

# Animating Virtual Characters

# Character Animation

## **Skeletal Animation**

# Skeleton structure

## Characteristics

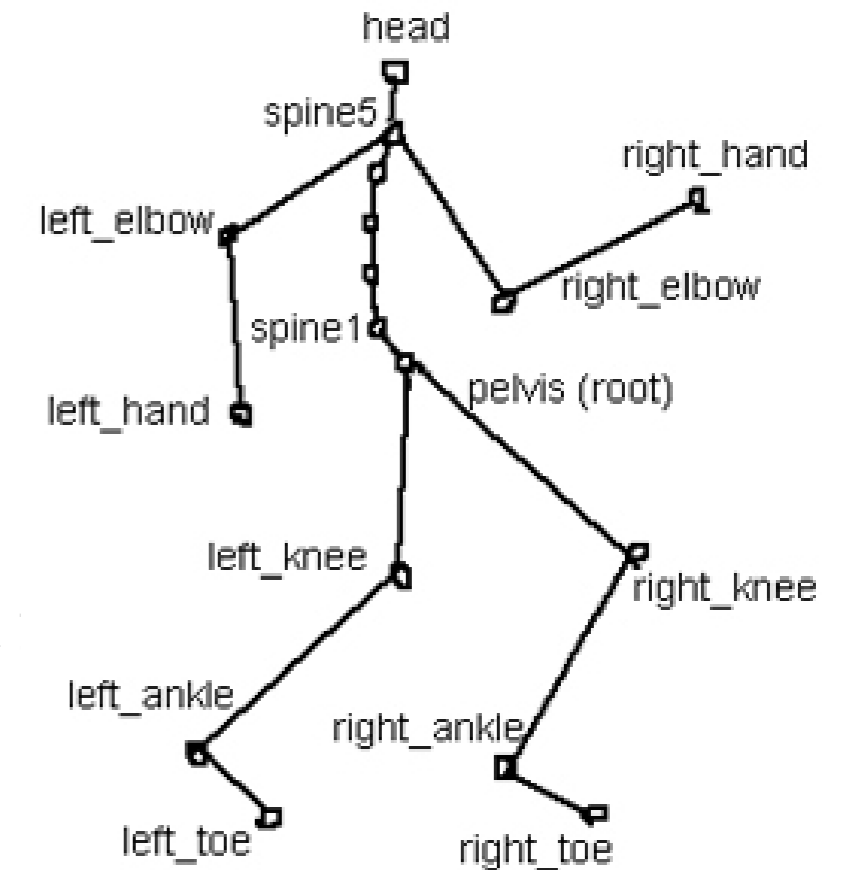
- Hierarchical representation

*All children follow the transformation of the parent*

*Need to define a root: usually at the hips/pelvis*

- Convenient to express relative transformation with respect to the parent

*ex. Ankle is at  $20^\circ$  w/r knee*



## Converting local to global frames/joint coordinates

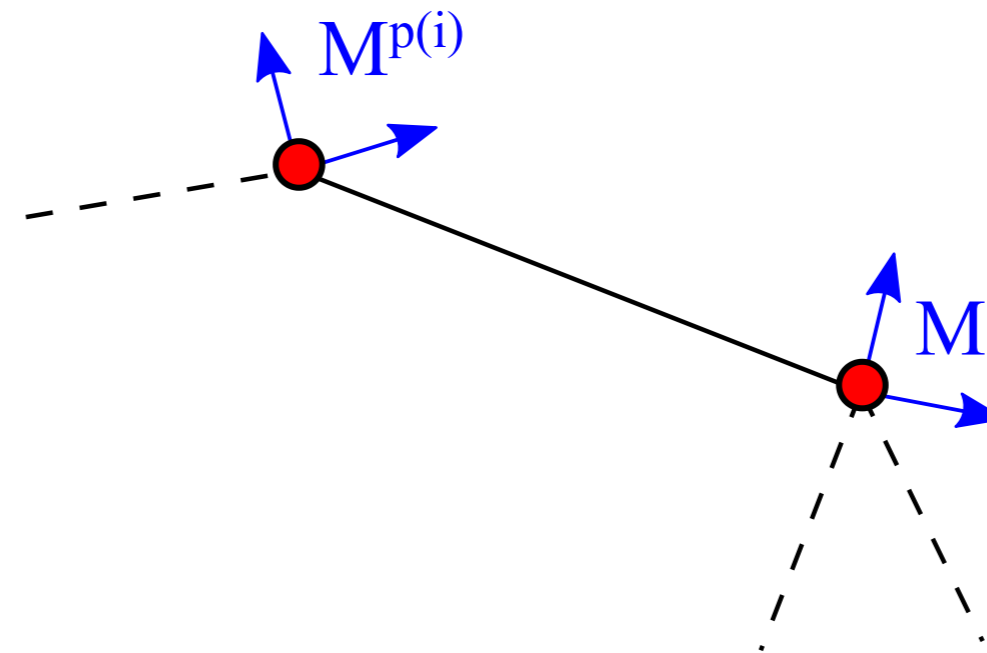
- With 4x4 matrices  $M$

$$M_{global}^i = M_{global}^{p(i)} M_{local}^i$$

- With translation  $t$ , rotation  $R$

$$R_{global}^i = R_{global}^{p(i)} R_{local}^i$$

$$t_{global}^i = t_{global}^{p(i)} + R_{global}^{p(i)} t_{local}^i$$



# Encoding hierarchical skeleton

- Simplest encoding based on index within vector

```
Geometry=[M0, M1, M2, M3, M4, M5]
```

```
Parent = [-1,0,1,1,0,4]
```

- Convert local coordinates to global coordinates

```
local (Geometry) <- std::vector of rotation (r), translation (p)
```

```
global (Geometry) <- std::vector of rotation (r), translation (p)
```

```
global[0] = local[0];
```

```
for(size_t k=1; k<N; ++k)
```

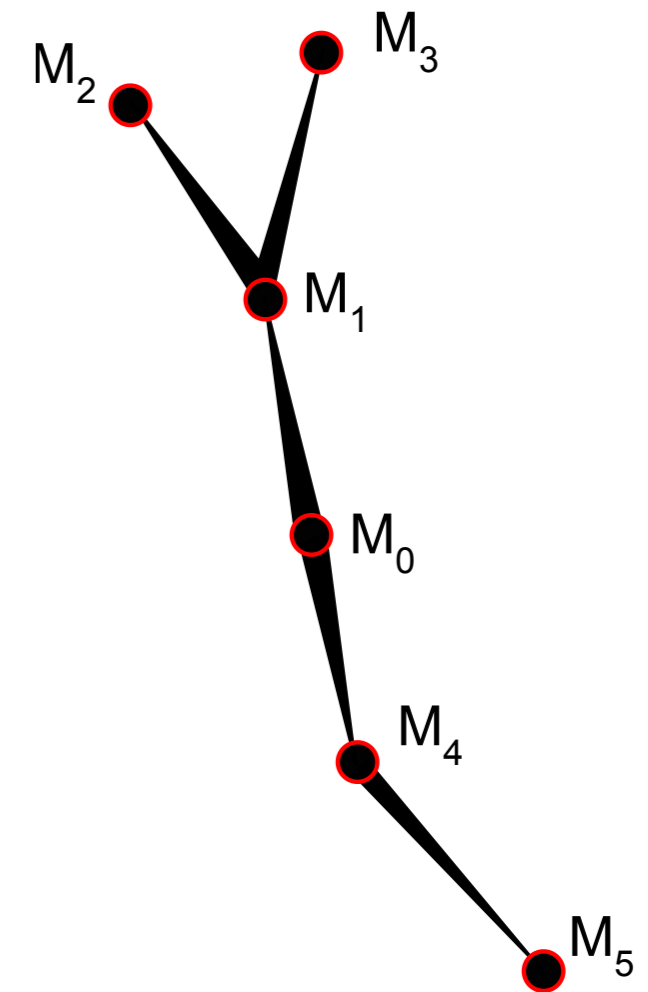
```
{
```

```
    int parent = Parent[k];
```

```
    global[k].r = global[parent].r * local[k].r;
```

```
    global[k].p = global[parent].r * local[k].p + global[parent].p;
```

```
}
```

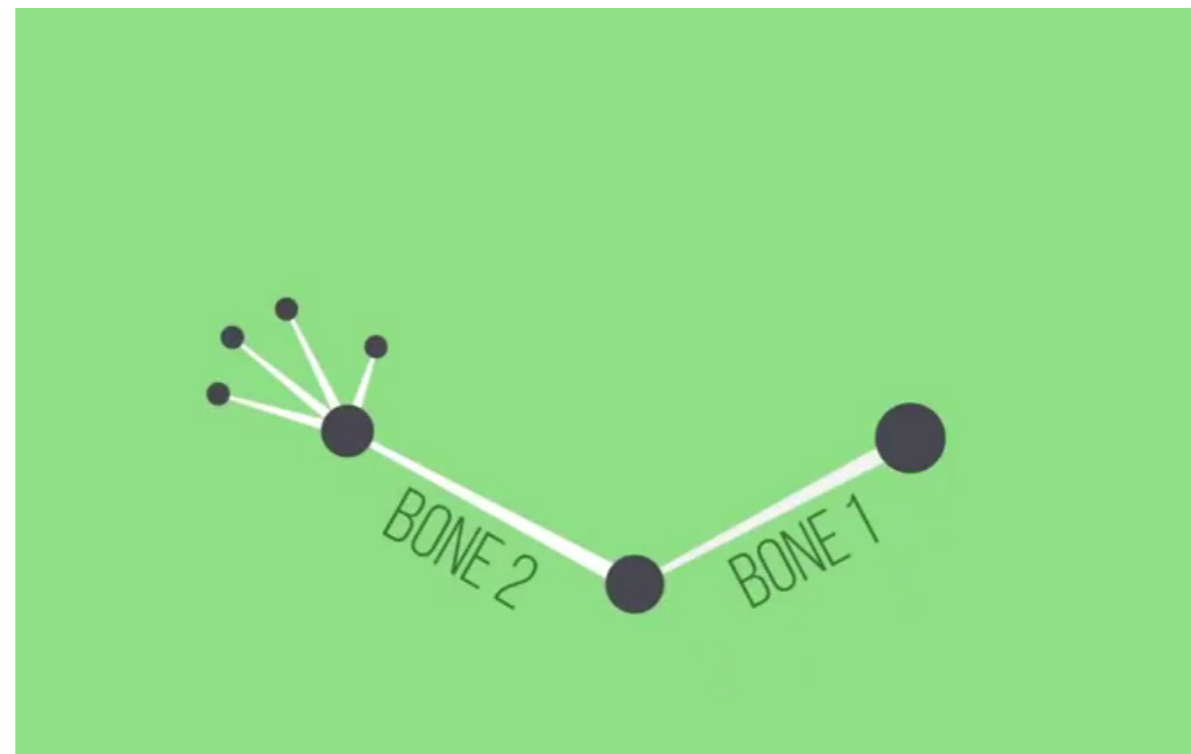
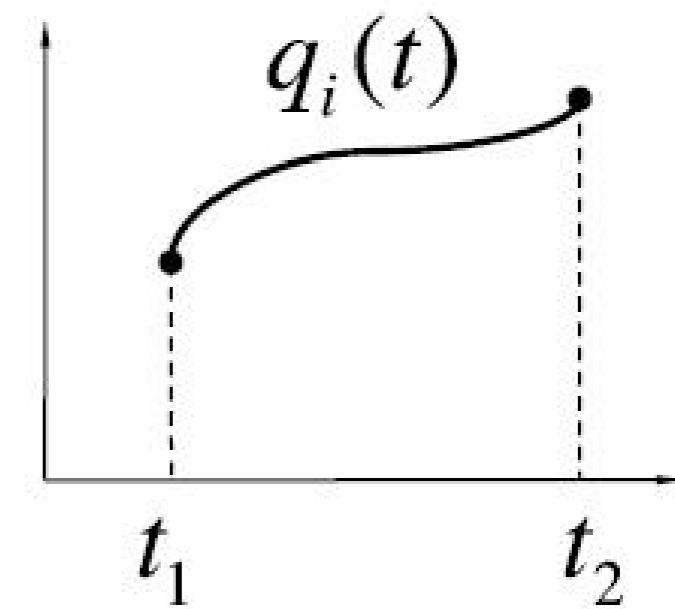
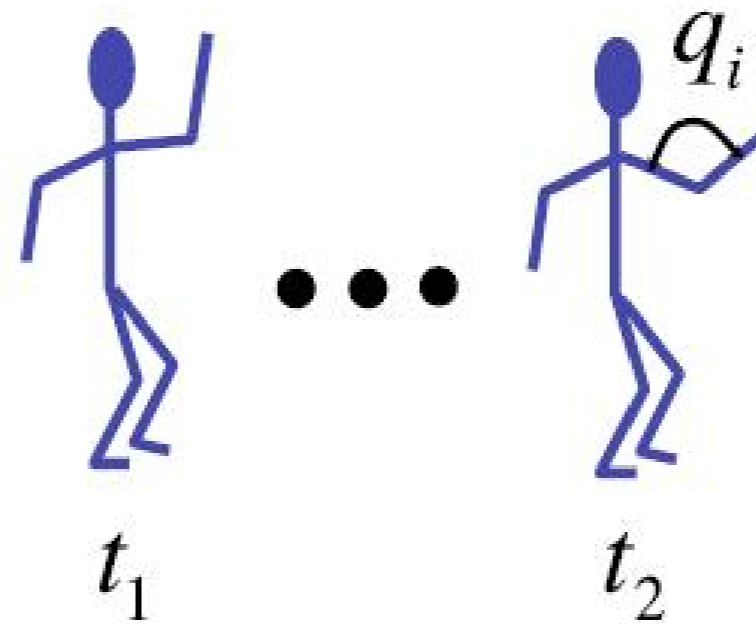


# Forward kinematics

## FK - Forward Kinematics

- Each joint angle is set manually
- Adapted to set orientation of specific parts
- Interpolate rotations during animation

(+) Generates curved trajectory naturally



*MiloScerny Animation*

# Rotations

3D rotations have 3 dof, No unique representation

## Matrix

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} R_{xx} & R_{xy} & R_{xz} \\ R_{yx} & R_{yy} & R_{yz} \\ R_{zx} & R_{zy} & R_{zz} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$R^T R = I$$

$$\det(R) = 1$$

- (+) Computationally convenient
- (-) Non-explicit dof, redundancies

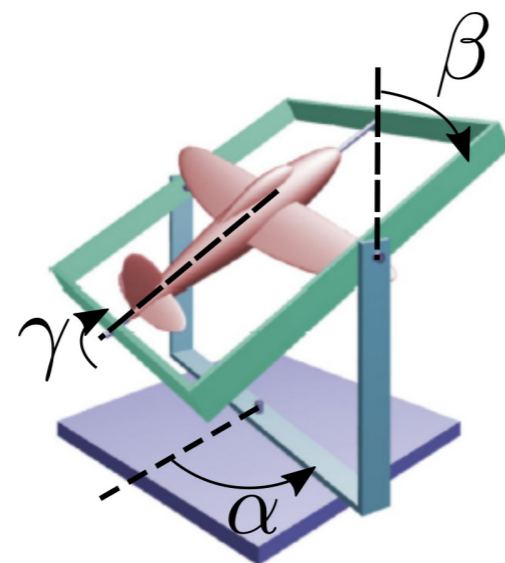
## Euler Angles

3 angles:  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$

Composition of rotation around basic axes

Not unique (x-y-z, y-z-x, x-y-x', x-z-x', ...)

- (+) Meaningfull parameters
- (-) Gimbal-lock

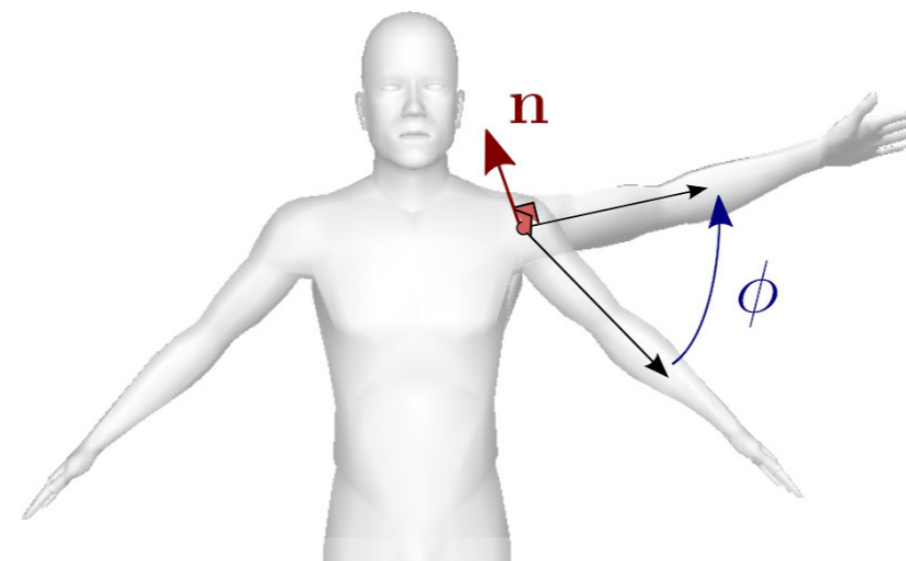


## Axis angle

$(\mathbf{n}, \theta)$

(+) Meaningfull parameters

(-) No direct composition



## Quaternion

$$q = (x, y, z, w) \\ = \left( \mathbf{n} \sin \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right), \cos \left( \frac{\theta}{2} \right) \right)$$

- (+) Composition and interpolation
- (-) Less intuitive components

# Interpolating rotation

Do not use componentwise-interpolation on rotation matrix  
⇒ interpolate in **quaternion** space

Can use either:

- **SLERP** - Spherical Linear Interpolation

$$q(t) = \frac{\sin((1-t)\Omega)}{\sin(\Omega)} q_1 + \frac{\sin(t\Omega)}{\sin(\Omega)} q_2, \quad \text{with } \cos(\Omega) = q_1 \cdot q_2$$

Between two unit quaternions  $q_1, q_2$

- **LERP** - Linear Interpolation

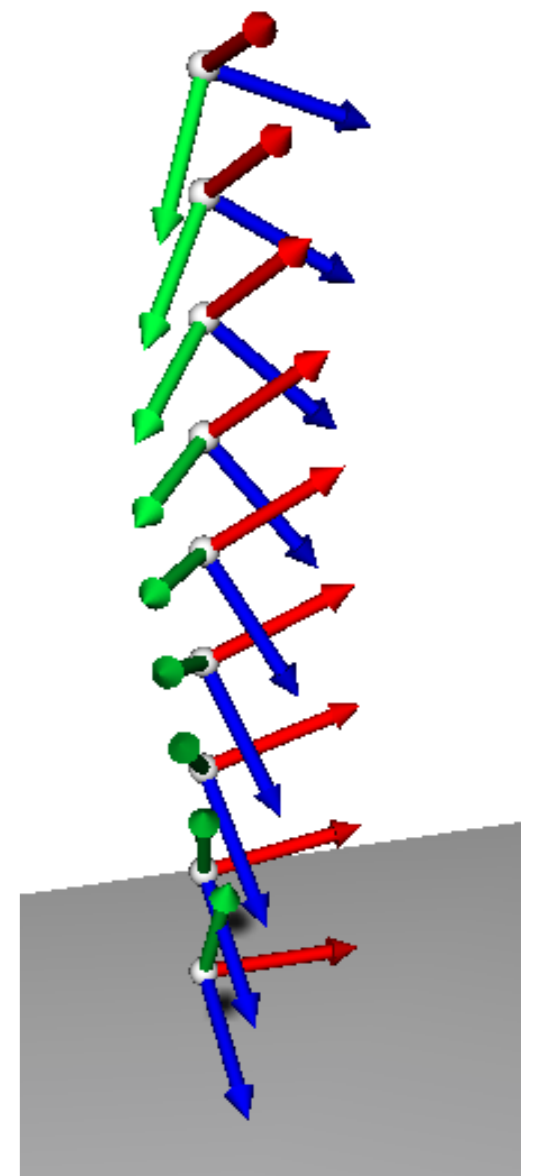
$$q(t) = \frac{\sum_j \alpha_j q_j}{\|\sum_j \alpha_j q_j\|}$$

When blending multiple quaternions  $q_j$  with weights  $\alpha_j$

Rem.

When interpolating b/w rotations and positions:

Use quaternion with rotation, componentwise-interpolation on position



# Care with quaternion negation

$+q$  and  $-q$  correspond to the same rotation ( $n \rightarrow -n, \theta \rightarrow 2\pi - \theta$ )

*Warning*  $-q$  **does not** corresponds to the rotation matrix  $-R$ .

But to a **different path** when interpolated in the 4D quaternion space.

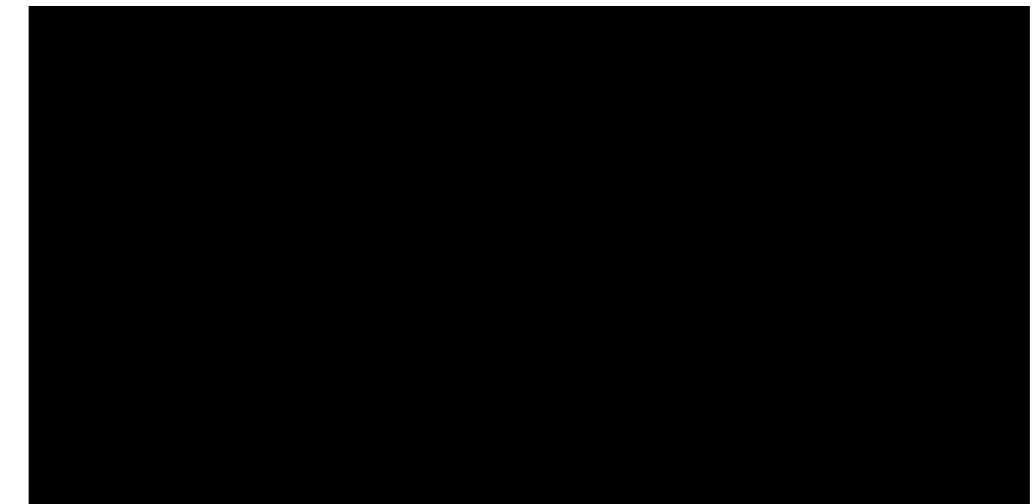
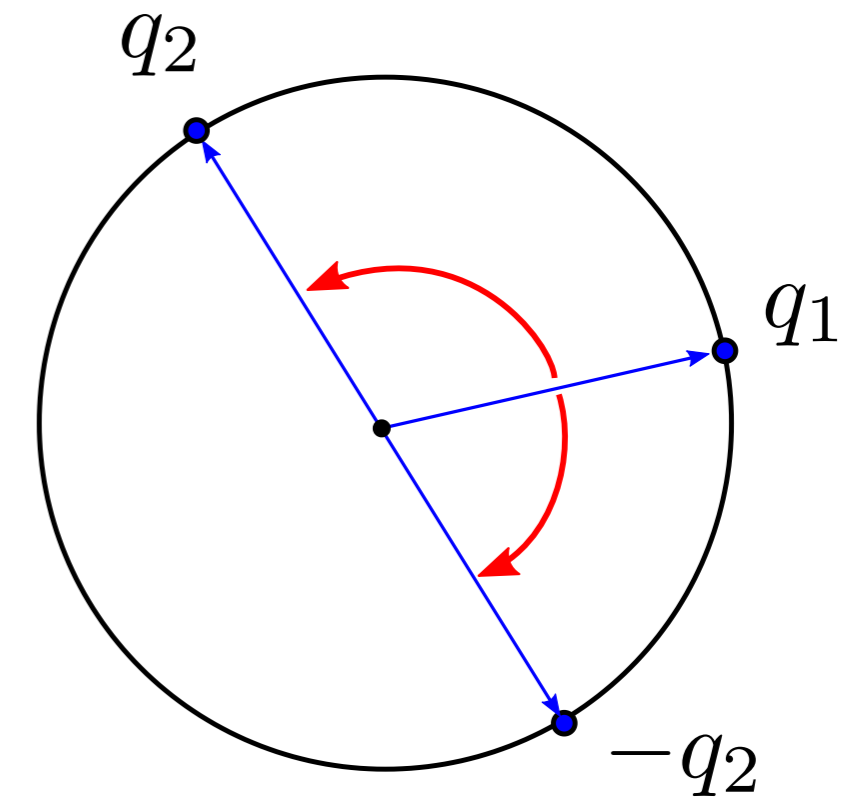
$\Rightarrow$  path  $q_1 \rightarrow -q_2$  is shorter than  $q_1 \rightarrow q_2$  when  $q_1 \cdot q_2 < 0$ .

