

# Rigid Bodies and Contacts

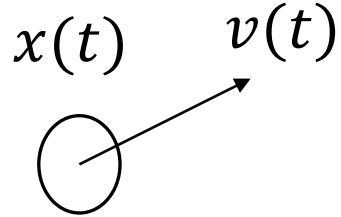
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Yanzhe Yang  
Feb 26, 2020

# Rigid bodies and contacts

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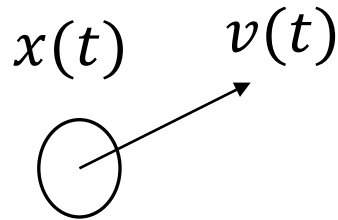
- Particle: State  $Y = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix}$ , State Derivative  $\frac{d}{dt} Y = \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ v \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v \\ F/m \end{pmatrix}$



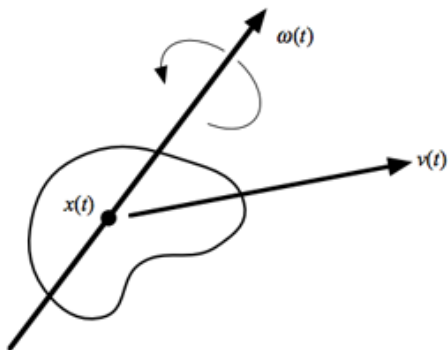
# Rigid bodies and contacts

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- Rigid body: State  $Y = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ R \\ mv \\ Iw \end{pmatrix}$ , State Derivative  $\frac{d}{dt} Y = \frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ R \\ mv \\ Iw \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v \\ w \times R \\ F \\ \tau \end{pmatrix}$



$R$ : rotation matrix
$mv$ : linear momentum
$Iw$ : angular momentum

# Rigid bodies and **contacts**

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Image source:

<https://noobtuts.com/unity/2d-angry-birds-game>

<https://giphy.com/explore/walking-in-the-snow>

Today's topic:

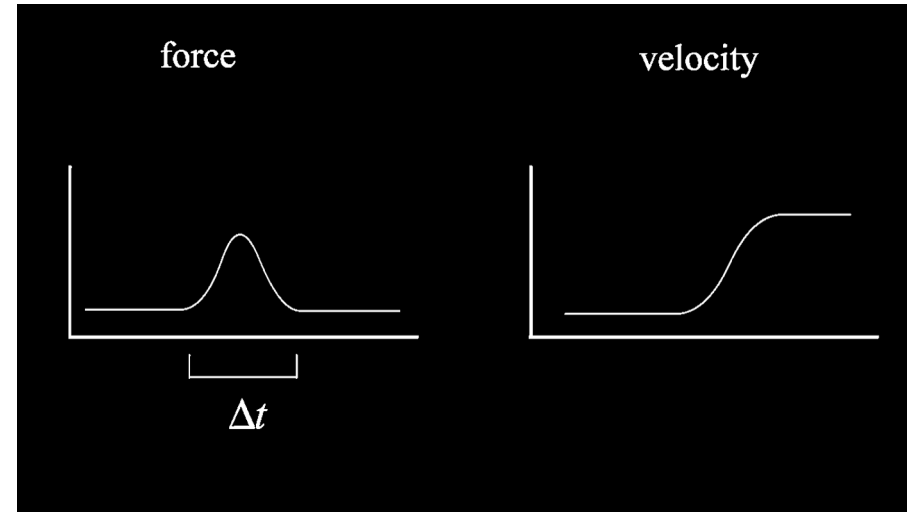
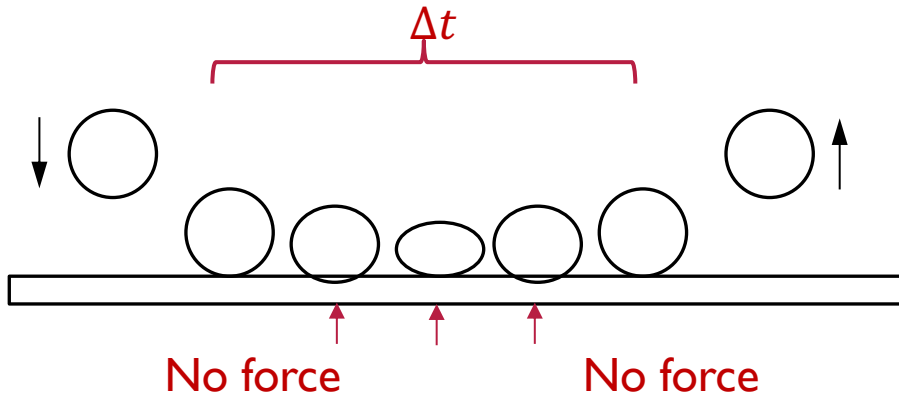
How to simulate contacts for rigid bodies?

# Example: ball falling

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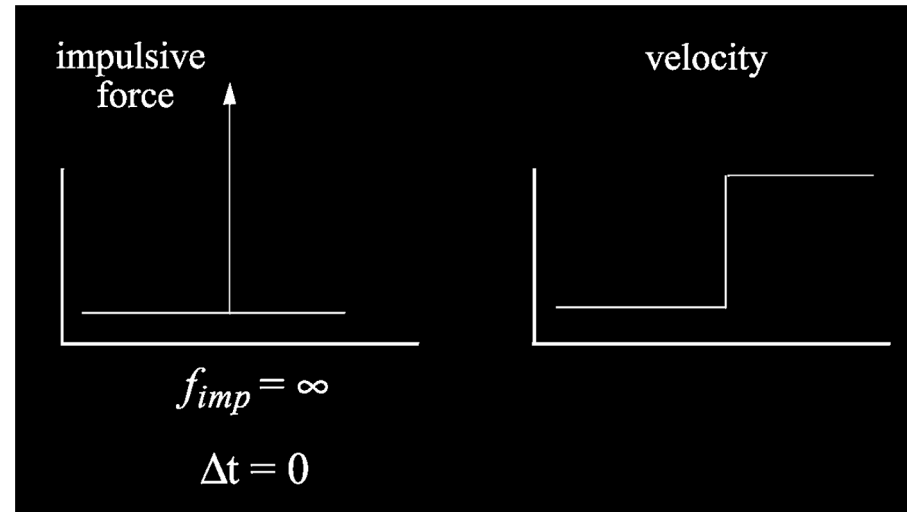
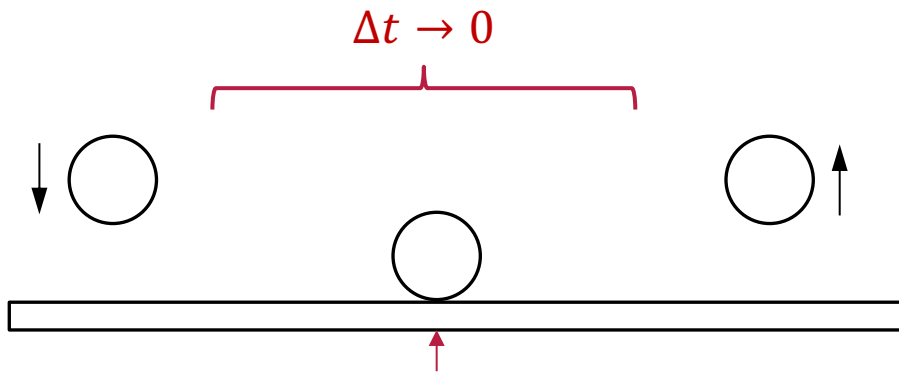


# Soft collision



# Rigid body collision

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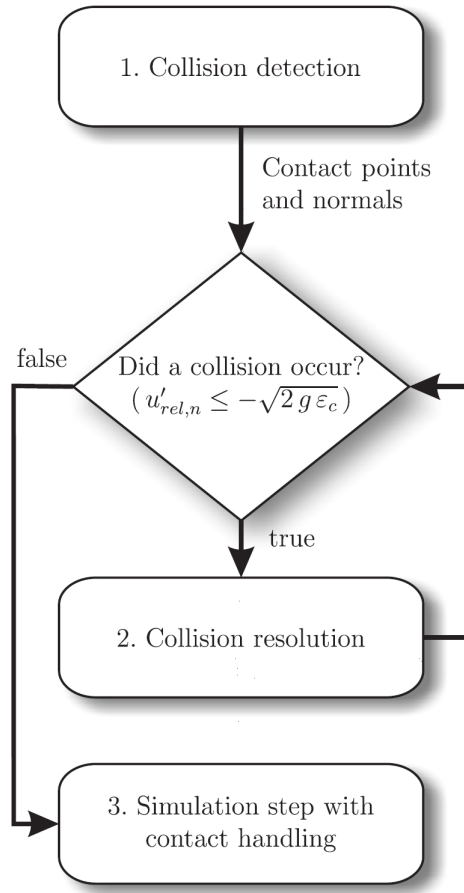


*Discontinuity*



# A typical simulation loop

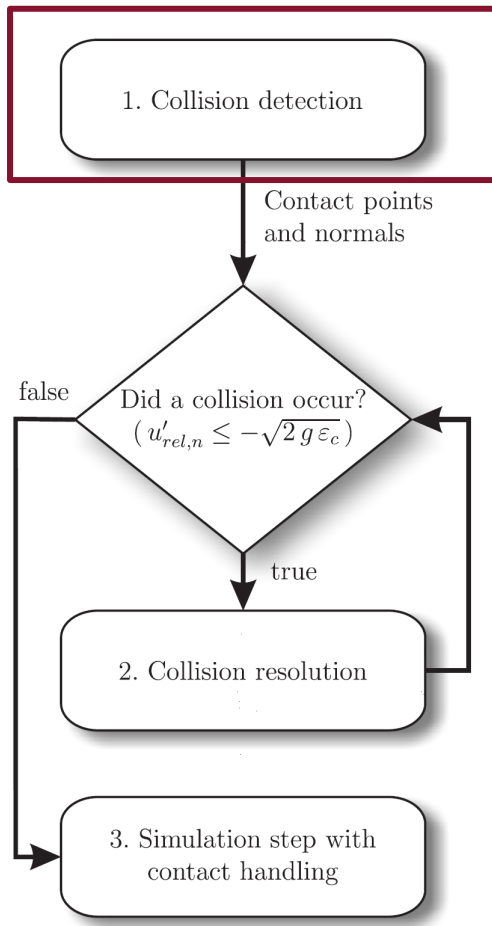
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Reference: J. Bender and A. Schmitt. Constraint-based collision and contact handling using impulses. In Proceedings of the 19<sup>th</sup> international conference on computer animation and social agents. July 2006

# Questions

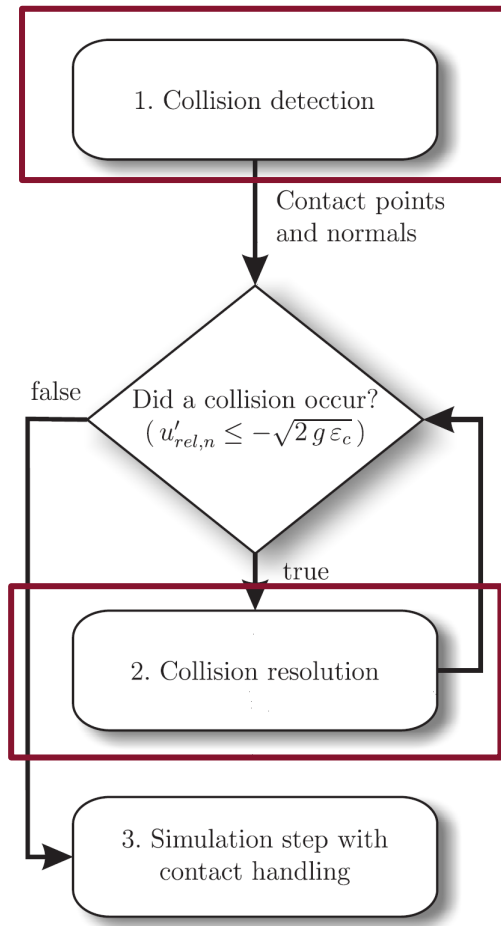
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When and where collision happens?

