

# PyExaFMM: Designing a highly-performant particle fast multipole solver in Python with Numba and CuPy

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**Abstract**—We present PyExaFMM, a pythonic kernel-independent particle fast multipole method (FMM) implementation, built on the success of the ExaFMM project, to answer the question: can we develop a highly-performant scientific code, without resorting to a lower level language, that remains competitive with the state of the art C++ implementation? The FMM is a good case study to benchmark the utility of Python’s high-performance ecosystem to accelerate non-trivial algorithms, due its reliance on a complex heirarchical octree data structure. PyExaFMM is built on top of Numpy, Numba and CuPy. In this paper we offer an overview the FMM algorithm, before introducing Numba and CuPy’s role in developing PyExaFMM. We discuss the software development practices adopted to circumvent as much as possible the bottleneck to performance introduced by the Python interpreter, and offer benchmarks of the software’s accuracy, speed, and memory footprint in comparison to the state of the art C++ implementation from the ExaFMM project.

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Spell out numerals that have no unit of measure or time (one, two, . . . ten), but always use numerals with units of time and measure. Some examples are as follows: 11 through 999; 1,000; 10,000; twentieth century; twofold, tenfold, 20-fold; 2 times; 0.2 cm;  $p = .001$ ; 25%; 10% to 25%.

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$$A = \pi r^2. \quad (1)$$

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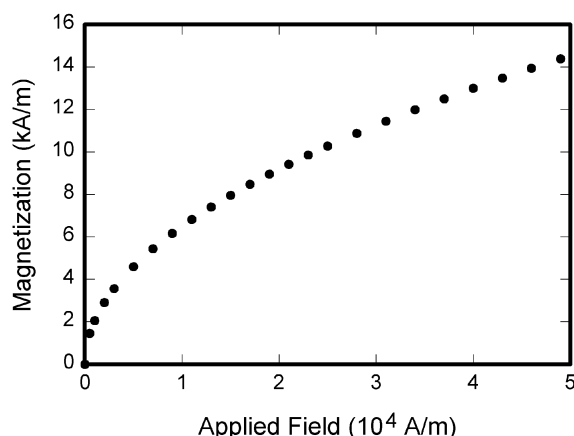
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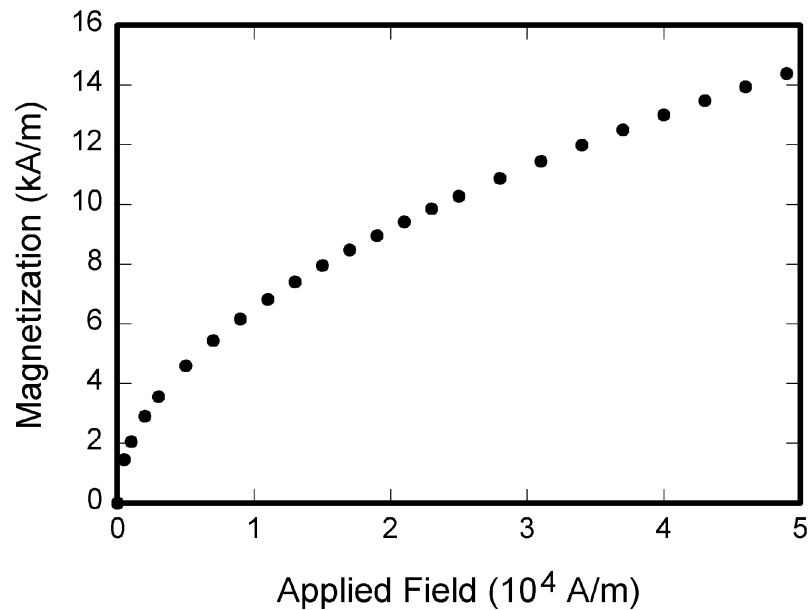
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**Figure 2.** Note that “Figure” is spelled out. There is a period after the figure number, followed by one space. It is good practice to briefly explain the significance of the figure in the caption. (Used, with permission, from [4].)

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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**Table 1. Units for magnetic properties.**

Symbol	Quantity	Conversion from Gaussian and CGS EMU to SI <sup>a</sup>
$\Phi$	Magnetic flux	$1 \text{ Mx} \rightarrow 10^{-8} \text{ Wb}$ $= 10^{-8} \text{ V} \cdot \text{s}$
$B$	Magnetic flux density, magnetic induction	$1 \text{ G} \rightarrow 10^{-4} \text{ T}$ $= 10^{-4} \text{ Wb/m}^2$
$H$	Magnetic field strength	$1 \text{ Oe} \rightarrow 10^{-3}/(4\pi) \text{ A/m}$
$m$	Magnetic moment	$1 \text{ erg/G} = 1 \text{ emu}$ $\rightarrow 10^{-3} \text{ A} \cdot \text{m}^2 = 10^{-3} \text{ J/T}$
$M$	Magnetization	$1 \text{ erg}/(\text{G} \cdot \text{cm}^3) = 1 \text{ emu/cm}^3 \rightarrow 10^{-3} \text{ A/m}$
$4\pi M$	Magnetization	$1 \text{ G} \rightarrow 10^{-3}/(4\pi) \text{ A/m}$
$\sigma$	Specific magnetization	$1 \text{ erg}/(\text{G} \cdot \text{g}) = 1 \text{ emu/g} \rightarrow 1 \text{ A} \cdot \text{m}^2/\text{kg}$
$j$	Magnetic dipole moment	$1 \text{ erg/G} = 1 \text{ emu}$ $\rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-10} \text{ Wb} \cdot \text{m}$
$J$	Magnetic polarization	$1 \text{ erg}/(\text{G} \cdot \text{cm}^3) = 1 \text{ emu/cm}^3$ $\rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-4} \text{ T}$
$\chi, \kappa$	Susceptibility	$1 \rightarrow 4\pi$
$\chi_\rho$	Mass susceptibility	$1 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g} \rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}$
$\mu$	Permeability	$1 \rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ H/m}$ $= 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ Wb}/(\text{A} \cdot \text{m})$
$\mu_r$	Relative permeability	$\mu \rightarrow \mu_r$
$w, W$	Energy density	$1 \text{ erg/cm}^3 \rightarrow 10^{-1} \text{ J/m}^3$
$N, D$	Demagnetizing factor	$1 \rightarrow 1/(4\pi)$

Vertical lines are optional in tables. Statements that serve as captions for the entire table do not need footnote letters.

<sup>a</sup>Gaussian units are the same as cg emu for magnetostatics; Mx = maxwell, G = gauss, Oe = oersted; Wb = weber, V = volt, s = second, T = tesla, m = meter, A = ampere, J = joule, kg = kilogram, H = henry.

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