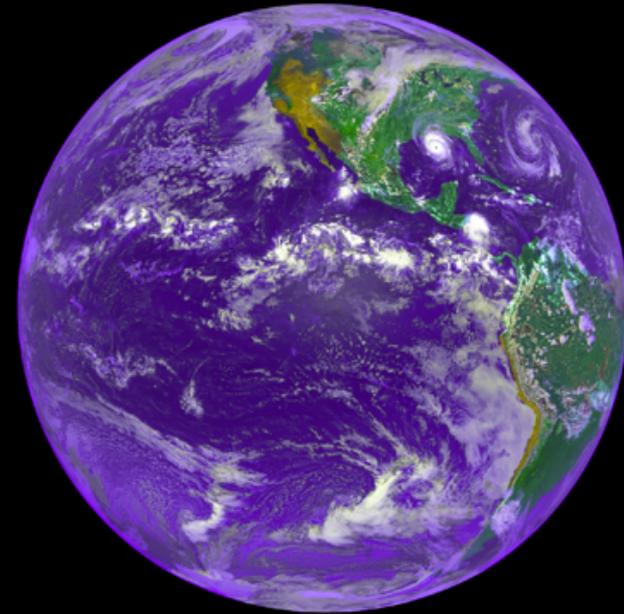


# 2013 Dolomites Research Week on Approximation

Lecture 4:  
Global and local kernel  
methods for approximating  
derivatives on the sphere



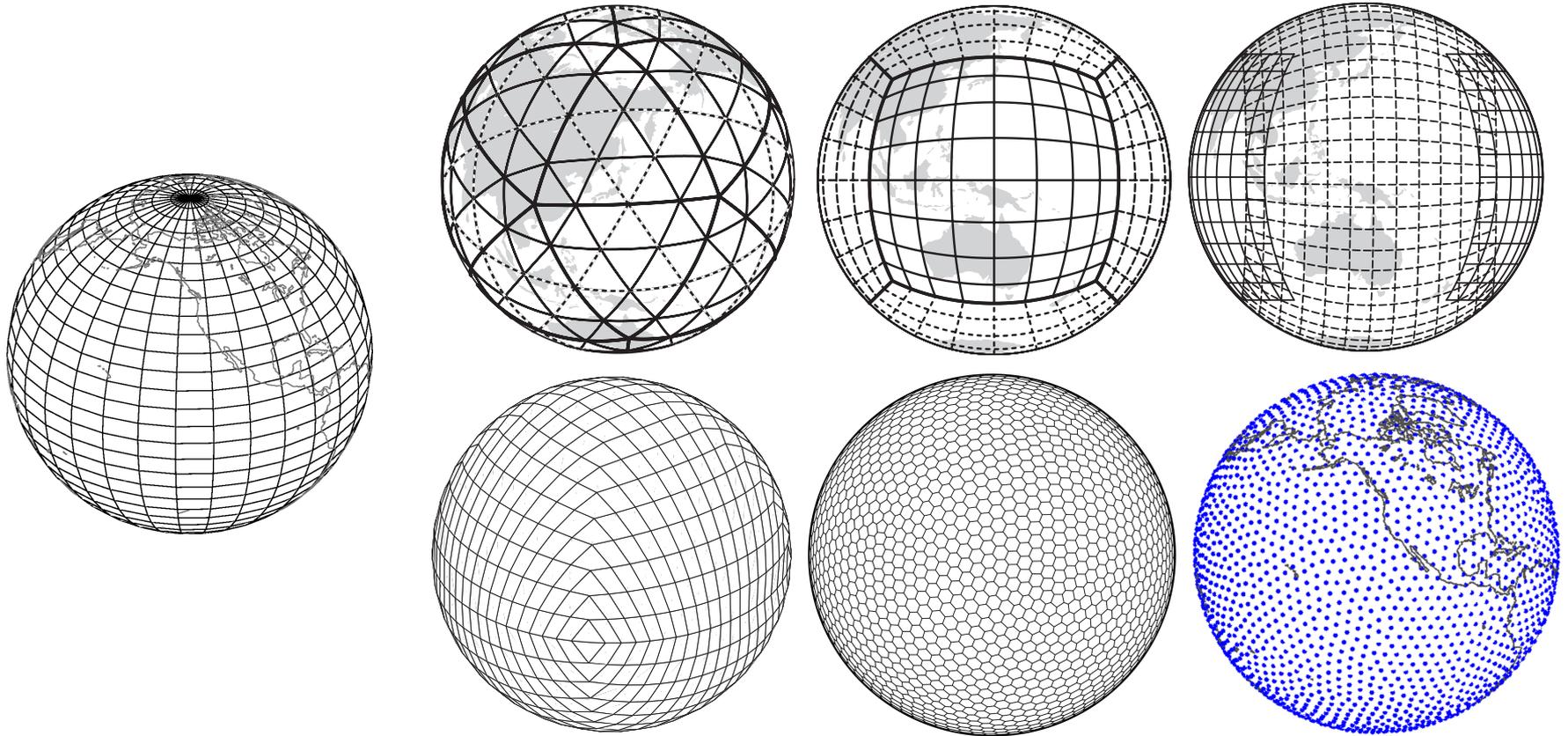
Grady B. Wright  
Boise State University

- Methods currently in use for computational geosciences
- Transport equation on the sphere
- Global method RBF collocation method
  - Numerical examples and comparisons to other methods
- RBF finite difference method (RBF-FDM)
  - Numerical examples
- RBF partition of unity method (RBF-PUM)
  - Numerical examples and comparison to RBF-FDM
- Concluding remarks

## Bottom line for numerical methods:

Need numerical methods that provide high-resolution and accuracy at low computational costs to resolve the multi-scale features.

- Grids/meshes/nodes used used in methods for large-scale applications:



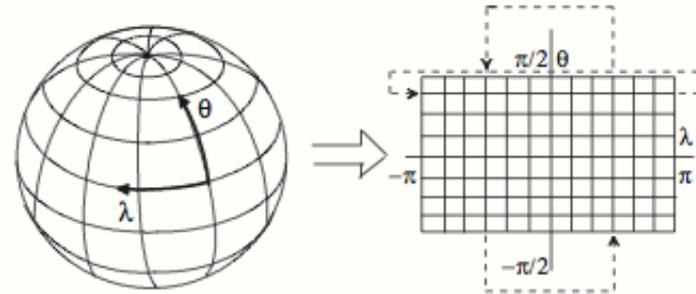
- Methods used:

- Finite-difference, finite-element, finite-volume, semi-Lagrangian
- Double Fourier, spherical harmonics, spectral elements, discontinuous Galerkin (DG), and **radial basis functions (RBF)**

## Double Fourier series:

**Strength:** Exponential accuracy  
Computationally fast because of FFTs

**Weakness:** No practical option for local mesh refinement



## Spherical harmonics:

**Strength:** Exponential accuracy

**Weakness:** No practical option for local mesh refinement  
Relatively high computational cost  
Poor scalability on parallel computer architectures



## Spectral elements:

**Strength:** Accuracy approaching exponential  
Local refinement is feasible but complex

**Weakness:** Loss of efficiency due to unphysical element boundaries  
(Runge phenomenon - oscillations near boundaries → restrictive time-step)  
High algorithmic complexity  
High pre-processing cost

**Spherical Coords.****Cartesian Coords.****Point:**  $(\lambda, \theta, 1)$  $(x, y, z)$ **Unit vectors:**  $\hat{\mathbf{i}}$  = longitudinal  
 $\hat{\mathbf{j}}$  = latitudinal  
 $\hat{\mathbf{k}}$  = radial $\hat{\mathbf{i}}$  =  $x$ -direction  
 $\hat{\mathbf{j}}$  =  $y$ -direction  
 $\hat{\mathbf{k}}$  =  $z$ -direction**Unit tangent vectors:**  $\hat{\mathbf{i}}, \hat{\mathbf{j}}$ 

$$\zeta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z^2}} \begin{bmatrix} -y \\ x \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z^2}} \begin{bmatrix} -zx \\ -zy \\ 1-z^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

**Unit normal vector:**  $\hat{\mathbf{k}}$ 

$$\mathbf{x} = x\hat{\mathbf{i}} + y\hat{\mathbf{j}} + z\hat{\mathbf{k}}$$

**Gradient of scalar  $g$ :**  $\mathbf{u}_s = \nabla_s g = \frac{1}{\cos\theta} \frac{\partial g}{\partial \lambda} \hat{\mathbf{i}} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial \theta} \hat{\mathbf{j}}$ 

$$\mathbf{u}_c = P(\nabla_c g) = P \left( \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} \hat{\mathbf{i}} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} \hat{\mathbf{j}} + \frac{\partial g}{\partial z} \hat{\mathbf{k}} \right)$$

**Surface divergence of  $\mathbf{u}$ :**  $\nabla_s \cdot \mathbf{u}_s = \frac{1}{\cos\theta} \frac{\partial u_s}{\partial \lambda} + \frac{\partial v_s}{\partial \theta}$ 

$$(\nabla_c) \cdot \mathbf{u}_c = \nabla_c \cdot \mathbf{u}_c - \mathbf{x} \cdot \nabla(\mathbf{u}_c \cdot \mathbf{x})$$

**Curl of a scalar  $f$ :**  $\mathbf{u}_s = \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times (\nabla_s f) = -\frac{\partial f}{\partial \theta} \hat{\mathbf{i}} + \frac{1}{\cos\theta} \frac{\partial f}{\partial \lambda} \hat{\mathbf{j}}$ 

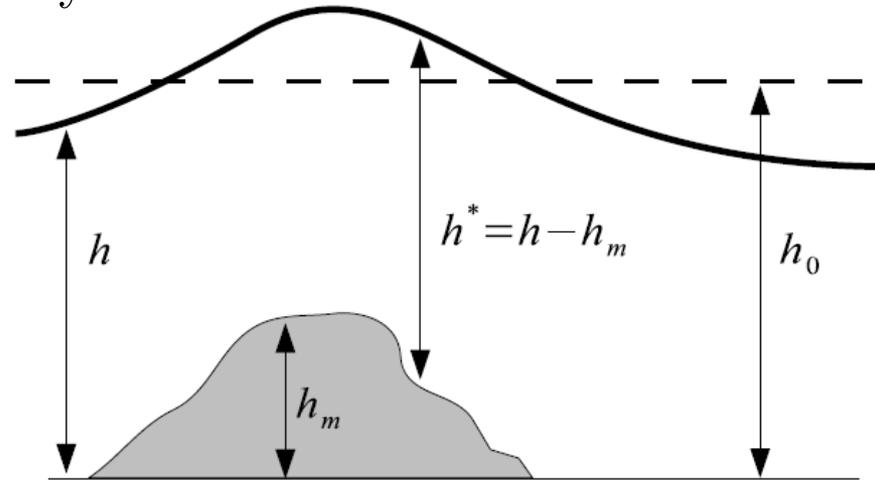
$$\mathbf{u}_c = \mathbf{x} \times (P\nabla_c f) = QP(\nabla_c f) = Q(\nabla_c f)$$

**Surface curl of a vector  $\mathbf{u}$ :**  $\hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot (\nabla_s \times \mathbf{u}_s) = -\nabla_s \cdot (\hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{u}_s)$ 

$$\mathbf{x} \cdot ((P\nabla_c) \times \mathbf{u}_c) = -\nabla_c \cdot (Q\mathbf{u}_c)$$

Here: 
$$P = I - \mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1-x^2 & -xy & -xz \\ -xy & 1-y^2 & -yz \\ -xz & -yz & 1-z^2 \end{bmatrix} \quad Q = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -z & y \\ z & 0 & -x \\ -y & x & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Model for the nonlinear dynamics of a shallow, hydrostatic, homogeneous, and inviscid fluid layer.



- Idealized test-bed for horizontal dynamics of all 3-D global climate models.

Equations

Momentum

Transport

Spherical coordinates

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_s}{\partial t} + \mathbf{u}_s \cdot \nabla_s \mathbf{u}_s + f \hat{\mathbf{k}} \times \mathbf{u}_s + g \nabla_s h = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial h^*}{\partial t} + \nabla_s \cdot (h^* \mathbf{u}_s) = 0$$

Singularity at poles!

Cartesian coordinates

$$\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}_c}{\partial t} + P \begin{bmatrix} (\mathbf{u}_c \cdot P \nabla_c) u_c + f(\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{u}_c) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{i}} + g(P \hat{\mathbf{i}} \cdot \nabla_c) h \\ (\mathbf{u}_c \cdot P \nabla_c) v_c + f(\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{u}_c) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{j}} + g(P \hat{\mathbf{j}} \cdot \nabla_c) h \\ (\mathbf{u}_c \cdot P \nabla_c) w_c + f(\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{u}_c) \cdot \hat{\mathbf{k}} + g(P \hat{\mathbf{k}} \cdot \nabla_c) h \end{bmatrix} = 0 \quad \frac{\partial h^*}{\partial t} + (P \nabla_c) \cdot (h^* \mathbf{u}_c) = 0$$

Smooth over entire sphere!

