

*D R A F T*

Document for a Standard Message-Passing Interface

MPI-3 One Sided Working Group

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# Chapter 11

## One-Sided Communications

### 11.1 Introduction

Remote Memory Access (RMA) extends the communication mechanisms of MPI by allowing one process to specify all communication parameters, both for the sending side and for the receiving side. This mode of communication facilitates the coding of some applications with dynamically changing data access patterns where the data distribution is fixed or slowly changing. In such a case, each process can compute what data it needs to access or to update at other processes. [However, processes may not know which data in their own memory need to be accessed or to be updated by remote processes, and may not even know the identity of these processes.] However, the programmer may not be able to easily determine which data in a process may need to be accessed or to be updated by operations executed by a different process, and may not even know which processes may perform such updates. Thus, the transfer parameters are all available only on one side. Regular send/receive communication requires matching operations by sender and receiver. In order to issue the matching operations, an application needs to distribute the transfer parameters. This distribution may require all processes to participate in a time-consuming global computation, or to [periodically poll for potential communication requests to receive and act upon]poll for potential communication requests to receive and upon which to act periodically. The use of RMA communication mechanisms avoids the need for global computations or explicit polling. A generic example of this nature is the execution of an assignment of the form  $A = B(\text{map})$ , where  $\text{map}$  is a permutation vector, and  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $\text{map}$  are distributed in the same manner.

Message-passing communication achieves two effects: *communication* of data from sender to receiver; and *synchronization* of sender with receiver. The RMA design separates these two functions. [Three communication calls are provided: `MPI_PUT` (remote write), `MPI_GET` (remote read) and `MPI_ACCUMULATE` (remote update). A larger number of synchronization calls are provided that support different synchronization styles. The design is similar to that of weakly coherent memory systems: correct ordering of memory accesses has to be imposed by the user, using synchronization calls; the implementation can delay communication operations until the synchronization calls occur, for efficiency.] The following communication calls are provided:

- Remote write: `MPI_PUT`, `MPI_RPUT`
- Remote read: `MPI_GET`, `MPI_RGET`

- 1       • Remote update: `MPI_ACCUMULATE`, `MPI_RACCUMULATE`
- 2
- 3       • Remote read and update: `MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE`, `MPI_RGET_ACCUMULATE`,
- 4       and `MPI_FETCH_AND_OP`
- 5
- 6       • Remote atomic swap operations: `MPI_COMPARE_AND_SWAP`

7 This chapter refers to an operations set that includes all remote update, remote read and  
 ticket270. 8 update, and remote atomic swap operations as “accumulate” operations.

9 MPI supports two fundamentally different memory models: separate and unified. The  
 10 first model makes no assumption about memory consistency and is highly portable. This  
 11 model is similar to that of weakly coherent memory systems: the user must impose correct  
 ticket270. 12 ordering of memory accesses through synchronization calls[; for efficiency, the implementa-  
 13 tion can delay communication operations until the synchronization calls occur]. The second  
 14 model can exploit cache-coherent hardware and hardware-accelerated one-sided operations  
 ticket270. 15 that are commonly available in high-performance systems. [In this model, communication  
 16 can be independent of synchronization calls.] The two different models are discussed in  
 17 detail in Section 11.4. Both models support a large number of synchronization calls to  
 18 support different synchronization styles.

ticket270. 19 The design of the RMA functions allows implementors to take advantage [, in many  
 ticket270. 20 cases,] of fast or asynchronous communication mechanisms provided by various platforms,  
 21 such as coherent or noncoherent shared memory, DMA engines, hardware-supported put/get  
 ticket270. 22 operations, and communication coprocessors[, etc]. The most frequently used RMA com-  
 ticket0. 23 munication mechanisms can be layered on top of message-passing. [However, support for  
 ticket0. 24 asynchronous communication agents in software (handlers, threads, etc.) is needed, for cer-  
 ticket270. 25 tain RMA functions, in a distributed memory environment.]However, certain RMA functions  
 26 might need support for asynchronous communication agents in software (handlers, threads,  
 27 etc.) in a distributed memory environment.

28 We shall denote by **origin** the process that performs the call, and by **target** the  
 29 process in which the memory is accessed. Thus, in a put operation, source=origin and  
 30 destination=target; in a get operation, source=target and destination=origin.

## 31 32 11.2 Initialization

ticket270. 33 [The initialization operation]MPI provides three initialization functions,  
 34 `MPI_WIN_CREATE`, `MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE`, and `MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC` that are  
 ticket270. 35 collective on an intracommunicator. `MPI_WIN_CREATE` allows each process [in an intra-  
 ticket270. 36 communicator group] to specify [, in a collective operation,] a “window” in its memory  
 37 that is made accessible to accesses by remote processes. The call returns an opaque object  
 38 that represents the group of processes that own and access the set of windows, and the  
 39 attributes of each window, as specified by the initialization call. `MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE`  
 ticket270. 40 differs from `MPI_WIN_CREATE` in that the user does not pass allocated memory;  
 41 `MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE` returns a pointer to memory allocated by the MPI implementation.  
 42 `MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC` creates a window that allows the user to dynamically control  
 43 which memory is exposed by the window.  
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## 11.2.1 Window Creation

```
MPI_WIN_CREATE(base, size, disp_unit, info, comm, win)
```

IN	base	initial address of window (choice)	1
IN	size	size of window in bytes (non-negative integer)	2
IN	disp_unit	local unit size for displacements, in bytes (positive integer)	3
IN	info	info argument (handle)	4
IN	comm	intra-communicator (handle)	5
OUT	win	window object returned by the call (handle)	6

```
int MPI_Win_create(void *base, MPI_Aint size, int disp_unit, MPI_Info info,
                  MPI_Comm comm, MPI_Win *win)
```

```
MPI_WIN_CREATE(BASE, SIZE, DISP_UNIT, INFO, COMM, WIN, IERROR)
```

```
<type> BASE(*)
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) SIZE
INTEGER DISP_UNIT, INFO, COMM, WIN, IERROR
```

```
{static MPI::Win MPI::Win::Create(const void* base, MPI::Aint size, int
                                disp_unit, const MPI::Info& info, const MPI::Intracomm&
                                comm) (binding deprecated, see Section 15.2) }
```

This is a collective call executed by all processes in the group of `comm`. It returns a window object that can be used by these processes to perform RMA operations. Each process specifies a window of existing memory that it exposes to RMA accesses by the processes in the group of `comm`. The window consists of `size` bytes, starting at address `base`. A process may elect to expose no memory by specifying `size = 0`.

The displacement unit argument is provided to facilitate address arithmetic in RMA operations: the target displacement argument of an RMA operation is scaled by the factor `disp_unit` specified by the target process, at window creation.

*Rationale.* The window size is specified using an address sized integer, so as to allow windows that span more than 4 GB of address space. (Even if the physical memory size is less than 4 GB, the address range may be larger than 4 GB, if addresses are not contiguous.) (*End of rationale.*)

*Advice to users.* Common choices for `disp_unit` are 1 (no scaling), and (in C syntax) `sizeof(type)`, for a window that consists of an array of elements of type `type`. The later choice will allow one to use array indices in RMA calls, and have those scaled correctly to byte displacements, even in a heterogeneous environment. (*End of advice to users.*)

The `info` argument provides optimization hints to the runtime about the expected usage pattern of the window. The following info key[is]s are predefined:

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1 no\_locks — if set to true, then the implementation may assume that the local window is  
 2 never locked (by a call to MPI\_WIN\_LOCK or MPI\_WIN\_LOCK\_ALL). This implies  
 3 that this window is not used for 3-party communication, and RMA can be implemented  
 4 with no (less) asynchronous agent activity at this process.

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5 accumulate\_ordering — controls the ordering of accumulate operations at the target. See  
 6 Section 11.7.2 for details.

8 accumulate\_ops — if set to same\_op, the implementation will assume that all concurrent  
 9 accumulate calls to the same target address will use the same operation. If set to  
 10 same\_op\_no\_op, then the implementation will assume that all concurrent accumulate  
 11 calls to the same target address will use the same operation or MPI\_NO\_OP. This can  
 12 eliminate the need to protect access for certain operation types where the hardware  
 13 can guarantee atomicity. The default is same\_op\_no\_op.

14  
 15  
 16 *Advice to users.* If windows are passed to libraries, the user needs to ensure that  
 17 the info keys specified at window creation are communicated to the called library,  
 18 which might need to constrain the operations on the passed window. (*End of advice*  
 19 *to users.*)

20  
 21 The various processes in the group of comm may specify completely different target  
 22 windows, in location, size, displacement units and info arguments. As long as all the get,  
 23 put and accumulate accesses to a particular process fit their specific target window this  
 24 should pose no problem. The same area in memory may appear in multiple windows, each  
 25 associated with a different window object. However, concurrent communications to distinct,  
 26 overlapping windows may lead to [erroneous]undefined results.

27  
 28 *Rationale.* The reason for specifying the memory that may be accessed from another  
 29 process in an RMA operation is to permit the programmer to specify what memory  
 30 can be a target of RMA operations and for the implementation to enforce that spec-  
 31 ification. For example, with this definition, a server process can safely allow a client  
 32 process to use RMA operations, knowing that (under the assumption that the MPI  
 33 implementation does enforce the specified limits on the exposed memory) an error in  
 34 the client cannot affect any memory other than what was explicitly exposed. (*End of*  
 35 *rationale.*)

36  
 37 *Advice to users.* A window can be created in any part of the process memory.  
 38 However, on some systems, the performance of windows in memory allocated by  
 39 MPI\_ALLOC\_MEM (Section 8.2, page 296) will be better. Also, on some systems,  
 40 performance is improved when window boundaries are aligned at “natural” boundaries  
 41 (word, double-word, cache line, page frame, etc.). (*End of advice to users.*)

42  
 43 *Advice to implementors.* In cases where RMA operations use different mechanisms  
 44 in different memory areas (e.g., load/store in a shared memory segment, and an asyn-  
 45 chronous handler in private memory), the MPI\_WIN\_CREATE call needs to figure out  
 46 which type of memory is used for the window. To do so, MPI maintains, internally, the  
 47 list of memory segments allocated by MPI\_ALLOC\_MEM, or by other, implementa-  
 48 tion specific, mechanisms, together with information on the type of memory segment

allocated. When a call to `MPI_WIN_CREATE` occurs, then MPI checks which segment contains each window, and decides, accordingly, which mechanism to use for RMA operations.

Vendors may provide additional, implementation-specific mechanisms to allocate or to specify memory regions that are preferable for use in one-sided communication. In particular, such mechanisms can be used to place static variables into such preferred regions.

Implementors should document any performance impact of window alignment. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

### 11.2.2 Window That Allocates Memory

`MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE(size, disp_unit, info, comm, baseptr, win)`

IN	size	size of window in bytes (non-negative integer)
IN	disp_unit	local unit size for displacements, in bytes (positive integer)
IN	info	info argument (handle)
IN	comm	intra-communicator (handle)
OUT	baseptr	initial address of window (choice)
OUT	win	window object returned by the call (handle)

```
int MPI_Win_allocate(MPI_Aint size, int disp_unit, MPI_Info info,
                    MPI_Comm comm, void *baseptr, MPI_Win *win)
```

```
MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE(SIZE, DISP_UNIT, INFO, COMM, BASEPTR, WIN, IERROR)
INTEGER DISP_UNIT, INFO, COMM, WIN, IERROR
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) SIZE, BASEPTR
```

This is a collective call executed by all processes in the group of `comm`. On each process, it allocates memory of at least `size` bytes, returns a pointer to it, and returns a window object that can be used by all processes in `comm` to perform RMA operations. The returned memory consists of `size` bytes local to each process, starting at address `baseptr` and is associated with the window as if the user called `MPI_WIN_CREATE` on existing memory. The size argument may be different at each process and `size = 0` is valid; however, a library might allocate and expose more memory in order to create a fast, globally symmetric allocation. The discussion of and rationales for `MPI_ALLOC_MEM` and `MPI_FREE_MEM` in Section 8.2 also apply to `MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE`; in particular, see the rationale in Section 8.2 for an explanation of the type used for `baseptr`.

*Rationale.* By allocating (potentially aligned) memory instead of allowing the user to pass in an arbitrary buffer, this call can improve the performance for systems with remote direct memory access significantly. This also permits the collective allocation of memory and supports what is sometimes called the “symmetric allocation” model that can be more scalable (for example, the implementation can arrange to return

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1 an address for the allocated memory that is the same on all processes). (*End of*  
 2 *rationale.*)

3  
 4 The `info` argument can be used to specify hints similar to the `info` argument for  
 5 `MPI_WIN_CREATE` and `MPI_ALLOC_MEM`. The following `info` key is predefined:

6 `same_size` — if set to true, then the implementation may assume that the argument `size` is  
 7 identical on all processes.

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### 10 11.2.3 Window of Dynamically Attached Memory

11  
 12 The MPI-2 RMA model requires the user to identify the local memory that may be a  
 13 target of RMA calls at the time the window is created. This has advantages for both the  
 14 programmer (only this memory can be updated by one-sided operations and provides greater  
 15 safety) and the MPI implementation (special steps may be taken to make one-sided access to  
 16 such memory more efficient). However, consider implementing a modifiable linked list using  
 17 RMA operations; as new items are added to the list, memory must be allocated. In a C or  
 18 C++ program, this memory is typically allocated using `malloc` or `new` respectively. In MPI-  
 19 2 RMA, the programmer must create a window with a predefined amount of memory and  
 20 then implement routines for allocating memory from within that memory. In addition, there  
 21 is no easy way to handle the situation where the predefined amount of memory turns out to  
 22 be inadequate. To support this model, the routine `MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC` creates a  
 23 window that makes it possible to expose memory without remote synchronization. It must  
 24 be used in combination with the local routines `MPI_WIN_ATTACH` and `MPI_WIN_DETACH`.

25  
 26 `MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC`(`info`, `comm`, `win`)

28	IN	<code>info</code>	info argument (handle)
29	IN	<code>comm</code>	intra-communicator (handle)
30			
31	OUT	<code>win</code>	window object returned by the call (handle)

32  
 33 `int MPI_Win_create_dynamic(MPI_Info info, MPI_Comm comm, MPI_Win *win)`

34 `MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC`(`INFO`, `COMM`, `WIN`, `IERROR`)  
 35 `INTEGER INFO, COMM, WIN, IERROR`

36  
 37 This is a collective call executed by all processes in the group of `comm`. It returns  
 38 a window `win` without memory attached. Existing process memory can be attached as  
 39 described below. This routine returns a window object that can be used by these processes to  
 40 perform RMA operations on attached memory. Because this window has special properties,  
 41 it will sometimes be referred to as a *dynamic* window.

42 The `info` argument can be used to specify hints similar to the `info` argument for  
 43 `MPI_WIN_CREATE`.

44 In the case of a window created with `MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC`, the `target_disp` for  
 45 all RMA functions is the address at the target; i.e., the effective `window_base` is `MPI_BOTTOM`  
 46 and the `disp_unit` is one. Users should use `MPI_GET_ADDRESS` at the target process to  
 47 determine the address of a target memory location and communicate this address to the  
 48 origin process.



*Advice to implementors.* In environments with heterogeneous data representations, care must be exercised in communicating addresses between processes. For example, it is possible that an address valid at the target process (for example, a 64-bit pointer) cannot be expressed as an address at the origin (for example, the origin uses 32-bit pointers). For this reason, a portable MPI implementation should ensure that the type MPI\_AINT (cf. Table 3.3 on Page 29) is able to store addresses from any process. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

Memory in this window may not be used as the target of one-sided accesses in this window until it is attached using the function MPI\_WIN\_ATTACH. That is, in addition to using MPI\_WIN\_CREATE\_DYNAMIC to create an MPI window, the user must use MPI\_WIN\_ATTACH before any local memory may be the target of an MPI RMA operation. Only memory that is currently accessible may be attached.

MPI\_WIN\_ATTACH(win, base, size)

IN	win	window object (handle)
IN	base	initial address of memory to be attached
IN	size	size of memory to be attached in bytes

int MPI\_Win\_attach(MPI\_Win win, void \*base, MPI\_Aint size)

MPI\_WIN\_ATTACH(WIN, BASE, SIZE, IERROR)

INTEGER WIN, IERROR

<type> [base]BASE(\*)

INTEGER (KIND=MPI\_ADDRESS\_[SIZE]KIND) [size]SIZE

Attaches a local memory region beginning at base for remote access within the given window. The memory region specified must not contain any part that is already attached to the window win, that is, attaching overlapping memory concurrently within the same window is erroneous. The argument win must be a window that was created with MPI\_WIN\_CREATE\_DYNAMIC. Multiple (but non-overlapping) memory regions may be attached to the same window.

*Rationale.* Requiring that memory be explicitly attached before it is exposed to one-sided access by other processes can significantly simplify implementations and improve performance. The ability to make memory available for RMA operations without requiring a collective MPI\_WIN\_CREATE call is needed for some one-sided programming models. (*End of rationale.*)

*Advice to users.* [Memory registration]Attaching memory to a window may require the use of scarce resources; thus, attaching large regions of memory is not recommended in portable programs. [Memory registration]Attaching memory to a window may fail if sufficient resources are not available; this is similar to the behavior of MPI\_ALLOC\_MEM.

The user is also responsible for ensuring that [memory registration]MPI\_WIN\_ATTACH at the target has [completed]returned before a process attempts to target that memory with an MPI RMA call.

Performing an RMA operation to memory that has not been attached [from] to a window created with `MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC` is erroneous. (*End of advice to users.*)

*Advice to implementors.* A high-quality implementation will attempt to make as much memory available for [registration] attaching as possible. Any limitations should be documented by the implementor. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

[Memory registration] Attaching memory is a local operation as defined by MPI, which means that the call is not collective and completes without requiring any MPI routine to be called in any other process. Memory may be detached with the routine `MPI_WIN_DETACH`. After memory has been detached, it may not be the target of an MPI RMA operation on that window (unless the memory is re-attached with `MPI_WIN_ATTACH`).

`MPI_WIN_DETACH(win, base)`

IN	win	window object (handle)
IN	base	initial address of memory to be detached

`int MPI_Win_detach(MPI_Win win, void *base)`

`MPI_WIN_DETACH(WIN, BASE, IERROR)`

INTEGER WIN, IERROR  
 <type> [base]BASE(\*)

Detaches a previously attached memory region beginning at `base`. The arguments `base` and `win` must match the arguments passed to a previous call to `MPI_WIN_ATTACH`.

*Advice to users.* Detaching memory may permit the implementation to make more efficient use of special memory or provide memory that may be needed by a subsequent `MPI_WIN_ATTACH`. Users are encouraged to detach memory that is no longer needed. Memory should be detached before it is freed by the user. (*End of advice to users.*)

Memory becomes detached when the associated dynamic memory window is freed, see Section 11.2.4.

