

# Lec 1 Discrete Representations of Space and Time

## 1. Shape representation

### 1.1 Signed Distance Field (SDF)

Given a function  $f(x) = d$   $\leftarrow d \in \mathbb{R}$   
↑  
coordinates  $\mathbb{R}^2$  or  $\mathbb{R}^3$   
2D 3D

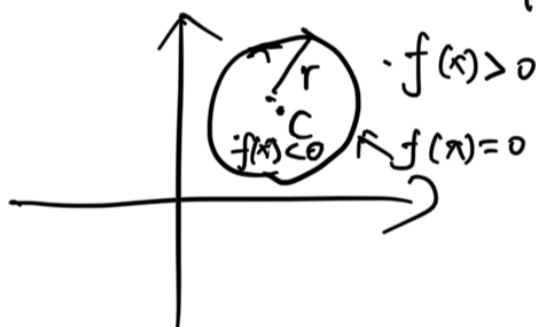


#### 1.1.1 Analytical

For a disk in 2D,

$$f(x) = \|x - c\| - r$$

↑ center      ↑ radius

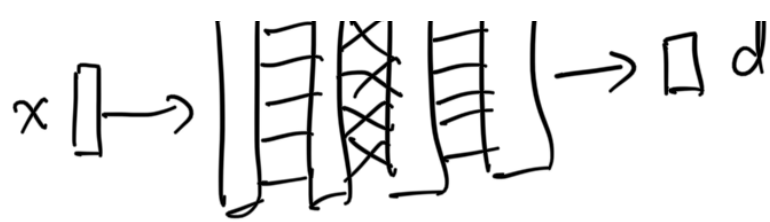


extends to half-spaces, boxes, ellipsoid ...  
but not complex or arbitrary ones

neural representation (DeepSDF [Park et al. 2019])

$$f(x) = d$$

↑      ↑



### 1.1.2 Discrete

e.g. a uniform grid storing distances at nodes

### 1.1.3 Remark

Analytical ones for primitives:

efficient and exact, but no complex shapes

useful to model obstacles that do not change shape and not very complex

Neural : can represent more complex shapes

- better compatibility with AI tasks
- haven't seen it applied to solids sims

Grid-based: easier to evolve, expensive for complex shapes

- FLIP and Eulerian fluids sims (track fluid volume)
- Simulating contact with complex shaped objects

All SDF are <sup>not</sup> often used for deformable solids

(need both efficient representation of complex shapes, and easy shape changes)

# 1.2 Points (Particles)

(point clouds)  
often <sup>seen</sup> in surface reconstruction

For deformables

interior points also needed for calculating deformation and forces

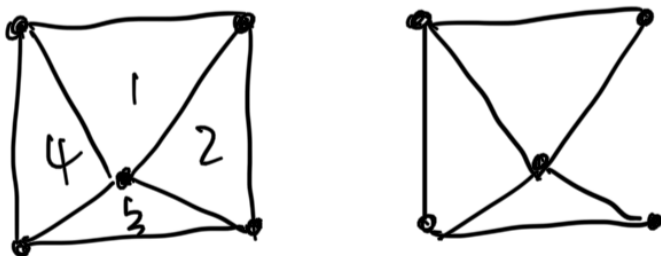
based on connectivities of points to their neighbors  
given by radial basis functions (e.g. SPH)

pros: automatic material separation

cons: accuracy requires lots of neighbors in uniform distribution

# 1.3 Mesh

points connected by elements (e.g. Finite Element Method, FEM)



