Recent Developments in HOMME Dynamical Core

Ram D. Nair

Computational Information Systems Laboratory / IMAGe National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO

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The HOMME DyCore Framework

• Horizontal Grid system (Cubed-Sphere)



• Governing Equations (η -coordinate)

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial t} + (f + \zeta) \,\hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{v} + \dot{\eta} \frac{\partial \mathbf{v}}{\partial \eta} + \nabla E + \frac{RT_v}{p} \nabla p \quad = \quad \mathbf{F}_v$$
$$\frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla T + \dot{\eta} \frac{\partial T}{\partial \eta} - \frac{R}{c_p^*} \, T_v \frac{\omega}{p} \quad = \quad F_T$$
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial \eta} \right) + \nabla \cdot \left(\mathbf{v} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \eta} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \left(\dot{\eta} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \eta} \right) \quad = \quad 0$$
$$\left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial \eta} \, q_k \right) + \nabla \cdot \left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial \eta} \, \mathbf{v} q_k \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \left(\dot{\eta} \frac{\partial p}{\partial \eta} q_k \right) \quad = \quad 0$$

- HOMME hydrostatic framework is based on cubed-sphere geometry (Sadourny, 1972).
 Sepctral Element (SE) and discontinuous Galerkin (DG) methods are used for spatial discretization
- Quasi-uniform rectangular mesh with local refinement capability, well suited for SE, DG or FV methods.
- HOMME-SE variant is used in CAM framework (CAM-SE) as a default dycore. Explit time-stepping and proven petascale capability (Dennis et al. 2012).
 - HOMME currently employs pressure-based η-coordinates in the vertical with FD or VL discretization.
 - Semi-Lagrangian FV scheme (CSLAM) for multi-tracer transport
 - Hydrostatic dynamics is not suitable or valid for horizontal resolution less than 10 KM (1/8°)

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Toward a Non-Hydrostatic (NH) HOMME: Basic Design



- The NH model development in HOMME framework is named as the High-Order Multiscale Atmopsheric Model ("HOMAM")
- The dynamics is governed by 3D compressible Euler/Navier-Stokes system of equations, based on conservation of mass, energy, momentum etc.

• 3D Compressible Euler system (flux-form) on a rotating sphere

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{V}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho \mathbf{V}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \mathbf{V} \otimes \mathbf{V}) = -\nabla p' - (\rho - \overline{\rho})g\mathbf{k}$$

$$-2\rho\Omega \times \mathbf{V} + \mathbf{F}_M$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho \theta}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \theta \mathbf{V}) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho q_k}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \sigma \mathbf{V}) = 0$$

- V = (u,v,w) 3D wind field, ρ air density, p pressure, θ potential temperature, qk moisture variables, Ω erath's rotation rate, f Coriolis term, F_M diffusive fluxes and forcing etc.
- Density $\rho = \overline{\rho} + \rho'$, and pressure $p = \overline{p} + p'$ such that the basic state follows hydrostatic balance, $\partial \overline{p} / \partial z = -\overline{\rho}g$.

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Compressible Euler System in Generalized Coordinates

• The 3D compressible Euler system of equations on a rotating sphere in generalized curvilinear coordinates (x^1, x^2, x^3) can be written in tensor form (*Warsi*, 1992):

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{G}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j}} (\sqrt{G} \rho u^{j}) \right] = 0 \quad \{\text{Summation Implied}\}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho u^{i}}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{G}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j}} [\sqrt{G} (\rho u^{i} u^{j} + \rho G^{ij})] \right] + \Gamma^{i}_{jk} (\rho u^{j} u^{k} + \rho G^{jk}) = f \sqrt{G} (u^{1} G^{2i} - u^{2} G^{1i}) - \rho g G^{3i}$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho \theta}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{G}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j}} (\sqrt{G} \rho \theta u^{j}) \right] = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \rho q}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{G}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x^{j}} (\sqrt{G} \rho q u^{j}) \right] = 0$$

