

Introduction to PETSc

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Outline

- Introduction
- An example program
- Vec datatype: vectors
- Mat Datatype: matrix
- KSP & PC: Iterative solvers
- Making and running PETSc programs
- Profiling, debugging
- Remaining topics

Introduction

What is PETSc? Why should you use PETSc?

Portable Extendable Toolkit for Scientific Computations

- Scientific Computations: parallel linear algebra, in particular linear and nonlinear solvers
- Toolkit: Contains high level solvers, but also the low level tools to roll your own.
- Portable: Available on many platforms, basically anything that has MPI

Why use it? It's big, powerful, well supported.

What is in PETSc?

- Linear system solvers (sparse/dense, iterative/direct)
- Nonlinear system solvers
- Tools for distributed matrices
- Support for profiling, debugging, graphical output

An example program

Include files

Multiple include files; in C only the highest level

```
#include "petscksp.h"
```

In Fortran sequence of include files *in the subprogram*

```
#include "include/finclude/petsc.h"  
#include "include/finclude/petscvec.h"  
#include "include/finclude/petscmat.h"  
#include "include/finclude/petscksp.h"  
#include "include/finclude/petscpc.h"
```

Program/subprogram heading

CPP definition of (sub)program name:
will be used in traceback

```
#undef __FUNCT__
#define __FUNCT__ "main"
int main(int argc,char **args)
{
    PetscFunctionBegin;
    ...
    PetscFunctionReturn(0);
}
```

Use this for every subprogram.

Not available in Fortran

Petsc initialize / finalize

One-time initialization, includes MPI if not already initialized:

```
ierr = PetscInitialize(&argc,&args,0,0);  
....  
ierr = PetscFinalize();
```

Fortran:

```
call PetscInitialize(PETSC_NULL_CHARACTER,ierr)  
....  
call PetscFinalize(ierr)
```

Petsc function return values

Every PETSc function returns an error code, zero is success.

C:

```
ierr = SomePetscFunction(...); CHKERRQ(ierr);
```

Fortran:

```
call SomePetscFunction(..., ierr )  
CHKERRQ(ierr);
```

Variable declarations

Everything is an object

```
MPI_Comm comm;  
PetscErrorCode ierr; PetscTruth flag;  
KSP Solver; Mat A; Vec Rhs,Sol;  
PetscScalar one; PetscInt its; PetscReal norm;
```

```
PetscErrorCode ierr  
PetscTruth flag  
KSP Solver  
PC Prec  
Mat A  
PetscInt its  
....
```

(note scalar vs real)

Read input parameter

Read user commandline argument (a.out -n 55)

```
ierr = PetscOptionsGetInt  
    (PETSC_NULL, "-n", &dom_size, &flag); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
if (!flag) dom_size = 10;  
matrix_size = dom_size*dom_size;
```

```
call PetscOptionsGetInt(PETSC_NULL_CHARACTER,  
>    "-n", dom_size, flag, ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
if (flag==0) dom_size = 10  
matrix_size = dom_size*dom_size;
```

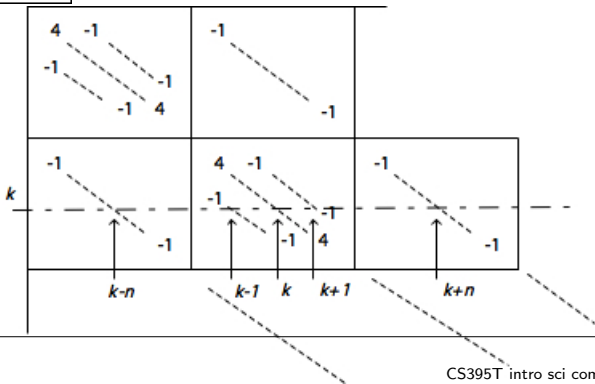
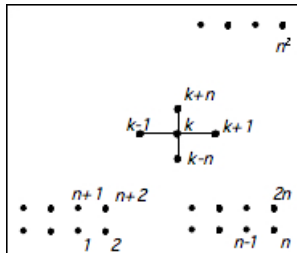
Create matrix

