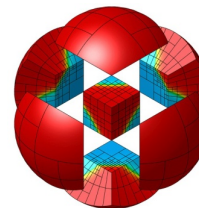


Remap through Interpolation and Optimization (with application to multi-material ALE hydro)

MFEM Community Workshop
Portland State University,
Sep 10-11, 2025



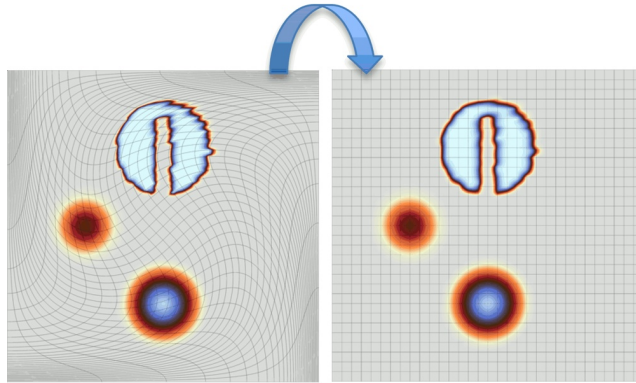
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Center for Applied
Scientific Computing

Vladimir Tomov
B. Lazarov, C. Petra, M. Schmidt
B. Keith, D. Kim

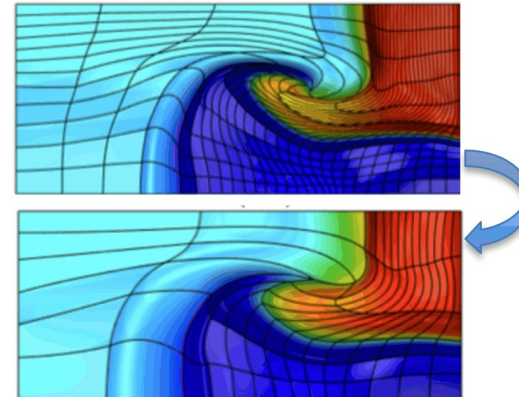


The remap problem is theoretically challenging and has high practical importance

- The remap must transfer discrete fields between computational meshes.



Advection-based remap (same topology)



Interpolation-based remap (any topology)

- Our main use case is ALE, but the usability is general.
Ex: general data transfer between codes, projecting experimental data to a mesh, etc.

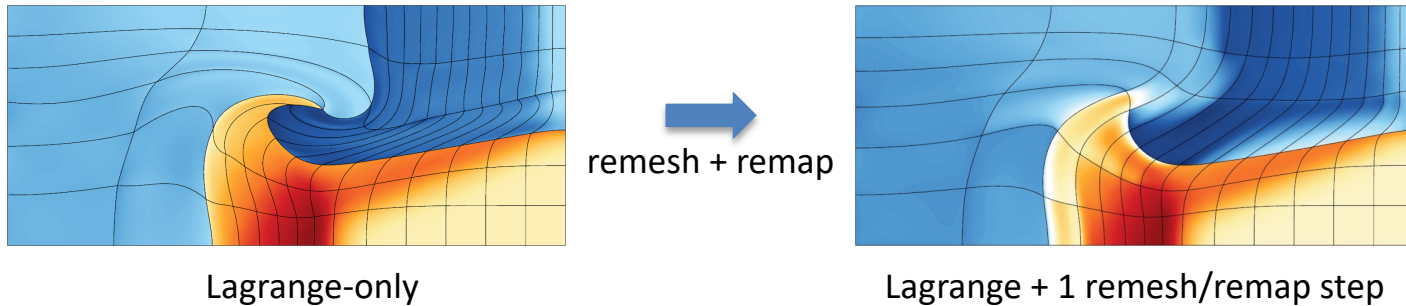
Requirements:

- c1. Produce accurate and sharp fields, i.e., introduce minimal numerical diffusion.
- c2. Conserve momentum and material volume / mass / total energy.
- c3. Preserve the local min and max bounds of all remapped fields.
- c4. Maintain consistent material coupling, i.e., volume fractions must sum to one.

- Two major approaches – advection (solve PDEs) and interpolation (geometric).

Advection-based remap methods struggle to meet all requirements

- Most remap methods rely on the advection approach.
 - Solving a PDE in pseudotime, defining “physical” motion of quantities (flux form).



- [c2] Gives direct conservation of advected quantities by design.
- [c3] Bounds preservation requires nonlinear limiters.
- [c1] Sharpness requires nonlinear flux steepening (difficult).
- [c4] Material consistency requires tradeoffs (very difficult).
- The remap step is the **primary source of errors** in simulations that involve it.

The problem structure includes many local/global nonlinear constraints and coupling across materials

- Variables of the multi-material system (hydrodynamics case):
material indicators, densities, internal energies (per material) & velocity.

(η_k, ρ_k, e_k, v) , where k is material index

- [c1] Sharpness: minimize the difference between (η_k, ρ_k, e_k, v) and $(\eta_k^0, \rho_k^0, e_k^0, v^0)$.
- [c2] Conservation: linear & nonlinear equalities, global, few of them, coupled.

$$\int_{\Omega} \eta_k = \int_{\Omega^0} \eta_k^0 \quad \int_{\Omega} \eta_k \rho_k = \int_{\Omega^0} \eta_k^0 \rho_k^0 \quad \int_{\Omega} \sum \eta_k \rho_k v = \int_{\Omega^0} \sum \eta_k^0 \rho_k^0 v^0$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \eta_k \rho_k e_k + \frac{1}{2} \eta_k \rho_k v^2 = \int_{\Omega^0} \eta_k^0 \rho_k^0 e_k^0 + \frac{1}{2} \eta_k^0 \rho_k^0 (v^0)^2$$

- [c3] Bounds: two linear inequalities per DOF, local, uncoupled.

$$\eta_k(x)^{\min} \leq \eta_k(x) \leq \eta_k(x)^{\max} \quad \rho_k(x)^{\min} \leq \rho_k(x) \leq \rho_k(x)^{\max}$$

$$e_k(x)^{\min} \leq e_k(x) \leq e_k(x)^{\max} \quad v_c(x)^{\min} \leq v_c(x) \leq v_c(x)^{\max}$$

- [c4] Material coupling: one linear equality per DOF, local, coupled.

