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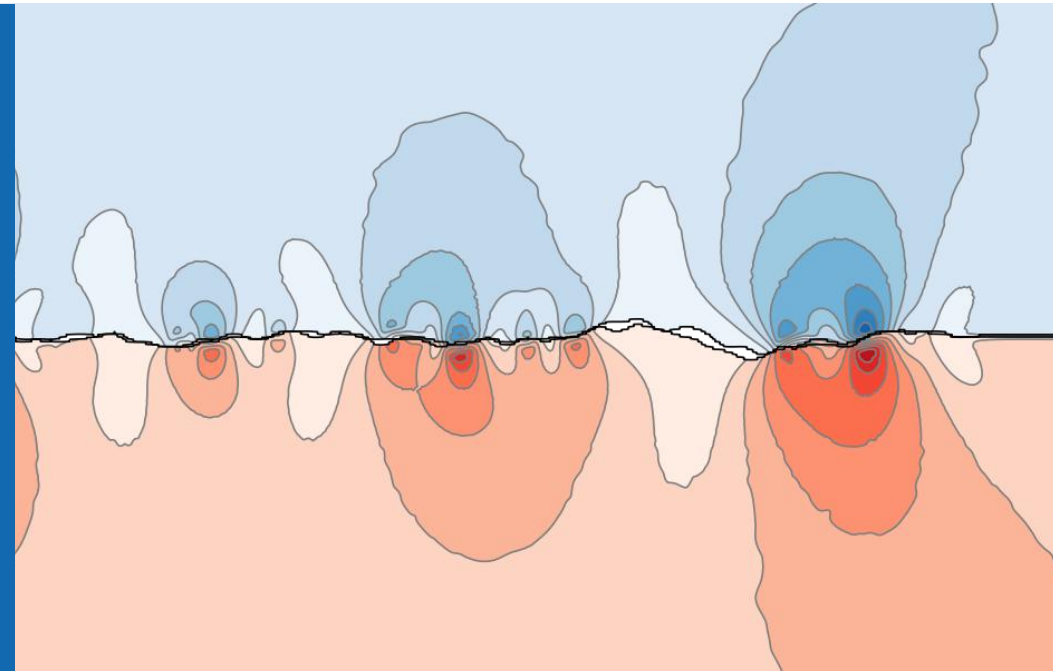
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# Modeling solid-solid contact in a fully Eulerian phase-field framework

Flavio Lorez, Mohit Pundir, David S. Kammer

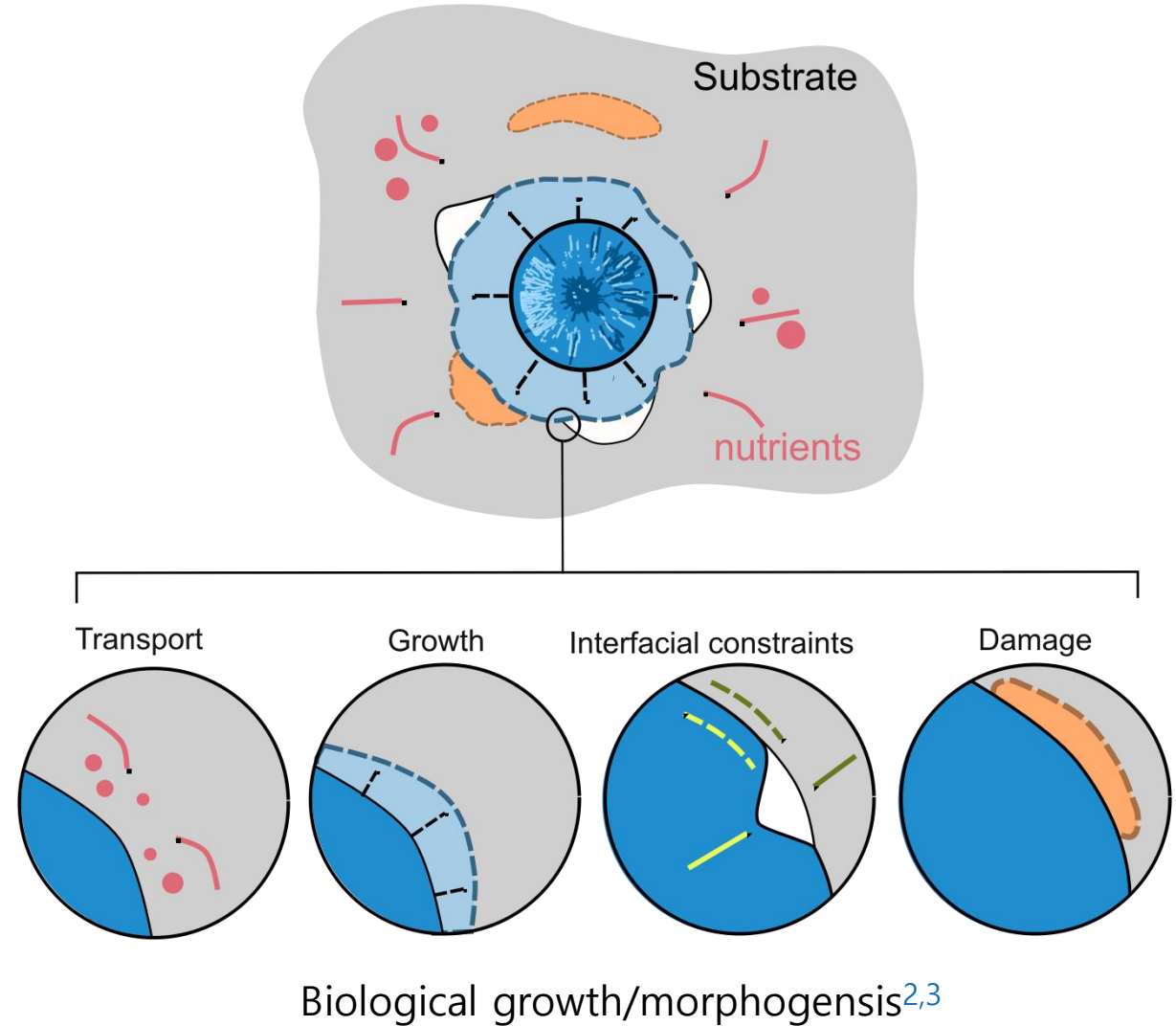
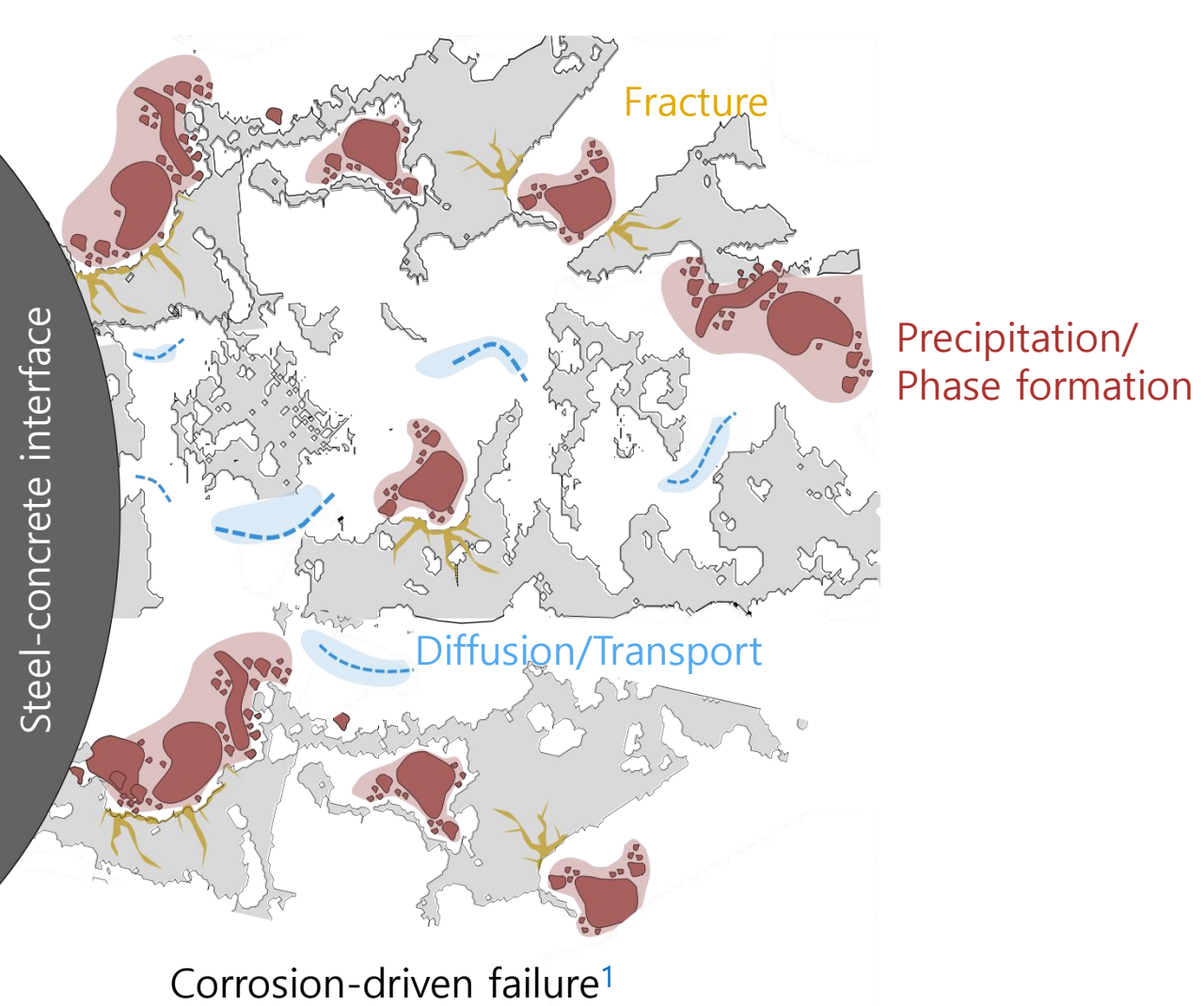
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Institute for Building Materials*



