



Tutorial on the MPL interface to MPI Victor Eijkhout@tacc.utexas.edu TACC APP institute MPI training 2021

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Justification

While the C API to MPI is usable from C++, it feels very unidiomatic for that language. Message Passing Layer (MPL) is a modern C++11 interface to MPI. It is both idiomatic and elegant, simplifying many calling sequences.

Part I

Basics



1. Environment

For doing the exercises:

module load mpl

which defines TACC_MPL_INC, TACC_MPL_DIR

2. Header file

To compile MPL programs, add a line

1 #include <mpl/mpl.hpp>

to your file.

3. Init, finalize

There is no initialization or finalize call.

MPL implementation note: Initialization is done at the first

mpl::environment method call, such as comm_world.



4. World communicator

The naive way of declaring a communicator would be:

```
1 // commrank.cxx
2 mpl::communicator comm_world =
3 mpl::environment::comm_world();
```

calling the predefined environment method comm_world.

However, if the variable will always correspond to the world communicator, it is better to make it const and declare it to be a reference:

```
const mpl::communicator &comm_world =
mpl::environment::comm_world();
```



5. Processor name

The processor_name call is an environment method returning a std::string:

```
std::string mpl::environment::processor_name ();
```



6. Rank and size

The rank of a process (by mpl::communicator::rank) and the size of a communicator (by mpl::communicator::size) are both methods of the communicator class:

```
const mpl::communicator &comm_world =
mpl::environment::comm_world();
int procid = comm_world.rank();
int nprocs = comm_world.size();
```

7. Reference: MPI_Comm_size

```
int mpl::communicator::size ( ) const
```



8. Reference: MPI_Comm_rank

```
int mpl::communicator::rank ( ) const
```

9. Timing

The timing routines wtime and wtick and wtime_is_global are environment methods:

```
double mpl::environment::wtime ();
double mpl::environment::wtick ();
bool mpl::environment::wtime_is_global ();
```

10. Predefined communicators

The environment namespace has the equivalents of MPI_COMM_WORLD and MPI_COMM_SELF:

```
const communicator& mpl::environment::comm_world();
const communicator& mpl::environment::comm_self();
```

There doesn't seem to be an equivalent of MPI_COMM_NULL.



11. Communicator copying

The communicator class has its copy operator deleted; however, copy initialization exists:

```
// commcompare.cxx
const mpl::communicator &comm =
    mpl::environment::comm_world();
cout << "same: " << boolalpha << (comm==comm) << endl;

mpl::communicator copy =
    mpl::environment::comm_world();
cout << "copy: " << boolalpha << (comm==copy) << endl;

mpl::communicator init = comm;
cout << "init: " << boolalpha << (init==comm) << endl;</pre>
```

(This outputs true/false/false respectively.)

MPL implementation note: The copy initializer performs an MPI_Comm_dup.

12. Communicator duplication

Communicators can be duplicated but only during initialization. Copy assignment has been deleted. Thus:

```
// LEGAL:
mpl::communicator init = comm;
// WRONG:
mpl::communicator init;
init = comm;
```

13. Communicator passing

Pass communicators by reference to avoid communicator duplication:

```
// commpass.cxx
// BAD! this does a MPI_Comm_dup.
void comm_val( const mpl::communicator comm );

// correct!
void comm_ref( const mpl::communicator & comm );
```



Part II

Collectives



Introduction

Collectives have many polymorphic variants, for instance for 'in place', and buffer handling.

Operators are handled through functors.



14. Scalar buffers

Buffer type handling is done through polymorphism and templating: no explicit indiation of types.

Scalars are handled as such:

```
float x,y;
comm.bcast(0,x); // note: root first
comm.allreduce( mpl::plus<float>(), x,y ); // op first
```

where the reduction function needs to be compatible with the type of the buffer.

15. Vector buffers

If your buffer is a std::vector you need to take the .data() component of it:

The contiguous_layout is a 'derived type'; this will be discussed in more detail elsewhere (see note 63 and later). For now, interpret it as a way of indicating the count/type part of a buffer specification.

16. Iterator buffers

MPL point-to-point routines have a way of specifying the buffer(s) through a begin and end iterator.

```
// sendrange.cxx
vector<double> v(15);
comm_world.send(v.begin(), v.end(), 1); // send to rank 1
comm_world.recv(v.begin(), v.end(), 0); // receive from rank 0
```

Not available for collectives.



