

# Physically-based Animation

Bo Zhu

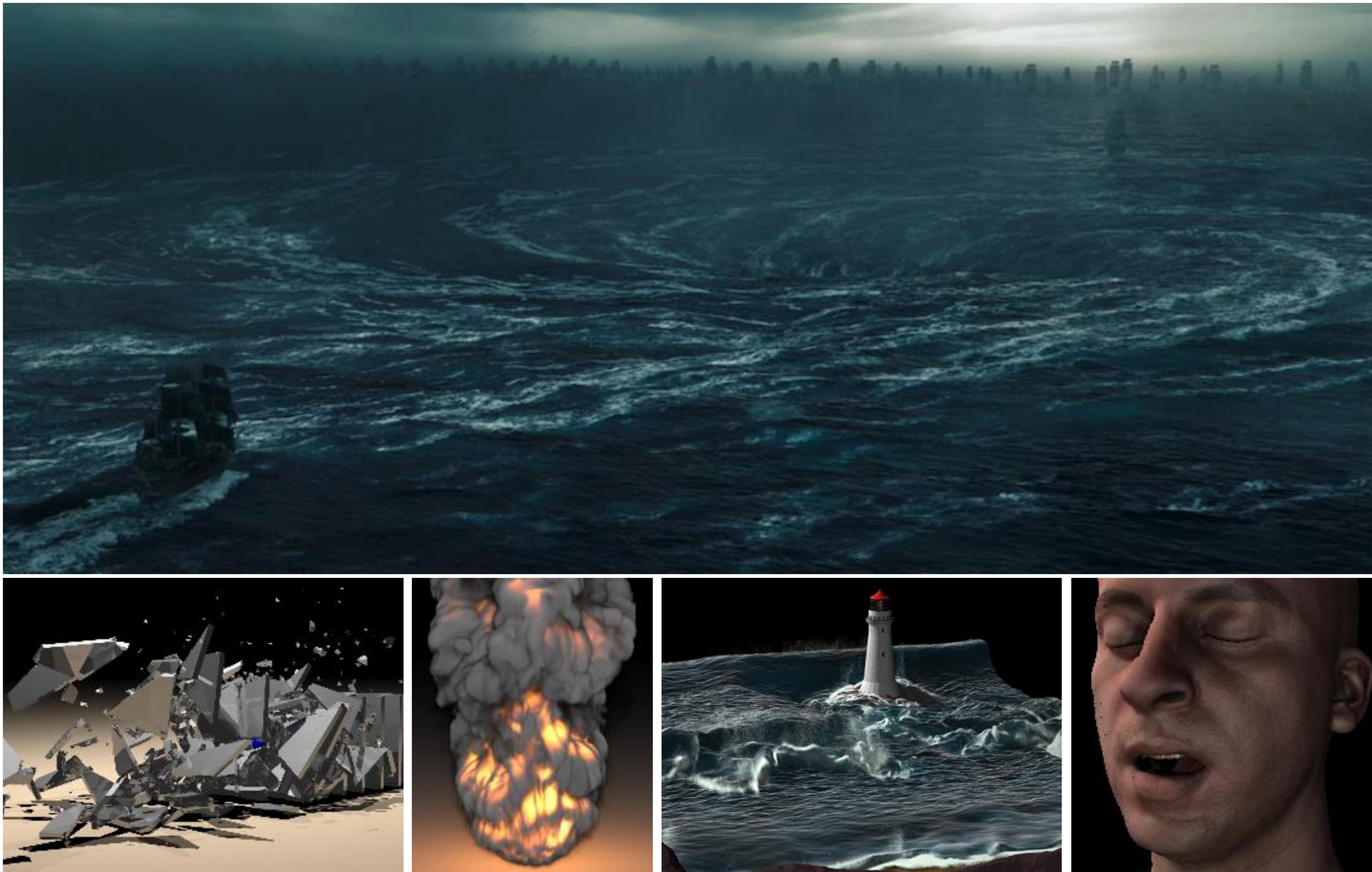
School of Interactive Computing  
Georgia Institute of Technology





Motivational Video: Pirates of the Caribbean

# CG Tech behind the Maelstrom of Pirates of the Caribbean



Prof. Ronald Fedkiw's research group at Stanford developed a physics simulation engine **PhysBAM** that simulates the complex physics effects in many Hollywood movies --- including the maelstrom of Pirates of the Caribbean



# Physics in Everywhere in the World of Computer Graphics



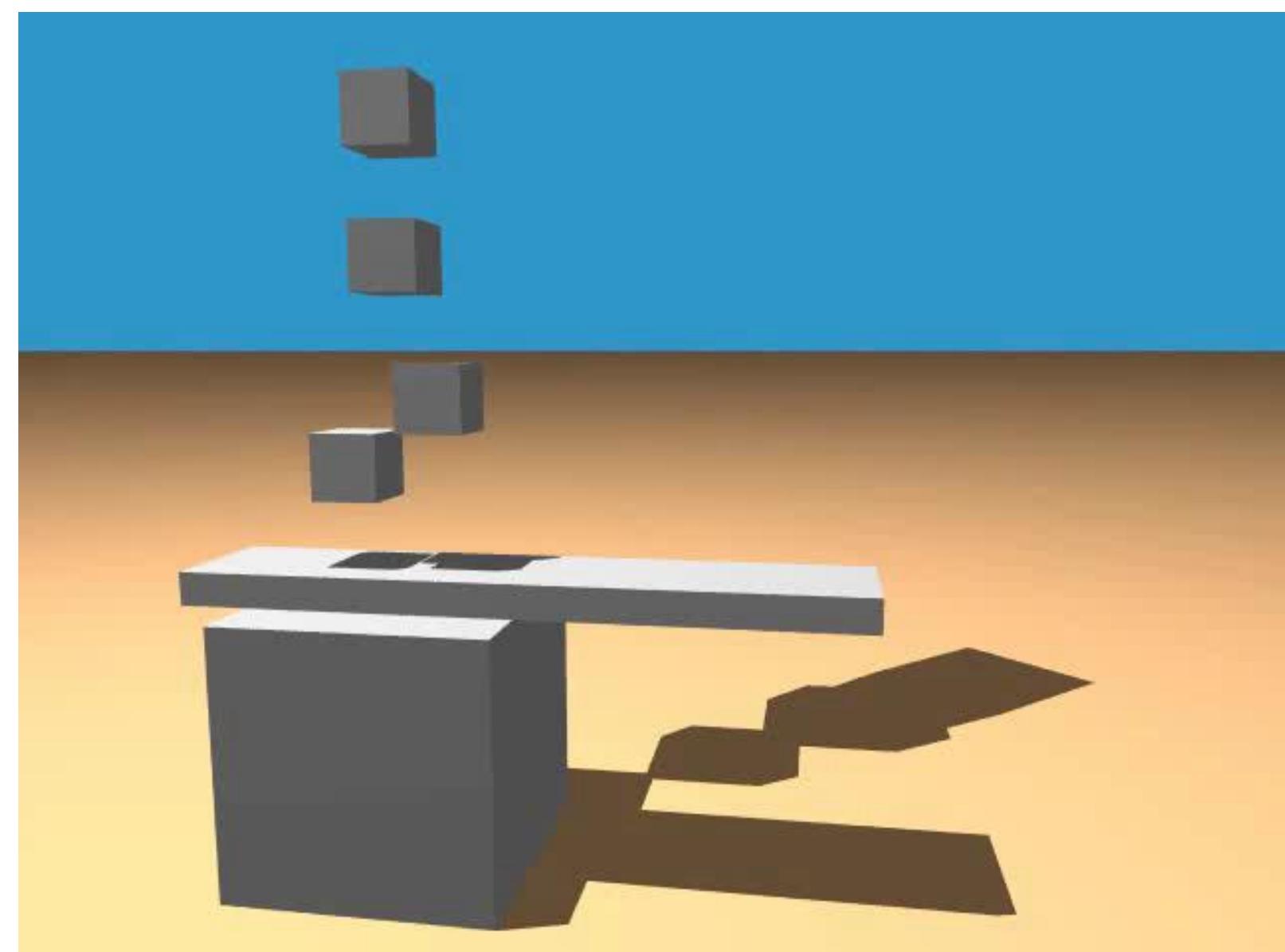
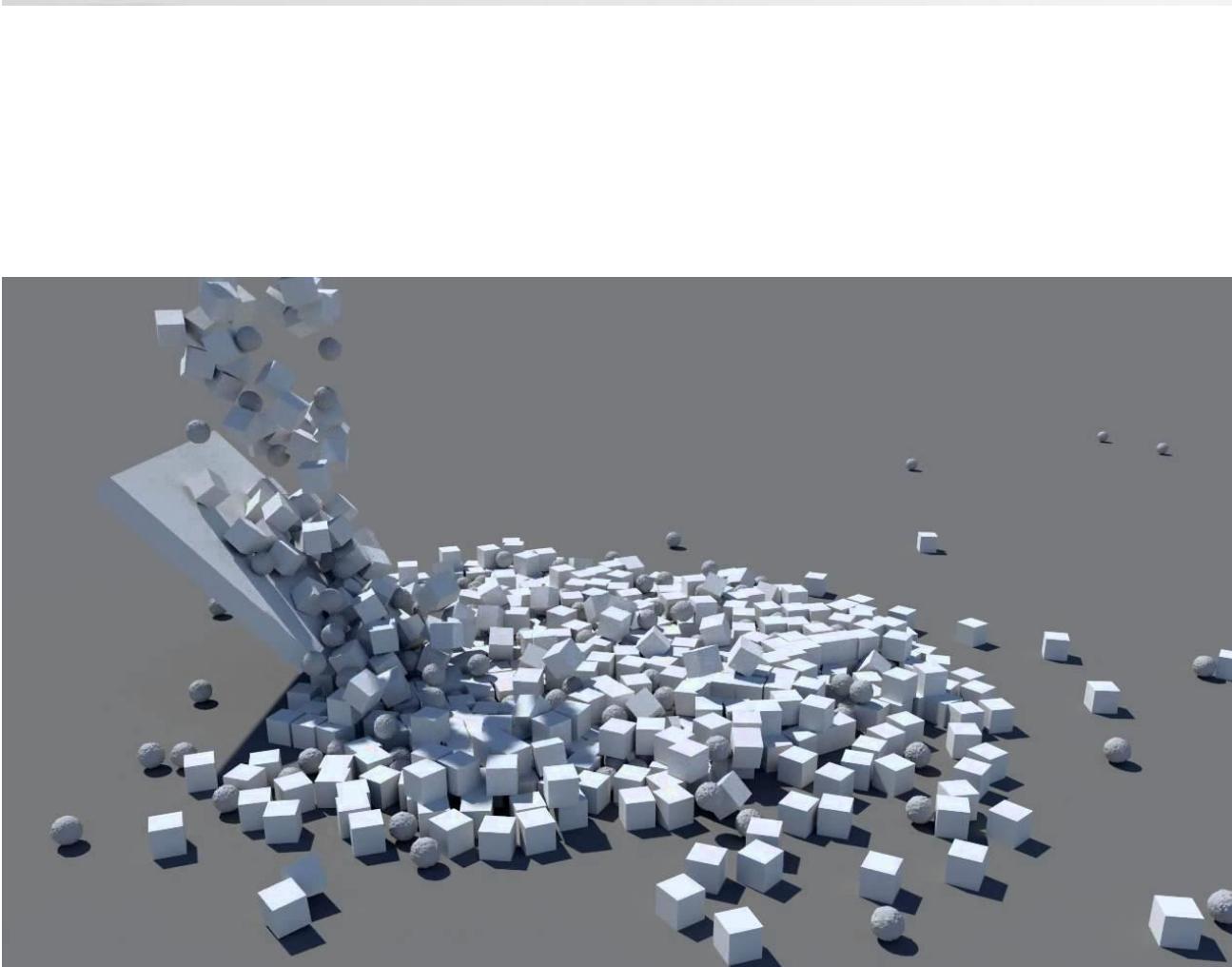
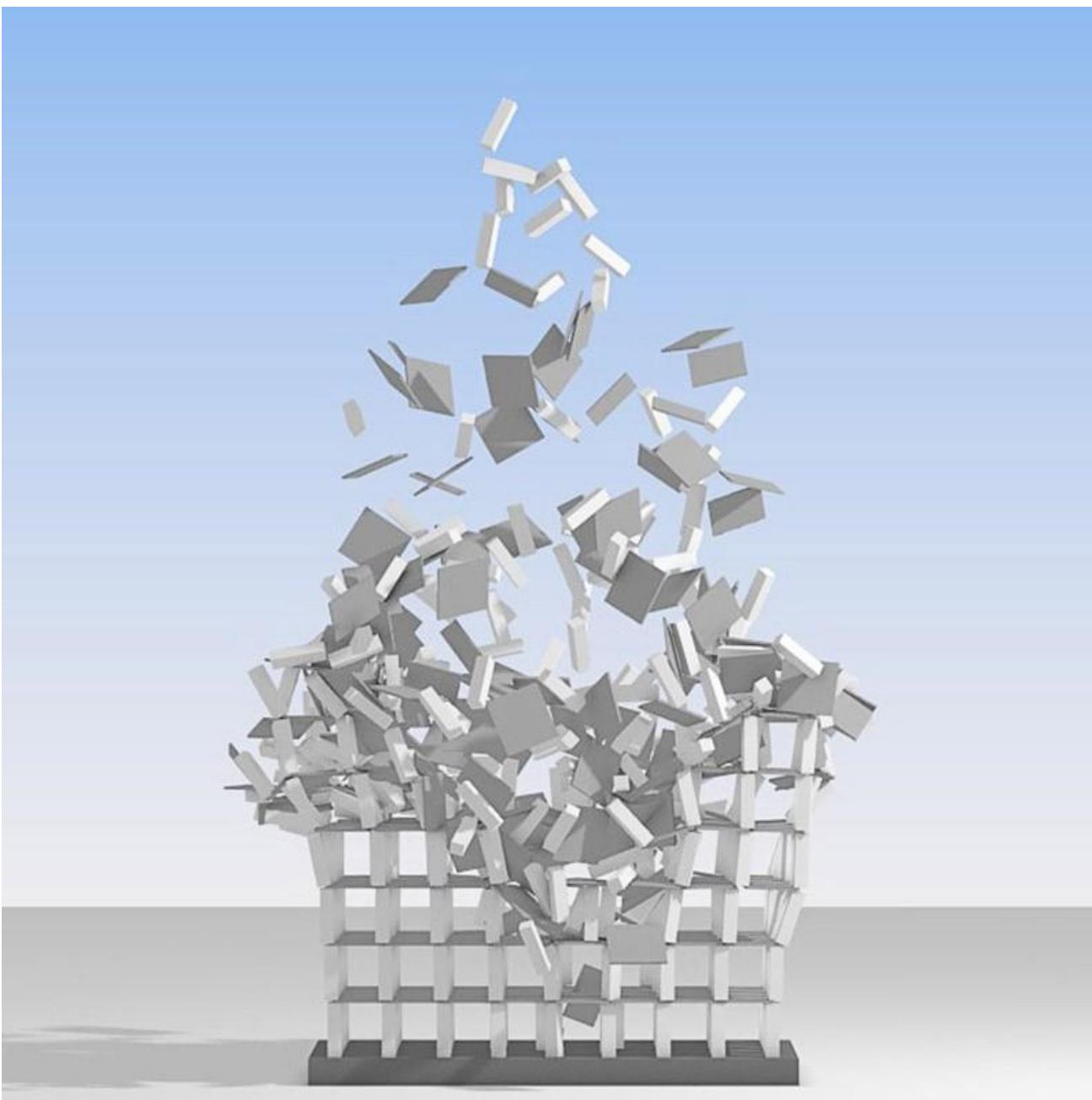
# Physical System Overview



# Rigid Body

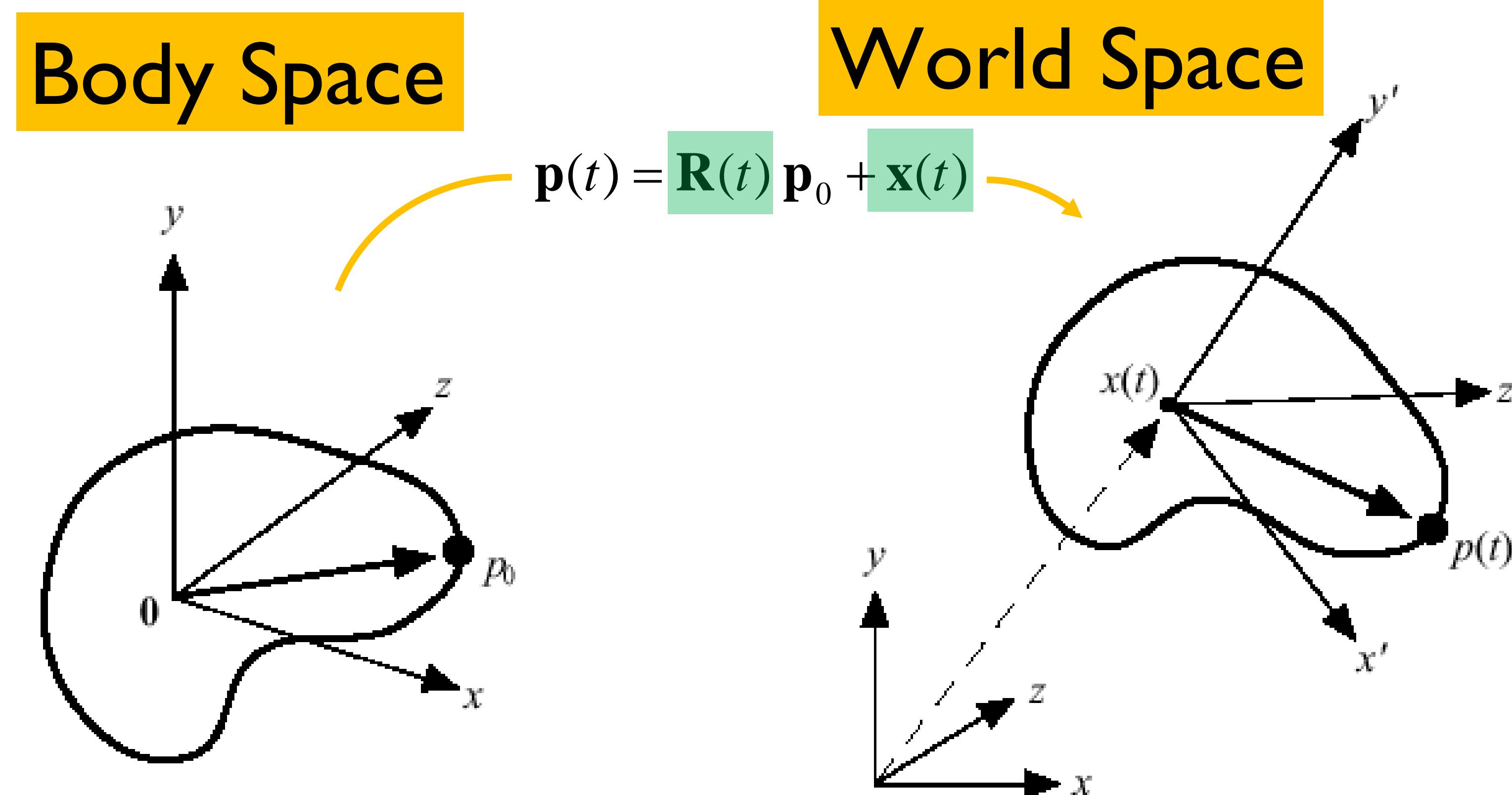
---

- Solid that **does not deform** its shape during simulation
- Motion can be described with translation and rotation
- Interactions among objects (collision and contact) need to be handled
- Typically many objects are simulated at the same time

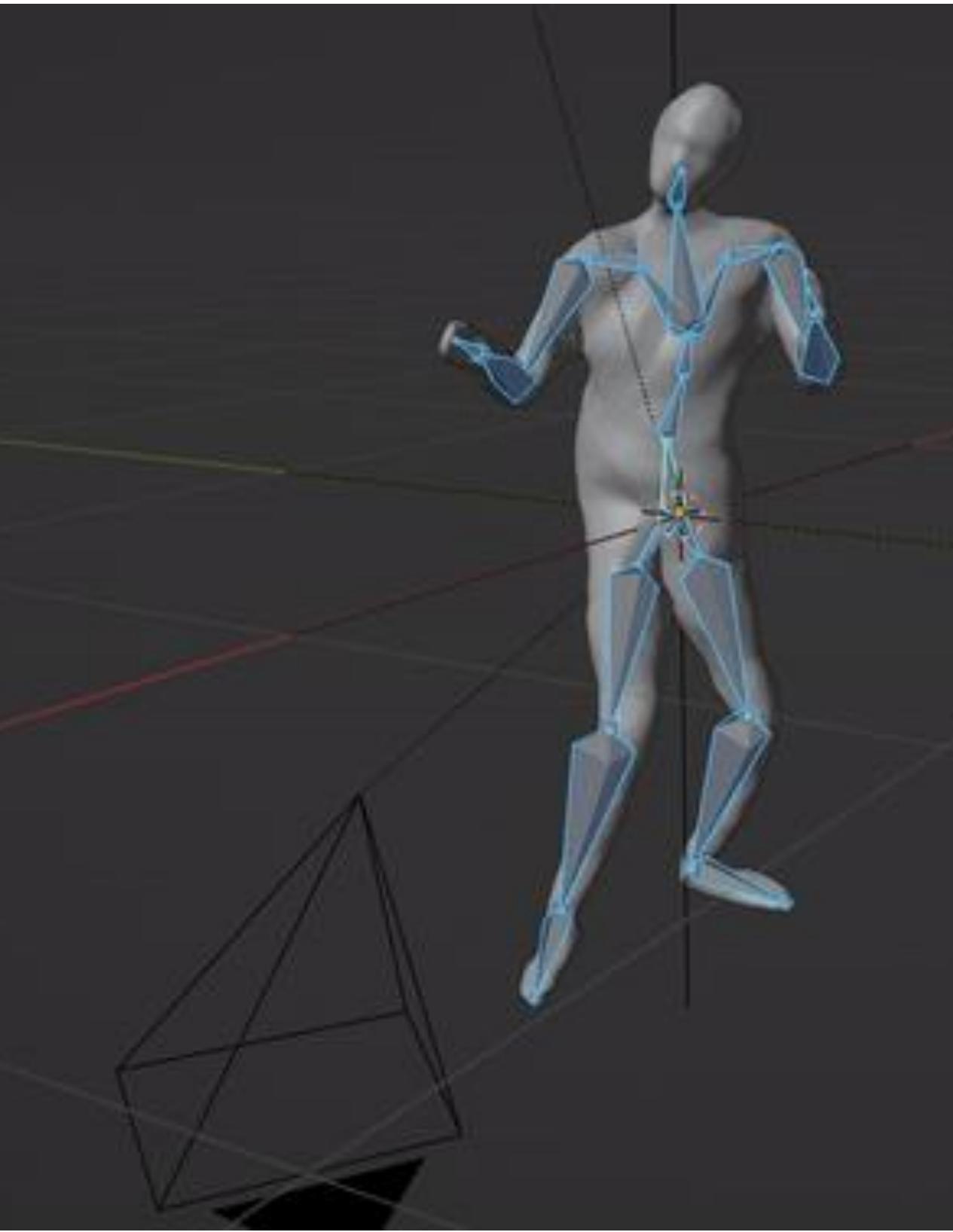
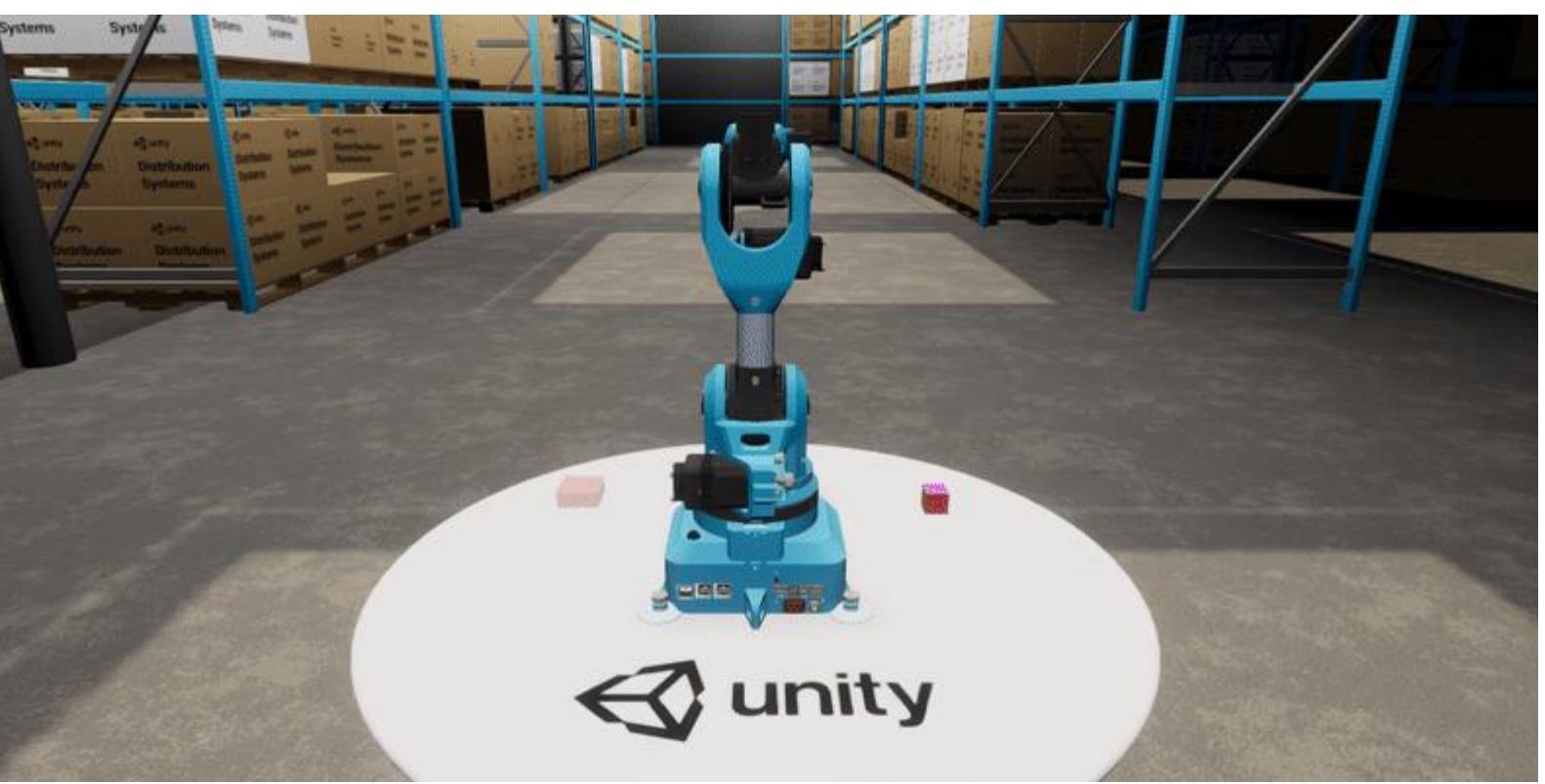


# Mathematical Model of Rigid Bodies

- A rigid body is defined by its **mass center (position)** and **orientation**: in each time, we calculate velocity and angular velocity to update its mass center and orientation

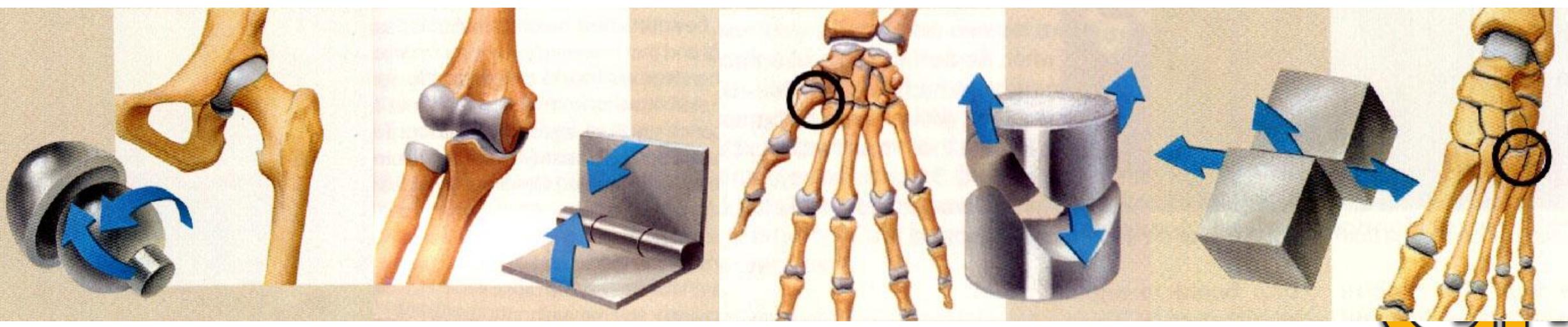






# Articulated Bodies

- Rigid-body pieces connected by joints
- Joints serve as constraints in simulation

