
Session 22: Good *art* Workflow

or

Guidelines for better job configuration

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By now ...

- You know how to configure simple *art* jobs using the FHiCL language
- Now it's time to design your configurations to be robust:
 - against future configuration changes
 - for submitting jobs to the grid

By now ...

- You know how to configure simple *art* jobs using the FHiCL language
- Now it's time to design your configurations to be robust:
 - against future configuration changes
 - for submitting jobs to the grid

- We will learn:
 - Various reporting tools
 - **PROLOGs** and substitutions
 - How to minimize points of maintenance
 - **FHICL_FILE_PATH** and **#include**
 - Various FHiCL syntax issues

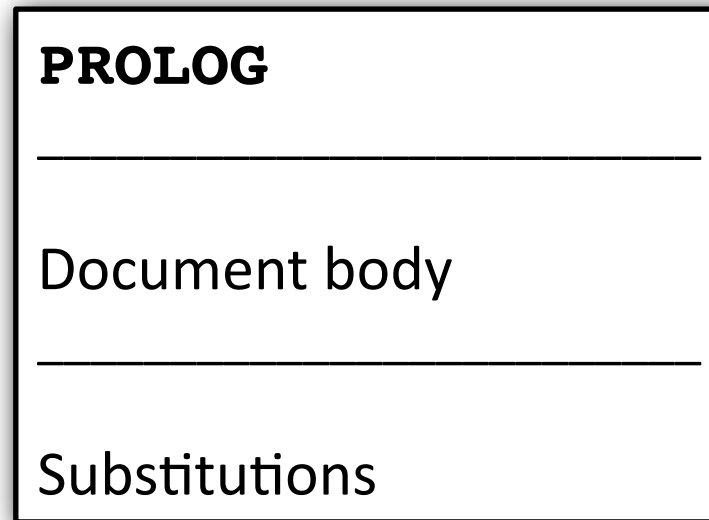
Layout of FHiCL document

PROLOG

Document body

Substitutions

Layout of FHiCL document



- The final configuration does not contain any **PROLOG** or substitutions.
- To check the final configuration*:
`fhicl-dump <your FHiCL file>`

**fhicl-dump has been provided in art-workbook for this course.
In the near future, it will be relocated in fhicl-cpp.*

Substitutions

```
table1: {  
  table2: {  
    foo : bar  
  }  
}
```

Substitutions

```
table1: {  
    table2: {  
        foo : bar  
    }  
}  
  
// substitutions  
table1.table2.foo : ey
```

Substitutions

```
table1: {  
    table2: {  
        foo : bar  
    }  
}
```

```
// substitutions  
table1.table2.foo : ey
```

Substitutions must be fully-qualified

Substitutions

You **cannot** substitute partially-qualified parameters

```
table1:
  table2: {
    foo: bar
  }
}

// subst.
table1.table2.foo : ey // THIS WILL BE
                       // A PARSE ERROR
```

Substitutions must be fully-qualified

Substitutions

```
table1: {  
  table2: {  
    foo : bar  
  }  
  list : [ 0, 4, "fun" ]  
}
```

```
// substitutions  
table1.table2.foo : ey
```

Substitutions

```
table1: {  
  table2: {  
    foo : bar  
  }  
  list : [ 0, 4, "fun" ]  
}
```

```
// substitutions  
table1.table2.foo : ey  
table1.list[2] : 7
```

Substitutions

```
table1: {  
  table2: {  
    foo : bar  
  }  
  list : [ 0, 4, "fun" ]  
}
```

```
// substitution  
table1.table2.f  
table1.list[2]
```

Output from **fhicl-dump**

```
table1: { list: [ 0  
                , 4  
                , 7  
                ]  
          table2: { foo: "ey"  
                  }  
        }
```

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **Single Point of Maintenance** (SPoM) in your FHiCL files.

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **Single Point of Maintenance** (SPoM) in your FHiCL files.
 - Whenever we code in C++, we design our programs in a way so that they can be minimally burdensome to maintain.
 - We want to do the same thing in FHiCL ...

SPoM: Illustrated

```
physics : {  
  
  producers : {  
    prod1 : { pdgId : 11 }  
    prod2 : { pdgId : 11 }  
  }  
  
  analyzers : {  
    mod1 : { pdgId : 11 }  
  }  
  
}
```

SPoM: Illustrated (@local)

```
pid : 11
physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::pid }
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::pid }
  }
}
```


SPoM: Illustrated (@local)

```
pid : 11
physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::pid }
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::pid }
  }

}
```

- **@local** rules:
 - referenced parameter must be defined previously
 - referenced parameter must be fully qualified

SPoM: Illustrated (@local)

```
parameters : {  
  pid : 11  
}  
physics : {  
  
  producers : {  
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }  
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }  
  }  
  
  analyzers : {  
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }  
  }  
}
```

SPoM: Illustrated (@local)

```
parameters : {  
  pid : 11  
}  
physics : {  
  
  producers : {  
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }  
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }  
  }  
  
  analyzers : {  
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }  
  }  
}
```

@local::pid would be a parse error.