# Questions

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When and where collision happens?  
How to compute impulses?

# Outline

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- Collision detection basics
- Computing impulses using a coefficient of restitution
- Penalty based method
- Constraint based method
- Recent work

# Outline

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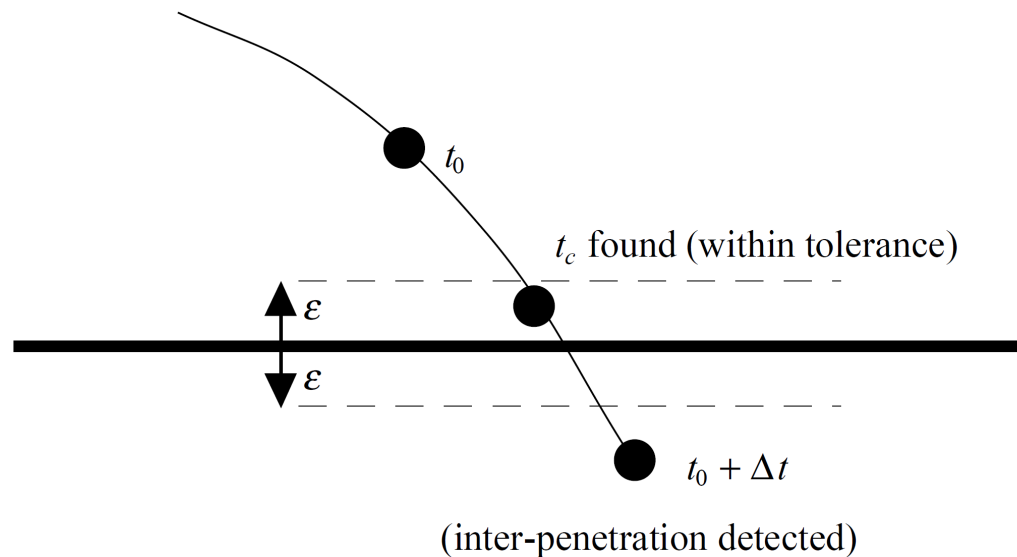
- Collision detection basics
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# Finding the collision time by backtracking

---

- Bisection method.

If we know collision time  $t_c$  happens within  $[t_0, t_0 + \Delta t)$ , then check  $t_0 + \Delta t/2$



# Finding the collision time by backtracking

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- Easy to implement and quite robust, but a little slow. Faster convergence could be achieved using the *regula falsi* (false position) method

# Finding the collision time by backtracking

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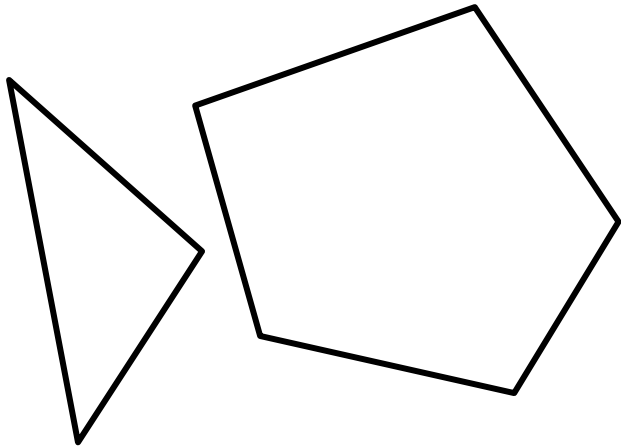
- Bisection method.  
If we know collision time  $t_c$  happens within  $[t_0, t_0 + \Delta t)$ , then check  $t_0 + \Delta t/2$
- Easy to implement and quite robust, but a little slow. Faster convergence could be achieved using the *regula falsi* (false position) method
- $t_c$  is not always needed (discuss in penalty-based method)



# Detecting collision points

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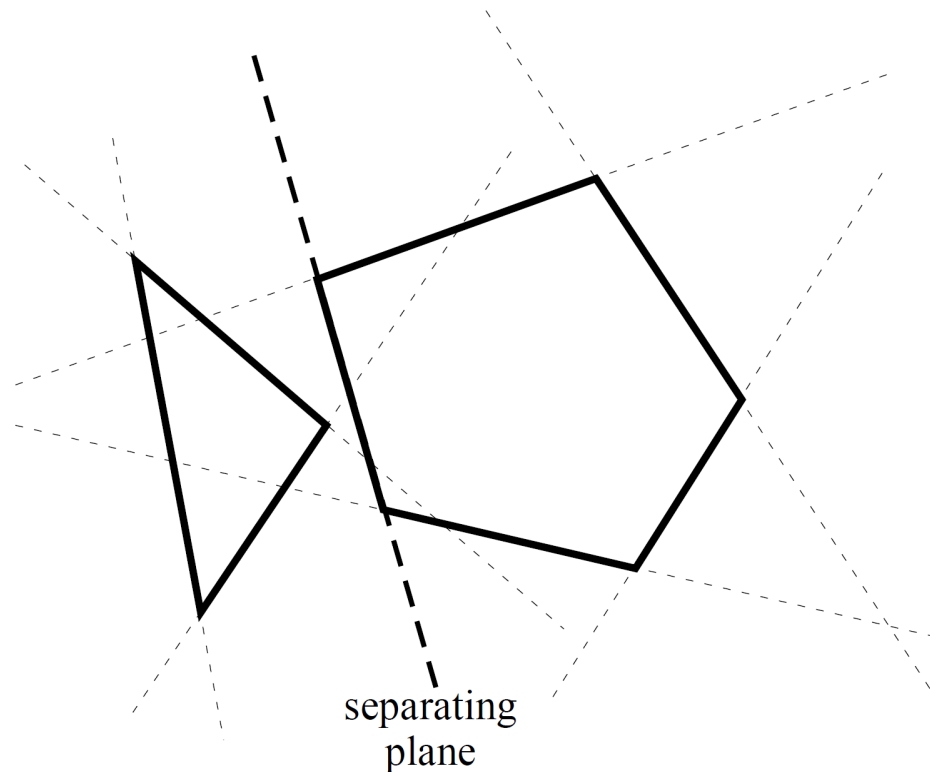
- If a separating plane is found, no inter-penetrating.



# Detecting collision points: separating plane

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- Exhaustive search for a separating plane considering two rigid bodies

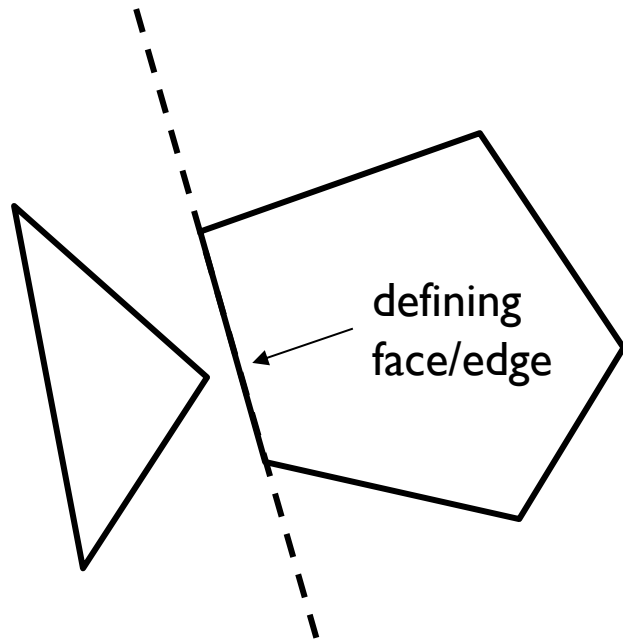


A separating plane either contains a face of one of the convex polyhedral or contains an edge from one convex polyhedral and is parallel to an edge of the other convex polyhedral

# Detecting collision points: defining face/edge

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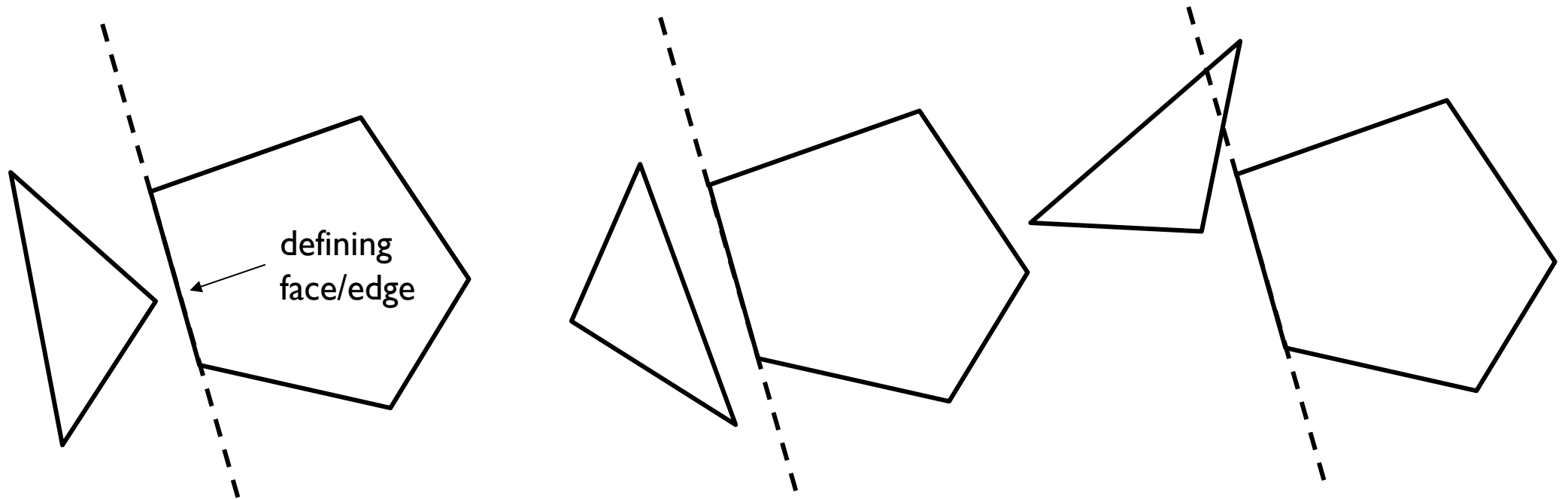
- The face/edge that is contained in the separating plane is called *defining face/edge*



