



# CASAL2 Contributors Manual

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## **1. Introduction**

The Contributors Manual provides an overview for users who wish to access the source code, compile their own version of CASAL2, or who wish to contribute to CASAL2 source code. CASAL2 is open source and the development team encourages users to submit and contribute changes, bug fixes, or enhancements. This manual is intended to provide a guide for users who wish to access the source code for CASAL2, build and compile CASAL2, or contribute to the development of CASAL2.

The CASAL2 source code is hosted on GitHub, and can be found at <https://github.com/NIWAFisheriesModelling/CASAL2>.

A Microsoft Windows bundle which includes a binary, manual, examples and other help guides can be downloaded at <ftp://ftp.niwa.co.nz/Casal2/windows/Casal2.zip> for the Microsoft Windows version, [ftp://ftp.niwa.co.nz/Casal2/windows/casal2\\_setup.exe](ftp://ftp.niwa.co.nz/Casal2/windows/casal2_setup.exe) for the Microsoft Windows installer. The Linux bundle which includes a binary, manual, examples and other help guides can be downloaded at <ftp://ftp.niwa.co.nz/Casal2/linux/Casal2.tar.gz>.

If you have any questions or require more information, please contact the CASAL2 development team at [casal2@niwa.co.nz](mailto:casal2@niwa.co.nz).

To maintain the quality and integrity of the code base and ensure that any changes are reliable and accurate, the development team has created this manual to assist contributors in understanding how to access the source code, how to compile and build, and the guidelines for submitting code changes to the CASAL2 Development Team. We want this process to be as pain free as possible to encourage contributions.

This manual covers basics such as setting up a GitHub profile, to using GitHub, and all the way to compiling and modifying source code.

A suggestion to future contributors, before making changes to CASAL2 it may be helpful for you to discuss a future change with the development team before you begin making the change. They can assist with ideas on how to add functionality with ease. The easiest forum to have a conversation on code ideas is through the issues page of GitHub found at <https://github.com/NIWAFisheriesModelling/CASAL2/issues>. Just open up a new issue called, for example, New Migration process and begin by talking about how you were thinking about adding a new idea, and hopefully the development team can assist or make the implementation easier for you.

## 2. Creating a local repository

This section will cover the following points

1. Registering a GitHub username
2. Download git software
3. Fork the master repository

### 2.1. Git Username and Profile

The first step is to create a username and profile on GitHub (if you do not already have one). Creating a username and profile on GitHub is free and easy to do.

Go to <https://www.github.com> to register a username and set up a profile if you do not already have one. See the help at GitHub for more information. Once you have set up a GitHub account, you need to download the git software that you will use to “communicate” with repositories (places where the software source code is stored) on GitHub.

### 2.2. Git Software

You will need to acquire a git client in order to clone a copy of the source code and link this to the repository.

CASAL2 also requires a command line version of git in order to compile. The CASAL2 build environment requires git in order to evaluate the version of the code used at compile time to include into the executable and manual when being built.

One package that allows this on a Microsoft Windows platform is tortoisegit (see <https://tortoisegit.org/download>) to pull, push and commit changes to git repositories. However there are many other clients that could be used to achieve the same functionality.

### 2.3. Cloning a repository

The publicly available CASAL2 code is in the master repository. Only the CASAL2 Development Team have permission to add, delete, or change code in the master repository. Other contributors can either add, delete, or change code either by forking the master repository’ or by maintaining a local version of the repository. Forking a copy on GitHub can be done at <https://github.com/NIWAFisheriesModelling/CASAL2> by selecting the fork button in the top right of the page circled in Figure 2.1



**Figure 2.1: Creating a forked repository**

This will create a copy of the CASAL2 repository under your profile at the point of the fork. To check that you have successfully forked the repository, go to your git profile and you should see a CASAL2 repository under your repositories, shown in Figure 2.2,



**Figure 2.2: Fork success**

An important point is that the forked repository will not automatically keep up to date with the master repository. So if the master changes, you will want to keep your forked repository up to date. This can easily be done and is explained in the next section.

### 3. Maintaining and contributing to a forked repository

This section covers the following details

1. Checking the status of the forked repository compared to the master repository
2. Updating forked repository
3. Making changes to your forked repository

#### 3.1. Checking the status of the forked repository

The status of the forked repository as compared to the master repository can be seen on GitHub see Figure 3.1)



**Figure 3.1: Fork status**

This line underlined in blue indicates how many commits have occurred on the forked repo since forking the repo or updating the forked repo. The line underlined in red indicates the commits that have occurred to the master since you forked the repo or last updated it. In the above example, we have made one commit to our forked repo (indicated by the blue) and the forked version is one commit behind the master (indicated by the red).

#### 3.2. Updating the forked repository to incorporate changes committed to the master

To update your forked repository to be the same as the master, click the 'compare' button (circled in red on the right of Figure 3.1). This will bring up a page that will tell you of the changes that have occurred to the master repository.



**Figure 3.2**

If the following figure appears (Figure 3.2) telling you "there isn't anything to compare" click on the switching the base underlined in red.



**Figure 3.3**

You can see that there are 7 commits and 28 files changed on the master that we want to merge into our forked repo. You can see that there is now a "create pull request" and a green message saying "Able to merge". This indicates you will be able to update your forked repo with ease. Click on the "create pull request" button. This will open a git pull request (Figure 3.4) we suggest adding a nice title for the merge like "Updating Craig's Forked Repository"



The screenshot shows the 'Update from original' section of a GitHub pull request. At the top, there are dropdown menus for 'base fork: Cyrill1/CASAL2', 'base: master', and 'head fork: NIWAFisheriesModelling/CASA...', along with a 'compare: master' dropdown. A green checkmark indicates 'Able to merge. These branches can be automatically merged.' Below this is a text area for 'Update from original' with 'Write' and 'Preview' tabs. The text area contains a placeholder 'Leave a comment' and a note 'Attach files by dragging & dropping, selecting them, or pasting from the clipboard.' A green button 'Create pull request' is at the bottom right. On the right side, there are sections for 'Labels' (None yet), 'Milestone' (No milestone), and 'Assignees' (No one—assign yourself).

