

# Efficient, Optimal MPI Datatype Reconstruction for Vector and Index Types

Martin Kalany, Jesper Larsson Träff  
[{kalany,traff}@par.tuwien.ac.at](mailto:{kalany,traff}@par.tuwien.ac.at)

Vienna University of Technology  
Faculty of Informatics, Institute for Information Systems  
Research Group Parallel Computing

## MPI Derived datatypes

...you all know about them

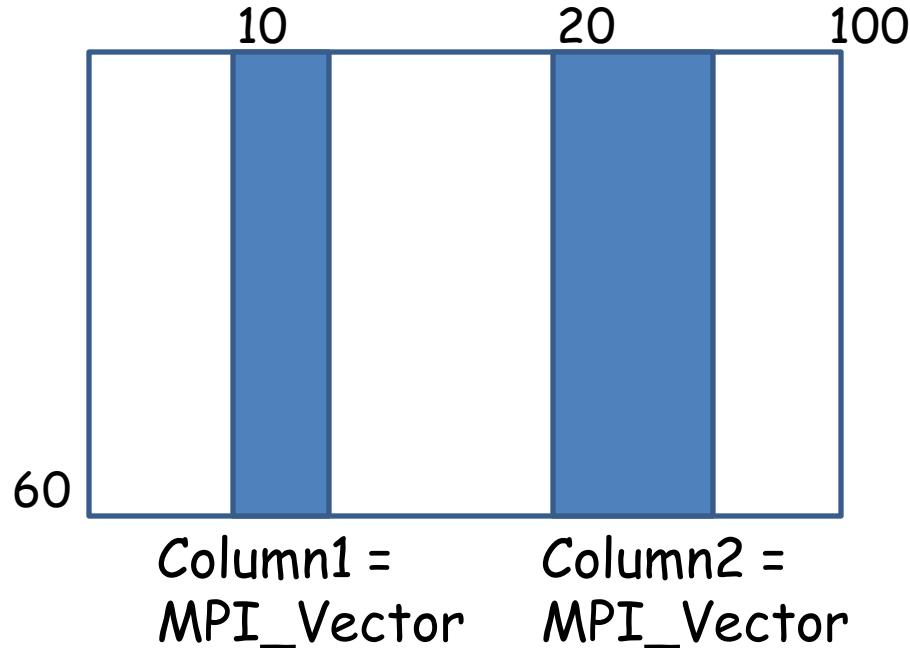
Mechanism for describing application data layouts that are

- Non-consecutive (sub-matrices, parts of buffers, ...)
- Non-homogeneous: different basetypes (MPI\_CHAR, MPI\_DOUBLE, MPI\_INT, ...)

Derived (user-defined) datatypes orthogonal to communication mode: works for point-to-point, collective, one-sided, extremely important for MPI-IO specification, ...

### Unique feature of MPI (could be useful for other interfaces!)

Example: Receive two matrix-column blocks...



Rowtype =  
MPI\_Indexed



BlocksType =  
MPI\_Contig(Rowtype)

Note:  
BlocksType ≠ BlocksType'

BlocksType' =  
MPI\_Struct(Column1, Column2)

**Note:** `BlocksType` ≠ `BlocksType'`

Derived datatype describes the **layout** of data, and fixes the **order** in which data are accessed

Layout: **Ordered sequence** of <displacement,basetype> pairs

aka MPI type map

Example: The row-wise layout of matrix-columns:

<10,DOUBLE>, <11,DOUBLE>, <20,DOUBLE>, <21,DOUBLE>,  
<22,DOUBLE>, <110,DOUBLE>, <111,DOUBLE>, <120,DOUBLE>,  
<121,DOUBLE>, <122,DOUBLE>, ...

**Note:** `BlocksType`  $\neq$  `BlocksType'`

Derived datatype describes the **layout** of data, and fixes the **order** in which data are accessed

Layout: **Ordered sequence** of <displacement,basetype> pairs

Homogeneous: same basetype for all pairs

aka MPI type map

Example: Row-wise layout of matrix-columns, basetype DOUBLE

<10,11,20,21,22,110,111,120,121,122, ...>

Displacement sequence: list of displacements (in access order)

Displacements themselves not necessarily ordered!

**Note:** `BlocksType`  $\neq$  `BlocksType'`

Derived datatype describes the **layout** of data, and fixes the **order** in which data are accessed

Layout: **Ordered sequence** of <displacement,basetype> pairs

Homogeneous: same basetype for all pairs

aka MPI type map

Example: Column-wise layout of matrix-columns

<10,11,110,111,210,211,...,20,21,22,120,121,122,220,221,222, ...>



Displacement sequence: list of displacements (in access order)

Displacements themselves not necessarily ordered!

