

# Physics Simulation

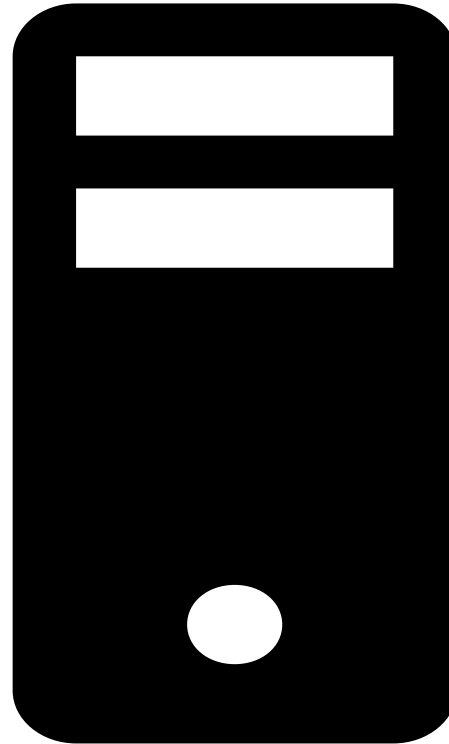
Mengyu Chu 楚梦渝

[https://rachelcmy.github.io/  
mchu@pku.edu.cn](https://rachelcmy.github.io/mchu@pku.edu.cn)  
<http://vcl.pku.edu.cn/index.html>



**VISUAL  
COMPUTING AND  
LEARNING LAB**

# Computer Graphics

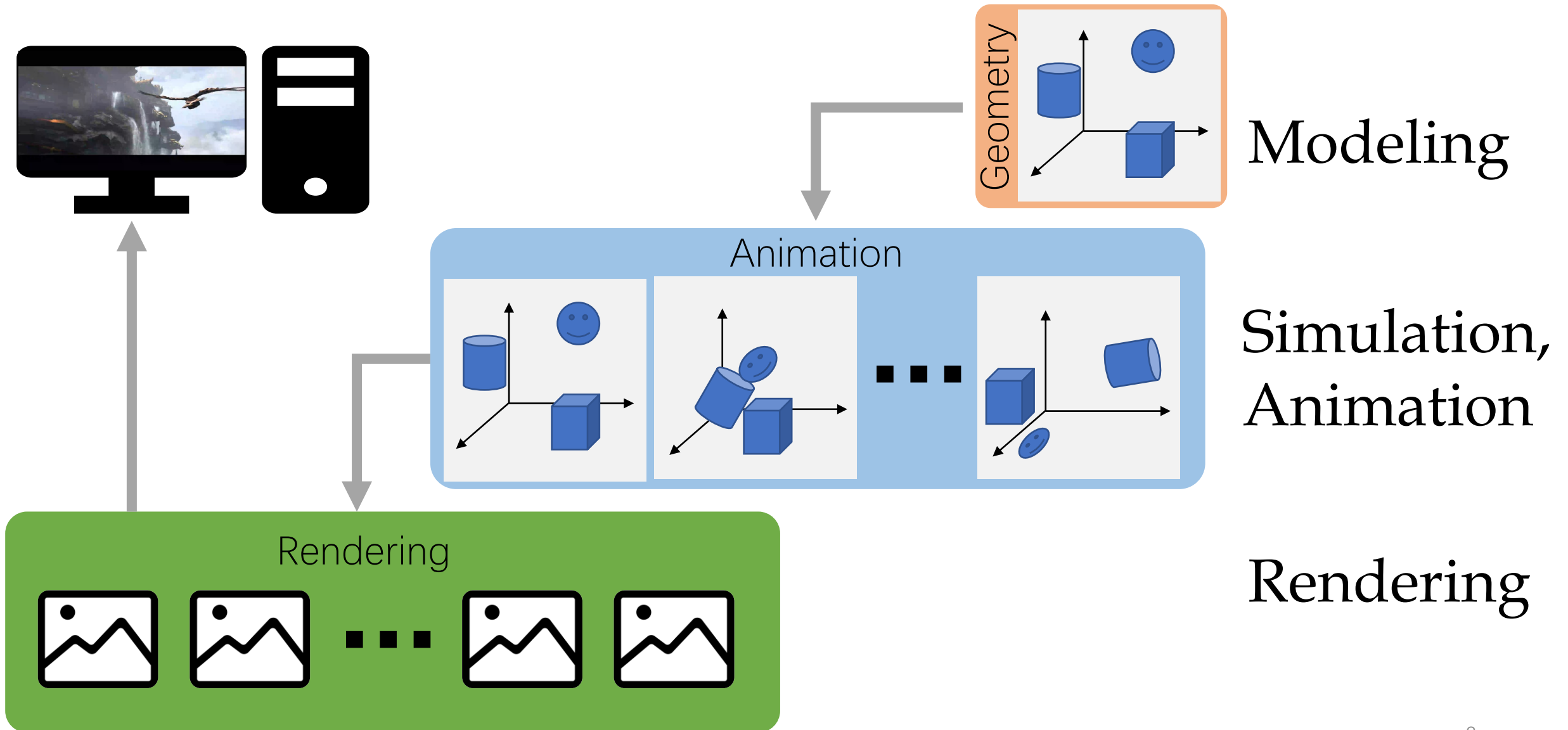


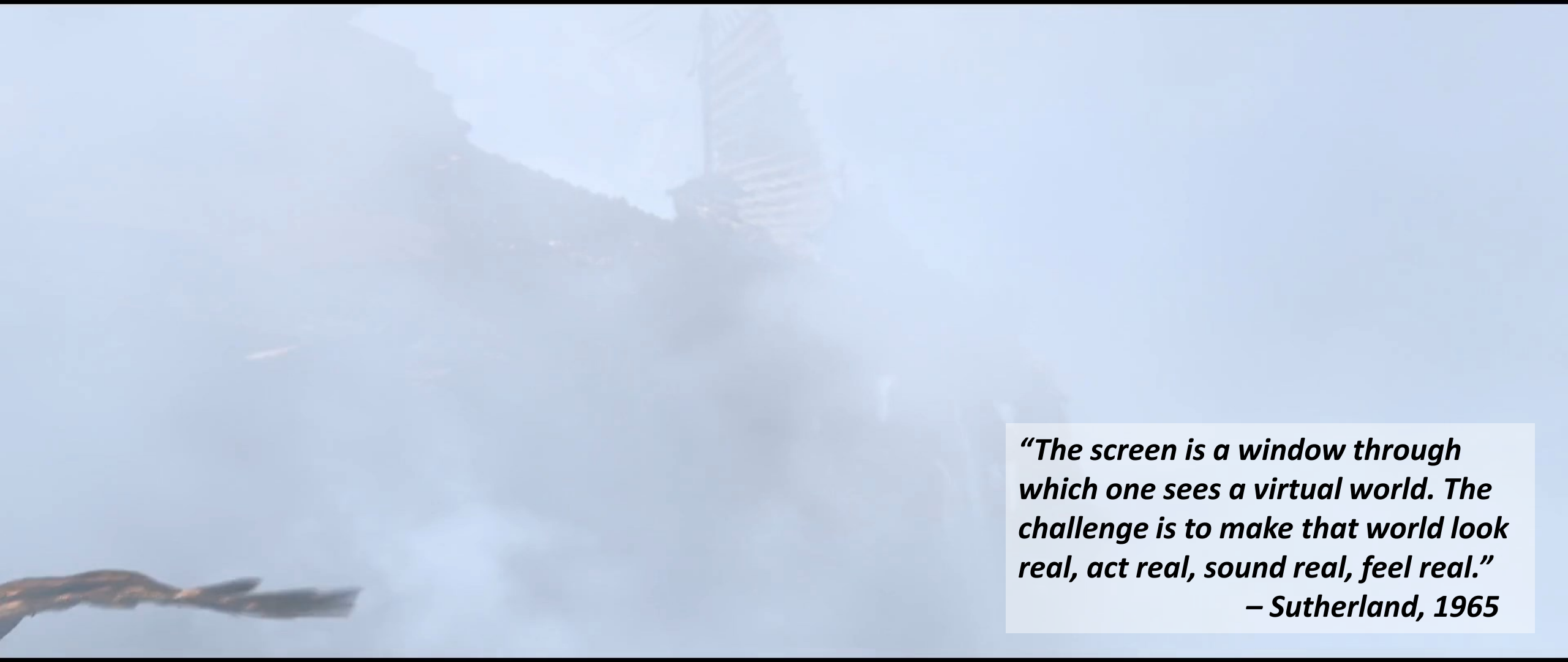
Modeling

Simulation,  
Animation

Rendering

# Computer Graphics

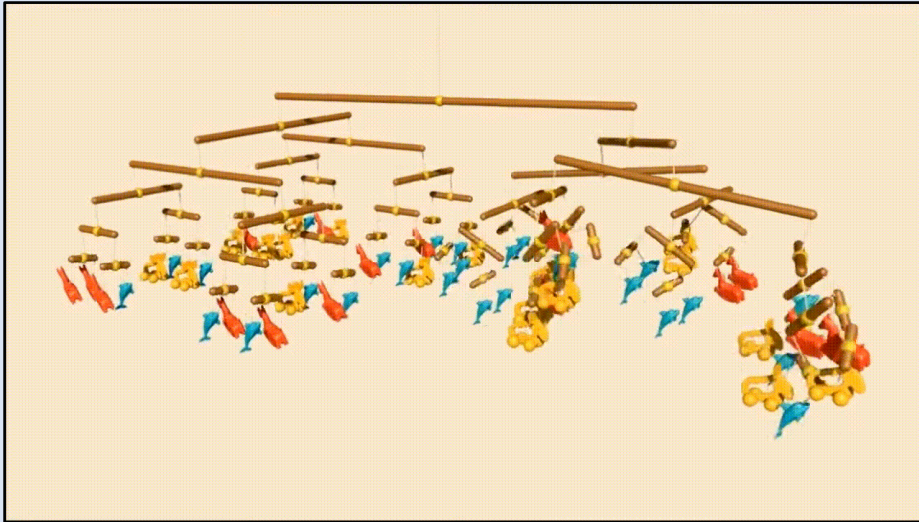




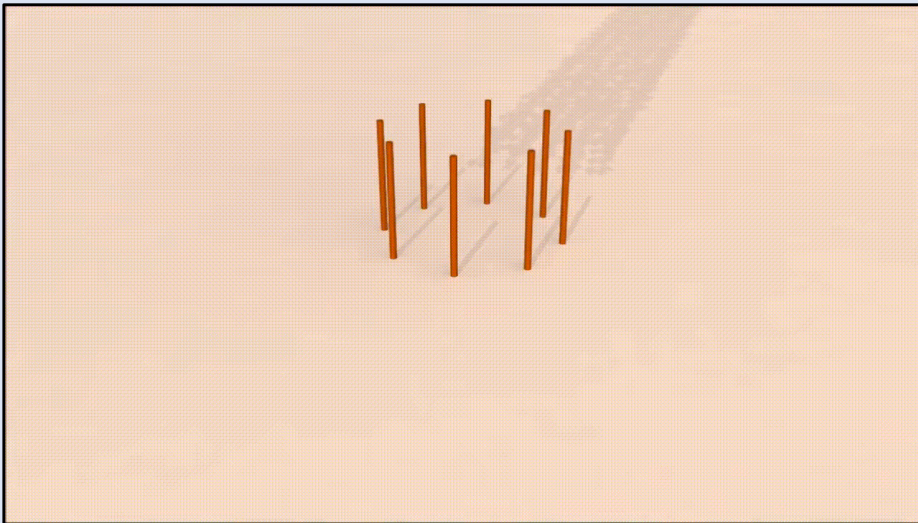
***“The screen is a window through  
which one sees a virtual world. The  
challenge is to make that world look  
real, act real, sound real, feel real.”  
– Sutherland, 1965***