- For this tutorial we focus on the transport equation for a scalar valued quantity  $h$  on the surface of the unit sphere in an incompressible velocity field  $\mathbf{u}$ .
- The governing PDE can be written in **Cartesian coordinates** as:

$$h_t + \mathbf{u} \cdot (P\nabla h) = 0$$

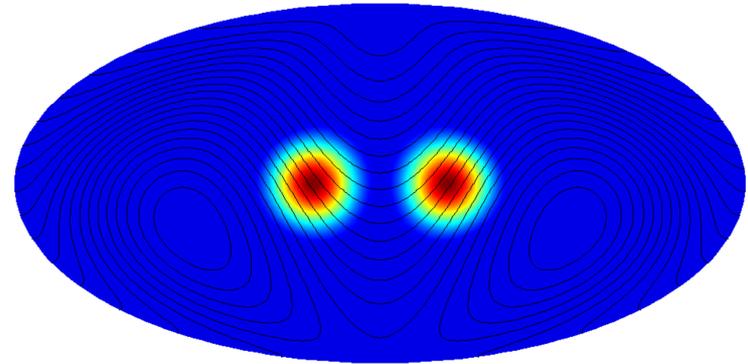
$P$  projects arbitrary three-dimensional vectors onto a plane tangent to the unit sphere at  $\mathbf{x}$ .

- Surface gradient operator:

$$P\nabla = (\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{xx}^T)\nabla = \begin{bmatrix} (1-x^2) & -xy & -xz \\ -xy & (1-y^2) & -yz \\ -xz & -yz & (1-z^2) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \partial_x \\ \partial_y \\ \partial_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{p}_x \cdot \nabla \\ \mathbf{p}_y \cdot \nabla \\ \mathbf{p}_z \cdot \nabla \end{bmatrix}$$

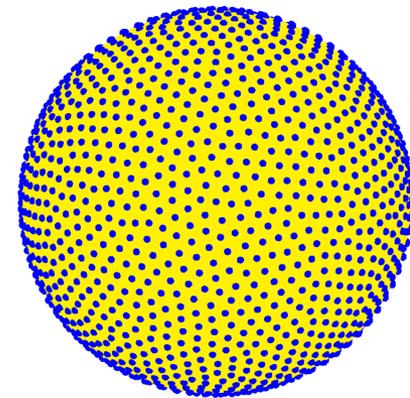
- **Goal:** Show how to construct good numerical approximations to

$$\mathcal{D}_x = \mathbf{p}_x \cdot \nabla, \quad \mathcal{D}_y = \mathbf{p}_y \cdot \nabla, \quad \mathcal{D}_z = \mathbf{p}_z \cdot \nabla$$



- Setup:  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{S}^2$  and  $f|_X$  samples of a target function.
- $\phi$  is some differentiable PD or CPD(1) kernel on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ .
- RBF interpolant of  $f|_X$  is given by

$$s(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^N c_j \phi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j\|)$$



- The coefficients  $c_j$  are determined from:

$$\underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_1\|) & \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\|) \cdots \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_N\|) \\ \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_1\|) & \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_2\|) \cdots \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_N\|) \\ \vdots & \vdots \quad \ddots \quad \vdots \\ \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_1\|) & \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_2\|) \cdots \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_N\|) \end{bmatrix}}_A \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_N \end{bmatrix}}_{\underline{c}} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ \vdots \\ f_N \end{bmatrix}}_{\underline{f}}$$

- Discretization of the projected gradient closely follows Flyer & W (2007,2009).

- Approximate the  $x$ -component of the surface gradient using **collocation**:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{p}_x \cdot \nabla s(\mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_j} &= \sum_{k=1}^N c_k [\mathbf{p}_x \cdot \nabla \phi_k(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k\|)] \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_j}, \quad j = 1, \dots, N \\
 &= \sum_{k=1}^N c_k \underbrace{[x_j \mathbf{x}_j^T \mathbf{x}_k - x_k]}_{B_{j,k}^x} \left( \frac{\phi'_k(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k\|)}{\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k\|} \right) \Big|_{\mathbf{x}_j}, \quad j = 1, \dots, N \\
 &= B^x \underline{c} \\
 &= (B^x A^{-1}) \underline{f} \\
 &= D_N^x \underline{f}
 \end{aligned}$$

- $D_N^x$  is an  $N$ -by- $N$  **differentiation matrix (DM)** .
- It represents the discrete RBF approximation to  $\mathbf{p}_x \cdot \nabla$  at nodes  $X$ .
- DMs  $D_N^y$  and  $D_N^z$  can similarly be constructed for  $(\mathbf{p}_y \cdot \nabla)$  and  $(\mathbf{p}_z \cdot \nabla)$ .

- Continuous transport equation for some  $\mathbf{u} = (u, v, w) \in T_X \mathbb{S}^2$ :

$$h_t + \mathbf{u} \cdot (P \nabla h) = 0$$

- Let  $h$  and  $\mathbf{u} = (u, v, w)$  be sampled at  $X$ .
- **Semi-discrete formulation** (method-of-lines) of transport equation:

$$\underline{h}_t = -(\text{diag}(\underline{u})D_N^x + \text{diag}(\underline{v})D_N^y + \text{diag}(\underline{w})D_N^z) \underline{h} = -D_N \underline{h}.$$

- Advance the system in time using some standard ODE solver.
- This is a purely hyperbolic problem and temporal stability can be an issue.
  - We **stabilize** the method by including some high-order diffusion operator  $L_N$  (hyperviscosity):

$$\underline{h}_t = -D_N \underline{h} + \mu L_N \underline{h}$$

- $L_N$  is a discrete approximation to a high power of the Laplacian:  $\Delta^{2k}$ .

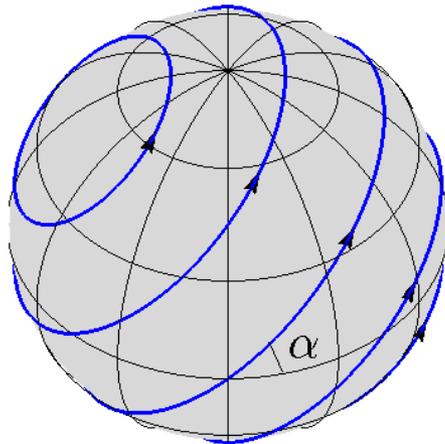
- Solid body rotation of a non-smooth cosine bell  
(Williamson et. al. JCP (1992))

## Stream Function for flow

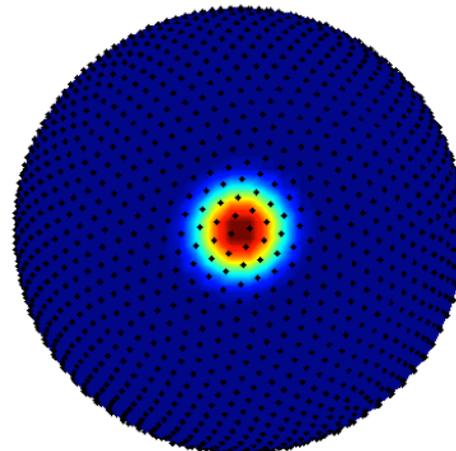
$$\psi(\mathbf{x}) = \cos(\alpha)z + \sin(\alpha)y \quad \alpha = \pi/2 \text{ (flow over the poles)}$$

## Initial condition (non-smooth: jump in second derivative)

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} (1 + \cos(3\pi r(\mathbf{x}))) & r(\mathbf{x}) < 1/3 \\ 0 & r(\mathbf{x}) \geq 1/3 \end{cases} \quad r(\mathbf{x}) = \arccos(x)$$



Flow direction



Initial condition

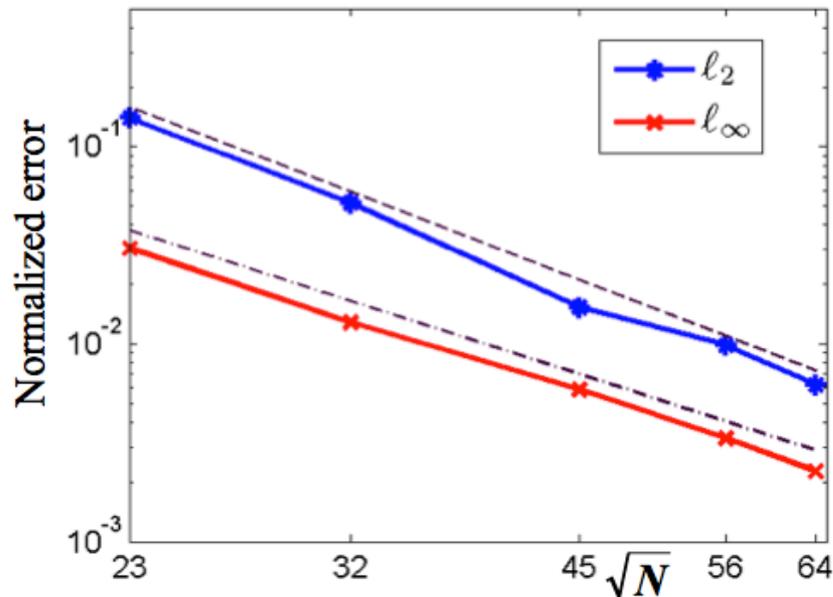
### Details:

- Gaussian RBF
- $\Delta t = 30$  minutes
- No stabilization required.
- Minimum energy node sets used.

- Convergence results as number of nodes  $N$  increases (Flyer & W, 2007)
- Error results are for one complete revolution of the cosine bell.

## Cosine bell IC, Discontinuous 2<sup>nd</sup> derivative

Cosine bell test,  $t = 12$  days

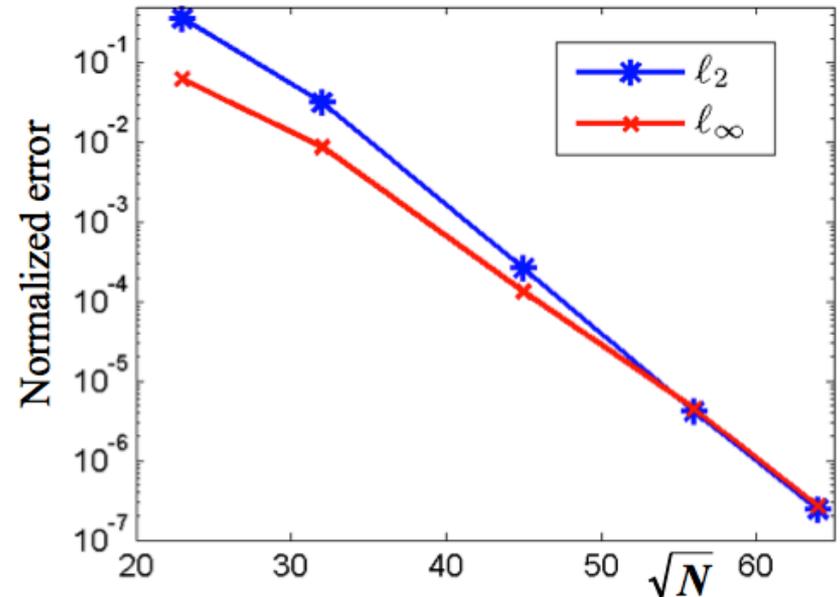


log-log scale

Straight line indicates **algebraic accuracy**

## Gaussian bell IC, Infinitely smooth

Gaussian bell test,  $t = 12$  days



log-linear scale

Straight line indicates **spectral accuracy**

- Comparison to other high order methods (Flyer & W, 2007)

Method	Cost per time-step	$\ell_2$ error	Time-step	Number of grid points	Code length (# of lines)	Local mesh refinement
RBF	$O(N^2)$	0.006	1/2 hour	4096	< 40	yes
SH	$O(M^{3/2})$	0.005	90 seconds	32768	> 500	no
DF	$O(N \log N)$	0.005	90 seconds	32768	> 100	no
DG	$O(kN_e)$	0.005	6 minutes	7776	> 1000	yes

RBF=radial basis functions, SH=spherical harmonics, DF=double Fourier, DG=discontinuous Galerkin spectral elements

## Comments:

- For RBF and DF  $N$  = the number of grid points.
- For SH  $M$  = total number of spherical harmonics:  $(85+1)^2 = 7396$ .
- For DG  $N_e$  = total number of nodes per element, and  $k$ =number of elements.

