

The image features three 3D towers of small cubes, each topped with a flat square. The towers are arranged from left to right, showing a progression of a collision. The leftmost tower is intact. The middle tower has several cubes missing from its upper section, with some cubes floating in the air around it. The rightmost tower is in a state of disintegration, with many cubes scattered on the ground and in the air.

**COL781: Computer Graphics**

# 34. Rigid Bodies and Collisions

# Announcements

Assignment 3 demos some time next week (TBA)

No class tomorrow (Saturday, 13 April)

# Rigid bodies

Degrees of freedom: Center of mass position  $\mathbf{x}$ , rotation (matrix  $\mathbf{R}$  or quaternion  $\mathbf{q}$ )  
...Basically just the body's coordinate system

Kinematics:

- (Linear) velocity:  $d\mathbf{x}/dt = \mathbf{v}$
- Angular velocity:  $\boldsymbol{\omega}$



$$\frac{d\mathbf{R}}{dt} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -\omega_z & \omega_y \\ \omega_z & 0 & -\omega_x \\ -\omega_y & \omega_x & 0 \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{R} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{d\mathbf{q}}{dt} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} q_x & -q_y & -q_z \\ q_w & q_z & -q_y \\ -q_z & q_w & q_x \\ q_y & -q_x & q_w \end{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\omega}$$

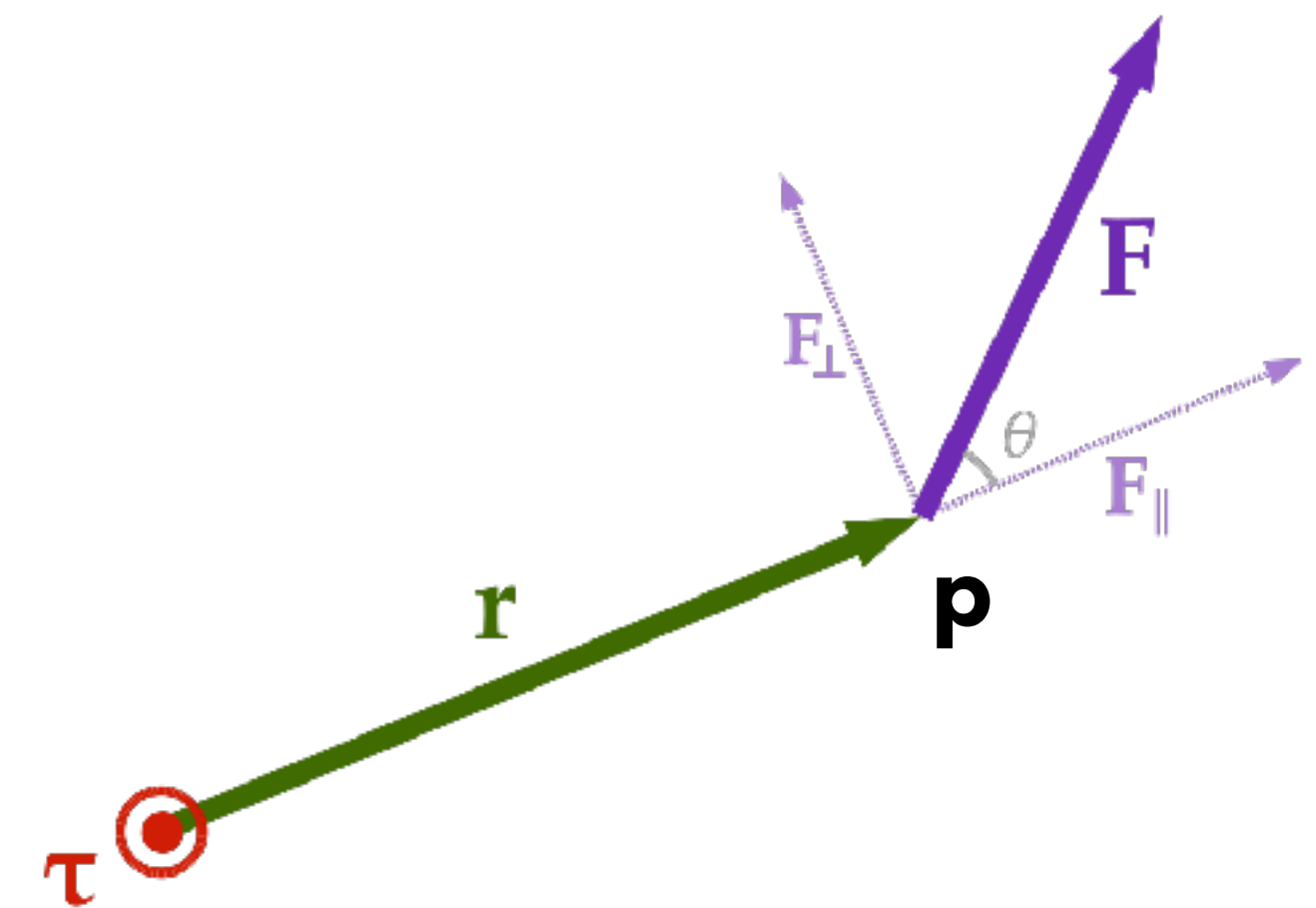
Dynamics:

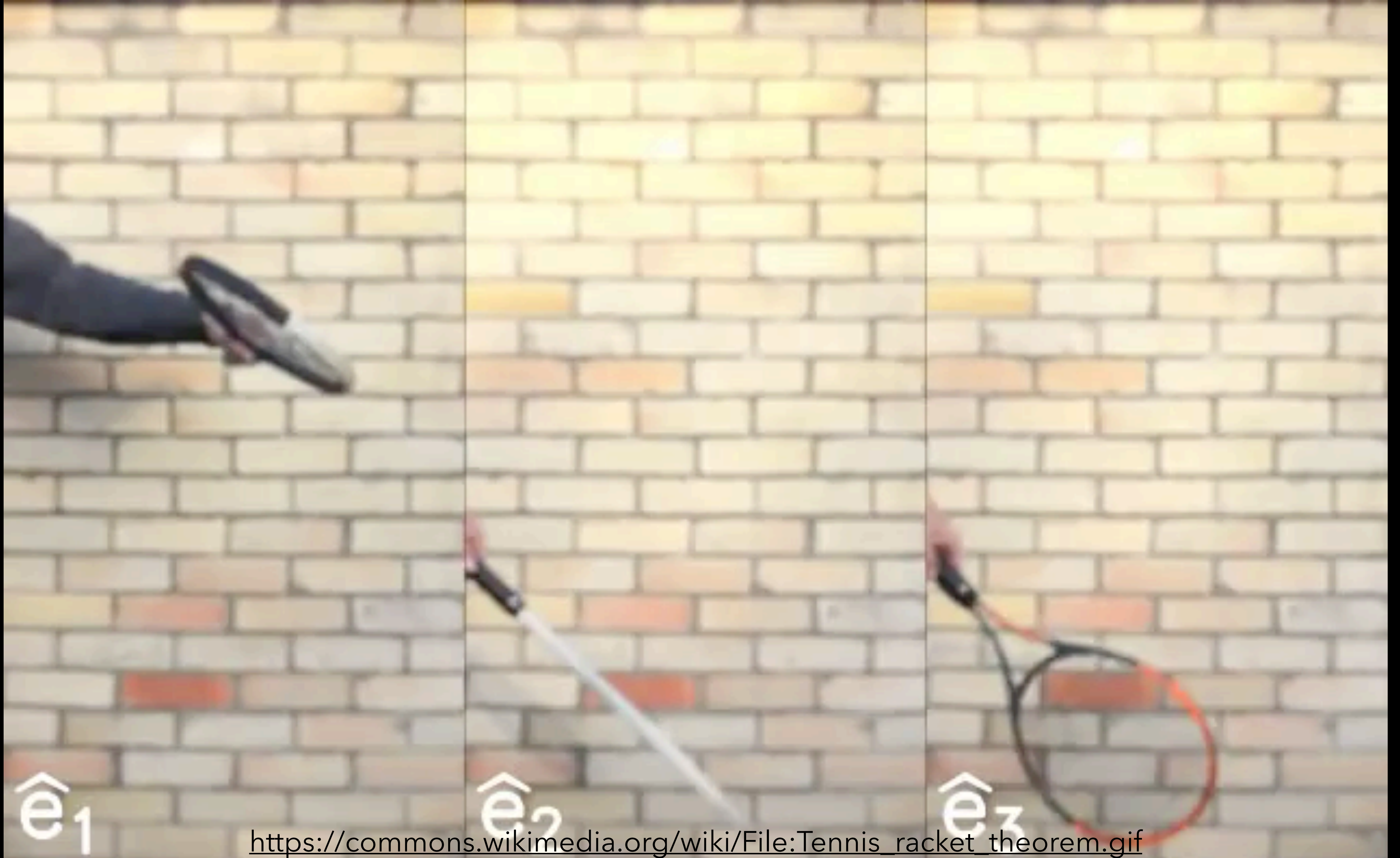
$$d\mathbf{v}/dt = m^{-1} \mathbf{f}$$

$$d\boldsymbol{\omega}/dt = \mathbf{I}^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\tau} - \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{I} \boldsymbol{\omega})$$

where

- $\mathbf{I}$  = moment of inertia in world space  
=  $\mathbf{R} \mathbf{I}_0 \mathbf{R}^T$  where  $\mathbf{I}_0$  is moment of inertia in body frame
- $\boldsymbol{\tau}$  = net torque =  $\sum (\mathbf{p}_i - \mathbf{x}) \times \mathbf{f}_i$
- $\boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{I} \boldsymbol{\omega}$  = "gyroscopic term" that makes things tumble





[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tennis\\_racket\\_theorem.gif](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tennis_racket_theorem.gif)

A typical simulation loop:

- Sum up forces  $\mathbf{f}$  and torques  $\boldsymbol{\tau}$
- Update velocities using  $d\mathbf{v}/dt = m^{-1} \mathbf{f}$ ,  $d\boldsymbol{\omega}/dt = \dots$
- Update DOFs using  $d\mathbf{x}/dt = \mathbf{v}$ ,  $d\mathbf{q}/dt = \dots$
- Normalize  $\mathbf{q}$  to a unit quaternion

Compare with constrained semi-implicit Euler:

$$\mathbf{v}_{n+1} = \mathbf{v}_n + \mathbf{M}^{-1} \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}_n, \mathbf{v}_n) \Delta t$$

