An Introduction to MPI Programming

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Topics

- Introduction
- Basic Concepts
- Useful MPI references
- "Hello World" the simplest MPI program
- Compiling & running on the Cray
- Synchronisation
- Sends & Receives
- Collective communications
- Reduction operations
- Blocking & non-blocking sends & receives

Introduction (1)

- Message Passing evolved in the late 1980's
- Cray was dominate in supercomputing
 - with very expensive shared-memory vector processors
 - Typically 8-16 custom made very powerful CPUs
- Many companies tried new (cheaper!) approaches to HPC
- Workstation and PC Technology was developing rapidly
 - High Volume = Cheap
- "The Attack of the Killer Micros"
- Message Passing was a way to link them together
 - many different flavours PVM, PARMACS, CHIMP, OCCAM
- Cray recognised the need to change
 - switched to MPP using cheap commodity microprocessors (T3D/T3E)
- But application developers needed portable software

Introduction (2)

- Message Passing Interface (MPI)
 - The MPI Forum was a combination of end users and vendors (1992)
 - defined a standard set of library calls in 1994
 - Portable across different computer platforms (even a heterogeneous system)
 - Fortran and C Interfaces
- Used by multiple tasks to send and receive data
 - Working together to solve a problem
 - Data is decomposed (split) into multiple parts
 - Each task handles a separate part on its own processor
 - Message passing between tasks to resolve data dependencies
- Primarily intended for communication over a network of Distributed Memory Nodes
 - But can also be used with a shared-memory node
- Can scale to thousands of processors subject to constraints of Amdahl's Law

Introduction (3)

- The MPI standard is large
 - Well over 100 routines in MPI version 1
 - Result of trying to cater for many different flavours of message passing and a diverse range of computer architectures
 - And an additional 100+ in MPI version 2 (1997)
 - And many more additions in MPI version 3 (2012)
 - MPI version 1 contains the core operations, and works whatever version of MPI you have
- Many sophisticated features
 - Designed for both homogenous and heterogeneous environments
- But most people only use a small subset
 - IFS was initially parallelised using Parmacs
 - This was replaced by about 10 MPI (version 1) routines
 - Hidden within "MPL" library
 - Send/receives and some collective operations

Introduction (4)

- This course will look at just a few basic routines
- Fortran Interface Only
- MPI version 1.2
- SPMD (Single Program Multiple Data)
- As used at ECMWF in IFS

SPMD & MPMD

- The SPMD model is by far the most common
 - <u>Single Program Multiple Data</u>
 - The same executable runs multiple times simultaneously on different processors
 - The problem is divided across the multiple executables
 - Each executable works on a subset of the data
- MPMD
 - <u>Multi Program Multiple Data</u>
 - Different executable on different processors
 - Useful for coupled models for example
 - eg. atmosphere executable, ocean executable, coupling executable
 - Part of the MPI 2 standard
 - Not currently used by IFS
 - Can be mimicked in SPMD mode with a single executable
 - Top level branch deciding which "program" (subroutine) this task will run

Some definitions

- Task
 - one running instance (copy) of a program the basic unit of an MPI parallel execution
 - Equivalent to a UNIX process
 - Each task has direct access to its own memory, but not that of other tasks
 - May run on one processor
 - Or across many if OpenMP is used as well (threads)
 - Or many tasks on one processor (not a good idea!)
- Master
 - the master task is by convention, usually the first task in a parallel program : TaskID=0
- Slave
 - all other tasks in a parallel program
 - Nothing intrinsically different between master/slave but the parallel program may treat them differently

Useful MPI references

- MPI standard
 - Lots of useful information about MPI's behaviour & implementation
 - <u>http://www.mpi-forum.org/docs/mpi-1.1/mpi-11-html/mpi-report.html</u>
- Open MPI documentation
 - A nice easy to use guide to the API (contains MPI v2 too), including Fortran interface
 - http://www.open-mpi.org/doc/v1.10/
- MPI tutorials
 - <u>https://computing.llnl.gov/tutorials/mpi/</u>
 - http://mpitutorial.com/tutorials/

"Hello world" MPI program

- Basic components in all MPI programs
 - Four essential housekeeping routines
 - The "use mpi" statement
 - The concept of Communicators

program hello	
implicit none	
print *,"Hello	world"
end	

"Hello World" with MPI

program hello

```
implicit none
```

use mpi
integer:: ierror,ntasks,mytask

```
call MPI_INIT(ierror)
call MPI_COMM_SIZE(MPI_COMM_WORLD, ntasks, ierror)
call MPI_COMM_RANK(MPI_COMM_WORLD, mytask, ierror)
```

print *, "Hello world from task ", mytask," of ", ntasks

call MPI FINALIZE (ierror)

end

Use mpi : The MPI header file

use mpi

- The MPI header file
- ** ALWAYS ** include in any routine using MPI
- Contains declarations for constants used by MPI
- May contain interface blocks, so compiler will tell you if you make an obvious error in arguments to MPI library
 - This is not mandated by the standard so you shouldn't rely on it. You may want to test Cray's mpi to see if it does!
- In Fortran77 use include `mpif.h' instead

"Hello World" with MPI

program hello

implicit none

use mpi

integer:: ierror, ntasks, mytask

call MPI_INIT(ierror)
call MPI_COMM_SIZE(MPI_COMM_WORLD, ntasks, ierror)
call MPI_COMM_RANK(MPI_COMM_WORLD, mytask, ierror)

print *, "Hello world from task ", mytask, " of ", ntasks

call MPI FINALIZE(ierror)

end

MPI_INIT

integer :: ierror
call MPI_INIT(ierror)

- Initializes the MPI environment
- Expect a return code of zero for ierror
 - If an error occurs the MPI layer will normally abort the job
 - best practise would check for non zero codes
 - we will ignore for clarity but see later slides for MPI ABORT
- On the Cray all tasks execute the code before MPI INIT
 - this is an implementation dependent feature
 - avoid doing anything that alters the state of the system before this, eg. I/O

"Hello World" with MPI

program hello

implicit none

use mpi

integer:: ierror,ntasks,mytask

call MPI_INIT(ierror)
call MPI_COMM_SIZE(MPI_COMM_WORLD, ntasks, ierror)
call MPI_COMM_RANK(MPI_COMM_WORLD, mytask, ierror)

print *, "Hello world from task ", mytask, " of ", ntasks

call MPI FINALIZE (ierror)

end

MPI COMM WORLD

use mpi call MPI_COMM_SIZE(MPI_COMM_WORLD,...

- An MPI communicator
 - A communicator defines a set or group of MPI tasks
- Constant integer value from "use mpi"
- MPI COMM WORLD means all tasks
 - many MPI programs only ever use MPI COMM WORLD
 - All our examples only use MPI_COMM_WORLD
- You can create your own communicators to define subsets of MPI tasks
 - IFS also creates and uses some additional communicators
 - useful when doing collective communications
 - Useful if you want to dedicate a subset of tasks to a special job (eg. I/O server)

"Hello World" with MPI

program hello

implicit none

use mpi

integer:: ierror, ntasks, mytask

call MPI_INIT(ierror)
call MPI_COMM_SIZE(MPI_COMM_WORLD, ntasks, ierror)
call MPI_COMM_RANK(MPI_COMM_WORLD, mytask, ierror)

print *, "Hello world from task ", mytask, " of ", ntasks

call MPI FINALIZE (ierror)

end

MPI COMM SIZE

integer:: ierror,ntasks call MPI_COMM_SIZE(MPI_COMM_WORLD, ntasks, ierror)

- Returns the number of parallel MPI tasks in the given communicator
 - MPI COMM WORLD in this case so it's the total number of MPI tasks
 - Value is returned in variable "ntasks"
 - The total number of MPI tasks is set from the environment in which you launched the parallel executable
 - eg. aprun on the Cray
- Value can be used to help decompose the problem
 - The size of a local array will often be a function of the total data size and the number of MPI tasks to split the data over

