MPI - The Message Passing Interface

The Message Passing Interface (MPI) was first standardized in 1994. De facto standard for distributed memory machines. All Top500 machines (http://www.top500.org) are distributed memory machines.

The Message Passing Paradigm:

- Processors can access local memory only
- but can communicate using messages.
- In the messages data from the local memory of one processor
- is transfered to the local memory of another processor.
- Passing messages is magnitudes slower than access to local memory.

Examples (2011):

- Latency Infiniband $< 2 \mu$ s, max 15m cable
- Bandwidth Infiniband > 20 Gbit/s
- Latency Myrinet $2.6 \mu s$,
- Bandwidth Myrinet > 10 Gbit/s,
- (Latency GigE standard commodity network $> 100~\mu s$)
- (Latency GigE standard ommodity network < 1 Gbit/s)

The bandwidth is not much higher than in commodity networks such as GigE. But Latency is!

Advantages of MPI

Message Passing is designed for **distributed memory** machines. But it can also improve speed of shared memory programs because the programmer has explicit control over the data locality. Message Passing is then not implemented using network devices but simply as write to the shared memory \Rightarrow You don't loose anything apart from the function call.

One of the most obscure errors in shared memory parallel machines is illegal write to the shared memory. In Message Passing such writes are always explicit \Rightarrow May be **simpler to debug**.

MPI is implemented as a **library**, i.e. a set of **functions to call**, not as a programming language. Binding to many languages exist, notably C, C++, Python (!) and Fortran. There are open MPI implementations (mpich, openmpi, lam) but for high performance machines it is often vendor provided and vendor tuned.

MPI is **portable**, it is a standard, not an implementation;

The MPI paradigm is a set of processes which communicate using messages. They may run on a single processor but that is very inefficient!

Communicator

A group of processes communicating using MPI is identified using a **communicator**. The communicator containing all processes is MPI_COMM_WORLD (a macro defined in mpi.h).

Every processor within a communicator has a rank from 0 to size-1.

On the cluster you first load the module mpich/ge/gcc/64/1.2.7

[rheinba@login01 ~]\$ module load mpich/ge/gcc/64/1.2.7

or shorter

[rheinba@login01 ~]\$ module load mpich/ge/gcc/

You can get help on mpicc using

[rheinba@login01 ~]\$ mpicc -help

module avail will tell you all available modules.

Compiling

mpicc

or for C++

 ${\tt mpiCC}$

or for Fortran

mpif77

MPI Example Program (C)

```
#include "mpi.h"
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv)
  int rank, size, err;
 MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);
  err=MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&size);
  err=MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&rank);
 printf("Hello world!\n");
 printf("rank=%d size=%d\n",rank,size);
 MPI_Finalize();
 return 0;
```

MPI Example Program (C) – Compile and Run

```
~/mpi>mpicc mpi_hello.c -ompi_hello
~/mpi>./mpi_hello

~/mpi> mpirun -np 2 ./a.out
Hello world!
rank=0 size=2
Hello world!
rank=1 size=2
err is either MPI_SUCCESS or not equal to MPI_SUCCESS.
```

Example Program (Fortran)

```
Fortran 77:
        program main
        include "mpif.h"
        integer rank, size, err;
        call MPI_Init(err);
        call MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD, size, err)
        call MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, rank, err)
        print *,'Hello world!'
        print *,'rank=',rank,' size=',size
        call MPI_Finalize(err);
        end
```

Example Program (C++)

```
#include "mpi.h"
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv)
  int rank, size;
 MPI::Init(argc, argv);
  size=MPI::COMM_WORLD.Get_size();
  rank=MPI::COMM_WORLD.Get_rank();
 printf("Hello C++-world!\n");
 printf("rank=%d size=%d\n",rank,size);
 MPI::Finalize();
 return 0;
```

MPI Example Program (C++) – Compile and Run

```
~/mpi> mpiCC mpi_hello.cpp
~/mpi> mpirun -np 3 ./a.out

Hello C++-world!
rank=0 size=3
Hello C++-world!
rank=2 size=3
Hello C++-world!
rank=1 size=3
```

MPICH

MPICH is one of the most common implementations of MPI.

MPICH supports several different communications "devices", such as myrinet, infiniband and TCP. The "ch_p4" device is the TCP device. It is the usual device, unless you have special, high-speed interconnects between your machines.

