

## The MUSIC User's Manual

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Density field in a 100 Mpc/h box with two initial levels of refinement generated with MUSIC.



Example of an N-body simulation of a deeply nested region of 6 initial levels generated with MUSIC and evolved with Gadget-2 to achieve an effective resolution of 8192<sup>3</sup> with 1160<sup>3</sup> particles in the high-res region.

#### Introduction

#### **Description of the method**

MUSIC (MUlti-Scale Initial Conditions) generates cosmological initial conditions for a hierarchical set of nested regions.

A detailed description of the method can be found in the code paper Hahn&Abel (2011), <u>http://arxiv.org/abs/1103.6031</u>. We kindly refer the reader to that paper for all technical aspects as well as performance and validation of the code.

#### Cookbook for setting up a zoom simulation with MUSIC

The procedure for setting up a zoom simulation follows typically the procedure of 4 steps, given below. Note that resolution levels in MUSIC are specified by their linear power-2 exponent, i.e. a resolution of  $128^3$  cells or particles corresponds to level 7 (log<sub>2</sub> 128=7). We use the term "lower" for levels synonymously with "coarser" and "higher" with "finer".

#### Run a unigrid dark matter-only pre-flight simulation

In order to set up unigrid initial conditions with MUSIC, select first the desired resolution for this pre-flight simulation. Assume we want to run a 128<sup>3</sup> simulation, the coarse grid level has to be set to log<sub>2</sub> 128=7. Since we want to run a unigrid simulation, both levelmin and levelmax in section [setup] should be set to 7. Also the coarse grid seed needs to be chosen now and must not be changed afterwards. To do this, we set seed[7] in section [random] to the desired random seed. This seed determines the large scale structure and we will only add subgrid noise when performing refinement later. Now, set the box size, starting redshift, all the cosmological parameters and the input transfer function in the respective sections. Finally, select the output plugin in section [output] for the code with which you wish to perform this pre-flight simulation. Finally run MUSIC with the configuration file that contains all your settings and start your simulation. Note that you also have to explicitly specify a redshift at which to generate the initial conditions.

## Identify a region of interest (e.g. a halo) and trace back the region to the initial conditions in order to obtain the extent of its Lagrangian patch.

Once the simulation has finished, the region of interest has to be identified. Save all dark matter particle IDs contained in the volume. In the next step, identify the positions of these particles in the initial conditions file as output by MUSIC. Compute the bounding box of these particles and allow for some safety boundary.

#### Set up MUSIC to resample this Lagrangian patch at the desired resolution and possibly with baryons.

Insert the coordinates of the lower-left corner of this bounding box into ref\_offset in section [setup], the lengths into ref\_extent. Set the maximum refinement level in levelmax. Do not change the seed you had specified for the full box simulation nor add new seeds for lower levels! You can adjust levelmin if you do not specify seeds for these new coarser levels. Finally, add seeds for all additional finer levels including levelmax as seed[...] to section [random]. Add baryons, if desired, by saying baryons=yes in section [setup] and run MUSIC with this new configuration file.

#### **Compiling MUSIC**

#### Installing third-party libraries required by MUSIC

MUSIC requires a local installation of the FFTW and GSL libraries for its basic functionality. These are very common libraries and are usually found pre-installed at many scientific computing facilities. MUSIC makes use of the shared memory parallelization paradigm and is itself OpenMP parallelized. In order to also perform the FFTs in parallel, the multithread version of FFTW needs to be installed. In addition, the HDF5 (Hierarchical Data Format Library v5) can be installed. Note that some output formats (ENZO & the generic format) will be unavailable if the HDF5 library is not installed. The user will be guided through the necessary steps to perform a user-level installation of all these libraries in what follows.