"Hello World" with MPI

program hello

```
implicit none
```

use mpi

integer:: ierror,ntasks,mytask

```
call MPI_INIT(ierror)
call MPI_COMM_SIZE(MPI_COMM_WORLD, ntasks, ierror)
call MPI_COMM_RANK(MPI_COMM_WORLD, mytask, ierror)
```

print *, "Hello world from task ", mytask, " of ", ntasks

call MPI FINALIZE (ierror)

end

MPI COMM RANK

integer:: ierror,ntasks,mytask call MPI_COMM_RANK(MPI_COMM_WORLD, mytask, ierror)

- Returns the rank (location) of this task within the communicator supplied
 - Returns the rank in variable "mytask"
- In the range 0 to ntasks-1 (for the MPI_COMM_WORLD communicator group)
 - Used as a task identifier when sending/receiving messages
 - WARNING : Easy to make mistakes with this as Fortran arrays normally run 1:n

"Hello World" with MPI

program hello

```
implicit none
```

use mpi

integer:: ierror,ntasks,mytask

```
call MPI_INIT(ierror)
call MPI_COMM_SIZE(MPI_COMM_WORLD, ntasks, ierror)
call MPI_COMM_RANK(MPI_COMM_WORLD, mytask, ierror)
```

print *, "Hello world from task ", mytask, " of ", ntasks

call MPI_FINALIZE(ierror)

end

MPI FINALIZE

integer:: ierror
call MPI_FINALIZE(ierror)

- Tell the MPI layer that we have finished
- Any MPI call after this is an error
 - Like MPI_INIT, the MPI standard does not mandate what happens after an MPI FINALIZE cannot guarantee that all tasks still execute after this point
- Does not stop the program at least one (probably all!) tasks will continue to run

MPI_ABORT

integer:: ierror call MPI_ABORT(MPI_COMM_WORLD,ierror)

- Causes all tasks to abort
 - Technically it should be only the tasks in the defined communicator
 - All known implementations abort all the tasks
- Even if only one task makes call

Compiling an MPI Program

- Very easy using modules
 - Automatically adds all the flags/libraries required for MPI

```
$ module load PrgEnv-cray # Use Cray compilers
$ module load PrgEnv-intel # Use Intel compilers
$ module load PrgEnv-gnu # Use Gnu compilers
$ ftn hello.f90
                            # produces a.out
          Oľ
$ ftn -c hello.f90
                            # produces hello.o
Followed by
$ ftn hello.o -o hello.exe  # produces hello.exe
```

Running an MPI Program

• aprun

- Details and many options covered in other lectures
- Here we will use a very simple form
- Run from the MOM node (where your interactive shell is running), launches the parallel executable on the parallel (ESM) node(s)
- If you're not in queue "np" (parallel job), then aprun isn't available...

\$ aprun -n 4 <executable>

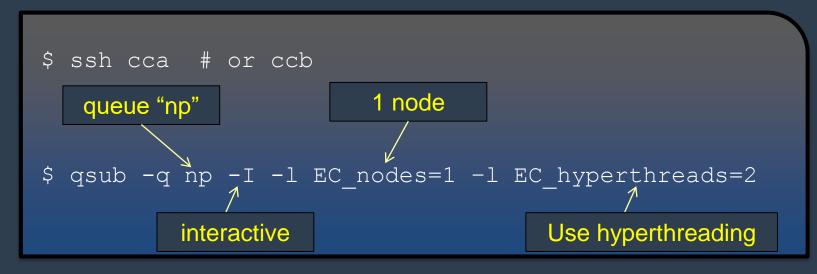
• mpiexec

- Equivalent command in "nf" (fraction job) or "ns" (serial job) queue

```
$ module load cray-snplauncher
$ mpiexec -n 4 <executable>
```

PBSPro and MPI

- Many varied ways of defining your requirements
- For the exercises we'll keep it as simple as possible
 - Create an interactive shell in which you can run parallel jobs in up to one node (72 hyperthreaded CPUs)
 - You won't need to wait every time you run an executable!
 - Don't forget to log out when you're finished!
 - Not recommended for regular use!



Practical 1

• Copy all the practical exercises to your account on cca or ccb:

```
$ ssh cca # or ccb
$ mkdir mpi_course ; cd mpi_course
$ cp -r ~trx/mpi.2017/* .
```

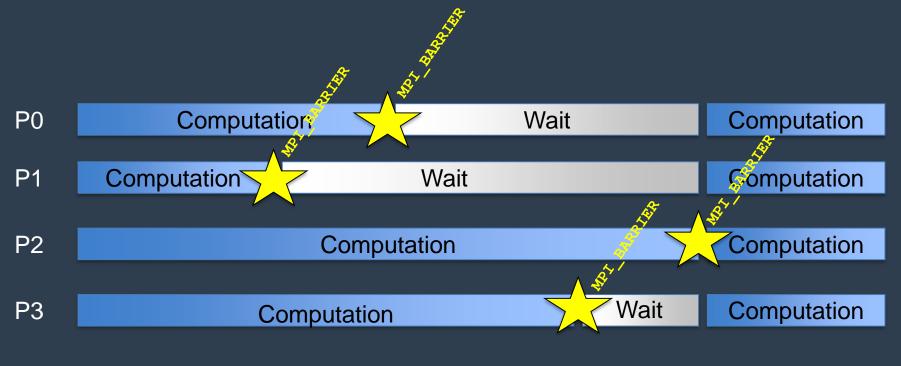
• Exercise1a

- Run your own "Hello World" program with MPI
- See the README for details

MPI BARRIER

integer:: ierror
call MPI_BARRIER(MPI_COMM_WORLD,ierror)

• Forces all tasks in the specified communicator group to synchronise (wait for each other)



MPI BARRIER

- A task waits in the barrier until every task has reached it
- Then all tasks exit the call together at the same time
- Deadlock if one task does not reach the barrier
 - MPI BARRIER will wait until the task reaches its cpu limit
- What happens if different tasks call MPI BARRIER in different parts of the code?
 - Could be desired behaviour, or it could be highly confusing bug!
- Why do we need a MPI BARRIER?
 - To ensure a computation is complete before we do some communications
 - Although most communications allow us to "block" to do a synchronisation only between the processors involved
 - To do timing
 - Allows us to measure the time taken by the "slowest" task
 - To enforce an ordering of operations

Enforcing an ordered output using MPI_BARRIER

WRITE(6,*) 'Some information from task ',MYPROC

- What order will these outputs appear in from the different MPI tasks?
- How can we enforce an ordering?
- Where could we add an MPI_BARRIER to force an ordered output?

```
DO proc=0,NPROC-1
IF (MYPROC == proc) THEN
WRITE(6,*) 'Some information from task ',MYPROC
ENDIF
ENDDO
```

Practical 2

- Forcing the ordering of output
- Exercise 1b see the README file for more details...

Message Passing : SEND and RECEIVE

- MPI_SEND
 - sends a message from one task to another
- MPI RECV
 - receives a message from another task
- A message is just data with some form of identification
 - think of it as an email the body and some headers
 - To: Where the message should be sent to (in MPI, the receiving TaskID)
 - Subject: Some description of the contents (in MPI, a "tag")
 - Body: The data itself (can be any size), all basic Fortran types
- You program the logic to send and receive messages
 - the sender and receiver are working together
 - every send must have a corresponding receive

MPI Datatypes

- MPI can send variables of any Fortran type
 - integer, real, real*8, logical,.....
 - it needs to know the type
- There are predefined constants used to identify types
 - MPI INTEGER, MPI REAL, MPI REAL8, MPI LOGICAL......
 - Defined by "use mpi"
- Also user defined data types
 - MPI allows you create types created out of basic Fortran types (rather like a Fortran 90 structure)
 - Allows strided (non contiguous) data to be communicated
 - advanced topic not covered here

MPI Tags

- All messages are given an integer TAG value
 - standard says maximum value is at least 32768 (2^31)

```
CALL MPI_Comm_get_attr(MPI_COMM_WORLD,MPI_TAG_UB, maxtag, flag, error)
```

- This helps to identify a message (rather like an email's "subject")
- Particularly useful when sending multiple messages
 - You can chose to receive the particular message you're interested in by filtering for a particular tag
- You decide what tag values to use
 - Good idea (helps spot problems) to use separate ranges of tags in different communication areas, eg:
 - 1000, 1001, 1002..... in routine a
 - 2000, 2001, 2002.... in routine b
 - Prevents inadvertent communication between "unmatched" SENDs and RECEIVESs

