

Original text from MPI-3.1

3.2.2 Message Data

The send buffer specified by the MPI_SEND operation consists of `count` successive entries of the type indicated by `datatype`, starting with the entry at address `buf`. Note that we specify the message length in terms of number of *elements*, not number of *bytes*. The former is machine independent and closer to the application level.

The data part of the message consists of a sequence of `count` values, each of the type indicated by `datatype`. `count` may be zero, in which case the data part of the message is empty. The basic datatypes that can be specified for message data values correspond to the basic datatypes of the host language. Possible values of this argument for Fortran and the corresponding Fortran types are listed in Table 3.1.

MPI datatype	Fortran datatype
MPI_INTEGER	INTEGER
MPI_REAL	REAL
MPI_DOUBLE_PRECISION	DOUBLE PRECISION
MPI_COMPLEX	COMPLEX
MPI_LOGICAL	LOGICAL
MPI_CHARACTER	CHARACTER(1)
MPI_BYTE	
MPI_PACKED	

Table 3.1: Predefined MPI datatypes corresponding to Fortran datatypes

Possible values for this argument for C and the corresponding C types are listed in Table 3.2.

The datatypes MPI_BYTE and MPI_PACKED do not correspond to a Fortran or C datatype. A value of type MPI_BYTE consists of a byte (8 binary digits). A byte is uninterpreted and is different from a character. Different machines may have different representations for characters, or may use more than one byte to represent characters. On the other hand, a byte has the same binary value on all machines. The use of the type MPI_PACKED is explained in Section 4.2.

MPI requires support of these datatypes, which match the basic datatypes of Fortran and ISO C. Additional MPI datatypes should be provided if the host language has additional data types: MPI_DOUBLE_COMPLEX for double precision complex in Fortran declared to be of type DOUBLE COMPLEX; MPI_REAL2, MPI_REAL4, and MPI_REAL8 for Fortran reals, declared to be of type REAL*2, REAL*4 and REAL*8, respectively; MPI_INTEGER1, MPI_INTEGER2, and MPI_INTEGER4 for Fortran integers, declared to be of type INTEGER*1, INTEGER*2, and INTEGER*4, respectively; etc.

Rationale. One goal of the design is to allow for MPI to be implemented as a library, with no need for additional preprocessing or compilation. Thus, one cannot assume that a communication call has information on the datatype of variables in the communication buffer; this information must be supplied by an explicit argument. The need for such datatype information will become clear in Section 3.3.2. (*End of rationale.*)

The datatypes MPI_AINT, MPI_OFFSET, and MPI_COUNT correspond to the MPI-defined C types MPI_Aint, MPI_Offset, and MPI_Count and their Fortran equivalents

MPI datatype	C datatype
MPI_CHAR	char (treated as printable character)
MPI_SHORT	signed short int
MPI_INT	signed int
MPI_LONG	signed long int
MPI_LONG_LONG_INT	signed long long int
MPI_LONG_LONG (as a synonym)	signed long long int
MPI_SIGNED_CHAR	signed char (treated as integral value)
MPI_UNSIGNED_CHAR	unsigned char (treated as integral value)
MPI_UNSIGNED_SHORT	unsigned short int
MPI_UNSIGNED	unsigned int
MPI_UNSIGNED_LONG	unsigned long int
MPI_UNSIGNED_LONG_LONG	unsigned long long int
MPI_FLOAT	float
MPI_DOUBLE	double
MPI_LONG_DOUBLE	long double
MPI_WCHAR	wchar_t (defined in <stddef.h> (treated as printable character)
MPI_C_BOOL	_Bool
MPI_INT8_T	int8_t
MPI_INT16_T	int16_t
MPI_INT32_T	int32_t
MPI_INT64_T	int64_t
MPI_UINT8_T	uint8_t
MPI_UINT16_T	uint16_t
MPI_UINT32_T	uint32_t
MPI_UINT64_T	uint64_t
MPI_C_COMPLEX	float _Complex
MPI_C_FLOAT_COMPLEX (as a synonym)	float _Complex
MPI_C_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	double _Complex
MPI_C_LONG_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	long double _Complex
MPI_BYTE	
MPI_PACKED	

Table 3.2: Predefined MPI datatypes corresponding to C datatypes

INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND), INTEGER (KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND), and INTEGER (KIND=MPI_COUNT_KIND). This is described in Table 3.3. All predefined datatype handles are available in all language bindings. See Sections 17.2.6 and 17.2.10 on page 658 and 666 for information on interlanguage communication with these types.