In practice we check for the shorter path before applying SLERP.

*Algorithm*

```
if( dot(q1,q2)<0 )  
    q2 = -q2
```

```
q(t) = SLERP(q1,q2,t)
```





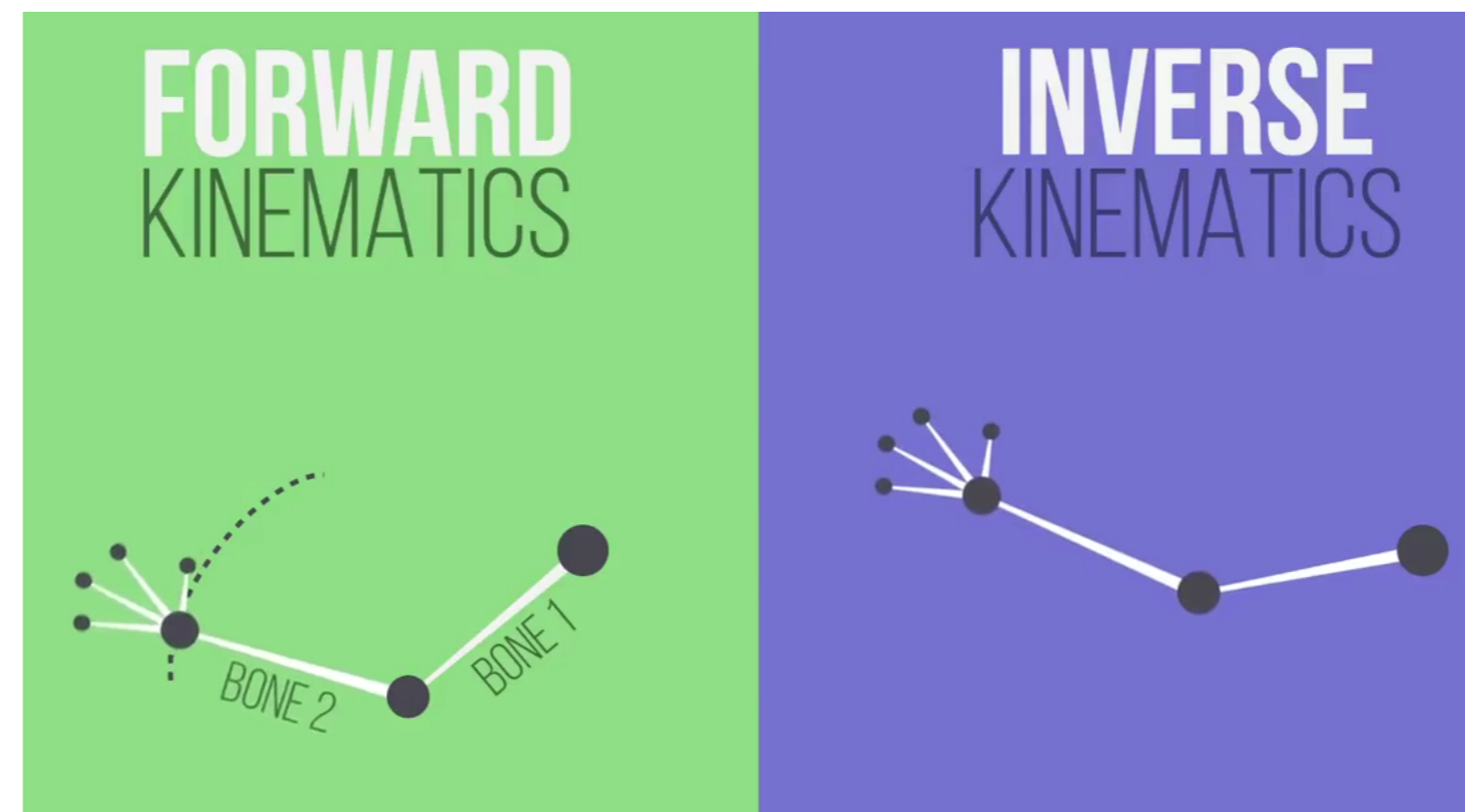
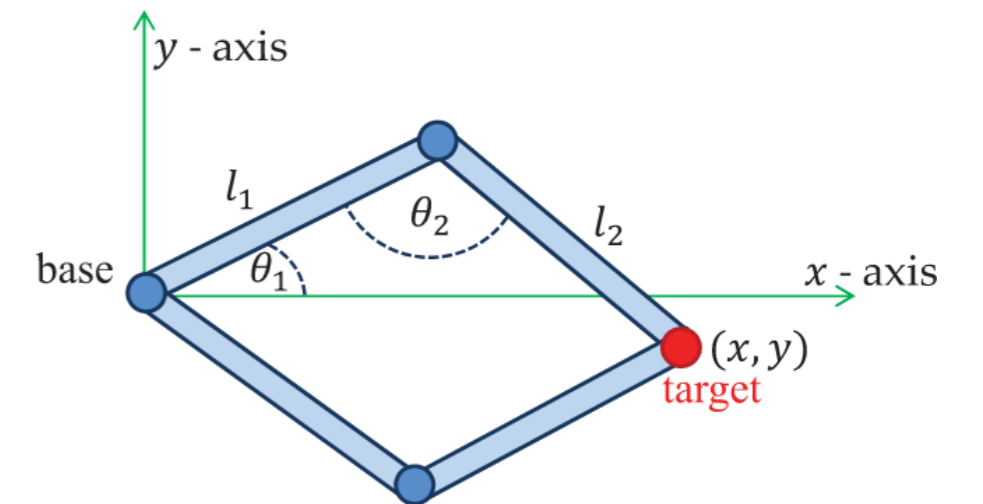
# Inverse Kinematics

## IK: Inverse Kinematics

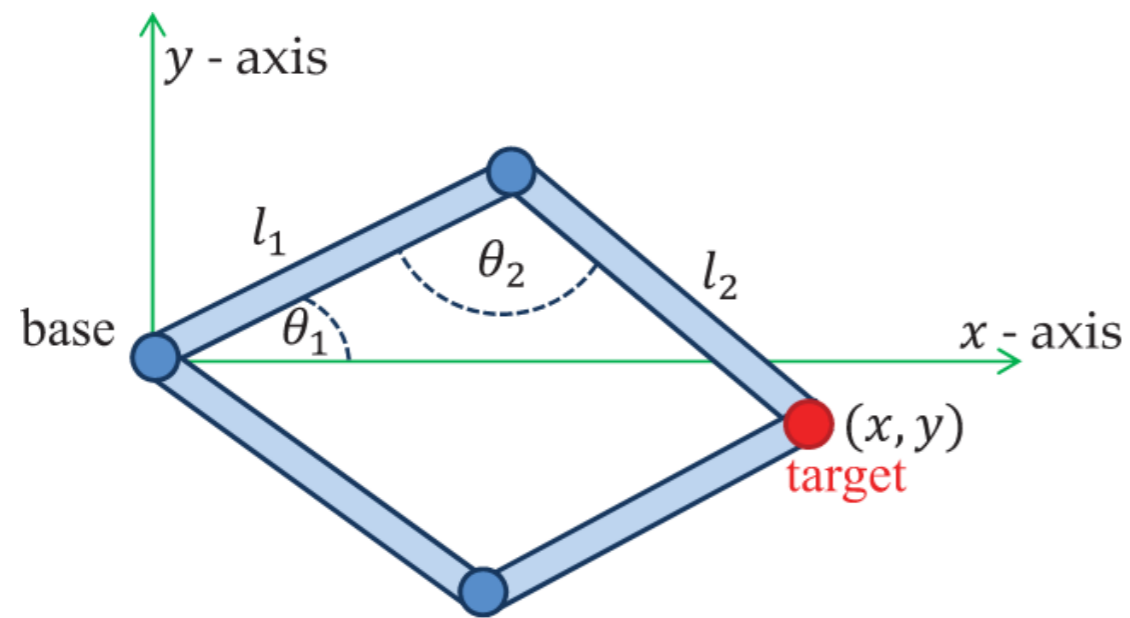
- Describe position (/and orientation) of *end-effectors* (contact, walking, etc)
- Compute joint angles reaching this position

$$p_k = p_0 + \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} l_i R_i u_i$$

$R_i$  can be expressed with various rotation parameters (Matrices, Euler angles, axis/angle, quaternions, etc)



# IK Example with two bones



[ *Inverse Kinematics Techniques in Computer Graphics: A Survey.* A. Aristidou et al. STAR EG. 2017. ]

In general the general case  $p_k = f(\theta_i)$

- Look for  $\theta_i = f^{-1}(p_k)$
- $f$  is a non linear function
- There may exist multiple solutions (or none)
- Solutions may exhibit discontinuities
- Closed form solutions are not available

Two solutions defined by

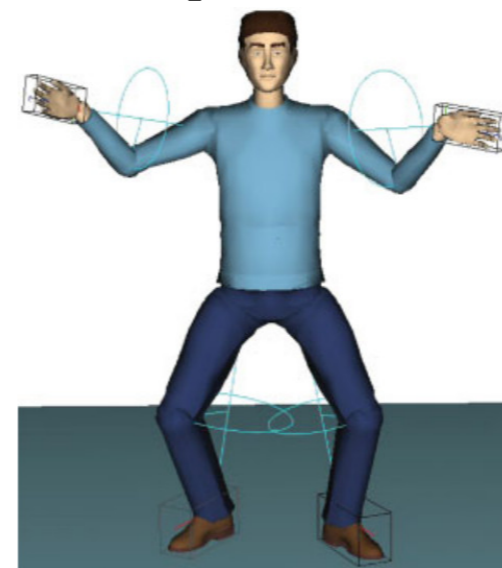
$$\cos(\theta_1) = \frac{l_1^2 + x^2 + y^2 - l_2^2}{2l_1 \sqrt{x^2 + y^2}}$$

$$\cos(\theta_2) = \frac{l_1^2 + l_2^2 - (x^2 + y^2)}{2l_1 l_2}$$

Some attempts for explicit solutions in specific cases

[ *Real-Time Inverse Kinematics Techniques for Anthropomorphic Limbs.* D. Tolani et al. *Graphical Models*, 2000. ]

[ *Analytical inverse kinematics with body posture control.* M. Kallmann. *Comp. Anim. & Virt. Worlds*, 2008 ]



# IK: Numerical methods

Numerical inversion of  $p = f(\theta)$ ,  $\theta = (\theta_0, \dots, \theta_{N-1})$ .

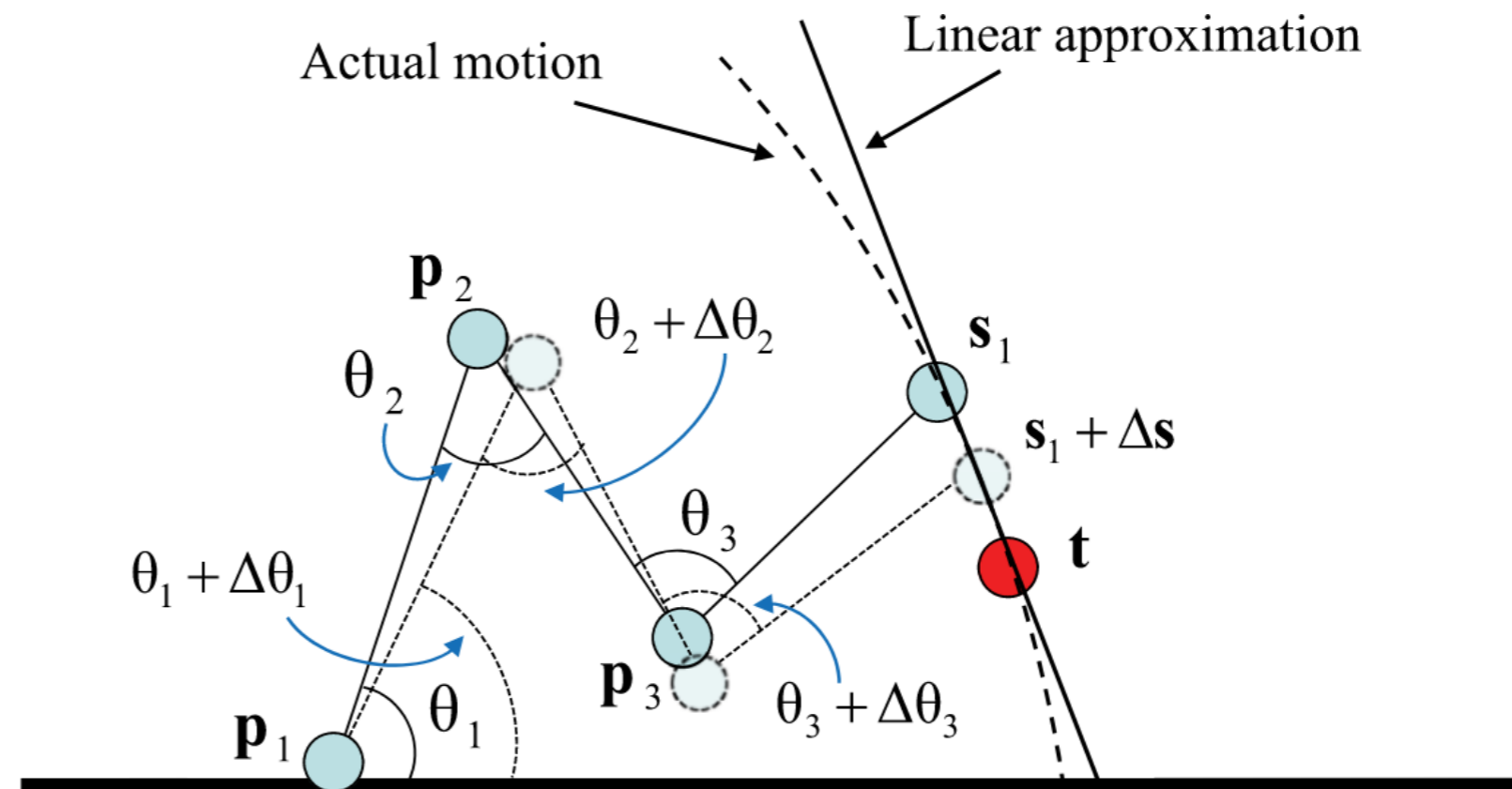
Consider small step size  $p \rightarrow p + \Delta p$

$$\Delta p \simeq \underbrace{\left( \frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \right)}_J \Delta \theta$$

$J$  - Jacobian matrix.

→ Not square ( $3 \times N$ ), not invertible.

# Unknown > # constraints



# IK: Numerical methods

Several possible approaches to solve  $\mathbf{J} \Delta\theta = \Delta p$

- Pseudo Inverse

$$\Delta\theta = \mathbf{J}^+ \Delta p, \text{ with } \mathbf{J}\mathbf{J}^+ = \mathbf{I}$$

$$\mathbf{J}^+ = \mathbf{J}^T (\mathbf{J}\mathbf{J}^T)^{-1}$$

- Can also be computed using SVD:  $\mathbf{J}^+ = \mathbf{V}\Sigma^+ \mathbf{U}^T$

$$\Sigma_{ii}^+ = \sigma_i, \Sigma_{ii}^+ = 1/\sigma_i \text{ if } \sigma_i \neq 0, 0 \text{ otherwise.}$$

- Adding damping to compensate for singularities

$$\Delta\theta = \mathbf{J}^T (\mathbf{J}\mathbf{J}^T + \lambda^2 \mathbf{I})^{-1} \Delta p$$

- Using Newton's methods

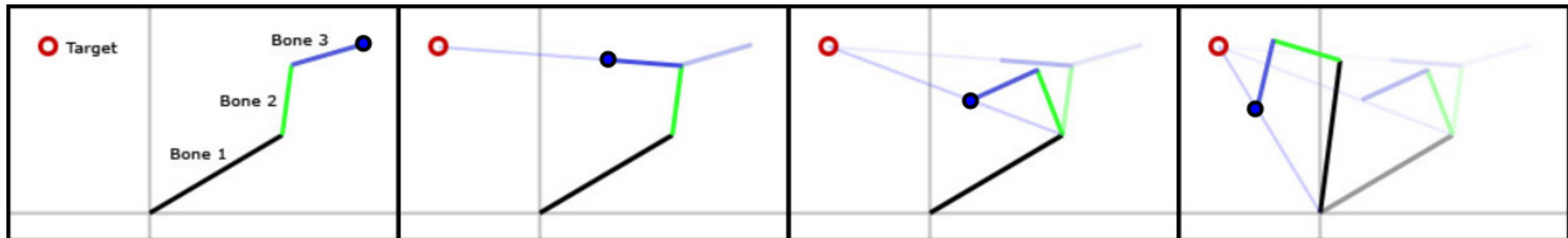
[ *Inverse Kinematics Techniques in Computer Graphics: A Survey*. A. Aristidou. STAR EG 2017 ]

# IK: Heuristic approach

## Cyclic Coordinates Descent (CCD)

- Iteratively rotates joint  $j^N \rightarrow j^{i-1} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow j^1$  for the extremity (end effector) to be as close as possible from the target.
  - = *End-effector aligned with the segment (joint, target)*
- Restart until convergence

[*Making Kine More Flexible. Jeff Lander. Game Dev, 1998.*]



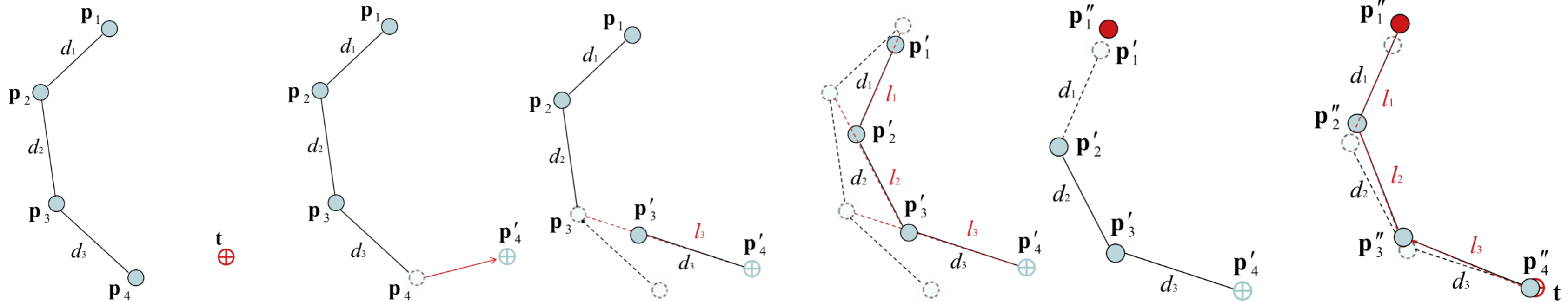
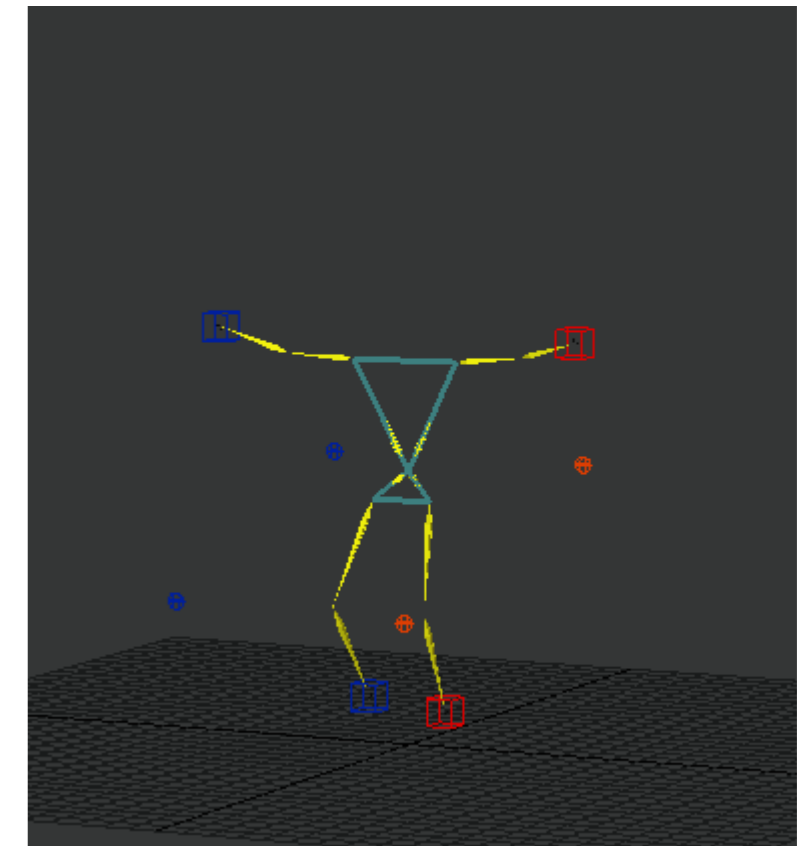
# IK: Heuristic approach

## Fabrik

Iterate between

- Forward direction: Match the end-effector target  
*propagate changes toward previous position to match bones' length.*
- Backward direction: Match the starting position  
*propagate changes toward following positions to match bones' length.*

[ A fast iterative solver for the Inverse Kinematics problem. A. Aristidou. Graphical Models 2011. ]



# Inverse Kinematics

## Example

# Synthesizing and controlling skeleton animation



# Blending skeleton animation

Pre-store several looping animation

Blend between animation for transition

`three.js - Skeletal Animation Blending (model from realitymeltdown.com)`

`camera orbit/zoom/pan with left/middle/right mouse button`

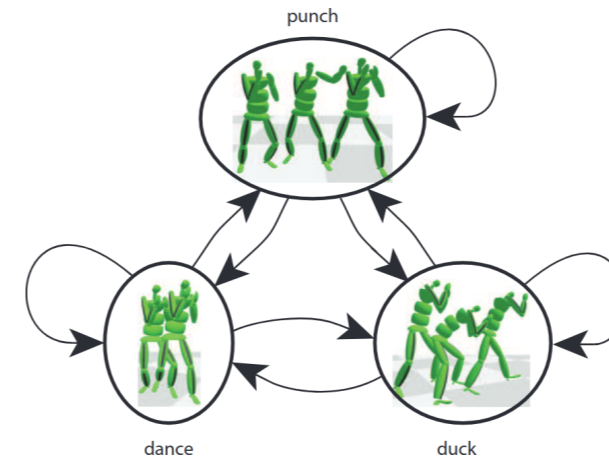
`Note: crossfades are possible with blend weights being set to (1,0,0), (0,1,0) or (0,0,1)`

`Your graphics card does not seem to support WebGL.`

`Find out how to get it here.`

# Motion graphs

Also called *Move Trees* (highly used in video games)



- Pre-stores multiple precomputed animation

*Manually design, motion capture, etc*

- Find optimal transitions between different motions

- [Mizuguchi et al., *Data driven motion transitions for interactive games*, EG short paper, 2001]

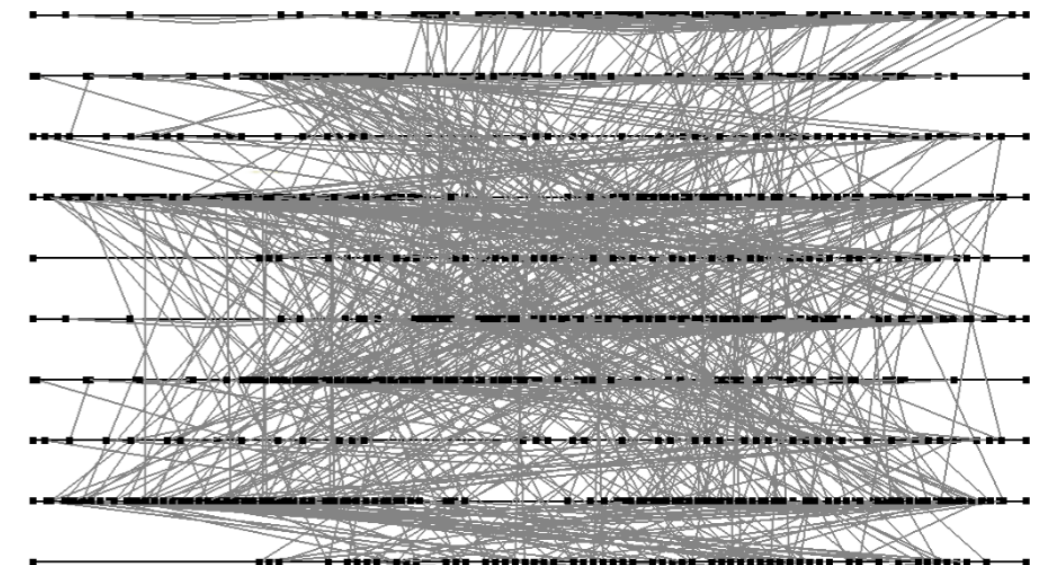
- [Kovar et al., *Motion Graphs*, ACM SIGGRAPH 2002]

- [Heck and Gleicher, *Parametric Motion Graphs*, ACM SIGGRAPH 2007]

- More recent: Use of "Motion Matching"

Predict dynamically best possible animation frame  
based on current and desired future state.

