

# pyCGNS.NAV/Manual Release 4.2.0

**Marc Poinot** 

# **CONTENTS**

1	Control view	3
2	Tree view	7
3	VTK view	13
	3.1 QuickStart	. 23
	3.2 Tree View	. 25
	3.3 Option View	. 28
	3.4 Pattern View	
	3.5 VTK View	
	3.6 Query View	. 30
	3.7 Link View	
	3.8 Table View	
4	Glossary	33
	4.1 NAV Index	. 33

The CGNS.NAV tool is a CGNS tree browser.

There are three important views (or windows) you can open on a CGNS tree. The control view is the manager for all the views on all the trees you would open. The tree view is the main window you can open on a single tree. The VTK view displays the mesh, element sets, connectivities and boundary conditions of your CGNS base.

**Note:** The screenshots you have on these pages may be outdated. Most features are unchanged from GUI version to another GUI version, but as the update of all screenshots is long and tedious the actual GUI you would have on your screen may be more or less close to these docs...

CONTENTS 1

2 CONTENTS

ONE

# **CONTROL VIEW**

If you want to browse your CGNS file, just type:

CGNS.NAV

CGNS.NAV options

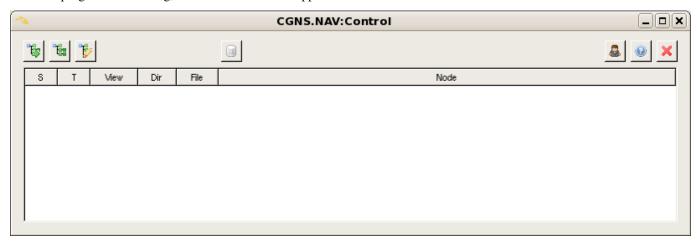
You can use several options to launch the CGNS.NAV program.

If you type CGNS.NAV -R file.cgns, the control view containing the file.cgns file is opened and the tree view of the file is also opened. When the -R option is used, all the nodes of the tree displayed in the tree view are expanded. If you don't enter a file name after the -R option, only the control view without loaded CGNS file appears. But when you choose your CGNS file, you obtain a tree whose all the nodes are expanded in the tree view which is then opened.

If you type CGNS.NAV -1, you launch the control view and the tree view of the last used CGNS file. In the tree view, the nodes are not expanded unlike the previous -R option. If you enter a file name after the -1 option, you open two additional views, namely the control view and the tree view of the loaded file.

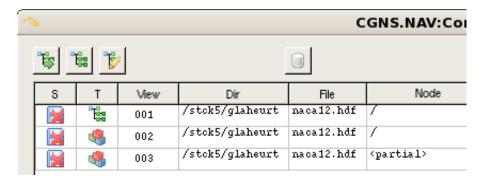
You can use the  $\neg g$  option by entering CGNS.NAV  $\neg g$  file.cgns. The control view, the tree view and the VTK view of the file.cgns file are displayed on the screen. In the tree view, the nodes of the tree aren't expanded. In the control view are listed the two views, namely the tree view and the VTK view. If you don't type a file name after the  $\neg g$  option, only the empty control view is opened. The two anothers views will be launched, when you will select the CGNS filed to load in the control view.

After the program's launching, the control view appears:



This view helps you to find out the views you deal with and to which CGNS tree they correspond.

You have an example of several views listed in the control view below:



If you select the line of an existing view, this view will be raised on your screen. You can find back the control

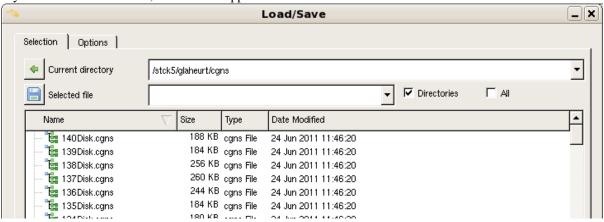
view from any other view just by clicking the button located in the bottom left-hand corner of the view.

Each time you open a view, the control view keeps track of it.

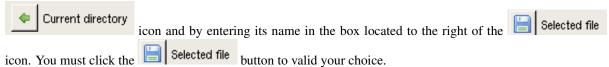
The columns of the lines which you see in this control view are:

Col-	Definition
umn	
S	Status flag, says if the tree has been modified and needs a save.
Т	Type of view. The tree views are marked with the VTK view with the form view with and the queries view with
View	The number of views which you opened.
Dir	The directory where you loaded the file.
File	The file name.
Node	Status flag, says if the entire tree is displayed / or if only a part of the tree is visualized <partial>.</partial>

If you click the button, this window appears:



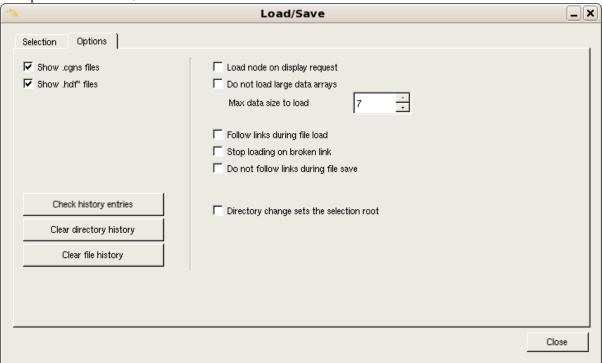
Know, you must select an existing CGNS file by typing its directory's path in the box located to the right of the



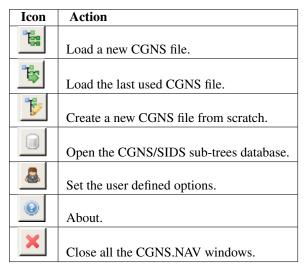
If you choose an unexisting file name, the following error message is returned to you:



The options of the Load/Save window are shown below:



To deal with a CGNS file

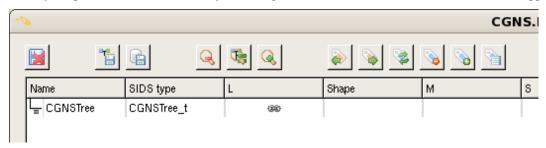


You can also reload the last used CGNS file by clicking on the icon



# TREE VIEW

When you open a new CGNS file or if you load again the last used CGNS file, the tree view appears:



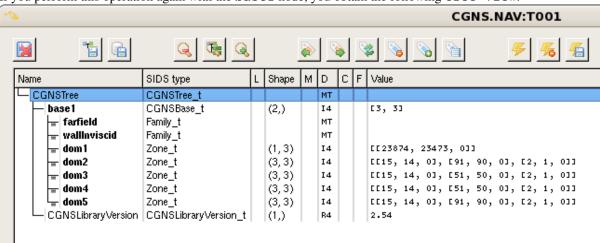
The tree view displays the nodes for the loaded CGNS file. It is the main view of the tree. You can browse or perform modifications of the loaded CGNS tree in this view.

As you can observe it, there is only one entry in the tree view. This is the root of our CGNS file which can contain one or several bases. All the nodes are arranged in a tree structure. The opening of the CGNS tree occurs in a recursive way. A node is selected by clicking the mouse Button 1 on the wanted node. The path of the selected node is displayed in the box at the bottom of the window. If you want to expand this node one level up in

order to display the entries corresponding to the base contained in the CGNSTree node, click the



If you perform this operation again with the basel node, you obtain the following tree view:



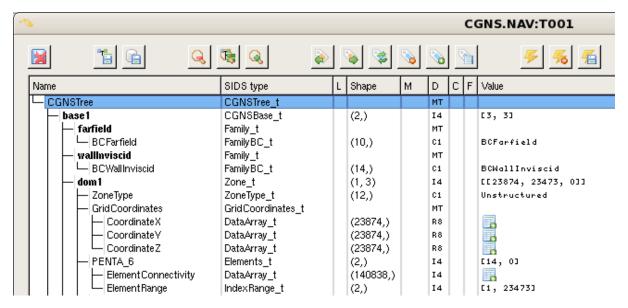
You can repeat the operation for the nodes of the different zones which are under the basel node. And so on...

In order to expand the tree view one level down, click the icon

To expand all the loaded CGNS/tree, you must click



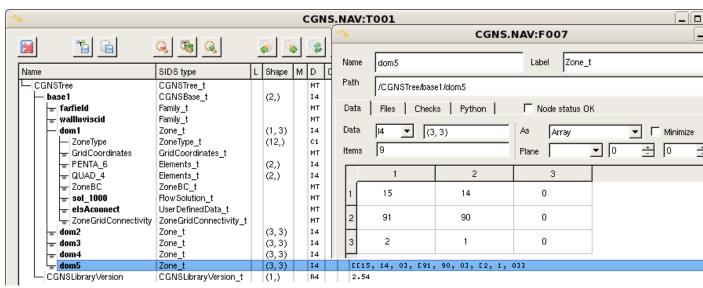
You can see the expanded CGNS tree shown below:



If you want to open the child sub-tree of the selected node, you click on the  $\overline{\phantom{a}}$  icon located before any node. When you perform this operation, this  $\overline{\phantom{a}}$  icon disappears. You can collapse all the nodes below a node by clicking near to the name of the desired node at the place where was the  $\overline{\phantom{a}}$  icon.

When you use the icon, you expand all the nodes one level up while when you click on the icon, you expand only the wanted node one level up.

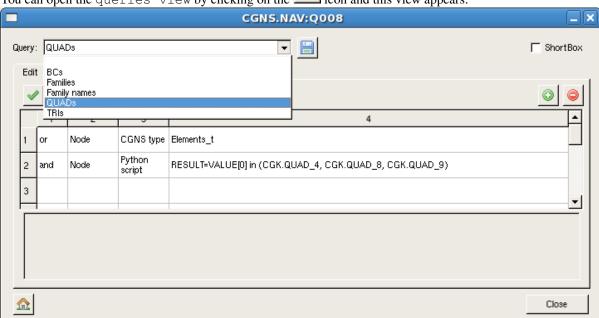
If you click on the icon, the form view of the selected node appears on the screen:



As you can observe it, the node name, the node type, the node path, the node data, the node shape and the values defined in the selected node are displayed in the form view. You can also resize the table by checking

Minimize the case. The table's dimensions are adjusted so that the column's length is equal to the string's length displayed, like below:

	1	2	3
1	15	14	0
2	91	90	0
3	2	1	0



You can open the queries view by clicking on the icon and this view appears:

Modify the CGNS tree

A mouse right button simple click on a selected node allows you to open the popup menu displayed below:

About CGNSBase	_t
Open form	Ctrl+F
Open view	Ctrl+W
Сору	Ctrl+C
Cut	Ctrl+X
Paste as brother	Ctrl+V
Paste as child	Ctrl+Y

This menu gives you access to some function such as  $Open\ a\ view\ and\ Copy$ , Cut, Paste a node. These functions have keyboards shortcuts listed below.

Key bindings

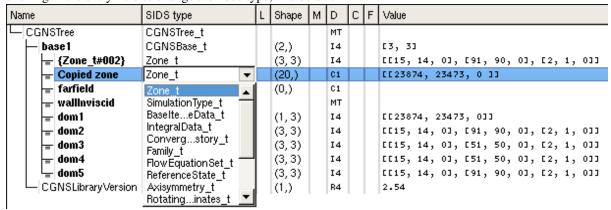
Button	Action
Ctrl+F	Open the form.
Ctrl+W	Open a new view of the tree.
Ctrl+C	Copy the selected node.
Ctrl + X	Cut the selected node.
Ctrl+V	Paste the copied node as brother node of the selected node.
Ctrl + Y	Paste the copied node as child node of the selected node.

