
mimoCoRB2

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CONTENTS

1	Getting Started	3
2	User Guide	5
	Index	17

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GETTING STARTED

This section will guide you through the process of installing mimoCoRB2 and running the examples.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 What is mimoCoRB2?

mimoCoRB2 (multiple in multiple out configurable ringbuffer manager) provides a central component of each data acquisition system needed to record and preanalyse data from randomly occurring processes. Typical examples are waveform data as provided by detectors common in quantum mechanical measurements, or in nuclear, particle and astro particle physics, e. g. photo tubes, Geiger counters, avalanche photo-diodes or modern SiPMs. The random nature of such processes and the need to keep read-out dead times low requires an input buffer for fast collection of data and an efficient buffer manager delivering a constant data stream to the subsequent processing steps. While a data source feeds data into the buffer, consumer processes receive the data to filter, reduce, analyze or simply visualize the recorded data. In order to optimally use the available resources, multi-core and multi-processing techniques must be applied.

This project originated from an effort to structure and generalize data acquisition for several experiments in advanced physics laboratory courses at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and has been extensively tested with Ubuntu Linux.

1.1.2 What can it do?

Amongst the core features of mimoCoRB2 are:

- multiprocessing safe ringbuffer for NumPy structured arrays
- setup of multiple ringbuffers and workers from configuration files
- templates for common interactions between buffers (importing/exporting, filtering, processing, observing)
- pre built functions for common operations (oscilloscope, histogram, pulse height analysis)
- gui for monitoring and controlling the system

1.2 Examples

mimoCoRB2 comes with a set of examples that can be used to get started quickly. The examples are located in the *examples* directory of the mimoCoRB2 package alongside an explanation of the experiment. Each example is self-contained and can be run independently. The examples stem from experiments currently running at KIT and are meant to be used as a starting point for your own experiments.

USER GUIDE

This user guide provides an in-depth description of mimoCoRB2 features required to build your own applications.

2.1 Setup

The setup file which is provided to the main script is a yaml file that defines the buffers and workers that will be used in the application. It describes the buffers and the data flow between them.

```
Buffers:
  buffer_name_1:
    slot_count: int
    data_length: int
    data_dtype:
      field_name_1: field_dtype_1
    ...
  ...

Workers:
  worker_name_1:
    file: path_to_function_file
    function: function_name
    config: dict | str | [str]
    number_of_processes: int
    sources: [str]
    sinks: [str]
    observes: [str]
  ...
```

2.1.1 Slot Count

The slot count is the number of slots that the buffer will have. Each slot can hold a data packet in the form of a numpy structured array. It should be higher than the number of processes that will be using the buffer, as well as high enough to buffer a reasonable amount of data.

2.1.2 Data Length

The data is stored in the form of a numpy structured array of shape (data_lenght,). It is therefore the number of elements per field in the data.

2.1.3 Data Dtype

The data type of the data stored in the buffer. It is a dictionary where the keys are the field names and the values are the field data types. The field data types are the same as the numpy data types. For example, 'int32', 'float64', 'S10' (string of length 10), etc.

2.1.4 File

This is the path (relative to the setup file) to the file that contains the function that will be used in the worker. If the key is missing or empty, the prebuilt functions will be used.

2.1.5 Function

The name of the function that will be used in the worker. (TODO see prebuilt functions)

2.1.6 Config

The configuration of the worker. It can be a dictionary, a string or a list of strings. If it is a dictionary, it will be passed directly to the worker. If it is a string or a list of strings the yaml file at each path (relative to the setup file) will be loaded in the config dictionary (duplicate keys will be overwritten).

2.1.7 Number of Processes

The number of processes run by the worker.

2.1.8 Sources, Sinks, Observes

The sources, sinks and observes of the worker. They are the names of the buffers that will be used by the worker. Sources are the buffers that will be used to read data from, sinks are the buffers that will be used to write data to and observes are the buffers that will be used to observe data.

2.2 Prebuilt Functions

Mimocorb2 comes with a set of built-in functions for common tasks. To use them, omit the 'file' keyword or use an empty string in the Worker Setup. The functions are listed below:

2.2.1 Exporters

`exporters.drain()`

mimoCoRB2 Function: Drain buffer

Drains all data from the source buffer and does nothing with it.