- Comparison to other high order methods (Flyer & W, 2007)

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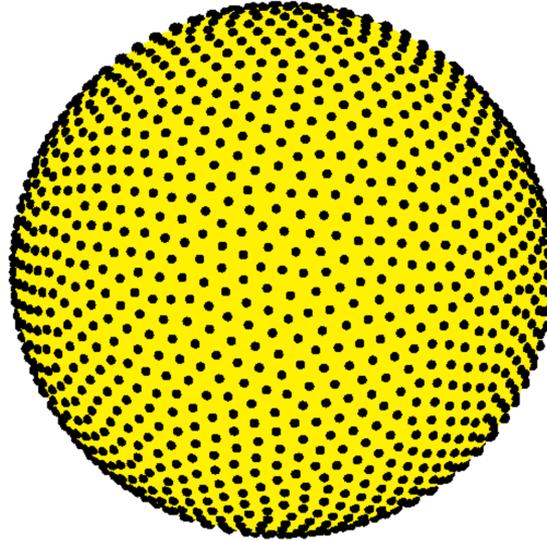
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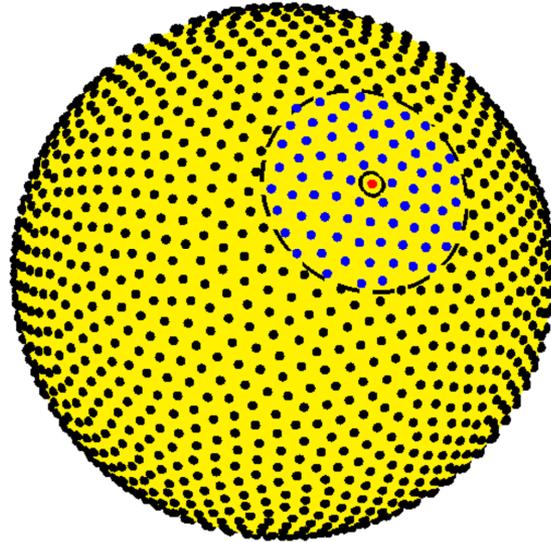
- Need ways to reduce this cost.
- Next two methods we discussed are focused on this

- Consider  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{S}^2$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_j = (x_j, y_j, z_j)$ :



- Generalization of finite-difference (FD) method to scattered nodes using RBFs to compute the FD weights.
- References:
  - W & Fornberg (2006)
  - Fornberg & Lehto (2011)
  - Flyer, Lehto, Blaise, W & St-Cyr (2012)
  - Bollig, Flyer & Erlebacher (2012)

- Consider  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{S}^2$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_j = (x_j, y_j, z_j)$ :

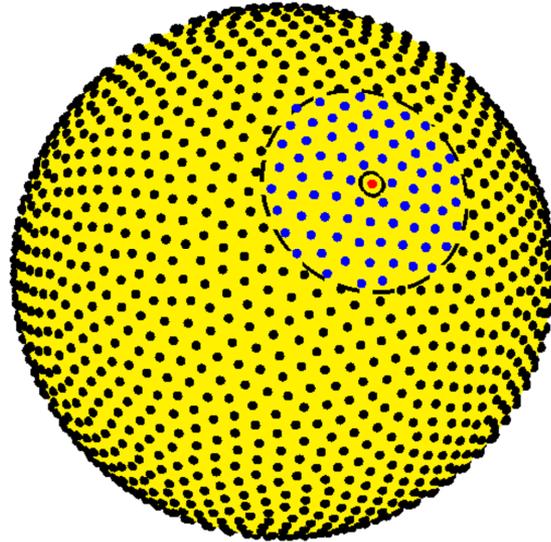


### Key Steps:

- For each node  $\mathbf{x}_j$ , choose  $n - 1$  of its nearest neighbors:  
 $X_j = \{\mathbf{x}_i\}_{i=1}^n$ , with  $\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}_j$ .
- Approximate  $\mathbf{p}_x \cdot \nabla f \Big|_{\mathbf{x}_j}$  using linear a combination of the values of  $f$  sampled at  $X_j$ :

$$\mathbf{p}_x \cdot \nabla f \Big|_{\mathbf{x}_j} = \sum_{i=1}^n c_i f(\mathbf{x}_i)$$

- Consider  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{S}^2$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_j = (x_j, y_j, z_j)$ :



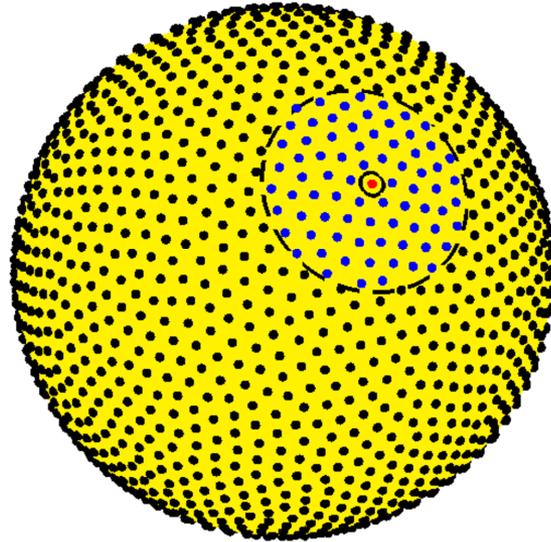
Key Steps:

- Choose the weights  $c_i$  such the approximation is exact for  $\{\phi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k\|)\}_{k=1}^n$ :

$$\underbrace{[\mathbf{p}_x \cdot \nabla \phi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_k\|)]}_{\mathcal{D}_x} \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_j} \equiv \sum_{i=1}^n c_i \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_k - \mathbf{x}_i\|), \quad k = 1, \dots, n$$

Similar to standard FD formulas that use polynomials.

- Consider  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{S}^2$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_j = (x_j, y_j, z_j)$ :



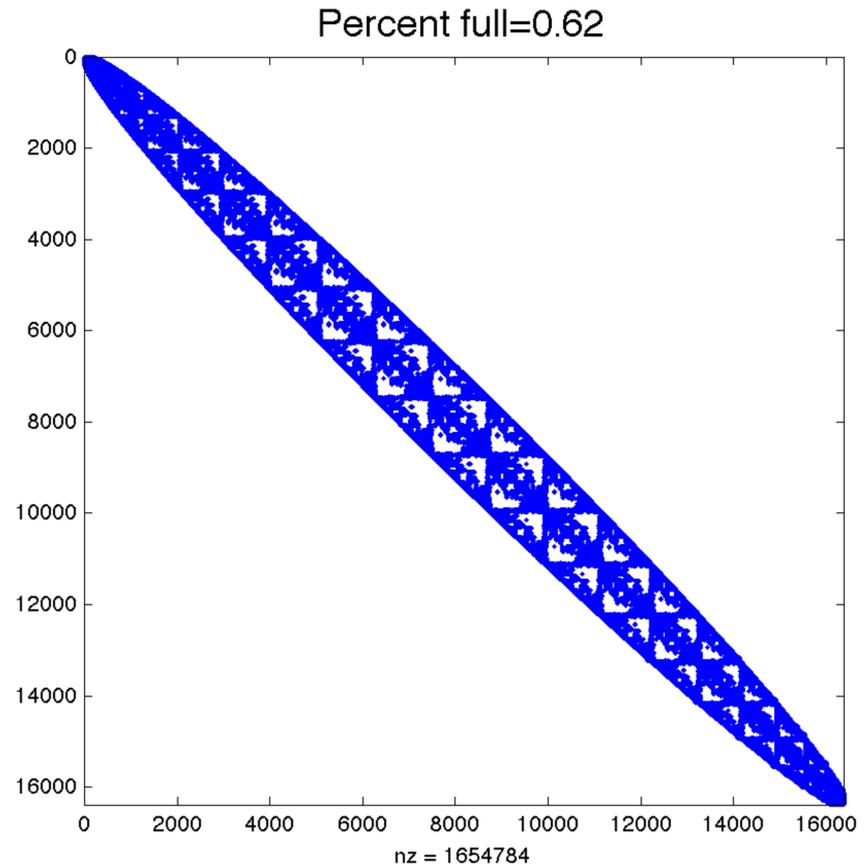
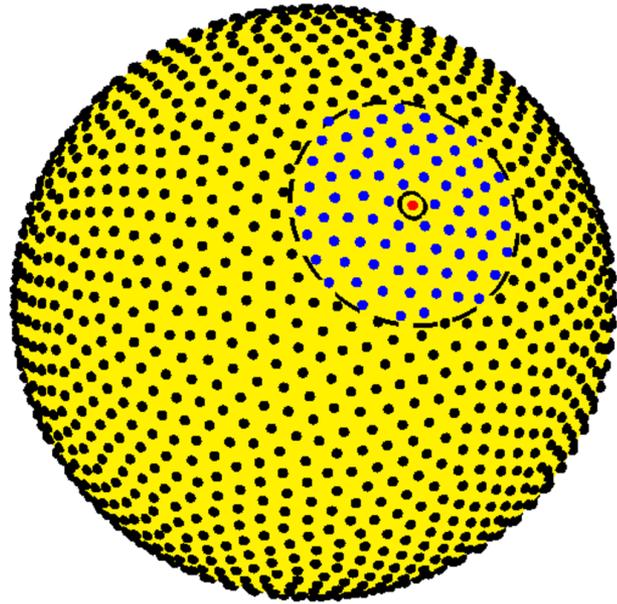
Key Steps:

- The weights  $\{c_i\}_{i=1}^n$  can be computed by solving:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_1\|) & \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2\|) & \cdots & \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_N\|) \\ \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_1\|) & \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_2\|) & \cdots & \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_N\|) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_1\|) & \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_2\|) & \cdots & \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_N - \mathbf{x}_N\|) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_N \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathcal{D}_x \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_1\|) \\ \mathcal{D}_x \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_2\|) \\ \vdots \\ \mathcal{D}_x \phi(\|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_n\|) \end{bmatrix}$$

- Combine all the weights into a differentiation matrix.

- Example differentiation matrix (DM) for  $N=16384$ ,  $n=101$ :



- Compare to the global RBF method, which results in a dense differentiation matrix.

- Continuous transport equation for some  $\mathbf{u} = (u, v, w) \in T_X \mathbb{S}^2$ :

$$h_t + \mathbf{u} \cdot (P \nabla h) = 0$$

- Let  $h$  and  $\mathbf{u} = (u, v, w)$  be sampled at  $X$ .
- **Semi-discrete formulation** (method-of-lines) of transport equation:

$$\underline{h}_t = -(\text{diag}(\underline{u})D_N^x + \text{diag}(\underline{v})D_N^y + \text{diag}(\underline{w})D_N^z) \underline{h} = -D_N \underline{h}.$$

- Advance the system in time using some standard ODE solver.
- This is a purely hyperbolic problem and temporal stability is an issue.
  - We **stabilize** the method by including some high-order diffusion operator  $L_N$  (hyperviscosity):

$$\underline{h}_t = -D_N \underline{h} + \mu L_N \underline{h}$$

- $L_N$  is a discrete approximation to a high power of the Laplacian:  $\Delta^{2k}$ .

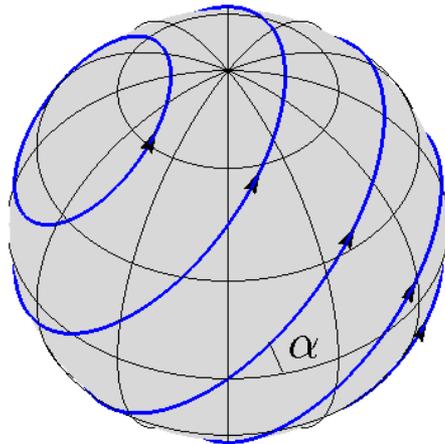
- Solid body rotation of a non-smooth cosine bell  
(Williamson et. al. JCP (1992))

## Stream Function for flow

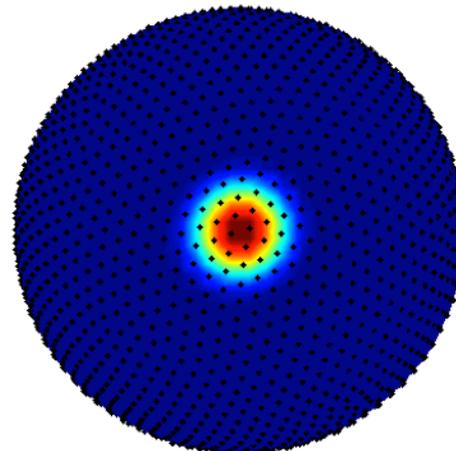
$$\psi(\mathbf{x}) = \cos(\alpha)z + \sin(\alpha)y \quad \alpha = \pi/2 \text{ (flow over the poles)}$$

## Initial condition (non-smooth: jump in second derivative)

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} (1 + \cos(3\pi r(\mathbf{x}))) & r(\mathbf{x}) < 1/3 \\ 0 & r(\mathbf{x}) \geq 1/3 \end{cases} \quad r(\mathbf{x}) = \arccos(x)$$



