

Design and implementation of initial OpenSHMEM on PCIe NTB based cloud computing

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Abstract

Cloud computing services are provided by key roles of data centers in which homogeneous and heterogeneous computation nodes are connected by high speed interconnection network. The rapid development of cloud-based services and applications has made data center networks more difficult. The PCI Express is a widely used system bus technology that connects processors and peripheral I/O devices. So, the PCI Express is regarded as a de-facto standard in system area interconnection network. It is currently validating the possibility of using PCI Express as a system interconnection network in areas such as high-performance computers and cluster/cloud computing. With the development of PCI Express non-transparent bridge (NTB) technology, the PCI Express has become available as a system interconnection network. NTB allows two PCI Express subsystems to be interconnected and, if necessary, isolated from each other. Partitioned global address space (PGAS) is one of the shared address space programming models. Due to the recent spread of multicore processors, PGAS has been attracting attention as a parallel computing framework. We make use of the PCI Express NTB to realize the PGAS shared address space model. In this paper, we designed and implemented the interconnection network using PCI Express x8 using a RDK, the PEX8749 based PCI Express evaluation board. We performed some Openshmem applications from Github to verify the accuracy of our initial OpenSHMEM API implementation.

Keywords PCI Express · Non-transparent bridge · Interconnection network · RDMA · One-sided communication

1 Introduction

Data centers have become increasingly part of in the cloud computing. The rapid development of cloud-based services and applications has made data center networks more difficult. Traditional electronic interconnect networks can hardly meet all requirements for bandwidth, device cost, and power dissipation. To solve this problem, a PCI Express interconnect network characterized by high-speed interconnect networks, low cost, and high bandwidth has been proposed as shown in Fig. 1. Recently, it has become a topic in the field of research. Nowadays, hundreds of applications have been implemented using high-speed networking and local networking. In these applications, we can

achieve more benefits of high-performance, low power and reduced costs when it is used in field of interconnection network.

As the computing technology and network technology development, the amount of data to be processed by processors was increased, resulting in high-performance computing. Recent high-performance computing system are based on a system interconnect technology such as Infiniband and Ethernet, and PCI Express.

PCI Express bus is originally a technology for the connection among processors, memory, and pe-ripheral I/O devices. PCI Express has been developed from 2.5Gbps Gen1 specification to Gen3 specification technology. With the increase of speeds and performance needs, there were many requests to make use of bus bandwidth efficiently on system interconnection network [1,2].

In field of high performance computing and cluster computing, interconnection network technology has been widely studied for a long time. Majority of interconnection network technologies are Infiniband and Ethernet. Heymian [3–5] use the PCI Express non-transparent bridge (NTB) to implement

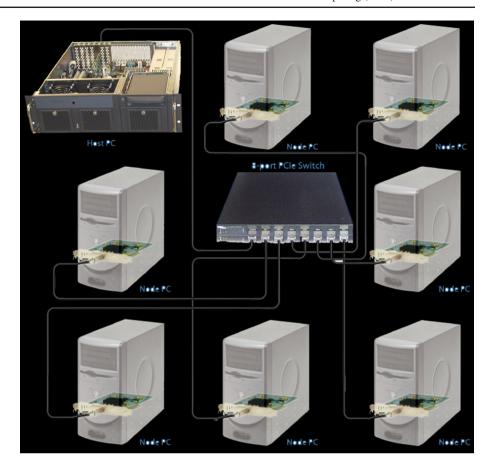


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Fig. 1 Technology trends of cloud data center interconnection [1]



a multi-host system. The PCI Express NTB solves clock synchronization issues and provides isolation between hosts. RCT Magazine [6] implemented the DMA transfer with a contiguous buffer using the PCI Express bus [7–9]. This approach enables a DMA transfer for non-contiguous memory. This paper design and implemented PC cluster system based on PCI Express interconnection net-work technology. In this paper, we use the PCI Express non-transparent bridge to implement a DMA transfer of non-contiguous memory between two systems.

