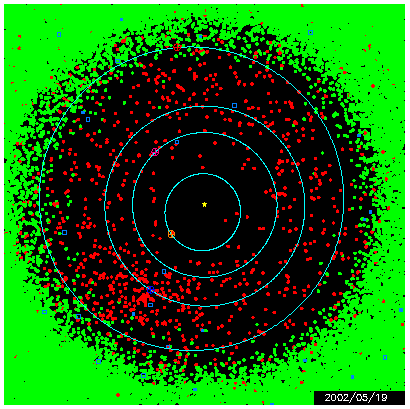
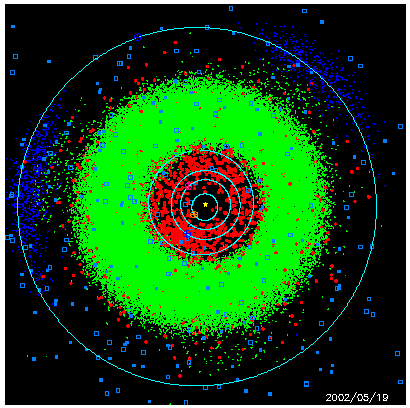


The Inner Solar System

This animation shows the motion of objects in the inner region of the solar system over a two-year period at 10-day intervals. The sun is the yellow symbol at the center of each frame. The orbits of the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are shown in light blue, with the current locations of each planet being shown by large crossed circles. Main-belt minor planets are shown as green circles, Near-Earth asteroids as red circles. Comets are shown as blue squares (filled for numbered periodic comets, outline for other comets).
This animation (prepared 2002 July 31) is available as:

- Animated GIF (961 x 961 pixels, 5.1 MB)
- Animated GIF (401 x 401 pixels, 1.4 MB)



The Middle Solar System

This animation shows the motion of objects in the inner- to mid-region of the solar system over a two-year period. The animation shows objects out to the orbit of Jupiter and a little beyond. The meaning of the symbols is as for the Inner Solar System animation: additionally, Jupiter and its orbit are now shown and the Jupiter Trojans, which orbit in the same orbit as Jupiter but roughly 60 degrees ahead or behind the planet, are colored blue. This animation shows the vast bulk of the objects tracked by the MPC. The total number of objects shown is more than 100000.
This animation (prepared 2002 July 31) is available as:

- Animated GIF (961 x 961 pixels, 5.5 MB)
- Animated GIF (401 x 401 pixels, 1.1 MB)

http://www.cfa.harvard.edu/iau/Animations/Animations.html

THE MIDDLE SOLAR SYSTEM

This animation shows the motion of the middle part of the solar system over a two-year time period. The sun is at the center and the orbits of the planets Mercury, Venus, Earth Mars and Jupiter are shown in light blue (the locations of each planet are shown as large crossed circles). Comets are shown as blue squares (numbered periodic comets are filled squares, other comets are outline squares). Main-belt minor planets are displayed as green circles, near-Earth minor planets are shown as red circles.

The individual frames were generated on an OpenVMS system, using the PGPLOT graphics library. The animation was put together on a RISC OS 4.03 system using !InterGif.