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# Parallel Processing

WS 2017/18

Roland Wismüller  
Universität Siegen  
roland.wismueller@uni-siegen.de  
Tel.: 0271/740-4050, Büro: H-B 8404

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# Parallel Processing

WS 2017/18

## 3 Parallel Programming with Message Passing

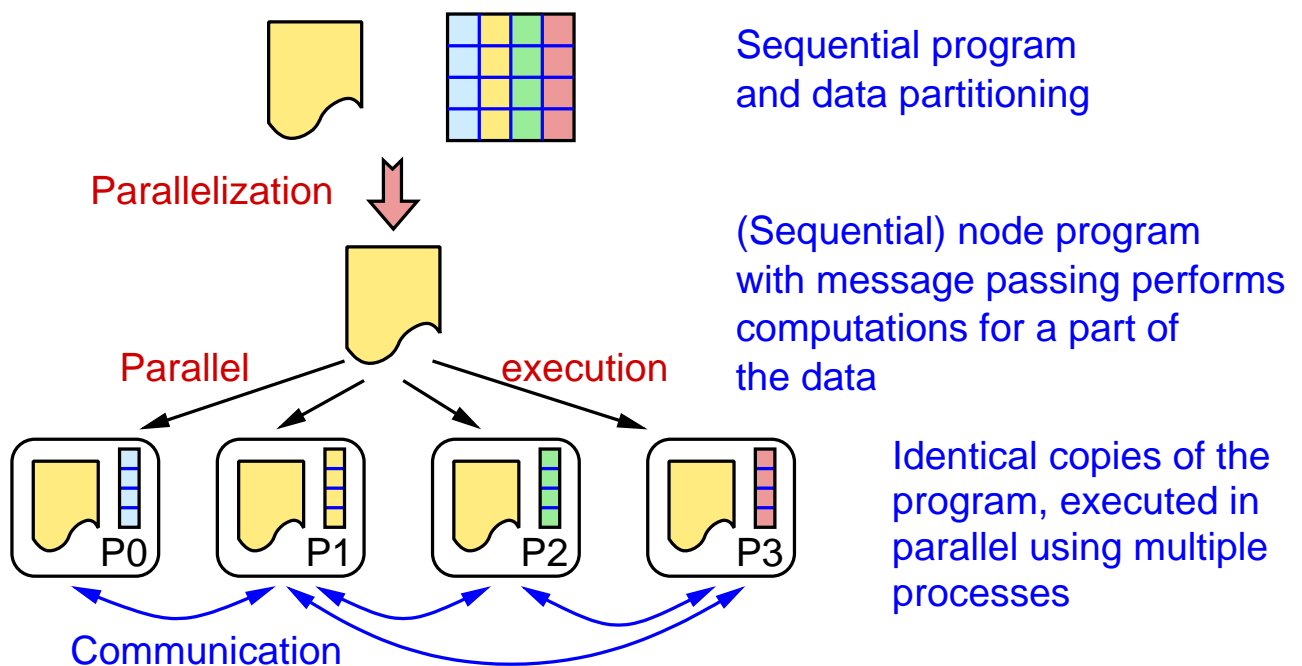
#### Contents

- ➔ Typical approach
- ➔ MPI (Message Passing Interface)
  - ➔ core routines
  - ➔ simple MPI programs
  - ➔ point-to-point communication
  - ➔ complex data types in messages
  - ➔ communicators
  - ➔ collective operations
  - ➔ further concepts

### 3.1 Typical approach



#### Data partitioning with SPMD model



## 3.1 Typical approach ...



### Activities when creating a node program

- ➔ Adjustment of array declarations
  - ➔ node program stores only a part of the data
  - ➔ (assumption: data are stored in arrays)
- ➔ Index transformation
  - ➔ global index  $\leftrightarrow$  (process number, local index)
- ➔ Work partitioning
  - ➔ each process executes the computations on its part of the data
- ➔ Communication
  - ➔ when a process needs non-local data, a suitable message exchange must be programmed

## 3.1 Typical approach ...



### About communication

- ➔ When a process needs data: the owner of the data must send them explicitly
  - ➔ exception: one-sided communication (☞ 3.2.7)
- ➔ Communication should be merged as much as possible
  - ➔ one large message is better than many small ones
  - ➔ data dependences must not be violated

#### Sequential execution

```
a[1] = ...;  
a[2] = ...;  
a[3] = a[1]+...;  
a[4] = a[2]+...;
```

#### Parallel execution

Process 1

```
a[1] = ...;  
a[2] = ...;  
send(a[1],a[2]);
```

Process 2

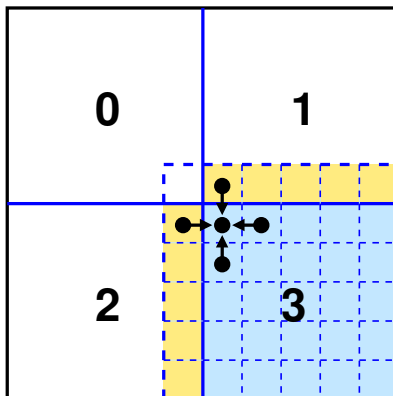
```
recv(a[1],a[2]);  
a[3] = a[1]+...;  
a[4] = a[2]+...;
```

## 3.1 Typical approach ...



### About communication ...

- ➔ Often the node program allocates an overlapping buffer region (**ghost region / ghost cells**) for non-local data
- ➔ Example: Jacobi iteration



Partitioning of the matrix into 4 parts

Each process allocates an additional row/column at the borders of its sub-matrix

Data exchange at the end of each iteration

## 3.2 MPI (*Message Passing Interface*)



### History and background

- ➔ At the beginning of the parallel computer era (late 1980's):
  - ➔ many different communication libraries (NX, PARMACS, PVM, P4, ...)
  - ➔ parallel programs are not easily portable
- ➔ Definition of an informal standard by the MPI forum
  - ➔ 1994: MPI-1.0
  - ➔ 1997: MPI-1.2 and MPI-2.0 (considerable extensions)
  - ➔ 2009: MPI 2.2 (clarifications, minor extensions)
  - ➔ 2012/15: MPI-3.0 und MPI-3.1 (considerable extensions)
  - ➔ documents at <http://www.mpi-forum.org/docs>
- ➔ MPI only defines the API (i.e., the programming interface)
  - ➔ different implementations, e.g., MPICH2, OpenMPI, ...