Type

Exporter

Buffers

sources

1

sinks

0

observes

0

exporters.histogram()

mimoCoRB2 Function: Export data as a histogram and optionally visualize it.

Saves histograms of the data in the source buffer to csv files in the run_directory for each field in the source buffer. If visualize is True, it will also start a separate process to visualize the histograms in real-time.

Type

Exporter

Buffers**sources**

1 with data_length = 1

sinks

Pass through data without modification to all sinks. Must share same dtype as source buffer.

observes

0

Configs**update_interval**

[int, optional (default=1)] Interval in seconds to save the histogram data to files and update the visualization.

plot_type

[str, optional (default='bar')] Type of plot to use for visualization. Options are 'line', 'bar', or 'step'.

bins

[dict] Dictionary where keys are channel names and values are tuples of (min, max, number_of_bins). Channels must be present in the source buffer data.

visualize

[bool, optional (default=False)] If True, starts a separate process to visualize the histograms in real-time.

Examples

```
>>> import numpy as np
>>> import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
>>> plt.plot(np.load('run_directory/field_name.npy'))
>>> plt.show()
```

exporters.csv()

mimoCoRB2 Function: Save data from the source buffer to a CSV file.

Saves data from the source buffer to a CSV file in the run_directory. Each field in the source buffer is saved as a column in the CSV file.

Type

Exporter

Buffers**sources**

1 with data_length = 1

sinks

Pass through data without modification to all sinks. Must share same dtype as source buffer.

observes

0

Configs**save_interval**

[int, optional (default=1)] Interval in seconds to save the CSV file.

Examples

```
>>> import numpy as np
>>> import pandas as pd
>>> print(pd.read_csv('run_directory/exporter_name.csv'))
```

2.2.2 Analyzers

analyzers.pha()

mimoCoRB2 Function: Pulse Height Analysis using `scipy.signal.find_peaks`

Analyzes pulse heights in a given channel of the input data using `scipy.signal.find_peaks`. This function processes the input data to find peaks and their properties based on the provided configuration parameters. Depending on the configuration, it can return various peak properties such as heights, thresholds, prominences, widths, and plateau sizes (see `scipy` documentation).

Type

Processor

Buffers**sources**

1 source buffer containing the input data with multiple channels

sinks

1 with `data_length = 1` possible field names: - position - peak_heights

If height is specified in the config, the height of each peak in the specified channel.

- **left_thresholds, right_thresholds**

If threshold is specified in the config, the left and right thresholds of each peak in the specified channel.

- **prominences, left_bases, right_bases**

If prominence is specified in the config, the prominence of each peak in the specified channel, along with the left and right bases.

- **widths, width_heights, left_ips, right_ips**

If width is specified in the config, the width of each peak in the specified channel.

- **plateau_sizes, left_edges, right_edges**

If plateau_size is specified in the config, the plateau size of each peak in the specified channel, along with the left and right edges.

observes

0

Configs

channel

[str, optional (default='first channel')] Channel name to analyze. If not specified, the first channel in the input data will be used.

height

[float, optional (default=None)] Minimum height of peaks to be detected. If None, peak heights will not be calculated.

threshold

[float, optional (default=None)] Minimum vertical distance to its neighboring samples for a peak to be considered. If None, left and right thresholds will not be calculated.

distance

[int, optional (default=None)] Minimum horizontal distance (in samples) between neighboring peaks. If None, no distance constraint is applied.

prominence

[float, optional (default=None)] Minimum prominence of peaks. If None, prominences will not be calculated.

width

[float, optional (default=None)] Minimum width of peaks. If None, widths will not be calculated.

wlen

[int, optional (default=None)] Window length for peak width calculation. If None, the entire signal is used.

rel_height

[float, optional (default=0.5)] Relative height at which to calculate the width of the peaks. Default is 0.5, meaning the width is calculated at half the peak height.

plateau_size

[float, optional (default=None)] Minimum size of the plateau at the peak. If None, plateau sizes will not be calculated.

2.2.3 Data

data.export()

mimoCoRB2 Function: Export data to a mimo file.

Exports data from a source buffer to a mimo file. This function is useful for saving data streams within the mimoCoRB2 framework.

