

# Summary of the Semantics of all Operation-Related MPI Procedures

Message Passing Interface Forum

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Version 1.0: February 24, 2021 This supplementary document provides the list of MPI procedures that are associated with an MPI operation, or inquiry procedures providing information about an operation.

# Summary of the Semantics of all Operation-Related MPI Procedures

This is a supplementary document for the MPI Standard Version MPI-4.0 that provides the list of MPI procedures that are associated with an MPI operation, or inquiry procedures providing information about an operation.

## Table Legend:

- **Stages:** i=initialization, s=starting, c=completion, f=freeing. The procedure does at least part of the indicated stage(s).
- **Cpl:** ic=incomplete procedure, c=completing procedure, f=freeing procedure
- **Loc:** l=local procedure, nl=non-local procedure
- \*: exceptions, e.g., ic+nl = incomplete+non-local, and c+l = completing+local (both are defined as blocking)
- **Blk:** b=blocking procedure, nb=nonblocking procedure. Note that from a user's view point, this column is only a hint. Relevant is, whether a routine is local or not and which resources are blocked until when. See both previous and last columns.
- ‡: exceptions, e.g., nonblocking procedures without prefix l, or that prefix l only marks immediate return.
- **Op:** part of operation type: b-op = blocking operation, nb-op = nonblocking operation, p-op = persistent operation, pp-op = persistent partitioned operation
- **Collective procedures:**
  - C = all processes of the group must call the procedure
  - sq = in the same sequence
  - S1 = blocking synchronization, i.e., no process shall return from this procedure until all processes on the associated process group called this procedure
  - W1 = the implementation is permitted to do S1 but not required to do S1
  - S2 = start-complete-synchronization, i.e., no process shall complete the associated operation until all processes on the associated process group have called the associated starting procedure
  - W2 = the implementation is permitted to do S2 but not required to do S2
- **Blocked resources:** They are blocked after the call until the end of the subsequent stage where this resource is not mentioned further in the table.

## Table Remarks:

- 1) Must not return before the corresponding MPI receive operation is started.

- 1        2) Not related to an MPI operation. Prior to MPI-4.0, **MPI\_PROBE** and **MPI\_IProbe** were also  
2        described as blocking and nonblocking. From MPI-4.0 onwards, only non-local and local are  
3        used to describe these procedures.
- 4        3) Usually, **MPI\_WAIT** is non-local, but in this case it is local.
- 5        4) In case of a **MPI\_(I)BARRIER** on an intra-communicator, the S1/S2 synchronization is required  
6        (instead of W1/W2).
- 7        5) Collective: all processes must complete, but with the free choice of using **MPI\_WAIT** or  
8        **MPI\_TEST** returning **flag = TRUE**.
- 9        6) It also may not return until **MPI\_INIT** was called in the children.
- 10       7) Addresses are cached on the request handle.
- 11       8) One of the rare cases that an incomplete call is non-local and therefore blocking.
- 12       9) One shall not free or deallocate the buffer before the operation is freed, that is  
13        **MPI\_REQUEST\_FREE** returned.
- 14       10) For **MPI\_WAIT** and **MPI\_TEST**, see corresponding lines for a) **MPI\_BSEND**, or b)  
15        **MPI\_IBCAST**.
- 16       11) The prefix I marks only that this procedure returns immediately.
- 17       12) One of the exceptions that a completing and therefore blocking operation-related procedure  
18        is local.
- 19       13) **MPI\_(I)MPROBE** initializes the operation through generating the message handle whereas  
20        **MPI\_(I)MRECV** initializes the receive buffer (i.e., two MPI procedures together implement the  
21        initialization stage).
- 22       14) Nonblocking procedure without an I prefix.
- 23       15) Initialization stage (“i”) only if **flag = TRUE** is returned else no operation is progressed.
- 24       16) Collective: all processes must start, but with the free choice of using **MPI\_START** or  
25        **MPI\_STARTALL** for a given persistent request handle (i.e., if one process starts a persistent  
26        request handle then all processes of the associated process group must start their corresponding  
27        request handle, and if any process starts then all processes must complete their handles).
- 28       17) In a correct MPI program, a call to **MPI\_(I)RSEND** requires that the receiver has already  
29        started the corresponding receive. Under this assumption, the call to **MPI\_RSEND** and the  
30        call to **MPI\_WAIT** with an (active) ready send request handle are local.
- 31       18) Based on their semantics, when called using an intra-communicator, **MPI\_ALLGATHER**,  
32        **MPI\_ALLTOALL**, and their V and W variants, **MPI\_ALLREDUCE**, **MPI\_REDUCE\_SCATTER**,  
33        and **MPI\_REDUCE\_SCATTER\_BLOCK** must synchronize (i.e., S1/S2 instead of W1/W2) pro-  
34        vided that all counts and the size of all datatypes are larger than zero.
- 35       19) **MPI\_COMM\_FREE** may return before any pending communication has finished and the com-  
36        municator is deallocated. In contrast, **MPI\_COMM\_DISCONNECT** waits for pending commu-  
37        nicaton to finish and deallocates the communicator before it returns.
- 38       20) The request handle is in the “active” state after **MPI\_START**, i.e., **MPI\_REQUEST\_FREE** is  
39        now forbidden. But the starting stage is not yet finished, and the contents of the buffer are  
40        not yet “blocked.” An additional **MPI\_PREADY** and variants **MPI\_PREADY\_RANGE**  
41        **MPI\_PREADY\_LIST** are required to activate each partition of the send buffer to finish the  
42        starting stage.
- 43       21) As part of the completion stage, the user is allowed to read part of the output buffer after  
44        returning from **MPI\_PARRIVED** with **flag = TRUE** before completing the whole operation with  
45        a **MPI\_WAIT/MPI\_TEST** procedure.