This paper is organized as follows: Sect. 1 provides introduction, In Sect. 2, we show our design and implementation of OpenSHMEM on PCI Express. In Sect. 3, we analyze and compare the existing and proposed scheme. Section 4 concludes this paper.

2 Initial design of OpenSHMEM on PCIe NTB

PCI Express is a further improved version than PCI bus technology developed by INTEL. PCI Ex-press is a technology by which can be connected with various peripherals or host, support high I/O scalability and high-performance, high-speed communication. PCI express non-transparent bridge is widely used in the multi-host and host-failover. Fig-

ure 2 shows the system architecture in which two hosts are connected through PCI Express non-transparent bridge [4,10].

2.1 System architecture

PCI Express is transmitting and receiving data (full-duplex) through an independent link tied to an integrated line in one lanes of transmit and receive. PCI Express may be used by a plurality of lanes (x2, x4, x8, x16) to control the links from a single lane width (X1). PCI Express has the 8Gbps performance of a single-lane Gen3 data rate. Table 1 represents the data transfer rates depending on the generation and link width [6,11,12].

PCI Express non-transparent bridge is used for the mutual isolation in the PCI Express based inter-connection network [13]. NTB has integrated two conceptual interfaces(endpoints) for two roles in one port. We cannot see the fact that the two systems are connected in the BIOS emulation process due to the logically separated interface of PCI Express NTB. Figure 3 depicts an example in which two systems are connected through PCI Express based interconnection network [14].



Fig. 2 Multi-host system hierarchy

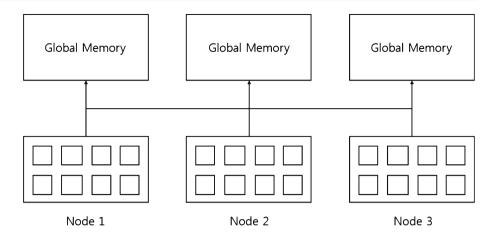


Table 1 Transfer speed of PCI Express

Generation	Lane (width)					
	X1	<i>X</i> 2	X4	X8	X16	
Gen1 (Gbps)	2.5	5	10	20	30	
Gen2 (Gbps)	5	10	20	40	60	
Gen3 (Gbps)	8	16	32	64	96	

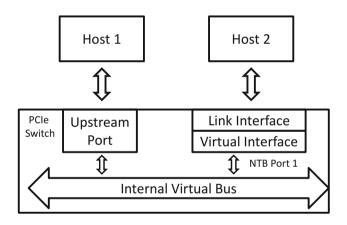


Fig. 3 Interconnect system with non-transparent bridge

2.2 Address translation

In the left side of Fig. 4, Host A and B can communicate via logical endpoint interface of virtual side and link side through address translation. It is necessary to know the address of the external memory on the address translation in the host. There are some scratchpad registers that can be accessed from each of the interface. Two hosts may share data with each other via the scratchpad register. It can also cause an interrupt to the other party through the Doorbell register. The interconnection network determines where the packet is directed through the bus and device information field in the packet header.

The bus number and device number are different, so the interconnection network returns a proper ID depending on the

bus number and device number during address translation. In order to do this, there is an address-translation lookup table (LUT) to which we can register an ID, lookup the ID by the index. In the right side of the Fig. 4, each host is located behind its own NTB BAR(s). Each N host address range within the global space is also divided into Nx segments. The figure illustrates a host A slice of the address range, going to each Host. The host A A-LUT points to one segment within each address range, at a fixed host A offset [15,16].

Figure 5 shows the address translation process of a PCI Express packet [15]. There are also necessary to translate memory address on remote DMA transfer, because the destination address on target machine has totally different address management from that on source machine. We make use of direct address translation in that the offset address are maintained but only the base address is replaced by that of the target machine as shown in Fig. 5.

