The Journal of Open Source Software

rempsyc: Convenience functions for psychology

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DOI: 10.xxxxxx/draft

Software

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Submitted: 01 January 1970
Published: unpublished

Summary

(R Core Team 2022)

The forces on stars, galaxies, and dark matter under external gravitational fields lead to the dynamical evolution of structures in the universe. The orbits of these bodies are therefore key to understanding the formation, history, and future state of galaxies. The field of "galactic dynamics," which aims to model the gravitating components of galaxies to study their structure and evolution, is now well-established, commonly taught, and frequently used in astronomy. Aside from toy problems and demonstrations, the majority of problems require efficient numerical tools, many of which require the same base code (e.g., for performing numerical orbit integration).

Statement of need

`Gala` is an Astropy-affiliated Python package for galactic dynamics. Python enables wrapping low-level languages (e.g., C) for speed without losing flexibility or ease-of-use in the user-interface. The API for `Gala` was designed to provide a class-based and user-friendly interface to fast (C or Cython-optimized) implementations of common operations such as gravitational potential and force evaluation, orbit integration, dynamical transformations, and chaos indicators for nonlinear dynamics. `Gala` also relies heavily on and interfaces well with the implementations of physical units and astronomical coordinate systems in the `Astropy` package (**astropy?**) (`astropy.units` and `astropy.coordinates`).

`Gala` was designed to be used by both astronomical researchers and by students in courses on gravitational dynamics or astronomy. It has already been used in a number of scientific publications (**Pearson:2017?**) and has also been used in graduate courses on Galactic dynamics to, e.g., provide interactive visualizations of textbook material (**Binney:2008?**). The combination of speed, design, and support for Astropy functionality in `Gala` will enable exciting scientific explorations of forthcoming data releases from the *Gaia* mission (**gaia?**) by students and experts alike.

Citations

Citations to entries in paper.bib should be in rMarkdown format.

If you want to cite a software repository URL (e.g. something on GitHub without a preferred citation) then you can do it with the example BibTeX entry below for (**fidgit?**).

For a quick reference, the following citation commands can be used: - `@author:2001` -> "Author et al. (2001)" - `[@author:2001]` -> "(Author et al., 2001)" - `[@author1:2001; @author2:2001]` -> "(Author1 et al., 2001; Author2 et al., 2002)"

Figures

Figure sizes can be customized by adding an optional second parameter:

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Hugues Leduc, Jay Olson, Charles-Étienne Lavoie, and Björn Büdenbender for statistical or technical advice that helped inform some functions of this package, as well as useful feedback on this manuscript. I would also like to acknowledge funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

R Core Team. 2022. *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing*. Vienna, Austria: R Foundation for Statistical Computing. https://www.R-project.org/.