RESCUE: Crowd Evacuation Simulation via Controlling SDM-United Characters

Xiaolin Liu^{1,†}, Tianyi Zhou^{1,†}, Hongbo Kang¹, Jian Ma¹, Ziwen Wang¹, Jing Huang¹, Wenguo Weng², Yu-Kun Lai³, Kun Li^{1,*}

¹Tianjin University, ²Tsinghua University, ³Cardiff University

{liuxiaolin, tianyizhou, hbkang, jianma, 3021244417, hj00, lik}@tju.edu.cn, wgweng@tsinghua.edu.cn, Yukun.Lai@cs.cardiff.ac.uk

†Equal contribution *Corresponding author



Figure 1. Our SDM-United Framework enables online simulation of personalized, physically realistic, and 3D-adaptive multi-agent evacuation scenarios.

Abstract

Crowd evacuation simulation is critical for enhancing public safety, and demanded for realistic virtual environments. Current mainstream evacuation models overlook the complex human behaviors that occur during evacuation, such as pedestrian collisions, interpersonal interactions, and variations in behavior influenced by terrain types or individual body shapes. This results in the failure to accurately simulate the escape of people in the real world. In this paper, aligned with the sensory-decisionmotor (SDM) flow of the human brain, we propose a realtime 3D crowd evacuation simulation framework that integrates a 3D-adaptive SFM (Social Force Model) Decision Mechanism and a Personalized Gait Control Motor. This framework allows multiple agents to move in parallel and is suitable for various scenarios, with dynamic crowd awareness. Additionally, we introduce Part-level Force Visualization to assist in evacuation analysis. Experimental results demonstrate that our framework supports dynamic trajectory planning and personalized behavior for each agent throughout the evacuation process, and is compatible with uneven terrain. Visually, our method generates evacuation results that are more realistic and plausible, providing enhanced insights for crowd simulation. The code is available at http://cic.tju.edu.cn/faculty/likun/projects/RESCUE.

1. Introduction

Evacuation simulations serve as valuable tools for as-

sessing the likelihood of crowding and trampling incidents, estimating evacuation times, and supporting virtual reality escape training. However, no existing methods can simulate personalized and proxemics-aware 3D movements of hundreds of people online. This paper aims to develop an adaptive multi-agent 3D evacuation simulation framework. As shown in Figure 1, our framework, called RESCUE (cRowd Evacuation Simulation via Controlling SDM-United charactErs), is capable of achieving online physically realistic simulations performing avoidance and personalized gait.

Traditional crowd simulation methods [3, 6, 22] have explored various strategies in different scenarios. However, due to their simplified representations, these methods fail to integrate 3D motion with realistic behavior, resulting in physically implausible actions. Most crowd simulation methods cannot make decisions based on scene changes and are not designed for crowd evacuation simulation. Based on physics engines [18], character control [4, 26, 29, 36, 37] achieves autonomous 3D motion. However, these methods face the lack of personalization motions and may result in falls and collisions in densely populated scenarios. Some motion generation methods [10, 31, 32, 43] based on diffusion models can generate diverse 3D motions, but they still face challenges in controllability and physical realism. Neither of these methods can directly produce realistic, personalized, and online evacuation motions. The detailed capabilities of the methods are summarized in Table 1.

The limitations of the existing methods are mainly due to

Table 1. Comparison with Related Methods

Related Work	Traditional Crowd Sim-	Path-Guided Motion	Path-Guided Character	Our Method
	ulation [3, 6, 7, 22]	Generation [27, 39, 43]	Control [29, 37, 41]	
Online Path Planning	Partial	X	X	~
3D Human Models	×	✓	V	~
Personalized Gait	×	V	X	~
Collision Visualization	×	X	X	~
Uneven Terrains	X	X	V	V

the significant behavioral and environmental complexities inherent in evacuation scenarios: 1) 3D Proxemics-aware Ability: Crowded pathways and frequent physical interactions require the use of online 3D movement decision to enable dynamic strategy adjustments, such as avoidance of collisions and maintaining stability; 2) Personalized Gait: Individuals with different attributes, such as older or disabled persons, exhibit varying behaviors in identical situations, adapting to the scene with different speed and performance.

Neuroscientific studies [17, 20, 35] demonstrate that humans employ a Sensory-Decision-Motor (SDM) loop [28], integrating environmental cues through distributed neural networks to evaluate and dynamically adjust behavior in complex environments. In this paper, we propose an online SDM-United 3D Evacuation Simulation Framework that integrates personalized decision-making with character control in a physics engine. This allows each agent to perceive its surroundings and make online adjustments. To handle congestion, we propose a 3D-Adaptive Social Force Model for decision-making and obstacle avoidance in 3D environments. In particular, we introduce an evasive force that adapts to dense scenarios to avoid congestion.