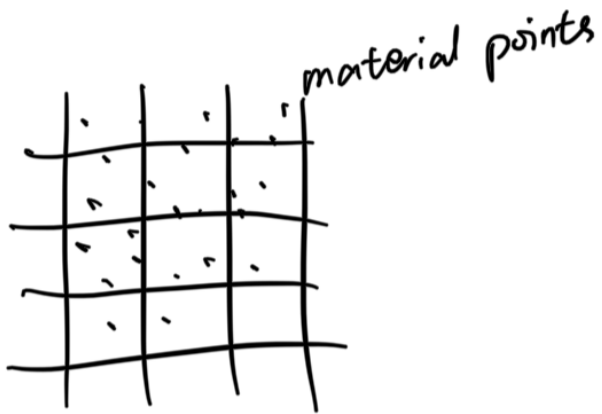
different shapes

pros: accurate once mesh is constructed with good quality

cons: need remeshing for material separation  
(fracture sims)

## 1.4 Hybrid

particles on a background uniform grid (eg. MPM)  
 material point method



pros: easy separation of materials, more accuracy due to regular grid

cons: still require many neighbors in good distribution

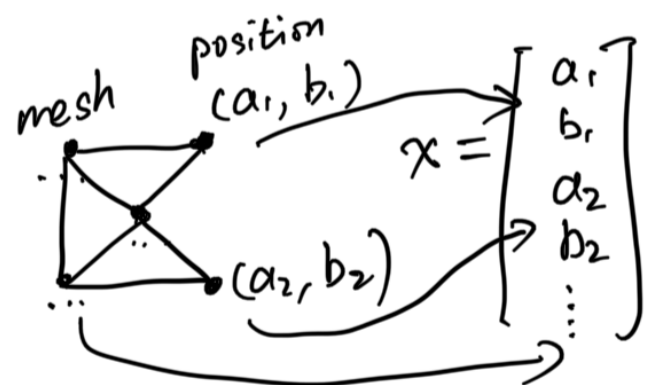
## 2. Temporal Discretization

### 2.1 Newton's 2nd Law

$$\underbrace{f}_{\text{force}} = \underbrace{m}_{\text{mass}} \underbrace{a}_{\text{acceleration}}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dx}{dt} = v \end{array} \right. \begin{array}{l} \nearrow \text{position} \\ \searrow \text{velocity} \end{array}$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} M \frac{dv}{dt} = f \end{array} \right. \begin{array}{l} \downarrow \text{matrix } R^{2n \times 2n} \text{ or } R^{3n \times 3n} \end{array}$$



mesh  $n$  nodes (vertices)