If there is an accompanying C++ compiler then the datatypes in Table 3.4 are also supported in C and Fortran.

MPI datatype	C datatype	Fortran datatype
MPI_AINT	MPI_Aint	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND)
MPI_OFFSET	MPI_Offset	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND)
MPI_COUNT	MPI_Count	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_COUNT_KIND)

Table 3.3: Predefined MPI datatypes corresponding to both C and Fortran datatypes

MPI datatype	C++ datatype
MPI_CXX_BOOL	bool
MPI_CXX_FLOAT_COMPLEX	std::complex<float>
MPI_CXX_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	std::complex<double>
MPI_CXX_LONG_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	std::complex<long double>

Table 3.4: Predefined MPI datatypes corresponding to C++ datatypes

3.2.3 Message Envelope

In addition to the data part, messages carry information that can be used to distinguish messages and selectively receive them. This information consists of a fixed number of fields, which we collectively call the **message envelope**. These fields are

source
destination
tag
communicator

The message source is implicitly determined by the identity of the message sender. The other fields are specified by arguments in the send operation.

The message destination is specified by the **dest** argument.

The integer-valued message tag is specified by the **tag** argument. This integer can be used by the program to distinguish different types of messages. The range of valid tag values is $0, \dots, \text{UB}$, where the value of **UB** is implementation dependent. It can be found by querying the value of the attribute `MPI_TAG_UB`, as described in Chapter 8. MPI requires that **UB** be no less than 32767.

The **comm** argument specifies the **communicator** that is used for the send operation. Communicators are explained in Chapter 6; below is a brief summary of their usage.

A communicator specifies the communication context for a communication operation. Each communication context provides a separate “communication universe”: messages are always received within the context they were sent, and messages sent in different contexts do not interfere.

The communicator also specifies the set of processes that share this communication context. This **process group** is ordered and processes are identified by their rank within this group. Thus, the range of valid values for **dest** is $0, \dots, n-1 \cup \{\text{MPI_PROC_NULL}\}$, where n is the number of processes in the group. (If the communicator is an inter-communicator, then destinations are identified by their rank in the remote group. See Chapter 6.)

A predefined communicator `MPI_COMM_WORLD` is provided by MPI. It allows communication with all processes that are accessible after MPI initialization and processes are identified by their rank in the group of `MPI_COMM_WORLD`.

Named Predefined Datatypes	Fortran types
C type: MPI_Datatype Fortran type: INTEGER or TYPE(MPI_Datatype)	
MPI_INTEGER	INTEGER
MPI_REAL	REAL
MPI_DOUBLE_PRECISION	DOUBLE PRECISION
MPI_COMPLEX	COMPLEX
MPI_LOGICAL	LOGICAL
MPI_CHARACTER	CHARACTER(1)
MPI_AINT	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND)
MPI_COUNT	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_COUNT_KIND)
MPI_OFFSET	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND)
MPI_BYTE	(any Fortran type)
MPI_PACKED	(any Fortran type)

Named Predefined Datatypes ¹	C++ types
C type: MPI_Datatype Fortran type: INTEGER or TYPE(MPI_Datatype)	
MPI_CXX_BOOL	bool
MPI_CXX_FLOAT_COMPLEX	std::complex<float>
MPI_CXX_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	std::complex<double>
MPI_CXX_LONG_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	std::complex<long double>

¹ If an accompanying C++ compiler is missing, then the MPI datatypes in this table are not defined.

Optional datatypes (Fortran)	Fortran types
C type: MPI_Datatype Fortran type: INTEGER or TYPE(MPI_Datatype)	
MPI_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	DOUBLE COMPLEX
MPI_INTEGER1	INTEGER*1
MPI_INTEGER2	INTEGER*2
MPI_INTEGER4	INTEGER*4
MPI_INTEGER8	INTEGER*8
MPI_INTEGER16	INTEGER*16
MPI_REAL2	REAL*2
MPI_REAL4	REAL*4
MPI_REAL8	REAL*8
MPI_REAL16	REAL*16
MPI_COMPLEX4	COMPLEX*4
MPI_COMPLEX8	COMPLEX*8
MPI_COMPLEX16	COMPLEX*16
MPI_COMPLEX32	COMPLEX*32

New / proposed text

Tables and text have been moved around.

