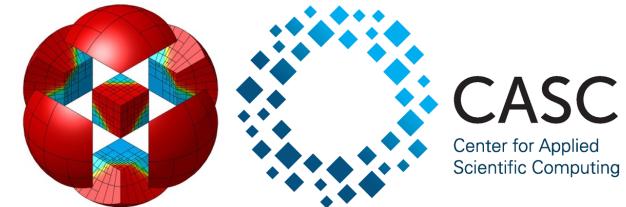


# Remap through Interpolation and Optimization (with application to multi-material ALE hydro)

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

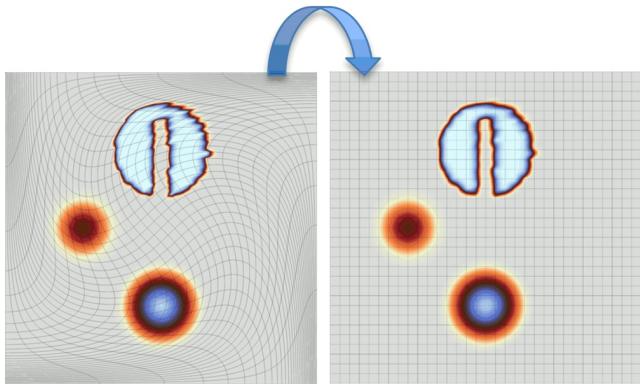


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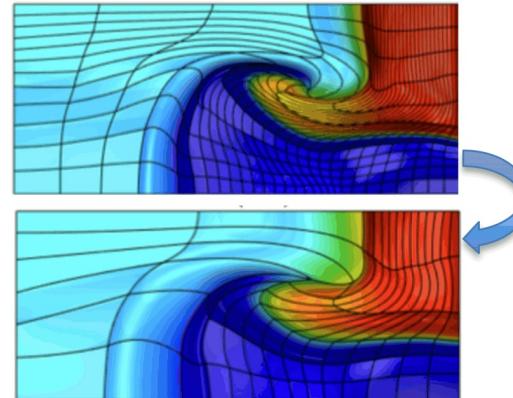


# The remap problem is theoretically challenging and has high practical importance

- 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.

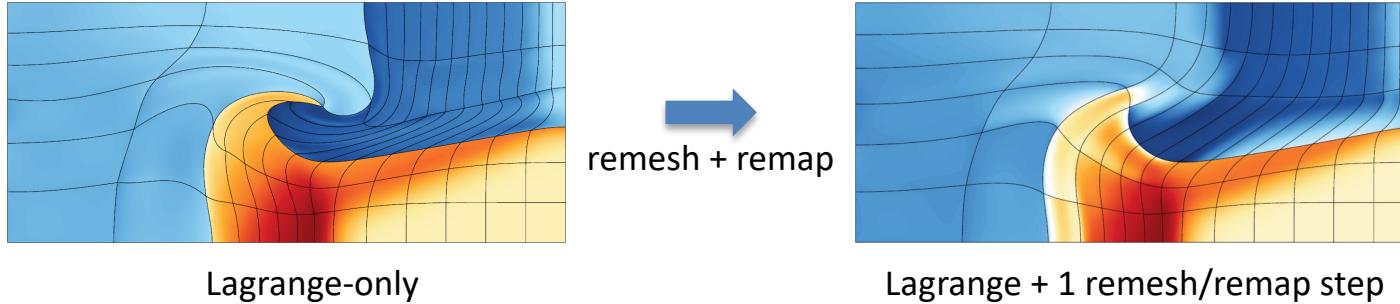
## Requirements:

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

$$\int_{\Omega} \eta_k = \int_{\Omega^0} \eta_k^0$$

$$\int_{\Omega} \eta_k \rho_k = \int_{\Omega^0} \eta_k^0 \rho_k^0$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- [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

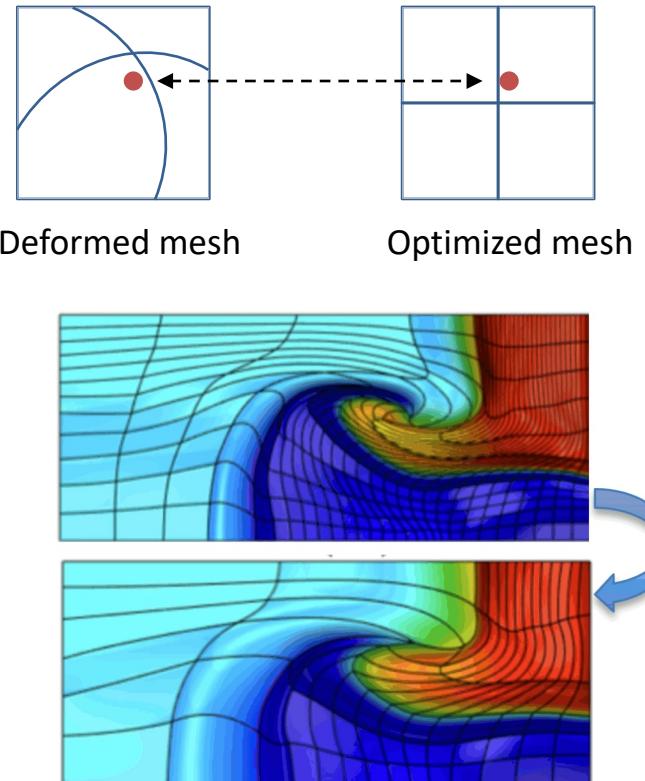
1. Get a sharp initial guess through GSLIB interpolation (no conservation).  
 $(\eta_k^0, \rho_k^0, e_k^0, v^0) \rightarrow (\eta_k^*, \rho_k^*, e_k^*, v^*)$
2. Improve the guess (through optimization) to recover all physical properties.

$$\min_x (F(x) = ||x - x^*||), \text{ subject to all constraints; } x = (\eta_k, \rho_k, e_k, v)$$

