MUST

MPI Runtime Error Detection Tool



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1 Introduction

MUST detects usage errors of the Message Passing Interface (MPI) and reports them to the user. As MPI calls are complex and usage errors common, this functionality is extremely helpful for application developers that want to develop correct MPI applications. This includes errors that already manifest as segmentation faults or incorrect results, as well as many errors that are not visible to the application developer or do not manifest on a particular system or MPI implementation.

To detect errors, MUST intercepts the MPI calls issued by the target application and evaluates their arguments. The two main usage scenarios for MUST arise during application development and during porting. When a developer adds new MPI communication calls, MUST can detect newly introduced errors, especially also some that may not manifest in an application crash. Further, before porting an application to a new system, MUST can detect violations to the MPI standard that might manifest on the target system. MUST reports errors in a log file that can be investigated once the execution of the target executable finishes (irrespective of whether the application crashed or not).

2 Installation

The MUST software consists of three individual packages:

- PⁿMPI
- GTI
- MUST

The PⁿMPI package provides base infrastructure for the MUST software and intercepts MPI calls of the target application. GTI provides tool infrastructure, while the MUST package contains the actual correctness checks.

Starting with version 1.6, all three packages are contained in a single archive and configured and built at once.

Each MUST installation is built with a specific compiler and MPI library. It should only be used for applications built with the same compiler and MPI library. This is necessary as the behavior of MUST may differ depending on the MPI library. Compilers may be mixed if they are binary compatible.

Building MUST requires CMake for configuration. It is freely available at http://www.cmake.org/. You can execute which cmake to determine whether a CMake installation is available. If not, contact your system administrator or install a local version, which requires no root privileges. We suggest to use CMake version 3.9 or later (use cmake --version) for full functionality.

Further, to augment the MUST output with call stack information, which is very helpful for pinpointing errors, it is possible to utilize Backward or Dyninst. In that case,

MUST uses either Backtrace-cpp or the Stackwalker API from Dyninst to read and print stack traces for errors. Section 7 presents the necessary steps for such an installation.

MUST supports parallel build. Therefore you may want to append -j < number of cores > to the make calls.

2.1 Prerequisites to build and use MUST

- cmake (required 3.9 or newer, see *cmake --version*)
- python (required 2.6 or newer, see python -V)
- libxml2 with headers (libxml2-dev / libxml2-devel, required)
- graphviz (optional, to generate graphs)
- dyninst (optional, see section 7.2)
- a browser (optional, to view html output)
- MPI library, used by the application (required)

2.2 Configuring with CMake

All parts of MUST use CMake for configuration. CMake works best with 'out of source' builds, this is what we recommend in the installation steps below. Common CMake options include <code>-DCMAKE_INSTALL_PREFIX</code> to set the path to install into if you do not have root or to provide MUST as module environment package. CMake options can be configured with a GUI on many systems by using <code>ccmake</code> instead of cmake with all the <code>-D</code> flags listed below.

- When the ccmake gui appears:
- press c to generate options, press e to move on from any messages displayed by cmake.
- edit any options displayed,
- press c to see if there are any new options resulting from the previous round of choices
- repeat until you are happy with the options
- press g to generate the build
- move on to the make step as usual.

2.3 Building MUST

MUST can be built as follows (assuming GNU compilers):

In many cases, it is essential, to use the plain compilers for CC&Co, i.e., not the MPI compiler wrappers. The CMake call will determine your MPI installation in order to configure MUST correctly. If this should fail – or multiple MPIs are available – you can tip the configuration by specifying $-DMPI_C_COMPLIER = <FILE-PATH-TO-MPICC>$ as well as $-DMPI_CXX_COMPLIER = <FILE-PATH-TO-MPICXX>$ and $-DMPI_Fortran_COMPLIER = <FILE-PATH-TO-MPIF90>$ as additional arguments to the cmake command. More advanced users can fine-tune the detection by specifying additional variables, consult the comments in cmakemodules/FindMPI.cmake. On clusters with special MPI environments, it helps to verify that MPIEXEC is set to the right mpiexec command (like srun).

Usually, no extra arguments are needed to configure MUST. You can specify $DENABLE_TESTS=On$ to activate the test suite that is included in MUST. Tests should only be started after installing MUST and can be run with:

ctest

Some tests will fail even for a correct installation since they document future extensions. You can get a detailed test report for a single test with:

```
ctest -VV -R ^<TEST-NAME>$
For the test named basic:
ctest -VV -R ^basic$
```

2.4 Install Prebuilt Configurations

To speed up the tool preparation time, we provide some prebuilt configurations for typical tool usage. These can be installed during building of MUST:

```
make -j8 install install-prebuilds
```

We strongly suggest this step for cluster installations. If prebuilts are not available, MUST will prepare an appropriate configuration during the execution of mustrun.

