

OOPS Documentation

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1 Introduction

Let's talk about how scientific codes get written. Some graduate student named Steve has a tough problem to solve, so he learns just enough coding and numerical methods to solve his one problem. The code isn't pretty, but it doesn't have to be because it's simple and easy-to-use for Steve's one problem. Steve

eventually graduates, but his advisor, Dr. Fred Smith, holds onto a copy of the code because it works so well.

Now enters Bob, a bright-eyed graduate student with enough ~~stupidity~~ ambition to pursue Dr. Smith's next tough problem and absolutely no coding experience. This tough problem happens to be somewhat similar to Steve's problem, so Dr. Smith starts Bob on Steve's old code. Roughly three months later, Bob has modified Steve's code and extended it to work with his problem, too. It's ugly and gross in every way, but it still runs decently quickly and is simple enough that no one cares. He graduates and quickly forgets about the code.

Dr. Smith repeats this cycle with three or four more graduate students, plus about a dozen undergraduates who pop into his research group along the way. Halfway through, Annie the undergrad notices that the code is an absolute trainwreck and decides to rewrite portions of it. Unfortunately, she has to graduate, so she only rewrites the portions that she needs for her project, and now the code is a horrible amalgam of modern object-oriented programming, Steve's hard-coded relics, and everyone else's half-baked tweaks which never should have seen the light of day. Naturally, the documentation is more sparse than an SPS activity without free food, so Dr. Smith's students spend half their time trying to decipher what has become known as "The Frankencode."

The Object-Oriented PDE Solver, or OOPS, is designed to alleviate as many of these problems as possible. By creating a flexible object-oriented design, even those relatively inexperienced with coding and numerical methods can quickly solve their problems without ever having to worry about much more than the PDE itself. At the same time, the framework is flexible enough that those who *do* need to worry about it can.

2 Getting Started with OOPS

Because the OOPS framework is currently so small and lightweight, the entire framework is compiled with each project without any extra library dependencies. We warn the user that this will likely change in a future release as the project grows in scope.

2.1 System Requirements

OOPS requires CMake 3.0 or later and a C++ compiler supporting C++11 or later. Some optional features require the `bbhutil` library from RNPL. This package is quite old and is only known to work on select Linux distributions (Ubuntu 16.04 and RHEL 7.0 have been tested) after a very onerous installation procedure. We recommend a Linux environment (native, virtual machines, or the Windows Subsystem for Linux should work), but any appropriately configured Windows or MacOS environment should work as well, albeit without the optional features depending on `bbhutil`.

The procedure for building OOPS in Linux is as follows:

```
cd <path to OOPS base directory>
mkdir build
cd build
ccmake ../
```

A configuration menu should appear. Press **c** to generate the configuration file. The default options should be sufficient. Press **c** again, then **g** to generate the make files.

```
make
```

After this, all generated executables should appear in the **build** directory.

2.2 Structure of OOPS

The most basic OOPS program contains the following components:

- A **Domain** object, which defines the space for your problem.
- One or more **Grid** objects, which subdivide a **Domain** into discrete points for numerical calculation.
- A **Solver** object, such as RK4, which will numerically solve any PDE fed into it.
- An **ODE** object, which provides the righthand side for a system of ODEs (such as a PDE discretized with finite-difference methods), boundary conditions, and initial conditions.

More complex codes will also make use of **Parameter** objects and **Interpolator** objects, but these are not much more difficult to add in. OOPS works as hard as possible to hide as many of the gory details behind the scenes.

2.3 Solving a Simple Initial Boundary Value Problem

For this project, we'll create a simple program using OOPS that solves the wave equation on a domain with Neumann (free) boundaries. Begin by building a new project directory for the program:

```
cd <path to OOPS base directory>
mkdir WaveEquation
cd WaveEquation
mkdir include
mkdir src
```

The `include` folder will contain any header files specific to the `WaveEquation` program, and `src` will hold the `main` file and any additional source files required.

Before we start writing our code, remember that the wave equation in one dimension takes the form

$$\partial_{tt}\phi - \partial_{xx}\phi = 0. \quad (1)$$

OOPS can't solve this in its current form because the time integrator expects it to be first order in space. Therefore, we make the definition $\pi = \partial_t\phi$, which suggests the ODE system

$$\partial_t\phi = \pi, \quad (2)$$

$$\partial_t\pi = \partial_{xx}\phi. \quad (3)$$

OOPS can actually solve this as is because we can just define a second-order derivative operator, but it's just as easy to reduce the spatial order by defining $\chi = \partial_x\phi$, giving us the system

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t\phi &= \pi, \\ \partial_t\pi &= \partial_x\chi, \\ \partial_t\chi &= \partial_x\pi, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where the third equation comes from the commutability of partial derivatives. Despite the two systems being mathematically identical and producing solutions to the wave equation, they exhibit very different numerical properties, with the first-order system being more dispersive and the second-order system being more diffusive.

2.3.1 wave.h

The next step is to construct our PDE. In the `include` directory, create a new file `wave.h` that reads as follows:

```

1  #ifndef WAVEH
2  #define WAVEH
3
4  #include <ode.h>
5
6  class Wave : public ODE {
7  private:
8      // Variable labels
9      static const unsigned int U_PHI = 0;
10     static const unsigned int U_PI = 1;
11     static const unsigned int U_CHI = 2;
12
13  protected:
14     virtual void applyBoundaries(bool intermediate);
15
16     virtual void rhs(const Grid& grid, double **u, double **dudt) ←
17         ;

```

```

18     public:
19         Wave(Domain& d, Solver& s);
20         virtual ~Wave();
21
22         virtual void initData();
23     };
24
25 #endif

```

The `ode.h` file defines the `ODE` object, which defines an abstract class representing a system of ODEs (or a discretized system of PDEs). We declare a new class, `Wave`, which inherits from `ODE` and therefore reduces a lot of the work that we have to do.

Underneath the `private` label, we assign some variable names to our specific indices. This isn't necessary, strictly speaking, but it makes your code a lot more readable when we start writing the righthand-side routine.

For our `protected` methods, we have two virtual functions, `applyBoundaries()` and `rhs()`, which are both inherited from `ODE`. The method `applyBoundaries()` is used in the evolution function (which is also virtual and can be overwritten, but the default definition works well enough for this case) to fix the boundaries between each stage of the `Solver` object we'll attach later. The `intermediate` flag will be explained in more detail later, but it has to do with figuring out which data set needs to be modified. The `rhs()` method contains the righthand side of Eq. (4).

