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# Tutorial

**Modeling, Simulation and Control of Deformable Robots on  
SOFA Framework**

DEFROST team

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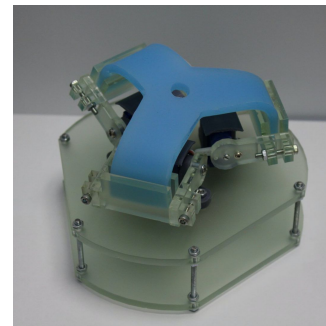
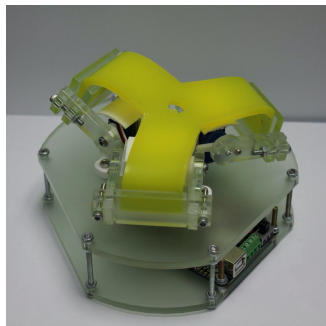
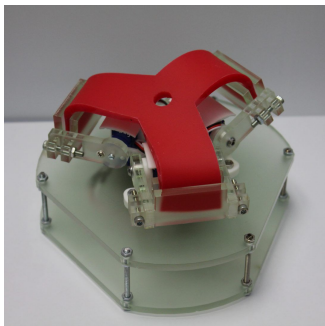
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# General overview of the Tutorial

<https://team.inria.fr/defrost/>

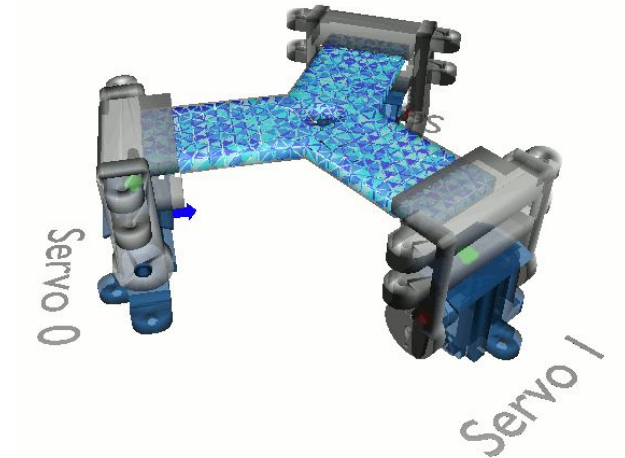
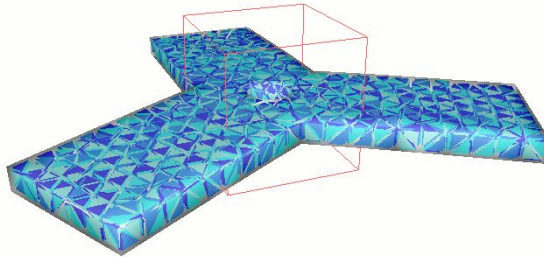
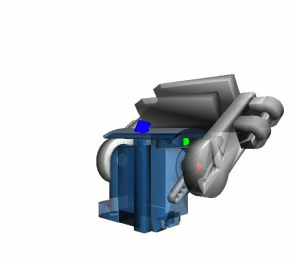
# 9:00 - 11:00: Session 1:

- 9:00 am: Starting
  - 9:00 am: Introduction (round table) and short presentation of the tutorial (in particular the Hybrid mode)
  - 9:10 am: Installation of SOFA on your Machine and first tests
  - 9:30 am: Notions of mechanics useful for the Tutorial (Christian)



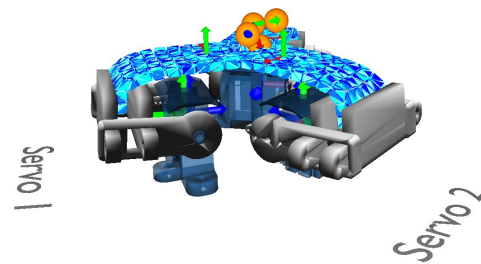
# 9:00 - 11:00: Session 1

- 10:00am: Tripod Tutorial (part 1)
  - Main steps for direct modeling
    - Finite Element Model
    - Articulated system for servo motor
    - Coupling



# 11:00 - 12:30: Session 2

- 11:00am: Presentation of the SOFA community and consortium
- 11:15am: Tripod Tutorial (part 2) :
  - Inverse modeling
  - Maze motion planning
  - Test on the digital twin
  - Test on the robot (for people on site)
- 12:15am: Conclusion and ongoing work



Todo : show what we will have at the end of the tutorial ?

# Session 1

**9:10 am to 9:30 am:**

Installation of SOFA on your Machine and first tests

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# Practical informations for installation

Follow instructions at

[github.com/SofaDefrost/RoboSoft2022](https://github.com/SofaDefrost/RoboSoft2022)

# This is not a commercial product !

- Strong efforts to make it work on all platform Our goal is to disseminate SOFA for Soft-Robotics, and find new usages & contributors
- Any issue using SOFA? your feedback is valuable for us
  - Robosoft 2022: we are here to help you !
  - Later: we stay by your side
- We already would like to thank all the member of the DEFROST team for their contribution as well as the SOFA consortium for helping us to set up this tutorial

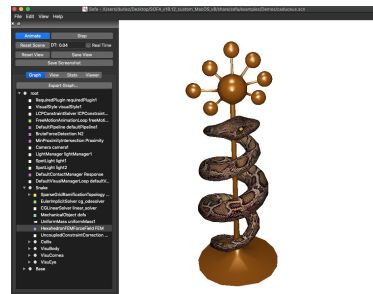
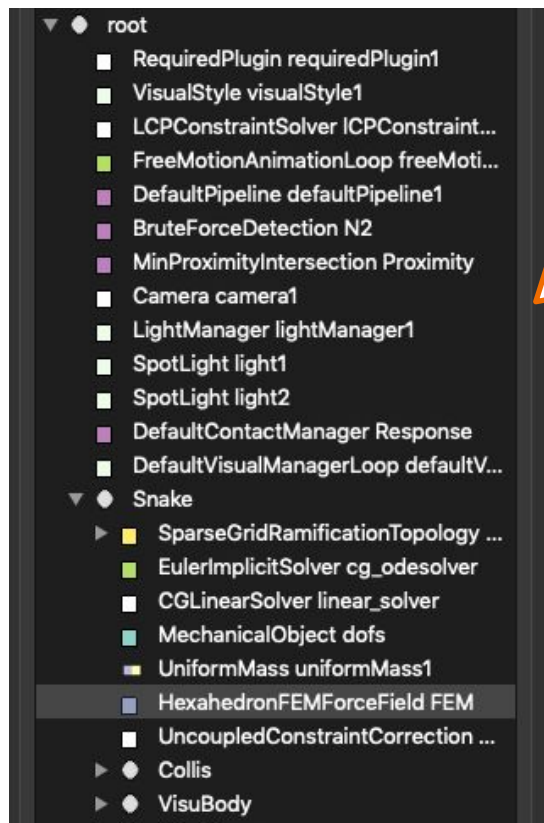


# Installation test

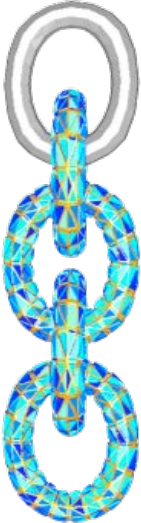
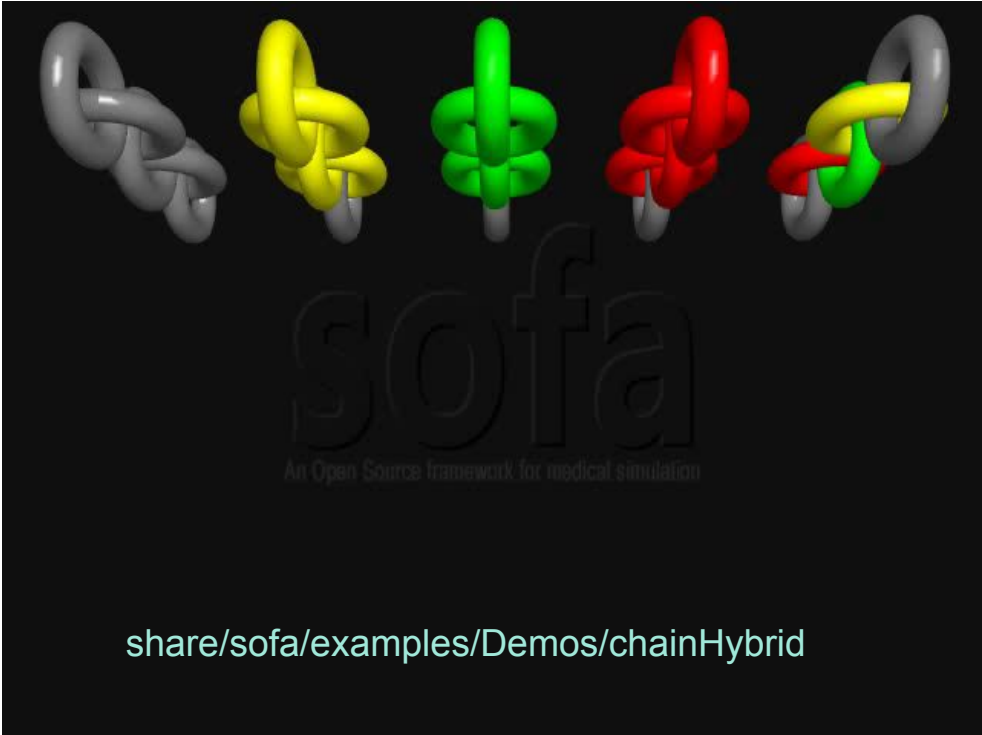
- Let's enter the world of simulation
  - Read instructions for your OS → [github.com/SofaDefrost/RoboSoft2022](https://github.com/SofaDefrost/RoboSoft2022)
  - Make sure to install pre-requisites
  - Download the SoftRobots zip
  - try runSofa with the file workshop.pyscn (on the SOFA repository)
- Report us any issue
  - Let's fix this together

