Each intrinsic data type has a kind parameter associated with it which is intended to designate a machine representation.

A particular implementation might have three “real” kinds: single, double and quadruple precision.

The kind is specified with an integer:

- INTEGER (kind=2) or INTEGER(2)

But the standard does not define what the integer means!!! So kind parameters 1, 2 and 3 might be single, double and quadruple precision on one system, but on a different system the kind parameters 4, 8 and 16 may represent the same thing. (example: mykinds.f90)
The only requirements are that there must be at least two real and complex kinds, and at least one kind for the integer, logical and character intrinsic types.

The intrinsic functions `selected_int_kind` and `selected_real_kind` may be used to select an appropriate kind for a variable or a named constant.

`selected_int_kind(P)` returns the kind value of the smallest integer type that can represent all values ranging from $-10^P$ to $10^P$ (exclusive). If there is no integer kind that can accommodate this range, `selected_int_kind` returns -1.
* `selected_real_kind(P, R)` returns the kind value of a real data type with decimal precision of at least $P$ digits and exponent range greater than at least $R$.

* Return value:
  * `-1` = processor does not support a real data type with a precision $\geq P$.
  * `-2` = processor does not support a real data type with an exponent range $\geq R$.
  * `-3` = neither is supported.

* Example: `whatkinds.f90`
* KEY: put definitions in a module and use this throughout your code!!!

### CSU GCM example: kinds.F

```fortran
module kinds
    integer, parameter :: int_kind = kind(1), &
    ! log_kind = kind(.true.), &
    real_kind = selected_real_kind(6), &
   dbl_kind = selected_real_kind(13)
end module kinds
```

### Sample computational: elliptic_solver.F

```fortran
module elliptic_solver
    use kinds
    use physical_parameters

    logical (kind=log_kind),parameter :: l_multigrid = .true.
    integer (kind=int_kind) :: bad_apples,iter,iter_max,n1,n2
    real (kind=dbl_kind), parameter :: rconverge = 1.0E-20_dbl_kind
```
Constants may have their kind parameter appended where kind matching is required (e.g., in procedure arguments):

call some_routine (1.0_dbl_kind, 45_int_kind, x, y, ...)

Simple example: passkinds.f90

And another interesting example: pi.f90