• Where u^i is contravariant wind field, G_{ij} metric tensor, $\sqrt{G} = |G_{ij}|^{1/2}$ is the Jacobian of the transform, $G^{ij} = (G_{ij})^{-1}$, and $i, j, k \in \{1, 2, 3\}$. The associated Christoffel symbols (second kind) are defined as

$$\Gamma^{i}_{jk} = \frac{1}{2} G^{il} \left[\frac{\partial G_{kl}}{\partial x^{j}} + \frac{\partial G_{jl}}{\partial x^{k}} - \frac{\partial G_{kj}}{\partial x^{l}} \right]$$

 ρ is the air density, q is the mixing ratio (passive tracer field).

Ram Nair (rnair@ucar.edu)

Model Equations for the Cubed-Sphere Geometry



- Equiangular central projection
- Curvilinear horizontal coordinates (x^1, x^2)
- 6 patched domains, $x^1, x^2 \in [-\pi/4, \pi/4]$
- "Cartesian-like" computational domains

- Shallow (thin) atmosphere approximation makes the the spherical domain as a vertically stacked cubed-sphere layers.
- $x^3 = \text{radius } r + \text{ height } z, \text{ s.t } z \ll r \implies (x^1, x^2, x^3) \rightarrow (x^1, x^2, z)$
- The metric tensor associated with shallow atmosphere takes a simple form,

$$G_{ij} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{G}_{11} & \hat{G}_{12} & 0\\ \hat{G}_{21} & \hat{G}_{22} & 0\\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad \hat{G}_{ij} = \frac{r^2}{\mu^4 \cos^2 x^1 \cos^2 x^2} \begin{bmatrix} 1 + \tan^2 x^1 & -\tan x^1 \tan^2 \\ -\tan x^1 \tan^2 & 1 + \tan^2 x^2 \end{bmatrix},$$

where $i, j \in \{1, 2\}$ and $\mu^2 = 1 + \tan^2 x^1 + \tan^2 x^2$. Jacobian $\sqrt{G_h} \equiv |G_{ij}|^{1/2} = |\hat{G}_{ij}|^{1/2}$

HOMAM: Vertical Grid System



Fig Courtesy: David Hall

- Terrain-following height-based vertical *z* coordinate.
- Multiple options [e.g., Schär (2002), Klemp (2011), SLEVE]
- Vertical coordinate transformation (Gal-Chen & Somerville, JCP 1975), is currently adopted.

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• $h_s = h_s(x^1, x^2)$ is the prescribed mountain profile and z_{top} is the top of the model domain

$$\zeta = z_{top} \frac{z - h_s}{z_{top} - h_s}, \quad z(\zeta) = h_s(x^1, x^2) + \zeta \frac{z_{top} - h_s}{z_{top}}; \quad h_s \le z \le z_{top}$$

 $\bullet\,$ The Jacobian associated with the transform $(x^1,x^2,z) \to (x^1,x^2,\zeta)$ is

$$\sqrt{G}_{\nu} = \left[\frac{\partial z}{\partial \zeta}\right]_{(x^1, x^2)} = 1 - \frac{h_s(x^1, x^2)}{z_{top}}$$

HOMAM: Vertical Coordinate Transform, $(x^1, x^2, z) \rightarrow (x^1, x^2, \zeta)$

