User guide for NCLscripts 2.0

General

PALM produces NetCDF output files of

– 3d
– 2d
– profiles
– timeseries
– spectra

These data can be plotted with the program NCL (http://www.ncl.ucar.edu/). NCL is a language designed specifically for scientific data analysis and visualization.
Five NCL scripts exist for PALM users in **trunk/SCRIPTS/NCL** to get a quick overview of the output data:

– **cross_sections.ncl** (draws contour, isoline or vector plots (of a 2-dimensional vector) from 2D or 3D data; instantaneous or time-averaged xy, xz, yz or 3D data can be used)

– **ncl_preferences.ncl** (parameter file)

– **profiles.ncl** (draws profile line plots from profile or 3D data)

– **spectra.ncl** (draws NCL spectra plots from spectra data)

– **timeseries.ncl** (draws line plots from timeseries data)

The scripts are run by entering the prompt

ncl path_to_the_script/script_name.ncl

Several parameters can be steered to change the output plots. They can be either written in the prompt or modified within the spript **ncl_preferences.ncl**. Thus before using the scripts the parameter file **ncl_preferences.ncl** should be copied into the $home direcetory and modified. This file contains all steering parameters with a short description. It need not be run, the other scripts refer to **ncl_preferences.ncl** during their run. For controling the parameters within the prompt, they need to be written as follows:

ncl path_to_the_script/script_name.ncl parameter=value 'parameter="string" '

Changings in the parameter file will be ignored if parameters are specified in the prompt. Most parameters are allocated with a suitable default value but some need to be changed before running any script. They are marked with a REQUIRED otherwise with OPTIONAL.
In case of a job chain without extended output files, the scripts will autimatically read all necessary files after indicating the first and the last cyclic number.
The following lists give an overview of all existing parameters. Further descriptions can be found in **ncl_preferences.ncl**.

Parameter list for cross_sections.ncl:

'file_1'	REQUIRED	string	input file; "/path/name(.nc)"
start_f	REQUIRED	integer	first cyclic number
end_f	REQUIRED	integer	last cyclic number
xyc, xzc, yzc	REQUIRED	integer	[=0] or [=1]; XY- or XZ- or YZ section
'format_out'	OPTIONAL	string	"x11", "pdf", "ps", "eps", "epsi", "ncgm"
'file_out'	OPTIONAL	string	output file; "path/name"
no_columns	OPTIONAL	integer	number of plots in one row
no_rows	OPTIONAL	integer	number of plots in one column
'sort'	OPTIONAL	string	"layer" or "time"
'var'	OPTIONAL	string	by default all variables otherwise: e.g.: ",u,v," for output of u and v
start_time_step	OPTIONAL	double	first time step in [hour]
end_time_step	OPTIONAL	double	last time step in [hour]
xs	OPTIONAL	double	first value of x range in [meter]
xe	OPTIONAL	double	last value of x range in [meter]
ys	OPTIONAL	double	first value of y range in [meter]
ye	OPTIONAL	double	last value of y range in [meter]
zs	OPTIONAL	integer	first indice of z-range
ze	OPTIONAL	integer	last indice of z-range
'mode'	OPTIONAL	string	"Fill" for contour plot , "Line" for isolines, "Both" for both
'fill_mode'	OPTIONAL	string	type of filling the contour plot: "AreaFill", "RasterFill" or "CellFill"
shape	OPTIONAL	integer	aspect ratio is kept [=1] or not [=0]
font_size	OPTIONAL	float	font size of strings
font_size_legend	OPTIONAL	float	font size of legend strings
legend_label_stride	OPTIONAL	integer	reduction of number of labels in legend
axes_explicit	OPTIONAL	integer	explicit setting of axes is switched on [=1]
major_ticks_x	OPTIONAL if axis_explicit = 1	integer	number of major tick marks at x-axis
major_ticks_y	OPTIONAL if axis_explicit = 1	integer	number of major tick marks at y-axis
norm_x, norm_y, norm_z	OPTIONAL if axis_explicit = 1	float	normalising of axes

'unit_x', 'unit_y', 'unit_z'	OPTIONAL if axis_explicit = 1	string	units of axes
vector	OPTIONAL	integer	output of a vector plot [=1] or not [=0]
'vec1'	REQUIRED if vector=1	string	first component of vector (e.g.: ",u,")
'vec2'	REQUIRED if vector=1	string	second component of vector(e.g.: ",v,")
'plotvec'	OPTIONAL	string	variable where the vectorplot can overlay if desired (e.g.: ",u,")
ref_mag	OPTIONAL	float	length of the vector

Parameter list for profiles.ncl:

'file_1'	REQUIRED	string	1st input file; "/path/name(.nc)"
'file_1'	REQUIRED	string	1st input file; "/path/name(.nc)"
start_f_1	REQUIRED	integer	first cyclic number of 1st input file
end_f_1	REQUIRED	integer	last cyclic number of 1st input file
prof3d	REQUIRED	integer	[=1] for 3D data or [=0] for profile data
'format_out'	OPTIONAL	string	"x11", "pdf", "ps", "eps", "epsi", "ncgm"
'file_out'	OPTIONAL	string	output file; "path/name"
no_columns	OPTIONAL	integer	number of plots in one row
no_rows	OPTIONAL	integer	number of plots in one column
'var'	OPTIONAL	string	by default all variables otherwise: e.g.: ",u,v," for output of u and v
no_files	OPTIONAL	integer	up to 6 differnt input files with identical variables and dimensions can be used
'file_2'	REQUIRED if no_files>1	string	2nd input file; "/path/name(.nc)"
start_f_2	REQUIRED if no_files>1	integer	first cyclic number of 2nd input file
end_f_2	REQUIRED if no_files>1	integer	last cyclic number of 2nd input file
'file_3'	REQUIRED if no_files>2	string	3rd input file; "/path/name(.nc)"
...			
'name_legend_1'	OPTIONAL if no_files>1	string	legend item 1 can be labelled
'name_legend_2'	OPTIONAL if no_files>1	string	legend item 2 can be labelled
'name_legend_3'	OPTIONAL if no_files>2	string	legend item 3 can be labelled
...			
start_time_step	OPTIONAL	double	first time step in [hour]
end_time_step	OPTIONAL	double	last time step in [hour]
start_x	OPTIONAL	integer	startvalue of x-axis for horizontal averaging if 3D-data is used; in [gridpoint]
end_x	OPTIONAL	integer	endvalue of x-axis for horizontal averaging if 3D-data is used; in [gridpoint]
start_y	OPTIONAL	integer	startvalue of y-axis for horizontal averaging if 3D-data is used; in [gridpoint]
end_y	OPTIONAL	integer	endvalue of y-axis for horizontal averaging if

			3D-data is used; in [gridpoint]
xs	OPTIONAL	float	first value of x axis
xe	OPTIONAL	float	last value of x axis
min_z	OPTIONAL	double	first value of z-axis in [meter]
max_z	OPTIONAL	double	last value of z-axis in [meter]
log_z	OPTIONAL	integer	[=1] if logarithmic scale for z otherwise [=0]
norm_z	OPTIONAL	float	value for normalising the z-axis
over	OPTIONAL	integer	[=1] for predefinded overlaying of special variables otherwise [=0]
combine	OPTIONAL	integer	[=1] for combining of 2 or 3 variables otherwise [=0]
number_comb	REQUIRED if combine=1	integer	[=2] or [=3]
'c_var'	REQUIRED if combine=1	string	variables for combining, e.g.: ",u,v,w,"
black	OPTIONAL	integer	[=1] for black or [=0] for coloured lines
dash	OPTIONAL	integer	[=1] for dashed or [=0] for continuous lines
font_size	OPTIONAL	float	font size of strings
font_size_legend	OPTIONAL	float	font size of legend strings

Parameter list for spectra.ncl:

'file_1'	REQUIRED	string	input file; "/path/name(.nc)"
start_f	REQUIRED	integer	first cyclic number
end_f	REQUIRED	integer	last cyclic number
'format_out'	OPTIONAL	string	"x11", "pdf", "ps", "eps", "epsi", "ncgm"
'file_out'	OPTIONAL	string	output file; "path/name"
no_columns	OPTIONAL	integer	number of plots in one row
no_rows	OPTIONAL	integer	number of plots in one column
'var'	OPTIONAL	string	by default all variables otherwise: e.g.: ",u,v," for output of u and v
height_level	OPTIONAL	array integer	indicating which height levels from the input file shall be output; e.g: (/1,2,7/) for level 1,2 and 7; by default all levels
'sort'	OPTIONAL	string	"height" for all heights in one plot or "time" for all time steps in one plot
start_time_step	OPTIONAL	double	first time step in [hour]
end_time_step	OPTIONAL	double	last time step in [hour]
black	OPTIONAL	integer	[=1] for black or [=0] for coloured lines
dash	OPTIONAL	integer	[=1] for dashed or [=0] for continuous lines
log_x	OPTIONAL	integer	[=1] if logarithmic scale for x otherwise [=0]
log_y	OPTIONAL	integer	[=1] if logarithmic scale for y otherwise [=0]
norm_x	OPTIONAL	float	value for normalising the x-axis
norm_height	OPTIONAL	integer	normalising x-axis with height is switched on [=1]
norm_y	OPTIONAL	float	value for normalising the y-axis
'unit_x', 'unit_y'	OPTIONAL if axis_explicit = 1	string	units of axis
font_size	OPTIONAL	float	font size of strings
font_size_legend	OPTIONAL	float	font size of legend strings

Parameter list for timeseries.ncl:

'file_1'	REQUIRED	string	input file; "/path/name(.nc)"
start_f	REQUIRED	integer	first cyclic number
end_f	REQUIRED	integer	last cyclic number
'format_out'	OPTIONAL	string	"x11", "pdf", "ps", "eps", "epsi", "ncgm"
'file_out'	OPTIONAL	string	output file; "path/name"
no_columns	OPTIONAL	integer	number of plots in one row
no_rows	OPTIONAL	integer	number of plots in one column
'var'	OPTIONAL	string	by default all variables otherwise: e.g.: ",u,v," for output of u and v (one comma before and after each variable!)
start_time_step	OPTIONAL	double	first time step in [hour]
end_time_step	OPTIONAL	double	last time step in [hour]
over	OPTIONAL	integer	[=1] for predefinded overlaying of special variables otherwise [=0]
font_size	OPTIONAL	float	font size of strings
norm_t	OPTIONAL	float	normalising t-axis
'unit_t'	OPTIONAL	string	unit of t-axis

Program crash

If one of the program aborts and there is no comment, check ncl_prefences.ncl - the scripts should not abort with the defalut values. Be sure to use the right data type (e.g.: integer = **2**; float = **2.0**; dfloat = **2.0d**; string = **"name"**).