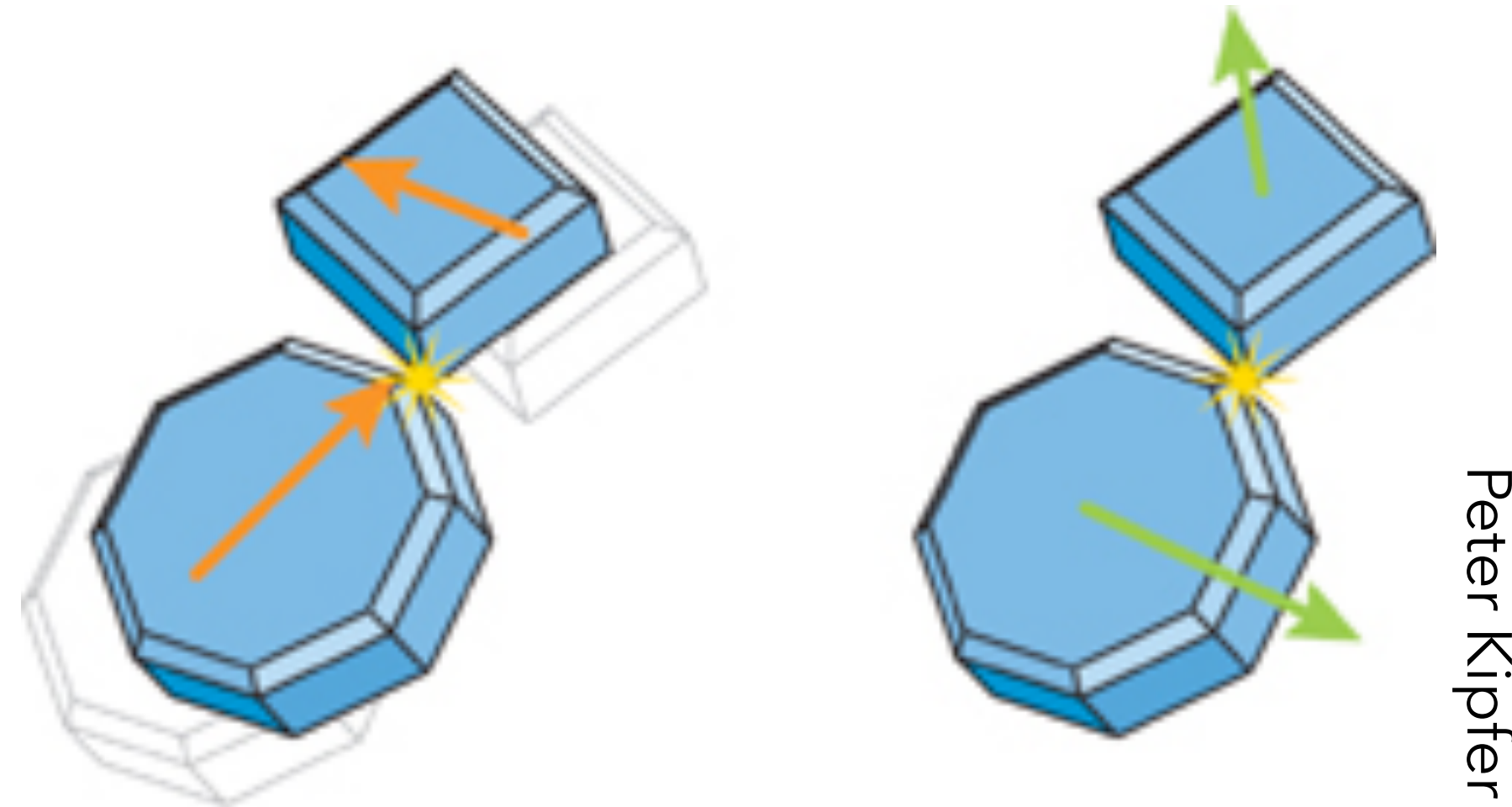
$$\mathbf{q}_{\text{pred}} = \mathbf{q}_n + \mathbf{v}_{n+1} \Delta t$$

$$\mathbf{q}_{n+1} = \text{project}(\mathbf{q}_{\text{pred}})$$

# Collisions

**Collision detection:** find out which particles / bodies / etc. are colliding

Purely a geometric problem



**Collision response:** figure out how to update their velocities / positions

Involves physics of contact forces, friction, etc.

**Example:** Suppose I have an infinite cylinder along the  $x$ -axis with radius  $R$ .

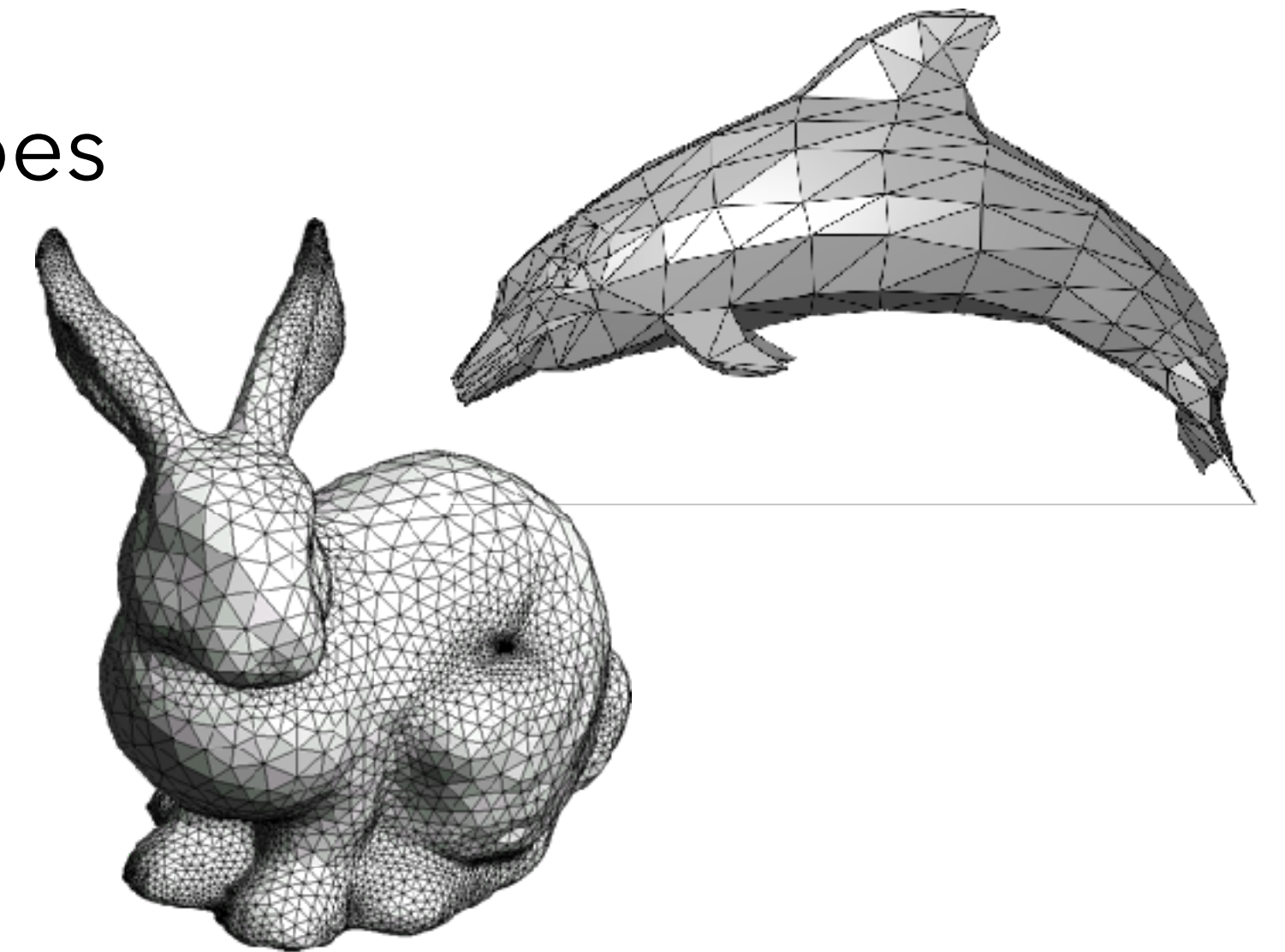
I also have a particle with radius  $r$  moving to positions  $\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \dots$  at times  $t_0, t_1, t_2, \dots$

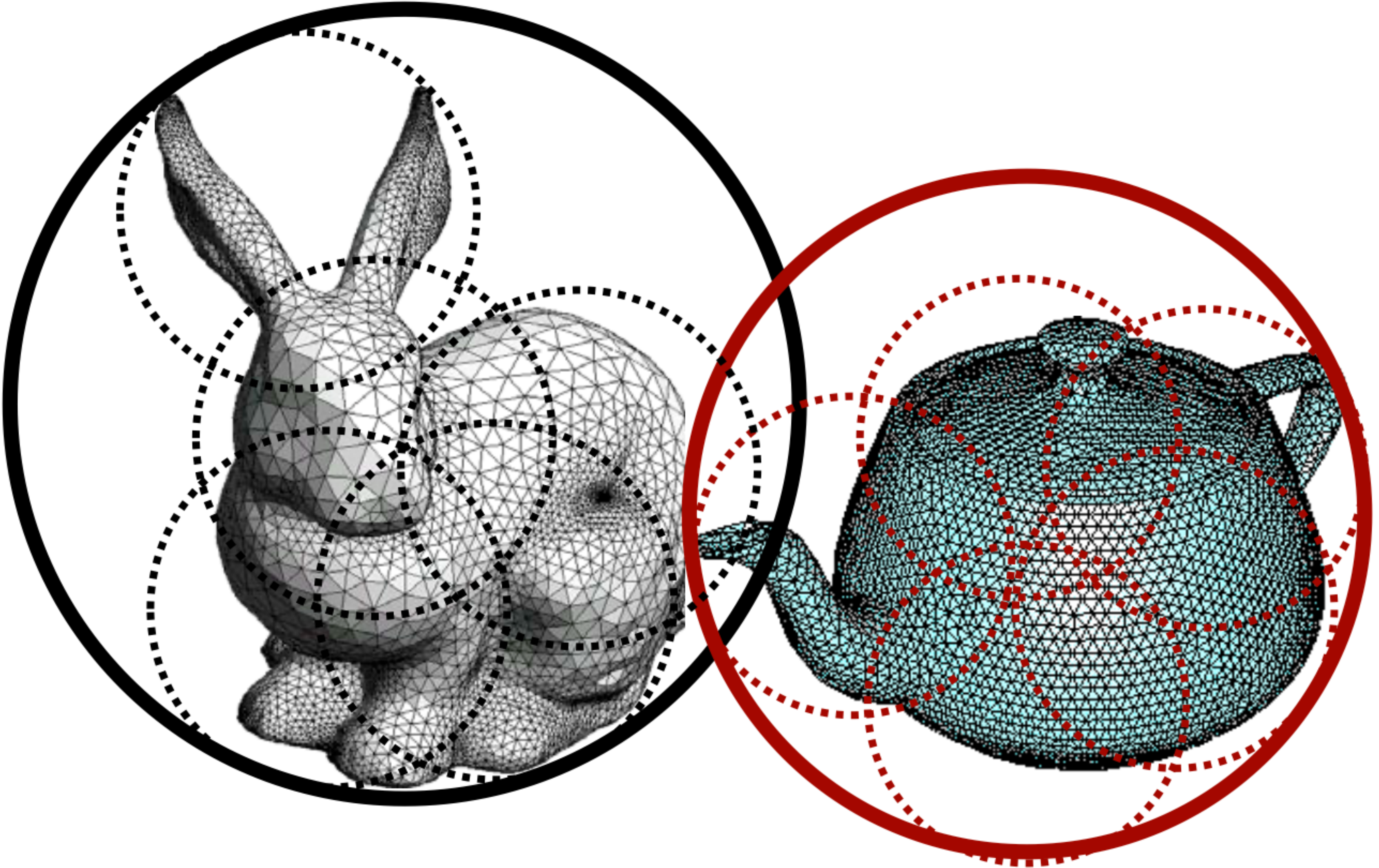
1. How can I do **discrete collision detection** between the particle and the cylinder?
2. How can I do **continuous collision detection** for the same?
3. If I model a sheet of cloth as a mass-spring system, is it enough to check that none of the particles are colliding with the cylinder?



