



Sandia  
National  
Laboratories

*Exceptional service in the national interest*

# INTRODUCTION TO TRILINOS DISCRETIZATION AND ANALYSIS CAPABILITIES

Mauro Perego

*Sandia National Laboratories*

HPSF conference 2025,  
May 5-8, Chicago, IL



Sandia National Laboratories is a multimission laboratory managed and operated by National Technology & Engineering Solutions of Sandia, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Honeywell International Inc., for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration under contract DE-NA0003525.

S A N D 2 0 2 5 - 0 5 5 8 5 C

## DISCRETIZATION AND ANALYSIS PACKAGES



- Utility tools for Automatic differentiation and or graph-based field dependency manager
- Mesh tools (generation, storage, adaptation, level-sets)
- Discretizations (mostly finite elements, but also finite volume and mesh-free methods)
- Time integrators
- Analysis tools (sensitivities, numerical optimization, uncertainty quantifications)



## DISCRETIZATION AND ANALYSIS PACKAGES



Utilities		
Automatic differentiation	Sacado	Eric Phipps <etphipp@sandia.gov>
Graph-based field dependency manager	Phalanx	Roger Pawlowski <rppawlo@sandia.gov>
Mesh tools		
Mesh data structure	STK	Alan Williams <william@sandia.gov>
Level set tools	Krino	David Noble <drnoble@sandia.gov>
Spatial and temporal discretizations		
Particle-based discretization and data transfer	Compadre	Paul Kuberry <pakuber@sandia.gov>
Local finite element discretization	Intrepid2	Perego Mauro <mperego@sandia.gov> Nathan Roberts <nvrober@sandia.gov>
Time integration	Tempus	Curt Ober <ccober@sandia.gov>
Finite element library	Panzer	Roger Pawlowski <rppawlo@sandia.gov>
Analysis tools		
Uncertainty Quantification	Stokhos	Eric Phipps <etphipp@sandia.gov>
Constrained Optimization	ROL	Denis Ridzal <dridzal@sandia.gov>

## TRILINOS SHOWCASE VIA ICE-SHEET MODELING



*Ice-sheet modeling team:*

L. Bertagna, M. Carlson, K. Liegeois, J. Hu,  
M. Perego, J. Watkins, A. Salinger,  
I. Tezaur, R. Tuminaro - [Sandia](#)  
T. Hillebrand, M. Hoffman, S. Price - [LANL](#)

## SOFTWARE: MPAS-ALBANY LAND ICE MODEL (MALI)



CAPABILITY	SOFTWARE TOOLS
Finite Elements ice-sheet solver	Albany
Constrained Optimization	ROL
Nonlinear solver	NOX
Time integration	Tempus
Krylov linear solvers/Prec	Belo/MueLu, FROSch
Automatic differentiation	Sacado
Field Dependency manager	Phalanx
Global DoF numbering	Panzer – DoF manager
Mesh data structure	STK
Nodal Finite element	Intrepid2



### References:

1. Watkins et al., IJHPCA, 2023
2. Hoffman et al. GMD, 2018
3. Tuminaro, Perego, Tezaur, Salinger, Price, SISC, 2016.
4. Tezaur, Perego, Salinger, Tuminaro, Price, Hoffman, GMD, 2015
5. Perego, Price, Stadler, JGR, 2014

## SOFTWARE: MPAS-ALBANY LAND ICE MODEL (MALI)

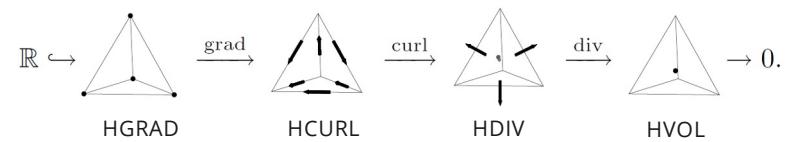


CAPABILITY	SOFTWARE TOOLS
Finite Elements ice-sheet solver	Albany 
Constrained Optimization	ROL
Nonlinear solver	NOX
Time integration	Tempus
Krylov linear solvers/Prec	Belos/MueLu, FROSch
Automatic differentiation	Sacado
Field Dependency manager	Phalanx
Global DoF numbering	Panzer – DoF manager
Mesh data structure	STK
Nodal Finite element	Intrepid2