Procedure	Stages	Cpl	Loc	Blk	Op	Collective C   sq	S/W	Blocked resources and remarks	
<b>Chapter 3: Point-to-Point Communication</b>									
MPI_SEND	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	-			1
MPI_SSEND	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	-		1)	2
MPI_RSEND	i-s-c-f	c+f	l*	b	b-op	-		12)* 17)	3
MPI_BSEND	i-s-c-f	c+f	l*	b	b-op	-		12)*	4
MPI_RECV	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	-			5
MPI_ISEND, MPI_ISSEND	i-s---	ic	l	nb	nb-op	-		buffer	6
MPI_IRECV	i-s---	ic	l	nb	nb-op	-		buffer	7
corresponding MPI_WAIT	---c-f	c+f	nl		nb-op	-			8
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	---c-f	c+f	l		nb-op	-			9
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		nb-op	-		buffer cached on req	10
MPI_IBSEND, MPI_IRSEND	i-s---	ic	l	nb	nb-op	-		buffer	11
corresponding MPI_WAIT	---c-f	c+f	l*		nb-op	-		3)* 17)	12
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	---c-f	c+f	l		nb-op	-			13)
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		nb-op	-		buffer 7)	14
MPI_PROBE	-----	c	nl			-		2)	15
MPI_IPROBE	-----	c	l‡			-		2) 11)‡	16
MPI_MPROBE	i-----	ic	nl*	b	b-op	-		message 8)*	17
MPI_IMPROBE	i-----	ic	l	nb	b-op	-		message 15)	18
MPI_MRECV of a probed message	i-s-c-f	c+f	l	b	b-op	-		13)	19
MPI_IMRECV of a probed message	i-s---	ic	l	nb	nb-op	-		buffer 13)	20
corresponding MPI_WAIT	---c-f	c+f	l*		nb-op	-			21
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	---c-f	c+f	l		nb-op	-			22
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		nb-op	-		buffer 7)	23
MPI_[S R]SEND_INIT, MPI_RECV_INIT	i-----	ic	l	nb‡	p-op	-		buffer address 9) 14)‡	24
corresponding MPI_START, MPI_STARTALL	--s---	ic	l	nb‡	p-op	-		buffer address+contents 7) 14)‡	25
corresponding MPI_WAIT (for MPI_(B R)SEND_INIT req.)	---c-	c	l*		p-op	-		buffer address 3)* 7) 9) 17)	26
corresponding MPI_WAIT (for other request)	---c--	c	nl		p-op	-		buffer address 7) 9)	27
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	---c--	c	l		p-op	-		buffer address 7) 9)	28
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		p-op	-		buffer address+contents 7)	29
corresponding MPI_REQUEST_FREE (for inactive request)	----f	f	l		p-op	-			30
MPI_CANCEL of nonblocking/persistent pt-to-pt			l		p-op	-			31
MPI_SENDRECV[_REPLACE]	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	-			32
MPI_ISENDRECV[_REPLACE]	i-s---	ic	l	nb	nb-op	-		buffer	33
corresponding MPI_WAIT	---c-f	c+f	nl		nb-op	-			34
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	---c-f	c+f	l		nb-op	-			35
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		nb-op	-		buffer cached on req	36
<b>Chapter 4: Partitioned Point-to-Point Communication</b>									
MPI_PSEND_INIT	i-----	ic	l	nb‡	pp-op	-		buffer address 9) 14)‡	37
corresponding MPI_START, MPI_STARTALL	--s---	ic	l	nb‡	pp-op	-		buffer address 7) 9) 14)‡ 20)	38
corresponding MPI_PREADY and variants	--s---	ic	l	nb‡	pp-op	-		buffer address+contents 7) 9) 14)‡ 20)	39
corresponding MPI_WAIT	---c-	c	nl		pp-op	-		buffer address 7) 9)	40
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	---c-	c	l		pp-op	-		buffer address 7) 9)	41
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		pp-op	-		buffer address+contents 7) 9)	42
corresponding MPI_REQUEST_FREE (for inactive request)	----f	f	l		pp-op	-			43
MPI_PRCV_INIT	i-----	ic	l	nb‡	pp-op	-		buffer address 9) 14)‡	44
corresponding MPI_START, MPI_STARTALL	--s---	ic	l	nb‡	pp-op	-		buffer address+contents 7) 9) 14)‡	45
MPI_PARRIVED returning flag=TRUE	---c-	ic	l		pp-op	-		buffer address+contents 7) 9) 21)	46
MPI_PARRIVED returning flag=FALSE	-----	ic	l		pp-op	-		buffer address+contents 7) 9)	47
corresponding MPI_WAIT	---c--	c	nl		pp-op	-		buffer address 7) 9) 21)	48
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	---c--	c	l		pp-op	-		buffer address 7) 9) 21)	
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		pp-op	-		buffer address+contents 7) 9)	
corresponding MPI_REQUEST_FREE (for inactive request)	----f	f	l		pp-op	-			

