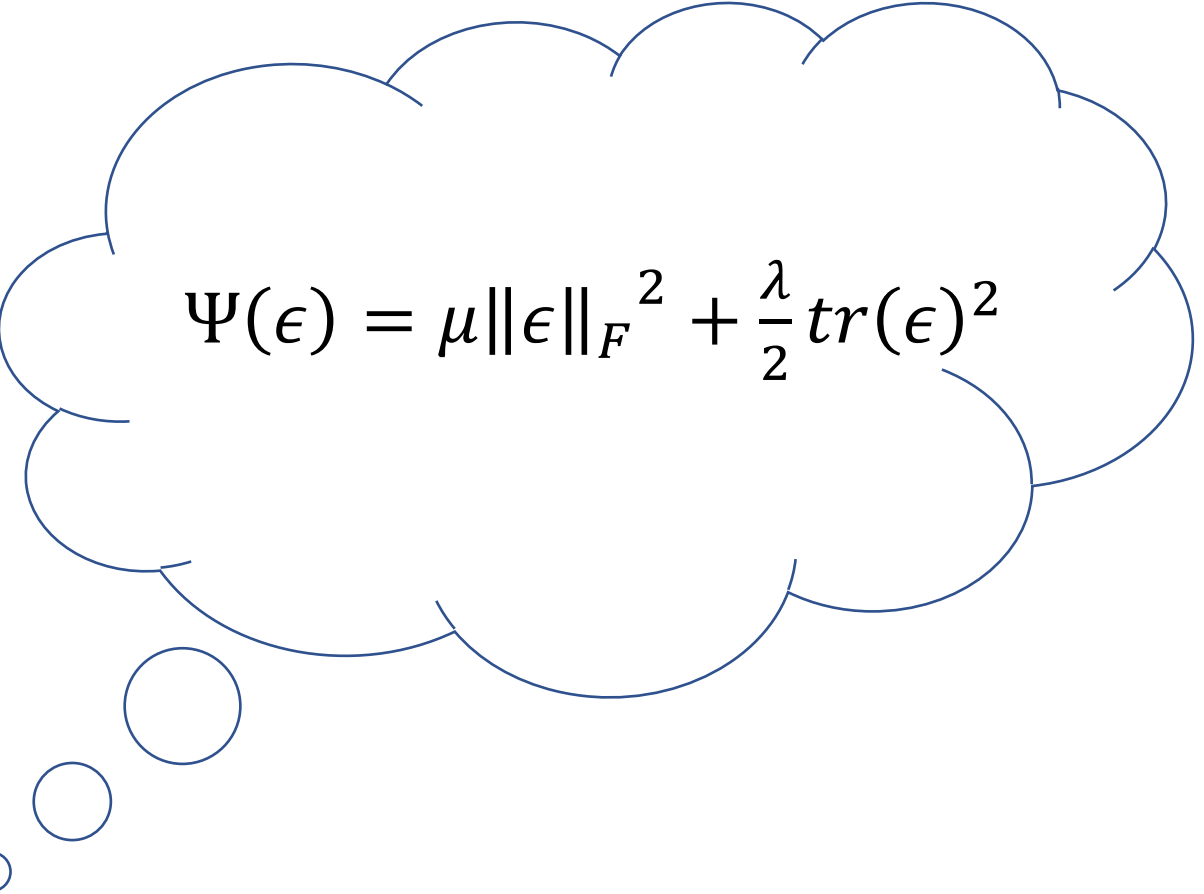
- Strain  $\epsilon(F)$ 
  - Descriptor of severity of deformation
  - $\epsilon(I) = 0$
  - $\epsilon(F) = \epsilon(RF)$  for  $\forall R \in SO(dim)$
- Sample strain tensors in different constitutive models:
  - St. Venant-Kirchhoff model:  $\epsilon(F) = \frac{1}{2}(F^T F - I)$
  - Co-rotated linear model:  $\epsilon(F) = S - I, \text{ where } F = RS$

# What should $\Psi$ Look like?



A thought bubble with a scalloped border, containing a mathematical formula. Below the bubble are four small circles of increasing size, leading to the main bubble.

$$\Psi(\epsilon) = \frac{1}{2}k\|\epsilon\|_F^2$$



A thought bubble with a scalloped border, containing a mathematical formula. Below the bubble are four small circles of increasing size, leading to the main bubble.

$$\Psi(\epsilon) = \mu\|\epsilon\|_F^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2}\text{tr}(\epsilon)^2$$

# One more thing about $\Psi(\epsilon(F(x)))$

- Eventually we will need the gradient of  $\Psi$  to run simulations...
- Chain rule:  $\frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial x} = \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial F} : \frac{\partial F}{\partial x}$
- For hyperelastic materials, the 1<sup>st</sup> Piola-Kirchhoff stress tensor:
  - $P = \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial F}$

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Piola-Kirchhoff stress tensor

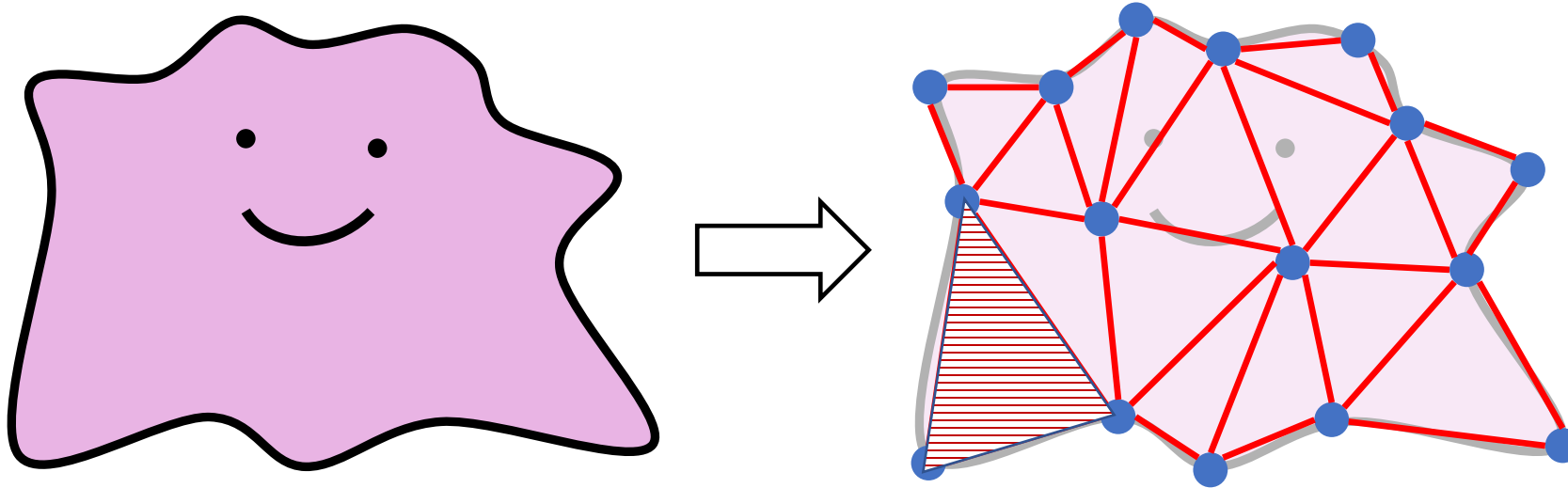
- St. Venant-Kirchhoff model:
  - Strain:  $\epsilon_{stvk}(F) = \frac{1}{2}(F^T F - I)$
  - Energy density:  $\Psi(F) = \mu \left\| \frac{1}{2}(F^T F - I) \right\|_F^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \text{tr} \left( \frac{1}{2}(F^T F - I) \right)^2$
  - $P = \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial F} = F [2\mu \epsilon_{stvk} + \lambda \text{tr}(\epsilon_{stvk})I]$
- Co-rotated linear model:
  - Strain:  $\epsilon_c(F) = S - I$ , where  $F = RS$
  - Energy density:  $\Psi(F) = \mu \|R^T F - I\|_F^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} \text{tr}(R^T F - I)^2$
  - $P = \frac{\partial \Psi}{\partial F} = R[2\mu \epsilon_c + \lambda \text{tr}(\epsilon_c)I] = 2\mu(F - R) + \lambda \text{tr}(R^T F - I)R$

# From energy density to energy

- $E(x) = \int_{\Omega} \Psi(F(x)) dX$
- Spatial Discretization is needed!



