NUMERICAL RECIPES in Fortran 90

The Art of *Parallel* Scientific Computing

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Numerical Recipes
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Second Edition

Volume 2 of
Fortran Numerical Recipes

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Preface to Volume 2

Fortran 90 is not just the long-awaited updating of the Fortran language to modern computing practices. It is also the vanguard of a much larger revolution in computing, that of multiprocessor computers and widespread parallel programming. Parallel computing has been a feature of the largest supercomputers for quite some time. Now, however, it is rapidly moving towards the desktop.

As we watched the gestation and birth of Fortran 90 by its governing "X3J3 Committee" (a process interestingly described by a leading committee member, Michael Metcalf, in the Foreword that follows), it became clear to us that the right moment for moving Numerical Recipes from Fortran 77 to Fortran 90 was sooner, rather than later.

Fortran 90 compilers are now widely available. Microsoft's Fortran PowerStation for Windows 95 brings that firm's undeniable marketing force to PC desktop; we have tested this compiler thoroughly on our code and found it excellent in compatibility and performance. In the UNIX world, we have similarly tested, and had generally fine experiences with, DEC's Fortran 90 for Alpha AXP and IBM's xlf for RS/6000 and similar machines. NAG's Fortran 90 compiler also brings excellent Fortran 90 compatibility to a variety of UNIX platforms. There are no doubt other excellent compilers, both available and on the way. Fortran 90 is completely backwards compatible with Fortran 77, by the way, so you don't have to throw away your legacy code, or keep an old compiler around.

There have been previous special versions of Fortran for parallel supercomputers, but always specific to a particular hardware. Fortran 90, by contrast, is designed to provide a general, architecture-independent framework for parallel computation. Equally importantly, it is an international standard, agreed upon by a large group of computer hardware and software manufacturers and international standards bodies.

With the Fortran 90 language as a tool, we want this volume to be your complete guide for learning how to "think parallel." The language itself is very general in this regard, and applicable to many present and future computers, or even to other parallel computing languages as they come along. Our treatment emphasizes general principles, but we are also not shy about pointing out parallelization "tricks" that have frequent applicability. These are not only discussed in this volume's principal text chapters (Chapters 21–23), but are also sprinkled throughout the chapters of Fortran 90 code, called out by a special "parallel hint" logo (left, above). Also scattered throughout the code chapters are specific "Fortran 90 tips," with their own distinct graphic call-out (left). After you read the text chapters, you might want simply to browse among these hints and tips.

A special note to C programmers: Right now, there is no effort at producing a parallel version of C that is comparable to Fortran 90 in maturity, acceptance, and stability. We think, therefore, that C programmers will be well served by using this volume for an educational excursion into Fortran 90, its parallel programming constructions, and the numerical algorithms that capitalize on them. C and C++ programming have not been far from our minds as we have written this volume, and we think that you will find that time spent in absorbing its principal lessons (in Chapters 21–23) will be amply repaid in the future, as C and C++ eventually develop standard parallel extensions.

A final word of truth in packaging: **Don't buy this volume unless you also buy (or already have) Volume 1** (now retitled *Numerical Recipes in Fortran 77*). Volume 2 does not repeat any of the discussion of what individual programs actually do, or of the mathematical methods they utilize, or how to use them. While our Fortran 90 code is thoroughly commented, and includes a header comment for each routine that describes its input and output quantities, these comments are *not* supposed to be a complete description of the programs; the complete descriptions are in Volume 1, which we reference frequently. But here's a money-saving hint to our previous readers: If you already own a Second Edition version whose title is *Numerical Recipes in FORTRAN* (which doesn't indicate either "Volume 1" or "Volume 2" on its title page) then take a marking pen and write in the words "Volume 1." There! (Differences between the previous reprintings and the newest reprinting, the one labeled "Volume 1," are minor.)

