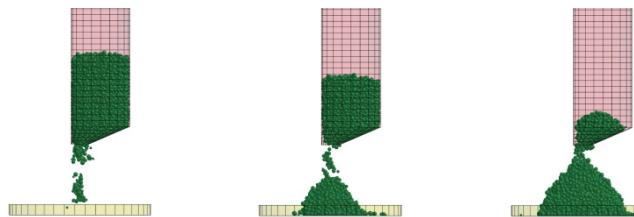


# Particles as Discrete Elements in LS-DYNA: Interaction with themselves as well as Deformable or Rigid Structures

N. Karajan<sup>1</sup>, E. Lisner<sup>1</sup>, Z. Han<sup>2</sup>, H. Teng<sup>2</sup>, J. Wang<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> DYNAmore GmbH, Stuttgart, Germany    <sup>2</sup> LSTC, Livermore, USA



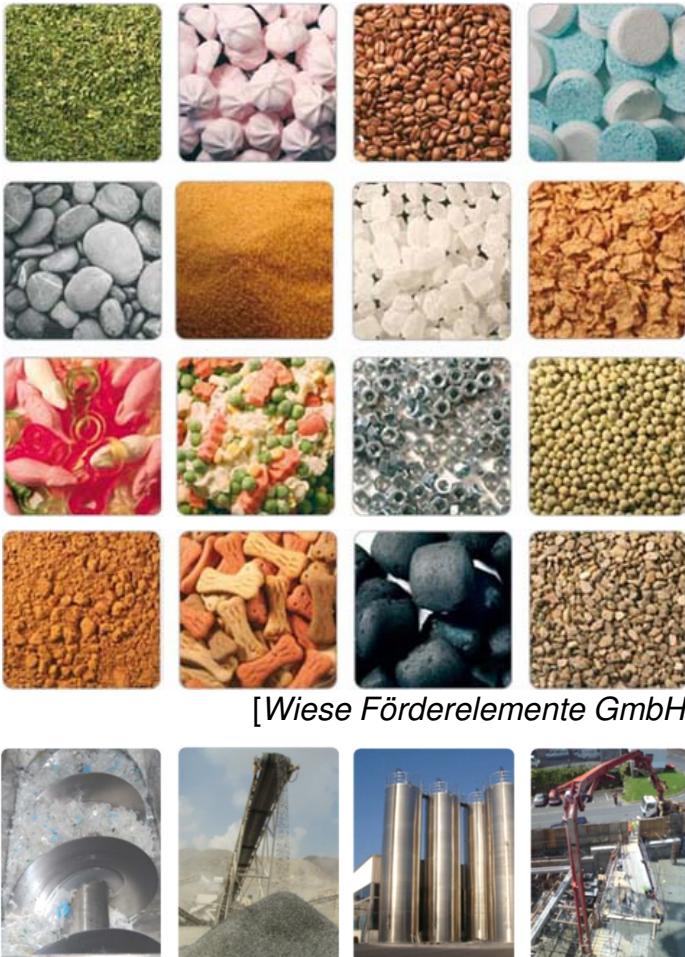
11<sup>th</sup> LS-DYNA Forum 2012  
10. October 2012, Ulm

## Outline

- Introduction and Motivation
- Discrete-Element Method in LS-DYNA
- Examination of the Parameters
- Sample Applications
- Extension to Bonded Particles
- Conclusion

# Introduction and Motivation

## ■ Granular Media



## ■ Numerical Simulations Help to Design

- Storage
  - Silos
  - Piles
- Transportation
  - Conveyor belts/ screws
  - Pumps
- Processing
  - Sorting
  - Mixing/ Segregation
- Filling
  - Hopper/ funnel flow

## ■ Numerical Methods

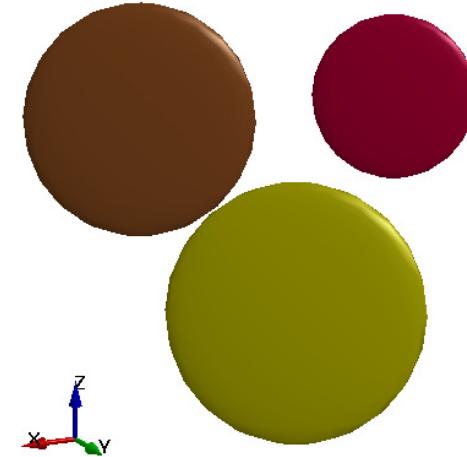
- Discrete-Element Method (DEM)
- Finite-Element Method (FEM)

# The Discrete-Element Method in LS-DYNA

## ■ Definition of the Discrete Elements

- Particles are approximated with spheres via
  - **\*PART, \*SECTION\_SOLID**
  - Coordinate using **\*NODE** and with a **NID**
  - Radius, Mass, Moment of Inertia

$$M = V\rho = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3\rho \quad I = \frac{2}{5} M r^2 = \frac{8}{15}\pi r^5\rho$$



```
*ELEMENT_DISCRETE_SPHERE_{OPTION}
$----+---1-----+---2-----+---3-----+---4-----+---5-----+---6-----+---7-----+---8
$#      NID      PID      MASS     INERTIA    RADII
  30001        4  570.2710  6036.748    5.14
  30002        5  399.0092  3328.938    4.57
  30003        6  139.1240   575.004    3.21
*NODE
$----+---1-----+---2-----+---3-----+---4-----+---5-----+---6
$#      NID          X          Y          Z        TC        RC
  30001      -29.00      -26.8       8.7        0        0
  30002      -21.00      -24.8      18.2        0        0
  30003      -27.00      -14.7      21.2        0        0
```

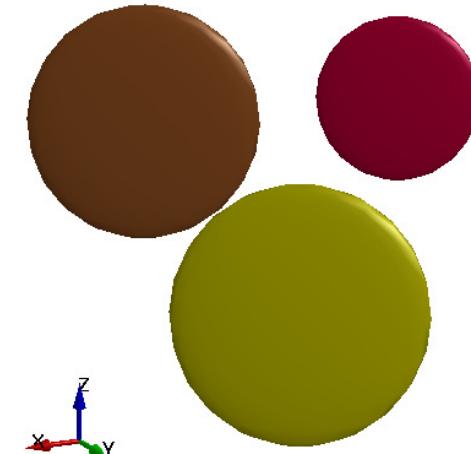
# The Discrete-Element Method in LS-DYNA

## ■ Definition of the Discrete Elements

- Particles are approximated with spheres via
  - **\*PART, \*SECTION\_SOLID**
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$$M = V \rho = \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \rho \quad I = \frac{2}{5} M r^2 = \frac{8}{15} \pi r^5 \rho$$