# Linear Finite Element Method (FEM)

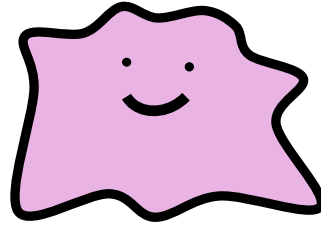


*Linear Element*  
 $\phi(X) = FX + t$

# Linear FEM energy

- Continuous Space:

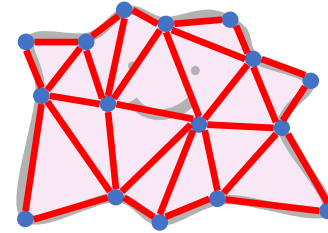
- $E(x) = \int_{\Omega} \Psi(F(x)) dX$



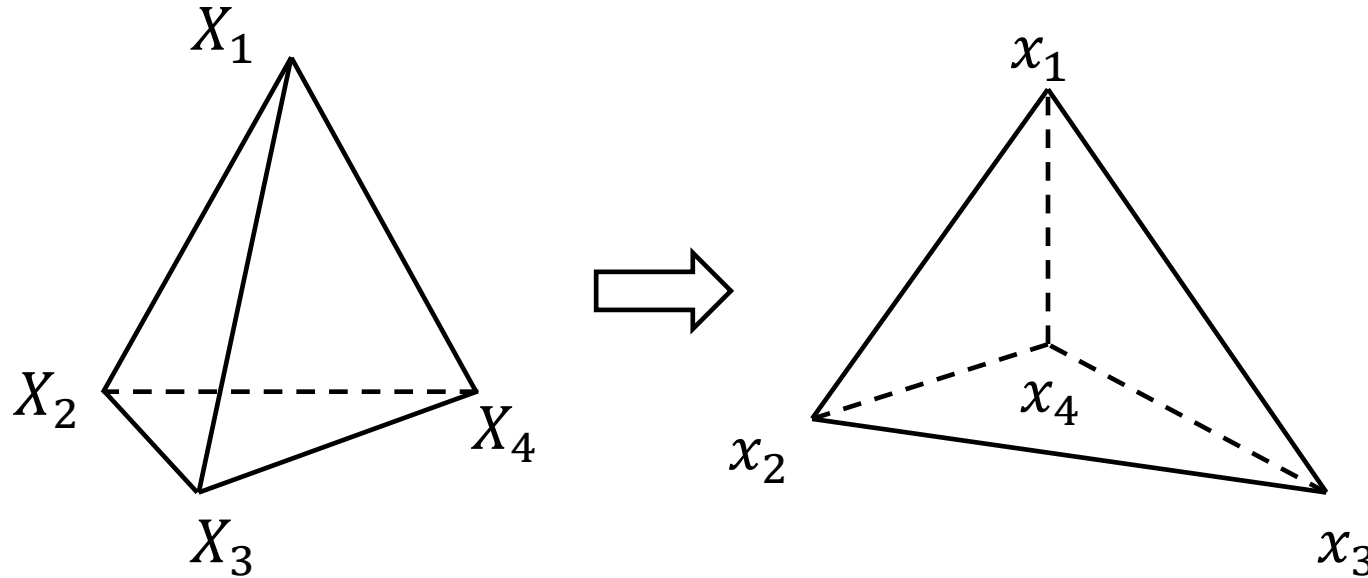
- Discretized Space:

- $E(x) = \sum_{e_i} \int_{\Omega_{e_i}} \Psi(F_i(x)) dX = \sum_{e_i} w_i \Psi(F_i(x))$

- $w_i = \int_{\Omega_{e_i}} dX$  : size (area/volume) of the i-th element



Linear element assumption:  $\phi(X) = FX + t$

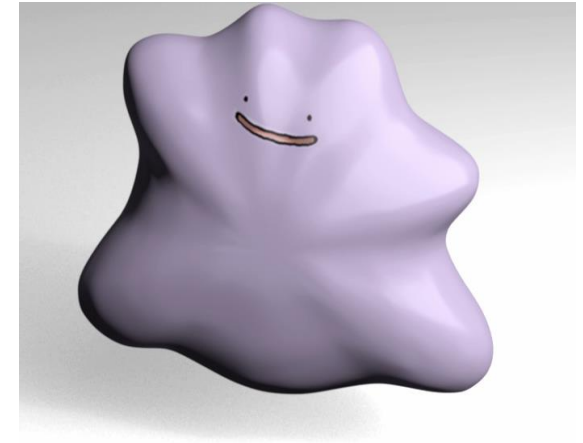


$$\underbrace{[x_1 - x_4 \quad x_2 - x_4 \quad x_3 - x_4]}_{D_s} = F \underbrace{[X_1 - X_4 \quad X_2 - X_4 \quad X_3 - X_4]}_{D_m}$$

$$F = D_s D_m^{-1}$$

# Linear FEM

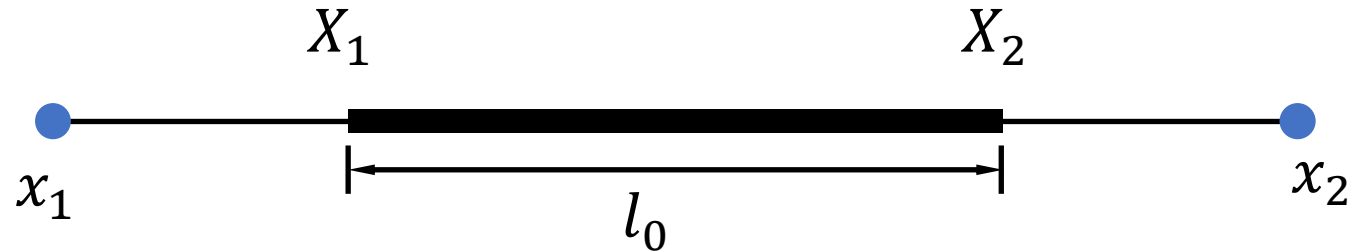
- Elastic energy:
  - $E(x) = w_i \Psi(F_i(x))$
- Gradient:
  - $\frac{\partial E}{\partial x} = w_i P : \frac{\partial F}{\partial x}$
  - How to assemble your gradient?
    - Check FEMDEFO.org, Part I, Chapter 4
    - Or using auto-diff



# Linear FEM (example)

```
136     # gradient of elastic potential
137     for i in range(N_triangles):
138         Ds = compute_D(i)
139         F = Ds@elements_Dm_inv[i]
140         # co-rotated linear elasticity
141         R = compute_R_2D(F)
142         Eye = ti.Matrix.cols([[1.0, 0.0], [0.0, 1.0]])
143         # first Piola-Kirchhoff tensor
144         P = 2*LameMu[None]*(F-R) + Lamela[None]*((R.transpose())@F-Eye).trace()*R
145         #assemble to gradient
146         H = elements_V0[i] * P @ (elements_Dm_inv[i].transpose())
147         a,b,c = triangles[i][0],triangles[i][1],triangles[i][2]
148         gb = ti.Vector([H[0,0], H[1, 0]])
149         gc = ti.Vector([H[0,1], H[1, 1]])
150         ga = -gb-gc
151         grad[a] += ga
152         grad[b] += gb
153         grad[c] += gc
```

# Recap: mass-spring



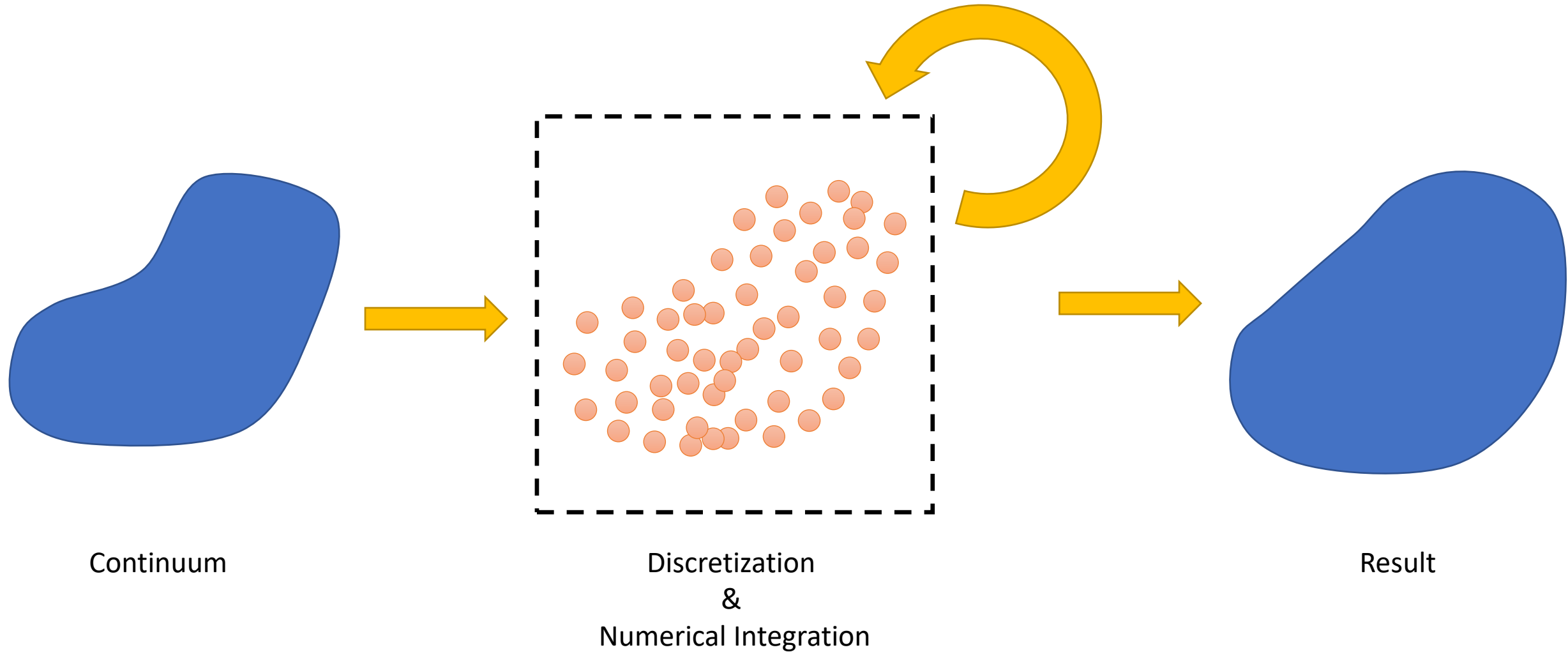
$$F = D_s D_m^{-1} = \frac{x_1 - x_2}{X_1 - X_2} = \frac{x_1 - x_2}{l_0}$$

