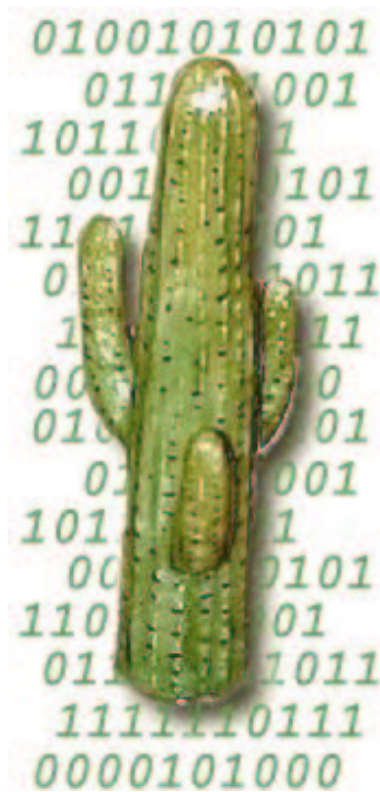

Cactus 4.0

Users' Guide



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Preface

This document will eventually be a complete guide to using and developing with the Cactus Code. However, it is currently under development, so please be patient if you can't find what you need. Please report omissions, errors, or suggestions to and of our contact addresses below, and we will try and fix them as soon as possible.

Overview of documentation

This guide covers the following topics

Part A: Installation and Running.

A description of required hardware and software and an installation guide for Cactus. Describes how to check the installation with Cactus test suites.

Part B: Application Thorn Writing.

An introduction to thorn concepts and description of how to create, write and maintain application thorns. Explanation of use of the programming interface to take advantage of parallelism and modularity.

Part C: Utility Routines.

A discussion of low-level utility routines available in Cactus, such as key/value tables.

Part D: Infrastructure Thorn Writer's Guide.

A more advanced discussion of user supplied infrastructure routines such as additional *output routines*, *drivers*, etc. [*This part is currently under construction.*]

Part E: Appendices.

These contain a description of the Cactus Configuration Language, a glossary, and other odds and ends, such as how to use GNATS and TAGS.

Related topics are discussed in separate documents including:

Reference Manual Contains detailed descriptions of the functions provided by the Cactus flesh API, along with other reference material.

Typographical Conventions

Typewriter	Is currently used for everything you type, for program names, and code extracts.
< ... >	Indicates a compulsory argument.
[...]	Indicates an optional argument.
	Indicates an exclusive or.

How to Contact Us

Please let us know of any errors or omissions in this guide, as well as suggestions for future editions. These can be reported via our bug tracking system at <http://www.cactuscode.org>, or via email to cactusmaint@cactuscode.org. Alternatively, write to us at

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Part A

Installation and Running

Chapter A1

Installation

A1.1 Required software

In general, Cactus *requires* the following set of software to function in single processor mode. Please refer to the architecture section [A1.2](#) for architecture specific items.

Perl5.0	Perl is used extensively during the Cactus thorn configuration phase. Perl is available for nearly all operating systems known to man and can be obtained at http://www.perl.org
GNU make	The make process works with the GNU make utility (referred to as gmake henceforth). While other make utilities may also work, this is not guaranteed. Gmake can be obtained from your favorite GNU site or from http://www.gnu.org
C	C compiler. For example, the GNU compiler. This is available for most supported platforms. Platform specific compilers should also work.
CPP	C Preprocessor. For example, the GNU cpp . These are normally provided on most platforms, and many C compilers have an option to just run as a preprocessor.
CVS	The <i>Concurrent Versions System</i> is not needed to run/compile Cactus, but you are strongly encourage to install this software to take advantage of the update procedures. It can be downloaded from your favorite GNU site. Tar files of each release are also available.

To use Cactus, with the default driver¹ (CactusPUGH/PUGH) on multiple processors you also need:

MPI	The <i>Message Passing Interface</i> which provides inter-processor communication. Supercomputing sites often supply a native MPI implementation with which Cactus is very likely to be compatible. Otherwise there are various freely available ones available, e.g. the MPICH version of MPI is available for various architectures and operating systems at http://www-unix.mcs.anl.gov/mpi/ .
-----	--

¹For help with unfamiliar terms, please consult the glossary, Appendix [E1](#).

If you are using any thorns containing routines written in C++ you also need

C++ C++ compiler. For example, the GNU compiler. This is available for most supported platforms. Platform specific compilers should also work. Note that if a C++ compiler is available then the `main()` routine in the Flesh is compiled with C++ to allow static class initialisations.

If you are using any thorns containing routines written in Fortran you also need

F90/F77 For routines written in Fortran 77, either an Fortran 90 or a Fortran 77 compiler can be used. For routines written in Fortran 90 a Fortran 90 compiler is obviously required. There is a very limited set of free Fortran 90 compilers available for the different architectures.

While not required for compiling or running Cactus, for thorn development it is useful to install

ctags/etags These programs enable you browse through the calling structure of a program by help of a function call database. Navigating the Flesh and arrangements becomes very easy. Emacs and vi both support this method. See [E7](#) for a short guide to tags.

A1.2 Supported architectures

Cactus runs on many machines, under a large number of operating systems. Here we list the machines we have compiled and verified Cactus on, including some architecture specific notes. A complete list of architectures supported by Cactus, along with more notes, can be found at

<http://www.cactuscode.org/Documentation/Architectures.html>.

SGI 32 or 64 bit running Irix.

Cray T3E

Compaq Alpha Compaq operating system and Linux. Single processor mode and MPI supported. The Alphas need to have the GNU C/C++ compilers installed.

IA32 running Linux, OpenBSD, FreeBSD, or Windows 2000/NT. Single processor mode and MPI (MPICH and LAM) supported.
On Windows Cactus compiles with Cygwin. MPI (WMPI, HPVM, and MPIPro) supported. Please read `doc/README.NT` for details.

IA64 running Linux.

Macintosh PowerPC
(MacOS X and Linux PPC)

IBM SP2,SP3,SP4 32 or 64 bit running AIX.

Hitachi SR8000-F1

Sun Solaris

Fujitsu

NEC SX-5, SX-6

The following machines are only partially supported

HP Exemplar

A1.3 Checkout procedure

Cactus is distributed, extended, and maintained using the free CVS software (*Concurrent Versions System*: <http://www.cvshome.org>). CVS allows many people to work on a large software project together without getting into a tangle. Since Cactus thorns are distributed from several repositories on the main CVS site, and from a growing number of user sites, we provide a script, described below, on our web site for checking out the Flesh and thorns. The Cactus web site also provides a form interface for direct download.

CVS experts who want to use raw CVS commands are directed to Appendix E6 for full instructions. For CVS novices, we also summarize in this appendix basic CVS commands.

The space required for an installation depends on the arrangements and thorns used. The Flesh on its own requires less than 5 MB.

The script for checking out the Flesh and distribution thorns, `GetCactus`, is available from the web site at

<http://www.cactuscode.org/download/GetCactus>

The script takes as an argument the name of a file containing a *ThornList*, that is a list of thorns with the syntax

```
<arrangement name>/<thorn name>
```

If no filename is given, only the Flesh is checked out. Optional directives in the *ThornList* indicate which CVS repository to fetch thorns from. The default is to take the thorns from the same repository as the Flesh. A full description of *ThornList* syntax is provided in Appendix E8. *ThornLists* for example applications are provided on the Cactus web site.

The same script can be used to checkout additional thorns.

Another script, `MakeThornList`, can be used to produce a minimal *ThornList* from a given Cactus par file. It needs a *master* *ThornList* to be copied into your `cactus` directory.

See <http://www.cactuscode.org/toolkit/makeThornList/>.

A1.4 Directory structure

A fresh checkout creates a directory **Cactus** with the following subdirectories:

CVS	the CVS bookkeeping directory, present in every subdirectory
doc	Cactus documentation
lib	contains libraries
src	contains the source code for Cactus
arrangements	contains the Cactus arrangements. The arrangements (the actual “physics”) are not supplied by checking out just Cactus. If the arrangements you want to use are standard Cactus arrangements, or reside on our CVS repository (cvs.cactuscode.org), they can be checked out in similar way to the Flesh.

When Cactus is first compiled it creates a new directory **Cactus/configs**, which will contain all the source code, object files and libraries created during the build process. Disk space may be a problem on supercomputers where home directories are small.

A workaround is to first create a configs directory on scratch space, say **scratch/cactus_configs/** (where **scratch/** is your scratch directory), and then either

- set the environment variable **CACTUS_CONFIGS_DIR** to point to this directory

or

- soft link this directory (`ln -s scratch/cactus_configs Cactus/configs/`) to the Cactus directory, if your filesystem supports soft links.

Configurations are described in detail in section [A2.1](#).

A1.5 Getting help

For tracking problem reports and bugs we use GNATS, which is a bug tracking system published under the GNU license. We have set up a web interface at <http://www.cactuscode.org> which allows easy submission and browsing of problem reports.

A description of the GNATS categories which we use is provided in the appendix [E5](#).

Chapter A2

Compilation

Cactus can be built in different configurations from the same copy of the source files, and these different configurations coexist in the **Cactus/configs** directory. Here are several instances in which this can be useful:

1. Different configurations can be for *different architectures*. You can keep executables for multiple architectures based on a single copy of source code, shared on a common file system.
2. You can compare different *compiler options, debug-modes*. You might want to compile different communication protocols (e.g. MPI or Globus) or leave them out all together.
3. You can have different configurations for *different thorn collections* compiled into your executable.

Once a configuration has been created, by **gmake <config>** as described in detail in the next section, a single call to **gmake <config>** will compile the code. The first time it generates a compile **ThornList**, and gives you the chance to edit it before continuing.

A2.1 Creating a configuration

At its simplest, this is done by **gmake <config>**¹. This generates a configuration with the name **config**, doing its best to automatically determine the default compilers and compilation flags suitable for the current architecture.

There are a number of additional command line arguments which may be supplied to override some parts of the procedure.

A2.1.1 Configuration options

There are three ways to pass options to the configuration process.

¹A note on the Cactus make system — if at any point it prompts you to enter something, the default value, which will be assumed if you simply press enter, is shown in parentheses.

- 1 Pass options individually in shell environment variables:

```
export <option name>=<chosen value> # for bash
setenv <option name> <chosen value> # for (t)csh
gmake <configuration name>-config
```

- 2a Either: create a default configuration file `${HOME}/.cactus/config`.

All available configuration options may be set in a default options file `${HOME}/.cactus/config`, any which are not set will take a default value. The file should contain lines of the form:

```
<option> [=] ...
```

The equals sign is optional. Spaces are allowed everywhere. Text starting with a '#' character will be ignored as a comment.

- 2b Or: list your Cactus configuration files in an environment variable `CACTUS_CONFIG_FILES`:

```
gmake <config name>-config CACTUS_CONFIG_FILES=<list of config files>
```

Multiple configuration files, with their file names separated by a ':' character, will be processed in order. Each file should be given by its full path. The options file has the same format as `${HOME}/.cactus/config`.

- 3 Add the options to a configuration file and use,

```
gmake <config name>-config options=<filename>
```

The options file has the same format as `${HOME}/.cactus/config`. (Note these options are *added* to those from the `${HOME}/.cactus/config` file.)

- 4 Pass the options individually on the command line,

```
gmake <config name>-config <option name>=<chosen value>, ...
```

Not all configuration options can be set on the command line. Those that can be set are indicated in the table below.

They are listed here in order of increasing precedence, e.g. options set on the command line will take priority over (potentially conflicting) options set in `${HOME}/.cactus/config` or other Cactus configuration files. Default options from `${HOME}/.cactus/config` will only be read if the environment variable `CACTUS_CONFIG_FILES` is not set.

It is important to note that these methods cannot be used to, for example, add options to the default values for `CFLAGS`. Setting any variable in the configuration file or the command line will overwrite completely the default values.

A2.1.2 Available options

There is a plethora of available options.

- Cross Compiling

If you are compiling on an architecture other than the one you are producing an executable for, you will need to pass the

```
HOST_MACHINE=x-x-x
```

option, where *x-x-x* is the canonical name of the architecture you are compiling for, such as *sx6-nec-superux*; the format is *processor-vendor-OS*.

- Compiled Thorns

These specify the chosen set of thorns for compilation. If the thorn choice is not provided during configuration, a list containing all thorns in the **arrangements** directory is automatically created, and the users prompted for any changes.

THORNLIST	Name of file containing a list of thorns with the syntax <i><arrangement name>/<thorn name></i> , lines beginning with # or ! are ignored.
THORNLIST_DIR	Location of directory containing THORNLIST. This defaults to the current working directory.

- Compiler and tool specification

These are used to specify which compilers and other tools to use. Entries followed by ***** may be specified on the command line.

CC	* The C compiler.
CXX	The C++ compiler.
F90	* The Fortran 90 compiler.
F77	* The Fortran 77 compiler.
CPP	The preprocessor used to generate dependencies for and to preprocess C and C++ code.
FPP	The preprocessor used to generate dependencies for and to preprocess Fortran code.
LD	* The linker.
AR	The archiver used for generating libraries.
RANLIB	The archive indexer to use.
MKDIR	The program to use to create a directory.
PERL	The name of the Perl executable.

- Compilation and tool flags

Flags which are passed to the compilers and the tools.

CFLAGS	Flags for the C compiler.
CXXFLAGS	Flags for the C++ compiler.
F90FLAGS	* Flags for the Fortran 90 compiler.
F77FLAGS	* Flags for the Fortran 77 compiler.
CPPFLAGS	Flags for the preprocessor (used to generate compilation dependencies for and preprocess C and C++ code).
FPPFLAGS	Flags for the preprocessor (used to generate compilation dependencies for and preprocess Fortran code).
MKDIRFLAGS	Flags for MKDIR so that no error is given if the directory exists.
LDFLAGS	* Flags for the linker. <i>Warning:</i> This variable is ignored while the compilers and linkers are autodetected. This can lead to strange errors while configuring. You can pass the linker flags in the variable LD instead.

ARFLAGS	Flags for the archiver.
C_LINE_DIRECTIVES	Whether error messages and debug information in the compiled C and C++ files should point to the original source file or to an internal file created by Cactus. The only options available are yes and no , the default is yes . Set this to no if your compiler reports error messages about unrecognised # directives.
F_LINE_DIRECTIVES	Whether error messages and debug information in the compiled Fortran files should point to the original source file or to an internal file created by Cactus. The only options available are yes and no , the default is yes . Set this to no if your compiler reports error messages about unrecognised # directives.
DISABLE_REAL16	Disable support for the data type CCK_REAL16. The only options available are yes and no , the default is no . Cactus autodetects this data type only for C. If the C compiler supports it, but the Fortran compiler does not, it may be necessary to disable CCK_REAL16 altogether, since Cactus assumes that data types are fully supported if they exist.
DEBUG	* Specifies what type of debug mode should be used, the default is no debugging. Current options are yes , no , or memory . The option yes switches on all debugging features, whereas memory just employs memory tracing (B10.3).
C_DEBUG_FLAGS	Debug flags for the C compiler, their use depends on the type of debugging being used.
CXX_DEBUG_FLAGS	Debug flags for the C++ compiler, their use depends on the type of debugging being used.
F90_DEBUG_FLAGS	Debug flags for the Fortran 90 compiler, their use depends on the type of debuggin being used.
F77_DEBUG_FLAGS	Debug flags for the Fortran 77 compiler, their use depends on the type of debugging being used.
OPTIMISE, OPTIMIZE	* Specifies what type of optimisation should be used. The only options currently available are yes and no . The default is to use optimisation. Note that the British spelling OPTIMISE will be checked first and, if set, will override any setting of the American-spelled OPTIMIZE .
C_OPTIMISE_FLAGS	Optimisation flags for the C compiler, their use depends on the type of optimisation being used.
CXX_OPTIMISE_FLAGS	Optimisation flags for the C++ compiler, their use depends on the type of optimisation being used.
F90_OPTIMISE_FLAGS	Optimisation flags for the Fortran 90 compiler, their use depends on the type of optimisation being used.
F77_OPTIMISE_FLAGS	Optimisation flags for the Fortran 77 compiler, their use depends on the type of optimisation being used.
PROFILE	* Specifies what type of profiling should be used. The only options currently available are yes and no . The default is to use no profiling.
C_PROFILE_FLAGS	Profile flags for the C compiler, their use depends on the type of profiling being used.
CXX_PROFILE_FLAGS	Profile flags for the C++ compiler, their use depends on the type of profiling being used.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| F90.PROFILE.FLAGS | Profile flags for the Fortran 90 compiler, their use depends on the type of profilin being used. |
| F77.PROFILE.FLAGS | Profile flags for the Fortran 77 compiler, their use depends on the type of profiling being used. |
| WARN | * Specifies what type of build warnings should be used. The only options currently available are yes and no . The default is to produce no warnings. |
| C.WARN.FLAGS | Warning flags for the C compiler, their use depends on the type of warnings used during compilation (A2.2.4). |
| CXX.WARN.FLAGS | Warning flags for the C++ compiler, their use depends on the type of warnings used during compilation (A2.2.4). |
| F90.WARN.FLAGS | Warning flags for the Fortran 90 compiler, their use depends on the type of warnings used during compilation (A2.2.4). |
| F77.WARN.FLAGS | Warning flags for the Fortran 77 compiler, their use depends on the type of warnings used during compilation (A2.2.4). |
- Architecture-specific flags

IRIX.BITS=32 64	For Irix SGI systems: whether to build a 32- or 64-bit configuration.
AIX.BITS=32 64	For IBM SP systems: whether to build a 32- or 64-bit configuration.
 - Library flags

Used to specify auxiliary libraries and directories to find them in.

LIBS	Additional libraries. This variable can also contain linker options, e.g. to switch between static and dynamic linking. (Cactus adds an <code>-l</code> prefix to library names, but does not modify linker options.) <i>Warning:</i> This variable is ignored while the compilers and linkers are autodetected. This can lead to strange errors while configuring. You can pass the additional libraries in the variable <code>LD</code> instead.
LIBDIRS	Any other library directories. This variable can also contain linker options. (Cactus adds an <code>-L</code> prefix to library directories, but does not modify linker options.)
 - Extra include directories

SYS.INC.DIRS	Used to specify any additional directories for system include files.
--------------	--
 - Precision options

Used to specify the precision of the default real and integer data types, specified as the number of bytes the data takes up. Note that not all values will be valid on all architectures.

REAL.PRECISION	* Allowed values are 16, 8, 4.
INTEGER.PRECISION	* Allowed values are 8, 4, 2.
 - Executable name

EXEDIR	The directory in which to place the executable.
EXE	The name of the executable.

- Extra packages

Compiling with extra packages is described fully in Section A2.1.3, which should be consulted for the full range of configuration options.

MPI	* The MPI package to use, if required. Supported values are CUSTOM, NATIVE, MPICH or LAM.
HDF5	Supported values are yes, no. A blank value is taken as no.
LAPACK	Supported values are yes, no. A blank value is taken as no.
PETSC	Supported values are yes, no. A blank value is taken as no.
PTHREADS	Supported values are yes.

- Miscellaneous

PROMPT	Setting this to no turns off all prompts from the make system.
SILENT	Setting this to no instructs gmake to print the commands that it is executing.

A2.1.3 Compiling with extra packages

MPI: Message Passing Interface

The *Message Passing Interface* (MPI) provides inter-processor communication. It can either be implemented natively on a machine (this is usual on most supercomputers), or through a standard package such as MPICH, LAM, WMPI, or PACX.

To compile with MPI, the configure option is

`MPI = <MPI_TYPE>`

where <MPI_TYPE> can take the values (entries followed by * may be specified on the configuration command line):

CUSTOM	For a custom MPI configuration set the variables
	MPI_LIBS * libraries.
	MPI_LIB_DIRS * library directories.
	MPI_INC_DIRS * include file directories.
NATIVE	Use the native MPI for this machine, as indicated in the known-architectures directory (lib/make/known-architectures).
MPICH	Use MPICH (http://www-unix.mcs.anl.gov/mpi/mpich). This is controlled by the options
	MPICH_ARCH * machine architecture.
	MPICH_DIR * directory in which MPICH is installed. If this option is not defined it will be searched for.

	<p>MPICH_DEVICE * the device used by MPICH. If not defined, the configuration process will search for this in a few defined places. Supported devices are currently ch_p4, ch_shmem, globus and myrinet. For versions of MPICH prior to 1.2.0 the devices are searched for in this order, for 1.2.0 you may need to specify MPICH_DEVICE, depending on the installation.</p> <p>If MPICH_DEVICE is chosen to be globus (http://www.globus.org), an additional variable must be set</p> <p>GLOBUS_LOCATION * directory in which Globus is installed.</p> <p>The Globus flavor may be chosen optionally</p> <p>GLOBUS_FLAVOR * Globus flavor to build Cactus with</p> <p>If it is not set, the first Globus flavor found will be used.</p> <p>If MPICH_DEVICE is chosen to be ch_gm, (http://www.myri.com), an additional variable must be set</p> <p>MYRINET_DIR * directory in which Myrinet libraries are installed.</p>
LAM	<p>Use LAM (<i>Local Area Multicomputer</i>, http://www.lam-mpi.org/). This is controlled by the variables</p> <p>LAM_DIR * directory in which LAM is installed. This will be searched for in a few provided places if not given.</p> <p>if the LAM installation splits libraries and include files into different directories, instead of setting LAM_DIR set the two variables</p> <p>LAM_LIB_DIR * directory in which LAM libraries are installed.</p> <p>LAM_INC_DIR * directory in which LAM include files are installed.</p>
WMPI	<p>Use WMPI (<i>Win32 Message Passing Interface</i>, http://dsg.dei.uc.pt/w32mpi/intro.html). This is controlled by the variable</p> <p>WMPI_DIR * directory in which WMPI is installed.</p>
HPVM	<p>Use HPVM (<i>High Performance Virtual Machine</i>, (http://www-csag.ucsd.edu/projects/hpvm.html)). This is controlled by the variable</p> <p>HPVM_DIR * directory in which HPVM is installed.</p>
MPIPro	<p>Use MPIPro (http://www.mpi-softtech.com/).</p>
PACX	<p>Use the PACX Metacomputing package (<i>PArallel Computer eXtension</i>, http://www.hlr.de/structure/organisation/par/projects/pacx-mpi/). This is controlled by the variables</p> <p>PACX_DIR * directory in which PACX is installed. If this option is not defined it will be searched for.</p> <p>PACX_MPI * the MPI package PACX uses for node-local communication. This can be any of the above MPI packages.</p>

Note that the searches for libraries etc. mentioned above use the locations given in the files in `lib/make/extras/MPI`.

HDF5: Hierarchical Data Format version 5

To compile with HDF5 (<http://hdf.ncsa.uiuc.edu/whatishdf5.html>), the configure options are

```
HDF5 = yes/no [HDF5_DIR = <dir>] [LIBZ_DIR = <dir>] [LIBSZ_DIR = <dir>]
```

If HDF5_DIR is not given the configuration process will search for an installed HDF5 package in some standard places (defined in `lib/make/extras/HDF5`). If the found HDF5 library was built with the external deflate I/O filter, the configuration process also searches for the `libz` library and adds it to the linker flags. You may also point directly to the location of `libz.a` by setting LIBZ_DIR. If the found HDF5 library was built with the external `szlib` I/O filter, the configuration process also searches for the `szlib` library and adds it to the linker flags. You may also point directly to the location of `libsza` by setting LIBSZ_DIR.

LAPACK: Linear Algebra PACKage

To compile with LAPACK (<http://www.netlib.org/lapack/>), the configure options are

```
LAPACK = yes | no | <blank>
[ LAPACK_DIR = <dir> | none ]
[ LAPACK_EXTRA_LIBS_DIRS = <dir> ]
[ LAPACK_LIBS = <libs> ]
[ LAPACK_EXTRA_LIBS = <libs> ]
```

If LAPACK_DIR is not given the configuration process will search for a LAPACK library `liblapack.[a,so]` in some standard places (defined in `lib/make/extras/LAPACK`). If LAPACK_DIR is set to `no` the LAPACK library path is assumed to be installed in a standard system location (e.g. `/usr/lib/`) and thus the library path will not be added to the linker's command line.

Because LAPACK doesn't come as a standardized system installation, there are additional configuration variables to set the name of the lapack library (LAPACK_LIBS) as well as the name (LAPACK_EXTRA_LIBS) and location (LAPACK_EXTRA_LIBS_DIRS) of extra libraries that are required by LAPACK itself.

PETSc: Portable, Extensible Toolkit for Scientific Computation

To compile with PETSc (<http://www-unix.mcs.anl.gov/petsc/petsc-2/index.html>), the configure options are

```
PETSC = yes | no | <blank>
[ PETSC_DIR = <dir> ]
[ PETSC_ARCH = <architecture> ]
[ PETSC_ARCH_LIBS = <architecture-specific libraries> ]
```

If PETSC_DIR is not given the configuration process will search for an installed PETSc package in some standard places (defined in `lib/make/extras/PETSC`). If PETSC_ARCH is not given the configuration process will choose the first PETSc configuration found in `$PETSC_DIR/lib/lib0/`. If PETSC_ARCH_LIBS is not given the configuration process will choose architecture-specific libraries as required by a PETSc configuration (usually PETSc needs the LAPACK library).

Pthreads: POSIX threads

To enable multithreading support within Cactus using POSIX threads the configure option is

`PTHREADS = yes`

The configuration process will check if a reentrant C library is available and adds it to the linker flags. It will also search for the system's Pthreads library (either `libpthread` or `libpthreads`) and set preprocessor defines necessary for compiling multithreaded code.

A2.1.4 File layout

The configuration process sets up various subdirectories and files in the `configs` directory to contain the configuration specific files, these are placed in a directory with the name of the configuration.

<code>config-data</code>	contains the files created by the configure script: The most important ones are
<code>make.config.defn</code>	contains compilers and compilation flags for a configuration.
<code>make.extra.defn</code>	contains details about extra packages used in the configuration.
<code>cctk_Config.h</code>	The main configuration header file, containing architecture specific definitions.
<code>cctk_Archdefs.h</code>	An architecture specific header file containing things which cannot be automatically detected, and have thus been hand-coded for this architecture.
	These are the first files which should be checked or modified to suit any peculiarities of this configuration.
	In addition the following files may be informative:
<code>fortran_name.pl</code>	A Perl script used to determine how the Fortran compiler names subroutines. This is used to make some C routines callable from Fortran, and Fortran routines callable from C.
<code>make.config.deps</code>	Initially empty. Can be edited to add extra architecture specific dependencies needed to generate the executable.
<code>make.config.rule</code>	The <code>make</code> rules for generating object files from source files.
	Finally, <code>autoconf</code> generates the following files.
<code>config.log</code>	A log of the <code>autoconf</code> process.
<code>config.status</code>	A script which may be used to regenerate the configuration.
<code>config.cache</code>	An internal file used by <code>autoconf</code> .
<code>lib</code>	An empty directory which will contain the libraries created for each thorn.
<code>build</code>	An empty directory which will contain the object files generated for this configuration, and preprocessed source files.

<code>config-info</code>	A file containing information about the configuration (including the options used to configure the configuration).
<code>bindings</code>	A directory which contains all the files generated by the CST from the <code>.cc1</code> files.
<code>scratch</code>	A scratch directory which is used to accommodate Fortran 90 modules.

A2.2 Building and Administering a configuration

Once you have created a new configuration, the command

```
gmake <configuration name>
```

will build an executable, prompting you along the way for the thorns which should be included. There is a range of **gmake** targets and options which are detailed in the following sections.

A2.2.1 gmake targets for building and administering configurations

A target for **gmake** can be naively thought of as an argument that tells it which of several things listed in the Makefile it is to do. The command **gmake help** lists all **gmake** targets:

gmake <config>	builds a configuration. If the configuration doesn't exist it will create it.
gmake <config>-clean	removes all object and dependency files from a configuration.
gmake <config>-cleandeps	removes all dependency files from a configuration.
gmake <config>-cleanobjs	removes all object files from a configuration.
gmake <config>-config	creates a new configuration or reconfigures an existing one overwriting any previous configuration options. The configuration options are stored in a file <code>configs/<config>/config-info</code> .
gmake <config>-configinfo	displays the options of the configuration (<code>cat configs/<config>/config-info</code>).
gmake <config>-cvsupdate	updates the Flesh and this configuration's thorns from the CVS repositories.
gmake <config>-delete	deletes a configuration (<code>rm -r configs/<config></code>).
gmake <config>-editthorns	edits the ThornList.
gmake <config>-examples	copies all the example parameter files relevant for this configuration to the directory examples in the Cactus home directory. If a file of the same name is already there, it will not overwrite it.

gmake <config>-realclean
removes from a configuration all object and dependency files, as well as files generated from the CST (stands for *Cactus Specification Tool*, which is the set of Perl scripts which parse the thorn configuration files). Only the files generated by configure and the **ThornList** file remain.

gmake <config>-rebuild
rebuilds a configuration (reruns the CST).

gmake <config>-reconfig
reconfigures an existing configuration using its previous configuration options from the file `configs/<config>/config-info`.

gmake <config>--testsuite
runs the test programs associated with each thorn in the configuration. See section [A2.4](#) for information about the test suite mechanism.

gmake <config>-ThornGuide
builds documentation for the thorns in this configuration (see section [A2.3](#) on page [A18](#) for other targets to build documentation for thorns).

gmake <config>-thornlist
regenerates the **ThornList** for a configuration.

gmake <config>-utils [UTILS=<list>]
builds all utility programs provided by the thorns of a configuration. Individual utilities can be selected by giving their names in the **UTILS** variable.

A2.2.2 Compiling in thorns

Cactus will try to compile all thorns listed in `configs/<config>/ThornList`. The **ThornList** file is simply a list of the form `<arrangement>/<thorn>`. All text after a pound sign ‘#’ or exclamation mark ‘!’ on a line is treated as a comment and ignored. The first time that you compile a configuration, if you did not specify a **ThornList** already during configuration, you will be shown a list of all the thorns in your arrangement directory, and asked if you wish to edit them. You can regenerate this list at anytime by typing

```
gmake <config>-thornlist
```

or you can edit it using

```
gmake <config>-editthorns
```

Instead of using the editor to specify the thorns you want to have compiled, you can *edit* the **ThornList** outside the make process. It is located in `configs/<config>/ThornList`, where `<config>` refers to the name of your configuration. The directory, `./configs`, exists *after* the very first make phase for the first configuration.

A2.2.3 Notes and Caveats

- If during the build you see the error “missing separator” you are probably not using GNU make.

- *The EDITOR environment variable.* You may not be aware of this, but this thing very often exists and may be set by default to something scary like `vi`. If you don't know how to use `vi` or wish to use your favorite editor instead, reset this environment variable. (To exit `vi` type `<ESC> :q!`)

A2.2.4 gmake options for building configurations

An *option* for `gmake` can be thought of as an argument which tells it how it should make a *target*. Note that the final result is always the same.

```
gmake <target> PROMPT=no
    turns off all prompts from the make system.
gmake <target> SILENT=no
    print the commands that gmake is executing.
gmake <target> WARN=yes
    show compiler warnings during compilation.
gmake <target> FJOBS=<number>
    compile in parallel, across files within each thorn.
gmake <target> TJOBS=<number>
    compile in parallel, across thorns.
```

Note that with more modern versions of `gmake`, it is sufficient to pass the normal `-j <number>` flag to `gmake` to get parallel compilation.

A2.3 Other gmake targets

<code>gmake help</code>	lists all make options.
<code>gmake checkout</code>	allows you to easily checkout Cactus arrangements and thorns. For example it can checkout all the thorns in any thornlist file found in the <code>thornlists</code> subdirectory of the Cactus root directory.
<code>gmake cvsdiff</code>	shows differences between checked out version of Cactus and that in the CVS repositories.
<code>gmake cvsstatus</code>	shows status of checked out version of Cactus, reporting which files have been modified or need updating.
<code>gmake cvsupdate</code>	updates Flesh and all thorns from CVS repositories.
<code>gmake configinfo</code>	prints configuration options for every configuration found in user's <code>configs</code> subdirectory.
<code>gmake default</code>	creates a new configuration with a default name.
<code>gmake distclean</code>	deletes your <code>configs</code> directory and hence all your configurations.
<code>gmake downsize</code>	removes non-essential files as documents and test suites to allow for minimal installation size.

<code>gmake newthorn</code>	creates a new thorn, prompting for the necessary information and creating template files.
<code>gmake TAGS</code>	creates an Emacs style TAGS file. See section E7 for using tags within Cactus.
<code>gmake tags</code>	creates a vi style tags file. See section E7 for using tags within Cactus.

Targets to generate Cactus documentation:

<code>gmake <arrangement>-ArrangementDoc</code>	builds the documentation for the arrangement.
<code>gmake ArrangementDoc</code>	builds the documentation for all arrangements.
<code>gmake MaintGuide</code>	runs LaTeX to produce a copy of the Maintainers' Guide.
<code>gmake ReferenceManual</code>	runs LaTeX to produce a copy of the Reference Manual.
<code>gmake <thorn>-ThornDoc</code>	builds the documentation for the thorn.
<code>gmake ThornDoc</code>	builds the documentation for all thorns.
<code>gmake ThornGuide</code>	runs LaTeX to produce a copy of the Thorn Guide, for all the thorns in the arrangements directory.
<code>gmake UsersGuide</code>	runs LaTeX to produce a copy of the Users' Guide.
<code>gmake AllDoc</code>	creates all of the above documentations.

