PETSc Developers Manual

by

The PETSc Team
http://www.mcs.anl.gov/petsc

This document is intended for use with PETSc 3.7

April 2016

This work was supported in part by the Office of Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Office of Science, U.S. Department of Energy, under Contract DE-AC02-06CH11357.
Abstract:

PETSc is a set of extensible software libraries for scientific computation. PETSc is designed using an object-oriented architecture. This means that libraries consist of objects that have certain, defined functionality. This document defines how these objects are implemented.

The text assumes that you are familiar with PETSc and have access to PETSc source code and documentation (available via http://www.mcs.anl.gov/petsc).

Before contributing code to PETSc, please read Chapter 2, which contains the source code style guide. http://www.mcs.anl.gov/petsc/developers/index.html contains information on how to submit patches and pull requests to PETSc.

Please direct all comments and questions regarding PETSc design and development to petsc-dev@mcs.anl.gov. Note that all bug reports and questions regarding the use of PETSc should continue to be directed to petsc-maint@mcs.anl.gov.
Contents

1 Answering petsc-maint@mcs.anl.gov and petsc-users@mcs.anl.gov 7

2 Style Guide 8
  2.1 Names .......................................................... 8
  2.2 Coding Conventions and Style ................................. 9
    2.2.1 C Formatting .............................................. 9
    2.2.2 C Usage ................................................... 11
    2.2.3 Usage of PETSc Functions and Macros .................. 11
  2.3 Formatted Comments .......................................... 13
    2.3.1 Man Page Format ........................................ 13

3 The PETSc Kernel 15
  3.1 PETSc Types .................................................. 15
  3.2 Implementation of Error Handling ............................. 16
    3.2.1 Simplified Interface .................................... 16
    3.2.2 Error Handlers .......................................... 16
    3.2.3 Error Codes .............................................. 17
    3.2.4 Detailed Error Messages ................................. 17
  3.3 Implementation of Profiling .................................. 18
    3.3.1 Profiling Object Creation and Destruction .............. 18
    3.3.2 Profiling Events ........................................ 18
    3.3.3 Controlling Profiling ................................... 18

4 Basic Object Design 19
  4.1 Introduction .................................................. 19
  4.2 Organization of the Source Code .............................. 19
  4.3 Common Object Header ....................................... 20
  4.4 Common Object Functions ................................... 22
  4.5 Object Function Implementation .............................. 23
    4.5.1 Compose and Query ....................................... 23
    4.5.2 Compose and Query Function ............................ 24
    4.5.3 Simple PETSc Objects .................................. 25

5 PetscObjects 26
  5.1 Elementary Objects: IS, Vec, Mat ........................... 26
  5.2 Solver Objects: PC, KSP, SNES, TS .......................... 26
    5.2.1 Preconditioners: PC .................................... 26
    5.2.2 Krylov Solvers: KSP .................................... 26
    5.2.3 ODE and DAE Solvers (Timesteppers): TS ............... 26
5.2.4 Registering New Methods .............................................. 26

6  The Various Matrix Classes .............................................. 27
   6.1  Matrix Blocking Strategies ......................................... 27
       6.1.1  Sequential AIJ Sparse Matrices ............................... 28
       6.1.2  Parallel AIJ Sparse Matrices ................................. 28
       6.1.3  Sequential Block AIJ Sparse Matrices ....................... 28
       6.1.4  Parallel Block AIJ Sparse Matrices ......................... 29
       6.1.5  Sequential Dense Matrices .................................... 29
       6.1.6  Parallel Dense Matrices ...................................... 29
Chapter 1

Answering petsc-maint@mcs.anl.gov and petsc-users@mcs.anl.gov

- Try to be polite. (This is not always easy.)
- Address the person by name (when it is possible to determine their name).
- Apologize for the problem when it is appropriate (but not otherwise).
- Thank the person for their patience if it is more than six hours since the report came in.
- If the person drops the petsc-maint or petsc-users from the reply list, add it back in.
- Often, it pays to not ask too many questions or give too many suggestions in the same email. The user often only responds to the first of them.
Chapter 2

Style Guide

The PETSc team uses certain conventions to make our source code consistent. Groups developing
code compatible with PETSc are, of course, free to organize their own source code anyway they
like.

2.1 Names

Consistency of names for variables, functions, etc. is extremely important in making the package
both usable and maintainable. We use several conventions:

1. All function names and enum types consist of words, each of which is capitalized, for example
   KSPSolve() and MatGetOrdering().

2. All enum elements and macro variables are named with all capital letters. When they con-
sist of several complete words, there is an underscore between each word. For example,
   MAT_FINAL_ASSEMBLY or PETSC_USE_COMPLEX.

3. Functions that are private to PETSc (not callable by the application code) either
   • have an appended _Private (for example, StashValues_Private) or
   • have an appended _Subtype (for example, MatMult_SeqAIJ).

   In addition, functions that are not intended for use outside of a particular file are declared
   static. Also see item 14 in Section 2.2.3.

4. Function names in structures are the same as the base application function name without the
   object prefix, and all are in small letters. For example, MatMultTranspose() has a structure
   name of multtranspose().

5. Each application usable function begins with the name of the class object, followed by any sub-
   class name, for example, ISInvertPermutation(), MatMult() or KSPGMRESSetRestart().

6. Functions that PETSc provides as defaults for user providable functions end with Default
   (for example, KSPMonitorDefault() or PetscSignalHandlerDefault())

7. Options database keys are lower case, have an underscore between words, and match the
   function name associated with the option without the word “set” or “get”. For example,
   -ksp_gmres_restart.

8. XXXTypes (for example KSPType) do not have an underscore in them, unless they refer to
   another package that uses an underscore, for example MATSOLVERSUPERLU_DIST.
2.2 Coding Conventions and Style

Within the PETSc source code, we adhere to the following guidelines so that the code is uniform and easily maintainable.

2.2.1 C Formatting

1. All PETSc function bodies are indented two characters. No literal tabs should be used.

2. Each additional level of loops, if statements, etc. is indented two more characters.

3. Wrapping lines should be avoided whenever possible.

4. Source code lines do not have a hard length limit; generally, we like them less than 150 characters wide.

5. The local variable declarations should be aligned. For example, use the style

```
PetscScalar a;
PetscInt   i,j;
```

instead of

```
PetscScalar a;
PetscInt i,j; /* Incorrect */
```

6. The prototypes for functions should not include the names of the variables; for example write

```
PetscErrorCode MyFunction(PetscInt);
```

not

```
PetscErrorCode MyFunction(PetscInt myvalue); /* Incorrect */
```

7. All local variables of a particular type (e.g., int) should be listed on the same line if possible; otherwise, they should be listed on adjacent lines.

8. Equal signs should be aligned in regions where possible.

9. There must be a single blank line between the local variable declarations and the body of the function.

10. Indentation for if statements must be done as

```
if ( ) {
   ....
} else {
   ....
}
```

11. Never have

```
if ( )
   a single indented line /* Incorrect */
```
or

```c
for ( )
    a single indented line /* Incorrect */
```

instead use either

```c
if ( ) a single statement
```

or

```c
if ( ) {
    a single indented line
}
```

Note that error checking is a separate statement, so the following is incorrect

```c
if ( ) ierr = XXX();CHKERRQ(ierr); /* Incorrect */
```

and instead one should use

```c
if ( ) {
    ierr = XXX();CHKERRQ(ierr);
}
```

12. Always have a space between `if` or `for` and the following `)`. 

13. No tabs are allowed in any of the source code.

14. The open brace should be on the same line as the `if ( )` test, `for ( )`, etc., never on its own line. For example

```c
} else {

never

}
else { /* Incorrect */
```

See item 15 for an exception. The closing brace should always be on its own line.

15. In function declarations, the opening brace should be on the next line, not on the same line as the function name and arguments. This is an exception to item 14.

16. Do not leave chunks of commented-out code in the source files.

17. Do not use C++-style comments (`// Comment`). Use only C-style comments (`/* Comment */`).

18. Do not include a space after a `(` or before a `)`. Do not write

```c
ierr = PetscMalloc1( 10,&a );CHKERRQ(ierr); /* Incorrect */
```

but instead write
19. Do not use a space after the ) in a cast, or between the type and the * in a caste.

20. Do not include a space before or after a comma in lists That is, do not write

```c
int a, b, c;
ierr = func(a, 22.0); CHKERRQ(ierr); /* Incorrect */
```

but instead write

```c
int a, b, c;
ierr = func(a, 22.0); CHKERRQ(ierr);
```

### 2.2.2 C Usage

1. Array and pointer arguments where the array values are not changed should be labeled as `const` arguments.

2. Scalar values passed to functions should never be labeled as `const`.

3. Subroutines that would normally have a `void**` argument to return a pointer to some data should actually be prototyped as `void*`. This prevents the caller from having to put a `(void**)` caste in each function call. See, for example, `DMDAVecGetArray()`.

4. Do not use the `register` directive.

5. Never use a local variable counter like `PetscInt flops = 0;` to accumulate flops and then call `PetscLogFlops();` always just call `PetscLogFlops()` directly when needed.

6. Do not use `if (rank == 0)` or `if (v == NULL)` or `if (flg == PETSC_TRUE)` or `if (flg == PETSC_FALSE)`. Instead, use `if (!rank)` or `if (!v)` or `if (!flg)` or `if (!flg).

7. Do not use `#ifdef` or `#ifndef`. Rather, use `#if defined(...` or `#if !defined(...`.

### 2.2.3 Usage of PETSc Functions and Macros

1. Public PETSc includes, `petsc*.h`, should not include private PETSc `petsc/private/*impl.h` includes.

2. Public and private PETSc includes cannot include include files in the PETSc source tree.

3. The first line of the executable statements in a function must be `PetscFunctionBegin;`

4. Use `PetscFunctionReturn(returnvalue);` not `return(returnvalue);`

5. Never put a function call in a `return` statement; do not do

   ```c
   PetscFunctionReturn( somefunction(...) ); /* Incorrect */
   ```

6. Do not put a blank line immediately after `PetscFunctionBegin`; or a blank line immediately before `PetscFunctionReturn(0);`. 
7. Do not use \texttt{sqrt()}, \texttt{pow()}, \texttt{sin()}, etc. directly in PETSc source code or examples. Rather, use \texttt{PetscSqrtScalar()}, \texttt{PetscSqrtReal()}, etc., depending on the context. See \texttt{petscmath.h} for expressions to use.

8. \texttt{assert.h} should not be included in PETSc source and \texttt{assert()} should not be used. It doesn’t play well in the parallel MPI world.

9. The macros \texttt{SETERRQ()} and \texttt{CHKERRQ()} should be on the same line as the routine to be checked unless this violates the 150 character width rule. Try to make error messages short, but informative.

10. Do not include a space before \texttt{CHKXXX()}. That is, do not write

\begin{verbatim}
 ierr = PetscMalloc1(10,&a); CHKERRQ(ierr); /* Incorrect */
\end{verbatim}

but instead write

\begin{verbatim}
 ierr = PetscMalloc1(10,&a);CHKERRQ(ierr);
\end{verbatim}

11. Except in code that may be called before PETSc is fully initialized, always use \texttt{PetscMallocN()} (for example \texttt{PetscMalloc1()}), \texttt{PetscCallocN()}, \texttt{PetscNew()}, and \texttt{PetscFree()}, not \texttt{malloc()} and \texttt{free()}.

12. MPI routines and macros that are not part of the 1.0 or 1.1 standard should not be used in PETSc without appropriate \texttt{./configure} checks and \texttt{#if defined()} checks. Code should also be provided that works if the MPI feature is not available. For example,

\begin{verbatim}
#if defined(PETSC_HAVE_MPI_IN_PLACE)
    ierr = MPI_Allgatherv(MPI_IN_PLACE,0,MPI_DATATYPE_NULL,lens,
                      recvcounts,displs,MPIU_INT,comm);CHKERRQ(ierr);
#else
    ierr = MPI_Allgatherv(lens,sendcount,MPIU_INT,lens,recvcounts,
                      displs,MPIU_INT,comm);CHKERRQ(ierr);
#endif
\end{verbatim}

13. There shall be no PETSc routines introduced that provide essentially the same functionality as an available MPI routine. For example, one should not write a routine \texttt{PetscGlobalSum()} that takes a scalar value and performs an \texttt{MPI_Allreduce()} on it. One should use \texttt{MPI_Allreduce()} directly in the code.

14. Library functions should be declared \texttt{PETSC_INTERN} if they are intended to be visible only within a single shared library. They should be declared \texttt{PETSC_EXTERN} if intended to be visible across shared libraries. Note that PETSc can be configured to build a separate shared library for each top-level class (Mat, Vec, KSP, etc.) and that plugin implementations of these classes can be included as separate shared libraries; thus, private functions may be marked \texttt{PETSC_EXTERN}. For example,

- \texttt{MatStashCreate_Private} is marked \texttt{PETSC_INTERN} as it is used across compilation units, but only within the \texttt{Mat} package.
- All functions, such as \texttt{KSPCreate()}, included in the public headers (\texttt{include/petsc*.h}) should be marked \texttt{PETSC_EXTERN}. 


MatHeaderReplace() is not intended for users (it is in include/petsc/private/matimpl.h) but is marked PETSC_EXTERN since it is used both by implementations of the Mat class (which could be defined in plugin implementations) and by functions in the DM and KSP packages.

2.3 Formatted Comments

PETSc uses formatted comments and the Sowing packages to generate documentation (manual pages) and the Fortran interfaces. Documentation for Sowing and the formatting may be found at http://wgropp.cs.illinois.edu/projects/software/sowing/; in particular, see the documentation for doctext.

- /*@ indicates a formatted comment of a function that will be used for both documentation and a Fortran interface.
- /*@C a formatted comment of a function that will be used only for documentation
- /*E a formatted comment of an enum used for documentation only, note that each of these needs to be listed in lib/petsc/conf/bfort-petsc.txt as a native and defined in the corresponding include/petsc/finclude/petscxxx.h fortran include file and the values set as parameters in the file include/petsc/finclude/petscxxx.h
- /*S a formatted comment for a data type such as KSP, note that each of these needs to be listed in lib/petsc/conf/bfort-petsc.txt as a nativeptr.
- /*M a formatted comment of a CPP macro used for both documentation and a Fortran interface.
- /*MC a formatted comment of a CPP macro for documentation.

Functions that take char* or function pointer arguments must have the C symbol. The Fortran interface generator cannot handle them, so the Fortran interface for them must be created manually.

The Fortran interface files go into the three directories depending on how they are created: ftn-auto, ftn-custom, ftn-f90.

2.3.1 Man Page Format

Each function, typedef, class, macro, enum, etc. in the public API should include the following data, correctly formatted in a block (see above) to generate complete man pages and Fortran interfaces with Sowing. All entries below should be separated by blank lines.

- The item’s name, followed by a dash and brief (one-sentence) description
- (Optional for simple items) A longer description of the function. This should include literature references if relevant.
- If documenting a function, a description of the function’s “collectivity” (whether all ranks in an MPI communicator need to participate)
- Not Collective if the function need not be called on all MPI ranks
- Collective [on XXX] if the function is a collective operation [with respect to the data of class XXX]
- Logically Collective [on XXX] if the function is collective but does not require any actual synchronization (say, setting class parameters uniformly).

- If documenting a function with input parameters, a list of input parameter descriptions in an **Input Parameters:** section
- If documenting a function with output parameters, a list of output parameter descriptions in an **Output Parameters:** section
- If documenting a function which interacts with the options database, a list of options database keys in an **Options Database Keys:** section
- (Optional) a **Notes:** section. In-depth discussion, technical caveats, special cases, and so on should be listed here. If it is ambiguous whether returned pointers need to be freed by the user or not, this information should be mentioned here.
- (If applicable) a **Fortran Notes:** section, detailing any relevant differences in calling or using the item.
- **Level:** followed by beginner, intermediate, advanced, or developer
- (Optional) a list of **Concepts:**
- (Optional) a list of **Keywords:**
- The **.seealso:** keyword and a list of related man pages. These man pages should usually also point back to this man page.
Chapter 3

The PETSc Kernel

PETSc provides a variety of basic services for writing scalable, component based libraries; these are referred to as the PETSc kernel. The source code for the kernel is in src/sys. It contains systematic support for

- PETSc types
- error handling
- memory management
- profiling
- object management
- file IO
- an options database
- basic objects for viewing and drawing.

Each of these is discussed in a section below.

3.1 PETSc Types

For maximum flexibility, the basic data types int, double, etc. are generally not used in source code. Rather it has:

- PetscScalar
- PetscInt
- PetscMPIInt
- PetscBLASInt
- PetscBool
- PetscBT - bit storage of logical true and false

PetscInt can be set using ./configure to be either int (32 bit, the default) or long long (64 bit, with configure --with-64-bit-indices) to allow indexing into very large arrays. PetscMPIInt are used for integers passed to MPI as counts, etc. These are always int since that is what the MPI standard uses. Similarly, PetscBLASInt is for counts, etc. passed to BLAS and LAPACK routines. These are almost always int unless one is using a special “64 bit integer” BLAS/LAPACK (this is available, for example, on Solaris system and with Intel’s MKL).

In addition, there are special types:

- PetscClassId
3.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF ERROR HANDLING

PETSc uses a “call error handler; then (depending on result) return error code” model when problems are detected in the running code. The public include file for error handling is include/petscerror.h, and the source code for the PETSc error handling is in src/sys/error/.

3.2.1 Simplified Interface

The simplified C/C++ macro-based interface consists of the following two calls:

- `CHKERRQ(ierr);`
- `CHKERRQ(ierr);`

The macro `CHKERRQ()` is defined by

```c
if (ierr) PetscError(PETSC_COMM_SELF,__LINE__,PETSC_FUNC__,__FILE__,ierr,PETSC_ERROR_REPEAT," ");
```

In addition to `SETERRQ()`, there are macros `SETERRQ1()`, `SETERRQ2()`, `SETERRQ3()` and `SETERRQ4()` that allow one to provide additional arguments to a formatted message string. For example,

```c
SETERRQ2(comm,PETSC_ERR,"Iteration overflow: its %d norm %g",its,norm);
```

The reason for the numbered format is that CPP macros cannot handle a variable number of arguments.

3.2.2 Error Handlers

The error handling function `PetscError()` calls the “current” error handler with the code

```c
PetscErrorCode PetscError(MPI_Comm,int line,const char *func,const char *file,
const char *dir,error code,error type,
const char *mess)
{
    PetscErrorCode ierr;
}
```
PetscFunctionBegin;
if (!eh) ierr = PetscTraceBackErrorHandler(line, func, file, dir, error code, error type, mess, 0);
else ierr = (*eh->handler)(line, func, file, dir, error code, error type, mess, eh->ctx);
PetscFunctionReturn(ierr);
}

The variable `eh` is the current error handler context and is defined in `src/sys/error/err.c` as

```c
typedef struct _EH* EH;
struct _EH {
    PetscErrorCode handler(MPI_Comm, int, const char*, const char*, const char*,
                           PetscErrorCode, PetscErrorType, const char*, void*);
    void *ctx;
    EH previous;
};
```

One can set a new error handler with the command `PetscPushErrorHandler()`, which maintains a linked list of error handlers. The most recent error handler is removed via `PetscPopErrorHandler()`.

PETSc provides several default error handlers:

- `PetscTraceBackErrorHandler()`,
- `PetscAbortErrorHandler()`, called with `-on_error_abort`,
- `PetscReturnErrorHandler()`,
- `PetscEmacsClientErrorHandler()`,
- `PetscMPIAbortErrorHandler()`, and
- `PetscAttachDebuggerErrorHandler()`, called with `-on_error_attach_debugger`.

### 3.2.3 Error Codes

The PETSc error handler takes a generic error code. The generic error codes are defined in `include/petscerror.h`. The same generic error code is used many times in the libraries. For example, the generic error code `PETSC_ERR_MEM` is used whenever requested memory allocation is not available.

### 3.2.4 Detailed Error Messages

In a modern parallel component-oriented application code, it does not make sense to simply print error messages to the screen (and more than likely there is no “screen”, for example with Windows applications). PETSc provides the replaceable function pointer

```c
(*PetscErrorPrintf)("Format",...);
```

that, by default prints to standard out. Thus, error messages should not be printed with `printf()` or `fprintf()`. Rather, they should be printed with `(*PetscErrorPrintf)()`. One can direct all error messages to stderr with the command line options `-error_output_stderr`.
3.3 Implementation of Profiling

This section provides details about the implementation of event logging and profiling within the PETSc kernel. The interface for profiling in PETSc is contained in the file `include/petsclog.h`. The source code for the profile logging is in `src/sys/plog/`.

3.3.1 Profiling Object Creation and Destruction

The creation of objects is profiled with the command `PetscLogObjectCreate()`

```c
PetscLogObjectCreate(PetscObject h);
```

which logs the creation of any PETSc object. Just before an object is destroyed, it should be logged with `PetscLogObjectDestroy()`

```c
PetscLogObjectDestroy(PetscObject h);
```

These are called automatically by `PetscHeaderCreate()` and `PetscHeaderDestroy()` which are used in creating all objects inherited off the basic object. Thus, these logging routines should never be called directly.

If an object has a clearly defined parent object (for instance, when a work vector is generated for use in a Krylov solver), this information is logged with the command `PetscLogObjectParent()`

```c
PetscLogObjectParent(PetscObject parent, PetscObject child);
```

It is also useful to log information about the state of an object, as can be done with the command `PetscLogObjectState()`

```c
PetscLogObjectState(PetscObject h, const char *format,...);
```

For example, for sparse matrices we usually log the matrix dimensions and number of nonzeros.

3.3.2 Profiling Events

Events are logged using the pair `PetscLogEventBegin()`

```c
PetscLogEventBegin(PetscLogEvent event, PetscObject o1,...,PetcObject o4);
PetscLogEventEnd(PetscLogEvent event, PetscObject o1,...,PetcObject o4);
```

This logging is usually done in the abstract interface file for the operations, for example, `src/mat/interface/matrix.c`.

3.3.3 Controlling Profiling

Routines that control the default profiling available in PETSc include:

- `PetscLogDefaultBegin()``
- `PetscLogAllBegin()``
- `PetscLogDump(const char *filename)`
- `PetscLogView(PetscViewer)`

These routines are normally called by the `PetscInitialize()` and `PetscFinalize()` routines when the option `-log_view` is given.
Chapter 4

Basic Object Design

PETSc is designed using strong data encapsulation. Hence, any collection of data (for instance, a sparse matrix) is stored in a way that is completely private from the application code. The application code can manipulate the data only through a well-defined interface, as it does not “know” how the data is stored internally.

4.1 Introduction

PETSc is designed around several classes (e.g. Vec (vectors), Mat (matrices, both dense and sparse)). Each class is implemented using a C struct that contains the data and function pointers for operations on the data (much like virtual functions in C++ classes). Each class consists of three parts:

1. A (small) common part shared by all PETSc classes (for example both KSP and PC have this same header),
2. another common part shared by all PETSc implementations of the class (for example both KSP_GMRES and KSP_CG have this common sub-header), and
3. a private part used by only one particular implementation written in PETSc.

For example, all matrix (Mat) classes share a function table of operations that may be performed on the matrix; all PETSc matrix implementations share some additional data fields, including matrix size, while a particular matrix implementation in PETSc (say compressed sparse row) has its own data fields for storing the actual matrix values and sparsity pattern. This will be explained in more detail in the following sections. People providing new class implementations must use the PETSc common part.

We will use <class>_<implementation> to denote the actual source code and data structures used for a particular implementation of an object that has the <class> interface.

4.2 Organization of the Source Code

Each class has

- Its own, application public, include file include/petsc<class>.h
- Its own directory, src/<class>
- A data structure defined in the file include/petsc/private/<class>impl.h. This data structure is shared by all the different PETSc implementations of the class. For example, for matrices it is shared by dense, sparse, parallel, and sequential formats.
• An abstract interface that defines the application-callable functions for the class. These are defined in the directory src/<class>/interface. This is how polymorphism is supported with code that implements the abstract interface to the operations on the object. Essentially, these routines do some error checking of arguments and logging of profiling information and then call the function appropriate for the particular implementation of the object. The name of the abstract function is <class>Operation, for instance, MatMult() or PCCreate(), while the name of a particular implementation is <class>Operation_<implementation>, for instance, MatMult_SeqAIJ() or PCCreate_ILU(). These naming conventions are used to simplify code maintenance (Also see Section 2.1).

• One or more actual implementations of the class (for example, sparse uniprocessor and parallel matrices implemented with the AIJ storage format). These are each in a subdirectory of src/<class>/impls. Except in rare circumstances data structures defined here should not be referenced from outside this directory.

Each type of object, for instance a vector, is defined in its own public include file, by typedef _p_<class>* <class>; (for example, typedef _p_Vec* Vec;). This organization allows the compiler to perform type checking on all subroutine calls while at the same time completely removing the details of the implementation of _p_<class> from the application code. This capability is extremely important because it allows the library internals to be changed without altering or re-compiling the application code.

### 4.3 Common Object Header

All PETSc/PETSc objects have the following common header structures defined in include/petsc/private/petscimpl.h:

Listing 4.1: Function table common to all PETSc compatible classes

```c
typedef struct {
    PetscErrorCode (*getcomm)(PetscObject,MPI_Comm*);
    PetscErrorCode (*view)(PetscObject,Viewer);
    PetscErrorCode (*destroy)(PetscObject);
    PetscErrorCode (*query)(PetscObject,const char*,PetscObject*);
    PetscErrorCode (*compose)(PetscObject,const char*,PetscObject*);
    PetscErrorCode (*composefunction)(PetscObject,const char*,void(*)(void));
    PetscErrorCode (*queryfunction)(PetscObject,const char*,void(**)(void));
} PetscOps;
```

Listing 4.2: Data structure header common to all PETSc compatible classes

```c
struct _p_<class> { 
    PetscClassId    classid;
    PetscOps        *bops;
    <class>Ops      *ops;
    MPI_Comm        comm;
    PetscLogDouble  flops,time,mem;
    int             id;
    int             refct;
    int             tag;
    DLList          qlist;
}
```
Here `<class>ops` is a function table (like the `PetscOps` above) that contains the function pointers for the operations specific to that class. For example, the PETSc vector class object operations in `include/petsc/private/vecimpl.h` include the following:

Listing 4.3: Function table common to all PETSc compatible vector objects (truncated)

```c
typedef struct _VecOps* VecOps;
struct _VecOps {
    PetscErrorCode (*duplicate)(Vec,Vec*); /* get single vector */
    PetscErrorCode (*duplicatevecs)(Vec,PetscInt,Vec**); /* get array of vectors */
    PetscErrorCode (*destroyvecs)(PetscInt,Vec[]); /* free array of vectors */
    PetscErrorCode (*dot)(Vec,Vec,PetscScalar*); /* z = x^T * y */
    PetscErrorCode (*norm)(Vec,NormType,PetscReal*); /* z = sqrt(x^T * x) */
    PetscErrorCode (*tdot)(Vec,Vec,PetscScalar*); /* x'y */
    PetscErrorCode (*mtdot)(Vec,PetscInt,const Vec[],PetscScalar*); /* z[j] = x dot y[j] */
    PetscErrorCode (*scale)(Vec,PetscScalar); /* x = alpha * x */
    PetscErrorCode (*copy)(Vec,Vec); /* y = x */
    PetscErrorCode (*set)(Vec,PetscScalar); /* y = alpha */
    PetscErrorCode (*swap)(Vec,Vec); /* exchange x and y */
    PetscErrorCode (*axpy)(Vec,PetscScalar,Vec); /* y = y + alpha * x */
    PetscErrorCode (*axpby)(Vec,PetscScalar,PetscScalar,Vec); /* y = alpha * x + beta * y*/
    ... (ETC.) ...
};
```

Listing 4.4: Data structure header common to all PETSc vector classes

```c
struct _p_Vec {
    PetscClassId classid;
    PetscOps *bops;
    VecOps *ops;
    MPI_Comm comm;
    PetscLogDouble flops,time,mem;
    int id;
    int refct;
};
```
Each PETSc object begins with a PetscClassId which is used for error checking. Each different class of objects has its value for classid; these are used to distinguish between classes. When a new class is created one needs to call

```c
ierr = PetscClassIdRegister(const char *classname,PetscClassId *classid);CHKERRQ(ierr);
```

For example,

```c
ierr = PetscClassIdRegister("index set",&IS_CLASSID);CHKERRQ(ierr);
```

One can verify that an object is valid of a particular class with PetscValidHeaderSpecific, for example

```c
PetscValidHeaderSpecific(x,VEC_CLASSID,1);
```

The third argument to this macro indicates the position in the calling sequence of the function the object was passed in. This is to generate more complete error messages.

To check for an object of any type use

```c
PetscValidHeader(x,1);
```

### 4.4 Common Object Functions

Several routines are provided for manipulating data within the header. These include the specific functions in the PETSc common function table.

- `getcomm(PetscObject,MPI_Comm*)` obtains the MPI communicator associated with this object.
- `view(PetscObject,Viewer)` allows one to store or visualize the data inside an object. If the Viewer is null than should cause the object to print information on the object to standard out. PETSc provides a variety of simple viewers.
- `destroy(PetscObject)` causes the reference count of the object to be decreased by one or the object to be destroyed and all memory used by the object to be freed when the reference count drops to zero. If the object has any other objects composed with it then they are each sent a `destroy()`, i.e. the `destroy()` function is called on them also.
• compose(PetscObject,const char *name,PetscObject) associates the second object with the first object and increases the reference count of the second object. If an object with the same name was previously composed, that object is dereferenced and replaced with the new object. If the second object is null and an object with the same name has already been composed that object is dereferenced (the destroy() function is called on it, and that object is removed from the first object); i.e. this is a way to remove, by name, an object that was previously composed.

• query(PetscObject,const char *name,PetscObject*) retrieves an object that was previously composed with the first object. Retrieves a null if no object with that name was previously composed.

• composefunction(PetscObject,const char *name,const char *fname,void *func) associates a function pointer to an object. If the object already had a composed function with the same name, the old one is replaced. If func is NULL the existing function is removed from the object. The string fname is the character string name of the function; it may include the path name or URL of the dynamic library where the function is located. The argument name is a “short” name of the function to be used with the queryfunction() call. On systems that support dynamic libraries the func argument is ignored; otherwise func is the actual function pointer.

For example, fname may be libpetscksp:PCCreate_LU or http://www.mcs.anl.gov/petsc/libpetscksp:PCCreate_LU.

• queryfunction(PetscObject,const char *name,void **func) retrieves a function pointer that was associated with the object. If dynamic libraries are used, the function is loaded into memory at this time (if it has not been previously loaded), not when the composefunction() routine was called.

Since the object composition allows one to only compose PETSc objects with PETSc objects rather than any arbitrary pointer, PETSc provides the convenience object PetscContainer, created with the routine PetscContainerCreate(MPI_Comm,PetscContainer*) to allow one to wrap any kind of data into a PETSc object that can then be composed with a PETSc object.

4.5 Object Function Implementation

This section discusses how PETSc implements the compose(), query(), composefunction(), and queryfunction() functions for its object implementations. Other PETSc compatible class implementations are free to manage these functions in any manner; but generally they would use the PETSc defaults so that the library writer does not have to “reinvent the wheel.”

4.5.1 Compose and Query

In src/sys/objects/olist.c, PETSc defines a C struct

```c
typedef struct _PetscObjectList* PetscObjectList;
struct _PetscObjectList {
    char    name[128];
    PetscObject    obj;
    PetscObjectList    next;
};
```

from which linked lists of composed objects may be constructed. The routines to manipulate these elementary objects are
4.5. OBJECT FUNCTION IMPLEMENTATION

The function `PetscObjectListAdd()` will create the initial `PetscObjectList` if the argument `fl` points to a null.

The PETSc object compose() and query() functions are then simply (defined in `src/sys/objects/inherit.c`)

```c
PetscErrorCode PetscObjectCompose_Petsc(PetscObject obj, const char *name, PetscObject ptr)
{
    PetscErrorCode ierr;

    PetscFunctionBegin;
    ierr = PetscObjectListAdd(&obj->olist, name, ptr); CHKERRQ(ierr);
    PetscFunctionReturn(0);
}
```

```c
PetscErrorCode PetscObjectQuery_Petsc(PetscObject obj, const char *name, PetscObject *ptr)
{
    PetscErrorCode ierr;

    PetscFunctionBegin;
    ierr = PetscObjectListFind(obj->olist, name, ptr); CHKERRQ(ierr);
    PetscFunctionReturn(0);
}
```

4.5.2 Compose and Query Function

PETSc allows one to compose functions by specifying a name and function pointer. In `src/sys/dll/reg.c`, PETSc defines the linked list structure

```c
struct _n_PetscFunctionList {
    void (*routine)(void); /* the routine */
    char *name; /* string to identify routine */
    PetscFunctionList next; /* next pointer */
    PetscFunctionList next_list; /* used to maintain list of all lists
    for freeing */
};
```

Each PETSc object contains a `PetscFunctionList` object. The `composefunction()` and `queryfunction()` are given by

```c
PetscErrorCode PetscObjectComposeFunction_Petsc(PetscObject obj, const char *name, void *ptr)
{
    PetscErrorCode ierr;
```
PetscFunctionBegin;
  ierr = PetscFunctionListAdd(&obj->qlist,name,fname,ptr);CHKERRQ(ierr);
PetscFunctionReturn(0);
}

PetscErrorCode PetscObjectQueryFunction_Petsc(PetscObject obj,const char *name,void (**ptr)(void))
{
  PetscErrorCode ierr;

  PetscFunctionBegin;
  ierr = PetscFunctionListFind(obj->qlist,name,ptr);CHKERRQ(ierr);
PetscFunctionReturn(0);
}

In addition to using the PetscFunctionList mechanism to compose functions into PETSc objects, it is also used to allow registration of new class implementations; for example, new preconditioners - see Section 5.2.4.

4.5.3 Simple PETSc Objects

There are some simple PETSc objects that do not need PETSCHEADER and the associated functionality. These objects are internally named as _n_<class> as opposed to _p_<class>. For example, _n_PetscTable vs _p_Vec.
Chapter 5

PetscObjects

5.1 Elementary Objects: IS, Vec, Mat

5.2 Solver Objects: PC, KSP, SNES, TS

5.2.1 Preconditioners: PC
The base PETSc PC object is defined in the include/petsc/private/pcimpl.h include file. A carefully commented implementation of a PC object can be found in src/ksp.pc.impls/jacobi/jacobi.c.

5.2.2 Krylov Solvers: KSP
The base PETSc KSP object is defined in the include/petsc/private/kspimpl.h include file. A carefully commented implementation of a KSP object can be found in src/ksp/ksp.impls/cg/cg.c.

5.2.3 ODE and DAE Solvers (Timesteppers): TS
The base PETSc TS object is defined in the include/petsc/private/tsimpl.h include file.

5.2.4 Registering New Methods
See src/ksp/examples/tutorials/ex12.c for an example of registering a new preconditioning (PC) method.
Chapter 6

The Various Matrix Classes

PETSc provides a variety of matrix implementations, since no single matrix format is appropriate for all problems. This section first discusses various matrix blocking strategies, and then describes the assortment of matrix types within PETSc.

6.1 Matrix Blocking Strategies

In today’s computers, the time to perform an arithmetic operation is dominated by the time to move the data into position, not the time to compute the arithmetic result. For example, the time to perform a multiplication operation may be one clock cycle, while the time to move the floating point number from memory to the arithmetic unit may take 10 or more cycles. To help manage this difference in time scales, most processors have at least three levels of memory: registers, cache, and random access memory, RAM. (In addition, some processors have external caches, and the complications of paging introduce another level to the hierarchy.)

Thus, to achieve high performance, a code should first move data into cache, and from there move it into registers and use it repeatedly while it remains in the cache or registers before returning it to main memory. If one reuses a floating point number 50 times while it is in registers, then the “hit” of 10 clock cycles to bring it into the register is not important. But if the floating point number is used only once, the “hit” of 10 clock cycles becomes very noticeable, resulting in disappointing flop rates.

Unfortunately, the compiler controls the use of the registers, and the hardware controls the use of the cache. Since the user has essentially no direct control, code must be written in such a way that the compiler and hardware cache system can perform well. Good quality code is then be said to respect the memory hierarchy.

The standard approach to improving the hardware utilization is to use blocking. That is, rather than working with individual elements in the matrices, one employs blocks of elements. Since the use of implicit methods in PDE-based simulations leads to matrices with a naturally blocked structure (with a block size equal to the number of degrees of freedom per cell), blocking is extremely advantageous. The PETSc sparse matrix representations use a variety of techniques for blocking, including

- storing the matrices using a generic sparse matrix format, but storing additional information about adjacent rows with identical nonzero structure (so called I-nodes); this I-node information is used in the key computational routines to improve performance (the default for the MATSEQAIJ and MATMPIAIJ formats); and
• storing the matrices using a fixed (problem dependent) block size (via the MATSEQBAIJ and MATMPIBAIJ formats);

The advantage of the first approach is that it is a minimal change from a standard sparse matrix format and brings a large percent of the improvement one obtains via blocking. Using a fixed block size gives the best performance, since the code can be hardwired with that particular size (for example, in some problems the size may be 3, in others 5, etc.), so that the compiler will then optimize for that size, removing the overhead of small loops entirely.