#### Installing FFTW (required)

MUSIC uses the FFTW (Fastest Fourier Transform in the West) to perform the FFT-based convolution of white noise with the matter transfer function. MUSIC supports both FFTW2 and FFTW3 for multi-threaded shared memory machines. Note that FFTW2 does not support transforms of very large arrays (>32bit), so that for very large refinement volumes, FFTW3 needs to be used.

#### FFTW version 2

The library should be installed for multi-threaded machines to allow highest performance on multi-core processors. In order to download and install the library follow these steps:

- 1. Download the source code of the library in version 2.1.5 from the website (<u>http://www.fftw.org</u>) or follow <u>this direct</u> link which may however be outdated in the future.
- 2. Open a terminal and expand the gzipped tar archive.
- 3. Run the configure script with the following parameters: ./configure --prefix=\$HOME/local/ --enable-type-prefix --enable-threads --enable-float where \$HOME/local will install the library into a directory "local" inside of your home directory. You should set this to a directory that exists and where you are allowed to write files.

Add "--enable-float" if you want to compile for single precision; omit it if you want to compile for double precision. Omit "--enable-threads" if you do not want to compile the multi-threaded version of the library.

- 4. Compile and install the library make install
- 5. If you want to install both the single and double precision versions, repeat from step 3 and omit/add --enable-float when configuring in step 3 in order to compile also for double/single precision.

#### FFTW version 3

The library should be installed for multi-threaded machines to allow highest performance on multi-core processors. In order to download and install the library follow these steps:

- 6. Download the source code of the library in version 3.x from the website (<u>http://www.fftw.org</u>) or follow <u>this direct</u> link which may however be outdated in the future.
- 7. Open a terminal and expand the gzipped tar archive.
- 8. Run the configure script with the following parameters:

./configure --prefix=\$HOME/local/ --enable-openmp --enable-float where \$HOME/local will install the library into a directory "local" inside of your home directory. You should set this to a directory that exists and where you are allowed to write files. Add "--enable-float" if you want to compile for single precision; omit it if you want to compile for double precision. Omit "--enable-openmp" if you do not want to compile the multi-threaded version of the library.

- Compile and install the library make install
- 10. If you want to install both the single and double precision versions, repeat from step 3 and omit/add --enable-float when configuring in step 3 in order to compile also for double/single precision.

#### Installing GSL (required)

MUSIC requires the GNU scientific library (GSL) to compute integrals and generate random numbers. To download and install the library, follow these steps:

- 1. Download the source code of the library from the website (<u>lhttp://www.gnu.org/software/gsl/</u>) or follow <u>this direct</u> link to version 1.9 which may however be outdated in the future.
- 2. Open a terminal and expand the gzipped tar archive.
- 3. Run the configure script with the following parameters: ./configure --prefix=\$HOME/local/ where \$HOME/local will install the library into a directory "local" inside of your home directory. You should set this to a directory that exists and where you are allowed to write files.
- Compile and install the library make install

#### Installing HDF5 (optional)

Some MUSIC output plug-ins - such as ENZO and the MUSIC generic format - require the Hierarchical Data Format v.5 (HDF5). If you want to use any of these plug-ins, you need to install HDF5. Follow these steps to install:

- Download the source code of the library from the website (<u>lhttp://www.hdfgroup.org/HDF5/</u>) or follow <u>this direct</u> link to the most recent version which may however be outdated in the future.
- 2. Open a terminal and expand the gzipped tar archive.
- 3. Run the configure script with the following parameters: ./configure --prefix=\$HOME/local/ where \$HOME/local will install the library into a directory "local" inside of your home directory. You should set this to a directory that exists and where you are allowed to write files.
- Compile and install the library make install

#### **Remark: Boxlib and Nyx**

Nyx requires boxlib to be installed. The path to the installed version should be given in the MUSIC Makefile. Further details are however beyond the scope of this manual.

