

3D Planets and Celestial Bodies

MATLAB Implementation

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1 Download and Installation

1.1 Download from MATLAB Central's File Exchange

The `planet3D` function is available for download on MATLAB® Central's File Exchange at <https://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/86483-3d-planets-and-celestial-bodies-planet3d>.

1.2 Download from GitHub

The `planet3D` function is available for download on GitHub® at <https://github.com/tamaskis/planet3D-MATLAB>.

1.3 Files Included With Download

There are five files and one folder (storing the images) included in the downloaded `zip` file:

1. **3D Planets and Celestial Bodies - MATLAB Implementation - MATLAB Implementation.pdf** – *this PDF*
2. **EXAMPLES.M** – *examples for using the planet3D function*
3. **Images** – *Folder that stores images needed to render celestial bodies. DO NOT DELETE. KEEP IN THE SAME FOLDER AS planet3D.m*
4. **LICENSE** – *license for the planet3D function*
5. **planet3D.m** – *MATLAB function for drawing planets (and Sun, Moon, and Pluto)*
6. **README.md** – *markdown file for GitHub documentation*

1.4 Accessing the `planet3D` Function in a MATLAB Script

There are **three** options for accessing the `planet3D` function in a MATLAB script:

1. Copy the `planet3D` function to the *end* of your MATLAB script.
2. Place the `planet3D.m` file in the same folder as the MATLAB script.
3. Place the `planet3D.m` file into whatever folder you want, and then use the `addpath(folderName)` command¹ where the `folderName` parameter is a string that stores the filepath of the folder that `planet3D.m` is in *relative to* the folder that your script is in.

In all three cases, the **Images** folder *must* be in the same folder as `planet3D.m`.

¹ <https://www.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/addpath.html>

2 planet3D

Creates high-resolution renderings of the Earth and the major celestial bodies in our solar system for space mechanics applications.

Syntax

```
planet3D(planet)
planet3D(planet,position)
planet3D(planet,position,units)
planet3D(planet,position,units,background)
```

NOTE: If you don't want to specify `position` or `units`, for example, but *do* want to specify `background`, then you would use the syntax `planet3D(planet, [], [], background)`. The empty brackets are needed as placeholders, because `background` can only be read correctly if it is the *fourth* passed parameter. However, we don't need placeholders if we aren't "skipping over" parameters. For example, if we wanted to specify just the `position`, we could use the syntax `planet3D(planet, position)`.

Description

`planet3D(planet,position,units,background)` draws a celestial body.

<code>planet</code>	'Sun', 'Moon', 'Mercury', 'Venus', 'Earth', 'Earth Cloudy', 'Earth Night', 'Earth Night Cloudy', 'Mars', 'Jupiter', 'Saturn', 'Uranus', 'Neptune', or 'Pluto'.
<code>position (optional)</code>	Specifies the position of the celestial body. If <code>position</code> is not specified, the function defaults to (0, 0, 0). NOTE: If you are also specifying <code>units</code> , make sure you input <code>position</code> in the correct units (i.e. in the units you intend to use).
<code>units (optional)</code>	Specifies the units the celestial body should be drawn in. Units available are 'km', 'AU', 'm', 'ft', 'mi', and 'nmi'.
<code>background (optional)</code>	Specifies the background to use. Backgrounds available are 'Stars', 'Milky Way', and 'Black'.

