UPC++: An Asynchronous RMA/RPC Library for Distributed C++ Applications

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Some motivating applications

PGAS well-suited to applications that use irregular data structures

- Sparse matrix methods
- Adaptive mesh refinement
- Graph problems, distributed hash tables

Processes may send different amounts of information to other processes

The amount can be data dependent, dynamic

Courtesy of Jim Demmel
The impact of fine-grained communication

The first exascale systems will appear soon

- In the USA: **Frontier** (2021) [https://tinyurl.com/y2ptx3th](https://tinyurl.com/y2ptx3th)

Some apps employ *fine-grained* communication

- Messages are short, so the overhead term dominates communication time \( \alpha + F(\beta^{-1}_\infty, n) \)
- They are latency-limited, and latency is only improving slowly

Memory per core is dropping, an effect that can force more frequent fine-grained communication

We need to reduce communication costs

- **Asynchronous communication and execution are critical**
- But we also need to keep overhead costs to a minimum
Reducing communication overhead

What if we could let each process directly access one another’s memory via a global pointer?

- We don’t need to match sends to receives
- We don’t need to guarantee message ordering
- There are no unexpected messages

Communication is **one-sided**

- All metadata provided by the initiator, rather than split between sender and receiver

Looks like shared memory

Observation: modern network hardware provides the capability to directly access memory on another node: Remote Direct Memory Access (RDMA)

- Can be compiled to load/store if source and target share physical memory
RMA performance: GASNet-EX vs MPI-3

Three different MPI implementations

Two distinct network hardware types

On these four systems the performance of GASNet-EX meets or exceeds MPI RMA:

- 8-byte Put latency 6% to 55% better
- 8-byte Get latency 5% to 45% better
- Better flood bandwidth efficiency, typically saturating at ½ or ¼ the transfer size (next slide)

GASNet-EX results from v2018.9.0 and v2019.6.0. MPI results from Intel MPI Benchmarks v2018.1. For more details see Languages and Compilers for Parallel Computing (LCPC’18). [https://doi.org/10.25344/S4QP4W](https://doi.org/10.25344/S4QP4W)

More recent results on Summit here replace the paper’s results from the older Summitdev.
RMA performance: GASNet-EX vs MPI-3

Uni-directional Flood Bandwidth (many-at-a-time)
RMA microbenchmarks

Experiments on NERSC Cori:
- Cray XC40 system

Two processor partitions:
- Intel Haswell (2 x 16 cores per node)
- Intel KNL (1 x 68 cores per node)

Round-trip Put Latency (lower is better)
Flood Put Bandwidth (higher is better)

Data collected on Cori Haswell (https://doi.org/10.25344/S4V88H)
The PGAS model

**Partitioned Global Address Space**

- Support global visibility of storage, leveraging the network’s RDMA capability
- Distinguish private and shared memory
- Separate synchronization from data movement

Languages that support PGAS: UPC, Titanium, Chapel, X10, Co-Array Fortran (Fortran 2008)

Libraries that support PGAS: Habanero UPC++, OpenSHMEM, Co-Array C++, Global Arrays, DASH, MPI-RMA

This presentation is about UPC++, a C++ library developed at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Execution model: SPMD

Like MPI, UPC++ uses a SPMD model of execution, where a fixed number of processes run the same program.

```cpp
int main() {
    upcxx::init();
    cout << "Hello from " << upcxx::rank_me() << endl;
    upcxx::barrier();
    if (upcxx::rank_me() == 0) cout << "Done." << endl;
    upcxx::finalize();
}
```
A Partitioned Global Address Space

Global Address Space

- Processes may read and write *shared segments* of memory
- Global address space = union of all the shared segments

Partitioned

- *Global pointers* to objects in shared memory have an affinity to a particular process
- Explicitly managed by the programmer to optimize for locality
- In conventional shared memory, pointers do not encode affinity
Global vs. raw pointers

We can create data structures with embedded global pointers

Raw C++ pointers can be used on a process to refer to objects in the global address space that have affinity to that process
What is a global pointer?

A global pointer carries both an address and the affinity for the data

Parameterized by the type of object it points to, as with a C++ (raw) pointer: e.g. `global_ptr<double>`

The affinity identifies the process that created the object
How does UPC++ deliver the PGAS model?

