

# Fast Automatic Skinning Transformations

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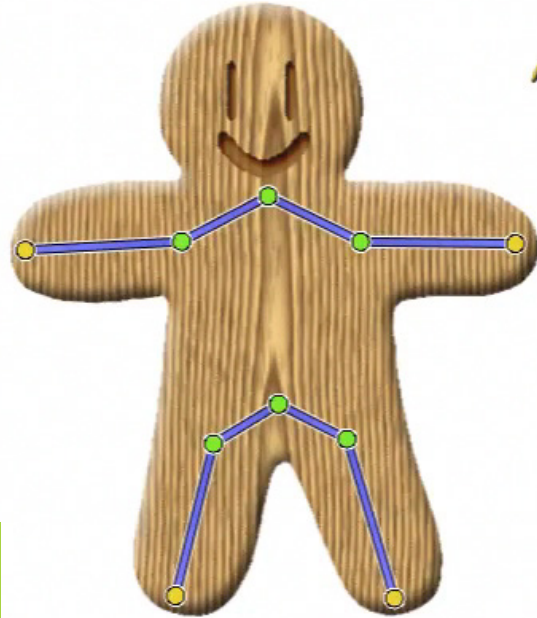
INTERACTIVE GEOMETRY LAB

August 8, 2012

**ETH**

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

# Real-time performance critical for interactive design and animation

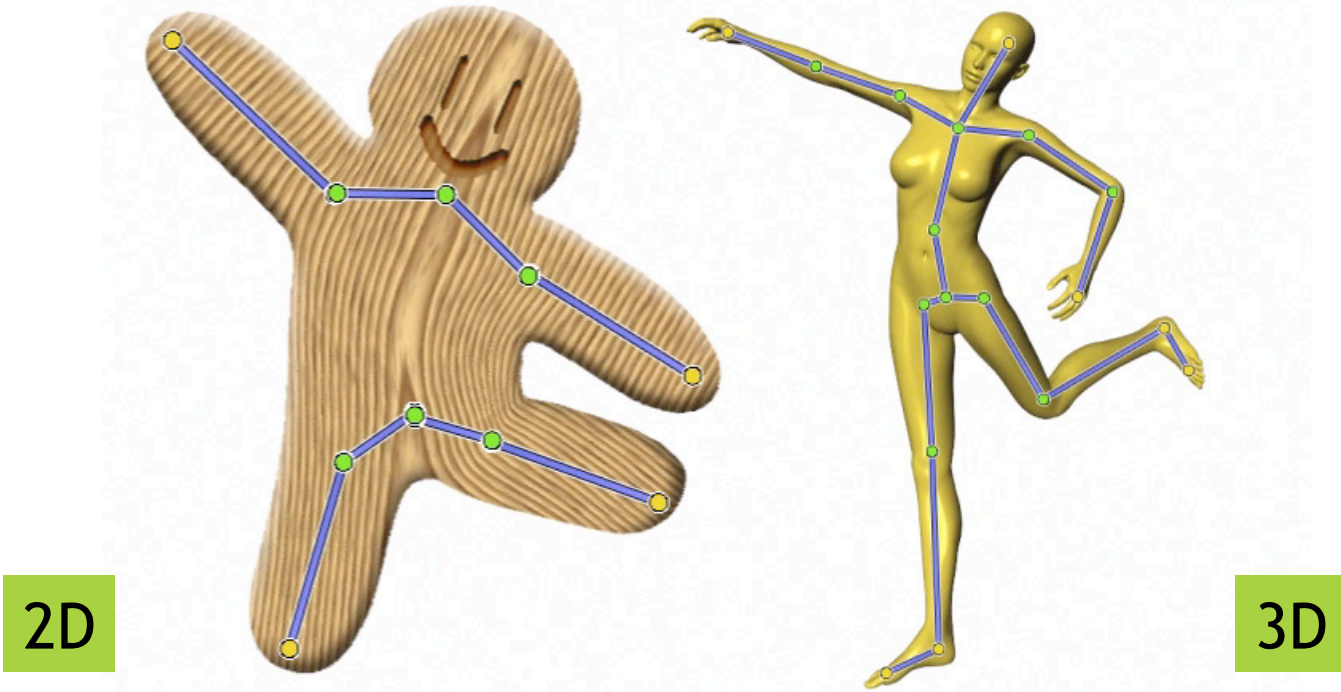


2D



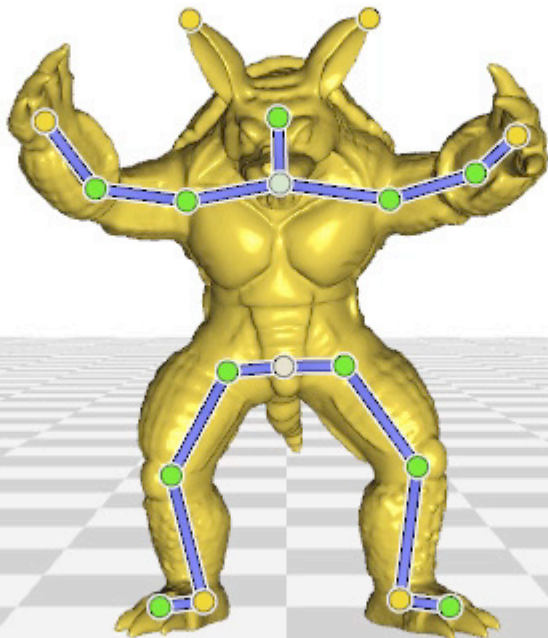
3D

# Real-time performance critical for interactive design and animation



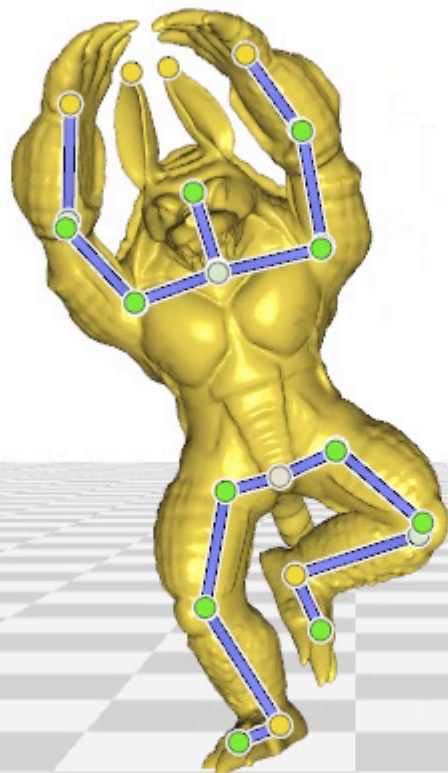
# We want speeds measured in microseconds

80k triangles  
20 $\mu$ s per iteration



# We want speeds measured in microseconds

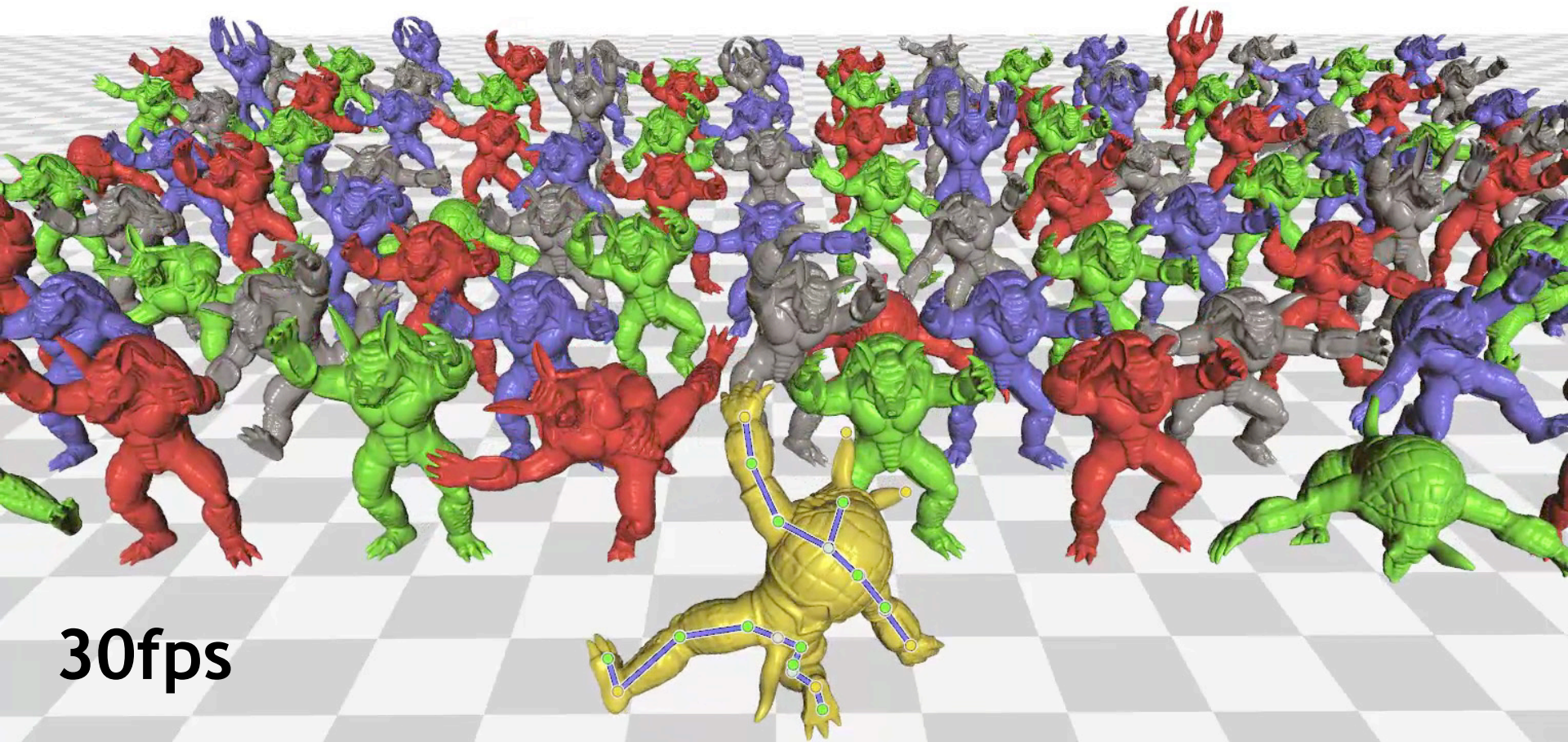
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80k triangles  
20 $\mu$ s per iteration

