D R A F T
Document for a Standard Message-Passing Interface

Message Passing Interface Forum

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Chapter 16

Language Bindings

16.1 C++

16.1.1 Overview

The C++ language bindings have been deprecated. A compliant MPI implementation providing C++ language bindings must provide the entire set defined in this document. ticket279.

There are some issues specific to C++ that must be considered in the design of an interface that go beyond the simple description of language bindings. In particular, in C++, we must be concerned with the design of objects and their interfaces, rather than just the design of a language-specific functional interface to MPI. Fortunately, the design of MPI was based on the notion of objects, so a natural set of classes is already part of MPI.

MPI-2 includes C++ bindings as part of its function specifications. In some cases, MPI-2 provides new names for the C bindings of MPI-1 functions. In this case, the C++ binding matches the new C name — there is no binding for the deprecated name.

16.1.2 Design

The C++ language interface for MPI is designed according to the following criteria:

1. The C++ language interface consists of a small set of classes with a lightweight functional interface to MPI. The classes are based upon the fundamental MPI object types (e.g., communicator, group, etc.).

2. The MPI C++ language bindings provide a semantically correct interface to MPI.

3. To the greatest extent possible, the C++ bindings for MPI functions are member functions of MPI classes.

   Rationale. Providing a lightweight set of MPI objects that correspond to the basic MPI types is the best fit to MPI's implicit object-based design; methods can be supplied for these objects to realize MPI functionality. The existing C bindings can be used in C++ programs, but much of the expressive power of the C++ language is forfeited. On the other hand, while a comprehensive class library would make user programming more elegant, such a library it is not suitable as a language binding for MPI since a binding must provide a direct and unambiguous mapping to the specified functionality of MPI. (*End of rationale.*)

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16.1.3 C++ Classes for MPI

All MPI classes, constants, and functions are declared within the scope of an MPI namespace. Thus, instead of the MPI_ prefix that is used in C and Fortran, MPI functions essentially have an MPI:: prefix.

The members of the MPI namespace are those classes corresponding to objects implicitly used by MPI. An abbreviated definition of the MPI namespace and its member classes is as follows:

```
namespace MPI {
  class Comm                              {...};
  class Intracomm : public Comm           {...};
  class Graphcomm : public Intracomm      {...};
  class Distgraphcomm : public Intracomm {...};
  class Cartcomm  : public Intracomm      {...};
  class Intercomm : public Comm           {...};
  class Datatype                          {...};
  class Errhandler                        {...};
  class Exception                         {...};
  class File                              {...};
  class Group                             {...};
  class Info                              {...};
  class Op                                {...};
  class Request                           {...};
  class Prequest  : public Request        {...};
  class Grequest  : public Request        {...};
  class Status                            {...};
  class Win                               {...};
};
```

Note that there are a small number of derived classes, and that virtual inheritance is *not* used.

16.1.4 Class Member Functions for MPI

Besides the member functions which constitute the C++ language bindings for MPI, the C++ language interface has additional functions (as required by the C++ language). In particular, the C++ language interface must provide a constructor and destructor, an assignment operator, and comparison operators.

The complete set of C++ language bindings for MPI is presented in Annex ??. The bindings take advantage of some important C++ features, such as references and const. Declarations (which apply to all MPI member classes) for construction, destruction, copying, assignment, comparison, and mixed-language operability are also provided.

Except where indicated, all non-static member functions (except for constructors and the assignment operator) of MPI member classes are virtual functions.

Rationale. Providing virtual member functions is an important part of design for inheritance. Virtual functions can be bound at run-time, which allows users of libraries to re-define the behavior of objects already contained in a library. There is a small performance penalty that must be paid (the virtual function must be looked up before it can be called). However, users concerned about this performance penalty can force compile-time function binding. (*End of rationale.*)

Example 16.1 Example showing a derived MPI class.

```
class foo_comm : public MPI::Intracomm {
public:
  void Send(const void* buf, int count, const MPI::Datatype& type,
            int dest, int tag) const
  {
    // Class library functionality
    MPI::Intracomm::Send(buf, count, type, dest, tag);
    // More class library functionality
  }
};
```

Advice to implementors. Implementors must be careful to avoid unintended side effects from class libraries that use inheritance, especially in layered implementations. For example, if MPI_BCAST is implemented by repeated calls to MPI_SEND or MPI_RECV, the behavior of MPI_BCAST cannot be changed by derived communicator classes that might redefine MPI_SEND or MPI_RECV. The implementation of MPI_BCAST must explicitly use the MPI_SEND (or MPI_RECV) of the base `MPI::Comm` class. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

16.1.5 Semantics

The semantics of the member functions constituting the C++ language binding for MPI are specified by the MPI function description itself. Here, we specify the semantics for those portions of the C++ language interface that are not part of the language binding. In this subsection, functions are prototyped using the type `MPI::`⟨`CLASS`⟩ rather than listing each function for every MPI class; the word ⟨`CLASS`⟩ can be replaced with any valid MPI class name (e.g., `Group`), except as noted.

Construction / Destruction The default constructor and destructor are prototyped as follows:

{ `MPI::<CLASS>()` *(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2)* }

{ `~MPI::<CLASS>()` *(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2)* }

In terms of construction and destruction, opaque MPI user level objects behave like handles. Default constructors for all MPI objects except MPI::Status create corresponding MPI::*_NULL handles. That is, when an MPI object is instantiated, comparing it with its corresponding MPI::*_NULL object will return `true`. The default constructors do not create new MPI opaque objects. Some classes have a member function `Create()` for this purpose.

Example 16.2 In the following code fragment, the test will return `true` and the message will be sent to `cout`.

```
void foo()
{
  MPI::Intracomm bar;

  if (bar == MPI::COMM_NULL)
    cout << "bar is MPI::COMM_NULL" << endl;
}
```

The destructor for each MPI user level object does *not* invoke the corresponding MPI_*_FREE function (if it exists).

> *Rationale.* MPI_*_FREE functions are not automatically invoked for the following reasons:
>
> 1. Automatic destruction contradicts the shallow-copy semantics of the MPI classes.
> 2. The model put forth in MPI makes memory allocation and deallocation the responsibility of the user, not the implementation.
> 3. Calling MPI_*_FREE upon destruction could have unintended side effects, including triggering collective operations (this also affects the copy, assignment, and construction semantics). In the following example, we would want neither `foo_comm` nor `bar_comm` to automatically invoke MPI_*_FREE upon exit from the function.
>
> ```
> void example_function()
> {
>   MPI::Intracomm foo_comm(MPI::COMM_WORLD), bar_comm;
>   bar_comm = MPI::COMM_WORLD.Dup();
>   // rest of function
> }
> ```
>
> (*End of rationale.*)

Copy / Assignment The copy constructor and assignment operator are prototyped as follows:

{ `MPI::<CLASS>(const MPI::<CLASS>& data)` *(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2)* }

{ `MPI::<CLASS>& MPI::<CLASS>::operator=(const MPI::<CLASS>& data)` *(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2)* }

In terms of copying and assignment, opaque MPI user level objects behave like handles. Copy constructors perform handle-based (shallow) copies. `MPI::Status` objects are exceptions to this rule. These objects perform deep copies for assignment and copy construction.

> *Advice to implementors.* Each MPI user level object is likely to contain, by value or by reference, implementation-dependent state information. The assignment and copying of MPI object handles may simply copy this value (or reference). (*End of advice to implementors.*)

Example 16.3 Example using assignment operator. In this example, `MPI::Intracomm::Dup()` is *not* called for `foo_comm`. The object `foo_comm` is simply an alias for `MPI::COMM_WORLD`. But `bar_comm` is created with a call to `MPI::Intracomm::Dup()` and is therefore a different communicator than `foo_comm` (and thus different from `MPI::COMM_WORLD`). `baz_comm` becomes an alias for `bar_comm`. If one of `bar_comm` or `baz_comm` is freed with MPI_COMM_FREE it will be set to MPI::COMM_NULL. The state of the other handle will be undefined — it will be invalid, but not necessarily set to MPI::COMM_NULL.

```
MPI::Intracomm foo_comm, bar_comm, baz_comm;

foo_comm = MPI::COMM_WORLD;
bar_comm = MPI::COMM_WORLD.Dup();
baz_comm = bar_comm;
```

Comparison The comparison operators are prototyped as follows:

{`bool MPI::<CLASS>::operator==(const MPI::<CLASS>& data) const`*(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2)* }

{`bool MPI::<CLASS>::operator!=(const MPI::<CLASS>& data) const`*(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2)* }

The member function `operator==()` returns `true` only when the handles reference the same internal MPI object, `false` otherwise. `operator!=()` returns the boolean complement of `operator==()`. However, since the `Status` class is not a handle to an underlying MPI object, it does not make sense to compare `Status` instances. Therefore, the `operator==()` and `operator!=()` functions are not defined on the `Status` class.

Constants Constants are singleton objects and are declared `const`. Note that not all globally defined MPI objects are constant. For example, `MPI::COMM_WORLD` and `MPI::COMM_SELF` are not `const`.

16.1.6 C++ Datatypes

Table 16.1 lists all of the C++ predefined MPI datatypes and their corresponding C and C++ datatypes, Table 16.2 lists all of the Fortran predefined MPI datatypes and their corresponding Fortran 77 datatypes. Table 16.3 lists the C++ names for all other MPI datatypes.

MPI::BYTE and MPI::PACKED conform to the same restrictions as MPI_BYTE and MPI_PACKED, listed in Sections 3.2.2 on page 27 and Sections 4.2 on page 125, respectively.

The following table defines groups of MPI predefined datatypes:

C integer:	MPI::INT, MPI::LONG, MPI::SHORT, MPI::UNSIGNED_SHORT, MPI::UNSIGNED, MPI::UNSIGNED_LONG, MPI::_LONG_LONG, MPI::UNSIGNED_LONG_LONG, MPI::SIGNED_CHAR, MPI::UNSIGNED_CHAR
Fortran integer:	MPI::INTEGER and handles returned from

MPI datatype	C datatype	C++ datatype
MPI::CHAR	`char`	`char`
MPI::SHORT	`signed short`	`signed short`
MPI::INT	`signed int`	`signed int`
MPI::LONG	`signed long`	`signed long`
MPI::LONG_LONG	`signed long long`	`signed long long`
MPI::SIGNED_CHAR	`signed char`	`signed char`
MPI::UNSIGNED_CHAR	`unsigned char`	`unsigned char`
MPI::UNSIGNED_SHORT	`unsigned short`	`unsigned short`
MPI::UNSIGNED	`unsigned int`	`unsigned int`
MPI::UNSIGNED_LONG	`unsigned long`	`unsigned long int`
MPI::UNSIGNED_LONG_LONG	`unsigned long long`	`unsigned long long`
MPI::FLOAT	`float`	`float`
MPI::DOUBLE	`double`	`double`
MPI::LONG_DOUBLE	`long double`	`long double`
MPI::BOOL		`bool`
MPI::COMPLEX		`Complex<float>`
MPI::DOUBLE_COMPLEX		`Complex<double>`
MPI::LONG_DOUBLE_COMPLEX		`Complex<long double>`
MPI::WCHAR	`wchar_t`	`wchar_t`
MPI::BYTE		
MPI::PACKED		

Table 16.1: C++ names for the MPI C and C++ predefined datatypes, and their corresponding C/C++ datatypes.

MPI datatype	Fortran datatype
MPI::INTEGER	`INTEGER`
MPI::REAL	`REAL`
MPI::DOUBLE_PRECISION	`DOUBLE PRECISION`
MPI::F_COMPLEX	`COMPLEX`
MPI::LOGICAL	`LOGICAL`
MPI::CHARACTER	`CHARACTER(1)`
MPI::BYTE	
MPI::PACKED	

Table 16.2: C++ names for the MPI Fortran predefined datatypes, and their corresponding Fortran 77 datatypes.