Create distributed matrix on communicator, set local and global size.

```
ierr = MatCreate(comm,&A); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = MatSetSizes(A,PETSC_DECIDE,PETSC_DECIDE,  
    matrix_size,matrix_size); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = MatSetType(A,MATMPIAIJ); CHKERRQ(ierr);
```

```
call MatCreate(comm,A,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call MatSetSizes(A,PETSC_DECIDE,PETSC_DECIDE,  
>    matrix_size,matrix_size,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call MatSetType(A,MATMPIAIJ,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)
```

Five-point Laplacian



Fill in matrix elements (C)

```
ierr = MatGetOwnershipRange(A,&low,&high); CHKERRQ(ierr);
for ( i=0; i<m; i++ ) {
    for ( j=0; j<n; j++ ) {
        I = j + n*i;
        if (I>=low && I<high) {
            J = I-1; v = -1.0;
            ierr = MatSetValues
                (mat,1,&I,1,&J,&v,INSERT_VALUES); CHKERRQ(ierr);
            ....
        }
    }
}
ierr = MatAssemblyBegin(mat,MAT_FINAL_ASSEMBLY); CHKERRQ(ierr);
ierr = MatAssemblyEnd(mat,MAT_FINAL_ASSEMBLY); CHKERRQ(ierr);
```

Fill in matrix elements (F)

```
call MatGetOwnershipRange(A,low,high,ierr)
do i=0,m-1
  do j=0,n-1
    ii = j + n*i
    if (ii>=low .and. ii<high) then
      jj = ii - n
      call MatSetValues(mat,1,ii,1,jj,v,INSERT_VALUES)
      CHKERRQ(ierr)
    ...
  enddo
enddo
call MatAssemblyBegin(mat,MAT_FINAL_ASSEMBLY,ierr)
CHKERRQ(ierr)
call MatAssemblyEnd(mat,MAT_FINAL_ASSEMBLY,ierr)
CHKERRQ(ierr)
```


Create solver

```
ierr = KSPCreate(comm,&Solver);  
ierr = KSPSetOperators(Solver,A,A,0); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = KSPSetType(Solver,KSPCGS); CHKERRQ(ierr);
```

```
call KSPCreate(comm,Solve,ierr)  
call KSPSetOperators(Solve,A,A,0,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call KSPSetType(Solve,KSPCGS,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)
```

Create preconditioner

```
{  
    PC Prec;  
    ierr = KSPGetPC(Solver,&Prec); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
    ierr = PCSetType(Prec,PCJACOBI); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
}
```

```
call KSPGetPC(Solve,Prec,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call PCSetType(Prec,PCJACOBI,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)
```

Input and output vectors

```
ierr = VecCreateMPI(comm,PETSC_DECIDE,matrix_size,&Rhs);  
ierr = VecDuplicate(Rhs,&Sol); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = VecSet(Rhs,one); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
  
call VecCreateMPI(comm,PETSC_DECIDE,matrix_size,Rhs,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call VecDuplicate(Rhs,Sol,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call VecSet(Rhs,one,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)
```

Solve! (C)

```
ierr = KSPSolve(Solver,Rhs,Sol); CHKERRQ(ierr);
{
    PetscInt its; KSPConvergedReason reason;
    Vec Res; PetscReal norm;
    ierr = KSPGetConvergedReason(Solver,&reason);
    if (reason<0) {
        PetscPrintf(comm,"Failure to converge\n");
    } else {
        ierr = KSPGetIterationNumber(Solver,&its); CHKERRQ(ierr);
        PetscPrintf(comm,"Number of iterations: %d\n",its);
    }
}
```

Solve! (F)

```
call KSPSolve(Solve,Rhs,Sol,ierr)
CHKERRQ(ierr)
```

```
call KSPGetConvergedReason(Solve,reason,ierr)
if (reason<0) then
    call PetscPrintf(comm,"Failure to converge\n")
else
```

```
    call KSPGetIterationNumber(Solve,its,ierr)
    CHKERRQ(ierr)
    write(msg,10) its
10  format('Number of iterations: i4")
    call PetscPrintf(comm,msg,ierr)
end if
```