- The vertical 'physical' velocity w = dz/dt, in (x^1, x^2, z) system
- Vertical velocity in the transformed (x^1, x^2, ζ) system is $u^3 = \tilde{w}$,

$$\tilde{w} = \frac{d\zeta}{dt}, \quad \sqrt{G_v}\tilde{w} = w + \sqrt{G_v}G_v^{13}u^1 + \sqrt{G_v}G_v^{23}u^2,$$

where (u^1, u^2) contravariant wind vectors on the cubed-sphere surface. • Metric coefficients (*Clark 1977, JCP*)

$$\sqrt{G}_{\nu} = \left[\frac{\partial z}{\partial \zeta}\right]_{(x^1, x^2)}, \ \sqrt{G}_{\nu} G_{\nu}^{13} \equiv \left[\frac{\partial h_s}{\partial x^1}\right]_{(z)} \left(\frac{\zeta}{z_{top}} - 1\right), \quad \sqrt{G}_{\nu} G_{\nu}^{23} \equiv \left[\frac{\partial h_s}{\partial x^2}\right]_{(z)} \left(\frac{\zeta}{z_{top}} - 1\right).$$

 The spacial derivates for an arbitrary scalar φ can be written in terms of the transformed vertical ζ-coordinate as follows:

$$\sqrt{G_{\nu}}\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial\phi}{\partial\zeta}, \quad \sqrt{G_{\nu}}\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial x^{i}} = \frac{\partial(\sqrt{G_{\nu}}\phi)}{\partial x^{i}} + \frac{\partial(\sqrt{G_{\nu}}G_{\nu}^{i\beta}\phi)}{\partial\zeta}, \quad i = 1, 2.$$

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HOMAM: 3D Transport Equation

• The transport equation in flux-from for a tracer variable q in 3D (x^1, x^2, z) coordinates can be written as

$$\frac{\partial \rho q}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{G_h}} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x^1} (\sqrt{G_h} \rho q u^1) + \frac{\partial}{\partial x^2} (\sqrt{G_h} \rho q u^2) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (\sqrt{G_h} \rho q w) \right] = 0$$

 \bullet Simplifications lead to logically "Cartesian-like" model equation. In computational $\zeta\text{-}coordinate$ this reduces to

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial (\psi u^1)}{\partial x^1} + \frac{\partial (\psi u^2)}{\partial x^2} = -\frac{\partial (\psi \tilde{w})}{\partial \zeta},$$

where the pseudo density $\psi = \sqrt{G}\rho q$, and $\sqrt{G} = \sqrt{G_h}\sqrt{G_\nu}$, is the "composite" Jacobian which combines the time-independent horizontal $(\sqrt{G_h})$ and the vertical $(\sqrt{G_\nu})$ metric terms.

• ρq is the conservative variable and $\tilde{w} = d\zeta/dt$ is the vertical velocity due to the coordinate transformation.

HOMAM: Governing Equations in (x^1, x^2, ζ) system

ullet Final form of the 'perturbed' Euler system in (x^1,x^2,ζ) 3D Cubed-sphere

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \mathbf{U}}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}_{1}}{\partial x^{1}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}_{2}}{\partial x^{2}} + \frac{\partial \mathbf{F}_{3}}{\partial \zeta} &= \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{U}) \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial \mathbf{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{U}) \\ \mathbf{U} &= \sqrt{G} \begin{bmatrix} \rho' \\ \rho u^{1} \\ \rho u^{2} \\ \rho w \\ (\rho \theta)' \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{F}_{1} &= \sqrt{G} \begin{bmatrix} \rho u^{1} \\ \rho u^{1} u^{1} + p' G_{h}^{11} \\ \rho u^{2} u^{1} + p' G_{h}^{21} \\ \rho w u^{1} \\ \rho \theta u^{1} \end{bmatrix} \quad \mathbf{F}_{2} &= \sqrt{G} \begin{bmatrix} \rho u^{2} \\ \rho u^{1} u^{2} + p' G_{h}^{12} \\ \rho u^{2} u^{2} + p' G_{h}^{22} \\ \rho w u^{2} \\ \rho \theta u^{2} \end{bmatrix} \\ \mathbf{F}_{3} &= \sqrt{G} \begin{bmatrix} \rho \tilde{w} \\ \rho u^{1} \tilde{w} + G_{v}^{13} p' \\ \rho u^{2} \tilde{w} + G_{v}^{23} p' \\ \rho w \tilde{w} + p' / \sqrt{G_{v}} \\ \rho \theta \tilde{w} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{U}) &= \sqrt{G} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \sqrt{G_{h}} \rho f(u^{1} G^{21} - u^{2} G^{11}) - M_{\Gamma}^{1} \\ \sqrt{G_{h}} \rho f(u^{1} G^{22} - u^{2} G^{12}) - M_{\Gamma}^{2} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

• Note: $M_{\Gamma}^1, M_{\Gamma}^2$ are geometric terms associated with cubed-sphere topology, they have no vertical dependence for shallow atmosphere approximation.