Simulating *a virtual world*

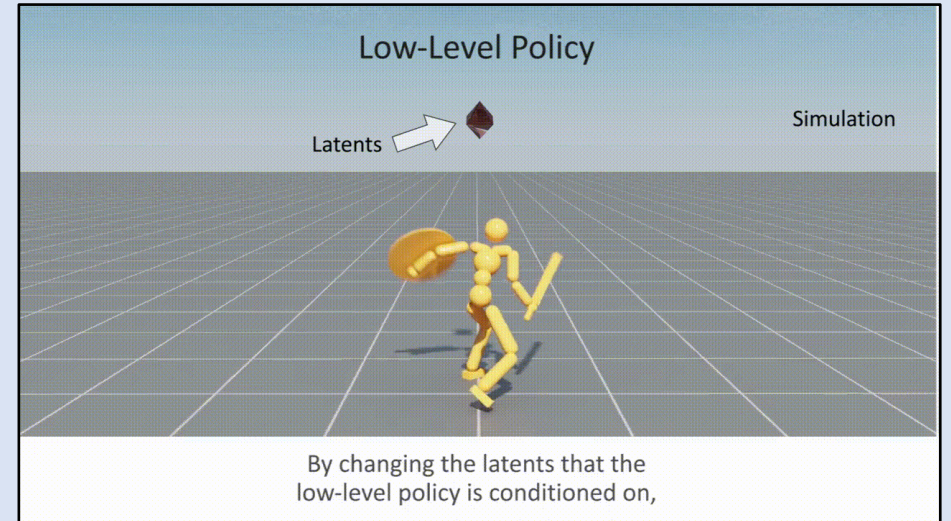
# Rigid Body



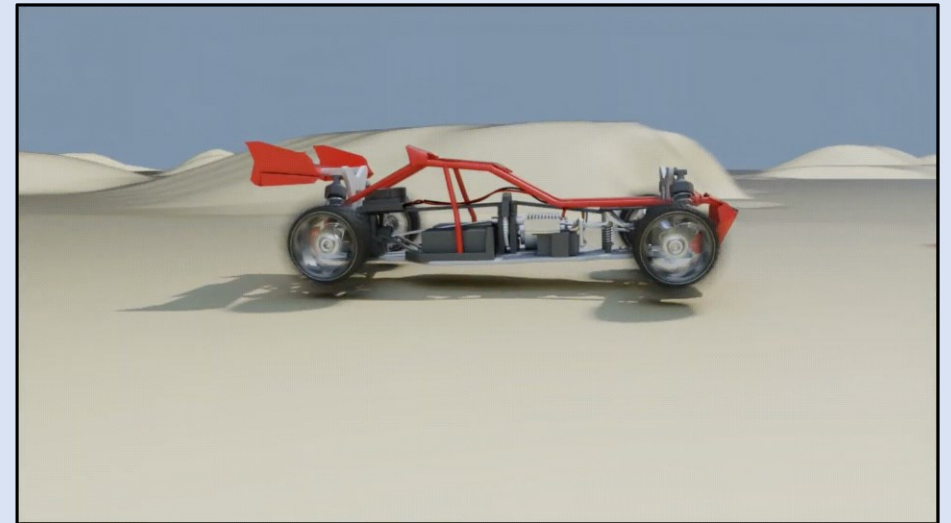
Deul et al. CAVW2014



Deul et al. CAVW2014

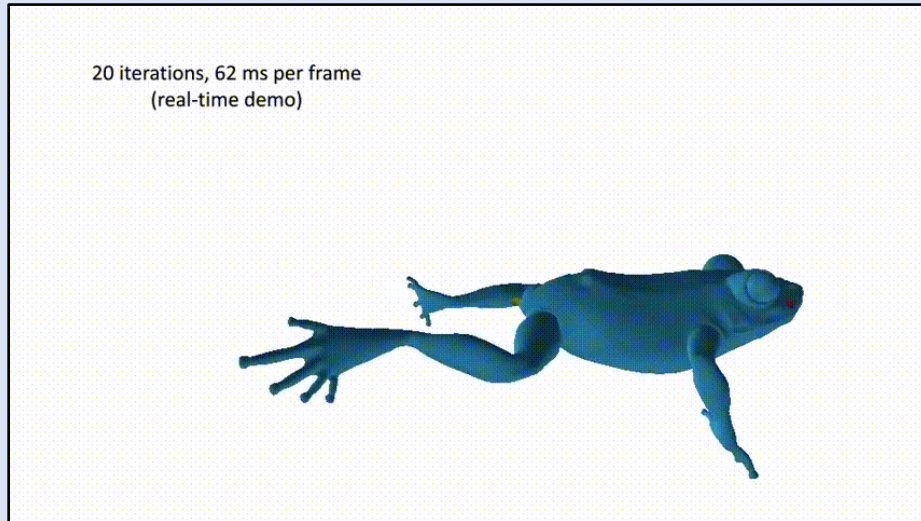


Peng et al. SIGGRAPH2022

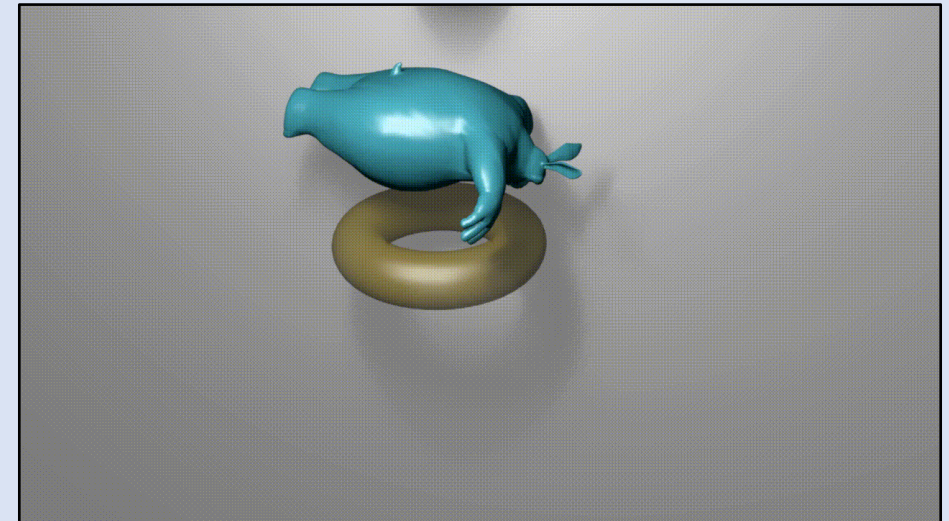


Muller et al. SCA2020

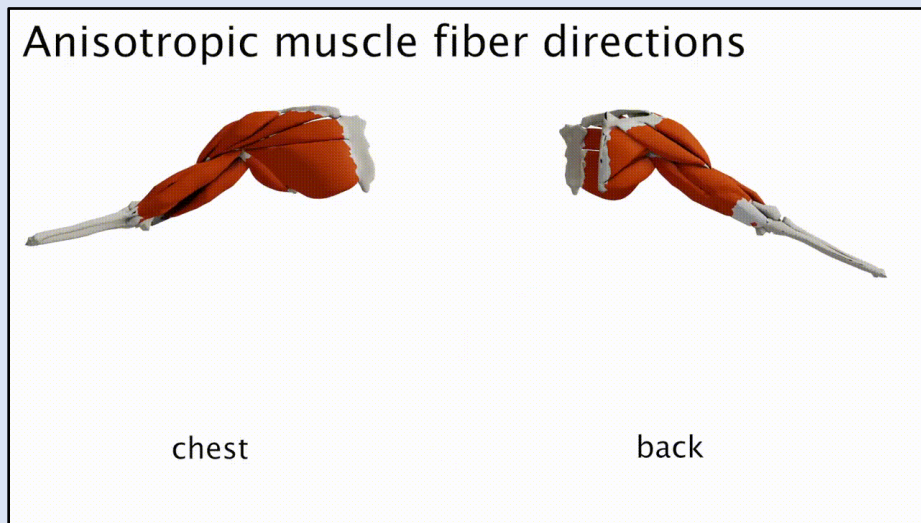
# Deformable Object



Liu et al. SIGGRAPH Asia2013



Liu et al. SIGGRAPH2017



chest

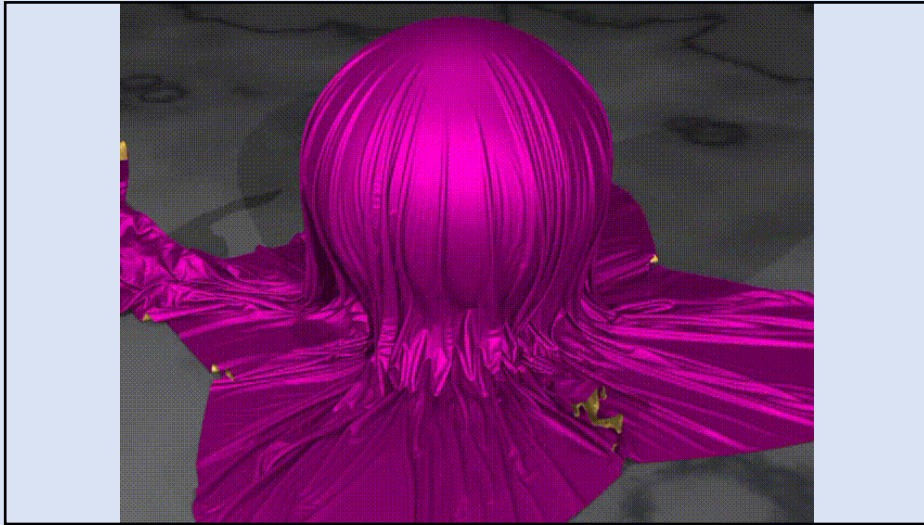
back

Modi et al. CGF2020

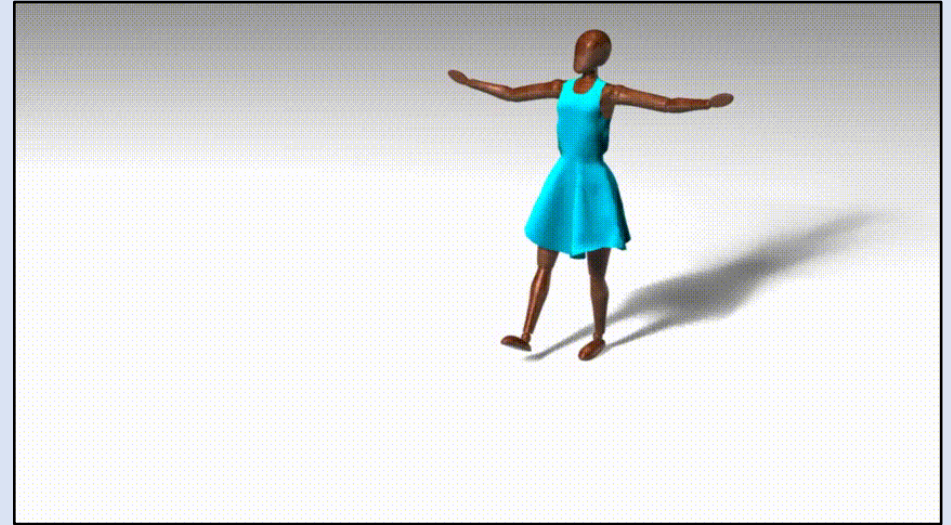


Liu et al. SIGGRAPH2013

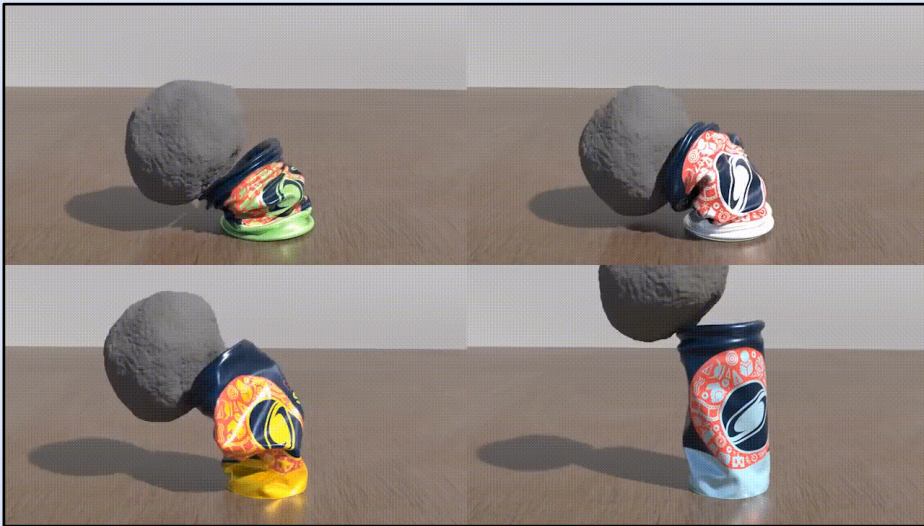
# Thin Shell



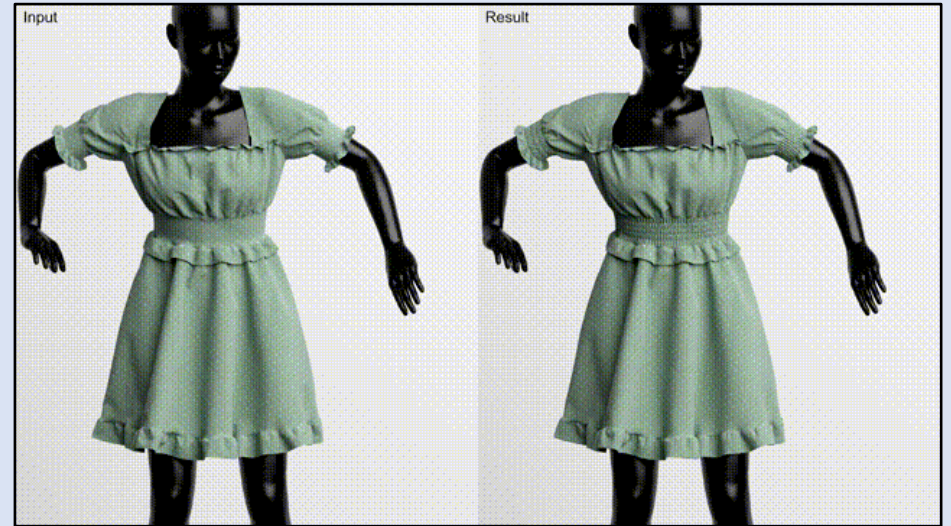
Selle et al. TVCG2015



Liu et al. SIGGRAPH Asia2013

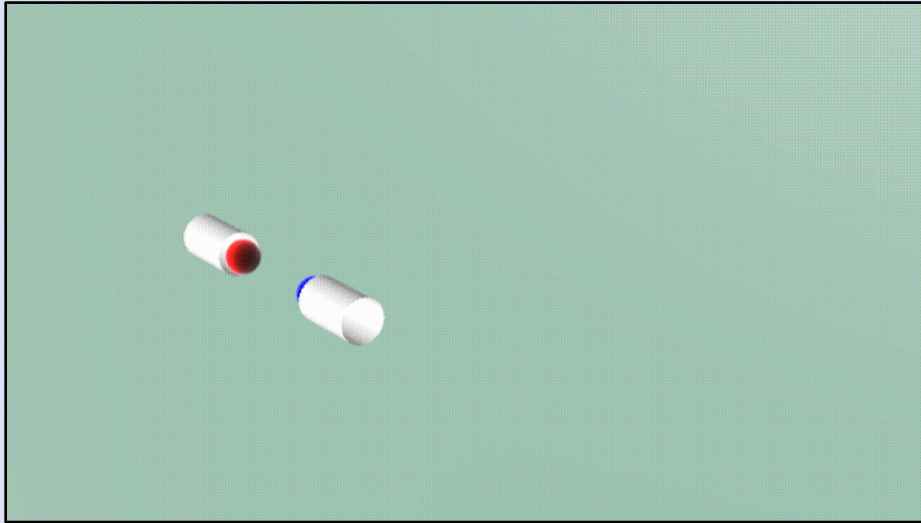