To achieve behavioral diversity, we introduce a *Proxemics-aware Personalization Method* with a personalized gait controller and an optimized SFM to generate individualized behaviors for agents based on attributes such as ages and physical conditions. Additionally, we introduce *Part-level Force Visualization*, offering unprecedented insights into contact forces. Our experiments demonstrate that the proposed framework effectively adapts to uneven terrain, maintains balance during collisions and crowd congestion, and generates personalized behaviors. Although our experiments have focused on evacuation scenarios, the framework readily generalizes to a wide variety of multi-agent environments, such as autonomous driving simulations in which dynamic vehicles and diverse pedestrians coexist. Our contributions can be summarized as follows:

- We propose the first online SDM-United 3D Evacuation Simulation Framework, with online decision-making and physics-based motion generation. This proxemics aware framework can be seamlessly extended to arbitrary dynamic environments and supports real time parallel simulation of hundreds of agents.
- We propose a 3D-adaptive Social Force Model, designing optimized forces and personalized coefficients to enable accurate decision-making in 3D environments. This approach ensures correct guidance for the speed of agents.

- We propose a Personalized Gait Controller, enabling agents to generate personalized motions tailored to attributes such as age and physical condition. Additionally, a Part-level Force Visualization is designed for analysis.
- We validate the framework in various evacuation scenarios, demonstrating its ability to simulate diverse evacuation events, including the effects of crowd density, corridor width and terrain influence trampling incidents, as well as crowd behaviors like collisions and falls.

2. Related Work

2.1. Crowd Simulation

Crowd simulation is a tool for analyzing and optimizing crowd dynamics. The aim is to capture key phenomena such as bottlenecks and panic-induced behaviors. Macroscopic models describe collective crowd movement using fluid dynamics [5, 8, 11, 30], while providing detailed insights through approaches. Social Force Models (SFM) [14, 15, 34] are among the most widely used methods, treating pedestrians as Newtonian particles influenced by the forces driving acceleration. Additional forces such as panic, sliding friction, and body compression have been introduced [6, 48]. However, these refinements often target specific scenarios. With advances in computational power, Agent-Based Models (ABM) have gained popularity [3, 7], simulating individuals as autonomous agents with unique decisionmaking capabilities. Although the above-mentioned methods attempt to simulate real-world escape, they rely on simplified 2D representations, where force feedback can only use unrealistic surrogate computations, leading to distorted speed outputs. Although several attempts at physically plausible 3D simulations have emerged [1, 9, 13, 46], these approaches still fall short in integrating personalized motion control and decision-making mechanisms. Most methods rely on generic movement patterns that overlook individual variations and fail to construct comprehensive strategies for handling crowd dynamics and escape scenarios.

2.2. Character Control

The practicable controllers for physics-based character simulation remain a challenge in animation. Initial methods predominantly rely on carefully designed control structures, such as finite state machines and trajectory optimization, to achieve specific motions. These approaches demonstrate the feasibility of simulating a wide range of behaviors, but their reliance on task-specific engineering makes them inflexi-

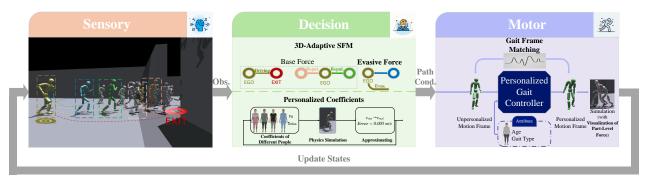


Figure 2. The detailed architecture of RESCUE. Our framework simulates the neuroscience-validated paradigm (Sensory-Decision-Motor) to achieve a realistic and personalized crowd evacuation simulation. Specifically, our framework includes: (a) Sensory: each agent senses observations, including the fully observable self-state, the partially observable other-state, and the environment state; (b) Decision: each agent uses Social Force Model with personalized SFM coefficients to decide its speed in the next timestep, which is then used to compute path condition; and (c) Motor: the path condition and personal attribute of each agent are conditioned to simulate locomotion with a personalized gait controller. The simulation then updates the states of all agents, allowing them to be sensed by the sensory module.

ble and time consuming to adapt to new tasks [4]. Recent advances in deep reinforcement learning (DRL) greatly expand the capabilities of physics-based characters, enabling them to perform diverse tasks, such as walking and running [24, 44], and recovering from disturbances [16]. Designing effective reward functions can produce natural motions, but remains challenging. To address this, motion imitation methods [25, 38] gain popularity, where controllers learn from reference data, either through direct tracking or adversarial learning, to produce lifelike behaviors. Furthermore, hierarchical control frameworks are proposed to combine lowlevel imitation with high-level motion planning, enabling characters to execute complex sequences of actions [29, 37]. However, existing methods struggle to generate realistic behaviors in densely populated scenes, lack online decisionmaking capabilities, and are insufficient in generating diverse and personalized motions.

2.3. Motion Generation

Motion generation aims to synthesize realistic and varied human motions. Recent advances in diffusion models have significantly improved the diversity and quality of motion synthesis [31, 32]. Key research directions include text-driven motion generation, stylized motion synthesis [2, 50], scene-aware motion generation [23, 40, 49], and human-object interaction modeling [45]. Recent efforts [33, 47] have also integrated physical constraints to enhance the realism of generated motions. Trajectory-controlled [27, 39, 43] and multi-person motion synthesis [42] have been explored. However, challenges remain in generating long-duration, physically plausible motions, particularly in multiperson, contact-rich scenarios. In addition, these methods are usually time consuming and not suitable for online applications.

In conclusion, all existing methods fail to accurately simulate 3D multi-agent with personalized behaviors in densely populated escape scenarios. Therefore, we propose the first SDM-unified evacuation simulation framework to generate realistic, personalized, and online 3D evacuation motions.