MPI_SEND

Argument	Description	Intent
SBUF	The array being sent	Input
COUNT	The number of elements to send	Input
MPI_TYPE	Type of SBUF (eg. MPI_REAL) These type descriptions come from "use mpi"	Input
DEST	The taskID to send the message to TaskID is the rank of the task within the communicator	Input
TAG	The message identifier	Input

MPI_RECV

FORTRAN TYPE:: rbuf

Argument	Description	Intent
RBUF	The array being received	Output
COUNT	The length of RBUF	Input
MPI_TYPE	Type of RBUF (eg. MPI_REAL)	Input
SOURCE	The taskID of the sender	Input
TAG	The message identifier	Input
STATUS	Information about the message	Output

More on MPI RECV

- MPI_RECV will block (wait) until the message arrives
 - if message never sent then deadlock
 - task will wait until it reaches cpu time limit, and then dies
- What order will messages be received in?
 - For a given pair of processors using the same communicator, the MPI standard guarantees the messages will be received in the same order they were sent
- This means you need to be careful
 - If you are receiving multiple messages from the same task, you MUST do the MPI RECVS in the same order as the MPI SENDS (ie. matching tags)
 - Otherwise the first MPI_RECV will wait forever, and eventually die
 - What happens if you don't know the ordering of the MPI SENDS?

How to be less specific on MPI_RECV

- The source and tag can be more open
 - MPI ANY SOURCE means receive from any sender
 - MPI ANY TAG means receive any tag
 - Useful in more complex communication patterns
 - Used to receive messages in a more random order
 - helps smooth out load imbalance
 - May require over-allocation of receive buffer
 - If different messages will be different lengths we need to ensure the "rbuf" array is big enough for the longest message
- But how do we know what message we've received?
 - status (MPI SOURCE) will contain the actual sender
 - status (MPI TAG) will contain the actual tag

An example : task 0 sends a message to task 1

```
subroutine transfer(values,len,mytask)
implicit none
use mpi
integer:: mytask, len, source, dest, tag, ierror, status (MPI STATUS SIZE)
real:: values(len)
tag = 12345
if (mytask.eq.0) then
   dest = 1
   call MPI SEND(values, len, MPI REAL, dest, tag, MPI COMM WORLD, ierror)
elseif (mytask.eq.1) then
   source = 0
   call MPI RECV(values, len, MPI REAL, source, tag, MPI COMM WORLD, &
                  status,ierror)
endif
end
```

Third Practical

- Sending and receiving a message
- Exercise 1c see the README file for more details...

Collective Communications (1)

- MPI_SEND/MPI_RECV is pairwise communication
- Often we want to do more complex communication patterns
- For example
 - Send the same message from one task to many other tasks
 - Receive messages from many tasks onto many other tasks
- We could write this with MPI SEND & MPI RECV
 - How?
 - Why not?

Collective Communications (2)

- MPI contains many Collective Communications routines
 - called by all tasks (in a communicator group) together
 - replace multiple send/receive calls
 - easier to code and understand
 - can be more efficient
 - the MPI library may optimise the data transfers
- We will look at a small subset of some of the more common collectives
- The diagrams are schematic
 - Help to conceptualise the data movement
 - The MPI library and machine hardware may actually be doing a more complex (and hopefully efficient!) communication pattern
- IFS uses a few collective routines, sometimes we hand code our own





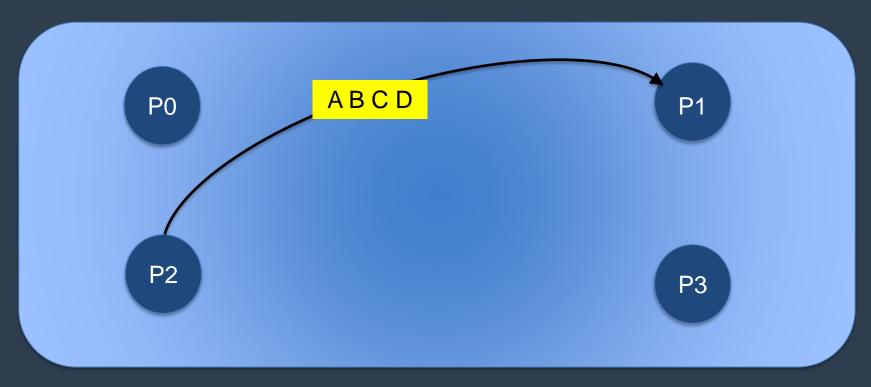












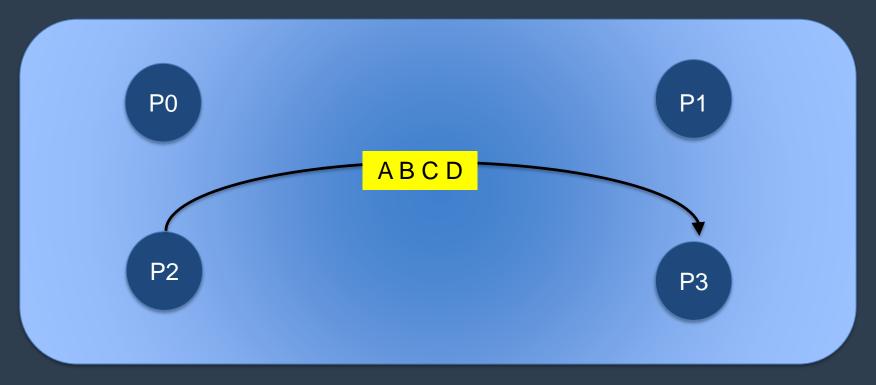
















FORTRAN TYPE:: buff

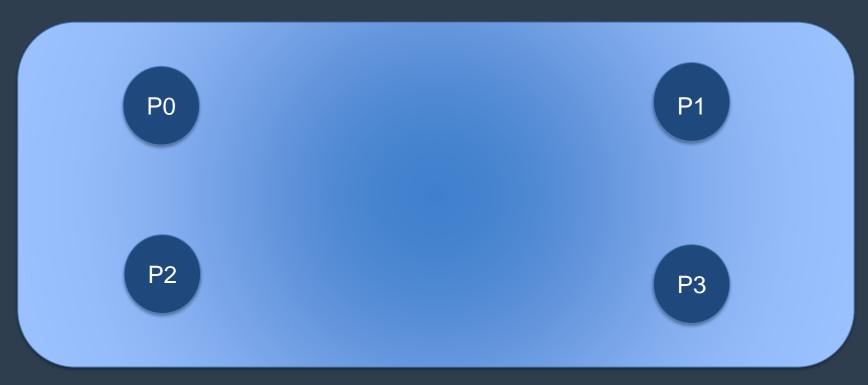
integer:: count, root, ierror

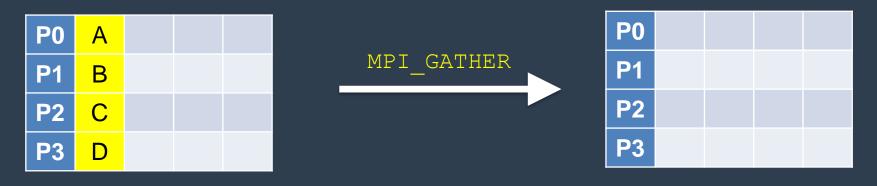
call MPI_BCAST (buff, count, MPI_TYPE, root, &

MPI_COMM_WORLD, ierror)

Argument	Description	Intent
BUFF	The array being broadcast	Input/Output
COUNT	The number of elements to broadcast	Input
MPI_TYPE	Type of BUFF (eg. MPI_REAL)	Input
ROOT	The taskID doing the broadcast	Input

