





# Advanced MPI

Introduction to Parallel Computing with MPI and OpenMP

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The MPI library enables packing different data in one buffer, that can be sent as a whole. Communication times can thus be reduced. To gather several data in a single buffer the function MPI\_PACK may be used.

INTERFACE
SUBROUTINE MPI_PACK(inbuf,incount,datatype,outbuf,outsize,position,comm,ierr)
INTEGER, INTENT(IN) :: INCOUNT, DATATYPE, OUTSIZE, COMM
<type>, INTENT(IN) :: INBUF(:)</type>
<type>, INTENT(OUT) :: OUTBUF(:)</type>
INTEGER, INTENT(INOUT) :: POSITION
INTEGER, INTENT(OUT) :: IERR
END SUBROUTINE MPI_PACK
END INTERFACE

INCOUNT elements of type DATATYPE of the buffer INBUF are copied in the buffer OUTBUF from position POSITION (in byte). On exit POSITION has the value of the next free address.





#### Unpack



The function MPI\_UNPACK is used by the receiving processes to extract data from the buffer INBUF.

INTERFACE
SUBROUTINE MPI_UNPACK (inbuf, insize, position, outbuf, outcount, datatype,
comm, ierr)
INTEGER, INTENT(IN) :: INSIZE, DATATYPE, OUTCOUNT, COMM
<type>, INTENT(IN) :: INBUF(:)</type>
<type>, INTENT(OUT) :: OUTBUF(:)</type>
INTEGER, INTENT(INOUT) :: POSITION
INTEGER, INTENT(OUT) :: IERR
END SUBROUTINE MPI_UNPACK
END INTERFACE fortran

int MPI_Unpack(void *inbuf, int insize, int *position, void *outbuf,	
int outcount, MPI_Datatype datatype, MPI_Comm comm)	с/с++







#### Derived data types

If the data to be communicated are structured it may be convenient to define a MPI derived data type. The basic MPI data types are:

MPI_INTEGER	fortran	MPI_CHAR	c/c++
MPI_REAL	jorcian	MPI_SHORT	0,0,.,
MPI_DOUBLE_PRECISION		MPI_INT	
MPI_COMPLEX		MPI_LONG	
MPI_DOUBLE_COMPLEX		MPI_UNSIGNED_CHAR	
MPI_LOGICAL		MPI_UNSIGNED_SHORT	
MPI_CHARACTER		MPI_UNSIGNED	
MPI_BYTE		MPI_UNSIGNED_LONG	
MPI_PACKED		MPI_FLOAT	
		MPI_DOUBLE	
		MPI_LONG_DOUBLE	
		MPI_BYTE	
		MPI_PACKED	

Derived data types are defined using basic data types and formerly defined derived data types.

 $Dtype = [(typ_0, pos_0), (typ_1, pos_1), ..., (typ_n-1, pos_n-1)]$ 







#### Derived data types

To define a derived data type it is required:

- To specify the structure of the new data type, on the basis of previously defined or basic data types.
- To register the new data type

A newly defined data type must be registered with the following function:

interface	
<pre>subroutine mpi_type_commit (mpi_mytype, cod_err)</pre>	
integer, intent (in) :: mpi_mytype ! Data type handler	
integer, intent (out):: cod_err ! Error code	
end subroutine mpi_type_commit	
end interface	fortran

int MPI\_Type\_commit ( MPI\_Datatype \*mpi\_mytype )

с/с++

Once committed the new data type becomes a recognized MPI data type.







#### Derived data types

Whenever a defined data type is of no use any more, the following function should be used:

inte	erface
	<pre>subroutine mpi_type_free (mpi_mytype, cod_err)</pre>
	integer, intent (in) :: mpi_mytype ! Data type handler
	integer, intent (out):: cod_err  ! Error code
	end subroutine mpi_type_commit
end	interface

int MPI\_Type\_free ( MPI\_Datatype \*mpi\_mytype )

Pending operations will complete normally.

fortran

с/с++







#### Contiguous elements

An array of contiguous and homogeneous elements is the simplest derived type to be defined. From element to element there must be no spaces.

interface	
subroutine mpi_type_contiguous (num_el, el_type, new_type, ierr)	
integer, intent(in) :: num_el ! How many elements in the array	
integer, intent(in) :: el_type ! Element type	
integer, intent(out) :: new_type ! New data type handler	
integer, intent(out) :: ierr ! Error code	
end subroutine mpi_type_contiguous	fortran
end interface	5
int MPI_Type_contiguous ( int num_el, MPI_Datatype el_type,	
MPI Datatype *new type)	c/c++

This function defines the new data type starting from an array of num\_el elements. All the elements must be of the same (derived) data type.







