# Computational Astrophysics

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# supercomputing

# numerical modelling



how and when did it all begin?



Eurasia

- suitable for any base system
- developed all across the Eurasian continent thousands of years BC





Blaise Pascal

- mechanical calculator
- addition/subtraction
- multiplication/division by successive addition/subtraction
- 5 digit accuracy



### Computational Astrophysics



Charles Babbage

- 4000 parts
- 3 tons
- 3m x 2 m
- 31 digits accuracy
- steam driven
- "difference engine":
  - designed to tabulate polynomials
  - calculates 2<sup>nd</sup> order differences



3994

1 5 3 5 3 3 4 2 8 201 3



Herman Hollerith

- developed a machine to read punch cards
- machines was used for 1890 census in the USA
- census took only one year to evaluate (prev. 8 years!)
- company: Computing Tabulating Recording Corporation





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Herman Hollerith

- developed a machine to read punch cards
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- company: Computing Tabulating Recording Corporation
- renamed in 1924 to ... International Business Machines (IBM)







Arthur Scherbius

- Enigma:
  - merely a cipher device
  - heavily used by the Germans during World War II





#### Arthur Scherbius

• Enigma:

- merely a cipher device
- heavily used by the Germans during World War II
  - $\rightarrow$  movie right about that application:







Alan Turing

### • Turing Machine:

- theoretical concept only:
  - reading instructions from printed symbols on a tape
  - result printed on back of tape
- foundation for theories about computing, however...
- based upon sequential memory (instead of random-access memory)
- •<u>Turing Test:</u>
  - if a human interacting with
    - a) another human
    - b) a computer

is not able to tell the difference, the computer is said to "think"





Konrad Zuse

• ZI:

- 30000 parts
- calculations were performed in binary
- input and output in decimal system though
- floating point operations
- freely programmable via punch cards



The original Z1 in Konrad's parent's living room circa 1938

![](_page_14_Picture_2.jpeg)

Konrad Zuse

### • Z3:

- 5.3 Hz, 22bit, 176 bytes memory, 2600 relays
- speed: 0.8sec/+ and 3sec/\* (=0.333 flops)
- floating point operations
- freely programmable via punch cards

![](_page_14_Figure_9.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_15_Picture_2.jpeg)

Post Office Research Station

- Colossus:
  - first "commercial" computer
  - five parallel processors
  - developed in order to decrypt German messages (see Enigma)
  - freely programmable via tape

![](_page_15_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_2.jpeg)

and what about today?

### **Computational Astrophysics**

- Fugaku "Mount Fuji" (Japan), #1 in 11/2020:
  - 7,630,848 cores, 5000TB RAM
  - speed:  $440 \times 10^{15}$  flop/s (= 440 PetaFlops)
  - freely programmable (not via punch cards...)
  - operation system: Linux (Red Hat)

![](_page_18_Picture_7.jpeg)

### **RIKEN Center for Computational Science in Kobe**

## Computational Astrophysics

- MareNostrum (Spain), #42 in 11/2020:
  - 153.216 cores, 41TB RAM
  - speed: 7 Pflop/s
  - operating system: Linux (Suse)

![](_page_19_Picture_6.jpeg)

Torre Girona Chapel, Barcelona

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

...but what about the science?

#### **PHYSICS WITH A COMPUTER**

### **Computational Astrophysics**

![](_page_21_Picture_2.jpeg)

**PHYSICS WITH A COMPUTER** 

#### **PHYSICS WITH A COMPUTER**

### **Computational Astrophysics**

![](_page_22_Picture_2.jpeg)

PHYSICS WITH A COMPUTER

![](_page_23_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_3.jpeg)

(courtesy Arman Khalatyan, www.clues-project.org)

![](_page_26_Picture_3.jpeg)

(courtesy Arman Khalatyan, www.clues-project.org)

![](_page_27_Picture_2.jpeg)

Erik Holmberg

### THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL

AN INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF SPECTROSCOPY AND ASTRONOMICAL PHYSICS

VOLUME 94

NOVEMBER 1941

NUMBER 3

#### ON THE CLUSTERING TENDENCIES AMONG THE NEBULAE

#### II. A STUDY OF ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN LABORATORY MODELS OF STELLAR SYSTEMS BY A NEW INTEGRATION PROCEDURE

