

# MATH-454 Parallel and High Performance Computing

## Lecture 6: Hybrid MPI / OpenMP and mpi4py

Pablo Antolin

Slides of N. Richart, E. Lanti, V. Keller's lecture notes

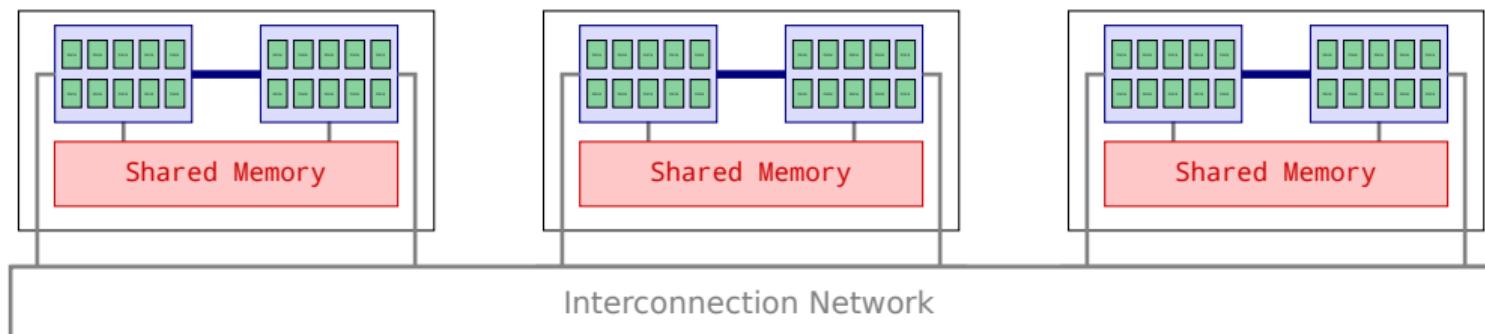
April 3 2025

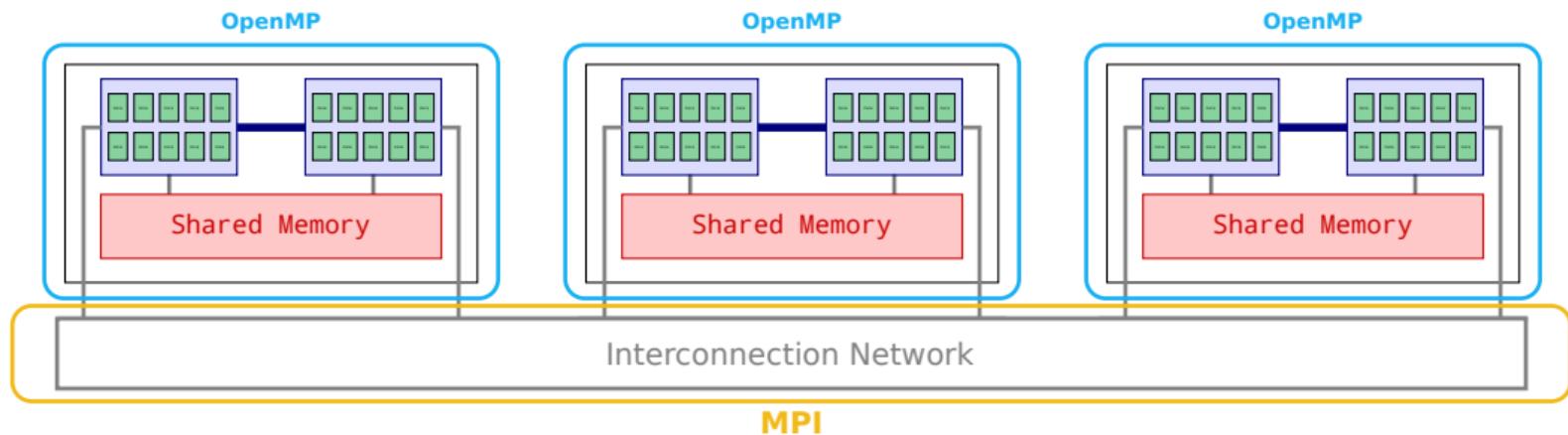
- Hybrid MPI + OpenMP programming
  - ▶ Introduction
  - ▶ Partitioned point-to-point communications
  - ▶ Matching probe/receive
- MPI for Python
- This week's exercise



## Hybrid programming model







- Thread safety? Data visibility? OpenMP private?
- Which thread/process can/will call the MPI library?
- MPI process placement in the case of multi-CPU processors?
- Does my problem fit with the targeted machine?
- Levels of parallelism within my problem?

