

and gather have a single originating or receiving process. Such a process is called the *root*. Some arguments in the collective functions are specified as “significant only at root,” and are ignored for all participants except the root. The reader is referred to Chapter 4 for information concerning communication buffers, general datatypes and type matching rules, and to Chapter 6 for information on how to define groups and create communicators.

The type-matching conditions for the collective operations are more strict than the corresponding conditions between sender and receiver in point-to-point. Namely, for collective operations, the amount of data sent must exactly match the amount of data specified by the receiver. Different type maps (the layout in memory, see Section 4.1) between sender and receiver are still allowed.

Collective routine calls can (but are not required to) return as soon as their participation in the collective communication is complete. The completion of a call indicates that the caller is now free to **modify** locations in the communication buffer. It does not indicate that other processes in the group have completed or even started the operation (unless otherwise implied by the description of the operation). Thus, a collective communication call may, or may not, have the effect of synchronizing all calling processes. This statement excludes, of course, the barrier function.

Collective communication calls may use the same communicators as point-to-point communication; MPI guarantees that messages generated on behalf of collective communication calls will not be confused with messages generated by point-to-point communication. A more detailed discussion of correct use of collective routines is found in Section 5.12.

Rationale. The equal-data restriction (on type matching) was made so as to avoid the complexity of providing a facility analogous to the status argument of MPI_RECV for discovering the amount of data sent. Some of the collective routines would require an array of status values.

The statements about synchronization are made so as to allow a variety of implementations of the collective functions.

The collective operations do not accept a message tag argument. If future revisions of MPI define non-blocking collective functions, then tags (or a similar mechanism) might need to be added so as to allow the dis-ambiguation of multiple, pending, collective operations. (*End of rationale.*)

Advice to users. It is dangerous to rely on synchronization side-effects of the collective operations for program correctness. For example, even though a particular implementation may provide a broadcast routine with a side-effect of synchronization, the standard does not require this, and a program that relies on this will not be portable.

On the other hand, a correct, portable program must allow for the fact that a collective call *may* be synchronizing. Though one cannot rely on any synchronization side-effect, one must program so as to allow it. These issues are discussed further in Section 5.12. (*End of advice to users.*)

Advice to implementors. While vendors may write optimized collective routines matched to their architectures, a complete library of the collective communication routines can be written entirely using the MPI point-to-point communication functions and a few auxiliary functions. If implementing on top of point-to-point, a hidden,

Annex B

Change-Log

This annex summarizes changes from the previous version of the MPI standard to the version presented by this document. Only significant changes (i.e., clarifications and new features) that might either require implementation effort in the MPI libraries or change the understanding of MPI from a user's perspective are presented. Editorial modifications, formatting, typo corrections and minor clarifications are not shown.

B.1 Changes from Version 2.1 to Version 2.2

1. Section 2.5.4 on page 14.

It is now guaranteed that predefined named constant handles (as other constants) can be used in initialization expressions or assignments, i.e., also before the call to `MPI_INIT`.

2. Section 2.6 on page 15, Section 2.6.4 on page 18, and Section ?? on page ??.

The C++ language bindings have been deprecated and will be removed in a future version of the MPI specification.

3. Section 3.2.2 on page 27.

`MPI_CHAR` for printable characters is now defined for C type char (instead of signed char). This change should not have any impact on applications nor on MPI libraries (except some comment lines), because printable characters could and can be stored in any of the C types char, signed char, and unsigned char, and `MPI_CHAR` is not allowed for predefined reduction operations.

4. Section 3.2.2 on page 27.

`MPI_(U)INT{8,16,32,64}_T`, `MPI_AINT`, `MPI_OFFSET`, `MPI_C_BOOL`, `MPI_C_COMPLEX`, `MPI_C_FLOAT_COMPLEX`, `MPI_C_DOUBLE_COMPLEX`, and `MPI_C_LONG_DOUBLE_COMPLEX` are now valid predefined MPI datatypes.

5. Section 3.4 on page 38, Section 3.7.2 on page 49, Section 3.9 on page 68, and Section 5.1 on page 129.

The read access restriction on the send buffer for blocking, non blocking and collective API has been lifted. It is permitted to access for read the send buffer while the operation is in progress.