#### ERIK HOLMBERG

#### ABSTRACT

In a previous paper' the writer discussed the possibility of explaining the observed clustering effects among extragalactic nebulae as a result of captures. The present investigation deals with the important problem of whether the loss of energy resulting from the tidal disturbances at a close encounter between two nebulae is large enough to effect a capture. The tidal deformations of two models of stellar systems, passing each other at a small distance, are studied by reconstructing, piece by piece, the orbits described by the individual mass elements. The difficulty of integrating the total gravitational force acting upon a certain element at a certain point of time is solved by replacing gravitation by light. The mass elements are represented by light-bulbs, the candle power being proportional to mass, and the total light is measured by a photocell (Fig. 1). The nebulae are assumed to have a flattened shape, and each is represented by 37 light-bulbs. It is found that the tidal deformations cause an increase in the attraction between the two objects, the increase reaching its maximum value when the nebulae are separating, i.e., after the passage. The resulting loss of energy (Fig. 6) is comparatively large and may, in favorable cases, effect a capture. The spiral arms developing during the encounter (Figs. 4) represent an interesting by-product of the investigation. The direction of the arms depends on the direction of rotation of the nebulae with respect to the direction of their space motions.

#### **I.** THE EXPERIMENTAL ARRANGEMENTS

The present paper is a study of the tidal disturbances appearing in stellar systems which pass one another at small distances. These tidal disturbances are of some importance since they are accompanied by a loss of energy which may result in a capture between the two objects. In a previous paper' the writer discussed the clustering tendencies among extragalactic nebulae. A theory was put forth that the observed clustering ' effects are the result of captures between individual nebulae. The capture theory seems to be able to account not only for double and multiple nebulae but also for the large extragalactic clusters. The present investigation tries to give an answer to the important question of whether the loss of energy accompanying a close encounter between two nebulae is large enough to effect a capture.

A study of tidal disturbances is greatly facilitated if it can be restricted to only two dimensions, i.e., to nebulae of a flattened shape, the principal planes of which coincide with the plane of their hyperbolic orbits. In order to reconstruct the orbit described by

1 Mt. W. Contr., No. 633; Ap. J., 92, 200, 1940.

![](_page_28_Picture_2.jpeg)

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ERIK HOLMBERG

ABSTRACT

![](_page_28_Picture_12.jpeg)

Erik Holmberg

![](_page_29_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_3.jpeg)

Erik Holmberg

![](_page_29_Figure_5.jpeg)

• formation of tidal features

![](_page_29_Figure_7.jpeg)

## the formation of our Local Group within full cosmological context

![](_page_30_Picture_3.jpeg)

(www.clues-project.org)

# www.cosmosim.org

![](_page_31_Picture_3.jpeg)

# www.cosmosim.org

![](_page_32_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

# www.unitsims.org

![](_page_34_Picture_3.jpeg)

The statistical analysis of the large-scale structures of the galaxy distribution is one of the most important tools in present-day cosmology to understand the nature of dark matter and dark energy in the Universe. To this end, a considerable observational effort is put forward to map the 3D galaxy distribution in the Universe at

# Computational Astrophysics

![](_page_35_Figure_2.jpeg)






... and what about the results?



2020 AND BEYOND

# about the results?

 $\Lambda$ CDM model

© 2005 A

#### 2020 AND BEYOND

# Computational Astrophysics

... and what about the results?

observation

Andromeda

M32

And III And I

Pinwhee

xy [M31

Aquarius ACDM model

agittarius Dwarf Irregular

And il

© 2005 Astronomy

Leol

exta

**Carina** Dwarf

Draco

GC 6822

Dwar

Fornax Dwar









# supercomputing

# numerical modelling

# Numerical Modelling (in Astrophysics)





# observation via telescope $\Leftrightarrow$

# modelling via supercomputers





physical phenomenon

# physical phenomenon



• what is the physical process we aim at modelling?





• the governing equations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \vec{v} \right) &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial (\rho \vec{v})}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \vec{v} \otimes \vec{v} + \left( p + \frac{1}{2\mu} B^2 \right) \vec{1} - \frac{1}{\mu} \vec{B} \otimes \vec{B} \right) &= \rho \ \left( -\nabla \phi \right) \\ \frac{\partial (\rho E)}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \cdot \left( \left[ \rho E + p + \frac{1}{2\mu} B^2 \right] \vec{v} - \frac{1}{\mu} \left[ \vec{v} \cdot \vec{B} \right] \vec{B} \right) &= \rho \vec{v} \cdot \left( -\nabla \phi \right) + \left( \Gamma - L \right) \\ \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \times \left( -\vec{v} \times \vec{B} \right) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