The tree view allows to perform modifications in the CGNS trees. It supports the Copy, Cut, Paste functions. You can copy a sub-tree of a view and paste it into the same view or into another view which can belong to a different CGNS tree. You press Ctrl + C on the selected node or you choose Copy in the popup menu opened by a mouse right button simple click on the wanted node to copy it into a buffer. You paste the copied node by pressing Ctrl + V or by selecting Paste as brother in the popup menu. The new node becomes the brother node of the selected node. By contrast, if you select Paste as child in the popup menu, the new node becomes the child node of the selected node.

Name	SIDS type	L	Shape	М	D	С	F	Value
└─ CGNSTree	CGNSTree_t				МТ			
— base1	CGNSBase_t		(2,)		14			[3, 3]
	Zone_t		(3, 3)		14			[[15, 14, 0], [91, 90, 0], [2, 1, 0]]
<b> </b>	Zone_t		(1, 3)		14			[[23874, 23473, 0]]
<b></b> farfield	Family_t				MT			
wallInviscid	Family_t				MT			
	Zone_t		(1, 3)		14			[[23874, 23473, 0]]
dom2	Zone_t		(3, 3)		14			[[15, 14, 0], [91, 90, 0], [2, 1, 0]]
dom3	Zone_t		(3, 3)		14			[[15, 14, 0], [51, 50, 0], [2, 1, 0]]
dom4	Zone_t		(3, 3)		14			[[15, 14, 0], [51, 50, 0], [2, 1, 0]]
dom5	Zone_t		(3, 3)		14			[[15, 14, 0], [91, 90, 0], [2, 1, 0]]
☐ CGNSLibraryVersion	CGNSLibraryVersion_t		(1,)		R4			2.54

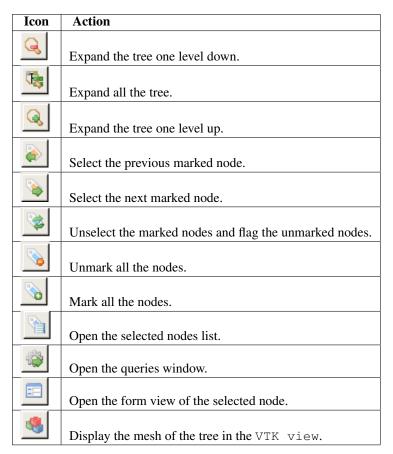
In this example, the dom1 and dom2 nodes are copied and pasted into the same view. Here, their copies are automatically named  $\{\texttt{Zone\_t\#001}\}\$  and  $\{\texttt{Zone\_t\#001}\}\$ . Indeed, these copied nodes have the same content as their origin nodes.

You can modify these new nodes by a double left-click on their names, their types and their values. Type then just the new name and the new value. You must select the new SIDS type from the drop-down list opened by clicking in the entry field to change the node type, like below:



The Cut function acts as the Copy function with the difference that the selected node is removed from the tree view.

To deal with the CGNS tree



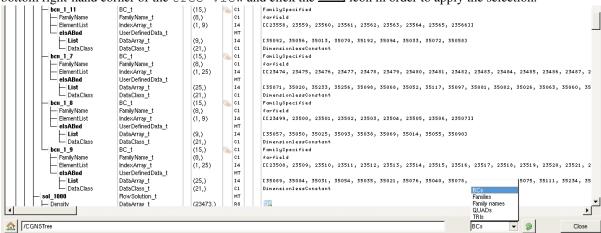
#### Mouse bindings

The mouse bindings and the corresponding actions are:

Button	Action
Button	Select a node by a simple click on the wanted node.
1	
Button	Expand/Collapse all the nodes below the selected node by clicking on the = icon.
1	
Button	Modify the name of the selected node, its SIDS type or its value by a double-click
1	on the desired column of the node.

The tree view allows you to choose all the elements which have the same SIDS type. For example, if you want to select all the elements whose SIDS type is BC\_t, select this type in the drop-down list located in the

bottom right-hand corner of the tree view and click the icon in order to apply the selection.



The tree view allows you to browse all the marked nodes by using the icon to select the next marked node and the icon to select the previous marked node.

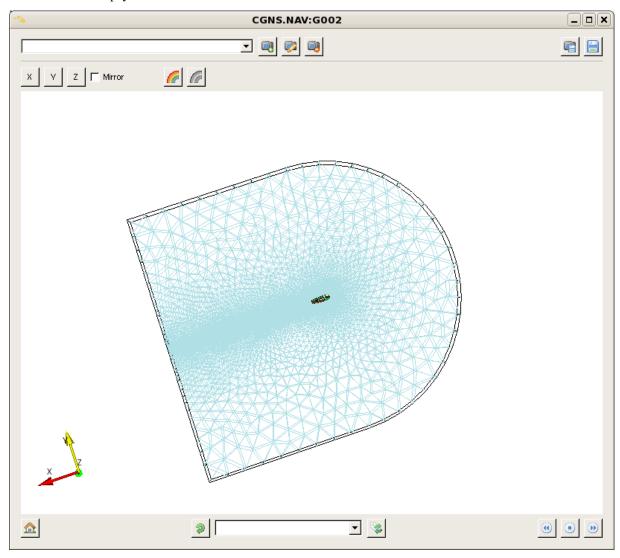
Click the icon while to mark all the nodes, click the icon to unselect all the nodes.

You can also invert the selection by using the button. The marked nodes become unselected and vice versa for the unmarked nodes.