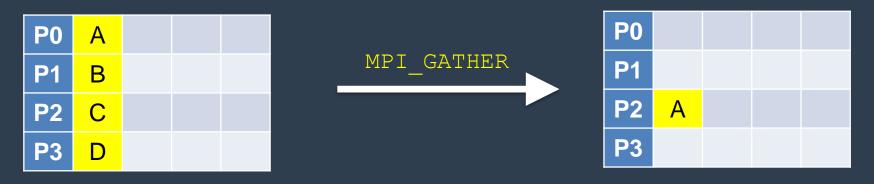




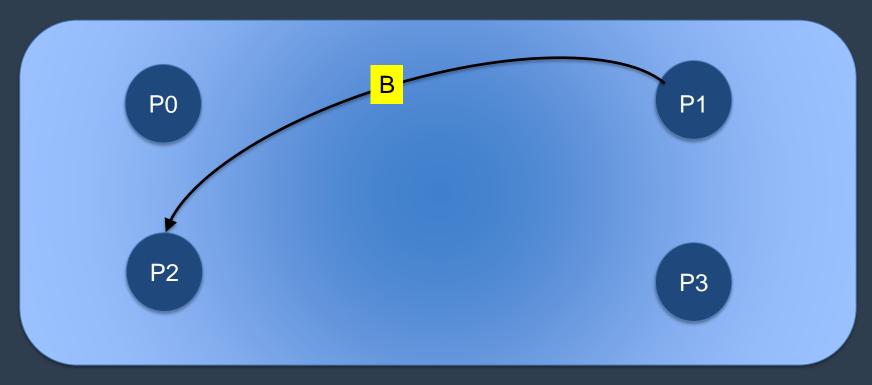














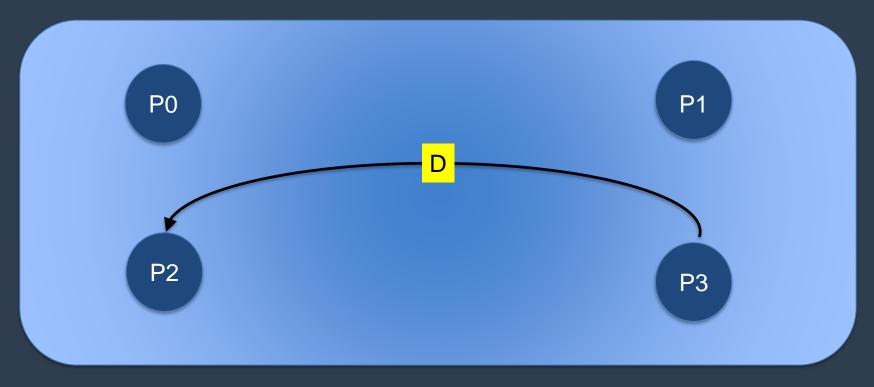


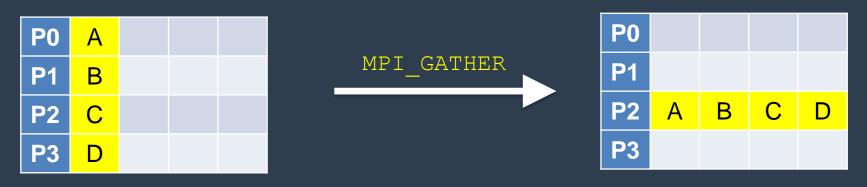












MPI GATHER

FORTRAN TYPE:: sbuff, rbuff

integer:: count, root, ierror

Argument	Description	Intent
SBUFF	The array being sent	Input
SCOUNT	Number of items being sent	Input
SEND_TYPE	Type of SBUFF (eg. MPI_REAL)	Input
RBUFF	The array being received	Output
RCOUNT	The number of elements to receive	Input
RECEIVE_TYPE	Type of SBUFF (eg. MPI_REAL)	Input
ROOT	The taskID doing the gather	Input

A few variants on MPI GATHER

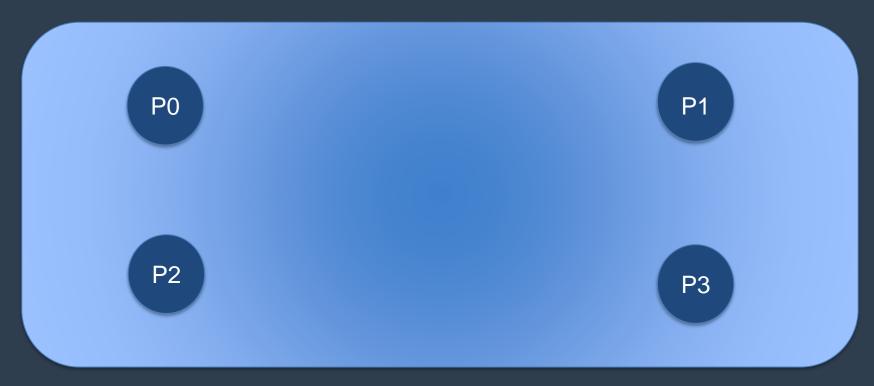
- MPI ALLGATHER
 - gather arrays of equal length into one array on <u>all</u> tasks
 - Equivalent to doing MPI_GATHER followed by MPI_BCAST
 - or doing a MPI_BCAST from each task

• MPI GATHERV

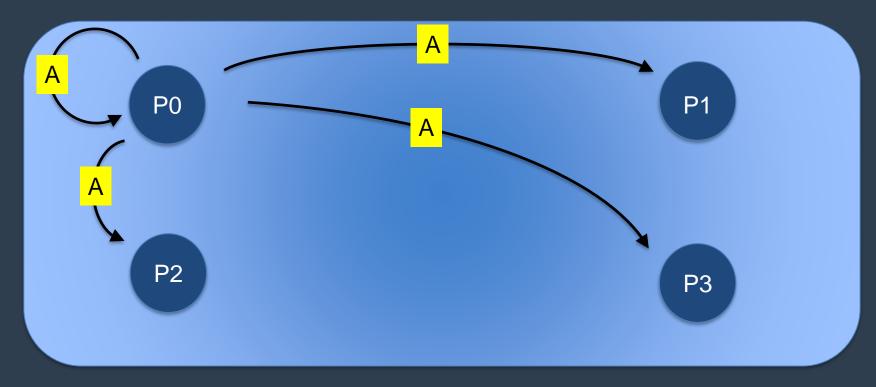
- gather arrays of different lengths into one array on one task

• MPI ALLGATHERV

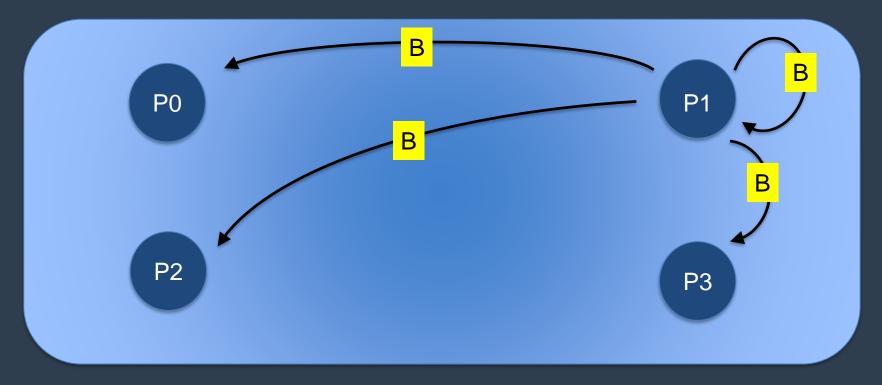
- gather arrays of different lengths into one array on <u>all</u> tasks
- Where do you think these may be useful?