MPI datatype	Description
MPI::FLOAT_INT	C/C++ reduction type
MPI::DOUBLE_INT	C/C++ reduction type
MPI::LONG_INT	C/C++ reduction type
MPI::TWOINT	C/C++ reduction type
MPI::SHORT_INT	C/C++ reduction type
MPI::LONG_DOUBLE_INT	C/C++ reduction type
MPI::TWOREAL	Fortran reduction type
MPI::TWODOUBLE_PRECISION	Fortran reduction type
MPI::TWOINTEGER	Fortran reduction type
MPI::F_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	Optional Fortran type
MPI::INTEGER1	Explicit size type
MPI::INTEGER2	Explicit size type
MPI::INTEGER4	Explicit size type
MPI::INTEGER8	Explicit size type
MPI::INTEGER16	Explicit size type
MPI::REAL2	Explicit size type
MPI::REAL4	Explicit size type
MPI::REAL8	Explicit size type
MPI::REAL16	Explicit size type
MPI::F_COMPLEX4	Explicit size type
MPI::F_COMPLEX8	Explicit size type
MPI::F_COMPLEX16	Explicit size type
MPI::F_COMPLEX32	Explicit size type

Table 16.3: C++ names for other MPI datatypes. Implementations may also define other optional types (e.g., `MPI::INTEGER8`).

	MPI::Datatype::Create_f90_integer, and if available: MPI::INTEGER1, MPI::INTEGER2, MPI::INTEGER4, MPI::INTEGER8, MPI::INTEGER16
Floating point:	MPI::FLOAT, MPI::DOUBLE, MPI::REAL, MPI::DOUBLE_PRECISION, MPI::LONG_DOUBLE and handles returned from MPI::Datatype::Create_f90_real, and if available: MPI::REAL2, MPI::REAL4, MPI::REAL8, MPI::REAL16
Logical:	MPI::LOGICAL, MPI::BOOL
Complex:	MPI::F_COMPLEX, MPI::COMPLEX, MPI::F_DOUBLE_COMPLEX, MPI::DOUBLE_COMPLEX, MPI::LONG_DOUBLE_COMPLEX and handles returned from MPI::Datatype::Create_f90_complex, and if available: MPI::F_DOUBLE_COMPLEX, MPI::F_COMPLEX4, MPI::F_COMPLEX8, MPI::F_COMPLEX16, MPI::F_COMPLEX32
Byte:	MPI::BYTE

Valid datatypes for each reduction operation are specified below in terms of the groups defined above.

Op	Allowed Types
MPI::MAX, MPI::MIN	C integer, Fortran integer, Floating point
MPI::SUM, MPI::PROD	C integer, Fortran integer, Floating point, Complex
MPI::LAND, MPI::LOR, MPI::LXOR	C integer, Logical
MPI::BAND, MPI::BOR, MPI::BXOR	C integer, Fortran integer, Byte

MPI::MINLOC and MPI::MAXLOC perform just as their C and Fortran counterparts; see Section 5.9.4 on page 172.

16.1.7 Communicators

The `MPI::Comm` class hierarchy makes explicit the different kinds of communicators implicitly defined by MPI and allows them to be strongly typed. Since the original design of MPI defined only one type of handle for all types of communicators, the following clarifications are provided for the C++ design.

Types of communicators There are six different types of communicators: `MPI::Comm`, `MPI::Intercomm`, `MPI::Intracomm`, `MPI::Cartcomm`, `MPI::Graphcomm`, and `MPI::Distgraphcomm`. `MPI::Comm` is the abstract base communicator class, encapsulating the functionality common to all MPI communicators. `MPI::Intercomm` and `MPI::Intracomm` are derived from `MPI::Comm`. `MPI::Cartcomm`, `MPI::Graphcomm`, and `MPI::Distgraphcomm` are derived from `MPI::Intracomm`.

Advice to users. Initializing a derived class with an instance of a base class is not legal in C++. For instance, it is not legal to initialize a Cartcomm from an Intracomm. Moreover, because MPI::Comm is an abstract base class, it is non-instantiable, so that it is not possible to have an object of class MPI::Comm. However, it is possible to have a reference or a pointer to an MPI::Comm.

Example 16.4 The following code is erroneous.

```
Intracomm intra = MPI::COMM_WORLD.Dup();
Cartcomm cart(intra);         // This is erroneous
```

(*End of advice to users.*)

MPI::COMM_NULL The specific type of MPI::COMM_NULL is implementation dependent. MPI::COMM_NULL must be able to be used in comparisons and initializations with all types of communicators. MPI::COMM_NULL must also be able to be passed to a function that expects a communicator argument in the parameter list (provided that MPI::COMM_NULL is an allowed value for the communicator argument).

Rationale. There are several possibilities for implementation of MPI::COMM_NULL. Specifying its required behavior, rather than its realization, provides maximum flexibility to implementors. (*End of rationale.*)

Example 16.5 The following example demonstrates the behavior of assignment and comparison using MPI::COMM_NULL.

```
MPI::Intercomm comm;
comm = MPI::COMM_NULL;            // assign with COMM_NULL
if (comm == MPI::COMM_NULL)       // true
  cout << "comm is NULL" << endl;
if (MPI::COMM_NULL == comm)       // note -- a different function!
  cout << "comm is still NULL" << endl;
```

`Dup()` is not defined as a member function of `MPI::Comm`, but it is defined for the derived classes of `MPI::Comm`. `Dup()` is not virtual and it returns its OUT parameter by value.

`MPI::Comm::Clone()` The C++ language interface for MPI includes a new function `Clone()`. `MPI::Comm::Clone()` is a pure virtual function. For the derived communicator classes, `Clone()` behaves like `Dup()` except that it returns a new object by reference. The `Clone()` functions are prototyped as follows:

```
Comm& Comm::Clone() const = 0

Intracomm& Intracomm::Clone() const

Intercomm& Intercomm::Clone() const

Cartcomm& Cartcomm::Clone() const

Graphcomm& Graphcomm::Clone() const
```

```
Distgraphcomm& Distgraphcomm::Clone() const
```

Rationale. `Clone()` provides the "virtual dup" functionality that is expected by C++ programmers and library writers. Since `Clone()` returns a new object by reference, users are responsible for eventually deleting the object. A new name is introduced rather than changing the functionality of `Dup()`. (*End of rationale.*)

Advice to implementors. Within their class declarations, prototypes for `Clone()` and `Dup()` would look like the following:

```
namespace MPI {
  class Comm {
     virtual Comm& Clone() const = 0;
  };
  class Intracomm : public Comm {
     Intracomm Dup() const { ... };
     virtual Intracomm& Clone() const { ... };
  };
  class Intercomm : public Comm {
     Intercomm Dup() const { ... };
     virtual Intercomm& Clone() const { ... };
  };
  // Cartcomm, Graphcomm,
  // and Distgraphcomm are similarly defined
};
```

(*End of advice to implementors.*)

16.1.8 Exceptions

The C++ language interface for MPI includes the predefined error handler `MPI::ERRORS_THROW_EXCEPTIONS` for use with the `Set_errhandler()` member functions. `MPI::ERRORS_THROW_EXCEPTIONS` can only be set or retrieved by C++ functions. If a non-C++ program causes an error that invokes the `MPI::ERRORS_THROW_EXCEPTIONS` error handler, the exception will pass up the calling stack until C++ code can catch it. If there is no C++ code to catch it, the behavior is undefined. In a multi-threaded environment or if a nonblocking MPI call throws an exception while making progress in the background, the behavior is implementation dependent.

The error handler `MPI::ERRORS_THROW_EXCEPTIONS` causes an `MPI::Exception` to be thrown for any MPI result code other than `MPI::SUCCESS`. The public interface to `MPI::Exception` class is defined as follows:

```
namespace MPI {
  class Exception {
  public:

    Exception(int error_code);

    int Get_error_code() const;
    int Get_error_class() const;
    const char *Get_error_string() const;
  };
};
```

Advice to implementors.

The exception will be thrown within the body of MPI::ERRORS_THROW_EXCEPTIONS. It is expected that control will be returned to the user when the exception is thrown. Some MPI functions specify certain return information in their parameters in the case of an error and MPI_ERRORS_RETURN is specified. The same type of return information must be provided when exceptions are thrown.

For example, MPI_WAITALL puts an error code for each request in the corresponding entry in the status array and returns MPI_ERR_IN_STATUS. When using MPI::ERRORS_THROW_EXCEPTIONS, it is expected that the error codes in the status array will be set appropriately before the exception is thrown.

(*End of advice to implementors.*)

16.1.9 Mixed-Language Operability

The C++ language interface provides functions listed below for mixed-language operability. These functions provide for a seamless transition between C and C++. For the case where the C++ class corresponding to <CLASS> has derived classes, functions are also provided for converting between the derived classes and the C MPI_<CLASS>.

```
MPI::<CLASS>& MPI::<CLASS>::operator=(const MPI_<CLASS>& data)

MPI::<CLASS>(const MPI_<CLASS>& data)

MPI::<CLASS>::operator MPI_<CLASS>() const
```

These functions are discussed in Section 16.3.4.

16.1.10 Profiling

This section specifies the requirements of a C++ profiling interface to MPI.

Advice to implementors. Since the main goal of profiling is to intercept function calls from user code, it is the implementor's decision how to layer the underlying implementation to allow function calls to be intercepted and profiled. If an implementation of the MPI C++ bindings is layered on top of MPI bindings in another language (such as C), or if the C++ bindings are layered on top of a profiling interface in another language, no extra profiling interface is necessary because the underlying MPI implementation already meets the MPI profiling interface requirements.

Native C++ MPI implementations that do not have access to other profiling interfaces must implement an interface that meets the requirements outlined in this section.

High-quality implementations can implement the interface outlined in this section in order to promote portable C++ profiling libraries. Implementors may wish to provide an option whether to build the C++ profiling interface or not; C++ implementations that are already layered on top of bindings in another language or another profiling interface will have to insert a third layer to implement the C++ profiling interface. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

To meet the requirements of the C++ MPI profiling interface, an implementation of the MPI functions *must*:

1. Provide a mechanism through which all of the MPI defined functions may be accessed with a name shift. Thus all of the MPI functions (which normally start with the prefix "`MPI::`") should also be accessible with the prefix "`PMPI::`."
2. Ensure that those MPI functions which are not replaced may still be linked into an executable image without causing name clashes.
3. Document the implementation of different language bindings of the MPI interface if they are layered on top of each other, so that profiler developer knows whether they must implement the profile interface for each binding, or can economize by implementing it only for the lowest level routines.
4. Where the implementation of different language bindings is done through a layered approach (e.g., the C++ binding is a set of "wrapper" functions which call the C implementation), ensure that these wrapper functions are separable from the rest of the library.

   This is necessary to allow a separate profiling library to be correctly implemented, since (at least with Unix linker semantics) the profiling library must contain these wrapper functions if it is to perform as expected. This requirement allows the author of the profiling library to extract these functions from the original MPI library and add them into the profiling library without bringing along any other unnecessary code.
5. Provide a no-op routine MPI::Pcontrol in the MPI library.

Advice to implementors. There are (at least) two apparent options for implementing the C++ profiling interface: inheritance or caching. An inheritance-based approach may not be attractive because it may require a virtual inheritance implementation of the communicator classes. Thus, it is most likely that implementors will cache `PMPI` objects on their corresponding `MPI` objects. The caching scheme is outlined below.

The "real" entry points to each routine can be provided within a `namespace PMPI`. The non-profiling version can then be provided within a `namespace MPI`.

Caching instances of `PMPI` objects in the `MPI` handles provides the "has a" relationship that is necessary to implement the profiling scheme.

Each instance of an `MPI` object simply "wraps up" an instance of a `PMPI` object. `MPI` objects can then perform profiling actions before invoking the corresponding function in their internal `PMPI` object.

The key to making the profiling work by simply re-linking programs is by having a header file that *declares* all the MPI functions. The functions must be *defined* elsewhere, and compiled into a library. MPI constants should be declared `extern` in the `MPI` namespace. For example, the following is an excerpt from a sample `mpi.h` file:

Example 16.6 Sample `mpi.h` file.

```
namespace PMPI {
  class Comm {
  public:
    int Get_size() const;
  };
  // etc.
};

namespace MPI {
public:
  class Comm {
  public:
    int Get_size() const;

  private:
    PMPI::Comm pmpi_comm;
  };
};
```

Note that all constructors, the assignment operator, and the destructor in the `MPI` class will need to initialize/destroy the internal `PMPI` object as appropriate.