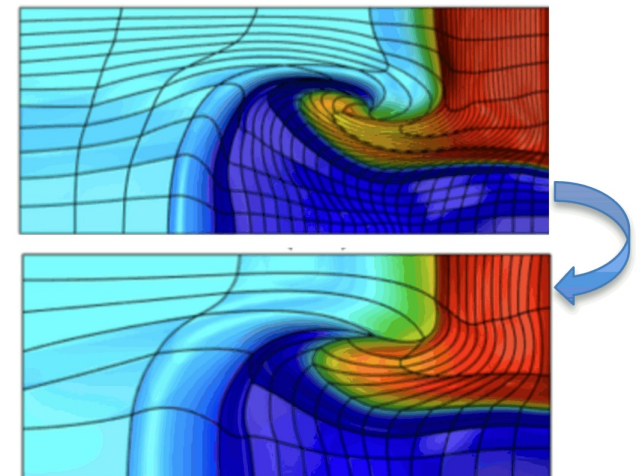
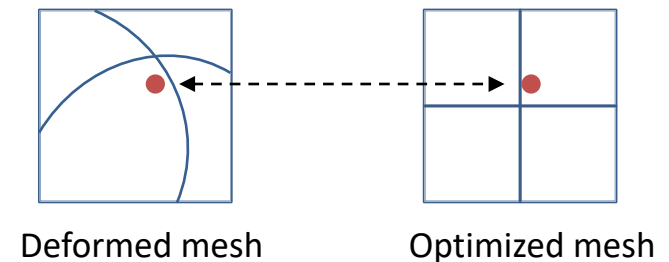
$$\sum_k \eta_k(x) = 1$$

We use a 2-step approach that relies on solving a constrained optimization problem

1. Get a sharp initial guess through GSLIB interpolation (no conservation).
 $(\eta_k^0, \rho_k^0, e_k^0, v^0) \rightarrow (\eta_k^*, \rho_k^*, e_k^*, v^*)$
 2. Improve the guess (through optimization) to recover all physical properties.
$$\min_x (F(x) = ||x - x^*||), \text{ subject to all constraints; } x = (\eta_k, \rho_k, e_k, v)$$
- Utilize state-of-art optimization methods developed by LLNL & collaborators.
 - Interior point methods with HiOp.
 - Latent Variable Proximal Point (LVPP) method.
 - Main difference: handling bounds constraints.
 - Performed as a one-step sweep (no time stepping, no intermediate stages).

Step 1: sharp and bounded initial guess is obtained through GSLIB interpolation

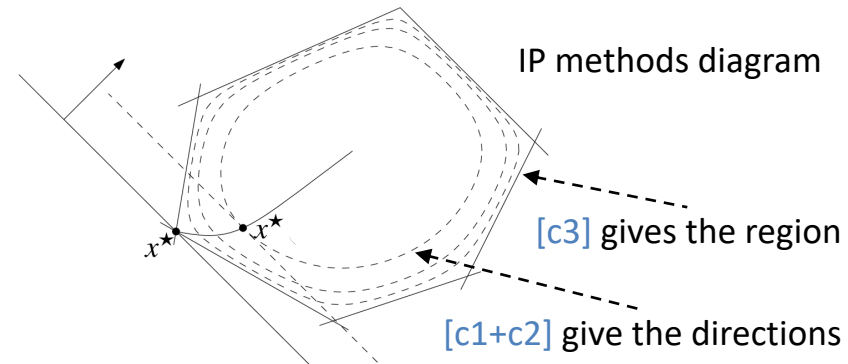
- Existing MFEM capability that has been tested extensively.
 - MFEM already contains a miniapp for FE interpolation performed through GSLIB.
- GSLIB can provide a map between physical point locations.
- GSLIB handles the function evaluation and the required MPI communication.
- The interpolation is sharp [c1].
 - Propagation is limited to at most one element.
- The interpolation is not conservative [c2].
- The bounds are preserved [c3].
- Material consistency is preserved [c4].



GSLIB interpolation example from MFEM

Step 2: tackle the optimization problem with HiOp's interior point methods

- Established optimization library developed by C. Petra at LLNL.
- Conservation constraints [c2] enter as Lagrange multipliers (few of them).
- Bounds constraints [c3] enter as weighted log-barriers.



$$\min_x \max_\lambda \left(\overset{[c1]}{F(x)} + \lambda \left[\int_{\Omega} \overset{[c2]}{\eta} - \int_{\Omega^0} \eta^0 \right] + \dots + \mu \sum_i \log(x_i - x_i^{\min}) + \mu \sum_i \log(x_i^{\max} - x_i) \right) \overset{[c3]}{}$$

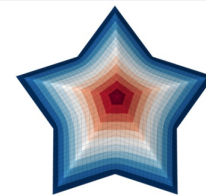
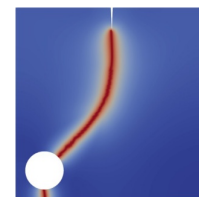
Equalities are admitted as $\mu \rightarrow 0$.

- Material coupling constraint [c4] is a major challenge.
 - Alternating projection / augmented Lagrangian type of methods. (decouple the materials / solve each / combine)
 - Slack variables could be used to keep the solution in the admissible domain.
 - Keep all materials coupled, and rely on linear algebra-based decomposition. How to compute the Newton step (linearization, Hessian action)?

$$\sum_k \eta_k(x) = 1$$

Step 2: tackle the optimization problem with the Latent Variable Proximal Point method

- Novel approach based on research of B. Keith.
 - Feasibility has been demonstrated simpler problems.
- Conservation constraints [c2] enter as Lagrange multipliers (few of them).
- Bounds constraints [c3] enter as entropy regularization terms.



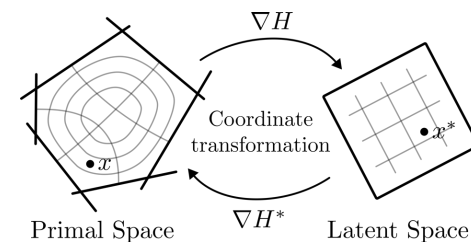
LVPP tests in MFEM: Fracture, Eikonal solver

$$\min_x \max_{\lambda} \left(F(x) + \lambda \left[\int_{\Omega} \eta - \int_{\Omega^0} \eta^0 \right] + \cdots + \frac{1}{\mu} H(x) \right), H(x) = \int_{\Omega} (x_i - x_i^{\min}) \log(x_i - x_i^{\min}) + \int_{\Omega} (x_i^{\max} - x_i) \log(x_i^{\max} - x_i)$$

- Form a sequence of solutions (equivalent formulation):

$$x_k = \operatorname{argmin}_x \left(F(x) + \lambda \left[\int_{\Omega} \eta - \int_{\Omega^0} \eta^0 \right] + \cdots + \frac{1}{\mu} D_H(x, x_{k-1}) \right)$$

- The trick: solve for a latent variable, eliminating [c3]: $x^* = \nabla H(x) \in (-\infty, \infty)$
- Inner Newton iteration for x_k : no bounds constraints, mass-matrix dominated.
- Outer iteration for the Lagrange multipliers λ .



- Material coupling constraint [c4]: enforced on the latent variable x^* . Any correction will be in bounds due to the transform.