### *Intrepid2* (local discretizations)

- High-order FEM bases:
  - Lagrangian, hierarchical, serendipity
  - Full De-Rham complex  
(HGRAD-HCURL-HDIV-HVOL)
  - Orientation tools for matching DoFs
- Mappings between reference and physical elements
- Quadrature rules, Cell tools (e.g., inclusion tests)
- Projection tools
- kernels for integration exploiting structure:  
Tensor product, Extruded elements, Affine meshes



## SOFTWARE: MPAS-ALBANY LAND ICE MODEL (MALI)



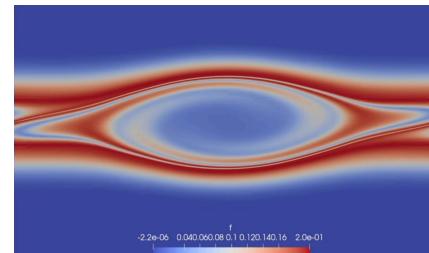
CAPABILITY	SOFTWARE TOOLS
Finite Elements ice-sheet solver	Albany 
Constrained Optimization	ROL
Nonlinear solver	NOX
Time integration	Tempus
Krylov linear solvers/Prec	Belos/MueLu, FROSch
Automatic differentiation	Sacado
Field Dependency manager	Phalanx
Global DoF numbering	Panzer – DoF manager
Mesh data structure	STK
Nodal Finite element	Intrepid2



### *Intrepid2* (local discretizations)

- High-order FEM bases:
  - Lagrangian, hierarchical, serendipity
  - Full De-Rham complex (HGRAD-HCURL-HDIV-HVOL)
  - Orientation tools for matching DoFs
- Mappings between reference and physical elements
- Quadrature rules, Cell tools (e.g., inclusion tests)
- Projection tools
- kernels for integration exploiting structure: Tensor product, Extruded elements, Affine meshes

Applications: MHD, Vlasov, solid mechanics, etc.



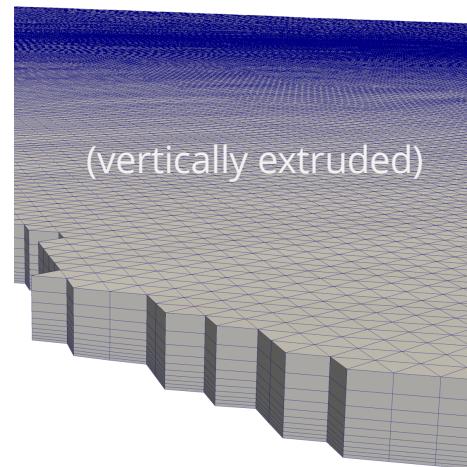
Phase-field distribution of Vlasov two-stream instability problem: Camellia simulation, courtesy of Nathan Roberts

## SOFTWARE: MPAS-ALBANY LAND ICE MODEL (MALI)

CAPABILITY	SOFTWARE TOOLS
Finite Elements ice-sheet solver	Albany
Constrained Optimization	ROL
Nonlinear solver	NOX
Time integration	Tempus
Krylov linear solvers/Prec	Belos/MueLu, FROSch
Automatic differentiation	Sacado
Field Dependency manager	Phalanx
► Global DoF numbering	Panzer – DoF manager
► Mesh data structure	STK
Nodal Finite element	Intrepid2



*STK mesh:*



*Panzer DoF manager:*

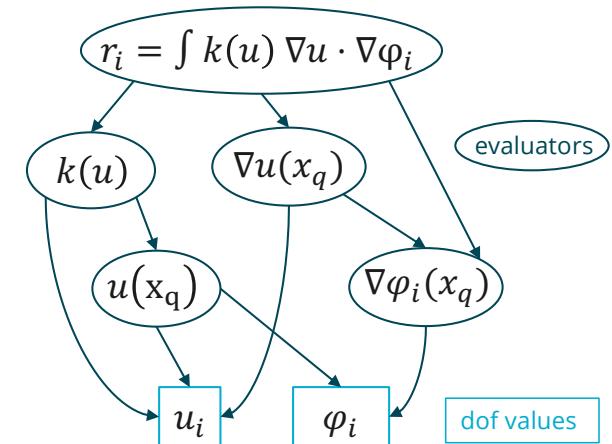
Global DoF numbered based on local FE DoFs, solution fields and mesh connectivity.  
Important for Multiphysics problems with nonnodal FE spaces