Acknowledgments

We continue to be in the debt of many colleagues who give us the benefit of their numerical and computational experience. Many, though not all, of these are listed by name in the preface to the second edition, in Volume 1. To that list we must now certainly add George Marsaglia, whose ideas have greatly influenced our new discussion of random numbers in this volume (Chapter B7).

With this volume, we must acknowledge our additional gratitude and debt to a number of people who generously provided advice, expertise, and time (a great deal of time, in some cases) in the areas of parallel programming and Fortran 90. The original inspiration for this volume came from Mike Metcalf, whose clear lectures on Fortran 90 (in this case, overlooking the beautiful Adriatic at Trieste) convinced us that Fortran 90 could serve as the vehicle for a book with the larger scope of parallel programming generally, and whose continuing advice throughout the project has been indispensable. Gyan Bhanot also played a vital early role in the development of this book; his first translations of our Fortran 77 programs taught us a lot about parallel programming. We are also grateful to Greg Lindhorst, Charles Van Loan, Amos Yahil, Keith Kimball, Malcolm Cohen, Barry Caplin, Loren Meissner, Mitsu Sakamoto, and George Schnurer for helpful correspondence and/or discussion of Fortran 90's subtler aspects.

We once again express in the strongest terms our gratitude to programming consultant Seth Finkelstein, whose contribution to both the coding and the thorough testing of all the routines in this book (against multiple compilers and in sometimes-buggy, and always challenging, early versions) cannot be overstated.

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Foreword

by Michael Metcalf

Sipping coffee on a sunbaked terrace can be surprisingly productive. One of the *Numerical Recipes* authors and I were each lecturing at the International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy, he on numerical analysis and I on Fortran 90. The numerical analysis community had made important contributions to the development of the new Fortran standard, and so, unsurprisingly, it became quickly apparent that the algorithms for which *Numerical Recipes* had become renowned could, to great advantage, be recast in a new mold. These algorithms had, hitherto, been expressed in serial form, first in Fortran 77 and then in C, Pascal, and Basic. Now, nested iterations could be replaced by array operations and assignments, and the other features of a rich array language could be exploited. Thus was the idea of a "Numerical Recipes in Fortran 90" first conceived and, after three years' gestation, it is a delight to assist at the birth.

But what *is* Fortran 90? How did it begin, what shaped it, and how, after nearly foundering, did its driving forces finally steer it to a successful conclusion?

The Birth of a Standard

Back in 1966, the version of Fortran now known as Fortran 66 was the first language ever to be standardized, by the predecessor of the present American National Standards Institute (ANSI). It was an all-American affair. Fortran had first been developed by John Backus of IBM in New York, and it was the dominant scientific programming language in North America. Many Europeans preferred Algol (in which Backus had also had a hand). Eventually, however, the mathematicians who favored Algol for its precisely expressible syntax began to defer to the scientists and engineers who appreciated Fortran's pragmatic, even natural, style. In 1978, the upgraded Fortran 77 was standardized by the ANSI technical committee, X3J3, and subsequently endorsed by other national bodies and by ISO in Geneva, Switzerland. Its dominance in all fields of scientific and numerical computing grew as new, highly optimizing compilers came onto the market. Although newer languages, particularly Pascal, Basic, PL/1, and later Ada attracted their own adherents, scientific users throughout the 1980s remained true to Fortran. Only towards the end of that decade did C draw increasing support from scientific programmers who had discovered the power of structures and pointers.