Flow direction

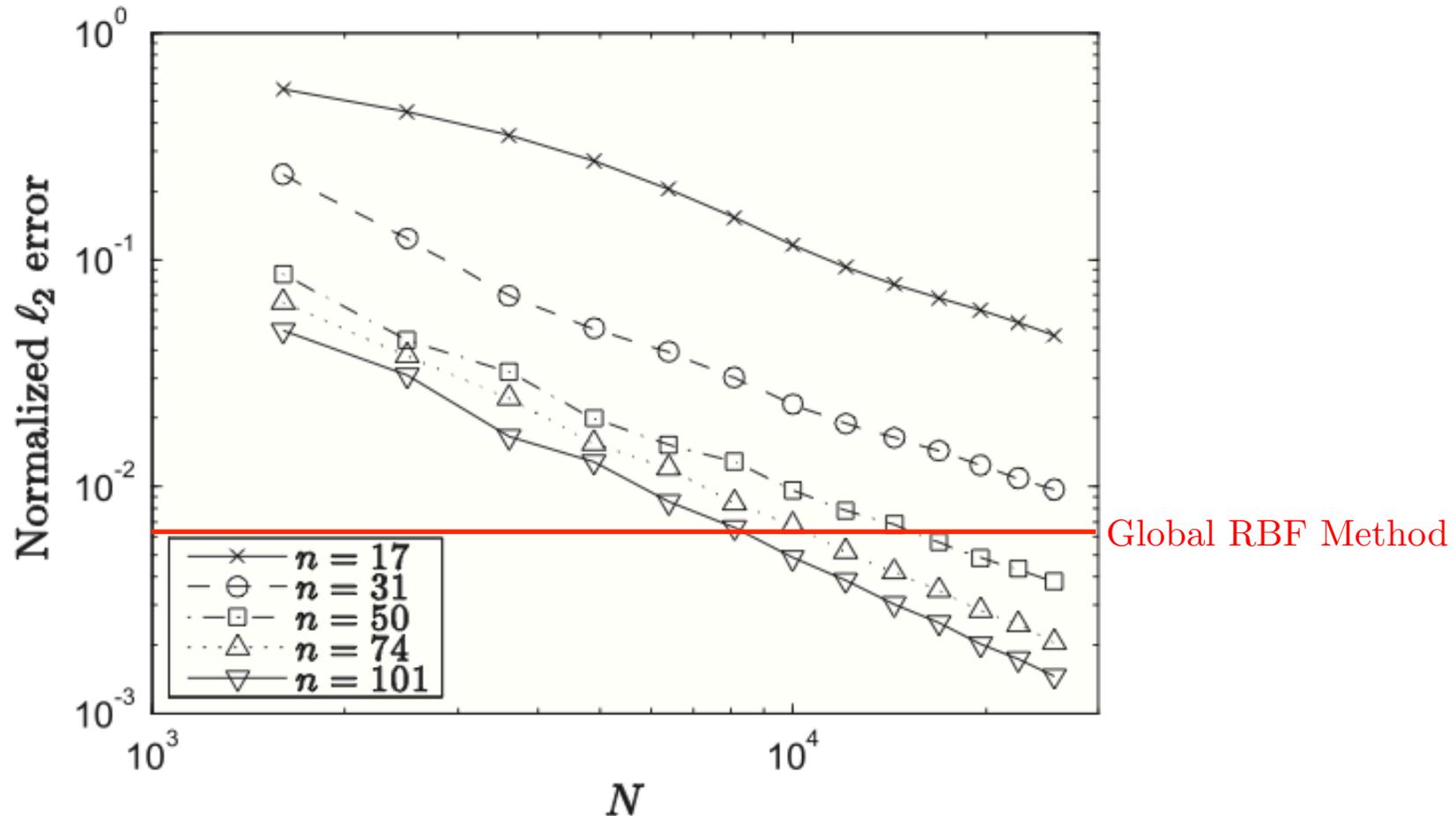


Initial condition

### Details:

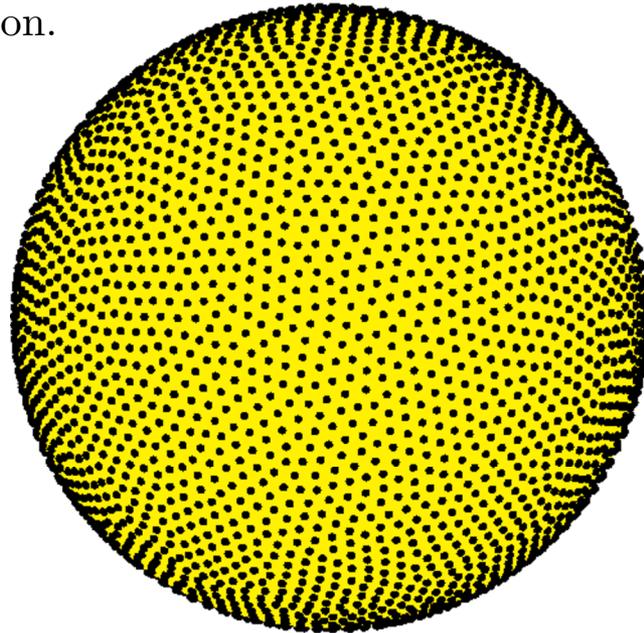
- Gaussian RBF
- Stabilization required.
- Minimum energy node sets used.

- Convergence results as number of nodes  $N$  increases (Fornberg & Lehto, 2011)
- Error results are for **10 complete revolution** of the cosine bell.



- Errors compare favorably with the global RBF method.
- RBF-FD method much more computationally efficient than global method.

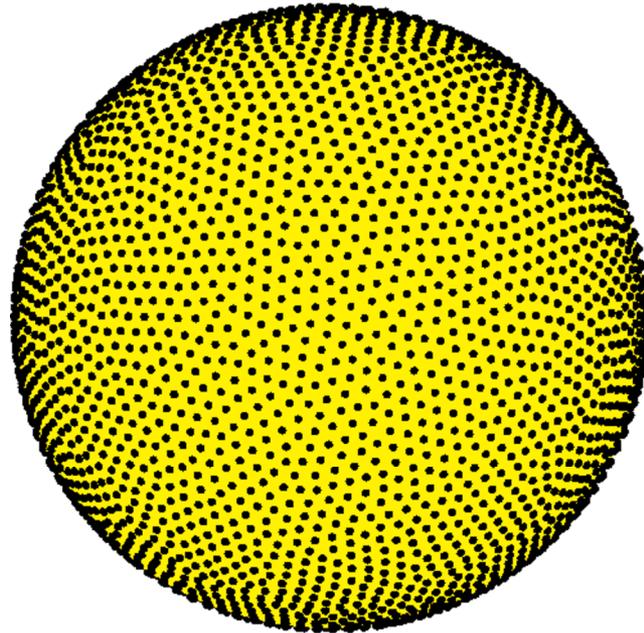
- Recent work with my graduate student Kevin Aiton.  
G.B. Wright & K. Aiton. A radial basis function partition of unity method for transport on the sphere. In preparation.



## Background references for interpolation with RBF-PUM

- R. Cavoretto & A. DeRossi, Fast and accurate interpolation of large scattered data sets on the sphere. *J. Comput. Appl. Math.* 234 (2010), 1505–1521.
- R. Cavoretto & A. DeRossi, Spherical interpolation using the partition of unity method: An efficient and flexible algorithm. *Appl. Math. Lett.* 25 (2012), 1251-1256.

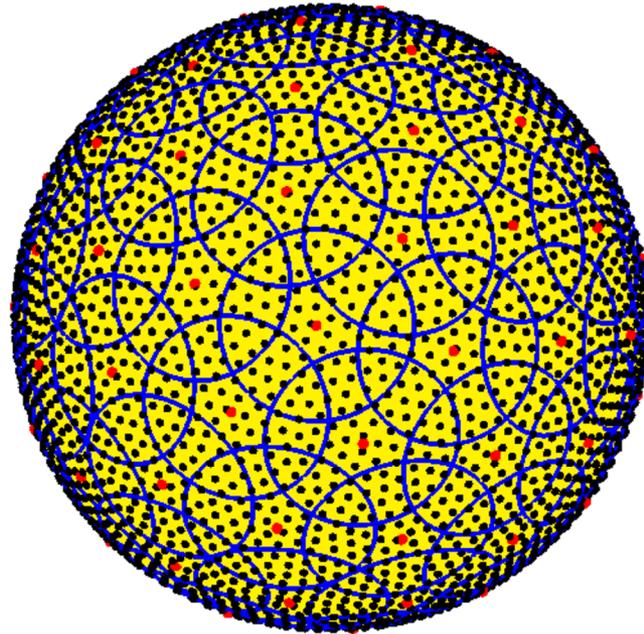
- Consider  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{S}^2$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_j = (x_j, y_j, z_j)$ :



## Key Steps:

1. Generate a set of overlapping patches (spherical caps)  $\Omega = \{\Omega_k\}_{k=1}^M$  that creates a uniform partition of the sphere with respect to the density of the nodes in  $X$ , and each patch contains roughly  $n$  nodes of  $X$ .

- Consider  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{S}^2$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_j = (x_j, y_j, z_j)$ :

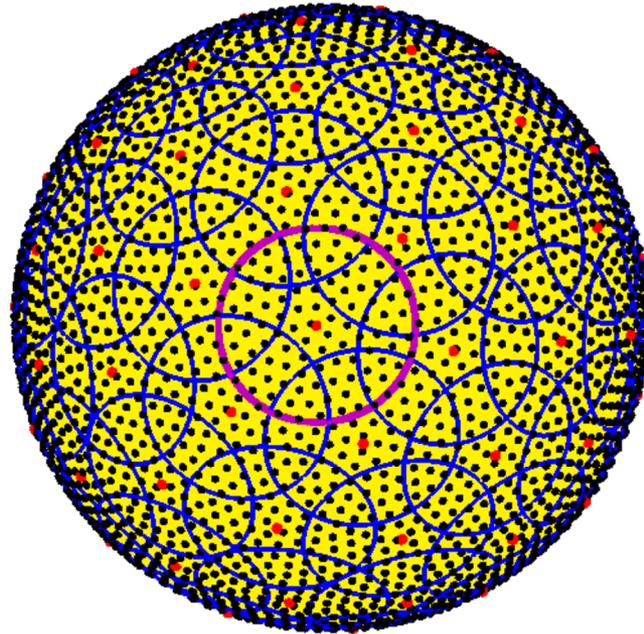


$M$  total patches  
 $n$  nodes per patch  
 $\xi_k = \text{center of patch } \Omega_k$

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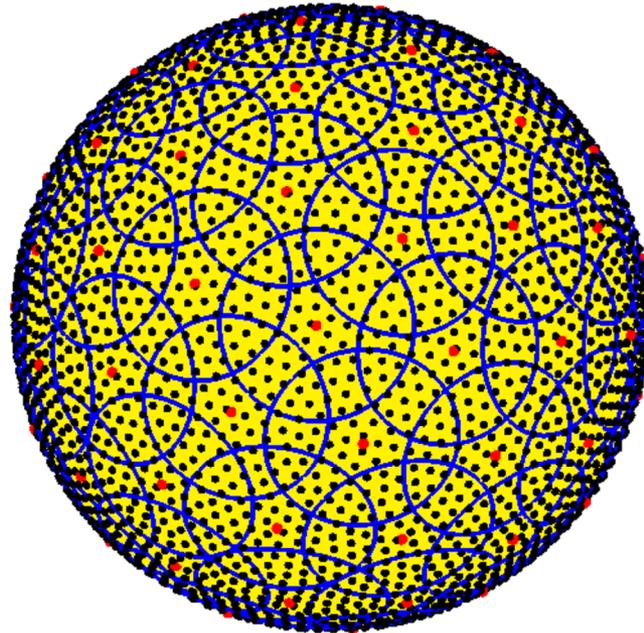
$M$  total patches  
 $n$  nodes per patch  
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Key Steps:

- Letting  $X_k$  denote the set of nodes in patch  $\Omega_k$ , construct RBF interpolants  $s_k$ , for  $k = 1, \dots, M$ :

$$s_k(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{j=1}^n c_j^k \phi(\|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_j^k\|)$$

- Consider  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{S}^2$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_j = (x_j, y_j, z_j)$ :



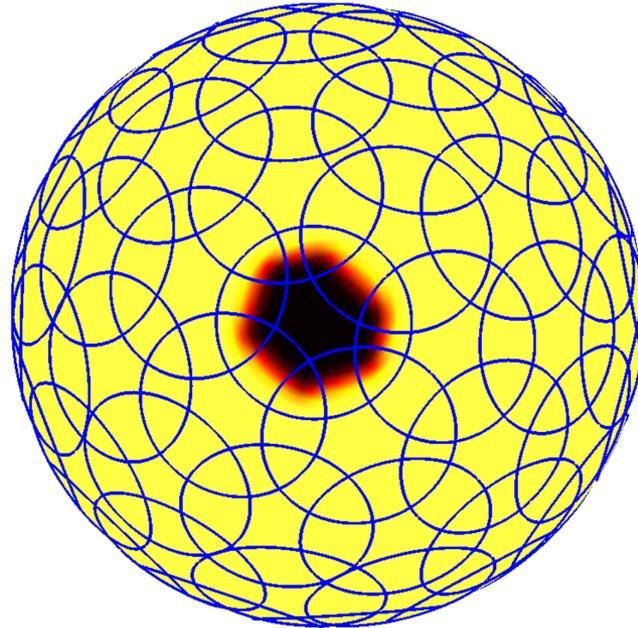
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## Key Steps:

- Define weight functions  $w_k : \mathbb{S}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $k = 1 \dots, M$ , with the properties that each  $w_k$  is compactly supported over  $\Omega_k$  and the set of all  $w_k$  form a partition-of-unity over  $\Omega$ :

$$\sum_{k=1}^M w_k(\mathbf{x}) \equiv 1, \mathbf{x} \in \Omega$$

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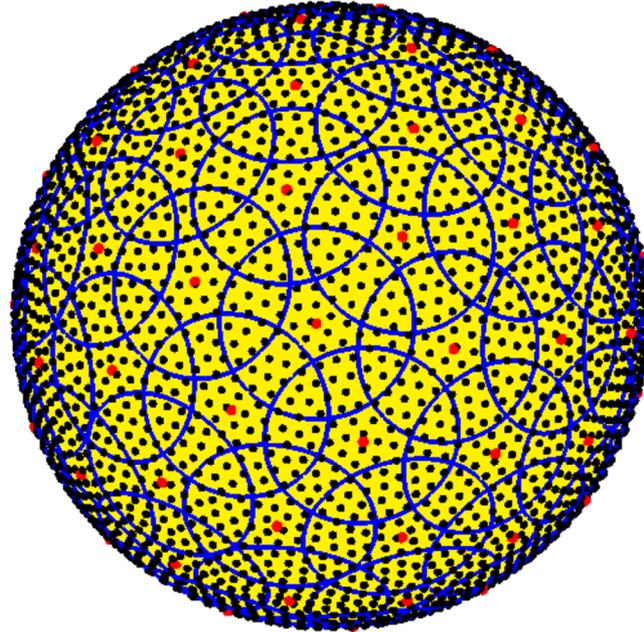
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Key Steps:

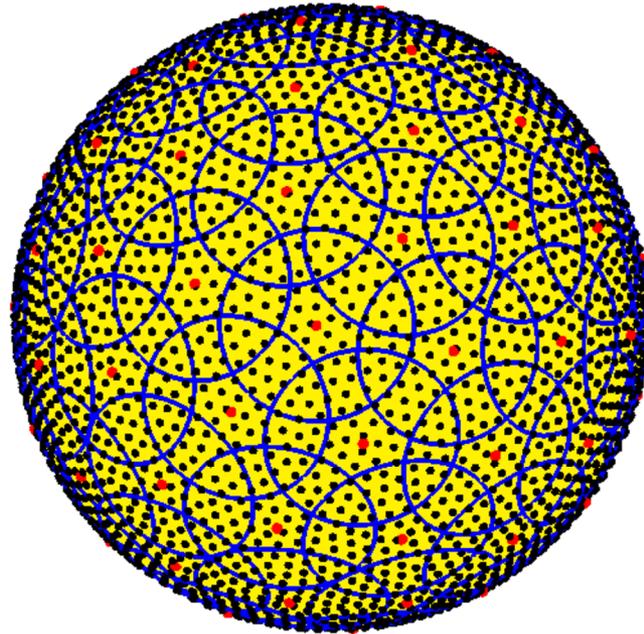
Weight function details:

$$\psi_k(\mathbf{x}) = \psi\left(\frac{\|\mathbf{x} - \xi_k\|}{\rho_k}\right) \quad w_k(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{\psi_k(\mathbf{x})}{\sum_{i=1}^M \psi_i(\mathbf{x})}$$

$\rho_k =$  radius of patch  $\Omega_k$

$\psi$  has compact support over  $[0, 1]$

- Consider  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{S}^2$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_j = (x_j, y_j, z_j)$ :



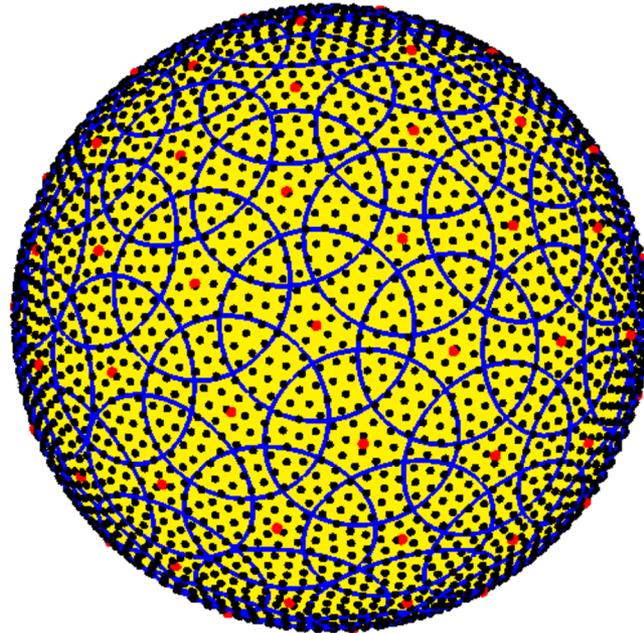
$M$  total patches  
 $n$  nodes per patch  
 $\xi_k =$  center of patches  $\Omega_k$

Key Steps:

4. Create a global interpolant for  $X$  as

$$s(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{k=1}^M w_k(\mathbf{x}) s_k(\mathbf{x})$$

- Consider  $X = \{\mathbf{x}_j\}_{j=1}^N \subset \mathbb{S}^2$ , where  $\mathbf{x}_j = (x_j, y_j, z_j)$ :



$M$  total patches

$n$  nodes per patch

$\xi_k =$  center of patches  $\Omega_k$

Key Steps:

- Apply projected gradient operator  $\mathcal{D}_x := \mathbf{p}_x \cdot \nabla$  to interpolant and evaluate at each node  $\mathbf{x}_j$ :

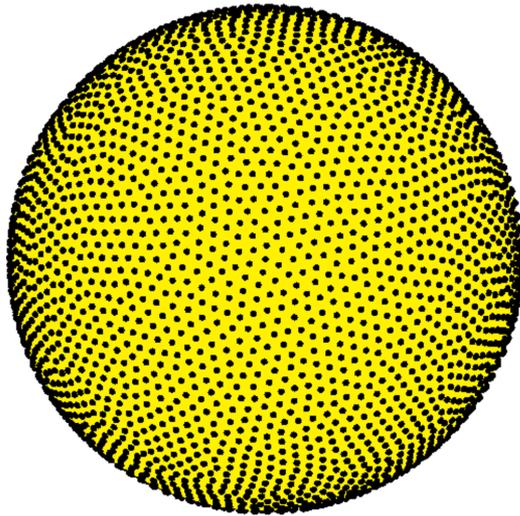
$$\mathcal{D}_x s(\mathbf{x}) \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_j} = \sum_{k=1}^M \mathcal{D}_x (w_k(\mathbf{x}) s_k(\mathbf{x})) \Big|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_j}$$

Weights can be generated and stored in a differentiation matrix.

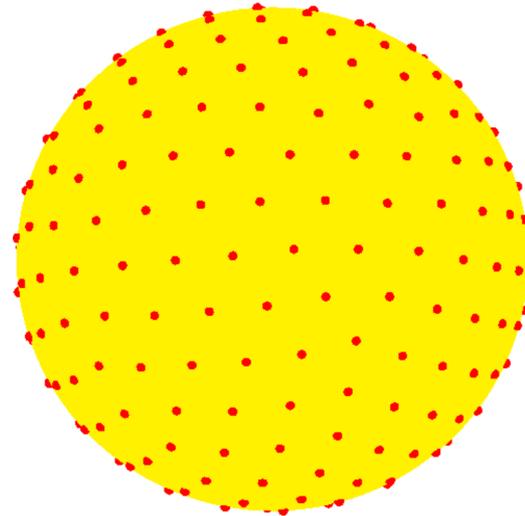
Nodes: We use the *maximal determinant* (MD) node sets, which are quasi-uniformly distributed over the sphere. R.S. Womersley & I. Sloan (2001)

Patches: We use *minimum energy* (ME) points, which are also quasi-uniformly distributed over the sphere. D.P. Hardin & E.B. Saff (2004)

Nodes

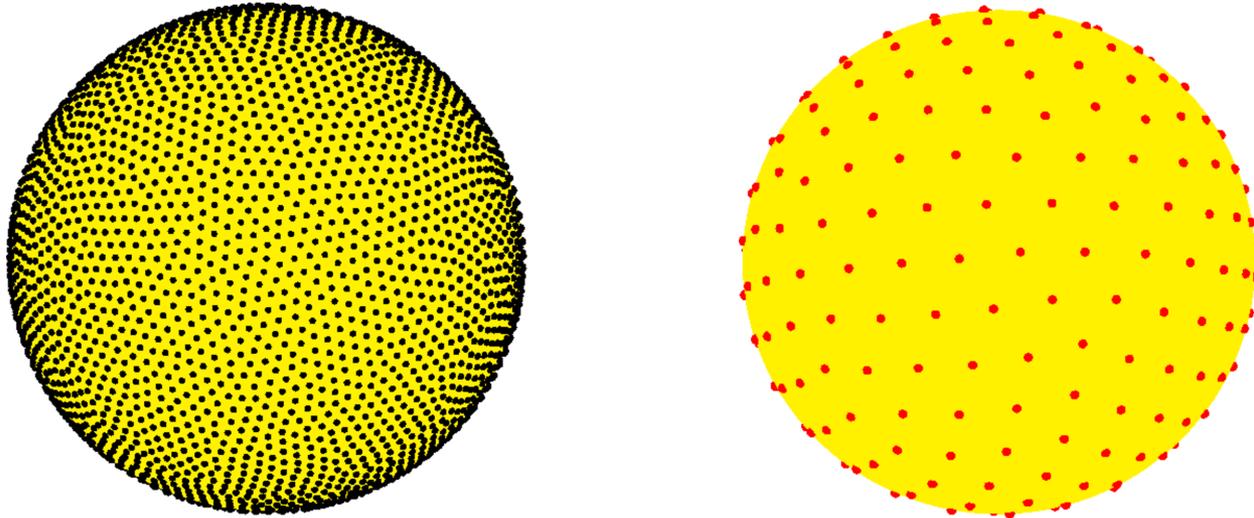


Patch  
centers



Parameters: Given  $N$  nodes, there are 2 parameters to choose for determining the total number of patches  $M$ :

- $n$  = approx. number of nodes in each patch;
- $q$  = measure of the amount the patches overlap.



- Using the quasi-uniformity of the nodes and patches, we compute the **radii of the patches** using the approximation:

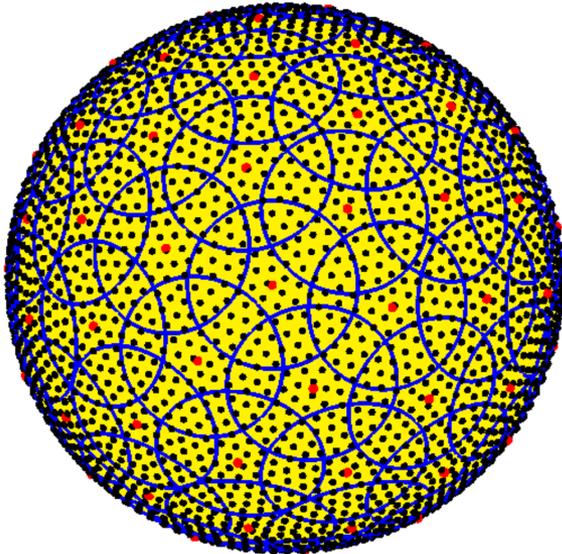
$$\rho \approx 2\sqrt{\frac{n}{N}}$$

- The overlap parameter  $q$  determines the **average number of patches a node belongs to**, and satisfies the relationship:

$$\frac{4\pi}{M} \approx \frac{\pi\rho^2}{q} \implies M = \left\lceil q \frac{N}{n} \right\rceil$$

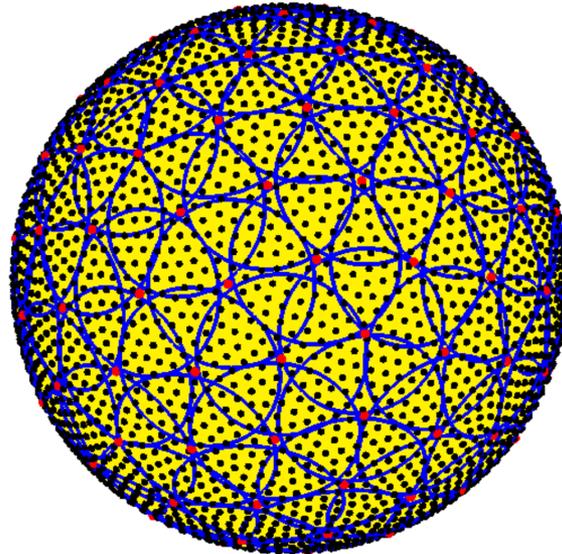
- Illustration of the patches for  $N=4096$ ,  $n=100$ , and different  $q$ :

$q=2$



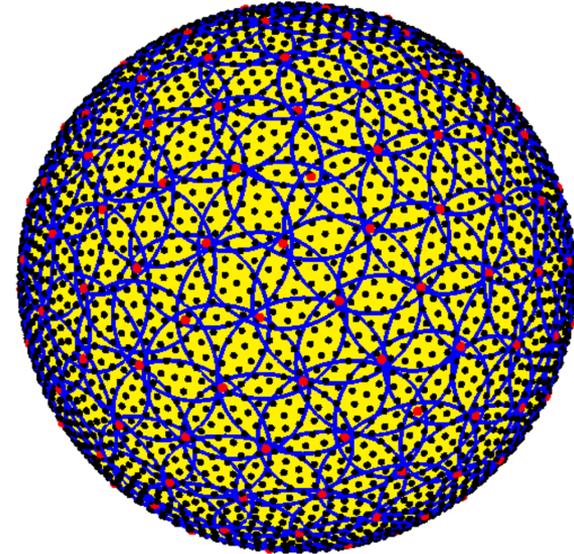
$M=82$

$q=3$



$M=123$

$q=4$



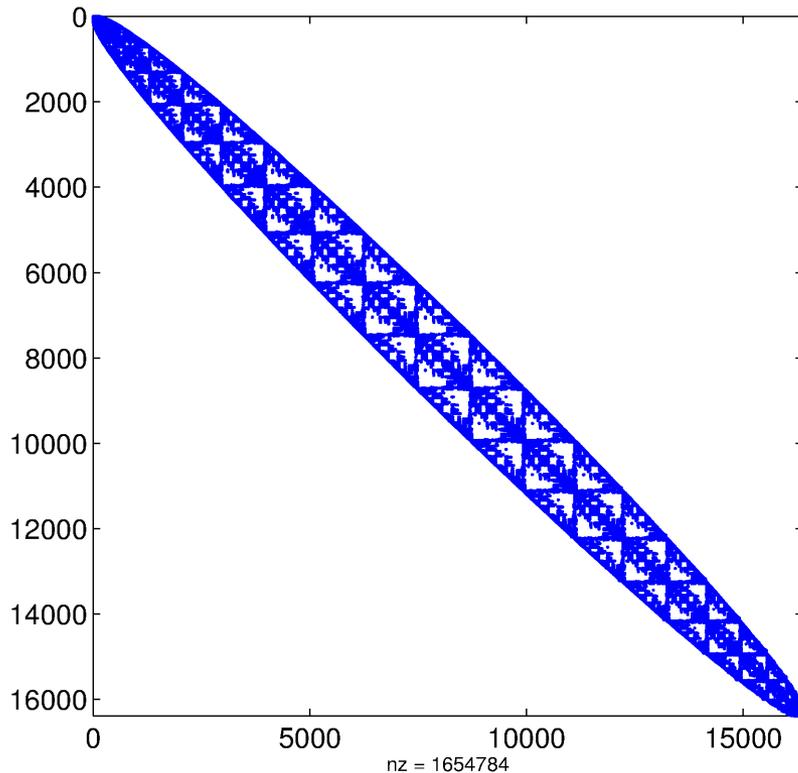
$M=184$

The computational cost for evaluating a derivative grows at most linearly with  $q$  and  $n$ .