Lastly, inside the `public` region, we have a constructor and a destructor as well as `initData()`, which contains the initial data for the ODE. This is made public for convenience, as more advanced implementations may have a custom `Parameter` object, which can be used, among other things, to control the initial conditions for a specific ODE.

2.3.2 wave.cpp

The next file we need to create is `wave.cpp`, which is located inside `src` and contains the definitions for `wave.h`. We'll take this one piece at a time:

```

1 #include <wave.h>
2 #include <operators.h>
3 #include <iostream>
4 #include <cmath>

```

Clearly `wave.h` is the header file we just created. The file `operators.h` contains a set of pre-defined derivative operators. Next, we need access to the I/O and math functions from the Standard Template Library, so we go ahead and include those.

```

1
2 // Constructor
3 Wave::Wave(Domain& d, Solver& s) : ODE(3, 0){

```

```

4  if(d.getGhostPoints() < 2){
5      std::cerr << "Warning: domain has fewer ghost points than ←
        expected. Expect incorrect behavior.\n";
6  }
7  domain = &d;
8  solver = &s;
9
10 // Set some default parameters.
11 params = new Parameters();
12
13 reallocateData();
14 }
15
16 // Destructor
17 Wave::~Wave() {
18     delete params;
19 }

```

When we define our constructor, we have to make sure that we call the ODE constructor, `ODE(const unsigned int n, const unsigned int id)`. The first argument, `n`, is the number of variables for our ODE object, and `id` is an identifier. For our simple program, `id` isn't really important, but it's a sort of baroque method for manually type-checking `Parameters` types and ODE objects. Basically `id=0` just means that we can use the default `Parameters` object.

We are going to construct our ODE method with fourth-order derivative operators, so we need at least two ghost points at the boundaries to ensure that we get fourth-order accuracy. The `if` statement guarantees that this is the case and spits out an error promising that the solution will behave incorrectly if it is not.

Next, we need to set the domain and solver for our ODE. This should always be done in the constructor so that memory is allocated properly.

We then build a `Parameters` object for our ODE. The default `Parameters` object is very simple and basically just stores information about what sort of `Interpolator` should be used, (which is not important for our particularly simple example), but a custom `Parameters` object could also contain information about what order derivative operators to use, initial conditions, and so forth.

The last line needs a little bit of explanation. Whenever we assign a `Domain` object to our ODE, we need to allocate memory for every single variable at every single point. If this is done for a multi-stage `Solver`, such as RK4, we also need to allocate this same amount of memory for each stage. Therefore, any time the `Domain` or `Solver` objects are changed, ODE automatically calls `reallocateData()`. When an ODE object is destroyed, it automatically deallocates this memory. However, the constructor doesn't automatically call this routine because we assign the `Domain` and `Solver` manually rather than through the `setDomain()` and `setSolver()` methods. Therefore we must explicitly call `reallocateData()`.

The destructor doesn't need to do much because most of the heavy lifting is handled by ODE. Therefore, the only thing we need to do is call `delete` on the `Parameters` object we created.

The next piece we need to implement is the `rhs()` function:

```

1 void Wave::rhs(const Grid& grid, double **u, double **dudt){
2     // Go ahead and define some stuff we will need.
3     double stencil3[3] = {0.0, 0.0, 0.0};
4     double stencil5[5] = {0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0, 0.0};
5     double dx = grid.getSpacing();
6     int shp = grid.getSize();
7
8     // Calculate the left boundary. We switch to a different ←
9     // operator on the boundaries, which should
10    // just be ghost points that will be overwritten, anyway.
11    // Leftmost point.
12    dudt[U_PHI][0] = u[U_PI][0];
13    stencil3[0] = u[U_CHI][0];
14    stencil3[1] = u[U_CHI][1];
15    stencil3[2] = u[U_CHI][2];
16    dudt[U_PI][0] = operators::dx_2off(stencil3, dx);
17    stencil3[0] = u[U_PI][0];
18    stencil3[1] = u[U_PI][1];
19    stencil3[2] = u[U_PI][2];
20    dudt[U_CHI][0] = operators::dx_2off(stencil3, dx);
21
22    // Second leftmost point.
23    dudt[U_PHI][1] = u[U_PI][1];
24    stencil3[0] = u[U_CHI][0];
25    stencil3[1] = u[U_CHI][1];
26    stencil3[2] = u[U_CHI][2];
27    dudt[U_PI][1] = operators::dx_2(stencil3, dx);
28    stencil3[0] = u[U_PI][0];
29    stencil3[1] = u[U_PI][1];
30    stencil3[2] = u[U_PI][2];
31    dudt[U_CHI][1] = operators::dx_2(stencil3, dx);
32
33    // Now set all the interior points.
34    for(int i = 2; i < shp - 2; i++){
35        dudt[U_PHI][i] = u[U_PI][i];
36
37        for(int j = 0; j < 5; j++){
38            stencil5[j] = u[U_CHI][i - 2 + j];
39        }
40        dudt[U_PI][i] = operators::dx_4(stencil5, dx);
41
42        for(int j = 0; j < 5; j++){
43            stencil5[j] = u[U_PI][i - 2 + j];
44        }
45        dudt[U_CHI][i] = operators::dx_4(stencil5, dx);
46    }
47
48    // Second rightmost point.
49    dudt[U_PHI][shp - 2] = u[U_PI][shp - 2];
50    stencil3[0] = u[U_CHI][shp - 3];
51    stencil3[1] = u[U_CHI][shp - 2];
52    stencil3[2] = u[U_CHI][shp - 1];
53    dudt[U_PI][shp - 2] = operators::dx_2(stencil3, dx);
54    stencil3[0] = u[U_PI][shp - 3];