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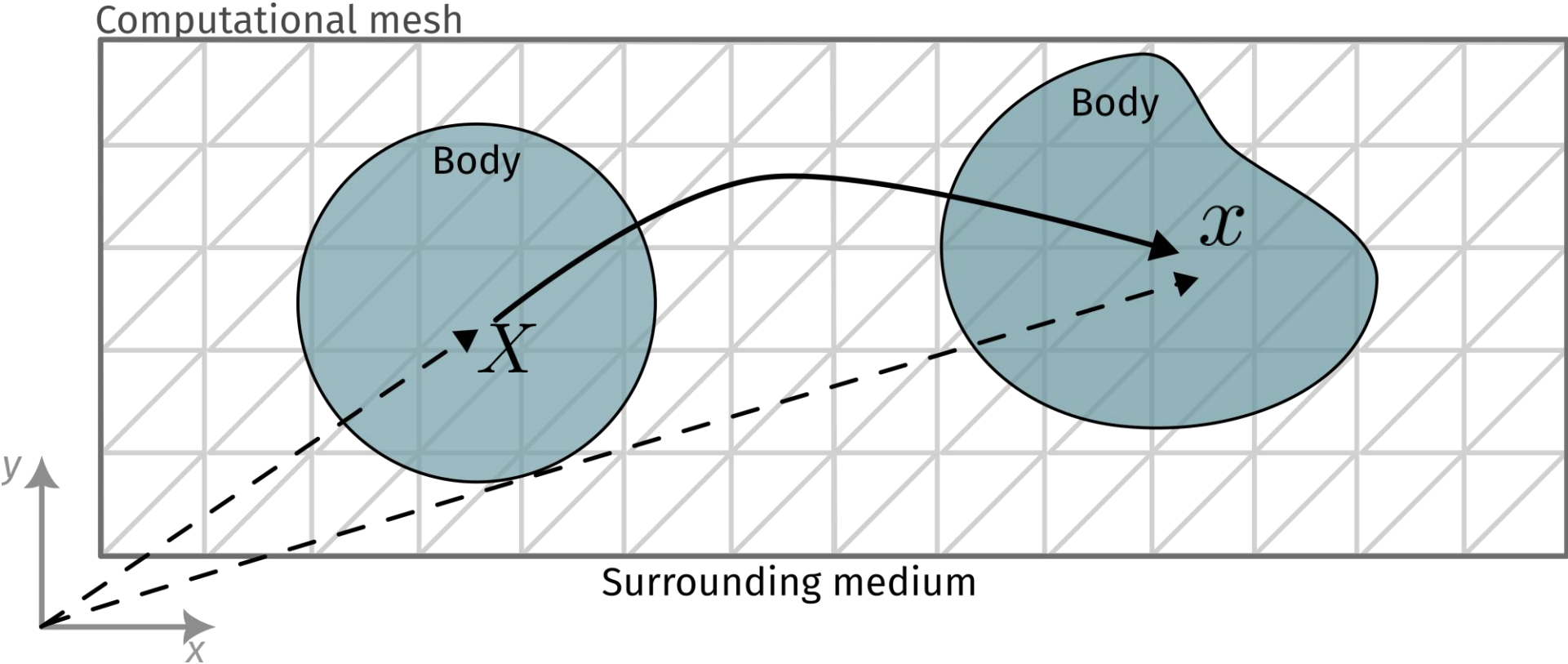
# Motivation - solid growth/evolution in constrained space



1. Pundir et al., *JMPS*, 2023,  
2. Amar et al., *EPL*, 2014  
3. Zhang et al., *PNAS*, 2021

- Multiphysical processes lead to interfacial interactions

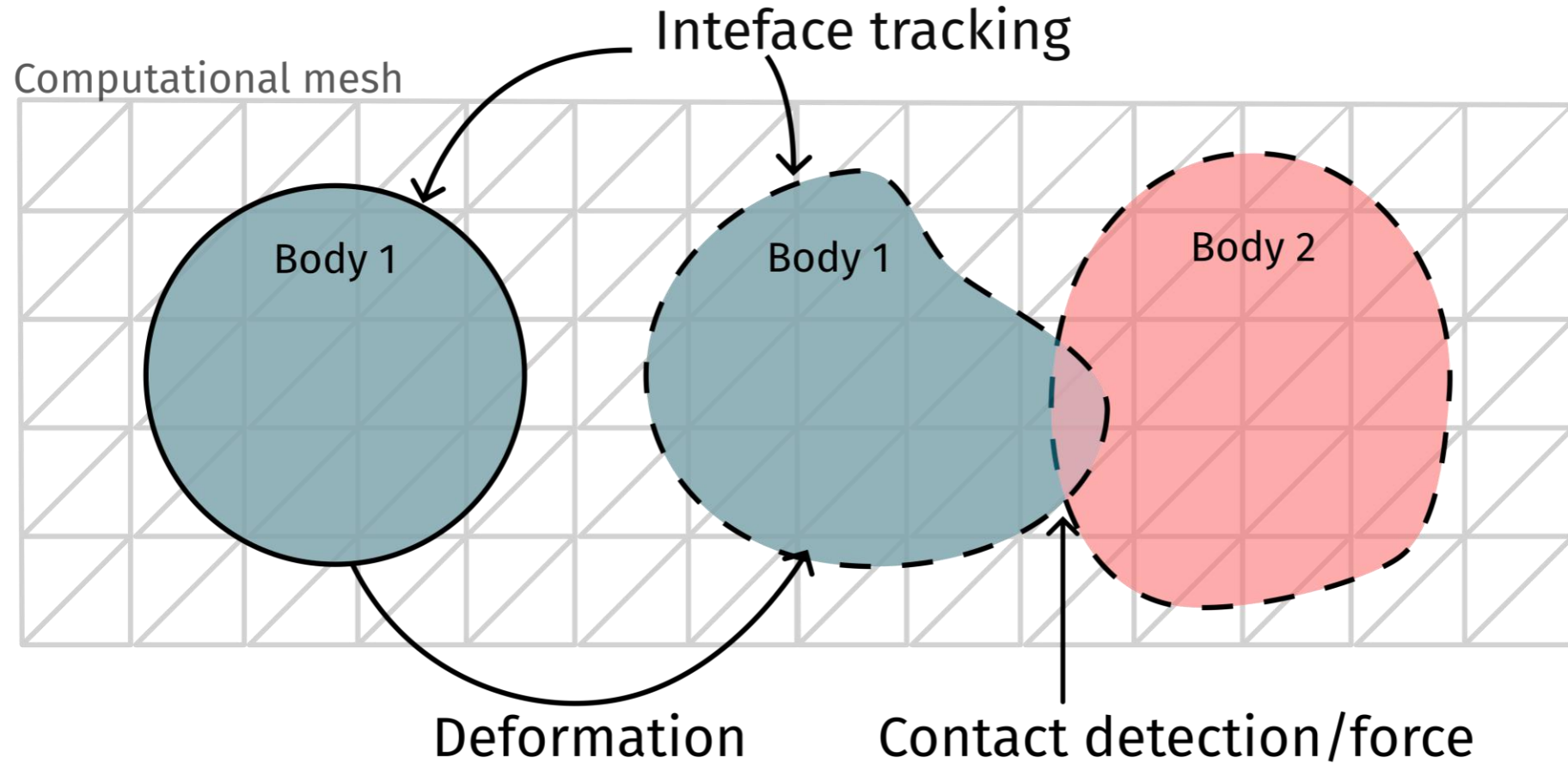
# Why *Eulerian* framework?