MPI Broadcast

Declaration:

Description: Broadcasts the message in buffer of process with rank root to all processes ("root" of the send tree). Note that ALL processes call MPI_Bcast()! Processes (except root) will block until they have received the message.

Example C:

```
err=MPI_Bcast(&n, 1, MPI_INT, root, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
int buffer[4]={0,1,2,3};
int count=4;
root=0;
err=MPI_Bcast(buffer, count, MPI_INT, root, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
Fortran
call MPI_BCast(n,1,MPI_INTEGER,0,MPI_COMM_WORLD,err)
```

Broadcast Example Program

```
#include "mpi.h"
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv)
  int rank, size, err, n;
 MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);
 MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&size);
 MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&rank);
 printf("Hello world!\n");
 printf("rank=%d size=%d\n",rank,size);
  err=MPI_Barrier(MPI_COMM_WORLD);
 n=(rank+1)*4711;
 err=MPI_Bcast(&n,1,MPI_INT,0,MPI_COMM_WORLD);
 printf(" Received =%d\n",n);
 return 0;
```

~/mpi> mpicc mpi_bcast.c

Broadcast Example Output

```
~/mpi> mpirun -np 3 ./a.out
Hello world!
rank=0 size=3
   Received =4711
Hello world!
rank=2 size=3
   Received =4711
Hello world!
rank=1 size=3
   Received =4711
The most important MPI_Datatype are in C:
MPI_INT, MPI_LONG, MPI_FLOAT, MPI_DOUBLE, MPI_LONG_DOUBLE, MPI_CHAR,
MPI_LONG_DOUBLE, MPI_UNSIGNED, MPI_UNSINGED_LONG
and in FORTRAN:
MPI_INTEGER, MPI_REA1, MPI_DOUBLE_PRECISION, MPI_CHARACTER, MPI_COMPLEX,
MPI LOGICAL
```

MPI Reduction

Declaration:

```
int MPI_Reduce(void *sendbuf, void *receivebuf, int count, MPI_Datatype
datatype, MPI_Op op, int root, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
```

Description:

Reduces the buffers using the operation to the buffer belonging to root. The receivebuf on root is overwritten with the sum! Unlike Allreduce, only the root blocks.

Example call:

```
MPI_Reduce(&sum, &pi, 1, MPI_DOUBLE, MPI_SUM, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
```

MPI Reduction Example Program

```
#include "mpi.h"
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv)
  int rank, size, err, n, sum;
 MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);
 MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&size);
 MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&rank);
 printf("Hello world!\n");
 printf("rank=%d size=%d\n",rank,size);
  err=MPI_Barrier(MPI_COMM_WORLD);
 n=rank+1;
 err=MPI_Reduce(&n,&sum,1,MPI_INT,MPI_SUM,0,MPI_COMM_WORLD);
  if(rank==0)
   printf(" Received =%d\n", sum);
 return 0;
```

MPI Reduction Output

```
~/mpi> mpicc mpi_reduction.c -ompi_reduction
~/mpi> mpirun -np 3 mpi_reduction

Hello world!
rank=0 size=3
Hello world!
rank=2 size=3
    Received =6
Hello world!
rank=1 size=3
```

Important operations are MPI_SUM, MPI_MAX, MPI_MIN, MPI_MAXLOC (also gives rank of min), MPI_MINLOC, MPI_LAND (logical and), MPI_LOR, MPI_LXOR, MPI_BAND (bitwise and), MPI_BOR, MPI_BXOR.

Data types for MPI Reductions

```
/* Collective operations in mpi.h */
typedef int MPI_Op;
                   (MPI_Op)(100)
#define MPI_MAX
                   (MPI_Op)(101)
#define MPI_MIN
                   (MPI_0p)(102)
#define MPI_SUM
                   (MPI_Op)(103)
#define MPI_PROD
#define MPI_LAND
                   (MPI_Op)(104)
                   (MPI_Op)(105)
#define MPI_BAND
                   (MPI_Op)(106)
#define MPI_LOR
                   (MPI_Op)(107)
#define MPI BOR
                   (MPI_Op)(108)
#define MPI_LXOR
                   (MPI_Op)(109)
#define MPI_BXOR
#define MPI_MINLOC (MPI_Op)(110)
#define MPI_MAXLOC (MPI_Op)(111)
```

MPI Allreduce

Declaration:

Description:

Reduces the buffers using the operation to all ranks.