Residual calculation

```
ierr = VecDuplicate(Rhs,&Res); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = MatMult(A,Sol,Res); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = VecAXPY(Res,-1,Rhs); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = VecNorm(Res,NORM_2,&norm); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = PetscPrintf(MPI_COMM_WORLD,"residual norm: %e\n",norm);
```

```
call VecDuplicate(Rhs,Res,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call MatMult(A,Sol,Res,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call VecAXPY(Res,mone,Rhs,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call VecNorm(Res,NORM_2,norm,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
if (mytid==0) print *, "residual norm:", norm
```

Clean up

```
ierr = VecDestroy(Res); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = KSPDestroy(Solver); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = VecDestroy(Rhs); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = VecDestroy(Sol); CHKERRQ(ierr);
```

```
call MatDestroy(A,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call KSPDestroy(Solve,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call VecDestroy(Rhs,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call VecDestroy(Sol,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call VecDestroy(Res,ierr)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)
```

Vec datatype: vectors

Create calls

Everything in PETSc is an object, with create and destroy calls:

```
VecCreate(MPI Comm comm,Vec *v);  
VecDestroy(Vec v);
```

```
/* C */  
Vec V;  
ierr = VecCreate(MPI_COMM_SELF,&V); CHKERRQ(ierr);  
ierr = VecDestroy(V); CHKERRQ(ierr);
```

```
! Fortran  
Vec V  
call VecCreate(MPI_COMM_SELF,V)  
CHKERRQ(ierr)  
call VecDestroy(V)  
CHKERRQ(ierr);
```

Note: in Fortran there are no “star” arguments

More about vectors

A vector is a vectors of PetscScalars: there are no vectors of integers (see the IS datatype later)

The vector object is not completely created in one call:

```
VecSetSizes(Vec v, int m, int M);
```

Other ways of creating: make more vectors like this one:

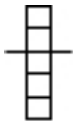
```
VecDuplicate(Vec v,Vec *w);
```

Parallel layout

Local or global size in

```
VecSetSizes(Vec v, int m, int M);
```

Global size can be specified as PETSC_DECIDE.



`VecSetSizes(V,2,5)`

`VecSetSizes(V,3,5)`



`VecSetSizes(V,2,PETSC_DECIDE)`

`VecSetSizes(V,3,PETSC_DECIDE)`

Parallel layout up to PETSc

```
VecSetSizes(Vec v, int m, int M);
```

Local size can be specified as PETSC_DECIDE.



```
VecSetSizes(V,PETSC_DECIDE,8)
```

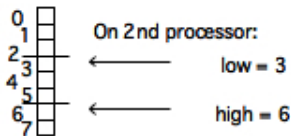
```
VecSetSizes(V,PETSC_DECIDE,8)
```

```
VecSetSizes(V,PETSC_DECIDE,8)
```

Query parallel layout

Query vector layout:

`VecGetOwnershipRange(Vec x, PetscInt *low, PetscInt *high)`



Query general layout:

`PetscSplitOwnership(MPI_Comm comm, PetscInt *n, PetscInt *N)`

(get local/global given the other)

Setting values

Set vector to constant value:

```
VecSet(Vec x,PetscScalar value);
```

Set individual elements (global indexing!):

```
VecSetValues(Vec x,int n,int *indices,PetscScalar *values,  
             INSERT_VALUES); /* or ADD_VALUES */
```

```
i = 1; v = 3.14;  
VecSetValues(x,1,&i,&v,INSERT_VALUES);  
ii[0] = 1; ii[1] = 2; vv[0] = 2.7; vv[1] = 3.1;  
VecSetValues(x,2,ii,vv,INSERT_VALUES);
```

```
call VecSetValues(x,1,i,v,INSERT_VALUES,ierr)  
call VecSetValues(x,2,ii,vv,INSERT_VALUES,ierr)
```

Setting values'

No restrictions on parallelism;
after setting, move values to appropriate processor:

```
VecAssemblyBegin(Vec x);  
VecAssemblyEnd(Vec x);
```

Getting values

Setting values is done without user access to the stored data

Getting values is often not necessary: many operations provided.

what if you do want access to the data?

