

# Computational Smocking through Fabric-Thread Interaction

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# Smocking: decorative & elastic



<https://www.pinterest.ch/pin/483714816224804862/>



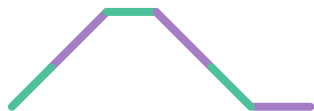
<https://www.pinterest.ch/pin/633387439170069/>



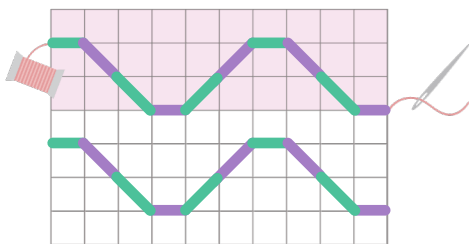
<https://www.pinterest.ch/pin/1970393578988523/>

# Italian smocking: stitch & pull threads

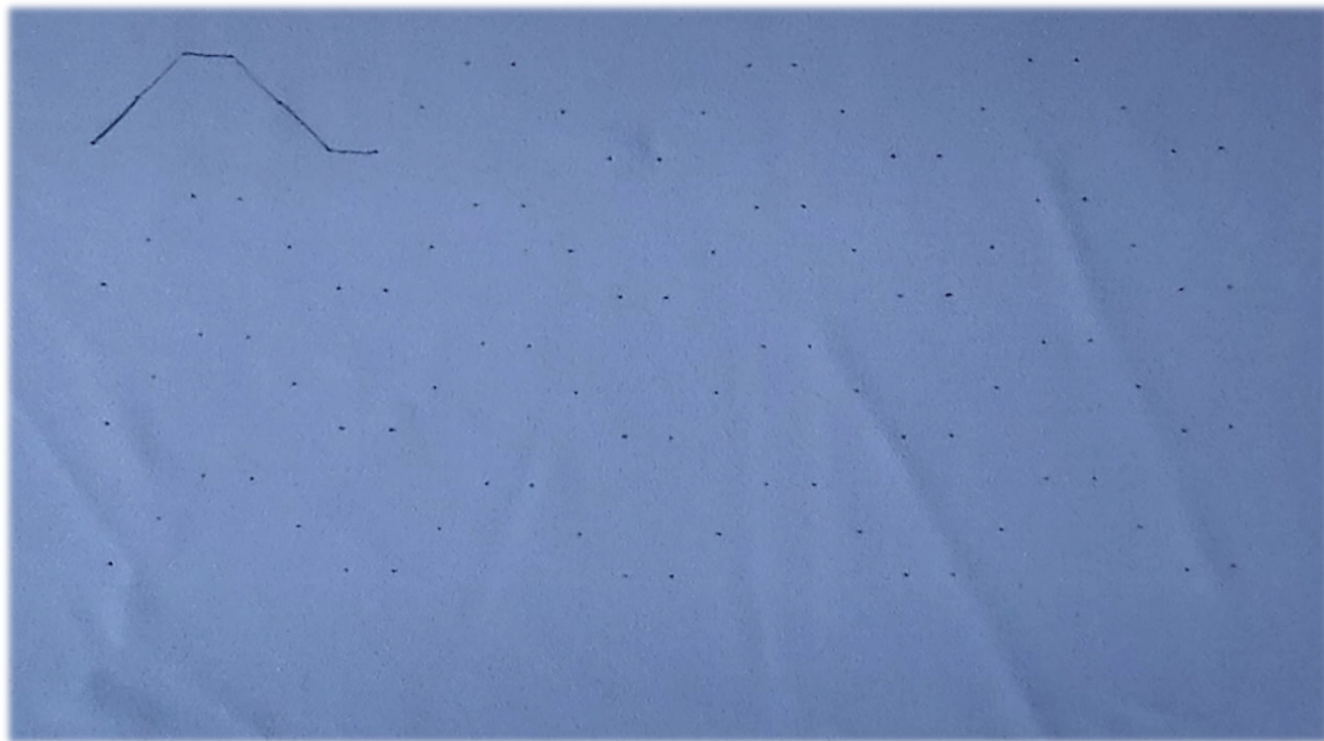
unit pattern



smocking pattern



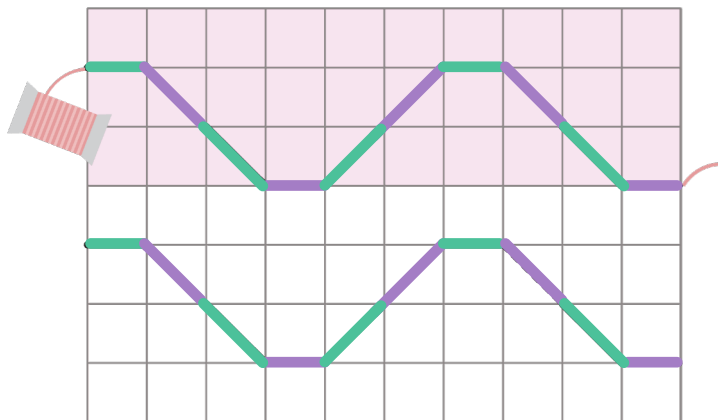
— front stitch  
— back stitch





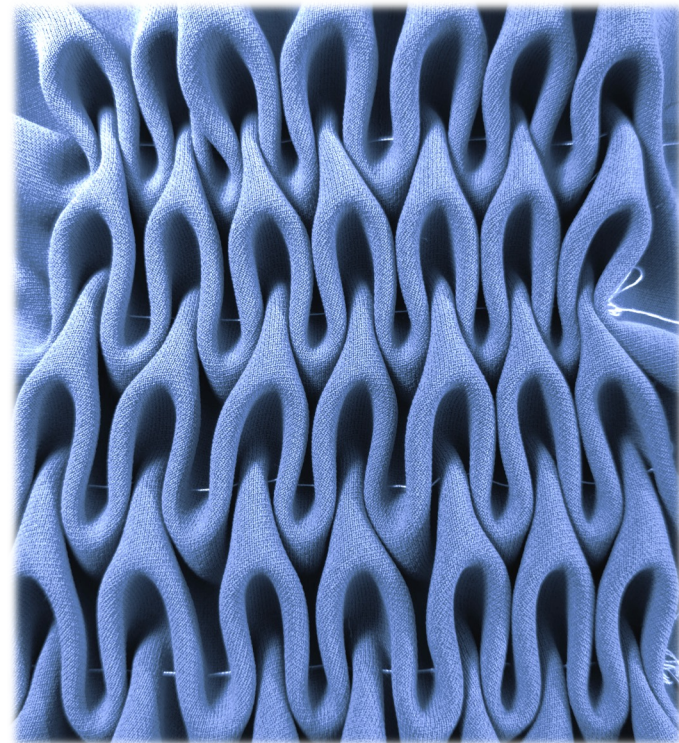
# Italian smocking

input: smocking pattern



- ❖ continuous path
- ❖ front & back stitches

preview  
→  
smocked results

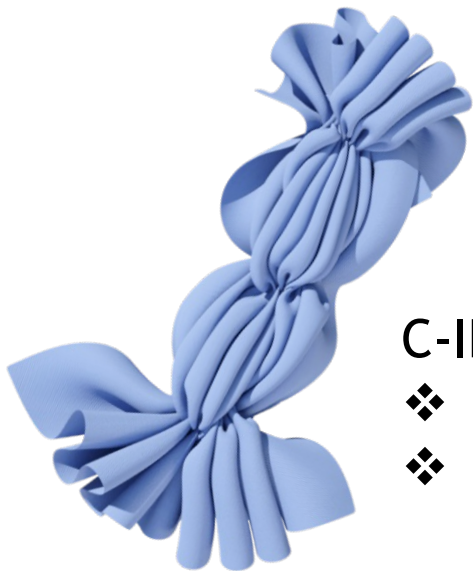




# Italian smocking

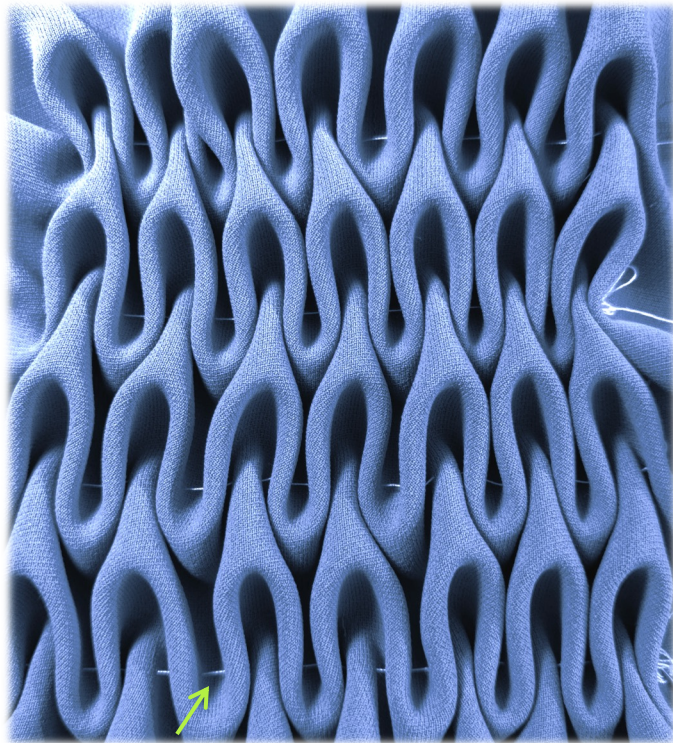
observations:

- ❖ loose stitches: non-zero expected length



C-IPC<sup>[1]</sup> without such prior

- ❖ assumes zero stitch length
- ❖ cluttered result

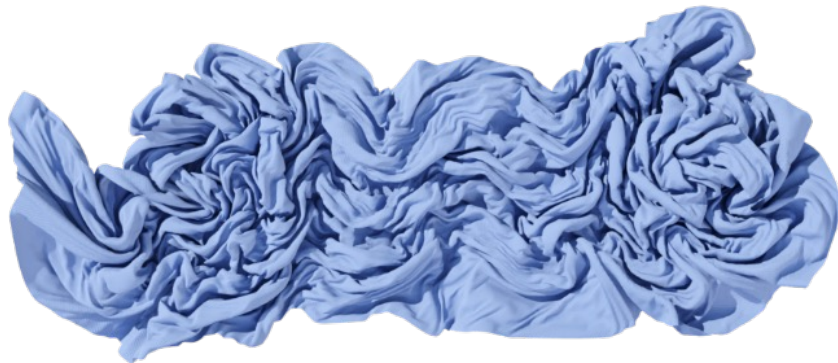
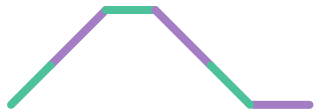


[1] “Codimensional incremental potential contact”, Li et al. *ACM ToG* 2021

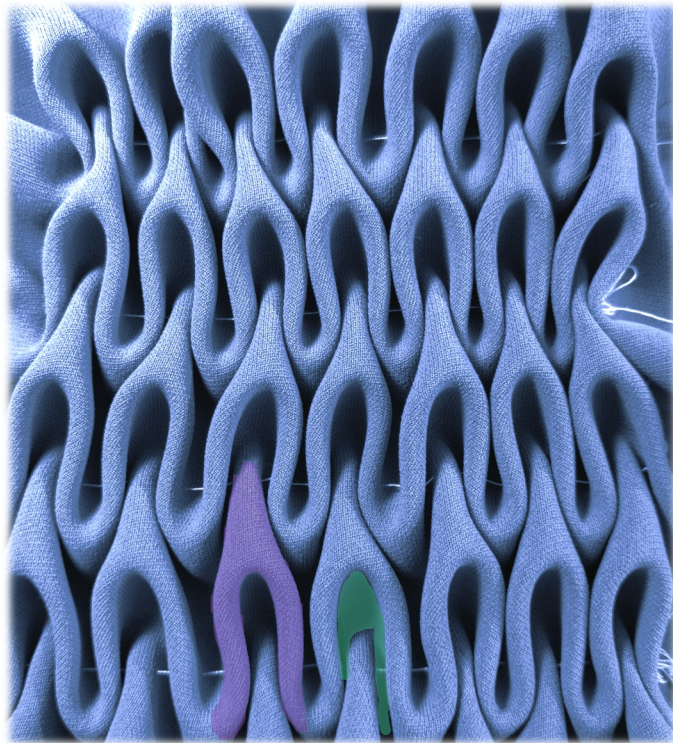
# Italian smocking

observations:

❖ front/back stitches → inward/outward pleats



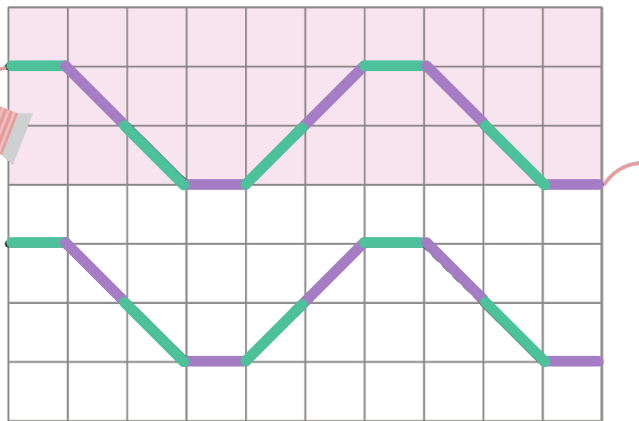
Blender w/o front/back prior



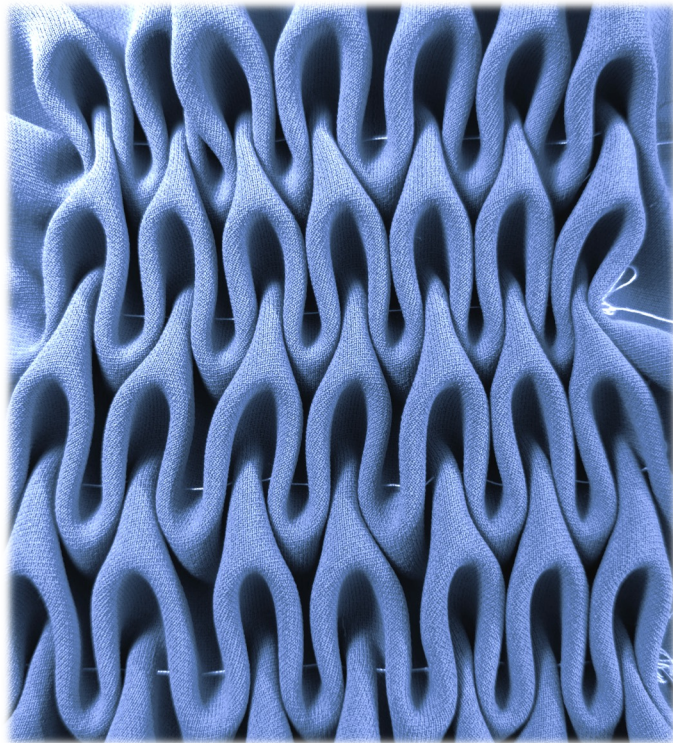


# Italian smocking

smocking pattern



fabrication



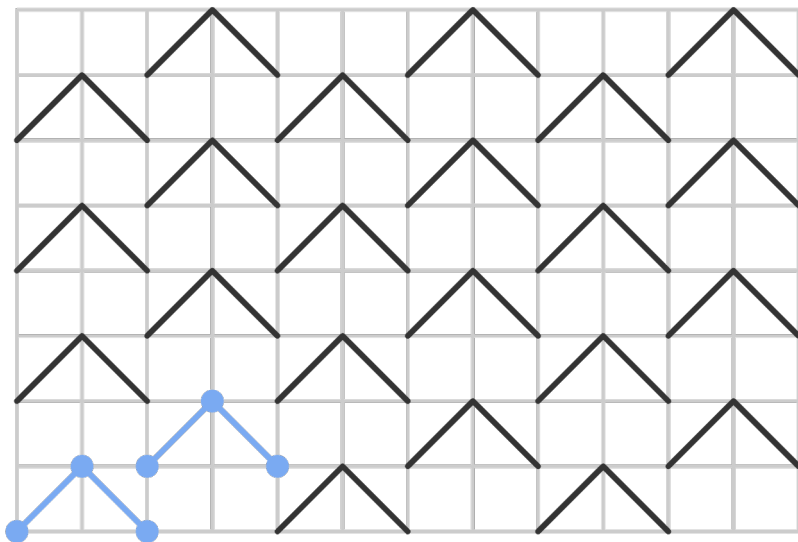
our goal:

- ❖ formulate **non-zero** stitching length
- ❖ distinguish **front/back** stitches



