

The Fast Multipole Method for n-body Problems

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Widely applicable: electrostatics, fluid mechanics, graphics(!)

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"Multipoles"

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Quadtree: a trie like data structure

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Stars in a square = cluster

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Square s is far away from star i if the distance s from i is at least the side length of s .

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Time to determine all A_j : $O(p)$ per star.

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Total for all n stars: $O(pn \log n)$.

Time for calculating the potential at each star:

Lemma: For each star we evaluate $O(1)$ multipole expansions at each level of the tree. Proof: Next slide.

Time for evaluating multipole expansion once = $O(p)$.

Total per star: = $O(p \log n)$

Total for all evaluations = $O(pn \log n)$.

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