```



```

54 stencil3[1] = u[U_PI][shp - 2];
55 stencil3[2] = u[U_PI][shp - 1];
56 ddt[U_CHI][shp - 2] = operators::dx_2(stencil3, dx);
57
58 // Rightmost point.
59 ddt[U_PHI][shp - 1] = u[U_PI][shp - 1];
60 stencil3[2] = u[U_CHI][shp - 3];
61 stencil3[1] = u[U_CHI][shp - 2];
62 stencil3[0] = u[U_CHI][shp - 1];
63 ddt[U_PI][shp - 1] = operators::dx_2off(stencil3, dx);
64 stencil3[2] = u[U_PI][shp - 3];
65 stencil3[1] = u[U_PI][shp - 2];
66 stencil3[0] = u[U_PI][shp - 1];
67 ddt[U_CHI][shp - 1] = operators::dx_2off(stencil3, dx);
68 }

```

Before we go any further, we need to talk about spatial discretization in OOPS. The `Domain` object we attached to `Wave` earlier has one or more `Grid` objects attached to it. The `Domain` describes the physical bounds of the problem and includes some details about discretization that all `Grid` objects need to follow. One of these is ghost points. All `Grid` objects include ghost points, which are nonphysical points extending past the bounds reported by each `Grid` object. These are required for transferring data between different `Grid` objects, but they are also used in some numerical schemes (such as those common in fluid dynamics) for applying boundary conditions. Strictly speaking, these ghost points do not *need* to be set in the righthand side routine, but they can be.

Moving forward to the code itself, it is somewhat long, but it should be very straightforward. The left and right computational (not necessarily physical) boundaries are set with second-order derivative operators, and which require a 3-point stencil, and all the interior points use a full fourth-order derivative operator with a 5-point stencil. Every derivative operator takes an appropriately sized stencil and spatial interval. An important point to notice here is that the points on the right boundary are loaded into the derivative stencil backwards; essentially, we are using a forward difference operator rather than defining a unique backward difference operator.

After setting up the righthand side, we still need to define some boundary conditions. We're assuming a Neumann boundary, so this is easy to set up.

```

1 void Wave::applyBoundaries(bool intermediate){
2     unsigned int nb = domain->getGhostPoints();
3     // Grab the data at the leftmost grid and the rightmost grid.
4     auto left_it = data.begin();
5     auto right_it = --data.end();
6
7     double **left;
8     double **right;
9
10    if(!intermediate){
11        left = left_it->getData();
12        right = right_it->getData();
13    }

```

```

14     else{
15         left = left_it->getIntermediateData();
16         right = right_it->getIntermediateData();
17     }
18     unsigned int nr = right_it->getGrid().getSize();
19
20     // Apply Neumann boundary condition.
21     for(unsigned int i = 0; i < nb; i++){
22         left[U_PHI][i] = left[U_PHI][nb];
23         left[U_PI][i] = left[U_PI][nb];
24         left[U_CHI][i] = 0.0;
25
26         right[U_PHI][nr - 1 - i] = right[U_PHI][nr - nb - 1];
27         right[U_PI][nr - 1 - i] = right[U_PI][nr - nb - 1];
28         right[U_CHI][nr - 1 - i] = 0.0;
29     }
30 }

```

This is a great time to explain how spatial data is stored in OOPS. As mentioned previously, every `Domain` contains one or more `Grid` objects. These are stored in an `std::set` and sorted from left to right. Every `ODE` object maintains a set of `SolverData` objects, each of which are assigned a specific grid, and are also sorted from left to right. This makes it possible to store multiple grids on a single domain, thus allowing for different-sized grids in different regions of the solution. Hypothetically, this could also allow for adaptive mesh refinement, although that feature has not been implemented.

In any case, we need to make sure that we retrieve the leftmost and rightmost grids on the domain because those will be the ones containing the physical boundaries. If we're using a multi-stage `Solver` object, the intermediate flag tells us whether this data needs to come from the intermediate data stored between stages or the original data from the beginning of the time step. After that, applying the boundary condition itself is nearly trivial. Because we have a Neumann boundary, we set $\chi = \partial_x \phi = 0$, and we enforce this same condition in ϕ and π by copying the physical boundary into the ghost points.

By this point, some of you are probably asking, "Wait a minute – can I do boundaries without ghost point? How does that work?" The `applyBoundaries()` function was designed with fluid-style boundaries in mind, which are really Dirichlet boundaries cleverly designed to simulate other boundaries. More traditional PDEs can exclude the `applyBoundaries()` function altogether and set their boundaries in the `rhs()` if they so choose.

The last piece for this file is setting the initial conditions. For simplicity, we'll assume a Gaussian centered around $x = 0.5$. The code looks like this:

```

1 void Wave::initData(){
2     // The center of our Gaussian.
3     double x0 = 0.5;
4
5     // Loop through every grid and start assigning points.
6     for(auto it = data.begin(); it != data.end(); ++it){
7         const double *x = it->getGrid().getPoints();

```

```

8     unsigned int nx = it->getGrid().getSize();
9     double **u = it->getData();
10    for(unsigned int i = 0; i < nx; i++){
11        double val = std::exp(-(x[i] - x0)*(x[i] - x0)*64.0);
12        u[U_PHI][i] = val;
13        u[U_PI][i] = 0.0;
14        u[U_CHI][i] = -128.0*(x[i] - x0)*val;
15    }
16 }
17 }

```

After our discussion on boundary conditions, the purpose of the loop should be more straightforward: we need to loop over every grid on our domain so we can set each of their points fit along a Gaussian.

2.3.3 main.cpp

We're in the home stretch! With our ODE set up, all that's left is our `main()` function. Start by making a new file in the `src` directory called `main.cpp`.

```

1  #include <domain.h>
2  #include <grid.h>
3  #include <rk4.h>
4  #include <cmath>
5  #include <cstdio>
6  #include <wave.h>
7  #include <polynomialinterpolator.h>
8
9  int main(int argc, char* argv[]){
10     // Construct our domain and a grid to fit on it.
11     Domain domain = Domain();
12     int N = 101;
13     double bounds[2] = {0.0};
14     bounds[0] = domain.getBounds()[0];
15     bounds[1] = domain.getBounds()[1];
16     domain.addGrid(bounds, N);
17
18     // Set up our ODE system.
19     RK4 rk4 = RK4();
20     PolynomialInterpolator interpolator = PolynomialInterpolator(4)↵
21     ;
22     Wave ode = Wave(domain, rk4);
23     ode.setInterpolator(&interpolator);
24     ode.initData();
25
26     double ti = 0.0;
27     double tf = 5.0;
28     double dt = domain.getCFL()*(domain.getGrids().begin())↵
29     getSpacing();
30     unsigned int M = (tf - ti)/dt;
31     ode.dump_csv("phi00000.csv", 0, 0);
32     for(unsigned int i = 0; i < M; i++){
33         double t = (i + 1)*dt;
34         ode.evolveStep(dt);
35     }
36 }