$$\epsilon = \|F\| - 1$$

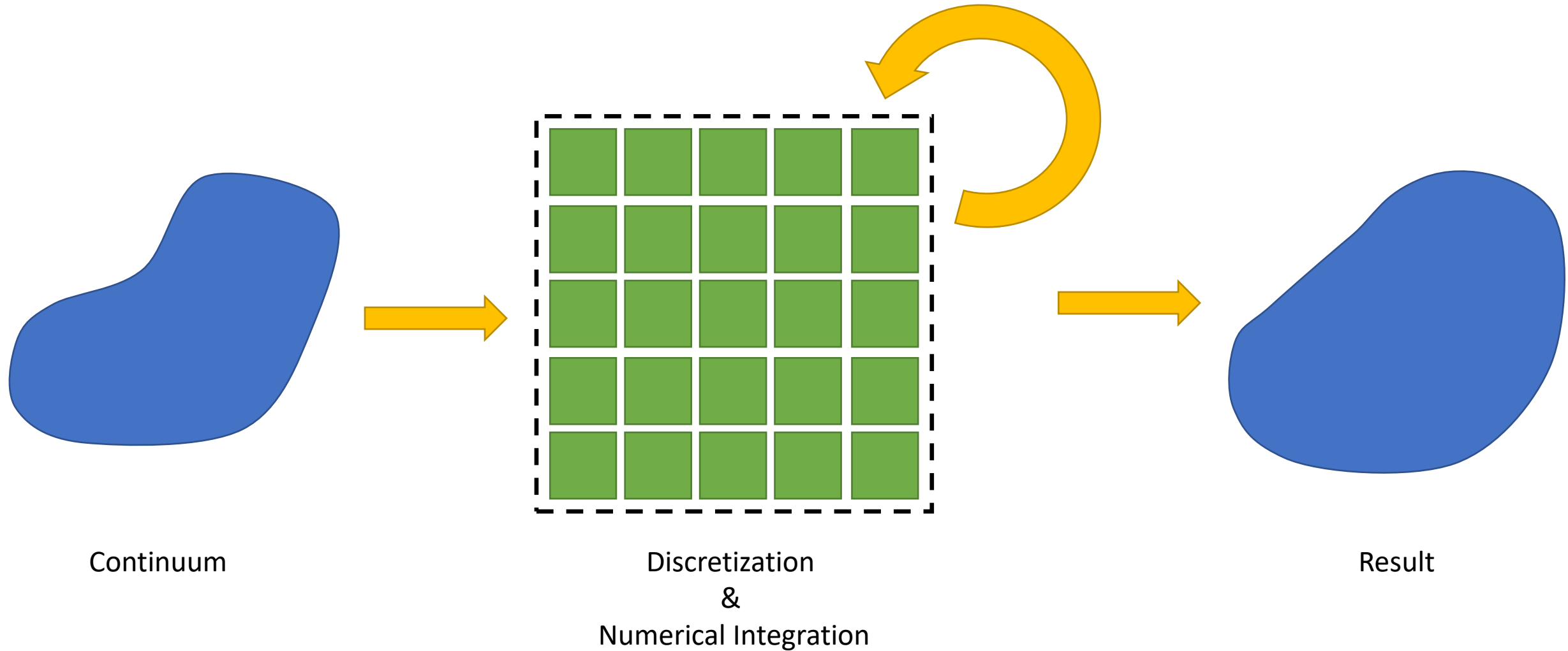
$$\Psi = \mu \epsilon^2$$

$$E = l_0 \Psi = \frac{1}{2} k (\|x_1 - x_2\| - l_0)^2$$

# FEM: Lagrangian View



# Eulerian View

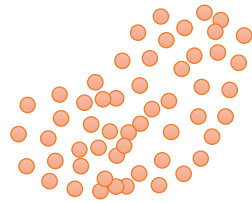




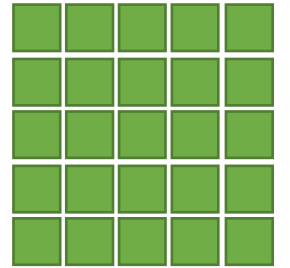
# Lagrangian v.s. Eulerian View (in fluid sim)



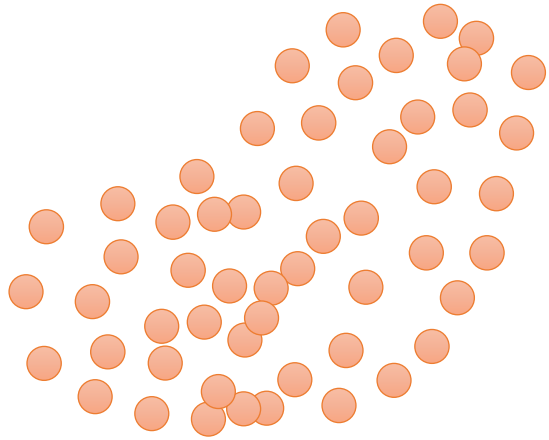
SPH  
[Ihmen et al. 2014]



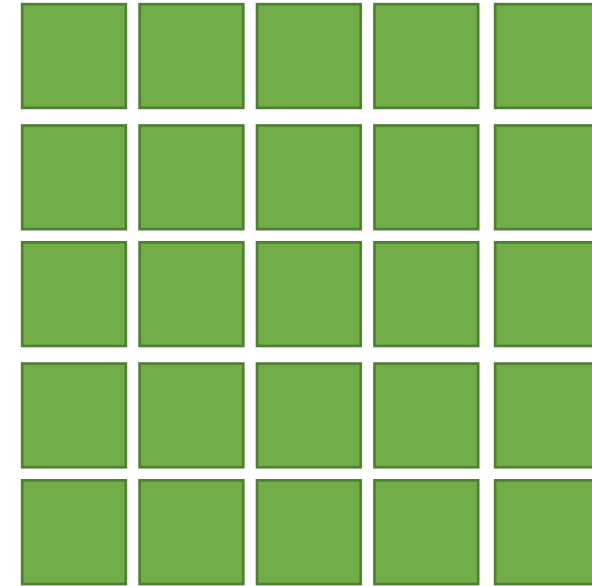
Stable Fluids  
[Stam 1999]



# Lagrangian v.s. Eulerian View



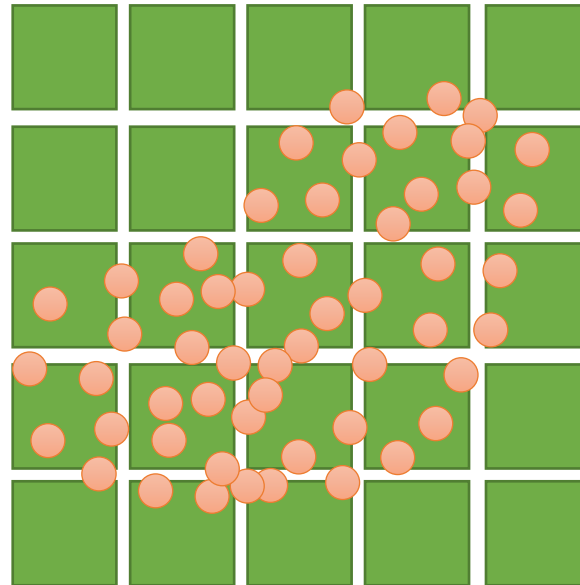
Conformal Discretization  
Adaptive Resolution  
Volume/Mass Preservation