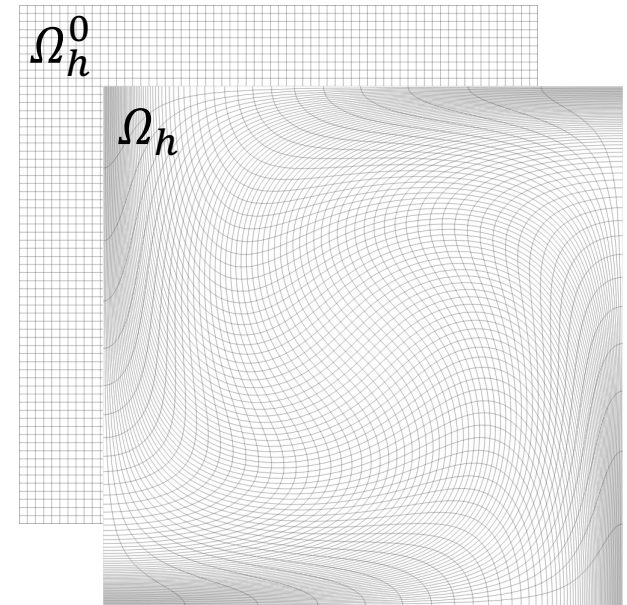
$$\sum_k \eta_k(x) = 1$$

Remap of scalar L2 GridFunctions

$\min_{\eta} ||\eta - \eta^*||_{L^2}$, subject to

$$\int_{\Omega_h} \eta = \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0,$$

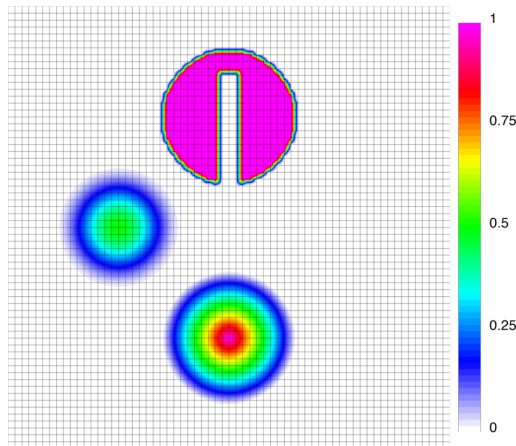
$$0 \leq \eta_i^{\min} \leq \eta_i \leq \eta_i^{\max} \leq 1, \quad i = 1 \dots N$$



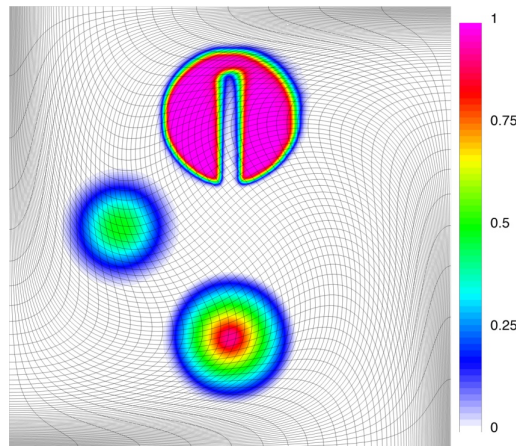
- The initial guess η^* is obtained through interpolation in physical space (*GSLIB*). (interpolated directly at support nodes of the DOFs)
- The min and max in an element K are taken from the elements in intersects.

▪ Solution existence:
$$\int_{\Omega_h} \eta^{\min} dx \leq \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0 dx \leq \int_{\Omega_h} \eta^{\max} dx$$

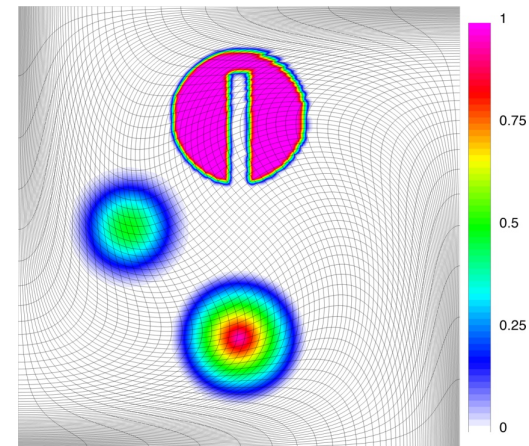
Remap of scalar L2 GridFunctions (2D result)



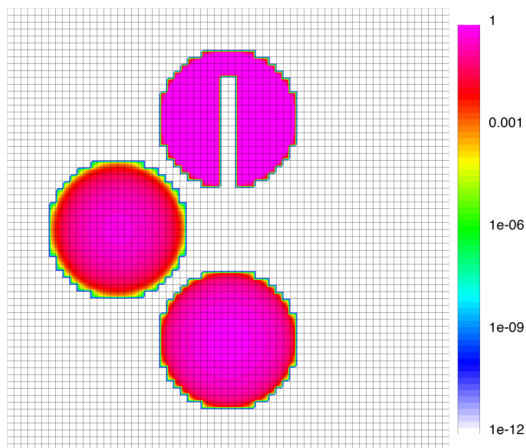
Initial condition



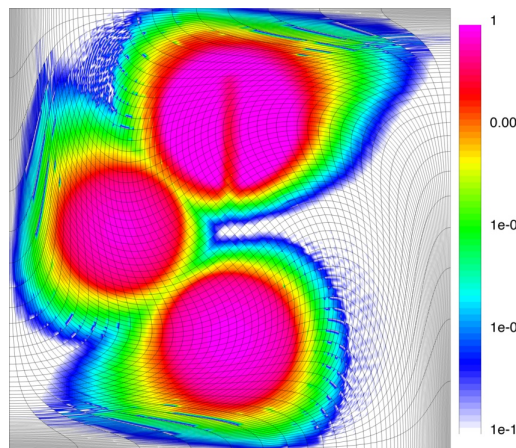
Advection solution (256 RK3)
46s, $9.8\text{e-}9$ mass error



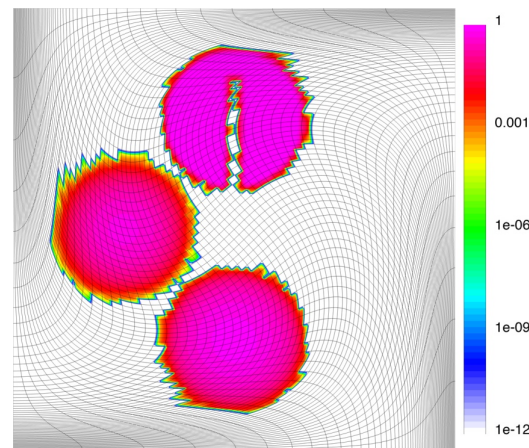
HiOp solution
1.4s, $2.5\text{e-}14$ mass error



Initial condition (log)

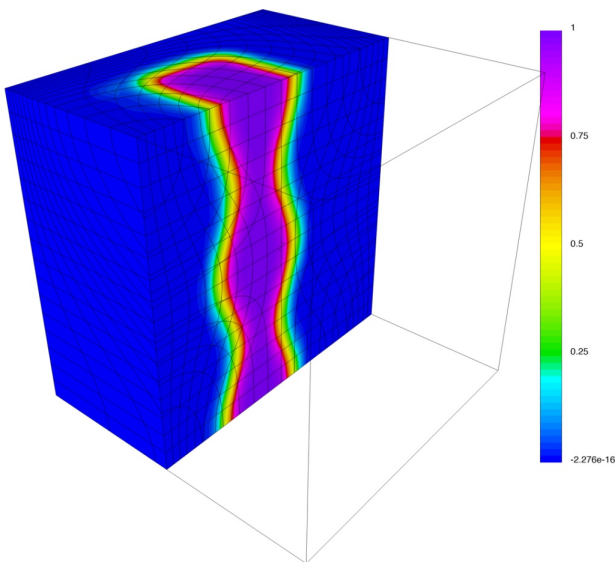


Advection solution (log)