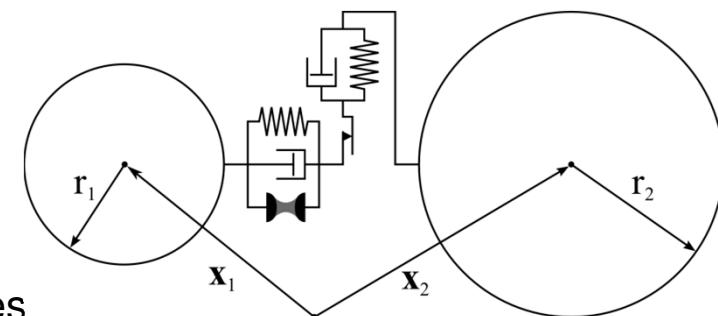
- Density is taken from **\*MAT\_ELASTIC**



```
*ELEMENT_DISCRETE_SPHERE_VOLUME
$---+---1---+---2---+---3---+---4---+---5---+---6---+---7---+---8
$#      NID      PID      MASS     INERTIA    RADII
  30001        4  570.2710  6036.748    5.14
  30002        5  399.0092  3328.938    4.57
  30003        6  139.1240   575.004    3.21
*NODE
$---+---1---+---2---+---3---+---4---+---5---+---6
$#      NID          X          Y          Z      TC      RC
  30001      -29.00      -26.8       8.7      0      0
  30002      -21.00      -24.8      18.2      0      0
  30003      -27.00      -14.7      21.2      0      0
```

## ■ Definition of the Contact between Particles

- Mechanical contact
  - Discrete-element formulation according to  
[Cundall & Strack 1979]
- Extension to model cohesion using capillary forces



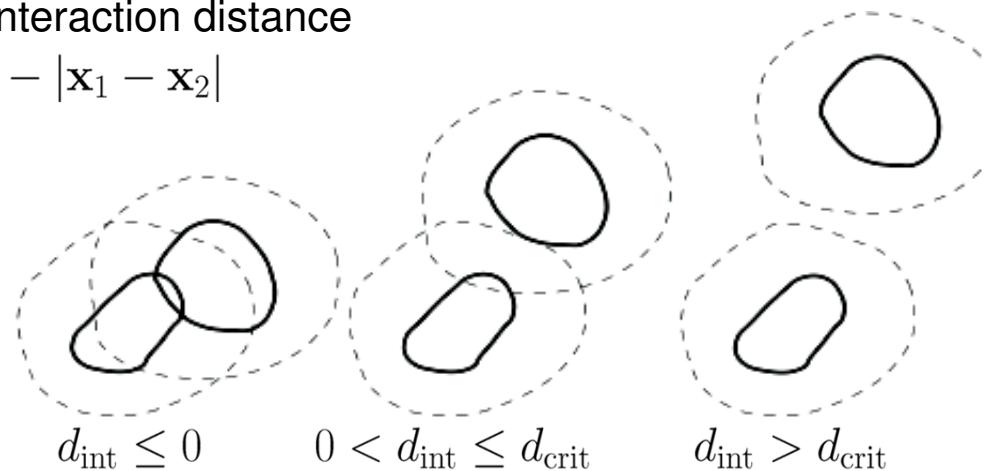
### \*CONTROL\_DISCRETE\_ELEMENT

```
$-----1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6-----7-----8
$#    NDAMP      TDAMP      Fric      FricR      NormK      ShearK      CAP      MXNSC
      0.700      0.400      0.41       0.001      0.01      0.0029      0          0
$#    Gamma      CAPVOL     CAPANG
      26.4       0.66       10.0
```

## ■ Possible collision states

- Depends on interaction distance

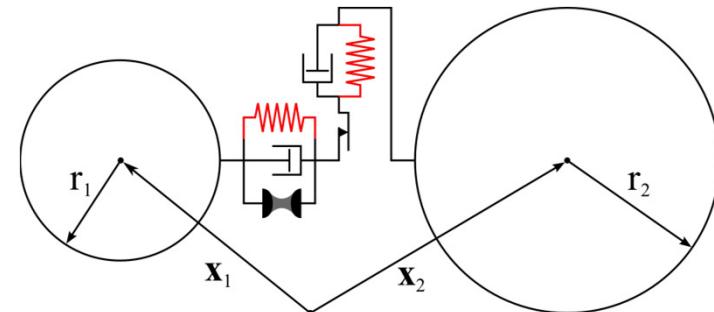
$$d_{\text{int}} = r_1 + r_2 - |\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2|$$



## ■ Elastic Contribution

### ■ Normal contact forces

$$F_n = K_n d_{\text{int}}$$



**\*CONTROL\_DISCRETE\_ELEMENT**

\$#	NDAMP	TDAMP	Fric	FricR	NormK	ShearK	CAP	MXNSC
0.700	0.400	0.41	0.001	0.01	0.0029		0	0

### ■ Normal spring constant

$$K_n = \begin{cases} \frac{\kappa_1 r_1 \kappa_2 r_2}{\kappa_1 r_1 + \kappa_2 r_2} \text{NormK} & : \text{if NormK} > 0 \\ \text{NormK} & : \text{if NormK} < 0 \end{cases}$$

$\kappa_i$  : compression moduli taken from **\*MAT\_ELASTIC**

### ■ Tangential spring constant relative to normal spring constant

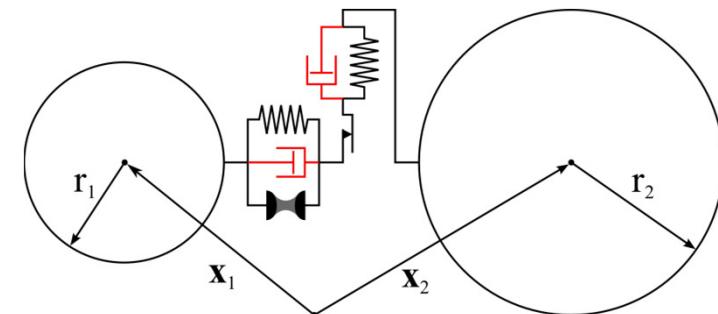
$$K_t = K_n \text{ShearK}$$

■ Default values: NormK = 0.01, ShearK = (2/7) \* NormK

## Damping Contribution

### Normal damping force

$$F_n = D_n \dot{d}_{\text{int}}$$



#### \*CONTROL\_DISCRETE\_ELEMENT

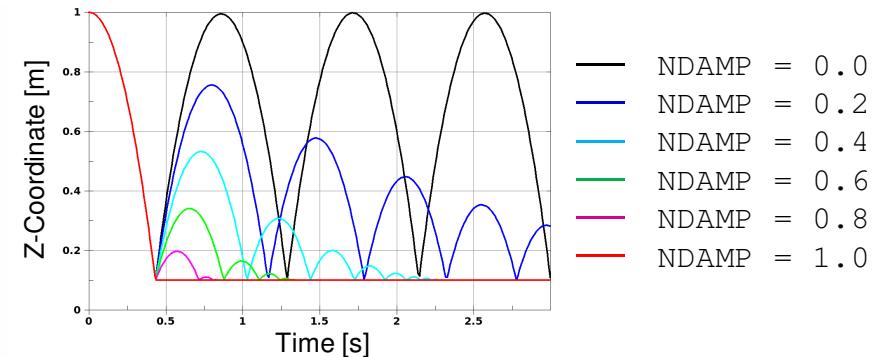
\$#	NDAMP	TDAMP	Fric	FricR	NormK	ShearK	CAP	MXNSC
	0.700	0.400	0.41	0.001	0.01	0.0029	0	0