## SOFTWARE: MPAS-ALBANY LAND ICE MODEL (MALI)

CAPABILITY	SOFTWARE TOOLS
Finite Elements ice-sheet solver	Albany
Constrained Optimization	ROL
Nonlinear solver	NOX
Time integration	Tempus
Krylov linear solvers/Prec	Belos/MueLu, FROSch
Automatic differentiation	Sacado
► Field Dependency manager	Phalanx
Global DoF numbering	Panzer – DoF manager
Mesh data structure	STK
Nodal Finite element	Intrepid2



**Phalanx\*** Field Dependency manager



Direct Acyclic Graph (DAG) of dependencies

\*Notz, Pawlowski and Sutherland; ACM Trans. Math., 2012

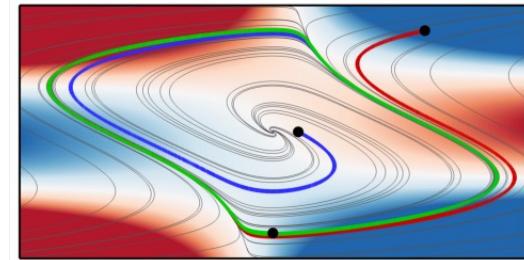
## SOFTWARE: MPAS-ALBANY LAND ICE MODEL (MALI)

CAPABILITY	SOFTWARE TOOLS
Finite Elements ice-sheet solver	Albany
Constrained Optimization	ROL
Nonlinear solver	NOX
► Time integration	Tempus
Krylov linear solvers/Prec	Belos/MueLu, FROSch
Automatic differentiation	Sacado
Field Dependency manager	Phalanx
Global DoF numbering	Panzer – DoF manager
Mesh data structure	STK
Nodal Finite element	Intrepid2



### **Tempus**, Time integration

- Many explicit and implicit steppers: BDF, RK, IMEX, Leapfrog, ...
- Adaptive time-stepping
- (Adjoint) sensitivity analysis
- Interfaces with NOX/ROL



*Courtesy of C. Ober*

## ICE-SHEET MODEL CALIBRATION - DETERMINISTIC

Goal: Find the initial/present-day thermo-mechanical state of the ice sheet and estimate the unknown/poorly known model parameters, by matching observations

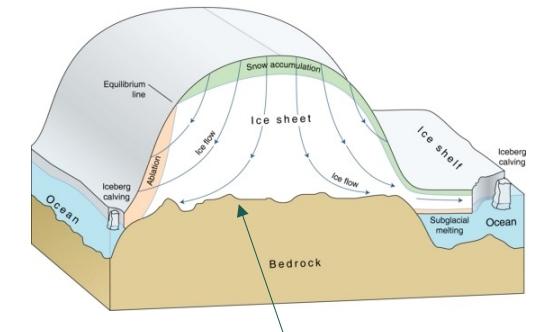
Approach: **PDE-constrained optimization**

Find basal friction coefficient  $\beta = \exp(\theta)$  that minimizes the mismatch with surface velocity:

$$\min_{\theta} \mathcal{J}(\theta, u) = \int_{\Omega} \frac{|u - u_{obs}|^2}{\sigma^2} + \mathcal{R}(\theta)$$

Subject to the coupled ice flow problem (constraint).  
The constraint maps  $\theta \rightarrow u(\theta)$ .