$$x \in R^{2n} \text{ or } R^{3n}$$

2D                  3D

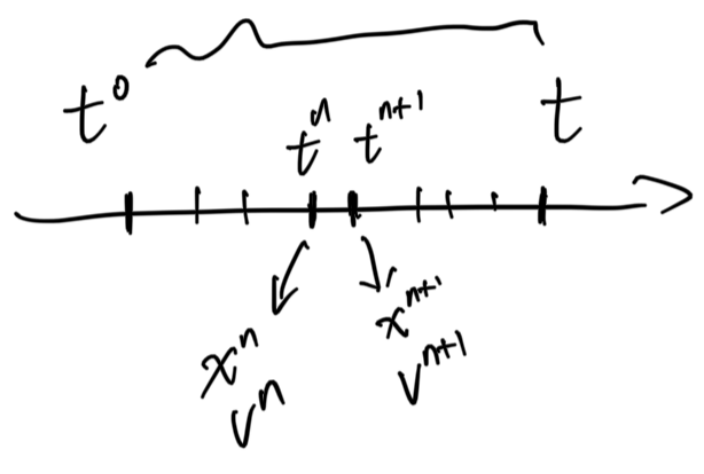
$\Gamma m_i$

$\Gamma$

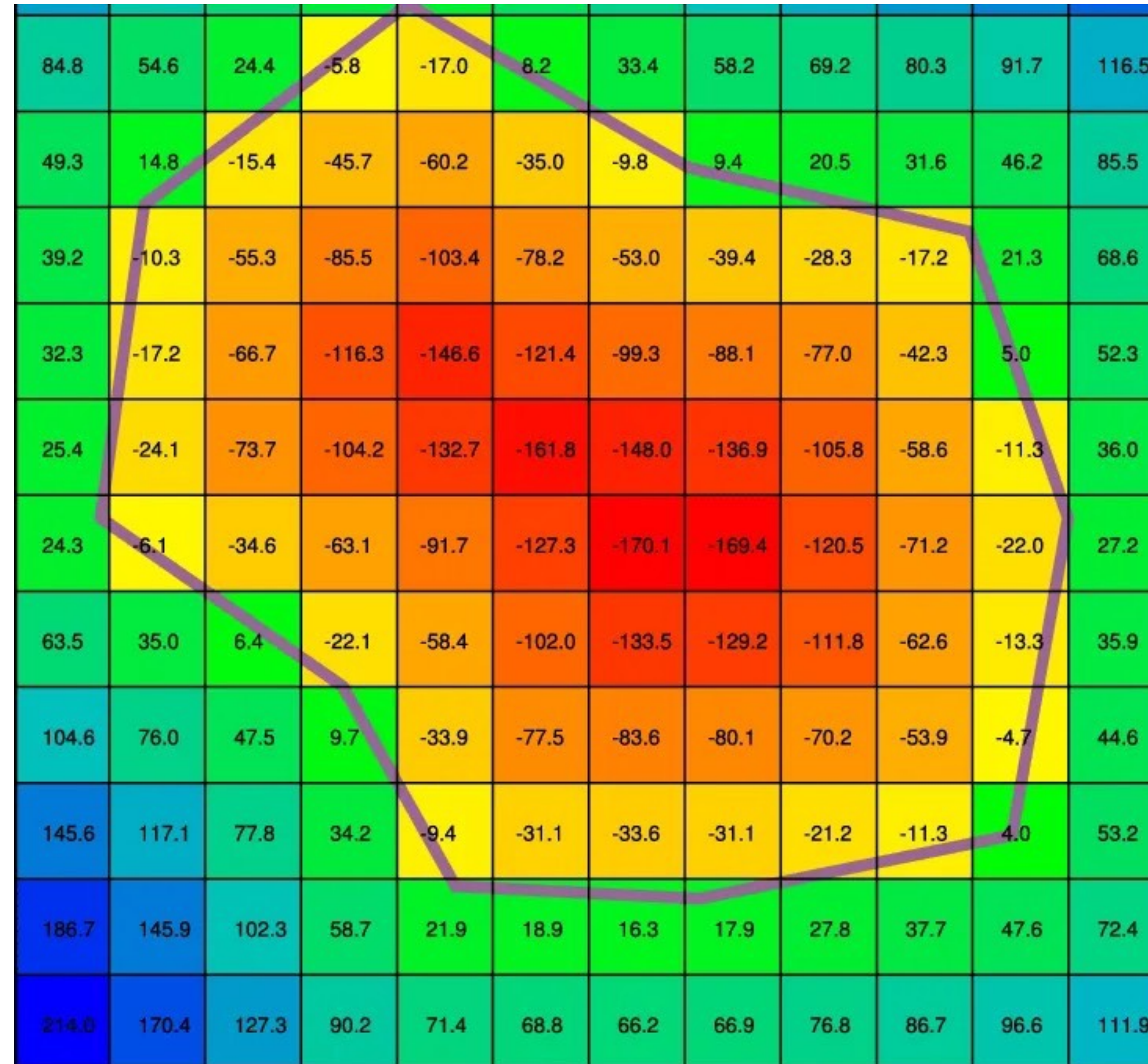
$m_i$  is the mass of ...

