

Design of Parallel and High-Performance Computing

Fall 2013

Lecture: Lock-Free and Distributed Memory

Instructor: Torsten Hoefler & Markus Püschel

TA: Timo Schneider

ETH

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Administrivia

Final project presentation: Monday 12/16 during last lecture

- Send slides to Timo by 12/16, 11am
- 15 minutes per team (hard limit)

Rough guidelines:

Summarize your goal/task

Related work (what exists, literature review!)

Describe techniques/approach (details!)

Final results and findings (details)

Pick one presenter (you may also switch but keep the time in mind)

2

Review of last lecture

Abstract models

- Amdahl's and Gustafson's Law
- Little's Law
- Work/depth models and Brent's theorem
- I/O complexity and balance (Kung)
- Balance principles

Scheduling

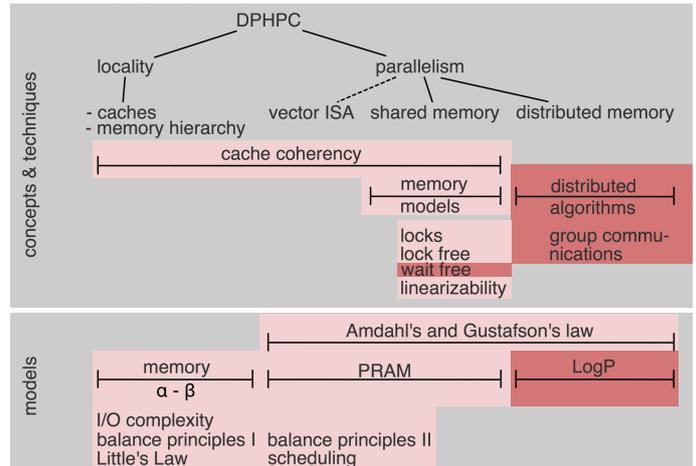
- Greedy
- Random work stealing

Balance principles

- Outlook to the future
- Memory and data-movement will be more important

3

DPHPC Overview



4

Goals of this lecture

Answer "Why need to lock+validate in contains of optimistic queue"?

- An element may be reused, assume free() is called after remove
- Contains in A may grab pointer to element and suspend
- B frees element and grabs location as new memory and initializes it to V
- Resumed contains in A may now find V even though it was never in the list

Finish wait-free/lock-free

- Consensus hierarchy
- The promised proof!

Distributed memory

- Models and concepts
- Designing optimal communication algorithms

The Future!

- Remote Memory Access Programming

5

Lock-free and wait-free

A lock-free method

- guarantees that infinitely often **some** method call finishes in a finite number of steps

A wait-free method

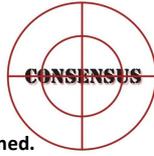
- guarantees that **each** method call finishes in a finite number of steps (implies lock-free)
- Was our lock-free list also wait-free?

Synchronization instructions are not equally powerful!

- Indeed, they form an infinite hierarchy; no instruction (primitive) in level x can be used for lock-/wait-free implementations of primitives in level z>x.

6

Concept: Consensus Number



- Each level of the hierarchy has a “consensus number” assigned.
 - Is the maximum number of threads for which primitives in level x can solve the consensus problem
- The consensus problem:
 - Has single function: $\text{decide}(v)$
 - Each thread calls it at most once, the function returns a value that meets two conditions:
 - consistency: all threads get the same value*
 - valid: the value is some thread's input*
 - Simplification: binary consensus (inputs in $\{0,1\}$)

7

Understanding Consensus

- Can a particular class solve n-thread consensus wait-free?
 - A class C solves n-thread consensus if there exists a consensus protocol using **any number** of objects of class C and **any number** of atomic registers
 - The protocol has to be wait-free (bounded number of steps per thread)
 - The consensus number of a class C is the largest n for which that class solves n-thread consensus (may be infinite)
 - Assume we have a class D whose objects can be constructed from objects out of class C. If class C has consensus number n, what does class D have?

8

Starting simple ...

- Binary consensus with two threads (A, B)
 - Each threads moves until it decides on a value
 - May update shared objects
 - Protocol state = state of threads + state of shared objects
 - Initial state = state before any thread moved
 - Final state = state after all threads finished
 - States form a tree, wait-free property guarantees a finite tree

Example with two threads and two moves each!