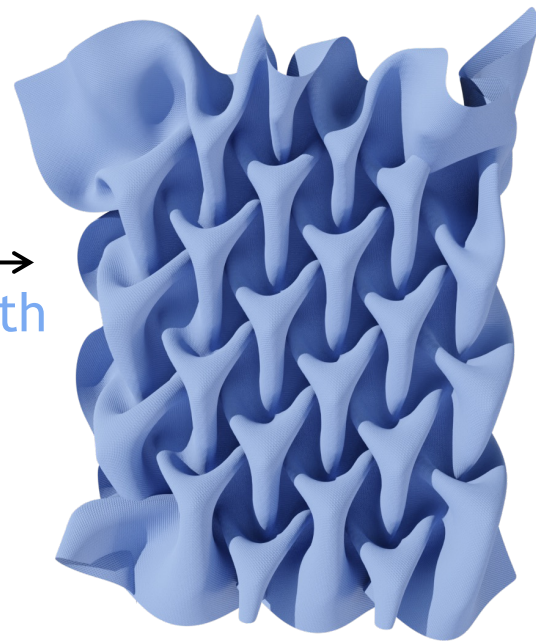
# Priors from Canadian smocking

Canadian smocking pattern



→  
assume zero length  
stitch & merge

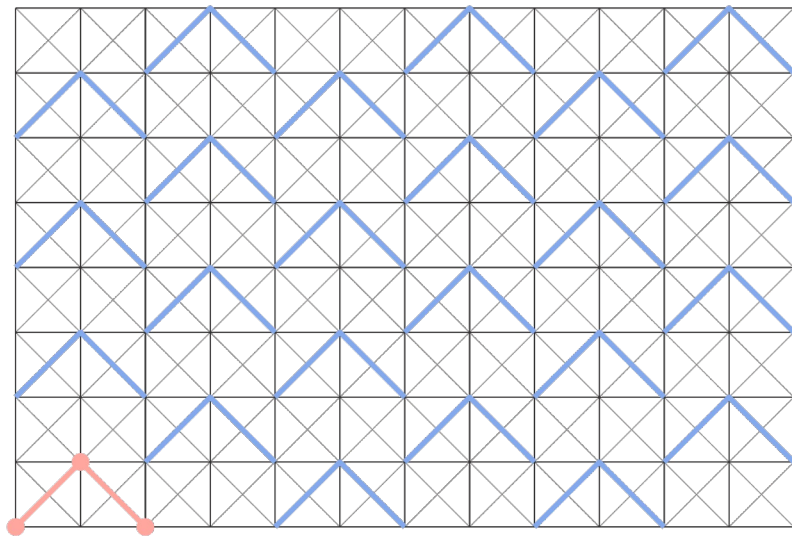
smocked result<sup>[1]</sup>



[1] "Digital 3D Smocking Design", Ren et al. ACM ToG 2024

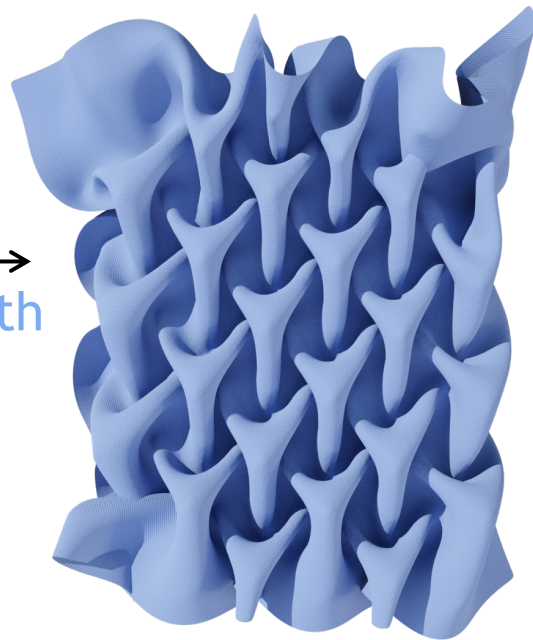
# Previous work for Canadian smocking

Canadian smocking pattern



→  
assume zero length  
stitch & merge

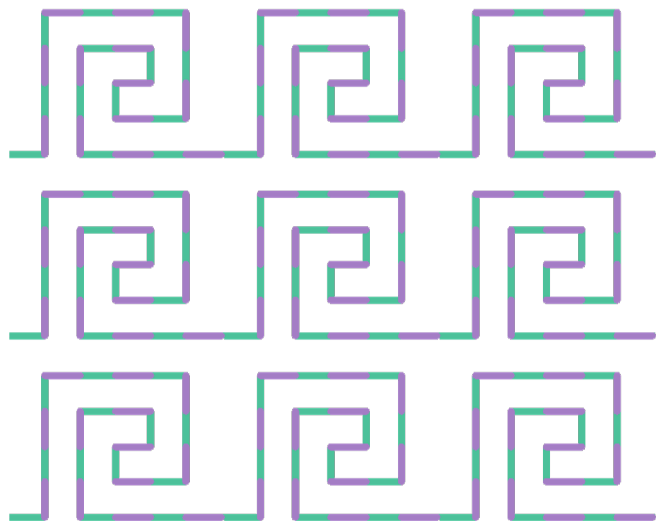
smocked result<sup>[1]</sup>



[1] "Digital 3D Smocking Design", Ren et al. ACM ToG 2024

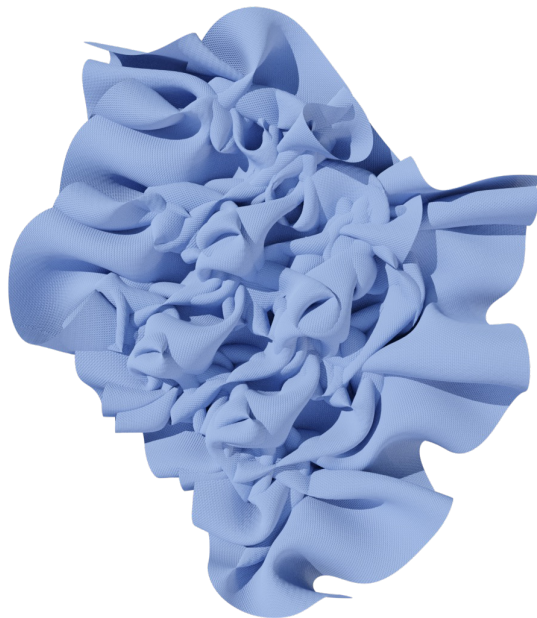
# Using priors from Canadian smocking...

Italian smocking pattern

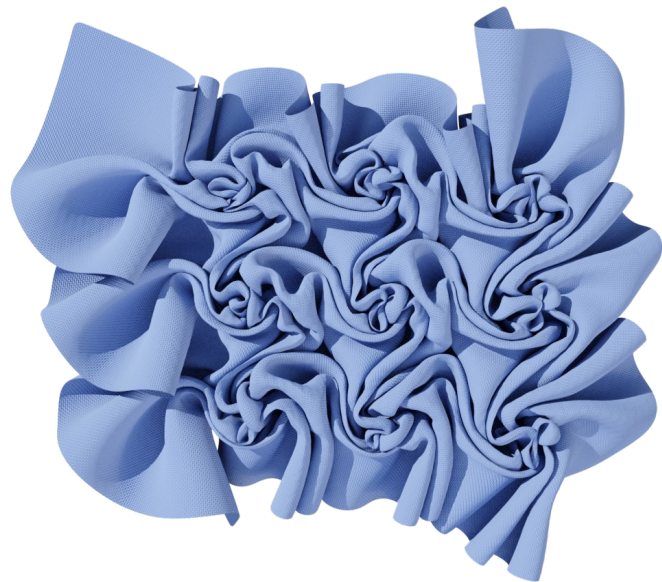


— front stitch — back stitch

Canadian smocking<sup>[1]</sup>



new priors

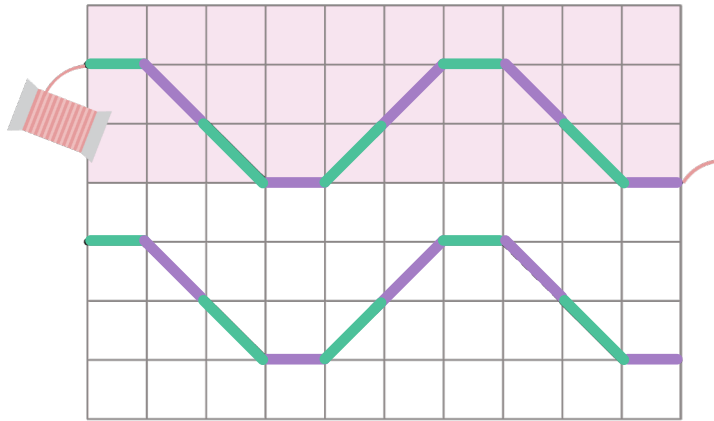


[1] "Digital 3D Smocking Design", Ren et al. ACM ToG 2024

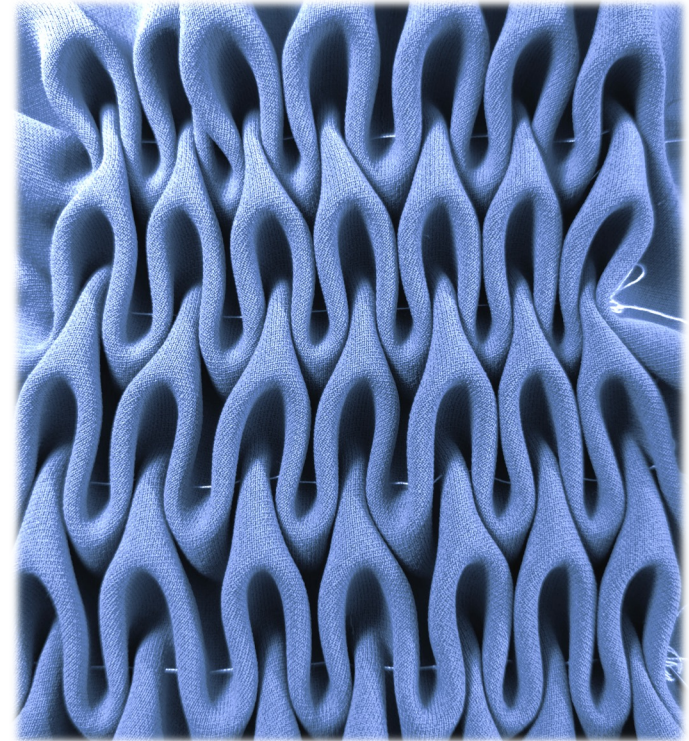


# Italian smocking

smocking pattern



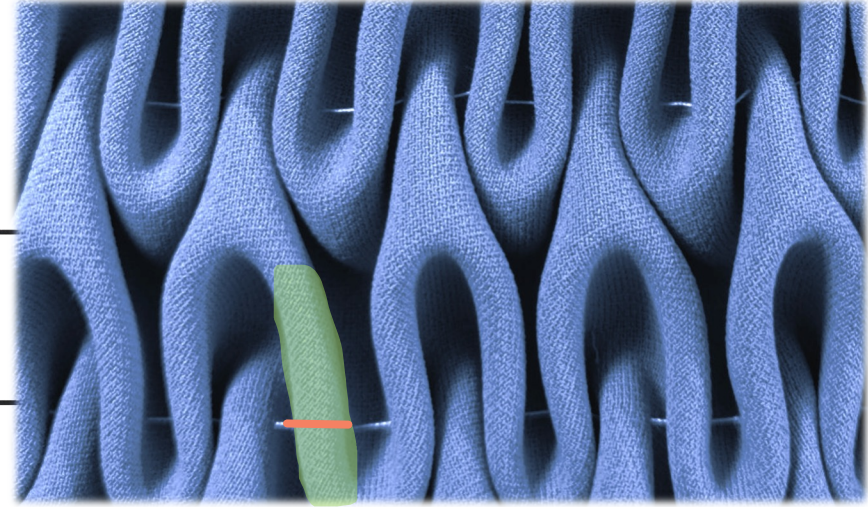
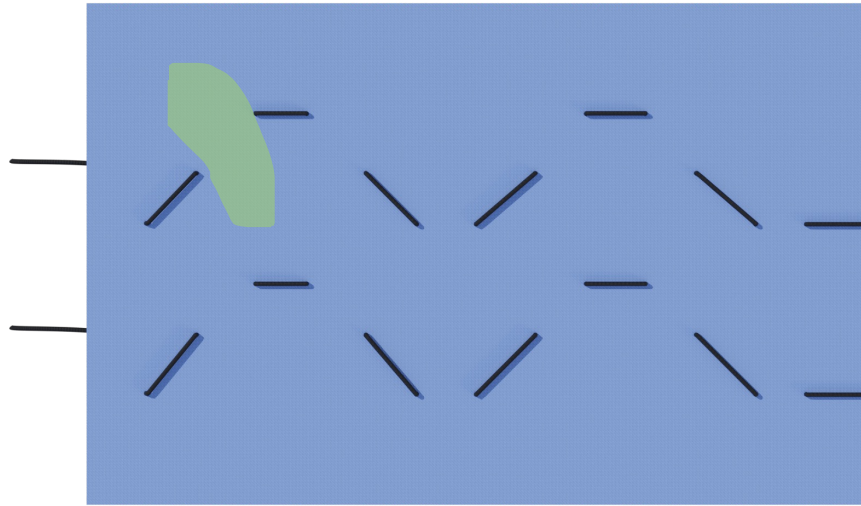
fabrication



our goal:

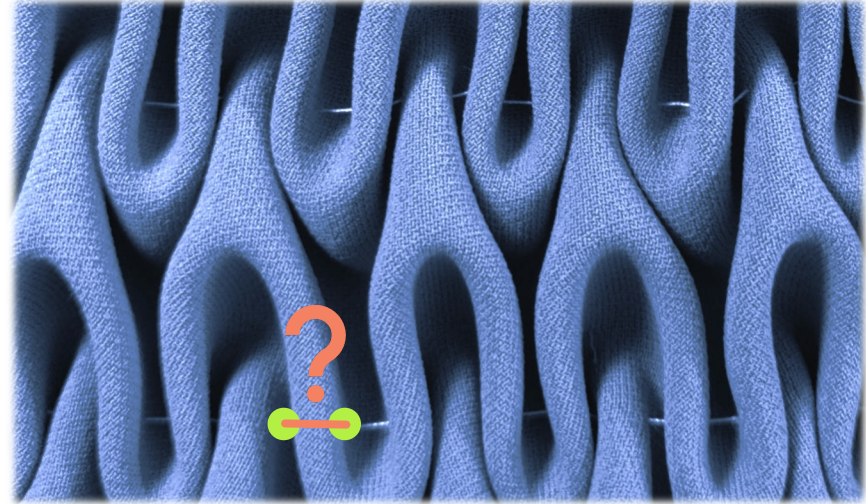
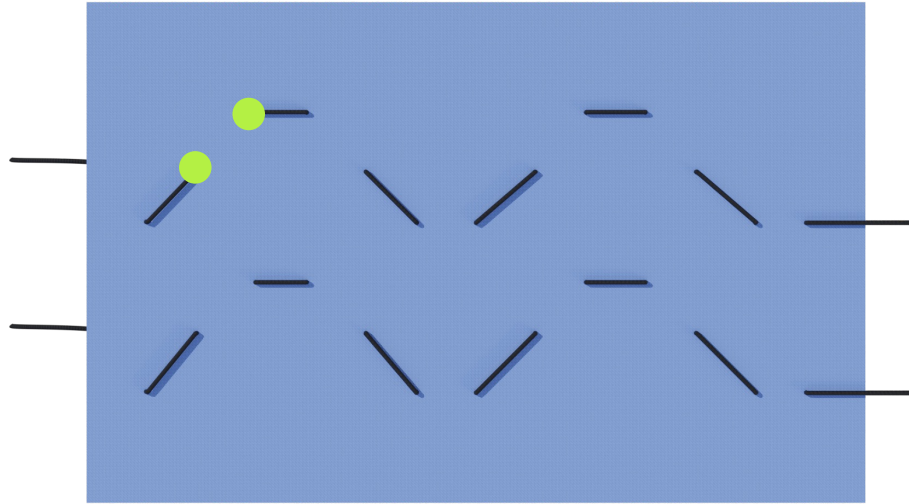
- ❖ formulate **non-zero** stitching length
- ❖ distinguish front/back stitches

# Fabric & thread interaction



3D pleats induced by pulling thread  
non-trivial to formulate & expensive to simulate

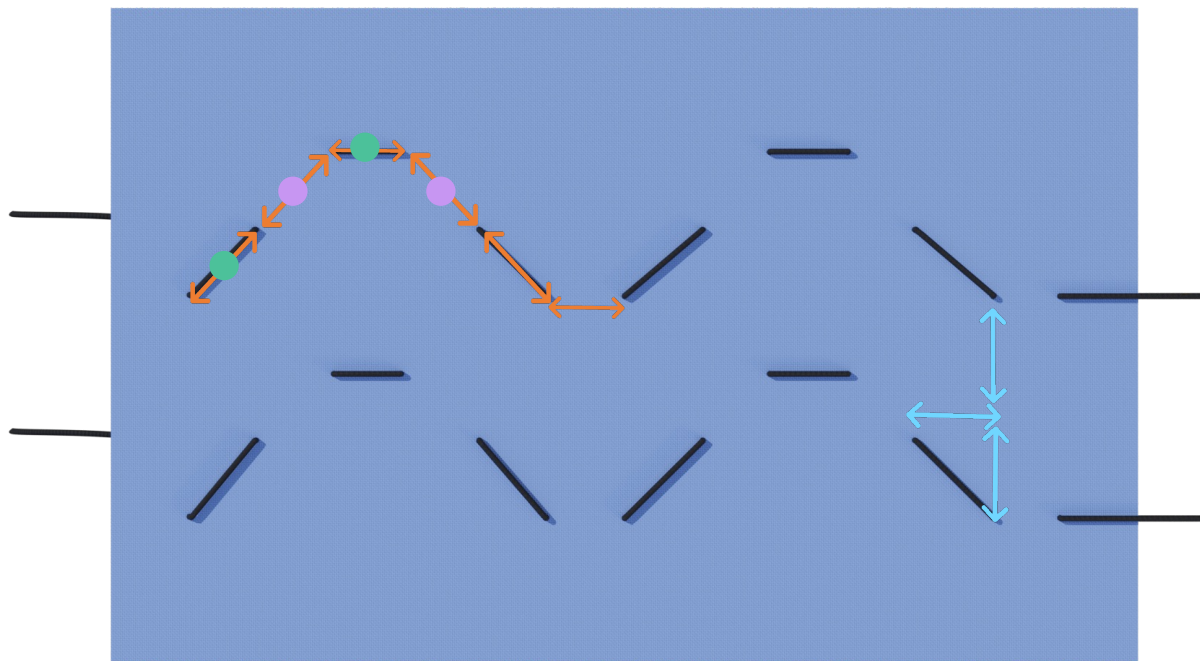
# Fabric & thread interaction



our solution: estimate the **final distance** between stitching points  
not explicitly model fabric & thread interaction



# Coarse mass-spring system (MSS)

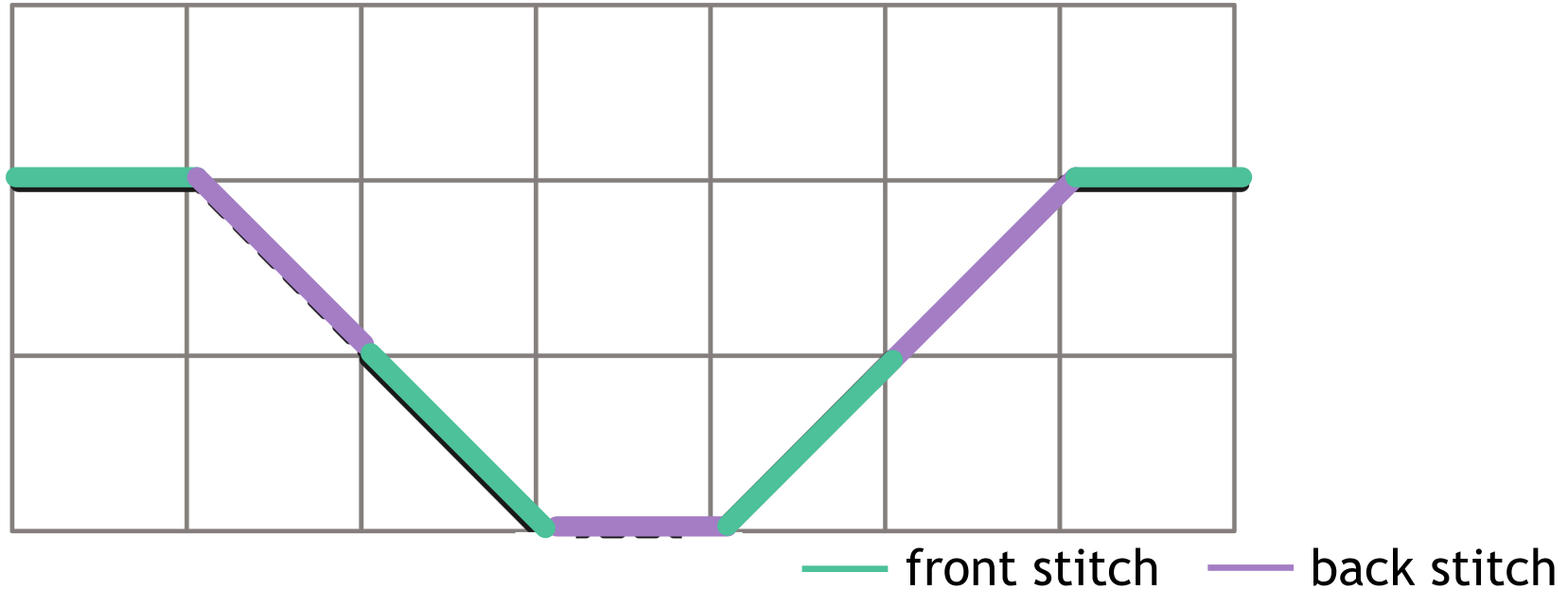


↔ stitching springs  
with midpoints specifying  
front (●) and back (●)