A2.4 Testing

Some thorns come with a test suite, consisting of example parameter files and the output files generated by running these. To run the test suite for the thorns you have compiled use

```
gmake <configuration>--testsuite
```

These test suite serve the dual purpose of

Regression testing	i.e. making sure that changes to the thorn or the Flesh don't affect the output from a known parameter file.
Portability testing	i.e. checking that the results are independent of the architecture — this is also of use when trying to get Cactus to work on a new architecture.

Chapter A3

Running Cactus

Cactus executables always run from a parameter file (which may be specified as a command line argument taken from standard input), which specifies which thorns to use and sets the values of any parameters which are different from the default values. There is no restriction on the name of the parameter file, although it is conventional to use the file extension `.par`. Optional command line arguments can be used to customise runtime behaviour, and to provide information about the thorns used in the executable. The general syntax for running Cactus from a parameter file is then

```
./cactus_<config> <parameter file> [command line options]
```

or if the parameter file should be taken from standard input by appending a dash (“-”) on the command line like this:

```
./cactus_<config> [command line options] -
```

The remainder of this chapter covers all aspects for running your Cactus executable. These include: command line options, parameter file syntax, understanding screen output, environment variables, and creating thorn documentation.

A3.1 Command Line Options

Cactus uses the standard GNU style of long-named command-line options; many of these options also have traditional Unix single-letter short forms. The options follow the usual GNU rules:

- A long-named option `--foo` which takes an argument `bar` may be written as either `--foo bar` or as `--foo=bar`.
- A long-named option may be abbreviated so long as the abbreviation is unambiguous.
- The preferred way of spelling a long-named option is `--foo`, but `-foo` also accepted, though this is deprecated (we plan to remove it after the next beta release).
- A short option `-X` which takes an argument `bar` may be written as either `-Xbar` or as `-X=bar`.

Short Version	Long Version
-O[v]	--describe-all-parameters
-o<param>	--describe-parameter=<param>
-S	--print-schedule
-T	--list-thorns
-t<arrangement/thorn>	--test-thorn-compiled=<arrangement/thorn>
-h, -?	--help
-v	--version
-L<level>	--logging-level=<level>
-W<level>	--warning-level=<level>
-E<level>	--error-level=<level>
-r[o e oe eo]	--redirect=[o e oe eo]
	--logdir=<directory>
-b[no line full]	--buffering=[no line full]
	--parameter-level=<strict normal relaxed>
-i	--ignore-next

Table A3.1: This table shows all the Cactus command-line options.

- An option which can be interpreted as either a short option, or as an abbreviated `-foo`-style long option, is interpreted as the former. In particular, `-re` is interpreted as an abbreviation for `-redirect`, rather than as `-r=e`.

The Cactus command line options are specified in table [A3.1](#), and are as follows:

`-O` or `--describe-all-parameters`

Prints a full list of all parameters from all thorns which were compiled, along with descriptions and allowed values. This can take an optional extra parameter `v` (i.e. `-Ov` to give verbose information about all parameters).

`-o<param>` or `--describe-parameter=<param>`

Prints the description and allowed values for a given parameter — takes one argument.

`-S` or `--print-schedule`

Print only the schedule tree.

`-T` or `--list-thorns`

Prints a list of all the thorns which were compiled in.

`-t<arrangement or thorn>` or `--test-thorn-compiled=<arrangement or thorn>`

Checks if a given thorn was compiled in — takes one argument.

`-h, -?` or `--help`

Prints a help message.

`-v` or `--version`

Prints version information of the code.

`-L<level>` or `--logging-level=<level>`

Sets the logging level of the code. All warning messages are given a level — the lower the level the greater the severity. This parameter `-L` controls the level of messages to be seen, with all warnings of level \leq `<level>` printed to standard output. The default is a logging level of 0, meaning that only level 0 messages should be printed to standard output.

`-W<level>` or `--warning-level=<level>`

Similar to `-W`, but for standard error instead of standard output. All warnings of level \leq `<level>` are printed to standard error. The default is a warning level of 1, meaning that level 0 and level 1 messages should be printed to standard error.

`-E<level>` or `--error-level=<level>`

Similar to `-W`, but for fatal errors: Cactus treats all warnings with level \leq `<level>` as fatal errors, and aborts the Cactus run immediately (after printing the warning message¹). The default value is zero, i.e. only level 0 warnings will abort the Cactus run.

`-r[o|e|oe|eo]` or `--redirect=[o|e|oe|eo]`

Redirects the standard output ('o') and/or standard error ('e') of each processor to a file. By default the standard outputs from processors other than processor 0 are discarded.

`--logdir=<directory>`

Sets the output directory for logfiles created by the `-r` option. If the directory doesn't exist yet, it will be created by Cactus.

`-b[no|line|full]` or `--buffering=[no|line|full]`

Set the `stdout` buffering mode. Buffered I/O is a standard feature of C programmes. This delays writing the actual output; instead, the output is collected into an internal buffer, and is then written in large chunks. This improves performance considerably. Line buffering means that output is written whenever a newline character is encountered; full buffering means that output is written once e.g. 1000 characters have accumulated. The default setting is line buffering for I/O that goes to a terminal, and full buffering for I/O that goes to a file. For debugging purposes, it is sometimes useful to reduce the amount of buffering. Error messages, i.e. the `stderr` stream, is always unbuffered (and hence usually slower than `stdout`).

`--parameter-level=<strict|normal|relaxed>`

Sets the level of parameter checking to be used, one of `strict` (the default), `normal`, or `relaxed`. See Section A3.2 for details.

`-i` or `--ignore-next`

Causes the next argument on the command line to be ignored.

A3.2 Parameter File Syntax

A *parameter file* (or *par file*) is used to control the behaviour of a Cactus executable. It specifies initial values for parameters as defined in the various thorns' `param.ccl` files (see Chapter B5). The name of a parameter file is often given the suffix `.par`, but this is not mandatory.

A parameter file is a text file whose lines are either comments or parameter statements. Comments are blank lines or lines that begin with either `#` or `!`. A parameter statement consists of one or more parameter names, followed by an `=`, followed by the value(s) for this (these) parameter(s). Note that all string parameters are case insensitive.

The first parameter statement in any parameter file should set `ActiveThorns`, which is a special parameter that tells the program which *thorns* are to be activated. Only parameters from active thorns can be set

¹Cactus imposes the constraints that the `-W` level \geq the `-E` level \geq 0, so any fatal-error message will always be printed (first).

(and only those routines *scheduled* by active thorns are run). By default all thorns are inactive. For example, the first entry in a parameter file which is using just the two thorns `CactusPUGH/PUGH` and `CactusBase/CartGrid3D` should be

```
ActiveThorns = "PUGH CartGrid3D"
```

Parameters following the `ActiveThorns` parameter all have names whose syntax depends on the scope (see Section B5.2) of the parameter:

Global parameters Just the name of the parameter itself. Global parameters are to be avoided; there are none in the Flesh and Cactus Toolkits.

Restricted parameters

The name of the *implementation* which defined the parameter, followed by two colons, then the name of the parameter — e.g. `driver::global_nx`.

Private parameters

The name of the *thorn* which defined the parameter, two colons, and the name of the parameter — e.g. `wavetoyF77::amplitude`.

This notation is not currently strictly enforced in the code. It is sufficient to specify the first part of the parameter name using either the implementation name, or the thorn name. However, we recommend that the above convention be followed.

The Cactus Flesh performs checks for consistency and range of parameters. The severity of these checks is controlled by the command line argument `--parameter-level` which can take the following values

relaxed	Cactus will issue a level 0 warning (that is the default behaviour will be to terminate) if <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specified parameter value is outside of the allowed range.
normal	This is the default, and provides the same warnings as the relaxed level, with in addition a level 0 warning issued for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An implementation and/or thorn <code>foo</code> is active, but the parameter <code>foo::bar</code> was not defined. • The parameter <code>foo::bar</code> was successfully set for both an active implementation <code>foo</code> not implemented by a thorn <code>foo</code>, and to a thorn <code>foo</code>.
strict	This provides the same warnings as the normal level, with in addition a level 0 warning issued for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parameter <code>foo::bar</code> is specified in the parameter file, but no implementation or thorn with the name <code>bar</code> is active.

Notes:

- You can obtain lists of the parameters associated with each thorn using the command line options `-o` and `-O` (Section A3.1).
- The parameter file is read *sequentially* from top to bottom, this means that if you set the value of a parameter twice in the parameter file, the second value will be used. (This is why the `ActiveThorns` parameter is always first in the file).

- String parameter values can be specified either as unquoted tokens (not containing any whitespace) or as quoted values. If a quoted string parameter value spans multiple lines all whitespaces, including newline characters, are preserved.
- Some parameters are *steerable* and can be changed during the execution of a Cactus program using parameter steering interfaces. For example, thorn `CactusConnect/HTTPD`, or using a parameter file when recovering from a checkpoint file.
- For examples of parameter files, look in the `par` directory which can be found in most thorns.

A3.3 Thorn Documentation

The Cactus make system provides a mechanism for generating a *Thorn Guide* containing separate chapters for each thorn and arrangement in your configuration. The documentation provided for an individual thorn obviously depends on what the thorn authors added, but the Thorn Guide is a good place to first look for special instructions on how to run and interpret the output from a Thorn. Details about parameters, grid variables and scheduling are automatically included in from a thorns CCL files into the Thorn Guide. To construct a Thorn Guide for the configuration `<config>` use

```
gmake <config>-ThornGuide
```

or to make a Thorn Guide for all the thorns in the `arrangements` directory

```
gmake <config>.
```

See Section [B9.4](#) for a guide to adding documentation to your own thorns.

Chapter A4

Getting and looking at output

A4.1 Screen output

As your Cactus executable runs, standard output and standard error are usually written to the screen. Standard output provides you with information about the run, and standard error reports warnings and errors from the Flesh and thorns.

As the program runs, the normal output provides the following information:

Active thorns	<p>A report is made as each of the thorns in the <code>ActiveThorns</code> parameters from the parameter file (see Section A3.2) is attempted to be activated. This report shows whether the thorn activation was successful, and if successful gives the thorn's implementation. For example</p> <pre>Activating thorn idscalarwave...Success -> active implementation idscalarwave</pre>
Failed parameters	<p>If any of the parameters in the parameter file does not belong to any of the active thorns, or if the parameter value is not in the allowed range (see Section B5.1), an error is registered. For example, if the parameter is not recognised</p> <pre>Unknown parameter time::ddtfac</pre> <p>or if the parameter value is not in the allowed range</p> <pre>Unable to set keyword CartGrid3D::type - ByMouth not in any active range</pre>
Scheduling information	<p>The scheduled routines (see Section B6), are listed, in the order that they will be executed. For example</p> <pre>----- Startup routines Cactus: Register banner for Cactus CartGrid3D: Register GH Extension for GridSymmetry</pre>


```

CartGrid3D: Register coordinates for the Cartesian grid
IOASCII: Startup routine
IOBasic: Startup routine
IOUtil: IOUtil startup routine
PUGH: Startup routine
WaveToyC: Register banner

Parameter checking routines
CartGrid3D: Check coordinates for CartGrid3D
IDScalarWave: Check parameters

Initialisation
CartGrid3D: Set up spatial 3D Cartesian coordinates on the GH
PUGH: Report on PUGH set up
Time: Set timestep based on speed one Courant condition
WaveToyC: Schedule symmetries
IDScalarWave: Initial data for 3D wave equation

do loop over timesteps
  WaveToyC: Evolution of 3D wave equation
  t = t+dt
  if (analysis)
    endif
enddo

```

Thorn banners Usually a thorn registers a short piece of text as a *banner*. This banner of each thorn is displayed in the standard output when the thorn is initialised.

A4.2 Output

Output methods in Cactus are all provided by thorns. Any number of output methods can be used for each run. The behaviour of the output thorns in the standard arrangements are described in those thorns' documentation.

In general, output thorns decide what to output by parsing a string parameter containing the names of those grid variables, or groups of variables, for which output is required. The names should be fully qualified with the implementation and group or variable names.

There is usually a parameter for each method to denote how often, in evolution iterations, this output should be performed. There is also usually a parameter to define the directory in which the output should be placed, defaulting to the directory from which the executable is run.

See Chapter [D8](#) for details on creating your own IO method.

A4.3 Checkpointing/Recovery

Checkpointing is defined as saving the current state of a run (parameter settings, contents of grid variables, and other relevant information) to a file. At a later time, this run can then be restarted from that state by recovering all the data from the checkpoint file.

Cactus checkpointing and recovery methods are provided by thorns. In general, these thorns decide how often to generate a checkpoint. They also register their recovery routines with the Flesh; these recovery routines may then be called during initialisation of a subsequent run to perform the recovery of the state of the run. Such a recovery is requested by setting a parameter in the parameter file.

See Chapter [D9](#) for details of how to create your own checkpointing and recovery methods.

Part B

Application thorn writing

Chapter B1

Overview

This chapter goes into the nitty-gritty of writing a thorn. It introduces key concepts for thorns, then goes on to give a brief outline of how to configure a thorn. There is then some detail about concepts introduced by the configuration step, followed by discussion of code which you must put into your files in order to use Cactus functionality, and details of utility functions you may use to gain extra functionality.

Chapter B2

Thorn concepts

B2.1 Thorns

A thorn is the basic working module within Cactus. All user supplied code goes into thorns, which are, by and large, independent of each other. Thorns communicate with each other via calls to the Flesh API, plus, more rarely, custom APIs of other thorns.

The connection from a thorn to the Flesh or to other thorns is specified in configuration files which are parsed at compile time and used to generate glue code which encapsulates the external appearance of a thorn.

Thorn names must be (case independently) unique, must start with a letter, can only contain letters, numbers or underscores, and must contain 27 characters or less. In addition, a thorn cannot have the name `doc`, this is reserved for arrangement documentation. Arrangement names which start with a '#', or finish with '~' or '.bak' will be ignored.

B2.2 Arrangements

Thorns are grouped into *arrangements*. This is a logical grouping of thorns which is purely for organisational purposes. For example, you might wish to keep all your initial data thorns in one arrangement, and all your evolution thorns in another arrangement, or you may want to have separate arrangements for your developments, private and shared thorns.

The arrangements live in the `arrangements` directory off the main Cactus directory. Arrangement names must be (case independently) unique, must start with a letter, and can only contain letters, numbers or underscores. Arrangement names which start with a '#', or finish with '~' or '.bak' will be ignored.

Inside an arrangement directory there are directories for each thorn belonging to the arrangement.

B2.3 Implementations

One of the key concepts for thorns is the concept of the *implementation*. Relationships among thorns are all based upon relationships among the implementations they provide. In principle it should be possible to swap one thorn providing an implementation with another thorn providing that implementation, without affecting any other thorn.

An implementation defines a group of variables and parameters which are used to implement some functionality. For example the thorn `CactusPUGH/PUGH` provides the implementation `driver`. This implementation is responsible for providing memory for grid variables and for communication. Another thorn can also implement `driver`, and both thorns can be compiled in *at the same time*. At runtime, the user can decide which thorn providing `driver` is used. No other thorn should be affected by this choice.

When a thorn decides it needs access to a variable or a parameter provided by another thorn, it defines a relationship between itself and the other thorn's *implementation*, not explicitly with the other *thorn*. This allows the transparent replacement, at compile or runtime, of one thorn with another thorn providing the same functionality as seen by the other thorns.

Chapter B3

Anatomy of a thorn

B3.1 Thorns

A thorn consists of a subdirectory of an arrangement containing four administrative files:

<code>interface.ccl</code>	the Cactus interface, which defines the grid functions, variables, etc. See E2.2 .
<code>param.ccl</code>	the parameters introduced by this thorn, and the parameters needed from other thorns. See E2.3 .
<code>schedule.ccl</code>	scheduling information for routines called by the Flesh. See E2.4 .
<code>configuration.ccl</code>	configuration options for the thorn. See E2.5 .

Thorns can also contain

- a subdirectory called `src`, which should hold source files and compilation instructions for the thorn
- a subdirectory `src/include` for include files
- a `README` containing a brief description of the thorn
- a `doc` directory for documentation
- a `par` directory for example parameter files
- a `test` subdirectory may also be added, to hold the thorn's test suite. See [B9.5](#) for details.

B3.2 Creating a thorn

To simplify the creation of a thorn, a `make` target `gmake newthorn` has been provided. When this is run:

1. You will be prompted for the name of the new thorn.

2. You will be prompted for the name of the arrangement in which you would like to include your thorn. Either enter a new arrangement name or pick one from the list of available arrangements that are shown.

B3.3 Configuring your thorn

The interaction of a thorn with the Flesh and other thorns is controlled by certain configuration files.

These are:

<code>interface.ccl</code>	This defines the <i>implementation</i> (Section B2.3) the thorn provides, and the variables the thorn needs, along with their visibility to other implementations.
<code>param.ccl</code>	This defines the parameters that are used to control the thorn, along with their visibility to other implementations.
<code>schedule.ccl</code>	This defines which functions are called from the thorn and when they are called. It also handles memory and communication assignment for grid variables.
<code>configuration.ccl</code>	This file is optional for a thorn. If it exists it contains extra configuration options of this thorn.

B3.3.1 General syntax of CCL files

Cactus Configuration Language (CCL) files are simple text files used to define configuration information for a thorn. CCL files are case independent, and may contain comments introduced by the hash ‘#’ character, which indicates that the rest of the line is a comment. If the last non-blank character of a line in a CCL file is a backslash ‘\’, the following line is treated as a continuation of the current line.

B3.3.2 The `interface.ccl` file

The `interface.ccl` file is used to declare

- the implementation provided by the thorn,
- the variables provided by the thorn
- the include files provided by the thorn
- the functions provided by the thorn (in development)

The implementation is declared by a single line at the top of the file

```
implements: <name>
```


Where **<name>** can be any combination of alphanumeric characters and underscores, and is case independent.

There are three different access levels available for variables

Public	Can be ‘inherited’ by other implementations (see below).
Protected	Can be shared with other implementations which declare themselves to be friends of this one (see below).
Private	Can only be seen by this thorn.

Corresponding to the first two access levels there are two relationship statements that can be used to get variables (actually groups of variables, see below) from other implementations.

Inherits: <name>	This gets all Public variables from implementation <name> , and all variables that <name> has in turn inherited. An implementation may inherit from any number of other implementations.
Friend: <name>	This gets all Protected variables from implementation <name> , but, unlike inherits , it is symmetric and also defines a transitive relation by pushing its own implementation’s Protected variables onto implementation name . This keyword is used to define a group of implementations which all end up with the same Protected variables.

So, for example, an **interface.ccl** starting

```
implements: wavetoy
inherits:   grid
friend:     wave_extract
```

declares that the thorn provides an implementation called **wavetoy**, gets all the **public** variables declared by an implementation called **grid**, and shares all **protected** variables with **wave_extract** and its friends.

Cactus variables, described in Chapter [B4](#), are placed in groups with homogeneous attributes, where the attributes describe properties such as the data type, group type, dimension, ghostsize, number of timelevels, type of staggering and distribution.

For example, a group, called **realfields** of 5 real grid functions (**phi**, **a**, **b**, **c**, **d**), on a 3D grid, would be defined by

```
CCTK_REAL realfields type=GF TimeLevels=3 Dim=3
{
  phi
  a,b,c,d
} "Example grid functions"
```

or, for a group called **intfields** consisting of just one distributed 2D array of integers,

```
CCTK_INT intfields type=ARRAY size=xsize,ysize ghostsize=gxsize,gysize dim=2
{
  anarray
} "My 2D arrays"
```

where `xsize`, `ysize`, `gxsize`, `gysize` are all parameters defined in the thorn's `param.ccl`.

By default all groups are `private`, to change this an access specification of the form `public:` or `protected:` (or `private:` to change it back) may be placed on a line by itself. This changes the access level for any group defined in the file from that point on.

All variables seen by any one thorn must have distinct names.

B3.3.3 The `param.ccl` file

Users control the operation of thorns via parameters given in a file at runtime. The `param.ccl` file is used to specify the parameters used to control an individual thorn, and to specify the values these parameters are allowed to take. When the code is run it reads a parameter file and sets the parameters if they fall within the allowed values. If a parameter is not assigned in a parameter file, it is given its default value.

There are three access levels available for parameters:

Global	These parameters are seen by all thorns.
Restricted	These parameters may be used by other implementations if they so desire.
Private	These are only seen by this thorn.

A parameter specification consists of:

- the parameter type (each may have an optional `CCTK_` in front)

REAL	
INT	
KEYWORD	A distinct string with only a few known allowed values.
STRING	An arbitrary string, which must conform to a given regular expression.
BOOLEAN	A boolean type which can take values <code>1</code> , <code>t</code> , <code>true</code> , <code>yes</code> or <code>0</code> , <code>f</code> , <code>false</code> , <code>no</code> .
- the parameter name
- an optional size (in square brackets) – if this is present the parameter is a “parameter array”, i.e. will actually be an array of parameters each of which has the same properties but a different value. Such arrays appear as normal arrays in C or Fortran, 0-based in C and 1-based in Fortran. In the parameter file the value of each element is specified with square brackets and is 0-based. The size must be an integer.
- a description of the parameter

- an allowed value block – This consists of a brace delimited block of lines¹ describing the allowed values of the parameter. Each range may have a description associated with it by placing a `::` on the line and putting the description afterwards.
- the default value – This must be one of the allowed values.

For the numeric types `INT` and `REAL`, a range consists of a string of the form `lower-bound:upper-bound:step`, where a missing number or an asterisk `*` denotes anything (i.e. infinite bounds or an infinitesimal step).

For example

```
REAL Coeff "Important coefficient"
{
0:3.14 :: "Range has to be from zero to Pi, default is zero"
} 0.0

#No need to define a range for BOOLEAN
BOOLEAN nice "Nice weather ?"
{
}"yes"

# A example for a set of keywords and its default (which has to be
# defined in the body)
KEYWORD confused "Are we getting confused ?"
{
  "yes"      :: "absolutely positively"
  "perhaps"  :: "we are not sure"
  "never"    :: "never"
} "never"

REAL Length[2] "Length in each direction"
{
0:* :: "Range has to be from zero to infinity, default is one"
} 1.0
```

defines a `REAL` parameter, a `BOOLEAN` parameter, a `KEYWORD` and an array of `REAL` parameters.

By default all parameters are `private`; to change this, an access specification of the form `global:` or `restricted:` (or `private:` to change it back) may be placed on a line by itself. This changes the access level for any parameter defined in the file from that point on.

To access `restricted` parameters from another implementation, a line containing `shares: <name>` declares that all parameters mentioned in the file from now until the next access specification originate in implementation `<name>`. (Note that only one implementation can be specified on each `shares:` line.) Each of these parameters must be qualified by the initial token `USES` or `EXTENDS`, where

`USES` indicates that the parameters range remains unchanged.

¹The beginning brace (`{`) must sit on a line by itself; the ending brace (`}`) must be preceded by a carriage return.

EXTENDS indicates that the parameters range is going to be extended.

In contrast to parameter declarations in other access blocks, the default value must be omitted — it is impossible to set the default value of any parameter not originating in this thorn. For example, the following block adds possible values to the keyword `initial_data` originally defined in the implementation `einstein`, and uses the `REAL` parameter `speed`.

```
shares:einstein

EXTENDS KEYWORD initial_data
{
  "bl_bh"      :: "Brill Lindquist black holes"
  "misner_bh"   :: "Misner black holes"
  "schwarzschild" :: "One Schwarzschild black hole"
}

USES CCTK_REAL speed
```

Note that you must compile at least one thorn which implements `einstein`.

B3.3.4 The `schedule.ccl` file

By default no routine of a thorn will be run. The `schedule.ccl` file defines those that should be run and when and under which conditions they should be run.

The specification of routine scheduling is via a `schedule` block which consists of lines of the form

```
schedule <name> at <time bin> [other options]
{
  LANG:      <FORTRAN|C>
  STORAGE:   [group list with timelevels]
  TRIGGERS:  [group list]
  SYNC:      [group list]
} "A description"
```

where `<name>` is the name of the routine, and `<time bin>` is the name of a schedule bins (the `CCTK_` prefix is optional). A list of the most useful schedule bins for application thorns is given here, a complete and more descriptive list is provided in [Appendix E3](#):

CCTK_STARTUP	For routines run before the grid hierarchy is set up, for example function registration.
CCTK_PARAMCHECK	For routines which check parameter combinations, routines registered here only have access to the grid size and the parameters.
CCTK_BASEGRID	Responsible for setting up coordinates etc.
CCTK_INITIAL	For generating initial data.

CCTK_POSTINITIAL	Tasks which must be applied after initial data is created.
CCTK_PRESTEP	Stuff done before the evolution step.
CCTK_EVOL	The evolution step.
CCTK_POSTSTEP	Stuff done after the evolution step.
CCTK_ANALYSIS	For analysing data.

The *other options* allow finer grained control of the scheduling. It is possible to state that the routine must run **BEFORE** or **AFTER** another routine or set of routines. It is also possible to schedule the routine under an alias name by using **AS** *<alias_name>*.

LANG	The LANG keyword specifies the linkage of the scheduled routine which determines how to call it from the scheduler. C and Fortran linkage are possible here. C++ routines should be defined as extern "C" and registered as LANG: C .
STORAGE	<p>The STORAGE keyword specifies any groups for which memory should be allocated for the duration of the routine. The storage status reverts to its previous status after the routine returns. The format of the STORAGE statement includes specifying the number of timelevels of each group for which storage should be activated.</p> <p>STORAGE: <i><group1>[timelevels1], <group2>[timelevels2]</i></p> <p>This number can range from one to the maximum number of timelevels for the group as specified in the group definition in its interface.cc1 file. If this maximum number is one, the timelevel specification can be omitted from the STORAGE statement.</p>
TRIGGERS	TRIGGERS is used when the routine is registered at ANALYSIS . This is a special time bin; a routine registered here will only be called if one of the variables from a group in TRIGGERS is due for output. (A routine without TRIGGERS declaration will always be called.)
SYNC	The keyword SYNC specifies groups of variables which should be synchronised (that is, their ghostzones should be exchanged between processors) on exit from the routine. Specifying synchronisation of grid variables in schedule.cc1 is an alternative to calling the functions CCTK_SyncGroup() or CCTK_SyncGroupsI() (see the Reference Manual) from inside a routine. Using the SYNC keyword in the schedule.cc1 is the preferred method, since it provides the Flesh with more information about the behaviour of your code.

Besides schedule blocks it's possible to embed C style **if/else** statements in the **schedule.cc1** file. These can be used to schedule things based upon the value of a parameter.

Example I:

If the parameter **evolve_hydro** is positively set, the Fortran routine **hydro_predictor** is scheduled to run in the *evolution* loop, after the routine **metric_predictor** and before **metric_corrector**. The routine names **metric_predictor** and **metric_corrector** may either be real routine names from the same or a different thorn, or they may be **aliased** routine names (see the next example).

Before entry to `hydro_predictor` storage will be allocated for one timelevel for the group of grid variables `hydro_variables`, on exit from the routine this storage will be deallocated and the contents of the variables will be lost.

```
if(CCTK_Equals(evolve_hydro,"yes"))
{
  SCHEDULE hydro_predictor AT evol AFTER metric_predictor BEFORE metric_corrector
  {
    LANG:      FORTRAN
    STORAGE:   hydro_variables[1]
  } "Do a predictor step on the hydro variables"
}
```

If the parameter `evolve_hydro` is set negatively, the `hydro_predictor` routine will not be called by the scheduler. Note that if the `evolve_hydro` parameter is `STEERABLE` it can be dynamically scheduled and de-scheduled during a run if a steering interface is available.

Example II:

The thorns `WaveToy77` and `WaveToyC` each provide a routine to evolve the 3D wave equation: `WaveToyF77_Evolution` and `WaveToyC_Evolution`. The routine names have to be different, so that both thorns can be compiled at the same time, their functionality is identical though. Either one of them can then be activated at run time in the parameter file via `ActiveThorns`.

Since each evolution routine provides the same functionality, it makes sense to schedule them under the common alias `WaveToy_Evolution` to allow relative scheduling (`BEFORE/AFTER`) independent of the actual routine name (which may change depending on the activation in the parameter file).

In both cases the group of variables `scalarfield` are synchronised across processes when the routine is exited.

```
schedule WaveToyF77_Evolution AS WaveToy_Evolution AT evol
{
  LANG: Fortran
  STORAGE: scalartmps
  SYNC: scalarfield
} "Evolution of 3D wave equation"

schedule WaveToyC_Evolution AS WaveToy_Evolution AT evol
{
  LANG: C
  STORAGE: scalartmps
  SYNC: scalarfield
} "Evolution of 3D wave equation"
```

The thorn `IDScalarWave` schedules the routine `WaveBinary` after the alias `WaveToy_Evolution`. It is scheduled independently of the C or Fortran routine name.

```
schedule WaveBinary AT evol AFTER WaveToy_Evolution
```

```
{
  STORAGE: wavetoy::scalarevolve
  LANG:    Fortran
} "Provide binary source during evolution"
```

Storage Outside of Schedule Blocks

The keyword `STORAGE` can also be used outside of the schedule blocks to indicate that storage for these groups should be switched on at the start of the run. Note that the storage is only allocated in this way at the start, a thorn could explicitly switch the storage off (although this is not recommended practise). As for the `STORAGE` statement in schedule blocks, each group must also specify how many timelevels to activate storage for.

B3.3.5 The configuration.ccl

[**NOTE:** the `configuration.ccl` is a new feature, and not all the features described in this section have been fully implemented yet. `PROVIDES` and `REQUIRES` should work, but script support and `OPTIONAL` are still being developed.]

The `configuration.ccl` file is optional. It can be used for two purposes: to detect certain features of the host system, such as the presence or absence of libraries, variable types, etc, or the location of libraries; or to provide access to certain functions too complex or otherwise not suitable for function aliasing.

The basic concept here is that a thorn can either provide or use a **capability**. A thorn providing a capability can specify a script which is run by the CST to detect features and write any configuration files; the script may output lines to its standard output to inform the CST of features to: add to the header files included by thorns using this capability; add to the make files used to build thorns using this capability; or add to the main Cactus link line. The script may also indicate that this capability is not present by returning a non-zero exit code — e.g., if the thorn is providing access to an external library, it should return an error if the library is not installed on the system.

A thorn may either require a capability to be present, in which case it is an error if there is no thorn providing that capability in the configuration's ThornList, or it may optionally use a capability, in which case a macro is defined in the thorn's header file if a thorn providing the capability is present.

A `configuration.ccl` file has the form:

```
PROVIDES <My_Capability>
{
  SCRIPT <My_ConfigScript>
  LANG <My_Language>
}

REQUIRES  <Another_Capability>

OPTIONAL <Yet_Another_Capability>
{
  DEFINE <macro>
}
```

which states that this thorn provides the capability `My_Capability`, and a script `MyConfigScript` should be run to detect features of this capability; the script is in language `My_Language` — the CST will use the appropriate environment or interpreter to invoke the script.

The example requires a thorn providing `Another_Capability` to be in the `ThornList`, and, if a thorn providing `Yet_Another_Capability` is in the `ThornList`, the preprocessor macro `macro` will be defined, and set to 1.

As an example a thorn A may be able to use PVM for parallelism if it is present, but can still work in the absence of it. There could be a thorn providing PVM, and thorn A would then have

```
OPTIONAL PVM
{
    DEFINE HAVE_PVM
}
```

The code in thorn A could then have

```
#ifdef HAVE_PVM
    do something
#else
    do something else
#endif
```

to pick the appropriate mode.

The syntax of the output of the configure script is described in Appendix [E2.5.1](#).

B3.4 Naming Conventions for Source Files

The make system uses file extensions to designate coding language, as well as other properties of the code in the file.

The following extensions are understood:

Extension	Language	Format	Preprocess
<code>.F</code>	Fortran 90	fixed	yes
<code>.f</code>	Fortran 90	fixed	no
<code>.F90</code>	Fortran 90	free	yes
<code>.f90</code>	Fortran 90	free	no
<code>.F77</code>	Fortran 77	fixed	yes
<code>.f77</code>	Fortran 77	fixed	no
<code>.c</code>	C	-	yes
<code>.cc</code> or <code>.C</code>	C++	-	yes

In order to use Cactus `#include` directives in a file, it must be preprocessed.

A complete description of Fortran fixed and free format can be found in any textbook on Fortran 90. The most obvious differences are that in fixed format, code must begin after the 5th column and line continuations are indicated by a character in column 5, while in free format lines can begin anywhere, and line continuations are indicated by an ampersand at the end of the line to be continued. Also note that statement labels are handled very differently.

The following restrictions apply to file names:

- For portability across all operating systems, the base names for any particular extension should not depend on the operating system being case sensitive (e.g. having `MyFile.c` and `MYFILE.f77` is alright, but `MyFile.c` and `MYFILE.c` could cause problems).
- Currently all source files within a thorn must have distinct names, regardless of whether they are placed in different subdirectories. We hope to relax this in future. Different thorns may have files with the same names, however.

B3.5 Adding source files

By default the CCTK looks in the `src` directory of the thorn for source files.

There are two ways in which to specify the sources. The easiest is to use the `make.code.defn` based method in which the CCTK does all the work, but you may instead put a `Makefile` in the `src` directory and do everything yourself.