9

Atomic Registers

- Theorem [Herlihy'91]: Atomic registers have consensus number one
 - Really?
- Proof outline:
 - Assume arbitrary consensus protocol, thread A, B
 - Run until it reaches critical state where next action determines outcome (show that it must have a critical state first)
 - Show all options using atomic registers and show that they cannot be used to determine one outcome for all possible executions!
 - 1) Any thread reads (other thread runs solo until end)
 - 2) Threads write to different registers (order doesn't matter)
 - 3) Threads write to same register (solo thread can start after each write)

10

Atomic Registers

- Theorem [Herlihy'91]: Atomic registers have consensus number one
- Corollary: It is impossible to construct a wait-free implementation of any object with consensus number of >1 using atomic registers
 - “perhaps one of the most striking impossibility results in Computer Science” (Herlihy, Shavit)
 - → We need hardware atomics or TM!
- Proof technique borrowed from:
 - [Impossibility of distributed consensus with one faulty process](#)
 - MJ Fischer, NA Lynch, MS Paterson · Journal of the ACM (JACM), 1985 · dl.acm.org
 - Abstract The **consensus** problem involves an asynchronous system of processes, some of which may be unreliable. The problem is for the reliable processes to agree on a binary value. In this paper, it is shown that every protocol for this problem has the possibility of ...
 - [Cited by 3180](#) [Related articles](#) [All 164 versions](#)
- Very influential paper, always worth a read!
 - Nicely shows proof techniques that are central to parallel and distributed computing!

11

Other Atomic Operations

- Simple RMW operations (Test&Set, Fetch&Op, Swap, basically all functions where the op commutes or overwrites) have consensus number 2!
 - Similar proof technique (bivalence argument)
- CAS and TM have consensus number ∞
 - Constructive proof!

12

Compare and Set/Swap Consensus

```
const int first = -1;
volatile int thread = -1;
int proposed[n];

int decide(v) {
    proposed[tid] = v;
    if(CAS(thread, first, tid))
        return v; // I won!
    else
        return proposed[thread]; // thread won
}
```



- **CAS provides an infinite consensus number**
 - Machines providing CAS are **asynchronous** computation equivalents of the Turing Machine
 - I.e., any concurrent object can be implemented in a wait-free manner (not necessarily fast!)

13

Now you know everything 😊

- **Not really ... ;-)**
 - We'll argue about **performance** now!
- **But you have all the tools for:**
 - Efficient locks
 - Efficient lock-based algorithms
 - Efficient lock-free algorithms (or even wait-free)
 - Reasoning about parallelism!
- **What now?**
 - A different class of problems
 - *Impact on wait-free/lock-free on actual performance is not well understood*
 - Relevant to HPC, applies to shared and distributed memory
 - → *Group communications*

14

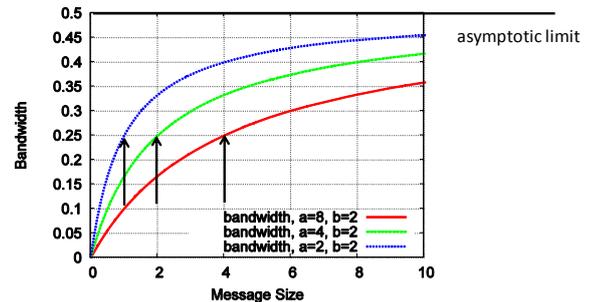
Remember: A Simple Model for Communication

- **Transfer time $T(s) = \alpha + \beta s$**
 - α = startup time (latency)
 - β = cost per byte (bandwidth=1/ β)
- **As s increases, bandwidth approaches $1/\beta$ asymptotically**
 - Convergence rate depends on α
 - $s_{1/2} = \alpha/\beta$
- **Assuming no pipelining (new messages can only be issued from a process after all arrived)**

15

Bandwidth vs. Latency

- $s_{1/2} = \alpha/\beta$ often used to distinguish bandwidth- and latency-bound messages
 - $s_{1/2}$ is in the order of kilobytes on real systems



16

Quick Example

- **Simplest linear broadcast**
 - One process has a data item to be distributed to all processes
- **Broadcasting s bytes among P processes:**
 - $T(s) = (P-1) \cdot (\alpha + \beta s) = \mathcal{O}(P)$
- **Class question: Do you know a faster method to accomplish the same?**

17

k-ary Tree Broadcast

- **Origin process is the root of the tree, passes messages to k neighbors which pass them on**
 - $k=2 \rightarrow$ binary tree
- **Class Question: What is the broadcast time in the simple latency/bandwidth model?**
 - $T(s) \approx \lceil \log_k(P) \rceil \cdot k \cdot (\alpha + \beta \cdot s) = \mathcal{O}(\log(P))$ (for fixed k)
- **Class Question: What is the optimal k ?**
 - $0 = \frac{\ln(P) \cdot k}{\ln(k)} \frac{d}{dk} = \frac{\ln(P) \ln(k) - \ln(P)}{\ln^2(k)} \rightarrow k = e = 2.71\dots$
 - Independent of P, α, β s? Really?