- Create vector from user provided array:

```
VecCreateSeqWithArray(MPI_Comm comm,  
    PetscInt n,const PetscScalar array[],Vec *V)  
VecCreateMPIWithArray(MPI_Comm comm,  
    PetscInt n,PetscInt N,const PetscScalar array[],Vec *vv)
```

- Get the internal array (local only; see VecScatter for more general mechanism):

```
VecGetArray(Vec x,PetscScalar *a[])  
/* do something with the array */  
VecRestoreArray(Vec x,PetscScalar *a[])
```


Getting values example

```
int localsize,first,i;
PetscScalar *a;
VecGetLocalSize(x,&localsize);
VecGetOwnershipRange(x,&first,PETSC_NULL);
VecGetArray(x,&a);
for (i=0; i<localsize; i++)
    printf("Vector element %d : %e\n",first+i,a[i]);
VecRestoreArray(x,&a);
```

Array handling in F90

```
PetscScalar, pointer :: xx_v(:)
....
call VecGetArrayF90(x,xx_v,ierr)
a = xx_v(3)
call VecRestoreArrayF90(x,xx_v,ierr)
```

More separate F90 versions for 'Get' routines

Basic operations

```
VecAXPY(Vec y,PetscScalar a,Vec x);    /* y <- y + a x */
VecAYPX(Vec y,PetscScalar a,Vec x);    /* y <- a y + x */
VecScale(Vec x, PetscScalar a);
VecDot(Vec x, Vec y, PetscScalar *r); /* several variants */
VecMDot(Vec x,int n,Vec y[],PetscScalar *r);
VecNorm(Vec x, NormType type, double *r);
VecSum(Vec x, PetscScalar *r);
VecCopy(Vec x, Vec y);
VecSwap(Vec x, Vec y);
VecPointwiseMult(Vec w,Vec x,Vec y);
VecPointwiseDivide(Vec w,Vec x,Vec y);
VecMAXPY(Vec y,int n, PetscScalar *a, Vec x[]);
VecMax(Vec x, int *idx, double *r);
VecMin(Vec x, int *idx, double *r);
VecAbs(Vec x);
VecReciprocal(Vec x);
VecShift(Vec x,PetscScalar s);
```

Mat **Datatype:** matrix

Matrix creation

The usual create/destroy calls:

```
MatCreate(MPI Comm comm,Mat *A)
MatDestroy(Mat A)
```

Several more aspects to creation:

```
MatSetType(A,MATSEQAIJ) /* or MATMPIAIJ */
MatSetSizes(Mat A,int m,int n,int M,int N)
MatSeqAIJSetPreallocation /* more about this later*/
(Mat B,PetscInt nz,const PetscInt nnz[])
```

Local or global size can be PETSC_DECIDE (as in the vector case)

Matrix creation all in one

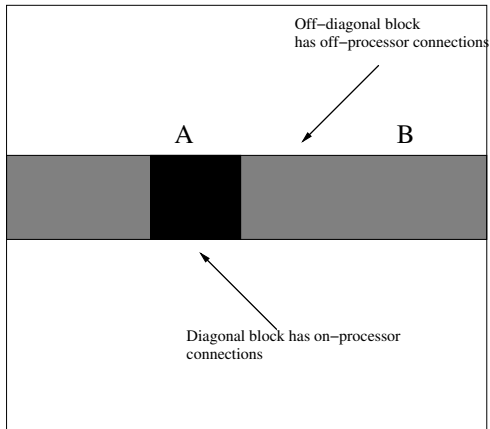
```
MatCreateSeqAIJ(MPI_Comm comm,PetscInt m,PetscInt n,  
    PetscInt nz,const PetscInt nnz[],Mat *A)  
MatCreateMPIAIJ(MPI_Comm comm,  
    PetscInt m,PetscInt n,PetscInt M,PetscInt N,  
    PetscInt d_nz,const PetscInt d_nnz[],  
    PetscInt o_nz,const PetscInt o_nnz[],  
    Mat *A)
```

Sequential matrix structure

```
MatCreateSeqAIJ(comm,int m,int n,  
    int nz,int *nnz,Mat *A);  
/* or */  
MatSeqAIJSetPreallocation  
    (Mat B,PetscInt nz,const PetscInt nnz[])
```

- nz number of nonzeros per row
(or slight overestimate)
- nnz array of row lengths (or overestimate)
- considerable savings over dynamic allocation!