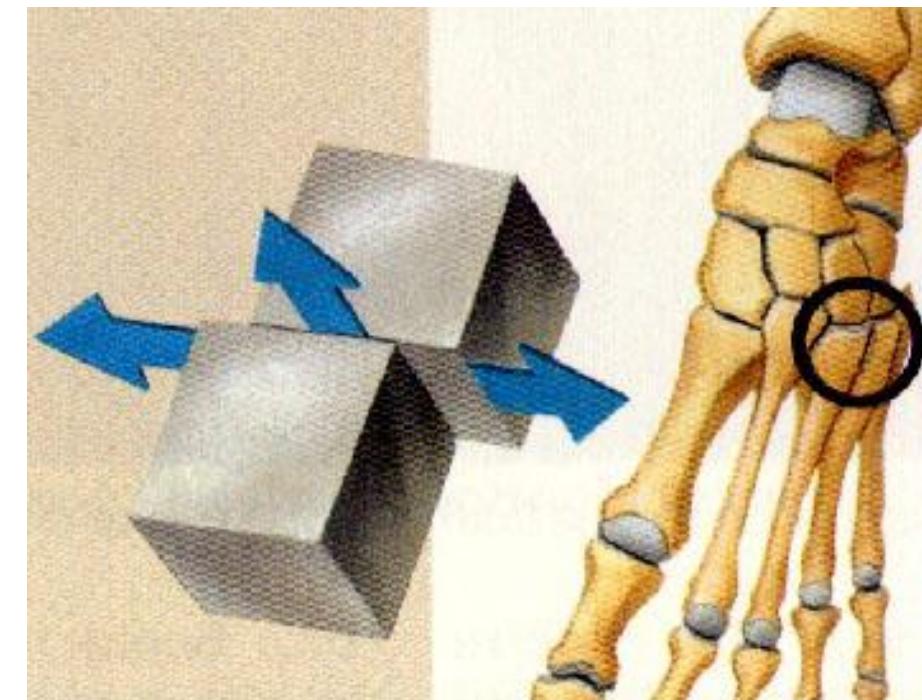


# Mathematical Model of Articulated Bodies

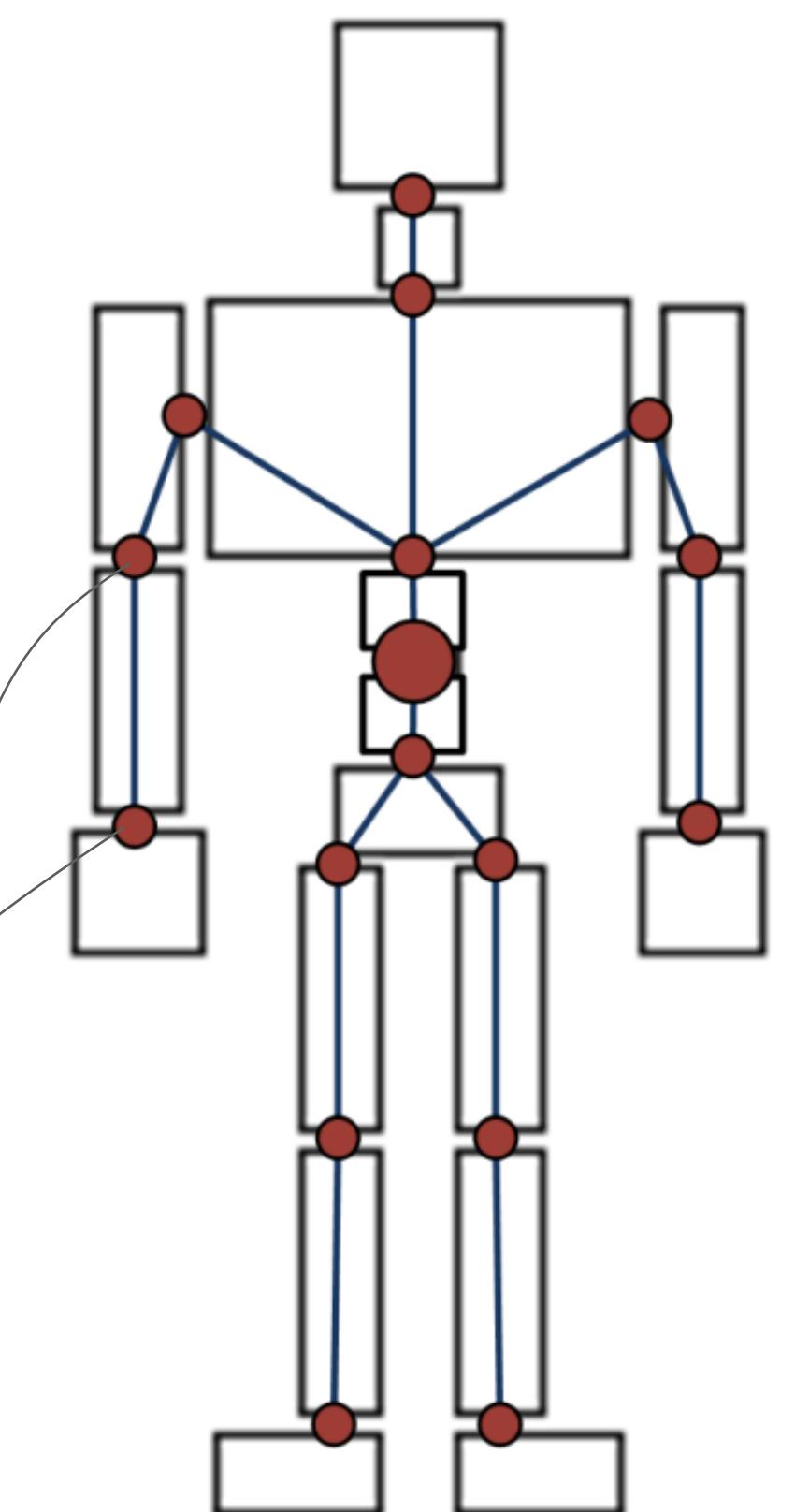
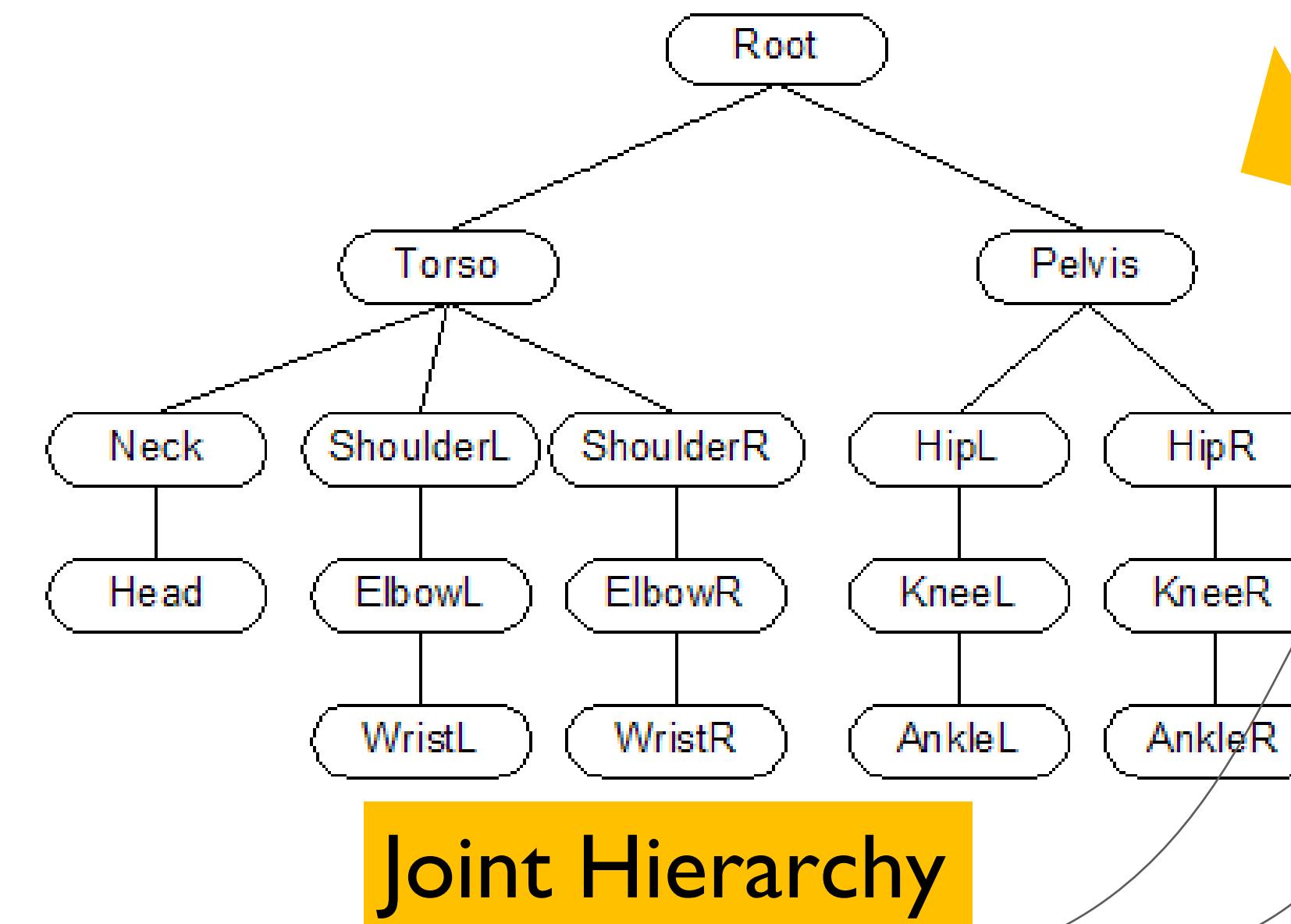
- Articulated bodies are connected together by a number of joints
- Each joint has a specific type of constraint
- All joints are organized in a hierarchy



Hinge Joint



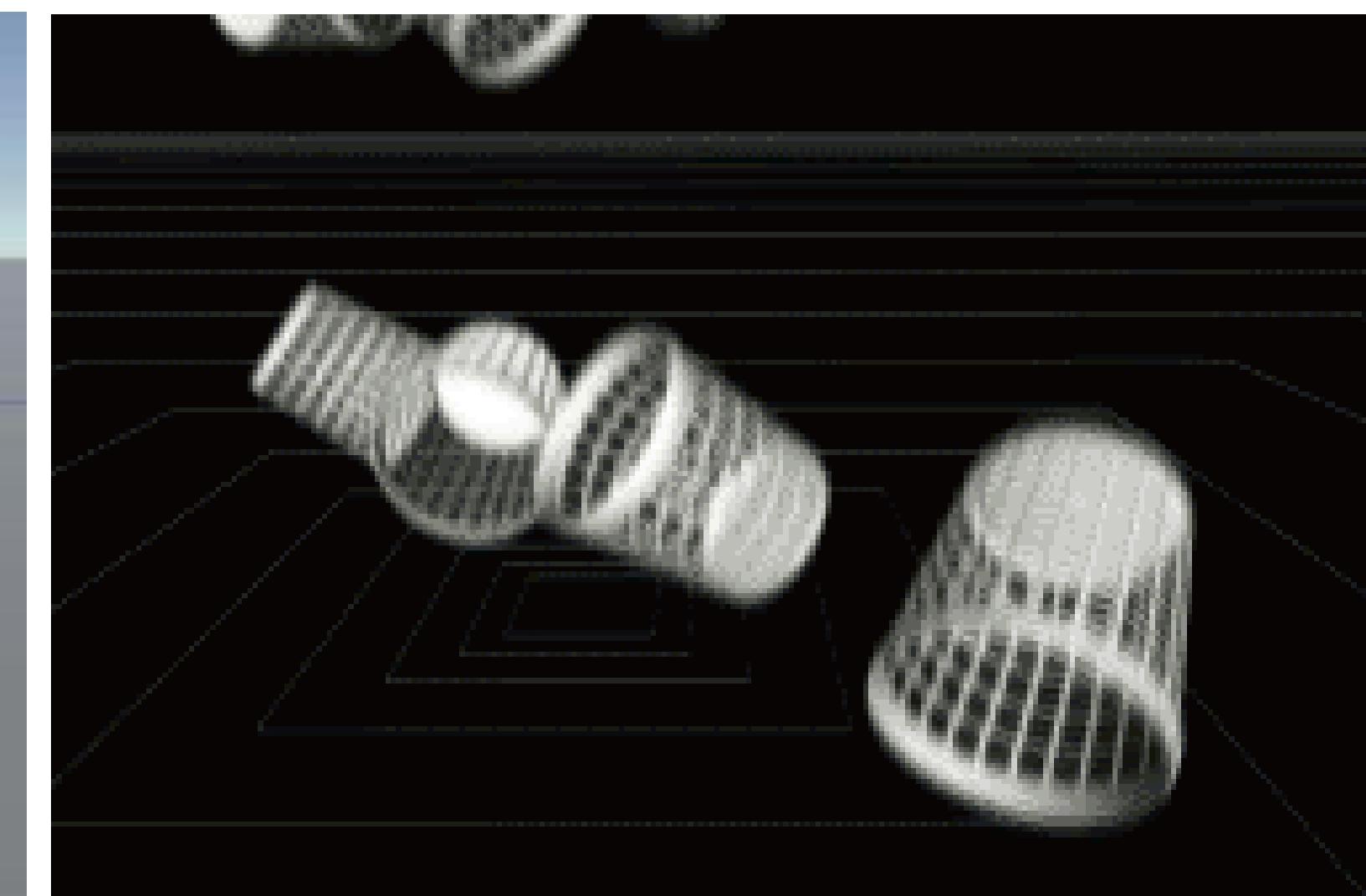
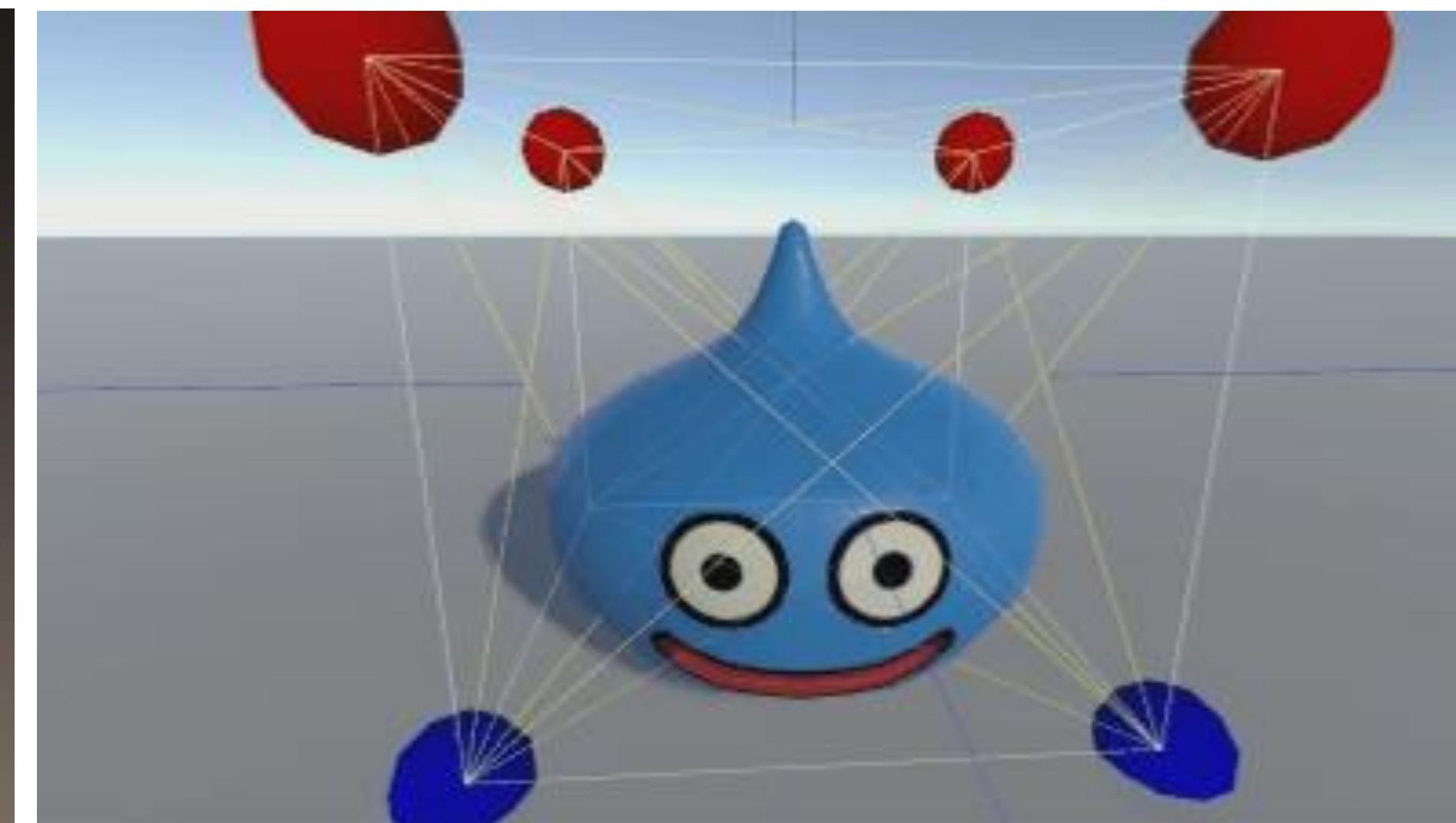
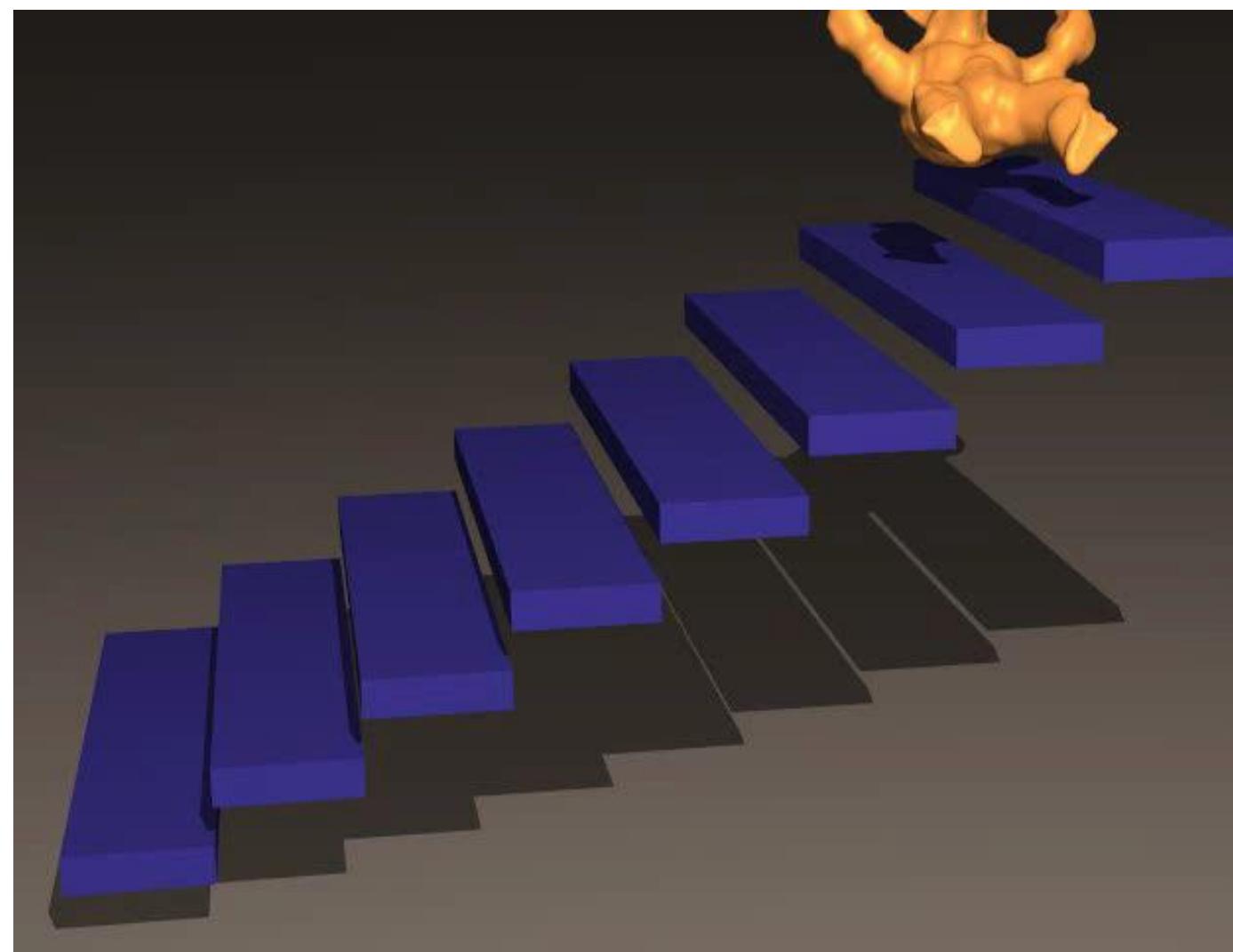
Sliding Joint





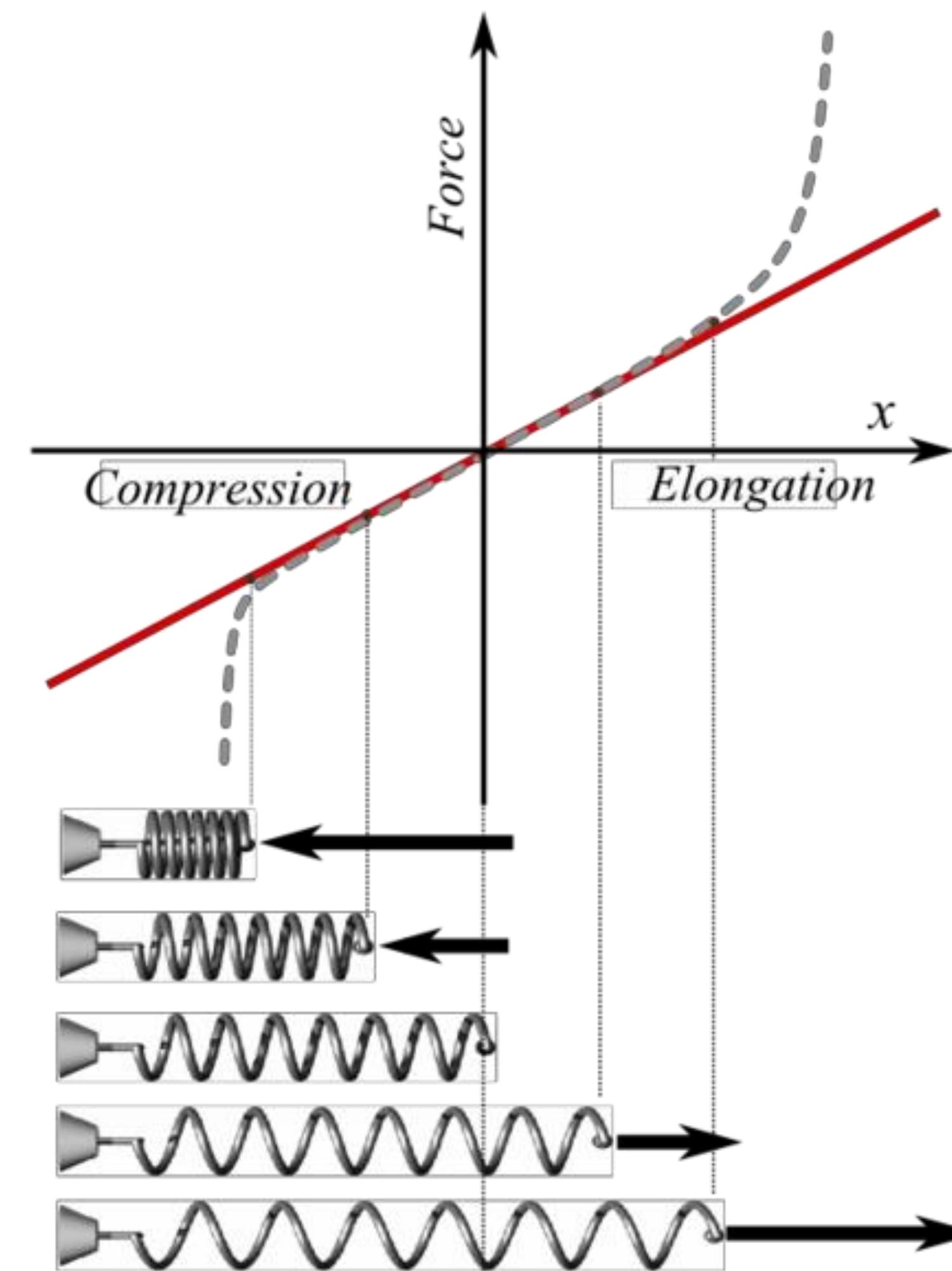
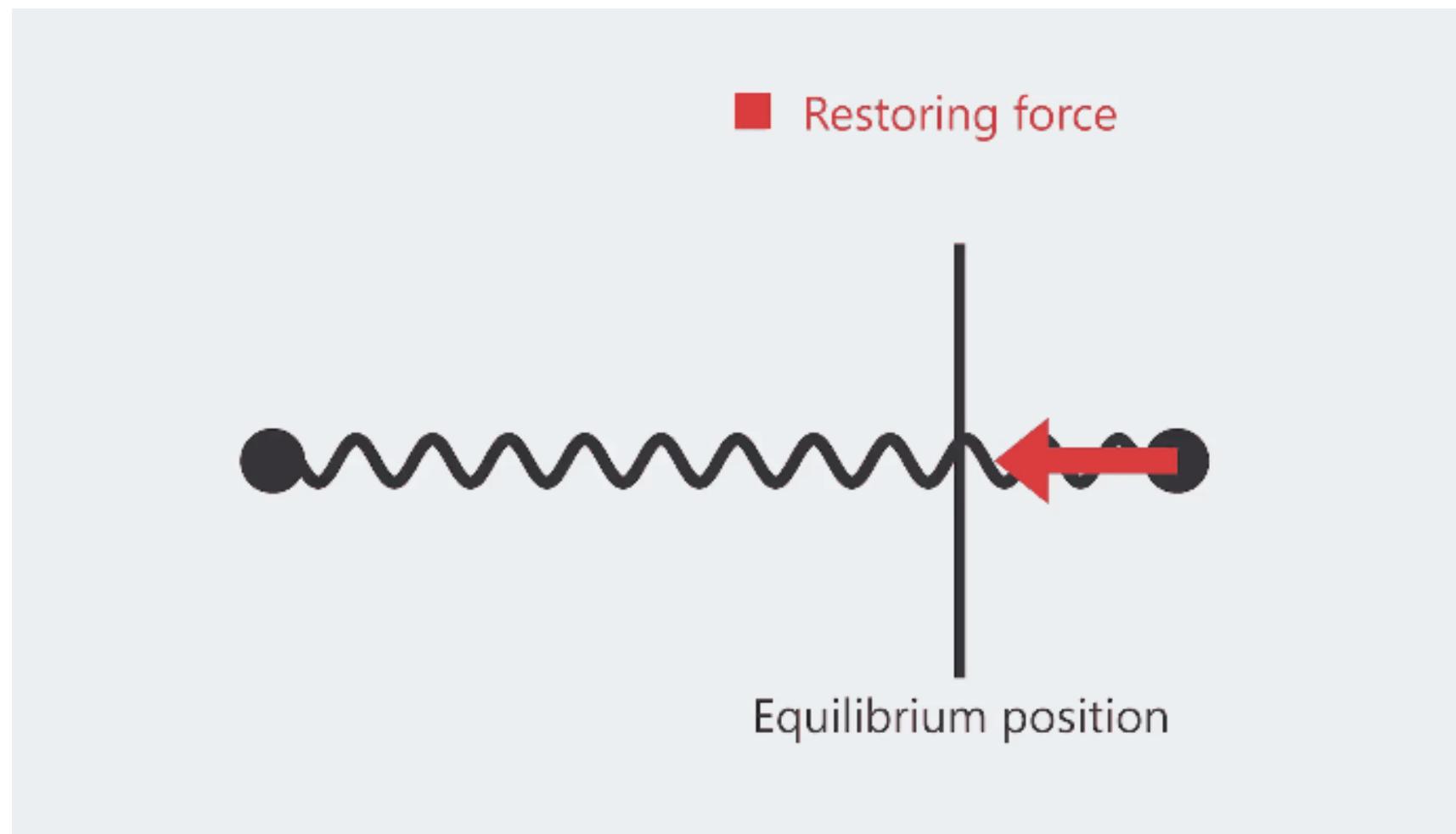
# Soft Body

