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# Transport Methods for the CAM Spectral Element Dynamical Core

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# Motivation

*Why are transport schemes so important?*

- Atmosphere is the most expensive component of CESM
- Tracer advection is 50% of total cost for 26 tracers
- With biogeochemistry 100-1000 tracers are needed

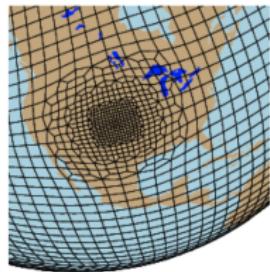
*Objective:*

- Implement and optimize new computationally efficient tracer advection algorithms for large numbers of tracer species that
  - work on fully unstructured grids
  - exploit the fact that we will be transporting hundreds of species



**ACES4BGC**

Applying Computationally Efficient Schemes for  
BioGeochemical Cycles



# Transport Problem

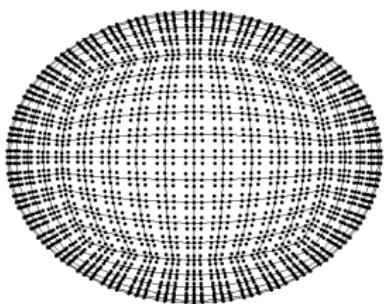
*A tracer, represented by its mixing ratio  $q$  and mass  $\rho q$ , is transported in the flow with velocity  $\mathbf{u}$*

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \rho \mathbf{u} &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial \rho q}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \rho q \mathbf{u} &= 0 \end{aligned} \right\} \rightarrow \frac{Dq}{Dt} = 0$$

*Solution methods should satisfy*

- local conservation of  $\rho q$
- monotonicity or bounds preservation of  $q$
- consistency between  $q$  and  $\rho$  (free stream preserving)

# Spectral Element Dynamical Core



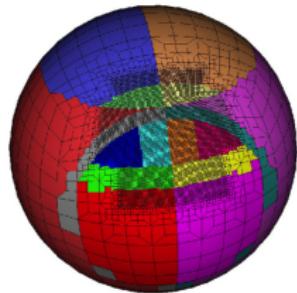
- Continuous Galerkin finite element method using Gauss-Lobatto quadrature
- Generally runs on the cubed sphere grid, but applicable to any unstructured quadrilateral grid on the sphere

Advection using the standard spectral element method with high-degree polynomials is accurate, but expensive due time step restrictions, and results can be quite oscillatory

*We are pursuing two different approaches for advection that will work for large time steps on unstructured grids*

# 1. Extension of CSLAM with Exact Cell Intersections

- In collaboration with I. Grindeanu (ANL)
- Semi-Lagrangian finite volume approach to advection
- Intersections for unstructured polygonal grids in spherical geometry from MOAB



## *Advantages*

- Allows for long time steps
- Tracer mass conserving and free stream preserving
- Geometric quantities are only computed once so cost is independent of number of tracers

## *Disadvantages*

- Expensive to compute cell intersections
- Requires separate finite volume grid

## 2. Semi-Lagrangian Spectral Element

- In collaboration P. Bochev, D. Ridzal, J. Overfelt (SNL)
- Nodal Semi-Lagrangian approach to advection
- Combined with optimization approach to maintain bounds and mass conservation

### *Advantages*

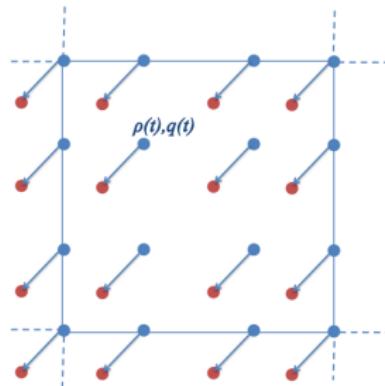
- Allows for long time steps
- Efficient, does not require geometric computations
- Fits naturally with native spectral element method used in CAM-SE