**Figure 3.4**

Once you write a reasonable title and click create pull request if there are no conflicts, you can merge the changes from the master into your forked repo by clicking "merge pull request" form Figure 3.5.

The screenshot shows the 'Merge pull request' interface. A green checkmark icon is next to the text 'This branch has no conflicts with the base branch' and 'Merging can be performed automatically.' Below this is a green button 'Merge pull request' with a subtext 'You can also open this in GitHub Desktop or view command line instructions.' Below the merge button is a text area for 'Leave a comment' with a placeholder 'Leave a comment' and a note 'Attach files by dragging & dropping, selecting them, or pasting from the clipboard.' A green button 'Comment' is at the bottom right. On the right side, there are sections for 'Milestone' (No milestone), 'Assignees' (No one—assign yourself), '3 participants' (with a profile picture), 'Notifications' (with an 'Unsubscribe' button), and 'Lock conversation'.

💡 ProTip! Add comments to specific lines under [Files changed](#).

**Figure 3.5**

Once you have clicked that you will be told that the merge was a success as shown in Figure 3.6.



**Figure 3.6**

Now you have successfully updated your remote forked repository. To incorporate these changes into your local repository on your computer you just need to do a pull and the code changes should be incorporated in your next build.

## 4. Setting up CASAL2 BuildSystem

This section describes how to set up the environment on your local machine that will allow you to build and compile CASAL2. The build environment can be on either Microsoft Windows or Linux systems. At present the CASAL2 build system supports Microsoft Windows 7+ and Linux (with GCC/G++ 4.9.0+). Apple OSX or other platforms are not currently supported.

### 4.1. Overview

The build system is made up of a collection of python scripts that do various tasks. These are located in `CASAL2/BuildSystem/buildtools/classes/`. Each python script has its own set of functionality and undertakes one set of actions.

The top level of the build system can be found at `CASAL2/BuildSystem/`. In this directory you can run `doBuild.bat help` from the command line in Microsoft Windows systems or `./doBuild.sh help` from a terminal in Linux systems. - this doesn't make sense. The build system will take one or two parameters depending on what style of build you'd like to achieve. These commands allow the building of various stand-alone binaries, shared libraries, and the documentation. Note that you will need additional software installed on your system in order to build CASAL2. These requirements are described later.

A summary of all of the `doBuild` arguments can be found using the command `doBuild help` in the `BuildSystem` directory.

The current arguments to `doBuild` are:

- `debug`: Build standalone debug executable
- `release`: Build standalone release executable
- `test`: Build standalone unit tests executable
- `documentation`: Build the user manual
- `thirdparty`: Build all required third party libraries
- `thirdpartylean`: Build minimal third party libraries
- `clean`: Remove any previous debug/release build information
- `cleanall`: Remove all previous build information
- `archive`: Build a zipped archive of the application. The application is built using shared libraries so a single `CASAL2executable` is created.
- `check`: Do a check of the build system
- `modelrunner`: Run the test suite of models
- `installer`: Build an installer package
- `deb`: Create Linux `.deb` installer
- `library`: Build shared library for use by front end application
- `frontend`: Build single `CASAL2executable` with all minimisers and unit tests

Valid Build Parameters: (thirdparty only)

- <library name>: Target third party library to build or rebuild

Valid Build parameters: (debug/release only)

- betadiff: Use BetaDiff auto-differentiation (from CASAL)
- cppad: Use CppAD auto-differentiation
- adolc: Use ADOLC auto-differentiation in compiled executable

Valid Build parameters: (library only)

- adolc: Build ADOLC auto-differentiation library
- betadiff: Build BetaDiff auto-differentiation library (from CASAL)
- cppad: Build CppAD auto-differentiation library
- test: Build Unit Tests library
- release: Build release library

The outputs from the build system commands will be placed in sub-folders of CASAL2/BuildSystem/bin/<operatingsystem>/<build\_type>

For example:

CASAL2/BuildSystem/windows/debug

CASAL2/BuildSystem/windows/library\_release

CASAL2/BuildSystem/windows/thirdparty/

CASAL2/BuildSystem/linux/library\_release

## 4.2. Building on Windows

### 4.2.1. Prerequisite Software

The building of CASAL2 requires additional build tools and software, including git version control, GCC compiler, LaTeX compiler, and an Windows package builder. CASAL2 requires specific implementations and versions in order to build.

#### C++ and Fortran Compiler

Source: tdm-gcc (MingW64) from <http://www.tdm-gcc.tdragon.net/>.

CASAL2 is designed to compile under GCC on Microsoft Windows and Linux platforms. While it may be possible to build the package using different compilers, the CASAL2 Development Team does provide any assistance or recommendations. We recommend using 64-bit TDM-GCC version 5.1.0. Ensure you have the "fortran" and "openmp" options installed as a part of the "gcc" dropdown tickboxes otherwise CASAL2 will not compile.. **Note:** A common error that can be made is having a different GCC compiler in your path when attempting to compile. For example, rtools includes a version of the GCC compiler. We recommend removing these from your path prior to compiling.

## **GIT Version Control**

Source: Command line GIT from <https://www.git-scm.com/downloads>.

CASAL2 automatically adds a version number based on the GIT version of the latest commit to its repository. The command line version of GIT is used to generate a version number for the compiled binaries, R libraries, and the manuals.

## **MiKTeX Latex Processor**

Source: Portable version from <http://www.miktex.org/portable>.

The main user documentation for CASAL2 is a PDF manual generated from LaTeX. The LaTeX syntax sections of the documentation are generated, in part, directly from the code. In order to regenerate the user documentation, you will need the MiKTeX LaTeX compiler.

## **7-Zip**

Source: 7-Zip from <http://www.7-zip.org/download.html>.

The BuildSystem calls 7zip.exe to unzip files in the build system; it is advised to have this in the path.

## **Inno Setup Installer Builder (optional)**

Source: Inno Setup 5 from <http://www.jrsoftware.org/isdl.php>

If you wish to build a Microsoft Windows compatible Installer for CASAL2 then you will need the Inno Setup 5 application installed on the machine. The installation path must be `C:\ProgramFiles(x86)\InnoSetup5\` in order for the build scripts to find and use it.

