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Dipartimento  
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## Part I

*Laurea magistrale in Ingegneria e Scienze Informatiche  
Laurea Magistrale in Medical Bioinformatics*

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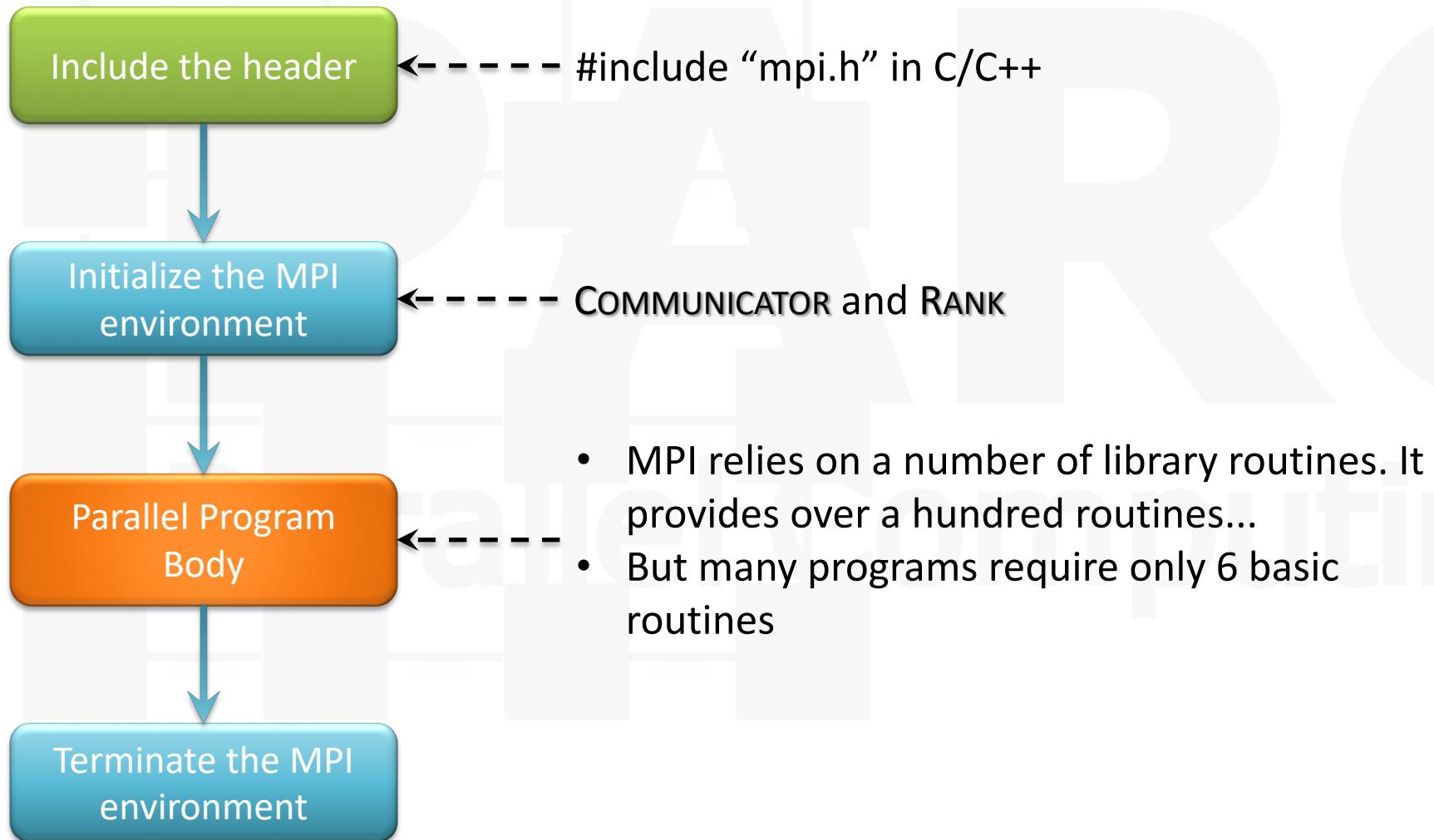
# Agenda

- Introduction to MPI
- What is MPI?
- Environment management
- Point-to-point communication
  - Blocking communication
  - Non-blocking communication
- MPI collective communication (Basic)
  - Synchronization
  - Broadcast, Scatter, Gather, Reduce
- Examples
- Exercises
- References

# What is MPI?

- The Message Passing Interface (MPI) Standard is a message passing system
- MPI is a language-independent communication protocol used to program parallel computers
- MPI's goals are:
  - High performance
  - Scalability
  - Software Portability: Interface specifications have been defined for C/C+, Fortran, Java, Python, ...
  - Hardware Portability: Intel, AMD, ARM, and PowerPC chips
- MPI is a standard for communication among processes that model a parallel program running on a distributed memory system
- The principal MPI model has no explicit shared memory concept but MPI programs can take advantage of shared memory to improve memory locality and communications.
- Many parallel scientific applications today use MPI and run successfully on the most of supercomputers.

# General MPI Program Structure



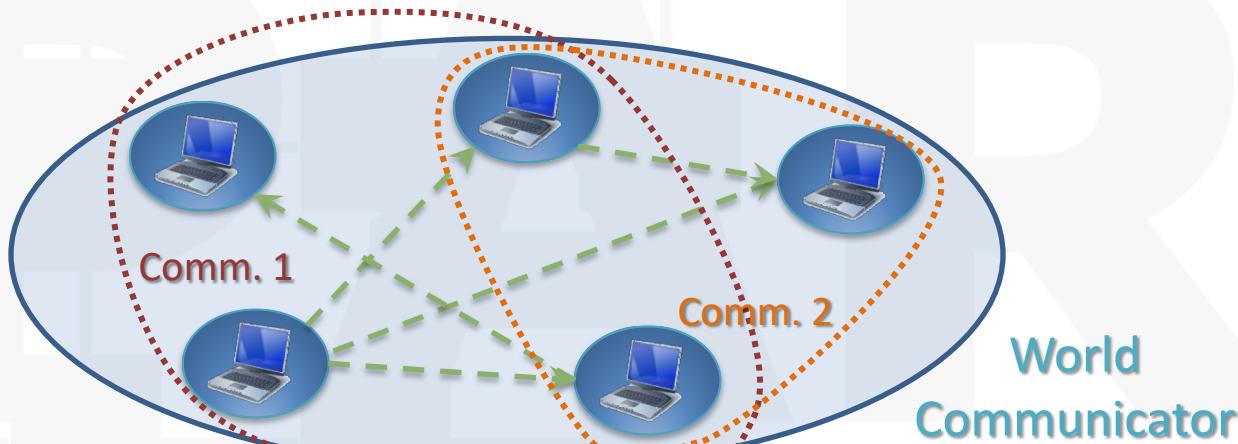
# MPI in C++

```
MPI::<Func_name>(<param1>, <param2>, ...)
```