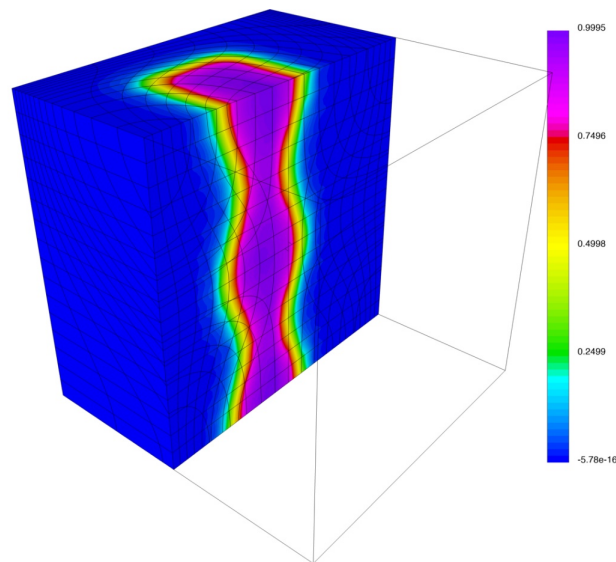


HiOp solution (log)

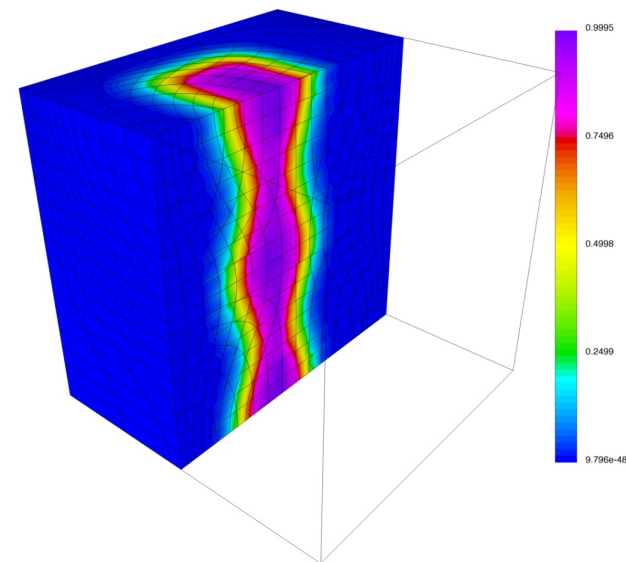
Remap of scalar L2 GridFunctions (3D result)



advection solution
mass error: 3.93×10^{-5}
time: 68s



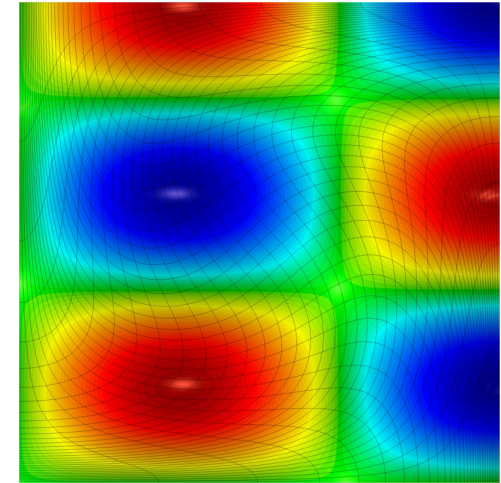
HiOp solution
mass error: 2.35×10^{-16}
time: 1.9s



LVPP solution
mass error: 1.52×10^{-16}
time: 1.2s

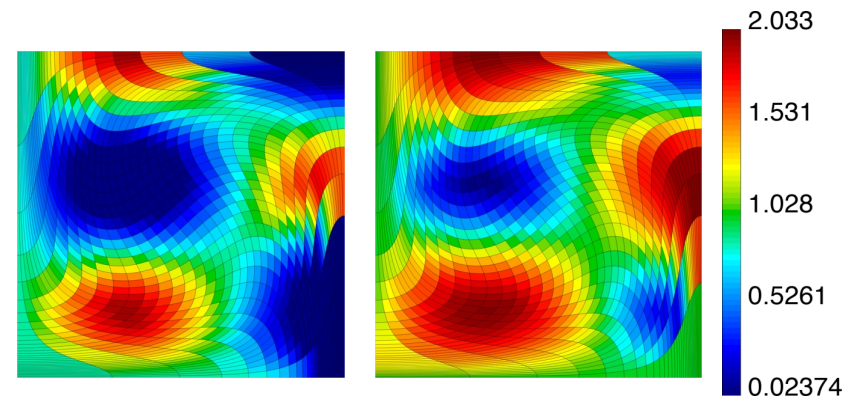
Remap of a scalar smooth function: HO convergence + exact mass + correct bounds!

1. Interpolation on the final mesh.
(interpolated solution has wrong mass).
2. Bounds computation.
(interpolated solution is always in bounds).
3. Mass correction.
(optimization – fix mass, preserve bounds).



Smooth solution on the final mesh

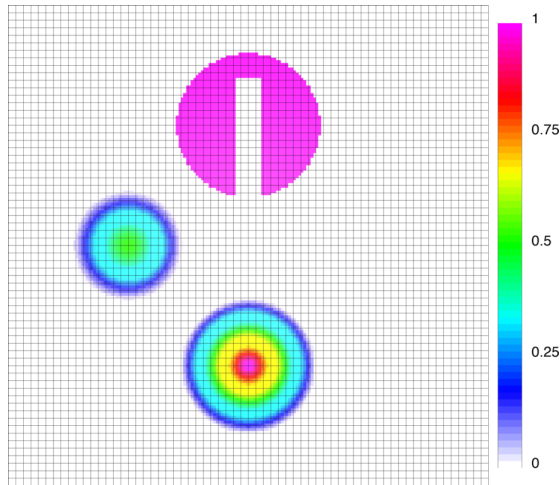
Q2 - interp			Q2 - opt			
ref	L1 error	rate	mass error	L1 error	rate	mass error
1	2.29E-02		3.10E-04	2.29E-02		6.70E-16
2	4.16E-03	2.46	4.92E-06	4.16E-03	2.46	7.20E-13
3	5.74E-04	2.86	2.13E-07	5.74E-04	2.86	5.77E-15
4	9.16E-05	2.65	4.44E-09	9.16E-05	2.65	5.98E-13
5	1.16E-05	2.98	7.71E-11	1.16E-05	2.98	1.39E-14
6	1.48E-06	2.97	1.25E-12	1.48E-06	2.97	2.04E-14
Q3 - interp			Q3 - opt			
ref	L1 error	rate	mass error	L1 error	rate	mass error
1	5.54E-03		4.19E-04	5.60E-03		8.30E-14
2	6.38E-04	3.12	1.29E-05	6.39E-04	3.13	3.33E-15
3	8.32E-05	2.94	1.22E-07	8.32E-05	2.94	2.60E-13
4	5.17E-06	4.01	3.40E-09	5.17E-06	4.01	3.33E-15
5	3.29E-07	3.97	6.07E-11	3.29E-07	3.97	6.70E-16
6	2.09E-08	3.98	1.00E-12	2.09E-08	3.98	9.68E-13