The definitions of the functions must be in separate object files; the `PMPI` class member functions and the non-profiling versions of the `MPI` class member functions can be compiled into `libmpi.a`, while the profiling versions can be compiled into `libpmpi.a`. Note that the `PMPI` class member functions and the `MPI` constants must be in different object files than the non-profiling `MPI` class member functions in the `libmpi.a` library to prevent multiple definitions of `MPI` class member function names when linking both `libmpi.a` and `libpmpi.a`. For example:

Example 16.7 `pmpi.cc`, to be compiled into `libmpi.a`.

```
int PMPI::Comm::Get_size() const
{
  // Implementation of MPI_COMM_SIZE
}
```

Example 16.8 `constants.cc`, to be compiled into `libmpi.a`.

```
const MPI::Intracomm MPI::COMM_WORLD;
```

Example 16.9 `mpi_no_profile.cc`, to be compiled into `libmpi.a`.

```
int MPI::Comm::Get_size() const
{
  return pmpi_comm.Get_size();
}
```

Example 16.10 `mpi_profile.cc`, to be compiled into `libpmpi.a`.

```
int MPI::Comm::Get_size() const
{
  // Do profiling stuff
  int ret = pmpi_comm.Get_size();
  // More profiling stuff
  return ret;
}
```

(*End of advice to implementors.*)

16.2 Fortran Support

16.2.1 Overview

The Fortran MPI-2 language bindings have been designed to be compatible with the Fortran 90 standard (and later). These bindings are in most cases compatible with Fortran 77, implicit-style interfaces.

Rationale. Fortran 90 contains numerous features designed to make it a more "modern" language than Fortran 77. It seems natural that MPI should be able to take advantage of these new features with a set of bindings tailored to Fortran 90. MPI does not (yet) use many of these features because of a number of technical difficulties. (*End of rationale.*)

MPI defines two levels of Fortran support, described in Sections 16.2.3 and 16.2.4. In the rest of this section, "Fortran" and "Fortran 90" shall refer to "Fortran 90" and its successors, unless qualified.

1. **Basic Fortran Support** An implementation with this level of Fortran support provides the original Fortran bindings specified in MPI-1, with small additional requirements specified in Section 16.2.3.

2. **Extended Fortran Support** An implementation with this level of Fortran support provides Basic Fortran Support plus additional features that specifically support Fortran 90, as described in Section 16.2.4.

A compliant MPI-2 implementation providing a Fortran interface must provide Extended Fortran Support unless the target compiler does not support modules or `KIND`-parameterized types.

16.2.2 Problems With Fortran Bindings for MPI

This section discusses a number of problems that may arise when using MPI in a Fortran program. It is intended as advice to users, and clarifies how MPI interacts with Fortran. It does not add to the standard, but is intended to clarify the standard.

As noted in the original MPI specification, the interface violates the Fortran standard in several ways. While these cause few problems for Fortran 77 programs, they become more significant for Fortran 90 programs, so that users must exercise care when using new Fortran 90 features. The violations were originally adopted and have been retained because they are important for the usability of MPI. The rest of this section describes the potential problems in detail. It supersedes and replaces the discussion of Fortran bindings in the original MPI specification (for Fortran 90, not Fortran 77).

The following MPI features are inconsistent with Fortran 90.

1. An MPI subroutine with a choice argument may be called with different argument types.

2. An MPI subroutine with an assumed-size dummy argument may be passed an actual scalar argument.

3. Many MPI routines assume that actual arguments are passed by address and that arguments are not copied on entrance to or exit from the subroutine.

4. An MPI implementation may read or modify user data (e.g., communication buffers used by nonblocking communications) concurrently with a user program that is executing outside of MPI calls.

5. Several named "constants," such as MPI_BOTTOM, MPI_IN_PLACE, MPI_STATUS_IGNORE, MPI_STATUSES_IGNORE, MPI_ERRCODES_IGNORE, MPI_UNWEIGHTED, MPI_ARGV_NULL, and MPI_ARGVS_NULL are not ordinary Fortran constants and require a special implementation. See Section 2.5.4 on page 14 for more information.

6. The memory allocation routine MPI_ALLOC_MEM can't be usefully used in Fortran without a language extension that allows the allocated memory to be associated with a Fortran variable.

Additionally, MPI is inconsistent with Fortran 77 in a number of ways, as noted below.

- MPI identifiers exceed 6 characters.

- MPI identifiers may contain underscores after the first character.

- MPI requires an include file, `mpif.h`. On systems that do not support include files, the implementation should specify the values of named constants.

- Many routines in MPI have KIND-parameterized integers (e.g., MPI_ADDRESS_KIND and MPI_OFFSET_KIND) that hold address information. On systems that do not support Fortran 90-style parameterized types, `INTEGER*8` or `INTEGER` should be used instead.

MPI-1 contained several routines that take address-sized information as input or return address-sized information as output. In C such arguments were of type MPI_Aint and in Fortran of type `INTEGER`. On machines where integers are smaller than addresses, these routines can lose information. In MPI-2 the use of these functions has been deprecated and they have been replaced by routines taking `INTEGER` arguments of `KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND`. A number of new MPI-2 functions also take `INTEGER` arguments of non-default `KIND`. See Section 2.6 on page 16 and Section 4.1.1 on page 83 for more information.

Problems Due to Strong Typing

All MPI functions with choice arguments associate actual arguments of different Fortran datatypes with the same dummy argument. This is not allowed by Fortran 77, and in Fortran 90 is technically only allowed if the function is overloaded with a different function for each type. In C, the use of `void*` formal arguments avoids these problems.

The following code fragment is technically illegal and may generate a compile-time error.

```
integer i(5)
real    x(5)
...
call mpi_send(x, 5, MPI_REAL, ...)
call mpi_send(i, 5, MPI_INTEGER, ...)
```

In practice, it is rare for compilers to do more than issue a warning, though there is concern that Fortran 90 compilers are more likely to return errors.

It is also technically illegal in Fortran to pass a scalar actual argument to an array dummy argument. Thus the following code fragment may generate an error since the `buf` argument to MPI_SEND is declared as an assumed-size array `<type> buf(*)`.

```
integer a
call mpi_send(a, 1, MPI_INTEGER, ...)
```

Advice to users. In the event that you run into one of the problems related to type checking, you may be able to work around it by using a compiler flag, by compiling separately, or by using an MPI implementation with Extended Fortran Support as described in Section 16.2.4. An alternative that will usually work with variables local to a routine but not with arguments to a function or subroutine is to use the `EQUIVALENCE` statement to create another variable with a type accepted by the compiler. (*End of advice to users.*)

Problems Due to Data Copying and Sequence Association

Implicit in MPI is the idea of a contiguous chunk of memory accessible through a linear address space. MPI copies data to and from this memory. An MPI program specifies the location of data by providing memory addresses and offsets. In the C language, sequence association rules plus pointers provide all the necessary low-level structure.

In Fortran 90, user data is not necessarily stored contiguously. For example, the array section `A(1:N:2)` involves only the elements of `A` with indices 1, 3, 5, ... The same is true for a pointer array whose target is such a section. Most compilers ensure that an array that is a dummy argument is held in contiguous memory if it is declared with an explicit shape (e.g., `B(N)`) or is of assumed size (e.g., `B(*)`). If necessary, they do this by making a copy of the array into contiguous memory. Both Fortran 77 and Fortran 90 are carefully worded to allow such copying to occur, but few Fortran 77 compilers do it.[1]

Because MPI dummy buffer arguments are assumed-size arrays, this leads to a serious problem for a nonblocking call: the compiler copies the temporary array back on return but MPI continues to copy data to the memory that held it. For example, consider the following code fragment:

[1] Technically, the Fortran standards are worded to allow non-contiguous storage of any array data.

```
    real a(100)
    call MPI_IRECV(a(1:100:2), MPI_REAL, 50, ...)
```

Since the first dummy argument to MPI_IRECV is an assumed-size array (`<type> buf(*)`), the array section `a(1:100:2)` is copied to a temporary before being passed to MPI_IRECV, so that it is contiguous in memory. MPI_IRECV returns immediately, and data is copied from the temporary back into the array `a`. Sometime later, MPI may write to the address of the deallocated temporary. Copying is also a problem for MPI_ISEND since the temporary array may be deallocated before the data has all been sent from it.

Most Fortran 90 compilers do not make a copy if the actual argument is the whole of an explicit-shape or assumed-size array or is a 'simple' section such as `A(1:N)` of such an array. (We define 'simple' more fully in the next paragraph.) Also, many compilers treat allocatable arrays the same as they treat explicit-shape arrays in this regard (though we know of one that does not). However, the same is not true for assumed-shape and pointer arrays; since they may be discontiguous, copying is often done. It is this copying that causes problems for MPI as described in the previous paragraph.

Our formal definition of a 'simple' array section is

```
  name ( [:,]... [<subscript>]:[<subscript>] [,<subscript>]... )
```

That is, there are zero or more dimensions that are selected in full, then one dimension selected without a stride, then zero or more dimensions that are selected with a simple subscript. Examples are

```
  A(1:N), A(:,N), A(:,1:N,1), A(1:6,N), A(:,:,1:N)
```

Because of Fortran's column-major ordering, where the first index varies fastest, a simple section of a contiguous array will also be contiguous.[2]

The same problem can occur with a scalar argument. Some compilers, even for Fortran 77, make a copy of some scalar dummy arguments within a called procedure. That this can cause a problem is illustrated by the example

```
      call user1(a,rq)
      call MPI_WAIT(rq,status,ierr)
      write (*,*) a

      subroutine user1(buf,request)
      call MPI_IRECV(buf,...,request,...)
      end
```

If `a` is copied, MPI_IRECV will alter the copy when it completes the communication and will not alter `a` itself.

Note that copying will almost certainly occur for an argument that is a non-trivial expression (one with at least one operator or function call), a section that does not select a contiguous part of its parent (e.g., `A(1:n:2)`), a pointer whose target is such a section, or an assumed-shape array that is (directly or indirectly) associated with such a section.

[2]To keep the definition of 'simple' simple, we have chosen to require all but one of the section subscripts to be without bounds. A colon without bounds makes it obvious both to the compiler and to the reader that the whole of the dimension is selected. It would have been possible to allow cases where the whole dimension is selected with one or two bounds, but this means for the reader that the array declaration or most recent allocation has to be consulted and for the compiler that a run-time check may be required.

If there is a compiler option that inhibits copying of arguments, in either the calling or called procedure, this should be employed.

If a compiler makes copies in the calling procedure of arguments that are explicit-shape or assumed-size arrays, simple array sections of such arrays, or scalars, and if there is no compiler option to inhibit this, then the compiler cannot be used for applications that use MPI_GET_ADDRESS, or any nonblocking MPI routine. If a compiler copies scalar arguments in the called procedure and there is no compiler option to inhibit this, then this compiler cannot be used for applications that use memory references across subroutine calls as in the example above.

Special Constants

MPI requires a number of special "constants" that cannot be implemented as normal Fortran constants, e.g., MPI_BOTTOM. The complete list can be found in Section 2.5.4 on page 14. In C, these are implemented as constant pointers, usually as `NULL` and are used where the function prototype calls for a pointer to a variable, not the variable itself.

In Fortran the implementation of these special constants may require the use of language constructs that are outside the Fortran standard. Using special values for the constants (e.g., by defining them through `parameter` statements) is not possible because an implementation cannot distinguish these values from legal data. Typically these constants are implemented as predefined static variables (e.g., a variable in an MPI-declared `COMMON` block), relying on the fact that the target compiler passes data by address. Inside the subroutine, this address can be extracted by some mechanism outside the Fortran standard (e.g., by Fortran extensions or by implementing the function in C).

Fortran 90 Derived Types

MPI does not explicitly support passing Fortran 90 derived types to choice dummy arguments. Indeed, for MPI implementations that provide explicit interfaces through the `mpi` module a compiler will reject derived type actual arguments at compile time. Even when no explicit interfaces are given, users should be aware that Fortran 90 provides no guarantee of sequence association for derived types or arrays of derived types. For instance, an array of a derived type consisting of two elements may be implemented as an array of the first elements followed by an array of the second. Use of the `SEQUENCE` attribute may help here, somewhat.

