

Converting Old To Modern Fortran

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Introduction

See “Introduction to Fortran Conversion”

This does **NOT** teach the new features

See “Introduction to Modern Fortran”

Even then, most **details** are only in books

This describes only **what** can be done

Starting from a **correct Fortran 90** program

Real junk in “Fortran Archaeology”

What Have We Here?

- Things to take **advantage** of modern features
Mostly for “**software engineering**”
Clarity, maintainability, error checking etc.

No old code will **break** in foreseeable future
Old code may not mean what you **expect**
So **cleaning up** those aspects is good

- Remember to balance **gain against pain**
We shall cover a **LOT** of points
Just note the things that **you** want to change

Reminder: Tools

f2f90 will do a few of them

And others are easy using Python or Perl

- Avoid doing manual edits if you can

Contact me if you have a conversion problem

PARAMETER (1)

```
INTEGER fortytwo  
DATA fortytwo /42/
```

- If **read-only**, this can be replaced by:

```
INTEGER, PARAMETER :: fortytwo = 42
```

Now can't **write** to it by accident

Makes it easier for compiler to **optimise**

PARAMETER arrays may be more efficient

PARAMETER (2)

PARAMETER defines a **true constant**

Can be used **anywhere** a constant can be

KIND=, **CASE**, initialisation, array bounds

No performance degradation in sane compilers

- Enables a lot of **cleaning up**

Reduces problems with **finger trouble**

And pre-editing hacks in build scripts

Recursion

Fortran 90 allows it – like DEC and Egtran
You must declare procedures **RECURSIVE**

Can clean up some old, **horrible hacks**

E.g. unnecessarily duplicated procedures

- Otherwise **don't bother** about it
- Check if necessary **libraries** use/allow it

Procedure/Data Interfaces

Not just **INTERFACE**, but interfaces generally

Lots of improvements in **Fortran 90**

Much better **error checking** and **ease of use**

- Probably most important **improved area**

Accounted for **half** of bugs in **Fortran 77**

Similar experience with many **C** codes

- **Fortran 90** can catch **most** such errors

Modules Are The Key

- Everything depends on **modules**
Used to encapsulate **declarations**
- **Design** your modules carefully
As the ultimate **top-level structure**
Perhaps only a few, perhaps dozens
Dependency graph shows **visibility/usage**
- Good place for **high-level comments**
Please document **purpose** and **interfaces**

What is a Module

Bundles **definitions/interfaces** into a unit

- Similar to same term in other languages

Includes its **static data** definitions

And exported **procedure interfaces**

Actual code not part of module interface

Files may contain several modules

Modules may be split across many files

- But, in simplest use, keep them **1≡1**

Module Structure

MODULE name

Static (often exported) data definitions

CONTAINS

Procedure definitions and interfaces

END MODULE name

Code may be included, or may be external

PUBLIC/PRIVATE

Can separate **exported** from **hidden** definitions

Fairly easy to use in simple cases

- Worth considering when designing modules

No more details here, as largely new facility

In simplest uses, just does what you expect

Replace COMMON

Data modules are cleaner form of **COMMON**
BLOCK DATA becomes initialisation

Then just **USE** the module – much clearer

- A trivial change in clean code

The simplest use of modules possible

May extend module by moving code in there

E.g. auxiliary routines for that data

COMMON Example

```
INTEGER :: count, array(1000)  
COMMON /awful/ count, array
```

Make a file (say **awful.f90**) containing:

```
MODULE awful  
INTEGER :: count, array(1000)  
END MODULE awful
```

```
USE awful
```

COMMON And SAVE

- Named **COMMON** did not imply **SAVE**
But many programs assumed it
And compilers **usually** implemented it

May need to add **SAVE** attributes

- Worth thinking whether you do
E.g. scratch space does not need it
There can be an efficiency cost

Explicit Interfaces (1)

Full declaration of **procedure types**

Not just result, but arguments, properties etc.