# **VTK VIEW**

To display the mesh, element sets, connectivities and boundary conditions contained in the CGNS file, click on

and the mesh is dispayed in the  $\mbox{VTK}$  view:



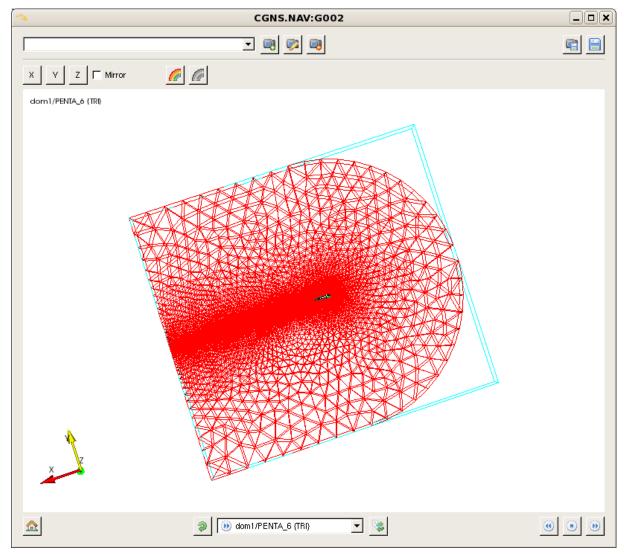
The view can be translated, rotated and scaled by using the mouse. The three axis x,y,z are displayed in the bottom left-hand corner of the window. The x-axis is coloured in red, the y-axis in yellow and the z-axis in green.

Mouse Bindings

The mouse bindings and the related actions are:

But-	Action
ton	
Butto	Rotate the camera around its focal point.
1	
Butto	Translate the elements displayed in the window.
2	
Butto	Adjust the view by holding down this button while moving the mouse in the display
3	window. The objects are scaled up when the mouse moves from bottom to up and they
	are scaled down when the mouse moves from up to bottom.

To select an element of the CGNS/tree, you perform a pick operation by positioning the mouse cursor on the place of your choice and by pressing on the p key.

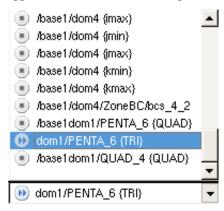


Key Bindings

The following keys and the corresponding actions are:

Key	Action	
f	Fly to the picked point.	
р	Perform a pick operation.	
r	The elements are centered and the camera moves along the current view direction so that	
	all elements are visible in the window.	
S	Modify the representation of all elements so that they are surfaces.	
W	Modify the representation of all elements so that they are wireframes.	
d	Hide the current element selected by performing a pick operation.	
Ctrl	Add the elements selected by a pick operation to the previous selection.	

The pick operation shoots a ray into the 3D scene and returns information about the objects that the ray hits. The first element hit by the ray is highlighted in red and a blue wireframe outlines the bounding box of the selected object. In the top left-hand corner of the VTK view, the list of the paths of elements hit by the ray appears. In our case, there is only one path because only one object was hit by the shot ray. The path of the selected element also appears in the box. In this example, the object's path is dom1/PENTA\_6{TRI}.

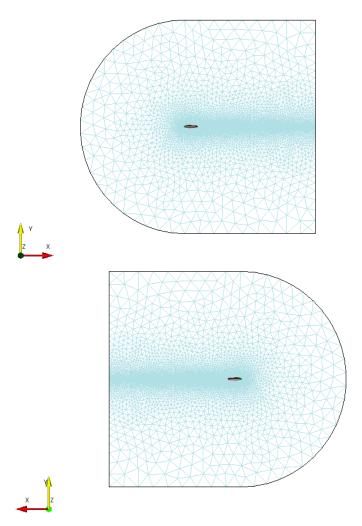


You can see that the paths of selected elements are marked by the icon while the unselected elements are marked by the icon.

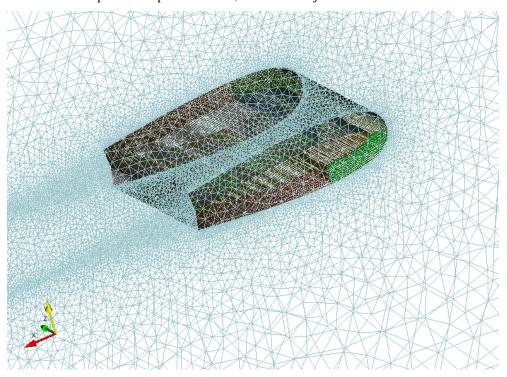
#### Camera's position

Icon	Action
X	Set the camera along the -X axis.
Y	Set the camera along the -Y axis.
Z	Set the camera along the -Z axis.
Mirror + X	Set the camera along the +X, +Y or +Z axis if the mirror case is checked.
Ctrl + X	Rotate about the X,Y or Z direction.

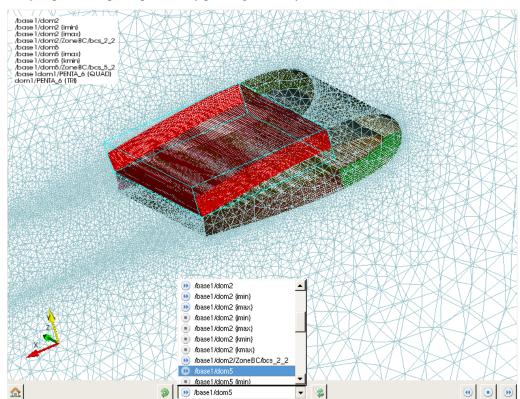
If you want to set the viewing position to view the data along -Z axis, just click on Z. To display the view along the opposite direction, +Z axis, check and click on Z.



To display the other elements of the CGNS file, you have to handle the view with the mouse. By using the Button 1 of the mouse to rotate the view, the Button 2 to tranlate it and the Button 3 with a motion of the mouse from bottom to up to scale up the elements, the view is adjusted like that:



16



and you perform a pick operation by pressing the p key:

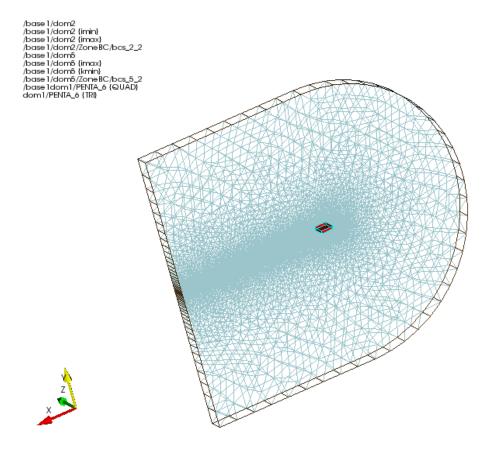
All the paths of the selected objects are displayed in the top left-hand corner of the window and they are marked with the in the list below. As you can see, the current selected object is the same as previously, namely doml/PENTA\_6{TRI} because it's the closest object to the camera.