### **4.2.2. Pre-Build Requirements**

Prior to building CASAL2 you will need to ensure you have both G++ and GIT in your path. You can check both of these by typing:

```
g++ --version
```

```
git --version
```

This also allows you to check that there are no alternative versions of a GCC compiler that may confuse the CASAL2 build.

Its worth checking to ensure GFortran has been installed with the G++ compiler by typing:

```
gfortran --version
```

If you wish to build the documentation bibtex will also need to be in the path:

```
bibtex -version
```

### **4.2.3. Building CASAL2**

The build process is relatively straightforward. You can run `doBuild check` to see if your build environment is ready.

1. Get a copy (clone) of the forked code on your local machine, mentioned in Section 2:
2. Navigate to the BuildSystem folder in CASAL2/BuildSystem
3. You need to build the third party libraries with:

- `doBuild thirdparty`
4. You need to build the binary you want to use:
    - `doBuild release`
  5. You can build the documentation if you want:
    - `doBuild documentation`

### 4.3. Building on Linux

This guide has been written against a fresh install of Ubuntu 15.10. With Ubuntu we use `apt-get` to install new packages. You'll need to be familiar with the package manager for your distribution to correctly install the required prerequisite software.

#### 4.3.1. Prerequisite Software

##### Compiler G++

Ubuntu 15.10 comes with G++ 4.8.4, `gfortran` is not installed though so we can install it with: `sudo apt-get install gfortran`.

##### GIT Version Control

Git isn't installed by default but we can install it with `sudo apt-get install git`

CASAL2 automatically adds a version number based on the GIT version of the latest commit to its repository. The command line version of GIT is used to generate a version number for the compiled binaries, R libraries, and the manuals.

##### CMake

CMake is required to build multiple third-party libraries and the main code base. You can do this with `sudo apt-get install cmake`

##### Python2 Modules

There are a couple of Python2 modules that are required to build CASAL2. These can be installed with `sudo apt-get install python-dateutil`

You may also need to install **datetime**, **re** and **distutils**. **Texlive** Latex Processor. No supported latex processors are installed with Ubuntu by default. You can install a suitable latex process with:

```
sudo apt-get install texlive-binaries sudo apt-get install texlive-latex-base
sudo apt-get install texlive-latex-recommended sudo apt-get install
texlive-latex-extra
```

Alternatively you can install the complete package: `sudo apt-get install texlive-full`

#### 4.3.2. Building CASAL2

The build process is relatively straightforward. You can run `./doBuild.sh check` to see if your build environment is ready.

1. Get a copy (clone) of the forked code on your local machine, mentioned in Section 2:

2. Navigate to the BuildSystem folder in CASAL2/BuildSystem
3. You need to build the third party libraries with:
  - `./doBuild.sh thirdparty`
4. You need to build the binary you want to use:
  - `./doBuild.sh release`
5. You can build the documentation if you want:
  - `./doBuild.sh documentation`

## 4.4. Troubleshooting

### 4.4.1. Third-party Libraries

It's possible that there will be build errors or issues building the third-party libraries. If you encounter an error, then its worth checking the log files. Each third-party build system stores a log of everything its doing. The files will be named

- `casal2_unzip.log`
- `casal2_configure.log`
- `casal2_make.log`
- `casal2_build.log`
- ...etc.,

Some of the third-party libraries require very specialised environments for compiling under GCC on Windows. These libraries are packaged with MSYS (MinGW Linux style shell system). The log files for these will be found in `ThirdParty/<libraryname>/msys/1.0/<libraryname>/`

e.g: `ThirdParty/adolc/msys/1.0/adolc/ADOL-C-2.5.2/casal2_make.log`

e.g: `ThirdParty/boost/boost_1_58_0/casal2_build.log`

### 4.4.2. Main Code Base

If the unmodified code base does not compile, the most likely cause is an issue with the third-party libraries not being built. Ensure they have been built correctly. As they are outside the control of the Development Team, problems can arise that may require the developers of the third party libraries to resolve first. Contact the CASAL2 development team at `casal2@niwa.co.nz` for help.

## 5. CASAL2 build rules

This section describes the standards and requirements for code to be included within the CASAL2 code base.

### 5.1. CASAL2 coding practice and style

CASAL2 is written in C++ and follows the Google C++ style guide (see <https://google.github.io/styleguide/cppguide.html>). The guide is long and comprehensive, so we don't necessarily recommend that you read or understand all of its content. However, the Development Team would like you to follow the Google style of code layout and structure. Google provides a handy script to parse source code and highlight errors that do not match their coding style.

This means using good indentations for functions and loops, sensible (human readable) variable names but noting the use of the characters `'_'` on the end of class variables defined in the `.h` files.

**Annotate** your code. For readability we encourage you to put lots of comments in your code. This helps others read what you intended.

On top of annotating your code we encourage developers to add descriptive logging statements (print messages) in the code. You will see this in the source code already. The purpose of this is to allow a descriptive summary of the actions being done in the model for debugging purposes and curious users. By using these, it becomes easier to identify issues, errors and creates a transparent model for users.

You can also output the text and equations in these logs that would normally be too detailed for general users to be interested, as this may allow users to verify the exact equations or processes that have been implemented. These are really there for curious users and developers.

There are different levels of logging in CASAL2 listed below.

- `LOG_MEDIUM()` usually reserved for iterative functionality (e.g. estimates during estimation phase)
- `LOG_FINE()` the level of reporting between an actual report and a fine scale detail that end users are not interested in (Developers)
- `LOG_FINEST()` Minor details
- `LOG_TRACE()` put at the beginning of every function

To run CASAL2 in log mode piping out any `LOG_FINEST` and coarser logs (`LOG_MEDIUM` and `LOG_FINE`) you can use the following command,

```
casal2 -r --loglevel finest > MyReports.csl2 2> log.out
```

This will output all the logged information to `log.out`.

### 5.2. Unit tests

One of the key focusses in the CASAL2 development is an emphasis on software integrity — this is to help ensure that the results from implemented models are consistent and error free. As part of this, we use unit tests to check the individual components of the code base, as well as tests that run entire models in order to validate that the outputs are what we expect them to be.