2.5 Environmentals 3 USAGE

2.5 Environmentals

To work with MUST, it is sufficient to add < MUST-INSTALLATION-DIR > /bin to your PATH variable.

3 Usage

The following two steps allow you to use MUST:

- Replace the *mpiexec* command with *mustrun* to execute your application;
- Inspect the result file of the run.

3.1 Execution

The actual execution of an application with MUST is done by replacing the *mpiexec* command with *mustrun*. It performs a code generation step to adapt the MUST tool to your application and will run your application with MUST afterward.

The plain *mustrun* command that we use here is intended for small scale short-running applications and can exhibit very high runtime overhead. Section 5 presents further configurations of MUST that we tested with up to 16,384 processes. The plain *mustrun* command uses all of MUST's correctness checks and a communication system where one MPI process is used to drive some of these checks. So when submitting a batch job, you should make sure to allocate resources for one additional task. Further, when calling *mustrun* you need to have access to the compilers and MPI utilities that were used to build MUST itself.

A regular *mpiexec* command like:

```
mpiexec -np 4 application.exe
```

Is replaced with:

```
mustrun -np 4 application.exe
```

It will execute your application with four tasks but requires one additional task, i.e. it will actually invoke mpiexec with -np 5.

For an example where the *mpiexec* command and the switch used to specify the number of processes is named differently:

```
srun -n 4 application.exe
```

You could use the following mustrun command:

```
mustrun --must:mpiexec srun --must:np -n -n 4 application.exe
```

If your machine provides no compilers in batch jobs, you can prepare a run as follows:

```
mustrun --must:mode prepare -np 4 application.exe
```

In your batch job you would then just execute:

```
mustrun --must:mode run -np 4 application.exe
```

The *mustrun* tool provides further switches to modify its behavior, call *mustrun* --*must:help* for a summary. If you encounter errors during execution, please submit error reports where you use --*must:verbose* as an argument to *mustrun*.

3.2 execution of threaded applications

For support of threaded applications, MUST provides a thread-safe mode:

```
mustrun --must:hybrid -np 4 application.exe
```

Be aware that MUST lifts the required MPI threading level in this case to MPI_THREAD_MULTIPLE, while MUST limits the provided threading level without this flag to MPI_THREAD_SINGLE.

3.3 Results

MUST stores its results in an HTML file named MUST_Output.html. It contains information on all detected issues, including information on where the error occurred.

4 Example

As an example consider the following application that contains three MPI usage errors:

```
#include <stdio.h>
  #include <mpi.h>
3
   int main (int argc, char** argv)
4
5
       int rank,
            size,
            \mathbf{sBuf}[2] = \{1,2\},
            rBuf[2];
       MPI_Status status;
10
       \mathbf{MPI\_Datatype}\ \ \mathbf{newType};
11
       MPI_{-}Init(\&argc,\&argv);
13
       MPI_Comm_rank (MPICOMM_WORLD, &rank);
14
       MPI_Comm_size (MPLCOMM_WORLD, &size);
15
16
17
        //Enough tasks ?
          if (size < 2)
18
19
              \mathbf{printf} \ ("This\_test\_needs\_at\_least\_2\_processes! \setminus n");
20
              MPI_Finalize();
21
22
              return 1;
23
24
25
          //Say hello
          printf ("Hello, _I_am_rank_%d_of_%d_processes.\n", rank, size);
26
27
```

```
28
         //1) Create a datatype
        \mathbf{MPI\_Type\_contiguous} \ \ (2\ ,\ \ \mathbf{MPI\_INT},\ \ \&\mathbf{newType})\ ;
29
30
        MPI\_Type\_commit (\&newType);
31
         //2) Use MPI_Sendrecv to perform a ring communication
32
        MPI_Sendrecv (
33
                sBuf, 1, newType, (rank+1)\%size, 123,
34
                rBuf, sizeof(int)*2, MPLBYTE, (rank-1+size) % size, 123,
35
36
                MPLOOMMWORLD, &status);
37
38
         //3) Use MPI_Send and MPI_Recv to perform a ring communication
        39
40
            MPLCOMMWORLD, &status);
41
42
         //Say bye bye
43
        printf ("Signing_off,_rank_%d.\n", rank);
44
      MPI_Finalize ();
45
46
      return 0;
47
48
  /*EOF*/
49
```

