Section 12: Procedures

The concept of a procedure was introduced in 2.2.3. This section contains a complete description of procedures. The actions specified by a procedure are performed when the procedure is invoked by execution of a reference to it. The reference may identify, as actual arguments, entities that are associated during execution of the procedure reference with corresponding dummy arguments in the procedure definition.

12.1 Procedure classifications

A procedure is classified according to the form of its reference and the way it is defined.

12.1.1 Procedure classification by reference

The definition of a procedure specifies it to be a function or a subroutine. A reference to a function either appears explicitly as a primary within an expression, or is implied by a defined operation (7.1.3) within an expression. A reference to a subroutine is a CALL statement or a defined assignment statement (7.5.1.3).

A procedure is classified as **elemental** if it is a procedure that may be referenced elementally (12.7).

12.1.2 Procedure classification by means of definition

A procedure is either an intrinsic procedure, an external procedure, a module procedure, an internal procedure, a dummy procedure, or a statement function.

12.1.2.1 Intrinsic procedures

A procedure that is provided as an inherent part of the processor is an **intrinsic procedure**.

12.1.2.2 External, internal, and module procedures

An **external procedure** is a procedure that is defined by an external subprogram or by a means other than Fortran.

An **internal procedure** is a procedure that is defined by an internal subprogram. Internal subprograms may appear in the main program, in an external subprogram, or in a module subprogram. Internal subprograms shall not appear in other internal subprograms. Internal subprograms are the same as external subprograms except that the name of the internal procedure is not a global entity, an internal subprogram shall not contain an ENTRY statement, the internal procedure name shall not be argument associated with a dummy procedure (12.4.1.2), and the internal subprogram has access to host entities by host association.

A **module procedure** is a procedure that is defined by a module subprogram.

If a subprogram contains one or more ENTRY statements, it defines a procedure for each ENTRY statement and a procedure for the SUBROUTINE or FUNCTION statement.

12.1.2.3 Dummy procedures

A dummy argument that is specified as a procedure or appears in a procedure reference is a **dummy procedure**.

12.1.2.4 Statement functions

A function that is defined by a single statement is a **statement function** (12.5.4).

12.2 Characteristics of procedures

The **characteristics of a procedure** are the classification of the procedure as a function or subroutine, whether or not it is pure, whether or not it is elemental, the characteristics of its dummy arguments, and the characteristics of its result value if it is a function.

12.2.1 Characteristics of dummy arguments

Each dummy argument is either a dummy data object, a dummy procedure, or an asterisk (alternate return indicator). A dummy argument other than an asterisk may be specified to have the OPTIONAL attribute. This attribute means that the dummy argument need not be associated with an actual argument for any particular reference to the procedure.

12.2.1.1 Characteristics of dummy data objects

The characteristics of a dummy data object are its type, its type parameters (if any), its shape, its intent (5.1.2.3, 5.2.1), whether it is optional (5.1.2.6, 5.2.2), and whether it is a pointer (5.1.2.7, 5.2.7) or a target (5.1.2.8, 5.2.8). If a type parameter of an object or a bound of an array is an expression that depends on the value or attributes of another object, the exact dependence on other entities is a characteristic. If a shape, size, or character length is assumed, it is a characteristic.

12.2.1.2 Characteristics of dummy procedures

The characteristics of a dummy procedure are the explicitness of its interface (12.3.1), its characteristics as a procedure if the interface is explicit, and whether it is optional (5.1.2.6, 5.2.2).

12.2.1.3 Characteristics of asterisk dummy arguments

An asterisk as a dummy argument has no characteristics.

12.2.2 Characteristics of function results

The characteristics of a function result are its type, type parameters (if any), rank, and whether it is a pointer. If a function resu lt is an array that is not a pointer, its shape is a characteristic. If a type parameter of a function result or a bound of a function result array is not a constant expression, the exact dependence on the entities in the expression is a characteristic. If the length of a character function result is assumed, this is a characteristic.