```

```

34     char buffer[12];
35     sprintf(buffer, "phi%05d.csv", i+1);
36     ode.dump_csv(buffer, t, 0);
37 }
38
39 return 0;
40 }

```

Inside the main function, we can see the procedure for constructing a `Domain`. When we create a new `Domain` object, it is generated with some defaults. The boundaries are automatically defined at $x = 0$ and $x = 1.0$, the number of ghost points is set to 3, and we have a Courant-Friedrichs-Lewy (CFL) factor of 0.5. This helps us set the time step to something guaranteed to be stable for our chosen spatial interval, although in practice this depends a lot on the particular equation we're solving. We can add a `Grid` to the `Domain` with the method `addGrid(double bounds[2], unsigned int n)`, where `bounds` defines the spatial location of the `Grid` (which, in this case, is just the entire domain) and the number of physical points for the `Grid`. Now is a good time to note that the number of actual points on the grid is going to be `n + 2*nghosts`, where `nghosts` is the number of ghost points, which will extend slightly beyond the region specified by `bounds[]`.

The next step is constructing our `Wave ODE` object. We first start by picking a `Solver` for the time integration, which is `RK4` in this case. We then construct an `Interpolator` object because it's required by the `ODE` class to transfer data between different-sized `Grid` objects, although this functionality is not important for our purposes. We then build our `Wave` object, assign the new `Interpolator`, and set the initial data.

Finally, we need to run our main loop. We calculate our time step, the number of total steps (because calculating `t` from the number of steps is less prone to numerical error than adding `dt` over and over), and run `evolveStep(dt)`. We also dump our data to a `.csv` file every step so we can look at the results when we're done.

2.3.4 Compiling the Project

By the end of this, you're asking, "We're done, right?"

The answer to that question is yes and no. We're done writing C++, but we still have one more step before we can compile our code and run the project. So, navigate to the OOPS base directory and open up `CMakeLists.txt`. Append the following to the end of the file:

```

1 set(WAVE_INCLUDE_FILES
2     WaveEquation/include/wave.h
3 )
4 set(TEST_SOURCE_FILES
5     WaveEquation/src/wave.cpp
6     WaveEquation/src/main.cpp
7 )

```

```

8
9 set(SOURCE_FILES ${GRID_SOURCE_FILES} ${GRID_INCLUDE_FILES} ${←
    TEST_SOURCE_FILES} ${WAVE_INCLUDE_FILES})
10 add_executable(Wave ${SOURCE_FILES})
11 target_link_libraries(Wave ${EXTRA_LIBS})
12 target_include_directories(Wave PUBLIC ${CMAKE_CURRENT_SOURCE_DIR←
    }/include
13                                     ${CMAKE_CURRENT_SOURCE_DIR}/←
                                         WaveEquation/include ${←
                                             PROJECT_SOURCE_DIR})

```

After that, rerun CMake, compile, and you should have an executable, `Wave`, which will solve your wave equation when you run it.

2.3.5 Afterthoughts

By this time, you’re saying, “You said this would be simple! Why did it take so long? This seems like overkill for such a simple problem.”

You’re probably right. If all you’re trying to do is solve the wave equation, you really don’t need all this machinery. But let’s start by talking about all the things you *didn’t* have to do. You *didn’t* have to write your own numerical integrator, first of all. You just loaded up the standard `RK4` integrator, attached it to the `Wave` object, and you were good to go. You also *didn’t* have to worry about discretizing the `Domain` yourself. This isn’t a terribly difficult process if all you need is a single uniform grid, but it takes out one more failing point in your code. You didn’t have to write your own derivative operators. Again, these aren’t difficult, but they do take time, especially if you want something more than the traditional second-order centered finite-difference operators. You didn’t have to worry about boundary conditions getting applied correctly between the different stages of the numerical integrator, either; you just overloaded `applyBoundaries`, wrote out the boundaries you wanted, and let `OOPS` do the rest for you.

Now let’s talk about what you *can* do thanks to `OOPS`. By just changing a few lines of code in your main function, you could change your problem from a single grid to three or four grids, perhaps to give you good resolution in the middle where the peak of the Gaussian is located and less resolution toward the edges where the data is more flat. `OOPS` automatically handles the data transfer between neighboring grids, including interpolating between different-sized grids (so long as they’re a multiple of two apart). If the `RK4` integrator isn’t good enough for your problem, you can write a new integrator using the `Solver` base class with just three functions (two of which are nearly identical). It will automatically work with all the rest of the `OOPS` machinery. If you’re working on a complicated problem that requires some extra steps in the evolution method (`ODE::evolveStep()`), you can do that with the `doAfter...()` methods.

3 Documentation

3.1 Domain Class

The `Domain` class defines the physical region a PDE should be solved on. It acts as a factory for `Grid` objects and contains the necessary parameters to construct them appropriately.

Public Methods

`Domain()` The constructor for a `Domain` object. By default, it sets the number of ghost points to three, the boundaries to $[0, 1]$, and the CFL factor to 0.5.

`~Domain()` The destructor for a `Domain` object. It automatically clears all grids attached to the `Domain`.

`void setCFL(double cfl)` Set the CFL factor. At the moment, this doesn't affect anything in the code itself. Future releases may use this to calculate a recommended time step.

`double getCFL() const` Get the CFL factor.

`void setBounds(double bounds[2])` Set the bounds for the domain with an ordered pair. **This will also clear any Grid objects still on the Domain.**

`const double* getBounds() const` Get the bounds for the `Domain` as an ordered pair.

`void setGhostPoints(unsigned int n)` Set the number of ghost points to use while constructing new `Grid` objects. **This will clear any Grid objects still on the Domain.**

`unsigned int getGhostPoints() const` Get the number of ghost points used while constructing new `Grid` objects.

`std::set<Grid>& getGrids()` Get a `set` containing all the different `Grid` objects currently on the `Domain`.

`Result addGrid(double bounds[2], unsigned int n)` Using an ordered pair `bounds[]`, add a new `Grid` with `n` uniformly spaced points to the `Domain`. It returns `SUCCESS` if it succeeded and `BAD_ALLOC` if it failed.