During all this time, X3J3 kept functioning, developing the successor version to Fortran 77. It was to be a decade of strife and contention. The early plans, in the late 1970s, were mainly to add to Fortran 77 features that had had to be left out of that standard. Among these were dynamic storage and an array language, enabling it to map directly onto the architecture of supercomputers, then coming onto the market. The intention was to have this new version ready within five years, in 1982. But two new factors became significant at that time. The first was the decision that the next standard should not just codify existing practice, as had largely been the case in 1966 and 1978, but also extend the functionality of the language through

innovative additions (even though, for the array language, there was significant borrowing from John Iverson's APL and from DAP Fortran). The second factor was that X3J3 no longer operated under only American auspices. In the course of the 1980s, the standardization of programming languages came increasingly under the authority of the international body, ISO. Initially this was in an advisory role, but now ISO is the body that, through its technical committee WG5 (in full, ISO/IEC JTC1/SC22/WG5), is responsible for determining the course of the language. WG5 also steers the work of the development body, then as now, the highly skilled and competent X3J3. As we shall see, this shift in authority was crucial at the most difficult moment of Fortran 90's development.

The internationalization of the standards effort was reflected in the welcome given by X3J3 to six or seven European members; they, and about one-third of X3J3's U.S. members, provided the overlapping core of membership of X3J3 and WG5 that was vital in the final years in bringing the work to a successful conclusion. X3J3 membership, which peaked at about 45, is restricted to one voting member per organization, and significant decisions require a majority of two-thirds of those voting. Nationality plays no role, except in determining the U.S. position on an international issue. Members, who are drawn mainly from the vendors, large research laboratories, and academia, must be present or represented at two-thirds of all meetings in order to retain voting rights.

In 1980, X3J3 reported on its plans to the forerunner of WG5 in Amsterdam, Holland. Fortran 8x, as it was dubbed, was to have a basic array language, new looping constructs, a bit data type, data structures, a free source form, a mechanism to "group" procedures, and another to manage the global name space. Old features, including `COMMON`, `EQUIVALENCE`, and the arithmetic-`IF`, were to be consigned to a so-called obsolete module, destined to disappear in a subsequent revision. This was part of the "core plus modules" architecture, for adding new features and retiring old ones, an aid to backwards compatibility. Even though Fortran 77 compilers were barely available, the work seemed well advanced and the mood was optimistic. Publication was intended to take place in 1985. It was not to be.

One problem was the sheer number of new features that were proposed as additions to the language, most of them worthwhile in themselves but with the totality being too large. This became a recurrent theme throughout the development of the standard. One example was the suggestion of Lawrie Schonfelder (Liverpool University), at a WG5 meeting in Vienna, Austria, in 1982, that certain features already proposed as additions could be combined to provide a full-blown derived data type facility, thus providing Fortran with abstract data types. This idea was taken up by X3J3 and has since come to be recognized, along with the array language, as one of the two main advances brought about by what became Fortran 90. However, the ramifications go very deep: all the technical details of how to handle arrays of objects of derived types that in turn have array components that have the pointer attribute, and so forth, have to be precisely defined and rigorously specified.

Conflict

The meetings of X3J3 were often full of drama. Most compiler vendors were represented as a matter of course but, for many, their main objective appeared to be to maintain the status quo and to ensure that Fortran 90 never saw the light of

day. One vendor's extended (and much-copied) version of Fortran 77 had virtually become an industry standard, and it saw as its mission the maintenance of this lead. A new standard would cost it its perceived precious advantage. Other large vendors had similar points of view, although those marketing supercomputers were clearly keen on the array language. Most users, on the other hand, were hardly prepared to invest large amounts of their employers' and their own resources in simply settling for a trivial set of improvements to the existing standard. However, as long as X3J3 worked under a simple-majority voting rule, at least some apparent progress could be made, although the underlying differences often surfaced. These were even sometimes between users — those who wanted Fortran to become a truly modern language and those wanting to maintain indefinite backwards compatibility for their billions of lines of existing code.

At a watershed meeting, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1986, held in an atmosphere that sometimes verged on despair, a fragile compromise was reached as a basis for further work. One breakthrough was to weaken the procedures for removing outdated features from the language, particularly by removing no features whatsoever from the next standard and by striking storage association (i.e., `COMMON` and `EQUIVALENCE`) from the list of features to be designated as obsolescent (as they are now known). A series of votes definitively removed from the language all plans to add: arrays of arrays, exception handling, nesting of internal procedures, the `FORALL` statement (now in Fortran 95), and a means to access skew array sections. There were other features on this list that, although removed, were reinstated at later meetings: user-defined operators, operator overloading, array and structure constructors, and vector-valued subscripts. After many more travails, the committee voted, a year later, by 26 votes to 9, to forward the document for what was to become the first of three periods of public comment.