## Pure MPI

- + no code modification (portability).
- + most of the libraries support multi-thread (e.g., *BLAS libraries*). Thread safety
- – does the application's topology fit the system's topology?
- – useless communications and repeated memory.

## Hybrid

- + no messages within a SMP node.
- + less (no) topology problems.
- – all threads sleep when master communicates.
- – MPI-libs must support (at least) thread safety.

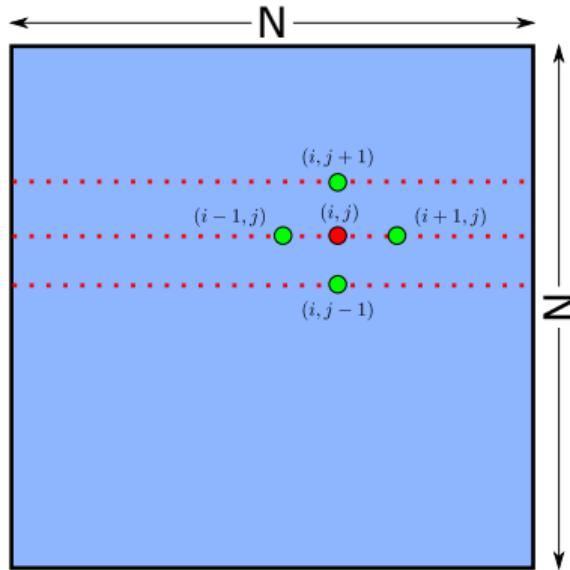
How to deal with:

- topology / mapping? (Which physical core is assigned to which process/thread)
- sub-domain decomposition?
- halos (ghost) size? halos shapes?
- unnecessary communications?
- **computation to communication ratio?**

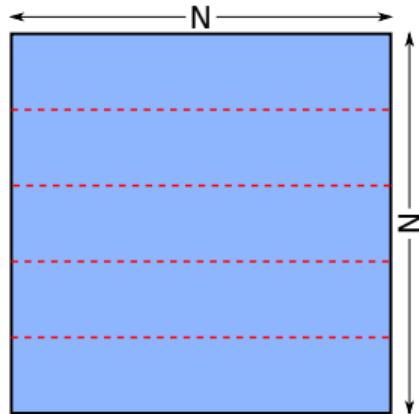
Pure MPI? Hybrid?

**A good solution may be: one MPI process per SMP node.**

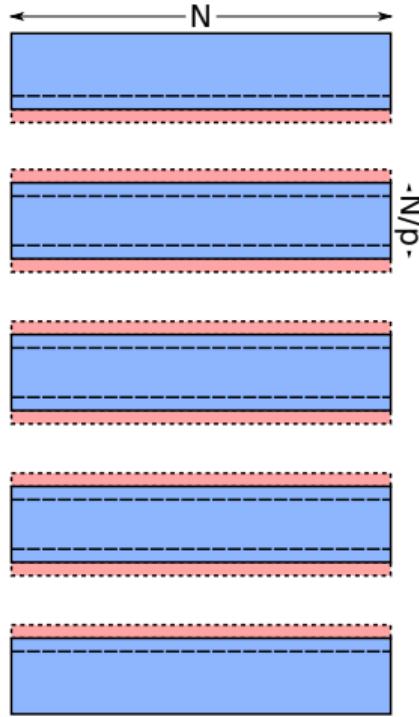
- Halo regions are local copies of remote data that are needed for communications (ghost rows in Poisson problem)
- Halo regions need to be copied frequently.
- Using threads reduces the size of halo regions copies that need to be stored.
- Reducing halo region sizes also reduces communication requirements.



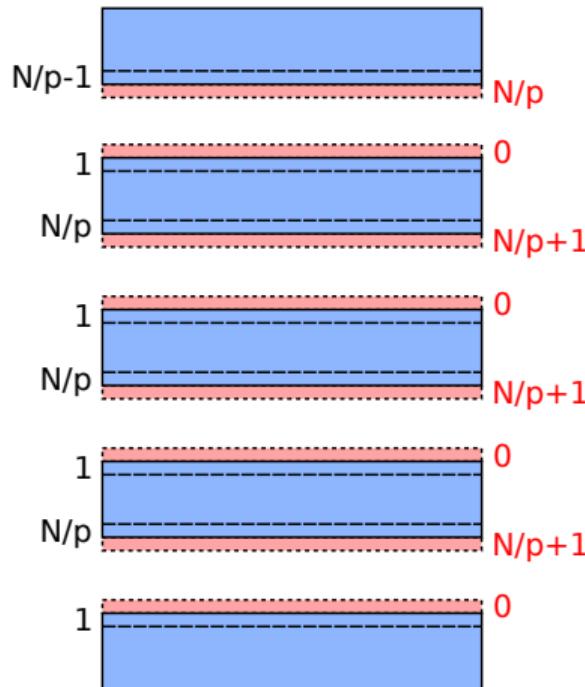
$$u(i, j) = \frac{1}{4} (u_{\text{old}}(i-1, j) + u_{\text{old}}(i+1, j) + u_{\text{old}}(i, j-1) + u_{\text{old}}(i, j+1) - f(i, j) h_m h_n)$$