Guo et al. SIGGRAPH2018

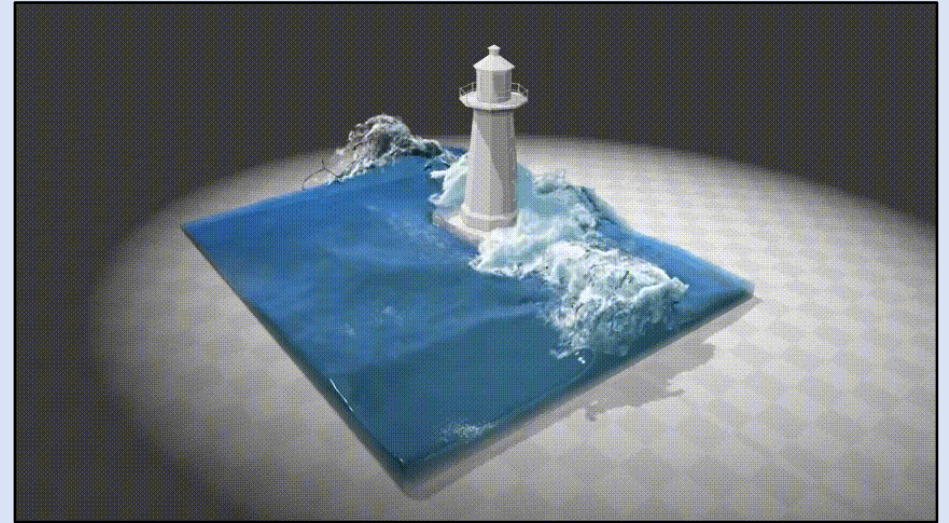


Huamin Wang SIGGRAPH2021

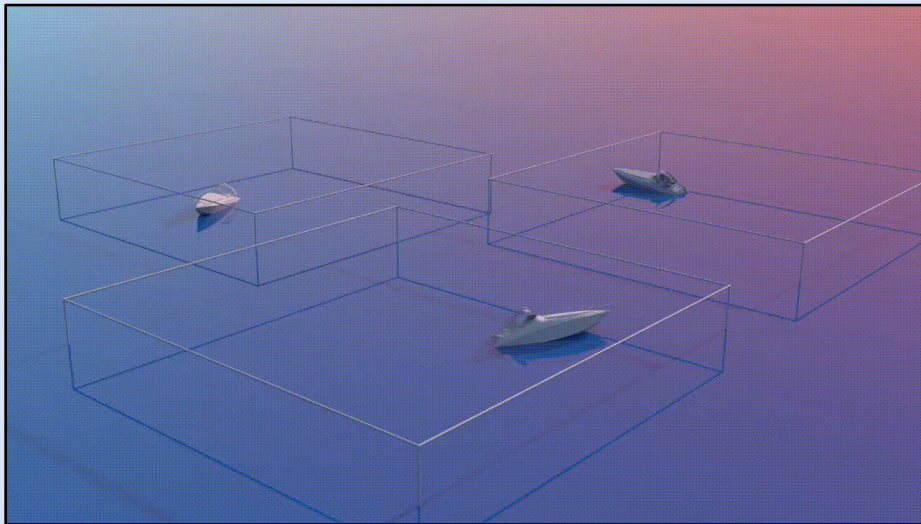
# Fluid



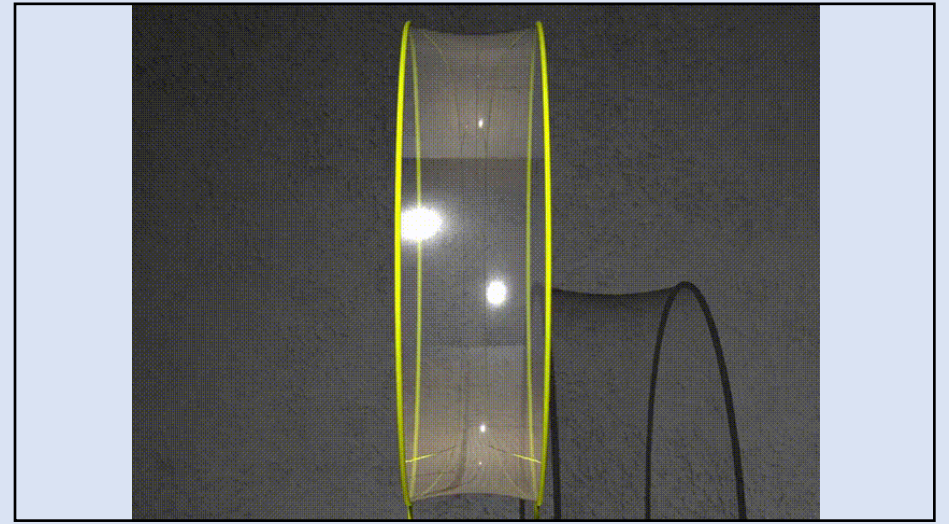
Qu et al. SIGGRAPH2019



Macklin et al. SIGGRAPH2013



Huang et al. SIGGRAPH Asia2021

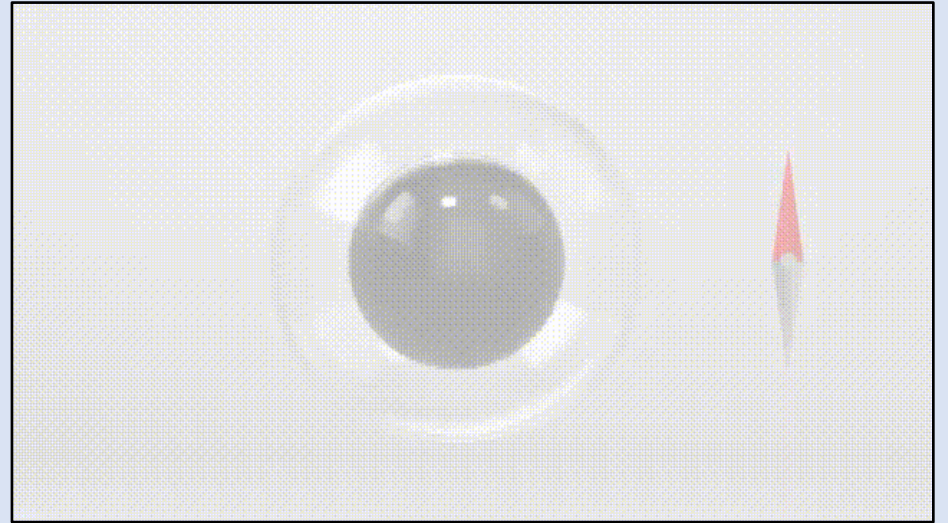


Zhu et al. SIGGRAPH2014

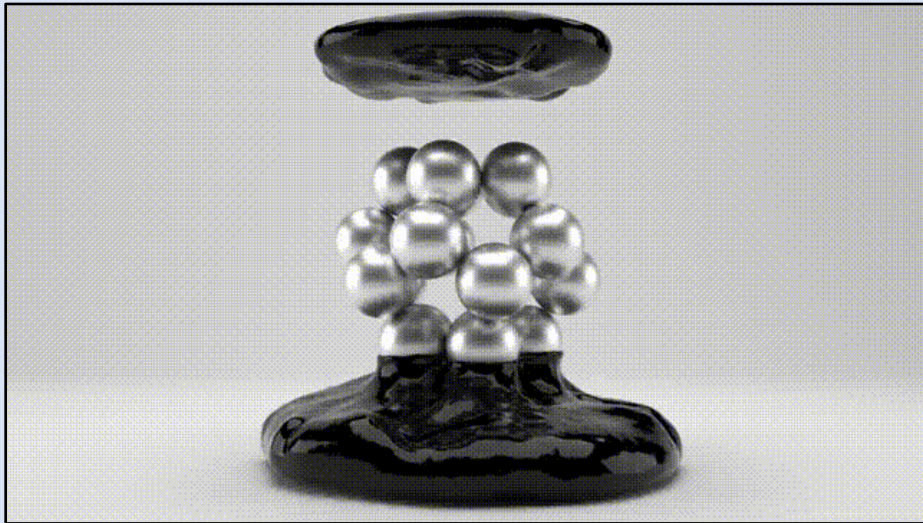
# Anything else...



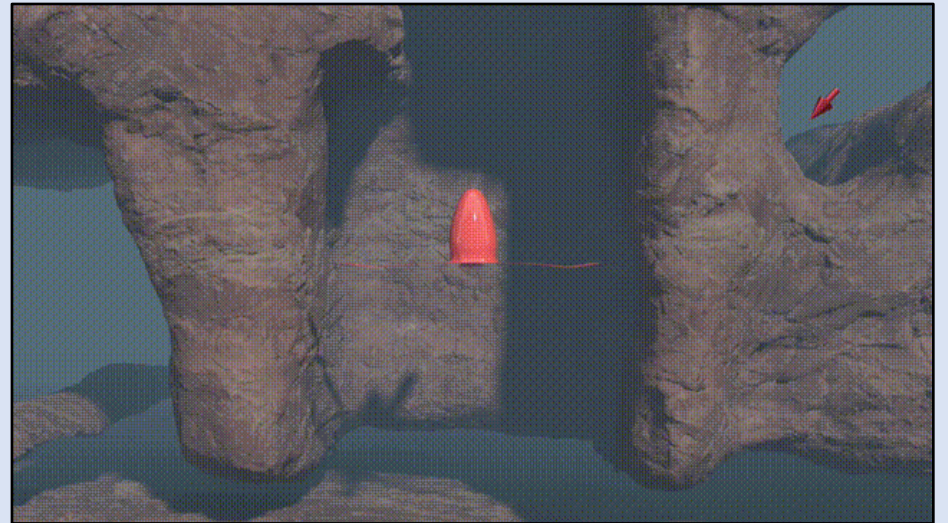
Ruan et al. SIGGRAPH2021



Ni et al. SIGGRAPH2020



Sun et al. SIGGRAPH Asia2021



Chen et al. SIGGRAPH2022

# Online Resources

- [GAMES103](#), [GAMES201](#) on Bilibili
- [Physics-based Animation](#) by David Levin
- [Ten Minute Physics](#) by Matthias Müller
- <http://www.physicsbasedanimation.com/>
- SIGGRAPH(Asia) papers, courses...