Like **Algol 68**, **Pascal**, **ISO C**, but more so

- All calls have all properties known
- Give much better **error checking**
- Allow use of many other **new features**

Interface Example

```
SUBROUTINE fred (array, opt, err)
USE double
REAL(KIND=FP) :: array(:)
REAL, INTENT(IN) :: opt
INTEGER, INTENT(OUT) :: err
```

Explicit Interfaces (2)

Automatic if procedures in modules

Or if calling internal procedures

I.e. any procedures following **CONTAINS**

These are only **fully secure** methods

- Also simplest – start with these

Can have separate interface modules

Or include interface declarations

- No examples given of this sort of use

Internal Procedures

PROGRAM name

Static (often exported) data definitions

CONTAINS

Procedure definitions and interfaces

END PROGRAM name

Also in **SUBROUTINE** and **FUNCTION**

But not in internal procedures themselves!

Separate Interfaces

May need to generate interfaces

Needed for multi-module **mutual recursion**

And when defining interfaces for non-Fortran

Including **Fortran 77** libraries as binary

Actual code in separate file (as **Fortran 77**)

- It is **NOT** checked against interface
- Do it by **f2f90** (or **NAGWare**), not by hand
Except for binary libraries and non-Fortran!

Keyword/Optional Arguments

Can simplify and clarify long lists

Often merge many procedures into one

- Don't rush into this one, though
Spend time on designing such interfaces

Choosing the right defaults can be tricky

- **KISS** – **Keep It Simple and Stupid**

- Be careful when merging procedures

Don't forget to cross-check interactions

Keyword Example

```
SUBROUTINE fred (this, that, the, other)  
REAL :: this, that, the, other
```

• • •

```
CALL fred(that=3,this=2,other=1,the=4)
```

Don't have to remember the order of long lists

```
CALL fred(2,3,4,1)
```

Simple Use Of OPTIONAL

- Use **OPTIONAL** for setting defaults only
On entry, check and copy **ALL** args
Use **ONLY** local copies thereafter
Now, all variables well defined when used
- Can do the converse for optional results
Just before returning, check and copy back
- Beyond this should be done only by experts

OPTIONAL Example (1)

```
FUNCTION fred (alf, bert)
REAL :: fred, alf, mybert
REAL, OPTIONAL, INTENT(IN) :: bert
IF (PRESENT(bert)) THEN
    mybert = bert
ELSE
    mybert = 0.0
ENDIF
```

Now use `mybert` in rest of procedure

OPTIONAL Example (2)

```
SUBROUTINE fred (alf, bert)
REAL :: alf
REAL, OPTIONAL, INTENT(OUT) :: bert
...
IF (PRESENT(bert)) bert = ...
END SUBROUTINE fred
```

FUNCTION Definitions

<type> FUNCTION fred (...)

- Fortran is giving up on this form
Too many new facilities to bolt on

FUNCTION fred (...)

<type>, <attributes> :: fred

Precisions etc.

- Currently, need to use **double precision**
But will start to need **64-bit integers**
Already needed for most serious SMP codes
Then **WON'T** want it, by **default**
Been the case on **Cray** systems for some time

This is what I recommend

Will **future-proof** your code

Also describe **currently** adequate solution

Define Module

Best solution:

```
MODULE precision
```

```
    INTEGER, PARAMETER :: FP = &  
    SELECTED_REAL_KIND(14,200)
```

```
END MODULE precision
```

Currently OK (except on [Cray](#)):

```
MODULE precision
```

```
    INTEGER, PARAMETER :: FP = KIND(0.0D0)
```

```
END MODULE precision
```

IMPLICIT NONE etc.

- Add to **every** module, procedure, interface:
USE precision
IMPLICIT NONE

Forces declaration of almost everything

- Picks up a **LOT** of stupid mistakes

Following is allowed but **NOT** recommended:

IMPLICIT <type> (<letter>-<letter>)

Using Precisions

REAL(KIND=FP) :: <declarations>

REAL(FP) :: <declarations>

COMPLEX(KIND=FP) :: <declarations>

- Add ‘_FP’ to **all** floating constants

Don't leave hostages to fortune . . .