A “Compiler-Free,” library approach
- UPC++ leverages C++ standards, needs only a standard C++ compiler

Relies on GASNet-EX for low-overhead communication
- Efficiently utilizes the network, whatever that network may be, including any special-purpose offload support
- Active messages efficiently support Remote Procedure Calls (RPCs), which are expensive to implement in other models
- Enables portability (laptops to supercomputers)

Designed to allow interoperation with existing programming systems
- Same process model as MPI, enabling hybrid applications
- OpenMP and CUDA can be mixed with UPC++ in the same way as MPI+X
What does UPC++ offer?

Asynchronous behavior based on futures/promises

- **RMA**: Low overhead, zero-copy, one-sided communication. Get/put to a remote location in another address space.
- **RPC**: Remote Procedure Call: move computation to the data

Design principles encourage performant program design

- All communication is syntactically explicit
- All communication is asynchronous: futures and promises
- Scalable data structures that avoid unnecessary replication
Asynchronous communication

By default, all communication operations are split-phased

- **Initiate** operation
- **Wait** for completion
  A future holds a value and a state: ready/not-ready

```cpp
global_ptr<int> gptr1 = ...;
future<int> f1 = rget(gptr1);
// unrelated work...
int t1 = f1.wait();
```

Wait returns the result when the rget completes
Remote procedure call

Execute a function on another process, sending arguments and returning an optional result

1. Initiator injects the RPC to the target process
2. Target process executes \( fn(arg1, arg2) \) at some later time determined at the target
3. Result becomes available to the initiator via the future

Many RPCs can be active simultaneously, hiding latency

```
upcxx::rpc(target, fn, arg1, arg2)
```
#include <iostream>
#include <upcxx/upcxx.hpp>
using namespace std;

int main() {
  upcxx::init();
  cout << "Hello world from process "
       << upcxx::rank_me()
       << " out of " << upcxx::rank_n()
       << " processes" << endl;
  upcxx::finalize();
}

Hello world from process 0 out of 4 processes
Hello world from process 2 out of 4 processes
Hello world from process 3 out of 4 processes
Hello world from process 1 out of 4 processes
Using UPC++ at DOE Centers

ALCF's Theta
$ module use /projects/CSC250STPM17/modulefiles
$ module load upcxx

NERSC's Cori
$ module load upcxx

OLCF's Summit
$ module use $WORLDWORK/csc296/summit/modulefiles
$ module load upcxx

More info and examples for all three centers are available from upcxx.lbl.gov/wiki/docs/site-docs

Works on laptops, workstations and clusters too.
Compiling and running a UPC++ program

UPC++ provides tools for ease-of-use

Compiler wrapper:

$ upcxx -g hello-world.cpp -o hello-world.exe

• Invokes a normal backend C++ compiler with the appropriate arguments (such as -I, -L, -l).
• We also provide other mechanisms for compiling (upcxx-meta, CMake package).

Launch wrapper:

$ upcxx-run -np 4 ./hello-world.exe

• Arguments similar to other familiar tools
• We also support launch using platform-specific tools, such as srun, jsrun and aprun.
Remote Procedure Calls (RPC)

Let’s say that process 0 performs this RPC

```cpp
int area(int a, int b) { return a * b; }
int rect_area = rpc(p, area, a, b).wait();
```

The target process \( p \) will execute the handler function `area()` at some later time determined at the target.

The result will be returned to process 0.
Hello world with RPC (synchronous)

We can rewrite hello world by having each process launch an RPC to process 0

```cpp
int main() {
    upcxx::init();
    for (int i = 0; i < upcxx::rank_n(); ++i) {
        if (upcxx::rank_me() == i) {
            upcxx::rpc(0, [](int rank) {
                cout << "Hello from process " << rank << endl;
            }, upcxx::rank_me()).wait();
        }
    }
    upcxx::barrier();
}
```

C++ lambda function

Wait for RPC to complete before continuing

Rank number is the argument to the lambda

Barrier prevents any process from proceeding until all have reached it
Futures

RPC returns a *future* object, which represents a computation that may or may not be complete.