## GAMES 103

### 基于物理的计算机动画入门



**王华民**

凌迪科技 (Style3D) / 俄亥俄州立大学 (OSU)

2021年11月1日起 | 北京时间每周一下午4:00-6:00 | WEBINAR.GAMES-CN.ORG

## GAMES 201

### 高级物理引擎实战指南2020



**胡渊鸣**

麻省理工学院

2020年6月1日起 | 北京时间每周一晚8:30-9:30 | WEBINAR.GAMES-CN.ORG

# Some Basics...

# Physics Model

The underlying physical laws necessary for the mathematical theory of a large part of physics and the whole of chemistry are thus completely known, and the difficulty is only that the exact application of these laws leads to equations much too complicated to be soluble.

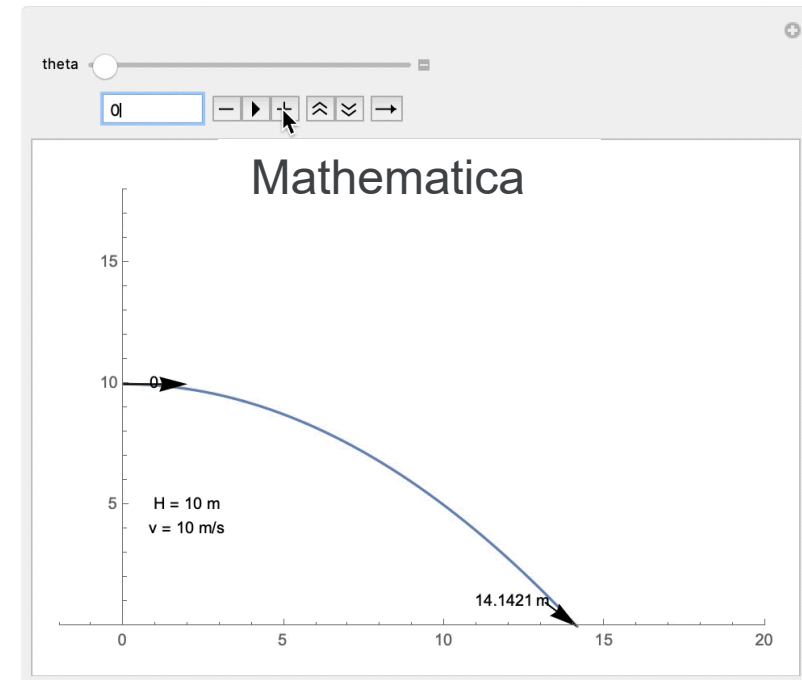
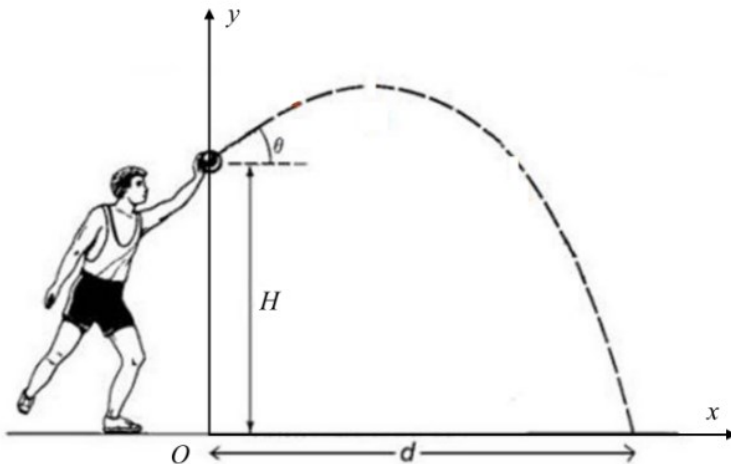
Paul M. Dirac, 1929

$$F = ma$$

- For a particle:

$$x = v_0 \cos \theta \cdot t$$

$$y = H + v_0 \sin \theta \cdot t + \frac{1}{2}(-g) \cdot t^2$$



# Physics Model

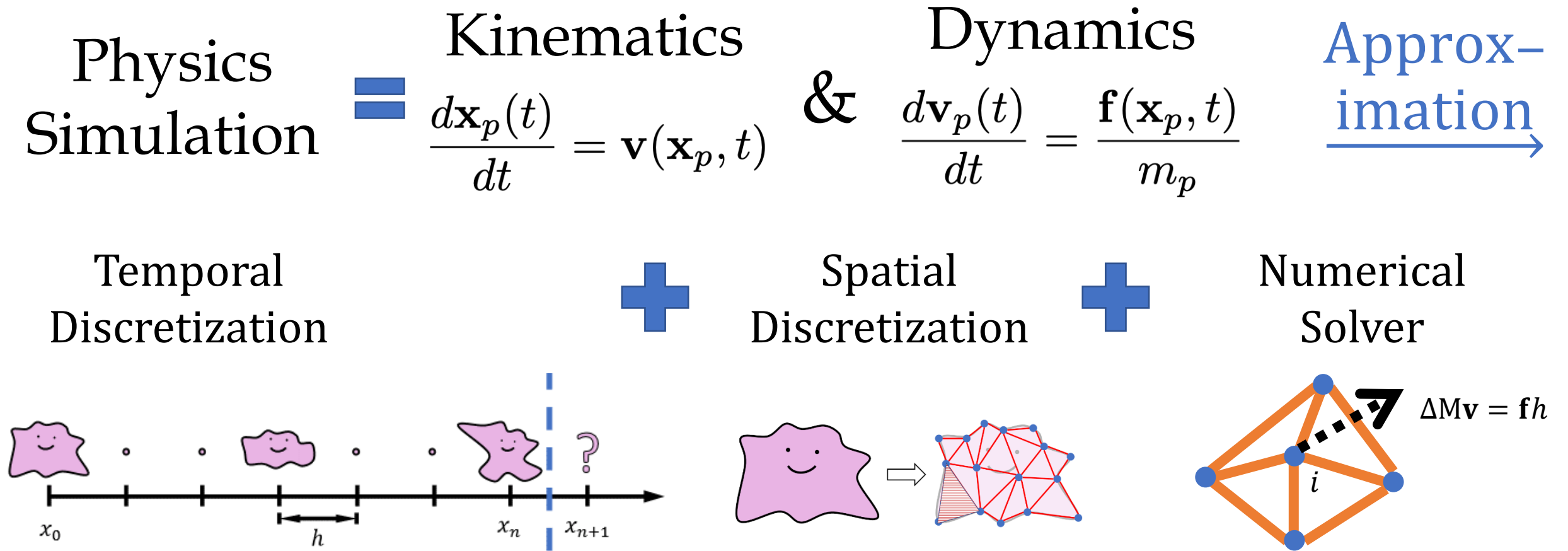
The underlying physical laws necessary for the mathematical theory of a large part of physics and the whole of chemistry are thus completely known, and the difficulty is only that the exact application of these laws leads to equations much too complicated to be soluble.

Paul M. Dirac, 1929

$$F = ma$$

- For a particle:
  - $a = f(t)$ ,  $v = \int f(t) dt + v_0$ . Easy to solve!
- A piece of material consists of **infinite number** of particles
  - When **analytical solutions** don't exist, we look for **numerical solutions**
  - We need **discretization, calculus, differential equations, tensor analysis, field theories...**

# Three Building Blocks of Numerical Simulation

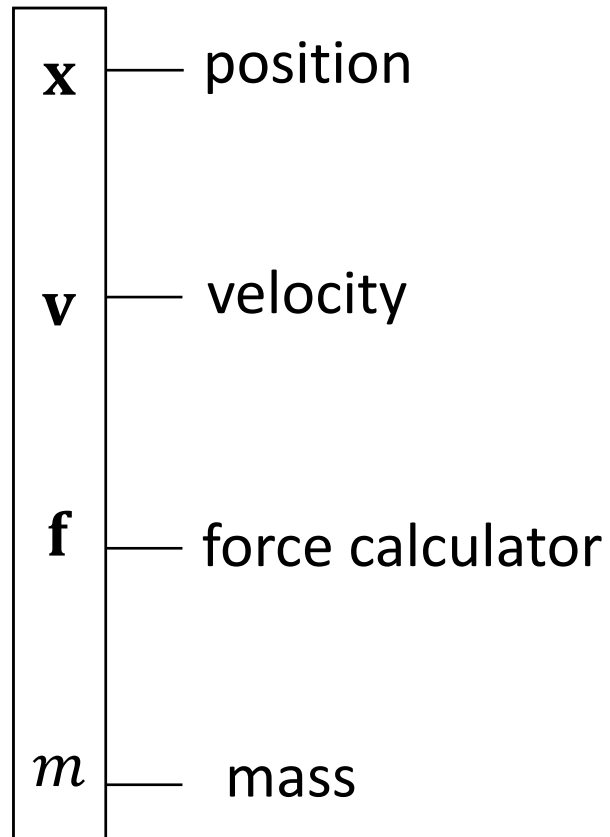


## Questions:

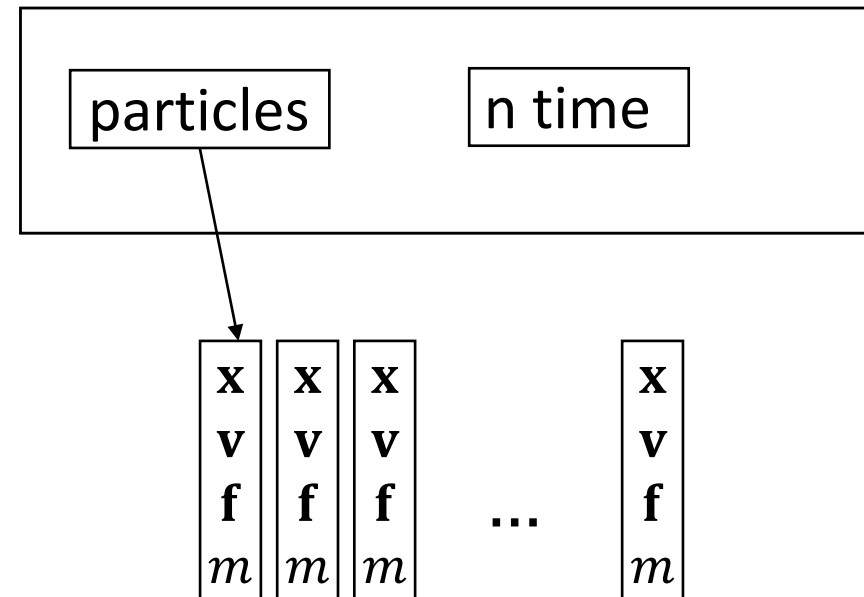
1. What is the **spatial representation**?
2. How to solve **dynamics** (**discretize momentum equations**) based on the representation?
3. How to perform **kinematics** via **time integration** (for a single time step)?