The modified text has been colored red, but the text movement has not been specifically annotated – compare it to the original 3.1 text to see the movement.

3.2.2 Message Data

The send buffer specified by the MPI_SEND operation consists of `count` successive entries of the type indicated by `datatype`, starting with the entry at address `buf`. Note that we specify the message length in terms of number of *elements*, not number of *bytes*. The former is machine independent and closer to the application level.

The data part of the message consists of a sequence of `count` values, each of the type indicated by `datatype`. `count` may be zero, in which case the data part of the message is empty. The basic datatypes that can be specified for message data values correspond to the basic datatypes of the host language. Possible values of this argument for C and the corresponding C types are listed in Table 3.1.

If there is an accompanying Fortran compiler, then the datatypes in Table 3.2 are also supported.

Similarly, if there is an accompanying C++ compiler, then the datatypes in Table 3.3 are also supported.

The datatypes MPI_BYTE and MPI_PACKED do not correspond to a Fortran or C datatype. A value of type MPI_BYTE consists of a byte (8 binary digits). A byte is uninterpreted and is different from a character. Different machines may have different representations for characters, or may use more than one byte to represent characters. On the other hand, a byte has the same binary value on all machines. The use of the type MPI_PACKED is explained in Section 4.2.

MPI requires support of these datatypes, which match the basic datatypes of ISO C and, if an accompanying compiler is available, Fortran. Additional MPI datatypes should be provided if the host language has additional data types: MPI_DOUBLE_COMPLEX for double precision complex in Fortran declared to be of type DOUBLE COMPLEX; MPI_REAL2, MPI_REAL4, and MPI_REAL8 for Fortran reals, declared to be of type REAL*2, REAL*4 and REAL*8, respectively; MPI_INTEGER1, MPI_INTEGER2, and MPI_INTEGER4 for Fortran integers, declared to be of type INTEGER*1, INTEGER*2, and INTEGER*4, respectively; etc.

Rationale. One goal of the design is to allow for MPI to be implemented as a library, with no need for additional preprocessing or compilation. Thus, one cannot assume that a communication call has information on the datatype of variables in the communication buffer; this information must be supplied by an explicit argument. The need for such datatype information will become clear in Section 3.3.2. (*End of rationale.*)

The datatypes MPI_AINT, MPI_OFFSET, and MPI_COUNT correspond to the MPI-defined C types MPI_Aint, MPI_Offset, and MPI_Count and their Fortran equivalents INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND), INTEGER (KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND), and INTEGER (KIND=MPI_COUNT_KIND). This is described in Table 3.4. All supported predefined datatype handles are available in all supported language bindings. See Sections 17.2.6 and 17.2.10 on page 658 and 666 for information on interlanguage communication with these types.

3.2.3 Message Envelope

In addition to the data part, messages carry information that can be used to distinguish messages and selectively receive them. This information consists of a fixed number of fields, which we collectively call the **message envelope**. These fields are

MPI datatype	C datatype
MPI_CHAR	char (treated as printable character)
MPI_SHORT	signed short int
MPI_INT	signed int
MPI_LONG	signed long int
MPI_LONG_LONG_INT	signed long long int
MPI_LONG_LONG (as a synonym)	signed long long int
MPI_SIGNED_CHAR	signed char (treated as integral value)
MPI_UNSIGNED_CHAR	unsigned char (treated as integral value)
MPI_UNSIGNED_SHORT	unsigned short int
MPI_UNSIGNED	unsigned int
MPI_UNSIGNED_LONG	unsigned long int
MPI_UNSIGNED_LONG_LONG	unsigned long long int
MPI_FLOAT	float
MPI_DOUBLE	double
MPI_LONG_DOUBLE	long double
MPI_WCHAR	wchar_t (defined in <stddef.h> (treated as printable character)
MPI_C_BOOL	_Bool
MPI_INT8_T	int8_t
MPI_INT16_T	int16_t
MPI_INT32_T	int32_t
MPI_INT64_T	int64_t
MPI_UINT8_T	uint8_t
MPI_UINT16_T	uint16_t
MPI_UINT32_T	uint32_t
MPI_UINT64_T	uint64_t
MPI_C_COMPLEX	float _Complex
MPI_C_FLOAT_COMPLEX (as a synonym)	float _Complex
MPI_C_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	double _Complex
MPI_C_LONG_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	long double _Complex
MPI_BYTE	
MPI_PACKED	