Procedure	Stages	Cpl	Loc	Blk	Op	Collective	Blocked resources
						C sq	S/W and remarks
<b>Chapter 6: Collective Communication</b>							
MPI_BCAST, MPI_BARRIER, MPI_GATHER, MPI_GATHERV, MPI_SCATTER, MPI_SCATTERV, MPI_ALLGATHER, MPI_ALLGATHERV, MPI_ALLTOALL, MPI_ALLTOALLV, MPI_ALLTOALLW, MPI_REDUCE, MPI_ALLREDUCE, MPI_REDUCE_SCATTER_BLOCK, MPI_REDUCE_SCATTER, MPI_SCAN, MPI_EXSCAN	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	C sq	W1 4) 18)
MPI_IBCAST, MPI_IBARRIER, MPI_IGATHER, MPI_ISCATTER, MPI_IALLGATHER, MPI_IALLTOALL, MPI_IREDUCE, MPI_IALLREDUCE, MPI_IREDUCE_SCATTER_BLOCK, MPI_ISCAN, MPI_IEXSCAN	i-s----	ic	l	nb	nb-op	C sq	buffer
MPI_IGATHERV, MPI_ISCATTERV, MPI_IALLGATHERV, MPI_IALLTOALLV, MPI_IALLTOALLW, MPI_IREDUCE_SCATTER	i-s----	ic	l	nb	nb-op	C sq	buffer, array arguments
corresponding MPI_WAIT	----c-f	c+f	nl		nb-op	C	W2 4) 5) 18)
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	----c-f	c+f	l		nb-op	C	W2 4) 5) 18)
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		nb-op		buffer, array arguments 7)
MPI_BCAST_INIT, MPI_BARRIER_INIT, MPI_GATHER_INIT, MPI_SCATTER_INIT, MPI_ALLGATHER_INIT, MPI_ALLTOALL_INIT, MPI_REDUCE_INIT, MPI_ALLREDUCE_INIT, MPI_REDUCE_SCATTER_BLOCK_INIT, MPI_SCAN_INIT, MPI_EXSCAN_INIT	i-----	ic	nl*	b	p-op	C sq	W1 buffer address 8)* 9)
MPI_GATHERV_INIT, MPI_SCATTERV_INIT, MPI_ALLGATHERV_INIT, MPI_ALLTOALLV_INIT, MPI_ALLTOALLW_INIT, MPI_REDUCE_SCATTER_INIT	i-----	ic	nl*	b	p-op	C sq	W1 buffer address, array arguments 8)* 9)
corresponding MPI_START, MPI_STARTALL	--s----	ic	l	nb <sup>‡</sup>	p-op	C	buf.addr.+contents 7) 14) <sup>‡</sup> 16)
corresponding MPI_WAIT	----c--	c	nl		p-op	C	W2 buffer address and array arguments cached on the request handle 4) 5) 7) 9) 18)
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	----c--	c	l		p-op	C	W2 buf-addr & arr-args 4) 5) 7) 9) 18)
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		p-op		buf addr+contents & arr-args 7)
corresponding MPI_REQUEST_FREE	----f	f	l		p-op		
<b>Chapter 7: Groups, Contexts, Communicators, and Caching</b>							
MPI_COMM_CREATE, MPI_COMM_DUP, MPI_COMM_DUP_WITH_INFO, MPI_COMM_SPLIT, MPI_COMM_SPLIT_TYPE	i-s-c-f	c	nl	b	b-op	C sq	W1 coll. over comm arg.
MPI_COMM_CREATE_GROUP	i-s-c-f	c	nl	b	b-op	C sq	W1 coll. over group arg.
MPI_INTERCOMM_CREATE,MPI_INTERCOMM_MERGE	i-s-c-f	c	nl	b	b-op	C sq	W1 coll. over union of local & remote group
MPI_COMM_IDUP	i-s----	ic	l	nb	nb-op	C sq	communicator handle
corresponding MPI_WAIT	----c-f	c+f	nl		nb-op	C	W2 5)
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	----c-f	c+f	l		nb-op	C	W2 5)
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		nb-op		
MPI_COMM_FREE	i-s----	ic	nl	b	nb-op	C sq	W1 19)
MPI_COMM_DISCONNECT	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	C sq	W1 19)