### Damping constants as a ratio of the critical damping

$$D_n = \text{DAMP} \eta_{\text{crit}} = \text{DAMP} 2 \sqrt{\frac{m_1 m_2}{m_1 + m_2} K_{n/t}} \quad \text{with} \quad 0 \leq \text{DAMP} \leq 1.0 \quad (!)$$

### Influence of the normal damping during particle contact

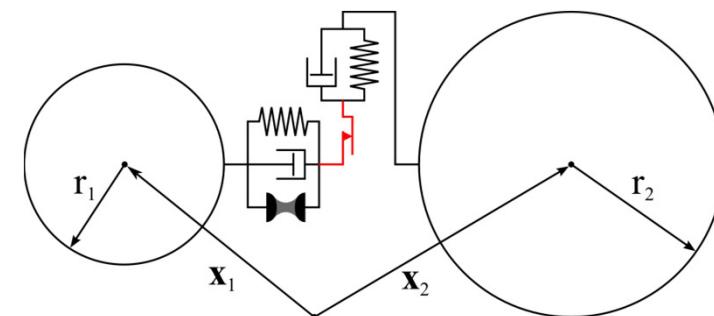
- particle is dropped from 1m height
- values for NDAMP are altered



## ■ Frictional Contribution

- Friction force based on *Coulomb's law of friction*

$$F_{fr} \leq \mu_{fr} F_n$$



\*CONTROL\_DISCRETE\_ELEMENT

\$#	NDAMP	TDAMP	Fric	FricR	NormK	ShearK	CAP	MXNSC
0.700	0.400		0.41	0.001	0.01	0.0029	0	0

- Friction coefficient

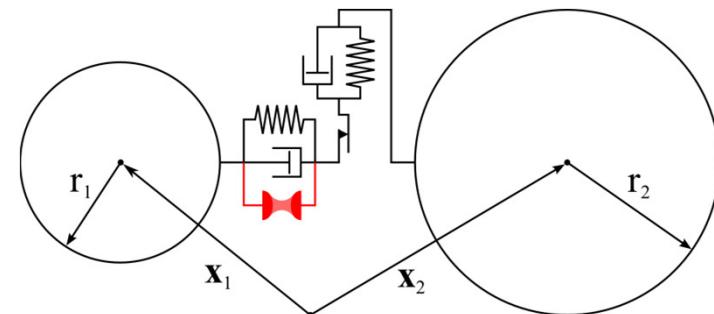
- $\text{Fric} = 0.0$ 
  - yields a central force system for each particle
  - reduction to 3 translations as DOF
- $\text{Fric} > 0.0$ 
  - yields a general force system for each particle
  - full 6 DOF are enabled (3 translations and 3 rotations)

- Extension to model rolling resistance

- $\text{FricR} > 0.0$ 
  - typical values for sand grains around 0.01
  - larger values may account for rough particles or other particle shapes

## ■ Capillary Force Contribution

- Idea of a liquid bridge with fixed volume  
[Rabinovich et al. 2005]
- Only activated for  $0 < d_{\text{int}} \leq d_{\text{crit}}$



### \*CONTROL\_DISCRETE\_ELEMENT

\$#	NDAMP	TDAMP	Fric	FricR	NormK	ShearK	CAP	MXNSC
	0.700	0.400	0.41	0.001	0.01	0.0029	1	0
\$#	Gamma	CAPVOL	CAPANG					
	26.4	0.66	10.0					

### ■ Involved parameters

- CAP = 0
  - dry particles
- CAP = 1
  - “wet” particles
  - additional input card is required
- Gamma > 0.0 : Liquid surface tension
- CAPVOL > 0.0 : Volume fraction of the liquid bridge with respect to 1/10 of the contacting sphere volumes
- CAPANG > 0.0 : Contact angle between liquid bridge and sphere

## ■ Capillary Force Contribution – The Formulas

### ■ Characterization of the liquid bridge

#### ■ Volume

$$V_{LB} = \frac{4}{3} \pi (r_1^3 + r_2^3) \frac{1}{10} \text{CAPVOL}$$

#### ■ Rupture distance

$$d_{\text{crit}} = \left(1 + \frac{\text{CAPANG}}{2}\right) \sqrt[3]{V_{LB}}$$

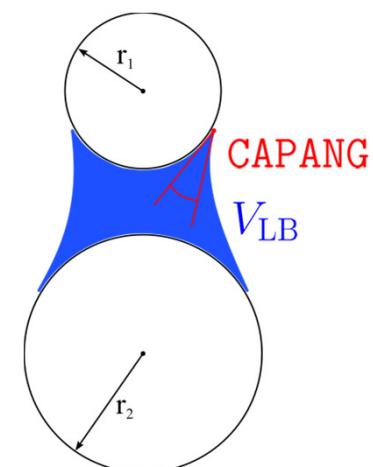
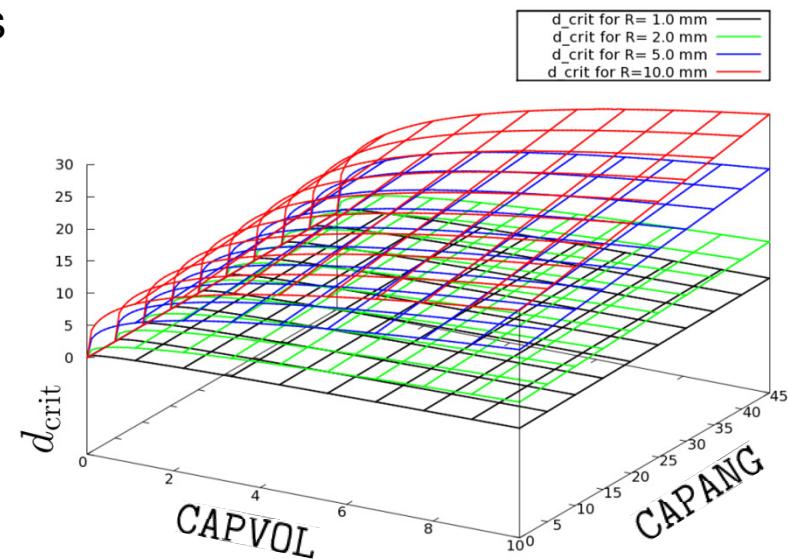
#### ■ Capillary force

$$F_n = \underbrace{-\frac{2 \pi \Gamma \bar{r} \cos(\text{CAPANG})}{1 + \frac{d_{\text{int}}}{d_{\text{sp/sp}}}}}_{\text{Case I: } d_{\text{int}} \leq 0} - 2 \pi \Gamma \bar{r} \cos(\text{CAPANG})$$