# Detecting collision points: subsequent time steps

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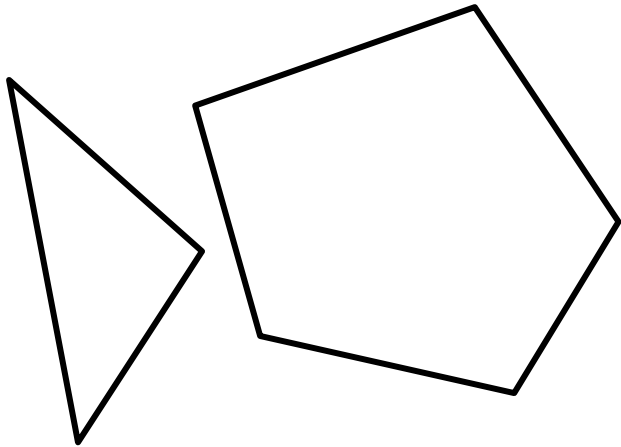
- For subsequent time steps, we will still use the defining face/edge to define a separating plane until it no longer does so.



# Separating axis theorem (SAT)

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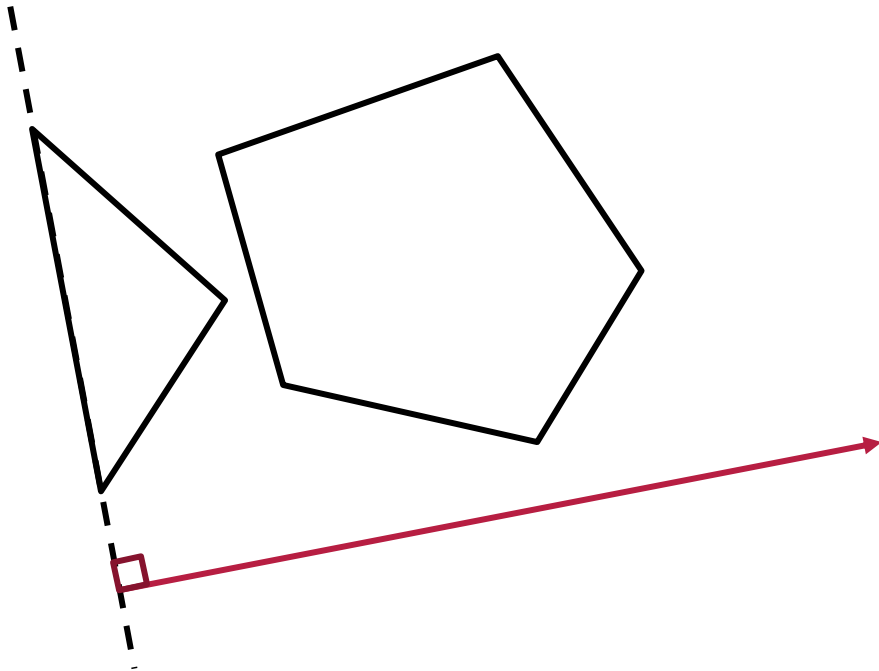
- Exhaustive search for projection gap in normal axes



# Separating axis theorem (SAT): axes

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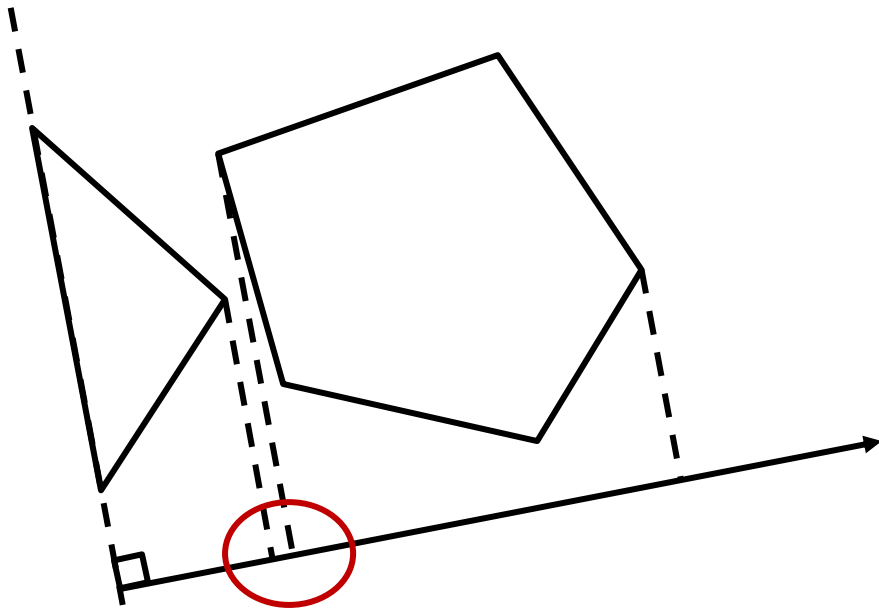
- In 2d cases, axes could be obtained using the unique normal of edges



# Separating axis theorem (SAT): projection gap

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- If there is a gap in projection region, there is no inter-penetration/collision
- Vertex projection can be computed using dot production



# Separating axis theorem (SAT): 3d case

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- If there is a gap in projection region, there is no inter-penetration/collision
- Vertex projection can be computed using dot production
- In 3d case, axes are normal of faces or the cross product of two edges (one from each object)



# Collision detection is only done when bounding boxes overlap

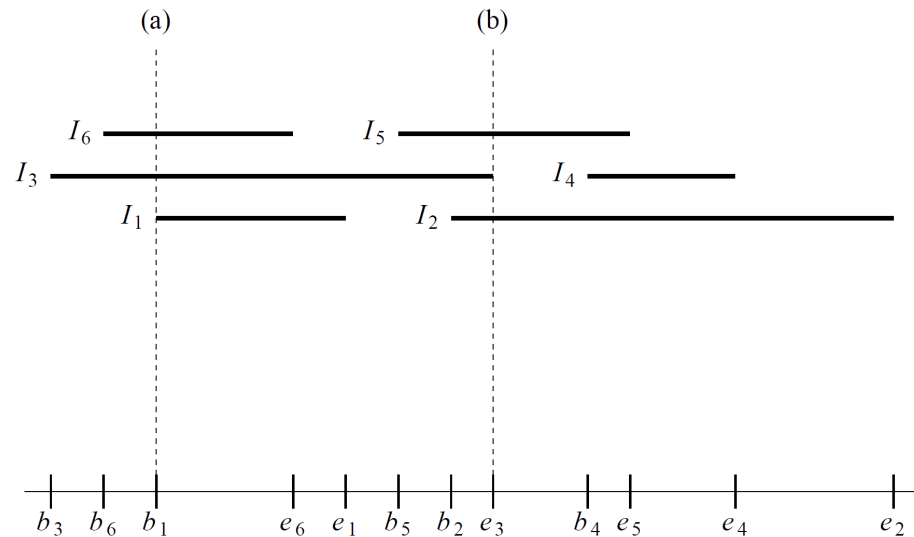
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- Naïve algorithm  $O(n^2)$

# Collision detection is only done when bounding boxes overlap

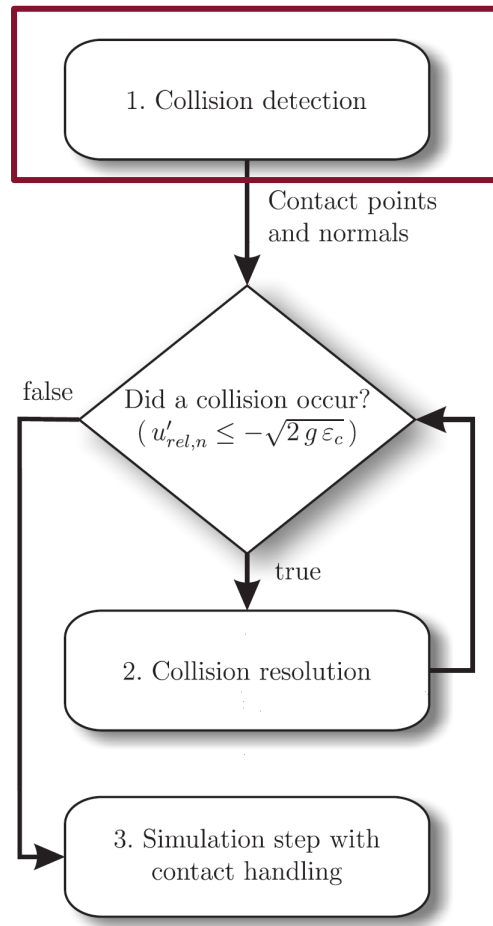
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- Naïve algorithm  $O(n^2)$
- Sweep/sort algorithm  $O(n \log n + k)$



# Questions

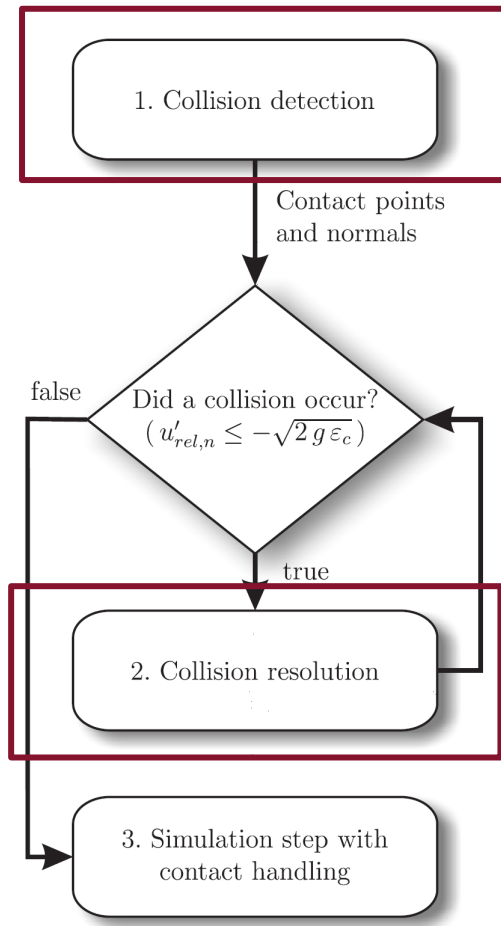
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When and where collision happens?