### Programming model

- ➔ Distributed memory, processes with message passing
- ➔ SPMD: one program code for all processes
  - ➔ but different program codes are also possible
- ➔ MPI-1: static process model
  - ➔ all processes are created at program start
    - ➔ program start is standardized since MPI-2
  - ➔ MPI-2 also allows to create new processes at runtime
- ➔ MPI is thread safe: a process is allowed to create additional threads
  - ➔ hybrid parallelization using MPI and OpenMP is possible
- ➔ Program terminates when all its processes have terminated

### 3.2.1 Core routines



- ➔ MPI-1.2 has 129 routines (and MPI-2 even more ...)
- ➔ However, often only 6 routines are sufficient to write relevant programs:
  - ➔ `MPI_Init` – MPI initialization
  - ➔ `MPI_Finalize` – MPI cleanup
  - ➔ `MPI_Comm_size` – get number of processes
  - ➔ `MPI_Comm_rank` – get own process number
  - ➔ `MPI_Send` – send a message
  - ➔ `MPI_Recv` – receive a message

## 3.2.1 Core routines ...



### MPI\_Init

```
int MPI_Init(int *argc, char ***argv)
INOUT argc    Pointer to argc of main()
INOUT argv    Pointer to argv of main()
Result        MPI_SUCCESS or error code
```

- ➔ Each MPI process must call `MPI_Init`, before it can use other MPI routines
- ➔ Typically: 

```
int main(int argc, char **argv)
{
    MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);
    ...
}
```
- ➔ `MPI_Init` may also ensure that all processes receive the command line arguments

## 3.2.1 Core routines ...



### MPI\_Finalize

```
int MPI_Finalize()
```

- ➔ Each MPI process must call `MPI_Finalize` at the end
- ➔ Main purpose: deallocation of resources
- ➔ After that, no other MPI routines must be used
  - ➔ in particular, no further `MPI_Init`
- ➔ `MPI_Finalize` does **not** terminate the process!

## 3.2.1 Core routines ...



### MPI\_Comm\_size

```
int MPI_Comm_size(MPI_Comm comm, int *size)
```

*IN*      *comm*    Communicator

*OUT*     *size*      Number of processes in *comm*

- ➔ Typically: `MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &nprocs)`
- ➔ returns the number of MPI processes in `nprocs`

### MPI\_Comm\_rank

```
int MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_Comm comm, int *rank)
```

*IN*      *comm*    Communicator

*OUT*     *rank*     Number of processes in *comm*

- ➔ Process number (“rank”) counts upward, starting at 0
- ➔ only differentiation of the processes in the SPMD model

## 3.2.1 Core routines ...



### Communicators

- ➔ A communicator consists of
  - ➔ a process group
    - ➔ a subset of all processes of the parallel application
  - ➔ a communication context
    - ➔ to allow the separation of different communication relations (☞ 3.2.5)
- ➔ There is a predefined communicator `MPI_COMM_WORLD`
  - ➔ its process group contains all processes of the parallel application
- ➔ Additional communicators can be created as needed (☞ 3.2.5)

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Roland Wismüller  
Universität Siegen  
roland.wismueller@uni-siegen.de  
Tel.: 0271/740-4050, Büro: H-B 8404

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## 3.2.1 Core routines ...



### MPI\_Send

```
int MPI_Send(void *buf, int count, MPI_Datatype dtype,  
             int dest, int tag, MPI_Comm comm)
```

<i>IN</i>	<b>buf</b>	(Pointer to) the data to be sent (send buffer)
<i>IN</i>	<b>count</b>	Number of data elements (of type <b>dtype</b> )
<i>IN</i>	<b>dtype</b>	Data type of the individual data elements
<i>IN</i>	<b>dest</b>	Rank of destination process in communicator <b>comm</b>
<i>IN</i>	<b>tag</b>	Message tag
<i>IN</i>	<b>comm</b>	Communicator

- ➔ Specification of data type: for format conversions
- ➔ Destination process is always relative to a communicator
- ➔ *Tag* allows to distinguish different messages (or message types) in the program





### MPI\_Send ...

- ➔ MPI\_Send blocks the calling process, until all data has been read from the send buffer
  - ➔ send buffer can be reused (i.e., modified) immediately after MPI\_Send returns
- ➔ The MPI implementation decides whether the process is blocked until
  - a) the data has been copied to a system buffer, or
  - b) the data has been received by the destination process.
  - ➔ in some cases, this decision can influence the correctness of the program! (👉 slide 286)



### MPI\_Recv

```
int MPI_Recv(void *buf, int count, MPI_Datatype dtype,
             int source, int tag, MPI_Comm comm,
             MPI_Status *status)
```

<i>OUT</i>	<b>buf</b>	(Pointer to) receive buffer
<i>IN</i>	<b>count</b>	Buffer size (number of data elements of type <b>dtype</b> )
<i>IN</i>	<b>dtype</b>	Data type of the individual data elements
<i>IN</i>	<b>source</b>	Rank of source process in communicator <b>comm</b>
<i>IN</i>	<b>tag</b>	Message tag
<i>IN</i>	<b>comm</b>	Communicator
<i>OUT</i>	<b>status</b>	Status (among others: actual message length)

- ➔ Process is blocked until the message has been completely received and stored in the receive buffer



### MPI\_Recv ...

- ➔ MPI\_Recv only receives a message where
  - ➔ sender,
  - ➔ message tag, and
  - ➔ communicatormatch the parameters
- ➔ For source process (sender) and message tag, wild-cards can be used:
  - ➔ MPI\_ANY\_SOURCE: sender doesn't matter
  - ➔ MPI\_ANY\_TAG: message tag doesn't matter