12.3 Procedure interface

The **interface** of a procedure determines the forms of reference through which it may be invoked. The interface consists of the characteristics of the procedure, the name of the procedure, the name and characteristics of each dummy argument, and the procedure's generic identifiers, if any. The characteristics of a procedure are fixed, but the remainder of the interface may differ in different scoping units.

NOTE 12.1

For more explanatory information on procedure interfaces, see section C.9.3.

12.3.1 Implicit and explicit interfaces

If a procedure is accessible in a scoping unit, its interface is either **explicit** or **implicit** in that scoping unit. The interface of an internal procedure, module procedure, or intrinsic procedure is always explicit in such a scoping unit. The interface of a recursive subroutine or a recursive function with a separate result name is explicit within the subprogram that defines it. The interface of a statement function is always implicit. The interface of an external procedure or dummy procedure is explicit in a scoping unit other than its own if an interface block (12.3.2.1) for the procedure is supplied or accessible, and implicit otherwise.

NOTE 12.2

For example, the subroutine LLS of C.8.3.5 has an explicit interface.

12.3.1.1 Explicit interface

A procedure other than a statement function shall have an explicit interface if

(1) A reference to the procedure appears
  - (a) With an argument keyword (12.4.1),
  - (b) As a reference by its generic name (12.3.2.1),
  - (c) As a defined assignment (subroutines only),
  - (d) In an expression as a defined operator (functions only), or
  - (e) In a context that requires it to be pure,

(2) The procedure has
  - (a) An optional dummy argument,
  - (b) A dummy argument that is an assumed-shape array, a pointer, or a target,
  - (c) An array-valued result (functions only),
  - (d) A result that is a pointer (functions only), or
  - (e) A result whose character length parameter value is not assumed and not constant (character functions only), or

(3) The procedure is elemental.

12.3.2 Specification of the procedure interface

The interface for an internal, external, module, or dummy procedure is specified by a FUNCTION, SUBROUTINE, or ENTRY statement and by specification statements for the dummy arguments and the result of a function. These statements may appear in the procedure definition, in an interface block, or in both except that the ENTRY statement shall not appear in an interface block.

NOTE 12.3

An interface block cannot be used to describe the interface of an internal procedure, a module procedure, or an intrinsic procedure because the interfaces of such procedures are already explicit. However, the name of a module procedure may appear in a MODULE PROCEDURE statement in an interface block (12.3.2.1).

12.3.2.1 Procedure interface block

R1201 *interface-block* **is** *interface-stmt*
  [*interface-specification*] ...
  end-interface-stmt

R1202 *interface-specification* **is** *interface-body*
  or *module-procedure-stmt*

R1203 *interface-stmt* **is** INTERFACE [*generic-spec*]

R1204 *end-interface-stmt* **is** END INTERFACE [*generic-spec*]

R1205 *interface-body* **is** *function-stmt*
  [*specification-part*]

end-function-stmt
or *subroutine-stmt*
[*specification-part*]
end-subroutine-stmt

Constraint: An *interface-body* of a pure procedure shall specify the intents of all dummy arguments except pointer, alternate return, and procedure arguments.

R1206 *module-procedure-stmt* **is** MODULE PROCEDURE *procedure-name-list*

R1207 *generic-spec* **is** *generic-name*
or OPERATOR (*defined-operator*)
or ASSIGNMENT (=)

Constraint: An *interface-body* shall not contain an *entry-stmt*, *data-stmt*, *format-stmt*, or *stmt-function-stmt*.

Constraint: The MODULE PROCEDURE statement is allowed only if the *interface-block* has a *generic-spec* and is in a scoping unit where each *procedure-name* is accessible as a module procedure.

Constraint: An *interface-block* in a subprogram shall not contain an *interface-body* for a procedure defined by that subprogram.

Constraint: The *generic-spec* may be included in the *end-interface-stmt* only if it was provided in the *interface-stmt* and, if included, shall be identical to the *generic-spec* in the *interface-stmt*.

Constraint: A *procedure-name* in a *module-procedure-stmt* shall not be one which previously had been specified in any *module-procedure-stmt* with the same generic identifier in the same specification part.