Calling `wait()` on a future causes the current process to wait until the future is ready.

```
upcxx::future<> fut = upcxx::rpc(0, [](int rank) {
    cout << "Hello from process "
    << rank << endl;
}, upcxx::rank_me());

fut.wait();
```
What is a future?

A future is a handle to an asynchronous operation, which holds:

- The status of the operation
- The results (zero or more values) of the completed operation

The future is not the result itself, but a proxy for it.

The `wait()` method blocks until a future is ready and returns the result.

```cpp
cupcxx::future<int> fut = /* ... */;
int result = fut.wait();
```

The `then()` method can be used instead to attach a callback to the future.
Overlapping communication

Rather than waiting on each RPC to complete, we can launch every RPC and then wait for each to complete.

```cpp
vector<upcxx::future<int>> results;
for (int i = 0; i < upcxx::rank_n(); ++i) {
    upcxx::future<int> fut = upcxx::rpc(i, []() {
        return upcxx::rank_me();
    });
    results.push_back(fut);
}
for (auto fut : results) {
    cout << fut.wait() << endl;
}
```

We'll see better ways to wait on groups of asynchronous operations later.
1D 3-point Jacobi in UPC++

Iterative algorithm that updates each grid cell as a function of its old value and those of its immediate neighbors.

Out-of-place computation requires two grids:

```c
for (long i = 1; i < N - 1; ++i)
    new_grid[i] = 0.25 * (old_grid[i - 1] + 2 * old_grid[i] + old_grid[i + 1]);
```

Sample data distribution of each grid (12 domain elements, 3 ranks, $N=12/3+2=6$):
Jacobi boundary exchange (version 1)

RPCs can refer to static variables, so we use them to keep track of the grids

double *old_grid, *new_grid;

double get_cell(long i) {
  return old_grid[i];
}

...

double val = rpc(right, get_cell, 1).wait();

* We will generally elide the upcxx:: qualifier from here on out.
Jacobi computation (version 1)

We can use RPC to communicate boundary cells

```cpp
future<double> left_ghost = rpc(left, get_cell, N-2);
future<double> right_ghost = rpc(right, get_cell, 1);

for (long i = 2; i < N - 2; ++i)
    new_grid[i] = 0.25 *
        (old_grid[i-1] + 2*old_grid[i] + old_grid[i+1]);

new_grid[1] = 0.25 *
    (left_ghost.wait() + 2*old_grid[1] + old_grid[2]);

new_grid[N-2] = 0.25 *

std::swap(old_grid, new_grid);
```
Race conditions

Since processes are unsynchronized, it is possible that a process can move on to later iterations while its neighbors are still on previous ones

- One-sided communication decouples data movement from synchronization for better performance

A *straggler* in iteration $i$ could obtain data from a neighbor that is computing iteration $i + 2$, resulting in incorrect values

This behavior is unpredictable and may not be observed in testing
Naïve solution: barriers

Barriers at the end of each iteration provide sufficient synchronization

```cpp
future<double> left_ghost = rpc(left, get_cell, N-2);
future<double> right_ghost = rpc(right, get_cell, 1);
for (long i = 2; i < N - 2; ++i)
  /* ... */;

new_grid[1] = 0.25 *
  (left_ghost.wait() + 2*old_grid[1] + old_grid[2]);
new_grid[N-2] = 0.25 *

barrier();
std::swap(old_grid, new_grid);
barrier();
```

Barriers around the swap ensure that incoming RPCs in both this iteration and the next one use the correct grids
One-sided put and get (RMA)

UPC++ provides APIs for one-sided puts and gets

Implemented using network RDMA if available – most efficient way to move large payloads

- Scalar put and get:
  
  ```cpp
  global_ptr<int> remote = /* ... */;
  future<int> fut1 = rget(remote);
  int result = fut1.wait();
  future<> fut2 = rput(42, remote);
  fut2.wait();
  ```

- Vector put and get:
  
  ```cpp
  int *local = /* ... */;
  future<> fut3 = rget(remote, local, count);
  fut3.wait();
  future<> fut4 = rput(local, remote, count);
  fut4.wait();
  ```
Jacobi with ghost cells

Each process maintains *ghost cells* for data from neighboring processes.