## Datatype representation

Tree (or DAG) like structure:

- Internal type nodes describe how child nodes are repeated (how often, where)
- Leaf nodes describe basetype

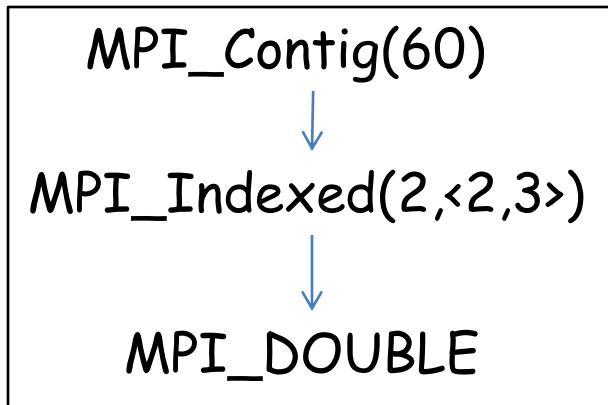
### Semantics:

There is a function `flatten(T)` that generates the type map from datatype  $T$ , i.e.,  $\text{flatten}(T) = D$

### MPI usage:

Derived datatype explicitly constructed by application using type constructor operations, MPI library maintains some convenient and efficient internal representation

## Derived datatype representation of displacement sequence



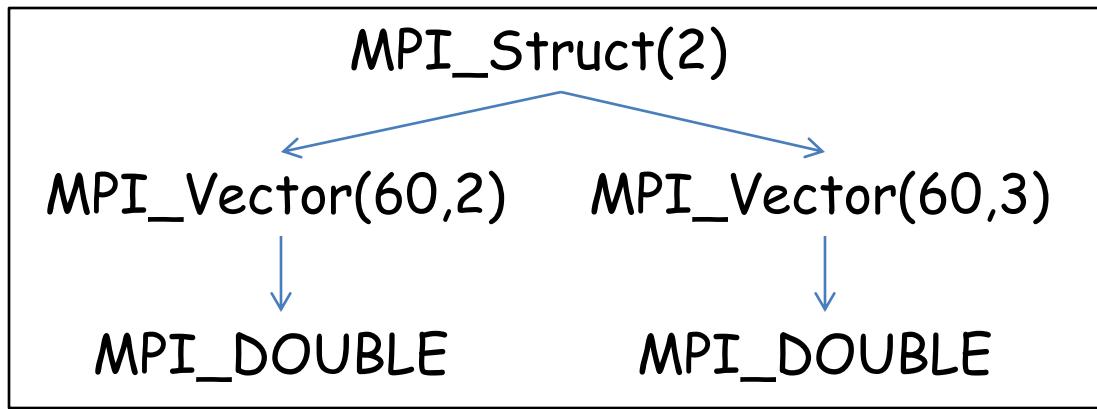
Type nodes:

- MPI\_Contig
- MPI\_Vector
- MPI\_IndexBlock
- MPI\_Indexed

## MPI datatype constructors

- MPI\_Type\_contiguous(oldtype, ..., &newtype);
- MPI\_Type\_vector(oldtype,...,&newtype);
- MPI\_Type\_create\_indexed\_block(oldtype,. ... , &newtype);
- MPI\_Type\_indexed(oldtype, ..., &newtype);

## Derived datatype representation of heterogeneous type map



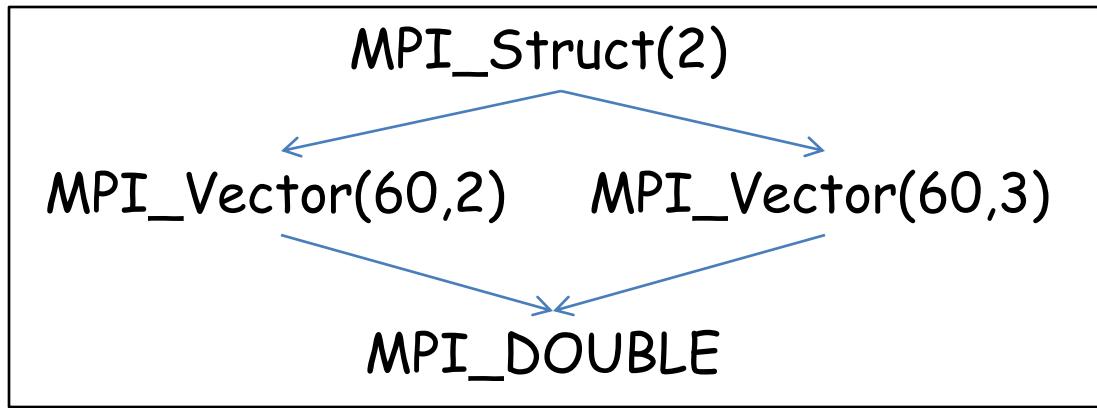
Type nodes:

- **MPI\_Contig**
- **MPI\_Vector**
- **MPI\_IndexBlock**
- **MPI\_Indexed**
- **MPI\_Struct**

## MPI datatype constructors

- **MPI\_Type\_contiguous(oldtype, ..., &newtype);**
- **MPI\_Type\_vector(oldtype,...,&newtype);**
- **MPI\_Type\_create\_indexed\_block(oldtype,. ..., &newtype);**
- **MPI\_Type\_indexed(oldtype, ..., &newtype);**
- **MPI\_Type\_create\_struct(oldtypes[], ..., &newtype);**

## Derived datatype representation of heterogeneous type map



Type nodes:

- `MPI_Contig`
- `MPI_Vector`
- `MPI_IndexBlock`
- `MPI_Indexed`
- `MPI_Struct`

## MPI datatype constructors

- `MPI_Type_contiguous(oldtype, ..., &newtype);`
- `MPI_Type_vector(oldtype,...,&newtype);`
- `MPI_Type_create_indexed_block(oldtype,. ..., &newtype);`
- `MPI_Type_indexed(oldtype, ..., &newtype);`
- `MPI_Type_create_struct(oldtypes[], ..., &newtype);`

## Our internal representation (not very important here)

- $\text{leaf}(B)$ : basetype B at displacement 0
- $\text{vec}(c,d,C)$ : regular, strided repetition of subtype C at displacements 0, d, 2d, 3d, ...  $(c-1)d$
- $\text{idx}(c,<\mathbf{i0},\mathbf{i1},\mathbf{i2},\dots,\mathbf{i(c-1)}>,C)$ : repetition of subtype C at displacements  $i_0, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{(c-1)}$
- $\text{strc}(c,<\mathbf{i0},\mathbf{i1},\mathbf{i2},\dots,\mathbf{i(c-1)}>,<\mathbf{C0},\mathbf{C1},\mathbf{C2},\dots,\mathbf{C(c-1)}>)$ : subtypes  $C_0, C_1, C_2, \dots, C_{(c-1)}$  at displacements  $i_0, i_1, i_2, \dots, i_{(c-1)}$
- Can easily represent the MPI constructors (for now, we omit `MPI_Type_indexed`)
- Avoids some tedious problems with extents and “true extents”

## Datatype representation

Tree (or DAG) like structure:

- Internal type nodes describe how child nodes are repeated (how often, where)
- Leaf nodes describe basetype

### Semantics:

There is a function  $\text{flatten}(T)$  that generates the type map from datatype  $T$ , i.e.,  $\text{flatten}(T) = D$

### Note:

There are (infinitely) many ways  $T$  to describe a given  $D$

Some may be better than others

## Some natural questions

- What is the best way to describe given displacement sequence (homogeneous type map) as derived datatype?
- What is the best way to describe heterogeneous type map as derived datatype?
- How do the set of constructors affect complexity and quality?

Depends on what is meant by "best" (cost function)

Abstract cost function:

Account for space consumption and (indirectly) processing cost

Real "best" depends on MPI library and (communication) system

## Cost model

- $\text{cost}(\text{leaf}(B))$ : some constant  $K$
- $\text{cost}(\text{vec}(c,d,C))$ : some (other) constant  $K'$
- $\text{cost}(\text{idx}(c,<\!\!i_0,i_1,i_2,\dots,i_{(c-1)}\!\!>,C))$ : some constant  $K''+c$  (**non-constant**)
- $\text{cost}(\text{struc}(c,<\!\!i_0,i_1,i_2,\dots,i_{(c-1)}\!\!>,<\!\!C_0,C_1,C_2,\dots,C_{(c-1)}\!\!>))$ : some constant  $K'''+2c$  (**non-constant**)

### Justification:

`leaf`, `vec`: only constant information needed to process  
`idx`, `struc`: space proportional to displacement and type lists required, must be traversed on processing

$\text{cost}(T)$ : sum of costs of all nodes in  $T$  (additive cost model)

## Problems

Given:

- set of constructors (leaf, vec, idx, struc, ...)
- cost function  $\text{cost}(T)$

**Type reconstruction problem:** Find cost-optimal representation for given type map

**Type normalization problem:** Find cost-optimal representation for given, user-defined datatype

William Gropp, Torsten Hoefler, Rajeev Thakur, Jesper Larsson  
Träff: Performance Expectations and Guidelines for MPI Derived  
Datatypes. EuroMPI 2011: 150-159