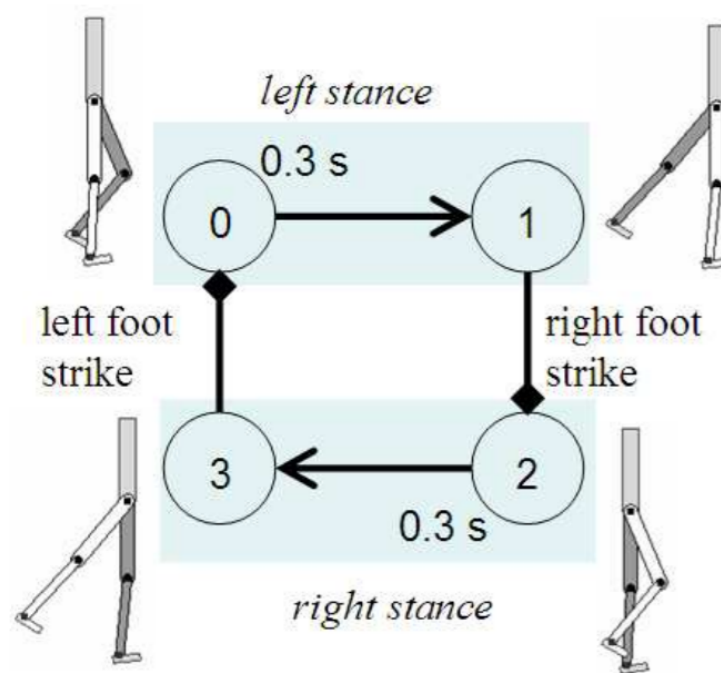
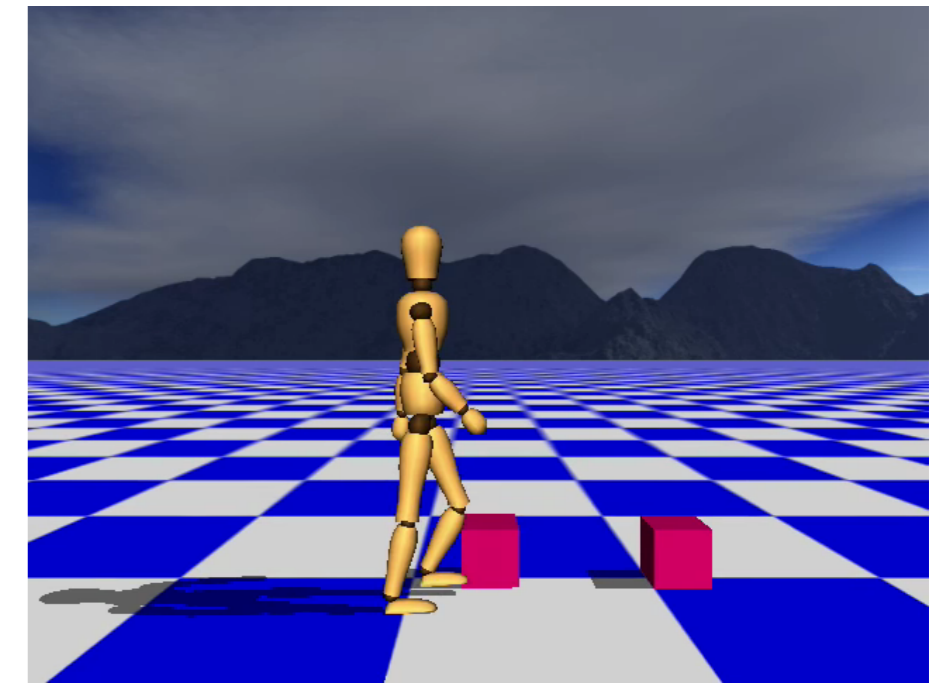
[Simon Clavet, *Motion Matching and The Road to Next-Gen Animation*, GDC 2016]



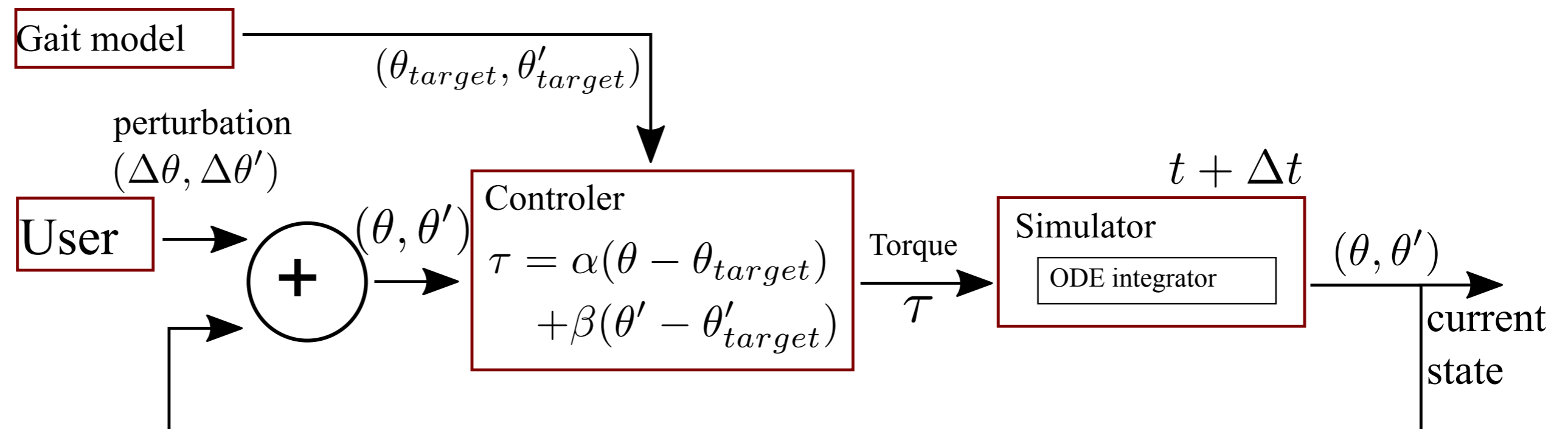
# Controllers

Mix between predefined motions and physics → allow user perturbations

- 1 - Define target  $(\theta_{target}(t), \theta'_{target}(t))$   
*pre-defined finite state machine (Gait model)*
- 2 - Add user perturbation to the current state
- 3 - Use proportional derivative controllers to compute joint torque  $\tau$
- 4 - Integrate torque using rigid body simulator
- 5 - Iterate



Gait model



[ M. Raibert and J. Hodgins. *Animation of Dynamic Legged Locomotion*, ACM SIGGRAPH 2001 ]

[ K. Yin et al., *SIMBICON: Simple Biped Locomotion Control*, ACM SIGGRAPH 2007 ]

# Skin deformation

# Skeleton based deformation - Skinning

*Objective:* Deform articulated character

*Idea:* Use skeleton to control limbs

Articulations as rotations

## Animation Skeleton

Set of frames  $M_i$ : position, orientation

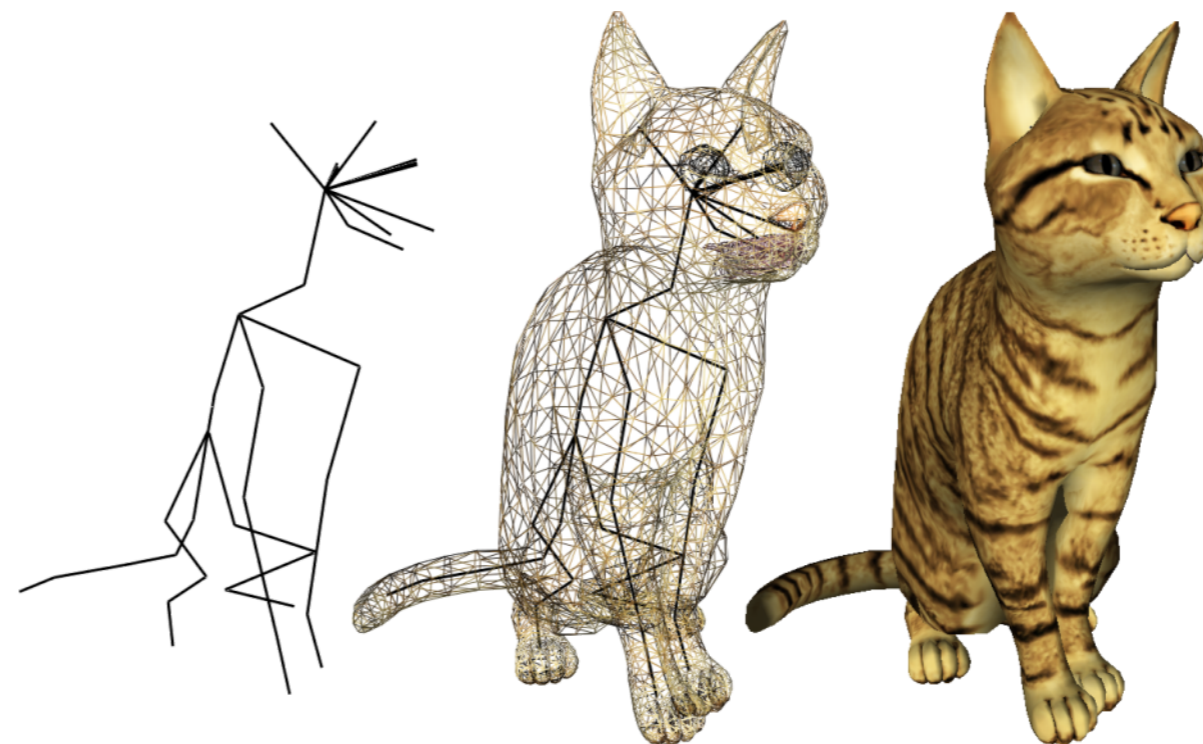
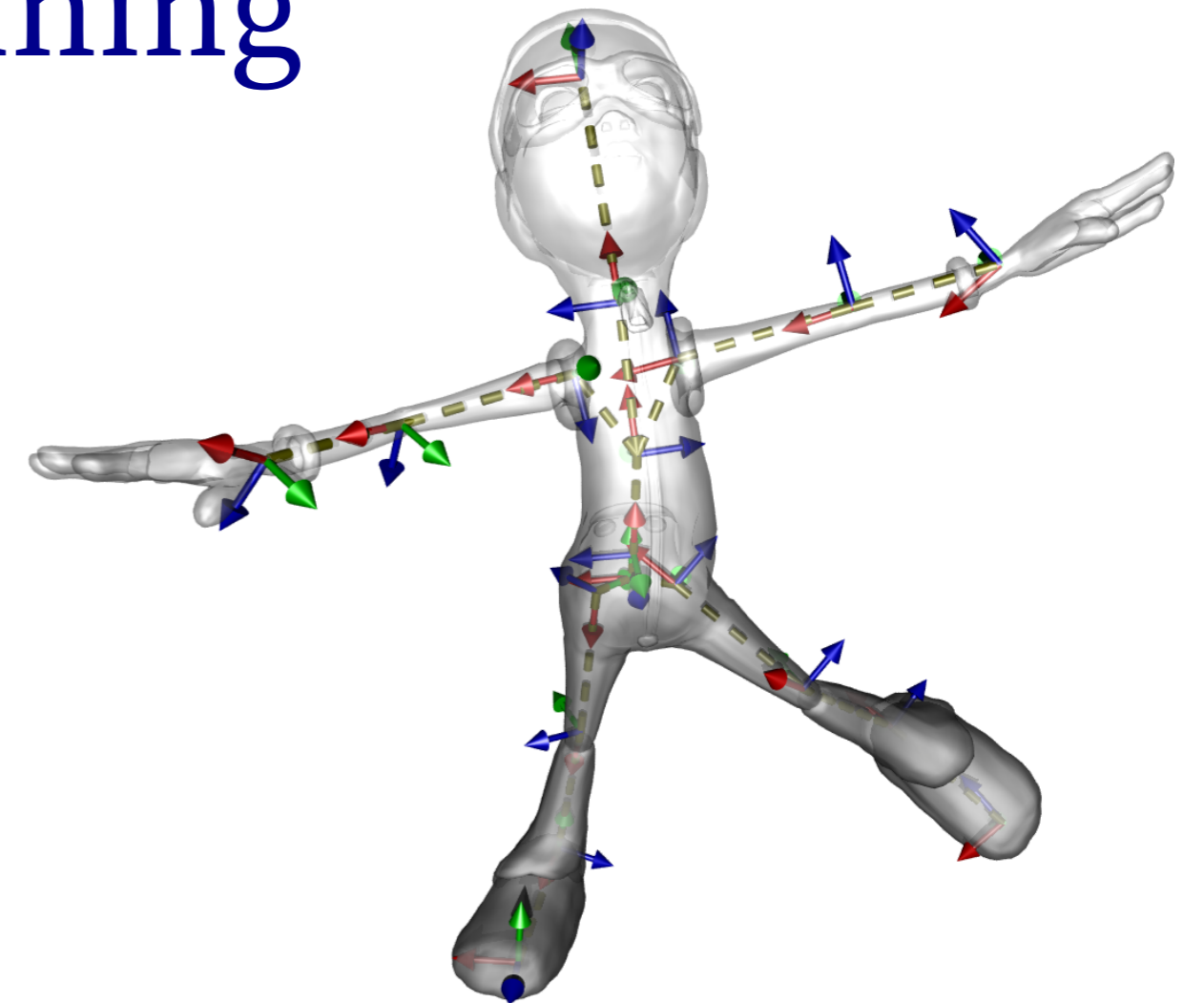
*Describe non-rigid parts of the character (dof)*

## Terminology

**Joint** = A frame  $M_i$

**Bone** = Segment between two joints

*Note: Animation skeleton  $\neq$  Anatomical skeleton*



# Rigid Skinning

Attach rigidly subset of vertices to specific bones, described by its root joint/frame.

*Vertices are following rigid deformation of their associated frame.*

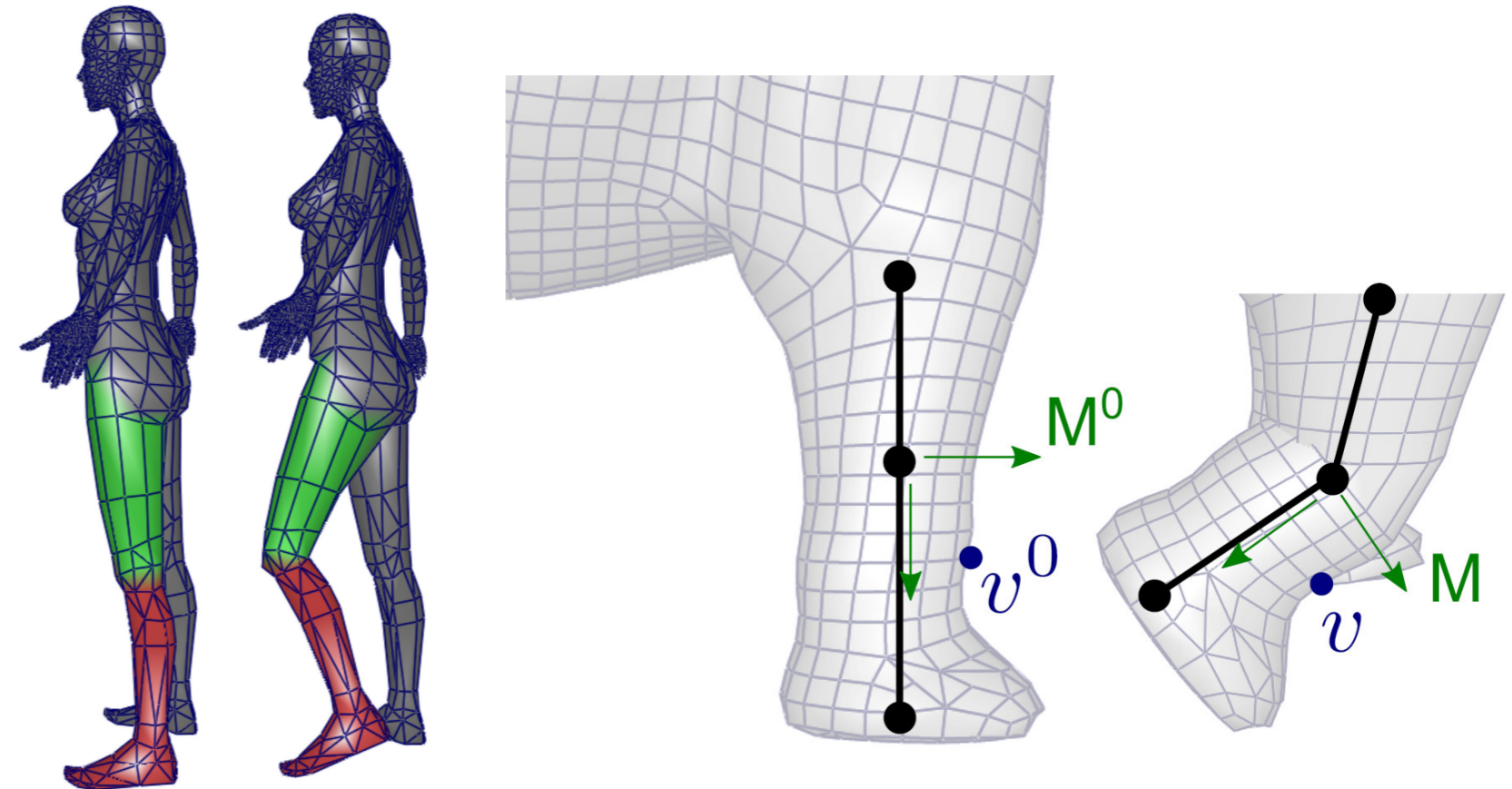
## Deformation formulation

Consider, at rest pose/initial state/Bind pose

- A frame  $M^0$
- A vertex  $v^0$  attached to this frame

After deformation

- New frame  $M$
- New vertex position  $v$



**Question:** What are the new coordinates  $v$  w/r  $M$ ,  $M^0$ ,  $v^0$  ?

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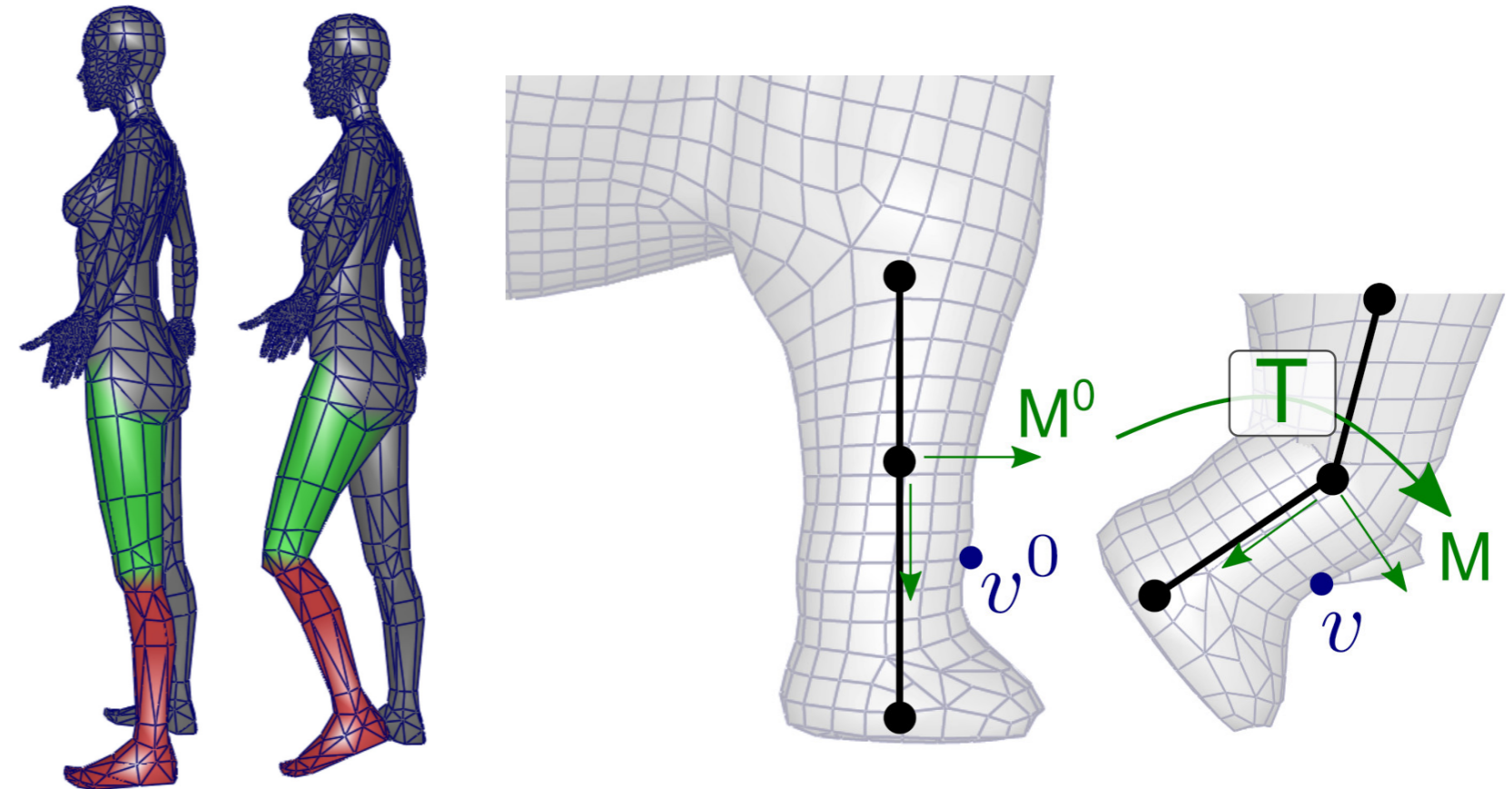
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After deformation