#### 11.2.4 Window Destruction

`MPI_WIN_FREE(win)`

INOUT	win	window object (handle)
-------	-----	------------------------

`int MPI_Win_free(MPI_Win *win)`

`MPI_WIN_FREE(WIN, IERROR)`

INTEGER WIN, IERROR

{void MPI::Win::Free() (*binding deprecated, see Section 15.2*) }

Frees the window object `win` and returns a null handle (equal to `MPI_WIN_NULL`). This is a collective call executed by all processes in the group associated with `win`. `MPI_WIN_FREE(win)` can be invoked by a process only after it has completed its involvement in RMA communications on window `win`: [i.e.]e.g., the process has called `MPI_WIN_FENCE`, or called `MPI_WIN_WAIT` to match a previous call to `MPI_WIN_POST` or called `MPI_WIN_COMPLETE` to match a previous call to `MPI_WIN_START` or called `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK` to match a previous call to `MPI_WIN_LOCK`. [When the call returns, the window memory can be freed.]The memory associated with windows created by a call to `MPI_WIN_CREATE` may be freed after the call returns. If the window was created with `MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE`, `MPI_WIN_FREE` will free the window memory that was allocated in `MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE`. Freeing a window that was created with a call to `MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC` detaches all associated memory; i.e., it has the same effect as if all attached memory was detached by a call to `MPI_WIN_DETACH`.

*Advice to implementors.* `MPI_WIN_FREE` requires a barrier synchronization: no process can return from free until all processes in the group of `win` called free. This[,] is to ensure that no process will attempt to access a remote window (e.g., with lock/unlock) after it was freed. The only exception to this rule is when the user sets the `no_locks` info [argument]key to true when creating the window. In that case, the local window can be freed without barrier synchronization. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

### 11.2.5 Window Attributes

The following [three] attributes are cached with a window[,] when the window is created.

<code>MPI_WIN_BASE</code>	window base address.
<code>MPI_WIN_SIZE</code>	[ ]window size, in bytes.
<code>MPI_WIN_DISP_UNIT</code>	displacement unit associated with the window.
[ticket270.] <code>MPI_WIN_CREATE_FLAVOR</code>	how the window was created.
[ticket270.] <code>MPI_WIN_MODEL</code>	memory model for window.

In C, calls to `MPI_Win_get_attr(win, MPI_WIN_BASE, &base, &flag)`, `MPI_Win_get_attr(win, MPI_WIN_SIZE, &size, &flag)` [ and], `MPI_Win_get_attr(win, MPI_WIN_DISP_UNIT, &disp_unit, &flag)`, `MPI_Win_get_attr(win, MPI_WIN_CREATE_FLAVOR, &create_kind, &flag)`, and `MPI_Win_get_attr(win, MPI_WIN_MODEL, &memory_model, &flag)` will return in `base` a pointer to the start of the window `win`, and will return in `size` [ and], `disp_unit`, `create_kind`, and `memory_model` pointers to the size [ and], displacement unit of the window, the kind of routine used to create the window, and the memory model, respectively. [And similarly, in C++.]And similarly, in C++ (*binding deprecated, see Section 15.2*).

In Fortran, calls to `MPI_WIN_GET_ATTR(win, MPI_WIN_BASE, base, flag, ierror)`, `MPI_WIN_GET_ATTR(win, MPI_WIN_SIZE, size, flag, ierror)` [ and], `MPI_WIN_GET_ATTR(win, MPI_WIN_DISP_UNIT, disp_unit, flag, ierror)`, `MPI_WIN_GET_ATTR(win, MPI_WIN_CREATE_FLAVOR, create_kind, flag, ierror)`, and `MPI_WIN_GET_ATTR(win, MPI_WIN_MODEL, memory_model, flag, ierror)` will return in `base`, `size` [ and], `disp_unit` `create_kind` and `memory_model` the (integer representation of) the base address, the size [ and], the displacement unit of the window `win`, the kind of routine

used to create the window, and the memory model, respectively.

The values of `create_kind` are

<code>MPI_WIN_FLAVOR_CREATE</code>	Window was created with <code>MPI_WIN_CREATE</code> .
<code>MPI_WIN_FLAVOR_ALLOCATE</code>	Window was created with <code>MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE</code> .
<code>MPI_WIN_FLAVOR_DYNAMIC</code>	Window was created with <code>MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC</code> .

The values of `memory_model` are `MPI_WIN_SEPARATE` and `MPI_WIN_UNIFIED`. The meaning of these is described in Section 11.4.

In the case of windows created with `MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC`, the base address is `MPI_BOTTOM` and the size is 0. In C, pointers are returned and in Fortran, the values are returned, for the respective attributes. (The window attribute access functions are defined in Section 6.7.3, page 252.) The value returned for an attribute on a window is constant over the lifetime of the window.

The other “window attribute,” namely the group of processes attached to the window, can be retrieved using the call below.

`MPI_WIN_GET_GROUP(win, group)`

IN	<code>win</code>	window object (handle)
OUT	<code>group</code>	group of processes which share access to the window (handle)

`int MPI_Win_get_group(MPI_Win win, MPI_Group *group)`

`MPI_WIN_GET_GROUP(WIN, GROUP, IERROR)`

INTEGER WIN, GROUP, IERROR

{`MPI::Group MPI::Win::Get_group()` *const(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2)* }

`MPI_WIN_GET_GROUP` returns a duplicate of the group of the communicator used to create the window`[.]` associated with `win`. The group is returned in `group`.

### 11.3 Communication Calls

MPI supports [three]the following RMA communication calls: `MPI_PUT` [transfers]and `MPI_RPUT` transfer data from the caller memory (origin) to the target memory; `MPI_GET` [transfers]and `MPI_RGET` transfer data from the target memory to the caller memory; [and] `MPI_ACCUMULATE` [updates]and `MPI_RACCUMULATE` update locations in the target memory, e.g., by adding to these locations values sent from the caller memory`[.]`; `MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE`, `MPI_RGET_ACCUMULATE` and `MPI_FETCH_AND_OP` atomically return the data before the accumulate operation; and `MPI_COMPARE_AND_SWAP` performs a remote compare and swap operation. These operations are *nonblocking*: the call initiates the transfer, but the transfer may continue after the call returns. The transfer is completed, both at the origin and at the target, when a subsequent *synchronization* call is issued by the caller on the involved window object. These synchronization calls are described in Section 11.5, page 28. Transfers can also be completed with calls to flush routines; see Section 11.5.4, page 39 for details. For the `MPI_RPUT`, `MPI_RGET`, `MPI_RACCUMULATE`,

and `MPI_RGET_ACCUMULATE` calls, the transfer can be locally completed by using the MPI test or wait operations described in Section 3.7.3, page 53.

The local communication buffer of an RMA call should not be updated, and the local communication buffer of a get call should not be accessed after the RMA call[,] until the [subsequent synchronization call completes.]operation completes at the origin.

[It is erroneous to have concurrent conflicting accesses to the same memory location in a window ]The outcome of concurrent conflicting accesses to the same memory locations is undefined; if a location is updated by a put or accumulate operation, then [this location cannot be accessed by a load or another RMA operation ]the outcome of local loads or other RMA operations is undefined until the updating operation has completed at the target. There is one exception to this rule; namely, the same location can be updated by several concurrent accumulate calls, the outcome being as if these updates occurred in some order. In addition, [if a window cannot concurrently be updated by a put or accumulate operation and by a local store operation. This, even if these two updates access different locations in the window. The last restriction enables more efficient implementations of RMA operations on many systems. ]the outcome of concurrent local and RMA updates to the same memory location is undefined. These restrictions are described in more detail in Section 11.7, page 43.

The calls use general datatype arguments to specify communication buffers at the origin and at the target. Thus, a transfer operation may also gather data at the source and scatter it at the destination. However, all arguments specifying both communication buffers are provided by the caller.

For all [three]RMA calls, the target process may be identical with the origin process; i.e., a process may use an RMA operation to move data in its memory.

*Rationale.* The choice of supporting “self-communication” is the same as for message-passing. It simplifies some coding, and is very useful with accumulate operations, to allow atomic updates of local variables. (*End of rationale.*)

`MPI_PROC_NULL` is a valid target rank in [the MPI RMA calls `MPI_ACCUMULATE`, `MPI_GET`, and `MPI_PUT`]all MPI RMA communication calls. The effect is the same as for `MPI_PROC_NULL` in MPI point-to-point communication. After any RMA operation with rank `MPI_PROC_NULL`, it is still necessary to finish the RMA epoch with the synchronization method that started the epoch.

### 11.3.1 Put

The execution of a put operation is similar to the execution of a send by the origin process and a matching receive by the target process. The obvious difference is that all arguments are provided by one call — the call executed by the origin process.

```

1 MPI_PUT(origin_addr, origin_count, origin_datatype, target_rank, target_disp, target_count,
2 target_datatype, win)
3     IN     origin_addr           initial address of origin buffer (choice)
4     IN     origin_count          number of entries in origin buffer (non-negative integer)
5     IN     origin_datatype       datatype of each entry in origin buffer (handle)
6     IN     target_rank           rank of target (non-negative integer)
7     IN     target_disp           displacement from start of window to target buffer
8     IN     target_count          number of entries in target buffer (non-negative integer)
9     IN     target_datatype       datatype of each entry in target buffer (handle)
10    IN     win                   window object used for communication (handle)
11
12 int MPI_Put(void *origin_addr, int origin_count,
13             MPI_Datatype origin_datatype, int target_rank,
14             MPI_Aint target_disp, int target_count,
15             MPI_Datatype target_datatype, MPI_Win win)
16
17 MPI_PUT(ORIGIN_ADDR, ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK,
18         TARGET_DISP, TARGET_COUNT, TARGET_DATATYPE, WIN, IERROR)
19     <type> ORIGIN_ADDR(*)
20     INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) TARGET_DISP
21     INTEGER ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK, TARGET_COUNT,
22     TARGET_DATATYPE, WIN, IERROR
23
24 {void MPI::Win::Put(const void* origin_addr, int origin_count,
25                   const MPI::Datatype& origin_datatype, int target_rank,
26                   MPI::Aint target_disp, int target_count,
27                   const MPI::Datatype& target_datatype) const(binding deprecated,
28                   see Section 15.2) }
```

Transfers `origin_count` successive entries of the type specified by the `origin_datatype`, starting at address `origin_addr` on the origin node to the target node specified by the `win`, `target_rank` pair. The data are written in the target buffer at address `target_addr = window_base + target_disp × disp_unit`, where `window_base` and `disp_unit` are the base address and window displacement unit specified at window initialization, by the target process.

The target buffer is specified by the arguments `target_count` and `target_datatype`.

The data transfer is the same as that which would occur if the origin process executed a send operation with arguments `origin_addr`, `origin_count`, `origin_datatype`, `target_rank`, `tag`, `comm`, and the target process executed a receive operation with arguments `target_addr`, `target_count`, `target_datatype`, `source`, `tag`, `comm`, where `target_addr` is the target buffer address computed as explained above, **the values of tag are arbitrary valid matching tag values**, and `comm` is a communicator for the group of `win`.

The communication must satisfy the same constraints as for a similar message-passing communication. The `target_datatype` may not specify overlapping entries in the target

buffer. The message sent must fit, without truncation, in the target buffer. Furthermore, the target buffer must fit in the target window **or in attached memory in a dynamic window**.

The `target_datatype` argument is a handle to a datatype object defined at the origin process. However, this object is interpreted at the target process: the outcome is as if the target datatype object was defined at the target process[,] by the same sequence of calls used to define it at the origin process. The target datatype must contain only relative displacements, not absolute addresses. The same holds for `get` and `accumulate`. **In the case of windows created with `MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC`, displacements in the target datatype must be relative to `MPI_BOTTOM`.**

*Advice to users.* The `target_datatype` argument is a handle to a datatype object that is defined at the origin process, even though it defines a data layout in the target process memory. This causes no problems in a homogeneous environment, or in a heterogeneous environment[,] if only portable datatypes are used (portable datatypes are defined in Section 2.4, page 11).

The performance of a `put` transfer can be significantly affected, on some systems, [from]by the choice of window location and the shape and location of the origin and target buffer: transfers to a target window in memory allocated by `MPI_ALLOC_MEM` or `MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE` may be much faster on shared memory systems; transfers from contiguous buffers will be faster on most, if not all, systems; the alignment of the communication buffers may also impact performance. (*End of advice to users.*)

*Advice to implementors.* A high-quality implementation will attempt to prevent remote accesses to memory outside the window that was exposed by the process. This, both for debugging purposes, and for protection with client-server codes that use RMA. I.e., a high-quality implementation will check, if possible, window bounds on each RMA call, and raise an MPI exception at the origin call if an out-of-bound situation occurred. Note that the condition can be checked at the origin. Of course, the added safety achieved by such checks has to be weighed against the added cost of such checks. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

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### 11.3.2 Get

MPI\_GET(origin\_addr, origin\_count, origin\_datatype, target\_rank, target\_disp, target\_count, target\_datatype, win)

OUT	origin_addr	initial address of origin buffer (choice)
IN	origin_count	number of entries in origin buffer (non-negative integer)
IN	origin_datatype	datatype of each entry in origin buffer (handle)
IN	target_rank	rank of target (non-negative integer)
IN	target_disp	displacement from window start to the beginning of the target buffer (non-negative integer)
IN	target_count	number of entries in target buffer (non-negative integer)
IN	target_datatype	datatype of each entry in target buffer (handle)
IN	win	window object used for communication (handle)

```
int MPI_Get(void *origin_addr, int origin_count,
            MPI_Datatype origin_datatype, int target_rank,
            MPI_Aint target_disp, int target_count,
            MPI_Datatype target_datatype, MPI_Win win)
MPI_GET(ORIGIN_ADDR, ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK,
        TARGET_DISP, TARGET_COUNT, TARGET_DATATYPE, WIN, IERROR)
<type> ORIGIN_ADDR(*)
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) TARGET_DISP
INTEGER ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK, TARGET_COUNT,
TARGET_DATATYPE, WIN, IERROR
{void MPI::Win::Get(void *origin_addr, int origin_count,
                    const MPI::Datatype& origin_datatype, int target_rank,
                    MPI::Aint target_disp, int target_count,
                    const MPI::Datatype& target_datatype) const(binding deprecated,
                    see Section 15.2) }
```

Similar to MPI\_PUT, except that the direction of data transfer is reversed. Data are copied from the target memory to the origin. The origin\_datatype may not specify overlapping entries in the origin buffer. The target buffer must be contained within the target window **or within attached memory in a dynamic window**, and the copied data must fit, without truncation, in the origin buffer.

### 11.3.3 Examples for Communication Calls

These examples show the use of the MPI\_GET function. As all MPI RMA communication functions are nonblocking, they must be completed. In the following, this is accomplished with the routine MPI\_WIN\_FENCE, introduced in Section 11.5.



**Example 11.1** We show how to implement the generic indirect assignment  $A = B(\text{map})$ , where  $A$ ,  $B$  and  $\text{map}$  have the same distribution, and  $\text{map}$  is a permutation. To simplify, we assume a block distribution with equal size blocks.

```

SUBROUTINE MAPVALS(A, B, map, m, comm, p)
USE MPI
INTEGER m, map(m), comm, p
REAL A(m), B(m)

INTEGER otype(p), oindex(m),    & ! used to construct origin datatypes
      ttype(p), tindex(m),      & ! used to construct target datatypes
      count(p), total(p),      &
      win, ierr
INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) lowerbound, sizeofreal

! This part does the work that depends on the locations of B.
! Can be reused while this does not change

CALL MPI_TYPE_GET_EXTENT(MPI_REAL, lowerbound, sizeofreal, ierr)
CALL MPI_WIN_CREATE(B, m*sizeofreal, sizeofreal, MPI_INFO_NULL, &
      comm, win, ierr)

! This part does the work that depends on the value of map and
! the locations of the arrays.
! Can be reused while these do not change

! Compute number of entries to be received from each process

DO i=1,p
  count(i) = 0
END DO
DO i=1,m
  j = map(i)/m+1
  count(j) = count(j)+1
END DO

total(1) = 0
DO i=2,p
  total(i) = total(i-1) + count(i-1)
END DO

DO i=1,p
  count(i) = 0
END DO

! compute origin and target indices of entries.
! entry i at current process is received from location
! k at process (j-1), where map(i) = (j-1)*m + (k-1),

```

```

1  ! j = 1..p and k = 1..m
2
3  DO i=1,m
4      j = map(i)/m+1
5      k = MOD(map(i),m)+1
6      count(j) = count(j)+1
7      oindex(total(j) + count(j)) = i
8      tindex(total(j) + count(j)) = k
9  END DO
10
11 ! create origin and target datatypes for each get operation
12 DO i=1,p
13     CALL MPI_TYPE_CREATE_INDEXED_BLOCK(count(i), 1, oindex(total(i)+1), &
14                                         MPI_REAL, otype(i), ierr)
15     CALL MPI_TYPE_COMMIT(otype(i), ierr)
16     CALL MPI_TYPE_CREATE_INDEXED_BLOCK(count(i), 1, tindex(total(i)+1), &
17                                         MPI_REAL, ttype(i), ierr)
18     CALL MPI_TYPE_COMMIT(ttype(i), ierr)
19 END DO
20
21 ! this part does the assignment itself
22 CALL MPI_WIN_FENCE(0, win, ierr)
23 DO i=1,p
24     CALL MPI_GET(A, 1, otype(i), i-1, 0, 1, ttype(i), win, ierr)
25 END DO
26 CALL MPI_WIN_FENCE(0, win, ierr)
27
28 CALL MPI_WIN_FREE(win, ierr)
29 DO i=1,p
30     CALL MPI_TYPE_FREE(otype(i), ierr)
31     CALL MPI_TYPE_FREE(ttype(i), ierr)
32 END DO
33 RETURN
34 END

```

35 **Example 11.2** A simpler version can be written that does not require that a datatype  
36 be built for the target buffer. But, one then needs a separate get call for each entry, as  
37 illustrated below. This code is much simpler, but usually much less efficient, for large arrays.  
38

```

39 SUBROUTINE MAPVALS(A, B, map, m, comm, p)
40 USE MPI
41 INTEGER m, map(m), comm, p
42 REAL A(m), B(m)
43 INTEGER win, ierr
44 INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) lowerbound, sizeofreal
45
46 CALL MPI_TYPE_GET_EXTENT(MPI_REAL, lowerbound, sizeofreal, ierr)
47 CALL MPI_WIN_CREATE(B, m*sizeofreal, sizeofreal, MPI_INFO_NULL, &
48

```

```

                                comm, win, ierr)                                1
                                                                    2
CALL MPI_WIN_FENCE(0, win, ierr)                                          3
DO i=1,m                                                                    4
  j = map(i)/m                                                                5
  k = MOD(map(i),m)                                                            6
  CALL MPI_GET(A(i), 1, MPI_REAL, j, k, 1, MPI_REAL, win, ierr)            7
END DO                                                                        8
CALL MPI_WIN_FENCE(0, win, ierr)                                          9
CALL MPI_WIN_FREE(win, ierr)                                              10
RETURN                                                                      11
END                                                                           12

```

#### 11.3.4 Accumulate Functions

It is often useful in a put operation to combine the data moved to the target process with the data that resides at that process, rather than replacing the data there. This will allow, for example, the accumulation of a sum by having all involved processes add their contribution to the sum variable in the memory of one process. **The accumulate functions have slightly different semantics than the put and get functions; see Section 11.7 for details.**