B3.5.1 `make.code.defn` based thorn building

This is the standard way to compile your thorn's source files. The Cactus make system looks for a file called `make.code.defn` in that directory (if there is no file called `Makefile` in the `src` directory). At its simplest, this file contains two lines

- `SRCS = <list of all source files in this directory>`
- `SUBDIRS = <list of all subdirectories, including subdirectories of subdirectories>`

Each subdirectory listed should then have a `make.code.defn` file containing just a `SRCS =` line, a `SUBDIRS =` line will be ignored.

In addition, each directory can have a `make.code.deps` file, which, for files in that directory, can contain additional make rules and dependencies for files in that directory. See the GNU Make documentation for complete details of the syntax.

B3.5.2 `Makefile` based thorn building

This method gives you the ultimate responsibility. The only requirement is that a library called `$NAME` be created by the `Makefile`.

The makefile is passed the following variables

<code>\$(CCTK_HOME)</code>	the main Cactus directory
<code>\$(TOP)</code>	the configuration directory
<code>\$(SRCDIR)</code>	the directory in which the source files can be found
<code>\$(CONFIG)</code>	the directory containing the configuration files
<code>\$(THORN)</code>	the thorn name
<code>\$(SCRATCH_BUILD)</code>	the scratch directory where Fortran 90 module files should end up if they need to be seen by other thorns.
<code>\$(NAME)</code>	the name of the library to be built

and has a working directory of `<config>/build/<thorn_name>` .

B3.5.3 Other makefile variables

- **CPP**: The C preprocessor which is used to preprocess C and C++ source code, and to determine the C and C++ make dependencies
- **FPP**: The C preprocessor which is used to preprocess Fortran source code
- **CPPFLAGS**: Flags which are passed to CPP, to CC, and to CXX
- **FPPFLAGS**: Flags which are passed to FPP
- **CC**: The C compiler
- **CXX**: The C++ compiler
- **F77**: The Fortran 77 compiler. This is only used if there is no Fortran 90 compiler
- **F90**: The Fortran 90 compiler. If this variable is set, it is also used to compile Fortran 77 files
- **CFLAGS**: Flags which are passed to CC
- **CXXFLAGS**: Flags which are passed to CXX
- **F77FLAGS**: Flags which are passed to F77
- **F90FLAGS**: Flags which are passed to F90
- **LD**: The binder. This should not be directly `ld`, but should be a compiler driver such as `c++`. Often, LD is the same as CXX
- **LDFLAGS**: Flags which are passed to LD

Chapter B4

Cactus Variables

A *grid variable* is Cactus program variable passed among thorns, (or routines belonging to the same thorn interface), by way of calls to the Flesh. They are the only variables known to Cactus. Such variables represent values of functions on the computational grid, and are therefore often called *grid functions*.

In the Cactus context, grid variables are often referred to simply as *variables*.

Cactus variables are used instead of local variables for a number of reasons:

- Cactus variables can be made visible to other thorns, allowing thorns to communicate and share data,
- Cactus variables can be distributed and communicated among processors, allowing parallel computation,
- A database of Cactus variables, and their attributes, is held by the Flesh, and this information is used by thorns, for example for obtaining a list of variables for checkpointing,
- Many Cactus APIs and tools can only be used with Cactus variables,
- Cactus provides features for error checking based on Cactus variables and their attributes.

Cactus variables are collected into *groups*. All variables in a group are of the same data type, and have the same attributes. Most Cactus operations act on a group as a whole. A group must be declared in its thorn's `interface.ccl` file.

The specification for a group declaration (fully described in Appendix [E2.2](#)) is,

```
<data_type> <group_name> [TYPE=<group_type>] [DIM=<dim>] [TIMELEVELS=<num>]
    [SIZE=<size in each direction>] [DISTRIB=<distribution_type>]
    [GHOSTSIZE=<ghostsize>] [STAGGER=<stagger-specification>]
[ {
  [ <variable_name>[,]<variable_name>
    <variable_name> ]
} ["<group_description>"] ]
```

Currently, the names of groups and variables must be distinct.

B4.1 Data Type

Cactus supports integer, real, complex and character variable types, in various different sizes. (Sizes in the following refer to the number of bytes occupied by the a variable of the type).

INTEGER	CCTK_INT, CCTK_INT1, CCTK_INT2, CCTK_INT4, CCTK_INT8. (CCTK_INT defaults to being CCTK_INT4).
REAL	CCTK_REAL, CCTK_REAL4, CCTK_REAL8, CCTK_REAL16. (CCTK_REAL defaults to being CCTK_REAL8).
COMPLEX	CCTK_COMPLEX, CCTK_COMPLEX8, CCTK_COMPLEX16, CCTK_COMPLEX32. (CCTK_COMPLEX defaults to being CCTK_COMPLEX16).
BYTE	This is a 1 byte data type.

Normally a thorn should use the default types — CCTK_INT, CCTK_REAL, CCTK_COMPLEX — rather than explicitly setting the size, as this gives maximum portability. Also, the defaults can be changed at configuration time (see [A2.1.2](#)), and this allows people to compile the code with different precisions to test for roundoff effects, or to run more quickly with a lower accuracy.

B4.2 Group Types

Groups can be either *scalars*, *grid functions* (GFs), or *grid arrays*. Different attributes are relevant for the different group types.

SCALAR	This is just a single number, e.g. the total energy of some field. These variables aren't communicated between processors — what would be the result of such communication?
GF	This is the most common group type. A GF is an array with a specific size, set at run time in the parameter file, which is distributed across processors. All GFs have the same size, and the same number of ghostzones. Groups of GFs can also specify a dimension, number of timelevels, and stagger type.
ARRAY	This is a more general form of the GF. Each group of arrays can have a distinct size and number of ghostzones, in addition to dimension, number of timelevels and stagger type. The drawback of using an array over a GF is that a lot of data about the array can only be determined by function calls, rather than the quicker methods available for GFs.

B4.3 Timelevels

These are best introduced by an example using finite differencing. Consider the 1-D wave equation

$$\frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2} \quad (\text{B4.1})$$

To solve this by partial differences, one discretises the derivatives, to get an equation relating the solution at different times. There are many ways to do this, one of which produces the following difference equation

$$\phi(t + \Delta t, x) - 2\phi(t, x) + \phi(t - \Delta t, x) = \frac{\Delta t^2}{\Delta x^2} \{ \phi(t, x + \Delta x) - 2\phi(t, x) + \phi(t, x - \Delta x) \} \quad (\text{B4.2})$$

which relates the three timelevels $t + \Delta t$, t , and $t - \Delta t$.

Obviously the code could just use three variables, one for each timelevel. This turns out, however, to be inefficient, because as soon as the time is incremented to $t + \Delta t$, it would be necessary to copy data from the t variable to the $t - \Delta t$ variable and from the $t + \Delta t$ variable to the t variable.

To remove this extraneous copy, Cactus allows you to specify the number of timelevels used by your numerical scheme. It then generates variables with the base name (e.g. `phi`) suffixed by a qualifier for which timelevel is being referred to — no suffix for the next timelevel, and `_p` for each previous timelevel.

The timelevels are rotated (by the driver thorn) at the start of each evolution step, that is:

```
initial
poststep
analysis

loop:
  rotate timelevels
  t = t + dt
  it = it + 1
  prestep
  evolve
  poststep
  analysis
```

Timelevel rotation means that, for example, `phi_p` now holds the values of the former `phi`, and `phi_p_p` the values of the former `phi_p`, etc. Note that after rotation `phi` is undefined, and its values should not be used until they have been updated.

All timelevels, except the current level, should be considered *read-only* during evolution, that is their values should not be changed by thorns. The exception to this rule is for function initialisation, when the values at the previous timelevels do need to be explicitly filled out.

B4.4 Size and Distrib

A Cactus grid function or array has a size set at runtime by parameters. This size can either be the global size of the array across all processors (`DISTRIB=DEFAULT`), or, if `DISTRIB=CONSTANT` the specified size on *each* processor. If the size is split across processors, the driver thorn is responsible for assigning the size on each processor.

B4.5 Ghost Size

Cactus is based upon a *distributed computing* paradigm. That is, the problem domain is split into blocks, each of which is assigned to a processor. For hyperbolic and parabolic problems the blocks only need to communicate at the edges.

To illustrate this, take the example of the wave equation again. Equation B4.2 describes a possible time-evolution scheme. On examination you can see that to generate the data at the point $(t + \Delta t, x)$ we need data from the four points (t, x) , $(t - \Delta t, x)$, $(t, x + \Delta x)$ and $(t, x - \Delta x)$ only. Ignoring the points at x , which are obviously always available on a given processor, you can see that the algorithm requires a point on either side of the point x , i.e. this algorithm has *stencil size* 1. Similarly algorithms requiring two points on either side have stencil size 2, etc.

Now, if you evolve the above scheme, it becomes apparent that at each iteration the number of grid points you can evolve decreases by one at each edge (see figure B4.1).

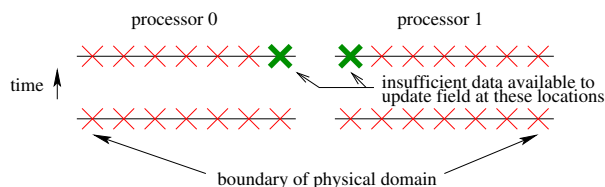


Figure B4.1: Distributed wave equation with no ghostzones

At the outer boundary of the physical domain the data for the boundary point can be generated by the boundary conditions, however at internal boundaries the data has to be copied from the adjacent processor. It would be inefficient to copy each point individually, so instead, a number of *ghostzones* are created at the internal boundaries. A ghostzone consists of a copy of the whole plane (in 3d, line in 2d, point in 1d) of the data from the adjacent processor. That is, the array on each processor is augmented with copies of points from the adjacent processors, thus allowing the algorithm to proceed *on the points owned by this processor* without having to worry about copying data. Once the data has been evolved one step, the data in the ghostzones can be exchanged (or *synchronised*) between processors in one fell swoop before the next evolution step. (See figure B4.2.) Note that you should have at least as many ghostzones as your stencil size requires.

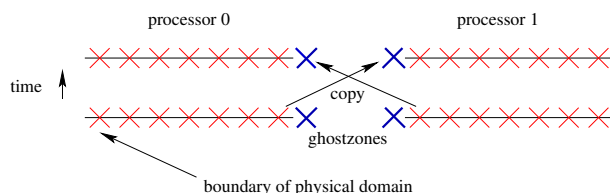


Figure B4.2: Distributed wave equation with ghostzones

B4.6 Staggering

The staggering of a grid function or array describes the *physical* placement of that grid function relative to the supporting grid structure. For example, a grid function does not have to be placed at the intersection

of the “grid lines”. It can be moved by half a grid spacing in any or all dimensions. In the latter case, it will be placed in the center of a cell.

The staggering of a grid function is a pure *physical* property: the values will be calculated at a different position in physical space. Still the indexing (or bookkeeping) is kept the same for all types of staggers: the indexing of the default unstaggered grids is used.

Specifying the staggetype

The type of staggering applied to a grid function can be specified in the `interface.ccl` file by the attribute `stagger` (see E2.2). Cactus supports three kinds of staggering per dimension. The physical location of a grid function is shifted relative to the default position by adding the following values to the `stagger` attribute:

M	no staggering, default. Refers to the “minus” face relative to the default gridpoint.
C	centre staggering. The physical location is offset by half of the grid spacing in the positive direction (or to the right).
P	full staggered. P refers to plus. The physical location is offset by a full grid spacing in the positive direction (or the right).

For multi dimensional grid functions you concatenate the code characters in *xyz* order. In Figure B4.3 we show four different staggers of a two dimensional grid function. The solid black grid circles show the default location of the grid function at the intersections of the grid lines. In (A) we show an additional grid function of type `stagger=MC`: no staggering in *x* direction, center staggered in *y* direction. In (B) we have `stagger=CM` and staggering each direction (`stagger=CC`) is shown in (C). The full staggering in (D) (`stagger=PP`) obeys the same rules, but is rather unusual; it is included here for completeness.

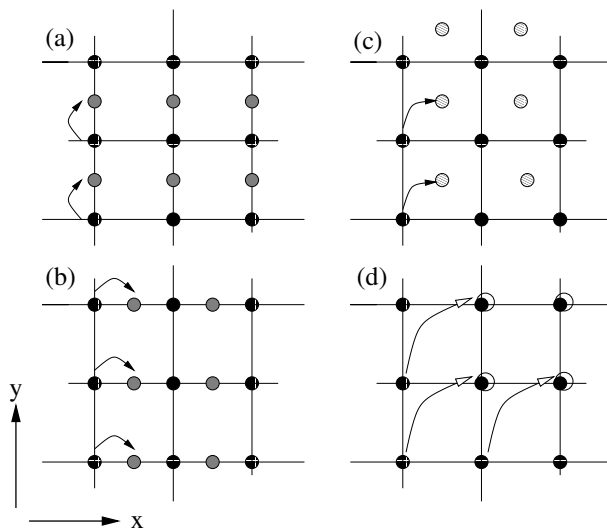


Figure B4.3: **Staggered gridpoints in 2D** for several staggers. (a) : MC, (b): CM, (c): CC, (d): PP. Note that the staggering of grid functions does not change its index. The staggered gridpoints and the corresponding unstaggered points (arrows) are accessed by the same indices.

B4.7 Information about Grid Variables

The Flesh holds a database with information related to grid variables, and provides a set of querying APIs.

B4.7.1 Group Information

Fundamental information about grid functions (e.g. local grid size and location, number of ghostzones) is passed through the argument list of scheduled routines (see [B7.2.3](#)). To obtain similar information from non-scheduled routines, or for general grid variables, a set of functions are provided, the last two letters of which specify whether the information is requested using a group name (GN) or index (GI), or a variable name (VN) or index (VI).

- `CCTK_Group1sh[GN|GI|VN|VI]` An array of integers with the local grid size on this processor.
- `CCTK_Groupgsh[GN|GI|VN|VI]` An array of integers with the global grid size.
- `CCTK_Groupbbox[GN|GI|VN|VI]` An array of integers which indicate whether the boundaries are internal boundaries (e.g. between processors), or physical boundaries. A value of 1 indicates a physical (outer) boundary at the edge of the computational grid, and 0 indicates an internal boundary.
- `CCTK_Groupnghostzones[GN|GI|VN|VI]` An array of integers with the number of ghostzones used in each direction.
- `CCTK_Group1bnd[GN|GI|VN|VI]` An array of integers containing the lowest index (in each direction) of the local grid, as seen on the global grid. Note that these indices start from zero, so you need to add one when using them in Fortran thorns.
- `CCTK_Groupubnd[GN|GI|VN|VI]` An array of integers containing the largest index (in each direction) of the local grid, as seen on the global grid. Note that these indices start from zero, so you need to add one when using them in Fortran thorns.

Chapter B5

Cactus Parameters

Parameters are the means by which the user specifies the runtime behaviour of the code. Each parameter has a data type and a name, as well as a range of allowed values and a default value. These are declared in the thorn's `param.ccl` file.

The thorn determines which parameters can be used in other thorns by specifying a *scope* for the thorn, as explained in [B5.2](#).

The user may specify initial values for parameters in the parameter file (see [Section A3.2](#)); the Flesh validates these values against the parameters' allowed ranges. Otherwise, the initial value of the parameter is taken to be its default. Once validated, parameter values are fixed, and cannot be changed, unless the parameter is specified to be *steerable* (see [B5.3](#)). For a detailed discussion of the `param.ccl` syntax see [Appendix E2.3](#).

The full specification for a parameter declaration is

```
[EXTENDS|USES] <parameter_type>[[<size>]] <parameter name> "<parameter description>"
{
  <PARAMETER_RANGES>
} <default value>
```

You can obtain lists of the parameters associated with each thorn using the Cactus command line options `-o` and `-O` ([Section A3.1](#)).

B5.1 Types and Ranges

Parameters can be of these types:

Int	Can take any integral value
Real	Can take any floating point value
Keyword	Can have a value consisting of one of a choice of strings

Boolean Can be true or false (1, `t`, `true`, or 0, `f`, `false`).

String Can have any string value

Each parameter can be validated against a set of allowed *ranges*, each of which has a description associated with it. The nature of the range is determined by the type of parameter, as follows:

B5.1.1 Int

The range specification is of the form

lower:upper:stride

where *lower* and *upper* specify the lower and upper allowed range, and *stride* allows numbers to be missed out. e.g.

1:21:2

means the value must be an odd number between one and twenty-one (inclusive).

A missing end of range (or a ‘*’) indicates negative or positive infinity, and the default stride is one.

B5.1.2 Real

The range specification is of the form

lower:upper

where *lower* and *upper* specify the lower and upper allowed range. A missing end of range (or a ‘*’) implies negative or positive infinity. The above is inclusive of the endpoints. A ‘(’ (or ‘)’) before (or after) the lower (or upper) range specifies an open endpoint.

The numbers written in a `param.ccl` file are interpreted as C code. To express a number in ‘scientific notation’, use e.g. ‘`1e-10`’, which is a double precision constant in C. (If the floating precision of the variable to which it is assigned is not double, then C will typecast appropriately. If you *really* want to specify a single precision floating constant, or a long double constant, append the number with `f` or `l` respectively.)

B5.1.3 Keyword

The range specification consists of a string, which will be matched in a case insensitive manner.

B5.1.4 Boolean

There is no range specification for this type of parameter.

B5.1.5 String

The range is a POSIX regular expression. On some machines you may be able to use extended regular expressions, but this is not guaranteed to be portable.

B5.2 Scope

Parameters can be `GLOBAL`, `RESTRICTED`, or `PRIVATE`. Global parameters are visible to all thorns. Restricted parameters are visible to any thorn which chooses to `USE` or `EXTEND` it. A private parameter is only visible to the thorn which declares it.

B5.3 Steerable

A parameter can be changed dynamically if it is specified to be *steerable* (see Section [E2.3.2](#)). It can then be changed by a call to the Flesh function `CCTK_ParameterSet` (see the Reference Guide for a description of this function).

Chapter B6

Scheduling

Cactus contains a rule-based scheduling system, which determines which routines from which thorns are run in which order. The scheduler determines if the specifications are inconsistent, but does allow the user to schedule a routine with respect to another routine which may not exist. For a detailed discussion of the `schedule.ccl` syntax see Appendix [E2.4](#).

A usual simple specification for a schedule declaration is

```
schedule <function name> AT <schedule bin>
{
  LANG: <language>
  [STORAGE:      <group>,<group>...]
} "Description of function"
```

The full specification for a schedule declaration is

```
schedule [GROUP] <function|schedule group name> AT|IN <schedule bin|group name>
  [AS <alias>]
  [WHILE <variable>] [IF <variable>]
  [BEFORE|AFTER <item>|(<item> <item> ...)]
{
  LANG: <language>
  [STORAGE:      <group>,<group>...]
  [TRIGGER:      <group>,<group>...]
  [SYNC:         <group>,<group>...]
  [OPTIONS:      <option>,<option>...]
} "Description of function or schedule group"
```

This full schedule specification consists of a mandatory part, a set of options, and the main body limited by braces, referred to as the `schedule block`.

Each schedule item is scheduled either AT a particular *scheduling bin*, or IN a schedule *group*.

B6.1 Schedule Bins

These are the main times at which scheduled functions are run, from fixed points in the Flesh and driver thorn (schedule bins can easily be traversed from any thorn, although this is not usual). When a schedule bin is *traversed*, all the functions scheduled in that particular are called, in the manner described in [B6.5](#) and respecting the requested ordering of functions [B6.3](#). In the absence of any ordering, functions in a particular schedule bin will be called in an undetermined order.

The schedule bins are described in [B3.3.4](#). Note that the preceding `CCTK_` is optional for the use of the bin names in the `schedule.ccl` file.

B6.2 Groups

If the optional `GROUP` specifier is used, the item is a schedule group rather than a normal function. Schedule groups are effectively new, user-defined, schedule bins. Functions or groups may be scheduled `IN` these in the same way as they are scheduled `AT` the main schedule bins. (That is, groups may be nested.)

B6.3 Schedule Options

The options define various characteristics of the schedule item.

AS	This assigns a new name to a function for scheduling purposes. This is used, for instance, to allow a thorn to schedule something before or after a routine from another implementation; two thorns providing this implementation can schedule a routine <code>AS</code> the same thing, thus allowing other thorns to operate independently of which one is active.
WHILE	This specifies a <code>CCTK_INT</code> grid scalar which is used to control the execution of this item. As long as the grid scalar has a nonzero value the schedule item will be executed repeatedly. This allows dynamic behaviour with scheduling.
IF	<p>This specifies a <code>CCTK_INT</code> grid scalar which is used to control the execution of this item. If the grid scalar has a nonzero value the schedule item will be executed, otherwise the item will be ignored. This allows dynamic behaviour with scheduling.</p> <p>If both an <code>IF</code> and a <code>WHILE</code> clause are present, then the schedule is executed according to the following pseudocode:</p> <pre> IF condition WHILE condition SCHEDULE item END WHILE END IF </pre>
BEFORE or AFTER	<p>These specify either</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a function or group before or after which this item will be scheduled, or

- a list of functions and/or groups; this item will be scheduled (once) before any of them or after all of them respectively.

Note that a single schedule item may have multiple **BEFORE** and/or **AFTER** options; the scheduler will honor all of these (or abort with a fatal error). For example,

```
schedule F00 BEFORE A BEFORE B BEFORE C ...
```

schedules F00 before any of A, B, or C. This can also be written

```
schedule F00 BEFORE (A B C) ...
```

Note that the set of all **BEFORE**/**AFTER** options in all active schedule blocks of all active thorns, *must* specify a (directed) graph with no cycles; if there are any cycles then the scheduler will abort with a fatal error.

B6.4 The Schedule Block

The schedule block specifies further details of the scheduled function or group.

LANG	This specifies the language of the routine. Currently this is either C or Fortran. C++ routines should be defined as extern "C" and registered as LANG: C .
STORAGE	The STORAGE keyword specifies groups for which memory should be allocated for the duration of the routine or schedule group. The storage status reverts to its previous status after completion of the routine or schedule group.
TRIGGER	This is only used for items scheduled at timebin CCTK_ANALYSIS . The item will only be executed if output is due for at least one variable in one of the listed groups. (The item will also be called if there is no group listed.)
SYNC	On exit from this item the ghost zones of the listed groups will be exchanged.
OPTIONS	This is for miscellaneous options. The list of accepted options is given in appendix E2.4.2 .

B6.5 How Cactus Calls Scheduled Functions

For each scheduled function called, the Flesh performs a variety of jobs at entry and exit.

On entry to a scheduled routine, if the routine is being called at the **CCTK_ANALYSIS** timebin first a check is made to see if the routine should actually be called on this timestep. For this, all grid variables in the trigger groups for the routine are checked with all registered output methods to determine if it is time to output any triggers. The routine will only be called if at least one is due to be output. Note that once a grid variable has been analyzed it gets marked as such and will not be analyzed again during this iteration. (Note that a routine without any trigger groups will also be called.) Thus if more than one analysis routine should be triggered on the same trigger variable(s) they must be scheduled in a single group.

Routines from all timebins other than **ANALYSIS** are always called.

Next, storage is assigned for any required variables, remembering the original state of storage.

The routine is then called, and on exit, any required grid variables are first synchronised. Following synchronization, any required output methods are called for the triggers. Finally, the storage of grid variables is returned to the original state.

Chapter B7

Writing a Thorn

B7.1 Thorn Programming Languages

When you start writing a new thorn, the first decision to make is which programming language to use? The source code in Cactus thorns can be written in any mixture of Fortran 77, Fortran 90, C or C++. The following points should be considered when choosing a language to work in

- All functions designed for application thorn writers are available in all languages, however some interfaces for infrastructure thorn writing are only available from C or C++.
- Stick to C rather than C++, unless you really need features from C++, this will help you with portability.

Whatever language you choose, if you want your thorn to be portable, and compile and run on multiple platforms, stick to the standards and don't use machine dependent extensions.

B7.2 What the Flesh provides

The Flesh provides for thorns:

Variables

Parameters

Cactus Functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Driver (parallelisation) utilities• IO utilities• Coordinates utilities• Reduction utilities• Interpolation utilities• Information utilities
------------------	---

B7.2.1 Fortran Routines

Any source file using Cactus infrastructure should include the header file `cctk.h` using the line

```
#include "cctk.h"
```

(Fortran programmers should not be put off by this being a C style header file — most Cactus files are run through a C preprocessor before compilation).

Variables

Any routine using Cactus argument lists (for example all routines called from the scheduler at time bins between `CCTK_STARTUP` and `CCTK_SHUTDOWN`) should include at the top of the file the header

```
#include "cctk_Arguments.h"
```

A Cactus macro `CCTK_ARGUMENTS` is defined for each thorn to contain:

- General information about the grid hierarchy, for example the number of grid points used. See Section [B7.2.3](#) for a complete list.
- All the grid variables defined in the thorn's `interface.ccl`
- All the grid variables required from other thorns as requested by the `inherits` and `friend` lines in the `interface.ccl`

These variables must be declared at the start of the routine using the macro `DECLARE_CCTK_ARGUMENTS`.

To pass the arguments to another routine in the same thorn use the macro `CCTK_PASS_FTOF` in the calling routine, and again the macro `CCTK_ARGUMENTS` in the receiving routine.

Note that you cannot use Cactus argument lists in routines scheduled at the `CCTK_STARTUP` and `CCTK_SHUTDOWN` time bins because at this time no grid hierarchy exists.

Parameters

All parameters defined in a thorn's `param.ccl` and all `global` parameters appear as local variables of the corresponding CCTK data type in Fortran source code, i.e.. Booleans and Integers appear as `CCTK_INT` types (with nonzero/zero values for boolean `yes/no`), Reals as `CCTK_REAL`, and Keywords and String parameters as `CCTK_STRING` (see also note below). These variables are *read only* and *changes should not be made to them*. The effect of changing a parameter is undefined (at best).

Any routine using Cactus parameters should include at the top of the file the header

```
#include "cctk_Parameters.h"
```

The parameters should be declared at the start of the routine using them with the macro `DECLARE_CCTK_PARAMETERS`.

In Fortran, special care should be taken with string valued parameters. These parameters are passed as C pointers, and can not be treated as normal Fortran strings. To compare a string valued parameter and Fortran string use the macro `CCTK_EQUALS()` or the function `CCTK_Equals()` (see the reference manual for a description of the `CCTK_` functions). To print the value of a string valued parameter to screen, use the subroutine `CCTK_PrintString()`. A further function `CCTK_FortranString` provides a mechanism for converting a string parameter to a Fortran string. For example, if `operator` is a Cactus string parameter holding the name of a reduction operator whose handle you need to find, you cannot pass it directly into the subroutine `CCTK_LocalArrayReductionHandle` which is expecting a Fortran string. Instead, the following is needed:

```
character*200 fortran_operator
CCTK_INT      fortran_operator_len
integer       handle

call CCTK_FortranString(fortran_operator_len,operator,fortran_operator)
call CCTK_LocalArrayReductionHandle(handle,fortran_operator(1:fortran_operator_len))
```

Fortran Example

The Fortran routine `MyFRoutine` is scheduled in the `schedule.ccl` file, doesn't use Cactus parameters, and calls another routine, in the same thorn, `MyNewRoutine` which does use parameters. This routine needs to be passed an integer flag as well as the standard Cactus variables. The source file should look like

```
#include "cctk.h"
#include "cctk_Arguments.h"
#include "cctk_Parameters.h"

subroutine MyFRoutine(CCTK_ARGUMENTS)

c    I'm very cautious, so I want to declare all variables
    implicit none

    DECLARE_CCTK_ARGUMENTS

    integer flag

    flag = 1
    call MyNewRoutine(CCTK_PASS_FTOF,flag)

    return
end

subroutine MyNewRoutine(CCTK_ARGUMENTS,flag)

    implicit none

    DECLARE_CCTK_ARGUMENTS
```

```

        DECLARE_CCTK_PARAMETERS
        integer flag

c      Main code goes here

        return
    end

```

Cactus Fortran Functions

Cactus Fortran functions, for example `CCTK.MyProc` and `CCTK.Equals`, can all be declared by adding the statement

```
#include "cctk_Functions.h"
```

near the top of the file, and adding the declaration

```
DECLARE_CCTK_FUNCTIONS
```

to a module or a subroutine after the `implicit none` statement, but before any executable code.

Fortran Modules

Fortran modules should be placed into source files that have the same name as the module, followed by the corresponding file name suffix. A module `metric` should thus be placed e.g. into a file `metric.F90`. This convention allows the Cactus build system to automatically deduce the compile time dependencies.

If you do not follow this convention, then you have to include the modules into the thorn's `make.code.deps` file ([B3.5.1](#)) to ensure they are compiled before the routines which use them. This is especially important for parallel building. For example, if a routine in `MyRoutine.F90` uses a module in `MyModule.F90`, then add the line:

```
MyRoutine.F90.o:      MyModule.F90.o
```

The MOD function

The intrinsic function `MOD` in Fortran takes two integer arguments, which should both be of the same type. This means that it may be necessary to cast the arguments to *e.g.* `INT` for some architectures. This can occur in particular when a `CCTK_INT` parameter and the Cactus variable `cctk_iteration` (which is declared to be `INTEGER`) are used, in which case the correct code is

```
MOD(cctk_iteration,INT(MyParameter))
```

B7.2.2 C Routines

Any source file using Cactus infrastructure should include the header file `cctk.h` using the line

```
#include "cctk.h"
```

Variables

Any routine using Cactus argument lists (for example all routines called from the scheduler at time bins between `CCTK_STARTUP` and `CCTK_SHUTDOWN`) should include at the top of the file the header

```
#include "cctk_Arguments.h"
```

A Cactus macro `CCTK_ARGUMENTS` is defined for each thorn to contain

- General information about the grid hierarchy, for example the number of grid points on the processor. See Section [B7.2.3](#) for a complete list.
- All the grid variables defined in the thorn's `interface.ccl`
- All the grid variables required from other thorns as requested by the `inherits` and `friend` lines in the `interface.ccl`

These variables must be declared at the start of the routine using the macro `DECLARE_CCTK_ARGUMENTS`. This macro should always be the first line of the routine.

To pass the arguments to another routine in the same thorn use the macro `CCTK_PASS_CTOC` in the calling routine, and again the macro `CCTK_ARGUMENTS` in the receiving routine.

Note that you cannot use Cactus argument lists in routines scheduled at the `CCTK_STARTUP` and `CCTK_SHUTDOWN` time bins because at this time no grid hierarchy exists.

Parameters

All parameters defined in a thorn's `param.ccl` and all `global` parameters appear as local variables of the corresponding CCTK data type in C source code, i.e. Integers and Booleans appear as `CCTK_INT` types (with nonzero/zero values for boolean `yes/no`), Reals as `CCTK_REAL`, and Keywords and String parameters as `CCTK_STRING`. These variables are *read only* and *changes should not be made to them*. The effect of changing a parameter is undefined (at best).

Any routine using Cactus parameters should include at the top of the file the header

```
#include "cctk_Parameters.h"
```

The parameters should be declared as the last statement in the declaration part of the routine using them with the macro `DECLARE_CCTK_PARAMETERS`.

Example

The C routine `MyCRoutine` is scheduled in the `schedule.ccl` file, and uses Cactus parameters. The source file should look like

```
#include "cctk.h"
#include "cctk_Arguments.h"
#include "cctk_Parameters.h"

void MyCRoutine(CCTK_ARGUMENTS)
{
    DECLARE_CCTK_ARGUMENTS
    DECLARE_CCTK_PARAMETERS

    /* Here goes your code */
}
```

Complex variables

Cactus supports complex grid variables, and since there is no complex data type in C, Cactus provides a number of functions for manipulating complex numbers to mirror the functionality available in Fortran. These functions are `CCTK_Cmplx`, `CCTK_CmplxReal`, `CCTK_CmplxImag`, `CCTK_CmplxConjg`, `CCTK_CmplxAdd`, `CCTK_CmplxSub`, `CCTK_CmplxMul`, `CCTK_CmplxDiv`, `CCTK_CmplxExp`, `CCTK_CmplSin`, `CCTK_CmplxAbs`, `CCTK_CmplxLog`, and `CCTK_CmplSqrt`. See the Reference Manual for more details.

Specifically for C Programmers

Grid functions are held in memory as 1-dimensional C arrays. These are laid out in memory as in Fortran. This means that the first index should be incremented through most rapidly. This is illustrated in the example below.

Cactus provides macros to find the 1-dimensional index which is needed from the multidimensional indices which are usually used. There is a macro for each dimension of grid function. Below is an artificial example to demonstrate this using the 3D macro `CCTK_GFINDEX3D`:

```
for (k=0; k<cctk_lsh[2]; k++)
{
    for (j=0; j<cctk_lsh[1]; j++)
    {
        for (i=0; i<cctk_lsh[0]; i++)
        {
            My3D_GF[CCTK_GFINDEX3D(cctkGH,i,j,k)] = i*j*k;
        }
    }
}
```

Here, `CCTK_GFINDEX3D(cctkGH,i,j,k)` expands to

```
((i) + cctkGH->cctk_lsh[0]*((j)+cctkGH->cctk_lsh[1]*(k)))
```

B7.2.3 Cactus Variables

The Cactus variables which are passed through the macro `CCTK_ARGUMENTS` are

<code>cctkGH</code>	A C pointer identifying the grid hierarchy.
<code>cctk_dim</code>	An integer with the number of dimensions used for this grid hierarchy.
<code>cctk_lsh</code>	An array of <code>cctk_dim</code> integers with the local grid size on this processor.
<code>cctk_gsh</code>	An array of <code>cctk_dim</code> integers with the <i>global</i> grid size.
<code>cctk_iteration</code>	The current iteration number.
<code>cctk_delta_time</code>	A <code>CCTK_REAL</code> with the timestep.
<code>cctk_time</code>	A <code>CCTK_REAL</code> with the current time.
<code>cctk_delta_space</code>	An array of <code>cctk_dim</code> <code>CCTK_REALS</code> with the grid spacing in each direction.
<code>cctk_nghostzones</code>	An array of <code>cctk_dim</code> integers with the number of ghostzones used in each direction.
<code>cctk_origin_space</code>	An array of <code>cctk_dim</code> <code>CCTK_REALS</code> with the spatial coordinates of the global origin of the grid.
<code>cctk_lssh</code>	This is an internal array used to hold array extents for staggering. One should use the macro <code>CCTK_LSSH(.)</code> to access its elements.