↔ fabric springs

Goal: estimate the  
**expected lengths** for  
stitching & fabric springs

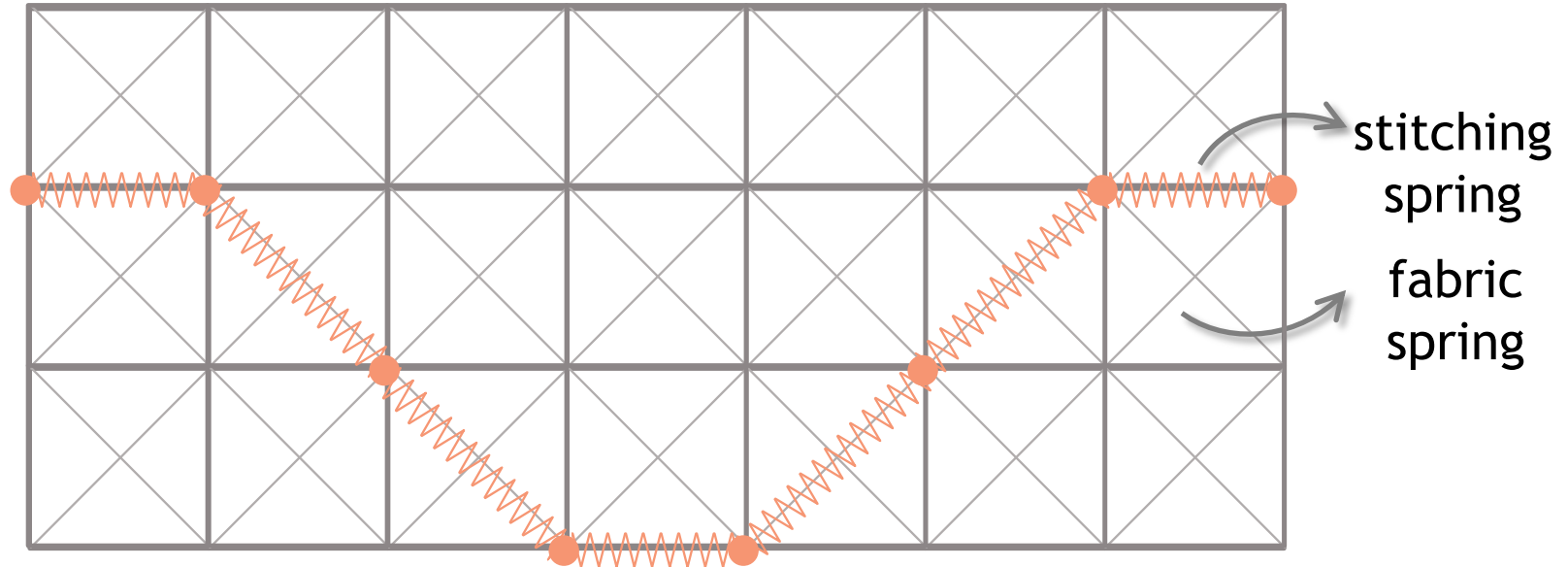
# Italian smocking pattern



\_\_\_\_\_

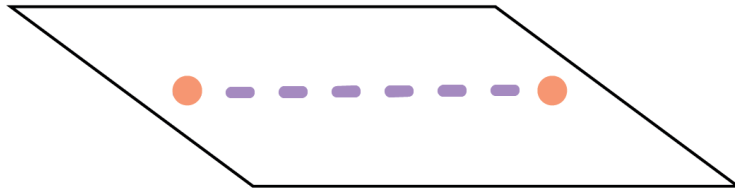


# Coarse mass-spring system (MSS)

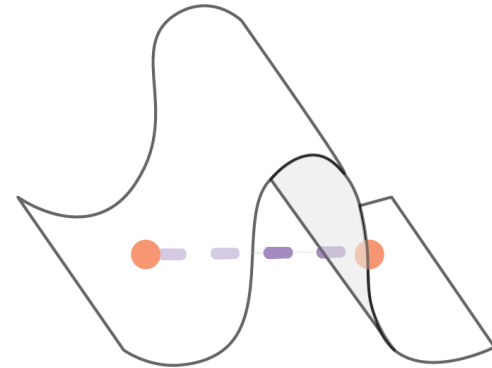


# Inaccurate coarse MSS...

standard MSS:  $\min_{x,y \in R^3} (d - d_{\text{init}})^2$



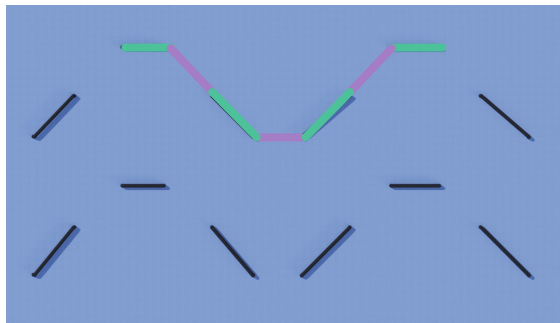
smocking MSS:  
extremely coarse representation



$d = ?$   
after smocking

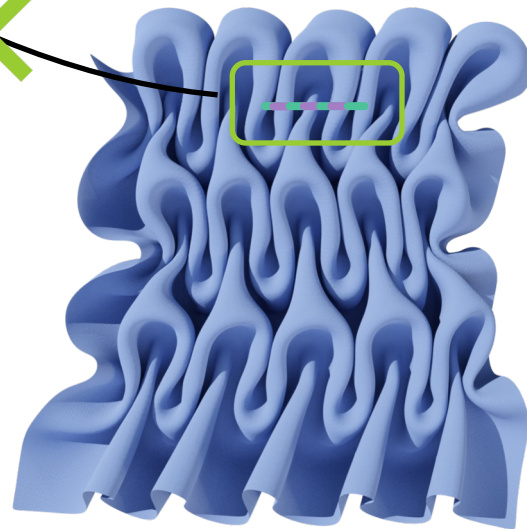
# Unknown expected length

modified MSS:  $\min_{x,y \in R^3} (d - d_{\text{deformed}})^2$



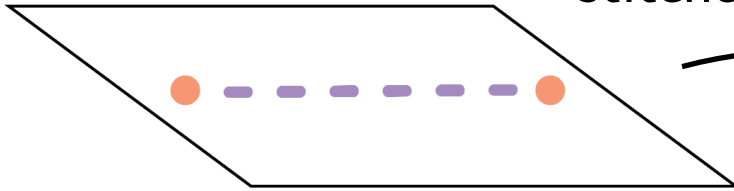
→  
fabrication

Unknown non-zero values



# Thread stays planar...

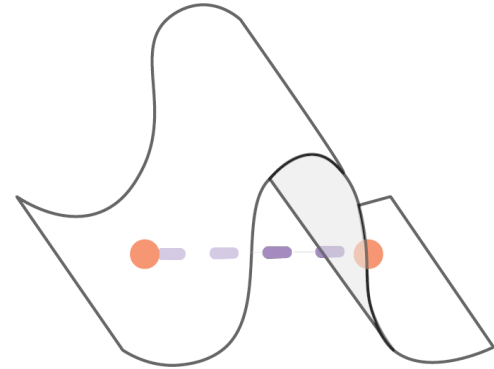
initial fabric



pleats in 3D  
stitches roughly in 2D



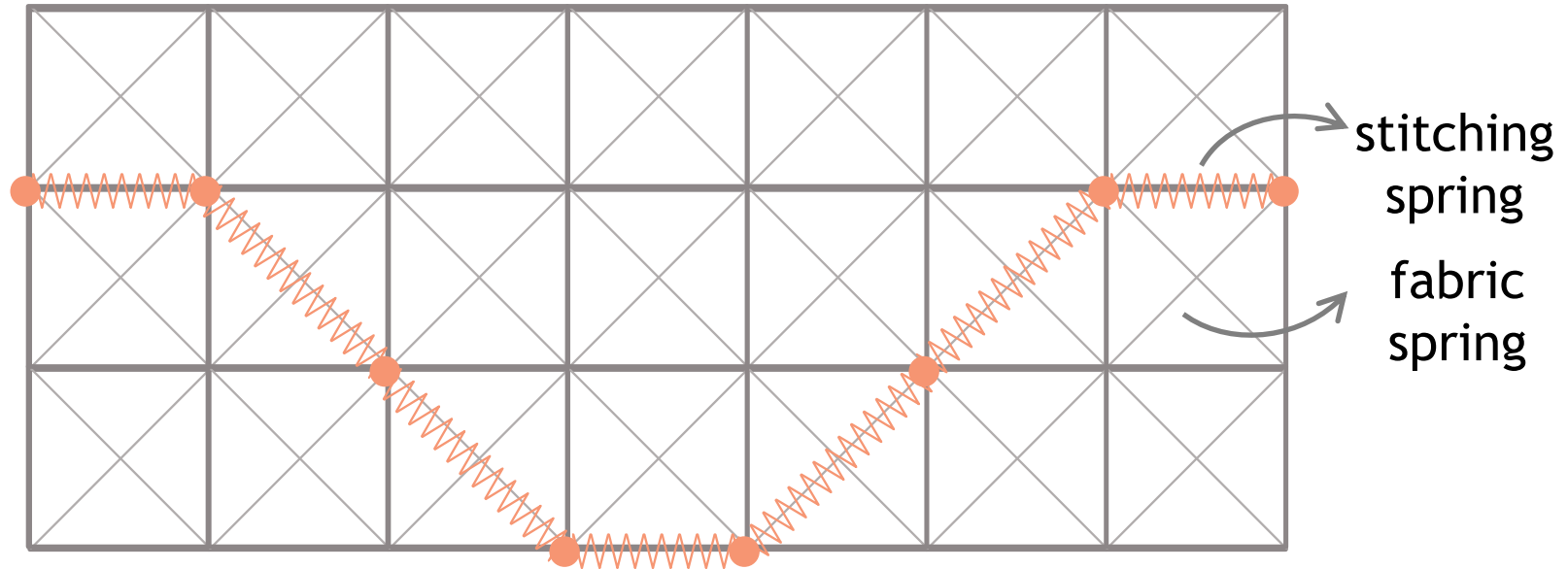
smocked pleat



- ✗ accurate cloth + thread 3D simulation
- ✓ estimate stitching points 2D deformation



# Solve the 2D-projected MSS

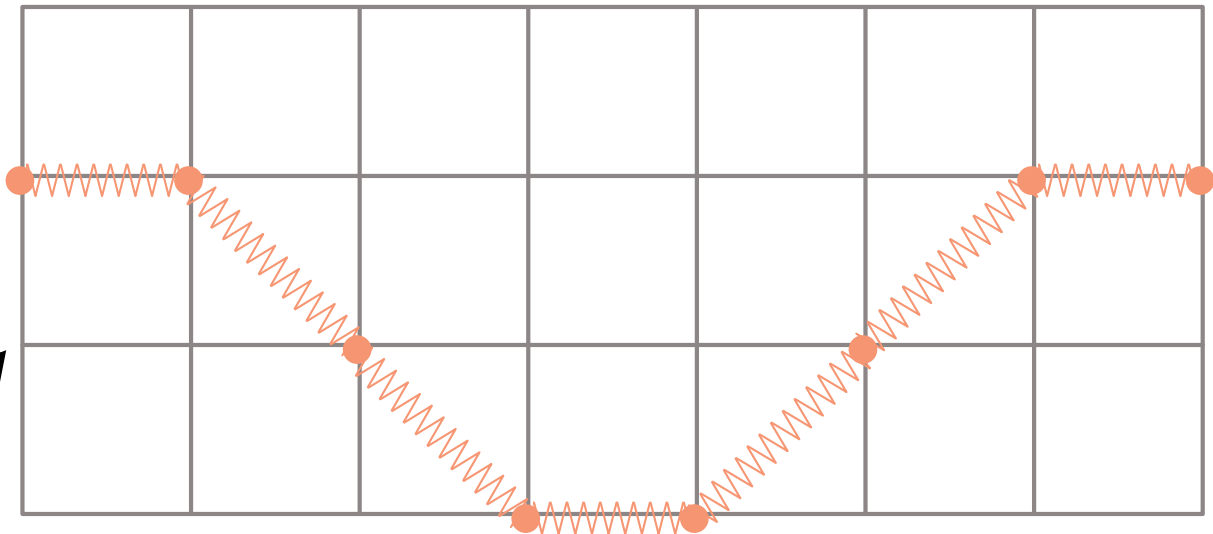
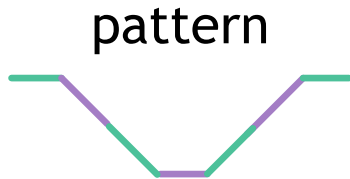


focus on the **stitching lines** deformation on the 2D plane

# Stitching spring constraints

$$\text{num}(\text{●} \text{---} \text{●}) * \tau \leq \text{len}(\text{---}) = \sum_{\#spr} \text{len}(\text{●} \text{---} \text{●}) \leq \gamma * \text{len}_{\text{init}}(\text{---})$$

- ❖  $\tau$ : fabric thickness
- ❖  $\gamma$ : shrinkage ( $< 1$ )

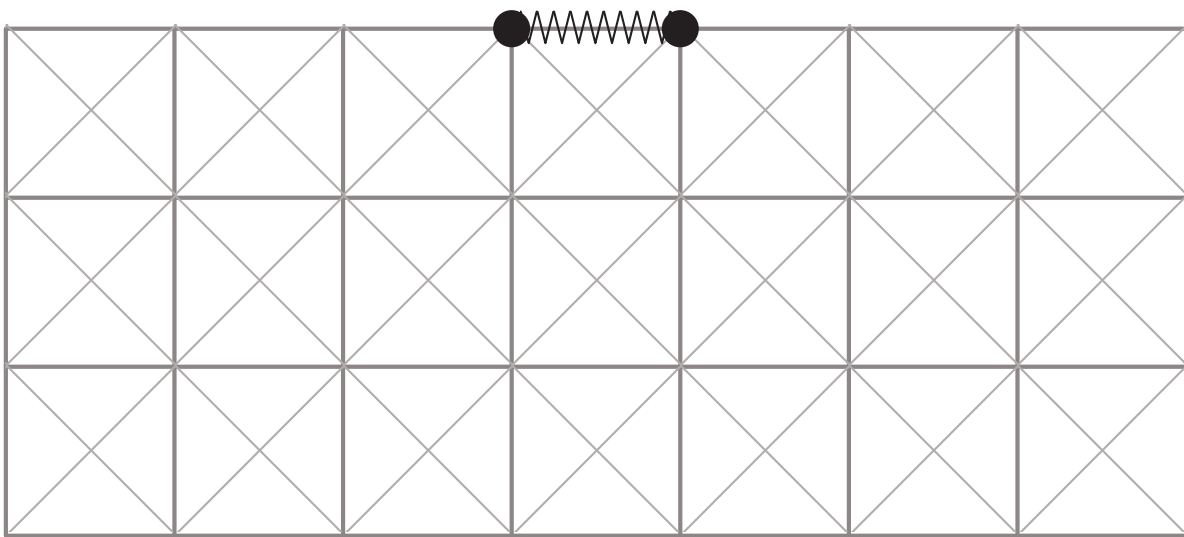
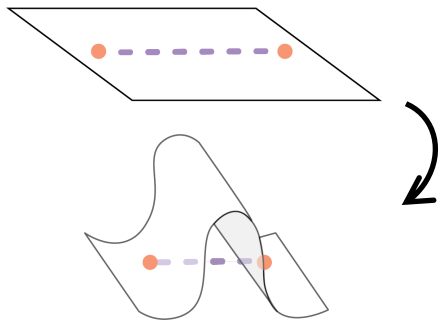


# Fabric spring constraints

$$\tau \leq \text{len}(\bullet \text{~~~~~} \bullet) \leq \text{len}_{\text{init}}(\bullet \text{~~~~~} \bullet)$$