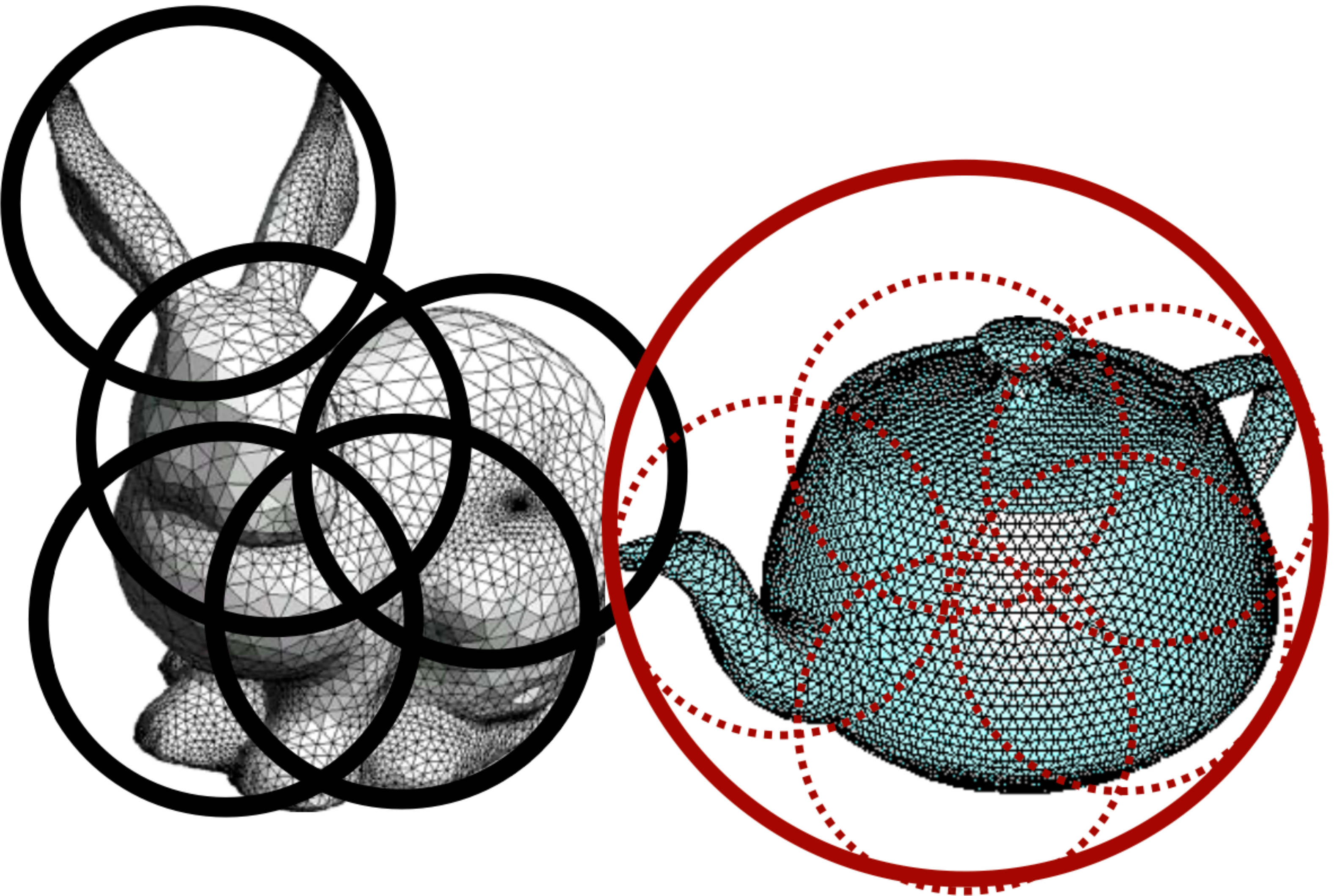
How to efficiently detect collisions between complicated shapes without  $O(n^2)$  intersection tests?

1. **Broad phase:** traverse BVHs of both shapes
2. **Narrow phase:** if BVH leaves intersect, do pairwise intersection tests between primitives