Table 3.1: Predefined MPI datatypes corresponding to C datatypes

source
destination
tag
communicator

The message source is implicitly determined by the identity of the message sender. The other fields are specified by arguments in the send operation.

MPI datatype	Fortran datatype
MPI_INTEGER	INTEGER
MPI_REAL	REAL
MPI_DOUBLE_PRECISION	DOUBLE PRECISION
MPI_COMPLEX	COMPLEX
MPI_LOGICAL	LOGICAL
MPI_CHARACTER	CHARACTER(1)
MPI_BYTE	
MPI_PACKED	

Table 3.2: Predefined MPI datatypes corresponding to Fortran datatypes

MPI datatype	C++ datatype
MPI_CXX_BOOL	bool
MPI_CXX_FLOAT_COMPLEX	std::complex<float>
MPI_CXX_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	std::complex<double>
MPI_CXX_LONG_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	std::complex<long double>

Table 3.3: Predefined MPI datatypes corresponding to C++ datatypes

The message destination is specified by the `dest` argument.

The integer-valued message tag is specified by the `tag` argument. This integer can be used by the program to distinguish different types of messages. The range of valid tag values is $0, \dots, UB$, where the value of `UB` is implementation dependent. It can be found by querying the value of the attribute `MPI_TAG_UB`, as described in Chapter 8. MPI requires that `UB` be no less than 32767.

The `comm` argument specifies the **communicator** that is used for the send operation. Communicators are explained in Chapter 6; below is a brief summary of their usage.

A communicator specifies the communication context for a communication operation. Each communication context provides a separate “communication universe”: messages are always received within the context they were sent, and messages sent in different contexts do not interfere.

The communicator also specifies the set of processes that share this communication context. This **process group** is ordered and processes are identified by their rank within this group. Thus, the range of valid values for `dest` is $0, \dots, n-1 \cup \{MPI_PROC_NULL\}$, where n is the number of processes in the group. (If the communicator is an inter-communicator, then destinations are identified by their rank in the remote group. See Chapter 6.)

A predefined communicator `MPI_COMM_WORLD` is provided by MPI. It allows communication with all processes that are accessible after MPI initialization and processes are identified by their rank in the group of `MPI_COMM_WORLD`.

Advice to users. Users that are comfortable with the notion of a flat name space for processes, and a single communication context, as offered by most existing communication libraries, need only use the predefined variable `MPI_COMM_WORLD` as the `comm` argument. This will allow communication with all the processes available at initialization time.

MPI datatype	C datatype	Fortran datatype
MPI_AINT	MPI_Aint	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND)
MPI_OFFSET	MPI_Offset	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND)
MPI_COUNT	MPI_Count	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_COUNT_KIND)

Table 3.4: Predefined MPI datatypes corresponding to both C and Fortran datatypes

Users may define new communicators, as explained in Chapter 6. Communicators provide an important encapsulation mechanism for libraries and modules. They allow modules to have their own disjoint communication universe and their own process numbering scheme. (*End of advice to users.*)

Advice to implementors. The message envelope would normally be encoded by a fixed-length message header. However, the actual encoding is implementation dependent. Some of the information (e.g., source or destination) may be implicit, and need not be explicitly carried by messages. Also, processes may be identified by relative ranks, or absolute ids, etc. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

3.2.4 Blocking Receive

The syntax of the blocking receive operation is given below.