- New frame  $M$
- New vertex position  $v$



**Question:** What are the new coordinates  $v$  w/r  $M$ ,  $M^0$ ,  $v^0$  ?

$v^0$  and  $v$  have similar local coordinates w/r to  $M^0$  and  $M$

$$\Rightarrow M^{-1}v = (M^0)^{-1}v_0$$

$$\Rightarrow v = M (M^0)^{-1}v_0 = T v_0$$

# Rigid Skinning

- (+) Skeleton is easy to build
- (+) Skeleton interaction is intuitive to model rigid articulation
- (-) Discontinuities/Inter-penetrations



*Idea of smooth skinning: Blend discontinuous transformation around articulation*

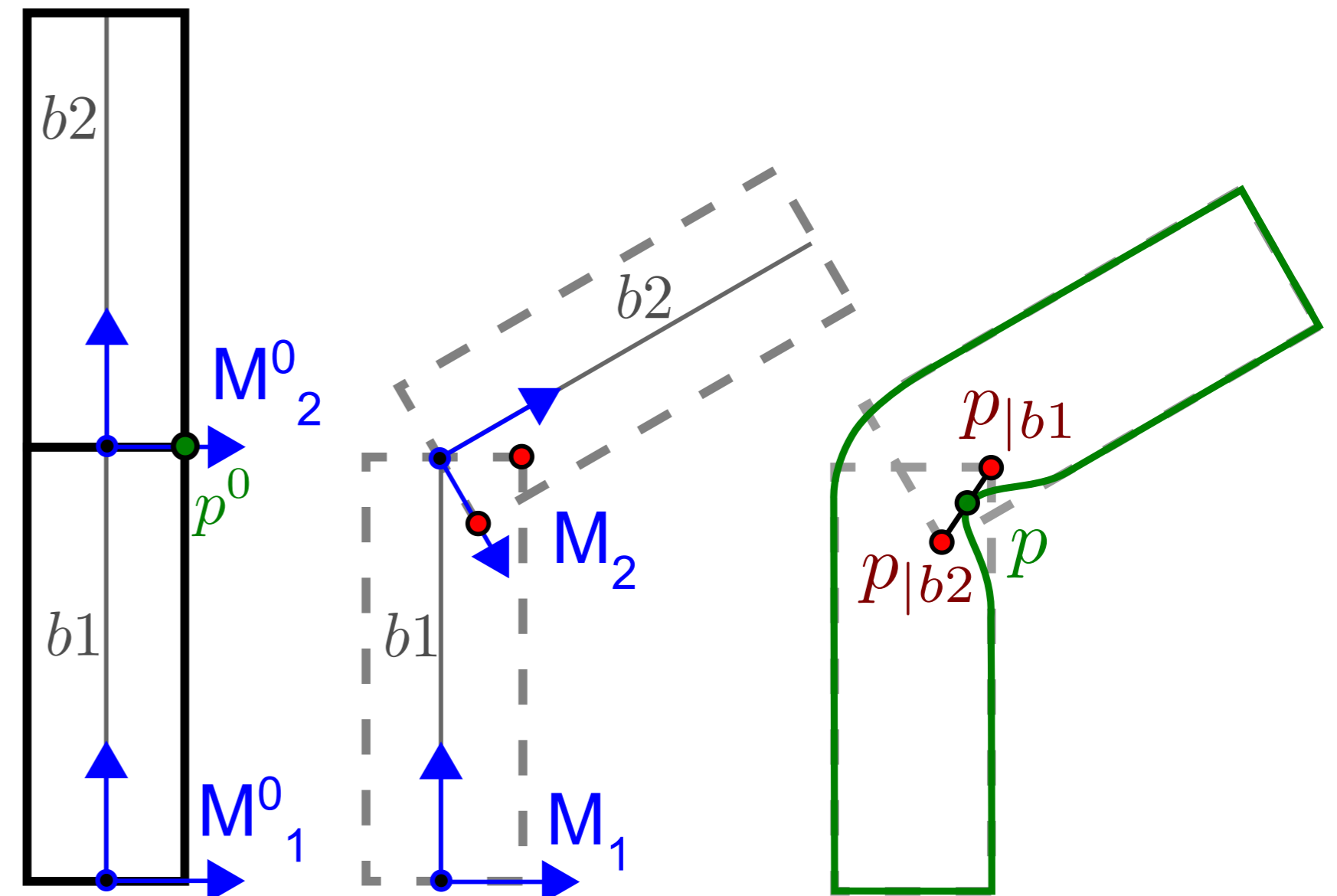


# Smooth skinning

**Linear Blend Skinning (LBS):** Linear interpolation of positions between associated frames

Example at middle vertex position of a bending cylinder

$$p = 0.5 p|_{b1} + 0.5 p|_{b2}$$
$$p = 0.5 \underbrace{M_1 (M_1^0)^{-1}}_{T_1} p^0 + 0.5 \underbrace{M_2 (M_2^0)^{-1}}_{T_2} p^0$$
$$p = (0.5 T_1 + 0.5 T_2) p^0$$



# Smooth skinning

**Linear Blend Skinning (LBS):** Linear interpolation of positions between associated frames

Example at middle vertex position of a bending cylinder

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$$p = (0.5 T_1 + 0.5 T_2) p^0$$

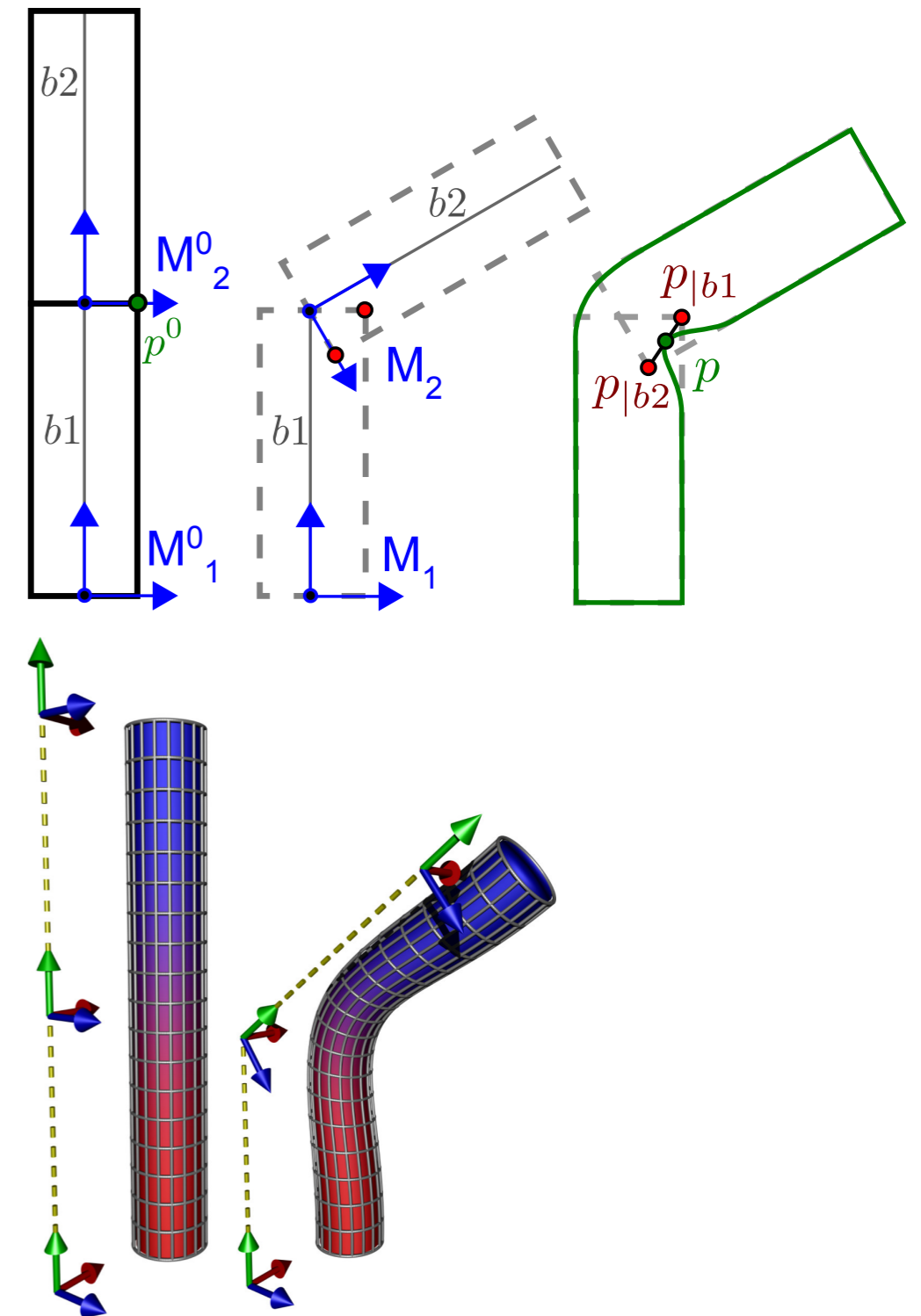
Can be generalized to arbitrary interpolation between two bones

$$p = \alpha p_{|b_1} + (1 - \alpha) p_{|b_2} = (\alpha T_1 + (1 - \alpha) T_2) p^0$$

$\alpha$ : skinning weights

Can be generalized to any number of bones

$$p = \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \alpha_j p_{|b_j} = \left( \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \alpha_j T_j \right) p^0, \quad \sum_j \alpha_j = 1$$

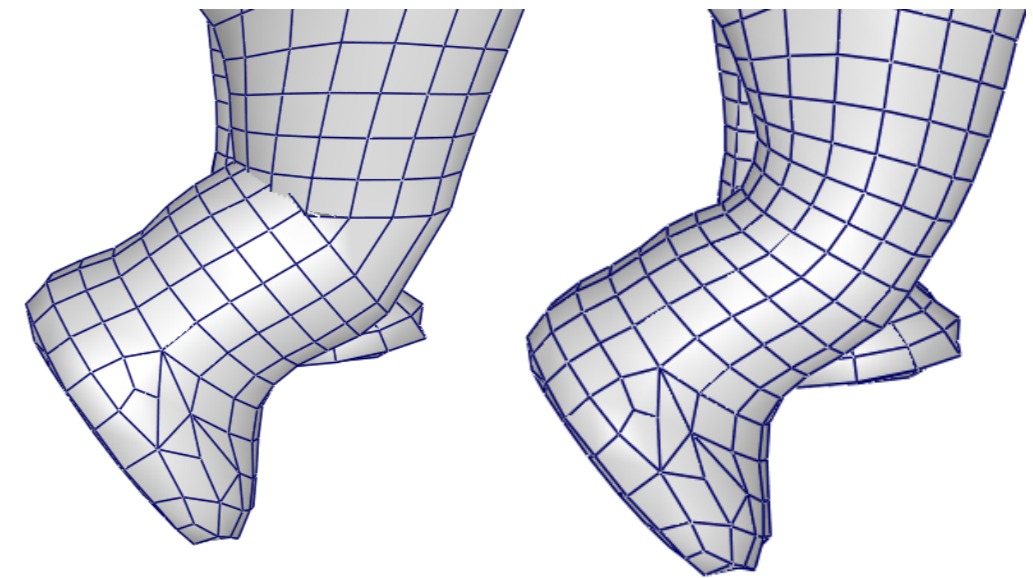
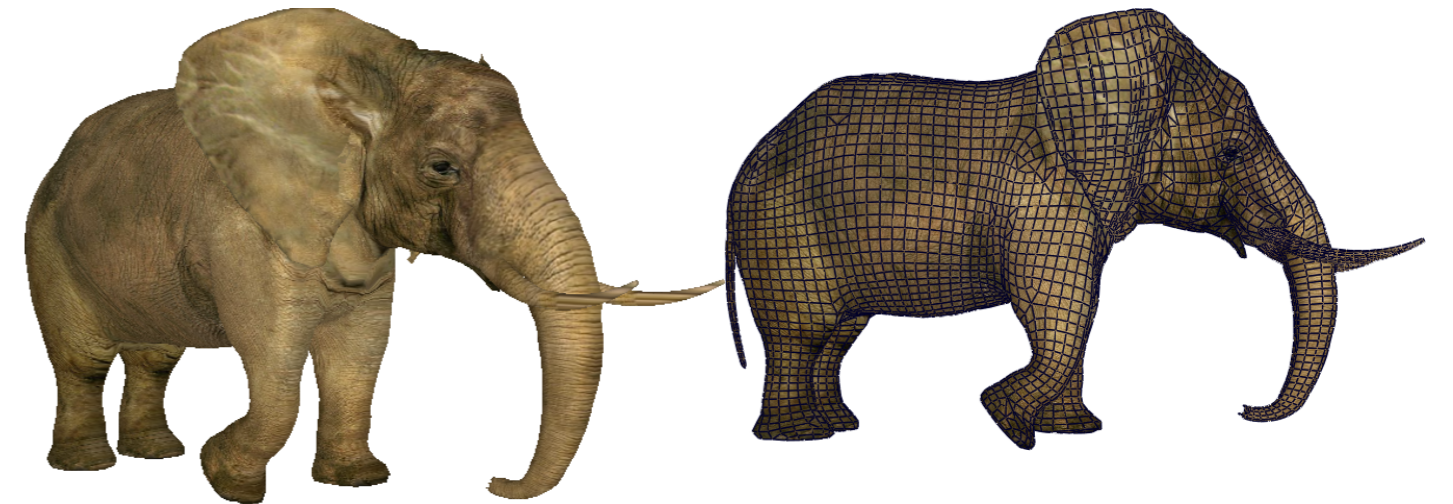


# Smooth skinning - Summary

$$p_i = \left( \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \alpha_{ij} \mathbf{T}_j \right) p_i^0 = \left( \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \alpha_{ij} \mathbf{M}_j (\mathbf{M}_j^0)^{-1} \right) p_i^0$$

$$\forall j, \alpha_{ij} \in [0, 1], \text{ and } \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} \alpha_{ij} = 1$$

$\mathbf{M}_j^0$ : Bind Pose



The current **standard** for almost all articulated character deformations

- Intuitive deformation
- Controlable shape (*through weights*)
- Fast to compute (GPU compatible)

*matrix average, multiplication matrix-vector*

⇒ Heavily used in Animation cinema & Video Game

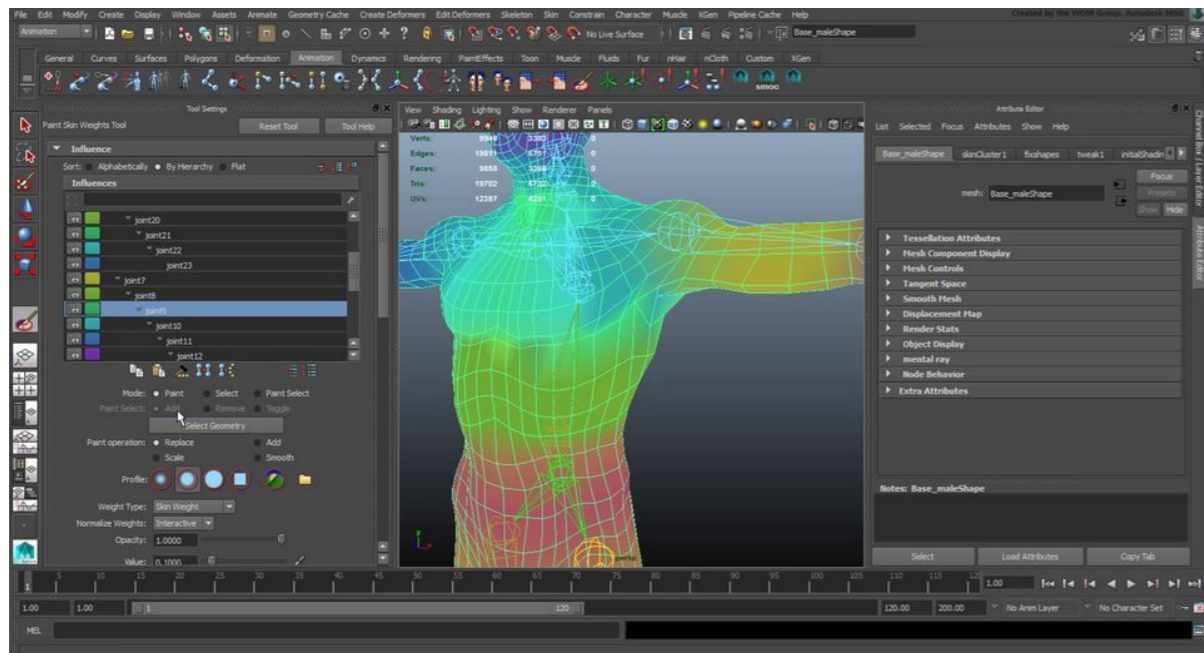
[Joint-Dependent Local Deformations for Hand Animation and Object Grasping. Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann, Rochard Laperrière, Daniel Thalmann. Graphics Interface, 1988]

[Over My Dead, Polygonal Body. Jeff Lander. Game Developer Magazine, 1998]

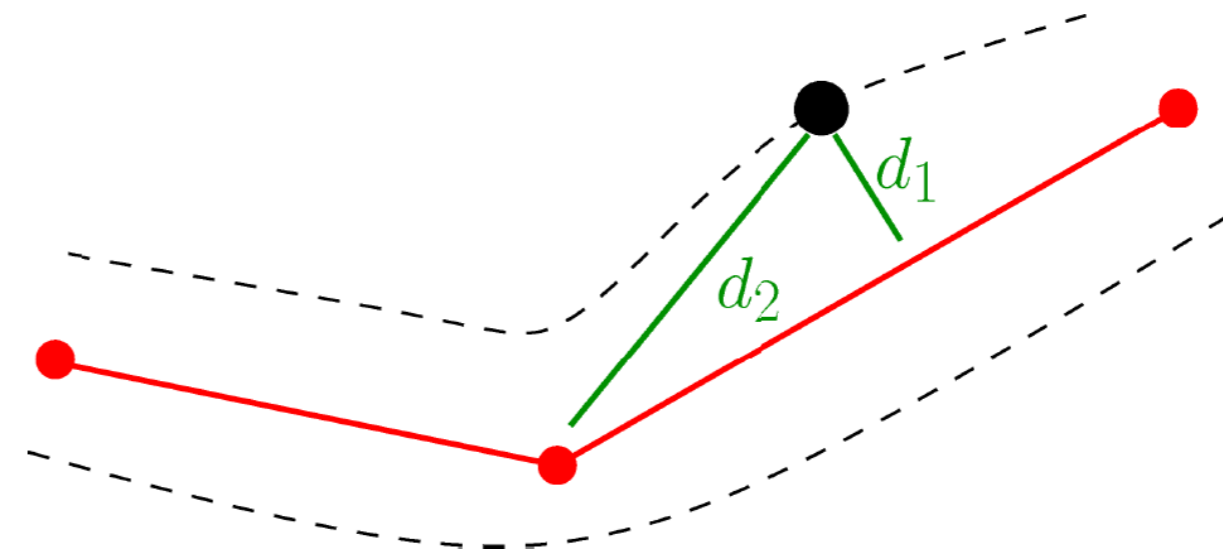
# Skinning weights

How to generate skinning weights ?