Computational Domain (Horizontal)



- Dimensional split approach: The computational domain D is decomposed into 2D + 1D. Independent DG discretization for horizontal (x¹,x²) cubed-sphere surfaces, and vertical (ζ) direction.
- Cubed-sphere panel is tiled with non-overlapping $N_e \times N_e$ elements, each with $N_p \times N_p$ Gauss quadrature points. This is a standard setup in HOMME framework.
- Horizontal elements are stacked in the vertical direction, which forms the 3D grid system.

Computational Domain (Vertical)



HOMAM Grid Structure

- The vertical grid line z or ζ is partitioned into V_{nel} 1D elements, each with N_g Gauss points. This is a major design change in HOMME/CAM framework.
- Currently Gauss-Legendre (GL) quadrature elements are used in the vertical, which define independent vertical levels with optimal accuracy.
- Total degrees-of-freedom (dof) is $6N_e^2N_p^2 \times V_{nel}N_g$.
- Other possibilities: High-order FV discretization (WENO, Multi-Moment etc.)

Why DG for spatial discretization?





- SE and nodal form of DG use identical GLL grid system. Same MPI communication can be used.
- At element edges SE employs averaging (DSS) which may cause oscillations.
- DG relies on flux operations as in FV method at element edges.
- DG Advantage: Smooth evolution of solution

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• DG has about 20% smaller time-step restriction compared to SE with explicit methods.

DG-3D Results

- DG-3D Hydrostatic Dycore (Nair et al. Comput. & Fluids, 2009)
- JW-Baroclinic Instability Test, Day 8 Ps ($\approx 1^{\circ}$ resolution)
- The DG Solution is smooth and free from "spectral ringing".
- HOMME SE version uses hype-diffusion (∇^4), DG version uses LDG diffusion (∇^2)



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DG Spatial Discretization for an Element Ω_e in \mathscr{D}



• To Solve:

$$\frac{\partial U_h}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}(U_h) = S(U_h), \quad \text{in} \ (0,T] \times \mathscr{D}$$

- The domain \mathscr{D} is partitioned into non-overlapping elements Ω_{ij}
- Element edges are discontinuous
- Problem is locally solved on each element Ω_{ij}
- Approximate solution U_h belongs to a vector space 𝒱_h of polynomials 𝒫_N(Ω_e).
- The Galerkin formulation: Multiplication of the basic equation by a test function $\varphi_h \in \mathscr{V}_h$ and integration over an element Ω_e with boundary Γ_e ,

$$\int_{\Omega_e} \left[\frac{\partial U_h}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}(U_h) - S(U_h) \right] \boldsymbol{\varphi}_h d\Omega = 0$$

• Weak Galerkin formulation : Integration by parts (Green's theorem) yields:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{\Omega_e} U_h \varphi_h d\Omega - \int_{\Omega_e} \mathbf{F}(U_h) \cdot \nabla \varphi_h d\Omega + \int_{\Gamma_e} \mathbf{F}(U_h) \cdot \vec{n} \varphi_h d\Gamma = \int_{\Omega_e} S(U_h) \varphi_h d\Omega$$

Ram Nair (rnair@ucar.edu)