- Do this using **NAGWare** or your own tool
Very error-prone when done manually

Warning: Constants

REAL(), PARAMETER :: pi = <what?>

None of the following work:

. . . = 4.0D0*ATAN(1.0D0)

. . . = 3.14159265358979323846

. . . = M_PI [On Linux using `cpp`]

The following does:

. . . = 3.14159265358979323846_FP

Make Functions Generic

Most intrinsic functions are now **generic**

Can change precision and even type easily

BUT you can't pass them as **actual arguments**

- Change old, **specific** names to generic

See section **13.6** of **Fortran 2003** standard

Clean up any uses of **INTRINSIC** or **EXTERNAL**

- Write **wrappers** if passed as arguments (rare)

Type Conversion

Most painful part of generic intrinsics

- **CMPLX** is a major trap for the unwary
MUST specify **KIND** parameter when using
Assuming use of non-default **REAL** (as above)

REAL, DBLE \Rightarrow **REAL(...,KIND=FP)**

CMPLX \Rightarrow **CMPLX(...,KIND=FP)**

- **INT** is **usually** safe enough

Default is conventionally OK for array indexing

Current Shortcuts

If (and **ONLY** if) using `FP = KIND(0.0D0)`:

Can use 'D' as exponent letter

. . . `pi = 3.14159265358979323846D0`

`REAL` \Rightarrow `DBLE`

Not future-proof, but OK for a few years

. . . except on **Cray** . . .

Argument Passing

Major gotchas in Fortran in this area

It predates usual value/pointer model

It **associates** actual and dummy arguments

Expressions are stored in a hidden temporary

E.g. a **COMMON** variable as an argument

And then updated in **COMMON** during call

Effect is undefined – anything may happen

Other Association

- Also applies if imported or in **COMMON**
Any two “names” for one location

Import/export is very like argument passing

- Be very careful exporting imports
- Don't play games with renaming in **USE**

Watch out for **EQUIVALENCE** – see later

Read-Only Dummy Arguments

- In **Fortran 90**, use **INTENT(IN)**
Unfortunately, only protects against writing
- In **Fortran 2003**, consider **VALUE**
Will take a copy of argument if needed
Generally, not a good idea for arrays

Some existing codes will take a copy on entry
An old, adequate (but **not** fully safe) defence
Usually protects against it changing

Dummy Argument Example

```
SUBROUTINE fred (a, b)
REAL :: a
REAL, INTENT(IN), VALUE :: b
a = a * b + b
```

Following now becomes legal – hurrah!

```
REAL :: x = 1.23
CALL fred (x, x)
```

Passing Objects Twice (1)

- Always safe if all uses are **read-only**

See above for how to declare that

Disjoint array sections are distinct variables

Array elements are distinct if different

Using array sections is clean, but check for copy

```
CALL FRED(WORK(1:N),WORK(N+1:2*N))
```

Older method unclean but OK, **IF** within bounds

```
CALL FRED(WORK,WORK(N+1))
```

Passing Objects Twice (2)

Beyond that, here be dragons . . .

Similar to storage association (see later)

- Avoid this if at all possible

If **ANY** use **MIGHT** update it

and there is a non-**VALUE** argument

- Make sure **array sections** are **disjoint**
- Force **scalars** to be copied (**Fortran 77/90/95**)

Forcing A Copy

```
REAL :: x = 1.23
```

```
CALL fred (x, real(x,kind=kind(x)))
```

```
CALL fred (x, x+0.0)
```

```
y = x
```

```
CALL fred (x, y)
```

An Old Construction

```
INTEGER WORK(N)  
CALL FRED(...,WORK,WORK,WORK)
```

```
SUBROUTINE FRED (... ,WI,WR,WC)  
INTEGER WI(*)  
REAL WR(*)  
COMPLEX WC(*)
```

Used for storage management in [Fortran 77](#)

- Use local workspace arrays, `ALLOCATE` etc.

Whole Array Operations

- Almost always much **clearer** and **shorter**
Simpler code makes tuning much easier
Efficient implementation isn't always easy

Should be **more** efficient than **DO**-loops
Sometimes the **converse**, so check if necessary

- Don't **force** the compiler to take copies
Watch out for **unnecessary** copying, too
Unfortunately, look for memory leaks, too

Tuning Array Operations

KISS – Keep It Simple and Stupid

Greatest gain is to move up one level

- Replace sections by **BLAS** or **LAPACK**

Especially **MATMUL** \Rightarrow **xGEMM** and up

Experts can do more with **DO**-loops

More control of space, ordering etc.