### MPI\_Recv ...

- ➔ Message must not be larger than the receive buffer
  - ➔ but it may be smaller; the unused part of the buffer remains unchanged
- ➔ From the return value `status` you can determine:
  - ➔ the sender of the message: `status.MPI_SOURCE`
  - ➔ the message tag: `status.MPI_TAG`
  - ➔ the error code: `status.MPI_ERROR`
  - ➔ the actual length of the received message (number of data elements): `MPI_Get_count(&status, dtype, &count)`

## 3.2.1 Core routines ...



### Simple data types (MPI\_Datatype)

MPI	C	MPI	C
MPI_CHAR	char	MPI_UNSIGNED_CHAR	unsigned char
MPI_SHORT	short	MPI_UNSIGNED_SHORT	unsigned short
MPI_INT	int	MPI_UNSIGNED	unsigned int
MPI_LONG	long	MPI_UNSIGNED_LONG	unsigned long
MPI_FLOAT	float		
MPI_DOUBLE	double	MPI_LONG_DOUBLE	long double
MPI_BYTE	Byte with 8 bits	MPI_PACKED	Packed data*

\* 3.2.4

## 3.2.2 Simple MPI programs



### Example: typical MPI program skeleton ( 03/rahmen.cpp)

```
#include <iostream>
#include <mpi.h>
using namespace std;

int main (int argc, char **argv)
{
    int i;
    int myrank, nprocs;
    int namelen;
    char name[MPI_MAX_PROCESSOR_NAME];

    /* Initialize MPI and set the command line arguments */
    MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);

    /* Determine the number of processes */
    MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &nprocs);
```

## 3.2.2 Simple MPI programs ...



```
/* Determine the own rank */
MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &myrank);

/* Determine the node name */
MPI_Get_processor_name(name, &namelen);

/* flush is used to enforce immediate output */
cout << "Process " << myrank << "/" << nprocs
      << "started on " << name << "\n" << flush;

cout << "-- Arguments: ";
for (i = 0; i<argc; i++)
    cout << argv[i] << " ";
cout << "\n";

/* finish MPI */
MPI_Finalize();

return 0;
}
```

## 3.2.2 Simple MPI programs ...



### Starting MPI programs: mpiexec

- ➔ `mpiexec -n 3 myProg arg1 arg2`
  - ➔ starts `myProg arg1 arg2` with 3 processes
  - ➔ the specification of the nodes to be used depends on the MPI implementation and the hardware/OS platform

- ➔ Starting the example program using MPICH:

```
mpiexec -n 3 -machinefile machines ./rahmen a1 a2
```

- ➔ Output:

```
Process 0/3 started on bslab02.lab.bvs
Args: /home/wismueller/LEHRE/pv/CODE/04/rahmen a1 a2
Process 2/3 started on bslab03.lab.bvs
Args: /home/wismueller/LEHRE/pv/CODE/04/rahmen a1 a2
Process 1/3 started on bslab06.lab.bvs
Args: /home/wismueller/LEHRE/pv/CODE/04/rahmen a1 a2
```

## 3.2.2 Simple MPI programs ...



**Example: ping pong with messages** ( 03/pingpong.cpp)

```
int main (int argc, char **argv)
{
    int i, passes, size, myrank;
    char *buf;
    MPI_Status status;
    double start, end;

    MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);
    MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &myrank);

    passes = atoi(argv[1]); // Number of repetitions
    size = atoi(argv[2]); // Message length
    buf = malloc(size);
```

## 3.2.2 Simple MPI programs ...



```
if (myrank == 0) { // Process 0 */
    start = MPI_Wtime(); // Get the current time
    for (i=0; i<passes; i++) {
        /* Send a message to process 1, tag = 42 */
        MPI_Send(buf, size, MPI_CHAR, 1, 42, MPI_COMM_WORLD);

        /* Wait for the answer, tag is not relevant */
        MPI_Recv(buf, size, MPI_CHAR, 1, MPI_ANY_TAG,
                MPI_COMM_WORLD, &status);
    }

    end = MPI_Wtime(); // Get the current time
    cout << "Time for one message: "
         << ((end - start) * 1e6 / (2 * passes)) << "us\n";
    cout << "Bandwidth: "
         << (size*2*passes/(1024*1024*(end-start))) << "MB/s`
}
}
```

## 3.2.2 Simple MPI programs ...



```
else { /* Process 1 */
    for (i=0; i<passes; i++) {
        /* Wait for the message from process 0, tag is not relevant */
        MPI_Recv(buf, size, MPI_CHAR, 0, MPI_ANY_TAG,
                MPI_COMM_WORLD, &status);

        /* Send back the answer to process 0, tag = 24 */
        MPI_Send(buf, size, MPI_CHAR, 0, 24, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
    }
}

MPI_Finalize();
return 0;
}
```

## 3.2.2 Simple MPI programs ...



### Example: ping pong with messages ...

➔ Results (on the XEON cluster):

- ➔ `mpiexec -n 2 ... ./pingpong 1000 1`  
Time for one message: 50.094485 us  
Bandwidth: 0.019038 MB/s
- ➔ `mpiexec -n 2 ... ./pingpong 1000 100`  
Time for one message: 50.076485 us  
Bandwidth: 1.904435 MB/s
- ➔ `mpiexec -n 2 ... ./pingpong 100 1000000`  
Time for one message: 9018.934965 us  
Bandwidth: 105.741345 MB/s

➔ (Only) with large messages the bandwidth of the interconnection network is reached

- ➔ XEON cluster: 1 GBit/s Ethernet ( $\hat{=}$  119.2 MB/s)

## 3.2.2 Simple MPI programs ...



### Additional MPI routines in the examples:

```
int MPI_Get_processor_name(char *name, int *len)
```

*OUT*    **name**    Pointer to buffer for node name

*OUT*    **len**       Length of the node name

Result            **MPI\_SUCCESS** or error code

- ➔ The buffer for node name should have the length `MPI_MAX_PROCESSOR_NAME`

```
double MPI_Wtime()
```

Result            Current wall clock time in seconds

- ➔ for timing measurements
- ➔ in MPICH2: time is synchronized between the nodes

## 3.2.3 Point-to-point communication



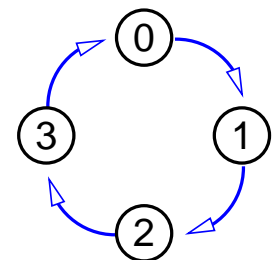
### Example: sending in a closed cycle (👉 03/ring.cpp)

```
int a[N];
```

```
...
```

```
MPI_Send(a, N, MPI_INT, (myrank+1) % nprocs,  
         0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
```

```
MPI_Recv(a, N, MPI_INT,  
         (myrank+nprocs-1) % nprocs,  
         0, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &status);
```



- ➔ Each process first attempts to send, before it receives
- ➔ This works **only if** MPI buffers the messages
- ➔ But `MPI_Send` can also block until the message is received
  - ➔ deadlock!