17. Reduction operator

The usual reduction operators are given as templated operators:

Note the parentheses after the operator. Also note that the operator comes first, not last.

Available: max, min, plus, multiplies, logical_and, logical_or, logical_xor, bit_and, bit_or, bit_xor.

MPL implementation note: The reduction operator has to be compatible with T(T,T)>



18. Reference: MPI_Allreduce

```
template<typename T , typename F >
void mpl::communicator::allreduce
   (F,const T &, T &) const;
   (F,const T *, T *,
      const contiguous_layout< T > & ) const;
   (F,T & ) const;
   (F,T *, const contiguous_layout< T > & ) const;
F : reduction function
T : type
```

19. Reference: MPI_Reduce

```
void mpl::communicator::reduce
   // root, in place
   ( F f,int root_rank,T & sendrecvdata ) const
   ( F f,int root_rank,T * sendrecvdata,const contiguous_layout
   // non-root
   (F f,int root_rank,const T & senddata) const
   ( F f, int root_rank,
           const T * senddata, const contiguous_layout< T > & 1 )
   // general
   (F f,int root_rank,const T & senddata,T & recvdata) const
   ( F f, int root_rank,
           const T * senddata,T * recvdata,const contiguous_layo
```

20. Broadcast

The broadcast call comes in two variants, with scalar argument and general layout:

```
template<typename T >
void mpl::communicator::bcast
( int root_rank, T &data ) const;
void mpl::communicator::bcast
( int root_rank, T *data, const layout< T > &1 ) const;
```

Note that the root argument comes first.



21. Reference: MPI_Bcast

```
template<typename T >
void mpl::communicator::bcast
  ( int root, T & data ) const
   ( int root, T * data, const layout< T > & 1 ) const
```

22. Gather scatter

Gathering (by communicator::gather) or scattering (by communicator::scatter) a single scalar takes a scalar argument and a raw array:

```
vector<float> v;
float x;
comm_world.scatter(0, v.data(), x);
```

If more than a single scalar is gathered, or scattered into, it becomes necessary to specify a layout:

```
vector<float> vrecv(2), vsend(2*nprocs);
pl::contiguous_layout<float> twonums(2);
comm_world.scatter
(0, vsend.data(), twonums, vrecv.data(), twonums);
```

23. Collectives on non-root processes

There is a separate variant for non-root usage of rooted collectives:

24. Gather on non-root

Logically speaking, on every nonroot process, the gather call only has a send buffer. MPL supports this by having two variants that only specify the send data.

25. Reference: MPI_Gather

26. Reduce in place

The in-place variant is activated by specifying only one instead of two buffer arguments.

```
float
     xrank = static_cast<float>( comm_world.rank() ).
     xreduce:
   // separate recv buffer
   comm_world.allreduce(mpl::plus<float>(), xrank,xreduce);
  // in place
  comm_world.allreduce(mpl::plus<float>(), xrank);
Reducing a buffer requires specification of a contiguous_layout:
   // collectbuffer.cxx
   float.
     xrank = static_cast<float>( comm_world.rank() );
   vector<float> rank2p2p1{ 2*xrank,2*xrank+1 },reduce2p2p1{0,0};
   mpl::contiguous_layout<float> two_floats(rank2p2p1.size());
  comm_world.allreduce
     (mpl::plus<float>(),

→rank2p2p1.data(),reduce2p2p1.data(),two floats):
   if ( iprint )
Eijkhout: Course "Got: " << reduce2p2p1.at(0) << ",
                                                             31
```

27. Layouts for gatherv

The size/displacement arrays for MPI_Gatherv / MPI_Alltoallv are handled through a layouts object, which is basically a vector of layout objects.

28. Scan operations

As in the C/F interfaces, MPL interfaces to the scan routines have the same calling sequences as the 'Allreduce' routine.



Exercise 1 (scangather)

ullet Let each process compute a random value $n_{
m local}$, and allocate an array of that length. Define

$$N = \sum n_{\mathrm{local}}$$

• Fill the array with consecutive integers, so that all local arrays, laid end-to-end, contain the numbers $0 \cdots N - 1$. (See figure ??.)