## Known facts

MPI libraries use heuristics (**folklore**) to improve internal datatype representation (`MPI_Struct => MPI_Indexed => MPI_Vector => MPI_Contig`): type normalization, **see, e.g.**,

Fredrik Kjolstad, Torsten Hoefer, Marc Snir: Automatic datatype generation and optimization. PPOPP 2012: 327-328 (**and more extensive TR!**)

Homogeneous type maps of size  $n$ , `leaf`, `vec` and `idx` nodes:  
 $O(n\sqrt{n})$  time reconstruction, normalization in time  $O(\text{size}(T))$

Jesper Larsson Träff: Optimal MPI Datatype Normalization for Vector and Index-block Types. EuroMPI/ASIA 2014: 33

## New results

Homogeneous type maps of size n, `leaf`, `vec` and `idx` nodes:  
Better algorithm for finding all repeated prefixes,  $O(n \log n / \log \log n)$  time type reconstruction  
• Prefix algorithm can be used for normalization  
• `MPI_Index` (`idxbuc` node) can be incorporated in  $O(n^2 \log^2 n)$  time

### Not here:

Arbitrary type maps of size n, all type nodes `leaf`, `vec`, `idx`, `struc`, type reconstruction into trees is polynomial but  $O(n^4)$

Robert Ganian, Martin Kalany, Stefan Szeider, Jesper Larsson Träff:  
Polynomial-time Construction of Optimal Tree-structured  
Communication Data Layout Descriptions. CoRR abs/1506.09100  
(2015)

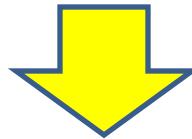
and Master's Thesis by Martin Kalany

## Type reconstruction strategy

Derived datatype nodes describe structured repetition of subtype



To compute datatype from given displacement sequence: look for all possible repetitions



Use dynamic programming to compute best datatype

From now on: homogeneous type maps = displacement sequences

## Terminology

### Displacement sequence:

Array D[] of n integer displacements , D[i] i'th displacement in sequence (D[i] can be >0, <0, =0, repetitions allowed)

D[] = <10,11,20,21,22,110,111,120,121,122, ...>

...can trivially be represented as derived datatype

idx(n,<10,11,20,21,22,110,111,120,121,122, ...>)



DOUBLE

Cost = n+K"+K

## Terminology

### Displacement sequence:

Array D[] of n integer displacements , D[i] i'th displacement in sequence (D[i] can be >0, <0, =0, repetitions allowed)

D[] = <10,11,20,21,22,110,111,120,121,122, ...>

D[i,j]: Segment of displacement sequence from i to j (inclusive)

D[2,4] = <20,21,22>

D[0,2] = <10,11,20>

D[0,p-1]: Prefix of length p

### Definition:

Prefix of length  $p$  is **repeated** in  $D$  if

$$D[j] - D[0] = D[ip+j] - D[ip]$$

for  $0 \leq j < p$  and  $1 \leq i < n/p$



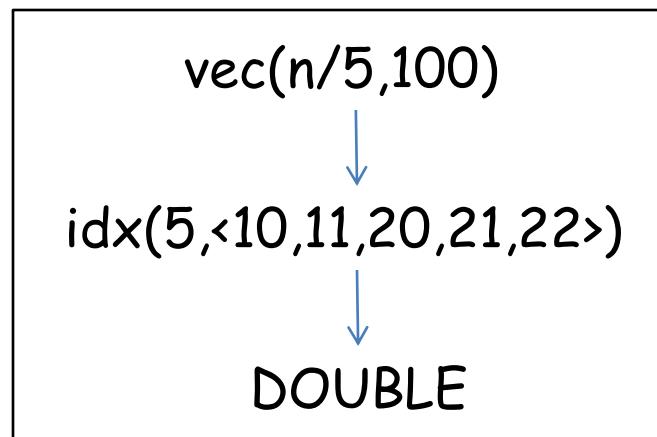
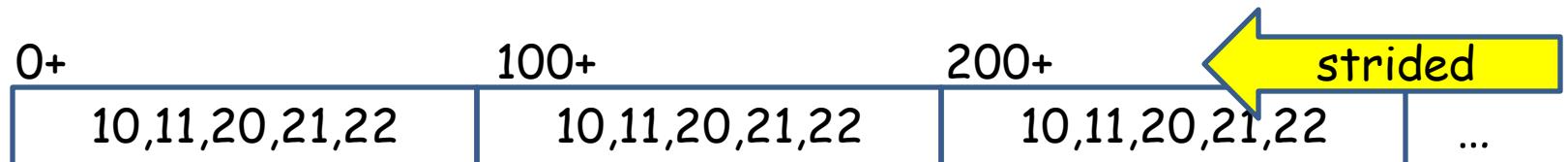
**Observation:** A prefix of length  $p$  can be repeated only if  $p|n$ ,  
**trivial prefixes**  $D[0,0]$  of length 1 and  $D[0,n-1]$  of length 1