### *Disadvantages*

- Requires optimization or other approach to ensure mass conservation

# Semi-Lagrangian Spectral Element Tracer Transport

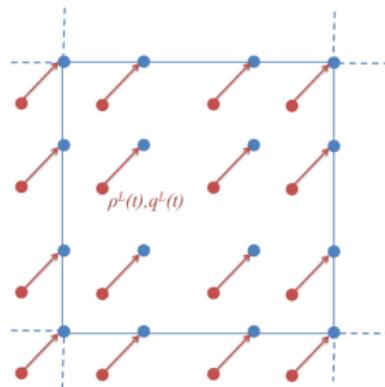
- Consider a cell with density  $\rho$  and tracer  $q$  values at GLL nodes at time  $t$
- Compute backward Lagrangian trajectories of each node



# Semi-Lagrangian Spectral Element Tracer Transport

- Consider a cell with density  $\rho$  and tracer  $q$  values at GLL nodes at time  $t$
- Compute backward Lagrangian trajectories of each node
- Map Eulerian nodal values to Lagrangian nodes using spectral element basis

$$q_j^L(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n\text{Nodes}} q_i \phi_i(\mathbf{x}_j^L)$$

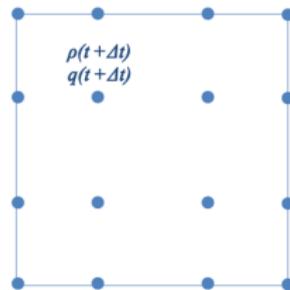


# Semi-Lagrangian Spectral Element Tracer Transport

- Consider a cell with density  $\rho$  and tracer  $q$  values at GLL nodes at time  $t$
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$$q_j^L(t) = \sum_{i=1}^{n\text{Nodes}} q_i \phi_i(\mathbf{x}_j^L)$$

- Lagrangian update of tracer values  
 $q^T(t + \Delta t) = q^L(t)$
- Perform optimization step



# Optimization

## Objective

$$\|\tilde{q} - q^T\|$$

minimize the distance  
between the solution and a  
suitable target

## Target

$$\partial_t q^T + \mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla q^T = 0$$

stable and accurate solution,  
not required to possess all  
desired physical properties

## Constraints

$$q^{min} \leq \tilde{q} \leq q^{max}$$

$$\sum \tilde{m}_i \tilde{q}_i = Q$$

desired physical properties  
viewed as constraints

## *Advantages*

- Solution is globally optimal with respect to the target and desired physical properties
- Decouples accuracy from enforcement of physical properties

# Optimization Algorithm

Based on the Optimization-Based Remap Algorithm (Bochev, Ridzal, Shashkov, JCP 2013)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{minimize} \quad \frac{1}{2} \|\tilde{q} - q^T\|_{\ell_2}^2 \quad \text{subject to} \\ \sum_{i=1}^N \tilde{m}_i \tilde{q}_i = Q, \quad q_i^{\min} \leq \tilde{q} \leq q_i^{\max} \end{array} \right.$$

*Singly linearly constrained quadratic program with simple bounds*

- Solve related separable problem (without mass constraint) first, cost  $O(C)$
- Satisfy the mass conservation constraint in a few secant iterations
- In serial, the optimization algorithm is as efficient as standard slope limiting or flux limiting techniques

# Optimization Algorithm

Define Lagrangian functional  $\mathcal{L} : \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\mathcal{L}(\tilde{q}, \lambda, \mu_1, \mu_2) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N (\tilde{q}_i - q_i^T)^2 - \lambda \sum_{i=1}^N \tilde{q}_i -$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \mu_{1,i} (\tilde{q}_i - q_i^{min}) - \sum_{i=1}^N \mu_{2,i} (q_i^{max} - \tilde{q}_i) ,$$

where  $\tilde{q} \in \mathbb{R}^C$  are the *primal optimization variables*, and  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\mu_1 \in \mathbb{R}^C$ , and  $\mu_2 \in \mathbb{R}^C$  are the *Lagrange multipliers*.

Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) conditions:

$$\tilde{q}_i = q_i^T + \lambda + \mu_{1,i} - \mu_{2,i}; \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

$$q_i^{min} \leq \tilde{q}_i \leq q_i^{max}; \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

$$\mu_{1,i} \geq 0, \quad \mu_{2,i} \geq 0; \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

$$\mu_{1,i} (\tilde{q}_i - q_i^{min}) = 0, \quad \mu_{2,i} (-\tilde{q}_i + q_i^{max}) = 0; \quad i = 1, \dots, N$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \tilde{m}_i \tilde{q}_i = Q$$

# Optimization Algorithm

Focus on conditions separable in the index  $i$ . For any *fixed* value of  $\lambda$  a solution is given by

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \tilde{q}_i = q_i^T + \lambda; & \mu_{1,i} = \mu_{2,i} = 0 \quad \text{if } q_i^{min} \leq q_i^T + \lambda \leq q_i^{max} \\ \tilde{q}_i = q_i^{min}; & \mu_{2,i} = 0, \quad \mu_{1,i} = \tilde{q}_i - q_i^T - \lambda \quad \text{if } q_i^T + \lambda < q_i^{min} \\ \tilde{q}_i = q_i^{max}; & \mu_{1,i} = 0, \quad \mu_{2,i} = q_i^T - \tilde{q}_i + \lambda \quad \text{if } q_i^T + \lambda > q_i^{max}, \end{array} \right.$$

for all  $i = 1, \dots, N$ .

Ignoring  $\mu_1$  and  $\mu_2$  and treating  $\tilde{q}_i$  as a function of  $\lambda$  yields

$$\tilde{q}_i(\lambda) = \text{median}(q_i^{min}, q_i^T + \lambda, q_i^{max}), \quad i = 1, \dots, N.$$

Adjust  $\lambda$  in outer iteration to satisfy  $\sum_{i=1}^N \tilde{m}_i \tilde{q}_i(\lambda) = Q$ .

The algorithm generally requires  $\leq 5$  outer secant iterations

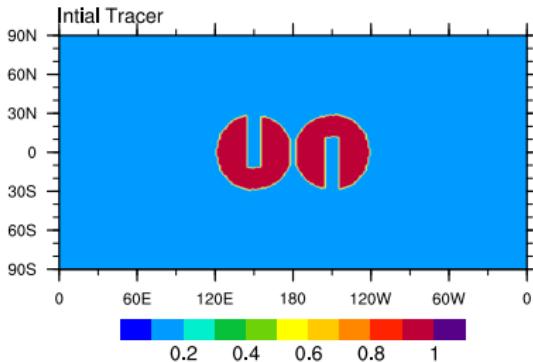
# Computational Examples

- Velocity fields
  - Solid body rotation
  - Nondivergent deformational flow field,  $T = 5$

$$u(\lambda, \theta, t) = 2 \sin^2(\lambda) \sin(2\theta) \cos(\pi t/T)$$

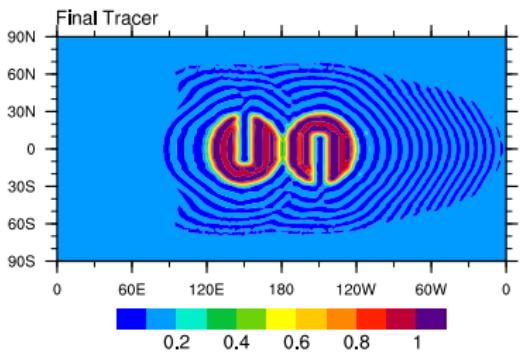
$$v(\lambda, \theta, t) = 2 \sin(2\lambda) \cos(\theta) \cos(\pi t/T)$$

- Tracer distribution: notched cylinders centered at  $(\lambda_1, \theta_1) = (5\pi/6, 0)$  and  $(\lambda_2, \theta_2) = (7\pi/6, 0)$

