

## **Developer Manual V2.5, 2012-04-01**

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The LinuxCNC Team



This handbook is a work in progress. If you are able to help with writing, editing, or graphic preparation please contact any member of the writing team or join and send an email to [emc-users@lists.sourceforge.net](mailto:emc-users@lists.sourceforge.net).

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## **Chapter 1**

# **LinuxCNC Code Notes**

## Chapter 2

# Code Notes

### 2.1 Intended audience

This document is a collection of notes about the internals of LinuxCNC. It is primarily of interest to developers, however much of the information here may also be of interest to system integrators and others who are simply curious about how LinuxCNC works. Much of this information is now outdated and has never been reviewed for accuracy.

### 2.2 Organization

There will be a chapter for each of the major components of LinuxCNC, as well as chapter(s) covering how they work together. This document is very much a work in progress, and its layout may change in the future.

### 2.3 Terms and definitions

- **AXIS** - An axis is one of the six degrees of freedom that define a tool position in three dimensional Cartesian space. Those axes are X, Y, Z, A, B, and C, where X, Y, and Z are linear coordinates that determine where the tip of the tool is, and A, B, and C are angular coordinates that determine the tool orientation. Unfortunately “axis” is also sometimes used to mean a degree of freedom of the machine itself, such as the saddle, table, or quill of a Bridgeport type milling machine. On a Bridgeport this causes no confusion, since movement of the table directly corresponds to movement along the X axis. However, the shoulder and elbow joints of a robot arm and the linear actuators of a hexapod do not correspond to movement along any Cartesian axis, and in general it is important to make the distinction between the Cartesian axes and the machine degrees of freedom. In this document, the latter will be called *joints*, not axes. (The GUIs and some other parts of the code may not always follow this distinction, but the internals of the motion controller do.)
  - **JOINT** - A joint is one of the movable parts of the machine. Joints are distinct from axes, although the two terms are sometimes (mis)used to mean the same thing. In LinuxCNC, a joint is a physical thing that can be moved, not a coordinate in space. For example, the quill, knee, saddle, and table of a Bridgeport mill are all joints. The shoulder, elbow, and wrist of a robot arm are joints, as are the linear actuators of a hexapod. Every joint has a motor or actuator of some type associated with it. Joints do not necessarily correspond to the X, Y, and Z axes, although for machines with trivial kinematics that may be the case. Even on those machines, joint position and axis position are fundamentally different things. In this document, the terms *joint* and *axis* are used carefully to respect their distinct meanings. Unfortunately that isn’t necessarily true everywhere else. In particular, GUIs for machines with trivial kinematics may gloss over or completely hide the distinction between joints and axes. In addition, the ini file uses the term *axis* for data that would more accurately be described as joint data, such as input and output scaling, etc.
  - **POSE** - A pose is a fully specified position in 3-D Cartesian space. In the LinuxCNC motion controller, when we refer to a pose we mean an EmcPose structure, containing three linear coordinates and three angular ones.
-

## 2.4 Architecture overview

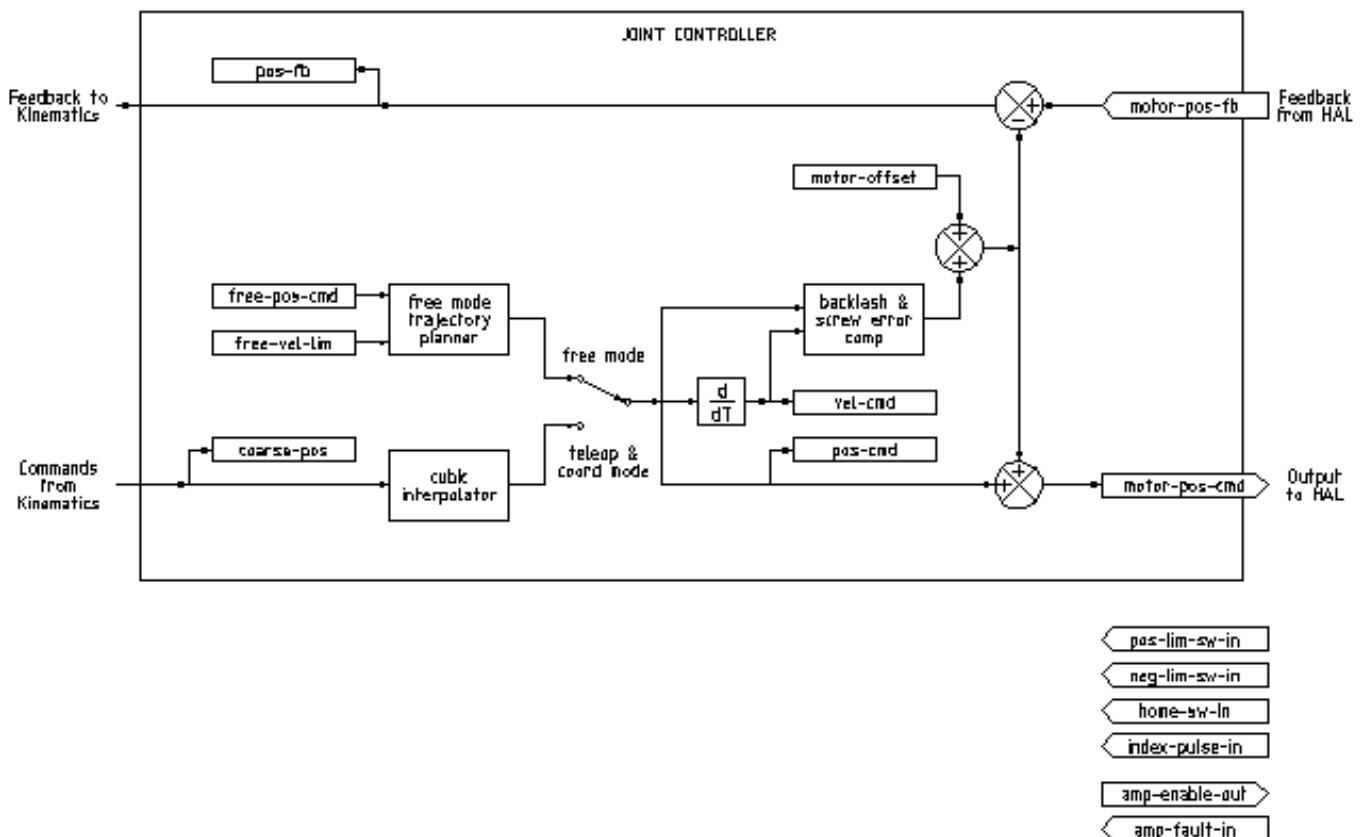
There are four components contained in the LinuxCNC Architecture: a motion controller (EMCMOT), a discrete IO controller (EMCIO), a task executor which coordinates them (EMCTASK) and several text-mode and graphical User Interfaces. Each of them will be described in the current document, both from the design point of view and from the developers point of view (where to find needed data, how to easily extend/modify things, etc.).

## 2.5 Motion Controller Introduction

The motion controller receives commands from user space modules via a shared memory buffer, and executes those commands in realtime. The status of the controller is made available to the user space modules through the same shared memory area. The motion controller interacts with the motors and other hardware using the HAL (Hardware Abstraction Layer). This document assumes that the reader has a basic understanding of the HAL, and uses terms like HAL pins, HAL signals, etc, without explaining them. For more information about the HAL, see the HAL Manual. Another chapter of this document will eventually go into the internals of the HAL itself, but in this chapter, we only use the HAL API as defined in `emc2/src/hal/hal.h`.

## 2.6 Block diagrams and Data Flow

The following figure is a block diagram of a joint controller. There is one joint controller per joint. The joint controllers work at a lower level than the kinematics, a level where all joints are completely independent. All the data for a joint is in a single joint structure. Some members of that structure are visible in the block diagram, such as `coarse_pos`, `pos_cmd`, and `motor_pos_fb`.



**Joint Controller Block Diagram** The above figure shows five of the seven sets of position information that form the main data flow through the motion controller. The seven forms of position data are as follows:

1. *emcmotStatus->carte\_pos\_cmd* - This is the desired position, in Cartesian coordinates. It is updated at the traj rate, not the servo rate. In coord mode, it is determined by the traj planner. In teleop mode, it is determined by the traj planner? In free mode, it is either copied from actualPos, or generated by applying forward kins to (2) or (3).
2. *emcmotStatus->joints[n].coarse\_pos* - This is the desired position, in joint coordinates, but before interpolation. It is updated at the traj rate, not the servo rate. In coord mode, it is generated by applying inverse kins to (1) In teleop mode, it is generated by applying inverse kins to (1) In free mode, it is copied from (3), I think.
3. *emcmotStatus->joints[n].pos\_cmd* - This is the desired position, in joint coords, after interpolation. A new set of these coords is generated every servo period. In coord mode, it is generated from (2) by the interpolator. In teleop mode, it is generated from (2) by the interpolator. In free mode, it is generated by the free mode traj planner.
4. *emcmotStatus->joints[n].motor\_pos\_cmd* - This is the desired position, in motor coords. Motor coords are generated by adding backlash compensation, lead screw error compensation, and offset (for homing) to (3). It is generated the same way regardless of the mode, and is the output to the PID loop or other position loop.
5. *emcmotStatus->joints[n].motor\_pos\_fb* - This is the actual position, in motor coords. It is the input from encoders or other feedback device (or from virtual encoders on open loop machines). It is "generated" by reading the feedback device.
6. *emcmotStatus->joints[n].pos\_fb* - This is the actual position, in joint coordinates. It is generated by subtracting offset, lead screw error compensation, and backlash compensation from (5). It is generated the same way regardless of the operating mode.
7. *emcmotStatus->carte\_pos\_fb* - This is the actual position, in Cartesian coordinates. It is updated at the traj rate, not the servo rate. Ideally, actualPos would always be calculated by applying forward kinematics to (6). However, forward kinematics may not be available, or they may be unusable because one or more axes aren't homed. In that case, the options are: A) fake it by copying (1), or B) admit that we don't really know the Cartesian coordinates, and simply don't update actualPos. Whatever approach is used, I can see no reason not to do it the same way regardless of the operating mode. I would propose the following: If there are forward kins, use them, unless they don't work because of unhomed axes or other problems, in which case do (B). If no forward kins, do (A), since otherwise actualPos would *never* get updated.

## 2.7 Commands

This section simply lists all of the commands that can be sent to the motion module, along with detailed explanations of what they do. The command names are defined in a large typedef enum in `emc2/src/emc/motion/motion.h`, called `cmd_code_t`. (Note that in the code, each command name starts with `EMCMOT_`, which is omitted here.)

The commands are implemented by a large switch statement in the function `emcmotCommandHandler()`, which is called at the servo rate. More on that function later.

There are approximately 44 commands - this list is still under construction.

### 2.7.1 ABORT

The ABORT command simply stops all motion. It can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted. It does not disable the motion controller or change any state information, it simply cancels any motion that is currently in progress.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2.7.1.1 Requirements

None. The command is always accepted and acted on immediately.