#### Contiguous elements

As an example, if

El\_type = {(double, 0), (char, 8)}

#### is a 16 bytes data type and 3 elements of that type are filed in an array, then

New_type	=	{(double,	0),	(char,	8)
		(double,	16),	(char,	24)
		(double,	32),	(char,	40)}

Of course there is no point in *El\_type* being a basic MPI type even if it may be as well. This function has been introduced first because of its simplicity.







Making things a bit more complicated, the following function is used to define arrays with useful data separated by fixed strides. i.e. arrays may be seen as sequences of identical blocks containing elements to be communicated and elements to be discarded

interface

subroutine m	pi_type_vector	(num_blk,l	en_	_blk,blk_siz,el_typ,new_typ,errcd	ode)
integer,	intent(in) ::	num_blk	!	How many blocks	
integer,	intent(in) ::	len_blk	!	How many useful elements per blo	ock
integer,	intent(in) ::	blk_siz	!	Total number of elements per blo	ock
integer,	intent(in) ::	el_typ	!	Data type of the block elements	
integer,	intent(out) :	: new_typ	!	New data type handler	
integer,	intent(out) :	: ierr	!	Error code	
end subrouti	ne mpi_type_ve	ctor			
end interface					fortran









It can be noted that the size and the useful length of the blocks is given in number of elements. As an example if blk\_siz=10 and len\_blk=7 and the elements are of type MPI\_INTEGER, then the actual size of each block is  $4 \times 10 = 40$  bytes but only  $4 \times 7 = 28$  are communicated and  $4 \times (10-7) = 12$  bytes are never sent.

Example: *block\_array* (Fortran and C)







The following function must be used to define arrays with blocks of different dimensions. Two vectors are needed to define the lengths because each block has its own number of useful and discarded elements.

```
interface
subroutine mpi_type_indexed(num_blk,v_len_blk,v_head,el_typ,new_typ,cod_er)
integer, intent(in) :: num_blk ! How many blocks
integer, intent(in), dimension(:) :: v_len_blk ! How many elements
! in each block
integer, intent(in), dimension(:) :: v_head ! How many elements before
! each block
integer, intent(in) :: el_typ ! Data type of elements in each block
integer, intent(out) :: new_typ ! New data type handler
integer, intent(out) :: ierr ! Error code
end subroutine mpi_type_indexed
end interface
```

int MPI_Type_indexed(	int num_blk,	<pre>int v_len_blk[], int v_head[],</pre>	
	MPI_Datatype	el_typ, MPI_Datatype *new_typ )	с/с++

Please note that instead of specifying the total length of each block, the starting position of the blocks have to be passed to the function.







As an example, if we have to describe data structured in three blocks, 3 elements parted each other and containing 5, 13 and 7 elements, the arrays v\_len\_blk and v\_head must be defined as follow:

v\_len\_blk = (/ 5, 13, 7 /)
v\_head = (/ 0, 8, 24 /)

The following useful function may be used to know the extension of a MPI (either basic or derived) data type:

interface	
<pre>subroutine mpi_type_extent (datatype,</pre>	dim, cod_err)
integer, intent(in) :: datatype	! MPI data type
integer, intent(out) :: ext	! Extension (in bytes)
integer, intent(out) :: ierr	! Error code
end subroutine mpi_type_extent	
end interface	fortran

int MPI\_Type\_extent( MPI\_Datatype datatype, MPI\_Aint \*ext )

c/c++



### Useful functions



The function mpi\_type\_hvector is similar to mpi\_type\_vector, but
blk\_siz is given in bytes. The function mpi\_type\_hindexed is like
mpi\_type\_indexed, but v\_head is measured in bytes.