If a particular view interests you, you can save it and restore it later. When a desired view is achieved, type a



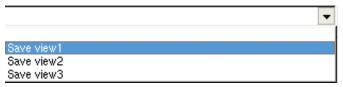
You can add a number of different views by repeating the previous operation.

Know, you want to have an overall view of the tree. To do that, press on the r key.



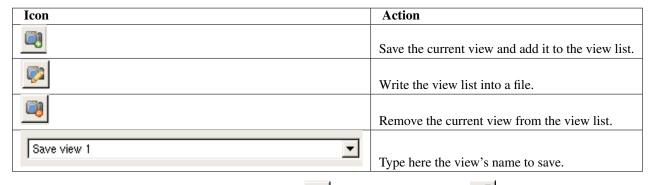
When you pressed the r key, the size of the objects changed to fit in the VTK view, the objects are centered while the camera keeps the current view direction.

To restore a saved view, choose the view's name in the list, like below:



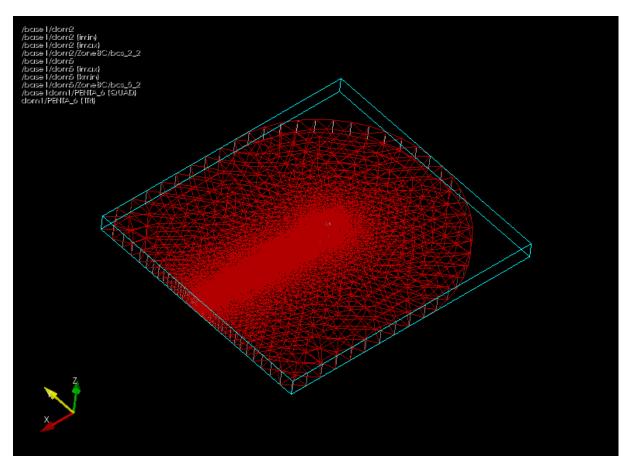
To delete an unwanted view, select the view's name and click the icon

To save a view



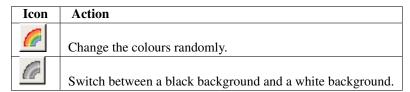
You can change the colours randomly by clicking the icon and if you click the icon, the VTK view switch between a black background and a white background, like below:

18 Chapter 3. VTK view

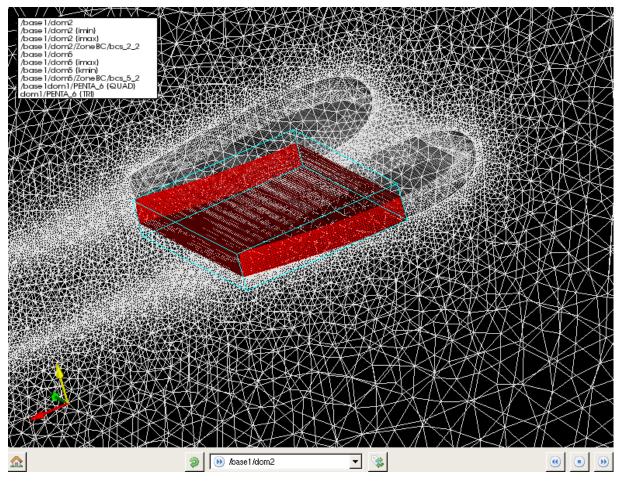


When you changed the foreground of the VTK view, the current selected object remained selected because it still appears outlined by the blue wireframe bounding box and it is highlighted in red. It's also the case when you change the colors of objects.

# To change colours



You can also modify the current selected object by using the icon and the icon.



The current selected object is here /base1/dom2.

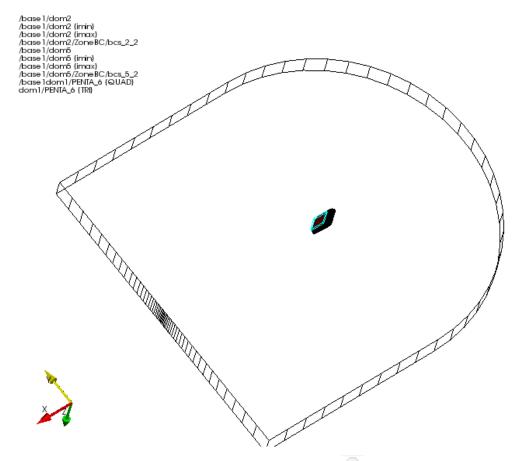
When you perform this operation, the next element or the previous element of the list which contains the objects picked becomes the current selected object. After the last element of the selection is reached, the first object of the list is again selected as current selected object.

To unselect all elements, click the icon

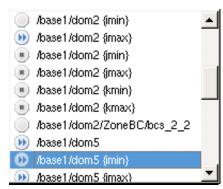
To modify the selected object

Icon	Action
•	Change the selected object by taking the following object in the selected objects list.
•	Change the selected object by taking the previous object in the selected objects list.
	Set all elements as unselected objects and the hidden objects become visible.

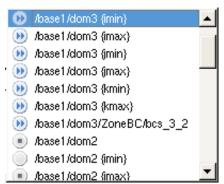
To see better a part of the view, you can remove visible elements of the tree. Once you performed a pick operation to select objects, press the d key to hide the current selected element. After the objet is hidden, the next element located in the selected objects list becomes the current selected element. You can repeat the operation as long as list of the selected objects isn't empty.



As you can observe it, the hidden objects are marked with the icon.