<sup>1</sup>It seems that the higher level code (TASK and above) also use ABORT to clear faults. Whenever there is a persistent fault (such as being outside the hardware limit switches), the higher level code sends a constant stream of ABORTs to the motion controller trying to make the fault go away. Thousands of 'em... That means that the motion controller should avoid persistent faults. This needs to be looked into.

### 2.7.1.2 Results

In free mode, the free mode trajectory planners are disabled. That results in each joint stopping as fast as its accel (decel) limit allows. The stop is not coordinated. In teleop mode, the commanded Cartesian velocity is set to zero. I don't know exactly what kind of stop results (coordinated, uncoordinated, etc), but will figure it out eventually. In coord mode, the coord mode trajectory planner is told to abort the current move. Again, I don't know the exact result of this, but will document it when I figure it out.

## 2.7.2 FREE

The FREE command puts the motion controller in free mode. Free mode means that each joint is independent of all the other joints. Cartesian coordinates, poses, and kinematics are ignored when in free mode. In essence, each joint has its own simple trajectory planner, and each joint completely ignores the other joints. Some commands (like JOG) only work in free mode. Other commands, including anything that deals with Cartesian coordinates, do not work at all in free mode.

### 2.7.2.1 Requirements

The command handler applies no requirements to the FREE command, it will always be accepted. However, if any joint is in motion (`GET_MOTION_INPOS_FLAG() == FALSE`), then the command will be ignored. This behavior is controlled by code that is now located in the function `set_operating_mode()` in `control.c`, that code needs to be cleaned up. I believe the command should not be silently ignored, instead the command handler should determine whether it can be executed and return an error if it cannot.

### 2.7.2.2 Results

If the machine is already in free mode, nothing. Otherwise, the machine is placed in free mode. Each joint's free mode trajectory planner is initialized to the current location of the joint, but the planners are not enabled and the joints are stationary.

## 2.7.3 TELEOP

The TELEOP command places the machine in teleoperating mode. In teleop mode, movement of the machine is based on Cartesian coordinates using kinematics, rather than on individual joints as in free mode. However the trajectory planner per se is not used, instead movement is controlled by a velocity vector. Movement in teleop mode is much like jogging, except that it is done in Cartesian space instead of joint space. On a machine with trivial kinematics, there is little difference between teleop mode and free mode, and GUIs for those machines might never even issue this command. However for non-trivial machines like robots and hexapods, teleop mode is used for most user commanded jog type movements.

### 2.7.3.1 Requirements

The command handler will reject the TELEOP command with an error message if the kinematics cannot be activated because the one or more axes have not been homed. In addition, if any joint is in motion (`GET_MOTION_INPOS_FLAG() == FALSE`), then the command will be ignored (with no error message). This behavior is controlled by code that is now located in the function `set_operating_mode()` in `control.c`. I believe the command should not be silently ignored, instead the command handler should determine whether it can be executed and return an error if it cannot.

### 2.7.3.2 Results

If the machine is already in teleop mode, nothing. Otherwise the machine is placed in teleop mode. The kinematics code is activated, interpolators are drained and flushed, and the Cartesian velocity commands are set to zero.

---

## 2.7.4 COORD

The COORD command places the machine in coordinated mode. In coord mode, movement of the machine is based on Cartesian coordinates using kinematics, rather than on individual joints as in free mode. In addition, the main trajectory planner is used to generate motion, based on queued LINE, CIRCLE, and/or PROBE commands. Coord mode is the mode that is used when executing a G-code program.

### 2.7.4.1 Requirements

The command handler will reject the COORD command with an error message if the kinematics cannot be activated because the one or more axes have not been homed. In addition, if any joint is in motion (`GET_MOTION_INPOS_FLAG() == FALSE`), then the command will be ignored (with no error message). This behavior is controlled by code that is now located in the function *set\_operating\_mode()* in `control.c`. I believe the command should not be silently ignored, instead the command handler should determine whether it can be executed and return an error if it cannot.

### 2.7.4.2 Results

If the machine is already in coord mode, nothing. Otherwise, the machine is placed in coord mode. The kinematics code is activated, interpolators are drained and flushed, and the trajectory planner queues are empty. The trajectory planner is active and awaiting a LINE, CIRCLE, or PROBE command.

## 2.7.5 ENABLE

The ENABLE command enables the motion controller.

### 2.7.5.1 Requirements

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

### 2.7.5.2 Results

If the controller is already enabled, nothing. If not, the controller is enabled. Queues and interpolators are flushed. Any movement or homing operations are terminated. The amp-enable outputs associated with active joints are turned on. If forward kinematics are not available, the machine is switched to free mode.

## 2.7.6 DISABLE

The DISABLE command disables the motion controller.

### 2.7.6.1 Requirements

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

### 2.7.6.2 Results

If the controller is already disabled, nothing. If not, the controller is disabled. Queues and interpolators are flushed. Any movement or homing operations are terminated. The amp-enable outputs associated with active joints are turned off. If forward kinematics are not available, the machine is switched to free mode.

---



### **2.7.7 ENABLE\_AMPLIFIER**

The ENABLE\_AMPLIFIER command turns on the amp enable output for a single output amplifier, without changing anything else. Can be used to enable a spindle speed controller.

#### **2.7.7.1 Requirements**

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

#### **2.7.7.2 Results**

Currently, nothing. (A call to the old extAmpEnable function is currently commented out.) Eventually it will set the amp enable HAL pin true.

### **2.7.8 DISABLE\_AMPLIFIER**

The DISABLE\_AMPLIFIER command turns off the amp enable output for a single amplifier, without changing anything else. Again, useful for spindle speed controllers.

#### **2.7.8.1 Requirements**

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

#### **2.7.8.2 Results**

Currently, nothing. (A call to the old extAmpEnable function is currently commented out.) Eventually it will set the amp enable HAL pin false.

### **2.7.9 ACTIVATE\_JOINT**

The ACTIVATE\_JOINT command turns on all the calculations associated with a single joint, but does not change the joint's amp enable output pin.

#### **2.7.9.1 Requirements**

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

#### **2.7.9.2 Results**

Calculations for the specified joint are enabled. The amp enable pin is not changed, however, any subsequent ENABLE or DISABLE commands will modify the joint's amp enable pin.

### **2.7.10 DEACTIVATE\_JOINT**

The DEACTIVATE\_JOINT command turns off all the calculations associated with a single joint, but does not change the joint's amp enable output pin.

#### **2.7.10.1 Requirements**

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

---

### **2.7.10.2 Results**

Calculations for the specified joint are enabled. The amp enable pin is not changed, and subsequent ENABLE or DISABLE commands will not modify the joint's amp enable pin.

## **2.7.11 ENABLE\_WATCHDOG**

The ENABLE\_WATCHDOG command enables a hardware based watchdog (if present).

### **2.7.11.1 Requirements**

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

### **2.7.11.2 Results**

Currently nothing. The old watchdog was a strange thing that used a specific sound card. A new watchdog interface may be designed in the future.

## **2.7.12 DISABLE\_WATCHDOG**

The DISABLE\_WATCHDOG command disables a hardware based watchdog (if present).

### **2.7.12.1 Requirements**

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

### **2.7.12.2 Results**

Currently nothing. The old watchdog was a strange thing that used a specific sound card. A new watchdog interface may be designed in the future.

## **2.7.13 PAUSE**

The PAUSE command stops the trajectory planner. It has no effect in free or teleop mode. At this point I don't know if it pauses all motion immediately, or if it completes the current move and then pauses before pulling another move from the queue.

### **2.7.13.1 Requirements**

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

### **2.7.13.2 Results**

The trajectory planner pauses.

## **2.7.14 RESUME**

The RESUME command restarts the trajectory planner if it is paused. It has no effect in free or teleop mode, or if the planner is not paused.

---

#### **2.7.14.1 Requirements**

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

#### **2.7.14.2 Results**

The trajectory planner resumes.

### **2.7.15 STEP**

The STEP command restarts the trajectory planner if it is paused, and tells the planner to stop again when it reaches a specific point. It has no effect in free or teleop mode. At this point I don't know exactly how this works. I'll add more documentation here when I dig deeper into the trajectory planner.

#### **2.7.15.1 Requirements**

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

#### **2.7.15.2 Results**

The trajectory planner resumes, and later pauses when it reaches a specific point.

### **2.7.16 SCALE**

The SCALE command scales all velocity limits and commands by a specified amount. It is used to implement feed rate override and other similar functions. The scaling works in free, teleop, and coord modes, and affects everything, including homing velocities, etc. However, individual joint velocity limits are unaffected.

#### **2.7.16.1 Requirements**

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted.

#### **2.7.16.2 Results**

All velocity commands are scaled by the specified constant.

### **2.7.17 OVERRIDE\_LIMITS**

The OVERRIDE\_LIMITS command prevents limits from tripping until the end of the next JOG command. It is normally used to allow a machine to be jogged off of a limit switch after tripping. (The command can actually be used to override limits, or to cancel a previous override.)

#### **2.7.17.1 Requirements**

None. The command can be issued at any time, and will always be accepted. (I think it should only work in free mode.)

#### **2.7.17.2 Results**

Limits on all joints are over-ridden until the end of the next JOG command. (This is currently broken... once an OVERRIDE\_LIMITS command is received, limits are ignored until another OVERRIDE\_LIMITS command re-enables them.)

---

## 2.7.18 HOME

The HOME command initiates a homing sequence on a specified joint. The actual homing sequence is determined by a number of configuration parameters, and can range from simply setting the current position to zero, to a multi-stage search for a home switch and index pulse, followed by a move to an arbitrary home location. For more information about the homing sequence, see the homing section of the Integrator Manual.

### 2.7.18.1 Requirements

The command will be ignored silently unless the machine is in free mode.

### 2.7.18.2 Results

Any jog or other joint motion is aborted, and the homing sequence starts.

## 2.7.19 JOG\_CONT

The JOG\_CONT command initiates a continuous jog on a single joint. A continuous jog is generated by setting the free mode trajectory planner's target position to a point beyond the end of the joint's range of travel. This ensures that the planner will move constantly until it is stopped by either the joint limits or an ABORT command. Normally, a GUI sends a JOG\_CONT command when the user presses a jog button, and ABORT when the button is released.

### 2.7.19.1 Requirements

The command handler will reject the JOG\_CONT command with an error message if machine is not in free mode, or if any joint is in motion (`GET_MOTION_INPOS_FLAG() == FALSE`), or if motion is not enabled. It will also silently ignore the command if the joint is already at or beyond its limit and the commanded jog would make it worse.

### 2.7.19.2 Results

The free mode trajectory planner for the joint identified by `emcmotCommand->axis` is activated, with a target position beyond the end of joint travel, and a velocity limit of `emcmotCommand->vel`. This starts the joint moving, and the move will continue until stopped by an ABORT command or by hitting a limit. The free mode planner accelerates at the joint accel limit at the beginning of the move, and will decelerate at the joint accel limit when it stops.

## 2.7.20 JOG\_INCR

The JOG\_INCR command initiates an incremental jog on a single joint. Incremental jogs are cumulative, in other words, issuing two JOG\_INCR commands that each ask for 0.100 inches of movement will result in 0.200 inches of travel, even if the second command is issued before the first one finishes. Normally incremental jogs stop when they have traveled the desired distance, however they also stop when they hit a limit, or on an ABORT command.