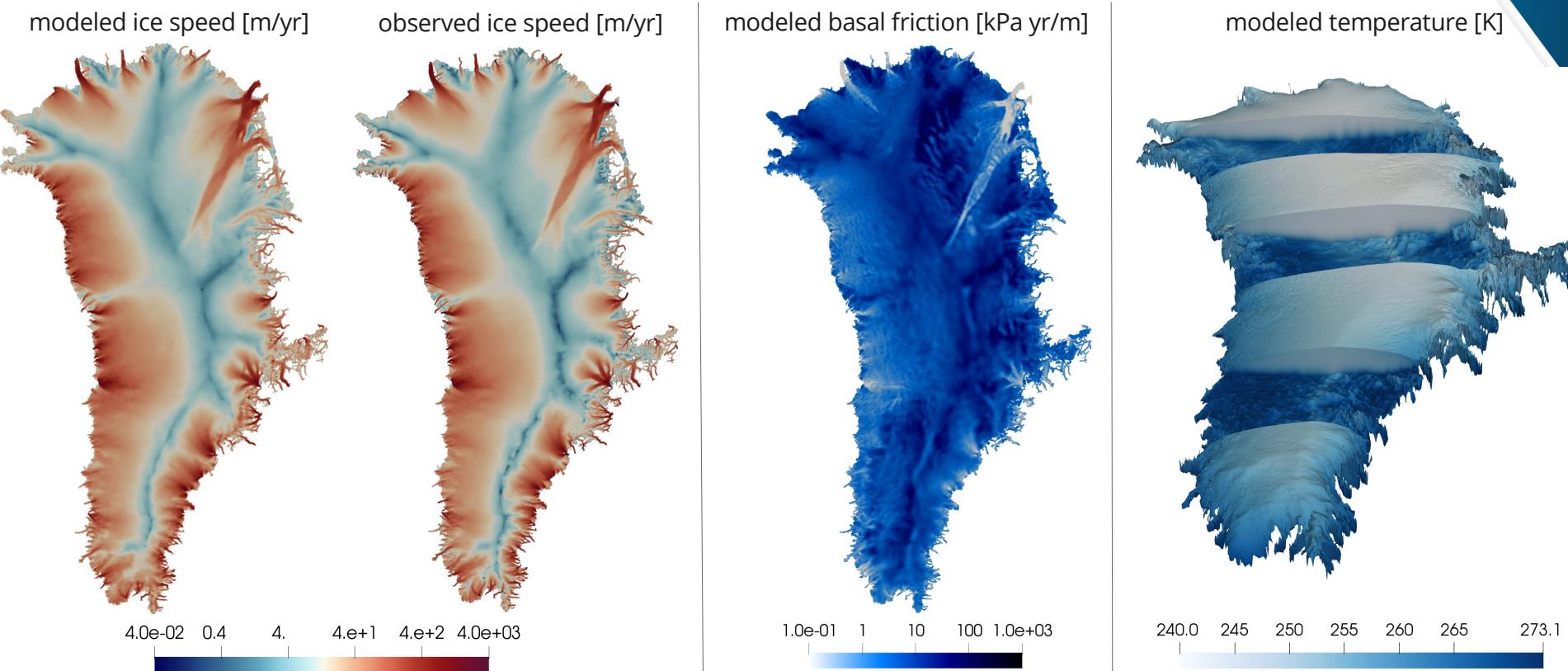
Typical regularization term:  $\mathcal{R}(\theta) = \alpha_0 |\theta|^2 + \alpha_1 |\nabla \theta|^2$



unknown sliding  
parameter  $\beta = \exp(\theta)$



## THERMO-MECHANICAL CALIBRATION OF GREENLAND ICE SHEET



Variable resolution 1-10km mesh, **300K parameters, 14M unknowns**.

The optimization is constrained by the **coupled velocity-temperature** solvers. As a byproduct of the optimization we get an initial temperature field that is consistent with the velocity.

## ICE-SHEET MODEL CALIBRATION



Numerical Optimization approach:

- **Trust Region method (Lin-Moré)**, using truncated CG for solving the quadratic subproblem. Requires computation of reduced gradient ( $\nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{J}$ , first total derivative of  $\mathcal{J}$ ) and reduced Hessian ( $\nabla_{\theta\theta} \mathcal{J}$ , second total derivative of  $\mathcal{J}$ ) to create a quadratic approximation of the objective  $\mathcal{J}$ .
- All first and second order derivatives are computed using **Automatic Differentiation** and **adjoints**.