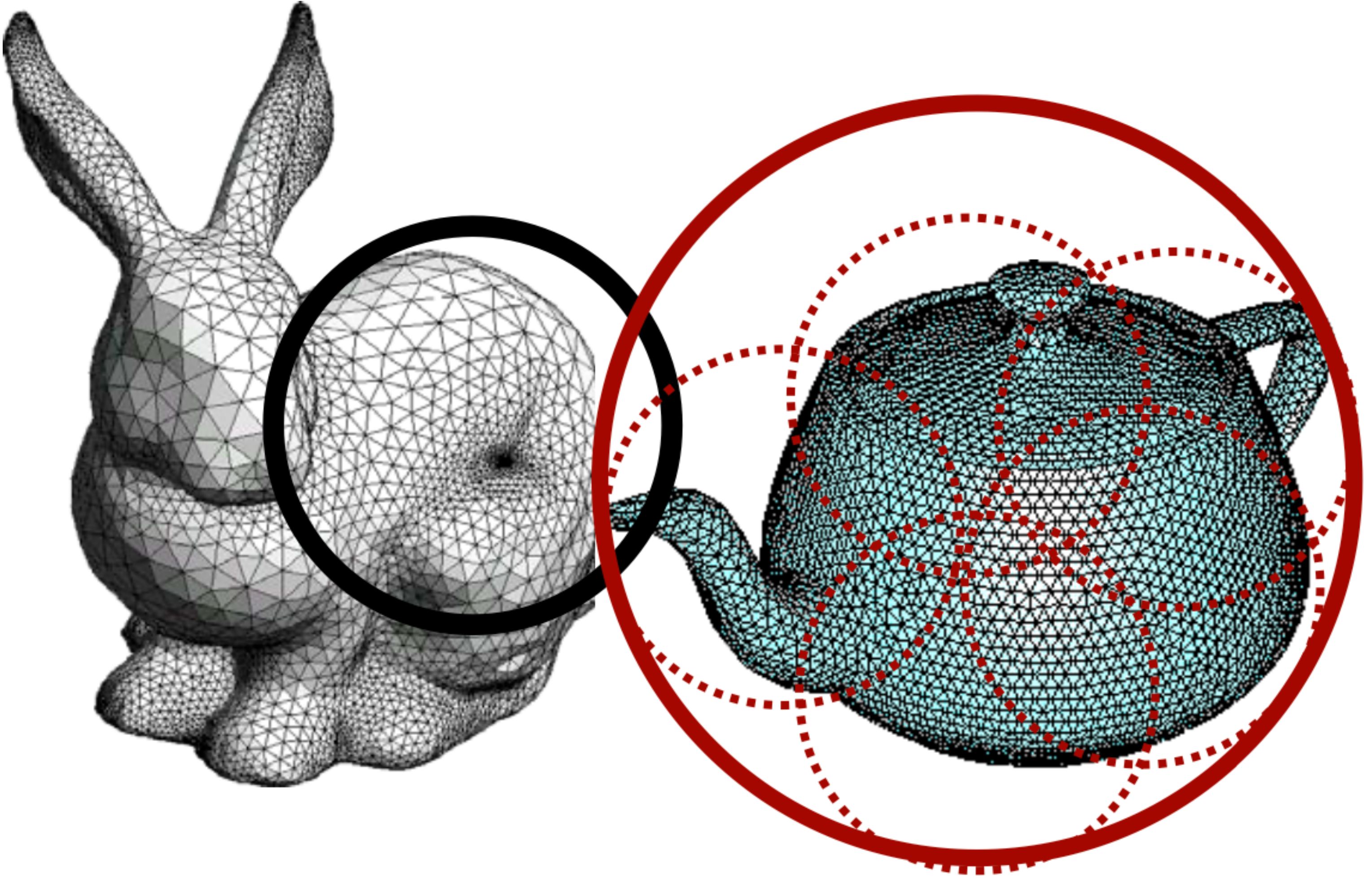




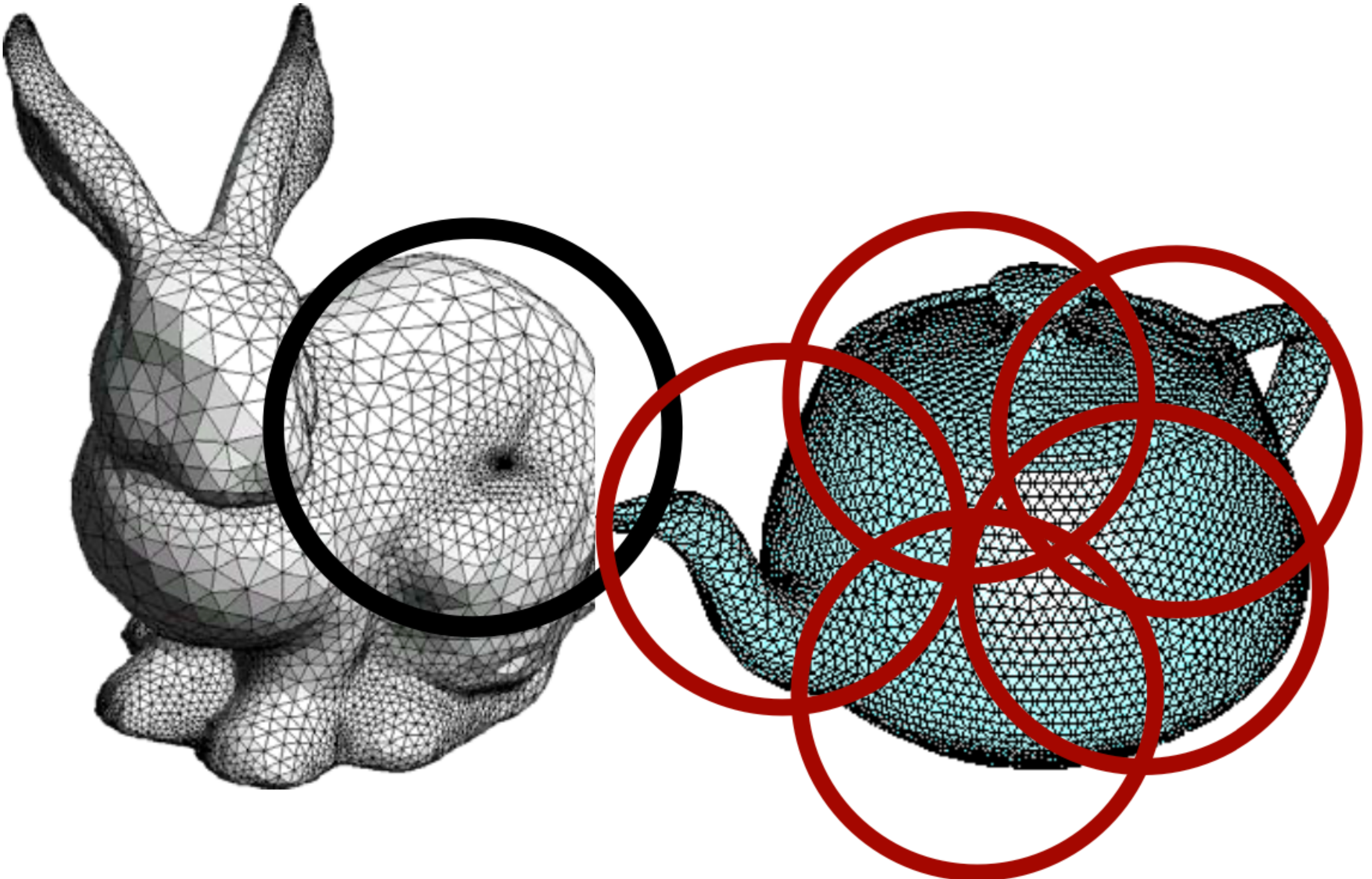
Wojciech Matusik



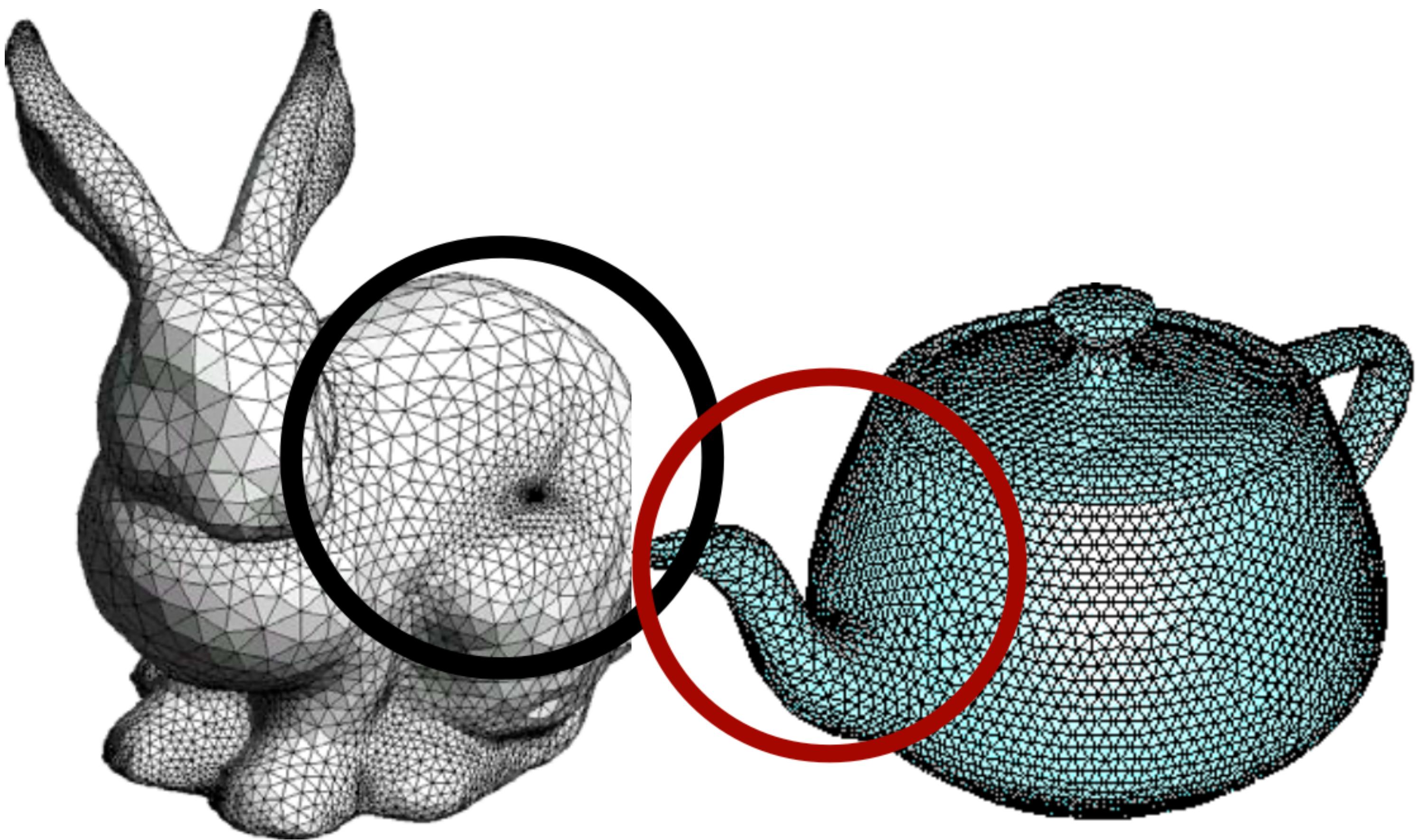
Wojciech Matusik



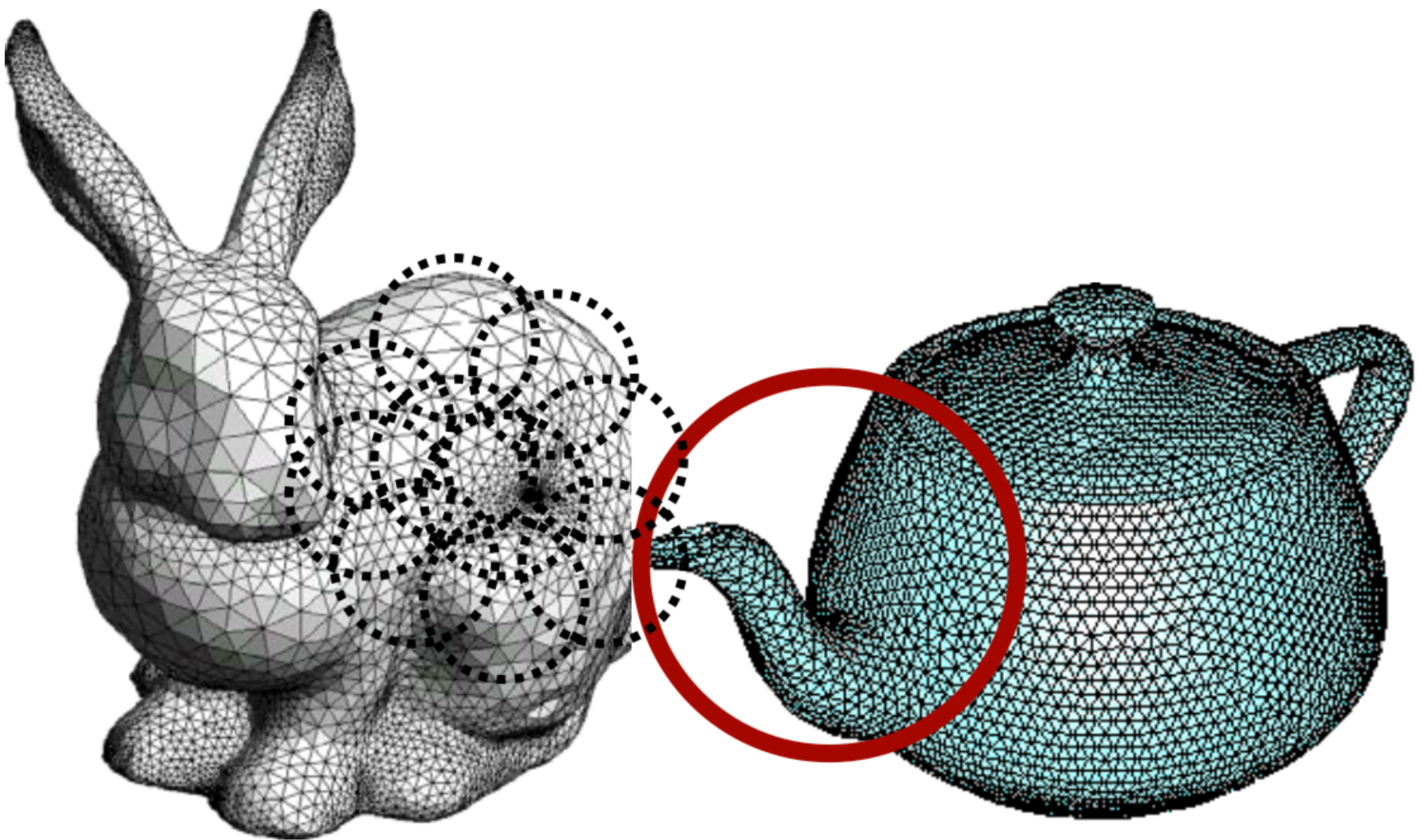
Wojciech Matusik



Wojciech Matusik

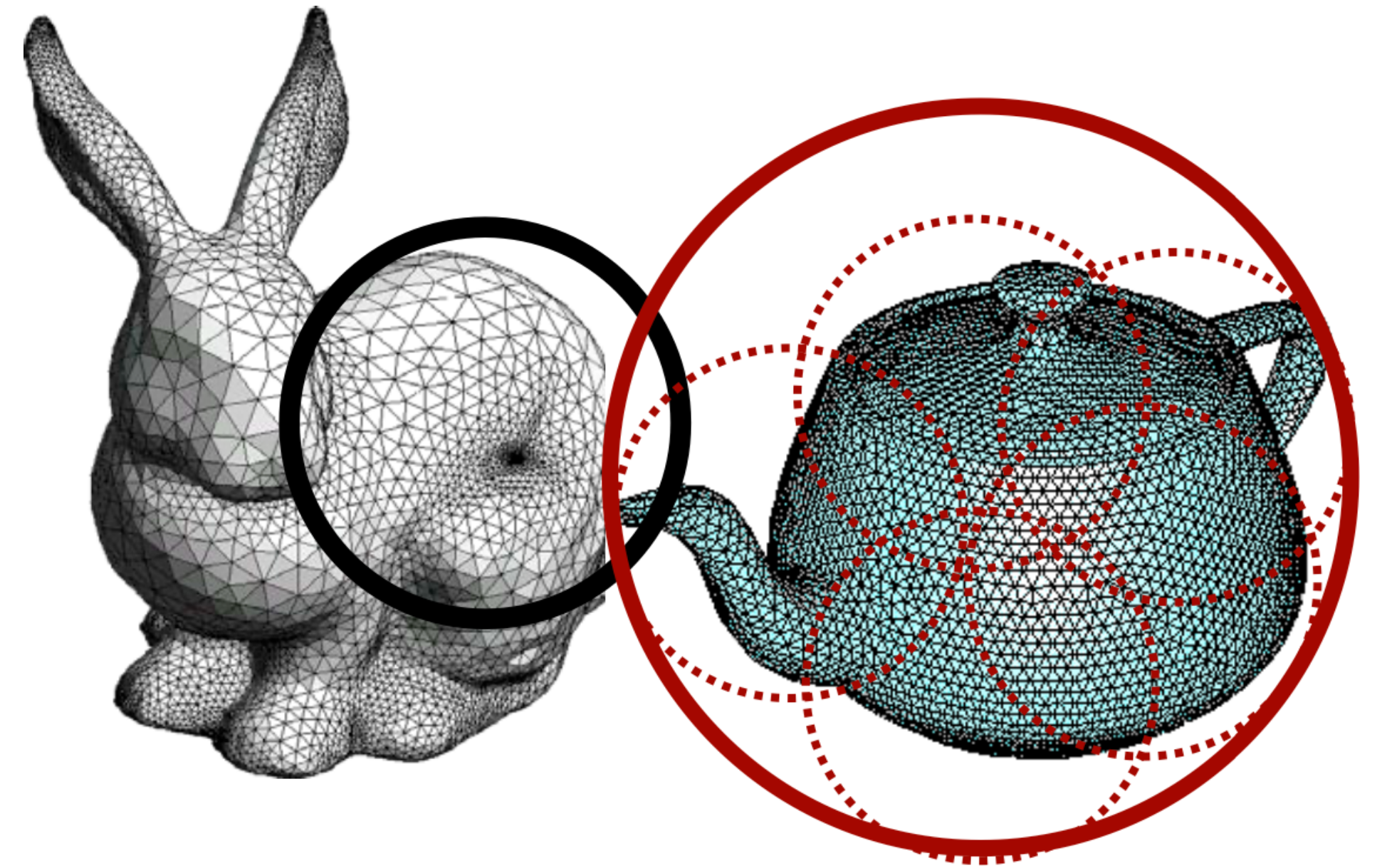


Wojciech Matusik



Wojciech Matusik

FindIntersections(node<sub>1</sub>, node<sub>2</sub>):  
if BVs of node<sub>1</sub> and node<sub>2</sub> overlap:  
for each child of bigger node:  
FindIntersections(child, smaller node)