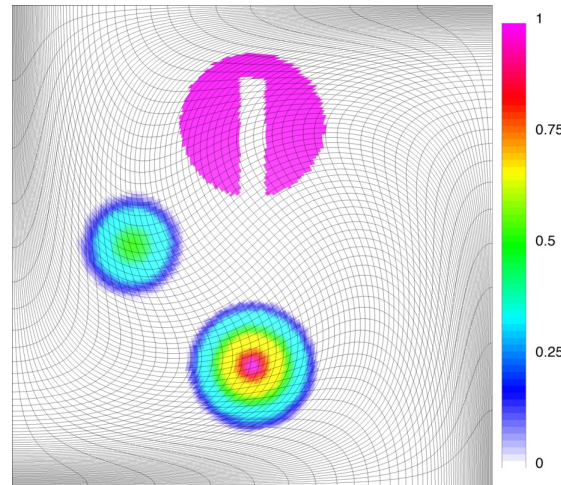
Min and Max bounds

Remap of scalar QuadratureFunctions

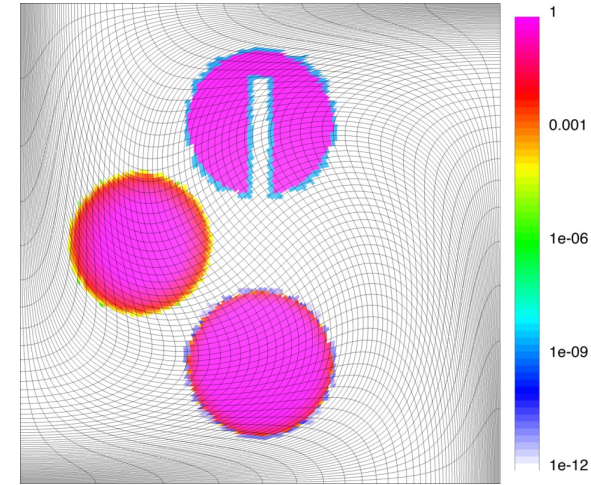
- There is no advection capability to remap Q-functions directly. (done through FE projections).
- Same interpolation / optimization method, but for the quadrature points / values.
- Intuitive control over small values / sub-element diffusion.



Initial condition



LVPP solution, zero mass error



LVPP solution (log)

Remap of the (η, ρ, e) coupled system

- Material indicator η is a Q-function.
- Material density ρ is a Q-function.
- Specific internal energy e is an L2 GridFunction.
- Don't form any product fields.
- Bounds are imposed directly on the primal (η, ρ, e) variables (simple).
- The coupling is in the *global* integrals.

$$\min_{\eta, \rho, e} J(\eta, \rho, e),$$

$$\int_{\Omega_h} \eta = \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0,$$

$$\int_{\Omega_h} \eta \rho = \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0 \rho^0,$$

$$\int_{\Omega_h} \eta \rho e = \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0 \rho^0 e^0,$$

$$0 \leq \eta_i^{\min} \leq \eta_i \leq \eta_i^{\max} \leq 1,$$

$$e_i^{\min} \leq e_i \leq e_i^{\max},$$

$$\rho_i^{\min} \leq \rho_i \leq \rho_i^{\max}.$$

Remap of the (η, ρ, e) coupled system: all requirements are satisfied on toy benchmarks

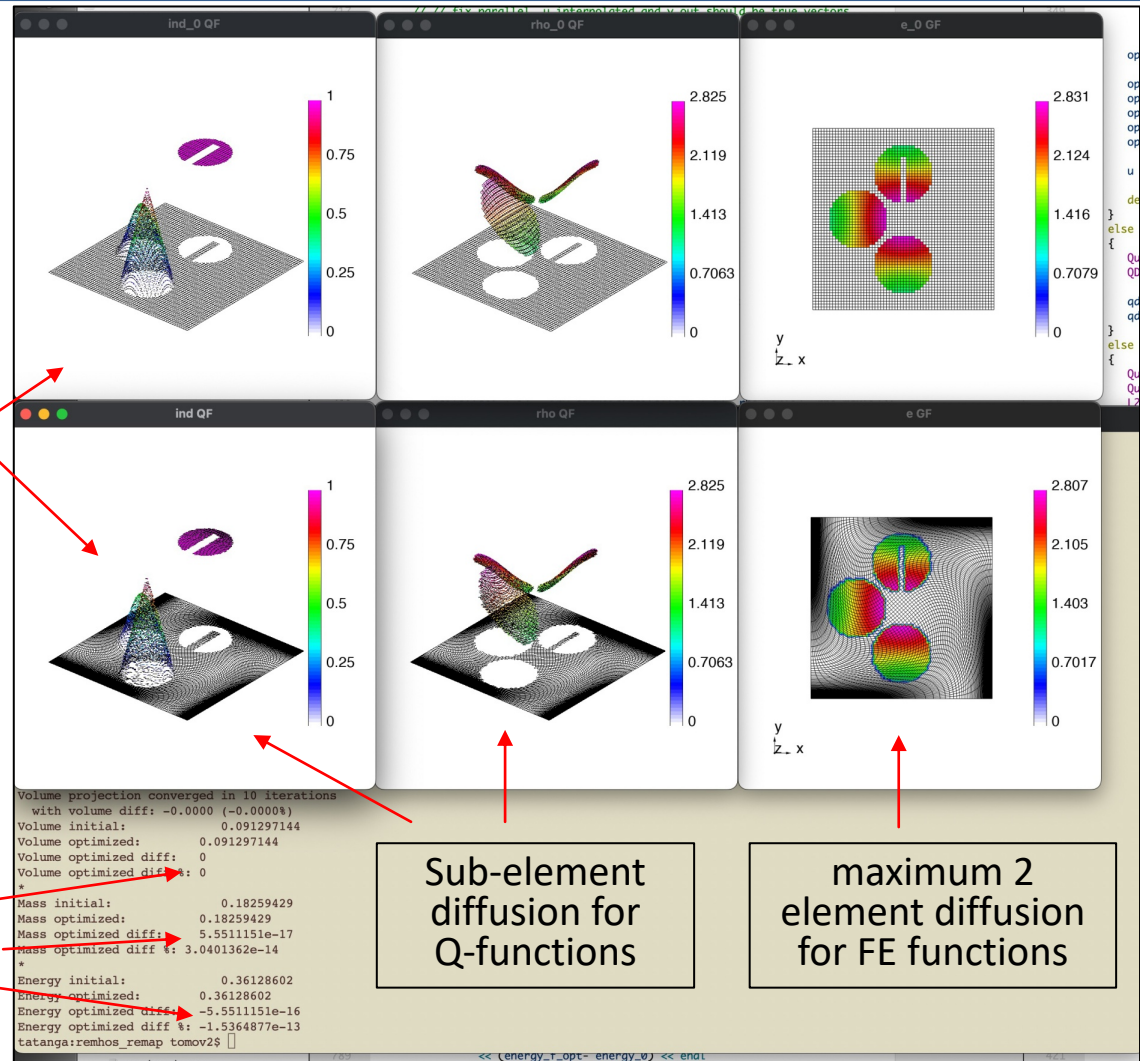
Supports
indicator+density+energy
coupled remap