CASAL2 uses:

- Google testing framework
- Google mocking framework

When adding unit tests, they need to be developed and tested outside of CASAL2 first, for example in **R** or another program like CASAL2 e.g. CASAL or Stock Synthesis. This gives confidence that the test does not contain a calculation or other error.

An example of how to add a unit test for a process is shown in Section 6

### 5.3. Reporting (Optional)

Currently CASAL2 has reports that are **R** compatible, i.e., all output reports produced by CASAL2 can be read into **R** using the standard **CASAL2 R** package. If you create a new report or modify an old one, you must follow the standard so that the report is **R** compatible.

All reports must start with, `*label (type)` and end with, `*end`

Depending on what type of information you wish to report, will depend on the syntax you need to use. For example

#### **{d} (Dataframe)**

Report a dataframe

```
*estimates (estimate_value)
values {d}
process[Recruitment_BOP].r0 process[Recruitment_ENLD].r0
2e+006 8e+006
*end
```

#### **{m} (Matrix)**

Report a matrix

```
*covar (covariance_matrix)
Covariance_Matrix {m}
2.29729e+010 -742.276 -70160.5
-110126 -424507 -81300
-36283.4 955920 -52736.2
*end
```

#### **{L} (List)**

Report a List

```
*weight_one (partition_mean_weight)
year: 1900
ENLD.EN.notag {L}
mean_weights {L}
0.0476604 0.111575 0.199705
```

```
end {L}  
age_lengths {L}  
12.0314 16.2808 20.0135  
end {L}  
end {L}  
*end
```

#### 5.4. Update manual

The syntax sections of the user manual are automatically generated from the source code. This means contributors will need to add or modify the remaining sections of the the user manual to document their changes. This is a requirement of contributed or suggested code changes, and is important for end users to be able to use the new or modified functionality.

#### 5.5. Builds to pass before merging changes

Once you have made changes to the code, you must run the following builds before your changes can be considered for inclusion in the the main code base.

build the unittest version see Section 4 for how to build unittest depending on your system.

Run the standard and new unit tests to check that they all pass `DoBuild test`

And test that the debug and release of CASAL2 compile and run. `DoBuild debug`

Then run the second phase of unit tests (requires the debug version is built). This runs the tests that comprise of complete model runs `DoBuild modelrunner`

Build the archive `DoBuild archive`

## 6. Adding Functionality into CASAL2

The following shows a sequence of figures and text of an example, where we demonstrate how to modify the code base by adding a new child process called `SurvivalConstantRate`. Although we will be showing adding new process functionality for a process we will explain it in a generalised way so that this can be translated into adding a new selectivity, observation, likelihood, Projection, MCMC, minimiser, time varying class etc.

To add a new process you start by going into the `CASAL2\CASAL2\source\processes\`.



Children	29/07/2016 11:23 ...	File folder	
Factory.cpp	1/07/2016 9:18 a.m.	CPP File	5 KB
Factory.h	1/03/2016 2:04 p.m.	H File	1 KB
Manager.cpp	21/04/2016 1:20 p.m.	CPP File	3 KB
Manager.h	1/03/2016 2:04 p.m.	H File	2 KB
Process.cpp	23/05/2016 9:23 a.m.	CPP File	4 KB
Process.h	5/06/2016 2:27 p.m.	H File	3 KB
Process-inl.h	1/03/2016 2:04 p.m.	H File	2 KB

**Figure 6.1**

This folder shown in Figure 6.1 contains a general layout of all main classes in CASAL2. It contains a folder named `Children`, C++ source code `Factory.cpp`, `Factory.h`, `Manager.cpp`, `Manager.h`, `Process.cpp`, `Process.h`. The folder `Children` contains all the current processes implemented in CASAL2. The `Factory` source code creates all the processes during runtime. The `Manager` source code manages the class; it can build pointers to specific processes to share information across classes. The `Process` source code contains base functionality that is inherited by all child classes (inheritance is a major concept in C++ and it is advised have some knowledge of the concept). Before creating a new child look at the parent (in this example `Process.cpp`, `Process.h`), to see the functionality you don't have to add in your child because it is already done at the parent level. The following figure shows the constructor in `Process.cpp`.

```

#include "Model/Managers.h"
#include "Model/Model.h"
#include "Reports/Manager.h"
#include "Reports/Children/Process.h"

// namespaces
namespace niwa {

/**
 * Default constructor
 */
Process::Process(Model* model) : model_(model) {
    parameters_.Bind<string>(PARAM_LABEL, &label_, "Label", "");
    parameters_.Bind<string>(PARAM_TYPE, &type_, "Type", "", "");
    parameters_.Bind<bool>(PARAM_PRINT_REPORT, &create_report_, "Generate parameter report", "", false);
}

/**
 * Call the validation method for the child object of this process and
 * set some generic variables.
 */
void Process::Validate() {
    parameters_.Populate();

    if (block_type_ != PARAM_PROCESS && block_type_ != PARAM_PROCESSES) {
        if (type_ != "")
            type_ = block_type_ + "_" + type_;
        else
            type_ = block_type_;

        block_type_ = PARAM_PROCESS;
    }

    if (process_type_ == ProcessType::kUnknown)
        LOG_CODE_ERROR() << "process_type_ == ProcessType::kUnknown for label: " << label();

    DoValidate();
}

```

Figure 6.2

From Figure 6.2 the process parent class does not do much - it assigns a label and type for each child that will be created and a report subcommand. The point of this is to look at the parent class to reduce duplicating functionality in the child class.