##### Accumulate Function

```

MPI_ACCUMULATE(origin_addr, origin_count, origin_datatype, target_rank, target_disp,
target_count, target_datatype, op, win)

```

IN	origin_addr	initial address of buffer (choice)	27
IN	origin_count	number of entries in buffer (non-negative integer)	28
IN	origin_datatype	datatype of each entry (handle)	29
IN	target_rank	rank of target (non-negative integer)	30
IN	target_disp	displacement from start of window to beginning of target buffer (non-negative integer)	31
IN	target_count	number of entries in target buffer (non-negative integer)	32
IN	target_datatype	datatype of each entry in target buffer (handle)	33
IN	op	reduce operation (handle)	34
IN	win	window object (handle)	35

```

int MPI_Accumulate(void *origin_addr, int origin_count,
MPI_Datatype origin_datatype, int target_rank,
MPI_Aint target_disp, int target_count,
MPI_Datatype target_datatype, MPI_Op op, MPI_Win win)
MPI_ACCUMULATE(ORIGIN_ADDR, ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK,
TARGET_DISP, TARGET_COUNT, TARGET_DATATYPE, OP, WIN, IERROR)

```

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```

1     <type> ORIGIN_ADDR(*)
2     INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) TARGET_DISP
3     INTEGER ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK, TARGET_COUNT,
4     TARGET_DATATYPE, OP, WIN, IERROR
5
6     {void MPI::Win::Accumulate(const void* origin_addr, int origin_count,
7         const MPI::Datatype& origin_datatype, int target_rank,
8         MPI::Aint target_disp, int target_count,
9         const MPI::Datatype& target_datatype, const MPI::Op& op)
10        const(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2) }
```

Accumulate the contents of the origin buffer (as defined by `origin_addr`, `origin_count` and `origin_datatype`) to the buffer specified by arguments `target_count` and `target_datatype`, at offset `target_disp`, in the target window specified by `target_rank` and `win`, using the operation `op`. This is like `MPI_PUT` except that data is combined into the target area instead of overwriting it.

Any of the predefined operations for `MPI_REDUCE` can be used. User-defined functions cannot be used. For example, if `op` is `MPI_SUM`, each element of the origin buffer is added to the corresponding element in the target, replacing the former value in the target.

Each datatype argument must be a predefined datatype or a derived datatype, where all basic components are of the same predefined datatype. Both datatype arguments must be constructed from the same predefined datatype. The operation `op` applies to elements of that predefined type. **The parameter `target_datatype` must not specify overlapping entries, and the target buffer must fit in the target window.**

A new predefined operation, `MPI_REPLACE`, is defined. It corresponds to the associative function  $f(a, b) = b$ ; i.e., the current value in the target memory is replaced by the value supplied by the origin.

`MPI_REPLACE` can be used only in `MPI_ACCUMULATE`, `MPI_RACCUMULATE`, `MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE`, `MPI_FETCH_AND_OP`, and `MPI_RGET_ACCUMULATE`, but not in collective reduction operations[,] such as `MPI_REDUCE`.

*Advice to users.* `MPI_PUT` is similar to `MPI_ACCUMULATE`, with the operation `MPI_REPLACE`. Note, however, that `MPI_PUT` and `MPI_ACCUMULATE` have different constraints on concurrent updates. (*End of advice to users.*)

**Example 11.3** We want to compute  $B(j) = \sum_{\text{map}(i)=j} A(i)$ . The arrays `A`, `B` and `map` are distributed in the same manner. We write the simple version.

```

37 SUBROUTINE SUM(A, B, map, m, comm, p)
38 USE MPI
39 INTEGER m, map(m), comm, p, win, ierr
40 REAL A(m), B(m)
41 INTEGER (KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) lowerbound, sizeofreal
42
43 CALL MPI_TYPE_GET_EXTENT(MPI_REAL, lowerbound, sizeofreal, ierr)
44 CALL MPI_WIN_CREATE(B, m*sizeofreal, sizeofreal, MPI_INFO_NULL, &
45     comm, win, ierr)
46
47
48 CALL MPI_WIN_FENCE(0, win, ierr)
```

```

DO i=1,m                                1
  j = map(i)/m                            2
  k = MOD(map(i),m)                       3
  CALL MPI_ACCUMULATE(A(i), 1, MPI_REAL, j, k, 1, MPI_REAL,    & 4
                    MPI_SUM, win, ierr) 5
END DO                                    6
CALL MPI_WIN_FENCE(0, win, ierr)          7
                                           8
CALL MPI_WIN_FREE(win, ierr)              9
RETURN                                    10
END                                       11

```

This code is identical to the code in Example 11.2, page 16, except that a call to get has been replaced by a call to accumulate. (Note that, if `map` is one-to-one, then the code computes  $B = A(\text{map}^{-1})$ , which is the reverse assignment to the one computed in that previous example.) In a similar manner, we can replace in Example 11.1, page 15, the call to get by a call to accumulate, thus performing the computation with only one communication between any two processes.

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### Get Accumulate Function

It is often useful to have fetch-and-accumulate semantics such that the remote data is returned to the caller before the sent data is accumulated into the remote data. The get and accumulate steps are executed atomically for each basic element in the datatype (see Section 11.7 for details). The predefined operation `MPI_REPLACE` provides fetch-and-set behavior.

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```

1 MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE(origin_addr,  origin_count,  origin_datatype,  result_addr,
2 result_count, result_datatype, target_rank, target_disp, target_count, target_datatype, op, win)
3

```

4	IN	origin_addr	initial address of buffer (choice)
5	IN	origin_count	number of entries in origin buffer (non-negative integer)
6			
7			
8	IN	origin_datatype	datatype of each entry in origin buffer (handle)
9	OUT	result_addr	initial address of result buffer (choice)
10	IN	result_count	number of entries in result buffer (non-negative integer)
11			
12			
13	IN	result_datatype	datatype of each entry in result buffer (handle)
14	IN	target_rank	rank of target (non-negative integer)
15	IN	target_disp	displacement from start of window to beginning of target buffer (non-negative integer)
16			
17			
18	IN	target_count	number of entries in target buffer (non-negative integer)
19			
20	IN	target_datatype	datatype of each entry in target buffer (handle)
21	IN	op	reduce operation (handle)
22			
23	IN	win	window object (handle)

```

24
25 int MPI_Get_accumulate(void *origin_addr, int origin_count,
26 MPI_Datatype origin_datatype, void *result_addr,
27 int result_count, MPI_Datatype result_datatype,
28 int target_rank, MPI_Aint target_disp, int target_count,
29 MPI_Datatype target_datatype, MPI_Op op, MPI_Win win)
30
31 MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE(ORIGIN_ADDR, ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, RESULT_ADDR,
32 RESULT_COUNT, RESULT_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK, TARGET_DISP,
33 TARGET_COUNT, TARGET_DATATYPE, OP, WIN, IERROR)
34 <type> ORIGIN_ADDR(*), RESULT_ADDR(*)
35 INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) TARGET_DISP
36 INTEGER ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, RESULT_COUNT, RESULT_DATATYPE,
37 TARGET_RANK, TARGET_COUNT, TARGET_DATATYPE, OP, WIN, IERROR
38

```

Accumulate `origin_count` elements of type `origin_datatype` from the origin buffer (`origin_addr`) to the buffer at offset `target_disp`, in the target window specified by `target_rank` and `win`, using the operation `op` and return in the result buffer `result_addr` the content of the target buffer before the accumulation.

The origin and result buffers (`origin_addr` and `result_addr`) must be disjoint. Each datatype argument must be a predefined datatype or a derived datatype where all basic components are of the same predefined datatype. All datatype arguments must be constructed from the same predefined datatype. The operation `op` applies to elements of that predefined type. `target_datatype` must not specify overlapping entries, and the target buffer must fit in the target window or in attached memory in a dynamic window. The operation is executed atomically for each basic datatype; see Section 11.7 for details.

Any of the predefined operations for `MPI_REDUCE`, and `MPI_NO_OP` or `MPI_REPLACE` can be specified as `op`. User-defined functions cannot be used. A new predefined operation, `MPI_NO_OP`, is defined. It corresponds to the associative function  $f(a, b) = a$ ; i.e., the current value in the target memory is returned in the result buffer at the origin and no operation is performed on the target buffer. `MPI_NO_OP` can be used only in `MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE`, `MPI_RGET_ACCUMULATE`, and `MPI_FETCH_AND_OP`. `MPI_NO_OP` cannot be used in `MPI_ACCUMULATE`, `MPI_RACCUMULATE`, or collective reduction operations, such as `MPI_REDUCE` and others.

*Advice to users.* `MPI_GET` is similar to `MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE`, with the operation `MPI_NO_OP`. Note, however, that `MPI_GET` and `MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE` have different constraints on concurrent updates. (*End of advice to users.*)

### Fetch and Op Function

The generic functionality of `MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE` might significantly limit the performance of fetch-and-increment or fetch-and-add calls that might be supported by special hardware operations. `MPI_FETCH_AND_OP` thus allows for a fast implementation of a commonly used subset of the functionality of `MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE`.

`MPI_FETCH_AND_OP`(`origin_addr`, `result_addr`, `datatype`, `target_rank`, `target_disp`, `op`, `win`)

IN	<code>origin_addr</code>	initial address of buffer (choice)
OUT	<code>result_addr</code>	initial address of result buffer (choice)
IN	<code>datatype</code>	datatype of the entry in origin, result, and target buffers (handle)
IN	<code>target_rank</code>	rank of target (non-negative integer)
IN	<code>target_disp</code>	displacement from start of window to beginning of target buffer (non-negative integer)
IN	<code>op</code>	reduce operation (handle)
IN	<code>win</code>	window object (handle)

```
int MPI_Fetch_and_op(void *origin_addr, void *result_addr,
                    MPI_Datatype datatype, int target_rank, MPI_Aint target_disp,
                    MPI_Op op, MPI_Win win)
```

```
MPI_FETCH_AND_OP(ORIGIN_ADDR, RESULT_ADDR, DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK,
                 TARGET_DISP, OP, WIN, IERROR)
<type> ORIGIN_ADDR(*), RESULT_ADDR(*)
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) TARGET_DISP
INTEGER DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK, OP, WIN, IERROR
```

Accumulate one element of type `datatype` from the origin buffer (`origin_addr`) to the buffer at offset `target_disp`, in the target window specified by `target_rank` and `win`, using the operation `op` and return in the result buffer `result_addr` the content of the target buffer before the accumulation.

1 The origin and result buffers (`origin_addr` and `result_addr`) must be disjoint. Any of the  
 2 predefined operations for `MPI_REDUCE`, as well as `MPI_NO_OP` or `MPI_REPLACE`, can be  
 3 specified as `op`. User-defined functions cannot be used. The `datatype` argument must be a  
 4 predefined datatype. The operation is executed atomically.

### 6 Compare and Swap Function

7  
 8 Another useful operation is an atomic compare and swap where the value at the origin is  
 9 compared to the value at the target, which is atomically replaced by a third value only if  
 10 origin and target are equal.

11  
 12 `MPI_COMPARE_AND_SWAP`(`origin_addr`, `compare_addr`, `result_addr`, `datatype`, `target_rank`,  
 13 `target_disp`, `win`)

14	IN	<code>origin_addr</code>	initial address of buffer (choice)
15	IN	<code>compare_addr</code>	initial address of compare buffer (choice)
16	IN	<code>result_addr</code>	initial address of result buffer (choice)
17	OUT	<code>result_addr</code>	initial address of result buffer (choice)
18	IN	<code>datatype</code>	datatype of the element in all buffers (handle)
19	IN	<code>target_rank</code>	rank of target (non-negative integer)
20	IN	<code>target_rank</code>	rank of target (non-negative integer)
21	IN	<code>target_disp</code>	displacement from start of window to beginning of tar-
22			get buffer (non-negative integer)
23			
24	IN	<code>win</code>	window object (handle)

25  
 26 `int MPI_Compare_and_swap`(`void *origin_addr`, `void *compare_addr`,  
 27 `void *result_addr`, `MPI_Datatype datatype`, `int target_rank`,  
 28 `MPI_Aint target_disp`, `MPI_Win win`)

29 `MPI_COMPARE_AND_SWAP`(`ORIGIN_ADDR`, `COMPARE_ADDR`, `RESULT_ADDR`, `DATATYPE`,  
 30 `TARGET_RANK`, `TARGET_DISP`, `WIN`, `IERROR`)  
 31 `<type> ORIGIN_ADDR(*), COMPARE_ADDR(*), RESULT_ADDR(*)`  
 32 `INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) TARGET_DISP`  
 33 `INTEGER DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK, WIN, IERROR`  
 34

35 This function compares one element of type `datatype` in the compare buffer  
 36 `compare_addr` with the buffer at offset `target_disp` in the target window specified by  
 37 `target_rank` and `win` and replaces the value at the target with the value in the origin buffer  
 38 `origin_addr` if the compare buffer and the target buffer are identical. The original value at  
 39 the target is returned in the buffer `result_addr`. The parameter `datatype` must belong to  
 40 one of the following categories of predefined datatypes: C integer, Fortran integer, Logical,  
 41 [Complex, ]or Byte as specified in Section 5.9.2 on page 164[, or can be of type `MPI_AINT` or  
 42 `MPI_OFFSET`]. The origin and result buffers (`origin_addr` and `result_addr`) must be disjoint.  
 43 [ Any of the predefined operations for `MPI_REDUCE`, and `MPI_NO_OP` or `MPI_REPLACE`  
 44 can be specified as `op`. User-defined functions cannot be used. The outcome of accumulate  
 45 operations with overlapping types of different sizes or target displacements is undefined, see  
 46 Section 11.7.1. ]



### 11.3.5 Request-based RMA Communication Operations

Request-based RMA communication operations allow the user to associate a request handle with the RMA operations and test or wait for the completion of these requests using the functions described in Section 3.7.3, page 53. Request-based RMA operations are only valid within a passive-target epoch.

Upon returning from a completion call in which an RMA operation completes, the `MPI_ERROR` field in the associated status object is set appropriately (see Section 3.2.5 on page 31). The values of the `MPI_SOURCE` and `MPI_TAG` fields are undefined. It is valid to mix different request types ([i.e.]e.g., any combination of RMA requests, collective requests, I/O requests, generalized requests, or point-to-point requests) in functions that enable multiple completions (e.g., `MPI_WAITALL`). It is erroneous to call `MPI_REQUEST_FREE` or `MPI_CANCEL` for a request associated with an RMA operation. RMA requests are not persistent.

The end of the epoch, or explicit bulk synchronization using `MPI_WIN_FLUSH`, `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_ALL`, `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_LOCAL` or `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_LOCAL_ALL`, also indicates completion of the RMA operations. However, users must still wait or test on the request handle to allow the MPI implementation to clean up any resources associated with these requests; in such cases the wait operation will complete locally.

`MPI_RPUT(origin_addr, origin_count, origin_datatype, target_rank, target_disp, target_count, target_datatype, win, request)`

IN	<code>origin_addr</code>	initial address of origin buffer (choice)
IN	<code>origin_count</code>	number of entries in origin buffer (non-negative integer)
IN	<code>origin_datatype</code>	datatype of each entry in origin buffer (handle)
IN	<code>target_rank</code>	rank of target (non-negative integer)
IN	<code>target_disp</code>	displacement from start of window to target buffer (non-negative integer)
IN	<code>target_count</code>	number of entries in target buffer (non-negative integer)
IN	<code>target_datatype</code>	datatype of each entry in target buffer (handle)
IN	<code>win</code>	window object used for communication (handle)
OUT	<code>request</code>	RMA request (handle)

```
int MPI_Rput(void *origin_addr, int origin_count,
             MPI_Datatype origin_datatype, int target_rank,
             MPI_Aint target_disp, int target_count,
             MPI_Datatype target_datatype, MPI_Win win,
             MPI_Request *request)
MPI_RPUT(ORIGIN_ADDR, ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK,
        TARGET_DISP, TARGET_COUNT, TARGET_DATATYPE, WIN, REQUEST,
        IERROR)
<type> ORIGIN_ADDR(*)
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```

1     INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) TARGET_DISP
2     INTEGER ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK, TARGET_COUNT,
3     TARGET_DATATYPE, WIN, REQUEST, IERROR

```

MPI\_RPUT is similar to MPI\_PUT (Section 11.3.1), except that it allocates a communication request object and associates it with the request handle (the argument `request`). The completion of an MPI\_RPUT operation (i.e., after the corresponding test or wait) indicates that the sender is now free to update the locations in the origin buffer. It does not indicate that the data is available at the target window. If remote completion is required, MPI\_WIN\_FLUSH, MPI\_WIN\_FLUSH\_ALL, MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK or MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK\_ALL can be used.

```

13 MPI_RGET(origin_addr, origin_count, origin_datatype, target_rank, target_disp, target_count,
14 target_datatype, win, request)

```

15	OUT	origin_addr	initial address of origin buffer (choice)
16	IN	origin_count	number of entries in origin buffer (non-negative integer)
17			
18			
19	IN	origin_datatype	datatype of each entry in origin buffer (handle)
20	IN	target_rank	rank of target (non-negative integer)
21	IN	target_disp	displacement from window start to the beginning of the target buffer (non-negative integer)
22			
23			
24	IN	target_count	number of entries in target buffer (non-negative integer)
25			
26	IN	target_datatype	datatype of each entry in target buffer (handle)
27	IN	win	window object used for communication (handle)
28			
29	OUT	request	RMA request (handle)

```

30
31 int MPI_Rget(void *origin_addr, int origin_count,
32             MPI_Datatype origin_datatype, int target_rank,
33             MPI_Aint target_disp, int target_count,
34             MPI_Datatype target_datatype, MPI_Win win,
35             MPI_Request *request)

```

```

36 MPI_RGET(ORIGIN_ADDR, ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK,
37          TARGET_DISP, TARGET_COUNT, TARGET_DATATYPE, WIN, REQUEST,
38          IERROR)

```

```

39     <type> ORIGIN_ADDR(*)
40     INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) TARGET_DISP
41     INTEGER ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK, TARGET_COUNT,
42     TARGET_DATATYPE, WIN, REQUEST, IERROR

```

MPI\_RGET is similar to MPI\_GET (Section 11.3.2), except that it allocates a communication request object and associates it with the request handle (the argument `request`) that can be used to wait or test for completion. The completion of an MPI\_RGET operation indicates that the data is available in the origin buffer. If `origin_addr` points to memory attached to a window, then the data becomes available in the private copy of this window.

```
MPI_RACCUMULATE(origin_addr, origin_count, origin_datatype, target_rank, target_disp,
target_count, target_datatype, op, win, request)
```

