

Taking up development of existing research codes

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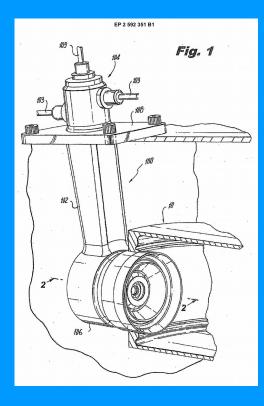
- My background
- Issues with developing software for a research project
- How to quickly get familiarised with a coding project
- Good programming practises
- Holistic view on optimisation
- Summary





My background

- Research fellow in fluids (Mech.Eng.)
- Worked on several projects in Low Carbon Combustion Centre and Aerodynamics groups such as:
 - Modelling of fuel deposition in gas turbine injectors (FINCAP)
 - Modelling of fuel and lubricant thermo-chemical degradation in gas turbine systems
 - Aerodynamics, active flow control and plasma modelling







My background

- No formal CS education, but I like:
 - Computers/Programming/HPC
 - Tidy and efficient things
 - Adhering to standards
- Lots of experience in software development for modelling fluids and/or chemical reacting flows over many years





- Great opportunities for developing very interesting software, but...
- Projects often start late
- Results driven the quicker the better and no questions asked!
- Often written by researchers where programming is not part of their formal education or primary focus
- PI's usually not involved at programming level to provide input





- Aim to generate results often leading to quick and dirty programming!
- Software generated without adhering to good programming practises
- Code is passed on from one researcher to another
- Elements are added on and on without any restructuring of code



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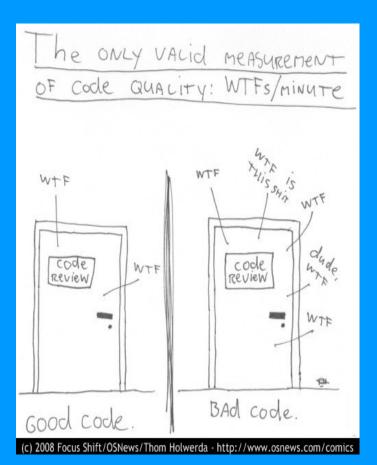


- Lots of software generated with high impact, but:
 - Time is lost figuring out what various things do in the software
 - Can end up with several versions of the same software but very little information, if lucky!
 - Not written in the best way...
- Principle of least astonishment <u>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princ</u> <u>iple_of_least_astonishment</u>





- Lots of software generated with high impact, but:
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Getting to know a project

 Look at a random source file. How is the formatting/coding? Did people take care? Is it easy to understand?

```
call GradientPhi(VarFmix,SC(),varFmix-Hvar),fmixGrad)
    call CMCTurbDiffusionCoef(VarPaix_Dcoef)
    wallHeatFlux(:) = 0.0
     call CMCDiffusionCoef(VarFmix,kcoef)
      call GradientPhi(VarT,T(:),Tgrad)
      de Lei Mond
            if(Bod(i)\rid == 2 .er, Bod(i)\rid == 5) then
                  wallHeatFlux(Face(brd(i)\face)\cell1) = wallHeatFlux(Face(brd(i)\face)\cell1) + abs(Cp(Hcel+i)*)000.0*kcef(brd(i)\face)+(Tprad(i=Hcel,1)*Face(brd(i)\face)\cell1) + fprad(i=Hcel,1)*Face(brd(i)\face)\cell1) + fprad(i=Hcel,1)*Face(brd(i)\cell1) + fprad(i=Hcel,1)*Face(brd(i)\cell1) + fprad(i=Hcell1) + fprad(i=Hcell
      de [=].Ncel
            fGradSue(1)+(fmixGrad(1,1))++2.0 + (fmixGrad(1,2))++2.0 + (fmixGrad(1,3))++2.0
 if(UseLES .and ...not. Solve(VarGMEX)) then
     i=1_Ncel (Ncel-Mond) The spray source terms are not defined for the boundaries
         gridDim = FilterWidth(1,1)
         SC(1,varGe(x-Bvar)=0.[*FGradSue(1)*((gridD(x)**2.8)
fdef withinistroppavia
       [f(UseSpray) then
             St(1,varGmix-Wvar)+St(1,varGmix-Wvar)+St(1,varGmix-Wvar)+Suff(1)).
              SC(1,varGmix-Nvar) = min(SC(1,varGmix-Nvar), 0.95*(1.0 -SC(1,varFmix-Nvar))*SC(1,varFmix-Nvar))
           [a], Word : (the GMIX value on boundary faces is approximated with the cell value - this is not true if the boundary condition is different from zero-gradient
          ip = Face(bnd(i)\face)\cell1
         SC(jeNcel, VarGMCX-Nvar)#SC(1p, varGmLx-Nvar)
```