- 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

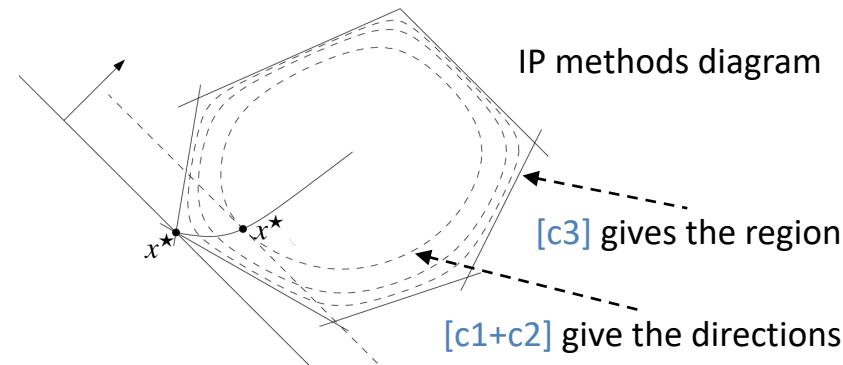
# Step 2: tackle the optimization problem with HiOp's interior point methods

- 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.

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

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)?



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

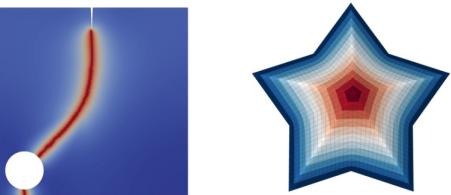
# Step 2: tackle the optimization problem with the Latent Variable Proximal Point method

- 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.

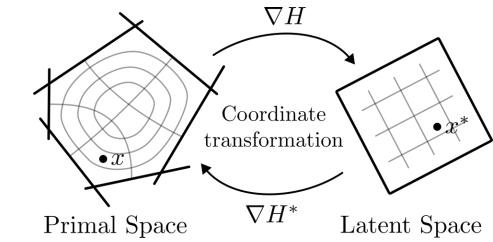
$$\min_x \max_{\lambda} \left( F(x) + \lambda \left[ \int_{\Omega} \eta - \int_{\Omega^0} \eta^0 \right] + \dots + \frac{1}{\mu} H(x) \right), \quad H(x) = \int_{\Omega} (x_i - x_i^{\min}) \log(x_i - x_i^{\min}) + \int_{\Omega} (x_i^{\max} - x_i) \log(x_i^{\max} - x_i)$$

- Form a sequence of solutions (equivalent formulation):

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



LVPP tests in MFEM: Fracture, Eikonal solver



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

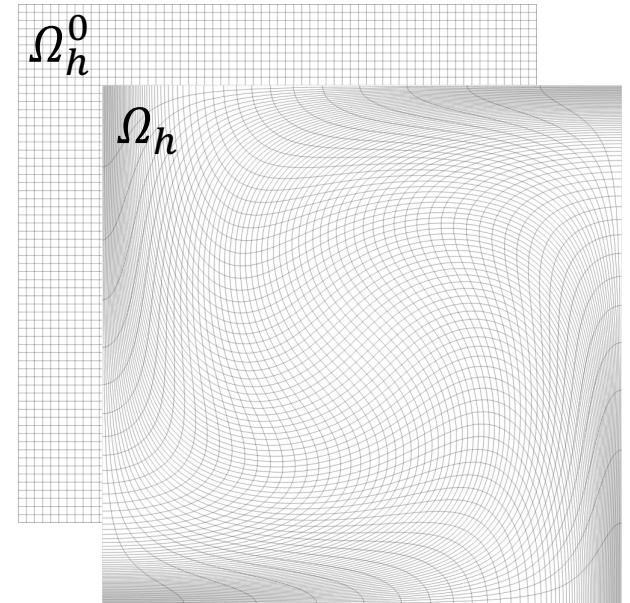
$$\sum_k \eta_k(x) = 1$$

# Remap of scalar L2 GridFunctions

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

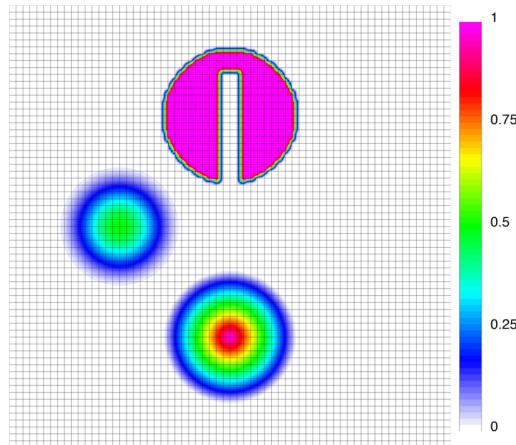
$$\int_{\Omega_h} \eta = \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0,$$

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

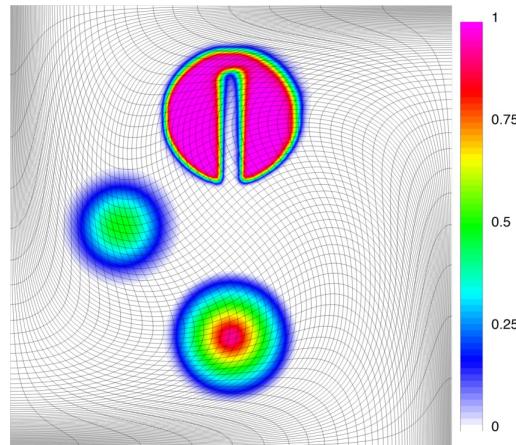


- The initial guess  $\eta^*$  is obtained through interpolation in physical space (*GSLIB*). (interpolated directly at support nodes of the DOFs)
- The min and max in an element  $K$  are taken from the elements in intersects.
- Solution existence: 
$$\int_{\Omega_h} \eta^{\min} dx \leq \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0 dx \leq \int_{\Omega_h} \eta^{\max} dx$$