- Example differentiation matrix (DM) for  $N=16384$ ,  $n=101$ :

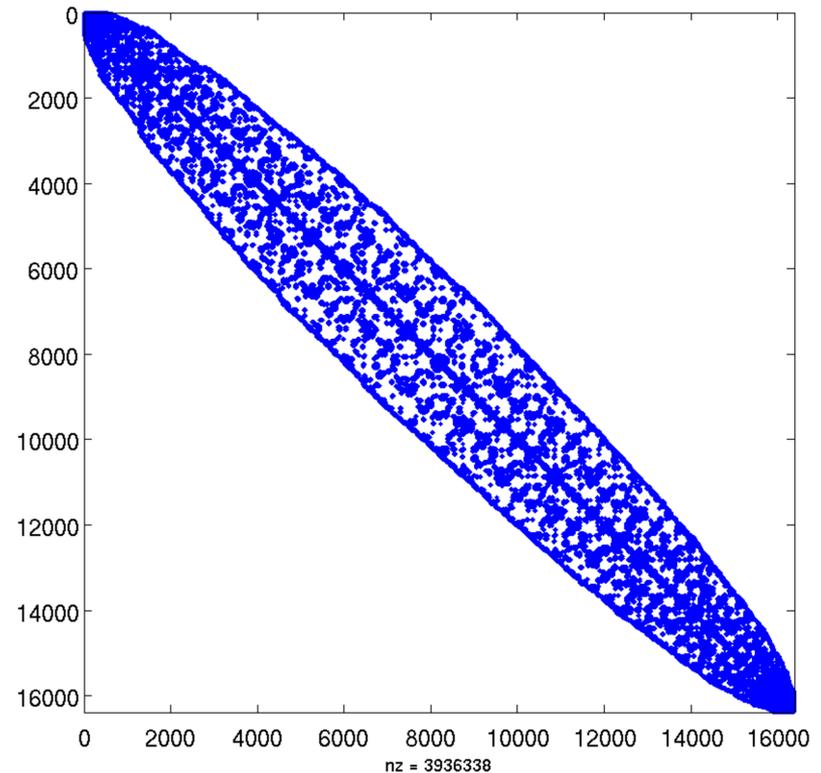
## RBF-FD

Percent full=0.62



## RBF-PUM, $q=4$

Percent full = 1.47



- Recall global RBF-type methods result in dense matrices.

- Continuous transport equation for some  $\mathbf{u} = (u, v, w) \in T_X \mathbb{S}^2$ :

$$h_t + \mathbf{u} \cdot (P \nabla h) = 0$$

- Let  $h$  and  $\mathbf{u} = (u, v, w)$  be sampled at  $X$ .
- **Semi-discrete formulation** (method-of-lines) of transport equation:

$$\underline{h}_t = -(\text{diag}(\underline{u})D_N^x + \text{diag}(\underline{v})D_N^y + \text{diag}(\underline{w})D_N^z) \underline{h} = -D_N \underline{h}.$$

- Advance the system in time using some standard ODE solver.
- This is a purely hyperbolic problem and temporal stability will be an issue.
  - We **stabilize** the method by including some high-order diffusion-type operator  $L_N$  (hyperviscosity):

$$\underline{h}_t = -D_N \underline{h} + \mu L_N \underline{h}$$

- $L_N$  is a like a discrete approximation to a high power of the Laplacian.

Details for all numerical results:

- We use the Gaussian RBF
- Time-step  $\Delta t$  is not optimized
- Overlap is set to  $q=4$
- We set  $\epsilon = a_n \sqrt{N} + b_n$

- Solid body rotation of a non-smooth cosine bell  
(Williamson et. al. JCP (1992))

Stream Function for flow

$$\psi(\mathbf{x}) = \cos(\alpha)z + \sin(\alpha)y \quad \alpha = \pi/2 \text{ (flow over the poles)}$$

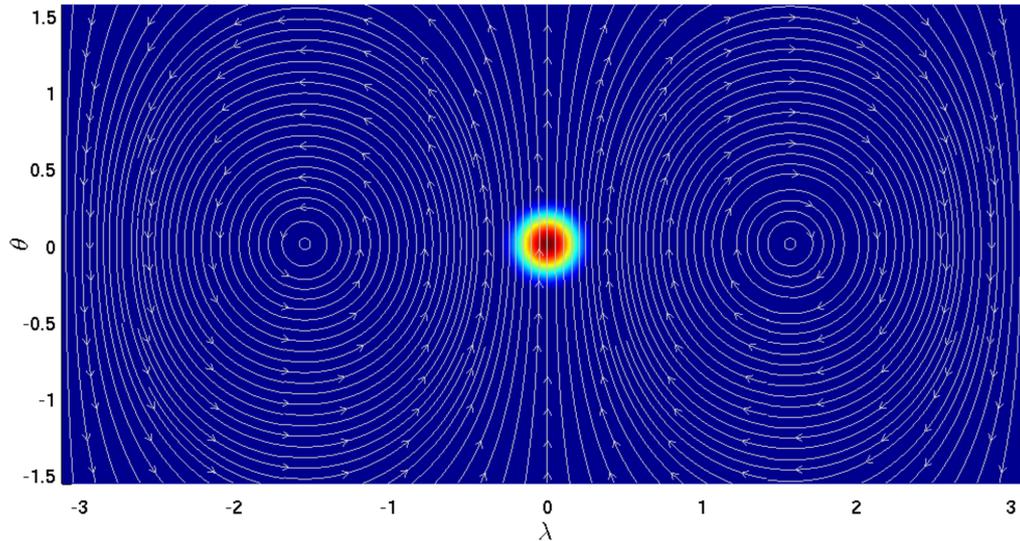
Initial condition (non-smooth: jump in second derivative)

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} (1 + \cos(3\pi r(\mathbf{x}))) & r(\mathbf{x}) < 1/3 \\ 0 & r(\mathbf{x}) \geq 1/3 \end{cases}$$

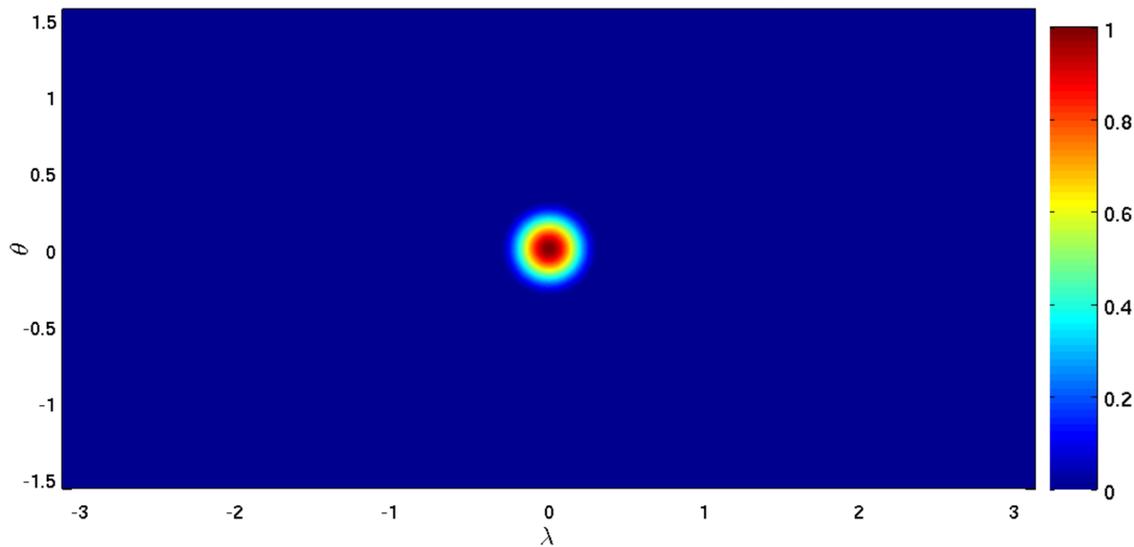
$$r(\mathbf{x}) = \arccos(x)$$

Plots of the RBF-PUM solution for  $N=12544$ ,  $n=100$ ,  $\Delta t=2\pi/1600$  :

Initial condition,  $t=0$ , with streamlines

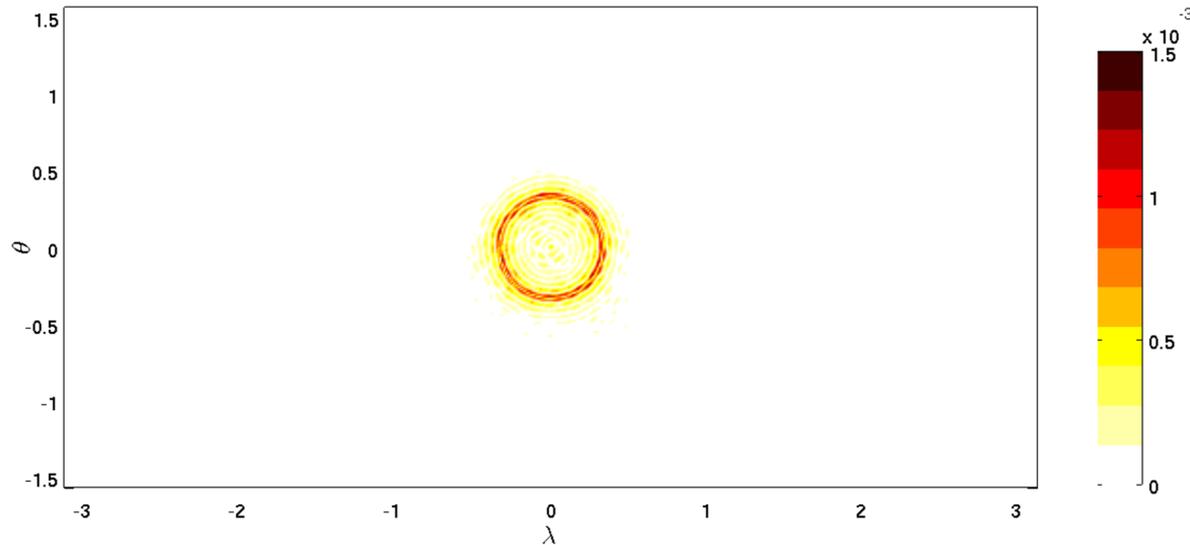


Solution after one revolution,  $t=2\pi$

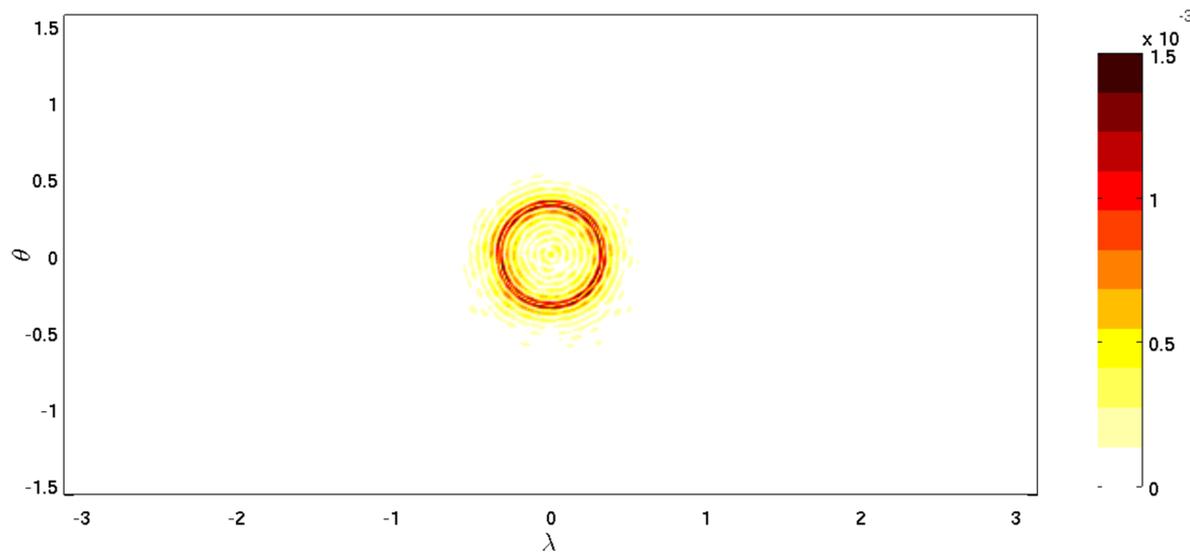


Plots of the RBF-PUM error for  $N=12544$ ,  $n=100$ ,  $\Delta t=2\pi/1600$  :

