

# 1 Introduction

This program is intended as a “soft” programmable PLC. I wrote it for a linux computer. It interfaces with hardware via ethernet or other IOs. The user specifies inputs and outputs in a “blocks.cfg” file, as well as the binding logic. The logic consists of “lines”, “logic”-blocks and “node”-blocks. The user also specifies the criteria for ending the program (e.g. “stop the program after 10min”).

A simple example blocks.cfg can be found in tutorials/basic.

## 1.1 Background

I wanted a plc program I could use like a utility and in turn use in higher level programs, like eg. interfacing with Dakota in order to do complex DoEs. It was also important for me that reconfiguring the logic wouldn’t require recompilation (flexibility).

## 1.2 General structure

Arrays of double precision numbers are passed between the blocks via the “lines”. Time loop:

- inputs are cycled in the background (default 250ms, 10ms desyncing between each input). So the input cycle is NOT in sync with the rest of the program.
- lines are updated (serially)
- logic is updated (serially)
- lines are updated again (serially) , so that outputs are sure to get the needed values
- outputs are cycled (in parallel, forked and joined)
- the stop criteria are cycled (serially)
- data is logged

This is not a high performance plc program, and I’m not sure how it will behave in case of very short time loops. 1ms should be doable though, although most IO probably has higher latency.

# 2 Block types

## 2.1 Input types

### 2.1.1 ConstantInput

Declared as: name ConstantInput 1.0

### 2.1.2 FileInput

Declared as: name FileInput fname

The file is reread every time step. So it can be used as a runtime modifiable input. Rows and columns don't matter, all individual numbers are read into an array. (by row first, then next row etc.)

### 2.1.3 ScaleInput

Declared as: name ScaleInput scale offset OtherInputType ...

Immediately applies a scale-factor and an offset to all the doubles gotten from the OtherInputType.

### 2.1.4 TimeFileInput

Declared as: name TimeFileInput fname

Reread when changed. First column is the time in seconds. Between two rows the result is gotten via linear interpolation. If one row contains more numbers than the other, then the other is copied locally, and completed with zeros, before interpolation.

### 2.1.5 ZeroInput

Declared as: name ZeroInput

Identical to: name ConstantInput 0.0

### 2.1.6 ExampleUDPInput

Not functional code, just provided as a template for implementing the sensor side of your own UDP protocol.

## 2.2 Output types

### 2.2.1 FileOutput

Declared as: name FileOutput fname

Writes the numbers as a column to fname. Can also be stdout or stderr. File seeks to 0th position every time step though, so this can't be used for logging.

### 2.2.2 PhilipsHueBridgeOutput

Declared as: name PhilipsHueBridgeOutput ipaddr userkey lightNo

See tutorial/philipsHue on how to determine the ipaddr and userkey for your philips hue bridge. This output sets the brightness of the light if only one number is given, the brightness and hue if two numbers are specified, the brightness hue and saturation if 3 numbers are specified. All 3 are numbers between 0 and

1. Negative brightness turns off the light, above 1.0 is clipped. Hue values above 1.0 are wrapped around to 0.0 (and negative is wrapped to 1.0). Saturation values are clipped to lie between 0.0 and 1.0 inclusive. The clipping/wrapping behaviour is done internally and not visible to the user.

### **2.2.3 ExampleUDPOutput**

Not functional code, just provided as a template for implementing the actuator side of your own UDP protocol.

## **2.3 Lines**

### **2.3.1 Line**

Declared as: name Line in1 out1 in2 out2

Simply move data from in to out. Any number of pairs is possible

### **2.3.2 DiffLine**

Declared as: name DiffLine in1 in2 out

$out = in2 - in1$ . If the input arrays have a different length then the longest is clipped to the shortest length.

### **2.3.3 ForkLine**

Declared as: name ForkLine in out1 out2 out3 out4 ...

Copy *in* to all the specified outputs. Any number of outputs is possible.

### **2.3.4 JoinLine**

Declared as: name JoinLine out in1 in2 in3 in4 ...

Concatenate all the arrays from all the inputs and send to *out*. Any number of inputs is possible.

### **2.3.5 RegexpForkLine**

Create a ForkLine where the output list is created by matching a regexp on the names of other blocks.

### **2.3.6 RegexpJoinLine**

Create a JoinLine where the input list is created by matching a regexp on the names of other blocks.

### **2.3.7 RegexpLine**

Create a Line by matching regexp on all the blocks in order to determine the pairs. Unpaired in or outputs are ignored.

### 2.3.8 SplitLine

Declared as: name SplitLine 1 in out1 out2 out3 \_ out5

Split the input array in `size`-parts and send each section to a corresponding output. The underscore means that that section is ignored.

## 2.4 Logic

TODO: Selfoptimizing PID blocks.

### 2.4.1 DelayLogic

Declared as: name DelayLogic

Incoming data is simply moved to the outgoing side.

### 2.4.2 PIDLogic

Declared as: name PIDLogic KP KI KD

Keeps track of the previous time step error and error integral. Input to this is the error! and not the setpoint value. You will need to do a diffline before this block. TODO: when the program stops the state is lost, it would probably be best to store this state in a file, so that the program can resume smoothly. This means that the simple kill signals needs to be caught and give the program time to complete the saving of the state.

## 2.5 Nodes

These blocks copy their input directly to their outputs. There is no update step. This useful when you want to propagate the most recent value downstream.

### 2.5.1 LimitNode

Declared as: name LimitNode 0.0 1.0

Clips all elements of the input array so they lie between these two numbers.

### 2.5.2 Node

Declared as: name Node

Copy upstream values immediately downstream.

### 2.5.3 ScaleNode

Like ScaleInput: name ScaleNode scale offset

## 2.6 Stop

A number `j`= -1 means that the stop block is converged. A number between -1 and `j`= 1 means that the stop block is neither converged or diverged. A number above 1 means that the block is diverging. The program stop if all blocks are converged, or if one block is diverging. If there are no stop blocks defined then the program exits immediately.

### 2.6.1 TimeOutStop

Declared as: `name TimeOutStop duration`

`duration` is a string that is parsed. (see `go/pkg/time` documentation). So this means that the program is “diverging” after `jdurationj`.

### 2.6.2 TimeStop

Declared as: `name TimeStop duration`

Program is “converging” after `jdurationj`.

## 3 TODO

Still a primitive program. Send recommendations to [christian.schmitz@telenet.be](mailto:christian.schmitz@telenet.be)  
Does anything like this exist? (in that case: sorry for duplicating any one elses efforts)

- anonymous blocks (autogeneration of name for use in internal map data structures)
- piping notation for sequential blocks, so the the lines don’t need to be specified manually
- multiline statements in `blocks.cfg`
- semicolon parsing in `blocks.cfg`

## 4 License

I guess MIT