

# MA/CSSE Homework 7

Due 5/8

## Directions

The goal of this project is to create a working parallel  $n$ -body solver using domain decomposition.

You may use my code posted on Moodle to help you. Posted are

- **nbody\_solver\_stripped.c** – A working nbody solver stripped of its core functionality, but demonstrating how to use the helper functions I have written for you.
- **nbodyutils.h** – A collection of helper functions to load initial data from a file, write properly formatted output data, parse command line options, etc.
- **results\_to\_gif.c** – A program to take the output written by the nbody solver and convert it to an animated gif.

Your program should support the options found in my **nbodyutils.h** file. In particular, it should read initial data from any given file, and be able to take a combination of stepsize, number of steps, and end time to determine its parameters. It should use a simple Euler's method to solve the corresponding system of differential equations.

Your program should generate an output file in the same format as the one generated by my **nbodyutils.h** file (in case you don't want to use my code for some reason).

In the interest of giving proper credit, the **results\_to\_gif.c** file relies on the **gifsave89.c** suite found at <http://www.forkosh.com/gifsave89.html>

Animated gifs do not utilize a large number of frames well. By default, **results\_to\_gif** will only output 200 evenly spaced simulation times as frames of the gif. You may change this option to a larger number for a more detailed movie. If you do so, you may want to convert the animated gif to an **.avi** file for viewing. An example of doing so is:

```
ffmpeg -i animation.gif -s 256x256 animation.avi
```

**ffmeg** is installed on all cluster machines.