Exercise 2 (scangather)

Take the code from exercise 1 and extend it to gather all local buffers onto rank zero. Since the local arrays are of differing lengths, this requires MPI_Gatherv.

How do you construct the lengths and displacements arrays?



29. Operators

Arithmetic: plus, multiplies, max, min.

Logic: logical_and, logical_or, logical_xor.

Bitwise: bit_and, bit_or, bit_xor.



30. User defined operators

A user-defined operator can be a templated class with an <code>operator()</code>. Example:

```
// reduceuser.cxx
   template<typename T>
   class 1cm {
   public:
      T operator()(T a, T b) {
        T zero=T();
        T t((a/gcd(a, b))*b);
        if (t<zero)</pre>
          return -t;
       return t;
10
      }
11
   comm_world.reduce(lcm<int>(), 0, v, result);
```

(The templated class can be a lambda expression)

31. Lambda reduction operators

You can also do the reduction by lambda:

```
comm_world.reduce
([] (int i,int j) -> int
{ return i+j; },
0,data );
```

32. Nonblocking collectives

Nonblocking collectives have the same argument list as the corresponding blocking variant, except that instead of a *void* result, they return an irequest. (See 53)

```
// ireducescalar.cxx
float x{1.},sum;
auto reduce_request =
comm_world.ireduce(mpl::plus<float>(), 0, x, sum);
reduce_request.wait();
if (comm_world.rank()==0) {
std::cout << "sum = " << sum << '\n';
}</pre>
```

Part III

Point-to-point communication



33. Buffer type safety

- Data type is templated: derived by the compiler.
- ullet Count > 1 is declared in the datatype.



34. Blocking send and receive

MPL uses a default value for the tag, and it can deduce the type of the buffer. Sending a scalar becomes:

```
1  // sendscalar.cxx
2  if (comm_world.rank()==0) {
3    double pi=3.14;
4    comm_world.send(pi, 1); // send to rank 1
5    cout << "sent: " << pi << '\n';
6  } else if (comm_world.rank()==1) {
7    double pi=0;
8    comm_world.recv(pi, 0); // receive from rank 0
9    cout << "got : " << pi << '\n';
10  }</pre>
```

(See also note 19.)

35. Sending arrays

MPL can send *static array*s without further layout specification:

```
1  // sendarray.cxx
2  double v[2][2][2];
3   comm_world.send(v, 1);  // send to rank 1
4   comm_world.recv(v, 0);  // receive from rank 0

Sending vectors uses a general mechanism:
1  // sendbuffer.cxx
```

```
// sendbuffer.cxx
std::vector<double> v(8);
mpl::contiguous_layout<double> v_layout(v.size());
comm_world.send(v.data(), v_layout, 1); // send to rank 1
comm_world.recv(v.data(), v_layout, 0); // receive from rank 0
```

(See also note 20.)



36. Reference: MPI_Send

```
template<typename T >
void mpl::communicator::send
  ( const T scalar&,int dest,tag = tag(0) ) const
  ( const T *buffer,const layout< T > &,int dest,tag = tag(0) ) const
  ( iterT begin,iterT end,int dest,tag = tag(0) ) const
T : scalar type
begin : begin iterator
```

end : end iterator

37. Reference: MPI_Recv

```
template<typename T >
status mpl::communicator::recv
  ( T &,int,tag = tag(0) ) const inline
  ( T *,const layout< T > &,int,tag = tag(0) ) const
  ( iterT begin,iterT end,int source, tag t = tag(0) ) const
```

38. Tag types

```
Tag are int or an enum typ:
```

template<typename T >

```
tag_t (T t);
    tag_t (int t);
Example:
 // inttag.cxx
  enum class tag : int { ping=1, pong=2 };
  int pinger = 0, ponger = world.size()-1;
  if (world.rank()==pinger) {
    world.send(x, 1, tag::ping);
    world.recv(x, 1, tag::pong);
 } else if (world.rank()==ponger) {
    world.recv(x, 0, tag::ping);
    world.send(x, 0, tag::pong);
```

10 }

39. Message tag

MPL differs from other Application Programmer Interfaces (APIs) in its treatment of tags: a tag is not directly an integer, but an object of class tag.

```
// sendrecv.cxx
mpl::tag t0(0);
comm_world.sendrecv
( mydata,sendto,t0,
leftdata,recvfrom,t0 );
```

The tag class has a couple of methods such as mp1::tag::any() (for the MPI_ANY_TAG wildcard in receive calls) and mp1::tag::up() (maximal tag, found from the MPI_TAG_UB attribute).