The following variables describe the location of the local grid (e.g. the grid treated on a given processor) within the global grid.

- `cctk_lbnd` An array of `cctk_dim` integers containing the lowest index (in each direction) of the local grid, as seen on the global grid. Note that these indices start from zero, so you need to add one when using them in Fortran thorns.
- `cctk_ubnd` An array of `cctk_dim` integers containing the largest index (in each direction) of the local grid, as seen on the global grid. Note that these indices start from zero, so you need to add one when using them in Fortran thorns.
- `cctk_bbox` An array of $2 \times \text{cctk_dim}$ integers (in the order $[\text{dim}_0^{\min}, \text{dim}_0^{\max}, \text{dim}_1^{\min}, \text{dim}_1^{\max}, \dots]$), which indicate whether the boundaries are internal boundaries (e.g. between processors), or physical boundaries. A value of 1 indicates a physical (outer) boundary at the edge of the computational grid, and 0 indicates an internal boundary.

The following variable is needed for grid refinement methods

- `cctk_levfac` An array of `cctk_dim` integer factors by which the local grid is refined in the corresponding direction with respect to the base grid.
- `cctk_levoff` and `cctk_levoffdenom` Two arrays of `cctk_dim` integers describing the distance by which the local grid is offset with respect to the base grid, measured in local grid spacings. The distance in direction `dir` is given by $1.0 * \text{cctk_levoff}[\text{dir}] / \text{cctk_levoffdenom}[\text{dir}]$.

- `cctk_timefac` The integer factor by which the time step size is reduced with respect to the base grid.

The following variables are used for identifying convergence levels. *NOTE:* Convergence is not currently implemented by Cactus, so that `cctk_convlevel` is currently always 0.

- `cctk_convlevel` The convergence level of this grid hierarchy. The base level is 0, and every level above that is coarsened by a factor of `cctk_convfac`.
- `cctk_convfac` The factor between convergence levels. The relation between the resolutions of different convergence levels is $\Delta x_L = \Delta x_0 \cdot F^L$, where L is the convergence level and F is the convergence factor. The convergence factor defaults to 2.

The variables `cctk_delta_space`, `cctk_delta_time`, and `cctk_origin_space` denote the grid spacings, time step size, and spatial origin on the *base* grid. If you are using a grid refinement method, you need to calculate these quantities on the grid you are on. There are Cactus macros provided for this, with the syntax `CCTK_DELTA_SPACE(dir)`, `CCTK_ORIGIN_SPACE(dir)`, and `CCTK_DELTA_TIME` for both C and Fortran. It is recommended that these macros are always used to provide the grid spacings, time step sizes, and spatial origins in your thorns. In doing so, you incorporate the effects of `cctk_levfac`, `cctk_levoff`, `cctk_levoffdenom`, and `cctk_timefac`, so that you do not explicitly have to take them into account.

Putting the above information together, figure B7.1 shows two different ways to compute the global Cactus *xyz* coordinates of the current grid point. Because the “alternate calculation” (the one using `Grid::x`, `Grid::y`, and `Grid::z`) gives the true global *xyz* coordinates even in a multipatch/multiblock context, this is generally the preferred form for general use.

B7.2.4 Cactus Data Types

The Cactus grid variables and parameters are defined and declared using Cactus data types, to provide portability across platforms. The most important of these data types are described below, for a full description see Section B10.8. These data types should be used to declare local variables where needed, and to declare Cactus grid variables or parameters that need declarations.

<code>CCTK_INT</code>	default size 4 bytes
<code>CCTK_REAL</code>	default size 8 bytes
<code>CCTK_COMPLEX</code>	consists of two <code>CCTK_REAL</code> elements

Example

In the following example `MyScalar` is a grid scalar which is declared in the `interface.ccl` as `CCTK_REAL`.

```
subroutine InitialData(CCTK_ARGUMENTS)

  DECLARE_CCTK_ARGUMENTS
```

```

#include <stddef.h>                                /* defines size_t */
#include "cctk.h"

void MyThorn_MyFunction(CCTK_ARGUMENTS)
{
  int i,j,k;

  for (k = 0 ; k < cctk_lsh[2] ; ++k)
  {
    for (j = 0 ; j < cctk_lsh[1] ; ++j)
    {
      for (i = 0 ; i < cctk_lsh[0] ; ++i)
      {
        const size_t posn = CCTK_GFINDEX3D(cctkGH, i,j,k);

        /* calculate the global xyz coordinates of the (i,j,k) grid point */
        /* (in a multipatch/multiblock context, this gives the per-patch coordinates) */
        const CCTK_REAL xcoord = CCTK_ORIGIN_SPACE(0) + (cctk_lbnd[0] + i)*CCTK_DELTA_SPACE(0);
        const CCTK_REAL ycoord = CCTK_ORIGIN_SPACE(1) + (cctk_lbnd[1] + j)*CCTK_DELTA_SPACE(1);
        const CCTK_REAL zcoord = CCTK_ORIGIN_SPACE(2) + (cctk_lbnd[2] + k)*CCTK_DELTA_SPACE(2);

        /* an alternate calculation, which requires that this thorn inherit from Grid */
        /* (in a multipatch/multiblock context, this gives the true global xyz coordinates) */
        const CCTK_REAL xxcoord = /* Grid:: */ x[posn];
        const CCTK_REAL yycoord = /* Grid:: */ y[posn];
        const CCTK_REAL zzcoord = /* Grid:: */ z[posn];
      }
    }
  }
}

```

Figure B7.1: This figure shows two different ways to compute the global Cactus *xyz* coordinates of the current grid point. Because the “alternate calculation” (the one one using `Grid::x`, `Grid::y`, and `Grid::z`) gives the true global *xyz* coordinates even in a multipatch/multiblock context, this is generally the preferred form for general use.


```

CCTK_REAL local_var

local_var = 1.0/3.0
MyScalar = local_var

return
end

```

Declaring `local_var` to have a non-Cactus data type, e.g. `REAL*4`, or using one of the other Cactus real data types described in Section B10.8 could give problems for different architectures or configurations.

B7.2.5 Staggering

Indexing, ghostzones, etc.

Note that staggering does not make any changes to the indexing of a grid function: the black solid circles in diagram B7.2 and their associated staggered grid functions (connected by arrows) have the same index!

Since the grid function does not “know” anything about the physical location (it’s only addressed by indices) why add staggering if the indexing is the same?

Indeed, you could roll your own, but there compelling reasons: Readability and the fact that you are able to query the staggetype of a grid function. More important: in the way the grid is laid out, there is one grid point *less* for M and P staggered grid functions. This is illustrated in picture B7.2, which shows 15 gridpoints distributed across 3 processors. The solid black circles show the default location of the grid functions, the grey circles depict the ghostzones. Note that the number of center staggered gridpoints (fat crosses) corresponds to the number of default gridpoints on all processors but the last one. (The same is true for full staggered gridpoints).

Staggetypes

The string specifying the staggering is encoded in a number called the *staggerindex*. With the 3 supported staggerings, the string is converted into a base 3 number. Several routines exist to extract the staggering in a specific direction, called *directional staggerindex*. E.g. `stagger = MCM`: *staggerindex* = 3, in the *x*-direction: *directional staggerindex* = `CCTK_STAGGER_M` (value 0), in the *y*-direction: *directional staggerindex* = `CCTK_STAGGER_C` (value 1).

<code>CCTK_STAGGER_M</code>	value used for M-type staggering
<code>CCTK_STAGGER_C</code>	value used for C-type staggering
<code>CCTK_STAGGER_P</code>	value used for P-type staggering
<code>CCTK_NO_STAGGER</code>	value to indicate no staggering
<code>CCTK_STAGGER</code>	value to indicate staggering
<code>CCTK_NSTAGGER</code>	number of coded staggerings (3)

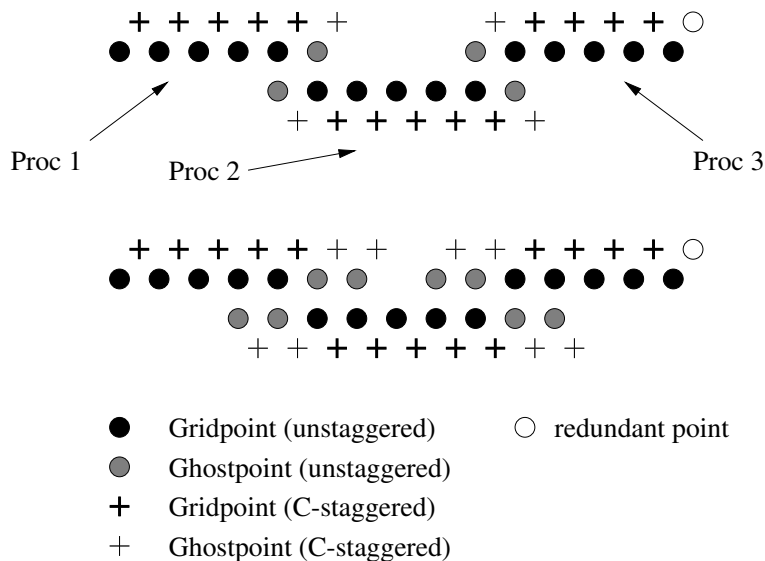


Figure B7.2: **Unstaggered and center-staggered gridpoints** with ghostzone size of one (above) and two (below). The points are distributed across three processors. Note that the number of center staggered gridpoints (fat crosses) is one less on the outermost grid. How to treat this case in a easy way is explained below.

When a thorn programmer uses staggered gridpoints, he has to be aware of this gridpoint anomaly. This can be done most easily by using the `CCTL_LSSH(<dir_staggertype>,<direction>)` macro. For a given staggertype and direction, this 2d array returns the local number of gridpoints, including ghostzones and the necessary change for the staggering on the outermost processor.

`CCTL_LSSH(<dir_staggertype>,<direction>)`

for a given staggertype and a direction this macro returns the number of processor local gridpoints, including ghostzones.

- macro has to be in capital letters
- This macro is C/Fortran indexing aware: can specify the dimension in C ranging from 0... and in Fortran ranging from 1....

Several functions exist to derive the staggertype for a given group and for a certain direction.

```
int CCTL_GroupStaggerIndexGI(int group_index)
```

```
call CCTL_GroupStaggerIndexGI(int staggerindex, int group_index)
```

returns the *staggerindex* for a given group index.

```
int CCTL_GroupStaggerIndexGN(char *group_name)
```

```
call CCTL_GroupStaggerIndexGN(int staggerindex, char *group_name)
```

returns the *staggerindex* for a given group name.

```
int CCTK_StaggerIndex(char *stagger_string)
```

```
call CCTK_StaggerIndex(int staggerindex, char *stagger_string)
    return the staggerindex for a given stagger string.
```

```
int CCTK_DirStaggerIndex(int direction, char *stagger_string)
```

```
call CCTK_DirStaggerIndex(int dir_staggerindex, int direction, char *stagger_string)
    returns the directional staggerindex for a given direction and stagger string.
```

```
int CCTK_DirStaggerIndexI(int direction, char *stagger_type)
```

```
call CCTK_DirStaggerIndexI(int dir_direction, char *stagger_type)
    returns the directional staggerindex for a given direction and staggerindex.
```

B7.3 Parallelisation

The Flesh itself does not actually set up grid variables. This is done by a *driver* thorn. To allow the distribution of a grid over a number of processors, the driver thorn must also provide the grid decomposition, and routines to enable parallelisation. The method used to provide this parallelisation (e.g. MPI, PVM) is not usually important for the thorn writer since the driver thorn provides routines which are called by standard interfaces from the Flesh. Here we describe briefly the most important of these routines for the application thorn writer. A more detailed description of these interfaces with their arguments, is given in the Reference Manual. A complete description of the routines a driver thorn must provide will be provided in the Infrastructure Thorn Writers guide (Part [D](#)). The standard driver thorn is currently PUGH in the CactusPUGH package, which is a parallel unigrid driver.

CCTK_nProcs	Returns the number of processors being used
CCTK_MyProc	Returns the processor number (this starts at processor number zero)
CCTK_SyncGroup, CCTK_SyncGroupsI	Synchronises either a single group or a set of groups of grid arrays by exchanging the values held in each processor ghostzones with the physical values of their neighbours (see the Reference Manual)
CCTK_Barrier	Waits for all processors to reach this point before proceeding

Chapter B8

Cactus Application Interfaces

B8.1 Coordinates

The Flesh provides utility routines for registering and querying coordinate information. The Flesh does not provide any coordinates itself, these must be supplied by a thorn. Thorns are not required to register coordinates to the Flesh, but registering coordinates provides a means for infrastructure thorns to make use of coordinate information.

Coordinate support is still being developed in the Cactus Flesh. At the moment, it is assumed that coordinates will usually be grid functions.

Coordinates are grouped into *coordinate systems*, which have a specified dimension. Any number of coordinate systems can be registered with the Flesh, and a coordinate system must be registered before any coordinates can be registered, since they must be associated with their corresponding system. Coordinates can be registered, with any chosen name, with an existing coordinate system, along with their direction or index in the coordinate system. Optionally, the coordinate can also be associated with a given grid variable. A separate call can register the global range for a coordinate on a given grid hierarchy.

Following conventions for coordinate system and coordinate names provides a means for other thorns to use the physical properties of coordinate systems, without being tied to a particular thorn.

A registered coordinate system can be referred to by either its name or an associated integer known as a *handle*. Passing a handle instead of the name string may be necessary for calling C routines from Fortran.

B8.1.1 Registering Coordinates and Coordinate Properties

The APIs described in this section are deprecated, and will probably be phased out fairly soon. New code should use the APIs provided by the CoordBase thorn instead (this lives in the CactusBase arrangement).

Coordinate systems and their properties can be registered at any time with the Flesh. The registration utilities for thorns providing coordinates are:

CCTK_CoordRegisterSystem

Assigns a coordinate system with a chosen name and dimension. For example, a 3-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system could be registered with the name `cart3d` using the call from C

```
int ierr;
int dim=3;
ierr = CCTK_CoordRegisterSystem(dim,"cart3d");
```

CCTK_CoordRegisterData

Defines a coordinate in a given coordinate system, with a given direction and name, and optionally associates it to a grid variable. The directions of the coordinates range from 1 to the dimension of the coordinate system. For example, to register the grid variable `grid::y3d` to have the coordinate name `y` in the `cart3d` system

```
int ierr;
int dir=2;
ierr = CCTK_CoordRegisterData(dir,"grid::y3d","y","cart3d");
```

CCTK_CoordRegisterRange

Assigns the global computational maximum and minimum for a coordinate on a grid hierarchy, that is in a `cctkGH`. At this time the maximum and minimum values have to be of type `CCTK_REAL`. For example, if the `y` coordinate for the `cart3d` system ranges between zero and one

```
CCTK_REAL lower=0;
CCTK_REAL upper=1;
int ierr;
ierr = CCTK_CoordRegisterRange(cctkGH, lower, upper, -1, "y", "cart3d");
```

Note that the API allows either the coordinate name or the direction to be used, so that the following is also valid

```
CCTK_REAL lower=0;
CCTK_REAL upper=1;
int ierr;
ierr = CCTK_CoordRegisterRange(cctkGH, lower, upper, 2, NULL, "cart3d");
```

CCTK_CoordRegisterPhysIndex

Implementing such things as symmetry properties for a grid leads to the need to know the details of the *physical* section of a grid. Such information is typically needed by IO thorns. The following call illustrates how to register the indices 3 and 25 as supplying the physical range of the `y` coordinate in the `cart3d` system

```
int loweri=3;
int upperi=25;
int ierr;
ierr = CCTK_CoordRegisterPhysIndex(cctkGH, loweri, upperi, -1, "y", "cart3d");
```

B8.1.2 Using Coordinates

The APIs described in this section are deprecated, and will probably be phased out fairly soon. New code should use the APIs provided by the `CoordBase` thorn instead (this lives in the `CactusBase` arrangement).

The utilities for thorns using coordinates are:

CCTK_NumCoordSystems

Returns the number of coordinate systems registered with the Flesh. For example,

```
int num;
num = CCTK_NumCoordSystems();
```

CCTK_CoordSystemName

Provides the name of a registered coordinate system, given the integer handle (or index) for the system in the Flesh's coordinate data base. Note that the handle ranges between zero and the number of coordinate systems minus one: $0 \leq \text{handle} \leq \text{CCTK_NumCoordSystems}() - 1$. It is important to remember that the handle given to a coordinate system depends on the order in which systems are registered, and can be different from one simulation to the next.

For example, to print the names of all registered coordinate systems:

```
for (i=0; i<CCTK_NumCoordSystems(); i++)
    printf("%s ",CCTK_CoordSystemName(i));
```

CCTK_CoordSystemDim

Provides the dimension of a coordinate system. For example, if the `cart3d` system was registered as having 3 dimensions, the variable `dim` below will now be set to 3,

```
int dim;
dim = CCTK_CoordSystemDim("cart3d");
```

CCTK_CoordSystemHandle

Provides the integer handle for a given coordinate system name. The handle describes the index for the coordinate system in the Flesh coordinate database, and its value will range between zero and the number of registered systems minus one. For example, the handle for the `cart3d` coordinate system can be found using

```
int handle;
handle = CCTK_CoordSystemHandle("cart3d");
```

CCTK_CoordSystemName

The inverse to the previous function call, this provides the name for a given coordinate system handle. For example to find the first coordinate system in the Flesh database

```
int handle = 0;
const char *name = CCTK_CoordSystemName(handle);
```

CCTK_CoordIndex

Provides the grid variable index for a given coordinate. Note that it is not necessary for a registered coordinate to have an associated grid variable, and if no such grid variable is found a negative integer will be returned. For example, to find the grid variable index associated with the `y` coordinate of the `cart3d` system, either of the two following calls could be made

```
int index;
index = CCTK_CoordIndex(2,NULL,"cart3d");
```

	<pre>int index; index = CCTK_CoordIndex(-1,"y","cart3d");</pre>
CCTK_CoordDir	<p>Provides the direction for a given coordinate. Directions are integers ranging from one to the number of dimensions for the coordinate system. For example, to return the direction of the y coordinate in the <code>cart3d</code> system</p> <pre>int dir; dir = CCTK_CoordDir("y","cart3d");</pre> <p>The return of a negative integer indicates that the coordinate direction could not be found.</p>
CCTK_CoordRange	<p>Provides the global range (that is, the minimum and maximum values across the complete grid) of a coordinate on a given grid hierarchy. Currently the minimum and maximum values must be of type <code>CCTK_REAL</code>. The coordinate can be specified either by name or by its direction. Note that this call takes the <i>addresses</i> of the minimum and maximum values. For example, the range of the y coordinate of the <code>cart3d</code> coordinate system can be found using</p> <pre>CCTK_REAL lower, upper; int ierr; ierr = CCTK_CoordRange(cctkGH, &lower, &upper, -1, "y", "cart3d");</pre> <p>or alternatively, using the direction</p> <pre>CCTK_REAL lower, upper; int ierr; ierr = CCTK_CoordRange(cctkGH, &lower, &upper, 2, NULL, "cart3d");</pre>
CCTK_CoordLocalRange	<p>Provides the local range of a coordinate on a processor for a given grid hierarchy. WARNING: This utility only currently works for regular cartesian grids. For example, the local processor range of the y coordinate of the <code>cart3d</code> coordinate system can be found using</p> <pre>CCTK_REAL lower, upper; int ierr; ierr = CCTK_CoordLocalRange(cctkGH, &lower, &upper, -1, "y", "cart3d");</pre> <p>or alternatively, using the direction</p> <pre>CCTK_REAL lower, upper; int ierr; ierr = CCTK_CoordLocalRange(cctkGH, &lower, &upper, 2, NULL, "cart3d");</pre>
CCTK_CoordRangePhysIndex	<p>For a given coordinate, provides the indices describing the <i>physical</i> range of the coordinate. A negative return value signifies that no such range was registered for the coordinate.</p> <p>This index range provides a mechanism for describing grid points which should not be considered part of the simulation results (for example, grid points used for different boundary conditions). The physical range of the y coordinate of the <code>cart3d</code> system can be found using</p>

```
int ilower, iupper;
int ierr;
ierr = CCTK_CoordRangePhysIndex(cctkGH,&ilower,&iupper, -1, "y", "cart3d");
```

or using the coordinate direction

```
int ilower, iupper;
int ierr;
ierr = CCTK_CoordRangePhysIndex(cctkGH,&ilower,&iupper, 2, NULL, "cart3d");
```

CCTK_CoordSystemImplementation

This call returns the name of the implementation which registered a coordinate system. Note that there is no guarantee that a thorn which registered a coordinate system is the same thorn which registers each of the coordinates in the system, although this should usually be the case.

B8.2 IO

To allow flexible IO, the *Flesh* itself does not provide any output routines, however it provides a mechanism for thorns to register different routines as IO methods (see chapter D8). Application thorns can interact with the different IO methods through the following function calls:

CCTK_OutputGH (const cGH *GH)

This call loops over all registered IO methods, calling the routine that each method has registered for `OutputGH`. The expected behaviour of any `OutputGH` routine is to loop over all GH variables outputting them if the IO method contains appropriate routines (that is, not all methods will supply routines to output all different types of variables) and if the method decides it is an appropriate time to output.

CCTK_OutputVar (const cGH *GH, const char *varname)

Output a variable `varname` looping over all registered IO methods. `varname` may have an optional I/O options string appended. The output should take place if at all possible. If output goes into a file and the appropriate file exists the data is appended, otherwise a new file is created.

CCTK_OutputVarAs (const cGH *GH, const char *varname, const char *alias)

Output a variable `varname` looping over all registered IO methods. `varname` may have an optional I/O options string appended. The output should take place if at all possible. If output goes into a file and the appropriate file exists the data is appended, otherwise a new file is created. Uses `alias` as the name of the variable for the purpose of constructing a filename.

CCTK_OutputVarByMethod (const cGH *GH, const char *varname, const char *methodname)

Output a variable `varname` using the IO method `methodname` if it is registered. `varname` may have an optional I/O options string appended. The output should take place if at all possible. If output goes into a file and the appropriate file exists the data is appended, otherwise a new file is created.

CCTK_OutputVarAsByMethod (const cGH *GH, const char *varname, const char *methodname, const char *alias)

Output a variable `varname` using the IO method `methodname` if it is registered. `varname` may have an optional I/O options string appended. The output should take place if at all possible. If output goes into a file and the appropriate file exists the data is appended, otherwise a new file is created. Uses `alias` as the name of the variable for the purpose of constructing a filename.

B8.3 Interpolation Operators

The Flesh does not provide interpolation routines by itself. Instead it offers a general function API to thorns for the registration and invocation of interpolation operators.

There are two different Flesh APIs for interpolation, depending on whether the data arrays are Cactus grid arrays or processor-local, programming language built-in arrays, and on what assumptions are made about the topology and spacing of the grid (these descriptions are for 3-D, but the generalizations to other numbers of dimensions should be obvious):

`CCTK_InterpGridArrays()`

Interpolates Cactus grid arrays, with the topology of the grid implicitly specified by a Cactus coordinate system.

This API doesn't provide an interpolation functionality itself, it only takes care of the interprocessor communication necessary when interpolating distributed grid arrays, and invokes the `CCTK_InterpLocalUniform()` API on the each processor's local patch of the data.

`CCTK_InterpLocalUniform()`

Interpolates processor-local arrays with *uniformly* spaced data points, i.e. where the coordinates xyz are related to the integer array subscripts ijk by *linear* functions

$$x = \text{origin}_x + \text{delta}_x i$$

$$y = \text{origin}_y + \text{delta}_y j$$

$$z = \text{origin}_z + \text{delta}_z k$$

where the caller specifies the `origin` and `delta` values.

The Flesh provides an API to register local interpolation operators:

`CCTK_InterpRegisterOpLocalUniform()`

Register a `CCTK_InterpLocalUniform()` interpolation operator

This is described in detail in the Reference Manual.

Each local interpolation operator is registered under a character string name; at registration the name is mapped to a unique integer handle which may be used to refer to the operator. `CCTK_InterpHandle()` is used to get the handle corresponding to a given character string name.

B8.4 Reduction Operators

A reduction operation can be defined as an operation on variables distributed across multiple processor resulting in a single number. Typical reduction operations are: sum, minimum/maximum value, boolean operations. A typical application is, for example, finding the maximum reduction from processor local error estimates, therefor making the previous processor local error known to all processors.

The exchange of information across processors needs the functionality of a communication layer e.g. `CactusPUGH/PUGH`. For this reason, the reduction operation itself is not part of the flesh, instead Cactus (again) provides a registration mechanism for thorns to register routines they provide as reduction operators. The different operators are identified by their name and/or a unique number, called a *handle*.

The registration mechanism gives the advantage of a common interface while hiding the individual communication calls in the layer.

In Cactus, reduction operators can be applied to grid functions, arrays and scalars, as well as to local arrays. Note that different implementations of reduction operators may be limited in the objects they can be applied to. There is a fundamental difference between the reduction operation on grid functions and quantities as arrays.

Currently the Flesh supports the new and old reduction specification. The old APIs will be deprecated in the next beta cycle in favour of the new specification.

New Reduction Specification API documentation

In the new reduction specification, there are two different Flesh APIs for reduction, depending on whether the data arrays are Cactus grid arrays or processor-local, programming language built-in arrays, and on what assumptions are made about the topology and spacing of the grid (these descriptions are for 3-D, but the generalisations to other numbers of dimensions should be obvious):

CCTK_ReduceGridArrays()

Reduces Cactus grid arrays, with the topology of the grid implicitly specified by a Cactus coordinate system.

This API doesn't provide a reduction functionality itself, it only takes care of the interprocessor communication necessary when reducing distributed grid arrays, and invokes the `CCTK_ReduceLocalArrays()` API on the each processor's local patch of the data.

CCTK_ReduceLocalArrays()

Reduces processor-local arrays with various options including *offsets*, *strides* and *masks*.

The Flesh provides an API to register local reduction operators:

CCTK_RegisterLocalArrayReductionOperator()

Register a `CCTK_ReduceLocalArrays()` interpolation operator

This is described in detail in the Reference Manual.

Each local reduction operator is registered under a character string name; at registration the name is mapped to a unique integer handle which may be used to refer to the operator. `CCTK_LocalArrayReductionHandle()` is used to get the handle corresponding to a given character string name.

Old Reduction Specification API documentation

Obtaining the reduction handle

Before calling the routine which performs the reduction operation, the handle, which identifies the operation must be derived from its registered name.

```
int CCTK_ReductionHandle(const char *reduction_name);
```

```
integer      reduction_handle
character*(*) reduction_name
call CCTK_ReductionHandle(reduction_handle, reduction_name)
```

```
int CCTK_ReductionArrayHandle(const char *reduction_name);
```

```
integer      reduction_handle
character*(*) reduction_name
call CCTK_ReductionArrayHandle(reduction_handle, reduction_name)
```

reduction_handle In Fortran the name of the variable will contain the handle value after the call. In C this value is the function value.

reduction_name is the name under which the operator has been registered by the providing thorn. The only thorn in the standard Computational Toolkit release which provides reduction operators is **CactusPUGH/PUGHReduce**.

error checking negative handle value indicates failure to identify the correct operator.

Get a integer handle corresponding to a given reduction operator. The operator is identified by the name it was registered with. (Note that although it would appear to be far more convenient to pass the name of the reduction operator directly to the following function call to **CCTK_Reduce** this causes problems with the translation of strings from **FORTTRAN** to **C** with variable argument lists).

The general reduction interface The main interfaces for reduction operations are quite powerful (and hence rather complicated) To ease the use of these main interfaces, wrappers designed for specific and more restricted use are described below. If uncertain, you should use these.

```
int CCTK_Reduce(  cGH *GH,
                  int proc,
                  int operation_handle,
                  int num_out_vals,
                  int type_out_vals,
                  void *out_vals,
                  int num_in_fields,
                  ...);
```

```
call CCTK_Reduce( int returnvalue,
                  cctkGH,
                  int processor,
                  int operation_handle,
                  int num_out_vals,
                  int type_out_vals,
                  out_vals,
                  int num_in_fields,
                  ... )
```

```

int CCTK_ReduceArray( cGH *GH,
                     int proc,
                     int operation_handle,
                     int num_out_vals,
                     int type_out_vals,
                     void *out_vals,
                     int num_dims,
                     int num_in_arrays,
                     int type_in_arrays,
                     ... )

```

```

call CCTK_ReduceArray(int returnvalue,
                     cctkGH,
                     int processor,
                     int operation_handle,
                     int num_out_vals,
                     int type_out_arrays,
                     void out_vals,
                     int num_dims,
                     int num_in_arrays,
                     int type_in_arrays,
                     ... )

```

int returnvalue the return value of the operation. negative value indicates failure to perform reduction. Zero indicates successful operation.

cctkGH in Fortran the pointer to the grid hierarchy structure. Cannot be used within Fortran but can be used from within C. Since this name is fixed write it out shown above.

cGH *GH in the C the pointer to the grid hierarchy.

int processor the processor which collects the information, negative value (−1) will distribute the data to all processors.

int operation_handle the number of the reduction operation handle, needs to be found by calling `CCTK_ReductionHandle` or `CCTK_ReductionArrayHandle`.

int num_out_vals integer defining the number of ??

int type_out_arrays, type_in_arrays specifies the type of the gridfunction you are communicating. Use the values as specified in [B10.8](#). Note: do not *mix* datatypes: e.g. in Fortran do not declare a variable as `integer` and then specify the type `CCTK_VARIABLE_INT` in the reduction command. These types need not be the same on some architectures and will conflict.

out_vals

int num_in_fields specifies the number of to follow

... indicates a variable argument list: specify the size of the array in each dimension, comma separated numbers or integer variables. Specify the arrays which will be reduced, the number of specified arrays must be the same as the value of the `num_in_fields` variable.

error checking a return value other than zero indicates failure to perform the operation.

Special reduction interfaces

The routines are designed for the purpose of reducing scalars, arrays and grid functions. They hide many of the options of the generic interface described above.

Reduction of local scalars across multiple processors, the result of the reduction operation will be on the specified processor or on all processors.

```
int CCTK_ReduceLocScalar (const cGH *GH,
                          int processor,
                          int operation_handle,
                          void *in_scalar,
                          void *out_scalar,
                          int data_type)
```

```
call CCTK_ReduceLocScalar(int returnvalue,
                          cctkGH,
                          int processor,
                          int operation_handle,
                          in_scalar,
                          out_scalar,
                          int data_type)
```

in_scalar the processor local variable with local value to be reduced

out_scalar the reduction result: a processor local variable with the global value (same on all procs) if **processor** has been set to -1 . Otherwise **processor** will hold the reduction result.

data_type specifies the type of the gridfunction you are communicating. Use the values as specified in [B10.8](#).

Reduction of local 1d arrays to a local arrays, this reduction is carried out element by element. The arrays need to have the same size on all processors.

```
int CCTK_ReduceLocArrayToArray1D( const cGH *GH,
                                   int processor,
                                   int operation_handle,
                                   void *in_array1d,
                                   void *out_array1d,
                                   int xsize,
                                   int data_type)
```

```
call CCTK_ReduceLocArrayToArray1D(int returnvalue
                                   cctkGH,
                                   int processor,
```

```

    int operation_handle,
    in_array1d,
    out_array1d,
    int xsize,
    int data_type)

```

in_array1d one dimensional local arrays, to be reduced across a processors, element by element.

out_array1d array holding the reduction result. `out_array1d[1] = Reduction(in_array[1])`.

xsize the size of the one dimensional array.

Reduction of local 2d arrays to a local 2d array, this reduction is carried out element by element. The arrays need to have the same size on all processors.

```

int CCTK_ReduceLocArrayToArray2D( const cGH *GH,
    int processor,
    int operation_handle,
    in_array_2d,
    out_array2d,
    int xsize,
    int ysize,
    int data_type)

```

```

call CCTK_ReduceLocArrayToArray2D( int returnvalue
    cctkGH,
    int processor,
    int operation_handle,
    in_array2d,
    out_array2d,
    int xsize,
    int ysize,
    int data_type)

```

in_array1d two dimensional local arrays, to be reduced across a processors, element by element.

out_array1d two dimensional array holding the reduction result. `out_array2d[i,j]= Reduction(in_array2d[i,j])`.

xsize the size of the one dimensional array in x direction.

ysize the size of the one dimensional array in y direction.