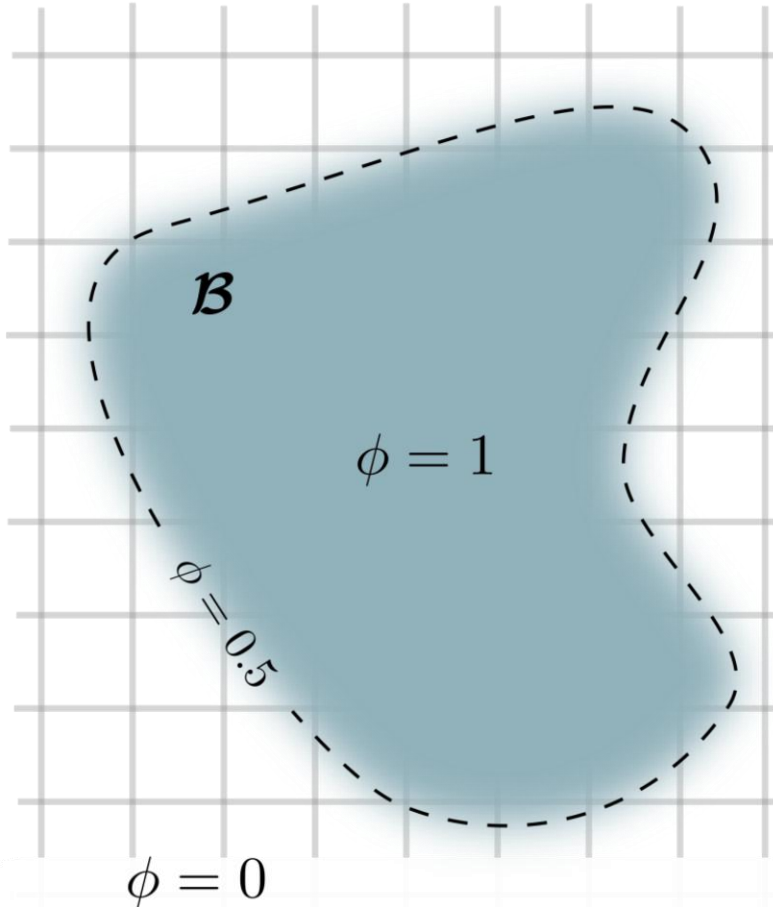
- Multiphysical processes are better described in Eulerian framework

How to model *contact* in Eulerian framework?

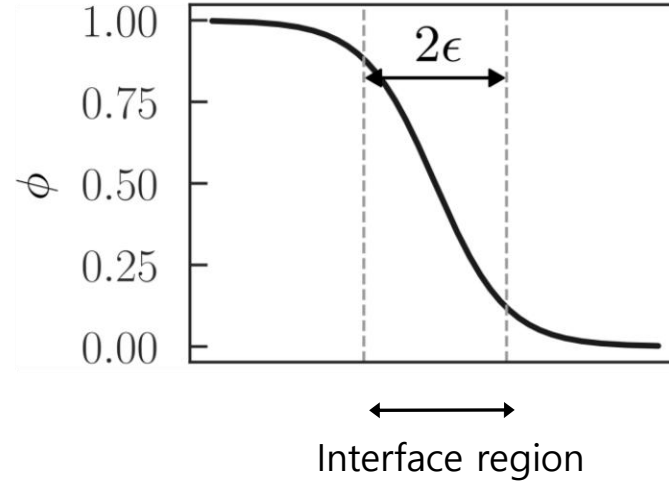
Key ingredients to contact in Eulerian framework



# How to track solids in Eulerian framework?



Phase-field approach



Free energy functional

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{pf}} = \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{\epsilon^2}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 + g(\phi) \right) d\Omega$$

$$\frac{\delta \mathcal{E}_{\text{pf}}}{\delta \phi} = 0 \rightarrow \text{equilibrium interface profile}$$

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ 1 - \tanh \left( \frac{x}{\sqrt{2}\epsilon} \right) \right]$$

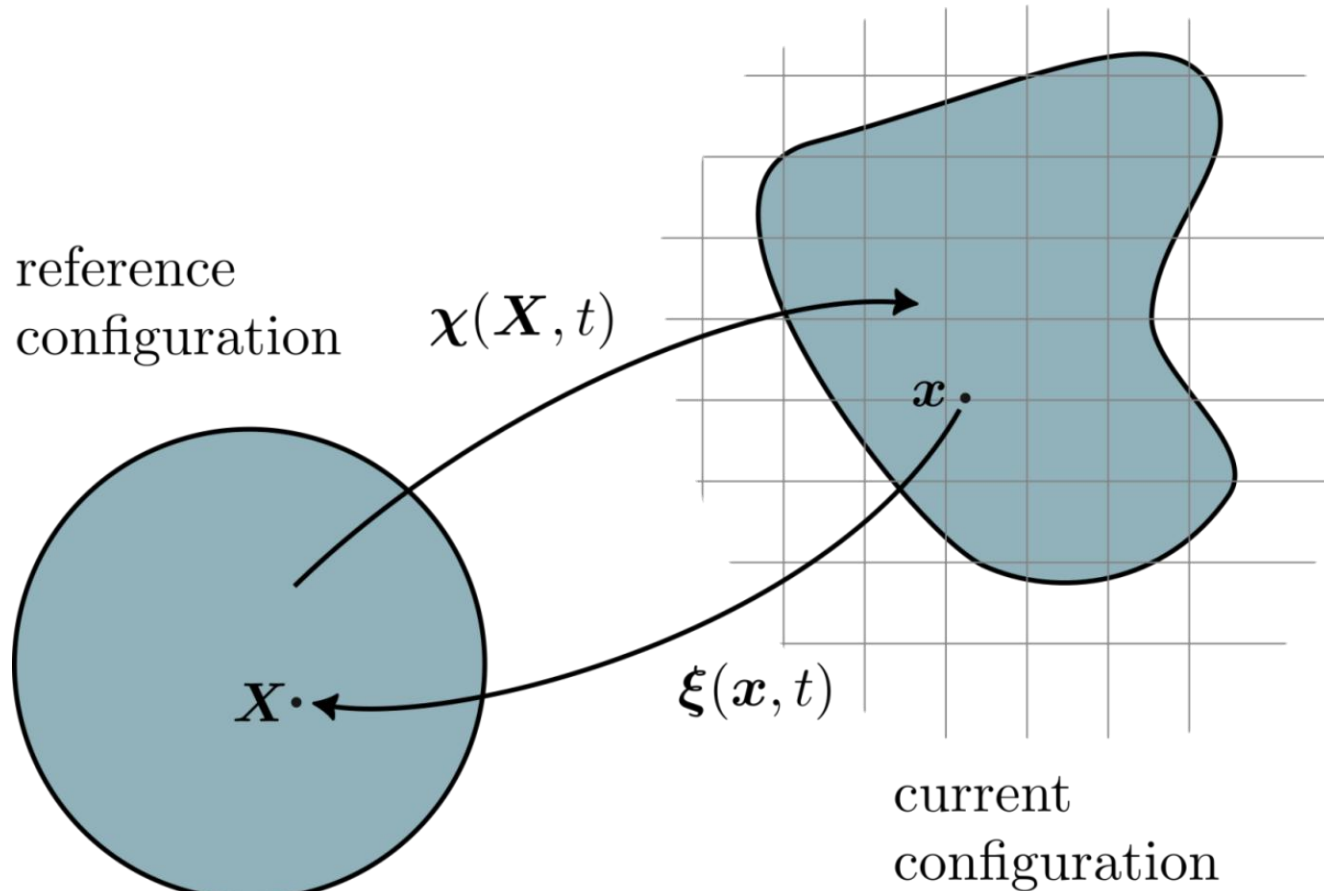
Evolution of phasefield variable

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} \cdot \nabla \phi = \nabla \cdot \left( -\mathcal{M} \nabla \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{E}_{\text{pf}}}{\delta \phi} \right) \right)$$

$\mathbf{u}$  is the displacement field

- Phase-field approach along with Cahn-Hilliard advective evolution

# How to describe *elasticity* in Eulerian framework?



Reference map technique<sup>1,2</sup>

Mapping current to reference configuration

$$\xi(\mathbf{x}, t) \rightarrow \mathbf{X}$$

$$\frac{\partial \xi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} \cdot \nabla \xi = \mathbf{0}$$

Constructing deformation gradient

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{X}} = \left( \frac{\partial \mathbf{X}}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \right)^{-1} = (\nabla \xi(\mathbf{x}, t))^{-1}$$