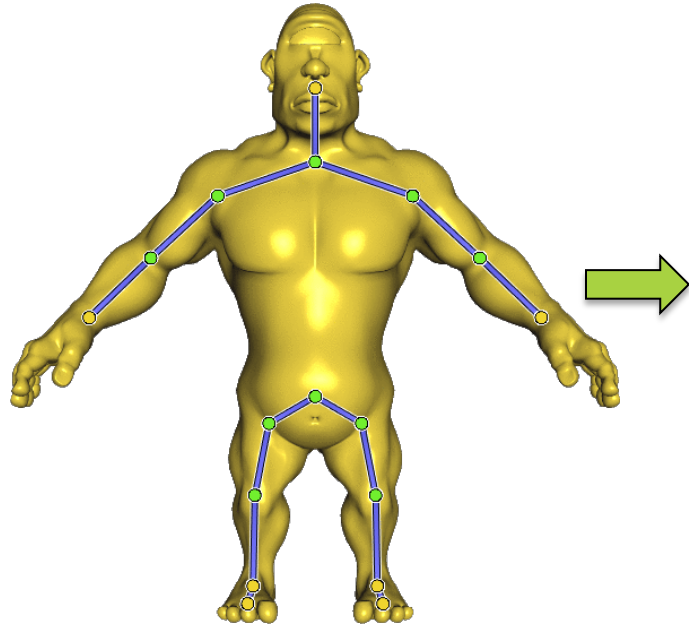


# This means speed comparable to rendering



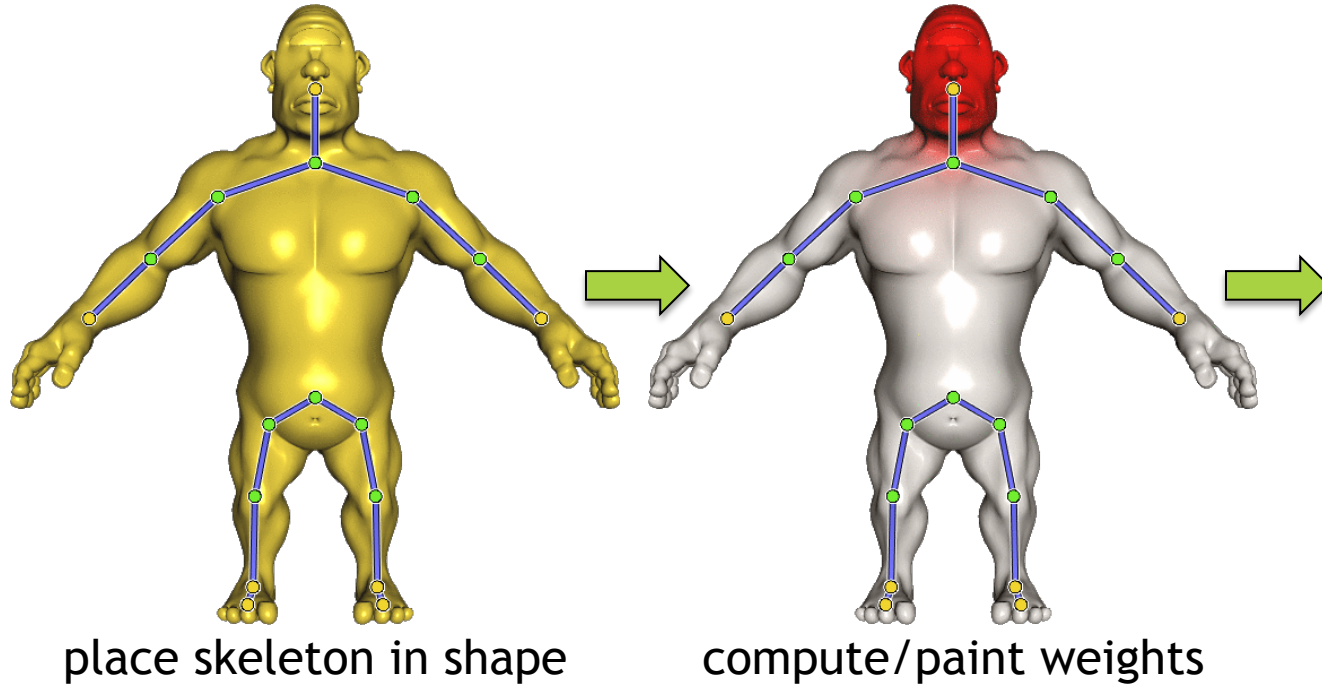
30fps

# Linear Blend Skinning preferred for real-time performance



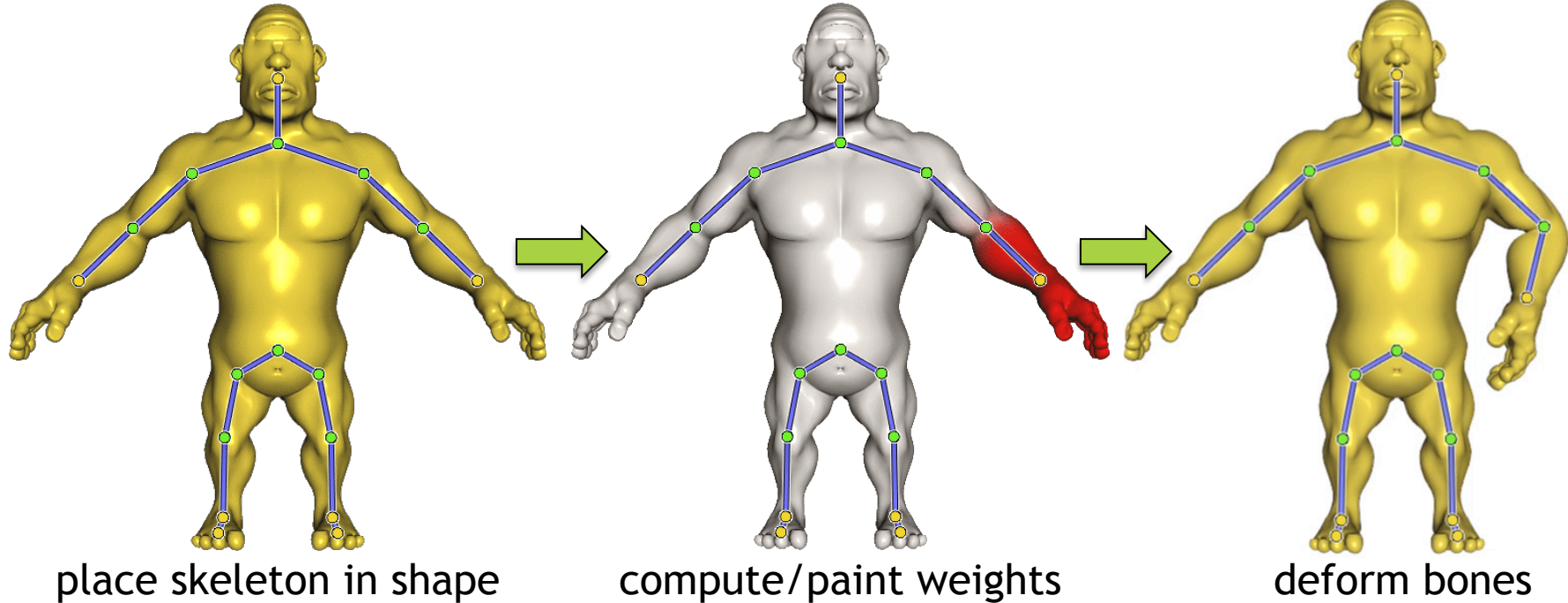
place skeleton in shape

# Linear Blend Skinning preferred for real-time performance

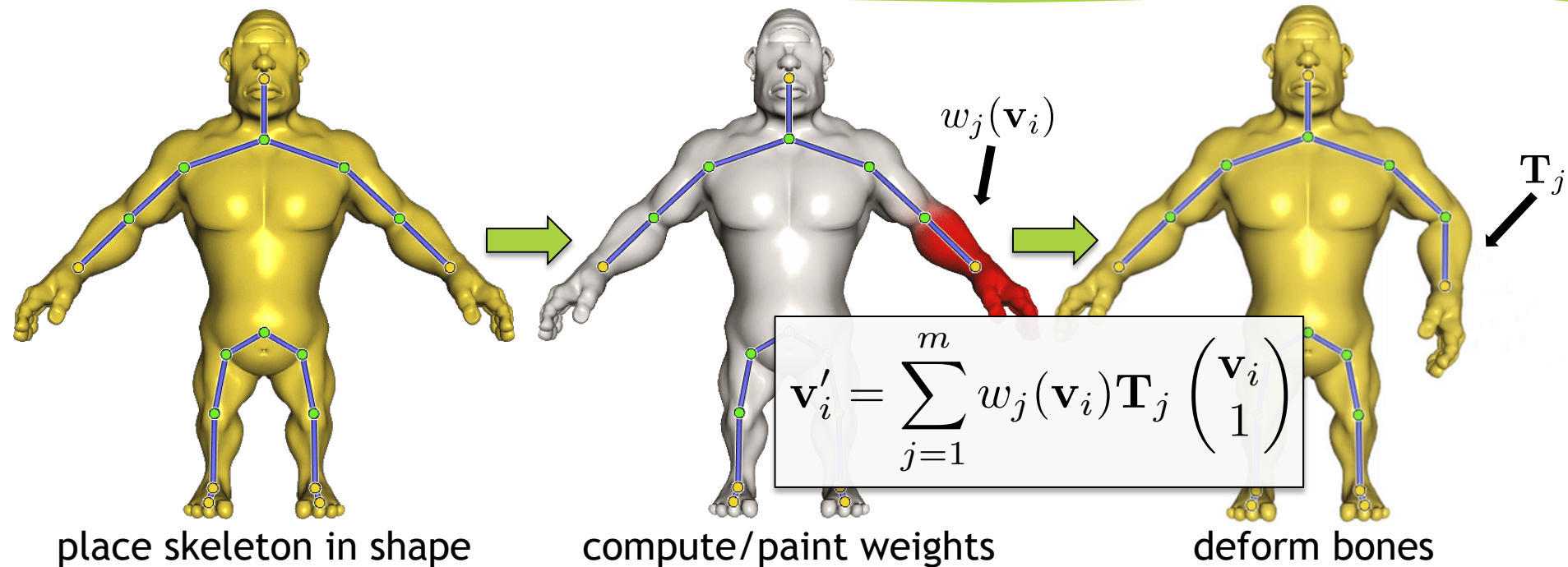




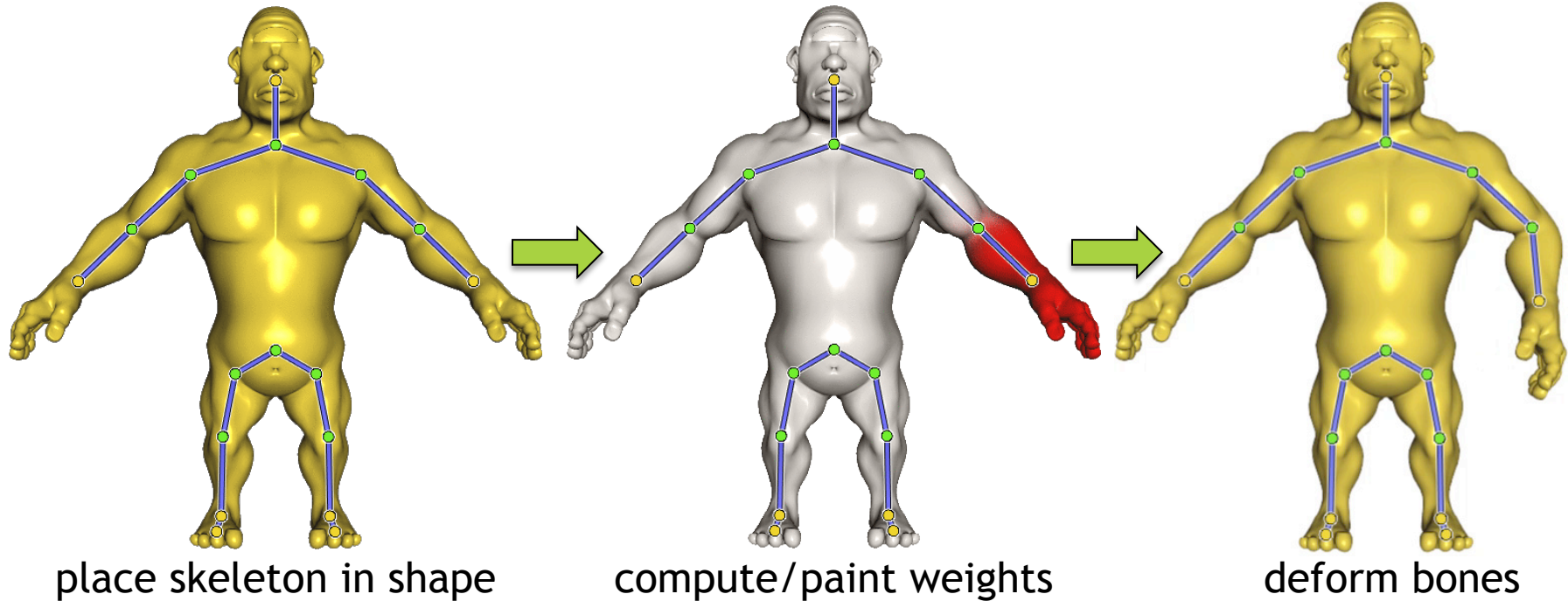
# Linear Blend Skinning preferred for real-time performance



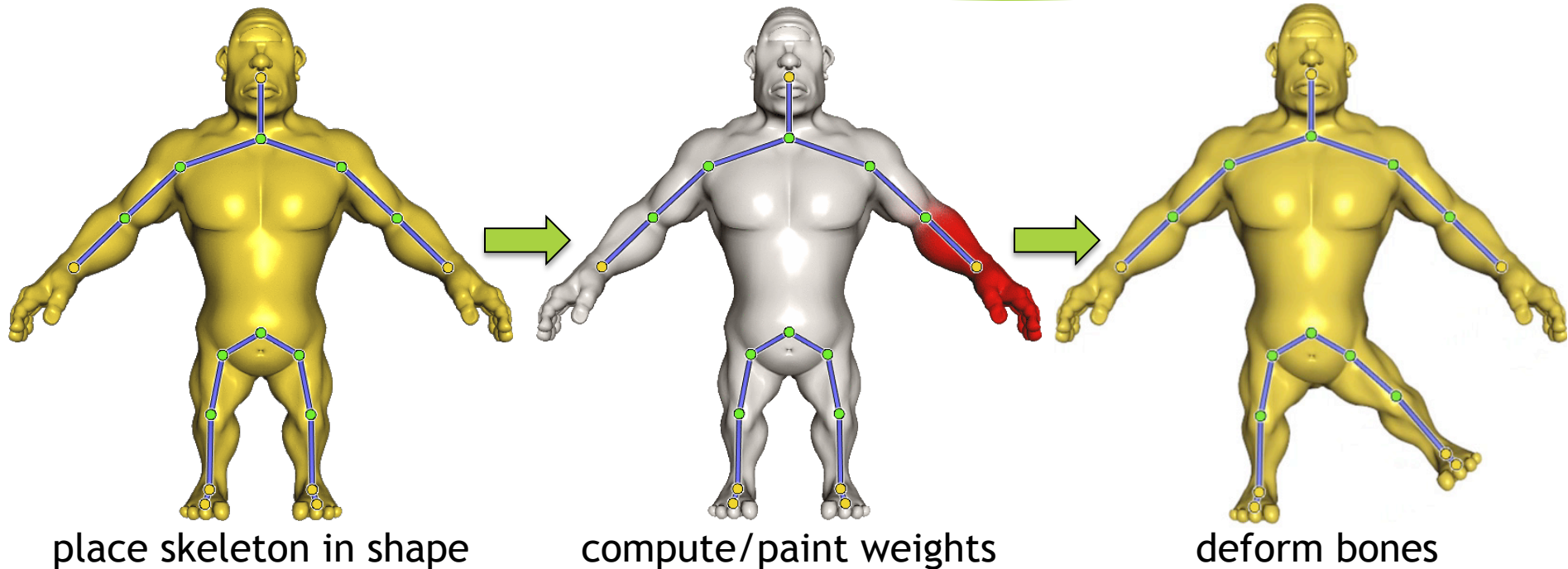
# Linear Blend Skinning preferred for real-time performance