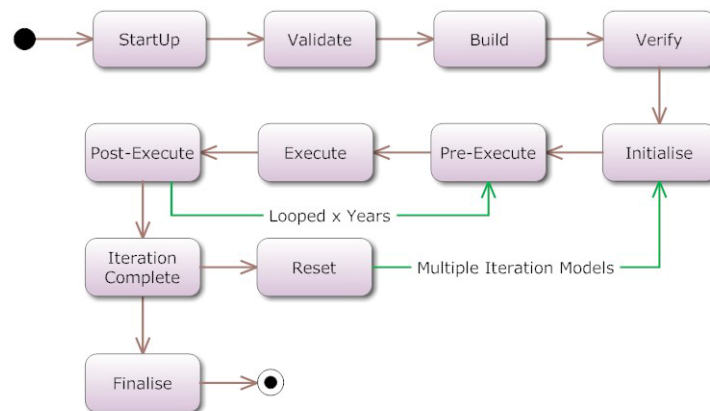
We will be returning to the factory source code later, but for now let's get adding a new process. Enter the Children folder and create C++ source code labelled `SurvivalConstantRate.cpp` and `SurvivalConstantRate.h`. These files were should exist in the source code, but fell free to delete them and go through the process of adding the process to see how easy this process is. I usually copy an existing process and rename it, although this is not good coding practice. It's one of those do-as-I-say-not-as-I-do types of things.

 RecruitmentBevertonHolt.Test.cpp	25/07/2016 7:50 a.m.	CPP File	9 KB
 RecruitmentConstant.cpp	1/03/2016 2:04 p.m.	CPP File	5 KB
 RecruitmentConstant.h	1/03/2016 2:04 p.m.	H File	2 KB
 RecruitmentConstant.Test.cpp	1/03/2016 2:04 p.m.	CPP File	3 KB
 SurvivalConstantRate.cpp	29/07/2016 11:23 ...	CPP File	6 KB
 SurvivalConstantRate.h	29/07/2016 11:23 ...	H File	2 KB
 TagByAge.cpp	1/03/2016 2:04 p.m.	CPP File	18 KB
 TagByAge.h	1/03/2016 2:04 p.m.	H File	3 KB
 TagByAge.Test.cpp	24/07/2016 10:00 ...	CPP File	14 KB
 TagByLength.cpp	15/07/2016 1:26 p.m.	CPP File	16 KB

Figure 6.3

Once you have done that for each child class you may have to write code for the following functions: `DoValidate()`, `DoBuild()`, `PreExecute()`, `DoExecute()`, `PostExecute()`, `DoReset()`. To understand what these all do Figure 6.4 shows the state transition of CASAL2.

Now we describe the purpose of each transition and this will give you an idea of what you should be incorporating into each function.



**Figure 6.4**

## StartUp

The model is in the blank start and the configuration system is loading the configuration files and parsing any extra inputs.

Tasks completed:

- Parse command line
- Parse configuration file
- Load plugins
- Load estimate values from input files

## Validate

All user configurations have been loaded at this point. Now the model will go through every object that has been created and check that the parameters given to them.

This step will ensure every object in the model has sufficient parameters to be executed without causing a system fault or error in the model.

This state will not check the values to ensure they are logical in relation to an actual model. They will only test that they exist and meet minimum requirements to execute a model.

At the end of the validate stage each object should be internally consistent. No lookups or external references are allowed to be formed during this stage.

## Build

The build phase is where the system will build relationships between objects that rely on each other. Because validation has been completed, each object in it's self-contained configuration is ok.

This phase generally assigns values to pointers for objects so they don't need to do lookups of objects during execution phases.

### **Verify**

At this point pre-defined configurations are checked against the model's current configuration to verify if the model makes sense logically. These are business rules being applied to the model to help ensure the output is not garbage.

Note: This has not been implemented.

### **PreExecute**

Pre-Execution happens at the beginning of a time step. This allows objects to calculate values based on the partition state before any of the other processes in the time step are executed.

### **Execute**

This is the general work method of the model and where all of the processes will be run against the partition.

### **PostExecute**

This is executed at the end of a time step after all of the processes and associated objects have been executed. This is typically used for things like reports and derived quantities.

### **IterationComplete**

This is executed at the end of every model run. This is only useful when the model is in a multiple-iteration mode (e.g MCMC or Estimation). After every model iteration this state is triggered.

### **Reset**

If the model has to run multiple iterations then the reset state is used to reset everything back in to a state where the model can be re-executed without any legacy data remaining.

This state allows us to run multiple iterations of the model without having to re-process the configuration information or de-allocate/re-allocate large amounts of memory.

### **Finalise**

Finalise will happen after all iterations of the model have been completed.

Coming back to our example, if we look in `SurvivalConstantRate.h` we will see the following setup, as shown in Figure 6.5.

```
// namespaces
namespace niwa {
class Selectivity; // Forward declare Selectivity class

namespace processes {
namespace accessor = niwa::partition::accessors;
using utilities::OrderedMap;
/**
 * Class Definition
 */
class SurvivalConstantRate : public niwa::Process {
public:
    // Methods
    SurvivalConstantRate(Model* model);
    virtual ~SurvivalConstantRate() = default;
    void DoValidate() override final;
    void DoBuild() override final;
    void DoReset() override final;
    void DoExecute() override final;

private:
    // Members
    vector<string> category_labels_;
    vector<Double> s_input_;
    OrderedMap<string, Double> s_;
    vector<Double> ratios_;
    map<unsigned, Double> time_step_ratios_;
    vector<vector<Double>> survival_rates_;
    vector<string> selectivity_names_;
    accessor::Categories partition_;
    vector<Selectivity*> selectivities_;
};
```

Figure 6.5

We can see that we are implementing `DoValidate()`, `DoBuild()`, `DoExecute()`, `DoReset()`, which are public functions and we define our variables as private. This idea of structuring classes by public, private and protected is known as encapsulation, and is another important C++ concept. Our variables will be stored in memory for the entire model run so you must make decisions on whether a variable needs to persist for the entire model run or can be temporarily created and destroyed at execution time (Note: the `_` at the end this indicates whether the variable is defined in the `.h` file or not).

Moving into `SurvivalConstantRate.cpp`, if we look at the constructor, we can see that this describes input parameters that are supplied by the user, and which variables are estimable. This is applied by the `RegisterAsEstimable()` function.

```
SurvivalConstantRate::SurvivalConstantRate(Model* model)
: Process(model),
  partition_(model) {
    LOG_TRACE();
    process_type_ = ProcessType::kMortality;
    partition_structure_ = PartitionStructure::kAge;

    parameters_.Bind<string>(PARAM_CATEGORIES, &category_labels_, "List of categories", "");
    parameters_.Bind<Double>(PARAM_S, &s_input_, "Survival rates", "");
    parameters_.Bind<Double>(PARAM_TIME_STEP_RATIO, &ratios_, "Time step ratios for S", "", true);
    parameters_.Bind<string>(PARAM_SELECTIVITIES, &selectivity_names_, "Selectivity label", "");

    RegisterAsEstimable(PARAM_S, &s_);
}
```

Figure 6.6

When you see keywords that begin with `PARAM`, for example `PARAM_CATEGORIES`, these will be defined in `CASAL2\CASAL2\source\English_UK.h`.