- Solid that deforms its shape while being acted on by external forces
- Motion needs to be described with many degrees of freedom Interactions among objects
- Different material properties can be simulated
- Many engineering methods such as finite elements (FEM) are used in graphical simulations

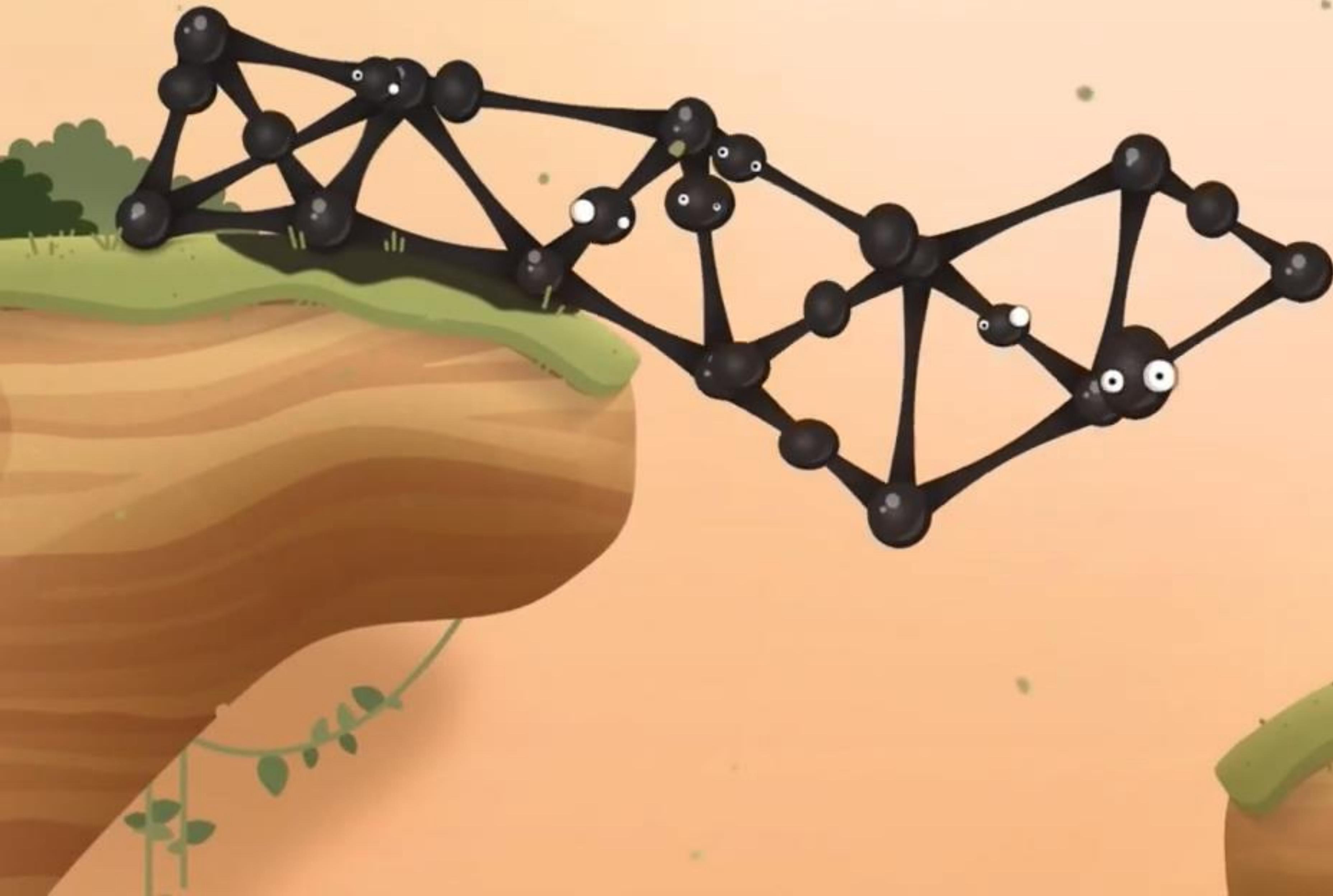


# Mathematical Model of Soft Bodies

- A deformable object can be modeled as a set of particles connected by a set of springs  
**(Mass-Spring Model)**
- $f_{spring} = -kx$

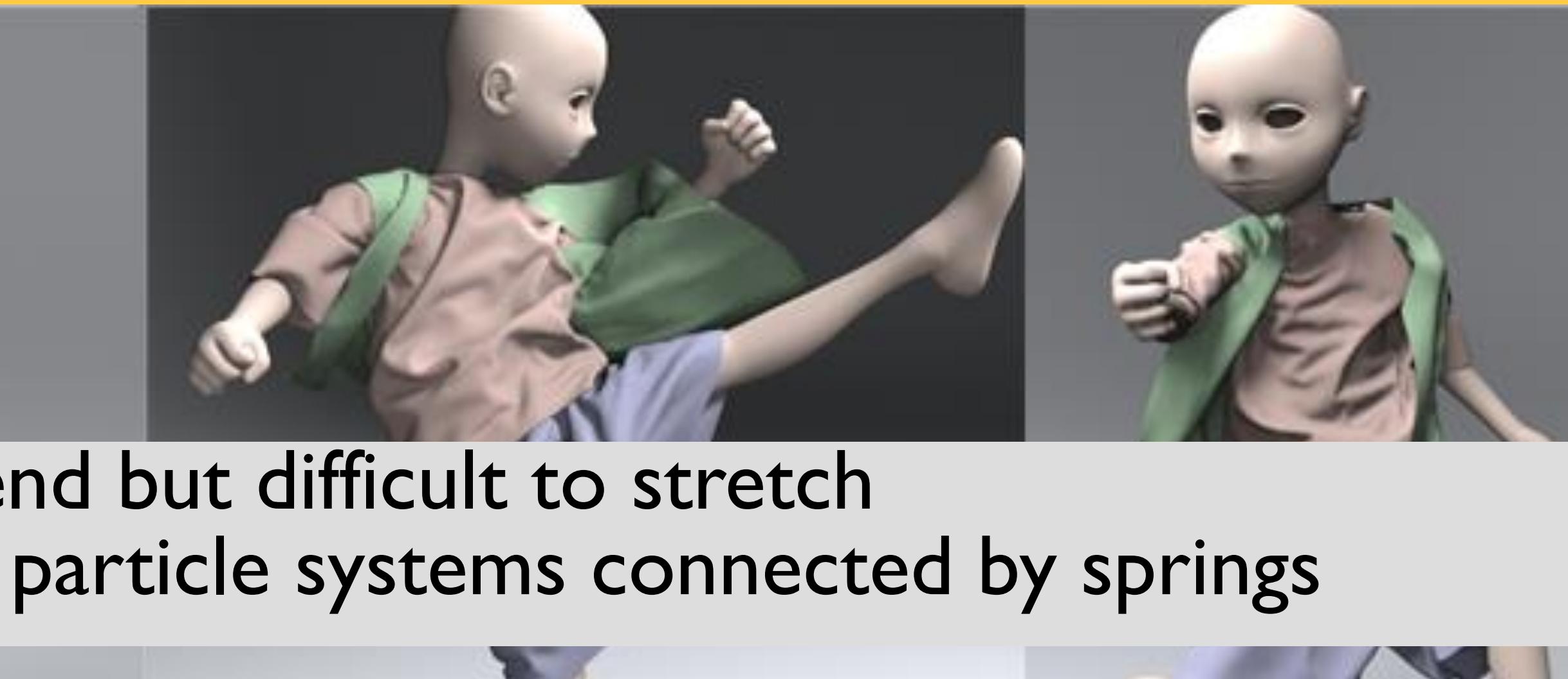
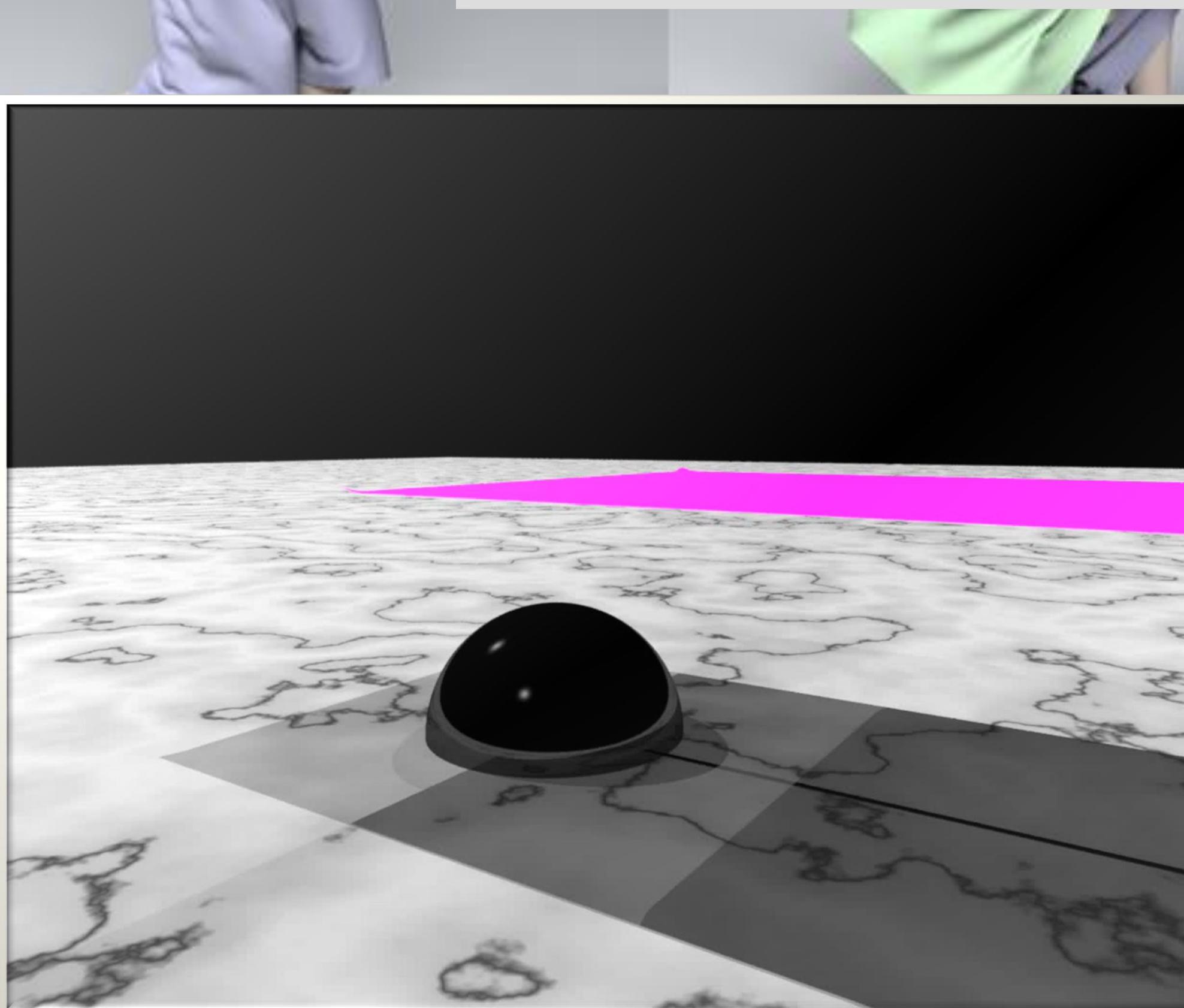


#THEGAMEAWARDS



# Cloth

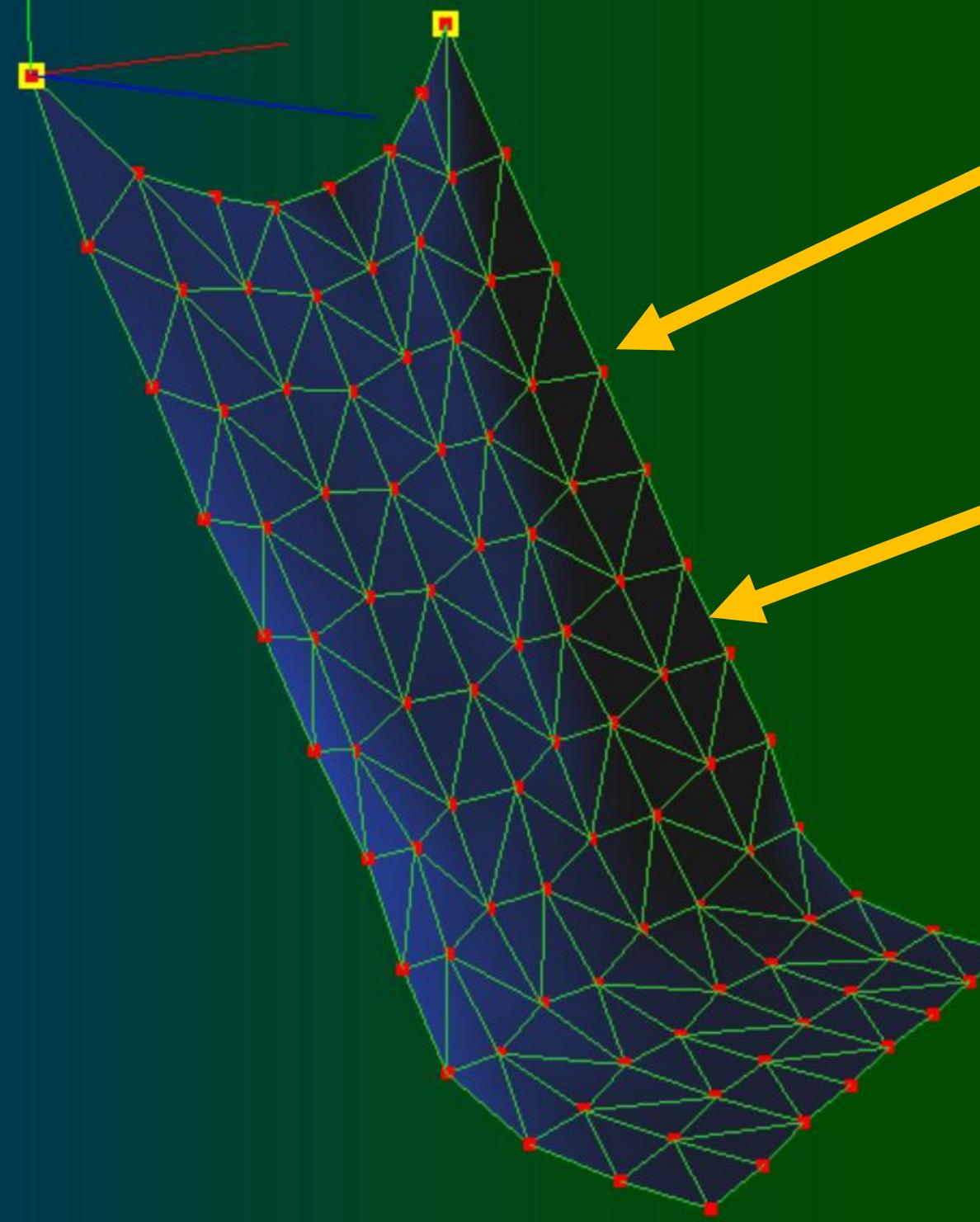
- Solid pieces that can bend but difficult to stretch
- Typically simulated as a particle systems connected by springs



Interactive Cloth Simulation

Everything you see was recorded in realtime with live user interaction.

A screenshot of an interactive cloth simulation interface featuring a character in a brown dress, a grid of preview images, and a purple ribbon icon.



# Mathematical Model of Cloth

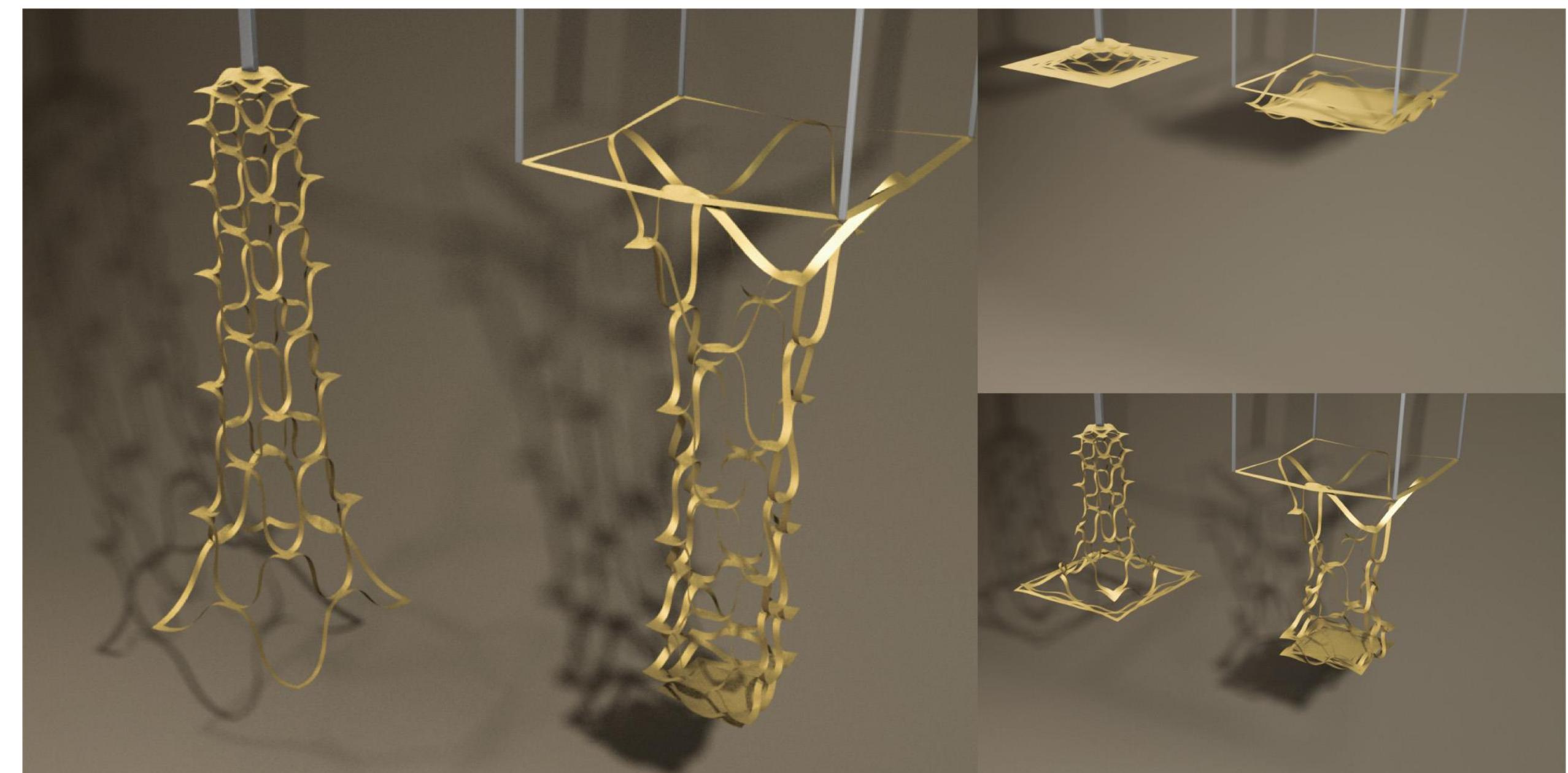
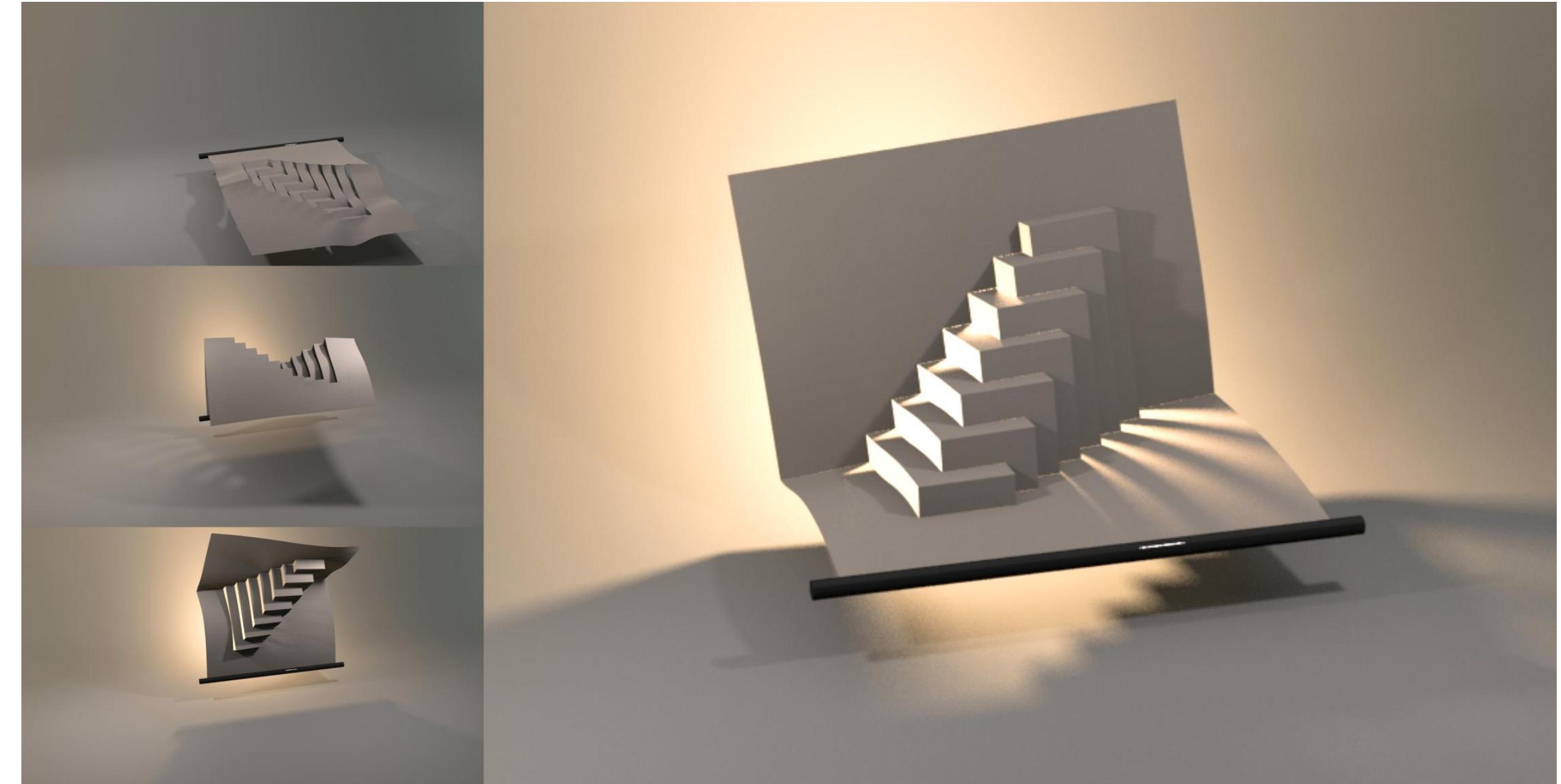
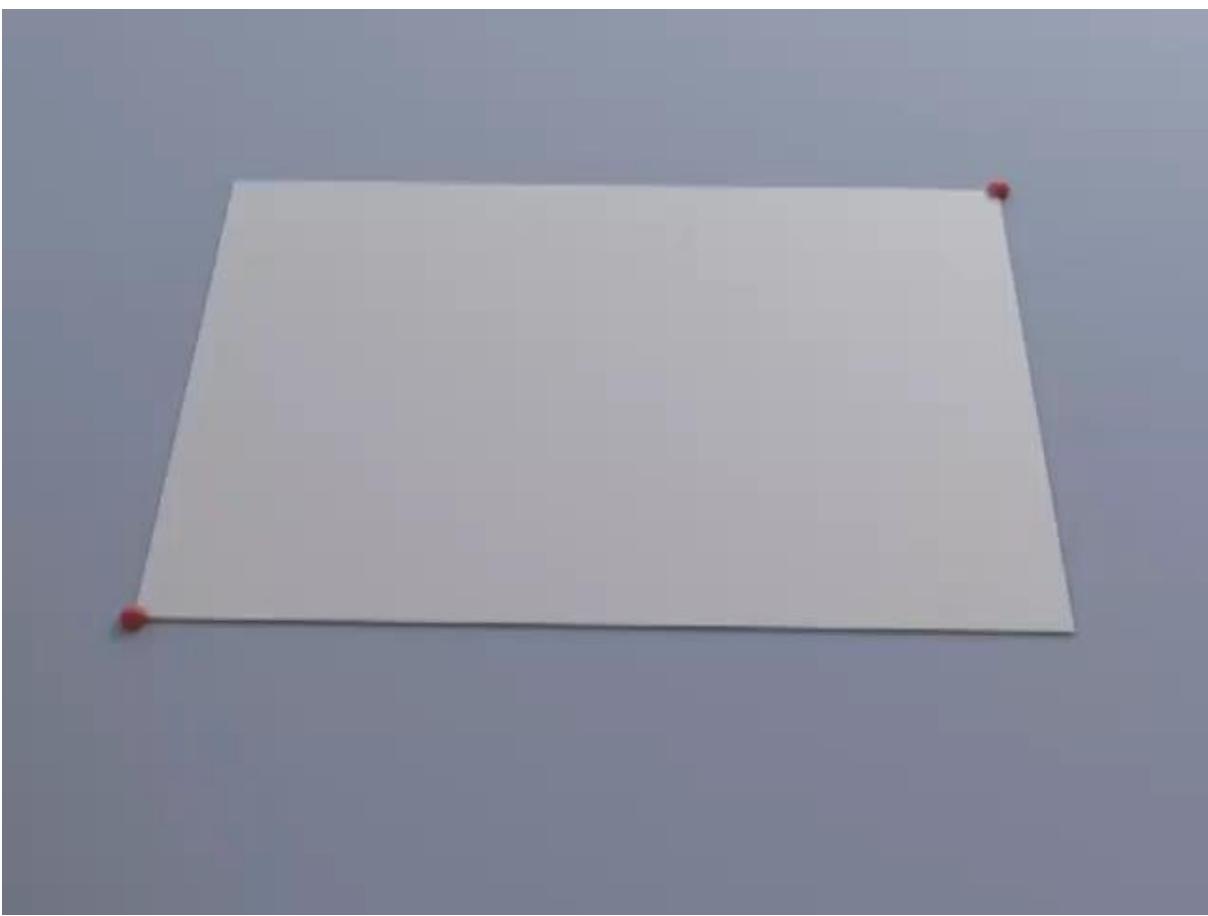
- A piece of cloth can be modeled as a **mass-spring model on a triangle mesh**
- The mesh **vertices** as particles and mesh **edges** as springs
- We usually have two types of springs to handle **stretching** and **bending** in separate





# Paper

- Paper does not stretch (like cloth) but easy to bend and fold ceases (unlike cloth)