After the address translation in Figs. 4 and 5, we can communicate each other through Remote Direct Memory Access (RDMA) as shown in Fig. 6. The standard interface of RDMA is described in red colored in Fig. 6, for example, shmem_int_put(), shmem_double_put(), shmem_int_get(), and shmem_doule_get(). After those APIs are called, the first task is attempt to allocate a physically contiguous, pagelocked buffer which is safe for use with DMA operation. Another step is to map a previously allocated physical memory into user virtual space. Then, the memory allocation and mapping are done, so the block DMATransfer() function will be called and executed.

2.3 Symmetric heap

The symmetric heap of OpenSHMEM consists of a symmetric data object which is accessible from a remote location and a private data object which is accessible only to the local PE [17,18]. A symmetric data object is allocated to a symmetric heap area. The symmetric heap area are physically allocated to a different address space for each PE node. A symmetric



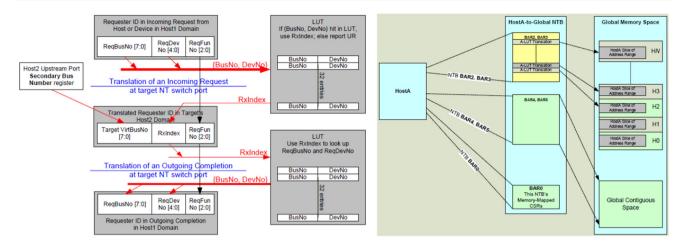
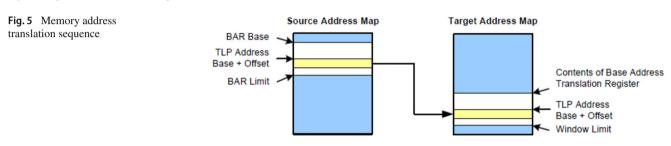


Fig. 4 Requester ID translation sequence on PCIe bus



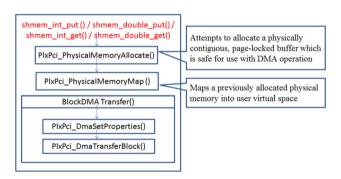


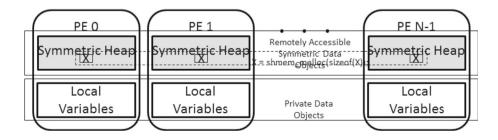
Fig. 6 Our RDMA implementation

data object is created with the same name/size/type through the memory allocation function. The shmem_malloc function assigns a common symmetric data object to each node by calling all PEs together. The offset in the symmetric heap is the same, even though the physical address of the symmetric data object assigned to each PE is different.

Figure 7 describes the design of memory allocation on OpenSHMEM and Fig. 8 shows the flow charts of the barrier implementation. Since the symmetric variables must be assigned to the symmetric heap, it is designed to check if the symmetric heap is already created first by calling a malloc function on each PE. If a symmetric heap does not exist, we create a new symmetric heap. After the allocation of the symmetric heap, each PE shares the address of the allocated symmetric heap to access the symmetric variable in the data transfer function. If a symmetric heap already exists, we check the remaining symmetric heap space to see if we can allocate additional symmetric variables.

If there is not enough memory left in the symmetric heap, a new symmetric heap is allocated. The symmetric variable assigned to each PE has the same offset in the symmetric heap of each PE. Therefore, symmetric variables are allocated in order from the start address of the symmetric heap to the size of the requested symmetric variable.

Fig. 7 Symmetric heap architecture





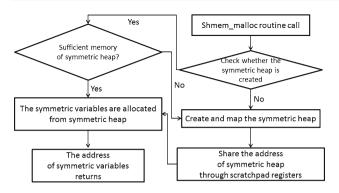


Fig. 8 Flow chart of barrier implementation



Fig. 9 Symmetric memory implementation for supporting large sized symmetric variable using small chunks

The Fig. 9 shows how symmetric variables are assigned to each PE when calling the malloc function. First, we call the malloc function to allocate the symmetric variable block1 (assuming that the malloc function was called first). Then, we allocate from the start address of the symmetric heap as much as the requested size from the memory of the symmetric heap. However, the malloc function is called to allocate the nth symmetric variable, but the memory of the original symmetric heap is exhausted and there is no remaining memory. We create a new unit size symmetric heap, and we allocate additional symmetric variables by taking up memory from the starting address of the newly created symmetric heap. This process is the same for all PEs because all PEs call shmem malloc at the same time.