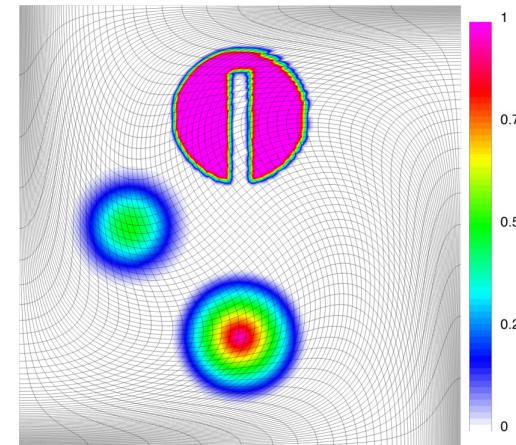
# Remap of scalar L2 GridFunctions (2D result)



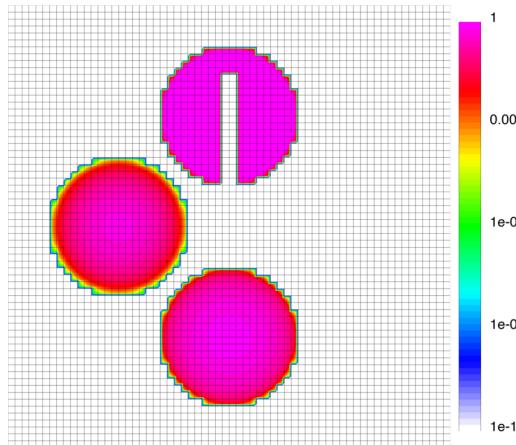
Initial condition



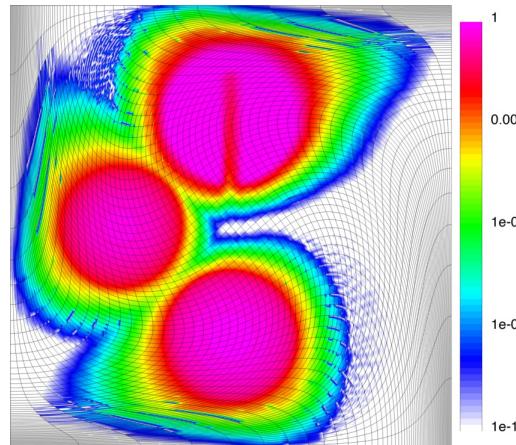
Advection solution (256 RK3)  
46s, 9.8e-9 mass error



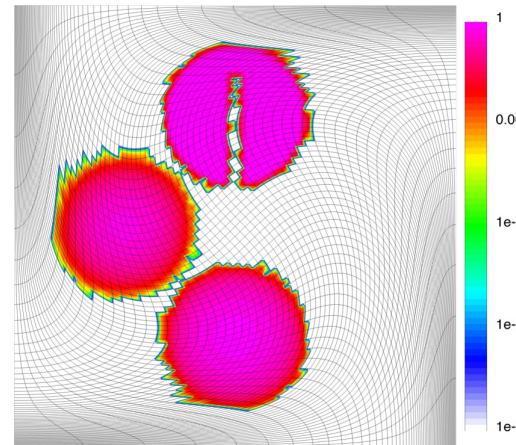
HiOp solution  
1.4s, 2.5e-14 mass error



Initial condition (log)

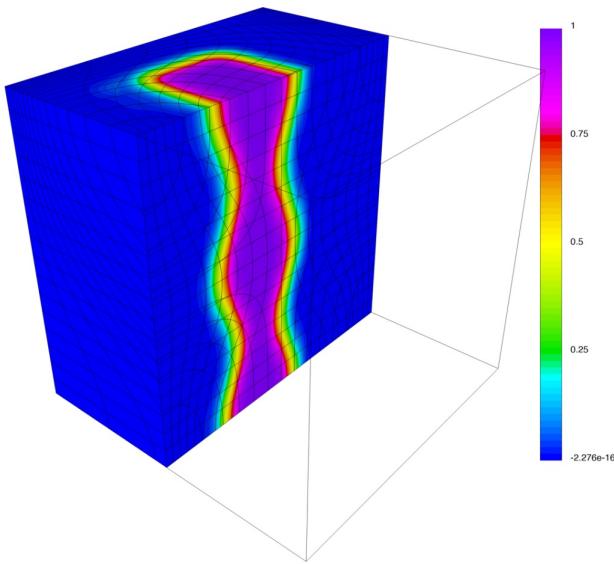


Advection solution (log)

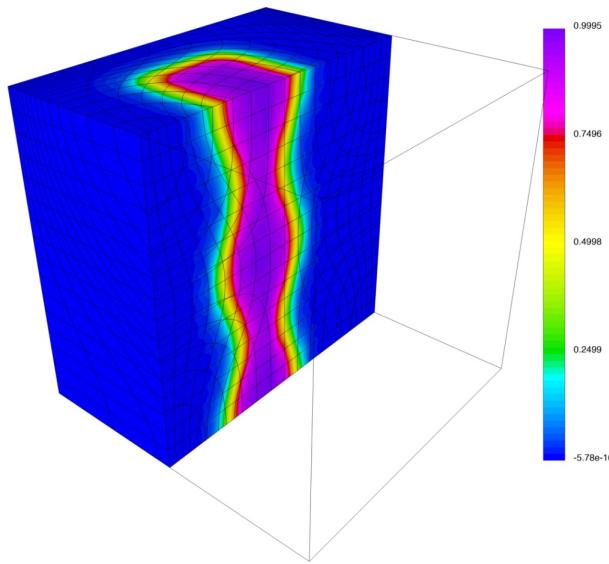


HiOp solution (log)

