

# Real-time Height-field Simulation of Sand and Water Mixtures

Haozhe Su<sup>1</sup>

Siyu Zhang<sup>1</sup>

Zherong Pan<sup>1</sup>

Mridul Aanjaneya<sup>2</sup>

Xifeng Gao<sup>1</sup>

Kui Wu<sup>1</sup>



Dry Sand

Wet Sand

Elastoplasticity  
Saturation

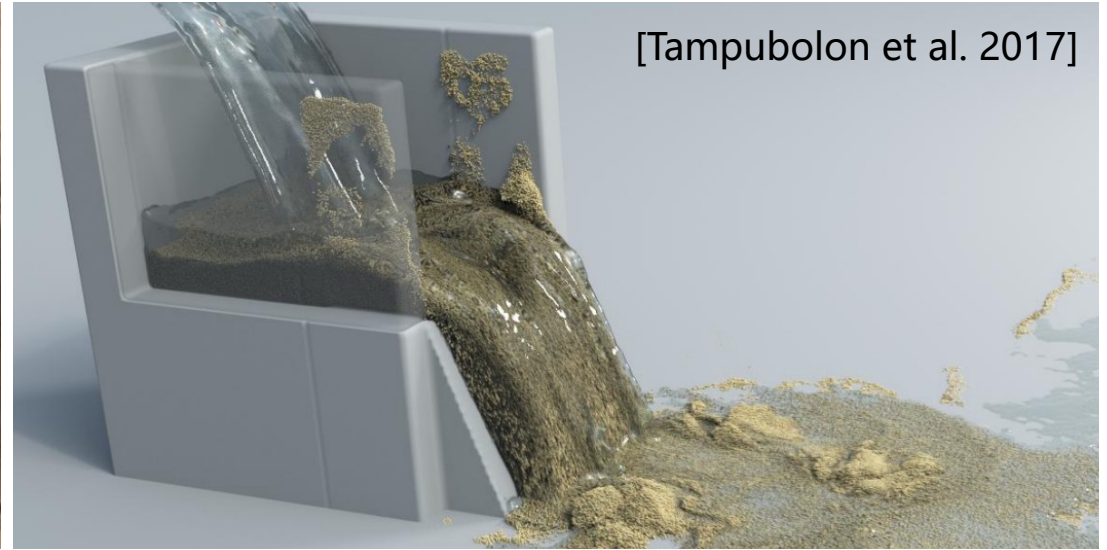
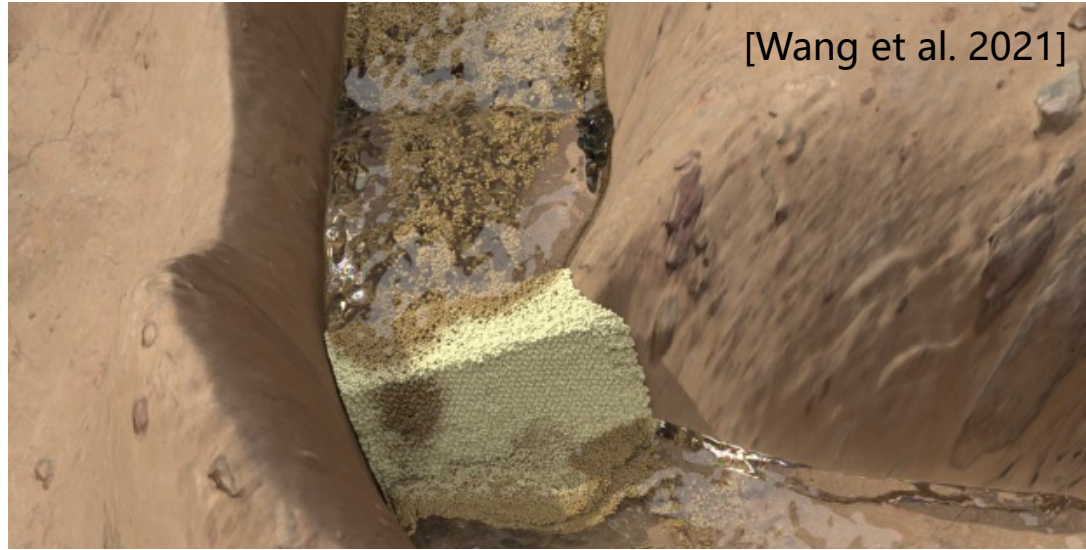
Water

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \cdot \nabla u = g - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \nu \nabla \cdot \nabla u$$
$$\nabla \cdot u = 0$$

Water-Sand Coupling



# Prior works



# Prior works

[Wang et al. 2021]

[Tampubolon et al. 2017]

Particle-based methods, like MPM, SPH, and DEM

✓ Lots of details

✓ High fidelity

✗ Slow

✗ Not suitable for real-time applications

2018]

# Real-time Sand and Water Mixtures

1024 x 1024 Grid

2 ms/step

RTX 4080



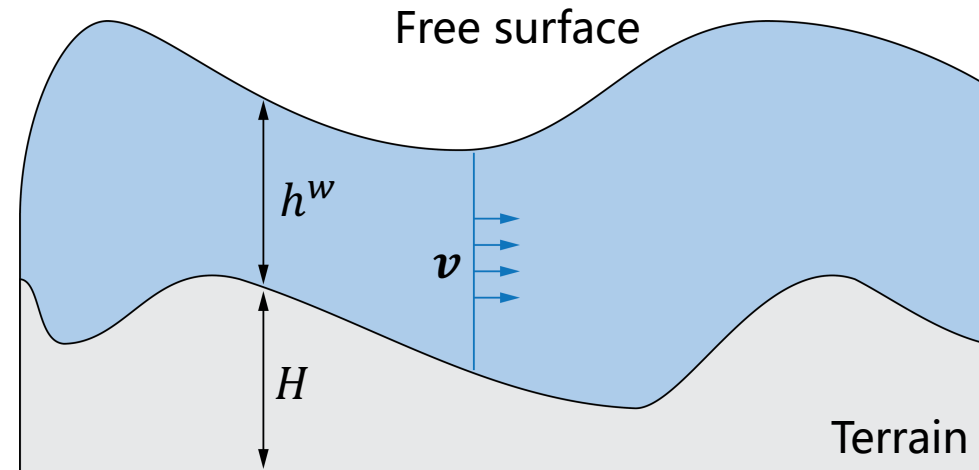
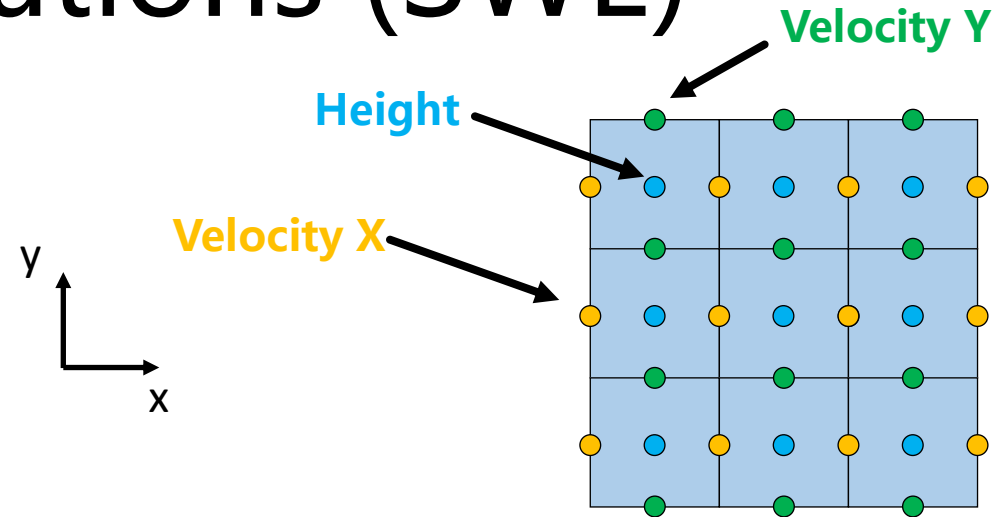
# Shallow Water Equations (SWE)

- Height integration

$$\frac{Dh^w}{Dt} = -h^w \nabla \cdot v^w$$

- Velocity integration

$$\frac{Dv^w}{Dt} = -g \nabla (H + h^w)$$



# Shallow Water Equations (SWE)

- Height integration

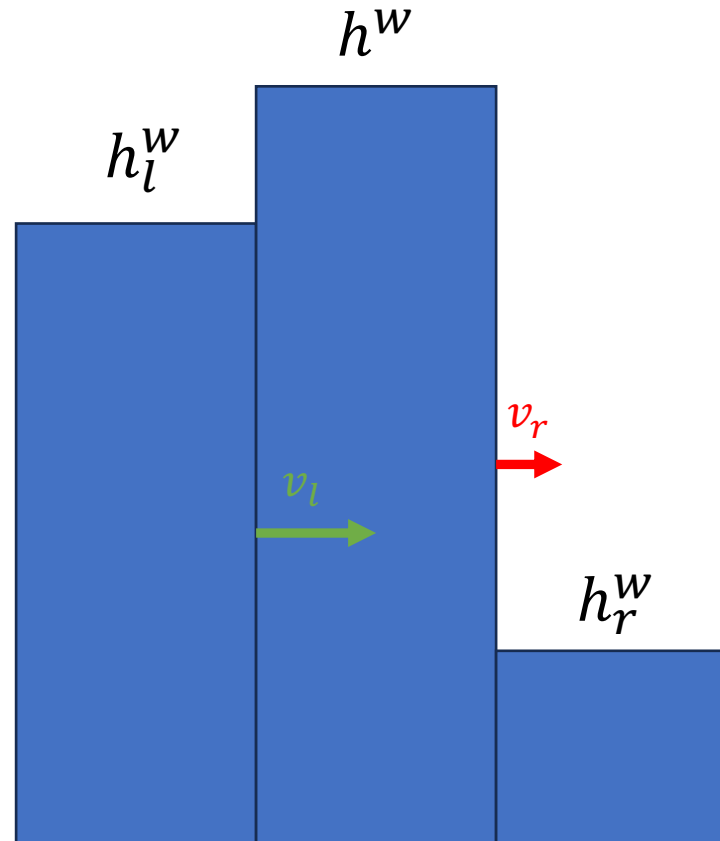
$$\frac{Dh^w}{Dt} = -h^w \nabla \cdot v^w$$