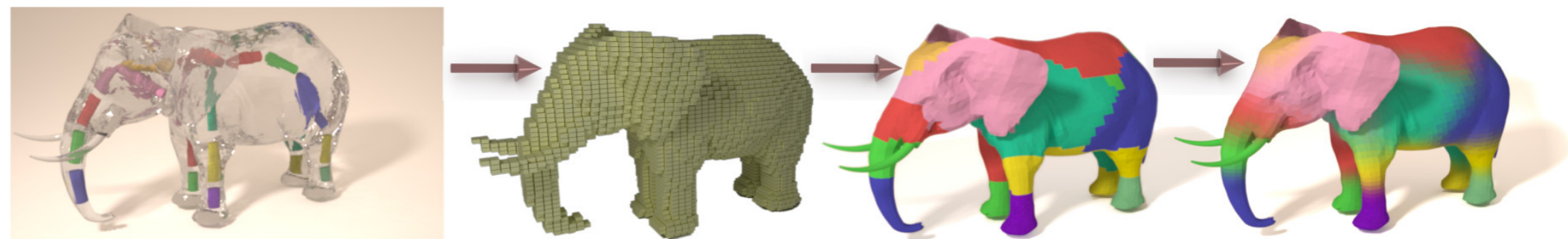
- Paint them manually
- Automatic computation



ex. Using cartesian distances:  $\alpha_1 = d_1^{-1} / (d_1^{-1} + d_2^{-1})$



Or using diffusion on the volume/surface



**Rigging:** Associating bones and skinning weights (or any animation handle) to mesh parts

# Skinning: File Format

Unfortunately few standard open format to store skinning animation data

Main open format: Collada (XML), glTF (JSON)