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} \dots & & & & \\ & m_2 & & & \\ & & m_2 & & \\ & & & \dots & \\ & & & & m_n \\ & & & & & m_n \end{bmatrix}$$

## 2.2 Time Stepping

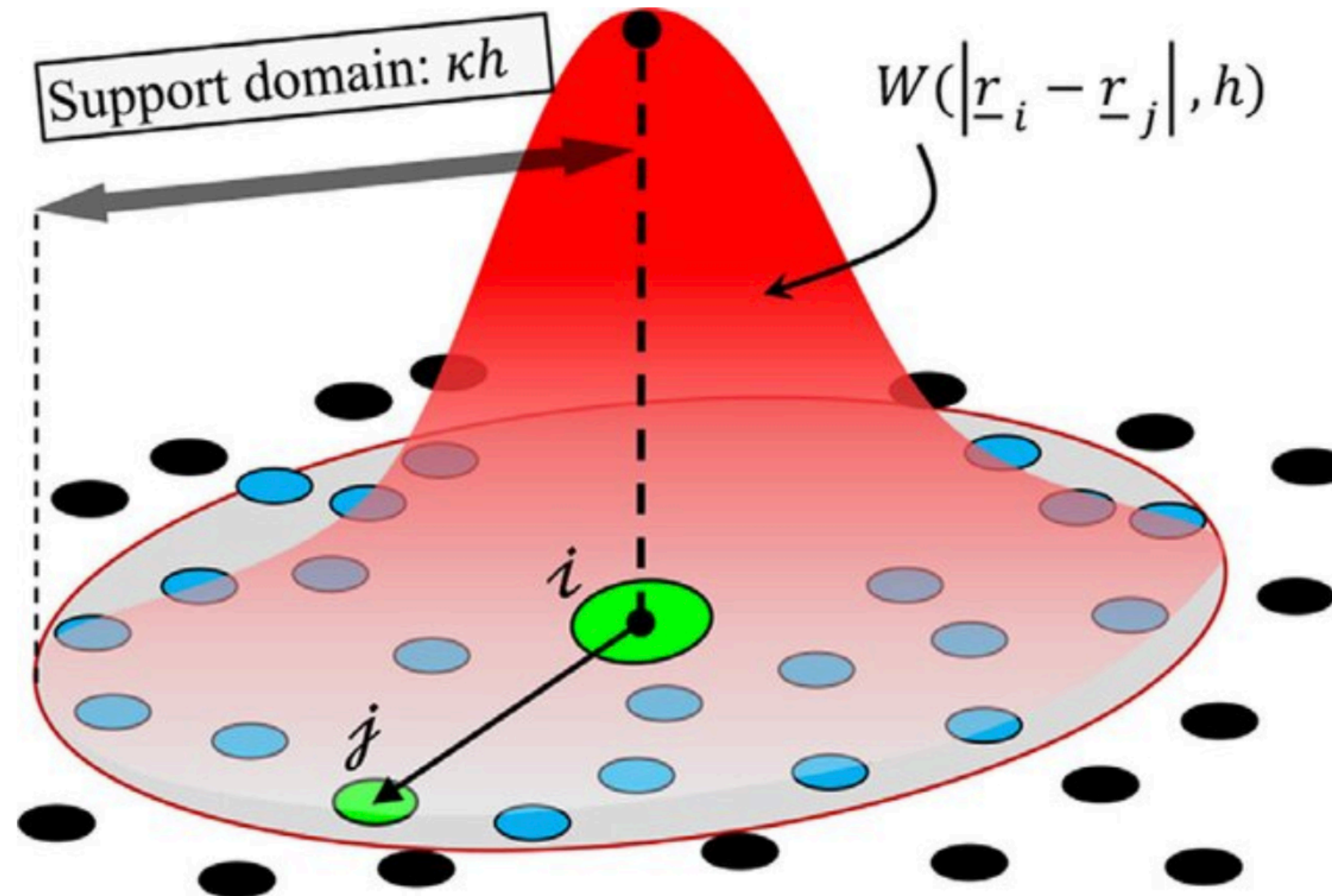