The function mpi\_address returns the starting address of an object. It is important for portability issues.

interface		fortran
subroutine mpi_address (obj, address,	ierr)	
integer, intent(in) :: obj	! Input object or variable	
integer, intent(out) :: address	! Starting address	
integer, intent(out) :: ierr	! Error code	
end subroutine mpi_address		
end interface		

int MPI\_Address( void \*obj, MPI\_Aint \*address)

*c/c++* 







#### Generic structures

The MPI representation of a generic data structure requires three arrays to be defined:

- v\_len\_blk actual length of each block
- v\_head starting postion of each block (in bytes)
- v\_el\_typ data type of the elements in each block

It should be noted that the values in v\_head must be given in bytes because the elements of each block may be of different type with different byte extensions.





#### Generic structures



The function mpi\_type\_struct has the following interface:

```
interface
subroutine mpi_type_struct(num_blk,v_len_blk,v_head,v_el_typ,new_typ,ierr)
integer, intent(in) :: num_blk ! How many blocks
integer, intent(in), dimension(:) :: v_len_blk ! How many elements per block
integer, intent(in), dimension(:) :: v_head ! How many bytes before
! each block
integer, intent(in), dimension(:) :: v_el_typ ! Element type per block
integer, intent(out) :: new_typ ! Data type handler
integer, intent(out) :: ierr ! Error code
end subroutine mpi_type_struct
end interface
```







#### Generic structures

Example: the MPI description of the structure

2 x MPI\_LOGICAL; 10 bytes space;

3 x MPI\_DOUBLE\_PRECISION; 10 bytes space;

9 x MPI\_CHARACTER

is defined assigning the values:

v_len_blk	=	( /	2, 3, 9 /)						
v_head	=	( /	0, 18, 52 /)						
v_el_typ	=	( /	MPI_LOGICAL,	MPI_	DOUBLE_	PRECISION,	MPI_	_CHARACTER	/)

C language structures and Fortran derived data types may be easily mapped into MPI derived data types.

The programmer must anyhow be sure that the relative positions of the structure components are not modified by compiler optimizations. For this reason Fortran derived types should contain the SEQUENCE instruction





### Groups of processes

In MPI terminology the process is the computing unit. MPI processes behave following the MIMD model. Each process is an indipendent unit and has its own memory space; it should be thought of as running on its own computing machine.

Every MPI process belongs to one or more MPI group and has its own identification number or rank. MPI ranks are always numbered starting from 0. The 0 process is often called the *master* and usually acts as the boss in master-slave programming model, but it is not mandatory. MPI groups may be generated and destroyed but they are otherwise static.







### Groups of processes

Each group has its own handle but it is an opaque object: the programmer can not access its details. Therefore proper functions must be used to manage group properties:

call mpi\_group\_size(group, size, ierr)
call mpi\_group\_rank(group, rank, ierr)

At the beginning all processes belong to the default group, the one associated to the default communicator MPI\_COMM\_WORLD . All other groups must be explicitly generated. Each MPI process may belong to different groups.







## Groups of processes

Given a communicator the following function returns the handle of the associated group:

interface
 subroutine mpi\_comm\_group(comm,group, ierr)
 integer, intent(in) :: comm
 integer, intent(out) :: group, ierr
 end subroutine mpi\_group\_incl
 end interface
 *fortran* 

int MPI\_Comm\_group (MPI\_Comm comm, MPI\_Group \*group)

*c/c*++







The following function enables generating a new group on the basis of an existing group. The process with rank RANKS (I) in the old group is given rank I in the new group:

interface
 subroutine mpi\_group\_incl(group, n, ranks, newgroup, ierr)
 integer, intent(in) :: group, n, ranks
 integer, intent(out) :: newgroup, ierr
 end subroutine mpi\_group\_incl
end interface

fortran

int MPI\_Group\_incl(MPI\_Group group, int n, int \*ranks, MPI\_Group \*newgroup) c/c++







#### Example:

if GROUP contains 8 processes (numbered from 0 to 7) and the array has values RANKS (1:3) = (1, 5, 2), the instruction

call	mpi_	_group_	_incl	(group,	3,	ranks,	newgroup,	ierr)		fortran
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generates the new NEWGROUP with the three processes above re-numbered in the MPI conventional way.