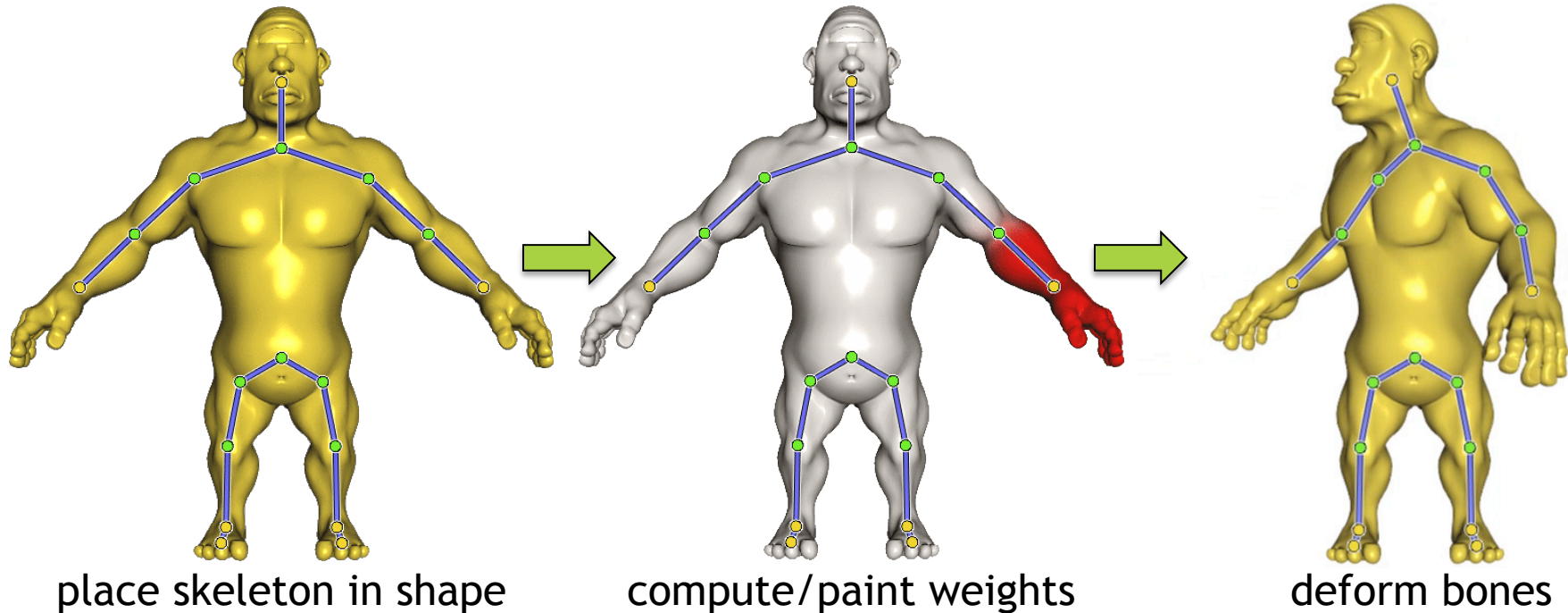
# Linear Blend Skinning preferred for real-time performance



# Linear Blend Skinning preferred for real-time performance

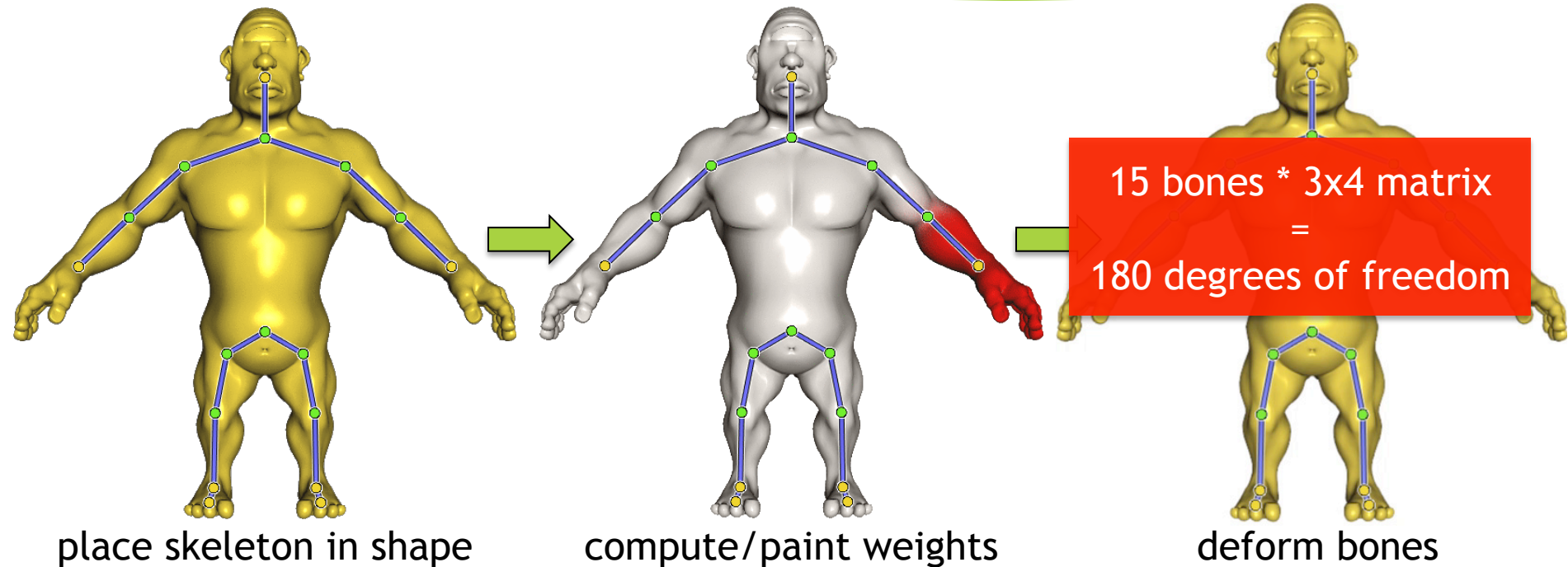


# Linear Blend Skinning preferred for real-time performance



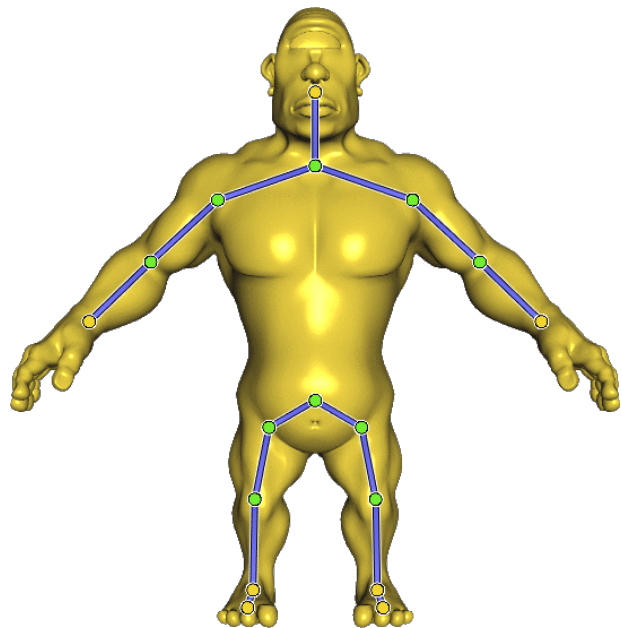


# Linear Blend Skinning preferred for real-time performance



# LBS generalizes to different handle types

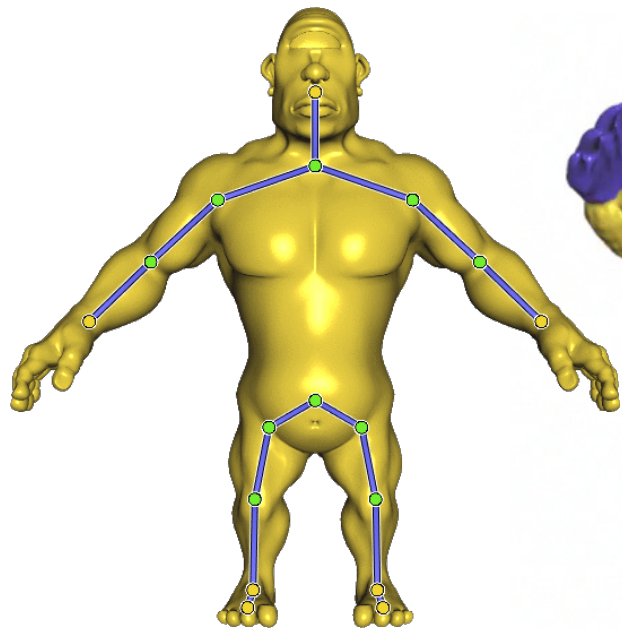
$$\mathbf{v}'_i = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j(\mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{T}_j \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



skeletons

# LBS generalizes to different handle types

$$\mathbf{v}'_i = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j(\mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{T}_j \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



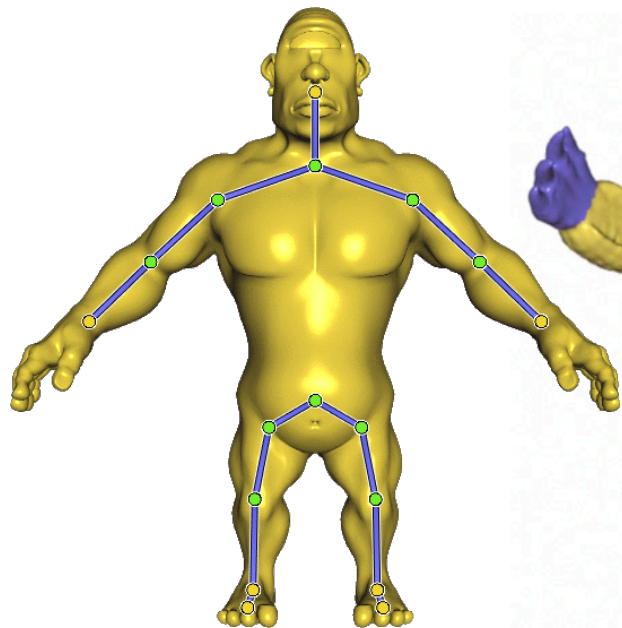
skeletons



regions

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$$\mathbf{v}'_i = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j(\mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{T}_j \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



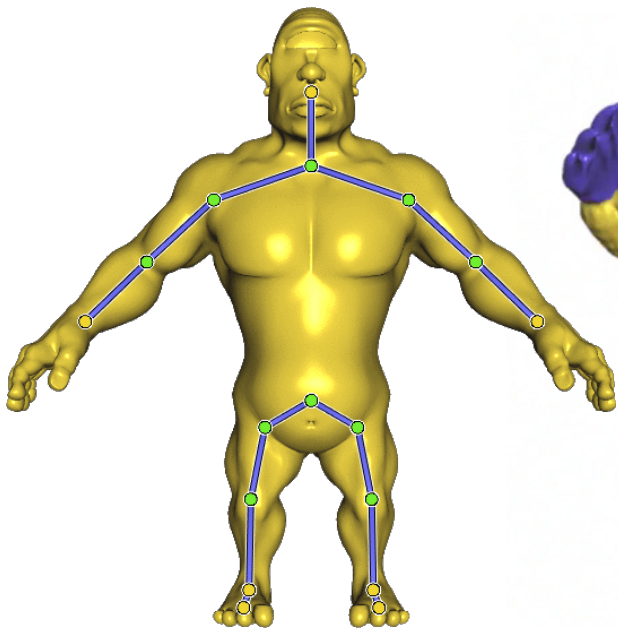
skeletons



regions

# LBS generalizes to different handle types

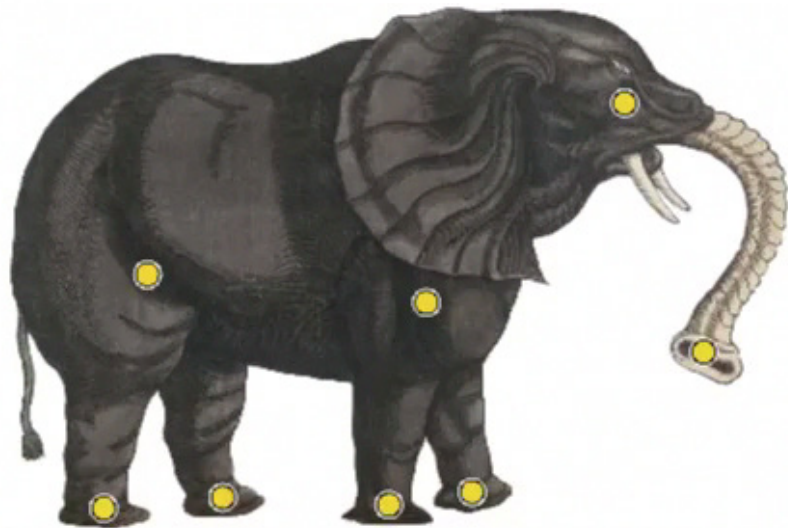
$$\mathbf{v}'_i = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j(\mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{T}_j \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



