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OOP Fortran: About constructors and practical applications of patterns

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Construction of Derived types

There are no constructors in Fortran¹

```
type Mytype
  integer :: a
  logical :: init = .false.
end type

[...]

Mytype :: t

! t%init is set to .false
! the value of t%a is undefined
```

- No way to inject logic (other than default initializers) to run at *declaration* time.
- Strict separation between data declaration and code maintained.
- Cf. to C/C++ where you can run code before `int main()`.

¹at least not in the same sense as in C++ or Python

What defining a Derived Type gets you

```
type Mytype
  integer :: a
  logical :: init = .false.
end type
```

...automatically gives you:

- an initializer (right-side)
- a copy function
- a vtable

```
function Mytype(a, init) result(self)
  type(Mytype) :: self
  integer, optional :: a
  integer, optional :: init

  if (present(a)) &
    self%a = a

  if (present(init)) then
    self%init = init
  else
    self%init = .false.
  end if
end type
```

What defining a Derived Type gets you, the lower level

```
__mymod_MOD__copy_mymod_Mytype:
    mov     rax, QWORD PTR [rdi]
    mov     QWORD PTR [rsi], rax
    ret
__mymod_MOD__vtab_mymod_Mytype:
    .long   28885743
    .zero   4
    .quad   8
    .quad   0
    .quad   __mymod_MOD__def_init_mymod_Mytype
    .quad   __mymod_MOD__copy_mymod_Mytype
    .quad   0
    .quad   0
__mymod_MOD__def_init_mymod_Mytype:
    .zero   8
```

<https://gcc.gnu.org/>
(using `gfortran-9.3 -O2`)

- But where are the conditionals?
- And how does it look when I call it?

What calling an initializer does

```
program main
  use mymod
  implicit none
  type(Mytype) :: t
  t = Mytype(42)
  print *, t
end program
```

Build with:

```
gfortran -O2 -S
-fverbose-asm
main.f90
```

```
1  MAIN__:
2  .LFB0:
3      .cfi_startproc
4      subq    $488, %rsp #,
5      .cfi_def_cfa_offset 496
6      # main.f90:6:      print *, t
7      movabsq $25769803904, %rax #, tmp93
8      # main.f90:5:      t = Mytype(42)
9      movq    $42, t.3505(%rip) #, MEM[(struct mytype *)&t]
10     # main.f90:6:      print *, t
11     movq    %rsp, %rdi #,
12     movq    %rax, (%rsp) # tmp93, MEM[(integer(kind=4) *)&dt_parm.1]
13     movq    $.LC0, 8(%rsp) #, dt_parm.1.common.filename
14     movl    $6, 16(%rsp) #, dt_parm.1.common.line
15     call    _gfortran_st_write #
16     ...
```

→ No function call to be found!

Does this apply to custom initializers?

```
module testmod
implicit none

type Mytype
  integer :: a
  logical :: init
end type

interface Mytype
  module procedure :: &
    Mytype_constructor
end interface

contains
function Mytype_constructor(a, init) &
  result(self)
! as shown above
end function
end module
```

```
1  AIN__:
2  .LFB0:
3      .cfi_startproc
4      subq    $504, %rsp          #,
5      .cfi_def_cfa_offset 512
6  # main.f90:5:      t = Mytype(42)
7      xorl    %esi, %esi          #
8      movl    $.LC0, %edi         #,
9      call    __mymod_MOD_mytype_constructor          #
10 # main.f90:6:      print *, t
11      leaq    16(%rsp), %rdi      #, tmp98
12 # main.f90:5:      t = Mytype(42)
13      movq    %rax, 8(%rsp)       # tmp87, t
14 # main.f90:6:      print *, t
15      movabsq $25769803904, %rax  #, tmp97
16  ...
```

→ Unfortunately not!

Summary

- For *data classes* (all attributes public): use *default* initializers. Everything will be inlined.
- You need custom "constructors" if attributes are not public.
- Do not call custom "constructors" (*interface*) from performance-critical sections. You get a function call and a copy.
- Using a type-bound procedure for initialization will give function call (and use the vtable), but no copy.
- Using Link-time-optimization (LTO, `-flto` with GCC) inlines custom initialization functions.
- Compiler behavior may vary.

Design Patterns in Practice

What are Design and Software Architecture Patterns?



Salginatobel Bridge, by Rama, CC BY-SA 2.0 fr

Software Design Patterns are general, reusable solutions to commonly occurring problems within software engineering.

Software Architecture Patterns are common design patterns occurring in the organisation and interaction of software components.

Literature

“GoF” (1995): Design Patterns: Elements of Reusable OO Software.

Fowler (2002): Patterns of Enterprise Application Architecture.

What do you gain by knowing about Design Patterns

- Scientific programming often straight forward and levels of indirection may affect performance.
- Growing software becomes quickly unmaintainable.
- Design patterns provide uniform way of documenting common solutions to problems.
- Compilers are awesome and can optimize away the levels of indirection introduce by modularization/encapsulation.
- Do not try to put everything in patterns.
Learn to recognize them while writing code.

Literature

Sutter/Alexandrescu (2004): C++ Coding Standards.