- Rewrite

$$\frac{\partial h^w}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (h^w v^w)$$

- Discretize

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta h^w &= -\nabla \cdot (h^w v^w) \Delta t \\ &= \frac{\Delta t (h^w v^w)_l - \Delta t (h^w v^w)_r}{\Delta x} \end{aligned}$$



# Shallow Water Equations (SWE)

- Height integration

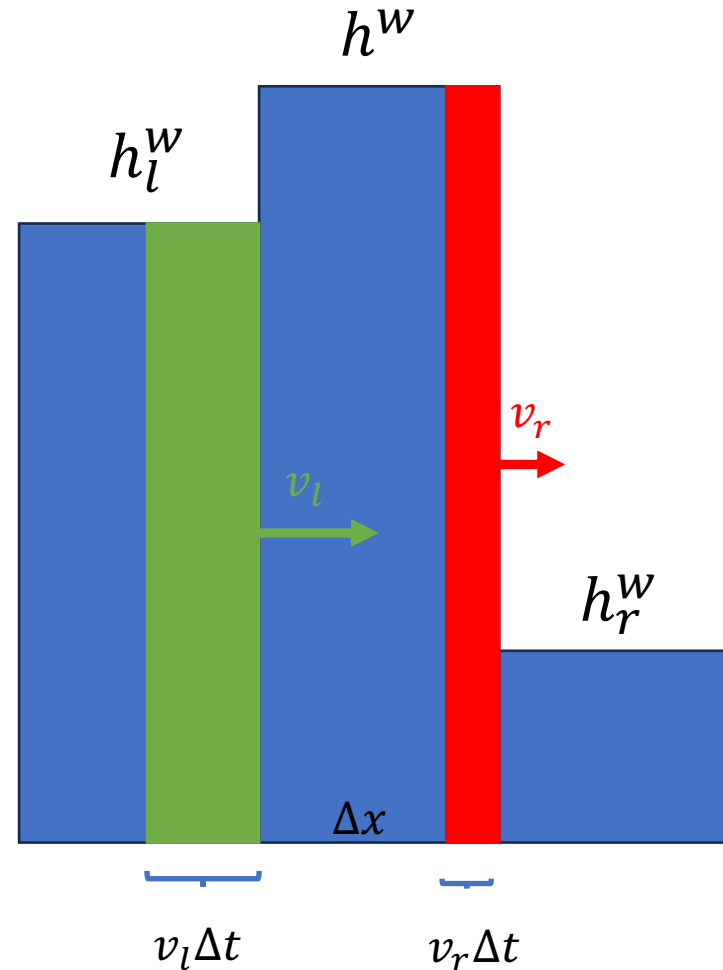
$$\frac{Dh^w}{Dt} = -h^w \nabla \cdot v^w$$

- Rewrite:

$$\frac{\partial h^w}{\partial t} = -\nabla \cdot (h^w v^w)$$

- Discretize

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta h^w &= -\nabla \cdot (h^w v^w) \Delta t \\ &= \frac{\Delta t (h^w v^w)_l - \Delta t (h^w v^w)_r}{\Delta x} \end{aligned}$$





# Shallow Water Equations (SWE)

$$\frac{\partial v^w}{\partial t} + v^w \cdot \nabla v^w = \cancel{g} - \frac{1}{\rho} \nabla p + \cancel{v^w \nabla \cdot \nabla v^w}$$

$$p = \rho g(h + H)$$

$$\frac{Dv^w}{Dt} = -g \nabla(H + h^w)$$

# Shallow Water Equations (SWE)

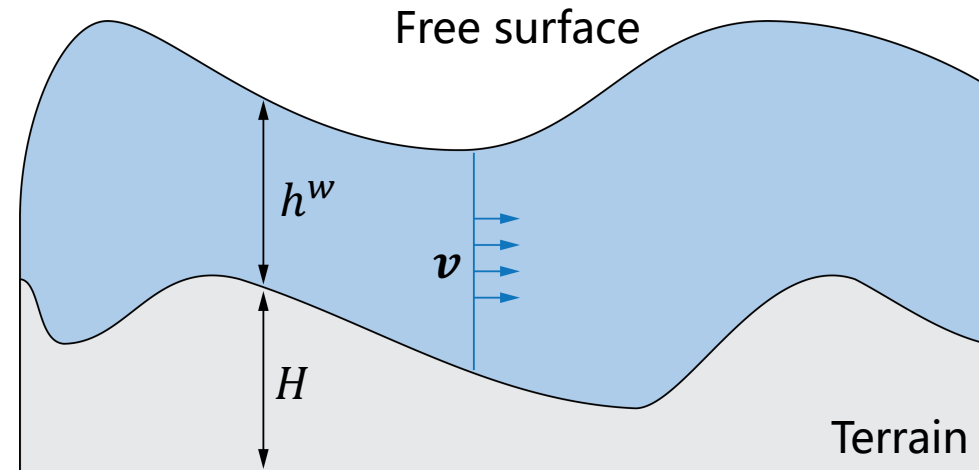
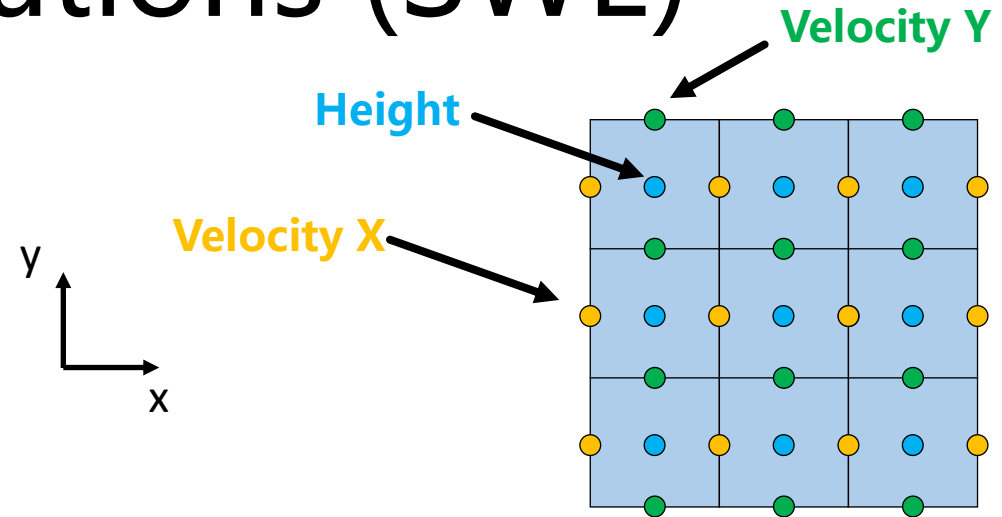
- Height integration