The following code fragment shows one possible way to send a derived type in Fortran. The example assumes that all data is passed by address.

```
type mytype
   integer i
   real x
   double precision d
end type mytype

type(mytype) foo
integer blocklen(3), type(3)
integer(MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) disp(3), base

call MPI_GET_ADDRESS(foo%i, disp(1), ierr)
```

```
    call MPI_GET_ADDRESS(foo%x, disp(2), ierr)
    call MPI_GET_ADDRESS(foo%d, disp(3), ierr)

    base = disp(1)
    disp(1) = disp(1) - base
    disp(2) = disp(2) - base
    disp(3) = disp(3) - base

    blocklen(1) = 1
    blocklen(2) = 1
    blocklen(3) = 1

    type(1) = MPI_INTEGER
    type(2) = MPI_REAL
    type(3) = MPI_DOUBLE_PRECISION

    call MPI_TYPE_CREATE_STRUCT(3, blocklen, disp, type, newtype, ierr)
    call MPI_TYPE_COMMIT(newtype, ierr)

! unpleasant to send foo%i instead of foo, but it works for scalar
! entities of type mytype
    call MPI_SEND(foo%i, 1, newtype, ...)
```

A Problem with Register Optimization

MPI provides operations that may be hidden from the user code and run concurrently with it, accessing the same memory as user code. Examples include the data transfer for an MPI_IRECV. The optimizer of a compiler will assume that it can recognize periods when a copy of a variable can be kept in a register without reloading from or storing to memory. When the user code is working with a register copy of some variable while the hidden operation reads or writes the memory copy, problems occur. This section discusses register optimization pitfalls.

When a variable is local to a Fortran subroutine (i.e., not in a module or `COMMON block`), the compiler will assume that it cannot be modified by a called subroutine unless it is an actual argument of the call. In the most common linkage convention, the subroutine is expected to save and restore certain registers. Thus, the optimizer will assume that a register which held a valid copy of such a variable before the call will still hold a valid copy on return.

Normally users are not afflicted with this. But the user should pay attention to this section if in his/her program a buffer argument to an MPI_SEND, MPI_RECV etc., uses a name which hides the actual variables involved. MPI_BOTTOM with an MPI_Datatype containing absolute addresses is one example. Creating a datatype which uses one variable as an anchor and brings along others by using MPI_GET_ADDRESS to determine their offsets from the anchor is another. The anchor variable would be the only one mentioned in the call. Also attention must be paid if MPI operations are used that run in parallel with the user's application.

Example 16.11 shows what Fortran compilers are allowed to do.

Example 16.11 Fortran 90 register optimization.

```
This source ...                        can be compiled as:

call MPI_GET_ADDRESS(buf,bufaddr,      call MPI_GET_ADDRESS(buf,...)
               ierror)
call MPI_TYPE_CREATE_STRUCT(1,1,       call MPI_TYPE_CREATE_STRUCT(...)
               bufaddr,
               MPI_REAL,type,ierror)
call MPI_TYPE_COMMIT(type,ierror)      call MPI_TYPE_COMMIT(...)
val_old = buf                          register = buf
                                       val_old = register
call MPI_RECV(MPI_BOTTOM,1,type,...)   call MPI_RECV(MPI_BOTTOM,...)
val_new = buf                          val_new = register
```

The compiler does not invalidate the register because it cannot see that MPI_RECV changes the value of buf. The access of buf is hidden by the use of MPI_GET_ADDRESS and MPI_BOTTOM.

Example 16.12 shows extreme, but allowed, possibilities.

Example 16.12 Fortran 90 register optimization – extreme.

```
Source                      compiled as                 or compiled as

call MPI_IRECV(buf,..req)   call MPI_IRECV(buf,..req)   call MPI_IRECV(buf,..req)
                            register = buf              b1 = buf
call MPI_WAIT(req,..)       call MPI_WAIT(req,..)       call MPI_WAIT(req,..)
b1 = buf                    b1 := register
```

MPI_WAIT on a concurrent thread modifies buf between the invocation of MPI_IRECV and the finish of MPI_WAIT. But the compiler cannot see any possibility that buf can be changed after MPI_IRECV has returned, and may schedule the load of buf earlier than typed in the source. It has no reason to avoid using a register to hold buf across the call to MPI_WAIT. It also may reorder the instructions as in the case on the right.

To prevent instruction reordering or the allocation of a buffer in a register there are two possibilities in portable Fortran code:

- The compiler may be prevented from moving a reference to a buffer across a call to an MPI subroutine by surrounding the call by calls to an external subroutine with the buffer as an actual argument. Note that if the intent is declared in the external subroutine, it must be OUT or INOUT. The subroutine itself may have an empty body, but the compiler does not know this and has to assume that the buffer may be altered. For example, the above call of MPI_RECV might be replaced by

  ```
  call DD(buf)
  call MPI_RECV(MPI_BOTTOM,...)
  call DD(buf)
  ```

  with the separately compiled

```
    subroutine DD(buf)
      integer buf
    end
```

(assuming that `buf` has type `INTEGER`). The compiler may be similarly prevented from moving a reference to a variable across a call to an MPI subroutine.

In the case of a nonblocking call, as in the above call of MPI_WAIT, no reference to the buffer is permitted until it has been verified that the transfer has been completed. Therefore, in this case, the extra call ahead of the MPI call is not necessary, i.e., the call of MPI_WAIT in the example might be replaced by

```
      call MPI_WAIT(req,..)
      call DD(buf)
```

- An alternative is to put the buffer or variable into a module or a common block and access it through a `USE` or `COMMON` statement in each scope where it is referenced, defined or appears as an actual argument in a call to an MPI routine. The compiler will then have to assume that the MPI procedure (MPI_RECV in the above example) may alter the buffer or variable, provided that the compiler cannot analyze that the MPI procedure does not reference the module or common block.

The `VOLATILE` attribute, available in later versions of Fortran, gives the buffer or variable the properties needed, but it may inhibit optimization of any code containing the buffer or variable.

In C, subroutines which modify variables that are not in the argument list will not cause register optimization problems. This is because taking pointers to storage objects by using the & operator and later referencing the objects by way of the pointer is an integral part of the language. A C compiler understands the implications, so that the problem should not occur, in general. However, some compilers do offer optional aggressive optimization levels which may not be safe.

16.2.3 Basic Fortran Support

Because Fortran 90 is (for all practical purposes) a superset of Fortran 77, Fortran 90 (and future) programs can use the original Fortran interface. The following additional requirements are added:

1. Implementations are required to provide the file `mpif.h`, as described in the original MPI-1 specification.

2. `mpif.h` must be valid and equivalent for both fixed- and free- source form.

Advice to implementors. To make `mpif.h` compatible with both fixed- and free-source forms, to allow automatic inclusion by preprocessors, and to allow extended fixed-form line length, it is recommended that requirement two be met by constructing `mpif.h` without any continuation lines. This should be possible because `mpif.h` contains only declarations, and because common block declarations can be split among several lines. To support Fortran 77 as well as Fortran 90, it may be necessary to eliminate all comments from `mpif.h`. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

16.2.4 Extended Fortran Support

Implementations with Extended Fortran support must provide:

1. An `mpi` module
2. A new set of functions to provide additional support for Fortran intrinsic numeric types, including parameterized types: MPI_SIZEOF, MPI_TYPE_MATCH_SIZE, MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_INTEGER, MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL and MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_COMPLEX. Parameterized types are Fortran intrinsic types which are specified using `KIND` type parameters. These routines are described in detail in Section 16.2.5.

Additionally, high-quality implementations should provide a mechanism to prevent fatal type mismatch errors for MPI routines with choice arguments.

The `mpi` Module

An MPI implementation must provide a module named `mpi` that can be `use`d in a Fortran 90 program. This module must:

- Define all named MPI constants
- Declare MPI functions that return a value.

An MPI implementation may provide in the `mpi` module other features that enhance the usability of MPI while maintaining adherence to the standard. For example, it may:

- Provide interfaces for all or for a subset of MPI routines.
- Provide `INTENT` information in these interface blocks.

> *Advice to implementors.* The appropriate `INTENT` may be different from what is given in the MPI generic interface. Implementations must choose `INTENT` so that the function adheres to the MPI standard. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

> *Rationale.* The intent given by the MPI generic interface is not precisely defined and does not in all cases correspond to the correct Fortran `INTENT`. For instance, receiving into a buffer specified by a datatype with absolute addresses may require associating MPI_BOTTOM with a dummy `OUT` argument. Moreover, "constants" such as MPI_BOTTOM and MPI_STATUS_IGNORE are not constants as defined by Fortran, but "special addresses" used in a nonstandard way. Finally, the MPI-1 generic intent is changed in several places by MPI-2. For instance, MPI_IN_PLACE changes the sense of an `OUT` argument to be `INOUT`. (*End of rationale.*)

Applications may use either the `mpi` module or the `mpif.h` include file. An implementation may require use of the module to prevent type mismatch errors (see below).

> *Advice to users.* It is recommended to use the `mpi` module even if it is not necessary to use it to avoid type mismatch errors on a particular system. Using a module provides several potential advantages over using an include file. (*End of advice to users.*)

It must be possible to link together routines some of which `USE mpi` and others of which `INCLUDE mpif.h`.

No Type Mismatch Problems for Subroutines with Choice Arguments

A high-quality MPI implementation should provide a mechanism to ensure that MPI choice arguments do not cause fatal compile-time or run-time errors due to type mismatch. An MPI implementation may require applications to use the `mpi` module, or require that it be compiled with a particular compiler flag, in order to avoid type mismatch problems.

> *Advice to implementors.* In the case where the compiler does not generate errors, nothing needs to be done to the existing interface. In the case where the compiler may generate errors, a set of overloaded functions may be used. See the paper of M. Hennecke [3]. Even if the compiler does not generate errors, explicit interfaces for all routines would be useful for detecting errors in the argument list. Also, explicit interfaces which give `INTENT` information can reduce the amount of copying for `BUF(*)` arguments. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

16.2.5 Additional Support for Fortran Numeric Intrinsic Types

The routines in this section are part of Extended Fortran Support described in Section 16.2.4.

MPI provides a small number of named datatypes that correspond to named intrinsic types supported by C and Fortran. These include MPI_INTEGER, MPI_REAL, MPI_INT, MPI_DOUBLE, etc., as well as the optional types MPI_REAL4, MPI_REAL8, etc. There is a one-to-one correspondence between language declarations and MPI types.

Fortran (starting with Fortran 90) provides so-called `KIND`-parameterized types. These types are declared using an intrinsic type (one of `INTEGER`, `REAL`, `COMPLEX`, `LOGICAL` and `CHARACTER`) with an optional integer `KIND` parameter that selects from among one or more variants. The specific meaning of different `KIND` values themselves are implementation dependent and not specified by the language. Fortran provides the `KIND` selection functions `selected_real_kind` for `REAL` and `COMPLEX` types, and `selected_int_kind` for `INTEGER` types that allow users to declare variables with a minimum precision or number of digits. These functions provide a portable way to declare `KIND`-parameterized `REAL`, `COMPLEX` and `INTEGER` variables in Fortran. This scheme is backward compatible with Fortran 77. `REAL` and `INTEGER` Fortran variables have a default `KIND` if none is specified. Fortran DOUBLE PRECISION variables are of intrinsic type `REAL` with a non-default `KIND`. The following two declarations are equivalent:

```
double precision x
real(KIND(0.0d0)) x
```

MPI provides two orthogonal methods to communicate using numeric intrinsic types. The first method can be used when variables have been declared in a portable way — using default `KIND` or using `KIND` parameters obtained with the `selected_int_kind` or `selected_real_kind` functions. With this method, MPI automatically selects the correct data size (e.g., 4 or 8 bytes) and provides representation conversion in heterogeneous environments. The second method gives the user complete control over communication by exposing machine representations.