3. Method

3.1. Overview

The structure of our framework is shown in Figure 2. Our goal is to simulate realistic evacuation scenarios with diverse individuals. Given a scene mesh, an exit location and initial positions, the framework generates a personalized evacuation animation. Notably, it is suitable for evacuation tasks by incorporating human-like paradigm, while ensuring personalized decisions and motions.

In Section 3.2, we introduce our SDM-United Framework, comprising the Sensory, Decision, and Motor modules. The Sensory module provides self-awareness, partial awareness of others, and exit perception. Our 3D-adaptive SFM Mechanism (Section 3.3) enhances decision-making and obstacle avoidance in 3D environments. Proxemics-aware Personalization is achieved through both the Decision and Motor modules: the Decision module, with Personalized Optimization for SDM Coefficients (Section 3.3), computes speeds tailored to individual attributes (Section 3.3), while the Motor module, with the Personalized Gait Controller (Section 3.4), generates locomotion with personalized gaits. We also introduce the Visualization of Part-Level Forces (Section 3.5) to aid analysis.

3.2. SDM-United Framework

The human brain follows a workflow of sensory, decision, and motor processes [28], and hence we develop our framework. Each person in the evacuation process is abstracted as an agent that operates in an online loop, where the sensory module gathers observations, the decision module computes speeds, and the motor module executes motions, with updated states feeding back into the sensory module for continuous processing and making them available for next cycle.

Sensory. Each agent perceives its self-state s^{self} , the partially observable other-state s^{other} , and the environment state s^{envir} . At time t, $s^{self}_{i,t}$ includes the agent's position, speed, and its humanoid state $h_{i,t}$. The other-state $s^{other}_{i,t}$ contains other agents' root positions relative to the agent, and the environment state $s^{envir}_{i,t}$. The form of $h_{i,t}$ and $s^{envir}_{i,t}$ follows [29].

Decision. The Social Force Model (SFM) [14, 15] models pedestrian behavior, including panic and crowd dynamics. We propose a 3D-adaptive SFM Decision Mechanism to compute the desired speed $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{i,t+1}$. The key points of the escape path are found via A* search [12], and we use the SFM to drive each agent toward the key points while avoiding collisions, resulting in the computation of the agent's speed $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{i,t+1}$. SFM coefficients are optimized based on individual attributes to enable personalized decisions.

Motor. We use Pacer [29] for path-following, which computes the motion $a_{i,t}$ based on the speed $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_{i,t+1}$. This motion is *non-personalized*, so a Personality Gait Controller assigns a personalized gait based on attributes. The resulting motion is simulated in the physics engine and then sensed in by each agent for continuous processing.

3.3. 3D-adaptive SFM Decision Mechanism

In 3D simulations, interaction dynamics differs from 2D point-based models due to physics engine integration. While 3D collision handling prevents interpenetration, human-to-human interactions require substantial adaptation—agents in 3D may stumble or fall under congestion that would merely slow movement in 2D models. Effective navigation requires detouring behavior rather than waiting or collision. To address these challenges, we introduce personalized SFM coefficient optimization and evasive forces specifically for 3D environments. Our decision process transforms agent i's observations (position, speed, and nearby agents) into desired speed $\tilde{v}_{i,t+1} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ for the next timestep.

Base Forces. Our implementation enhances the basic social force model [14] with two essential components. The driving force guides agents efficiently toward destinations by first employing A* pathfinding [12] to generate optimal routes, then calculating acceleration based on the discrepancy between desired and current speeds, smoothed by a relaxation parameter. The complementary repulsive force maintains safe inter-agent distances through exponential repulsion that intensifies as proximity increases, with magnitude controlled by repulsion coefficient, spatial decay, and interaction radius parameters.

Evasive Force. We propose the evasive force to evade the front agents stopping or falling due to collisions. By computing perpendicular directions to the desired path, the agent can detour efficiently. The force is calculated by considering a 45° sector in front of the agent, representing the perceived area. The evasive force F_{evasive} is defined as:

$$\mathbf{F}_{\text{evasive}} = A \operatorname{sgn}(\mathbf{o}_i \cdot \mathbf{p}_i) \mathbf{p}_i,$$
 (1)

where A is a binary mask that equals 1 when there is an obstacle in front of the agent and there is available space to the side, and 0 otherwise. \mathbf{p}_i is the perpendicular vector to the desired direction, and \mathbf{o}_i represents the average position of nearby agents. This improvement aligns the SFM with the requirements of 3D simulations.

Personalized Optimization for SDM Coefficients.

In crowd evacuation simulations, it seems not reasonable to use uniform social force coefficients, as individuals have varying escape abilities based on their attributes. Personalized coefficients better reflect these differences. Moreover, factors, for example friction in the physics engine, can cause individuals to move more slowly than the intended speed. To compensate for these, we adjust the target speed setting to achieve the desired speed in simulation. Specifically, $v_{\rm real}$ is the empirically obtained real-world escape speed from literature (see Supplementary), v_{sim} is the simulated speed, and v_{setting} is the speed input to the engine. We run agents of different attributes on a straight path in the physics engine and optimize v_{setting} so that v_{sim} approximates v_{real} . We categorize agents into five groups, i.e. the young, middleaged, elderly, patients, and disabled. Through this process, we determine personalized coefficients with an accuracy of 0.005 m/s for use in simulation. The algorithm details are presented in the Supplementary Materials.