skeletons



regions

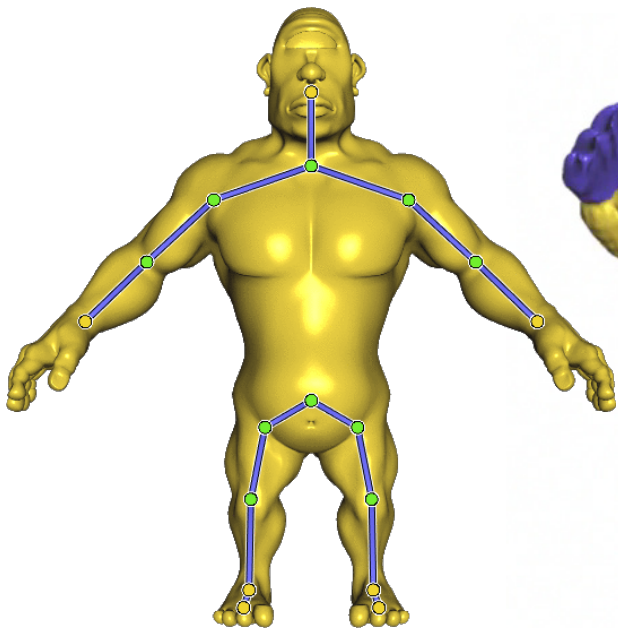


points



# LBS generalizes to different handle types

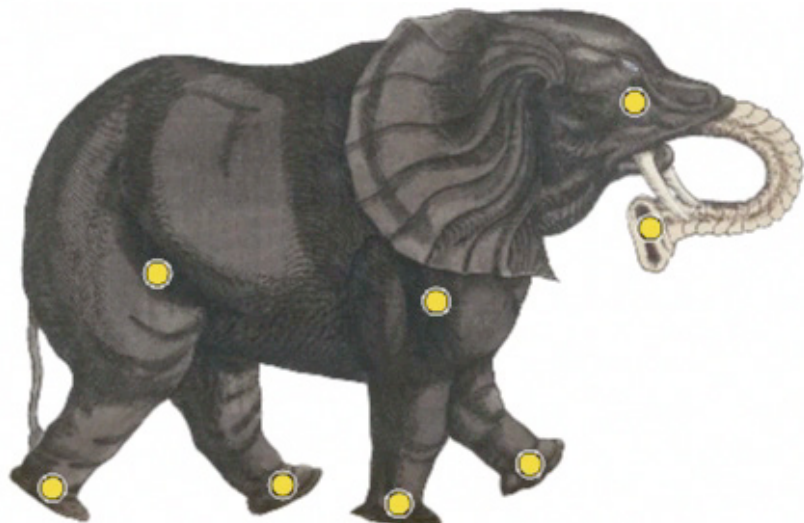
$$\mathbf{v}'_i = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j(\mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{T}_j \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



skeletons



regions




points

# User specifies subset of parameters, optimize to find remaining ones

Full optimization

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{V}'} E(\mathbf{V}')$$

Mesh vertex positions



# User specifies subset of parameters, optimize to find remaining ones

Full optimization

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{V}'} E(\mathbf{V}')$$

Reduced model

$$\mathbf{v}'_i = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j(\mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{T}_j \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Skinning degrees of freedom



# User specifies subset of parameters, optimize to find remaining ones

Full optimization

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{V}'} E(\mathbf{V}')$$

Reduced model

$$\mathbf{v}'_i = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j(\mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{T}_j \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Matrix form

$$\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{MT}$$

# User specifies subset of parameters, optimize to find remaining ones

Full optimization  $\arg \min_{\mathbf{V}'} E(\mathbf{V}')$

Reduced model  $\mathbf{v}'_i = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j (\mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{T}_j \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Matrix form  $\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{MT}$

Reduced optimization  $\arg \min_{\mathbf{T}} E(\mathbf{MT})$



# Enforce user constraints as linear equalities

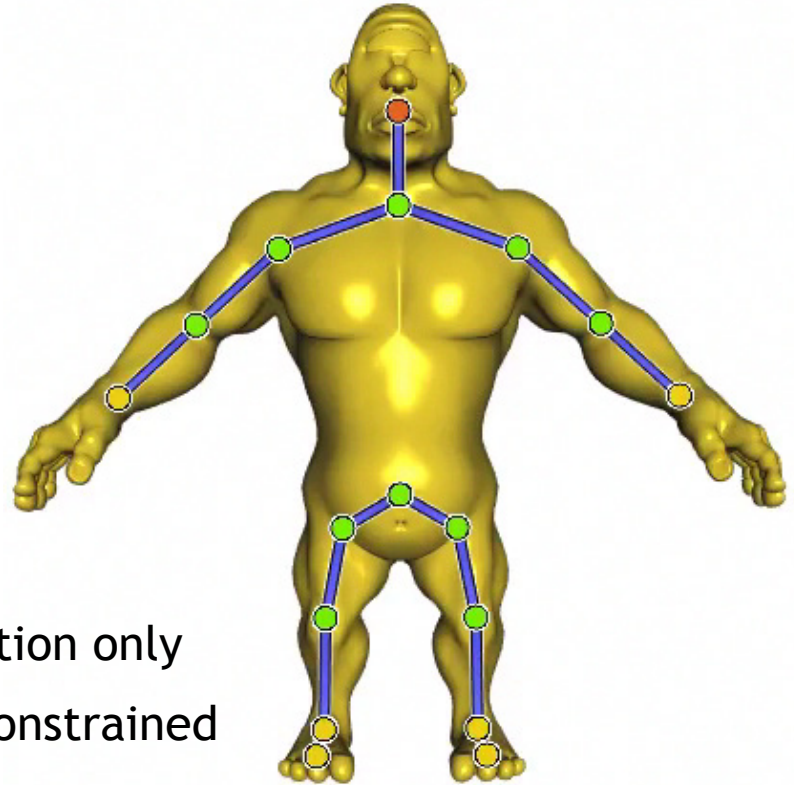
Reduced optimization

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{T}} E(\mathbf{MT})$$

User constraints

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{\text{full}} \\ \mathbf{M}_{\text{pos}} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{M}_{\text{eq}}} \mathbf{T} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{T}_{\text{full}} \\ \mathbf{P}_{\text{pos}} \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{P}_{\text{eq}}}$$

- Full
- Position only
- Unconstrained



# Enforce user constraints as linear equalities

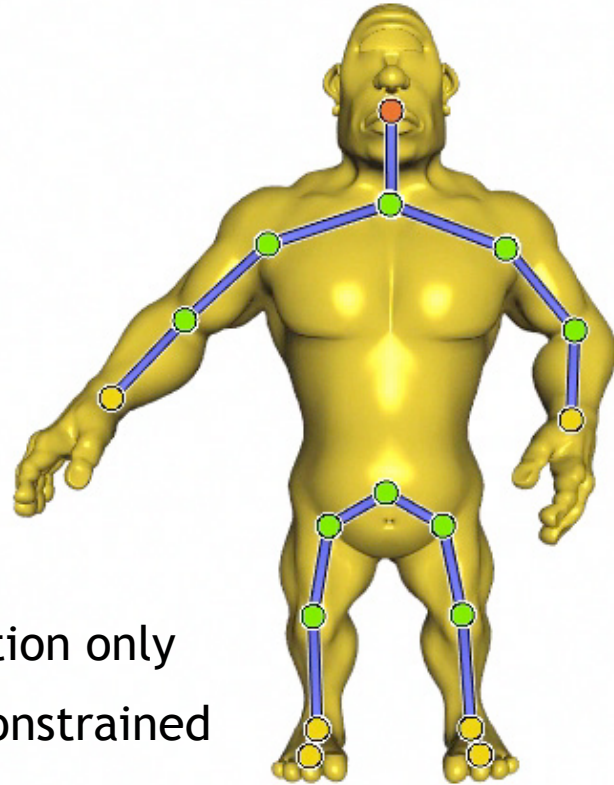
Reduced optimization

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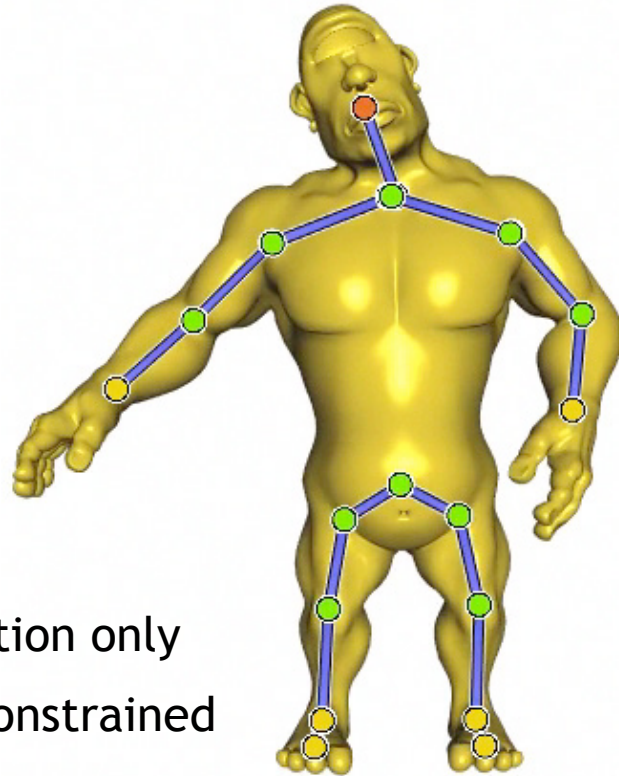
Reduced optimization

$$\arg \min_{\mathbf{T}} E(\mathbf{MT})$$

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- Full
- Position only
- Unconstrained



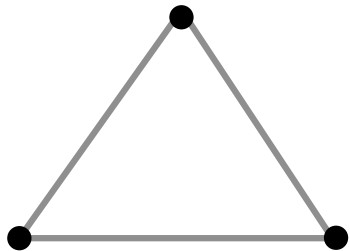
# We reduce any *as-rigid-as-possible* energy

Full energies

$$E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$$

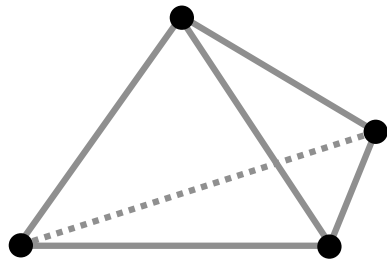
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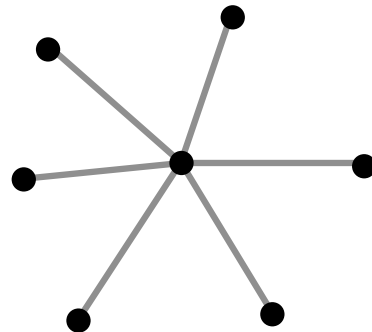
triangles

Liu et al. 08



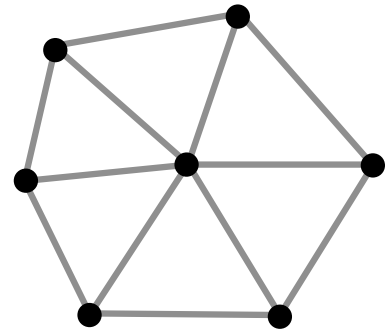
tetrahedra

Chao et al. 10



“spokes”

Sorkine & Alexa 07



“spokes and rims”

Chao et al. 10



# We reduce any *as-rigid-as-possible* energy

Full energies

$$E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$$

## Local/Global optimization



Global step: Fix  $\mathbf{R}$ , minimize with respect to  $\mathbf{V}'$

Local step: Fix  $\mathbf{V}'$ , minimize with respect to  $\mathbf{R}$

# We reduce any *as-rigid-as-possible* energy

Full energies  $E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$

Local/Global optimization

precompute

Global step: large, sparse linear solve  $\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{b}$

Local step: Fix  $\mathbf{V}'$ , minimize with respect to  $\mathbf{R}$

# We reduce any *as-rigid-as-possible* energy

Full energies  $E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$

## Local/Global optimization



Global step: large, sparse linear solve  $\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{b}$

Local step: 3x3 SVD for each rotation in  $\mathbf{R}$

# We reduce any *as-rigid-as-possible* energy

Full energies  $E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$

## Local/Global optimization

Global step: small, dense linear solve  $\mathbf{T} = \tilde{\mathbf{A}}^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$

Local step: 3x3 SVD for each rotation in  $\mathbf{R}$

precompute



Substitute

$$\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{MT}$$

*Similar to:*

[Huang et al. 06]