### 3.2.3 Point-to-point communication ...



#### Example: sending in a closed cycle (correct)

- ➔ Some processes must first receive, before they send

```
int a[N];  
...  
if (myrank % 2 == 0) {  
    MPI_Send(a, N, MPI_INT, (myrank+1)%nprocs, ...  
    MPI_Recv(a, N, MPI_INT, (myrank+nprocs-1)%nprocs, ...  
}  
else {  
    MPI_Recv(a, N, MPI_INT, (myrank+nprocs-1)%nprocs, ...  
    MPI_Send(a, N, MPI_INT, (myrank+1)%nprocs, ...  
}
```

- ➔ Better: use non-blocking operations

### 3.2.3 Point-to-point communication ...



#### Non-blocking communication

- ➔ `MPI_Isend` and `MPI_Irecv` return immediately
  - ➔ before the message actually has been sent / received
  - ➔ result: request object (`MPI_Request`)
  - ➔ send / receive buffer must not be modified / used, until the communication is completed
- ➔ `MPI_Test` checks whether communication is completed
- ➔ `MPI_Wait` blocks, until communication is completed
- ➔ Allows to overlap communication and computation
- ➔ can be “mixed” with blocking communication
  - ➔ e.g., send using `MPI_Send`, receive using `MPI_Irecv`



## 3.2.3 Point-to-point communication ...



### Example: sending in a closed cycle with `MPI_Irecv`

( 03/ring2.cpp)

```
int sbuf [N];
int rbuf [N];
MPI_Status status;
MPI_Request request;
...
// Set up the receive request
MPI_Irecv(rbuf, N, MPI_INT, (myrank+nprocs-1) % nprocs, 0,
          MPI_COMM_WORLD, &request);
// Sending
MPI_Send(sbuf, N, MPI_INT, (myrank+1) % nprocs, 0,
         MPI_COMM_WORLD);
// Wait for the message being received
MPI_Wait(&request, &status);
```

#### Notes for slide 289:

MPI offers many different variants for point-to-point communication:

- ➔ For sending, there are four modes:
  - ➔ **synchronous**: send operation blocks, until message is received
    - ➔ rendez-vous between sender and receiver
  - ➔ **buffered**: message will be buffered by the sender
    - ➔ application must allocate and register the buffer
  - ➔ **ready**: the programmer must guarantee that the receiver process already waits for the message (allows optimized sending)
  - ➔ **standard**: MPI decides whether synchronous or buffered
    - ➔ in this case, MPI provides the buffer itself
- ➔ In addition: sending can be blocking or non-blocking
- ➔ For receiving of messages: only blocking and non-blocking variant

➔ The following table summarizes all routines:

		synchronous	asynchronous
Sending	synchronous	<b>MPI_Ssend()</b>	<b>MPI_Issend()</b>
	buffered	<b>MPI_Bsend()</b>	<b>MPI_Ibsend()</b>
	ready	<b>MPI_Rsend()</b>	<b>MPI_Irsend()</b>
	standard	<b>MPI_Send()</b>	<b>MPI_Isend()</b>
Receiving		<b>MPI_Recv()</b>	<b>MPI_Irecv()</b>

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➔ In addition, MPI also has a routine `MPI_Sendrecv`, which allows to send and receive at the same time, without the possibility of a deadlock. Using this function, the example from (03/ring1.cpp) looks like:

```

int sbuf[N];
int rbuf[N];
MPI_Status status;
...

MPI_Sendrecv(sbuf, N, MPI_INT, (myrank+1) % nprocs, 0,
             rbuf, N, MPI_INT, (myrank+nprocs-1) % nprocs, 0,
             MPI_COMM_WORLD, &status);

```

➔ When using `MPI_Sendrecv`, send and receive buffer must be different, when using `MPI_Sendrecv_replace` the send buffer is overwritten with the received message.

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## 3.2.4 Complex data types in messages



- ➔ So far: only arrays can be send as messages
- ➔ What about complex data types (e.g., structures)?
  - ➔ z.B. `struct bsp { int a; double b[3]; char c; };`
- ➔ MPI offers two mechanisms
  - ➔ **packing and unpacking** the individual components
    - ➔ use `MPI_Pack` to pack components into a buffer one after another; send as `MPI_PACKED`; extract the components again using `MPI_Unpack`
  - ➔ **derived data types**
    - ➔ `MPI_Send` gets a pointer to the data structure as well as a description of the data type
    - ➔ the description of the data type must be created by calling MPI routines

### Notes for slide 290:

Example for packing and unpacking using `MPI_Pack` and `MPI_Unpack`:

```
// C structure (or likewise C++ object), which should be sent
struct bsp { int a; double b[3]; char c; } str;
```

```
char buf[100]; // buffer, must be large enough!!
int pos; // position in the buffer
```

```
...
```

```
pos = 0;
MPI_Pack(&str.a, 1, MPI_INT, buf, 100, &pos, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
MPI_Pack(&str.b, 3, MPI_DOUBLE, buf, 100, &pos, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
MPI_Pack(&str.c, 1, MPI_CHAR, buf, 100, &pos, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
MPI_Send(buf, pos, MPI_PACKED, 1, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
```

```
...
```

```
MPI_Recv(buf, 100, MPI_PACKED, 1, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &status);
pos = 0;
MPI_Unpack(buf, 100, &pos, &str.a, 1, MPI_INT, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
MPI_Unpack(buf, 100, &pos, &str.b, 3, MPI_DOUBLE, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
MPI_Unpack(buf, 100, &pos, &str.c, 1, MPI_CHAR, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
```

The MPI standard requires that a message always must be packed as shown in successive calls to `MPI_Pack` (pack unit), where buffer, buffer length and communicator are identical.