### 2.7.20.1 Requirements

The command handler will silently reject the JOG\_INCR command if machine is not in free mode, or if any joint is in motion (`GET_MOTION_INPOS_FLAG() == FALSE`), or if motion is not enabled. It will also silently ignore the command if the joint is already at or beyond its limit and the commanded jog would make it worse.

---

### 2.7.20.2 Results

The free mode trajectory planner for the joint identified by `emcmotCommand->axis` is activated, the target position is incremented/decremented by `emcmotCommand->offset`, and the velocity limit is set to `emcmotCommand->vel`. The free mode trajectory planner will generate a smooth trapezoidal move from the present position to the target position. The planner can correctly handle changes in the target position that happen while the move is in progress, so multiple `JOG_INCR` commands can be issued in quick succession. The free mode planner accelerates at the joint accel limit at the beginning of the move, and will decelerate at the joint accel limit to stop at the target position.

## 2.7.21 JOG\_ABS

The `JOG_ABS` command initiates an absolute jog on a single joint. An absolute jog is a simple move to a specific location, in joint coordinates. Normally absolute jogs stop when they reach the desired location, however they also stop when they hit a limit, or on an `ABORT` command.

### 2.7.21.1 Requirements

The command handler will silently reject the `JOG_ABS` command if machine is not in free mode, or if any joint is in motion (`GET_MOTION_INPOS_FLAG() == FALSE`), or if motion is not enabled. It will also silently ignore the command if the joint is already at or beyond its limit and the commanded jog would make it worse.

### 2.7.21.2 Results

The free mode trajectory planner for the joint identified by `emcmotCommand->axis` is activated, the target position is set to `emcmotCommand->offset`, and the velocity limit is set to `emcmotCommand->vel`. The free mode trajectory planner will generate a smooth trapezoidal move from the present position to the target position. The planner can correctly handle changes in the target position that happen while the move is in progress. If multiple `JOG_ABS` commands are issued in quick succession, each new command changes the target position and the machine goes to the final commanded position. The free mode planner accelerates at the joint accel limit at the beginning of the move, and will decelerate at the joint accel limit to stop at the target position.

## 2.7.22 SET\_LINE

The `SET_LINE` command adds a straight line to the trajectory planner queue.

(More later)

## 2.7.23 SET\_CIRCLE

The `SET_CIRCLE` command adds a circular move to the trajectory planner queue.

(More later)

## 2.7.24 SET\_TELEOP\_VECTOR

The `SET_TELEOP_VECTOR` command instructs the motion controller to move along a specific vector in Cartesian space.

(More later)

## 2.7.25 PROBE

The `PROBE` command instructs the motion controller to move toward a specific point in Cartesian space, stopping and recording its position if the probe input is triggered.

(More later)

### 2.7.26 CLEAR\_PROBE\_FLAG

The CLEAR\_PROBE\_FLAG command is used to reset the probe input in preparation for a PROBE command. (Question: why shouldn't the PROBE command automatically reset the input?)

(More later)

### 2.7.27 SET\_xix

There are approximately 15 SET\_xxx commands, where xxx is the name of some configuration parameter. It is anticipated that there will be several more SET commands as more parameters are added. I would like to find a cleaner way of setting and reading configuration parameters. The existing methods require many lines of code to be added to multiple files each time a parameter is added. Much of that code is identical or nearly identical for every parameter.

## 2.8 Backlash and Screw Error Compensation

+

## 2.9 Task controller (EMCTASK)

+

## 2.10 IO controller (EMCIO)

+

## 2.11 User Interfaces

+

## 2.12 libnml Introduction

libnml is derived from the NIST rcslib without all the multi-platform support. Many of the wrappers around platform specific code has been removed along with much of the code that is not required by LinuxCNC. It is hoped that sufficient compatibility remains with rcslib so that applications can be implemented on non-Linux platforms and still be able to communicate with LinuxCNC.

This chapter is not intended to be a definitive guide to using libnml (or rcslib), instead, it will eventually provide an overview of each C++ class and their member functions. Initially, most of these notes will be random comments added as the code scrutinized and modified.

## 2.13 LinkedList

Base class to maintain a linked list. This is one of the core building blocks used in passing NML messages and assorted internal data structures.

---

## 2.14 LinkedListNode

Base class for producing a linked list - Purpose, to hold pointers to the previous and next nodes, pointer to the data, and the size of the data.

No memory for data storage is allocated.

## 2.15 SharedMemory

Provides a block of shared memory along with a semaphore (inherited from the Semaphore class). Creation and destruction of the semaphore is handled by the SharedMemory constructor and destructor.

## 2.16 ShmBuffer

Class for passing NML messages between local processes using a shared memory buffer. Much of internal workings are inherited from the CMS class.

## 2.17 Timer

The Timer class provides a periodic timer limited only by the resolution of the system clock. If, for example, a process needs to be run every 5 seconds regardless of the time taken to run the process, the following code snippet demonstrates how :

```
main()
{
    timer = new Timer(5.0);    /* Initialize a timer with a 5 second loop */
    while(0) {
        /* Do some process */
        timer.wait();         /* Wait till the next 5 second interval */
    }
    delete timer;
}
```

## 2.18 Semaphore

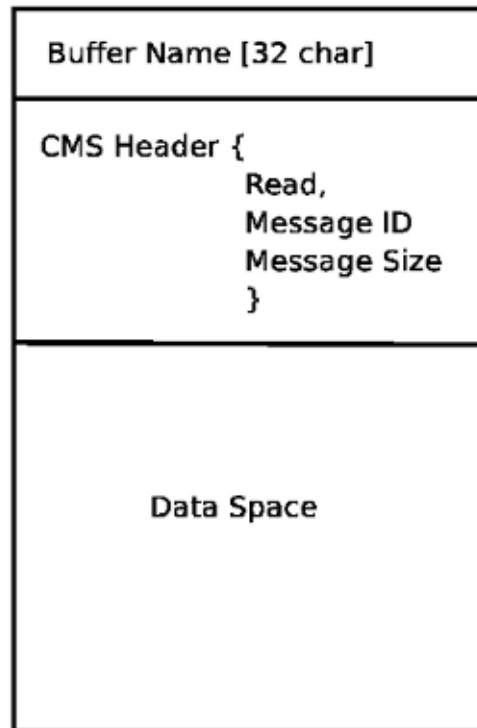
The Semaphore class provides a method of mutual exclusions for accessing a shared resource. The function to get a semaphore can either block until access is available, return after a timeout, or return immediately with or without gaining the semaphore. The constructor will create a semaphore or attach to an existing one if the ID is already in use.

The Semaphore::destroy() must be called by the last process only.

## 2.19 CMS

At the heart of libnml is the CMS class, it contains most of the functions used by libnml and ultimately NML. Many of the internal functions are overloaded to allow for specific hardware dependent methods of data passing. Ultimately, everything revolves around a central block of memory (referred to as the *message buffer* or just *buffer*). This buffer may exist as a shared memory block accessed by other CMS/NML processes, or a local and private buffer for data being transferred by network or serial interfaces.

The buffer is dynamically allocated at run time to allow for greater flexibility of the CMS/NML sub-system. The buffer size must be large enough to accommodate the largest message, a small amount for internal use and allow for the message to be encoded if this option is chosen (encoded data will be covered later). The following figure is an internal view of the buffer space.



**CMS buffer** The CMS base class is primarily responsible for creating the communications pathways and interfacing to the O.S.

## 2.20 Configuration file format

NML configuration consists of two types of line formats. One for Buffers, and a second for Processes that connect to the buffers.

### 2.20.1 Buffer line

The original NIST format of the buffer line is:

- *B name type host size neut RPC# buffer# max\_procs key [type specific configs]*
- *B* - identifies this line as a Buffer configuration.
- *name* - is the identifier of the buffer.
- *type* - describes the buffer type - SHMEM, LOCMEM, FILEMEM, PHANTOM, or GLOBMEM.
- *host* - is either an IP address or host name for the NML server
- *size* - is the size of the buffer
- *neut* - a boolean to indicate if the data in the buffer is encoded in a machine independent format, or raw.
- *RPC#* - Obsolete - Place holder retained for backward compatibility only.
- *buffer#* - A unique ID number used if a server controls multiple buffers.
- *max\_procs* - is the maximum processes allowed to connect to this buffer.
- *key* - is a numerical identifier for a shared memory buffer



### 2.20.2 Type specific configs

The buffer type implies additional configuration options whilst the host operating system precludes certain combinations. In an attempt to distill published documentation in to a coherent format, only the **SHMEM** buffer type will be covered.

- *mutex=os\_sem* - default mode for providing semaphore locking of the buffer memory.
- *mutex=none* - Not used
- *mutex=no\_interrupts* - not applicable on a Linux system
- *mutex=no\_switching* - not applicable on a Linux system
- *mutex=mao\_split* - Splits the buffer in to half (or more) and allows one process to access part of the buffer whilst a second process is writing to another part.
- *TCP=(port number)* - Specifies which network port to use.
- *UDP=(port number)* - ditto
- *STCP=(port number)* - ditto
- *serialPortDevName=(serial port)* - Undocumented.
- *passwd=file\_name.pwd* - Adds a layer of security to the buffer by requiring each process to provide a password.
- *bsem* - NIST documentation implies a key for a blocking semaphore, and if *bsem=-1*, blocking reads are prevented.
- *queue* - Enables queued message passing.
- *ascii* - Encode messages in a plain text format
- *disp* - Encode messages in a format suitable for display (???)
- *xdr* - Encode messages in External Data Representation. (see *rpc/xdr.h* for details).
- *diag* - Enables diagnostics stored in the buffer (timings and byte counts ?)

### 2.20.3 Process line

The original NIST format of the process line is:

**P name buffer type host ops server timeout master c\_num [type specific configs]**

- *P* - identifies this line as a Process configuration.
- *name* - is the identifier of the process.
- *buffer* - is one of the buffers defined elsewhere in the config file.
- *type* - defines whether this process is local or remote relative to the buffer.
- *host* - specifies where on the network this process is running.
- *ops* - gives the process read only, write only, or read/write access to the buffer.
- *server* - specifies if this process will running a server for this buffer.
- *timeout* - sets the timeout characteristics for accesses to the buffer.
- *master* - indicates if this process is responsible for creating and destroying the buffer.
- *c\_num* - an integer between zero and (max\_procs -1)

## 2.20.4 Configuration Comments

Some of the configuration combinations are invalid, whilst others imply certain constraints. On a Linux system, GLOBMEM is obsolete, whilst PHANTOM is only really useful in the testing stage of an application, likewise for FILEMEM. LOCMEM is of little use for a multi-process application, and only offers limited performance advantages over SHMEM. This leaves SHMEM as the only buffer type to use with LinuxCNC.

The neut option is only of use in a multi-processor system where different (and incompatible) architectures are sharing a block of memory. The likelihood of seeing a system of this type outside of a museum or research establishment is remote and is only relevant to GLOBMEM buffers.

The RPC number is documented as being obsolete and is retained only for compatibility reasons.