# Questions

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When and where collision happens?  
How to resolve the collision?  
(How to compute impulses or contact forces?)

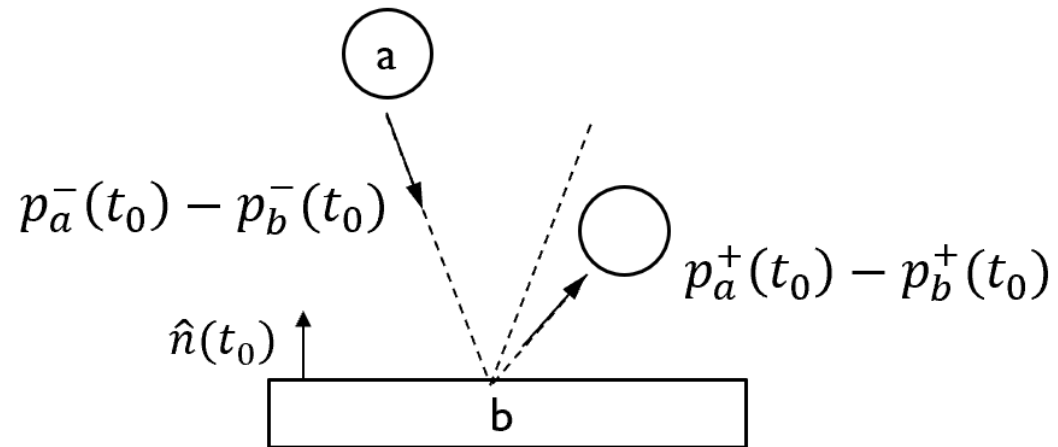
# Outline

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- Collision detection basics
  - **Computing impulses using a coefficient of restitution**
  - Penalty based method
  - Constraint based method
  - Recent work
- } Force based

# A simple example of collision

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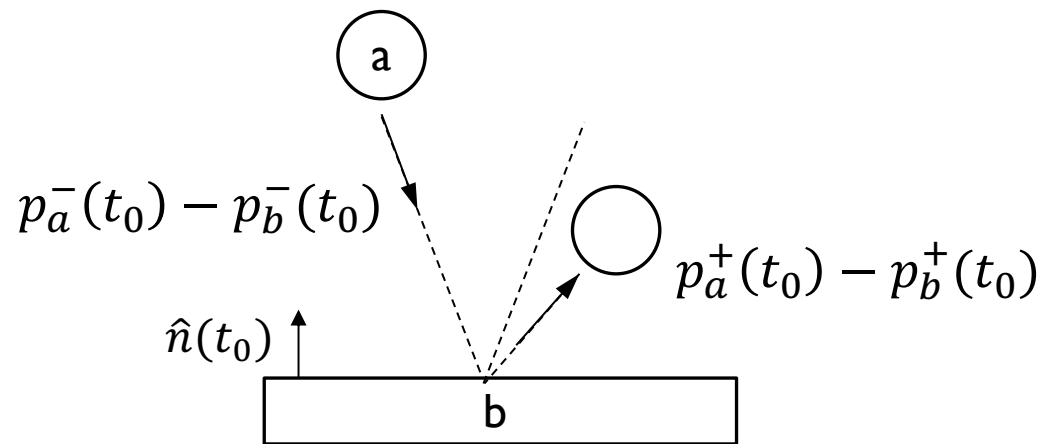


For rigid bodies,  $p_a(t_0) = x_a(t_0) + R_a(t_0)r_a$   
 $r_a$  is a vector from center of mass to collision point

# Newton's law for restitution

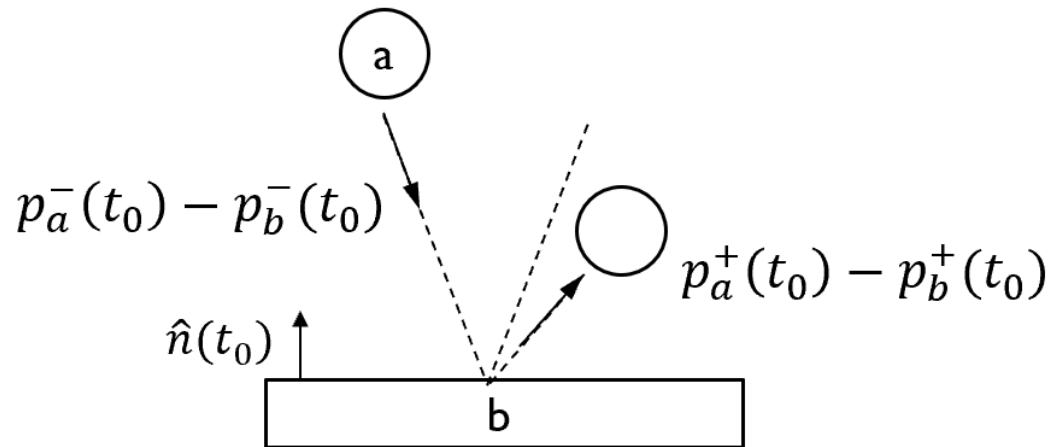
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- $v_{rel}^+ = -\epsilon v_{rel}^-$ ,  $0 \leq \epsilon \leq 1$
- $v_{rel}^+ = \hat{n}(t_0)(\dot{p}_a^+(t_0) - \dot{p}_b^+(t_0))$



# What is the impulse in this process?

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Solve  $J = j\hat{n}(t_0)$ , given newton's law on restitution  $v_a^+(t_0) = v_a^-(t_0) + j\hat{n}(t_0)/m_a$  and rigid body dynamics



## Solving $J = j\hat{n}(t_0)$

---

$$v_{rel}^+ = \hat{n}(t_0) \left( \dot{p}_a^+(t_0) - \dot{p}_b^+(t_0) \right) = -\epsilon v_{rel}^-$$

Newton's law for restitution

# Solving $J = j\hat{n}(t_0)$

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Newton's law for restitution

$$\dot{p}_a^+(t_0) = v_a^+(t_0) + w_a^+(t_0) \times r_a$$

$$v_a^+(t_0) = v_a^-(t_0) + j\hat{n}(t_0)/m_a$$

$$w_a^+(t_0) = w_a^-(t_0) + I_a^{-1}(t_0)(r_a \times j\hat{n}(t_0))$$

$$\Rightarrow \dot{p}_a^+(t_0) = \dot{p}_a^-(t_0) + j\left(\frac{\hat{n}(t_0)}{m_a} + I_a^{-1}(t_0)(r_a \times \hat{n}(t_0))\right) \times r_a$$

Rigid body dynamics for a

# Solving $J = j\hat{n}(t_0)$

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Rigid body dynamics for a

Similarly,

$$\dot{p}_b^+(t_0) = \dot{p}_b^-(t_0) - j\left(\frac{\hat{n}(t_0)}{m_b} + I_b^{-1}(t_0)(r_b \times \hat{n}(t_0))\right) \times r_b$$

Rigid body dynamics for b

# Solving $J = j\hat{n}(t_0)$

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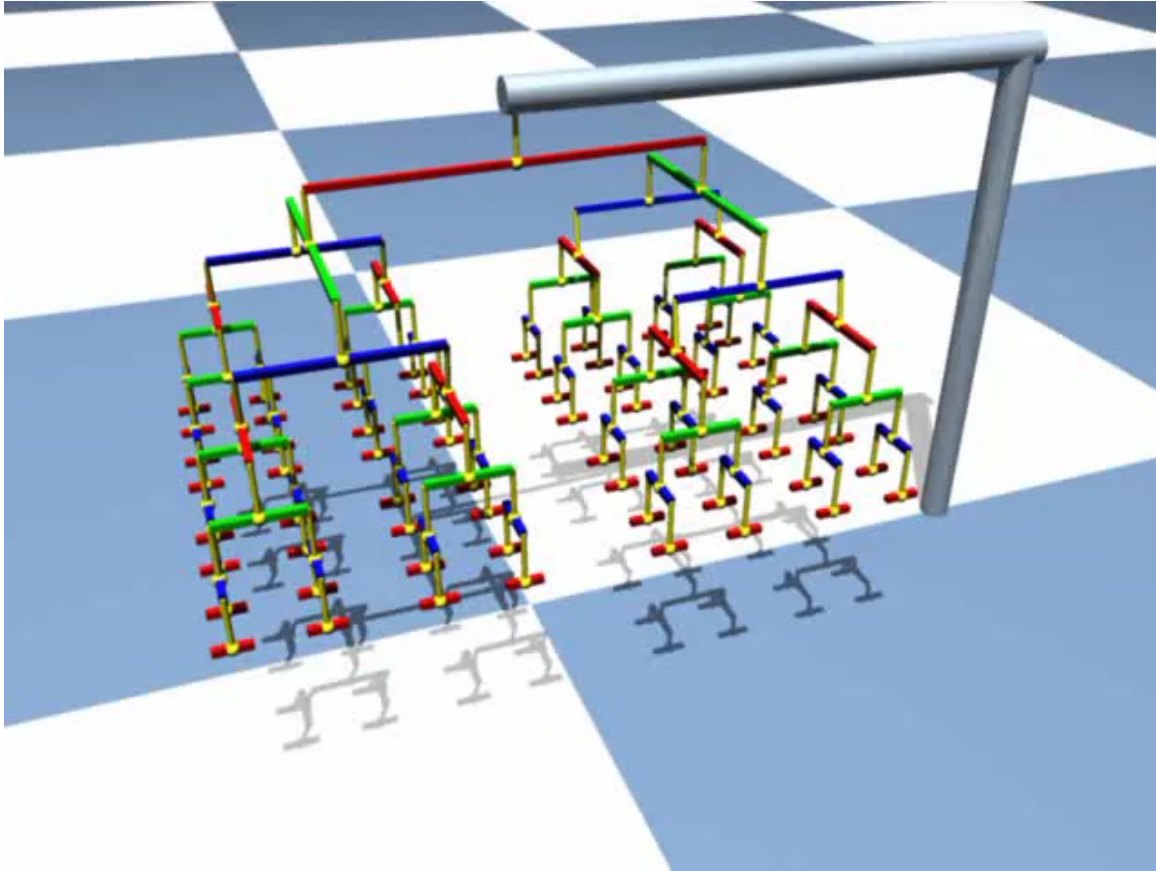
$$j = \frac{-(1 + \epsilon)v_{rel}^-}{\frac{1}{m_a} + \frac{1}{m_b} + \hat{n}(t_0) \cdot z_a + \hat{n}(t_0) \cdot z_b}$$

$$z_a = (I_a^{-1}(t_0)(r_a \times \hat{n}(t_0))) \times r_a$$

$$z_b = (I_b^{-1}(t_0)(r_b \times \hat{n}(t_0))) \times r_b$$

# Impulse-based dynamic simulation in linear time

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Reference: Jan Bender. Impulse-based dynamic simulation in linear time. *Computer Animation and Virtual Worlds*. 2007