In this way, the standard allows that an implementation also packs a header into the message (e.g., for an architecture tag). For this, information from the communicator may be used, if required.

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### 3.2.4 Complex data types in messages ...



#### Derived data types

- ➔ MPI offers constructors, which can be used to define own (derived) data types:
  - ➔ for contiguous data: `MPI_Type_contiguous`
    - ➔ allows the definition of array types
  - ➔ for non-contiguous data: `MPI_Type_vector`
    - ➔ e.g., for a column of a matrix or a sub-matrix
  - ➔ for structures: `MPI_Type_create_struct`
- ➔ After a new data type has been created, it must be “announced”:  
`MPI_Type_commit`
- ➔ After that, the data type can be used like a predefined data type (e.g., `MPI_INT`)

### 3.2.4 Complex data types in messages ...



#### MPI\_Type\_vector: non-contiguous arrays

```
int MPI_Type_vector(int count, int blocklen, int stride,
                   MPI_Datatype oldtype,
                   MPI_Datatype *newtype)
```

<i>IN</i>	<b>count</b>	Number of data blocks
<i>IN</i>	<b>blocklen</b>	Length of the individual data blocks
<i>IN</i>	<b>stride</b>	Distance between successive data blocks
<i>IN</i>	<b>oldtype</b>	Type of the elements in the data blocks
<i>OUT</i>	<b>newtype</b>	Newly created data type

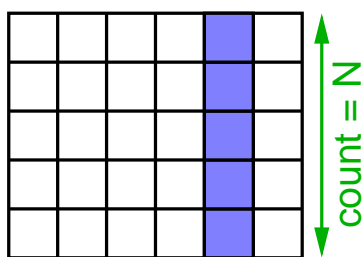
- ➔ Summarizes a number of data blocks (described as arrays) into a new data type
- ➔ However, the result is more like a new **view** onto the existing data than a new data **type**

### 3.2.4 Complex data types in messages ...



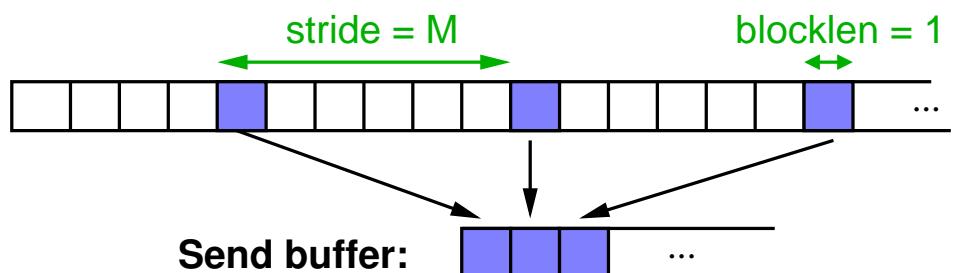
#### Example: transferring a column of a matrix

Matrix:  $a[N][M]$



This column should be sent

Memory layout of the matrix:



```
MPI_type_vector(N, 1, M, MPI_INT, &spalte);
MPI_Type_commit(&spalte);
// Transfer the column
if (rank==0) MPI_Send(&a[0][4], 1, spalte, 1, 0, comm);
else MPI_Recv(&a[0][4], 1, spalte, 0, 0, comm, &status);
```

## 3.2.4 Complex data types in messages ...



### Additional options of MPI\_Type\_vector

	Every second element of a column	One row	Every second element of a row	One sub-matrix
count	$N / 2$	1	$M / 2$	2
blocklen	1	M	1	3
stride	$2 * M$	x	2	M

## 3.2.4 Complex data types in messages ...



### Remarks on MPI\_Type\_vector

- ➔ The receiver can use a different data type than the sender
- ➔ It is only required that the number of elements and the sequence of their types is the same in the send and receive operations
- ➔ Thus, e.g., the following is possible:
  - ➔ sender transmits a column of a matrix
  - ➔ receiver stores it in a one-dimensional array

```
int a[N][M], b[N];  
MPI_Type_vector(N, 1, M, MPI_INT, &spalte);  
MPI_Type_commit(&spalte);  
if (rank==0) MPI_Send(&a[0][4], 1, spalte, 1, 0, comm);  
else MPI_Recv(b, N, MPI_INT, 0, 0, comm, &status);
```

## Notes for slide 295:

*Strided* arrays that have been created using `MPI_Type_vector` can usually be transmitted as efficiently as contiguous arrays (i.e., with stride 1) with modern network interface cards. These cards support the transmission of non-contiguous memory areas in hardware.