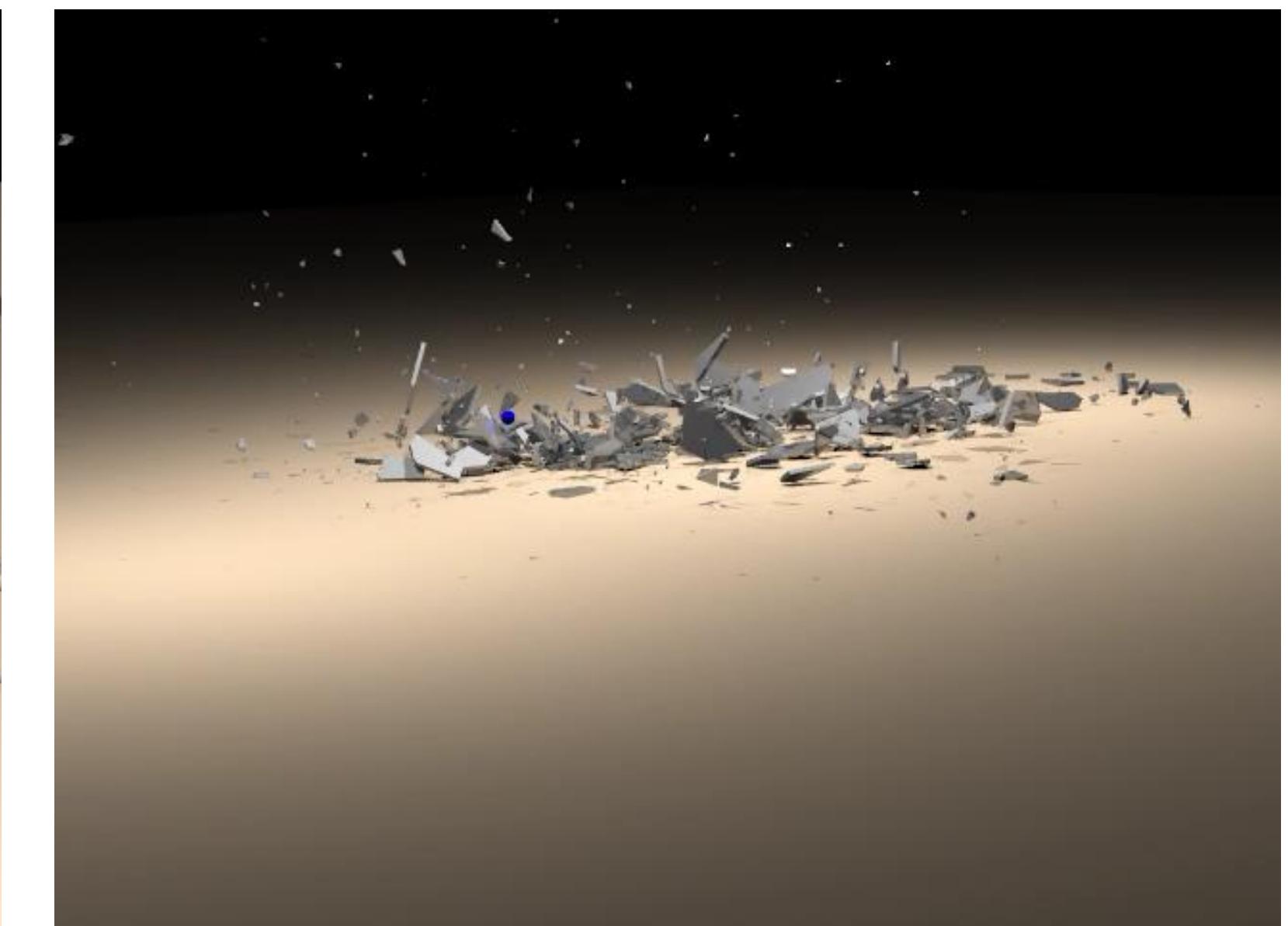
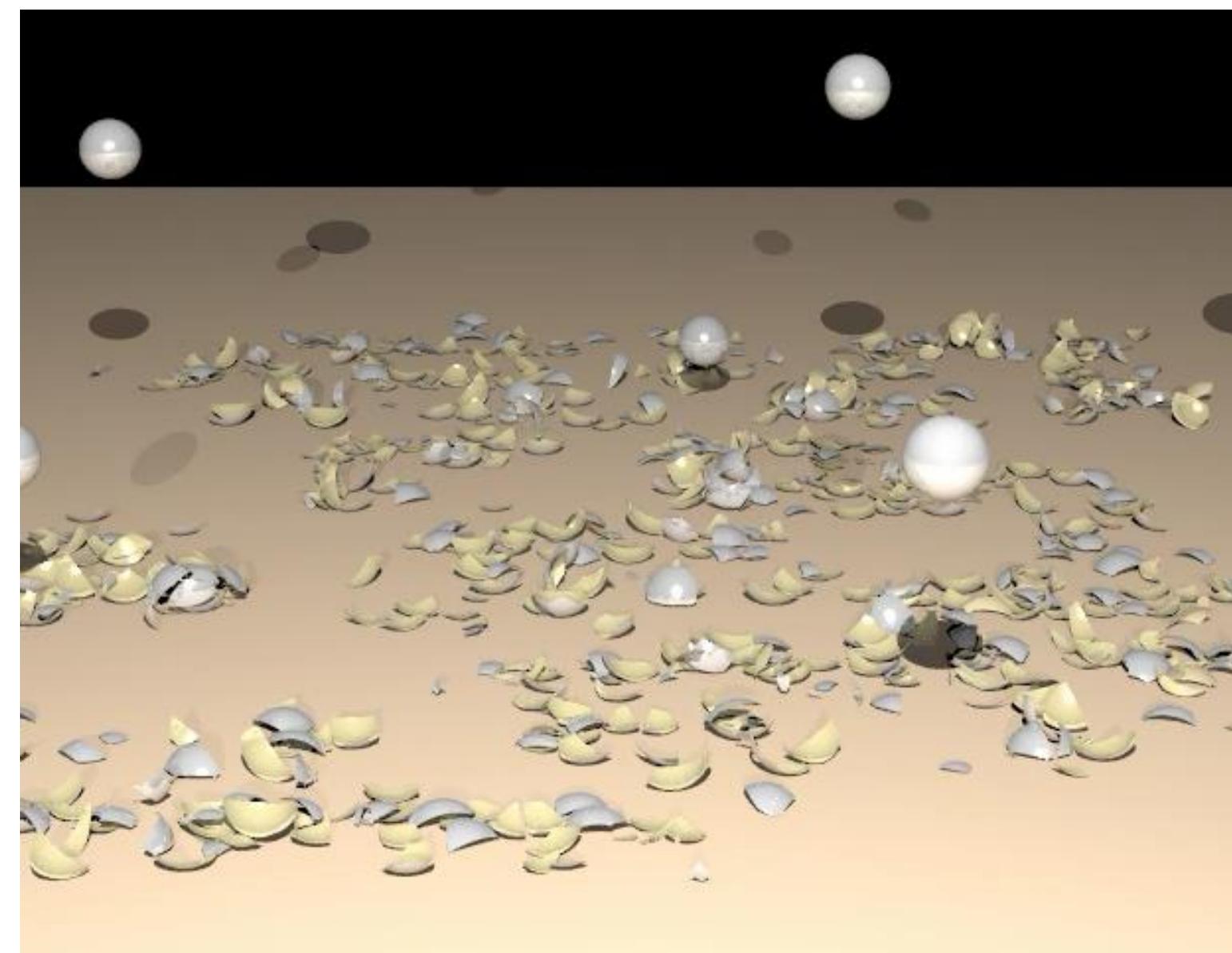
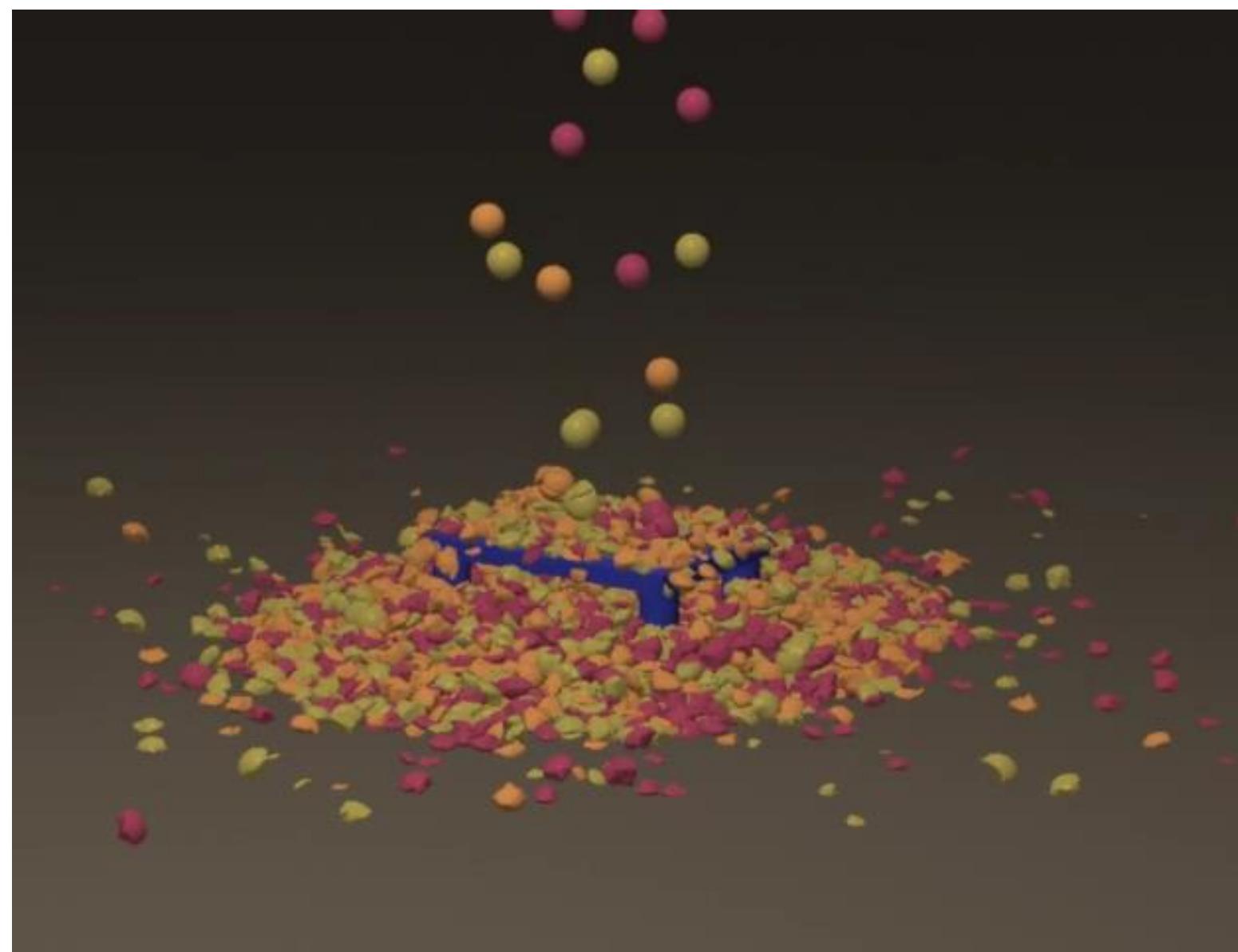




# Fracture

---

Objects breaks into multiple pieces due to collision and impulse.





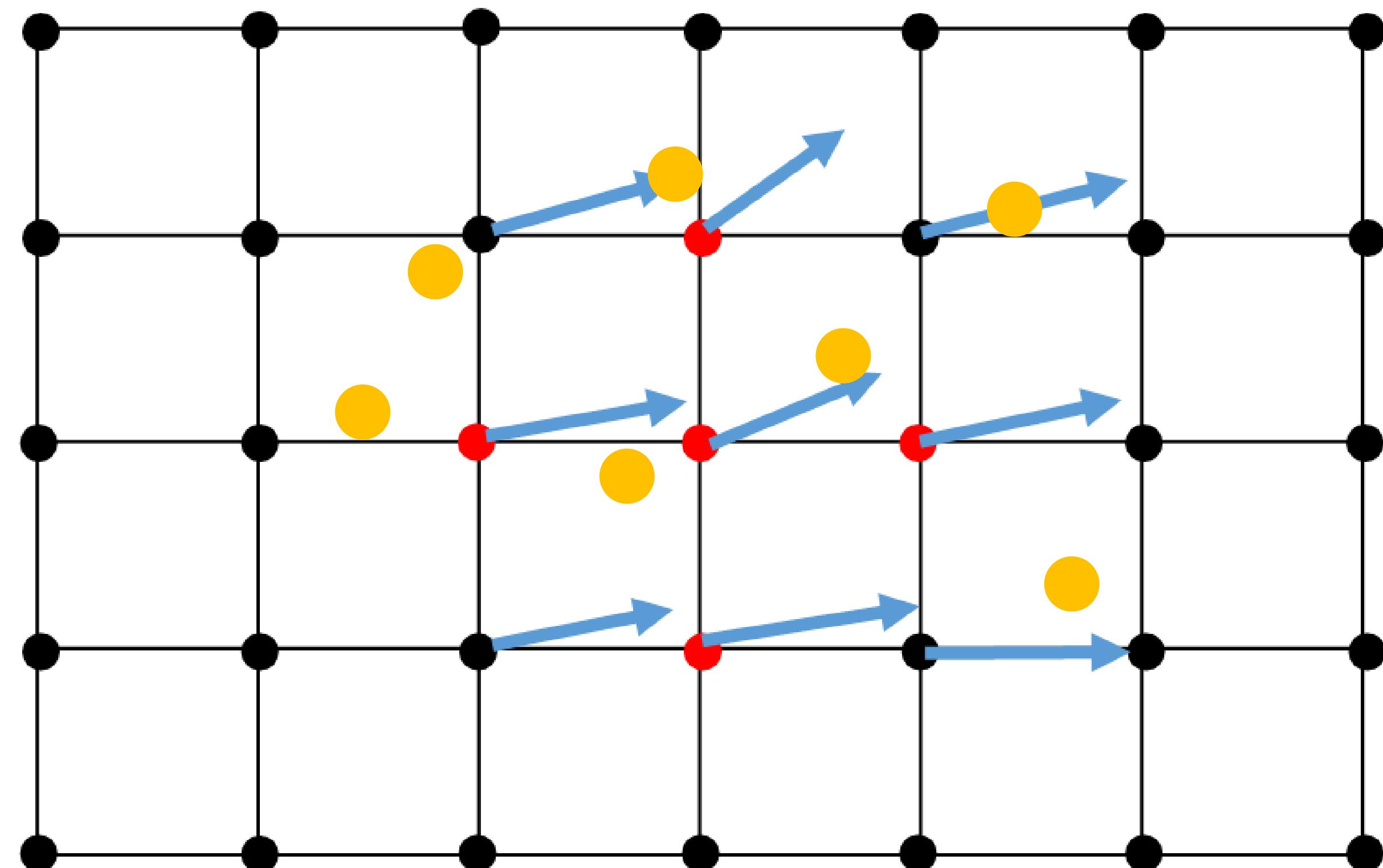
GT

**Water** flows with a free surface and can interact with solid objects by forming vortices and small splashes

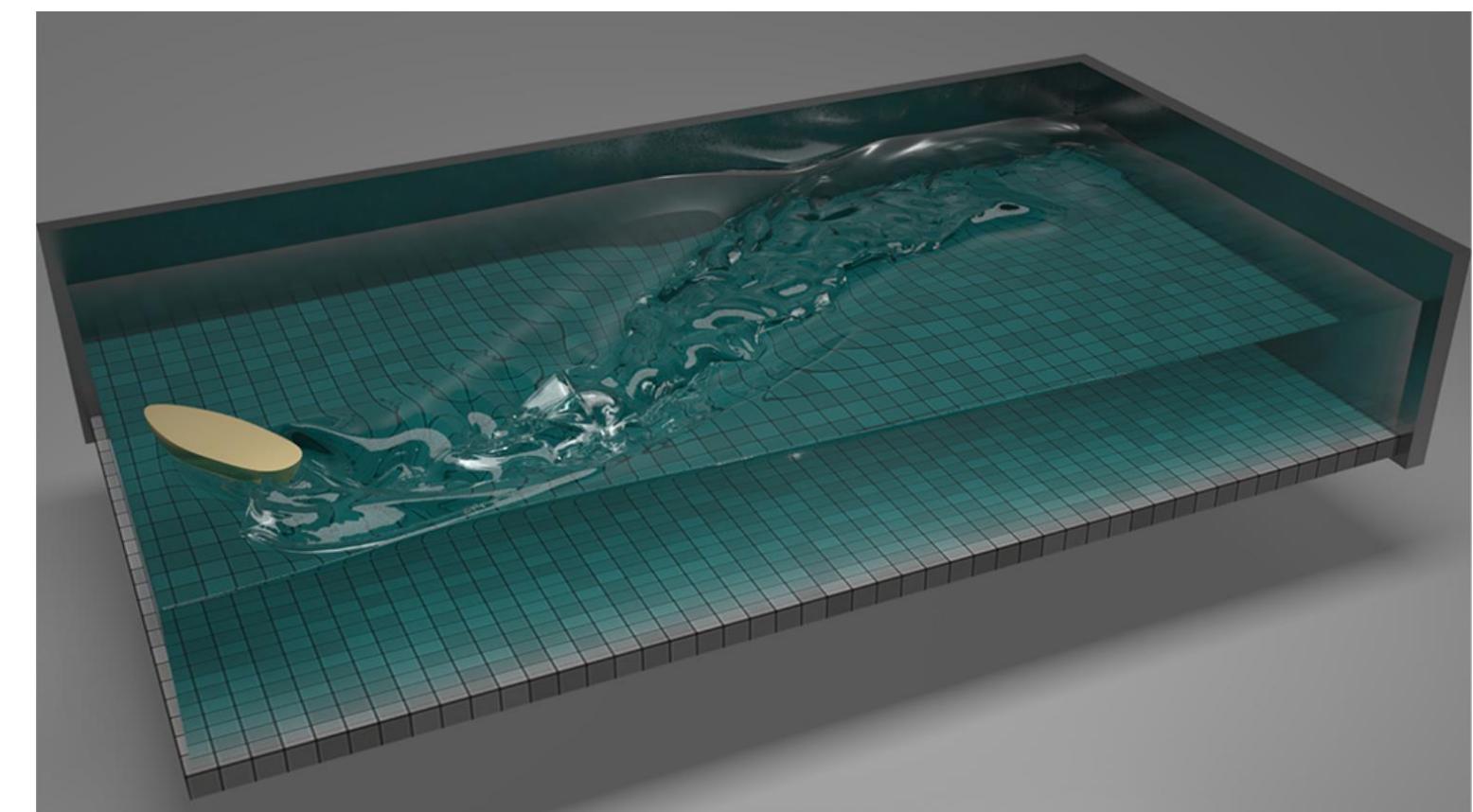


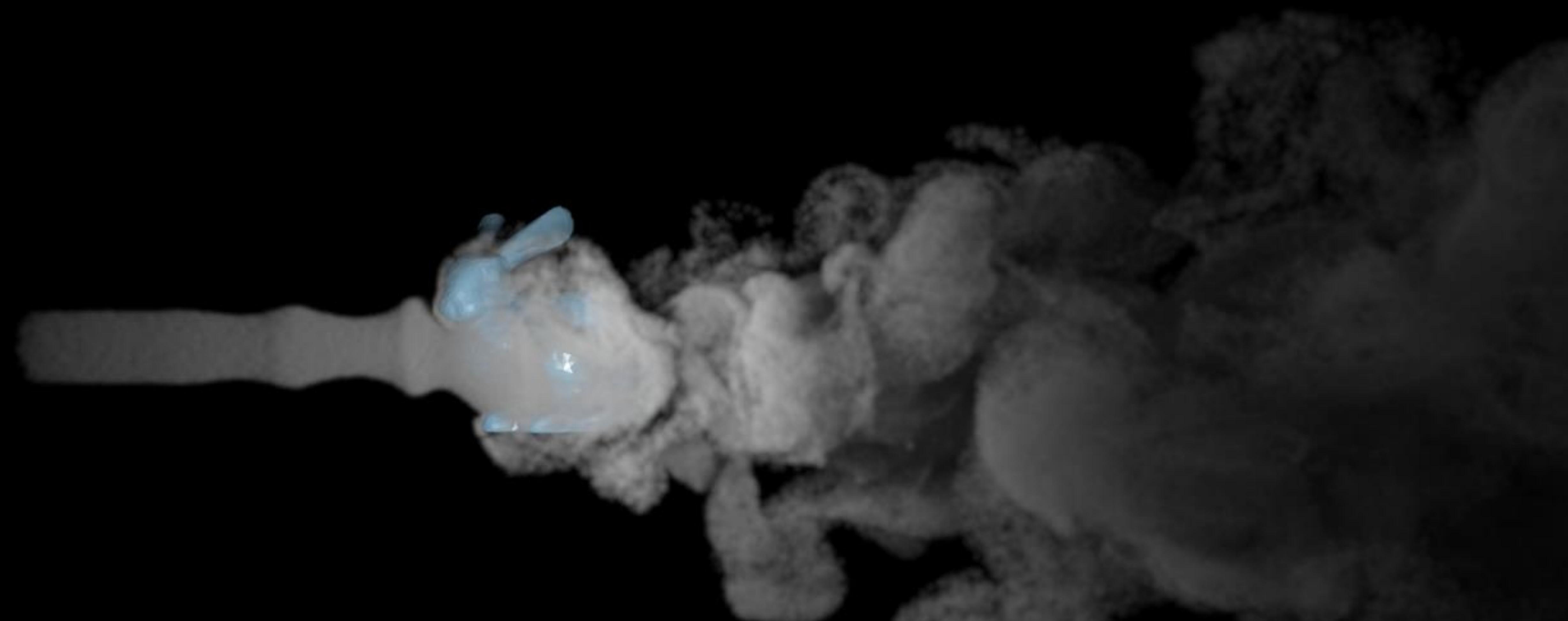
# Mathematical Model for Fluids

- Fluid motion is simulated by solving Navier-Stokes equations with computer program
- Grid and particles are two fundamental data structures to solve these equations
- The simulators are usually expensive to run and require GPU hardware to accelerate

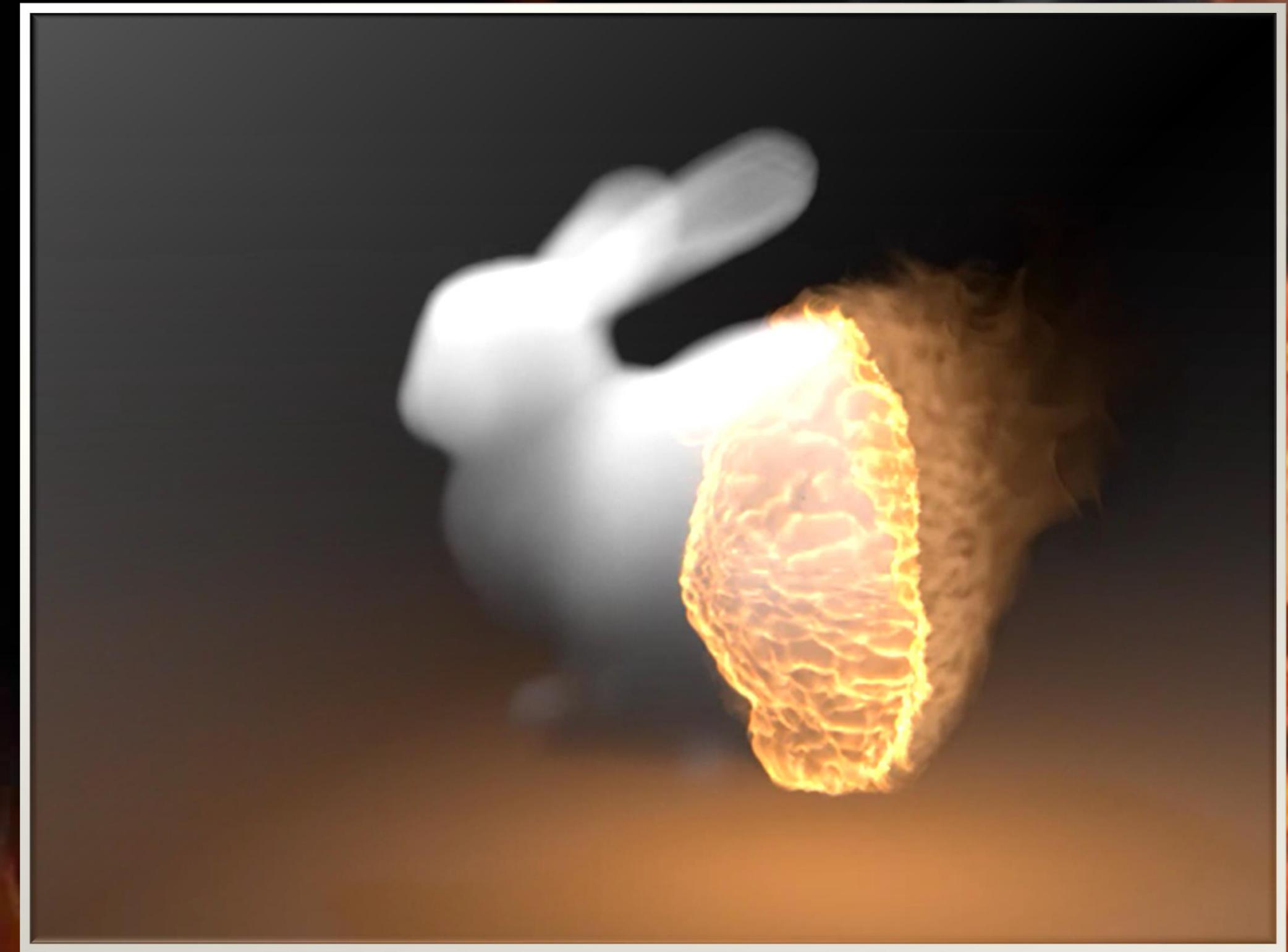


$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{\partial \vec{u}}{\partial t} + \vec{u} \cdot \nabla \vec{u} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \nu \nabla \cdot \nabla \vec{u} + \vec{g} \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0 \end{array} \right.$$





**Smoke** flows with air, displays a lot of vortices, and smoothly bypasses solid obstacles without being obstructed



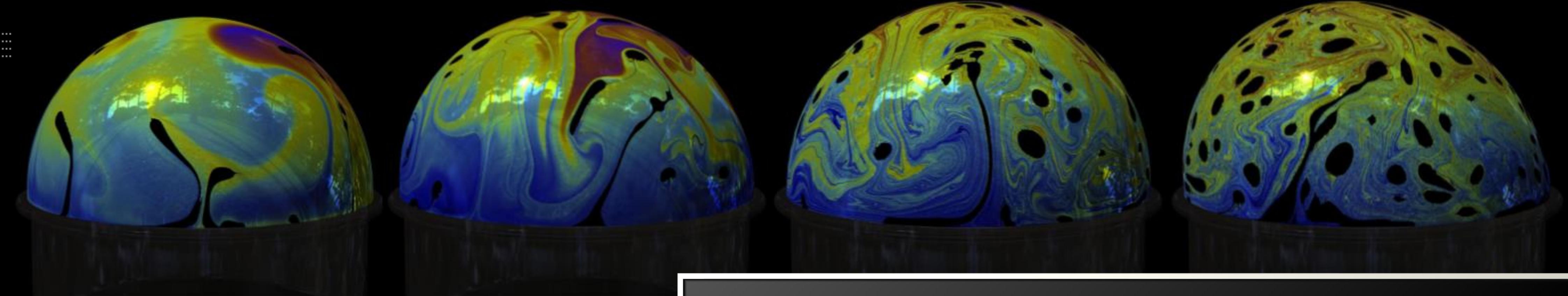
**Fire** flows with the surrounding air flow, which is driven by the unstable chemical reactions on interface between fuel and air



