The Message Passing Interface (MPI): Parallelism on Multiple (Possibly Heterogeneous) CPUs

http://mpi-forum.org
https://www.open-mpi.org/

Mike Bailey
mjb@cs.oregonstate.edu

Oregon State University
Why Two URLs?

http://mpi-forum.org
This is the definitive reference for the MPI standard. Go here if you want to read the official specification, which, BTW, continues to evolve.

https://www.open-mpi.org/
This consortium formed later. This is the open source version of MPI. If you want to start using MPI, I recommend you look here.
Programs on different CPUs coordinate computations by passing messages between each other.

Note: Each CPU in the MPI “cluster” must be conditioned ahead of time by having the MPI server code installed on it. Each slave MPI CPU must also have an integer ID assigned to it (called the rank) and must be registered with the master MPI CPU.
Compiling and Running

% mpicc -o program program.c...

or

% mpic++ -o program program.cpp...

% mpiexec -np 64 program

# of processors to use
#include <mpi.h>

Int
main( int argc, char *argv[ ] )
{
    
    MPI_Init( &argc, &argv );

    
    MPI_Finalize( );
    return 0;
}

If you don’t need to process command line arguments, you can also call:

MPI_Init( NULL, NULL );
A *communicator* is a collection of CPUs that are capable of sending messages to each other.

Getting information about our place in the communicator:

```c
int numCPUs;  // total # of cpus involved
int me;       // which one I am

MPI_Comm_Size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &numCPUs );
MPI_Comm_Rank( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &me );
```

This requires MPI server code getting installed on all those CPUs.
A Good Place to Start: MPI Broadcasting

MPI_Bcast( array, count, type, src, MPI_COMM_WORLD );

Address of data to send from if you are the src node; Address of the data to receive into if you are not

# elements

MPI_CHAR
MPI_INT
MPI_LONG
MPI_FLOAT
MPI_DOUBLE

rank of the CPU doing the sending

Both the sender and receivers need to execute **MPI_Bcast** – there is no separate receive function
How Does this Work?
Think Star Trek Wormholes!
This is our heat transfer equation from before. Clearly, every CPU will need to know this value.

\[
\Delta T_i = \left( \frac{k}{\rho C} \right) \left( \frac{T_{i-1} - 2T_i + T_{i+1}}{(\Delta x)^2} \right) \Delta t
\]

```c
int numCPUs;
int me;
float k_over_rho_c; // the ROOT node will know this value, the others won't (yet)

#define ROOT 0

MPI_Comm_Size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &numCPUs );
MPI_Comm_Rank( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &me );

if( me == ROOT )
{
    "<< read k_over_rho_c from the data file >>"
    MPI_Bcast( &k_over_rho_c, 1, MPI_FLOAT, ROOT, MPI_COMM_WORLD ); // send
}
else
{
    MPI_Bcast( &k_over_rho_c, 1, MPI_FLOAT, ROOT, MPI_COMM_WORLD ); // receive
}
```
**Sending Data from a Source CPU to Several Destination CPUs**

```c
MPI_Send( array, numToSend, type, dst, tag, MPI_COMM_WORLD );
```

- **address of data to send from**
- **# elements**
  - MPI_CHAR
  - MPI_INT
  - MPI_LONG
  - MPI_FLOAT
  - MPI_DOUBLE
- **rank of the CPU to send to**
- **An integer to differentiate this transmission from any other transmission (be sure this is unique!)**

**Rules:**

- One message from a specific `src` to a specific `dst` cannot overtake a previous message from the same `src` to the same `dst`.

- MPI_Send( ) blocks until the transfer is far enough along that `array` can be destroyed or re-used.

- There are no guarantees on order from different `src`'s.
Receiving Data in a Destination CPU from a Source CPU

MPI_Recv( array, maxCanReceive, type, src, tag, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &status );

- Address of data to receive into
- # elements we can receive, at most
- MPI_CHAR
- MPI_INT
- MPI_LONG
- MPI_FLOAT
- MPI_DOUBLE
- ... Type = MPI_Status
- Rank of the CPU we are expecting to get a transmission from
- An integer to differentiate what transmission we are looking for with this call (be sure this matches what the sender is sending!)