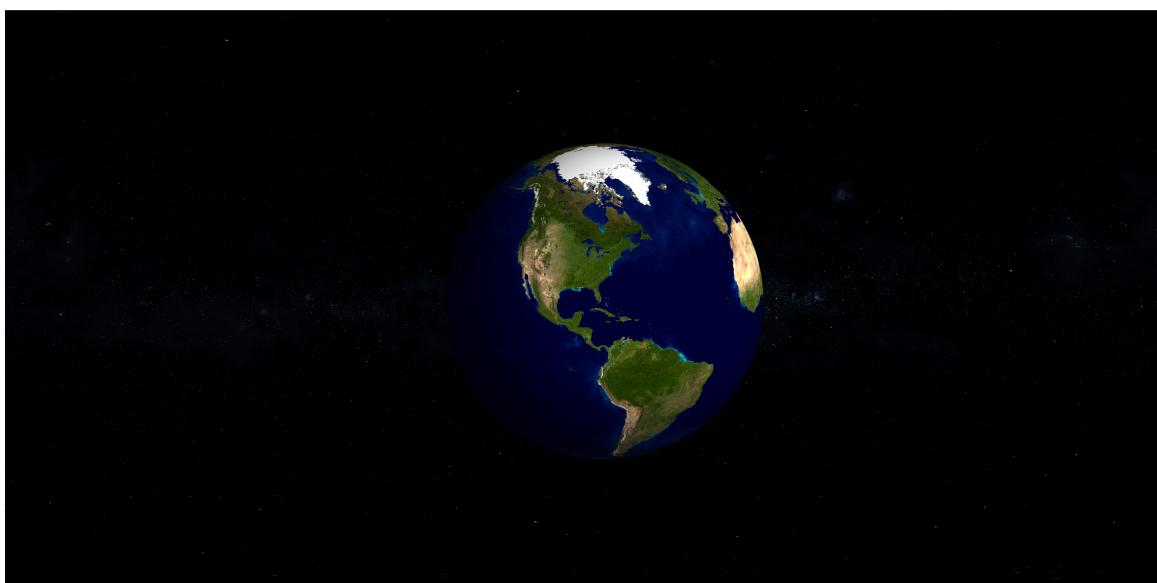
3 Example Plots

3.1 Earth

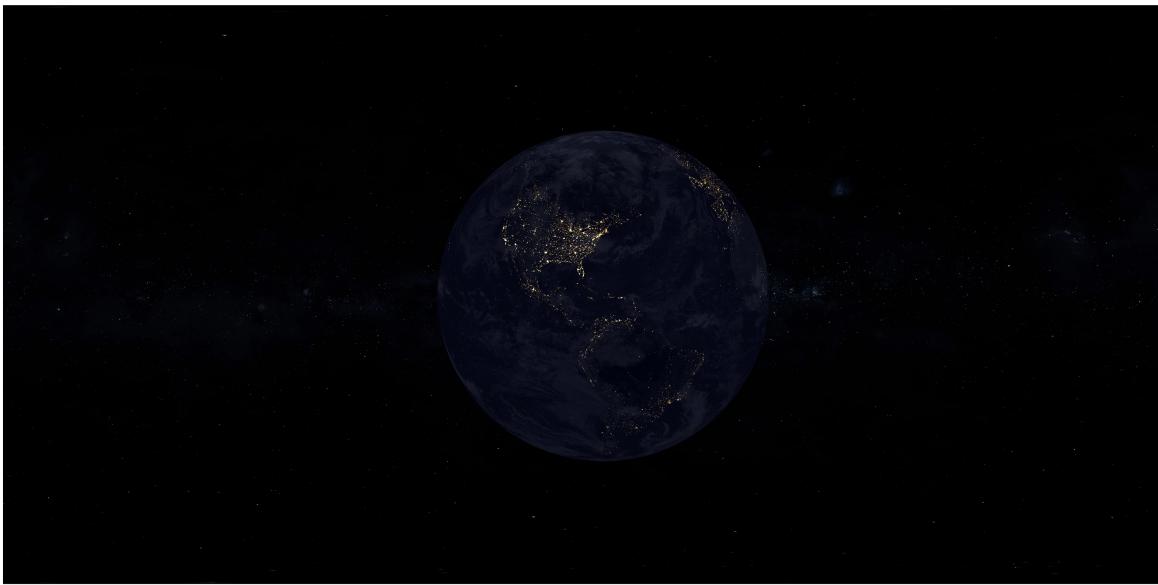
3.1.1 | Earth (With Clouds)