Max sharpness through
physical space interpolation

Direct **Q-function remap**
(no transitions to FE)
for indicators & densities

Bounds are preserved for
indicators / densities /
internal energies
(no product fields)

Exact conservation
of volume / mass /
internal energy

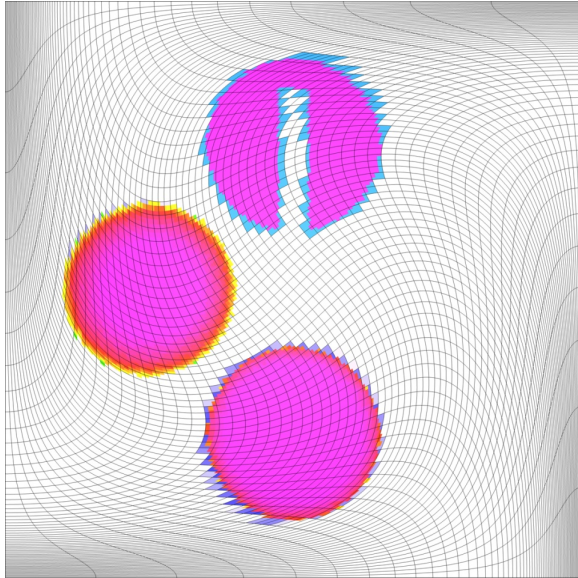


Sub-element
diffusion for
Q-functions

maximum 2
element diffusion
for FE functions

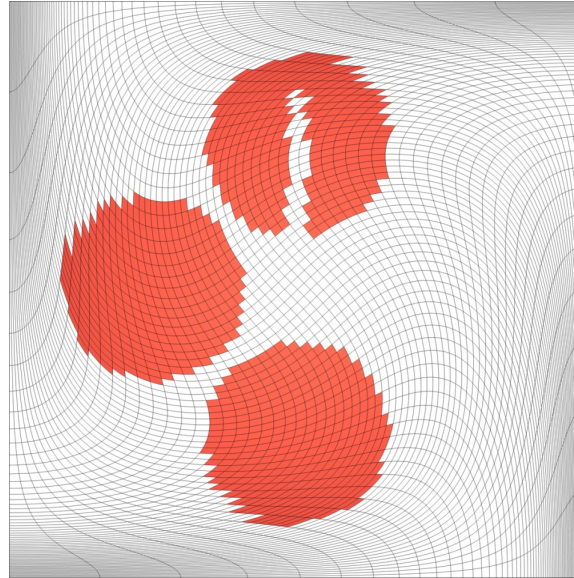
Remap of the (η, ρ, e) system: preservation of constant density and energy

$$\eta \in [10^{-12}, 1]$$



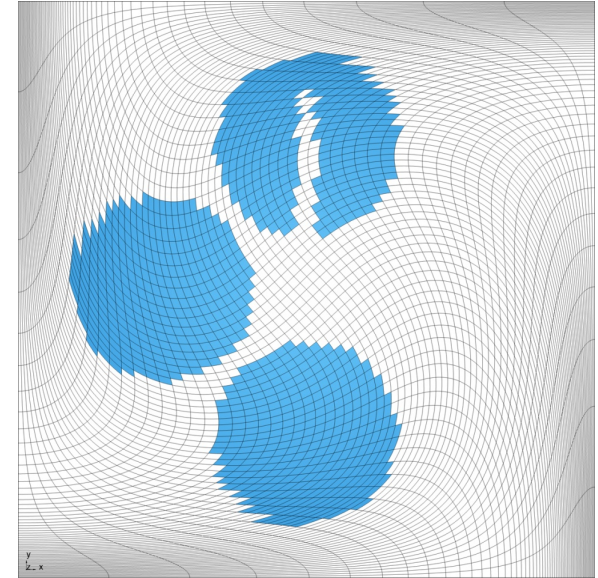
Material indicator (Q-function)
* sub-element diffusion
* volume error 1e-13