Type

Exporter

Buffers

sources

1

sinks

Pass through data without modification to all sinks. Must share same dtype as source buffer.

observes

0

data.simulate_importer()

mimoCoRB2 Function: Simulate an Importer by inputting data according to the timestamps in a mimo file.

Imports data from a mimo file and simulates the Importer behavior by yielding data according to the timestamps in the file.

Type

Importer

Buffers

sources

0

sinks

1 with the same dtype as the data in the mimo file

observes

0

Configs

filename

[str] Path to the mimo file to be imported.

2.2.4 Misc

misc.copy()

mimoCoRB2 Function: Copy data from one source to multiple sinks.

Copys data from a source buffer to multiple sink buffers. This function is useful for duplicating data streams within the mimoCoRB2 framework.

Type

Filter

Buffers

sources

1 source buffer containing the data to be copied

sinks

1 or more sink buffers that will receive the copied data

observes

0

2.2.5 Observers

observers.oscilloscope()

mimoCoRB2 Function: Show an Oscilloscope plot of the buffer.

Observes data from a buffer and shows it as an oscilloscope plot.

Type

Observer

Buffers**sources**

0

sinks

0

observes

1

Configs**<key>**

[<type>] <description>

<key>

[<type>, optional (default=<default value>)] <description>

ylin

[tuple of float, optional (default=None)] (min, max) of the y-axis. If None, the y-axis will be autoscaled upon each update.

t_scaling

[tuple of float, optional (default=(1, 0, 'Samples'))] (scaling, offset, unit) for the x-axis. The x-axis will be scaled accordingly.

y_scaling

[tuple of float, optional (default=(1, 0, 'Value'))] (scaling, offset, unit) for the y-axis. The y-axis will be scaled accordingly.

channels

[list of str, optional (default=None)] List of channel names to be plotted. If None, all available channels will be plotted.

trigger_level

[float, optional (default=None)] If specified, a horizontal line will be drawn at this level to indicate the trigger level.

update_interval

[float, optional (default=1)] Interval to update the plot in seconds. Default is 1 second.

2.3 Simple Workers

Simple Workers can be built using the classes provided in the `:py:module:`mimocorb2.worker_templates`` module.

2.3.1 Importer

Importers are used to import data from an external source into the mimocorb2 system. They will automatically add the metadata to each event.

```
class mimocorb2.worker_templates.Importer(io)
```

Worker class for importing data from an external generator.

data_example

`metadata_example`

`config`

Examples

```
>>> def worker(*mimo_args):
...     importer = Importer(mimo_args)
...     config = importer.config
...     data_example = importer.writer.data_example
...     buffer_name = importer.writer.name
...     def ufunc():
...         for i in range(config['n_events']):
...             data = np.random.normal(size=data_example.shape)
...             yield data
...         yield None
...     importer(ufunc)
```

`__call__(ufunc)`

Start the generator and write data to the buffer.

ufunc must yield data of the same format as the `Importer.writer.data_example` and yield `None` at the end. Metadata (counter, timestamp, deadline) is automatically added to the buffer.

Parameters

ufunc (*Callable*) – Generator function that yields data and ends with `None`

Return type

`None`

`__init__(io)`

Checks the setup.

2.3.2 Exporter

Exporters are used to export data from the mimocorb2 system.

class `mimocorb2.worker_templates.Exporter(io)`

Worker class for exporting data and metadata.

If provided with an identical sink events will be copied to allow further analysis.

`data_example`

`metadata_example`

Examples

```
>>> def worker(*mimo_args):
...     exporter = Exporter(mimo_args)
...     data_example = exporter.reader.data_example
...     buffer_name = exporter.reader.name
...     for data, metadata in exporter:
...         print(data, metadata)
```

`__init__(io)`

Checks the setup.

2.3.3 Filter

Filters are used to filter data. This means that the data is not modified, but some of the data is removed.

class mimocorb2.worker_templates.**Filter**(*io*)

Worker class for filtering data from one buffer to other buffer(s).

Analyze data using `ufunc(data)` and copy or discard data based on the result.

data_example

metadata_example

config

Examples

```
>>> def worker(*mimo_args):
...     filter = Filter(mimo_args)
...     min_height = filter.config['min_height']
...     def ufunc(data):
...         if np.max(data) > min_height:
...             return True
...         else:
...             return False
...     filter(ufunc)
```

__call__(*ufunc*)

Start the filter and copy or discard data based on the result of `ufunc(data)`.