FindIntersections(node<sub>1</sub>, node<sub>2</sub>):

if BVs of node<sub>1</sub> and node<sub>2</sub> overlap:

if neither node<sub>1</sub> nor node<sub>2</sub> are leaves:

for each child of bigger node:

FindIntersections(child, smaller node)

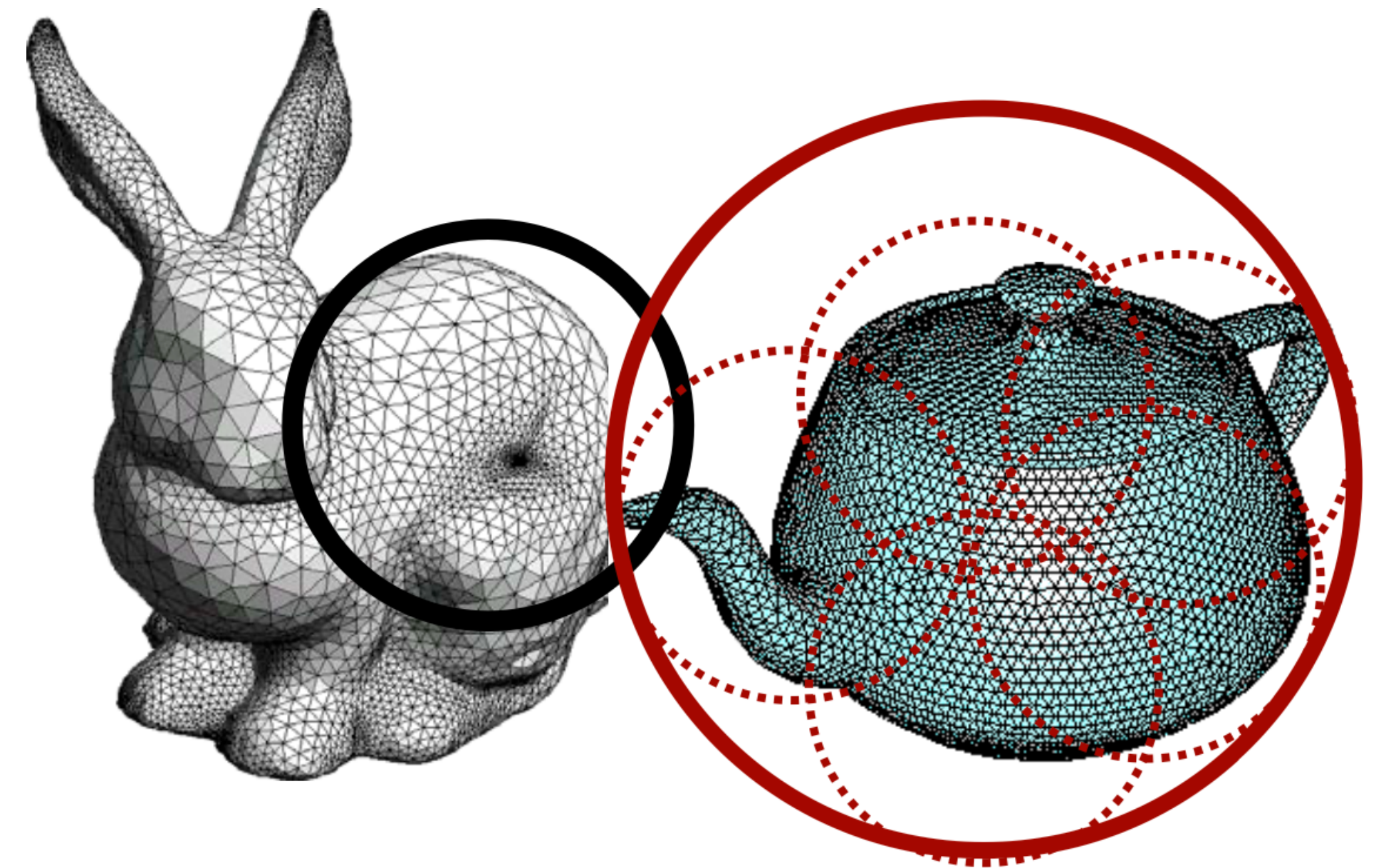
else if only one node is a leaf:

for each child of other node:

FindIntersections(child, leaf node)

else (both are leaves):

test intersections between all pairs of primitives

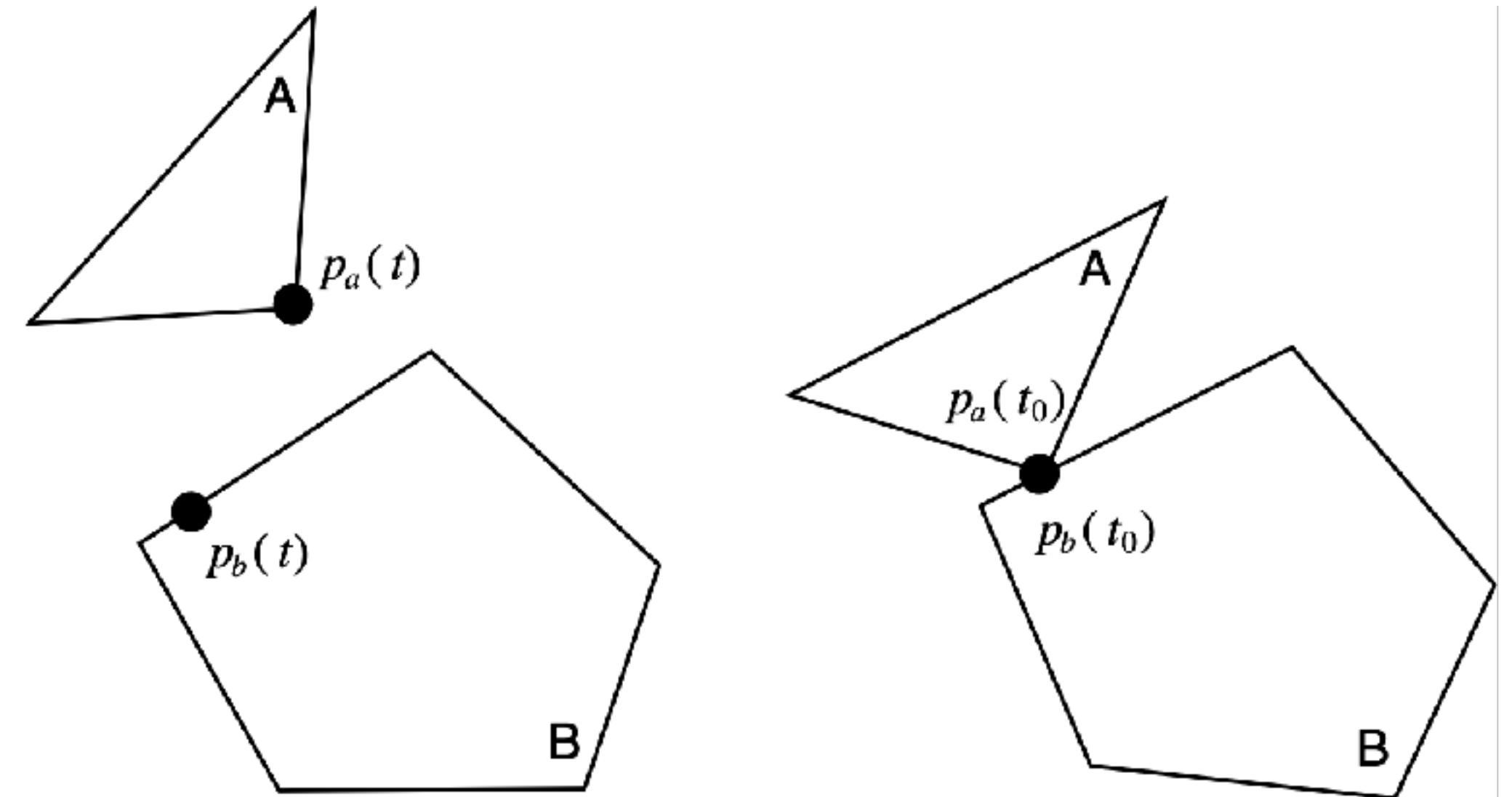


Output of collision detection: **contact pairs**

- Point  $\mathbf{p}_a$  on one body
- Point  $\mathbf{p}_b$  on other body
- Contact normal  $\mathbf{n}$
- Time of impact  $t^*$

Now, what to do with this information?