295-1

### 3.2.4 Complex data types in messages ...



#### How to select the best approach

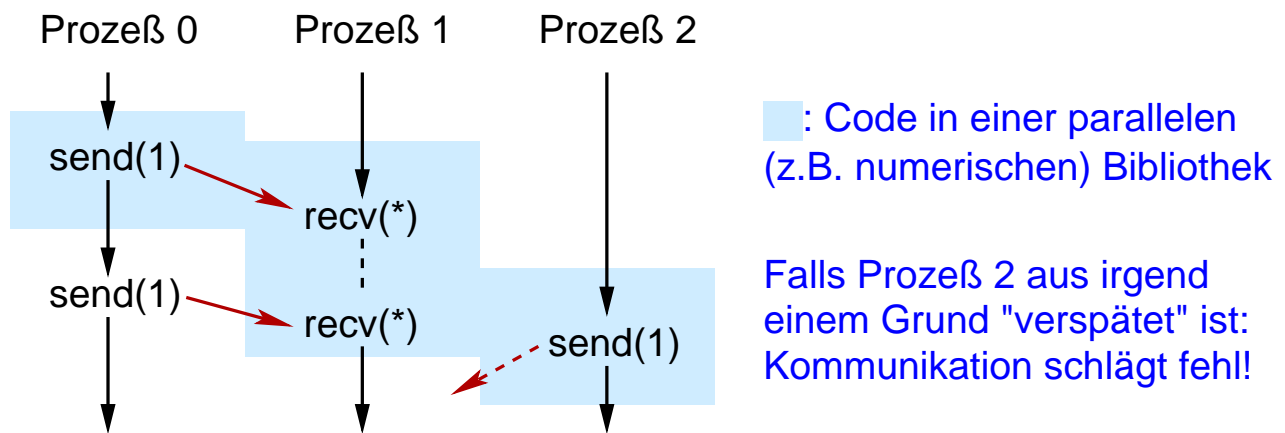
- ➔ Homogeneous data (elements of the same type):
  - ➔ contiguous (stride 1): standard data type and `count` parameter
  - ➔ non-contiguous:
    - ➔ stride is constant: `MPI_Type_vector`
    - ➔ stride is irregular: `MPI_Type_indexed`
- ➔ Heterogeneous data (elements of different types):
  - ➔ large data, often transmitted: `MPI_Type_create_struct`
  - ➔ few data, rarely transmitted: `MPI_Pack` / `MPI_Unpack`
  - ➔ structures of variable length: `MPI_Pack` / `MPI_Unpack`

## 3.2.5 Communicators



(Animated slide)

### Motivation: problem of earlier communication libraries



- ➔ Message tags are not a reliable solution
  - ➔ tags might be chosen identically by chance!
- ➔ Required: different communication contexts

## 3.2.5 Communicators ...



- ➔ Communicator = process group + context
- ➔ Communicators support
  - ➔ working with process groups
    - ➔ task parallelism
    - ➔ coupled simulations
    - ➔ collective communication with a subset of all processes
  - ➔ communication contexts
    - ➔ for parallel libraries
- ➔ A communicator represents a communication domain
  - ➔ communication is possible only within the same domain
    - ➔ no wild-card for communicator in MPI\_Recv
  - ➔ a process can belong to several domains at the same time





#### Creating new communicators

```
int MPI_Comm_dup(MPI_Comm comm, MPI_Comm *newcomm)
int MPI_Comm_split(MPI_Comm comm, int color
                  int key, MPI_Comm *newcomm)
```

- ➔ Collective operations
  - ➔ all processes in `comm` must execute them concurrently
- ➔ `MPI_Comm_dup` creates a copy with a new context
- ➔ `MPI_Comm_split` splits `comm` into several communicators
  - ➔ one communicator for each value of `color`
  - ➔ as the result, each process receives the communicator to which it was assigned
  - ➔ `key` determines the order of the new process ranks



#### Example for `MPI_Comm_split`

- ➔ *Multi-physics code*: air pollution
  - ➔ one half of the processes computes the airflow
  - ➔ the other half computes chemical reactions
- ➔ Creation of two communicators for the two parts:  
`MPI_Comm_split(MPI_COMM_WORLD, myrank%2, myrank, &comm)`

Process	myrank	Color	Result in comm	Rank in $C_0$	Rank in $C_1$
P0	0	0	$C_0$	0	–
P1	1	1	$C_1$	–	0
P2	2	0	$C_0$	1	–
P3	3	1	$C_1$	–	1

- ➔ Collective operations in MPI
  - ➔ must be executed concurrently by all processes of a process group (a communicator)
  - ➔ are blocking
  - ➔ do not necessarily result in a global (barrier) synchronisation, however
- ➔ Collective synchronisation and communication functions
  - ➔ barriers
  - ➔ communication: broadcast, scatter, gather, ...
  - ➔ reductions (communication with aggregation)

### Notes for slide 301:

Note that “concurrently” (German: “nebenläufig”) does not mean that the operations must be executed at the same time, or in an overlapping way. It just means that (1) all processes in the communicator execute the operation and (2) there is no synchronization that enforces any restriction on the ordering of the operations. (In other words: it must be **possible** that the operations can be executed at the same time, but this is not required)



### MPI\_Barrier

```
int MPI_Barrier(MPI_Comm comm)
```

- ➔ Barrier synchronization of all processes in `comm`
- ➔ With message passing, barriers are actually not really necessary
  - synchronization is achieved by message exchange
- ➔ Reasons for barriers:
  - more easy understanding of the program
  - timing measurements, debugging output
  - input/output?? (console, file)
  - some very special situations in MPI (see the standard ...)