- Don't rewrite well-tuned **DO**-loops

Array Examples

```
REAL :: A(:,,:), B(:,,:), C(:,::)
```

No compiler should copy anything

```
A = B*C/SUM(A)
```

```
A = MATMUL(B,C)
```

```
A = A+MATMUL(B,C)    ! It needn't, but . . .
```

```
A = MATMUL(A,B)    ! Almost certainly a copy
```

Assumed-Shape Arrays

Can replace **explicit shape** or **assumed size** args
Except where bounds are absolute!

- Much more **flexible**, **may** be more efficient
- Replace passing array elements by **sectioning**
- Avoid conversion **TO** explicit/assumed size

Usually **forces copying** of the section

Watch out for compilers copying unnecessarily

Assumed-Shape Implementation

- Older methods need pass **only** pointer
Almost required to be address of first element
Bounds are fixed, passed explicitly, or similar
Essentially same as **C**, whether **C90** or **C99**

Assumed-shape passes **descriptor**, like **Algol 68**
Bounds passed implicitly, can be checked

- May not be **contiguous**, if section taken

Assumed-Shape Example

```
SUBROUTINE fred (a, b, c)
DO j = LBOUND(a,2), UBOUND(a,1)
    DO i = LBOUND(a,1), UBOUND(a,1)
        a(i,j) = DOT_PRODUCT(b(i,:),c(:,j))
    ENDDO
ENDDO
```

Reduces finger trouble when passing bounds

Workspace (Automatic) Arrays

Size of local arrays set at run-time

```
REAL :: array(<expression>)
```

- Can remove great deal of messy code
Including lots of **workspace arguments**

Space **should** be recovered on return

Often mixes badly with **ALLOCATE**,
array-valued functions, and similar

Details far beyond scope of this course

Array Masking

Operations on selected elements of array

Fortran 90 has **WHERE** assignment statement

- Much simpler than conditionals in loop

On most systems, little gain in efficiency

Real advantage is improvement in **clarity**

Watch out for unnecessary copying, again

Simple Masking

```
INTEGER :: k(1000)  
REAL :: a(1000)
```

```
DO i = 1,1000  
    IF (k(i) > 0) a(i) = SQRT(a(i))  
ENDDO
```

Becomes:

```
WHERE (k > 0) a = SQRT(a)
```

More Complex Masking

```
INTEGER :: k(1000)
```

```
REAL :: a(1000)
```

```
WHERE (k <= 0)
```

```
    A = -1.0
```

```
ELSEWHERE (a < 0.0)
```

```
    a = 0.0
```

```
ELSEWHERE
```

```
    a = SQRT(a)
```

```
ENDWHERE
```

FORALL Statement

This is essentially multi-array masking
Fortran 95/2003 included it, from HPF

Reliable source says slower than DO-loops
Sometimes by orders of magnitude

- So advice is **don't use it** in new code
But don't bother to remove it from old code
Unless analysis shows it is a **bottleneck**

Array-Valued Functions

You can write your own **array-valued** functions

Just as for scalars in **Fortran 77**

Some subroutines cleaner as functions

- Very commonly causes **memory leaks**

This is a major implementation headache

Details far beyond scope of this course

And **unnecessary copying** yet again . . .

Remove Labels (1)

Dijkstra was right but misquoted, as usual
Sometimes GOTOs can clarify control flow

- < 1% of those needed in Fortran 66

Can use for branch to error control block

But consider using internal procedures

See later about I/O exception handling

- Tools can handle only the simplest cases
Manual conversion easy but error-prone

Remove Labels (2)

```
IF (...) GOTO 100
```

```
...
```

```
GOTO 200
```

```
100 ...
```

```
200 CONTINUE
```

```
IF (...) THEN
```

```
...
```

```
ELSE
```

```
...
```

```
ENDIF
```


Remove Labels (3)

DO . . . ENDDO, EXIT, CYCLE, WHILE

- Note that DO loops can now be labelled

```
outer: DO
  inner: DO
  IF (...) CYCLE outer
  ENDDO inner
ENDDO outer
```

Remove Labels (4)

SELECT, CASE and DEFAULT

Executes one block out of the selection

- Much the rarest control construct

Following is more flexible:

```
IF (...) THEN
ELSEIF (...) THEN
ELSEIF (...) THEN
ELSE
ENDIF
```

Remove Labels (5)

Use for **FORMAT**s is cleaner, but unnecessary
Allowing both " ' " and ' " ' is a **great** help!