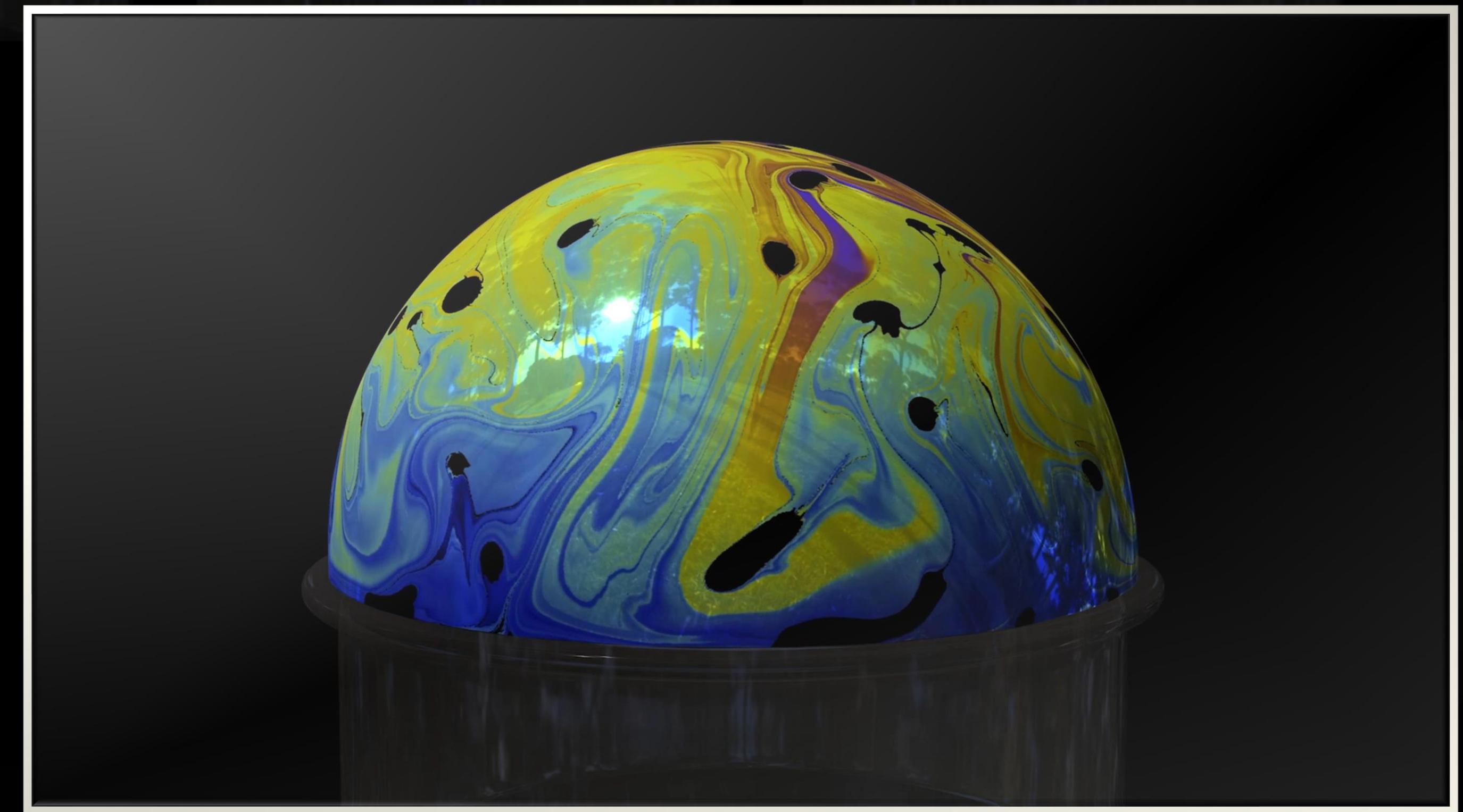
cnet



**Snow** is a kind of material that behaves half solid and half fluid --- it can flow under large external forces, and stay statically without force



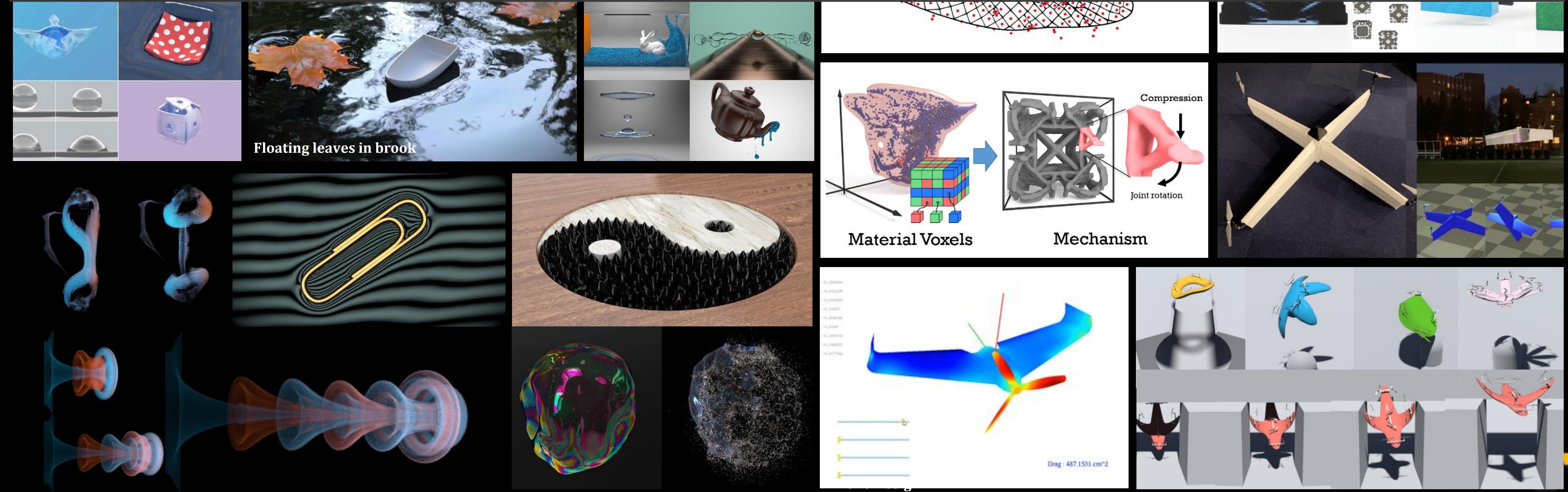
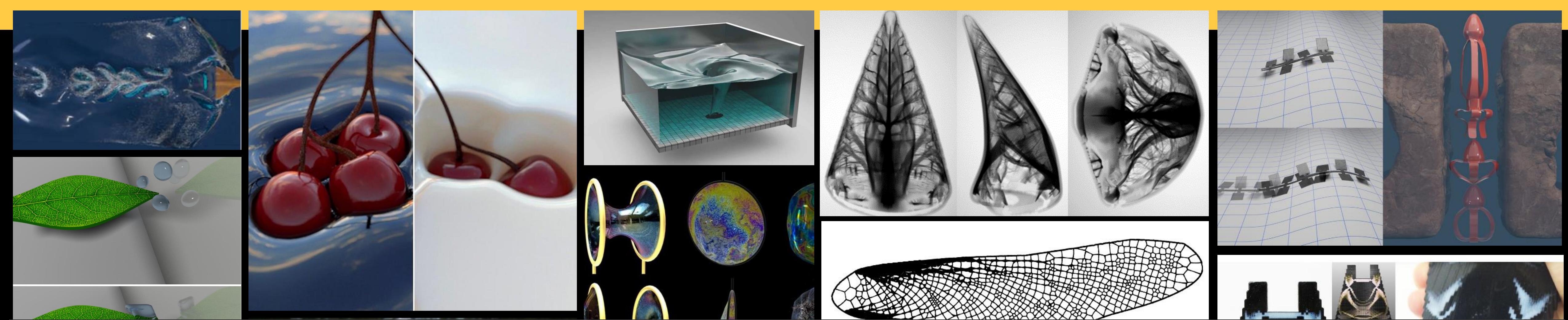
**Bubble and Foam:**  
fluid that flows on a  
deforming thin film





GT

# We can simulate all kinds of physics in computer graphics!



$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{d^2}$$

# Physics-based Simulation

Simulation =

**Physical Model + Geometric Representation + Temporal Evolution**

# Physical Models

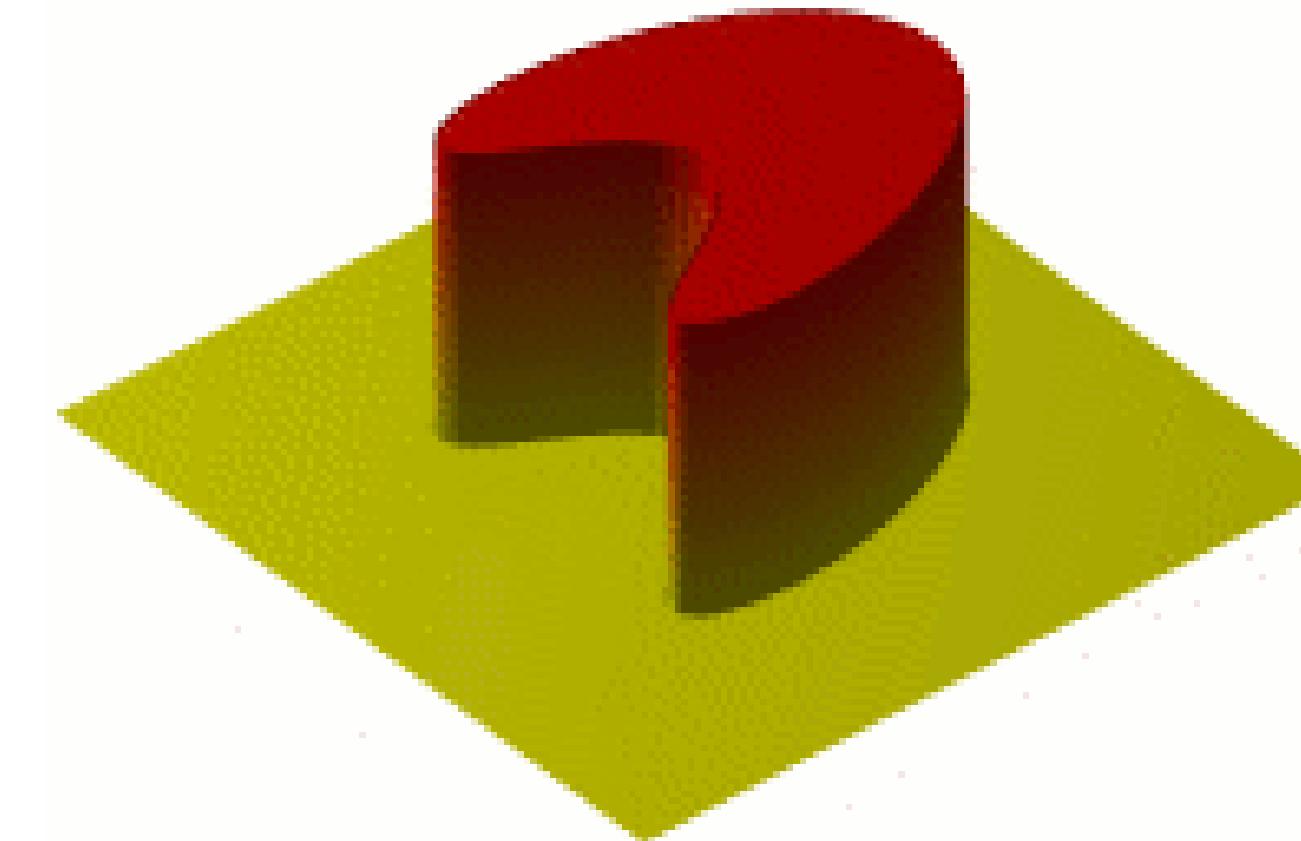
- Ordinary Differential Equations (ODE)



$$\frac{d^2\theta}{dt^2} + \frac{g}{L} \sin \theta = 0$$

single variable function  $\theta(t)$

- Partial Differential Equations (PDE)

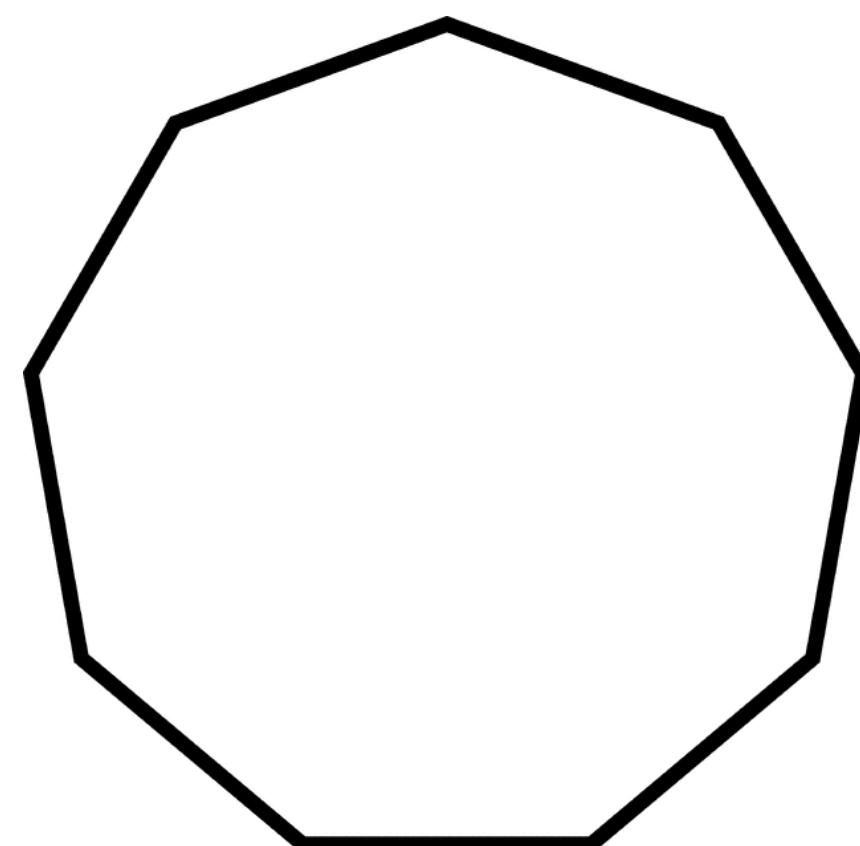


$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \alpha \left( \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial z^2} \right) = 0$$

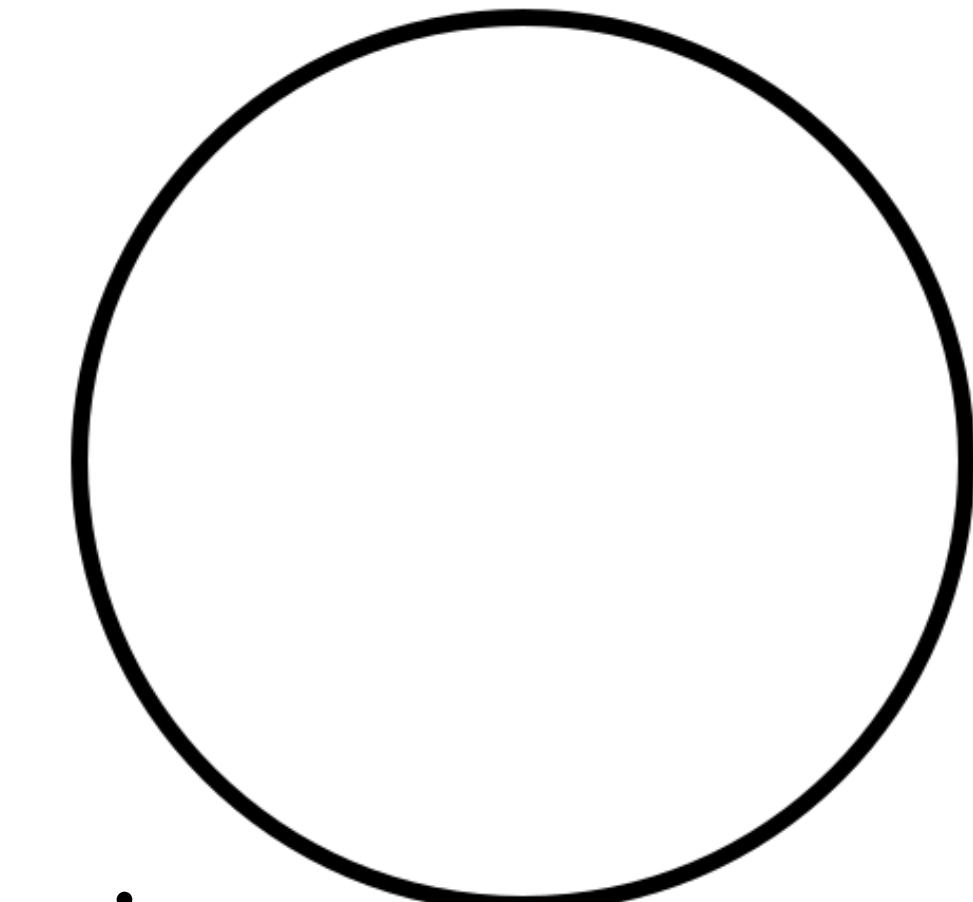
multivariable function  $u(t, x, y, z)$

# Geometric Representation

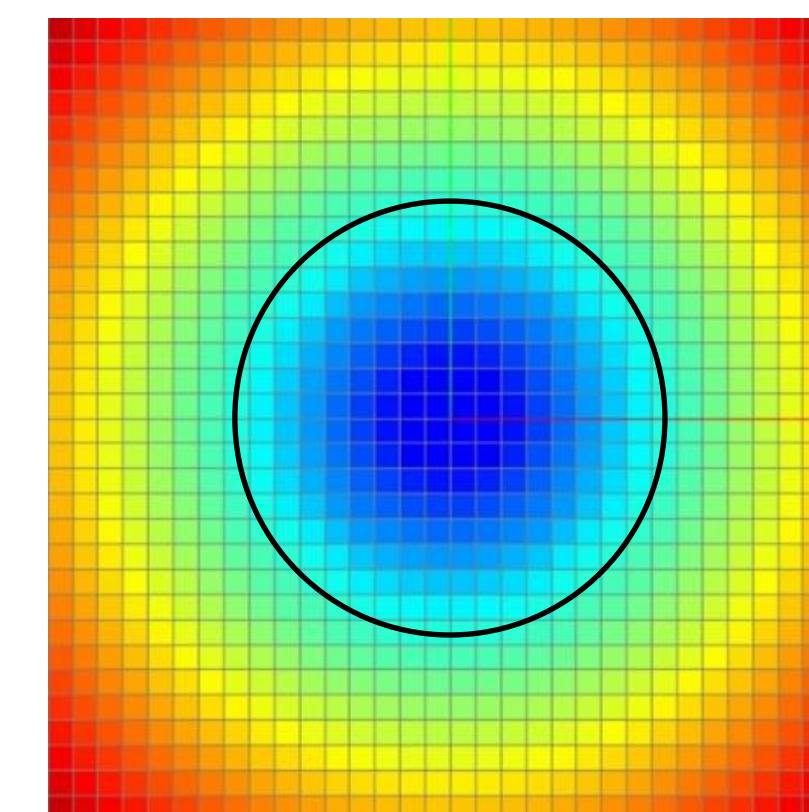
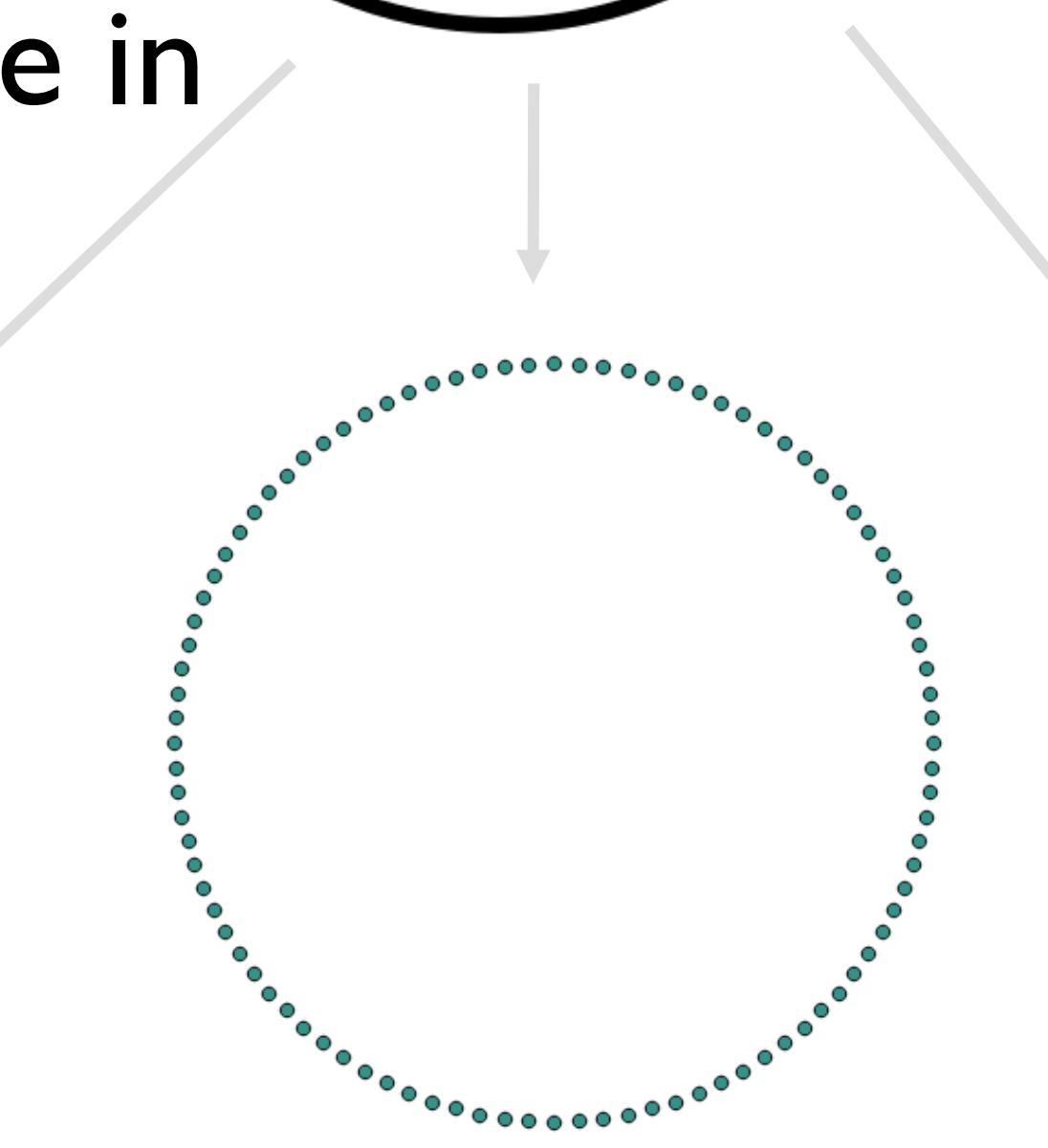
How to store a shape in computer?