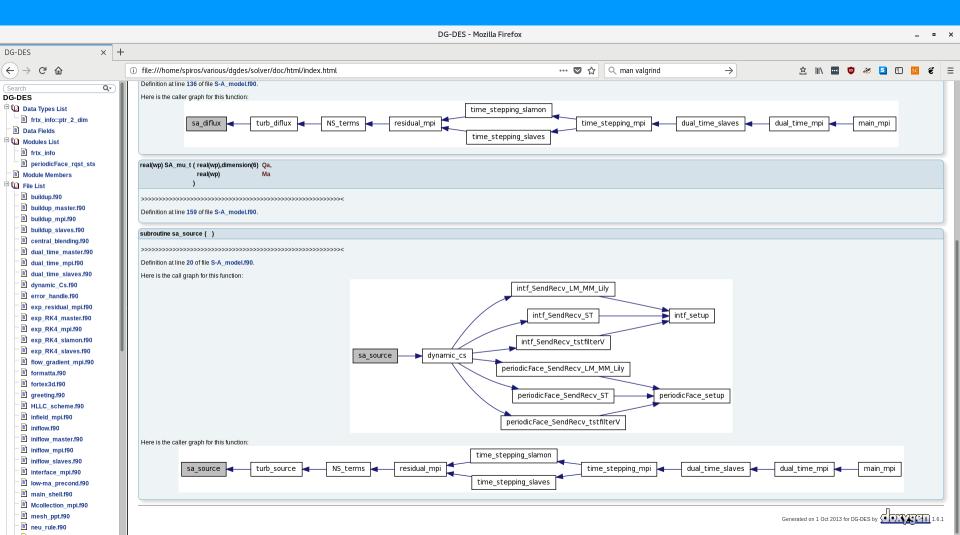
Getting to know a project

- Compile to check coding errors/warnings using:
 - gcc -Wall -Wextra -Wpedantic
- Run and check for memory leaks using:
 - valgrind --leak-check=full
- Generate documentation using:
 - doxygen
 - Suitable for C/C++, Fortran, bash, python, Java, TCL
 - Visualise relations between functions
 - Navigate around parts of code with hyperlinks
 - Can output HTML, pdf





Getting to know a project





Getting to know a project - summary

1.Have a look at a few source files2.Compile with all warnings on3.Run with memory checker4.Generate documentation



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Working on a project

- 1.Backup what you receive (ie projectname_date.tar.gz)
- 2.Set up source code version control (I like git)
- 3.Backup again

4.Ground rules. Discuss with PI or main developer the extent of your input (ie what is your freedom to change code beyond your scope?)

5.Be kind and avoid: ``Code is rubbish and needs major work''!





Working on a project

6.Carry on with your coding work

- 7.If you see anything that needs changing, then change it! (ie variables, functions, data structures)
- 8.Use GCC during development, and Intel for production
 - Intel is good for compilation and running speed, but supports non standard features – not portable!
 - GCC is good for errors and warnings, but slower than Intel (not by much though!) - portable!