### ROL requires

- Definition of a Vector (and operations like sum, norm, dot product)  
we use Tpetra::MultiVector
- For a given guess for  $\theta$ , ROL requires  $\mathcal{J}(\theta)$  and its first and second derivatives.



RAPID OPTIMIZATION LIBRARY



## ICE-SHEET MODEL CALIBRATION – HESSIAN COMPUTATION WITH AD

PDE-constrained optimization methods benefit from Gradients and Hessian mat-vec products, computed with Automatic Differentiation (AD) using Sacado package:

➤ Gradient       $\partial_{\theta} \mathcal{J}(\theta)$

Sacado derivative type (value + derivs)

$\mathcal{J}$	$\mathcal{J}_{\theta_0}$	$\mathcal{J}_{\theta_1}$	$\mathcal{J}_{\theta_2}$	...
---------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-----

➤ Hessian       $\partial_{\theta\theta} \mathcal{J}(\theta) \mathbf{v} = \partial_r (\partial_{\theta} \mathcal{J}(\theta + r \mathbf{v})) \Big|_{r=0}$

Sacado nested derivatives (2d array)

$\mathcal{J}$	$\mathcal{J}_{\theta_0}$	$\mathcal{J}_{\theta_1}$	$\mathcal{J}_{\theta_2}$	...
$\mathcal{J}_r$	$\mathcal{J}_{\theta_0,r}$	$\mathcal{J}_{\theta_1,r}$	$\mathcal{J}_{\theta_2,r}$	...

*Sacado* provides specializations for Kokkos views to efficiently handle derivative types.  
Layout of Sacado type can be chosen to effectively use architectures and boost parallelism\*

\*Phipps, Pawlowski and Trott; ACM Transactions on Mathematical Software, 2022

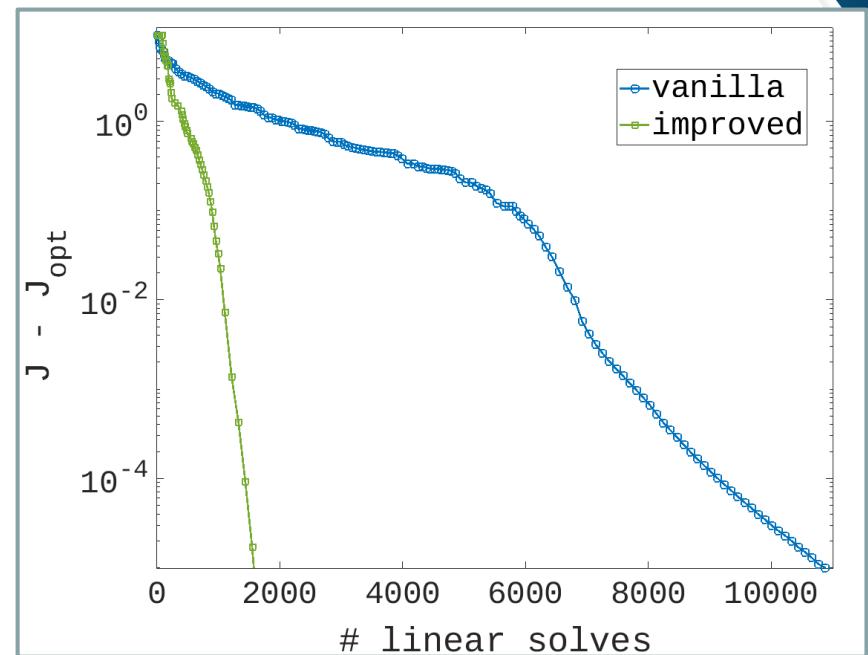
# ICE SHEET CALIBRATION: PDE CONSTRAINED OPTIMIZATION



- Cost is often dominated by evaluation of reduced Hessian (and in particular by the assembly phase)