40. Any source

The constant mpl::any_source equals MPI_ANY_SOURCE (by constexpr).



41. Send-recv call

The send-recv call in MPL has the same possibilities for specifying the send and receive buffer as the separate send and recv calls: scalar, layout, iterator. However, out of the nine conceivably possible routine signatures, only the versions are available where the send and receive buffer are specified the same way. Also, the send and receive tag need to be specified; they do not have default values.

```
// sendrecv.cxx
mpl::tag t0(0);
comm_world.sendrecv
( mydata,sendto,t0,
leftdata,recvfrom,t0 );
```

42. Status object

The mpl::status_t object is created by the receive (or wait) call:

```
mpl::contiguous_layout<double> target_layout(count);
mpl::status_t recv_status =
    comm_world.recv(target.data(),target_layout, the_other);
recv_count = recv_status.get_count<double>();
```

43. Status source querying

The status object can be queried:

```
int source = recv_status.source();
```

44. Receive count

The get_count function is a method of the status object. The argument type is handled through templating:

```
1 // recvstatus.cxx
2 double pi=0;
3 auto s = comm_world.recv(pi, 0); // receive from rank 0
4 int c = s.get_count<double>();
5 std::cout << "got : " << c << " scalar(s): " << pi << '\n';</pre>
```

45. Requests from nonblocking calls

Nonblocking routines have an <u>irequest</u> as function result. Note: not a parameter passed by reference, as in the C interface. The various wait calls are methods of the <u>irequest</u> class.

```
double recv_data;
mpl::irequest recv_request =
    comm_world.irecv( recv_data, sender );
recv_request.wait();
```

You can not default-construct the request variable:

```
// DOES NOT COMPILE:
mpl::irequest recv_request;
recv_request = comm.irecv( ... );
```

This means that the normal sequence of first declaring, and then filling in, the request variable is not possible.

MPL implementation note: The wait call always returns a status object; not assigning it means that the destructor is called on it.

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46. Request pools

Instead of an array of requests, use an <u>irequest_pool</u> object, which acts like a vector of requests, meaning that you can *push* onto it.

```
1  // irecvsource.cxx
2  mpl::irequest_pool recv_requests;
3  for (int p=0; p<nprocs-1; p++) {
4   recv_requests.push( comm_world.irecv( recv_buffer[p], p ) );
5  }</pre>
```

You can not declare a pool of a fixed size and assign elements.



47. Wait any

The irequest_pool class has methods waitany, waitall, testany, testall, waitsome, testsome.

The 'any' methods return a std::pair<bool,size_t>, with false meaning index==MPI_UNDEFINED meaning no more requests to be satisfied.

```
auto [success,index] = recv_requests.waitany();
if (success) {
    auto recv_status = recv_requests.get_status(index);
```

Same for testany, then false means no requests test true.



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Exercise 3 (setdiff)

Create two distributed arrays of positive integers. Take the set difference of the two: the first array needs to be transformed to remove from it those numbers that are in the second array.

How could you solve this with an MPI_Allgather call? Why is it not a good idea to do so? Solve this exercise instead with a circular bucket brigade algorithm.

48. Buffered send

Creating and attaching a buffer is done through bsend_buffer and a support routine bsend_size helps in calculating the buffer size:

Constant: mpl::bsend_overhead is constexpr'd to the MPI constant MPI BSEND OVERHEAD.

49. Buffer attach and detach

There is a separate attach routine, but normally this is called by the constructor of the <code>bsend_buffer</code>. Likewise, the detach routine is called in the buffer destructor.

```
void mpl::environment::buffer_attach (void *buff, int size);
std::pair< void *, int > mpl::environment::buffer_detach ();
```

50. Persistent requests

MPL returns a prequest from persistent 'init' routines, rather than an irequest (MPL note 53):

```
template<typename T >
prequest send_init (const T &data, int dest, tag t=tag(0)) const;
```

Likewise, there is a prequest_pool instead of an irequest_pool (note 54).