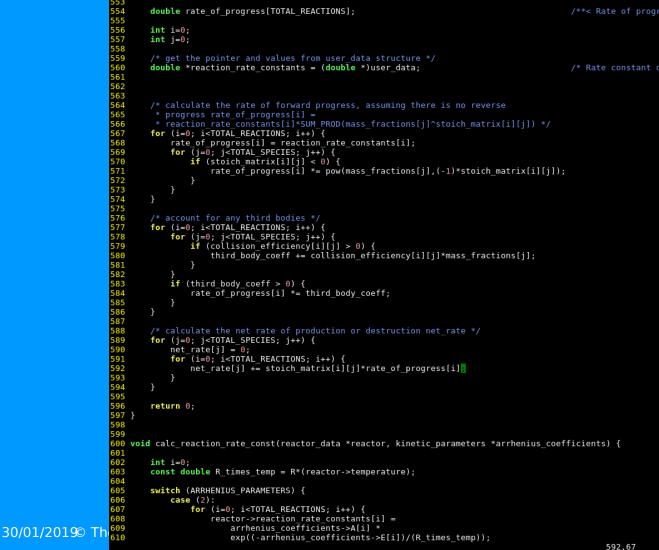


- Naming variables
 - Should be clear and meaningful without ambiguity (and don't try to be funny)
 - No coded variables
 - Should not need any comments
 - Searchable, ie no single-letter variables
 - Length of name should roughly correspond to the size of its scope



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- Functions
 - The shorter the better
 - Two to three arguments but no more
 - Do one thing
 - No side effects
 - Error handling
 - Should always test in isolation





31 void calc_reaction_rate_const(reactor_data *reactor, kinetic_parameters *arrhenius_coefficients); 32 void calc_reactor_steps_and_error(reactor_data *reactor, timing_data *timings); 33 void prepare_data_file(reactor_data *reactor, double current_time); 34 void print_header(reactor_data *reactor); 35 void print_mass_fractions(double current_time, reactor_data *reactor); 36 void fprint_reactor_conditions(FILE *operating_conditions, reactor_data *reactor); 37 static int degrade_reactor(reactor_data *reactor, timing_data *timings, cvode_data *cvode); 38 void copy_mass_fractions(double *source, double *destination); 39 void copy_reaction_rate_const(double *source, double *destination); 40 void linearly_infer_outer_mass_fractions(reactor_data *reactor, double const_time_increment); 41 static int check_flag(void *flagvalue, char *funcname, int opt); 42 void calculate_dep_thick(reactor_data *reactor, kinetic_parameters *arrhenius_coefficients); 43 double_average_mass_fraction(int_const_species_index, reactor_data *const_reactor); 44 double_approx_1_minus_sqrt_1_minus_epsilon(double_const_epsilon);





553			70	
554 555	<pre>double rate_of_progress[TOTAL_REACTIONS];</pre>			d calc_reactor_steps_and_error(reactor_data *reactor, timing_data *timings) {
555 556	<pre>int i=0;</pre>		72	
557	int i=0;			<pre>double computed_residence_time=0;</pre>
558			74	
559	/* get the pointer and values from user_data structure */			reactor->steps = (int)(reactor->residence_time/timings->time_increment);
560	<pre>double *reaction_rate_constants = (double *)user_data;</pre>		76	
561				<pre>computed_residence_time = reactor->steps * timings->time_increment;</pre>
562 563				reactor->unmoddelled_percent_volume = (1 - computed_residence_time / reactor->residence_time) * 100;
564	/* calculate the rate of forward progress, assuming there is no reverse		79	
565	<pre>* progress rate of progress[i] =</pre>		80 }	
566	<pre>* reaction_rate_constants[i]*SUM_PROD(mass_fractions[j]^stoich_matrix[i][j]) */</pre>		81	
567	<pre>for (i=0; i<total_reactions; i++)="" pre="" {<=""></total_reactions;></pre>		82	
568	<pre>rate_of_progress[i] = reaction_rate_constants[i];</pre>		83 void	d allocate mass fractions(reactor data *reactor) {
569 570	<pre>for (j=0; j<total_species; (stoich_matrix[i][j]="" 0)="" <="" if="" j++)="" pre="" {="" {<=""></total_species;></pre>		84	
571	rate of progress[i] *= pow(mass fractions[j],(-1)*stoich matrix[i][j]);			reactor->internal mass fractions = (double **)malloc(reactor->steps* <mark>sizeof</mark> (int *));
572	}		86	reactor->internal mass fractions[0] = (double *)malloc(reactor->steps*TOTAL SPECIES*sizeof(double));
573 574	}		87	
574	}		88	<pre>for(int step = 0; step < reactor->steps; step++) {</pre>
575			89	reactor->internal mass fractions[step] = *reactor->internal mass fractions + step*TOTAL SPECIES;
576	/* account for any third bodies */		90	}
577 578	<pre>for (i=0; i<total_reactions; (j="0;" for="" i++)="" j++)="" j<total_species;="" pre="" {="" {<=""></total_reactions;></pre>		91	
579	if (collision_efficiency[i][j] > 0) {		92 }	
579 580	<pre>third_body_coeff += collision_efficiency[i][j]*mass_fractions[j];</pre>		93	
581 582	}		94	
582	}		95 voir	d initialise internal mass fractions(reactor data *reactor) {
583 584	<pre>if (third_body_coeff > 0) { rets of account of the third hads coeff</pre>		96	
585	<pre>rate_of_progress[i] *= third_body_coeff;</pre>		97	<pre>for (int step=0; step<reactor->steps; step++) {</reactor-></pre>
585 586	}		98	initialise mass fractions(reactor-sinternal mass fractions[step]);
587			99	
588	/* calculate the net rate of production or destruction net_rate */		00	
589 590	<pre>for (j=0; j<total_species; j++)="" pre="" {<=""></total_species;></pre>		01 }	
	net_rate[j] = 0;		02	
591 592	<pre>for (i=0; i<total_reactions; +="stoich" i++)="" matrix[i][j]*rate="" net="" of="" pre="" progress[i];<="" rate[j]="" {=""></total_reactions;></pre>		02	
593	}		04	d initialise mass fractions(double *mass fractions) {
594	}		04 0010	a Initialise mass_fractions(double *mass_fractions) {
594 595 596			-06	for (int i-o, istory) CRECIEC, it) (
596	return 0;		07	<pre>for (int i=0; i<total_species; fractions[i]="initial" fractions[i];<="" i++)="" mass="" pre="" {=""></total_species;></pre>
597 } 598				mass_fractions[i] = initiat_mass_fractions[i];
598			08	}
600 voi	d calc reaction rate const(reactor data *reactor, kinetic parameters *arrhenius coef	ficients) {	09	
601		4	10 }	
602	int i=0;		11	
603	<pre>const double R_times_temp = R*(reactor->temperature);</pre>		12	
604 605	<pre>switch (ARRHENIUS PARAMETERS) {</pre>			d initialise_reaction_speeds(double *reaction_rate_constants) {
606	case (2):		14	
607	<pre>for (i=0; i<total i++)="" pre="" reactions;="" {<=""></total></pre>			<pre>for (int i=0; i<total_reactions; i++)="" pre="" {<=""></total_reactions;></pre>
608	<pre>reactor->reaction_rate_constants[i] =</pre>		16	reaction_rate_constants[i] = 0;
609	arrhenius_coefficients->A[i] *		17	
610	<pre>exp((-arrhenius_coefficients->E[i])/(R_times_temp));</pre>		18	
		592,67	19 }	

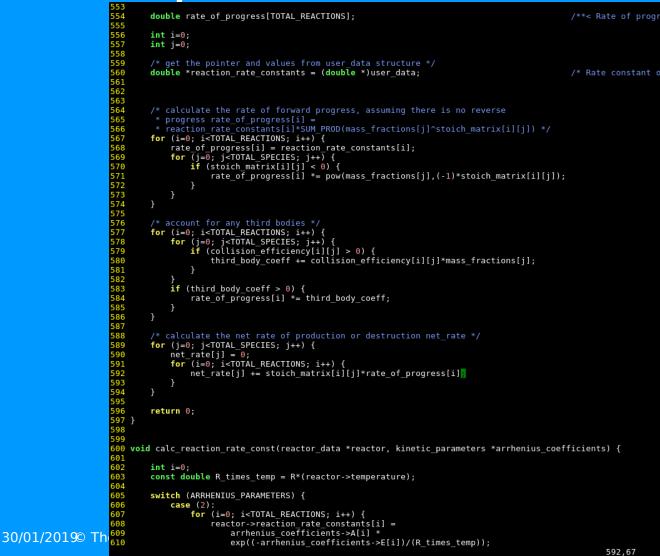




- Commenting
 - Use with caution
 - Better to improve naming of functions, data variables than to rely on comments
 - Useful for citing articles, algorithm names, etc. where appropriate
 - Watch out for line length. Do not assume everyone has a large wide screen monitor









• Further reading:

- Oliveira S., Stewart D., 2006, Writing scientific software. A guide to good style, Cambridge University press
- Martin R. C., 2013, Clean code, A handbook of agile software craftmanship, Prentice Hall
- Ortiz P. F., 2018, First steps in scientific programming, Amazon





Patricio F. Ortiz





- Further reading
 - Ledgard H., Green R., Coding guidelines: Finding the art in the science, ACM queue, 2011
 - ASTG coding standard, Recommended coding styles for software development in Fortran, C++, Java, and Python, Ver. 1.7, 2015





- Further reading for C/C++
 - NASA C style guide, August 1994, SEL-94-003
 - SEI CERT C coding standard, Rules for developing safe, reliable and secure systems in C++, 2016
 - SEI CERT C++ coding standard, Rules for developing safe, reliable and secure systems in C+ +, 2016
 - High integrity C++ Coding Rules, Programming Research Ltd., www.codingstandard.com
 - Joint strike fighter air vehicle C++ coding standards for the system development and demonstration program, December 2005



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- Further reading for Fortran
 - Fortran coding standards for new JULES code, Joint UK land environment simulator, June 2010
 - European standards for writing and documentign exchangeable Fortran 90 code, Ver. 1.1, Andrews P., 1995





- Very subjective and debatable topic
- Done to save time and computational resources
- Which one are you most interested in saving?
- Scrutinise every advice you receive, including mine
- Work out what is best for you
- Let's start with a quote...





The real problem is that programmers have spent far too much time worrying about efficiency in the wrong places and at the wrong times; premature optimization is the root of all evil (or at least most of it) in programming.

Knuth D., 1974, Computer Programming as an Art, Communications of the ACM, Vol. 17, No. 12





- Rule No. 1: Code optimisation should be the last thing you should do.
 - More important to adhere to good programming practises
 - Make sure code is as scalable as possible
 - Find something else to optimise in your workflow
- Rule No. 2: If you need to do it, use proper evidence for it
 - No data no optimising

- Use profilers for performance analysis, eg gprof for single-core, and/or tau for multi-core





Example of a typical week of mine:



Research: Modelling and coding (no optimising)
Figuring out what parts of code do
Resarch: Papers, grants, other
Meetings
Admin
HPC running (including setting up)
Postprocessing

- What is taking up most of my time?
- Does it make sense for me to put effort to speed up HPC running?
- How about your workflow?





- Better for me to spend time on:
 - Making the code more understandable Good programming practises!
 - Automating post processing
- Organising order of tasks is very important too as simulations can be running in the background
 - Is it possible to submit a job before a 2 hour meeting? If so, 2 hours saved!





Before optimising code

- Make sure the code is correct and bug free
- Make it portable
- Are the algorithms numerically stable/fast? What is the latest literature?
- Use libraries as much as possible as they are (most likely) already efficient – no point reinventing the wheel





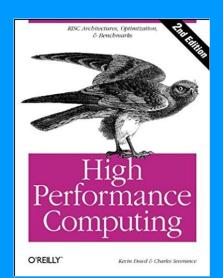
Before optimising code

- Do you have a table with a design of experiments?
- Are the simulations run with the correct settings, boundary conditions, etc?
- Is the time/space discretisation suitable enough?, and do you really need a 1M cell mesh?
- After having checked all the above, then....