$$\frac{Dh^w}{Dt} = -h^w \nabla \cdot v^w$$

- Velocity integration

$$\frac{Dv^w}{Dt} = -g \nabla (H + h^w)$$

✓ 2.5D representation  
✓ Super fast



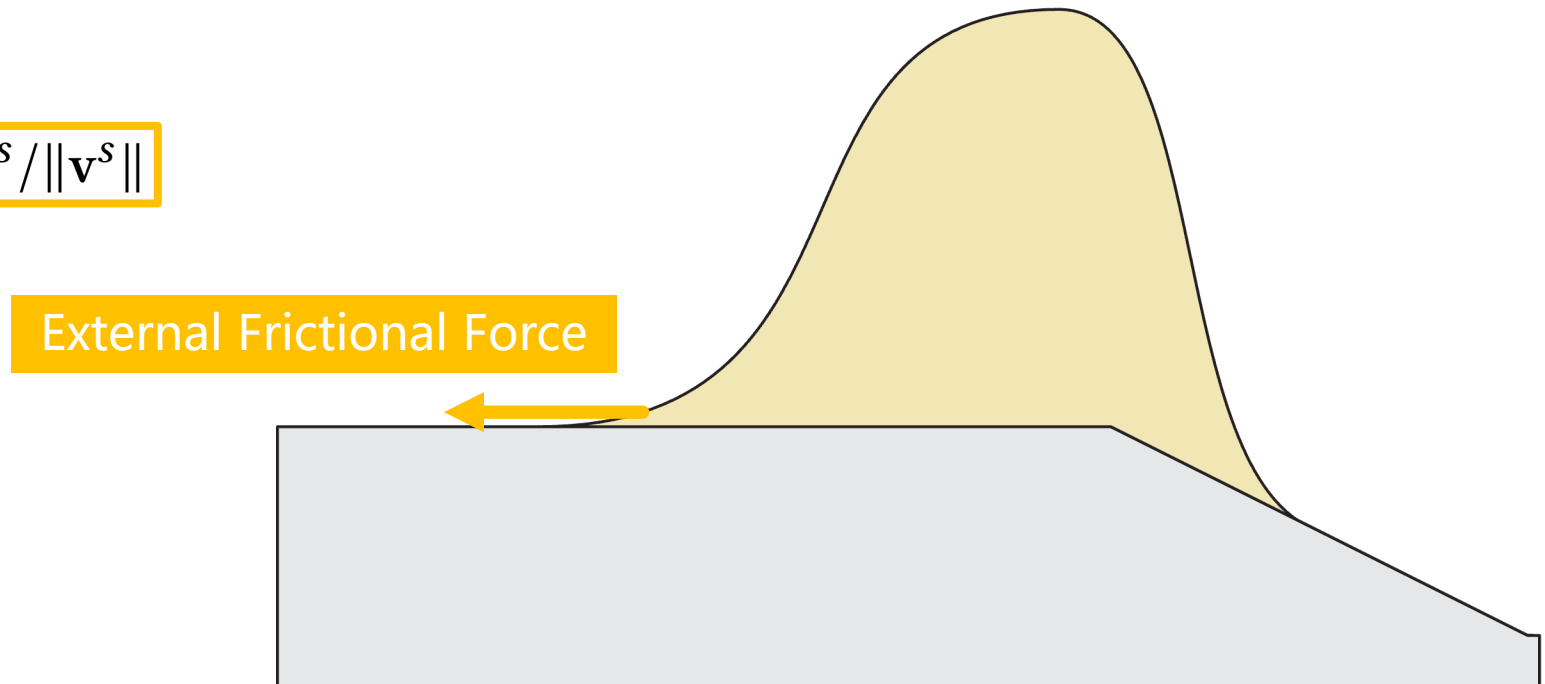
# Shallow Sand Equations (SSE) [Zhu et al. 2021]

- Height integration

$$\frac{Dh^s}{Dt} = -h^s \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}^s$$

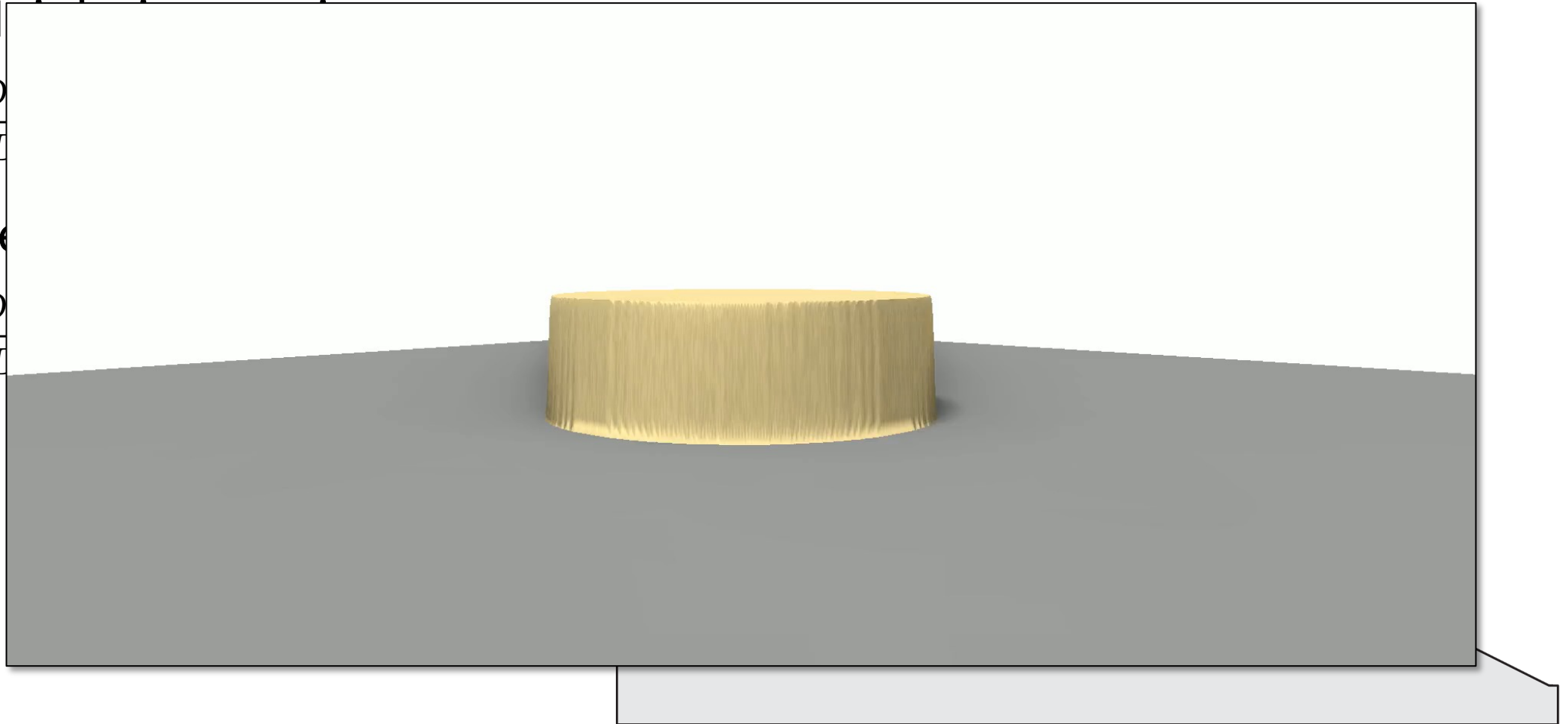
- Velocity integration

$$\frac{D\mathbf{v}^s}{Dt} = -g \nabla (H + h^s) \boxed{-\mu g \mathbf{v}^s / \|\mathbf{v}^s\|}$$



# Shallow Sand Equations (SSE) [Zhu et al. 2021]

- Height  $H$   
 $\frac{D}{L}$
- Velocity  $V$   
 $\frac{D}{L}$



# Shallow Sand Equations (SSE)

[Tampubolon et al. 2017]

- Height integration

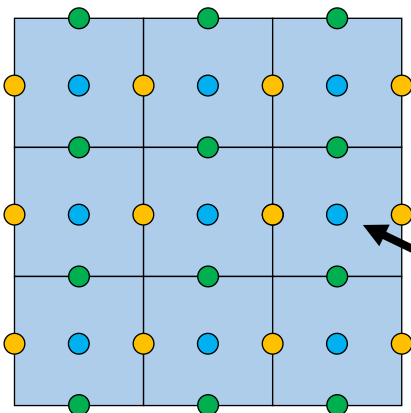
$$\frac{Dh^s}{Dt} = -h^s \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}^s$$

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{\det(\mathbf{F})} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \mathbf{F}} \mathbf{F}^T \quad c_f \text{tr}(\sigma) + \left\| \sigma - \frac{\text{tr}(\sigma)}{d} \mathbf{I} \right\| \leq c_c(\phi)$$

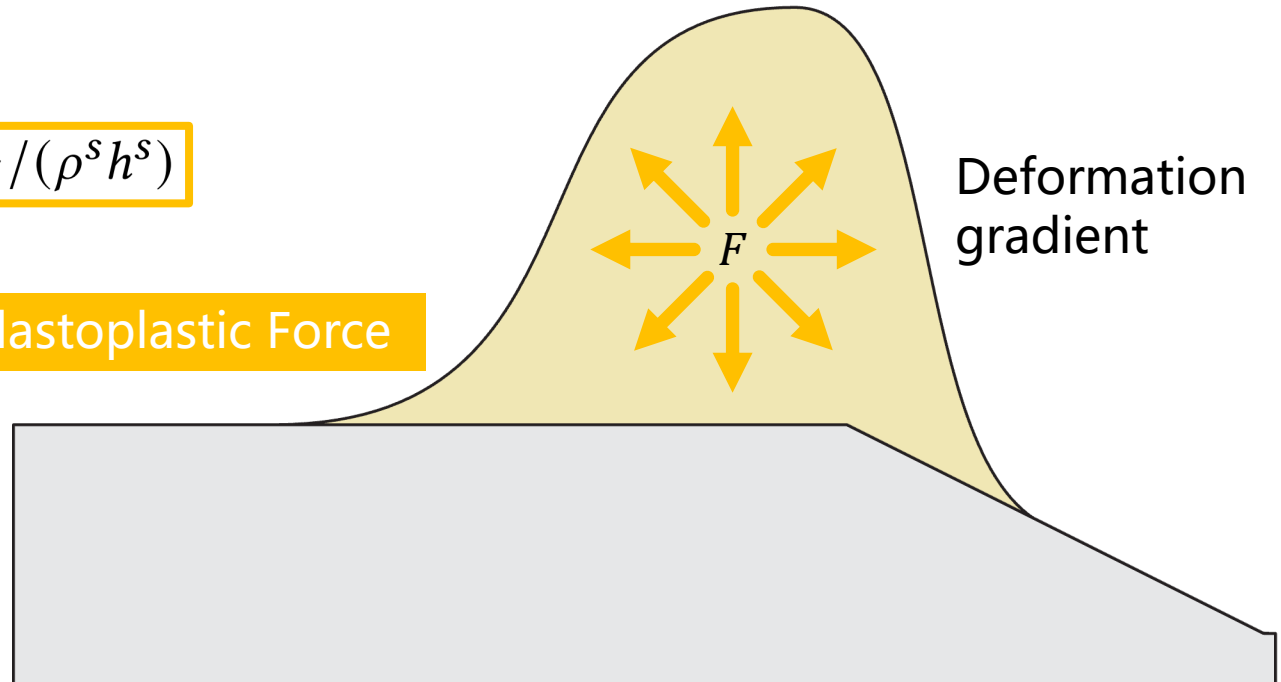
$$\mathbf{f}_I = \left( \frac{\partial(h^s \sigma_{xx})}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(h^s \sigma_{xy})}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial(h^s \sigma_{yx})}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial(h^s \sigma_{yy})}{\partial y} \right)$$