2.4 Synchronization primitive: barrier

A barrier is a type of synchronization method. As shown in Fig. 10, a barrier for a group of threads or processes in the source code means any thread/process must stop at this point and cannot proceed until all other threads/processes reach this barrier. Figure 10 is a conceptual representation of barrier. In

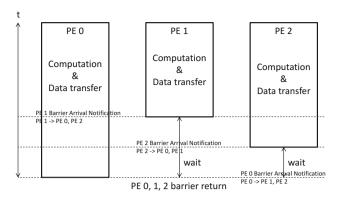


Fig. 10 Conceptual description of barrier

Table 2 Classical barrier implementation

Barrier implementation (ACM TOCS91')

- 1. Centralized barrier
- 2. Software combining tree barrier
- 3. Dissemination barrier (butterfly barrier)
- 4. Tournament barrier

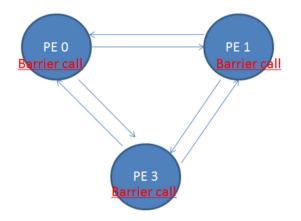


Fig. 11 Our implementation: the centralized barrier

this study, when the DMA transfer is terminated, it notifies other PEs that the barrier function has been performed at the PE and waits until other PEs perform the barrier call.

As shown above, each PE may have different execution time for computation and data transfer. PE 1 confirms that the data transfer is completed after the computation is completed, notifies PE 0 and PE 2 that the barrier has been called, and waits for the barrier arrival of PE 0 and PE 1. When all PE calls the barrier, the synchronization is completed and the process can proceed to the next phase.

In this study, one of the 4 methods, shown in Table 2, presented in the ACM TOCS paper [19] was used to implement the barrier. The Centralized Barrier method is the most typical barrier implementation method as shown in Fig. 11. When each PE (processing element) reaches the barrier, the central-



PEX 8749



Fig. 12 Interrupt generation through the doorbell register

ized barrier sends an interrupt to all the PE nodes except for itself. Each node can proceed through the barrier if it receives an interrupt of the total number of nodes (N)-1.

To implement a barrier in a PCI Express-based interconnection network, the doorbell interrupt of the configuration space register in Fig. 12 should be used. Doorbell inter-

counting the number of doorbell interrupts, we first need to check that the DMA transfer has been completed by Plx-Pci_BarrierDMANotificationWait. Then, an interrupt signal is generated by writing to the doorbell IRQ register through the function PlxPci_PlxMappedRegisterWrite. The function PlxPci_BarrierDBNotificationWait is implemented to check the number of door bell interrupts received from other PEs.

We also implemented interrupt messaging mechanism

rupts enable interrupt transfer between each PE node. Before

We also implemented interrupt messaging mechanism using doorbell interrupt. To realize this functionality, we have to access the NT0 link side configuration space and NT0 virtual side configuration space as shown in Fig. 12. For sending an interrupt on link side, we make use of address 0x3FC5C. For sending an interrupt on virtual side, we make use of address 0x3EC4C.