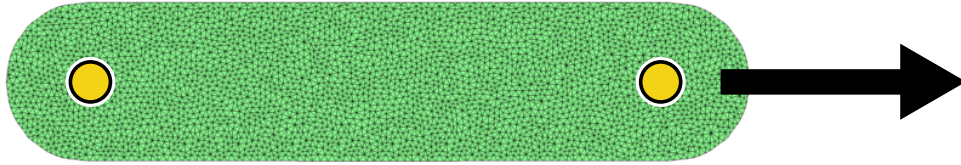
[Der et al. 06]

[Au et al. 07]

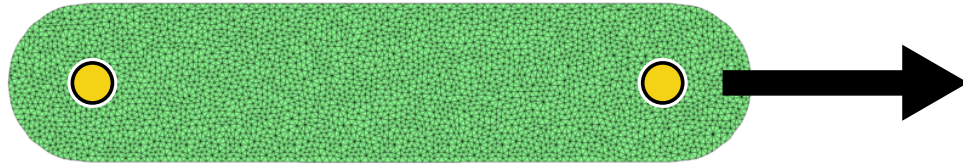
[Hildebrandt et al. 12]

# Direct reduction of elastic energies brings speed up and regularization..

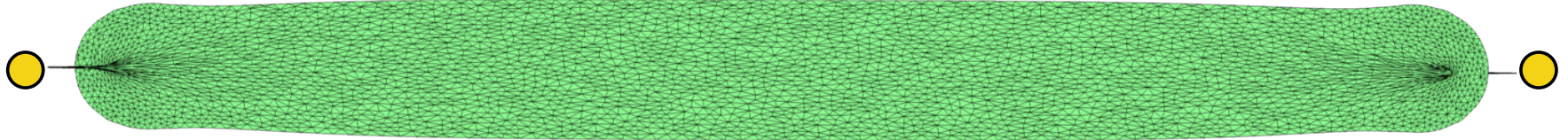
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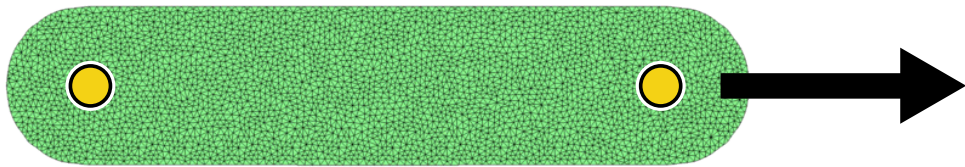
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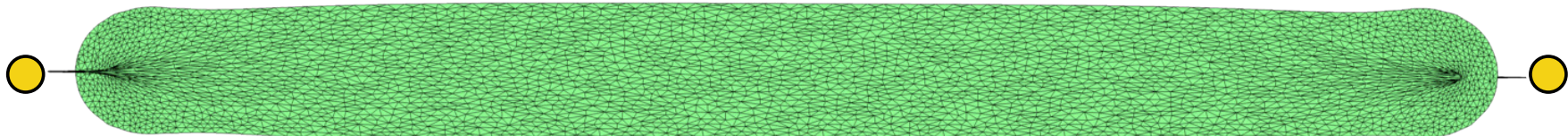
Full ARAP solution



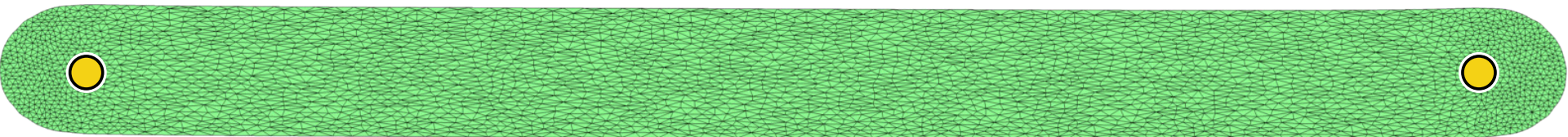
# Direct reduction of elastic energies brings speed up and regularization..



Full ARAP solution



Our smooth subspace solution  $V' = MT$





# We reduce any *as-rigid-as-possible* energy

Full energies  $E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$

## Local/Global optimization

Global step: small, dense linear solve  $\mathbf{T} = \tilde{\mathbf{A}}^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$

Local step: 3x3 SVD for each rotation in  $\mathbf{R}$

But #rotations ~ full mesh discretization

Substitute

$$\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{MT}$$

# We reduce any *as-rigid-as-possible* energy

Full energies  $E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$

## Local/Global optimization

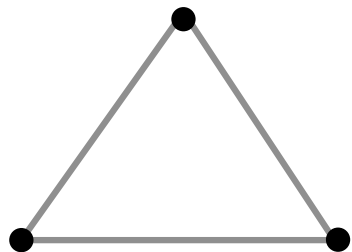
Global step: small, dense linear solve  $\mathbf{T} = \tilde{\mathbf{A}}^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$

Local step: 3x3 SVD for each rotation in  $\mathbf{R}$

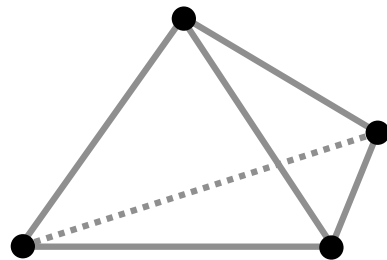
Substitute  
 $\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{MT}$   
Cluster  
 $\mathcal{E}_k$

# Rotation evaluations may be reduced by clustering in *weight space*

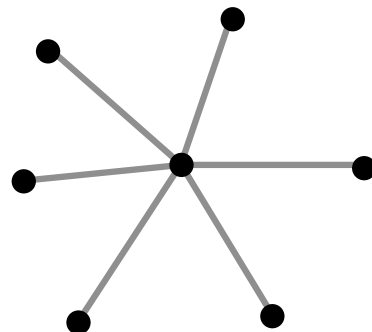
Full energies  $E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$



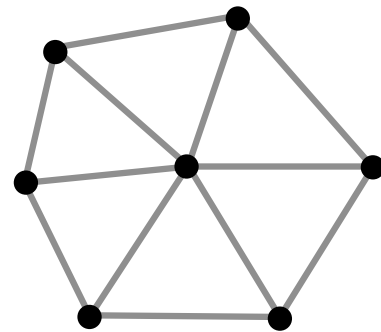
triangles  
Liu et al. 08



tetrahedra  
Chao et al. 10



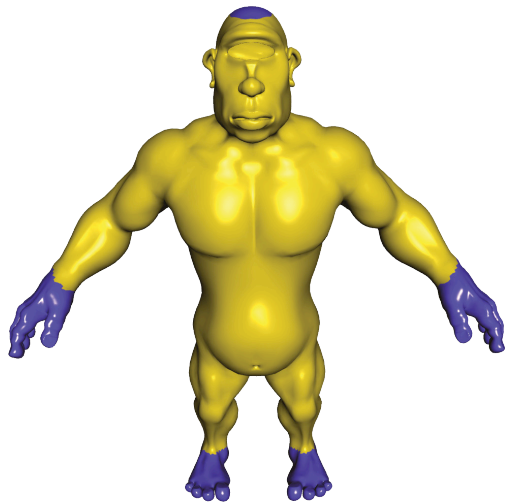
“spokes”  
Sorkine & Alexa 07



“spokes and rims”  
Chao et al. 10

# Rotation evaluations may be reduced by k-means clustering in *weight space*

Full energies  $E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$

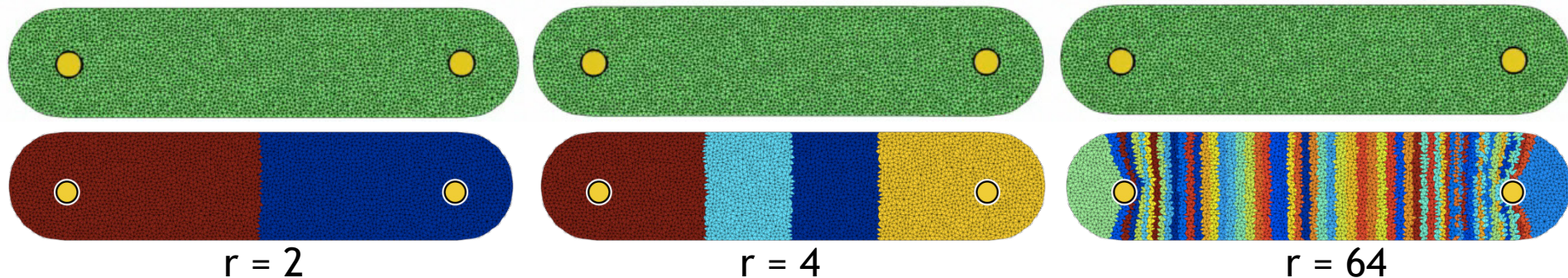


*weight space*

$$\mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} w_1(\mathbf{v}_j) \\ w_2(\mathbf{v}_j) \\ \vdots \\ w_m(\mathbf{v}_j) \end{bmatrix}$$

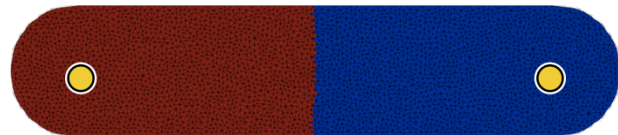
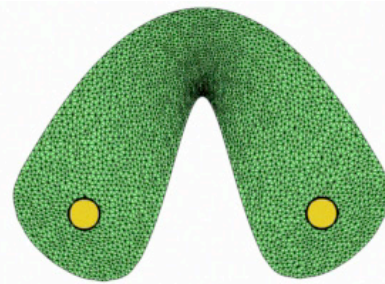
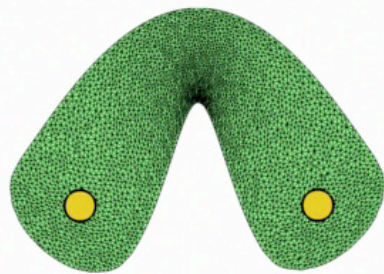
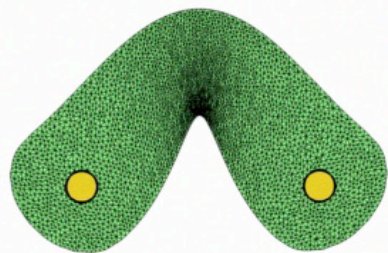
# Rotation evaluations may be reduced by clustering in *weight space*

Full energies  $E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$

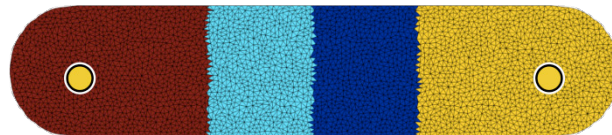


# Rotation evaluations may be reduced by clustering in *weight space*

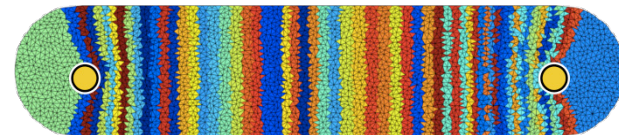
Full energies  $E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$



$r = 2$



$r = 4$



$r = 64$

# We reduce any *as-rigid-as-possible* energy

Full energies  $E(\mathbf{V}', \mathbf{R}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^r \sum_{(i,j) \in \mathcal{E}_k} c_{ijk} \|(\mathbf{v}'_i - \mathbf{v}'_j) - \mathbf{R}_k(\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j)\|^2$

## Local/Global optimization

Global step: small, dense linear solve  $\mathbf{T} = \tilde{\mathbf{A}}^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{b}}$

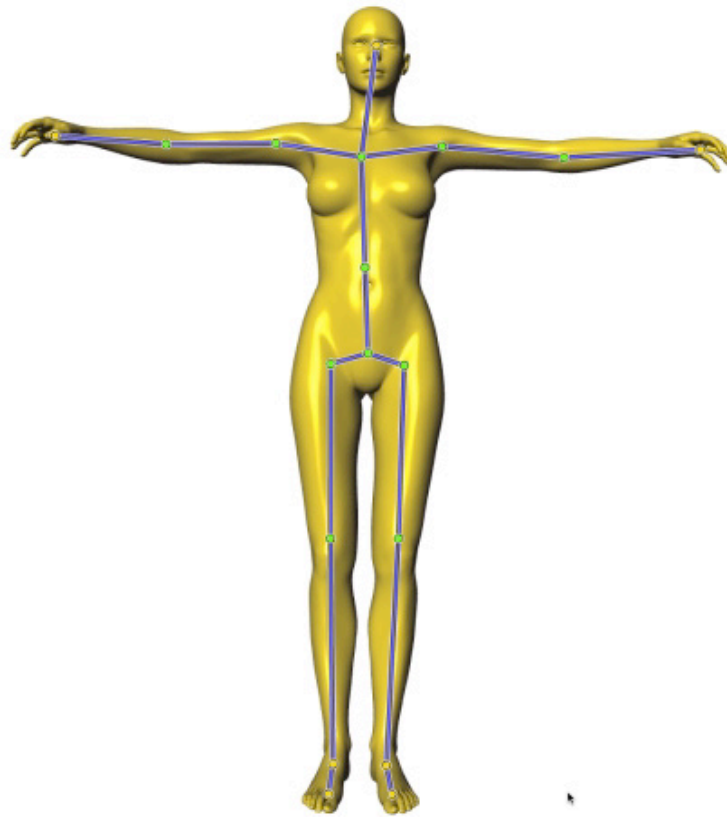
Local step: 3x3 SVD for each rotation in  $\mathbf{R}$