Parallel matrix structure



Parallel matrix structure description

- `d_nz`: number of nonzeros per row in diagonal part
- `o_nz`: number of nonzeros per row in off-diagonal part
- `d_nnz`: array of numbers of nonzeros per row in diagonal part
- `o_nnz`: array of numbers of nonzeros per row in off-diagonal part

```
MatCreateMPIAIJ(MPI Comm comm,int m,int n,int M,int N,  
    int d_nz,int *d_nnz, int o_nz,int *o_nnz,Mat *A);
```

In Fortran use `PETSC_NULL_INTEGER` if not specifying arrays

Querying parallel structure

Matrix partitioned by block rows:

```
MatGetSize(Mat mat,PetscInt *m,PetscInt* n);  
MatGetLocalSize(Mat mat,PetscInt *m,PetscInt* n);  
MatGetOwnershipRange(Mat A,int *first row,int *last row);
```

Setting values

Setting is independent of parallelism

Set block of values:

```
MatSetValues(Mat A,int m,const int idxm[],  
             int n,const int idxn[],const PetscScalar values[],  
             INSERT_VALUES); /* or ADD_VALUES */  
MatAssemblyBegin(Mat A,MAT_FINAL_ASSEMBLY);  
MatAssemblyEnd(Mat A,MAT_FINAL_ASSEMBLY);
```

(v is row-oriented)

Common case:

```
MatSetValues(A,1,&i,1,&j,&v,INSERT_VALUES);
```

Getting values

- Values are often not needed: many matrix operations supported
- Matrix elements can only be obtained locally.
- Getting globally: submatrix extraction.

```
PetscErrorCode MatGetRow(Mat mat,  
    PetscInt row,PetscInt *ncols,const PetscInt *cols[],  
    const PetscScalar *vals[])  
PetscErrorCode MatRestoreRow(/* same parameters */
```

Note: for inspection only; possibly expensive.

Other matrix types

MATBAIJ : blocked matrices (dof per node)

MATAIJMUMPS : for the Mumps solver (explained later)

(see PETSC_DIR/include/petscmat.h)

Dense:

```
MatCreateSeqDense(PETSC_COMM_SELF,int m,int n,  
    PetscScalar *data,Mat *A);  
MatCreateMPIIDense(MPI_Comm comm,int m,int n,int M,int N,  
    PetscScalar *data,Mat *A)
```

Data argument optional

Matrix operations

Main operations are matrix-vector:

```
MatMult(Mat A,Vec in,Vec out);
```

```
MatMultAdd
```

```
MatMultTranspose
```

```
MatMultTransposeAdd
```

Simple operations on matrices:

```
MatNorm
```

```
MatScale
```

```
MatDiagonalScale
```

Matrix viewers

```
MatView(A,0);
```

```
row 0: (0, 1) (2, 0.333333) (3, 0.25) (4, 0.2)
row 1: (0, 0.5) (1, 0.333333) (2, 0.25) (3, 0.2)
....
```

- Shorthand for `MatView(A,PETSC_VIEWER_STDOUT_WORLD);`
or even `MatView(A,0)`
- also invoked by `-mat_view`
- Sparse: only allocated positions listed
- other viewers: for instance `-mat_view_draw` (X terminal)

More matrix topics

- Viewers are also for binary dump, plotting with X
- Shell matrices: matrix-free operation
- Submatrix extraction
- Matrix partitioning for load balancing

KSP & PC: **Iterative solvers**

Basic concepts

- All linear solvers in PETSc are iterative (see below)
- Object oriented: solvers only need matrix action, so can handle shell matrices
- Preconditioners
- Farguing control through commandline options
- Tolerances, convergence and divergence reason
- Custom monitors and convergence tests

KSP: Krylov Space objects

Iterative solver basics

```
KSPCreate(comm,&solver); KSPDestroy(solver);  
KSPSetOperators(solver,A,B,MAT_SAME_STRUCTURE);  
/* optional */ KSPSetup(solver);  
KSPSolve(solver,rhs,sol);
```

Settings in general

- Other settings, both as command and runtime option
- option `-ksp_view`
- (preconditioners discussed below)

Solver type and tolerances

```
KSPSetType(solver,KSPGMRES);  
KSPSetTolerances(solver,rtol,atol,dtol,maxit);
```

KSP can be controlled from the commandline:

```
KSPSetFromOptions(solver);  
/* right before KSPSolve or KSPSetUp */
```

then options `-ksp....` are parsed.