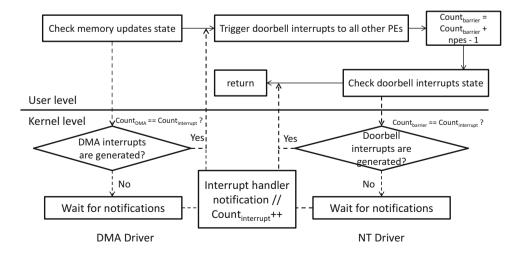
Figure 13 depicts an overall flow of barrier implementation. The PlxPci_BarrierDMANotificationWait function in Fig. 14 checks whether the DMA transfer is completed. Next, to count the number of doorbell interrupts, an interrupt is generated by controlling the doorbell IRQ register with the function PlxPci_PlxMappedRegisterWrite. Plx_BarrierDBNotificationWait() function calls PlxIoMessage(), the IOCTL function. The IOCTL function executes system call of operating system, especially IOCTL_BARRIER_DB_NOTIFICATION_WAIT.

The PlxMappedRegisterRead () function uses the device driver to read the value of a register at a specific address. And this function checks the VIRTUAL_IRQ_SET and LINK_IRQ_SET bits.

3 Experimental analysis

This section provides the design and implementation of evaluation system. Table 3 shows the ex-perimental environment of the system. We make use of Core-i5 3.2 GHz, with 2 GB 1333 MHz DDR memory. The OS is Centos Linux 7

Fig. 13 Overall flow of barrier implementation





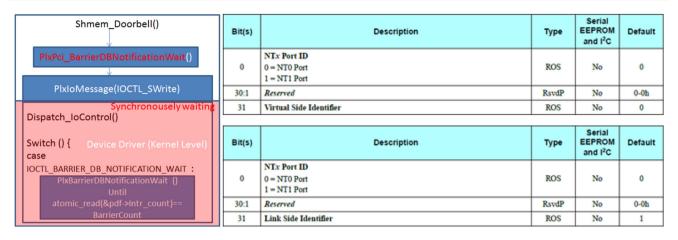


Fig. 14 PxlPci_BarrierDBNotificationWait() register

Table 3 Testbed specification

Host PC hardware environment

M/B	GIG	GIGABYTE GA-H61M-DS2V		
Processor	Inte	Intel® CoreTM i5-3470 CPU @ 3.20GHz		
	X 4	X 4		
Memory	Sam	Samsung DDR3 1333MHz 2GB		
O/S	Cen	Centos Linux 7 64bit		
		Kernel: 3.10.0-327.el7		
Interconnect hardy	ware environn	nent		
PCI Express NTB evaluation		PLX PEX8749 RDK		
board		48 Lane, 18 Port,		
		PCI Express Gen 3 Switch		
NIC		PLX PEX8732 Cable Adapter X 4		
Driver		PLX SDK Device Driver		

64bit, kernel 3.10.0. The interconnection network is based on PEX8749 Chipset of PLX Technology.

Figure 15 depicts the experimental environment. Each PE make use of the shared file system by network file system (NFS) in order to see the same files and directories. We com-

Table 4 Execution command

gcc –c rotget.c gcc –o rotget rotget.o ./Library/openshmem.a –lm –ldl

pile application source code such as rotget.c using gcc as shown in Table 4. We run the same compiled binaries on each PE through the NFC shared file system.

This section shows the performance of PCI Express link. These days we usually utilize the PCI Express generation 3, so we can get link performance up to 8 Gbit/sec, theoretically. But, the actual performance depends on variable situation such as link status, protocol overhead and so on.

To connect a host PC to PEX8749 evaluation board, we need a PEX8732 chipset based network interface card for each side. Since the evaluation host supports up to PCI Express generation 2 specification, we make use of generation 2 specification both for host and PCI Express NTB evaluation board. Evaluation software runs on Centos 7.0 linux operating system (kernel 3.10.0). For device control, PEX8749 device driver was installed as shown in Fig. 16.

First, we show the performance difference between non-DMA transfer using ordinary memcpy and PCI Express



Fig. 15 Experimental environment



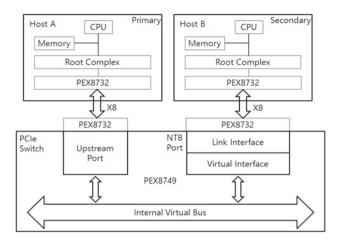


Fig. 16 Implemented interconnection network system

RDMA transfer and we also evaluate the performance improvement between Block RDMA transfer and scattergather RDMA.

