Inverse Design of Discrete Interlocking Materials with Desired Mechanical Behavior Supplementary Material

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1 DERIVATIVES FOR COMPUTING STATIC EQUILIBIRUM

We solve the static equilibrium state by minimizing the energy of the system,

$$\min_{\mathbf{q}} E = E_e(\mathbf{q}) + E_c(\mathbf{q}) , \qquad (1)$$

where $E_c = \mu \sum_{k \in C} s_k b_k$ is the total contact potential summed over all contact pairs in the contact set *C* with an adaptive barrier stiffness μ , an smooth factor s_k and a log barrier term b_k . E_e denotes the potential via external forces. Solving this minimization problem requires the energy gradient $dE/d\mathbf{q}$ and the hessian $d^2E/d\mathbf{q}^2$. Computing the gradient and hessian for the external potential energy is always easy. For simplicity, we express the *k*-th contact energy as $E_{c,k} = s \cdot b$, where *s* and *b* are the corresponding *k*-th smooth factor and log barrier term. Therefore, the gradient of the contact potential is

$$\frac{dE_{c,k}}{d\mathbf{q}} = s\frac{db}{dd}\frac{dd}{d\mathbf{q}} + b\frac{ds}{d\mathbf{v}}\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{d\mathbf{q}}$$
(2)

with $\mathbf{v} = (d, \lambda)^T$, and the hessian of the contact potential is

$$\frac{d^{2}E_{c,k}}{d\mathbf{q}^{2}} = \left(\frac{db}{dd}\frac{dd}{d\mathbf{q}}\right)^{T} \left(\frac{ds}{d\mathbf{v}}\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{d\mathbf{q}}\right) + s\left(\frac{dd}{d\mathbf{q}}^{T}\frac{d^{2}b}{dd^{2}}\frac{dd}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{db}{dd}\frac{d^{2}d}{d\mathbf{q}^{2}}\right) + \left(\frac{ds}{d\mathbf{v}}\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{d\mathbf{q}}\right)^{T} \left(\frac{db}{dd}\frac{dd}{d\mathbf{q}}\right) + b\left(\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{d\mathbf{q}}^{T}\frac{d^{2}s}{d\mathbf{v}^{2}}\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{ds}{d\mathbf{v}}\frac{d^{2}\mathbf{v}}{d\mathbf{q}^{2}}\right).$$
(3)

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Please use nonacm option or ACM Engage class to enable CC licenses This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. *SIGGRAPH Conference Papers '25, August 10–14, 2025, Vancouver, BC, Canada* © 2025 Copyright held by the owner/author(s). ACM ISBN 979-8-4007-1540-2/2025/08 https://doi.org/10.1145/3721238.3730675 *Derivatives of Distance.* For the gradient and hessian of distance with respect to configuration **q**, we have

$$\frac{dd}{d\mathbf{q}} = \frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{c}} \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{q}} ,$$

$$\frac{d^2 d}{d\mathbf{q}^2} = \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}}^T \left(\frac{\partial^2 d}{\partial \mathbf{c}^2} \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{\partial^2 d}{\partial \mathbf{c}\partial \mathbf{q}} \right) + \frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{c}} \frac{d^2 \mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}^2} + \frac{\partial^2 d}{\partial \mathbf{q}\partial \mathbf{c}} \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{\partial^2 d}{\partial \mathbf{q}^2} ,$$
(4)

where the derivatives $d\mathbf{c}/d\mathbf{q}$ and $d^2\mathbf{c}/d\mathbf{q}^2$ are unknown. We leverage the state with the minimum distance,

$$\frac{dd}{d\mathbf{c}} = \mathbf{0} , \qquad (5)$$

as an implicit map between parametric coordinate \mathbf{c} and rigid body configuration \mathbf{q} . Any change in configuration \mathbf{q} should lead to a corresponding change in coordinate \mathbf{c} such that we are again at the minimum distance state. Therefore, taking the first-order sensitivity analysis of Equation (5) yields

$$\frac{\partial^2 d}{\partial \mathbf{c}^2} \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{\partial^2 d}{\partial \mathbf{c} \partial \mathbf{q}} = \mathbf{0} , \qquad (6)$$

from which we can obtain dc/dq, the so-called sensitivity matrix, by solving the linear system.

