

GPI – APPLICATIONS EXCEED YOUR DREAMS

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The most promising programming model for future supercomputers is expected to be based on asynchronous communication to hide latency and on a partitioned global address space. It has to support fault tolerance.

GPI provides such an API for your standard language. It delivers the full hardware speed directly to the application. The truly asynchronous, one sided and zero copy semantics of GPI allows to overlap communication and computation perfectly, a key requirement for scalable software.

GPI is easy to use and the adoption of existing parallel codes does not require a complete rewrite. In GPI the communication pattern is under full control. This is in contrast to PGAS languages like CoArray Fortran or UPC, where one often ends up with a major rewrite and still depends on compiler magic.

In order to achieve good scalability, one has to rethink and reformulate the commu-

nication strategy. The elimination of synchronous communication is beneficial not only for GPI programs, but often improves message passing implementations as well.

GPI coverage of a large class of scientific algorithms

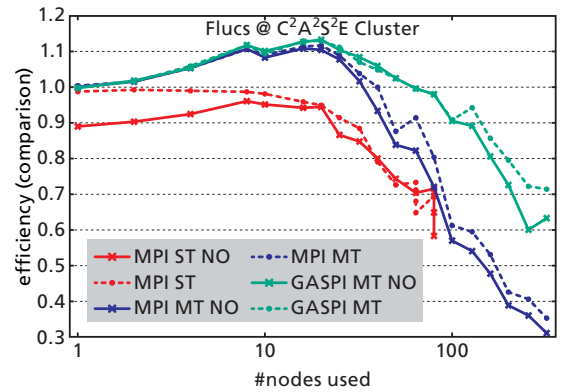
- Computational fluid dynamics (1)
- Stencil codes (2)
- Graph algorithms (3)

Best in class performance in all domains

- Full overlap of communication and computation
- No CPU cycles spent for communication
- No cache disturbance
- Truly asynchronous
- Scalability

Computational Fluid Dynamics¹

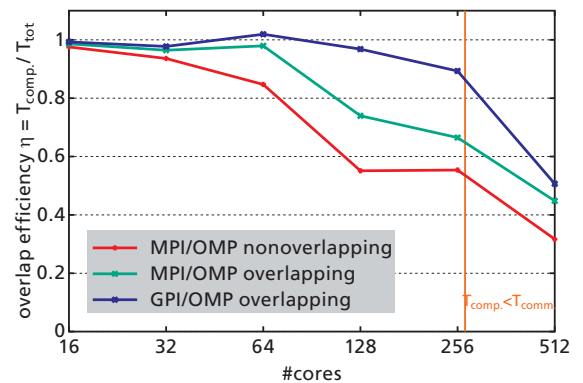
GPI enables strong scalability of the next generation CFD solver FLUCS far beyond the capabilities of MPI. FLUCS is developed by the German Aerospace Research Center (DLR). It focuses on massively parallel simulations of compressible flows on unstructured grids using hybrid parallelization based on a 2-level domain decomposition. It features a finite-volume as well as a discontinuous Galerkin (DG) method to solve the Euler/Navier-Stokes/RANS equations. GPI makes a truly asynchronous implementation possible that perfectly overlaps computation and communication. As such, running FLUCS on a coarse mesh consisting of less than 2 million elements, GPI allows using 200 cluster nodes with 80 % parallel efficiency, i.e. merely 200 elements per thread. With hybrid MPI, using the same communication pattern, only 80 nodes can be used at the same efficiency. With flat MPI, this reduces to 40 cluster nodes which can be used at 80 % efficiency. The GPI implementation clearly outperforms the MPI implementation.



Parallel scalability of FLUCS (by courtesy of German Aerospace Center (DLR)): parallel efficiency over number of HPC cluster nodes used. One cluster node consists of two 12-core Intel Ivy Bridge EP CPUs running 48 hyper threads. (NO = No overlap, ST = single threaded, MT = multi threaded).

Stencil codes: Berlin Quantum Chromo Dynamics²

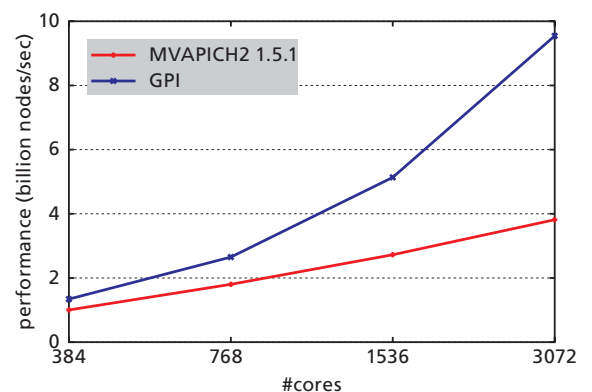
GPI is able to fully hide the communication behind the computation in the theoretically feasible regime as seen for the Berlin Quantum Chromo Dynamics code (BQCD). BQCD is a Hybrid Quantum Monte-Carlo algorithm using domain decomposition of the underlying four dimensional regular space-time grid. The computational kernel of BQCD is the evaluation of a four dimensional nearest neighbor stencil operator. In contrast to the MPI implementation, the GPI implementation shows perfect overlap of communication and computation in the theoretically feasible regime. No cache coherency effects and no CPU load is induced by the communication. There is essentially no difference between the theoretical expectation and the practical measurement.



BQCD ($24 \times 24 \times 24 \times 48$): covariant derivative D , overlap efficiency (HLRS, Xeon E5440, 16 GiB, DDR Infiniband)

Graph algorithms: Unbalanced Tree Search³

GPI outperforms MPI in the Unbalanced Tree Search (UTS) benchmark by a maximum factor of 2.5 in terms of raw performance. The UTS benchmark is designed to evaluate the performance and the ease of programming for parallel applications requiring dynamic load balancing. These applications are characterized by unpredictable communication, unpredictable synchronization and dynamic work granularity. The one sided communication paradigm of GPI perfectly fits these requirements and allows for the fastest UTS implementation ever.



UTS (geometric tree of 270 billion nodes): performance (Xeon X5670, 16 GiB, QDR Infiniband)

¹ Leicht, T.; Vollmer, D.; Jägersküpper, J.; Schwöppe, A.; Hartmann, R.; Fiedler, J.; Schlauch, T.: DLR-Project Digital-X: Next generation CFD solver „Flucs“. Deutscher Luft- und Raumfahrtkongress 2016, 13.–15. Sept. 2016, Braunschweig (D)

² Nakamura, Y.; Stuben, H.: BQCD – Berlin Quantum Chromo Dynamics Program, PoS, LATTICE 2010:40, 2010

³ Machado, R.; Lojewski, C.; Abreu, S.; Pfreundt, F.-J.: Unbalanced tree search on a manycore system using the GPI programming model, ISC'11