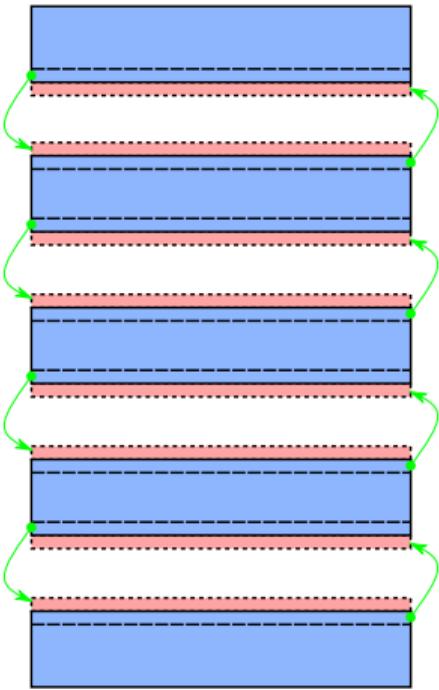
- The domain is decomposed by lines.



- $p$  domains of size  $N/p$  each (1 per process).



- Adding *ghost* lines (halo regions) before and after



- Use *ghost* lines to communicate information among pairs of processes.

- Always take into account the problems related to the physical topology.
- A real application is not as easy as a *hello world*.
- Some clusters have different connectivity topologies: Match them to your problem.  
Examples of hardware topologies:
  - ▶ all-to-all
  - ▶ 2D/3D torus
  - ▶ three
  - ▶ ...
- One MPI process per physical node.

- Do not use hybrid if the pure MPI code scales ok.
- Be aware of intranode MPI behavior.
- Always observe the topology dependence of:
  - ▶ Intranode MPI.
  - ▶ Threads' overheads.
- Finally: Always compare the best pure MPI code with the best hybrid code!

- MPI codes with a lot of all-to-all communications.
- MPI codes with a very poor load balancing at the algorithmic level (less communications).
- MPI codes with memory limitations.
- MPI codes that can be easily *fine-grained* parallelized (at loop level).

## hybrid/hello\_world.cc

```
1 #include <iostream>
2 #include <mpi.h>
3 #include <omp.h>
4
5 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
6     int provided, size, rank, nthreads, tid;
7     MPI_Init_thread(&argc, &argv, MPI_THREAD_SINGLE, &provided);
8
9     MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &size);
10    MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &rank);
11
12    #pragma omp parallel default(shared) private(tid, nthreads)
13    {
14        nthreads = omp_get_num_threads();
15        tid = omp_get_thread_num();
16        std::printf("Hello from thread %i out of %i from process %i out of %i\n",
17                   nthreads, rank, size);
18    }
19    MPI_Finalize();
20    return 0;
21 }
```

Compilation using the GNU g++ compiler:

```
$> mpicxx -fopenmp hello_world.cc -o hello_world
```

Compilation using the Intel C++ compiler:

```
$> mpiicpc -fopenmp hello_world.cc -o hello_world
```

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --ntasks 2
#SBATCH --nodes 2
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task 3
#SBATCH --ntasks-per-node 1
#SBATCH --qos math-454
#SBATCH --account math-454

export OMP_NUM_THREADS=3
srun ./hello_world
```

It will start 2 MPI processes and each one will spawn 3 threads

```
Hello from thread 0 out of 3 from process 0 out of 2
Hello from thread 1 out of 3 from process 0 out of 2
Hello from thread 0 out of 3 from process 1 out of 2
Hello from thread 1 out of 3 from process 1 out of 2
Hello from thread 2 out of 3 from process 0 out of 2
Hello from thread 2 out of 3 from process 1 out of 2
```

- Change your MPI initialization routine
  - ▶ `MPI_Init` is replaced by `MPI_Init_thread`
  - ▶ `MPI_Init_thread` has two additional parameters for the level of thread support required, and for the level of thread support provided by the library implementation

```
1 int MPI_Init_thread(int *argc, char ***argv, int required, int
→ *provided)
```

- Make sure that the *provided* support matches the *required* one

