

Specifying detector components in configuration files

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Some times algorithms need to know which geometry element(s) to work with:

- TPC digitisation: *inject a test charge in this wire at this time*
- reconstruction: *operate only on hits from selected TPC*
- ...

The syntax and number of parameters to code is bulky:

```
{  
  TestChargeCryostat: 0  
  TestChargeTPC:      2  
  TestChargePlane:   1  
  TestChargeWire:    1542  
  # ...  
}
```

... and some code may “forget” there may be multiple TPC or cryostats.
To include more than one component is proportionally longer.

Configuration syntax

A simple implementation introduces a simplified syntax for the same purpose, mirroring the standard way of LArSoft to identify geometry components:

```
{  
  TestCharge: { C:0 T:2 P:1 W:1542 }  
  # ...  
}
```

If a list needs to be specified, the standard FHiCL syntax is:

```
{  
  OnlyOnTPC: [ { C:0 T:0 }, { C:0 T:1 } ] # two TPC  
  # ...  
}
```

Notes:

- `TestCharge` in the example is just a regular FHiCL table which by chance matches the standard LArSoft ID printout
- elements *must not* be in quotes

Reading the configuration

The algorithm reading that configuration should look like:

```
#include "larcoreobj/SimpleTypesAndConstants/geo_types_fhicl.h" // geo::fhicl

class MyAlgorithm {
  std::optional<geo::WireID> const fTestChargeWire;
  std::vector<geo::TPCID> const fTPCs;
  public:
  struct Config {
    geo::fhicl::OptionalWireID TestCharge
      { fhicl::Name("TestCharge"), fhicl::Comment("wire to inject charge into") };
    geo::fhicl::TPCIDsequence TPCs
      { fhicl::Name("TPCs"), fhicl::Comment("selected TPCs") };
  };
}; // class MyAlgorithm

MyAlgorithm::MyAlgorithm(fhicl::Table<Config> const& config)
  : fTestChargeWire(readParameter(config).TestCharge)
  , fTPCs            (readParameter(config).TPCs)
  {}
```

Reading the configuration — commentary

- yep, this syntax is only available with FHiCL validation!
- instead of the usual `fhicl::Sequence<geo::TPCID>`, the special class `geo::fhicl::TPCIDsequence` is used
- **several types** are available to read optional or mandatory, atoms or sequences, with or without default values, for all geometry IDs
→ all of them can be read with `readParameter()`
- optional configuration is read as `std::optional` types
- currently there is no (easy) way to specify a default value for a sequence; the workaround is to use an optional sequence, and specify a default value in `readParameter()`
- the compiler will find `readParameter()` in namespace `geo::fhicl` because that's where the type of its argument is defined (ADL)

Ah the future!

With implementation of [feature #23669](#), the syntax will adhere back to standard FHiCL.

- LArSoft offers geometry and readout element ID types (`geo::PlaneID`, `geo::ROPID`, ...)
- these IDs help algorithms be detector-independent and they are supported by LArSoft interface
- a new syntax is offered to conveniently specify geometry and readout elements in the configuration
- code will become even simpler with the addition of new FHiCL features

Some examples can be found in the [documentation of `geo::fhiCL` and `readout::fhiCL` namespaces](#).

A possible equivalent in the old way: configuration

These are two possible ways to implement the [same example as before](#).

```
{  
  TestChargeCryo:    0  
  TestChargeTPC:    2  
  TestChargePlane:  1  
  TestChargeWire: 1542  
  
  OnlyOnTPC: [ [ 0, 0 ], [ 0, 1 ] ] # C:0 T:0 and C:0 T:1  
}
```

A possible equivalent in the old way (non-validated)

And this is how the code reading it may look like:

```
class MyAlgorithm {
  std::optional<geo::WireID> const fTestChargeWire;
  std::vector<geo::TPCID> fTPCs; // can't be const
  public:
  MyAlgorithm(fhicl::ParameterSet const& pset);
}; // class MyAlgorithm

MyAlgorithm::MyAlgorithm(fhicl::ParameterSet const& pset)
: fTestChargeWire{
  pset.is_key_to_atom("TestChargeCryo")
  ? std::optional<geo::WireID{
    pset.get<unsigned int>("TestChargeCryo"), pset.get<unsigned int>("TestChargeTPC"),
    pset.get<unsigned int>("TestChargePlane"), pset.get<unsigned int>("TestChargeWire")
  }>
  : std::nullopt
}
{
for (auto const& idNum: pset.get<std::vector<std::vector<unsigned int>>>("OnlyOnTPC"))
  fTPCs.emplace_back(idNum[0], idNum[1]);
}
```