Procedure	Stages	Cpl	Loc	Blk	Op	Collective C   sq	S/W	Blocked resources and remarks
<b>Chapter 8: Process Topologies</b>								
MPI_CART_CREATE, MPI_CART_SUB, MPI_GRAPH_CREATE, MPI_DIST_GRAPH_CREATE_ADJACENT, MPI_DIST_GRAPH_CREATE	i-s-c-f	c	nl	b	b-op	C	sq	W1 coll. over comm arg.
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLGATHER, MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLGATHERV, MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALL, MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLV, MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLW	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	C	sq	W1 4) 18)
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLGATHER, MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALL	i-s----	ic	l	nb	nb-op	C	sq	buffer
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLGATHERV, MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLV, MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLW	i-s----	ic	l	nb	nb-op	C	sq	buffer, array arguments
corresponding MPI_WAIT	---c-f	c+f	nl		nb-op	C		W2 4) 5) 18)
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	---c-f	c+f	l		nb-op	C		W2 4) 5) 18)
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		nb-op			buffer, array arguments 7)
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLGATHER_INIT, MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALL_INIT	i-----	ic	nl*	b	p-op	C	sq	W1 buffer address 8)* 9)
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLGATHERV_INIT, MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLV_INIT, MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLW_INIT	i-----	ic	nl*	b	p-op	C	sq	W1 buffer address, array arguments 8)* 9)
corresponding MPI_START, MPI_STARTALL	--s----	ic	l	nb <sup>‡</sup>	p-op	C		buf.addr.+contents 7) 14) <sup>‡</sup> 16)
corresponding MPI_WAIT	---c--	c	nl		p-op	C		W2 buffer address and array arguments cached on the request handle 4) 5) 7) 9) 18)
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=TRUE	---c--	c	l		p-op	C		W2 buf-addr & arr-args 4) 5) 7) 9) 18)
corresponding MPI_TEST returning flag=FALSE	-----		l		p-op			buf addr+contents & arr-args 7)
corresponding MPI_REQUEST_FREE	-----f	f	l		p-op			
<b>Chapter 11: Process Initialization, Creation, and Management</b>								
MPI_INIT, MPI_INIT_THREAD	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	C	sq	W1 collective over MPI_COMM_WORLD
MPI_FINALIZE	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	C	sq	W1 collective over all connected processes
MPI_SESSION_INIT	-----		l					2)
MPI_SESSION_FINALIZE	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	C	sq	W1 collective over connected processes scoped by the session
MPI_COMM_SPAWN, ..._MULTIPLE	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	C	sq	W1 collective over comm 6)
MPI_COMM_ACCEPT, MPI_COMM_CONNECT	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	C	sq	W1 collective over comm
<b>Chapter 14: I/O</b>								
MPI_FILE_READ/WRITE[_AT_ _SHARED], MPI_FILE_DELETE/SEEK/GET_VIEW	i-s-c-f	c+f	l*	b	b-op	-		12)*
MPI_FILE_READ/WRITE_AT_ALL, MPI_FILE_READ/WRITE_ALL ORDERED, MPI_FILE_OPEN/CLOSE/SEEK_SHARED, MPI_FILE_PREALLOCATE/SYNC, MPI_FILE_SET_VIEW/SIZE/INFO/ATOMICITY	i-s-c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	C	sq	W1
MPI_FILE_IREAD/IWRITE[_AT_ _SHARED]	i-s---	ic	l	nb	nb-op	-		buffer 10a)
MPI_FILE_IREAD/IWRITE[_AT_ _ALL]	i-s---	ic	l	nb	nb-op	C	sq	buffer 10b)
MPI_FILE_READ/WRITE[_AT_ _ALL_BEGIN MPI_FILE_READ/WRITE_ORDERED_BEGIN	i-s---	ic	nl*	b	b-op	C	sq	W1 buffer 8)*
MPI_FILE_READ/WRITE[_AT_ _ALL_END MPI_FILE_READ/WRITE_ORDERED_END	---c-f	c+f	nl	b	b-op	C	sq	W1