Assuming we have *global pointers* to our neighbor grids, we can do a one-sided put or get to communicate the ghost data:

```cpp
double *my_grid;
global_ptr<double> left_grid_gptr, right_grid_gptr;
my_grid[0] = rget(left_grid_gptr + N - 2).wait();
my_grid[N-1] = rget(right_grid_gptr + 1).wait();
```
Storage management

Memory must be allocated in the shared segment in order to be accessible through RMA

global_ptr<double> old_grid_gptr, new_grid_gptr;
...
old_grid_gptr = new_array<double>(N);
new_grid_gptr = new_array<double>(N);

These are not collective calls - each process allocates its own memory, and there is no synchronization

• Explicit synchronization may be required before retrieving another process's pointers with an RPC

UPC++ does not maintain a symmetric heap

• The pointers must be communicated to other processes before they can access the data
Downcasting global pointers

If a process has direct load/store access to the memory referenced by a global pointer, it can downcast the global pointer into a raw pointer with `local()`

```cpp
global_ptr<double> old_grid_gptr, new_grid_gptr;
double *old_grid, *new_grid;
```

```cpp
void make_grids(size_t N) {
    old_grid_gptr = new_array<double>(N);
    new_grid_gptr = new_array<double>(N);
    old_grid = old_grid_gptr.local();
    new_grid = new_grid_gptr.local();
}
```

Later, we will see how downcasting can be used with processes that share physical memory.
Jacobi RMA with gets

Each process obtains boundary data from its neighbors with \texttt{rget()}

\begin{verbatim}
future<> left_get = rget(left_old_grid + N - 2,
        old_grid, 1);
future<> right_get = rget(right_old_grid + 1,
        old_grid + N - 1, 1);

for (long i = 2; i < N - 2; ++i)
    /* ... */;

left_get.wait();
new_grid[1] = 0.25 *
    (old_grid[0] + 2*old_grid[1] + old_grid[2]);

right_get.wait();
new_grid[N-2] = 0.25 *
\end{verbatim}
Callbacks

The `then()` method attaches a callback to a future

- The callback will be invoked after the future is ready, with the future’s values as its arguments

```cpp
future<> left_update = rget(left_old_grid + N - 2, old_grid, 1)
    .then([]() {
        new_grid[1] = 0.25 *
            (old_grid[0] + 2*old_grid[1] + old_grid[2]);
    });

future<> right_update = rget(right_old_grid + N - 2)
    .then([](double value) {
        new_grid[N-2] = 0.25 *
            (old_grid[N-3] + 2*old_grid[N-2] + value);
    });
```

Vector get does not produce a value

Scalar get produces a value
Chaining callbacks

Callbacks can be chained through calls to `then()`

```cpp
global_ptr<int> source = /* ... */;
global_ptr<double> target = /* ... */;
future<int> fut1 = rget(source);
future<double> fut2 = fut1.then([](int value) {
    return std::log(value);
});
future<> fut3 =
    fut2.then([&target](double value) {
        return rput(value, target);
    });
fut3.wait();
```

This code retrieves an integer from a remote location, computes its log, and then sends it to a different remote location.
Conjoining futures

Multiple futures can be *conjoined* with `when_all()` into a single future that encompasses all their results.

Can be used to specify multiple dependencies for a callback.

```cpp
global_ptr<int> source1 = /* ... */;
global_ptr<double> source2 = /* ... */;
global_ptr<double> target = /* ... */;
future<int> fut1 = rget(source1);
future<double> fut2 = rget(source2);
future<int, double> both = when_all(fut1, fut2);
future<> fut3 =
    both.then([target](int a, double b) {
        return rput(a * b, target);
    });
fut3.wait();
```
Jacobi RMA with puts and conjoining

Each process sends boundary data to its neighbors with `rput()`, and the resulting futures are conjoined

```cpp
future<> puts = when_all(
    rput(old_grid[1], left_old_grid + N - 1),
    rput(old_grid[N-2], right_old_grid));

for (long i = 2; i < N - 2; ++i)
    /* ... */;
puts.wait();
barrier();
```

Ensure outgoing puts have completed
Ensure incoming puts have completed

```cpp
new_grid[1] = 0.25 *
    (old_grid[0] + 2*old_grid[1] + old_grid[2]);
new_grid[N-2] = 0.25 *
```
Distributed objects