SPoM: Illustrated

```
parameters : {  
  pid : 11  
}  
physics : {  
  
  producers : {  
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }  
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }  
  }  
  
  analyzers : {  
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }  
  }  
}
```

- Now we have unwanted FHiCL parameters in our configuration:
 - **parameters**
 - **parameters.pid**

SPoM: Illustrated

```
parameters : {  
  pid : 11  
}  
physics : {  
  
  producers : {  
    prod1 : { pdg  
    prod2 : { pdg  
  }  
  
  analyzers : {  
    mod1 : { pdg  
  }  
}
```

- Now we have unwanted FHiCL parameters in our configuration:
 - **parameters**
 - **parameters.pid**

```
// final configuration after FHiCL processing  
parameters: { pid: 11  
}  
physics: { analyzers: { mod1: { pdgId: 11  
  }  
  }  
  producers: { prod1: { pdgId: 11  
  }  
  prod2: { pdgId: 11  
  }  
  }  
}
```

SPoM: Illustrated (**PROLOG**)

```
BEGIN_PROLOG
parameters : {
  pid : 11
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
}
```

SPoM: Illustrated (**PROLOG**)

```
BEGIN_PROLOG
parameters : {
  pid : 11
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
}
```

- **PROLOGs** define parameters:
 - at the beginning of the document (always!)
 - that can be used later on in the **PROLOG**/rest of the document
 - that are not included as part of the final FHiCL file.
- Multiple **PROLOGs** are supported as long as they are contiguous.

SPoM: Illustrated (**PROLOG**)

```
BEGIN_PROLOG
parameters : {
  pid : 11
}
END_PROLOG
```

```
physics : {
```

```
  producers :
```

```
    prod1 :
```

```
    prod2 :
```

```
  analyzers
```

```
    mod1
```

```
}
```

- **PROLOGs** define parameters:
 - at the beginning of the document (always!)
 - that can be used later on in the **PROLOG**/rest of the document
 - that are not included as part of the final FHiCL file.
- Multiple **PROLOGs** are supported as long as they are contiguous.

```
// final configuration after FHiCL processing
physics: { analyzers: { mod1: { pdgId: 11
                           }
                    }
          producers: { prod1: { pdgId: 11
                               }
                    prod2: { pdgId: 11
                               }
                    }
          }
}
```


SPoM: Illustrated (**PROLOG**)

```
BEGIN_PROLOG
parameters : {
  pid : 11
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
}
```

SPoM: Illustrated (**PROLOG**)

```
BEGIN_PROLOG
parameters : {
  pid : 11
}
END_PROLOG
```

```
physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
```

- Can place **PROLOG** in separate file.

SPoM: Illustrated (`#include`)

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
```

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **single point of maintenance** (SPoM) in your FHiCL files.
2. Only **#include** files that contain **PROLOGs**.

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **single point of maintenance** (SPoM) in your FHiCL files.
2. Only **#include** files that contain **PROLOGs**.
 - Adopting this principle makes a FHiCL configuration file:
 - easiest to understand, and
 - hardest to get wrong
 - Some of the exercises you will go through deal with configurations that violate this principle.

#include and FHICL_FILE_PATH

- The **#include** syntax is very similar in behavior to the C++ include directive.
 - Any **#included** file is expanded in place before the FHiCL file is parsed.
 - Nested includes are allowed.
 - In order for the file to be included, its containing directory *must be present* on the **FHICL_FILE_PATH** environment variable. If not, you will get an error like:

```
---- search_path BEGIN  
    Can't find file "databaseFiles/pdt.fcl"  
---- search_path END
```

(see extra slides)

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **single point of maintenance** (SPoM) in your FHiCL files.
2. Only **#include** files that contain **PROLOGs**.
3. Specify directories on your **FHICL_FILE_PATH** in a manner similar to how you would include C++ headers.

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **single point of maintenance** (SPoM) in your FHiCL files.
2. Only **#include** files that contain **PROLOGs**.
3. Specify directories on your **FHICL_FILE_PATH** in a manner similar to how you would include C++ headers.
 - Too many **FHICL_FILE_PATH** directories make it difficult to locate configuration files.

Aside: An expanded FHiCL file

- To see a fully-expanded FHiCL file—i.e. all included files have been expanded—type:

```
fhicl-expand -o=expanded.fcl config.fcl
```

```

#include "fcl/minimalMessageService.fcl"
#include "fcl/standardModules.fcl"

process_name : SampleFHiCLFile

source : {
  module_type : EmptyEvent
  maxEvents   : 10
}

services : { @table::services }

physics : {
  producers : {
    evtgen      : @local::evtgen_default
    detsim      : @local::detsim_default
    makeHits    : @local::makeHits_default
    fitter      : @local::fitter_default
    randomsaver : @local::randomsaver_default
  }

  analyzers : {
    inspectGens : @local::inspectGens_default
  }

  p1      : [ evtgen, detsim, makeHits, fitter, randomsaver ]
  e1      : [ inspectGens ]
  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths   : [ e1 ]
}

physics.producers.evtgen.seed : 5
physics.producers.detsim.seed : 6
physics.producers.makeHits.seed : 7
physics.producers.fitter.seed : 8

```

le—i.e. all
ded—type:

config.fcl


```

#include "fcl/minimalMessageService.fcl"
#include "fcl/standardModules.fcl"

process_name : SampleFHiCLFile

source : {
  module_type : EmptyEvent
  maxEvents   : 10
}

services : { @table::services }

physics : {
  producers : {
    evtgen      : @local::evtgen_default
    detsim      : @local::detsim_default
    makeHits    : @local::makeHits_default
    fitter      : @local::fitter_default
    randomsaver : @local::randomsaver_default
  }

  analyzers : {
    inspectGens : @local::inspectGens_default
  }

  p1      : [ evtgen, detsim, makeHits, fitter, randomsaver ]
  e1      : [ inspectGens ]
  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths   : [ e1 ]
}

physics.producers.evtgen.seed : 5
physics.producers.detsim.seed : 6
physics.producers.makeHits.seed : 7
physics.producers.fitter.seed : 8

```

le—i.e. all
ded—type:

config.fcl



SPoM: Insertion facilities

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

physics : {

    producers : {
        prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
        prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    }

    analyzers : {
        mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    }

}
```

SPoM: Insertion facilities

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

physics : {

    producers : {
        prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
        prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    }

    analyzers : {
        mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    }

    p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
    e1 : [ mod1 ]

    trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
    end_paths      : [ e1 ]

}
```

SPoM: Insertion facilities

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.mod1 }
  }

  p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths      : [ e1 ]

}
```

- Assume these producers are owned by the experiment.
- Need to adjust configuration to be robust against future changes.

SPoM: Insertion facilities

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parame
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parame
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parame
  }

  p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths : [ e1 ]

}
```

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

# Experiment-provided producers
BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : @local::experiment.producers.prod1
    prod2 : @local::experiment.producers.prod2
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths : [ e1 ]

}
```


SPoM: Insertion facilities (@table)

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

# Experiment-provided producers
BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    @table::experiment.producers
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths      : [ e1 ]
}
}
```

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

# Experiment-provided producers
BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : @local::experiment.producers.prod1
    prod2 : @local::experiment.producers.prod2
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths      : [ e1 ]
}
}
```

SPoM: Insertion facilities (@table)

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

# Experiment-provided producers
BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    @table::experiment.producers
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths      : [ e1 ]
}
}
```

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

# Experiment-provided producers
BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : @local::experiment.producers.prod1
    prod2 : @local::experiment.producers.prod2
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths      : [ e1 ]
}
}
```

SPoM: Insertion facilities (@table)

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"
# Experiment-provided producers
BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    @table::experiment.producers
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}

trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
end_paths      : [ e1 ]
}
```

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"
# Experiment-provided producers
BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    prod1 : @local::experiment.producers.prod1
    prod2 : @local::experiment.producers.prod2
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}

trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
end_paths      : [ e1 ]
}
```

@table insert the contents of the value of the specified parameter.

SPoM: Insertion facilities (@table)

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"
# Experiment-provided producers
BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
```

```
END_PROLOG
```

```
physics : {
```

```
  producers : {
    @table::experiment.producers
  }
```

```
  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
```

```
}
```

```
pe
```

```
t
```

```
end_paths : [ e1 ]
```

```
}
```

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"
# Experiment-provided producers
BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
```

```
END_PROLOG
```

```
physics : {
```

```
  producers : {
    prod1 : @local::experiment.producers.prod1
    prod2 : @local::experiment.producers.prod2
  }
```

```
  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
```

```
id }
```

```
pe
```

```
t
```

```
trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
```

```
end_paths : [ e1 ]
}
```

➤ If owner of **experiment.producers** wants to add/remove a producer, the user will not have to change anything in **physics.producers**.

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **single point of maintenance** (SPoM) in your FHiCL files.
2. Only **#include** files that contain **PROLOGs**.
3. Specify directories on your **FHICL_FILE_PATH** in a manner similar to how you would include C++ headers.
4. Group modules with a common purpose into one table and use the **@table** insertion facility.