- The functions are defined within the namespace MPI
- Arguments are declared with *references* instead of *pointers*
- Most MPI functions are methods of MPI C++ classes
- MPI class names are derived from the language neutral MPI types by dropping the MPI prefix and scoping the type within the MPI namespace:  
MPI::Datatype
- C++ functions do not return error codes. In the C++ language, error-handling is performed using EXCEPTIONS

# Communicators and rank

- MPI uses objects called ***communicators*** to define which collection of processes (also called tasks) may communicate with each other.



- Processors can communicate only if they share a common communicator.
- **MPI::COMM\_WORLD** is the predefined communicator that includes all MPI processes.
- Within a communicator, each process has its own unique integer identifier (rank) assigned by the system when the process initializes.
  - Ranks are contiguous and start with 0
  - Ranks are used by the programmer to specify the source and the destination of a message

# Environment management Methods (I)

- MPI environment management methods are used for a wide array of purposes, ranging from initializing and terminating the MPI environment to querying it

```
MPI::Init(&argc, &argv)
```

- Initializes the MPI environment
  - It must be called in every MPI program, before any other MPI function and only once in a MPI program
  - It may be used to pass command line arguments to all processes

```
int MPI::COMM::Get_rank();
```

- Gets the rank of the calling process within communicator comm
  - If a process becomes associated with other communicators, it will have a unique rank within each of these as well

```
int MPI::COMM::Get_size()
```

- Gets the number of processes in the group associated with communicator COMM\_WORLD

# Environment management routines (II)

```
MPI::Get_processor_name(char* name, int& resultlength)
```

- Provides the processor name, as well as its length (in characters) of the name

```
MPI::Finalize()
```

- Terminates the MPI execution environment.
  - This function should be the last MPI routine called in every MPI program
  - No other MPI routines may be called after it

```
MPI::COMM::Abort( int errorcode )
```

- Terminates all MPI processes associated with communicator `COMM_WORLD` providing `errorcode` as error code

# Environment management routines (III)

```
bool MPI::Is_initialized()
```

- Return true if `MPI_INIT` has been called, false otherwise

```
double MPI::Wtime()
```

- Returns the elapsed wall clock time in seconds (double precision)

```
double MPI::Wtick()
```

- Returns the resolution of `MPI::WTIME()` in seconds (double precision)

# Hello World Example (I)

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <mpi.h>

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    // Initialize the MPI environment
    MPI::Init(argc, argv);

    // Get the number of processes
    int world_size = MPI::COMM_WORLD.Get_size();

    // Get the rank of the process
    int world_rank = MPI::COMM_WORLD.Get_rank();

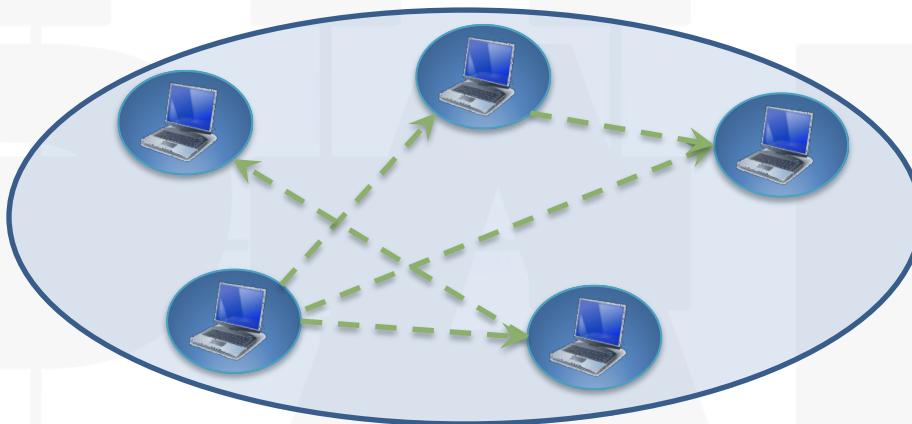
    // Get the name of the processor
    char processor_name[MPI_MAX_PROCESSOR_NAME];
    int name_len;
    MPI::Get_processor_name(processor_name, name_len);

    // Print off a hello world message
    printf("Hello world from processor %s, rank %d out of %d processors\n",
           processor_name, world_rank, world_size);