4.1 Execution with MUST

A user could set up the environment for MUST, build the application, and run it with the following commands:

```
#Set up environment
export PATH=<MUST-INSTALLATION-DIR>/bin:$PATH

#Compile and link, we rely on the ld-preload mechanism
mpicc example.c -o example.exe -g

#Run with four processes. We will need resources for five tasks!
mustrun -np 4 example.exe
```

4.2 Output File

The output of the run with MUST will be stored in a file named MUST_Output.html. For this application MUST will detect three different errors that are:

- A type mismatch (Figure 1)
- A send-send deadlock (Figure 3)
- A leaked datatype (Figure 5)

Figure 1 shows the first error that MUST detects. The error results from the usage of non-matching datatypes, which are an MPI_INT and an MPI_BYTE of the same size as the

4.2 Output File 4 EXAMPLE

| Rank | Type | Message | From | References |
|------|-------|---|--|---|
| 0 | Error | A send and a receive operation use datatypes that do not match! Mismatch occurs at (contiguous) [0](MPLINT) in the send type and at (MPLBYTE) in the receive type (consult the MUST manual for a detailed description of datatype positions). A graphical representation of this situation is available in a detailed type mismatch view (MUST Output-files/MUST Typemismatch O.html). The send operation was started at reference 1, the receive operation was started at reference 2. (Information on communicator: MPLCOMM_WORLD) (Information on send of count 1 with type:Datatype created at reference 3 is for C, committed at reference 4, based on the following type(s): { MPLINT}) typemap = {(MPLINT, 0), (MPLINT, 4)}) (Information on receive of count 8 with type:MPLBYTE) | MPI_Sendrecv called from: #0 main@example.c:33 | reference 1 rank 0: MPI_Sendrecv called from: #0 main@example.c:33 reference 2 rank 1: MPI_Sendrecv called from: #0 main@example.c:33 reference 3 rank 0: MPI_Type_contiguous called from: #0 main@example.c:29 reference 4 rank 0: MPI_Type_commit called from: #0 main@example.c:30 |

Figure 1: Type mismatch error report from MUST.

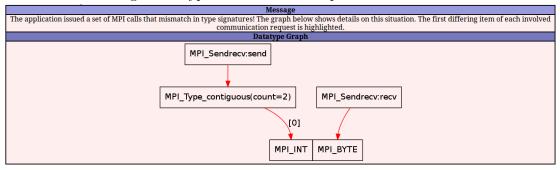


Figure 2: Detail page for the type mismatch in Figure 5.

integer value. This is not allowed according to the MPI standard. A correct application would use MPI_INT for both the send and receive call.

If MUST is configured with Dyninst (Section 7.2), the right column will list call stacks for all the involved MPI calls, as in Figure 5. Here the error is detected in the MPI_Sendrecv call in line 33.

The example shows the specification of the location in the datatype that causes the mismatch. The location (CONTIGUOUS) [0] (MPI_INT) means that the used datatype is of contiguous kind. The mismatch is within the first element of the contiguous type, which is defined to be a base type, namely MPI_INT.

As another example (VECTOR) [1] [2] (MPI_CHAR) would address the third entry of the second block of a vector with base-type MPI_CHAR.

Figure 2 displays a graphical representation of the type mismatch. The image shows type trees of the involved data types. For a correct type match, both trees should share all their leaves. For a clearer view, matching leaves are hidden. The path to the first clash is highlighted in red. For derived types, the node labels display the count/blocklength value, used in the declaration of the type, while the edge label (corresponding to the path expression) gives the index of the block/blockitem, that leads to the first clash.

For communication buffers that access the same memory address concurrently ("buffer overlap"), similar descriptions and graphs are used. In this case, all nodes that point to distinct memory addresses are hidden, as the focus lies on the representation of the

memory overlap.

The second error results from the application calling send calls that can lead to deadlock (Figure 3). Each task issues one call to MPI_Send while no matching receive is available. This can cause deadlock. However, as such calls would be buffered for most MPI implementations, this is a deadlock that only manifests for some message sizes or MPI implementations.