Part IV

Derived Datatypes



51. Datatype handling

MPL mostly handles datatypes through subclasses of the <code>layout</code> class. Layouts are MPL routines are templated over the data type.

```
1 // sendlong.cxx
2 mpl::contiguous_layout<long long> v_layout(v.size());
3 comm.send(v.data(), v_layout, 1); // send to rank 1
```

Also works with complex of float and double.

The data types, where MPL can infer their internal representation, are enumeration types, C arrays of constant size and the template classes std::array, std::pair and std::tuple of the C++ Standard Template Library. The only limitation is, that the C array and the mentioned template classes hold data elements of types that can be sent or received by MPL.

52. Native MPI datatypes

Should you need the MPI_Datatype object contained in an MPL layout, there is an access function native_handle.



53. Derived type handling

In MPL type creation routines are in the main namespace, templated over the datatypes.

```
// vector.cxx
vector<double>
source(stride*count);
if (procno==sender) {
    mpl::strided_vector_layout<double>
    newvectortype(count,1,stride);
    comm_world.send
    (source.data(),newvectortype,the_other);
}
```

The commit call is part of the type creation, and freeing is done in the destructor.

54. Contiguous type

The MPL interface makes extensive use of contiguous_layout, as it is the main way to declare a nonscalar buffer; see note 20.

55. Contiguous composing of types

Contiguous layouts can only use predefined types or other contiguous layouts as their 'old' type. To make a contiguous type for other layouts, use vector_layout:

```
// contiguous.cxx
mpl::contiguous_layout<int> type1(7);
mpl::vector_layout<int> type2(8, type1);

(Contrast this with strided_vector_layout; note 66.)
```

56. Vector type

MPL has the strided_vector_layout class as equivalent of the vector type:

```
1  // vector.cxx
2  vector<double>
3   source(stride*count);
4  if (procno==sender) {
5   mpl::strided_vector_layout<double>
6   newvectortype(count,1,stride);
7   comm_world.send
8   (source.data(),newvectortype,the_other);
9 }
```

(See note 65 for nonstrided vectors.)



57. Iterator buffers

MPL point-to-point routines have a way of specifying the buffer(s) through a begin and end iterator.

```
// sendrange.cxx
vector<double> v(15);
comm_world.send(v.begin(), v.end(), 1); // send to rank 1
comm_world.recv(v.begin(), v.end(), 0); // receive from rank 0
```

Not available for collectives.

58. Iterator layout

Noncontiguous iteratable objects can be send with a iterator_layout:

```
std::list<int> v(20, 0);
mpl::iterator_layout<int> l(v.begin(), v.end());
comm_world.recv(&(*v.begin()), 1, 0);
```

(See also note 67.)



59. Subarray layout

The templated subarray_layout class is constructed from a vector of triplets of global size / subblock size / first coordinate.

```
mpl::subarray_layout<int>(
e { {ny, ny_1, ny_0}, {nx, nx_1, nx_0} }
e );
```

60. Indexed type

In MPL, the indexed_layout is based on a vector of 2-tuples denoting block length / block location.

```
// indexed.cxx
   const int count = 5;
   mpl::contiguous_layout<int>
     fiveints(count);
   mpl::indexed_layout<int>
     indexed_where{ { {1,2}, {1,3}, {1,5}, {1,7}, {1,11} } };
   if (procno==sender) {
     comm_world.send( source_buffer.data(),indexed_where, receiver );
   } else if (procno==receiver) {
10
     auto recv status =
11
       comm_world.recv( target_buffer.data(),fiveints, sender );
12
     int recv_count = recv_status.get_count<int>();
13
     assert(recv_count==count);
14
15
```

61. Indexed block type

For the case where all block lengths are the same, use

```
indexed_block_layout:

// indexedblock.cxx

mpl::indexed_block_layout<int>
indexed_where( 1, {2,3,5,7,11} );

comm_world.send( source_buffer.data(),indexed_where, receiver );
```

62. Struct type scalar

One could describe the MPI struct type as a collection of displacements, to be applied to any set of items that conforms to the specifications. An MPL heterogeneous_layout on the other hand, incorporates the actual data. Thus you could write

```
1  // structscalar.cxx
2  char c; double x; int i;
3  if (procno==sender) {
4    c = 'x'; x = 2.4; i = 37; }
5  mpl::heterogeneous_layout object( c,x,i );
6  if (procno==sender)
7   comm_world.send( mpl::absolute,object,receiver );
8  else if (procno==receiver)
9  comm_world.recv( mpl::absolute,object,sender );
```

Here, the absolute indicates the lack of an implicit buffer: the layout is absolute rather than a relative description.