#### Adjusting the Makefile and Compiling MUSIC

Ideally you have to only adjust the paths to third-party libraries and your compiler in the Makefile. Below are the relevant sections at the beginning of the Makefile. You might need to adjust the bold expressions:

```
******
### compile time configuration options
FFTW3
            = yes
MULTITHREADFFTW = yes
SINGLEPRECISION = no
HAVEHDF5
            = yes
HAVEBOXLIB
            = no
******
### compiler and path settings
    = q++
CC
     = -03
OPT
CFLAGS = -Wall -fopenmp
LFLAGS = -fopenmp -lgsl -lgslcblas
CPATHS = -I. -I$ (HOME) / local/include -I/opt/local/include -I/usr/local/include
LPATHS = -L$ (HOME) /local/lib -L/opt/local/lib -L/usr/local/lib
```

The first three options configure basic functionality of the code:

FFTW3	set to $\mathbf{yes}$ if you are using FFTW3, $\mathbf{no}$ if you are using FFTW2
MULTITHREADFFTW	set to ${f yes}$ if you configured FFTW with theenable-threads option
SINGLEPRECISION	set to <b>yes</b> if you want to run MUSIC in single precision mode and you have
	compiled a version of FFTWx withenable-float
HAVEHDF5	set to <b>yes</b> if you have installed the HDF5 library and want to create output for ENZO
HAVEBOXLIB	set to <b>yes</b> if you have installed the boxlib library and want to create output for Nyx, needs the path in BOXLIB_HOME

You also need to add the paths where you installed the third-party libraries mentioned in the previous section to CPATHS and LPATHS, just replace the bold parts.

#### **Running MUSIC**

MUSIC is run by specifying the path/name of a configuration file as a command line parameter, e.g.

./MUSIC my\_ics.conf

All specifics regarding the setup of the initial conditions to be generated and options to control the code behaviour are given in this file. The available options are detailed below.

MUSIC can be run using multiple threads on multi-core shared memory machines. The number of threads that MUSIC is allowed to use is taken from the OMP\_NUM\_THREADS environment variable. This variable can be set for bash shell users by executing

```
export OMP NUM THREADS=4
```

to allow a maximum of 4 threads for any subsequent call of MUSIC during the current shell session. For tcsh users, the respective command would be

```
setenv OMP_NUM_THREADS=4
```

#### The configuration file

The MUSIC configuration file is organized into sections, whose names appear in square brackets and options, which are assigned a value with the equal '=' operator. Currently, the following sections exist:

[setup]	General setup for the simulation box and the refinement hierarchy as well as code
	behavior control
[cosmology]	Cosmological parameters and the transfer function are defined here
[random]	The random seeds and the behavior of the random number generator
[output]	The ouput plug-in is selected and parameters for output
[poisson]	Behavior of the multi-grid Poisson solver is controlled

#### The [setup] Section

General setup for the simulation box and the refinement hierarchy as well as code behavior control is defined using the options available in this section. There is support for various region specifications via plug-ins that can be selected via the region parameter. Currently, MUSIC implements two region generator plugins that will be described below.

boxlength	The size of the full simulation box in comoving Mpc/h	real
zstart	The starting redshift for the simulation	real
region	The method used to generate the refinement hierarchy. Currently the methods	string
	box and ellipsoid are supported. If this parameter is not specified, it	
	defaults to box.	
levelmin	The level of the coarse grid which covers the full simulation box. The number	int
	specified is the 2-log of the number of grid cells per dimension, e.g. a level of 7	
	corresponds to $2^7 = 128$ cells/dimension.	

