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Abstract for an Invited Paper  
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**Snap, crack and pop: What elastic instabilities in toys can teach us**

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The mechanism of many modern toys rely on some form or other of elastic instability, from the locomotion of the “Hexbug nano” to the snapping of a “Hopper popper.” In this talk I will discuss some fundamental mechanical problems that are inspired by the mechanism of such toys. A particular focus will be on the “snap” and “pop” phases of the Hopper popper but I will also discuss the “crack” of a whip and other examples of dynamic elastic instabilities.