Final Decision. The final desired speed $\tilde{v}_{i,t+1}$ is determined by combining the forces:

$$\tilde{\boldsymbol{v}}_{i,t+1} = \boldsymbol{v}_i + \Delta t \left(\boldsymbol{F}_{\text{drive}} + \boldsymbol{F}_{\text{repulsive}} + \boldsymbol{F}_{\text{evasive}} \right), \quad (2)$$

where Δt is the timestep size, and v_i is the current speed of agent i. This framework ensures a smooth, collision-free, and efficient movement toward the destination.

3.4. Personalized Gait Control

We propose a Personalized Gait Controller that generates personalized escape gaits by transforming unpersonalized actions to personalized actions based on agent attributes. This section corresponds to the Motor process in Section 3.2. Pacer [29], a robust physics-based controller, serves as our backbone for path-following. Its policy π_{PACER} tracks 2D trajectories $\tau_{i,t}$, sampled based on the desired speed. Given the state \mathcal{S} (agent's position, humanoid state, and environment state), the action $a_{i,t}$ is computed by π_{PACER} .

People with different attributes have different gaits. We correspond these gaits to a finite number of personalization styles in the 100style dataset [19]. This converter is a diffusion-based generative model, taking personalized gait labels, characterless action frames, and randomly sampled Gaussian noise as inputs, and outputs personalized action

¹This classification is solely for scientific purposes, with no intention to offend or make assumptions based on age or disability.

frames given to the characterless action frames corresponding to the personalized gait labels. This requires the characterless action frames as inputs and the personalized action frames as ground-truths during training should be matched.

Gait Frame Matching. Inspired by [21], a gait cycle can be fundamentally divided into 8 events [21]. We only use 4 events which are Initial Contact, Mid Stance, Opposite Initial Contact and Feet Adjacent. By calculating the distance between the two ankles, the image can be obtained similar to the sine-cosine function. The four gait events align with two consecutive cycles of the ankle distance waveform, corresponding to the peak, trough, peak, and trough, respectively. To ensure gait connectivity for gait frame matching, we assign gait values for all gait frames. We identify the keyframes of four events based on the above pattern and assign gait values of 0, 0.3, 0.5, and 0.75, while linearly interpolating the non-keyframes between them. We match personalized gait frames (excluding neutral style data in 100STYLE [19]) and non-personalized gait frames (neutral style data in 100TYLE [19]) which have the same gait values as data pairs. The algorithm details are presented in the Supplementary Materials. When forming multiple candidate data frames, we select the two frames with the closest joint angles to match. During training, we also perform data augmentation by randomly assigning the same rotation to the root joints of the data pair.

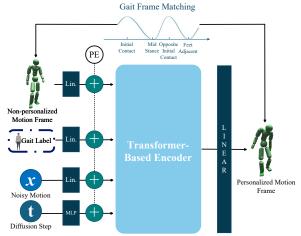


Figure 3. Personalized Gait Converter.

Network of Personalized Gait Converter. We use the CAMDM network [2] as the backbone to implement the non-personalized action frame $a_{i,t}$ to personalized action frame $\tilde{a}_{i,t}$, see Figure 3. This network is a probability diffusion model. At each denoising step, the model takes as input a noisy motion sample $a_{i,t}^t$, diffusion step t, along with personalized gait label c, then learns to predict the original clean $\tilde{a}_{i,t}^0$ (see Figure 3):

$$\mathbf{a}^0 = G(\mathbf{a}^t, \mathbf{t}; c). \tag{3}$$

The gait converter only involves single frame action conversion, and we use MSE loss $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{samp}}$ and 3D joint position loss

 $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{pos}}$. λ_{samp} and λ_{pos} are hyperparameters that control the weights of $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{samp}}$ and $\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{pos}}$ in the total loss function:

$$\mathcal{L} = \lambda_{\text{samp}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{samp}} + \lambda_{\text{pos}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{pos}}.$$
 (4)

Lower body movement is affected by terrain, and upper body movement is more flexible [41]. Hence, in the simulation of the physics engine, we replace the upper body actions of non-personalized action frames $a_{i,t}$ with the upper body actions of personalized action frames $\tilde{a}_{i,t}$. The simulation of actions in the physics engine can be sensed by the sensory process for the decision and motor in the next timestep.

3.5. Visualization of Part-Level Forces

Each physical agent consists of 24 distinct body parts. Each body part contributes to the overall motion of the physical character. The interactions between these characters, as well as their contact with the environment, generate forces that drive their movements. In evacuation scenarios, assessing the forces acting on each individual is crucial for mitigating potential hazards in crowded situations. We integrate force sensors into each body part of the characters, which are capable of recording the magnitude of *contact forces* exerted at every timestep. To visualize the forces acting on part-level, we design a color-based mapping approach. Specifically, a gradient is employed, with lighter colors indicating lower forces and darker colors representing higher forces.

To validate the effectiveness of our force visualization method, we conduct part-level collision simulations under various scenarios. Some examples are shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Visualization of forces under multiple collisions.