- Velocity integration

$$\frac{D\mathbf{v}^s}{Dt} = -g \nabla(H + h^s) - \mu g \mathbf{v}^s / \|\mathbf{v}^s\| + \mathbf{f}_I / (\rho^s h^s)$$



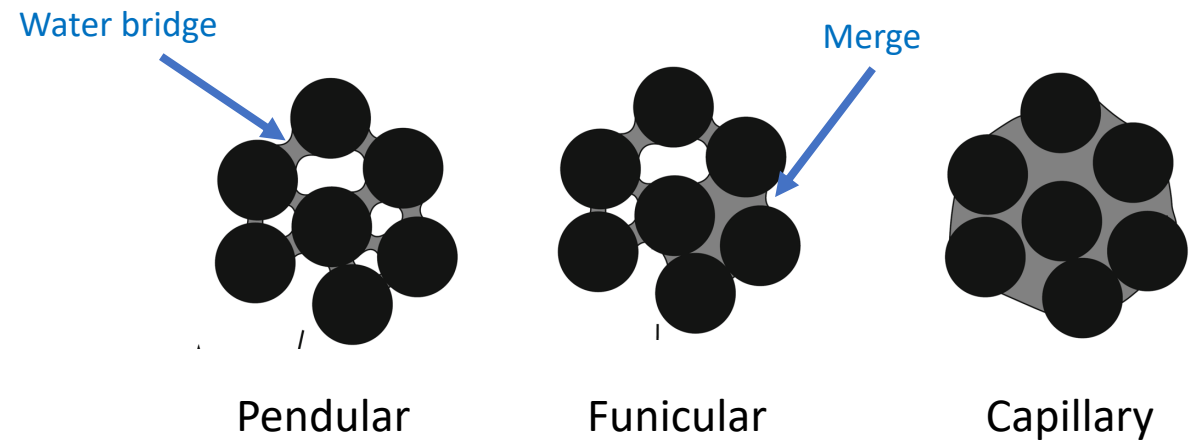
Internal Elastoplastic Force



# Saturation States of Wet Sand

- Modified Drucker-Prager yielding condition

$$c_f \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) + \left\| \boldsymbol{\sigma} - \frac{\text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\sigma})}{d} \mathbf{I} \right\| \leq c_c(\phi)$$



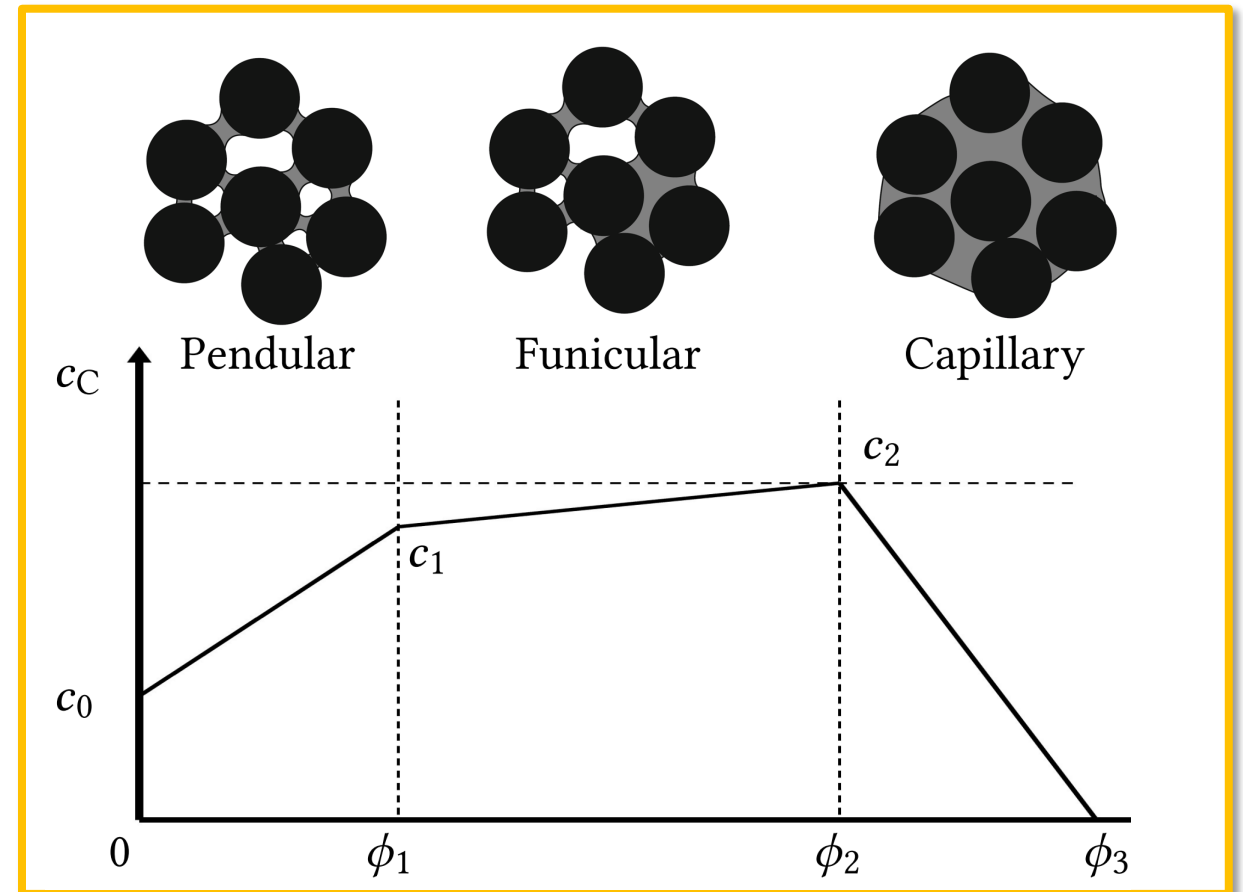
# Saturation States of Wet Sand

- Modified Drucker-Prager yielding condition

$$c_f \text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\sigma}) + \left\| \boldsymbol{\sigma} - \frac{\text{tr}(\boldsymbol{\sigma})}{d} \mathbf{I} \right\| \leq c_c(\phi)$$

$$c_c(\phi) = \begin{cases} c_0 + \phi \frac{c_1 - c_0}{\phi_1}, & \text{if } 0 \leq \phi < \phi_1 \\ c_1 + (\phi - \phi_1) \frac{c_2 - c_1}{\phi_2 - \phi_1}, & \text{if } \phi_1 \leq \phi < \phi_2 \\ c_2 \frac{\phi_3 - \phi}{\phi_3 - \phi_2}, & \text{if } \phi_2 \leq \phi \leq \phi_3 \\ 0, & \text{if } \phi > \phi_3. \end{cases}$$