`void clearGrids()` Clear all `Grid` objects currently on the `Domain`.

3.2 Grid Class

The `Grid` class defines a 1d grid with uniform spacing. These are the building blocks for basically all calculations in OOPS.

Public Methods

`Grid(const double bounds[2], unsigned int n, unsigned int nghosts)`
The constructor for a new `Grid` with `n` points from `bounds[0]` to `bounds[1]`, plus an additional `nghosts` ghost points on either end.

`Grid(const Grid& other)` The copy construct for `Grid`. Because memory is allocated and deallocated in every `Grid` object, this performs a deep copy.

`~Grid()` This is the destructor for the `Grid` class. It frees all the memory allocated for the `Grid` points.

`Result rebuildGrid(const double bounds[2], unsigned int n, unsigned int nghosts)` A function to rebuild a `Grid`, with the arguments being the same as the constructor, if something needs to change. It returns `SUCCESS` on success and `BAD_ALLOC` if it fails.

`const double* getPoints() const` Get the array containing the physical location of every grid point.

`const unsigned int getSize() const` Get the number of points, including ghost points, currently on the grid.

`const double getSpacing() const` Get the space interval between points.

`const double* getBounds() const` Get the bounds, excluding ghost points, of the `Grid` as an ordered pair.

`bool operator < (const Grid& g) const` Compare two `Grid` objects to each other. If the right bound for the `Grid` on the left side of the operator is less than the left bound for the `Grid` on the right side of the operator, this returns true. If the two `Grid` objects overlap at all, this will always return false, even if you flip the arguments.

`Boundary whichNeighbor(const Grid& g) const` If two `Grid` objects share a boundary, this will return `Boundary::LEFT` or `Boundary::RIGHT`. Otherwise, it returns `Boundary::NONE`.

3.3 Solver Class

The `Solver` class is an interface for numerical integrators. As such, it cannot be instantiated, but any numerical integrator, such as the included `RK4` integrator, must be a descendant of the `Solver` class to work properly with the rest of the OOPS machinery. This particular class may be rewritten somewhat in the future to make it more consistent with the rest of OOPS.

Protected Fields

`const int nStages` The number of stages for the `Solver`, which is specified in the constructor.

Public Methods

`Solver(const int n)` A basic constructor included to set the number of stages for a `Solver`. **All subclasses must call this constructor in their initialization list.**

`int getNStages() const` Get the number of stages for the `Solver`.

Unimplemented Public Methods

`virtual Result calcStage(void (*rhs)(const Grid&, double**, double**), double *data0[], double *dataint[], double *dest[], const Grid& grid, double dt, const unsigned int vars, unsigned int stage)`
This method must be implemented for compability with older procedural tests, but it is deprecated and will be removed in a future release. The first argument is a function pointer to a righthand-side function. The `data0[]` argument is a 2d array which includes the original data from the beginning of the time step. The `dataint[]` argument is also a 2d array, but it stores intermediate data from the previous stage in the integrator. The `dest[]` argument is also a 2d array where the result from the stage is stored. You also specify a `Grid` to pass into the righthand-side function, a timestep `dt`, the number of variables for the righthand-side, and the current stage of the solver.

`virtual Result calcStage(ODE *ode, double *data0[], double *dataint[], double *dest[], const Grid& grid, double dt, unsigned int stage)`
This is the method currently used by the OOPS framework for calculating each stage of a `Solver` object. The arguments are very similar to the function above, but the function pointer is replaced by a pointer to an ODE, which contains the righthand-side function and the number of variables (which is also missing). Because this function is used inside a loop over the different `Grid` objects, the data and `Grid` must still be included explicitly, but a future release may modify this to move the loop into the `Solver` itself.

`virtual Result combineStages(double **data[], double *dest[], const Grid& grid, double dt, const int vars)` This function combines all the stages together. The `data[]` array is organized by [STAGE] [VAR] [INDEX] and contains all the work data from the previous calculations. The `dest[]` array contains the final result of the calculation. The `Grid` for this calculation is supplied, as is the time step and the number of variables for the equation.

3.3.1 RK4 Child Class

An implementation of the classic 4th-order Runge-Kutta integrator. It is a four-stage solver and has no unique functions. It can be declared with its default constructor, `RK4()`.

3.4 ODE Class

ODE is an abstract class describing a generic system of differential equations. As a brief note, no ODE object is copyable because they store a considerable amount of dynamically allocated memory.

Protected Fields

`const unsigned int nEqs` The number of independent equations in this system.

`const unsigned int pID` The ID associated with this ODE. This is used for identifying compatible `Parameter` objects.

`Parameters *params` A pointer to the `Parameter` object associated with the ODE.

`Domain *domain` The Domain this ODE is being solved on. This is how the ODE accesses all of the `Grid` objects it needs to construct the `SolverData` objects.

`std::set<SolverData> data` A set containing all the `SolverData` objects for each `Grid`.

`Solver *solver` The Solver that should be used to calculate each step.

`Interpolator *interpolator` The `Interpolator` used to transfer solution data between differently sized `Grid` objects.

`max_dx` The maximum grid spacing across all `Grid` objects on the Domain.

Protected Methods

`virtual void applyBoundaries(bool intermediate)` A function to apply fluid-style boundary conditions after data is transferred between `Grid` objects. It is empty by default, so initial value problems and PDEs which apply their boundaries through the righthand side can simply not overwrite this function.

`virtual void doAfterStage(bool intermediate)` An empty function which can be overwritten to perform specific tasks after the `Solver` stage completes but before the `Grid` exchange occurs.

`virtual void doAfterExchange(bool intermediate)` An empty function which can be overwritten to perform specific tasks after the `Grid` exchange occurs but before the boundaries are applied.

`virtual void doAfterBoundaries(bool intermediate)` An empty function which can be overwritten to perform specific tasks after the boundary conditions are applied but before the next stage is calculated.

Result `reallocateData()` A function that clears and reallocates all of the data. This may be important if the **Domain** or any of its **Grid** objects change.

void `performGridExchange()` This exchanges data between the ghost points of neighboring **Grid** objects, including taking care of interpolation.

void `exchangeGhostPoints(const SolverData &data1, const SolverData &data2)` A helper function that performs a **Grid** exchange between two specific data sets.

void `interpolateLeft(const SolverData &datal, const SolverData &datar)`
A helper function for interpolation that assumes the **SolverData** to the left of the interface is finer.

void `interpolateRight(const SolverData &datal, const SolverData &datar)`
A helper function for interpolation that assumes the **SolverData** to the right of the interface is finer.

