

2.5.8 Counts

As described above, MPI defines types (e.g., `MPI_Aint`) to address locations within memory and other types (e.g., `MPI_Offset`) to address locations within files. In addition, some MPI procedures use *count* arguments that represent a number of MPI datatypes on which to operate. At times, one needs a single type that can be used to address locations within either memory or files as well as express *count* values, and that type is `MPI_Count` in C and `INTEGER (KIND=MPI_COUNT_KIND)` in Fortran. These types must have the same width and encode values in the same manner such that count values in one language may be passed directly to another language without conversion. The size of the `MPI_Count` type is determined by the MPI implementation with the restriction that it must be minimally capable of encoding any value that may be stored in a variable of type `int`, `MPI_Aint`, or `MPI_Offset` in C and of type `INTEGER`, `INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND)`, or `INTEGER (KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND)` in Fortran.

Rationale. Count values logically need to be large enough to encode any value used for expressing element counts, type maps in memory, type maps in file views, etc. For backward compatibility reasons, many MPI routines still use `int` in C and `INTEGER` in Fortran as the type of count arguments. (*End of rationale.*)

2.6 Language Binding

This section defines the rules for MPI language binding in general and for Fortran, and ISO C, in particular. (Note that ANSI C has been replaced by ISO C.) Defined here are various object representations, as well as the naming conventions used for expressing this standard. The actual calling sequences are defined elsewhere.

MPI bindings are for Fortran 90 or later, though they were originally designed to be usable in Fortran 77 environments. With the `mpi_f08` module, two new Fortran features, *assumed type* and *assumed rank*, are also required, see Section 2.5.5.

Since the word `PARAMETER` is a keyword in the Fortran language, we use the word “argument” to denote the arguments to a subroutine. These are normally referred to as parameters in C, however, we expect that C programmers will understand the word “argument” (which has no specific meaning in C), thus allowing us to avoid unnecessary confusion for Fortran programmers.

Since Fortran is case insensitive, linkers may use either lower case or upper case when resolving Fortran names. Users of case sensitive languages should avoid any prefix of the form “MPI_” and “PMPI_”, where any of the letters are either upper or lower case.

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2.6.1 Deprecated and Removed Names and Functions

A number of chapters refer to deprecated or replaced MPI constructs. These are constructs that continue to be part of the MPI standard, as documented in Chapter 15, but that users are recommended not to continue using, since better solutions were provided with newer versions of MPI. For example, the Fortran binding for MPI-1 functions that have address arguments uses `INTEGER`. This is not consistent with the C binding, and causes problems on machines with 32 bit `INTEGER`s and 64 bit addresses. In MPI-2, these functions were given new names with new bindings for the address arguments. The use of the old functions was declared as deprecated. For consistency, here and in a few other cases, new C functions are

also provided, even though the new functions are equivalent to the old functions. The old names are deprecated.

Some of the deprecated constructs are now removed, as documented in Chapter 16. They may still be provided by an implementation for backwards compatibility, but are not required.

Table 2.1 shows a list of all of the deprecated and removed constructs. Note that some C typedefs and Fortran subroutine names are included in this list; they are the types of callback functions.

Deprecated or removed construct	deprecated since	removed since	Replacement
MPI_ADDRESS	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_GET_ADDRESS
MPI_TYPE_HINDEXED	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_TYPE_CREATE_HINDEXED
MPI_TYPE_HVECTOR	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_TYPE_CREATE_HVECTOR
MPI_TYPE_STRUCT	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_TYPE_CREATE_STRUCT
MPI_TYPE_EXTENT	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_TYPE_GET_EXTENT
MPI_TYPE_UB	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_TYPE_GET_EXTENT
MPI_TYPE_LB	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_TYPE_GET_EXTENT
MPI_LB ¹	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_TYPE_CREATE_RESIZED
MPI_UB ¹	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_TYPE_CREATE_RESIZED
MPI_ERRHANDLER_CREATE	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_COMM_CREATE_ERRHANDLER
MPI_ERRHANDLER_GET	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_COMM_GET_ERRHANDLER
MPI_ERRHANDLER_SET	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_COMM_SET_ERRHANDLER
MPI_Handler_function ²	MPI-2.0	MPI-3.0	MPI_Comm_errhandler_function ²
MPI_KEYVAL_CREATE	MPI-2.0		MPI_COMM_CREATE_KEYVAL
MPI_KEYVAL_FREE	MPI-2.0		MPI_COMM_FREE_KEYVAL
MPI_DUP_FN ³	MPI-2.0		MPI_COMM_DUP_FN ³
MPI_NULL_COPY_FN ³	MPI-2.0		MPI_COMM_NULL_COPY_FN ³
MPI_NULL_DELETE_FN ³	MPI-2.0		MPI_COMM_NULL_DELETE_FN ³
MPI_Copy_function ²	MPI-2.0		MPI_Comm_copy_attr_function ²
COPY_FUNCTION ³	MPI-2.0		COMM_COPY_ATTR_FUNCTION ³
MPI_Delete_function ²	MPI-2.0		MPI_Comm_delete_attr_function ²
DELETE_FUNCTION ³	MPI-2.0		COMM_DELETE_ATTR_FUNCTION ³
MPI_ATTR_DELETE	MPI-2.0		MPI_COMM_DELETE_ATTR
MPI_ATTR_GET	MPI-2.0		MPI_COMM_GET_ATTR
MPI_ATTR_PUT	MPI-2.0		MPI_COMM_SET_ATTR
MPI_COMBINER_HVECTOR_INTEGER ⁴	-	MPI-3.0	MPI_COMBINER_HVECTOR ⁴
MPI_COMBINER_HINDEXED_INTEGER ⁴	-	MPI-3.0	MPI_COMBINER_HINDEXED ⁴
MPI_COMBINER_STRUCT_INTEGER ⁴	-	MPI-3.0	MPI_COMBINER_STRUCT ⁴
MPI::...	MPI-2.2	MPI-3.0	C language binding