    // Finalize the MPI environment.
    MPI::Finalize();
}
```

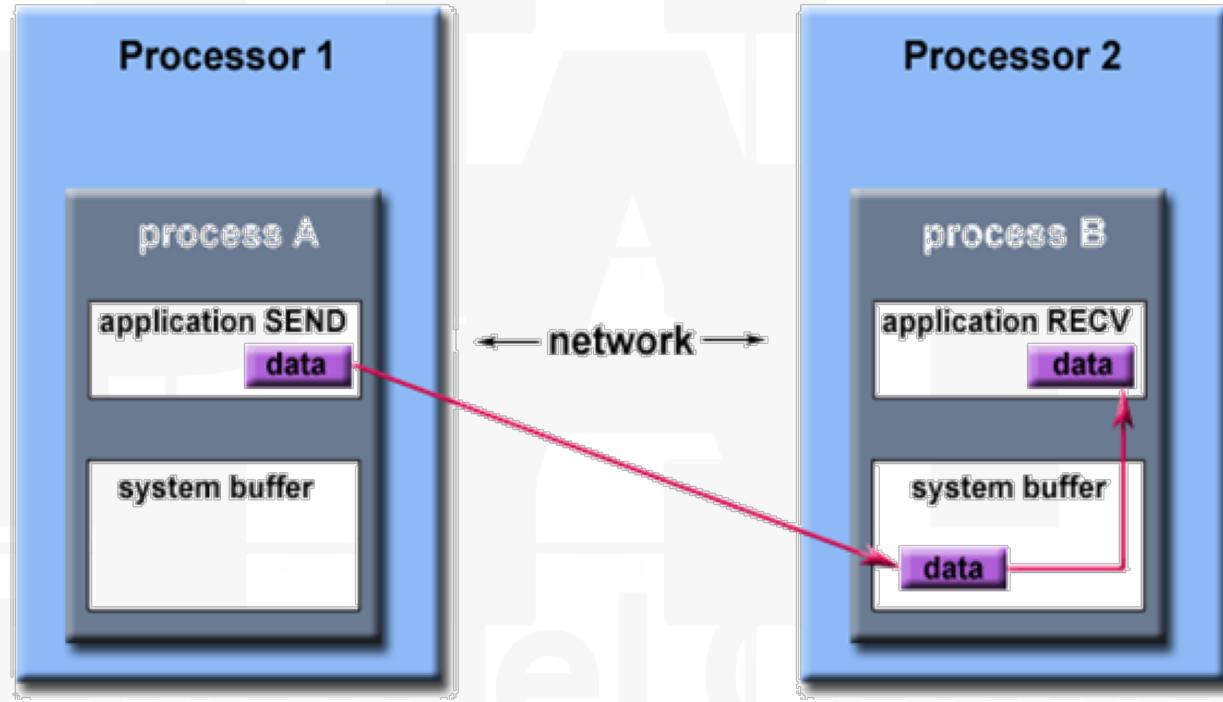
COMM\_WORLD is a class not a namespace

# Point-to-point communication



- MPI point-to-point operations involve message passing between only two different MPI tasks
  - One task is performing a **SEND** operation and the other task is performing a matching **RECEIVE** operation
- Point-to-point Communication: Blocking and Non-Blocking
- There are different types of **SEND** and **RECEIVE** routines

# Application and system buffer

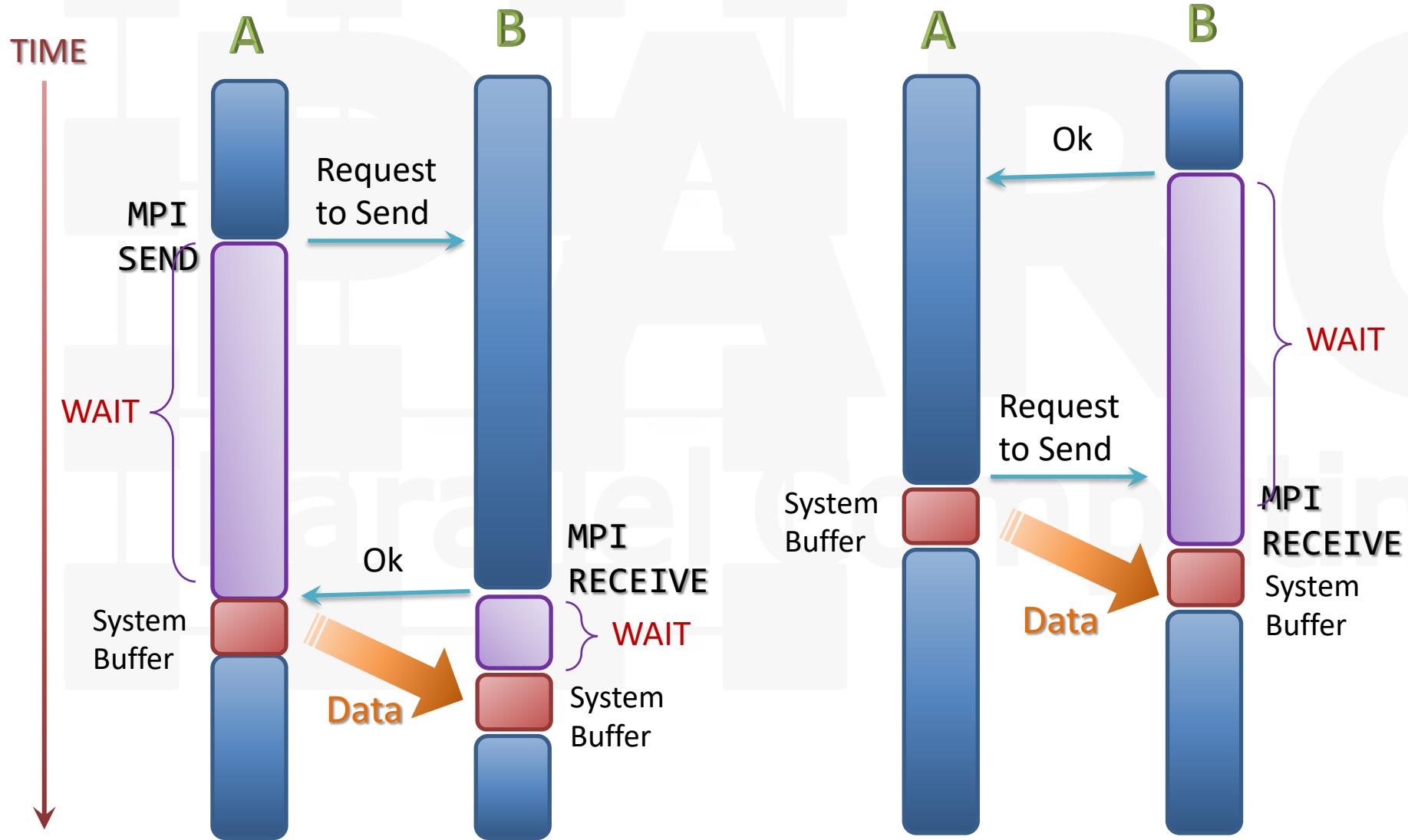


- A *system buffer* area is reserved to hold data in transit
  - This area is opaque to the programmer and managed entirely by the MPI library
- The address space managed by the user (i.e. your program variables) is called *application buffer*
  - MPI also provides support for user managed send buffer

# Blocking communication (I)

- A blocking communication suspends the execution of the program
- Call does not return until the operation has been completed
- Allows you to know when it is safe to use the data received or reuse the data sent
- A blocking **SEND** will only return after it is safe to modify the application buffer (program variables) for reuse
  - It does not imply that the data were actually received
- A blocking **RECEIVE** only returns after the data has arrived and is ready for use by the program

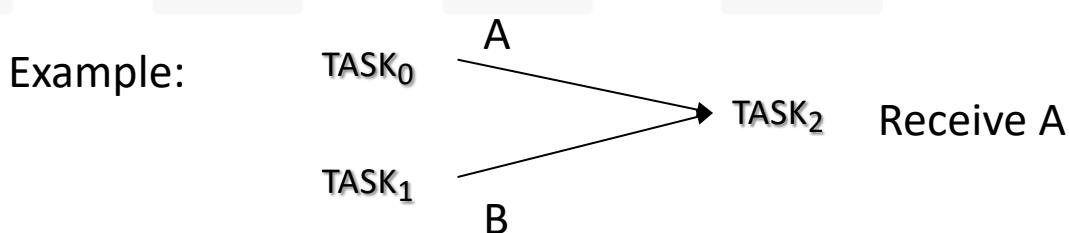
# Blocking communication (II)



# Blocking communication

## ORDER AND FAIRNESS

- MPI guarantees that messages will not overtake each other
  - If a sender sends **MESSAGE<sub>1</sub>** and then **MESSAGE<sub>2</sub>** to the same destination, and both messages match the same receive, **MESSAGE<sub>1</sub>** will be received before **MESSAGE<sub>2</sub>**
  - If a receiver performs **RECEIVE<sub>1</sub>** and then **RECEIVE<sub>2</sub>**, and both are looking for the same message, **RECEIVE<sub>1</sub>** will receive the message before **RECEIVE<sub>2</sub>**
- MPI does not guarantee fairness
  - It is up to the programmer to prevent starvation
  - Example: **TASK<sub>0</sub>** sends a message to **TASK<sub>2</sub>**, but **TASK<sub>1</sub>** sends a competing message to **TASK<sub>2</sub>**, matching the receive of **TASK<sub>2</sub>** → only one of the send operations will complete



# ARGUMENTS OF MESSAGE PASSING METHOD (I)

<b>Buffer</b>	Pointer to the application address space that references the data to be sent or received
<b>Data count</b>	The number of data elements of a particular type to be sent/received
<b>Data Type</b>	For reasons of portability, MPI predefines its elementary data types
<b>Source/Dest</b>	The rank of the receiving/sending process
<b>Tag</b>	Tags are a way to identify types of messages. So, a receiving process can use these tags to decide what messages it wants to receive at a given time
