

MATH-454 Parallel and High Performance Computing

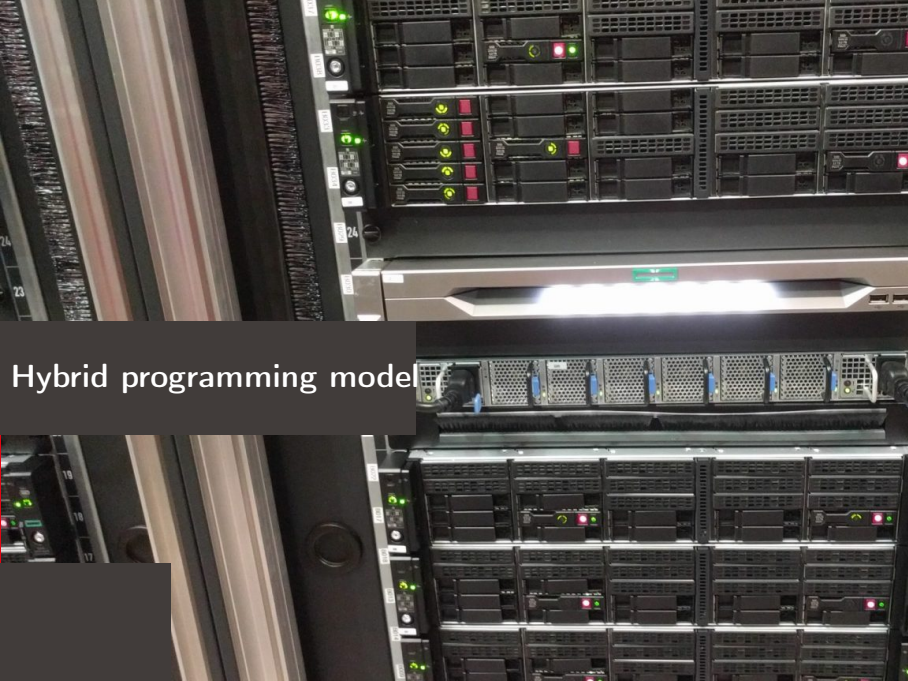
Lecture 6: Hybrid MPI / OpenMP and mpi4py

Pablo Antolin

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

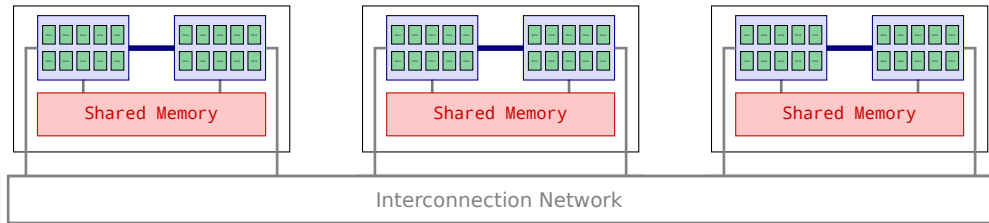
April 3 2025

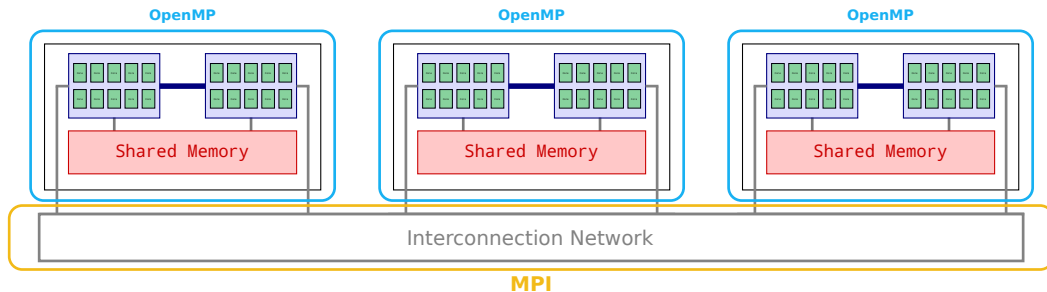
- Hybrid MPI + OpenMP programming
 - ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ Partitioned point-to-point communications
 - ▶ Matching probe/receive
- MPI for Python
- This week's exercise



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.