An external or module subprogram specifies a **specific interface** for the procedures defined in that subprogram. Such a specific interface is explicit for module procedures and implicit for external procedures. An **interface body** in an interface block specifies an explicit specific interface for an existing external procedure or a dummy procedure. If the name in a procedure heading in an interface block is the same as the name of a dummy argument in the subprogram containing the interface block, the interface block declares that dummy argument to be a dummy procedure with the indicated interface; otherwise, the interface block declares the name to be the name of an external procedure with the indicated procedure interface.

An interface body specifies all of the procedure's characteristics and these shall be consistent with those specified in the procedure definition, except that the interface may specify a procedure that is not pure if the procedure is defined to be pure. The specification part of an interface body may specify attributes or define values for data entities that do not determine characteristics of the procedure. Such specifications have no effect. An interface block shall not contain an ENTRY statement, but an entry interface may be specified by using the entry name as the procedure name in the interface body. A procedure shall not have more than one explicit specific interface in a given scoping unit.

NOTE 12.4

The dummy argument names may be different because the name of a dummy argument is not a characteristic.

NOTE 12.5

An example of an interface block without a generic specification is:

```
INTERFACE

   SUBROUTINE EXT1 (X, Y, Z)
      REAL, DIMENSION (100, 100) :: X, Y, Z
   END SUBROUTINE EXT1
```

NOTE 12.5 ***(Continued)***

```
   SUBROUTINE EXT2 (X, Z)
      REAL X
      COMPLEX (KIND = 4) Z (2000)
   END SUBROUTINE EXT2

   FUNCTION EXT3 (P, Q)
      LOGICAL EXT3
      INTEGER P (1000)
      LOGICAL Q (1000)
   END FUNCTION EXT3

END INTERFACE
```

This interface block specifies explicit interfaces for the three external procedures EXT1, EXT2, and EXT3. Invocations of these procedures may use argument keywords (12.4.1); for example:

```
EXT3 (Q = P_MASK (N+1 : N+1000), P = ACTUAL_P)
```

An interface block with a generic specification specifies a **generic interface** for each of the procedures in the interface block. If the interface block is in a module or is in a scoping unit that accesses a module by use association, the MODULE PROCEDURE statement lists those module procedures that have this generic interface. The listed module procedures may be defined in the module containing the interface block or may be accessible via a USE statement. The characteristics of module procedures are not given in interface blocks, but are assumed from the module subprograms. A generic interface is always explicit.

Any procedure may be referenced via its specific interface. It also may be referenced via its generic interface, if it has one. The generic name, defined operator, or equals symbol in a generic specification is a **generic identifier** for all the procedures in the interface block. The rules on how any two procedures with the same generic identifier shall differ are given in 14.1.2.3. They ensure that any generic invocation applies to at most one specific procedure.

A **generic name** specifies a single name to reference all of the procedure names in the interface block. A generic name may be the same as any one of the procedure names in the interface block, or the same as any accessible generic name.

NOTE 12.6

An example of a generic procedure interface is:

```
INTERFACE SWITCH

   SUBROUTINE INT_SWITCH (X, Y)
      INTEGER, INTENT (INOUT) :: X, Y
   END SUBROUTINE INT_SWITCH

   SUBROUTINE REAL_SWITCH (X, Y)
      REAL, INTENT (INOUT) :: X, Y
   END SUBROUTINE REAL_SWITCH

   SUBROUTINE COMPLEX_SWITCH (X, Y)
      COMPLEX, INTENT (INOUT) :: X, Y
   END SUBROUTINE COMPLEX_SWITCH

END INTERFACE SWITCH
```

Any of these three subroutines (INT_SWITCH, REAL_SWITCH, COMPLEX_SWITCH) may be referenced with the generic name SWITCH, as well as by its specific name. For example, a reference to INT_SWITCH could take the form:

```
CALL SWITCH (MAX_VAL, LOC_VAL) ! MAX_VAL and LOC_VAL are of type INTEGER
```

12.3.2.1.1 Defined operations

If OPERATOR is specified in a generic specification, all of the procedures specified in the interface block shall be functions that may be referenced as defined operations (12.4). In the case of functions of two arguments, infix binary operator notation is implied. In the case of functions of one argument, prefix operator notation is implied. OPERATOR shall not be specified for functions with no arguments or for functions with more than two arguments. The dummy arguments shall be nonoptional dummy data objects and shall be specified with INTENT (IN) and the function result shall not have assumed character length. If the operator is an *intrinsic-operator* (R310), the number of function arguments shall be consistent with the intrinsic uses of that operator.