A *distributed object* is an object that is partitioned over a set of processes

\[
\text{dist_object}<\text{T}>(\text{T value}, \text{team } \& \text{team} = \text{world}());
\]

The processes share a universal name for the object, but each has its own local value

Similar in concept to a co-array, but with advantages

- Scalable metadata representation
- Does not require a symmetric heap
- No communication to set up or tear down
- Can be constructed over teams

```cpp
dist_object<int>
all_nums(rand());
```
Bootstrapping the communication

Since allocation is not collective, we must arrange for each process to obtain pointers to its neighbors' grids.

We can use a distributed object to do so:

```cpp
using ptr_pair = std::pair<global_ptr<double>,
                            global_ptr<double>>;

dist_object<ptr_pair> dobj({old_grid_gptr,
                            new_grid_gptr});

std::tie(right_old_grid, right_new_grid) =
    dobj.fetch(right).wait();

// equivalent to the statement above:
// ptr_pair result = dobj.fetch(right).wait();
// right_old_grid = result.first;
// right_new_grid = result.second;

barrier();
```

Ensures distributed objects are not destructed until all ranks have completed their fetches.
Implicit synchronization

The future returned by `fetch()` is not readied until the distributed object has been constructed on the target, allowing its value to be read.

- This allows us to avoid explicit synchronization between the creation and the `fetch()`

```cpp
using ptr_pair = std::pair<global_ptr<double>, global_ptr<double>>;
dist_object<ptr_pair> dobj({old_grid_gptr, new_grid_gptr});

std::tie(right_old_grid, right_new_grid) = dobj.fetch(right).wait();

barrier();
```

The result of `fetch()` is obtained after the `dist_object` is constructed on the target.
Distributed hash table (DHT)

Distributed analog of `std::unordered_map`

- Supports insertion and lookup
- We will assume the key and value types are `string`
- Represented as a collection of individual unordered maps across processes
- We use RPC to move hash-table operations to the owner
DHT data representation

A distributed object represents the directory of unordered maps

class DistrMap {
    using dobj_map_t = dist_object<unordered_map<string, string>>;

    // Construct empty map
    dobj_map_t local_map{{}};

    int get_target_rank(const string &key) {
        return std::hash<string>{{}(key) % rank_n();
    }
};

Computes owner for the given key
DHT insertion

Insertion initiates an RPC to the owner and returns a future that represents completion of the insert.

```cpp
future<> insert(const string &key, const string &val) {
    return rpc(get_target_rank(key),
               [] (dobj_map_t &lmap, const string &key, const string &val) {
                   (*lmap)[key] = val;
               }, local_map, key, val);
}
```

UPC++ uses the distributed object's universal name to look it up on the remote process.

Key and value passed as arguments to the remote function.
DHT find

Find also uses RPC and returns a future

```cpp
future<string> find(const string &key) {
    return rpc(get_target_rank(key),
               [](dobj_map_t &lmap, const string &key) {
                  if (lmap->count(key) == 0)
                      return string("NOT FOUND");
                  else
                      return (*lmap)[key];
               }, local_map, key);
}
```
Optimized DHT scales well

Excellent weak scaling up to 32K cores [IPDPS19]

• Randomly distributed keys

RPC and RMA lead to simplified and more efficient design

• Key insertion and storage allocation handled at target
• Without RPC, complex updates would require explicit synchronization and two-sided coordination

Cori @ NERSC (KNL)
Cray XC40
RPC and progress

Review: high-level overview of an RPC's execution
1. Initiator injects the RPC to the target process
2. Target process executes \( \text{fn}(\text{arg1, arg2}) \) at some later time determined at the target
3. Result becomes available to the initiator via the future

*Progress* is what ensures that the RPC is eventually executed at the target

```
1 upcxx::rpc(target, fn, arg1, arg2)
2 Execute fn(arg1, arg2) on process target
3 Result available via a future
```
Progress

UPC++ does not spawn hidden threads to advance its internal state or track asynchronous communication.

This design decision keeps the runtime lightweight and simplifies synchronization.

- RPCs are run in series on the main thread at the target process, avoiding the need for explicit synchronization.