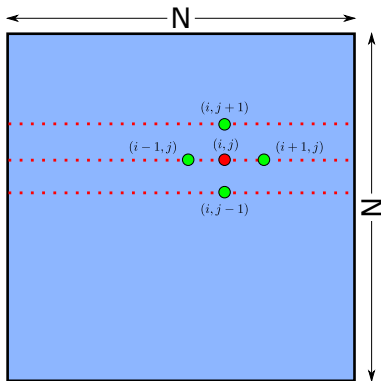
How to deal with:

- 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?**

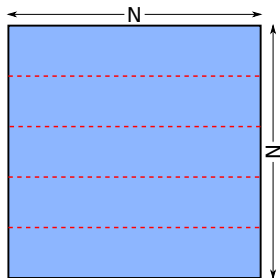
Pure MPI? Hybrid?

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

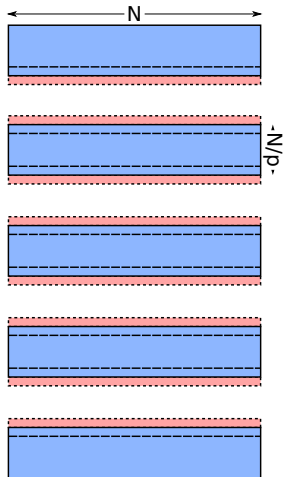
- Halo regions are local copies of remote data that are needed for communications (ghost rows in Poisson problem)
- Halo regions need to be copied frequently.
- Using threads reduces the size of halo regions copies that need to be stored.
- Reducing halo region sizes also reduces communication requirements.



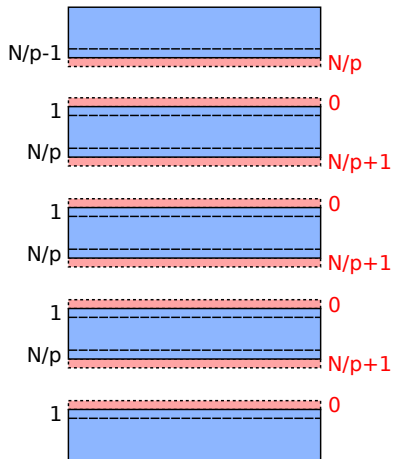
$$u(i, j) = \frac{1}{4} (u_{\text{old}}(i-1, j) + u_{\text{old}}(i+1, j) + u_{\text{old}}(i, j-1) + u_{\text{old}}(i, j+1) - f(i, j) h_m h_n)$$



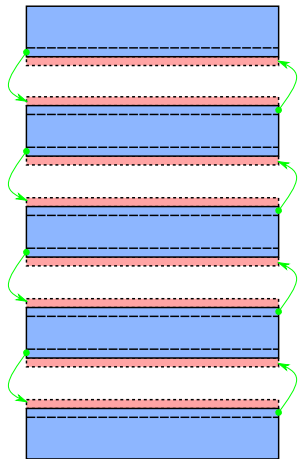
- The domain is decomposed by lines.



- 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", tid,
17                     ↪ nthreads, rank, size);
18     }
19     MPI_Finalize();
20     return 0;
```

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

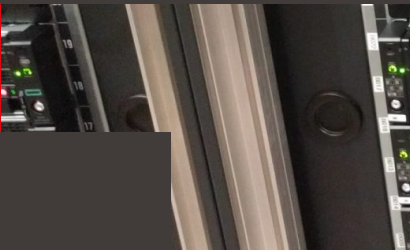
- Thread support values are monotonic, i.e.
 $\text{MPI_THREAD_SINGLE} < \text{MPI_THREAD_FUNNELED} < \text{MPI_THREAD_SERIALIZED} < \text{MPI_THREAD_MULTIPLE}$
- Gets the maximum level of thread support provided by the MPI library