Parameterized Datatypes with Specified Precision and Exponent Range

MPI provides named datatypes corresponding to standard Fortran 77 numeric types — MPI_INTEGER, MPI_COMPLEX, MPI_REAL, MPI_DOUBLE_PRECISION and MPI_DOUBLE_COMPLEX. MPI automatically selects the correct data size and provides representation conversion in heterogeneous environments. The mechanism described in this section extends this model to support portable parameterized numeric types.

The model for supporting portable parameterized types is as follows. Real variables are declared (perhaps indirectly) using `selected_real_kind(p, r)` to determine the `KIND` parameter, where `p` is decimal digits of precision and `r` is an exponent range. Implicitly MPI maintains a two-dimensional array of predefined MPI datatypes `D(p, r)`. `D(p, r)` is defined for each value of `(p, r)` supported by the compiler, including pairs for which one value is unspecified. Attempting to access an element of the array with an index `(p, r)` not supported by the compiler is erroneous. MPI implicitly maintains a similar array of `COMPLEX` datatypes. For integers, there is a similar implicit array related to `selected_int_kind` and indexed by the requested number of digits `r`. Note that the predefined datatypes contained in these implicit arrays are not the same as the named MPI datatypes MPI_REAL, etc., but a new set.

Advice to implementors. The above description is for explanatory purposes only. It is not expected that implementations will have such internal arrays. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

Advice to users. `selected_real_kind()` maps a large number of `(p,r)` pairs to a much smaller number of `KIND` parameters supported by the compiler. `KIND` parameters are not specified by the language and are not portable. From the language point of view intrinsic types of the same base type and `KIND` parameter are of the same type. In order to allow interoperability in a heterogeneous environment, MPI is more stringent. The corresponding MPI datatypes match if and only if they have the same `(p,r)` value (`REAL` and `COMPLEX`) or `r` value (`INTEGER`). Thus MPI has many more datatypes than there are fundamental language types. (*End of advice to users.*)

MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL(p, r, newtype)

IN	p	precision, in decimal digits (integer)
IN	r	decimal exponent range (integer)
OUT	newtype	the requested MPI datatype (handle)

```
int MPI_Type_create_f90_real(int p, int r, MPI_Datatype *newtype)

MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL(P, R, NEWTYPE, IERROR)
    INTEGER P, R, NEWTYPE, IERROR
```

{`static MPI::Datatype MPI::Datatype::Create_f90_real(int p, int r)`*(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2)* }

This function returns a predefined MPI datatype that matches a `REAL` variable of `KIND selected_real_kind(p, r)`. In the model described above it returns a handle for the element `D(p, r)`. Either `p` or `r` may be omitted from calls to `selected_real_kind(p, r)` (but not both). Analogously, either `p` or `r` may be set to MPI_UNDEFINED. In communication, an MPI datatype `A` returned by MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL matches a datatype `B` if and only if `B` was returned by MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL called with the same values for `p` and `r` or `B` is a duplicate of such a datatype. Restrictions on using the returned datatype with the "external32" data representation are given on page 27.

It is erroneous to supply values for `p` and `r` not supported by the compiler.

MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_COMPLEX(p, r, newtype)

IN	p	precision, in decimal digits (integer)
IN	r	decimal exponent range (integer)
OUT	newtype	the requested MPI datatype (handle)

```
int MPI_Type_create_f90_complex(int p, int r, MPI_Datatype *newtype)
```

```
MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_COMPLEX(P, R, NEWTYPE, IERROR)
    INTEGER P, R, NEWTYPE, IERROR
```

{`static MPI::Datatype MPI::Datatype::Create_f90_complex(int p, int r)` *(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2)* }

This function returns a predefined MPI datatype that matches a `COMPLEX` variable of `KIND selected_real_kind(p, r)`. Either `p` or `r` may be omitted from calls to `selected_real_kind(p, r)` (but not both). Analogously, either `p` or `r` may be set to MPI_UNDEFINED. Matching rules for datatypes created by this function are analogous to the matching rules for datatypes created by MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL. Restrictions on using the returned datatype with the "external32" data representation are given on page 27.

It is erroneous to supply values for `p` and `r` not supported by the compiler.

MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_INTEGER(r, newtype)

IN	r	decimal exponent range, i.e., number of decimal digits (integer)
OUT	newtype	the requested MPI datatype (handle)

```
int MPI_Type_create_f90_integer(int r, MPI_Datatype *newtype)
```

```
MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_INTEGER(R, NEWTYPE, IERROR)
    INTEGER R, NEWTYPE, IERROR
```

{`static MPI::Datatype MPI::Datatype::Create_f90_integer(int r)` *(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2)* }

This function returns a predefined MPI datatype that matches a `INTEGER` variable of `KIND selected_int_kind(r)`. Matching rules for datatypes created by this function are analogous to the matching rules for datatypes created by MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL. Restrictions on using the returned datatype with the "external32" data representation are given on page 27.

It is erroneous to supply a value for r that is not supported by the compiler.

Example:

```
integer       longtype, quadtype
integer, parameter :: long = selected_int_kind(15)
integer(long) ii(10)
real(selected_real_kind(30)) x(10)
call MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_INTEGER(15, longtype, ierror)
call MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL(30, MPI_UNDEFINED, quadtype, ierror)
...

call MPI_SEND(ii, 10, longtype, ...)
call MPI_SEND(x,  10, quadtype, ...)
```

Advice to users. The datatypes returned by the above functions are predefined datatypes. They cannot be freed; they do not need to be committed; they can be used with predefined reduction operations. There are two situations in which they behave differently syntactically, but not semantically, from the MPI named predefined datatypes.

1. MPI_TYPE_GET_ENVELOPE returns special combiners that allow a program to retrieve the values of p and r.
2. Because the datatypes are not named, they cannot be used as compile-time initializers or otherwise accessed before a call to one of the MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_ routines.

If a variable was declared specifying a non-default KIND value that was not obtained with selected_real_kind() or selected_int_kind(), the only way to obtain a matching MPI datatype is to use the size-based mechanism described in the next section.

(*End of advice to users.*)

Advice to implementors. An application may often repeat a call to MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_xxxx with the same combination of (xxxx,p,r). The application is not allowed to free the returned predefined, unnamed datatype handles. To prevent the creation of a potentially huge amount of handles, a high quality MPI implementation should return the same datatype handle for the same (REAL/COMPLEX/INTEGER,p,r) combination. Checking for the combination (p,r) in the preceding call to MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_xxxx and using a hash-table to find formerly generated handles should limit the overhead of finding a previously generated datatype with same combination of (xxxx,p,r). (*End of advice to implementors.*)

Rationale. The MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL/COMPLEX/INTEGER interface needs as input the original range and precision values to be able to define useful and compiler-independent external (Section 13.5.2 on page 498) or user-defined (Section 13.5.3 on page 499) data representations, and in order to be able to perform automatic and efficient data conversions in a heterogeneous environment. (*End of rationale.*)

We now specify how the datatypes described in this section behave when used with the "external32" external data representation described in Section 13.5.2 on page 498.

The external32 representation specifies data formats for integer and floating point values. Integer values are represented in two's complement big-endian format. Floating point values are represented by one of three IEEE formats. These are the IEEE "Single," "Double" and "Double Extended" formats, requiring 4, 8 and 16 bytes of storage, respectively. For the IEEE "Double Extended" formats, MPI specifies a Format Width of 16 bytes, with 15 exponent bits, bias = +10383, 112 fraction bits, and an encoding analogous to the "Double" format.

The external32 representations of the datatypes returned by MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL/COMPLEX/INTEGER are given by the following rules.
For MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL:

```
if      (p > 33) or (r > 4931) then  external32 representation
                                     is undefined
else if (p > 15) or (r >  307) then  external32_size = 16
else if (p >  6) or (r >   37) then  external32_size =  8
else                                 external32_size =  4
```

For MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_COMPLEX: twice the size as for MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_REAL.
For MPI_TYPE_CREATE_F90_INTEGER:

```
if      (r > 38) then  external32 representation is undefined
else if (r > 18) then  external32_size =  16
else if (r >  9) then  external32_size =  8
else if (r >  4) then  external32_size =  4
else if (r >  2) then  external32_size =  2
else                   external32_size =  1
```

If the external32 representation of a datatype is undefined, the result of using the datatype directly or indirectly (i.e., as part of another datatype or through a duplicated datatype) in operations that require the external32 representation is undefined. These operations include MPI_PACK_EXTERNAL, MPI_UNPACK_EXTERNAL and many MPI_FILE functions, when the "external32" data representation is used. The ranges for which the external32 representation is undefined are reserved for future standardization.

Support for Size-specific MPI Datatypes

MPI provides named datatypes corresponding to optional Fortran 77 numeric types that contain explicit byte lengths — MPI_REAL4, MPI_INTEGER8, etc. This section describes a mechanism that generalizes this model to support all Fortran numeric intrinsic types.

We assume that for each **typeclass** (integer, real, complex) and each word size there is a unique machine representation. For every pair (**typeclass**, **n**) supported by a compiler, MPI must provide a named size-specific datatype. The name of this datatype is of the form MPI_<TYPE>n in C and Fortran and of the form MPI::<TYPE>n in C++ where <TYPE> is one of REAL, INTEGER and COMPLEX, and **n** is the length in bytes of the machine representation. This datatype locally matches all variables of type (**typeclass**, **n**). The list of names for such types includes:

```
MPI_REAL4
```

```
MPI_REAL8
MPI_REAL16
MPI_COMPLEX8
MPI_COMPLEX16
MPI_COMPLEX32
MPI_INTEGER1
MPI_INTEGER2
MPI_INTEGER4
MPI_INTEGER8
MPI_INTEGER16
```

One datatype is required for each representation supported by the compiler. To be backward compatible with the interpretation of these types in MPI-1, we assume that the nonstandard declarations `REAL*n`, `INTEGER*n`, always create a variable whose representation is of size **n**. All these datatypes are predefined.

The following functions allow a user to obtain a size-specific MPI datatype for any intrinsic Fortran type.

MPI_SIZEOF(x, size)

IN	x	a Fortran variable of numeric intrinsic type (choice)
OUT	size	size of machine representation of that type (integer)

```
MPI_SIZEOF(X, SIZE, IERROR)
    <type> X
    INTEGER SIZE, IERROR
```

This function returns the size in bytes of the machine representation of the given variable. It is a generic Fortran routine and has a Fortran binding only.

Advice to users. This function is similar to the C and C++ *sizeof* operator but behaves slightly differently. If given an array argument, it returns the size of the base element, not the size of the whole array. (*End of advice to users.*)

Rationale. This function is not available in other languages because it would not be useful. (*End of rationale.*)

MPI_TYPE_MATCH_SIZE(typeclass, size, type)

IN	typeclass	generic type specifier (integer)
IN	size	size, in bytes, of representation (integer)
OUT	type	datatype with correct type, size (handle)

```
int MPI_Type_match_size(int typeclass, int size, MPI_Datatype *type)

MPI_TYPE_MATCH_SIZE(TYPECLASS, SIZE, TYPE, IERROR)
    INTEGER TYPECLASS, SIZE, TYPE, IERROR
```

{`static MPI::Datatype MPI::Datatype::Match_size(int typeclass,`
`int size)`*(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2)* }

typeclass is one of MPI_TYPECLASS_REAL, MPI_TYPECLASS_INTEGER and MPI_TYPECLASS_COMPLEX, corresponding to the desired **typeclass**. The function returns an MPI datatype matching a local variable of type (**typeclass**, **size**).

This function returns a reference (handle) to one of the predefined named datatypes, not a duplicate. This type cannot be freed. MPI_TYPE_MATCH_SIZE can be used to obtain a size-specific type that matches a Fortran numeric intrinsic type by first calling MPI_SIZEOF in order to compute the variable size, and then calling MPI_TYPE_MATCH_SIZE to find a suitable datatype. In C and C++, one can use the C function sizeof(), instead of MPI_SIZEOF. In addition, for variables of default kind the variable's size can be computed by a call to MPI_TYPE_GET_EXTENT, if the `typeclass` is known. It is erroneous to specify a size not supported by the compiler.

