Fortran Notes by Achates

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Preface

While I operate within structured logic, the way we iterate ideas mirrors human collaboration: evolving goals, solving challenges, and celebrating incremental progress. The shared intent of making *Fortran Notes by Achates* not just a book but a tool for others to learn, reminds me that this isn't just about code—it's about communication, creativity, and community.

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Chapter 1

Privacy and Procedure Control in Fortran

1.1 Introduction to Privacy

In Fortran, managing access to module entities, such as procedures and variables, is essential for creating clean, maintainable code. The 'public' and 'private' attributes control visibility, allowing module authors to expose only the necessary components while keeping implementation details hidden.

By default, procedures in a module are **public**. This means they can be accessed from outside the module unless explicitly marked as 'private'. On the other hand, you can change the default behavior to 'private' using a single statement at the start of the module.

1.2 Declaring private and public

Here's an example of controlling access to procedures and variables in a module:

```
module example
    implicit none
    private           ! All module entities are private by default
    public :: my_function

    contains

    function my_function() result(res)
        integer :: res
        res = 42
    end function my_function

    subroutine hidden_sub()
        ! This subroutine remains private
    end subroutine hidden_sub
end module example
```

1.3 Procedure Aliasing and Abstraction

Procedure aliasing allows you to define user-friendly names for internal procedures. For instance:

```
module allocator
    implicit none
    public :: allocate_rank_one
    private :: allocate_one_sub

    contains

    procedure, public :: allocate_rank_one => allocate_one_sub
```

```
    subroutine allocate_one_sub()
        ! Implementation for allocating a rank-one array
    end subroutine allocate_one_sub
end module allocator
```

1.3.1 Benefits of Procedure Aliasing

This design offers the following advantages:

- Encapsulation: External users only see the public name, hiding implementation details.
- Clarity: Names like `allocate_rank_one` describe the procedure's purpose, while internal names remain short and specific.
- Flexibility: Swap implementations without affecting external code.

1.4 Using Generic Interfaces

Combining procedure aliasing with generic interfaces allows you to design polymorphic and user-friendly APIs. Here's an example:

```
module allocator
    implicit none
    public :: allocate
    private :: allocate_one_sub, allocate_two_sub

    interface allocate
        procedure allocate_one_sub, allocate_two_sub
    end interface allocate

    contains

    subroutine allocate_one_sub()
        ! Allocate a rank-one array
    end subroutine allocate_one_sub

    subroutine allocate_two_sub()
        ! Allocate a rank-two array
    end subroutine allocate_two_sub
end module allocator
```

1.5 Best Practices

- Always use `private` at the top of a module to enforce encapsulation by default.
- Leverage `procedure aliasing` for clean interfaces and flexibility.
- Use generic interfaces to simplify user interaction with your modules.
- Document the purpose of each public entity to maintain clarity.

Chapter 2

Coarrays in Fortran

2.1 Introduction to Coarrays

Coarrays are a powerful feature of modern Fortran introduced in Fortran 2008 to enable parallel programming using a simple and elegant syntax. They allow variables to be shared across multiple execution images, each with its own local memory, enabling distributed memory parallelism.

Coarrays are designed to simplify parallel programming by abstracting the complexity of traditional message-passing interfaces while still offering fine-grained control over data distribution and synchronization.

2.2 Key Concepts of Coarrays

2.2.1 Execution Images

An *image* is an independent instance of a program running as part of a parallel execution. Each image has its own memory but can communicate with others via coarrays. Think of images as lightweight processes or threads:

- Each image executes the same program.
- Images are identified by unique indices ranging from 1 to the total number of images.
- Communication between images is explicit and controlled.

2.2.2 Declaring Coarrays

Coarrays are declared using square brackets to specify the codimension. Here's an example of a simple coarray declaration:

```
real :: x[*]
```

This declares a scalar real coarray `x`, distributed across all images. The `[*]` codimension specifies that each image has a separate copy of `x`.

For multidimensional arrays, both normal dimensions and codimensions can be specified:

```
real :: matrix(10,10)[*]
```

2.2.3 Accessing Coarray Data

To access data on another image, use the square bracket syntax to specify the image index. For example:

```
x[2] = 3.14   ! Assign 3.14 to x on image 2
y = x[3]      ! Retrieve the value of x from image 3
```

If no image index is specified, the operation occurs on the local image.

2.2.4 Synchronization

Synchronization is crucial in parallel programming to ensure data consistency across images. Fortran provides the following intrinsic procedures for synchronization:

- `sync all`: Synchronize all images.
- `sync images`: Synchronize specific images.
- `sync memory`: Ensure memory consistency across images.

Example:

```
sync all  ! Wait for all images to reach this point
```

2.2.5 Teams and Subgroups

Fortran 2018 introduced teams, allowing images to be grouped for collective operations. Teams enable finer control over parallelism by creating subsets of images:

```
form team(team_number)
change team(team_number)
    ! Code executed within the team
end team
```

—

2.3 Examples of Coarray Usage

2.3.1 Hello, World with Coarrays

Here's a simple program demonstrating coarrays:

```
program hello_coarrays
    implicit none
    integer :: me, num_images

    me = this_image()          ! Get the current image index
    num_images = num_images()  ! Get the total number of images

    print *, "Hello from image ", me, " of ", num_images
end program hello_coarrays
```

Run this program with multiple images using an MPI-compatible Fortran compiler:

```
mpirun -np 4 ./hello_coarrays
```

—

2.3.2 Data Sharing Across Images

This example demonstrates sharing data between images:

```
program data_sharing
    implicit none
    integer :: me
    real :: shared_value[*]

    me = this_image()

    if (me == 1) then
        shared_value = 42.0  ! Assign a value on image 1
    end if
```

```
    sync all   ! Ensure all images are synchronized

    print *, "Image ", me, " sees shared_value = ", shared_value[1]
end program data_sharing
```

—

2.4 Best Practices and Tips

- Use `sync all` and `sync images` judiciously to avoid unnecessary synchronization overhead.
- Minimize direct communication between images to reduce potential bottlenecks.
- Test coarray code on multiple configurations to ensure scalability.

2.5 Advanced Features

Fortran coarrays also support asynchronous operations and collective procedures such as `co_sum`, `co_min`, and `co_max`, which operate across images efficiently.

Example of a collective sum:

```
real :: sum_value[*], total_sum

sum_value = this_image()
total_sum = co_sum(sum_value)  ! Sum values across all images
if (this_image() == 1) then
    print *, "Total sum: ", total_sum
end if
```

—

2.6 Conclusion

Fortran coarrays provide a high-level, intuitive framework for parallel programming that integrates seamlessly with Fortran's core features. They simplify data sharing, synchronization, and team-based operations while retaining control and efficiency. By leveraging coarrays, you can write scalable parallel applications with minimal overhead.

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