Example call:

```
MPI_Allreduce(&n,&sum,1,MPI_INT,MPI_SUM,MPI_COMM_WORLD);
```

Allreduce Example Program

```
#include "mpi.h"
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
  int rank, size, err, n, sum;
  MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);
  MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&size);
 MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&rank);
  printf("Hello world!\n");
  printf("rank=%d size=%d\n",rank,size);
 n=rank+1:
  MPI_Barrier(MPI_COMM_WORLD);
  MPI Reduce(&n,&sum,1,MPI INT,MPI SUM,0,MPI COMM WORLD);
  printf("
            Received reduce=%d\n",sum);
 MPI_Barrier(MPI_COMM_WORLD);
 MPI_Allreduce(&n,&sum,1,MPI_INT,MPI_SUM,MPI_COMM_WORLD);
 printf(" Received Allreduce =%d\n",sum);
  return 0;
```

Allreduce Example Output

```
~/mpi> mpicc mpi_allreduction.c -ompi_allreduction.c
~/mpi> mpirun -np 3 mpi_allreduction
Hello world!
rank=0 size=3
   Received reduce=6
   Received Allreduce =6
Hello world!
rank=2 size=3
   Received reduce=1075047376
   Received Allreduce =6
Hello world!
rank=1 size=3
   Received reduce=1075047376
   Received Allreduce =6
```

Remark: Note that after the reduction only rank 0 has obtained the sum!

Note: partial sums can be computed using MPI_Scan with MPI_SUM.

Measuring Walltime

MPI has builtin functions to measure walltime (i.e. the clock on the wall as opposed to user time etc.).

Usage:

```
double starttime,endtime;

MPI_Barrier(MPI_COMM_WORLD);
starttime=MPI_Wtime();
...

MPI_Barrier(MPI_COMM_WORLD);
endtime=MPI_Wtime();
```

MPI Send

Declaration:

```
int MPI_Send(void * buf, int count, MPI_Datatype datatype, int dest, int tag,
MPI_Comm comm);
```

Description:

Sends buf from calling process to dest. The integer value tag is an ID from 0...32767 (minimum guaranteed by the standard).

Example call:

```
MPI_Send(&n,1,MPI_INT,1,112,MPI_COMM_WORLD);
```

MPI Receive

Declaration:

int MPI_Recv(void * buf, int count, MPI_Datatype datatype, int source, int tag,
MPI_Comm comm, MPI_Status *status);

Description:

Will receive a message from source (or source=MPI_ANY_SOURCE). Will only accept messages with tag (or tag=MPI_ANY_TAG).

Example call:

MPI_Recv(&n,1,MPI_INT,MPI_ANY_SOURCE,MPI_ANY_TAG,MPI_COMM_WORLD,&status);

MPI Receive Example Program

```
#include "mpi.h"
#include <stdio.h>
int main(int argc, char **argv)
  int rank, size;
 MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);
 MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&size);
 MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&rank);
 printf("Hello world!\n");
 printf("rank=%d size=%d\n",rank,size);
  if(rank==0)
    {
    int n=4711;
   MPI_Send(&n,1,MPI_INT,1,112,MPI_COMM_WORLD);
    }
```

. . .

MPI Receive Example Program (continued)

• • •

```
if(rank==1)
    {
    int n=0;
    MPI_Status status;
    MPI_Recv(&n,1,MPI_INT,MPI_ANY_SOURCE,MPI_ANY_TAG,MPI_COMM_WORLD,&status);
    printf("n=%d\n",n);
    }
    MPI_Finalize();
    return 0;
}
```

MPI Receive Example Output

```
~/mpi> mpicc mpi_sendreceive.c
~/mpi> mpirun -np 2 ./a.out

Hello world!
rank=0 size=2
Hello world!
rank=1 size=2
n=4711
```

Get MPI Version

Declaration:

```
int MPI_Get_version(int *version, int *subversion);
int MPI_Get_processor_name(char *name, int *resultlen);
```

Description:

Get Information about the MPI Version and the architecture.

Example call:

```
MPI_Get_version(&version, &subversion);
MPI_Get_processor_name(name, &len);
```

MPI AlltoAll

Declaration:

Description: MPI_ALLTOALL sends a distinct message from each task to every task. The jth block of data sent from task i is received by task j and placed in the ith block of the buffer recybuf.