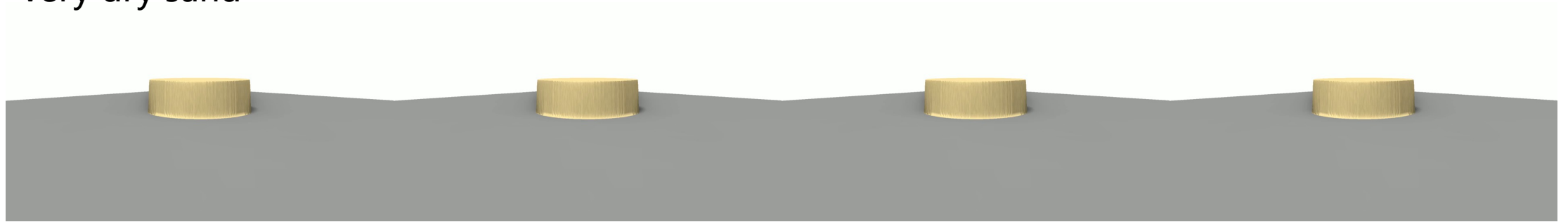
$\phi$  - Saturation level



# Sand Piling

with different saturation levels

Very dry sand



$$\phi = 0.00$$

$$\phi = 0.03$$

$$\phi = 0.07$$

$$\phi = 0.25$$



$$\phi = 0.30$$

$$\phi = 0.32$$

$$\phi = 0.35$$

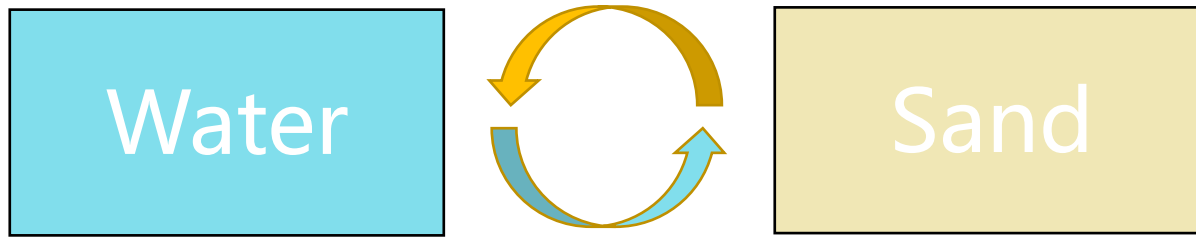
$$\phi = 0.40$$

Over wet  
sand



# Water-Sand Coupling

Momentum Exchange



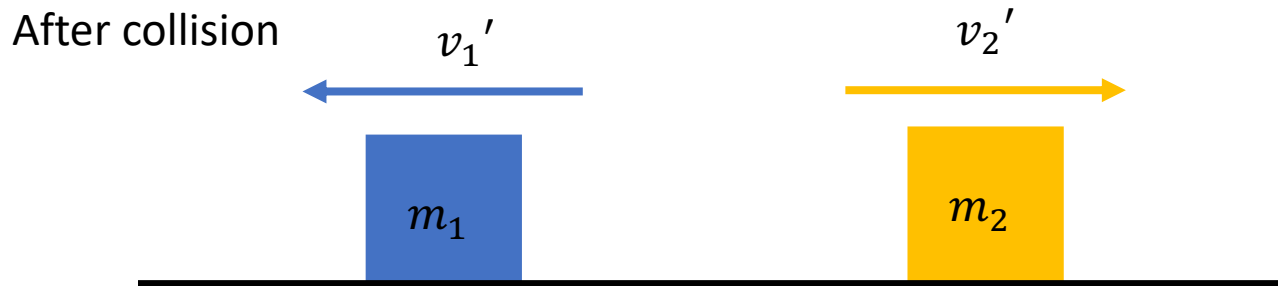
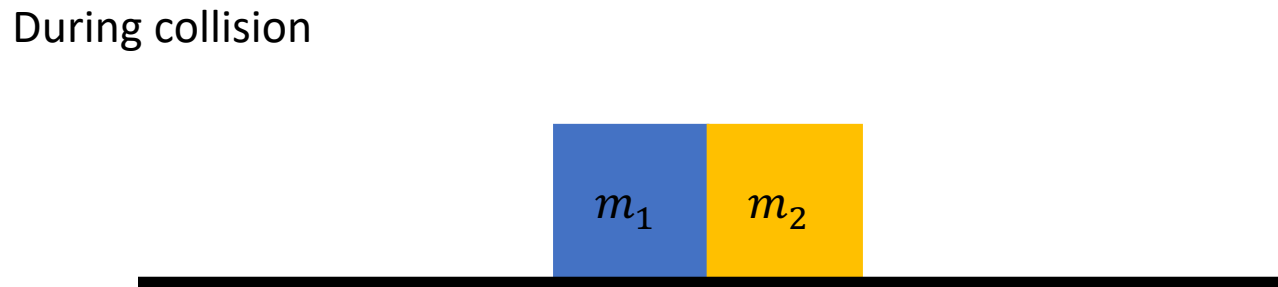
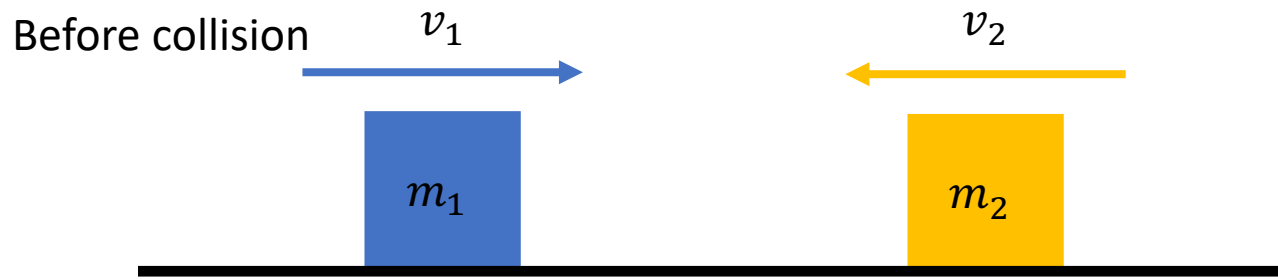
$$\frac{Dh^w}{Dt} = -h^w \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}^w,$$

$$\frac{D\mathbf{v}^w}{Dt} = -g \nabla (H + h^w) + \mathbf{a}_{\mathcal{M}}^w$$

$$\frac{Dh^s}{Dt} = -h^s \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}^s$$

$$\frac{D\mathbf{v}^s}{Dt} = -g \nabla (H + h^s) + \mathbf{a}_{\mathcal{E}}^s + \mathbf{a}_{\mathcal{I}}^s + \mathbf{a}_{\mathcal{M}}^s$$

# Momentum Exchange



## Momentum conservation

$$m_1 v_1 + m_2 v_2 = m_1 v_1' + m_2 v_2'$$

## Coefficient of restitution

$$\epsilon = \frac{v_2' - v_1'}{v_1 - v_2}$$

$$\rho^w h^w v^w + \rho^s h^s v^s = \rho^w h^w v^{w'} + \rho^s h^s v^{s'}$$

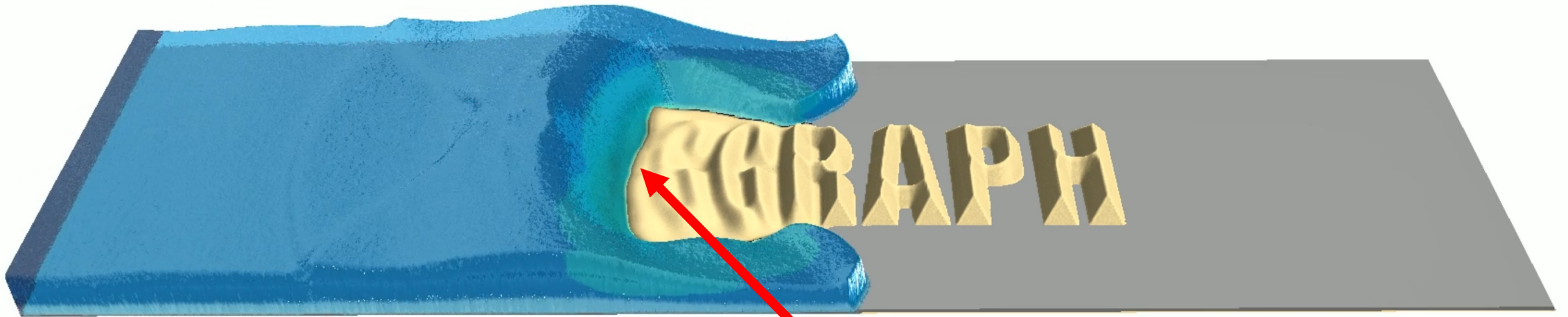
$$v^{s'} - v^{w'} = \epsilon(v^w - v^s)$$