# Main principles of SOFA :: the graph

- Scene Graph
  - Nodes
  - Components
  - Data in components



# Multi-models



FEM



Spring  
Mass



Rigid

# Tutorials ...

# Session 1

**9:30 am to 10:00 am:**

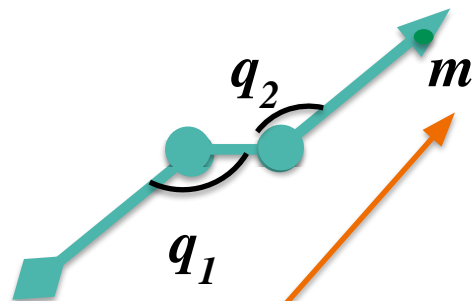
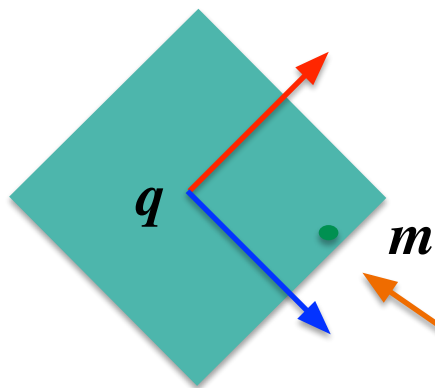
Notions of mechanics useful for the Tutorial

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# Multi-Models Mechanics

- (Articulated) rigid body dynamics

$$J^T(\mathbf{q})M J(\mathbf{q}) \ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \boldsymbol{\tau}(\mathbf{q})$$



$$M = \int m \partial\Omega$$

# Multi-Models Mechanics

- Deformable body with FEM

$$\mathbf{M}\ddot{\mathbf{q}} + \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) = \mathbf{f}_{ext}$$



$\mathbf{q}$  are nodes position in global coordinates  
 $\mathbf{M}$  close to diagonal, diagonal if mass lumping  
 $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}})$  internal forces from FEM

$$\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q} + \partial\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}} + \partial\dot{\mathbf{q}}) \approx \mathbf{f}(\mathbf{q}, \dot{\mathbf{q}}) + \mathbf{K}(\mathbf{q}) \partial\mathbf{q} + \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{q})\partial\dot{\mathbf{q}}$$

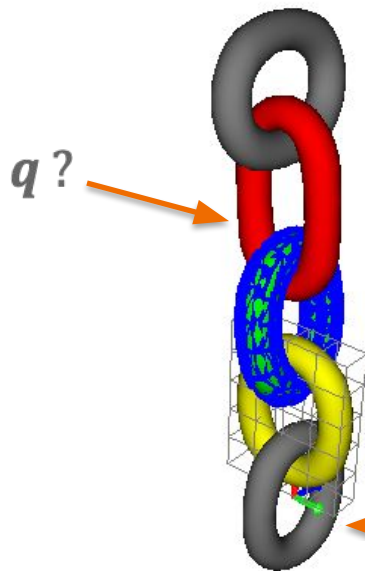
Updated linearization ~~(at each simulation step)~~

# Multi-Models Mechanics

- Interaction between models

## FEM Model

**DOFs:** positions of nodes  
(Vec3 types in SOFA)



## Rigid Model

**DOFs:** positions and orientation  
of gravity center  
(Rigid types in SOFA)

$q ?$



# Configuration space / kinematic links

- Lagrangian Mechanics:
  - State variables:  $(q, q')$  [Generalized coordinates] +  $t$  [effort same space]
  - Kinematic relation:  $x = g(q)$
  - Kinetic relation:  $x' = dg/dq q' \Rightarrow J q'$
  - **Virtual work principle  $\Rightarrow t = J^T f$  (to develop)**
- In SOFA,
  - **Mappings = [Kinematic / Kinetic / Force transfer]**
  - **$q, q'$  = parent models**
  - **$x, x'$  = child models**
  - position and velocity imposed by the mapping of a parent MechanicalObject
  - force can be applied on slave models and transmitted to the parent

# Main principles of SOFA :: main components

- Mapped Mechanical objects: **slave models**

## FEM Model

DOFs: positions of nodes (Vec3)



## Collision Model

**Mapped DOFs:** positions of points (Vec3)  
BarycentricMapping



## Rigid Model

DOFs: positions and orientation of gravity center (Rigid)



## Collision Model

**Mapped DOFs:** positions of points (Vec3)  
RigidMapping



# Main principles of SOFA :: main components

- Mapping
  - Allow to transfer the motion (pos, vel) to a « slave » model
  - Allow to transfer back to the « parent » model some Forces

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**Collision Model**

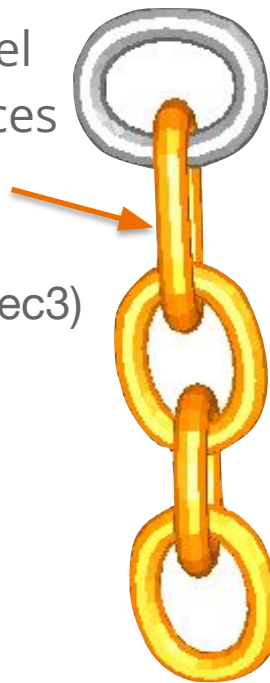
**Mapped DOFs:** positions of points (Vec3)

BarycentricMapping



**FEM Model**

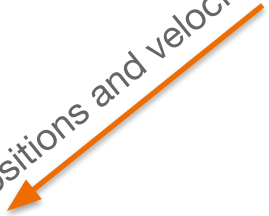
DOFs: positions of nodes (Vec3)



# Main principles of SOFA :: main components

- Mapping
  - Allow to transfer the motion (pos, vel) to a « slave » model
  - Allow to transfer back to the « parent » model some Forces

imposed positions and velocities



**Collision Model**

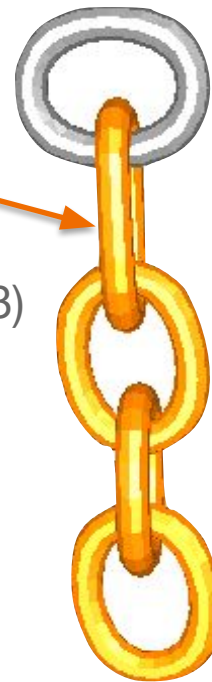
**Mapped DOFs:** positions of points (Vec3)