18

Faster Trees?

- **Class Question: Can we broadcast faster than in a ternary tree?**
 - Yes because each respective root is idle after sending three messages!
 - Those roots could keep sending!
 - Result is a k-nomial tree
 - For $k=2$, it's a binomial tree
- **Class Question: What about the runtime?**
 - $T(s) = \lceil \log_k(P) \rceil \cdot (k-1) \cdot (\alpha + \beta \cdot s) = \mathcal{O}(\log(P))$
- **Class Question: What is the optimal k here?**
 - $T(s) d/dk$ has monotonically increasing for $k>1$, thus $k_{opt}=2$
- **Class Question: Can we broadcast faster than in a k-nomial tree?**
 - $\mathcal{O}(\log(P))$ is asymptotically optimal for $s=1$!
 - But what about large s ?

19

Very Large Message Broadcast

- **Extreme case (P small, s large): simple pipeline**
 - Split message into segments of size z
 - Send segments from PE i to PE $i+1$
- **Class Question: What is the runtime?**
 - $T(s) = (P-2+s/z)(\alpha + \beta z)$
- **Compare 2-nomial tree with simple pipeline for $\alpha=10$, $\beta=1$, $P=4$, $s=10^6$, and $z=10^5$**
 - 2,000,020 vs. 1,200,120
- **Class Question: Can we do better for given α , β , P , s ?**
 - Derive by z $z_{opt} = \sqrt{\frac{s\alpha}{(P-2)\beta}}$
- **What is the time for simple pipeline for $\alpha=10$, $\beta=1$, $P=4$, $s=10^6$, z_{opt} ?**
 - 1,008,964

20

Lower Bounds

- **Class Question: What is a simple lower bound on the broadcast time?**
 - $T_{BC} \geq \min\{\lceil \log_2(P) \rceil \alpha, s\beta\}$
- **How close are the binomial tree for small messages and the pipeline for large messages (approximately)?**
 - Bin. tree is a factor of $\log_2(P)$ slower in bandwidth
 - Pipeline is a factor of $P/\log_2(P)$ slower in latency
- **Class Question: What can we do for intermediate message sizes?**
 - Combine pipeline and tree \rightarrow pipelined tree
- **Class Question: What is the runtime of the pipelined binary tree algorithm?**
 - $T \approx \left(\frac{s}{z} + \lceil \log_2 P \rceil - 2\right) \cdot 2 \cdot (\alpha + z\beta)$
- **Class Question: What is the optimal z ?**
 - $z_{opt} = \sqrt{\frac{\alpha s}{\beta(\lceil \log_2 P \rceil - 2)}}$

21

Towards an Optimal Algorithm

- **What is the complexity of the pipelined tree with z_{opt} for small s , large P and for large s , constant P ?**
 - Small messages, large P : $s=1$; $z=1$ ($s \leq z$), will give $\mathcal{O}(\log P)$
 - Large messages, constant P : assume α , β , P constant, will give asymptotically $\mathcal{O}(s\beta)$
 - Asymptotically optimal for large P and s but bandwidth is off by a factor of 2! Why?
- **Bandwidth-optimal algorithms exist, e.g., Sanders et al. "Full Bandwidth Broadcast, Reduction and Scan with Only Two Trees". 2007**
 - Intuition: in binomial tree, all leaves ($P/2$) only receive data and never send \rightarrow wasted bandwidth
 - Send along two simultaneous binary trees where the leaves of one tree are inner nodes of the other
 - Construction needs to avoid endpoint congestion (makes it complex)
 - Can be improved with linear programming and topology awareness (talk to me if you're interested)

22

Open Problems

- **Look for optimal parallel algorithms (even in simple models!)**
 - And then check the more realistic models
 - Useful optimization targets are MPI collective operations
 - Broadcast/Reduce, Scatter/Gather, Alltoall, Allreduce, Allgather, Scan/Exscan, ...
 - Implementations of those (check current MPI libraries ☺)
 - Useful also in scientific computations
 - Barnes Hut, linear algebra, FFT, ...
- **Lots of work to do!**
 - Contact me for thesis ideas (or check SPCL) if you like this topic
 - Usually involve optimization (ILP/LP) and clever algorithms (algebra) combined with practical experiments on large-scale machines (10,000+ processors)

23

HPC Networking Basics

- **Familiar (non-HPC) network: Internet TCP/IP**
 - Common model:



- **Class Question: What parameters are needed to model the performance (including pipelining)?**
 - Latency, Bandwidth, Injection Rate, Host Overhead

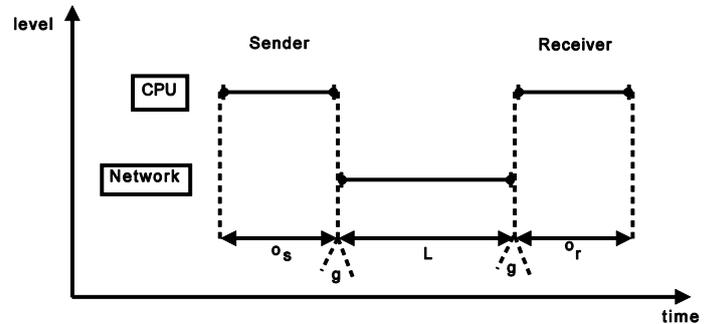
24

The LogP Model

- Defined by four parameters:
 - L: an upper bound on the latency, or delay, incurred in communicating a message containing a word (or small number of words) from its source module to its target module.
 - o: the overhead, defined as the length of time that a processor is engaged in the transmission or reception of each message; during this time, the processor cannot perform other operations.
 - g: the gap, defined as the minimum time interval between consecutive message transmissions or consecutive message receptions at a processor. The reciprocal of g corresponds to the available per-processor communication bandwidth.
 - P: the number of processor/memory modules. We assume unit time for local operations and call it a cycle.

25

The LogP Model



26

Simple Examples

- Sending a single message**
 - $T = 2o + L$
- Ping-Pong Round-Trip**
 - $T_{RTT} = 4o + 2L$
- Transmitting n messages**
 - $T(n) = L + (n-1) * \max(g, o) + 2o$

27

Simplifications

- o is bigger than g on some machines**
 - g can be ignored (eliminates max() terms)
 - be careful with multicore!
- Offloading networks might have very low o**
 - Can be ignored (not yet but hopefully soon)
- L might be ignored for long message streams**
 - If they are pipelined
- Account g also for the first message**
 - Eliminates "-1"

28

Benefits over Latency/Bandwidth Model

- Models pipelining**
 - L/g messages can be "in flight"
 - Captures state of the art (cf. TCP windows)
- Models computation/communication overlap**
 - Asynchronous algorithms
- Models endpoint congestion/overload**
 - Benefits balanced algorithms

29

Example: Broadcasts

- Class Question: What is the LogP running time for a linear broadcast of a single packet?**
 - $T_{lin} = L + (P-2) * \max(o, g) + 2o$
- Class Question: Approximate the LogP runtime for a binary-tree broadcast of a single packet?**
 - $T_{bin} \leq \log_2 P * (L + \max(o, g) + 2o)$
- Class Question: Approximate the LogP runtime for an k-ary-tree broadcast of a single packet?**
 - $T_{k-n} \leq \log_k P * (L + (k-1)\max(o, g) + 2o)$

30

Example: Broadcasts

- **Class Question: Approximate the LogP runtime for a binomial tree broadcast of a single packet?**
 - $T_{bin} \leq \log_2 P * (L + 2o)$ (assuming $L > g!$)
- **Class Question: Approximate the LogP runtime for a k-nomial tree broadcast of a single packet?**
 - $T_{k-n} \leq \log_k P * (L + (k-2)\max(o,g) + 2o)$
- **Class Question: What is the optimal k (assume $o > g$)?**
 - Derive by k: $0 = o * \ln(k_{opt}) - L/k_{opt} + o$ (solve numerically)
For larger L, k grows and for larger o, k shrinks
 - Models pipelining capability better than simple model!

31

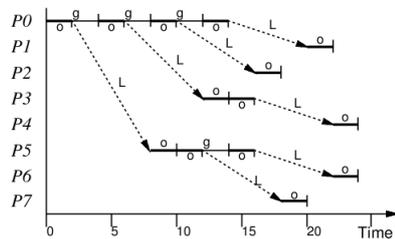
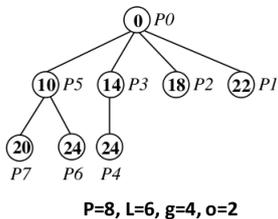
Example: Broadcasts

- **Class Question: Can we do better than k_{opt} -ary binomial broadcast?**
 - Problem: fixed k in all stages might not be optimal
Only a constant away from optimum
 - We can construct a schedule for the optimal broadcast in practical settings
 - First proposed by Karp et al. in "Optimal Broadcast and Summation in the LogP Model"

32

Example: Optimal Broadcast

- **Broadcast to P-1 processes**
 - Each process who received the value sends it on; each process receives exactly once



33

Optimal Broadcast Runtime

- This determines the maximum number of PEs $P(t)$ that can be reached in time t
- $P(t)$ can be computed with a generalized Fibonacci recurrence (assuming $o > g$):

$$P(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & t < 2o + L \\ P(t - o) + P(t - L - 2o) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

- Which can be bounded by (see [1]): $2 \lfloor \frac{t}{L+2o} \rfloor \leq P(t) \leq 2 \lceil \frac{t}{o} \rceil$
 - A closed solution is an interesting open problem!

