

Tutorial on the MPL interface to MPI

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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++17 interface to MPI. It is both idiomatic and elegant, simplifying many calling sequences.

https://github.com/rabauke/mpl



List of exercises



Part

Basics



Environment



For doing the exercises

module load mp

which defines TACC_MPL_INC, TACC_MPL_DI



Header file



To compile MPL programs, add a line

#include <mpl/mpl.hpp>

to your file. You need to add a path to your compile line.

npicxx -o mpiprog -I\$(MPL_LOCATION)/include mympiprog cpp

where MPL_LOCATION is system-dependent



Init, finalize



There is no initialization or finalize call.

Implementation note: Initialization is done at the first

mpl::environment method call, such as comm_world.



World communicator



The naive way of declaring a communicator would be:

```
// commrank.cxx
mpl::communicator comm_world =
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();
```



Processor name



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

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





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:



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();
```

Uses of MPI_COMM_NULL are handled differently.



Communicator duplication



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

```
1  // LEGAL:
2  mpl::communicator init = comm;
3  // WRONG:
4  mpl::communicator init;
5  init = comm;
```



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 );
```



Communicator copying



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

```
1 // commcompare.cxx
   const mpl::communicator &comm =
    mpl::environment::comm_world();
   cout << "same: " << boolalpha << (comm==comm) << endl;</pre>
   mpl communicator copy =
     mpl::environment::comm_world();
   cout << "copy: " << boolalpha << (comm==copy) << endl;</pre>
   mpl::communicator init = comm;
cout << "init: " << boolalpha << (init==comm) << endl;</pre>
      MPI_Comm_dup
```



Part 1

Collectives



Introduction



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

Operators are handled through functors.



Scalar buffers



Buffer type handling is done through polymorphism (templating and ADL):

no explicit indication 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.

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 65 and later). For now, interpret it as a way of indicating the count/type part of a buffer specification.



Exercise 1 (pingpongbuffer)





Array buffers



You can pass a C-style array as buffer, requiring a layout:

```
// collectarray.cxx
float rank2p2p1[2] = { 2*xrank,2*xrank+1 };
mpl::contiguous_layout<float> p2layout(2);
comm_world.allreduce(mpl::plus<float>(), rank2p2p1, p2layout);
```



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



Reduction operator



The usual reduction operators are given as templated operators:

```
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);
```

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.
```

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



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
```



Reference: MPI_Reduce





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



Reference: MPI_Bcast



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



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);
```



Collectives on non-root processes



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



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.

```
if (procno==0) {
   vector<int> size_buffer(nprocs);
   comm_world.gather
   (
        0,my_number_of_elements,size_buffer.data()
      );
} else {
   /*
   * If you are not the root, do versions with only send buffers
   */
   comm_world.gather
   ( 0,my_number_of_elements );
```

Reference: MPI_Gather





Reduce in place



I he 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);
6 // in place
7 comm_world.allreduce(mpl::plus<float>(), xrank);
   // 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());
  (mpl::plus<float>(),
        rank2p2p1.data(),reduce2p2p1.data(),two_floats);
   if ( iprint
     cout << "Got: " << reduce2p2p1.at(0) << ","</pre>
```

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.









Exercise 2 (scangather)



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

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

■ Fill the array with consecutive integers, so that all local arrays, laid end-to-end, contain the numbers $0 \cdots N - 1$. (See figure 34.)

Exercise 3 (scangather)



Take the code from exercise 2 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?



Operators



Arithmetic: plus, multiplies, max, min.

Logic: logical_and, logical_or, logical_xor.

Bitwise: bit_and, bit_or, bit_xor.



User defined operators



A user-defined operator can be a templated class with an **operator**(). Example:

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

(The templated class can be a lambda expression)



Lambda reduction operators



You can also do the reduction by lambda

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



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 54)

Wait calls are methods of the irequest object

```
// 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



Buffer type safety



- Scalar data type is handled through templating (and 'argument-dependent-lookup'): derived by the compiler.
- Count > 1 is declared in the layout datatype.



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  }

(See also note 17.)</pre>
```



Sending arrays



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

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



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
```



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
```





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_t.

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

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



```
Tag are int or an enum typ:
    template < typename T >
  tag_t (T t);
   tag_t (int t);
  // inttag.cxx
  enum class pingpongtag : int { ping=1, pong=2 };
  int pinger = 0, ponger = world.size()-1;
  if (world.rank()==pinger)
  world send(x, ponger, pingpongtag : ping)
  world recv(x, ponger, pingpongtag: pong)
 } else if (world.rank()==ponger)
    world recv(x, pinger, pingpongtag::ping)
 world.send(x, pinger, pingpongtag::pong)
```



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



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.

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>();
```





```
The status object can be queried:
```

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





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

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



Requests from nonblocking calls



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

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



Request pools



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

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

You can not declare a pool of a fixed size and assign elements. (Why not? Can you find a way around it?)