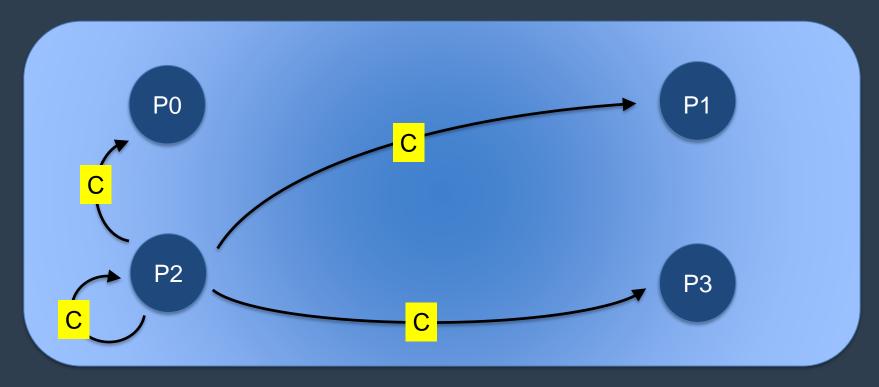




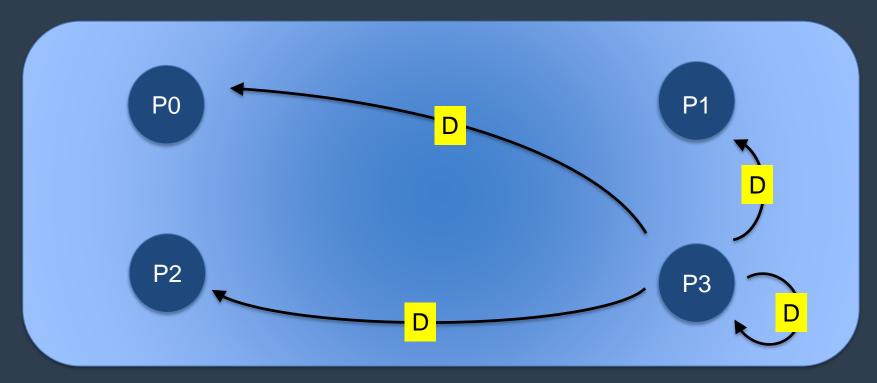
P0	Α		P0	Α		
P1	В	MPI_ALLGATHER	P1	Α		
P2	С		P2	Α		
P 3	D		P 3	Α		



P0	Α		P0	Α	В	
P1	В	MPI_ALLGATHER	P1	А	В	
P2	С		P2	Α	В	
P3	D		P3	Α	В	



P0	Α		P0	А	В	С	
P1	В	MPI_ALLGATHER	P1	А	В	С	
P2	С		P2	А	В	С	
P 3	D		P3	Α	В	С	







FORTRAN_TYPE:: sbuff,rbuff

integer:: count, root, ierror

Argument	Description	Intent
SBUFF	The array being sent	Input
SCOUNT	Number of items being sent	Input
SEND_TYPE	Type of SBUFF (eg. MPI_REAL)	Input
RBUFF	The array being received	Output
RCOUNT	The number of elements to receive	Input
RECEIVE_TYPE	Type of SBUFF (eg. MPI_REAL)	Input

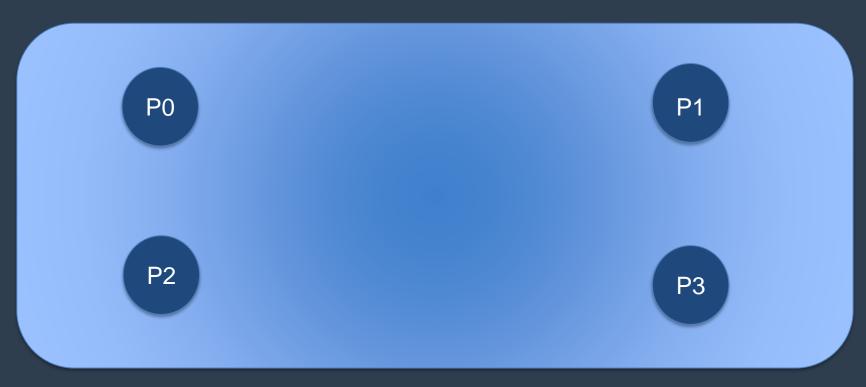
Scatter routines

- MPI_SCATTER
 - divide one array on one task equally amongst all tasks
 - each task receives the same amount of data
 - Equivalent putting MPI_SEND in a loop over all tasks

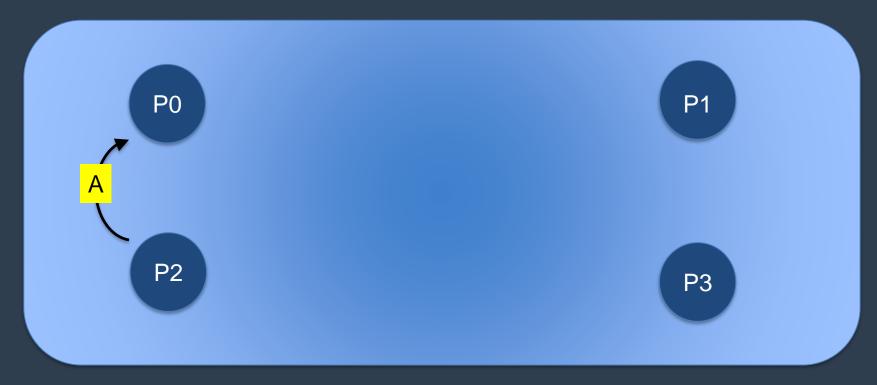
• MPI SCATTERV

- divide one array on one task <u>unequally</u> amongst all tasks
- each task can receive a different amount of data
- Where do you think they might be useful?

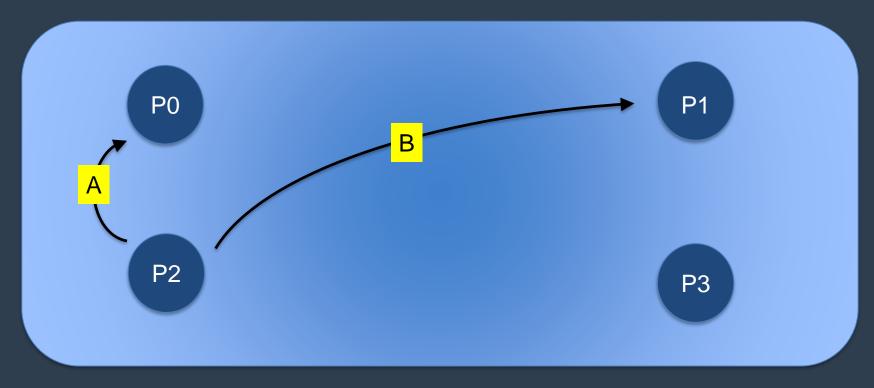




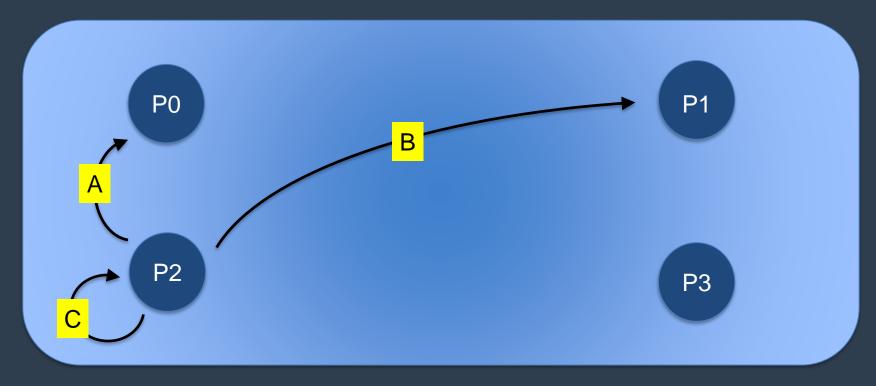




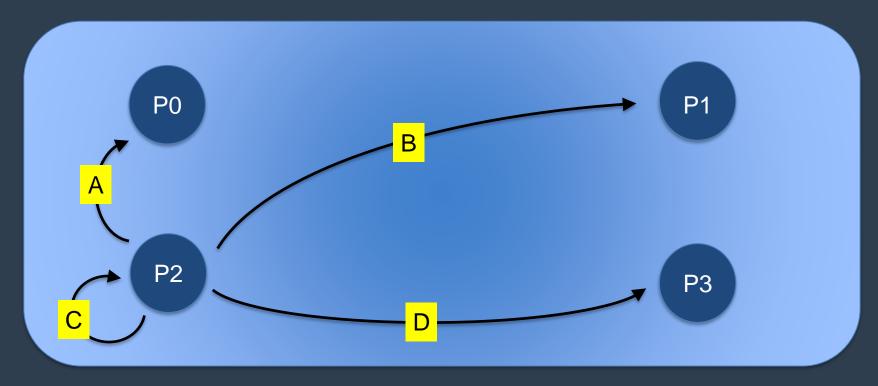














FORTRAN_TYPE:: sbuff,rbuff

integer:: count, root, ierror

call MPI_SCATTER(<pre>sbuff, scount, send_type,</pre>	<mark>&</mark>
	<pre>rbuff, rcount, receive_type,</pre>	<mark>&</mark>
	<pre>root,MPI_COMM_WORLD, ierror)</pre>	