IN	origin_addr	initial address of buffer (choice)	1
IN	origin_count	number of entries in buffer (non-negative integer)	2
IN	origin_datatype	datatype of each buffer entry (handle)	3
IN	target_rank	rank of target (non-negative integer)	4
IN	target_disp	displacement from start of window to beginning of target buffer (non-negative integer)	5
IN	target_count	number of entries in target buffer (non-negative integer)	6
IN	target_datatype	datatype of each entry in target buffer (handle)	7
IN	op	reduce operation (handle)	8
IN	win	window object (handle)	9
OUT	request	RMA request (handle)	10

```
int MPI_Raccumulate(void *origin_addr, int origin_count,
MPI_Datatype origin_datatype, int target_rank,
MPI_Aint target_disp, int target_count,
MPI_Datatype target_datatype, MPI_Op op, MPI_Win win,
MPI_Request *request)
```

```
MPI_RACCUMULATE(ORIGIN_ADDR, ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK,
TARGET_DISP, TARGET_COUNT, TARGET_DATATYPE, OP, WIN, REQUEST,
IERROR)
```

```
<type> ORIGIN_ADDR(*)
INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) TARGET_DISP
INTEGER ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK, TARGET_COUNT,
TARGET_DATATYPE, OP, WIN, REQUEST, IERROR
```

MPI\_RACCUMULATE is similar to MPI\_ACCUMULATE (Section 11.3.4), except that it allocates a communication request object and associates it with the request handle (the argument request) that can be used to wait or test for completion. The completion of an MPI\_RACCUMULATE operation indicates that the origin buffer is free to be updated. It does not indicate that the operation has completed at the target window.

```

1 MPI_RGET_ACCUMULATE(origin_addr, origin_count, origin_datatype, result_addr,
2 result_count, result_datatype, target_rank, target_disp, target_count, target_datatype, op, win,
3 request)

```

4	IN	origin_addr	initial address of buffer (choice)
5	IN	origin_count	number of entries in origin buffer (non-negative integer)
6			
7			
8	IN	origin_datatype	datatype of each buffer entry (handle)
9	OUT	result_addr	initial address of result buffer (choice)
10	IN	result_count	number of entries in result buffer (non-negative integer)
11			
12			
13	IN	result_datatype	datatype of each buffer entry (handle)
14	IN	target_rank	rank of target (non-negative integer)
15	IN	target_disp	displacement from start of window to beginning of target buffer (non-negative integer)
16			
17			
18	IN	target_count	number of entries in target buffer (non-negative integer)
19			
20	IN	target_datatype	datatype of each buffer entry (handle)
21	IN	op	reduce operation (handle)
22	IN	win	window object (handle)
23	OUT	request	RMA request (handle)

```

24
25
26 int MPI_Rget_accumulate(void *origin_addr, int origin_count,
27 MPI_Datatype origin_datatype, void *result_addr,
28 int result_count, MPI_Datatype result_datatype,
29 int target_rank, MPI_Aint target_disp, int target_count,
30 MPI_Datatype target_datatype, MPI_Op op, MPI_Win win,
31 MPI_Request *request)
32

```

```

33 MPI_RGET_ACCUMULATE(ORIGIN_ADDR, ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE,
34 RESULT_ADDR, RESULT_COUNT, RESULT_DATATYPE, TARGET_RANK,
35 TARGET_DISP, TARGET_COUNT, TARGET_DATATYPE, OP, WIN, REQUEST,
36 IERROR)

```

```

37 <type> ORIGIN_ADDR(*), RESULT_ADDR(*)
38 INTEGER(KIND=MPI_ADDRESS_KIND) TARGET_DISP
39 INTEGER ORIGIN_COUNT, ORIGIN_DATATYPE, RESULT_COUNT, RESULT_DATATYPE,
40 TARGET_RANK, TARGET_COUNT, TARGET_DATATYPE, OP, WIN, REQUEST, IERROR

```

41 MPI\_RGET\_ACCUMULATE is similar to MPI\_GET\_ACCUMULATE (Section 11.3.4),
42 except that it allocates a communication request object and associates it with the request
43 handle (the argument request) that can be used to wait or test for completion. The completion
44 of an MPI\_RGET\_ACCUMULATE operation indicates that the data is available in the result buffer
45 and the origin buffer is free to be updated. It does not indicate that the operation has been
46 completed at the target window.

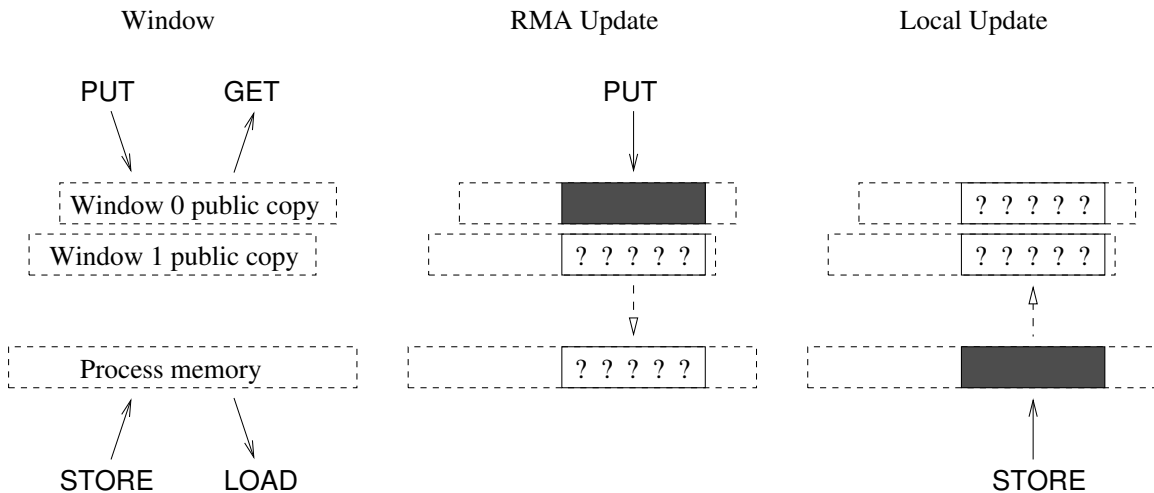


Figure 11.1: Schematic description of [ticket270.][\[window\]](#)the public/private window operations in the `MPI_WIN_SEPARATE` memory model for two overlapping windows.

## 11.4 Memory Model

The memory semantics of RMA are best understood by using the concept of public and private window copies. We assume that systems have a public memory region that is addressable by all processes (e.g., the shared memory in shared memory machines or the exposed main memory in distributed memory machines). In addition, most machines have fast private buffers (e.g., transparent caches or explicit communication buffers) local to each process where copies of data elements from the main memory can be stored for faster access. Such buffers are either coherent, i.e., all updates to main memory are reflected in all private copies consistently, or non-coherent, i.e., conflicting accesses to main memory need to be synchronized and updated in all private copies explicitly. Coherent systems allow direct updates to remote memory without any participation of the remote side. Non-coherent systems, however, need to call RMA functions in order to reflect updates to the public window in their private memory. Thus, in coherent memory, the public and the private window are identical while they remain logically separate in the non-coherent case. MPI thus differentiates between two memory models called *RMA unified*, if public and private window are logically identical, and *RMA separate*, otherwise.

In the RMA separate model, there is only one instance of each variable in process memory, but a distinct *public* copy of the variable for each window that contains it. A load accesses the instance in process memory (this includes MPI sends). A store accesses and updates the instance in process memory (this includes MPI receives), but the update may affect other public copies of the same locations. A get on a window accesses the public copy of that window. A put or accumulate on a window accesses and updates the public copy of that window, but the update may affect the private copy of the same locations in process memory, and public copies of other overlapping windows. This is illustrated in Figure 11.1.

In the RMA unified model, public and private copies are identical and updates via put or accumulate calls are observed by load operations without additional RMA calls. A store access to a window is visible to remote get or accumulate calls without additional RMA calls. These stronger semantics of the RMA unified model allow the user to omit some synchronization calls and potentially improve performance.

*Advice to users.* If accesses in the RMA unified model are not synchronized (with locks or flushes, see Section 11.5.3), load and store operations might observe changes to the memory while they are in progress. The order in which data is written is not specified unless further synchronization is used. This might lead to inconsistent views on memory and programs that assume that a transfer is complete by only checking parts of the message are erroneous. (*End of advice to users.*)

The memory model for a particular RMA window can be determined by accessing the attribute `MPI_WIN_MODEL`. If the memory model is the unified model, the value of this attribute is `MPI_WIN_UNIFIED`; otherwise, the value is `MPI_WIN_SEPARATE`.

## 11.5 Synchronization Calls

RMA communications fall in two categories:

- **active target** communication, where data is moved from the memory of one process to the memory of another, and both are explicitly involved in the communication. This communication pattern is similar to message passing, except that all the data transfer arguments are provided by one process, and the second process only participates in the synchronization.
- **passive target** communication, where data is moved from the memory of one process to the memory of another, and only the origin process is explicitly involved in the transfer. Thus, two origin processes may communicate by accessing the same location in a target window. The process that owns the target window may be distinct from the two communicating processes, in which case it does not participate explicitly in the communication. This communication paradigm is closest to a shared memory model, where shared data can be accessed by all processes, irrespective of location.

RMA communication calls with argument `win` must occur at a process only within an **access epoch** for `win`. Such an epoch starts with an RMA synchronization call on `win`; it proceeds with zero or more RMA communication calls (e.g., `MPI_PUT`, `MPI_GET` or `MPI_ACCUMULATE`) on `win`; it completes with another synchronization call on `win`. This allows users to amortize one synchronization with multiple data transfers and provide implementors more flexibility in the implementation of RMA operations.

Distinct access epochs for `win` at the same process must be disjoint. On the other hand, epochs pertaining to different `win` arguments may overlap. Local operations or other MPI calls may also occur during an epoch.

In active target communication, a target window can be accessed by RMA operations only within an **exposure epoch**. Such an epoch is started and completed by RMA synchronization calls executed by the target process. Distinct exposure epochs at a process on the same window must be disjoint, but such an exposure epoch may overlap with exposure epochs on other windows or with access epochs for the same or other `win` arguments. There is a one-to-one matching between access epochs at origin processes and exposure epochs on target processes: RMA operations issued by an origin process for a target window will access that target window during the same exposure epoch if and only if they were issued during the same access epoch.

In passive target communication the target process does not execute RMA synchronization calls, and there is no concept of an exposure epoch.

MPI provides three synchronization mechanisms:

1. The `MPI_WIN_FENCE` collective synchronization call supports a simple synchronization pattern that is often used in parallel computations: namely a loosely-synchronous model, where global computation phases alternate with global communication phases. This mechanism is most useful for loosely synchronous algorithms where the graph of communicating processes changes very frequently, or where each process communicates with many others.

This call is used for active target communication. An access epoch at an origin process or an exposure epoch at a target process are started and completed by calls to `MPI_WIN_FENCE`. A process can access windows at all processes in the group of `win` during such an access epoch, and the local window can be accessed by all processes in the group of `win` during such an exposure epoch.

2. The four functions `MPI_WIN_START`, `MPI_WIN_COMPLETE`, `MPI_WIN_POST` and `MPI_WIN_WAIT` can be used to restrict synchronization to the minimum: only pairs of communicating processes synchronize, and they do so only when a synchronization is needed to order correctly RMA accesses to a window with respect to local accesses to that same window. This mechanism may be more efficient when each process communicates with few (logical) neighbors, and the communication graph is fixed or changes infrequently.

These calls are used for active target communication. An access epoch is started at the origin process by a call to `MPI_WIN_START` and is terminated by a call to `MPI_WIN_COMPLETE`. The start call has a group argument that specifies the group of target processes for that epoch. An exposure epoch is started at the target process by a call to `MPI_WIN_POST` and is completed by a call to `MPI_WIN_WAIT`. The post call has a group argument that specifies the set of origin processes for that epoch.

3. [Finally, shared and exclusive locks are provided by the two functions `MPI_WIN_LOCK` and `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK`.] Finally, shared lock access is provided by the functions `MPI_WIN_LOCK`, `MPI_WIN_LOCK_ALL`, `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK`, and `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK_ALL`. `MPI_WIN_LOCK` and `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK` also provide exclusive lock capability. Lock synchronization is useful for MPI applications that emulate a shared memory model via MPI calls; e.g., in a “billboard” model, where processes can, at random times, access or update different parts of the billboard.

These [two]four calls provide passive target communication. An access epoch is started by a call to `MPI_WIN_LOCK` or `MPI_WIN_LOCK_ALL` and terminated by a call to `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK` or `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK_ALL`, respectively. [Only one target window can be accessed during that epoch with `win`. ]

Figure 11.2 illustrates the general synchronization pattern for active target communication. The synchronization between `post` and `start` ensures that the put call of the origin process does not start until the target process exposes the window (with the `post` call); the target process will expose the window only after preceding local accesses to the window have completed. The synchronization between `complete` and `wait` ensures that the put call of the origin process completes before the window is unexposed (with the `wait` call). The target process will execute following local accesses to the target window only after the `wait` returned.

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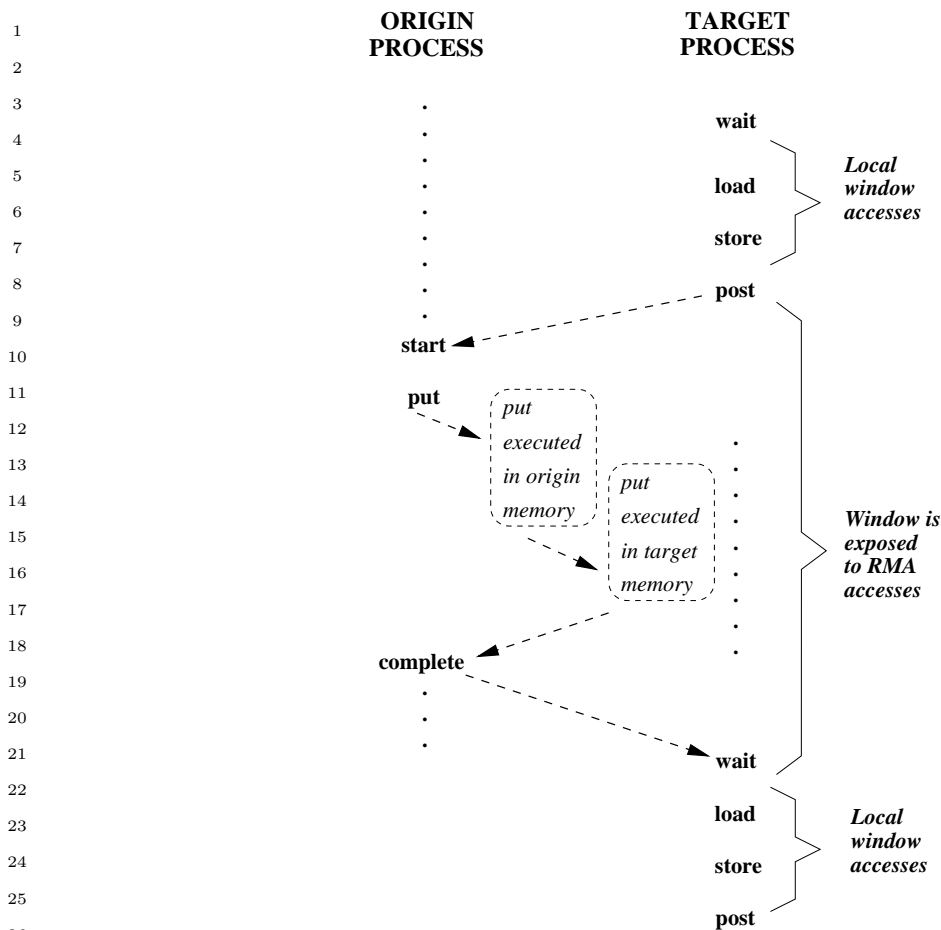


Figure 11.2: Active target communication. Dashed arrows represent synchronizations (ordering of events).

Figure 11.2 shows operations occurring in the natural temporal order implied by the synchronizations: the **post** occurs before the matching **start**, and **complete** occurs before the matching **wait**. However, such **strong** synchronization is more than needed for correct ordering of window accesses. The semantics of MPI calls allow **weak** synchronization, as illustrated in Figure 11.3. The access to the target window is delayed until the window is exposed, after the **post**. However the **start** may complete earlier; the **put** and **complete** may also terminate earlier, if put data is buffered by the implementation. The synchronization calls order correctly window accesses, but do not necessarily synchronize other operations. This weaker synchronization semantic allows for more efficient implementations.

Figure 11.4 illustrates the general synchronization pattern for passive target communication. The first origin process communicates data to the second origin process, through the memory of the target process; the target process is not explicitly involved in the communication. The **lock** and **unlock** calls ensure that the two RMA accesses do not occur concurrently. However, they do *not* ensure that the **put** by origin 1 will precede the **get** by origin 2.

*Rationale.* RMA does not define fine-grained mutexes in memory (only logical coarse-grained process locks). MPI provides the primitives (compare and swap, accumulate[s],



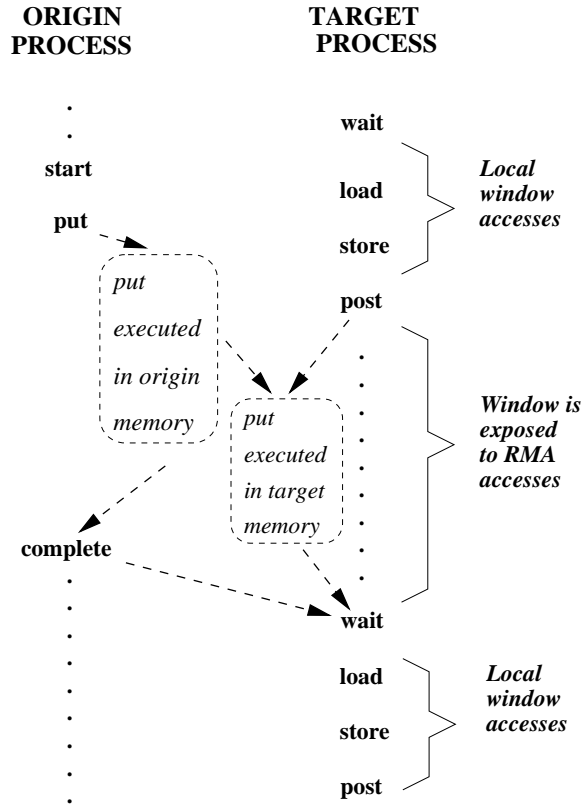


Figure 11.3: Active target communication, with weak synchronization. Dashed arrows represent synchronizations (ordering of events)

send/[recv]receive, etc.) needed to implement high-level synchronization operations.  
 (End of rationale.)