# Your First Simulator: Spring-Mass System

# Spatial Discretization: 1. Particle System



**Particle Structure**



**Particle System**

# Spatial Discretization: 2. Spring Energy

- Use **springs** to mimic elasticity energy
- For one spring:

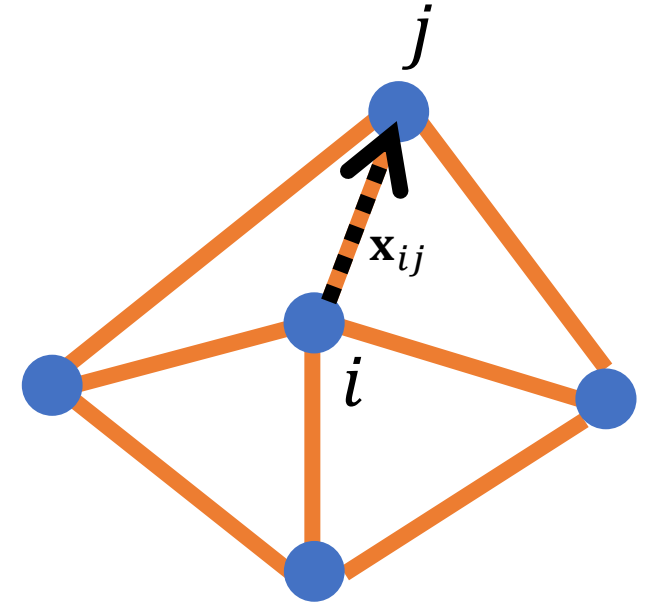
$$\mathbf{x}_{ij} = \mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i, \quad E_{ij} = \frac{1}{2}k(\|\mathbf{x}_{ij}\| - l_0)^2$$

- Force from particle  $j$  to particle  $i$ :

$$\mathbf{f}_{ij} = k(\|\mathbf{x}_{ij}\| - l_0) \frac{\mathbf{x}_{ij}}{\|\mathbf{x}_{ij}\|} = -\mathbf{f}_{ji}$$

- The total force on particle  $i$ :

$$\mathbf{f}_i = \sum_{j \in N(i)} \mathbf{f}_{ij} + \mathbf{f}_i^{ext}$$



# Temporal Discretization

$$\frac{d\mathbf{x}_p(t)}{dt} = \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}_p, t)$$

integrate



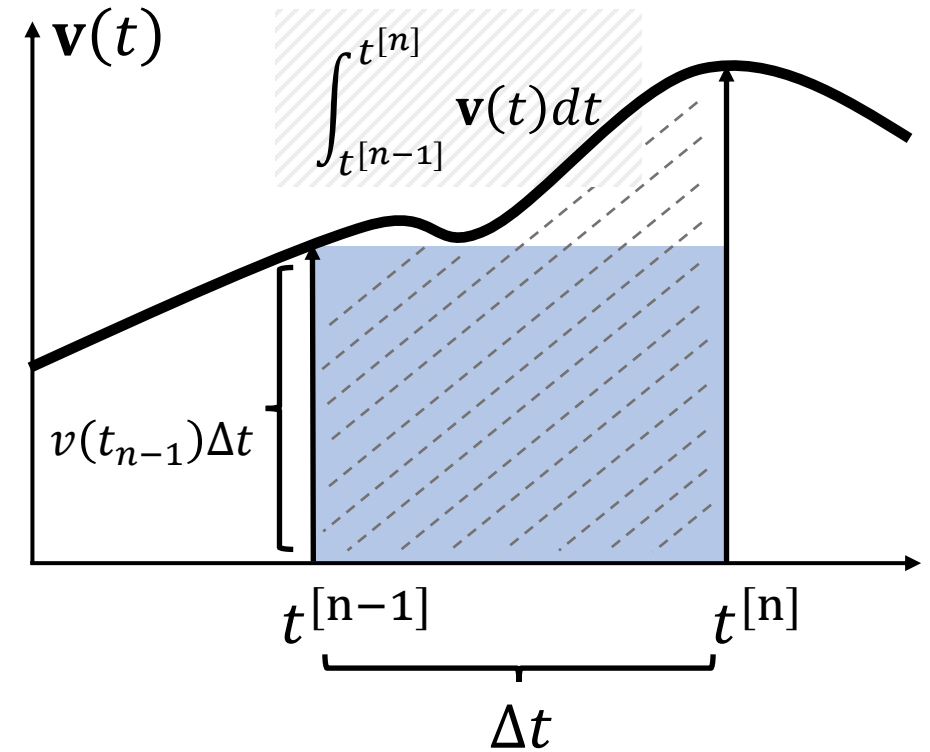
$$\mathbf{x}_p(t_n) - \mathbf{x}_p(t_{n-1}) = \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} \mathbf{v}_p(t) dt$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{v}_p(t)}{dt} = \frac{\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_p, t)}{m_p}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_p(t_n) - \mathbf{v}_p(t_{n-1}) = \frac{1}{m} \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} f(\mathbf{x}_p, t) dt$$

# Temporal Discretization: Explicit Euler

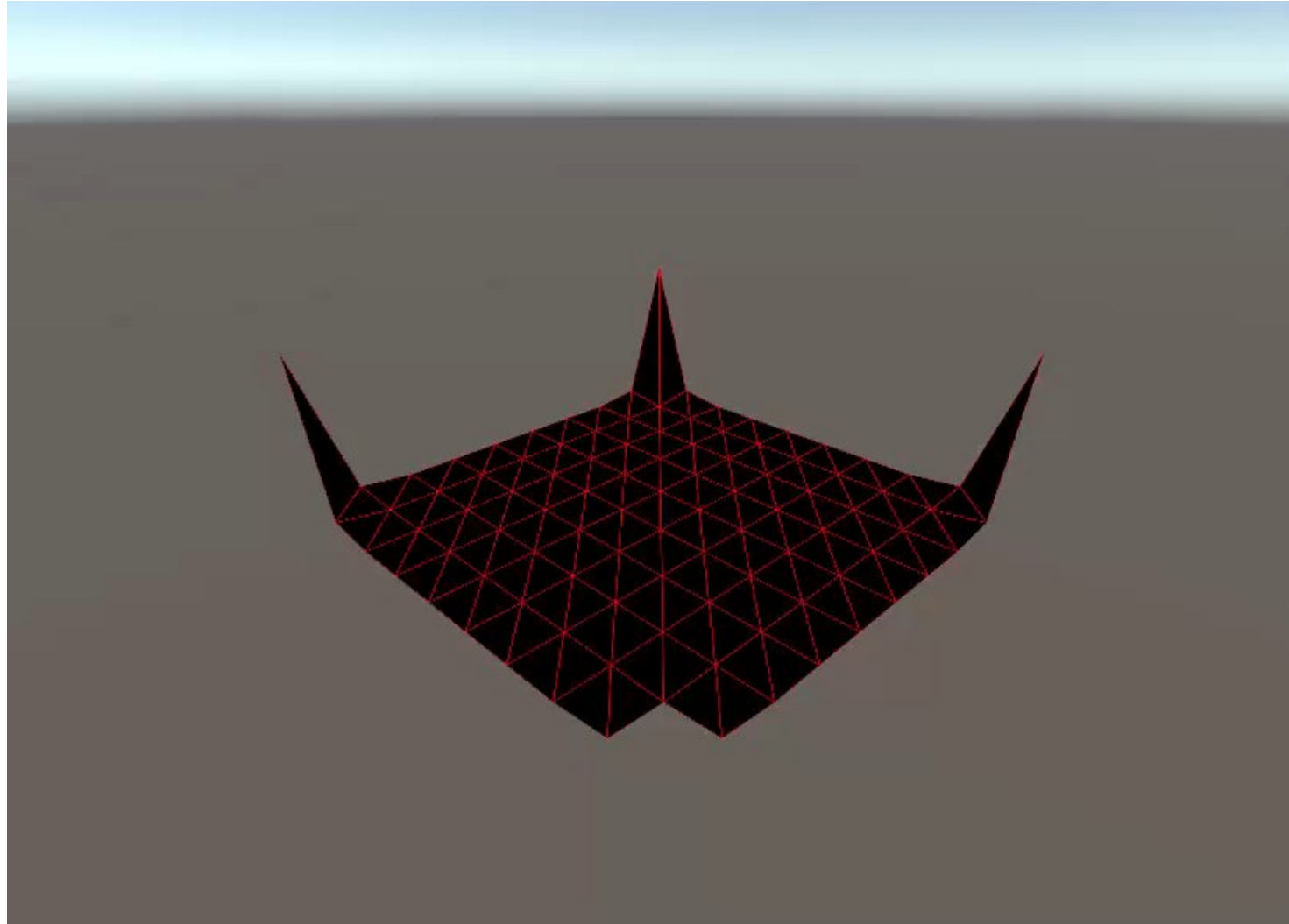
- We don't want integrations
- $\mathbf{x}(t_n) - \mathbf{x}(t_{n-1}) = \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} \mathbf{v}(t) dt \approx \mathbf{v}(t_{n-1})\Delta t$
- $\mathbf{v}(t_n) - \mathbf{v}(t_{n-1}) = \frac{1}{m} \int_{t_{n-1}}^{t_n} \mathbf{f}(t) dt \approx \frac{1}{m} \mathbf{f}(t_{n-1})\Delta t$
- We know this is very inaccurate...



# Explicit Euler Simulator

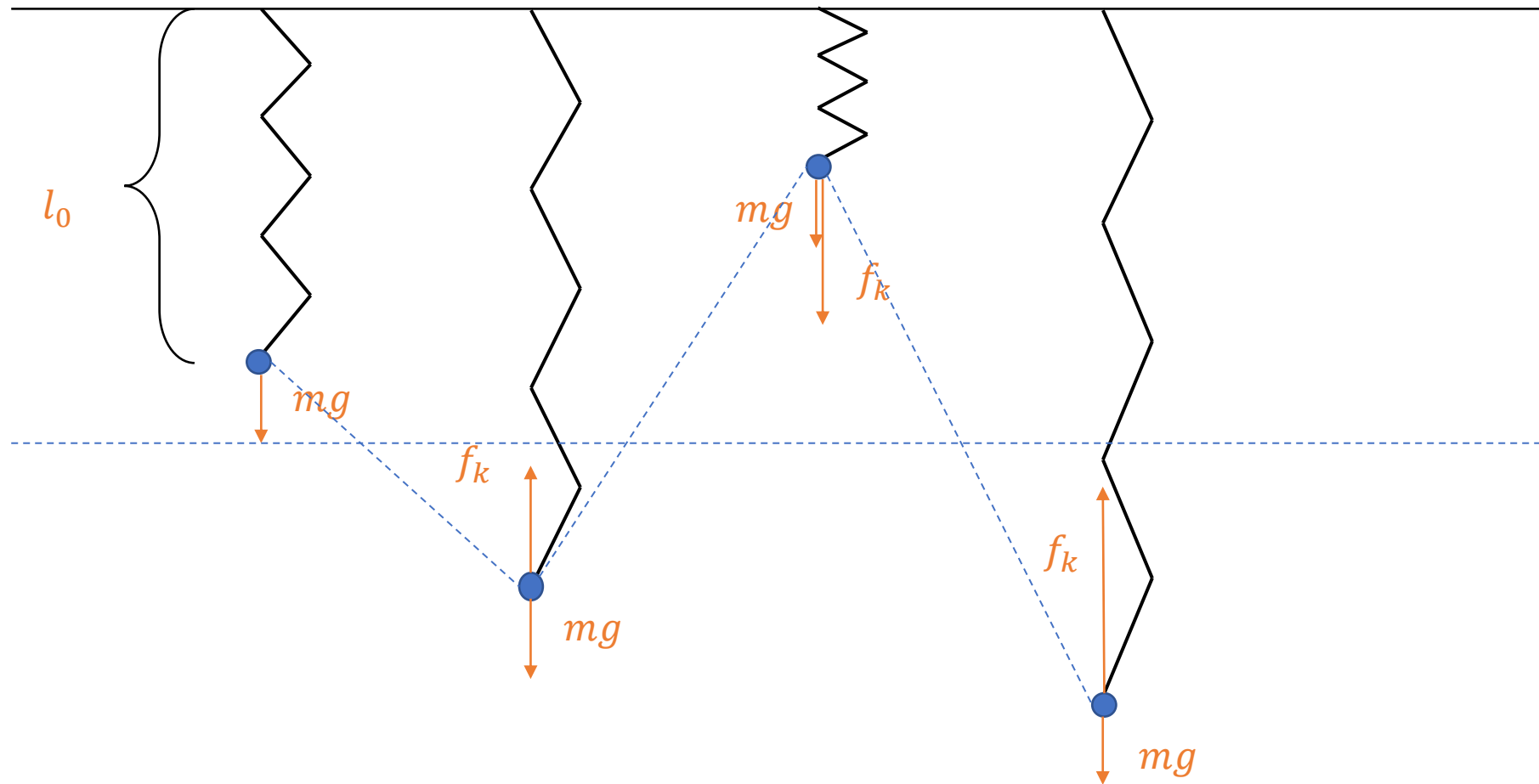
- At each step  $t_n \rightarrow t_{n+1}$ :
  - For each particle:
    - Compute  $\mathbf{f}(t_n) = \Sigma \mathbf{f}_{ij}$  using current particle positions:  $\mathbf{f}_{ij} = k(\|\mathbf{x}_{ij}\| - l_0) \frac{\mathbf{x}_{ij}}{\|\mathbf{x}_{ij}\|}$
    - Update its position  $\mathbf{x}(t_{n+1}) = \mathbf{x}(t_n) + \mathbf{v}(t_n)\Delta t$
    - Update its velocity  $\mathbf{v}(t_{n+1}) = \mathbf{v}(t_n) + \frac{1}{m}\mathbf{f}(t_n)\Delta t$

# Here is the result



# Why?

- Suppose  $\Delta t$  is large  $\rightarrow$  energy increase!