levelmax	The maximum refinement level in the simulation. This value has to be larger or equal to levelmin. This sets the effective resolution in the refinement region to $2^{\text{levelmax}}$ cells/dimension	int
levelmin_TF	The level of the coarse grid when the density grid is computed (the convolution with the transfer function is performed). This can be set to a number larger than levelmin, the density field will be averaged down after the convolution has been performed and the Poisson solver is invoked. Essentially, this improves the accuracy of the coarser density modes when a low resolution in the coarsest level is desired in the final simulation.	int
force_equal_extent	Forces the refinement region to be a cube with edge length equal to the largest length determined from the region parameters.	bool
padding	Number of grid cells in intermediate levels (when using levelmax>levelmin+1) surrounding the nested grids. The extent of an intermediate level is N/ 2+2*padding if N is the number of cells in the next finer level.	int
overlap	Number of extra padding cells for subgrids when computing the transfer function convolutions. These are discarded when computing the displacements but greatly reduce errors due to boundary effects	int
blocking_factor	This parameter can be used to require the dimensions of initial grids to be multiples of blocking_factor. Not used if parameter is not present. This is mainly necessary to optimize for block based AMR.	int
align_top	Require subgrids to be always aligned with the coarsest grid? This is necessary for some codes (ENZO) but not for others (Gadget).	bool
periodic_TF	This controls whether the transfer function kernel is periodic or not. The convolution is always periodic. Should be set to yes.	bool
baryons	Set to yes if also initial conditions for baryons shall be generated	bool
use_2LPT	Set to yes if 2nd order Lagrangian perturbation theory shall be used to compute particle displacements and velocities	bool
use_LLA	Set to yes if the baryonic density field shall be computed using a second order expansion of the local Lagrangian approximation (LLA). See Section 5.3 in Hahn & Abel (2011).	bool
center_vel	<i>Experimental feature</i> to give the subvolume a kick opposite to its predicted motion over time to minimize movement of the high-resolution region with respect to the grid rest frame.	bool

#### Region 'box' (default)

The default region generator is the cuboid 'box' region, specified by giving the coordinates of the bounding box of the high-resolution region.

ref_offset	Offset of the refinement region. Given as three comma-separated real values in	3*real
	units of the box length, e.g. 0.3, 0.4, 0.14.	
	You can only specify ref_offset or ref_center, not both.	

ref_center	Center of the refinement region. Given as three comma-separated real values in	3*real
	units of the box length, e.g. 0.3, 0.4, 0.14.	
	You can only specify ref_offset or ref_center, not both.	
ref_extent	Extent of the refinement region. Given as three comma-separated real values in	3*real
	units of the box length, e.g. 0.3, 0.4, 0.14	
	You can only specify ref_extent or ref_dims, not both.	
ref_dims	Instead of ref_extent, also the resolution of the high resolution region in grid cells	3*int
	can be specified directly.	
	You can only specify ref_extent or ref_dims, not both.	

#### Region 'ellipsoid'

Instead of the default cuboid regions, a set of points can be specified that define the high-resolution region. When using 'ellipsoid', a minimum volume bounding ellipsoid will be fit to these points. For particle codes, only high-resolution particles in this region will be written out, for grid codes, masks will be written out that reflect the shape of the ellipsoid.

region_point_file	ASCII file containing point coordinates of the particles in the Lagrangian	3*real
	patch of the region of interest. These need to be given in box coordinates,	
	i.e. [01], one point per line.	
region_point_shift	[optional] If the simulation from which the coordinates in region_point_file	3*int
	have been determined was already a zoom simulation, the coordinates in the	
	IC file need to be shifted back to their original position (the zoom region had	
	been centered). Specify here the shift that was applied in the centering of the	
	zoom region, as has been output by MUSIC in the line, e.g.	
	- Domain will be shifted by (-12, -12, -12)	
	If you specify the shift, also the levelmin of that simulation needs to be	
	specified as below:	
<pre>region_point_levelmin</pre>	[optional, but req. if region_point_shift is specified] The levelmin	3*real
	of the zoom-in simulation that has been run to determine the points that	
	determine the region.	

#### The [cosmology] Section

Specific settings for cosmological parameters and physical properties are set in this section.