¹ Predefined datatype.

² Callback prototype definition.

³ Predefined callback routine.

⁴ Constant.

Other entries are regular MPI routines.

Table 2.1: Deprecated and Removed constructs

2.6.2 Fortran Binding Issues

Originally, MPI-1.1 provided bindings for Fortran 77. These bindings are retained, but they are now interpreted in the context of the Fortran 90 standard. MPI can still be used with most Fortran 77 compilers, as noted below. When the term “Fortran” is used it means

Fortran 90 or later; it means Fortran 2008 + TR 29113 and later if the `mpi_f08` module is used.

All MPI names have an `MPI_` prefix, and all characters are capitals. Programs must not declare names, e.g., for variables, subroutines, functions, parameters, derived types, abstract interfaces, or modules, beginning with the prefix `MPI_`, with the exception of `MPI_` routines written by the user to make use of the profiling interface. To avoid conflicting with the profiling interface, programs must also avoid subroutines and functions with the prefix `PMPI_`. This is mandated to avoid possible name collisions.

All MPI Fortran subroutines have a return code in the last argument. With `USE mpi_f08`, this last argument is declared as `OPTIONAL`, except for user-defined callback functions (e.g., `COMM_COPY_ATTR_FUNCTION`) and their predefined callbacks (e.g., `MPI_NULL_COPY_FN`). A few MPI operations which are functions do not have the return code argument. The return code value for successful completion is `MPI_SUCCESS`. Other error codes are implementation dependent; see the error codes in Chapter 8 and Annex A.

Constants representing the maximum length of a string are one smaller in Fortran than in C as discussed in Section 17.2.9.

Handles are represented in Fortran as `INTEGER`s, or as a `BIND(C)` derived type with the `mpi_f08` module; see Section 2.5.1. Binary-valued variables are of type `LOGICAL`.

Array arguments are indexed from one.

The older MPI Fortran bindings (`mpif.h` and `use mpi`) are inconsistent with the Fortran standard in several respects. These inconsistencies, such as register optimization problems, have implications for user codes that are discussed in detail in Section 17.1.16.

2.6.3 C Binding Issues

We use the ISO C declaration format. All MPI names have an `MPI_` prefix, defined constants are in all capital letters, and defined types and functions have one capital letter after the prefix. Programs must not declare names (identifiers), e.g., for variables, functions, constants, types, or macros, beginning with any prefix of the form `MPI_`, where any of the letters are either upper or lower case. An exception are `MPI_` routines written by the user to make use of the profiling interface. To support the profiling interface, programs must not declare functions with names beginning with any prefix of the form `PMPI_`, where any of the letters are either upper or lower case.

The definition of named constants, function prototypes, and type definitions must be supplied in an include file `mpi.h`.

Almost all C functions return an error code. The successful return code will be `MPI_SUCCESS`, but failure return codes are implementation dependent.

Type declarations are provided for handles to each category of opaque objects.

Array arguments are indexed from zero.

Logical flags are integers with value 0 meaning “false” and a non-zero value meaning “true.”

Choice arguments are pointers of type `void *`.

Address arguments are of MPI defined type `MPI_Aint`. File displacements are of type `MPI_Offset`. `MPI_Aint` is defined to be an integer of the size needed to hold any valid address on the target architecture. `MPI_Offset` is defined to be an integer of the size needed to hold any valid file size on the target architecture.

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