**Mesh**

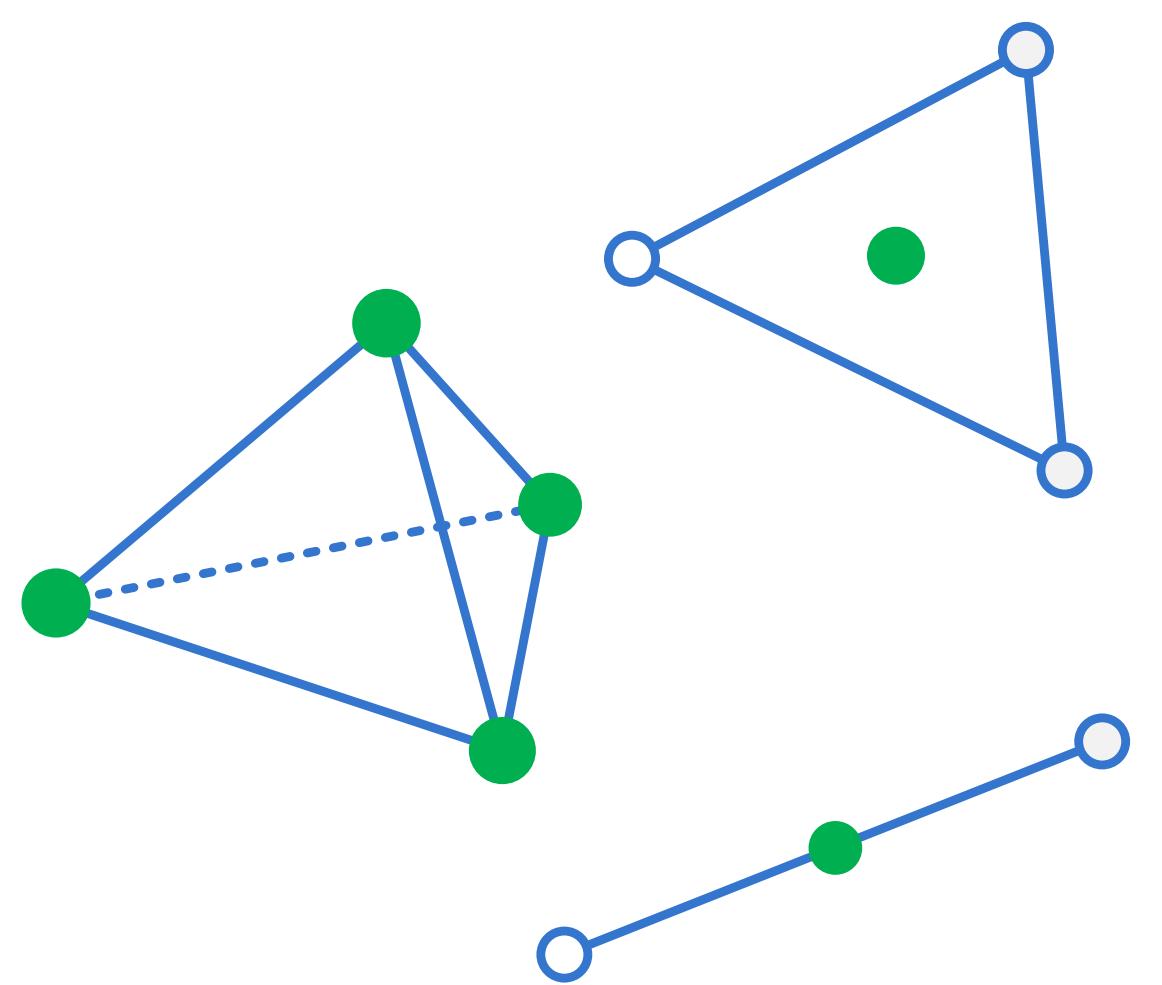


**Particles**

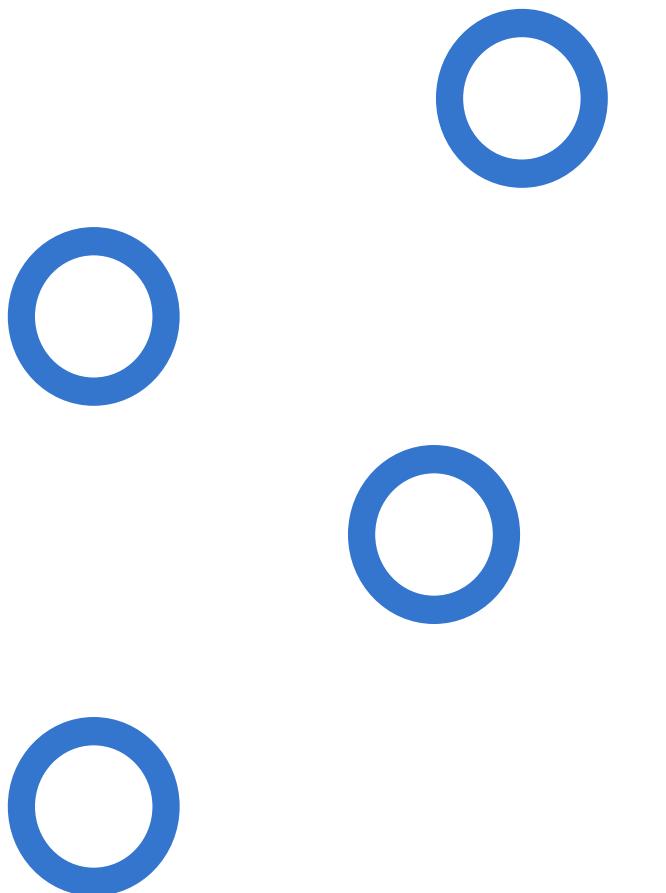


**Grid**

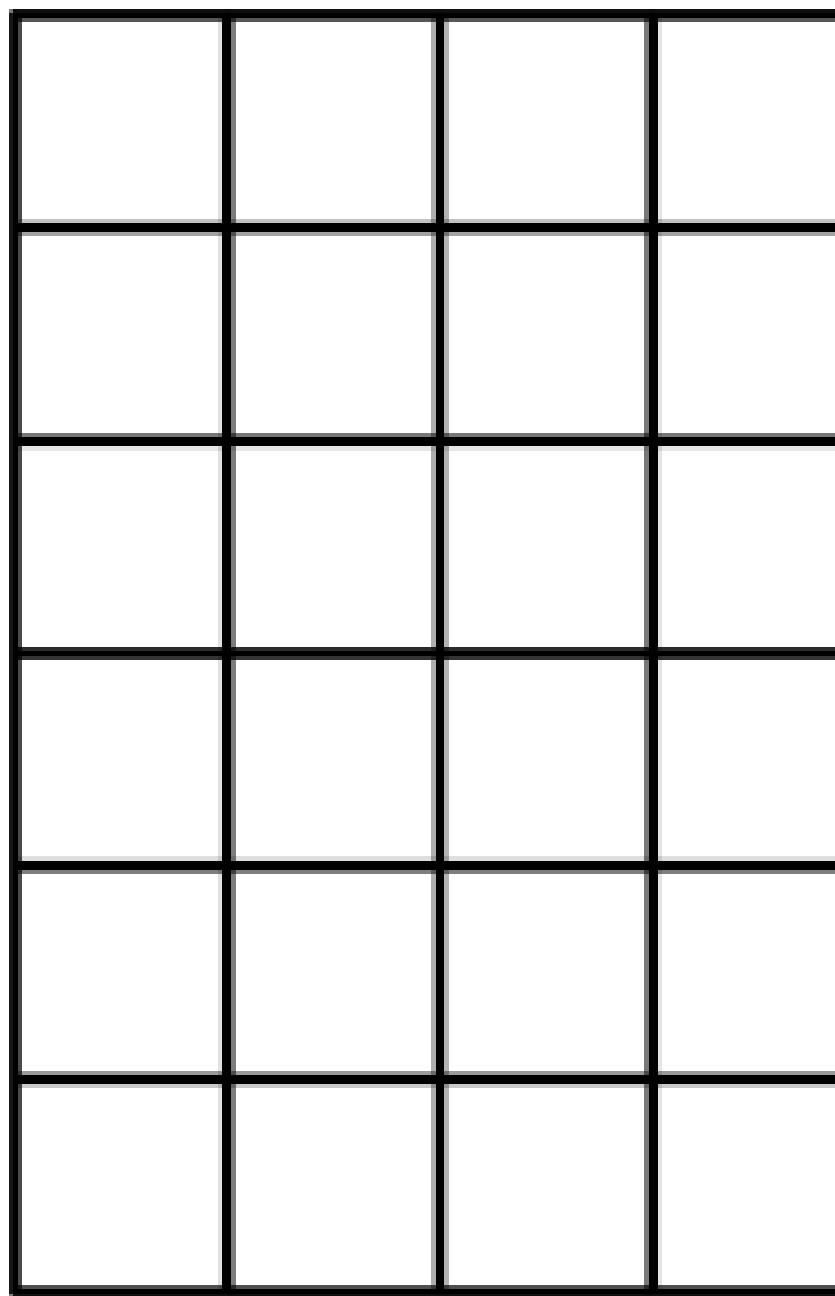
# Geometric Data Structures



**Mesh**

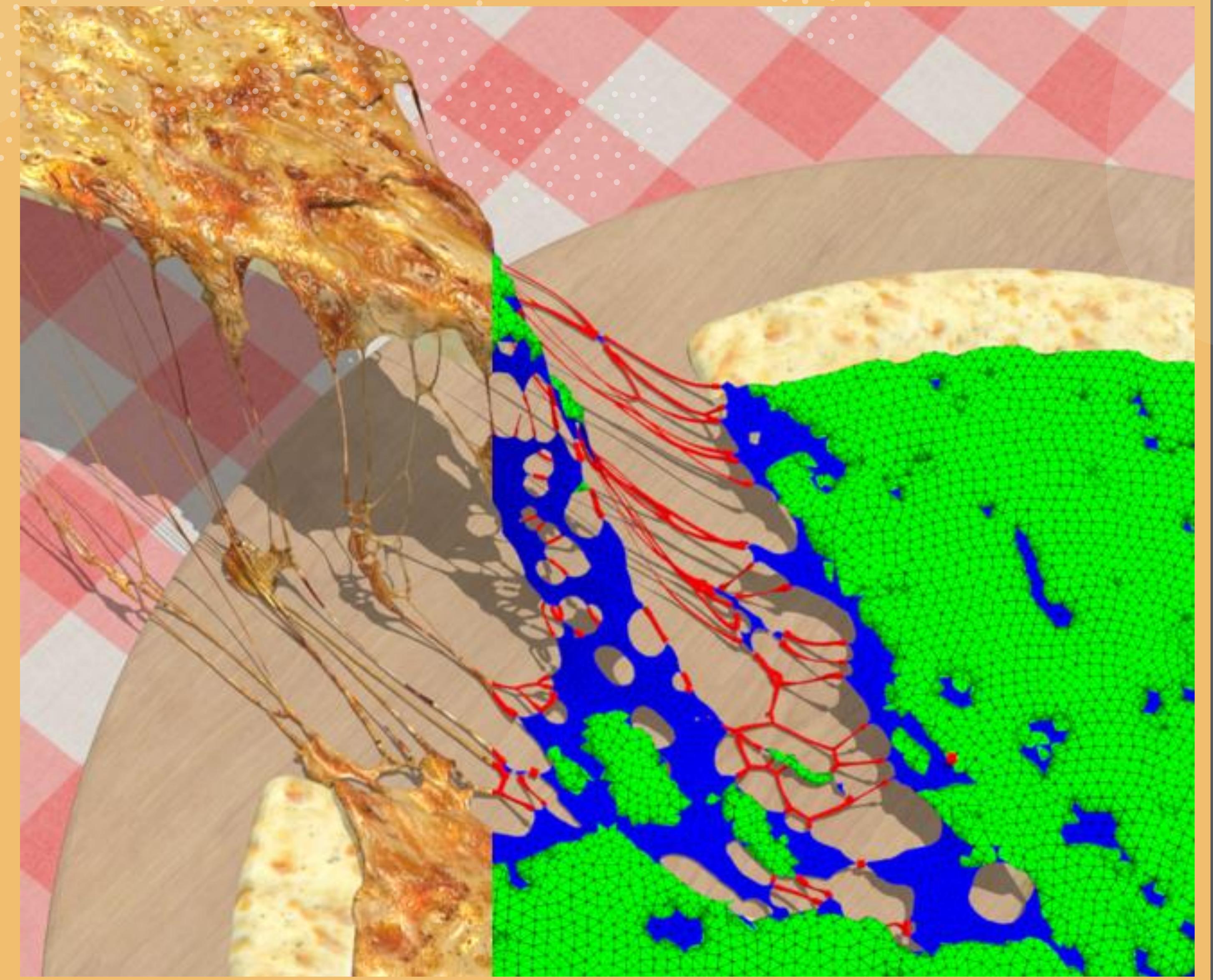


**Particles**

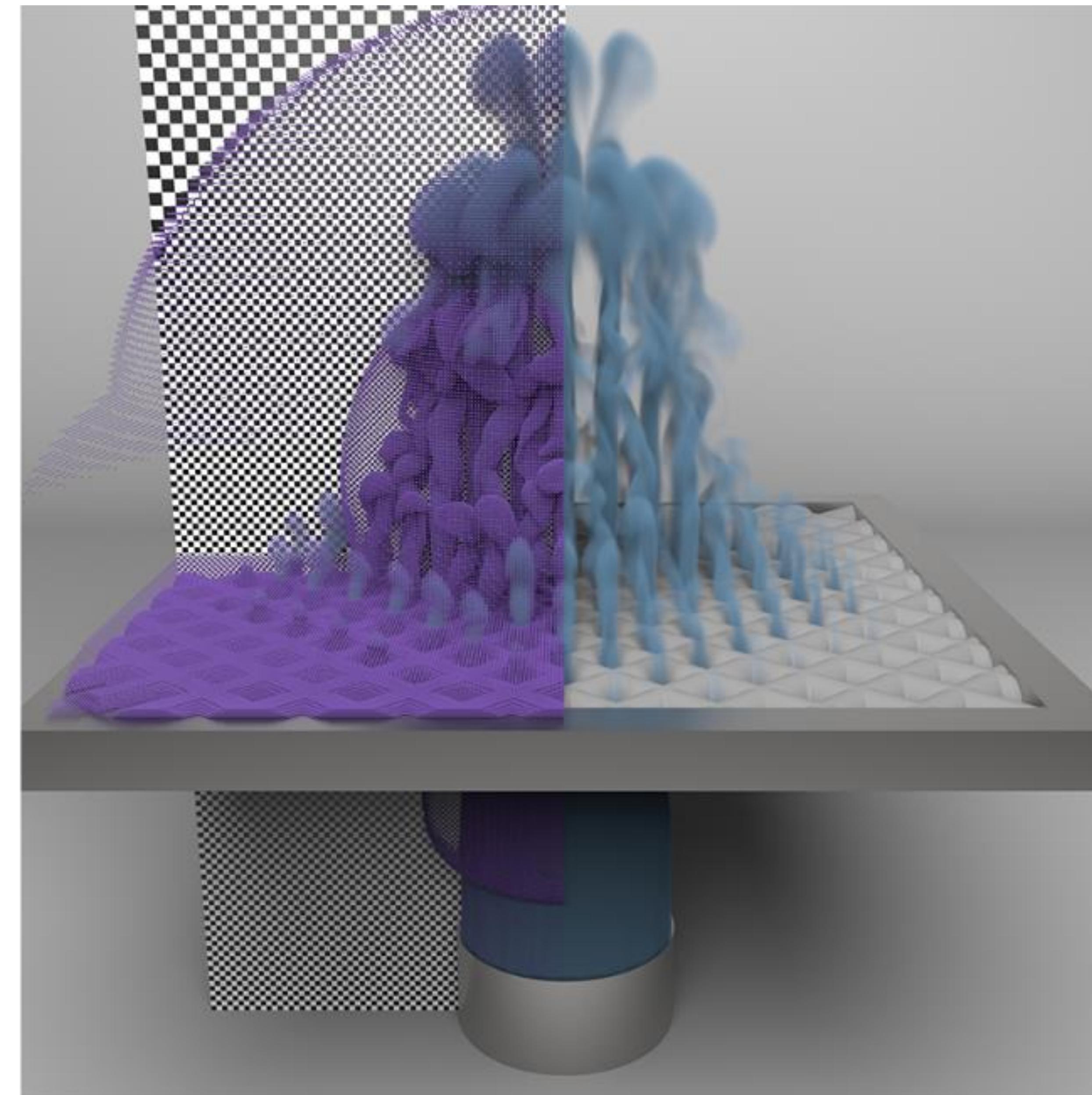


**Grid**

# Mesh

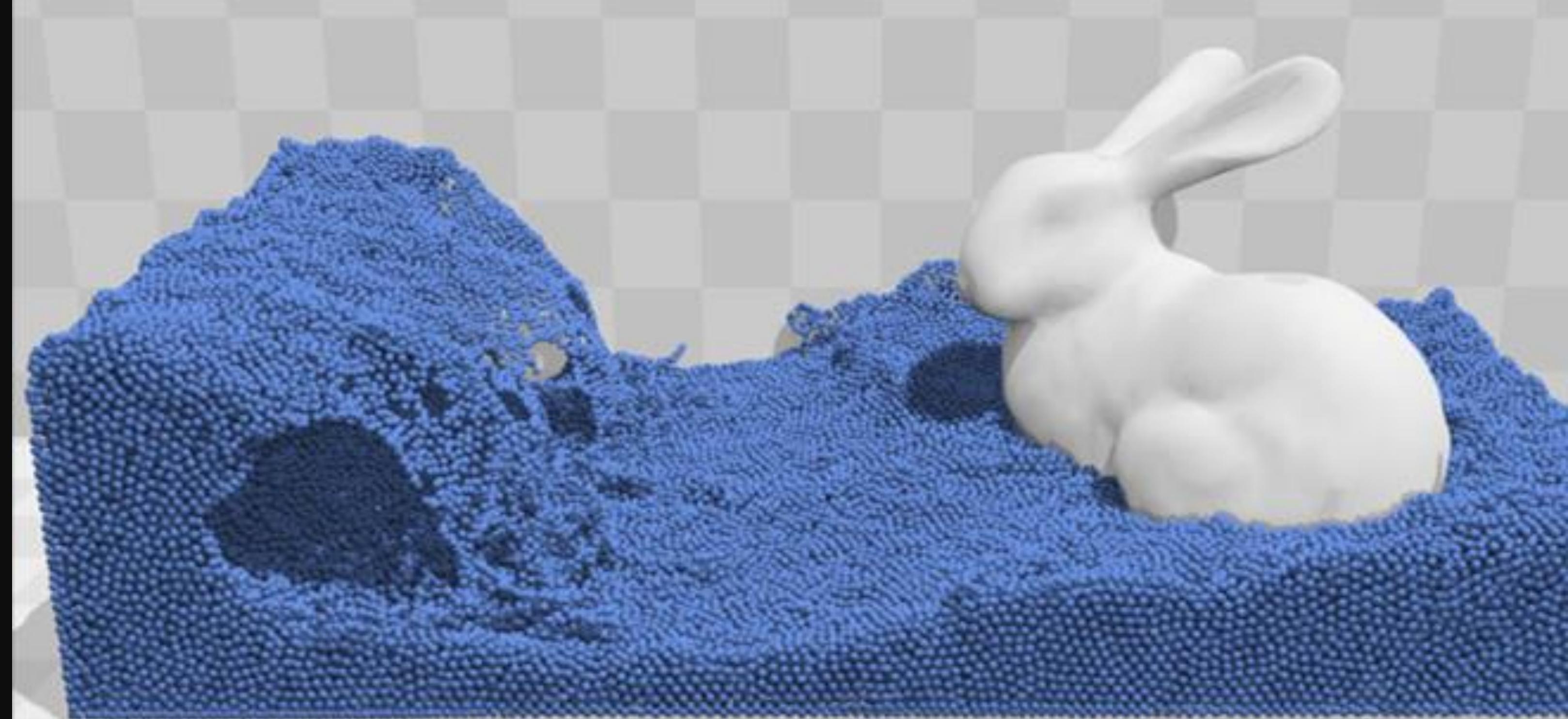


# Grid



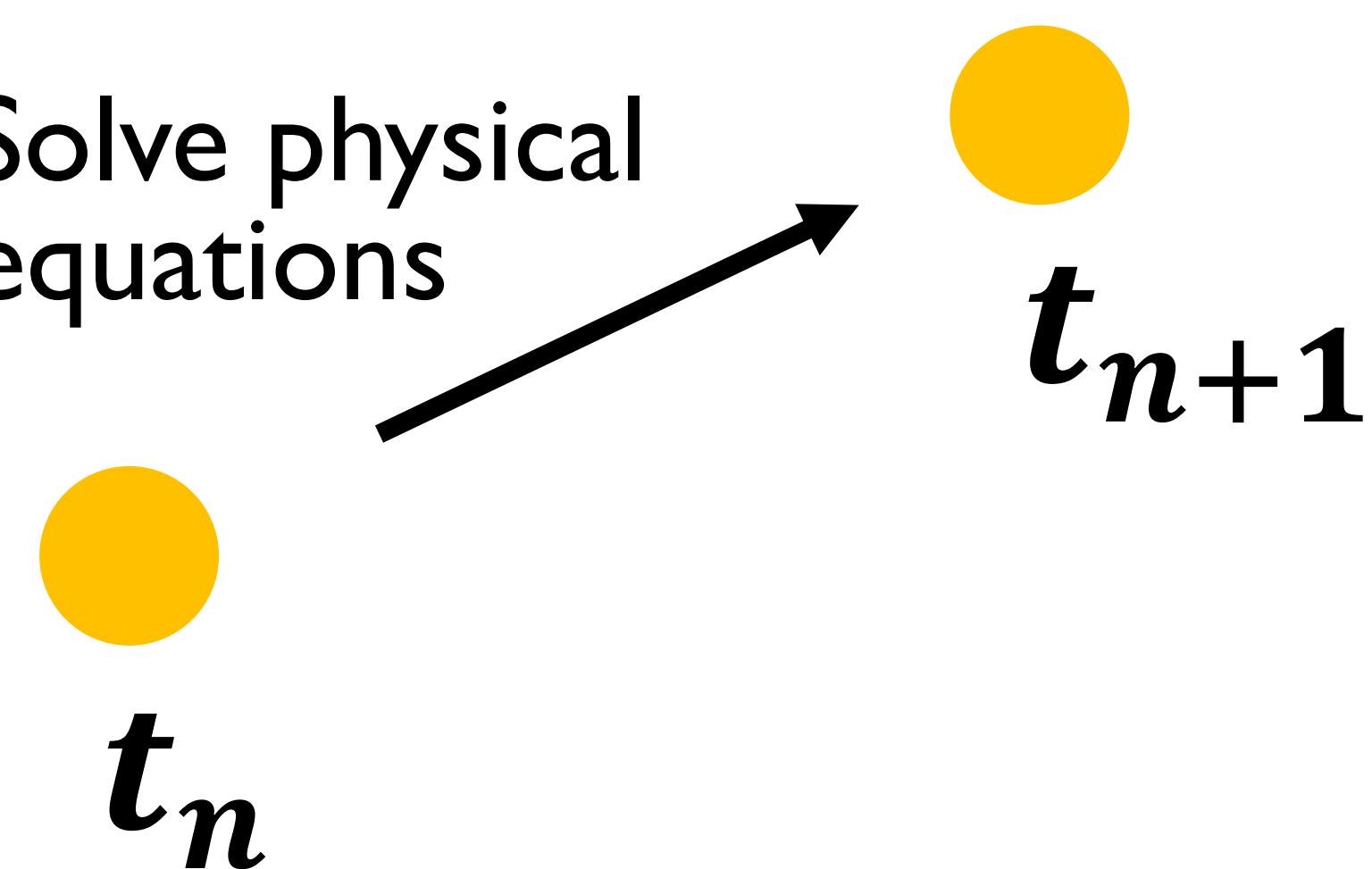
# Particles

---



# Temporal Evolution

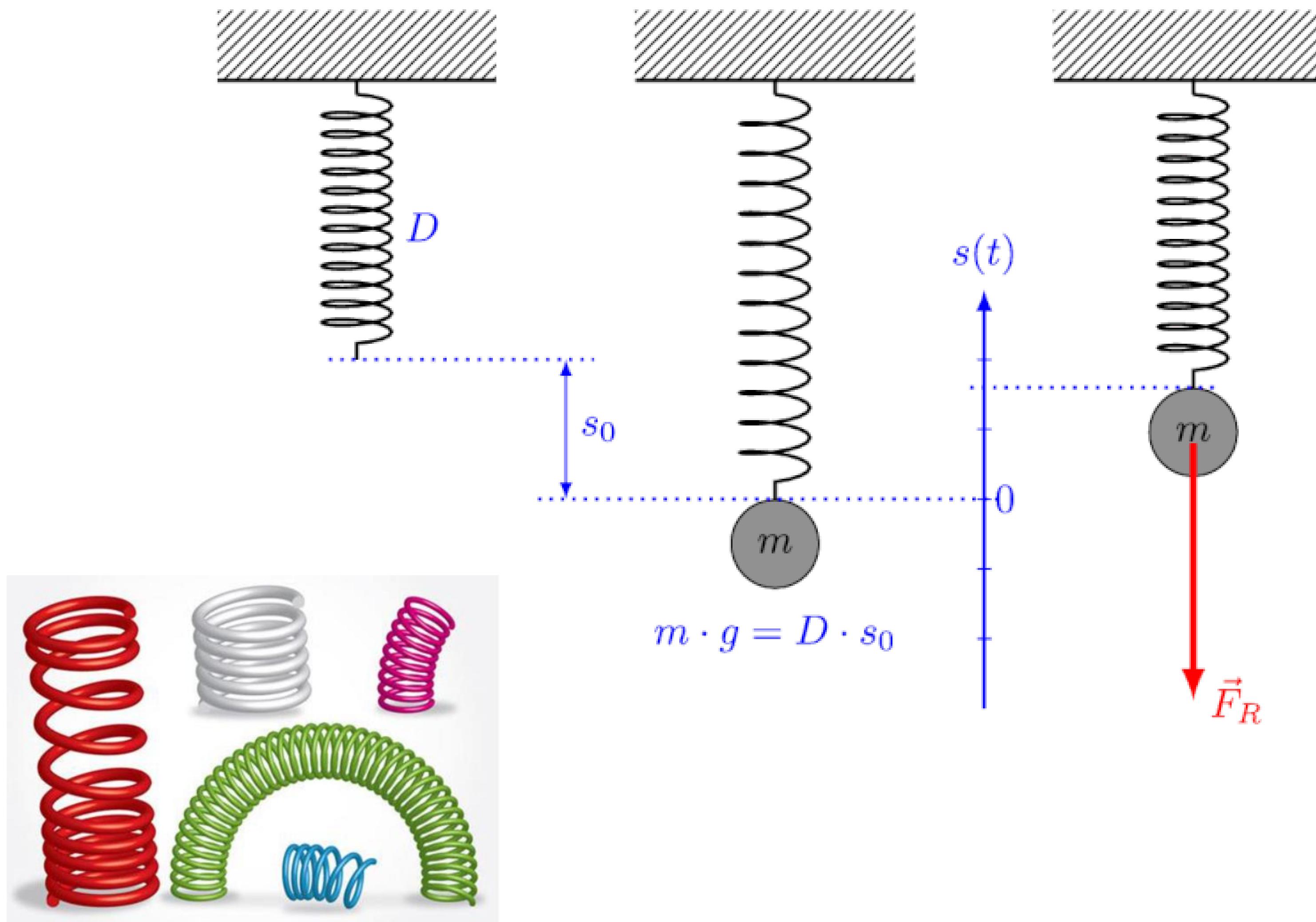
- Simulate physical properties along the time axis as a sequence of states  $p(t_0), p(t_1), p(t_2), \dots$
- Update the next state based on the current state(s) by solving physical equations



# Mass-Spring Model

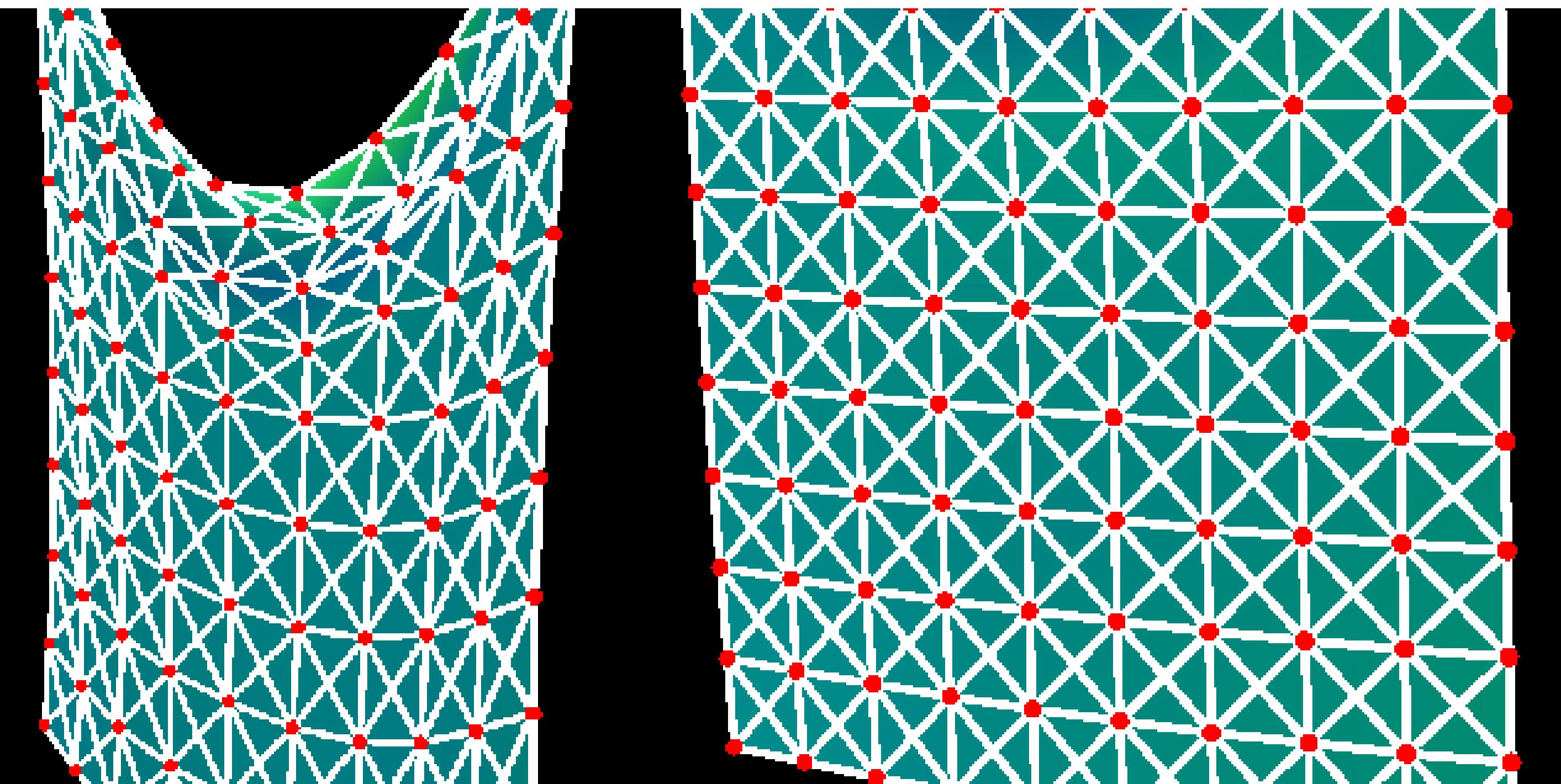


# Mass-Spring Model



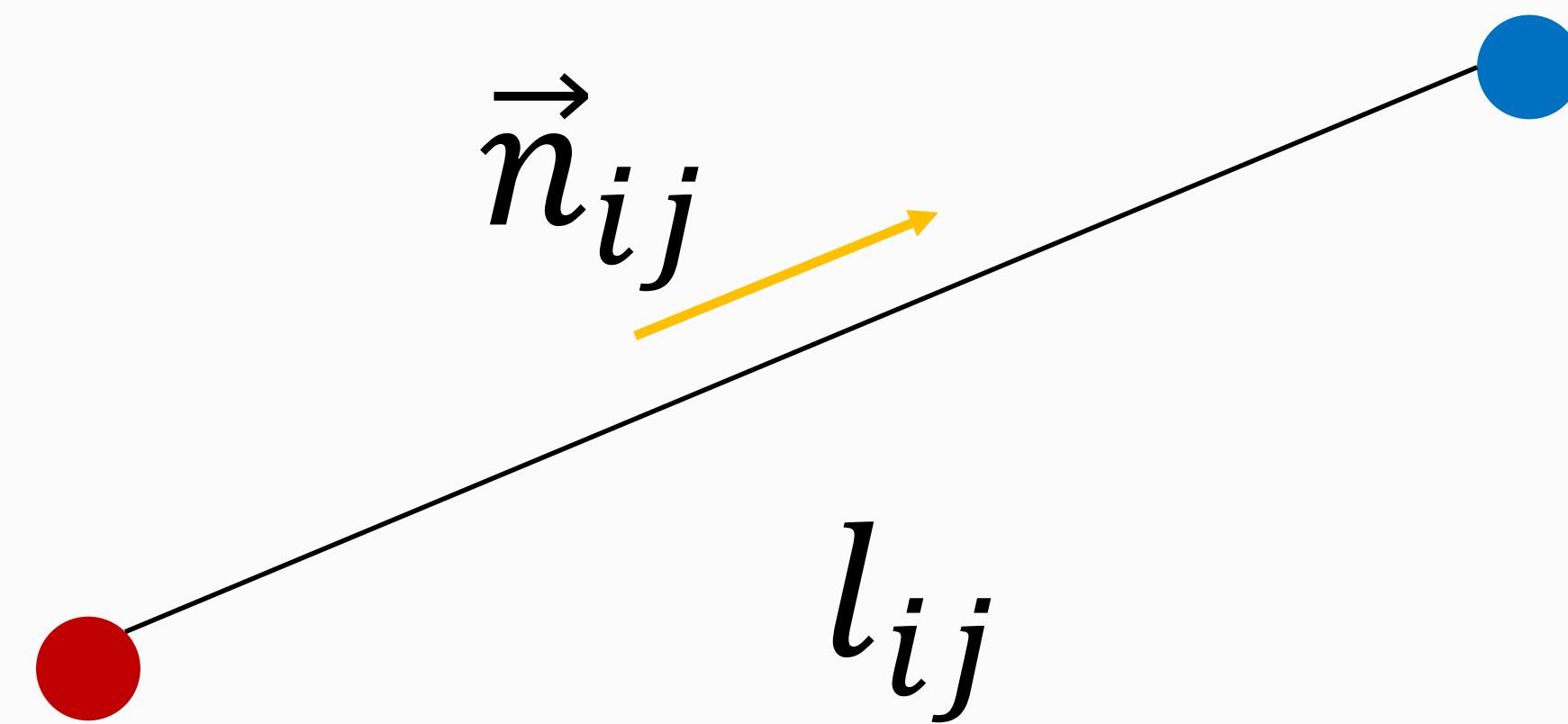
# Mass-Spring Model

- The most popular simulation model for modeling soft body , cloth, and hair
- Key Idea: add a spring on each edge of the triangle mesh
- Simple, fast, and easy-to-implement