Moving on to the `DoValidate()` function in Figure 6.7. The purpose of this function is to validate

the user's inputs and expand inputs to allow short hand syntax. You can see the annotation of what is happening in the function. This is considered one of the coding commandments **Thou shall annotate thy code**.

```
/**
 * Validate our Survival Constant Rate process
 *
 * - Validate the required parameters
 * - Assign the label from the parameters
 * - Assign and validate remaining parameters
 * - Duplicate 's' and 'selectivities' if only 1 vale specified
 * - Check s is between 0.0 and 1.0
 * - Check the categories are real
 */
void SurvivalConstantRate::DoValidate() {
    category_labels_ = model->categories()->ExpandLabels(category_labels_, parameters_.Get(PARAM_CATEGORIES));

    // If one S supplied expand for each category
    if (s_input_.size() == 1)
        s_input_.assign(category_labels_.size(), s_input_[0]);
    // Do the same for selectivity labels
    if (selectivity_names_.size() == 1)
        selectivity_names_.assign(category_labels_.size(), selectivity_names_[0]);
    //Check we have equal category labels as survival rates
    if (s_input_.size() != category_labels_.size()) {
        LOG_ERROR_P(PARAM_S)
            << ": Number of Ms provided is not the same as the number of categories provided. Expected: "
            << category_labels_.size() << " but got " << s_input_.size();
    }
    //Check we have equal category labels to selectivity labels
    if (selectivity_names_.size() != category_labels_.size()) {
        LOG_ERROR_P(PARAM_SELECTIVITIES)
            << ": Number of selectivities provided is not the same as the number of categories provided. Expected: "
            << category_labels_.size() << " but got " << selectivity_names_.size();
    }

    // Validate our S's are between 1.0 and 0.0
    for (Double s : s_input_) {
        if (s < 0.0 || s > 1.0)
            LOG_ERROR_P(PARAM_S) << ": s value " << AS_DOUBLE(s) << " must be between 0.0 and 1.0 (inclusive)";
    }
    // Assign survival rates to a map s_
    for (unsigned i = 0; i < s_input_.size(); ++i)
        s_[category_labels_[i]] = s_input_[i];

    // Check categories are real
    for (const string& label : category_labels_) {
        if (!model->categories()->IsValid(label))
            LOG_ERROR_P(PARAM_CATEGORIES) << ": category " << label << " does not exist. Have you defined it?";
    }
}
```

Figure 6.7

Another nice inclusion to the CASAL2 source code is it's error checking and messages to the users. The following list is of all the allowable types of errors that CASAL2 can perform.

- `LOG_WARNING()` << "warning message"; if triggered print the warning message at the end of model run to, warn the user of a change or implication in the model.
- `LOG_ERROR()` << "error message"; After validate and build stop execution and print error message.
- `LOG_ERROR_P(PARAM_KEYWORD)` << "error message"; After validate and build stop execution and print error message with location of the parameter `PARAM_KEYWORD` in the configuration files.
- `LOG_FATAL()` if triggered halt execution and print error message.



- `LOG_FATAL_P(PARAM_KEYWORD) << "error message";` If triggered stop execution and print error message with location of the `PARAM_KEYWORD` in the configuration files.
- `LOG_CODE_ERROR() << "error message";` if triggered quit CASAL2 with a message like contact the development team this is a bug in the software.

We encourage you to put these all throughout the validate and build functions, to help users correctly specify models and catch silly input sequences.

Moving on to the `DoBuild()` function. The purpose of the build function is to create pointers and relationships with other classes that will be required during execution. For example, in this process we will require access to the partition, time step and selectivity classes.

```
/**
 * Build any runtime relationships
 * - Build the partition accessor
 * - Build our list of selectivities
 * - Build our ratios for the number of time steps
 */
void SurvivalConstantRate::DoBuild() {
    partition_.Init(category_labels_);

    for (string label : selectivity_names_) {
        Selectivity* selectivity = model_>managers().selectivity()->GetSelectivity(label);
        if (!selectivity)
            LOG_ERROR_P(PARAM_SELECTIVITIES) << ": selectivity " << label << " does not exist. Have you defined it?";

        selectivities_.push_back(selectivity);
    }

    /**
     * Organise our time step ratios. Each time step can
     * apply a different ratio of S so here we want to verify
     * we have enough and re-scale them to 1.0
     */
    vector<TimeStep*> time_steps = model_>managers().time_step()->ordered_time_steps();
    LOG_FINEST() << "time_steps.size(): " << time_steps.size();
    vector<unsigned> active_time_steps;
    for (unsigned i = 0; i < time_steps.size(); ++i) {
        if (time_steps[i]->HasProcess(label_))
            active_time_steps.push_back(i);
    }

    if (ratios_.size() == 0) {
        for (unsigned i : active_time_steps)
            time_step_ratios_[i] = 1.0;
    } else {
        if (ratios_.size() != active_time_steps.size())
            LOG_ERROR_P(PARAM_TIME_STEP_RATIO) << " length (" << ratios_.size()
                << ") does not match the number of time steps this process has been assigned to (" << active_time_steps.size() << ")";

        for (Double value : ratios_) {
            if (value <= 0.0 || value > 1.0)
                LOG_ERROR_P(PARAM_TIME_STEP_RATIO) << " value (" << value << ") must be between 0.0 (exclusive) and 1.0 (inclusive)";
        }

        for (unsigned i = 0; i < ratios_.size(); ++i)
            time_step_ratios_[active_time_steps[i]] = ratios_[i];
    }
}
```