**Collision resolution**



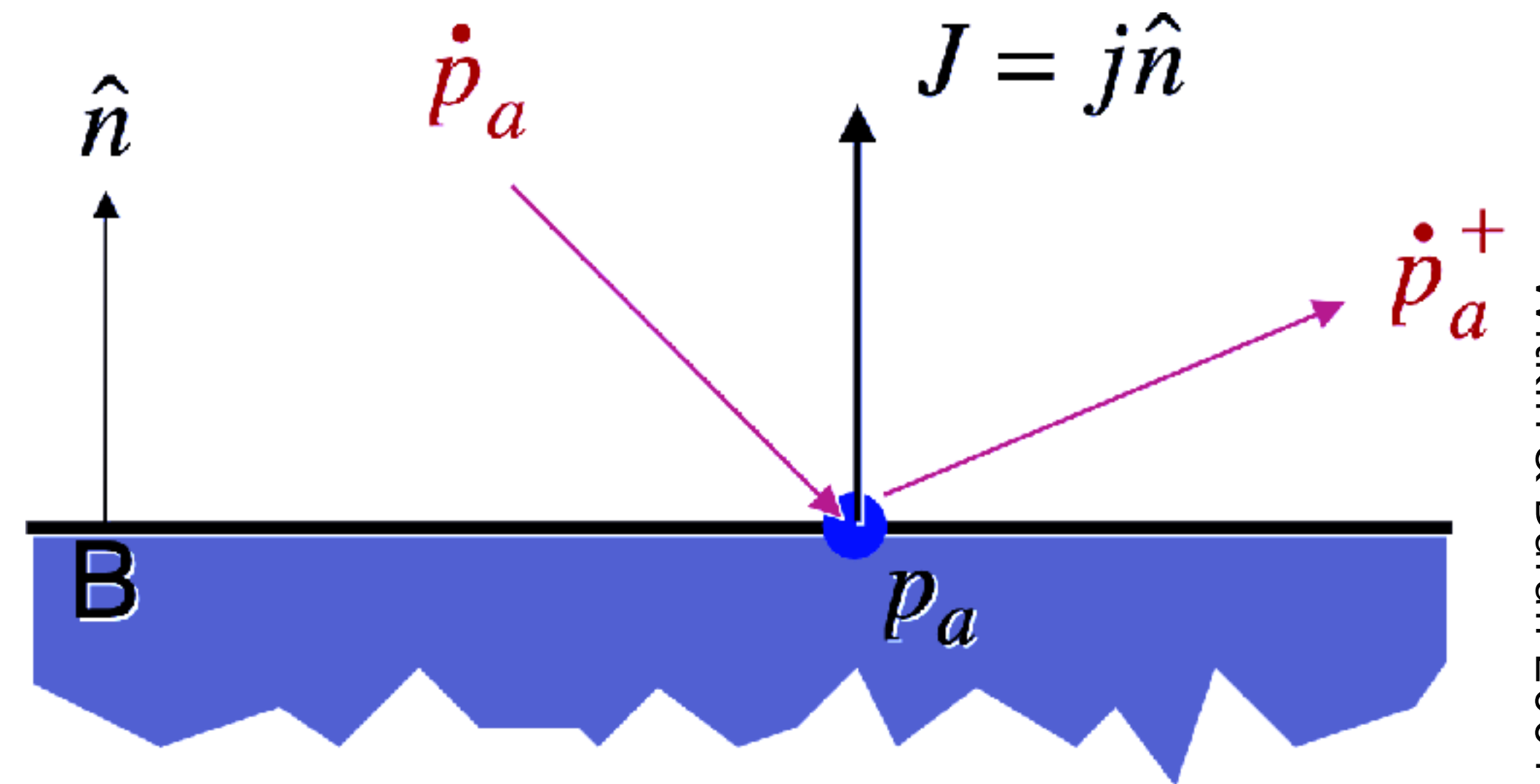
# Collision resolution

Two components:

- Normal force (prevents interpenetration)
- Frictional force (opposes tangential sliding)

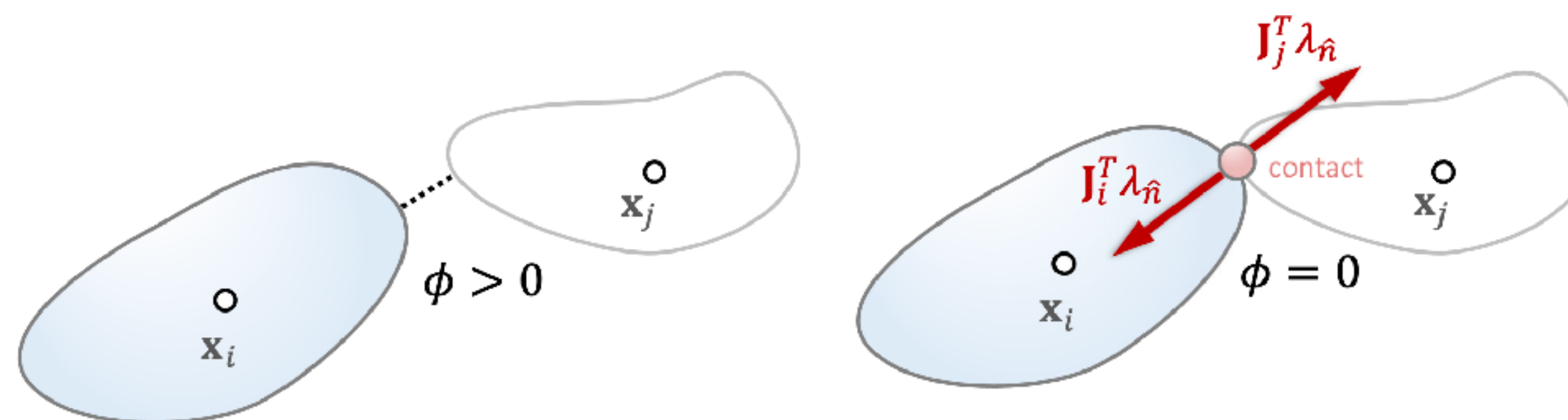
Actually, collision forces change velocity over an extremely very short time  
→ treat as an instantaneous **impulse  $\mathbf{j}$**  (change in momentum)

$$\mathbf{v}^+ = \mathbf{v} + m^{-1} \mathbf{j}$$



The normal component is like a constraint force, except it's "one-sided"...

Define a **gap function**  $\varphi(\mathbf{q})$  which measures the distance between the bodies



Constraint:  $\varphi(\mathbf{q}) \geq 0$

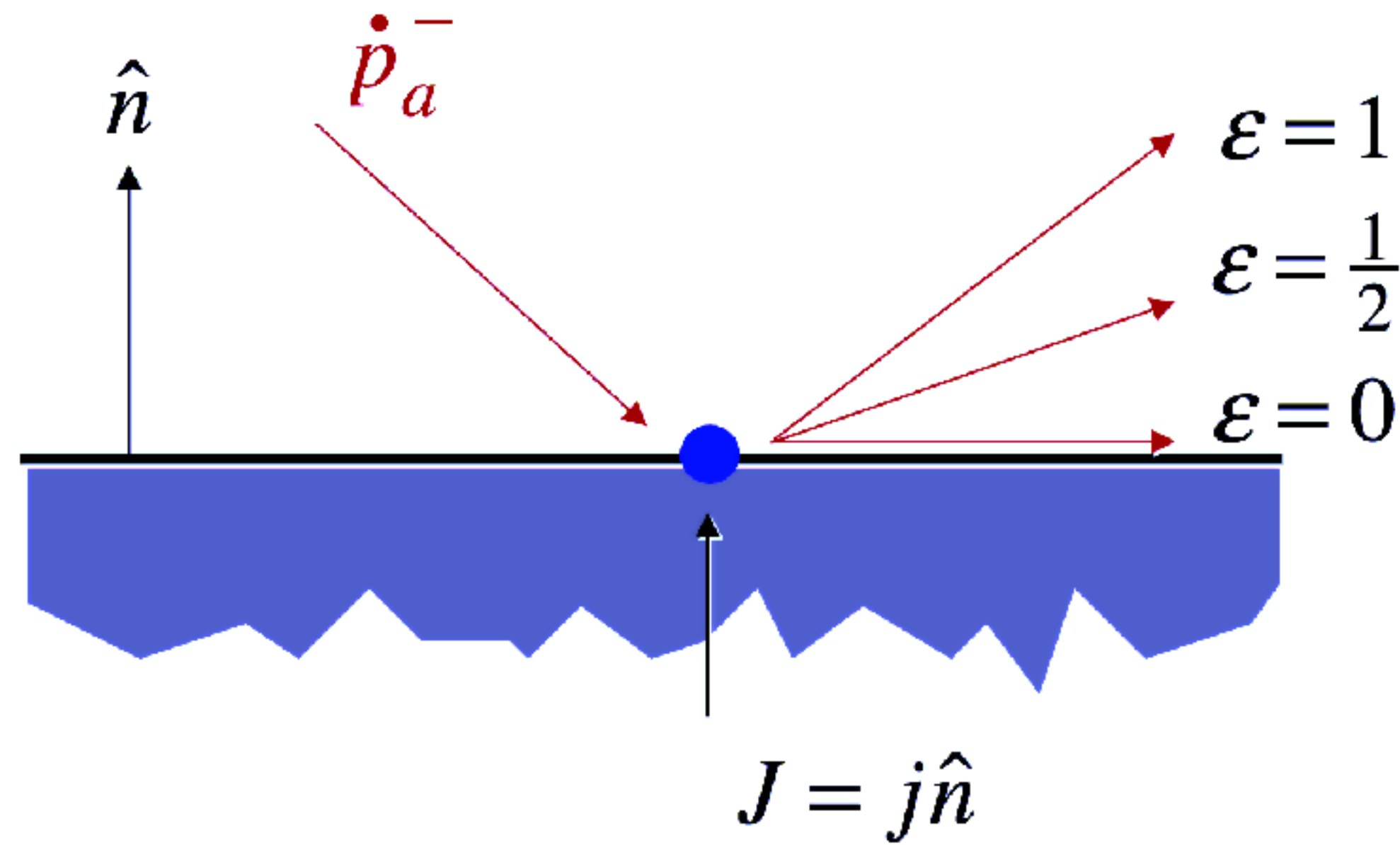
Normal impulse:  $\mathbf{j} = \lambda \nabla \varphi(\mathbf{q})$ ,  $\lambda \geq 0$  (no sticking)

**Complementarity**: if  $\varphi(\mathbf{q}) > 0$  then  $\lambda = 0$ , if  $\lambda > 0$  then  $\varphi(\mathbf{q}) = 0$

$$0 \leq \varphi(\mathbf{q}) \quad \perp \quad \lambda \geq 0$$

Coefficient of restitution  $\varepsilon$ : how elastic the collision is

$$\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v}^+ = -\varepsilon (\mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v})$$