Reduction of local 3d arrays to a local 3d array, this reduction is carried out element by element. The arrays need to have the same size on all processors.

```

int CCTK_ReduceLocArrayToArray3D(const cGH *GH,
    int processor,

```

```

        int opertaion_handle,
        in_array_3d,
        out_array3d,
        int xsize,
        int ysize,
        int zsize,
        int data_type)

call CCTK_ReduceLocArrayToArray3D(int returnvalue
        cctkGH,
        int processor,
        int operation_handle,
        in_array3d,
        out_array3d,
        int xsize,
        int ysize,
        int zsize,
        int data_type)

```

<code>in_array3d</code>	two dimensional local arrays, to be reduced across a processors, element by element.
<code>out_array3d</code>	two dimensional array holding the reduction result. <code>out_array3d[i,j,k]= Reduction(in_array3d[i,j,k])</code> .
<code>xsize</code>	the size of the one dimensional array in x direction.
<code>ysize</code>	the size of the one dimensional array in y direction.
<code>zsize</code>	the size of the one dimensional array in z direction.

Some brief examples:

Reduction of a local scalars: a local error is reduced across all processors with the maximum operation. The variable `tmp` will hold the maximum of the error and is the same on all processors. This quantity can then be reassigned to `normerr`.

```

CCTK_REAL normerr, tmp
integer ierr, reduction_handle

call CCTK_ReductionArrayHandle(reduction_handle,"maximum")

if (reduction_handle.lt.0) then
    call CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ALERT, "Cannot get reduction handle for maximum operation.")
endif

call CCTK_ReduceLocScalar(ierr, cctkGH, -1,
    .      reduction_handle,
    .      normerr, tmp, CCTK_VARIABLE_REAL)
if (ierr.ne.0) then
    call CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ALERT, "Reduction of norm failed!");
endif
normerr = tmp

```

Reduction of a local 2d array: a two dimensional array (2x3) is reduced, reduction results (array of same size: bla_tmp) is seen on all processors (-1 entry as the third argument); also demonstrates some simple error checking with the CCTKi_EXPECTOK macro.

```
CCTK_REAL bla(2,3),bla_tmp(2,3);
integer ierr, sum_handle

call CCTK_ReductionArrayHandle(sum_handle,"sum")
bla      = 1.0d0
write (*,*) "BLA ",bla

call CCTK_ReduceLocArrayToArray2D(ierr, cctkGH, -1, sum_handle,
.    bla, bla_tmp, 2, 3, CCTK_VARIABLE_REAL)
call CCTKi_EXPECTOK(ierr, 0, 1, "2D Reduction failed")

bla = bla_tmp
write (*,*) "BLA ",bla
```

Note that the memory for the returned values must be allocated before the reduction call is made.

Chapter B9

Completing a Thorn

B9.1 Commenting Source Code

Note that since most source files (see Section B3.4 for exceptions) pass through a C preprocessor, C style comments can be used in Fortran code. (Note that C++ comments (that is ones starting with “//”), should only be used in C++ source code).

The Flesh and the Cactus thorns use the `grdoc` Code Documenting System (<http://jean-luc.aei.mpg.de/Codes/grdoc/>) to document source code.

B9.2 Providing Runtime Information

To write from thorns to standard output (*i.e.* the screen) at runtime, use the macro `CCTK_INFO` or the function `CCTK_VInfo()`.

For example, from the Fortran thorn `MyThorn`,

```
call CCTK_INFO("Starting Tricky Calculation")
```

will write the line:

```
INFO (MyThorn): Starting Tricky Calculation
```

For a multiprocessor run, only runtime information from processor zero will be printed to screen by default. The standard output of other processors will usually be discarded unless the “-r” command line option is used (Section A3.1).

Note that the routine `CCTK_VInfo()` can only be called from C because Fortran doesn’t know about variable argument lists. So including variables in the info message using `CCTK_INFO` is currently more tricky, since you need to build the string to be output.

For example, in C you would just write

```
int myint;

CCTK_VInfo(CCTK_THORNSTRING, "The integer is %d", myint);
```

But in Fortran you have to do the following:

```
integer          myint
character*200 message

write (message, '("The integer is ",i4)') myint
call CCTK_INFO (message)
```

In Fortran 90, you can also do:

```
integer          myint
character(200) message

write (message, '("The integer is ",i4)') myint
call CCTK_INFO (message)
```

Note that:

- `CCTK_INFO` is just a macro which expands to a call to the internal function `CCTK_Info()` and automatically includes the thorn name in function call.
- `CCTK_INFO` should be used rather than print statements, since it will give consistent behaviour on multiprocessors, and also provides a mechanism for switching the output to screen on and off, even on a thorn-by-thorn basis. (Although this is not yet implemented).

B9.3 Error handling, warnings and code termination

The Cactus function `CCTK_VWarn()` and its accompanying `CCTK_WARN` macro should be used to issue warning messages during code execution.

Along with the warning message, an integer is given to indicate the severity of the warning. Only warnings with severity levels less than or equal to the global Cactus warning level threshold¹ will be printed. A level 0 warning indicates the highest severity (and is guaranteed to abort the Cactus run), while larger numbers indicate less severe warnings. The global Cactus warning level threshold defaults to 1, i.e. level 1 warnings are printed, but level 2 and higher are not printed.

The severity level may actually be any integer, and a lot of existing code uses bare “magic number” integers for warning levels, but to help standardize warning levels across thorns, new code should probably use one of the following macros, defined in `"cctk_WarnLevel.h"` (which is `#included` by `"cctk.h"`):

```
#define CCTK_WARN_ABORT    0    /* abort the Cactus run */
```

¹As discussed in section [A3.1](#) of this manual, the Cactus warning level threshold is set with the `-W` or `-warning-level` command-line option when running Cactus; see section [A3.1](#).

```

#define CCTK_WARN_ALERT      1      /* the results of this run will probably */
                                     /* be wrong, but this isn't quite certain, */
                                     /* so we're not going to abort the run */
#define CCTK_WARN_COMPLAIN  2      /* the user should know about this, but */
                                     /* the results of this run are probably ok */
#define CCTK_WARN_PICKY     3      /* this is for small problems that can */
                                     /* probably be ignored, but that careful */
                                     /* people may want to know about */
#define CCTK_WARN_DEBUG     4      /* these messages are probably useful */
                                     /* only for debugging purposes */

```

For example, to provide a warning for a serious problem, which indicates that the results of the run are quite likely wrong, and which will be printed to the screen by default, a level `CCTK_WARN_ALERT` warning should be used.

The syntax from Fortran is

```
call CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ALERT, "Your warning message")
```

and from C

```
CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ALERT, "Your warning message");
```

Note that `CCTK_WARN` is just a macro which expands to a call to an internal function. The macro automatically includes the thorn name and the source code file name and line number in the message.² (For this reason it is important for Fortran code that capital letters are always used in order to expand the macro.)

If the Flesh parameter `cctk_full_warnings` is set to true, then the source file name and line number will be printed to standard error along with the originating processor number, the thorn name and the warning message. The default is to omit the source file name and line number.

Note that the routine `CCTK_VWarn()` can only be called from C because Fortran doesn't know about variable argument lists. So including variables in the warning message using `CCTK_WARN` is currently more tricky, since you need to build the string to be output.

For example, in C you would just write

```

int    myint;
double myreal;

CCTK_VWarn(CCTK_WARN_ALERT, __LINE__, __FILE__, CCTK_THORNSTRING,
           "Your warning message, including %f and %d",
           myreal, myint);

```

But in Fortran you have to do the following:

²In calling `CCTK_VWarn()` you need to provide this information yourself. Cactus provides the macro `CCTK_THORNSTRING` which is the character-string name of the current thorn. In C, you can get the source file name and line number from the predefined preprocessor macros `__FILE__` and `__LINE__` respectively. In Fortran you're out of luck. :(

```

integer      myint
real         myreal
character*200 message

write (message, '("Your warning message, including ",g12.7," and ",i8)') myreal, myint
call CCTK_WARN (CCTK_WARN_ALERT, message)

```

In Fortran 90, you can also do:

```

integer myint
real myreal
character(200) message

write (message, '("Your warning message, including ",g12.7," and ",i8)') myreal, myint
call CCTK_WARN (CCTK_WARN_ALERT, message)

```

Besides the default methods to handle warning and information messages, the *Flesh* also implements a callback scheme to let thorn writers get information and warning messages as they are produced. ³

For warning messages, a function with the following prototype

```

void my_warnfunc(int level,
                 int line,
                 const char *file,
                 const char *thorn,
                 const char *message,
                 void *data);

```

should be implemented and then registered with

```

CCTK_WarnCallbackRegister(int minlevel,
                          int maxlevel,
                          void *data,
                          cctk_warnfunc my_warnfunc);

```

The data pointer can be used to pass arbitrary information to the registered function, e.g. a file descriptor or a format string.

Multiple functions can be registered as above; when `CCTK_VWarn()` is called, all the registered functions will be called if the warning is within the minimum and maximum levels indicated.

The basic procedure is exactly the same for information messages.

A function registered for information messages will look like

```

void my_infofunc(const char *thorn,
                 const char *message,
                 void *data);

```

³These functions can, for the moment, only be used from C.

while the registration function looks like

```
CCTK_InfoCallbackRegister(void *data, cctk_infofunc my_infofunc);
```

B9.4 Adding documentation

Documentation is a vital part of your thorn, helping to ensure its ease of use and longevity, not only for others but also for the thorn authors. Although any kind of independent documentation can be added to a thorn (ideally in the `doc` directory), there are two standard places for adding thorn documentation, a `README` and a file `doc/documentation.tex` for including in Thorn Guides.

B9.4.1 README

The `README`, in the top level of a thorn, should contain brief and essential details about the thorn, such as the authors, any copyright details, and a synopsis of what the thorn does.

B9.4.2 Contribution to Thorn Guide

The LaTeX file `doc/documentation.tex` is included in Thorn Guides built by the Cactus make system. (e.g. by `gmake <config>-ThornGuide`). Ideally this file should contain complete (and *up-to-date*) details about the thorn, exactly what is relevant is for the authors to decide, but remember that the Cactus make system automatically parses the thorn CCL files to include information about all parameters, variables and scheduling. Suggested sections include:

- **model** A description of the system which the thorn is modelling, including the equations etc. which are being solved or implemented.
- **numerical implementation** Details about how the model is numerically implemented in the thorn.
- **using the thorn** Any special details needed for using the thorn, tricky parameters, particular operating systems or additional required software, interactions with other thorns and examples of use.
- **history** Here is where you should describe why the thorn was written, any previous software or experience which was made use of, the authors of the thorn source code and documentation, how to get hold of the thorn etc.
- **references** A bibliography can be included, referencing papers published using or about this thorn, or additional information about the model or numerics used.

A LaTeX template for the Thorn Guide documentation can be found in the Flesh distribution at

`doc/ThornGuide/template.tex`,

this file is automatically copied to the correct location in a new thorn which is created with `gmake newthorn`.

Since Cactus scripts need to parse this documentation, and since the LaTeX document should be consistent across all thorns included in a Thorn Guide, please follow the guidelines below when filling in the documentation:

- Use the Cactus Thorn Guide style file, located in the Flesh distribution at `doc/latex/cactus.sty`. This should be included using a relative link, so that updates to the style file are applied to all thorns.

```
\usepackage{../../../../../doc/latex/cactus}
```

- Aside from the `date`, `author`, and `title` fields, all of the documentation to be included in a Thorn Guide should be placed between the lines

```
% START CACTUS THORNGUIDE
```

```
and
```

```
% END CACTUS THORNGUIDE
```

- The command `\def` can be used to define macros, but all such definitions must lie between the `START` and `END` line. Do not redefine any standard LaTeX command
- Do not use the `\appendix` command, instead include any appendices you have as standard sections.
- Currently we only support PostScript (`.eps` or `.ps`) figures. Graphics figures should be included using the `\includegraphics` command (not `\epsfig`), with no file extension specified. For example,

```
\begin{figure}[ht]
  \begin{center}
    \includegraphics[width=6cm]{MyArrangement_MyThorn_MyFigure}
  \end{center}
  \caption{Illustration of this and that}
  \label{MyArrangement_MyThorn_MyLabel}
\end{figure}
```

- All **labels**, **citations**, **references**, and **graphic images** names should conform to the following guidelines: `ARRANGEMENT_THORN_LABEL`. For instance, if you arrangement is called `CactusWave`, your thorn `WaveToyC`, and your original image `blackhole.eps`, you should rename your image to be `CactusWave.WaveToyC_blackhole.eps`
- References should be formatted with the standard LaTeX **bibitem** command, for example, a bibliography section should look like:

```
\begin{thebibliography}{9}
  \bibitem{MyArrangement_MyThorn_Author99}
  {J. Author, \textit{The Title of the Book, Journal, or periodical}, 1 (1999),
  1--16. \url{http://www.nowhere.com/}}
\end{thebibliography}
```

B9.5 Adding a test suite

To add a test suite to your thorn, devise a series of parameter files which use as many aspects of your thorn as possible. Make sure that the parameter files produce ASCII output to files, and that these files are in the directory `./<parameter file base name>`.

Run Cactus on each of the parameter files, and move the parameter files, and the output directories they produced, to the `test` directory in your thorn.

Document carefully any situations or architectures in which your test suite does not give the correct answers.

You can also specify options for running your testsuite by adding an optional configuration file called `test.ccl` in the `test` directory. These are simple text files and may contain comments introduced by the hash `#` character, which indicates that the rest of the line is a comment. If the last non-blank character of a line in a config file is a backslash `\`, the following line is treated as a continuation of the current line. Options include test specific absolute and relative tolerances, thorn specific absolute and relative tolerances, the number of processors required to run, and file extensions. The configuration file has the form:

```
ABSTOL  <thorn_absolute_tolerance>
RELTOL  <thorn_relative_tolerance>
NPROCS  <thorn_nprocs>
EXTENSIONS  <extension_1 extension_2 extension_3>

TEST <test_example>
{
  ABSTOL <absolute_tol>
  RELTOL <relative_tol>
  NPROCS <nprocs>
}
```

which states that when comparing files of test `test_example`, `absolute_tol` and `relative_tol` should be used as the absolute and relative tolerances. For all other tests in the thorn, the default value of absolute and relative tolerances are set to `thorn_absolute_tolerance` and `thorn_relative_tolerance`. The `NPROCS` option specifies the number of processors required to run a given testsuite `test_example` or all testsuites of a thorn successfully. If no `NPROCS` option is present, the testsuite(s) are assumed to run with any number of processors. The `EXTENSIONS` option adds `extension_1`, `extension_2` and `extension_3` to the list of file extensions that are compared. This list is global over all tests in a configuration.

Test specific tolerances have precedence over all tolerances, next come thorn wide tolerances and then cactus default tolerances. Absolute and relative tolerances are independent: you can choose to use test specific absolute tolerance and thorn specific relative tolerance when running a test. For example,

```
TEST test_rad
{
  ABSTOL 1e-5
}

ABSTOL 1e-8
RELTOL 1e-12
```

would use an absolute tolerance of 10^{-5} and a relative tolerance of 10^{-12} when running `test_rad` and an absolute tolerance of 10^{-8} and a relative tolerance of 10^{-12} when running all other tests.

For details on running the test suites, see Section [A2.4](#).

B9.5.1 Best practices for test suites

When writing a test suite, there are a few things you should keep in mind:

- The test suite will be run together with many other test suites. It should therefore finish quickly (say, in under two minutes) and not use too much memory (so that it can run on a “normal” workstation).
- The test suite will be run automatically, often in situations where no one checks the screen output. All important output should be via grid variables that are written to files. Alternatively, if the test suite tests some low-level infrastructure, it may just abort the simulation if it fails; that will also be detected.
- Downloading many files is slow on many systems. A test suite should normally not have more than, say, hundred output files, and normally the output files should be small, so that there are not more than a few Megabytes of output files per test suite.
- The test suite output files should always be the same. That means that they should not contain no time stamps etc. It is therefore best to use the option `IO::out_fileinfo="none"`.
- Norms are unfortunately quite insensitive to changes to a few grid points only, even if the changes are significant. It is necessary to output grid point values directly, not only norms.
- Try to use as few thorns as possible in a test case. E.g., do not active 3D output thorns (unless you use it). The fewer thorns you use, the easier it is to run the test suite.
- It is not necessary that a test suite result is “physically correct”, or that it uses parameters that ensure a stable time evolution. A test suite will usually take only a few time steps, so that a grid size of e.g. 20^3 grid points *without* dissipation can be sufficient. Test suites cannot test whether the result of a simulation is physically feasible; they only test whether anything changed at all. Ensuring that the physics is still correct has to be handled by different mechanisms.

Chapter B10

Advanced Thorn Writing

B10.1 Using Cactus Timers

B10.1.1 What are timers?

Cactus provides a flexible mechanism for timing different sections of your thorns using various *clocks* which have been registered with the Flesh. By default, the Flesh provides two clocks that measure time in different ways (provided the underlying functionality is available on your system):

<code>GetTimeOfDay</code>	Provides “wall clock time” via the unix <code>gettimeofday</code> function.
<code>GetrUsage</code>	Provides CPU usage time via the unix <code>getrusage</code> function.

Additional clocks can be implemented by thorns and registered with the Flesh (see Chapter [D10](#)).

To use Cactus timing, you create a *timer*, which provides time information for all the registered clocks.

You can add any number of timers to your thorn source code, providing each with a name of your choice, and then use Cactus timing functions to switch on the timers, stop or reset them, and recover timing information.

Setting the Flesh parameter `cactus::cctk_timer_output = "full"` will cause some summary timing information to be printed at the end of a run. Some other thorns have their own timer printing parameters as well.

B10.1.2 Timing calls

Many of the timing calls come in two versions, one whose name ends with the letter **I** and one without. The calls whose names end with the letter **I** refer to the timer or clock by index, which is a non-negative `int` value; the other calls refer to a timer by name. If a timer is created without a name, it can be referred to only by its index, otherwise, it can be referred to by name or by index.

Typically, a negative return value from a timer function indicates an error.

<code>CCTK_TimerCreate</code> , <code>CCTK_TimerCreateI</code>	Create a timer with a given name, or with no name (respectively) and return a timer index or an error code. Negative return values indicate errors. Only one timer with a given name can exist at any given time.
<code>CCTK_TimerDestroy</code> , <code>CCTK_TimerDestroyI</code>	Reclaim resources used by a timer.
<code>CCTK_TimerStart</code> , <code>CCTK_TimerStartI</code>	Start the given timer, using all registered clocks.
<code>CCTK_TimerStop</code> , <code>CCTK_TimerStopI</code>	Stop the given timer on all registered clocks.
<code>CCTK_TimerReset</code> , <code>CCTK_TimerResetI</code>	Reset the given timer on all registered clocks.
<code>CCTK_TimerCreateData</code> , <code>CCTK_TimerDestroyData</code>	Allocate and reclaim (respectively) resources for a <code>cTimerData</code> structure, which will be used to hold clock values.
<code>CCTK_Timer</code> , <code>CCTK_TimerI</code>	Fill the given <code>cTimerData</code> structure with clock values as of the last call to <code>CCTK_TimerStop</code> .
<code>CCTK_NumTimers</code>	Return the number of created timers
<code>CCTK_TimerName</code>	Return the name of the timer for a given timer index (or NULL if the timer is unnamed or any other error occurs).
<code>CCTK_NumTimerClocks</code>	Take a pointer to <code>cTimerData</code> and return the number of clocks recorded in a timer measurement
<code>CCTK_GetClockValue</code> , <code>CCTK_GetClockValueI</code>	Given a clock referred to by name or index, respectively, and a <code>cTimerData</code> pointer, return a <code>cTimerVal</code> pointer representing the value of the clock when the timer was stopped
<code>CCTK_TimerClockName</code>	Return the name of the clock given by the <code>cTimerVal</code> pointer argument.
<code>CCTK_TimerClockResolution</code>	Return the floating-point value of the resolution in seconds of the clock referred to by the <code>cTimerVal</code> pointer argument. This is a lower bound for the smallest non-zero difference in values between calls of <code>CCTK_TimerClockSeconds</code> .
<code>CCTK_TimerClockSeconds</code>	Return the floating-point value of the measurement in seconds from the <code>cTimerVal</code> pointer argument.

B10.1.3 How to insert timers in your code

The function prototypes and structure definitions are contained in the include file `cctk.Timers.h`, which is included in the standard thorn header file `cctk.h`. At the moment the timer calls are only available from C.

The following example, which uses a timer to instrument a section of code, illustrates how timers are used by application thorns. A working example is available in the thorn `CactusTest/TestTimers`.

Creating a timer

The first action for any timer is to create it, using `CCTK_TimerCreate`. This can be performed at any time prior to use of the timer:

```
#include "cctk_Timers.h"
index = CCTK_TimerCreate("TimeMyStuff");
```

Instrumenting a section of code

Code sections are instrumented using the Start, Stop and Reset functions. These functions are applied to the chosen timer using all the registered clocks.

```
ierr = CCTK_TimerStart("TimeMyStuff");
do_procedure_to_be_timed();
ierr = CCTK_TimerStop("TimeMyStuff");
```

Accessing the timer results

After calling `CCTK_TimerStop`, you then get the time value from any of the registered clocks.

The procedure is to allocate a `cTimerData` structure, and read the information from your timer into this structure using `CCTK_Timer`, then to extract time data of the desired clock from this structure. After using the structure, you should destroy it.

```
cTimerData *info = CCTK_TimerCreateData();
int ierr = CCTK_Timer("TimeMyStuff",info);

/* You can refer to a particular clock by name. */
const cTimerVal *clock = CCTK_GetClockValue( "gettimeofday", info );
if( clock ){
    printf ("\t%s: %.3f %s\n", "gettimeofday",
            CCTK_TimerClockSeconds( clock ), "secs" );
}

/* To get results from all available clocks, refer to them by index.*/
nclocks = CCTK_NumTimerClocks( info );

for (i = 0; i < numclocks; i++) {
    const cTimerVal *clock = CCTK_GetClockValueI( i, info );
    printf ("\t%s: %.3f %s\n", CCTK_TimerClockName( clock ),
            CCTK_TimerClockSeconds( clock ), "secs" );
}
CCTK_TimerDestroyData (info);
```

B10.2 Include Files

Cactus provides a mechanism for thorns to add code to include files which can be used by any other thorn. Such include files can contain executable source code, or header/declaration information. A distinction

is made between these two cases, since included executable code is protected from being run if a thorn is compiled but not active by being wrapped by a call to `CCTK_IsThornActive`.

Any thorn which uses the include file must declare this in its `interface.ccl` with the line

```
USES INCLUDE [SOURCE|HEADER]: <file_name>
```

(If the optional `[SOURCE|HEADER]` is omitted, `HEADER` is assumed. Note that this can be dangerous, as included *source* code which is incorrectly assumed to be *header* code will be executed in another thorn *even if the providing thorn is inactive*. Thus it is recommended to always include the optional `[SOURCE|HEADER]` specification.) Any thorn which wishes to add to this include file, declares in its own `interface.ccl`

```
INCLUDE [SOURCE|HEADER]: <file_to_include> in <file_name>
```

Example

For an example of this in practice, for the case of Fortran code, consider thorn A which wants to gather terms for a calculation from any thorn which wishes to provide them. Thorn A could have the lines in its source code

```
c Get source code from other thorns
  allterms = 0d0
#include "AllSources.inc"
```

and would then add to `interface.ccl` the line

```
USES INCLUDE SOURCE: AllSources.inc
```

If thorn B wants to add terms for the calculation, it would create a file, say `Bterms.inc` with the lines

```
c Add this to AllSources.inc
  allterms = allterms + 1d0
```

and would add to its own `interface.ccl`

```
INCLUDE SOURCE: Bterms.inc in AllSources.inc
```

The final file for thorn A which is compiled will contain the code

```
c Get source code from other thorns
  allterms = 0d0
  if (CCTK_IsThornActive("B").ne.0) then
c Add this to AllSources.inc
  allterms = allterms + 1d0
  end if
```

Any Fortran thorn routines which include source code must include the declaration `DECLARE_CCTK_FUNCTIONS`.

B10.3 Memory Tracing

Cactus provides a mechanism for overriding the standard C memory allocation routines (`malloc`, `free`, ...) with Cactus specific routines, that track the amount of memory allocated and from where the allocation call was made. This information can be accessed by the user to provide an understanding of the memory consumption between two instances and to track down possible memory leaks. This feature is available in C only.

B10.3.1 Activating Memory Tracing

Memory tracing has to be activated at configure time. The standard `malloc` statements are overridden with macros (`CCTK_MALLOC`). To activate memory tracing use either

<code>DEBUG=all</code>	Enables all debug options (compiler debug flags, redefines <code>malloc</code>)
<code>DEBUG=memory</code>	Redefine <code>malloc</code> only.

The `CCTK_MALLOC` statements can also be used directly in the C code. But by employing them this way, only a fraction of the total memory consumption is traced. Also, they cannot be turned off at configure time. (this behavior might change). For example:

```
machine> gmake bigbuild DEBUG=yes
machine> gmake bigbuild-config DEBUG=memory
```

The new configuration `bigbuild` is configured with all debugging features turned on. The already existing configuration `bigbuild` is reconfigured with memory tracing only.

B10.3.2 Using Memory Tracing

You can request Cactus to store the memory consumption at a certain instance in the program flow and return the difference in memory allocation some time later.

```
int CCTK_MemTicketRequest(void)
    Request a ticket: save the current total memory to a database. Return an integer
    (ticket). Use the ticket to calculate the difference in memory allocation between
    the two instances in CCTK_MemTicketCash.

long int CCTK_MemTicketCash(int your_ticket)
    Cash in your ticket: return the memory difference between now and the time the
    ticket was requested. Tickets can be cashed in several times. See Example below.
    This only tracks the real data memory, which is the same as in undebug mode.
    It does not keep track of the internal allocations done to provide the database,
    motivation is that this is not allocated either if you compile undebugged.

int CCTK_MemTicketDelete(int your_ticket)
    Delete the memory ticket. The ticket ID will not be reused, since it's incremented
    with every ticket request, but the memory of the memory datastructure is deallo-
    cated.
```

`unsigned long int CCKT_TotalMemory(void)`
Returns the total allocated memory (not including the tracing data structures).

`void CCKT_MemStat` Prints an info string, stating the current, past and total memory (in bytes) allocation between two successive calls to this routine, as well as the difference.

Sample C code demonstrating the ticket handling. Two tickets are requested during `malloc` operations. The `CCKT_MALLOC` statement is used directly. They are cashed in and the memory difference is printed. Ticket 1 is cashed twice. The tickets are deleted at the end.

```
int ticket1;
int ticket2;

/* store current memstate, ticket: t1*/
t1 = CCKT_MemTicketRequest();

/* allocate data */
hi = (int*) CCKT_MALLOC(10*sizeof(int));

/* store current memstate, ticket: t2*/
t2 = CCKT_MemTicketRequest();

/* cash ticket t1, print mem difference */
printf("NOW1a: %d \n",CCKT_MemTicketCash(t1));

/* allocte some more data */
wo = (CCKT_REAL*)CCKT_MALLOC(10*sizeof(CCKT_REAL));

/* cash ticket t1 and t2, print mem difference */
printf("NOW1b: %d \n",CCKT_MemTicketCash(t1));
printf("NOW2 : %d \n",CCKT_MemTicketCash(t2));

/* delete the tickets from the database */
CCKT_MemTicketDelete(t1);
CCKT_MemTicketDelete(t2);
```

B10.4 Calls between different programming languages

B10.4.1 Calling C routines from Fortran

To make the following C routine,

```
int <routine name>(<argument list>)

...
```

also callable from Fortran, a new routine must added, which is declared using the `CCTK_FCALL` and `CCTK_FNAME` macros:

```
void CCTK_FCALL CCTK_FNAME(<routine name>)(int *ierr, <argument list>)  
<rewrite routine code, or call C routine itself>
```

The convention used in Cactus is that `<routine name>` be the same as any C routine name, and that this is mixed-case. The macros change the case and number of underscores of the routine name to match that expected by Fortran.

All arguments passed by Fortran to the routine (except strings) are pointers in C, e.g. a call from Fortran

```
CCTK_INT arg1  
CCTK_REAL arg2  
CCTK_REAL arg3(30,30,30)  
  
...  
  
call MyCRoutine(arg1,arg2,arg3)
```

should appear in C as

```
void CCTK_FCALL CCTK_FNAME(MyCRoutine)(CCTK_INT *arg1,  
                                         CCTK_REAL *arg2,  
                                         CCTK_REAL *arg3)  
{  
  ...  
}
```

B10.4.2 String Arguments from Fortran

Fortran passes string arguments in a special, compiler-dependent, way. To facilitate this, the CCTK provides a set of macros to enable the translation to C strings. The macros are defined in `cctk_FortranString.h` which should be included in your C file.

String arguments *must always come last* in the argument list for these macros to be effective (some Fortran compilers automatically migrate the strings to the end so there is no portable workaround).

The macros to use depends upon the number of string arguments – we currently support up to three. The macros are `<ONE|TWO|THREE>_FORTSTRING_ARG`. Corresponding to each of these are two macros `<ONE|TWO|THREE>_FORTSTRING_CREATE` and `<ONE|TWO|THREE>_FORTSTRING_PTR` which take one,two,or three arguments depending on the number of strings. The latter set is only necessary if a string is to be modified. In more detail:

`<ONE|TWO|THREE>_FORTSTRING_ARG`

Used in the argument list of the C routine to which the Fortran strings are passed.

`<ONE|TWO|THREE>_FORTSTRING_CREATE`

Used in the declaration section of the C routine to which the Fortran strings are passed. These macros have one, two or three arguments which are the variable

names you choose to use for the strings in the C routine, created by null-terminating the passed-in Fortran strings. The `CREATE` macros create new strings with the names you provide, and thus should be treated as read-only and freed after use.

`<ONE|TWO|THREE>_FORTSTRING_PTR`

These macros, used in the declaration section of the C routine *after* the `CREATE` macro, should be used if you need to modify one of the passed-in strings. They declare and define pointers to the passed-in strings.

`cctk_strlen<1|2|3>`

these integer variables, automatically defined by the `CREATE` macro, hold the lengths of the passed in Fortran strings.

The use of the macros is probably best explained with examples. For read-only access to the strings, only the first two macros are needed, the following example compares two strings passed in from Fortran.

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <cctk_FortranString.h>

int CCTK_FCALL CCTK_FNAME(CompareStrings)(TWO_FORTSTRING_ARG)
{
    int retval;

    /* Allocate and create C strings with \0 at end. */
    /* This makes variable declarations so must be before
       any executable statements.*/

    TWO_FORTSTRING_CREATE(arg1,arg2)

    /* Do some work with the strings */
    retval = strcmp(arg1,arg2);

    /* Important, these must be freed after use */
    free(arg1);
    free(arg2);

    return retval;
}
```

Since the null terminated strings may be copies of the strings passed from Fortran, they should be treated as read-only.

To change the data in a string passed from Fortran, you need to use the `FORTSTRING_PTR` macros, which declare and set up pointers to the strings passed from C. Note that this macro must be used *after* the `FORTSTRING.CREATE` macro. For example, the following routine copies the contents of the second string to the first string.

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
```



```

#include <cctk_FortranString.h>

int CCTK_FCALL CCTK_FNAME(CopyStrings)(TWO_FORTSTRING_ARG)
{
    int retval;

    /* Allocate and create C strings with \0 at end. */
    /* This makes variable declarations so must be before
       any executable statements. */

    TWO_FORTSTRING_CREATE(arg1,arg2)
    TWO_FORTSTRING_PTR(farg1,farg2)

    /* Do some work with the strings */

    retval = strncpy(farg1,arg2,cctk_strlen1);

    /* Important, these must be freed after use */
    free(arg1);
    free(arg2);

    return retval;
}

```

Note that in the example above two new variables, pointers to the Fortran strings, were created. These are just pointers and *should not be freed*. The example also illustrates the automatically-created variables (e.g. `cctk_strlen1` which hold the sizes of original Fortran strings. When writing to a string its length should never be exceeded.

B10.4.3 Calling Fortran routines from C

To call a utility Fortran routine from C use

```
void CCTK_FCALL CCTK_FNAME(<Fortran routine name>)(<argument list>)
```

Note that Fortran expects all arguments (apart from strings) to be pointers, so any non-array data should be passed by address.

Currently we have no support for calling Fortran routines which expect strings from C.

B10.5 Function aliasing

As well as calling functions in a different language, Cactus offers a mechanism for calling a function in a different thorn where you need not know which thorn is actually providing the function, nor what language the function is provided in. The idea of *function aliasing* is similar to that of thorns; the routine that calls a function should not need to know anything about it except that the function exists.

Function aliasing is quite restrictive because of the problems involved in inter-language calling, as seen in the previous section. Function aliasing is also comparatively inefficient and should not be used in a part of your code where efficiency is important.

Function aliasing is language neutral, however the syntax is strongly based on C. The API documented here describes the current code, however it is temporary. In the future the function aliasing declarations will go into a new `functions.ccl` file, and will have a format more similar to that of variable group and parameter declarations.