### 11.5.1 Fence

`MPI_WIN_FENCE(assert, win)`

IN	assert	program assertion (integer)
IN	win	window object (handle)

`int MPI_Win_fence(int assert, MPI_Win win)`

`MPI_WIN_FENCE(ASSERT, WIN, IERROR)`  
 INTEGER ASSERT, WIN, IERROR

`{void MPI::Win::Fence(int assert) const(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2) }`

The MPI call `MPI_WIN_FENCE(assert, win)` synchronizes RMA calls on win. The call is collective on the group of win. All RMA operations on win originating at a given process and started before the fence call will complete at that process before the fence call returns. They will be completed at their target before the fence call returns at the target. RMA

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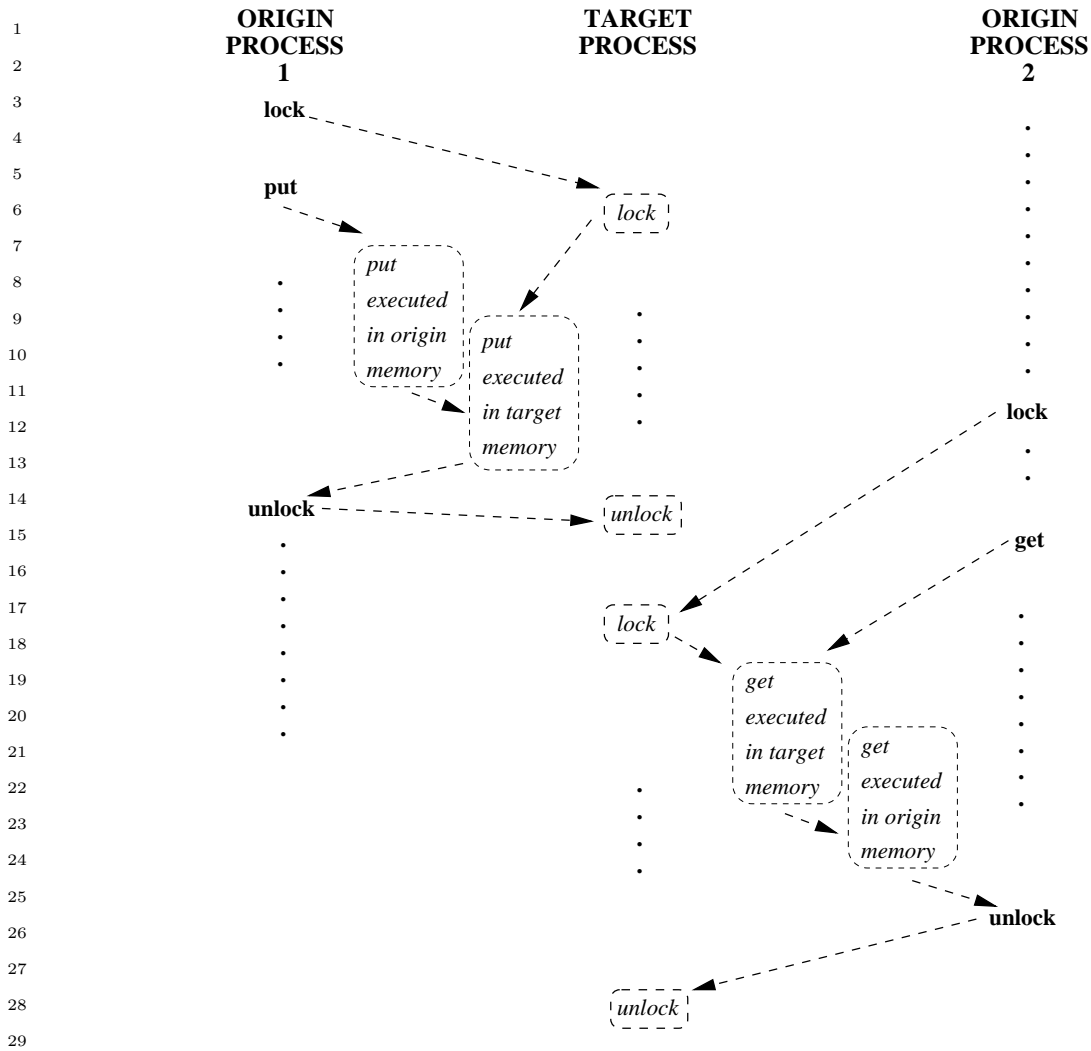


Figure 11.4: Passive target communication. Dashed arrows represent synchronizations (ordering of events).

operations on win started by a process after the fence call returns will access their target window only after `MPI_WIN_FENCE` has been called by the target process.

The call completes an RMA access epoch if it was preceded by another fence call and the local process issued RMA communication calls on win between these two calls. The call completes an RMA exposure epoch if it was preceded by another fence call and the local window was the target of RMA accesses between these two calls. The call starts an RMA access epoch if it is followed by another fence call and by RMA communication calls issued between these two fence calls. The call starts an exposure epoch if it is followed by another fence call and the local window is the target of RMA accesses between these two fence calls. Thus, the fence call is equivalent to calls to a subset of `post`, `start`, `complete`, `wait`.

A fence call usually entails a barrier synchronization: a process completes a call to `MPI_WIN_FENCE` only after all other processes in the group entered their matching call. However, a call to `MPI_WIN_FENCE` that is known not to end any epoch (in particular, a call with `assert = MPI_MODE_NOPRECEDE`) does not necessarily act as a barrier.

The `assert` argument is used to provide assertions on the context of the call that may be used for various optimizations. This is described in Section 11.5.5. A value of `assert = 0` is always valid.

*Advice to users.* Calls to `MPI_WIN_FENCE` should both precede and follow calls to `[put, get or accumulate]` RMA communication functions that are synchronized with fence calls. (*End of advice to users.*)

### 11.5.2 General Active Target Synchronization

`MPI_WIN_START(group, assert, win)`

IN	group	group of target processes (handle)
IN	assert	program assertion (integer)
IN	win	window object (handle)

`int MPI_Win_start(MPI_Group group, int assert, MPI_Win win)`

`MPI_WIN_START(GROUP, ASSERT, WIN, IERROR)`

INTEGER GROUP, ASSERT, WIN, IERROR

`{void MPI::Win::Start(const MPI::Group& group, int assert) const` (*binding deprecated, see Section 15.2*) `}`

Starts an RMA access epoch for `win`. RMA calls issued on `win` during this epoch must access only windows at processes in `group`. Each process in `group` must issue a matching call to `MPI_WIN_POST`. RMA accesses to each target window will be delayed, if necessary, until the target process executed the matching call to `MPI_WIN_POST`. `MPI_WIN_START` is allowed to block until the corresponding `MPI_WIN_POST` calls are executed, but is not required to.

The `assert` argument is used to provide assertions on the context of the call that may be used for various optimizations. This is described in Section 11.5.5. A value of `assert = 0` is always valid.

`MPI_WIN_COMPLETE(win)`

IN	win	window object (handle)
----	-----	------------------------

`int MPI_Win_complete(MPI_Win win)`

`MPI_WIN_COMPLETE(WIN, IERROR)`

INTEGER WIN, IERROR

`{void MPI::Win::Complete() const` (*binding deprecated, see Section 15.2*) `}`

Completes an RMA access epoch on `win` started by a call to `MPI_WIN_START`. All RMA communication calls issued on `win` during this epoch will have completed at the origin

1 when the call returns.

2 MPI\_WIN\_COMPLETE enforces completion of preceding RMA calls at the origin, but  
3 not at the target. A put or accumulate call may not have completed at the target when it  
4 has completed at the origin.

5 Consider the sequence of calls in the example below.

6 **Example 11.4** MPI\_Win\_start(group, flag, win);  
7 MPI\_Put(...,win);  
8 MPI\_Win\_complete(win);  
9

10 The call to MPI\_WIN\_COMPLETE does not return until the put call has completed  
11 at the origin; and the target window will be accessed by the put operation only after the  
12 call to MPI\_WIN\_START has matched a call to MPI\_WIN\_POST by the target process.  
13 This still leaves much choice to implementors. The call to MPI\_WIN\_START can block  
14 until the matching call to MPI\_WIN\_POST occurs at all target processes. One can also  
15 have implementations where the call to MPI\_WIN\_START is nonblocking, but the call to  
16 MPI\_PUT blocks until the matching call to MPI\_WIN\_POST occurred; or implementations  
17 where the first two calls are nonblocking, but the call to MPI\_WIN\_COMPLETE blocks  
18 until the call to MPI\_WIN\_POST occurred; or even implementations where all three calls  
19 can complete before any target process called MPI\_WIN\_POST — the data put must be  
20 buffered, in this last case, so as to allow the put to complete at the origin ahead of its  
21 completion at the target. However, once the call to MPI\_WIN\_POST is issued, the sequence  
22 above must complete, without further dependencies.  
23

24  
25 MPI\_WIN\_POST(group, assert, win)

26	IN	group	group of origin processes (handle)
27	IN	assert	program assertion (integer)
28	IN	win	window object (handle)

29  
30  
31 int MPI\_Win\_post(MPI\_Group group, int assert, MPI\_Win win)

32 MPI\_WIN\_POST(GROUP, ASSERT, WIN, IERROR)

33 INTEGER GROUP, ASSERT, WIN, IERROR

34 {void MPI::Win::Post(const MPI::Group& group, int assert) const(*binding*  
35 *deprecated, see Section 15.2*) }

36  
37  
38 Starts an RMA exposure epoch for the local window associated with win. Only processes  
39 in group should access the window with RMA calls on win during this epoch. Each process  
40 in group must issue a matching call to MPI\_WIN\_START. MPI\_WIN\_POST does not block.

41  
42 MPI\_WIN\_WAIT(win)

43	IN	win	window object (handle)
----	----	-----	------------------------

44  
45  
46 int MPI\_Win\_wait(MPI\_Win win)

47 MPI\_WIN\_WAIT(WIN, IERROR)  
48

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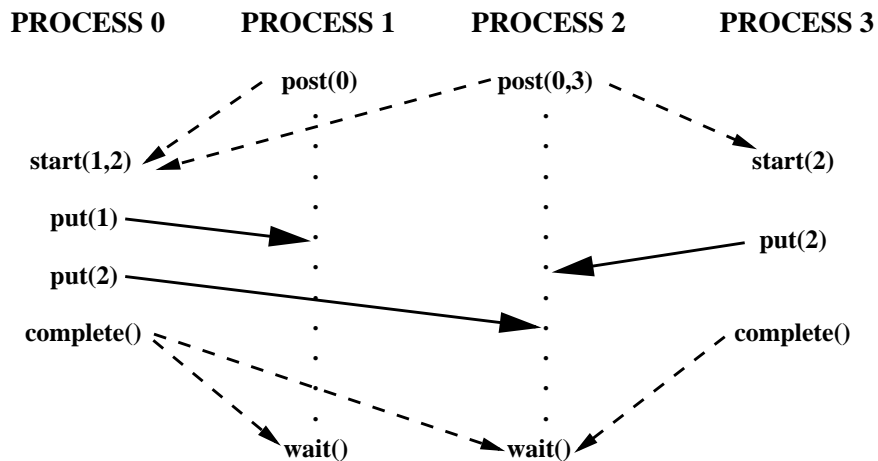


Figure 11.5: Active target communication. Dashed arrows represent synchronizations and solid arrows represent data transfer.

INTEGER WIN, IERROR

```
{void MPI::Win::Wait() const(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2) }
```

Completes an RMA exposure epoch started by a call to `MPI_WIN_POST` on `win`. This call matches calls to `MPI_WIN_COMPLETE(win)` issued by each of the origin processes that were granted access to the window during this epoch. The call to `MPI_WIN_WAIT` will block until all matching calls to `MPI_WIN_COMPLETE` have occurred. This guarantees that all these origin processes have completed their RMA accesses to the local window. When the call returns, all these RMA accesses will have completed at the target window.

Figure 11.5 illustrates the use of these four functions. Process 0 puts data in the windows of processes 1 and 2 and process 3 puts data in the window of process 2. Each start call lists the ranks of the processes whose windows will be accessed; each post call lists the ranks of the processes that access the local window. The figure illustrates a possible timing for the events, assuming strong synchronization; in a weak synchronization, the start, put or complete calls may occur ahead of the matching post calls.

`MPI_WIN_TEST(win, flag)`

IN win window object (handle)

OUT flag success flag (logical)

```
int MPI_Win_test(MPI_Win win, int *flag)
```

`MPI_WIN_TEST(WIN, FLAG, IERROR)`

INTEGER WIN, IERROR

LOGICAL FLAG

```
{bool MPI::Win::Test() const(binding deprecated, see Section 15.2) }
```

This is the nonblocking version of `MPI_WIN_WAIT`. It returns `flag = true` if all accesses to the local window by the group to which it was exposed by the corresponding

1 MPI\_WIN\_POST call have been completed as signalled by matching MPI\_WIN\_COMPLETE  
 2 calls, and `flag = false` otherwise. In the former case MPI\_WIN\_WAIT would have returned  
 3 immediately. The effect of return of MPI\_WIN\_TEST with `flag = true` is the same as the  
 4 effect of a return of MPI\_WIN\_WAIT. If `flag = false` is returned, then the call has no visible  
 5 effect.

6 MPI\_WIN\_TEST should be invoked only where MPI\_WIN\_WAIT can be invoked. Once  
 7 the call has returned `flag = true`, it must not be invoked anew, until the window is posted  
 8 anew.

9 Assume that window `win` is associated with a “hidden” communicator `wincomm`, used  
 10 for communication by the processes of `win`. The rules for matching of post and start calls  
 11 and for matching complete and wait call can be derived from the rules for matching sends  
 12 and receives, by considering the following (partial) model implementation.

13 **MPI\_WIN\_POST(group,0,win)** initiate a nonblocking send with tag `tag0` to each process  
 14 in `group`, using `wincomm`. No need to wait for the completion of these sends.

16 **MPI\_WIN\_START(group,0,win)** initiate a nonblocking receive with tag `tag0` from each  
 17 process in `group`, using `wincomm`. An RMA access to a window in target process `i` is  
 18 delayed until the receive from `i` is completed.

19 **MPI\_WIN\_COMPLETE(win)** initiate a nonblocking send with tag `tag1` to each process  
 20 in the group of the preceding start call. No need to wait for the completion of these  
 21 sends.

23 **MPI\_WIN\_WAIT(win)** initiate a nonblocking receive with tag `tag1` from each process in  
 24 the group of the preceding post call. Wait for the completion of all receives.

26 No races can occur in a correct program: each of the sends matches a unique receive,  
 27 and vice[-] versa.

28 *Rationale.* The design for general active target synchronization requires the user to  
 29 provide complete information on the communication pattern, at each end of a com-  
 30 munication link: each origin specifies a list of targets, and each target specifies a list  
 31 of origins. This provides maximum flexibility (hence, efficiency) for the implementor:  
 32 each synchronization can be initiated by either side, since each “knows” the identity of  
 33 the other. This also provides maximum protection from possible races. On the other  
 34 hand, the design requires more information than RMA needs, in general: in general,  
 35 it is sufficient for the origin to know the rank of the target, but not vice versa. Users  
 36 that want more “anonymous” communication will be required to use the fence or lock  
 37 mechanisms. (*End of rationale.*)

38 *Advice to users.* Assume a communication pattern that is represented by a di-  
 39 rected graph  $G = \langle V, E \rangle$ , where  $V = \{0, \dots, n - 1\}$  and  $ij \in E$  if origin  
 40 process  $i$  accesses the window at target process  $j$ . Then each process  $i$  issues a  
 41 call to `MPI_WIN_POST(ingroupi, ...)`, followed by a call to  
 42 `MPI_WIN_START(outgroupi, ...)`, where  $outgroup_i = \{j : ij \in E\}$  and  $ingroup_i =$   
 43  $\{j : ji \in E\}$ . A call is a noop, and can be skipped, if the group argument is empty.  
 44 After the communications calls, each process that issued a start will issue a complete.  
 45 Finally, each process that issued a post will issue a wait.

47 Note that each process may call with a group argument that has different members.  
 48 (*End of advice to users.*)

## 11.5.3 Lock

MPI\_WIN\_LOCK(lock\_type, rank, assert, win)

IN	lock_type	either MPI_LOCK_EXCLUSIVE or MPI_LOCK_SHARED (state)
IN	rank	rank of locked window (non-negative integer)
IN	assert	program assertion (integer)
IN	win	window object (handle)

int MPI\_Win\_lock(int lock\_type, int rank, int assert, MPI\_Win win)

MPI\_WIN\_LOCK(LOCK\_TYPE, RANK, ASSERT, WIN, IERROR)  
INTEGER LOCK\_TYPE, RANK, ASSERT, WIN, IERROR

{void MPI::Win::Lock(int lock\_type, int rank, int assert) const(*binding deprecated, see Section 15.2*) }

Starts an RMA access epoch. Only the window at the process with rank rank can be accessed by RMA operations on win during that epoch.

MPI\_WIN\_LOCK\_ALL(assert, win)

IN	assert	program assertion (integer)
IN	win	window object (handle)

int MPI\_Win\_lock\_all(int assert, MPI\_Win win)

MPI\_WIN\_LOCK\_ALL(ASSERT, WIN, IERROR)  
INTEGER ASSERT, WIN, IERROR

Starts an RMA access epoch to all processes in win, with a lock type of MPI\_LOCK\_SHARED. During the epoch, the calling process can access the window memory on all processes in win by using RMA operations. A window locked with MPI\_WIN\_LOCK\_ALL must be unlocked with MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK\_ALL. This routine is not collective — the ALL refers to a lock on all members of the group of the window.

MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK(rank, win)

IN	rank	rank of window (non-negative integer)
IN	win	window object (handle)

int MPI\_Win\_unlock(int rank, MPI\_Win win)

MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK(RANK, WIN, IERROR)  
INTEGER RANK, WIN, IERROR

{void MPI::Win::Unlock(int rank) const(*binding deprecated, see Section 15.2*) }

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1 Completes an RMA access epoch started by a call to `MPI_WIN_LOCK(...,win)`. RMA  
 2 operations issued during this period will have completed both at the origin and at the target  
 ticket270. 3 when the call returns.

4  
 5 `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK_ALL(win)`

6 `IN win window object (handle)`

7  
 8  
 9 `int MPI_Win_unlock_all(MPI_Win win)`

10 `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK_ALL(WIN, IERROR)`

11 `INTEGER WIN, IERROR`

12  
 13 Completes a shared RMA access epoch started by a call to `MPI_WIN_LOCK_ALL(assert,`  
 14 `win)`. RMA operations issued during this epoch will have completed both at the origin and  
 15 at the target when the call returns.

16 Locks are used to protect accesses to the locked target window effected by RMA calls  
 ticket270. 17 issued between the lock and unlock calls, and to protect local load/store accesses to a locked  
 18 local window executed between the lock and unlock call. Accesses that are protected by  
 19 an exclusive lock will not be concurrent at the window site with other accesses to the same  
 20 window that are lock protected. Accesses that are protected by a shared lock will not be  
 21 concurrent at the window site with accesses protected by an exclusive lock to the same  
 22 window.

23 It is erroneous to have a window locked and exposed (in an exposure epoch) concur-  
 ticket270. 24 rently. [I.e.]For example, a process may not call `MPI_WIN_LOCK` to lock a target window  
 25 if the target process has called `MPI_WIN_POST` and has not yet called `MPI_WIN_WAIT`; it  
 26 is erroneous to call `MPI_WIN_POST` while the local window is locked.