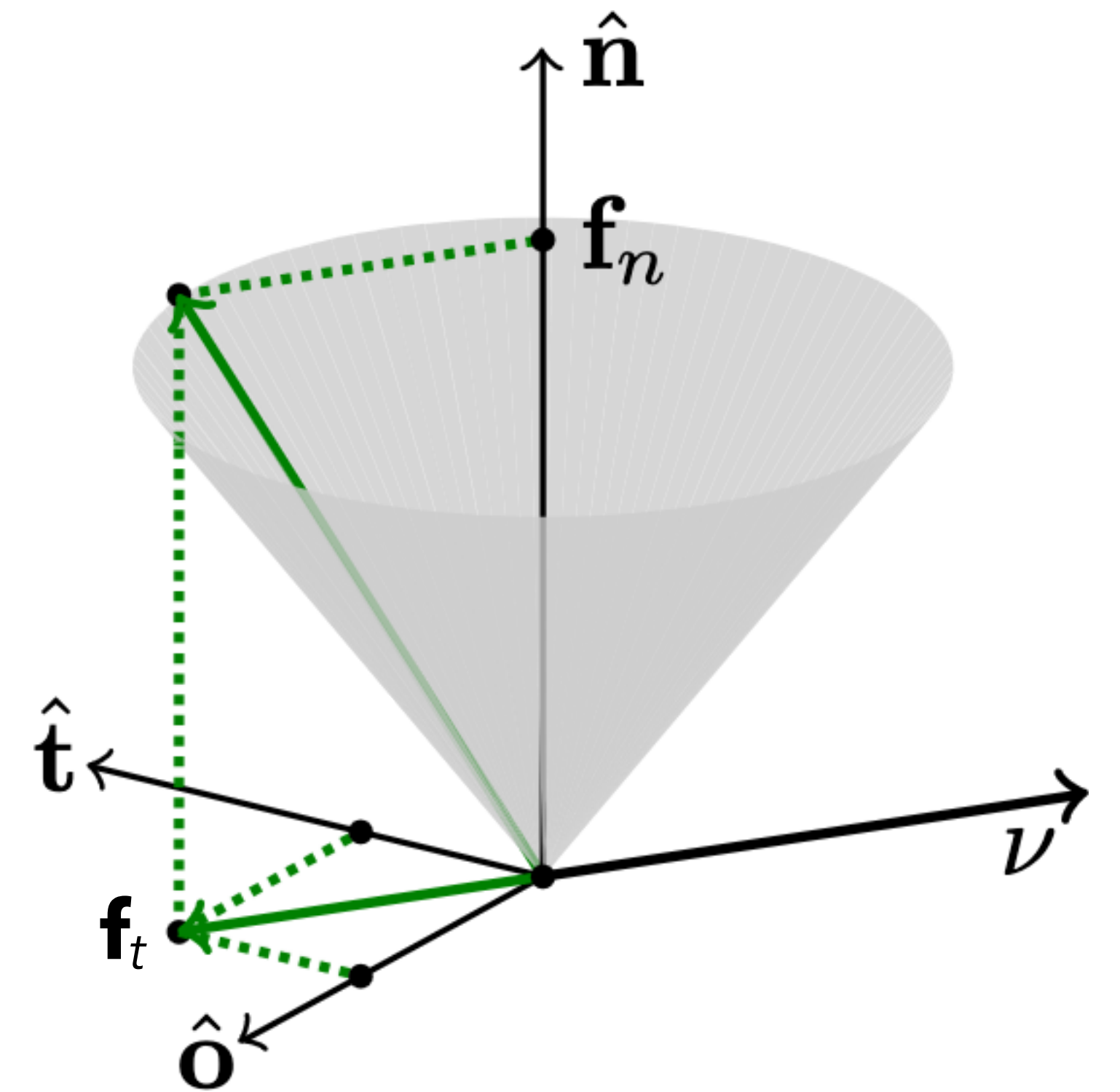
Witkin & Baraff 2001

Friction is described by **Coulomb's law**

$$\|\mathbf{f}_t\| \leq \mu f_n$$

**Maximum dissipation principle:** Frictional force takes the value which dissipates as much kinetic energy as possible.

1. If  $\|\mathbf{v}_t\| > 0$  (**slipping**) then  $\mathbf{f}_t = -(\mu f_n) \hat{\mathbf{v}}_t$
2. If  $\|\mathbf{v}_t\| = 0$  (**sticking**) then  $\mathbf{f}_t$  is any force in friction cone

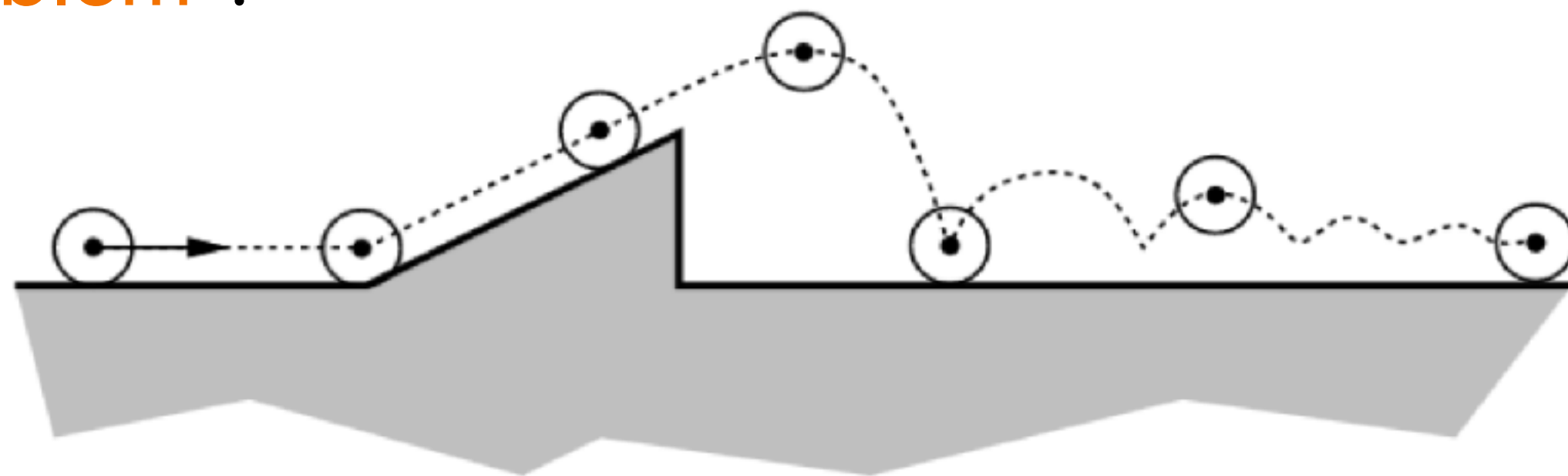


# Time stepping issues

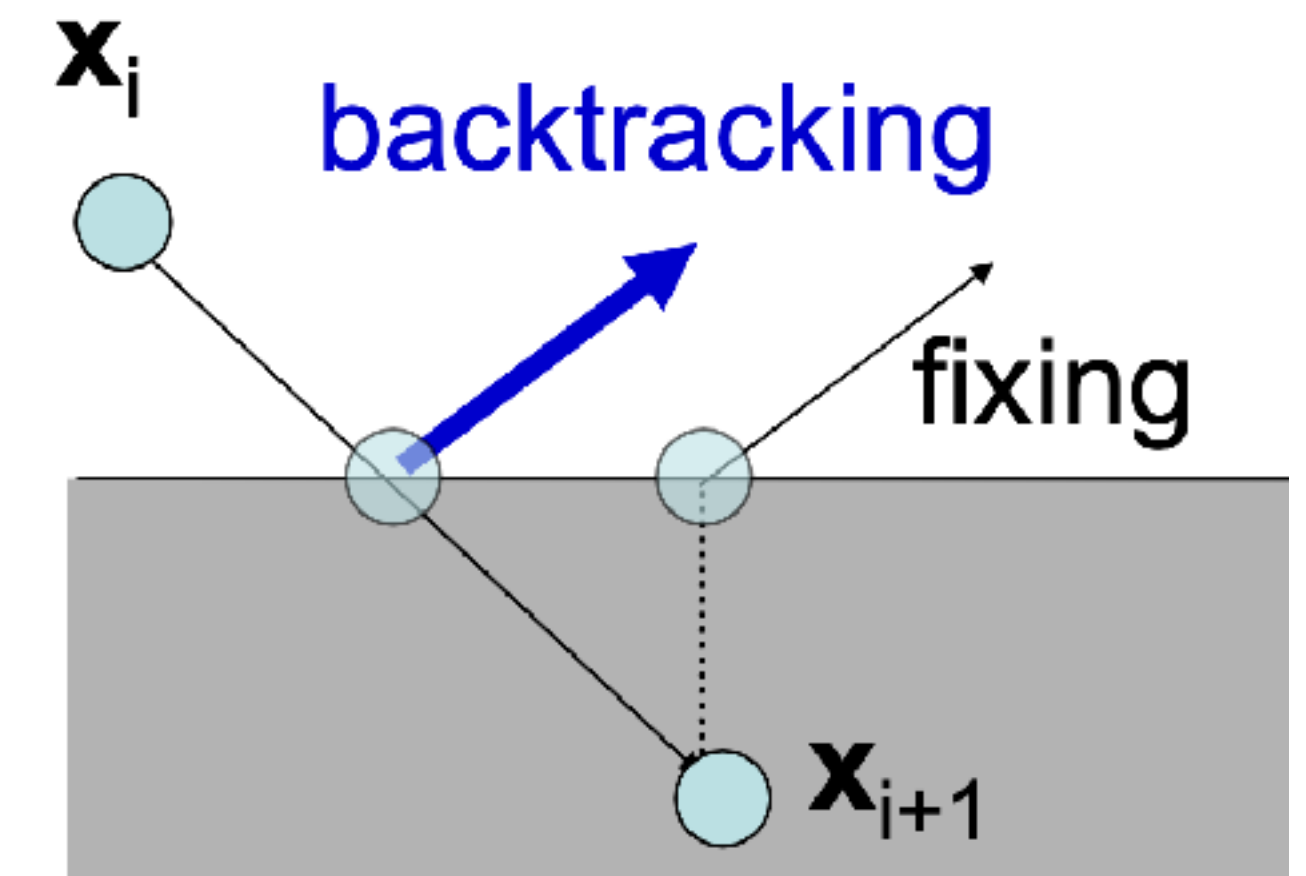
We usually only detect collisions after they've already happened!

- Option 1: Go back to time of impact, compute response, step forward for fraction of  $\Delta t$

"Zeno problem":



Mirtich &  
Canny 1994



Wojciech Matusik

- Option 2: Just lie about it! Project end-of-step positions to remove interpenetration

A simple strategy for particle/implicit collisions:

Perform  $\mathbf{v}$ ,  $\mathbf{x}$  update as usual

If inside obstacle ( $\varphi(\mathbf{x}) < 0$ ):

If velocity is also inwards ( $v_n = \mathbf{n} \cdot \mathbf{v} < 0$ ):