If MUST detects a deadlock, it provides visualization for its core, i.e., the set of MPI calls of which at least one call has to be modified or replaced. It stores a wait-for graph representation of this core in a file named MUST_Deadlock.dot. If available, MUST automatically translates this file into an image and provides a deadlock view (Figure 4), which shows the task dependencies and a parallel call stack. This graph file uses the DOT language of the Graphviz package. If a graphviz installation was available when MUST was installed, it automatically visualizes the graph. Otherwise, you can visualize it by issuing dot -Tps MUST_Deadlock.dot -o deadlock.ps after installing this tool. You can open the file deadlock.ps with the postscript viewer of your choice (DOT also supports additional output formats). If MUST was configured with Dyninst (Section 7.2), it will also print a parallel call stack in a file called MUST_DeadlockCallStack.dot, which Figure 4 shows at the bottom. This stack includes any MPI call that was referred to in the wait-for graph. Especially if processes use non-blocking communications, this call stack may include multiple MPI calls for each process.

Further graphs in the deadlock view show information about the message matching state to highlight any call that might have been intended to match a blocked point-to-point call. Since no outstanding point-to-point message exists in the deadlock situation of Figure 3, these graphs are empty.

Finally, MUST detects that the application leaks MPI resources when calling MPI_Finalize. In particular, this is a datatype created with an MPI_contiguous call. Applications should free all such resources before invoking MPI_Finalize, as harmful leaks are easier to detect in such cases.

5 MUST's Operation Modes

MUST's analysis of all MPI calls causes runtime overhead. As a result, it is important to adapt its configuration such that its overhead stays acceptable. While its default configuration (*mustrun* without additional switches) is easy to use, more advanced configurations may be required. MUST's overhead primarily results from:

- Correctness checks that require information from multiple processes, and
- A communication mode that allows MUST to detect MPI usage errors even if the application crashes.

MUST can use more than one additional process to run expensive correctness checks, while a shared memory based communication mode allows MUST to tolerate application crashes with limited runtime overhead.

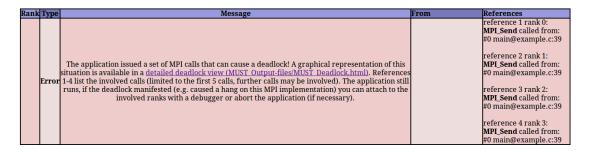


Figure 3: Send-send deadlock report from MUST, basic report.

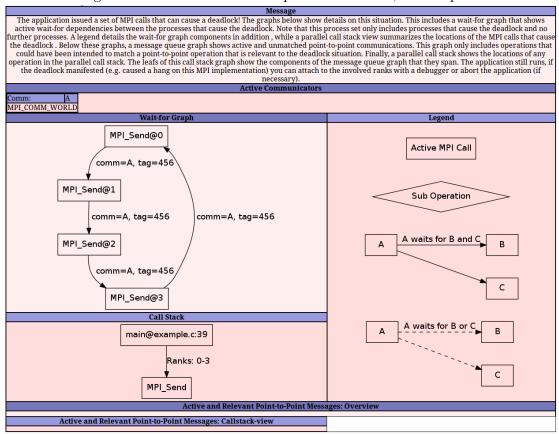


Figure 4: Deadlock view for the send-send deadlock.

There are 1 datatypes that are not freed when MPL-Finalize was issued, a quality application should free all MPI resources before calling MPI_Finalize. Listing information for these datatypes:

#0 main@example.c:29

-Datatype 1: Datatype created at reference 1 is for C, committed at reference 2, based on the following type(s): { MPI_INT}Typemap = {(MPI_INT, 0), (MPI_INT, 4)}

#0 main@example.c:30

Figure 5: Resource leak report from MUST.

5.1 Mode Overview

MUST provides the following operation modes that adapt its overhead to the target use-case:

1. (Default) Very slow, Centralized, application may crash:

- Command line: mustrun np X exe
- One extra process for correctness checking
- All checks enabled
- Detects errors even if application crashs
- Very slow, for short running tests at < 32 processes

2. Fast, centralized, application does not crash:

- Command line: mustrun -np X --must:nocrash exe
- One extra process for correctness checking
- All checks enabled
- Detects errors only if the application does not crash
- Limited scalability, use for < 100 processes

3. Fast, centralized, application may crash:

- Command line: mustrun np X must:nodesize Y exe
- Number of extra processes: $1 + \lceil \frac{X}{Y-1} \rceil$
- All checks enabled
- Detects errors even if application crashs
- Limited scalability, use for < 100 processes
- Requires shared memory communication (Available on most linux based clusters)