```
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

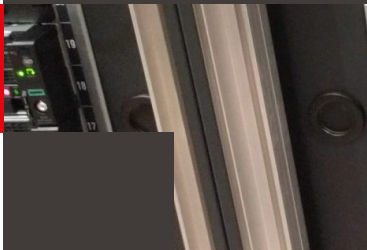
- Partitioned are very similar

PInit (Start PReady)* Free

```
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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- 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 [...]

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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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-
- 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

The background of the slide is a photograph of a server rack. It shows multiple rows of server units with various components like fans, lights, and ports visible. The lighting is somewhat dim, with some green indicator lights glowing.

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)
12 elif rank == 1:
13     data = np.empty(10, dtype='i')
14     comm.Recv([data, MPI.INT], source=0,
15              ↪ tag=77)
16 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

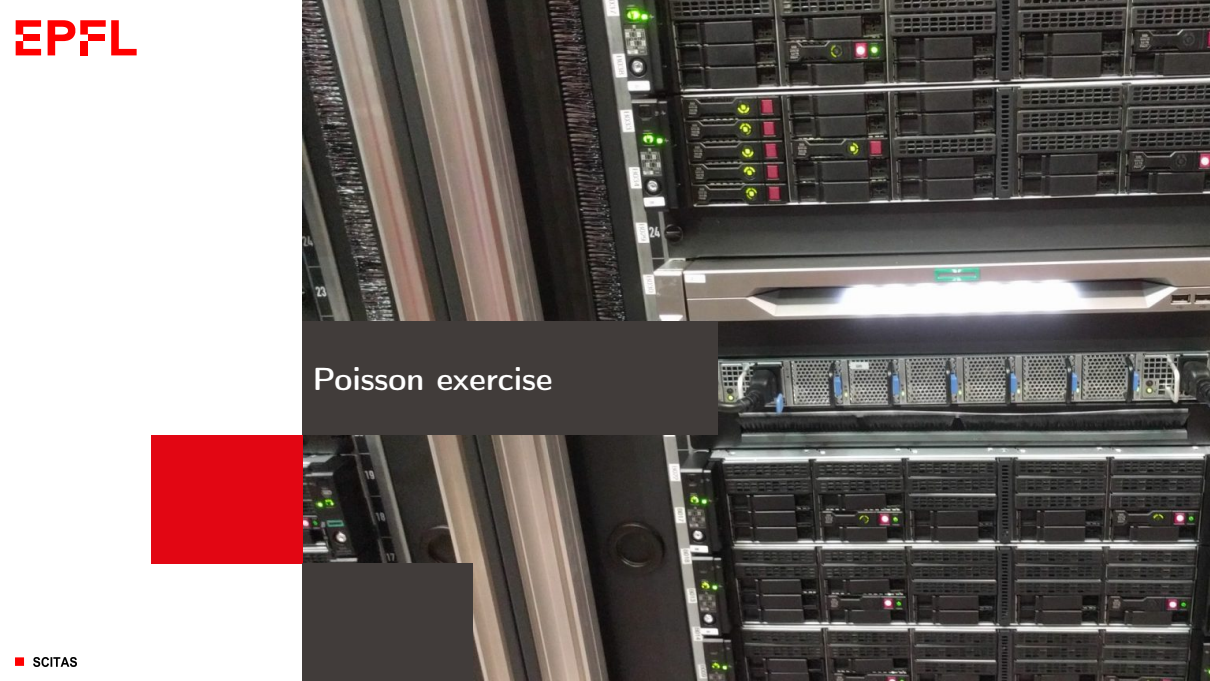
```
3 None
0 [[0 0 0 0 0]
   [1 1 1 1 1]
   [2 2 2 2 2]
   [3 3 3 3 3]]
2 None
1 None
```


mpi4py/ex_10.py

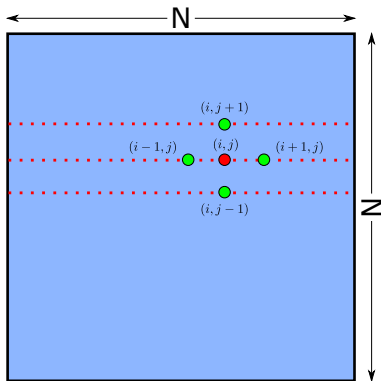
```
1 from mpi4py import MPI
2 import numpy as np
3
4 comm = MPI.COMM_WORLD
5 size = comm.Get_size()
6 rank = comm.Get_rank()
7
8 sendbuf = None
9 if rank == 0:
10     sendbuf = np.empty([size, 5], dtype='i')
11     sendbuf.T[:, :] = range(size)
12 recvbuf = np.empty(5, dtype='i')
13 comm.Scatter(sendbuf,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