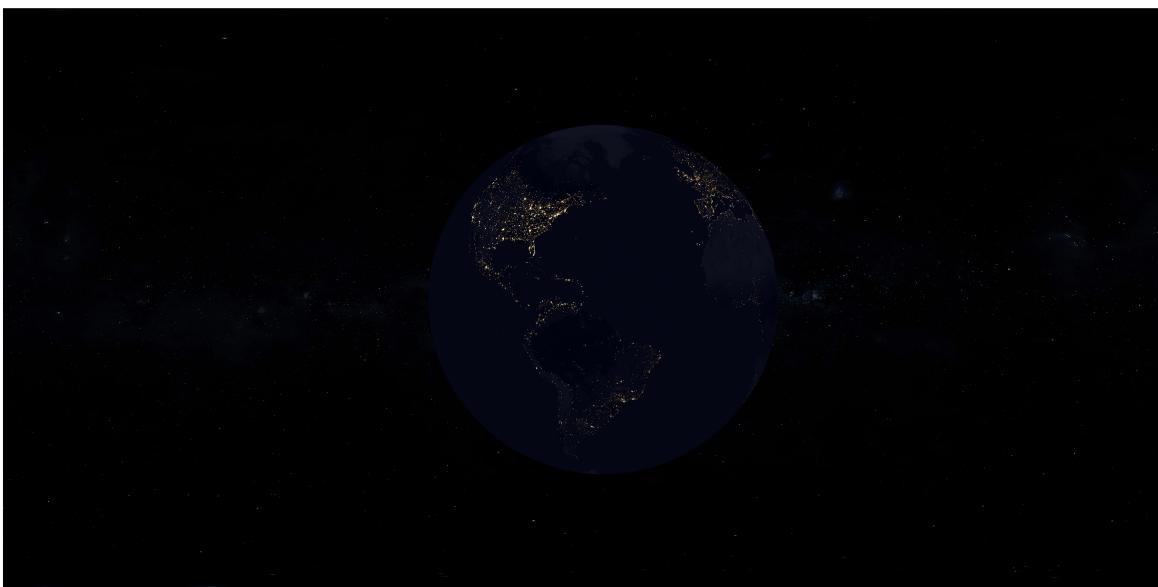
3.1.2 | Earth (No Clouds)



3.1.3 | Earth (Night, With Clouds)



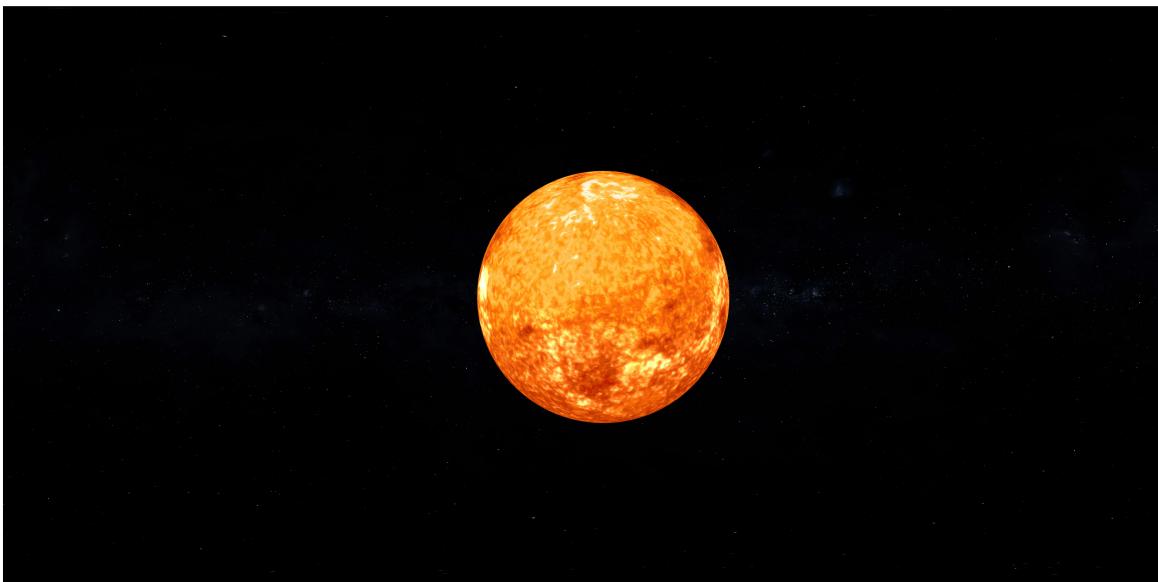
3.1.4 | Earth (Night, No Clouds)