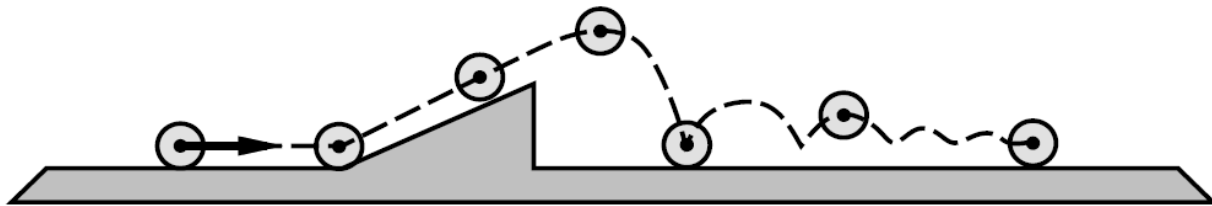
# Impulse-based methods: summary

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- Newton's law of restitution:  $v_{rel}^+ = -\epsilon v_{rel}^-$ ,  $0 \leq \epsilon \leq 1$

- $$j = \frac{-(1+\epsilon)v_{rel}^-}{\frac{1}{m_a} + \frac{1}{m_b} + \hat{n}(t_0) \cdot (I_a^{-1}(t_0)(r_a \times \hat{n}(t_0))) \times r_a + \hat{n}(t_0) \cdot (I_b^{-1}(t_0)(r_b \times \hat{n}(t_0))) \times r_b}$$
$$J = j\hat{n}(t_0)$$

- Impulses often applied in **local** contact resolution scheme



Reference:

James K. Hahn. Realistic animation of rigid bodies. Computer Graphics, Volume 22, Number 4, August 1988

Rick Parent. Compute Animation: Algorithm and Technique. Chapter 7.4

Brian Vincent Mirtich. Impulse-based Dynamic Simulation of Rigid Body Systems. PhD thesis, Fall 1996

# Outline

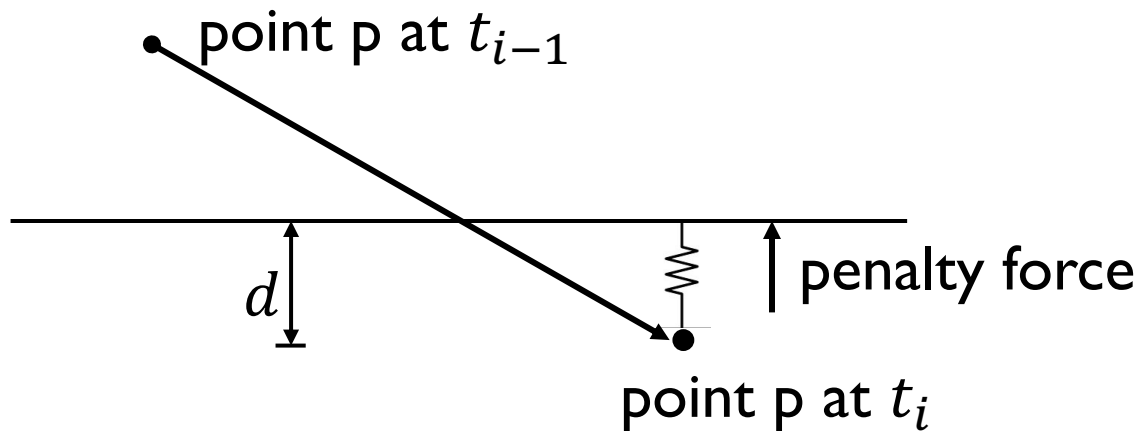
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- Collision detection basics
  - Computing impulses using a coefficient of restitution
  - Penalty based method
  - Constraint based method
  - Recent work
- } Force based

# Prevent penetration using a spring

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- A spring with zero resting length is attached to prevent interpenetration.
- $t_c$  is not needed

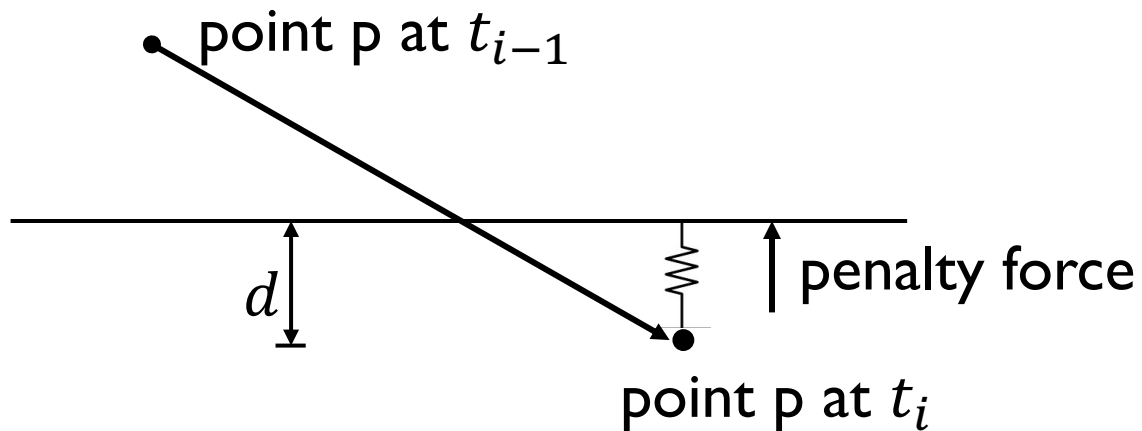




# Control parameter $m, k_p$

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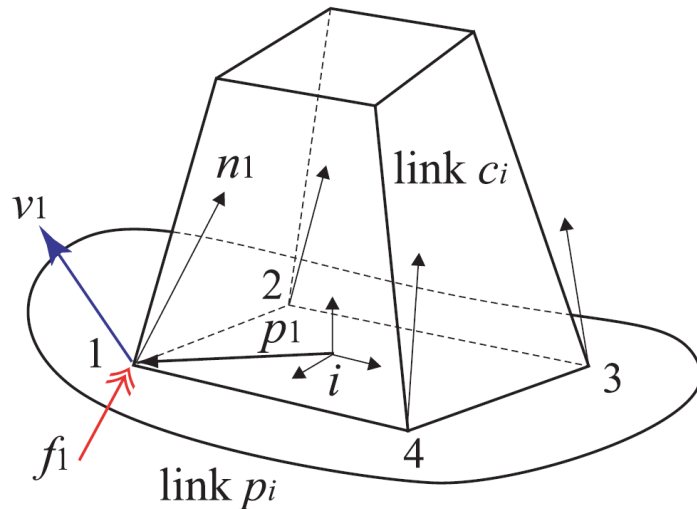
- $F = -k_p d$ ,  $a = F/m$ . Here  $m, k_p$  are control parameter for the collision simulation



# Control parameter $m, k_p, k_d$

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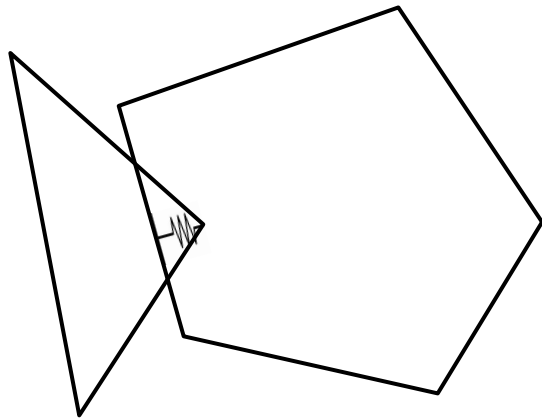
- $F = -\frac{d(k_p - k_d v_n)}{n_c}$ . Here,  $v_n$  is the normal velocity and  $n_c$  is the number of contact points.



# Penalty based methods: convex polyhedral

---

- The penalty force will give rise to torque when not acting in line with the center of mass of an object
- The spring is attached to both objects and imparts an equal but opposite force on the two to restore nonpenetration.



Reference: Rick Parent. Compute Animation: Algorithm and Technique. Chapter 7.4

# Penalty-based methods: summary

---

Penalty-based methods compute the contact forces based on the penetration depth and normal velocity of a pair of objects using linear or nonlinear spring-damper model.

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- Easy to incorporate with other forces like gravity
- Scales well with the complexity of the scene

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- Need to specify control parameters in a trial-and-error process
- Unclear in determining where contact between objects should break

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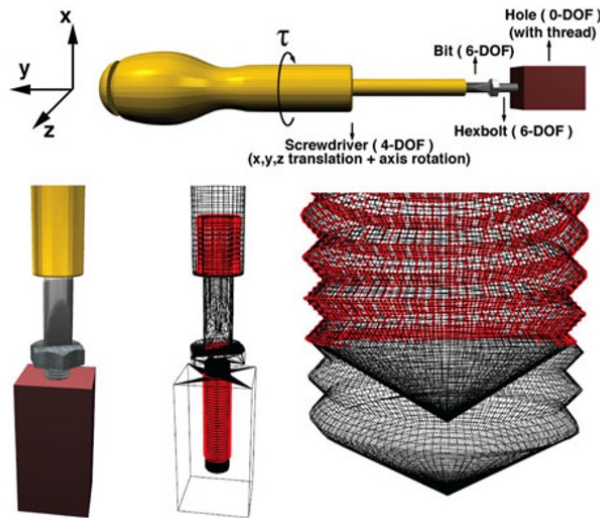
*There are advanced work to do it right*

Cons:

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- Unclear in determining where contact between objects should break

# Implicit Multibody Penalty-Based Distributed Contact

Hongyi Xu, *Member, IEEE*, Yili Zhao, *Member, IEEE*, and Jernej Barbič, *Member, IEEE*



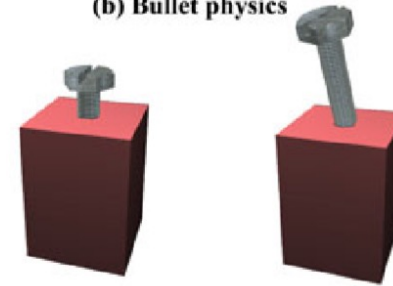
(a) Our method



(b) Bullet physics



(c) Convex decompositions



(d) Our method

(e) Bullet physics



# Implicit Multibody Penalty-Based Distributed Contact

Hongyi Xu, *Member, IEEE*, Yili Zhao, *Member, IEEE*, and Jernej Barbič, *Member, IEEE*



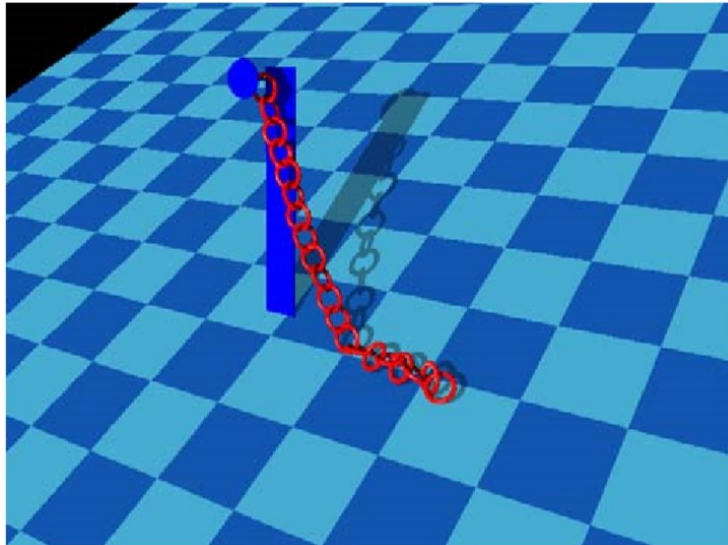
It addressed the stability problems due to the **highly variable and unpredictable net stiffness** by employing exact analytical contact gradients, symbolic Gaussian elimination, SVD solver, and semi-implicit integration.