With a unique buffer name, having a numerical identity seems to be pointless. Need to review the code to identify the logic. Likewise, the key field at first appears to be redundant, and it could be derived from the buffer name.

The purpose of limiting the number of processes allowed to connect to any one buffer is unclear from existing documentation and from the original source code. Allowing unspecified multiple processes to connect to a buffer is no more difficult to implement.

The mutex types boil down to one of two, the default “os\_sem” or “mao split”. Most of the NML messages are relatively short and can be copied to or from the buffer with minimal delays, so split reads are not essential.

Data encoding is only relevant when transmitted to a remote process - Using TCP or UDP implies XDR encoding. Whilst ASCII encoding may have some use in diagnostics or for passing data to an embedded system that does not implement NML.

UDP protocols have fewer checks on data and allows a percentage of packets to be dropped. TCP is more reliable, but is marginally slower.

If LinuxCNC is to be connected to a network, one would hope that it is local and behind a firewall. About the only reason to allow access to LinuxCNC via the Internet would be for remote diagnostics - This can be achieved far more securely using other means, perhaps by a web interface.

The exact behavior when timeout is set to zero or a negative value is unclear from the NIST documents. Only INF and positive values are mentioned. However, buried in the source code of rcslib, it is apparent that the following applies:

timeout > 0 Blocking access until the timeout interval is reached or access to the buffer is available.

timeout = 0 Access to the buffer is only possible if no other process is reading or writing at the time.

timeout < 0 or INF Access is blocked until the buffer is available.

## 2.21 NML base class

Expand on the lists and the relationship between NML, NMLmsg, and the lower level cms classes.

Not to be confused with NMLmsg, RCS\_STAT\_MSG, or RCS\_CMD\_MSG.

NML is responsible for parsing the config file, configuring the cms buffers and is the mechanism for routing messages to the correct buffer(s). To do this, NML creates several lists for:

- cms buffers created or connected to.
- processes and the buffers they connect to
- a long list of format functions for each message type

This last item is probably the nub of much of the malignment of libnml/rcslib and NML in general. Each message that is passed via NML requires a certain amount of information to be attached in addition to the actual data. To do this, several formatting functions are called in sequence to assemble fragments of the overall message. The format functions will include NML\_TYPE, MSG\_TYPE, in addition to the data declared in derived NMLmsg classes. Changes to the order in which the formatting functions are called and also the variables passed will break compatibility with rcslib if messed with - There are reasons for maintaining rcslib compatibility, and good reasons for messing with the code. The question is, which set of reasons are overriding?

## 2.21.1 NML internals

### 2.21.1.1 NML constructor

NML::NML() parses the config file and stores it in a linked list to be passed to cms constructors in single lines. It is the function of the NML constructor to call the relevant cms constructor for each buffer and maintain a list of the cms objects and the processes associated with each buffer.

It is from the pointers stored in the lists that NML can interact with cms and why Doxygen fails to show the real relationships involved.

---

**Note**

The config is stored in memory before passing a pointer to a specific line to the cms constructor. The cms constructor then parses the line again to extract a couple of variables. . . It would make more sense to do ALL the parsing and save the variables in a struct that is passed to the cms constructor - This would eliminate string handling and reduce duplicate code in cms. . .

---

### 2.21.1.2 NML read/write

Calls to NML::read and NML::write both perform similar tasks in so much as processing the message - The only real variation is in the direction of data flow.

A call to the read function first gets data from the buffer, then calls format\_output(), whilst a write function would call format\_input() before passing the data to the buffer. It is in format\_xxx() that the work of constructing or deconstructing the message takes place. A list of assorted functions are called in turn to place various parts of the NML header (not to be confused with the cms header) in the right order - The last function called is emcFormat() in emc.cc.

### 2.21.1.3 NMLmsg and NML relationships

NMLmsg is the base class from which all message classes are derived. Each message class must have a unique ID defined (and passed to the constructor) and also an update(\*cms) function. The update() will be called by the NML read/write functions when the NML formatter is called - The pointer to the formatter will have been declared in the NML constructor at some point. By virtue of the linked lists NML creates, it is able to select cms pointer that is passed to the formatter and therefor which buffer is to be used.

## 2.22 Adding custom NML commands

LinuxCNC is pretty awesome, but some parts need some tweaking. As you know communication is done through NML channels, the data sent through such a channel is one of the classes defined in emc.hh (implemented in emc.cc). If somebody needs a message type that doesn't exist, he should follow these steps to add a new one. (The Message I added in the example is called EMC\_IO\_GENERIC (inherits EMC\_IO\_CMD\_MSG (inherits RCS\_CMD\_MSG)))

1. add the definition of the EMC\_IO\_GENERIC class to emc2/src/emc/nml\_intf/emc.hh
2. add the type define: #define EMC\_IO\_GENERIC\_TYPE ((NMLTYPE) 1605)
  - a. (I chose 1605, because it was available) to emc2/src/emc/nml\_intf/emc.hh
3. add case EMC\_IO\_GENERIC\_TYPE to emcFormat in emc2/src/emc/nml\_intf/emc.cc
4. add case EMC\_IO\_GENERIC\_TYPE to emc\_symbol\_lookup in emc2/src/emc/nml\_intf/emc.cc
5. add EMC\_IO\_GENERIC::update function to emc2/src/emc/nml\_intf/emc.cc

Recompile, and the new message should be there. The next part is to send such messages from somewhere, and receive them in another place, and do some stuff with it.

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# **Part I**

## **NML Messages**

## Chapter 3

# NML Messages

### 3.1 EMC OPERATOR

#### 3.1.1 EMC\_OPERATOR\_ERROR\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: textual error message to the operator, 11

Written From: emccanon.cc, iossh.cc

Read To: emctaskmain.cc, emcsh.cc

Parameter, Type: [error, char[LINELLEN]]

#### 3.1.2 EMC\_OPERATOR\_TEXT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: textual information message to the operator, 12

Written From: emctaskmain.cc

Read To: emctaskmain.cc, emcsh.cc

Parameter, Type: [text, char[LINELLEN]]

#### 3.1.3 EMC\_OPERATOR\_DISPLAY\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: URL or filename of a document to display, 13

Obs: not used, only read

Written From: none

Read To: emctaskmain.cc, emcsh.cc

Parameter, Type: [display, char[LINELLEN]]

### 3.2 EMC NULL, SET, DEBUG, & SYSTEM

#### 3.2.1 EMC\_NULL\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: used to reset serial number to original, 21

Written From: thisQuit (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emctaskmain.cc

Parameter, Type: none

---

### 3.2.2 EMC\_SET\_DEBUG\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets debug level, 22

Written From: emcIoSetDebug (iotaskintf.cc), sendDebug (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emctaskmain.cc, ioControl.cc

Parameter, Type: [debug, int]

### 3.2.3 EMC\_SYSTEM\_CMD\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: execute a system command, 30

Written From: user\_defined\_add\_m\_code (emctask.cc)

Read To: emcSystemCmd (emctaskmain.cc)

Parameter, Type: [string, char[LINELLEN]]

## 3.3 EMC AXIS

### 3.3.1 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_AXIS\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: axis type to linear or angular, 101

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [axisType, unsigned char]

### 3.3.2 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_UNITS\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: units conversion factor, 102

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [units, double]

### 3.3.3 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_GAINS\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: Set the PID gains, 103

Obs: currently not used in EMC2, needs to go to HAL

Written From: none

Read To: emctaskmain.cc Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [p, double] [i, double] [d, double] [ff0, double] [ff1, double] [ff2, double] [backlash, double] [bias, double] [maxError, double]

### 3.3.4 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_CYCLE\_TIME\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: cycle time for the servo task, 104

Written From: none

Read To: emctaskmain.cc

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [cycleTime, double]

### 3.3.5 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_INPUT\_SCALE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: scale factor and offset for the position input, 105

Obs: currently if 0'ed, used only directly from iniaxis

Written From: none Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc) calls emcAxisSetInputScale (minimillbridgeporttaskintf.cc) which sends EMCMOT\_SET\_INPUT\_SCALE

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [scale, double] [offset, double]

### 3.3.6 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_OUTPUT\_SCALE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: scale factor and offset for the position output, 106

Obs: currently if 0'ed, used only directly from iniaxis

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [scale, double] [offset, double]

### 3.3.7 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_MIN\_POSITION\_LIMIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets min limit, 107

Obs: also handled by iniaxis which directly calls emcAxisSetMinPositionLimit

Written From: none Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc) calls emcAxisSetMinPositionLimit (taskintf.cc) which sends EMCMOT\_SET\_POSITION\_LIMITS

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [limit, double]

### 3.3.8 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_MAX\_POSITION\_LIMIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets max limit, 108

Obs: also handled by iniaxis which directly calls emcAxisSetMaxPositionLimit

Written From: none Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc) calls emcAxisSetMaxPositionLimit (taskintf.cc) which sends EMCMOT\_SET\_POSITION\_LIMITS

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [limit, double]

### 3.3.9 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_MIN\_OUTPUT\_LIMIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 109

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [limit, double]

### 3.3.10 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_MAX\_OUTPUT\_LIMIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 110

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [limit, double]

---

### 3.3.11 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_FERROR\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets max following error, 111

Obs: also handled by iniaxis which directly calls emcAxisSetError

Written From: none Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc) calls emcAxisSetError (taskintf.cc) which sends EMC\_MOT\_SET\_MAX\_FERROR

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [ferror, double]

### 3.3.12 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_HOMING\_VEL\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 112

Obs: in EMC2 those are SET\_HOMING\_PARAMS double home, double offset, double search\_vel, double latch\_vel, int use\_index, int ignore\_limits,

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [ferror, double]

### 3.3.13 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_HOME\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 113

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [homingVel, double]

### 3.3.14 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_HOME\_OFFSET\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 114

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [home, double]

### 3.3.15 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_MIN\_FERROR\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets min following error, 115

Obs: also handled by iniaxis which directly calls emcAxisSetMinError

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisSetMinError (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC\_MOT\_SET\_MIN\_FERROR

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [offset, double]



### 3.3.16 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_MAX\_VELOCITY\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets max. velocity, 116

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [vel, double]

### 3.3.17 EMC\_AXIS\_INIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 118

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int]

### 3.3.18 EMC\_AXIS\_HALT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 119

Obs: not used, only read

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisHalt (taskintf.cc)

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int]

### 3.3.19 EMC\_AXIS\_ABORT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: aborts motion on an axis (e.g. GUI jogs), 120

Obs: used from the GUI when stopping a manual jog

Written From: sendJogStop (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisAbort (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC\_MOT\_AXIS\_ABORT

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int]

### 3.3.20 EMC\_AXIS\_ENABLE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: enables axis, 121

Obs: not used from tkemc & mini

Written From: sendAxisEnable (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisEnable (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC\_MOT\_ENABLE\_AMPLIFIER

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int]

### 3.3.21 EMC\_AXIS\_DISABLE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: disable axis, 122

Obs: not used from tkemc & mini

Written From: sendAxisDisable (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisDisable (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC\_MOT\_DISABLE\_AMPLIFIER

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int]