Example call:

MPI Barrier

```
err=MPI_Barrier(MPI_COMM_WORLD);
In C:
mpicc mm.c -omm.c
mpirun -np 4 ./mm
In Fortran:
mpif77 mm.f -omm
mpirun -np 4 ./mm
In Fortran:
mpif90 mm.f -omm
mpirun -np 4 ./mm
```

Debugging MPI: Some MPE extensions

MPE is a library provided with MPICH.

You can use logging with MPE:

Initalize, then give numbers and names to the events. Then log using the numbers, an optional number to output and an optional string to output MPE_Log_event(5,0,nothing");

```
#include "mpi.h"
#include "mpe.h"
#include <stdio.h>

// ~/mpi> mpicc -lmpe mpi_bcast_mpe_logging.c
// ~/mpi> export MPE_LOG_FORMAT=ALOG for processing with upshot
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
   int rank, size, err, n;
   MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);

MPE_Init_log();
```

```
MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&size);
MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD,&rank);
n=(rank+1)*4711;
MPE_Describe_state(1,2,"Bcast", "red:vlines3");
MPE_Describe_state(3,4,"Barrier", "yellow:gray");
MPE_Describe_state(5,6,"IO", "blue:gray3");
MPE_Log_event(5,0,"nothing");
printf("Hello world!\n");
printf("rank=%d size=%d\n",rank,size);
MPE_Log_event(6,0,"nothing");
MPE_Log_event(3,1,"barrierstart");
err=MPI_Barrier(MPI_COMM_WORLD);
MPE_Log_event(4,1,"barrierend");
MPE_Log_event(1,0,"Bcast");
err=MPI_Bcast(&n,1,MPI_INT,0,MPI_COMM_WORLD);
MPE_Log_event(2,0,"Bcast");
printf("
          Received =%d\n",n);
```

```
MPE_Finish_log("mpelog.txt");
MPI_Finalize();
return 0;
}
```

The output can by analized using upshot or logviewer, a script provided with mpe, or jumpshot a java program. See also the man-pages in the mpich/man directory. Read them by man -1 MPI_Issend.3.

Output of upshot

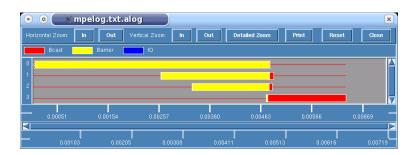


Abbildung 1: Output of upshot. Set MPE_LOG_FORMAT to "ALOG".

Note that there are also some basic graphics capabilities in MPE:

Communicators

Sometimes it is convenient to use collective operations like summing or synchronization on subgroups. For this you can create new communicators additional to MPI_COMM_WORLD. Here it is done by excluding the process 0 from the communicator. You extract the group from the communicator then exclude the process then create a communicator from the group. Using the communicators is possible after freeing the groups.

```
MPI_Comm world, subworld;
MPI_Group world_group, subworld_group;
int ranks[1];
ranks[0]=0;
world=MPI_COMM_WORLD;
MPI_Comm_group(world,&world_group);
MPI_Group_excl(world_group,1,ranks,&subworld_group);
MPI_Comm_create(world,subworld_group,&subworld);
MPI_Group_free(&subworld_group);
MPI_Group_free(&subworld_group);
```

Splitting Communicators

You can also split communicators using

```
int MPI_Comm_split(MPI_Comm oldcomm, int color, int key, MPI_Comm *newcomm);
```

The new communicator includes all the processes giving the same color as argument. Using key the sorting in the new communicator can be influenced.

We can now create the subworld from above using

```
MPI_Comm_split(world,rank==0,0,&subworld);
```

Optimization: Overlapping Communication and Computation

Declaration:

Description:

Overlaps computation and communication: Use calls to MPI_Isent and MPI_Irecv and then do computations. The usage is exactly as MPI_Send() - only make sure not to change the buf before everything was sent. This function does not have a status variable.

MPI Wait

To wait for a send by MPI_Isent to finish use

Status is only good for checking for errors.