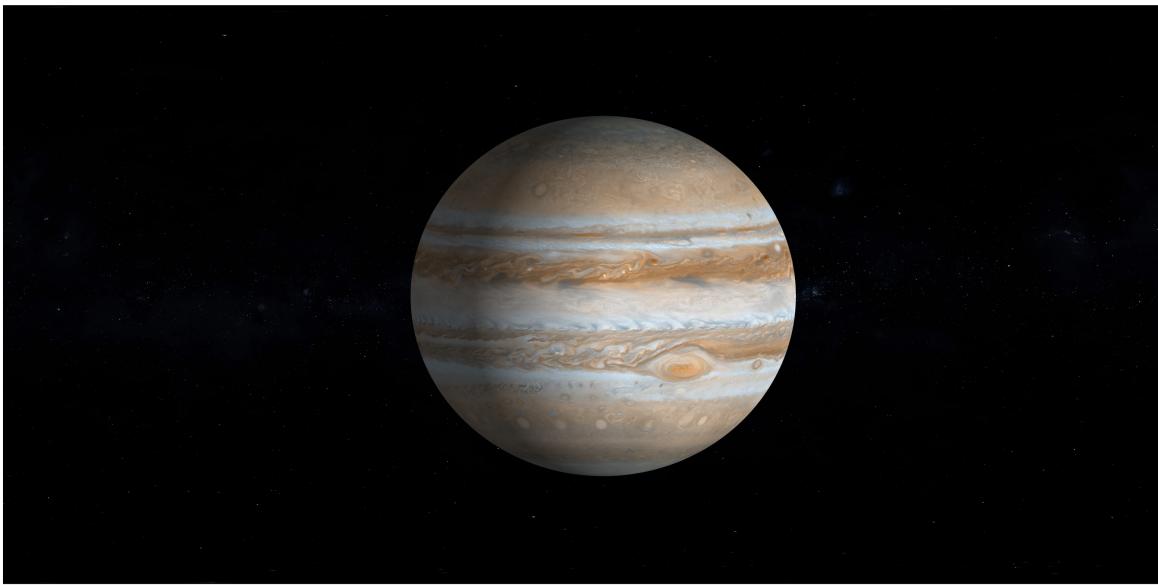
3.2 Moon

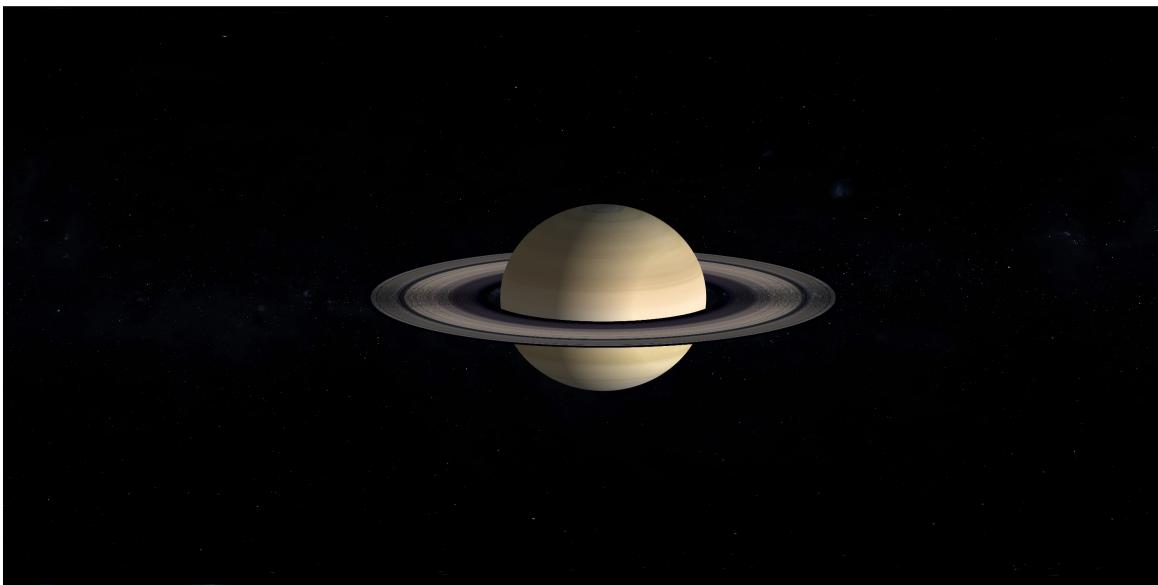
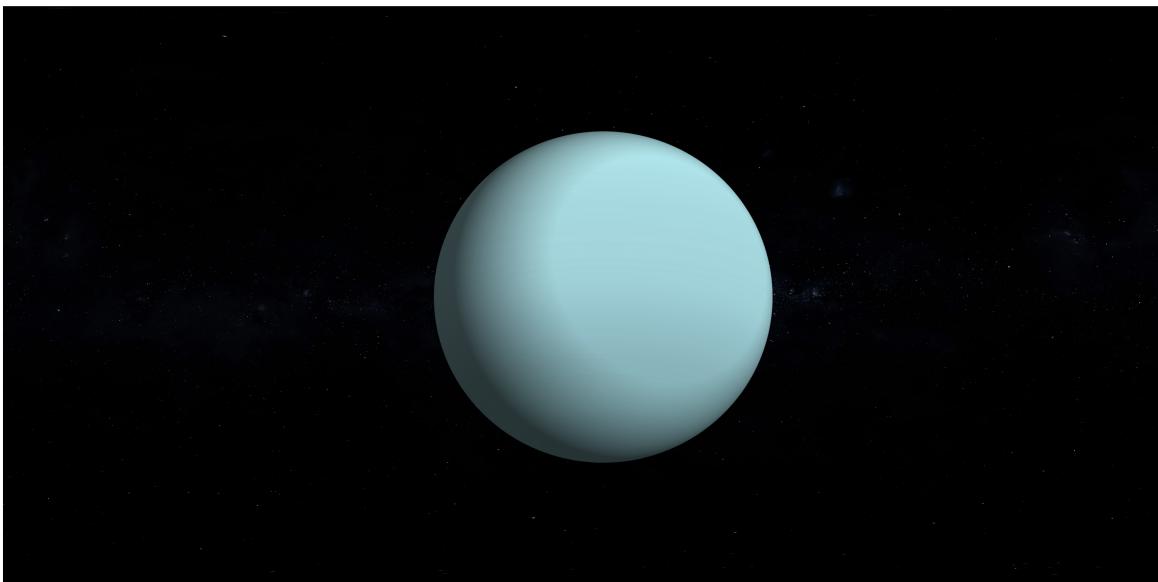