Rules:

- The receiver blocks waiting for data that matches what it declares to be looking for
- One message from a specific src to a specific dst cannot overtake a previous message from the same src to the same dst
- There are no guarantees on the order from different src’s
- The order from different src’s could be implied in the tag
- status is type MPI_Status – the “&status” can be replaced with MPI_STATUS_IGNORE
Example

Remember, this *same code* runs on all CPUs:

```c
int numCPUs;
int me;
#define MYDATA_SIZE 128
char mydata[ MYDATA_SIZE ];
#define ROOT 0

MPI_Comm_Size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &numCPUs );
MPI_Comm_Rank( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &me );

if( me == ROOT ) // the master
{
    for( int dst = 0; dst < numCPUs; dst++ )
    {
        char *InputData = "Hello, Beavers!";
        MPI_Send( InputData, strlen(InputData)+1, MPI_CHAR, dst, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD );
    }
}
else // a slave
{
    MPI_Recv( myData, MYDATA_SIZE, MPI_CHAR, ROOT, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD, MPI_STATUS_IGNORE );
    printf( " '%s' from rank # %d
", in, me );
}
```

Not really using the tag here
How Much Data Did I Actually Receive and Where Did I Get It?

MPI_Recv( array, maxCanReceive, type, src, tag, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &status );

# elements we can receive, at most

MPI_Status status;
Int actualCount;

MPI_Get_count( &status, type, &actualCount );

int src = status.MPI_SOURCE;
int tag = status.MPI_TAG;

Type = MPI_Status

• • •

MPI_CHAR
MPI_INT
MPI_LONG
MPI_FLOAT
MPI_DOUBLE

...
How does MPI let the Sender perform an MPI_Send( ) even if the Receivers are not ready to MPI_Recv( )?

MPI_Send( ) blocks until the transfer is far enough along that array can be destroyed or re-used.
Another Example

You typically don’t send the entire workload to each dst – you just send part of it, like this:

```c
#define NUMELEMENTS ???
int numCPUs;
int me;
#define ROOT 0

MPI_Comm_Size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &numCPUs );
MPI_Comm_Rank( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &me );

int localSize = NUMELEMENTS / numCPUs; // assuming it comes out evenly
float *myData = new float [localSize];

if( me == ROOT ) // the master
{
    float *InputData = new float [NUMELEMENTS];
    << read the full input data into InputData from disk >>
    for( int dst = 1; dst < numCPUs; dst++ )
    {
        MPI_Send( &InputData[dst*localSize], localSize, MPI_FLOAT, dst, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD );
    }
}
else // a slave
{
    MPI_Recv( myData, localSize, MPI_FLOAT, ROOT, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD, MPI_STATUS_IGNORE );
    // do something with this subset of the data
}
```

And, what’s a good example of when you want to do this?
Remember This? It’s Baaaaaack.

The **Compute : Communicate Ratio** still applies, except that it is even more important now because there is much more overhead in the Communicate portion.

This pattern of breaking a big problem up into pieces, sending them to different CPUs, computing on the pieces, and getting the results back is so common that it has its term: **Scatter/Gather**, and has its own MPI function calls.
MPI Scatter

Take a data array, break it into ~equal portions, and send it to each CPU

`MPI_Scatter( snd_array, snd_count, snd_type, rcv_array, rcv_count, rcv_type, src, MPI_COMM_WORLD );`

Both the sender and receivers need to execute **MPI_Scatter** – there is no separate receive function
#define NUMELEMENTS ????
int numCPUs;
int me;
#define ROOT 0

MPI_Comm_Size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &numCPUs );
MPI_Comm_Rank( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &me );

int localSize = NUMELEMENTS / numCPUs; // assuming it comes out evenly
float *myData = new float [ localSize ];

if( me == ROOT )
{
    float *InputData = new float [ NUMELEMENTS ];
    << read the full input data into InputData from disk >>
    MPI_Scatter( InputData, NUMELEMENTS, MPI_FLOAT, myData, localSize, MPI_FLOAT, ROOT, MPI_WORLD_COMM );
}
else
{
    MPI_Scatter( NULL, 0, MPI_FLOAT, myData, localSize, MPI_FLOAT, ROOT, MPI_WORLD_COMM );
}
MPI Gather

MPI_Gather( snd_array, snd_count, snd_type, rcv_array, rcv_count, rcv_type, dst, MPI_COMM_WORLD );

# elements to send
MPI_CHAR
MPI_INT
MPI_LONG
MPI_FLOAT
MPI_DOUBLE
...

# elements to receive
MPI_CHAR
MPI_INT
MPI_LONG
MPI_FLOAT
MPI_DOUBLE
...

Gather
#define NUMELEMENTS ?????
int numCPUs;
int me;
#define ROOT 0

MPI_Comm_Size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &numCPUs );
MPI_Comm_Rank( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &me );