4. Experimental Results

4.1. Comparison Methods

Since there is no personalized 3D evacuation simulation method, we compare our approach with three related methods: Social Force Model [14, 15], OmniControl [43] and MaskedMimic [37]. Among the methods considered, only the Social Force Model [14, 15] is originally designed for crowd simulation, while OmniControl [43] is a motion generation method and MaskedMimic [37] is a character control method. We adapt OmniControl [43] and MaskedMimic [37] to accomplish the crowd evacuation task as well for a fair comparison. The implementation details are as follows. For all compared methods, we first use A* [12] to find waypoints to the exit, and then: (1) **Social Force Model** [14, 15] – The individual agents of the Social Force Model utilize strategies

Figure 5. Qualitative comparison.

to reach each waypoint step by step. (2) **OmniControl** [43] – We calculate the path and interpolate the path points into dense trajectories, which serve as root joint conditions for generating escape motions. (3) **MaskedMimic** [37] – We compute the escape trajectory, and the path-following task is employed to control the character's escape actions.

Table 2. Quantitative comparision.

Method	Average Success Rate	Average Fallen Count
OmniControl	0.48	_
MaskedMimic	0.60	18.55
Ours	0.84	12.26

4.2. Quantitative Comparison

To validate the performance of our framework in evacuation tasks, we compare it with OmniControl and Masked-Mimic across four scenes. We evaluate the average escape success rate and the average number of falls for 50 agents over 1000 frames per scene, with each scene run 10 times. Due to the OmniControl not having physical realism, it does not produce falls, so the fallen Count is not calculated. As shown in Table 2, our method outperforms OmniControl and MaskedMimic in all scenes, with higher success rates and fewer falls. The OmniControl has insufficient controllability for long-distance movements, resulting in agents deviating from trajectories and stopping prematurely. Com-

pared to MaskMinic, in our method, agents demonstrate better pathfinding, mutual avoidance, and balance abilities.

4.3. Qualitative Comparison

To validate the superiority of our proposed framework, we use the above-mentioned three methods for comparison. Figure 5 shows the evacuation processes and evacuation motions executed by the three comparison models and our framework on two classic evacuation scenarios and one large-scale scenario. The Social Force Model is a 2D approach that can only depict the positional changes of people during evacuation, and it cannot represent 3D human movement. It assumes that individuals will always reach their desired position when making decisions, which make the simulation distorted. OmniControl fails to correctly generate long-distance trajectory-constrained actions, leading to motion distortion, trajectory confusion, and premature stopping. MaskedMimic, due to the lack of a collision avoidance mechanism, may cause collisions during linear movement, leading to crowd accumulation. Furthermore, the actions of all agents tend to be similar, failing to reflect individual variations. There is also no noticeable distinction in speed personalization among any of the three methods. Our approach achieves more rational evacuation processes and simulates personalized evacuation motions tailored to individuals with different attributes. More details can be found

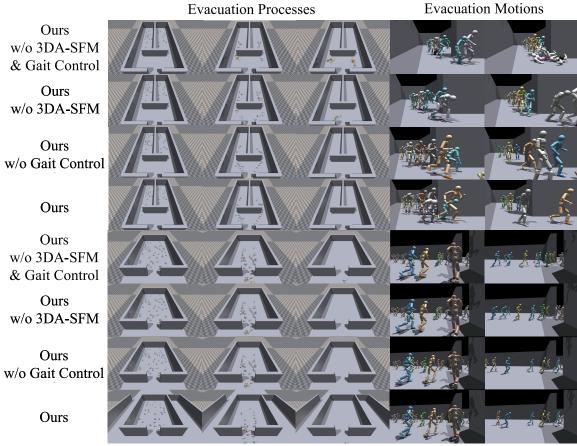


Figure 6. Ablation study results.

in demo video and supplementary document.

We also conduct a user study to evaluate our method, along with OmniControl and MaskedMimic, in terms of the plausibility of the evacuation process, the realism and personalization of evacuation motions, and the effectiveness of visualization part-level forces. For more details, please refer to the supplementary document.

4.4. Ablation Study

Qualitative comparison. In qualitative comparison, we compare the pipeline of our framework after removing the 3D-adaptive SFM Decision Mechanism, the Personalizing Gait Control Motor, and both components together, which degrades into the PACER[29] baseline. For all methods, we first find waypoints. Figure 6 shows that, when it comes to excluding 3D adaptive SFM while keeping personalized gait control, the generated the agents fail to avoid each other, leading to collisions and crowd accumulation. As a result, some agents are unable to escape, and their escape speeds are nearly identical. This indicates that the 3DA-SFM Decision Mechanism effectively prevents potential collisions as much as possible and offers more rational escape processes tailored to individual attributes. Moreover, although removing the Personalized Gait Control Module allows most agents to fully escape, their gaits and movements become similar. Personalized Gait Control Motor helps to generate personalized motions for agents based on their attributes. In contrast, the complete pipeline can dynamically adjust escape routes based on evacuation speed tailored to each agent's human attributes, minimizing collisions and ensuring personalized escape gaits that reflect individual characteristics. More details can be found in the demo video and supplementary document.

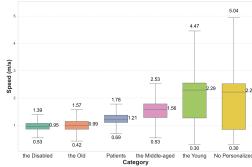


Figure 7. Boxplot of speed distributions across categories. **Speed Diversity.** We conducted experiments across six scenarios, including four small-scale scenarios with 50 agents each and two large-scale scenarios with 100 agents. Agents were divided into five personalized groups—the young, the middle-aged, the old, patients, and the disabled,

as well as a *non-personalized* group. Each category reflects distinct attributes such as age and mobility style.