compress w/o cost for projected length

❖  $\tau$ : fabric thickness



# Constrained optimization

objective:            **maximize** all spring lengths    → enforce shrinkage

constraints:        **stitching spring** & fabric spring

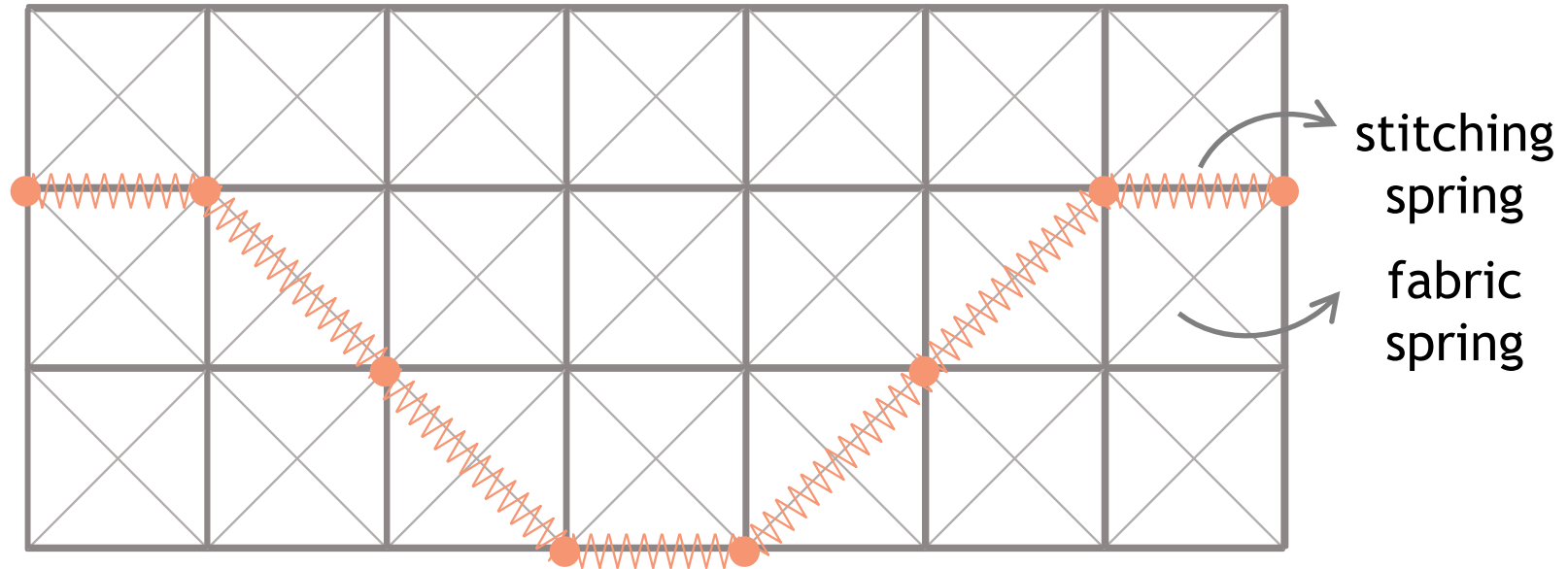


challenges

- ❖ non-linear non-convex optimization
- ❖ many local optimal solutions

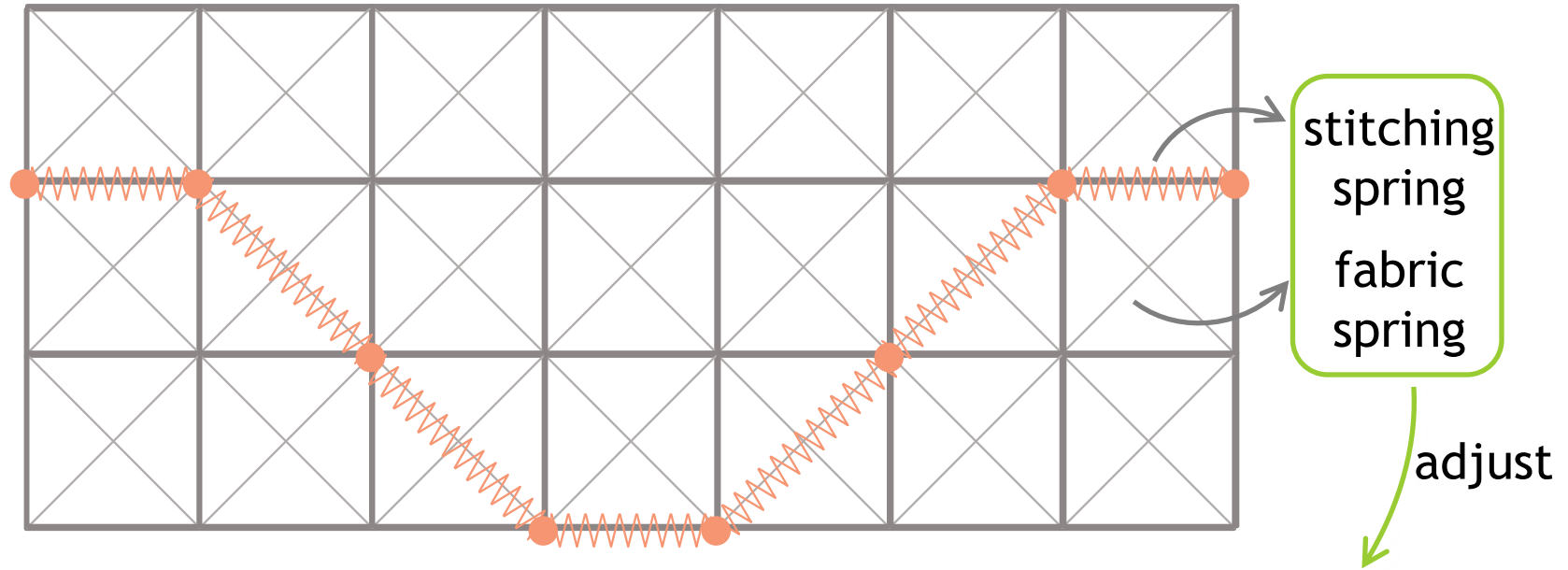


# 2D MSS dynamics



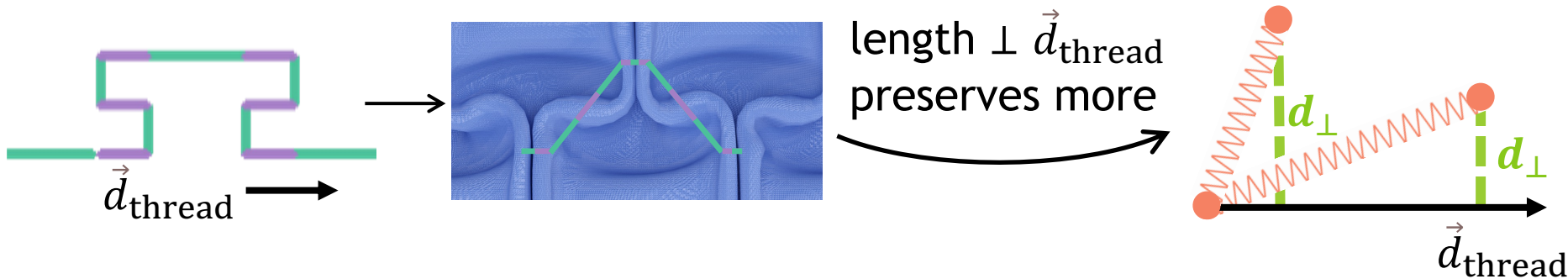
solve via spring dynamics to **gradually satisfying constraints**

# 2D MSS dynamics



violated constraints → additional spring forces via expected length  $d^e$

# Expected length of



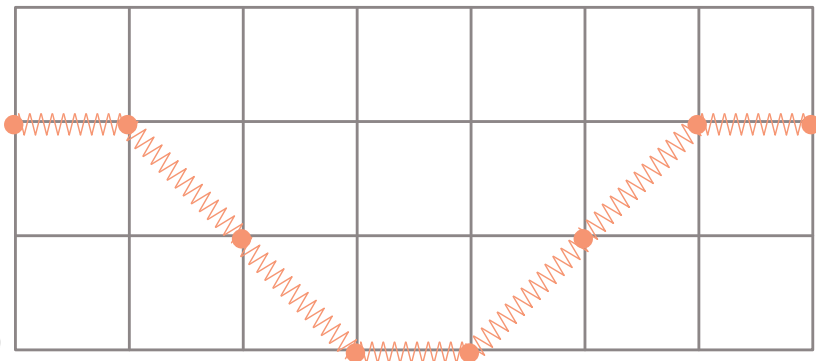
❖ **dynamically adaptive** expected length

$$d^e = d_{\perp}$$

❖ **avoid penetration**

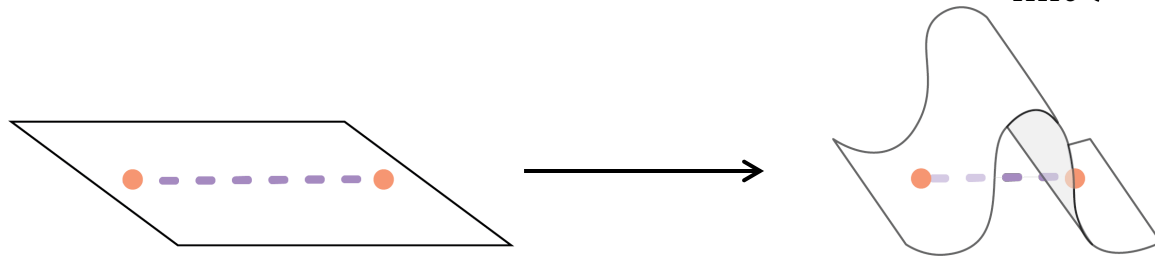
$$d^e = \max(d^e, \tau)$$

( $\tau$ : fabric thickness)



# Expected length of

fabric spring constraint:  $\tau \leq \text{len}(\text{spring}) \leq \text{len}_{\text{init}}(\text{spring})$



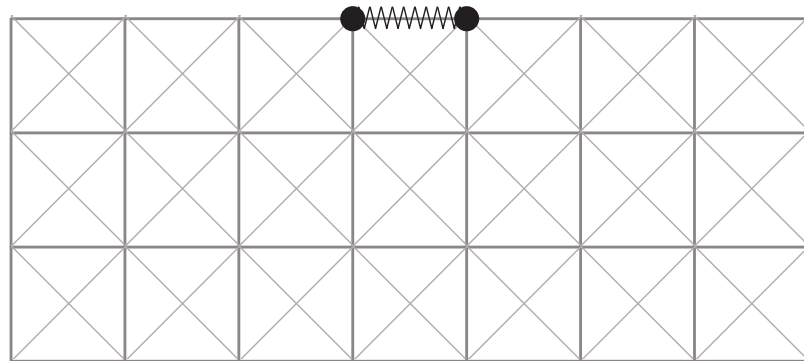
❖ **compress w/o cost** for 2D length

$$d^e = \min(\text{len}(\text{spring}), \text{len}_{\text{init}}(\text{spring}))$$

❖ avoid penetration

$$d^e = \max(d^e, \tau)$$

( $\tau$ : fabric thickness)



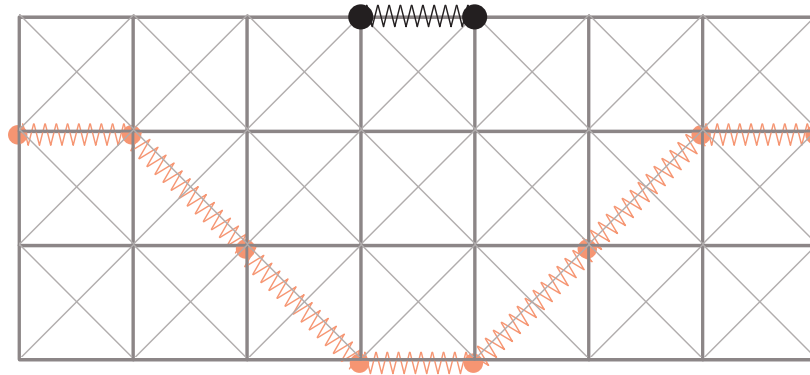


# 2D MSS dynamics (completed)

step 1: calculate expected length  $\{d^e \cup d^e\}$

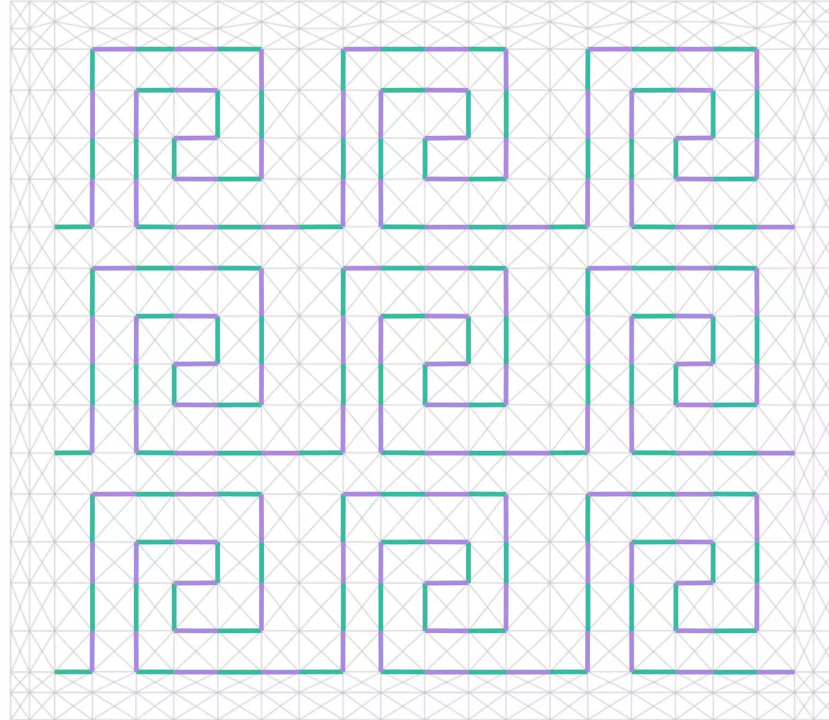
step 2: run one step of spring dynamics

go back to step 1 until  $\text{len}(\text{zigzag}) \leq \gamma * \text{len}_{\text{init}}(\text{zigzag})$ :



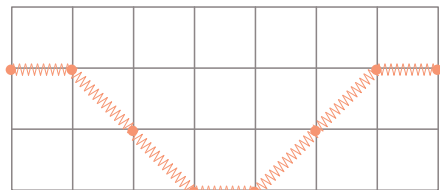
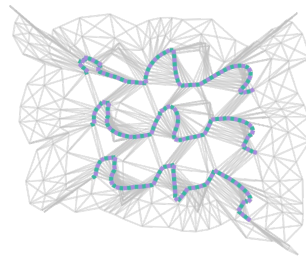
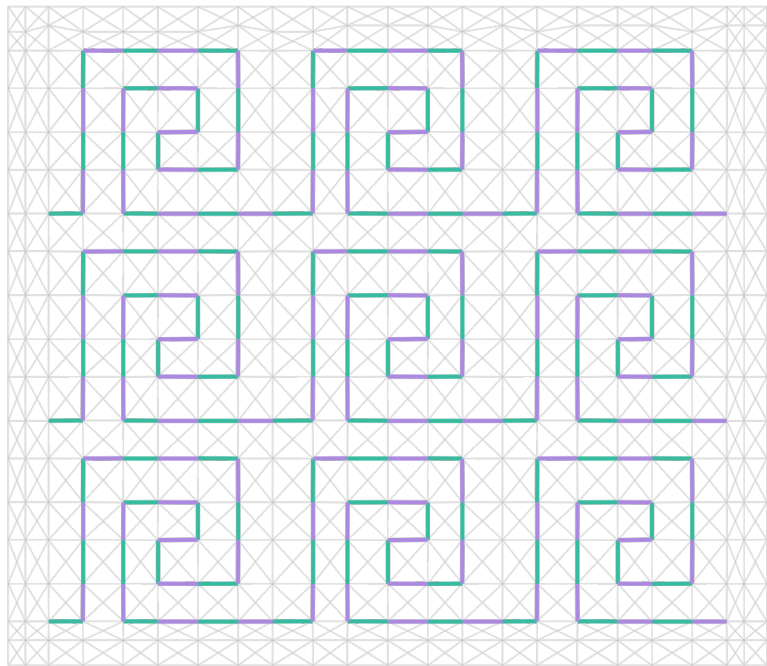
❖  $\gamma$ : shrinkage

# 2D MSS simulation



\* video played at 6x speed

# Guide 3D deform with 2D results?

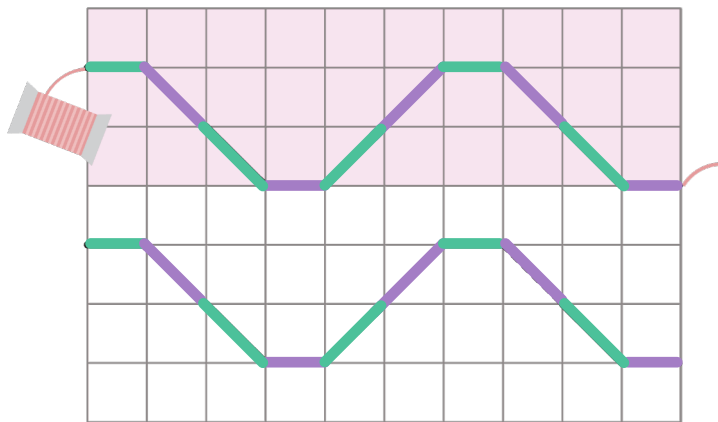


extracted results (in 2D):

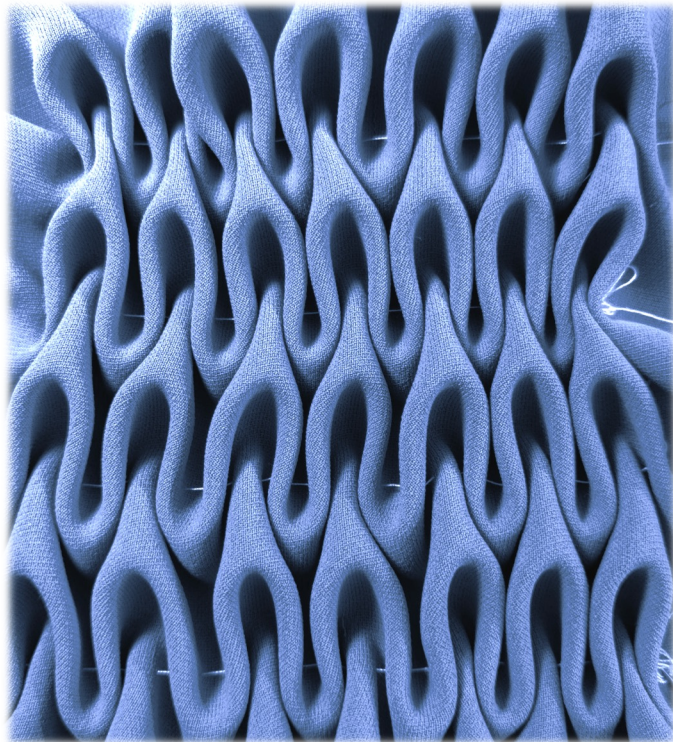
- ❖ stitching point position {●}
- ❖ smocked stitch length {len(●~~~~●)}

# Italian smocking

smocking pattern



fabrication

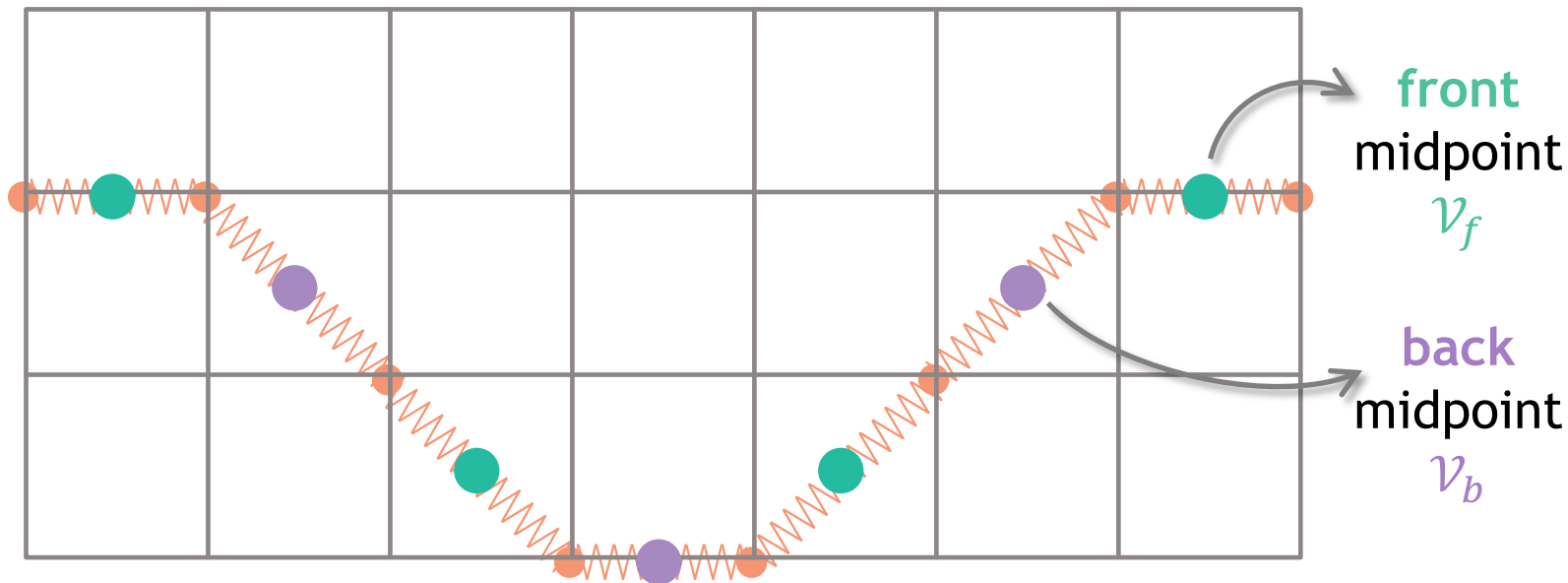


our goal:

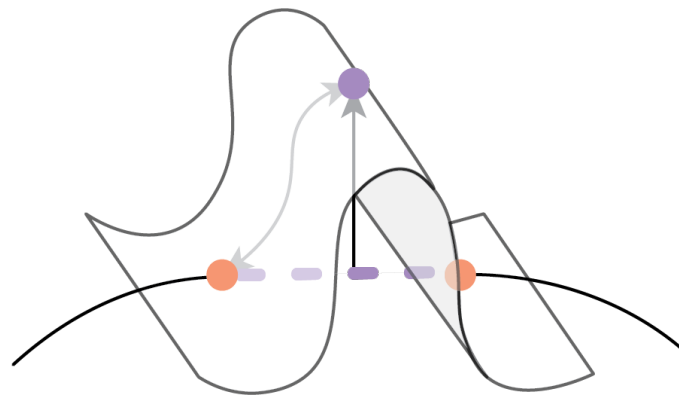
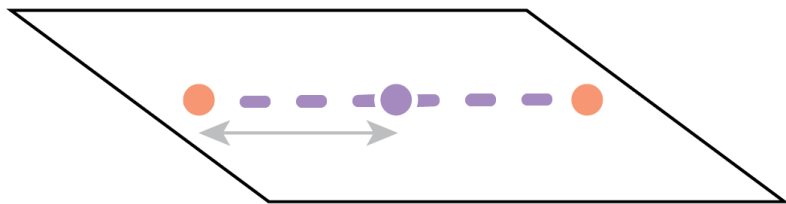
- ❖ formulate non-zero stitching length
- ❖ distinguish **front/back** stitches