DG Method: Nodal Spatial Discretization



- Every element Ω_e is mapped onto a unique reference element $[-1,1]^2$, with local coordinates $(\xi,\eta) \in [-1,1]$. Grid structure is identical to SE method
- Construct a nodal basis set using a tensor-product of Lagrange polynomials h_i(ξ), with roots at Gauss-Lobatto-Legendre (GLL) or Gauss-Legendre (GL) quadrature points {ξ_i}.
- The approximate solution and test functions are expressed in terms of basis function:

$$U_h(\xi, \eta) = \sum_{i=0}^N \sum_{j=0}^N U_{ij} h_i(\xi) h_j(\eta) \quad \text{for} \quad -1 \le \xi, \eta \le 1$$

• Final form for the discretization leads to a system of ODEs:

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{U}}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{U}) = \mathbf{S}(\mathbf{U}) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{U}_h(t) = \mathscr{L}(\mathbf{U}_h)$$

Time Stepping Challenges for the ODE system

For the resulting ODE systems:

$$\frac{dU_h}{dt} = L(U^h), \quad t \in (0, t_T)$$

where L is the DG spatial discretization operator.

Options & Challenges

• Explicit time integration efficient and easy to implement. Stringent CFL constraint \Rightarrow tiny Δt , limited practical value.

$$\frac{C\Delta t}{\bar{h}} < \frac{1}{2N+1}, \quad \bar{h} = \min\{\Delta x, \Delta z\}$$

- Implicit time integration: Unconditionally stable but generally expensive to solve for a 3D model.
- Horizontally Explicit and Vertically Implicit (HEVI). Particularly useful for 3D NH modeling $(\Delta z : \Delta x = 1 : 1000)$.
- Practical approach: Split Explicit (e.g. WRF, MPAS, NICAM)

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DG-NH Time Stepping with HEVI (Strang-type Split)

- Solve the ODE $d\mathbf{U}/dt = L(\mathbf{U})$ system, where $\mathbf{U} = (\sqrt{G}\rho', \sqrt{G}\rho u^1, \rho u^2, \sqrt{G}\rho w, \sqrt{G}(\rho \theta)')^T$.
- The spatial DG discretization corresponding to $L(\mathbf{U})$ is split into horizontal (*H*) and vertical (*V*) components, s.t. $L(\mathbf{U}) = L^H(\mathbf{U}) + L^V(\mathbf{U})$

$$\mathbf{U}_1 := \mathbf{U}_h(t), \qquad \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{U}_1 = L^H(\mathbf{U}_1) \quad \text{in } (t, t + \Delta t/2]$$
$$\mathbf{U}_2 := \mathbf{U}_1(t + \Delta t/2), \qquad \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{U}_2 = L^V(\mathbf{U}_2) \quad \text{in } (t, t + \Delta t],$$
$$\mathbf{U}_3 := \mathbf{U}_2(t + \Delta t), \qquad \frac{d}{dt} \mathbf{U}_3 = L^H(\mathbf{U}_3) \quad \text{in } (t + \Delta t/2, t + \Delta t].$$

and $\mathbf{U}_h(t + \Delta t) = \mathbf{U}_3(t + \Delta t)$.

- Possible options are is to perform "H V H" sequence of operations and "V H V" sequence.
- The vertical part may be solved implicitly with DIRK (Diagonally Implicit Runge-Kutta)¹.
- HEVI may be viewed as an IMEX Runge-Kutta (RK) method (Giraldo et al. 2009)
- For the implicit solver:
 - inner linear solver uses Jacobian-Free GMRES.
 - It usually takes 1 or 2 iterations for the outer Newton solver.