The runtime relies on the application to invoke a progress function to process incoming RPCs and invoke callbacks.

Two levels of progress:

- Internal: advances UPC++ internal state but no notification.
- User: also notifies the application:
  - Readying futures, running callbacks, invoking inbound RPCs.
Invoking user-level progress

The `progress()` function invokes user-level progress

- So do blocking calls such as `wait()` and `barrier()`

A program invokes user-level progress when it expects local callbacks and remotely invoked RPCs to execute

- Enables the user to decide how much time to devote to progress, and how much to devote to computation

User-level progress executes some number of outstanding received RPC functions

- “Some number” could be zero, so may need to periodically invoke when expecting callbacks
- Callbacks may not wait on communication, but may chain new callbacks on completion of communication
Remote atomic operations are supported with an atomic domain. Atomic domains enhance performance by utilizing hardware offload capabilities of modern networks. The domain dictates the data type and operation set:

```cpp
atomic_domain<int64_t> dom({atomic_op::load, atomic_op::min, atomic_op::fetch_add});
```

- Support int64_t, int32_t, uint64_t, uint32_t, float, double

Operations are performed on global pointers and are asynchronous:

```cpp
global_ptr<int64_t> ptr = new<int64_t>(0);
future<int64_t> f = dom.fetch_add(ptr, 2, memory_order_relaxed);
int64_t res = f.wait();
```
Serialization

RPC’s transparently *serialize* shipped data

- Conversion between in-memory and byte-stream representations

  - `serialize` → `transfer` → `deserialize` → `invoke`

  - **sender** → **target**

Conversion makes byte copies for C-compatible types

- `char`, `int`, `double`, `struct{double;double;}`, ...

Serialization works with most STL container types

- `vector<int>`, `string`, `vector<list<pair<int,float>>>`, ...

- **Hidden cost**: containers deserialized at target (copied) before being passed to RPC function
Views

UPC++ *views* permit optimized handling of collections in RPCs, without making unnecessary copies

- **view**<T>: non-owning sequence of elements

When deserialized by an RPC, the `view` elements can be accessed directly from the internal network buffer, rather than constructing a container at the target

```cpp
vector<float> mine = /* ... */;
rpc_ff(dest_rank, [](view<float> theirs) {
    for (float scalar : theirs)
        /* consume each */
},
    make_view(mine)
);
```

- **Cheap view construction**
- **Process elements directly from the network buffer**
Shared memory hierarchy and local_team

Memory systems on supercomputers are hierarchical

- Some process pairs are “closer” than others
- Ex: cabinet > switch > node > NUMA domain > socket > core

Traditional PGAS model is a “flat” two-level hierarchy

- “same process” vs “everything else”

UPC++ adds an intermediate hierarchy level

- local_team() – a team corresponding to a physical node
- These processes share a physical memory domain
  - Shared segments are CPU load/store accessible across processes in the same local_team

![Diagram showing memory segments and local_teams](image)
**Downcasting and shared-memory bypass**

Earlier we covered downcasting global pointers

- Converting `global_ptr<T>` from this process to raw C++ `T*`
- Also works for `global_ptr<T>` from any process in `local_team()`

```cpp
int l_id = local_team().rank_me();
int l_cnt = local_team().rank_n();
global_ptr<int> gp_data;
```

```
if (l_id == 0) gp_data = new_array<int>(l_cnt);  // Allocate and share one array per node
gp_data = broadcast(gp_data, 0, local_team()).wait();
```

```
int *lp_data = gp_data.local();  // Downcast to get raw C++ ptr to shared array
lp_data[l_id] = l_id;  // Direct store to shared array created by node leader
```

![Diagram showing global address space and local_team nodes with lp_data and l_id values](image-url)
local_team() allows optimizing co-located processes for physically shared memory in two major ways:

- Memory scalability
  - Need only one copy per node for replicated data
  - E.g. Cori KNL has 272 hardware threads/node
- Load/store bypass – avoid explicit communication overhead for RMA on local shared memory
  - Downcast global_ptr to raw C++ pointer
  - Avoid extra data copies and communication overheads
Completion: synchronizing communication

Earlier we synchronized communication using futures:

```cpp
future<int> fut = rget(remote_gptr);
int result = fut.wait();
```