The following table shows correspondence between the two groups:

Group	Newgroup
1	0
5	1
2	2







On the contrary in the following function the array RANKS (I) specify the processes of GROUP to be eliminated for building NEWGROUP:

interface	fortran
<pre>subroutine mpi_group_excl(group, n, ranks, newgroup, ierr)</pre>	
integer, intent(in) :: group, n, ranks	
integer, intent(out) :: newgroup, ierr	
end subroutine mpi_group_excl	
end interface	

int MPI\_Group\_excl(MPI\_Group group, int n, int \*ranks, MPI\_Group \*newgroup) c/c++

It is also possible to specify a range of indexes, like RANGES (1:N, 1:3). In the following functions the second dimension of the array specifies the first and last index to be included and the stride.







Example:

If group contains 1000 processes and a new group is to be generated with half

the number of the processes, taken from the odd positions, the array may be defined as RANGES (1, 1) = 0, RANGES (1, 2) = 999, RANGES (1, 3) = 2.

#### The processes should issue the following instruction:

carr mpr_group_range_exer (group, n, ranges, newgroup, rerr) [0][]	call	<pre>mpi_group_range_excl</pre>	(group, n,	ranges,	newgroup,	ierr)	fortran
--	------	---------------------------------	------------	---------	-----------	-------	---------

#### The correspondence between the two groups would be:

Group	Newgroup
1	0
3	1
5	2







The operations to manage groups are local and do not involve communications.

The following instruction may be used to know the relevant rank of the processes in two different groups.

RANKS1(:) are the known ranks of the processes in GROUP1; RANKS2(:) are the related ranks in GROUP2:

interface	
<pre>subroutine mpi_group_translate_ranks(group1, n, ranks1, group2, &amp;</pre>	
ranks2, ierr)	
<pre>integer, intent(in) :: group1, n, ranks1(:), group2</pre>	
integer, intent(out) :: ranks2(:), ierr	fortran
end subroutine mpi group translate	jortrun
<pre>int MPI_Group_translate (group1, n, ranks1, group2, ranks2, ierr)</pre>	c/c++







#### It is possible to check the relation between two groups:

interface	fortran
<pre>subroutine mpi_group_compare(group1, group2, result, ierr)</pre>	
integer, intent(in) :: group1, group2	
integer, intent(out) :: result, ierr	
end subroutine mpi_group_compare	
end interface	

int MPI\_Group\_compare (group1, group2, result, ierr)

с/с++

#### The returned values may be one out of the following:

- MPI\_IDENT if the groups have the same processes with identical ranks
- MPI\_SIMILAR if the groups have the same processes but unequal ranks
- MPI\_UNEQUAL if the groups are different





#### Communicators



A communicator defines the processes that can communicate each other. Each communicator has its own handle, is an opaque object and can be managed by proper functions only.

The default communicator is named MPI\_COMM\_WORLD, but in a real program it is often useful to generate additional communicators. This may help managing communications among process subsets with increase of performance.

Communicator handles must always be specified in sending or receiving functions.





#### Managing communicators



The following function may be used to generate a new communicator connected to an existing group:

```
interface
   subroutine mpi_comm_create(comm, group, newcomm, ierr)
        integer, intent(in) :: comm, group
        integer, intent(out) :: newcomm, ierr
        end subroutine mpi_comm_create
end interface
```

int MPI\_Comm\_create ( MPI\_Comm comm, MPI\_Group group, MPI\_Comm \*newcomm )

- COMM is an existing communicator related to a wider process group; the function must be called by all processes in the COMM communicator
- GROUP is a sub-group of the process group related to COMM
- NEWCOMM is the handle of the newly generated communicator

Example: comm\_create (Fortran and C)







#### Managing communicators

Suppose there is a communicator connected to a group of 8 processes and 2 new communicators are required by dividing the communicator in two parts as follow:







# Managing communicators



To accomplish this task all the processes of the existing communicator should issue the following instructions:

call mpi_comm_rank (comm, rank, ierr)	
call mpi_comm_size (comm, size, ierr)	
color = 2*rank/size	
key = size - rank - 1	
call mpi_comm_split (comm, color, key, newcomm, ierr)	

<del>-fortran-</del>

#### Each process receives a new communicator handle and will have the rank:

Commu	nicator 1	Commu	nicator 2
Rank in new group	Rank in old group	Rank in new group	Rank in old group
0	3	0	7
1	2	1	6
2	1	2	5
3	0	3	4