### 3.3.22 EMC\_AXIS\_HOME\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: home an axis at current position, 123

Obs: used from tkemc & mini through emc\_home

Written From: sendHome (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisHome (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC\_MOT\_HOME

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int]

### 3.3.23 EMC\_AXIS\_JOG\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: jogs an axis continuously, 124

Obs: used on jogging

Written From: sendJogCont (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisJog (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC\_MOT\_JOG\_CONT

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [vel, double]

### 3.3.24 EMC\_AXIS\_INCR\_JOG\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: jogs an axis with an increment, 125

Obs: used on jogging

Written From: sendJogIncr (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisIncrJog (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC\_MOT\_JOG\_INCR

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int]  
incr, double] [vel, double]

### 3.3.25 EMC\_AXIS\_ABS\_JOG\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: jogs an axis with an absolute value, 126

Obs: not used, only read

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisAbsJog (taskintf.cc)

which sends EMC\_MOT\_JOG\_ABS Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [pos, double] [vel, double]

### 3.3.26 EMC\_AXIS\_ACTIVATE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 127

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int]

### 3.3.27 EMC\_AXIS\_DEACTIVATE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 128

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int]

### 3.3.28 EMC\_AXIS\_OVERRIDE\_LIMITS\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: overrides min/max limits during homing, 129

Obs: used from tkemc & mini through emc\_override\_limit

Written From: sendOverrideLimits (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisOverrideLimits (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMCMOT\_OVERRIDE\_LIMITS

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int]

### 3.3.29 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_OUTPUT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets an DAC output value, 130

Obs: currently not used in EMC2, needs to go to HAL

Written From: sendAxisSetOutput (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisSetOutput (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMCMOT\_DAC\_OUT

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [output, double]

### 3.3.30 EMC\_AXIS\_LOAD\_COMP\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: loads compensation values from a file, 131

Obs: currently usrmotLoadComp if 0'ed in EMC2

Written From: sendAxisLoadComp (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisLoadComp (minimillbridgeporttaskintf.cc)  
which calls usrmotLoadComp

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [file, char[LINELLEN]]

### 3.3.31 EMC\_AXIS\_ALTER\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: loads the alter value to modify the axis position, 132

Written From: sendAxisAlter (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisAlter (taskintf.cc)  
which calls usrmotAlter

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [alter, double]

### 3.3.32 EMC\_AXIS\_SET\_STEP\_PARAMS\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: was used to set step related params, 133

Obs: currently not used in EMC2, needs to go to HAL  
(maybe directly from the ini, not through NML)

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcAxisSetStepParams (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC\_MOT\_SET\_STEP\_PARAMS

Parameter, Type: [axis (in EMC\_AXIS\_CMD\_MSG), int] [setup\_time, double] [hold\_time, double]

### 3.3.33 EMC\_AXIS\_STAT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: status for axis, not sent as a message but used as is, 199

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [a HUGE load of params]

## 3.4 EMC TRAJ

### 3.4.1 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_AXES\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 201

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [axes, int]

### 3.4.2 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_UNITS\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 202

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [linearUnits, double] [angularUnits, double]

### 3.4.3 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_CYCLE\_TIME\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 203

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [cycleTime, double]

### 3.4.4 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_MODE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 204

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [mode, enum EMC\_TRAJ\_MODE\_ENUM]

### 3.4.5 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_VELOCITY\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sends a request to set the vel, which is in internal units/sec, 205

Written From: sendVelMsg (emccanon.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajSetVelocity (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)  
which sends EMCMOT\_SET\_VEL

Parameter, Type: [velocity, double]

### 3.4.6 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_ACCELERATION\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 206

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [acceleration, double]

### 3.4.7 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_MAX\_VELOCITY\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 207

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [velocity, double]

---

### **3.4.8 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_MAX\_ACCELERATION\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: -, 208

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [acceleration, double]

### **3.4.9 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_SCALE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: set the feed override to be the percent value, 209

Obs: used for feed override messages

Written From: sendFeedOverride (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajSetScale (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMCMOT\_SCALE

Parameter, Type: [scale, double]

### **3.4.10 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_MOTION\_ID\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: -, 210

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [id, int]

### **3.4.11 EMC\_TRAJ\_INIT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: -, 211

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.4.12 EMC\_TRAJ\_HALT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: -, 212

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

---

### 3.4.13 EMC\_TRAJ\_ENABLE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 213

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### 3.4.14 EMC\_TRAJ\_DISABLE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 214

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### 3.4.15 EMC\_TRAJ\_ABORT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: causes traj to abort ?, 215

Obs: not used, only read

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajAbort (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMCMOT\_ABORT

Parameter, Type:

### 3.4.16 EMC\_TRAJ\_PAUSE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: causes traj to pause ?, 216

Obs: not used, only read

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajPause (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)  
which sends EMCMOT\_PAUSE

Parameter, Type:

### 3.4.17 EMC\_TRAJ\_STEP\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 217

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

---

### 3.4.18 EMC\_TRAJ\_RESUME\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: causes traj to resume ?, 218

Obs: not used, only read

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajResume (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)  
which sends EMCOT\_RESUME

Parameter, Type:

### 3.4.19 EMC\_TRAJ\_DELAY\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets a delay in the task execution, 219

Obs: used with dwelling

Written From: DWELL (emccanon.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)

Parameter, Type: [delay, double]

### 3.4.20 EMC\_TRAJ\_LINEAR\_MOVE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sends a linear move from the interp to motion, 220

Obs: used

Written From: STRAIGHT\_TRAVERSE, ARC\_FEED (emccanon.cc)

Read To: checkInterpList, emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajLinearMove (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)  
which sends EMCOT\_SET\_LINE

Parameter, Type: [end, EmcPose]

### 3.4.21 EMC\_TRAJ\_CIRCULAR\_MOVE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sends a circular move from the interp to motion, 221

Obs: used

Written From: ARC\_FEED (emccanon.cc)

Read To: checkInterpList, emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajCircularMove (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)  
which sends EMCOT\_SET\_CIRCLE Parameter, Type: [end, EmcPose] [center, PM\_CARTESIAN] [normal, PM\_CARTESIAN]  
[turn, int]

### 3.4.22 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_TERM\_COND\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: chooses between blending or exact path mode, 222

Obs: used, seems the interp knows exact PATH, STOP and BLEND, motion however knows only BLEND or STOP

Written From: SET\_MOTION\_CONTROL\_MODE (emccanon.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajSetTermCond (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)  
which sends EMCOT\_TERM\_COND\_STOP or EMCOT\_TERM\_COND\_BLEND

Parameter, Type: [cond, int]



### 3.4.23 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_OFFSET\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: is used for tool length offset, 223

Obs: used, the message could transport more than just Z offset used for tool length

Written From: USE\_TOOL\_LENGTH\_OFFSET (emccanon.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)

` `remembers the origin offset into emcStatus->task.origin

Parameter, Type: [offset, EmcPose]

### 3.4.24 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_ORIGIN\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets the origin coords ?, 224

Obs: used

Written From: SET\_ORIGIN\_OFFSETS (emccanon.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)

remembers the tool length offset

Parameter, Type: [origin, EmcPose]

### 3.4.25 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_HOME\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 225

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [home, EmcPose]

### 3.4.26 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_PROBE\_INDEX\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sends the index pin used for probing, 226

Obs: should get obsolete, probin pin should get routed by HAL

Written From: sendSetProbeIndex (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)

calls emcTrajSetProbeIndex (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)

which sends EMCOT\_SET\_PROBE\_INDEX

Parameter, Type: [index, int]

### 3.4.27 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_PROBE\_POLARITY\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sends the polarity for the pin used for probing, 227

Obs: should get obsolete, probin pin polarity should get routed by HAL

Written From: sendSetProbePolarity (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)

calls emcTrajSetProbePolarity (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)

which sends EMCOT\_SET\_PROBE\_POLARITY

Parameter, Type: [polarity, int]

### 3.4.28 EMC\_TRAJ\_CLEAR\_PROBE\_TRIPPED\_FLAG\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: clears the probe tripped, 228

Obs: used

Written From: TURN\_PROBE\_ON (emccanon.cc)  
sendClearProbeTrippedFlag (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajClearProbeTrippedFlag (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC MOT\_CLEAR\_PROBE\_FLAGS

Parameter, Type:

### 3.4.29 EMC\_TRAJ\_PROBE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: performs a straight probe move, 229

Obs: used

Written From: STRAIGHT\_PROBE (emccanon.cc) sendProbe (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajProbe (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC MOT\_PROBE

Parameter, Type: [pos, EmcPose]

### 3.4.30 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_TELEOP\_ENABLE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets the traj mode to teleop, 230

Obs: used

Written From: sendSetTeleopEnable (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajSetMode (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC MOT\_TELEOP

Parameter, Type: [enable, int]

### 3.4.31 EMC\_TRAJ\_SET\_TELEOP\_VECTOR\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: jogs in teleop mode, 231

Obs: used for jogging in teleop mode

Written From: sendJogCont (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTrajSetTeleopVector (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)  
which sends EMC MOT\_SET\_TELEOP\_VECTOR

Parameter, Type: [vector, EmcPose]

### 3.4.32 EMC\_TRAJ\_STAT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: status for traj, not sent as a message but used as is, 299

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [a HUGE load of params]

## 3.5 EMC MOTION

### 3.5.1 EMC\_MOTION\_INIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 301

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### 3.5.2 EMC\_MOTION\_HALT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 302

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### 3.5.3 EMC\_MOTION\_ABORT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 303

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### 3.5.4 EMC\_MOTION\_SET\_AOUT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets an analog output value coordinated with motion, 304

Obs: emccanon.cc currently lacks this in EMC2, not used in EMC2, needs to go to HAL

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)

calls emcMotionSetAout (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)

which sends EMC\_MOT\_SET\_AOUT Parameter, Type: [index, unsigned char] [start, double] [end, double] [now, unsigned char]

### 3.5.5 EMC\_MOTION\_SET\_DOUT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets an digital output value coordinated with motion, 305

Obs: emccanon.cc currently lacks this in EMC2, not used in EMC2, needs to go to HAL

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)

calls emcMotionSetDout (minimill | bridgeporttaskintf.cc)

which sends EMC\_MOT\_SET\_DOUT

Parameter, Type: [index, unsigned char] [start, double] [end, double]

---

### 3.5.6 EMC\_MOTION\_STAT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: status for motion, not sent as a message but used as is, 399

Written From: none

Read To: none Parameter, Type: [heartbeat, unsigned long int] [traj, EMC\_TRAJ\_STAT] [axis[EMC\_AXIS\_MAX], EMC\_AXIS\_STAT]

## 3.6 EMC TASK

### 3.6.1 EMC\_TASK\_INIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: calls the Task init(), 501

Obs: not used, emcTaskInit called directly from emctask\_startup()

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc) calls emcTaskInit()

Parameter, Type:

### 3.6.2 EMC\_TASK\_HALT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: -, 502

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### 3.6.3 EMC\_TASK\_ABORT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: aborts task, cleans up, 503

Obs: used on shutdown

Written From: sendAbort (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc) aborts all

Parameter, Type:

### 3.6.4 EMC\_TASK\_SET\_MODE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: sets current TASK mode, MANUAL, MDI, AUTO, 504