Collision Free  
Regular Data Structure  
Bounded Distortion

# Hybrid Discretization Methods (MPM)

Conformal Discretization  
Adaptive Resolution  
Volume/Mass Preservation



Collision Free  
Regular Data Structure  
Bounded Distortion

# MPM pipeline (classic)

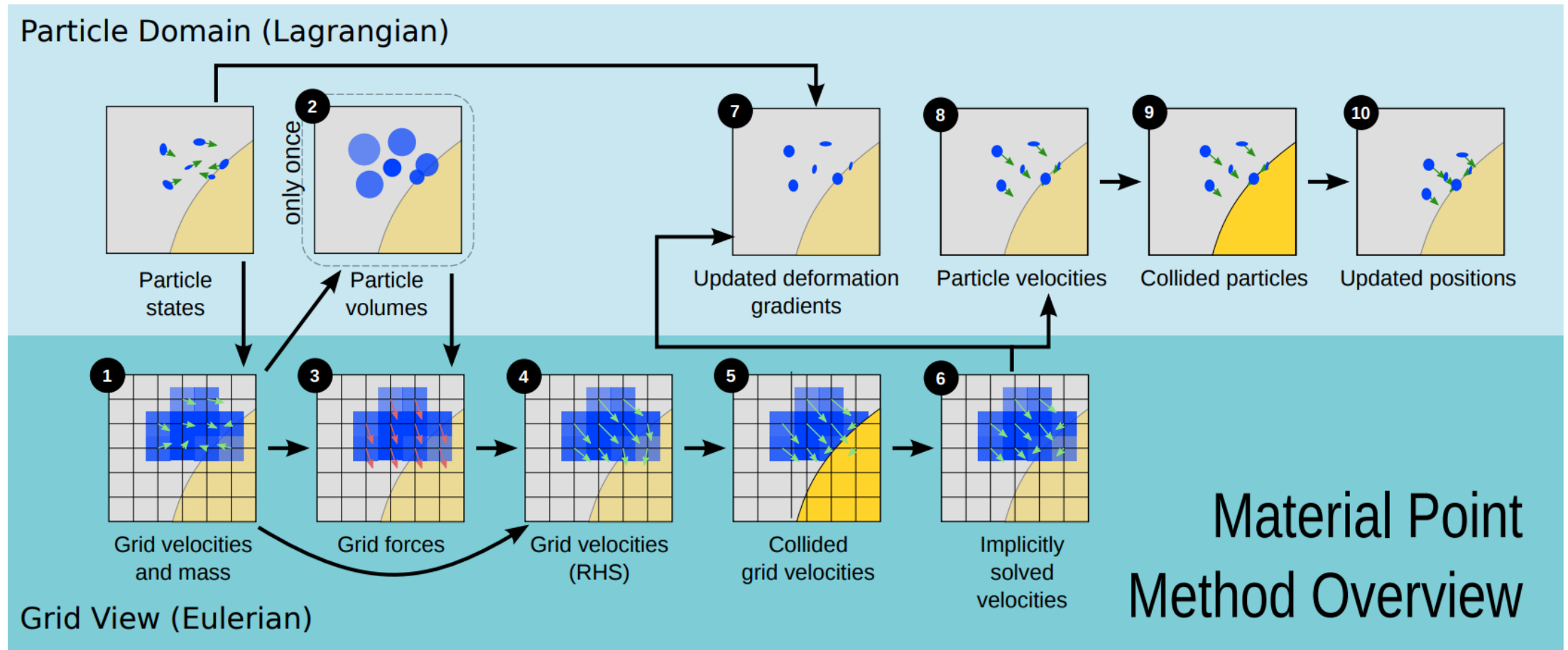
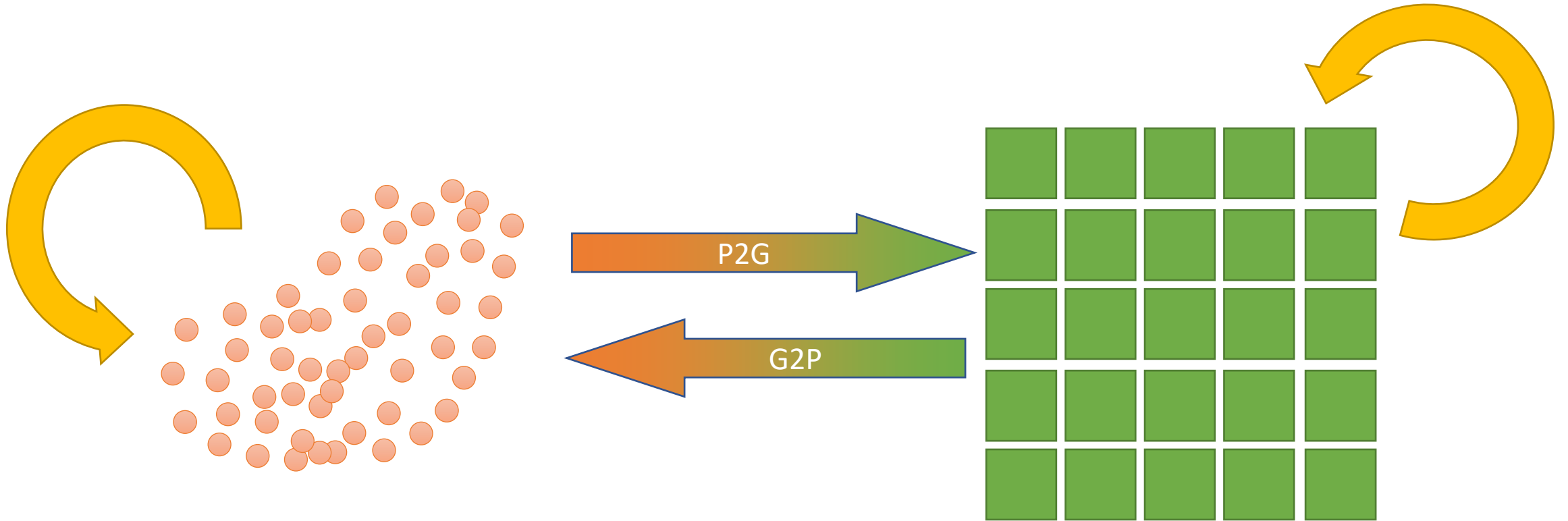
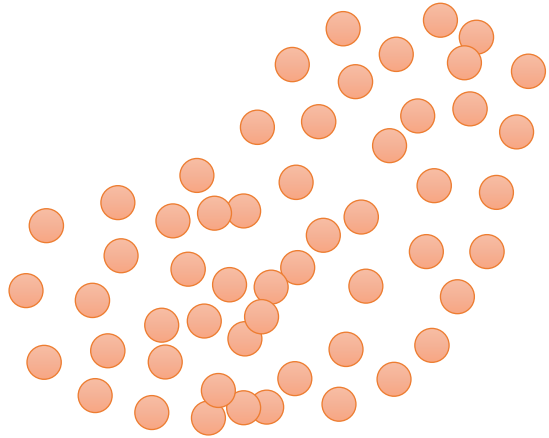


Image courtesy of [Stomakhin et al. 2013]