Rationale. This is a convenience function. Without it, it can be tedious to find the correct named type. See note to implementors below. (*End of rationale.*)

Advice to implementors. This function could be implemented as a series of tests.

```
int MPI_Type_match_size(int typeclass, int size, MPI_Datatype *rtype)
{
  switch(typeclass) {
      case MPI_TYPECLASS_REAL: switch(size) {
        case 4: *rtype = MPI_REAL4; return MPI_SUCCESS;
        case 8: *rtype = MPI_REAL8; return MPI_SUCCESS;
        default: error(...);
      }
      case MPI_TYPECLASS_INTEGER: switch(size) {
         case 4: *rtype = MPI_INTEGER4; return MPI_SUCCESS;
         case 8: *rtype = MPI_INTEGER8; return MPI_SUCCESS;
         default: error(...);
      }
     ... etc. ...
   }
}
```

(*End of advice to implementors.*)

Communication With Size-specific Types

The usual type matching rules apply to size-specific datatypes: a value sent with datatype MPI_<TYPE>n can be received with this same datatype on another process. Most modern computers use 2's complement for integers and IEEE format for floating point. Thus, communication using these size-specific datatypes will not entail loss of precision or truncation errors.

Advice to users. Care is required when communicating in a heterogeneous environment. Consider the following code:

```
real(selected_real_kind(5)) x(100)
call MPI_SIZEOF(x, size, ierror)
call MPI_TYPE_MATCH_SIZE(MPI_TYPECLASS_REAL, size, xtype, ierror)
if (myrank .eq. 0) then
    ... initialize x ...
    call MPI_SEND(x, xtype, 100, 1, ...)
else if (myrank .eq. 1) then
    call MPI_RECV(x, xtype, 100, 0, ...)
endif
```

This may not work in a heterogeneous environment if the value of size is not the same on process 1 and process 0. There should be no problem in a homogeneous environment. To communicate in a heterogeneous environment, there are at least four options. The first is to declare variables of default type and use the MPI datatypes for these types, e.g., declare a variable of type `REAL` and use MPI_REAL. The second is to use `selected_real_kind` or `selected_int_kind` and with the functions of the previous section. The third is to declare a variable that is known to be the same size on all architectures (e.g., `selected_real_kind(12)` on almost all compilers will result in an 8-byte representation). The fourth is to carefully check representation size before communication. This may require explicit conversion to a variable of size that can be communicated and handshaking between sender and receiver to agree on a size.

Note finally that using the "external32" representation for I/O requires explicit attention to the representation sizes. Consider the following code:

```
real(selected_real_kind(5)) x(100)
call MPI_SIZEOF(x, size, ierror)
call MPI_TYPE_MATCH_SIZE(MPI_TYPECLASS_REAL, size, xtype, ierror)

if (myrank .eq. 0) then
   call MPI_FILE_OPEN(MPI_COMM_SELF, 'foo',               &
                      MPI_MODE_CREATE+MPI_MODE_WRONLY,    &
                      MPI_INFO_NULL, fh, ierror)
   call MPI_FILE_SET_VIEW(fh, zero, xtype, xtype, 'external32',  &
                          MPI_INFO_NULL, ierror)
   call MPI_FILE_WRITE(fh, x, 100, xtype, status, ierror)
   call MPI_FILE_CLOSE(fh, ierror)
endif

call MPI_BARRIER(MPI_COMM_WORLD, ierror)

if (myrank .eq. 1) then
   call MPI_FILE_OPEN(MPI_COMM_SELF, 'foo', MPI_MODE_RDONLY,  &
                 MPI_INFO_NULL, fh, ierror)
   call MPI_FILE_SET_VIEW(fh, zero, xtype, xtype, 'external32',  &
                          MPI_INFO_NULL, ierror)
   call MPI_FILE_WRITE(fh, x, 100, xtype, status, ierror)
   call MPI_FILE_CLOSE(fh, ierror)
```

```
endif
```

If processes 0 and 1 are on different machines, this code may not work as expected if the size is different on the two machines. (*End of advice to users.*)

16.3 Language Interoperability

16.3.1 Introduction

It is not uncommon for library developers to use one language to develop an applications library that may be called by an application program written in a different language. MPI currently supports ISO (previously ANSI) C, C++, and Fortran bindings. It should be possible for applications in any of the supported languages to call MPI-related functions in another language.

Moreover, MPI allows the development of client-server code, with MPI communication used between a parallel client and a parallel server. It should be possible to code the server in one language and the clients in another language. To do so, communications should be possible between applications written in different languages.

There are several issues that need to be addressed in order to achieve interoperability.

Initialization We need to specify how the MPI environment is initialized for all languages.

Interlanguage passing of MPI opaque objects We need to specify how MPI object handles are passed between languages. We also need to specify what happens when an MPI object is accessed in one language, to retrieve information (e.g., attributes) set in another language.

Interlanguage communication We need to specify how messages sent in one language can be received in another language.

It is highly desirable that the solution for interlanguage interoperability be extendable to new languages, should MPI bindings be defined for such languages.

16.3.2 Assumptions

We assume that conventions exist for programs written in one language to call routines written in another language. These conventions specify how to link routines in different languages into one program, how to call functions in a different language, how to pass arguments between languages, and the correspondence between basic data types in different languages. In general, these conventions will be implementation dependent. Furthermore, not every basic datatype may have a matching type in other languages. For example, C/C++ character strings may not be compatible with Fortran `CHARACTER` variables. However, we assume that a Fortran `INTEGER`, as well as a (sequence associated) Fortran array of `INTEGER`s, can be passed to a C or C++ program. We also assume that Fortran, C, and C++ have address-sized integers. This does not mean that the default-size integers are the same size as default-sized pointers, but only that there is some way to hold (and pass) a C address in a Fortran integer. It is also assumed that `INTEGER(KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND)` can be passed from Fortran to C as MPI_Offset.

16.3.3 Initialization

A call to MPI_INIT or MPI_INIT_THREAD, from any language, initializes MPI for execution in all languages.

> *Advice to users.* Certain implementations use the (inout) `argc`, `argv` arguments of the C/C++ version of MPI_INIT in order to propagate values for `argc` and `argv` to all executing processes. Use of the Fortran version of MPI_INIT to initialize MPI may result in a loss of this ability. (*End of advice to users.*)

The function MPI_INITIALIZED returns the same answer in all languages.

The function MPI_FINALIZE finalizes the MPI environments for all languages.

The function MPI_FINALIZED returns the same answer in all languages.

The function MPI_ABORT kills processes, irrespective of the language used by the caller or by the processes killed.

The MPI environment is initialized in the same manner for all languages by MPI_INIT. E.g., MPI_COMM_WORLD carries the same information regardless of language: same processes, same environmental attributes, same error handlers.

Information can be added to info objects in one language and retrieved in another.

> *Advice to users.* The use of several languages in one MPI program may require the use of special options at compile and/or link time. (*End of advice to users.*)

> *Advice to implementors.* Implementations may selectively link language specific MPI libraries only to codes that need them, so as not to increase the size of binaries for codes that use only one language. The MPI initialization code need perform initialization for a language only if that language library is loaded. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

16.3.4 Transfer of Handles

Handles are passed between Fortran and C or C++ by using an explicit C wrapper to convert Fortran handles to C handles. There is no direct access to C or C++ handles in Fortran. Handles are passed between C and C++ using overloaded C++ operators called from C++ code. There is no direct access to C++ objects from C.

The type definition MPI_Fint is provided in C/C++ for an integer of the size that matches a Fortran INTEGER; usually, MPI_Fint will be equivalent to int.

The following functions are provided in C to convert from a Fortran communicator handle (which is an integer) to a C communicator handle, and vice versa. See also Section 2.6.5 on page 21.

```
MPI_Comm MPI_Comm_f2c(MPI_Fint comm)
```

If comm is a valid Fortran handle to a communicator, then MPI_Comm_f2c returns a valid C handle to that same communicator; if comm = MPI_COMM_NULL (Fortran value), then MPI_Comm_f2c returns a null C handle; if comm is an invalid Fortran handle, then MPI_Comm_f2c returns an invalid C handle.

```
MPI_Fint MPI_Comm_c2f(MPI_Comm comm)
```

The function MPI_Comm_c2f translates a C communicator handle into a Fortran handle to the same communicator; it maps a null handle into a null handle and an invalid handle into an invalid handle.

Similar functions are provided for the other types of opaque objects.

```
MPI_Datatype MPI_Type_f2c(MPI_Fint datatype)

MPI_Fint MPI_Type_c2f(MPI_Datatype datatype)

MPI_Group MPI_Group_f2c(MPI_Fint group)

MPI_Fint MPI_Group_c2f(MPI_Group group)

MPI_Request MPI_Request_f2c(MPI_Fint request)

MPI_Fint MPI_Request_c2f(MPI_Request request)

MPI_File MPI_File_f2c(MPI_Fint file)

MPI_Fint MPI_File_c2f(MPI_File file)

MPI_Win MPI_Win_f2c(MPI_Fint win)

MPI_Fint MPI_Win_c2f(MPI_Win win)

MPI_Op MPI_Op_f2c(MPI_Fint op)

MPI_Fint MPI_Op_c2f(MPI_Op op)

MPI_Info MPI_Info_f2c(MPI_Fint info)

MPI_Fint MPI_Info_c2f(MPI_Info info)

MPI_Errhandler MPI_Errhandler_f2c(MPI_Fint errhandler)

MPI_Fint MPI_Errhandler_c2f(MPI_Errhandler errhandler)
```

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```
MPI_Message MPI_Message_f2c(MPI_Fint message)

MPI_Fint MPI_Message_c2f(MPI_Message message)
```

Example 16.13 The example below illustrates how the Fortran MPI function MPI_TYPE_COMMIT can be implemented by wrapping the C MPI function MPI_Type_commit with a C wrapper to do handle conversions. In this example a Fortran-C interface is assumed where a Fortran function is all upper case when referred to from C and arguments are passed by addresses.

```
! FORTRAN PROCEDURE
SUBROUTINE MPI_TYPE_COMMIT( DATATYPE, IERR)
INTEGER DATATYPE, IERR
CALL MPI_X_TYPE_COMMIT(DATATYPE, IERR)
RETURN
END
```

```
/* C wrapper */

void MPI_X_TYPE_COMMIT( MPI_Fint *f_handle, MPI_Fint *ierr)
{
   MPI_Datatype datatype;

   datatype = MPI_Type_f2c( *f_handle);
   *ierr = (MPI_Fint)MPI_Type_commit( &datatype);
   *f_handle = MPI_Type_c2f(datatype);
   return;
}
```

The same approach can be used for all other MPI functions. The call to MPI_xxx_f2c (resp. MPI_xxx_c2f) can be omitted when the handle is an OUT (resp. IN) argument, rather than INOUT.

Rationale. The design here provides a convenient solution for the prevalent case, where a C wrapper is used to allow Fortran code to call a C library, or C code to call a Fortran library. The use of C wrappers is much more likely than the use of Fortran wrappers, because it is much more likely that a variable of type INTEGER can be passed to C, than a C handle can be passed to Fortran.

Returning the converted value as a function value rather than through the argument list allows the generation of efficient inlined code when these functions are simple (e.g., the identity). The conversion function in the wrapper does not catch an invalid handle argument. Instead, an invalid handle is passed below to the library function, which, presumably, checks its input arguments. (*End of rationale.*)

C and C++ The C++ language interface provides the functions listed below for mixed-language interoperability. The token `<CLASS>` is used below to indicate any valid MPI opaque handle name (e.g., `Group`), except where noted. For the case where the C++ class corresponding to `<CLASS>` has derived classes, functions are also provided for converting between the derived classes and the C `MPI_<CLASS>`.

The following function allows assignment from a C MPI handle to a C++ MPI handle.

```
MPI::<CLASS>& MPI::<CLASS>::operator=(const MPI_<CLASS>& data)
```

The constructor below creates a C++ MPI object from a C MPI handle. This allows the automatic promotion of a C MPI handle to a C++ MPI handle.

```
MPI::<CLASS>::<CLASS>(const MPI_<CLASS>& data)
```

Example 16.14 In order for a C program to use a C++ library, the C++ library must export a C interface that provides appropriate conversions before invoking the underlying C++ library call. This example shows a C interface function that invokes a C++ library call with a C communicator; the communicator is automatically promoted to a C++ handle when the underlying C++ function is invoked.