Case II:  $0 < d_{\text{int}} \leq d_{\text{crit}}$

with

$$\bar{r} = \frac{2 r_1 r_2}{r_1 + r_2} \quad d_{\text{sp/sp}} = d_{\text{int}} + \sqrt{d_{\text{int}}^2 + 2 \frac{V_{LB}}{\pi \bar{r}}}$$



## ■ Definition of the Particle-Object Contact I

- Classical nodes-to-surface contact definition
  - Well-proven and tested contact definition

```
*CONTACT_AUTOMATIC_NODES_TO_SURFACE_ID
$# CID
      2
$# SSID      MSID      SSTYP      MSTYP      SBOXID      MBOXID      SPR      MPR
      300       1          4          3          0          0          0          0
$# FS        FD        DC        VC        VDC        PENCHK      BT        DT
      0.6       0.4       0.0       0.0       20.0       0          0.0      1.0E+20
$# SFS       SFM       SST       MST       SFST       SFMT       FSF       VSF
      1.0       60.0      0.0       0.0       1.0       1.0       1.0       1.0
```

- Contact between

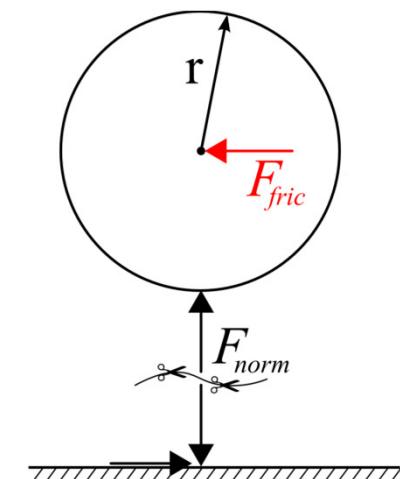
- SSTYPE= 4 : slave node set
  - MSTYPE= () : segment set (0), shell element set (1), part set (2), part (4)

- Benefits of the contact definition

- static and dynamic friction coefficients
  - penalty scale factors
  - works great with MPP

- Drawbacks of the contact definition

- not possible to apply rolling friction
  - friction force is applied to particle center



## ■ Definition of the Particle-Object Contact II

### ■ New contact definition for discrete elements

```
*DEFINE_DE_TO_SURFACE_COUPLING
$#   SLAVE      MASTER      STYPE      MTYPE
      300          1          0          1
$#   FricS      FricD      DAMP       BSORT      LCVx      LCVy      LCVz
      0.5        0.01        0.2        100        0         0         0
```

#### ■ Contact between

- STYPE=0: slave node set      STYPE=1: slave node
- MTYPE=0: part set            MTYPE=1: part

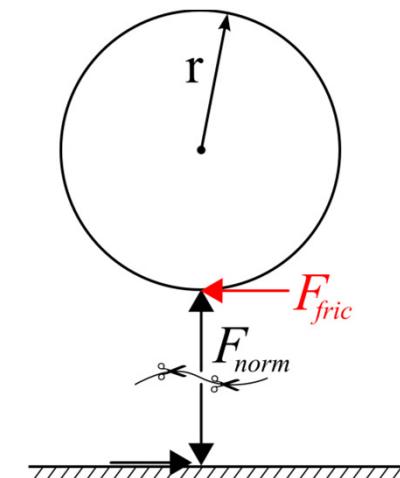
■ Damping determines if the collision is elastic or “plastic”  $0 \leq \text{DAMP} \leq 1.0$  (!)

#### ■ Benefits of the contact definition

- static and rolling friction coefficients
- friction force is applied at the perimeter
- possibility to define transportation belt velocity via LCVxyz
- easy to set up!

#### ■ Drawbacks of the contact definition

- no possibility to tweak via penalty scale factors
- sometimes problems with MPP

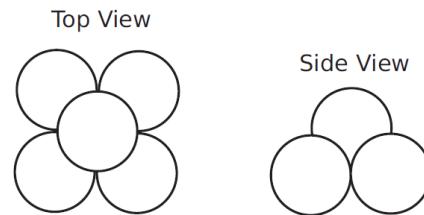


# Examination of the Parameters

## ■ Static Friction Benchmark

### ■ PEBBLE Test of Idaho National Laboratory

- J. J. Cogliati & A. M. Ougouag: In *PHYSOR 2010 - Advances in Reactor Physics to Power the Nuclear Renaissance*, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2010)



Critical coefficients of friction

$$\mu_{\text{sph/sph}} = \sqrt{2} - 1 \approx 0.41421$$

$$\mu_{\text{sph/surf}} = \frac{1}{5(1 + \sqrt{2})} \approx 0.08284$$

### ■ Case to pass the test

- stable pyramid for  $\mu_{\text{sph/sph}} + \epsilon$  and  $\mu_{\text{sph/surf}} + \epsilon$   $\forall \epsilon \leq 0.001$