# Physics Intuition of Spring

$$e = \frac{k_s}{2} (l - l_0)^2 = \frac{k_s}{2} \left( |\vec{l}_{ij}| - l_0 \right)^2 = \frac{k_s}{2} \left( \sqrt{(\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_j)^2} - l_0 \right)^2$$

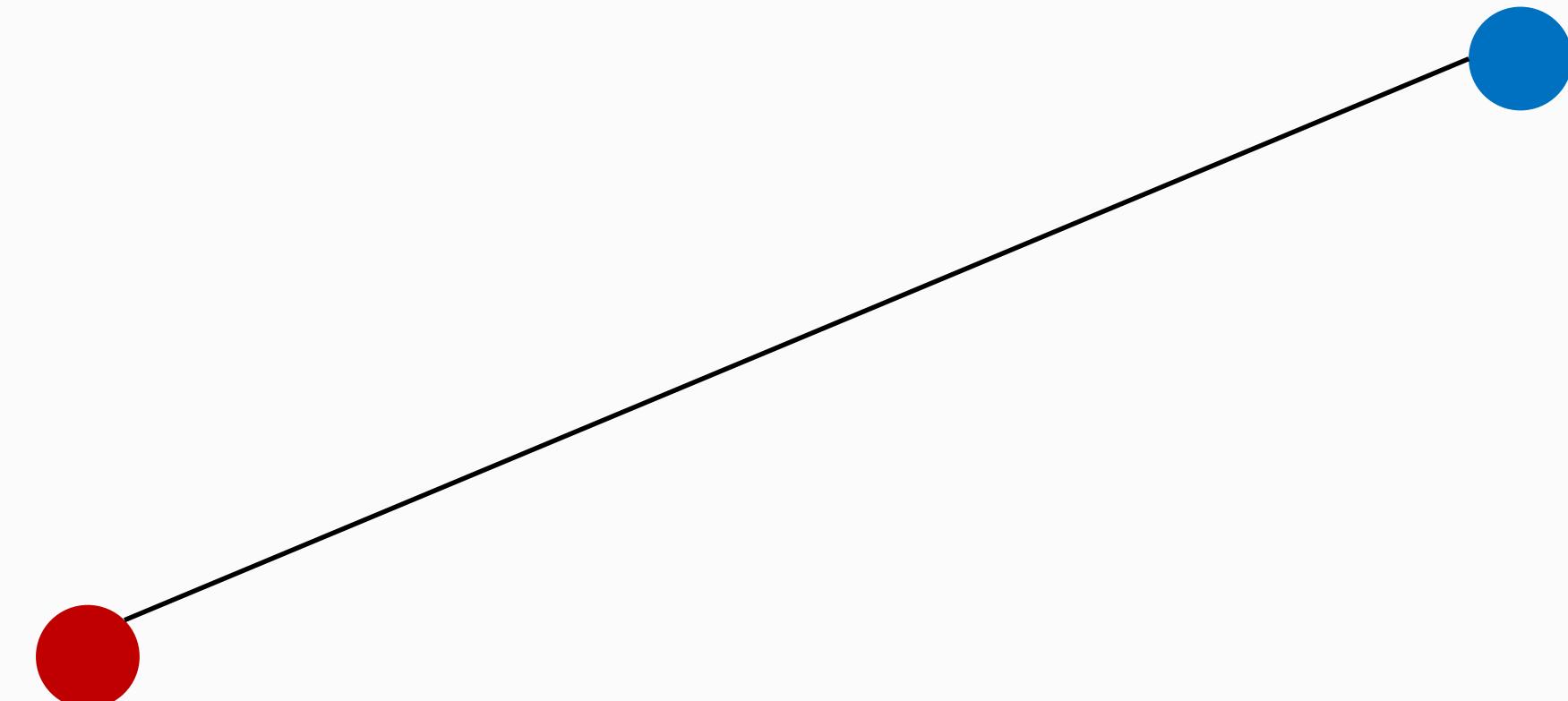


# Spring Force

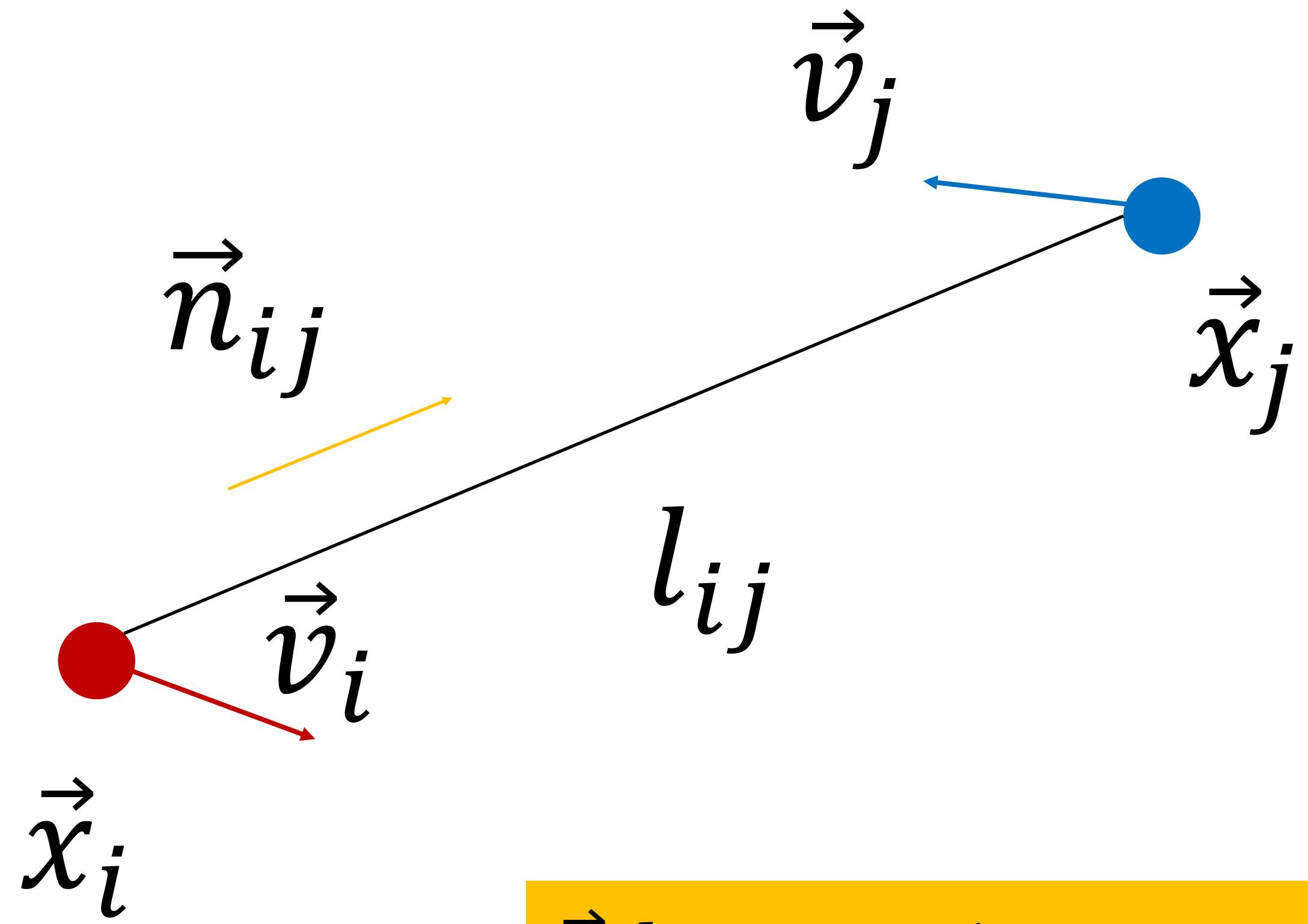
For the two connected particles, the spring will:

Keep the relative distance constant

Keep the relative velocity along the spring direction to be zero



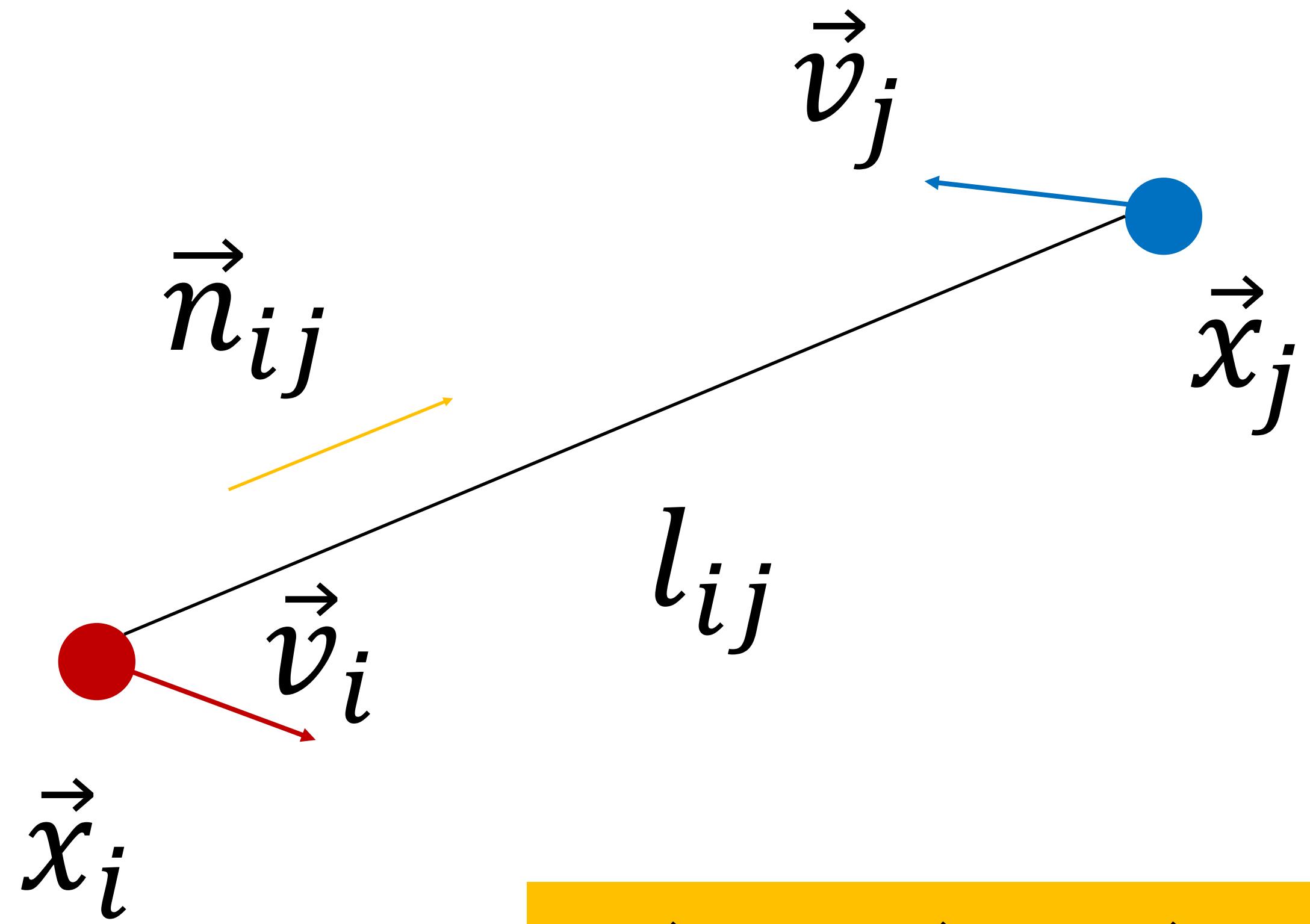
## Physical Model: Damping Force



$$\vec{f}_i^d = k_d (\vec{v}_{ij} \cdot \vec{n}_{ij}) \vec{n}_{ij}$$

$$\vec{f}_j^d = -\vec{f}_i$$

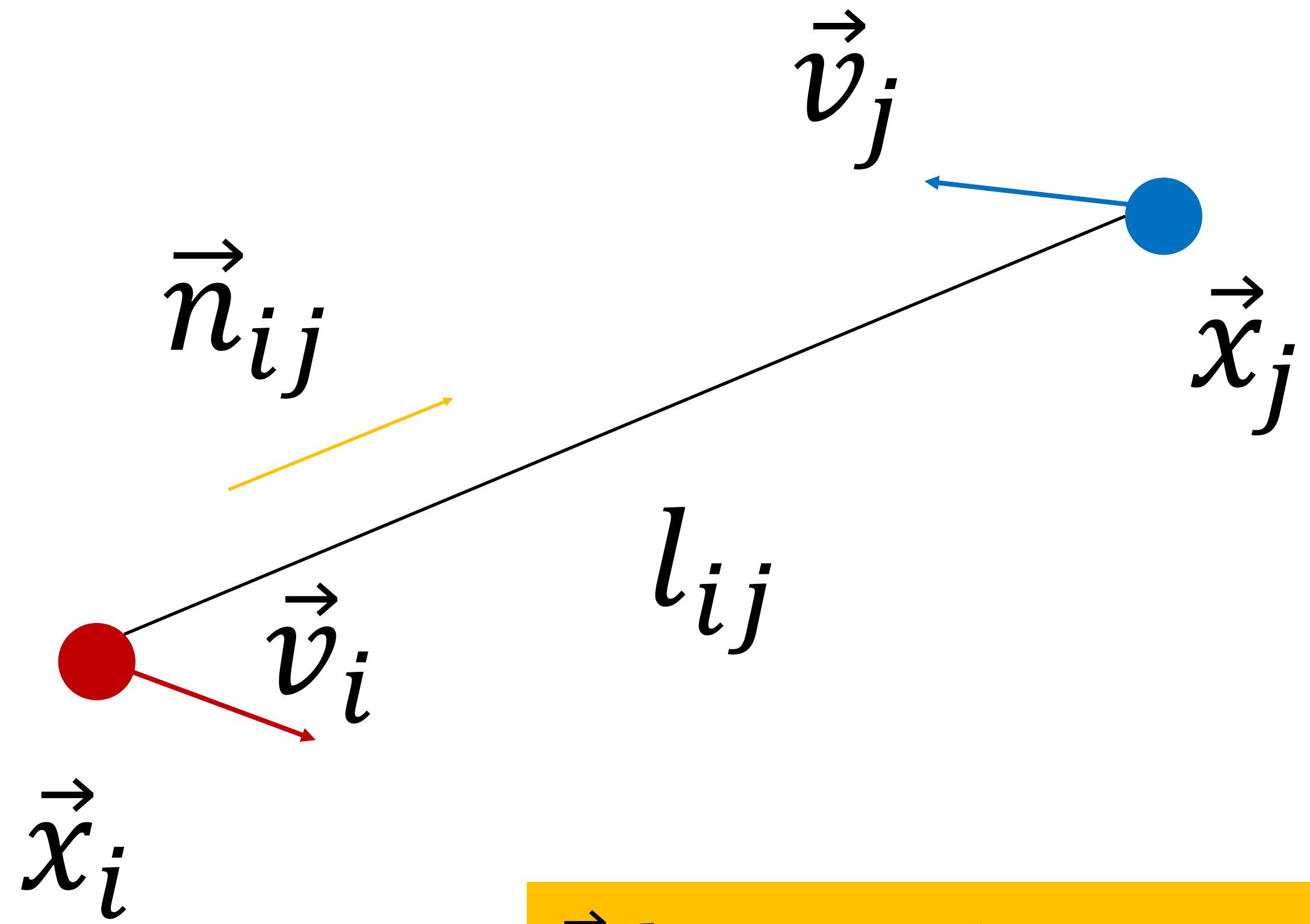
## Physical Model: Putting Two Forces Together



$$\vec{f}_i = \vec{f}_i^s + \vec{f}_i^d$$

$$\vec{f}_j^d = -\vec{f}_i$$

Physical Model:  
Putting Two  
Forces Together



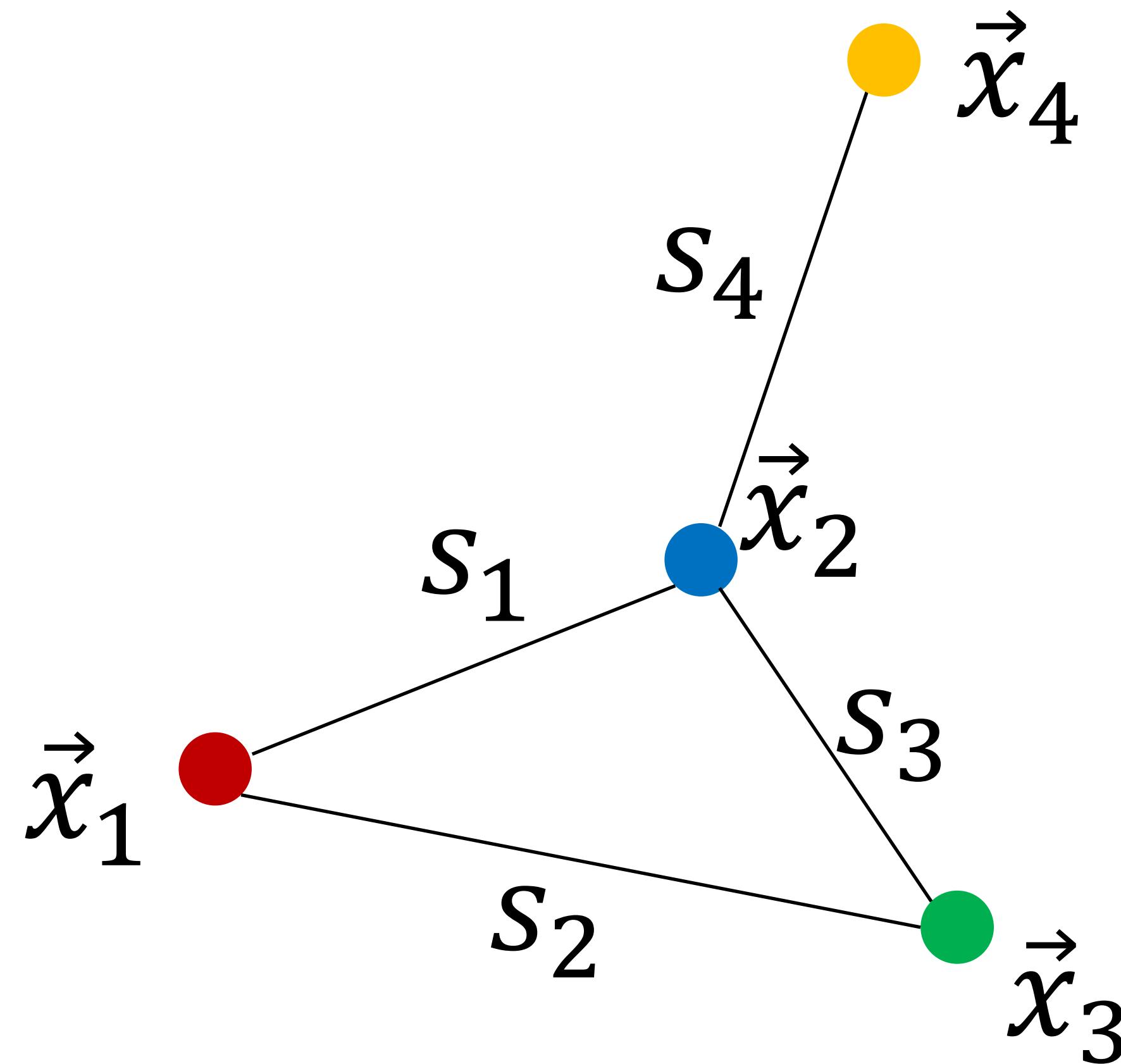
$$\vec{f}_i^d = k_d (\vec{v}_{ij} \cdot \vec{n}_{ij}) \vec{n}_{ij}$$

$$\vec{f}_j^d = -\vec{f}_i$$

# Simulation Step

- Accumulate forces on a particle from all its incident springs

- I. Set force on each particle to be zero
2. For each spring  $s$  connecting  $x_i$  and  $x_j$ :
  - Calculate spring force  $f_{ij}$
  - Add  $f_{ij}$  to force on  $x_i$
  - Add  $-f_{ij}$  to force on  $x_j$





curly hair  
(100K full strands, 250 guide strands, 45ms / frame)

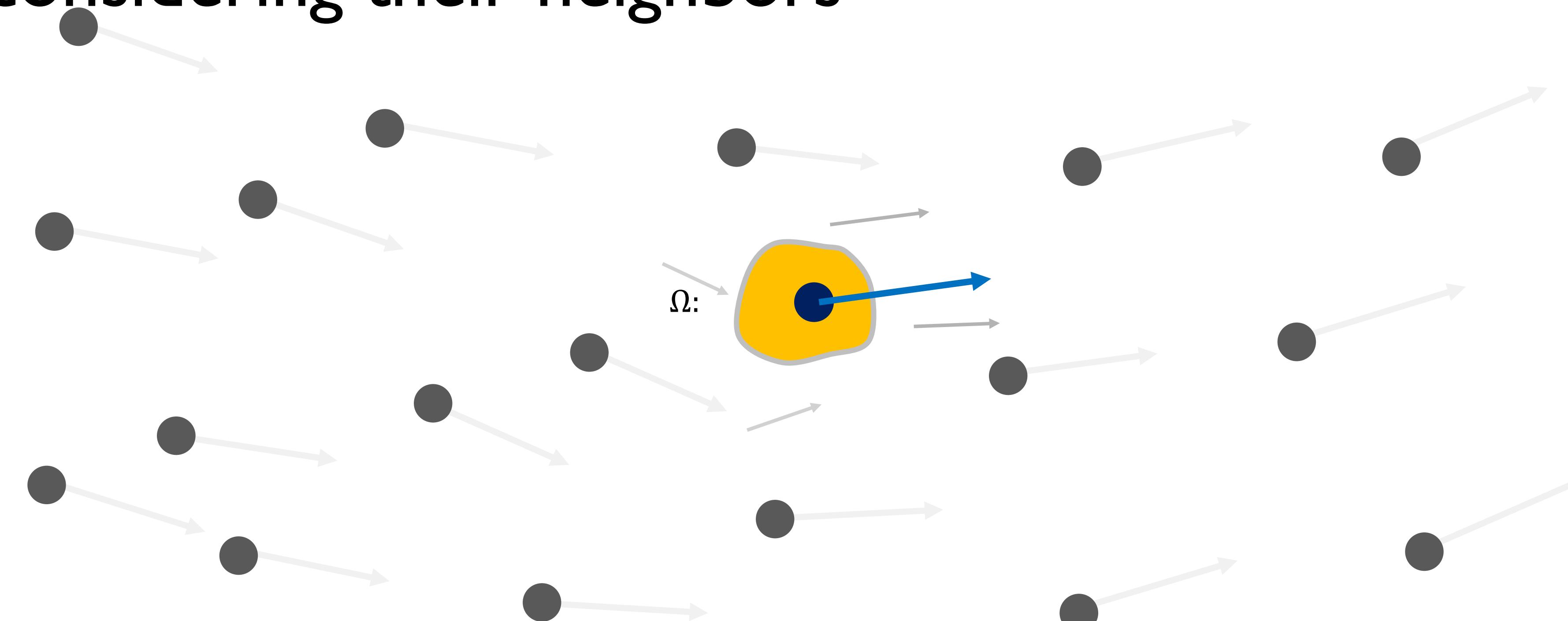


# Particle Fluid Model



# Fluid Particle Model

- Each fluid particle carries a set of physical properties, including position, velocity, mass, density, pressure, etc.
- These properties will move with the particles and updated by considering their neighbors



# Navier-Stokes Equation

Momentum:

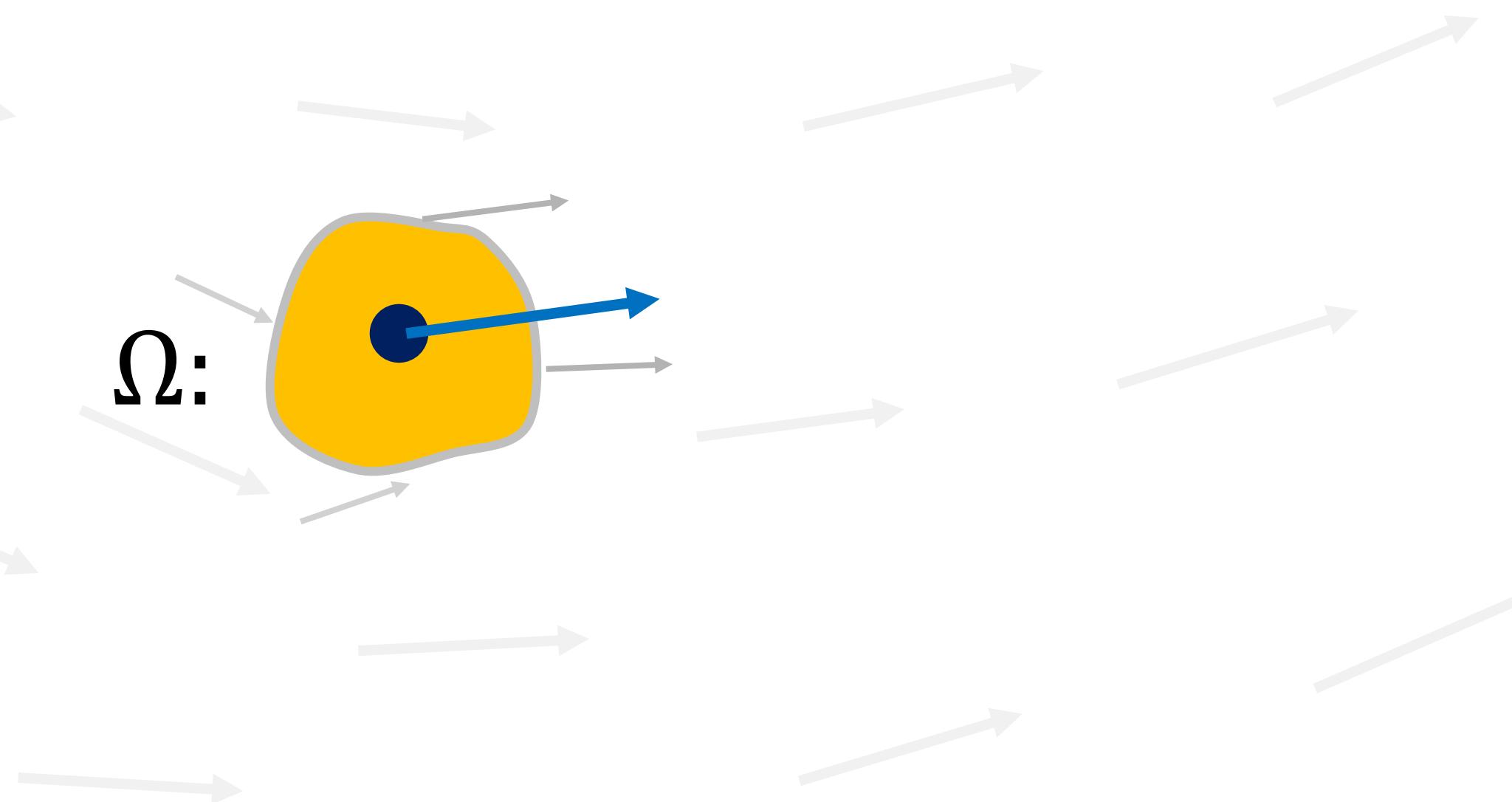
$$\rho \frac{D\vec{u}}{Dt} = -\nabla p + \mu \nabla \cdot \nabla \vec{u} + \rho \vec{g}$$