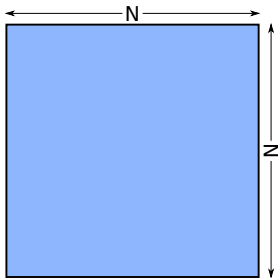
The background of the slide is a photograph of a server room. It shows multiple rows of server racks filled with black server units. Some units have green status lights, while others have red. A horizontal light fixture is visible in the middle of the racks. The image is partially obscured by a dark grey rectangle containing the title and a red rectangle on the left side.

Poisson exercise

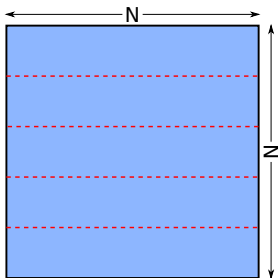


This finite difference (5 points stencil) computes the solution of the Poisson equation in 2D in an iterative manner. The equation is given by:

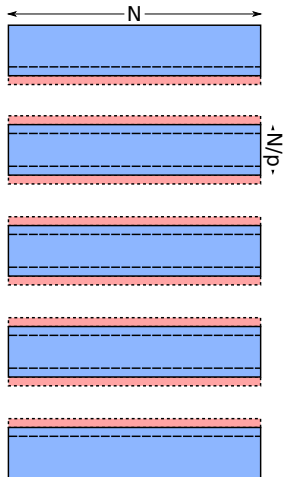
$$u(i, j) = \frac{1}{4} (u_{\text{old}}(i-1, j) + u_{\text{old}}(i+1, j) + u_{\text{old}}(i, j-1) + u_{\text{old}}(i, j+1) - f(i, j) h_m h_n)$$



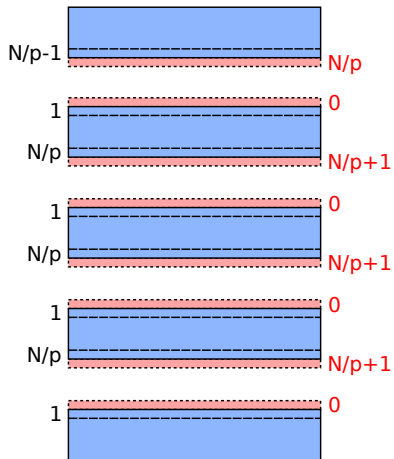
- Parallelize the Poisson 2D problem using the Messages Passing Interface (MPI)



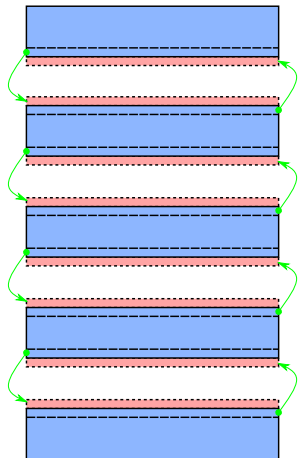
- The memory allocation is done in the C default manner, “Row-Major Order”: make your domain decomposition by lines



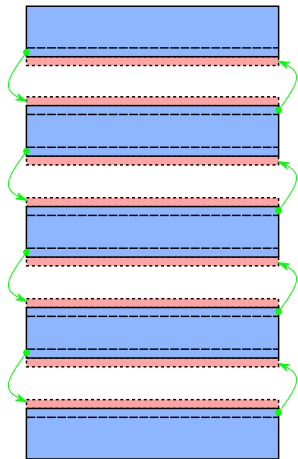
- p domains of size N/p each (1 per process)



■ Adding *ghost* lines before and after



- 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