*Explode!*

*force balance:*  
 $mg = f_k$

# How to Evaluate Discretization & Integration?

- Discretization  $\rightarrow$  *Truncation Errors*:

$$f(x+h) = \underbrace{f(x) + f'(x)h + \frac{f''(x)}{2}h^2}_{n^{th} \text{ Order Approximation}} + \underbrace{\dots}_{O(h^{n+1}) \text{ Truncation Error}}$$

- Integration  $\rightarrow$  *Error could Accumulate*:

- *Stability*:

Do *errors* accumulate? Is there an upper bound? (Error Propagation, Energy Preservation)

- *Convergence (Consistency)*:

If  $h \rightarrow 0$ , will *Error*  $\rightarrow 0$  ?

- *Accuracy and Convergence (Speed)*:

$n^{th}$  Order Accurate with  $O(h^{n+1})$  error

# To Improve Stability: Implicit Euler

- Explicit Euler:

- $\mathbf{x}(t_{n+1}) = \mathbf{x}(t_n) + \mathbf{v}(t_n)\Delta t$

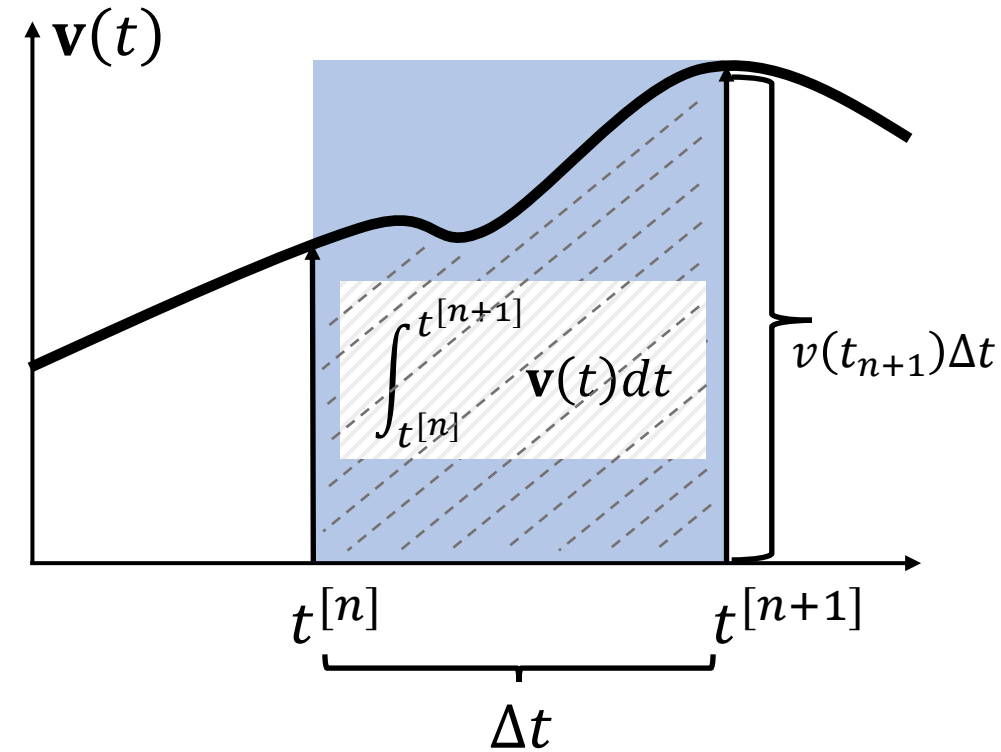
- $\mathbf{v}(t_{n+1}) = \mathbf{v}(t_n) + \frac{1}{m}\mathbf{f}(t_n)\Delta t$

- Implicit Euler:

- $\mathbf{x}(t_{n+1}) = \mathbf{x}(t_n) + \mathbf{v}(t_{n+1})\Delta t$

- $\mathbf{v}(t_{n+1}) = \mathbf{v}(t_n) + \frac{1}{m}\mathbf{f}(t_{n+1})\Delta t$

- Later we'll see why implicit Euler is stable



# Implicit Euler

- Target: solve equations for  $\mathbf{x}_{n+1}$  and  $\mathbf{v}_{n+1}$
- For convenience, denote  $h = \Delta t$ ,  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{f} \in R^{3n}$  are collections of all particles

Implicit Euler

$$\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \mathbf{x}_n + h \mathbf{v}_{n+1}$$

$$\mathbf{v}_{n+1} = \mathbf{v}_n + h \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{n+1})$$

Substitute  $\mathbf{v}_{n+1}$  into  $\mathbf{x}_{n+1}$



$$\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \mathbf{x}_n + h \mathbf{v}_n + h^2 \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{x}_{n+1})$$

Divide  $f(x_{n+1})$  into 2 parts



$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{x}_{n+1} &= (\mathbf{x}_n + h \mathbf{v}_n + h^2 \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{f}_{ext}) + h^2 \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{f}_{int}(\mathbf{x}_{n+1}) \\ &= \underbrace{(\mathbf{x}_n + h(\mathbf{v}_n + h \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{f}_{ext}))}_{\text{independent of } \mathbf{x}_{n+1}} + \underbrace{h^2 \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{f}_{int}(\mathbf{x}_{n+1})}_{\text{function of } \mathbf{x}_{n+1}} \end{aligned}$$

denote the first term as  $\mathbf{y}$



independent of  $\mathbf{x}_{n+1}$

function of  $\mathbf{x}_{n+1}$

# Implicit Euler

- $\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \mathbf{y} + h^2 \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{f}_{int}(\mathbf{x}_{n+1})$

**=**  $\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} g(\mathbf{x}), \text{ for } g(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2h^2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_{\mathbf{M}}^2 + E(\mathbf{x})$

This is because:

$$\nabla g(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{h^2} \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) - \mathbf{f}_{int}(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$



$$\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y} - h^2 \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{f}_{int}(\mathbf{x}) = 0$$

Applicable to every system  
not just a mass-spring system

$$\begin{aligned} \|\mathbf{x}\|_{\mathbf{M}}^2 &= \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{M} \mathbf{x} \\ \mathbf{f}_{int}(\mathbf{x}_{n+1}) &= \frac{dE(\mathbf{x})}{d\mathbf{x}} \end{aligned}$$

# Implicit Euler

- $\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \mathbf{y} + h^2 \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{f}_{\text{int}}(\mathbf{x}_{n+1})$

**==**  $\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} g(\mathbf{x}), \text{ for } g(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2h^2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_{\mathbf{M}}^2 + E(\mathbf{x})$

- Implicit Euler = energy minimization:

$$\operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2h^2} \|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}\|_{\mathbf{M}}^2}_{\text{inertia}} + \underbrace{E(\mathbf{x})}_{\text{elasticity}}$$

- **Stable** under **any** timestep size

$$\|\mathbf{x}\|_{\mathbf{M}}^2 = \mathbf{x}^T \mathbf{M} \mathbf{x}$$
$$\mathbf{f}_{\text{int}}(\mathbf{x}_{n+1}) = \frac{dE(\mathbf{x})}{d\mathbf{x}}$$

$$E_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} k (\|\mathbf{x}_{ij}\| - l_0)^2$$

$$\mathbf{f}_{ij} = k (\|\mathbf{x}_{ij}\| - l_0) \frac{\mathbf{x}_{ij}}{\|\mathbf{x}_{ij}\|}$$

# Numerical Solver

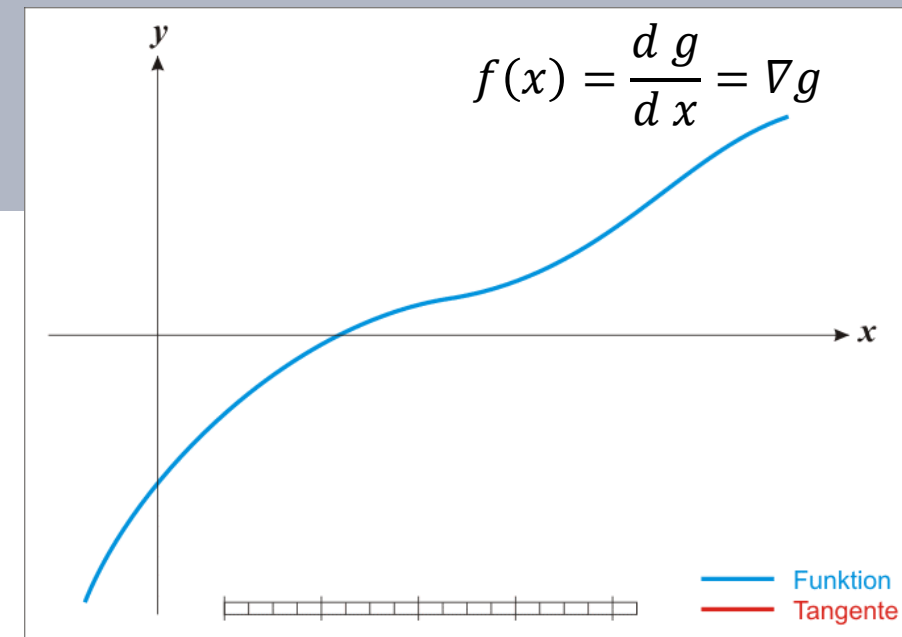
$$\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} g$$

- Newton's method:

Start from a guess  $\mathbf{x}_1$ ,

update with

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k - H(g)^{-1} \nabla g$$



# Numerical Solver

$$\mathbf{x}_{n+1} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\mathbf{x}} g$$

- Newton's method:

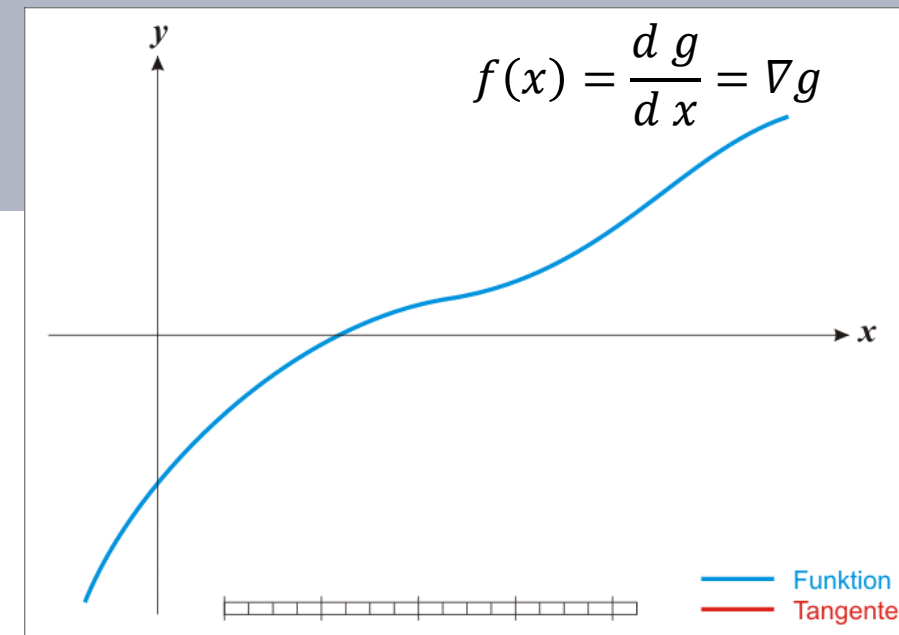
Start from a guess  $\mathbf{x}_1$ ,

update with

$$\mathbf{x}_{k+1} = \mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{H}(g)^{-1} \nabla g,$$

until converge.

