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\* \* \*

## # Point-to-point communication

(Since NCCL 2.7) Point-to-point communication can be used to express any communication pattern between ranks. Any point-to-point communication needs two NCCL calls : a call to `ncclSend()` ([./api/p2p.html#c.ncclSend](https://nvidia.github.io/nccl/2.7.0/api/p2p.html#c.ncclSend) "ncclSend") on one rank and a corresponding `ncclRecv()` ([./api/p2p.html#c.ncclRecv](https://nvidia.github.io/nccl/2.7.0/api/p2p.html#c.ncclRecv) "ncclRecv") on the other rank, with the same count and data type.

Multiple calls to `ncclSend()` ([./api/p2p.html#c.ncclSend](https://nvidia.github.io/nccl/2.7.0/api/p2p.html#c.ncclSend) "ncclSend") and `ncclRecv()` ([./api/p2p.html#c.ncclRecv](https://nvidia.github.io/nccl/2.7.0/api/p2p.html#c.ncclRecv) "ncclRecv") targeting different peers can be fused together with `ncclGroupStart()` ([./api/group.html#c.ncclGroupStart](https://nvidia.github.io/nccl/2.7.0/api/group.html#c.ncclGroupStart) "ncclGroupStart") and `ncclGroupEnd()` ([./api/group.html#c.ncclGroupEnd](https://nvidia.github.io/nccl/2.7.0/api/group.html#c.ncclGroupEnd) "ncclGroupEnd") to form more complex communication patterns such as one-to-all (scatter), all-to-one (gather), all-to-all or communication with neighbors in an N-dimensional space.

Point-to-point calls within a group will be blocking until that group of calls completes, but calls within a group can be seen as progressing independently, hence should never block each other. It is therefore important to merge calls that need to progress concurrently to avoid deadlocks.

Below are a few examples of classic point-to-point communication patterns used by parallel applications. NCCL semantics allow for all variants with different sizes, datatypes, and buffers, per rank.

## ## Sendrecv

In MPI terms, a sendrecv operation is when two ranks exchange data, both sending and receiving at the same time. This can be done by merging both ncclSend and ncclRecv calls into one :

```
ncclGroupStart();  
  
ncclSend(sendbuff, sendcount, sendtype, peer, comm, stream);  
  
ncclRecv(recvbuff, recvcount, recvtype, peer, comm, stream);  
  
ncclGroupEnd();
```

## ## One-to-all (scatter)

A one-to-all operation from a `root` rank can be expressed by merging all send and receive operations in a group :

```
ncclGroupStart();  
  
if (rank == root) {  
    for (int r=0; r<n ranks; r++)  
        ncclSend(sendbuff[r], size, type, r, comm, stream);  
}  
  
ncclRecv(recvbuff, size, type, root, comm, stream);
```

```
ncclGroupEnd();
```

```
## All-to-one (gather)¶
```

Similarly, an all-to-one operations to a `root` rank would be implemented this way :

```
ncclGroupStart();  
if (rank == root) {  
    for (int r=0; r<n ranks; r++)  
        ncclRecv(recvbuff[r], size, type, r, comm, stream);  
}  
ncclSend(sendbuff, size, type, root, comm, stream);  
ncclGroupEnd();
```

```
## All-to-all¶
```

An all-to-all operation would be a merged loop of send/recv operations to/from all peers :

```
ncclGroupStart();
```



```

for (int r=0; r<n ranks; r++) {

    ncclSend(sendbuff[r], sendcount, sendtype, r, comm, stream);

    ncclRecv(recvbuff[r], recvcount, recvtype, r, comm, stream);

}

ncclGroupEnd();

```

## Neighbor exchange

Finally, exchanging data with neighbors in an N-dimensions space could be done with :

```

ncclGroupStart();

for (int d=0; d<ndims; d++) {

    ncclSend(sendbuff[d], sendcount, sendtype, next[d], comm, stream);

    ncclRecv(recvbuff[d], recvcount, recvtype, prev[d], comm, stream);

}

ncclGroupEnd();

```

[\[Next \]\(threadsafety.html "Thread Safety"\)](#) [\[ Previous\]\(groups.html "Group Calls"\)](#)

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