

iPIC3D: global planetary

simulations

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COMMUNITY COORDINATED MODELING CENTER

Giovanni Lapenta

The challenge in modeling space plasmas: multiple scales

- Macroscopic scales are best treated by fluid models
- Microscopic ion scales are best treated by hybrid methods (particle ions and fluid electrons)
- Microscopic electron scales are best treated by fully kinetic methods (electrons and ions are particles)

Solar wind at 1AU



Explicit and Implicit PIC





EXPLICIT

Operations:

- Solve Newton equations in previous electromagnetic fields
- Solve Maxwell equations with previous particle positions

IMPLICIT

Operations: Over each time step, iteratively solve the two coupled equations until convergence

The challenge in modeling space plasmas: multiple scales

- Explicit methods need to resolve all temporal and spatial scales:
 - a) Explicit Maxwell solver:
 c Δt < Δx
 - b) Explicit mover : $\omega_{pe} \Delta t < 2$
 - c) Explicit Particle- Grid coupling: $\Delta x < \xi \lambda_{De}$
- Implicit methods can resolve any range of scales



Critical innovation of implicit PIC: Exact Energy conservation





Lapenta: ECsim



iPic3D Global Models



3D PIC simulation spawned from a global MHD model

UCLA MHD

Details of the approach: Walker, R. J., Lapenta, G., Berchem, J., El-Alaoui, M., & Schriver, D. (2019). Embedding particle-in-cell simulations in global magnetohydrodynamic simulations of the magnetosphere. *Journal of Plasma Physics*, *85*(1).

iPic3D

8

Jix

0.5

1.2e+00

-0.5

-1.2e+00

Mercury Global PIC model – Ion Temperature

Hybrid model



Full PIC

Lapenta, et al., JGR 127, e2021JA030241 (2022).

Current interfaces

Current along y: ions

nA/m³ ∎ 88.0 nA/m³ 83.0 nA/m³ 180.0 nA/m³ 180.0 10 10 10 nA/m³ nA/m³ 8. *у/*R_H y/R_H H8/2 z/R_H /R -95.0 -92.0 -180.0 -180.0 -88.0 -83.0 2 10 10 2 4 6 у/R_н 8 2 4 6 8 y/R_H ż 8 4 2 4 6 8 2 4 6 8 x/R_H x/R_H b) Jyi hybrid x/R_H a) Jye hybrid b) Jye hybrid c) Jye hybrid a) Jyi hybrid c) Jyi hybrid nA/m³ 170.0 nA/m³ nA/m^3 96.0 nA/m³ 140.0 10 10 10 nA/m³ 150.0 nA/m^3 150.0 8 *у/R_H* $/|R_H|$ /R+ /R 4 -150.0 -150.0 -140.0 -170.0 -80.0 96.0 2. 8 10 10 6 у/R_н y/R_H ż 4 8 2 8 2 6 8 4 2 6 8 4 x/R_{H} x/R_{H} x/R_H x/R_H e) Jyi t=3.8s e) Jye t=3.8s d) Jyi t=3.8s f) Jyi t=3.8s d) Jye t=3.8s f) Jye t=3.8s

Current along y: electrons





Lapenta, et al., JGR 127, e2021JA030241 (2022).



Lapenta, et al., JGR 127, e2021JA030241 (2022).

Reconnection regions

From Mercury to Earth







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The End