# Stitch-induced pleat constraints



# Stitch-induced pleat constraints



back stitches

front stitches

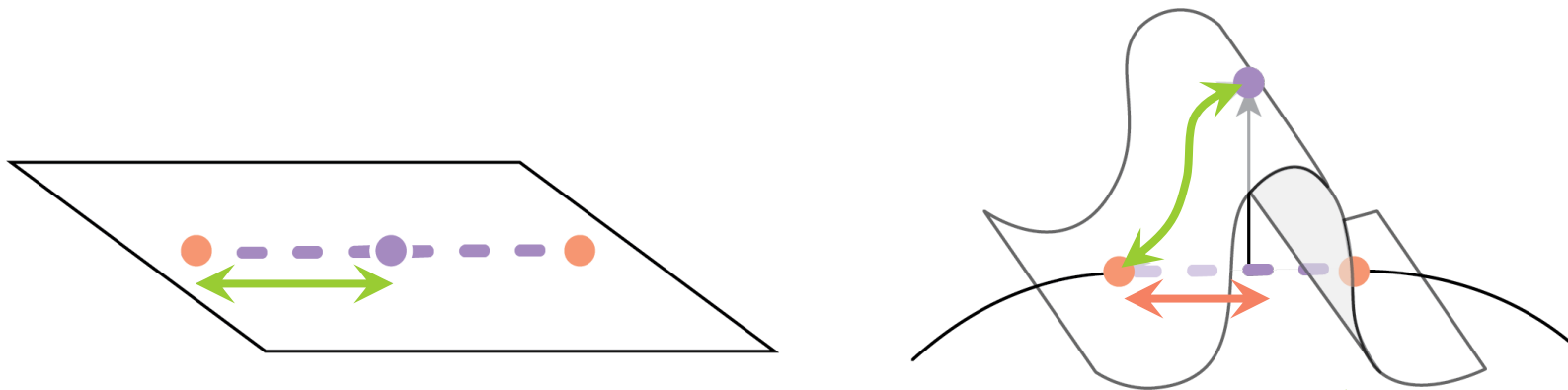
→ bend outward (positive height)

→ bend inward (negative height)

$$\text{sgn}(\mathcal{V}_b) = 1$$

$$\text{sgn}(\mathcal{V}_f) = -1$$

# Stitch-induced pleat constraints



$$h \approx \text{sgn}(\mathcal{V}) \text{len}(\longleftrightarrow) - \text{len}(\longleftrightarrow)$$

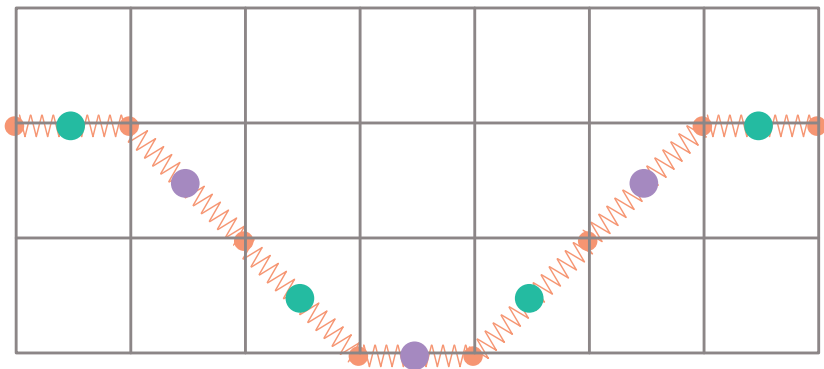
$$\approx \text{sgn}(\mathcal{V}) \frac{\text{len}_{\text{init}}(\text{red wavy line})}{2} - \frac{\text{len}(\text{red wavy line})}{2}$$

# Prior: position and stitch length

extracted results (in 3D):

- ❖ stitching point position (●, 0)
- ❖ midpoint position (●/●, ●/●,  $h$ )
- ❖ smocked stitch length  $\text{len}(\text{●}\text{~~~~}\text{●})$

positional constraints  
stitch length constraints

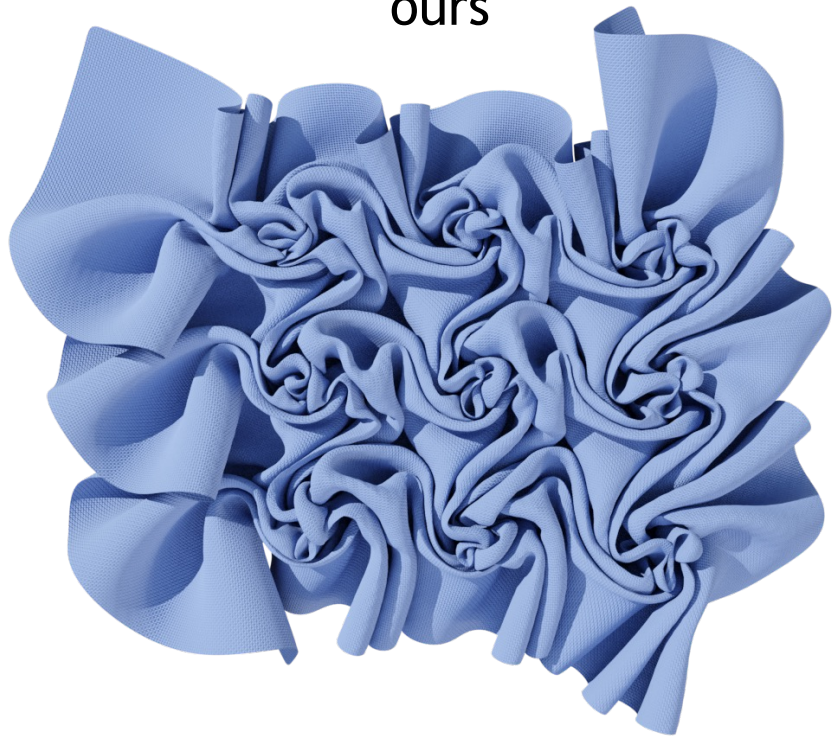


3D simulator C-IPC<sup>[1]</sup>

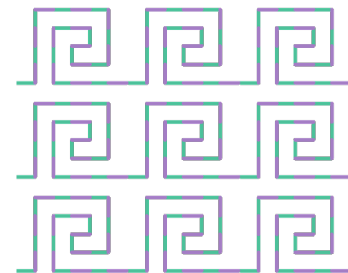
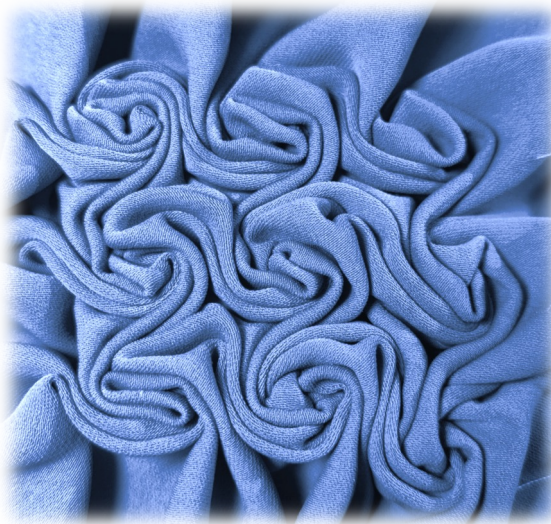
[1] "Codimensional incremental potential contact", Li et al. *ACM ToG* 2021

# Results & Fabrications

ours



fabrication

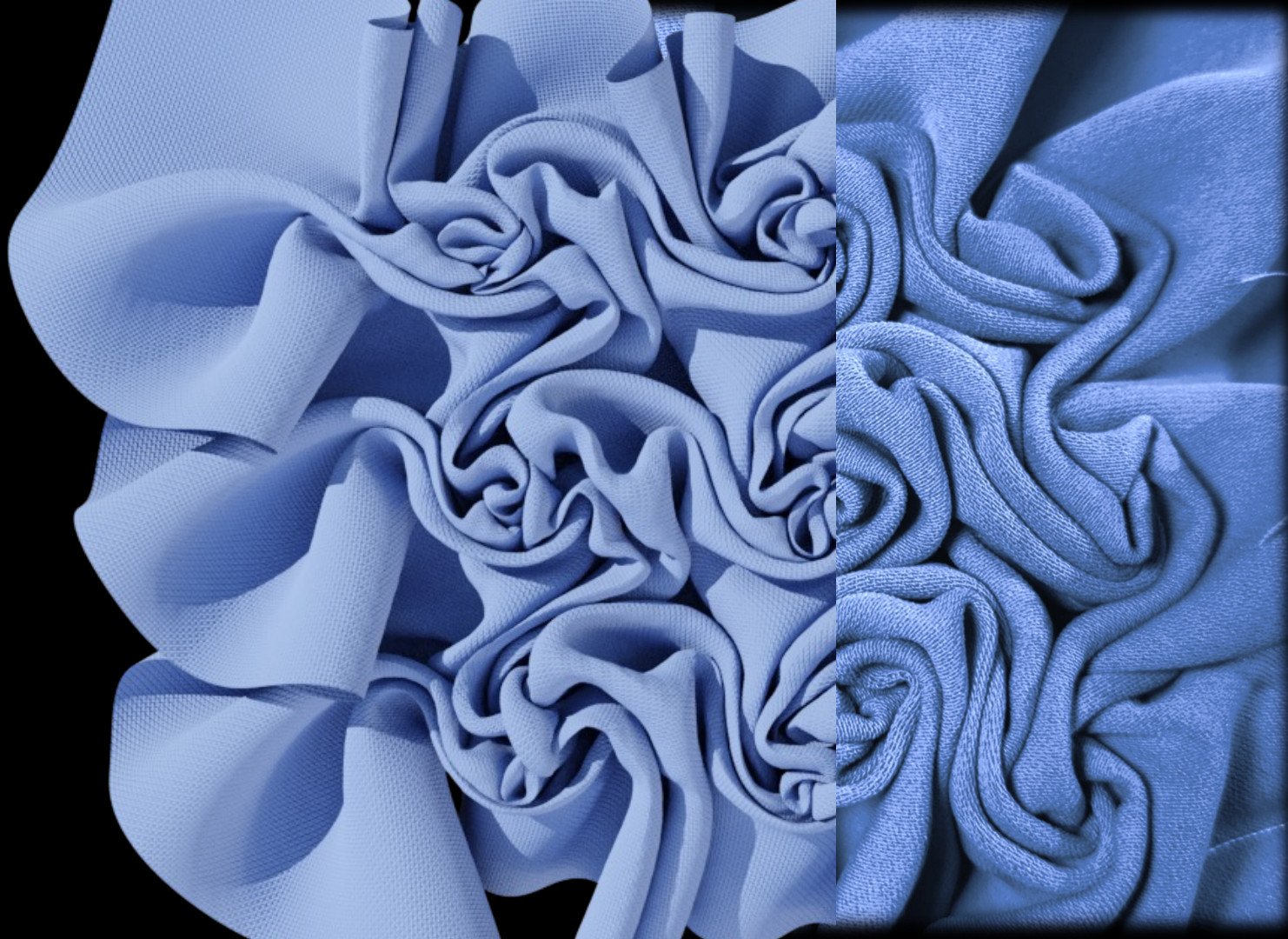


pattern

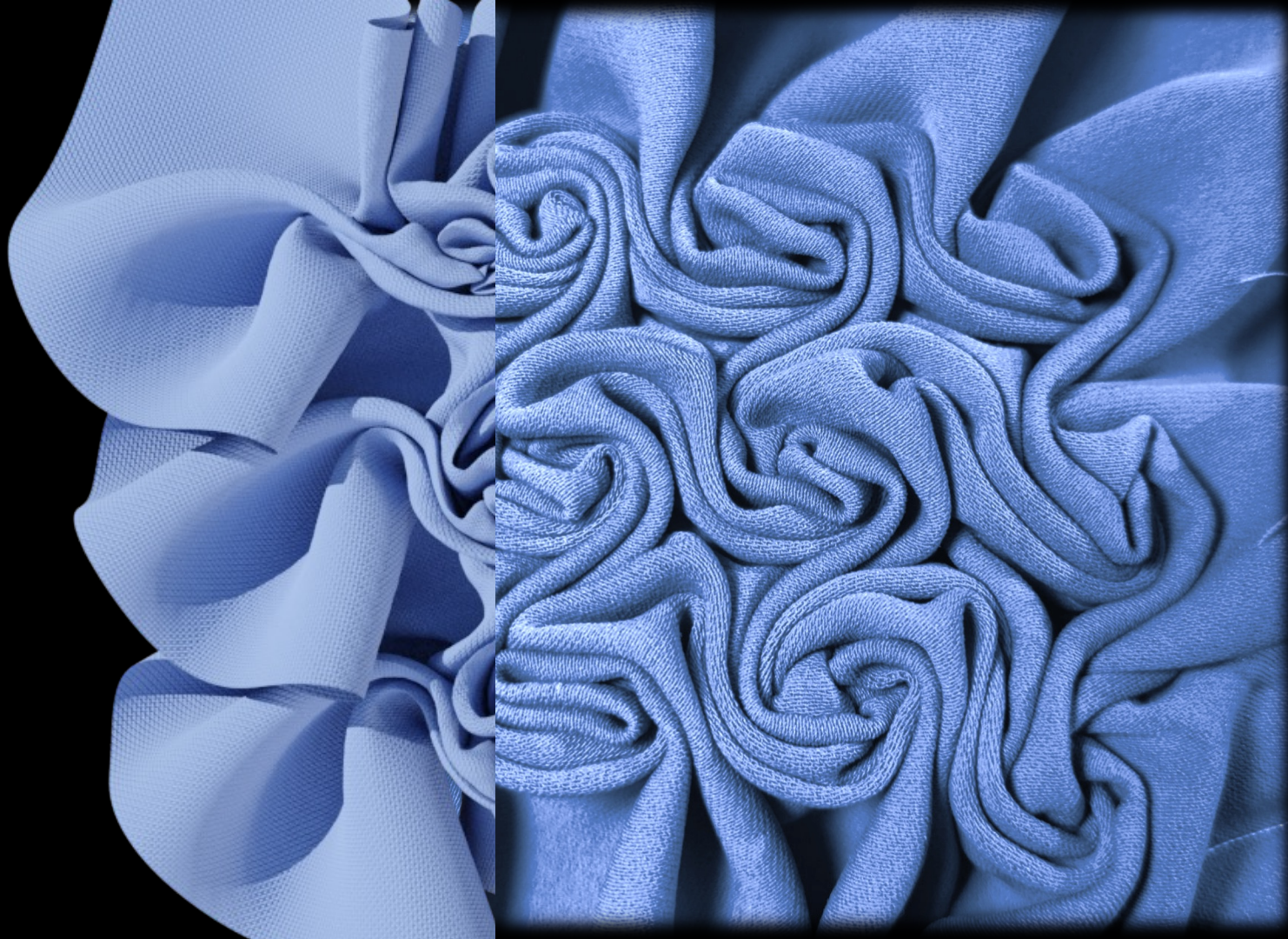
runtime:

- ❖ 2D sim: 64sec
- ❖ 3D sim: 8.26min
- ❖ total: 9.33min

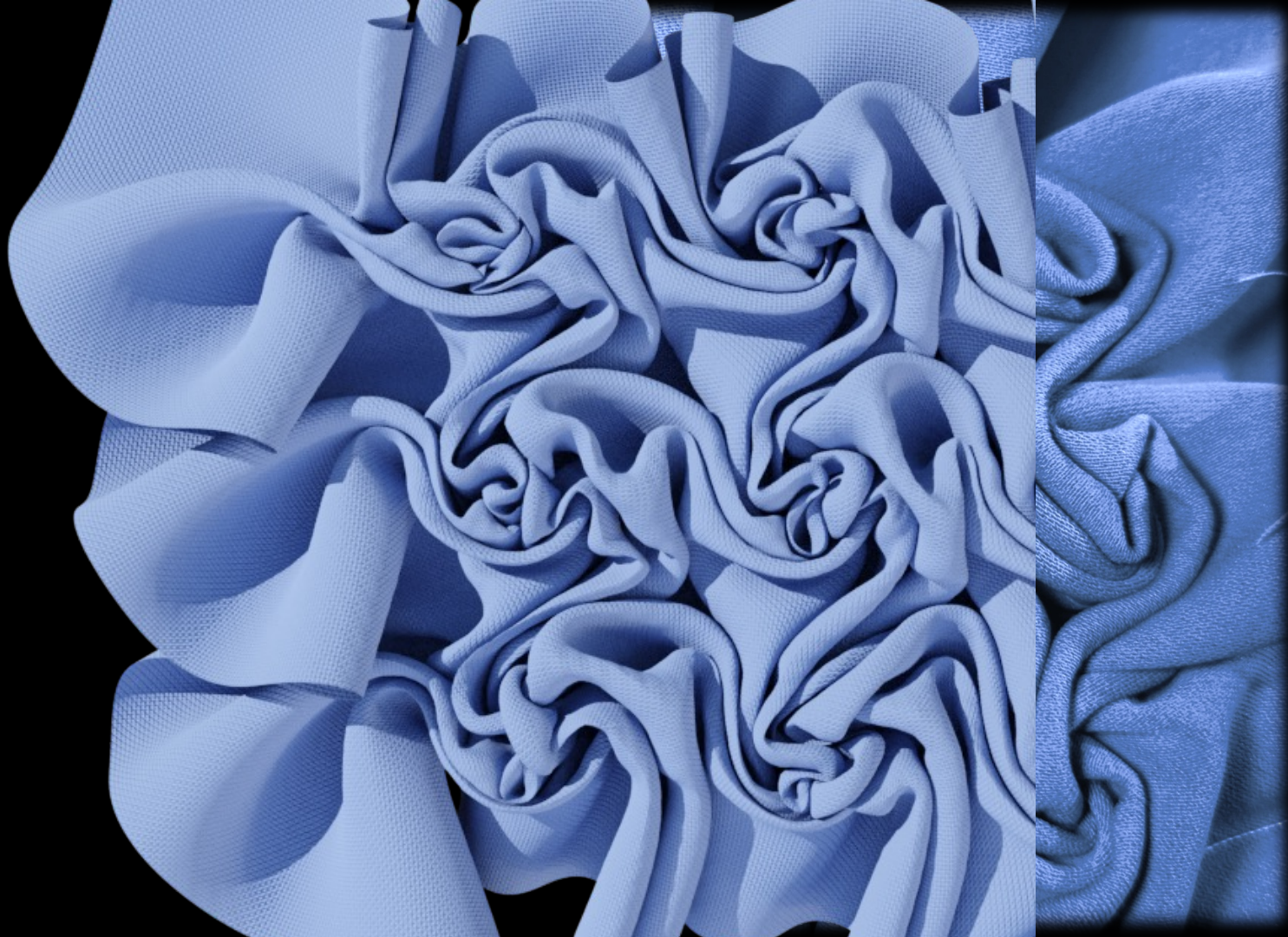






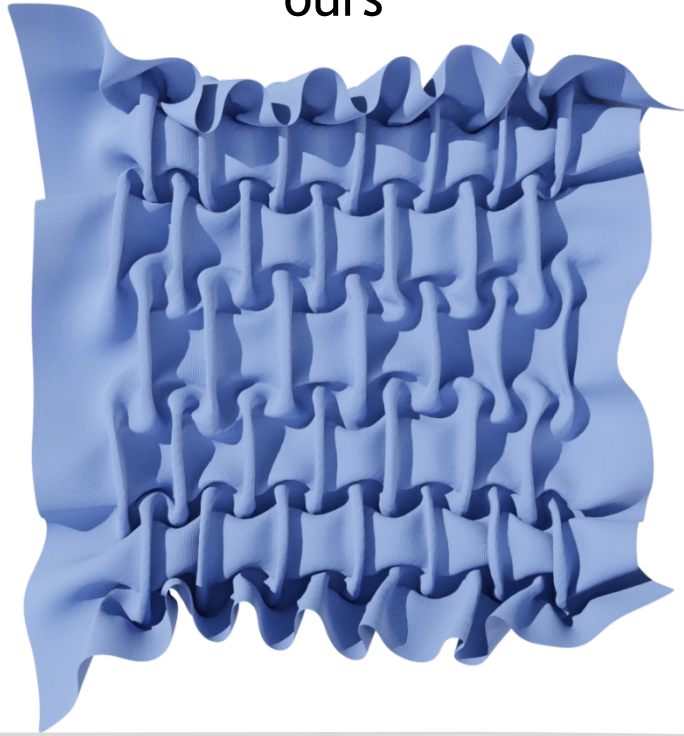




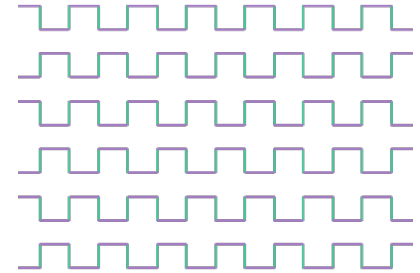
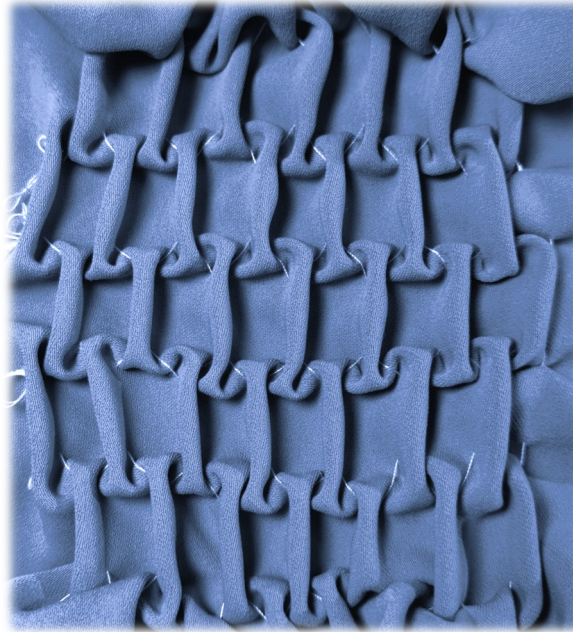