- Compute Hessian matrix  $\mathbf{H}(g) \in R^{3n \times 3n}$  at every step
- Solve Matrix equation at every step (**main bottleneck**)
- Line search: prevent overshoot



**Algorithm 2:** Newton Solver with Backtracking Line Search

```
 $\mathbf{x}^{(1)} := \mathbf{y};$   
 $g(\mathbf{x}^{(1)}) := \text{evalObjective}(\mathbf{x}^{(1)})$   
for  $k = 1, \dots, \text{numIterations}$  do  
   $\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) := \text{evalGradient}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})$   
   $\nabla^2 g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) := \text{evalHessian}(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})$   
   $\delta \mathbf{x}^{(k)} := -\nabla^2 g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})^{-1} \nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)})$   
   $\alpha := 1/\beta$   
  repeat  
     $\alpha := \beta \alpha$   
     $\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)} := \mathbf{x}^{(k)} + \alpha \delta \mathbf{x}^{(k)}$   
     $g(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) := \text{evalObjective}(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)})$   
  until  $g(\mathbf{x}^{(k+1)}) \leq g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}) + \gamma \alpha (\nabla g(\mathbf{x}^{(k)}))^T \delta \mathbf{x}^{(k)};$   
end
```

# Numerical Solver

To solve **nonlinear** equation systems:

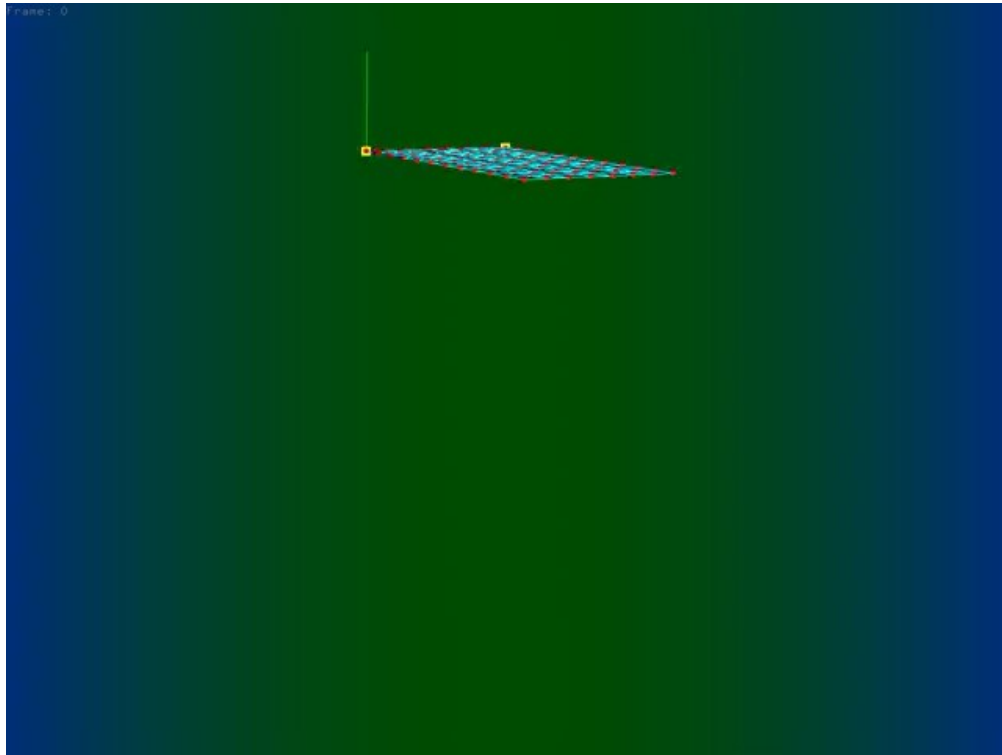
- Newton's methods
- Quasi-Newton Methods
- BFGS...

To solve matrix equations (**linear or quadratic** equation systems):

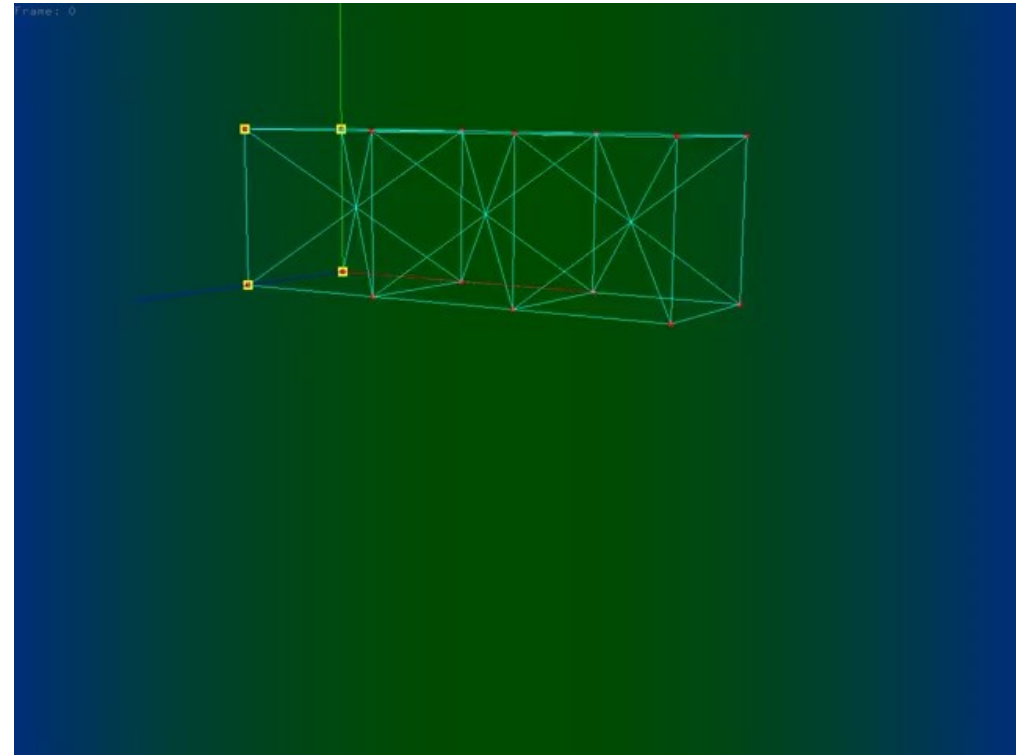
- Jacobi/Gauss-Seidel Iteration
- Conjugate Gradient
- Multigrid...

No one general optimal solver for all problems

# Implicit Euler Results

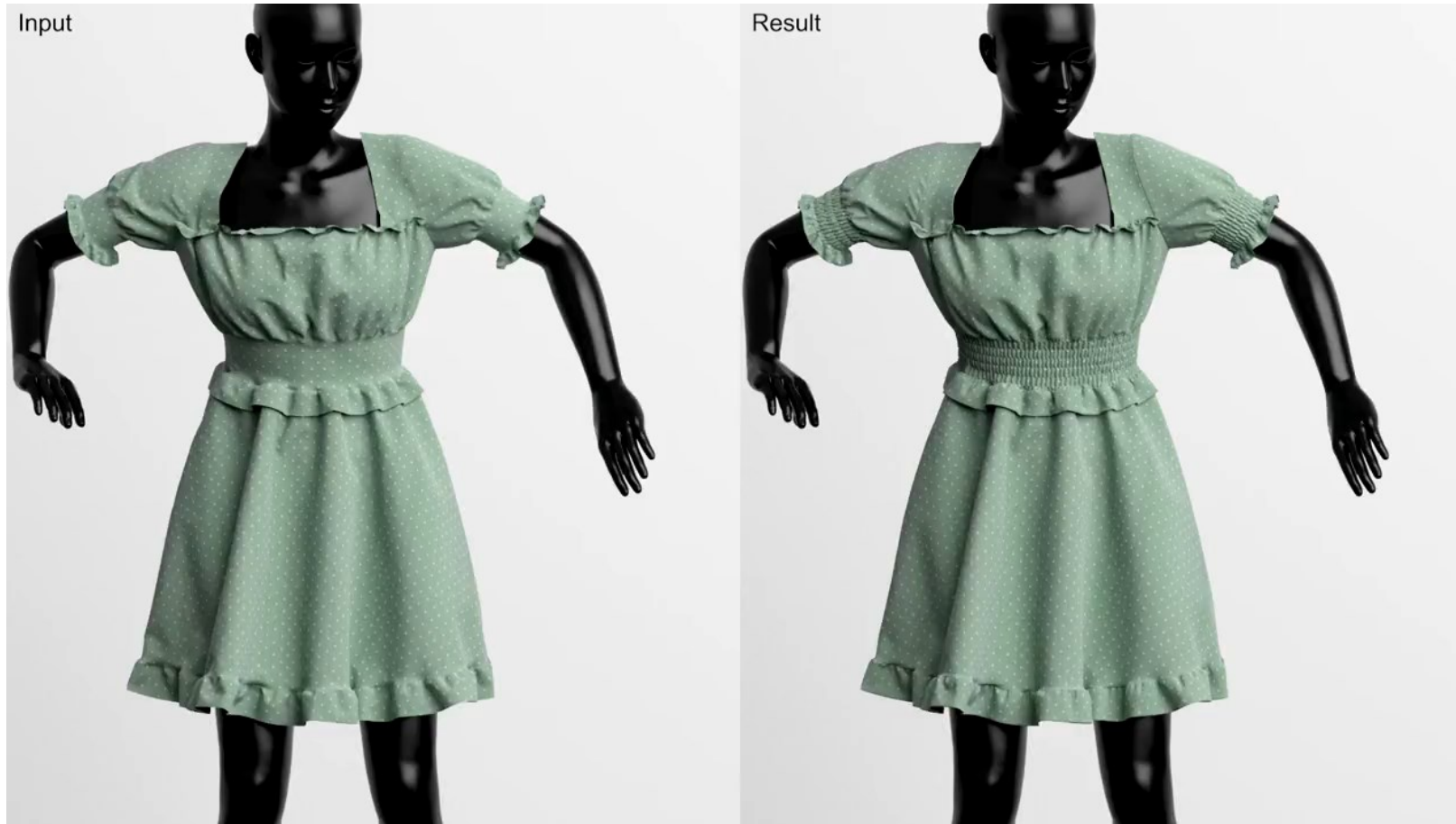


cloth



rod

# This is Spring-Mass System



Huamin Wang SIGGRAPH2021  
GPU-Based Simulation of Cloth Wrinkles at Submillimeter Levels

# This is Also Spring Mass



## Soft-body physics

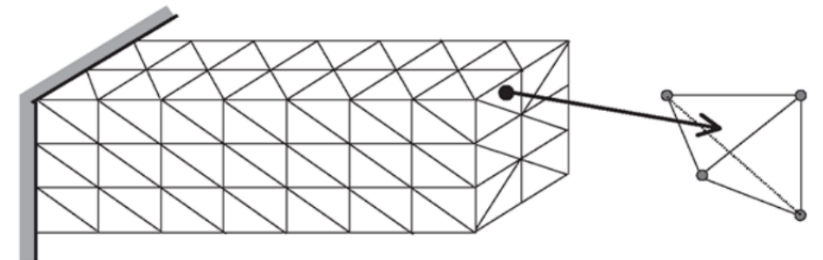
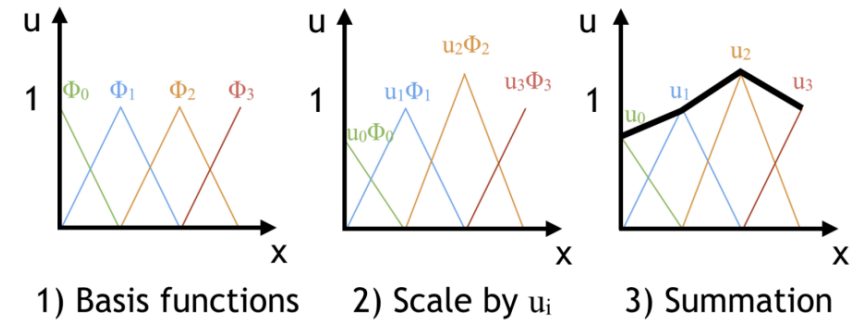
The BeamNG physics engine is at the core of the most detailed and authentic vehicle simulation you've ever seen in a game. Every component of a vehicle is simulated in real-time using nodes (mass points) and beams (springs). Crashes feel visceral, as the game uses an incredibly accurate damage model.