# Single-layer Shallow Water with Sand



**SIGGRAPH**

# Single-layer Shallow Water with Sand

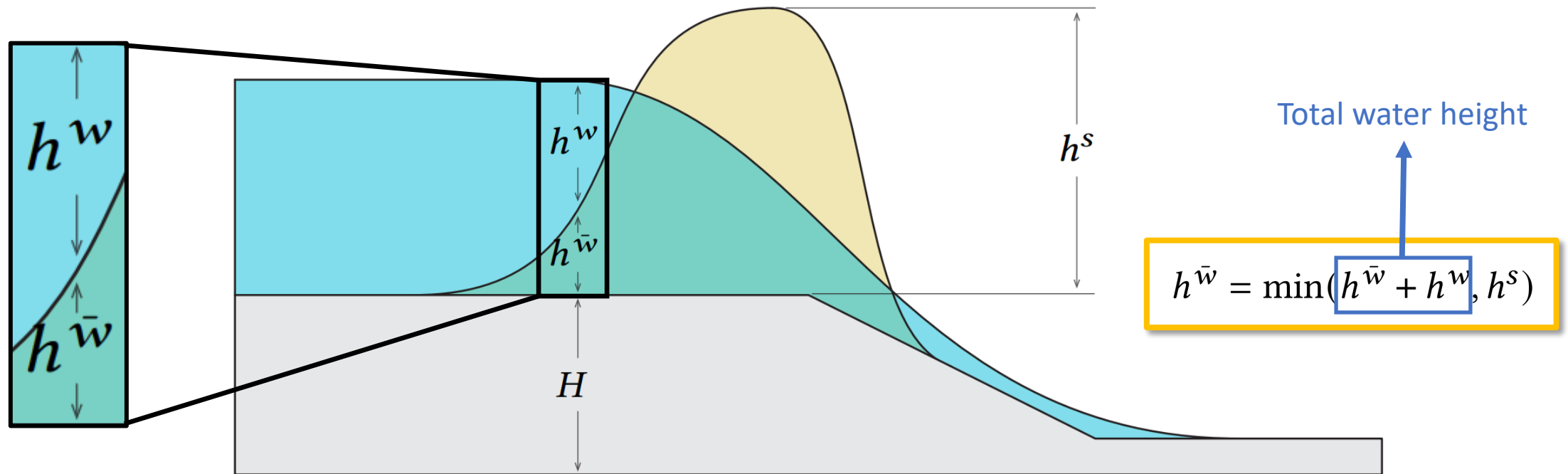


Water movement on the top is impeded by the underneath sand

# Our Water-Sand Simulation Framework

## Two-layer SWEs

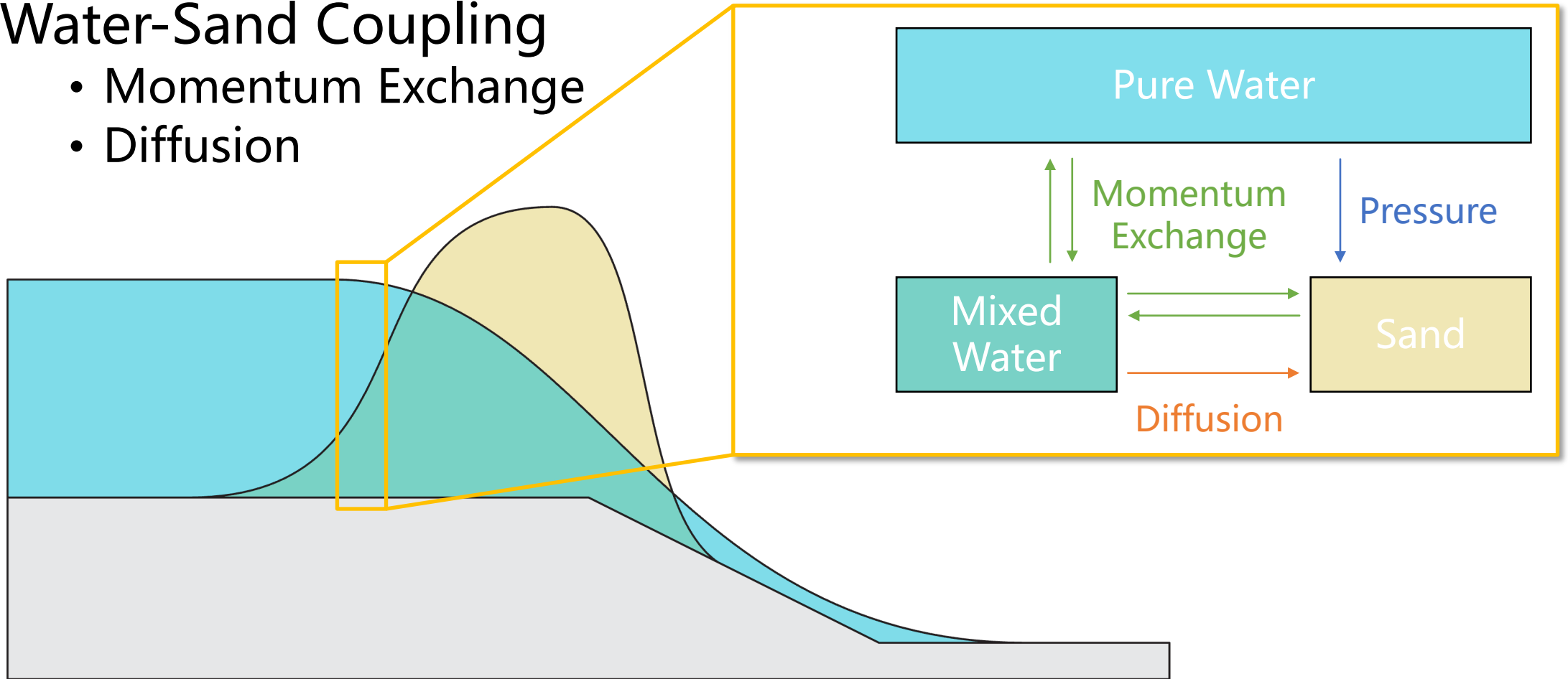
- Pure water  $h^w$ , the part of water above the sand
- Mixed water  $h^{\bar{w}}$ , the part of water submerged under sand



# Our Water-Sand Simulation Framework

## Water-Sand Coupling

- Momentum Exchange
- Diffusion



# Water-Sand Coupling

## Diffusion

- Conservation of mass

$$\frac{Dh^{\bar{w}}}{Dt} = -h^{\bar{w}}\nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}^{\bar{w}} + c_d \nabla \cdot \nabla h^{\bar{w}}$$

- Conservation of momentum

$$\frac{D\mathbf{v}^s}{Dt} = -g\nabla(H + h^s + \frac{\rho^w}{\rho^s}h^w) + \mathbf{a}_E^s + \mathbf{a}_I^s + c_d (\nabla \cdot \nabla(h^{\bar{w}}\mathbf{v}^{\bar{w}})) / h^{\bar{w}}$$

Single-layer Shallow Water with Sand



**SIGGRAPH**

Two-layer Shallow Water with Sand

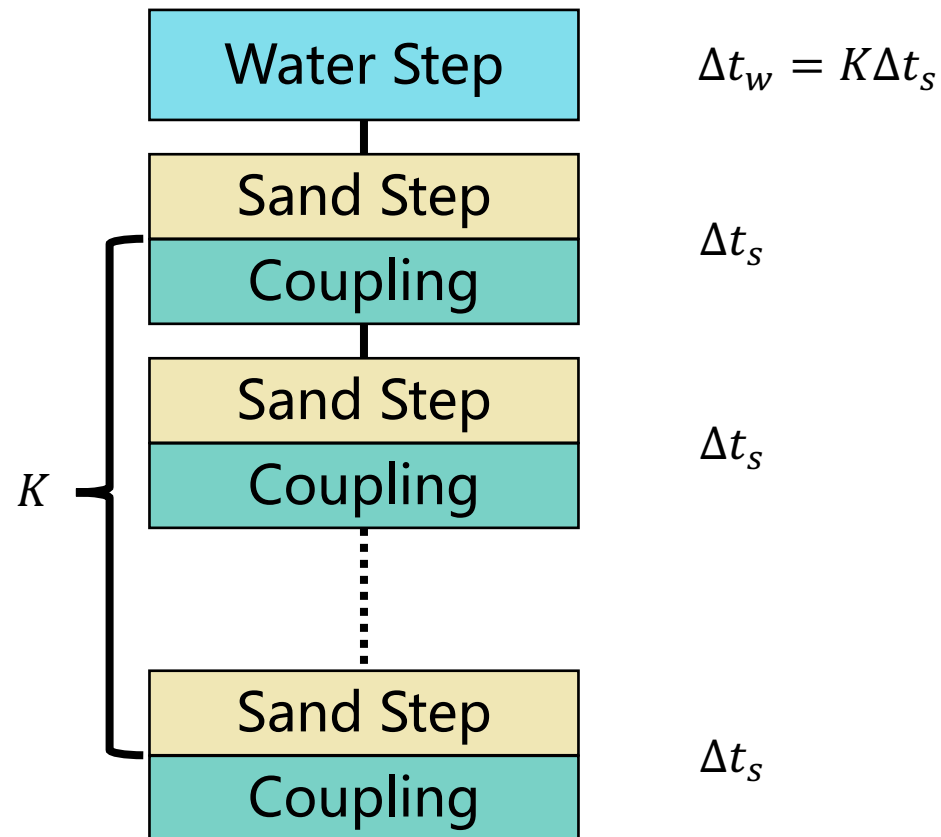


**SIGGRAPH**



# Implementation Details

- Asynchronous Update



## Water Step

- Height/Velocity integration
- Mixed water diffusion

## Sand step

- Height/Velocity integration
- Pure water pressure
- Deformation gradient update
- Internal force