# MPM pipeline (MLS-MPM)

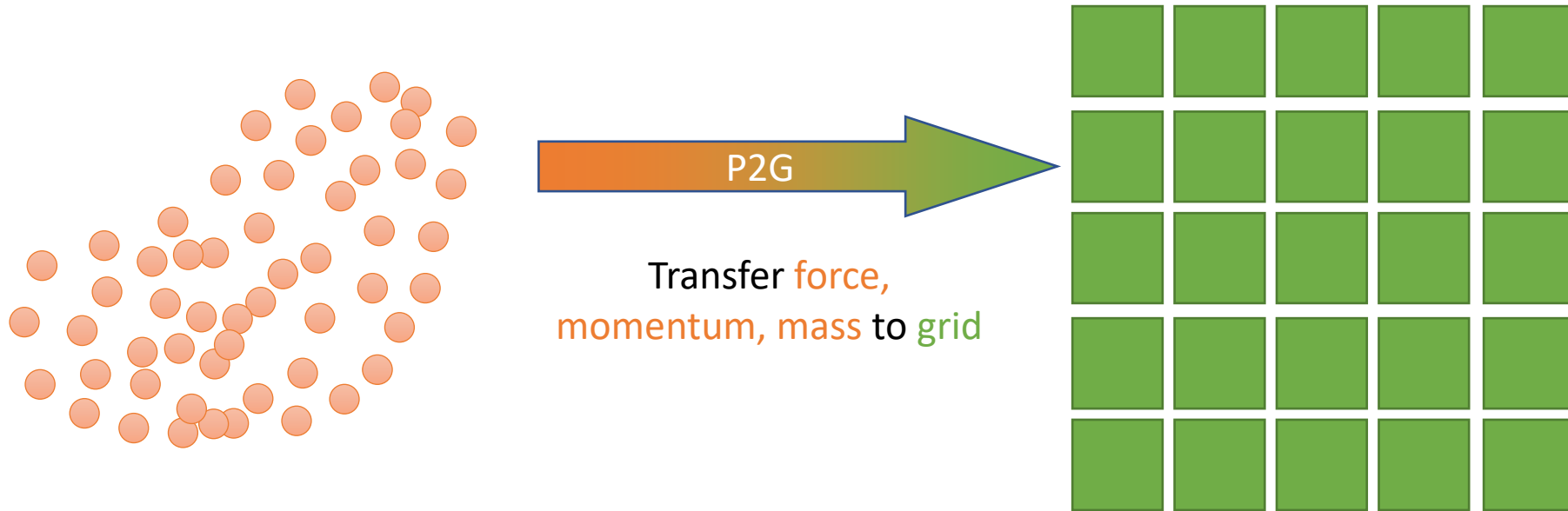


# MPM pipeline (particle ops)



Compute **force** (Langrangian view)

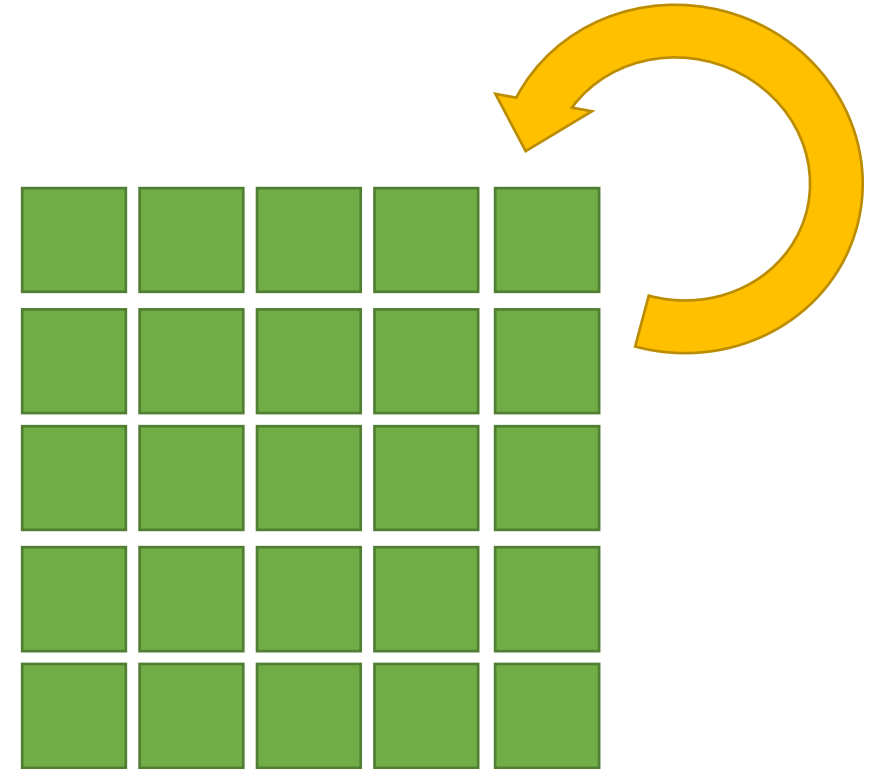
# MPM pipeline (P2G)



# MPM pipeline (grid ops)

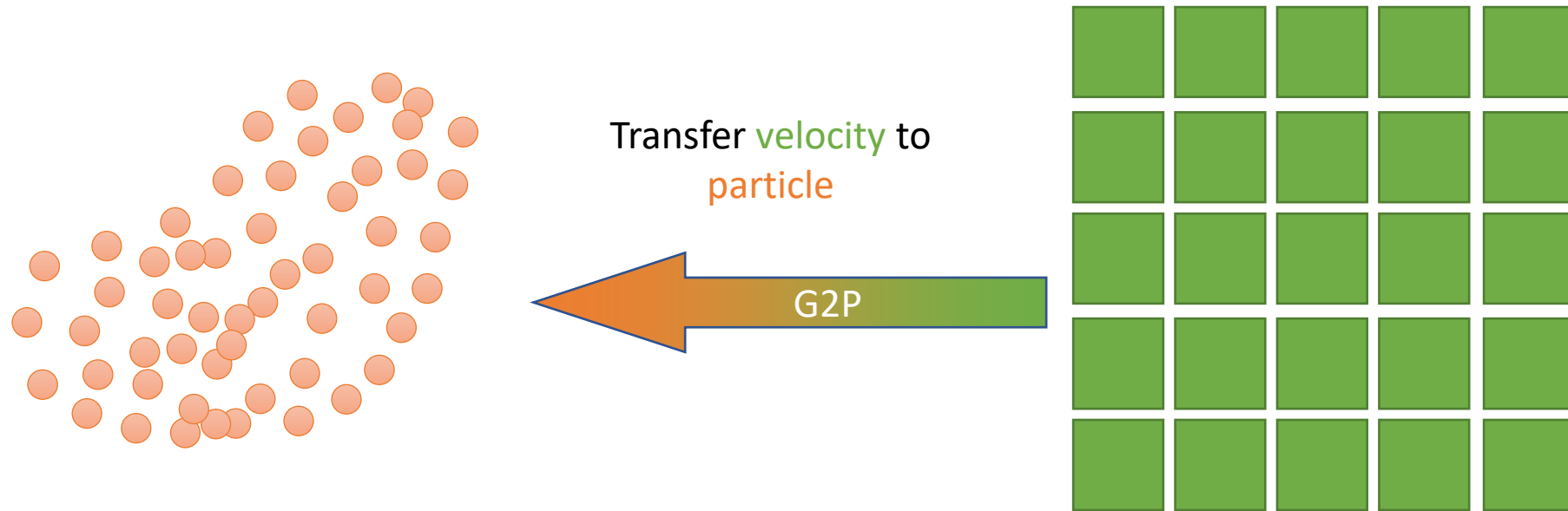
Update **velocity** using  
momentum, impulse (force) and  
mass