Argument	Description	Intent
SBUFF	The array being sent	Input
SCOUNT	Number of items being sent	Input
SEND_TYPE	Type of SBUFF (eg. MPI_REAL)	Input
RBUFF	The array being received	Output
RCOUNT	The number of elements to receive	Input
RECEIVE_TYPE	Type of SBUFF (eg. MPI_REAL)	Input
ROOT	The taskID doing the gather	Input

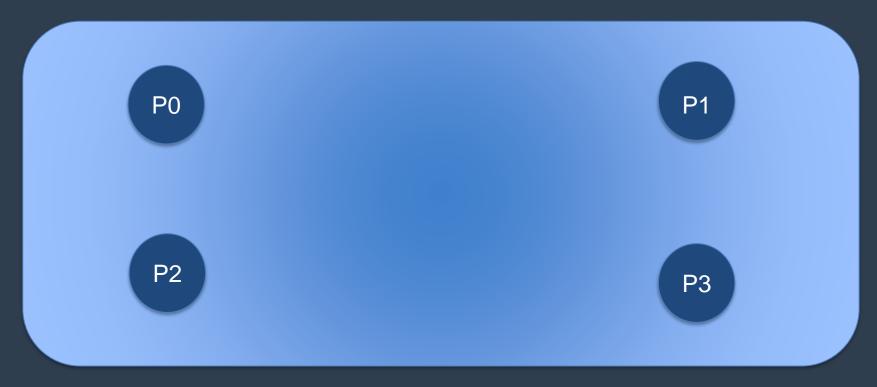
All to All Routines

- MPI_ALLTOALL
 - every task sends equal length parts of an array to all other tasks
 - every task receives equal parts from all other tasks
 - transpose of data over the tasks
 - Equivalent to putting MPI SEND/MPI RECV in a loop

• MPI_ALLTOALLV

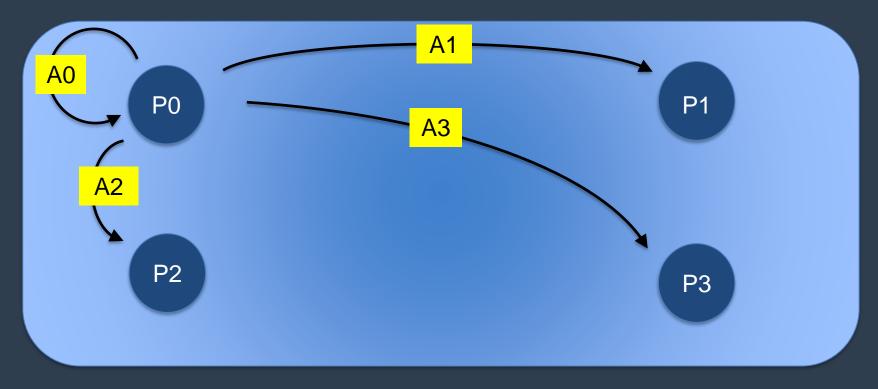
- as above but parts are different lengths

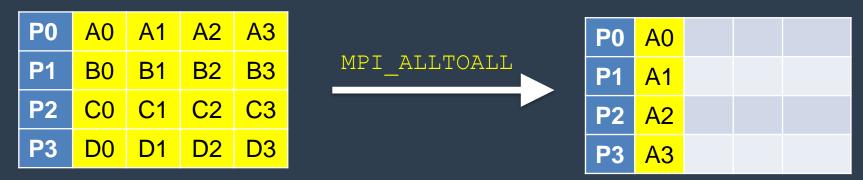
MPI ALLTOALL



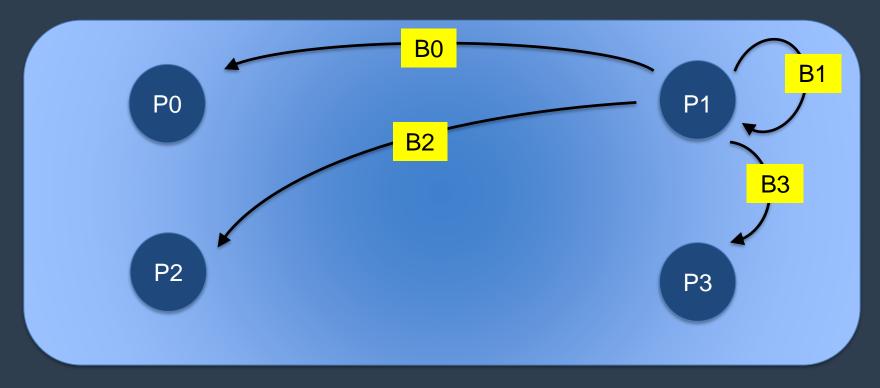


MPI ALLTOALL



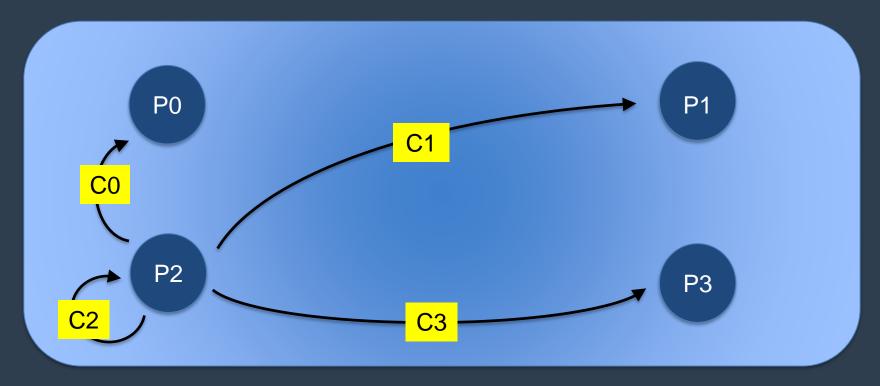


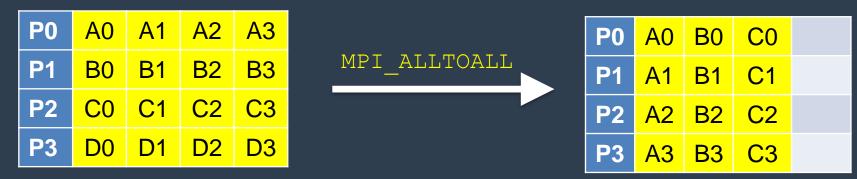
MPI ALLTOALL





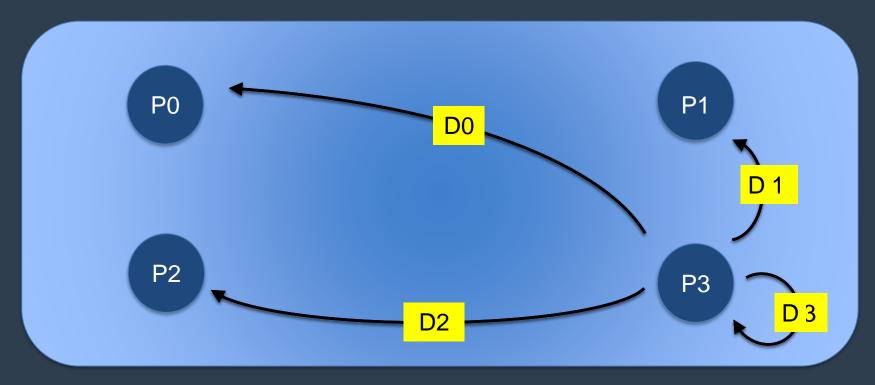
MPI ALLTOALL

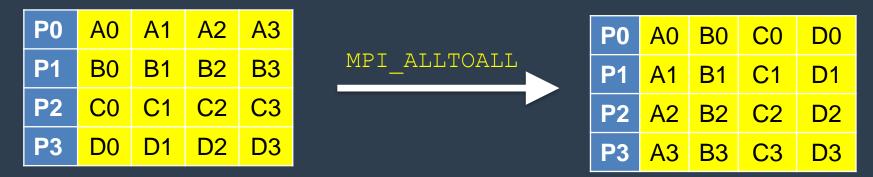




ECMUF EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MEDIUM-RANGE WEATHER FORECASTS