BarycentricMapping



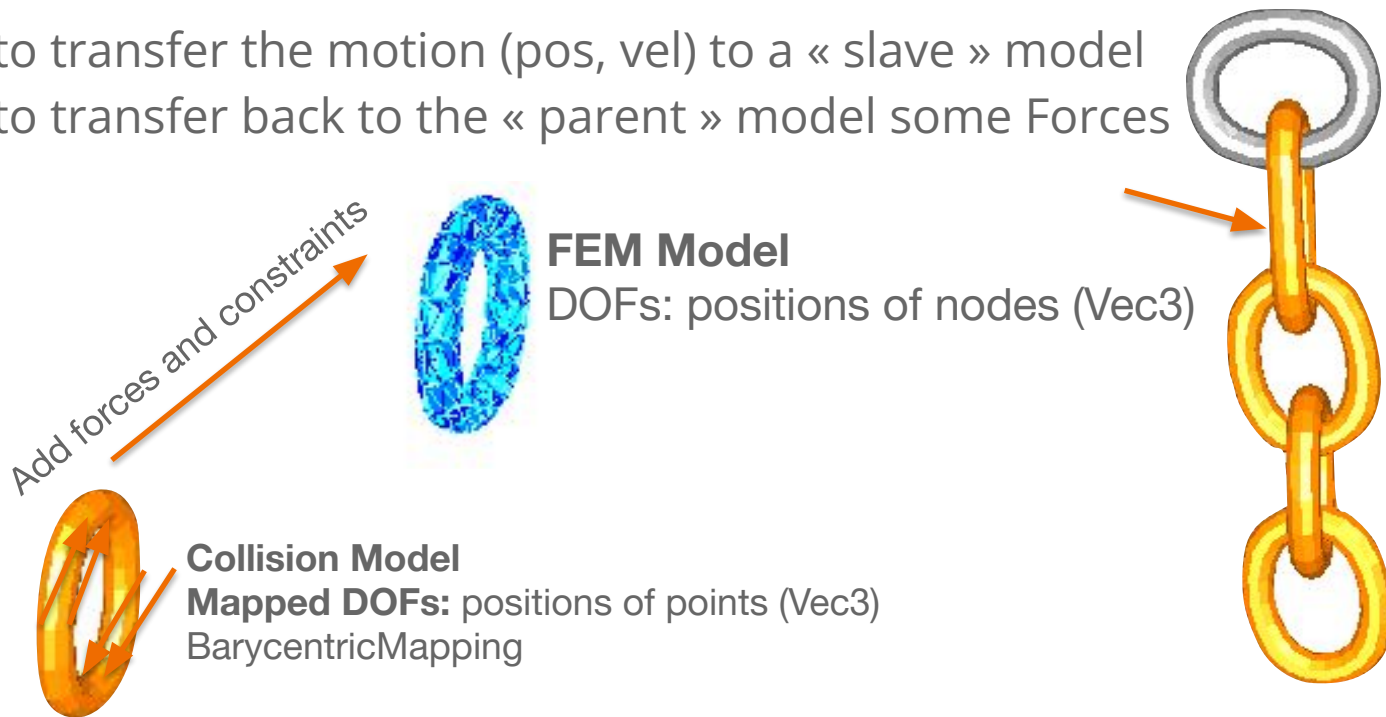
**FEM Model**

**DOFs:** positions of nodes (Vec3)



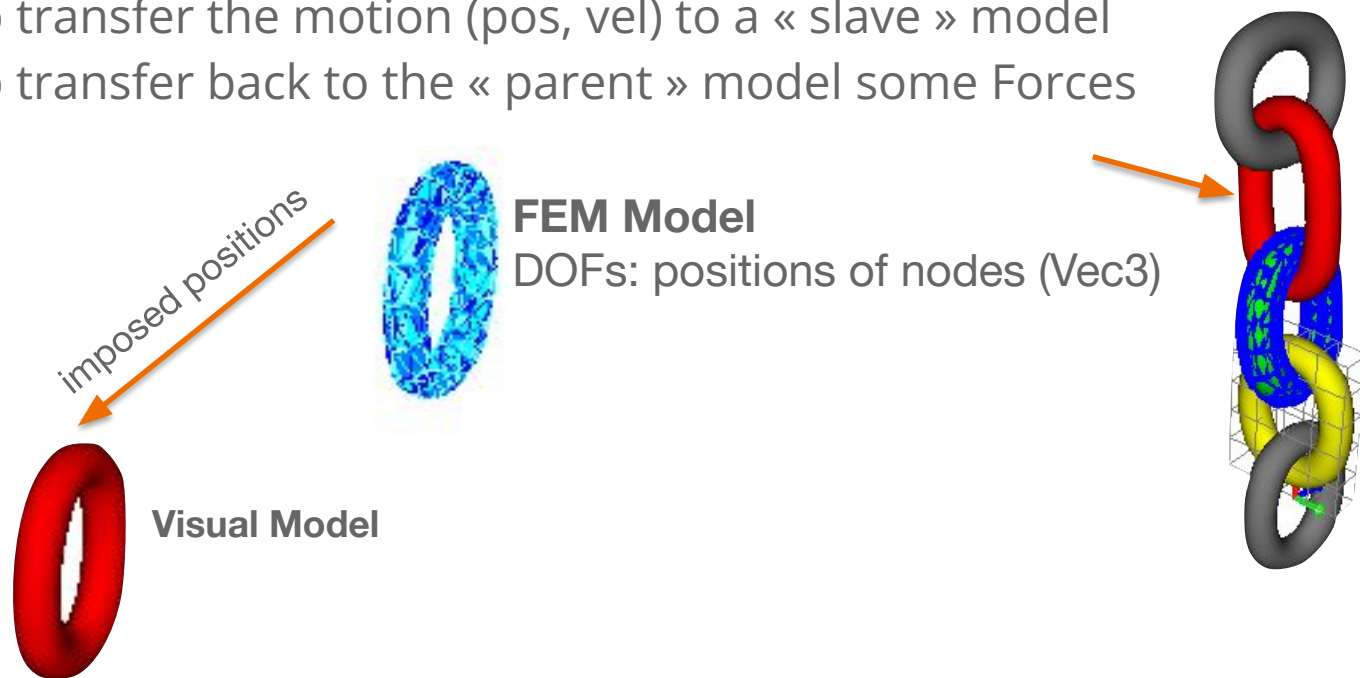
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# Main principles of SOFA :: main components

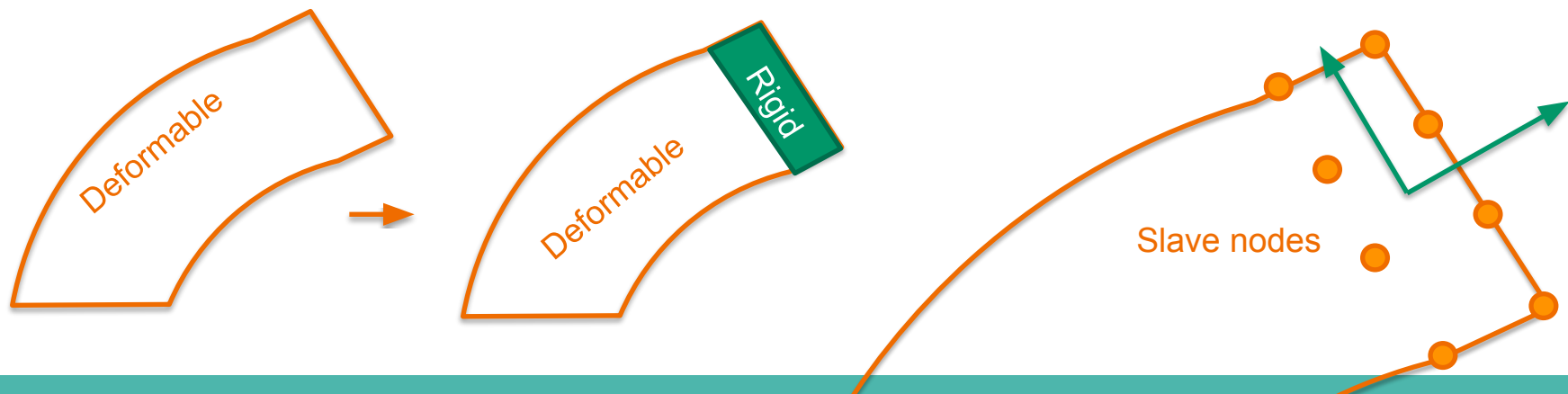
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# Deformable-rigid coupling

Why composite mechanics ?

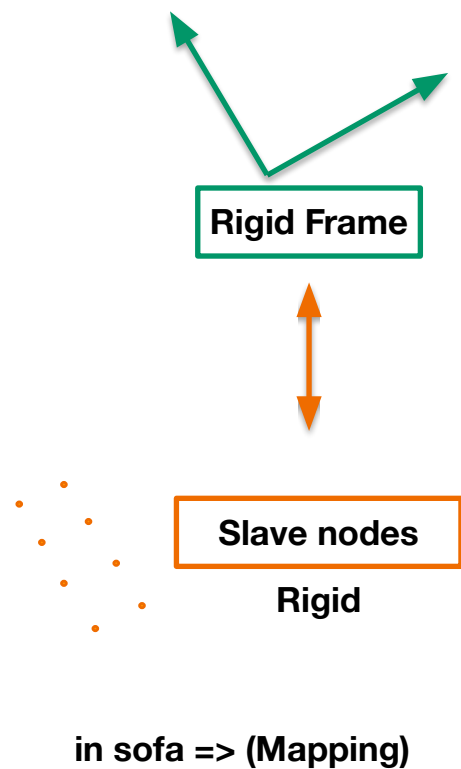
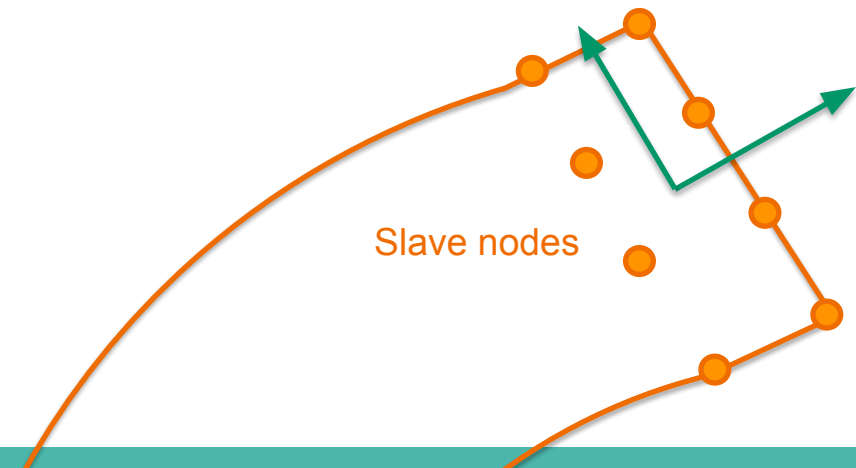
- Soft robot can be composed of rigid sections (backbones)
- Importance of computing the coupling between rigid parts and deformable parts.