In each experiment, each host transmits the data through buffer located in BAR (base address reg-ister). The actual physical address, the virtual address in kernel, and buffer size are send and received to each other via scratchpad register in host. In this case, the host buffer ware assigned to the same size. We transmit the buffered data to the target host after address translation by using the BAR register.

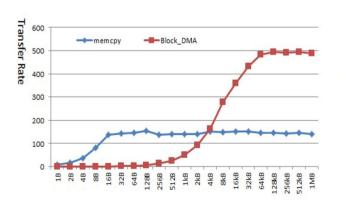
We limit the buffer size to a maximum of 1 MB. In this experiment, we transfer the data to Host A from Host B by using one DMA channel. We measured the transmission rate with respect to the size and number of buffers. When an interrupt occurs at the end of each transfer, we measured the average data transfer rate as a way to send data back and forth.

The left side of Fig. 17 depicts the evaluation between non-DMA transfer and block RDMA transfer and between Block DMA and SGDMA. The x axis shows the size of transfer data and the y axis represents the transfer rate as MB/s,

commonly in both graphs. When the size of the buffer is small, memcpy and DMA transfer shows low performance at the same time. The larger the size of the buffer gets better performance in DMA transfer. This is because the data transfer at a time to increase. When the data size is below 2 kB, memcpy showed higher transmission rate than DMA transfer. Even if we increase the buffer size in memcpy, it tends to be satisfied at the transfer rate of up to 150 MB/s. In more than 4 kB buffer size, we got a relatively high performance of up to about 500 MB/s in DMA transfer.

The SGDMA transfer descriptor has information which is required for DMA such as source address, destination address, and byte count. This descriptor enables us to transmit multiple DMA buffers or discontinuous address spaces. The right side of Fig. 17 shows the performance of SGDMA transfer. The right side of Fig. 17 shows the evaluation between block RDMA transfer and scatter-gather RDMA transfer. The x axis shows the size of transfer data and the y axis represents the transfer rate as MB/s, commonly in both graphs. We used the 8, 32, 128, 256 descriptors for SGDMA transfer. We specify the data size for each descriptor to a value obtained by dividing evenly the same size to the buffer size. The smaller the size of the buffer, the more the number of descriptor, we got lower the transmission rate of the SG DMA. As a result of execution with 8 descriptors, we got up to 520 MB/s speed. This is slightly higher than the performance Block DMA. Evaluation result shows that the non-DMA transfer performance is 150 MB/s and the Block RDMA transfer is improved to 500 MB/s. Finally, scatter-gather DMA performance is shown up to 520 MB/s. In this paper, it delivers high-performance computing and widely used Interconnect Technology of the Non-Transparent PCI Express Switch and connect two PC interconnect system using cluster computing Bridging that the DMA transfer performance were analyzed between two PC.

Non-DMA (memcpy) and DMA Block exhibited a maximum transmission speed of each to increase the larger the



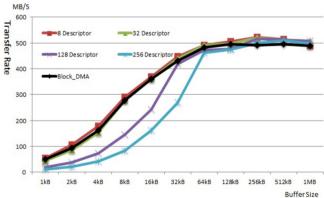


Fig. 17 Evaluation result of non-DMA and block DMA transfer, block DMA and SGDMA (MB/sec)



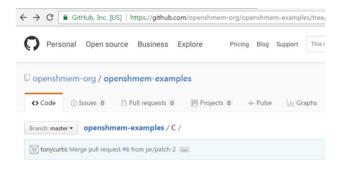


Fig. 18 Result of block DMA and SGDMA transfer (MB/sec)

size of the buffer transfer rate of about 150, 500 MB/s. For SGDMA larger the size of the buffer, the number of descriptor was confirmed to represent a slightly better performance than the DMA Block The transfer rate is low in transmission rate of up to about 520 MB/s. Due to the limitation of allocation for physically contiguous buffer the performance resulted in a lower performance than theoretical bound. By reducing the overhead due to buffer copy and non-contiguous physical buffer, we can achieve higher bandwidth up to theoretically bound.

