

**ECE 759**  
**High Performance Computing for Engineering Applications**  
**Assignment 4**  
**Due 3/17/2025 at 23:59 PM**

Submit responses to all tasks which don't specify a file name to Canvas in a file called assignment4.pdf. Submit all plots (if any) on Canvas. Do not zip your Canvas submission.

All *source files* should be submitted in the **HW04** subdirectory on the **main** branch of your homework **git** repo with no subdirectories. Your **HW04** folder should contain **task2.cpp** and **task3.cpp**.

All commands or code must work on *Euler* without loading additional modules unless specified otherwise. A program may behave differently on your computer, so be sure to test on *Euler* before you submit. Note that this assignment is relevant to OpenMP, so the following line needs to be added to your **slurm** script:

- **#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=8** (or **-c 8** for short) should be added, which requests one node with 8 virtual cores (note the slight misnomer – Linux refers to virtual cores as cpus). The maximum number of threads required in this assignment is 8, so you should not ask for more than 8 cores.

Please submit clean code. Consider using a formatter like **clang-format**.

\* Before you begin, copy the provided files from **Assignments/HW04** directory of the **ECE 759 Re-source Repo**. Do not change any of the provided files since these will be overwritten with clean, reference copies when grading.

Specify your GitHub link here: <https://github.com/saanna225/repo759/tree/main/HW04>

The GitHub link to your code folder should be: <https://github.com/YourGitHubName/repo759/HW04>

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In this assignment, we will simulate a dynamical system of particles interacting gravitationally, commonly referred to as the **N-body** problem. Such simulations can model systems like the orbits of planets in the Solar System or the movement of stars in a galaxy.

First, review the N-body Python code in the file located at **Assignments/HW04/nbody.py**. Below is an introduction to the N-body problem:

**Force Calculation:**

We will assume a system of  $N$  point particles, indexed by  $i = 1, \dots, N$ . Every particle has the following properties:

- mass  $m_i$
- position  $\mathbf{r}_i = [x_i, y_i, z_i]$
- velocity  $\mathbf{v}_i = [vx_i, vy_i, vz_i]$

Each particle experiences the gravitational force exerted by all other particles according to Newton's law of universal gravitation, which follows the inverse-square law. The acceleration  $\mathbf{a}_i$  of particle  $i$  is given by:

$$\mathbf{a}_i = G \sum_{j \neq i} m_j \frac{\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i}{|\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i|^3}$$

where  $G$  is the Gravitational constant.

To implement this, we have a Python function that computes the gravitational force on each particle using an input matrix of size  $N \times 3$  that contains the positions of all particles:

```

1 def getAcc(pos, mass, G, softening):
2     """
3     Calculate the acceleration on each particle due to Newton's Law
4     pos is an N x 3 matrix of positions
5     mass is an N x 1 vector of masses
6     G is Newton's Gravitational constant
7     softening is the softening length
8     a is N x 3 matrix of accelerations
9     """
10
11     N = pos.shape[0]
12     a = np.zeros((N, 3))
13
14     for i in range(N):
15         for j in range(N):
16             if i != j:
17                 dx = pos[j, 0] - pos[i, 0]
18                 dy = pos[j, 1] - pos[i, 1]
19                 dz = pos[j, 2] - pos[i, 2]
20                 inv_r3 = (dx**2 + dy**2 + dz**2 + softening**2) ** (-1.5)
21                 a[i, 0] += G * (dx * inv_r3) * mass[j, 0]
22                 a[i, 1] += G * (dy * inv_r3) * mass[j, 0]
23                 a[i, 2] += G * (dz * inv_r3) * mass[j, 0]
24
25     return a

```

The *softening* parameter in the code is a small value added to avoid numerical issues when two particles are very close to each other. In such cases, the acceleration predicted by the inverse-square law would approach infinity. In reality, masses are not perfect point particles and have a finite size, so this parameter prevents unrealistic behavior in the simulation by smoothing out the gravitational force at short distances.