**Figure 6.8**

Moving on to the `DoBuild()` function. This is where the action happens and we apply a survival rate to our categories.

```

/**
 * Execute the process
 */
void SurvivalConstantRate::DoExecute() {
    LOG_FINEST() << "year: " << model_>->current_year();

    // get the ratio to apply first
    unsigned time_step = model_>->managers().time_step()->current_time_step();

    LOG_FINEST() << "Ratios.size() " << time_step_ratios_.size() << " : time_step: " << time_step << "; ratio: " << time_step_ratios_[time_step];
    Double ratio = time_step_ratios_[time_step];

    StoreForReport("year", model_>->current_year());

    unsigned i = 0;
    for (auto category : partition_) {
        Double s = s_[category->name_];

        unsigned j = 0;
        LOG_FINEST() << "category " << category->name_ << "; min_age: " << category->min_age_ << "; ratio: " << ratio;
        StoreForReport(category->name_ + " ratio", ratio);
        for (Double& data : category->data_) {
            data -= data * (1-exp(-selectivities_[i]->GetResult(category->min_age_ + j, category->age_length_) * (s * ratio)));
            ++j;
        }
        ++i;
    }
}

```

Figure 6.9

You will notice another set of logging, which is also encouraged to add all throughout the execution process. The levels of logging are described in Section 5.1

### Adding a unit test

Still left to do - Samik and Marco to fill in after completing some unit tests.

## 7. Merging changes from a forked repository to a master repository

**Before you consider this** you need to make sure the following has been checked otherwise, you will waste developers time and patience. In brief summary you have to check that the your new code doesn't break any of the auto-differentiation code, so you need to build all of those. You must check that you have not broken any unit-tests and that all the model runner models have passed.

1. `doBuild archive` this will build all the autodiff libraries.
2. `doBuild release betadiff`
3. `doBuild modelrunner`
4. `doBuild test`
5. Enter the directory where this executable lives (e.g. `BuildSystem\bin\windows\test`), and run the CASAL2 executable (`casal2 -r`, or simply `casal2`) to check all the unit-tests pass.

**only once the above is done, should you consider the remaining section.** This section describes how to merge changes from a forked repository to the master repository. This is under the assumptions that the contributor has followed the rules laid out in Section 5. The aim of the forked repository is to maintain code integrity. So we only want contributors who have tested their documented code to be included into the master. This section is the opposite to Section 3 (where we pulled changes from the master repository into our forked repository). Here we are merging changes from a forked repository into the master, which will be incorporated into the next publicly available compiled version of CASAL2. From this example we can see from Figure 7.1 that our forked repository has three commits (underlined in blue) that we want to incorporate into the master repository.

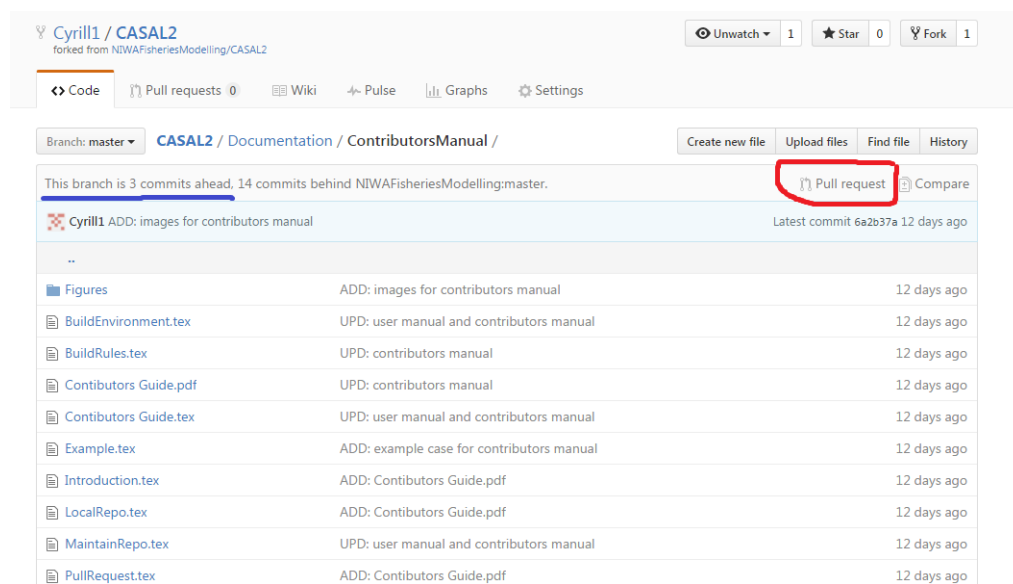


Figure 7.1

To incorporate these changes into the master you need to click on the "pull request" button circled in red. This will prompt a comparison of the changes that you are submitting for inclusion into the master, see Figure 7.2

## 7. Merging changes form a forked repository to a master repository

### Comparing changes

Choose two branches to see what's changed or to start a new pull request. If you need to, you can also [compare across forks](#).

base fork: NIWAFisheriesModelling/CASAL2 ... head fork: Cyrill1/CASAL2 compare: master

✓ Able to merge. These branches can be automatically merged.

Create pull request Discuss and review the changes in this comparison with others.

3 commits 10 files changed 0 commit comments 1 contributor

Commits on Jul 17, 2016

- Cyrill1 Merge pull request #2 from NIWAFisheriesModelling/master ... 5fa4c74
- Cyrill1 ADD: SurvivalConstantRate process 59a85a2
- Cyrill1 ADD: images for contributors manual 6a2b37a

Showing 10 changed files with 234 additions and 0 deletions.

Unified Split

175 CASAL2/source/Processes/Children/SurvivalConstantRate.cpp View

```
... @@ -0,0 +1,175 @@
1 +/**
2 + * @file SurvivalConstantRate.cpp
3 + * @author You're Name e.g. Craig Marsh
4 + * @institute NIWA
5 + * @version 1.0
6 + * @date date of creation e.g. 17/07/16
7 + * @licence
8 + *
9 + */
10 +
11 +// Headers
12 +**include "SurvivalConstantRate.h"
13 +
14 +**include <numeric>
```

Figure 7.2

We can see that there are 10 files changed over three commits. At the top left corner there is a green button with "create pull request" click that button. This will open a pull request on the master repository as shown in Figure 7.3

Merge pictures and SurvivalConstantRate #149 Edit

Open Cyrill1 wants to merge 3 commits into NIWAFisheriesModelling:master from Cyrill1:master

Conversation 0 Commits 3 Files changed 10 +234 -0

Cyrill1 commented just now

No description provided.