[1]: Hoefler et al.: "Scalable Communication Protocols for Dynamic Sparse Data Exchange" (Lemma 1)

34

The Bigger Picture

- **We learned how to program shared memory systems**
 - Coherency & memory models & linearizability
 - Locks as examples for reasoning about correctness and performance
 - List-based sets as examples for lock-free and wait-free algorithms
 - Consensus number
- **We learned about general performance properties and parallelism**
 - Amdahl's and Gustafson's laws
 - Little's law, Work-span, ...
 - Balance principles & scheduling
- **We learned how to perform model-based optimizations**
 - Distributed memory broadcast example with two models
- **What next? MPI? OpenMP? UPC?**
 - Next-generation machines "merge" shared and distributed memory concepts → Partitioned Global Address Space (PGAS)

35

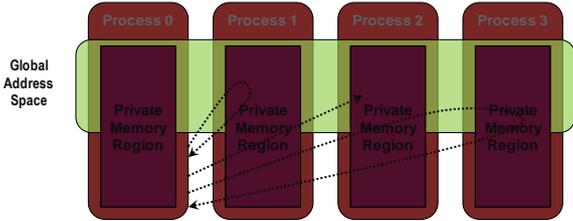
Partitioned Global Address Space

- **Two developments:**
 1. Cache coherence becomes more expensive
May react in software! Scary for industry ;-)
 2. Novel RDMA hardware enables direct access to remote memory
May take advantage in software! An opportunity for HPC!
- **Still ongoing research! Take nothing for granted ☺**
 - Very interesting opportunities
 - Wide-open research field
 - Even more thesis ideas on next generation parallel programming
- **I will introduce the concepts behind the MPI-3.0 interface**
 - It's nearly a superset of other PGAS approaches (UPC, CAF, ...)

36

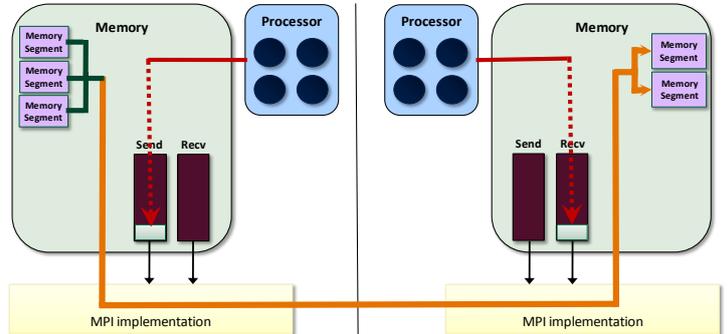
One-sided Communication

- The basic idea of one-sided communication models is to decouple data movement with process synchronization
 - Should be able move data without requiring that the remote process synchronize
 - Each process exposes a part of its memory to other processes
 - Other processes can directly read from or write to this memory



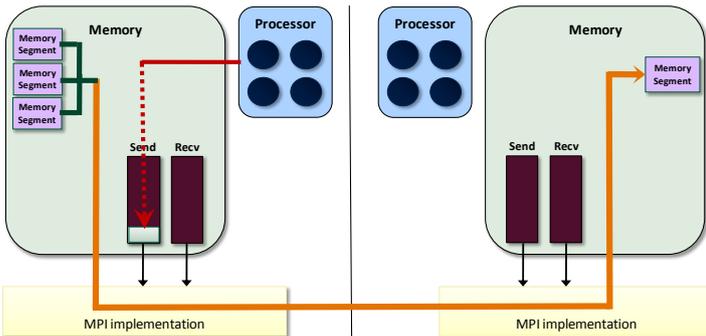
37

Two-sided Communication Example



38

One-sided Communication Example



39

What we need to know in RMA

- How to create remote accessible memory?
- Reading, Writing and Updating remote memory
- Data Synchronization
- Memory Model