Figure 18 shows the benchmark application which we used in this experiment. 7 applications of github.com/openshmem-

examples are working on our platform: rotget.c, rotput.c, randput.c, shmem_all.c, dip.c, swap.c, and matrix multiplication.c. The reason why the rest of applications on the github.com are not working is because of limited APIs support at the initial stage of our implementation.

Figures 19, 20, and 21 provide the results of execution the applications mention above. The rotput.c rotates PE id to right neighbor (dest), with wrap-around. The rotget.c gets from right neighbor, with wrap-around. randput.c gets from 0 (master) to some other random PE. The shmem_all.c shows how to use shmem_put to simulate MPI_Alltoall. Each processor send/rec a different random number to/from other processors. The dip.c is a double value put application from PE 0 to PE 1 to shmem_malloc'ed variable. The swap.c swap values between odd numbered PEs and their right (modulo) neighbor. The shmem_matrix.c calculates the product of 2 matrices A and B based on block distribution. This is adopted from the mpi implementation of matrix multiplication based on 1D block-column distribution.

From Figs. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 are the result of execution. The x-axis is block size and y-axis is the proportional execution time. All applications, with exception of shmem_all, commonly provide that larger block size will result in longer execution time. The shmem_all application

```
0:
                0:
                    8
                      0:
                         8
  0:8
        0:80:8
                         0:8
                   0:8
                                  8
                               0:
      0:80:8
                 0:810:8
                            0:8
   0:80:8
              0:8
                          0:8
                               0:8
 0:80:80:8
                 0:8
                                   0 1
                        0:8
                             0:8
    0:80:80:80:80:8
                                                   1:7
                                0:8
  0:80:80:80:80:8
                                                      1:7
                              0:8
                                        7
                                           1:7
                                                1:7
      0:8
           0:8
                0:80:80:80:::
                                              1:7
                                         1:7
   0:8
         0:8
              0:8
                    0:80:80:8
                                                 1:7
                                           1:7
                                    7 1:7
 0:80:80:80:80:80:8
                                    Process 1 runtime: 1.48 Sec
                                 0:
                                      Cancelling Barrier DB Int Notification... Ok
Process O runtime: 1.48 Sec
 Cancelling Barrier DB Int Notification...
                                      Cancelling Barrier DMA Int Notification... Ok
 Cancelling Barrier DMA Int Notification... Ok
                                      Cancelling Int Notification,... Ok
 Cancelling Int Notification... Ok
                                      Close DMA Channel.....
  Close DMA Channel,
                                     root@localhost openshmem]#
 root@localhost openshmem] #
```

Fig. 19 Result of execution rotget.c

```
Setup NT translation: Ok (Translated Addr: OacOOCPE 1:
                                                     2.718282
                                               PE 1:
                                                    2.718282.
  Get DMA propeties..... 0k
                                               PE 1: 2.718282,
  Set DMA propeties.....
                                               PE 1: 2.718282,
                                                               OK
PUT DMA Transfer Start!
                                                               OK
                                               PE 1: 2.718282
                                               PE 1: 2.718282,
                                                              OK
                                               PE 1: 2.718282,
Process O runtime: 11.11 Sec
  Cancelling Barrier DB Int Notification... Ok
                                               Process 1 runtime: 11.92 Sec
                                                 Cancelling Barrier DB Int Notification... Ok
  Cancelling Barrier DMA Int Notification.... Ok
                                                 Cancelling Barrier DMA Int Notification... Ok
  Cancelling Int Notification... Ok
                                                 Cancelling Int Notification... Ok
  Close DMA Channel.....
                                                 Close DMA Channel.....
[root@localhost openshmem]#
                                               [root@localhost openshmem]#
[root@localhost openshmem] #
```