```
1 if (provided < required)
2 MPI_Abort(MPI_COMM_WORLD, EXIT_FAILURE);
```

- Add OpenMP directives as long as you stick to the level of thread safety you specified in the call to `MPI_Init_thread`

- **MPI\_THREAD\_SINGLE**
  - ▶ Only one thread will execute (no multi-threading)
  - ▶ Standard MPI-only application
- **MPI\_THREAD\_FUNNELED**
  - ▶ Only the Master Thread will make calls to the MPI library
  - ▶ A thread can determine whether it is the master thread by a call to `MPI_Is_thread_main`
- **MPI\_THREAD\_SERIALIZED**
  - ▶ Only one thread at a time will make calls to the MPI library, but all threads are eligible to make such calls
- **MPI\_THREAD\_MULTIPLE**
  - ▶ Any thread may call the MPI library at any time

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In most cases **MPI\_THREAD\_FUNNELED** provides the best choice for hybrid programs

- Thread support values are monotonic, i.e.

`MPI_THREAD_SINGLE < MPI_THREAD_FUNNELED < MPI_THREAD_SERIALIZED  
< MPI_THREAD_MULTIPLE`

- Gets the maximum level of thread support provided by the MPI library

```
1 int MPI_Query_thread(int *thread_level_provided);
```

- Different processes in `MPI_COMM_WORLD` can have different thread safety
- The level(s) of provided thread support depends on the implementation



MPI partitioned communications



- New feature from MPI 4.0 standard (June 2021!)
- We have already talked about persistent point-to-point communications
- Partitioned comms are just persistent comms where the message is constructed in partitions
- Typical case: multi-threading with each thread building a portion of the message

- Remember the typical cycle for persistent point-to-point communications

Init	(Start	Test/Wait)*	Free
------	--------	-------------	------

where \* means zero or more

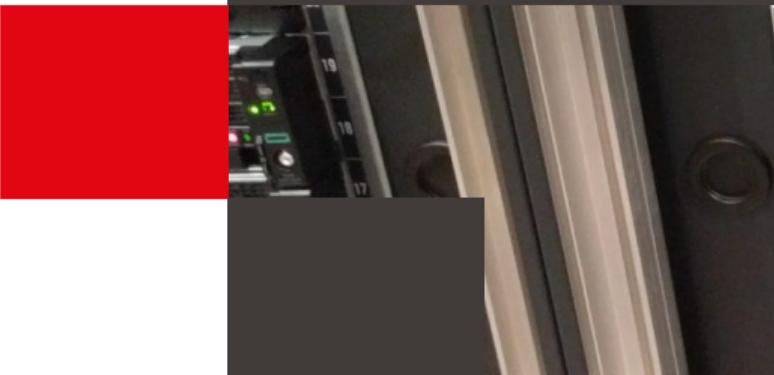
- Partitioned are very similar

PInit	(Start	PReady)*	Free
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```
1 MPI_Psend_init(msg, parts, count, MPI_INT, dest, tag, info, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &request);
2 MPI_Start(&request);
3 #pragma omp parallel for shared(request)
4 for (int i = 0; i < parts; ++i) {
5     /* compute and fill partition #i of msg, then mark ready: */
6     MPI_Pready(i, request);
7 }
8 while(!flag) {
9     /* Do useful work */
10    MPI_Test(&request, &flag, MPI_STATUS_IGNORE);
11    /* Do useful work */
12 }
13 MPI_Request_free(&request);
```



MPI matching probe



## Syntax

```
1 int MPI_Iprobe(int source, int tag, MPI_Comm comm, int *flag,  
2 MPI_Status *status);  
3  
4 int MPI_Probe(int source, int tag, MPI_Comm comm, MPI_Status  
→ *status);
```

- Check incoming messages without receiving.
- Immediate variant returns **true** if matching message exists.
- Can be used in combination with a successive `MPI_Get_count` for deducing the size of an incoming message before actually receiving it. Thus, we can allocate a buffer for holding the message.

- We have already talked before about `MPI_Probe` to obtain information about a message waiting to be received
- This is typically used when the size of the message is unknown (probe, allocate, receive)

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*A subsequent receive [...] will receive the message that was matched by the probe, if no other intervening receive occurs after the probe [...]*

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- Care must be taken because it is a stateful method:  
*A subsequent receive [...] will receive the message that was matched by the probe, if no other intervening receive occurs after the probe [...]*
- Problem with multi-threading!
- Imagine two threads  $A$  and  $B$  that must do a Probe, Allocation, and Receive

$$A_P \longrightarrow A_A \longrightarrow A_R \longrightarrow B_P \longrightarrow B_A \longrightarrow B_R$$

but may also be

$$A_P \longrightarrow B_P \longrightarrow B_A \longrightarrow B_R \longrightarrow A_A \longrightarrow A_R$$

Thread  $B$  stole thread  $A$ 's message!