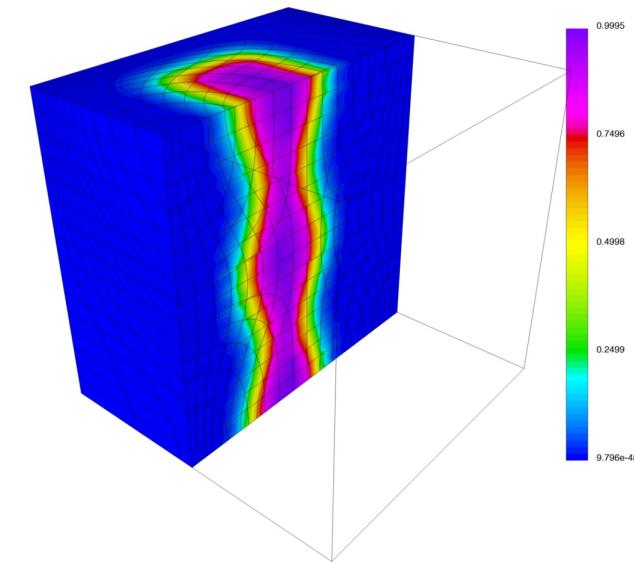
# Remap of scalar L2 GridFunctions (3D result)



advection solution  
mass error: 3.93e-5  
time: 68s



HiOp solution  
mass error: 2.35e-16  
time: 1.9s



LVPP solution  
mass error: 1.52e-16  
time: 1.2s

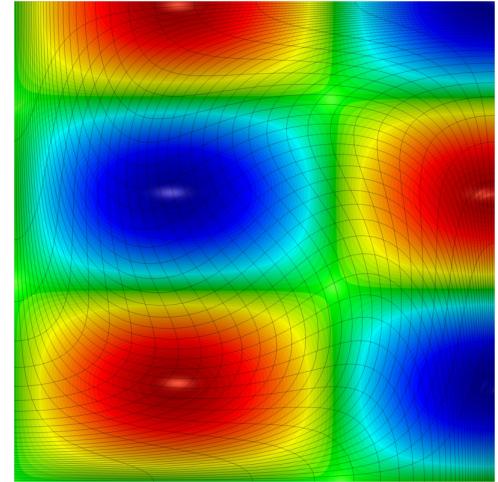
# Remap of a scalar smooth function: HO convergence + exact mass + correct bounds!

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).

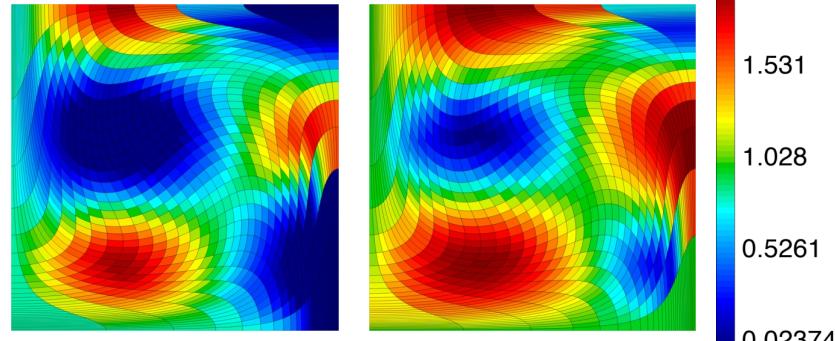
Q2 - interp		Q2 - opt				
ref	L1 error	rate	mass error	L1 error	rate	mass error
1	2.29E-02		3.10E-04	2.29E-02		6.70E-16
2	4.16E-03	2.46	4.92E-06	4.16E-03	2.46	7.20E-13
3	5.74E-04	2.86	2.13E-07	5.74E-04	2.86	5.77E-15
4	9.16E-05	2.65	4.44E-09	9.16E-05	2.65	5.98E-13
5	1.16E-05	2.98	7.71E-11	1.16E-05	2.98	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



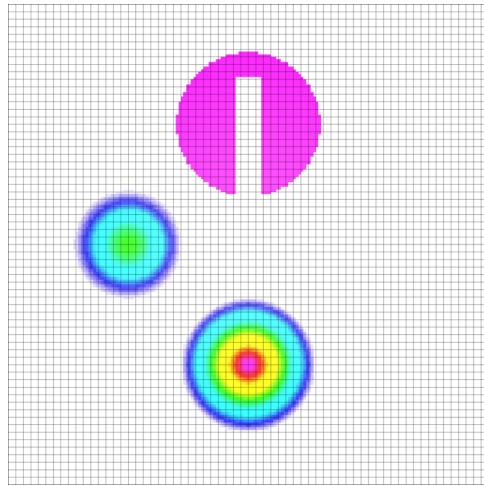
Smooth solution on the final mesh



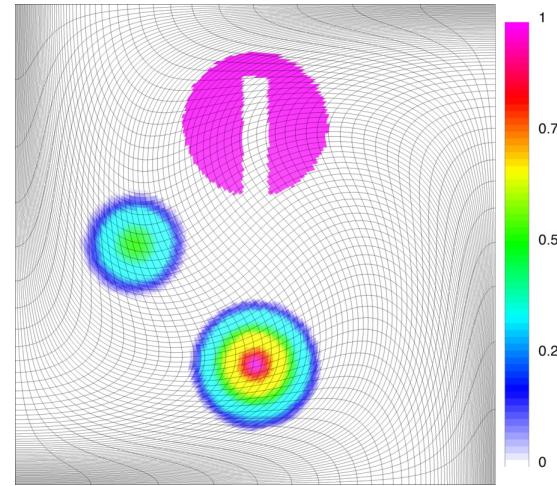
Min and Max bounds

# Remap of scalar QuadratureFunctions

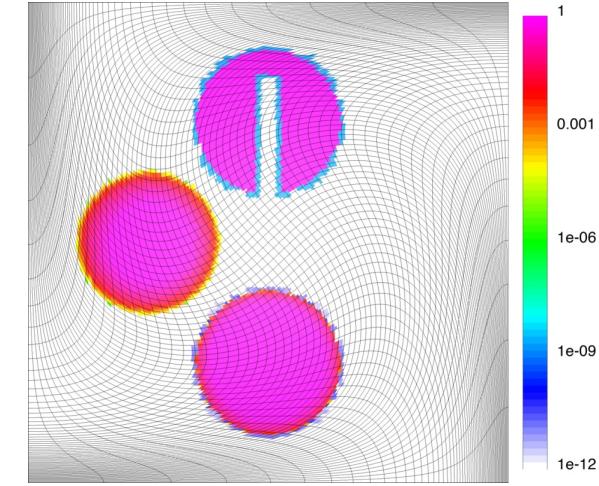
- There is no advection capability to remap Q-functions directly.  
(done through FE projections).
- Same interpolation / optimization method, but for the quadrature points / values.
- Intuitive control over small values / sub-element diffusion.