3.3 Sun

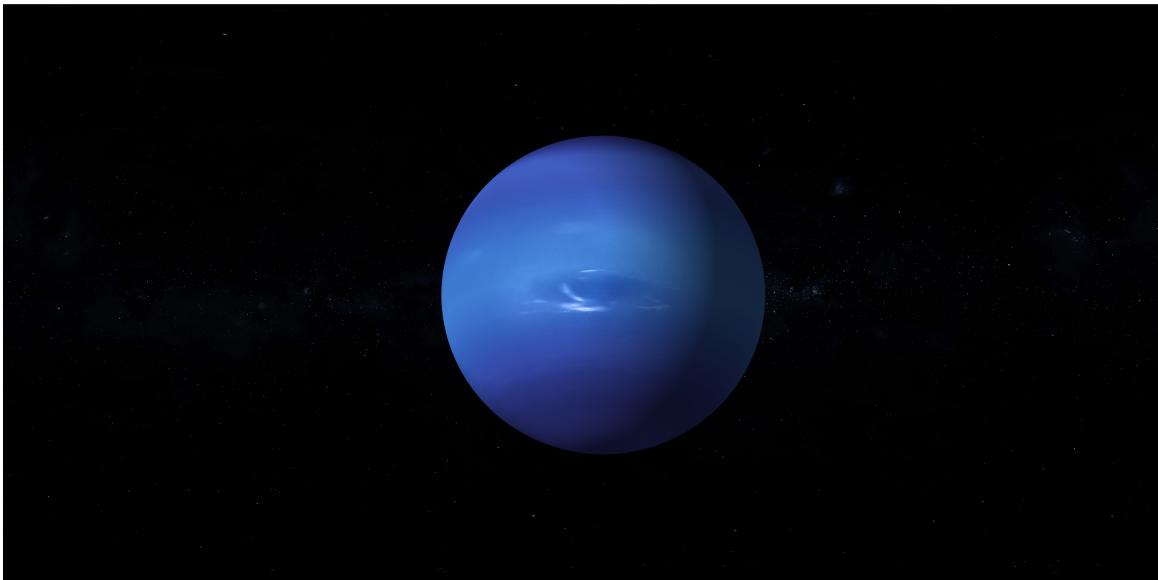


3.4 Mercury**3.5 Venus**

3.6 Mars**3.7 Jupiter**

3.8 **Saturn****3.9** **Uranus**

3.10 Neptune



3.11 Pluto



A Data and Constants

A.1 Astronomical Data

Planet/Body	Equatorial Radius		Flattening	
	Value [km]	Source	Value	Source
Sun	696000	[13, Table D-5, p. 1043]	0.000 009	[11]
Moon	1738.0	[13, Table D-3, p. 1041]	0.0012	[7]
Mercury	2439.0	[13, Table D-3, p. 1041]	0.0000	[6]
Venus	6052.0	[13, Table D-3, p. 1041]	0.000	[14]
Earth	6378.1363	[13, Table D-3, p. 1041]	0.003 352 813 1	[13, Table D-3, p. 1041]
Mars	3397.2	[13, Table D-3, p. 1041]	0.006 476 30	[13, Table D-3, p. 1041]
Jupiter	71492.0	[13, Table D-4, p. 1042]	0.064 874 4	[13, Table D-4, p. 1042]
Saturn	60268.0	[13, Table D-4, p. 1042]	0.097 962 4	[13, Table D-4, p. 1042]
Uranus	25559.0	[13, Table D-4, p. 1042]	0.022 927 3	[13, Table D-4, p. 1042]
Neptune	24764.0	[13, Table D-4, p. 1042]	0.0171	[13, Table D-4, p. 1042]
Pluto	1151.0	[13, Table D-4, p. 1042]	.0.0	[13, Table D-4, p. 1042]

A.2 Semi-Minor Axes

For MATLAB's `ellipsoid` function, we need the semi-minor axis, b , which can be calculated as

$$b = a(1 - f)$$

where a is the semi-major axis (assumed to be the equatorial radius) and f is the flattening [3, p. 7-4 (p. 73 in PDF)].

A.3 Saturn's Rings

Saturn's rings range from 7000 km to 80000 km from the surface of the planet [9].

A.4 Unit Conversions

Kilometers to Astronomical Units [13]:

$$1 \text{ AU} = 149597870 \text{ km} \quad \rightarrow \quad 1 \text{ km} = \frac{1}{149597870} \text{ AU}$$

Kilometers to Meters:

$$1 \text{ km} = 1000 \text{ m}$$

Kilometers to Feet:

$$1 \text{ km} = \left(\frac{1000 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ km}} \right) \left(\frac{100 \text{ cm}}{1 \text{ m}} \right) \left(\frac{1 \text{ in}}{2.54 \text{ cm}} \right) \left(\frac{1 \text{ ft}}{12 \text{ in}} \right) \rightarrow \boxed{1 \text{ km} = \frac{100000}{30.48} \text{ ft}}$$

Kilometers to Miles:

$$1 \text{ km} = \left(\frac{100000/30.48 \text{ ft}}{\text{km}} \right) \left(\frac{1 \text{ mi}}{5280 \text{ ft}} \right) \rightarrow \boxed{1 \text{ km} = \frac{100000}{160934.4} \text{ mi}}$$

Kilometers to Nautical Miles:

$$1 \text{ nmi} = 1852 \text{ m} = 1.852 \text{ km} \rightarrow \boxed{1 \text{ km} = \frac{1}{1.852} \text{ nmi}}$$

B Image Sources

Image	File Name	Source	Copyright/License