Acceleration      Pressure Force      Viscosity Force      External Forces

Incompressibility:  
(mass conservation)

$$\nabla \cdot \vec{u} = 0$$

$\Omega:$



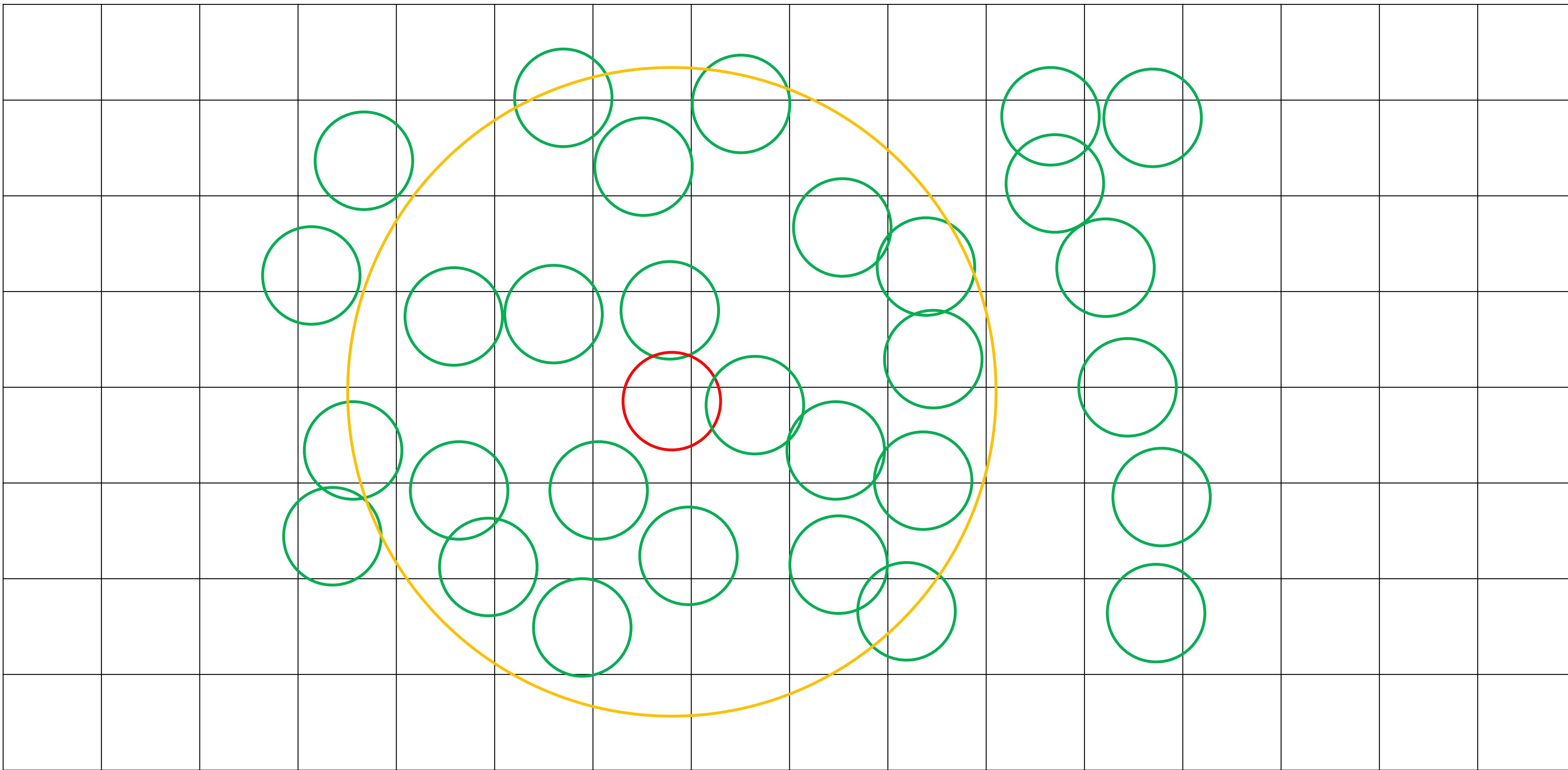
# Pressure Force

- $\mathbf{f}_{pressure} = -\nabla p$ 
  - Push fluid from high-pressure region to low-pressure region

# Viscosity Force

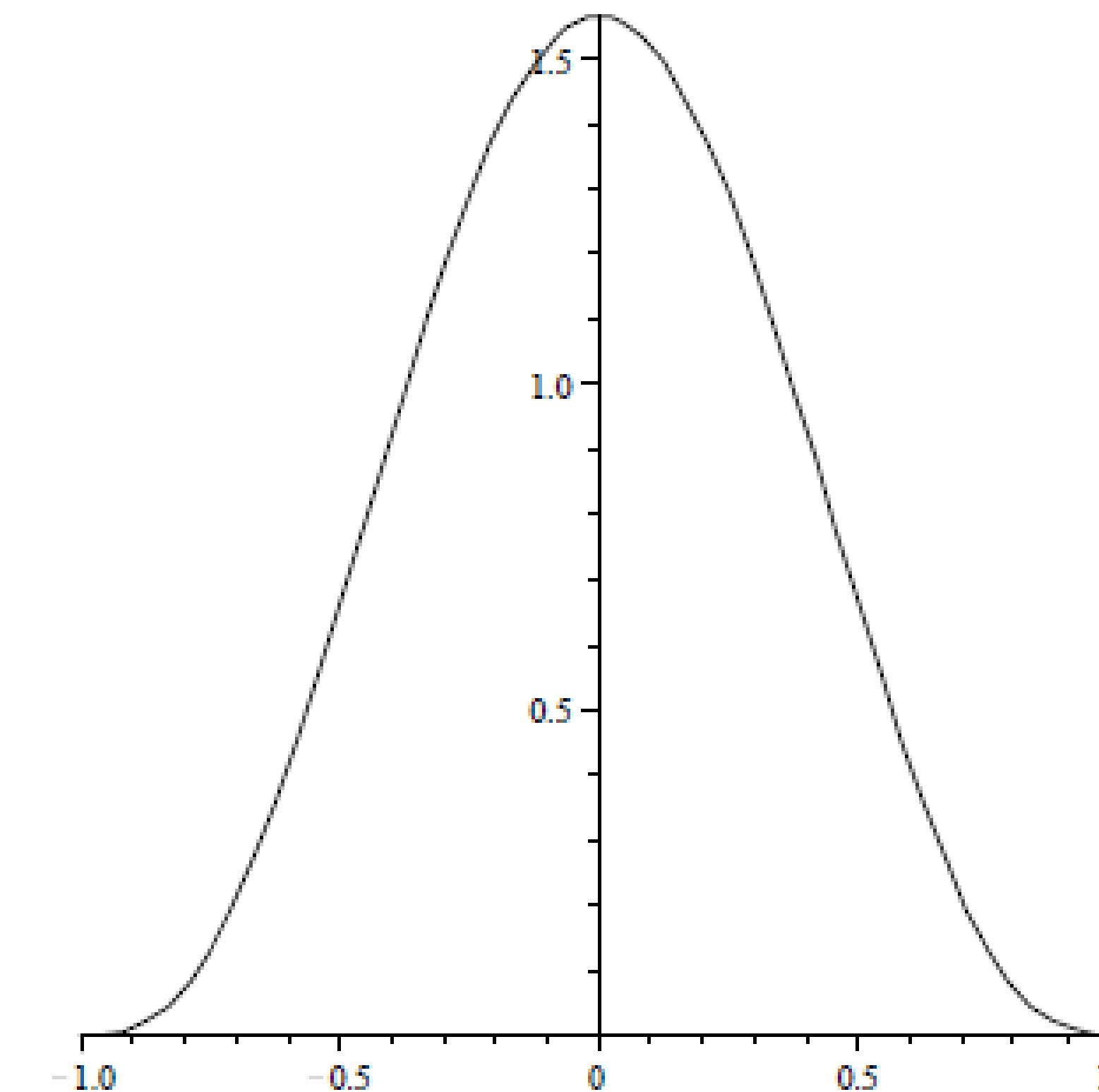
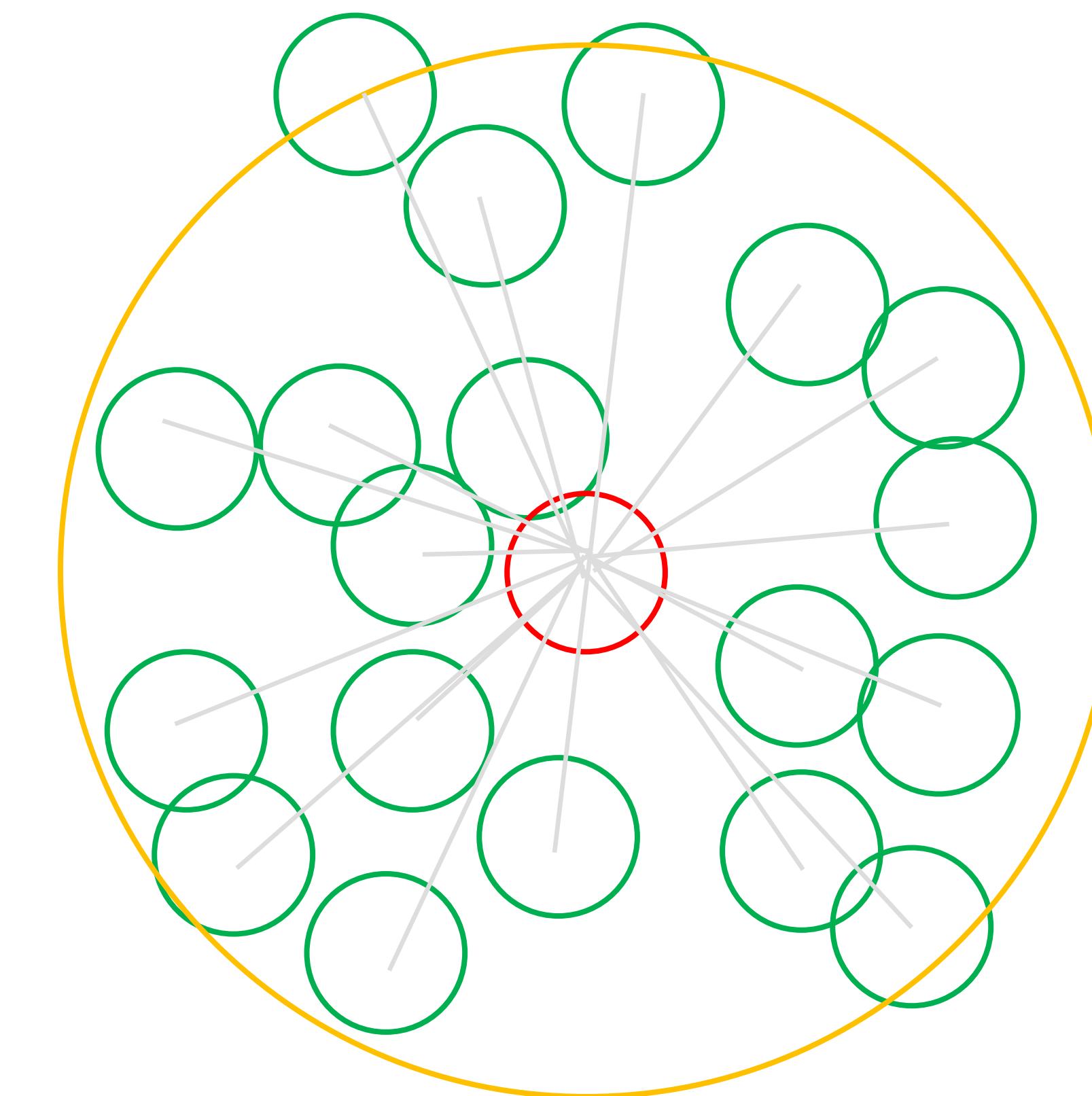
- $f_{viscosity} = \mu \nabla \cdot \nabla u$ 
  - Oppose the relative motion between fluid particles
  - Think of it as an internal “friction”
  - Smooth the velocity field

# Key Idea: Use a Smoothing Kernel for Particle Force Calculation



# Smoothing Kernel Function

- $A_s(\vec{x}_i) = \sum A_j V_j W(|\vec{x}_i - \vec{x}_j|)$ 
  - A smooth approximation equals the weighted sum of all the neighbors' quantities



# Simulation Loop

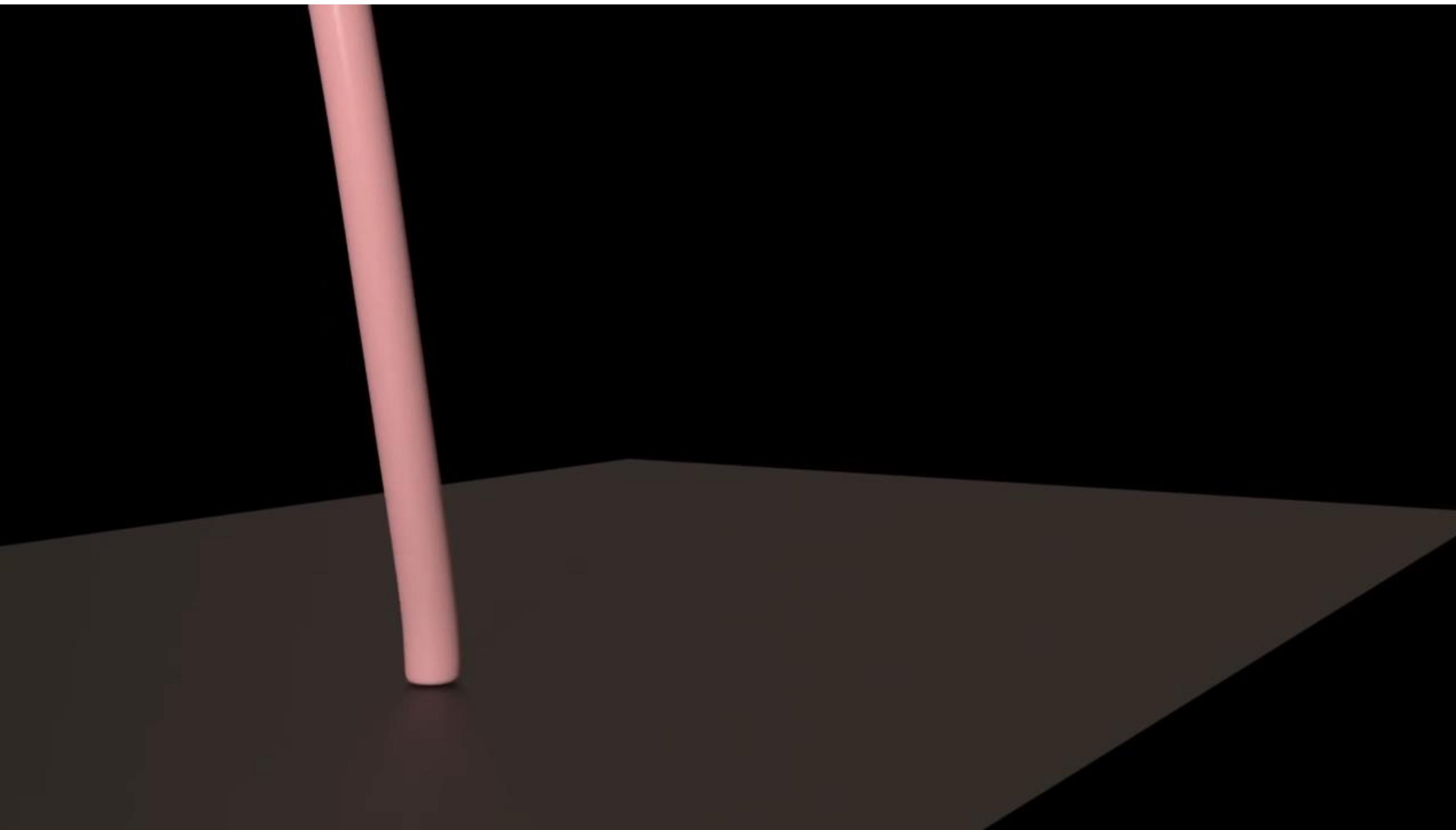
- In each time step:
  - Update the grid structure for neighbor inquiry
  - Calculate **density** for each particle
  - Calculate **pressure** for each particle
  - Calculate **pressure forces** for each particle
  - Calculate **viscosity forces** for each particle
  - Calculate **body forces** for each particle
  - Update particle position



# Large-Scale Particle Fluid



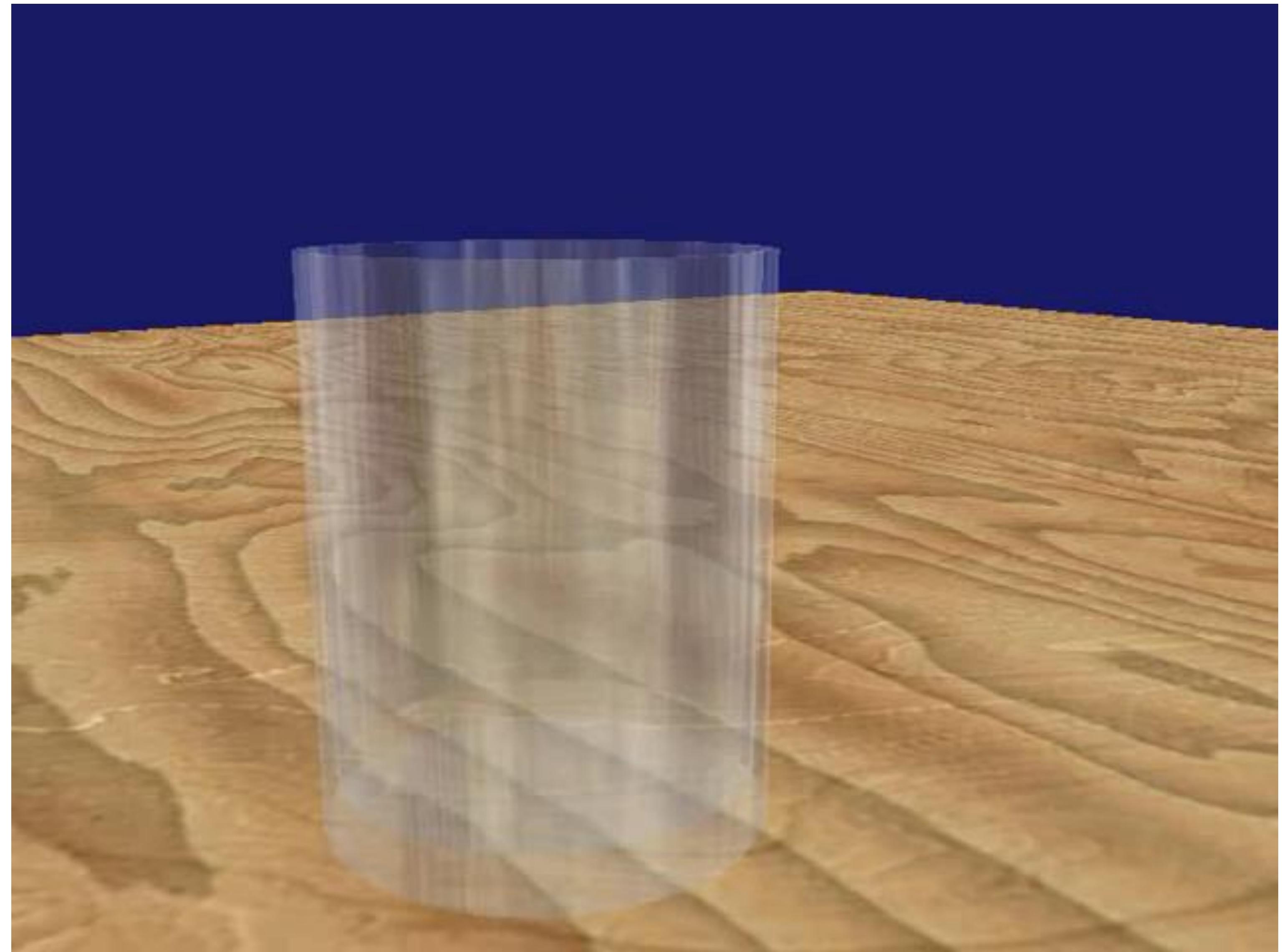
# Viscous Particle Fluid



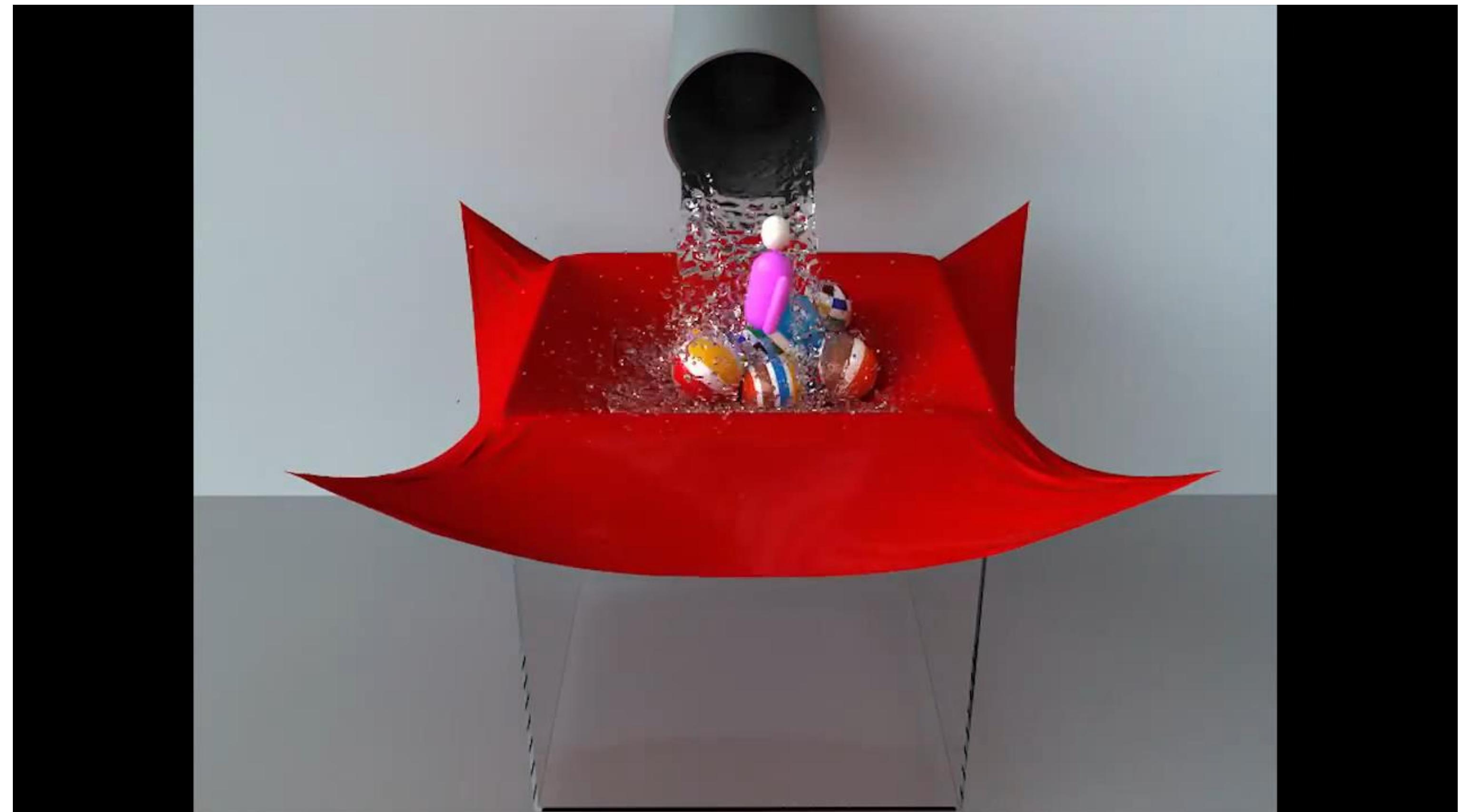
# Surface Tension Particle Fluid



# Real-Time Simulation



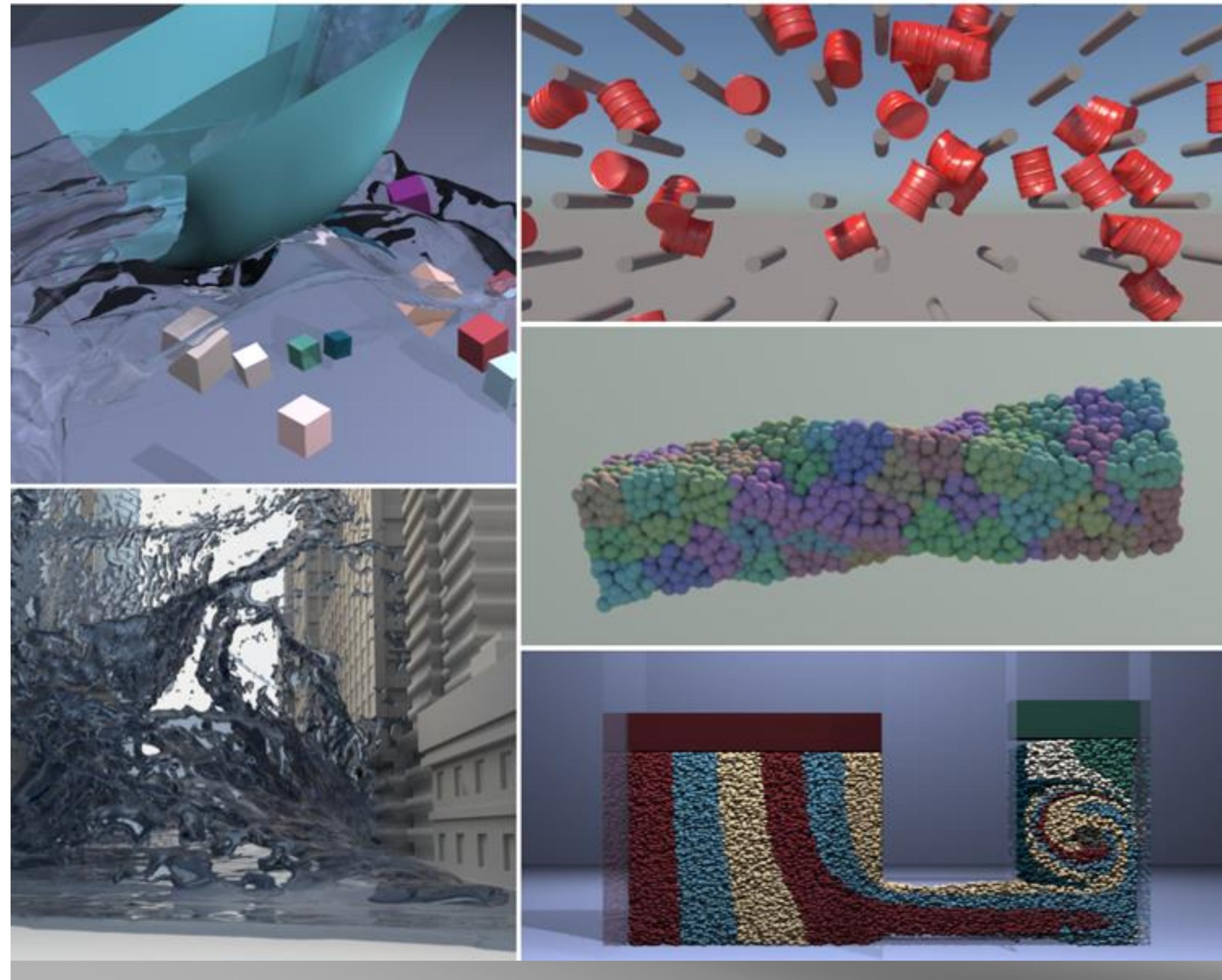
# Solid-Fluid Interaction with Particles





## Key Takeaways for Physically-based Animation

- Solve a physical equation to drive particle motion
- Interaction among particle neighbors is important
- Mass-spring model for solid simulation
- Smoothed particle model (SPH) for fluid simulation



## Reading Materials

- **An introduction to physics-based animation**
  - <https://education.siggraph.org/cgsource/content/introduction-physics-based-animation>
- **Fluid Simulation for Computer Animation**
  - <https://www.cs.ubc.ca/~rbridson/fluidsimulation/>