# Results & Fabrications

ours



fabrication



pattern

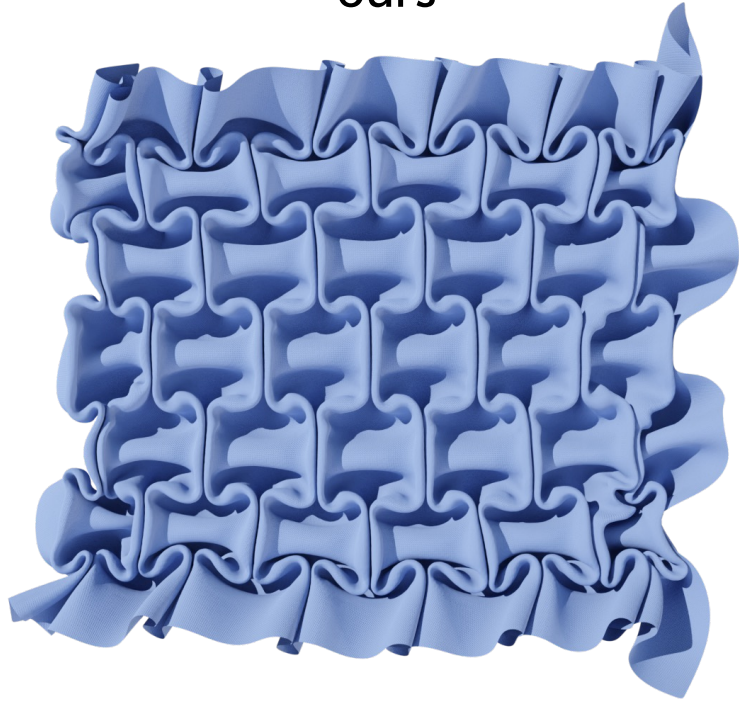
runtime:

- ❖ 2D sim: 3.5sec
- ❖ 3D sim: 2.35min
- ❖ total: 2.39min

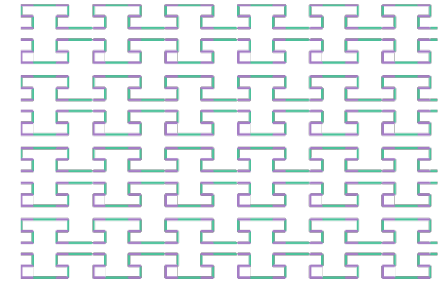
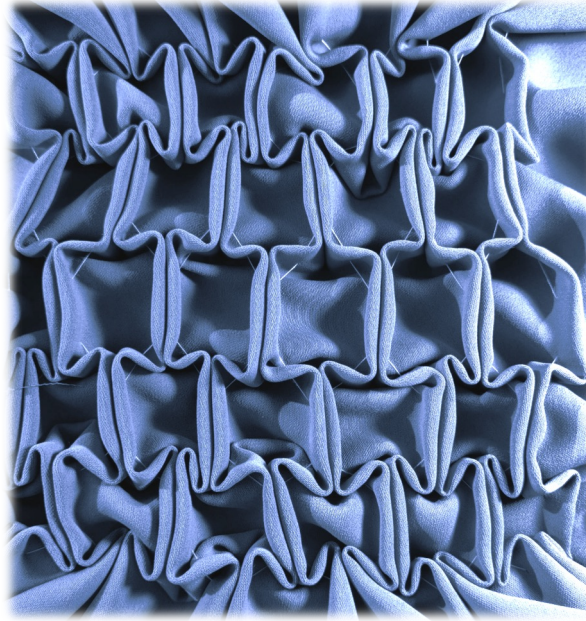


# Results & Fabrications

ours



fabrication



pattern

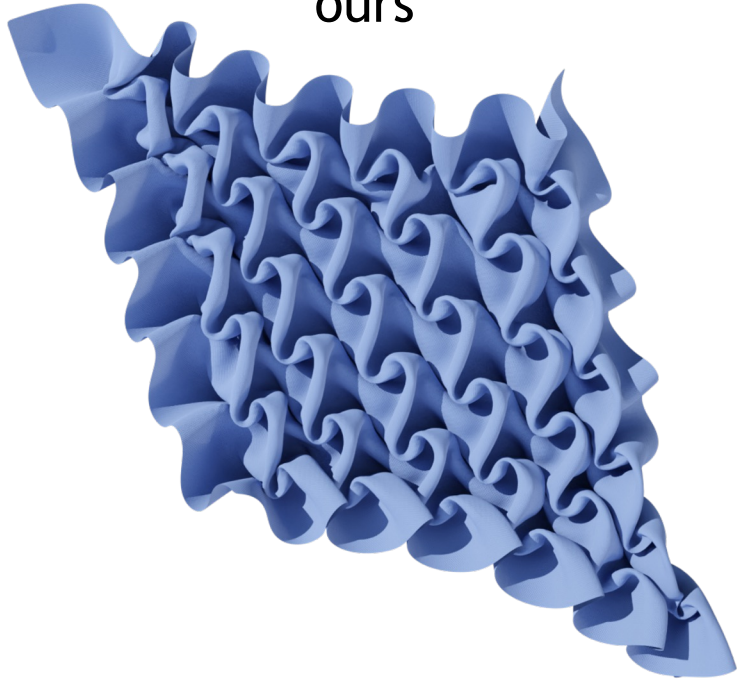
runtime:

- ❖ 2D sim: 27sec
- ❖ 3D sim: 11.67min
- ❖ total: 12.12min

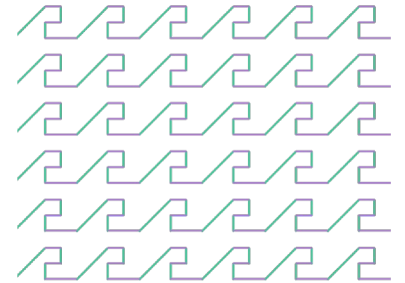
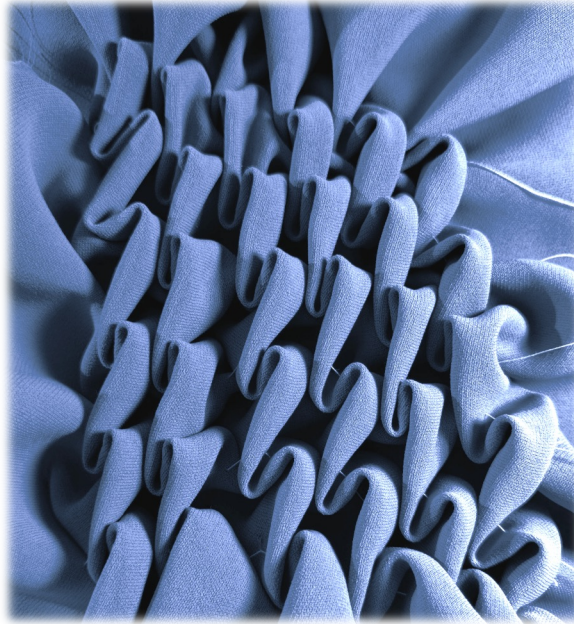


# Results & Fabrications

ours



fabrication



pattern

runtime:

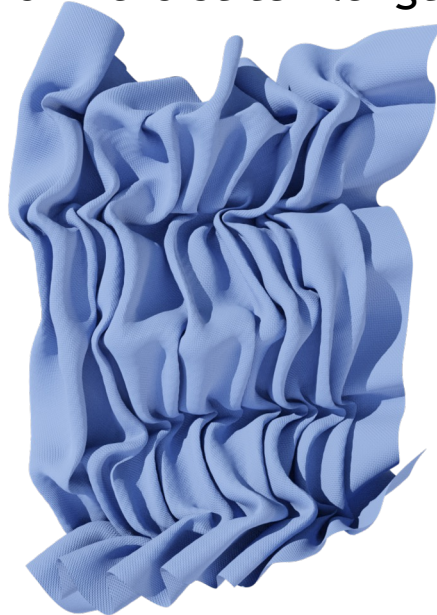
- ❖ 2D sim: 11sec
- ❖ 3D sim: 7.21min
- ❖ total: 7.39min

# Results & Fabrications

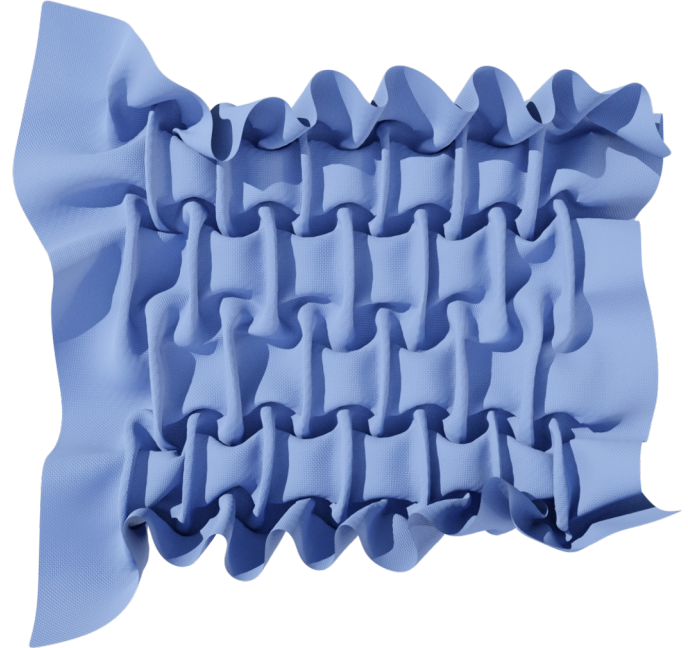
C-IPC<sup>[1]</sup>



C-IPC<sup>[1]</sup> +  
non-zero stitch length

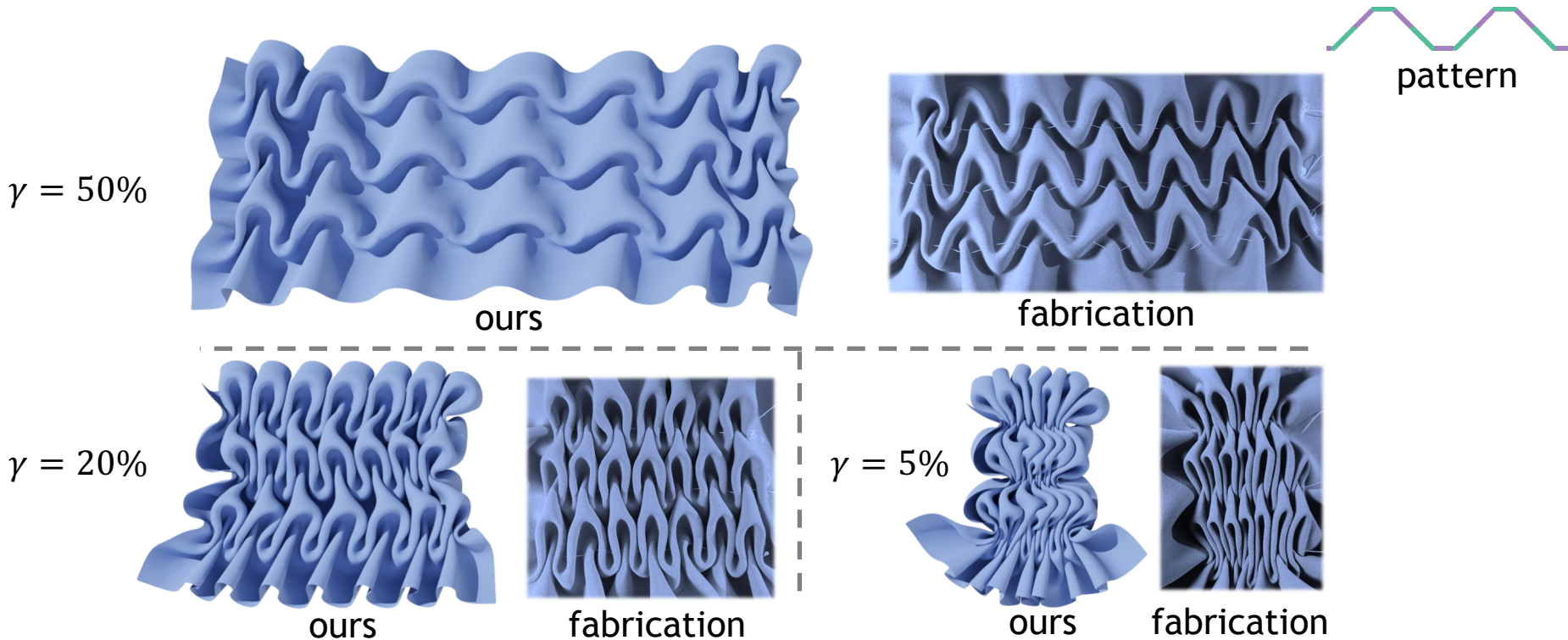


ours



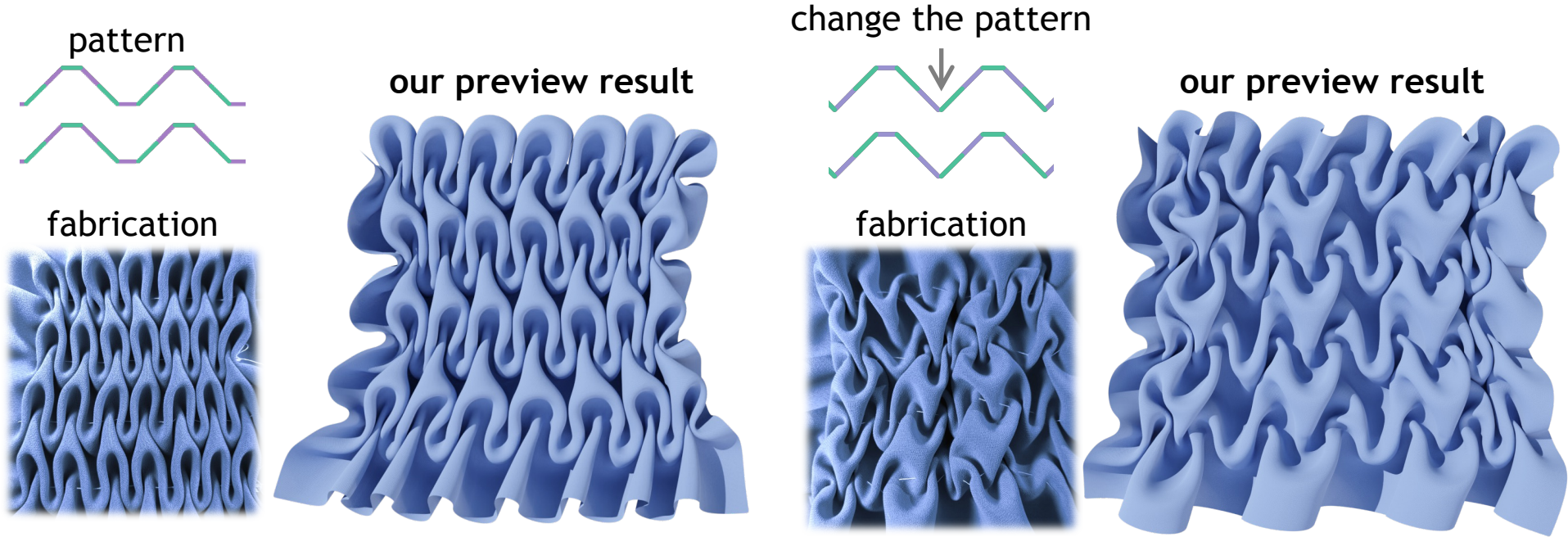
[1] “Codimensional incremental potential contact”, Li et al. *ACM ToG* 2021