Public Methods

ODE(const unsigned int n, const unsigned int id) The constructor for **ODE**, which all subclasses must call in their initialization lists, which defines a new **ODE** object with **n** equations utilizing **Parameter** objects with the provided **id**.

~ODE() The destructor for the **ODE**, which clears all the data.

Result `setDomain(Domain *domain)` Set the **Domain** for the **ODE**. This will clear all existing data and reallocate it for the new **Domain**. It returns **SUCCESS** on success and an error, usually **BAD_ALLOC**, on failure.

Result `setSolver(Solver *solver)` Set the **Solver** for the **ODE**. This will clear all existing data and reallocate it for the new **Solver**. It returns **SUCCESS** on success and an error, usually **BAD_ALLOC**, on failure.

Result `setInterpolator(Interpolator *interp)` Set the interpolation method used by this **ODE**. It returns **SUCCESS** on success and an error on failure, usually **BAD_ALLOC**.

virtual Result `evolveStep(double dt)` The evolution function for a single step. It is overwriteable in case a specific use-case scenario requires more flexibility than the default evolution function provides, but this is not a typical use-case scenario.

Result `setParameters` Set the **Parameters** object for the **ODE**. If the **Parameters** object's **id** matches the **ODE**'s, it returns **SUCCESS**. Otherwise, it returns **UNRECOGNIZED_PARAMS**.

`unsigned int getNEqs() const` Get the number of equations in the ODE system.

`Domain *getDomain()` Get the current `Domain` used by the ODE.

`Parameters *getParameters` Get the current `Parameters` object used by the ODE.

`void output_frame(char *name, double t, unsigned int var)` Write out the data from variable `var` labeled with time `t` to `<name>.sdf`. This requires the `bbhutil` library and must be explicitly enabled with the `USE_SDF` option during the configuration. Otherwise, a warning is printed the first time it is called and no data is saved.

`dump_csv(char *name, double t, unsigned int var)` All the data is dumped to the specified file for the corresponding variable `var` in the format `(t, x, data)`.

Unimplemented Public Methods

`virtual void initData()` The initial conditions for the ODE.

`virtual void rhs(const Grid& grid, double** data, double** dudt)` The righthand-side function for this ODE. It takes a `Grid` object and the `data` corresponding to that `Grid`, then stores the calculated righthand-side in `dudt`.

3.5 SolverData Class

The `SolverData` class is a utility used by ODE to store solution data for a particular `Solver`. Note that the `SolverData` copy constructor is private, so no instance of `SolverData` can be copied directly.

Public Methods

`SolverData(unsigned int eqCount, unsigned int nStages, const Grid& grid)` The constructor for a `SolverData` object. It saves a reference to the `Grid` object it should be associated with and allocates memory for `eqCount` equations for `nStages` `Solver` stages.

`~SolverData()` The destructor for `SolverData`. It deallocates all the memory allocated in the constructor.

`double** getData() const` Get a pointer to a 2d array of data organized by `[vars][points]` for the solution on the `Grid` associated with this `SolverData`.

`double** getIntermediateData() const` Get a pointer to the 2d array of data organized by `[vars][points]` which stores the intermediate data used in a `Solver`.

`double*** getWorkData()` Get a pointer to the 3d array of data organized by [stage][vars][points]. This is used to store the various results needed from each stage of a `Solver`.

`unsigned int getEqCount() const` Get the number of equations that the `SolverData` object is storing data for.

`const Grid& getGrid()` Get the `Grid` object associated with the `SolverData` object.

3.6 Interpolator Class

An `Interpolator` object provides machinery for a generic interpolation scheme. Typically this should be a centered scheme, although there is nothing preventing a subclass from doing a non-centered stencil. However, such `Interpolator` schemes should not be used to interpolate `Grid` objects.

Protected Fields

`const unsigned int nStencil` The size of the interpolation stencil.

`double *stencil` The stencil for this `Interpolator`. This is allocated dynamically when the scheme is created and destroyed when the destructor is called.

Public Methods

`Interpolator(const unsigned int n)` The constructor for this `Interpolator`, which builds a new scheme with a stencil of size `n`. This must be called in the initialization list of subclasses.

`~Interpolator` The destructor for this `Interpolator`. It releases the allocated memory.

`double* getStencil()` Get a pointer to the interpolation stencil, which will be an array of size `nStencil`.

`unsigned int getStencilSize()` Get the size of the interpolation stencil.

Unimplemented Public Methods

`virtual double interpolate()` Interpolate to calculate a point. It's generally expected that this will be a centered scheme with an even number of points in the stencil (linear, cubic, etc.), but this is by no means required if the `Interpolator` will not be used for `Grid` interpolation.

3.6.1 PolynomialInterpolator Child Class

An interpolator for n-point centered polynomial interpolation.

Public Methods

`PolynomialInterpolator(const unsigned int n)` Construct a new `PolynomialInterpolator` for an `n`-point polynomial interpolation scheme.

3.7 operators Namespace

The `operators.h` file defines a number of finite-difference operators inside the `operators` namespace. All operators unless otherwise specified assume a uniform grid spacing.

Differential Operators All differential operators take a fixed-size `double` array as a stencil and a `double` for the grid spacing.

`double dx_2(const double u[3], const double dx)` A 2nd-order centered first derivative operator.

`double dx_2off(const double u[3], const double dx)` A 2nd-order forward-difference first derivative operator. The corresponding backward-difference operator is used by entering the points in backwards.

`double dx_4(const double u[5], const double dx)` A 4th-order centered first derivative operator.

`double dxx_2(const double u[3], const double dx)` A 2nd-order centered second derivative operator.

`double dxx_2off(const double u[4], const double dx)` A 2nd-order forward-difference second derivative operator. The corresponding backward-difference operator is used by entering the points in backwards.

`double dxx_4(const double u[5], const double dx)` A 4th-order centered second derivative operator.

Kreiss-Oliger Dissipation Operators All Kreiss-Oliger dissipation operators take a fixed-size `double` array as a stencil and a `double` for the grid spacing.

