

# Messages and Point-to-Point Communication

1. MPI Overview

2. Process model and language bindings

3. **Messages and point-to-point communication**  
– the MPI processes can communicate

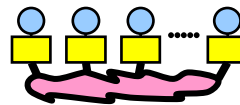
4. Non-blocking communication

5. Collective communication

6. Virtual topologies

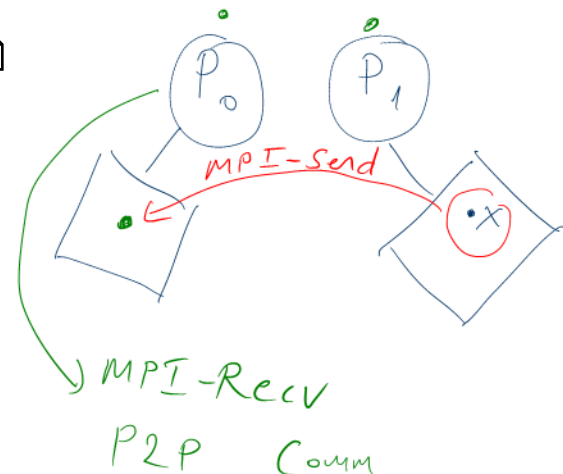
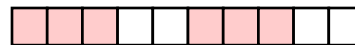
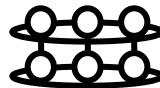
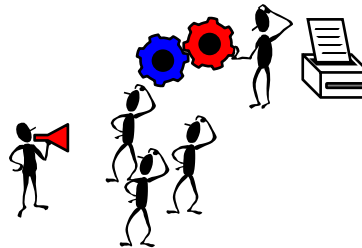
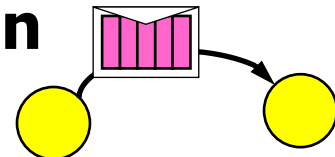
7. Derived datatypes

8. Case study



*Sub Runtime*

```
MPI_Init()
MPI_Comm_rank()
```





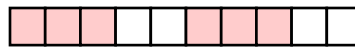
# Messages

- A message contains a number of elements of some particular datatype.
- MPI datatypes:
  - Basic datatype.
  - Derived datatypes
- C types are different from ~~Fortran~~ types.
- Datatype handles are used to describe the type of the data in the memory.

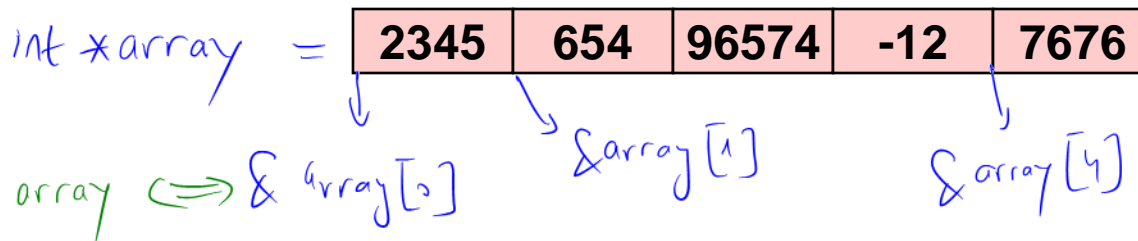
int, float, char, struct, ---

MPI-INT, MPI-FLOAT,

MPI-CHAR, ---



Example: message with 5 integers



float d[7];

float \*d

= malloc(7 \* sizeof(float \*))

C

Row oriented  
(based)

a

0	.	.	0		

4x6

$a[0]$

$a[3]$

F

a

0				.	
.					

column  
oriented  
(based)

$a[0]$

$a[3]$

i k j



???



<b>MPI Datatype</b>	<b>C datatype</b>
MPI_CHAR	signed char
MPI_SHORT	signed short int
MPI_INT	signed int
MPI_LONG	signed long int
MPI_UNSIGNED_CHAR	unsigned char
MPI_UNSIGNED_SHORT	unsigned short int
MPI_UNSIGNED	unsigned int
MPI_UNSIGNED_LONG	unsigned long int
MPI_FLOAT	float
MPI_DOUBLE	double
MPI_LONG_DOUBLE	long double
MPI_BYTE	
MPI_PACKED	(Mixed)



MPI Datatype	Fortran datatype
MPI_INTEGER	INTEGER
MPI_REAL	REAL
MPI_DOUBLE_PRECISION	DOUBLE PRECISION
MPI_COMPLEX	COMPLEX
MPI_LOGICAL	LOGICAL
MPI_CHARACTER	CHARACTER(1)
MPI_BYTE	
MPI_PACKED	