#rotations  $\sim$  #T,  
independent of full mesh resolution

Substitute  
 $\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{MT}$   
Cluster  
 $\mathcal{E}_k$

# Real-time automatic degrees of freedom

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# Real-time automatic degrees of freedom

---



With more and more user constraints  
we fall back to standard skinning

---



With more and more user constraints  
we fall back to standard skinning

---



With more and more user constraints  
we fall back to standard skinning

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With more and more user constraints  
we fall back to standard skinning

---



# Extra weights would expand subspace...

$$\mathbf{v}'_i = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j(\mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{T}_j \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{T}$$

# Extra weights would expand subspace...

$$\mathbf{v}'_i = \sum_{j=1}^m w_j(\mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{T}_j \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} + \sum_{k=1}^{m_{\text{extra}}} w_k(\mathbf{v}_i) \mathbf{T}_k \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{v}_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{MT}$$

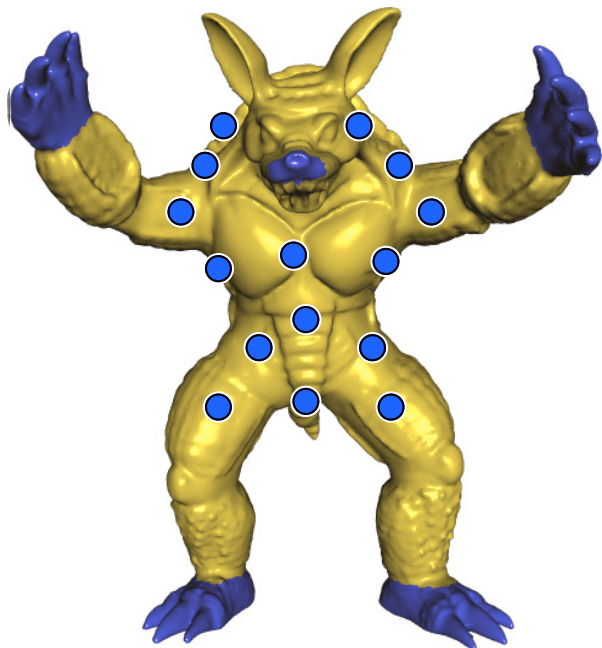


# Extra weights would expand subspace...

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$$\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{M}\mathbf{T} + \mathbf{M}_{\text{extra}}\mathbf{T}_{\text{extra}}$$

# Overlapping b-spline “bumps” in weight space



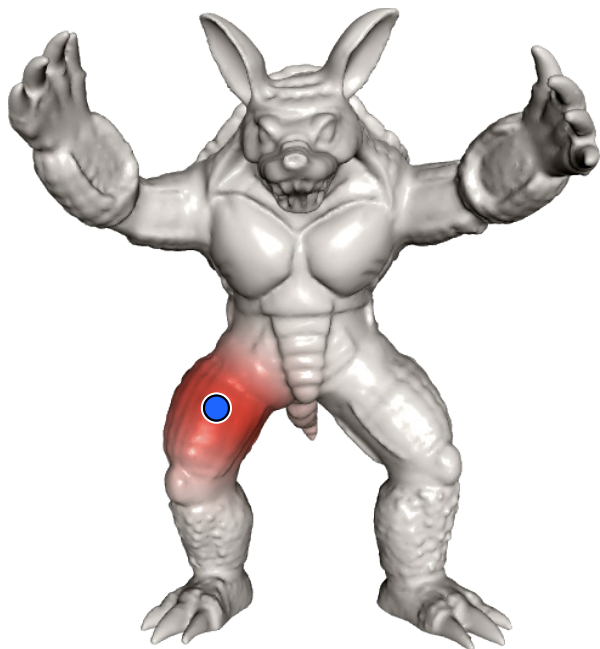
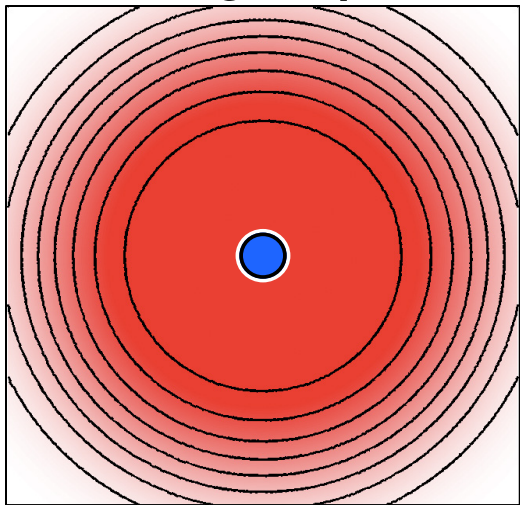
farthest point sampling

*weight space*

$$\mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} w_1(\mathbf{v}_j) \\ w_2(\mathbf{v}_j) \\ \vdots \\ w_m(\mathbf{v}_j) \end{bmatrix}$$

# Overlapping b-spline “bumps” in weight space

in weight space



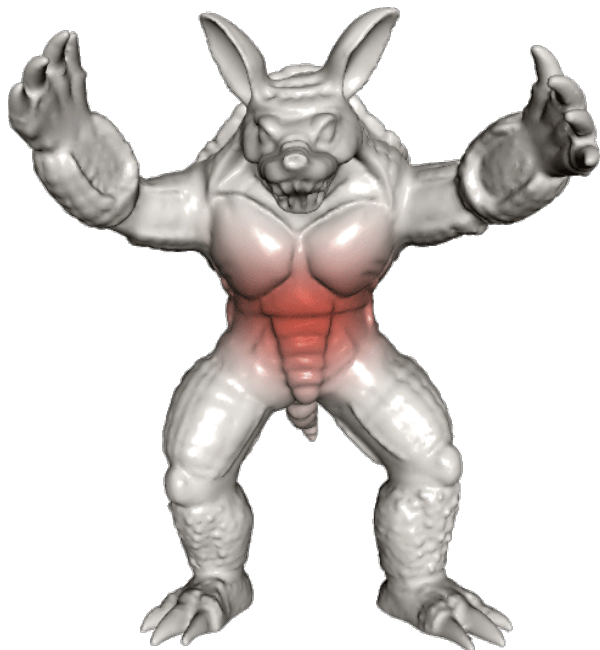
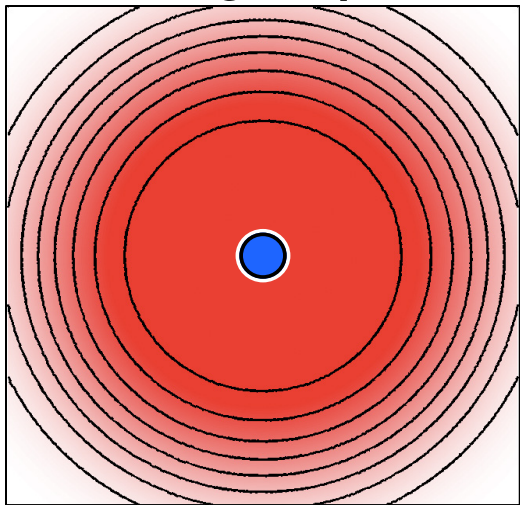
weight space

$$\mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} w_1(\mathbf{v}_j) \\ w_2(\mathbf{v}_j) \\ \vdots \\ w_m(\mathbf{v}_j) \end{bmatrix}$$

b-spline basis parameterized by distance in weight space

# Overlapping b-spline “bumps” in weight space

*in weight space*



*weight space*

$$\mathbf{x}_j = \begin{bmatrix} w_1(\mathbf{v}_j) \\ w_2(\mathbf{v}_j) \\ \vdots \\ w_m(\mathbf{v}_j) \end{bmatrix}$$

b-spline basis parameterized by distance in weight space

# Extra weights expand deformation subspace



no extra weights



15 extra weights

# Extra weights expand deformation subspace



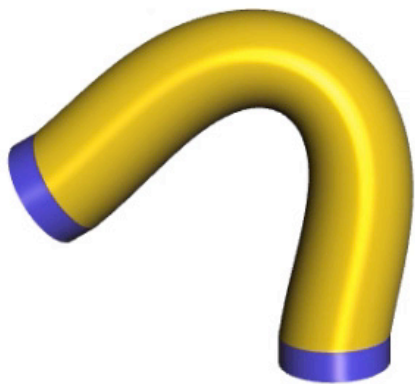
no extra weights



15 extra weights

# Subspace now rich enough for fast variational modeling

---



Full non-linear optimization  
[Botsch et al. 2006]

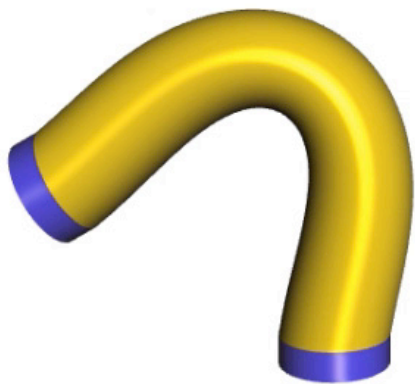


Our reduced method

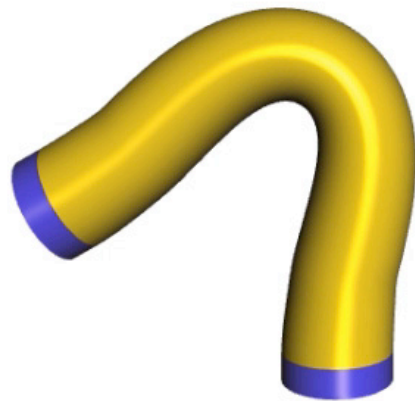


# Subspace now rich enough for fast variational modeling

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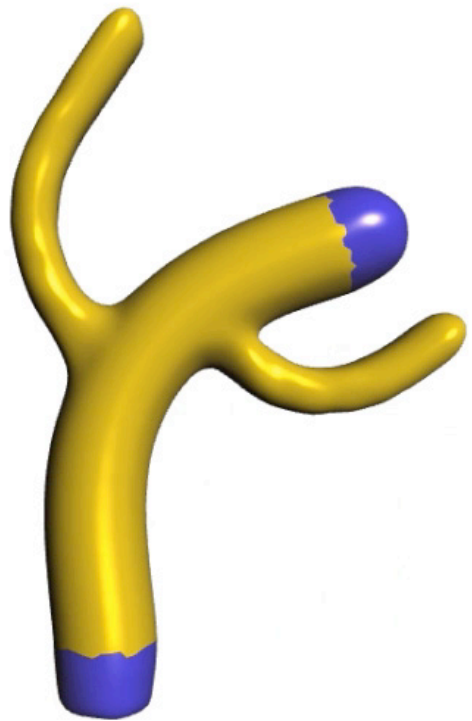
Full non-linear optimization  
[Botsch et al. 2006]



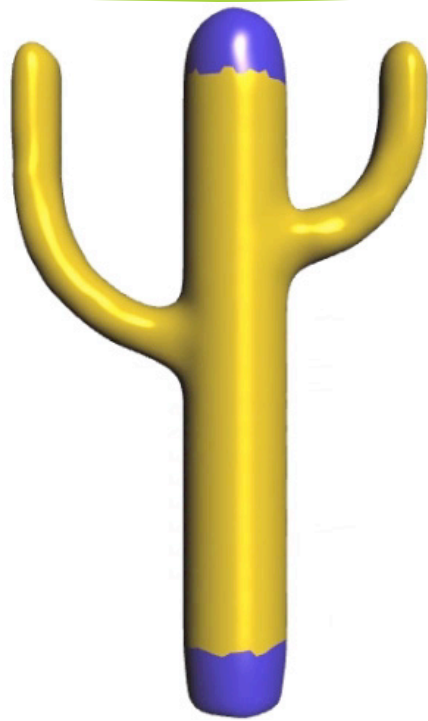
Our reduced method

# Subspace now rich enough for fast variational modeling

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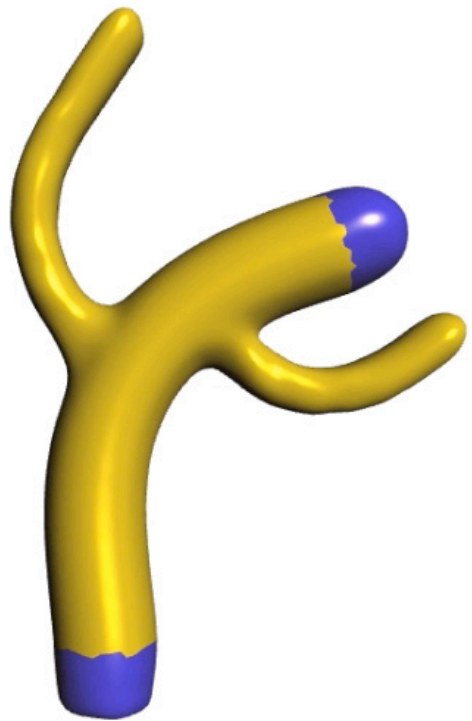
Full non-linear optimization  
[Botsch et al. 2006]