B10.5.1 Using an aliased function

To use an aliased function you must first declare it in your `interface.ccl` file. Declare the prototype as, for example,

```
CCTK_REAL FUNCTION SumStuff(CCTK_REAL IN x, CCTK_REAL IN y)
```

and that this function will be either required in your thorn by

```
REQUIRES FUNCTION SumStuff
```

or optionally used in your thorn by

```
USES FUNCTION SumStuff
```

A prototype of this function will be available to any C routine that includes the `cctk.h` header file. In a Fortran file, the declaration of the function will be included in the `DECLARE_CCTK_FUNCTIONS` macro, which is available after the statement `#include "cctk_Functions.h"`. The keywords `IN`, `OUT`, and `INOUT` work in the same fashion as `INTENT` statements in Fortran 90. That is, the C prototype will expect an argument with intent `IN` to be a value and one with intent `OUT` or `INOUT` to be a pointer. There also exists the `ARRAY` keyword for passing arrays of any dimension. Functions which are required by some thorn (which doesn't provide it itself) are checked at startup to be provided by some other thorn.

B10.5.2 Providing a function

To provide an aliased function you must again add the prototype to your `interface.ccl` file. A statement containing the name of the providing function and the language it is provided in must also be given. For example,

```
CCTK_REAL FUNCTION SumStuff(CCTK_REAL IN x, CCTK_REAL IN y)
PROVIDES FUNCTION SumStuff WITH AddItUp LANGUAGE C
```

The appropriate function must then be provided somewhere in this thorn. Multiple thorns providing the same function can be compiled into the same configuration; however only one providing thorn may be activated at runtime otherwise an error message is printed and the run is aborted.

It is necessary to specify the language of the providing function; no default will be assumed.

B10.5.3 Conventions and restrictions

Various restrictions are necessary to make function aliasing work. These are

- The return type of any function must be either `void` or one of the Cactus data types `CCTK_INT` or `CCTK_REAL`. Standard types such as `int` are not allowed.
- The type of an argument must be one of scalar types `CCTK_INT`, `CCTK_REAL`, `CCTK_COMPLEX`, `CCTK_STRING`, `CCTK_POINTER`, `CCTK_FPOINTER`, or an array or pointer type `CCTK_INT ARRAY`, `CCTK_REAL ARRAY`, `CCTK_COMPLEX ARRAY`, `CCTK_POINTER ARRAY`.¹ The scalar types are assumed to be not modifiable. Any changes made to a scalar argument by a providing function may be silently lost, or may not; it is dependent on the language of the providing and calling function. If you wish to modify an argument then it must have intent `OUT` or `INOUT` (and hence must be either a `CCTK_INT`, a `CCTK_REAL`, or a `CCTK_COMPLEX`, or an array of one of these types).
- The name of both the aliased and providing function are restricted. They must follow the standard C semantics (start with a letter, contain only letters, numbers or underscores). Additionally, they must be mixed case (that is, contain at least one uppercase and one lowercase letter). The names of the aliased and providing functions must be distinct.
- If an argument is a function pointer then the syntax looks like

```
CCTK_REAL Integrate(CCTK_REAL CCTK_FPOINTER func(CCTK_REAL IN x), \
                   CCTK_REAL IN xmin, CCTK_REAL IN xmax)
```

It is assumed that the function pointer argument has the same language as the calling function. Function pointer arguments may not be nested.

- `CCTK_STRING` arguments follow the same conventions as in the previous section. That is, they must appear at the end of the argument list, there must be at most three, and a function with a `CCTK_STRING` argument can only be provided in C, not Fortran, although they may be called from either.

B10.5.4 Examples

- A C function is provided that adds together two real numbers. The `interface.ccl` should read

```
CCTK_REAL FUNCTION SumStuff(CCTK_REAL IN x, CCTK_REAL IN y)
PROVIDES FUNCTION SumStuff WITH AddItUp LANGUAGE C
USES FUNCTION SumStuff
```

- A Fortran function is provided that inverts a real number. The `interface.ccl` should read

```
SUBROUTINE Invert(CCTK_REAL INOUT x)
PROVIDES FUNCTION Invert WITH FindInverse LANGUAGE Fortran
USES FUNCTION Invert
```

Note that `SUBROUTINE` has the same meaning as `void FUNCTION`.

- A Fortran function is provided that integrates any function over an interval. The `interface.ccl` should read

¹Unfortunately, neither `CCTK_FPOINTER ARRAY` nor `CCTK_STRING ARRAY` will work.

```

CCTK_REAL Integrate(CCTK_REAL CCTK_FPOINTER func(CCTK_REAL IN x), \
                    CCTK_REAL IN xmin, CCTK_REAL IN xmax)
PROVIDES FUNCTION Integrate WITH SimpsonsRule LANGUAGE Fortran
USES FUNCTION Integrate

```

B10.5.5 Testing aliased functions

The calling thorn does not know if an aliased function is even provided by another thorn. Calling an aliased function that has not been provided will lead to a level 0 warning message, stopping the code. In order to check if a function has been provided by some thorn, use the `CCTK.IsFunctionAliased` function described in the function reference section.

B10.6 Naming conventions

- Thorn names must not start with the word “Cactus” (in any case).
- Arrangements will be ignored if their names start with a hash mark ‘#’ or dot ‘.’ or end in a tilde ‘~’, `.bak` or `.BAK`.
- Thorns will be ignored if they are called `doc` or start with a hash mark ‘#’ or dot ‘.’ or end in a tilde ‘~’, `.bak` or `.BAK`.
- Routine names have to be unique among all thorns.

B10.7 General Naming Conventions

The following naming conventions are followed by the Flesh and the supported Cactus arrangements. They are not compulsory, but if followed allow for a homogeneous code.

- Parameters: lower case (except for acronyms) with words separated by an underscore. Examples: `my_first_parameter`, `solve_PDE_equation`.
- Filenames and routine names: Prefixed by thorn name with an underscore, then capitalised words, with no spaces. Examples: `MyThorn_StartUpRoutine`, `BestSolver_InitialDataForPDE`.

B10.8 Data Types and Sizes

Cactus knows about the following fixed size data types:

Data Type	Size (bytes)	Variable Type	Fortran Equivalent
CCTK_BYTE	1	CCTK_VARIABLE_BYTE	integer*1
CCTK_INT1	1	CCTK_VARIABLE_INT1	integer*1
CCTK_INT2	2	CCTK_VARIABLE_INT2	integer*2
CCTK_INT4	4	CCTK_VARIABLE_INT4	integer*4
CCTK_INT8	8	CCTK_VARIABLE_INT8	integer*8
CCTK_REAL4	4	CCTK_VARIABLE_REAL4	real*4
CCTK_REAL8	8	CCTK_VARIABLE_REAL8	real*8
CCTK_REAL16	16	CCTK_VARIABLE_REAL16	real*16
CCTK_COMPLEX8	8	CCTK_VARIABLE_COMPLEX8	complex*8
CCTK_COMPLEX16	16	CCTK_VARIABLE_COMPLEX16	complex*16
CCTK_COMPLEX32	32	CCTK_VARIABLE_COMPLEX32	complex*32

The availability of these types, and the corresponding C data types are platform-dependent. For each fixed-size data type there exists a corresponding preprocessor macro `HAVE_<data type>` which should be used to check whether the given CCTK data type is supported, e.g.

```
/* declare variable with extended-precision complex data type if available
   otherwise with default CCTK precision */
#ifdef HAVE_CCTK_COMPLEX32
CCTK_COMPLEX32 var;
#else
CCTK_COMPLEX    var;
#endif
```

In addition Cactus provides three generic numeric data types which map onto the compilers' native data types used to represent integer, real, and complex values. The size for these generic types can be chosen at configuration time (see [A2.1.2](#)). This is to allow the code to be run easily at different precisions. Note that the effectiveness of running the code at a lower or higher precision depends crucially on all thorns being used making consistent use of these generic data types:

Data Type	Variable Type	Configuration Option
CCTK_INT	CCTK_VARIABLE_INT	INTEGER_PRECISION
CCTK_REAL	CCTK_VARIABLE_REAL	REAL_PRECISION
CCTK_COMPLEX	CCTK_VARIABLE_COMPLEX	Same as real precision

These variable types must be used by thorn writers to declare variables in the thorn interface files, and may be used to declare variables in the thorn routines. Note that variable declarations in thorns should obviously match with definitions in the interface files where appropriate.

Also provided, are a set of macros which are interpreted by the preprocessor at compile time to signify which data size is being used:

Data Type	#define
CCTK_INT1	CCTK_INT_PRECISION_1
CCTK_INT2	CCTK_INT_PRECISION_2
CCTK_INT4	CCTK_INT_PRECISION_4
CCTK_INT8	CCTK_INT_PRECISION_8
CCTK_REAL4	CCTK_REAL_PRECISION_4
CCTK_REAL8	CCTK_REAL_PRECISION_8
CCTK_REAL16	CCTK_REAL_PRECISION_16
CCTK_COMPLEX8	CCTK_COMPLEX_PRECISION_8
CCTK_COMPLEX16	CCTK_COMPLEX_PRECISION_16
CCTK_COMPLEX32	CCTK_COMPLEX_PRECISION_32

Cactus also provides generic data and function pointers, which can be used from either C or Fortran (these may not work yet for thorn interface files):

Data Type	Variable Type	C equivalent
CCTK_POINTER	CCTK_VARIABLE_POINTER	void *data_ptr
CCTK_POINTER_TO_CONST	CCTK_VARIABLE_POINTER_TO_CONST	const void *data_ptr
CCTK_FPOINTER	CCTK_VARIABLE_FPOINTER	void (*fn_ptr)(void)

B10.8.1 Fortran Thorn Writers

Cactus provides the data types `CCTK_POINTER` and `CCTK_POINTER_TO_CONST` for use in Fortran code to declare a pointer passed from C. For example, the variable `cctkGH` is of the type `CCTK_POINTER`. The data type `CCTK_STRING` is in Fortran also an opaque type, corresponding to a C pointer, and one has to use the function `CCTK_FortranString` to convert it to a Fortran string, or the `CCTK_Equals` to compare it to a Fortran String.

Since the data types `integer` in Fortran and `int` in C may be different,² many routines that can be called from both C and Fortran take arguments of the type `CCTK_INT`. This type can be different from the type `integer`. Fortran does not convert routine arguments automatically, and it is therefore necessary to pay attention to the exact argument types that a routine expects, and to convert between `integer` and `CCTK_INT` accordingly. Currently, most flesh functions take `integer` arguments, while all aliased functions take `CCTK_INT` arguments.

NOTE: If you make errors in passing Fortran arguments, and if there are no interfaces (“proto-types”) available for the routines that are called, then the compiler cannot detect these errors. Be careful. When you write Fortran code yourself, consider placing routines in modules, which implicitly define interfaces for all contained routines.

There are two convenient ways to convert between these types. An easy way is to define parameters or to declare variables of the desired type, assign a value to these parameters or variables, and then pass the parameter or value. This makes for very readable code, since the name of the parameter or variable serves as additional documentation:

```
CCTK_INT, parameter : jtwo = 2
```

²This is only a theoretical possibility, in practice they have to be the same type for Cactus to work at all.

```

integer :: vindex_gxx, vindex_kxx
CCTK_INT :: syncvars(jtwo)

call CCTK_VarIndex (vindex_gxx, "ADMBase::gxx")
call CCTK_VarIndex (vindex_kxx, "ADMBase::kxx")

syncvars(1) = vindex_gxx
syncvars(2) = vindex_kxx
call CCTK_SyncGroupsI (cctkGH, jt看, syncvars)

```

(You have probably seen the strange Fortran convention where people introduce constants named **zero** or **two**. This is the reason for this — it is a convenient way to make sure that the constant has the correct type.)

Another possibility are explicit type conversions. They can rather easily be added to existing code:

```

! Boilerplate code to determine type kinds
integer, parameter :: izeo = 0    ! A dummy variable of type integer
CCTK_INT, parameter :: jzero = 0  ! A dummy variable of type CCTK_INT
integer, parameter :: ik = kind (izeo)    ! The kind of "integer"
integer, parameter :: jk = kind (jzero)    ! The kind of "CCTK_INT"

integer :: syncvars(2)

call CCTK_VarIndex (syncvars(1), "ADMBase::gxx")
call CCTK_VarIndex (syncvars(2), "ADMBase::kxx")

call CCTK_SyncGroupsI (cctkGH, int(2,jk), int(syncvars,jk))

```

Fortran distinguish between different integer *kinds*. These kinds are what is different between **integer** and **CCTK_INT**. The expression `int(EXPR,KIND)` converts `EXPR` to an integer of kind `KIND`. Above, we use the convention that the prefix `i` denotes things having to do with **integer**, and the prefix `j` denotes **CCTK_INT**.

Note that we declare the array **syncvars** with the type that is necessary to set its values. Type conversions are only possible if variables are read, not when they are written to.

Chapter B11

Telling the make system what to do

B11.1 Basic Recipe

B11.2 Make Concepts

B11.3 The Four Files

B11.4 How your code is built

Part C

Utility Routines

Chapter C1

Introduction

As well as the high-level `CCTK_*` routines, Cactus also provides a set of lower-level `Util_*` utility routines, which are mostly independent of the rest of Cactus. This chapter gives a general overview of programming with these utility routines.

Chapter C2

Key/Value Tables

C2.1 Motivation

Cactus functions may need to pass information through a generic interface. In the past we have used various ad hoc means to do this, and we often had trouble passing "extra" information that wasn't anticipated in the original design. For example, for periodic output of grid variables, `CCTK_OutputVarAsByMethod()` requires that any parameters (such as hyperslabbing parameters) be appended as an option string to the variable's character string name. Similarly, elliptic solvers often need to pass various parameters, but we haven't had a good way to do this.

Key/value tables (*tables* for short) provide a clean solution to these problems. They're implemented by the `Util_Table*` functions (described in detail in the Reference Manual).

C2.2 The Basic Idea

Basically, a table is an object which maps strings to almost arbitrary user-defined data. (If you know Perl, a table is very much like a Perl hash table. Alternatively, if you know Unix shells, a table is like the set of all environment variables. As yet another analogy, if you know Awk, a table is like an Awk associative array.)¹

More formally, a table is an object which stores a set of *keys* and a corresponding set of *values*. We refer to a (key,value) pair as a table *entry*.

Keys are C-style null-terminated character strings, with the slash character '/' reserved for future expansion.²

Values are 1-dimensional arrays of any of the usual Cactus data types described in section [B10.8](#). A string can be stored by treating it as a 1-dimensional array of `CCTK_CHAR` (there's an example of this below).

¹However, the present Cactus tables implementation is optimized for a relatively small number of distinct keys in any one table. It will still work OK for huge numbers of keys, but it will be slow.

²Think of hierarchical tables for storing tree-like data structures.

The basic “life cycle” of a table looks like this:

1. Some code creates it with `Util_TableCreate()` or `Util_TableClone()`.
2. Some code (often the same piece of code, but maybe some other piece) sets entries in it using one or more of the `Util_TableSet*()`, `Util_TableSet*Array()`, `Util_TableSetGeneric()`, `Util_TableSetGenericArray()`, and/or `Util_TableSetString()` functions.
3. Some other piece or pieces of code can get (copies of) the values which were set, using one or more of the `Util_TableGet*()`, `Util_TableGet*Array()`, `Util_TableGetGeneric()`, `Util_TableGetGenericArray()`, and/or `Util_TableGetString()` functions.
4. When everyone is through with a table, some (single) piece of code should destroy it with `Util_TableDestroy()`.

There are also convenience functions `Util_TableSetFromString()` to set entries in a table based on a parameter-file-style string, and `Util_TableCreateFromString()` to create a table and then set entries in it based on a parameter-file-style string.

As well, there are “table iterator” functions `Util_TableIt*()` to allow manipulation of a table even if you don’t know its keys.

A table has an integer “flags word” which may be used to specify various options, via bit flags defined in `util_Table.h`. For example, the flags word can be used to control whether keys should be compared as case sensitive or case insensitive strings. See the detailed function description of `Util_TableCreate()` in the Reference Manual for a list of the possible bit flags and their semantics.

C2.3 A Simple Example

Here’s a simple example (in C)³ of how to use a table:

```
#include "util_Table.h"
#include "cctk.h"

/* create a table and set some entries in it */
int handle = Util_TableCreate(UTIL_TABLE_FLAGS_DEFAULT);
Util_TableSetInt(handle, 2, "two");
Util_TableSetReal(handle, 3.14, "pi");

...

/* get the values from the table */
CCTK_INT two_value;
CCTK_REAL pi_value;
Util_TableGetInt(handle, &two_value, "two");    /* sets two_value = 2 */
Util_TableGetReal(handle, &pi_value, "pi");      /* sets pi_value = 3.14 */
```

Actually, you shouldn’t write code like this — in the real world errors sometimes happen, and it’s much better to catch them close to their point of occurrence rather than silently produce garbage results or

³All (or almost all) of the table routines are also usable from Fortran. See the full descriptions in the Reference Manual for details.

crash your program. So, the *right* thing to do is to always check for errors. To allow this, all the table routines return a status, which is zero or positive for a successful return, but negative if and only if some sort of error has occurred.⁴ So, the above example should be rewritten like this:

```
#include "util_Table.h"

/* create a table and set some entries in it */
int handle = Util_TableCreate(UTIL_TABLE_FLAGS_DEFAULT);
if (handle < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't create table!");

/* try to set some table entries */
if (Util_TableSetInt(handle, 2, "two") < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't set integer value in table!");
if (Util_TableSetReal(handle, 3.14, "pi") < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't set real value in table!");

...

/* try to get the values from the table */
CCTK_INT two_value;
CCTK_REAL pi_value;
if (Util_TableGetInt(handle, &two_value, "two") < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't get integer value from table!");
if (Util_TableGetReal(handle, &pi_value, "pi") < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't get integer value from table!");

/* if we get to here, then two_value = 2 and pi_value = 3.14 */
```

C2.4 Arrays as Table Values

As well as a single numbers (or characters or pointers), tables can also store 1-dimensional arrays of numbers (or characters or pointers).⁵

For example (continuing the previous example):

```
static const CCTK_INT a[3] = { 42, 69, 105 };
if (Util_TableSetIntArray(handle, 3, a, "my array") < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't set integer array value in table!");

...

CCTK_INT blah[10];
int count = Util_TableGetIntArray(handle, 10, blah, "my array");
```

⁴Often (as in the examples here) you don't care about the details of which error occurred. But if you do, there are various error codes defined in `util_Table.h` and `util_ErrorCodes.h`; the detailed function descriptions in the Reference Manual say which error codes each function can return.

⁵Note that the table makes (stores) a *copy* of the array you pass in, so it's somewhat inefficient to store a large array (e.g. a grid function) this way. If this is a problem, consider storing a `CCTK_POINTER` (pointing to the array) in the table instead. (Of course, this requires that you ensure that the pointed-to data is still valid whenever that `CCTK_POINTER` is used.)

```

if (count < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't get integer array value from table!");
/* now count = 3, blah[0] = 42, blah[1] = 69, blah[2] = 105, */
/*    and all remaining elements of blah[] are unchanged */

```

As you can see, a table entry remembers the length of any array value that has been stored in it.⁶

If you only want the first few values of a larger array, just pass in the appropriate length of your array, that's OK:

```

CCTK_INT blah2[2];
int count = Util_TableGetIntArray(handle, 2, blah2, "my array");
if (count < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't get integer array value from table!");
/* now count = 3, blah2[0] = 42, blah2[1] = 69 */

```

You can even ask for just the first value:

```

CCTK_INT blah1;
int count = Util_TableGetInt(handle, &blah1, "my array");
if (count < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't get integer array value from table!");
/* now count = 3, blah1 = 42 */

```

C2.5 Character Strings

One very common thing you might want to store in a table is a character string. While you could do this by explicitly storing an array of `CCTK_CHAR`, there are also routines specially for conveniently setting and getting strings:

```

if (Util_TableSetString(handle, "black holes are fun", "bh") < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't set string value in table!");

...
char buffer[50];
if (Util_TableGetString(handle, 50, buffer, "bh") < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't get string value from table!");

/* now buffer[] contains the string "black holes are fun" */

```

`Util_TableGetString()` guarantees that the string is terminated by a null character (`'\0'`), and also returns an error if the string is too long for the buffer.

⁶In fact, actually *all* table values are arrays — setting or getting a single value is just the special case where the array length is 1.

C2.6 Convenience Routines

There are also convenience routines for the common case of setting values in a table based on a string.

For example, the following code sets up exactly the same table as the example in section C2.3:

```
#include <util_Table.h>

/* create a table and set some values in it */
int handle = Util_TableCreate(UTIL_TABLE_FLAGS_DEFAULT);
if (handle < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't create table!");

/* try to set some table entries */
if (Util_TableSetFromString(handle, "two=2 pi=3.14") != 2)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't set values in table!");
```

There is also an even higher-level convenience function `Util_TableCreateFromString()`: this creates a table with the case insensitive flag set (to match Cactus parameter file semantics), then (assuming no errors occurred) calls `Util_TableSetFromString()` to set values in the table.

For example the following code sets up a table (with the case insensitive flag set) with four entries: an integer number (`two`), a real number (`pi`), a string (`buffer`), and an integer array with three elements (`array`):

```
#include <util_Table.h>

int handle = Util_TableCreateFromString(" two    = 2 "
                                       " pi      = 3.14 "
                                       " buffer = 'Hello World' "
                                       " array  = { 1 2 3 }");

if (handle < 0)
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ABORT, "couldn't create table from string!");
```

Note that this code passes a single string to `Util_TableCreateFromString()`⁷ which then gets parsed into key/value pairs, with the key separated from its corresponding value by an equals sign.

Values for numbers are converted into integers (`CCTK_INT`) if possible (no decimal point appears in the value), otherwise into reals (`CCTK_REAL`). Strings must be enclosed in either single or double quotes. String values in single quotes are interpreted literally, strings in double quotes may contain character escape codes which then will be interpreted as in C. Arrays must be enclosed in curly braces, array elements must be single numbers of the same type (either all integer or all real).

C2.7 Table Iterators

In the examples up to now, the code which wanted to get values from the table knew what the keys were. It's also useful to be able to write generic code which can operate on a table without knowing the keys.

⁷C automatically concatenates adjacent character string constants separated only by whitespace.

“Table iterators” (“iterators” for short) are used for this.

An iterator is an abstraction of a pointer to a particular table entry. Iterators are analogous to the `DIR *` pointers used by the POSIX `opendir()`, `readdir()`, `closedir()`, and similar functions, to Perl hash tables’ `each()`, `keys()`, and `values()`, and to the C++ Standard Template Library’s forward iterators.

At any time the entries in a table may be considered to be in some arbitrary (implementation-defined) order; an iterator may be used to walk through some or all of the table entries in this order. This order is guaranteed to remain unchanged for any given table so long as no changes are made to that table, i.e. so long as no `Util_TableSet*()`, `Util_TableSet*Array()`, `Util_TableSetGeneric()`, `Util_TableSetGenericArray()`, `Util_TableSetString()`, or `Util_TableDeleteKey()` calls are made on that table (making such calls on other tables doesn’t matter). The order may change if there is any change in the table, and it may differ even between different tables with identical key/value contents (including those produced by `Util_TableClone()`).⁸

Any change in the table also invalidates all iterators pointing anywhere in the table; using any such iterator is an error. Multiple iterators may point into the same table; they all use the same order, and (unlike in Perl) they’re all independent.

The detailed function description in the Reference Manual for `Util_TableItQueryKeyValueInfo()` has an example of using an iterator to print out all the entries in a table.

C2.8 Multithreading and Multiprocessor Issues

At the moment, the table functions are *not* thread-safe in a multithreaded environment!

However, this should change in the not-too-distant future: then all the table functions will default to being thread-safe. That is, user code will be able call these functions concurrently from multiple threads, with the table functions automatically doing any necessary locking.⁹ (We may add a flags-word bit to suppress this for maximum performance if you know you won’t be making concurrent calls from multiple threads.)

Note that tables and iterators will still be process-wide, i.e. all threads see the same tables and iterators (think of them as like the Unix current working directory, with the various routines which modify the table or change iterators acting like a Unix `chdir()` system call).

In a multiprocessor environment, tables are always processor-local.

C2.9 Metadata about All Tables

We have decided that tables do not *themselves* have names or other attributes. However, at some time in the future we may add some special “system tables” to be used by Cactus itself to store this sort of information for those cases where it’s needed.

For example, at some time in the future we may add support for a “checkpoint me” bit in a table’s flags word, so that if you want a table to be checkpointed, you just need to set this bit. In this case the table

⁸For example, if tables were implemented by hashing, the internal order could be that of the hash buckets, and the hash function could depend on the internal table address.

⁹For the implementation, this means that we will need a reader/writer lock for each table and for each iterator: any number of threads will be able to concurrently read the data structure, but any write will require exclusive access.

will probably get a system generated name in the checkpoint dump file. But if you want the table to have some other name in the dump file, then you need to tell the checkpointing code that by setting an appropriate entry in a checkpoint table. (You would find the checkpoint table by looking in a special “master system table” that records handles of other interesting tables.)

Part D

Infrastructure Thorn Writer's Guide

Chapter D1

Introduction

- Concepts and terminology (Overloading and registration of functions)
- The cGH structure — what it is and how to use it
- Extending the cGH structure
- Querying group and variable information
- Providing an IO layer
- Providing a communication layer
- Providing a reduction operator
- Providing an interpolation operator
- Overloadable functions

Chapter D2

Concepts and Terminology

D2.1 Overloading and Registration

The Flesh defines a core API which guarantees the presence of a set of functions. Although the Flesh guarantees the presence of these functions, they can be provided by thorns. Thorns do this either by the *overloading* or the *registration* of functions.

D2.1.1 Overloading

Some functions can only be provided by one thorn. The first thorn to *overload* this function succeeds, and any later attempt to overload the function fails. For each overloadable function there is a function with a name something like `CCTK_Overload...` which is passed the function pointer.

D2.1.2 Registration

Some functions may be provided by several thorns. The thorns *register* their function with the Flesh, and when the Flesh-provided function is called, the Flesh calls all the registered functions.

D2.2 GH Extensions

A GH extension is a way to associate data with each cGH. This data should be data that is required to be associated with a particular GH by a thorn.

Each GH extension is given a unique handle.

D2.3 IO Methods

An IO method is a distinct way to output data. Each IO method has a unique name, and the Flesh-provided IO functions operate on all registered IO methods.

Chapter D3

GH Extensions

A GH extension is created by calling `CCTK_RegisterGHEExtension`, with the name of the extension. This returns a unique handle that identifies the extension. (This handle can be retrieved at any time by a call to `CCTK_GHEExtensionHandle`.)

Associated with a GH extension are three functions

<code>SetupGH</code>	this is used to actually create the data structure holding the extension. It is called when a new cGH is created.
<code>InitGH</code>	this is used to initialise the extension. It is called after the scheduler has been initialised on the cGH.
<code>ScheduleTraverseGH</code>	this is called whenever the schedule tree is due to be traversed on the GH. It should initialise the data on the cGH and the call <code>CCTK_ScheduleTraverse</code> to traverse the schedule tree.

Chapter D4

Overloadable and Registerable Functions in Main

Function	Default
CCTK_Initialise	
CCTK_Evolve	
CCTK_Shutdown	

Chapter D5

Overloadable and Registerable Functions in Comm

Function	Default
CCTK_SyncGroup	
CCTK_SyncGroupsByDirI	
CCTK_EnableGroupStorage	
CCTK_DisableGroupStorage	
CCTK_EnableGroupComm	
CCTK_DisableGroupComm	
CCTK_Barrier	
CCTK_Reduce	
CCTK_Interp	
CCTK_ParallelInit	

Chapter D6

Overloadable and Registerable Functions in IO

Function	Default
CCTK_OutputGH	
CCTK_OutputVarAsByMethod	

Chapter D7

Drivers

The Flesh knows nothing about memory allocation for grid variables, or about how to communicate data when synchronisation is called for. It knows nothing about multiple patches or adaptive mesh refinement. All this is the job of a driver.

This chapter describes how to add a driver to your code.

D7.1 Anatomy

A driver consists of a Startup routine which creates a GH extension and registers its associated functions, and overloads the communication functions. It may optionally register interpolation, reduction, and IO methods.

A driver may also overload the default Initialisation and Evolution routines, although a simple unigrid evolver is supplied in the Flesh.

D7.2 Startup

A driver consists of a GH extension, and the following overloaded functions.

1. `CCTK_EnableGroupStorage`
2. `CCTK_DisableGroupStorage`
3. `CCTK_ArrayGroupSizeB`
4. `CCTK_QueryGroupStorageB`
5. `CCTK_SyncGroup`
6. `CCTK_SyncGroupsByDirI`
7. `CCTK_EnableGroupComm`

8. CCTK_DisableGroupComm
9. CCTK_Barrier
10. CCTK_OverloadParallelInit
11. CCTK_OverloadExit
12. CCTK_OverloadAbort
13. CCTK_OverloadMyProc
14. CCTK_OverloadnProcs

The overloadable function `CCTK_SyncGroup` is deprecated, a driver should instead provide a routine to overload the more general function `CCTK_SyncGroupsByDirI`.

D7.3 The GH Extension

The GH extension is where the driver stores all its grid-dependent information. This is stuff like any data associated with a grid variable (e.g. storage and communication state), how many grids if it is AMR, ... It is very difficult to describe in general, but one simple example might be

```
struct SimpleExtension
{
    /* The data associated with each variable */
    /* data[var][timelevel][ijk]                */
    void ***data
} ;
```

with a `SetupGH` routine like.

```
struct SimpleExtension *SimpleSetupGH(tFleshConfig *config, int conv_level, cGH *GH)
{
    struct SimpleExtension *extension;

    extension = NULL;

    if(conv_level < max_conv_level)
    {
        /* Create the extension */
        extension = malloc(sizeof(struct SimpleExtension));

        /* Allocate data for all the variables */
        extension->data = malloc(num_vars*sizeof(void**));
    }
}
```

```

    for(var = 0 ; var < num_vars; var++)
    {
        /* Allocate the memory for the time levels */
        extension->data[var] = malloc(num_var_time_levels*sizeof(void *));

        for(time_level = 0; time_level < num_var_time_level; time_level++)
        {
            /* Initialise the data to NULL */
            extension->data[var][time_level] = NULL;
        }
    }
}

return extension;
}

```

Basically all this example is doing is preparing a data array for use. The function can query the Flesh for information on every variable. Note that scalars should always have memory actually assigned to them.

An `InitGH` function isn't strictly necessary, and in this case it could just be a dummy function.

The `ScheduleTraverseGH` function needs to fill out the `cGH` data and then call `CCTK_ScheduleTraverse` to have the functions scheduled at that point executed on the grid.

```

int SimpleScheduleTraverseGH(cGH *GH, const char *where)
{
    int retcode;
    int var;
    int gtype;
    int ntimelevels;
    int level;
    int idir;

    extension = (struct SimpleExtension *)GH->extensions[SimpleExtension];

    for (idir=0;idir<GH->cctk_dim;idir++)
    {
        GH->cctk_levfac[idir] = 1;
        GH->cctk_nghostzones[idir] = extension->nghostzones[idir];
        GH->cctk_lsh[idir] = extension->lsize[idir];
        GH->cctk_gsh[idir] = extension->nsizes[idir];
        GH->cctk_bbox[2*idir] = extension->lb[extension->myproc][idir] == 0;
        GH->cctk_bbox[2*idir+1] = extension->ub[extension->myproc][idir]
        == extension->nsizes[idir]-1;
        GH->cctk_lbnd[idir] = extension->lb[extension->myproc][idir];
        GH->cctk_ubnd[idir] = extension->ub[extension->myproc][idir];
    }
}

```

```

for(var = 0; var < extension->nvariables; var++)
{
    gtype = CCTK_GroupTypeFromVarI(var);
    ntimelevels = CCTK_MaxTimeLevelsVI(var);

    for(level = 0; level < ntimelevels; level++)
    {
        switch(gtype)
        {
            case CCTK_SCALAR :
                GH->data[var][level] = extension->variables[var][level];
                break;
            case CCTK_GF      :
                GH->data[var][level] =
                    ((pGF **)(extension->variables))[var][level]->data;
                break;
            case CCTK_ARRAY :
                GH->data[var][level] =
                    ((pGA **)(extension->variables))[var][level]->data;
                break;
            default:
                CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ALERT,"Unknown group type in SimpleScheduleTraverse");
        }
    }
}

retcode = CCTK_ScheduleTraverse(where, GH, NULL);

return retcode;
}

```

The third argument to `CCTK.ScheduleTraverse` is actually a function which will be called by the scheduler when it wants to call a function scheduled by a thorn. This function is given some information about the function to call, and is an alternative place where the cGH can be setup.

This function is optional, but a simple implementation might be

```

int SimpleCallFunction(void *function,
                      cFunctionData *fdata,
                      void *data)
{
    void (*standardfunc)(void *);

    int (*noargsfunc)(void);

    switch(fdata->type)
    {
        case FunctionNoArgs:

```

```

    noargsfunc = (int (*)(void))function;
    noargsfunc();
    break;
case FunctionStandard:
    switch(fdata->language)
    {
        case LangC:
            standardfunc = (void (*)(void *))function;
            standardfunc(data);
            break;
        case LangFortran:
            fdata->FortranCaller(data, function);
            break;
        default :
            CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ALERT, "Unknown language.");
    }
    break;
default :
    CCTK_WARN(CCTK_WARN_ALERT, "Unknown function type.");
}

/* Return 0, meaning didn't synchronise */
return 0;
}

```

The return code of the function signifies whether or not the function synchronised the groups in this functions synchronisation list of not.

The Flesh will synchronise them if the function returns false.