Obs: used for switching the current mode

Written From: sendManual sendMdi sendAuto (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcTaskSetMode (emcTask.cc)

Parameter, Type: [mode, enum EMC\_TASK\_MODE\_ENUM]

### 3.6.5 EMC\_TASK\_SET\_STATE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 505

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [state, enum EMC\_TASK\_STATE\_ENUM]

---

### **3.6.6 EMC\_TASK\_PLAN\_OPEN\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 506

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [file, char[LINELLEN]]

### **3.6.7 EMC\_TASK\_PLAN\_RUN\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 507

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [line, int]

### **3.6.8 EMC\_TASK\_PLAN\_READ\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 508

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.6.9 EMC\_TASK\_PLAN\_EXECUTE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 509

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [command, char[LINELLEN]]

### **3.6.10 EMC\_TASK\_PLAN\_PAUSE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 510

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.6.11 EMC\_TASK\_PLAN\_STEP\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 511

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

---

### **3.6.12 EMC\_TASK\_PLAN\_RESUME\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 512

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.6.13 EMC\_TASK\_PLAN\_END\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 513

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.6.14 EMC\_TASK\_PLAN\_CLOSE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 514

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.6.15 EMC\_TASK\_PLAN\_INIT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 515

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.6.16 EMC\_TASK\_PLAN\_SYNCH\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 516

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.6.17 EMC\_TASK\_STAT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 599

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [heartbeat, unsigned long int] [a HUGE load of params]

---

## 3.7 EMC TOOL

### 3.7.1 EMC\_TOOL\_INIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: starts TOOL init, 1101

Obs: used for initializing the IO stuff, should load the tool table too

Written From: emcIoInit (iotaskintf.cc)

Read To: main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)  
emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type:

### 3.7.2 EMC\_TOOL\_HALT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: stops TOOL, 1102

Obs: used for stopping IO, doesn't actually do anything so far, in EMC1 it was send to subordinates too (spindle, aux, coolant, lube)

Written From: emcIoHalt (iotaskintf.cc)

Read To: main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)  
emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type:

### 3.7.3 EMC\_TOOL\_ABORT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: aborts TOOL, 1103

Obs: used for aborting IO, doesn't actually do anything so far, in EMC1 it was send to subordinates too (spindle, aux, coolant, lube)

Written From: emcIoAbort (iotaskintf.cc)

Read To: main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)  
emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type:

### 3.7.4 EMC\_TOOL\_PREPARE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: prepares a tool for tool changing, 1104

Obs: loads the prep tool in emcioStatus.tool.toolPrepped, should go to PLC and make it move the desired tool in the toolchanging position

Written From: SELECT\_TOOL (emccanon.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcToolPrepare (iotaskintf.cc)  
which sends it to the IO controller

Parameter, Type: [tool, int]

### 3.7.5 EMC\_TOOL\_LOAD\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: changes the current tool with the prepared tool, 1105

Obs: loads the actual tool, makes toolprepped=0

Written From: CHANGE\_TOOL (emccanon.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcToolLoad (iotaskintf.cc)  
which sends it to the IO controller,  
main (simIoControl.cc ioControl.cc)

Parameter, Type:

### 3.7.6 EMC\_TOOL\_UNLOAD\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: unloads the current tool from the spindle, 1106

Obs: unloads the current tool, not written in EMC2 only read

Written From: none

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcToolUnLoad (iotaskintf.cc)  
which sends it to the IO controller,  
main (simIoControl.cc ioControl.cc)

Parameter, Type:

### 3.7.7 EMC\_TOOL\_LOAD\_TOOL\_TABLE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: loads the tool table, without this tool comp. can't be made, 1107

Written From: sendLoadToolTable (emcsh.cc)

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [file, char[LINELLEN]]

### 3.7.8 EMC\_TOOL\_SET\_OFFSET\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 1108

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [tool, int] [length, double] [diameter, double]

### 3.7.9 EMC\_TOOL\_STAT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 1199

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:



## **3.8 EMC AUX**

### **3.8.1 EMC\_AUX\_INIT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1201

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.8.2 EMC\_AUX\_HALT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1202

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.8.3 EMC\_AUX\_ABORT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1203

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.8.4 EMC\_AUX\_DIO\_WRITE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1204

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [index, int] [value, int]

### **3.8.5 EMC\_AUX\_AIO\_WRITE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1205

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [index, int] [value, double]

### **3.8.6 EMC\_AUX\_ESTOP\_ON\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1206

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

---

### **3.8.7 EMC\_AUX\_ESTOP\_OFF\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1207

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.8.8 EMC\_AUX\_STAT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1299

Written From: none

Read To: none Parameter, Type: [estop, int] [estopIn, int] [dout, unsigned char[EMC\_AUX\_MAX\_DOUT]] [din, unsigned char[EMC\_AUX\_MAX\_DIN]] [aout, double[EMC\_AUX\_MAX\_AOUT]] [ain, double[EMC\_AUX\_MAX\_AIN]]

## **3.9 EMC SPINDLE**

### **3.9.1 EMC\_SPINDLE\_INIT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1301

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.9.2 EMC\_SPINDLE\_HALT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1302

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.9.3 EMC\_SPINDLE\_ABORT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1303

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.9.4 EMC\_SPINDLE\_ON\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1304

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [speed, double]

---

### **3.9.5 EMC\_SPINDLE\_OFF\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1305

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.9.6 EMC\_SPINDLE\_FORWARD\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1306

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [speed, double]

### **3.9.7 EMC\_SPINDLE\_REVERSE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1307

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [speed, double]

### **3.9.8 EMC\_SPINDLE\_STOP\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1308

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [speed, double]

### **3.9.9 EMC\_SPINDLE\_INCREASE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1309

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [speed, double]

### **3.9.10 EMC\_SPINDLE\_DECREASE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1310

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

---

### **3.9.11 EMC\_SPINDLE\_CONSTANT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1311

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.9.12 EMC\_SPINDLE\_BRAKE\_RELEASE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1312

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.9.13 EMC\_SPINDLE\_BRAKE\_ENGAGE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1313

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.9.14 EMC\_SPINDLE\_ENABLE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1314

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.9.15 EMC\_SPINDLE\_DISABLE\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1315

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### **3.9.16 EMC\_SPINDLE\_STAT\_TYPE**

Description, NML Type: , 1399

Written From: none

Read To: none Parameter, Type: [speed, double] [direction, int] [brake, int] [increasing, int] [enabled, int]

---

## 3.10 EMC COOLANT

### 3.10.1 EMC\_COOLANT\_INIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: initializes the COOLANT controller (currently part of the IO controller), 1401

Obs: not written in EMC2, only read, in EMC1 it was sent when TOOL\_INIT was sent

Written From: none

Read To: main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)  
emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.10.2 EMC\_COOLANT\_HALT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: stops the COOLANT, 1402

Obs: not written in EMC2, only read, in EMC1 it was sent when TOOL\_HALT was sent

Written From: none

Read To: main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)  
emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.10.3 EMC\_COOLANT\_ABORT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: aborts the COOLANT, 1403

Obs: not written in EMC2, only read, in EMC1 it was sent when TOOL\_ABORT was sent

Written From: none

Read To: main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)  
emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.10.4 EMC\_COOLANT\_MIST\_ON\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: starts MIST coolant, 1404

Obs: used, written by emccanon.cc

Written From: MIST\_ON (emccanon.cc) sendMistOn (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcCoolantMistOn (iotaskintf.cc)  
which sends it to the IO controller,  
main (simIoControl.cc ioControl.cc) iossh.cc

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.10.5 EMC\_COOLANT\_MIST\_OFF\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: stops MIST coolant, 1405

Obs: used, written by emccanon.cc

Written From: MIST\_OFF (emccanon.cc) sendMistOff (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcCoolantMistOff (iotaskintf.cc)  
which sends it to the IO controller,  
main (simIoControl.cc ioControl.cc) iosh.cc

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.10.6 EMC\_COOLANT\_FLOOD\_ON\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: starts FLOOD coolant, 1406

Obs: used, written by emccanon.cc

Written From: FLOOD\_ON (emccanon.cc) sendFloodOn (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcCoolantFloodOn (iotaskintf.cc)  
which sends it to the IO controller,  
main (simIoControl.cc ioControl.cc) iosh.cc

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.10.7 EMC\_COOLANT\_FLOOD\_OFF\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: stops FLOOD coolant, 1407

Obs: used, written by emccanon.cc

Written From: FLOOD\_OFF (emccanon.cc) sendFloodOff (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcCoolantFloodOff (iotaskintf.cc)  
which sends it to the IO controller,  
main (simIoControl.cc ioControl.cc) iosh.cc

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.10.8 EMC\_COOLANT\_STAT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: status for coolant, not sent as a message but used as is, 1499

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [mist, int] [flood, int]

## 3.11 EMC\_LUBE

### 3.11.1 EMC\_LUBE\_INIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: initializes the LUBE controller (currently part of the IO controller), 1501

---

Obs: not written in EMC2, only read, in EMC1 it was sent when TOOL\_INIT was sent

Written From: none

Read To: main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)

emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.11.2 EMC\_LUBE\_HALT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: stops the LUBE, 1502

Obs: not written in EMC2, only read, in EMC1 it was sent when TOOL\_HALT was sent

Written From: none

Read To: main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)

emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.11.3 EMC\_LUBE\_ABORT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: aborts the LUBE, 1503

Obs: not written in EMC2, only read, in EMC1 it was sent when TOOL\_ABORT was sent

Written From: none

Read To: main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)

emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.11.4 EMC\_LUBE\_ON\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: starts LUBE, 1504

Obs: written only by the GUIs (emcsh.cc)

Written From: sendLubeOn (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)

calls emcLubeOn (iotaskintf.cc)

which sends it to the IO controller,

main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)

emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.11.5 EMC\_LUBE\_OFF\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: stops LUBE, 1505

Obs: written only by the GUIs (emcsh.cc)

Written

From: sendLubeOff (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)

calls emcLubeOff (iotaskintf.cc)

which sends it to the IO controller,

main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)

emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.11.6 EMC\_LUBE\_STAT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: status for LUBE, not sent as a message but used as is, 1599

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [on, int] [level, int]

## 3.12 EMC SET

### 3.12.1 EMC\_SET\_DIO\_INDEX\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 5001

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [value, int] [index, int]

### 3.12.2 EMC\_SET\_AIO\_INDEX\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 5002

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [value, int] [index, int]

### 3.12.3 EMC\_SET\_POLARITY\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 5003

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [value, int] [polarity, int]

## 3.13 EMC IO

### 3.13.1 EMC\_IO\_INIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 1601

Obs: not written in EMC2, only read

Written From: none

Read To: main (ioControl.cc simIoControl.cc)  
emc\_io\_get\_command (iosh.cc)

Parameter, Type:



### 3.13.2 EMC\_IO\_HALT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 1602

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### 3.13.3 EMC\_IO\_ABORT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 1603

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### 3.13.4 EMC\_IO\_SET\_CYCLE\_TIME\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 1604

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [cycleTime, double]