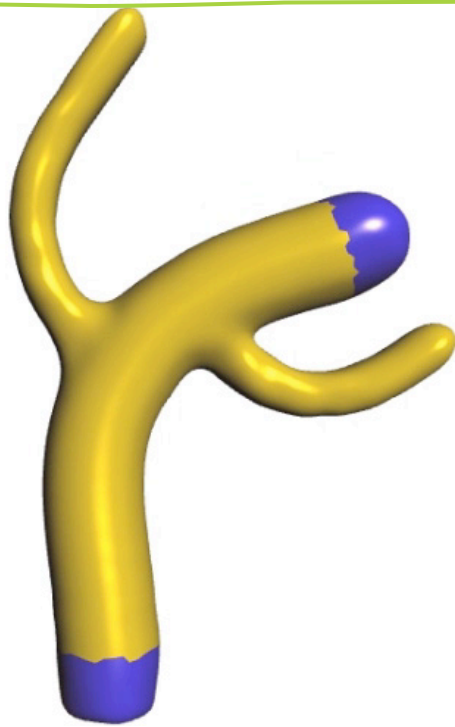
Our reduced method

# Subspace now rich enough for fast variational modeling

---



Full non-linear optimization  
[Botsch et al. 2006]



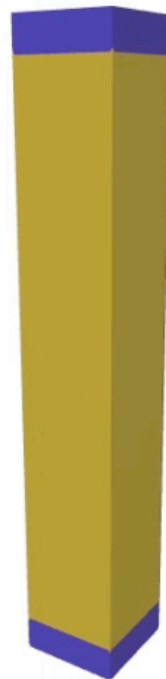
Our reduced method

# Subspace now rich enough for fast variational modeling

---



Full non-linear optimization  
[Botsch et al. 2006]



Our reduced method

# Subspace now rich enough for fast variational modeling

---



Full non-linear optimization  
[Botsch et al. 2006]



Our reduced method

# Final algorithm is simple and FAST

## Precomputation per shape+rig

- Compute any additional weights
- Construct, prefactor system matrices

*For a 50K triangle mesh:*

*12 seconds*

*2.7 seconds*

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## Precomputation when switching constraint type

- *Re-factor* global step system

*6 milliseconds*



# Final algorithm is simple and FAST

## Precomputation per shape+rig

- Compute any additional weights
- Construct, prefactor system matrices

*For a 50K triangle mesh:*

*12 seconds*

*2.7 seconds*

## Precomputation when switching constraint type

- Re-factor global step system

*6 milliseconds*

~30 iterations

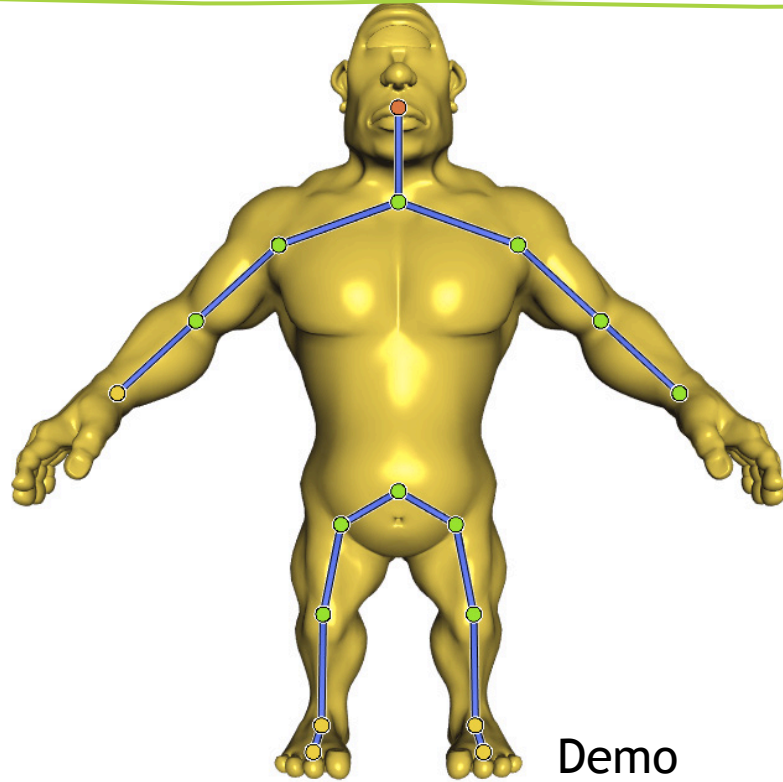
*22 microseconds*

global: #weights by #weights linear solve

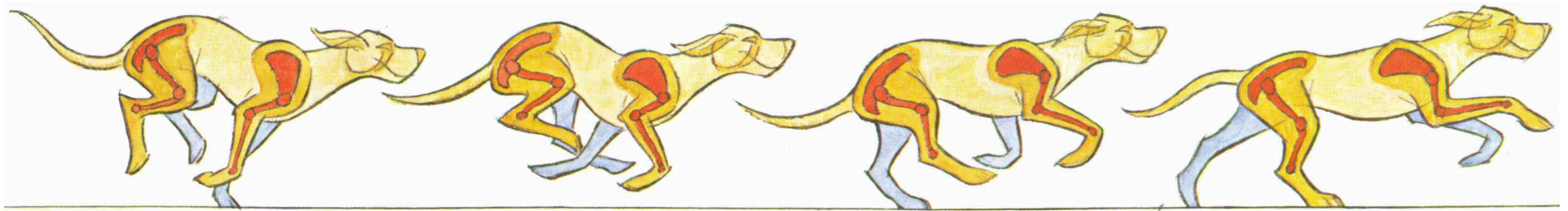
local: #rotations SVDs

[McAdams et al. 2011]

# Lightning FAST automatic skinning transformations



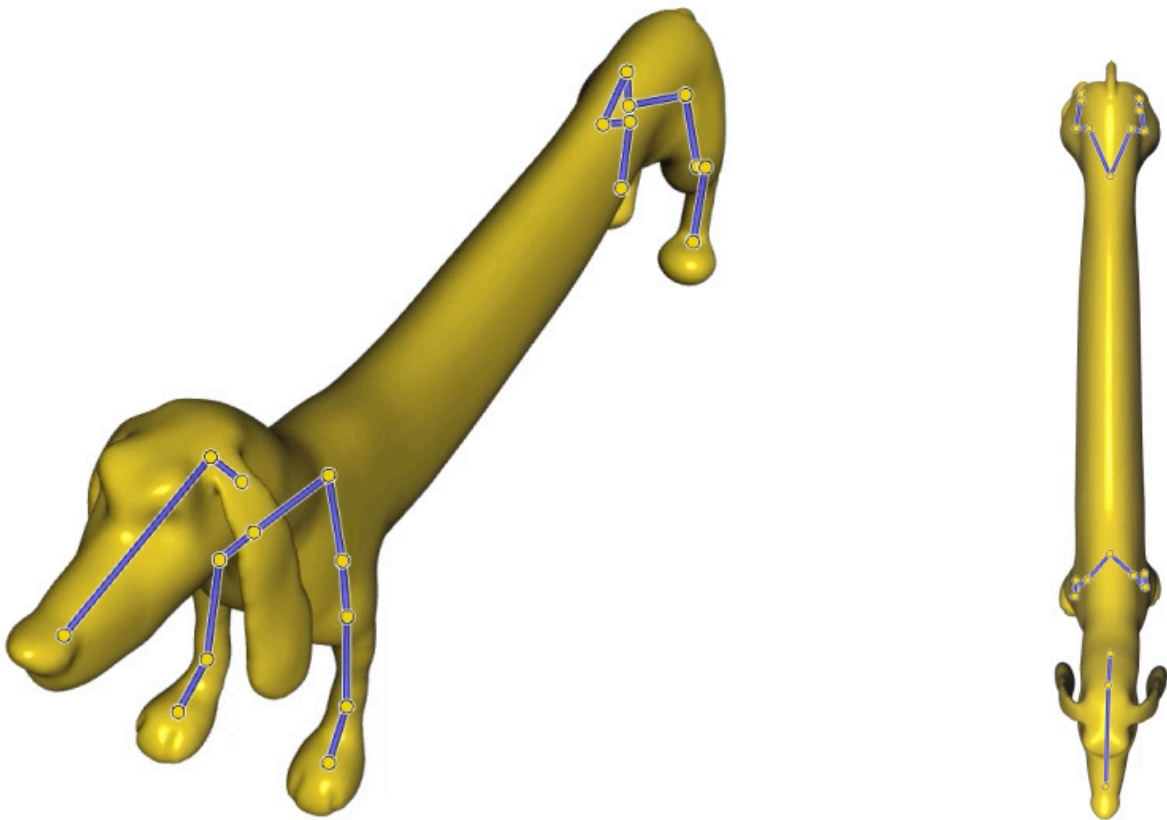
# Extra weights and disjoint skeletons make flexible control easy



*From Cartoon Animation by Preston Blair*

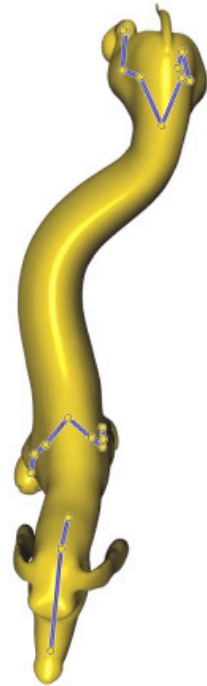
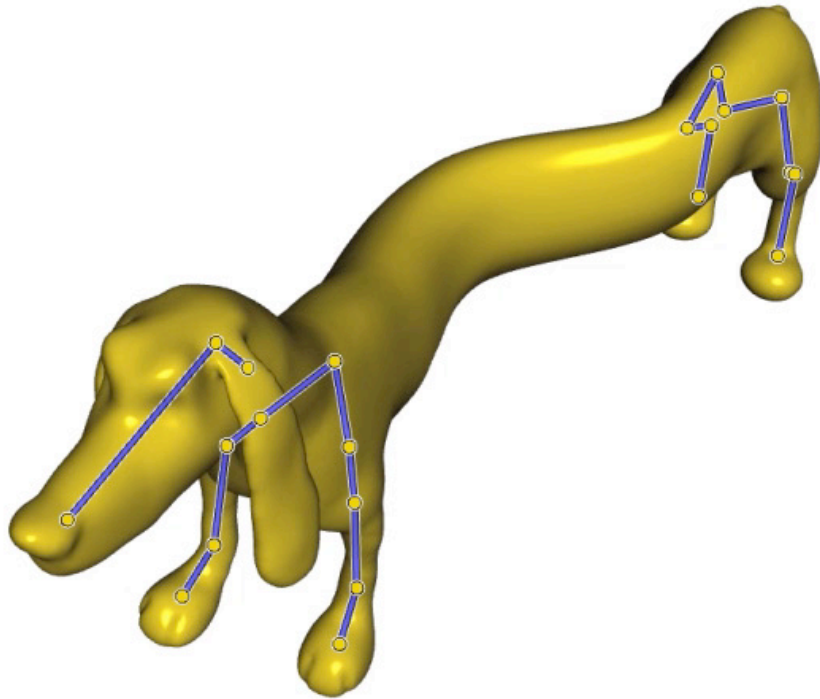
# Extra weights and disjoint skeletons make flexible control easy

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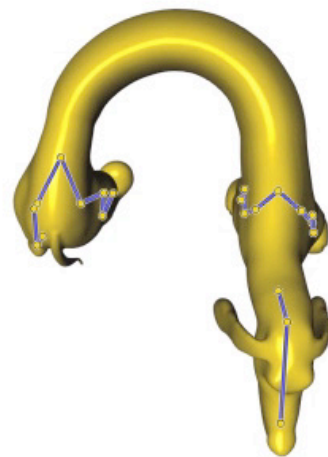
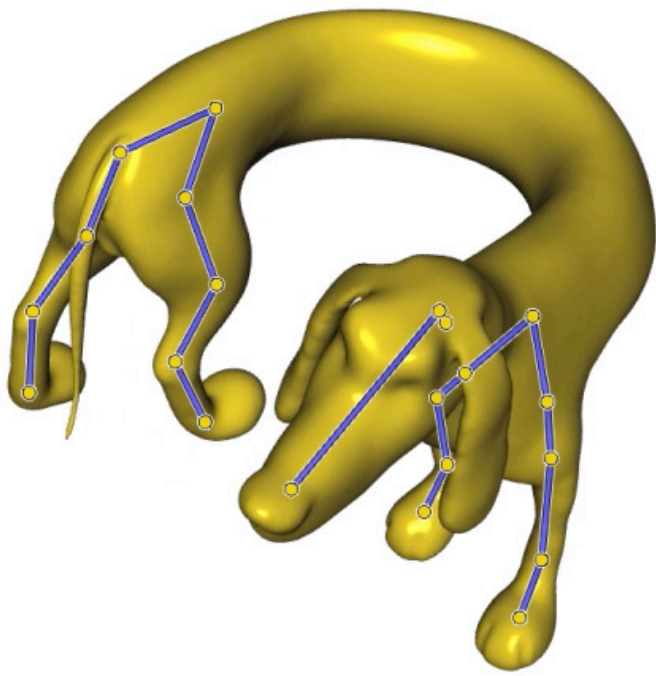
# Extra weights and disjoint skeletons make flexible control easy