# Parallel Processing

WS 2017/18

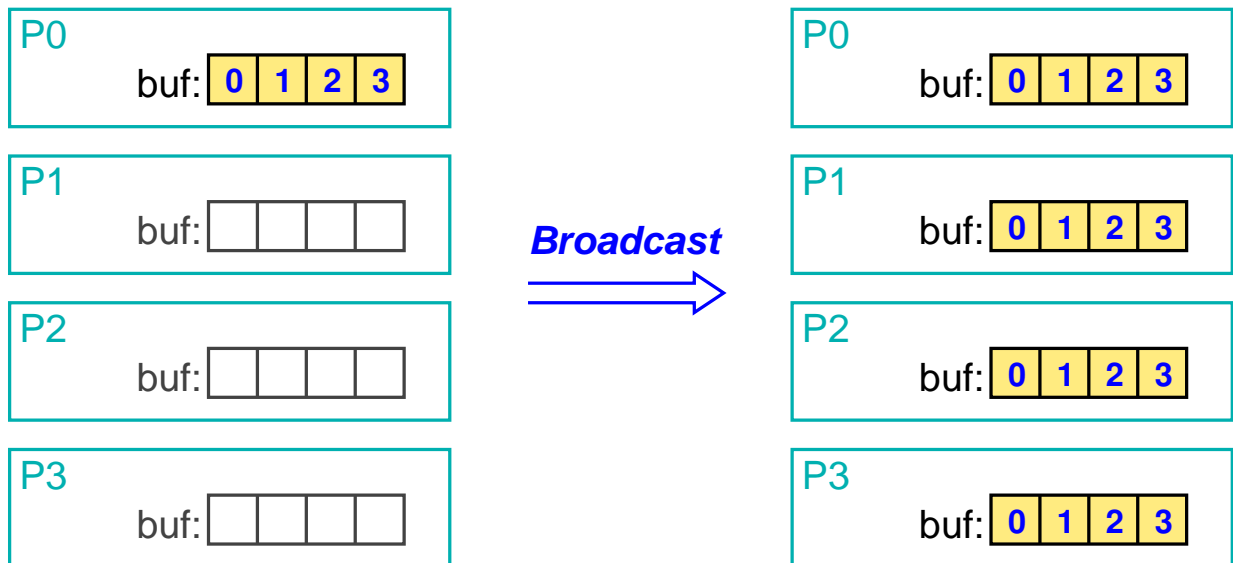
08.01.2018

Roland Wismüller  
Universität Siegen  
roland.wismueller@uni-siegen.de  
Tel.: 0271/740-4050, Büro: H-B 8404

Stand: January 15, 2018



### Collective communication: broadcast



### MPI\_Bcast

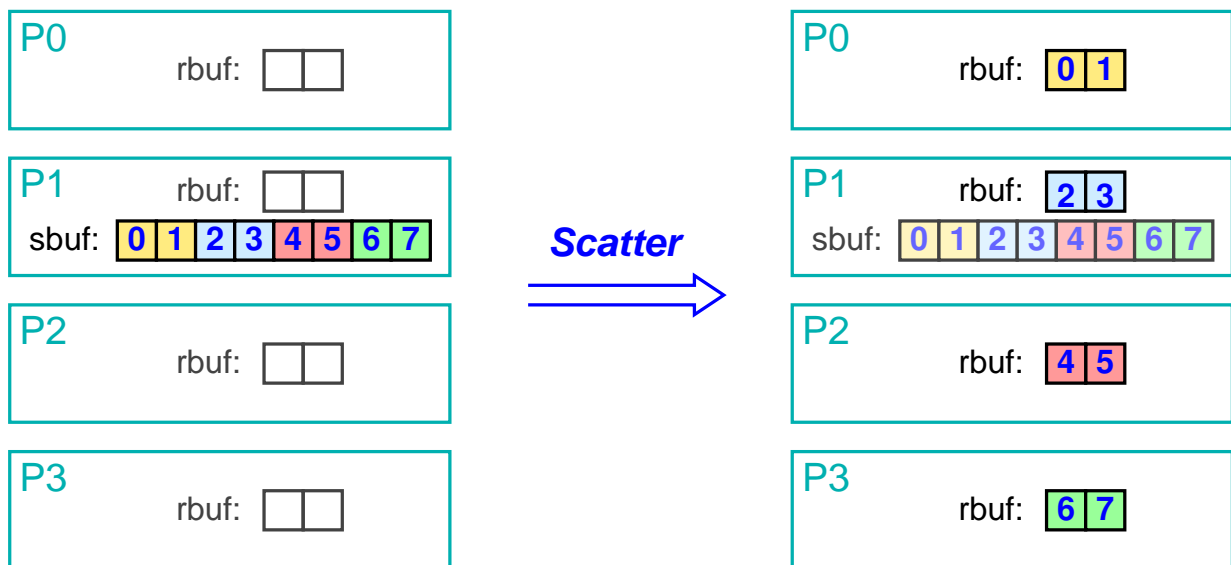
```
int MPI_Bcast(void *buf, int count, MPI_Datatype dtype,  
             int root, MPI_Comm comm)
```

*IN*      *root*      Rang des sendenden Prozesses

- ➔ Buffer is sent by process *root* and received by all others
- ➔ Collective, blocking operation: no tag necessary
- ➔ *count*, *dtype*, *root*, *comm* must be the same in all processes



### Collective communication: scatter



### MPI\_Scatter

```
int MPI_Scatter(void *sendbuf, int sendcount,  
               MPI_Datatype sendtype,  
               void *recvbuf, int recvcount,  
               MPI_Datatype recvtype,  
               int root, MPI_Comm comm)
```

- ➔ Process `root` sends a part of the data to each process
  - ➔ including itself
- ➔ `sendcount`: data length for each process (not the total length!)
- ➔ Process `i` receives `sendcount` elements of `sendbuf` starting from position  $i * \text{sendcount}$
- ➔ Alternative `MPI_Scatterv`: length and position can be specified individually for each receiver

## Notes for slide 306:

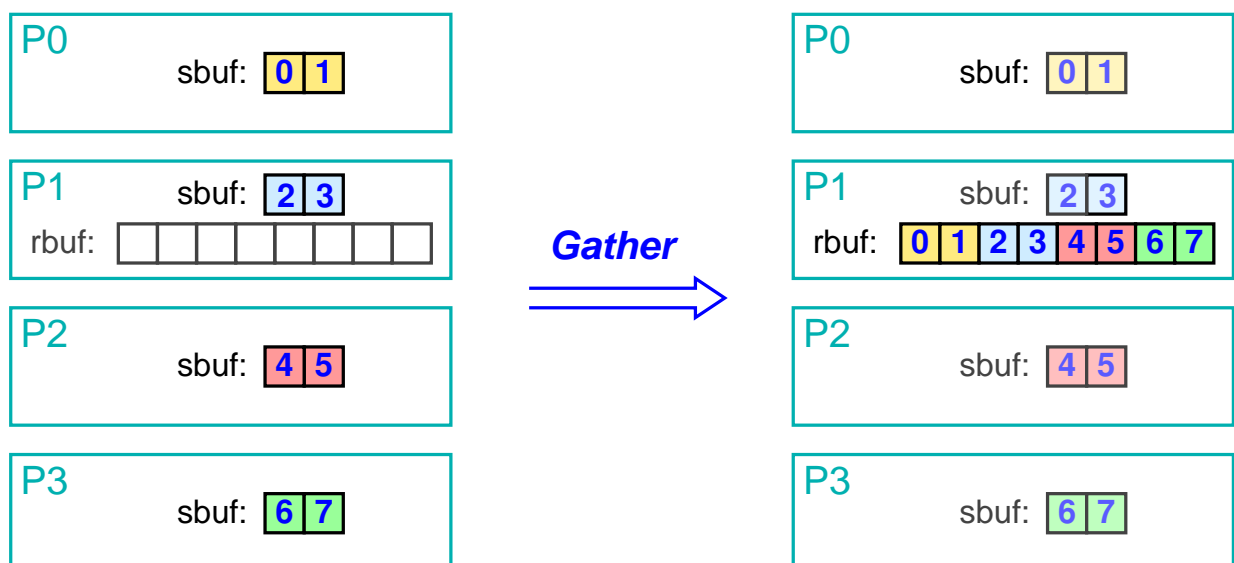
- A problem that may arise when using `MPI_Scatter` is that the data cannot be distributed evenly, e.g., if an array with 1000 elements should be distributed to 16 processes.
- In `MPI_Scatterv`, the argument `sendcount` is replaced by two arrays `sendcounts` and `displacements`
  - process  $i$  then receives `sendcounts[i]` elements of `sendbuf`, starting at position `displacements[i]`