### 3.13.5 EMC\_IO\_STAT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: status for IO, not sent as a message but used as is, 1699

Written From: none

Read To: none Parameter, Type: [heartbeat, unsigned long int] [tool, EMC\_TOOL\_STAT] [spindle, EMC\_SPINDLE\_STAT] [coolant, EMC\_COOLANT\_STAT] [aux, EMC\_AUX\_STAT] [lube, EMC\_LUBE\_STAT]

## 3.14 EMC INIT, HALT, & ABORT

### 3.14.1 EMC\_INIT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 1901

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

---

### 3.14.2 EMC\_HALT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 1902

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

### 3.14.3 EMC\_ABORT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: , 1903

Obs: not used

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type:

## 3.15 EMC LOG

### 3.15.1 EMC\_LOG\_OPEN\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: opens the log file, 1904

Obs: not used in EMC2, it was used in EMC[1] from emclog.tcl

Written From: sendLogOpen (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)

calls emcLogOpen (taskintf.cc)

which sends EMCMOT\_OPEN\_LOG Parameter, Type: [file, char[LINELLEN]] [type, int] [size, int] [skip, int] [which, int] [triggerType, int] [triggerVar, int] [triggerThreshold, double]

### 3.15.2 EMC\_LOG\_START\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: starts logging, 1905

Obs: not used in EMC2, it was used in EMC[1] from emclog.tcl

Written From: sendLogStart (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc) calls

emcLogStart (taskintf.cc)

which sends EMCMOT\_START\_LOG

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.15.3 EMC\_LOG\_STOP\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: stops logging, 1906

Obs: not used in EMC2, it was used in EMC[1] from emclog.tcl

Written From: sendLogStop (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc) calls

emcLogStop (taskintf.cc)

which sends EMCMOT\_STOP\_LOG

Parameter, Type: none

### 3.15.4 EMC\_LOG\_CLOSE\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: closes the log file, 1907

Obs: not used in EMC2, it was used in EMC[1] from emclog.tcl

Written From: sendLogClose (emcsh.cc)

Read To: emcTaskIssueCommand (emctaskmain.cc)  
calls emcLogClose (taskintf.cc)  
which sends EMCMOT\_CLOSE\_LOG

Parameter, Type: none

## 3.16 EMC STA T

### 3.16.1 EMC\_STAT\_TYPE

Description, NML Type: aggregation of all the status messages,  
not sent as a message but used as is all over the place, 1999

Written From: none

Read To: none

Parameter, Type: [task, EMC\_TASK\_STAT]  
[motion, EMC\_MOTION\_STAT]  
[io, EMC\_IO\_STAT]  
[logFile, char[LINELLEN]]  
[logType, int]  
[logSize, int]  
[logSkip, int]  
logOpen, int] [logStarted, int] [logPoints, int]

---

# **Part II**

# **Coding Style Guide**

## Chapter 4

# Coding Style

This chapter describes the source code style preferred by the LinuxCNC team.

### 4.1 Do no harm

When making small edits to code in a style different than the one described below, observe the local coding style. Rapid changes from one coding style to another decrease code readability.

Never check in code after running “indent” on it. The whitespace changes introduced by indent make it more difficult to follow the revision history of the file.

Do not use an editor that makes unneeded changes to whitespace (e.g., which replaces 8 spaces with a tabstop on a line not otherwise modified, or word-wraps lines not otherwise modified)

### 4.2 Tab Stops

A tab stop always corresponds to 8 spaces. Do not write code that displays correctly only with a differing tab stop setting.

### 4.3 Indentation

Use 4 spaces per level of indentation. Combining 8 spaces into one tab is acceptable but not required.

### 4.4 Placing Braces

Put the opening brace last on the line, and put the closing brace first:

```
if (x) {
```

The closing brace is on a line of its own, except in the cases where it is followed by a continuation of the same statement, i.e. a *while* in a do-statement or an *else* in an if-statement, like this:

```
do {
```

and

```
if (x == y) {
```

This brace-placement also minimizes the number of empty (or almost empty) lines, which allows a greater amount of code or comments to be visible at once in a terminal of a fixed size.

## 4.5 Naming

C is a Spartan language, and so should your naming be. Unlike Modula-2 and Pascal programmers, C programmers do not use cute names like `ThisVariableIsATemporaryCounter`. A C programmer would call that variable *tmp*, which is much easier to write, and not the least more difficult to understand.

However, descriptive names for global variables are a must. To call a global function *foo* is a shooting offense.

GLOBAL variables (to be used only if you **really** need them) need to have descriptive names, as do global functions. If you have a function that counts the number of active users, you should call that *count\_active\_users()* or similar, you should **not** call it *cntusr()*.

Encoding the type of a function into the name (so-called Hungarian notation) is brain damaged - the compiler knows the types anyway and can check those, and it only confuses the programmer. No wonder Microsoft makes buggy programs.

LOCAL variable names should be short, and to the point. If you have some random integer loop counter, it should probably be called *i*. Calling it *loop\_counter* is non-productive, if there is no chance of it being misunderstood. Similarly, *tmp* can be just about any type of variable that is used to hold a temporary value.

If you are afraid to mix up your local variable names, you have another problem, which is called the function-growth-hormone-imbalance syndrome. See next chapter.

## 4.6 Functions

Functions should be short and sweet, and do just one thing. They should fit on one or two screenfuls of text (the ISO/ANSI screen size is 80x24, as we all know), and do one thing and do that well.

The maximum length of a function is inversely proportional to the complexity and indentation level of that function. So, if you have a conceptually simple function that is just one long (but simple) case-statement, where you have to do lots of small things for a lot of different cases, it's OK to have a longer function.

However, if you have a complex function, and you suspect that a less-than-gifted first-year high-school student might not even understand what the function is all about, you should adhere to the maximum limits all the more closely. Use helper functions with descriptive names (you can ask the compiler to in-line them if you think it's performance-critical, and it will probably do a better job of it that you would have done).

Another measure of the function is the number of local variables. They shouldn't exceed 5-10, or you're doing something wrong. Re-think the function, and split it into smaller pieces. A human brain can generally easily keep track of about 7 different things, anything more and it gets confused. You know you're brilliant, but maybe you'd like to understand what you did 2 weeks from now.

## 4.7 Commenting

Comments are good, but there is also a danger of over-commenting. NEVER try to explain HOW your code works in a comment: it's much better to write the code so that the **working** is obvious, and it's a waste of time to explain badly written code.

Generally, you want your comments to tell WHAT your code does, not HOW. A boxed comment describing the function, return value, and who calls it placed above the body is good. Also, try to avoid putting comments inside a function body: if the function is so complex that you need to separately comment parts of it, you should probably re-read the Functions section again. You can make small comments to note or warn about something particularly clever (or ugly), but try to avoid excess. Instead, put the comments at the head of the function, telling people what it does, and possibly WHY it does it.

If comments along the lines of `/* Fix me */` are used, please, please, say why something needs fixing. When a change has been made to the affected portion of code, either remove the comment, or amend it to indicate a change has been made and needs testing.

## 4.8 Shell Scripts & Makefiles

Not everyone has the same tools and packages installed. Some people use vi, others emacs - A few even avoid having either package installed, preferring a lightweight text editor such as nano or the one built in to Midnight Commander.

gawk versus mawk - Again, not everyone will have gawk installed, mawk is nearly a tenth of the size and yet conforms to the Posix AWK standard. If some obscure gawk specific command is needed that mawk does not provide, then the script will break for some users. The same would apply to mawk. In short, use the generic awk invocation in preference to gawk or mawk.

## 4.9 C++ Conventions

C++ coding styles are always likely to end up in heated debates (a bit like the emacs versus vi arguments). One thing is certain however, a common style used by everyone working on a project leads to uniform and readable code.

Naming conventions: Constants either from `#defines` or enumerations should be in upper case through out. Rationale: Makes it easier to spot compile time constants in the source code. e.g. `EMC_MESSAGE_TYPE`

Classes and Namespaces should capitalize the first letter of each word and avoid underscores. Rationale: Identifies classes, constructors and destructors. e.g. `GtkWidget`

Methods (or function names) should follow the C recommendations above and should not include the class name. Rationale: Maintains a common style across C and C++ sources. e.g. `get_foo_bar()`

However, boolean methods are easier to read if they avoid underscores and use an *is* prefix (not to be confused with methods that manipulate a boolean). Rationale: Identifies the return value as `TRUE` or `FALSE` and nothing else. e.g. `isOpen`, `isHomed`

Do NOT use *Not* in a boolean name, it leads only leads to confusion when doing logical tests. e.g. `isNotOnLimit` or `is_not_on_limit` are BAD.

Variable names should avoid the use of upper case and underscores except for local or private names. The use of global variables should be avoided as much as possible. Rationale: Clarifies which are variables and which are methods. Public: e.g. `axislimit`  
Private: e.g. `maxvelocity_`

Specific method naming conventions

The terms `get` and `set` should be used where an attribute is accessed directly. Rationale: Indicates the purpose of the function or method. e.g. `get_foo` `set_bar`

For methods involving boolean attributes, `set` & `reset` is preferred. Rationale: As above. e.g. `set_amp_enable` `reset_amp_fault`

Math intensive methods should use `compute` as a prefix. Rationale: Shows that it is computationally intensive and will hog the CPU. e.g. `compute_PID`

Abbreviations in names should be avoided where possible - The exception is for local variable names. Rationale: Clarity of code. e.g. `pointer` is preferred over `ptr` `compute` is preferred over `cmp` `compare` is again preferred over `cmp`.

Enumerates and other constants can be prefixed by a common type name e.g. `enum COLOR { COLOR_RED, COLOR_BLUE };`

Excessive use of macros and defines should be avoided - Using simple methods or functions is preferred. Rationale: Improves the debugging process.

Include Statements Header files must be included at the top of a source file and not scattered throughout the body. They should be sorted and grouped by their hierarchical position within the system with the low level files included first. Include file paths should NEVER be absolute - Use the compiler `-I` flag instead. Rationale: Headers may not be in the same place on all systems.

Pointers and references should have their reference symbol next to the variable name rather than the type name. Rationale: Reduces confusion. e.g. `float *x` or `int &i`

Implicit tests for zero should not be used except for boolean variables. e.g. `if (spindle_speed != 0)` NOT `if (spindle_speed)`

Only loop control statements must be included in a `for()` construct. e.g. `sum = 0; for (i = 0; i < 10; i++) { sum += value[i]; }`

NOT `for (i = 0, sum = 0; i < 10; i++) sum += value[i];`

Likewise, executable statements in conditionals must be avoided. e.g. `if (fd = open(file_name))` is bad.

Complex conditional statements should be avoided - Introduce temporary boolean variables instead.

Parentheses should be used in plenty in mathematical expressions - Do not rely on operator precedence when an extra parentheses would clarify things.

File names: C++ sources and headers use `.cc` and `.hh` extension. The use of `.c` and `.h` are reserved for plain C. Headers are for class, method, and structure declarations, not code (unless the functions are declared inline).

## 4.10 Python coding standards

Use the [PEP 8](#) style for Python code.

## 4.11 Comp coding standards

In the declaration portion of a `.comp` file, begin each declaration at the first column. Insert extra blank lines when they help group related items.