While the document was going through the formal standards bureaucracy and being placed before the public, X3J3 polished it further. X3J3 also prepared procedures for processing the comments it anticipated receiving from the public, and to each of which, under the rules, it would have to reply individually. It was just as well. Roughly 400 replies flooded in, many of them very detailed and, disappointingly for those of us wanting a new standard quickly, unquestionably negative towards our work. For many it was too radical, but many others pleaded for yet more modern features, such as pointers.

Now the committee was deadlocked. Given that a document had already been published, any further change required not a simple but a two-thirds majority. The conservatives and the radicals could each block a move to modify the draft standard, or to accept a revised one for public review — and just that happened, in Champagne-Urbana, Illinois, in 1988. Any change, be it on the one hand to modify the list of obsolescent features, to add the pointers or bit data type wanted by the public, to add multi-byte characters to support Kanji and other non-European languages or, on the other hand, to emasculate the language by removing modules or operator overloading, and hence abstract data types, to name but some suggestions, none of these could be done individually or collectively in a way that would achieve consensus. I wrote:

"In my opinion, no standard can now emerge without either a huge concession by the users to the vendors (`MODULE / USE`) and/or a major change in the composition of the committee. I do not see how members who have worked for up to a decade

or more, devoting time and intellectual energy far beyond the call of duty, can be expected to make yet more personal sacrifices if no end to the work is in sight, or if that end is nothing but a travesty of what had been designed and intended as a modern scientific programming language. ... I think the August meeting will be a watershed — if no progress is achieved there will be dramatic resignations, and ISO could even remove the work from ANSI, which is failing conspicuously in its task."

(However, the same notes began with a quotation from *The Taming of the Shrew*: "And do as adversaries do in law, / Strive mightily, but eat and drink / as friend." That we always did, copiously.)

Resolution

The "August meeting" was, unexpectedly, imbued with a spirit of compromise that had been so sadly lacking at the previous one. Nevertheless, after a week of discussing four separate plans to rescue the standard, no agreement was reached. Now the question seriously arose: Was X3J3 incapable of producing a new Fortran standard for the international community, doomed to eternal deadlock, a victim of ANSI procedures?

Breakthrough was achieved at a traumatic meeting of WG5 in Paris, France, a month later. The committee spent several extraordinary days drawing up a detailed list of what *it* wanted to be in Fortran 8x. Finally, it set X3J3 an ultimatum that was unprecedented in the standards world: The ANSI committee was to produce a new draft document, corresponding to WG5's wishes, within five months! Failing that, WG5 would assume responsibility and produce the new standard itself.

This decision was backed by the senior U.S. committee, X3, which effectively directed X3J3 to carry out WG5's wishes. And it did! The following November, it implemented most of the technical changes, adding pointers, bit manipulation intrinsic procedures, and vector-valued subscripts, and removing user-defined elemental functions (now in Fortran 95). The actual list of changes was much longer. X3J3 and WG5, now collaborating closely, often in gruelling six-day meetings, spent the next 18 months and two more periods of (positive) public comment putting the finishing touches to what was now called Fortran 90, and it was finally adopted, after some cliff-hanging votes, for forwarding as a U.S. and international standard on April 11, 1991, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Among the remaining issues that were decided along the way were whether pointers should be a data type or be defined in terms of an attribute of a variable, implying strong typing (the latter was chosen), whether the new standard should coexist alongside the old one rather than definitively replace it (it coexisted for a while in the U.S., but was a replacement elsewhere, under ISO rules), and whether, in the new free source form, blanks should be significant (fortunately, they are).