2345	654	96574	-12	7676
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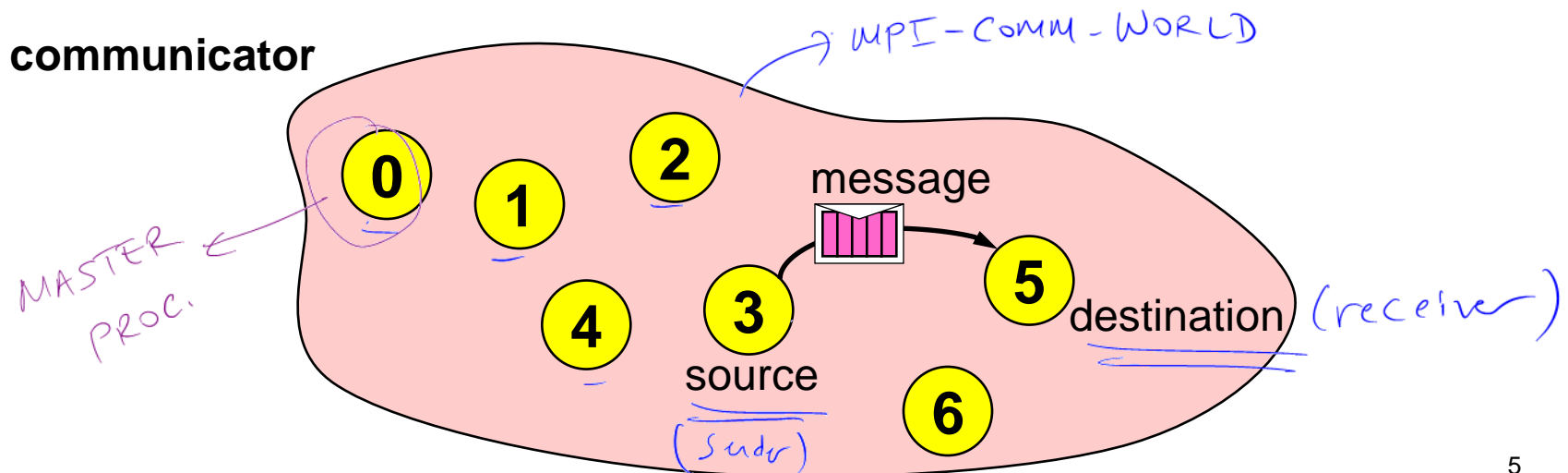
count=5  
datatype=MPI\_INTEGER

INTEGER arr(5)

P2P

# Point-to-Point Communication

- Communication between two processes.
- Source process sends message to destination process.
- Communication takes place within a communicator, e.g., MPI\_COMM\_WORLD.
- Processes are identified by their ranks in the communicator.



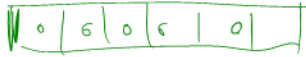
# Sending a Message

- C: `int MPI_Send(void *buf, int count, MPI_Datatype datatype, int dest, int tag, MPI_Comm comm)`  
*array address data to be sent.* *how many*
- Fortran: `MPI_SEND(BUF, COUNT, DATATYPE, DEST, TAG, COMM, IERROR)`  
*where to* *xxx 666* *MPI-Comm-World*  
`<type> BUF(*)`  
`INTEGER COUNT, DATATYPE, DEST, TAG, COMM, IERROR`
- buf is the starting point of the message with count elements, each described with datatype.
- dest is the rank of the destination process within the communicator comm.
- tag is an additional nonnegative integer piggyback information, additionally transferred with the message.
- The tag can be used by the program to distinguish different types of messages.

Gedru ven  
hangv adrese  
adinaat

# Receiving a Message

- C: `int MPI_Recv(void *buf, int count, MPI_Datatype datatype, int source, int tag, MPI_Comm comm, MPI_Status *status)`



struct

- Fortran: `MPI_RECV(BUF, COUNT, DATATYPE, SOURCE, TAG, COMM, STATUS, IERROR)`  
`<type> BUF(*)`  
`INTEGER COUNT, DATATYPE, SOURCE, TAG, COMM`  
`INTEGER STATUS(MPI_STATUS_SIZE), IERROR`

- buf/count/datatype describe the receive buffer.
- Receiving the message sent by process with rank source in comm.
- Envelope information is returned in status.
- Output arguments are printed *blue-cursive*.
- Only messages with matching tag are received.





# Requirements for Point-to-Point Communications

For a communication to succeed:

- Sender must specify a valid destination rank.
- Receiver must specify a valid source rank.
- The communicator must be the same.
- Tags must match.
- Message datatypes must match. ?!
- Receiver's buffer must be large enough.



# Wildcards

- Receiver can wildcard.
- To receive from any source — source  
= MPI\_ANY\_SOURCE
- To receive from any tag — tag =  
MPI\_ANY\_TAG
- Actual source and tag are returned in  
the receiver's status parameter.

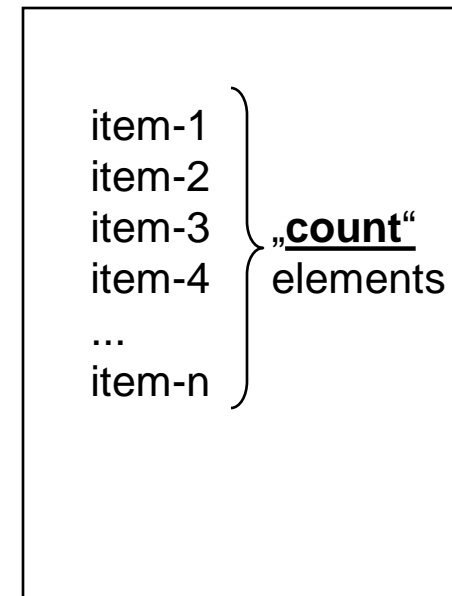
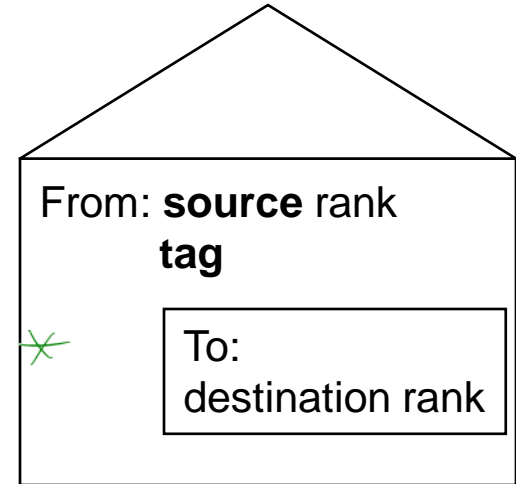


# Communication Envelope



- Envelope information is returned from MPI\_RECV in status.
- C:     status.MPI\_SOURCE →  
          status.MPI\_TAG   →  
          count via MPI\_Get\_count()
- Fortran:   status(MPI\_SOURCE)  
              status(MPI\_TAG)  
              count via  
              MPI\_GET\_COUNT()