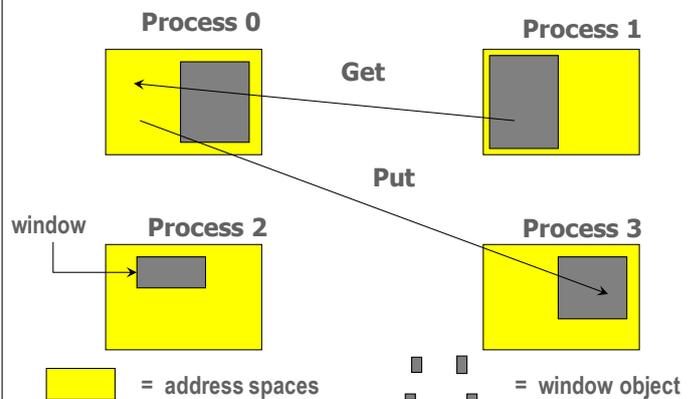
40

Creating Public Memory

- Any memory used by a process is, by default, only locally accessible
 - `X = malloc(100);`
- Once the memory is allocated, the user has to make an explicit MPI call to declare a memory region as remotely accessible
 - MPI terminology for remotely accessible memory is a "window"
 - A group of processes collectively create a "window"
- Once a memory region is declared as remotely accessible, all processes in the window can read/write data to this memory without explicitly synchronizing with the target process

41

Remote Memory Access



42

Basic RMA Functions

- **MPI_Win_create** – exposes local memory to RMA operation by other processes in a communicator
 - Collective operation
 - Creates window object
- **MPI_Win_free** – deallocates window object
- **MPI_Put** – moves data from local memory to remote memory
- **MPI_Get** – retrieves data from remote memory into local memory
- **MPI_Accumulate** – atomically updates remote memory using local values
 - Data movement operations are non-blocking
 - Data is located by a displacement relative to the start of the window
- Subsequent synchronization on window object needed to ensure operation is complete

43

Window creation models

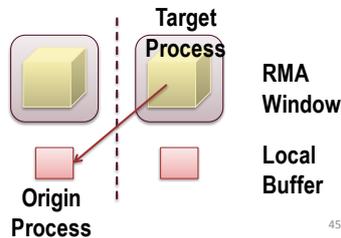
- Four models exist
 - **MPI_WIN_CREATE**
You already have an allocated buffer that you would like to make remotely accessible
 - **MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE**
You want to create a buffer and directly make it remotely accessible
 - **MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC**
You don't have a buffer yet, but will have one in the future
You may want to dynamically add/remove buffers to/from the window
 - **MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE_SHARED**
You want multiple processes on the same node share a buffer

44

Data movement: Get

```
MPI_Get(void * origin_addr, int origin_count,
        MPI_Datatype origin_datatype, int target_rank,
        MPI_Aint target_disp, int target_count,
        MPI_Datatype target_datatype, MPI_Win win)
```

- Move data to origin, from target
- Separate data description triples for **origin** and **target**

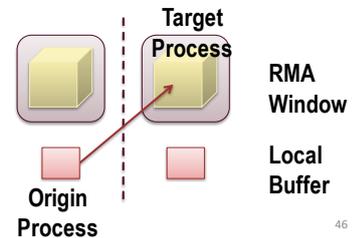


45

Data movement: Put

```
MPI_Put(void * origin_addr, int origin_count,
        MPI_Datatype origin_datatype, int target_rank,
        MPI_Aint target_disp, int target_count,
        MPI_Datatype target_datatype, MPI_Win win)
```

- Move data from origin, to target
- Same arguments as MPI_Get



46

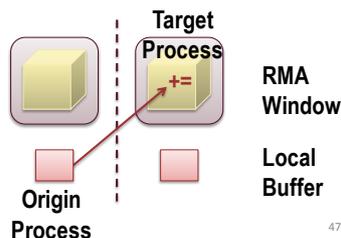
Atomic Data Aggregation: Accumulate

```
MPI_Accumulate(void * origin_addr, int origin_count,
               MPI_Datatype origin_datatype, int target_rank,
               MPI_Aint target_disp, int target_count,
               MPI_Datatype target_dtype, MPI_Op op, MPI_Win win)
```

- Atomic update operation, similar to a put
 - Reduces origin and target data into target buffer using op argument as combiner
 - Predefined ops only, no user-defined operations

- Different data layouts between target/origin OK
 - Basic type elements must match