Providing this function is probably the easiest way to do multi-patch or AMR drivers.

D7.4 Memory Functions

These consist of

1. CCTK_EnableGroupStorage
2. CCTK_DisableGroupStorage
3. CCTK_QueryGroupStorageB
4. CCTK_ArrayGroupSizeB

D7.4.1 En/Disable Group Storage

These are responsible for switching the memory for all variables in a group on or off. They should return the former state, e.g. if the group already has storage assigned, they should return 1.

In our simple example above, the enabling routine would look something like

```
int SimpleEnableGroupStorage(cGH *GH, const char *groupname)
{
    extension = (struct SimpleExtension *)GH->extensions[SimpleExtension];

    if(extension->data[first][0][0] == NULL)
    {
        for(var = first; var <= last; var++)
        {
            allocate memory for all time levels;
        }
        retcode = 0;
    }
    else
    {
        retcode = 1;
    }

    return retcode;
}
```

The disable function is basically the reverse of the enable one.

The `QueryGroupStorage` function basically returns true or false if there is storage for the group, and the `ArrayGroupSize` returns the size of the grid function or array group in a particular direction.

D7.4.2 En/Disable Group Comm

These are the communication analogues to the storage functions. Basically they flag that communication is to be done on that group or not, and may initialise data structures for the communication.

Chapter D8

I/O Methods

The *Flesh* by itself does not provide output for grid variables or other data. Instead it provides a mechanism for thorns to register their own routines as I/O methods, and to invoke these I/O methods by either the *Flesh* scheduler or by other thorn routines.

This chapter explains how to implement I/O your own methods and register them with the *Flesh*.

D8.1 I/O Method Registration

All I/O methods have to be registered with the *Flesh* before they can be used.

The *Flesh* I/O registration API provides a routine `CCTK_RegisterIOMethod()` to create a handle for a new I/O method which is identified by its name (this name must be unique for all I/O methods). With such a handle, a thorn can then register a set of functions (using the `CCTK_RegisterIOMethod*()` routines from the *Flesh*) for doing periodic, triggered, and/or unconditional output.

The following example shows how a thorn would register an I/O method `SimpleIO` with routines to provide all these different types of output.

```
void SimpleIO_Startup (void)
{
    int handle = CCTK_RegisterIOMethod ("SimpleIO");
    if (handle >= 0)
    {
        CCTK_RegisterIOMethodOutputGH (handle, SimpleIO_OutputGH);

        CCTK_RegisterIOMethodTimeToOutput (handle, SimpleIO_TimeToOutput);
        CCTK_RegisterIOMethodTriggerOutput (handle, SimpleIO_TriggerOutput);

        CCTK_RegisterIOMethodOutputVarAs (handle, SimpleIO_OutputVarAs);
    }
}
```


D8.2 Periodic Output of Grid Variables

The Flesh scheduler will automatically call `CCTK_OutputGH()` at every iteration after the `CCTK_ANALYSIS` time bin. This function loops over all I/O methods and calls their routines registered as `OutputGH()` (see also [B3.3.4](#)).

```
int SimpleIO_OutputGH (const cGH *GH);
```

The `OutputGH()` routine itself should loop over all variables living on the `GH` grid hierarchy, and do all necessary output if requested (this is usually determined by I/O parameter settings).

As its return code it should pass back the number of variables which were output at the current iteration, or zero if no output was done by this I/O method.

D8.3 Triggered Output of Grid Variables

Besides the periodic output at every so many iterations using `OutputGH()`, analysis and output of grid variables can also be done via triggers. For this, a `TimeToOutput()` routine is registered with an I/O method. This routine will be called by the Flesh scheduler at every iteration before `CCTK_ANALYSIS` with the triggering variable(s) as defined in the schedule block for all `CCTK_ANALYSIS` routines (see [B6.4](#)).

If the `TimeToOutput()` routine decides that it is now time to do output, the Flesh scheduler will invoke the corresponding analysis routine and also request output of the triggering variable(s) using `TriggerOutput()`.

```
int SimpleIO_TimeToOutput (const cGH *GH, int varindex);
int SimpleIO_TriggerOutput (const cGH *GH, int varindex);
```

Both routines get passed the index of a possible triggering grid variable.

`TimeToOutput()` should return a non-zero value if analysis and output for `varindex` should take place at the current iteration, and zero otherwise.

`TriggerOutput()` should return zero for successful output of variable `varindex`, and a negative value in case of an error.

D8.4 Unconditional Output of Grid Variables

An I/O method's `OutputVarAs()` routine is supposed to do output for a specific grid variable if ever possible. It will be invoked by the Flesh I/O API routines `CCTK_OutputVar*()` for unconditional, non-triggered output of grid variables (see also [B8.2](#)).

A function registered as an `OutputVarAs()` routine has the following prototype:

```
int SimpleIO_OutputVarAs (const cGH *GH, const char *varname, const char *alias);
```

The variable to output, *varname*, is given by its full name. The full name may have appended an optional I/O options string enclosed in curly braces (with no space between the full name and the opening curly brace). In addition to that, an *alias* string can be passed which then serves the purpose of constructing a unique name for the output file.

The `OutputVarAs()` routine should return zero if output for *varname* was done successfully, or a negative error code otherwise.

Chapter D9

Checkpointing/Recovery Methods

Like for I/O methods, checkpointing/recovery functionality must be implemented by thorns. The Flesh only provides specific time bins at which the scheduler will call thorns' routines in order to perform checkpointing and/or recovery.

This chapter explains how to implement checkpointing and recovery methods in your thorn. For further information, see the documentation for thorn `CactusBase/IOUtil`.

D9.1 Checkpointing Invocation

Thorns register their checkpointing routines at `CCTK_CPINITIAL` and/or `CCTK_CHECKPOINT` and/or `CCTK_TERMINATE`. These time bins are scheduled right after all initial data has been set up, after every evolution timestep, and after the last time step of a simulation, respectively. (See [B3.3.4](#) for a description of all timebins). Depending on parameter settings, the checkpoint routines decide whether to write an initial data checkpoint, and when to write an evolution checkpoint.

Each checkpoint routine should save all information to persistent storage which is necessary to restart the simulation at a later time from exactly the same state. Such information would include

- the current settings of all parameters
- the contents of all grid variables which have global storage assigned and are not tagged with `checkpoint="no"` (see also section [E2.2.4](#) on page [E11](#) for a list of possible tags)
Note that grid variables should be synced before writing them to disk.
- other relevant information such as the current iteration number and physical time, the number of processors, etc.

D9.2 Recovery Invocation

Recovering from a checkpoint is a two-phase operation for which the Flesh provides distinct timebins for recovery routines to be scheduled at:

CCTK_RECOVER_PARAMETERS

This time bin is executed before **CCTK_STARTUP**, in which the parameter file is parsed. From these parameter settings, the recovery routines should decide whether recovery was requested, and if so, restore all parameters from the checkpoint file and overwrite those which aren't steerable.

The **Flesh** loops over all registered recovery routines to find out whether recovery was requested. Each recovery routine should therefore return a positive integer value for successful parameter recovery (causing a shortcut of the loop over all registered recovery routines), zero for no recovery, or a negative value to flag an error. If recovery was requested but no routine could successfully recover parameters, the **Flesh** will abort the run with an error message. If no routine recovered any parameters, i.e., if all parameter recovery routines returned zero, then this indicates that this run is not a recovery run.

If parameter recovery was performed successfully, the scheduler will set the **recovered** flag which — in combination with the setting of the **Cactus::recovery_mode** parameter — decides whether any thorn routine scheduled for **CCTK_INITIAL** and **CCTK_POSTINITIAL** will be called. The default is to not execute these initial time bins during recovery because the initial data will be set up from the checkpoint file during the following **CCTK_RECOVER_VARIABLES** time bin.

CCTK_RECOVER_VARIABLES

Recovery routines scheduled for this time bin are responsible for restoring the contents of all grid variables with storage assigned from the checkpoint.

Depending on the setting of **Cactus::recovery_mode** they should also decide how to treat errors in recovering individual grid variables. Strict recovery (which is the default) requires all variables to be restored successfully (and will stop the code if not) whereas a relaxed mode could e.g. allow for grid variables which are not found in the checkpoint file to be gracefully ignored during recovery.

Chapter D10

Clocks for Timing

To add a Cactus clock you need to write several functions to provide the timer functionality (see [Section B10.1](#)), and then register these functions with the Flesh as a named clock.

The function pointers are placed in function pointer fields of a `cClockFuncs` structure. The fields of this structure are are:

<code>create</code>	<code>void *(*create)(int)</code>
<code>destroy</code>	<code>void (*destroy)(int, void *)</code>
<code>start</code>	<code>void (*start)(int, void *)</code>
<code>stop</code>	<code>void (*stop)(int, void *)</code>
<code>reset</code>	<code>void (*reset)(int, void *)</code>
<code>get</code>	<code>void (*get)(int, void *, cTimerVal *)</code>
<code>set</code>	<code>void (*set)(int, void *, cTimerVal *)</code>
<code>n_vals</code>	<code>int</code>

The first `int` argument of the functions may be used in any way you see fit.

The `n_vals` field holds the number of elements in the `vals` array field of the `cTimerVal` structure used by your timer (usually 1).

The return value of the `create` function will be a pointer to a new structure representing your clock.

The second `void*` argument of all the other functions will be the pointer returned from the `create` function.

The `get` and `set` functions should write to and read from (respectively) a structure pointed to by the `cTimerVal*` argument:

```
typedef enum {val_none, val_int, val_long, val_double} cTimerValType;
```

```
typedef struct
{
    cTimerValType type;
    const char *heading;
    const char *units;
    union
    {
        int      i;
        long int  l;
        double    d;
    } val;
    double seconds;
    double resolution;
} cTimerVal;
```

The **heading** field is the name of the clock, the **units** field holds a string describing the type held in the **val** field, and the **seconds** field is the time elapsed in seconds. The **resolution** field is the smallest non-zero difference in values of two calls to the timer, in seconds. For example, it could reflect that the clock saves the time value internally as an integer value representing milliseconds.

To name and register the clock with the Flesh, call the function

```
CCTK_ClockRegister( "my_clock_name", &clock_func ).
```

Part E

Appendices

Note that these appendices appear (identically) in both the Cactus Users' Guide and the Cactus Reference Manual.

Chapter E1

Glossary

alias function	See <i>function aliasing</i> .
AMR	<i>Automatic Mesh Refinement</i>
analysis	
API	<i>Applications Programming Interface</i> , the interface provided by some software component to programmers who use the component. An API usually consists of subroutine/function calls, but may also include structure definitions and definition of constant values. The Cactus Reference Manual documents most of the Cactus Flesh APIs.
arrangement	A collection of thorns, stored in a subdirectory of the Cactus <code>arrangements</code> directory. See Section B2.2 .
autoconf	A GNU program which builds a configuration script which can be used to make a Makefile.
boundary zone	A boundary zone is a set of points at the edge of a grid, interpreted as the boundary of the physical problem, and which contains boundary data, e.g. Dirichlet conditions or von Neumann conditions. (See also <i>symmetry zone</i> , <i>ghost zone</i> .)
Cactus	A green fleshy plant with lots of thorns, usually inflicting pain if touched.
CCTK	<i>Cactus Computational Tool Kit</i> (The Cactus Flesh and computational thorns).
CCL	The <i>Cactus Configuration Language</i> , this is the language that the thorn configuration files are written in. See Section E2 .
configuration	The combination of a set of thorns, and all the Cactus configure options which affect what binary will be produced when compiling Cactus. For example, the choice of compilers (Cactus <code>CC</code> , <code>CXX</code> , <code>F77</code> , and <code>F90</code> configure options) and the compiler optimization settings (<code>OPTIMISE/OPTIMIZE</code> and <code>*_OPTIMISE_FLAGS</code> configure options) are part of a configuration (these flags change what binary is produced), but the Cactus <code>SILENT</code> and <code>WARN</code> configure options aren't part of a configuration (they don't change what binary will be produced). See Section A2.1 .
checkout	Get a copy of source code from CVS. See Section A1.3 .

checkpoint	Save the entire state of a Cactus run to a file so that the run can be restarted at a later time. See Sections A4.3 , D9 .
computational grid	<p>A discrete finite set of spatial points in \mathbb{R}^n (typically $1 \leq n \leq 3$). Historically Cactus has required these points to be uniformly spaced (we say the grid is uniformly spaced), but we are now starting to add support for non-uniform spacings (we say the grid is non-uniformly spaced).</p> <p>The grid consists of the physical domain and the boundary and symmetry points. See <i>grid functions</i> for the typical use of grid points.</p>
convergence	Important, but often neglected.
CST	The <i>Cactus Specification Tool</i> , which is the set of Perl scripts which parse the thorns' <code>.ccl</code> files and generates the code that binds the thorn source files with the Flesh.
CVS	The <i>Concurrent Versions System</i> is the favoured code distribution system for Cactus. See Sections A1.3 , E6 .
domain decomposition	The technique of breaking up a large computational problem into parts that are easier to solve. In Cactus, refers especially to a decomposition wherein the parts are solved in parallel on separate computer processors.
driver	A special kind of thorn which creates and handles grid hierarchies and grid variables. See Section B7.3 .
evolution	An iteration interpreted as a step through time. Also, a particular Cactus schedule bin for executing routines when evolution occurs.
Flesh	The Cactus routines which hold the thorns together, allowing them to communicate and scheduling things to happen with them. This is what you get if you check out Cactus from our CVS repository.
friend	Interfaces that are <i>friends</i> share their collective set of protected grid variables. See Section B3.3.2 , E2.2 .
function aliasing	The process of referring to a function to be provided by an interface independently of which thorn actually contains the function, or what language the function is written in. The function is called an <i>alias function</i> . See Section B10.5 , E2.2.3 .
GA	Shorthand for a <i>grid array</i> .
GF	Shorthand for a <i>grid function</i> .
gmake	GNU version of the <code>make</code> utility.
ghost zone	A set of points added for parallelisation purposes to a block of a grid lying on one processor, corresponding to points on the boundary of an adjoining block of the grid lying on another processor. Points from the boundary of the one block are copied (via an inter-processor communication mechanism) during synchronization (see) to the corresponding ghost zone of the other block, and vice-versa. In single processor runs there are no ghost zones. Contrast with symmetry or boundary zones. See Section B4.5 .
grid	Short for <i>computational grid</i> .

grid array	A <i>grid variable</i> whose global size need not be that of the computational grid; instead, the size is declared explicitly in an <code>interface.ccl</code> file.
grid function	A <i>grid variable</i> whose global size is the size of the computational grid. (See also <i>local array</i> .) From another perspective, <i>grid functions</i> are functions (of any of the Cactus data types (see section B10.8) defined on the domain of grid points. Typically grid functions are used to discretely approximate functions defined on the domain \mathbb{R}^n , with <i>finite differencing</i> used to approximate partial derivatives.
grid hierarchy	A <i>computational grid</i> , and the <i>grid variables</i> associated with it.
grid point	A spatial point in the <i>computational grid</i> .
grid scalar	A <i>grid variable</i> with index zero, <i>i.e.</i> just a number on each processor.
grid variable	A variable which is passed through the Flesh interface, either between thorns or between routines of the same thorn. This implies the variable is related to the computational grid as opposed to being an internal variable of the thorn or one of its routines. <i>grid scalar</i> , <i>grid function</i> , and <i>grid array</i> are all examples of <i>grid variables</i> . See Sections B4.2, E2.2.4
GNATS	The GNU program we use for reporting and tracking bugs, comments and suggestions.
GNU	<i>GNU's Not Unix</i> : a freely-distributable code project. See http://www.gnu.org/ .
GV	Shorthand for <i>grid variable</i> .
handle	A signed integer value ≥ 0 passed by many Cactus routines and used to represent a dynamic data or code object.
HDF5	<i>Hierarchical Data Format</i> version 5, an API, subroutine library, and file format for storing structured data. An HDF5 file can store both data (for example Cactus grid variables), and meta data (data describing the other data, for example Cactus coordinate systems). See Section A2.1.3, also http://hdf.ncsa.uiuc.edu/HDF5/ .
implementation	Defines the interface that a thorn presents to the rest of a Cactus program. See Section B2.3.
inherit	A thorn that <i>inherits</i> from another implementation can access all the other implementation's public variables. See Section B3.3.2. E2.2.
interface	
interpolation	Given a set of grid variables and interpolation points (points in the grid coordinate space which are typically distinct from the grid points) interpolation is the act of producing values for the grid variables at each interpolation point over the entire grid hierarchy. (Contrast with <i>local interpolation</i> .)
local array	An array that is declared in thorn code but not declared in the thorn's <code>interface.ccl</code> , as opposed to a <i>grid array</i> .
local interpolation	Given a set of grid variables and interpolation points (points in the grid coordinate space which are typically distinct from the grid points) interpolation is the act of producing values for the grid variables at each interpolation point on a particular grid. (Contrast with <i>interpolation</i> .)
Makefile	The default input file for <code>make</code> (or <code>gmake</code>). Includes rules for building targets.

make	A system for building software. It uses rules involving dependencies of one part of software on another, and information of what has changed since the last build, to determine what parts need to be built.
MPI	<i>Message Passing Interface</i> , an API and software library for sending messages between processors in a multiprocessor system. See Sections A2.1.2 , A2.1.3 .
multi-patch	
mutual recursion	See <i>recursion</i> , <i>mutual</i> .
NUL character	The C programming language uses a “NUL character” to terminate character strings. A NUL character has the integer value zero, but it’s useful to write it as ‘\0’ to emphasize to human readers that this has type <code>char</code> rather than <code>int</code> .
null pointer, NULL pointer	<p>C defines a “null pointer” (often (slightly incorrectly) called a “NULL pointer”) which is guaranteed not to point to any object. You get a null pointer by converting the integer constant 0 to a pointer type, e.g. <code>int* ptr = 0;</code>¹</p> <p>Many programmers prefer to use the predefined macro <code>NULL</code> (defined in <code><stdlib.h></code>, <code><stdio.h></code>, and possibly other system header files) to create null pointers, e.g. <code>int* ptr = NULL;</code>, to emphasize to human readers that this is a null <i>pointer</i> rather than “just” the integer zero.</p> <p>Note that it is explicitly <i>not</i> defined whether a null pointer is represented by a bit pattern of all zero bits — this varies from system to system, and there are real-world systems where null pointers are in fact <i>not</i> represented this way.</p> <p>For further information, see the section “Null pointers” in the (excellent) <code>comp.lang.c</code> FAQ, available online at http://www.eskimo.com/~scs/C-faq/top.html.</p>
parallelisation	The process of utilising multiple computer processors to work on different parts of a computational problem at the same time, in order to obtain a solution of the problem more quickly. Cactus achieves parallelisation by means of <i>domain decomposition</i> .
parameter	A variable that controls the run time behaviour of the Cactus executable. Parameters have default values which can be set in a <i>parameter file</i> (See Chapter B5). The Flesh has parameters; thorn parameters are made available to the rest of Cactus by describing them in the thorn’s <code>param.ccl</code> file (See Appendix E2.3).
parameter file	(Also called <i>par file</i> .) A text file used as the input of a Cactus program, specifying initial values of thorn parameters. See Section A3.2 .
processor topology	
PUGH	The default driver thorn for Cactus which uses MPI. See Section A1.1 .
PVM	<i>Parallel Virtual Machine</i> , provides interprocessor communication. See Section A1.1 .
recursion, mutual	See <i>mutual recursion</i> .
reduction	Given a set of grid variables on a computational grid, <i>reduction</i> is the process of producing values for the variables on a proper subset of points from the grid.

¹Note that if you have an expression which has the value zero, but which isn’t an integer constant, converting this to a pointer type is *not* guaranteed to give a NULL pointer, e.g.:

```
int i = 0;
int* ptr = i; /* ptr is NOT guaranteed to be a NULL pointer! */
```

scheduler	The part of the Cactus Flesh that determines the order and circumstances in which to execute Cactus routines. Thorn functions and schedule groups are registered with the Flesh via the thorn's <code>schedule.ccl</code> file to be executed in a certain schedule bin, before or after another function or group executes, and so forth. See Chapter B6, and Section E2.4.
schedule bin	One of a set of special timebins pre-defined by Cactus. See Section E3 for a list.
schedule group	A timebin defined by a thorn, in its <code>schedule.ccl</code> file (see Appendix E2.4). Each schedule group must be defined to occur in a Cactus schedule bin or another schedule group. See Chapter B6, B6.1.
shares	An implementation may <i>share</i> restricted parameters with another implementation, which means the other implementation can get the parameter values, and if the parameters are steerable, it can change them. See Section B3.3.3. E2.3.
staggering	See Section B4.6.
steerable parameter	A parameter which can be changed at any time after the program has been initialised. See Section B5.3.
symmetry operation	A grid operation that is a manifestation of a geometrical symmetry, especially rotation or reflection.
symmetry zone	A set of points laying at the edge of the computational grid and containing data obtained by some symmetry operation from another part of the same grid. (Contrast with <i>boundary zone</i> , <i>ghost zone</i> .)
synchronisation	The process of copying information from the outer part of a computational interior on one processor to the corresponding ghost zone (see) on another processor. Also refers to a special Cactus timebin corresponding to the occurrence of this process. See Section B4.5.
TAGS	See Section E7.
target	A <i>make target</i> is the name of a set of rules for <code>make</code> (or <code>gmake</code>). When the target is included in the command line for <code>make</code> the rules are executed, usually to build some software.
test suite	See Sections A2.4, B9.5.
thorn	A collection of subroutines defining a Cactus interface. See Chapters B2, B3.
ThornList	A file used by the Cactus CST to determine which thorns to compile into a Cactus executable (see Section A2.2.1, A2.2.2). Can also be used to determine which thorns to check out from CVS (see Section A1.3). A ThornList for each Cactus configuration lies in the configuration subdirectory of the Cactus <code>configs</code> directory.
time bin	A time interval in the duration of a Cactus run wherein the Flesh runs specified routines. See <i>scheduler</i> , <i>schedule bin</i> .
time level	
timer	A Cactus API for reporting time. See Section B10.1.
trigger	
unigrid	

WMPI *Win32 Message Passing Interface*. See Sections [A2.1.2](#), [A2.1.3](#).
wrapper

Chapter E2

Configuration file syntax

E2.1 General Concepts

Each thorn is configured by three compulsory and one optional files in the top level thorn directory:

- `interface.ccl`
- `param.ccl`
- `schedule.ccl`
- `configuration.ccl` (optional)

These files are written in the *Cactus Configuration Language* which is case insensitive.

E2.2 `interface.ccl`

The interface configuration file consists of

- a header block giving details of the thorn's relationship with other thorns.
- a block detailing which include files are used from other thorns, and which include files are provided by this thorn
- blocks detailing aliased functions provided or used by this thorn
- a series of blocks listing the thorn's global variables.

(For a more extensive discussion of Cactus variables see Chapter [B4](#).)

E2.2.1 Header block

The header block has the form:

```
implements: <implementation>
inherits: <implementation>, <implementation>
friend: <implementation>, <implementation>
```

where

- The implementation name must be unique among all thorns, except between thorns which have the same public and protected variables and global and restricted parameters.
- Inheriting from another implementation makes all that implementation's public variables available to your thorn. At least one thorn providing any inherited implementation must be present at compile time. A thorn cannot inherit from itself. Inheritance is transitive (if *A* inherits from *B*, and *B* inherits from *C*, then *A* also implicitly inherits from *C*), but not commutative.
- Being a friend of another implementation makes all that implementation's protected variables available to your thorn. At least one thorn providing an implementation for each friend must be present at compile time. A thorn cannot be its own friend. Friendship is associative, commutative and transitive (i.e. if *A* is a friend of *B* and *B* is a friend of *C*, then *A* is implicitly a friend of *C*).

E2.2.2 Include files

The include file section has the form:

```
USES INCLUDE [SOURCE|HEADER]: <file_name>
INCLUDE[S] [SOURCE|HEADER]: <file_to_include> in <file_name>
```

The former is used when a thorn wishes to use an include file from another thorn. The latter indicates that this thorn adds the code in *<file_to_include>* to the include file *<file_name>*. If the include file is described as *SOURCE*, the included code is only executed if the providing thorn is active. Both default to *HEADER*.

E2.2.3 Function aliasing

If any aliased function is to be used or provided by the thorn then the prototype must be declared with the form:

```
<return_type> FUNCTION <alias>(<arg1_type> <intent1> [ARRAY] <arg1>, ...)
```

The *<return_type>* must be either *void*, *CCTK_INT*, *CCTK_REAL*, *CCTK_COMPLEX*, *CCTK_POINTER*, or *CCTK_POINTER_TO_CONST*. The keyword *SUBROUTINE* is equivalent to *void FUNCTION*. The name of the aliased function *<alias>* must contain at least one uppercase and one lowercase letter and follow the C standard for function names. The type of each argument, *<arg*_type>*, must be either *CCTK_INT*,

CCTK_REAL, CCTK_COMPLEX, CCTK_POINTER, CCTK_POINTER_TO_CONST, or STRING. All string arguments must be the last arguments in the list. The intent of each argument, *<intent*>*, must be either IN, OUT, or INOUT. An argument may only be modified if it is declared to have intent OUT or INOUT. If the argument is an array then the prefix ARRAY must also be given.

If the argument *<arg*>* is a function pointer then the argument itself (which will be preceded by the return type) should be

```
CCTK_FPOINTER <function_arg1>(<arg1_type> <intent1> <arg1>, ...)
```

Function pointers may not be nested.

If an aliased function is to be required then the block

```
REQUIRES FUNCTION <alias>
```

is required.

If an aliased function is to be (optionally) used then the block

```
USES FUNCTION <alias>
```

is required.

If a function is provided then the block

```
PROVIDES FUNCTION <alias> WITH <provider> LANGUAGE <providing_language>
```

is required. As with the alias name, *<provider>* must contain at least one uppercase and one lowercase letter and follow the C standard for function names. Currently the only supported values of *<providing_language>* are C and Fortran.

E2.2.4 Variable blocks

The thorn's variables are collected into groups. This is not only for convenience, but for collecting like variables together. Storage assignment, communication assignment, and ghostzone synchronization take place for groups only.

The thorn's variables are defined by:

```
[<access>:]
```

```
<data_type> <group_name>[[<number>]] [TYPE=<group_type>] [DIM=<dim>]
[TIMELEVELS=<num>]
[SIZE=<size in each direction>] [DISTRIB=<distribution_type>]
[GHOSTSIZE=<ghostsize>] [STAGGER=<stagger-specification>]
[TAGS=<string>] ["<group_description>"]
```

```
[{
  [ <variable_name>[,]<variable_name>
    <variable_name> ]
} ["<group_description>"] ]
```

(The options `TYPE`, `DIM`, etc. following `<group_name>` must all appear on one line.) Note that the beginning brace (`{`) must sit on a line by itself; the ending brace (`}`) must be preceded by a carriage return.

- `access` defines which thorns can use the following groups of variables. `access` can be either `public`, `protected` or `private`.
- `data_type` defines the data type of the variables in the group. Supported data types are `CHAR`, `BYTE`, `INT`, `REAL`, and `COMPLEX`.
- `group_name` must be an alphanumeric name (which may also contain underscores) which is unique across group and variable names within the scope of the thorn. A group name is compulsory.
- `[number]`, if present, indicates that this is a *vector* group. The number can be any valid arithmetical expression consisting of integers or integer-valued parameters. Each variable in that group appears as a one-dimensional array of grid variables. When the variable is accessed in the code, then the last index is the member-index, and any other indices are the normal spatial indices for a group of this type and dimension.
- `TYPE` designates the kind of variables held by the group. The choices are `GF`, `ARRAY` or `SCALAR`. This field is optional, with the default variable type being `SCALAR`.
- `DIM` defines the spatial dimension of the `ARRAY` or `GF`. The default value is `DIM=3`.
- `TIMELEVELS` defines the number of timelevels a group has if the group is of type `ARRAY` or `GF`, and can take any positive value. The default is one timelevel.
- `SIZE` defines the number grid-points an `ARRAY` has in each direction. This should be a comma-separated list of valid arithmetical expressions consisting of integers or integer-valued parameters.
- `DISTRIB` defines the processor decomposition of an `ARRAY`. `DISTRIB=DEFAULT` distributes `SIZE` grid-points across all processors. `DISTRIB=CONSTANT` implies that `SIZE` grid-points should be allocated on each processor. The default value is `DISTRIB=DEFAULT`.
- `GHOSTSIZE` defines number of ghost-zones in each dimension of an `ARRAY`.
- `STAGGER` defines position of grid-points of a `GF` with respect to the underlying grid. It consists of a string made up of a combination `DIM` of the letters `M`, `C`, `P` depending on whether the layout in that direction is on the Minus face, Centre, or Plus face of the cell in that dimension.
- `TAGS` defines an optional string which is used to create a set of key-value pairs associated with the group. The keys are case independent. The string (which must be delimited by single or double quotes) is interpreted by the function `Util_TableSetFromString()`, which is described in the ReferenceManual.
Currently the CST parser and the flesh do not evaluate any information passed in an optional `TAGS` string. Thorns may do so by querying the key/value table information for a group by using `CCTK_GroupTagsTable()` and the appropriate `Util_TableGet*()` utility functions (see the ReferenceManual for detailed descriptions).
For a list of currently supported `TAGS` key-value table information please refer to the corresponding chapter in the documentation of the CactusDoc arrangement (section [A2.3](#) on page [A18](#) explains how to build this documentation).

- The (optional) block following the group declaration line contains a list of variables contained in the group. All variables in a group have the same data type, variable type, dimension and distribution. The list can be separated by spaces, commas, or new lines. The variable names must be unique within the scope of the thorn. A variable can only be a member of one group. The block must be delimited by brackets on new lines. If no block is given after a group declaration line, a variable with the same name as the group is created. Apart from this case, a group name cannot be the same as the name of any variable seen by this thorn.
- An optional description of the group can be given on the last line. If the variable block is omitted, this description can be given at the end of the declaration line.

The process of sharing code among thorns using include files is discussed in Section [B10.2](#).

E2.3 param.ccl

The parameter configuration file consists of a list of *parameter object specification items* (OSIs) giving the type and range of the parameter separated by optional *parameter data scoping items* (DSIs) which detail access to the parameter. (For a more extensive discussion of Cactus parameters see Chapter [B5](#).)

E2.3.1 Parameter data scoping items

`<access>:`

The key word **access** designates that all parameter object specification items up to the next parameter data scoping item are in the same protection or scoping class. **access** can take the values:

global	all thorns have access to global parameters
restricted	other thorns can have access to these parameters if they specifically request it in their own param.ccl
private	only your thorn has access to private parameters
shares	in this case an implementation name must follow the colon. It declares that all the parameters in the following scoping block are restricted variables from the specified implementation . (Note: only one implementation can be specified on this line.)

E2.3.2 Parameter object specification items

```
[EXTENDS|USES] <parameter type> <parameter name>[[<len>]] "<parameter description>"
[AS <alias>] [STEERABLE=<NEVER|ALWAYS|RECOVER>]
[ACCUMULATOR=<expression>] [ACCUMULATOR-BASE=<parameter name>]
{
  <parameter values>
} <default value>
```

where the options AS, STEERABLE, etc. following *<parameter description>* must all appear on one line. Note that the beginning brace ({) must sit on a line by itself; the ending brace (}) must be at the beginning of a line followed by *<default value>* on that same line.

- The *parameter values* depend on the *parameter type*, which may be one of the following:

INT The specification of *parameter values* takes the form of one or more lines, each of the form

```
<range description> [::"<comment describing this range>"]
```

Here a *<range description>* specifies a set of integers, and has one of the following forms:

```
*                               # means any integer
<integer>                     # means only <integer>
<lower bound>:<upper bound>    # means all integers in the range
                                # from <lower bound> to <upper bound>
<lower bound>:<upper bound>:<positive step>
                                # means all integers in the range
                                # from <lower bound> to <upper bound>
                                # in steps of <positive step>
```

where *<lower bound>* has one of the forms

```
<empty field>                # means no lower limit
*                             # means no lower limit
<integer>                    # means a closed interval starting at <integer>
[<integer>                   # also means a closed interval starting at <integer>
(<integer>                   # means an open interval starting at <integer>
```

and *<upper bound>* has one of the forms

```
<empty field>                # means no upper limit
*                             # means no upper limit
<integer>                    # means a closed interval ending at <integer>
<integer>]                  # also means a closed interval ending at <integer>
<integer>)                  # means an open interval ending at <integer>
```

REAL The range specification is the same as integers, except that here, no *step* implies a continuum of values. Note that numeric constants should be expressed as in C (e.g. 1e-10). Note also that one cannot use the Cactus types such as CCTK_REAL4 to specify the precision of the parameter; parameters always have the default precision.

KEYWORD Each entry in the list of acceptable values for a keyword has the form

```
<keyword value>, <keyword value> :: "<description>"
```

Keyword values should be enclosed in double quotes. The double quotes are mandatory if the keyword contains spaces.

STRING	Allowed values for strings should be specified using regular expressions. To allow any string, the regular expression "" should be used. (An empty regular expression matches anything.) Regular expressions and string values should be enclosed in double quotes. The double quotes are mandatory if the regular expression or the string value is empty or contains spaces.
BOOLEAN	No <i>parameter values</i> should be specified for a boolean parameter. The default value for a boolean can be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – True: 1, yes, y, t, true – False: 0, no, n, f, false Boolean values may optionally be enclosed in double quotes.