```
// C++ library function prototype
void cpp_lib_call(MPI::Intracomm cpp_comm);

// Exported C function prototype
extern "C" {
   void c_interface(MPI_Comm c_comm);
}

void c_interface(MPI_Comm c_comm)
{
   // the MPI_Comm (c_comm) is automatically promoted to MPI::Intracomm
   cpp_lib_call(c_comm);
}
```

The following function allows conversion from C++ objects to C MPI handles. In this case, the casting operator is overloaded to provide the functionality.

`MPI::<CLASS>::operator MPI_<CLASS>() const`

Example 16.15 A C library routine is called from a C++ program. The C library routine is prototyped to take an `MPI_Comm` as an argument.

```
// C function prototype
extern "C" {
   void c_lib_call(MPI_Comm c_comm);
}

void cpp_function()
{
   // Create a C++ communicator, and initialize it with a dup of
   //   MPI::COMM_WORLD
   MPI::Intracomm cpp_comm(MPI::COMM_WORLD.Dup());
   c_lib_call(cpp_comm);
}
```

Rationale. Providing conversion from C to C++ via constructors and from C++ to C via casting allows the compiler to make automatic conversions. Calling C from C++ becomes trivial, as does the provision of a C or Fortran interface to a C++ library. (*End of rationale.*)

Advice to users. Note that the casting and promotion operators return new handles by value. Using these new handles as INOUT parameters will affect the internal MPI object, but will *not* affect the original handle from which it was cast. (*End of advice to users.*)

It is important to note that all C++ objects with corresponding C handles can be used interchangeably by an application. For example, an application can cache an attribute on `MPI_COMM_WORLD` and later retrieve it from `MPI::COMM_WORLD`.

16.3.5 Status

The following two procedures are provided in C to convert from a Fortran status (which is an array of integers) to a C status (which is a structure), and vice versa. The conversion occurs on all the information in status, including that which is hidden. That is, no status information is lost in the conversion.

```
int MPI_Status_f2c(MPI_Fint *f_status, MPI_Status *c_status)
```

If f_status is a valid Fortran status, but not the Fortran value of MPI_STATUS_IGNORE or MPI_STATUSES_IGNORE, then MPI_Status_f2c returns in c_status a valid C status with the same content. If f_status is the Fortran value of MPI_STATUS_IGNORE or MPI_STATUSES_IGNORE, or if f_status is not a valid Fortran status, then the call is erroneous.

The C status has the same source, tag and error code values as the Fortran status, and returns the same answers when queried for count, elements, and cancellation. The conversion function may be called with a Fortran status argument that has an undefined error field, in which case the value of the error field in the C status argument is undefined.

Two global variables of type MPI_Fint*, MPI_F_STATUS_IGNORE and MPI_F_STATUSES_IGNORE are declared in mpi.h. They can be used to test, in C, whether f_status is the Fortran value of MPI_STATUS_IGNORE or MPI_STATUSES_IGNORE, respectively. These are global variables, not C constant expressions and cannot be used in places where C requires constant expressions. Their value is defined only between the calls to MPI_INIT and MPI_FINALIZE and should not be changed by user code.

To do the conversion in the other direction, we have the following:

```
int MPI_Status_c2f(MPI_Status *c_status, MPI_Fint *f_status)
```

This call converts a C status into a Fortran status, and has a behavior similar to MPI_Status_f2c. That is, the value of c_status must not be either MPI_STATUS_IGNORE or MPI_STATUSES_IGNORE.

Advice to users. There is not a separate conversion function for arrays of statuses, since one can simply loop through the array, converting each status. (*End of advice to users.*)

Rationale. The handling of MPI_STATUS_IGNORE is required in order to layer libraries with only a C wrapper: if the Fortran call has passed MPI_STATUS_IGNORE, then the C wrapper must handle this correctly. Note that this constant need not have the same value in Fortran and C. If MPI_Status_f2c were to handle MPI_STATUS_IGNORE, then the type of its result would have to be MPI_Status**, which was considered an inferior solution. (*End of rationale.*)

16.3.6 MPI Opaque Objects

Unless said otherwise, opaque objects are "the same" in all languages: they carry the same information, and have the same meaning in both languages. The mechanism described in the previous section can be used to pass references to MPI objects from language to language. An object created in one language can be accessed, modified or freed in another language.

We examine below in more detail, issues that arise for each type of MPI object.

Datatypes

Datatypes encode the same information in all languages. E.g., a datatype accessor like MPI_TYPE_GET_EXTENT will return the same information in all languages. If a datatype defined in one language is used for a communication call in another language, then the message sent will be identical to the message that would be sent from the first language: the same communication buffer is accessed, and the same representation conversion is performed, if needed. All predefined datatypes can be used in datatype constructors in any language. If a datatype is committed, it can be used for communication in any language.

The function MPI_GET_ADDRESS returns the same value in all languages. Note that we do not require that the constant MPI_BOTTOM have the same value in all languages (see 16.3.9, page 44).

Example 16.16

```
! FORTRAN CODE
REAL R(5)
INTEGER TYPE, IERR, AOBLEN(1), AOTYPE(1)
INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) AODISP(1)

! create an absolute datatype for array R
AOBLEN(1) = 5
CALL MPI_GET_ADDRESS( R, AODISP(1), IERR)
AOTYPE(1) = MPI_REAL
CALL MPI_TYPE_CREATE_STRUCT(1, AOBLEN,AODISP,AOTYPE, TYPE, IERR)
CALL C_ROUTINE(TYPE)

/* C code */

void C_ROUTINE(MPI_Fint *ftype)
{
   int count = 5;
   int lens[2] = {1,1};
   MPI_Aint displs[2];
   MPI_Datatype types[2], newtype;

   /* create an absolute datatype for buffer that consists   */
   /*  of count, followed by R(5)                            */

   MPI_Get_address(&count, &displs[0]);
   displs[1] = 0;
   types[0] = MPI_INT;
   types[1] = MPI_Type_f2c(*ftype);
   MPI_Type_create_struct(2, lens, displs, types, &newtype);
   MPI_Type_commit(&newtype);

   MPI_Send(MPI_BOTTOM, 1, newtype, 1, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
   /* the message sent contains an int count of 5, followed  */
   /* by the 5 REAL entries of the Fortran array R.          */
}
```

Advice to implementors. The following implementation can be used: MPI addresses, as returned by MPI_GET_ADDRESS, will have the same value in all languages. One obvious choice is that MPI addresses be identical to regular addresses. The address is stored in the datatype, when datatypes with absolute addresses are constructed. When a send or receive operation is performed, then addresses stored in a datatype are interpreted as displacements that are all augmented by a base address. This base address is (the address of) buf, or zero, if buf = MPI_BOTTOM. Thus, if MPI_BOTTOM is zero then a send or receive call with buf = MPI_BOTTOM is implemented exactly as a call with a regular buffer argument: in both cases the base address is buf. On the other hand, if MPI_BOTTOM is not zero, then the implementation has to be slightly different. A test is performed to check whether buf = MPI_BOTTOM. If true, then the base address is zero, otherwise it is buf. In particular, if MPI_BOTTOM does not have the same value in Fortran and C/C++, then an additional test for buf = MPI_BOTTOM is needed in at least one of the languages.

It may be desirable to use a value other than zero for MPI_BOTTOM even in C/C++, so as to distinguish it from a NULL pointer. If MPI_BOTTOM = c then one can still avoid the test buf = MPI_BOTTOM, by using the displacement from MPI_BOTTOM, i.e., the regular address - c, as the MPI address returned by MPI_GET_ADDRESS and stored in absolute datatypes. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

Callback Functions

MPI calls may associate callback functions with MPI objects: error handlers are associated with communicators and files, attribute copy and delete functions are associated with attribute keys, reduce operations are associated with operation objects, etc. In a multilanguage environment, a function passed in an MPI call in one language may be invoked by an MPI call in another language. MPI implementations must make sure that such invocation will use the calling convention of the language the function is bound to.

Advice to implementors. Callback functions need to have a language tag. This tag is set when the callback function is passed in by the library function (which is presumably different for each language), and is used to generate the right calling sequence when the callback function is invoked. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

Error Handlers

Advice to implementors. Error handlers, have, in C and C++, a "`stdargs`" argument list. It might be useful to provide to the handler information on the language environment where the error occurred. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

Reduce Operations

Advice to users. Reduce operations receive as one of their arguments the datatype of the operands. Thus, one can define "polymorphic" reduce operations that work for C, C++, and Fortran datatypes. (*End of advice to users.*)

Addresses

Some of the datatype accessors and constructors have arguments of type MPI_Aint (in C) or MPI::Aint in C++, to hold addresses. The corresponding arguments, in Fortran, have type INTEGER. This causes Fortran and C/C++ to be incompatible, in an environment where addresses have 64 bits, but Fortran INTEGERs have 32 bits.

This is a problem, irrespective of interlanguage issues. Suppose that a Fortran process has an address space of $\geq$ 4 GB. What should be the value returned in Fortran by MPI_ADDRESS, for a variable with an address above 2^{32}? The design described here addresses this issue, while maintaining compatibility with current Fortran codes.

The constant MPI_ADDRESS_KIND is defined so that, in Fortran 90, `INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND))` is an address sized integer type (typically, but not necessarily, the size of an `INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND)` is 4 on 32 bit address machines and 8 on 64 bit address machines). Similarly, the constant MPI_INTEGER_KIND is defined so that `INTEGER(KIND=MPI_INTEGER_KIND)` is a default size INTEGER.

There are seven functions that have address arguments: MPI_TYPE_HVECTOR, MPI_TYPE_HINDEXED, MPI_TYPE_STRUCT, MPI_ADDRESS, MPI_TYPE_EXTENT MPI_TYPE_LB and MPI_TYPE_UB.

Four new functions are provided to supplement the first four functions in this list. These functions are described in Section 4.1.1 on page 83. The remaining three functions are supplemented by the new function MPI_TYPE_GET_EXTENT, described in that same section. The new functions have the same functionality as the old functions in C/C++, or on Fortran systems where default INTEGERs are address sized. In Fortran, they accept arguments of type `INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND)`, wherever arguments of type MPI_Aint and MPI::Aint are used in C and C++. On Fortran 77 systems that do not support the Fortran 90 KIND notation, and where addresses are 64 bits whereas default INTEGERs are 32 bits, these arguments will be of an appropriate integer type. The old functions will continue to be provided, for backward compatibility. However, users are encouraged to switch to the new functions, in Fortran, so as to avoid problems on systems with an address range $> 2^{32}$, and to provide compatibility across languages.

16.3.7 Attributes

Attribute keys can be allocated in one language and freed in another. Similarly, attribute values can be set in one language and accessed in another. To achieve this, attribute keys will be allocated in an integer range that is valid all languages. The same holds true for system-defined attribute values (such as MPI_TAG_UB, MPI_WTIME_IS_GLOBAL, etc.)

Attribute keys declared in one language are associated with copy and delete functions in that language (the functions provided by the MPI_{TYPE,COMM,WIN}_CREATE_KEYVAL call). When a communicator is duplicated, for each attribute, the corresponding copy function is called, using the right calling convention for the language of that function; and similarly, for the delete callback function.

Advice to implementors. This requires that attributes be tagged either as “C,” “C++” or “Fortran,” and that the language tag be checked in order to use the right calling convention for the callback function. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

The attribute manipulation functions described in Section 6.7 on page 249 define attributes arguments to be of type void* in C, and of type INTEGER, in Fortran. On some systems, INTEGERs will have 32 bits, while C/C++ pointers will have 64 bits. This is a problem if communicator attributes are used to move information from a Fortran caller to a C/C++ callee, or vice-versa.

MPI behaves as if it stores, internally, address sized attributes. If Fortran INTEGERs are smaller, then the Fortran function MPI_ATTR_GET will return the least significant part of the attribute word; the Fortran function MPI_ATTR_PUT will set the least significant part of the attribute word, which will be sign extended to the entire word. (These two functions may be invoked explicitly by user code, or implicitly, by attribute copying callback functions.)

As for addresses, new functions are provided that manipulate Fortran address sized attributes, and have the same functionality as the old functions in C/C++. These functions are described in Section 6.7, page 249. Users are encouraged to use these new functions.

MPI supports two types of attributes: address-valued (pointer) attributes, and integer valued attributes. C and C++ attribute functions put and get address valued attributes. Fortran attribute functions put and get integer valued attributes. When an integer valued attribute is accessed from C or C++, then MPI_xxx_get_attr will return the address of (a pointer to) the integer valued attribute, which is a pointer to MPI_Aint if the attribute was stored with Fortran MPI_xxx_SET_ATTR, and a pointer to int if it was stored with the deprecated Fortran MPI_ATTR_PUT. When an address valued attribute is accessed from Fortran, then MPI_xxx_GET_ATTR will convert the address into an integer and return the result of this conversion. This conversion is lossless if new style attribute functions are used, and an integer of kind MPI_ADDRESS_KIND is returned. The conversion may cause truncation if deprecated attribute functions are used. In C, the deprecated routines MPI_Attr_put and MPI_Attr_get behave identical to MPI_Comm_set_attr and MPI_Comm_get_attr.

Example 16.17

A. Setting an attribute value in C