*mp~~4~~-status* ✗





# Receive Message Count

- C: `int MPI_Get_count(MPI_Status *status, MPI_Datatype datatype, int *count)`  
    *→ Output parameter.*
- Fortran: `MPI_GET_COUNT(STATUS, DATATYPE, COUNT, IERROR)`  
    `INTEGER STATUS(MPI_STATUS_SIZE)`  
    `INTEGER DATATYPE, COUNT, IERROR`

# COMMUNICATION IN MPI

P2P

MPI-Send  
MPI-Recv

Blocking

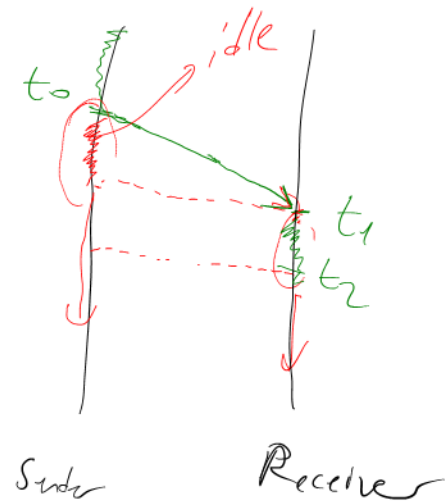
Non-blocking

MPI-Isend <sup>→ Immediate</sup>  
MPI-Irecv

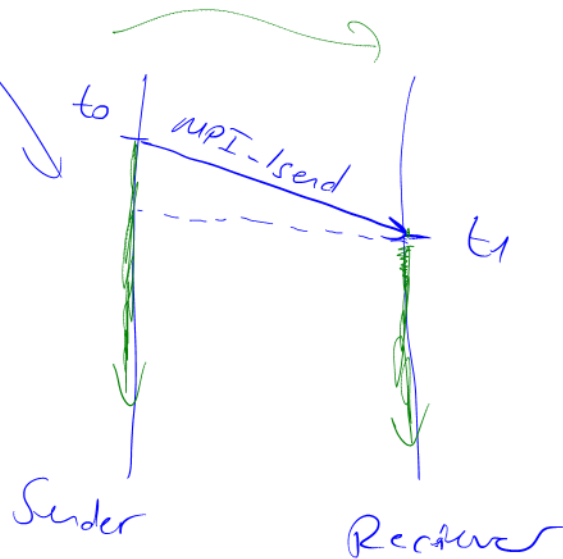
Collective

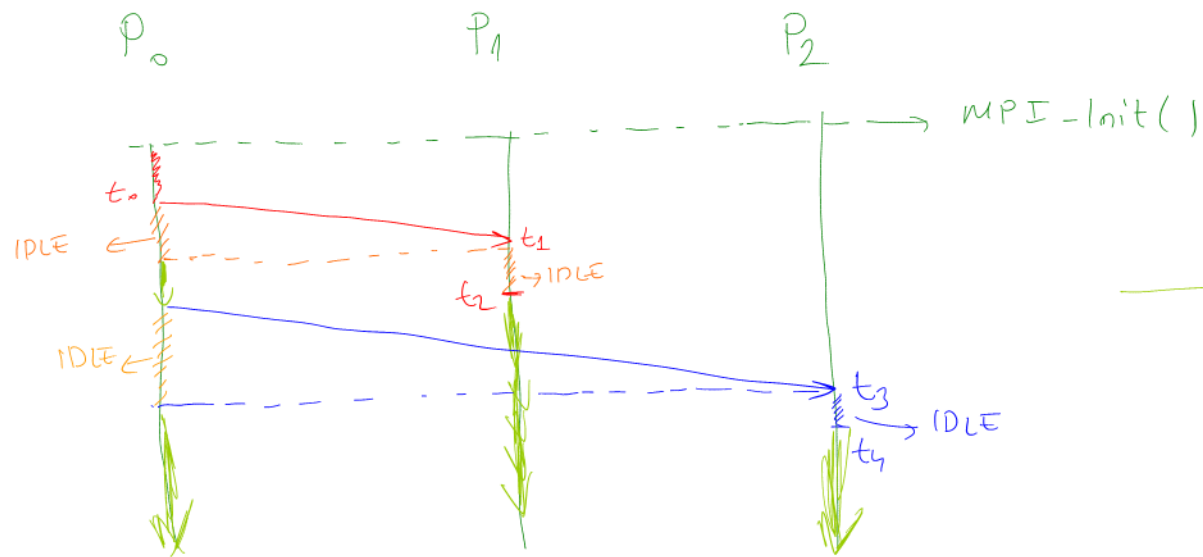
Next week !!!

Blocking: Safer  
Non-blocking: Faster

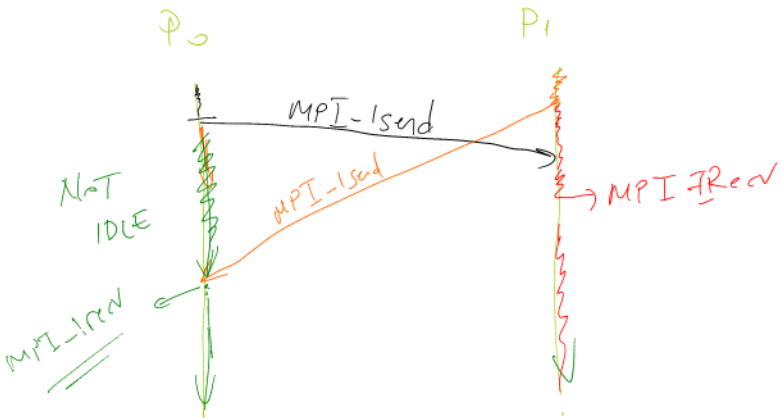


time





→ Blocking



→ Non-blocking  
(Avoiding deadlock)