Using constitutive laws

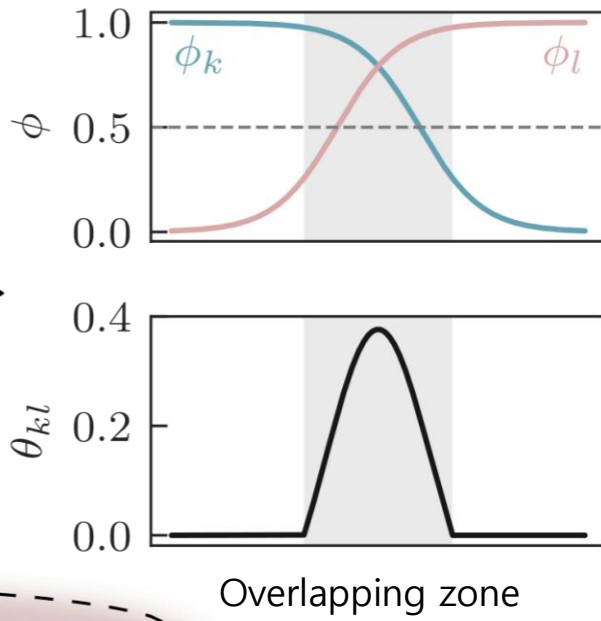
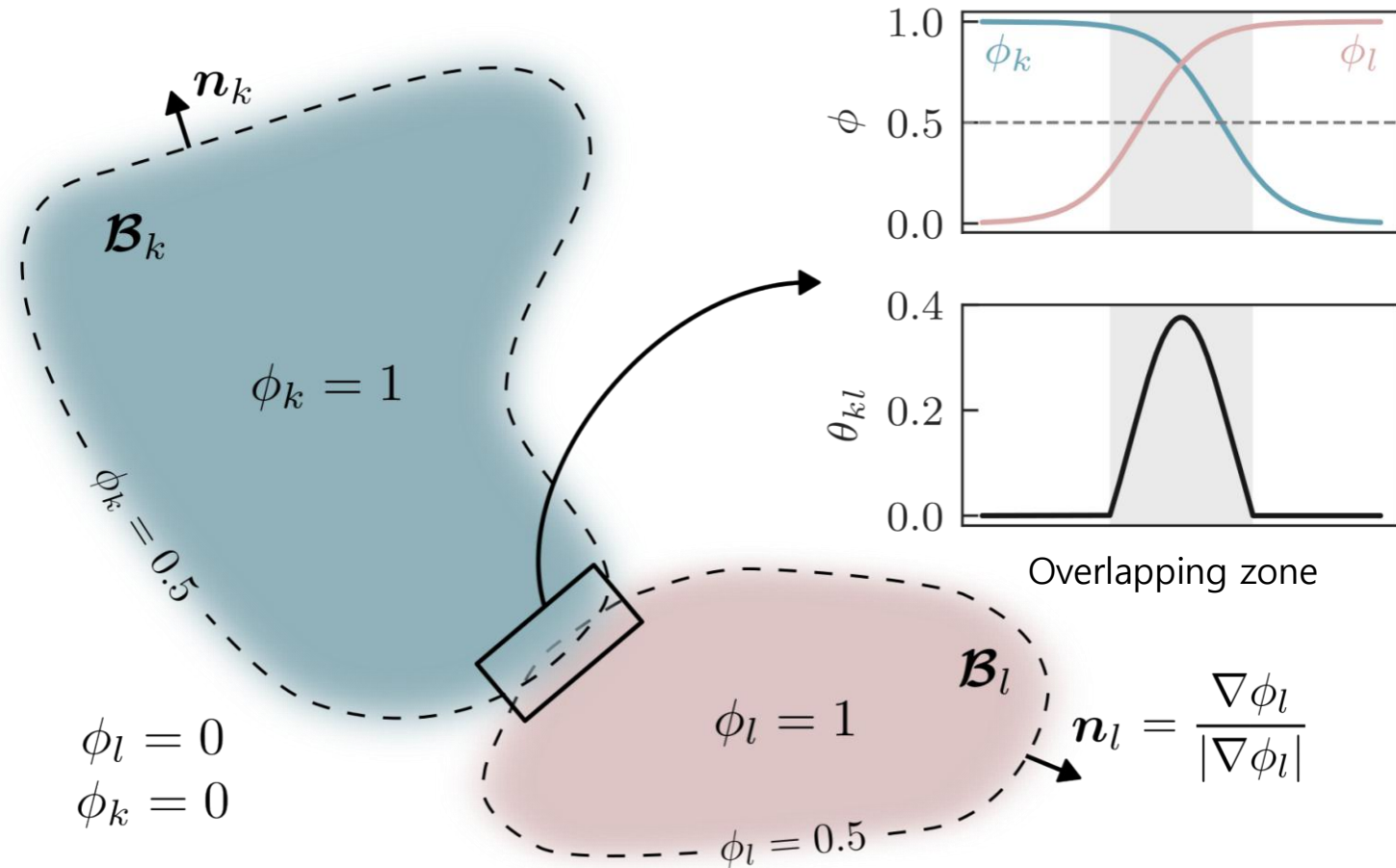
$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = f(\mathbf{F})$$

1. Kamrin et al., *JMPS*, 2012

2. Rycroft et al., *Journal of Fluid Mechanics*, 2020



# How to detect contact in Eulerian framework?

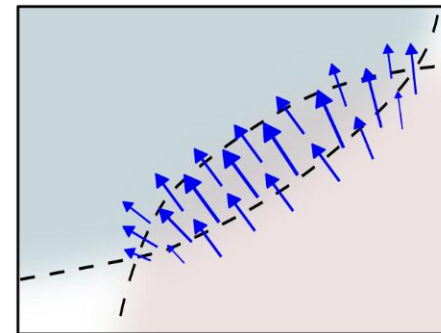


Scalar intersection metric

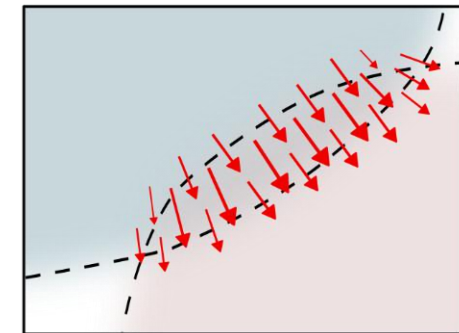
$$\theta_{kl} = \left\langle \phi_k \cdot \phi_l - \frac{1}{4} \right\rangle^+$$

Contact force field

$$\mathbf{b}_k = \kappa \cdot \theta_{kl} \cdot \mathbf{n}_l$$



$$\mathbf{b}_l = \kappa \cdot \theta_{kl} \cdot \mathbf{n}_k$$



- Contact detection becomes trivial and contact force as volumetric forces

# Coupling all the ingredients

Solving for the elasticity

$$\sum_{i=1}^2 \nabla \cdot (\phi_i \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{\xi}_i)) + \mathbf{b}_i = \mathbf{0}$$

Advect phasefields according to displacements

$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} \cdot \nabla \phi = -\nabla \cdot \mathcal{M} \nabla \mu$$

$$\mu = \frac{\delta \mathcal{E}_{\text{pf}}}{\delta \phi}$$

Updating the reference map

$$\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\xi}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial t} \cdot \nabla \boldsymbol{\xi} = \mathbf{0}$$

System of equations for a single body

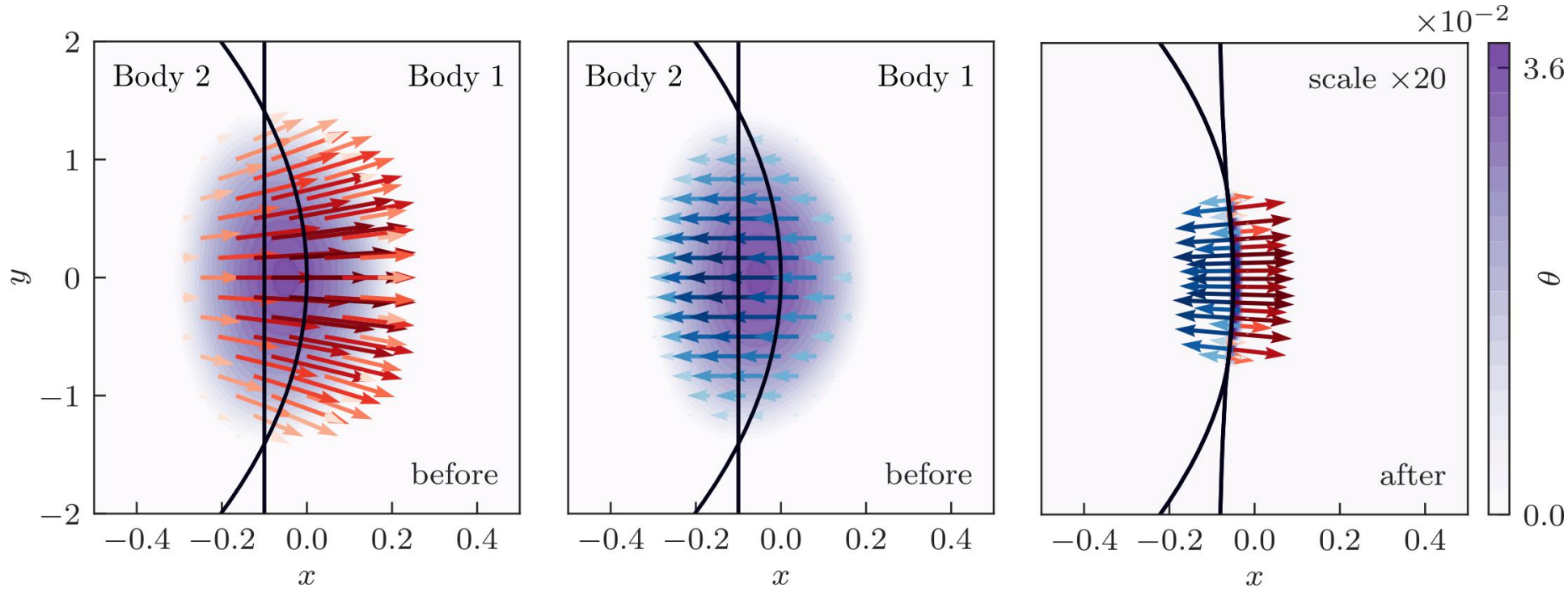
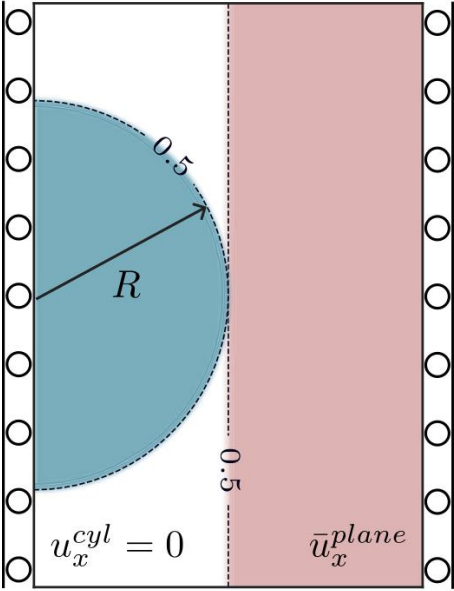
$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{K}_u & \mathbf{K}_{u\xi} & \mathbf{K}_{u\phi} & 0 \\ & \mathbf{K}_\xi & 0 & 0 \\ & & K_\phi & K_{\phi\mu} \\ & & & K_\mu \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{K}^k} \cdot \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u} \\ \boldsymbol{\xi} \\ \phi \\ \mu \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{u}^k} - \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{b}(\phi) \\ \mathbf{0} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}}_{\mathbf{f}^k} = \mathbf{0}$$