Initial condition



LVPP solution, zero mass error



LVPP solution (log)

# Remap of the $(\eta, \rho, e)$ coupled system

- Material indicator  $\eta$  is a Q-function.
- Material density  $\rho$  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  $(\eta, \rho, e)$  variables (simple).
- The coupling is in the *global* integrals.

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{\eta, \rho, e} J(\eta, \rho, e), \\ & \int_{\Omega_h} \eta = \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0, \\ & \int_{\Omega_h} \eta \rho = \int_{\Omega_h^0} \eta^0 \rho^0, \\ & \int_{\Omega_h} \eta \rho e = \int \eta^0 \rho^0 e^0, \\ & 0 \leq \eta_i^{\min} \leq \eta_i \leq \eta_i^{\max} \leq 1, \\ & e_i^{\min} \leq e_i \leq e_i^{\max}, \\ & \rho_i^{\min} \leq \rho_i \leq \rho_i^{\max}. \end{aligned}$$

# Remap of the $(\eta, \rho, e)$ coupled system: all requirements are satisfied on toy benchmarks

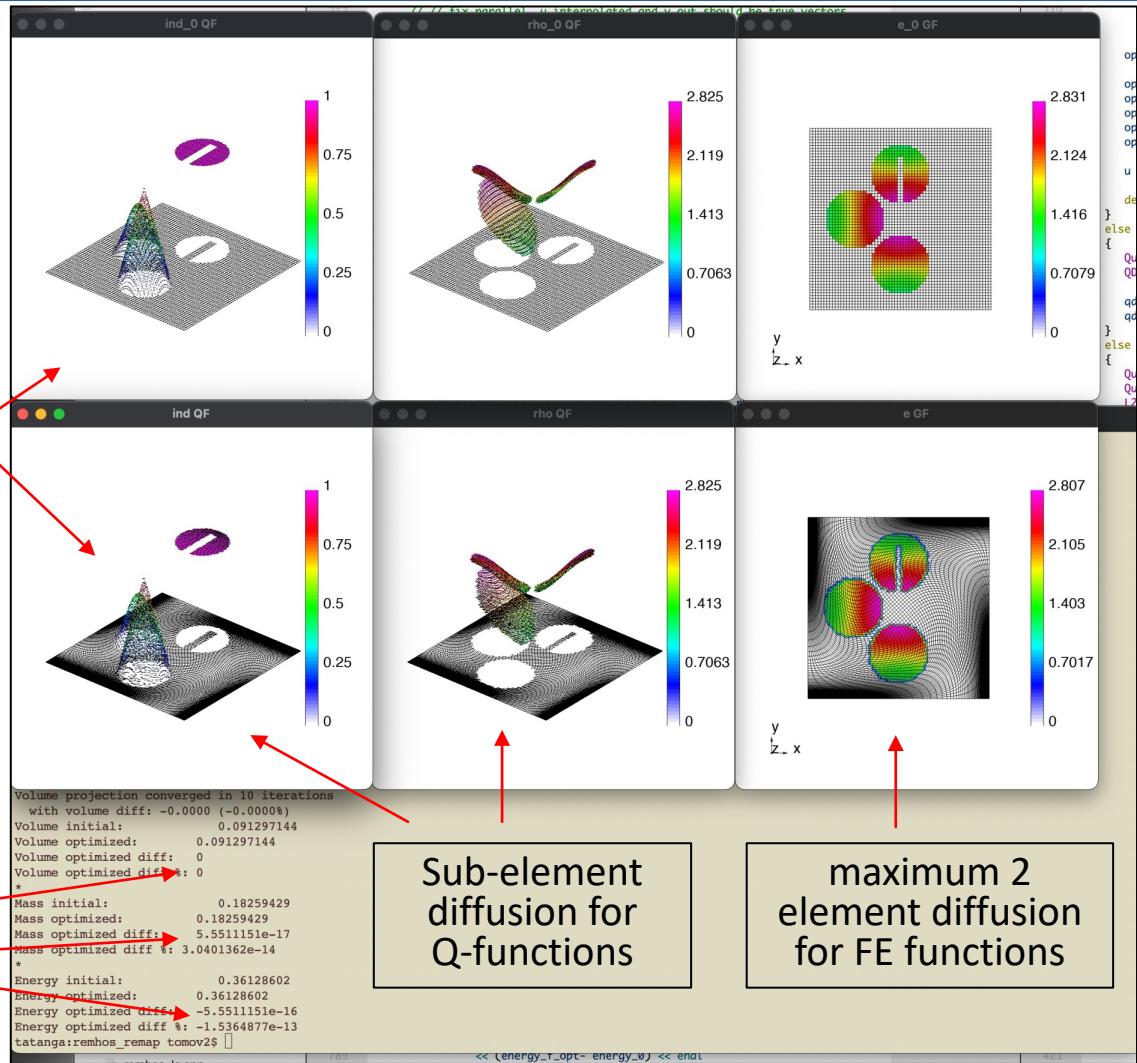
Supports indicator+density+energy coupled remap