- type: `-ksp_type gmres -ksp_gmres_restart 20`
- tolerances: `-ksp_max_it 50`

Convergence

Iterative solvers can fail

- Solve call itself gives no feedback: solution may be completely wrong
- `KSPGetConvergedReason(solver,&reason)` :
positive is convergence, negative divergence
(`PETSC_DIR/include/petscksp.h` for list)
- `KSPGetIterationNumber(solver,&nits)` : after how many iterations did the method stop?

```
KSPSolve(solver,B,X);
KSPGetConvergedReason(solver,&reason);
if (reason<0) {
    printf("Divergence.\n");
} else {
    KSPGetIterationNumber(solver,&its);
    printf("Convergence in %d iterations.\n",(int)its);
}
```


More KSP topics

- Custom monitors and convergence tests
- Method-specific options (especially GMRES)
- Null spaces

PC: Preconditioner objects

PC basics

- PC usually created as part of KSP: separate create and destroy calls exist, but are (almost) never needed

```
KSP solver; PC precon;  
KSPCreate(comm,&solver);  
KSPGetPC(solver,&precon);  
PCSetType(precon,PCJACOBI);
```

- PCJACOBI, PCILU (only sequential), PCASM, PCBJACOBI, PCMG, et cetera
- Controllable through commandline options:
-pc_type ilu -pc_factor_levels 3

Direct methods

- Iterative method with direct solver as preconditioner would converge in one step
- Direct methods in PETSc implemented as special iterative method: KSPPREONLY only apply preconditioner
- All direct methods are preconditioner type PCLU:
- different solvers triggered by matrix type, for instance MATAIJMUMPS

```
myprog -mat_type aijmumps -ksp_type preonly -pc_type lu
```

Making and running PETSc programs

Installation

```
cd petsc-2.3.3
python config/configure.py
make ; make install
```

`configure.py --help` gives

PETSc:

<code>--prefix=<path></code>	: Specifiy location to install PETSc (eg. /usr/local)
<code>--with-sudo=sudo</code>	: Use sudo when installing packages
<code>--with-default-arch=<bool></code>	: Allow using the last configured arch without setting PETSC_ARCH
<code>--PETSC_ARCH</code>	: The configuration name
<code>--with-petsc-arch</code>	: The configuration name
<code>--PETSC_DIR</code>	: The root directory of the PETSc installation
<code>--with-installation-method=<method></code>	: Method of installation, e.g. tarball, clone, etc.

Compiling

Petsc compile and link lines are very long!

Use PETSc include file with variables and rules:

```
include ${PETSC_DIR}/bmake/common/base
prog : ${OBJS}
        ${CLINKER} -o prog ${OBJS} ${PETSC_LIB}
```

My preference:

```
include ${PETSC_DIR}/bmake/common/variables
CFLAGS = ${PETSC_INCLUDE}
prog : ${OBJS}
        ${CLINKER} -o prog ${OBJS} ${PETSC_LIB}
FFLAGS = ${PETSC_INCLUDE}
fprog : ${OBJS}
        ${FLINKER} -o prog ${OBJS} ${PETSC_LIB}
```

Environment variables

- PETSC_DIR : different for different version numbers
- PETSC_ARCH : for one version, this controls real/complex or opt/debug variants

Versions available at TACC

petsc/2.3.2	petsc/2.3.2-debug
petsc/2.3.2-cxx	petsc/2.3.2-cxxdebug
petsc/2.3.3(default)	petsc/2.3.3-debug
petsc/2.3.3-complex	petsc/2.3.3-complexdebug
petsc/2.3.3-cxx	petsc/2.3.3-cxxdebug

```
%% module load petsc/2.3.3-cxx
%% echo $PETSC_DIR
/opt/apps/petsc-intel9-2.3.3/2.3.3
%% echo $PETSC_ARCH
em64t-cxx
%%
```