- The solution of this problem is the matching probe
- MPI provides two versions, `MPI_Improbe` and `MPI_Mprobe`
- It allows to receive only a `MPI_Message` matching a specific probe

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- MPI provides two versions, **`MPI_Improbe`** and **`MPI_Mprobe`**
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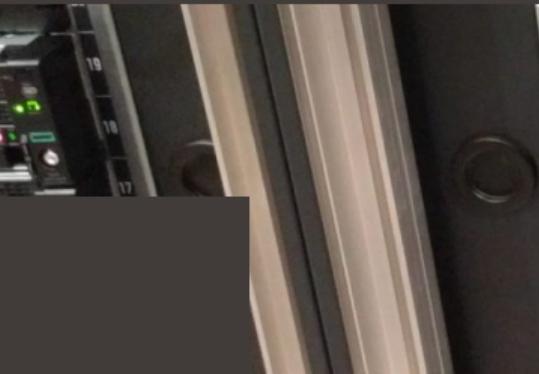
  

- Counterpart operations are the matching receive **`MPI_Imrecv`** and **`MPI_Mrecv`**
- They are used to receive messages that have been previously matched by a matching probe

- Always keep in mind that you are mixing (OpenMP) threads and (MPI) processes
- You will need to test your code performance on every machine
- There are no magic rules on the best configuration to use
- Often 1 MPI task per NUMA region seems to give the best performance



## MPI for Python



- Python wrappers for MPI.
- Covers most of the features.
- Much simpler than Fortran and C interfaces.
- Based on pickle serialization.

## mpi4py/ex\_0.py

```
1 from mpi4py import MPI
2
3 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
4 rank = comm.Get_rank()
5 size = comm.Get_size()
6
7 print(f'I am process {rank} out of
→ {size}.')
```

## Output

```
I am process 1 out of 4.
I am process 3 out of 4.
I am process 0 out of 4.
I am process 2 out of 4.
```

```
$> module load intel intel-oneapi-mpi
$> # or module load gcc openmpi
$> module load python py-mpi4py
$> srun -n 4 python ex_0.py
```

## mpi4py/ex\_1.py

```
1 from mpi4py import MPI
2
3 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
4 rank = comm.Get_rank()
5
6 if rank == 0:
7     data = {'a': 7, 'b': 3.14}
8     comm.send(data, dest=1, tag=11)
9 elif rank == 1:
10     data = comm.recv(source=0, tag=11)
11 else:
12     data = None
13 print(rank, data)
```

## Output

```
0 {'a': 7, 'b': 3.14}
2 None
3 None
1 {'a': 7, 'b': 3.14}
```

## mpi4py/ex\_2.py

```
1 from mpi4py import MPI
2
3 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
4 rank = comm.Get_rank()
5
6 if rank == 0:
7     data = {'a': 7, 'b': 3.14}
8     req = comm.isend(data, dest=1, tag=11)
9     req.wait()
10 elif rank == 1:
11     req = comm.irecv(source=0, tag=11)
12     data = req.wait()
13 else:
14     data = None
15 print(rank, data)
```

## Output

```
0 {'a': 7, 'b': 3.14}
1 {'a': 7, 'b': 3.14}
2 None
3 None
```

## mpi4py/ex\_3.py

```
1 from mpi4py import MPI
2 import numpy as np
3 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
4 rank = comm.Get_rank()

5
6 # passing MPI datatypes explicitly
7 data = None
8 if rank == 0:
9     data = np.arange(10, dtype='i')
10    comm.Send([data, MPI.INT], dest=1,
11               tag=77)
11 elif rank == 1:
12     data = np.empty(10, dtype='i')
13     comm.Recv([data, MPI.INT], source=0,
14               tag=77)
14 print(rank, data)
```

## Output

```
0 [0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9]
1 [0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9]
2 None
3 None
```

## mpi4py/ex\_4.py

```
1 from mpi4py import MPI
2 import numpy as np
3
4 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
5 rank = comm.Get_rank()
6
7 # automatic MPI datatype discovery
8 data = None
9 if rank == 0:
10     data = np.arange(10, dtype=np.float64)
11     comm.Send(data, dest=1, tag=13)
12 elif rank == 1:
13     data = np.empty(10, dtype=np.float64)
14     comm.Recv(data, source=0, tag=13)
15 print(rank, data)
```