Figure 7 illustrates the speed distributions across all categories. The results reveal distinct patterns aligned with mobility attributes. For instance, *the young* achieve the highest median speeds and greater variability, reflecting their agility. In contrast, *the old* and *patients* exhibit slower speeds with narrower ranges, corresponding to their reduced mobility. Similarly, *the disabled* show limited speeds due to physical constraints, while the *non-personalized* group displays average speed distributions.

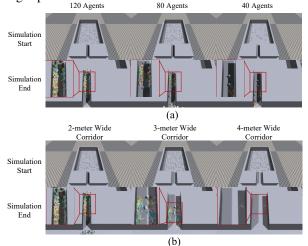


Figure 8. Evacuation simulation results: (a) with the same corridor width but different evacuation densities; (b) with the same evacuation density but different corridor widths.

4.5. Illustrative Experiment

Our framework can reflect many real-life evacuation in various scenarios. This is more helpful and meaningful for evacuation analysis.

Analysis of Stampede Incidents. Stampede incidents often occur in bottleneck areas. We analyze the impact of evacuation density and corridor width on stampede occurrences at bottleneck locations. In a 2-meter-wide corridor, we randomly place 120, 80, and 40 agents to simulate evacuation scenarios, and the results are shown in Figure 8 (a). Under the same corridor width, the greater the number of evacuees, the more severe the stampede. With 120 agents in the same scenario, we test corridor widths of 2 meters, 3 meters, and 4 meters, with the results displayed in Figure 8 (b). Our results indicate that, for the same evacuation density, narrower corridors lead to more severe trampling.

Analysis of stampede incidents shows they occur when overcrowding leads to falls—from unstable movement—with victims unable to recover, then being stepped on or crushed. Bottlenecks worsen this: large crowds pushing through narrow spaces heighten trampling risks, posing severe hazards. See the demo video for full simulation details.

Analysis of the impact of terrain on evacuation. Our framework can simulate the impact of various terrains on

crowd evacuation. In the same scene, we incorporate normal ground, uneven ground, ground with discrete obstacles, and slippery ground (with reduced friction), and test 50 individuals starting from the same initial position to escape from the same room. Results are presented in Figure 9.

Figure 9 illustrates the different escape processes of individuals within the same scene, using the same number of participants and identical initial positions, but navigating various types of terrain. This demonstrates that terrain factors significantly influence motor control and further impact perception and decision-making in subsequent steps, Additionally, uneven and slippery surfaces are more likely to cause individuals to fall.

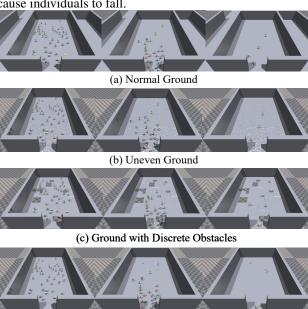


Figure 9. Evacuation simulations in various terrains.

5. Conclusions

We propose a crowd evacuation simulation framework that mimics the sensory-decision-motor flow of a brain-like intelligence, enabling personalized simulations at the individual level. Additionally, we design part-level force visualization, which enhances evacuation analysis. Our framework is capable of simulating the personalized and diverse evacuation dynamics of individuals with varying attributes throughout the evacuation process. The escape motions produced by our method outperform existing methods. Through this framework, we can also validate many common phenomena observed during evacuation scenarios, offering new insights into crowd evacuation and public safety.

(d) Slippery Ground

Acknowledgements

This work was supported in part by the National Key R&D Program of China (2023YFC3082100), the National Natural Science Foundation of China (62171317), the Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars of Tianjin (22JCJQJC00040), and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (No. EP/Y028805/1).