This is just the default form of synchronization

- Most communication ops take a defaulted completion argument
- More explicit:
  ```cpp
  rget(gptr, operation_cx::as_future());
  ```
  - Requests future-based notification of operation completion

Other completion arguments may be passed to modify behavior

- Can trigger different actions upon completion, e.g.:
  - Signal a promise, inject an RPC, etc.
  - Can even combine several completions for the same operation

Can also detect other “intermediate” completion steps

- For example, source completion of an RMA put or RPC
Completion: promises

A *promise* represents the producer side of an asynchronous operation

- A future is the consumer side of the operation

By default, communication operations create an implicit promise and return an associated future

Instead, we can create our own promise and register it with multiple communication operations

```cpp
void do_gets(global_ptr<int> *gps, int *dst, int cnt) {
    promise<> p;
    for (int i = 0; i < cnt; ++i)
        rget(gps[i], dst+i, 1, operation_ctx::as_promise(p));
    future<> fut = p.finalize();
    fut.wait();
}
```

Register an operation on a promise

Close registration and obtain an associated future
Completion: "signaling put"

One particularly interesting case of completion:

```cpp
rput(src_lptr, dest_gp, count,
remote_cx::as_rpc([=]()
{ // callback runs at target after put arrives
    compute(dest_gp, count);
});
```

- Performs an RMA put, informs the target upon arrival
  - RPC callback to inform the target and/or process the data
  - Implementation can transfer both the RMA and RPC with a single network-level operation in many cases
  - Couples data transfer w/sync like message-passing
  - BUT can deliver payload using RDMA without rendezvous (because initiator specified destination address)
Memory Kinds

Supercomputers are becoming increasingly heterogeneous in compute, memory, storage

UPC++ memory kinds enable sending data between different kinds of memory/storage media

API is meant to be flexible, but initially supports memory copies between remote or local CUDA GPU devices and remote or local host memory

```cpp
global_ptr<int, memory_kind::cuda_device> src = ...;
global_ptr<int, memory_kind::cuda_device> dst = ...;
copy(src, dst, N).wait();
```

Can point to memory on a local or remote GPU
Non-contiguous RMA

We’ve seen contiguous RMA
  • Single-element
  • Dense 1-d array

Some apps need sparse RMA access
  • Could do this with loops and fine-grained access
  • More efficient to pack data and aggregate communication
  • We can automate and streamline the pack/unpack

Three different APIs to balance metadata size vs. generality
  • Irregular: iovec-style iterators over pointer+length
  • Regular: iterators over pointers with a fixed length
  • Strided: N-d dense array copies + transposes
UPC++ additional resources

Website: [upcxx.lbl.gov](http://upcxx.lbl.gov) includes the following content:

- Open-source/free library implementation
  - Portable from laptops to supercomputers
- Tutorial resources at [upcxx.lbl.gov/training](http://upcxx.lbl.gov/training)
  - UPC++ Programmer’s Guide
  - Videos and exercises from past tutorials
- Formal UPC++ specification
  - All the semantic details about all the features
- Links to various UPC++ publications
- Links to optional extensions and partner projects
- Contact information for support
Application case studies

UPC++ has been used successfully in several applications to improve programmer productivity and runtime performance.

We discuss two specific applications:

- **symPack**, a solver for sparse symmetric matrices
- **MetaHipMer**, a genome assembler
Sparse multifrontal direct linear solver

Sparse matrix factorizations have low computational intensity and irregular communication patterns

**Extend-add** operation is an important building block for **multifrontal sparse solvers**

Sparse factors are organized as a hierarchy of condensed matrices called **frontal matrices**

Four sub-matrices: **factors + contribution block**

Code available as part of upcxx-extras
BitBucket git repo

Details in IPDPS’19 paper:
Implementation of the extend-add operation

Data is binned into per-destination contiguous buffers

Traditional MPI implementation uses MPI_Alltoallv

- Variants: MPI_Isend/MPI_Irecv + MPI_Waitall/MPI_Waitany

UPC++ Implementation:

- RPC sends child contributions to the parent using a UPC++ view
- RPC callback compares indices and accumulates contributions on the target