## Output

```
0 [0. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
 → 7. 8. 9.]
1 [0. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
 → 7. 8. 9.]
2 None
3 None
```

## mpi4py/ex\_5.py

```
1 from mpi4py import MPI
2
3 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
4 rank = comm.Get_rank()
5
6 if rank == 0:
7     data = {'key1' : 0,
8             'key2' : ('abc', 'xyz')}
9 else:
10    data = None
11 data = comm.bcast(data, root=0)
12 print(rank, data)
```

## Output

```
0 {'key1': 0, 'key2':
    ↳ ('abc', 'xyz')}
1 {'key1': 0, 'key2':
    ↳ ('abc', 'xyz')}
3 {'key1': 0, 'key2':
    ↳ ('abc', 'xyz')}
2 {'key1': 0, 'key2':
    ↳ ('abc', 'xyz')}
```

mpi4py/ex\_6.py

```
1 from mpi4py import MPI
2
3 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
4 size = comm.Get_size()
5 rank = comm.Get_rank()
6
7 if rank == 0:
8     data = [(i+1)**2 for i in range(size)]
9 else:
10     data = None
11 data = comm.scatter(data, root=0)
12 assert data == (rank+1)**2
13 print(rank, data)
```

Output

```
0 1
1 4
2 9
3 16
```

## mpi4py/ex\_7.py

```
1 from mpi4py import MPI
2
3 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
4 size = comm.Get_size()
5 rank = comm.Get_rank()
6
7 data = (rank+1)**2
8 data = comm.gather(data, root=0)
9 if rank == 0:
10     for i in range(size):
11         assert data[i] == (i+1)**2
12 else:
13     assert data is None
14 print(rank, data)
```

## Output

```
2 None
0 [1, 4, 9, 16]
1 None
3 None
```

## mpi4py/ex\_8.py

```
1 from mpi4py import MPI
2 import numpy as np
3
4 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
5 rank = comm.Get_rank()
6
7 if rank == 0:
8     data = np.arange(5, dtype='i')
9 else:
10    data = np.empty(5, dtype='i')
11 comm.Bcast(data, root=0)
12 for i in range(5):
13     assert data[i] == i
14 print(rank, data)
```

## Output

```
0 [0 1 2 3 4]
1 [0 1 2 3 4]
2 [0 1 2 3 4]
3 [0 1 2 3 4]
```

## mpi4py/ex\_9.py

```
1 import numpy as np
2
3 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
4 size = comm.Get_size()
5 rank = comm.Get_rank()
6
7 sendbuf = np.zeros(5, dtype='i') + rank
8 recvbuf = None
9 if rank == 0:
10     recvbuf = np.empty([size, 5], dtype='i')
11 comm.Gather(sendbuf, recvbuf, root=0)
12 if rank == 0:
13     for i in range(size):
14         assert np.allclose(recvbuf[i,:], i)
15 print(rank, recvbuf)
```

## Output

```
3 None
0 [[0 0 0 0 0]
 [1 1 1 1 1]
 [2 2 2 2 2]
 [3 3 3 3 3]]
2 None
1 None
```

## mpi4py/ex\_10.py

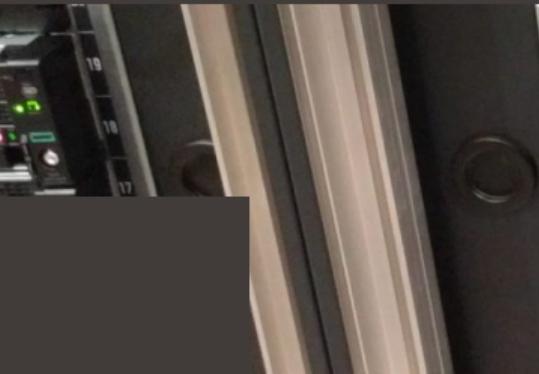
```
1 from mpi4py import MPI
2 import numpy as np
3
4 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
5 size = comm.Get_size()
6 rank = comm.Get_rank()
7
8 sendbuf = None
9 if rank == 0:
10     sendbuf = np.empty([size, 5], dtype='i')
11     sendbuf.T[:, :] = range(size)
12 recvbuf = np.empty(5, dtype='i')
13 comm.Scatter(sendbuf, recvbuf, root=0)
14 assert np.allclose(recvbuf, rank)
15 print(rank, recvbuf)
```