<b>Communicator</b>	The set of processes for which the source or destination arguments are valid
<b>Status</b>	Pointer to a <b>MPI_STATUS</b> struct, which contains the source, the tag of the message and the length of the message (and other two)

# MPI elementary data types

- MPI class names are derived from the language neutral MPI types within the MPI namespace `MPI::<DATATYPE>`

MPI data type	C/C++ datatype	MPI datatype	C/C++ data type
CHAR	<code>signed char</code>	<code>MPI_FLOAT</code>	<code>float</code>
WCHAR	<code>wchar_t</code> (wide char type)	<code>MPI_DOUBLE</code>	<code>double</code>
SHORT	<code>signed short int</code>	<code>MPI_C_BOOL</code>	<code>bool</code>
INT	<code>signed int</code>	<code>MPI_INT8_T</code> <code>MPI_UINT8_T</code>	<code>int8_t / uint8_t</code>
LONG	<code>signed long</code>	<code>MPI_INT16_T</code> <code>MPI_UINT16_T</code>	<code>int16_t / uint16_t</code>
LONG_LONG	<code>signed long long</code>	<code>MPI_INT32_T</code> <code>MPI_UINT32_T</code>	<code>int32_t / uint32_t</code>
UNSIGNED_CHAR	<code>unsigned char</code>	<code>MPI_INT64_T</code> <code>MPI_UINT64_T</code>	<code>int64_t / uint64_t</code>
UNSIGNED_SHORT	<code>unsigned short</code>		
UNSIGNED	<code>unsigned int</code>		
2INT	{ <code>int</code> , <code>int</code> }		

# MPI Operator

- MPI class names are derived from the language neutral MPI operator within the MPI namespace `MPI::<OP>`

MPI Operator	C/C++ Operator	Symbol
SUM	Sum	+
PROD	Product	*
MAX	Maximum	Max
MIN	Minimum	Min
MAXLOC	max value and location	
MINLOC	min value and location	
LAND	logical and	&&
LOR	logical or	
LXOR	logical xor	!=
BAND	bit-wise and	&
BOR	bit-wise or	
BXOR	bit-wise xor	^

# Status Methods

In C++, the `MPI::Status` object is handled through the following methods:

`int Status.Get_source()`

Return the id of processor sending the message

`int Status.Get_tag()`

Return the message tag

`int Status.Get_error()`

Return the id of error status

`int Status.Get_count(MPI::Datatype& datatype)`

Return the number of received elements

Notes: If the amount of data in status is not an exact multiple of the size of datatype, a count of `MPI_UNDEFINED` is returned instead.

[ implemented in MPICH ]

# Useful Macro

## **MPI\_ANY\_SOURCE**

In a receive, accept a message from anyone.

## **MPI\_ANY\_TAG**

In a receive, accept a message with any tag value.

## **MPI\_PROC\_NULL**

This rank may be used to send or receive from no-one

## **MAX\_PROCESSOR\_NAME**

Maximum length of name returned by MPI::GET\_PROCESSOR\_NAME()

## **MPI\_MAX\_ERROR\_STRING**

Maximum length of string return by MPI::GET\_ERROR\_STRING()

## **MPI\_WTIME\_IS\_GLOBAL**

If is defined and true, then the time is synchronized across all processes in COMM\_WORLD

NOTE: There is no way to change MPI\_WTIME\_IS\_GLOBAL

# Blocking communication

## MESSAGE PASSING METHOD (I)