- **Op = MPI_REPLACE**
 - Implements $f(a,b)=b$
 - Atomic PUT



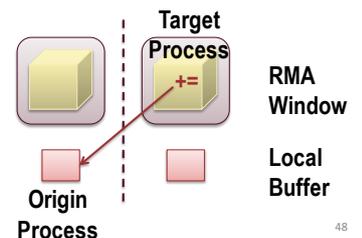
47

Atomic Data Aggregation: Get Accumulate

```
MPI_Get_accumulate(void *origin_addr, int origin_count,
                   MPI_Datatype origin_dtype, void *result_addr,
                   int result_count, MPI_Datatype result_dtype,
                   int target_rank, MPI_Aint target_disp,
                   int target_count, MPI_Datatype target_dtype,
                   MPI_Op op, MPI_Win win)
```

- Atomic read-modify-write
 - Op = MPI_SUM, MPI_PROD, MPI_OR, MPI_REPLACE, MPI_NO_OP, ...
 - Predefined ops only

- Result stored in target buffer
- Original data stored in result buf
- Different data layouts between target/origin OK
 - Basic type elements must match
- Atomic get with **MPI_NO_OP**
- Atomic swap with **MPI_REPLACE**



48

Atomic Data Aggregation: CAS and FOP

```
MPI_Compare_and_swap(void *origin_addr,
void *compare_addr, void *result_addr,
MPI_Datatype datatype, int target_rank,
MPI_Aint target_disp, MPI_Win win)
```

- **CAS:** Atomic swap if target value is equal to compare value
- **FOP:** Simpler version of MPI_Get_accumulate
 - All buffers share a single predefined datatype
 - No count argument (it's always 1)
 - Simpler interface allows hardware optimization

```
MPI_Fetch_and_op(void *origin_addr, void *result_addr,
MPI_Datatype datatype, int target_rank,
MPI_Aint target_disp, MPI_Op op, MPI_Win win)
```

49

RMA Synchronization Models

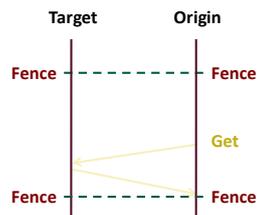
- **RMA data access model**
 - When is a process allowed to read/write remotely accessible memory?
 - When is data written by process X available for process Y to read?
 - RMA synchronization models define these semantics
- **Three synchronization models provided by MPI:**
 - Fence (active target)
 - Post-start-complete-wait (generalized active target)
 - Lock/Unlock (passive target)
- **Data accesses occur within "epochs"**
 - *Access epochs:* contain a set of operations issued by an origin process
 - *Exposure epochs:* enable remote processes to update a target's window
 - Epochs define ordering and completion semantics
 - Synchronization models provide mechanisms for establishing epochs
E.g., starting, ending, and synchronizing epochs

50

Fence: Active Target Synchronization

```
MPI_Win_fence(int assert, MPI_Win win)
```

- Collective synchronization model
- Starts *and* ends access and exposure epochs on all processes in the window
- All processes in group of "win" do an MPI_WIN_FENCE to open an epoch
- Everyone can issue PUT/GET operations to read/write data
- Everyone does an MPI_WIN_FENCE to close the epoch
- All operations complete at the second fence synchronization

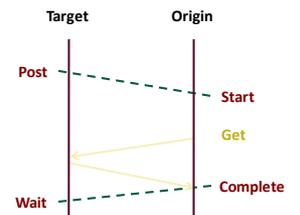


51

PSCW: Generalized Active Target

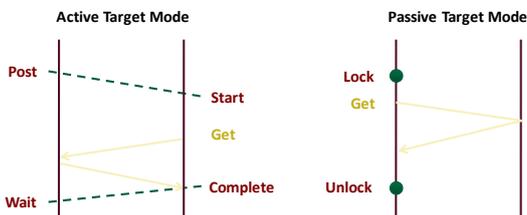
```
MPI_Win_post/start(MPI_Group, int assert, MPI_Win win)
MPI_Win_complete/wait(MPI_Win win)
```

- Like FENCE, but origin and target specify who they communicate with
- **Target: Exposure epoch**
 - Opened with MPI_Win_post
 - Closed by MPI_Win_wait
- **Origin: Access epoch**
 - Opened by MPI_Win_start
 - Closed by MPI_Win_compete
- All synchronization operations may block, to enforce P-S/C-W ordering
 - Processes can be both origins and targets



52

Lock/Unlock: Passive Target Synchronization



- **Passive mode:** One-sided, *asynchronous* communication
 - Target does **not** participate in communication operation
- **Shared memory-like model**

53

Passive Target Synchronization

```
MPI_Win_lock(int lock_type, int rank, int assert, MPI_Win win)
MPI_Win_unlock(int rank, MPI_Win win)
```