# Communication Modes

- Send communication modes:
  - synchronous send → **MPI\_SEND**
  - buffered [asynchronous] send → **MPI\_BSEND**
  - standard send → **MPI\_SEND**
  - Ready send → **MPI\_RSEND**
- Receiving all modes → **MPI\_RECV**



# Communication Modes — Definitions

Sender modes	Definition	Notes
Synchronous send <b>MPI_SSEND</b>	Only completes when the receive has started	
Buffered send <b>MPI_BSEND</b>	Always completes (unless an error occurs), irrespective of receiver	needs application-defined buffer to be declared with MPI_BUFFER_ATTACH
Synchronous <b>MPI_SEND</b>	Standard send. Either uses an internal buffer or buffered	
Ready send <b>MPI_RSEND</b>	May be started <b>only</b> if the matching receive is already posted!	highly dangerous!
Receive <b>MPI_RECV</b>	Completes when a the message (data) has arrived	





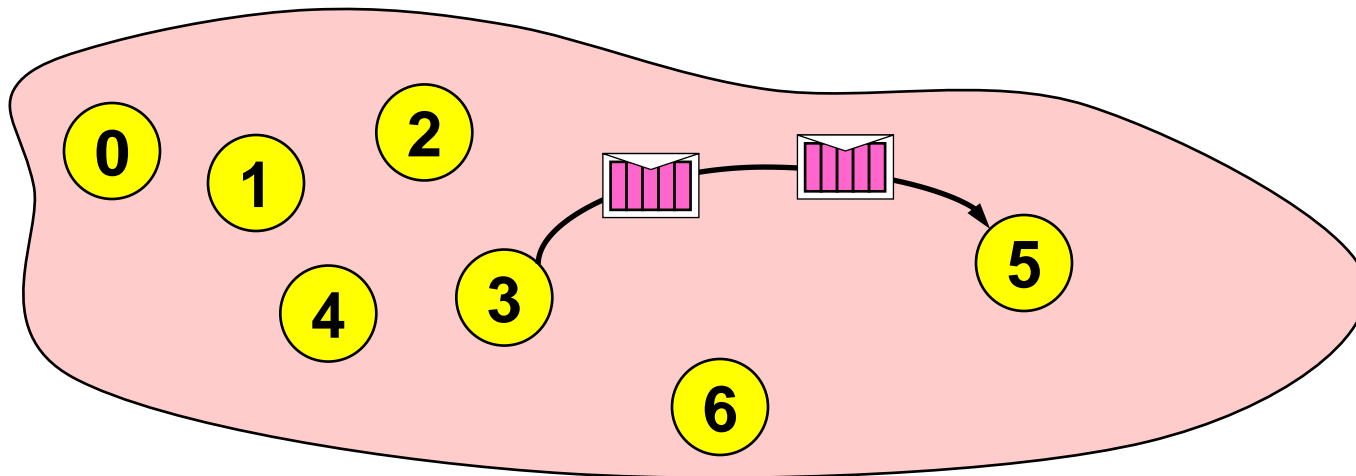
## Rules for the communication modes

- Standard send (**MPI\_SEND**)
  - minimal transfer time
  - may block due to synchronous mode
  - —> risks with synchronous send
- Synchronous send (**MPI\_SSEND**)
  - risk of deadlock
  - risk of serialization
  - risk of waiting —> idle time
  - high latency / best bandwidth
- Buffered send (**MPI\_BSEND**)
  - low latency / bad bandwidth
- Ready send (**MPI\_RSEND**)
  - use **never**, except you have a 200% guarantee that Recv is already called in the current version and all future versions of your code



# Message Order Preservation

- Rule for messages on the same connection, i.e., same communicator, source, and destination rank:
- **Messages do not overtake each other.**
- This is true even for non-synchronous sends.

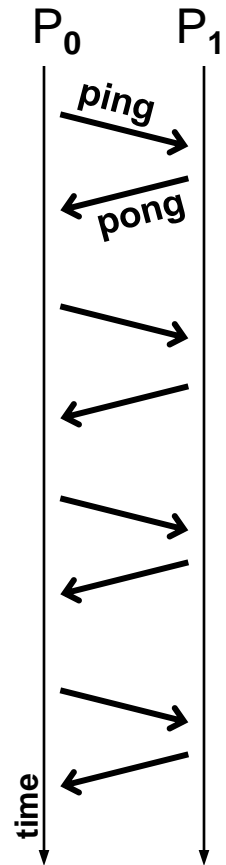


- If both receives match both messages, then the order is preserved.



# Exercise — Ping pong

- Write a program according to the time-line diagram:
  - process 0 sends a message to process 1 (ping)
  - after receiving this message, process 1 sends a message back to process 0 (pong)
- Repeat this ping-pong with a loop of length 50
- Add timing calls before and after the loop:
- C: *double MPI\_Wtime*(void);
- Fortran: *DOUBLE PRECISION FUNCTION MPI\_WTIME()*
- MPI\_WTIME returns a wall-clock time in seconds.
- At process 0, print out the transfer time of **one** message
  - in seconds
  - in  $\mu$ s.