Omega_m	The total matter density parameter (now)	real
Omega_L	The cosmological constant density parameter (now)	real
Omega_b	The baryon density parameter (now)	real
но	The Hubble constant (now), in km/s/Mpc	real
sigma_8	Normalization of the power spectrum	real
nspec	Power law index of the density perturbation spectrum after inflation	real

transfer	Name of the transfer function plug-in to be used. Depending on the choice, there	string
	are different additional parameters that need to be set. MUSIC comes with the	
	following default plug-ins:	
	• BBKS - for the Bardeen fit to the transfer function without baryon	
	features.	
	• eisenstein - for the Eisenstein & Hu () fit for the CDM transfer function	
	with baryon features	
	• CAMB - for CAMB () output transfer functions (tabulated). The filename of	
	the additional option transfer_file has to indicate the file from which	
	the tabulated transfer function shall be read.	
YHe	Helium abundance. This is used to compute the initial gas temperature if baryons	real
	are present. (Will only be used if the simulation code supports reading temperature	
	fields). Optional. Default value: 0.248.	
gamma	Adiabatic exponent. This is used to compute the initial gas temperature if baryons	real
	are present. (Will only be used if the simulation code supports reading temperature	
	fields). Optional. Default value: 5/3	

#### The [random] Section

In this section, the random seeds for the various levels should be given in the form seed[level] = seedval, i.e. e.g.

seed[7]=152521
seed[8]=532211

In this example, the random values generated for level 7 (i.e. a grid with 128<sup>3</sup> cells) are used as constraints for the next finer values, i.e. the large scale modes are determined by it. This is always true, for the lowest seed given. It is also possible to provide only a seed for level 8, in which case the random values will be averaged down outside the refinement region. Note that in the current implementation, seed values are intimately tied to the level, i.e. the same seed number given for two levels does not generate the same phases. The seed for the lowest level specified (which does not have to coincide with levelmin) determines the phases. Higher level seeds are just used to refine the noise. *Thus, if you want to keep phases identical between simulations, do not change any of the seeds for any of the levels that the two simulations have in common!!!* 

#### How does the parallel random number generator work?

The implementation of the parallel random number generator is as follows: In order to be able to draw reproducible random numbers without the need to always draw all numbers at the highest resolution, the grids are broken down into *subcubes* with independent random seeds. These seeds are computed from the level seed and the position of the subcube and are thus unique. Only random numbers for those subcubes which intersect regions of interest need to be drawn those effectively allowing for efficient and parallelizable random number generation on large grids. The size of the subcubes can be chosen via the parameter cubesize, not that changing cubesize for two simulations with the same seeds specified leads to different random numbers.

#### Random numbers from file

Instead of a seed number (integer), also a string can be given which gives the path and location of a file containing the white noise for the level. The file needs to contain 2<sup>3\*level</sup> numbers and should be in GRAFIC format, i.e. a FORTRAN unformatted file written by the following FORTRAN in the GRAFIC2 source code file ic4.f:

```
print*,'Writing random numbers used in ic4 to ',filename
open(11,file=filename,form='unformatted')
rewind 11
write(11) np1,np2,np3,iseed
do i3=1,np3
    write(11) ((f(i1,i2,i3),i1=1,np1),i2=1,np2)
end do
close(11)
```

where np1, np2, np3 have to be equal to 2<sup>level</sup> and iseed is an integer containing the seed (not used further), f is an array of double or single precision real numbers with the random values. NOTE THAT FOR HISTORICAL REASONS, THERE IS A FACTOR OF -1 CURRENTLY WITH WHICH GRAFIC2 NOISE HAS TO BE MULTIPLIED IN ORDER TO GET COMPATIBLE ICS. This can be achieved inside MUSIC by specifying grafic\_sign=yes in section [random].