Common software related formats: FBX, Blend, 3DS, ...

```
krissie Maya 7.0 | ColladaMaya v2.04 | FCollada v1.14 Collada Maya Export Options:  
bakeTransforms=0;exportPolygonMeshes=1;bakeLighting=0;isSampling=0;  
curveConstrainSampling=0;exportCameraAsLookat=0; exportLights=0;exportCameras=1;exportJointsAndSkin=1;  
exportAnimations=1;exportTriangles=0;exportInvisibleNodes=0;  
exportNormals=1;exportTexCoords=1;exportVertexColors=0;exportTangents=0;  
exportTexTangents=0;exportConstraints=0;exportPhysics=0;exportXRefs=0;  
dereferenceXRefs=0;cameraXFov=0;cameraYFov=1 file:///E:/maya_projets/girafe_skin/scenes/giranitex_33_bak3.ma  
2008-04-16T21:56:42Z 2008-04-16T21:56:42Z Y_UP 0.040000 0.080000 0.120000 0.160000 0.200000 0.240000 0.280000  
0.320000 0.360000 0.400000 0.440000 0.480000 0.520000 0.560000 0.600000 0.640000 0.680000 0.720000 0.760000  
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1.760000 1.800000 1.840000 1.880000 1.920000 1.960000 2.000000 2.040000 2.080000 2.120000 2.160000 2.200000  
2.240000 2.280000 2.320000 2.360000 2.400000 2.440000 2.480000 2.520000 2.560000 2.600000 2.640000 2.680000  
2.720000 2.760000 2.800000 2.840000 2.880000 2.920000 2.960000 3.000000 3.040000 3.080000 3.120000 3.160000  
3.200000 3.240000 3.280000 3.320000 3.360000 3.400000 3.440000 3.480000 3.520000 3.560000 3.600000 3.640000  
3.680000 3.720000 3.760000 3.800000 3.840000 3.880000 3.920000 3.960000 4.000000 4.040000 4.080000 4.120000  
4.160000 4.200000 4.240000 4.280000 4.320000 4.360000 4.400000 4.440000 4.480000 4.520000 4.560000 4.600000  
4.640000 4.680000 4.720000 4.760000 4.800000 4.840000 4.880000 4.920000 4.960000 5.000000 5.040000 5.080000  
5.120000 5.160000 5.200000 5.240000 5.280000 5.320000 5.360000 5.400000 5.440000 5.480000 5.520000 5.560000  
5.600000 5.640000 5.680000 5.720000 5.760000 5.800000 5.840000 5.880000 5.920000 5.960000 6.000000 6.040000  
6.080000 6.120000 6.160000 6.200000 6.240000 6.280000 6.320000 6.360000 6.400000 6.440000 6.480000 6.520000  
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7.040000 7.080000 7.120000 7.160000 7.200000 7.240000 7.280000 7.320000 7.360000 7.400000 7.440000 7.480000  
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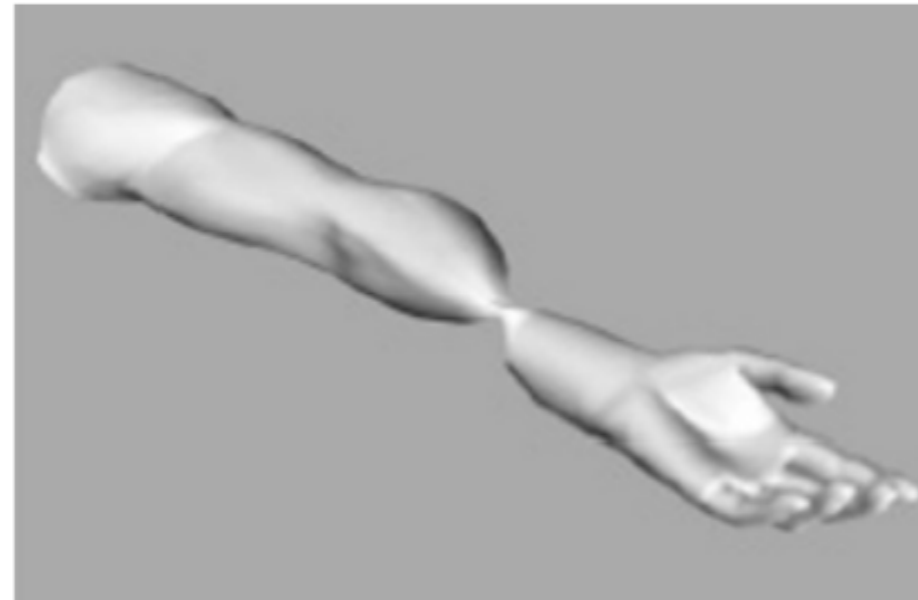
*collada.dae*

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```

*.json*

# Linear Blend Skinning - Limitations

- Non-trivial rigging settings
- Artifacts for large rotations: Candy wrapper, Collapsing elbow

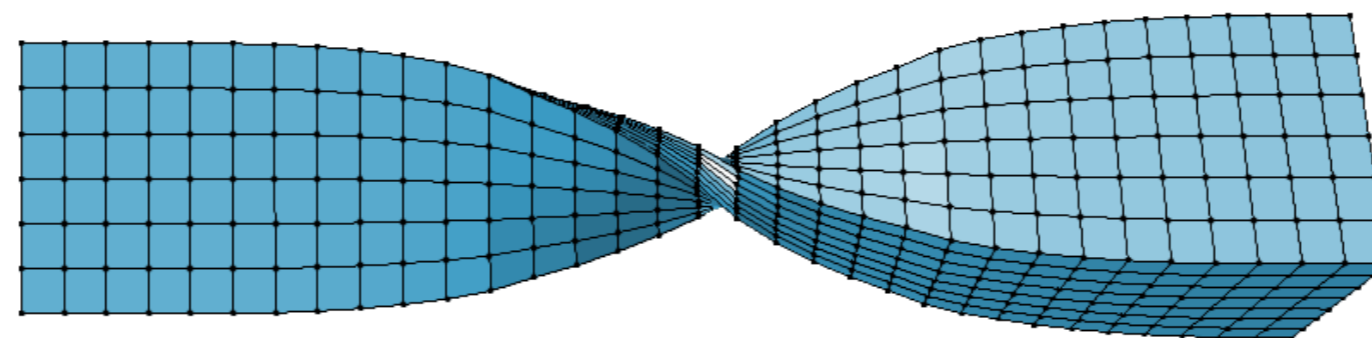


Candy wrapper



Collapsing elbow

*Linear blending between rigid transformation matrices*



# Skinning improvement

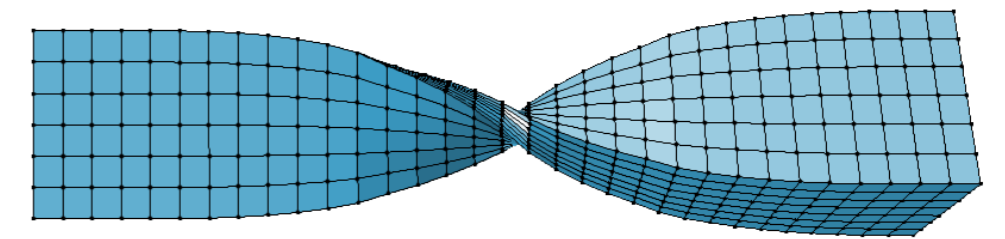
*Avoid linear blending b/w affine transform matrices*

First idea: Split rigid transformation matrices in

- rotation part: blend using quaternions (solve candy wrapper)
- translation part: blend linearly

But doesn't work for general deformation: Arbitrary center of rotation

Rotation and translations are treated separately



Possibility to compute an optimal center of rotation at each frame

*[Spherical Blend Skinning: A Real-time Deformation of Articulated Models. L. Kavan, J. Zara. I3D 2005.]*

# Skinning improvement: Dual Quaternion

Second idea: Use of **dual quaternion**

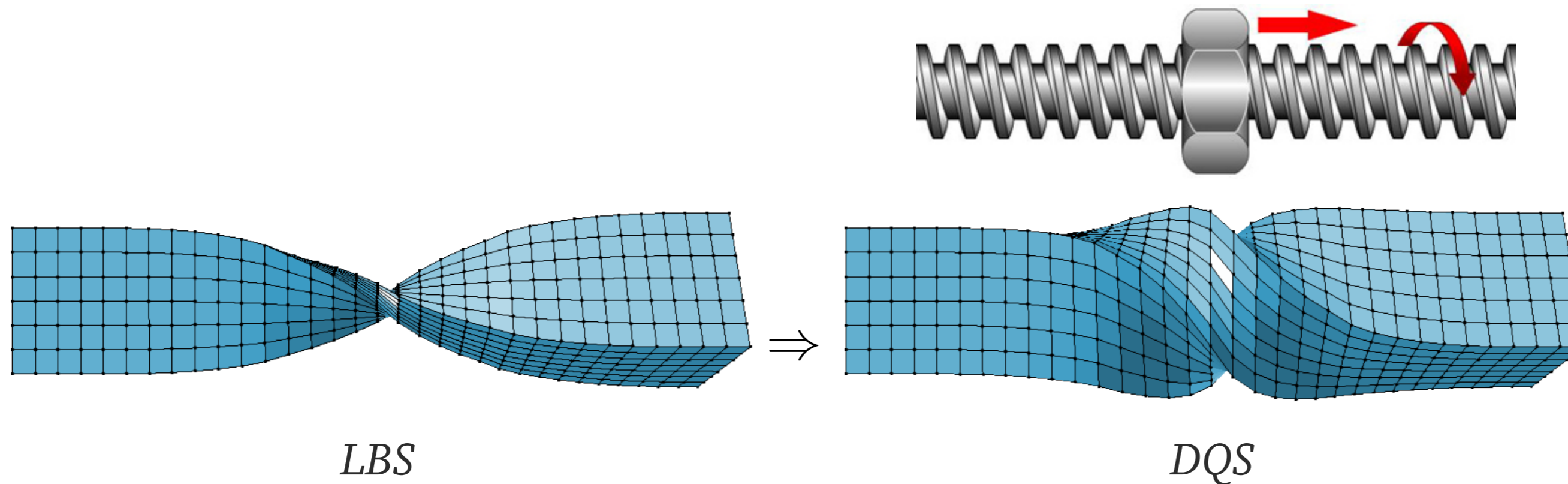
$$\hat{q} = q_0 + \epsilon q_\epsilon, \quad \epsilon \text{ dual element.}$$

Dual quaternion = generalization of quaternion to handle *rigid transformation*

*Rotation + translation*

Unit dual quaternion models rigid transformation as **screw motions**

= *rotation about an axis followed by a translation in the direction of this axis*





# Dual number and dual quaternion

Dual number  $a = a_0 + \epsilon a_\epsilon$

Dual element  $\epsilon$  is nilpotent :  $\epsilon \neq 0, \epsilon^2 = 0$

$\epsilon$  commonly used to model infinitesimal quantity (ex. automatic differentiation)

Dual quaternion  $\hat{q}$  = Generalization of quaternion to dual numbers

$$\hat{q} = q_0 + \epsilon q_\epsilon$$

-  $q_0$ : pure rotation component

-  $q_\epsilon$ : encodes translation component (dual part)