Running

`mpirun -np 3 petscprog <bunch of runtime options>`
(or `ibrun` on Lonestar)

- `-log_summary` : give runtime statistics
- `-malloc_dump -memory_info` : memory statistics
- `-start_in_debugger` : parallel debugging
- `-options_left` : check for mistyped options
- `-ksp_type gmres` (et cetera) : program control

more later

Documentation and examples

- Manual in pdf form
- All man pages online

`http://www-unix.mcs.anl.gov/petsc/petsc-as/snapshots/petsc-2.3.3/docs/manualpages/singleindex.html`

start at `http://www.mcs.anl.gov/petsc/`

- Example codes, found online, and in
`$PETSC_DIR/src/mat/examples` et cetera
- Sometimes consult include files, for instance
`$PETSC_DIR/include/petscmat.h`

Fortran

- Include files:

```
#include "include/finclude/petsc.h"  
#include "include/finclude/petscmat.h"  
#include "include/finclude/petscksp.h"
```

- Separate F90 version of various 'Get' routines
- Null pointers: C is tolerant for 0 or PETSC_NULL, Fortran use PETSC_NULL_CHARACTER, PETSC_NULL_INTEGER et cetera.

Example:

```
call PetscOptionsGetInt(PETSC_NULL_CHARACTER, "-name",  
    N, flg, ierr)
```

Profiling, debugging

Basic profiling

- `-log_summary` flop counts and timings of all PETSc events
- `-info` all sorts of information, in particular

```
%% mpiexec yourprogram -info | grep malloc
```

```
[0] MatAssemblyEnd_SeqAIJ():
```

```
    Number of mallocs during MatSetValues() is 0
```

- `-log_trace` start and end of all events: good for hanging code

Log summary: overall

	Max	Max/Min	Avg	Total
Time (sec):	5.493e-01	1.00006	5.493e-01	
Objects:	2.900e+01	1.00000	2.900e+01	
Flops:	1.373e+07	1.00000	1.373e+07	2.746e+07
Flops/sec:	2.499e+07	1.00006	2.499e+07	4.998e+07
Memory:	1.936e+06	1.00000		3.871e+06
MPI Messages:	1.040e+02	1.00000	1.040e+02	2.080e+02
MPI Msg Lengths:	4.772e+05	1.00000	4.588e+03	9.544e+05
MPI Reductions:	1.450e+02	1.00000		

Log summary: details

	Max	Ratio	Max		Ratio	Max	Ratio	Avg len	%T	%F	%M	%L	%R	%T	%F	%M	%L	%R	Mflop/s
MatMult	100	1.0	3.4934e-02	1.0	1.28e+08	1.0	8.0e+02	6 32 96 17 0	6	32	96	17	0	6	32	96	17	0	255
MatSolve	101	1.0	2.9381e-02	1.0	1.53e+08	1.0	0.0e+00	5 33 0 0 0	5	33	0	0	0	5	33	0	0	0	305
MatLUFactorNum	1	1.0	2.0621e-03	1.0	2.18e+07	1.0	0.0e+00	0 0 0 0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
MatAssemblyBegin	1	1.0	2.8350e-03	1.1	0.00e+00	0.0	1.3e+05	0 0 3 83 1	0	0	3	83	1	0	0	3	83	1	0
MatAssemblyEnd	1	1.0	8.8258e-03	1.0	0.00e+00	0.0	4.0e+02	2 0 1 0 3	2	0	1	0	3	2	0	1	0	3	0
VecDot	101	1.0	8.3244e-03	1.2	1.43e+08	1.2	0.0e+00	1 7 0 0 35	1	7	0	0	35	1	7	0	0	35	243
KSPSetup	2	1.0	1.9123e-02	1.0	0.00e+00	0.0	0.0e+00	3 0 0 0 2	3	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	2	0
KSPSolve	1	1.0	1.4158e-01	1.0	9.70e+07	1.0	8.0e+02	26100 96 17 92	26100	96	17	92	26100	96	17	92	26100	96	194

Debugging

- Use of CHKERRQ and SETERRQ for catching and generating error
- Use of PetscMalloc and PetscFree to catch memory problems;
CHKMEMQ for instantaneous memory test (debug mode only)