Similarly, taking the sensitivity analysis for the Equation (6), we can compute the second-order sensitivity matrix $d^2\mathbf{c}/d\mathbf{q}^2$ by solving the following linear system,

$$\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}}\left(\frac{\partial^3 d}{\partial \mathbf{c}^3}\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{\partial^3 d}{\partial \mathbf{c}^2 \mathbf{q}}\right) + \frac{\partial^2 d}{\partial \mathbf{c}^2}\frac{d^2 \mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}^2} + \frac{\partial^3 d}{\partial \mathbf{c}\partial \mathbf{q}\partial \mathbf{c}}\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{\partial^3 d}{\partial \mathbf{c}\partial \mathbf{q}^2} = \mathbf{0} .$$
(7)

Derivatives of eigenvalue. For the gradient and hessian of the smallest eigenvalue, we assume there is a unique smallest eigenvalue λ with its corresponding eigenvector **e** from the hessian matrix $\mathbf{H} = \frac{dd^2}{dc^2}$. Therefore, its gradient and hessian with respect to configuration **q** are, respectively,

$$\frac{d\lambda}{d\mathbf{q}} = \frac{d\lambda}{d\mathbf{H}}\frac{d\mathbf{H}}{d\mathbf{q}},\qquad(8)$$

$$\frac{d^2\lambda}{d\mathbf{q}^2} = \frac{d\mathbf{H}}{d\mathbf{q}}^T \frac{d^2\lambda}{d\mathbf{H}^2} \frac{d\mathbf{H}}{d\mathbf{q}^2} + \frac{d\lambda}{d\mathbf{H}} \frac{d^2\mathbf{H}}{d\mathbf{q}^2} , \qquad (9)$$

with the corresponding items as

$$\frac{d\lambda}{d\mathbf{H}} = \mathbf{e}\mathbf{e}^T \,, \tag{10}$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{H}}{d\mathbf{q}} = \frac{\partial^3 d}{\partial c^3} \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{\partial^3 d}{\partial c^2 \partial \mathbf{q}} \,, \tag{11}$$

$$\frac{d^2\lambda}{d\mathbf{H}^2} = (\mathbf{e}\otimes\mathbf{I} + \mathbf{I}\otimes\mathbf{e}) \frac{d\mathbf{e}}{d\mathbf{H}}, \qquad (12)$$

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$$\frac{d\mathbf{e}}{d\mathbf{H}_{k,l}} = \sum_{\lambda_j \neq \lambda} \frac{\mathbf{e}_{(k)} \mathbf{e}_{(l)}}{\lambda - \lambda_j} \mathbf{e}_j , \qquad (13)$$

$$\frac{d^{2}\mathbf{H}}{d\mathbf{q}^{2}} = \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}}^{T} \frac{\partial^{4}d}{\partial^{4}\mathbf{c}} \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{\partial^{3}d}{\partial\mathbf{c}^{3}} \frac{d^{2}\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}^{2}} + \frac{\partial^{4}d}{\partial\mathbf{c}^{2}\partial\mathbf{q}\partial\mathbf{c}} \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{\partial^{4}d}{\partial\mathbf{c}^{2}\partial\mathbf{q}^{2}}, \quad (14)$$

where \otimes is the Kronecker product operator, $\mathbf{e}_{(k)}$ and $\mathbf{e}_{(l)}$ are the *k*-th and *l*-th value in eigenvector \mathbf{e} , respectively, and \mathbf{e}_j is the eigenvector associated with eigenvalue λ_j .

2 DERIVATIVES FOR INVERSE DESIGN

Evaluating the design objectives in Section 3.3 of the main document refers to solving static equilibrium states **y** for given design parameters **p**, where $\mathbf{y} = [\mathbf{q}, \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}]$ for the planar case and $\mathbf{y} = [\mathbf{q}, \boldsymbol{\kappa}]$ for the bending case. According to the periodic boundary conditions and the paraboloid bending condition, we determine an intermediate state of rigid bodies as $\mathbf{q}_B = \mathbf{C}_B(\mathbf{y})$ for computing contacts.

We compute the map between parameters **p** and configuration **y** again by leveraging the sensitivity analysis of the static equilibrium state,

$$\mathbf{f} = -\frac{dE}{d\mathbf{y}} = -\frac{dE_e}{d\mathbf{y}} - \frac{dE_c}{d\mathbf{y}} = \mathbf{0} , \qquad (15)$$

which yields

$$\frac{d\mathbf{f}}{d\mathbf{p}} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{y}} \frac{d\mathbf{y}}{d\mathbf{p}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} = \mathbf{0} , \qquad (16)$$

where $\frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{y}} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{q}_B} \frac{\partial \mathbf{q}_B}{\partial \mathbf{y}}$ can be easily computed. Since only the contact force \mathbf{f}_c is a function of design parameters \mathbf{p} , we have $\frac{\partial \mathbf{f}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} = \frac{\partial \mathbf{f}_c}{\partial \mathbf{p}} = -\frac{\partial \mathbf{q}_B}{\partial \mathbf{y}}^T \frac{\partial^2 E_c}{\partial \mathbf{q}_B \partial \mathbf{p}}$. In the following derivations, for simplicity, we rewrite the symbol \mathbf{q}_B as \mathbf{q} . Therefore, we have