Given a unit quaternion  $q_0$ , and a translation  $t = (t_x, t_y, t_z)$ , the associated unit dual quaternion is

$$\hat{q} = q_0 + \frac{\epsilon}{2} q_t q_0 \quad q_t = (t_x, t_y, t_z, 0)$$

Unit dual quaternion ( $\|\hat{q}\| = 1$ ) describe the set of rigid transformation as screw motion.

# Axis-angle representation with dual quaternion

Similarly to quaternion: "angle/axis" correspondance

$$- \hat{q} = \cos(\hat{\theta}/2) + \hat{n} \sin(\hat{\theta}/2)$$

$$- \hat{\theta} = \theta_0 + \epsilon \theta_\epsilon$$

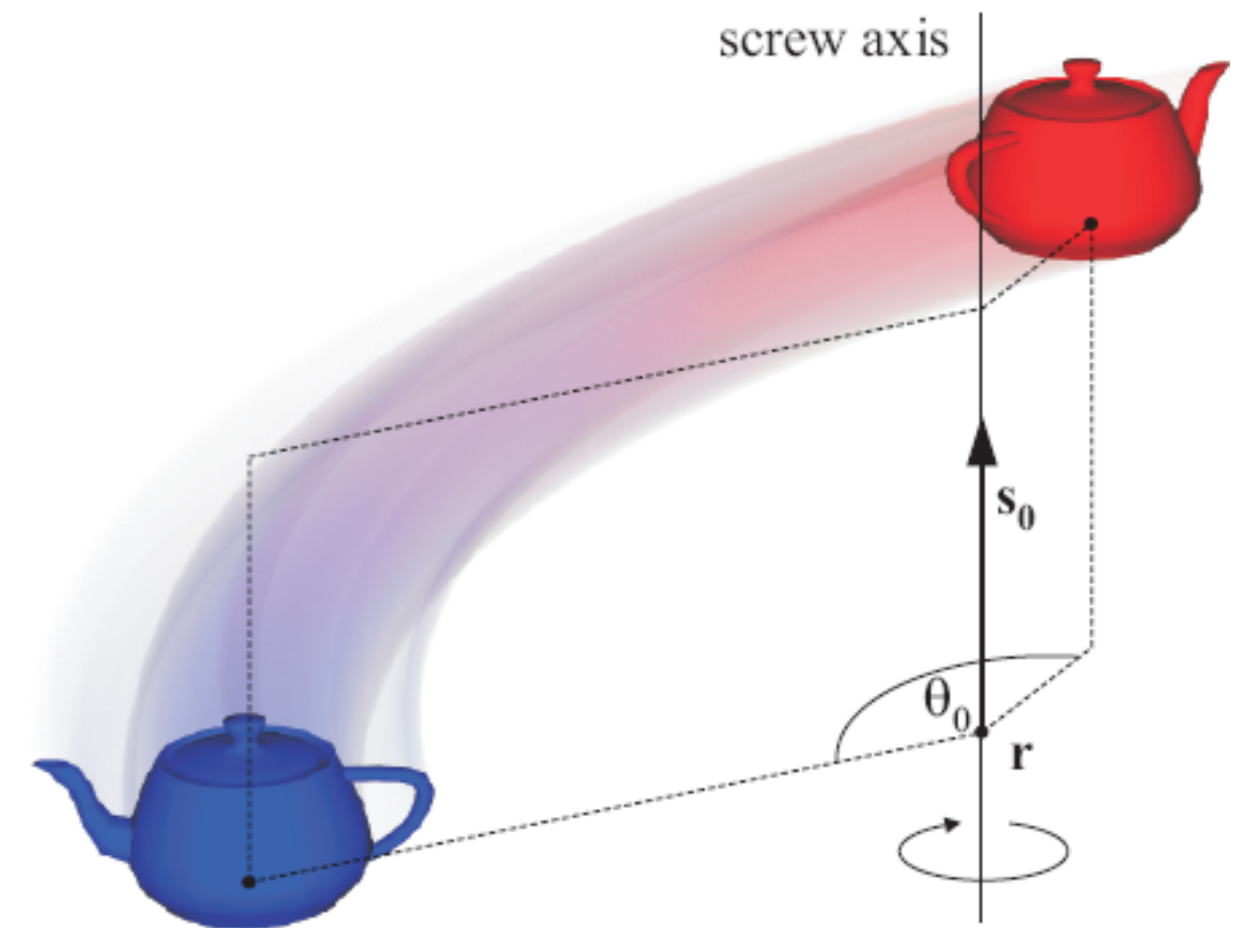
-  $\theta_0$ : angle of rotation

-  $\theta_\epsilon = t \cdot n_0$  : quantity of translation along  $n_0$

$$- \hat{n} = n_0 + \epsilon n_\epsilon$$

-  $n_0$ : axis of rotation

-  $n_\epsilon = \frac{1}{2} ((n_0 \times t) \cotan(\theta_0/2) + t) \times n_0$ : called the moment of the rotation axis.



# Convert dual quaternion to rotation/translation

Given a non-unit dual quaternion as input  $\hat{q}' = q'_0 + \epsilon q'_\epsilon$

How to compute the components of  $\hat{q}' / \|\hat{q}'\| = \hat{q} = q_0 + \epsilon q_\epsilon$ ?

$\Rightarrow$  Force the parameterization in rotation-translation:

$$\hat{q} = q_0 + \frac{\epsilon}{2} q_t q_0, \quad q_t = (t_x, t_y, t_z, 0)$$

First, normalize with the non dual component:  $\hat{q}' / \|q'_0\|$

$$\Rightarrow q_0 = q'_0 / \|q'_0\|, \quad q_\epsilon = q'_\epsilon / \|q'_0\|$$

Second, enforce the parameterization of the dual component:  $\frac{1}{2} q_t q_0 = q_\epsilon$

$$\Rightarrow q_t = 2 q_\epsilon q_0^*, \quad q_0^* \text{ conjugate of } q_0$$

# Dual Quaternion Skinning (DQS)

1- Encode rigid transformation  $(q^i, t^i)$  into dual quaternion

$$\hat{q}^i = q_0^i + \frac{\epsilon}{2} q_t^i q_0^i, \quad q_t^i = (t_x^i, t_y^i, t_z^i, 0)$$

2- Compute blending in the dual quaternion space (ScLERP)

$$\hat{q}' = \sum_i \omega_i \hat{q}^i = q'_0 + \epsilon q'_\epsilon$$

3- Extract components  $(q, t)$  from  $\hat{q}'$

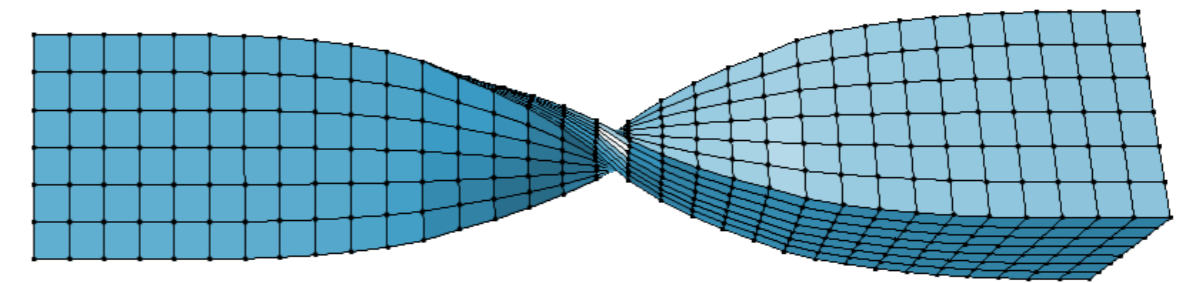
$$- q_0 = q'_0 / \|q'_0\|, \quad q_\epsilon = q'_\epsilon / \|q'_\epsilon\|$$

$$- (t_x, t_y, t_z, 0) = 2 q_\epsilon q_0^*$$

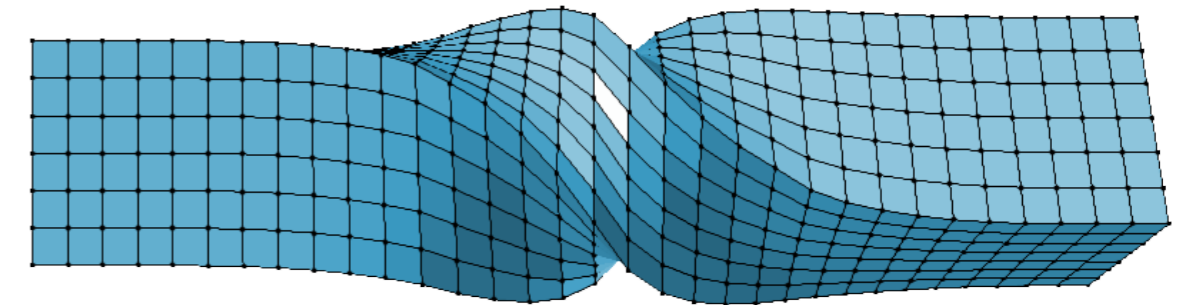
$q_0^*$ : conjugate of  $q_0$ .

4- Apply finally the transformation  $(q, t)$  to position  $p_0$

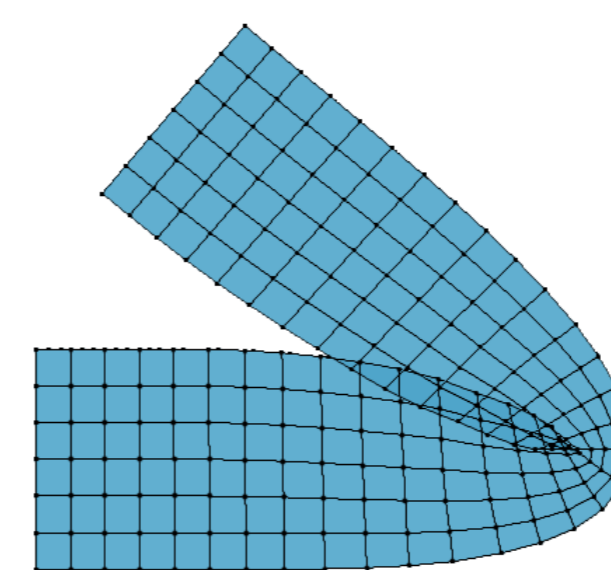
[ Skinning with Dual Quaternions. Kavan et al. I3D, 2007 ]



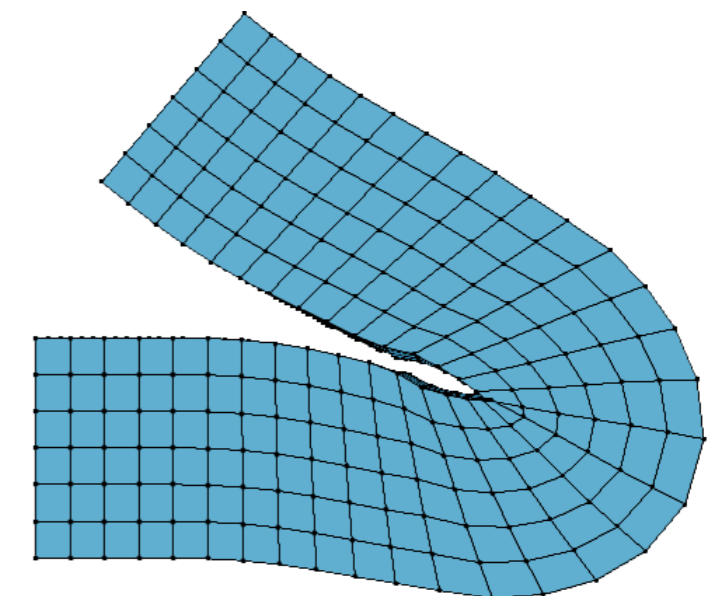
LBS



DQS



LBS



DQS

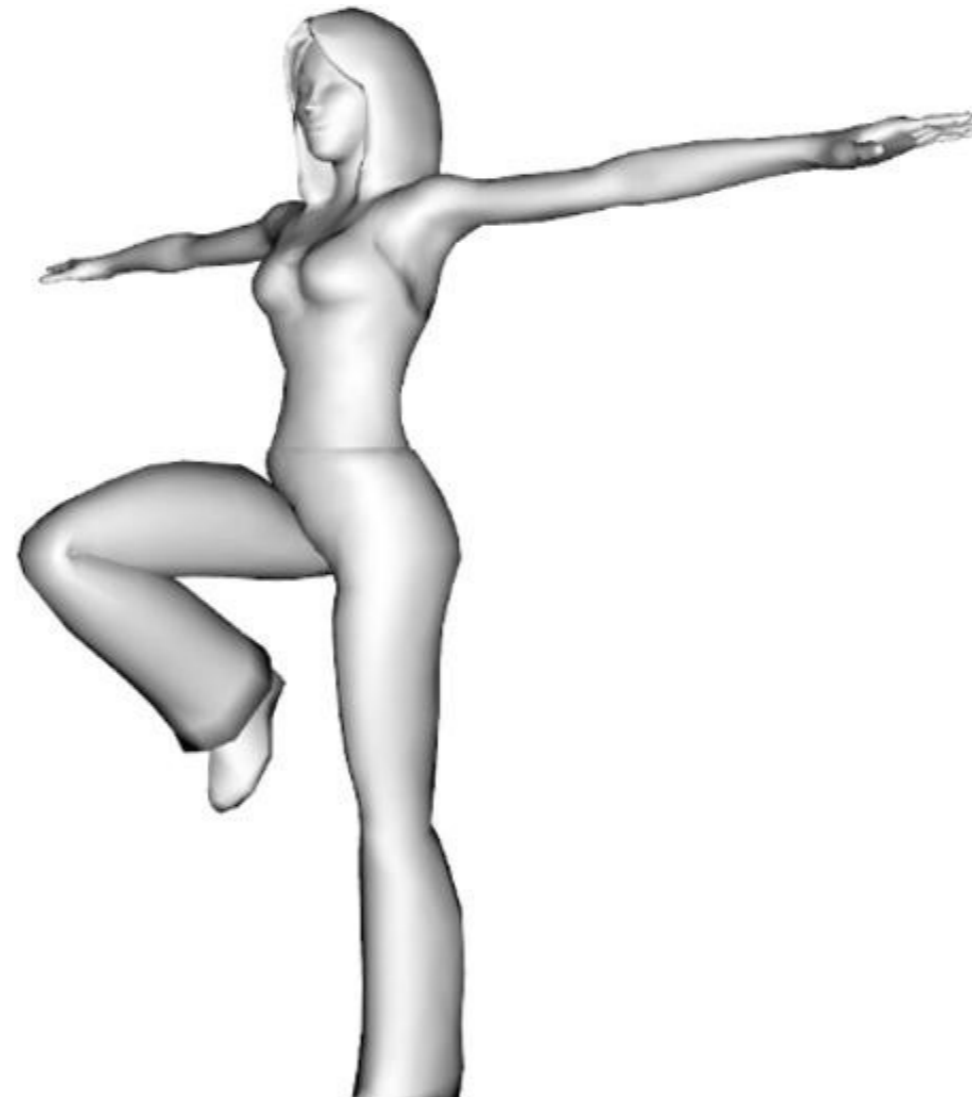
# Dual Quaternion VS LBS

Dual quaternion

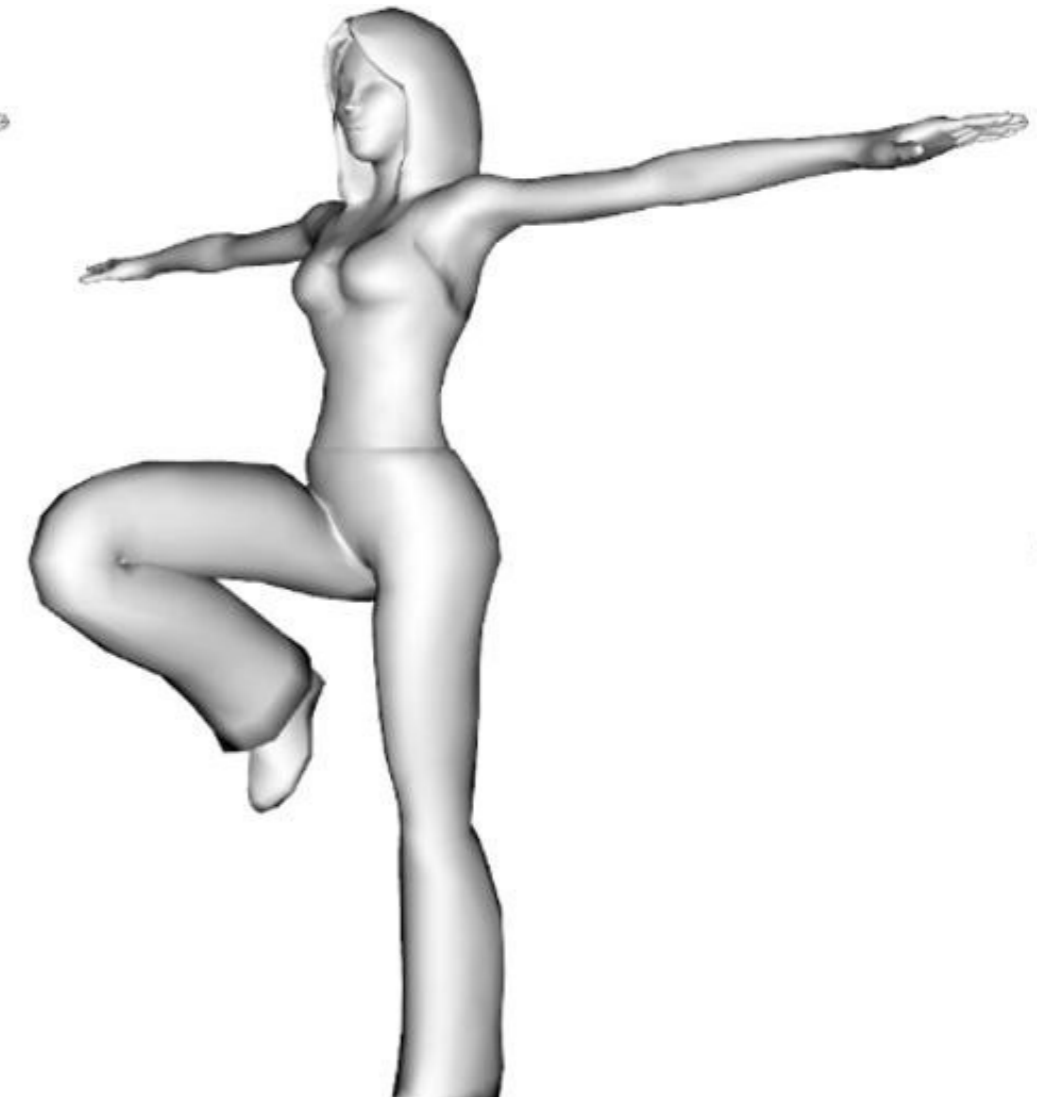
- (+) Fully solves *candy wrapper* artifact
- (+) Almost as efficient as LBS
- (-) May create artificial/unwanted bulge

*Not always preferred to LBS*

*Both solutions (LBS, DQS) are proposed  
in standard tools*



LBS



DQS

# Production Pipeline

Case of Animation Cinema production

# Production Pipeline

*Fundamental structure for VFX/animation movie production.*

## Pre-production

*Story, script,  
concept art*

Storyboard

Animatic

Layout

## Production

Special Effects

Modeling

Rigging

Shading

Texturing

Lighting

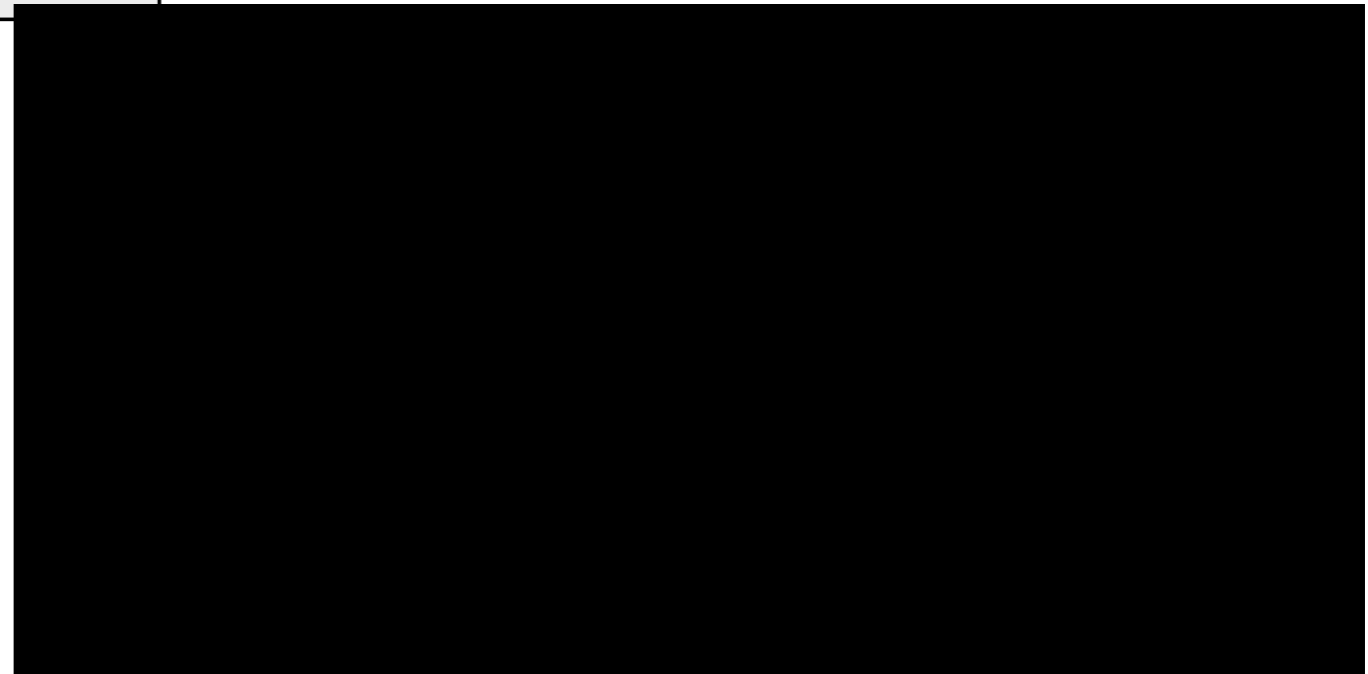
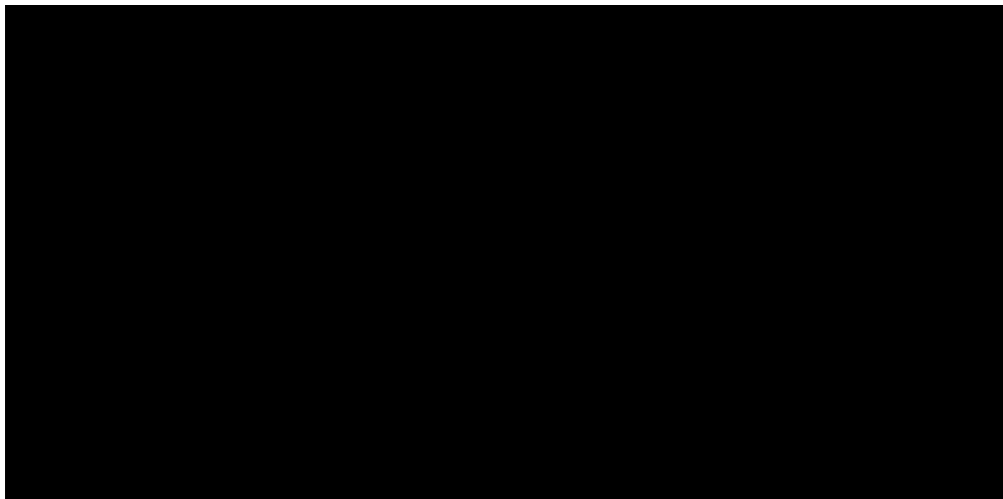
Animation

Rendering

## Post-Production

Compositing

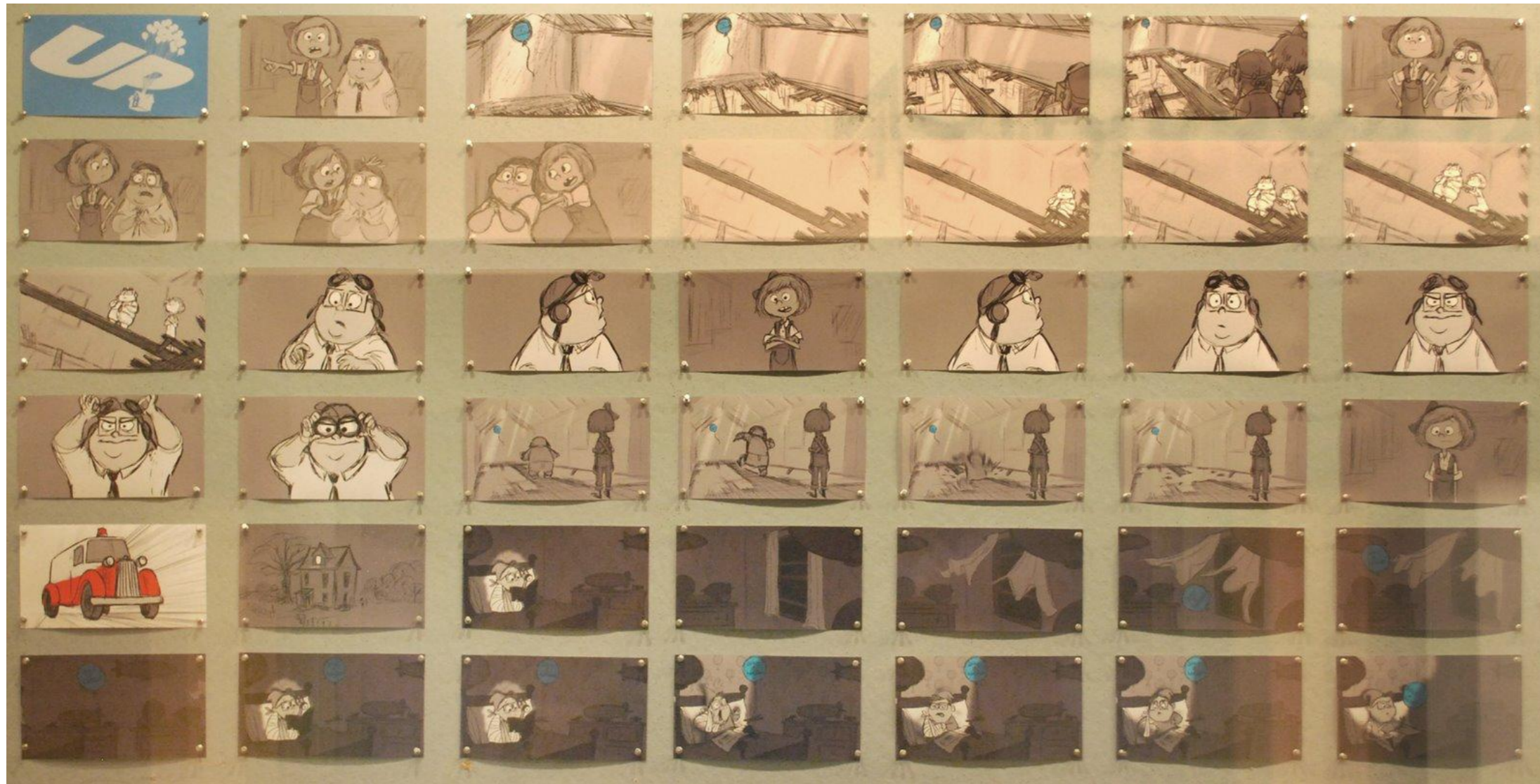
Editing







# Story-board



Few 2D drawings: express the story

*Before* mostly non-technical - artistic/creative based

*Curently* increase of Storytelling-related researchs in CG

*ex. Disney Research Studios*

# Animatic

≈ Animated story-board, Various format

*Rough sense of timing, visual, action: details not necessarily followed precisely in the final version.*



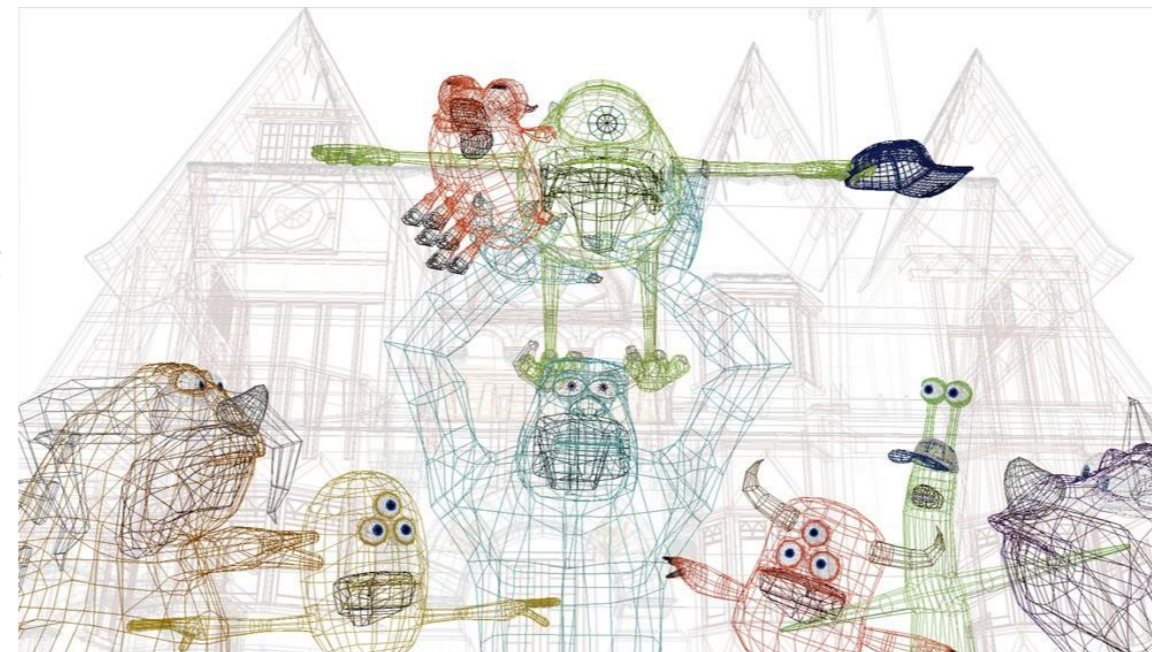
# Layout: Moving into 3D

1st step: Rough 3D modeling and placement of

- Camera: visual field, perspective  
*3D much more constrained than 2D drawings*
- Shape volumes, continuity  
*No details: face, etc.*  
*Choice between 3D/2D elements*



"MONSTERS UNIVERSITY" Progression Image 1 of 6: STORY  
©2013 Disney•Pixar. All Rights Reserved.



"MONSTERS UNIVERSITY" Progression Image 3 of 6: MODELING  