Max sharpness through physical space interpolation

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

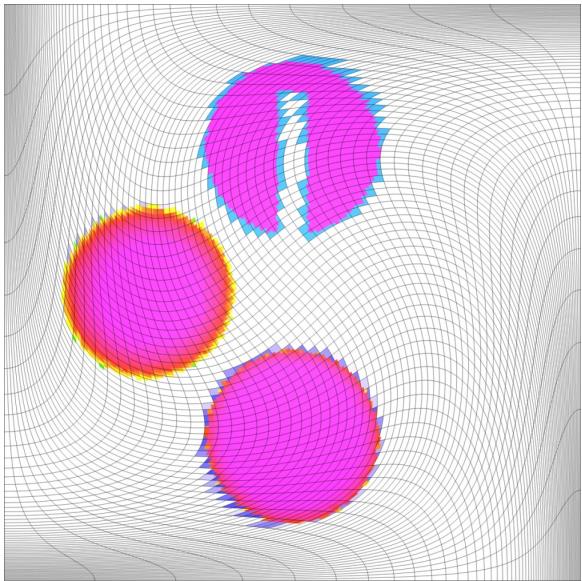
Bounds are preserved for indicators / densities / internal energies  
**(no product fields)**

Exact conservation of volume / mass / internal energy

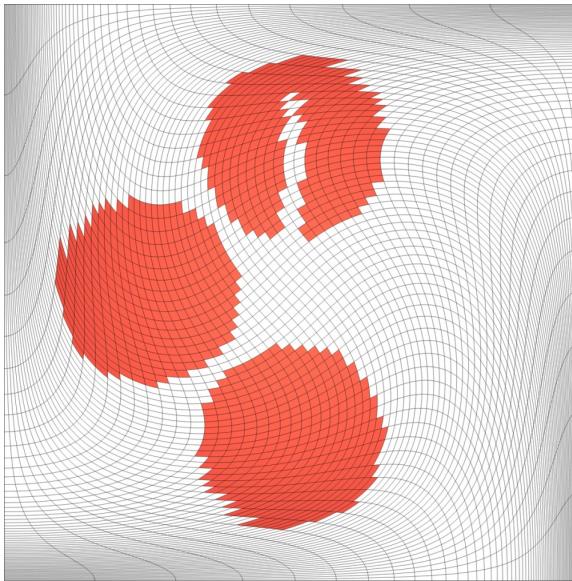


# Remap of the $(\eta, \rho, e)$ system: preservation of constant density and energy

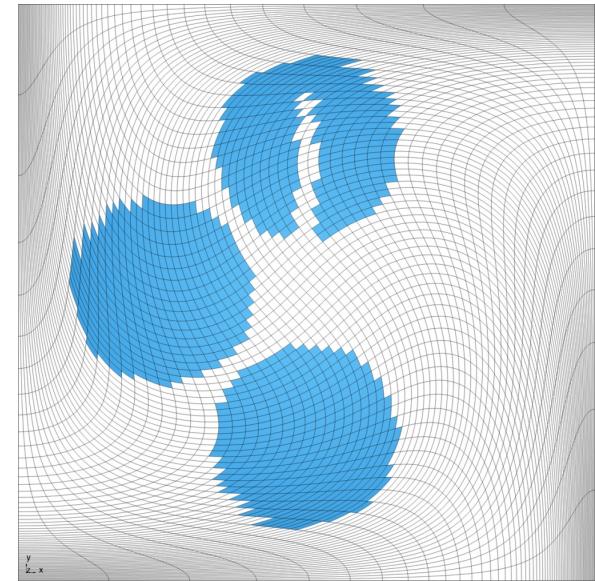
$$\eta \in [10^{-12}, 1]$$



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



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



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

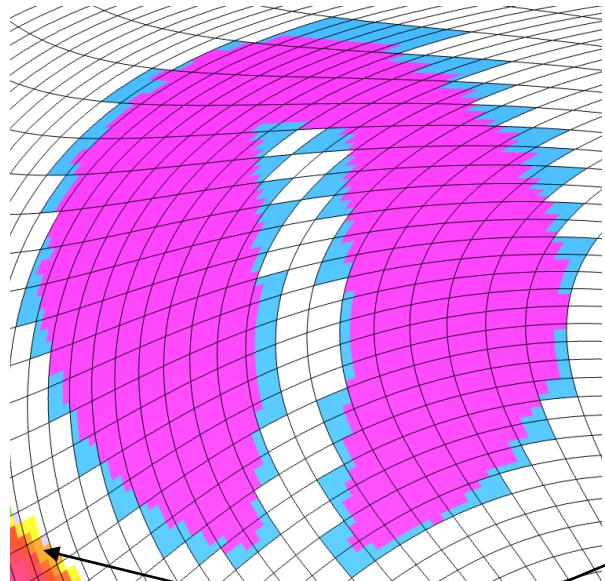
Constant density (Q-function)  
\* constant over bool quads  
\* mass error 1e-12

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

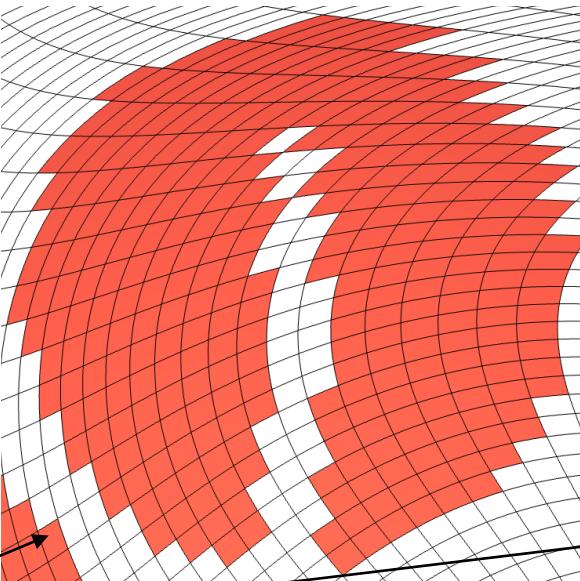
- Constants are preserved exactly ( $\rho = 7, e = 10$ ).
- Much better intuitive control of tiny volume fractions.