$$\rho \in \{0,7\}$$



Constant density (Q-function)
* constant over bool quads
* mass error 1e-12

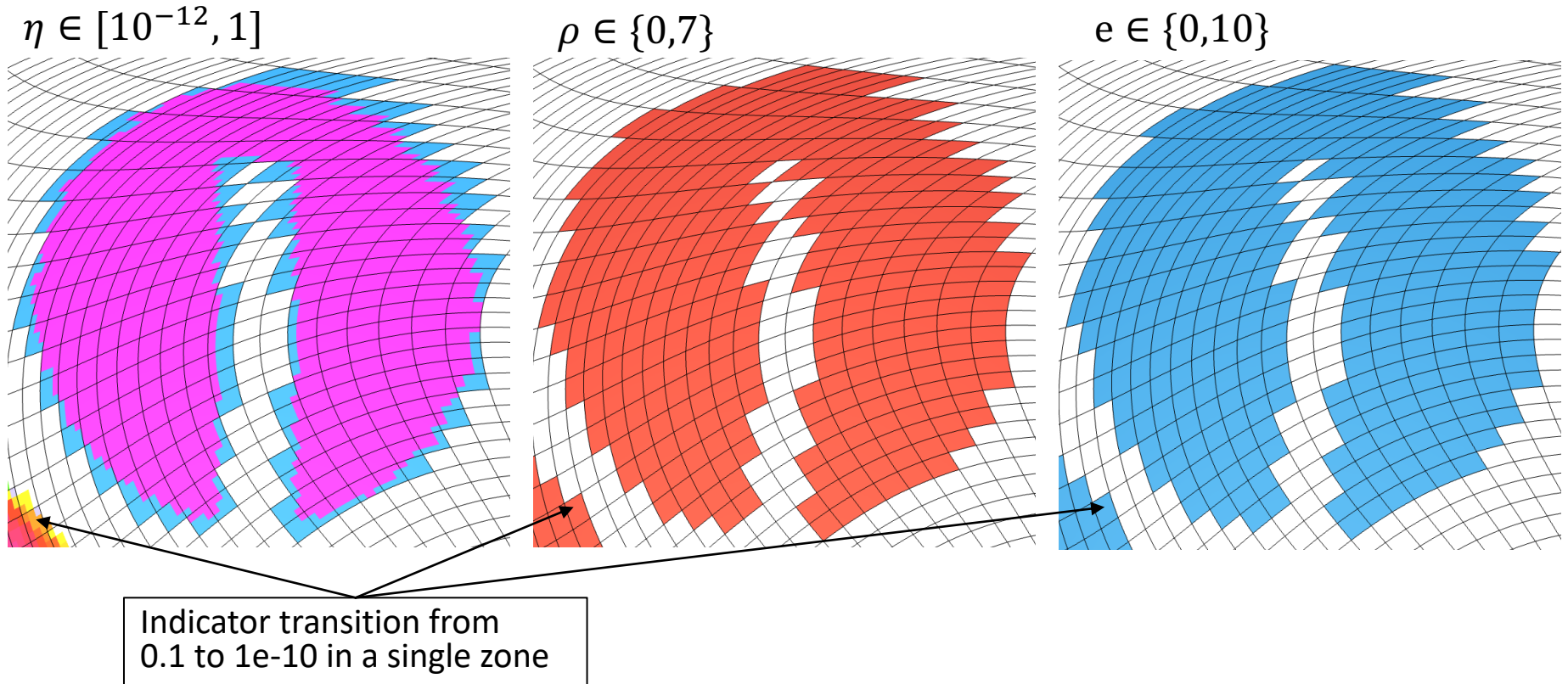
$$e \in \{0,10\}$$



Constant energy (FE function)
* constant over bool elements
* energy error 1e-11

- Constants are preserved exactly ($\rho = 7, e = 10$).
- Much better intuitive control of tiny volume fractions.

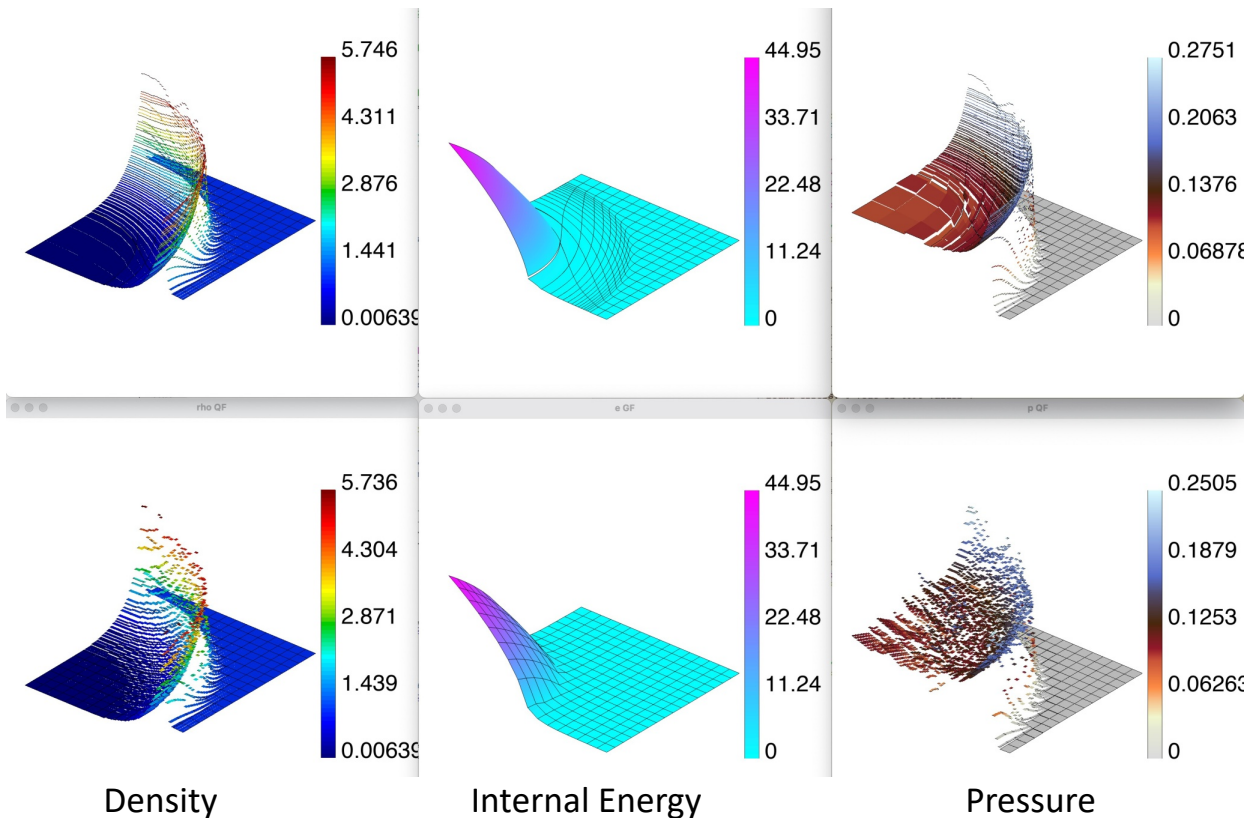
Remap of the (η, ρ, e) system: preservation of constant density and energy



- Matching spatial support for volume / mass / energy.
(Difficult with sharp nonlinear advection methods, especially with tiny indicators)

Remap of the (η, ρ, e) system: pressure control (control over derived fields)