Fortran 90

The main new features of Fortran 90 are, first and foremost, the array language and abstract data types. The first is built on whole array operations and assignments, array sections, intrinsic procedures for arrays, and dynamic storage. It was designed with optimization in mind. The second is built on modules and module procedures, derived data types, operator overloading and generic interfaces, together with

pointers. Also important are the new facilities for numerical computation including a set of numeric inquiry functions, the parametrization of the intrinsic types, new control constructs — `SELECT CASE` and new forms of `DO`, internal and recursive procedures and optional and keyword arguments, improved I/O facilities, and many new intrinsic procedures. Last but not least are the new free source form, an improved style of attribute-oriented specifications, the `IMPLICIT NONE` statement, and a mechanism for identifying redundant features for subsequent removal from the language. The requirement on compilers to be able to identify, for example, syntax extensions, and to report why a program has been rejected, are also significant. The resulting language is not only a far more powerful tool than its successor, but a safer and more reliable one too. Storage association, with its attendant dangers, is not abolished, but rendered unnecessary. Indeed, experience shows that compilers detect errors far more frequently than before, resulting in a faster development cycle. The array syntax and recursion also allow quite compact code to be written, a further aid to safe programming.

No programming language can succeed if it consists simply of a definition (witness Algol 68). Also required are robust compilers from a wide variety of vendors, documentation at various levels, and a body of experience. The first Fortran 90 compiler appeared surprisingly quickly, in 1991, especially in view of the widely touted opinion that it would be very difficult to write one. Even more remarkable was that it was written by one person, Malcolm Cohen of NAG, in Oxford, U.K. There was a gap before other compilers appeared, but now they exist as native implementations for almost all leading computers, from the largest to PCs. For the most part, they produce very efficient object code; where, for certain new features, this is not the case, work is in progress to improve them.

The first book, *Fortran 90 Explained*, was published by John Reid and me shortly before the standard itself was published. Others followed in quick succession, including excellent texts aimed at the college market. At the time of writing there are at least 19 books in English and 22 in various other languages: Chinese, Dutch, French, Japanese, Russian, and Swedish. Thus, the documentation condition is fulfilled.

The body of experience, on the other hand, has yet to be built up to a critical size. Teaching of the language at college level has only just begun. However, I am certain that this present volume will contribute decisively to a significant breakthrough, as it provides models not only of the numerical algorithms for which previous editions are already famed, but also of an excellent Fortran 90 style, something that can develop only with time. Redundant features are abjured. It shows that, if we abandon these features and use new ones in their place, the appearance of code can initially seem unfamiliar, but, in fact, the advantages become rapidly apparent. This new edition of *Numerical Recipes* stands as a landmark in this regard.

Fortran Evolution

The formal procedures under which languages are standardized require them either to evolve or to die. A standard that has not been revised for some years must either be revised and approved anew, or be withdrawn. This matches the technical pressure on the language developers to accommodate the increasing complexity both of the problems to be tackled in scientific computation and of the underlying hardware

on which programs run. Increasing problem complexity requires more powerful features and syntax; new hardware needs language features that map onto it well.

Thus it was that X3J3 and WG5, having finished Fortran 90, began a new round of improvement. They decided very quickly on new procedures that would avoid the disputes that bedevilled the previous work: WG5 would decide on a plan for future standards, and X3J3 would act as the so-called development body that would actually produce them. This would be done to a strict timetable, such that any feature that could not be completed on time would have to wait for the next round. It was further decided that the next major revision should appear a decade after Fortran 90 but, given the somewhat discomforting number of requests for interpretation that had arrived, about 200, that a minor revision should be prepared for mid-term, in 1995. This should contain only "corrections, clarifications and interpretations" and a very limited number (some thought none) of minor improvements.