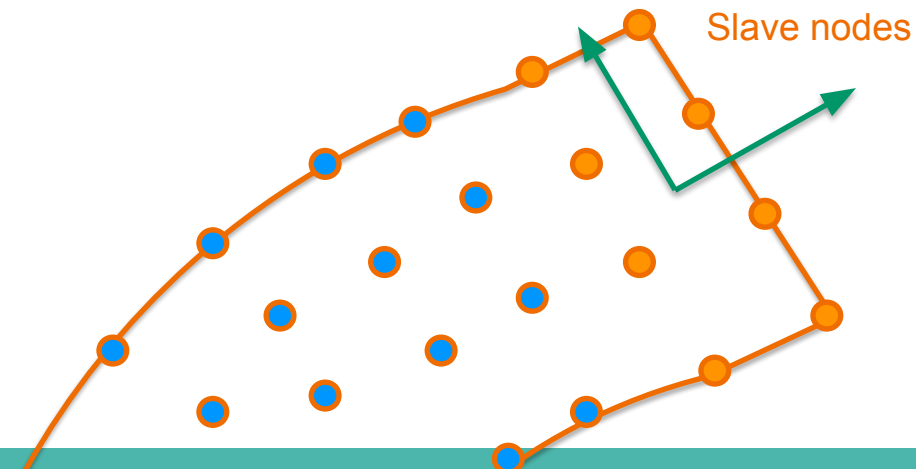
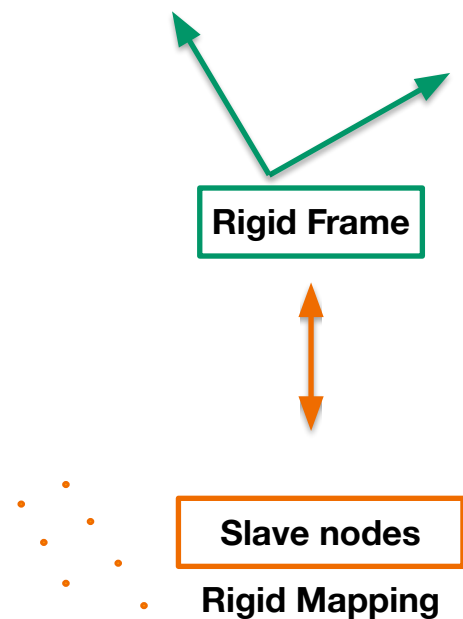
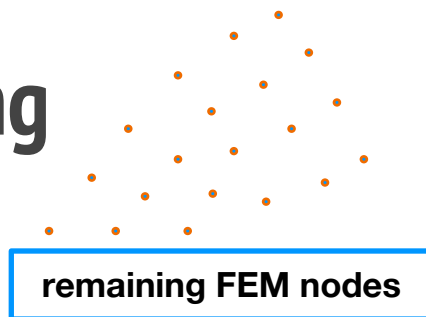
# Deformable-rigid coupling

Hierarchical representation



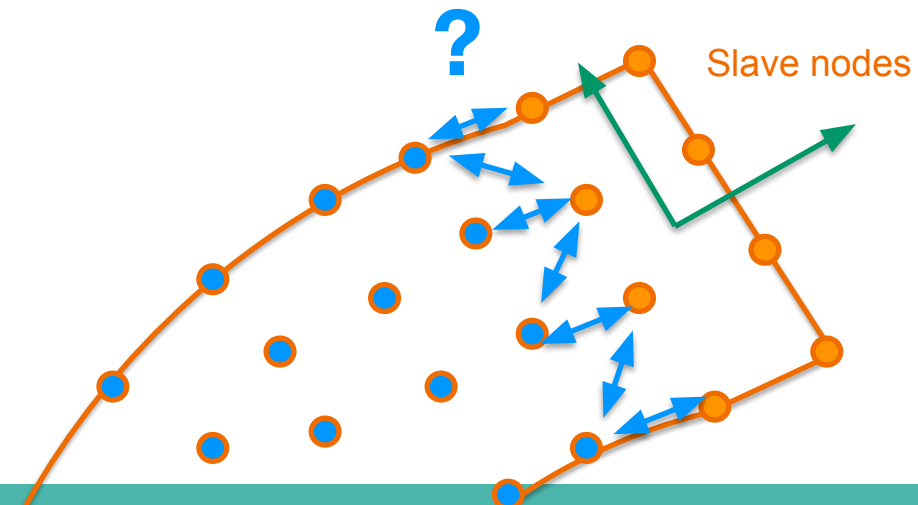
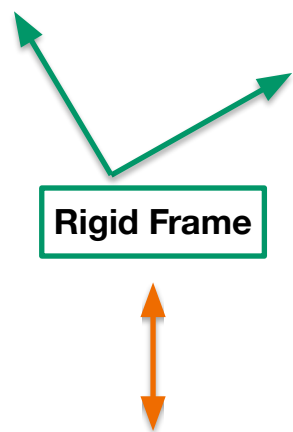
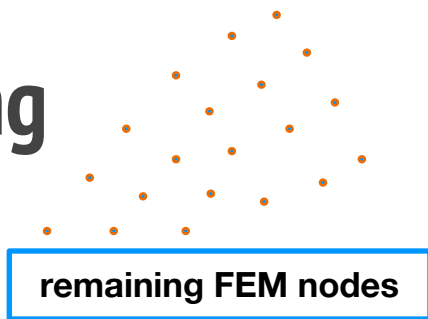
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Hierarchical representation



# Deformable-rigid coupling

Hierarchical representation

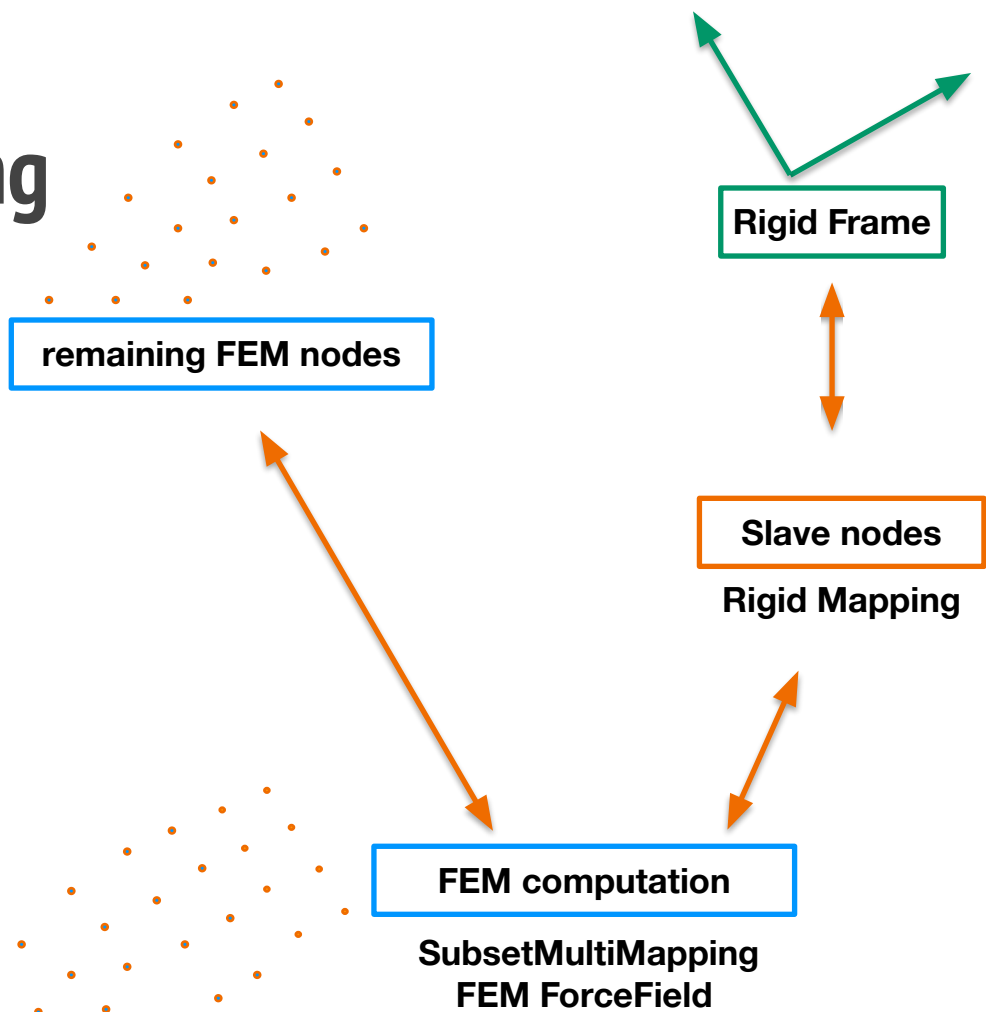
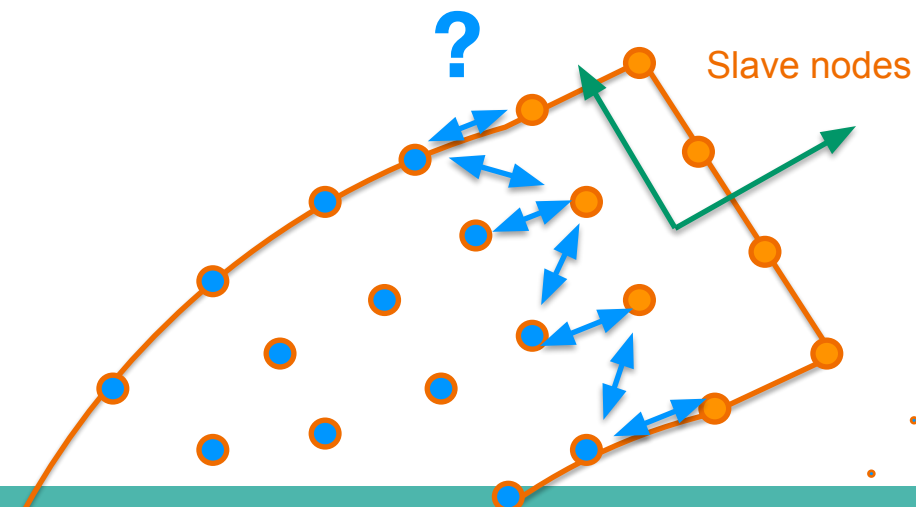


FEM computation ?