## Improved Strategy using ROL advanced features:

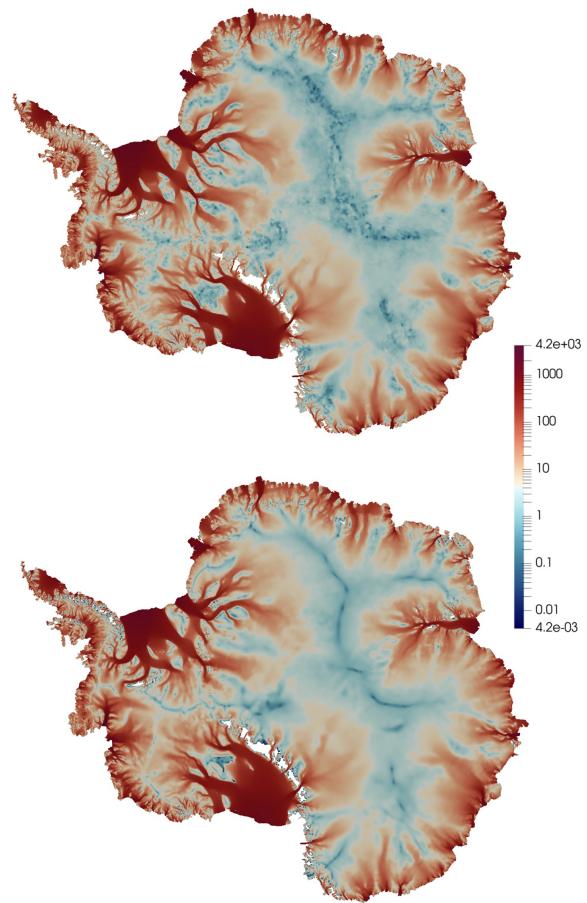
- Use **mass-based dot-product** to define the gradient.  
Gradient  $\mathcal{G}$  is given by  $\nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{J} v = (\mathcal{G}, v)$ .  
Instead of  $(u, v)_{L^2} = u^t v$ , use  $(u, v)_{L^2} = u^t M v$ . Here  $M$  is the lumped mass matrix.  
Hence  $\mathcal{G} := M^{-1} \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{J}$ .
- Use **preconditioner** for the reduced Hessian:
  - Use a low-rank approximation of the reduced Hessian (e.g., BFGS) as preconditioner,
  - Initialize BFGS with  $\nabla_{pp} \mathcal{R}(p)$



Problem: Optimization to initialize Humboldt glacier  
Ice velocity depends on friction parameter. Ice  
temperature held constant.

# ICE SHEET CALIBRATION: ANTARCTIC ICE SHEET

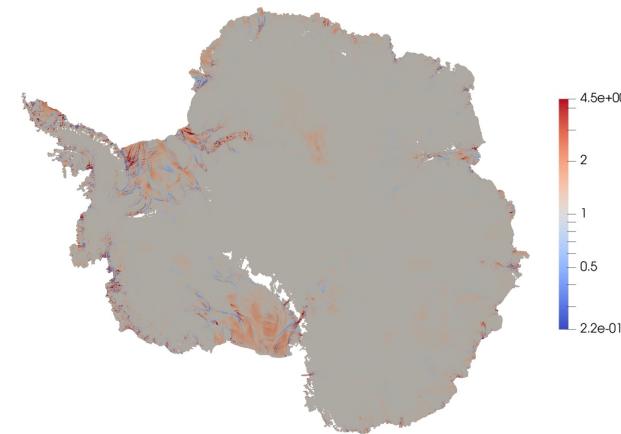
observed ice speed [m/yr]



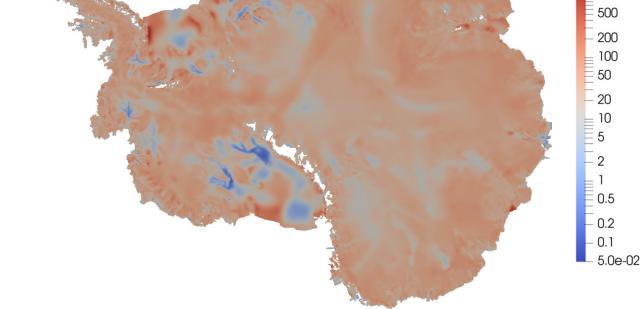
$4.2 \times 10^3$   
1000  
100  
10  
1  
0.1  
0.01  
 $4.2 \times 10^{-3}$

modeled ice speed [m/yr]