# Remap of the $(\eta, \rho, e)$ system: preservation of constant density and energy

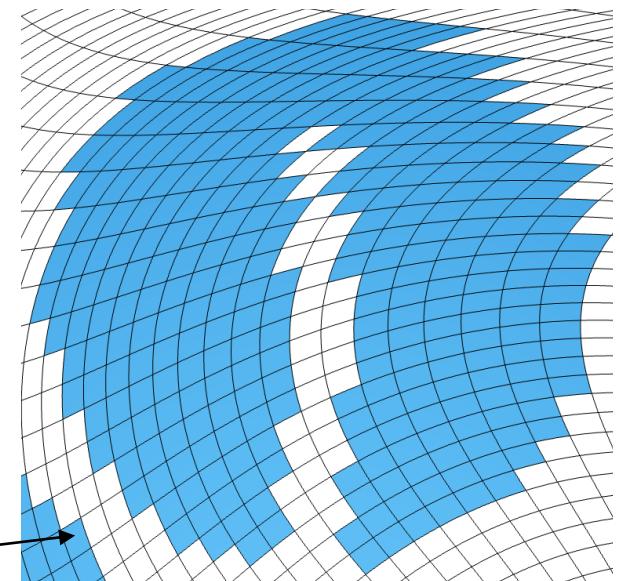
$$\eta \in [10^{-12}, 1]$$



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



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

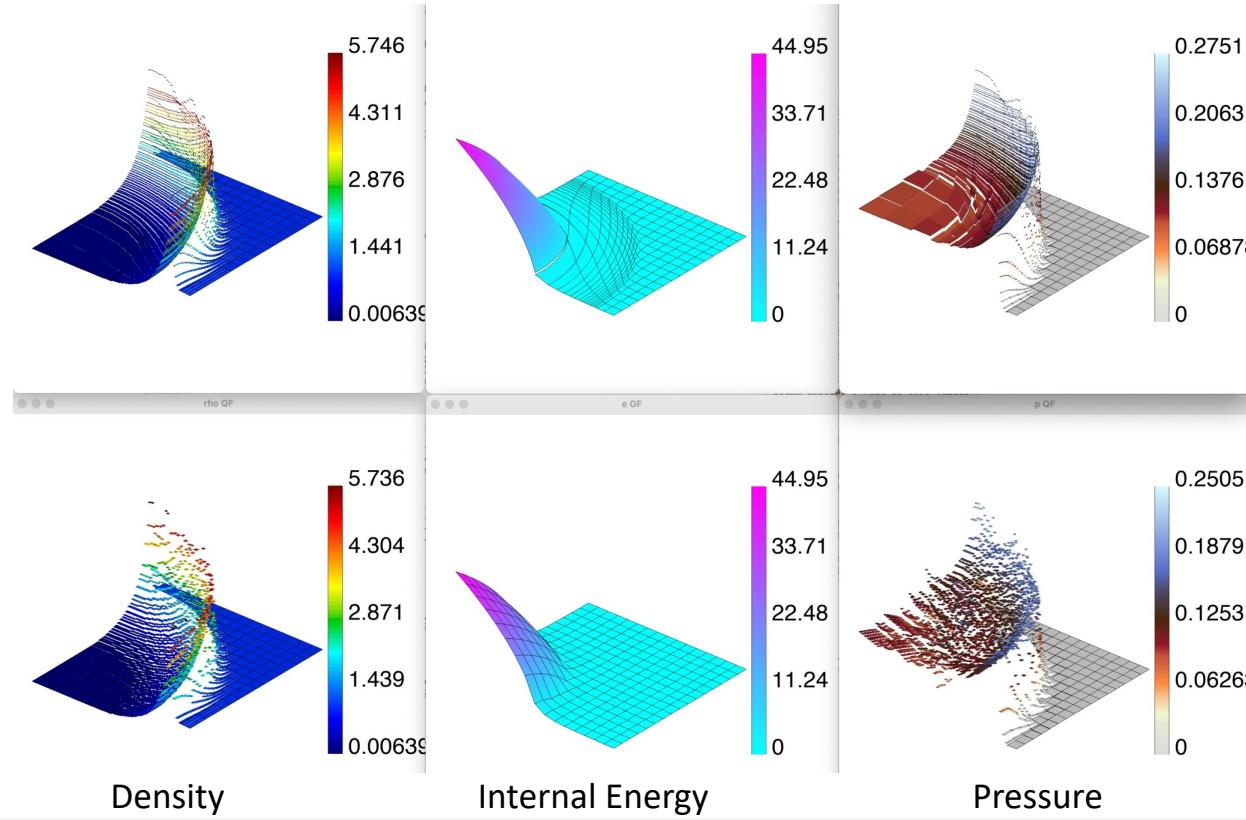


Indicator transition from  
0.1 to  $1e-10$  in a single zone

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

# Remap of the $(\eta, \rho, e)$ system: pressure control (control over derived fields)

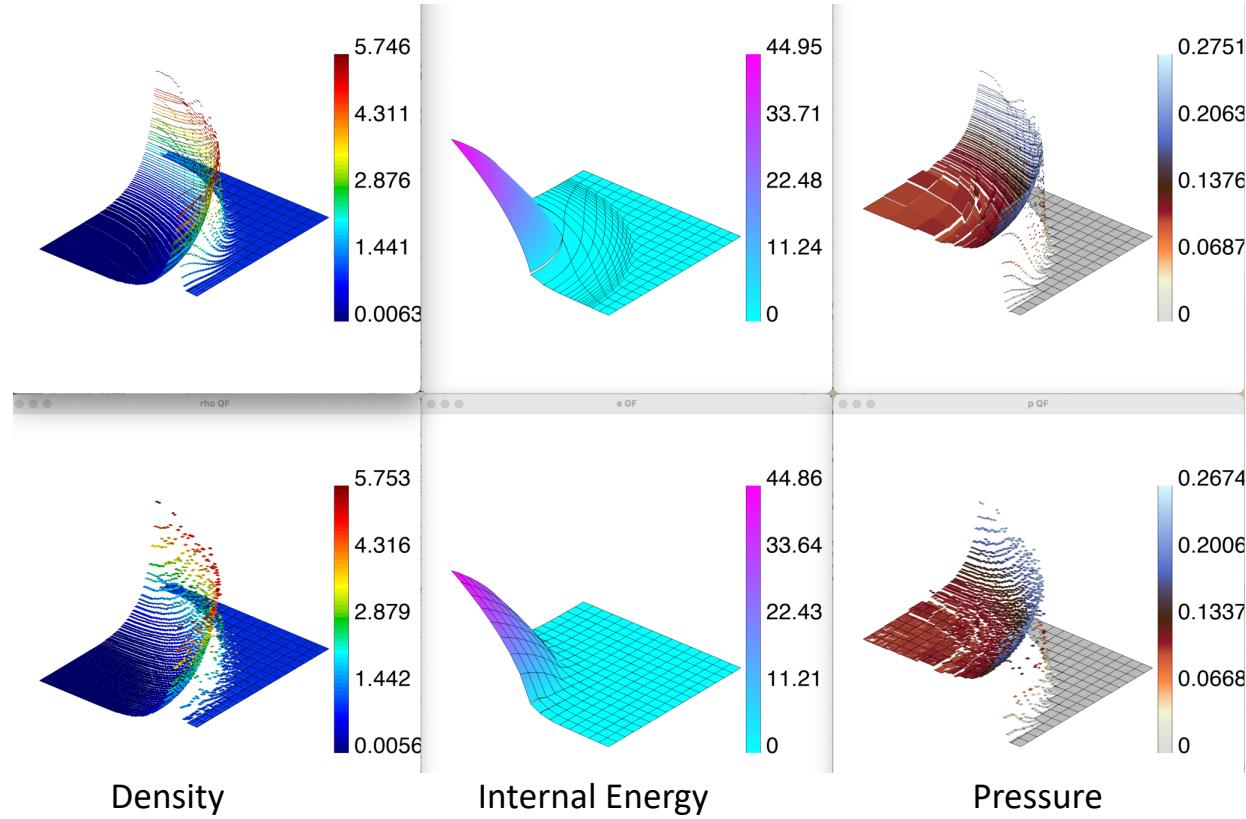
- Pressure  $p(\rho, e)$  is a derived (nonlinear) field controlling the physical velocity.
- Additional requirement: avoid numerical oscillations in derived fields.



# Remap of the $(\eta, \rho, e)$ 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 $(\eta, \rho, e, v)$ coupled system.

- Material indicator  $\eta$  is a Q-function.