63. Struct type general

More complicated data than scalars takes more work:

```
// struct.cxx
  char c; vector<double> x(2); int i;
   if (procno==sender) {
   c = 'x'; x[0] = 2.7; x[1] = 1.5; i = 37; 
   mpl::heterogeneous_layout object
   ( c.
       mp1::make_absolute(x.data(),mp1::vector_layout<double>(2)),
       i ):
   if (procno==sender) {
     comm_world.send( mpl::absolute,object,receiver );
10
   } else if (procno==receiver) {
11
     comm_world.recv( mpl::absolute,object,sender );
12
13
```

Note the make_absolute in addition to absolute mentioned above.

64. Extent resizing

Resizing a datatype does not give a new type, but does the resize 'in place':

```
void layout::resize(ssize_t lb, ssize_t extent);
```



Part V

Communicator manipulations



65. Communicator comparing

Code:

```
const mpl::communicator &comm =
  mpl::environment::comm_world();
MPI_Comm
  world_extract = comm.native_handle(),
  world_given = MPI_COMM_WORLD;
int result;
MPI_Comm_compare(world_extract, world_given, &result);
cout << "Compare raw comms: " << "\n"</pre>
          << "identical: " <<
     \hookrightarrow (result == MPI_IDENT)
          << "\n"
          << "congruent: " <<
     \hookrightarrow (result==MPI_CONGRUENT)
          << "\n"
          << "unequal : " <<
     \hookrightarrow (result==MPI_UNEQUAL)
```

<< "\n":

Output:

```
Compare raw comms:
2 identical: true
3 congruent: false
  unequal : false
```

66. Communicator errhandler

MPL does not allow for access to the wrapped communicators. However, for MPI_COMM_WORLD, the routine MPI_Comm_set_errhandler can be called directly.

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67. Communicator splitting

In MPL, splitting a communicator is done as one of the overloads of the communicator constructor;

```
// commsplit.cxx
// create sub communicator modulo 2
int color2 = procno % 2;
mpl::communicator comm2( mpl::communicator::split, comm_world, color2 \( \to \);
auto procno2 = comm2.rank();

// create sub communicator modulo 4 recursively
int color4 = procno2 % 2;
mpl::communicator comm4( mpl::communicator::split, comm2, color4 );
auto procno4 = comm4.rank();
```

MPL implementation note: The communicator::split identifier is an object of class communicator::split_tag, itself is an otherwise empty subclass of communicator:

```
1 class split_tag {};
2 static constexpr split_tag split{};
```

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68. Split by shared memory

Similar to ordinary communicator splitting 78: communicator::split_shared.

Part VI

Process topologies



69. Graph communicators

The constructor dist_graph_communicator

is a wrapper around MPI_Dist_graph_create_adjacent.



70. Graph communicator querying

Methods indegree, outdegree are wrappers around MPI_Dist_graph_neighbors_count. Sources and targets can be queried with inneighbors and outneighbors, which are wrappers around MPI_Dist_graph_neighbors.

Part VII

Other



71. Timing

The timing routines wtime and wtick and wtime_is_global are environment methods:

```
double mpl::environment::wtime ();
double mpl::environment::wtick ();
bool mpl::environment::wtime_is_global ();
```



72. Threading support

MPL always calls MPI_Init_thread requesting the highest level MPI_THREAD_MULTIPLE.

```
enum mpl::threading_modes {
    mpl::threading_modes::single = MPI_THREAD_SINGLE,
    mpl::threading_modes::funneled = MPI_THREAD_FUNNELED,
    mpl::threading_modes::serialized = MPI_THREAD_SERIALIZED,
    mpl::threading_modes::multiple = MPI_THREAD_MULTIPLE
    };
    threading_modes mpl::environment::threading_mode ();
    bool mpl::environment::is_thread_main ();
```

TACC

Missing from MPL

MPL is not a full MPI implementation

- File I/O
- One-sided communication
- Shared memory
- Process management