Details in IPDPS’19 https://doi.org/10.25344/S4V88H
UPC++ improves sparse solver performance
Experiments done on Cori Haswell

Run times for audikw_1

Time (s)

Processes

Max speedup over mpi_alltoallv: 1.79x

Assembly trees / frontal matrices extracted from STRUMPACK

Details in IPDPS’19 https://doi.org/10.25344/S4V88H
UPC++ improves sparse solver performance
Experiments done on Cori KNL

Run times for audikw_1

Time (s)

Processes

10^2
10^1
10^0

Down is good

Max speedup over mpi_alltoallv: 1.63x

Assembly trees / frontal matrices extracted from STRUMPACK

Details in IPDPS’19 https://doi.org/10.25344/S4V88H
1) Data is produced
2) Notifications using `upcxx::rpc_ff`
   - Enqueues a `upcxx::global_ptr` to the data
   - Manages dependency count
3) When all data is available, task is moved in the data available task list
4) Data is moved using `upcxx::rget`
   - Once transfer is complete, update dependency count
5) When everything has been transferred, task is moved to the ready tasks list
symPACK: a solver for sparse symmetric matrices

Matrix is distributed by supernodes
- 1D distribution
  - Balances flops, memory
  - Lacks strong scalability
- New 2D distribution (to appear)
  - Explicit load balancing, not regular block cyclic mapping
  - Balances flops, memory
  - Finer granularity task graph

Strong scalability on Cori Haswell:
- Up to 3x speedup for Serena
- Up to 2.5x speedup for DG_Phosphorene_14000

UPC++ enables the finer granularity task graph to be fully exploited
- Better strong scalability

Work and results by Mathias Jacquelin,
funded by SciDAC CompCat and FASTMath
symPACK strong scaling experiment
NERSC Cori Haswell

Run times for Flan_1565

Max speedup: 1.85x

Processes:
- N=1,564,794
- nnz(L)=1,574,541,576

Time (s)
symPACK strong scaling experiment
NERSC Cori Haswell

Run times for audikw_1

Time (s)

Processes

N=943,695  \text{nnz}(L)=1,261,342,196

Max speedup: 2.13x

Down is good
UPC++ provides productivity + performance for sparse solvers

Productivity

- RPC allowed very simple notify-get system
- Interoperates with MPI
- Non-blocking API

Reduced communication costs

- Low overhead reduces the cost of fine-grained communication
- Overlap communication via asynchrony and futures
- Increased efficiency in the extend-add operation
- Outperform state-of-the-art sparse symmetric solvers

http://upcxx.lbl.gov
http://sympack.org
ExaBiome / MetaHipMer distributed hashmap

Memory-limited graph stages
• k-mers, contig, scaffolding

Optimized graph construction
• Larger messages for better network bandwidth
ExaBiome / MetaHipMer distributed hashmap

Memory-limited graph stages
• k-mers, contig, scaffolding

Optimized graph construction
• Larger messages for better network bandwidth

---

![Graph showing bandwidth per thread vs message size in bytes]

- Large message, high bandwidth
- Small message, low bandwidth
ExaBiome / MetaHipMer distributed hashmap

Aggregated store

- Buffer calls to dist_hash::update(key, value)
- Send fewer but larger messages to target rank
API - AggrStore<FuncDistObject, T>

```cpp
struct FunctionObject {
    void operator()(T &elem) { /* do something */ }
};
using FuncDistObject = upcxx::dist_object<FunctionObject>;

// AggrStore holds a reference to func
AggrStore(FuncDistObj &func);
~AggrStore() { clear(); }

// clear all internal memory
void clear();

// allocate all internal memory for buffering
void set_size(size_t max_bytes);

// add one element to the AggrStore
void update(intrank_t target_rank, T &elem);

// flush and quiesce
void flush_updates();
```
MetaHipMer utilized UPC++ features

C++ templates - efficient code reuse

**dist_object** - as a templated functor & data store

Asynchronous all-to-all exchange - not batch sync

- 5x improvement at scale over previous MPI implementation

Future-chained workflow

- Multi-level RPC messages
- Send by node, then by process

Promise & fulfill - for a fixed-size memory footprint

- Issue promise when full, fulfill when available
UPC++ additional resources

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