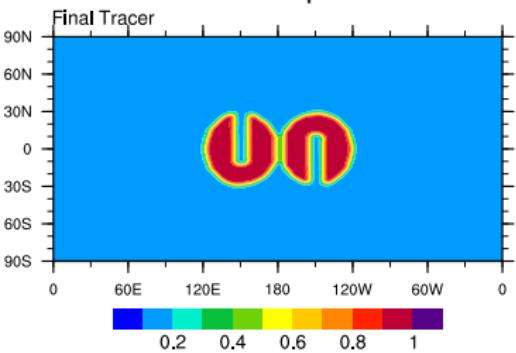


# Solid Body Rotation, 1.5° resolution

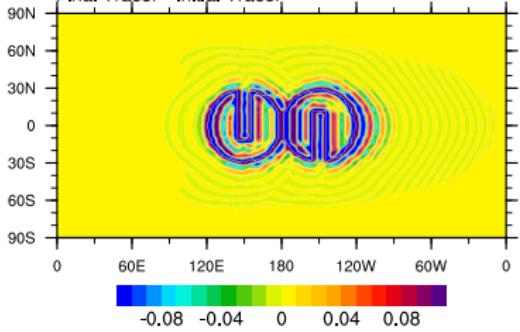
SE-SL



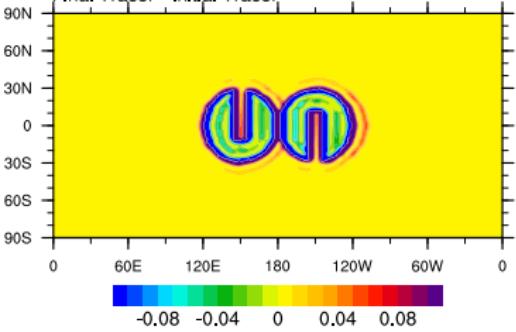
SE-SL Opt



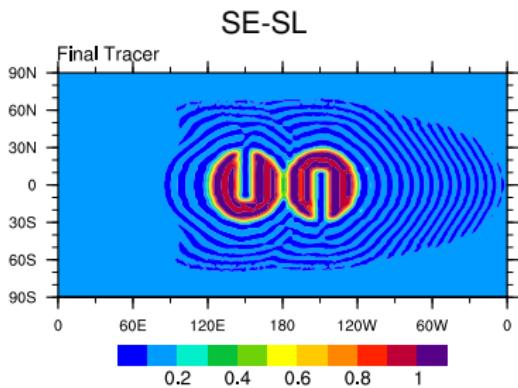
Final Tracer - Initial Tracer



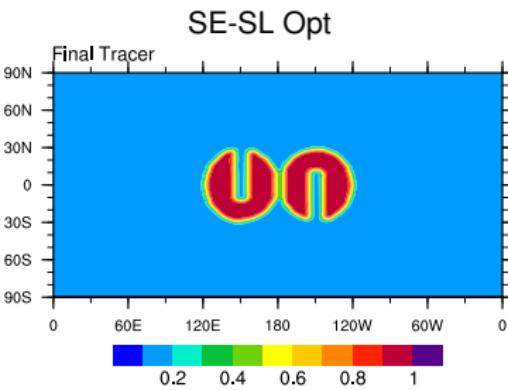
Final Tracer - Initial Tracer



# Solid Body Rotation, 1.5° resolution



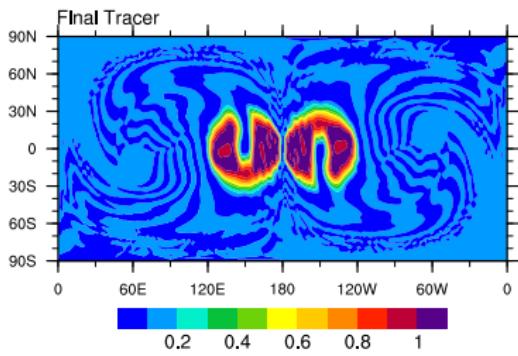
Mass error =  $-3.14e-3$   
Min value = -0.1223  
Max value = 1.2472



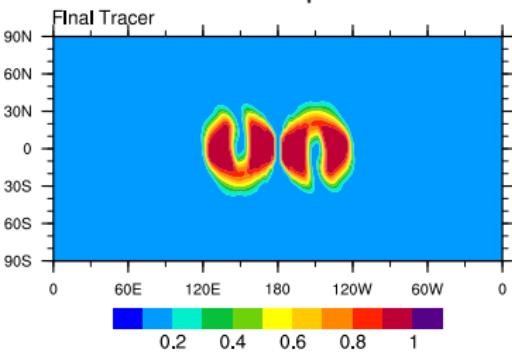
Mass error =  $1.4e-13$   
Min value = 0.1  
Max value = 1.0