Coupled system for two bodies

$$\begin{bmatrix} [\mathbf{K}^k] & \mathbf{0} \\ & [\mathbf{K}^l] \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}^k \\ \mathbf{u}^l \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{f}^k \\ \mathbf{f}^l \end{bmatrix} = \mathbf{0}$$

Does the method work?

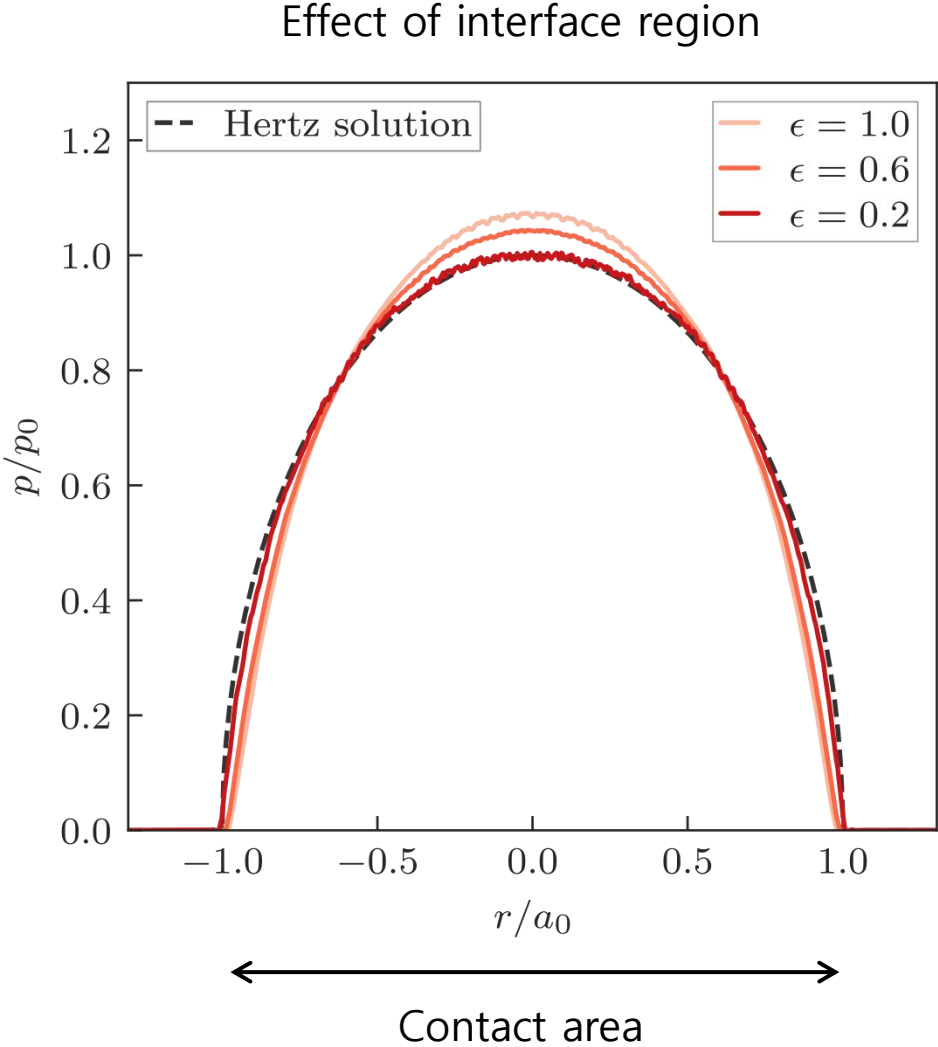
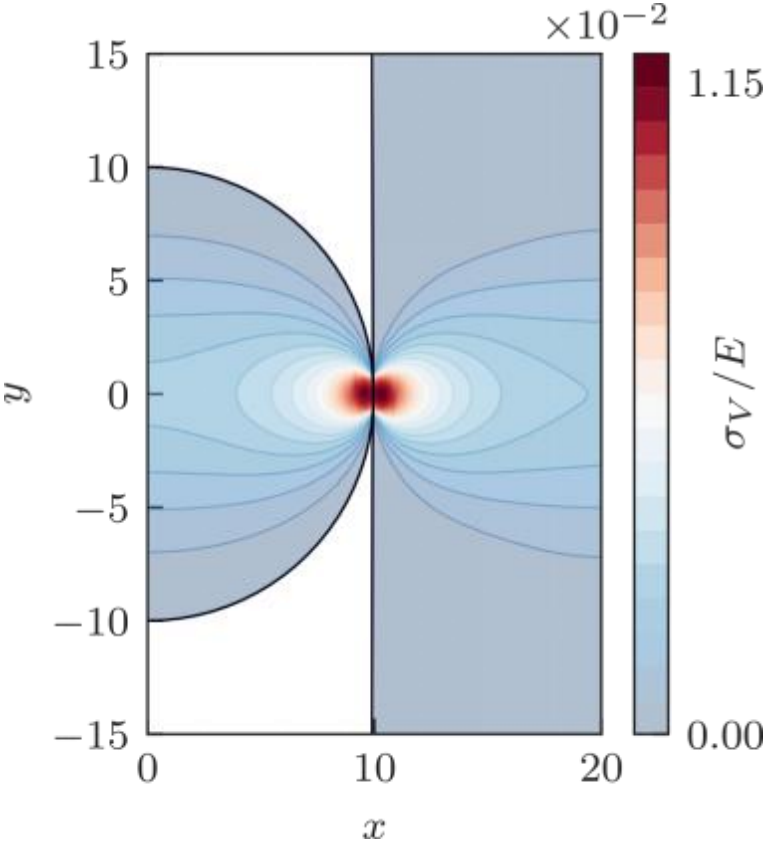
# Hertz contact



Contact force field (before)