Hunt/Thomas (1999): The Pragmatic Programmer: Your Journey To Mastery.

2 Examples

Iterator

Provide access to elements of an aggregate object (sequentially) without exposing the underlying representation.

- *AKA Cursor*
- Remember: For striding Fortran has array slice syntax.
- Useful to hide complex access patterns.
- Avoid code duplication in loops.

<https://github.com/cp2k/dbcsr/>

Command

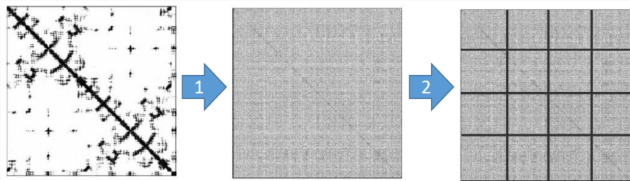
Encapsulate a possibly parametrized request (or operation) as an object. User of object doesn't have to know about the parameters.

- *AKA Action, Transaction*
- As seen in Arjen Markus' functional examples
- Alternative to bare function pointers

<https://github.com/cp2k/cp2k/>

The DBCSR Sparse Matrix Library

- **Co-developed** with the CP2K electronic structure software package
- **DBCSR**: Distributed **B**lock-**C**ompressed **S**pase **R**ow format
- **Static Decomposition**: distribution over a two-dimensional grid of processes



- **Parallel Performance**: Cannon's algorithm
 - **Single Node Performance**: Specialized libraries for handling local multiplication of small blocks ($m, n, k \leq 64$): *libxsmm* (CPU) & *libsmm_acc* (GPU).
- **Talks** by Patrick Seewald and Maximilian Ambroise!

Iterator pattern usage in DBCSR

```
1  TYPE(dbcsr_iterator) :: iter
2
3  ! Loop over blocks of a blocked matrix
4  CALL dbcsr_iterator_start(iter, matrix)
5
6  DO WHILE (dbcsr_iterator_blocks_left(iter))
7      CALL dbcsr_iterator_next_block(iter, row, col, blk, row_size, col_size)
8      ! block pointed by blk at (row, col) position
9      ! and (row_size x col_size) elements
10     ...
11 END DO
12
13 CALL dbcsr_iterator_stop(iter)
```

- Hides synchronization/communication.
- OpenMP-aware!
- Could use type-bound procedures for same effect.
- See `src/mm/dbcsr_mm_cannon.F`, `src/block/dbcsr_iterator_operations.F`.

Iterator pattern exercise: Write file line reader

- Very simple use case:
 - Pass file unit to iterator *start*.
 - Do most of the logic in the *end/is_done* function.
 - *get/next* is simple getter.
- Can be extended in various directions:
 - Behavioral: Strip characters
 - Behavioral: Filter lines
 - Behavioral: Handle line continuation characters
 - Implementation: use `ADVANCE= 'no'`
 - Implementation: handle arbitrary line length
 - Implementation: wrap `mmap` for (almost) zero-copy.

Command pattern usage in CP2K

```
TYPE, EXTENDS(eri_type_eri_element_func) :: eri2array
  INTEGER(C_INT), POINTER :: coords(:)
  REAL(C_DOUBLE), POINTER :: values(:)
  INTEGER :: idx = 1
CONTAINS
  PROCEDURE :: func => eri2array_func
END TYPE

...
CALL active_space_env%eri%eri_foreach(1, eri2array(buf_coords, buf_values))
```

```
TYPE, EXTENDS(eri_type_eri_element_func) :: eri_fcidump_print
  INTEGER :: unit_nr
CONTAINS
  PROCEDURE :: func => eri_fcidump_print_func
END TYPE

...
! Print integrals: ERI
CALL active_space_env%eri%eri_foreach(1, eri_fcidump_print(iw))
```


Command pattern usage in CP2K: The function object

```
TYPE, ABSTRACT :: eri_type_eri_element_func
CONTAINS
  PROCEDURE(eri_type_eri_element_func_interface), DEFERRED :: func
END TYPE eri_type_eri_element_func

ABSTRACT INTERFACE
  LOGICAL FUNCTION eri_type_eri_element_func_interface(this, i, j, k, l, val)
    IMPORT :: eri_type_eri_element_func, dp
    CLASS(eri_type_eri_element_func), INTENT(inout) :: this
    INTEGER, INTENT(in) :: i, j, k, l
    REAL(KIND=dp), INTENT(in) :: val
  END FUNCTION eri_type_eri_element_func_interface
END INTERFACE
```

See `src/qs_active_space_types.F`, `src/start/libcp2k.F`,
`src/qs_active_space_methods.F` for the *foreach* and function implementations.

What did we gain?

- Shared data preparation and data access encapsulated in *foreach*.
- *foreach* loop wrapper is completely parameter- and format-agnostic.
- Possibility of advanced data access patterns.
- But, need Link-time-optimization (LTO) to optimize calls further.

Command pattern exercise: Create transformers

- Write a base class with a *transform* function taking a string and returning a string
- Implement (at the beginning unparametrized) *lowercase* and *uppercase* function objects, doing the respective operation of the string.
- Possible extensions of the exercise:
 - Parametrization: act only on every *n*th word or character
 - Implement a *capitalization* transformation