Ping-Pong Example: Wimbledon Final

(0.88)

Federer

(0.91)

Nadal

1 ball ++;

ball ++;

ball ++;

⋮

⋮

Federer vs Nadal

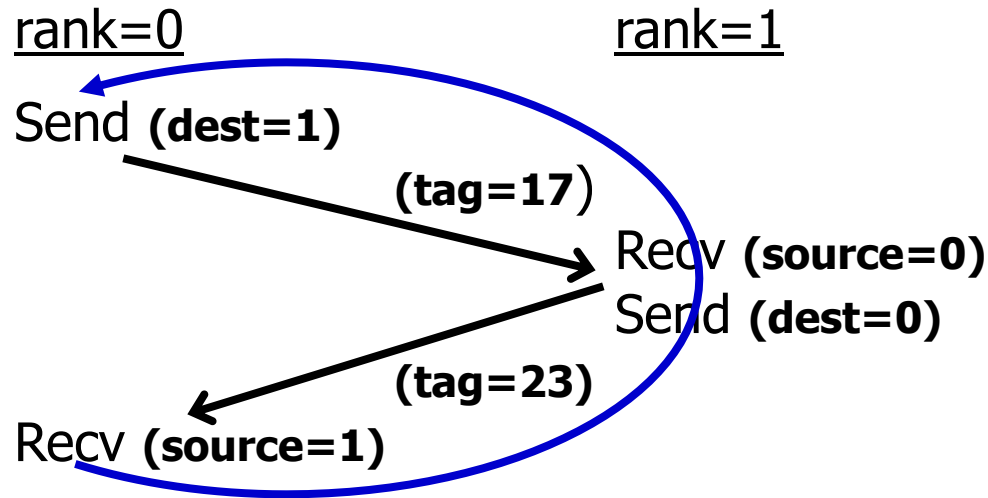
int ball = 0;

ball % 2 == 1  $\Rightarrow$  Federer wins  
else

$\Rightarrow$  Nadal wins



# Exercise — Ping pong



```
if (my_rank==0) /* i.e., emulated multiple program */
    MPI_Send( ... dest=1 ...)
    MPI_Recv( ... source=1 ...)
else
    MPI_Recv( ... source=0 ...)
    MPI_Send( ... dest=0 ...)
fi
```



# Advanced Exercise - Measure latency and bandwidth

- latency = transfer time for zero length messages
- bandwidth = message size (in bytes) / transfer time
- Print out message transfer time and bandwidth
  - for following send modes:
    - for standard send (MPI\_Send)
    - for synchronous send (MPI\_Ssend)
  - for following message sizes:
    - 8 bytes (e.g., one double or double precision value)
    - 512 B (= 8\*64 bytes)
    - 32 kB (= 8\*64\*\*2 bytes)
    - 2 MB (= 8\*64\*\*3 bytes)



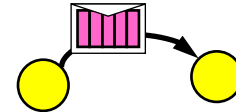
# Chap.4 Non-Blocking Communication

1. MPI Overview 

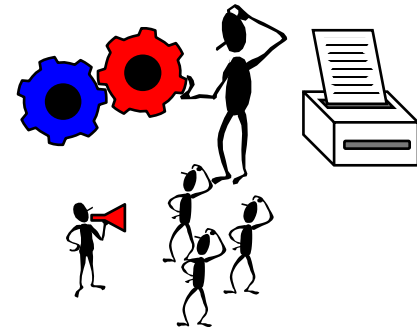
2. Process model and language bindings

```
MPI_Init()  
MPI_Comm_rank()
```

3. Messages and point-to-point communication

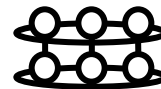


4. **Non-blocking communication**  
– to avoid idle time and deadlocks

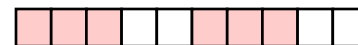


5. Collective communication

6. Virtual topologies



7. Derived datatypes



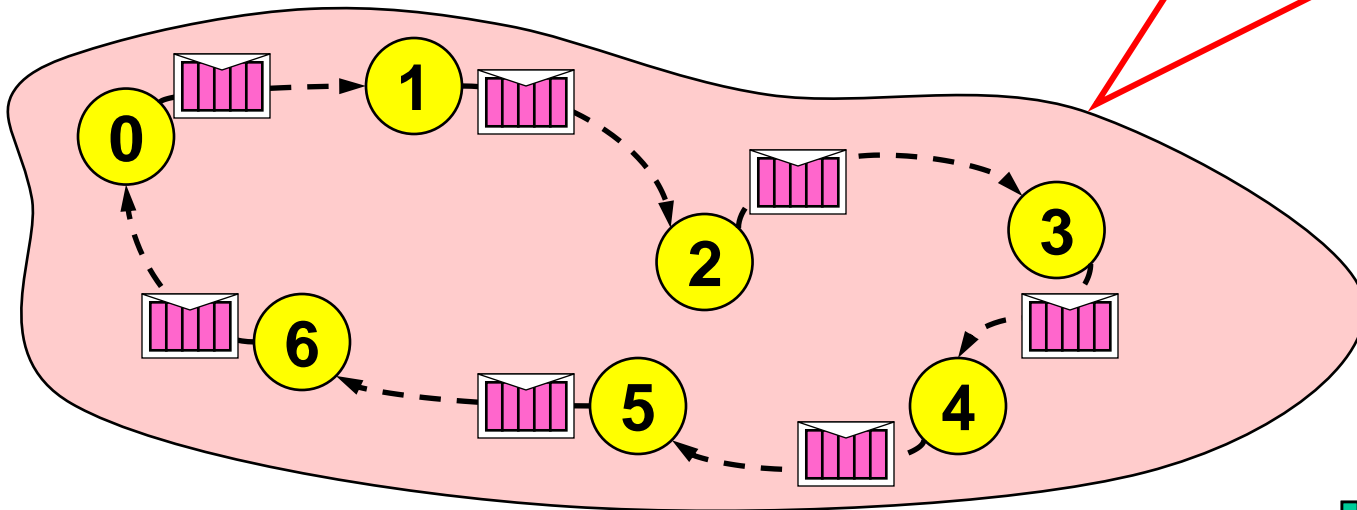
8. Case study



# Deadlock

- Code in each MPI process:  
MPI\_Ssend(..., right\_rank, ...)  
MPI\_Recv( ..., left\_rank, ...)