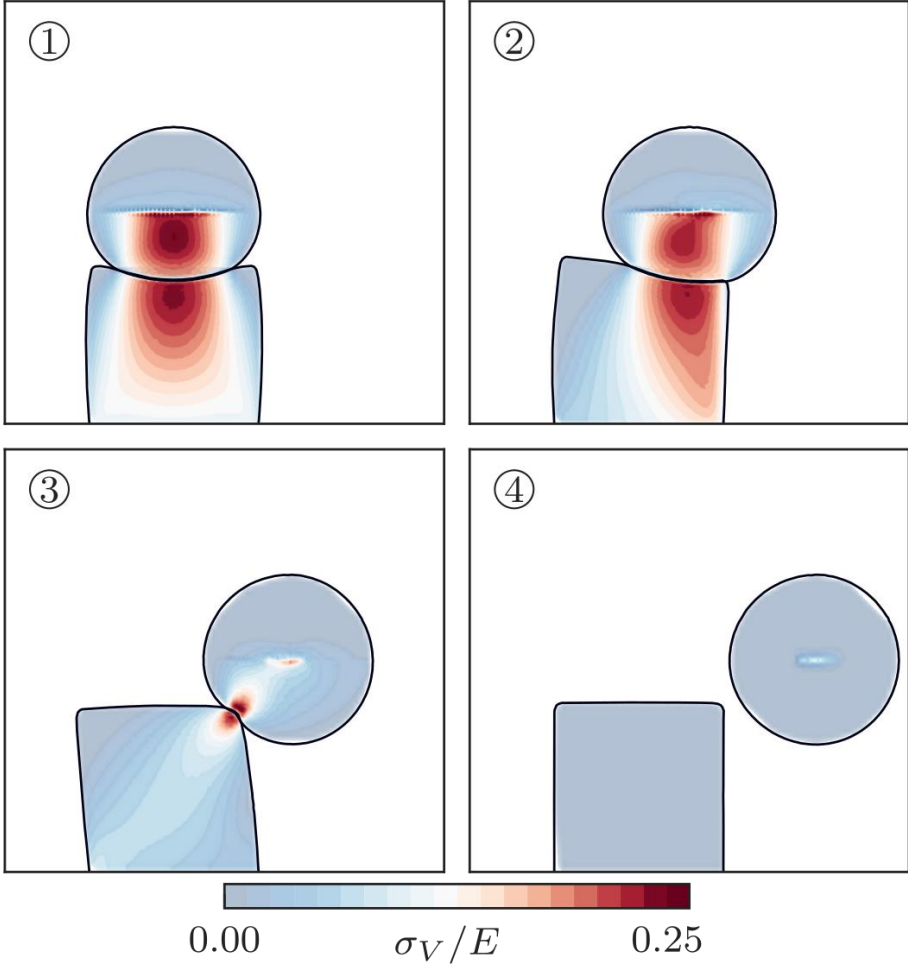
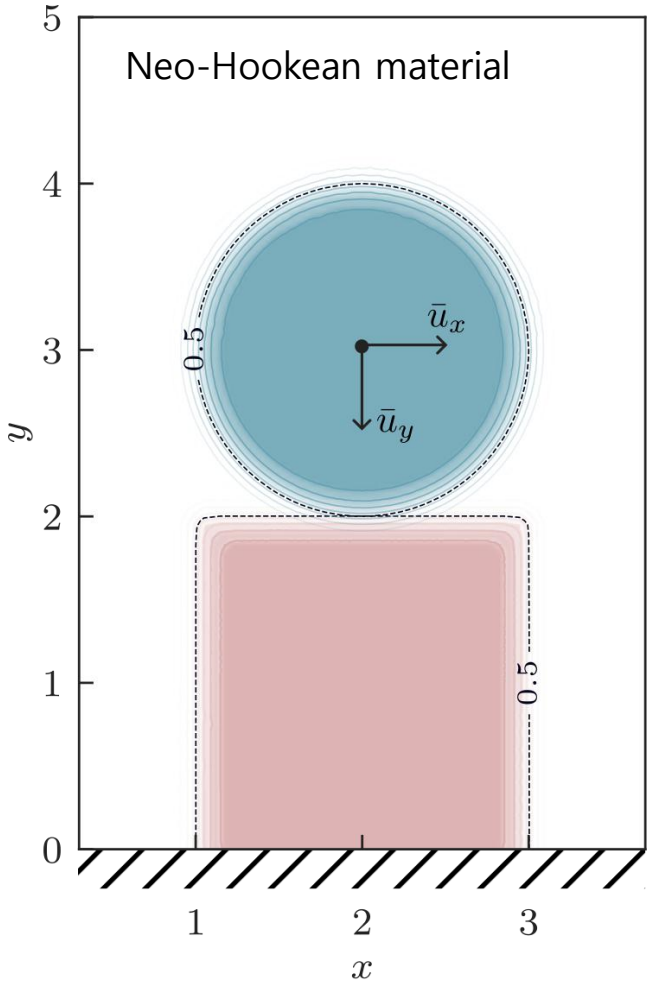
Contact force field (after)

# Hertz contact

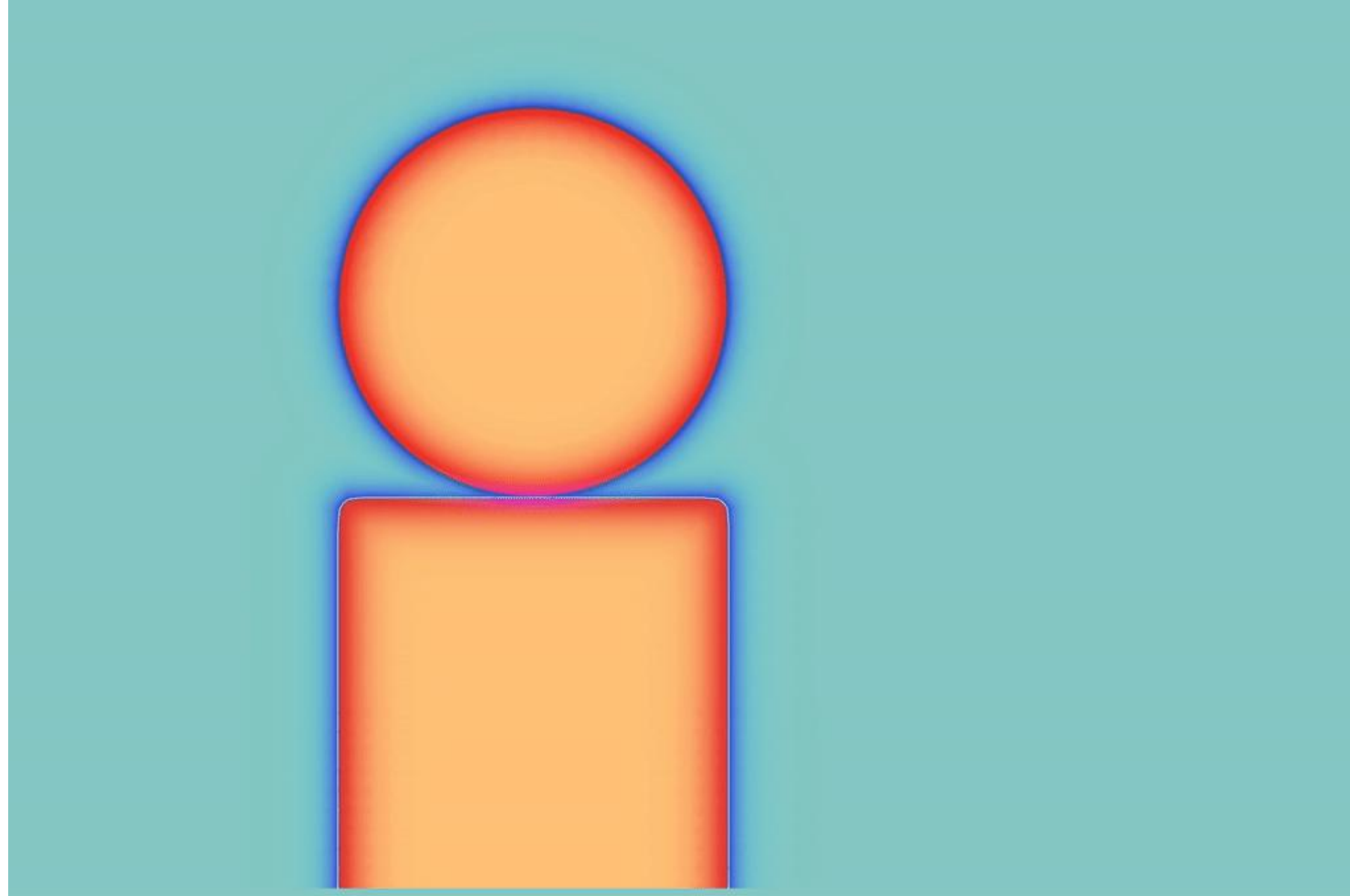


How robust is the method?