- The *parameter name* must be unique within the scope of the thorn.
- The *default value* must match one of the ranges given in the *parameter type*
- A thorn can declare that it **EXTENDS** a parameter of another thorn. This allows it to declare additional acceptable values. By default it is acceptable for two thorns to declare the same value as acceptable.
- If the thorn wants to simply use a parameter from another thorn, without declaring additional values, use **USES** instead.
- [*len*] (where *len* is an integer), if present, indicates that this is an *array* parameter of *len* values of the specified type. (Note that the notation used above for the parameter specification breaks down here, as there must be square brackets around the length).
- *alias* allows a parameter to appear as a different name in this thorn than its original name in another thorn. The name as seen in the parameter file is unchanged.
- **STEERABLE** specifies when a parameter value may be changed. By default parameters may not be changed after the parameter file has been read, or on restarting from checkpoint. This option relaxes this restriction, specifying that the parameter may be changed at recovery time from a parameter file or at any time using the `Flesh routine CCTK.ParameterSet` — see the Reference Guide.
The value **RECOVERY** is used in checkpoint/recovery situations, and indicates that the parameter may be altered until the value is read in from a recovery par file, but not after.
- **ACCUMULATOR** specifies that this is an *accumulator* parameter. Such parameters cannot be set directly, but are set by other parameters who specify this one as an **ACCUMULATOR-BASE**. The expression is a two parameter arithmetical expression of *x* and *y*. Setting the parameter consists of evaluating this expression successively, with *x* being the current value of the parameter (at the first iteration this is the default value) and *y* the value of the setting parameter. This procedure is repeated, starting from the default value of the parameter, each time one of the setting parameters changes.
- **ACCUMULATOR-BASE** specifies the name of an **ACCUMULATOR** parameter which this parameter sets.

E2.4 schedule.ccl

(A more extensive discussion of Cactus scheduling is provided in Chapter [B6](#).) A schedule configuration file consists of

- *assignment statements* to switch on storage for grid variables for the entire duration of program execution
- *schedule blocks* to schedule a subroutine from a thorn to be called at specific times during program execution in a given manner
- *conditional statements* for both assignment statements and schedule blocks to allow them to be processed depending on parameter values

E2.4.1 Assignment Statements

Assignment statements, currently only assign storage.

These lines have the form:

```
[STORAGE: <group>[timelevels], <group>[timelevels]]
```

If the thorn is active, storage will be allocated for the given groups for the duration of program execution (unless storage is explicitly switched off by some call to `CCTK_DisableGroupStorage` within a thorn).

The storage line includes the number of timelevels to activate storage for, this number can be from 1 up to the maximum number or timelevels for the group as specified in the defining `interface.ccl` file. If the maximum number of timelevels is 1 (the default), this number may be omitted.

The behaviour of an assignment statement is independent of its position in the schedule file (so long as it is outside a schedule block).

E2.4.2 Schedule Blocks

Each *schedule block* in the file `schedule.ccl` must have the syntax

```
schedule [GROUP] <function name|group name> AT|IN <time> \
  [AS <alias>] \
  [WHILE <variable>] [IF <variable>] \
  [BEFORE|AFTER <function name>|(<function name> <function name> ...)] \
{
  [LANG: <language>]
  [STORAGE:      <group>[timelevels],<group>[timelevels]...]
  [TRIGGER:      <group>,<group>...]
  [SYNCHRONISE:  <group>,<group>...]
  [OPTIONS:      <option>,<option>...]
} "Description of function"
```

GROUP Schedule a schedule group with the same options as a schedule function. The schedule group will be created if it doesn't exist.

<function name|group name>

The name of a function or a schedule group to be scheduled. Function and schedule group names are case sensitive

<group>	A group of grid variables. Variable groups inherited from other thorns may be used, but they must then be fully qualified with the implementation name.
AT	Functions can be scheduled to run at the Cactus schedule bins, for example <code>CCTK_EVOL</code> , <code>CCTK_STARTUP</code> . A complete list and description of these is provided in Appendix E3. The initial letters <code>CCTK_</code> are optional. Grid variables cannot be used in the <code>CCTK_STARTUP</code> and <code>CCTK_SHUTDOWN</code> timebins.
IN	Schedules a function or schedule group to run in a schedule group rather than in a Cactus timebin.
AS	Provides an alias for a function or schedule group which should be used for scheduling before, after or in. This can be used to provide thorn independence for other thorns scheduling functions or schedule groups relative to this one.
WHILE	Executes a function or schedule group until the given variable (which must be a fully qualified integer grid scalar) has the value zero.
IF	Executes a function or schedule group only if the given variable (which must be a fully qualified integer grid scalar) has a non-zero value.
BEFORE/AFTER	Takes a function name, a function alias, a schedule group name, or a parentheses-enclosed whitespace-separated list of these. (Any names that are not provided by an active thorn are ignored.) Note that a single schedule block may have multiple <code>BEFORE/AFTER</code> clauses. See section B6 (“Scheduling”) in the Cactus Users’ Guide for more information about <code>BEFORE/AFTER</code> clauses.
LANG	The code language for the function (either <code>C</code> or <code>FORTRAN</code>). No language should be specified for a schedule group.
STORAGE	List of variable groups which should have storage switched on for the duration of the function or schedule group. Each group must specify how many timelevels to activate storage for, from 1 up to the maximum number for the group as specified in the defining <code>interface.ccl</code> file. If the maximum is 1 (the default) this number may be omitted.
TRIGGER	List of grid variables or groups to be used as triggers for causing an <code>ANALYSIS</code> function or group to be executed. Any schedule block for an analysis function or analysis group may contain a <code>TRIGGER</code> line.
SYNCHRONISE	List of groups to be synchronised as soon as the function or schedule group is exited.
OPTIONS	List of additional options (see Section E2.4.2) for the scheduled function or group of functions

Allowed Options

Cactus understands the following options. These options are interpreted by the driver, not by Cactus. The current set of options is useful for Berger-Oliger mesh refinement which has subcycling in time, and for multi-patch simulations in which the domain is split into several distinct patches. Given this, the meanings of the options below is only tentative, and their exact meaning needs to be obtained from the driver documentation. The standard driver PUGH ignores all options.

Option names are case-insensitive. There can be several options given at the same time.

META	This routine will only be called once, even if several simulations are performed at the same time. This can be used, for example, to initialise external libraries, or to set up data structures that live in global variables.
GLOBAL	This routine will only be called once on a grid hierarchy, not for all subgrids making up the hierarchy. This can be used, for example, for analysis routines which use global reduction or interpolation routines rather than the local subgrid passed to them, and hence should only be called once.
LEVEL	This routine will only be called once on any “level” of the grid hierarchy. That is, it will only be called once for any set of sub-grids which have the same <code>cctk_levfac</code> numbers.
SINGLEMAP	This routine will only be called once on any of the “patches” that form a “level” of the grid hierarchy.
LOCAL (this is the default)	This routine will be called on every “component”.

When the above options are used, it is often the case that a certain routine should e.g. be called at the time for a GLOBAL routine, but should actually loop over all “components”. The following set of options allows this:

LOOP-META	Loop once.
LOOP-GLOBAL	Loop over all simulations.
LOOP-LEVEL	Loop over all “levels”.
LOOP-SINGLEMAP	Loop over all “patches”.
LOOP-LOCAL	Loop over all “components”.

For example, the specification

```
OPTIONS: global loop-local
```

schedules a routine at those time when a GLOBAL routine is scheduled, and then calls the routine in a loop over all “components”.

E2.4.3 Conditional Statements

Any schedule block or assignment statements can be optionally surrounded by conditional `if-elseif-else` constructs using the parameter data base. These can be nested, and have the general form:

```
if (CCTK_Equals(<parameter>,<string>))
{
    [<assignments>]
    [<schedule blocks>]
}
```


Such conditionals are evaluated only at program startup and are used to pick between different static schedule options. For dynamic scheduling the `SCHEDULE WHILE` construction should be used.

Conditional constructs cannot be used inside a schedule block.

E2.5 configuration.ccl

[**NOTE:** The `configuration.ccl` is still relatively new, and not all features listed below may be fully implemented or functional.]

A `configuration.ccl` file defines **capabilities** which a thorn either provides or requires, or may use if available. Unlike **implementations**, only one thorn providing a particular capability may be compiled into a configuration at one time. Thus this mechanism may be used to, for example: provide access to external libraries; provide access to functions which other thorns must call, but are too complex for function aliasing; or to split a thorn into several thorns, all of which require some common (not aliased) functions.

A configuration options file can contain any number of the following sections:

- **PROVIDES** *<Capability>*

```
{
  SCRIPT <Configuration script>
  LANG <Language>
  [OPTIONS [<option>][,<option>]...]]
}
```

Informs the CST that this thorn provides a given capability, and that this capability has a given detection script which may be used to configure it (e.g. running an `autoconf` script or detecting an external library's location). The script should output configuration information on its standard output — the syntax is described below in section [E2.5.1](#). The script may also indicate the failure to detect a capability by returning a non-zero exit code; this will stop the build after the CST stage.

Scripts can be in any language. If an interpreter is needed to run the script, for example `Perl`, this should be indicated by the `LANG` option.

The specified options are checked for in the original configuration and any options passed on the command line (including an 'options' file) at compile time when the thorn is added, or if the CST is rerun. These options need be set only once, and will be remembered between builds.

- **REQUIRES** *<Capability>*

Informs the CST that this thorn requires a certain capability to be present. If no thorn providing the capability is in the `ThornList`, the build will stop after the CST stage.

```
OPTIONAL <Capability>
{
  DEFINE <macro>
}
```

Informs the CST that this thorn may use a certain capability if a thorn providing it is in the `ThornList`. If present, the preprocessor macro `macro` will be defined and given the value "1".

E2.5.1 Configuration Scripts

The configuration script may tell the CST to add certain features to the Cactus environment — either to the make system or to header files included by thorns. It does this by outputting lines to its standard output:

- **BEGIN DEFINE**
 <text>
 END DEFINE

Places a set of definitions in a header file which will be included by all thorns using this capability (either through an **OPTIONAL** or **REQUIRES** entry in their configuration.ccl files).
- **INCLUDE_DIRECTORY <directory>**

Adds a directory to the include path used for compiling files in thorns using this capability.
- **BEGIN MAKE_DEFINITION**
 <text>
 END MAKE_DEFINITION

Adds a makefile definition into the compilation of all thorns using this capability.
- **BEGIN MAKE_DEPENDENCY**
 <text>
 END MAKE_DEPENDENCY

Adds makefile dependency information into the compilation of all thorns using this capability.
- **LIBRARY <library>**

Adds a library to the final cactus link.
- **LIBRARY_DIRECTORY <library>**

Adds a directory to the list of directories searched for libraries at link time.

No other lines should be output by the script.

Chapter E3

Schedule bins

Using the `schedule.ccl` files, thorn functions can be scheduled to run in the different timebins which are executed by the Cactus Flesh. This chapter describes these standard timebins, and shows the flow of program execution through them.

Scheduled functions must be declared as

```
In C:          #include "cctk_Arguments.h"
                void MyFunction (CCTK_ARGUMENTS);

In C++:        #include "cctk_Arguments.h"
                extern "C" void MyFunction (CCTK_ARGUMENTS);

In Fortran:    #include "cctk_Arguments.h"
                subroutine MyFunction (CCTK_ARGUMENTS)
                  DECLARE_CCTK_ARGUMENTS
                end
```

Exceptions are the functions that are scheduled in the bins `CCTK_STARTUP`, `CCTK_RECOVER_PARAMETERS`, and `CCTK_SHUTDOWN`. They do not take arguments, and they return an integer. They must be declared as

```
In C:          int MyFunction (void);

In C++         extern "C" int MyFunction ();

In Fortran:    integer function MyFunction ()
                end
```

The return value in `CCTK_STARTUP` and `CCTK_SHUTDOWN` is unused, and might in the future be used to indicate whether an error occurred. You should return 0.

The return value in `CCTK_RECOVER_PARAMETERS` should be zero, positive, or negative, indicating that no parameters were recovered, that parameters were recovered successfully, or that an error occurred, respectively. Routines in this bin are executed in alphabetical order, according to the owning thorn's name, until one returns a positive value. All later routines are ignored. Schedule clauses **BEFORE**, **AFTER**, **WHILE**, **IF**, etc., are ignored.

CCTK_RECOVER_PARAMETERS

Used by thorns with relevant IO methods as the point to read parameters when recovering from checkpoint files. Grid variables are not available in this timebin. Scheduling in this timebin is special (see above).

CCTK_STARTUP

Run before any grids are constructed, this is the timebin for example where grid independent information (e.g. output methods, reduction operators) is registered. Note that since no grids are setup at this point, grid variables cannot be used in routines scheduled here.

CCTK_WRAGH

This timebin is executed when all parameters are known, but before the driver thorn constructs the grid. It should only be used to set up information that is needed by the driver.

CCTK_PARAMCHECK

This timebin is for thorns to check the validity of parameter combinations. This bin is also executed before the grid hierarchy is made, so that routines scheduled here only have access to the global grid size and the parameters.

CCTK_PREREGRIDINITIAL

This timebin is used in mesh refinement settings. It is ignored for unigrid runs. This bin is executed whenever the grid hierarchy is about to change during evolution; compare **CCTK_PREREGRID**. Routines that decide the new grid structure should be scheduled in this bin.

CCTK_POSTREGRIDINITIAL

This timebin is used in mesh refinement settings. It is ignored for unigrid runs. This bin is executed whenever the grid hierarchy or patch setup has changed during evolution; see **CCTK_POSTREGRID**. It is, e.g., necessary to re-apply the boundary conditions or recalculate the grid points' coordinates after every changing the grid hierarchy.

CCTK_BASEGRID

This timebin is executed very early after a driver thorn constructs grid; this bin should only be used to set up coordinate systems on the newly created grids.

CCTK_INITIAL

This is the place to set up any required initial data. This timebin is not run when recovering from a checkpoint file.

CCTK_POSTINITIAL

This is the place to modify initial data, or to calculate data that depend on the initial data. This timebin is also not run when recovering from a checkpoint file.

CCTK_POSTRESTRICTINITIAL

This timebin is used only in mesh refinement settings. It is ignored for unigrid runs. This bin is executed after each restriction operation while initial data are set up; compare **CCTK_POSTRESTRICT**. It is, e.g., necessary to re-apply the boundary conditions after every restriction operation.

CCTK_POSTPOSTINITIAL

This is the place to modify initial data, or to calculate data that depend on the initial data. This timebin is executed after the recursive initialisation of finer grids if there is a mesh refinement hierarchy, and it is also not run when recovering from a checkpoint file.

CCTK_RECOVER_VARIABLES

Used by thorns with relevant IO methods as the point to read in all the grid variables when recovering from checkpoint files.

CCTK_POST_RECOVER_VARIABLES

This timebin exists for scheduling any functions which need to modify grid variables after recovery.

CCTK_CPINITIAL	Used by thorns with relevant IO methods as the point to checkpoint initial data if required.
CCTK_CHECKPOINT	Used by thorns with relevant IO methods as the point to checkpoint data during the iterative loop when required.
CCTK_PREREGRID	This timebin is used in mesh refinement settings. It is ignored for unigrid runs. This bin is executed whenever the grid hierarchy is about to change during evolution; compare CCTK_PREREGRIDINITIAL. Routines that decide the new grid structure should be scheduled in this bin.
CCTK_POSTREGRID	This timebin is used in mesh refinement settings. It is ignored for unigrid runs. This bin is executed whenever the grid hierarchy or patch setup has changed during evolution; see CCTK_POSTREGRIDINITIAL. It is, e.g., necessary to re-apply the boundary conditions or recalculate the grid points' coordinates after every changing the grid hierarchy.
CCTK_PRESTEP	The timebin for scheduling any routines which need to be executed before any routines in the main evolution step. This timebin exists for thorn writers convenience, the BEFORE , AFTER etc. functionality of the <code>schedule.ccl</code> file should allow all functions to be scheduled in the main CCTK_EVOL timebin.
CCTK_EVOL	The timebin for the main evolution step.
CCTK_POSTRESTRICT	This timebin is used only in mesh refinement settings. It is ignored for unigrid runs. This bin is executed after each restriction operation during evolution; compare CCTK_POSTRESTRICTINITIAL. It is, e.g., necessary to re-apply the boundary conditions after every restriction operation.
CCTK_POSTSTEP	The timebin for scheduling any routines which need to be executed after all the routines in the main evolution step. This timebin exists for thorn writers convenience, the BEFORE , AFTER etc. functionality of the <code>schedule.ccl</code> file should allow all functions to be scheduled in the main CCTK_EVOL timebin.
CCTK_ANALYSIS	The ANALYSIS timebin is special, in that it is closely coupled with output, and routines which are scheduled here are typically only executed if output of analysis variables is required. Routines which perform analysis should be independent of the main evolution loop (that is, it should not matter for the results of a simulation whether routines in this timebin are executed or not).
CCTK_TERMINATE	Called after the main iteration loop when Cactus terminates. Note that sometime in this timebin a driver thorn should be destroying the grid hierarchy and removing grid variables.
CCTK_SHUTDOWN	Cactus final shutdown routines, after the grid hierarchy has been destroyed. Grid variables are no longer available.

Chapter E4

Flesh parameters

The Flesh parameters are defined in the file `src/param.ccl`.

E4.1 Private parameters

<code>allow_mixeddim_gfs</code>	Allow use of GFs from different dimensions [no]
<code>cctk_brief_output</code>	Give only brief output [no]
<code>cctk_full_warnings</code>	Give detailed information for each warning statement [yes]
<code>cctk_run_title</code>	Description of this simulation ["]
<code>cctk_show_banners</code>	Show any registered banners for the different thorns [yes]
<code>cctk_show_schedule</code>	Print the scheduling tree to standard output [yes]
<code>cctk_strong_param_check</code>	Die on parameter errors in CCTK_PARAMCHECK [yes]
<code>cctk_timer_output</code>	Give timing information [off] {off, full}
<code>manual_cache_setup</code>	Set the cache size manually [no]
<code>manual_cache_size</code>	The size to set the cache to if not done automatically (bytes) [0]
<code>manual_cacheline_bytes</code>	The size of a cacheline if not set automatically (bytes) [0]
<code>recovery_mode</code>	How to behave when recovering from a checkpoint [strict] {strict, relaxed}
<code>highlight_warning_messages</code>	Highlight CCTK warning messages [yes]
<code>info_format</code>	Specifies the content and format of CCTK_INFO()/CCTK_VInfo() messages. [basic] { "basic", "numeric time stamp", "human-readable time stamp", "full time stamp" }

E4.2 Restricted parameters

<code>cctk_final_time</code>	Final time for evolution, overridden by <code>cctk_itlast</code> unless it is positive [-1.0]
<code>cctk_initial_time</code>	Initial time for evolution [0.0]
<code>cctk_itlast</code>	Final iteration number [10]
<code>max_runtime</code>	Terminate evolution loop after a certain elapsed runtime (in minutes); set to zero to disable this termination condition [0]
<code>terminate</code>	Condition on which to terminate evolution loop [iteration] {never, iteration, time, runtime, any, all}
<code>terminate_next</code>	Terminate on next iteration ? [no]

Chapter E5

Using GNATS

GNATS is a freely redistributable set of tools for tracking bug reports. It allows users to categorize their problem report and submit them to the GNATS. The bug tracker will assign appropriate maintainers to analyze and solve the problem. We are currently supporting a web based interface at <http://www.cactuscode.org> which lets you interactively file a bug report. Here, we briefly describe the main categories when creating a Cactus problem report.

Reporters email	Your email address so we can get in contact with you.
Category	there is currently a category for each of the Cactus thorns and arrangements, also a category for the old Cactus3.x and some general subjects like Web,etc. Select whatever category fits best.
Synopsis	A brief and informative subject line.
Confidential	Unused, all PRs are public.
Severity	Pick one three levels.
Class	In the selected category, specify what kind of problem you are dealing with.
submitter ID	Unused
Originator	Your name. Anonymous is OK, but you real name would be best.
Release	The Cactus release you are using. You can find this out, for example, from an executable by typing <code>cactus.<config> -v</code> .
Environment	Very important: specify the environment, e.g. <code>uname -a</code> , MPI/non-MPI, etc.
Description	Describe your problem precisely, if you get a core dump, include the stack trace, give the minimal number of thorns, this problems occurs with.
How-To-Repeat	Tell us how to repeat the problem if it is software related.
Fix	If you can provide a fix, let us know.

We also provide the customized `send-pr` and `send-pr.el` programs at our web site. These commands are compiled to submit Cactus problem reports in your shell and from within Emacs, respectively.

Chapter E6

Using CVS

CVS is a version control system, which allows you to keep old versions of files (usually source code), log of when, and why changes occurred, and who made them, etc. Unlike the simpler systems, CVS does not just operate on one file at a time or one directory at a time, but operates on hierarchical collections of directories consisting of version controlled files. CVS helps to manage releases and to control the concurrent editing of source files among multiple authors. CVS can be obtained from <http://www.cyclic.com>.

A CVS *repository* located on a *server* may consist of an arbitrary number of *modules*, which can be checked out (that is downloaded) independently. The Cactus Flesh and the Cactus arrangements are organized as modules, their CVS *server* is `cvs.cactuscode.org`.

E6.1 Essential CVS commands

cvs login Logs into the repository. You will be prompted for a *password*. This CVS command leaves a file `.cvspass` in your home directory. There is no need to login every time you issue a CVS command, as long as this file exists. For a Cactus checkout, you have to log into the CVS server, using the CVS option `-d` to specify `CVSROOT`:

```
cvs -d :pserver:cvs_anon@cvs.cactuscode.org:/cactus login
```

Note: that there is no “logout” command: if you log in with administrative rights from an arbitrary account, you should be aware that the password file enables subsequent administrative logins from that account. *Delete the file if necessary.*

cvs checkout modules ...

This command creates your private copy of the source for *modules*. You can work with this copy without interfering with others’ work. At least one subdirectory level is always created: it does not write all files into your current directory but creates a directory. For Cactus, you need to either include the `-d` options to specify the `CVSROOT` directory and the CVS server, or specify them with an environment variable (see below). Once you have checked out the repository there is no need to include the `-d` option and its rather lengthy argument: the necessary information is contained in the local `CVS/` directories.

cvs update Execute this command from *within* your private source directory when you wish to update your copies of source files from changes that other developers have made to

the source in the repository. Merges are performed automatically when possible, a warning is issued if manual resolution is required for conflicting changes. If your local copy is several versions behind the actual repository copy, CVS will *refetch* the whole file instead of applying multiple patches.

cvs **add** **file** Use this command to enroll new files in CVS records of your working directory. The files will be added to the repository the next time you run ‘**cv**s **commit**’.

cvs **commit** **file** Use this command to add your local changes to the source to the repository and thereby making it publically available to checkouts and updates by other users. You cannot commit a newly created file unless you have *added* it.

cvs **diff** **file** Show differences between a file in your working directory and a file in the source repository, or between two revisions in source repository. (Does not change either repository or working directory.) For example, to see the difference between versions 1.8 and 1.9 of a file `foobar.c`:

```
cv diff -r 1.8 1.9 foobar.c
```

cvs **remove** **file** Remove files from the source repository, pending a **cv**s **commit** on the same files.

cvs **status** [**file**] This command returns the current status of your local copy relative to the repository: e.g. it indicates local modifications and possible updates.

cvs **import** **repository** **tag1** **tag2**

Import adds an entire source distribution (starting from the directory you issue the command in) to the repository directory. Use this command to add new arrangements to the Cactus4.0 repository. The **repository** argument is a directory name (or a path to a directory) and the CVS root directory for repositories; to obtain this directory on the CVS server, send a request to `cactus@cactuscode.org`. **tag1** and **tag2** are two tags (vendor and release tags) that have to be supplied. For example, to add **MyThorn** to the **MyArrangement** arrangement, which may or may not already exist on the CVS repository

```
cv -d :pserver:<name>@cvs.cactuscode.org:/cactus import MyArrangement/MyThorn
start v1
```

After you import a thorn, you should check it out from the repository straight away, and only edit this version.

E6.2 CVS Options

The CVS command line can include the following:

cvs **options** which apply to the overall CVS program

a cvs **command** which defines a particular task carried out by CVS

command options to specify certain working modes for the CVS command.

command arguments to specify which file to act on.

The options must be put *relative* to the CVS *command* as the same option name can mean different things: CVS *options* go to the *left* of the CVS command, *command options* go to the *right* of the CVS command. Here is a list of essential CVS options:

- d** *cvs_root_directory* Use *cvs_root_directory* as the root directory pathname of the master source repository. Overrides the setting of the CVSR00T environment variable. This value should be specified as an absolute pathname. In the Cactus checkout procedure, you specify the Cactus CVS server:
 -d :pserver:cvs_anon@cvs.cactuscode.org:/cactus/
- z** *compression-level* When transferring files across the network use **gzip** with compression level *compression-level* to compress and decompress data as it is transferred. Requires the presence of the GNU **gzip** program in the current search path at both ends of the link.
- n** Do not change any file. Attempt to execute the CVS *command* but only to issue reports. Does not remove, update, etc. any files. Very effective for testing.
- v** Displays version information of the installed CVS.
- H** *cvs-command* Displays usage information about the specified CVS command. Without *cvs-command*, a list of all available commands is returned.

Here is a list of essential command options with the commands they are used with. They go after the CVS command. For a more complete list of all options, please refer to the manual page.

- P** Prune (remove) directories that are empty after being updated, on **checkout**, or **update**. Normally, an empty directory (one that is void of revision controlled files) is left alone. Specifying **-P** will cause these directories to be silently removed from the sources you have checked out. This does not remove the directory from the repository, only from your checked out copy.
- m** "*Text*" Specify a logging message explaining changes, etc. on **commit**, **import**. If you do not specify a message, your default editor is invoked to allow you to enter one.
- d** Use this option with the **update** command to create any directories if they are missing from your local copy. This is normally the case if another user has added files or directories to the repository. By default the **update** command only acts on files in your local copy. Note that omitting this option is a frequent cause of files missing during compilation. (You can change this default behavior of CVS by putting a **.cvsrc** in your home directory with the contents "**update -d**".)

E6.3 CVS Examples

We list some sample CVS commands to treat the most typical Cactus 4.0 CVS situations.

Logging into the server

```
cvs -d :pserver:cvs_anon@cvs.cactuscode.org:/cactus login
```

You will be asked for the password for user *cvs_anon*, which is **anon**.

Checking out the code

`cvs -d :pserver:cvs_anon@cvs.cactuscode.org:/cactus checkout Cactus`
 check out a CVS module named “Cactus”, in this case it checks out the Cactus Computational Toolkit. A directory `./Cactus` is created if it doesn’t already exist. If you perform a checkout on an already existing and locally modified copy of the module, CVS will try to merge the files with your local copy.

Updating a file or directory

Assuming that you have a file `./foobar` in your checked out copy, you may perform a

`cvs status ./foobar`

to inform yourself about the necessary updates, etc. To update the file issue

`cvs update ./foobar`

If that was file was locally modified, CVS will try to merge the changes. Manual merging might be necessary and will be indicated by a CVS warning.

Updating a directory

To recursively update the current directory and all subdirectories, type

`cvs update .`

To update a directory `./mysources`, type

`cvs update ./path/to/mysources`

Committing a changed file

To commit changes you have applied to your local copy, your file must be in sync with the repository: your changes must be done to the latest version, otherwise CVS will instruct you to perform an `update` first. To commit changes made to a file `./foobar`, type

`cvs commit -m "Reason for the change" ./foobar`

You may specify several files to commit.

Adding and committing a new file

Adding a new file to the repository is a two fold procedure you first schedule the file for addition, then you commit it:

`cvs add ./newfoo`

`cvs commit -m "new few message" ./newfoo`

Creating a new thorn

To add a new *module* (e.g. an arrangement) to a Cactus repository we first have to create a directory for you with the right permissions. Please contact cactus@cactuscode.org providing the name of the requested module, and who should be able to commit changes to the module.

To add the new module, change directory so that you are in the first directory that you want to commit to the repository. (e.g. if you want to commit a new arrangement called `MyArrange` then change directory to `MyArrange`). Then type

`cvs -d :pserver:your_login@cvs.cactuscode.org:<repository name> import module_name start V1`

(where `start` and `V1` are the vendor and release tags, which you could change to something different).

To add a new *directory* `<new dir>` to an existing module (that you have write permissions for), either add the directory using

`cvs add <new dir>`

and then recursing down adding all the new files and directories contained inside, or import the directory by changing directory to sit inside it, and then using

`cvs -d :pserver:your_login@cvs.cactuscode.org:<repository name> import <relative name> start V1`

Where **<relative name>** means the position of the directory within the module. (For example, if you have a module called *AMod* which contains a directory *BMod*, and you want to add *CMod* inside *BMod*, then change directory to *BMod*, and use *AMod/BMod* for the *relative name*).

E6.4 Checking out Flesh and thorns with CVS

Login	<p>Prior to any CVS operation, you need to log into the Cactus repository. For an anonymous checkout, type:</p> <pre>cvs -d :pserver:cvs_anon@cvs.cactuscode.org:/cactus login</pre> <p>You will be prompted for a password which is anon.</p>
Checkout	<p>To obtain a fresh copy of Cactus, move to a directory which does not contain a previously checked out version, and type</p> <pre>cvs -d :pserver:cvs_anon@cvs.cactuscode.org:/cactus checkout Cactus</pre> <p>The CVS checkout procedure will create a directory called Cactus and install the code inside this directory. From now on we will reference all directory names relative to Cactus.</p> <p>If you want to compile Cactus with thorns, you now need to checkout separately the required arrangement (or <i>arrangements</i>) into the arrangements directory. To see the available Cactus arrangements and thorns type</p> <pre>cvs -d :pserver:cvs_anon@cvs.cactuscode.org:/cactus checkout -s</pre> <p>To check out an arrangement or thorn go to the arrangements directory, cd arrangements, and for an arrangement type</p> <pre>cvs checkout <arrangement_name></pre> <p>or for just one thorn</p> <pre>cvs checkout <arrangement_name/thorn_name></pre> <p>To simplify this procedure you may use gmake checkout in the Cactus home directory which provides menus to pick arrangements and thorns from.</p>
Update	<p>To update an existing Cactus checkout (to patch in possible changes, etc.), do the following <i>within</i> the Cactus directory.</p> <pre>cvs update</pre> <p>The update process will operate recursively downwards from your current position within the Cactus tree. To update only on certain directories, change into these directories and issue the update command.</p>
CVS status	<p>To obtain a status report on the “age” of your Cactus or arrangement routines (from your current directory position downward), type</p> <pre>cvs status</pre>
non-anonymous CVS	<p>If you have an account at the central repository (cvs.cactuscode.org) and would like to perform any of the operation above <i>non-anonymously</i>, replace cvs_anon by your login name and provide the appropriate password during the CVS login process. Depending on your permissions, you may then make commits to Cactus or its arrangements.</p>
Commits	<p>You need to perform a personalized login and have proper permissions to commit code to the repository.</p>

Chapter E7

Using Tags

Finding your way around in the Cactus structure can be pretty difficult to handle. To make life easier there is support for *tags*, which lets you browse the code easily from within Emacs/XEmacs or *vi*. A tags database can be generated with **gmake**:

E7.1 Tags with Emacs

The command **gmake TAGS** will create a database for a routine reference table to be used within Emacs. This database can be accessed within Emacs if you add either of the following lines to your **.emacs** file:

```
(setq tags-file-name "CACTUS_HOME/TAGS") XOR  
(setq tag-table-alist '(("CACTUS_HOME" . "CACTUS_HOME/TAGS")))  
where CACTUS_HOME is your Cactus directory.
```

You can now easily navigate your Cactus Flesh and Toolkits by searching for functions or “tags”:

1. **Alt.** will find a tag
2. **Alt**, will find the next matching tag
3. **Alt*** will go back to the last matched tag

If you add the following lines to your **.emacs** file, the files found with tags will be opened in *read-only* mode:

```
(defun find-tag-readonly (&rest a)  
  (interactive)  
  (call-interactively 'find-tag a)  
  (if (eq nil buffer-read-only) (setq buffer-read-only t)) )  
  
(defun find-tag-readonly-next (&rest a)  
  (interactive)  
  (call-interactively 'tags-loop-continue a)  
  (if (eq nil buffer-read-only) (setq buffer-read-only t)) )
```

```
(global-set-key [(control meta \.)] 'find-tag-readonly)
(global-set-key [(control meta \,)] 'find-tag-readonly-next)
```

The key strokes to use when you want to browse in read-only mode are:

1. CTRL Alt. will find a tag and open the file in read-only mode
2. CTRL Alt, will find the next matching tag in read-only mode

E7.2 Tags with vi

The commands available are highly dependent upon the version of vi, but the following is a selection of commands which may work.

1. **vi -t tag** Start vi and position the cursor at the file and line where 'tag' is defined.
2. **Control-]** Find the tag under the cursor.
3. **:ta tag** Find a tag.
4. **:tnext** Find the next matching tag.
5. **:pop** Return to previous location before jump to tag.
6. **Control-T** Return to previous location before jump to tag (not widely implemented).

Note: Currently some of the CCK_FILEVERSION() macros at the top of every source file don't have a trailing semicolon, which confuses the etags and ctags programs, so tags does not find the first subroutine in any file with this problem.

Chapter E8

ThornLists

This section still needs to be written.