MPI ALLTOALL





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MPI ALLTOALL

FORTRAN_TYPE:: sbuff,rbuff

integer:: count, root, ierror

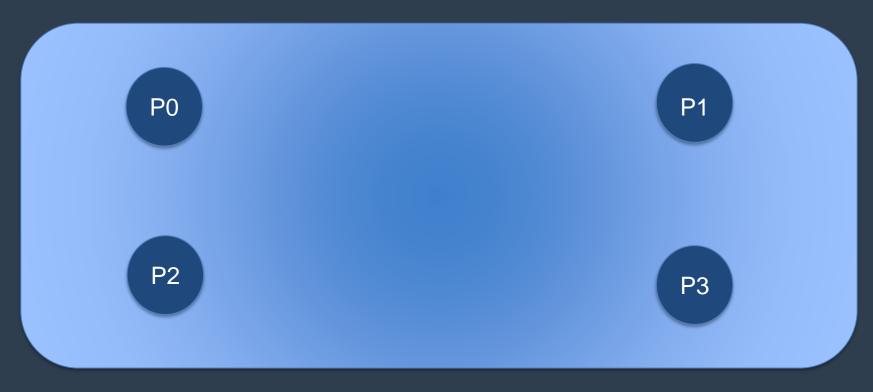
call MPI_SCATTER(sbuff, scount, s	send_type, &
	rbuff, rcount, 1	ceceive_type, &
MPI_COMM_WORLD, ierror)		

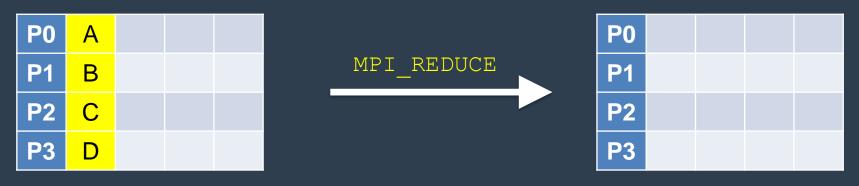
Argument	Description	Intent
SBUFF	The array being sent	Input
SCOUNT	Number of items being sent	Input
SEND_TYPE	Type of SBUFF (eg. MPI_REAL)	Input
RBUFF	The array being received	Output
RCOUNT	The number of elements to receive	Input
RECEIVE_TYPE	Type of SBUFF (eg. MPI_REAL)	Input

Reduction routines

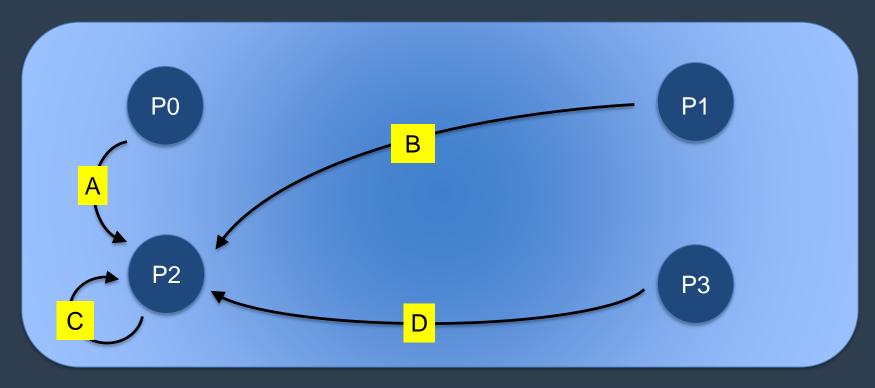
- Perform both communications and simple maths
 - sum, min, max, over a communicator group
- Beware reproducibility
 - MPI makes no guarantee of reproducibility
 - Eg. Summing an array of real numbers from each task
 - May be summed in a different order each time
 - You may need to write your own order preserving summation if reproducibility is important to you.
- MPI REDUCE
 - every task sends data and result is computed on the "root" task
- MPI ALLREDUCE
 - every task sends, result is computed and broadcast back to all tasks. Equivalent to MPI REDUCE followed by MPI BCAST

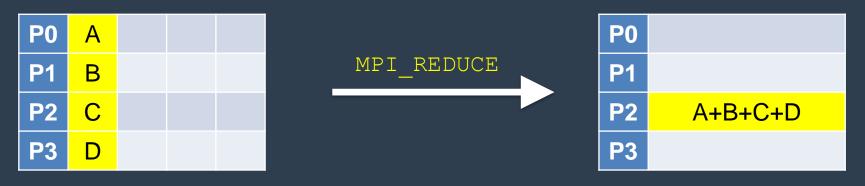
MPI REDUCE ("sum")





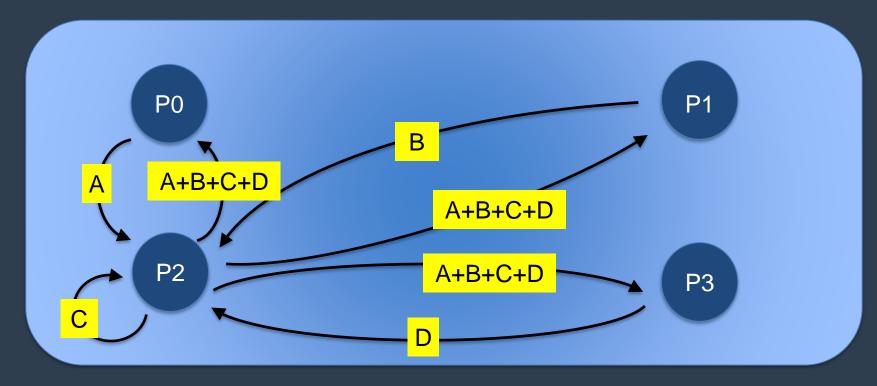
MPI REDUCE ("sum")





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MPI ALLREDUCE ("sum")



P0	Α		P0	A+B+C+D
P1	В	MPI_ALLREDUCE	P1	A+B+C+D
P2	С		P2	A+B+C+D
P3	D		P3	A+B+C+D



MPI_REDUCE

FORTRAN TYPE:: sbuff, rbuff

integer:: count, root, ierror

Argument	Description	Intent
SBUFF	The array to be reduced	Input
RBUFF	The result of the reduction	Output
COUNT	Number of items to be reduced	Input
MPI_TYPE	Type of SBUFF (eg. MPI_REAL)	Input
OP_TYPE	Describe the reduction operation required MPI_MAX, MPI_MIN, MPI_SUM, MPI_IPROD, MPI_IAND, MPI_BAND, MPI_IOR, MPI_BOR, MPI_LXOR, MPI_BXOR, MPI_MAXLOC, MPI_MINLOC	Input

Back to "simple" MPI SEND & MPI RECV

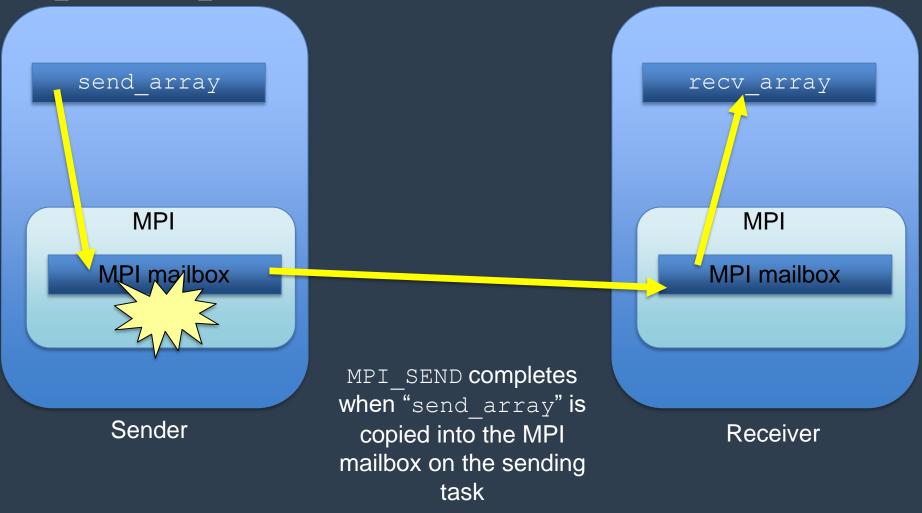
- What happens after you do MPI_SEND?
 - When does the next instruction get executed?
- What happens after you do MPI_RECV?
 - When does the next instruction get executed?
- Answer:
 - It depends!