# Deformable-rigid coupling

Hierarchical representation

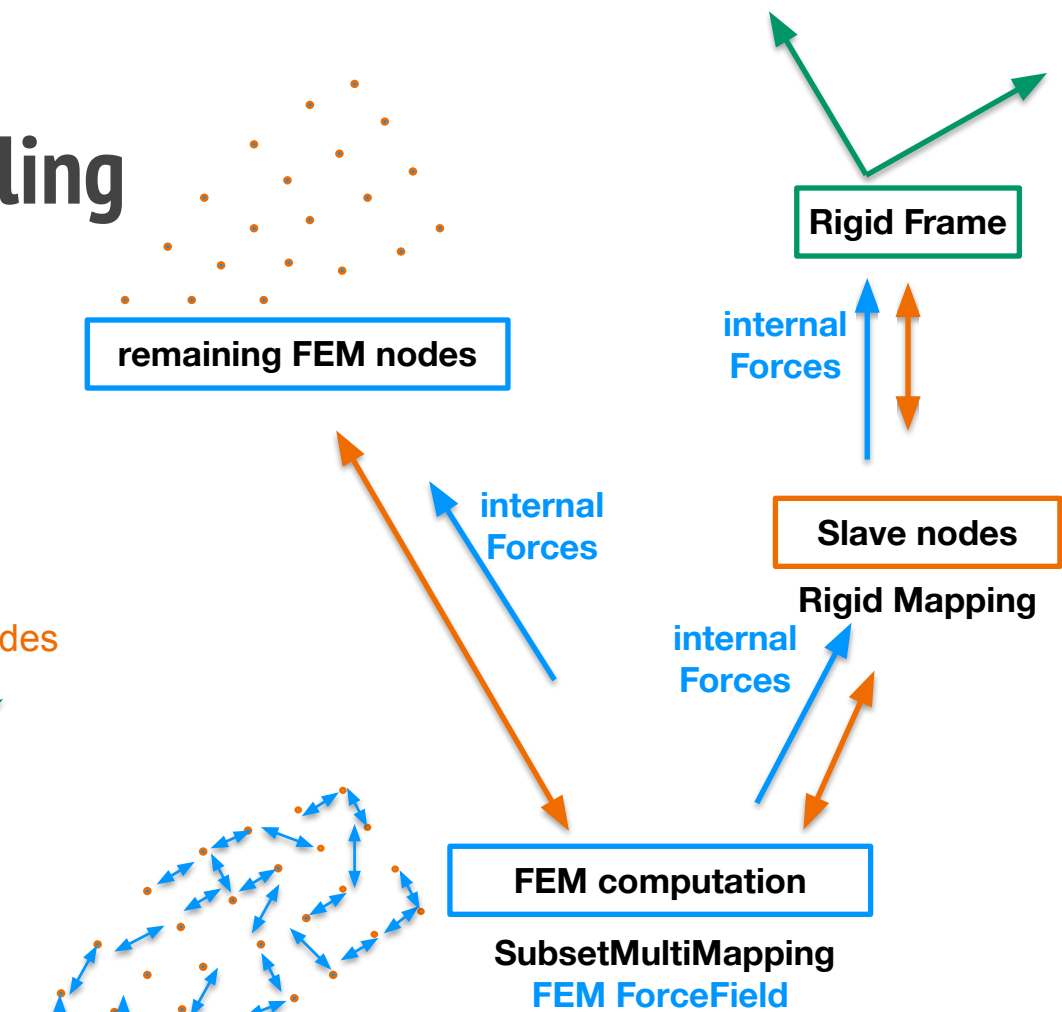
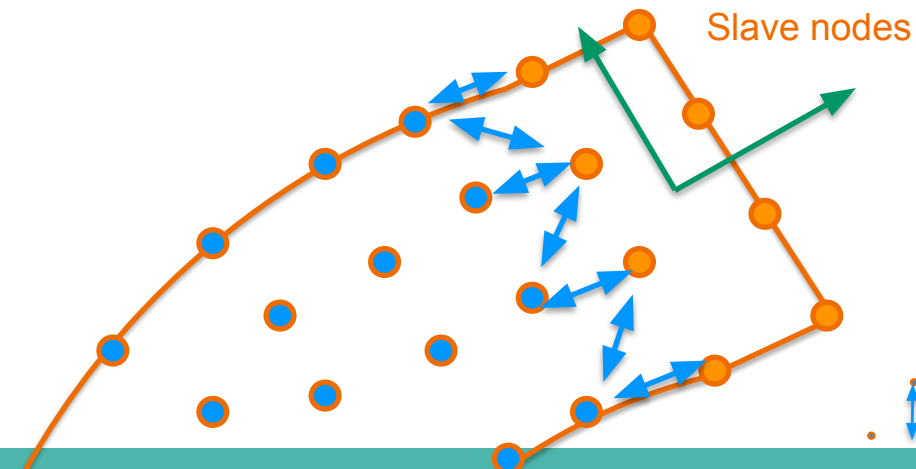
Multi-Mapping Concept



# Deformable-rigid coupling

Hierarchical representation

Multi-Mapping Concept



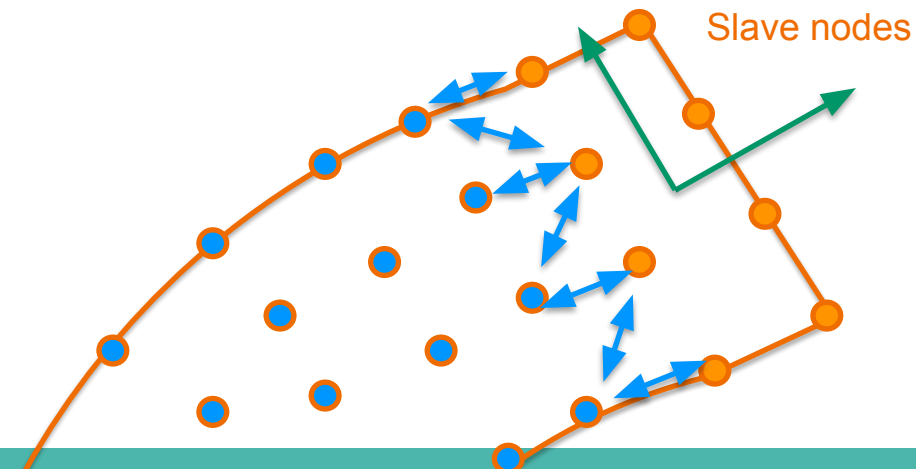


# Deformable-rigid coupling

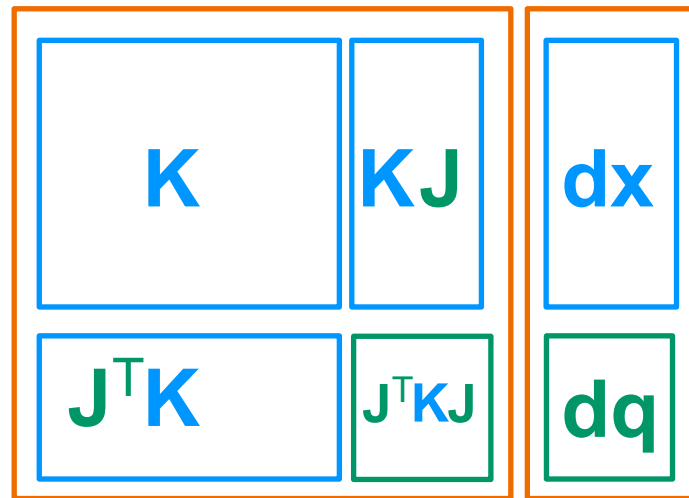
Hierarchical representation

Multi-Mapping Concept

Common solver



Solver (size  $3n + 6$ )



with  $J$  jacobian of the Rigid Mapping



# Session 1

10:00 am to 11:00 am: Tripod Tutorial (part1)

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# Step1: Mesh loader, visual model, and DOFs

We are introducing:

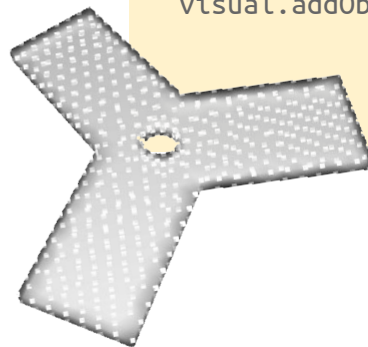
- Basic mechanical modeling
- Time integration and a mechanical object to the scene
- Visual model

# Step1: Mesh loader, visual model, and DOFs

We are introducing:

- Basic mechanical modeling
- Time integration and a mechanical object to the scene
- Visual model

```
def createScene(rootNode):  
    # Tool to load the mesh file of the silicone piece.  
    # It will be used for both the mechanical and the  
    # visual models.  
  
    # Visual object  
    visual = rootNode.addChild("Visual")  
    visual.addObject("MeshSTLLoader", name="loader2",  
                    filename="data/mesh/tripod_mid.stl")  
    visual.addObject("OglModel", name="renderer",  
                    src='./loader2',  
                    color=[1.0, 1.0, 1.0, 0.5])
```