A defined operation is treated as a reference to the function. For a unary defined operation, the operand corresponds to the function's dummy argument; for a binary operation, the left-hand operand corresponds to the first dummy argument of the function and the right-hand operand corresponds to the second dummy argument.

NOTE 12.7

An example of the use of the OPERATOR generic specification is:

```
INTERFACE OPERATOR ( * )

   FUNCTION BOOLEAN_AND (B1, B2)
      LOGICAL, INTENT (IN) :: B1 (:), B2 (SIZE (B1))
      LOGICAL :: BOOLEAN_AND (SIZE (B1))
   END FUNCTION BOOLEAN_AND

END INTERFACE OPERATOR ( * )
```

This allows, for example

```
SENSOR (1:N) * ACTION (1:N)
```

as an alternative to the function call

```
BOOLEAN_AND (SENSOR (1:N), ACTION (1:N))   ! SENSOR and ACTION are
                                           ! of type LOGICAL
```

A given defined operator may, as with generic names, apply to more than one function, in which case it is generic in exact analogy to generic procedure names. For intrinsic operator symbols, the generic properties include the intrinsic operations they represent. Because both forms of each relational operator have the same interpretation (7.3), extending one form (such as <=) has the effect of defining both forms (<= and .LE.).

12.3.2.1.2 Defined assignments

If ASSIGNMENT is specified in an INTERFACE statement, all the procedures in the interface block shall be subroutines that may be referenced as defined assignments (7.5.1.3). Each of these subroutines shall have exactly two dummy arguments. Each argument shall be nonoptional. The first argument shall have INTENT (OUT) or INTENT (INOUT) and the second argument shall have INTENT (IN). A defined assignment is treated as a reference to the subroutine, with the left-hand side as the first argument and the right-hand side enclosed in parentheses as the second argument. The ASSIGNMENT generic specification specifies that the assignment operation is extended, or redefined if both sides of the equals sign are of the same derived type.

NOTE 12.8

An example of the use of the ASSIGNMENT generic specification is:

```
INTERFACE ASSIGNMENT ( = )

   SUBROUTINE LOGICAL_TO_NUMERIC (N, B)
      INTEGER, INTENT (OUT) :: N
```

NOTE 12.8 ***(Continued)***

```
      LOGICAL, INTENT (IN)  :: B
   END SUBROUTINE LOGICAL_TO_NUMERIC

   SUBROUTINE CHAR_TO_STRING (S, C)
      USE STRING_MODULE        ! Contains definition of type STRING
      TYPE (STRING), INTENT (OUT) :: S  ! A variable-length string
      CHARACTER (*), INTENT (IN) ::  C
   END SUBROUTINE CHAR_TO_STRING

 END INTERFACE ASSIGNMENT ( = )
```

Example assignments are:

```
KOUNT = SENSOR (J)      ! CALL LOGICAL_TO_NUMERIC (KOUNT, (SENSOR (J)))
NOTE  = '89AB'          ! CALL CHAR_TO_STRING (NOTE, ('89AB'))
```

12.3.2.2 EXTERNAL statement

An **EXTERNAL statement** specifies the EXTERNAL attribute for a list of names.

R1208 *external-stmt* **is** EXTERNAL [::] *external-name-list*

Each *external-name* shall be the name of an external procedure, a dummy argument, or a block data program unit.

The appearance of the name of a dummy argument in an EXTERNAL statement specifies that the dummy argument is a dummy procedure. The appearance in an EXTERNAL statement of a name that is not the name of a dummy argument specifies that the name is the name of an external procedure or block data program unit.