Definition: A repeated prefix of length  $p$  is **strided** if  
additionally

$$D[p] - D[0] = D[(i+1)p] - D[ip]$$

Prefix D[0,4] = <10,11,20,21,22> is repeated (and strided) in

D[] = <10,11,20,21,22,110,111,120,121,122, ...>



$$\text{Cost} = K' + 5 + K'' + K$$

## Finding repeated prefixes

Finding **strided** prefixes is easy (EuroMPI 2014): longest repeated prefix in arbitrary D can be found in one scan in  $O(n)$  time

Finding repeated, non-strided prefixes; trivial approach:

Try all divisors  $p$  of  $n$ , for each check by scan of  $D$  whether prefix  $D[0,p-1]$  is repeated: **total time  $O(n\sqrt{n})$**

At most  $2\sqrt{n}$  divisors in  $n$  to check

**Observation:**

If  $D[0,p-1]$  is repeated prefix of  $D$ , checking whether  $D[0,p-1]$  is a strided prefix takes  $O(n/p)$  time

### Claim:

Let  $p$  divisor of  $n$ . All repeated prefixes of length  $q$  where  $q$  is a divisor of  $p$  (including  $q=p$ ) can be found in linear time

### Idea:

To find **all** repeated prefixes of  $D$ , let

$$n = (p_1^{a_1}) (p_2^{a_2}) (p_3^{a_3}) \dots (p_k^{a_k})$$

be prime factorization of  $n$ . Apply claim for all  $p = (n/p_i)$

### Result from number theory (Robin, 1983):

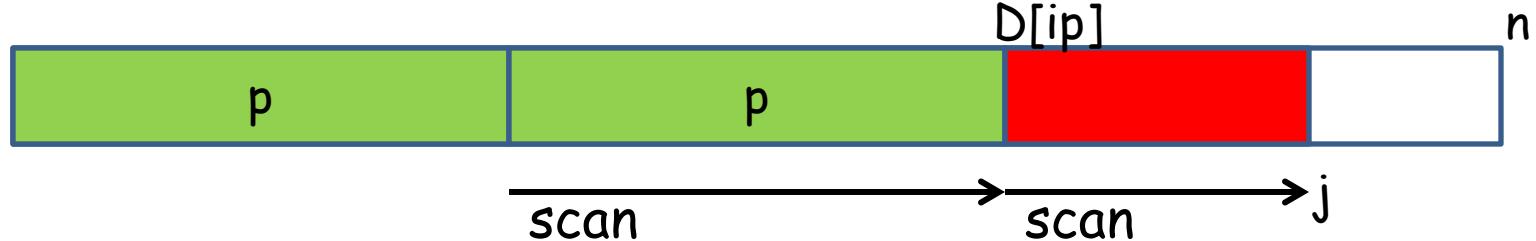
Number of distinct prime factors of  $n$  is  $O(\log n / \log \log n)$

Proposition:

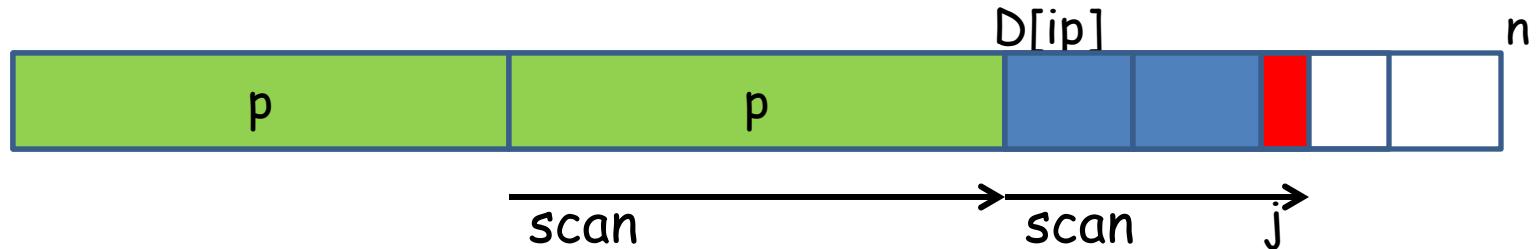
All repeated prefixes of given displacement sequence  $D$  of length  $n$  can be found in  $O(n \log n / \log \log n)$  time

