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**James A Rossmanith\*** ([rossmani@iastate.edu](mailto:rossmani@iastate.edu)), 411 Morrill Road, Ames, IA 50011, and  
**Christine Wiersma** ([cwiersma@iastate.edu](mailto:cwiersma@iastate.edu)), 411 Morrill Road, Ames, IA 50011. *Lax-Wendroff  
Schemes for Quasi-Exponential Moment-Closure Approximations.*

In many applications, the dynamics of gas and plasma can be accurately modeled using kinetic Boltzmann equations. These equations are integro-differential systems posed in a high-dimensional phase space. If the system is sufficiently collisional the kinetic equations may be replaced by a fluid approximation that is posed in physical space (i.e., a lower dimensional space than the full phase space). The precise form of the fluid approximation depends on the choice of the moment-closure. In general, finding a suitable robust moment-closure is still an open scientific problem.

In this work we consider a specific moment-closure based on a nonextensive entropy formulation. In particular, the true distribution is replaced by a Maxwellian distribution multiplied by a quasi-exponential function. We develop a high-order, locally-implicit, discontinuous Galerkin scheme to numerically solve resulting fluid equations. The numerical update is broken into two parts: (1) an update for the background Maxwellian distribution, and (2) an update for the non-Maxwellian corrections. We also develop limiters that guarantee that the inversion problem between moments of the distribution function and the parameters in the quasi-exponential function is well-posed. (Received August 27, 2019)