Magnitude of the error after one revolution

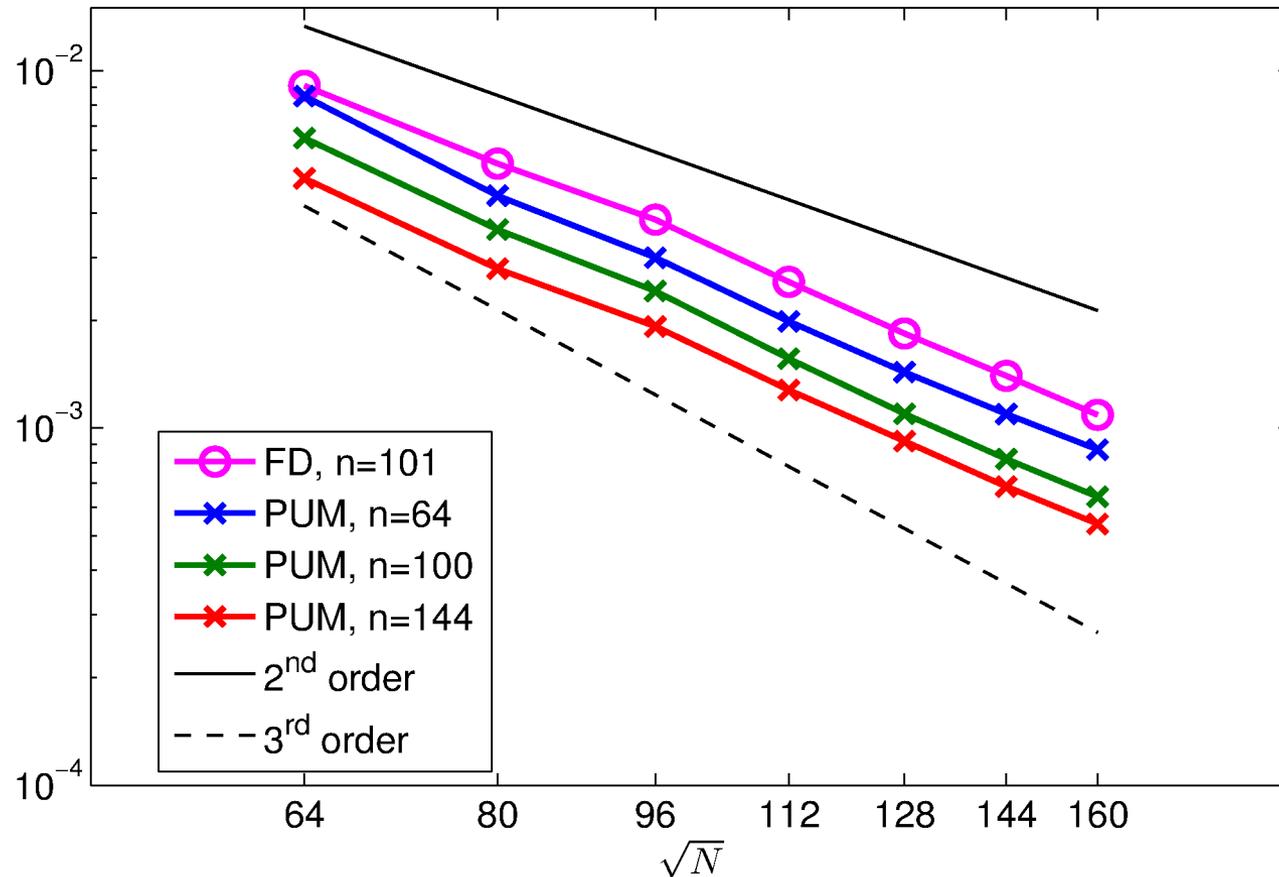


Magnitude of the error after **ten** revolutions



Comparison of the errors for RBF-FD and RBF-PUM:

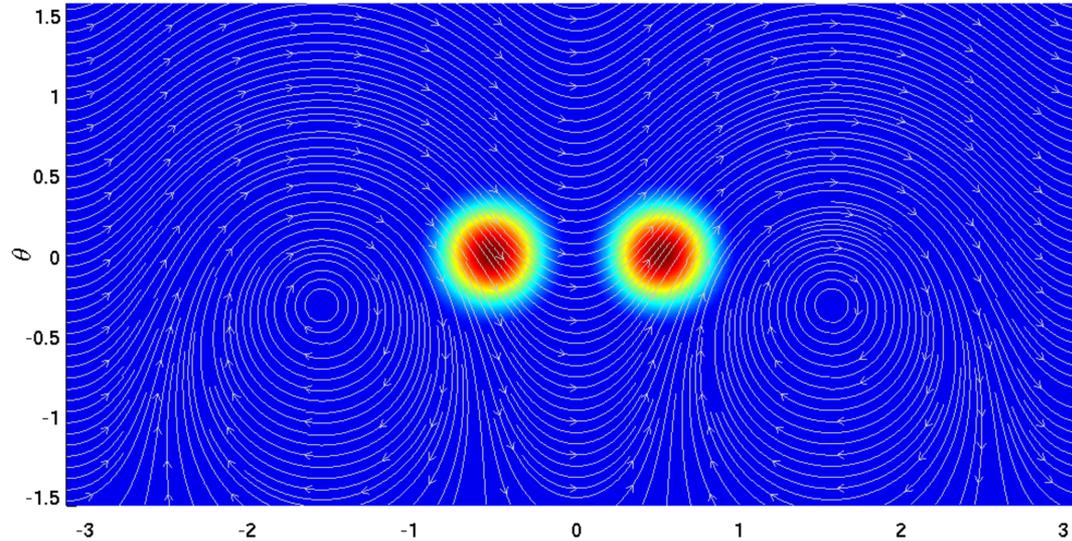
Relative  $\ell_2$  error vs.  $\sqrt{N}$  (logscale)



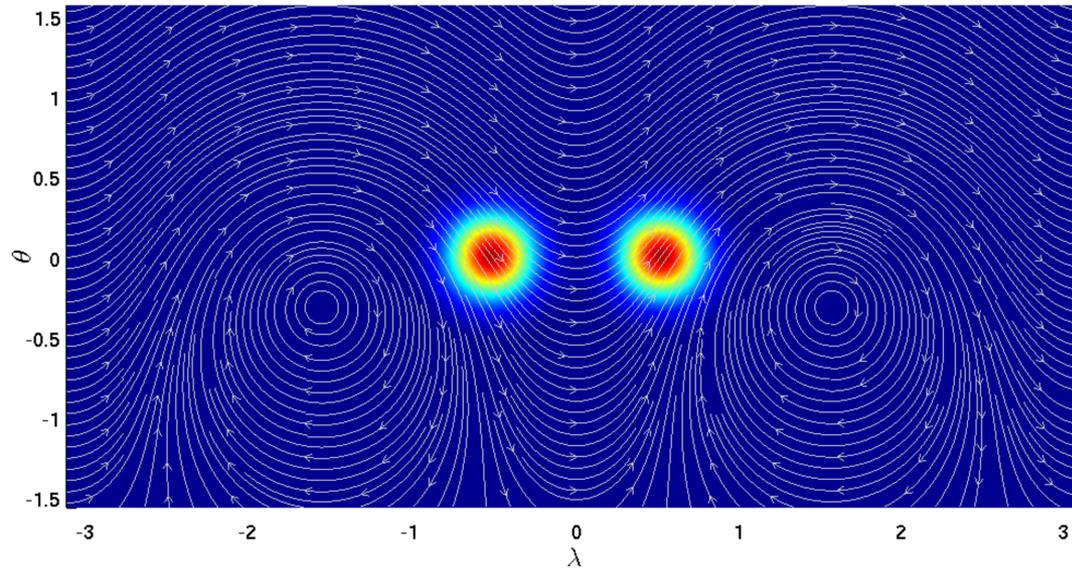
Convergence rates are as expected given smoothness of the initial condition.

- Deformational/rotational flow (R.D. Nair and P.H. Lauritzen, JCP (2010))

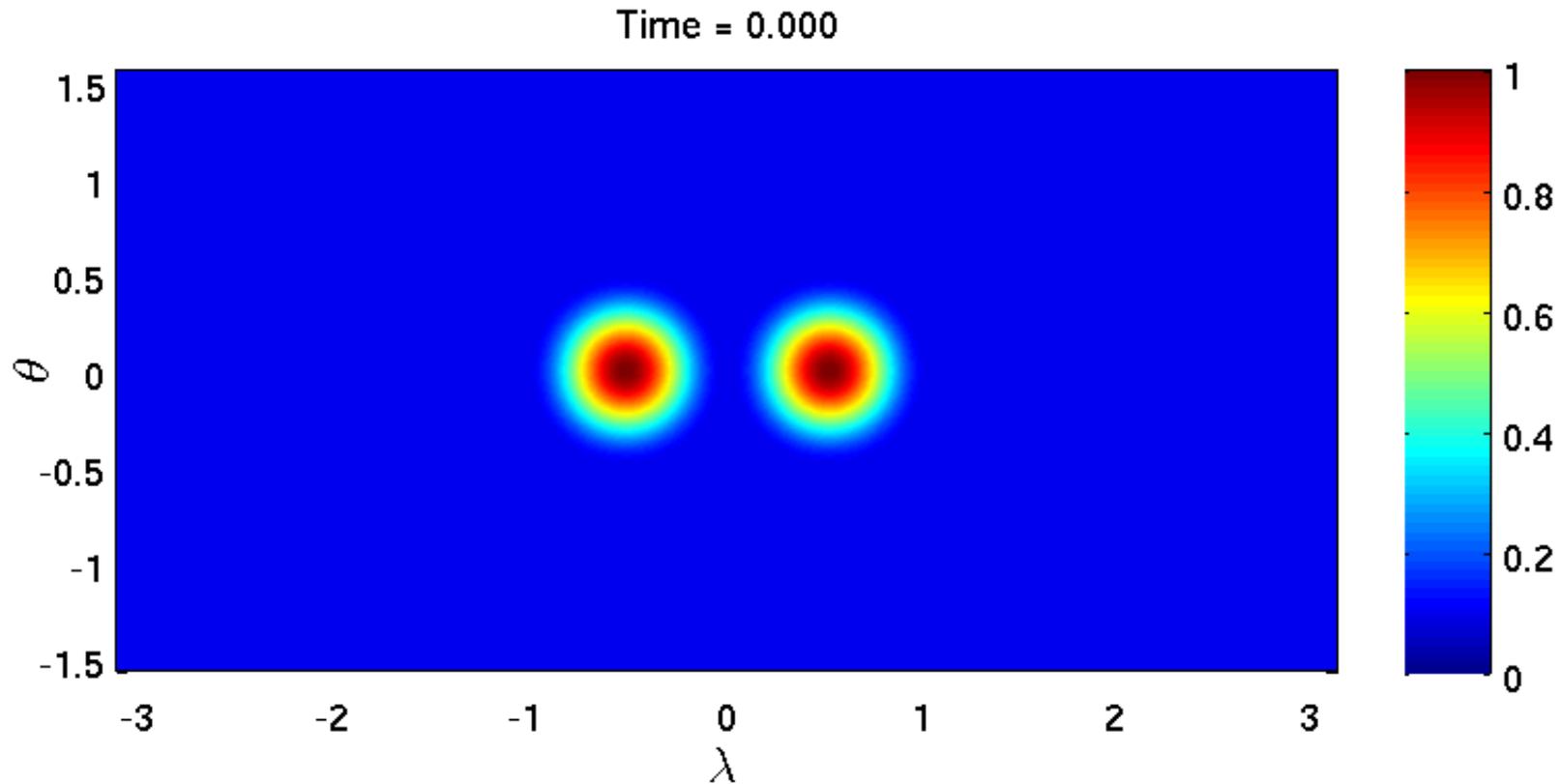
Non-smooth  
initial condition:



Smooth  
initial condition:



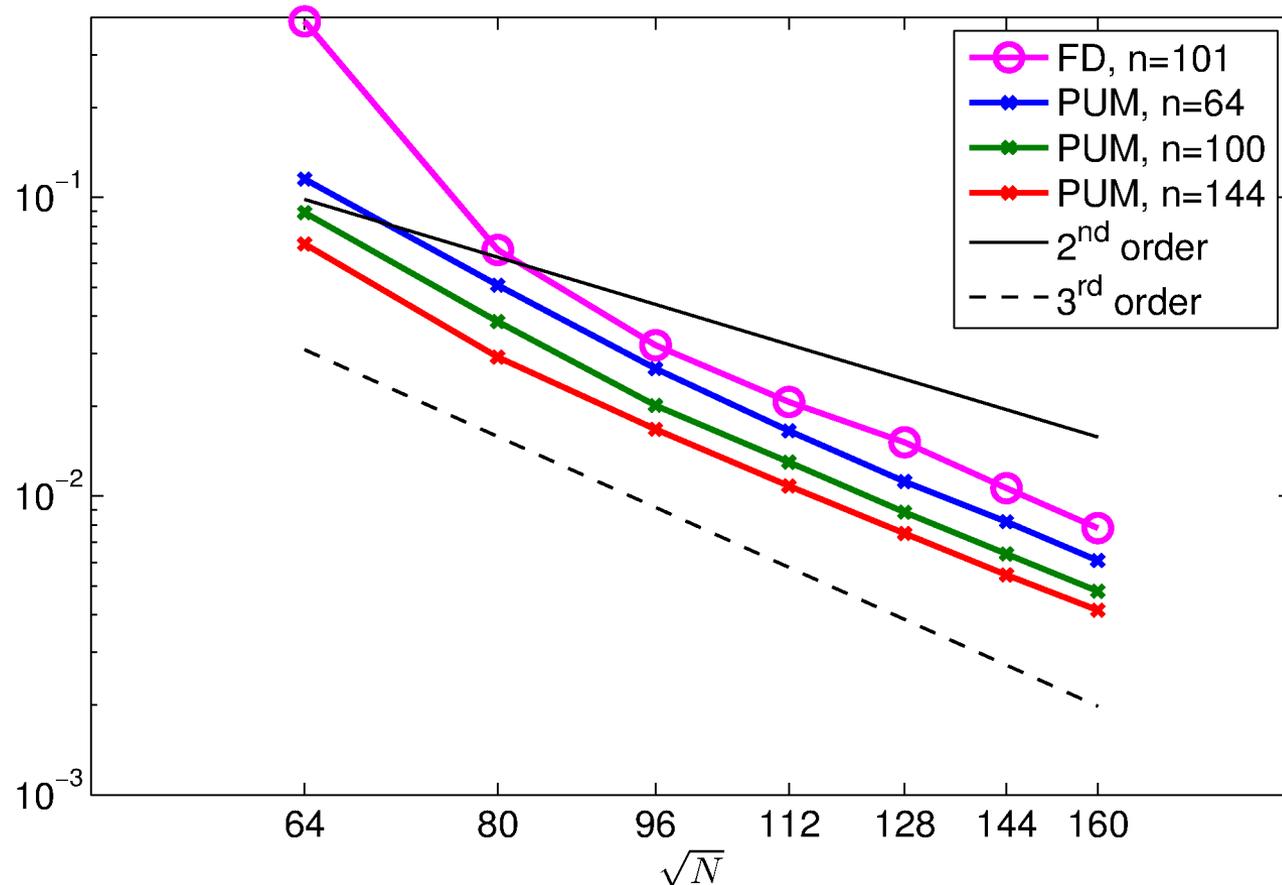
Simulation for non-smooth IC,  $N=20736$ ,  $n=100$ ,  $\Delta t=5/2400$



