

The Phonebook Enigma

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*Fig.1: Lifting a car
with Phonebook*



*Fig.2: Lifting a car
with Phonebook*

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Many of us are familiar with a classical demonstration of the strength of friction. Take two phonebooks, interleave their sheets and try to separate them by pulling on their spines. Almost impossible ! This has been carried out spectacularly by attempting to pull the books apart with lifting a car, and even two military tanks, only to fail and suggest that the inner friction between the sheets prevails. In this talk, we propose a solution to that popular enigma. The study of this complex network provides insight into friction with some connections to MEMS, mooring a ship, interactions between DNA and bacteriophage capsid, and even a toy known as the Chinese finger trap.

Jeudi 14 Février à 13h, Salle Bellecour bât. Sophie Germain, INSA