4. Distributed, application does not crash:

- Command line: mustrun -np X --must:distributed [--must:fanin Z] exe
- Network of extra processes:
 - Layer 0: $A = \lceil \frac{X}{Z} \rceil$

- Layer 1:
$$B = \lceil \frac{A}{Z} \rceil$$

- ...
- Layer k : 1

- If you need to reduce overheads, you can disable MUST's distributed deadlock detection with --must:nodl
- Detects errors only if the application does not crash
- Tested with 16,384 processes

5. Distributed, application may crash:

- Command line: $mustrun \ -np \ X \ --must: distributed \ --must: node size \ Y \ [--must: fanin \ Z] \ exe$
- Network of extra processes:

```
- Layer 0: A = \lceil \frac{X}{Y-1} \rceil

- Layer 1: B = \lceil \frac{A}{Z} \rceil

- Layer 2: C = \lceil \frac{B}{Z} \rceil

- ...

- Layer k: 1
```

- If you need to reduce overheads, you can disable MUST's distributed deadlock detection with --must:nodl
- Tested with 4,096 processes
- Requires shared memory communication (Available on most linux based clusters)

5.2 Mode Details

For any non-demanding (short and small scale) use case, we suggest operation Mode 1 ($mustrun - np \ X \ exe$), since it is always available and easy to use.

For more extensive application runs at moderate scale (< 100 processes) users should either use Mode 2 ($mustrun - np \ X$ -- $must:nocrash \ exe$) or Mode 3 ($mustrun - np \ X$ -- $must:nodesize \ Y \ exe$). While Mode 2 assumes that the application does not crash, Mode 3 uses a shared memory communication (Linux message queues) to tolerate application crashes. Besides the limited availability of this communication mechanism (most Linux-based systems), it requires more than one extra process to operate. The user needs to specify a node size Y that is a divisor of the number of cores available within each compute node. MUST then uses one tool process per Y-1 application processes. It is important that the resource manager distributes MPI ranks in node-core order. That is, it fills each node completely and with successive ranks. The use of the --must:fillnodes switch to the mustrun command may help if the total number of MPI ranks does not fill all allocated nodes causing the resource manager to not fill nodes completely.

By adding the --must:info switch to any mustrun command, the user may retrieve additional information on the number of application tasks, tool tasks, and required nodes without running or preparing a MUST run. This provides valuable information to prepare batch job allocations.

Modes 4 (mustrun -np X --must:distributed [--must:fanin Z] exe) and 5 (mustrun -np X --must:distributed --must:nodesize Y [--must:fanin Z] exe) are intended for application runs at scale (> 100 processes, where we tested MUST with up to 16,384 processes). Both modes use a tree network to run several correctness checks, which increase their demand for extra computing cores. Again Mode 4 assumes that the application does not crash, while Mode 5 uses a shared memory communication to tolerate application crashs. Mode 5 comes with the same restrictions and allocation assumptions as Mode 3. For both modes, the user may specify the --must:fanin Z switch which controls the ratio of application to extra tool processes. The default value is 16, higher values may increase MUST's overhead, while lower values may reduce its overhead. Experience with MUST's distributed deadlock detection shows that it scales to an order of 16,384 processes but can double MUST's overhead. If MUST's overhead is too high for your use-case, you can add the switch --must:nodl to disable the distributed deadlock detection for Modes 4 and 5.

6 Included Checks

MUST currently provides correctness checks for the following classes of errors:

- Constants and integer values
- Communicator usage
- Datatype usage
- Group usage
- Operation usage
- Request usage
- Leak checks (MPI resources not freed before calling MPI_Finalize)
- Type mis-matches
- Overlapping buffers passed to MPI
- Deadlocks resulting from MPI calls

7 Stack trace information in MUST reports

MUST relies on external libraries to generate source code information included in MUST reports. The --must:stacktrace switch allows selecting the stack trace mechanism when launching mustrun. Since collecting stack traces can be costly and introduce significant runtime overhead, MUST will not collect stack traces by default. Therefore, the default of this setting is none. To enable stack traces based on backward-cpp, use --must:stacktrace backward. To enable stack traces based on Dyninst, use --must:stacktrace dyninst. The individual options will only be available if MUST was built with support for the individual stack trace library as described in the following. A single installation of MUST can be built with support for both stack trace libraries at the same time.