# Comparison to Bullet Physics

# Stable Penalty-Based Model of Frictional Contacts

Katsu Yamane and Yoshihiko Nakamura

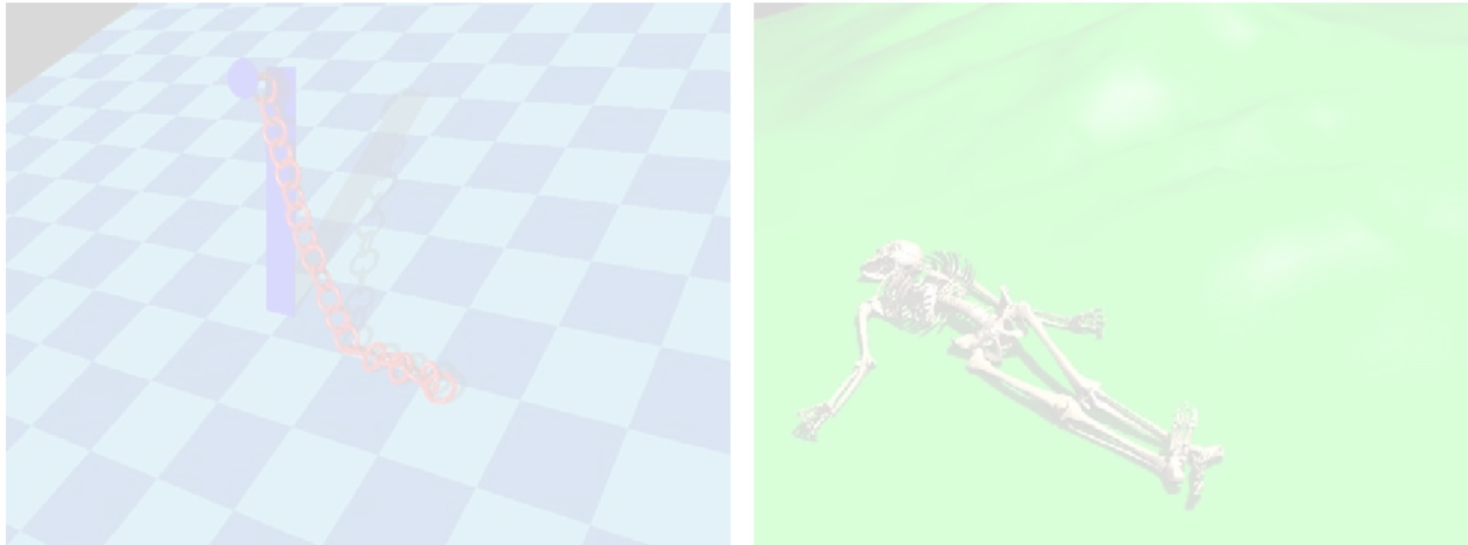
*Department of Mechano-Informatics, University of Tokyo 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8656 Japan  
yamane@ynl.t.u-tokyo.ac.jp*



# Stable Penalty-Based Model of Frictional Contacts

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- It solves the problems in implementing Coulomb's friction model, i.e. how to handle static/dynamic friction forces.

# Outline

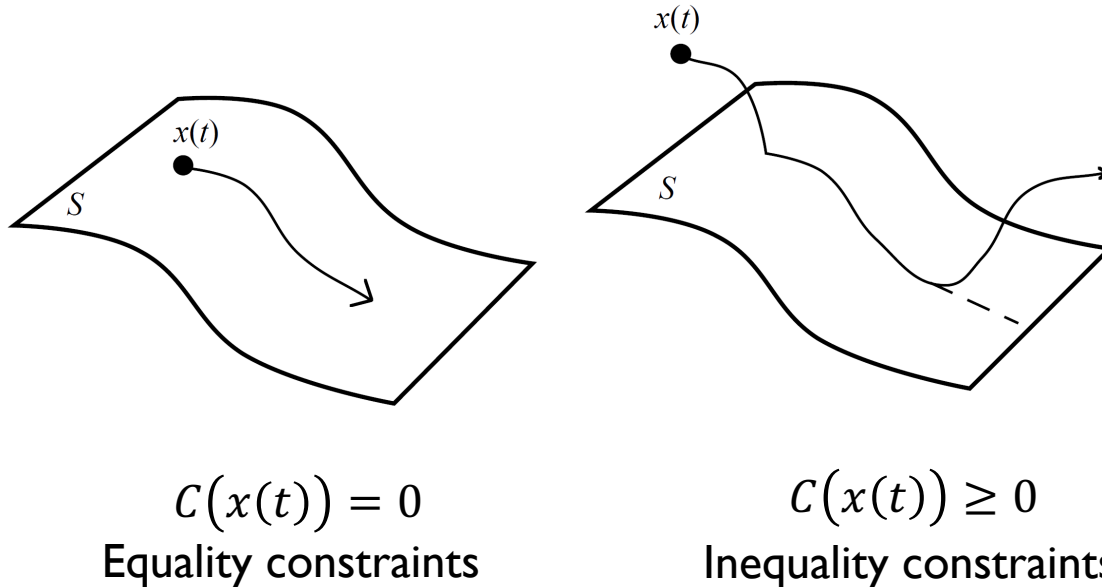
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- Collision detection basics
- Computing impulses using a coefficient of restitution
- Penalty based method
- **Constraint based method**
- Recent work

# Constraint based method

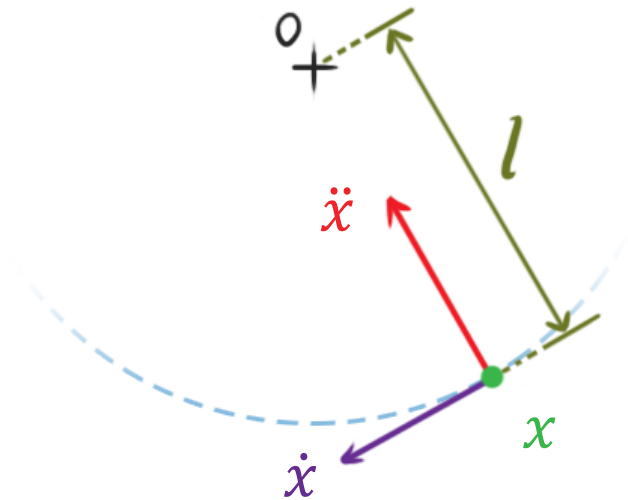
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- Computes constraint forces that are designed to exactly cancel any external accelerations that would result in interpenetration



# A simple example of equality constraint

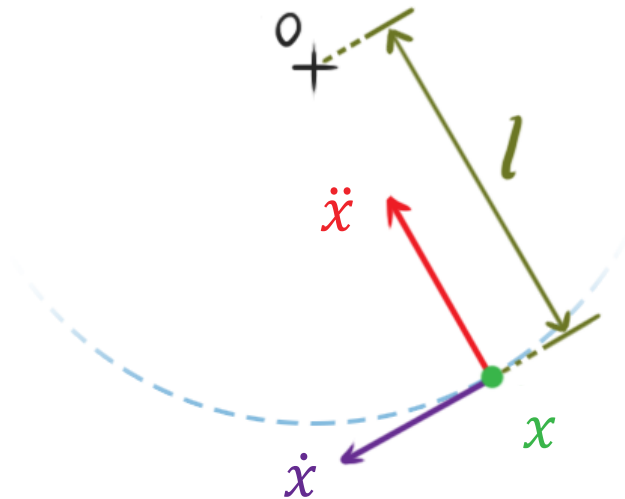
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- $C(x) = \frac{1}{2}(x \cdot x - l^2)$
- $C(x) = 0$
- In addition,  $C(\dot{x}) = 0, C(\ddot{x}) = 0$

# Solving equality constraints

---



- From equality constraints, we have

$$C(x) = \frac{1}{2}(x \cdot x - l^2) = 0 \quad [1]$$

$$C(\dot{x}) = x \cdot \dot{x} = 0 \quad [2]$$

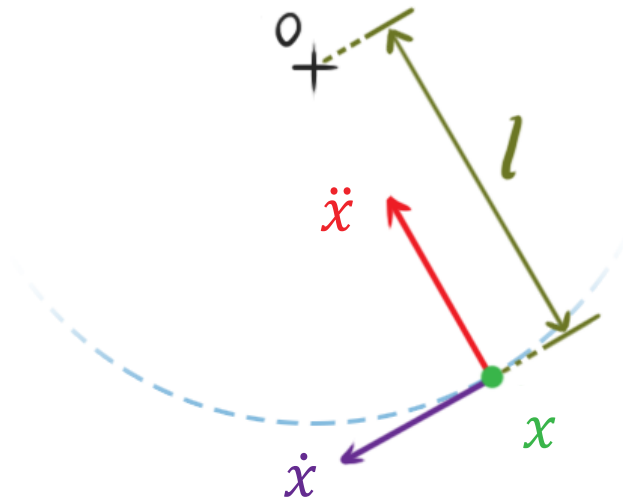
$$C(\ddot{x}) = \ddot{x} \cdot x + \dot{x} \cdot \dot{x} = 0 \quad [3]$$

- From newton's 2nd law:  $\dot{p} = (f_{ext} + f_C)/m$  [4]