27  
 28 *Rationale.* An alternative is to require MPI to enforce mutual exclusion between  
 29 exposure epochs and locking periods. But this would entail additional overheads  
 30 when locks or active target synchronization do not interact in support of those rare  
 31 interactions between the two mechanisms. The programming style that we encourage  
 32 here is that a set of windows is used with only one synchronization mechanism at  
 33 a time, with shifts from one mechanism to another being rare and involving global  
 34 synchronization. (*End of rationale.*)

35  
 36 *Advice to users.* Users need to use explicit synchronization code in order to enforce  
 37 mutual exclusion between locking periods and exposure epochs on a window. (*End of*  
 38 *advice to users.*)

39  
 40 Implementors may restrict the use of RMA communication that is synchronized by  
 ticket270. 41 lock calls to windows in memory allocated by `MPI_ALLOC_MEM` (Section 8.2, page 296),  
 ticket270. 42 `MPI_WIN_ALLOCATE` (Section 11.2.2, page 5), or attached with `MPI_WIN_ATTACH` (Sec-  
 ticket270. 43 tion 11.2.3, page 6). Locks can be used portably only in such memory.

44  
 45 *Rationale.* The implementation of passive target communication when memory is not  
 ticket270. 46 shared [requires]may require an asynchronous software agent. Such an agent can be  
 ticket270. 47 implemented more easily, and can achieve better performance, if restricted to specially  
 48 allocated memory. It can be avoided altogether if shared memory is used. It seems



natural to impose restrictions that allows one to use shared memory for [3-rd]third party communication in shared memory machines.

The downside of this decision is that passive target communication cannot be used without taking advantage of nonstandard Fortran features: namely, the availability of C-like pointers; these are not supported by some Fortran compilers[(g77 and Windows/NT compilers, at the time of writing)]. [Also, passive target communication cannot be portably targeted to COMMON blocks, or other statically declared Fortran arrays.] (*End of rationale.*)

Consider the sequence of calls in the example below.

### Example 11.5

```
MPI_Win_lock(MPI_LOCK_EXCLUSIVE, rank, assert, win)
MPI_Put(..., rank, ..., win)
MPI_Win_unlock(rank, win)
```

The call to MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK will not return until the put transfer has completed at the origin and at the target. This still leaves much freedom to implementors. The call to MPI\_WIN\_LOCK may block until an exclusive lock on the window is acquired; or, the call MPI\_WIN\_LOCK may not block, while the call to MPI\_PUT blocks until a lock is acquired; or, the first two calls may not block, while MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK blocks until a lock is acquired — the update of the target window is then postponed until the call to MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK occurs. However, if the call to MPI\_WIN\_LOCK is used to lock a local window, then the call must block until the lock is acquired, since the lock may protect local load/store accesses to the window issued after the lock call returns.

### 11.5.4 Flush and Sync

All flush and sync functions can be called only within lock-unlock or lockall-unlockall epochs.

**MPI\_WIN\_FLUSH(rank, win)**

IN	rank	rank of target window (non-negative integer)
IN	win	window object (handle)

```
int MPI_Win_flush(int rank, MPI_Win win)
```

```
MPI_WIN_FLUSH(RANK, WIN, IERROR)
INTEGER RANK, WIN, IERROR
```

MPI\_WIN\_FLUSH completes all outstanding RMA operations initiated by the calling process to the target rank on the specified window. The operations are completed both at the origin and at the target. Flush completes locally in the sense used in this document, meaning that the call must return without requiring the target process to call any MPI routine.

1 `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_ALL(win)`

2     IN        win                            window object (handle)

4 `int MPI_Win_flush_all(MPI_Win win)`

6 `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_ALL(WIN, IERROR)`  
7     INTEGER WIN, IERROR

8     All RMA operations issued by the calling process to any target on the specified window  
9     prior to this call and in the specified window will have completed both at the origin and at  
10    the target when this call returns. `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_ALL` completes locally in the sense used  
11    in this document, meaning that the call must return without requiring the target processes  
12    to call any MPI routine.

15 `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_LOCAL(rank, win)`

16     IN        rank                         rank of target window (non-negative integer)

18     IN        win                         window object (handle)

20 `int MPI_Win_flush_local(int rank, MPI_Win win)`

22 `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_LOCAL(RANK, WIN, IERROR)`  
23     INTEGER RANK, WIN, IERROR

24     Locally completes at the origin all outstanding RMA operations initiated by the calling  
25     process to the target process specified by rank on the specified window. For example, after  
26     this routine completes, the user may reuse any buffers provided to put, get, or accumulate  
27     operations. `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_LOCAL` completes locally in the sense used in this document,  
28     meaning that the call must return without requiring the target processes to call any MPI  
29     routine.

32 `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_LOCAL_ALL(win)`

33     IN        win                         window object (handle)

35 `int MPI_Win_flush_local_all(MPI_Win win)`

37 `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_LOCAL_ALL(WIN, IERROR)`  
38     INTEGER WIN, IERROR

39     All RMA operations issued to any target prior to this call in this window will have  
40     completed at the origin when `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_LOCAL_ALL` returns.  
41     `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_LOCAL_ALL` completes locally in the sense used in this document, mean-  
42     ing that the call must return without requiring the target processes to call any MPI routine.

45 `MPI_WIN_SYNC(win)`

46     IN        win                         window object (handle)

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```
int MPI_Win_sync(MPI_Win win)
MPI_WIN_SYNC(WIN, IERROR)
    INTEGER WIN, IERROR
```

The call `MPI_WIN_SYNC` synchronizes the private and public window copy of `win`. For the purposes of synchronizing the private and public window, `MPI_WIN_SYNC` has the effect of ending and reopening an access and exposure epoch on the window (note that it does not actually end an epoch or complete any pending [MPI]MPI RMA operations).

### 11.5.5 Assertions

The `assert` argument in the calls `MPI_WIN_POST`, `MPI_WIN_START`, `MPI_WIN_FENCE`[and], `MPI_WIN_LOCK`, and `MPI_WIN_LOCK_ALL` is used to provide assertions on the context of the call that may be used to optimize performance. The `assert` argument does not change program semantics if it provides correct information on the program — it is erroneous to provide[s] incorrect information. Users may always provide `assert = 0` to indicate a general case[,] where no guarantees are made.

*Advice to users.* Many implementations may not take advantage of the information in `assert`; some of the information is relevant only for noncoherent[,] shared memory machines. Users should consult their implementation manual to find which information is useful on each system. On the other hand, applications that provide correct assertions whenever applicable are portable and will take advantage of assertion specific optimizations[,] whenever available. (*End of advice to users.*)

*Advice to implementors.* Implementations can always ignore the `assert` argument. Implementors should document which `assert` values are significant on their implementation. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

`assert` is the bit-vector OR of zero or more of the following integer constants: `MPI_MODE_NOCHECK`, `MPI_MODE_NOSTORE`, `MPI_MODE_NOPUT`, `MPI_MODE_NOPRECEDE` and `MPI_MODE_NOSUCCEED`. The significant options are listed below[,] for each call.

*Advice to users.* C/C++ users can use bit vector or (|) to combine these constants; Fortran 90 users can use the bit-vector `IOR` intrinsic. Fortran 77 users can use (non-portably) bit vector `IOR` on systems that support it. Alternatively, Fortran users can portably use integer addition to OR the constants (each constant should appear at most once in the addition!). (*End of advice to users.*)

#### **MPI\_WIN\_START:**

`MPI_MODE_NOCHECK` — the matching calls to `MPI_WIN_POST` have already completed on all target processes when the call to `MPI_WIN_START` is made. The `nocheck` option can be specified in a start call if and only if it is specified in each matching post call. This is similar to the optimization of “ready-send” that may save a handshake when the handshake is implicit in the code. (However, ready-send is matched by a regular receive, whereas both start and post must specify the `nocheck` option.)

**MPI\_WIN\_POST:**

MPI\_MODE\_NOCHECK — the matching calls to MPI\_WIN\_START have not yet occurred on any origin processes when the call to MPI\_WIN\_POST is made. The nocheck option can be specified by a post call if and only if it is specified by each matching start call.

MPI\_MODE\_NOSTORE — the local window was not updated by local stores (or local get or receive calls) since last synchronization. This may avoid the need for cache synchronization at the post call.

MPI\_MODE\_NOPUT — the local window will not be updated by put or accumulate calls after the post call, until the ensuing (wait) synchronization. This may avoid the need for cache synchronization at the wait call.

**MPI\_WIN\_FENCE:**

MPI\_MODE\_NOSTORE — the local window was not updated by local stores (or local get or receive calls) since last synchronization.

MPI\_MODE\_NOPUT — the local window will not be updated by put or accumulate calls after the fence call, until the ensuing (fence) synchronization.

MPI\_MODE\_NOPRECEDE — the fence does not complete any sequence of locally issued RMA calls. If this assertion is given by any process in the window group, then it must be given by all processes in the group.

**[MPI\_MODE\_NOSUCCEED]**MPI\_MODE\_NOSUCCEED — the fence does not start any sequence of locally issued RMA calls. If the assertion is given by any process in the window group, then it must be given by all processes in the group.

**MPI\_WIN\_LOCK, MPI\_WIN\_LOCK\_ALL:**

MPI\_MODE\_NOCHECK — no other process holds, or will attempt to acquire a conflicting lock, while the caller holds the window lock. This is useful when mutual exclusion is achieved by other means, but the coherence operations that may be attached to the lock and unlock calls are still required.

*Advice to users.* Note that the nostore and noprecede flags provide information on what happened *before* the call; the noput and nosucceed flags provide information on what will happen *after* the call. (*End of advice to users.*)

**11.5.6 Miscellaneous Clarifications**

Once an RMA routine completes, it is safe to free any opaque objects passed as argument to that routine. For example, the datatype argument of a MPI\_PUT call can be freed as soon as the call returns, even though the communication may not be complete.

As in message-passing, datatypes must be committed before they can be used in RMA communication.

**[[Moved: Section on Examples]]**

## 11.6 Error Handling

### 11.6.1 Error Handlers

Errors occurring during calls to `[MPI_WIN_CREATE(...,comm,...)]` routines that create MPI windows (e.g., `MPI_WIN_CREATE(...,comm,...)`) cause the error handler currently associated with `comm` to be invoked. All other RMA calls have an input win argument. When an error occurs during such a call, the error handler currently associated with `win` is invoked.

The default error handler associated with `win` is `MPI_ERRORS_ARE_FATAL`. Users may change this default by explicitly associating a new error handler with `win` (see Section 8.3, page 298).

### 11.6.2 Error Classes

The [following] error classes for one-sided communication are defined in Table 11.1. RMA routines may (and almost certainly will) use other MPI error classes, such as `MPI_ERR_OP` or `MPI_ERR_RANK`.

<code>MPI_ERR_WIN</code>	invalid win argument
<code>MPI_ERR_BASE</code>	invalid base argument
<code>MPI_ERR_SIZE</code>	invalid size argument
<code>MPI_ERR_DISP</code>	invalid disp argument
<code>MPI_ERR_LOCKTYPE</code>	invalid locktype argument
<code>MPI_ERR_ASSERT</code>	invalid assert argument
<code>MPI_ERR_RMA_CONFLICT</code>	conflicting accesses to window
<code>MPI_ERR_RMA_SYNC</code>	[ticket270.][wrong]invalid synchronization of RMA calls
[ticket270.] <code>MPI_ERR_RMA_RANGE</code>	[ticket270.]target memory is not part of the window (in the case of a window created with <code>MPI_WIN_CREATE_DYNAMIC</code> , target memory is not attached)
[ticket270.] <code>MPI_ERR_RMA_ATTACH</code>	[ticket270.]memory cannot be attached (e.g., because of resource exhaustion)

Table 11.1: Error classes in one-sided communication routines

## 11.7 Semantics and Correctness

[The semantics of RMA operations is best understood by assuming that the system maintains a separate *public* copy of each window, in addition to the original location in process memory (the *private* window copy). There is only one instance of each variable in process memory, but a distinct *public* copy of the variable for each window that contains it. A load accesses the instance in process memory (this includes MPI sends). A store accesses and updates the instance in process memory (this includes MPI receives), but the update may affect other public copies of the same locations. A get on a window accesses the public copy of that window. A put or accumulate on a window accesses and updates the public copy of that window, but the update may affect the private copy of the same locations in process

memory, and public copies of other overlapping windows. This is illustrated in Figure 11.1.]

The following rules specify the latest time at which an operation must complete at the origin or the target. The update performed by a get call in the origin process memory is visible when the get operation is complete at the origin (or earlier); the update performed by a put or accumulate call in the public copy of the target window is visible when the put or accumulate has completed at the target (or earlier). The rules also specify the latest time at which an update of one window copy becomes visible in another overlapping copy.

1. An RMA operation is completed at the origin by the ensuing call to MPI\_WIN\_COMPLETE, MPI\_WIN\_FENCE [ or MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK], MPI\_WIN\_FLUSH, MPI\_WIN\_FLUSH\_ALL, MPI\_WIN\_FLUSH\_LOCAL, MPI\_WIN\_FLUSH\_LOCAL\_ALL, MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK, or MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK\_ALL that synchronizes this access at the origin.
2. If an RMA operation is completed at the origin by a call to MPI\_WIN\_FENCE then the operation is completed at the target by the matching call to MPI\_WIN\_FENCE by the target process.
3. If an RMA operation is completed at the origin by a call to MPI\_WIN\_COMPLETE then the operation is completed at the target by the matching call to MPI\_WIN\_WAIT by the target process.
4. If an RMA operation is completed at the origin by a call to MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK, MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK\_ALL, MPI\_WIN\_FLUSH(rank=target), or MPI\_WIN\_FLUSH\_ALL, then the operation is completed at the target by that same call [ to MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK].
5. An update of a location in a private window copy in process memory becomes visible in the public window copy at latest when an ensuing call to MPI\_WIN\_POST, MPI\_WIN\_FENCE, [or MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK]MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK, MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK\_ALL, or MPI\_WIN\_SYNC is executed on that window by the window owner. In the RMA unified memory model, an update of a location in a private window in process memory becomes visible without additional RMA calls.
6. An update by a put or accumulate call to a public window copy becomes visible in the private copy in process memory at latest when an ensuing call to MPI\_WIN\_WAIT, MPI\_WIN\_FENCE, [ or MPI\_WIN\_LOCK]MPI\_WIN\_LOCK, MPI\_WIN\_LOCK\_ALL, or MPI\_WIN\_SYNC is executed on that window by the window owner. In the RMA unified memory model, an update by a put or accumulate call to a public window copy becomes visible in the private copy in process memory without additional RMA calls.

The MPI\_WIN\_FENCE or MPI\_WIN\_WAIT call that completes the transfer from public copy to private copy (6) is the same call that completes the put or accumulate operation in the window copy (2, 3). If a put or accumulate access was synchronized with a lock, then the update of the public window copy is complete as soon as the updating process executed MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK or MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK\_ALL. [On the other hand]In the RMA separate memory model, the update of private copy in the process memory may be delayed until the target process executes a synchronization call on that window (6). Thus, updates to

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process memory can always be delayed in the RMA separate memory model until the process executes a suitable synchronization call, while they have to complete in the RMA unified model without additional synchronization calls. [Updates to a public window copy can also be delayed until the window owner executes a synchronization call, if fences or post-start-complete-wait synchronization is used.] If fence or post-start-complete-wait synchronization is used, updates to a public window copy can be delayed in both memory models until the window owner executes a synchronization call. [Only when lock synchronization is used does it become necessary to update the public window copy, even if the window owner does not execute any related synchronization call.] When passive-target synchronization (lock/unlock or even flush) is used, it is necessary to update the public window copy in the RMA separate model, or the private window copy in the RMA unified model, even if the window owner does not execute any related synchronization call.

The rules above also define, by implication, when an update to a public window copy becomes visible in another overlapping public window copy. Consider, for example, two overlapping windows, win1 and win2. A call to `MPI_WIN_FENCE(0, win1)` by the window owner makes visible in the process memory previous updates to window win1 by remote processes. A subsequent call to `MPI_WIN_FENCE(0, win2)` makes these updates visible in the public copy of win2.

The behavior of some MPI RMA operations may be *undefined* in some situations. For example, the result of several origin processes performing concurrent `MPI_PUT` operations to the same target location is undefined. In addition, the result of a single origin process performing multiple `MPI_PUT` operation to the same target location within the same access epoch is also undefined. The result at the target may have all of the data from one of the `MPI_PUT` operations (the “last” one, in some sense), or bytes from some of each of the operations, or something else. In MPI-2, such operations were *erroneous*. That meant that an MPI implementation was permitted to signal an MPI exception. Thus, user programs or tools that used MPI RMA could not portably permit such operations, even if the application code could function correctly with such an undefined result. In MPI-3, these operations are not erroneous, but do not have a defined behavior.

*Rationale.* As discussed in [1], requiring operations such as overlapping puts to be erroneous makes it [very] difficult to use MPI RMA to implement programming models—such as Unified Parallel C (UPC) or SHMEM—that permit these operations. Further, while MPI-2 defined these operations as erroneous, the MPI Forum is unaware of any implementation that enforces this rule, as it would require significant overhead. Thus, relaxing this condition does not impact existing implementations or applications. (*End of rationale.*)

*Advice to implementors.* Overlapping accesses are undefined. However, to assist users in debugging code, implementations may wish to provide a mode in which such operations are detected and reported to the user. Note, however, that in MPI-3, such operations must not generate an MPI exception. (*End of advice to implementors.*)

A [correct program] program with well-defined outcome in the `MPI_WIN_SEPARATE` memory model must obey the following rules.

1. A location in a window must not be accessed locally once an update to that location has started, until the update becomes visible in the private window copy in process memory.

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1 2. A location in a window must not be accessed as a target of an RMA operation once  
 2 an update to that location has started, until the update becomes visible in the public  
 3 window copy. There is one exception to this rule, in the case where the same variable is  
 ticket270. 4 updated by two concurrent accumulates [that use the same operation, ]with the same  
 ticket270. 5 predefined datatype, on the same window. Additional restrictions on the operation  
 6 apply, see the info key `accumulate_ops` in Section 11.2.1.

7  
 8 3. A put or accumulate must not access a target window once a local update or a put  
 ticket270. 9 or accumulate update to another (overlapping) target window [have]has started on  
 10 a location in the target window, until the update becomes visible in the public copy  
 11 of the window. Conversely, a local update in process memory to a location in a  
 12 window must not start once a put or accumulate update to that target window has  
 13 started, until the put or accumulate update becomes visible in process memory. In  
 14 both cases, the restriction applies to operations even if they access disjoint locations  
 15 in the window.

ticket270. 16 [A program is erroneous if it violates these rules.]  
 17

18 *Rationale.* The last constraint on correct RMA accesses may seem unduly restric-  
 19 tive, as it forbids concurrent accesses to nonoverlapping locations in a window. The  
 20 reason for this constraint is that, on some architectures, explicit coherence restoring  
 21 operations may be needed at synchronization points. A different operation may be  
 22 needed for locations that were locally updated by stores and for locations that were  
 23 remotely updated by put or accumulate operations. Without this constraint, the MPI  
 24 library will have to track precisely which locations in a window were updated by a  
 25 put or accumulate call. The additional overhead of maintaining such information is  
 26 considered prohibitive. (*End of rationale.*)

ticket270. 27  
 28 Note that `MPI_WIN_SYNC` may be used within a passive target epoch to synchronize  
 ticket270. 29 the private and public window copies (that is, updates to one are made visible to the other).

30 In the `MPI_WIN_UNIFIED` memory model, the rules are much simpler because the public  
 31 and private windows are the same. However, there are restrictions to avoid concurrent  
 32 access to the same memory locations by different processes. The rules that a program with  
 33 a well-defined outcome must obey in this case are:  
 34

- 35 1. A location in a window must not be accessed locally once an update to that location  
 36 has started, until the update is complete, subject to the following special case.
- 37  
 38 2. Locally accessing (but not updating) a location in the window that is also the target  
 39 of a remote update is valid (not erroneous) but the precise result will depend on  
 40 the behavior of the implementation. Updates from a remote process will appear in  
 41 the memory of the target, but there are no atomicity or ordering guarantees if more  
 42 than one byte is updated. Updates are stable in the sense that once data appears  
 43 in memory of the target, the data remains until replaced by another update. This  
 44 permits polling on a location for a change from zero to non-zero or for a particular  
 45 value, but not polling and comparing the relative magnitude of values. Users are  
 46 cautioned that polling on one memory location and then accessing a different memory  
 47 location has defined behavior only if the other rules given here and in this chapter are  
 48 followed.



*Advice to users.* Some compiler optimizations can result in code that maintains the sequential semantics of the program, but violates this rule by introducing temporary values into locations in memory. Most compilers only apply such transformations under very high levels of optimization and users should be aware that such aggressive optimization may produce unexpected results. (*End of advice to users.*)

3. Locally updating a location in the window that is also the target of a remote read (but not update) is valid (not erroneous) but the precise result will depend on the behavior of the implementation. Updates from the local process will appear in memory, but there are no atomicity or ordering guarantees if more than one byte is updated. Updates are stable in the sense that once data appears in memory, the data remains until replaced by another update. This permits the local process to update memory in its local window without requiring a lock/unlock or other RMA synchronization epoch. Users are cautioned that remote accesses to a window that is updated by the local process has defined behavior only if the other rules given here and in this chapter are followed.
4. A location in a window must not be accessed as a target of an RMA operation once an update to that location has started until the update completes at the target. There is one exception to this rule: in the case where the same variable is updated by two concurrent accumulates with the same predefined datatype on the same window. Additional restrictions on the operation apply; see the info key `accumulate_ops` in Section 11.2.1.
5. A put or accumulate must not access a target window once a local update or a put or accumulate update to another (overlapping) target window has started on the same location in the target window until the update completes at the target window. Conversely, a local update in process memory to a location in a window must not start once a put or accumulate update to the same location in that target window has started until the put or accumulate update completes at the target.

Note that `MPI_WIN_FLUSH` and `MPI_WIN_FLUSH_ALL` may be used within a passive target epoch to complete RMA operations at the target process.

A program that violates these rules has undefined behavior.

*Advice to users.* A user can write correct programs by following the following rules:

**fence:** During each period between fence calls, each window is either updated by put or accumulate calls, or updated by local stores, but not both. Locations updated by put or accumulate calls should not be accessed during the same period (with the exception of concurrent updates to the same location by accumulate calls). Locations accessed by get calls should not be updated during the same period.

**post-start-complete-wait:** A window should not be updated locally while being posted, if it is being updated by put or accumulate calls. Locations updated by put or accumulate calls should not be accessed while the window is posted (with the exception of concurrent updates to the same location by accumulate calls). Locations accessed by get calls should not be updated while the window is posted.

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1 With the post-start synchronization, the target process can tell the origin process  
 2 that its window is now ready for RMA access; with the complete-wait synchro-  
 3 nization, the origin process can tell the target process that it has finished its  
 4 RMA accesses to the window.

5 **lock:** Updates to the window are protected by exclusive locks if they may conflict.  
 6 Nonconflicting accesses (such as read-only accesses or accumulate accesses) are  
 7 protected by shared locks, both for local accesses and for RMA accesses.

8 **changing window or synchronization mode:** One can change synchronization  
 9 mode, or change the window used to access a location that belongs to two over-  
 10 lapping windows, when the process memory and the window copy are guaranteed  
 11 to have the same values. This is true after a local call to `MPI_WIN_FENCE`, if  
 12 RMA accesses to the window are synchronized with fences; after a local call  
 13 to `MPI_WIN_WAIT`, if the accesses are synchronized with post-start-complete-  
 14 wait; after the call at the origin (local or remote) to `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK` or  
 15 `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK_ALL` if the accesses are synchronized with locks.

16  
 17 In addition, a process should not access the local buffer of a get operation until the  
 18 operation is complete, and should not update the local buffer of a put or accumulate  
 19 operation until that operation is complete.

20 The RMA synchronization operations define when updates are guaranteed to become  
 21 visible in public and private windows. Updates may become visible earlier, but such  
 22 behavior is implementation dependent. (*End of advice to users.*)

23  
 24 The semantics are illustrated by the following examples:

25 **Example 11.6** [Rule 5:] The following example demonstrates updating a memory location  
 26 inside a window for the separate memory model, according to Rule 5. The `MPI_WIN_LOCK`  
 27 and `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK` calls around the store to X in process B are necessary to ensure  
 28 consistency between the public and private copies of the window.

29	Process A:	Process B:
30		window location X
31		
32		<code>MPI_Win_lock(EXCLUSIVE,B)</code>
33		store X /* local update to private copy of B */
34		<code>MPI_Win_unlock(B)</code>
35		/* now visible in public window copy */
36		
37		
38	<code>MPI_Barrier</code>	<code>MPI_Barrier</code>
39		
40	<code>MPI_Win_lock(EXCLUSIVE,B)</code>	
41	<code>MPI_Get(X) /* ok, read from public window */</code>	
42	<code>MPI_Win_unlock(B)</code>	

43  
 44 **Example 11.7** In the RMA unified model, although the public and private copies of the  
 45 windows are synchronized, caution must be used when combining local load/stores and  
 46 multi-process synchronization. Although the following example appears correct, the com-  
 47 piler or hardware may delay the store to X after the barrier, possibly resulting in the  
 48 `MPI_GET` returning the incorrect value of X.

