

# RODOS

## Coding directives

Version: 2.0  
Date: Sept. 2019  
Author: S. Montenegro



### 1. Documentation

Doxygen comments

<http://www.doxygen.nl/index.html>

are recommended to be used to document code classes, attributes and methods. These comments must always immediately precede the item they are documenting.

Doxygen comments either use `///` for single line comments or `/** */` for multiple lines.

Normal comments use `//` and `/* */`.

In multi line comments, each line shall start with a `*`.

**(Doxygen) documentation of classes must include :**

- a brief synopsis

- a detailed description

- an example code segment using the class

- an author list using the `@author` tag

Any complex code or non-trivial sections should be commented with the meaning of these lines and the initials of the author.

DO NOT contribute to comment inflation. Comment only thing which can not be seeing in the source code.

In RODOS, if you find a comment, read it! It is important.

## 2. Style

### 2.1. Types of cases

The following naming patterns are used throughout this document: See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letter\\_case#Special\\_case\\_styles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letter_case#Special_case_styles)

- UpperCamelCase
- lowerCamelCase
- SCREAMING\_SNAKE\_CASE
- UPPERCASE
- snake\_case
- kebab-case

The following naming patterns are never used throughout this document:

- TRAIN-CASE

### 2.2. Use of different case styles and general rules

- Don't merge multiple words into one. e.g. not `starttime` but `startTime`
- **Acronyms** are written in UPPERCASE. eg. `checkCRC()`
- **Functions** are written in lowerCamelCase. e.g. `doSomethingNice()`
- **Variables** are written in lowerCamelCase e.g. `commandCounter`
- **Compile-time constant variables** use SCREAMING\_SNAKE\_CASE. e.g. `STACK_SIZE`
- **Folder names** and **file names** use kebab-case. e.g. `command-interpreter/command-reader.cpp`
- **Namespaces** use UpperCamelCase. e.g. `MyNamespace`) or UPPERCASE, for acronyms: eg `RODOS`
- **Classes** are written in UpperCamelCase. e.g. `TimeManager`
- **Class member variables** use lowerCamelCase. e.g. `timeNow`
- **Methods** use lowerCamelCase (see functions)
- **Enums** use SCREAMING\_SNAKE\_CASE. e.g. `RESET_COMMAND_COUNTER`
- **Preprocessor definitions** use SCREAMING\_SNAKE\_CASE. e.g. `NOW()`

### 2.3. General conventions

- All `#include` must be at the beginning of the file, then namespace, then Doxygen comments, then class
- Maximum line length is 120 characters
- All indents are 4 white spaces
- Use blank lines to structure the code

- Attach curly brackets to the previous block
- No magic numbers and strings, use constants with suitable name and const keyword
- Different classes should have different names, even in different namespaces (except they implement the same functionality)
- Avoid similar names for variables, not `cmdCounter` and `commandCounter` in the same programm
- Variables in macros shall begin with `_`. eg `SET_TIME(_time)`
- Order in classes: Attributes, constructors, methods
- Function and method names should tell what the method does (e.g. `setTime(int64_t t)`, `getTime()`, `doSomething()`, `isEnabled()`)
- Functions and methods should be as simple as possible

## 2.4. Recommendation for clarity and safety

Methods should be specialized to a single action, which can be named clearly. Avoid creating huge functions that do a lot of independent operations sequentially.

User-defined types (classes and structs; types that are bigger than an int) shall be passed by reference. Unless the intent of the method is to modify an argument, the argument in the method signature should be declared as a reference to a const object

Code shall never return a reference or pointer to a local variable

The formal arguments of methods shall have names, and the same names should be used for both the method declaration and the method definition.

When declaring methods, name and parameter shall be in the same line.

Member functions, which do not alter the state of an object, shall be declared "const"

Public member functions may not return non-const references or pointers to member-variables of an object

Preprocessor macros, which contain parameters or expressions, must be enclosed in parentheses. eg `#define ADD(_a, _b) (_a) + (_b)`

## 2.5. Embedded Programming

- no c++ exceptions
- no RTTI (Run Time Type Information)
- only very simple templates (only to simplify code, highly recommended for type-safe)
- no multiple inheritance

- no dynamic memory allocation (no new, no malloc)

### 3. Flow control

- Don't use nesting levels greater than 6
- Don't nest the ternary operator (?:)
- Methods and functions should only have one exit point, or return on exception.  
eg 

```
float sqrt(float x) { if (x < 0) return 0; ... compute...  
return val; }
```
- Goto should not be used
- Code that follows a case label shall be terminated by a break statement. If several case statements execute the same block of code, i.e. fall-throughs, they must be clearly commented

### 4. General advise

- Use parentheses to make the intentions clear
- Use parentheses around bitwise operators
- No spaces around . and →
- Use spaces around operators, unless parts shall be grouped
- If in doubt, use parentheses
- `#include <header.h>` for system headers, `#include "header.h"` for user headers
- `#include` may not contain full path
- Macros should have no side effects
- DO NOT redefine the language with macros
- Don't assume anything about the data representation in the system
- Don't mix integer and pointer arithmetic

We use clang-format to create nice to read programmes. The format directives are in the `rodos-root-directory/.clang-format`

And finally: **Keep it simple**, the more simple the better.

Do not try to optimise it, if it isn't necessary! It is better to keep it simple and clear.

Do not try to save some bytes of memory by clever coding! This is strictly not necessary.

Do not try to save some microseconds by optimisation, if not necessary!

Simply put: if the code is already good then don't try to make it any better!