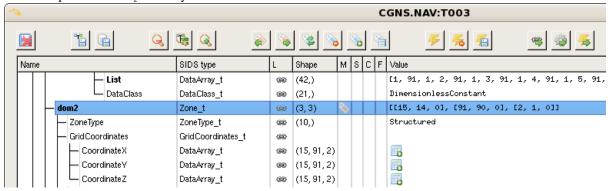
If you click the button, you switch between the selected objects and the unselected objects. The hidden objects remain unchanged.



When you click the icon, all elements become unselected and the objects which are hidden become again visible. Consequently, all elements of the list are marked with icon.

To display only a part of the CGNS tree

The CGNS/tree of our example displayed in the VTK view is composed of several zones, namely five zones. You can choose to visualize only a part of the tree by marcking the nodes which you want to display. Click on its name and press on the Space key to select a node.



As you can observe it, the selected node is marked with the flag. Then, all you have to do is click the icon and the following VTK view appears:

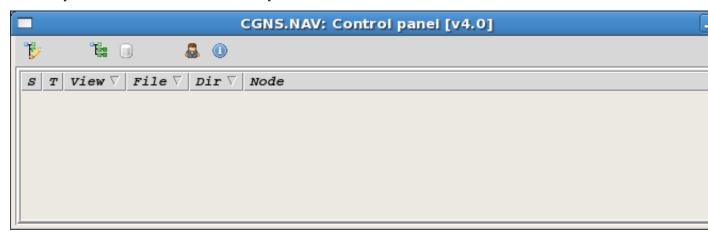




Only the dom2 zone is dispayed in the VTK view. You can add the other zones to be visualized by performing the same operation. The zones which contain at least one marked node will be displayed.

## 3.1 QuickStart

The first window you see when you start CGNS.NAV is the *Control View*. This main view helps you to find out the views you have and on which CGNS tree they refer to.

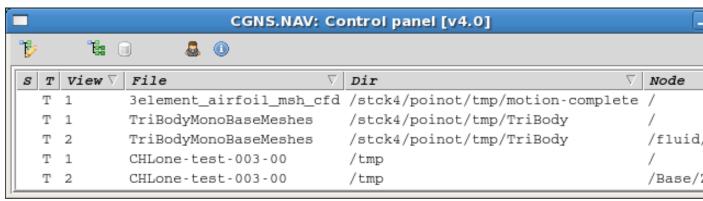


If you select the line of an existing view in the *Control view* and press *Return*, this view will be raised on your screen. You can find back the *Control view* from any other view just pressing the *BackSpace* key (See *Key/Mouse Bindings*).



From its icon menu you can *create* a new CGNS/Python tree, you can *Load* an existing file or open the *Pattern View*. There is also an icon for the *Option View* and an info about CGNS.NAV version.

Each time you open a view on a file, the *Control* keeps track of it, you can check all the views you may have on the same file.

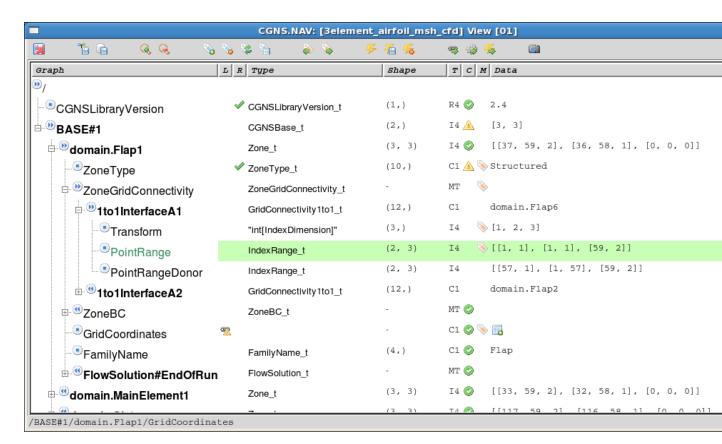


The columns of the lines you see in this Control view are:

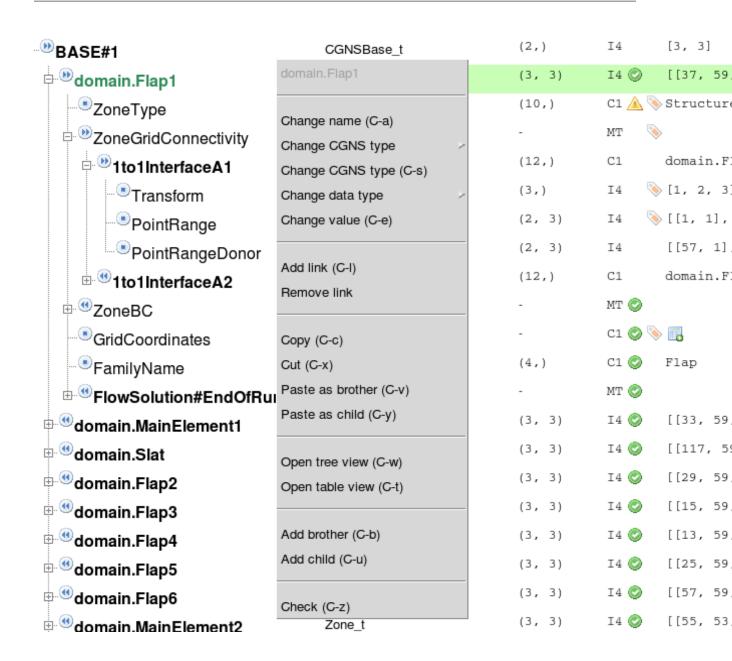
- S status flag, says if you tree has been modified and needs a save
- T type of view, in this case you only have tree views
- The number of the view if youhave many views for the same CGNS tree
- The file name (when you create from scratch we propose a default name)
- The directory where you loaded/saved the file
- The root node of the view

The *Tree View* appears when you *create* a new tree or when you *open* an existing one. The tree below is a large one and we have a lot of information.

3.1. QuickStart 23



You click on the +/- icon before any node name in the tree to open/close the child sub-tree for this node. A mouse left button simple click on a node selects the node. A mouse right button simple click opens the menu for the selected node. The menu gives you access to some function such as Copy/Paste, change node name, type, add a child... Most of these functions have keyboard shortcuts.