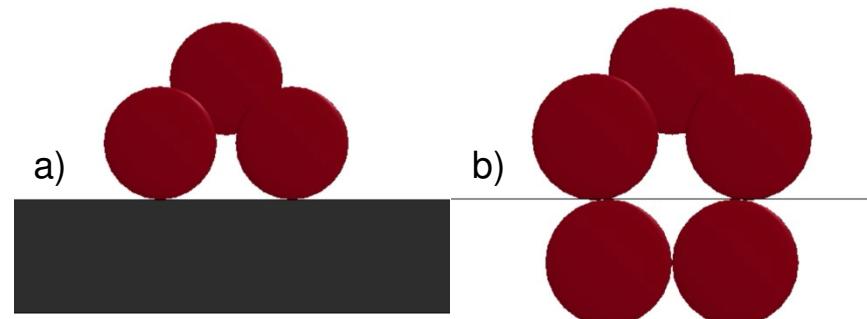
### ■ LS-DYNA simulation

#### ■ Pyramid becomes unstable for

- a)  $\epsilon_{\text{sph/surf}} = 0.000007$

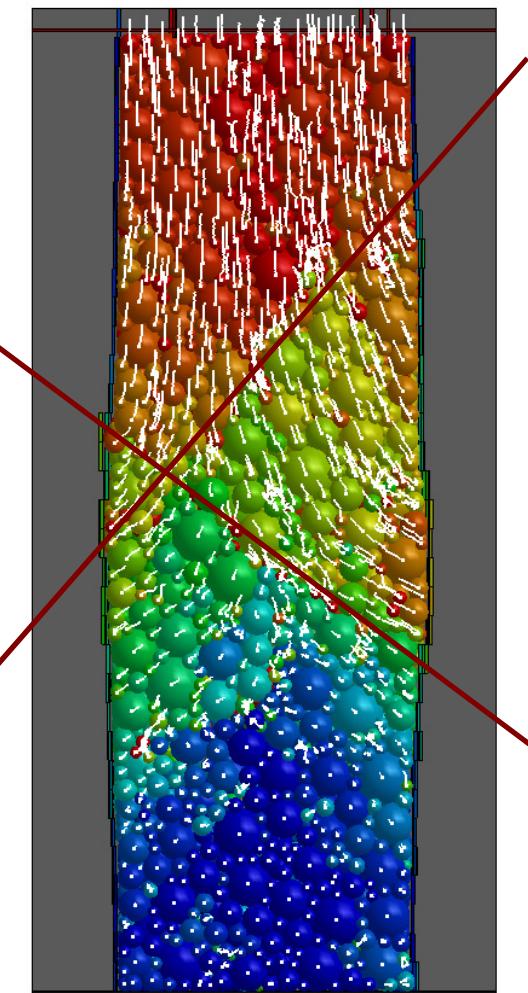
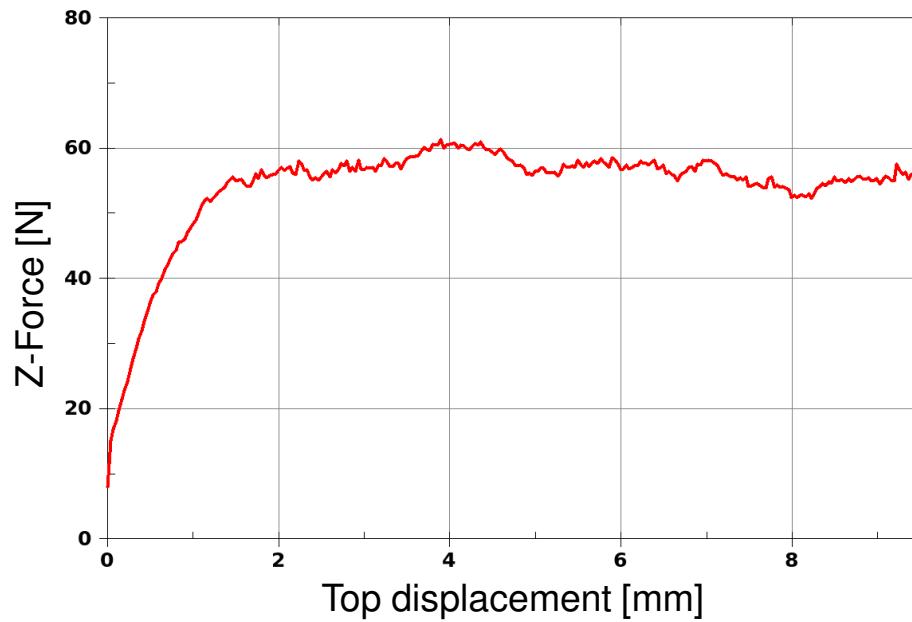
- b)  $\epsilon_{\text{sph/sph}} = 0.00017$

#### ■ Test is well passed!



## ■ Biaxial Compression Test

- Standard geomechanics test to determine material parameters
  - Granular specimen (3300 particles) wrapped in latex
  - Pressure is applied to the side surfaces
  - Bottom, back and front surfaces are fixed
  - Top surface is displacement driven
- LS-DYNA simulation
  - Force versus displacement diagram

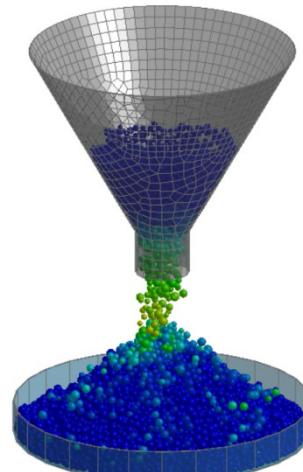


## ■ Funnel Flow

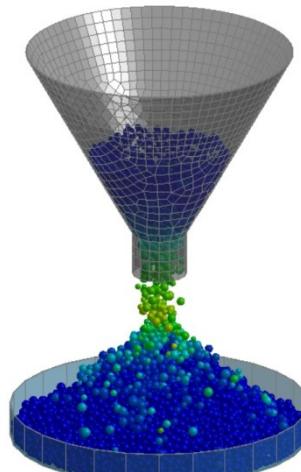
- Variation of the parameters in
  - **\*CONTROL\_DISCRETE\_ELEMENT**
  - **\*DEFINE\_DE\_TO\_SURFACE\_COUPLING**

\$-----+-----1-----+-----2-----+-----3-----+-----4-----+-----5					
RHO	0.80E-6	2.63E-6	2.63E-6	2.63E-6	1.0E-6
P-P Fric	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.10	0.00
P-P FricR	0.10	0.10	0.01	0.01	0.00
P-W FricS	0.27	0.30	0.30	0.10	0.01
P-W FricD	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
CAP	0	0	1	1	1
Gamma	0.00	0.00	7.20E-8	2.00E-6	7.2E-8
\$-----+-----1-----+-----2-----+-----3-----+-----4-----+-----5					