#### The [output] Section

Output in MUSIC is performed using output plug-ins. The parameters that are given in this section will be parsed by each plugin itself. Therefore the specific parameters available depend on the output plug-in chosen. However, all output-plugins are required to work in a minimal setting, when no options are given besides a filename. Then:

format	the string identifier that selects the plug-in. Standard plug-ins are	string
	generic, gadget, grafic2 (for RAMSES e.g.) and enzo.	
filename	name and path of the file (or directory - depending on the plug-in) where the output	string
	data will be stored	

Further options specific to the chosen output plugin are possible. They are listed below.

#### The [poisson] Section

laplace_order	order of the finite difference approximation for the Laplacian operator	int
grad_order	order of the finite difference approximation for the gradient operator	int
accuracy	the residual norm required to establish convergence of the multigrid solver	real
smoother	name of the smoothing sweep method used in the multigrid method:	string
	gs (Gauss-Seidel), jacobi (Jacobi), sor (Successive Overrelaxation)	
pre_smooth	number of pre-smoothing sweeps	int
post_smooth	number of post-smoothing sweeps	int
fft_fine	controls whether the hybrid Poisson solver shall be used (see paper for details)	bool

#### **Output plug-ins**

#### gadget

For Gadget, the high resolution particles are written out as Gadget type 0 for gas (if baryons are enabled), and as type 1 for dark matter. The coarse level particles are all of type 5 and correspond to "total matter" particles, no SPH particles will be present outside the high-resolution region.

By default, initial conditions for Gadget are generated with the following units:

UnitLength in cm	3.08568025e24	;	1.0 Mpc
UnitMass_in_g	1.989e43	;	1.0e10 solar masses
UnitVelocity_in_cm_per_s	1e5	;	1 km/sec

Alternatively, in the MUSIC parameter file, it is possible to specify the following extra parameters in section [output] which only apply to the Gadget-2 output plugin:

gadget_usekpc	if set to ${\tt yes}$ , the length unit will be in kpc, i.e. <code>UnitLength_in_cm</code> becomes	bool
	3.08568025e21, the velocity unit remains the same.	
gadget_usemsol	if set to yes, the mass unit will be in solar masses, i.e. UnitMass_in_g	bool
	becomes 1.989e33, the velocity unit remains the same.	
gadget_num_files	this will split the initial conditions file into several files, necessary for very large	int
	particle numbers (>231), or for convenience reasons	
gadget_coarsetype	Gadget particle type to be used for coarse particles (2,3 or 5), default is 5	int
gadget_longids	Use 64bit integers for particle IDs. Default if the parameter is not given is 32bit	bool
	if less than 2 <sup>32</sup> particles, 64bit if more.	

#### grafic2

This is the format for RAMSES. The specific options for the GRAFIC output plugin in section [output] are

ramses_nml	if set to ${\tt yes}$ , a (partial!) RAMSES namelist file will be generated. It can be	bool
	used as a starting point for the simulation namelist file. A mask	
	('ic_refmap') will be output that tags the masked refinement region.	
ramses_old_nml	if set to ${\tt yes}$ , a RAMSES namelist file will be generated containing the	bool
	base grid structure. Instead of a mask field, a geometric refinement	
	hierarchy will be written out. It can be used as a starting point for the	
	simulation namelist file.	
ramses_pvar_idx	writes a refinement mask out as a passive variable field, this parameter	int
	specifies the index of the variable, filename becomes ic_pvar_ <idx>,</idx>	
	default is 1	
ramses_pvar_val	value to which the passive variable should be initialized, default is 0.5	real

Note that Gadget-2 allows for a zoom-region particle mesh that can be enabled in the Makefile. Please consult the Gadget-2 manual for this option.

#### enzo

The ENZO output plugin has no extra parameters at this time. It outputs by default a template parameter file parameter\_file.txt in the output directory which contains the grid set-up etc and can be used as a starting point for setting up a simulation. It is not a complete parameter file to run a simulation, other parameters need to be added. The sample parameter file AMRCosmologySimulation.enzo that comes with ENZO should be used for guidance.