**Proof of claim:**

Pick (largest) divisor  $p$  of  $n$ , check if  $D[0, p-1]$  is repeated prefix



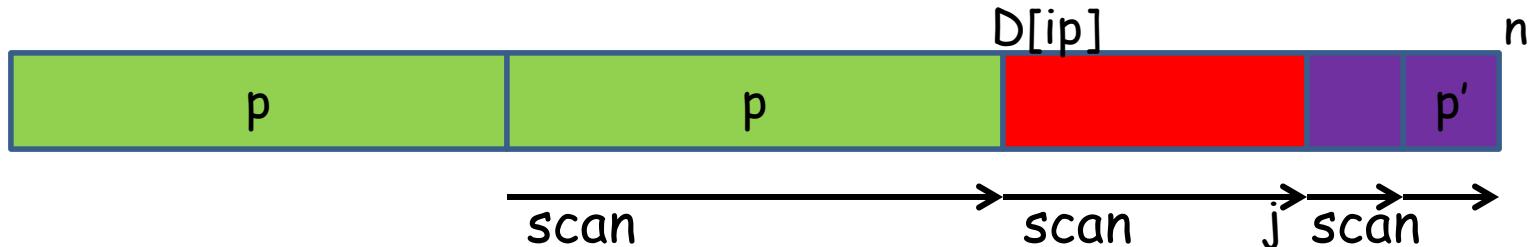
Prefix mismatch:  
 $D[ip+j] - D[ip] \neq D[j] - D[0]$



Prefix mismatch:  
 $D[ip+j]-D[ip] \neq D[j]-D[0]$

1. Choose  $p' = \gcd(p, j)$ , continue scan for repeated prefix  $D[0, p'-1]$  from  $j$

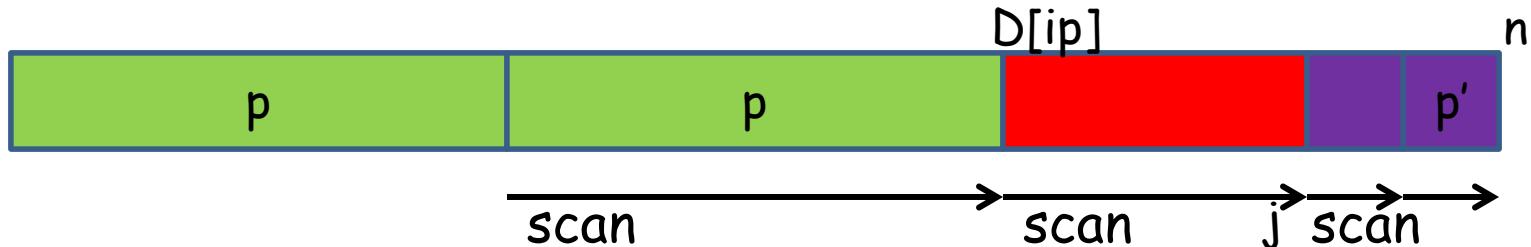
Prefix that is divisor of  $p$  but not  $j$  **cannot be repeated prefix**



Prefix mismatch:  
 $D[ip+j]-D[ip] \neq D[j]-D[0]$

1. Choose  $p' = \gcd(p, j)$ , continue scan for repeated prefix  $D[0, p'-1]$  from  $j$
2. Check whether prefix  $D[0, p'-1]$  is repeated in  $D[0, p-1]$