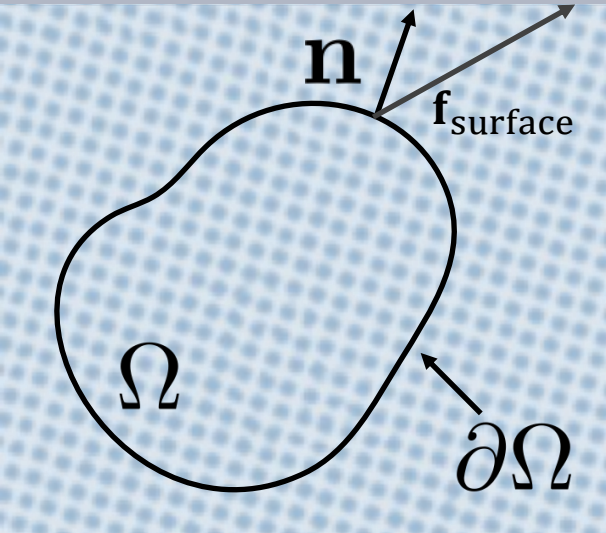
# A More physical Way

## Finite Element Method

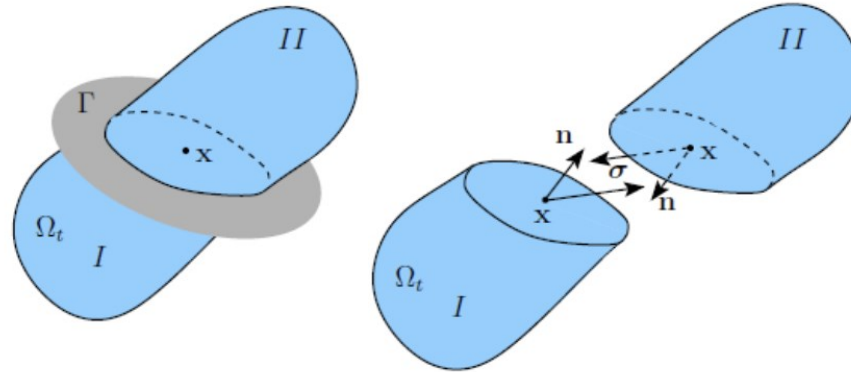
- Based on continuum mechanics:
  - Energy from deformation:  $\Psi(F) = \mu F:F + \frac{\lambda}{2} \text{tr}^2(F)$
  - Force from stress tensor:  $\rho \ddot{x} = \nabla \cdot \sigma + f_{ext}$
- Spatial discretization
  - 1d: intervals;
  - 2d: triangles, squares, .....;
  - 3d: tetrahedra, cubes, .....
  - discretization of elastic energy: (e.g. StVK, Neo-Hookean, .....)



# Appendix: Linear momentum balance for continuum mechanics



(a volume element):  $\int_{\Omega} \rho \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} dV = \oint_{\partial\Omega} \mathbf{f}_{\text{surface}} dS + \int_{\Omega} \mathbf{f}_{\text{body}} dV$ , For e.g.,  $\mathbf{f}_{\text{body}} = \rho \mathbf{g}$

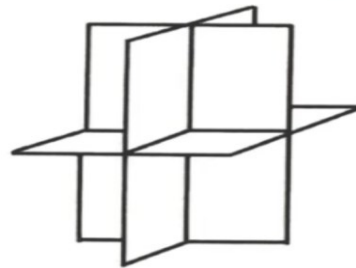


Traction  $\mathbf{t}$ , ( $\text{N}/\text{m}^2$ , internal force per unit area/length )

$$\mathbf{t} = \boldsymbol{\sigma} \mathbf{n},$$

$\boldsymbol{\sigma}$ : Cauchy Stress **Tensor**,

$$\oint_{\partial\Omega} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \mathbf{n} dS = \int_{\Omega} \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} dV$$



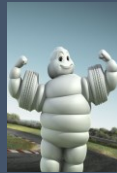
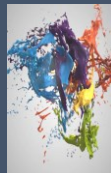
$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{n}_{yz} &= \mathbf{e}_x \quad \& \quad \mathbf{f}_{yz} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}_x \\ \mathbf{n}_{zx} &= \mathbf{e}_y \quad \& \quad \mathbf{f}_{zx} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}_y \\ \mathbf{n}_{xy} &= \mathbf{e}_z \quad \& \quad \mathbf{f}_{xy} = \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{n} &= n_x \mathbf{e}_x + n_y \mathbf{e}_y + n_z \mathbf{e}_z; \\ \mathbf{t} &= n_x \boldsymbol{\sigma}_x + n_y \boldsymbol{\sigma}_y + n_z \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z \\ &= [\boldsymbol{\sigma}_x \quad \boldsymbol{\sigma}_y \quad \boldsymbol{\sigma}_z] \mathbf{n} = \boldsymbol{\sigma} \mathbf{n} \end{aligned}$$

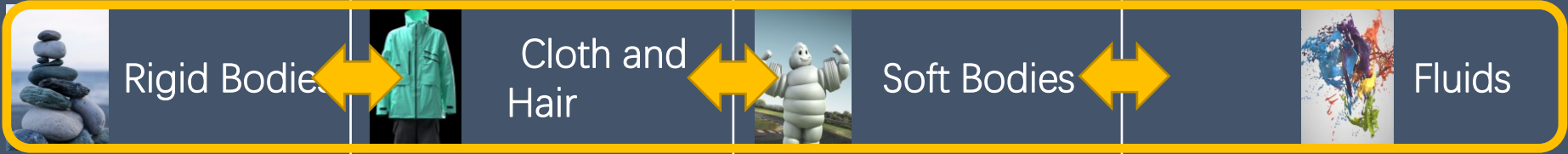
**Cauchy's equation of motion**  $\rho \frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = \nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} + \mathbf{f}_{\text{body}}$

The equation of motion of an infinitesimal volume of any continuum.

# Physics-Based Simulation Topics

| Contents |  Rigid Bodies |  Cloth and Hair |  Soft Bodies |  Fluids |         |         |                  |                  |          |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|------------------|------------------|----------|
| Effects  | Contacts                                                                                       | Fracture                                                                                         | Cloth                                                                                           | Hair                                                                                       | Elastic | plastic | Smoke            | Drops and Waves  | Splashes |
| Mesh     | ✓                                                                                              | ✓                                                                                                | ✓                                                                                               | ✓                                                                                          | ✓       | ✓       |                  | ✓<br>(real-time) | ?        |
| Particle |                                                                                                | ☆<br>(meshless)                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |                                                                                            |         |         | ✓<br>(real-time) |                  | ✓        |
| Grid     |                                                                                                |                                                                                                  | ☆<br>(contact)                                                                                  | ☆<br>(contact)                                                                             |         |         | ✓                | ✓                | ✓        |

# Physics-Based Simulation Topics

| Contents |  |                 |                |                |         |         |                  |                  | Coupling |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|---------|------------------|------------------|----------|
| Effects  | Contacts                                                                           | Fracture        | Cloth          | Hair           | Elastic | plastic | Smoke            | Drops and Waves  | Splashes |
| Mesh     | ✓                                                                                  | ✓               | ✓              | ✓              | ✓       | ✓       |                  | ✓<br>(real-time) | ?        |
| Particle |                                                                                    | ☆<br>(meshless) |                |                |         |         | ✓<br>(real-time) |                  | ✓        |
| Grid     |                                                                                    |                 | ☆<br>(contact) | ☆<br>(contact) |         |         | ✓                | ✓                | ✓        |

Hybrid Methods

# Much More...

- Forward :

  - New Phenomena*

  - Coupling and Interaction
  - The Growth of Plants
  - Animal Development

  - Acceleration*

  - Subspace-Physics
  - Multigrid Solver

  - New Representation*

  - Bubble
  - Monte Carlo-based Simulation
  - Assets Generation
  - Landscape Generation
  - ...

- Artistic Control

- ...

- Simulation + X (Modeling, Rendering, Animation, )

- Underwater Swimmer Design
- Phase Change
- ...



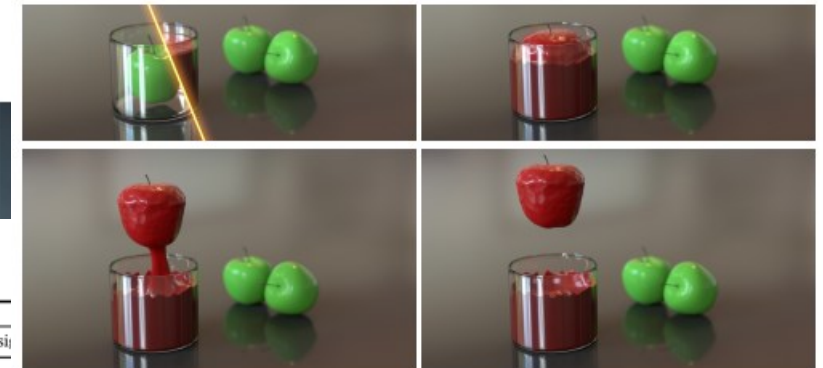
Solid-Fluid Interaction

Liangwang Ruan\*, Jinyuan Li  
(\* joint first authors)

Analyzing Growing Plants from 4D Point Cloud Data • 157:5



138:2 • A. Stomakhin et al.

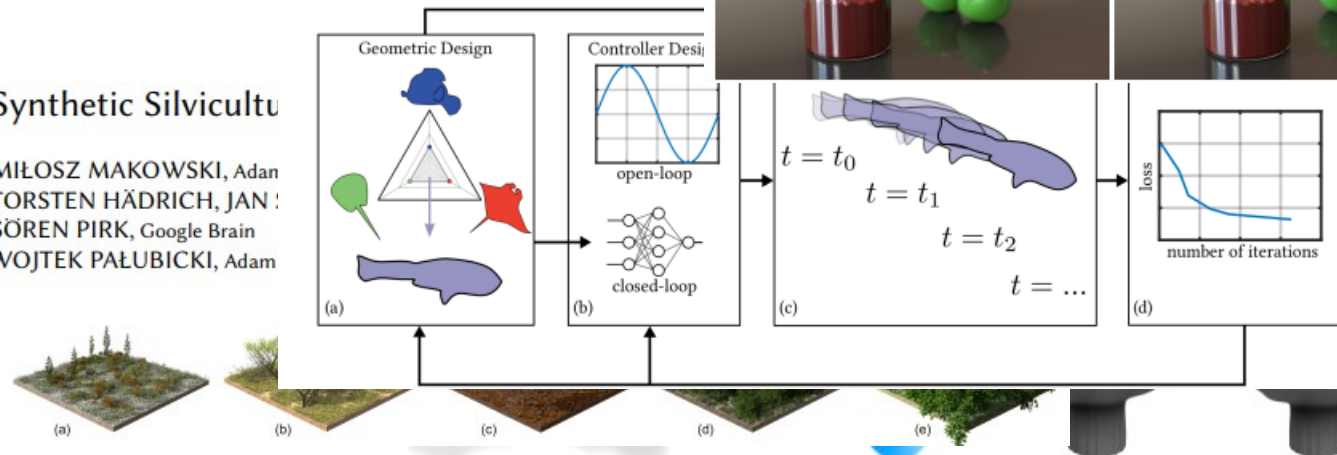


132:4 • Ma et al.



## Synthetic Silviculture

MIŁOŚZ MAKOWSKI, Adan  
TORSTEN HÄDRICH, JAN  
SÖREN PIRK, Google Brain  
WOJTEK PAŁUBICKI, Adam



- Inverse:

- Elasticity in 3D Printing

# Summary

# What We've Covered Today

- The building blocks of simulator:
  - spatial representation,
  - (linear/nonlinear) numerical solve,
  - temporal integration.
- Spring Mass System:
  - explicit Euler,
  - implicit Euler
- Interesting Simulation Topics

# Online Resources

## Physics-based Simulation:

*Physical Laws* (Elastic Potential) + *Geometric Constraints* (Volume Limiting, Collision and Contact Constraints)

- Force-Based Models:

- **Mass-Spring System**: Tension, Shearing, Bending Springs 【what we learnt today!】
- **FEM**: Continuum Mechanics, Hyperelastic Models 【[GAMES103-P7](#)】
- **Projective Dynamics** 【[Talk from Tiantian Liu](#)】
- **Fluids**: SPH 【[htmlCG course](#)】 APIC 【[Games201](#)】
- **Hybrid**: MPM 【[SIGGRAPH MPM Course](#)】 ...

- Constraints:

- Position-Base Methods: 【[Ten Minute Physics](#)】
  - Kinematics w.o. Constraints + Constraint Projection
  - *No Dynamics!!*
- Penalty-Force-Based Methods: 【[Again, GAMES103-P7](#)】
  - Mass-Spring / FEM + **Strain/Area/Volume Limiting**
  - **IPC** 【[GAMES103-P9](#) [IPC](#)】



# Thanks!

## Questions?

Mengyu Chu

[mchu@pku.edu.cn](mailto:mchu@pku.edu.cn)

<http://vcl.pku.edu.cn/index.html>



**VISUAL  
COMPUTING AND  
LEARNING LAB**