`double ko_dx(const double u[7], const double dx)` A (4th?)-order centered-difference operator for Kreiss-Oliger dissipation.

`double ko_dx_2(const double u[5], const double dx)` A 2nd-order centered-difference operator for Kreiss-Oliger dissipation.

`double ko_dx_off1(const double u[4], const double dx)` A (1st?)-order operator for Kreiss-Oliger dissipation at the leftmost point in the stencil.

`double ko_dx_off2(const double u[5], const double dx)` A (2nd?)-order operator for Kreiss-Oliger dissipation at the 2nd-leftmost point in the stencil.

```
double ko_dx_off3(const double u[6], const double dx) A (3rd?)-order
operator for Kreiss-Oliger dissipation at the 3rd-leftmost point in the stencil.
```

3.8 ParamReader Class

The `ParamReader` class is designed to read a parameter file from the disk.

3.8.1 Parameter File Structure

Parameter files are reminiscent of (and slightly more stringent than) classic Windows `.ini` files. Each file is divided into sections denoted by square brackets, such as `[SECTION]`. The `#` character is a comment character, and anything past it to the end of the line will be ignored. Parameter names are denoted by a single alphanumeric phrase and are assigned to a value by an equals sign. A simple file might look like this:

```
1 # A parameter file for some simulation.
2 [GRID]
3 # The number of grid points to use.
4 nx = 64
5
6 [INITIAL_CONDITIONS]
7 # Set up Gaussian initial data.
8 init_id = ID_GAUSSIAN
9 init_gaussian_sigma = 10.0
10 init_gaussian_A = 10.0
```

Whitespace before and after parameter and value names is ignored. Values may contain whitespace inside their names, but parameters may not. Therefore, `string_data = Some String of Data` is a valid entry, but `string data = Some String of Data` will return an `INVALID_PARAMETER` error. Each line is treated as a new parameter.

3.8.2 Reading Parameter Files

Parameter files are parsed into an `std::map` of `std::map` data structures. The first `map` contains all the parameters for a specific section, with that section name acting as the key. The second `map` contains the values for each parameter, with its name acting as the key. Therefore, to read a parameter file, you must know the section and parameter name.

Public Methods

`ParamReader()` The default constructor for a `ParamReader` object.

`~ParamReader()` The destructor for a `ParamReader` object.

ParamResult readFile(std::string fname) Read a file **fname** off the disk and load it into memory. It returns a **ParamResult** indicating success or failure.

bool hasSection(std::string section) Check if a particular section exists. Returns true if so, false if not.

bool hasParameter(std::string section, std::string parameter) Check if a particular parameter exists in a section. Returns true if so, false if not.

std::string readAsString(std::string section, std::string parameter) Read **parameter** in **section** as a string. If the parameter exists, it returns the value. Otherwise, it prints a warning to **std::cout** and returns "NULL".

double readAsDouble(std::string section, std::string parameter) Read a parameter value as a double. If it exists and is a numerical value, it will return its value. If the parameter does not exist or is not a number, it will print a warning to **std::cout** and return 0.0.

double readAsInt(std::string section, std::string parameter) Read a parameter value as an integer. If it exists and is an integer, it will return its value. If the parameter does not exist or is not an integer, it will print a warning to **std::cout** and return 0.

void clearData() Clear all the data that this **ParamReader** has read in.

ParamResult Enumerator

SUCCESS The file was loaded successfully.

BAD_FILENAME The file does not exist or could not be opened.

SYNTAX_ERROR A syntax error, such as a missing = sign, an unclosed section bracket, or a parameter declared on the same line as a section.

BAD_TYPE Currently unused.

MULTIPLE_DEFINITIONS The parameter file contains a previously written section.

UNSECTIONED_PARAMETER A parameter was defined at the head of the file before a section was declared.

INVALID_PARAMETER A parameter name contains invalid characters.

INVALID_VALUE A value name contains invalid characters.

The **ParamReader** class can read in multiple files and store them, but they cannot share section names without first clearing the data. Parameters defined multiple times within a single section will be overwritten by the last definition.

3.9 Parameters Class

The `Parameters` class is a simple class for representing the parameters an ODE object might need. While it is a concrete class and can be declared, it is most useful as a base class for more complicated ODE objects. It only has a few useful methods in its basic form.

Methods

`Parameters(unsigned int id) /*Protected*/` A constructor designed to build a `Parameters` object with a specific `id`. This should be used in the initialization list for a subclass, otherwise `id=0` and cannot be changed. It is protected so that it can only be used in this fashion.

`Parameters() /*Public*/` A public default constructor.

`unsigned int getId() const /*Public*/` Get the `id` for this `Parameters` object. This is useful for making sure that a `Parameters` object assigned to a specific ODE is actually compatible; if the `id` does not match, OOPS will not allow the assignment.

3.10 ParamParser Class

The `ParamParser` class is an abstract class which should be used to fill out `Parameter` objects with information collected by `ParamReader`. Except in rare circumstances, it is unlikely you will ever have to extend `ParamParser` to read your parameter files; the `genParams.py` script described below should be used for that instead.

Public Methods

`ParamParser(unsigned int id)` A constructor which sets the `id` for this `ParamParser`. It must match the `id` in the `Parameters` objects it is designed to work with.

`bool checkId(Parameters* params) const` Check if `params` has an `id` that matches this particular `ParamParser`.

`unsigned int getId() const` Get the `id` for this `ParamParser`.

Unimplemented Public Methods

`Parameters& getParameters(std::string fname)` Generate a new `Parameters` object an `id` matching `ParamParser` based on the parameters specified in `fname`. Best practice dictates that this should declare a new `Parameters` object of the desired type and feed it into `updateParameters`.

`void updateParameters(std::string fname, Parameters* params)` Update `params` with the data specified in the parameter file `fname`.

3.11 genParams.py Script

OOPS also features a Python script, `genParams.py`, that will accept a JSON setup file and generate custom `Parameters` and `ParamParser` objects.