# 1.1.2 Discrete Version of SDF



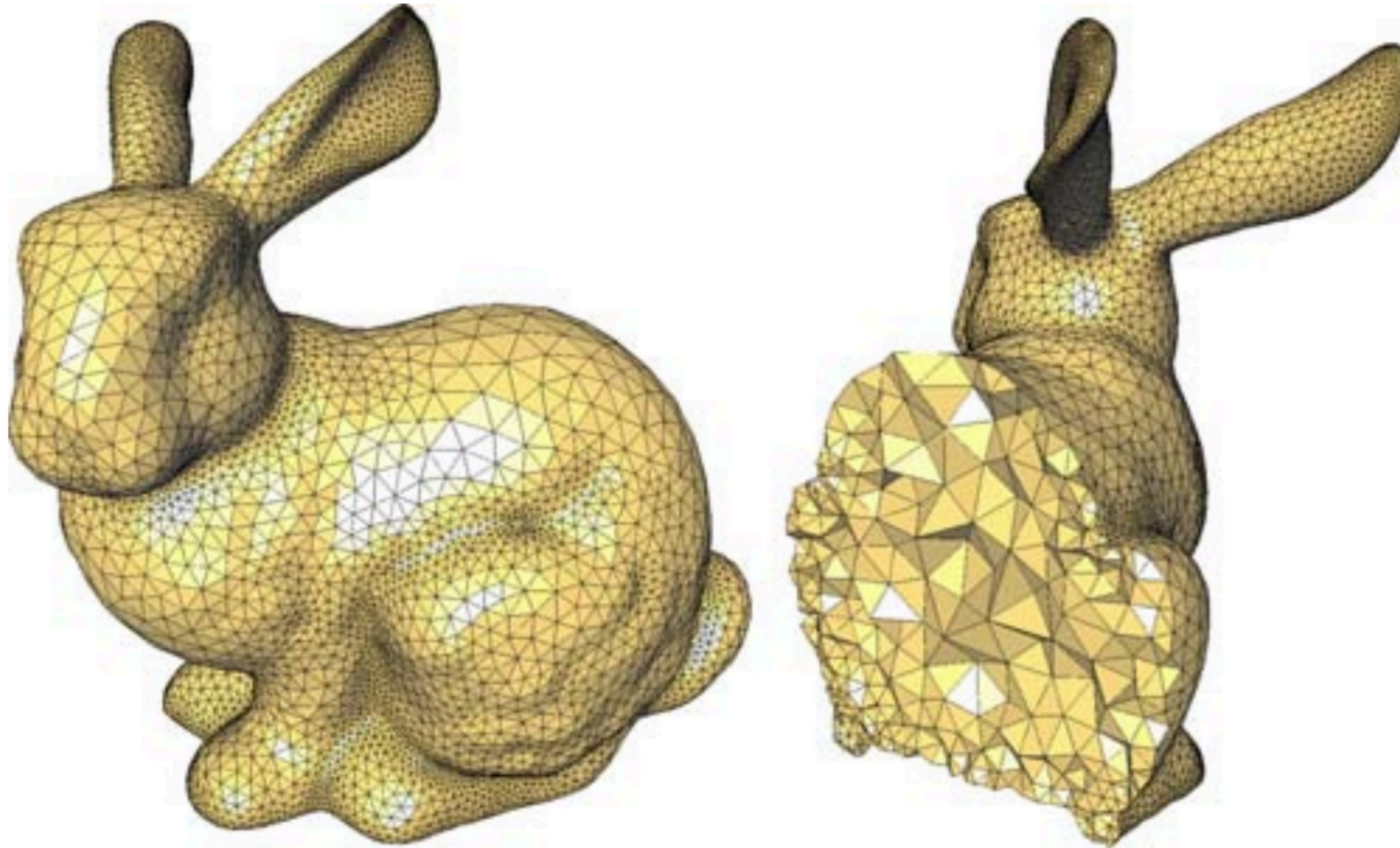
# 1.2 Particle Representations

## Radial Basis Functions



# 1.3 Mesh

## Tetrahedral Mesh





# 2.2 Time Stepping