# Step2: Mechanical model

Introducing elastic material modelling:

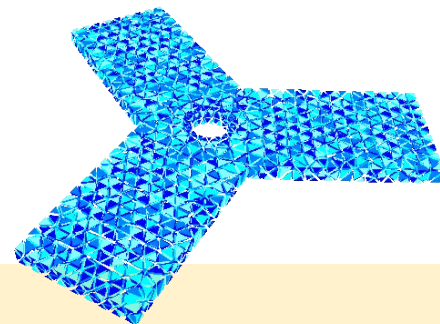
- Volumetric mesh
- Solver
- Force field

# Step2: Mechanical model

Introducing elastic material modelling:

- Volumetric mesh
- Solver
- Force field

What's new in the scene:



```
# Tetrahedric mesh
body.addObject('GIDMeshLoader', name='loader',
               filename="data/mesh/tripod_high.gidmsh")
body.addObject('TetrahedronSetTopologyContainer',
               src='@loader', name='container')
body.addObject("MechanicalObject", name="dofs",
               position=elasticbody.loader.position)
body.addObject("UniformMass", totalMass=0.032)
# Solver components
body.addObject("EulerImplicitSolver")
body.addObject("SparseLDLSolver")
# ForceField components
body.addObject("TetrahedronFEMForceField",
               youngModulus=800, poissonRatio=0.45)
```

# Step3: Fixed constraint

In this step:

- Add a box to select points
- Fix the select points with a constraint

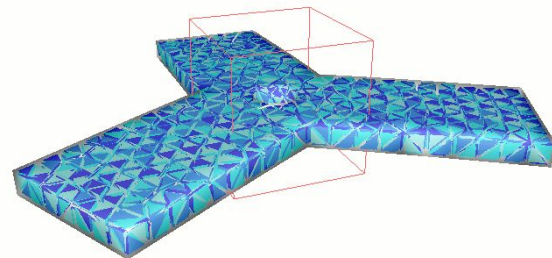
# Step3: Fixed constraint

In this step:

- Add a box to select points
- Fix the select points with a constraint

What's new in the scene:

```
# Instanciating the FixingBox prefab into the graph,  
constraining the mechanical object of the ElasticBody.  
fix = FixingBox(rootNode, body.ElasticMaterialObject,  
                translation=[0.0, 0.0, 0.0],  
                scale=[30., 30., 30.])  
  
# Changing the property of the Box ROI so that the  
constraint area appears on screen.  
fix.boxroi.drawBoxes = True
```



# Prefabs: ServoMotor

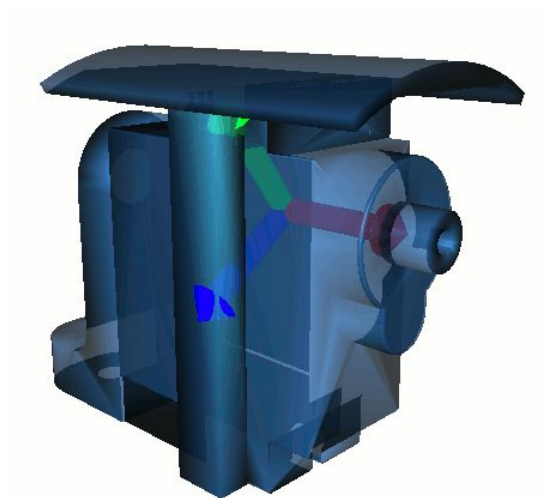
This prefab is implementing a S90 servo motor.

Call to prefab:

```
from s90servo import ServoMotor
def createScene(rootNode):
    ServoMotor(rootNode)
```

Run result:

```
runSofa details/s90servo.py
```



# Prefabs: ActuatedArm

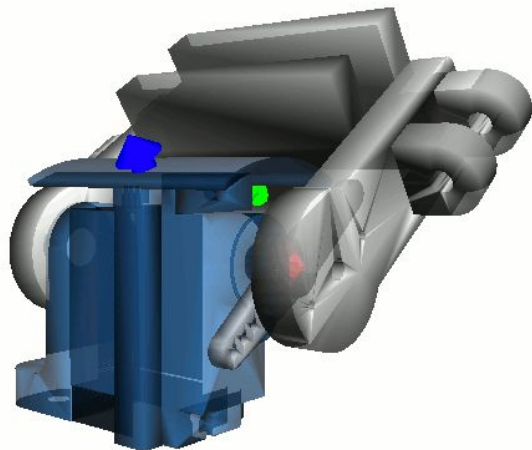
This prefab is implementing a S90 servo motor with the tripod actuation arm.

Call to prefab:

```
from actuatedarm import ActuatedArm
def createScene(rootNode):
    ActuatedArm(rootNode)
```

Run result:

```
runSofa details/actuatedarm.py
```

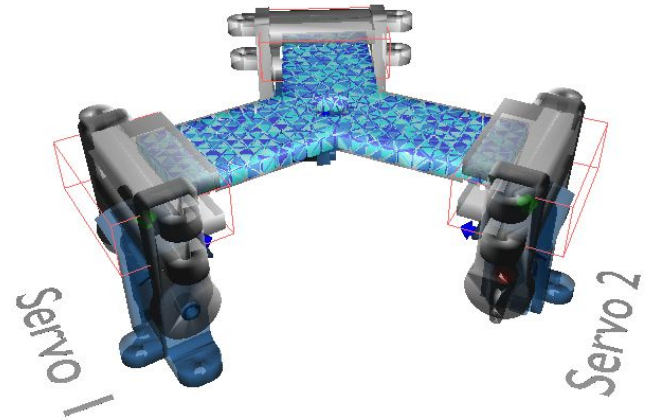




# Step4: Tripod assembly

Define the tripod prefab in three steps:

1. Add the ActuatedArm prefab
2. Rigidify part to attach to the arms
3. Constraint the deformable object to follow the arms



# Step4-1: Add actuated arms

First step is to:

- Add the three actuated arms
- Correctly place them

# Step4-2: Rigidification

Second step is:

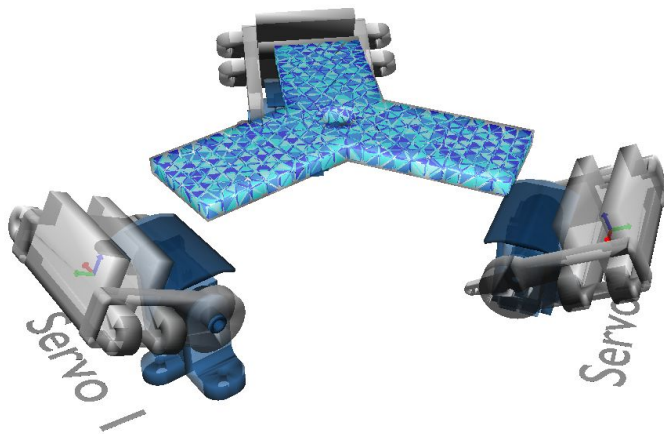
- Deformable part should be attached at each extremity
- So each extremity is rigidified

# Step4-1: Add actuated arms

First step is to:

- Add the three actuated arms
- Correctly place them

Arms not attached to the deformable part yet



What's new in the scene:

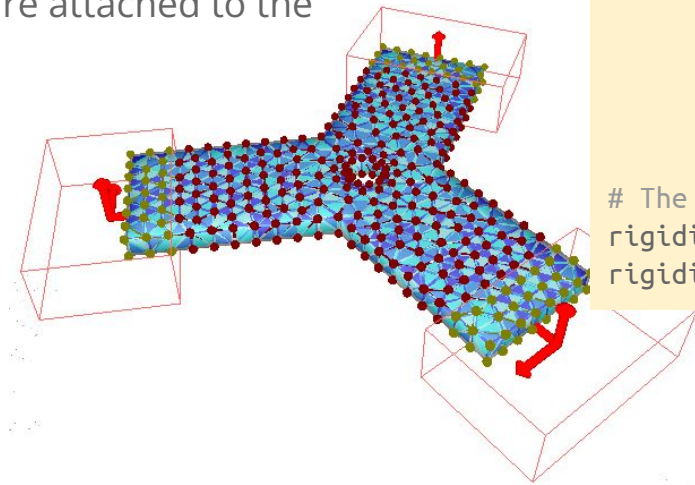
```
from actuatedarm import ActuatedArm
...
for i in range(0, nummotors):
    name = "ActuatedArm"+str(i)
    ... compute correct translation and rotation ...
    ActuatedArm(self.node, name=name,
                 translation=translation,
                 eulerRotation=eulerRotation)
# Add limits to angle that correspond to
# limits on real robot
arm.ServoMotor.minAngle = -2.0225
arm.ServoMotor.maxAngle = -0.0255
```

# Step4-2: Rigidification

Second step is:

- Deformable part should be attached at each extremity
- So each extremity is rigidified

Now three frames are attached to the deformable part



What's new in the scene:

```

from stlib.physics.mixedmaterial import Rigidify
...

# Rigidify the deformable part in each extremity
rigidified = Rigidify(self.node,
                      deformableObject,
                      groupIndices=groupIndices,
                      frames=frames,
                      name="RigidifiedStructure")

# The prefab gives access to two nodes
rigidifiedstruct.DeformableParts...
rigidifiedstruct.RigidParts...