Stiffening factor



$4.5 \times 10^0$   
4  
2  
1  
0.5  
 $2.2 \times 10^{-1}$



$2.0 \times 10^3$   
1000  
500  
100  
50  
10  
2  
0.5  
0.2  
0.1  
 $5.0 \times 10^{-2}$

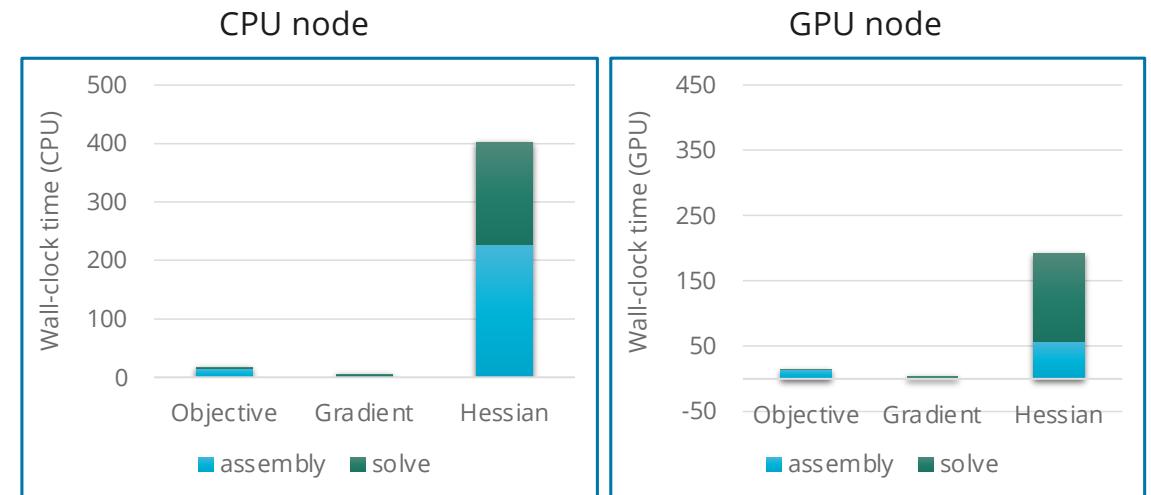
## ICE SHEET CALIBRATION: PDE CONSTRAINED OPTIMIZATION



- Cost is often dominated by evaluation of reduced Hessian (specifically by the assembly phase)

Perlmutter architecture

CPU node: 2 AMD Milan (64 cores each)  
 GPU node: 1 AMD Milan + 4 NVIDIA A100



Problem: Optimization to initialize Antarctic glacier  
 Ice velocity depends on friction parameter and  
 stiffening. Ice temperature held constant.

## HOW TO USE TRILINOS TOOLS IN YOUR APPLICATION



## ADOPTING TRILINOS TOOLS IN FINITE ELEMENT APPLICATIONS



Your Case	You can use	Notes
I'd like to add advanced capabilities to my application with not-too-intrusive changes	<b>Intrepid2 w/ Dof Manager, (py)ROL</b>	Approach used by <i>Camellia, Sierra, Plato, ..</i> Easy to interface w/ (py)ROL
I like the Trilinos model evaluator concept and AD. I'm happy to restructure my application.	<b>Intrepid2, Sacado, Phalanx, Tempus</b> <b>(Py)ROL</b>	Approach used by <i>Albany</i> Application in charge of mesh, assembly, solvers.
I love everything Trilinos, I'm starting from scratch.	<b>Panzer</b>	Panzer provides Mesh I/O, space and time discretization, linear and nonlinear solvers, sensitivities and optimization solvers <i>Drekar, Empire</i> use this approach.

## INCOMPLETE LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS AND SPONSOR

### Contributors:

Ross Bartlett,  
Pavel Bochev,  
Brian Carnes,  
Eric Cyr,  
Carter Edward,  
Nathan Ellingwood,  
Christian Glusa,  
Kyngjoo Kim,  
Drew Kouri,  
Paul Kuberry  
Kim Liegeois,  
David Noble,  
Roger Pawlowski,  
Mauro Perego,  
Kara Peterson,  
Eric Phipps,  
Curt Ober,  
Denis Ridzal,

### Sponsors:

