PMCD The Parallel Monte Carlo Driver

Software Manual

(version 1.0)

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1. Aims of the code

The main purpose of the code is to drive a user-supplied model in a Monte Carlo (MC) simulation. The driver has been developed to take advantage of parallel computation environments (either massively parallel computers or clusters of computers).

The code was developed with three main aims:

- Flexibility
- Portability
- Ease of use

By that we mean that the code should be able to satisfy the user's needs, it should run on different computer platforms with a minimal need for change to the code and the user should be able to understand and use the driver as easily and quickly as possible.

We use the term 'Monte Carlo simulation' in the sense that a given user supplied program will be run a pre-determined number of times using a different set of input parameters in each run. Our program is able to perform Monte Carlo simulations in this sense but can also perform other more elaborate simulations.

So, in addition to preparing a matrix with the input values for each simulation, the PMC driver allows one to make simulations over a range of different scenarios. This will make possible the study of model uncertainty in the field the user is interested in (for more information on model uncertainty see ref. [1] and the references mentioned therein)¹.

The user is free to choose how many model parameters are to be varied during the simulation, and there are several possible distributions for the set of its random values.

When the scenario uncertainty option is *on*, the driver is capable of doing a random choice of a scenario from a user defined list of possible scenarios and then perform a MC simulation of the user model in the chosen scenario.

There is an additional option that is very practical when the user is studying the model and wants to know how each isolated parameter affects the output. The

¹ This software was developed in the context of the European Commission funded project GESAMAC. Reading the project's final report will be of great help in understanding some of the most innovative features of our code.

program can run a set of simulations where only one user defined parameter is varied at a time in the user's model. When each parameter has been varied on its own, the program can do one last simulation with all the parameters varying.

2. Structure of the program: Overview

This chapter gives a general overview of the driver and each subsequent chapter goes a little deeper into the detail in describing the program.

In the field of parallel computation, the conceptual model for structuring this code is usually called Simple Program Multiple Data (SPMD). In plain terms, this means that each node uses the same program code and just runs it a few thousand times with different input data (see [4]).

The simplest situation is when the bayesian layer is turned *off*. In this case, the input preparator reads a file containing information on the user's input parameters and their distributions. It then prepares a matrix of the input values for each run. Once this is done the PMC driver calls the user program. The latter then runs, each time with a different set of inputs.

One of the nodes supplies all the others with work as they finish each set of of work.

Considering the most elaborate situation in which the scenarios option is *on*, the program performs the following tasks:

First it chooses a scenario at random from a list of pre-supplied scenarios and respective probabilities of occurrence (this part of the program we call the *Bayesian Layer*).

For each scenario there is a corresponding file that contains information concerning the input parameters for the user model.

Once the scenario is chosen, the names of the files to which it corresponds are forwarded to the next level of the program (which we call the *Input Preparator*) which basically generates all the input values needed to simulate that particular scenario.

An additional part of the program controls the workload of each node involved in the simulation in order to keep it as even as possible (we will refer to this as the *Workload Controller*).

When the simulation is over, the program returns to the beginning where the process of choosing a new scenario will take place and everything will start all over again.

Figure 1 provides a graphical representation of the program's structure of four main blocks.

The ensuing description of the code's structure will be divided into three parts: Firstly we describe the *Input Preparator*, or the part of the program that is directly above the *User's Program*. Secondly, we describe the *Bayesian Layer* which does all the extra work needed to run a simulation across the different scenarios. Thirdly, we address the parallel algorithms of the PMC driver and lay out the algorithmic structure of the driver.

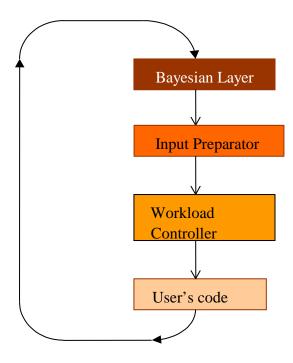


Fig.1 - Layout of the program's components and main routines.

2.1 The Input Preparator

This part of the program begins by reading two external files.

These files contain information on the parameters of the user model that are to vary during the MC simulation, what distribution they should have, the total number of runs to be performed, the maximum number of model parameters that are to be varied during the simulation, etc.

Having read these files, the program goes through the list of user parameters that are to vary and does a sampling of each of the desired distributions. The values generated are stored both externally (in a file) and internally (in a matrix).

2.2 The Bayesian Layer

This part of the code runs optionally.

The bayesian layer is built on top of the input preparator. It chooses one of the scenarios at random from a list according to its probability of occurrence (both previously supplied by the user).

Once that is done, the bayesian layer just supplies the input preparator with the input file name corresponding to the chosen scenario so that the latter can prepare the input for the user model.

The user model is run as many times as the user wants before choosing another scenario.

2.3 Parallel architecture and algorithms

The most general outline of the program is as follows:

The PMC driver itself is run on one node only (called the *master node*). This node prepares a matrix with all the input data needed for the simulation and controls the size of the next workload (i.e., fraction of the total number of runs to be performed) and which node should get it.

Each node executes its workload and writes its output to a local file.

See Figure 2 for a graphical representation of this concept.

Algorithm of the Input Preparator

Increasing a little the detail of the description, here is a rough listing/fluxogram of the input preparator (for the sake of simplicity, we assume that there is no simulation across scenarios – i.e., the bayesian layer is inactive). Please keep in mind that the PMC driver part of the code is run on one node only.

- 1. The program reads the <u>name</u> of the file containing all the constant values for the user model.
- 2. It makes the same number of copies of that file as there are nodes involved in that particular job. Each node will access its own copy of the input file during the MC simulation. (These files and any other files mentioned in this manual are kept in the same directory as the executables)

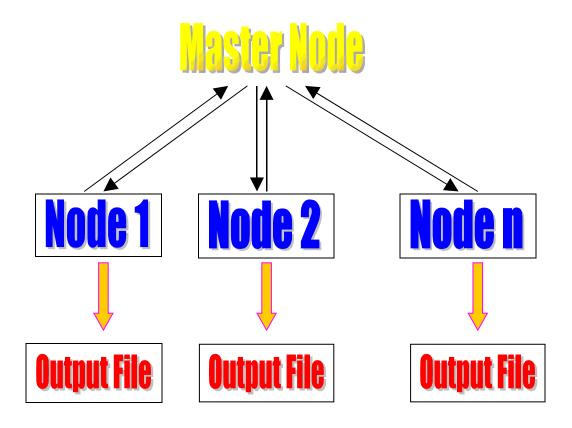


Fig. 2- Conceptual organisation of a MC simulation in a parallel environment.

- 3. Reads the file containing the parameters for the distributions of the input values of the model.
- 4. Generates a random distribution for each variable and stores it both in a matrix and an external file.
- 5. Generates the output files to which each node will write its output (one file per node).
- 6. Informs each node of which runs it should run.

(All nodes execute the next two steps)

- 7. Calls the user model and runs it for the specified number of times.
- 8. Every node writes its output to its file.

(Master node takes over again.) Returns to step 6.

Algorithm of the Bayesian Layer

Now let us see what the bayesian layer does, when activated. (There are some terms that the reader might not be familiar with, these are explained in ref. [1] and references therein.)

The bayesian layer is built on top of the input preparator (the code that was explained in the previous paragraph) and is run only on the root node.

The following is nested in a loop, that runs as many times as the user wishes.

- 1. Read an input file with information necessary for the bayesian simulation: the total number of scenarios and the probabilities for each scenario, together with names for the files with information regarding the input values for each scenario.
- 2. Random choice (according to the probabilities specified) of a scenario.
- 3. Call the input preparator.
- 4. Return to the beginning of the loop (this time skipping the reading of the bayesian input file).

3. Description of the algorithms

3.1. Inputs required from the user

Before compiling the program, the user should supply the following set of switches, numerical parameters and file names (by writing them in the suitable parameter declaration files).

In the paragraphs to come we shall describe the contents and the format of the following files:

- user_parameters_bayes.inc
- user_parameters.inc
- mcdinputb.dat
- mcddist.dat

Bayesian layer files:

The "include file" called *user_parameters_bayes.inc* contains the definition of the following variables:

(De)Activation of the bayesian layer: variable *sbayes* (the value 1 activates the layer, value 0 deactivates it).

The default name for the files with the constant values for the model and the name of the file with the distribution parameters for the model should be supplied (by assigning them to the variables *constfile* and *distrifile*, respectively).

In its first line, the input file for the bayesian layer (*mcdinputb.dat*) should contain the total number of micro-scenarios.

Each of the following lines should contain (one line per micro-scenario):

(position 1 in the line) the probability of that specific micro-scenario,

(**position 13**) the name of the file with the distribution parameters for that microscenario, and

(**position 34**) the name of the file with the constant values corresponding to that micro-scenario.

Input Preparator files.

The include file *user_parameters.inc* contains the definition of the following parameters:

The maximum number of parameters (in the user model) that should vary during the simulation. This should be assigned to the variable called *ivars*.

The total number of runs to be performed on this simulation; this is assigned to the variable *iruns*.

Sometimes the user wants to analyse the behaviour of the model by performing some runs with only one variable being varied at a time. It is possible to do this with this driver, the only thing the user has to do is to set the variable *sim* to 1. The driver will set up a set of simulations that will develop as explained below.

The program will vary the first variable only in the list in *distrifile* for *#iruns* on the first simulation, then it will vary the second parameter only in the list in *distrifile*, and so on until it has varied the *last* parameter given in *distrifile*.

So the total number of runs actually performed will not be the one stored in *iruns*, but: #sim * #iruns.

If the user sets the variable sim to 2, after the single parameter variation simulations have been completed, the program does a final simulation with all the variables being varied simultaneously. If the user is just interested in this last case, he should assign 0 to sim.

If the user only wants to perform one run with the code, he should put the varibale switch to 0, otherwise it should be 1.

Sampling method for the random numbers. There are two choices available: a pseudo-random number generator (set *sgenop* to 0) or a quasi-random number generator (Sobol indices) (set *sgenop* to 1). For more information, see references [1] and [2].

The switch *sinfilemat* should be set to *I* if the input preparator is to generate the numbers for the simulations, or to *0* if these values are to be loaded from an external file.

The next program variables that the user has to set deal with correlations.

The variable *key* should be set to *1* for correlations (*0* otherwise). The variable *correlat* should contain the correlation value (any real number between –1 and 0). The variables *var1* and *var2* should contain the numbers of the user parameters to be correlated.

The file with the distribution parameters (*mcddist.dat*) should contain the total number of parameters that are described in the file first, and then the information for the distributions (one line per parameter):

```
(position 1) number assigned to the parameter. (position 4) name of the variable as it is defined in the user model. (position 64) code name for the distribution.
```

The user is encouraged to make a list of all the user parameters that might vary in the course of his simulations. Each parameter should be assigned a number.

This way the user can easily add or remove user parameters from the list of varying parameters from one simulation to another.

See the following list for the distributions supported by the code (version 1.0) and their respective code names,

```
uniform- unifm
log-uniform- logun
normal- norml
log-normal- logno
negative exponential- expon
```

If one wants to temporarily remove one variable from the varying list, this can be done by using the code word *const* and writing its value. This procedure should be avoided if possible. The memory saving alternative is to simply delete its entry from the distributions file.

(**position 67**) minimum, maximum, average and standard deviation for the distribution in question. Commas should separate these values.

The file with the constant values should be kept exactly as usual when the user code is run only once.

The code can introduce a user-defined correlation between any two model-parameters. In order to do this, the user should set the variable *key* to 2, put the desired correlation value on the *correlat* variable (this has to be a number between –1 and 0) and tell the program which variables should be correlated (with the values of *var1* and *var2*). These values should be the numbers previously assigned to each variable on the file *mcddist.dat*.

Output data. Since it's very difficult to predict what the user will want, the PMC driver does not impose any particular format. The user has to decide what output is to be written to the file created at the beginning of the Input Preparator routine. The default name for the output file is *mcdout** (where the wildcard stands for a number that is the same as the node number to which the file belongs).

The user should keep in mind that the amount of output generated in typical MC simulations is considerable.

There is an additional set of output files generated by the driver. These contain the run times for each run and they are called *mcdtimeout** (where the wildcard again stands for a number equal to the node number).

3.2. The input preparation

This part of the code performs several tasks: it makes copies of the files with the constant parameters for the simulation, produces the output files for each node and samples the input values for the model parameters chosen by the user.

The routine begins by making the copies of the file with the constant parameters for the simulation. This should be exactly the same file as the one usually used by the user's model.

The code generates a different target name for each of the files. Each copy will be read by just one of the nodes. The names of the files start with the string *mcdconst* then have a code specific to each file.

Almost the same procedure is carried out to produce the output files, with the difference that they are all empty. They are all called *mcdout* followed by a number to distinguish between them.

<u>Warning</u>: avoid using any files that contain the string *mcdconst* or *mcdout*, to avoid possible conflicts with the simulation.

All the nodes open their corresponding file.

From now on, only node θ (zero) does all the work.

Two files are opened: the file with the distribution parameters for each of the model variables (called *mcddist.dat*) and a file to contain the values generated from the sampling (called *mcdmdist.dat*).

If the quasi-random numbers option is chosen, there is a call to the subroutine that generates the numbers, in this case a routine obtained from the NEA (Nuclear Energy Agency) data bank called *lptau.f* (package ID: IAEA1260)/02). This routine uses Sobol indices to perform the sampling of a quasi-random uniform sequence between 0 and 1. The values are stored in a matrix (*matrixlpt*) (see [2] and [5]).

The next part is included in a loop that runs for #ivars times. The program reads the file mcddist.dat, interprets which distribution is required for each particular model parameter and uses some sub-routines to sample the required distribution for the number of times specified in the variable iruns. (See [2] for a description of the sampling routines).

In the event that the user wishes to do so, the program will then introduce a correlation between any two input variables (see [6] for details on the method used).

It is also possible for the program to read a file with pre-defined values for the matrix *mdist.dat*.

The values resulting from the sampling are written to the output file *mcdmdist.dat* and in the matrix *mdist.*

The master node sends the contents of *mdist* to all the other nodes. At the end of each simulation, each node writes the output to their local file.

Finally, all files are closed and a small UNIX script cleans all temporary files.

3.3. The workload controller

Initially the master node assigns a predefined workload to each node.

The master node awaits a call from one of the other nodes to request another workload and when it finally gets one, it tells that node which run(s) it should run next (what we call a *workload*). As soon as a node has finished its workload it informs the master node that it needs another workload. This is done until all *iruns* are completed.

3.4. The bayesian layer

The bayesian layer is run as many times as the user wants.

The routine called *bayes* is very simple. First it reads a file with the total number of scenarios, the probability assigned to each of them and the files with the information to simulate each scenario.

It makes a random selection among the scenarios available, then informs the input preparator of the selection.

3.5. The interface between the input preparation and the user code

The input preparator supplies the user model with the following information (the variable concerned is shown in brackets):

- Number of runs that each node will run the model (load).
- Total number of model parameters that are going to vary in the simulation (*ivars*),
 - Total number of runs (iruns),

(These last two parameters are only used to define some working matrixes that are needed during the simulation process),

- A variable that contains the rank of each node (rank),
- A pointer that chooses the right input value for the model whatever the current status of the simulation ('only one model parameter varying' or 'all model parameters varying'),
- The FORTRAN unit number of the file containing all the model's constant input parameters.

3.6. The user's program

Firstly the user must re-define his/her program as a sub-routine called *user_model*.

The most important changes to the user code take place in the subroutine where all the input parameters are assigned their values for each run.

We assume that there is a single routine in the model that reads the usual input file (by 'usual' we mean the file used by the user's before it is coupled to the PMC driver), and that all the model's parameters and program switches are assigned by this routine.

The original part of the subroutine should be kept intact with a few small changes:

- i) there should be a few extra parameters in the call to this routine,
- ii) the FORTRAN unit number of the input file should be changed to the one passed by the PMC driver (referred at the end of the section),
- iii) any writing to external files should be commented out,
- iv) the original code should be enclosed in an *if* statement that allows the constant file to be read just once per simulation. (If any of the input variables is re-used later in the code, then it is safer to re-initialise the values at the beginning of each run, i.e., one should not enclose the code in this *if* statement).

At the end of the routine, a small piece of code should be added that assigns the stochastic values to each of the parameters that are to be varied during the simulation. See Chapter 4 for more detail on how this is done.

3.7. Description of each subroutine (in alphabetical order)

distri (*iruns*, *ivars*, *ndist*, *IN1*, *genop*, *matrixlpt*, *i*) – Is called from the input preparator part of the PMC driver. It reads the input file with the distribution parameters -*IN1*- and decides which sampling sub-routines to call to generate the input matrix. *Ndist* contains the code name for the chosen distribution (see 3.1). *genop* is the option for the type of (pseudo)random number generator. If it is the pseudo-random number generator that is chosen, the generated values are stored in

matrixlpt. The variable *i* contains the number of the user parameter that is being sampled.

expo (*dist_min,dist_max,dist_mean*) - This subroutine is called from *distri* and does the sampling for an exponential distribution. *dist_min,dist_max,dist_mean* are the distribution parameters (minimum, maximum and mean, respectively).

iman (*iruns*, *key*, *correlat*, *vector1*, *vector2*) –This is the sub-routine that introduces a correlation of *correlat* between any two variables *vector1* and *vector2*, if the variable *key* is set to 0. The variable *iruns* is only necessary for the definition of the size of the vectors to be correlated.

lptau (*i*, *ivars*, *vectorlpt*) - This is called from the input preparator. It generates a vector (*vectorlpt*) with *ivars*' pseudo random numbers. *i* is an index number (that varies between 1 and the total number of runs) needed for the *lptau* routine.

ip (distrifile, constfile, ierror, rank, size) - What we call input preparator in this manual. It is called from the mcd (main) routine. distrifile and constfile are, respectively, strings that contain the names of the files with the information for the user parameters that are to vary and the file that contains all the constant parameters for the user model. ierror is a variable specific to MPI and usually stores the code number for the errors that occur during the run time. rank is the ranking of the node. Size is the total number of nodes involved in the simulations.

MPI_BARRIER (*MPI_COMM_WORLD*, *ierror*) - MPI function. This is used to make sure all the nodes are running in the same stage of the program. No node will continue running until all nodes reach this part of the program.

MPI_BCAST (constfile, 20, MPI_CHAR, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD) - MPI function. This "broadcasts" the name of the file with the constant parameters of the user model (stored in constfile), 20 is the size of the name and MPI_CHAR denotes the type of the variable. O means that it is the root node (ranked zero) that broadcasts the message.

MPI_GATHER (*vout, index, MPI_INTEGER, mout, index, MPI_INTEGER, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD, ierror*) - MPI function. The root node (rank 0) gathers the contents of the vector *vout* (of integers) from all the other nodes and stores it in matrix *mout. vout* which has size *index*.

MPI_SCATTER (*mdist, ncounts, MPI_REAL, vector, ncounts, MPI_REAL, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD, ierror*) - MPI function. The root node (rank 0) distributes portions of matrix *mdist*, of size ncounts (of real type), to be stored on each of the other nodes on the vector *vector*.

norm (*dist_min*, *dist_max*, *dist_mean*, *dist_stan*) - This subroutine is called from *distri* and does the sampling for a normal distribution. *dist_min*, *dist_max*, *dist_mean*, *dist_stan* are the distribution parameters (minimum, maximum, mean and standard deviation, respectively).

readb (*vect_prob*, *n_sce*, *input_file1*, *input_file2*, *in1*) - This routine is called from routine *bayes* and it reads the input file with all the information concerning the bayesian layer (number of scenarios -*n_sce* -, probabilities for each scenario -*vect_prob* -, names for the input files for each scenario -*input_file1* and *input_file2*, etc.).

selection (*vect_prob*, *n_sce1*, *sel*, *trial*) - Called from *readb* subroutine; it makes the random selection of the scenario for the simulation.

system ("*clean*") - Unix system script that cleans all the temporary files created during the simulation.

system ("*spawn*") - Unix system script that creates the input file with the constant parameters for all the nodes.

unif (*dist_min*, *dist_max*) - This sub-routine is called from *distri* and does the sampling for a uniform distribution. *dist_min*, *dist_max*, are the distribution parameters (minimum and maximum, respectively).

user_model (*load*, *ivars*, *iruns*, *ncounts*, *vector*, *rank*, *master*, *nnodes*, *fot2*, *index*, *vout*, *mout*, *switch*, *in2*) - *User_model* stands for the name of the user program. It is called from the input preparator.

4. Putting the PMC driver together with the user code

4.1 Machine and environment requirements

So far only a Unix version of the code is available and tested. Such specificity of working environment only involves two small system scripts. One of these "multiplies" the files containing the constant values for the simulation and the other deletes all the temporary files.

More specifically, the first script reads a temporary file (*mcdname*) with the name of the original file that is to be copied, then it copies its contents into a number of files whose name begins with the string *input* and then it finishes with a number. The total number of files to generate is contained in another temporary file called *mcdnr*.

The script's contents are reproduced here:

```
#! /bin/tcsh
foreach n ({`cat nr`})
cp `cat name` input$n
end
```

Warning: The first line says that this script should be run within the *tc* shell by stating the path where this shell start up command should be located (*/bin/tcsh*). This path might be different from one system to another (*/usr/local/bin/tcsh* is a common alternative).

The second script simply contains the command: rm -f input*.

There's a version of these srcipts for the *bash* shell too.

The code has been developed in a parallel machine located at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. The machine is an IBM SP2, and the nodes' architectures are the normal RS2000-type workstations (see the Internet site http://www.pdc.kth.se/compresc/machines/strindberg.html for more details).

The code was tested in a workstation network environment located at Bath University. The workstations are different models of high-end SUN stations. It was also used in a cluster of Alpha workstations at the Department of Physics at Stockholm University.

Using the message-passing model allowed the simulations to be parallelized.

This model consists in expanding the usual serial programs with a collection of library functions that enable communication to take place between the different nodes.

We use the international standard library known as the MPI (Message Passing Interface) and users should have that library installed in their machine (see the Internet site http://www.erc.msstate.edw/mpi/ for more detail on MPI). Different implementations of the MPI standard are available, free of charge, on the Internet. (See for example,

http://www.psc.edu/general/software/packages/mpich/mpich.html.old).

At the head of the PMC driver's code one can see the *include* statement that loads the library *mpif.h* for Fortran code.

So the basic requirements necessary to run the PMC driver are:

- UNIX based machines,
- MPI implementation.

4.2 Code installation

Install all the programs in a separate, empty directory, along with the user model.

All the output of the PMC driver will be created in the same directory as the one in which the program is run, no use of local (i.e., local to each node) hard disks is made.

At the end of the simulation, the PMC driver performs some cleaning up of temporary files. If for any reason, the simulation is interrupted before its natural end, then you should remove the following files by hand:

```
mcdinput*
mcdtimeout*
mcdout*
mcdname
mcdnr.
```

4.3 Changes to the user code

One of the main goals in developing the PMC driver was that it should require a minimum of change to the user code. There are some changes that are inevitable, though, especially when the PMC driver itself is coded in Fortran 77.

One rule that is valid for any of the programs is that almost all the reading (excluding the reading from the read routine) and all the writing to/from files should be commented out. The PMC driver should control <u>all</u> these activities with its predefined input and output files.

So one of the main things the user should keep in mind is to be very careful with external files. This is something that is unavoidable when one tries to use a "serial" code in a parallel environment, otherwise all the nodes will try to write to the same file and the result could be messy!

The PMC driver is written in a such a way that the user does not have to worry about the input files (as long as the original code only uses ONE input file, and as long as this is read in a single routine). All the output to external files, from the original user code, should be commented out (see the example in Chapter 5), or, better expressed, be redirected to the output file defined in the driver.

4.3.1. Main routine

Here follows a list of changes that must be performed on the user's main routine.

- 1- Substitute the program header with "subroutine user_model" and include the parameters passed to it by the PMC driver (as described in the last chapter).
 - 2- Define all the variables and matrices passed by the PMC driver.
 - 3- Introduce a loop that should go from 1 to *load*. This loop should enclose all the code that is to be run during the simulation.
 - 4- Add a few parameters do the subroutine calls to input and output:
 - <u>Input</u>: rank of the node (*rank*), a few switches (*master*, *switch*) that avoid having to read the file with the constant values in every run, and finally the total number of parameters that are to vary during the simulation (*ivars*).
 - Output: the logical name defined by the PMCD for the output file.
 - 5- At the end, the statement *stop* should be changed to *return*.

4.3.2. Assignment (read) routine

The sub-routine that does the initial assignment of the model's parameters should get some additional parameters when it is called. Most of these have already been described at the end of the last chapter, they are:

- The vector containing the input values for the model parameters that are going to vary during the simulation (stored on the vector *vector*),
 - The total size of the vector vector (ncounts),
 - The ranking of the current node (rank),
- *Master*, when the user is doing simulations with a single parameter varying at a time, it is this variable that keeps track of which parameter should vary in each simulation.
- The number of model parameters that are going to vary during the simulation (*ivars*),
 - The logical unit number for the input file (stored in the variable *in2*).

Apart from the usual changes to make the extra parameters (in the last list) available to the routine, one can introduce the following *if* statement, that should enclose all of the original code in the routine:

```
if (NRUN.eq.1) then
```

NRUN stands for the variable that controls the loop described in point 3 in the previous chapter.

This last change keeps the code from reading the same input file in every run. It saves some run time, but it should only be used when the user is sure that the values from the file are not needed in the subsequent runs.

At the end of the routine (and after the end of the *if* statement just mentioned), the following code should be added (with some dummy variables):

```
if (switch.eq.1) then
    if (sim.eq.0.or.(sim.eq.2.and.master.eq.ivars+1)) then
        pointer=1

        if (check_in(1).eqv..true.) then
            INPUT_PARAMETER1=mdist(pointer,nrun+run-1)
            pointer=pointer+1
            write(fot3,'(D13.7)') INPUT_PARAMETER1
        endif
endif
```

INPUT_PARAMETER1 is a dummy variable name that stands for the typical model parameters that are to be varied during the simulation. *Master* is a variable that keeps track of which case is being run (as explained in Section 3.1).

The vector *check_in* is a vector that keeps track of which user parameters are varying in that particular simulation (when the input preparator reads the *mcddistr.dat* file, it checks which parameters are listed there and which are not).

The user is encouraged to make a list of all the user parameters that might vary in the course of his/her simulations. Each parameter should be assigned a number and there should be a piece of code (like the one written in yellow above) for each user parameter. In this way the user can add or remove user parameters from the list of varying parameters from one simulation to without trouble.

The *write* statement simply stores the input value in the output file. The user is free to keep this line of code or to comment it out.

It is this part of the code that actually updates the model parameters from one run to the next.

4.3.3. Output subroutine

The user should comment out all the original reading/writing from/to external files. Then he/she should write the values he/she is interested in to the file descriptor number *fot3*.

Here is an example:

```
write(fot3,'(D13.7)') OUTPUT_PARAMETER1
OUTPUT PARAMETER1 stands for a common output variable name.
```

4.4 Changes to the PMC driver

There are no changes to be made to the code of the PMC driver.

In the input files one must decide between the options of and determine values for the PMC driver parameters, but this is not specific to the grafting of the PMC driver to the user model. These are things that are to be when working with the PMC driver. In Chapter 6 we make a list of the things that must be kept in mind before hitting the RETURN key on the keyboard.

5. Practical Example 1: Making a parallel run of a Monte Carlo simulation of a simple one-dimensional transport model with retardation

This is a sample file for the bayesian input file:

3		
0.30	norm1.inp	const
0.40	norm2.inp	const
0.30	expo.inp	const

The first number states the number of micro-scenarios.

The subsequent lines describe the probabilities of each microscenario and give the names of the input files.

Here is an example of the file const.dat with all the constant parameters of the user model:

```
18
1.0 4.3 0.231E-5 3.0 3.0 10.
```

The number on the first line denotes the number of space points that is to be sampled from the solution.

The second line respectively contains: the initial concentration, the dispersion coefficient, the advective velocity, the retention coefficient, the time at which the solution is evaluated and the space increment.

Here is a typical file containing the variable distribution parameters for the user's program.

First we have a number to identify the variable, then the variable name, some comments describing the variable and at the end the code word for the distribution of its values and the parameters for that distribution.

Next we show the main routine of the user code, before (in the column on the left) and after (in the column on the right) being coupled to the PMC driver.

(We have marked the parts that are changed).

```
program ad
                                                                    subroutine user_model (mdist,
                                                               load,ivars,iruns,check_in,
         CODE FOR EVALUATING 1-D DISPERSION
                                                                      & rank,master,switch,in2,sim,fot3,fot4,run)
WITH RETARDATION
                                                                    C CODE FOR EVALUATING 1-D DISPERSION
    C
                                                               WITH RETARDATION
                                                                    \mathbf{C}
                                                                    C
                                                                       Integer nrun,j
                                                                       INTEGER iruns, ivars, rank, master
                                                                       INTEGER switch,in2,sim,fot3,fot4
                                                                       INTEGER load,run
                                                                      Double precision mdist(ivars,iruns)
    DIMENSION C(50)
                                                                       logical check_in(ivars)
                                                                         DIMENSION C(50)
                                                                       index=1
                                                                       pointer=1
                                                                       do nrun=1, load
    C
    C
                                                                    C
       READ INPUT DATA
                                                                         READ INPUT DATA
         OPEN(unit=10,file='ind.dat',status='OLD')
                                                                         OPEN(unit=10,file='ind.dat',status='OLD')
                                                                    \mathbf{C}
         OPEN(unit=11,file='out.dat',status='NEW')
                                                                         OPEN(unit=11,file='out.dat',status='NEW')
                                                                         if(nrun.eq.1) then
          READ(in2,100)NX
                                                                          READ(in2,100)NX
         WRITE(11,100)NX
                                                                         WRITE(11,100)NX
          READ(in2,110) CO,ALFX,VX,RF,TYR,DELX
                                                                          READ(in2,110) CO,ALFX,VX,RF,TYR,DELX
                                                                         WRITE(11,110) CO,ALFX,VX,RF,TYR,DELX
         WRITE(11,110) CO,ALFX,VX,RF,TYR,DELX
                                                                         WRITE(11,110)
                                                                    C
                                                                         WRITE(11,110)
         WRITE(11,110)
         WRITE(11,110)
                                                                         end if
                                                                    if (switch.eq.1) then
                                                                         if
                                                               (sim.eq.1.or.(sim.eq.ivars+1.and.master.eq.ivars+1))\ then
                                                                         ALFX= mdist(pointer,nrun+run-1)
                                                                         pointer=pointer+1
                                                                         RF= mdist(pointer,nrun+run-1)
                                                                         pointer=pointer+1
                                                                         endif
                                                                       endif
                                                                    C
         TSEC=TYR*365.0*86400.0
                                                                         TSEC=TYR*365.0*86400.0
    C
C
         CALCULATE CONCENTRATIONS
                                                                    C
                                                                         CALCULATE CONCENTRATIONS
                                                                    C
         DO 200 I=1,NX
                                                                         DO 200 I=1,NX
          X=X+DELX
                                                                          X=X+DELX
                                                                           C(I)=(CO/2)*ERFC((RF*X-
           C(I)=(CO/2)*ERFC((RF*X-
VX*TSEC)/(2*SQRT(ALFX*VX*TSEC*RF)))
                                                               VX*TSEC)/(2*SQRT(ALFX*VX*TSEC*RF)))
    C
C
                                                                    \mathbf{C}
         WRITE RESULTS
                                                                    C
                                                                         WRITE RESULTS
                                                                    C
         WRITE(11,120)TYR
                                                                    \mathbf{C}
                                                                         WRITE(11,120)TYR
         WRITE(11,110)(C(I),I=1,NX)
                                                                         WRITE(11,110)(C(I),I=1,NX)
```

do j=1,NX write(fot3,'(D13.7)') c(j) end do

end do

100 FORMAT(I5) 110 FORMAT(6G10.2) 120 FORMAT(F5.0, ' YEARS') return END

end do

100 FORMAT(I5) 110 FORMAT(6G10.2) 120 FORMAT(F5.0, ' YEARS') return END

6. Practical Example 2: Making a parallel run of a Monte Carlo simulation with the GTM1 code

The reader should be familiar with report [1] if he/she is to understand the detail of this chapter.

The sample file for the bayesian input file is:

6		
0.3	dist1	input1
0.15	dist2	input2
0.2	dist3	input3
0.1	dist4	input4
0.15	dist5	input5
0.2	dist6	input6

The first number states the number of micro-scenarios.

The subsequent lines respectively describe the probability of each micro-scenario occurring, and give the name of the input file containing the distribution and the constant parameter.

Here is an example of the file *mcdconst.dat* with all the constant parameters of the user model.

```
CP : Option for max-flux [-] .TRUE.

CP : Option for space manag. [-] .FALSE.

CP : Option for time manag. [-] .FALSE.

cp : Option min.spa.poin/ly [-] .true.

cp : min n° space point/lay. [-] .5

CP : Option for analy. sol. [-] .2

CP : Highest time step [yr] .70000.

CP : Trunca. value for conc. [mols] .073E+0
MXFT.
SPACTI.
TIMCTL
minpxx
minnpx
DTHGST
CTRUN
 ----> CHAIN NUMBER 1 ------
---> CHAIN NUMBER 2 -----
---> LAYER 1 -----
DIFFM (1) GEO: Molecular diffusion [m**2/yr]
DISPC (1) GEO: Dispersion coefficient [m]
DIFFM (2) GEO: Molecular diffusion [m**2/yr]
DISPC (2) GEO: Dispersion coefficient [m]
 ******>> DATA RUN-1 <<******
CONTIM NFL: Containment time [y] 100. STREAM BIO: Stream flow rate [m**3/yr] 3.0E+5
----> LAYER 1 ------
                                                      [m]
 ----> CHAIN 1 -----
NOUT GEO: N° time output selected [-] 1
TOUT (1) GEO: Time point selected [yr] 9.55E+2
RLEACH NFL: Leach rate [1/yr] 1.0E-2
FACM (1) GEO: * Factor for retention [-] 1.
FACM (2) GEO: * Factor for retention [-] 1.
-----> CHAIN 2
FACM (1)
                      GEO: * Factor for retention [ - ]
```

Here is a typical file showing the distribution parameters for the user program's parameters that are to vary during the simulation.

```
CONTIM
                  NFL : Containment time
                                                [y]..... norml
         0.,1000.,500.,200.
RLEACH (1)
                  NFL : Iodine leach rate
                                                [1/yr]...: norml
         0.00075,0.0125,0.005,0.0025
                  NFL : Chain leach rate
                                         [1/yr]...: norm
         0.0000075,0.000125,0.00005,0.000025
                  GEO: Interstitial velocity
         0.0075,0.125,0.05,0.025
XPATH (1)
                                           [m]....: norml 0.,600.,300.,100.
                  GEO : Geosphere pathway
RET (I)
                  GEO : Retardation coefficient
                                                  [ - ]....: norml 0.,9.,3.,1.
FACM(2,1)
                  GEO : Factor for retention
                                                [-]..... norml
         0.,34.,16.5,6.75
VREAL (2)
                  GEO: Interstitial velocity
                                               [m/vr]...: norml
         0.0075,0.125,0.05,0.025
XPATH (2)
                  GEO: Geosphere pathway [m]....: norml 0.,250.,125.,37.5
                  BIO : Stream flow rate
                                             [m**3/yr]: norml
STREAM
         0.,2000000.,1000000.,500000.
```

Next we show the main routine of the user code, before (the column on the left) and after (the column on the right) being coupled to the MC driver. Those parts that are changed are highlighted).

```
PROGRAM GTM
                                        subroutine
                                       user_model(mdist,load,ivars,iruns,c
heck_in,
                                        rank, master, switch, in2, sim, fot3, fot
                                        4, run)
                                        С
                                              INCLUDE 'CPARAM.INC'
     INCLUDE 'CPARAM.INC'
С
                                              INCLUDE 'COTISP.INC'
     INCLUDE 'COTISP.INC'
                                              INCLUDE 'CNUCNA.INC'
     INCLUDE 'CNUCNA.INC'
                                              INCLUDE 'CNUCLI.INC'
     INCLUDE 'CNUCLI.INC'
                                              INCLUDE 'CNARFL.INC'
                                              INCLUDE 'CFARFL.INC'
INCLUDE 'CBIOSP.INC'
     INCLUDE 'CNARFL.INC'
     INCLUDE 'CFARFL.INC'
     INCLUDE 'CBIOSP.INC'
                                              INCLUDE 'COUTPS.INC'
     INCLUDE 'COUTPS.INC'
                                       С
С
                                              CHARACTER TIM*8
     CHARACTER TIM*8
                                        С
C
                                              LOGICAL START
     LOGICAL START
                                              LOGICAL TIMOTI
     LOGICAL TIMCTL
                                              LOGICAL SPACTL
     LOGICAL SPACTL
                                             INTEGER iruns, ivars,
                                        ,rank,master
                                              INTEGER fot3, fot4, switch
                                             Double precision
                                        mdist(ivars,iruns)
                                              integer load,in2,sim,run
                                              logical check in(ivars)
                                        С
С
                                              START = .TRUE.
     START = .TRUE.
С
                                        C....run loop
C....run loop
                                              DO 10 NRUN = 1,load
     DO 10 NRUN = 1, MXNRUN
С
                                        C.....chain loop
C.....chain loop
С
                                              DO 20 NCHAIN = 1, MXNCHN
         DO 20 NCHAIN = 1, MXNCHN
С
                                        DO 20 NCHAIN = 1, MXNCHN
C....read input values
C
                                        C.....read input values
        CALL R E A D
     (NRUN, NCHAIN, NOUT, MXFL, DTHGST,
                                                  CALL R E A D
                                        (NRUN, NCHAIN, NOUT, MXFL, DTHGST,
         START, NAO, CTRUN, SPACTL, TI
     MCTL)
                                        START, NAO, CTRUN, SPACTL, TIMCTL,
                                       mdist,check_in,rank,master,switch,i
                                       vars,iruns,in2, sim,fot3,run)
```

```
C.....compute space step
                                C.....compute space step
     CALL S P A C S E (SPACTL)
С
                                     CALL S P A C S E (SPACTL)
C.....compute time series
                                C.....compute time series
       CALL TIMESE
    (NCHAIN, NOUT, DTHGST, TIMCTL)
                                    CALL TIMESE
                                 (NCHAIN, NOUT, DTHGST, TIMCTL)
C.....compute fluxes from
the near field
                                      .....compute fluxes from the
                                near field
    CALL N E A R F (NCHAIN, nao)
                                  CALL N E A R F (NCHAIN, nao)
C.....compute fluxes from
                                С
the far field
                                far field
CALL G T M 1
(NCHAIN, CTRUN, MXFL, NOUT)
                                CALL G T M 1
                                (NCHAIN, CTRUN, MXFL, NOUT)
C.....compute analytical
solution
                                C.....compute analytical
                                solution
CALL A N A S O L
                                С
(NAO, NCHAIN, NOUT)
                                     CALL A N A S O
                                L(NAO, NCHAIN, NOUT)
С
C
                                C.....compute maximun dose
   CALL B I O S (NCHAIN)
С
                                  CALL B I O S (NCHAIN)
C.....print outputs
С
                                C.....print outputs
    CALL OUTPUT
    (NCHAIN, NOUT, MXFL)
                                   CALL OUTPUT
                                 (NCHAIN, NOUT, MXFL, fot3)
C.....end of chain loop
                                C.....end of chain loop
     20
           CONTINUE
                                 20
                                       CONTINUE
                                C....end of run loop
                                 10 CONTINUE
C.....end of run loop
     10
         CONTINUE
                                FORMAT (E13.5)
                                      STOP
                                RETURN
                                END
    STOP
    END
```

Now we will show the READ routine before and after it is adapted to the PMC driver. Again, those parts that are changed are shown in colour.

```
SUBROUTINE READ
                                        SUBROUTINE READ
(NRUN, NCHAIN, NOUT, MXFL, DTHGST,
                                        (NRUN, NCHAIN, NOUT, MXFL, DTHGST,
START, NAO, CTRUN, SPACTL, TIMCTL) C---
                                       START, NAO, CTRUN, SPACTL, TIMCTL
                                        ,mdist,check in,rank,master,switch
                                         ,ivars,iruns,in2,sim,fot3,run)
С
INCLUDE 'CPARAM.INC'
                                        INCLUDE 'CPARAM.INC'
INCLUDE 'CNUCNA.INC'
INCLUDE 'CNUCLI.INC'
                                        INCLUDE 'CNUCNA.INC'
                                        INCLUDE 'CNUCLI.INC'
INCLUDE 'CNARFL.INC'
                                        INCLUDE 'CNARFL.INC'
INCLUDE 'CFARFL.INC'
                                       INCLUDE 'CFARFL.INC'
```

```
INCLUDE 'CBIOSP.INC'
INCLUDE 'COUTPS.INC'
                                        INCLUDE 'CBIOSP.INC'
                                        INCLUDE 'COUTPS.INC'
DIMENSION RRR (MXNCHN, MXNELM)
                                        DIMENSION RRR (MXNCHN, MXNELM)
CHARACTER A*80
                                        CHARACTER A*80
CHARACTER B*20
                                        CHARACTER B*20
CHARACTER C*40
                                        CHARACTER C*40
CHARACTER D*60
                                        CHARACTER D*60
                                        LOGICAL START
LOGICAL START
LOGICAL MXFL
                                        LOGICAL MXFL
LOGICAL SPACTL
                                        LOGICAL SPACTL
                                        LOGICAL TIMCTL
LOGICAL TIMCTL
                                        integer rank, master, switch, ivars
                                        integerc in2, sim, fot3, run, pointer
                                        double precision
mdist(ivars,iruns)
                                        logical check_in(ivars),readfile
                                        C Introduced by B.M. 97-4-15
                                        if(NRUN.eq.1) then
NLY = MXNLYS
                                        NLY = MXNLYS
C.....START = .true. is used to
                                        C.....START = .true. is used to
write the initial comment lines
                                        write the initial comment lines
C....founded on the top of the
                                        C....founded on the top of the
                                        input file describing the run case
input file describing the run case
C....and other run-independent
                                        C.....and other run-independent
                                        parameter values
parameter values
IF (START) THEN
                                        IF (START) THEN
      READ(5,1000) A
                                        10
                                                READ(50,1000) A
IF (A .NE. 'END OF COMMENTS') THEN
                                        IF (A .NE. 'END OF COMMENTS') THEN
WRITE(6,1000) A
                                              WRITE(6,1000) A
                                        GOTO 10
GOTO 10
ENDIF
                                        ENDIF
READ(5,1010)
                                        READ(50,1010)
READ (5, 1000) A
                                        READ (50, 1000) A
C.....write the PARAMETER
                                        C.....write the PARAMETER
values selected for dimmension
                                        values selected for
C
                                        C
                                        if (nout.ne.0.) then
                                        DO 60 J = 1, NOUT
DO 60 J = 1, NOUT
READ(50,1050)B,D,TOUT(J)
                                        READ (50, 1050) B, D, TOUT (J)
WRITE(6,1050)B,D,TOUT(J)
                                        C WRITE(6,1050)B,D,TOUT(J)
60 CONTINUE
                                        60
                                                CONTINUE
                                        endif
WRITE (6, 2010)
                                        C
                                               WRITE (6, 2010)
                                        С
C....read/write RLEACH, FACM and
                                        C....read/write RLEACH, FACM and
RET
                                        RET
READ (5, 1050) B, D, RLEACH (NCHAIN)
                                        READ (50, 1050) B, D, RLEACH (NCHAIN)
 WRITE (6, 1050) B, D, RLEACH (NCHAIN)
                                       C WRITE(6,1050) B, D, RLEACH(NCHAIN)
DO 70 J = 1 , NLY
READ(5,1040)B,D,FACM(J)
                                        DO 70 J = 1 , NLY
READ(50,1040)B,D,FACM(J)
C WRITE(6,1040) B,D,FACM(J)
WRITE(6,1040)B,D,FACM(J)
DO 80 JJ = 1, NEL (NCHAIN)
                                        DO 80 JJ = 1, NEL(NCHAIN)
                                        RET(NCHAIN, JJ, J) = FACM(J) *
RET(NCHAIN, JJ, J) = FACM(J) *
RRR (NCHAIN, JJ)
                                        RRR (NCHAIN, JJ)
```

```
WRITE(6,2070)RET(NCHAIN,JJ,J)
                                     C WRITE(6,2070) RET(NCHAIN,JJ,J)
                                      80
        CONTINUE
                                                  CONTINUE
WRITE(6,2010)
                                                  WRITE(6,2010)
70 CONTINUE
                                      70 CONTINUE
WRITE(6,2080)NCHAIN, NRUN
                                              WRITE(6,2080) NCHAIN, NRUN
WRITE (6, 2010)
                                              WRITE (6, 2010)
                                       C Ends if condition in the
                                      beginning of the subroutine
                                       if (switch.eq.1) then
                                       if
                                       (sim.eq.1.or.(sim.eq.ivars+1.and.
                                       master.eq.ivars+1)) then
                                       pointer=1
                                      if (check_in(1).eqv..true.) then
CONTIM=mdist(pointer,nrun+run-1)
                                       pointer=pointer+1
                                       write(fot3,'(D13.7)') contim
                                       endif
                                       if (check_in(2).eqv..true.) then
                                       RLEACH(1,1) =mdist(pointer,nrun+run
                                       if (nelnch.gt.1) then
                                       rleach(1,2) = rleach(1,1)
                                       rleach(1,3)=rleach(1,1)
                                       pointer=pointer+1
                                       write(fot3,'(D13.7)') rleach(1,1)
                                       endif
                                       end if
C....formats
                                       C....format
                                       RETURN
RETURN
END
                                       END
```

And finally here is the OUTPUT routine before and after the changes. Here the parts that do not get commented out are in colour.

```
SUBROUTINE OUTPUT
                                       SUBROUTINE OUTPUT
      (NCHAIN, NOUT, MXFL)
                                      1 (NCHAIN, NOUT, MXFL, fot3)
C-----
                                       С
C
      INCLUDE 'CPARAM.INC'
                                             INCLUDE 'CPARAM.INC'
                                       С
С
      INCLUDE 'COTISP.INC'
                                             INCLUDE 'COTISP.INC'
      INCLUDE 'CNUCNA.INC'
INCLUDE 'CNUCLI.INC'
                                             INCLUDE 'CNUCNA.INC'
INCLUDE 'CNUCLI.INC'
      INCLUDE 'CNUCLI.INC'
INCLUDE 'CBIOSP.INC'
INCLUDE 'COUTPS.INC'
                                             INCLUDE 'CBIOSP.INC'
                                             INCLUDE 'COUTPS.INC'
С
                                       С
      LOGICAL MXFL
                                             LOGICAL MXFL
С
                                             integer fot3
                                        С
      NLY=MXNLYS
                                       NLY=MXNLYS
      NELCHN=NEL (NCHAIN)
                                       NELCHN=NEL (NCHAIN)
C.....write maximun flux at the
                                       C.....write maximum flux at the end
                                       of each one of the geosphere
end of each one of the geosphere
C....layers for each nuclide and
                                       C....layers for each nuclide and
time associated (if MXFL = 1 )
                                       time associated (if MXFL = 1 )
С
                                       С
      IF (MXFL) THEN
                                             IF (MXFL) THEN
```

```
DO 10 LY = 1,NLY
WRITE(6,2000)
WRITE(6,2010)
                                                            DO 10 LY = 1, NLY WRITE (6, 2000)
                                                                 WRITE (6,2010)
DO 20 I = 1, NELCHN
                 DO 20 I = 1, NELCHN
                                                   write(fot3,'(D13.7)') cmxx(i,ly)
                                                  C WRITE(6,2020) LY, BNAME(NCHAIN,I),
1 CMXX(I,LY),TMXX(I,LY)
WRITE(6,2020) LY, BNAME(NCHAIN, I),
        CMXX(I,LY),TMXX(I,LY)
               IF (LY .EQ. NLY) THEN WRITE(6,2030)
                                                                IF (LY .EQ. NLY) THEN WRITE(6,2030)DOSEA(I)
 DOSEA(I)
                                                   С
              ENDIF
                                                   20
                                                                  CONTINUE
  20
                CONTINUE
                                                   10
                                                            CONTINUE
          CONTINUE
  10
         ENDIF
```

7. List of things to keep in mind when running the PMC driver

Checklist:

- 1. Set total number of variables (*ivar*).
- 2. Set number of runs (*iruns*).
- 3. Set the variable *sim* to the type of simulations you want.
- 4. Set the correct values for the switches *switch* and *sgenop* for single or multiple runs and for the type of random number generator, respectively).
- 5. If the program is to load the matrix with the input values, check check the value is right for *sinfilemat*.
- 6. Check the values for the correlation procedure:
 - *key* activates or deactivates the correlation;
 - var1 and var2, the user parameters to be correlated; and
 - *correlat* should contain the correlation value.
- 7. Check the variables connected with the bayesian layer: *sbayes*, *nsche*, *distrifile* and *constfile*.
- 8. Delete the temporary variables in the event that the program stops abnormally (*mcdname*, *mcdnr*, *mcdconst**, *mcdtimeout**, *mcdout**).

Glossary

Bayesian Layer - Part of the PMC driver that selects the scenario to simulate. It enables the uncertainty analysis to be made as described in reference [1].

Case - This is to enable a user to perform several MC simulations, each with a different variable varying on its own. Each simulation is referred to as a *case*. At the end, the PMC driver performs a simulation with all variables varying. The latter is referred to as an additional case.

Distribution parameters - Usual values that characterise a particular probability distribution: maximum, minimum, mean and standard deviation.

Input Preparator - Part of the PMC driver that samples the random values to obtain the input values for the user model. It performs other tasks, like synchronising all the nodes that are to work in parallel.

Macroscenario - A few general, distinct situations that are intrinsic to the study of the model. See a practical implementation of this concept in [1].

Master node - the node, in a parallel machine, that is assigned the rank number θ (zero). In our implementation, the root node is the node that runs the entire PMC driver and takes care of spawning/collecting the input/output values for/from the rest of the nodes involved in the calculation.

Message Passing Interface (MPI) - This is a library of standard subroutines for sending and receiving messages and performing collective operations.

Microscenario - Within each macroscenario there should be a few scenarios that still correspond to different situations. The microscenarios should be grouped under each of the more general macroscenarios. On the other hand, each microscenario should contain a detailed description of the situation, meaning that it should contain a complete set of inputs for the user model. See [1] for a more detailed description of a particular implementation.

Monte Carlo Simulation, see simulation.

Node - Component of a massive parallel machine consisting of a processor, a hard disk and a local memory system (usually this is simply a workstation or equivalent computer).

Parallel environment - System of computers that, through the use of an appropriate software package, can work collectively on the solution of a numerical problem.

Pseudo-random number generator - Set of numerical algorithms that generates a stream of numbers that can perform the role of an ideal random stream of numbers.

Quasi-random number generator - Set of numerical algorithms that generates a stream of numbers that are carefully selected to cover the space of input parameters relevant to a particular model, in an efficient way.

Scenarios - Set of input values (for the user model) that describes a distinct real situation that the user model is to simulate.

Simulation, Monte Carlo - Stochastic run of a user model with different input values for its parameters in each run. The input values are usually sampled from probability distributions that describe the probability of occurrence of each input value. The number of runs should be high to obtain statistical significance (with the use of parallel computers, one can easily attain hundreds of thousands of runs for a simple user model). The usual output is another distribution built from the different outputs generated during the runs.

Sobol indices – A particular algorithm that implement the concept of a quasi-random number generator.

User program - General denomination for the computer code that is to be attached to the PMC driver. It would usually be a numerical implementation of a mathematical model of a system.

User (model) parameters - The input parameters that the user program needs in order to run.

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