```

# Step4-3: Attach parts

Last step of assembly:

- Link rigidified parts with actuated arms
- Use springs to attached the frames

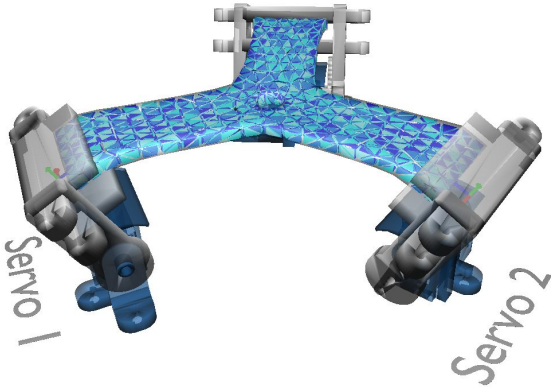
# Step4-3: Attach parts

Last step of assembly:

- Link rigidified parts with actuated arms
- Use springs to attached the frames

What's new in the scene:

```
# Attach arms
rigidParts.addObject('SubsetMultiMapping',
    input=[self.actuatedarms[0].ServoMotor...,
           self.actuatedarms[1].ServoMotor...,
           self.actuatedarms[2].ServoMotor...],
    output="@./", indexPairs=[[0,1,1,1,2,1,3,0]])
```



# Prefabs: Tripod

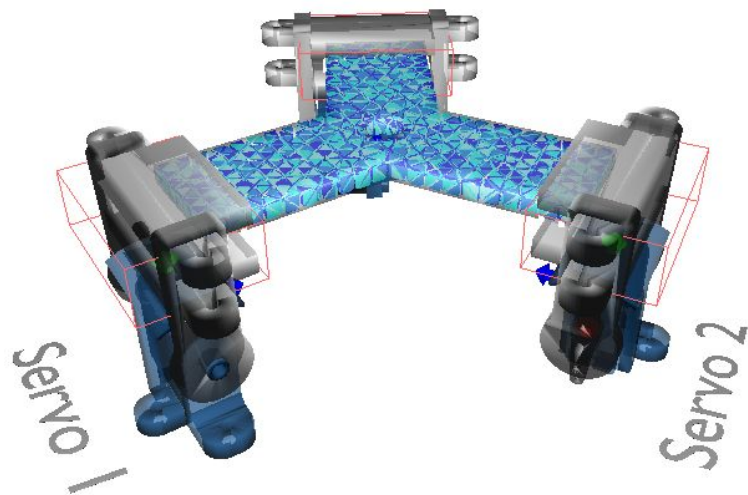
This prefab is implementing the tripod, with three S90 servo motors and actuation arm.

Call to prefab:

```
from tripod import Tripod
def createScene(rootNode):
    Tripod(rootNode)
```

Run result:

```
runSofa details/tripod.py
```





# Step5: Controller

Here you will learn how to:

- Add a controller
- The controller will connect user actions to the simulated behaviour
- We will animate the tripod to put it in the right position

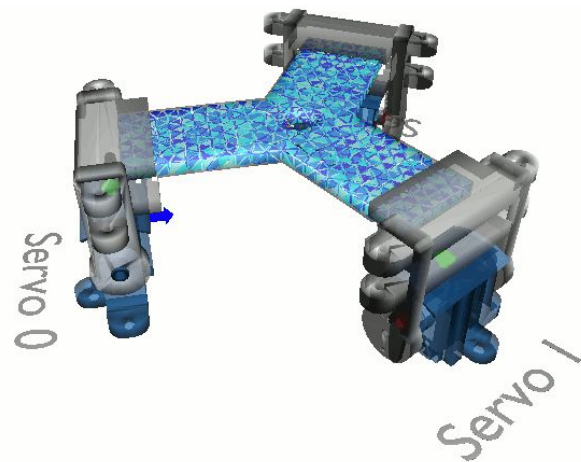
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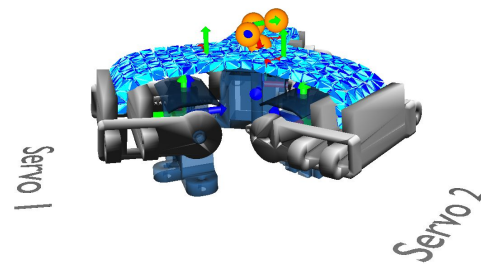
```
from tripodcontroller import TripodController
...
tripod = Tripod(model)
TripodController(rootNode, tripod.actuatedarms)
```



# Plug the robot

# 11:00 - 12:30: Session 2

- 11:00am: Presentation of the SOFA community and consortium
- 11:15am: Tripod Tutorial (part 2) :
  - Inverse modeling
  - Maze motion planning
  - Test on the digital twin
  - Test on the robot (for people on site)
- 12:15am: Conclusion and ongoing work



Todo : show what we will have at the end of the tutorial ?

# Session 2

Presentation of the SOFA community

---

# Session 2

Tripod Tutorial (part 2)

---

# Inverse Kinematics

Quick Reminder

Time-stepping:

$$\begin{aligned}Ma_{i+1} &= f(\mathbf{x}_{i+1}, \mathbf{v}_{i+1}) + \mathbf{f}_{ext} \\ \mathbf{v}_{i+1} &= \mathbf{v}_i + h\mathbf{a}_{i+1} \\ \mathbf{x}_{i+1} &= \mathbf{x}_i + h\mathbf{v}_{i+1}\end{aligned}$$

Internal forces linearization :  
(at each time step)

$$f(\mathbf{x}_{i+1}, \mathbf{v}_{i+1}) = f(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{v}_i) + \mathbf{K}d\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{D}d\mathbf{v}$$

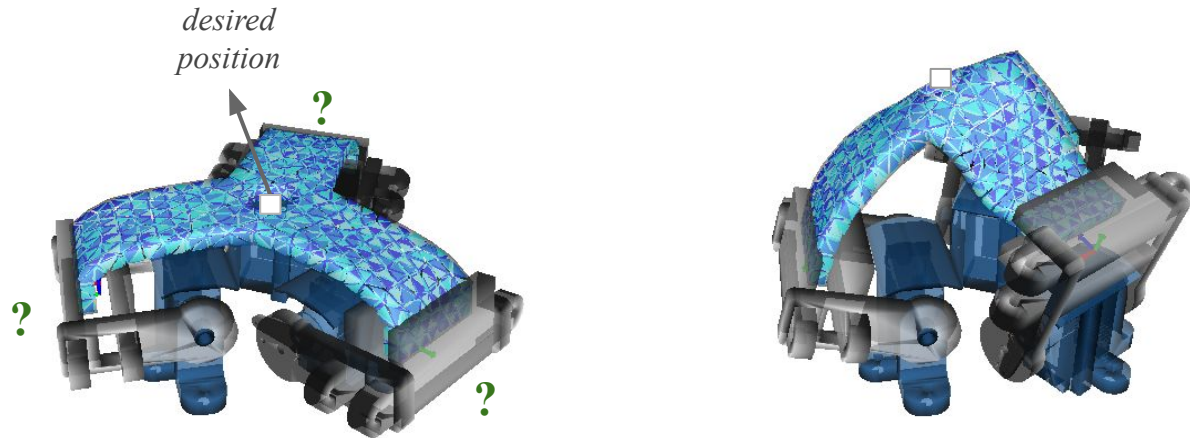
Matrix system to solve:

$$\underbrace{(M - hD - h^2K)}_A d\mathbf{v} = \underbrace{hf_{ext} + hf(\mathbf{x}_i, \mathbf{v}_i) + h^2K\mathbf{v}_i}_b$$
$$\underbrace{-K}_{A} d\mathbf{x} = \underbrace{f(\mathbf{x}_{i-1}) + f_{ext}}_b \quad (\text{quasi static})$$

# Inverse Kinematics

Problem statement:

- Control the end effector position and orientation
- By finding the right angle for each actuated arm





# Inverse Kinematics

Quick Reminder

For actuator and contact we use **Lagrange multipliers**:

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & H^T \\ H & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} dx \\ -\lambda \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b \\ \delta \end{bmatrix}$$

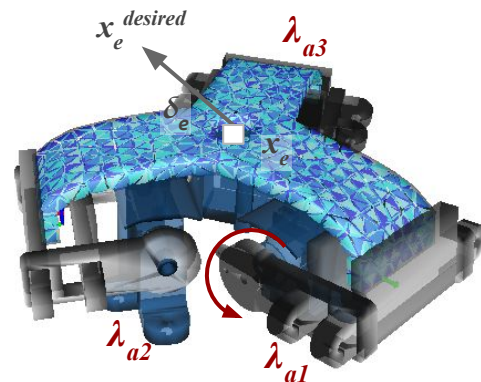
Constraint Jacobian:  
direction of the  
constraint forces

Lagrange multiplier:  
constraint effort

Shift, volume growth...

# Inverse Kinematics

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & H_e^T & H_a^T \\ H_e & 0 & 0 \\ H_a & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} dx \\ -\lambda_e \\ -\lambda_a \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} b \\ \delta_e \\ \delta_a \end{bmatrix}$$



Optimization in motion space: computationally expensive

→ Projection in space of actuation variables using **Schur complement**:  $W_{jk} = H_j A^{-1} H_k^T$ , with  $j, k \in \{e, a\}$

→  $W_{jk}$ : mechanical coupling between effector points and actuators.