- Learn (briefly) how CPU's work, eg registers, cache
- Too many techniques to list here
- Very good read (old, but still useful)
 - Severance C. and Dowd K., High performance computing (RISC architectures, optimization and benchmarks), 2nd ed., O'Reilly, 1998
 - Or even look at anything from the early days of game programming, LAPACK, BLAS, etc where every kB of memory and CPU cycles matters!
- Plenty other references exist that are more recent, but the core knowledge remains the same





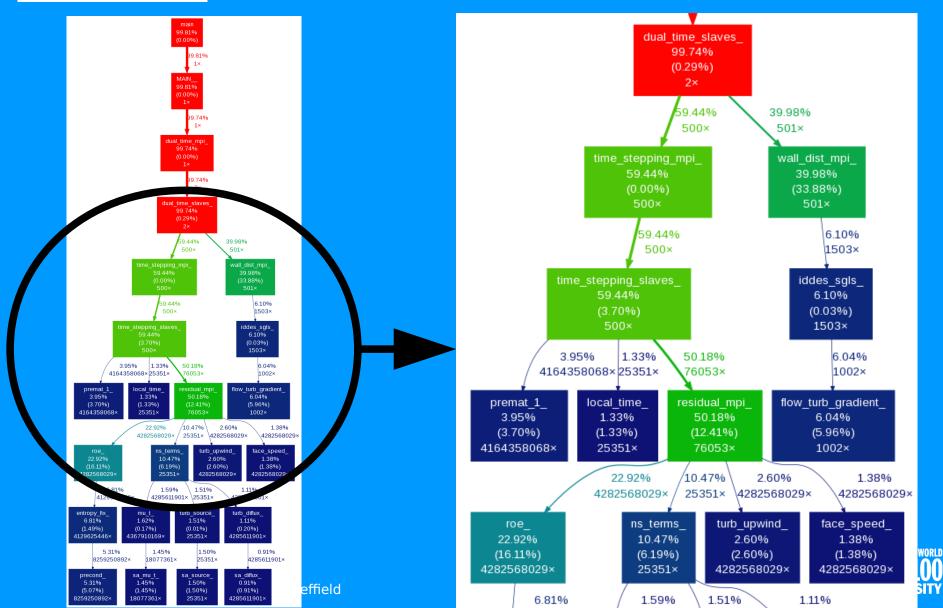
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Profile first to generate data and then optimise the most time consuming parts of the code