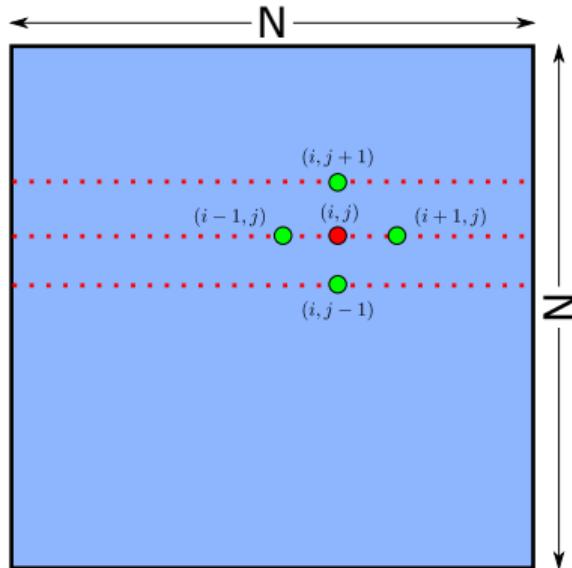
## Output

```
3 [3 3 3 3 3]
1 [1 1 1 1 1]
2 [2 2 2 2 2]
0 [0 0 0 0 0]
```



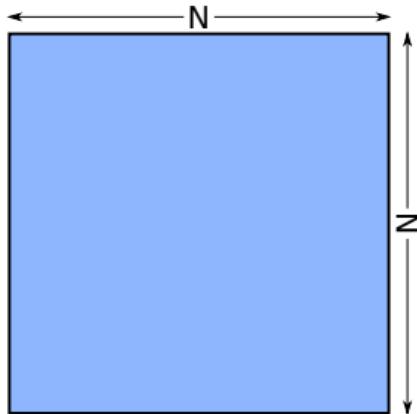
## Poisson exercise



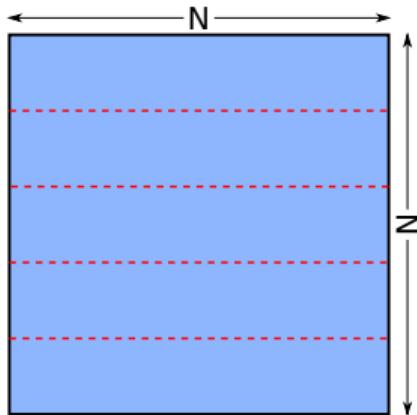


This finite difference (5 points stencil) computes the solution of the Poisson equation in 2D in an iterative manner. The equation is given by:

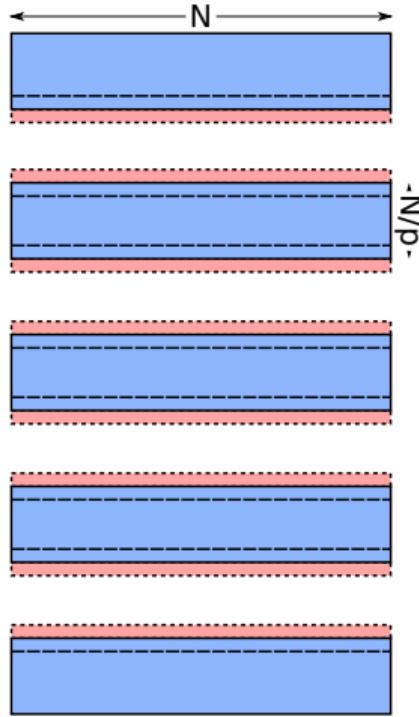
$$u(i, j) = \frac{1}{4} (u_{\text{old}}(i - 1, j) + u_{\text{old}}(i + 1, j) + u_{\text{old}}(i, j - 1) + u_{\text{old}}(i, j + 1) - f(i, j) h_m h_n)$$



