

# A Clock-Based Approach to Detect Memory Consistency Errors in MPI One-Sided Communication

Michael Shell  
*School of Electrical and  
Computer Engineering  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0250*

Email: <http://www.michaelshell.org/contact.html>

Homer Simpson  
*Twentieth Century Fox  
Springfield, USA*  
Email: [homer@thesimpsons.com](mailto:homer@thesimpsons.com) San Francisco, California 96678-2391

James Kirk  
and Montgomery Scott  
*Starfleet Academy*  
Telephone: (800) 555-1212  
Fax: (888) 555-1212

**Abstract**—The abstract goes here.

## 1. Introduction

## 2. Memory Consistency Errors

- What is a memory consistency error?
- Showing several examples of memory consistency errors

## 3. MC-Checker

There are three modules in MC-Checker:

- ST-Analyzer
- Profiler
- DN-Analyzer

## 4. Our Clock-Based Approach

There are three modules in our clock-based approach: Analyzer, Profiler and Detector.

- 1) Analyzer is implemented by
  - a) static analysis
  - b) text processing
- 2) Profiler is implemented by MPI Profiling as follows:
  - a) For MPI\_Win\_fence, MPI\_Barrier: using PMPI\_Allgather to update vector clocks
  - b) For MPI\_Win\_post/complete: using PMPI\_Send to update vector clocks
  - c) For MPI\_Win\_start/wait: using PMPI\_Recv to update vector clocks
  - d) For MPI\_Send: using PMPI\_Pack to update vector clocks
  - e) For MPI\_Recv: using PMPI\_Unpack to update vector clocks
- 3) Detector

- a) Matching synchronization calls
- b) Detecting conflicting operations within an epoch
- c) Detecting conflicting operations across processes

## 5. Evaluation

- Correctness
- Slowdown
- Memory Usage

## 6. Discussion

## 7. Related Work

The following are some debugging tools or techniques to detect bugs in MPI one-sided communication:

- Marmot [1]
- [2]
- “Mirror Memory” [3]
- SyncChecker [4]
- MC-Checker [5]
- Nasty-MPI [6], [7]

## 8. Conclusions and Future Work

- The size of vector clocks

## Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank...

## References

- [1] B. Krammer and M. M. Resch, “Correctness checking of mpi one-sided communication using marmot,” in *European Parallel Virtual Machine/Message Passing Interface Users Group Meeting*. Springer, 2006, pp. 105–114.

- [2] S. Pervez, G. Gopalakrishnan, R. M. Kirby, R. Thakur, and W. Gropp, "Formal verification of programs that use mpi one-sided communication," in *European Parallel Virtual Machine/Message Passing Interface Users Group Meeting*. Springer, 2006, pp. 30–39.
- [3] M.-Y. Park and S.-H. Chung, "Detecting race conditions in one-sided communication of mpi programs," in *Computer and Information Science, 2009. ICIS 2009. Eighth IEEE/ACIS International Conference on*. IEEE, 2009, pp. 867–872.
- [4] Z. Chen, X. Li, J.-Y. Chen, H. Zhong, and F. Qin, "Syncchecker: Detecting synchronization errors between mpi applications and libraries," in *Parallel & Distributed Processing Symposium (IPDPS), 2012 IEEE 26th International*. IEEE, 2012, pp. 342–353.
- [5] Z. Chen, J. Dinan, Z. Tang, P. Balaji, H. Zhong, J. Wei, T. Huang, and F. Qin, "Mc-checker: Detecting memory consistency errors in mpi one-sided applications," in *Proceedings of the International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis*. IEEE Press, 2014, pp. 499–510.
- [6] R. Kowalewski and K. F rlinger, "Nasty-mpi: Debugging synchronization errors in mpi-3 one-sided applications," in *European Conference on Parallel Processing*. Springer, 2016, pp. 51–62.
- [7] —, "Debugging latent synchronization errors in mpi-3 one-sided communication," pp. 83–96, 2017.