Can handle *large deformations*

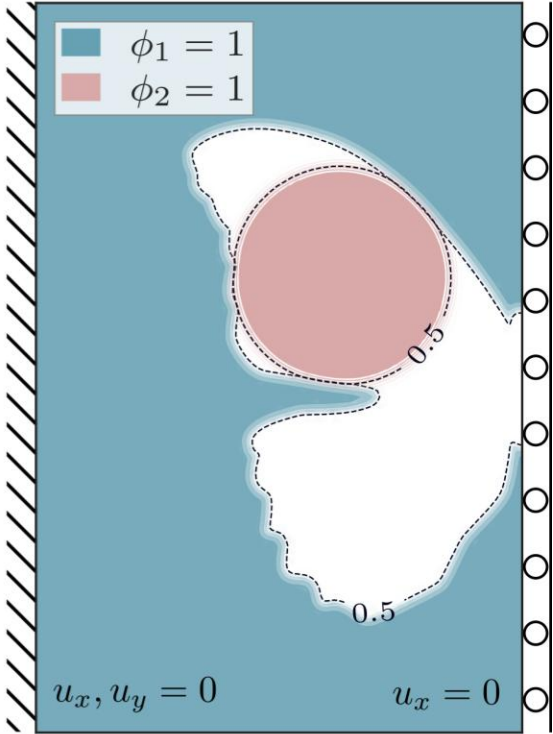
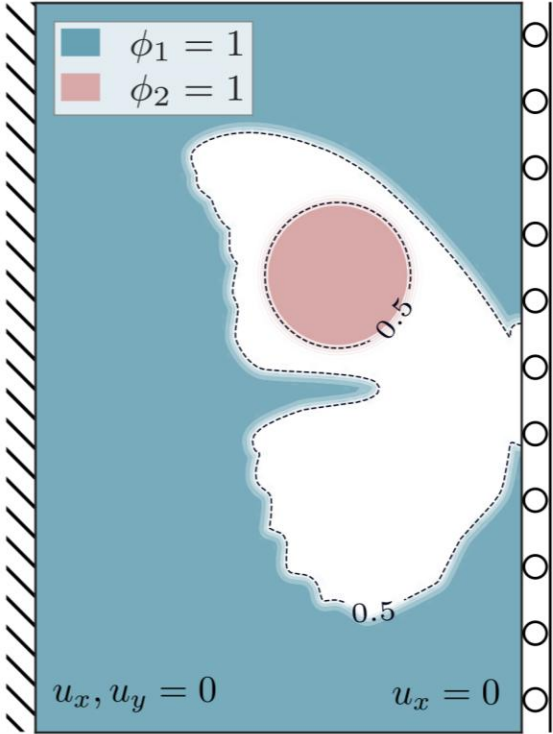
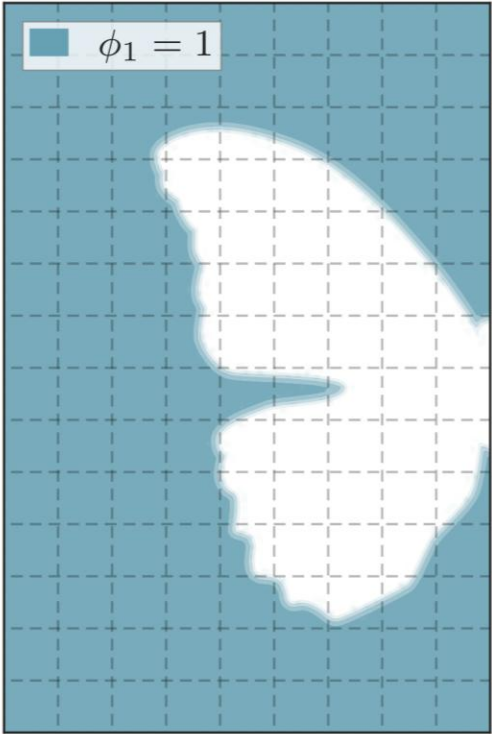


Can handle large deformations





Can handle evolving surfaces

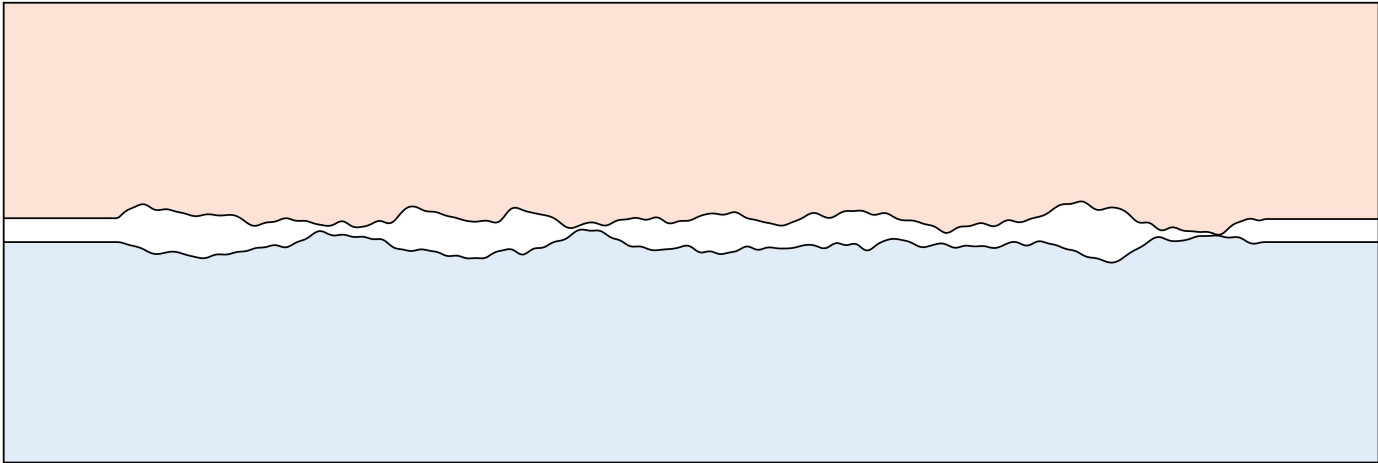
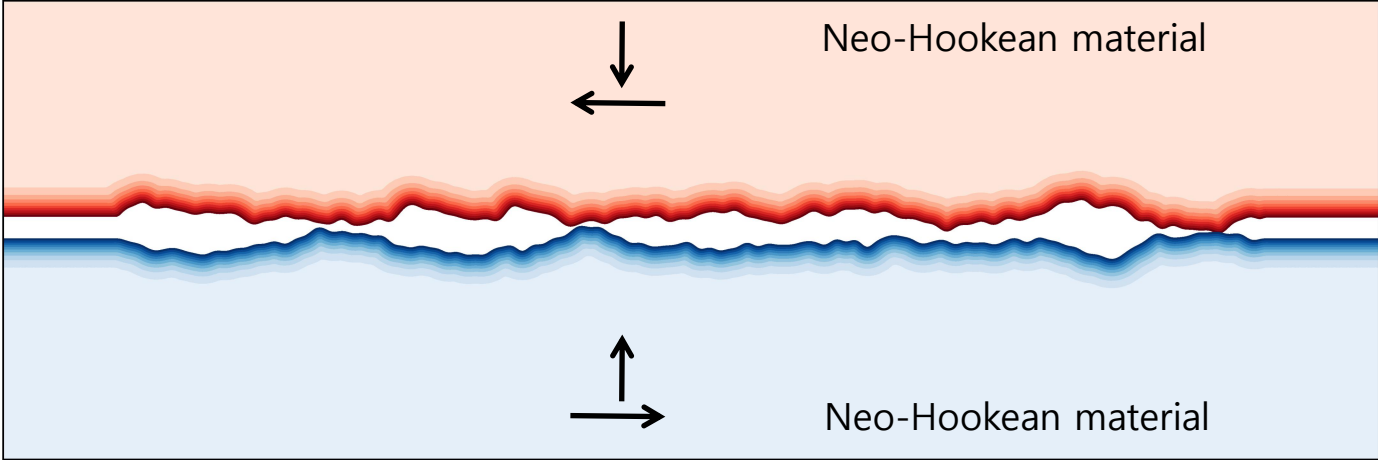