```
MPI::COMM::Send(void* buf, int count, MPI::Datatype& datatype,  
                int dest, int tag)
```

- Basic blocking send operation
- It returns only after the application buffer in the sending task is free for reuse

```
MPI::COMM::Recv(void* buf, int count, MPI::Datatype& datatype,  
                  int source, int tag, [&status])
```

- Basic blocking receive operation
- It receives a message and blocks until the requested data is available in the application buffer in the sending task
  - The call store, in status, information on the completed operation

```
MPI::COMM::Sendrecv( void* sendbuf, int sendcount,  
                      MPI::Datatype& senddatatype, int dest, int sendtag,  
                      void* recvbuffer, int recvcont,  
                      MPI::Datatype& recvtype, int source, int recvtag,  
                      [&status] )
```

- Blocking send-receive operations combine in one call

# Blocking communication

## MESSAGE PASSING METHOD (II)

```
MPI::COMM::Ssend(void* buf, int count, MPI::Datatype& datatype,  
                 int dest, int tag)
```

- Synchronous blocking send operation
- It returns only after the application buffer in the sending task is free for reuse **and** the destination process has started to receive the message

```
MPI::COMM::Rsend(void* buf, int count, MPI::Datatype& datatype,  
                  int source, int tag)
```

- Started only if the matching receive is already posted
- Otherwise, the operation is erroneous and its outcome is undefined
- In a correct program, therefore, a ready send could be replaced by a standard send with no effect on the behavior of the program other than performance

# Self-messaging

## PASSING METHOD (III)

- Self-messaging will work and is part of the MPI standard.
- There is even a pre-defined convenience communicator **MPI\_COMM\_SELF**
- Send/receive calls do not cause deadlock (for example, non-blocking calls are used)
- MPI Specification:
  - Source = destination is allowed, that is, a process can send a message to itself. (However, it is unsafe to do so with the blocking send and receive operations described above, since this may lead to deadlock.)
- The behavior is implementation dependent and must be avoided

# Non-blocking communication

- A non-blocking `SEND` and a non-blocking `RECEIVE` will return almost immediately, they do not wait for any communication event to complete
- Non-blocking operations simply request the MPI library to perform the operation when it is able (the user cannot predict when that will happen)
- It is unsafe to modify the application buffer until you know that the requested operation has actually been performed by the MPI library
- Non-blocking communications are primarily used to overlap computation with communication and exploit possible performance gains

*Extra arguments of message passing routines:*

**Request**

Pointer to a `MPI::Request` struct, which contains a unique request number in order to allow the completion of a non-blocking operation

# Non-Blocking communication

## MESSAGE PASSING METHOD (I)

```
Request MPI::COMM::Isend(void* buf, int count,  
                         MPI::Datatype& datatype, int dest, int tag)
```

- Is the basic non-blocking send operation
- Processing continues immediately; a communication REQUEST HANDLE is provided for handling the pending message status
- The application buffer should not be modified until subsequent calls to MPI::WAIT or MPI::TEST indicate that the non-blocking send has completed

```
Request MPI::COMM::Irecv(void* buf, int count,  
                         MPI::Datatype& datatype, int source, int tag)
```

- Is the basic non-blocking receive operation
- Processing continues immediately without waiting for the message to be received and copied into the application buffer
- The program must call MPI::WAIT or MPI::TEST to determine when the non-blocking receive operation completes and the message is available in the application buffer

# Non-Blocking communication

## MESSAGE PASSING METHOD (II)

```
Request MPI::COMM::Issend(void* sendbuf, int sendcount,  
                           MPI::Datatype& datatype, int dest, int tag)
```

- Is the synchronous non-blocking send operation
- It is similar to **MPI::ISEND**, except that **MPI::WAIT** or **MPI::TEST** indicate when the destination process has received the message

```
Request.Wait( [&status] )
```

- The **MPI::WAIT** routine blocks processing until a specified non-blocking send or receive operation has completed
  - The call store, in status, information on the completed operation

```
bool Request.Test( [&status] )
```

- The **MPI::TEST** routine checks the status of a specified non-blocking send or receive operation
  - It return true if the operation has completed, false otherwise
  - The call store, in status, information on the completed operation

# C++ Error handling (I)

- C++ functions do not return error codes
- If the default error handler is set to MPI::ERRORS\_THROW\_EXCEPTIONS, then the C++ exception mechanism will be used

**Comm.Set\_errhandler(const MPI::Errhandler& errhandler)**

Attaches a new error handler to a communicator

- The class MPI::Exception is basically a wrapper around an INT, it also provides a way to return an error description string:

**int Exception.Get\_error\_code()**

Converts an error class into an error code

**int Exception.Get\_error\_class()**

Converts an error code into an error class

**const char\* Exception.Get\_error\_string()**

Returns a string for a given error code

# C++ Error handling (II)

Exception handling example:

```
#include "mpi.h"
#include <iostream>

int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {
    MPI::Init(argc, argv);
    MPI::COMM_WORLD.Set_errhandler(MPI::ERRORS_THROW_EXCEPTIONS);
    try{
        int rank = MPI::COMM_WORLD.Get_rank();
        std::cout<< "I am " << rank << std::endl;
    }
    catch (MPI::Exception e) {
        std::cout << "MPI ERROR: " << e.Get_error_code()
            << " -" << e.Get_error_string() << std::endl;
    }
    MPI::Finalize();
}
```

# Collective communication

- MPI collective communication must involve all processes in the scope of a communicator
  - ALL TASKS MUST REACH THE COLLECTIVE CALL, otherwise deadlock occur.
- There are different types of collective operations:
  - Synchronization: processes wait until all members of the group have reached the synchronization point
  - Data movement: broadcast, scatter/gather
  - Collective computation (reductions): one member of the group collects data from the other members and performs an arithmetic operation on those values
- Collective operations are blocking

# Collective communication

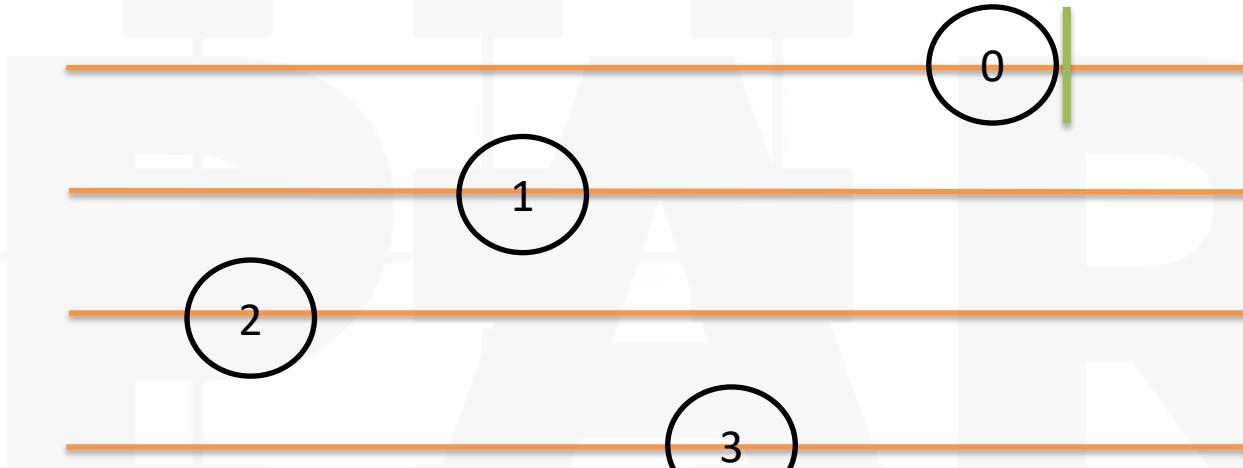
## BASIC METHODS (I)

### **MPI::COMM::Barrier()**

- Creates a synchronization barrier in a group
- Each task blocks when reaching the call wait until all tasks in the group reach the same call
- **BARRIER()** is not necessary before/after collective operations, if all buffers are valid already.
- **BARRIER()** does not magically wait for non-blocking calls. If you use a non-blocking send/recv and both processes wait at an **BARRIER()** after the send/recv pair, it is not guaranteed that the processes sent/received all data after the **BARRIER()**. Use **WAIT()** instead.
- Can be useful to timing the code

# Barrier

Before



After



# Collective communication

## BASIC METHODS (II)

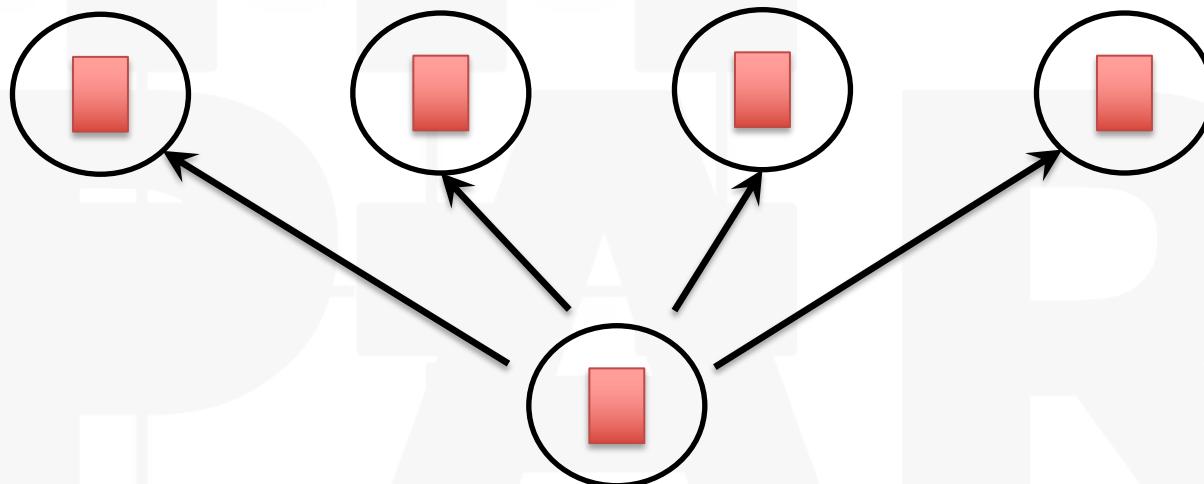
```
MPI::COMM::Bcast(void* buffer, int count,  
