

What is Wrong with the Task itself?

Abstract: Message Passing Related Bugs

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Abstract—Along with the prevalence of distributed systems, more and more applications require the ability of reliably transferring messages across a network. However, passing messages in a convenient and dependable way is both difficult and error-prone. Thus the existing messaging products usually suffer from numerous software bugs. And these bugs are particularly difficult to be diagnosed or avoided. Therefore, in order to improve the methods for handling them, we need a better understanding of their characteristics.

This paper provides the first (to the best of our knowledge) comprehensive characteristic study on message passing related bugs (*MP-bugs*). We have carefully examined the pattern, manifestation, fixing and other characteristics of 349 randomly selected real world MP-bugs from 3 representative open-source applications (OpenMPI, ZeroMQ, and ActiveMQ). Surprisingly, we found that nearly 60% of the non-latent MP-bugs can be categorised into two simple patterns: the message level bugs and the connection level bugs, which implies a promising perspective of detecting/tolerating tools for MP-bugs. Apart from this finding, our study have also uncovered many new (and sometimes surprising) insights of the message passing systems’ developing process. The results should be useful for the design of corresponding bug detecting, exposing and tolerating tools.

Keywords—network; message passing; bug characteristics

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Motivation

With the increasing use of distributed systems, the ability of reliably transferring messages across a network is becoming increasingly important. However, passing messages in a convenient and dependable way is both difficult and error-prone. Thus the existing messaging products usually suffer from numerous software bugs. And these bugs are particularly difficult to be diagnosed or avoided. Therefore, in order to improve the methods for handling them, we need a better understanding of their characteristics.

This paper provides the first (to the best of our knowledge) comprehensive characteristic study on message passing related bugs (*MP-bugs*). We have carefully examined the pattern, manifestation, fixing and other characteristics of 349 randomly selected real world MP-bugs from 3 representative open-source applications (OpenMPI, ZeroMQ, and ActiveMQ). Surprisingly, we found that nearly 60% of the non-latent MP-bugs can be categorised into two simple patterns: the message level bugs and the connection level bugs, which implies a promising perspective of detecting/tolerating tools for MP-bugs. Apart from this finding, our study have also uncovered many new (and sometimes surprising) insights of the message passing systems’ developing process. The results should be useful for the design of corresponding bug detecting, exposing and tolerating tools.

... (14 ed ca a d... e ceci e ca ha ca bec bi ed a bi ai);
 iii) he eiabi i f... The de ig... fa e age a ig e a be eiab e, wich ea ha he e agi g a e h d be abe i e a e a... a i i e e... a ai abe. I eed ha de e age a da he a e i e e i a e d i ca e e age, h e c e i i c e a e d a i ca w i h he i c e a i g i z e f h e ; a d i v) h e d a i c d e The i e c e i a c a b e g g i h e i e, a d e e g... a e a i . S e e i e c e a d f a b a c e c h a i a e e e d e d b e i e e e d f i d i g e i a b e a a g e a i g . A a e , h e e i g e a g i g d c a e f f e d f e... a e b g . E e e, h e e a - a g e a i g e a e d b g (MP-bugs) a e d i f c d i a g e a i d, b e c a e e c i c g c d i i a b e e i e d e d c e h e . The e a e e e MP-b g h a a e d e e i i c, h i c h e a h e e b g d e e d i a d e e c i e i e , b a h e a d i e e a i g a d h e i i g - e a e d e e a i f e .

T add e h e a b e c h a e g e, i w i e i e e f f f i e e a e d d i e c i , i c d i g h e b g d e e c i g e - i g, e a i g a d i g e c h i e . A f h e e d i e c i h a e a d e e g e e h e a e a , b i e a i a e d i e :

- How can the MP-bug be categorized? Are there any patterns in the bug descriptions? Can we identify the root cause of the bug? Can we predict the occurrence of the bug?
- What is the effect of the MP-bug? Can we detect the bug? Can we tolerate the bug? Can we fix the bug? Can we prevent the bug?

e a e a d e c e f h e f a a d e c a e d
 b c h b g . T g i e a i e e a e , i i i a
 d e a d h^w f e h e M P - b g c a e c e d
 e a g e , i d e g a g e h e e f f e c i e e f i g a
 e a a e d a i c e i c a i a d a c e d i g
 e e d i g e a a i c a e a e h e .

- W h a i h e a i f e a i c d i i f e a^w d M P -
 b g ? T h e a^w c h a e g e f^w a e e i g i h e
 e e i a i a d i e e a i g a c e . I d e
 a c h i e e a c e e e i g c e a g e f h e g a , h e
 e i g c a e e e d c e e e i b e i e e a i g
 f e a c h i e c a e^w h i c h i i f e a i b e i a c i c e .
 T a d d e h i c h a e g e , a e e e i i e i g i
 a f^w : c a^w e e e c i e e a a i f h e
^w h e i b e a c e a d i e e f h e b g ?
 T h h e d e e i g f e i g e c h i e e i e a g d
 d e a d i g f h e M P - b g^w a i f e a i c d i i .
 T h a i^w e e e d^w h a c d i i a e e e d e d
 e i a b i g g e a M P - b g . F e a e , h^w a
 b e , a d h^w a c i e a e a i e d i a
 e a^w d M P - b g^w a i f e a i ?
- W h a i e e d e d e d c e a M P - b g ? T h e i a c e
 c e a i b e^w e e h e e d c i b i i f a b g a d h e
 c e i f a a - z i g i g i . T h d e a d i g
 h i e i c a h e d e i g e e f f e c i e i e a d
 a c i g e c h g i e .
- H^w h e f a e e i i g i d i a g i g a d i g
 h e e a^w d M P - b g d e e c e d b h e ? F e a e ,
 e M P - b g d e e c i c a e i d h e g a -
 e h a e e a g e a e e c e i e d b h e c e -
 d i g e e . S c h i f a i c a b e e h e f^w h e
 i g a i e i - - i c i c a i a e . B
 h e c i c a i c a b e c h e c e (e . g .^w i h
 i e b e a a e f c i c a i) h
 e d e a i e d i f a i a b e e i e d i a c i c e .
 M e g e e a^w e^w a^w h a^w h a i f a i
 i e e d e d^w h i e h e g a e a e i g a e a^w d
 M P - b g .