Step 2: recurse on  $p'$  in  $p$

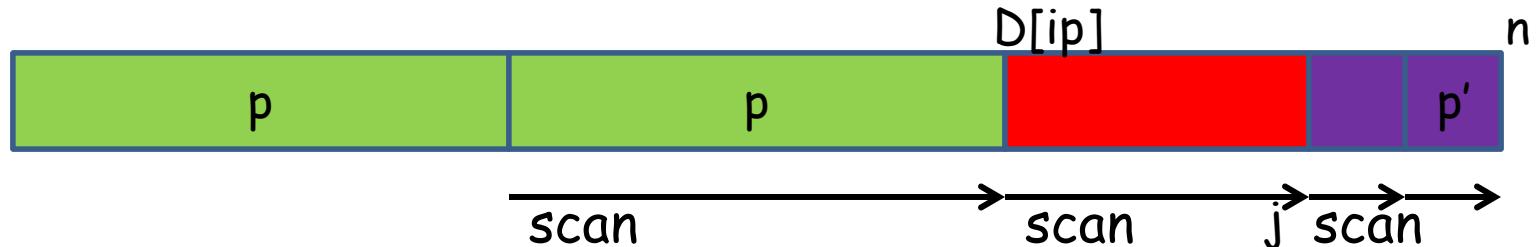


Prefix mismatch:  
 $D[ip+j]-D[ip] \neq D[j]-D[0]$

Step 1: linear scan, always increasing index order:  $O(n)$

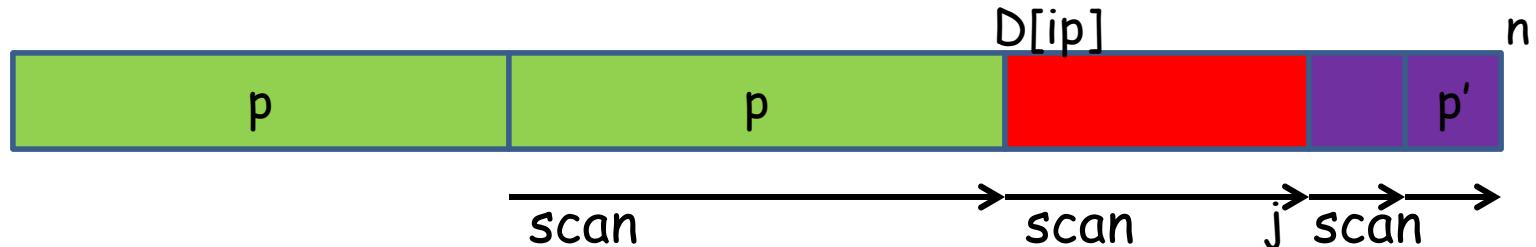
Step 2: recurse on  $p'$  in  so  $O(p)$

Total time:  $O(n)$



Prefix mismatch:  
 $D[i_p + j] - D[i_p] \neq D[j] - D[0]$

Algorithm determines largest  $p'$  that is a divisor of  $p$  where  
 $D[0, p'-1]$  is repeated prefix of  $D$



Prefix mismatch:  
 $D[ip+j]-D[ip] \neq D[j]-D[0]$

To find all repeated prefixes of length  $q$  where  $q$  divisor of  $p$ :  
 recurse on  $q$  in  $p$ .

### Observation:

If  $D[0,q-1]$  is repeated prefix of  $D[0,p-1]$ , and  $D[0,p-1]$  is repeated prefix of  $D$ , then  $D[0,q-1]$  is repeated prefix of  $D$

## Structure of optimal path

### Observations:

With `leaf`, `vec`, `idx` nodes (**no struc**), datatypes are simple paths.  
Each constructor has only one child

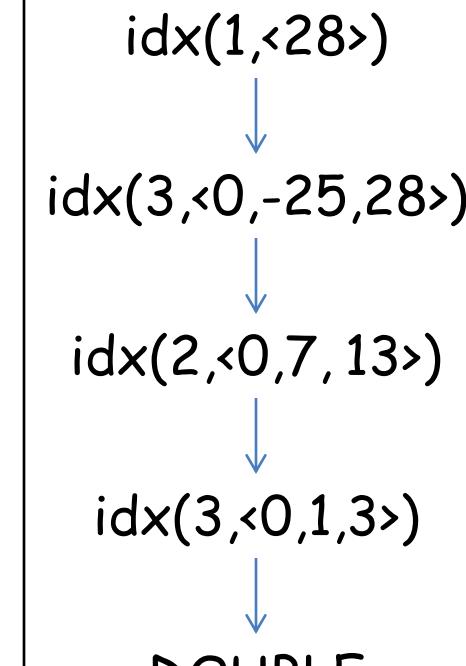
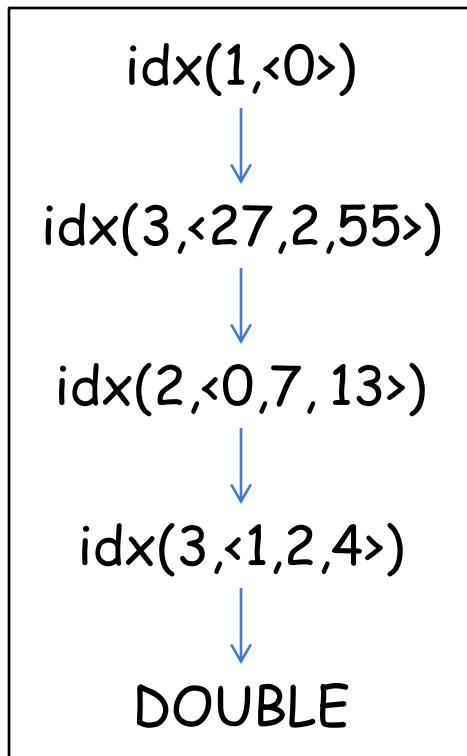
Call index node `idx(c,<i0,i1,...>)` where  $i_0 \neq 0$  a **shifted node**. A type tree with at most one shifted node is **nice**. For any datatype path  $T$  there exists **nice  $T'$**  (describing the same displacement sequence) with  $\text{cost}(T') \leq \text{cost}(T)$

Cost-optimal  $T$  has at most one node with  $\text{count}=1$  (a shifted `idx`)