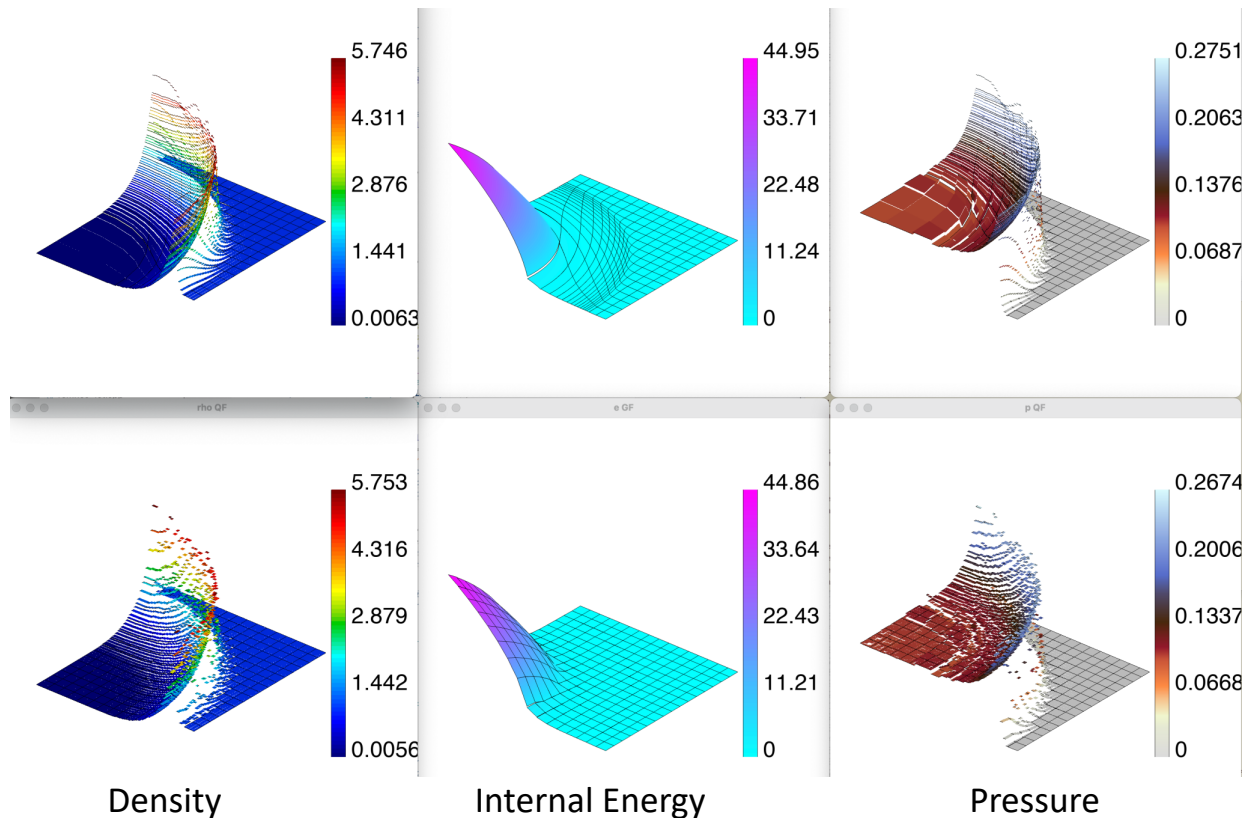
- Pressure $p(\rho, e)$ is a derived (nonlinear) field controlling the physical velocity.
- Additional requirement: avoid numerical oscillations in derived fields.



Remap of the (η, ρ, e) system: pressure control (control over derived fields)

- Approach: interpolate $p_0 \rightarrow p^*$ and include it in the objective.

$$\min_{\eta, \rho, e} (J(\eta, \rho, e) + \|p - p^*\|_{L^2})$$



Remap of the full (η, ρ, e, v) coupled system.

- Material indicator η is a Q-function.
- Material density ρ is a Q-function.
- Specific energy e is an L2 GridFunction.
- Velocity v is an H1 vector GridFunction.
- Don't form any product fields.
- Bounds are imposed directly on the primal (η, ρ, e, v) variables (simple).
- The coupling is in the *global* integrals.

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{\eta, \rho, e, v} \quad & J(\eta, \rho, e, v) \\ & \int_{\Omega_h} \eta = \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0, \\ & \int_{\Omega_h} \eta \rho = \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0 \rho^0 \\ & \int_{\Omega_h} \eta \rho v = \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0 \rho^0 v^0 \\ & \int_{\Omega_h} \eta \rho e + \frac{1}{2} \eta \rho v^2 = \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0 \rho^0 e^0 + \frac{1}{2} \eta^0 \rho^0 (v^0)^2 \\ & 0 \leq \eta_i^{\min} \leq \eta_i \leq \eta_i^{\max} \leq 1, \\ & e_i^{\min} \leq e_i \leq e_i^{\max} \\ & \rho_i^{\min} \leq \rho_i \leq \rho_i^{\max} \\ & v_{i,c}^{\min} \leq v_{i,c} \leq v_{i,c}^{\max} \end{aligned}$$

Remap of the full hydro (η, ρ, e, v) system.

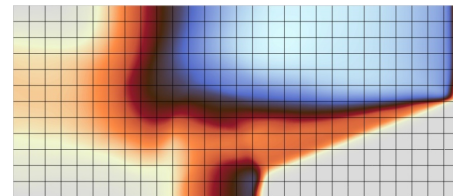
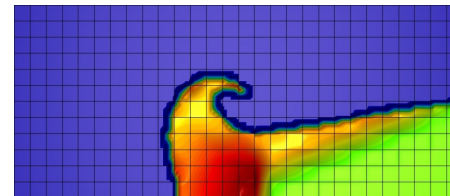
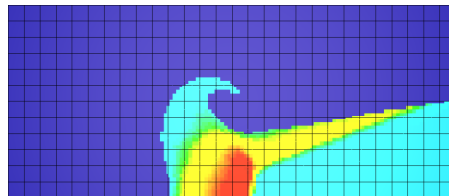
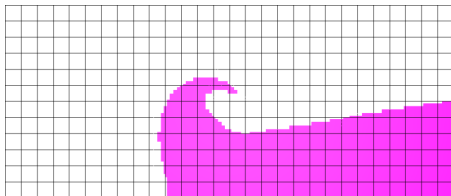
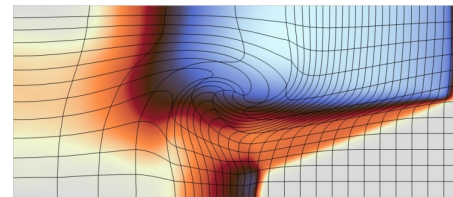
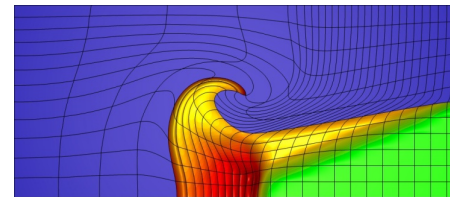
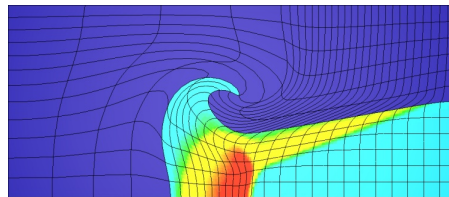
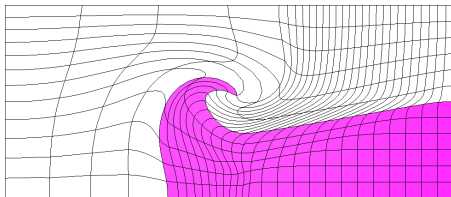
Volume interpolated diff: 1.6e-03
Volume optimized diff: 4.4e-15

Momentum (1) interpolated diff: 1.4e-03
Momentum (1) optimized diff: 1.1e-15

Mass interpolated diff: 6.2e-03
Mass optimized diff: -8.9e-15

Total energy interpolated diff: 1.1e-01
Total energy optimized diff: 1.9e-12

Triple Point Q3Q2, single ALE step to uniform mesh at $t = 3.5$:



Material Indicator

Mass

Internal Energy

Velocity Magnitude

Conclusions

- The optimization approach achieves all requirements.
- Optimization based formulations speeds up the remap process significantly.
- The artificial diffusion is decreased to a single cell.
- The optimization is scalable and easily parallelizable.
- Future work: formulations and algorithms for sum-to-one.



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