#### Time Integration:

The positions and velocities of the particles are updated using a 'kick-drift-kick' method. For each timestep  $\Delta t$ , the following steps are applied to every particle:

1. Half-step 'kick': Update the velocity based on the current acceleration:

$$\mathbf{v}_i^{T+1} = \mathbf{v}_i^T + \frac{\Delta t}{2} \times \mathbf{a}_i^T$$

2. Full-step 'drift': Update the position using the new velocity:

$$\mathbf{r}_i^{T+1} = \mathbf{r}_i^T + \Delta t \times \mathbf{v}_i^T$$

3. Another half-step 'kick': Update the velocity again based on the new acceleration.

This evolution is implemented in the code using a for-loop and the acceleration function defined earlier:

```

1 # Simulation Main Loop
2 for i in range(Nt):
3     # (1/2) kick
4     vel += acc * dt / 2.0
5
6     # drift
7     pos += vel * dt
8
9     # ensure particles stay within the board limits
10    pos[pos > board_size] = board_size
11    pos[pos < -board_size] = -board_size
12
13    # update accelerations
14    acc = getAcc(pos, mass, G, softening)
15
16    # (1/2) kick
17    vel += acc * dt / 2.0
18
19    # update time
20    t += dt

```

#### Initial Conditions:

To run the simulation, we need to specify the initial positions and velocities of the particles at time  $t = 0$ . You can experiment with different setups in the provided code to observe how the system evolves under various initial conditions.

**Problem 1.** Please review the introduction to the N-body problem above. Ensure that you understand both the algorithm and the Python code.

- a) Install Python library `numpy` and `matplotlib`:  
`python3 -m pip install numpy matplotlib`
- b) Run the `nbody.py` script either on your personal machine or on the Euler compute node. If you run it locally, you will see an animation of the N-body simulation. At the end of the simulation, the code will automatically save a plot. Rename this plot as `task1.png` and submit it to Canvas.

**Problem 2.** Port the N-body simulation code into C++. A skeleton code is provided in `Assignments/HW04/task2.cpp`.

- a) Write a program `task2.cpp` that accomplish the following:
  - Complete the provided skeleton code from `task2.cpp`.
  - Compile:  
`g++ task2.cpp -Wall -O3 -std=c++17 -o task2`
  - Run the program; make sure you use `Slurm`:  
`./task2 number_of_particles simulation_end_time`
  - (Optional) For debugging and visualization, we provide a function `savePositionsToCSV`. This function saves the positions at each iteration to a CSV file. You can then use `plot_positions.py` to visualize the C++ simulation results. However, if you're measuring performance, disable this function as it introduces significant I/O overhead.

**Problem 3.** Parallelize the N-body C++ code using OpenMP.

- a) Write a program `task3.cpp` that accomplish the following:
  - Add an argument `num_threads`, which specifies the number of threads to launch with OpenMP.
  - Insert OpenMP directives (`#pragma omp parallel for`) in sections of the code that can be parallelized.
  - Compile:  
`g++ task3.cpp -Wall -O3 -std=c++17 -o task3 -fopenmp`
  - Run the program; make sure you use `Slurm` and request multiple CPU cores:  
`./task3 number_of_particles simulation_end_time num_threads`

**Problem 4.** Let's do experiments using different OpenMP scheduling policies.

- a) In `task3.cpp`, try the following scheduling policies: `static`, `dynamic`, and `guided`.

- b) On *Euler*, via `Slurm` do the following:

For each scheduling policy, run `task3` with the following parameters:

- `number_of_particles` = 100 or larger
- `simulation_end_time` = 100 or larger
- `num_threads` = 1, 2, ..., 8

Generate plots called `task4.pdf` that show the time taken by the N-body simulation versus `num_threads` on a linear-linear scale. The `task4.pdf` should contain three plots, one for each scheduling policy. Feel free to share the plots on Piazza.