---



# Extra weights and disjoint skeletons make flexible control easy

---



# Our reduction preserves nature of different energies, at no extra cost

Surface ARAP

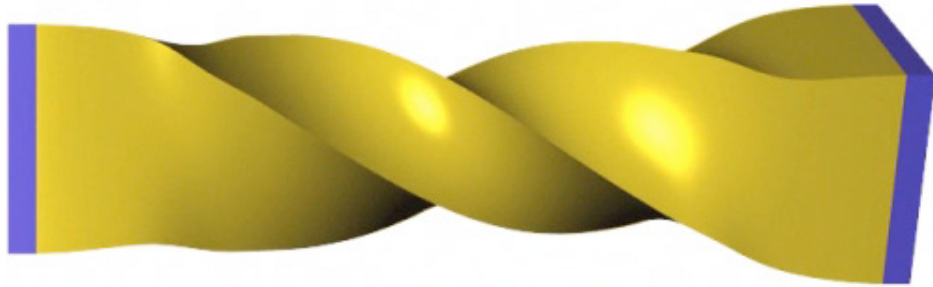
Volumetric ARAP

$$\mathbf{V}'_{\text{surf}} = \mathbf{M}_{\text{surf}}T$$

$$\mathbf{V}'_{\text{vol}} = \mathbf{M}_{\text{vol}}T$$

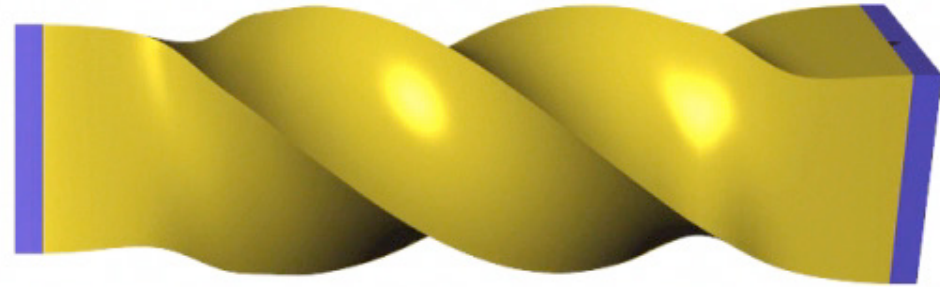
# Our reduction preserves nature of different energies, at no extra cost

Surface ARAP



$$\mathbf{V}'_{\text{surf}} = \mathbf{M}_{\text{surf}}T$$

Volumetric ARAP

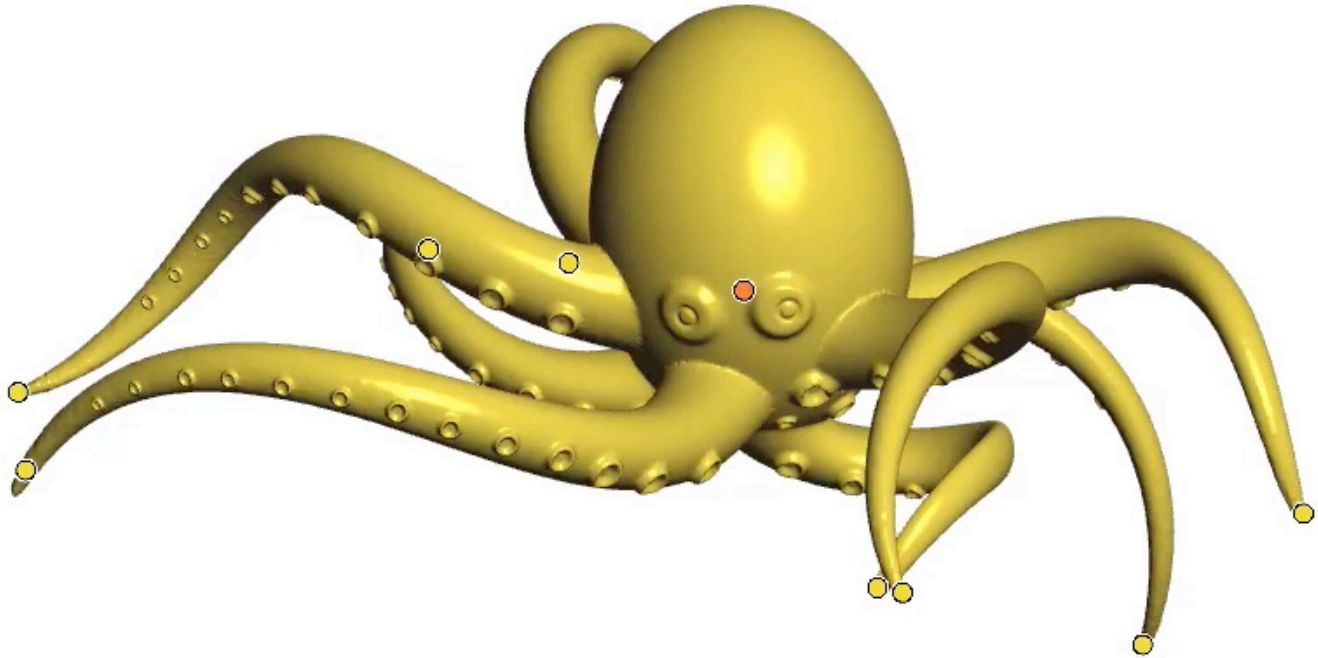


$$\mathbf{V}'_{\text{vol}} = \mathbf{M}_{\text{vol}}T$$



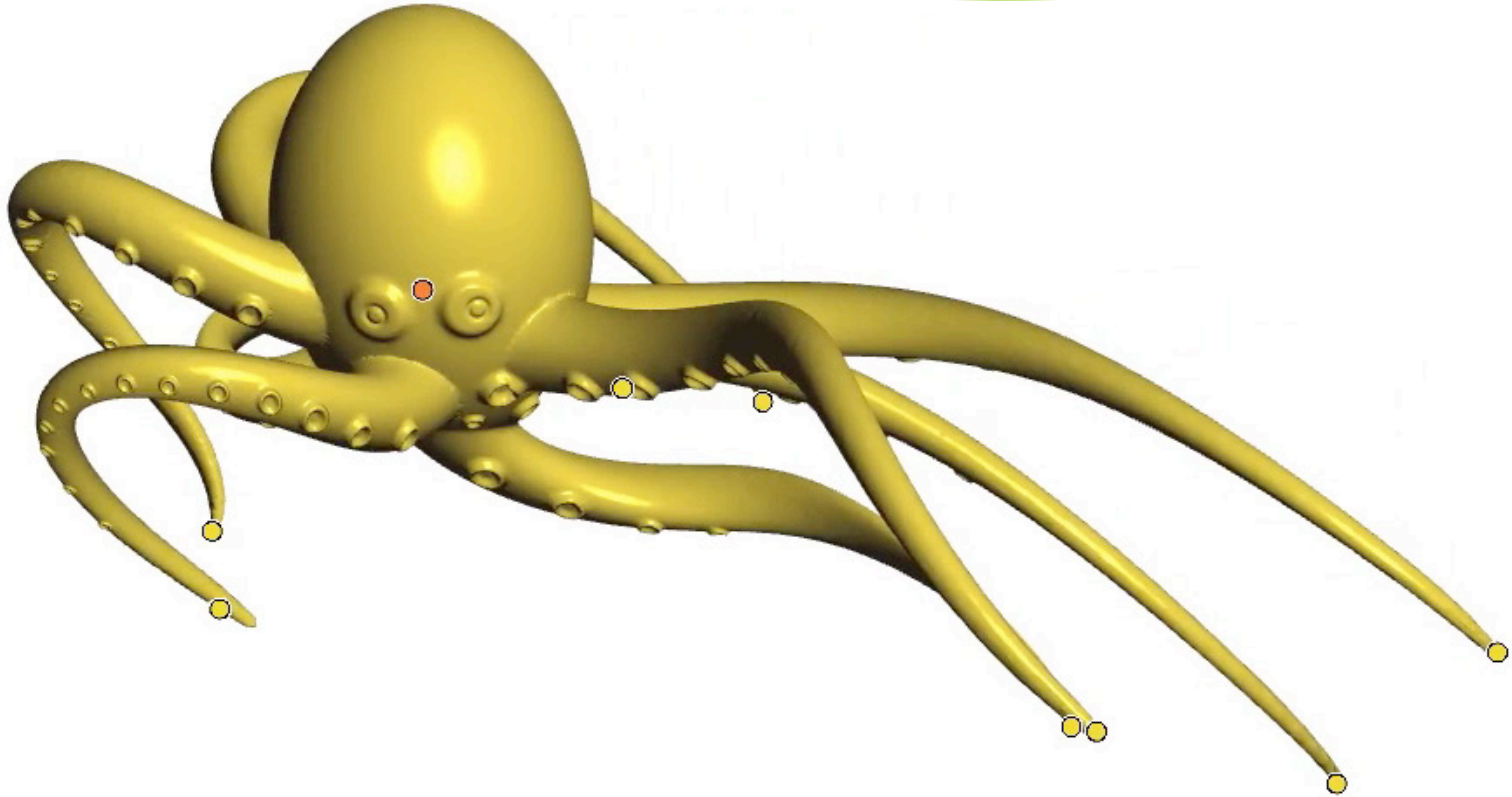
# Simple drag-only interface for point handles

---



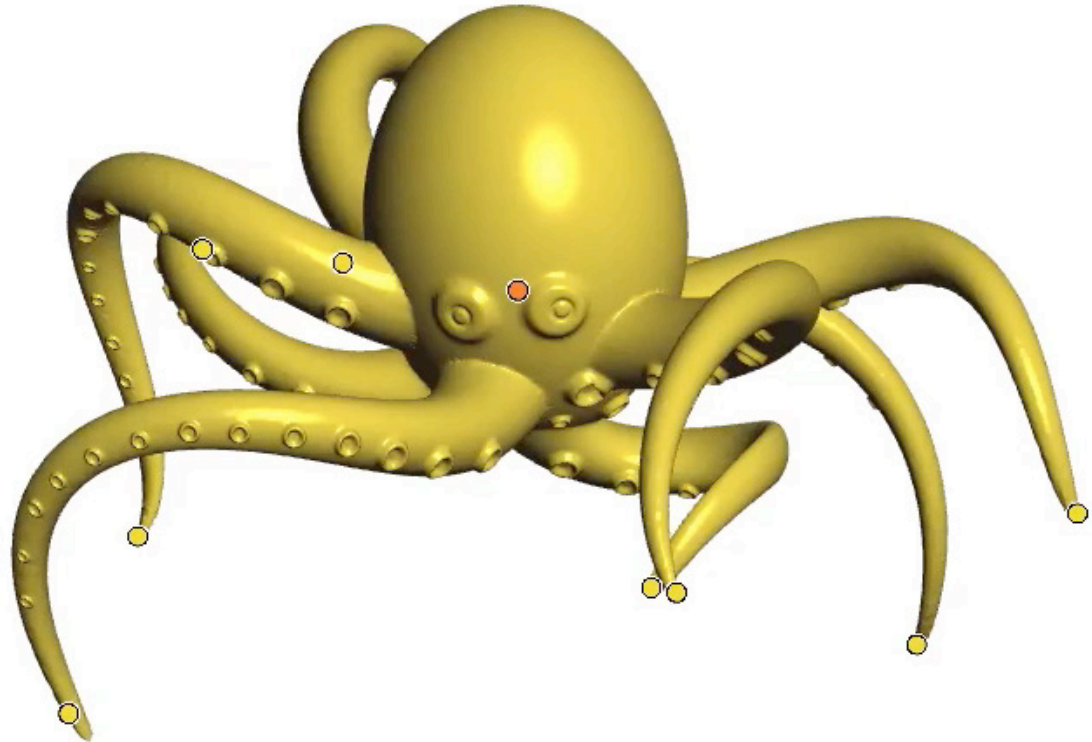
# Simple drag-only interface for point handles

---



# Simple drag-only interface for point handles

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# Skinning rig enables FAST deformation

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- Substitute  $\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{MT}$  to reduce DOFs

# Skinning rig enables FAST deformation

- Substitute  $\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{MT}$  to reduce DOFs
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# Skinning rig enables FAST deformation

- Substitute  $\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{MT}$  to reduce DOFs
- Cluster rotations to reduce energy eval.
- Additional weights to expand subspace

Each innovation takes advantage of input skinning rig

# Future work and discussion

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- Alternative additional weights: sparsity?
- Joint limits, balance, etc.



# Acknowledgements

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We are grateful to Peter Schröder, Emily Whiting, and Maurizio Nitti.

We thank Eftychios Sifakis for his open source fast  $3 \times 3$  SVD code.

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# Fast Automatic Skinning Transformations

<http://igl.ethz.ch/projects/fast>

Alec Jacobson ([jacobson@inf.ethz.ch](mailto:jacobson@inf.ethz.ch)),

Ilya Baran, Ladislav Kavan, Jovan Popović, Olga Sorkine