## Coupling

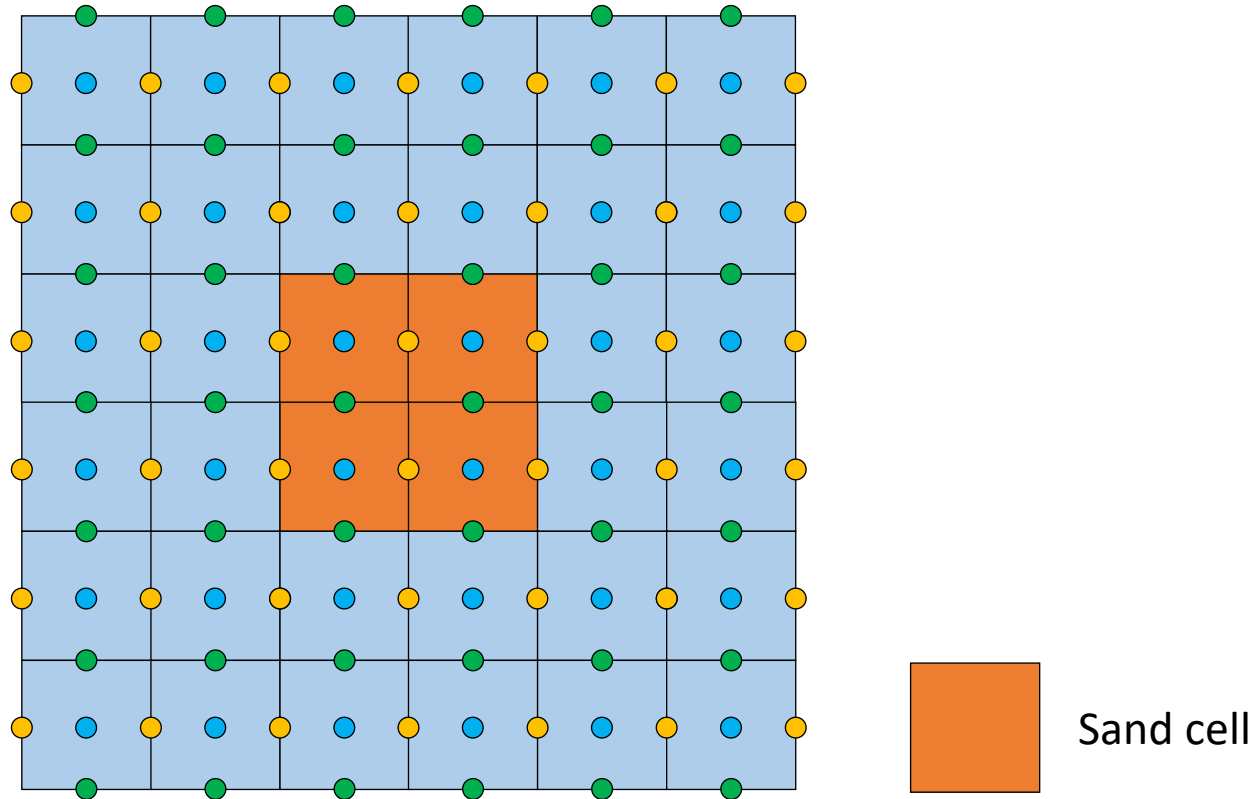
- Pure/mixed water momentum exchange
- Sand/mixed water momentum exchange

## After coupling

- Friction

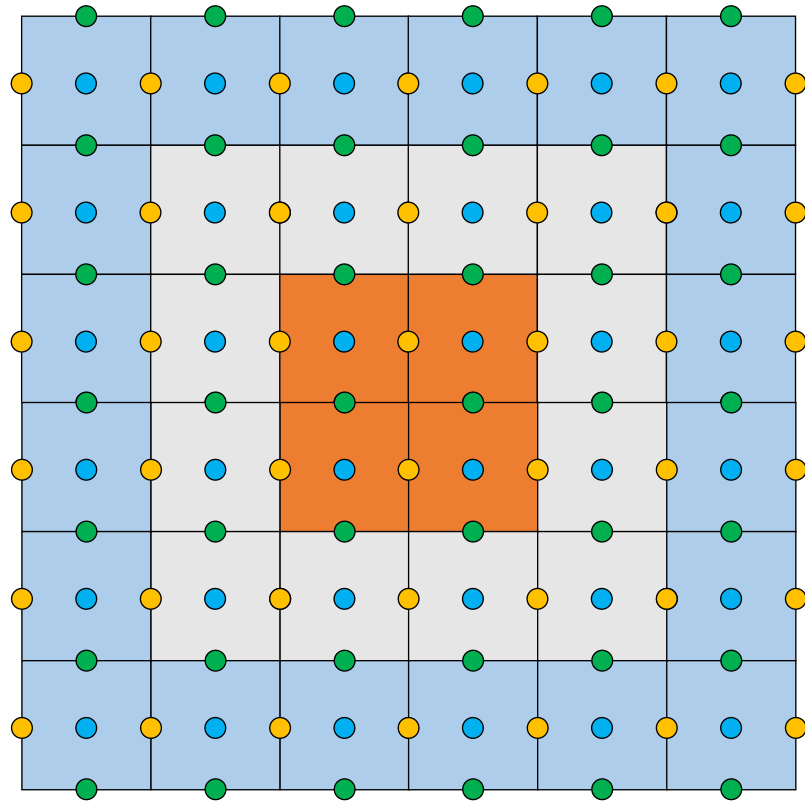
# Implementation Details

- Deformation gradient extrapolation



# Implementation Details

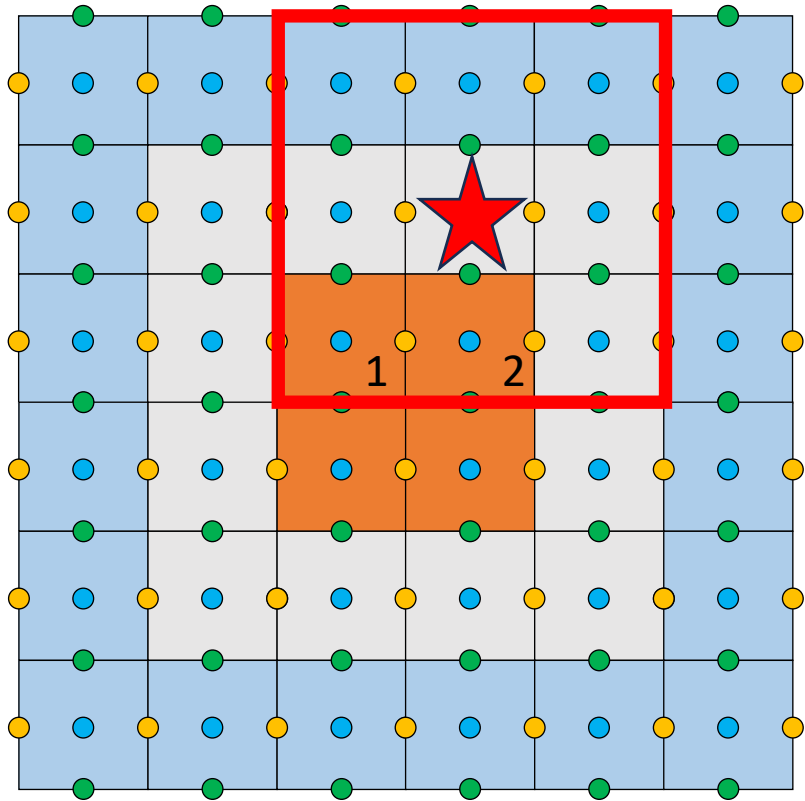
- Deformation gradient extrapolation



To extrapolate

# Implementation Details

- Deformation gradient extrapolation



$$F_{\star} = \frac{F_1 + F_2}{2}$$

Failure case:

$$F_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, F_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow F_{\star} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Implementation Details

- Deformation gradient decomposition

$$F = R(\theta) (E + I)$$

- Same case:

$$F_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \theta_1 = 0, E_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$F_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \theta_2 = \pi, E_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\theta_\star = \frac{\theta_1 + \theta_2}{2} = \frac{\pi}{2}, E_\star = \frac{E_1 + E_2}{2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow F_\star = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

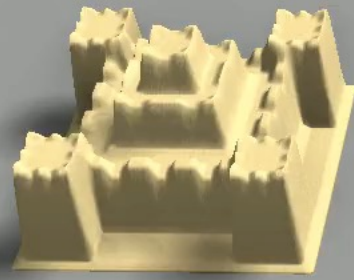
# Implementation Details

- Conservative advection

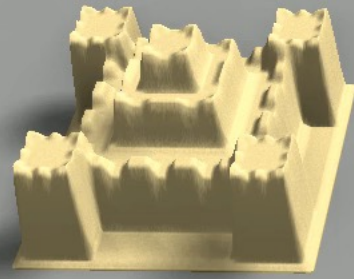
$$\frac{D(h^s \theta)}{Dt} = 0 \Rightarrow \theta = \frac{(h^s \theta)}{h^s}$$