- Can replace by character string

```
WRITE (*,"('Error ',I0,' on ',I0)") IOSTAT, N
```

```
CHARACTER(*), PARAMETER :: f1 = '(...)'
```

```
WRITE (*,f1) IOSTAT, N
```

- Or by calling an internal procedure

I/O

This is a traditional weak point

Fortran 90 included significant upgrades

Fortran 2003 has many minor improvements

Still many unnecessary restrictions

- And most compilers are not Fortran 2003
 - Most common problem is free-format input
- Localise any problem I/O and possibly call C

I/O Errors

- **ERR** and **END** \Rightarrow **IOSTAT** or **IOMSG**
Potentially provides more information anyway
IOMSG is best, but only in **Fortran 2003**

I/O error handling is generally no better

- Format errors on reading still undefined
But all compilers seem to set **IOSTAT**

- Generally **not** worth cleaning this up
Except to remove use of labels

OPEN and INQUIRE

Lots of **minor** improvements, few important

- Opening file twice for **input** still illegal

ACTION='READ' or 'WRITE' or 'READWRITE'

- Definitely use this, in all **OPENS**

Can be **critical** in some circumstances

Can set **defaults** for most formatting **modes**

Non-Advancing I/O (1)

Doesn't move to new record if more data
Don't confuse it with C's streaming model
Unfortunately has huge number of constraints

Not **list-directed**, not on **internal** files . . .
Little use for **free-format** input or output

Can use to build out output records in parts
Useful for **prompting**, but has problems

Non-Advancing I/O (2)

Can use to read **unknown length** records
But only as far as raw characters

```
CHARACTER(LEN=1) :: buffer(100)  
READ(ADVANCE='NO',EOR=last,SIZE=len)
```

Rest of record (if any) is read next time
Unpick the buffer as an internal file

- Generally, using **PAD** is easier – see later

Free-Format Input

Still only **list-directed** I/O

- Can now use with internal files!

Still no way to tell how many items read

And non-advancing I/O is not allowed

Can use to unpick buffers created as above

Continue to **set all values** before reading

- Not worth a conversion campaign

Asynchronous I/O

New in **Fortran 2003**, and fairly clean

- But not widely available, and won't be

Contact me for sordid details

POSIX makes a complete mess of this

Microsoft doesn't do much better

- Right semantics for **MPI** non-blocking

Hope for a decent **MPI-3** binding to **Fortran 90**

Other I/O Enhancements

PAD= allows reading space-trimmed records

DELIM= for strings in list-directed I/O

SIGN= for whether you want '+' or not

Fortran 2003 **output** allows 'I0,F0.3' etc.

Plus lots of **slightly useful** descriptors

- Free-format output is now more-or-less OK

Fortran 2003 **FLUSH** statement – about time!

ANSI Control Characters

First column of **SOME** formatted output units
Absolutely no way of telling which ones

‘ ’ = next line, ‘0’ = skip line, ‘1’ = new page

‘+’ = overprint, sometimes also ‘2’–‘7’

[Latter were unreliable, like C ‘ \r’, ‘ \f, ‘ \v’]

- Dropped in Fortran 2003 – no replacement

Convert any code that uses old convention

Probably no compilers still rely on it

Pure Procedures

No **side-effects** – usable in **parallel**

Like computer science “**strictly functional**”

They don't write to **global data** or use **SAVE**

All function arguments are **INTENT(IN)**

No external I/O or **STOP** statements

Some other **constraints** on pointers

- If you can, write **functions** like this

Can declare as **PURE** or **ELEMENTAL**

- Not always feasible and hinders debugging

Features To Avoid

Not **officially** deprecated

Mostly because of political objections

Many have a **few** justifiable uses

Most have been **undesirable** for decades

- **Remove** them if you possibly can
 - Localise and **document** them if you can't
- Ask for advice if you have difficulty

Implicit Main Program

The **PROGRAM** statement is optional
You are recommended to add/use it
Only to make **your** life easier

Especially if **comments outside procedures**
Makes processing easier for simple tools
E.g. checking for only one main program!