306-1

## 3.2.6 Collective operations ...



### Collective communication: *Gather*





### MPI\_Gather

```
int MPI_Gather(void *sendbuf, int sendcount,
              MPI_Datatype sendtype,
              void *recvbuf, int recvcount,
              MPI_Datatype recvtype,
              int root, MPI_Comm comm)
```

- ➔ All processes send sendcount elements to process root
  - ➡ even root itself
- ➔ Important: each process must send the same amount of data
- ➔ root stores the data from process i starting at position i \* recvcount in recvbuf
- ➔ recvcount: data length for each process (not the total length!)
- ➔ Alternative MPI\_Gatherv: analogous to MPI\_Scatterv

## 3.2.6 Collective operations ...



### Example: multiplication of vector and scalar (📄 03/vecmult.cpp)

```
double a[N], factor, local_a[LOCAL_N];
... // Process 0 reads a and factor from file
MPI_Bcast(&factor, 1, MPI_DOUBLE, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
MPI_Scatter(a, LOCAL_N, MPI_DOUBLE, local_a, LOCAL_N,
           MPI_DOUBLE, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
for (i=0; i<LOCAL_N; i++)
    local_a[i] *= factor;
MPI_Gather(local_a, LOCAL_N, MPI_DOUBLE, a, LOCAL_N,
           MPI_DOUBLE, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
... // Process 0 writes a into file
```

- ➔ **Caution:** LOCAL\_N must have the same value in all processes!
  - ➡ otherwise: use MPI\_Scatterv / MPI\_Gatherv  
(📄 03/vecmult3.cpp)



### Reduction: MPI\_Reduce

```
int MPI_Reduce(void *sendbuf, void *recvbuf,
               int count, MPI_Datatype dtype,
               MPI_Op op, int root,
               MPI_Comm comm)
```

- ➔ Each element in the receive buffer is the result of a reduction operation (e.g., the sum) of the corresponding elements in the send buffer
- ➔ `op` defines the operation
  - predefined: minimum, maximum, sum, product, AND, OR, XOR, ...
  - in addition, user defined operations are possible, too

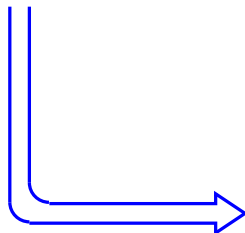
## 3.2.6 Collective operations ...



### Example: summing up an array

#### Sequential

```
s = 0;
for (i=0;i<size;i++)
    s += a[i];
```



#### Parallel

```
local_s = 0;
for (i=0;i<local_size;i++)
    local_s += a[i];

MPI_Reduce(&local_s, &s,
           1, MPI_INT,
           MPI_SUM,
           0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
```





### More collective communication operations

- ➔ MPI\_Alltoall: all-to-all broadcast (👉 1.9.5)
- ➔ MPI\_Allgather and MPI\_Allgatherv: at the end, all processes have the gathered data
  - ➔ corresponds to a gather with subsequent broadcast
- ➔ MPI\_Allreduce: at the end, all processes have the result of the reduction
  - ➔ corresponds to a reduce with subsequent broadcast
- ➔ MPI\_Scan: prefix reduction
  - ➔ e.g., using the sum: process  $i$  receives the sum of the data from processes 0 up to and including  $i$

## 3.2.7 Further concepts



- ➔ Topologies
  - ➔ the application's communication structure is stored in a communicator
    - ➔ e.g., cartesian grid
  - ➔ allows to simplify and optimize the communication
    - ➔ e.g., "send to the left neighbor"
    - ➔ the communicating processes can be placed on neighboring nodes
- ➔ Dynamic process creation (since MPI-2)
  - ➔ new processes can be created at run-time
  - ➔ process creation is a collective operation
  - ➔ the newly created process group gets its own MPI\_COMM\_WORLD
    - ➔ communication between process groups uses an *intercommunicator*

### 3.2.7 Further concepts ...



- ➔ One-sided communication (since MPI-2)
  - access to the address space of other processes
  - operations: read, write, atomic update
  - weak consistency model
    - explicit *fence* and *lock/unlock* operations for synchronisation
  - useful for applications with irregular communication
    - one process alone can execute the communication
- ➔ Parallel I/O (since MPI-2)
  - processes have individual views to a file
    - specified by an MPI data type
  - file operations: individual / collective, private / shared file pointer, blocking / non-blocking

### 3.2.8 Summary



- ➔ Basic routines:
  - Init, Finalize, Comm\_size, Comm\_rank, Send, Recv
- ➔ Complex data types in messages
  - Pack and Unpack
  - user defined data types
    - also for non-contiguous data (e.g., column of a matrix)
- ➔ Communicators: process group + communication context
- ➔ Non-blocking communication: Isend, Irecv, Test, Wait
- ➔ Collective operations
  - Barrier, Bcast, Scatter(v), Gather(v), Reduce, ...