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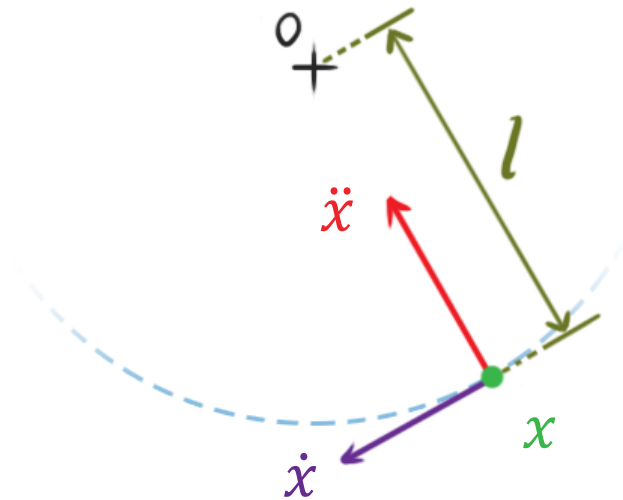
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- From [3][4], we can derive  $f_C \cdot x = -f_{ext} \cdot x - m \dot{x} \cdot \dot{x}$  [5]

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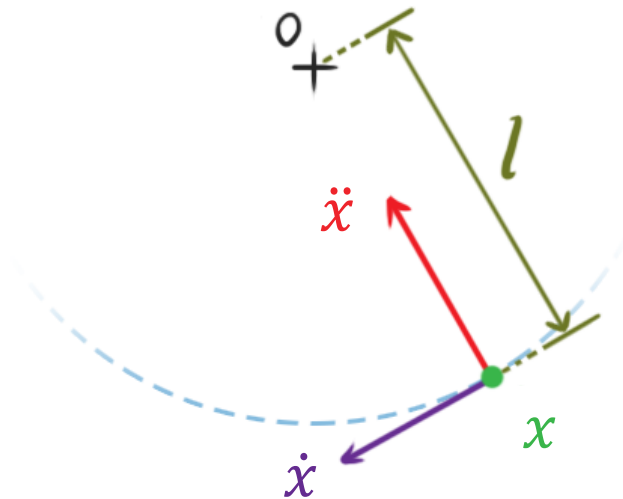
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- From [3][4], we can derive  $f_C \cdot x = -f_{ext} \cdot x - m \dot{x} \cdot \dot{x}$  [5]
- Additional condition:  $f_C \cdot \dot{x} = 0$  [6]
- From [2][6], we can get  $f_C = \lambda x$  [7]

# Solving equality constraints

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$$C(\dot{x}) = x \cdot \dot{x} = 0 \quad [2]$$

$$C(\ddot{x}) = \ddot{x} \cdot x + \dot{x} \cdot \dot{x} = 0 \quad [3]$$

- From newton's 2nd law:  $\ddot{x} = (f_{ext} + f_C)/m$  [4]
- From [3][4], we can derive  $f_C \cdot x = -f_{ext} \cdot x - m \dot{x} \cdot \dot{x}$  [5]
- Additional condition:  $f_C \cdot \dot{x} = 0$  [6]
- From [2][6], we can get  $f_C = \lambda x$  [7]
- From [5][7], we can obtain  $\lambda = \frac{-f_{ext} \cdot x - m \dot{x} \cdot \dot{x}}{x \cdot x}$

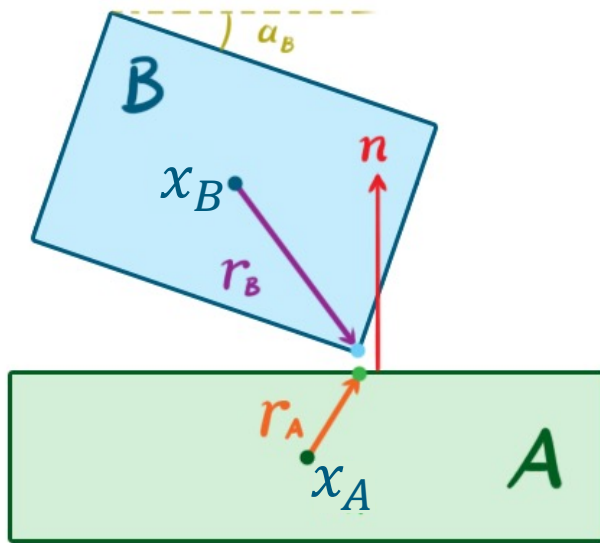
# Solving equality constraints

---

- $\lambda$  is also known as Lagrange multiplier
- For any constraints, the calculation involves determining the direction of force and its magnitude  $\lambda$
- For rigid bodies,  $JM^{-1}J^T\lambda = -\dot{J}\dot{q} - JM^{-1}F_{ext}$   
Here,  $q$  is a state vector for position and rotation,  $M$  is a matrix of mass and inertia,  $J$  is the Jacobian matrix of constraints

# A simple example of inequality constraint

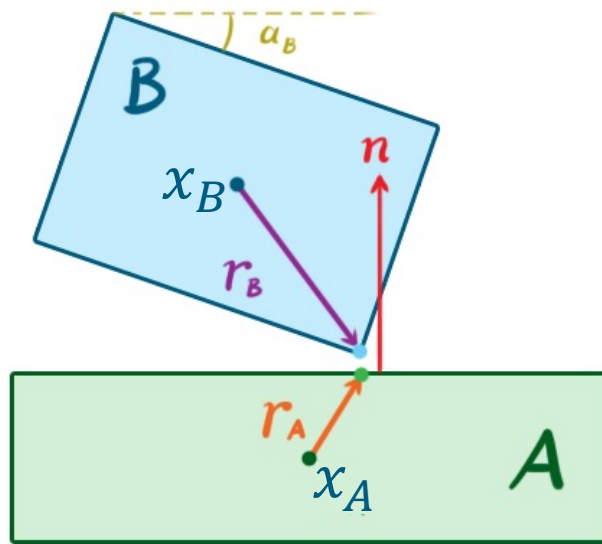
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- A and B are colliding
- $R(\alpha_B) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha_B & -\sin \alpha_B \\ \sin \alpha_B & \cos \alpha_B \end{bmatrix}$

# A simple example of inequality constraint

---

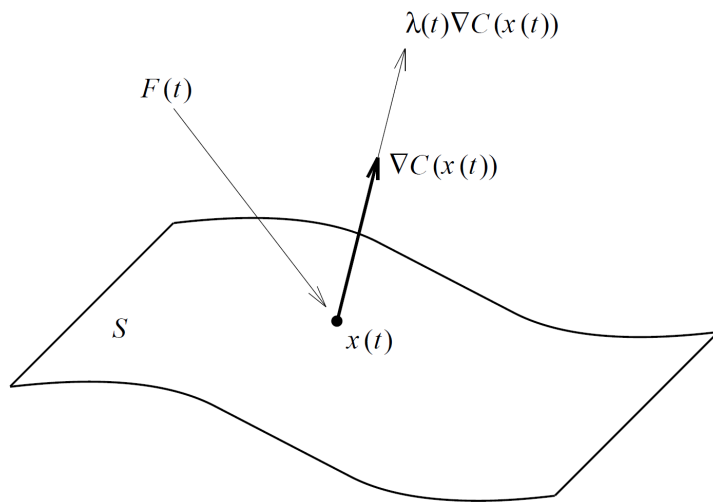


- A and B are colliding
- $R(\alpha_B) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \alpha_B & -\sin \alpha_B \\ \sin \alpha_B & \cos \alpha_B \end{bmatrix}$
- $C(x_B, \alpha_B, x_A, \alpha_A) = (x_B + R(\alpha_B)r_B) - (x_A + R(\alpha_A)r_A)$
- $n^T C(x_B, \alpha_B, x_A, \alpha_A) \geq 0$  (i.e. penetration depth is positive)

# Constraint forces to avoid penetration

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- Normal of surface  $\nabla C(x(t))$
- $F_c(t) = \lambda(t) \nabla C(x(t))$ , where  $\lambda(t)$  is a scalar.  $\lambda(t) \geq 0$  so that the force will only push not pull the two objects



# Formulate as Linear Complementarity Problem (LCP)

---

- The constraint problem could be formulated as an LCP problem
- Given a real matrix  $M$  and vector  $q$ , the linear complementarity problem  $LCP(M, q)$  seeks vectors  $z$  and  $w$  which satisfy the following constraints:

$$w, z \geq 0$$

$$z^T w = 0$$

$$w = Mz + q$$



# Resting contact

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- Body separating (no response required)

$$v_{rel} > \epsilon$$

- Colliding contact

$$v_{rel} < -\epsilon$$

- Resting contact

$$-\epsilon < v_{rel} < \epsilon$$

# Resting constraint forces properties

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- Prevent interpenetration  $\ddot{d}_i(t_0) \geq 0$
- Repulsive normal force:  $f_N(t) \geq 0$
- Normal force is zero when bodies start to separate:  $f_i \ddot{d}_i(t_0) = 0$

# Linear Complementarity Problem (LCP)

---

- $\ddot{d}_i(t_0) = a_{i1}f_1 + a_{i2}f_2 + \cdots + a_{in}f_n + b_i$

$$\begin{pmatrix} \ddot{d}_1(t_0) \\ \vdots \\ \ddot{d}_n(t_0) \end{pmatrix} = A \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ \vdots \\ f_n \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{d}_i(t_0) \geq 0 & \text{Prevent interpenetration} \\ f_i \geq 0 & \text{Repulsive} \\ f_i \ddot{d}_i(t_0) = 0 & \text{Is zero when bodies are starting to come apart} \end{cases}$$

# Solving Linear Complementarity Problem (LCP)

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- Pivoting algorithms (like Gaussian elimination)
  - Need read and write access to matrices
  - Do not provide useful intermediate results
  - May exploit sparsity well
- Iterative algorithms (like Conjugate gradients)
  - Only need read access to matrices
  - Can stop early for approximation
  - Faster for large matrices
  - Can be warm started (i.e. from previous results)

# Constraint-based methods: summary

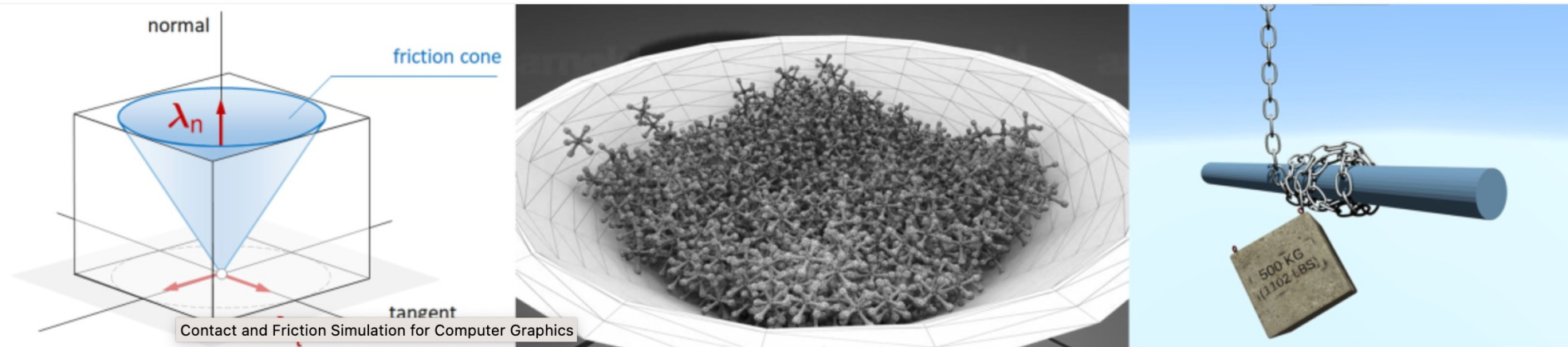
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- Computes constraint forces that are designed to exactly cancel any external accelerations that would result in interpenetration
- Useful when the scene is composed of relatively small number of objects with simple shape
- Does not scale well with the complexity of the scene  
(the penalty based method scales well with the complexity of the scene )