# Deformational flow, $1.5^\circ$ resolution

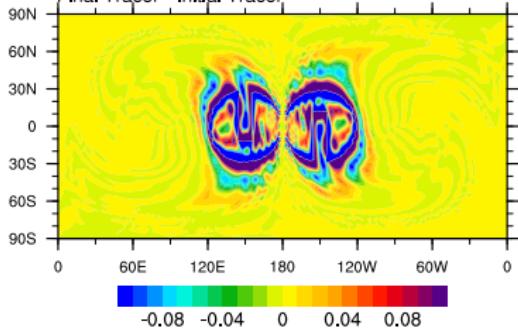
SE-SL



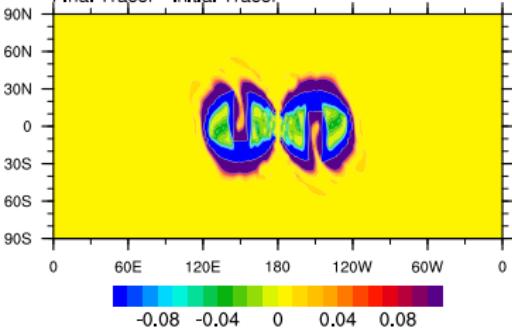
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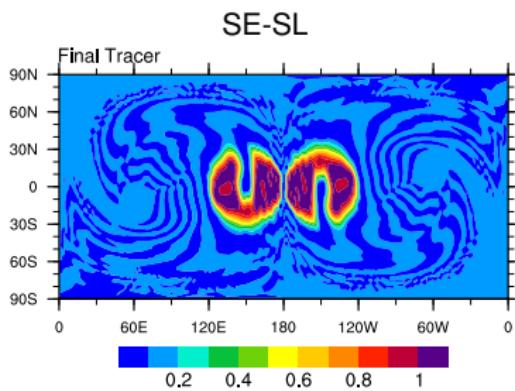
Final Tracer - Initial Tracer



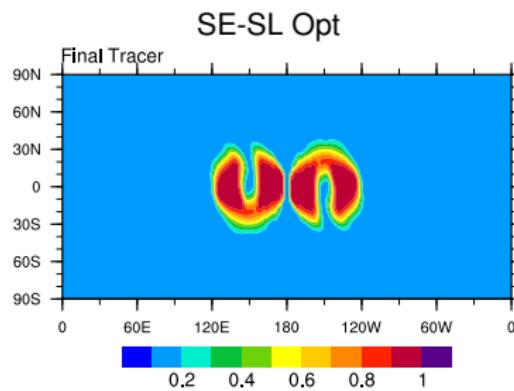
Final Tracer - Initial Tracer



# Deformational flow, 1.5° resolution



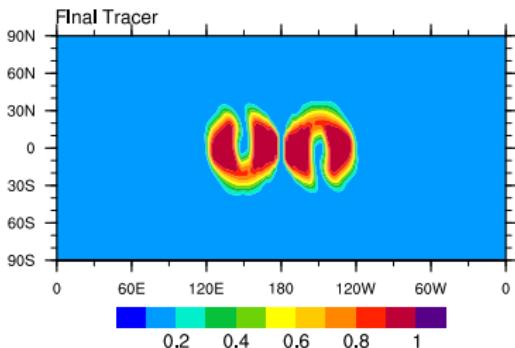
Mass error =  $-3.44\text{e-}3$   
 Min value = -0.1070  
 Max value = 1.1934



Mass error =  $1.69\text{e-}11$   
 Min value = 0.1  
 Max value = 0.9979

# Open Questions

- How to define bounds for optimization? All DOFs in surrounding cells? Nearest neighbor DOFs?
- Can we modify the target to improve the final solution using smoothness indicators?
- How will the method scale on many processors? Will the global sum for each secant iteration be problematic?



# Conclusions

- Pursuing two approaches to tracer transport in CAM-SE
  - CSLAM-based algorithm using cell intersections computed with MOAB
  - Semi-Lagrangian spectral element (SL-SE) algorithm using optimization to enforce mass conservation
- The SL-SE algorithm looks promising
  - Efficient, works for large time steps
  - Applicable to unstructured grids
  - Optimization algorithm successfully conserves mass and enforces bounds