Compute normal impulse:  $j_n = -(1 + \varepsilon) m v_n$

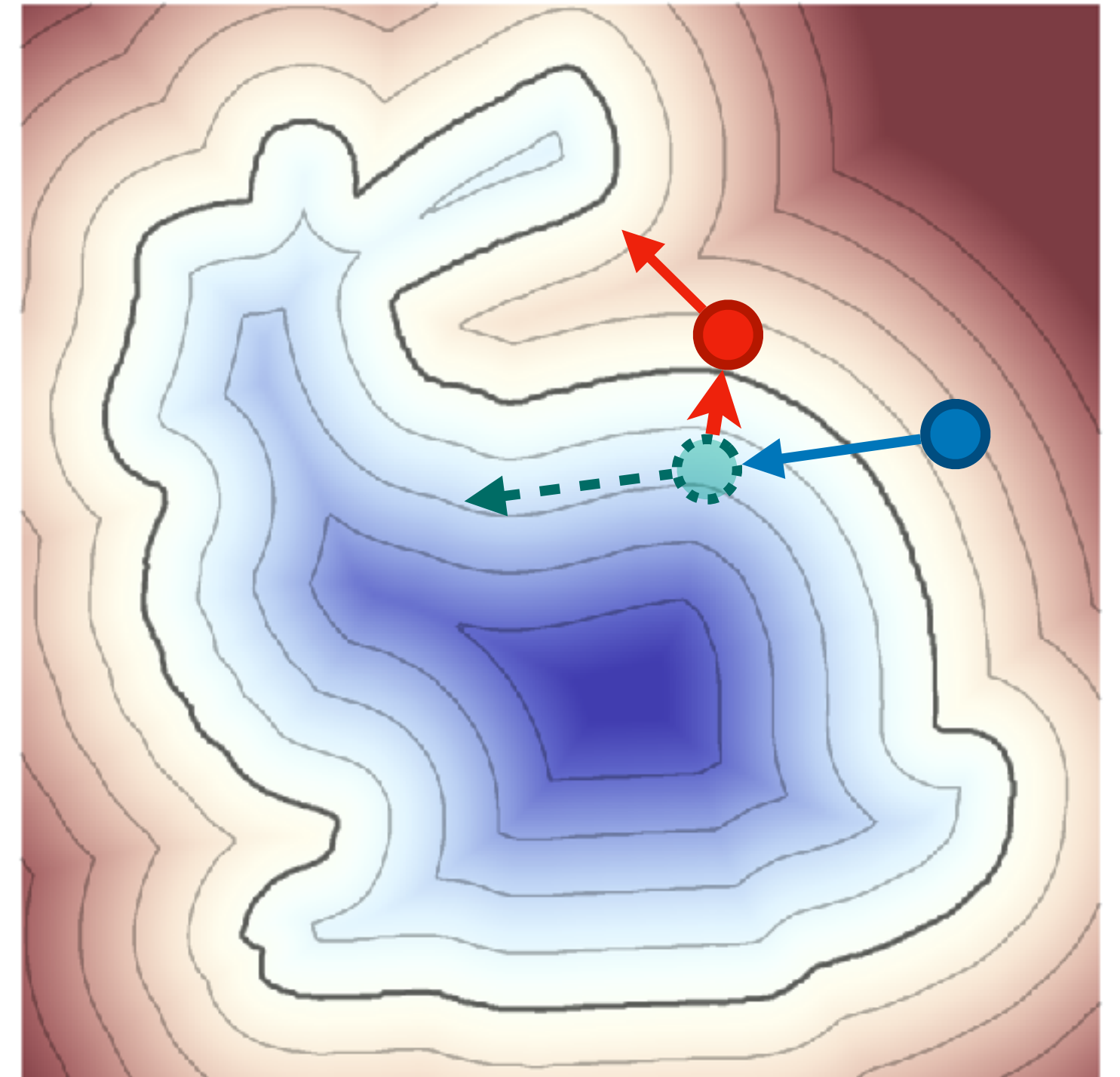
Compute tangential impulse:  $\mathbf{j}_t = -\min(\mu j_n, m \|\mathbf{v}_t\|) \hat{\mathbf{v}}_t$

Update velocity:  $\mathbf{v} += m^{-1} (j_n \mathbf{n} + \mathbf{j}_t)$

Compute position correction:  $\Delta x_n = -\varphi(\mathbf{x})$

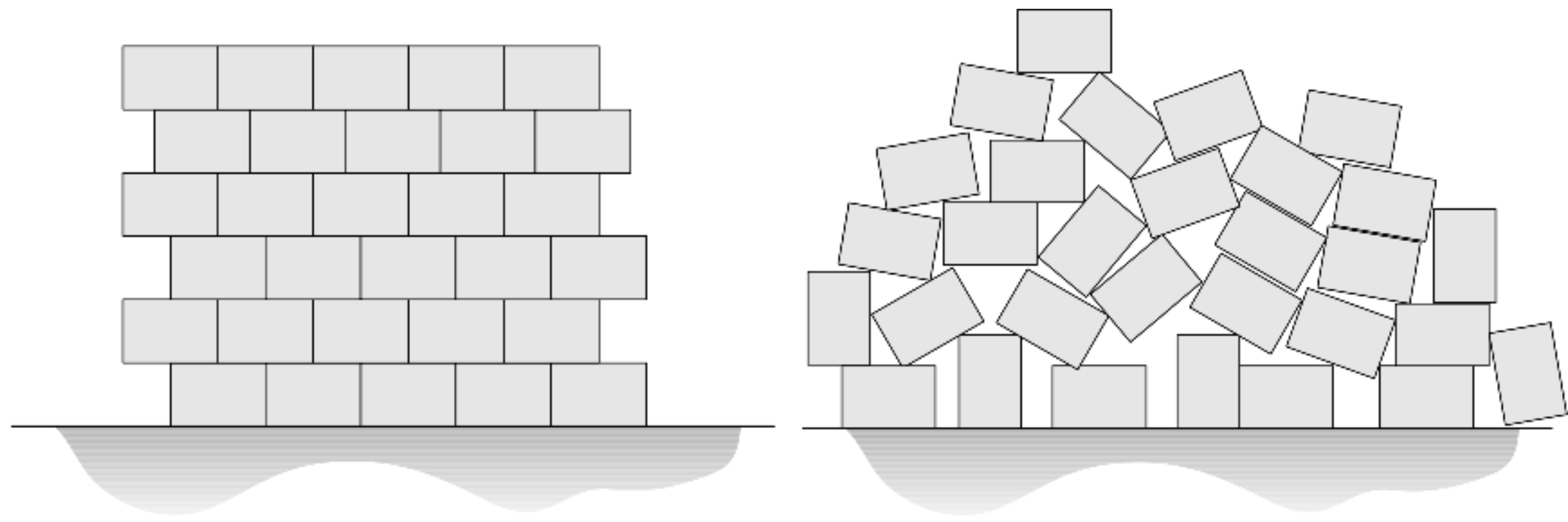
Project particle out:  $\mathbf{x} += \Delta x_n \mathbf{n}$

Can also add a tangential position correction  
(using  $(\mathbf{x}^{n+1} - \mathbf{x}^n)_t$  instead of  $\mathbf{v}_t$ ) to counteract artificial sliding...

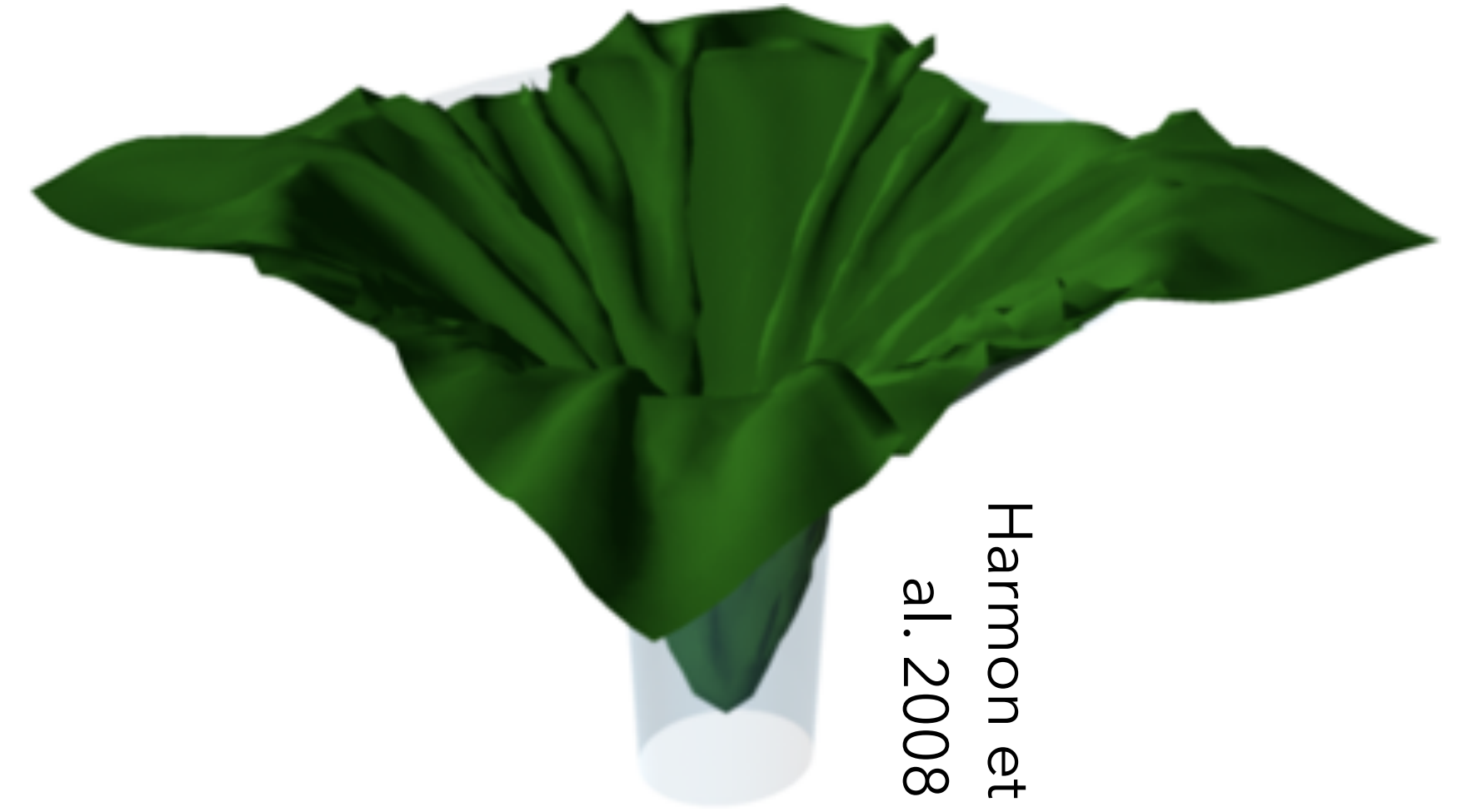




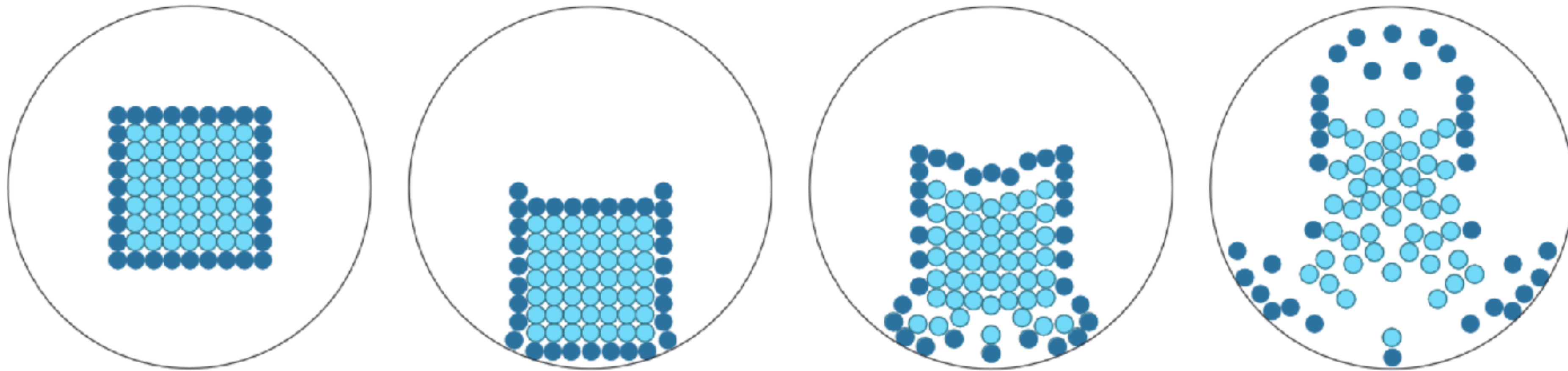
# Multi-contact problems (harder!)



Erleben 2007



Harmon et al. 2008



Smith et al. 2012