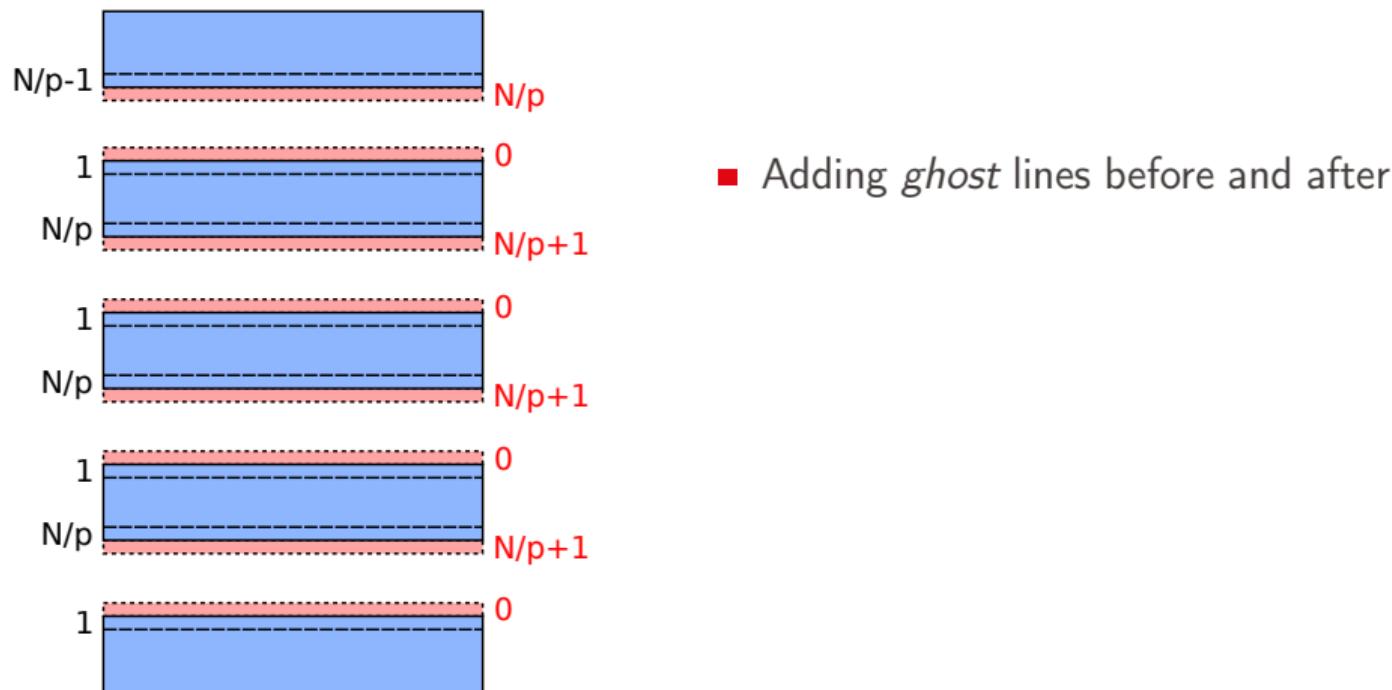
- Parallelize the Poisson 2D problem using the Messages Passing Interface (MPI)

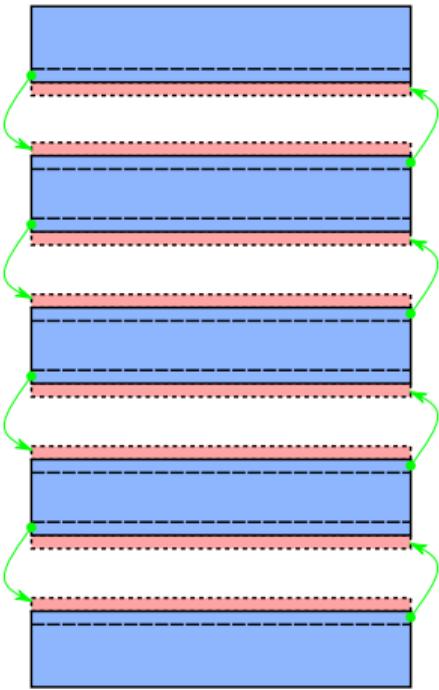


- The memory allocation is done in the C default manner, “Row-Major Order”: make your domain decomposition by lines

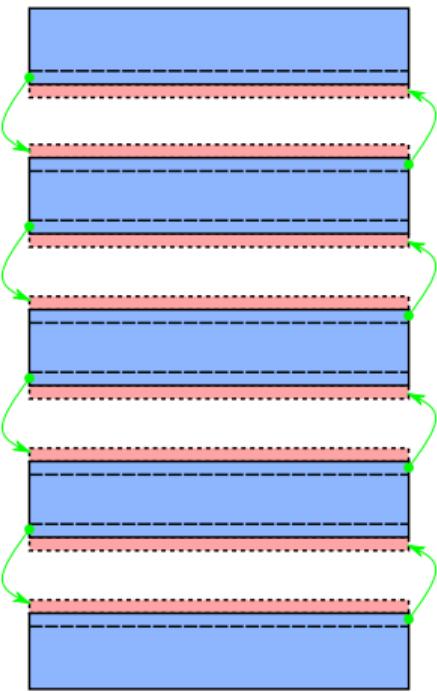


- $p$  domains of size  $N/p$  each (1 per process)





- Use the *ghost* lines to receive the missing local data



- Start using MPI\_Sendrecv to implement the communications
- You can use the number of iterations as a check
- Once it is working try to use *non-blocking* communications