References

- Panayiotis Charalambous, Julien Pettre, Vassilis Vassiliades, Yiorgos Chrysanthou, and Nuria Pelechano. Greil-crowds: Crowd simulation with deep reinforcement learning and examples. ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG), 42(4):1–15, 2023. 2
- [2] Rui Chen, Mingyi Shi, Shaoli Huang, Ping Tan, Taku Komura, and Xuelin Chen. Taming diffusion probabilistic models for character control. In ACM SIGGRAPH 2024 Conference Papers, pages 1–10, 2024. 3, 5
- [3] X Chen and F B Zhan. Agent-based modelling and simulation of urban evacuation: relative effectiveness of simultaneous and staged evacuation strategies. *Journal of the Operational Research Society*, 59(1):25–33, 2008. 1, 2
- [4] Stelian Coros, Philippe Beaudoin, and Michiel van de Panne. Generalized biped walking control. ACM Trans. Graph., 29 (4), 2010. 1, 3
- [5] Emiliano Cristiani, Benedetto Piccoli, and Andrea Tosin. *Multiscale modeling of pedestrian dynamics*. Springer, 2014. 2
- [6] Ning Ding, Yu Zhu, Xinyan Liu, Dapeng Dong, and Yang Wang. A modified social force model for crowd evacuation considering collision predicting behaviors. *Applied Mathematics and Computation*, 466:128448, 2024. 1, 2
- [7] J. Fang, S. El-Tawil, and B. Aguirre. New agent-based egress model allowing for social relationships. *Journal of Computing* in Civil Engineering, 30(4):04015066, 2016. 2
- [8] I.G. Georgoudas, P. Kyriakos, G.Ch. Sirakoulis, and I.Th. Andreadis. An FPGA implemented cellular automaton crowd evacuation model inspired by the electrostatic-induced potential fields. *Microprocessors and Microsystems*, 34(7):285– 300, 2010.
- [9] Gonzalo Gomez-Nogales, Melania Prieto-Martin, Cristian Romero, Marc Comino-Trinidad, Pablo Ramon-Prieto, Anne-Hélène Olivier, Ludovic Hoyet, Miguel Otaduy, Julien Pettre, and Dan Casas. Resolving collisions in dense 3d crowd animations. ACM Transactions on Graphics, 43(5):1–14, 2024. 2
- [10] Chuan Guo, Shihao Zou, Xinxin Zuo, Sen Wang, Wei Ji, Xingyu Li, and Li Cheng. Generating diverse and natural 3d human motions from text. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF* Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), pages 5152–5161, 2022. 1
- [11] Horst W Hamacher and Stevanus A Tjandra. Mathematical modelling of evacuation problems: A state of art. 2001. 2
- [12] Peter E Hart, Nils J Nilsson, and Bertram Raphael. A formal basis for the heuristic determination of minimum cost paths. *IEEE Transactions on Systems Science and Cybernetics*, 4(2): 100–107, 1968. 4, 5
- [13] Brandon Haworth, Glen Berseth, Seonghyeon Moon, Petros Faloutsos, and Mubbasir Kapadia. Deep integration of physical humanoid control and crowd navigation. In *Proceedings* of the 13th ACM SIGGRAPH Conference on Motion, Interaction and Games, New York, NY, USA, 2020. Association for Computing Machinery. 2
- [14] Dirk Helbing and Peter Molnar. Social force model for pedestrian dynamics. *Physical review E*, 51(5):4282, 1995. 2, 4, 5

- [15] Dirk Helbing, Illés Farkas, and Tamas Vicsek. Simulating dynamical features of escape panic. *Nature*, 407(6803):487– 490, 2000. 2, 4, 5
- [16] Alexis Jensen, Thomas Chatagnon, Niloofar Khoshsiyar, Daniele Reda, Michiel Van De Panne, Charles Pontonnier, and Julien Pettré. Physical simulation of balance recovery after a push. In *Proceedings of the 16th ACM SIGGRAPH Conference on Motion, Interaction and Games*, New York, NY, USA, 2023. Association for Computing Machinery. 3
- [17] Andrei Khilkevich, Michael Lohse, Ryan Low, Ivana Orsolic, Tadej Bozic, Paige Windmill, and Thomas D Mrsic-Flogel. Brain-wide dynamics linking sensation to action during decision-making. *Nature*, pages 1–11, 2024.
- [18] Viktor Makoviychuk, Lukasz Wawrzyniak, Yunrong Guo, Michelle Lu, Kier Storey, Miles Macklin, David Hoeller, Nikita Rudin, Arthur Allshire, Ankur Handa, et al. Isaac Gym: High performance GPU-based physics simulation for robot learning. arXiv preprint arXiv:2108.10470, 2021. 1
- [19] Ian Mason, Sebastian Starke, and Taku Komura. Real-time style modelling of human locomotion via feature-wise transformations and local motion phases. *Proceedings of the ACM* on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques, 5(1):1–18, 2022. 4, 5
- [20] Earl K Miller and Jonathan D Cohen. An integrative theory of prefrontal cortex function. *Annual review of neuroscience*, 24(1):167–202, 2001. 2
- [21] Donald A. Neumann. Kinesiology of the musculoskeletal system: foundations for physical rehabilitation. 2002. 5
- [22] Manh Hung Nguyen, Tuong Vinh Ho, and Jean-Daniel Zucker. Integration of smoke effect and blind evacuation strategy (sebes) within fire evacuation simulation. *Simulation Modelling Practice and Theory*, 36:44–59, 2013. 1, 2
- [23] Liang Pan, Jingbo Wang, Buzhen Huang, Junyu Zhang, Haofan Wang, Xu Tang, and Yangang Wang. Synthesizing physically plausible human motions in 3d scenes. In 2024 International Conference on 3D Vision (3DV), pages 1498–1507. IEEE, 2024. 3
- [24] Xue Bin Peng, Glen Berseth, Kangkang Yin, and Michiel Van De Panne. DeepLoco: dynamic locomotion skills using hierarchical deep reinforcement learning. ACM Trans. Graph., 36(4), 2017. 3
- [25] Xue Bin Peng, Ze Ma, Pieter Abbeel, Sergey Levine, and Angjoo Kanazawa. Amp: Adversarial motion priors for stylized physics-based character control. ACM Transactions on Graphics (ToG), 40(4):1–20, 2021. 3
- [26] Xue Bin Peng, Yunrong Guo, Lina Halper, Sergey Levine, and Sanja Fidler. Ase: Large-scale reusable adversarial skill embeddings for physically simulated characters. ACM Trans. Graph., 41(4), 2022. 1
- [27] Ekkasit Pinyoanuntapong, Muhammad Usama Saleem, Korrawe Karunratanakul, Pu Wang, Hongfei Xue, Chen Chen, Chuan Guo, Junli Cao, Jian Ren, and Sergey Tulyakov. ControlMM: Controllable masked motion generation. arXiv preprint arXiv:2410.10780, 2024. 2, 3
- [28] Michael L Platt. Neural correlates of decisions. *Current Opinion in Neurobiology*, 12(2):141–148, 2002. 2, 3
- [29] Davis Rempe, Zhengyi Luo, Xue Bin Peng, Ye Yuan, Kris Kitani, Karsten Kreis, Sanja Fidler, and Or Litany. Trace and