If an external procedure name or a dummy procedure name is used as an actual argument, its interface shall be explicit or it shall be explicitly declared to have the EXTERNAL attribute. Appearance of an intrinsic procedure name in an EXTERNAL statement causes that name to become the name of an external procedure and thus the intrinsic procedure of the same name is not available in the scoping unit.

The appearance of the name of a block data program unit in an EXTERNAL statement confirms that the block data program unit is a part of the program.

Only one appearance of a name in all of the EXTERNAL statements in a scoping unit is permitted. A name that appears in an EXTERNAL statement in a given scoping unit or is a use-associated entity with the EXTERNAL attribute shall not also appear as a specific procedure name in an interface block in the scoping unit nor in an interface block that is accessible to the scoping unit.

NOTE 12.9

For explanatory information on potential portability problems with external procedures, see section C.9.1.

NOTE 12.10

An example of an EXTERNAL statement is:

```
   EXTERNAL FOCUS
```

12.3.2.3 INTRINSIC statement

An **INTRINSIC statement** specifies a list of names that have the INTRINSIC attribute. A name that has the INTRINSIC attribute represents an intrinsic procedure (Section 13). The INTRINSIC attribute permits a name that represents a specific intrinsic function to be used as an actual argument.

R1209 *intrinsic-stmt* **is** INTRINSIC [::] *intrinsic-procedure-name-list*

Constraint: Each *intrinsic-procedure-name* shall be the name of an intrinsic procedure.

The appearance of a name in an INTRINSIC statement confirms that the name is the name of an intrinsic procedure. The appearance of a generic intrinsic procedure name (13.11, 13.12) in an INTRINSIC statement does not cause that name to lose its generic property. In a scoping unit, a name may appear both as the name of a generic intrinsic procedure in an INTRINSIC statement and as the name of a generic interface, provided that the procedures in the interface and the specific intrinsic procedures are all functions or all subroutines (14.1.2.3).

If the specific name of an intrinsic function (13.13) is used as an actual argument, the name shall either appear in an INTRINSIC statement or be given the INTRINSIC attribute in a type declaration statement in the scoping unit.

Only one appearance of a name in all of the INTRINSIC statements in a scoping unit is permitted.

NOTE 12.11

> A name shall not appear in both an EXTERNAL and an INTRINSIC statement in the same scoping unit.

12.3.2.4 Implicit interface specification

In a scoping unit where the interface of a function is implicit, the type and type parameters of the function result are specified by an implicit or explicit type specification of the function name. The type, type parameters, and shape of dummy arguments of a procedure referenced from a scoping unit where the interface of the procedure is implicit shall be such that the actual arguments are consistent with the characteristics of the dummy arguments.

12.4 Procedure reference

The form of a procedure reference is dependent on the interface of the procedure, but is independent of the means by which the procedure is defined. The forms of procedure references are:

R1210 *function-reference* **is** *function-name* ([*actual-arg-spec-list*])

Constraint: The *actual-arg-spec-list* for a function reference shall not contain an *alt-return-spec*.

R1211 *call-stmt* **is** CALL *subroutine-name* [([*actual-arg-spec-list*])]

A function may also be referenced as a defined operation. A subroutine may also be referenced as a defined assignment.

R1212 *actual-arg-spec* **is** [*keyword* =] *actual-arg*

R1213 *keyword* **is** *dummy-arg-name*

R1214 *actual-arg* **is** *expr*
or *variable*
or *procedure-name*
or *alt-return-spec*

R1215 *alt-return-spec* **is** * *label*

Constraint: The *keyword* = shall not appear if the interface of the procedure is implicit in the scoping unit.

Constraint: The *keyword* = may be omitted from an *actual-arg-spec* only if the *keyword* = has been omitted from each preceding *actual-arg-spec* in the argument list.

Constraint: Each *keyword* shall be the name of a dummy argument in the explicit interface of the procedure.

Constraint: A non-intrinsic elemental procedure shall not be used as an actual argument.

Constraint: A *procedure-name actual-arg* shall not be the name of an internal procedure or of a statement function and shall not be the generic name of a procedure unless it is also a specific name (12.3.2.1, 13.1).