At the same time, scientific programmers were becoming increasingly concerned at the variety of methods that were necessary to gain efficient performance from the ever-more widely used parallel architectures. Each vendor provided a different set of parallel extensions for Fortran, and some academic researchers had developed yet others. On the initiative of Ken Kennedy of Rice University, a High-Performance Fortran Forum was established. A coalition of vendors and users, its aim was to produce an ad hoc set of extensions to Fortran that would become an informal but widely accepted standard for portable code. It set itself the daunting task of achieving that in just one year, and succeeded. Melding existing dialects like Fortran D, CM Fortran, and Vienna Fortran, and adopting the new Fortran 90 as a base, because of its array syntax, High-Performance Fortran (HPF) was published in 1993 and has since become widely implemented. However, although HPF was designed for data parallel codes and mainly implemented in the form of directives that appear to non-HPF processors as comment lines, an adequate functionality could not be achieved without extending the Fortran syntax. This was done in the form of the `PURE` attribute for functions — an assertion that they contain no side effects — and the `FORALL` construct — a form of array assignment expressed with the help of indices.

The dangers of having diverging or competing forms of Fortran 90 were immediately apparent, and the standards committees wisely decided to incorporate these two syntactic changes also into Fortran 95. But they didn't stop there. Two further extensions, useful not only for their expressive power but also to access parallel hardware, were added: elemental functions, ones written in terms of scalars but that accept array arguments of any permitted shape or size, and an extension to allow nesting of `WHERE` constructs, Fortran's form of masked assignment. To readers of *Numerical Recipes*, perhaps the most relevant of the minor improvements that Fortran 95 brings are the ability to distinguish between a negative and a positive real zero, automatic deallocation of allocatable arrays, and a means to initialize the values of components of objects of derived data types and to initialize pointers to null.

The medium-term objective of a relatively minor upgrade has been achieved on schedule. But what does the future hold? Developments in the underlying principles of procedural programming languages have not ceased. Early Fortran introduced the concepts of expression abstraction (`X=Y+Z`) and later control expression (e.g., the `DO` loop). Fortran 77 continued this with the `if-then-else`, and Fortran 90 with the `DO` and `SELECT CASE` constructs. Fortran 90 has a still higher level of expression abstraction (array assignments and expressions) as well as data structures and even

full-blown abstract data types. However, during the 1980s the concept of objects came to the fore, with methods bound to the objects on which they operate. Here, one particular language, C++, has come to dominate the field. Fortran 90 lacks a means to point to functions, but otherwise has most of the necessary features in place, and the standards committees are now faced with the dilemma of deciding whether to make the planned Fortran 2000 a fully object-oriented language. This could possibly jeopardize its powerful, and efficient, numerical capabilities by too great an increase in language complexity, so should they simply batten down the hatches and not defer to what might be only a passing storm? At the time of writing, this is an open issue. One issue that is not open is Fortran's lack of in-built exception handling. It is virtually certain that such a facility, much requested by the numerical community, and guided by John Reid, will be part of the next major revision. The list of other requirements is long but speculative, but some at the top of the list are conditional compilation, command line argument handling, I/O for objects of derived type, and asynchronous I/O (which is also planned for the next release of HPF). In the meantime, some particularly pressing needs have been identified, for the handling of floating-point exceptions, interoperability with C, and allowing allocatable arrays as structure components, dummy arguments, and function results. These have led WG5 to begin processing these three items using a special form of fast track, so that they might become optional but standard extensions well before Fortran 2000 itself is published in the year 2001.

Conclusion

Writing a book is always something of a gamble. Unlike a novel that stands or falls on its own, a book devoted to a programming language is dependent on the success of others, and so the risk is greater still. However, this new *Numerical Recipes in Fortran 90* volume is no ordinary book, since it comes as the continuation of a highly successful series, and so great is its significance that it can, in fact, influence the outcome in its own favor. I am entirely confident that its publication will be seen as an important event in the story of Fortran 90, and congratulate its authors on having performed a great service to the field of numerical computing.

Geneva, Switzerland Michael Metcalf
January 1996

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