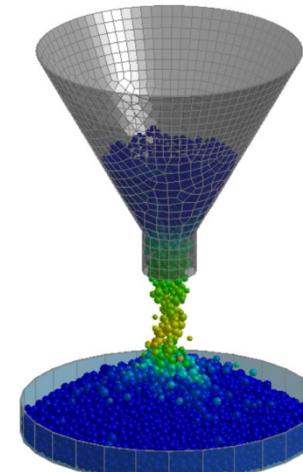
foamed clay



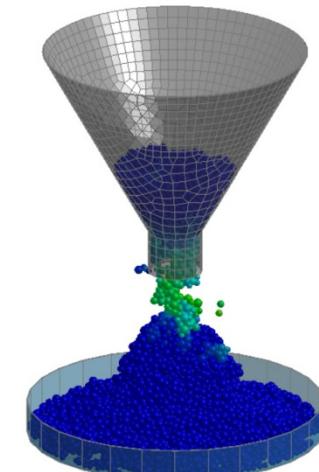
dry sand



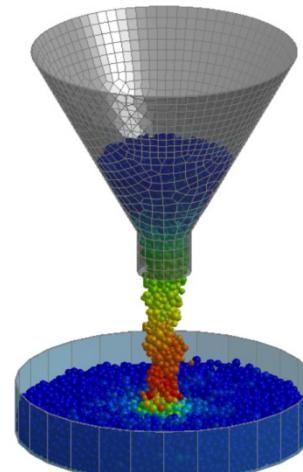
wet sand



fresh concrete



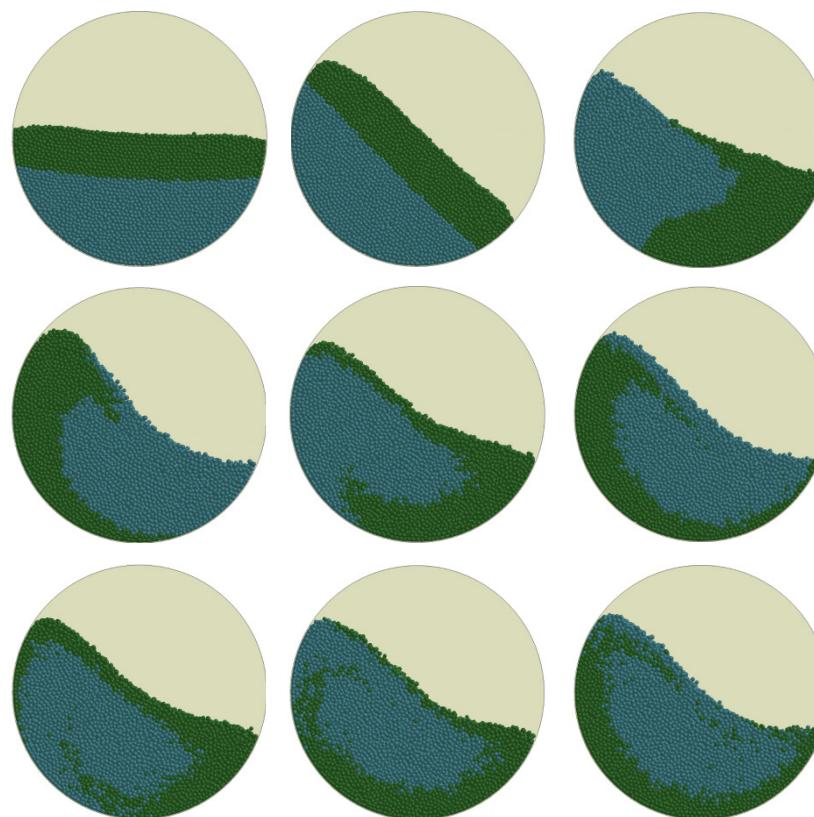
“water”



# Sample Applications

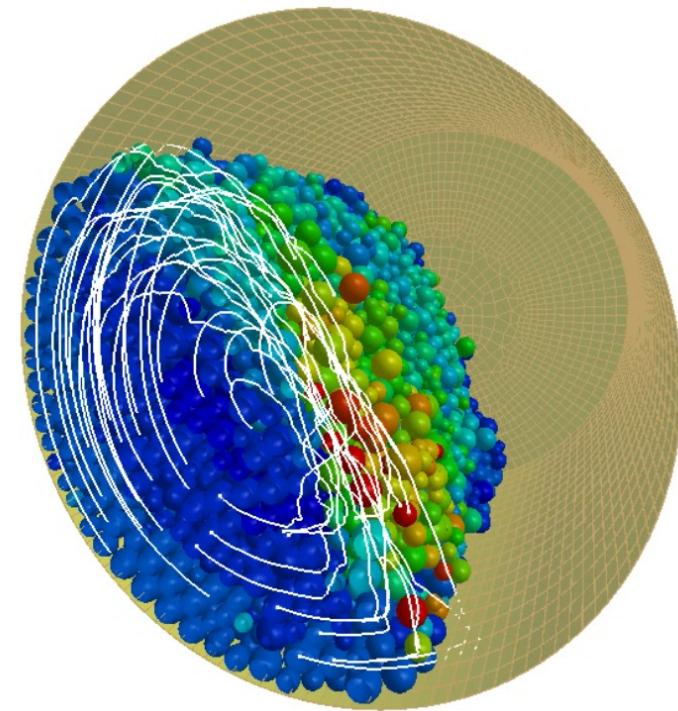
## ■ Drum Mixer I

- 12371 particles with two densities
  - Green: foamed clay
  - Blue: sand



## ■ Drum Mixer II

- 6640 particles of the same kind
  - Fringe color: particle velocity
  - White lines: particle path



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Technology Corp.

**DYNA**  
MORE

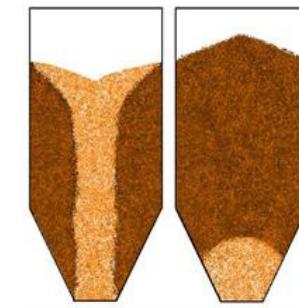
## ■ Hopper Flow

### ■ Problem description

- Rigid silo walls
  - 350 x 150 x 25 mm
  - shell elements 2mm thick
- 17000 rough particles
  - radius from 1.5 – 3 mm
  - static & rolling friction of 0.5
- Gravity-driven outflow

### ■ Problems to avoid

- Ratholing
- Arching



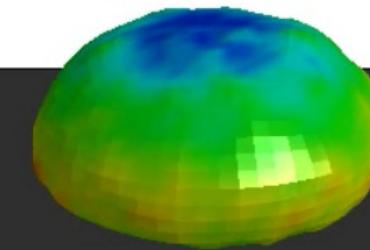
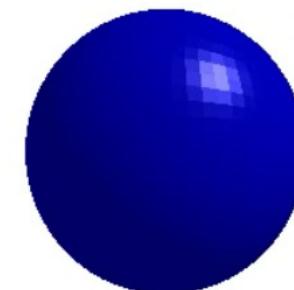
**LSTC**  
Livermore Software  
Technology Corp.

Sample Applications

**DYNA**  
MORE

## ■ Drop of a Particle-Filled Ball from 1m Above the Rigid Ground

- Large deformations demand for a coupled solution
  - Inside: 1941 particles (dry sand)
  - Outside: 1.8 mm thick visco-elastic latex membrane



**LSTC**  
Livermore Software  
Technology Corp.

Sample Applications

**DYNA**  
MORE

## ■ Bulk Flow Analysis

### ■ Introduction of a particle source and “sink”

#### ■ **\*DEFINE\_DE\_INJECTION**

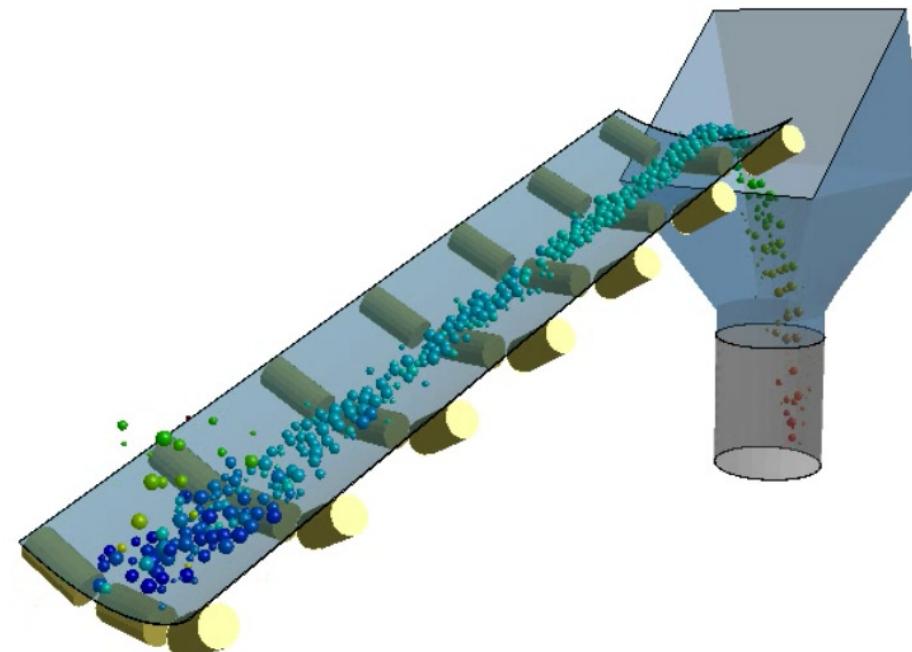
- possibility to prescribe
  - location and rectangular size of the source
  - mass flow rate, initial velocity
  - min. and max. radius