If for some process COLOR=MPI\_UNDEFINED, the function MPI\_COMM\_SPLIT returns NEWCOMM=MPI\_COMM\_NULL





- Once the processes have been separated in discrete groups it is possible to realize client-server connections by connecting disjoined groups.
- Communications between separated groups can only be of point-to-point type: no collective communications are available.
- Whenever a new inter-communicator has been created, the sending process must specify the rank of the receiving process (relevant to the other group); the receiving process must specify the rank of the sender (relevant to the other group).
- To enable this, while the functions mpi\_comm\_size, mpi\_comm\_rank, mpi\_comm\_group return informations relevant to the local communicator, the functions mpi\_comm\_remote\_size, mpi\_comm\_remote\_group instead return informations on the disjoined intercommunicator group.





- A communicator connecting disjoined groups is called an intercommunicator and can be generated by calling the function mpi\_intercomm\_create. This function requires:
- A leading process for each one of the two disjoined groups
- An intra-communicator between the two leading processes
- A tag for safe communications between the two leading processes





The following function generates an inter-communicator NEWINTERCOMM between the processes LOCALLEADER and REMOTELEADER of the intracommunicator LOCALCOMM, using TAG and the point-to-point communicator PEERCOMM. It should be noted that REMOTELEADER and PEERCOMM are referred to the local process, while TAG must have the same value for both the processes:





The intra-communicator NEWINTRACOMM may be generated from an intercommunicator INTERCOMM calling the function:

```
interface
    subroutine mpi_intercomm_merge(intercomm, high, newintracomm, ierr)
        integer, intent(in) :: intercomm, high
        integer, intent(out) :: newintracomm, ierr
        end subroutine mpi_intercomm_merge
end interface
```

int MPI\_Intercomm\_merge(MPI\_Comm intercomm, int high, MPI\_Comm \*newintracomm)

*C/C++* 

This way two separated groups may be joined. The value of HIGH must be the same for all the processes belonging to the same group. If HIGH = .FALSE. for group 1 and HIGH = .TRUE. for group 2, in the new merged group the processes are ordered starting from group 1; i.e. the processes in group 2 have a higher rank.

Example: *two\_groups* (Fortran and C)





In many programs it may be important to arrange the processes in a given topology. MPI enables the definition of topologies, with an explicit support for cartesian topology. This topology may be defined by calling the function:





The MPI\_CART\_CREATE function returns the new communicator COMM\_CART, connected to a grid with NDIMS dimensions. The extent of each dimension must be defined in LDIMS (1:NDIMS) and it is possible to specify periodicity for each dimension. The REORDER variable is used to allow reordering of the processes.

In cartesian topologies the processes are ordered by rows.

Functions dealing with informations and details about the topology associated to a communicator are available.







Given a communicator COMM, the function MPI\_TOPO\_TEST returns the associated topology:

MPI\_GRAPH: graph topology
MPI\_CART: cartesian topology
MPI\_UNDEFINED: no topology

interface
 subroutine mpi\_topo\_test(comm, topol, ierr)
 integer, intent(in) :: comm
 integer, intent(out) :: topol, ierr
 end subroutine mpi\_topo\_test
end interface

int MPI\_Topo\_test ( MPI\_Comm comm, int \*topol )

C/C++







# Given a communicator COMM, with cartesian topology, the function MPI\_CARTDIM\_GET returns the number of dimensions

interface	fortran
<pre>subroutine mpi_cartdim_get(comm, ndims, ierr)</pre>	
integer, intent(in) :: comm	
integer, intent(out) :: ndims, ierr	
end subroutine mpi_cartdim_get	
end interface	

int MPI\_Cartdim\_get ( MPI\_Comm comm, int \*ndims )

*c/c++* 







The function MPI\_CART\_GET, returns the number DIMS(:) of processes in each dimension, the periodicity PERIODS(:) for each dimension, the process coordinates.

interface	fortran
subroutine mpi_cart_get(comm, maxdims, dims, periods, coords, ierr)	
integer, intent(in) :: comm, maxdims	
integer, intent(out) :: ierr	
integer, dimension(:), intent(out) :: dims, coords	
logical, dimension(:), intent(out) :: periods	
end subroutine mpi_cart_get	
end interface	