#### tipsy

The tipsy output plugin has the extra parameters listed below:

tipsy_eps	this specifies how the softening is calculated for the particles. You can	real
	specified one real number that specifies the force softening for each	
	particle in units of the mean linear particle separation on each refinement	
	level, i.e. a value of 0.05 corresponds to 1/20 of the mean linear	
	separation. The default value if the parameter is not given is 0.05.	
tipsy_native	if set to yes, native output will be written out, if set to no, all data will be	bool
	piped through XDR (External Data Representation) encoding. Default is no,	
	i.e. XDR encoded values.	

#### art

The ART output plugin has no extra parameters at this time.

#### cart

The Chicago-ART output plugin has no extra parameters at this time.

#### nyx

The nyx output plugin has no extra parameters at this time.

#### generic

The generic plugin can be used to output simple HDF5 data arrays for all fields that can be readily used for subsequent analysis/visualization with other tools.

#### A sample configuration file

[setup] boxlength = zstart = levelmin_TF = levelmax = padding = overlap = ref_offset = ref_extent = align_top = baryons = use_2LPT = use_LLA = periodic TF =	This creates a 100M and a refinement reg with a corner point a length of 20 Mpc/h a a a a b a b a b a b a b a b a c a c a
[cosmology] Omega_m = Omega_L = Omega_b = H0 = sigma_8 = nspec = transfer =	0.276 0.724 0.045 70.3 0.811 0.961 eisenstein
[random] seed[7] = seed[8] =	= 12345 = 23456
<b>[output]</b> ##generic FROLIC data #format = #filename =	format (used for testing) generic debug.hdf5
##ENZO - also outputs #format =	the settings for the parameter file

= ic.enzo

##Grafic2 compatible format for use with RAMSES

##Gadget-2 (type=1: high-res particles, type=5: rest)

##option 'ramses\_nml'=yes writes out a startup nml file

This creates a 100Mpc/h box with a 128<sup>3</sup> base grid and a refinement region at 256<sup>3</sup> effective resolution with a corner point at (40,40,40) Mpc/h and a side length of 20 Mpc/h in all directions.

# #format = grafic2 #filename = ics\_ramses #ramses\_nml = yes [poisson]

#filename

fft_fine	=	no
accuracy	=	1e-5
pre_smooth	=	3
post_smooth	=	3
smoother	=	gs
laplace_order	=	6
grad_order	=	6

##no gas possible at the moment

format = gadget2
filename = ics\_gadget.dat
shift\_back = yes

#### **Extending MUSIC**

#### Adding a new output plug-in

New output plugins can be added any time to the directory plugins. Note that the naming convention is that output plugins start with "output\_". The output plugins need to derive from the class output\_plugin, declared in file output.hh, and implement all the write\_... functions. The implementation of the grafic2 plugin in file plugins/ output\_grafic2.cc can be taken as a simple example. Note, that the plugin has to register itself using the <u>abstract</u> factory pattern with the plugin creator by adding a line similar to this to the end of the new plugin file:

```
namespace{
output_plugin_creator_concrete<my_output_plugin> creator("myplugin_name");
}
```

When MUSIC is recompiled (using make), the plugin will be automatically available by specifying

```
[output]
format = myplugin_name
```

in the parameter file, no other MUSIC source file needs to be touched.

#### Adding a new transfer function plug-in

New transfer functions, e.g. new fits, modified fits, or new reading modules for tabulated functions, can be added via the plug-in mechanism. These plugins need to derive from the class transfer\_function\_plugin, defined in transfer function.hh. Examples can be found in the plugins directory.

#### Adding a new region generator plug-in

New region generators can be added via the plug-in mechanism. These generate a bounding box that initializes the MUSIC hierarchy. They are queried cell-by-cell upon output to provide support for masking. The region generator needs to derive from the class region\_generator\_plugin, defined in region\_generator.hh. An example is the ellipsoid generator in plugins/region ellipsoid.cc.