- pace: Controllable pedestrian animation via guided trajectory diffusion. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, pages 13756–13766, 2023. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7
- [30] Siamak Sarmady, Fazilah Haron, and Abdullah Zawawi Talib. Simulating crowd movements using fine grid cellular automata. In 2010 12th International Conference on Computer Modelling and Simulation, pages 428–433, 2010. 2
- [31] Yonatan Shafir, Guy Tevet, Roy Kapon, and Amit H Bermano. Human motion diffusion as a generative prior. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2303.01418*, 2023. 1, 3
- [32] Yi Shi, Jingbo Wang, Xuekun Jiang, and Bo Dai. Controllable motion diffusion model. arXiv preprint arXiv:2306.00416, 2023. 1, 3
- [33] Yi Shi, Jingbo Wang, Xuekun Jiang, Bingkun Lin, Bo Dai, and Xue Bin Peng. Interactive character control with autoregressive motion diffusion models, 2024. 3
- [34] Mohammed Shuaib and Zarita Zainuddin. Incorporating intelligence into exit choice model for typical evacuation. Sains Malaysiana, 46(10):1997–2005, 2017. 2
- [35] Markus Siegel, Timothy J Buschman, and Earl K Miller. Cortical information flow during flexible sensorimotor decisions. Science, 348(6241):1352–1355, 2015. 2
- [36] Chen Tessler, Yoni Kasten, Yunrong Guo, Shie Mannor, Gal Chechik, and Xue Bin Peng. CALM: Conditional adversarial latent models for directable virtual characters. In ACM SIG-GRAPH 2023 Conference Proceedings, New York, NY, USA, 2023. Association for Computing Machinery. 1
- [37] Chen Tessler, Yunrong Guo, Ofir Nabati, Gal Chechik, and Xue Bin Peng. Maskedmimic: Unified physics-based character control through masked motion inpainting. *ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)*, 43(6):1–21, 2024. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6
- [38] Takara Everest Truong, Michael Piseno, Zhaoming Xie, and Karen Liu. PDP: Physics-based character animation via diffusion policy. In SIGGRAPH Asia 2024 Conference Papers, page 1–10. ACM, 2024. 3
- [39] Weilin Wan, Zhiyang Dou, Taku Komura, Wenping Wang, Dinesh Jayaraman, and Lingjie Liu. Tlcontrol: Trajectory and language control for human motion synthesis. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2311.17135*, 2023. 2, 3
- [40] Jingbo Wang, Sijie Yan, Bo Dai, and Dahua Lin. Scene-aware generative network for human motion synthesis. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF conference on computer vision and pattern recognition*, pages 12206–12215, 2021. 3
- [41] Jingbo Wang, Zhengyi Luo, Ye Yuan, Yixuan Li, and Bo Dai. Pacer+: On-demand pedestrian animation controller in driving scenarios. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition*, pages 718–728, 2024. 2, 5
- [42] Zhenzhi Wang, Jingbo Wang, Dahua Lin, and Bo Dai. Inter-Control: Generate human motion interactions by controlling every joint. *CoRR*, abs/2311.15864, 2023. 3
- [43] Yiming Xie, Varun Jampani, Lei Zhong, Deqing Sun, and Huaizu Jiang. OmniControl: Control any joint at any time for human motion generation. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2310.08580, 2023. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

- [44] Zhaoming Xie, Hung Yu Ling, Nam Hee Kim, and Michiel van de Panne. ALLSTEPS: Curriculum-driven learning of stepping stone skills, 2020. 3
- [45] Sirui Xu, Zhengyuan Li, Yu-Xiong Wang, and Liang-Yan Gui. Interdiff: Generating 3D human-object interactions with physics-informed diffusion. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision*, pages 14928– 14940, 2023. 3
- [46] Jianming Ye, Zhen Liu, Tingting Liu, Yanhui Wu, and Yuanyi Wang. Crowd evacuation simulation based on hierarchical agent model and physics-based character control. *Computer Animation and Virtual Worlds*, 35(3):e2263, 2024. 2
- [47] Ye Yuan, Jiaming Song, Umar Iqbal, Arash Vahdat, and Jan Kautz. PhysDiff: Physics-guided human motion diffusion model. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF international conference on computer vision*, pages 16010–16021, 2023. 3
- [48] Zarita Zainuddin and Mohammed Shuaib. Modification of the decision-making capability in the social force model for the evacuation process. *Transport Theory and Statistical Physics*, 39(1):47–70, 2010.
- [49] Kaifeng Zhao, Yan Zhang, Shaofei Wang, Thabo Beeler, and Siyu Tang. Synthesizing diverse human motions in 3d indoor scenes. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/CVF International Conference on Computer Vision*, pages 14738–14749, 2023.
- [50] Lei Zhong, Yiming Xie, Varun Jampani, Deqing Sun, and Huaizu Jiang. Smoodi: Stylized motion diffusion model. In European Conference on Computer Vision, pages 405–421. Springer, 2025. 3