Sun	Sun.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Moon	Moon.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Mercury	Mercury.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Venus	Venus.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Earth (Day)	Earth.png	[12]	none [5, 12]
Earth (Night)	Earth Night.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Clouds	Clouds.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Mars	Mars.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Jupiter	Jupiter.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Saturn	Saturn.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Saturn Rings	Saturn Rings.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Uranus	Uranus.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Neptune	Neptune.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) [1, 10]
Pluto	Pluto.png	[8]	none [8]
Milky Way	Milky Way.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)
Stars	Stars.png	[10]	CC Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)

C References for Code

3D Earth Example (`earth_example.m`) [4]:

- Use of `ellipsoid` function to render the Earth.

Earth-sized Sphere with Topography (`earth_sphere`) [2]:

- Handling of unit conversions.

References

- [1] *Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)*. creative commons. <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>. (accessed: January 27, 2021).
- [2] Will Campbell. *Earth-sized Sphere with Topography*. MATLAB CENTRAL FILE EXCHANGE. <https://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/27123-earth-sized-sphere-with-topography>. (accessed: January 22, 2021).
- [3] *Department of Defense World Geodetic System 1984*. Tech. rep. NIMA TR8350.2. <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/AD1000581.pdf>. National Imagery and Mapping Agency, 2004.
- [4] Ryan Gray. *3D Earth Example*. MATLAB CENTRAL FILE EXCHANGE. <https://www.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/13823-3d-earth-example>. (accessed: January 22, 2021).
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- [7] *Moon*. Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moon>. (accessed: January 22, 2021).
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- [11] *Sun*. Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun>. (accessed: January 22, 2021).
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- [14] *Venus Fact Sheet*. NASA. <https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/factsheet/venusfact.html>. (accessed: January 22, 2021).