# Results: different shrinkage $\gamma$

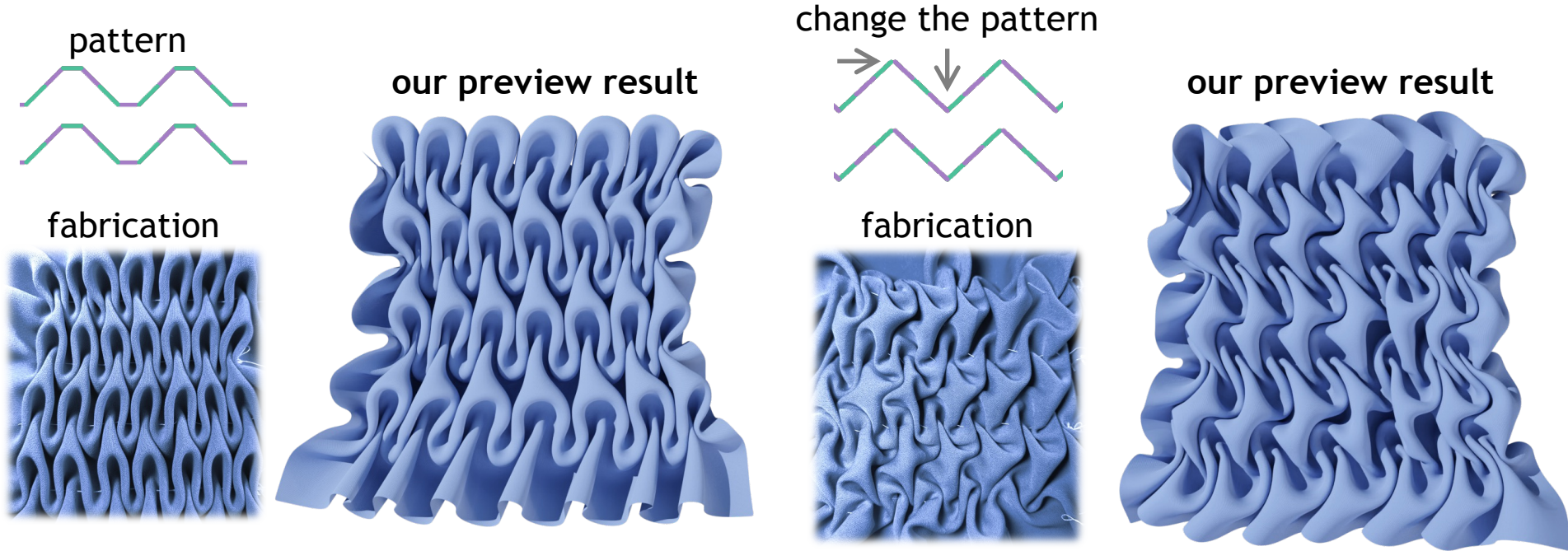




# Results: guide pattern design



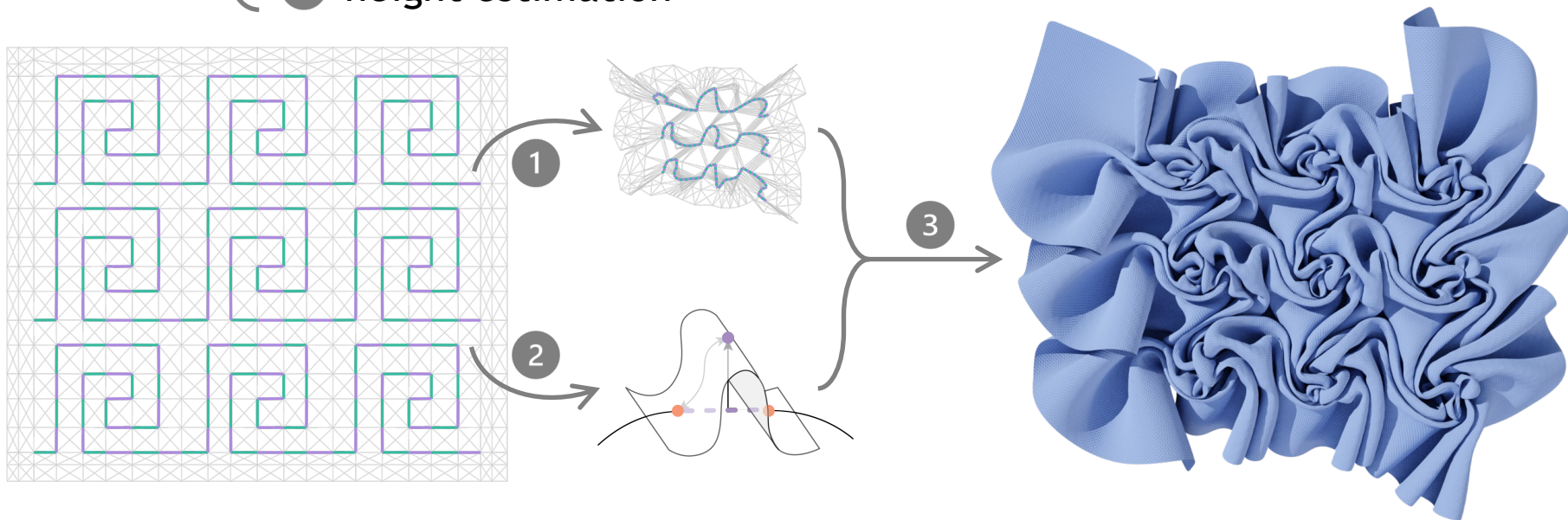
# Results: guide pattern design



# Summary

priors {  
1 2D MSS dynamics  
2 height estimation

3 guided 3D simulation



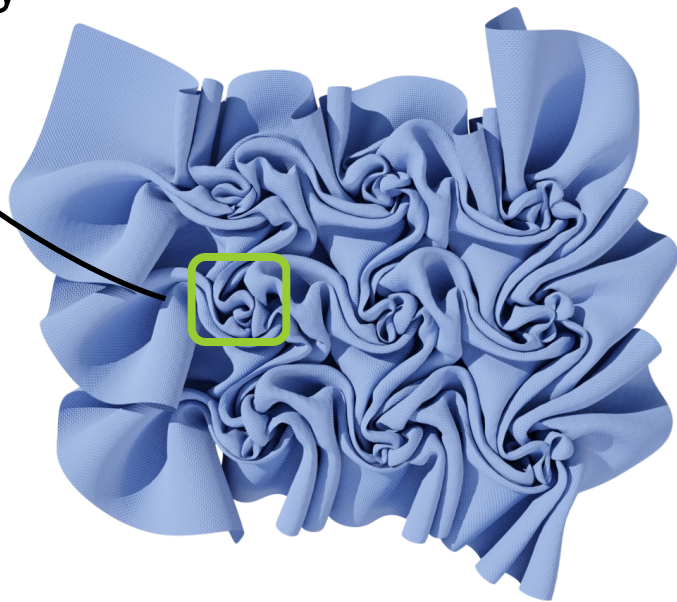


# Limitation & Future work

- ❖ complex collision handling  
→ simplify based on smocking property

rich-contact region

- ❖ only planar pattern  
→ extend to curved surface





Thank you for your  
attention 😊



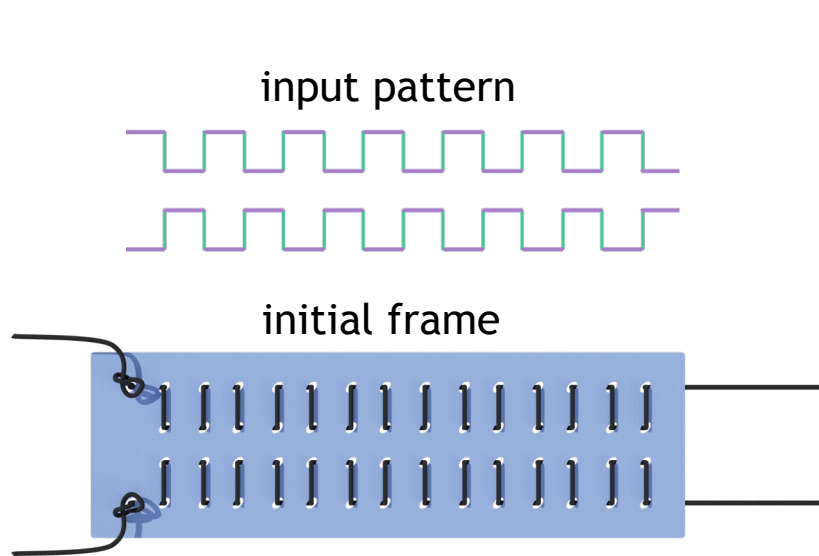
# Computational Smocking through Fabric-Thread Interaction

Ningfeng Zhou, Jing Ren, Olga Sorkine-Hornung

**Acknowledgements** We would like to thank the anonymous reviewers for their insightful feedback. We extend our gratitude to [M. Rifad](#) (YouTube channel "DIY Stitching"), [F. Shanas](#) (YouTube channel "handiworks"), and [S. Fyms](#) (YouTube channel "FymsEmbroidery") for generously granting us permission to use the images of their remarkable fabrication results. This work was supported in part by the ERC Consolidator Grant No. 101003104 (MYCLOTH).

# Supplementary slides

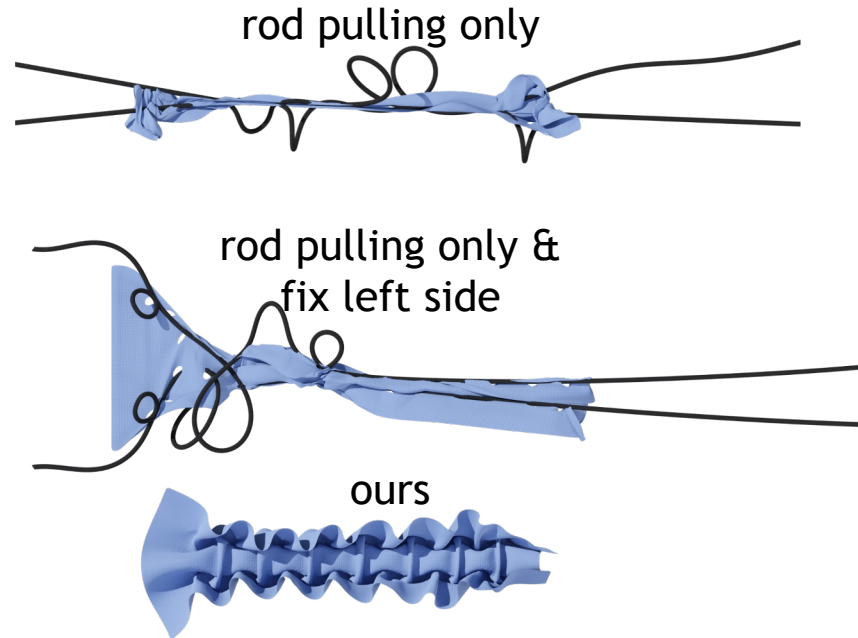
# Rod-fabric simulation



- extremely **thin** thread
- non-trivial fabrication process



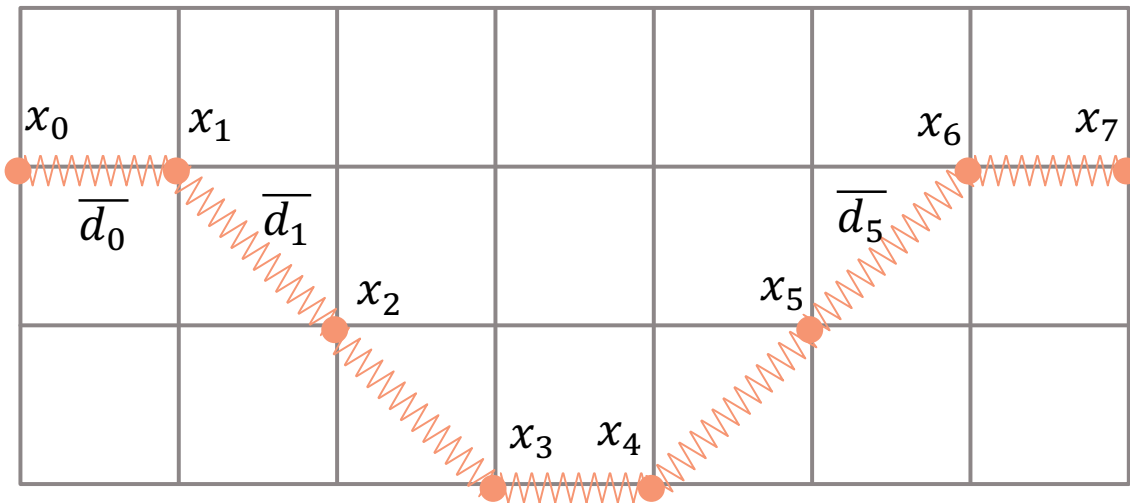
- require advanced collision handling
- non-trivial to determine the boundary condition



# Stitching spring constraints

for a list of stitching springs  $k\tau \leq \sum_i \|x_i - x_{i+1}\| \leq \gamma \sum_i \bar{d}_i$

- ❖  $\tau$ : fabric thickness
- ❖  $k$ : number of folds
- ❖  $\gamma$ : shrinkage
- ❖  $\bar{d}$ : original length in fabric
- ❖  $x_i$ : 2D positions to solve



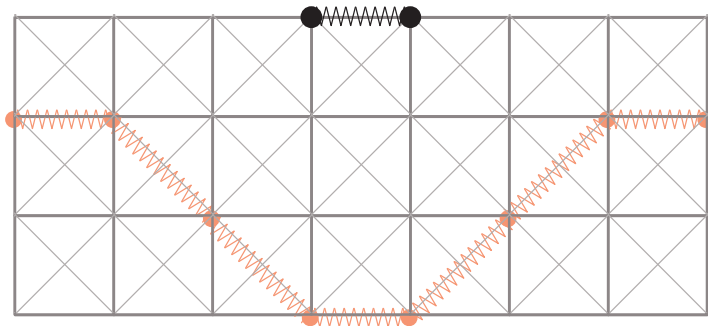
# 2D Optimize via non-linear solver

$$\max(\sum_{\#spr} len^2(\{\text{red spring} \cup \text{black spring}\})) \quad s.t.$$

$$num(\text{red spring}) * \tau \leq len(\text{green zigzag}) = \sum_{\#spr} len(\text{red spring}) \leq \gamma * len_0(\text{green zigzag})$$

$$\tau \leq len(\text{black spring}) \leq len_0(\text{black spring})$$

- $\tau$ : fabric thickness
- $\gamma$ : shrinkage



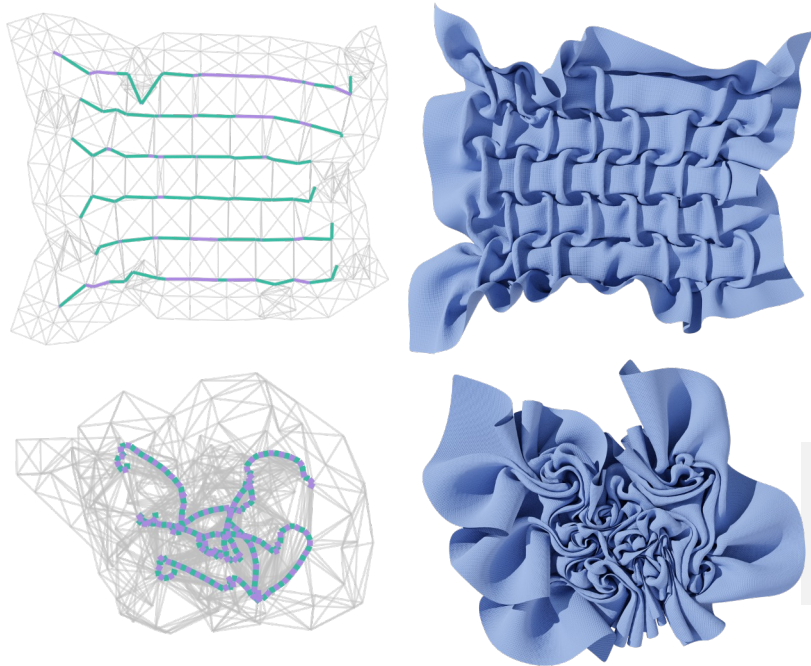
Input flat system

- ❖ too many DoFs
- ❖ no regularity constraints
- ❖ initially violating constraints

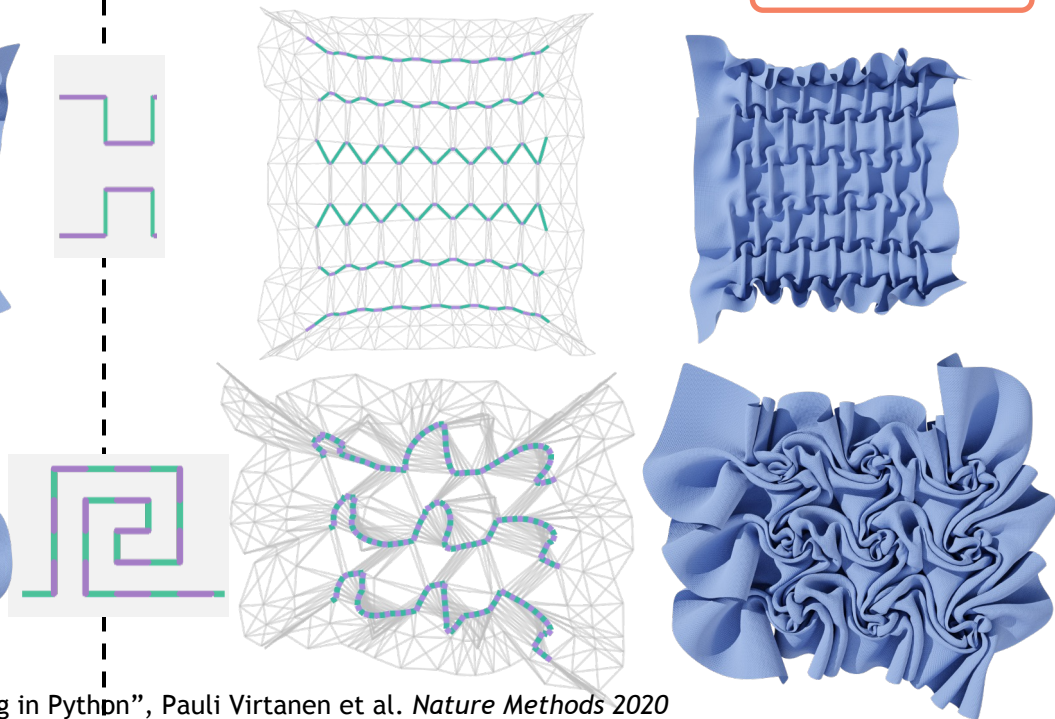


# 2D Optimize via non-linear solver

SLSQP<sup>[1]</sup> results

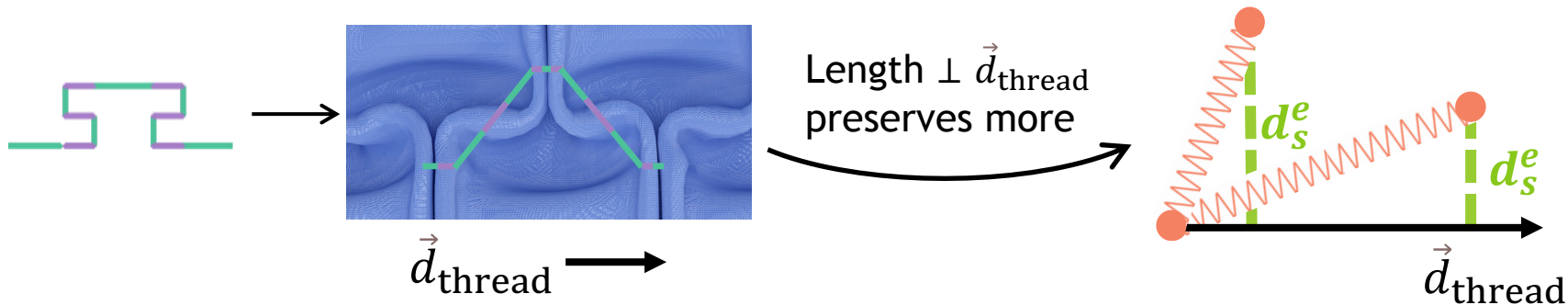


our results over 45x faster



[1] “SciPy 1.0: Fundamental Algorithms for Scientific Computing in Python”, Pauli Virtanen et al. *Nature Methods* 2020