Convergence plots for increasing  $N$  and  $n$ ,  $\Delta t=5/2400$

- Non-smooth initial condition:

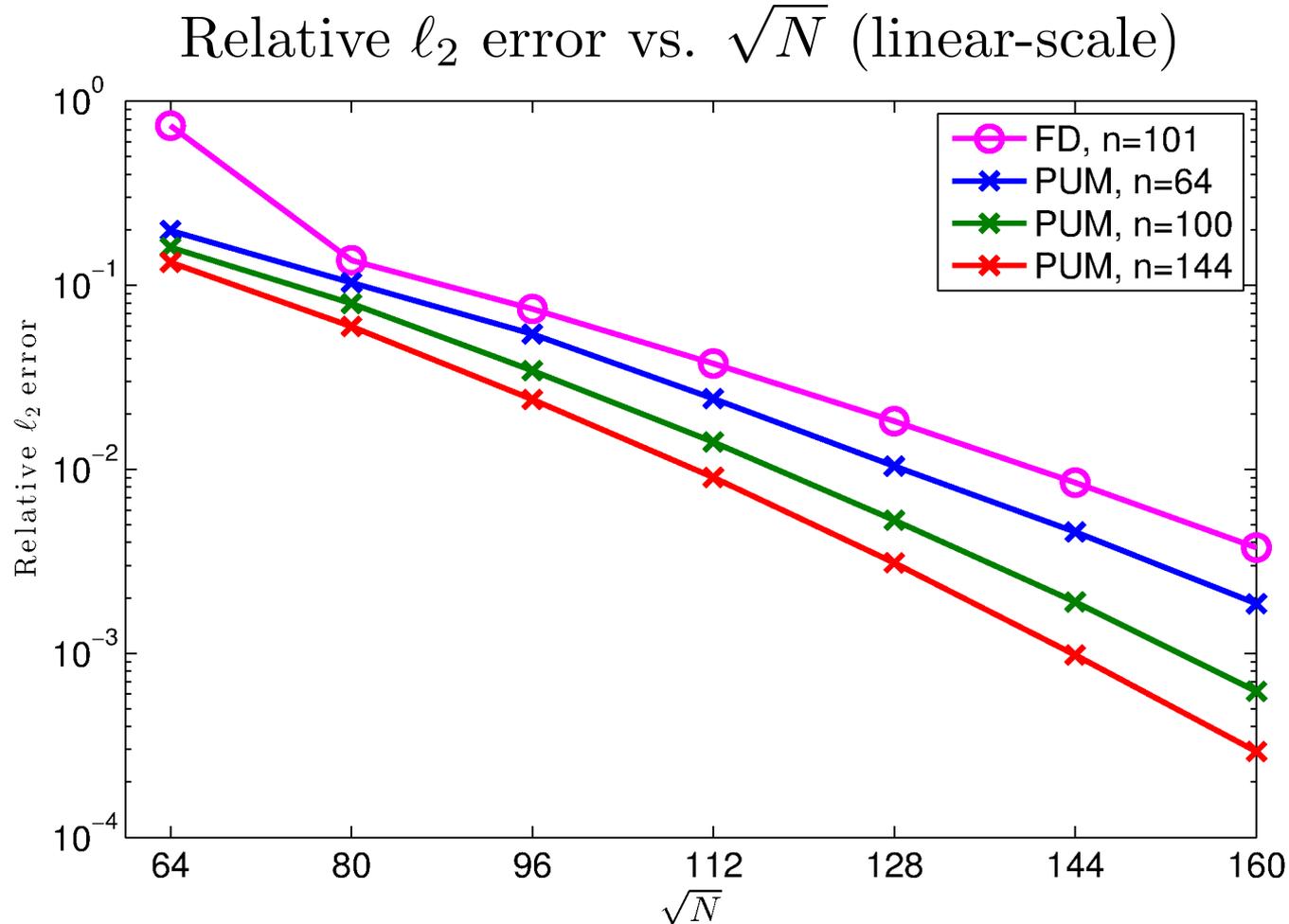
Relative  $\ell_2$  error vs.  $\sqrt{N}$  (logscale)



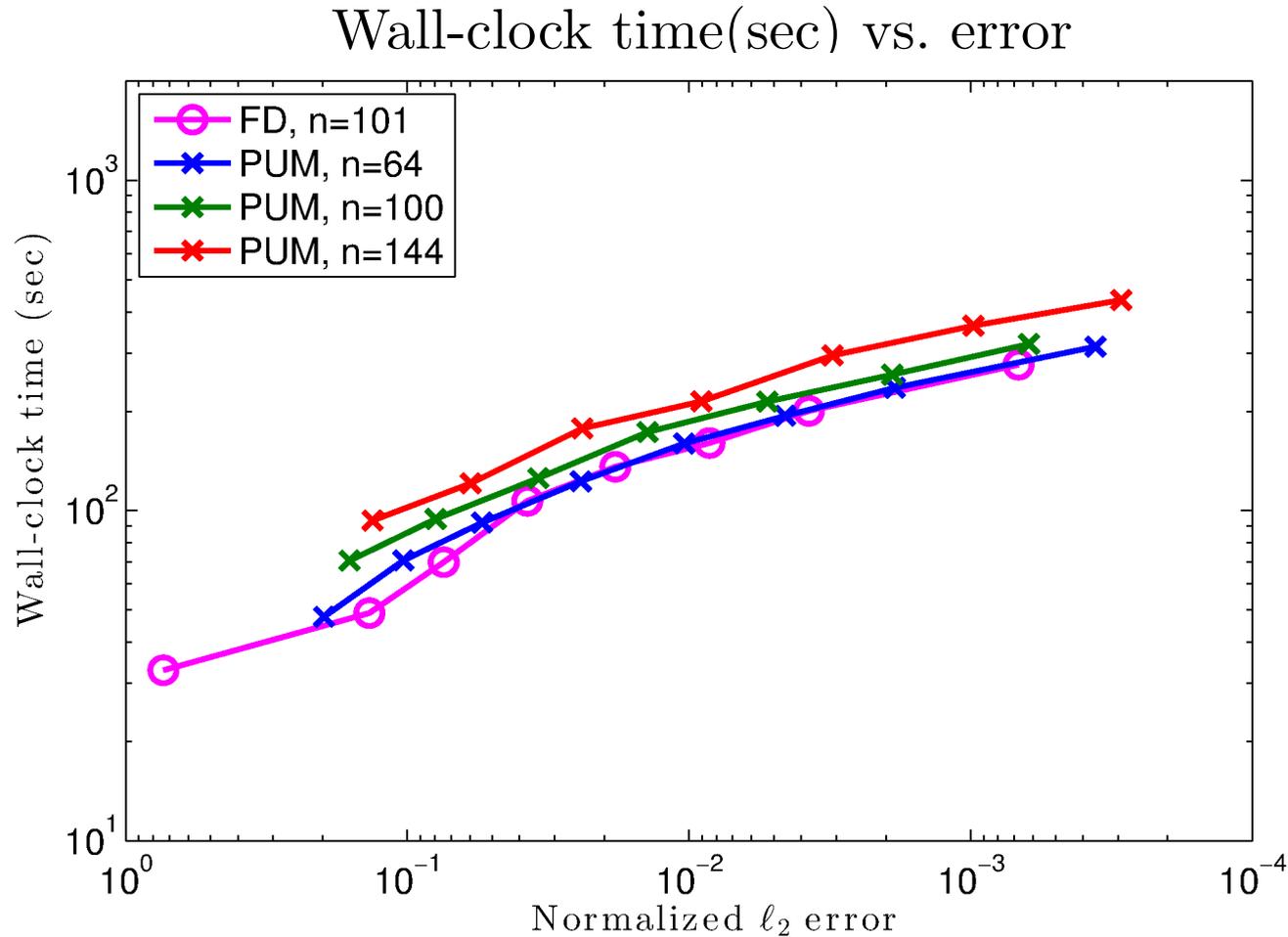
Convergence rates are as expected given smoothness of the initial condition.

Convergence plots for increasing  $N$  and  $n$ ,  $\Delta t=5/2400$

- Smooth initial condition:

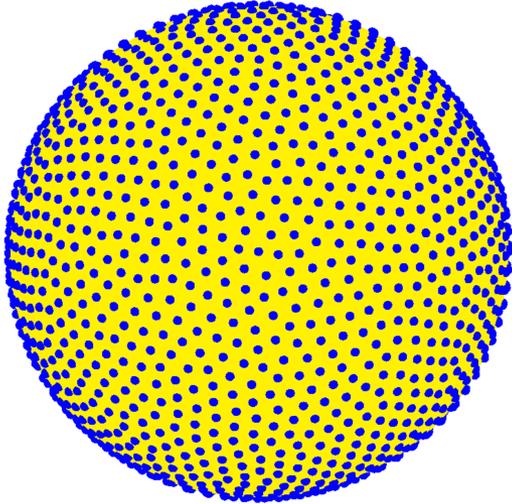


- Test: Deformational/Rotational flow smooth initial condition



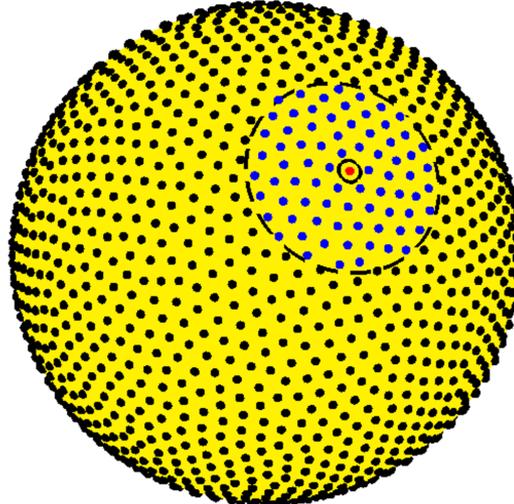
- MATLAB R2013a, Intel Xeon 3.1GHz processor

Global RBFs



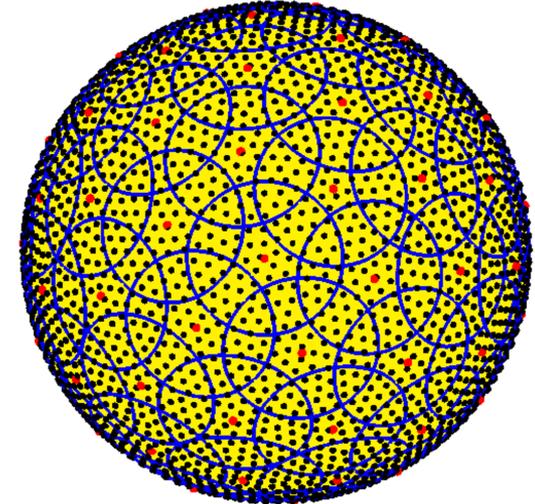
$N$  total nodes

RBF-FD



$N$  total nodes  
 $n$  nodes per FD-stencil

RBF-PUM



$N$  total nodes  
 $M$  total patches  
 $n$  nodes per patch

Cost Comparison:

Derivative approx.	Global RBF	RBF-FD*	RBF-PUM*
Construction:	$O(N^3)$	$O(n^3 N)$	$O(n^3 M)$
Evaluation:	$O(N^2)$	$O(nN)$	$O(nN)$

\*Constants for the RBF-PUM are higher than for RBF-FD.

- The Global RBF collocation method is competitive in terms of accuracy per degree of freedom.
- It are not competitive in terms of computational complexity.
- The RBF generated finite difference (RBF-FD) method shows great promise in terms of accuracy and computational cost.
  - More comparisons with other state-of-the art methods in the next lecture.
  - Parallelization on multi-GPU has already been implemented (Bollig, Flyer, & Erlebacher, 2012).
- The RBF Partition of unity method (RBF-PUM) also shows great promise.
  - More comparisons are needed between RBF-PUM and RBF-FD in terms of computational cost to achieve a certain accuracy.
  - Parallel implementations also needed.
- More work is needed in developing stable algorithms for “flat” RBFs when working on patches of the sphere.