$$\frac{\partial^{2} E_{c,k}}{\partial \mathbf{q} \partial \mathbf{p}} = s \left(\frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{q}}^{T} \frac{d^{2} b}{dd^{2}} \frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{p}} + \frac{d b}{dd} \frac{\partial \frac{d d}{d \mathbf{q}}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \right) + \left(\frac{d b}{dd} \frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \right)^{T} \left(\frac{d s}{d \mathbf{v}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \right) + b \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial \mathbf{q}}^{T} \frac{d^{2} s}{d \mathbf{v}^{2}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} + \frac{d s}{d \mathbf{v}} \frac{\partial \frac{d \mathbf{v}}{\partial \mathbf{q}}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \right) + \left(\frac{d s}{d \mathbf{v}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial \mathbf{q}} \right)^{T} \left(\frac{d b}{d d} \frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{p}} \right).$$

$$(17)$$

Derivatives of distance. The gradient of distance with respect to the design parameters **p** is given by

$$\frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{p}} = \frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{c}} \frac{d \mathbf{c}}{d \mathbf{p}} + \frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{p}} , \qquad (18)$$

where $\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{n}}$ can be computed by solving

$$\frac{\partial^2 d}{\partial \mathbf{c}^2} \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{p}} + \frac{\partial^2 d}{\partial \mathbf{c} \partial \mathbf{p}} = \mathbf{0} .$$
 (19)

The item $\frac{\partial \frac{dd}{dq}}{\partial p}$ in Equation (17) is given as

$$\frac{\partial \frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{q}}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} = \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}}^{T} \left(\frac{\partial^{2} d}{\partial \mathbf{c}^{2}} \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{p}} + \frac{\partial^{2} d}{\partial \mathbf{c} \partial \mathbf{p}} \right) + \frac{\partial d}{\partial \mathbf{c}} \frac{\partial \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} + \frac{\partial^{2} d}{\partial \mathbf{q} \partial \mathbf{c}} \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{p}} + \frac{\partial^{2} d}{\partial \mathbf{q} \partial \mathbf{p}} .$$
(20)

where computing $\frac{\partial \frac{\partial q}{dq}}{\partial p}$ requires solving the linear system from the second-order sensitivity analysis of Equation (6),

$$\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}}^{T}\left(\frac{d^{3}d}{d\mathbf{c}^{3}}\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{p}}+\frac{\partial^{3}d}{\partial\mathbf{c}^{2}\partial\mathbf{p}}\right)+\frac{\partial^{2}d}{\partial\mathbf{c}^{2}}\frac{\partial\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}}}{\partial\mathbf{p}}+\frac{\partial^{3}d}{\partial\mathbf{c}\partial\mathbf{q}\partial\mathbf{c}}\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{p}}+\frac{\partial^{3}d}{\partial\mathbf{c}\partial\mathbf{q}\partial\mathbf{p}}=\mathbf{0}.$$
 (21)

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Derivatives of eigenvalue. The gradient of smallest eigenvalue λ with respect to design parameters **p** is

$$\frac{d\lambda}{d\mathbf{p}} = \frac{d\lambda}{d\mathbf{H}}\frac{\partial\mathbf{H}}{\partial\mathbf{p}} = \frac{\partial\lambda}{\partial\mathbf{H}}\left(\frac{\partial^3 d}{\partial\mathbf{c}^3}\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{p}} + \frac{\partial^3 d}{\partial\mathbf{c}^2\partial\mathbf{p}}\right).$$
(22)

The item
$$\frac{\partial \frac{\partial dq}{\partial q}}{\partial p}$$
 is given as

$$\frac{\partial \frac{d\Lambda}{d\mathbf{q}}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} = \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial \mathbf{c}}\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial \mathbf{q}}\right)^{T}\frac{d^{2}\lambda}{d\mathbf{H}^{2}}\left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial \mathbf{c}}\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{p}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial \mathbf{p}}\right) + \frac{d\lambda}{d\mathbf{H}}\left(\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}}^{T}\left(\frac{\partial^{2}\mathbf{H}}{\partial \mathbf{c}^{2}}\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{p}} + \frac{\partial^{2}\mathbf{H}}{\partial \mathbf{c}\partial \mathbf{p}}\right) + \frac{\partial \mathbf{H}}{\partial \mathbf{c}}\frac{\partial \frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{q}}}{\partial \mathbf{p}} + \frac{\partial^{2}\mathbf{H}}{\partial \mathbf{q}\partial \mathbf{c}}\frac{d\mathbf{c}}{d\mathbf{p}} + \frac{\partial^{2}\mathbf{H}}{\partial \mathbf{q}\partial \mathbf{p}}\right).$$
(23)