Update **velocity** according to  
boundary conditions

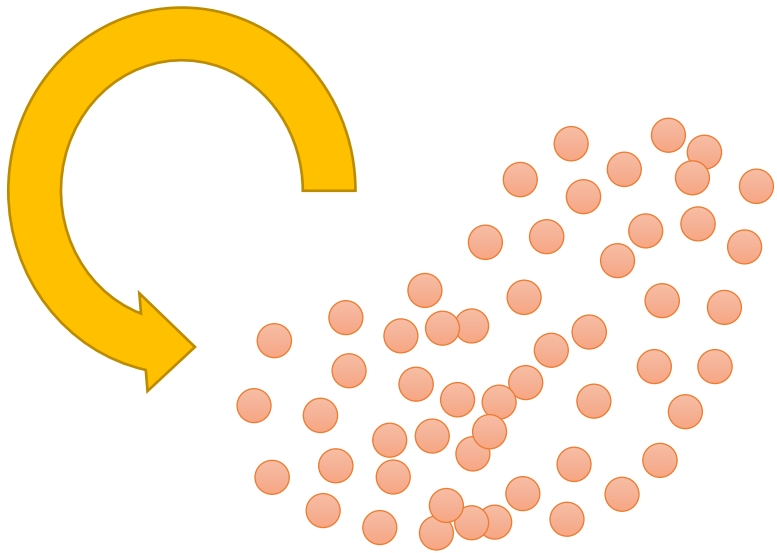




# MPM pipeline (G2P)

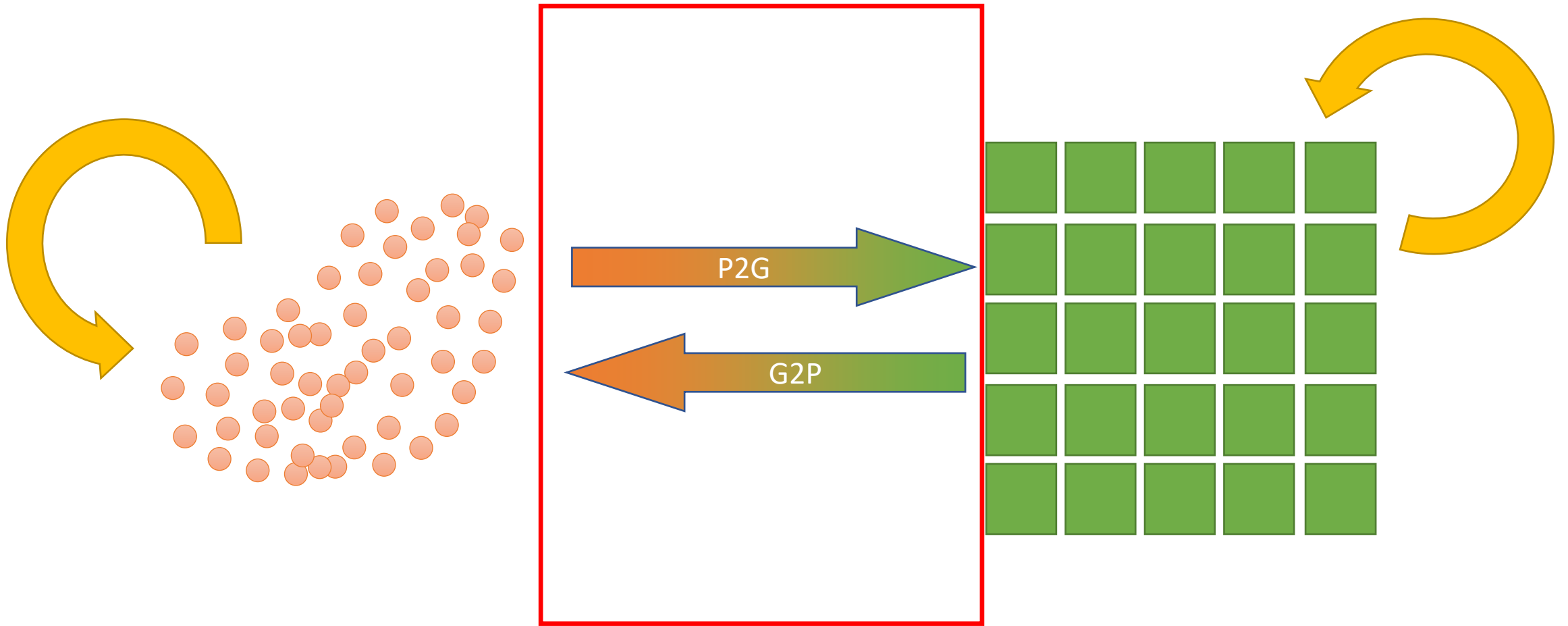


# MPM pipeline (advect)

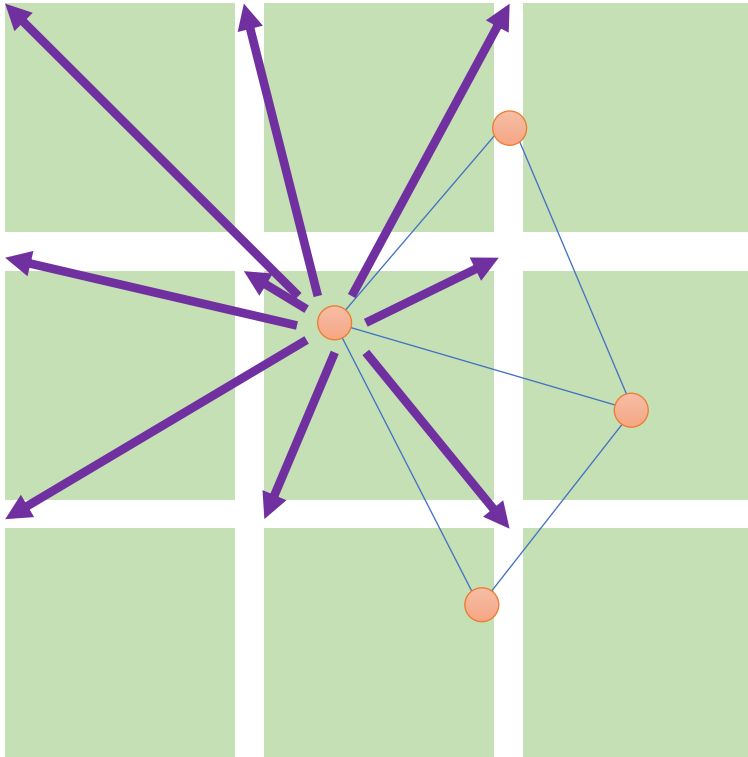


Update particle **position** using **velocity**

# MPM pipeline (MLS-MPM)

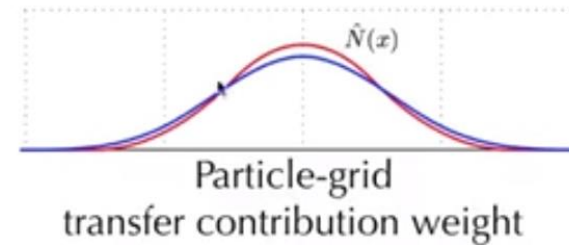


# MPM transfer P2G

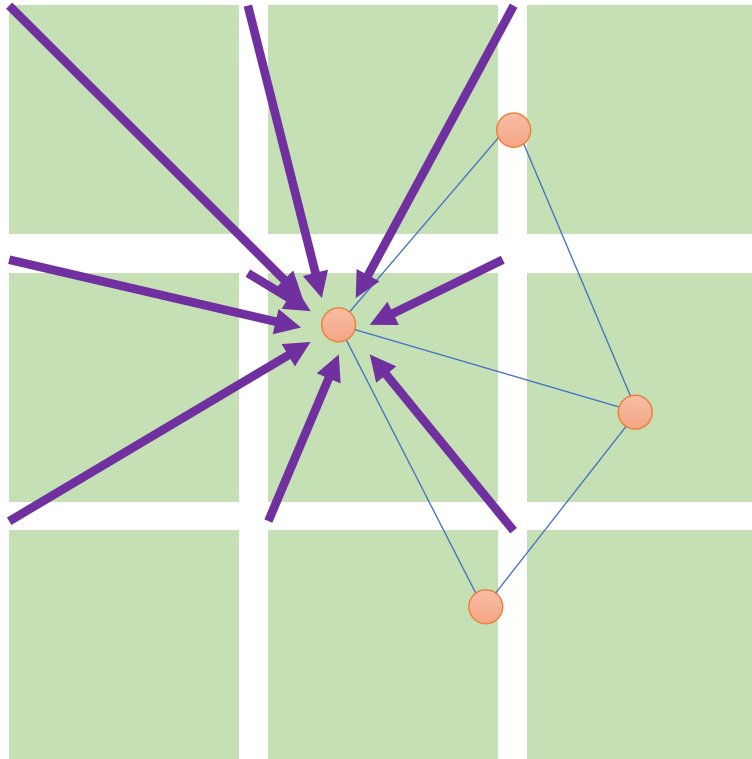


Scatter information from **particle** to **grid**

Interpolation weight is determined by a spline function (which can be linear/quadratic/cubic)