```
int set_val = 3;
struct foo set_struct;

/* Set a value that is a pointer to an int */

MPI_Comm_set_attr(MPI_COMM_WORLD, keyval1, &set_val);
/* Set a value that is a pointer to a struct */
MPI_Comm_set_attr(MPI_COMM_WORLD, keyval2, &set_struct);
/* Set an integer value */
MPI_Comm_set_attr(MPI_COMM_WORLD, keyval3, (void *) 17);
```

B. Reading the attribute value in C

```
int flag, *get_val;
struct foo *get_struct;

/* Upon successful return, get_val == &set_val
   (and therefore *get_val == 3) */
MPI_Comm_get_attr(MPI_COMM_WORLD, keyval1, &get_val, &flag);
/* Upon successful return, get_struct == &set_struct */
```

```
MPI_Comm_get_attr(MPI_COMM_WORLD, keyval2, &get_struct, &flag);
/* Upon successful return, get_val == (void*) 17 */
/*        i.e., (MPI_Aint) get_val == 17 */
MPI_Comm_get_attr(MPI_COMM_WORLD, keyval3, &get_val, &flag);
```

C. Reading the attribute value with (deprecated) Fortran MPI-1 calls

```
LOGICAL FLAG
INTEGER IERR, GET_VAL, GET_STRUCT

! Upon successful return, GET_VAL == &set_val, possibly truncated
CALL MPI_ATTR_GET(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL1, GET_VAL, FLAG, IERR)
! Upon successful return, GET_STRUCT == &set_struct, possibly truncated
CALL MPI_ATTR_GET(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL2, GET_STRUCT, FLAG, IERR)
! Upon successful return, GET_VAL == 17
CALL MPI_ATTR_GET(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL3, GET_VAL, FLAG, IERR)
```

D. Reading the attribute value with Fortran MPI-2 calls

```
LOGICAL FLAG
INTEGER IERR
INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) GET_VAL, GET_STRUCT

! Upon successful return, GET_VAL == &set_val
CALL MPI_COMM_GET_ATTR(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL1, GET_VAL, FLAG, IERR)
! Upon successful return, GET_STRUCT == &set_struct
CALL MPI_COMM_GET_ATTR(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL2, GET_STRUCT, FLAG, IERR)
! Upon successful return, GET_VAL == 17
CALL MPI_COMM_GET_ATTR(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL3, GET_VAL, FLAG, IERR)
```

Example 16.18

A. Setting an attribute value with the (deprecated) Fortran MPI-1 call

```
INTEGER IERR, VAL
VAL = 7
CALL MPI_ATTR_PUT(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL, VAL, IERR)
```

B. Reading the attribute value in C

```
int flag;
int *value;

/* Upon successful return, value points to internal MPI storage and
   *value == (int) 7 */
MPI_Comm_get_attr(MPI_COMM_WORLD, keyval, &value, &flag);
```

C. Reading the attribute value with (deprecated) Fortran MPI-1 calls

```
LOGICAL FLAG
INTEGER IERR, VALUE

! Upon successful return, VALUE == 7
CALL MPI_ATTR_GET(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL, VALUE, FLAG, IERR)
```

D. Reading the attribute value with Fortran MPI-2 calls

```
LOGICAL FLAG
INTEGER IERR
INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) VALUE

! Upon successful return, VALUE == 7 (sign extended)
CALL MPI_COMM_GET_ATTR(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL, VALUE, FLAG, IERR)
```

Example 16.19 A. Setting an attribute value via a Fortran MPI-2 call

```
INTEGER IERR
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) VALUE1
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) VALUE2
VALUE1 = 42
VALUE2 = INT(2, KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) ** 40

CALL MPI_COMM_SET_ATTR(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL1, VALUE1, IERR)
CALL MPI_COMM_SET_ATTR(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL2, VALUE2, IERR)
```

B. Reading the attribute value in C

```
int flag;
MPI_Aint *value1, *value2;

/* Upon successful return, value1 points to internal MPI storage and
   *value1 == 42 */
MPI_Comm_get_attr(MPI_COMM_WORLD, keyval1, &value1, &flag);
/* Upon successful return, value2 points to internal MPI storage and
   *value2 == 2^40 */
MPI_Comm_get_attr(MPI_COMM_WORLD, keyval2, &value2, &flag);
```

C. Reading the attribute value with (deprecated) Fortran MPI-1 calls

```
LOGICAL FLAG
INTEGER IERR, VALUE1, VALUE2

! Upon successful return, VALUE1 == 42
CALL MPI_ATTR_GET(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL1, VALUE1, FLAG, IERR)
! Upon successful return, VALUE2 == 2^40, or 0 if truncation
! needed (i.e., the least significant part of the attribute word)
CALL MPI_ATTR_GET(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL2, VALUE2, FLAG, IERR)
```

D. Reading the attribute value with Fortran MPI-2 calls

```
LOGICAL FLAG
INTEGER IERR
INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) VALUE1, VALUE2

! Upon successful return, VALUE1 == 42
CALL MPI_COMM_GET_ATTR(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL1, VALUE1, FLAG, IERR)
! Upon successful return, VALUE2 == 2^40
CALL MPI_COMM_GET_ATTR(MPI_COMM_WORLD, KEYVAL2, VALUE2, FLAG, IERR)
```

The predefined MPI attributes can be integer valued or address valued. Predefined integer valued attributes, such as MPI_TAG_UB, behave as if they were put by a call to the deprecated Fortran routine MPI_ATTR_PUT, i.e., in Fortran, MPI_COMM_GET_ATTR(MPI_COMM_WORLD, MPI_TAG_UB, val, flag, ierr) will return in val the upper bound for tag value; in C, MPI_Comm_get_attr(MPI_COMM_WORLD, MPI_TAG_UB, &p, &flag) will return in p a pointer to an int containing the upper bound for tag value.

Address valued predefined attributes, such as MPI_WIN_BASE behave as if they were put by a C call, i.e., in Fortran, MPI_WIN_GET_ATTR(win, MPI_WIN_BASE, val, flag, ierror) will return in val the base address of the window, converted to an integer. In C, MPI_Win_get_attr(win, MPI_WIN_BASE, &p, &flag) will return in p a pointer to the window base, cast to `(void *)`.

Rationale. The design is consistent with the behavior specified for predefined attributes, and ensures that no information is lost when attributes are passed from language to language. Because the language interoperability for predefined attributes was defined based on MPI_ATTR_PUT, this definition is kept for compatibility reasons although the routine itself is now deprecated. (*End of rationale.*)

Advice to implementors. Implementations should tag attributes either as (1) address attributes, (2) as `INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND)` attributes or (3) as `INTEGER` attributes, according to whether they were set in (1) C (with MPI_Attr_put or MPI_Xxx_set_attr), (2) in Fortran with MPI_XXX_SET_ATTR or (3) with the deprecated Fortran routine MPI_ATTR_PUT. Thus, the right choice can be made when the attribute is retrieved. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

16.3.8 Extra State

Extra-state should not be modified by the copy or delete callback functions. (This is obvious from the C binding, but not obvious from the Fortran binding). However, these functions may update state that is indirectly accessed via extra-state. E.g., in C, extra-state can be a pointer to a data structure that is modified by the copy or callback functions; in Fortran, extra-state can be an index into an entry in a `COMMON` array that is modified by the copy or callback functions. In a multithreaded environment, users should be aware that distinct threads may invoke the same callback function concurrently: if this function modifies state associated with extra-state, then mutual exclusion code must be used to protect updates and accesses to the shared state.

16.3.9 Constants

MPI constants have the same value in all languages, unless specified otherwise. This does not apply to constant handles (MPI_INT, MPI_COMM_WORLD, MPI_ERRORS_RETURN, MPI_SUM, etc.) These handles need to be converted, as explained in Section 16.3.4. Constants that specify maximum lengths of strings (see Section A.1.1 for a listing) have a value one less in Fortran than C/C++ since in C/C++ the length includes the null terminating character. Thus, these constants represent the amount of space which must be allocated to hold the largest possible such string, rather than the maximum number of printable characters the string could contain.

Advice to users. This definition means that it is safe in C/C++ to allocate a buffer to receive a string using a declaration like

```
char name [MPI_MAX_OBJECT_NAME];
```

(*End of advice to users.*)

Also constant "addresses," i.e., special values for reference arguments that are not handles, such as MPI_BOTTOM or MPI_STATUS_IGNORE may have different values in different languages.

Rationale. The current MPI standard specifies that MPI_BOTTOM can be used in initialization expressions in C, but not in Fortran. Since Fortran does not normally support call by value, then MPI_BOTTOM must be in Fortran the name of a predefined static variable, e.g., a variable in an MPI declared COMMON block. On the other hand, in C, it is natural to take MPI_BOTTOM = 0 (Caveat: Defining MPI_BOTTOM = 0 implies that NULL pointer cannot be distinguished from MPI_BOTTOM; it may be that MPI_BOTTOM = 1 is better ...) Requiring that the Fortran and C values be the same will complicate the initialization process. (*End of rationale.*)

16.3.10 Interlanguage Communication

The type matching rules for communications in MPI are not changed: the datatype specification for each item sent should match, in type signature, the datatype specification used to receive this item (unless one of the types is MPI_PACKED). Also, the type of a message item should match the type declaration for the corresponding communication buffer location, unless the type is MPI_BYTE or MPI_PACKED. Interlanguage communication is allowed if it complies with these rules.

Example 16.20 In the example below, a Fortran array is sent from Fortran and received in C.

```
! FORTRAN CODE
REAL R(5)
INTEGER TYPE, IERR, MYRANK, AOBLEN(1), AOTYPE(1)
INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) AODISP(1)

! create an absolute datatype for array R
AOBLEN(1) = 5
CALL MPI_GET_ADDRESS( R, AODISP(1), IERR)
AOTYPE(1) = MPI_REAL
CALL MPI_TYPE_CREATE_STRUCT(1, AOBLEN,AODISP,AOTYPE, TYPE, IERR)
CALL MPI_TYPE_COMMIT(TYPE, IERR)

CALL MPI_COMM_RANK( MPI_COMM_WORLD, MYRANK, IERR)
IF (MYRANK.EQ.0) THEN
   CALL MPI_SEND( MPI_BOTTOM, 1, TYPE, 1, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD, IERR)
ELSE
   CALL C_ROUTINE(TYPE)
END IF


/* C code */

void C_ROUTINE(MPI_Fint *fhandle)
{
   MPI_Datatype type;
   MPI_Status status;

   type = MPI_Type_f2c(*fhandle);

   MPI_Recv( MPI_BOTTOM, 1, type, 0, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &status);
}
```

MPI implementors may weaken these type matching rules, and allow messages to be sent with Fortran types and received with C types, and vice versa, when those types match. I.e., if the Fortran type INTEGER is identical to the C type int, then an MPI implementation may allow data to be sent with datatype MPI_INTEGER and be received with datatype MPI_INT. However, such code is not portable.

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