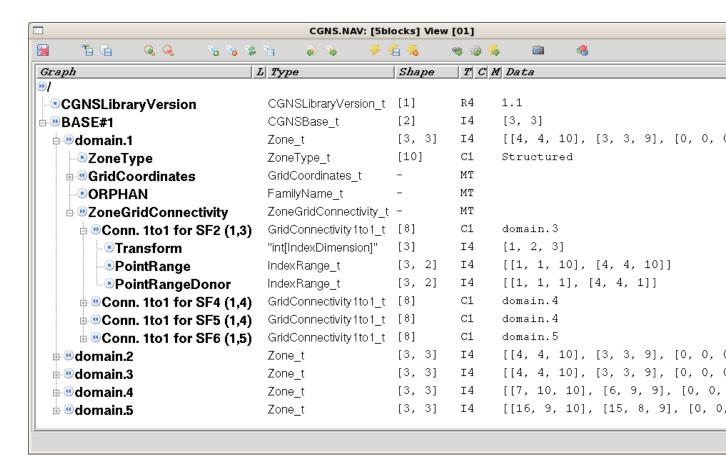


## 3.2 Tree View

The first window CGNS.NAV opens when you read a *CGNS* file is the *Tree view*. This is you main view of the tree, the browsing or modification of your tree has to be performed in this view or in a sub-window created from this view.

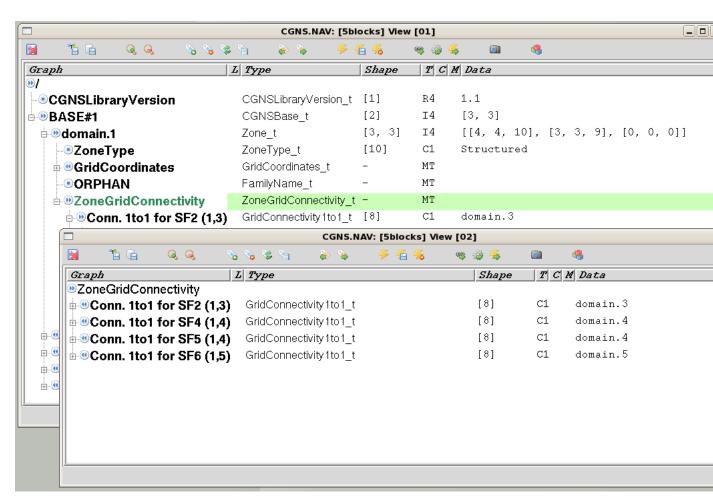
The *Tree view* shows you the tree of nodes in a table-like way, you can see at the same time many informations on a complete sub-tree.

3.2. Tree View 25

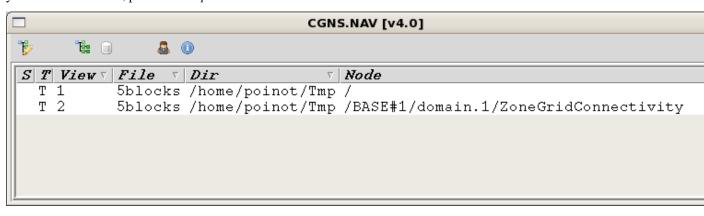


A *Tree view* can be a view of a sub-tree of your current view. Select the top node you want as sub-tree root, press *<Control-W>* and the new window appears (see <sup>1</sup>).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All key bindings can be customized, the bindings we give here are the *default bindings*.



You can track with the *Control view* wich window you have on which node. To find back the *Control view* when you are in a *Tree view*, press *<BackSpace>*.



**Note:** The sub-tree window is another view of the **same** *CGNS* tree. If you change something in one window, all existing windows displaying the same tree are updated.

3.2. Tree View 27

### 3.2.1 The icon menu

# 3.2.2 Selection and flags

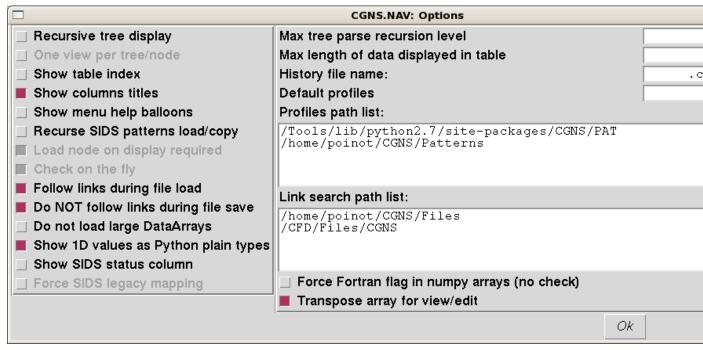
## 3.2.3 Copy/Paste

The *Tree view* support the *Cut/Copy/Paste* on trees. You can copy a sub-tree in a view, paste it into another view (even a view that belongs to another *CGNS* tree). The usual key bindings are *<Control-X>* for *Cut*, *<Control-C>* for copy and *<Control-V>* for paste.

When you *Cut/Copy*, the selected node uses as the root node of your buffered tree. When you *Paste*, the selected node can act as the parent node of the new sub-tree (using *<Control-Y>*) or as the brother of your new sub-tree (usinf *<Control-V>* (see <sup>2</sup>).

# 3.3 Option View

The *Option view* is the place where you set your own parameters for *CGNS.NAV*. You should be sure the right options are set because some of these are very important and could change the actual contents of a file you want to store.



You can change values in the *Option view* or edit the .cgnsnavoptions.py file you can find in your home directory. For example you can customize the key bindings only in the .cgnsnavoptions.py file. This file is a plain Python file, it is imported and re-generated each time you run CGNS.NAV.

The .cgnsnavhistory.py contains the history of directories where you opened a CGNS file.