```
The 'any' methods return a std::pair<mpl::test_result,size_t>, where
the test result is an enum class with values:
  completed (for any/some/all completions),
  no_completed (for none),
  ■ no_active_requests (if no more requests active).
    auto [success, index] = recv_requests.waitany();
    if ( success==mpl::test_result::completed )
          auto recv_status = recv_requests get_status(index);
```

Exercise 4 (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.





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

Constant: mp1::bsend_overhead is constexpr'd to the MPI constant MPI_BSEND_OVERHEAD.



Buffer attach and detach



There is a separate attach routine, but normally this is called by the constructor of the bsend_buffer. 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 ();
```



Persistent requests



MPL returns a prequest from persistent 'init' routines, rather than an irequest (MPL note 54):

```
template<typename T >
```

```
2 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 55).



Part IV

Derived Datatypes



Datatype handling



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

```
// sendlong.cxx
mpl::contiguous_layout<long long> v_layout(v.size());
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.



Native MPI datatypes



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





Large buffer communication is supported

```
// bigint.cxx
size_t s = static_cast<size_t>(1)<<(s0-1);
vector<char> buffer(s);
mpl::contiguous_layout<char> buffersize(s);
comm_world.send( buffer.data(),buffersize,processB );
```



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.



Contiguous type



The MPL interface makes extensive use of contiguous_layout, as it is the main way to declare a nonscalar buffer; see note 18.



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
```



Vector type



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

```
// 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);
}
```

(See note 67 for nonstrided vectors.)



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



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);
```



Subarray layout



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

```
1 mpl::subarray_layout<int>(
2 { {ny, ny_1, ny_0}, {nx, nx_1, nx_0} } 
3 );
```



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)
   auto recv status =
       comm_world.recv( target_buffer.data(),fiveints, sender );
     int recv_count = recv_status.get_count<int>();
14 assert(recv count==count):
```

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);



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 https://heterogeneous_layout on the other hand, incorporates the actual data. Thus you could write

```
// structscalar.cxx
char c; double x; int i;
if (procno==sender) {
    c = 'x'; x = 2.4; i = 37; }

mpl::heterogeneous_layout object( c,x,i );
if (procno==sender)
    comm_world.send( mpl::absolute, object.receiver );
else if (procno==receiver)
    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.





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,
    mpl::make_absolute(x.data(),mpl::vector_layout<double>(2)),
    i );
if (procno==sender) {
    comm_world.send( mpl::absolute,object,receiver );
} else if (procno==receiver) {
    comm_world.recv( mpl::absolute,object,sender );
}
```

Note the make_absolute in addition to absolute mentioned above



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



Communicator comparing



Code:

Output

```
1 Compare raw comms:
2 identical: true
3 congruent: false
4 unequal : false
esult);
```



Communicator errhandler



MPL does not have a routine for setting the error handler. Instead, use the *native_handle* method to retrieve the embedded communiator.



Communicator splitting



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

```
1 // commsplit.cxx
2 // create sub communicator modulo 2
  int color2 = procno % 2;
  mpl::communicator comm2
   ( mpl::communicator::split, comm_world, color2 );
   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();
     an object of class communicator::split_tag, itself is an otherwise
    class split_tag ();
       static constexpr split_tag split();
```



Split by shared memory



Similar to ordinary communicator splitting (slide 80):
 communicator::split_shared.

// commsplittype.cxx

mpl::communicator shared_comm
 (mpl::communicator::split_shared_memory, world_comm);
 int
 onnode_procno = shared_comm.rank(),
 onnode_nprocs = shared_comm.size();

But note: shared memory is currently not available, since windows are not (yet) implemented.



Part V

Process topologies



Cartesian communicator



There is a separate class cartesian_communicator.

Additionaly, there is a class *dimensions* that describes the shape of the Cartesian grid and its periodicity. The <code>size(int)</code> method retrieves the size in the given dimension.



Dims create



The dims_create routine takes a dimensions object with only the dimensionality specified, and creates one with the sizes filled in.

```
mpl::cartesian_communicator::dimensions brick(3);
brick = mpl::dims_create(nprocs,brick);
```

To have certain dimensions be periodic, the initial dimensions object needs to be create with periodicity values periodic or non_periodic.

Cartesian communicator create



The actual Cartesian communicator has a constructor that takes a dimensions object as input.

```
mpl::cartesian_communicator cart_comm( comm_world, brick );
```



Get the dimensions object



The dimensions object can be extracted from the communicator

```
mpl::cartesian_communicator::dimensions
dimensions = cart_comm.get_dimensions();
```

after which dimensions and periodicies can be extracted:

```
// cartcoord.cxx
int dsize = dimensions.size(idim);
auto p = dimensions.periodicity(idim);
```

Rank to coord translation



The *coordinates* method of the cartesian communicator returns a vector-like object describing the process coordinate:



Cartesian shifting



The routine cartesian_communicator::shift takes a dimension and a direction, and gives the source and destination as a shifted_ranks object, which is basically a tuple of two integers:



Graph communicators



```
The constructor dist_graph_communicator
```

is a wrapper around MPI_Dist_graph_create_adjacent.



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





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 ();
```



Info objects



There is an info object in the mpl namespace:

mpl::info infoobject; // default constructor

Sample methods:

```
void set(const std::string &key, const std::string &value);
```



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 ();
```



Missing from MPL



MPL is not a full MPI implementation

- One-sided communication
- Shared memory
- Process management