                  MPI::Datatype& datatype, int root)
```

- Broadcasts a message from the process having **ROOT** as rank to all the other processes in the group

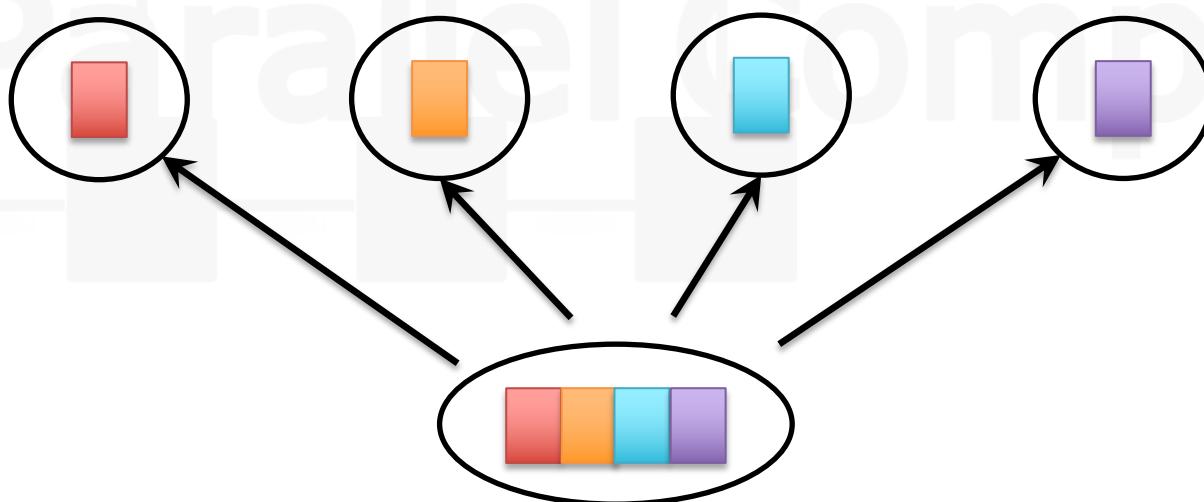
```
MPI::COMM::Scatter(void* sendbuf, int sendcount,  
                   MPI::Datatype& sendtype, void* recvbuf,  
                   int recvcount, MPI::Datatype& recvtype, int root)
```

- Distributes distinct messages from the task having **ROOT** as rank to each task in the group
- The first parameter, **SENDBUF**, is an array of data that resides on the **ROOT** process
- On the task **ROOT**, all arguments are relevant
- On the other tasks all arguments, except the first one, are relevant
- **SENDCOUNT/RECVCOUNT** is often equal to the number of elements in the array divided by the number of processes
- **SENDBUF** and **RECVBUF** must not overlap

# Broadcast



Scatter



# Collective communication

## BASIC METHODS (II)

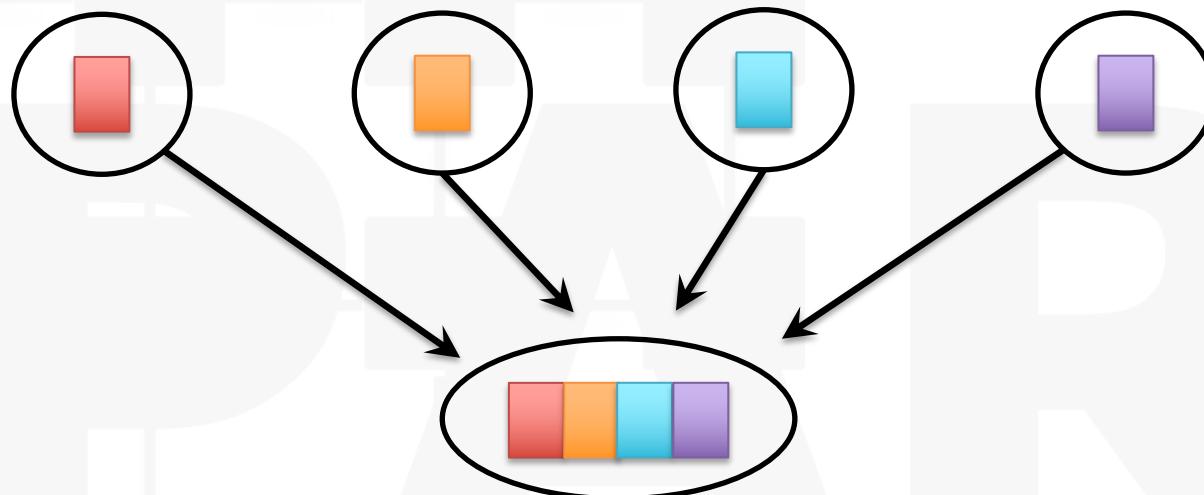
```
MPI::COMM::Gather(void* sendbuf, int sendcount,  
                  MPI::Datatype& sendtype, void* recvbuf,  
                  int recvcount, MPI::Datatype& recvtype, int root)
```

- Gathers distinct messages from each task in the group to the task having **ROOT** as rank
- On the task **ROOT**, all arguments are relevant
- On the other tasks all arguments, except **RECVBUF** and **REVCOUNT**, are relevant
- **GATHER()** is the inverse of **SCATTER()**
- The received datas are ordered respect to task rank

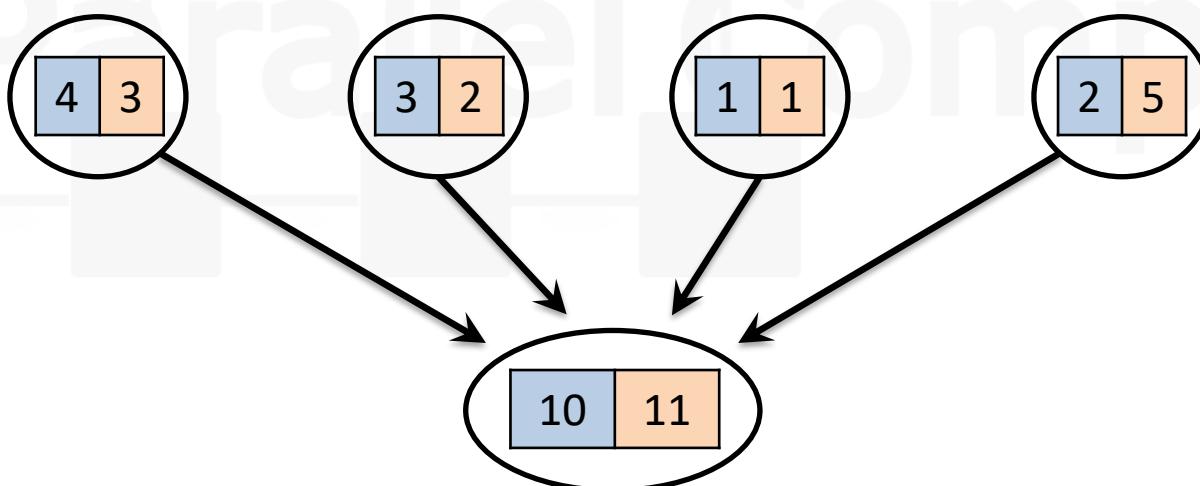
```
MPI::COMM::Reduce(void* sendbuf, void* recvbuf, int count,  
                  MPI::Datatype& datatype, MPI::OP, int root)
```

- Applies a reduction operation to the send buffer in each task in the group and places the result in the receive buffer in the task having **ROOT** as rank

# Gather



# Reduce <+>



# Run a MPI Program

## RUN WITH MPICH

- 1) To compile a MPI program you have to use the wrapper compiler