- Material density  $\rho$  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  $(\eta, \rho, e, v)$  variables (simple).
- The coupling is in the *global* integrals.

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

# Remap of the full hydro ( $\eta, \rho, e, v$ ) system.

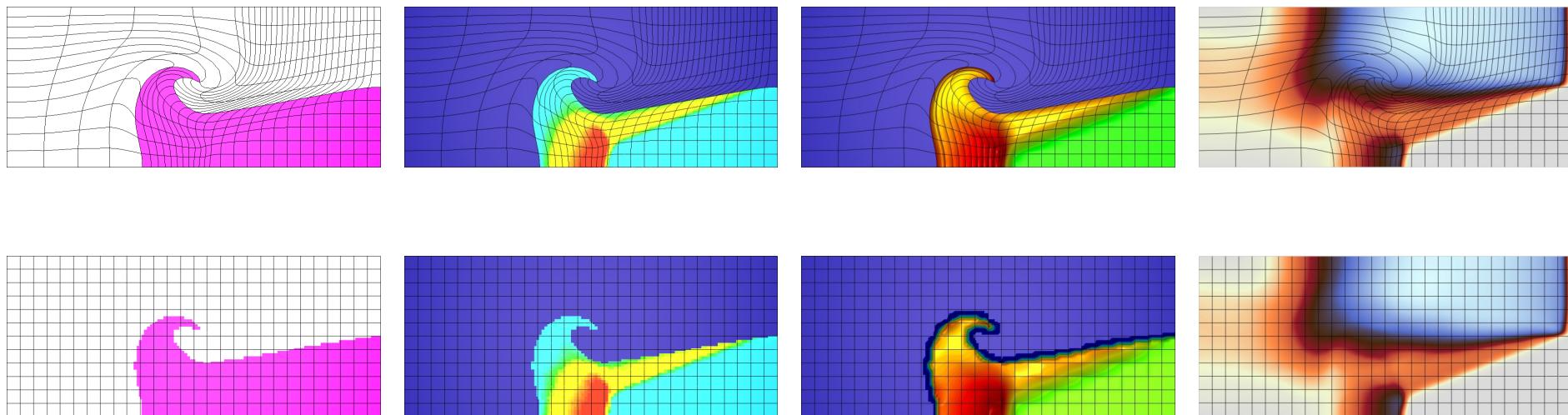
Volume interpolated diff: 1.6e-03  
Volume optimized diff: 4.4e-15

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

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

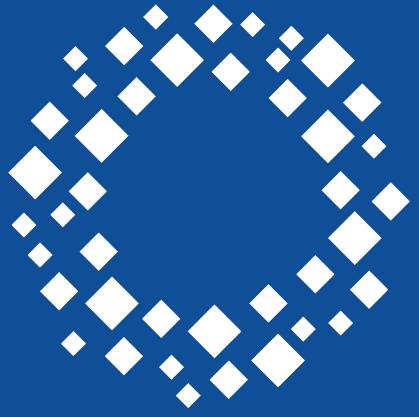
Velocity Magnitude

# Conclusions

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- 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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