©2013 Disney•Pixar. All Rights Reserved.



"MONSTERS UNIVERSITY" Progression Image 4 of 6: LAYOUT  
©2013 Disney•Pixar. All Rights Reserved.

# 3D Modeling

In production

- Polygonal mesh modeling

*Coarse to fine approach*

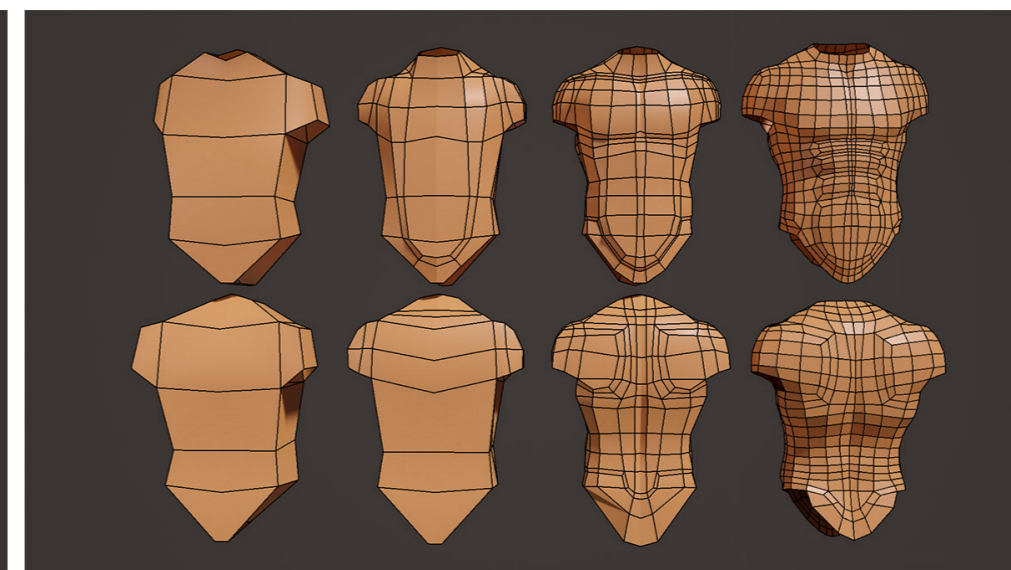
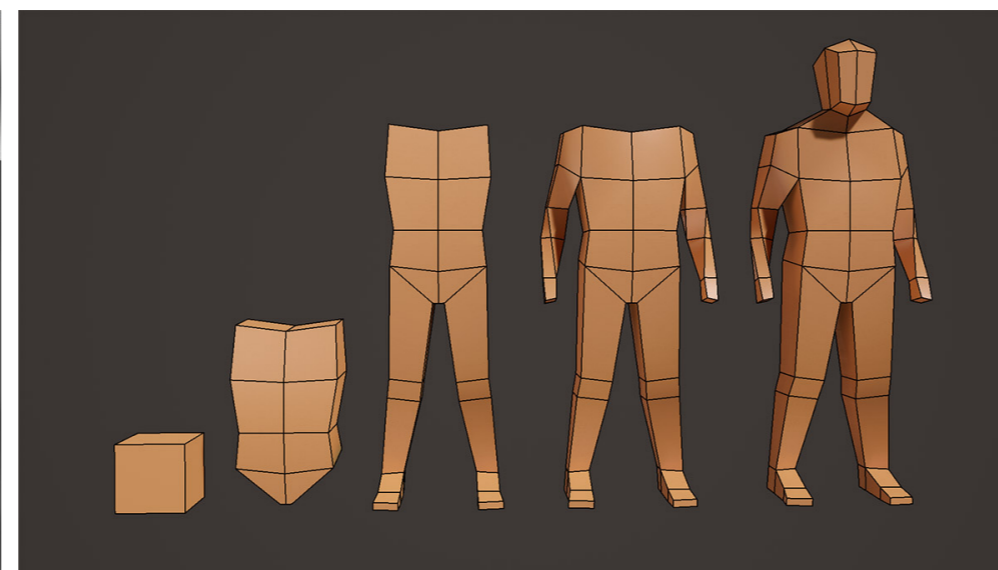
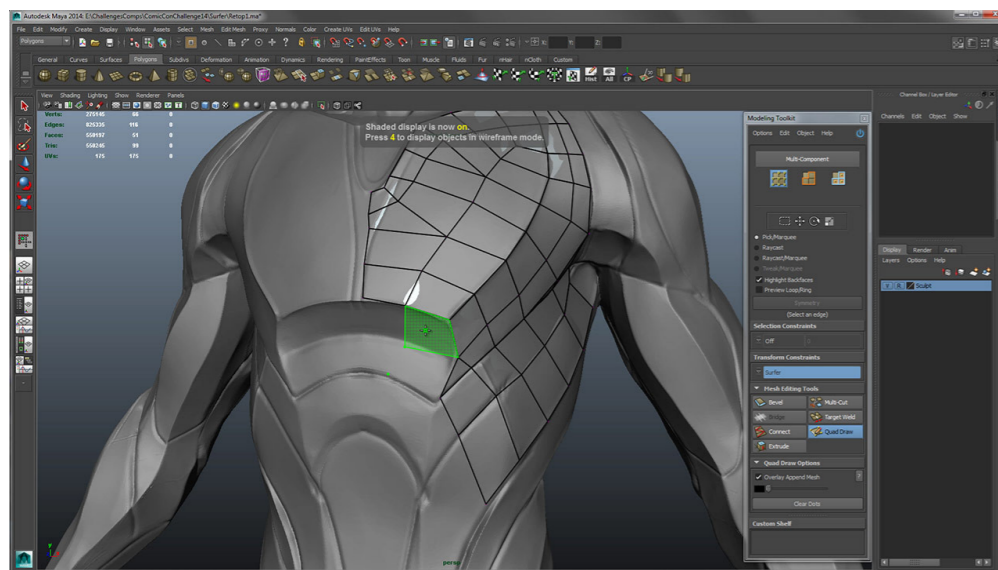
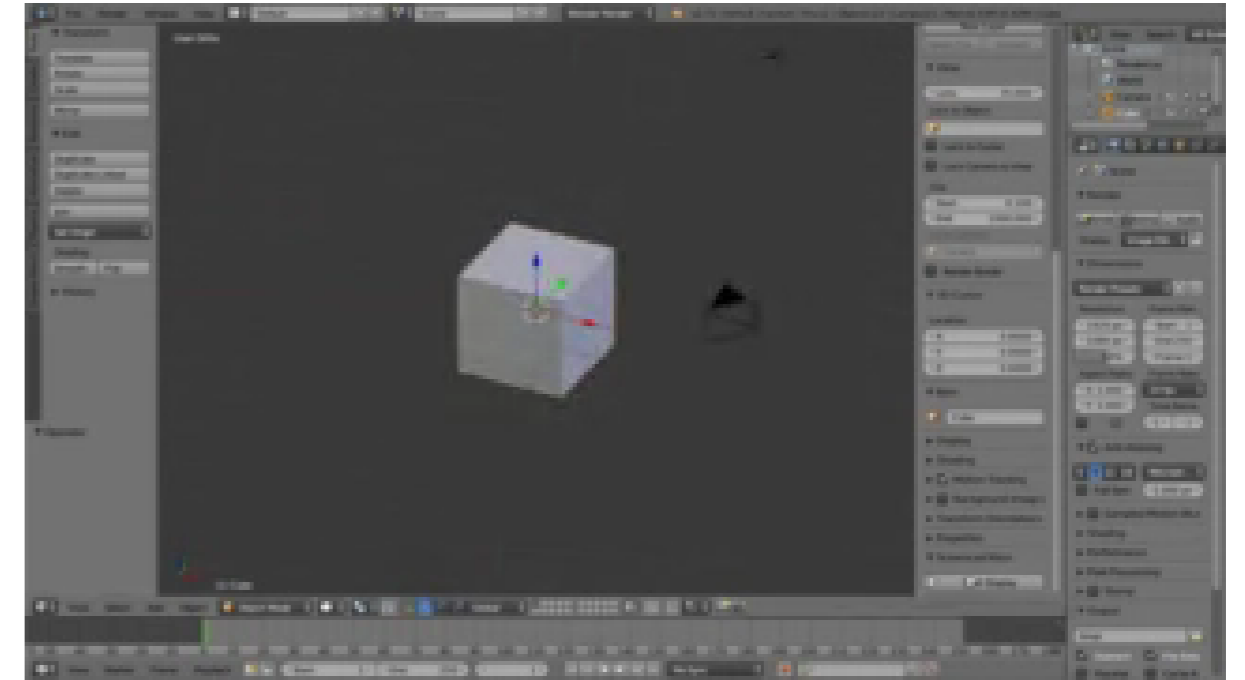
1. Low res modeling (extrusion)

2. Subdivide, Refine

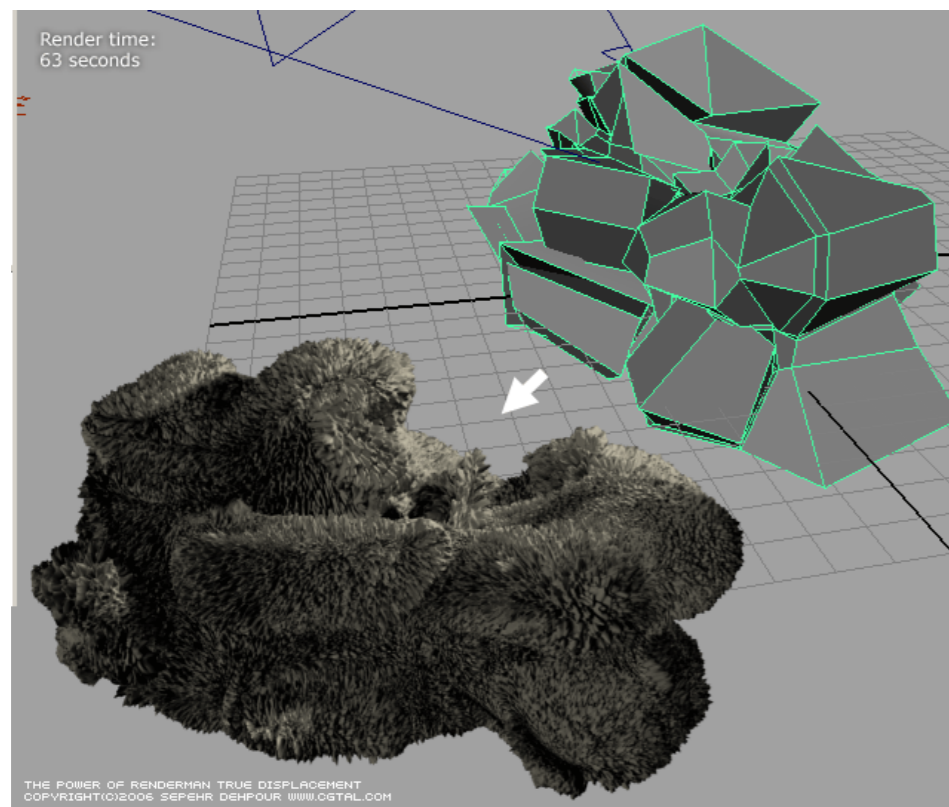
- Parametric (NURBS) modeling

*Everything else is "VFX"*

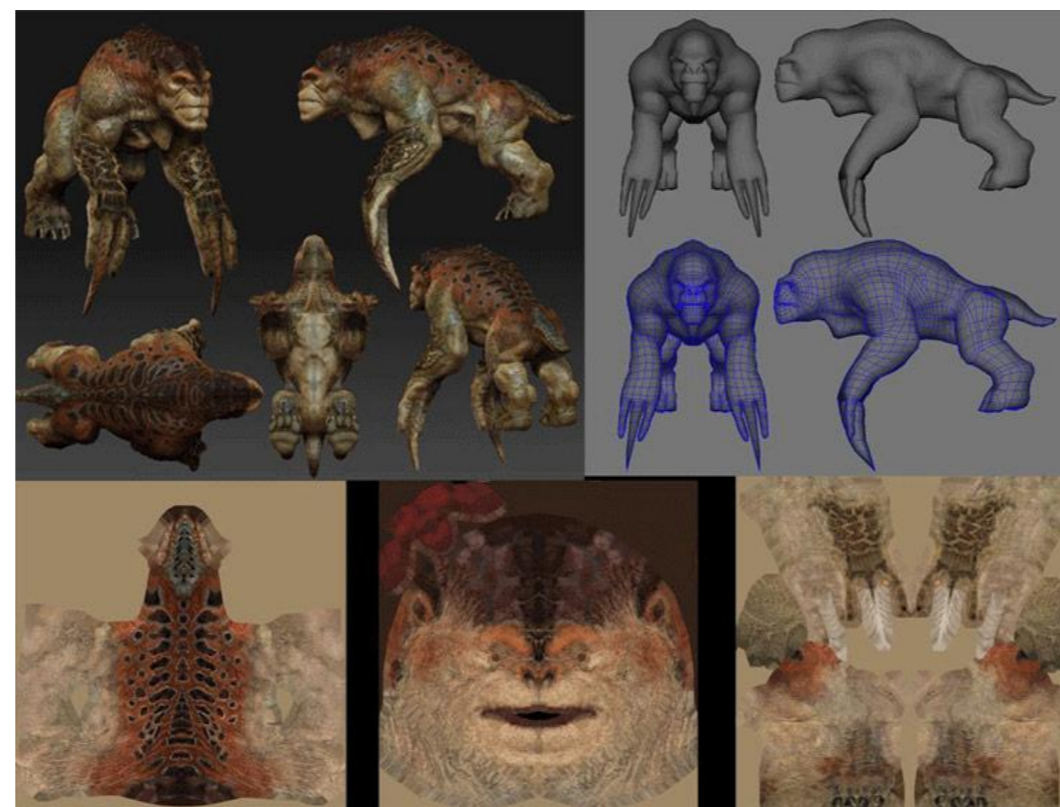
Common tools: Maya, 3DSMax, Cinema4D, Blender, etc.



# Modeling appearance - Rendering purpose



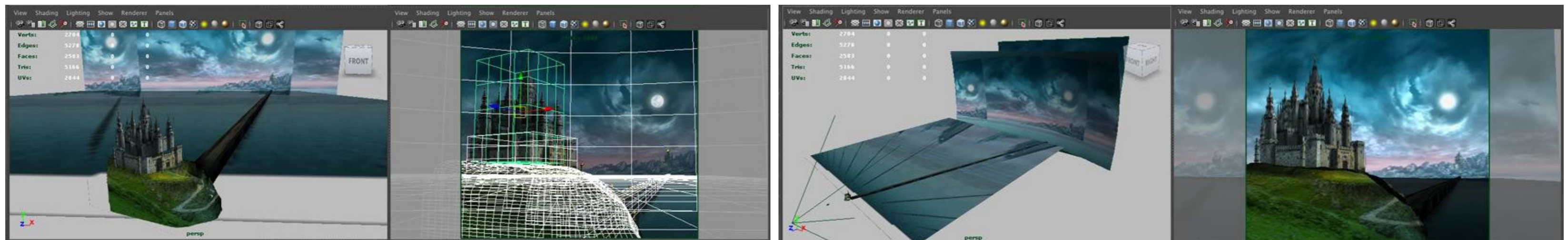
**Shading**



**Texturing**



**Lighting**



**Mate painting**

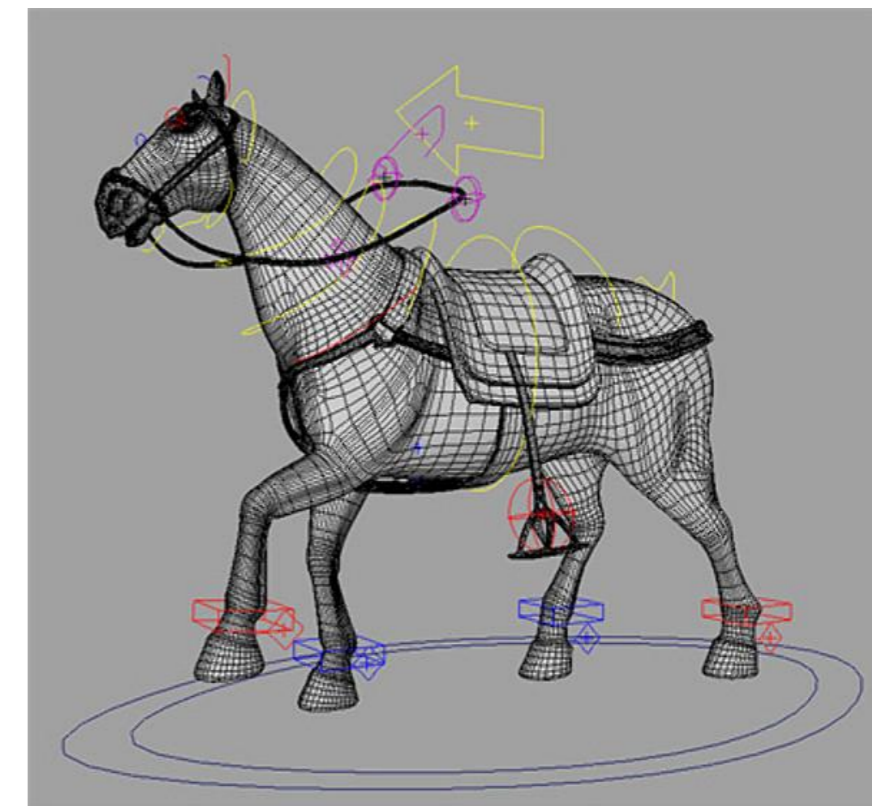
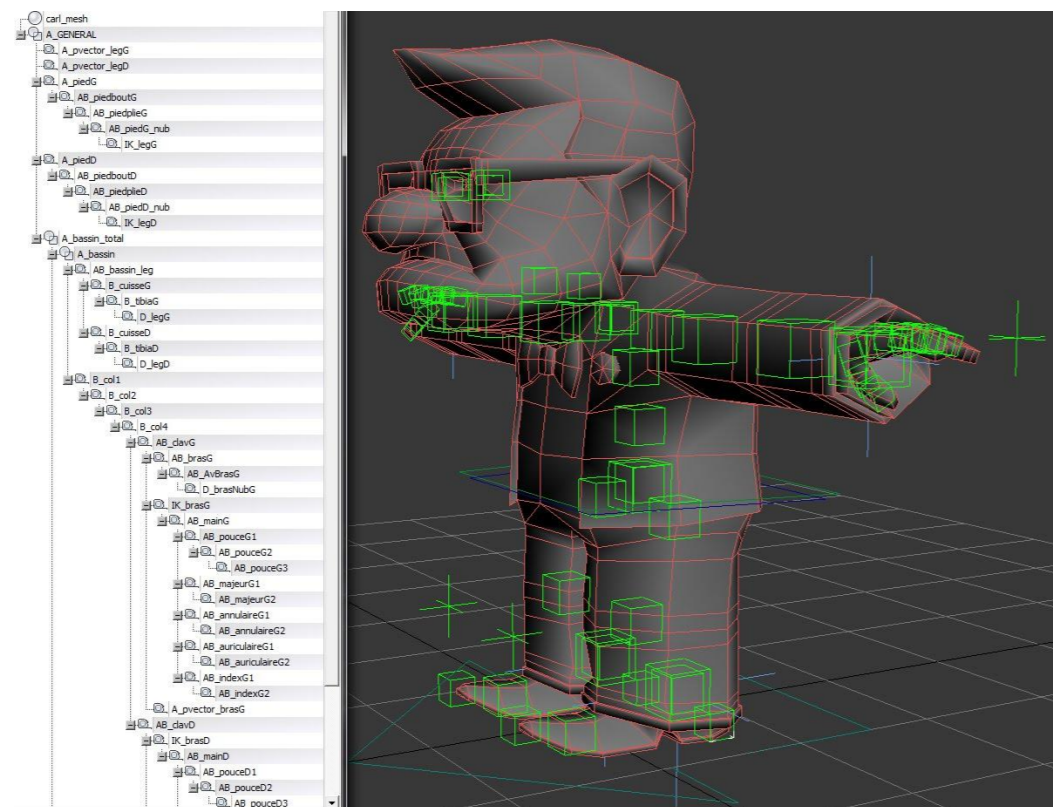
# Rigging

Attach deformation handles to the mesh

Each handle (controler) is associated to a deformation - degrees of freedom

Rigging is a technical part

Python script, Mel (Maya), Lua, etc.



# Animation

In production terminology: Animation = Key-frame animation of the rigged character

Set animation curves on rig controlers

*Everything else is VFX*



*Animating the walk cycle (× 40)*



*Result*

Up to 75% of artists production studios are animators

Animation = The key element - higher cost - for production studios

One animator → 1-10 s of animation per day

# Animation sub-parts

## 1- **Posing** the *key frames*

*Set the main general posture of the character*

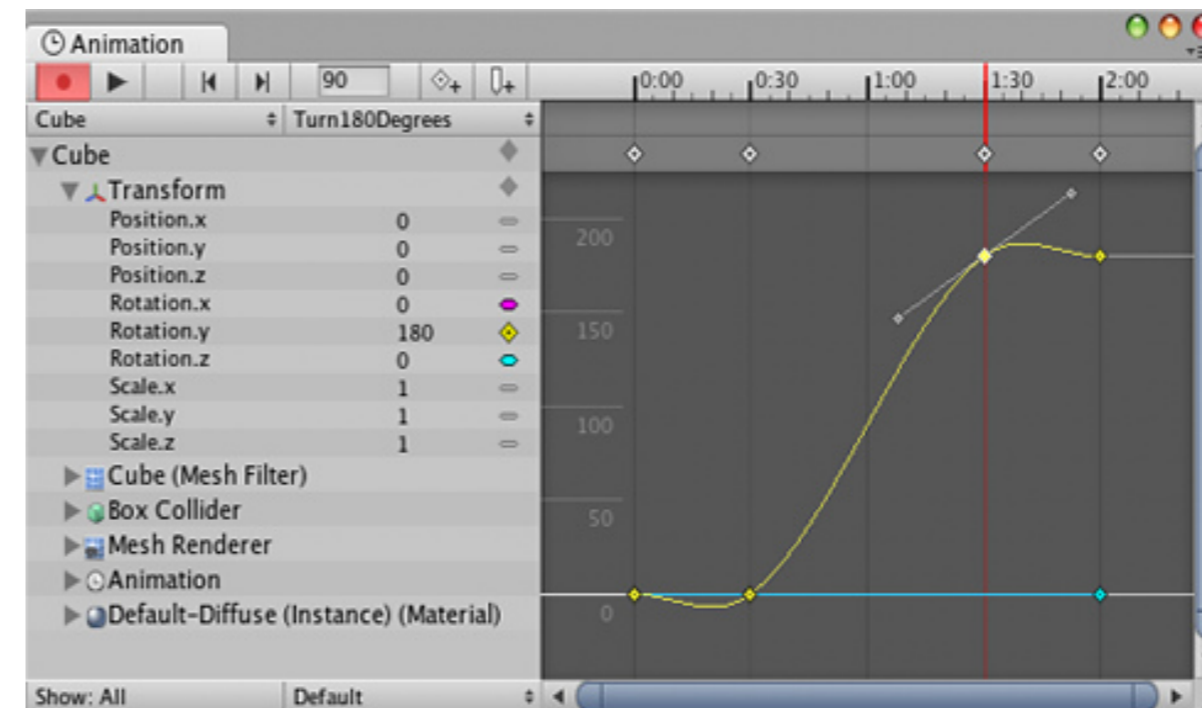
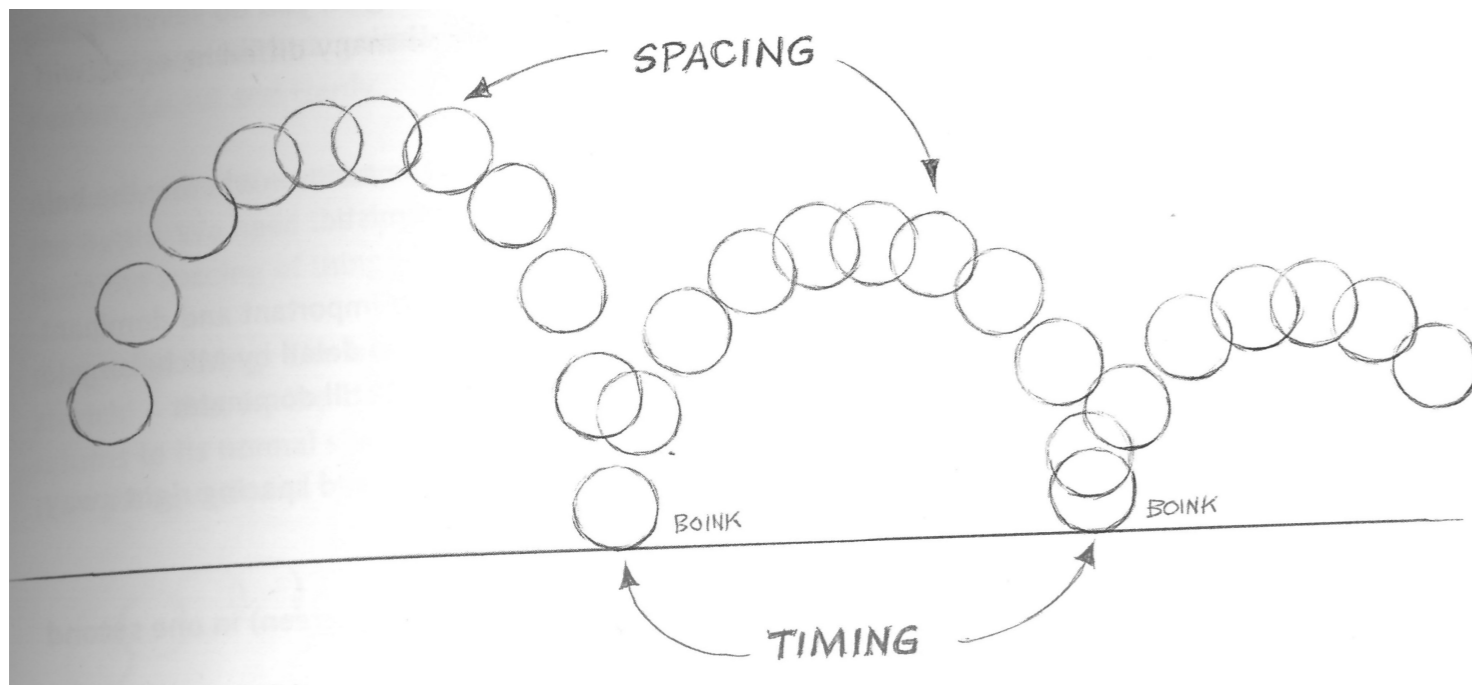
*Linked to geometric **character deformation**, time is not involved*



## 2- **Animating** the in-betweens

- **Timing** : Place key frames at specific times (global length of an action)

- **Spacing** : Speed of the interpolation (dynamic of the action)





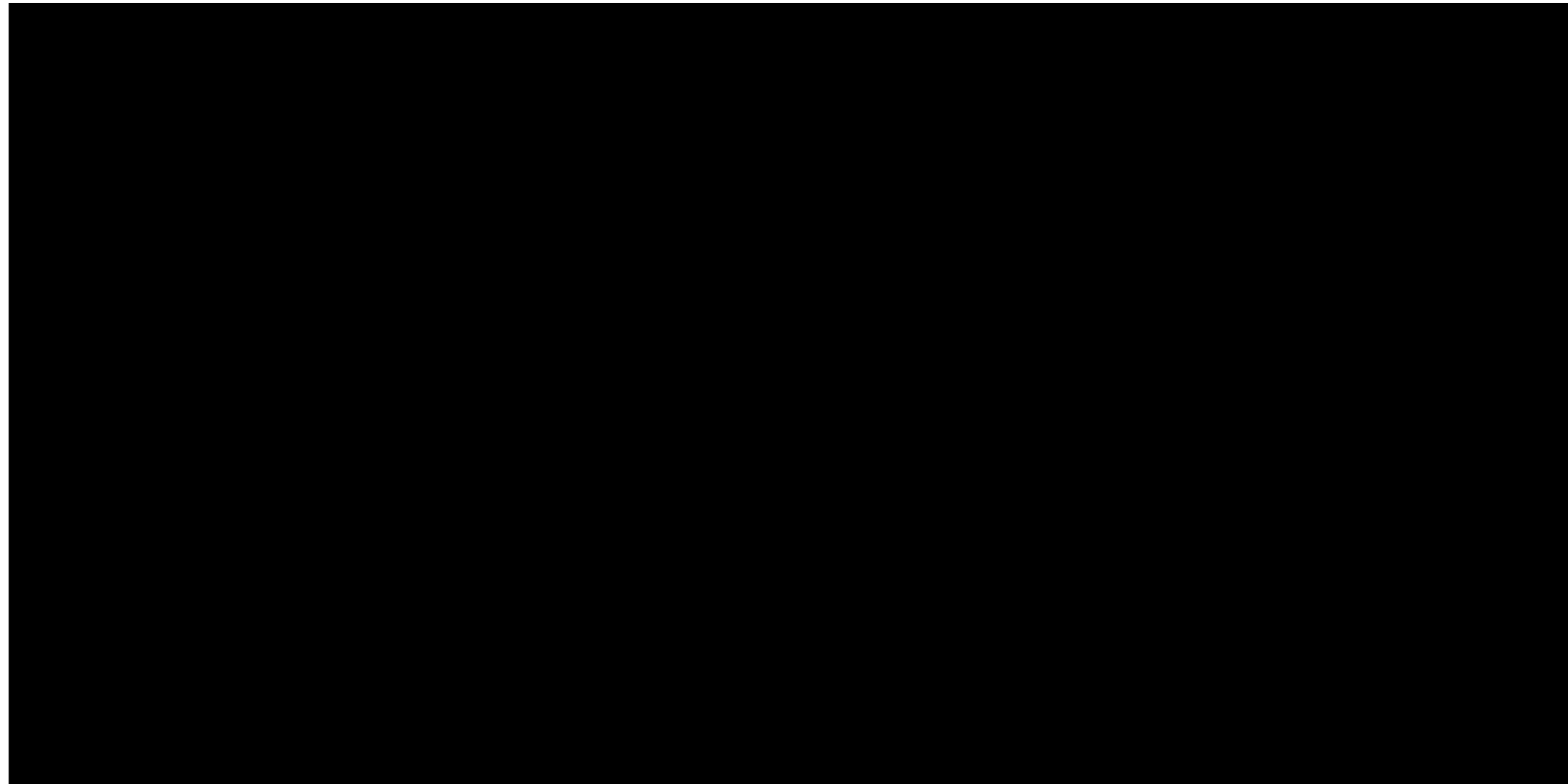
# Special Effects (VFX)

Everything which is not handled by traditional modeling/rigging/animation

*Physics (explosion, fluids, dynamic hairs, cloth, ...), particles systems, complex shape, crowd, etc.*

Technical R&D part: One element can lead to the development of a dedicated system.

Main software: Houdini (SideFX)



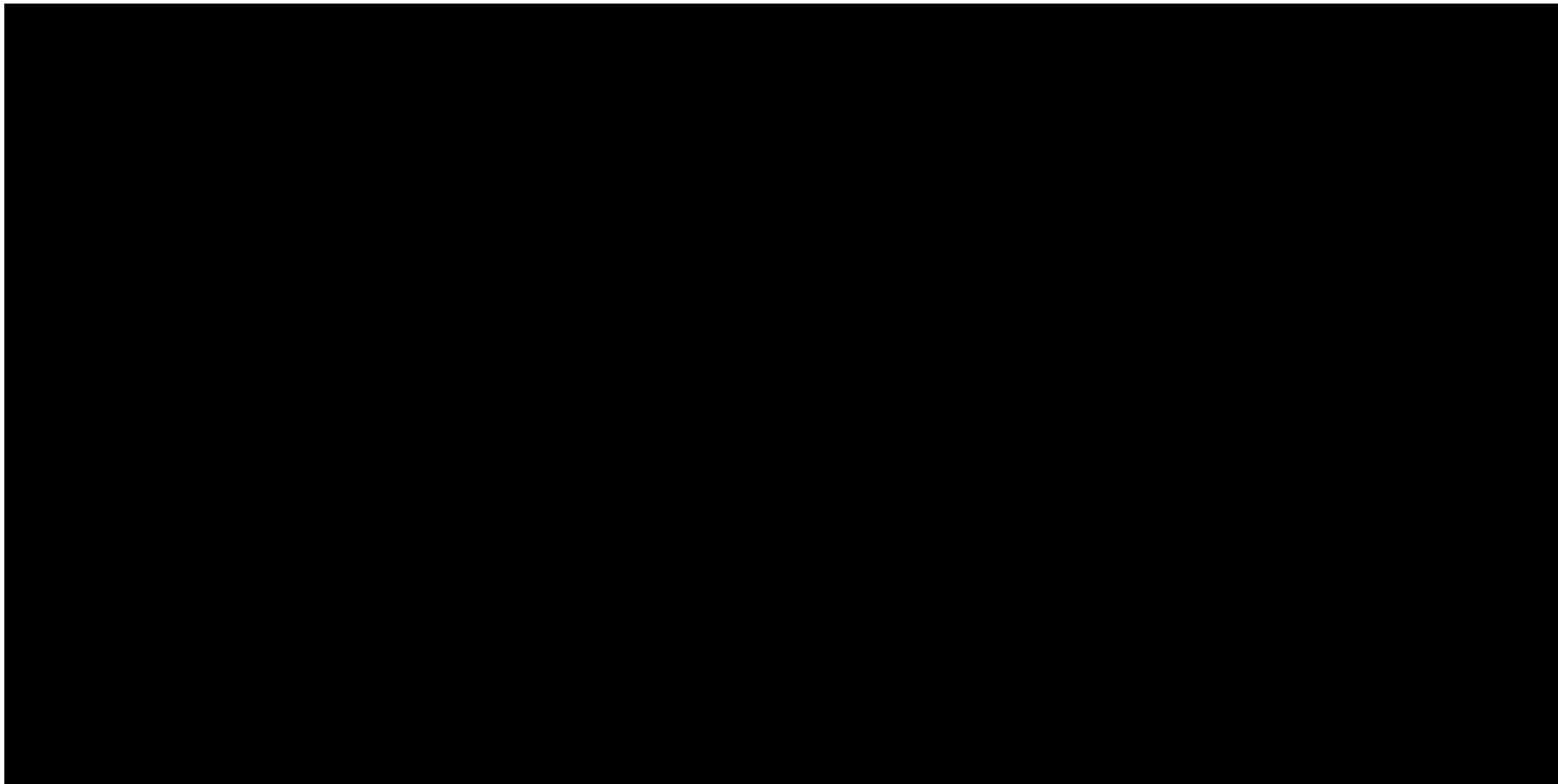
# Post Production

## **Compositing**

Blend all layers: Rendered and real ones

Note: Rendering of color layers but also depth and normals.

Main software: Nuke (Foundry)

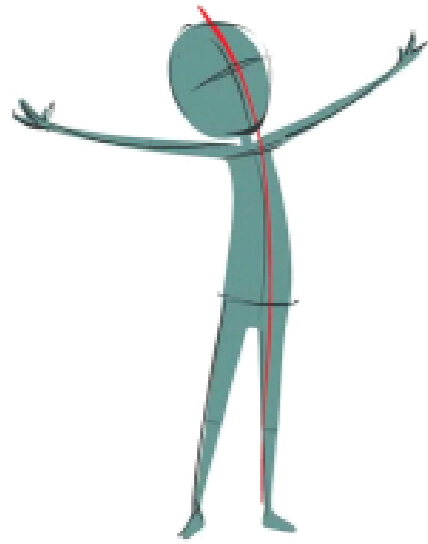


# Expressive Animation

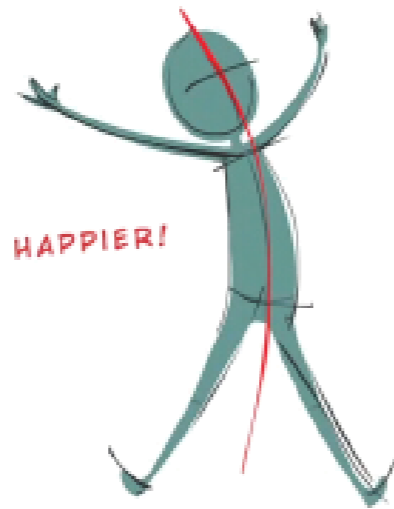
# Character Animation Posing - Line of Action

- Line of action: *Medial axis* expressing the character pose
- Express *statically* the dynamic of the action
  - Unstable pose  $\Rightarrow$  Dynamic action/motion

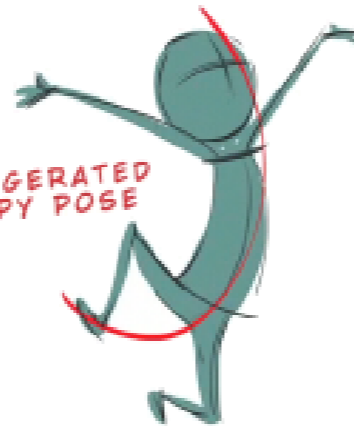
SLIGHT CURVE



HAPPIER!



EXAGGERATED  
HAPPY POSE



SLIGHT CURVE

SEEMS LIGHTER



EXAGGERATED EFFORT POSE

SEEMS HEAVIER

ACCENTUATED  
CURVE



SLIGHT CURVE



ACCENTUATED  
CURVE



EXAGGERATED  
SAD POSE



(C) Chiara Porri

# Principles of animation

- Interpolation between realistic poses isn't enough for expressive animation
- *12 principles of animation* by Disney *Illusion of Life*, 1981

1. Timing
2. Spacing
3. Slow-in, Slow-out
4. Squash & Stretch
5. Anticipation
6. Follow Through
7. Secondary Action
8. Exaggeration
9. Appeal
10. Arcs
11. Staging
12. Straight Ahead/Pose to Pose

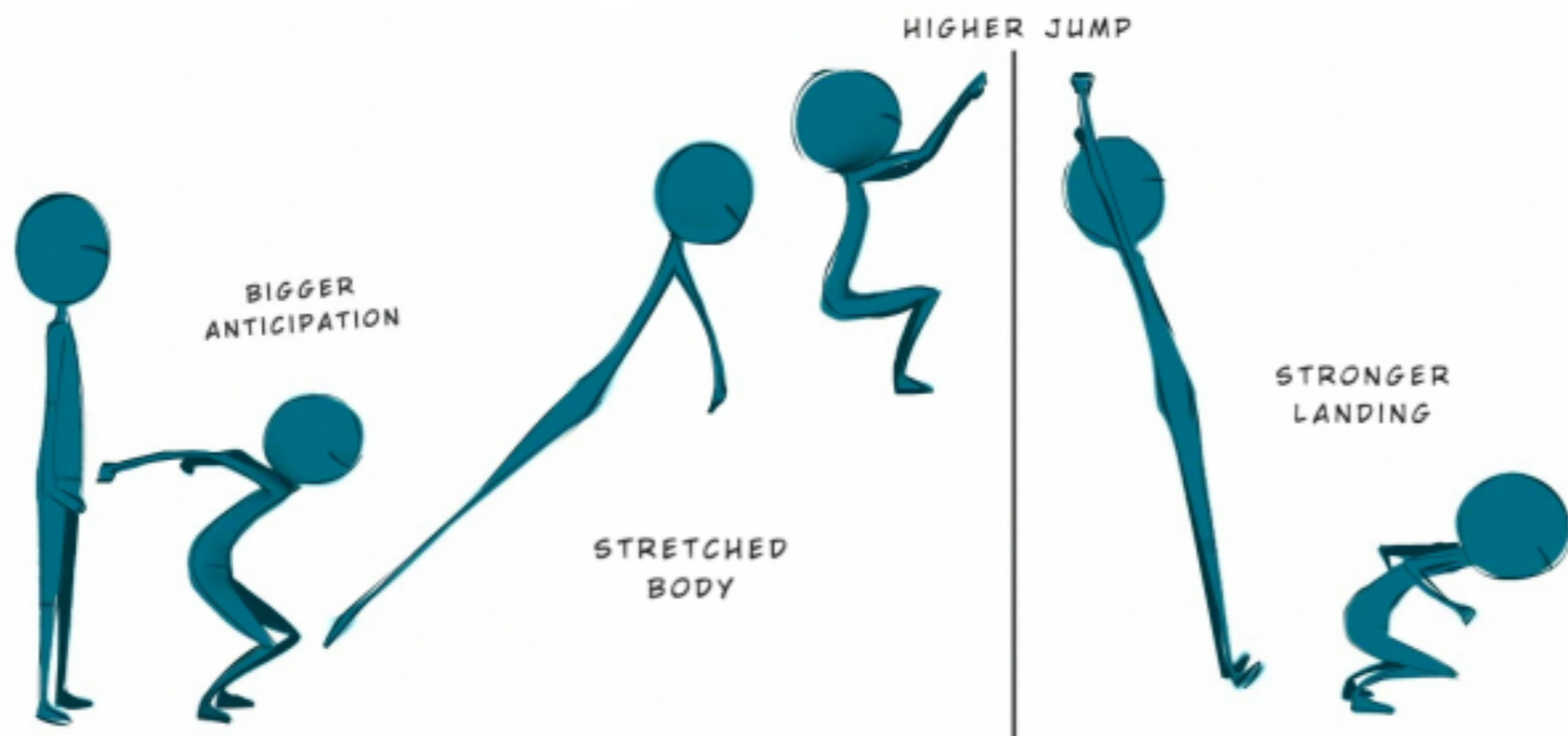
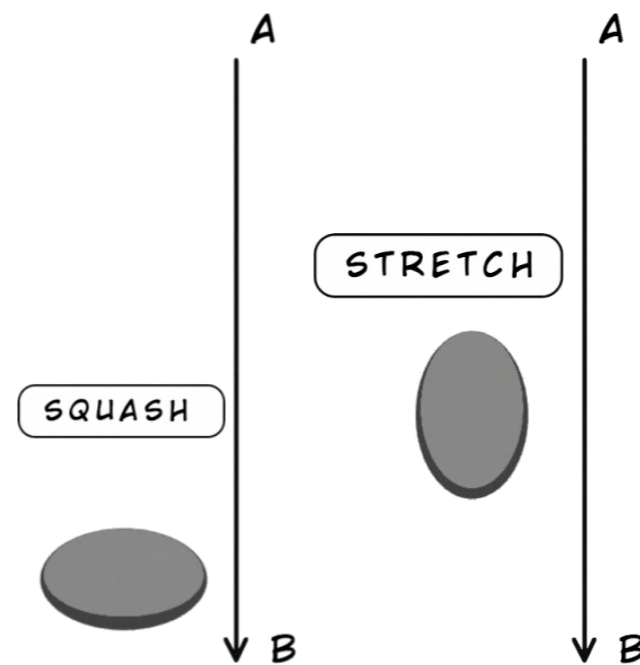


(C) Chiara Porri

# Expressive animation

## Squash & Stretch

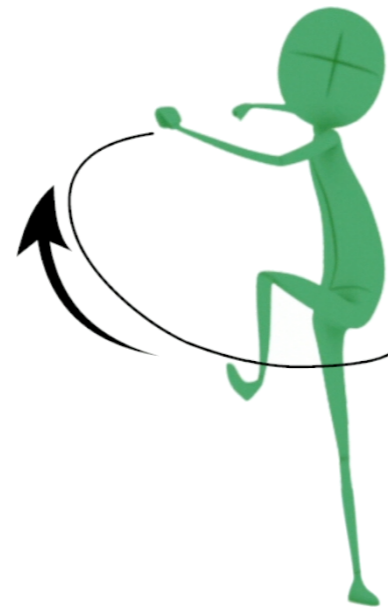
- Very common in cartoon
- Unrealistic, but surprizingly *plausible*



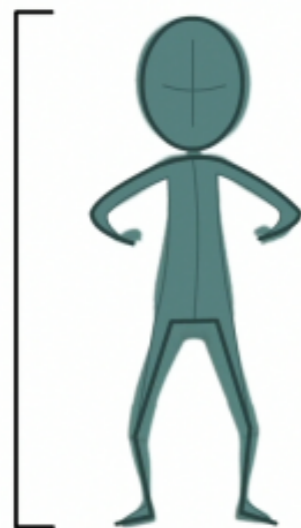
(C) Chiara Porri

# Expressive animation

## Anticipation

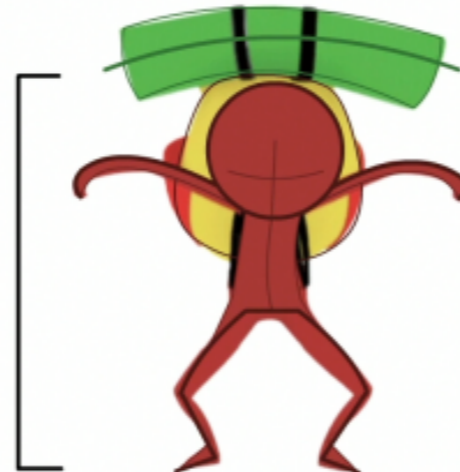


the character is pretty light



Softer Anticipation

the character is bringing an heavy object

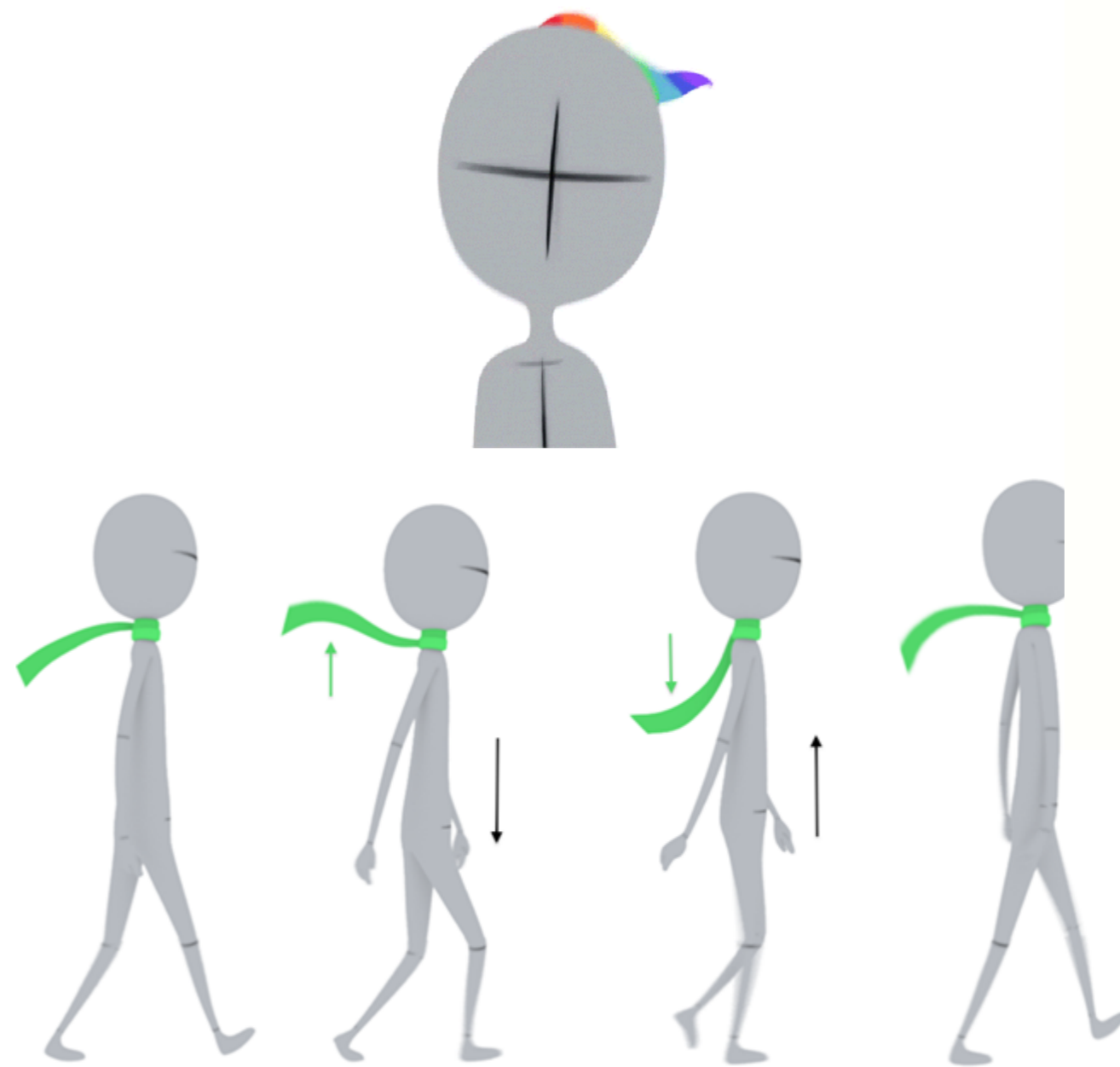
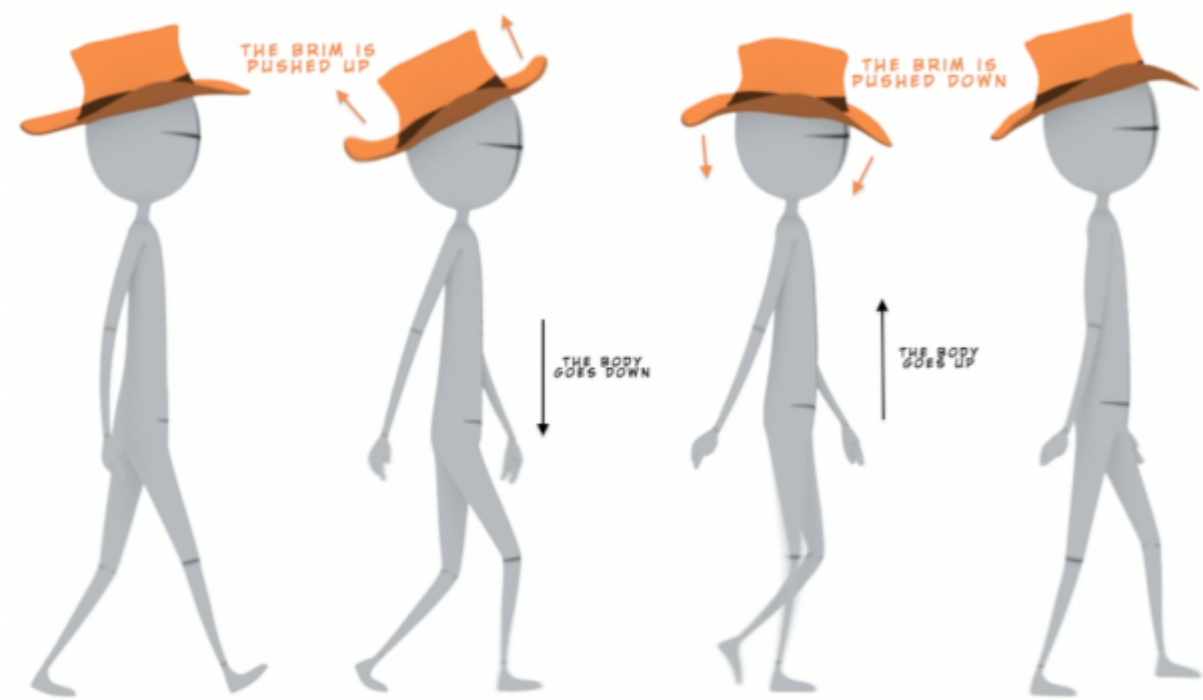


Stronger Anticipation



# Expressive animation

Follow Through / Secondary motions



(C) Chiara Porri