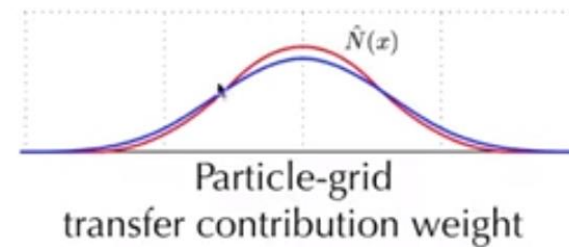


# MPM transfer G2P



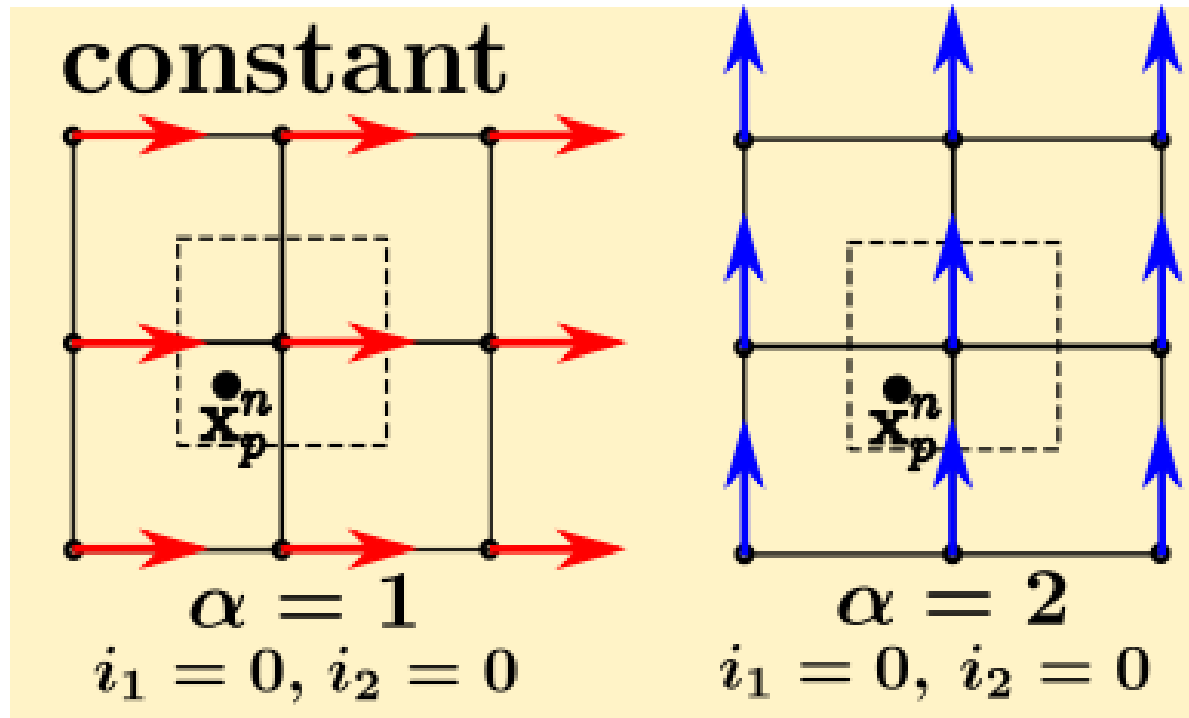
Gather information from **grid** to **particle**

Interpolation weight is determined by a spline function (which can be linear/quadratic/cubic)



# Problem of a naïve transfer (PIC)

-- Numerical damping due to loss of info.

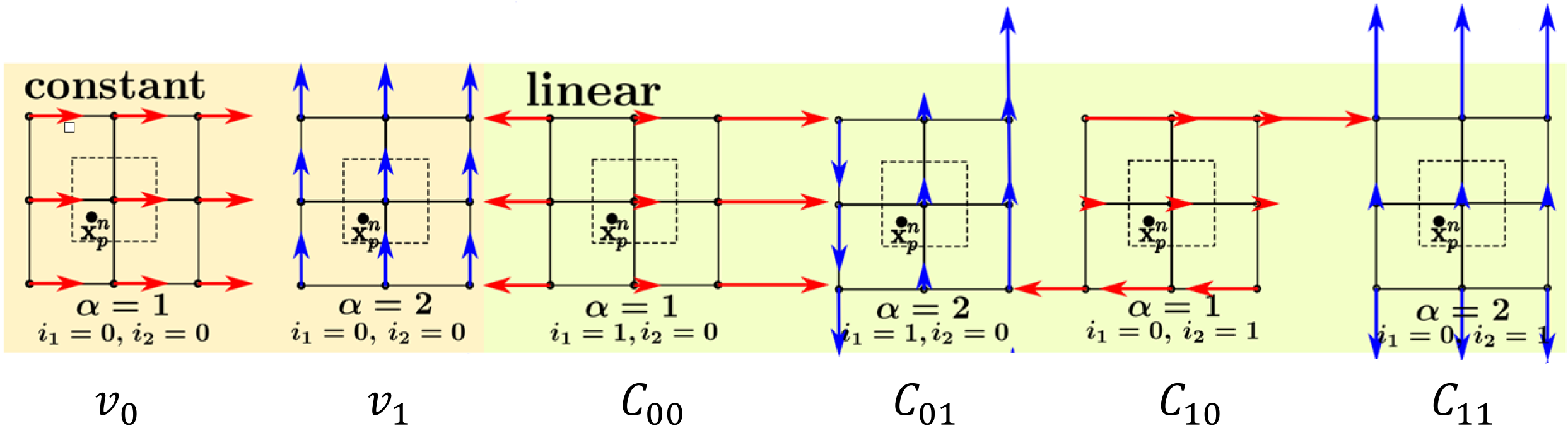


DoF on **grid**: 18

DoF on **particle**: 2

Image courtesy of [Fu et al. 2017]

# Affine-PIC (or APIC)



# MPM (example, p2g)

```
158 @ti.kernel
159 def p2g():
160     for p in x:
161         base = ti.cast(x[p] * inv_dx - 0.5, ti.i32) # floor
162         fx = x[p] * inv_dx - ti.cast(base, float)
163         w = [0.5 * (1.5 - fx)**2, 0.75 - (fx - 1)**2, 0.5 * (fx - 0.5)**2] # quadratic interpolation function
164         affine = m * C[p]
165         # 3x3 grid around that particle p
166         for i in ti.static(range(3)):
167             for j in ti.static(range(3)):
168                 I = ti.Vector([i, j])
169                 dpos = (float(I) - fx) * dx
170                 weight = w[i].x * w[j].y
171                 grid_v[base + I] += weight * (m * v[p] - grad[p]*dh + affine @ dpos) #APIC
172                 grid_m[base + I] += weight * m
```

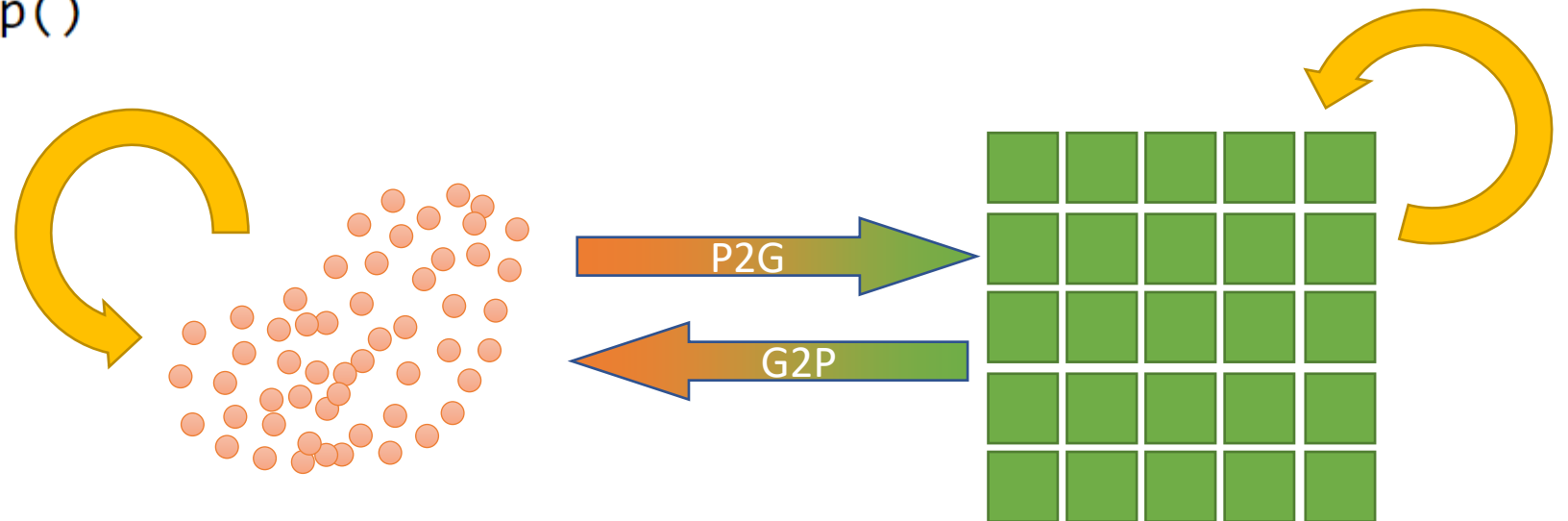


# MPM (example, g2p)

```
174 @ti.kernel
175 def g2p():
176     for p in x:
177         base = ti.cast(x[p] * inv_dx - 0.5, ti.i32)
178         fx = x[p] * inv_dx - float(base)
179         w = [0.5 * (1.5 - fx)**2, 0.75 - (fx - 1.0)**2, 0.5 * (fx - 0.5)**2]
180         new_v = ti.Vector([0.0, 0.0])
181         new_C = ti.Matrix([[0.0, 0.0], [0.0, 0.0]])
182
183         # gather information back from 3x3 grid around
184         for i in ti.static(range(3)):
185             for j in ti.static(range(3)):
186                 I = ti.Vector([i, j])
187                 dpos = float(I) - fx
188                 g_v = grid_v[base + I]
189                 weight = w[i].x * w[j].y
190                 new_v += weight * g_v
191                 new_C += 4 * weight * g_v.outer_product(dpos) * inv_dx #APIC
192
193         C[p] = new_C # affine transformation matrix for particle p
194
195         # symplectic integration for particles
196         v[p] = new_v
197         x[p] += dh * v[p]
```