 $\Delta \phi = 4\pi G \rho$ 



#### this is what we want in the end: a model that explains the phenomenon!



• the governing equations

 $\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \vec{v} \right) &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial \left( \rho \vec{v} \right)}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \cdot \left( \rho \vec{v} \otimes \vec{v} + \left( p + \frac{1}{2\mu} B^2 \right) \vec{1} - \frac{1}{\mu} \vec{B} \otimes \vec{B} \right) &= \rho \ \left( -\nabla \phi \right) \\ \frac{\partial \left( \rho E \right)}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \cdot \left( \left[ \rho E + p + \frac{1}{2\mu} B^2 \right] \vec{v} - \frac{1}{\mu} \left[ \vec{v} \cdot \vec{B} \right] \vec{B} \right) &= \rho \vec{v} \cdot \left( -\nabla \phi \right) + \left( \Gamma - L \right) \\ \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \times \left( - \vec{v} \times \vec{B} \right) &= 0 \end{aligned}$ 

 $\Delta \phi = 4\pi G \rho$ 





• the governing equations

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \cdot \left(\rho \vec{v}\right) &= 0 \\ \frac{\partial (\rho \vec{v})}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \cdot \left(\rho \vec{v} \otimes \vec{v} + \left(p + \frac{1}{2\mu} B^2\right) \vec{1} - \frac{1}{\mu} \vec{B} \otimes \vec{B}\right) &= \rho \ \left(-\nabla \phi\right) \\ \frac{\partial (\rho E)}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \cdot \left(\left[\rho E + p + \frac{1}{2\mu} B^2\right] \vec{v} - \frac{1}{\mu} \left[\vec{v} \cdot \vec{B}\right] \vec{B}\right) &= \rho \vec{v} \cdot \left(-\nabla \phi\right) + (\Gamma - L) \\ \frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} &+ \nabla \times \left(-\vec{v} \times \vec{B}\right) &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

 $\Delta \phi = 4\pi G \rho$ 

# ...details in lecture "astrophysical processes"



# use a numerical simulation to verify the model...



• grid introduction

• particle sampling







$$I = \int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx \implies \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \frac{f(x_{i+1}) + f(x_{i})}{2} (x_{i+1} - x_{i})$$



$$I = \int_{a}^{b} f(x) dx \implies \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \frac{f(x_{i+1}) + f(x_{i})}{2} (x_{i+1} - x_{i})$$

...lots of details later!







## find a supercomputer







R, kpc



#### ... end-of-course projects



R, kpc

 





















• a few introductionary words already now...

domain discretisation



L. P. Euler <sub>VS.</sub> J.-L. Lagrange 1707-1783 1736-1813



### two fundamentally different approaches to solving the same equations
1707-1783



VS.

J.-L. Lagrange 1736-1813



$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + v_i \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x_i} = -\rho \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i}$$
$$\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial t} + v_i \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial v_i} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x_i}$$
$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial t} + v_i \frac{\partial e}{\partial x_i} = -\frac{p}{\rho} \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i}$$

mass conservation

momentum conservation

energy conservation

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = -\rho \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i}$$
$$\frac{Dv_i}{Dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i}$$
$$\frac{De}{Dt} = -\frac{p}{\rho} \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i}$$



 $\partial/\partial t$  = rate of change at a fixed point in space

L. P. Euler vs. J.-L. Lagrange 1707-1783 1736-1813

D/Dt = rate of change following a mass element

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + v_i \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x_i} = -\rho \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i}$$
$$\frac{\partial v_i}{\partial t} + v_i \frac{\partial v_j}{\partial v_i} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial \rho}{\partial x_i}$$
$$\frac{\partial e}{\partial t} + v_i \frac{\partial e}{\partial x_i} = -\frac{p}{\rho} \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i}$$

momentum conservation

mass conservation

energy conservation

$$\frac{D\rho}{Dt} = -\rho \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i}$$
$$\frac{Dv_i}{Dt} = -\frac{1}{\rho} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x_i}$$
$$\frac{De}{Dt} = -\frac{p}{\rho} \frac{\partial v_i}{\partial x_i}$$



L. P. Euler 1707-1783

VS.

J.-L. Lagrange 1736-1813



## D/Dt = rate of change following a mass element



 $\partial/\partial t$  = rate of change at a fixed point in space





= rate of change at a fixed point in space ∂/∂t

1707-1783



VS.

J.-L. Lagrange 1736-1813



D/Dt = rate of change following a mass element





L. P. Euler 1707-1783

VS.

J.-L. Lagrange 1736-1813





particle-based methods





Agertz et al. (2007)

grid-based methods

particle-based methods





particle-based methods

VS.

- domain discretisation
  - originate from fluid dynamics

• originate from plasma physics

- domain discretisation
  - originate from fluid dynamics
  - in astrophysics primarily used for stellar evolution



grid-based methods

VS.

- originate from plasma physics
- in astrophysics primarily used for cosmology



particle-based methods

both methods have their merits and shortcomings... ...and the verdict (if any) is still out there

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