```

Process A:                Process B:
                           window location X

                           store X /* update to private&public copy of B */
MPI_Barrier                MPI_Barrier
MPI_Win_lock_all
MPI_Get(X) /* ok, read from window */
MPI_Win_flush_local(B)
/* read value in X */
MPI_Win_unlock_all

```

MPI\_BARRIER provides process synchronization, but not local memory synchronization. The example could potentially be made safe through the use of compiler and hardware specific notations to ensure the store to X occurs before process B enters the MPI\_BARRIER. The use of one-sided synchronization calls, as shown in Example 11.6, also ensures the correct result.

**Example 11.8** [Rule 6:] The following example demonstrates the reading of a memory location updated by a remote process (Rule 6) in the RMA separate memory model. Although the MPI\_WIN\_UNLOCK on process A and the MPI\_BARRIER ensure that the public copy on process B reflects the updated value of X, the call to MPI\_WIN\_LOCK by process B is necessary to synchronize the private copy with the public copy.

```

Process A:                Process B:
                           window location X

MPI_Win_lock(EXCLUSIVE,B)
MPI_Put(X) /* update to public window */
MPI_Win_unlock(B)

MPI_Barrier                MPI_Barrier

                           MPI_Win_lock(EXCLUSIVE,B)
                           /* now visible in private copy of B */
                           load X
                           MPI_Win_unlock(B)

```

Note that in this example, the barrier is not critical to the semantic correctness. The use of exclusive locks guarantees a remote process will not modify the public copy after MPI\_WIN\_LOCK synchronizes the private and public copies. A polling implementation looking for changes in X on process B would be semantically correct. The barrier is required to ensure that process A performs the put operation before process B performs the load of X.

**Example 11.9** Similar to Example 11.7, the following example is unsafe even in the unified model, because the load of X can not be guaranteed to occur after the MPI\_BARRIER. While Process B does not need to explicitly synchronize the public and private copies through

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1 MPI\_WIN\_LOCK as the MPI\_PUT will update both the public and private copies of the  
 2 window, the scheduling of the load could result in old values of X being returned. Compiler  
 3 and hardware specific notations could ensure the load occurs after the data is updated, or  
 4 explicit one-sided synchronization calls can be used to ensure the proper result.

```

5
6 Process A:                Process B:
7                            window location X
8 MPI_Win_lock_all
9 MPI_Put(X) /* update to window */
10 MPI_Win_flush(B)
11
12 MPI_Barrier                MPI_Barrier
13                            load X
14 MPI_Win_unlock_all

```

ticket270. 16 **Example 11.10** [The rules do *not* guarantee that process A in the following sequence will  
 17 see the value of X as updated by the local store by B before the lock.]The following example  
 18 further clarifies Rule 5. MPI\_WIN\_LOCK and MPI\_WIN\_LOCK\_ALL do *not* update the  
 19 public copy of a window with changes to the private copy. Therefore, there is no guarantee  
 20 that process A in the following sequence will see the value of X as updated by the local  
 21 store by process B before the lock.  
 22

```

23 Process A:                Process B:
24                            window location X
25
26                            store X /* update to private copy of B */
27                            MPI_Win_lock(SHARED,B)
28 MPI_Barrier                MPI_Barrier
29
30 MPI_Win_lock(SHARED,B)
31 MPI_Get(X) /* X may be the X before the store */
32 MPI_Win_unlock(B)
33
34                            MPI_Win_unlock(B)
35                            /* update on X now visible in public window */

```

ticket270. 36 The addition of an MPI\_WIN\_SYNC before the call to MPI\_BARRIER by process B would  
 37 guarantee process A would see the updated value of X, as the public copy of the window  
 38 would be explicitly synchronized with the private copy.

ticket270. 39 **Example 11.11** [In the following sequence]Similar to the previous example, Rule 5 can  
 40 have unexpected implications for general active target synchronization with the RMA separate  
 41 memory model. It is *not* guaranteed that process B reads the value of X as per the local  
 42 update by process A, because neither MPI\_WIN\_WAIT nor MPI\_WIN\_COMPLETE calls by  
 43 process A ensure visibility in the public window copy.  
 44

```

45
46 Process A:                Process B:
47 window location X
48 window location Y

```



```

1           MPI_Win_complete
2           MPI_Win_wait

```

ticket270. [rules (5,6) do *not* guarantee that the private copy of X at B has been updated before the load takes place.] To ensure that the value put by process A is read, the local load must be replaced with a local MPI\_GET operation, or must be placed after the call to MPI\_WIN\_WAIT.

### 11.7.1 Atomicity

ticket270. The outcome of concurrent accumulate[s] operations to the same location[,] with the same operation and predefined datatype[,] is as if the accumulates [where]were done at that location in some serial order. Additional restrictions on the operation apply, see the info key accumulate\_ops in Section 11.2.1. [On the other hand, if two locations are both updated by two accumulate calls, then the updates may occur in reverse order at the two locations]Concurrent accumulate operations with different origin and target pairs are not ordered. Thus, there is no guarantee that the entire call to [MPI\_ACCUMULATE]an accumulate operation is executed atomically. The effect of this lack of atomicity is limited: The previous correctness conditions imply that a location updated by a call to [MPI\_ACCUMULATE,]an accumulate operation cannot be accessed by a load or an RMA call other than accumulate[,] until the [MPI\_ACCUMULATE call]accumulate operation has completed (at the target). Different interleavings can lead to different results only to the extent that computer arithmetics are not truly associative or commutative. The outcome of accumulate operations with overlapping types of different sizes or target displacements is undefined.

### 11.7.2 Ordering

Accumulate calls enable element-wise atomic read and write to remote memory locations. MPI specifies ordering between accumulate operations from one process to the same (or overlapping) memory locations at another process on a per-datatype granularity. The default ordering is strict ordering, which guarantees that overlapping updates from the same source to a remote location are committed in program order and that reads (e.g., with MPI\_GET\_ACCUMULATE) and writes (e.g., with MPI\_ACCUMULATE) are executed and committed in program order. Ordering only applies to operations originating at the same origin that access overlapping target memory regions. MPI does not provide any guarantees for accesses or updates from different origins to overlapping target memory regions.

The default strict ordering may incur a significant performance penalty. MPI specifies the info key accumulate\_ordering to allow relaxation of the ordering semantics when specified to any window creation function. The values for this key are as follows. If set to none, then no ordering will be guaranteed for accumulate calls. This was the behavior for RMA in MPI-2 but is *not* the default in MPI-3. The key can be set to a comma-separated list of required access orderings at the target. Allowed values in the comma-separated list are rar, war, raw, and waw for read-after-read, write-after-read, read-after-write, and write-after-write ordering, respectively. These indicate whether operations of the specified type complete in the order they were issued. For example, raw means that any writes must complete at the target before any reads. These ordering requirements apply only to operations issued by the same origin process and targeting the same target process. [Note that rar, read-after-read, is included for completeness, as ordering is only important if an update (write) may

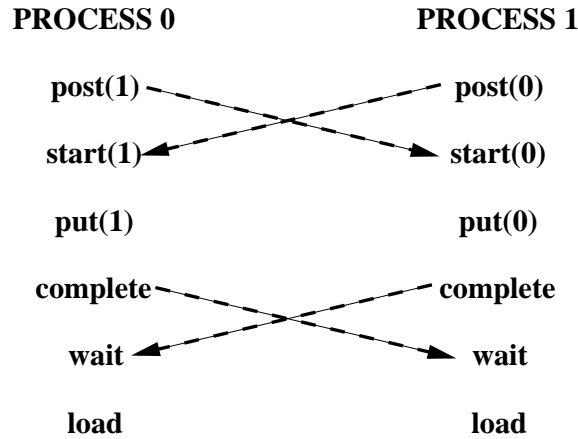


Figure 11.6: Symmetric communication

be made.] The default value for `accumulate_ordering` is `rar,raw,war,waw`, which implies that writes complete at the target in the order in which they were issued, reads complete at the target before any writes that are issued after the reads, and writes complete at the target before any reads that are issued after the writes. Any subset of these four orderings can be specified. For example, if only read-after-read and write-after-write ordering is required, then the value of the `accumulate_ordering` key could be set to `rar,waw`. The order of values is not significant.

Note that the above ordering semantics apply only to accumulate operations, not puts and gets. Puts and gets within an epoch are unordered.

### 11.7.3 Progress

One-sided communication has the same progress requirements as point-to-point communication: once a communication is enabled[, then] it is guaranteed to complete. RMA calls must have local semantics, except when required for synchronization with other RMA calls.

There is some fuzziness in the definition of the time when a RMA communication becomes enabled. This fuzziness provides to the implementor more flexibility than with point-to-point communication. Access to a target window becomes enabled once the corresponding synchronization (such as `MPI_WIN_FENCE` or `MPI_WIN_POST`) has executed. On the origin process, an RMA communication may become enabled as soon as the corresponding put, get or accumulate call has executed, or as late as when the ensuing synchronization call is issued. Once the communication is enabled both at the origin and at the target, the communication must complete.

Consider the code fragment in Example 11.4, on page 34. Some of the calls may block if the target window is not posted. However, if the target window is posted, then the code fragment must complete. The data transfer may start as soon as the put call occurs, but may be delayed until the ensuing complete call occurs.

Consider the code fragment in Example 11.5, on page 39. Some of the calls may block if another process holds a conflicting lock. However, if no conflicting lock is held, then the code fragment must complete.

Consider the code illustrated in Figure 11.6. Each process updates the window of the other process using a put operation, then accesses its own window. The post calls are nonblocking, and should complete. Once the post calls occur, RMA access to the windows is

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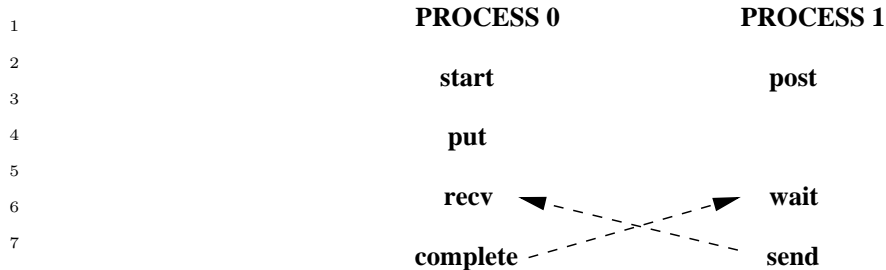


Figure 11.7: Deadlock situation

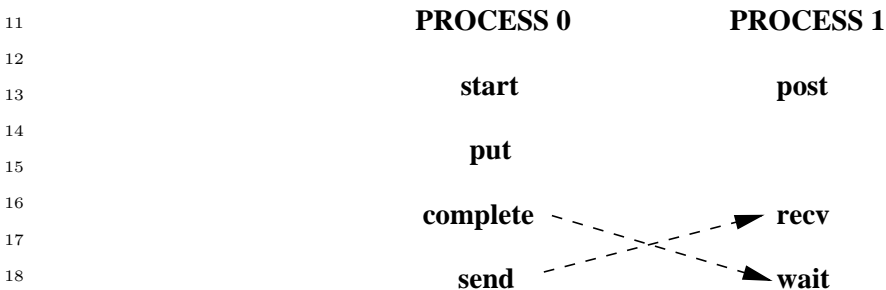


Figure 11.8: No deadlock

22 enabled, so that each process should complete the sequence of calls start-put-complete. Once  
 23 these are done, the wait calls should complete at both processes. Thus, this communication  
 24 should not deadlock, irrespective of the amount of data transferred.

25 Assume, in the last example, that the order of the post and start calls is reversed, at  
 26 each process. Then, the code may deadlock, as each process may block on the start call,  
 27 waiting for the matching post to occur. Similarly, the program will deadlock, if the order  
 28 of the complete and wait calls is reversed, at each process.

29 The following two examples illustrate the fact that the synchronization between com-  
 30 plete and wait is not symmetric: the wait call blocks until the complete executes, but not  
 31 vice[-] versa. Consider the code illustrated in Figure 11.7. This code will deadlock: the wait  
 32 of process 1 blocks until process 0 calls complete, and the receive of process 0 blocks until  
 33 process 1 calls send. Consider, on the other hand, the code illustrated in Figure 11.8. This  
 34 code will not deadlock. Once process 1 calls post, then the sequence start, put, complete  
 35 on process 0 can proceed to completion. Process 0 will reach the send call, allowing the  
 36 receive call of process 1 to complete.

38 *Rationale.* MPI implementations must guarantee that a process makes progress on all  
 39 enabled communications it participates in, while blocked on an MPI call. This is true  
 40 for send-receive communication and applies to RMA communication as well. Thus, in  
 41 the example in Figure 11.8, the put and complete calls of process 0 should complete  
 42 while process 1 is blocked on the receive call. This may require the involvement of  
 43 process 1, e.g., to transfer the data put, while it is blocked on the receive call.

44 A similar issue is whether such progress must occur while a process is busy comput-  
 45 ing, or blocked in a non-MPI call. Suppose that in the last example the send-receive  
 46 pair is replaced by a write-to-socket/read-from-socket pair. Then MPI does not spec-  
 47 ify whether deadlock is avoided. Suppose that the blocking receive of process 1 is  
 48



replaced by a very long compute loop. Then, according to one interpretation of the MPI standard, process 0 must return from the complete call after a bounded delay, even if process 1 does not reach any MPI call in this period of time. According to another interpretation, the complete call may block until process 1 reaches the wait call, or reaches another MPI call. The qualitative behavior is the same, under both interpretations, unless a process is caught in an infinite compute loop, in which case the difference may not matter. However, the quantitative expectations are different. Different MPI implementations reflect these different interpretations. While this ambiguity is unfortunate, it does not seem to affect many real codes. The MPI [f]Forum decided not to decide which interpretation of the standard is the correct one, since the issue is very contentious, and a decision would have much impact on implementors but less impact on users. (*End of rationale.*)

#### 11.7.4 Registers and Compiler Optimizations

*Advice to users.* All the material in this section is an advice to users. (*End of advice to users.*)

A coherence problem exists between variables kept in registers and the memory value of these variables. An RMA call may access a variable in memory (or cache), while the up-to-date value of this variable is in register. A get will not return the latest variable value, and a put may be overwritten when the register is stored back in memory. **Note that these issues are unrelated to the RMA memory model; that is, these issues apply even if the memory model is MPI\_WIN\_UNIFIED.**

The problem is illustrated by the following code:

Source of Process 1	Source of Process 2	Executed in Process 2
bbbb = 777	buff = 999	reg_A:=999
call MPI_WIN_FENCE	call MPI_WIN_FENCE	
call MPI_PUT(bbbb into buff of process 2)		stop appl. thread
		buff:=777 in PUT handler
		continue appl. thread
call MPI_WIN_FENCE	call MPI_WIN_FENCE	
	ccc = buff	ccc:=reg_A

In this example, variable `buff` is allocated in the register `reg_A` and therefore `ccc` will have the old value of `buff` and not the new value 777.

This problem, which also afflicts in some cases send/receive communication, is discussed more at length in Section 16.2.2.

[MPI implementations will avoid this problem for standard conforming C programs.] **Programs written in C avoid this problem, because of the semantics of C.** Many Fortran compilers will avoid this problem, without disabling compiler optimizations. However, in order to avoid register coherence problems in a completely portable manner, users should restrict their use of RMA windows to variables stored in `COMMON` blocks, or to variables that were declared `VOLATILE` [while `VOLATILE` is not a standard Fortran declaration, it is supported by many Fortran compilers] (but this attribute may inhibit optimization of any code containing the RMA window). [Details] **Further details** and an additional solution are discussed in Section 16.2.2, “A Problem with Register Optimization,” on page 507. See also[,] “Prob-

lems Due to Data Copying and Sequence Association,” on page 504, for additional Fortran [problems]issues.

## 11.8 Examples

[This section was moved from earlier in the chapter. Changes and additions to this section are marked in the same way as changes and additions in other parts of this chapter.]

**Example 11.13** The following example shows a generic loosely synchronous, iterative code, using fence synchronization. The window at each process consists of array A, which contains the origin and target buffers of the put calls.

