

Info Assertions Update

MPI Forum P2P WG
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Info Assertions Big Picture

- Goal: Allow application to provide guarantees about behavior
 - Guarantees about behavior should not be propagated
 - MPI library can ignore them, but application cannot
- MPI runtime can optimize using knowledge about application's behavior
- Examples of assertions on communicators:
 - No wildcards – optimize message matching
 - No message ordering – use adaptive routing
 - No underflow – optimize rendezvous protocol

Info Keys and Assertions Gotchas

- MPI 3.1, Section 6.4.4:
 - “Hints specified via info (see Chapter 9) allow a user to provide information to direct optimization. Providing hints may enable an implementation to deliver increased performance or minimize use of system resources. However, hints do not change the semantics of any MPI interfaces.”
 - Forum opinion was that this text means *both* application and MPI must be able to ignore info hints
- MPI_COMM_DUP also propagates info hints
 - Propagation was added in MPI 3.0
 - Could break libraries if they don't follow application's assertions
 - E.g. if a library is passed a communicator with no_any_source set, duplicates it, then uses MPI_ANY_SOURCE

History of the Proposal

- For a while, disagreement within the Forum
 - P2P WG was asked to develop alternative proposals
 - All options were pretty unappealing
 - Separate assertions API, MPI_T Cvars hack, ...
- Several RMA info keys already change MPI behavior
 - RMA: no_locks, accumulate_ordering, accumulate_ops, alloc_shared_noncontig
 - Spawn: soft, appnum
- Primary issue is propagation
 - Forum guidance: Removing propagation in MPI_Comm_dup poses little risk of breaking backward compatibility

Proposed Info Changes

- Update info semantics
 - Allow hints to convey application behavior
- Update to communicators
 - Remove propagation in MPI_Comm_dup/idup
 - Add idup_with_info to allow propagation in nonblocking API
- Add communicator info assertions:
 - mpi_assert_no_any_source
 - mpi_assert_no_any_tag
 - mpi_assert_exact_length
 - mpi_assert_allow_overtaking

Can Apps Use These Assertions?

(Simple grep of CORAL, NPB, and Sequoia benchmarks)

		MPI_ANY_SOURCE	MPI_ANY_TAG	MPI_Get_count
CORAL				
Datacentric	BigSort-20130808	N	N	N
Datacentric	kmi_hash	Y	N	Y
Micro	HACCmk	N	N	N
Micro	MILCmk-v1	N	N	N
Micro	UMTmk1.2	N	N	N
Micro	amgmk-v1.0	N	N	N
Micro	nekbone_kernel-2.0	N	N	N
Micro	stassuij	N	N	N
Science	HACC	Y	N	Y
Science	LSMS_3_rev237	Y	Y	N
Science	nekbone-2.3.4	Y	N	Y
Science	qball_r140	N	N	N
Skeleton	ALCF_MPI_Benchmark_v1.01.BGQ	N	N	N
Skeleton	HACC_IO_KERNEL	N	N	N
Skeleton	IOR	N	N	N
Skeleton	LCALS-v1.0.1_Benchmark	N	N	N
Skeleton	MADNESS	Y	N	Y
Skeleton	STRIDE_v1.1	N	N	N
Skeleton	XSBench	N	N	N
Skeleton	clomp_v1.2	N	N	N
Skeleton	ftqV110	N	N	N
Skeleton	dynamic-1.3	Y	Y	Y
Throughput	AMG2013	PROBE	N	Y
Throughput	UMT2013	N	N	N
Throughput	homme1_3_6	Y	Y	N
Throughput	lulesh	N	N	N
Throughput	mcb-20130723	N	N	N
Throughput	miniFE_openmp-2.0-rc3	N	N	N
Throughput	qmcpack-coral	Y	N	Y
Throughput	snap-v1.04	N	N	N

		MPI_ANY_SOURCE	MPI_ANY_TAG	MPI_Get_count
NPB	BT	N	N	N
	CG	N	N	N
	DT	N	N	N
	EP	N	N	N
	FT	N	N	N
	IS	N	N	N
	LU	N	N	N
	MG	N	N	N
	SP	N	N	N
Sequoia	AMG2006	Y	Y	Y
	AMGmk_v1.0	N	N	N
	CrystalMk_v1.0	N	N	N
	IOR-2.10.1_sequoia-1.0	Y	Y	N
	IRSmk_v1.0	N	N	N
	STRIDE_v1.1	N	N	N
	UMT_v1.1	N	N	N
	UMTmk_1.1	N	N	N
	clomp_v1.0	N	N	N
	irs.1.0	N	N	N
	lammps-22Jun07	Y	N	Y
	phloem-1.0.0	N	Y	N
	dynamic_v1.0	Y	Y	Y
	sphot_v1.0	Y	Y	N

*Note: Did not look at libraries, CORAL apps use FFTW, HDF5, MKL

Can Implementations Use Assertions?

- No wildcards (`mpi_assert_no_any_source`, `mpi_assert_no_any_tag`)
 - *The process will not use MPI_ANY_TAG/SOURCE on the given communicator*
 - Enables message matching optimizations
 - Use hash tables for posted receive and unexpected message queues
 - Reduce overheads from managing MPI_ANY_SOURCE operations when separate shared memory / network queues are used
- No message ordering (`mpi_assert_allow_overtaking`)
 - *Point-to-point comm. does not require operations to match in the order posted*
 - Enables network ordering optimizations
 - Use adaptive routing for networks that use ordered mode for envelope info
 - Reduce overheads for networks that do receiver-side reordering prior to matching
- No underflow (`mpi_assert_exact_length`)
 - *Lengths of messages received equal lengths of the receive buffers*
 - With underflow, receiver does not know if sender will use eager or rdzv.
 - Allows receiver to know ahead of time and optimize xfer protocols
 - Can handle eager/rendezvous through separate mechanisms

Logistics

- Used old-style markup to generate color PDF
 - PR contains the markup
 - If reading is successful, WG will generate a clean PR prior to voting
- Without further ado ...