# MPM (example, full integration)

```
293 | | | grid_m.fill(0)  
294 | | | grid_v.fill(0)  
295 | | | compute_gradient()  
296 | | | p2g()  
297 | | | grid_op()  
298 | | | g2p()
```

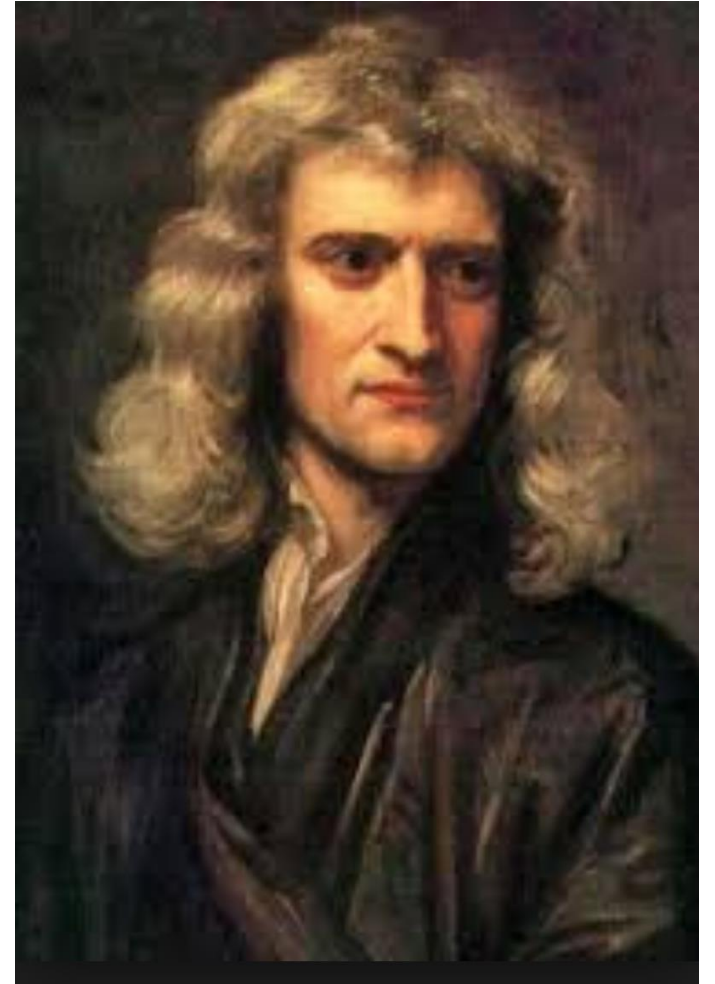


# Remark

- Equations of motion
- Integration in time
- Describing deformation
  - A simple (but useful) model: mass-spring system
  - Constitutive models
- Spatial discretization
  - Finite element method
  - Material point method

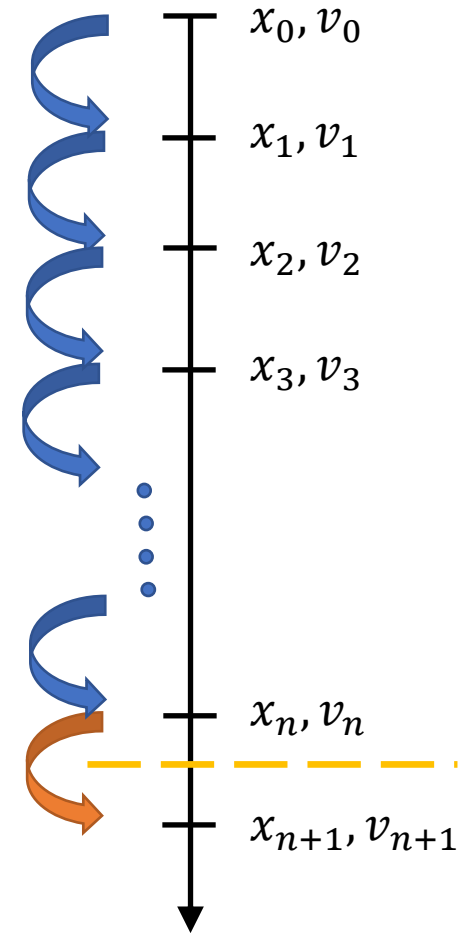
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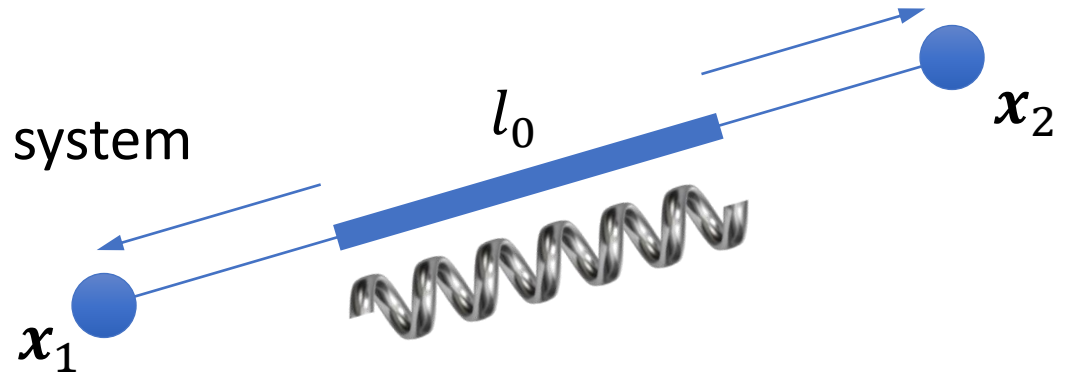
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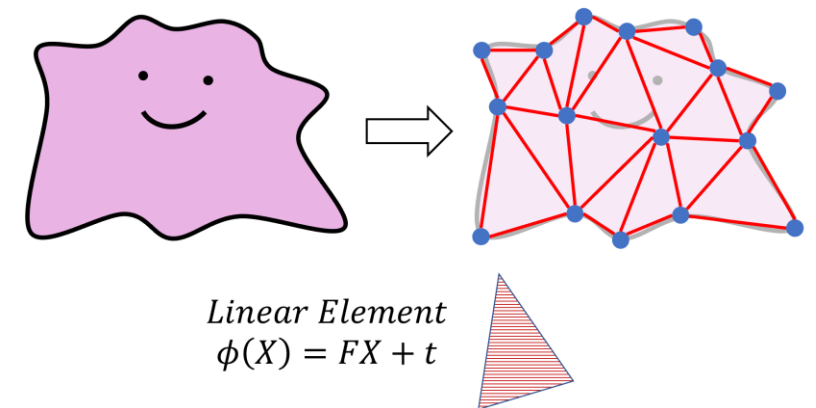
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 $\phi$  $F$  $\epsilon$  $\Psi(\epsilon(F))$  $P$

# Remark

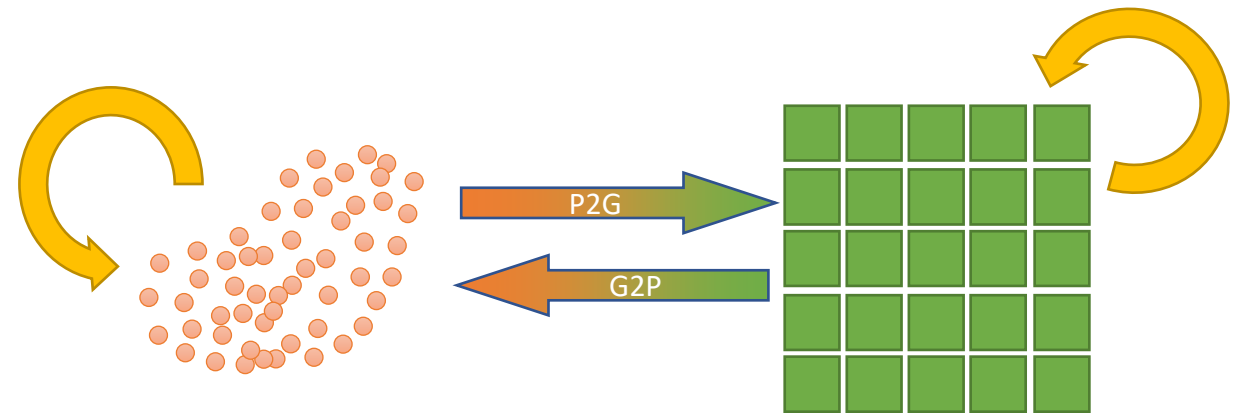
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# Magic links

- Courses

- Real Time Physics [SIGGRAPH 2008 Course] [link](#)
- Finite Element Method [SIGGRAPH 2012 Course] [link](#)
- Material Point Method [SIGGRAPH 2016 Course] [link](#)
- 高级物理引擎实战指南2020 [GAMES 201] [link](#)