$$\frac{D(h^s E)}{Dt} = 0 \Rightarrow E = \frac{(h^s E)}{h^s}$$

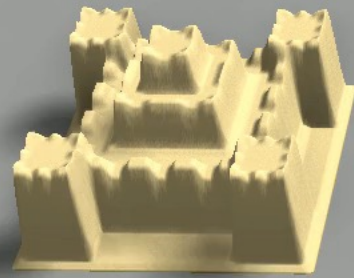
Low friction force



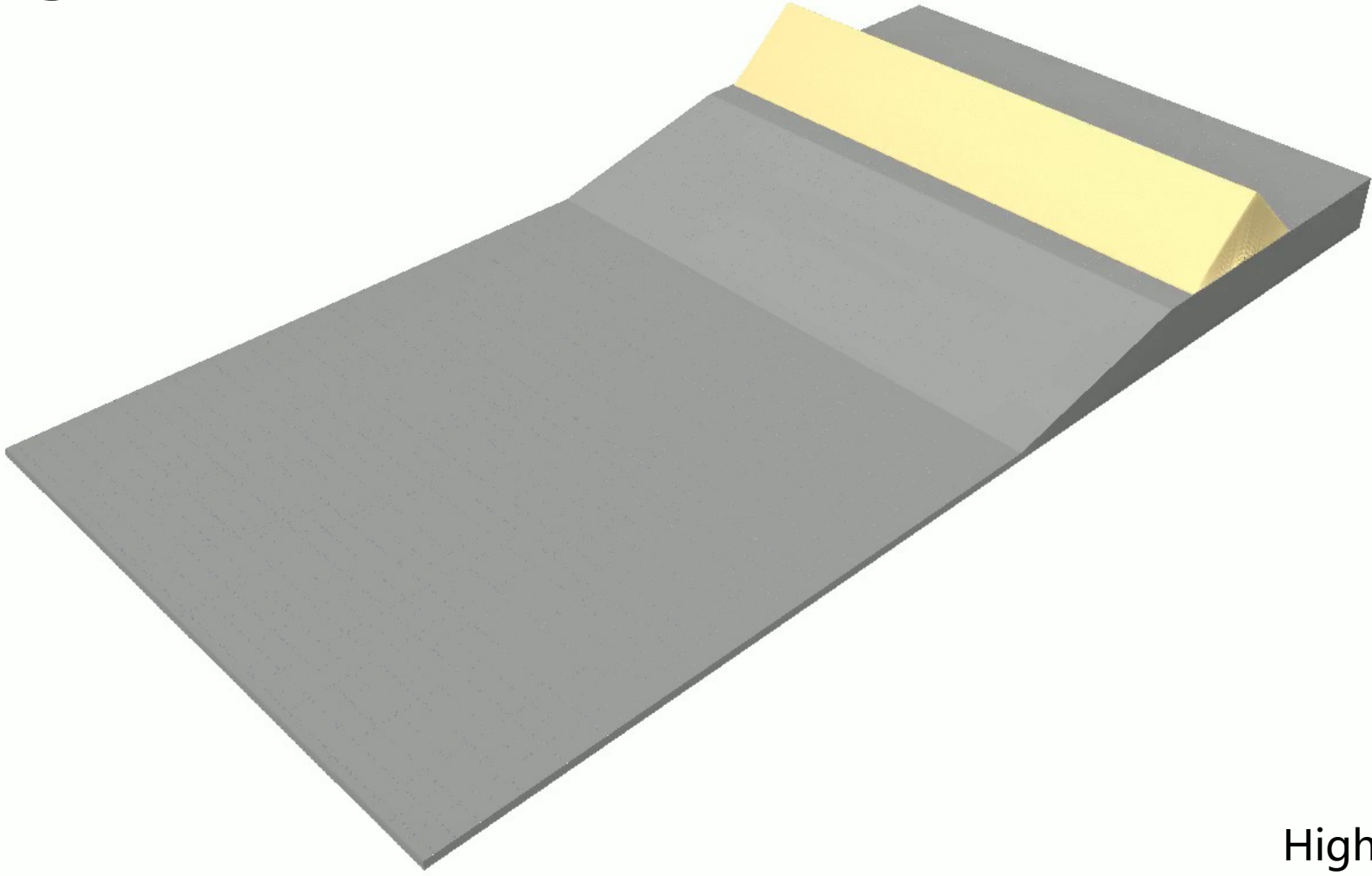
High friction force



Low friction force and elastoplastic force



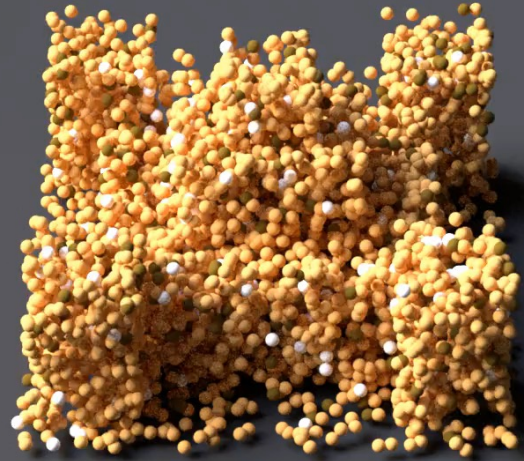
# Seepage



High friction



# Comparison with MPM



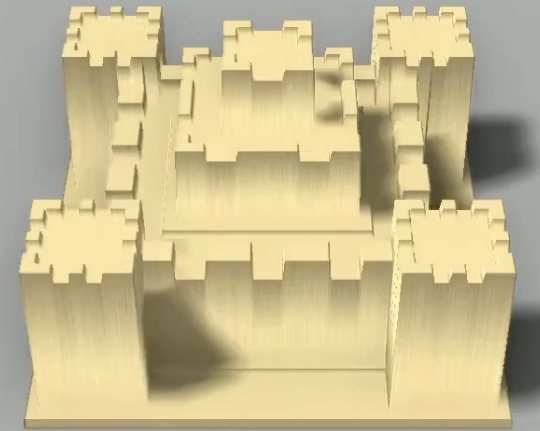
1.8 ms/step

MPM 8K,  $64^3$



700 ms/step

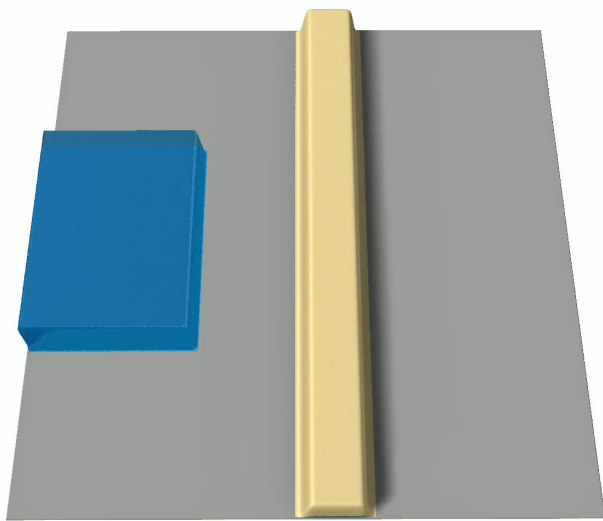
MPM 500K,  $256^3$



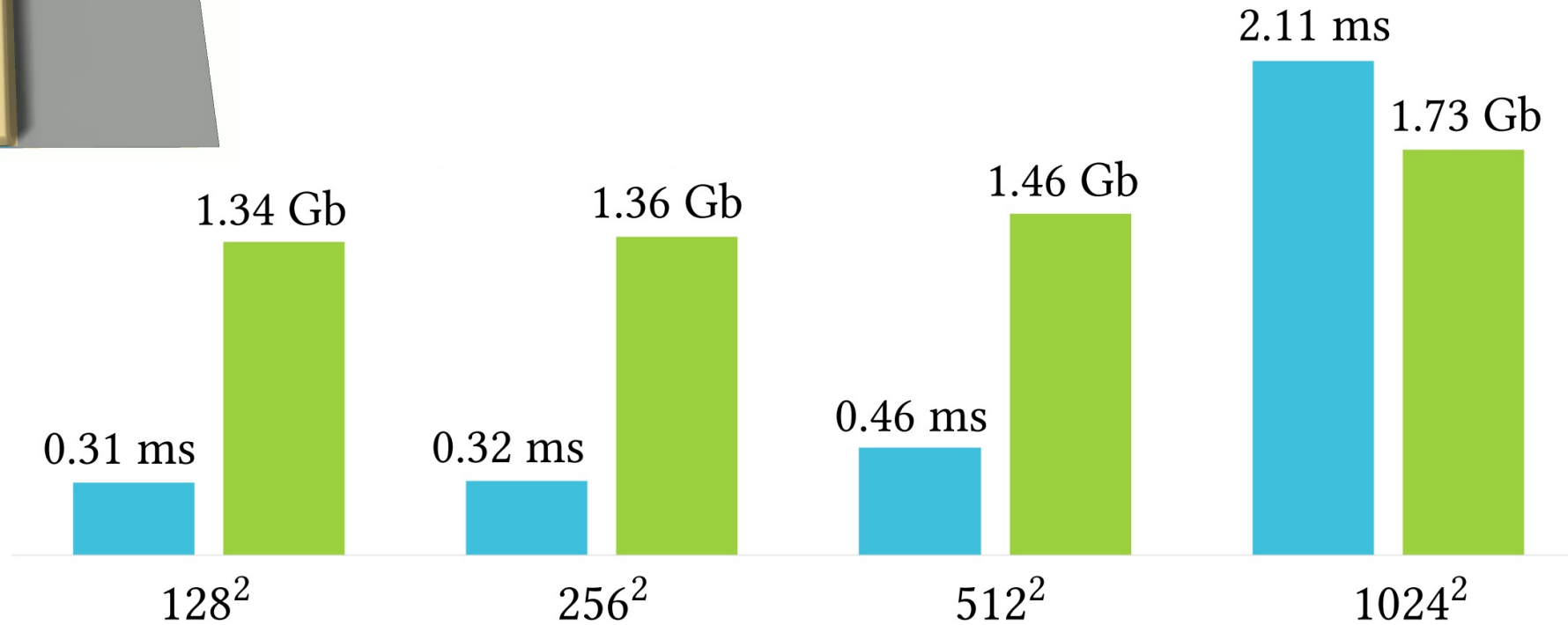
1.8 ms/step

Ours  $1024^2$

# Performance



Dam break



# Interactive Demo



# Conclusion

A height-field-based real-time framework to simulate sand, water, and their mixture

- A 2.5D governing equation for sand-water mixtures
- A grid-based elastoplastic formulation for sand
- A piecewise linear saturation control function

# Q & A

haozhesu@tencent.com



**SIGGRAPH**  
**ASIA 2023**  
SYDNEY | 12 – 15 DEC