Can handle *evolving surfaces*



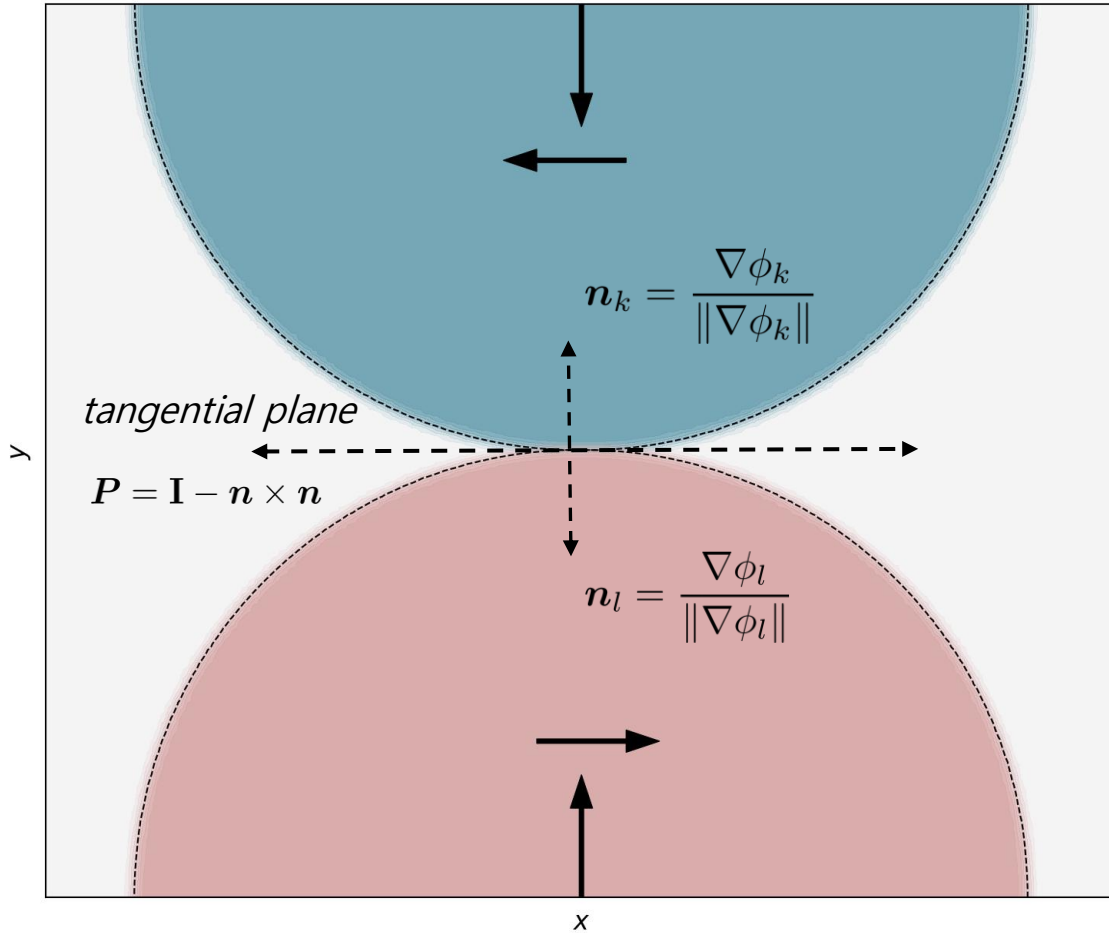
Evolution of Von-Mises stress

Can handle complex domains



Rough-on-Rough contact

Can handle friction



Tangential slip

$$\mathbf{u}_t^{ij} = \mathbf{P} \cdot (\Delta \mathbf{u}_i - \Delta \mathbf{u}_j)$$

Tangential force

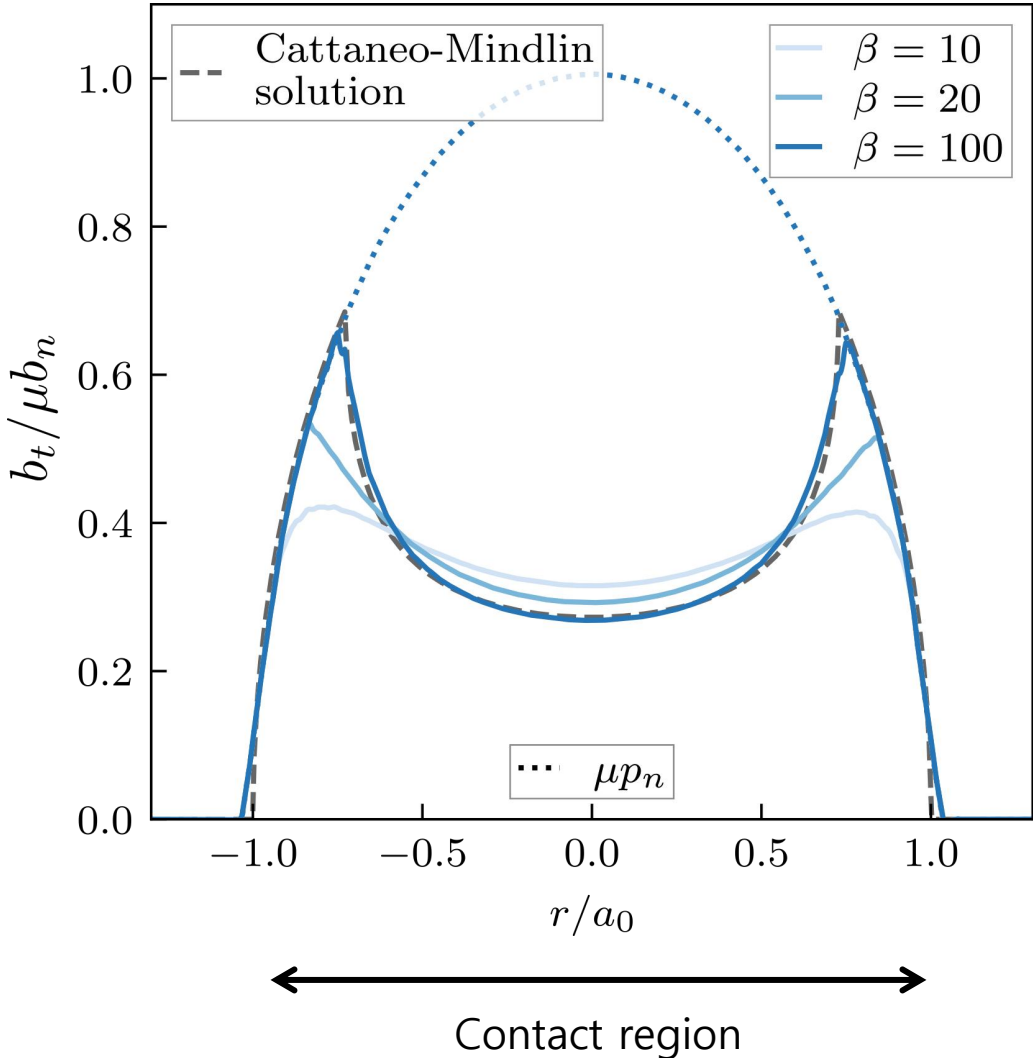
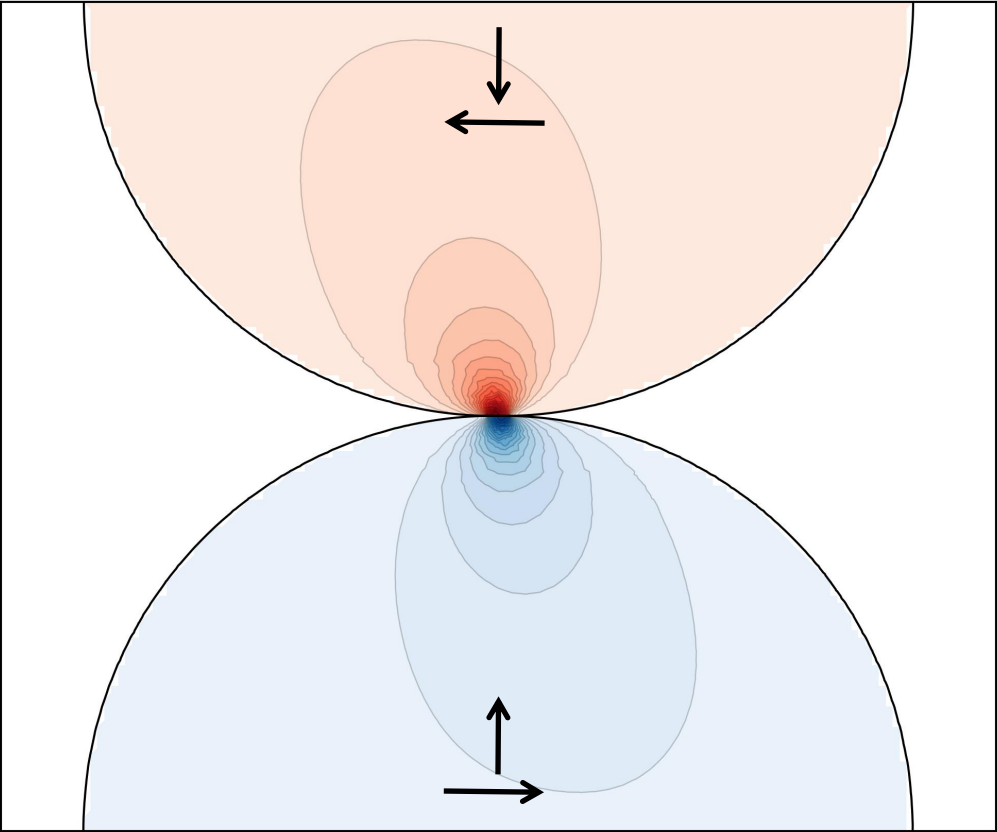
$$\mathbf{b}_t = \lambda \cdot \mu \mathbf{b}_n \cdot \frac{\mathbf{u}_t}{\|\mathbf{u}_t\|}, \quad \lambda \in [0, 1]$$

Balance of linear momentum

$$\nabla \cdot (\phi_i \boldsymbol{\sigma}(\boldsymbol{\xi}_i)) - \mathbf{b}_n^i - \mathbf{b}_t^i = \mathbf{0}$$

Can handle friction

Cattaneo-Mindlin Traction Profile



# Conclusion

- A robust methodology to handle interfacial interactions within Eulerian framework.
- Allows strong coupling of multiphysical process with contact.
- Contact detection phase becomes trivial.
- Can handle large deformation, complex surfaces and friction.

Thank you for your attention.

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*Lorez et al.*, Eulerian framework for contact between solids represented as phase fields,  
**CMAME**, 2024