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **single point of maintenance**

```
producers : {  
  sim1      : @local::experiment.producers.sim1  
  sim2      : @local::experiment.producers.sim2  
  sim3      : @local::experiment.producers.sim3  
  tracking1 : @local::experiment.producers.tracking1  
  tracking2 : @local::experiment.producers.tracking2  
  bookkeeping1: @local::experiment.producers.bookkeeping1  
  bookkeeping2: @local::experiment.producers.bookkeeping2  
}
```

Not great.

insertion facility.

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **single point of maintenance**

```
producers : @local::experiment.producers
```

Not good either.

insertion facility.

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **single point of maintenance**

```
producers : {  
  @table::experiment.simulation_producers  
  @table::experiment.tracking_producers  
  @table::experiment.bookkeeping_producers  
}
```

Good, and extensible ...

insertion facility.

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **single point of maintenance**

```
producers : {  
  @table::experiment.simulation_producers  
  @table::experiment.tracking_producers  
  @table::experiment.bookkeeping_producers  
  myownProducer : {}  
}
```

insertion facility.

SPoM: Insertion facilities

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

# Experiment-provided producers
BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    @table::experiment.producers
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths      : [ e1 ]
}
}
```

SPoM: Insertion facilities

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

# Experiment-provided producers
BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
END_PROLOG

physics : {

  producers : {
    @table::experiment.producers
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths      : [ e1 ]
}
```

```
// experiment_producers.fcl
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
}
END_PROLOG
```

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"
#include "experiment_producers.fcl"

physics : {

  producers : {
    @table::experiment.producers
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

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  end_paths      : [ e1 ]
}
```

SPoM: Insertion facilities (@sequence)

```
// experiment_producers.fcl
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"

BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
  prodList : [ prod1, prod2 ]
}
END_PROLOG
```

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// experiment_producers.fcl
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BEGIN_PROLOG
experiment : {
  producers : {
    prod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
    prod2 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
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END_PROLOG
```

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"
#include "experiment_producers.fcl"

physics : {

  producers : {
    @table::experiment.producers
  }

  analyzers : {
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }

  p1 : [ @sequence::experiment.prodList ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
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```
p1 : [ @sequence::experiment.prodList ]
e1 : [ mod1 ]
```

```
trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
end_paths      : [ e1 ]
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p1 : [ prod1, prod2 ]
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// experiment_producers.fcl
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  }
}
END_PROLOG
```

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"
#include "experiment_producers.fcl"

physics : {
```

```
#include "prolog_parameters.fcl"
#include "experiment_producers.fcl"

physics : {
```

@sequence insert the contents of the value of the specified parameter.

```
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
  }
  p1 : [ @sequence::experiment.prodList ]
  e1 : [ mod1 ]

  trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
  end_paths : [ e1 ]
}
```

```
    mod1 : { pdgId : @local::parameters.pid }
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SPoM: Insertion facilities (@sequence)

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    e1 : [ mod1 ]

    trigger_paths : [ p1 ]
    end_paths      : [ e1 ]

}
```

Miscellany

- There are cases where no suitable default can/should be specified. In these cases, it is best to use:

parameter : @nil

The parameter value *must be* specified later in the configuration in order for a parameter value to be retrieved in a (e.g.) module.

Miscellany - not discussed

There is other FHiCL syntax out there:

parameter : @erase

Erases a parameter from the processed FHiCL configuration. Wide-spread use of it is a sign of a design weakness.

Miscellany - not discussed

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Erases a parameter from the processed FHiCL configuration. Wide-spread use of it is a sign of a design weakness.

Also available:

parameter @protect_ignore: value

parameter @protect_error: value

Means of ensuring that the value of **parameter** cannot be overridden later on.

Workflow best practices

1. Strive for a **single point of maintenance** (SPoM) in your FHiCL files.
2. Only **#include** files that contain **PROLOGs**.
3. Specify directories on your **FHICL_FILE_PATH** in a manner similar to how you would include C++ headers.
4. Group modules with a common purpose into one table and use the **@table** insertion facility (with **@sequence** for path insertions).

See extra slides for more on **FHICL_FILE_PATH**

Extra slides

art -c and FHiCL_FILE_PATH

- If the FHiCL file (e.g. **config.fcl**) is in a directory on the **FHiCL_FILE_PATH**, then you can type:

```
art -c config.fcl
```

even if **config.fcl** is not in your current directory.

Checking **FHICL_FILE_PATH**

```
printenv FHICL_FILE_PATH | tr : '\n'
```

If the directory that contains the file you need is not in the printed list, you need to add it.

The Linux machines for this course use bash, and **FHICL_FILE_PATH** has already been defined. You can, therefore, use the following to add the directory:

```
FHICL_FILE_PATH=<DIR_TO_ADD>:$FHICL_FILE_PATH
```