#### ■ **\*DEFINE\_DE\_ACTIVE\_REGION**

- definition via bounding box

## ■ Problem Description

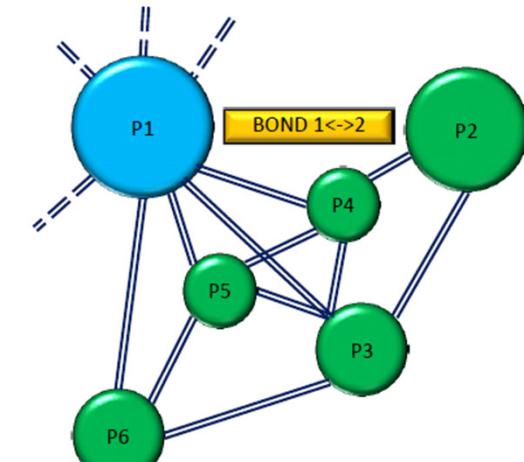
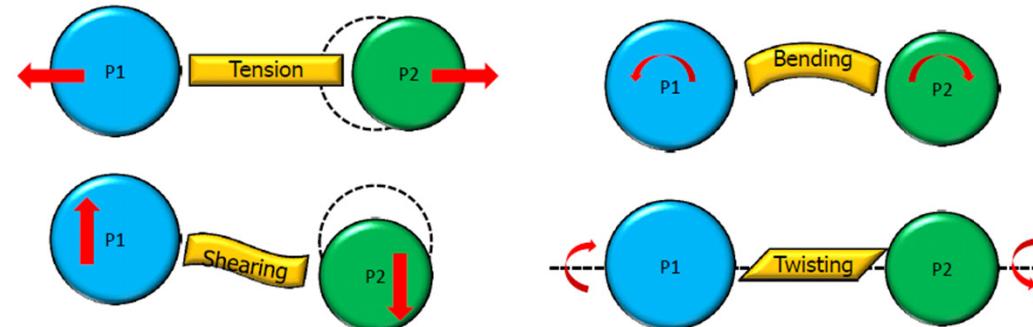
- Belt conveyor
  - Deformable belt
  - Transport velocity
  - Contact with rigid supports
- Generated particles
  - Plastic grains



# Extension to Bonded Particles

## ■ Introduction of \*DEFINE\_DE\_BOND

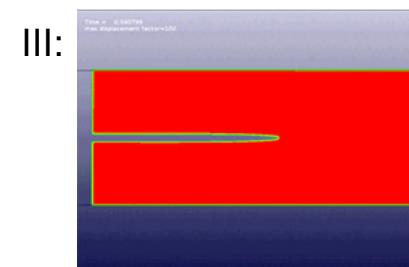
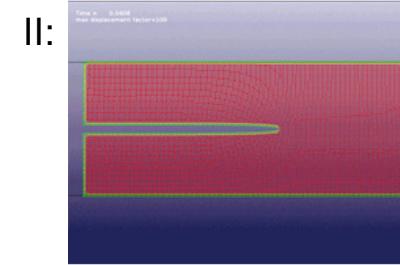
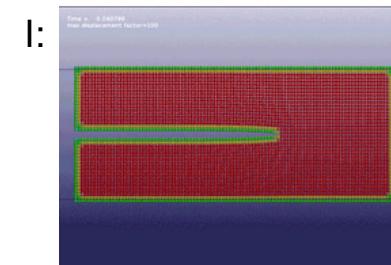
- All particles are linked to their neighboring particles through Bonds
- Bonds represent the complete mechanical behavior of Solid Mechanics
- Bonds are calculated from the Bulk and Shear Modulus of materials
- Bonds are independent of the DEM
- Every bond is subjected to
  - Stretching, bending
  - Shearing, twisting



- The breakage of a bond results in Micro-Damage which is controlled by a prescribed critical fracture energy release rate

## ■ First Benchmark Test with Different Sphere Diameters

- Pre-notched plate under tension
  - Quasi-static loading
  - Material: Duran 50 glass
  - Density: 2235kg/m<sup>3</sup>
  - Young's modulus: 65GPa
  - Poisson ratio: 0.2
  - Fracture energy release rate: 204 J/m<sup>2</sup>
- Case I
  - 4000 spheres  $r = 0.5$  mm
  - Crack growth speed: **2012 m/s**
  - Fracture energy: **10.2 mJ**
- Case II
  - 16000 spheres  $r = 0.25$  mm
  - Crack growth speed: **2058 m/s**
  - Fracture energy: **10.7 mJ**
- Case III
  - 64000 spheres  $r = 0.125$  mm
  - Crack growth speed: **2028 m/s**
  - Fracture energy: **11.1 mJ**