Fig. 20 Result of execution dip.c



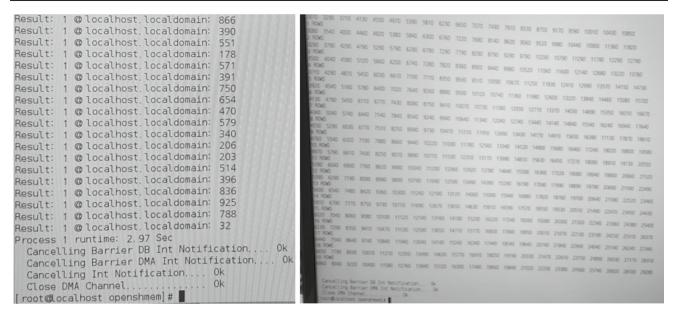


Fig. 21 Result of execution randput.c and matrix multiplication.c

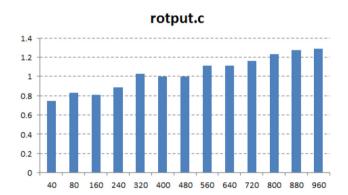


Fig. 22 Execution result of rotput.c

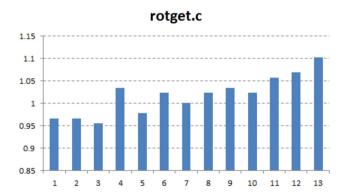


Fig. 23 Execution result of rotget.c

maintains almost same level of performance with the increasing block size. This is because the shmem_all is collective operation such as MPI_Alltoall(). In shmem_all operation, the contents of send buffer on each PE are distributed in group

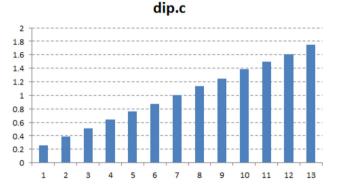


Fig. 24 Execution result of dip.c

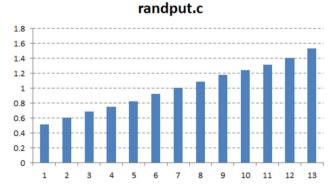


Fig. 25 Execution result of randput.c

of some elements to all process. So, each process receives some elements into receive buffer. Therefore, shmem_all requires many send/receive and synchronization, not directly proportional to RDMA performance.





Fig. 26 Execution result of shmem_all.c

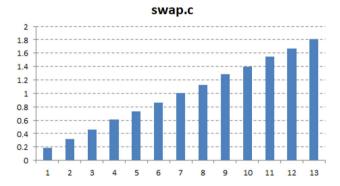


Fig. 27 Execution result of swap.c

The API we have implemented is shown in the following Fig. 28. Since the result of retrieving the API from the project source code, the same API was searched once in the c file and once in the .h file.It indicates that the initial version of GPI / OpenSHMEM works well in the PCIe interconnection network as originally intended.

Fig. 28 Supported APIs of our initial OpenSHMEM

4 Conclusions

Although PCI Express-based interconnection network environment is not popular now, we have established a PCI Express-based interconnection network experimental environment. OpenSHMEM technology has already become widespread in HPC interconnection networks such as Infiniband and RoCE. However, research on PCI Express-based HPC interconnection networks is only the beginning of the world. We conducted this study in case the PCI Express NTB-based HCA adapter is widely available. Through this research, we propose the possibility of using it as the Open-SHMEM framework of the next generation Interconnection Network. This research is applicable to HCA for HPC interconnection network. This study is also meaningful in terms of securing next generation system software technology. We have learned the driving and control technology of the PLX PEX8749. We designed and implemented the initial OpenSHMEM framework and performed verification of the correctness and compatibility of the framework. Finally, a few APIs of our initial OpenSHMEM implementation are demonstrated by running 7 OpenSHMEM examples of github.com.

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