Cost optimal  $T$  has depth  $(\log n)$

Cost optimal  $T$ 's have optimal substructure:  
dynamic programming principle applies

## Nice type path



## Full algorithm

Precompute: all repeated prefixes and longest strides

1. Find all repeated prefixes  $p$
2. For each  $p$ , find largest  $s(p) \leq n$  such that  $D[0, p-1]$  is strided in  $D[0, s(p)-1]$
3. Optimal datatype representation for segment  $D[0, 0]$  of length 1 is  $T(0) = \text{leaf}(\text{basetype})$

Technicality:

Algorithm for aligned displacement sequences with  $D[0] = 0$

## Step 4: dynamic programming

for all repeated prefixes D[0,p-1]:

p

BestCost =  $\infty$

for all repeated prefixes q of D[0,p-1]:

q

VecCost =  $K' + \text{cost}(T(q))$  // cost of vec node

if VecCost < BestCost and  $p \leq s(q)$

$T(p) = \text{vec}(p/q, \text{stride}, T(q))$  where stride =  $D[q] - D[0]$

BestCost = VecCost

IdxCost =  $K'' + p/q + \text{cost}(T(q))$  // cost of idx node

if IdxCost < BestCost

indices =  $\langle D[0], D[q], D[2q], \dots \rangle$

$T(p) = \text{idx}(p/q, \text{indices}, T(q))$

BestCost = IdxCost

## Complexity

Steps 1 takes  $O(n \log n / \log \log n)$  time by the proposition on repeated prefixes

Step 2 requires  $O(n/p)$  time for each divisor  $p|n$ . By a theorem from number theory (Divisor summatory function, Gronwall, 1913)

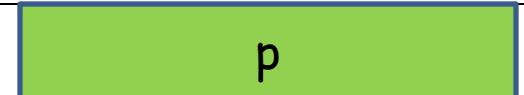
$$\sum(p|n) : n/p = \sum(p|n) : p = O(n \log n / \log \log n)$$

In step 4, both loops are over repeated prefixes. There can be at most  $2\sqrt{n}$ , so if body of inner loop can be implemented in constant time, total time is  $O(n)$

**for** all repeated prefixes  $D[0,p-1]$ :

$BestCost = \infty$

**for** all repeated prefixes  $q$  of  $D[0,p-1]$ :



$VecCost = K' + cost(T(q))$  // cost of **vec** node

**if**  $VecCost < BestCost$  and  $p \leq s(q)$

$T(p) = \text{vec}(p/q, stride, T(q))$  where  $stride = D[q] - D[0]$

$BestCost = VecCost$

$IdxCost = K'' + p/q + cost(T(q))$  // cost of **idx** node

**if**  $IdxCost < BestCost$

$indices = \langle D[0], D[q], D[2q], \dots \rangle$

$T(p) = \text{idx}(p/q, indices, T(q))$

$BestCost = IdxCost$

A yellow arrow pointing from the right towards the 'indices' assignment in the code. To its right, the text "Fill in indices later" is written in yellow.

Theorem:

Cost optimal datatype path representing displacement sequence  $D$  of length  $n$  using constructors `leaf`, `vec`, `idx` can be computed in  $O(n \log n / \log \log n)$  time

## Additional constructors

idx node corresponds to MPI\_Type\_create\_indexed\_block constructor.

MPI\_Type\_indexed needs list of displacements and list of block sizes, represented by additional constructor

- idxbuc(c,d,<i0,i1,i2,...,i(c-1)>,<b0,b1,b2,...,b(c-1)>) with cost  $K''' + 2c$

Extra check in inner loop of dynamic programming algorithm needed, requires sorting (to find best block size), total time  $O(\sqrt{n} n \log n)$

## Outlook, summary

- Simple algorithm to find all repeated prefixes much faster than trivial  $O(n\sqrt{n})$  approach
- Much better algorithm for type reconstruction with restricted set of constructors leaf, vec, idx, now  $O(n \log n / \log \log n)$
- Can be used in algorithm for type normalization (EuroMPI 2014)
- Can incorporate additional constructors: idxbuc (MPI\_Type\_indexed), triangular types ([see tomorrow](#)), ..., but **not** for type normalization

Note:

**struc()** node does give more power, even for (homogeneous) displacement sequences

`idx(1,<0,1,2,3,4,5,100,102,104,...,120>)`

INT

$$\text{Cost} = K'' + 17 + K$$

`struc(2,<0,100>)`

`vec(6,1>)`

`vec(11,2>)`

INT

$$\text{Cost} = K''' + 2 + 2K' + K$$

Makes sense to look for constructors inbetween  
`idx()` and `struc()`

This work was supported by