3.11.1 Writing Setup Files

Because Python has a wonderfully simple JSON parser available, the setup file for a new `Parameters` object and its parser is written in JSON. A sample is available in the `scripts` folder in the OOPS base directory, and it reads as follows:

```
1 {
2   "Test":{
3     "name":"Test",
4     "id":1,
5     "members":[
6       {
7         "name":"InitialConditions",
8         "type":"enum",
9         "value":[
10          "GAUSSIAN",
11          "FLAT"
12        ],
13        "default":"GAUSSIAN"
14      },
15      {
16        "name":"KOSigma",
17        "type":"double",
18        "min":0.0,
19        "max":1.0,
20        "default":0.0
21      }
22    ]
23  }
24 }
```

The first layer is expected to be the definition for a `Parameters` object. It must define three variables: `"name"`, `"id"`, and `"members"`.

The `"name"` variable is the head for all generated files. For example, `"name":"Test"` will generate the class `TestParameters` inside `testparameters.h`. The `"id"` field is an integer that indicates what `id` should be used for this `Parameters` object and any `ODE` object that uses it. The `"members"` field is a list of objects, each object representing a new parameter.

All `"member"` entries must define `"name"`, `"type"`, and `"default"`. The `"name"` field corresponds to the name to print into the variable. The `"type"` field indicates the C++ type for the variable. Finally, the `"default"` field indicates how `"name"` should be set inside the constructor of the new `Parameters` object. **You are responsible for ensuring that your variables and their corresponding values lead to valid C++ code.** A future version of `genParams.py` may perform some limited syntax checking to ensure that names

do not include forbidden characters, but this is rather low on the list of priorities at the moment.

If "type" is "enum", the "value" variable must also be defined as a list of enumerator values. Number types (e.g., "int" or "double") will also require "min" and "max" fields for generating the parser, but they are not currently necessary.

The output `Parameters` file of the setup file described above is

```
1 #ifndef TEST_PARAMETERS_H
2 #define TEST_PARAMETERS_H
3
4 #include <parameters.h>
5
6 class TestParameters : public Parameters {
7 public:
8     enum InitialConditions{
9         GAUSSIAN,
10        FLAT,
11    };
12
13    TestParameters() : Parameters(1){
14        mInitialConditions = GAUSSIAN;
15        mKOSigma = 0.0;
16    }
17
18    inline void setInitialConditions(InitialConditions val){
19        mInitialConditions = val;
20    }
21
22    inline InitialConditions getInitialConditions(){
23        return mInitialConditions;
24    }
25
26    inline void setKOSigma(double KOSigma){
27        mKOSigma = KOSigma;
28    }
29
30    inline double getKOSigma(){
31        return mKOSigma;
32    }
33
34 private:
35     InitialConditions mInitialConditions;
36     double mKOSigma;
37 };
38
39 #endif
```

As you can see, it will define a new class declaring all member variables as private with public getters and setters. The constructor will assign each variable its proper default value and set the correct id in the initialization list. Enumerators will be defined in the public section. For a small setup file like this, obviously writing a single header file isn't much work, but very complex ODE objects may

require a `Parameters` object with dozens of different settings corresponding to different initial conditions, and you'll also have to write a parser to read all those parameters from a parameter file, check for invalid settings, and ignore unspecified parameters. It quickly becomes extremely tedious to write it by hand, and it's much simpler to generate a setup file and let `genParams.py` do all the work.

3.11.2 Running `genParams.py`

Running the script is easy:

```
python3 genParams.py <filename1.json> <filename2.json> ...
```

The script will load in each setup file one at a time and generate C++ code for each `Parameters` object specified in the JSON setup file consisting of three files: header files for `Parameters` and `ParamParser`, and a source file for `ParamParser`. A future release will likely make this process even simpler; the goal is for CMake to find the setup file for each project, run `genParams.py`, and move the code to the correct `include` and `src` directory.

4 Question and Answer

4.1 How do I...

What if I have an ODE with explicit time-dependence in the equation or boundary conditions? This is sort of an embarrassing oversight of the code at the moment. Because OOPS was developed with PDEs typical of astrophysics in mind, the `ODE` class does not currently track the total evolution time. This will be resolved in a future update, but for now the easiest thing to do is add another variable to your ODE system whose righthand side is simply 1.0.

I need to add a Solver that doesn't work like ODE expects. Can I do this? Sure. The `evolveStep()` method in `ODE` is virtual and can be overwritten for this purpose. Really byzantine solvers may not work well with `SolverData`, but cleverly manipulating the number of stages is probably enough for most cases.

I've got a custom `Parameters` object. How do I use it inside my ODE object? The `ODE` maintains a pointer, `params`, to a generic `Parameters` object. Use `ODE.setParameters()` to set that pointer to your custom `Parameters` class. In order to access the new parameters directly inside your ODE functions, you'll need to cast that pointer:

```

1 // Will not work; params is a Parameters object, not ←
   CustomParameters.
2 double parameter = params->getCustomDouble();
3
4 // Will work
5 CustomParameters *cp = (CustomParameters*) params;
6 double parameter = cp->getCustomDouble();

```

This is admittedly clumsy and inelegant, and a future release may remove any functionality concerning the `Parameters` object in `ODE` objects and require the user to set them manually.

4.2 Extending OOPS

I want to add to this project. Can I? Possibly. In most circumstances, forking the project is more appropriate. As the goal of OOPS is to be an easy-to-use PDE solver with a self-consistent design, code maintenance is a serious responsibility. Jacob, as the owner and maintainer for the project, doesn't have the time to patrol ten different people's work for code quality. Consequently, if you don't have an institutional connection to him, permission to edit the repository directly is unlikely.

If I can't edit it, can I request a feature? We can't guarantee anyone on the project has the time or interest to add new features, but feel free to make requests or suggestions.

What if I have an idea to do something easier? We really want this project to be easy to use. If you have good ideas to make things more consistent, more streamlined, or easier to use without sacrificing flexibility, don't keep it a secret. Let us know. Fork the project and show us how it will work.

4.3 Troubleshooting

4.3.1 Parameters

ODE.setParameters() keeps returning UNRECOGNIZED_PARAMS, but I'm passing in my custom Parameters object for my ODE. Check that the `id` in your JSON setup file matches the `id` in your `ODE` object. This should be the second parameter passed into the `ODE` constructor during the initialization list for your custom `ODE`.

I keep getting segmentation faults when I try to access a parameter. Do two things: first, make sure `ODE.setParameters()` is called before `ODE.initData()` or any other function that may access the `Parameters` object. Secondly, check the `Result` value returned by `ODE.setParameters()`. It is probably returning `UNRECOGNIZED_PARAMS`. In that case, see the previous question.