- **Begin/end passive mode epoch**
 - Target process does not make a corresponding MPI call
 - Can initiate multiple passive target epochs top different processes
 - Concurrent epochs to same process not allowed (affects threads)
- **Lock type**
 - SHARED: Other processes using shared can access concurrently
 - EXCLUSIVE: No other processes can access concurrently

54

Advanced Passive Target Synchronization

```
MPI_Win_lock_all(int assert, MPI_Win win)
MPI_Win_unlock_all(MPI_Win win)
```

```
MPI_Win_flush/flush_local(int rank, MPI_Win win)
MPI_Win_flush_all/flush_local_all(MPI_Win win)
```

- **Lock_all: Shared lock, passive target epoch to all other processes**
 - Expected usage is long-lived: lock_all, put/get, flush, ..., unlock_all
- **Flush: Remotely complete RMA operations to the target process**
 - Flush_all – remotely complete RMA operations to all processes
 - After completion, data can be read by target process or a different process
- **Flush_local: Locally complete RMA operations to the target process**
 - Flush_local_all – locally complete RMA operations to all processes

55

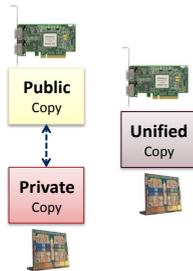
Which synchronization mode should I use, when?

- **RMA communication has low overheads versus send/recv**
 - Two-sided: Matching, queueing, buffering, unexpected receives, etc...
 - One-sided: No matching, no buffering, always ready to receive
 - Utilize RDMA provided by high-speed interconnects (e.g. InfiniBand)
- **Active mode: bulk synchronization**
 - E.g. ghost cell exchange
- **Passive mode: asynchronous data movement**
 - Useful when dataset is large, requiring memory of multiple nodes
 - Also, when data access and synchronization pattern is dynamic
 - Common use case: distributed, shared arrays
- **Passive target locking mode**
 - Lock/unlock – Useful when exclusive epochs are needed
 - Lock_all/unlock_all – Useful when only shared epochs are needed

56

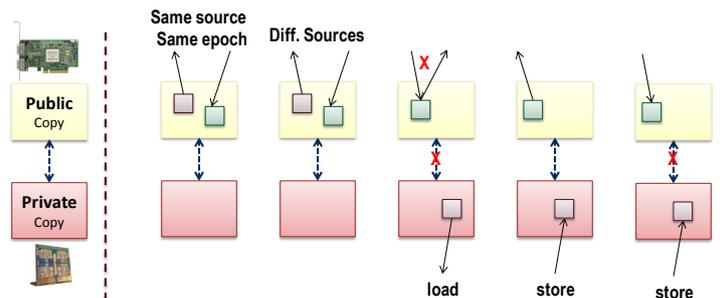
MPI RMA Memory Model

- **MPI-3 provides two memory models: separate and unified**
- **MPI-2: Separate Model**
 - Logical public and private copies
 - MPI provides software coherence between window copies
 - Extremely portable, to systems that don't provide hardware coherence
- **MPI-3: New Unified Model**
 - Single copy of the window
 - System must provide coherence
 - Superset of separate semantics
 - E.g. allows concurrent local/remote access
 - Provides access to full performance potential of hardware



57

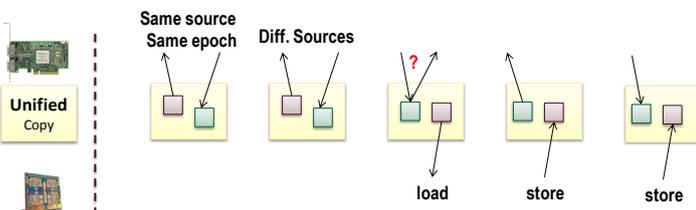
MPI RMA Memory Model (separate windows)



- **Very portable, compatible with non-coherent memory systems**
- **Limits concurrent accesses to enable software coherence**

58

MPI RMA Memory Model (unified windows)



- **Allows concurrent local/remote accesses**
- **Concurrent, conflicting operations don't "corrupt" the window**
 - Outcome is not defined by MPI (defined by the hardware)
- **Can enable better performance by reducing synchronization**

59

That's it folks

- **Thanks for your attention and contributions to the class 😊**
- **Good luck (better: success!) with your project**
 - Don't do it last minute!
- **Same with the final exam!**
 - Di 21.01., 09:00-11:00 (watch date and room in edoz)
- **Do you have any generic questions?**
 - Big picture?
 - Why did we learn certain concepts?
 - Why did we not learn certain concepts?
 - Anything else (comments are very welcome!)

60