

# Contents

List of Abbreviations	xiii
List of Symbols	xvii
Abstract	xix
Zusammenfassung [German Abstract]	xxi
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1. Space Debris . . . . .	2
1.2. Scope of Work . . . . .	5
1.2.1. Computational Models for Orbital Propagation . . . . .	5
1.2.2. Use Cases . . . . .	5
1.3. Outline . . . . .	8
<b>2. State of the Art</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1. Orbital Physics and Propagation . . . . .	9
2.1.1. Perturbation Forces . . . . .	10
2.2. GPU Computing . . . . .	18
2.2.1. A Short History of Graphics Processors . . . . .	18
2.2.2. General Purpose GPU Computing . . . . .	24
2.2.3. CUDA . . . . .	25
2.2.4. Alternative Parallel Programming APIs . . . . .	32
2.2.5. GPU Computing in Space Research . . . . .	32
2.3. Software Architecture and Development . . . . .	33
2.3.1. Object-Oriented Programming Techniques . . . . .	33
2.3.2. Design Patterns . . . . .	35
<b>3. A Software Framework for Orbital Propagators</b>	<b>37</b>
3.1. Properties of Orbital Propagators . . . . .	37
3.1.1. Complexity . . . . .	37
3.1.2. Modularity . . . . .	37
3.1.3. Eligibility for Parallelization . . . . .	37
3.2. Orbital Propagation Interface . . . . .	38
3.2.1. Overview . . . . .	38
3.2.2. Concept . . . . .	39
3.2.3. Data Types . . . . .	43
3.2.4. Host Interface . . . . .	45
3.2.5. Plugin Interface . . . . .	46
3.2.6. PropagatorProperties . . . . .	50
3.2.7. CUDA Support . . . . .	53
3.2.8. Multi-Language Support . . . . .	54

3.2.9. Collision Detection . . . . .	54
3.3. Propagator Implementation Guidelines . . . . .	55
<b>4. High-Performance Analytical Propagation</b>	<b>61</b>
4.1. FLORA . . . . .	61
4.1.1. Overview . . . . .	61
4.1.2. Atmospheric Model . . . . .	62
4.1.3. Third Body Perturbations . . . . .	62
4.1.4. Solar Radiation Pressure . . . . .	63
4.1.5. Zonal Harmonics . . . . .	63
4.1.6. FLORA as an OPI Plugin . . . . .	63
4.2. Ikebana - A Parallel CUDA Propagator . . . . .	64
4.2.1. Overview . . . . .	64
4.2.2. Ikebana::Ikebana . . . . .	65
4.2.3. Ikebana::PMMeanMotion . . . . .	67
4.2.4. Ikebana::PMZonalHarmonics . . . . .	69
4.2.5. Ikebana::PMLuniSolar . . . . .	71
4.2.6. Ikebana::PMSolarRadiation . . . . .	72
4.2.7. Ikebana::AtmosphericData . . . . .	74
4.2.8. Ikebana::PMAtmosphere . . . . .	75
<b>5. Performance Analysis</b>	<b>77</b>
5.1. Reference Population . . . . .	77
5.2. Accuracy . . . . .	78
5.2.1. Floating Point Considerations . . . . .	78
5.2.2. Accuracy Dertermination . . . . .	80
5.2.3. Individual Model Accuracy . . . . .	81
5.2.4. Total Accuracy Results . . . . .	96
5.2.5. TLE Data Comparison . . . . .	107
5.3. Speed . . . . .	109
5.3.1. Runtime Evaluation . . . . .	109
5.3.2. Benchmarking . . . . .	110
5.3.3. Performance Evaluation Setup . . . . .	111
5.3.4. Performance Results . . . . .	113
5.3.5. CUDA Runtime Analysis . . . . .	114
5.4. Double Precision Comparison . . . . .	118
5.5. Summary . . . . .	126
<b>6. Use Case Study: Space Debris Visualization</b>	<b>127</b>
6.1. Overview . . . . .	127
6.2. Classes . . . . .	128
6.2.1. DOCTOR::DOCTOR . . . . .	128
6.2.2. DOCTOR::SpaceObject . . . . .	129
6.2.3. DOCTOR::Debris . . . . .	130
6.2.4. DOCTOR::TimeMachine . . . . .	130
6.2.5. DOCTOR::GuiWrapper . . . . .	130
6.2.6. DOCTOR::ScriptEngine . . . . .	130
6.2.7. Auxiliary Classes . . . . .	132
6.3. Propagation . . . . .	132

6.3.1. GPGPU Approach . . . . .	132
6.3.2. OPI Approach . . . . .	133
6.4. Performance . . . . .	135
<b>7. Conclusions and Further Research</b>	<b>137</b>
7.1. OPI . . . . .	137
7.2. Ikebana . . . . .	138
<b>8. Outlook</b>	<b>141</b>
8.1. GPU Computing . . . . .	141
8.2. Numerical Propagation . . . . .	141
<b>A. CUDA Profiler Report for the Atmospheric Model</b>	<b>143</b>
A.1. GeForce GTX 860m . . . . .	143
A.2. GeForce GTX 960 . . . . .	152
A.3. Tesla K20c . . . . .	161
<b>B. Individual Error Rate Plots</b>	<b>171</b>
<b>C. Ikebana Class Headers</b>	<b>177</b>
C.1. Ikebana::Ikebana . . . . .	177
C.2. Ikebana::PMMeanMotion . . . . .	181
C.3. Ikebana::PMZonalHarmonics . . . . .	182
C.4. Ikebana::PMLuniSolar . . . . .	183
C.5. Ikebana::PMSolarRadiation . . . . .	185
C.6. Ikebana::AtmosphericData . . . . .	187
C.7. Ikebana::PMAtmosphere . . . . .	190