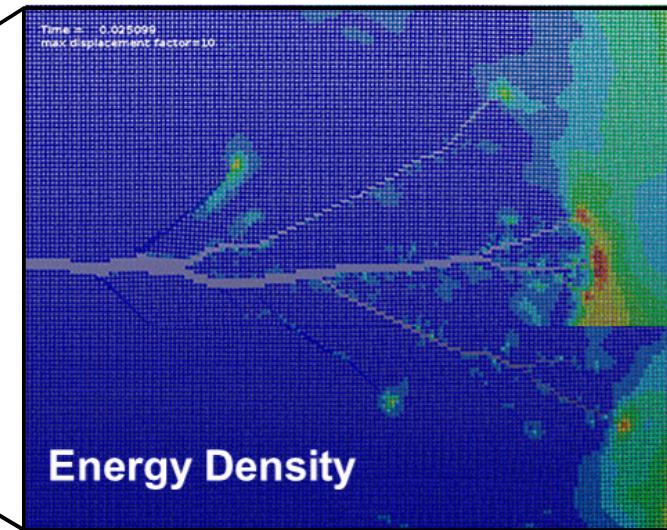
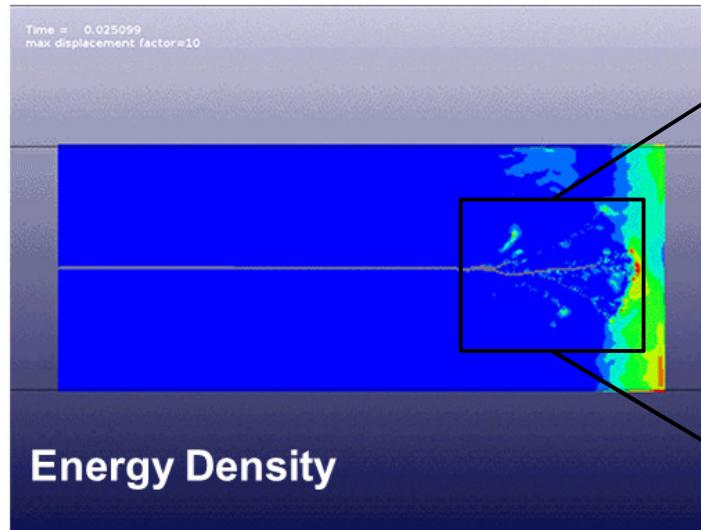
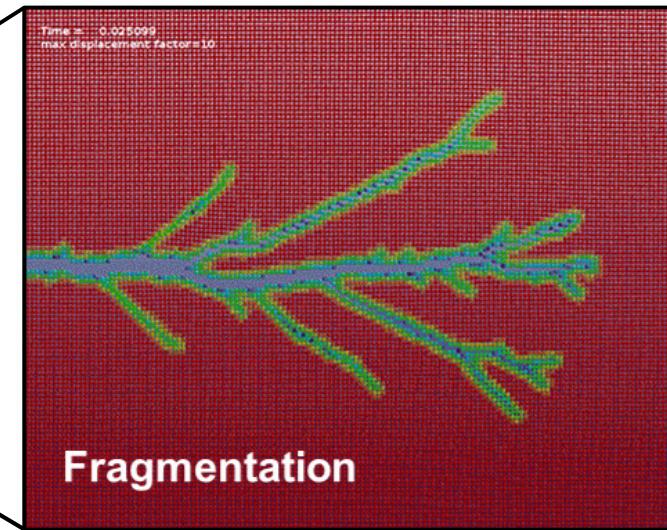
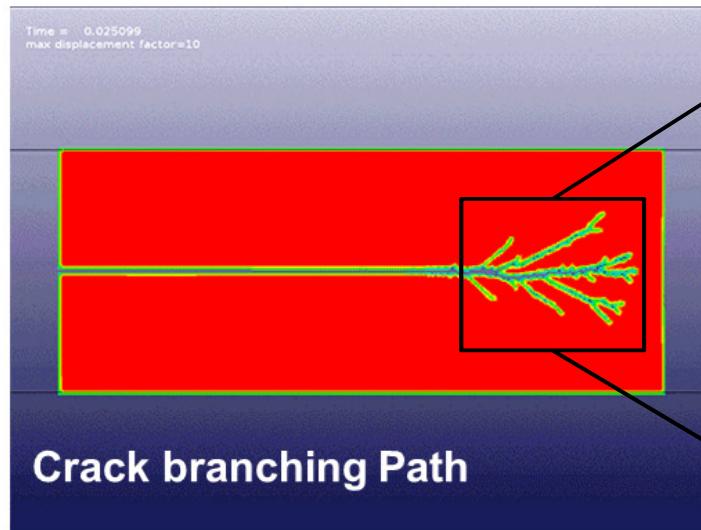


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Extension to Bonded Particles



## ■ Fragmentation Analysis with Bonded Particles



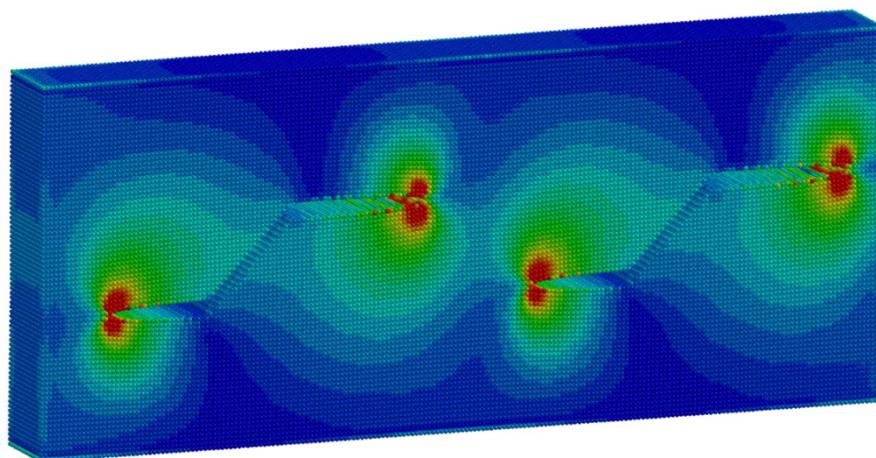
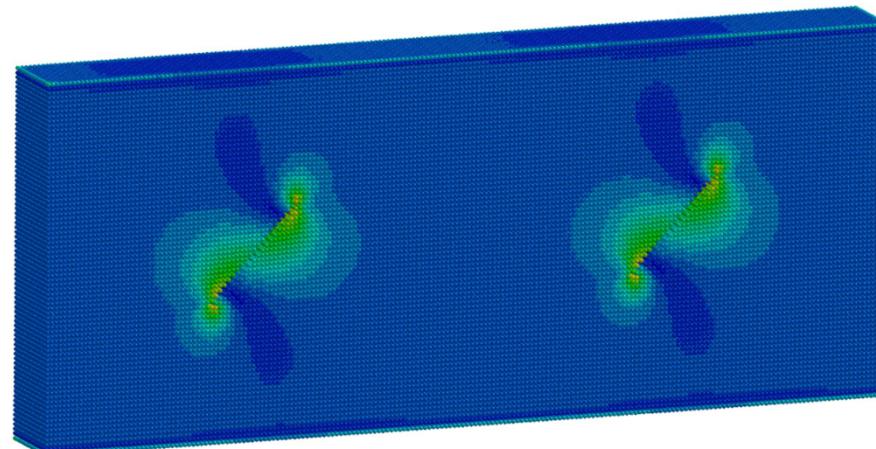
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**DYNA**  
MORE

## ■ Pre-Cracked specimen

- Loading plates via **\*CONTACT\_CONSTRAINT\_NODES\_TO\_SURFACE**
- Pre-cracks defined by shell sets



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Extension to Bonded Particles



# Conclusion

- Introduction of loose particles
  - Particle definition with volume option
  - Particle-particle interaction
    - contact stiffness, damping and friction
    - cohesion
  - Particle-structure interaction
    - deformable or rigid finite-element structures
    - contact stiffness, damping and friction
  - Particle source and “sink” for bulk flow analysis
- Extension to bonded particles
  - Linear-elastic solid behavior
  - Brittle fracture



**Thank you for your attention!**