Will block and never return,  
because MPI\_Recv cannot  
be called in the right-hand  
MPI process



- Same problem with standard send mode (MPI\_Send),  
if MPI implementation chooses synchronous protocol





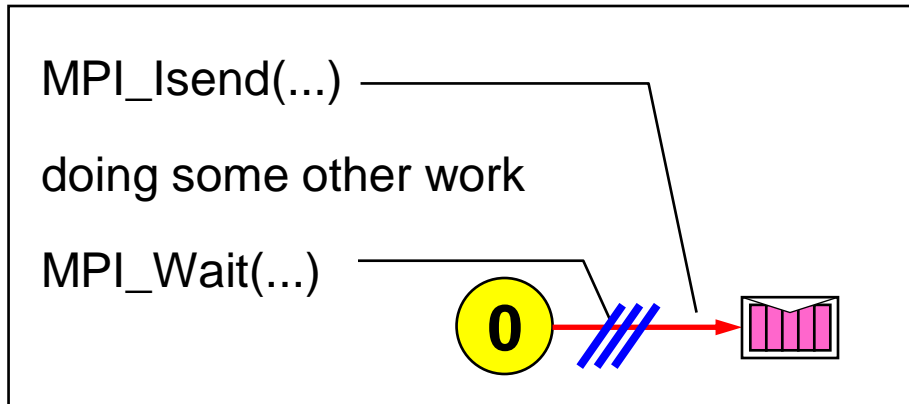
# Non-Blocking Communications

- Separate communication into three phases:
- Initiate non-blocking communication
  - returns **I**mmediately
  - routine name starting with MPI\_**I**...
- Do some work
  - “latency hiding”
- Wait for non-blocking communication to complete