# Outline

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- Collision detection basics
- Computing impulses using a coefficient of restitution
- Penalty based method
- Constraint based method
- **Recent work**



[Sheldon Andrews](#)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>École de technologie supérieure

[Kenny Erleben](#)<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>University of Copenhagen

[Zachary Ferguson](#)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup>New York University

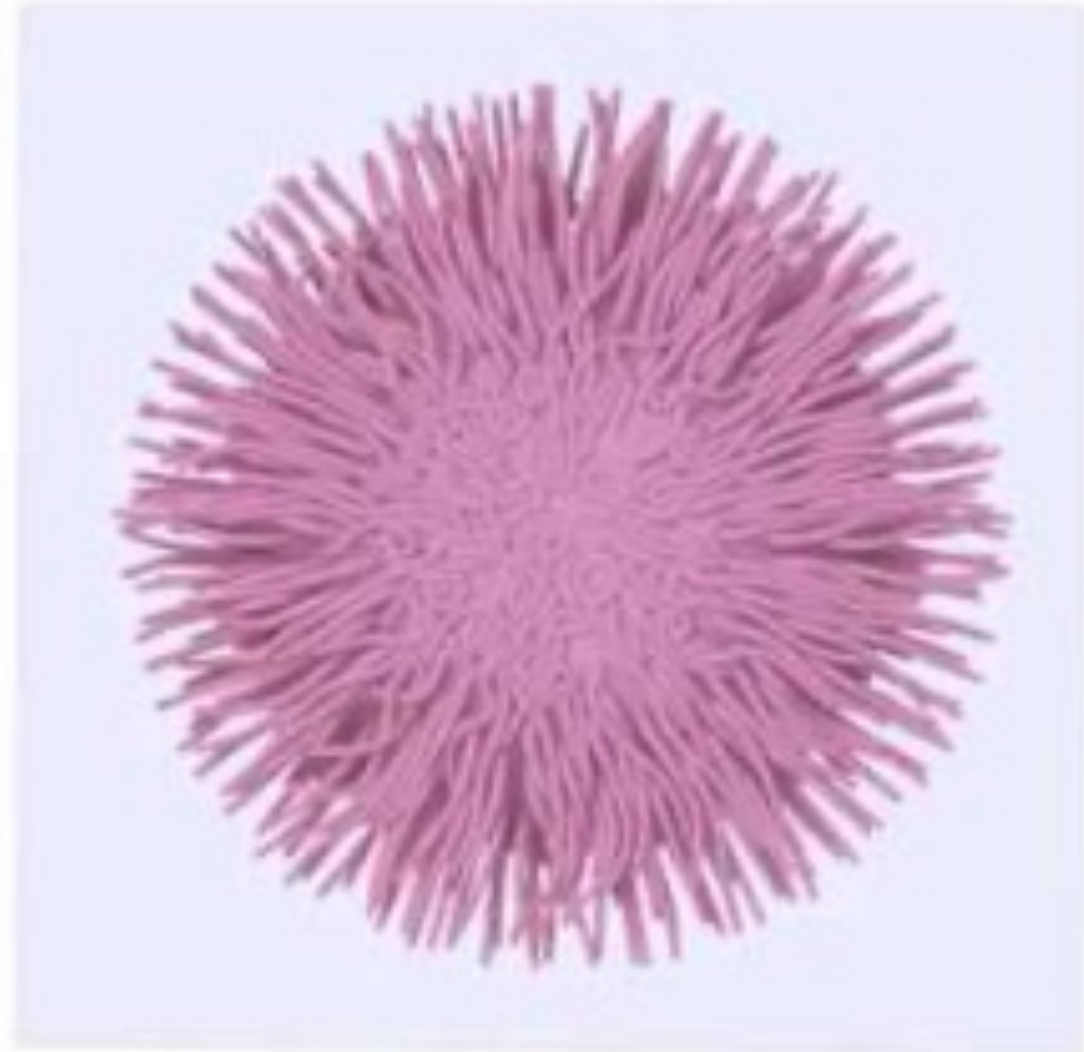
This course covers fundamental topics on the nature of contact modeling and simulation for computer graphics. Specifically, we provide mathematical details about formulating contact as a complementarity problem in rigid body and soft body animations. We briefly cover several approaches for contact generation using discrete collision detection. Then, we present a range of numerical techniques for solving the associated LCPs and NCPs. The advantages and disadvantages of each technique are further discussed in a practical manner, and best practices for implementation are discussed. Finally, we conclude the course with several advanced topics such as methods for soft body contact problems, barrier functions, and anisotropic friction modeling. Programming examples are provided in our appendix as well as on the course website to accompany the course notes.

**Updated for SIGGRAPH '22:** This version of the course adds coverage of multivariate continuous collision detection, an extended treatment of penalty-based methods to include barrier methods, a new chapter on implicit time integration schemes and methods for solving soft body contact problems has been added. Additionally, we now include a more in-depth coverage of anisotropic friction simulation, as well as a tutorial that guides the reader through the steps of creating a rigid body simulator with frictional contact

# Incremental Potential Contact (SIGGRAPH 2020)

IPC

7e-3X



tetrahedra: 2314K  
contacts per step (max): 105K  
dt: 0.001  
 $\mu: 0$



# Rigid IPC (SIGGRAPH 2021)

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## Intersection-free Rigid Body Dynamics

Zachary Ferguson<sup>1</sup>  
Teseo Schneider<sup>1,4</sup>  
Timothy Langlois<sup>5</sup>  
Denis Zorin<sup>1</sup>  
Daniele Panozzo<sup>1</sup>

Minchen Li<sup>2,3</sup>  
Francisca Gil-Ureta<sup>1</sup>  
Chenfanfu Jiang<sup>2,3</sup>  
Danny M. Kaufman<sup>5</sup>

NYU<sub>1</sub> UCLA<sub>2</sub> Penn<sub>3</sub> University of Victoria<sub>4</sub> Adobe<sub>5</sub>

# Affine Body Dynamics (SIGGRAPH 2022)



## Affine Body Dynamics:

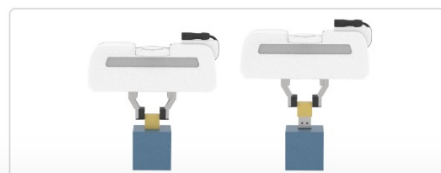
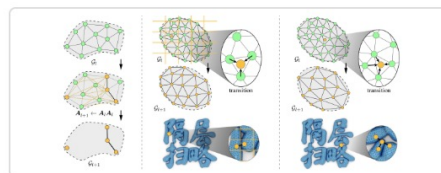
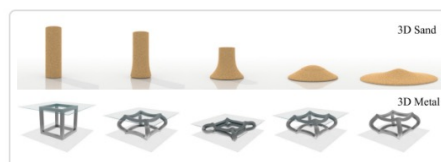
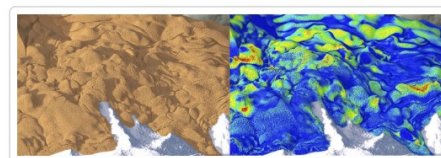
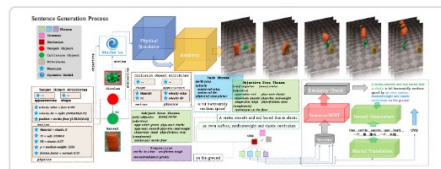
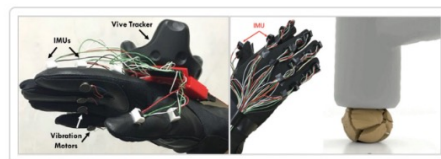
Fast, Stable, and Intersection-free Simulation of Stiff Materials

Lei Lan<sup>1,2</sup>, Danny M. Kaufman<sup>3</sup>, Minchen Li<sup>4,5</sup>, Chenfanfu Jiang<sup>4,5</sup>, Yin Yang<sup>1,2,5</sup>



# Minchen Li

- Will give a talk here at CMU  
March 13, 3pm



## Reconfigurable Data Glove for Reconstructing Physical and Virtual Grasps

Hangxin Liu, Zeyu Zhang, Ziyuan Jiao, Zhenliang Zhang, **Minchen Li**, Chenfanfu Jiang, Yixin Zhu, Song-Chun Zhu  
*Engineering*, 2023 [Paper](#) [Project Page](#)

## TPA-Net: Generate A Dataset for Text to Physics-based Animation

Yuxing Qiu, Feng Gao, **Minchen Li**, Govind Thattai, Yin Yang, Chenfanfu Jiang  
*Arxiv 2211.13887* [Preprint](#) [Gallery](#)

## A Sparse Distributed Gigascale Resolution Material Point Method

Yuxing Qiu, Samuel T. Reeve, **Minchen Li**, Yin Yang, Stuart R. Slattery, Chenfanfu Jiang  
*ACM Transactions on Graphics*, 2022 (presentation at SIGGRAPH) [Paper](#)

## PlasticityNet: Learning to Simulate Metal, Sand, and Snow for Optimization Time Integration

Xuan Li, Yadi Cao, **Minchen Li**, Yin Yang, Craig Schroeder, Chenfanfu Jiang  
*Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS)*, 2022 [Paper](#) [Video](#)

## Bi-Stride Multi-Scale Graph Neural Network for Mesh-Based Physical Simulation

Yadi Cao, Menglei Chai, **Minchen Li**, Chenfanfu Jiang  
*Arxiv 2210.02573* [Preprint](#)

## Midas: A Multi-Joint Robotics Simulator with Intersection-Free Frictional Contact

Yunuo Chen, **Minchen Li**, Wenlong Lu, Chuyuan Fu, Chenfanfu Jiang  
*Arxiv 2210.00130* [Preprint](#)

# Summary

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- Collision detection
    - backtracking  $t_c$ ,
    - determining interpenetration using separation plane
    - determining interpenetration using separating axis theorem (SAT)
  - Impulse based method. Computing impulse based on restitution coefficient  $\epsilon$
  - Penalty based method
  - Constraint based method
- } Force based

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