7.1 Recommended: MUST Installation with Backward-cpp

In order to install MUST with backward-cpp support, the CMake variable **-DUSE_BACKWARD=On** must be set during the configuration of MUST. Backward-cpp can work with different libraries to unwind the call stack¹ and to read the debug information from the binary². The backward-cpp CMake configuration will automatically detect and select available debugging libraries.

7.2 Optional: MUST Installation with Dyninst

In order to install MUST with Dyninst support, a full Dyninst installation or a separate installation of the Dyninst Stackwalker API is needed. This usually requires an installation of libdwarf. Installation instructions for these can be found on the Dyninst website³. We tested the integration of dyninst in versions 7.0.1 and 8.0.1 and stackwalkerAPI in versions 2.1 and 8.0.1. For some systems, we identified issues for the older version of dyninst, that are listed in Section 8.2. We suggest to install libdwarf as a shared library (--enable-shared during its configure).

As Dyninst's build support is currently limited to GNU compilers, you should build your application and the tool with binary compatible compilers. To build dyninst with compilers other than GNU, make sure to set the variables CC, CXX, GXX, LD and LINKER for both the configure and the make step (this is not supported).

After a successful installation of the Stackwalker API it is necessary to configure MUST to use this installation. Use the following CMake variables:

- -DUSE_CALLPATH=On Enables the feature
- -DSTACKWALKER_INSTALL_PREFIX= Should point to the directory used for Stackwalker API installation (i.e. prefix given to its configure)

https://github.com/bombela/backward-cpp/#libraries-to-unwind-the-stack

 $^{^2 \}verb|https://github.com/bombela/backward-cpp/#libraries-to-read-the-debug-infollows and the property of the$

³https://www.dyninst.org/

• -DCALLPATH_STACKWALKER_EXTRA_LIBRARIES= Additional libaries that are needed, if libdwarf was built statically, you will need to add an absolute file path to this lib here

Afterwards run make and make install to build and install MUST. When running MUST, no additional steps are needed. However, the stackwalker library will only be able to extract source file names and line numbers if the application was built with the debugging flag -q. Otherwise, it will list symbol addresses and library names instead.

Note that MUST expects that the shared libraries for libdwarf (if built as a shared library) and libelf are in the LD_LIBRARY_PATH.

8 Troubleshooting

The following lists currently known problems or issues and potential workarounds.

8.1 Issues with Ld-Preload

In order to use MUST, your application must be linked against the core library of P^nMPI . Per default, MUST will add this library at execution time by using the ld-preload mechanism. If this causes issues, you can use the following command to manually link the P^nMPI library:

Important: if you manually link against the MPI library, you must add the PⁿMPI library first and the MPI library afterwards.

8.2 Issues with stackwalkerAPI

boost related error while build of MUST with dyninst-8:

```
error: boost/bar_foo.hpp: File not found
```

Solution for boost installation outside of /usr:

Edit mustsrc/modules/Callpath/CMakeLists.txt insert around line 21:

include_directories(/<BOOST_INSTALL_PREFIX>/include)

SEGFAULT on execution of mustrun:

```
rank 0 (of 4), pid 12345 catched signal nr 11
```

without any of the WARNINGs listed below. This issue affects almost every installation.

Solution:

Edit src/dyninst/symtabAPI/src/Object-elf.C around line 2069 and replace:

```
if(secNumber >= 1 && secNumber <= regions_.size()) {
by
  if(secNumber >= 0 && secNumber < regions_.size()) {
... and rebuild / install dyninst</pre>
```

SEGFAULT on execution of mustrun:

```
rank 0 (of 4), pid 12345 catched signal nr 11
```

without any of the WARNINGs listed below and after fixing the issue above.

Solution:

Make sure that you use the same compiler family for building dyninst, PⁿMPI, GTI, MUST and your application!

mustrun reports missing library:

```
WARNING: Can't load module libcallpathModule.so (Error libdwarf.so: cannot open shared object file: No such file or directory)
```

Solution:

Add < LIBDWARF-INSTALLATION-DIR > /lib to $LD_LIBRARY_PATH$ (libdwarf.so should be located there).

9 Copyright and Contact

MUST is distributed under a BSD style license. For details, see the file LICENSE.txt in its package. MUST uses parts of external code, mostly distributed under BSD style license. In any case the license is indicated in the source file, and in the external directories, a LICENSE file can be found. Finally, PⁿMPI is distributed under LGPL license. The license file is located in externals/GTI/externals/PnMPI/LICENSE.

Contact must-feedback@lists.rwth-aachen.de for bug reports, feedback, and feature requests.