¹Durran, 2010

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Time Stepping for 2D Model: Schär Mountain Test-2





Schemes	Δt (s)	CPU time (s)	Speedup
Explicit	0.04	114.10	1.0
ARS(232)	0.4	71.65	1.6
HEVI	0.4	59.67	1.91

• Ref: Bao, Kloefkorn & Nair (MWR, 2015)

3D Advection Test: "Hadley-like" Meridional Circulation

• DCMIP: https://earthsystemcog.org/projects/dcmip-2012/, Kent et al. (2014, QJRMS)



- DCMIP-12: A deformational flow that mimics a "Hadley-like" meridional circulation.
- The wind fields are designed so that the flow reverses itself halfway through the simulation and returns the tracers to their initial position.
- The exact solution is known at the end of the run (1 day).
- HOMAM setup for 1° L60: $N_e = 30$, $N_p = 4$ (GLL); $V_{nel} = 15$; $N_g = 4$ (GL), $\Delta t = 60$ s, 1 day simulation.

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• HEVI, HEVE and Full (un-split) produce visually identical results.

3D Advection DCMIP-12 Test: Convergence



Convergence Rate: DCMIP, Kent et al. (2014), Hall et al (2016)

Errors/Models:	Mcore	CAM-FV	ENDGame	CAM-SE	HOMAM
ℓ_1	2.22	1.93	2.18	2.27	2.62
ℓ_2	1.94	1.84	1.83	2.12	2.43
ℓ_{∞}	1.64	1.66	1.14	1.68	2.16

Table: Average convergence rate for the normalized error norms for the Hadley test (DCMIP test 1-2) computed using resolutions 2° , 1° , 0.5° horizontal, and respectively with 30,60,120 vertical levels.

• Temporal convergence is between 1st and 2nd-Order with the Hadley test

3D Advection: Flow Over Rough Orography (DCMIP-13)



Figure: Schematic for DCMIP-13 test initial condition (Figure courtesy: David Hall)

- A series of steep concentric ring-shaped mountain ranges forms the terrain. The prescribed flow field is a constant solid-body rotation (Kent et al., 2014).
- The tracer field q is given by three thin vertically stacked cloud-like patches (non-smooth) which circumnavigate the globe and return to their initial positions after 12 days.

HOMAM: 3D Advection, Flow Over Rough Orography



- ${\scriptstyle \bullet}$ Vertical cross-sections along the equator for the tracer field q=q4 for the DCMIP test
- The results are simulated with HOMAM using the HEVE/HEVI scheme at a horizontal resolution of 1°, 60 vertical levels, and $\Delta t = 12s$.

Ram Nair (rnair@ucar.edu)

Preliminary NH Benchmark Test Results with DCMIP



- DCMIP Test 2-0-0: Steady-state hydrostatically-balanced atmosphere at rest, examines the accuracy of the pressure gradient error.
- Regular sized planet, vertical velocity *w* after 6 days.

• DCMIP Test 2-1: NH mountain waves over a Schär-type Mountain (rough orography) on a reduced planet (X = 500), u' after 3600s

• $N_e = 20, N_p = 4, N_g = 4, \Delta t = 0.20 s$

HOMAM: Nonhydrstatic Gravity Waves (DCMIP-31)

- NH Gravity Wave test (DCMIP-31) on a reduced planet (X = 125), θ' after 3600s
- $N_e = 25, N_p = 4, N_g = 4$ ($\Delta x \approx \Delta z \approx 1$ km), $\Delta t = 0.20$ s
- The initial state is hydrostatically balanced and in gradient-wind balance. An overlaid potential temperature perturbation triggers the evolution of gravity waves.



Summary

- Early results with HOMAM Dycore (split and unsplit) are promising, and it performs well under benchmark test cases.
- Accuracy of the operator-split DG is acceptable.
- HEVI effectively relaxes the CFL constraint to the horizontal dynamics only, and permits significantly larger time step as opposed to the fully explicit method.
- The 3D advection convergence shows a second-order accuracy with the smooth scalar field, irrespective of a particular time-integrator (HEVI, HEVE or un-split).

Future Work (WIP)

- Improve the efficiency of HEVI time-stepping (efficient pre-conditioner for implicit part).
- Test Split-Explicit method, employ multi-rate time integration scheme (subcycling).
- Latest DCMIP tests & ultimately CAM integration.

Thank You!

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