```

...
while(!converged(A)){
  update(A);
  MPI_Win_fence(MPI_MODE_NOPRECEDE, win);
  for(i=0; i < toneighbors; i++)
    MPI_Put(&frombuf[i], 1, fromtype[i], toneighbor[i],
            todisp[i], 1, totype[i], win);
  MPI_Win_fence((MPI_MODE_NOSTORE | MPI_MODE_NOSUCCEED), win);
}

```

The same code could be written with get[,] rather than put. Note that, during the communication phase, each window is concurrently read (as origin buffer of puts) and written (as target buffer of puts). This is OK, provided that there is no overlap between the target buffer of a put and another communication buffer.

**Example 11.14** Same generic example, with more computation/communication overlap. We assume that the update phase is broken in two subphases: the first, where the “boundary,” which is involved in communication, is updated, and the second, where the “core,” which neither use nor provide communicated data, is updated.

```

...
while(!converged(A)){
  update_boundary(A);
  MPI_Win_fence((MPI_MODE_NOPUT | MPI_MODE_NOPRECEDE), win);
  for(i=0; i < fromneighbors; i++)
    MPI_Get(&tobuf[i], 1, totype[i], fromneighbor[i],
            fromdisp[i], 1, fromtype[i], win);
  update_core(A);
  MPI_Win_fence(MPI_MODE_NOSUCCEED, win);
}

```

The get communication can be concurrent with the core update, since they do not access the same locations, and the local update of the origin buffer by the get call can be concurrent with the local update of the core by the update\_core call. In order to get similar overlap with put communication we would need to use separate windows for the core and for the boundary. This is required because we do not allow local stores to be concurrent with puts on the same, or on overlapping, windows.

**Example 11.15** Same code as in Example 11.13, rewritten using post-start-complete-wait. 1

```

... 2
while(!converged(A)){ 3
    update(A); 4
    MPI_Win_post(fromgroup, 0, win); 5
    MPI_Win_start(togroup, 0, win); 6
    for(i=0; i < toneighbors; i++) 7
        MPI_Put(&frombuf[i], 1, fromtype[i], toneighbor[i], 8
                todisp[i], 1, totype[i], win); 9
    MPI_Win_complete(win); 10
    MPI_Win_wait(win); 11
} 12

```

**Example 11.16** Same example, with split phases, as in Example 11.14. 13

```

... 14
while(!converged(A)){ 15
    update_boundary(A); 16
    MPI_Win_post(togroup, MPI_MODE_NOPUT, win); 17
    MPI_Win_start(fromgroup, 0, win); 18
    for(i=0; i < fromneighbors; i++) 19
        MPI_Get(&tobuf[i], 1, totype[i], fromneighbor[i], 20
                fromdisp[i], 1, fromtype[i], win); 21
    update_core(A); 22
    MPI_Win_complete(win); 23
    MPI_Win_wait(win); 24
} 25

```

**Example 11.17** A checkerboard, or double buffer communication pattern, that allows 26  
more computation/communication overlap. Array A0 is updated using values of array A1, 27  
and vice versa. We assume that communication is symmetric: if process A gets data from 28  
process B, then process B gets data from process A. Window wini consists of array Ai. 29

```

... 30
if (!converged(A0,A1)) 31
    MPI_Win_post(neighbors, (MPI_MODE_NOCHECK | MPI_MODE_NOPUT), win0); 32
MPI_Barrier(comm0); 33
/* the barrier is needed because the start call inside the 34
loop uses the nocheck option */ 35
while(!converged(A0, A1)){ 36
    /* communication on A0 and computation on A1 */ 37
    update2(A1, A0); /* local update of A1 that depends on A0 (and A1) */ 38
    MPI_Win_start(neighbors, MPI_MODE_NOCHECK, win0); 39
    for(i=0; i < neighbors; i++) 40
        MPI_Get(&tobuf0[i], 1, totype0[i], neighbor[i], 41
                fromdisp0[i], 1, fromtype0[i], win0); 42
    update1(A1); /* local update of A1 that is 43
concurrent with communication that updates A0 */ 44

```

```

1  MPI_Win_post(neighbors, (MPI_MODE_NOCHECK | MPI_MODE_NOPUT), win1);
2  MPI_Win_complete(win0);
3  MPI_Win_wait(win0);
4
5  /* communication on A1 and computation on A0 */
6  update2(A0, A1); /* local update of A0 that depends on A1 (and A0)*/
7  MPI_Win_start(neighbors, MPI_MODE_NOCHECK, win1);
8  for(i=0; i < neighbors; i++)
9      MPI_Get(&tobuf1[i], 1, totype1[i], neighbor[i],
10             fromdisp1[i], 1, fromtype1[i], win1);
11  update1(A0); /* local update of A0 that depends on A0 only,
12               concurrent with communication that updates A1 */
13  if (!converged(A0,A1))
14      MPI_Win_post(neighbors, (MPI_MODE_NOCHECK | MPI_MODE_NOPUT), win0);
15  MPI_Win_complete(win1);
16  MPI_Win_wait(win1);
17  }

```

A process posts the local window associated with `win0` before it completes RMA accesses to the remote windows associated with `win1`. When the `wait(win1)` call returns, then all neighbors of the calling process have posted the windows associated with `win0`. Conversely, when the `wait(win0)` call returns, then all neighbors of the calling process have posted the windows associated with `win1`. Therefore, the `nocheck` option can be used with the calls to `MPI_WIN_START`.

Put calls can be used, instead of get calls, if the area of array `A0` (resp. `A1`) used by the `update(A1, A0)` (resp. `update(A0, A1)`) call is disjoint from the area modified by the RMA communication. On some systems, a put call may be more efficient than a get call, as it requires information exchange only in one direction.

In the next several examples, for conciseness, the expression

```
z = MPI_Get_accumulate(...)
```

means to perform an `MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE` with the result buffer (given by `result_addr` in the description of `MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE`) on the left side of the assignment; in this case, `z`. This format is also used with `MPI_COMPARE_AND_SWAP`.

**Example 11.18** The following example implements a naive, non-scalable counting semaphore. The example demonstrates the use of `MPI_WIN_SYNC` to manipulate the public copy of `X`, as well as `MPI_WIN_FLUSH` to complete operations without ending the access epoch opened with `MPI_WIN_LOCK_ALL`. To avoid the rules regarding synchronization of the public and private copies of windows, `MPI_ACCUMULATE` and `MPI_GET_ACCUMULATE` are used to write to or read from the local public copy.

Process A:	Process B:
<code>MPI_Win_lock_all</code>	<code>MPI_Win_lock_all</code>
window location <code>X</code>	
<code>X=2</code>	
<code>MPI_Win_sync</code>	
<code>MPI_Barrier</code>	<code>MPI_Barrier</code>

```

MPI_Accumulate(X, MPI_SUM, -1)
stack variable z
do
  z = MPI_Get_accumulate(X,
    MPI_NO_OP, 0)
  MPI_Win_flush(A)
while(z!=0)

MPI_Win_unlock_all

```

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```

**Example 11.19** Implementing a critical region between two processes (Peterson's algorithm). Despite their appearance in the following example, `MPI_WIN_LOCK_ALL` and `MPI_WIN_UNLOCK_ALL` are not collective calls, but it is frequently useful to start shared access epochs to all processes from all other processes in a window. Once the access epochs are established, accumulate communication operations and flush and sync synchronization operations can be used to read from or write to the public copy of the window.

```

Process A:
window location X
window location T

MPI_Win_lock_all
X=1
MPI_Win_sync
MPI_Barrier
MPI_Accumulate(T, MPI_REPLACE, 1)
stack variables t,y
t=1
y=MPI_Get_accumulate(Y,
  MPI_NO_OP, 0)
while(y==1 && t==1) do
  y=MPI_Get_accumulate(Y,
    MPI_NO_OP, 0)
  t=MPI_Get_accumulate(T,
    MPI_NO_OP, 0)
  MPI_Win_flush_all
done
// critical region
MPI_Accumulate(X, MPI_REPLACE, 0)
MPI_Win_unlock_all

Process B:
window location Y

MPI_Win_lock_all
Y=1
MPI_Win_sync
MPI_Barrier
MPI_Accumulate(T, MPI_REPLACE, 0)
stack variable t,x
t=0
x=MPI_Get_accumulate(X,
  MPI_NO_OP, 0)
while(x==1 && t==0) do
  x=MPI_Get_accumulate(X,
    MPI_NO_OP, 0)
  t=MPI_Get_accumulate(T,
    MPI_NO_OP, 0)
  MPI_Win_flush(A)
done
// critical region
MPI_Accumulate(Y, MPI_REPLACE, 0)
MPI_Win_unlock_all

```

```

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```

**Example 11.20** Implementing a critical region between multiple processes with compare and swap. The call to `MPI_WIN_SYNC` is necessary on Process A after local initialization of A to guarantee the public copy has been updated with the initialization value found in the private copy. It would also be valid to call `MPI_ACCUMULATE` with `MPI_REPLACE` to

```

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```

directly initialize the public copy. A call to `MPI_WIN_FLUSH` would be necessary to assure A in the public copy of Process A had been updated before the barrier.

<pre> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 </pre>	<pre> Process A: MPI_Win_lock_all atomic location A A=0 MPI_Win_sync MPI_Barrier stack variable r=1 while(r != 0) do   r = MPI_Compare_and_swap(A, 0, 1)   MPI_Win_flush(A) done // critical region r = MPI_Compare_and_swap(A, 1, 0) MPI_Win_unlock_all </pre>	<pre> Process B...: MPI_Win_lock_all MPI_Barrier stack variable r=1 while(r != 0) do   r = MPI_Compare_and_swap(A, 0, 1)   MPI_Win_flush(A) done // critical region r = MPI_Compare_and_swap(A, 1, 0) MPI_Win_unlock_all </pre>
---	---	---

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**Example 11.21** The following example shows how request-based operations can be used to overlap communication with computation. Each process fetches, processes, and writes the result for *NSTEPS* chunks of data. Instead of a single buffer, *M* local buffers are used to allow up to *M* communication operations to overlap with computation.

```

24 int      i, j;
25 MPI_Win  win;
26 MPI_Request put_req[M] = { MPI_REQUEST_NULL };
27 MPI_Request get_req;
28 double   **baseptr;
29 double   data[M][N];
30
31 MPI_Win_allocate(NSTEPS*N*sizeof(double), sizeof(double), MPI_INFO_NULL,
32 MPI_COMM_WORLD, baseptr, &win);
33
34 MPI_Win_lock_all(0, win);
35
36 for (i = 0; i < NSTEPS; i++) {
37   if (i < M)
38     j = i;
39   else
40     MPI_Waitany(M, put_req, &j, MPI_STATUS_IGNORE);
41
42   MPI_Rget(data[j], N, MPI_DOUBLE, target, i*N, N, MPI_DOUBLE, win,
43     &get_req);
44   MPI_Wait(get_req);
45   compute(i, data[j], ...);
46   MPI_Rput(data[j], N, MPI_DOUBLE, target, i*N, N, MPI_DOUBLE, win,
47     &put_req[j]);
48 }

```

```
MPI_Waitall(M, put_req, MPI_STATUSES_IGNORE);
MPI_Win_unlock_all(win);
```

**Example 11.22** The following example constructs a distributed shared linked list using dynamic windows. Initially process 0 creates the head of the list, attaches it to the window, and broadcasts the pointer to all processes. All processes then concurrently append  $N$  new elements to the list. When a process attempts to attach its element to the tail of the list it may discover that its tail pointer is stale and it must chase ahead to the new tail before the element can be attached. This example requires some modification to work in an environment where the length of a pointer is different on different processes.

```
...
#define NUM_ELEMS 10

/* Linked list pointer */
typedef struct {
    MPI_Aint disp;
    int      rank;
} llist_ptr_t;

/* Linked list element */
typedef struct {
    llist_ptr_t next;
    int value;
} llist_elem_t;

const llist_ptr_t nil = { -1, (MPI_Aint) MPI_BOTTOM };

/* List of locally allocated list elements. */
static llist_elem_t **my_elems = NULL;
static int my_elems_size = 0;
static int my_elems_count = 0;

/* Allocate a new shared linked list element */
MPI_Aint alloc_elem(int value, MPI_Win win) {
    MPI_Aint disp;
    llist_elem_t *elem_ptr;

    /* Allocate the new element and register it with the window */
    MPI_Alloc_mem(sizeof(llist_elem_t), MPI_INFO_NULL, &elem_ptr);
    elem_ptr->value = value;
    elem_ptr->next = nil;
    MPI_Win_attach(win, elem_ptr, sizeof(llist_elem_t));

    /* Add the element to the list of local elements so we can free
       it later. */
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```

1   if (my_elems_size == my_elems_count) {
2       my_elems_size += 100;
3       my_elems = realloc(my_elems, my_elems_size);
4   }
5   my_elems[my_elems_count] = elem_ptr;
6   my_elems_count++;
7
8   MPI_Get_address(elem_ptr, &disp);
9   return disp;
10  }
11
12  int main(int argc, char **argv) {
13      int          procid, nproc, i;
14      MPI_Win      llist_win;
15      llist_ptr_t  head_ptr, tail_ptr;
16
17      MPI_Init(&argc, &argv);
18
19      MPI_Comm_rank(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &procid);
20      MPI_Comm_size(MPI_COMM_WORLD, &nproc);
21
22      MPI_Win_create_dynamic(MPI_INFO_NULL, MPI_COMM_WORLD, &llist_win);
23
24      /* Process 0 creates the head node */
25      if (procid == 0)
26          head_ptr.disp = alloc_elem(-1, llist_win);
27
28      /* Broadcast the head pointer to everyone */
29      head_ptr.rank = 0;
30      MPI_Bcast(&head_ptr.disp, 1, MPI_AINT, 0, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
31      tail_ptr = head_ptr;
32
33      /* Lock the window for shared access to all targets */
34      MPI_Win_lock_all(0, llist_win);
35
36      /* All processes concurrently append NUM_ELEMS elements to the list */
37      for (i = 0; i < NUM_ELEMS; i++) {
38          llist_ptr_t new_elem_ptr;
39          int success;
40
41          /* Create a new list element and attach it to the window */
42          new_elem_ptr.rank = procid;
43          new_elem_ptr.disp = alloc_elem(procid, llist_win);
44
45          /* Append the new node to the list. This might take multiple
46             attempts if others have already appended and our tail pointer
47             is stale. */
48          do {

```



```

llist_ptr_t next_tail_ptr = nil;
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MPI_Compare_and_swap((void*) &new_elem_ptr.rank, (void*) &nil.rank,
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MPI_Aint) &(((llist_elem_t*)tail_ptr->next.rank),
llist_win);

MPI_Win_flush(tail_ptr.rank, llist_win);
success = (next_tail_ptr.rank == nil.rank);

if (success) {
    MPI_Accumulate(&new_elem_ptr.rank, 1, MPI_AINT, tail_ptr.rank,
        (MPI_Aint) &(((llist_elem_t*)tail_ptr->next.rank), 1,
        MPI_AINT, MPI_REPLACE, llist_win);

    MPI_Win_flush(tail_ptr.rank, llist_win);
    tail_ptr = new_elem_ptr;
} else {
    /* Tail pointer is stale, fetch the displacement. May take
    multiple tries if it is being updated. */
    do {
        MPI_Get_accumulate( NULL, 0, MPI_AINT, &next_tail_ptr.rank,
            1, MPI_AINT, tail_ptr.rank,
            (MPI_Aint) &(((llist_elem_t*)tail_ptr->next.rank),
            1, MPI_AINT, MPI_NO_OP, llist_win);

        MPI_Win_flush(tail_ptr.rank, llist_win);
    } while (next_tail_ptr.rank == nil.rank);
    tail_ptr = next_tail_ptr;
}
} while (!success);
}

MPI_Win_unlock_all(llist_win);
MPI_Barrier( MPI_COMM_WORLD );

/* Free all the elements in the list */
for ( ; my_elems_count > 0; my_elems_count-- ) {
    MPI_Win_detach(win,my_elems[my_elems_count-1]);
    MPI_Free_mem(my_elems[my_elems_count-1]);
}
MPI_Win_free(&llist_win);
...

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