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Relativistic **Implicit** Moment Method CESARE TRONCI, LANL/TERA Foundation, Novara, Italy, GIANLUCA ZUC-CARO, STEFANO MARKIDIS, GIOVANNI LAPENTA, LANL — Many plasma physics problems in astrophysics, laboratory and space systems require the development of suitable relativistic plasma simulation methods. Collisionless particle-in-cell (PIC) methods are often used to this purpose. We investigate here the possibility of a relativistic extension of an existing implicit PIC code (CELESTE), based on a moment equation closure model (1). Four possible ways of formulating the relativistic moment expansion are analysed from a purely numerical point of view, studying truncation errors and stability properties. Based on the analysis a new method is implemented into the 1D pilot code, PARSEK (2). The classical equation of motion from CELESTE is modified in order to keep a similar implicit integration method. The field solver is also presented, taking into account the previous results of the classical version.

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