```
mpicxx source.cpp -o out.x
```

- 2) Start the MPI program mpiprogram

```
mpiexec -n <number_of_processes> ./<mpi_program>
```

# Examples

- **Example 1: HelloWorld**

Hello world from processor <host>, rank 2 out of 4 processors  
Hello world from processor <host>, rank 0 out of 4 processors  
Hello world from processor <host>, rank 1 out of 4 processors  
Hello world from processor <host>, rank 3 out of 4 processors

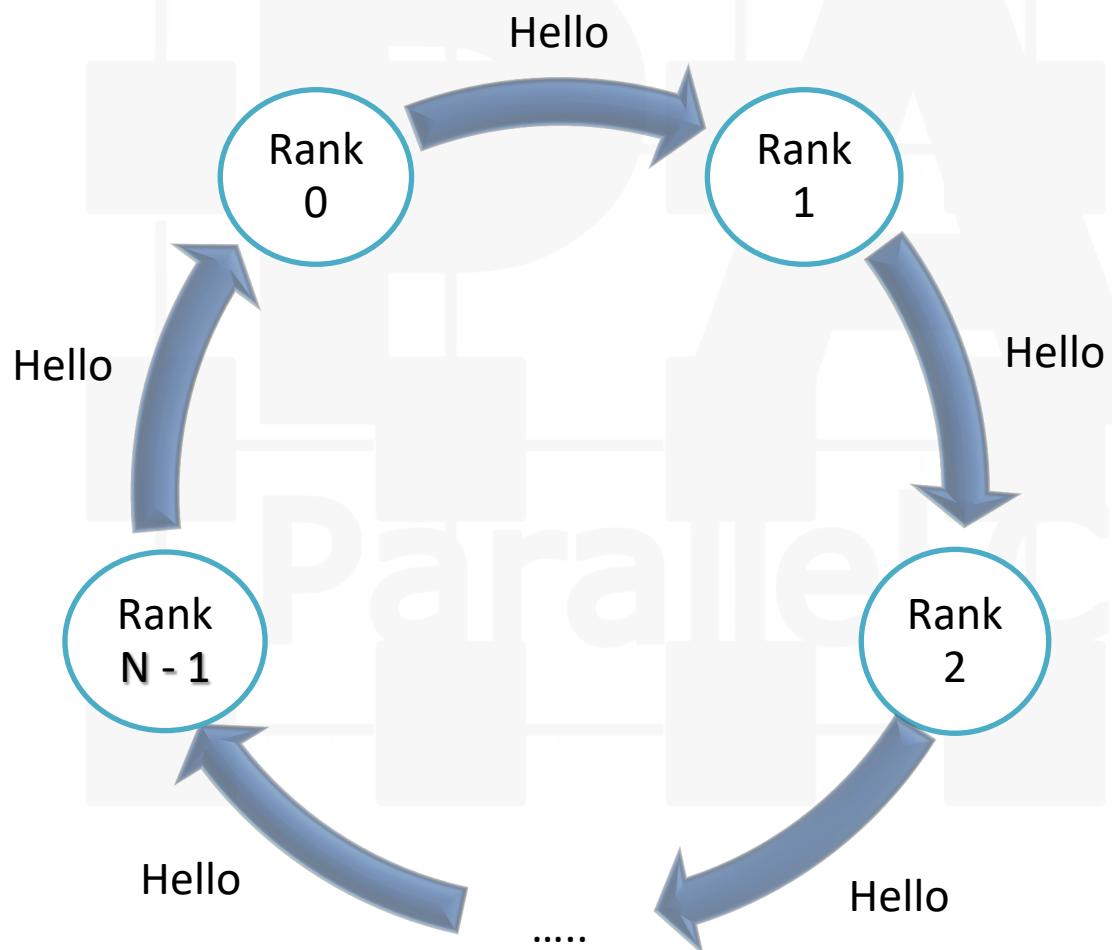
- **Example 2: SendReceive**



Message Received: "Hello! from rank 0" of size 18

# Exercises (I)

## RING



- 1) For each step print rank, source and dest of the message.
- 2) Use a collective communication to optimize the code

# Exercises (II)

## LATENCY AND BANDWIDTH

- 1) What is the latency between two nodes in the same host? and in different hosts?
- 2) What is the latency in the ring?
- 3) What is the bandwidth between two nodes on the same host? and in different hosts?

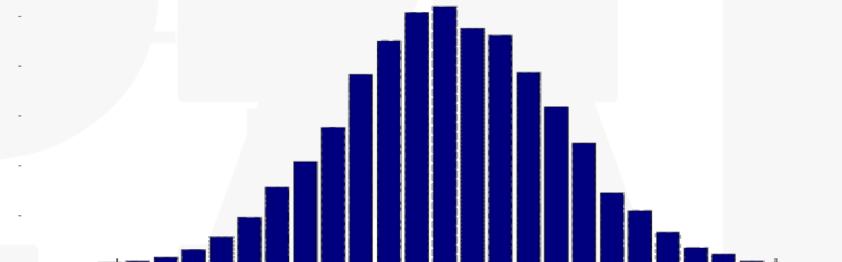
$$\text{latency} = \frac{\text{receive}_{time} - \text{send}_{time}}{2}$$

$$\text{bandwidth} = \frac{\text{number of bytes}}{\text{elapsed seconds}}$$

# Exercises (III)

## BASIC COLLECTIVE COMMUNICATION

### RANDOM CHAR HISTOGRAM

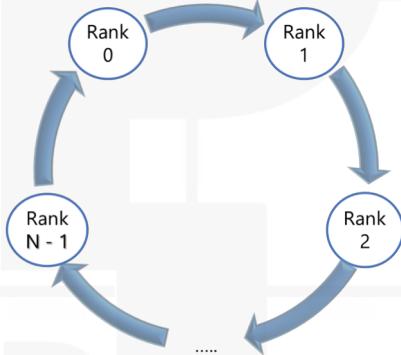


- Every task generate a random sequence of N chars (from 'A' to 'Z').
- 1) N (problem size) is broadcast from root 
  - 2) Random seeds are scattered from root
  - 3) Each task compute local histogram
  - 4) The root takes the total histogram (sum of histogram)

What is the speedup  
again the sequential  
version for large  
values?

# Exercises (IV)

- Modify RING exercise with non-blocking communication



- RC4 Decrypt



# References

- MPICH Home page  
<http://www.mpich.org/>
- Official MPI specifications  
<http://www mpi-forum.org/docs/docs.html>
- Good API References:
  - OpenMPI (another open source MPI implementation)  
<https://www.open-mpi.org/doc/v1.8/>
  - Microsoft MPI References  
<https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dn473458%28v=vs.85%29.aspx>
- Tutorials
  - <http://mpitutorial.com/>
  - <https://computing.llnl.gov/tutorials/mpi/>