INCLUDE

INCLUDE '<name>' – usually a filename

It replaces the line by the text

May be **INCLUDE** (<name>) in **Fortran IV**

- Generally, replace by a **module**

Rare cases where that doesn't make sense

Fortran 95 has optional preprocessor “**Coco**”

Open source implementation, but few vendors

Use of C Preprocessor

Very common, but a snare and a delusion

- C's rules **VERY** different from Fortran's
Often if **fred.F** or **joe.F90**, vs **fred.f** or **joe.f90**

```
#include '<filename>'
```

```
#define <name> <expression>
```

```
#if (<expression>)
```

- Consider whether you can get rid of this

Impure Functions (1)

Have always been **undefined** behaviour

But in a particular way before **Fortran 90**

Basically **write–once / read–many** rule

- No **guarantee** that any function call is made

Situation is unclear in **Fortran 90/95/2003**

Some people say totally **undefined** (illegal)

Others say same as **ANSI Fortran 77**

Avoid this extremely nasty mess if you can

Impure Functions (3)

Safest use is for **random numbers** and similar

Some **local state** is saved between calls

- Updating **global** state for **experts only**
- Reading **updatable** global state is as bad

Use **separate** module and file; avoid **inlining**

- **Never** export the local state as data
- Don't use twice in **same** statement

Includes use within **another** function call

Impure Functions (4)

COMPLEX FUNCTION FRED (ARG)

COMPLEX, SAVE :: COPY

COPY = ARG

FRED = ...

COMPLEX FUNCTION JOE (ARG)

JOE = CONJG(FRED(ARG))

X = FRED(1.23)+JOE(4.56)

- Is **NOT** allowed and may well not work

Impure Functions (4)

Lots of other, **fairly** safe uses

Constraints same as for random numbers

Cache of common arguments and results

Can keep **trace buffer** or update **use count**

Can do I/O **if careful** (e.g. diagnostics)

- Twice in same statement needs **thread safety**

Possible safely, but neither easily nor portably

EQUIVALENCE (1)

Used to **overlap arrays** to save space

But, strangely, not on **dummy arguments**

Non-trivial uses create horrible errors

And can interfere with optimisation

Modern computers have lots of memory

Consider **ALLOCATABLE** or **POINTER**

- Overlap arrays only when **essential**
- Use it **very** simply and **very** cleanly

EQUIVALENCE (2)

Used to play **bit twiddling** tricks

E.g. to unpick floating-point formats

Undefined behaviour, and means it, too

- Common cause of portability problems
- **Localise** any such tricks in small modules

Can sometimes replace by new functions

Can compile them with **no optimisation**

Or replace them by **C** or assembler

Reshaping via Arguments

```
DOUBLE PRECISION X(10,20)  
CALL FRED(A(5,5))
```

```
SUBROUTINE FRED (A)  
DOUBLE PRECISION A(25)
```

Legal but ill-defined in Fortran 66

Dubiously illegal in Fortran 77

Well-defined in Fortran 90 and beyond

- But should be **avoided**, anyway

Other Storage Association

Can also be done via **COMMON** – see earlier

All methods can be used **cleanly** or **revoltingly**

Equating different **base** types is **worst form**

Get rid of that use, if at all possible

- Legal or safe use is **fiendishly** tricky
- Rules have **changed** over the years, too
- Interferes badly with optimisation

Examples Of Bad Cases

```
REAL X(20)  
INTEGER N(20)  
EQUIVALENCE (X, N))
```

```
INTEGER N(4,10)  
CALL FRED (N)
```

...

```
SUBROUTINE FRED (A)  
DOUBLE PRECISION A(20)
```

Routine Structure

Before 1980s, calls were **SLOW**
Almost no compiler **inlined** calls

- Consider **splitting** up complex routines
Repeated code can become **internal procedure**

Several features to avoid routine calls
Most are strongly **deprecated** or deleted
Main remaining one is **ENTRY**

ENTRY (1)

FUNCTION FRED (A, B)

...

ENTRY JOE (N)

...

One procedure with several interfaces

Yes, it's utterly horrible

VERY hard to use correctly

- Replace by separate, simple **wrappers**
Different **interfaces** to a common auxiliary

ENTRY (2)

```
FUNCTION FRED (A, B)  
CALL BERT (1, X, A, B, M, N)  
FRED = X
```

```
FUNCTION JOE (N)  
CALL BERT (2, X, A, B, M, N)  
JOE = M
```

Much easier to understand and debug

ENTRY (3)

You could do that using **OPTIONAL** args
Definitely advanced use for **experts only**

- If you have to ask how, please don't try
Even if you do, **think twice** before doing so
- The difficulty is **intrinsic** to the problem
It is **NOT** caused by **ENTRY** syntax

BACKSPACE, ENDFILE etc.