Blocking vs Non-blocking Communications

- Blocking communication
 - Call to MPI "sending" routine does not return until the "send" buffer (array) is safe to use again
 - This does not necessarily mean the data has been sent and received by the remote task (although it might!)
 - Call to MPI "receiving" routine does not return until the "receive" buffer has received all the data in the incoming message
- Non-blocking communication
 - Call to MPI routine returns immediately
 - Further MPI calls are required to check the progress of the communication
 - Allows other work to be done during communication
- Cray's MPI_SEND can sometimes be blocking and sometimes non-blocking!
 - The MPI standard doesn't mandate whether MPI_SEND should be blocking or not
 - Two different behaviours, dependent on the message length...

MPI SEND: Eager protocol

MPI_SEND(send_array)

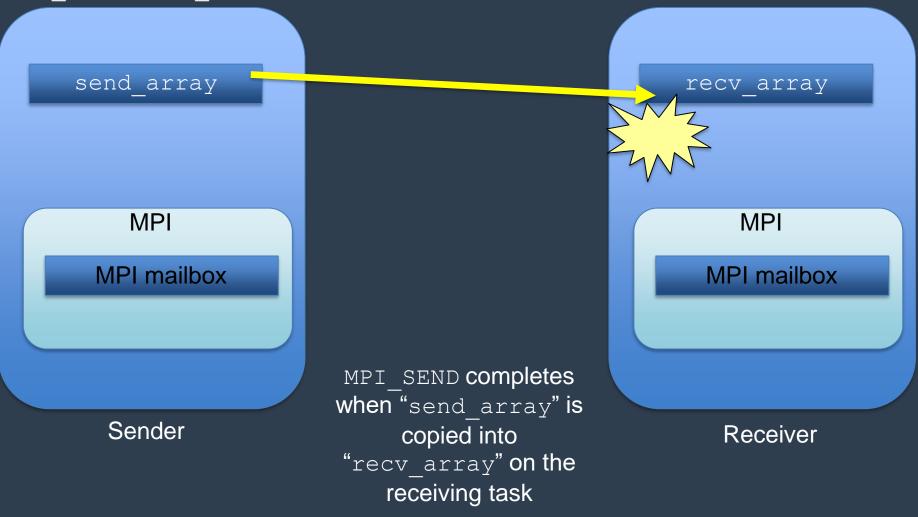


MPI SEND: Eager Protocol

- The MPI layer has copied the data elsewhere
 - using internal buffer/mailbox space on the sending task
- MPI_SEND returns as soon as the message has been copied
 - The message is then "in transit" but not necessarily in the receivers array
- Used for short messages
 - By default "short" is 8192 bytes (8Kb) on the Cray
 - Can be modified by environment variable
 - \$ export MPICH_GNI_MAX_EAGER_MSG_SIZE=X (bytes)
 - Maximum permitted value 131072 bytes (128Kb)
- No need to worry if the remote task has done an "MPI RECEIVE"
 - This is a non-blocking protocol

MPI SEND: Rendezvous protocol

MPI SEND(send array)





MPI SEND: Rendezvous Protocol

• MPI_SEND does not return until the message has been successfully received by the remote task

- Used for long messages
 - By default "long" is >8192 bytes on the Cray
- Need to ensure that remote task is doing an "MPI_RECEIVE" otherwise we may deadlock...
 - Easily done!
 - eg. ping-pong example 2 tasks exchanging messages...

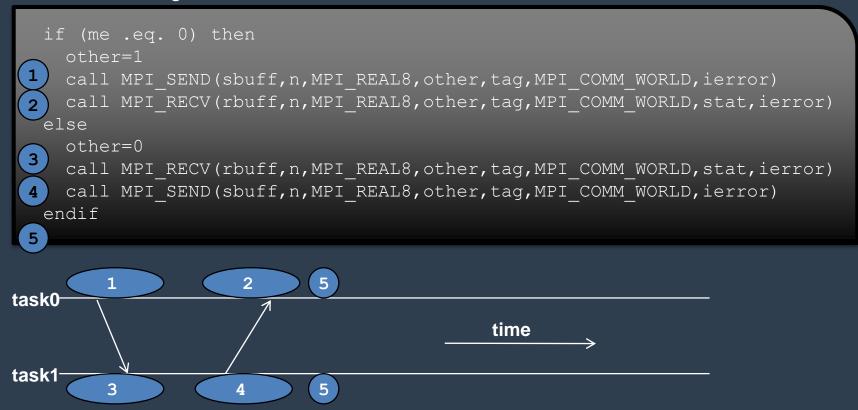
if(me .eq.0) then	
other=1	
else	
other=0	
endif	
call MPI SEND(sbuff,n,MPI REAL8,other,tag,MPI COMM WORLD,ierro	r)
call MPI RECV(rbuff,n,MPI REAL8,other,tag,MPI COMM WORLD,stat,	ierror)

Solutions to Send/Send deadlocks

- Best advice avoid MPI SEND/MPI RECV!
 - Behaviour is implementation dependent code may work, but then stop working when message size changes or move to another platform
- Pair up sends and receives (next slide shows how...)
 - But this is not very efficient
- Use MPI_SENDRECV
 - Hopefully more efficient
- Use a buffered send (like the eager protocol, but user space buffering)
 - MPI_BSEND
- Use asynchronous sends/receives (recommended)
 - MPI_ISEND or MPI_IRECV

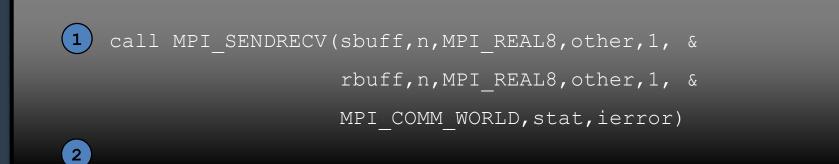
Paired Sends and Receives

- More complex code, and close synchronisation
- Less efficient
 - task 1 has to wait until it has received message from task 0 before it can send its message



MPI SENDRECV

- Simpler to code & hopefully more efficient
- Still implies close synchronisation





MPI_BSEND

- This performs a send using an additional buffer
 - the buffer is allocated by the program via MPI_BUFFER_ATTACH
 - done once as part of the program initialisation
 - MPI_BSEND completes as soon as message is copied into buffer
- Typically quick to implement
 - add the MPI BUFFER ATTACH call
 - how big to make the buffer?
 - change MPI_SEND to MPI_BSEND everywhere
- But introduces additional memory copy
 - extra overhead
 - not recommended for production codes
 - One day your buffer won't be big enough!

MPI IRECV & MPI ISEND

- Uses Non Blocking Communications
- "I" stands for immediate
 - the call returns immediately
- Routines return without completing the operation
 - the operations run asynchronously (in the background)
 - Must NOT reuse the buffer (send/receive array) until safe to do so
- Later test that the operation completed
 - via an integer identification handle "request" passed to MPI WAIT

call MPI_IRECV(rbuff,n,MPI_REAL8,other,1,MPI_COMM_WORLD, request, ierror)
call MPI_SEND (sbuff,n,MPI_REAL8,other,1,MPI_COMM_WORLD,ierror)
call MPI_WAIT(request, stat,ierr)

Alternatively could have used MPI_ISEND and MPI_RECV

Non blocking communications

- Routines include
 - MPI_ISEND
 - MPI_IRECV
 - MPI_WAIT
 - MPI_WAITALL
 - Waits for a number of outstanding communications to complete
 - And many, many others!
 - See the documentation

Final Practical

- exercise2
- A "simple" numerical model
- See the README for details
- Use the links to external documentation for details of the arguments required for various MPI routines you might want to use
- Ask if you need help or don't understand anything!