# Index

CONST:MPI\_COMM\_WORLD, 5  
MPI\_(I)RSEND, 2  
MPI\_ALLGATHER, 2, 4  
MPI\_ALLGATHER\_INIT, 4  
MPI\_ALLGATHERV, 4  
MPI\_ALLGATHERV\_INIT, 4  
MPI\_ALLREDUCE, 2, 4  
MPI\_ALLREDUCE\_INIT, 4  
MPI\_ALLTOALL, 2, 4  
MPI\_ALLTOALL\_INIT, 4  
MPI\_ALLTOALLV, 4  
MPI\_ALLTOALLV\_INIT, 4  
MPI\_ALLTOALLW, 4  
MPI\_ALLTOALLW\_INIT, 4  
MPI\_BARRIER, 2, 4  
MPI\_BARRIER\_INIT, 4  
MPI\_BCAST, 4  
MPI\_BCAST\_INIT, 4  
MPI\_BSEND, 2, 3  
MPI\_BSEND\_INIT, 3  
MPI\_CANCEL, 3  
MPI\_CART\_CREATE, 5  
MPI\_CART\_SUB, 5  
MPI\_COMM\_ACCEPT, 5  
MPI\_COMM\_CONNECT, 5  
MPI\_COMM\_CREATE, 4  
MPI\_COMM\_CREATE\_GROUP, 4  
MPI\_COMM\_DISCONNECT, 2, 4  
MPI\_COMM\_DUP, 4  
MPI\_COMM\_DUP\_WITH\_INFO, 4  
MPI\_COMM\_FREE, 2, 4  
MPI\_COMM\_IDUP, 4  
MPI\_COMM\_MULTIPLE, 5  
MPI\_COMM\_SPAWN, 5  
MPI\_COMM\_SPLIT, 4  
MPI\_COMM\_SPLIT\_TYPE, 4  
MPI\_DIST\_GRAPH\_CREATE, 5  
MPI\_DIST\_GRAPH\_CREATE\_ADJACENT,  
5  
MPI\_EXSCAN, 4  
MPI\_EXSCAN\_INIT, 4  
MPI\_FILE\_CLOSE, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_DELETE, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_GET\_VIEW, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_IREAD, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_IREAD\_ALL, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_IREAD\_AT, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_IREAD\_AT\_ALL, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_IREAD\_SHARED, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_IWRITE, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_IWRITE\_ALL, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_IWRITE\_AT, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_IWRITE\_AT\_ALL, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_IWRITE\_SHARED, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_OPEN, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_PREALLOCATE, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ\_ALL, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ\_ALL\_BEGIN, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ\_ALL\_END, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ\_AT, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ\_AT\_ALL, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ\_AT\_ALL\_BEGIN, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ\_AT\_ALL\_END, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ\_ORDERED, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ\_ORDERED\_BEGIN, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ\_ORDERED\_END, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_READ\_SHARED, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_SEEK, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_SEEK\_SHARED, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_SET\_ATOMICITY, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_SET\_INFO, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_SET\_SIZE, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_SET\_VIEW, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_SYNC, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_WRITE, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_WRITE\_ALL, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_WRITE\_ALL\_BEGIN, 5  
MPI\_FILE\_WRITE\_ALL\_END, 5