3				1	Flat pro	file:					
4	<pre>double rate_of_progress[TOTAL_REACTIONS];</pre>	/**< Rate of prog	ress of	2							
5						ple count: mulative		seconds.	self	total	
	int i=0; int j=0;					seconds		calls		Ts/call	n
8	int j=0,				31.78	20.32	20.32		13/Call	13/Catt	f (main.c:592 @ 40499d)
9	/* get the pointer and values from user data structure */				18.10	31.88	11.57				f (main.c:579 @ 40484b)
		/* Rate constant	of a rea		17.55	43.10	11.22				f (main.c:570 @ 404716)
1				9	5.11	46.37	3.27				f (main.c:569 @ 4046f8)
2				10	4.66	49.35	2.98				f (main.c:591 @ 40497f)
3				11	4.29	52.09	2.75				f (main.c:578 @ 40482d)
4	/* calculate the rate of forward progress, assuming there is no reverse			12	4.04	54.68	2.58				f (main.c:569 @ 4047f3)
5	<pre>* progress rate_of_progress[i] =</pre>			13	3.69	57.04	2.36				f (main.c:571 @ 40474f)
6	<pre>* reaction_rate_constants[i]*SUM_PROD(mass_fractions[j]^stoich_matrix[i][j]) */</pre>			14 15	2.99	58.95 60.75	1.91				f (main.c:578 @ 4048e7)
0	<pre>for (i=0; i<total_reactions; constants[i];<="" i++)="" of="" pre="" progress[i]="reaction" rate="" {=""></total_reactions;></pre>			15	2.82 1.60	61.77	1.80 1.02				f (main.c:591 @ 404a0f) f (main.c:580 @ 404880)
9	for (j=0; j <total_species; j++)="" td="" {<=""><td></td><td></td><td>17</td><td>0.97</td><td>62.39</td><td>0.62</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>f (main.c:567 @ 404880)</td></total_species;>			17	0.97	62.39	0.62				f (main.c:567 @ 404880)
0	if (stoich matrix[i][j] < 0) {			18	0.66	62.81	0.43				f (main.c:568 @ 4046d3)
1	<pre>rate_of_progress[i] *= pow(mass_fractions[j],(-1)*stoich_matrix[i][j]);</pre>			19	0.47	63.11	0.30				f (main.c:590 @ 404963)
2	}			20	0.33	63.32	0.21				f (main.c:589 @ 404945)
3	}			21	0.25	63.48	0.16				f (main.c:577 @ 40480f)
4	}			22	0.15	63.58	0.10				f (main.c:567 @ 4046b5)
5				23	0.13	63.66	0.08				f (main.c:577 @ 404937)
	/* account for any third bodies */			24	0.11	63.73	0.07				f (main.c:584 @ 404904)
7	<pre>for (i=0; i<total_reactions; i++)="" pre="" {<=""></total_reactions;></pre>			25	0.08	63.78	0.05				f (main.c:550 @ 40466f)
8	<pre>for (j=0; j<total_species; j++)="" td="" {<=""><td></td><td></td><td>26 27</td><td>0.06 0.05</td><td>63.82 63.85</td><td>0.04 0.04</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>f (main.c:589 @ 404ald)</td></total_species;></pre>			26 27	0.06 0.05	63.82 63.85	0.04 0.04				f (main.c:589 @ 404ald)
9	<pre>if (collision_efficiency[i][j] > 0) { third body coeff += collision efficiency[i][j]*mass fractions[j];</pre>			27	0.05	63.85	0.04				f (main.c:560 @ 4046aa) f (main.c:583 @ 4048f5)
1	<pre>initia_body_coeff += cottision_efficiency[i][j]*mass_ffactions[j];</pre>			20	0.03	63.89	0.01				calculate dep thick (main.c:835 @ 40590f)
2				30	0.02	63.90	0.01				copy mass fractions (main.c:732 @ 405349)
3	if (third_body_coeff > 0) {			31	0.02	63.91	0.01				copy_mass_fractions (main.c:733 @ 405364)
4	<pre>rate of progress[i] *= third body coeff;</pre>			32	0.02	63.92	0.01				f (main.c:596 @ 404a2b)
5	}			33	0.02	63.93	0.01				print progress (main.c:880 @ 405c96)
6	}			34	0.01	63.94	0.01				f (main.c:547 @ 404642)
7				35	0.01	63.94	0.01				f (main.c:557 @ 4046a3)
	/* calculate the net rate of production or destruction net_rate */			36	0.01	63.95	0.01				initialise_cvode (main.c:524 @ 404640)
9	<pre>for (j=0; j<total_species; j++)="" pre="" {<=""></total_species;></pre>			37	0.00	63.95	0.00	933600	0.00	0.00	copy_mass_fractions (main.c:730 @ 405334)
0	net_rate[j] = 0;			38 39	0.00	63.95 63.95	0.00	859207	0.00	0.00	check flag (main.c:789 @ 405607) approx 1 minus sqrt 1 minus epsilon (main.c:862 @ 405b69)
1	<pre>for (i=0; i<total_reactions; +="stoich_matrix[i][j]*rate_of_progress[i]]</pre" i++)="" net_rate[j]="" {=""></total_reactions;></pre>			40	0.00	63.95	0.00	31200 31200	0.00		average mass fraction (main.c:839 @ 405069)
3				40	0.00	63.95	0.00	31200	0.00		calculate dep thick (main.c:817 @ 405952)
4				42	0.00	63.95	0.00	31200	0.00		copy_reaction_rate_const (main.c:739 @ 4053b0)
5				43	0.00	63.95	0.00	31200	0.00		degrade reactor (main.c:678 @ 404f50)
6	return 0;			44	0.00	63.95	0.00	21613	0.00	0.00	print_mass_fractions (main.c:652 @ 404d1d)
7 }				45	0.00	63.95	0.00	7200	0.00		calculate_join_exit_mass_fractions (main.c:918 @ 405eec)
8				46	0.00	63.95	0.00	2400	0.00		print_progress (main.c:878 @ 405c73)
9				47	0.00	63.95	0.00	2400	0.00		update_timings (main.c:870 @ 405clf)
0 void	<pre>calc_reaction_rate_const(reactor_data *reactor, kinetic_parameters *arrhenius_coet</pre>	ficients) {		48	0.00	63.95	0.00	215	0.00	0.00	initialise_mass_fractions (main.c:391 @ 403bc4)
1				49	0.00	63.95	0.00	13	0.00	0.00	allocate_mass_fractions (main.c:370 @ 403a3f)
	int i=0; const double R times temp = R*(reactor->temperature);			50 51	0.00	63.95 63.95	0.00 0.00	13 13	0.00	0.00	calc_reaction_rate_const (main.c:600 @ 404a44) calc reactor steps and error (main.c:358 @ 40398f)
4	const double K_times_temp = K*(reactor->temperature);			51	0.00	63.95	0.00	13	0.00		calc_reactor_steps_and_error (main.c:358 @ 403987) close files and delete unused ones (main.c:894 @ 405d63)
5	<pre>switch (ARRHENIUS PARAMETERS) {</pre>			53	0.00	63.95	0.00	13	0.00		deallocate internal mass fractions (main.c.894 @ 405d05)
6	case (2):			54	0.00	63.95	0.00	13	0.00		fprint reactor conditions (main.c:663 @ 404e78)
7	<pre>for (i=0; i<total i++)="" pre="" reactions;="" {<=""></total></pre>			55	0.00	63.95	0.00	13	0.00		initialise internal mass fractions (main.c:382 @ 403b3c)
8	<pre>reactor->reaction_rate_constants[i] =</pre>			56	0.00	63.95	0.00	13	0.00	0.00	prepare_data_file (main.c:628 @ 404b0a)
19	arrhenius_coefficients->A[i] *			57	0.00	63.95	0.00	13	0.00	0.00	print_header (main.c:640 @ 404bfb)
.0	exp((-arrhenius_coefficients->E[i])/(R_times_temp));			58	0.00	63.95	0.00	13	0.00	0.00	setup_reactors (main.c:334 @ 4037c9)
		592,67	63%								6,77 Тор