# Expected length of $\varepsilon_s$



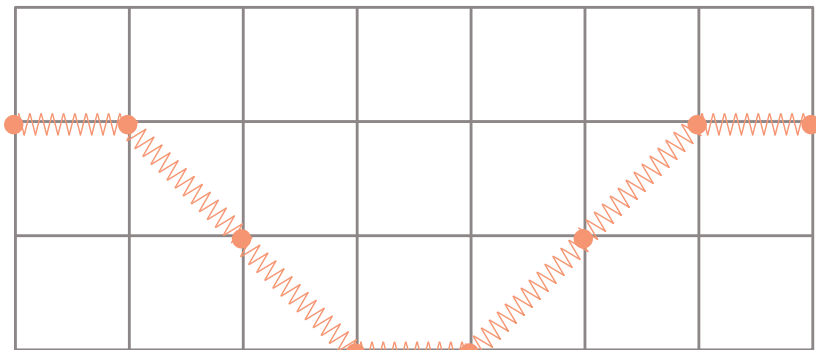
- ❖ dynamically adaptive expected length

$$d_s^e = |\vec{d}_{\text{thread}} \times \vec{d}_s|$$

- ❖ avoid penetration

$$d_s^e = \max(d_s^e, \tau)$$

( $\tau$ : fabric thickness)



# 2D MSS dynamics (completed)

loop until  $len(\text{ } \text{ } ) \leq \gamma * len_0(\text{ } \text{ } )$ :

calculate  $d^e$  for  $\{\mathcal{E}_s\} \cup \{\mathcal{E}_f\}$ :

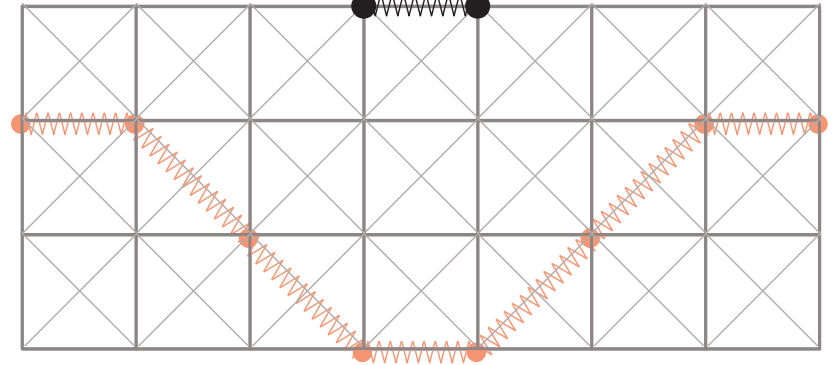
$$d_s^e = |\vec{d}_{\text{thread}} \times \vec{d}_s|$$

$$d_s^e = \max(d_s^e, \tau)$$

$$d_f^e = \min(d_f^0, d_f)$$

$$d_f^e = \max(d_f^e, \tau)$$

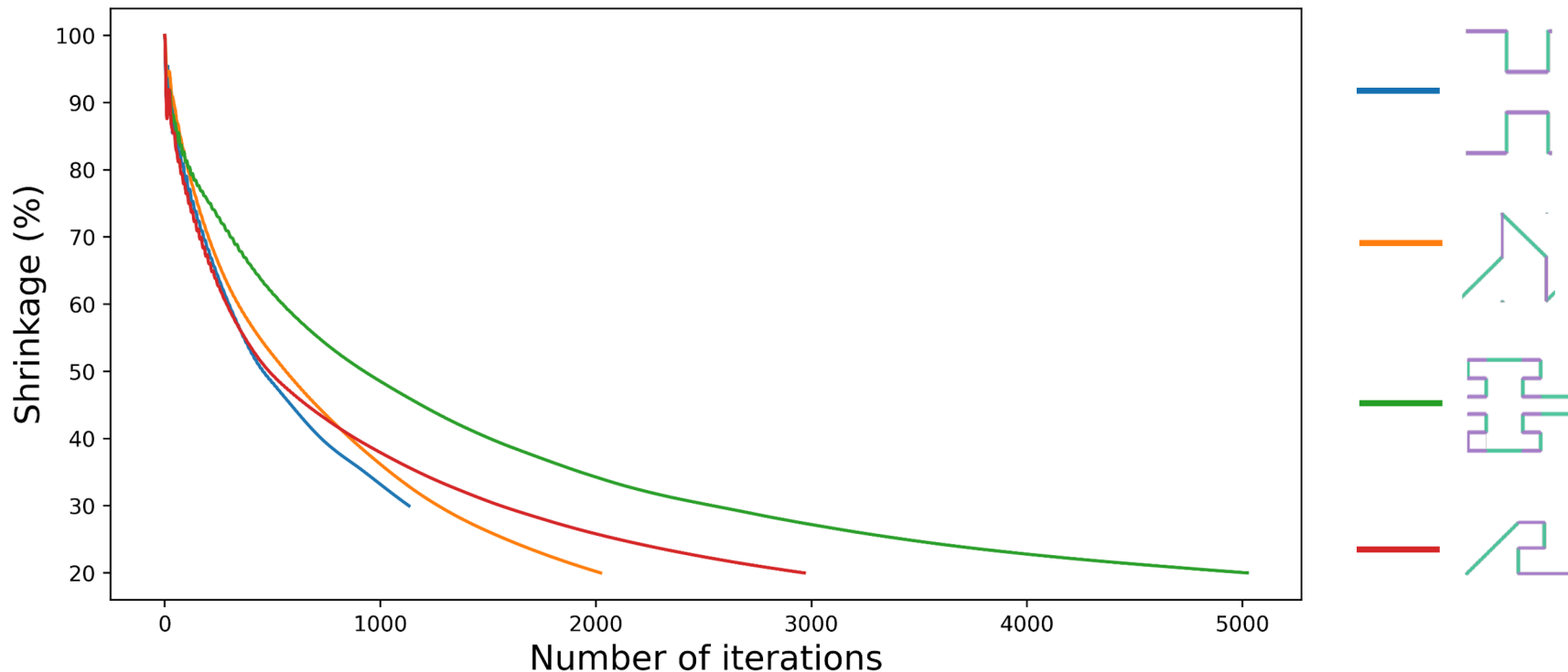
run one step of standard MSS



❖  $\tau$ : fabric thickness

❖  $\gamma$ : shrinkage

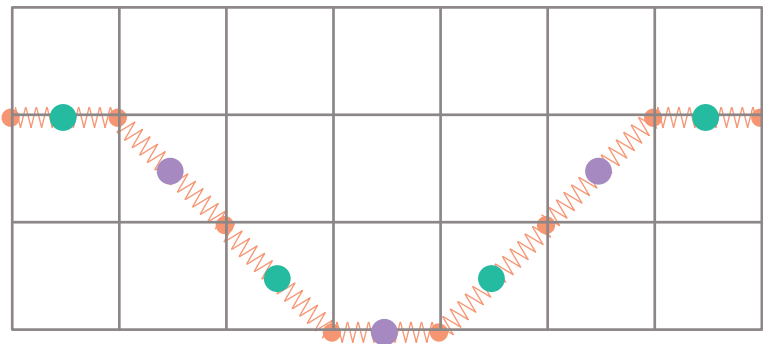
# Convergence of 2D MSS dynamics



# Prior: position and stitch length

extracted results (in 3D):

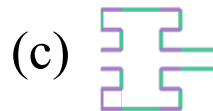
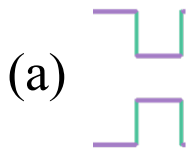
- ❖ stitched point position  $(x_i, y_i, 0) \in \{\mathcal{V}_s\}$   $\xrightarrow{\quad}$
- ❖ midpoint position  $\left(\frac{x_i+x_j}{2}, \frac{y_i+y_j}{2}, h\right) \in \{\mathcal{V}_f\} \cup \{\mathcal{V}_b\} \xrightarrow{\quad} \mathcal{V}^c$
- ❖ smocked stitch length  $\{d_s\} \xrightarrow{\quad} d_s^c$



constraints for 3D simulator:

- ❖ positional 
$$\min_{\{\mathcal{V}_s\} \cup \{\mathcal{V}_f\} \cup \{\mathcal{V}_b\}} \|\mathcal{V} - \mathcal{V}^c\|^2$$
- ❖ stitch length 
$$\min_{\{\mathcal{E}_s\}} \|d_s - d_s^c\|^2$$

# Runtime



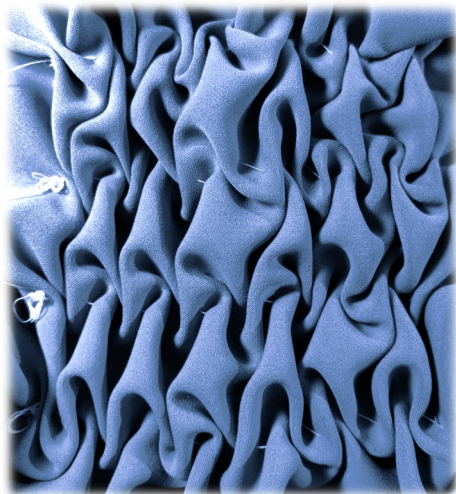
<i>smocking pattern</i>	<i>complexity</i>				<i>runtime (minutes)</i>		
	$ \mathcal{V}_s $	$ \mathcal{V} $	$n$	$\gamma$	2D sim.	3D sim.	total
(a)	174	304	9116	30%	0.04	2.35	2.39
(b)	116	288	8858	20%	0.06	2.49	2.55
(c)	438	880	33649	20%	0.45	11.67	12.12
(d)	222	638	21798	20%	0.18	7.21	7.39

❖ #stitched point  $|\mathcal{V}_s|$ , #all 2D point  $|\mathcal{V}|$ , #mesh vertices  $n$ , shrinkage  $\gamma$



# Results: pleat adjustment

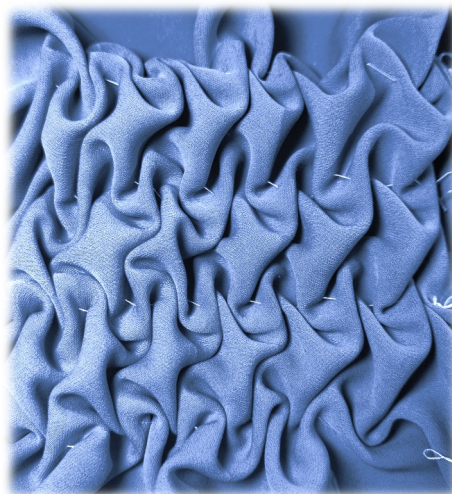
initial result



modify by  
preview



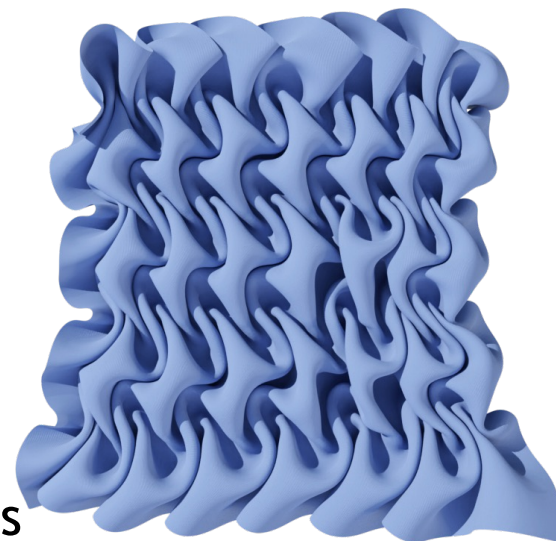
adjusted result



pattern



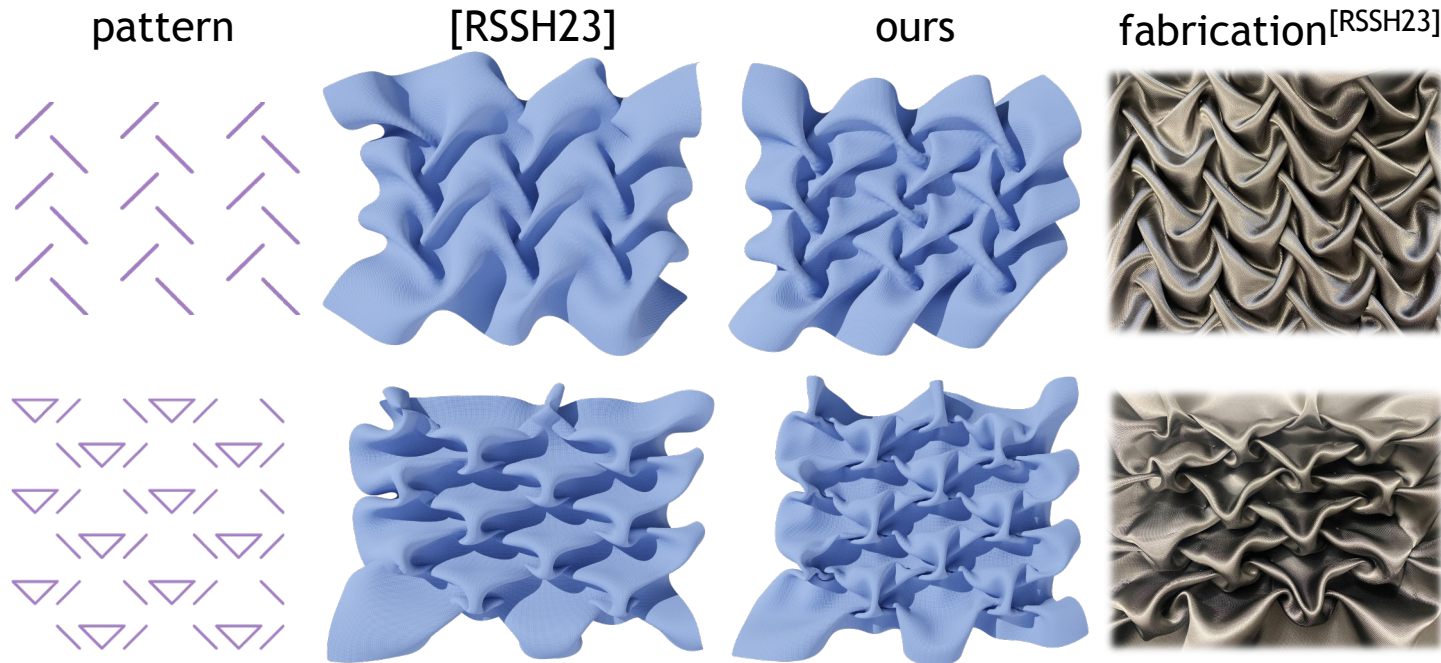
ours



❖ front & back stitches

❖ regular &  
symmetrical pleats

# Results: Canadian smocking



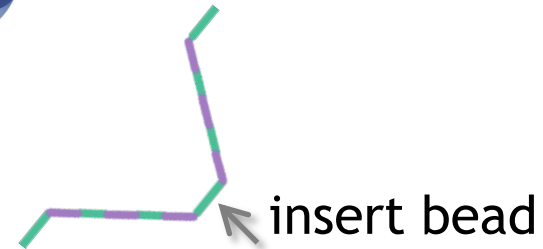
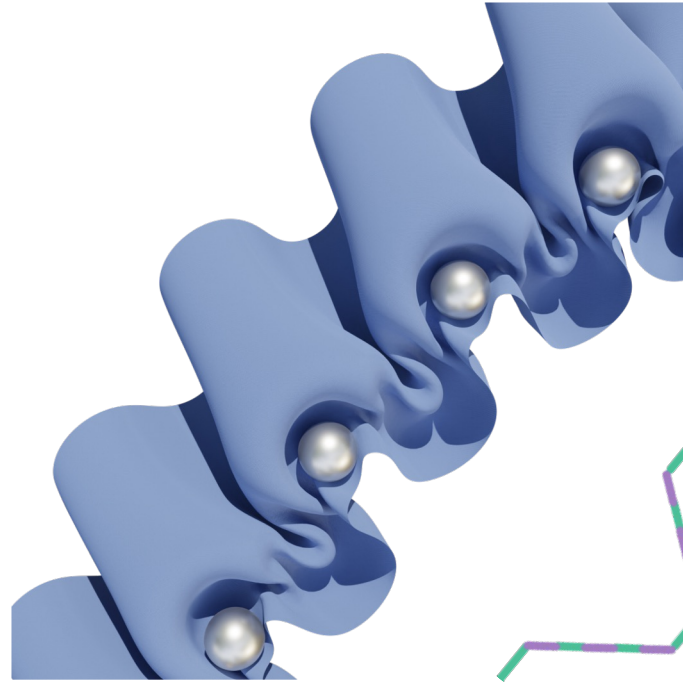
[RSSH23] “Digital 3D Smocking Design”, Ren et al. *ACM ToG* 2024

❖ applicable but slightly flatter pleat

# Results: smocking with beads



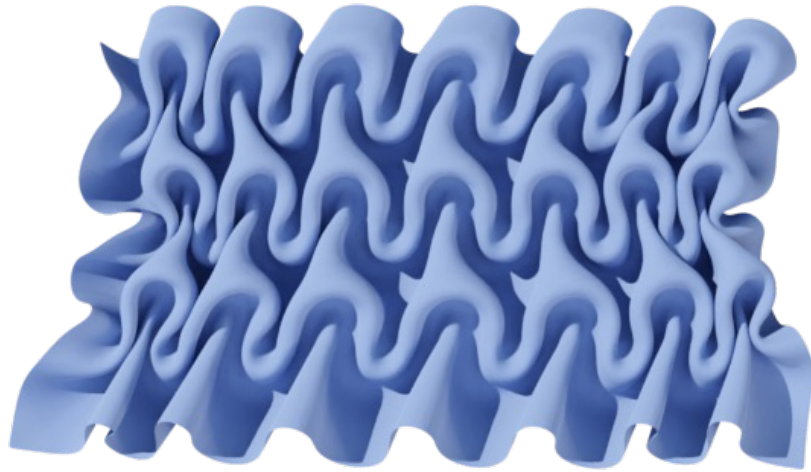
Image from ©FymsEmbroidery YouTube channel. Used with permission



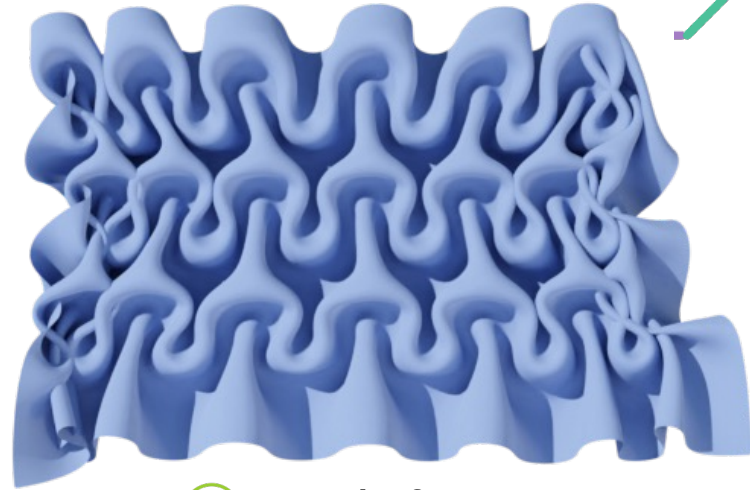


# Results: other deformer

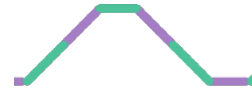
our prior + C-IPC<sup>[1]</sup>



our prior + ARAP<sup>[2]</sup>



pattern



[1] “Codimensional incremental potential contact”, Li et al. *ACM ToG* 2021

[2] “As-rigid-as-possible surface modeling”, Sorkine et al. *SGP* 2007



much faster preview



no collision handling