

# <sup>1</sup> Gala: A Python package for galactic dynamics

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## <sup>6</sup> Summary

<sup>7</sup> The forces on stars, galaxies, and dark matter under external gravitational fields lead to the  
<sup>8</sup> dynamical evolution of structures in the universe. The orbits of these bodies are therefore key  
<sup>9</sup> to understanding the formation, history, and future state of galaxies. The field of “galactic  
<sup>10</sup> dynamics,” which aims to model the gravitating components of galaxies to study their structure  
<sup>11</sup> and evolution, is now well-established, commonly taught, and frequently used in astronomy.  
<sup>12</sup> Aside from toy problems and demonstrations, the majority of problems require efficient  
<sup>13</sup> numerical tools, many of which require the same base code (e.g., for performing numerical  
<sup>14</sup> orbit integration).  
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