MPI_FILE_WRITE_AT, 5	
MPI_FILE_WRITE_AT_ALL, 5	
MPI_FILE_WRITE_AT_ALL_BEGIN, 5	
MPI_FILE_WRITE_AT_ALL_END, 5	
MPI_FILE_WRITE_ORDERED, 5	
MPI_FILE_WRITE_ORDERED_BEGIN, 5	
MPI_FILE_WRITE_ORDERED_END, 5	
MPI_FILE_WRITE_SHARED, 5	
MPI_FINALIZE, 5	
MPI_GATHER, 4	
MPI_GATHER_INIT, 4	
MPI_GATHERV, 4	
MPI_GATHERV_INIT, 4	
MPI_GRAPH_CREATE, 5	
MPI_IALLGATHER, 4	
MPI_IALLGATHERV, 4	
MPI_IALLREDUCE, 4	
MPI_IALLTOALL, 4	
MPI_IALLTOALLV, 4	
MPI_IALLTOALLW, 4	
MPI_IBARRIER, 2, 4	
MPI_IBCAST, 2, 4	
MPI_IBSEND, 3	
MPI_IEXSCAN, 4	
MPI_IGATHER, 4	
MPI_IGATHERV, 4	
MPI_IMPROBE, 2, 3	
MPI_IMRECV, 2, 3	
MPI_INEIGHBOR_ALLGATHER, 5	
MPI_INEIGHBOR_ALLGATHERV, 5	
MPI_INEIGHBOR_ALLTOALL, 5	
MPI_INEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLV, 5	
MPI_INEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLW, 5	
MPI_INIT, 2, 5	
MPI_INIT_THREAD, 5	
MPI_INTERCOMM_CREATE, 4	
MPI_INTERCOMM_MERGE, 4	
MPI_IPROBE, 2, 3	
MPI_IRecv, 3	
MPI_IREDUCE, 4	
MPI_IREDUCE_SCATTER, 4	
MPI_IREDUCE_SCATTER_BLOCK, 4	
MPI_IRSEND, 3	
MPI_ISCAN, 4	
MPI_ISCATTER, 4	
MPI_ISCATTERV, 4	
MPI_ISEND, 3	
MPI_ISENDRECV, 3	
MPI_ISENDRECV_REPLACE, 3	1
MPI_ISSEND, 3	2
MPI_MPROBE, 2, 3	3
MPI_MRECV, 2, 3	4
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLGATHER, 5	5
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLGATHER_INIT, 5	6
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLGATHERV, 5	7
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLGATHERV_INIT, 5	8
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALL, 5	9
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALL_INIT, 5	10
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLV, 5	11
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLV_INIT, 5	12
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLW, 5	13
MPI_NEIGHBOR_ALLTOALLW_INIT, 5	14
MPI_PARRIVED, 2, 3	15
MPI_PREADY, 2, 3	16
MPI_PRECV_INIT, 3	17
MPI_PROBE, 2, 3	18
MPI_PSEND_INIT, 3	19
MPI_RECV, 3	20
MPI_RECV_INIT, 3	21
MPI_REDUCE, 4	22
MPI_REDUCE_INIT, 4	23
MPI_REDUCE_SCATTER, 2, 4	24
MPI_REDUCE_SCATTER_BLOCK, 2, 4	25
MPI_REDUCE_SCATTER_BLOCK_INIT, 4	26
MPI_REDUCE_SCATTER_INIT, 4	27
MPI_REQUEST_FREE, 2–5	28
MPI_RSEND, 2, 3	29
MPI_RSEND_INIT, 3	30
MPI_SCAN, 4	31
MPI_SCAN_INIT, 4	32
MPI_SCATTER, 4	33
MPI_SCATTER_INIT, 4	34
MPI_SCATTERV, 4	35
MPI_SCATTERV_INIT, 4	36
MPI_SEND, 3	37
MPI_SEND_INIT, 3	38
MPI_SENDRECV, 3	39
MPI_SENDRECV_REPLACE, 3	40
MPI_SESSION_FINALIZE, 5	41
MPI_SESSION_INIT, 5	42
MPI_SSEND, 3	43
MPI_SSEND_INIT, 3	44
MPI_START, 2–5	45
MPI_STARTALL, 2–5	46
MPI_TEST, 2–5	47
MPI_WAIT, 2–5	48