Parameters

ufunc (*Callable*) – Function which will be called upon the data (Filter.reader.data_example). The function can return:

bool

True: copy data to every sink False: discard data

list[bool] (mapping to the sinks)

True: copy data to the corresponding sink False: dont copy data to the corresponding sink

Return type

None

__init__(*io*)

Checks the setup.

Check that the number of sources, sinks, and observes are correct. Check that the source and sink shapes and dtypes match.

2.3.4 Processor

Processors are used to process data. This means that the data is modified in some way.

class mimocorb2.worker_templates.**Processor**(*io*)

Worker class for processing data from one buffer to other buffer(s).

reader

BufferedReader object for reading data from the buffer

Type

BufferedReader

writers

List of BufferWriter objects for writing data to the buffers

Type

list[BufferWriter]

Examples

```
>>> def worker(*mimo_args):
...     processor = Processor(mimo_args)
...     def ufunc(data):
...         return [data + 1, data - 1]
...     processor(ufunc)
```

__call__(ufunc)

Start the processor and process data using ufunc(data).

Parameters

ufunc (*Callable*) – Function which will be called upon the data (Processor.reader.data_example). When the function returns None the data will be discarded. Otherwise the function must return a list of results, one for each sink. If the result is not None it will be written to the corresponding sink.

Return type

None

__init__(io)

Checks the setup.

Parameters

mimo_args (*ArgsAlias*) – List of sources, sinks, observes, and config dictionary

2.3.5 Observer

Observers are used to observe data. This means that a copy of the data is exported.

class mimocorb2.worker_templates.**Observer**(io)

Worker class for observing data from a buffer.

observer

BufferObserver object for observing data from the buffer

Type

BufferObserver

Examples

```
>>> def worker(*mimo_args):
...     observer = Observer(mimo_args)
...     generator = observer()
...     while True:
```

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```
...     data, metadata = next(generator)
...     if data is None:
...         break
...     print(data, metadata)
...     time.sleep(1)
```

__call__()

Start the observer and yield data and metadata.

Yields data and metadata from the buffer until the buffer is shutdown.

Yields

- **data** (*np.ndarray, None*) – Data from the buffer
- **metadata** (*np.ndarray, None*) – Metadata from the buffer

Return type

Generator

__init__(io)

Checks the setup.

Parameters

mimo_args (*ArgsAlias*) – List of sources, sinks, observes, and config dictionary

Symbols

__call__() (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Filter method), 13
 __call__() (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Importer method), 12
 __call__() (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Observer method), 15
 __call__() (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Processor method), 14
 __init__() (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Exporter method), 12
 __init__() (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Filter method), 13
 __init__() (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Importer method), 12
 __init__() (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Observer method), 15
 __init__() (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Processor method), 14

C

config (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Filter attribute), 13
 config (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Importer attribute), 12
 copy() (mimocorb2.functions.misc method), 10
 csv() (mimocorb2.functions.exporters method), 7

D

data_example (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Exporter attribute), 12
 data_example (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Filter attribute), 13
 data_example (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Importer attribute), 11
 drain() (mimocorb2.functions.exporters method), 6

E

export() (mimocorb2.functions.data method), 9
 Exporter (class in mimocorb2.worker_templates), 12

F

Filter (class in mimocorb2.worker_templates), 13

H

histogram() (mimocorb2.functions.exporters method), 7

I

Importer (class in mimocorb2.worker_templates), 11

M

metadata_example (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Exporter attribute), 12
 metadata_example (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Filter attribute), 13
 metadata_example (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Importer attribute), 11

O

Observer (class in mimocorb2.worker_templates), 14
 observer (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Observer attribute), 14
 oscilloscope() (mimocorb2.functions.observers method), 10

P

pha() (mimocorb2.functions.analyzers method), 8
 Processor (class in mimocorb2.worker_templates), 13

R

reader (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Processor attribute), 13

S

simulate_importer() (mimocorb2.functions.data method), 9

W

writers (mimocorb2.worker_templates.Processor attribute), 14