The following table presents the floating point performance for a basic matrix-vector product using these three approaches: a basic compressed row storage format (using the PETSc runtime options -mat_seqaij -mat_no_unroll); the same compressed row format using I-nodes (with the option -mat_seqaij); and a fixed block size code, with a block size of three for these problems (using the option -mat_seqbaij). The rates were computed on one node of an older IBM SP, using two test matrices. The first matrix (ARCO1), courtesy of Rick Dean of Arco, arises in multiphase flow simulation; it has 1501 degrees of freedom, 26,131 matrix nonzeros, a natural block size of 3, and a small number of well terms. The second matrix (CFD), arises in a three-dimensional Euler flow simulation and has 15,360 degrees of freedom, 496,000 nonzeros, and a natural block size of 5. In addition to displaying the flop rates for matrix-vector products, we also display them for triangular solve obtained from an ILU(0) factorization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Block size</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>I-node version</th>
<th>Fixed block size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multiphase</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euler</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These examples demonstrate that careful implementations of the basic sequential kernels in PETSc can dramatically improve overall floating point performance, and users can immediately benefit from such enhancements without altering a single line of their application codes. Note that the speeds of the I-node and fixed block operations are several times that of the basic sparse implementations. The disappointing rates for the variable block size code occur because even on a sequential computer, the code performs the matrix-vector products and triangular solves using the coloring introduced above and thus does not utilize the cache particularly efficiently. This is an example of improving the parallelization capability at the expense of using each processor less efficiently.

### 6.1.1 Sequential AIJ Sparse Matrices

The default matrix representation within PETSc is the general sparse AIJ format (also called the Yale sparse matrix format or compressed sparse row format, CSR).

### 6.1.2 Parallel AIJ Sparse Matrices

This matrix type, which is the default parallel matrix format; additional implementation details are given in [1].

### 6.1.3 Sequential Block AIJ Sparse Matrices

The sequential and parallel block AIJ formats, which are extensions of the AIJ formats described above, are intended especially for use with multiclass PDEs. The block variants store matrix
elements by fixed-sized dense \( nb \times nb \) blocks. The stored row and column indices begin at zero.

The routine for creating a sequential block AIJ matrix with \( m \) rows, \( n \) columns, and a block size of \( nb \) is

```c
ierr = MatCreateSeqBAIJ(MPI_Comm comm,int nb,int m,int n,int nz,int *nnz,Mat *A)
```

The arguments \( nz \) and \( nnz \) can be used to preallocate matrix memory by indicating the number of block nonzeros per row. For good performance during matrix assembly, preallocation is crucial; however, the user can set \( nz=0 \) and \( nnz=NULL \) for PETSc to dynamically allocate matrix memory as needed. The PETSc users manual discusses preallocation for the AIJ format; extension to the block AIJ format is straightforward.

Note that the routine `MatSetValuesBlocked()` can be used for more efficient matrix assembly when using the block AIJ format.

6.1.4 Parallel Block AIJ Sparse Matrices

Parallel block AIJ matrices with block size \( nb \) can be created with the command `MatCreateBAIJ()`

```c
ierr = MatCreateBAIJ(MPIComm comm,int nb,int m,int n,int M,int N,int d_nz,
          int *d_nnz,int o_nz,int *o_nnz,Mat *A);
```

\( A \) is the newly created matrix, while the arguments \( m, n, M, \) and \( N \), indicate the number of local rows and columns and the number of global rows and columns, respectively. Either the local or global parameters can be replaced with `PETSC_DECIDE`, so that PETSc will determine `PETSC_DECIDE` them. The matrix is stored with a fixed number of rows on each processor, given by \( m \), or determined by PETSc if \( m \) is `PETSC_DECIDE`.

If `PETSC_DECIDE` is not used for \( m \) and \( n \) then the user must ensure that they are chosen to be compatible with the vectors. To do this, one first considers the product \( y = Ax \). The \( m \) that one uses in `MatCreateBAIJ()` must match the local size used in the `VecCreateMPI()` for \( y \). The \( n \) used must match that used as the local size in `VecCreateMPI()` for \( x \).

The user must set \( d_nz=0, o_nz=0, d_nnz=NULL, \) and \( o_nnz=NULL \) for PETSc to control dynamic allocation of matrix memory space. Analogous to \( nz \) and \( nnz \) for the routine `MatCreateSeqBAIJ()`, these arguments optionally specify block nonzero information for the diagonal \( (d_nz \) and \( d_nnz \)) and off-diagonal \( (o_nz \) and \( o_nnz \)) parts of the matrix. For a square global matrix, we define each processor’s diagonal portion to be its local rows and the corresponding columns (a square submatrix); each processor’s off-diagonal portion encompasses the remainder of the local matrix (a rectangular submatrix). The PETSc users manual gives an example of preallocation for the parallel AIJ matrix format; extension to the block parallel AIJ case is straightforward.

6.1.5 Sequential Dense Matrices

PETSc provides both sequential and parallel dense matrix formats, where each processor stores its entries in a column-major array in the usual Fortran77 style.

6.1.6 Parallel Dense Matrices

The parallel dense matrices are partitioned by rows across the processors, so that each local rectangular submatrix is stored in the dense format described above.
Bibliography