This call creates an intercommunicator from the union of two MPI processes which are connected by a socket. MPI_COMM_JOIN should normally succeed if the local and remote processes have access to the same implementation-defined MPI communication universe.

> *Advice to users.* An MPI implementation may require a specific communication medium for MPI communication, such as a shared memory segment or a special switch. In this case, it may not be possible for two processes to successfully join even if there is a socket connecting them and they are using the same MPI implementation. (*End of advice to users.*)

> *Advice to implementors.* A high-quality implementation will attempt to establish communication over a slow medium if its preferred one is not available. If implementations do not do this, they must document why they cannot do MPI communication over the medium used by the socket (especially if the socket is a TCP connection). (*End of advice to implementors.*)

fd is a file descriptor representing a socket of type SOCK_STREAM (a two-way reliable byte-stream connection). Nonblocking I/O and asynchronous notification via SIGIO must not be enabled for the socket. The socket must be in a connected state. The socket must be quiescent when MPI_COMM_JOIN is called (see below). It is the responsibility of the application to create the socket using standard socket API calls.

MPI_COMM_JOIN must be called by the process at each end of the socket. It does not return until both processes have called MPI_COMM_JOIN. The two processes are referred to as the local and remote processes.

MPI uses the socket to bootstrap creation of the intercommunicator, and for nothing else. Upon return from MPI_COMM_JOIN, the file descriptor will be open and quiescent (see below).

If MPI is unable to create an intercommunicator, but is able to leave the socket in its original state, with no pending communication, it succeeds and sets intercomm to MPI_COMM_NULL.

The socket must be quiescent before MPI_COMM_JOIN is called and after MPI_COMM_JOIN returns. More specifically, on entry to MPI_COMM_JOIN, a `read` on the socket will not read any data that was written to the socket before the remote process called MPI_COMM_JOIN. On exit from MPI_COMM_JOIN, a `read` will not read any data that was written to the socket before the remote process returned from MPI_COMM_JOIN. It is the responsibility of the application to ensure the first condition, and the responsibility of the MPI implementation to ensure the second. In a multithreaded application, the application must ensure that one thread does not access the socket while another is calling MPI_COMM_JOIN, or call MPI_COMM_JOIN concurrently.

> *Advice to implementors.* MPI is free to use any available communication path(s) for MPI messages in the new communicator; the socket is only used for the initial handshaking. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

MPI_COMM_JOIN uses non-MPI communication to do its work. The interaction of non-MPI communication with pending MPI communication is not defined. Therefore, the result of calling MPI_COMM_JOIN on two connected processes (see Section 10.5.4 on page 318 for the definition of connected) is undefined.

The returned communicator may be used to establish MPI communication with additional processes, through the usual MPI communicator creation mechanisms.