MPI Waitall

To wait for all open requests use

MPI Test

To test if the request was send use

MPI Irecv

To receive use

```
int MPI_Irecv( void *buf, int count, MPI_Datatype datatype,
                      int source,
                      int tag, MPI_Comm comm, MPI_Request *request )
INPUT PARAMETERS
             - initial address of receive buffer (choice)
      buf
       count - number of elements in receive buffer (integer)
      datatype
              - datatype of each receive buffer element (handle)
      source - rank of source (integer)
      tag - message tag (integer)
              - communicator (handle)
       COMM
OUTPUT PARAMETER
      request
              - communication request (handle)
```

Manual pages

Use

rheinbach@hilbert:~/sync/mpich-1.2.5.2/man/man3> man -l MPI_Isend.3

to learn more. The receiver can also use MPI_Wait() and MPI_Test() to wait/test for the receive to finish.

There is also a save sent that blocks until the received has started to receive it is called MPI_Ssend.

Sending and receiving at the same time

Sometimes it is more economical to send and receive at the same time.

```
int MPI_Sendrecv(void *sendbuf, int sendcount, MPI_Datatype sendtype,
                int dest, int sendtag,
                void *recvbuf, int recvcount, MPI_Datatype recvtype,
                int source, int recvtag,
                MPI_Comm comm, MPI_Status *status )
INPUT PARAMETERS
      sendbuf - initial address of send buffer (choice)
       sendcount - number of elements in send buffer (integer)
      sendtype - type of elements in send buffer (handle)
      dest
                - rank of destination (integer)
      sendtag - send tag (integer)
      recvcount - number of elements in receive buffer (integer)
      recvtype - type of elements in receive buffer (handle)
      source - rank of source (integer)
      recvtag - receive tag (integer)
                - communicator (handle)
       COMM
OUTPUT PARAMETERS
      recybuf - initial address of receive buffer (choice)
                - status object (Status). This refers to the receive operation.
      status
```

Gathers and Scatters: MPI Gather

Declaration:

```
int MPI_Gather ( void *sendbuf, int sendcnt, MPI_Datatype sendtype,
                       void *recvbuf, int recvcount, MPI_Datatype recvtype,
                       int root, MPI Comm comm )
INPUT PARAMETERS
      sendbuf - starting address of send buffer (choice)
      sendcount - number of elements in send buffer (integer)
      sendtype - data type of send buffer elements (handle)
      recvcount - number of elements for any single receive (inte-
                  ger, significant only at root)
      recvtype - data type of recv buffer elements (significant
                  only at root) (handle)
                - rank of receiving process (integer)
      root
                - communicator (handle)
      COMM
OUTPUT PARAMETER
      recvbuf - address of receive buffer (choice, significant
                  only at root )
```

Description: Gathers buffers from all processes in a large array of the root process.

Gathers and Scatters: MPI Gather (2)

Example call:

Remark: You may wonder why you have to give recvcount since you could always define it as the same as sendcount. But since recvtype is provided (and possibly recvtype!=sendtype) it is clear that you also have to provide recvcount. In MPI the receiver always has to know beforehand how much data it will receive.

Gather and Scatter: MPI Allgather

Gather plus a broadcast can more efficiently be handled by MPI_Allgather: The block of data sent from the jth process is received by every process and placed in the jth block of the buffer recybuf.

```
NAME
      MPI_Allgather - Gathers data from all tasks and distribute it to all
SYNOPSIS
       #include "mpi.h"
       int MPI_Allgather ( void *sendbuf, int sendcount, MPI_Datatype sendtype,
                           void *recvbuf, int recvcount, MPI_Datatype recvtype,
                          MPI Comm comm )
TNPUT PARAMETERS
       sendbuf - starting address of send buffer (choice)
       sendcount - number of elements in send buffer (integer)
       sendtype - data type of send buffer elements (handle)
       recvcount - number of elements received from any process (integer)
       recvtype - data type of receive buffer elements (handle)
                 - communicator (handle)
       comm
OUTPUT PARAMETER
       recybuf - address of receive buffer (choice)
```

MPI Gathery and MPI Allgathery

There is also MPI_Gatherv and MPI_Allgatherv. Here you can specify the location where the an additional array int *displs is given with the location where to write the received data.

MPI Scatter (1)

The inverse operation is a scatter

MPI Scatter (2)

INPUT PARAMETERS

```
sendbuf - address of send buffer (choice, significant only at root)
sendcount - number of elements sent to each process (integer, significant only sendtype - data type of send buffer elements (significant only at root) (he recvcount - number of elements in receive buffer (integer)
recvtype - data type of receive buffer elements (handle)
root - rank of sending process (integer)
comm - communicator (handle)
```

OUTPUT PARAMETER

recvbuf - address of receive buffer (choice)