Int localSize = NUMELEMENTS / numCPUs;  // assuming it comes out evenly
float *myData = new float [ localSize ];

if( me == ROOT )
{
    float *InputData = new float [ NUMELEMENTS ];
    ...
    MPI_Gather( myData , localSize, MPI_FLOAT, InputData, NUMELEMENTS, MPI_FLOAT, ROOT, MPI_WORLD_COMM );
    << write data from Array to disk >>
}
else{
    MPI_Gather( myData, localSize, MPI_FLOAT, NULL, 0, MPI_FLOAT, ROOT, MPI_WORLD_COMM );
}
Scatter

Gather
A Full MPI Scatter / Gather Example

```c
#define NUMELEMENTS ?????
int numCPUs;
int me;
#define ROOT 0

MPI_Comm_Size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &numCPUs );
MPI_Comm_Rank( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &me );

int localSize = NUMELEMENTS / numCPUs; // assuming it comes out evenly
float *myData = new float [ localSize ];

if( me == ROOT )
{
    float *InputData = new float [ NUMELEMENTS ];
    << read the full input data into InputData[ ] from disk >>
    MPI_Scatter( InputData, NUMELEMENTS, MPI_FLOAT, myData, localSize, MPI_FLOAT, ROOT, MPI_WORLD_COMM );
    << do some computing on mydata[] >>
    MPI_Gather( myData, localSize, MPI_FLOAT, InputData, NUMELEMENTS, MPI_FLOAT, ROOT, MPI_WORLD_COMM );
    << write data from InputData[] to disk >>
}
else
{
    MPI_Scatter( NULL, 0, MPI_FLOAT, myData, localSize, MPI_FLOAT, ROOT, MPI_WORLD_COMM );
    << do some computing on mydata[] >>
    MPI_Gather( myData, localSize, MPI_FLOAT, NULL, 0, MPI_FLOAT, ROOT, MPI_WORLD_COMM );
}
```
MPI Reduction

MPI_Reduce( partialResult, globalResult, count, type, operator, dst, MPI_COMM_WORLD );

- Where the partial result is stored on each CPU
- Place to store the full result on the dst CPU
- Number of elements in the partial result
- MPI_CHAR
  - MPI_INT
    - MPI_LONG
      - MPI_FLOAT
        - MPI_DOUBLE
          - ...

- MPI_MIN
  - MPI_MAX
    - MPI_SUM
      - MPI_PROD
        - MPI_MINLOC
          - MPI_MAXLOC
            - ...

- Who is given the final answer

Both the sender and receivers need to execute **MPI_Reduce** – there is no separate receive function
MPI Reduction Example

```c
int numCPUs;
int me;
float globalSum;

#define ROOT 0
MPI_Comm_Size( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &numCPUs );
MPI_Comm_Rank( MPI_COMM_WORLD, &me );

float partialSum = 0.;
<< compute this CPUs partialSum by, perhaps, adding up a local array >>
MPI_Reduce( &partialSum, &globalSum, 1, MPI_FLOAT, MPI_SUM, ROOT, MPI_COMM_WORLD );
```
MPI Barriers

MPI_Barrier( MPI_COMM_WORLD );

All CPUs must execute a call to MPI_Barrier( ) before any of them can move past it. Reminder: barriers are based on count, not location.
Idea: In addition to types MPI_INT, MPI_FLOAT, etc., allow the creation of new MPI types so that you can transmit an “array of structures”.

Reason: There is significant overhead with each transmission. Better to send one entire array of structures instead of sending several arrays separately.

```
MPI_Type_create_struct( count, blocklengths, displacements, types, datatype );
```

```c
struct point
{
    int    pointSize;
    float  x, y, z;
};
```

```c
MPI_datatype point_t;
int blocklengths[ ] = { 1, 1, 1, 1 };   
int displacements[ ] = { 0, 4, 8, 12 };   
MPI_type types[ ] = { MPI_INT, MPI_FLOAT, MPI_FLOAT, MPI_FLOAT };   
MPI_Type_create_struct( 4, blocklengths, displacements, types, &point_t );   
```

You can now use `point_t` everywhere you could have used `MPI_INT`, `MPI_FLOAT`, etc.
Welcome to Count the Parallelisms
Suppose We Have This Setup

![Diagram showing network, memory, CPU, and GPU structures.](image-url)
Network

Memory

CPU

SSE

GPU

Memory

CPU

SSE

GPU

1. OpenMP
1. OpenMP
2. CPU SIMD
1. OpenMP
2. CPU SIMD
3. GPU
1. OpenMP
2. CPU SIMD
3. GPU
4. MPI

and, they can all be functioning within the same application!