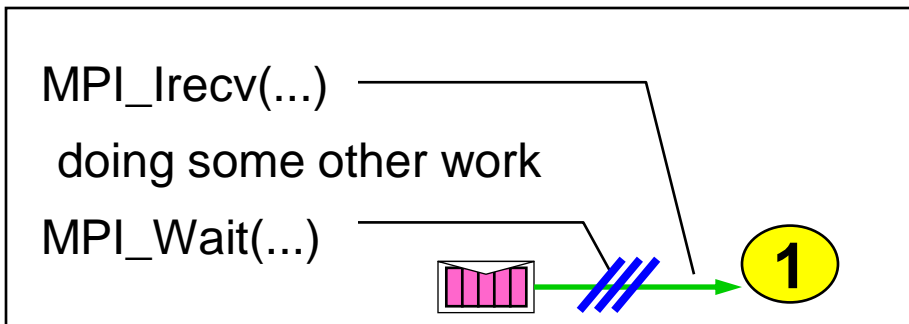


# Non-Blocking Examples

- Non-blocking **send**



- Non-blocking **receive**

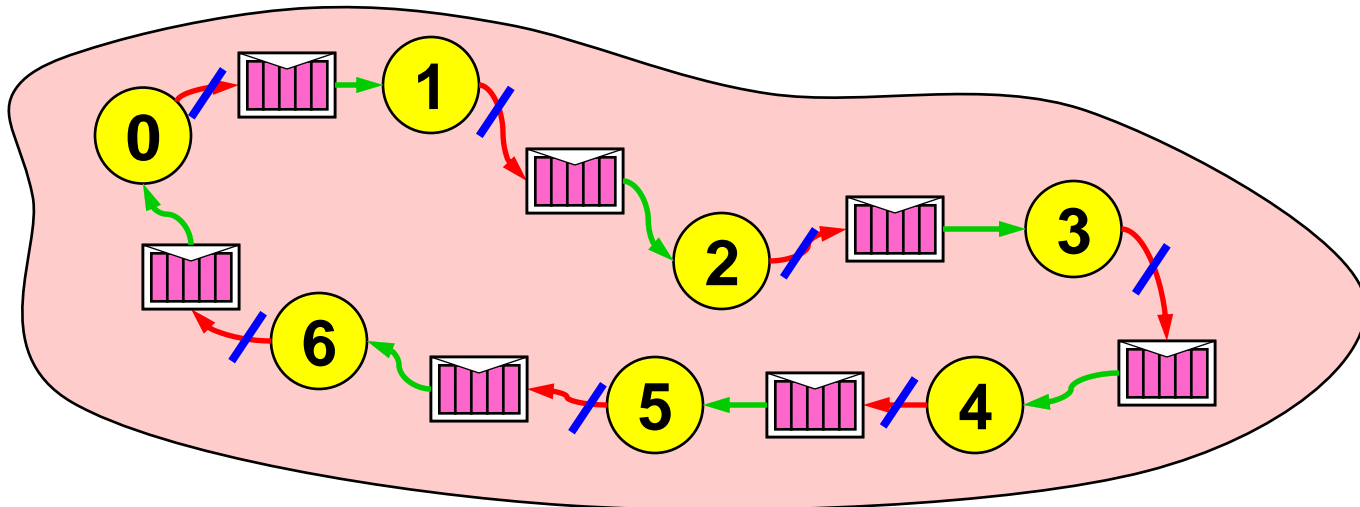


 = waiting until operation locally completed



# Non-Blocking Send

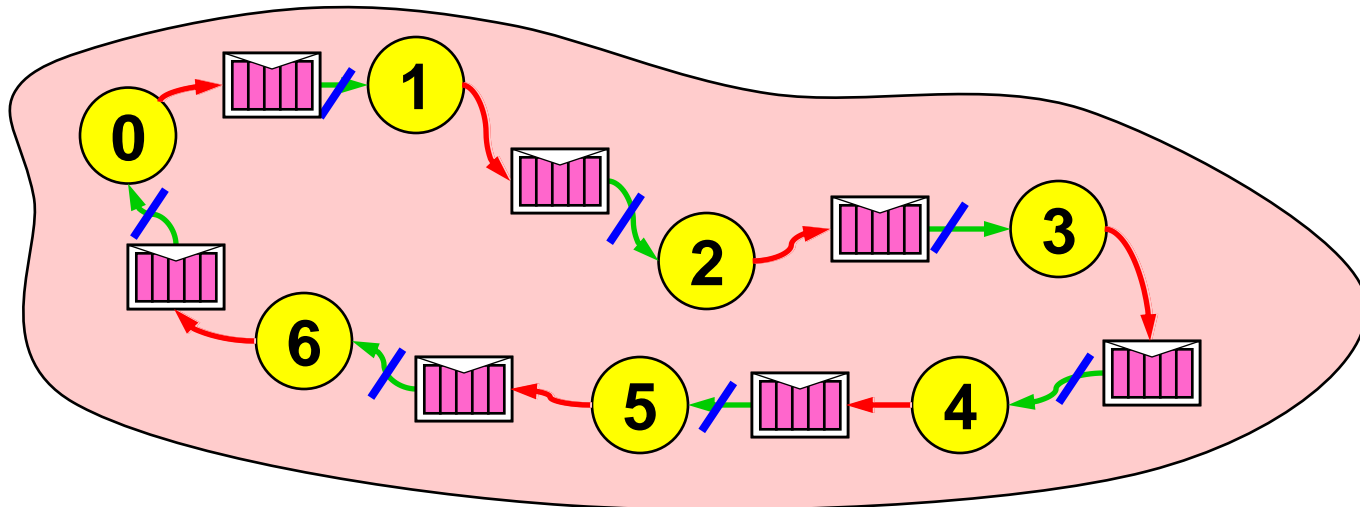
- Initiate non-blocking send  
→ in the ring example: Initiate non-blocking send to the right neighbor
- Do some work:  
→ in the ring example: Receiving the message from left neighbor
- Now, the message transfer can be completed
- Wait for non-blocking send to complete /





# Non-Blocking Receive

- Initiate non-blocking receive
  - in the ring example: Initiate non-blocking receive from left neighbor
- Do some work:
  - in the ring example: Sending the message to the right neighbor
- Now, the message transfer can be completed
- Wait for non-blocking receive to complete





# Handles, already known

- Predefined handles
  - defined in `mpi.h` / `mpif.h`
  - communicator, e.g., `MPI_COMM_WORLD`
  - datatype, e.g., `MPI_INT`, `MPI_INTEGER`, ...
- Handles **can** also be stored in local variables
  - memory for datatype handles
    - in C: `MPI_Datatype`
    - in Fortran: `INTEGER`
  - memory for communicator handles
    - in C: `MPI_Comm`
    - in Fortran: `INTEGER`



# Request Handles

## Request handles

- are used for non-blocking communication
- **must** be stored in local variables
  - C: MPI\_Request
  - Fortran: INTEGER
- the value
  - **is generated** by a non-blocking communication routine
  - **is used** (and freed) in the MPI\_WAIT routine



# Non-blocking Synchronous Send

- C:  
MPI\_Issend(buf, count, datatype, dest, tag, comm,  
OUT &request\_handle);  
MPI\_Wait(INOUT &request\_handle, &status);
- Fortran:  
CALL MPI\_ISSEND(buf, count, datatype, dest, tag, comm,  
OUT request\_handle, ierror)  
CALL MPI\_WAIT(INOUT request\_handle, status, ierror)
- buf must not be used between Issend and Wait (in all progr. languages)  
MPI 1.1, page 40, lines 44-45
- "Issend + Wait directly after Issend" is equivalent to blocking call (Ssend)
- status is not used in Issend, but in Wait (with send: nothing returned)
- Fortran problems, see MPI-2, Chap. 10.2.2, pp 284-290



# Non-blocking Receive

- C:

```
MPI_Irecv(buf, count, datatype, source, tag, comm,  
          OUT &request_handle);
```

```
MPI_Wait(INOUT &request_handle, &status);
```

- Fortran:

```
CALL MPI_IRecv (buf, count, datatype, source, tag, comm,  
                OUT request_handle, ierror)
```

```
CALL MPI_WAIT( INOUT request_handle, status, ierror)
```

- buf must not be used between Irecv and Wait (in all progr. languages)





# Blocking and Non-Blocking

- Send and receive can be blocking or non-blocking.
- A blocking send can be used with a non-blocking receive, and vice-versa.
- Non-blocking sends can use any mode
  - standard      – MPI\_ISEND
  - synchronous – MPI\_ISSEND
  - buffered      – MPI\_IBSEND
  - ready        – MPI\_IRSEND



# Completion

- C:

`MPI_Wait( &request_handle, &status);`

`MPI_Test( &request_handle, &flag, &status);`

- Fortran:

`CALL MPI_WAIT( request_handle, status, ierror)`

`CALL MPI_TEST( request_handle, flag, status, ierror)`

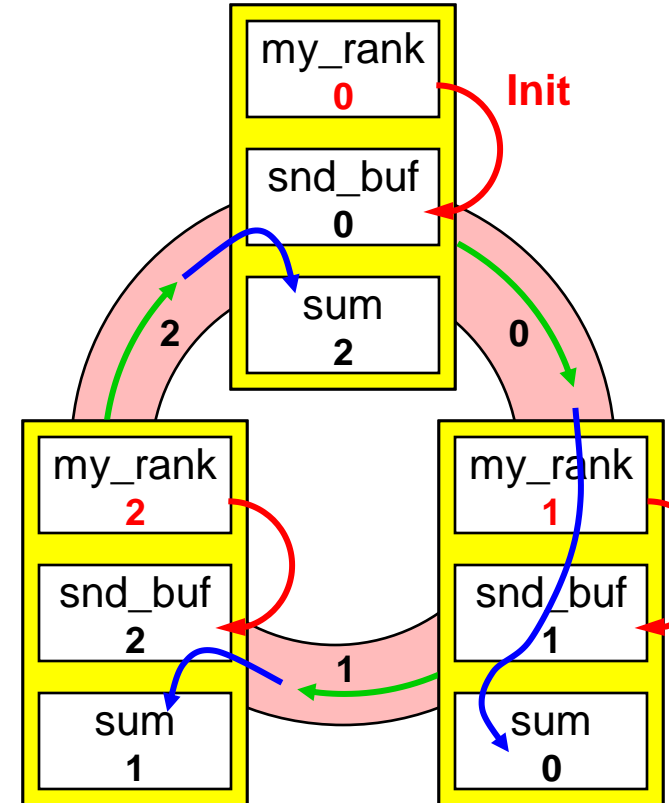
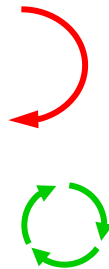
- one must

- WAIT or
- loop with TEST until request is completed, i.e., `flag == 1` or `.TRUE.`



## Exercise — Rotating information around a ring

- A set of processes are arranged in a ring.
- Each process stores its rank in MPI\_COMM\_WORLD into an integer variable *snd\_buf*.
- Each process passes this on to its neighbor on the right.
- Each processor calculates the sum of all values.
- Keep passing it around the ring until the value is back where it started, i.e.
- each process calculates sum of all ranks.
- Use non-blocking MPI\_Issend
  - to avoid deadlocks
  - to verify the correctness, because blocking synchronous send will cause a deadlock

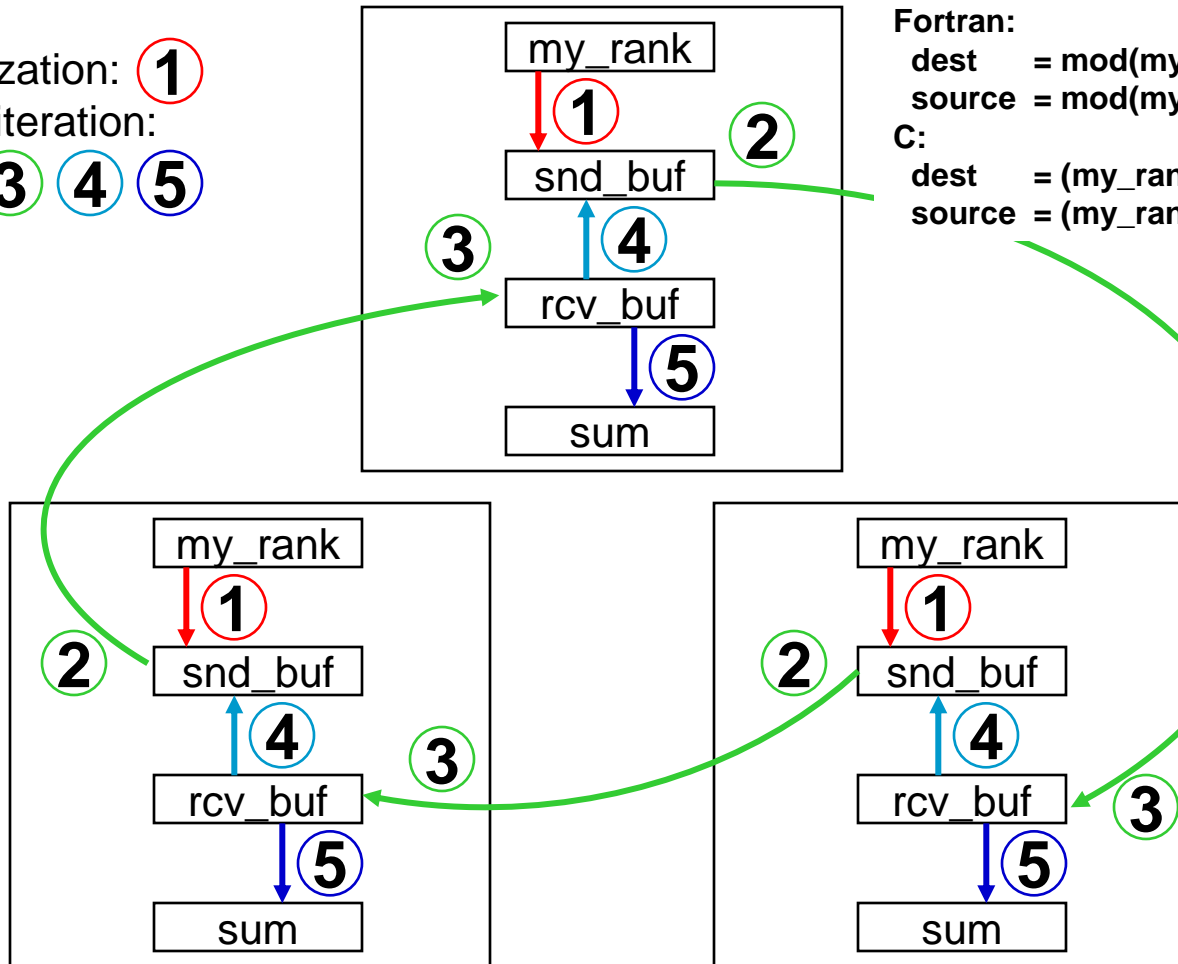




Initialization: ①

Each iteration:

② ③ ④ ⑤



Fortran:

```
dest = mod(my_rank+1,size)
```

```
source = mod(my_rank-1+size,size)
```

C:

```
dest = (my_rank+1) % size;
```

```
source = (my_rank-1+size) % size;
```

**Single  
Program !!!**