# 3.3.1 Options

The check-box options are active when the box is *checked* (wouahahah!). Some are only related to the display of the data, some other are driving the way *CGNS.NAV* reads or writes the data on disk and have a strong impact on the actual CGNS file you will obtain.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A *Cut* or a *Copy* action puts the selected root node path into a buffer. There is a single buffer for all CGNS .NAV, so if you *Cut* or *Copy* several times only the last one is taken into account. A *Copy* actually copies the sub-tree starting from the path in the buffer, recursively up to the end of all branches. The root node of the resulting copy is

- Recursive tree display forces the Tree view to open all the children recursively. We strongly suggest you un-check this box on large files.
- One view per tree/node (Not available) when active you cannot open more than one view per tree/node.
- Show columns titles is used to show/hide the top titles of tables
- Show menu help balloons activates ugly yelllow balloons giving a hint on the purpose of the icons in the views menus.
- Recurse SIDS patterns load/copy indicates that you want to load or copy the SIDS CGNS sub-trees in a recursive way. For example, if you load the CGNSBase\_t pattern you will obtain the whole SIDS pattern, all pattern children of CGNSBase\_t will be loaded as well.
- Load node on display required (Not available) to save memory and time, CGNS node is read from the file only when CGNS.NAV needs to display it.
- Check on the fly (Not available) forces a check each time you modify a tree.
- Follow links during file load indicates that the links CGNS.NAV encounters into a CGNS file have to be followed or not.
- *Do NOT follow links during file save* means that the links will be ignored during save which has the effect to *merge* all the tree nodes into the same root file.
- Do not load large DataArrays
- Show 1D values as plain Python types
- Show SIDS status column
- Max tree parse recursion level
- Max length of data displayed in table
- History file name
- · Default profile
- Profile path list
- Force fortran flag in numpy arrays
- Transpose array for edit/view

# 3.3.2 Default key/mouse bindings per view

The <*C-x>* notation stands for <*Control-X>*, that is pressing the *Control* key and the *X* letter key at the same time. The mouse actions can be a *Single* or a *Double* click on the \*L\*eft, \*M\*iddle or \*R\*ight button.

3.3. Option View 29

View	Key/Mouse	Action
Con-	<return></return>	On a view line, raises this view window
trolVi	ewDelete>	On a view line, closes the window and its children
		windows
Tree-	<backspace></backspace>	Raises the ControlView window
View	<single-l></single-l>	Select current node
	<return></return>	On a node, open/close the selected node
	<single-r></single-r>	Opens the pop-up menu for selected node
	<c-c></c-c>	Copy selected node
	<c-x></c-x>	Cut selected node
	<c-v></c-v>	Paste buffered tree as selected node's brother
	<c-y></c-y>	Paste buffered tree as selected node's child
	<c-w></c-w>	Opens a new <i>Tree window</i> for selected node
	<c-t></c-t>	Opens a new <i>Table window</i> for selected node
	<c-a></c-a>	Change selected node's name
	<c-s></c-s>	Change selected node's CGNS type
	<c-e></c-e>	Change selected node's value
	<c-b></c-b>	Add brother node to selected node
	<c-u></c-u>	Add child node to selected node
	<c-d></c-d>	Copy selected node as link destination
	<c-l></c-l>	Add link to buffered link node destination
	<c-z></c-z>	Check selected node and its sub-tree
Table	- <backspace></backspace>	Raises the ControlView window
View		

# 3.4 Pattern View

# 3.5 VTK View

## **3.5.1 Camera**

The camera is your eye, when you move around the object you are looking at the camera is moving, not the object. The object has a position in the 3D space, its coordinates are relative to an origin.

# 3.5.2 Key bindings

The bindings are the default VTK behaviour, see below how you can interact with the scene depending on the mode you have. The default mode is the *Trackball Camera* mode (note that all other modes are unactivated in this CGNS.NAV version).

t Trackball Camera mode.

mouse left Rotation mouse right Zoom mouse middle Panning ctrl - left Spinning

# 3.6 Query View

# 3.7 Link View

# 3.8 Table View

**Warning:** There are a lot of screenshots in this CGNS.NAV doc, some may be a bit out-dated but most of the look-and-feel of the tool would keep unchanged.

3.8. Table View

# **GLOSSARY**

**cgns.org** The official CGNS web site, by extension any document on this web site has an *official* taste...

**CGNS** The specific purpose of the CFD General Notation System (CGNS) project is to provide a standard for recording and recovering computer data associated with the numerical solution of the equations of fluid dynamics. See also the *How to?*.

**CGNS/SIDS** The Standard Interface Data Structure is the specification of the data model. This public document describes the syntax and the semantics of all tree-structured data required or proposed for a CFD simulation.

**CGNS/MLL** The Mid-Level Library is an example implementation of *CGNS/SIDS* on top of *CGNS/ADF* and *CGNS/HDF5* mappings. This library has a C and a Fortran API.

**CGNS/ADF** The Advanced Data Format \*CGNS/SIDS\* implementation. A binary storage format and its companion library, developped by *Boeing*.

**CGNS/HDF5** The Hierarchical Data Format \*CGNS/SIDS\* implementation. A binary storage format and its companion library (see below).

**CGNS/Python** The Python programming language \*CGNS/SIDS\* implementation.

**CHLone** A *CGNS/HDF5* compliant implementation. The CHLone library is available on SourceForge.

**HDF5** A powerful storage system for large data. The HDF5 library should be seen as a middleware system with a lot of powerful features related to efficient, portable and trustable storage mean.

**python** An object oriented interpreted programming language.

**cython** A compiler tool that translate Python/Numpy into C code for performance purpose.

**numpy** The numerical library for Python. *Numpy* is used to store the data in Python arrays which have a direct memory mapping to actual C or Fortran memory.

VTK A visualization toolkit used to display 3D objects ni CGNS.NAV.

PySide The Python interface for the Qt toolkit. PySide

**Qt** A powerful graphical toolkit available under GPL v3, LGPL v2 and a commercial license. The current use of Qt is under LGPL v2 in pyCGNS.

## 4.1 NAV Index

• genindex