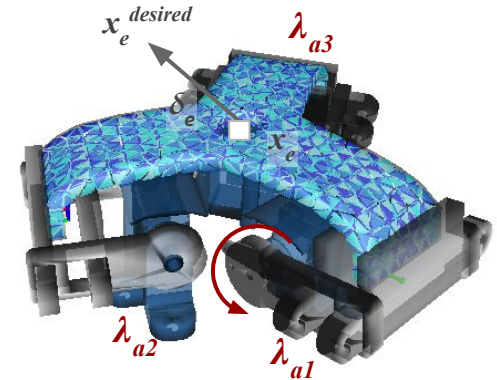
$$\begin{aligned} \delta_e &= W_{ea} \lambda_a + \delta_e^{free} \\ \delta_a &= W_{aa} \lambda_a + \delta_a^{free} \end{aligned}$$

with  $\delta^{free} = H_e dx^{free} + \delta(x_i)$

$$dx^{free} = A^{-1} b$$

# Inverse Kinematics

$$\begin{pmatrix} A & H_e^T & H_a^T \\ H_e & 0 & 0 \\ H_a & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} dx \\ -\lambda_e \\ -\lambda_a \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} b \\ \delta_e \\ \delta_a \end{pmatrix}$$



Optimization in motion space: computationally expensive

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with  $\delta_e^{free} = H_e dx^{free} + \delta(x_i)$

$$dx^{free} = A^{-1} b$$

# Inverse Kinematics

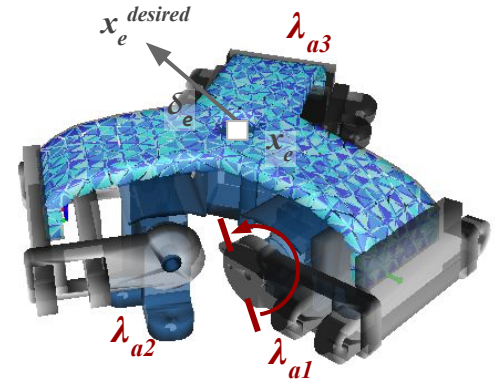
Formulation of Quadratic Program (QP) with linear constraints:

$$\min_{\lambda_a} \|\delta_e = W_{ea} \lambda_a + \delta_e^{free}\|^2$$

$$\text{s.t: (1) } \delta_{max} \geq \delta_a = W_{aa} \lambda_a + \delta_a^{free} \geq \delta_{min}$$

(1) Constraints on actuators (e.g limit on cable displacement)

$$\begin{aligned} dx &= A^{-1} H_a^T \lambda_a + dx^{free} \\ x_{i+1} &= x_i + dx \end{aligned}$$

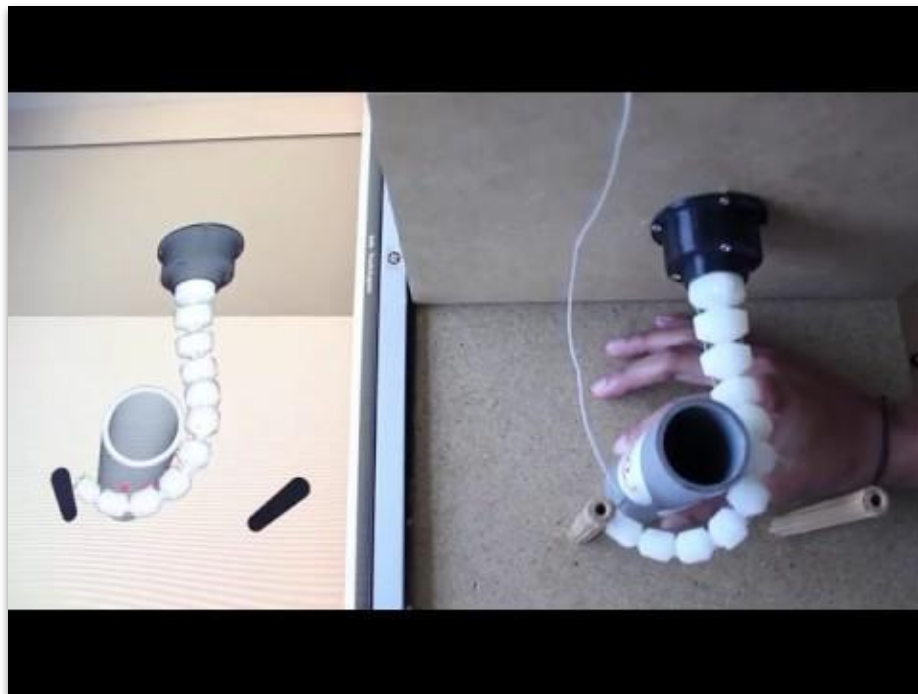


# Inverse Kinematics with Contacts

- Signorini's condition for contact
- QP with linear complementarity constraints
- Specific solver

E. Coevoet - RA-Letter 2017

New actuation that moves the trunk forward and backward



# Step8: Inverse model

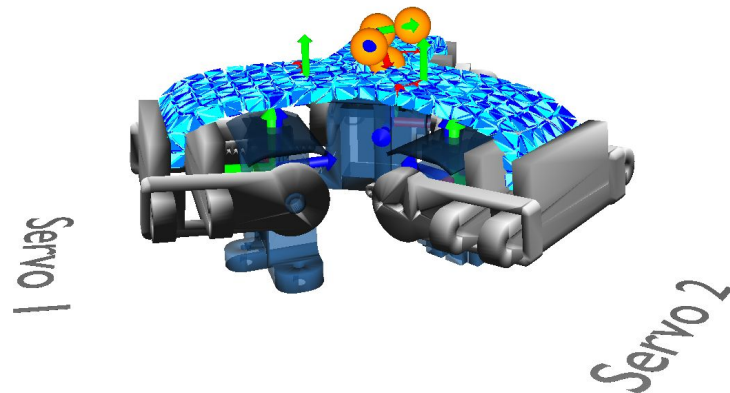
In this step we solve the inverse kinematics:

- add effector position
- add effector target
- add joint actuator (to optimize angle)
- add inverse solver

Run examples: Tripod

2 possibilities :

- Control the 3 absolute positions of the effector (x, y, z)
- Control angle x and z and position y



# Maze orientation planning

run Maze.py

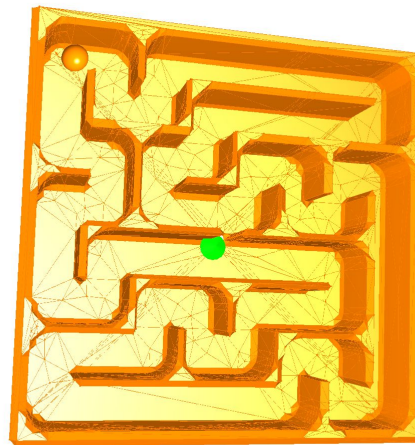
Create trajectory using control points over time

open mazeplanning.json

Add new points.... And to ctrl+r (reload)

Verify in simulation that it is working

Tips: To make the trajectory work well on the robot, try to emphasize the movements. Sometimes the ball rolls better in the simulation than in reality



# Control with a digital twin

1. run `step8-maze.py`
2. press `Ctrl+a` and then `Ctrl+i`
  - Is the desired orientation applied ?
  - Can we control the translations of the maze ? which one ? why ?
  - In `MazeController.py`, change: `working_y = 40` (this is the working height of the maze in the planning). Redo step 1 and step 2. What do you observe ? How would you explain ?





# Control the real robot

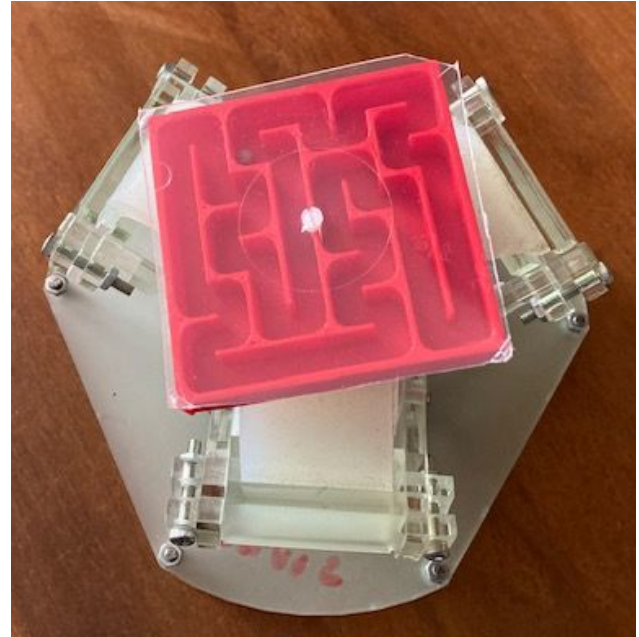
Plug the robot and place the maze

Run `step8-maze.py`

press `Ctrl+a` then `Ctrl+b` then `Ctrl+i`

What difference do you observe between simulation and reality ? Why ?

What do you propose to correct the error and better control the small ball inside the maze ?



**Thanks!**