Correspond to **long-dead** filesystem models
Fruitful source of traps on modern systems

- Replace **BACKSPACE** by internal files
- Replace **ENDFILE** by **CLOSE** or **REWIND**

Or by redesigning I/O interface

- Don't use formatted, direct-access files
- Similar problems to ones for **C** – lots!

Fortran 66/77 Relics

Obsolescent in Fortran 95/2003

You will definitely see many of these

They will still work but should not be used

Most can be covered fairly briefly

Almost all sane code is easy to modernise

But may be very tedious by hand

Use an automatic tool where possible

Fixed Form Source (1)

Comments have 'C' in column 1

Labels in columns 1–5

Statement in columns 7–72 only

Columns 73–* ignored (for sequence numbers)

If column 6 not a space or '0':

 join columns 7–72 onto previous line

Spaces ignored and not needed (ex. Hollerith)

```
G OTO12
```

```
0 1 2 CALLMY SUB(9 8)
```

```
DO 10 I = 1.10
```

Fixed Form Source (2)

You don't **need** to write such perverse code
But details are complicated for newcomers
Truncation at column **72** is a major trap
And not all compilers did it . . .

Main surviving relic of punched cards

- Convert using **f2f90** (or **NAGWare**)
- Or write your own **Python/Perl** converter
- By hand is **very** tedious and error-prone

Arithmetic IF

IF (<expression>) <label>,<label>,<label>

Branches to labels if **negative**, **zero** or **positive**

- Useful, clean, but ‘unstructured’

<temporary> = <expression>

IF (<temporary> .LT. 0) THEN

ELSEIF (<temporary> .EQ. 0) THEN

ELSE

ENDIF

Most compilers optimise use of <temporary>

DO Loop Issues

```
DO 10 K = 1,10  
DO 10 J = 1,10  
10 CONTINUE
```

```
DO 10 K = 1,10  
10 WRITE (*,*) K
```

- Convert to DO . . . ENDDO form

Alternate Return

CALL FRED (A, *<label>, *<label>)

or (in Fortran IV and derivatives):

CALL FRED (A, &<label>, &<label>)

RETURN <N> branches to the Nth label

- Simplest to add an integer code as last argument
And use it in a CASE statement after the call

Computed GOTO

GOTO (<label>, ...) <integer variable>

Just a GOTO form of the CASE statement

- Replace by the CASE statement

To connoisseurs of the arcane and bizarre:

Look up [second-level definition](#) in [Fortran 66](#)

Statement Functions

FRED (ARG) = 5.0*ARG+2.0

IF in right place, and FRED not function/array

- Infernally hard to recognise in code

Rather like a C #define in some ways

- Replace by an internal procedure

Cleaner and much more flexible

See also Fortran 2003 ASSOCIATE

DATA Statement Ordering

Could occur almost anywhere (like **FORMAT**)

Simple: just move them into declarations

Better: replace by **PARAMETER** or initialisers

Incidentally, tidying up **FORMAT** is good

Put after **READ/WRITE** or at end

Best to **replace**, as described earlier

Assumed Length Character Functions

```
FUNCTION FRED (ARG)  
CHARACTER (LEN=*) :: FRED
```

SC22/WG5 finally sees the light . . .
Length taken from context – don't ask

- Redesign any such function, **totally**
Most **character lengths** should be **constants**
Or result length **copied from an argument**

A Generic Character Function

```
FUNCTION FRED (ARG)
  CHARACTER (LEN=*) :: ARG
  CHARACTER (LEN=LEN(ARG)) :: FRED
  FRED = ARG
END
```

Beyond that, little hope of optimisation
Also can run risk of memory leaks

CHARACTER*<length> Declarations

CHARACTER*80 CARDS(1000)

CHARACTER*80 FUNCTION CARD (ARG)

and (in Fortran IV and derivatives):

CHARACTER FUNCTION CARD*80 (ARG)

- Use LEN= type parameter instead

I recommend avoiding even:

CHARACTER :: A*10, B*20