In the code portion of a `.comp` file, follow normal C coding style.

---



## Chapter 5

# Glossary

A listing of terms and what they mean. Some terms have a general meaning and several additional meanings for users, installers, and developers.

**Acme Screw**

A type of lead-screw that uses an Acme thread form. Acme threads have somewhat lower friction and wear than simple triangular threads, but ball-screws are lower yet. Most manual machine tools use acme lead-screws.

**Axis**

One of the computer controlled movable parts of the machine. For a typical vertical mill, the table is the X axis, the saddle is the Y axis, and the quill or knee is the Z axis. Angular axes like rotary tables are referred to as A, B, and C. Additional linear axes relative to the tool are called U, V, and W respectively.

**Axis(GUI)**

One of the Graphical User Interfaces available to users of LinuxCNC. It features the modern use of menus and mouse buttons while automating and hiding some of the more traditional LinuxCNC controls. It is the only open-source interface that displays the entire tool path as soon as a file is opened.

**Backlash**

The amount of "play" or lost motion that occurs when direction is reversed in a lead screw. or other mechanical motion driving system. It can result from nuts that are loose on leadscrews, slippage in belts, cable slack, "wind-up" in rotary couplings, and other places where the mechanical system is not "tight". Backlash will result in inaccurate motion, or in the case of motion caused by external forces (think cutting tool pulling on the work piece) the result can be broken cutting tools. This can happen because of the sudden increase in chip load on the cutter as the work piece is pulled across the backlash distance by the cutting tool.

**Backlash Compensation**

Any technique that attempts to reduce the effect of backlash without actually removing it from the mechanical system. This is typically done in software in the controller. This can correct the final resting place of the part in motion but fails to solve problems related to direction changes while in motion (think circular interpolation) and motion that is caused when external forces (think cutting tool pulling on the work piece) are the source of the motion.

**Ball Screw**

A type of lead-screw that uses small hardened steel balls between the nut and screw to reduce friction. Ball-screws have very low friction and backlash, but are usually quite expensive.

**Ball Nut**

A special nut designed for use with a ball-screw. It contains an internal passage to re-circulate the balls from one end of the screw to the other.

**CNC**

Computer Numerical Control. The general term used to refer to computer control of machinery. Instead of a human operator turning cranks to move a cutting tool, CNC uses a computer and motors to move the tool, based on a part program.

---

**Comp**

A tool used to build, compile and install LinuxCNC HAL components.

**Configuration(n)**

A directory containing a set of configuration files. Custom configurations are normally saved in the users home/emc2/configs directory. These files include EMC's traditional INI file and HAL files. A configuration may also contain several general files that describe tools, parameters, and NML connections.

**Configuration(v)**

The task of setting up LinuxCNC so that it matches the hardware on a machine tool.

**Coordinate Measuring Machine**

A Coordinate Measuring Machine is used to make many accurate measurements on parts. These machines can be used to create CAD data for parts where no drawings can be found, when a hand-made prototype needs to be digitized for moldmaking, or to check the accuracy of machined or molded parts.

**Display units**

The linear and angular units used for onscreen display.

**DRO**

A Digital Read Out is a system of position-measuring devices attached to the slides of a machine tool, which are connected to a numeric display showing the current location of the tool with respect to some reference position. DROs are very popular on hand-operated machine tools because they measure the true tool position without backlash, even if the machine has very loose Acme screws. Some DROs use linear quadrature encoders to pick up position information from the machine, and some use methods similar to a resolver which keeps rolling over.

**EDM**

EDM is a method of removing metal in hard or difficult to machine or tough metals, or where rotating tools would not be able to produce the desired shape in a cost-effective manner. An excellent example is rectangular punch dies, where sharp internal corners are desired. Milling operations can not give sharp internal corners with finite diameter tools. A *wire* EDM machine can make internal corners with a radius only slightly larger than the wire's radius. A *sinker* EDM can make internal corners with a radius only slightly larger than the radius on the corner of the sinking electrode.

**EMC**

The Enhanced Machine Controller. Initially a NIST project. EMC is able to run a wide range of motion devices.

**EMCIO**

The module within EMC that handles general purpose I/O, unrelated to the actual motion of the axes.

**EMCMOT**

The module within EMC that handles the actual motion of the cutting tool. It runs as a real-time program and directly controls the motors.

**Encoder**

A device to measure position. Usually a mechanical-optical device, which outputs a quadrature signal. The signal can be counted by special hardware, or directly by the parport with LinuxCNC.

**Feed**

Relatively slow, controlled motion of the tool used when making a cut.

**Feed rate**

The speed at which a cutting motion occurs. In auto or mdi mode, feed rate is commanded using an F word. F10 would mean ten machine units per minute.

**Feedback**

A method (e.g., quadrature encoder signals) by which LinuxCNC receives information about the position of motors

**Feedrate Override**

A manual, operator controlled change in the rate at which the tool moves while cutting. Often used to allow the operator to adjust for tools that are a little dull, or anything else that requires the feed rate to be "tweaked".

**Floating Point Number**

A number that has a decimal point. (12.300) In HAL it is known as float.

---

**G-Code**

The generic term used to refer to the most common part programming language. There are several dialects of G-code, EMC uses RS274/NGC.

**GUI**

Graphical User Interface.

**General**

A type of interface that allows communications between a computer and a human (in most cases) via the manipulation of icons and other elements (widgets) on a computer screen.

**EMC**

An application that presents a graphical screen to the machine operator allowing manipulation of the machine and the corresponding controlling program.

**HAL**

Hardware Abstraction Layer. At the highest level, it is simply a way to allow a number of building blocks to be loaded and interconnected to assemble a complex system. Many of the building blocks are drivers for hardware devices. However, HAL can do more than just configure hardware drivers.

**Home**

A specific location in the machine's work envelope that is used to make sure the computer and the actual machine both agree on the tool position.

**ini file**

A text file that contains most of the information that configures EMC for a particular machine

**Instance**

One can have an instance of a class or a particular object. The instance is the actual object created at runtime. In programmer jargon, the Lassie object is an instance of the Dog class.

**Joint Coordinates**

These specify the angles between the individual joints of the machine. See also Kinematics

**Jog**

Manually moving an axis of a machine. Jogging either moves the axis a fixed amount for each key-press, or moves the axis at a constant speed as long as you hold down the key. In manual mode, jog speed can be set from the graphical interface.

**kernel-space**

See real-time.

**Kinematics**

The position relationship between world coordinates and joint coordinates of a machine. There are two types of kinematics. Forward kinematics is used to calculate world coordinates from joint coordinates. Inverse kinematics is used for exactly the opposite purpose. Note that kinematics does not take into account, the forces, moments etc. on the machine. It is for positioning only.

**Lead-screw**

An screw that is rotated by a motor to move a table or other part of a machine. Lead-screws are usually either ball-screws or acme screws, although conventional triangular threaded screws may be used where accuracy and long life are not as important as low cost.

**Machine units**

The linear and angular units used for machine configuration. These units are specified and used in the ini file. HAL pins and parameters are also generally in machine units.

**MDI**

Manual Data Input. This is a mode of operation where the controller executes single lines of G-code as they are typed by the operator.

**NIST**

National Institute of Standards and Technology. An agency of the Department of Commerce in the United States.

---

**NML**

Neutral Message Language provides a mechanism for handling multiple types of messages in the same buffer as well as simplifying the interface for encoding and decoding buffers in neutral format and the configuration mechanism.

**Offsets**

An arbitrary amount, added to the value of something to make it equal to some desired value. For example, gcode programs are often written around some convenient point, such as X0, Y0. Fixture offsets can be used to shift the actual execution point of that gcode program to properly fit the true location of the vise and jaws. Tool offsets can be used to shift the "uncorrected" length of a tool to equal that tool's actual length.

**Part Program**

A description of a part, in a language that the controller can understand. For EMC, that language is RS-274/NGC, commonly known as G-code.

**Program Units**

The linear and angular units used in a part program. The linear program units do not have to be the same as the linear machine units. See G20 and G21 for more information. The angular program units are always measured in degrees.

**Python**

General-purpose, very high-level programming language. Used in LinuxCNC for the Axis GUI, the Stepconf configuration tool, and several G-code programming scripts.

**Rapid**

Fast, possibly less precise motion of the tool, commonly used to move between cuts. If the tool meets the workpiece or the fixturing during a rapid, it is probably a bad thing!

**Rapid rate**

The speed at which a rapid motion occurs. In auto or mdi mode, rapid rate is usually the maximum speed of the machine. It is often desirable to limit the rapid rate when testing a g-code program for the first time.

**Real-time**

Software that is intended to meet very strict timing deadlines. Under Linux, in order to meet these requirements it is necessary to install RTAI or RTLINUX and build the software to run in those special environments. For this reason real-time software runs in kernel-space.

**RTAI**

Real Time Application Interface, see <https://www.rtai.org/>, one of two real-time extensions for Linux that EMC can use to achieve real-time performance.

**RTLINUX**

See <http://www.rtlinux.org>, one of two real-time extensions for Linux that EMC can use to achieve real-time performance.

**RTAPI**

A portable interface to real-time operating systems including RTAI and RTLINUX

**RS-274/NGC**

The formal name for the language used by EMC part programs.

**Servo Motor**

Generally, any motor that is used with error-sensing feedback to correct the position of an actuator. Also, a motor which is specially-designed to provide improved performance in such applications.

**Servo Loop**

A control loop used to control position or velocity of an motor equipped with a feedback device.

**Signed Integer**

A whole number that can have a positive or negative sign. In HAL it is known as s32. (A signed 32-bit integer has a usable range of -2,147,483,647 to +2,147,483,647.)

**Spindle**

The part of a machine tool that spins to do the cutting. On a mill or drill, the spindle holds the cutting tool. On a lathe, the spindle holds the workpiece.

---

**Spindle Speed Override**

A manual, operator controlled change in the rate at which the tool rotates while cutting. Often used to allow the operator to adjust for chatter caused by the cutter's teeth. Spindle Speed Override assumes that the LinuxCNC software has been configured to control spindle speed.

**Stepconf**

An LinuxCNC configuration wizard. It is able to handle many step-and-direction motion command based machines. It writes a full configuration after the user answers a few questions about the computer and machine that LinuxCNC is to run on.

**Stepper Motor**

A type of motor that turns in fixed steps. By counting steps, it is possible to determine how far the motor has turned. If the load exceeds the torque capability of the motor, it will skip one or more steps, causing position errors.

**TASK**

The module within EMC that coordinates the overall execution and interprets the part program.

**Tcl/Tk**

A scripting language and graphical widget toolkit with which several of LinuxCNCs GUIs and selection wizards were written.

**Traverse Move**

A move in a straight line from the start point to the end point.

**Units**

See "Machine Units", "Display Units", or "Program Units".

**Unsigned Integer**

A whole number that has no sign. In HAL it is known as u32. (An unsigned 32-bit integer has a usable range of zero to 4,294,967,296.)

**World Coordinates**

This is the absolute frame of reference. It gives coordinates in terms of a fixed reference frame that is attached to some point (generally the base) of the machine tool.

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## Chapter 6

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