- Optimise with focus on memory as well as CPU cycles and communication between cores
- Memory is not cheap and can get consumed very easily if not careful

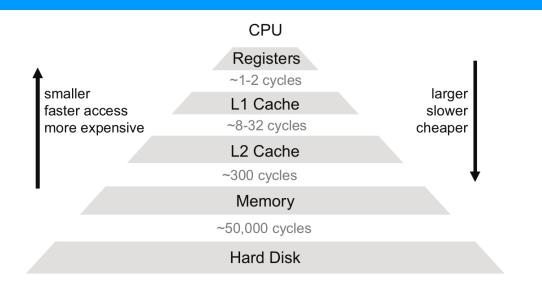


Fig. 5. Memory hierarchy. Typical latencies for data transfers from the CPU to each of the levels are shown. The numbers shown here are only an indication, and the actual numbers will depend on the exact architecture under consideration.

Chellappa S., Franchetti F., Puschel M., 2008, How to write fast numerical code: A small introduction, Generative and Transformational Techniques in Software Engineering II: International Summer School, GTTSE 2007, Braga, Portugal, July 2-7, 2007.





Summary

- Try and write quality code with focus on being:
 - Readable, simple, and therefore maintainable
 - Correct, error/warning free
 - Portable
 - Stable
 - Can handle errors where most likely to occur
- Optimise your whole workflow, and lastly work on speeding up your code
- If you optimise be careful not to speed-up at the expense of code quality
- Good luck!