Cyrill1 added some commits 12 days ago

- Merge pull request #2 from NIWAFisheriesModelling/master ... 5fa4c74
- ADD: SurvivalConstantRate process 59a85a2
- ADD: images for contributors manual 6a2b37a

Add more commits by pushing to the master branch on Cyrill1/CASAL2.

This branch has no conflicts with the base branch

Only those with write access to this repository can merge pull requests.

Write Preview AA B i " < > @

Leave a comment

Labels: None yet

Milestone: No milestone

Assignees: No one assigned

1 participant

Notifications: You're receiving notifications because you authored the thread.

Figure 7.3

This will notify the maintainers of the master repository that a contributor is requesting a merge of the forked code into the master. Maintainers are able to look through the proposed code changed

and have conversations with the contributors if they need clarification. But at this point we are just waiting for the maintainers to accept the changes which then get incorporated into CASAL2 which then makes you a legend.

If you make it this far, we thank you for your development and contributions of this tool and we hope that you get great use out of it =)

## 8. Moderating Code for Maintainers

This section is for developer responsible for maintaining the github repository, specifically the best way to check a pull request. When we get a pull request the things you want to scrutinize are syntax and optimisation. Why I focus on these is because the automated build system test will tell you if the unit-tests are broken so don't waste your time looking at them. Hopefully who ever is requesting a pull-request has abided by the testing framework and this won't be an issue. **This section assumes the pull request passes all test's and builds**, please be diplomatic if this is not the truth remembering that we want to encourage collaboration on this project.

## 9. Adding Back ends

This is Craig Marsh's rambles/documentation from learning/trying to import Stan into CASAL2, and will be hopefully be helpful to others later down the track. This will also help users understand the autodiff implementation of CASAL2 which is/was a bit of a mystery to me. So Stan has two repos that I have been playing around with the math library <https://github.com/stan-dev/math> and the stan bayesian repo which depends on the math library but holds all the algorithms for NUTs and fancy MCMC algorithms that I would love to access <https://github.com/stan-dev/stan>. A helpful thread that I have been keeping an eye on is [here](#)

So the first thing you want to know when implementing an auto differential tool is what is the base class that is used to generate gradients for parameters. In Stans case it is the `var` (for variable) class (found [here](#)). The important thing to know in CASAL2 for most floats or doubles we declare `Double` this is because for most of these autodiff classes they work on classes. This can be seen in the `Types.h` file (found [here](#)). Where there is `typedef` statement that declares what a `Double` is when using autodiff and specific minimisers.

I also set up a little repo to play with Stan outside of CASAL2 to see if it was possible. You can see [here](#) for some messing around.

Issues, when linking in Stan is that we multiple boost libraries appear (stan = boost\_1.66.0, whereas I think we rock boost\_1.58.0), so would be good to address that (I think an easy fix as long as the correct versions are used), just link to one.

### 9.1. Stan specific functions

**You need to read this if you want to implement Stan** <https://arxiv.org/pdf/1509.07164.pdf>

### 9.2. var class

looking at the `var` class (found [here](#)) creates the base class `vari` which is responsible for creating the stack that which is used for the chain rule found [here](#) . This class is responsible for calculating gradients conditional on other variable values. This class has a public method `grad()`, which "computes the gradient of this (dependent) variable with respect to the specified vector of (independent) variables, assigning the specified vector to the gradient.". This is done by calling the `grad()` function in the stan math library (found [here](#)) which implements the chain rule working down the stack. That all seems fine, how does this interact with say `log_grad_prob()` function.

### 9.3. Addressing current CASAL2 concerns

I was looking at the original CASAL code and in the CASAL2 Thirdparty Betadiff `betadiff.h` I found this message.

"-Betadiff can run out of memory. If this happens, it writes out the contents of memory to several large files prefixed `_adol_` in the current working directory. This is a bad thing because it is very slow: it also will cause problems if multiple processes are running in the same directory because they will each try and use the same filenames. However, this problem is avoidable. In my experience, it only happens when you create many active variables using 'new' and fail to destroy them using 'delete': a stack within ADOL-C then just keeps getting larger and larger. So, make sure to delete anything you create. If you want to check whether the ADOL-C stack is getting out of hand, look at the

standard error for messages like "resizing from 10000 to 11000". These indicate the current size of the stack of active variables. The stack should grow a lot at the start of a minimisation, but should stop growing after the first 1 or 2 differentiations. If it keeps growing, then you are probably failing to delete something."

#### 9.4. Memory issues

Variables are added to a stack which can call destructor once gradients are calculated (read page 18 from here). This is an issue as we don't want destructors to be called for constants. I got around this by implementing constants as `double` vs `Double`. However this is not a solution because sometimes we have variables that will be estimated (treated as `Double`) in some model runs but in others we keep it constant (treated as `double`). Scott mentioned this might be possible if you "override the recovery method" or "clone model for each iteration".

I believe Stan can get around the `double` vs `Double` issue because it has promotable templates, so a `double × a Double` will return a `Double` and so you can differentiate in the code base between `Double` and `double`, but still doesn't solve the initial issue above. Some variables switch between being `Double` if it has an `@estimate` block or not.

This is above my pay grade so I am stopping here. hopefully one day this will get implemented and this will be helpful for someone.

#### 9.5. Tweaks to Stan code

I had to tweak Stan code found here so that we could use lexical cast from boost with CASAL2 configuration loader.

```
/**
 * Added by C.Marsh 27/6/2018
 * Write the value of this auto-dif variable and its adjoint to
 * the specified input stream.
 *
 * @param is Input stream to which to write.
 * @param v Variable to write.
 * @return Reference to the specified output stream.
 */
friend std::istream& operator>>(std::istream& is, var& v) {
    //If uninitialised create new vari on stack
    double val;
    is >> val;
    v = val;
    //else override value
    return is;
}
```