Given a communicator associated to a cartesian topology and the process coordinates, the following function returns the process rank:

interface	
<pre>subroutine mpi_cart_rank(comm, coords, rank, ierr)</pre>	
integer, intent(in) :: comm	
<pre>integer, dimension(:), intent(in) :: coords</pre>	
integer, intent(out) :: rank, ierr	
end subroutine mpi_cart_rank	
end interface	fortran

int MPI\_Cart\_rank( MPI\_Comm comm, int \*coords, int \*rank)

C/C++







The following function returns the coordinates of a process in a cartesian topology:

interface	
<pre>subroutine mpi_cart_coords(comm, rank, maxdims, coords, ierr)</pre>	
integer, intent(in) :: comm, rank, maxdims	
<pre>integer, dimension(:), intent(out) :: coords</pre>	
integer, intent(out) :: ierr	
end subroutine mpi_cart_coords	
end interface	fortran

int MPI\_Cart\_coords( MPI\_Comm comm, int rank, int maxdims, int \*coords) c/c++







tortrai

Topologies may be useful to send messages along specific directions.

As an example, suppose that every process in a cartesian topology has to send data in the DIM dimension to a DELTA distance. The following function returns the ranks of the processes SOURCE and DEST...

interface
 subroutine mpi\_cart\_shift(comm, dim, delta, source, dest, ierr)
 integer, intent(in) :: comm, dim, delta
 integer, intent(out) :: source, dest, ierr
 end subroutine mpi\_cart\_shift
end interface
 fortran

int MPI\_Cart\_shift(MPI\_Comm comm, int dim, int delta, int \*source, int \*dest) c/c++

#### ... that may be passed to the function

CALL MPI SENDRECV(SENDBUF, SENDCOUNT, SENDTYPE, DEST, & SENDTAG, RECVBUF,RECVCOUNT, RECVTYPE, & SOURCE, RECVTAG, COMM, STATUS, IERROR)





#### Example: MPI\_CART\_SHIFT

	fortran
C find process rank	
CALL MPI_COMM_RANK(comm, rank, ierr))	
C find cartesian coordinates	
CALL MPI_CART_COORDS(comm, rank, maxdims, coords, ierr)	
C compute shift source and destination	
CALL MPI_CART_SHIFT(comm, 0, coords(2), source, dest, ierr)	)
C skew array	
CALL MPI_SENDRECV_REPLACE(A, 1, MPI_REAL, dest, 0, source,	0, comm, &
status, ierr)	

Example: cart\_create (Fortran and C)







The following function generates new cartesian topologies by cutting a wider cartesian space along the given dimensions:

```
interface
    subroutine mpi_cart_sub(comm, remain_dims, newcomm, ierr)
        integer, intent(in) :: comm
        logical, dimension(:), intent(in) :: remain_dims
        integer, intent(out) :: newcomm, ierr
        end subroutine mpi_cart_sub
end interface
        fortran
```

int MPI\_Cart\_sub( MPI\_Comm comm, int \*remain\_dims, MPI\_Comm \*newcomm) c/c++

Example: if COMM is associated to a cartesian topology with extensions 2x3x4 and REMAIN\_DIMS=(.T.,.T.,.F.), four new topologies are generated with extension 2x3.

Each process is returned one communicator handle; the former group is divided in 4 new groups with 6 processes each.





## MPI+OpenMP



It is possible to develop parallel programs mixing MPI calls and OpenMP directives.

Intel compilers: mpixxx - openmp -O3 - o nomefile.exe nomefile.xxx

PGI compilers: mpi*xxx*-mp -O3 -o nomefile.exe nomefile.*xxx* 

GNU compilers: mpi*xxx*-fopenmp -O3 -o nomefile.exe nomefile.*xxx* 

IBM XL compilers: mpi*xxx*\_r –qsmp=omp –qnosave -O3 \ -o nomefile.exe nomefile.*xxx* 

Execution on x86\_64 platforms:

export OMP\_NUM\_THREADS=threads

mpirun -np 2 -machinefile *mc* -x OMP\_NUM\_THREADS nomefile.exe