`MPI_RECV (buf, count, datatype, source, tag, comm, status)`

OUT	buf	initial address of receive buffer (choice)
IN	count	number of elements in receive buffer (non-negative integer)
IN	datatype	datatype of each receive buffer element (handle)
IN	source	rank of source or MPI_ANY_SOURCE (integer)
IN	tag	message tag or MPI_ANY_TAG (integer)
IN	comm	communicator (handle)
OUT	status	status object (Status)

```
int MPI_Recv(void* buf, int count, MPI_Datatype datatype, int source,
            int tag, MPI_Comm comm, MPI_Status *status)
```

```
MPI_Recv(buf, count, datatype, source, tag, comm, status, ierror)
```

```
TYPE(*), DIMENSION(..) :: buf
INTEGER, INTENT(IN) :: count, source, tag
TYPE(MPI_Datatype), INTENT(IN) :: datatype
TYPE(MPI_Comm), INTENT(IN) :: comm
TYPE(MPI_Status) :: status
INTEGER, OPTIONAL, INTENT(OUT) :: ierror
```

```
MPI_RECV(BUF, COUNT, DATATYPE, SOURCE, TAG, COMM, STATUS, IERROR)
```

```
<type> BUF(*)
```

Named Predefined Datatypes <small>[ticketJMS.]¹</small>	Fortran types
C type: MPI_Datatype Fortran type: INTEGER or TYPE(MPI_Datatype)	
MPI_INTEGER	INTEGER
MPI_REAL	REAL
MPI_DOUBLE_PRECISION	DOUBLE PRECISION
MPI_COMPLEX	COMPLEX
MPI_LOGICAL	LOGICAL
MPI_CHARACTER	CHARACTER(1)
MPI_AINT	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND)
MPI_COUNT	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_COUNT_KIND)
MPI_OFFSET	INTEGER (KIND=MPI_OFFSET_KIND)
MPI_BYTE	(any Fortran type)
MPI_PACKED	(any Fortran type)
<small>[ticketJMS.]¹ If an accompanying Fortran compiler is missing, then the <small>[ticketJMS.] MPI datatypes in this table are not defined.</small></small>	

Named Predefined Datatypes ¹	C++ types
C type: MPI_Datatype Fortran type: INTEGER or TYPE(MPI_Datatype)	
MPI_CXX_BOOL	bool
MPI_CXX_FLOAT_COMPLEX	std::complex<float>
MPI_CXX_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	std::complex<double>
MPI_CXX_LONG_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	std::complex<long double>

¹ If an accompanying C++ compiler is missing, then the MPI datatypes in this table are not defined.

Optional datatypes (Fortran) ^{[ticketJMS.]¹} Fortran types

C type: MPI_Datatype		1
Fortran type: INTEGER		2
or TYPE(MPI_Datatype)		3
MPI_DOUBLE_COMPLEX	DOUBLE COMPLEX	4
MPI_INTEGER1	INTEGER*1	5
MPI_INTEGER2	INTEGER*2	6
MPI_INTEGER4	INTEGER*4	7
MPI_INTEGER8	INTEGER*8	8
MPI_INTEGER16	INTEGER*16	9
MPI_REAL2	REAL*2	10
MPI_REAL4	REAL*4	11
MPI_REAL8	REAL*8	12
MPI_REAL16	REAL*16	13
MPI_COMPLEX4	COMPLEX*4	14
MPI_COMPLEX8	COMPLEX*8	15
MPI_COMPLEX16	COMPLEX*16	16
MPI_COMPLEX32	COMPLEX*32	17

^{[ticketJMS.]¹} If an accompanying Fortran compiler is missing, then the ^[ticketJMS.] MPI datatypes in this table are not defined.

Datatypes for reduction functions (C)

C type: MPI_Datatype		18
Fortran type: INTEGER or TYPE(MPI_Datatype)		19
MPI_FLOAT_INT		20
MPI_DOUBLE_INT		21
MPI_LONG_INT		22
MPI_2INT		23
MPI_SHORT_INT		24
MPI_LONG_DOUBLE_INT		25

Datatypes for reduction functions (Fortran)

C type: MPI_Datatype		26
Fortran type: INTEGER or TYPE(MPI_Datatype)		27
MPI_2REAL		28
MPI_2DOUBLE_PRECISION		29
MPI_2INTEGER		30

Reserved communicators

C type: MPI_Comm		31
Fortran type: INTEGER or TYPE(MPI_Comm)		32
MPI_COMM_WORLD		33
MPI_COMM_SELF		34

Communicator split type constants

C type: const int (or unnamed enum)		35
Fortran type: INTEGER		36
MPI_COMM_TYPE_SHARED		37

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