

Exercise 3: Globular Clusters

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Problem 6: N -body simulations

It's about time to embark upon some "real" simulations with 100 and more particles! To this extent you need to adapt your existing code developed in exercise #2.

1. adaptation of N -body code

- input:

Modify your code in a way that it can read the initial conditions from a file. Let the user choose the filename and use the following format for the file:

$x_i \ y_i \ z_i \ v_{x,i} \ v_{y,i} \ v_{z,i}$

where x_i, y_i, z_i is a particle's position and $v_{x,i}, v_{y,i}, v_{z,i}$ a particle's velocity. Use one line for each particle $i \in N$.

- units:

The files to be read in contain positions in pc (globular cluster files, see below) or Mpc (output of PM2asciIM/PMstartM); do not forget to convert them to the units used by your code! By the way, it is recommended to use M_\odot , pc , and Myr as your internal code units.

- output:

Modify your code in a way that it dumps all particle positions and velocities in the same format as the input data. It is not necessary to store every individual timestep, but introduce a new variable (e.g. `dtout`) that determines the frequency of your outputs.

(10 points)

2. globular clusters

Please download the file `king100.dat` from the web page of the exercises to the lecture Computational Cosmology¹. This file contains the initial conditions (x, y, z, v_x, v_y, v_z) for 100 particles describing a globular cluster. The positions are given in pc and the velocities in km/sec . Note that all stars have the same mass $1M_\odot$ and are therefore not stored in the file; you need to assign them "manually". Use this file as initial conditions for you N -body code. As an initial "guess"

¹<http://www.aip.de/People/AKnebe/page3/files/king100.dat>

for the time step try $\Delta t = 0.001 Myr$ and write an output file every $dt_{out} = 0.01 Myr's$. How does the globular cluster look initially? How after $10 Myr's$? Try to visualise the temporal evolution of the globular cluster.

(10 points)

supplementary:

If you dare try the file `king1000.dat`; it contains a globular cluster consisting of 1000 particles. Please note the N^2 scaling of your N -body code!

(+5 points)

3. cosmological simulations (supplementary)

Use the already familiar `PMstartM` (cf. exercise #4) to generate initial conditions of a Λ CDM cosmological model. Use $16^3 (=4096)$ particles in a box of side length $10 Mpc/h$. After conversion of the binary output of `PMstartM` with `PM2asciiM` adapt your N -body code to read in the ASCII file. The positions are given in $Mpc/$ and the velocities in km/sec . Assign the same mass $m_i = 2.03284 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}/h$ to all particles². As an initial guess for the time step use $1000 Myr's$ (or $100 Myr's$ if you have enough computing power at our disposal) and let the simulation evolve for about $13000 Myr's$. Please note that this is **not** a cosmological simulation as we are not accounting for the Hubble expansion of the Universe (which has though been considered when generating the initial conditions); this is a mere "toy model" to show the limitations of your code...

(+5 points)

²For the time being ignore the h in the spatial and mass units.