A^w e i g h e a b e e i^w i g i c a b e e
 f a b e e d e a d i g f h e e a^w d M P - b g . H^w -
 e e , a h g h a e i i c a d i e g e e a g a b g
 c h a a c e i i c (e c i c M P - b g) h a e b e e d e i
 h e a [7] , [8] , [9] , [10] , a d h e i^w d i g h a e i d e d
 e f g i d e i e f h e f e e a c h e ,^w d i e h a e
 b e e c d c e d e a^w d M P - b g . P e i^w , e e a c h e
 h a e c d c e d e e i i a^w h e i e f
 M P I [11] , [12] . B h e a e c a i e d i a e c i c^w a e ,
 e e a i e c i c a i a e , a d^w i h b e
 f a i e a b i i e .

B. Contributions

T h i^w i d e h e^w (h e b e f^w -
 e d g e) c h e i e e a^w d M P - b g c h a a c e i i c d .
 S e c i c a^w e e a i e h e b g a e , b g c e e e c e ,
 a i f e a i c d i i , i g c e i a d h e c h a a c e
 e i i c f e a^w d M P - b g . O d i b a e d 349
 a d e e e d e a^w d M P - b g , c e c e d f 3 a g e
 a d a e e - c e a i c a i : O e M P I , Z e M Q , a d
 A c i e M Q^w h i c h e e e i g d i f f e e e f e i a b i i e .
 F e a c h b g^w e h a e e a i e d e e i e c e f i f a i

e a e d i , i c d i g h e g a e ' e a a i i h e
 b g e , f d i c i , c e c d e a c h e , a d h e
 b g - i g g e i g e c a e . T h i f a i g e h e i d e
 a e a i e h g h d e a d i g f h e b g .

O d e e a a i e e i g^w d i g^w h i c h i d e
 e f g i d e i e f h e f e d e e i g f M P - b g d e c -
 i g , e i g , e a i g a d i g e c h i e . A a i -
 a i^w e f d h a e a 60% f h e - a e M P - b g
 (e e h e e a i c b g) c a b e c a e g i z e d i^w i e
 a e : h e e a g e e e b g a d h e c e c i e e b g .
 T h i^w d i g h^w h a e e h e e a i c b g i M P - b g ,
^w h i c h i f e c a e d b a i c a i - e c i c e a , h a e
 e c e a e . A d i i e i a f h e
 d e e e^w h^w a a i c a d e c e e a e M P -
 b g . W e a i z e a i^w d i g a d h e i i c a i
 i T a b e I . T h e a d e e^w d i g a e e a b a e d i h e
 f^w i g e c i .

W h i^w e b e i e h a h e a i c a i a d b g^w e e a -
 i e d^w e e e e a a g e b d f M P - b g^w e d i e d
 d^w a g e e a c c i a b a e a g e a i g
 e . I a i c a^w e h d e h a a f h e c h a a c e -
 i c a d i g b a i e d i h i d a e a c i a e^w i h h e
 h e e a a i e d a i c a i a d h e g a i g a g a g e
 h e a i c a i e . T h e e f e , h e e h d b e a e
^w i h h e e c i c a i c a i a d e a a i e h d b e a e
 i i d (e e S e c i I I - C f d i c i a b h e a
 a i d i) .

T h e e a i d e f h i a e i g a i z e d a f^w . I
 S e c i I I^w e d e c i b e e h d g . T h e^w e e e
^w d i g M P - b g^w a e , a i f e a i a d i g
 i S e c i I I I , S e c i I V a d S e c i V e e c i e . O h e
 b e a i , c h a h e e a e i - a e a c h i e c e i
 e a g e a i g e^w i b e b i a d i c e d i S e c i
 V I . A d i a , S e c i V I I d i c e e a e d^w a d
 S e c i V I I I c c d e .

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Application selection

T h e e c e a i c a i a e e d i d :
 O e M P I , Z e M Q , a d A c i e M Q , i^w h i c h O e M P I a d
 A c i e M Q a e h e d e f a c i e e a i f h e M P I [13]
 a d h e A M Q P [14] a d a d e e c i e a d Z e M Q i a
 h i g h - e f a c e a c h e a g i g i b a a i e d a
 e i c a a b e d i b e d c c e a i c a i . T h e
 a e a a e a d a g e a i c a i h a e a a e d
 i i d a d e^w e - a i a i e d b g e d a b a e .

M e i a , e a c h f h e e e e a e c i c e e
 f e i a b i i : i) i O e M P I , h e i b a d e h a d e
 d a i c d e a a (e i h e e c e c e e e d) ; i i) i
 Z e M Q , h e^w i a i h e c e c i a a i c a ,
 b h e e a g e a e d a b e¹ (e c e c b a e a e d) ;
 a d i i i) i A c i e M Q , i i e d i d e a f e i a b e
 e a g e a i g a e (b h e c e c a d e e d) . T h e h e e
 a i c a i a h a e a g d c e a g e h e d i e c i :
^w i^w i h b e , a i c i c a i a e , d i f f e
 g a i g a g a g e , e c .

¹A d a b e e a g e i a e a g e h a^w i b e h e d b e i d f
 e i a b e b e^w i f h e c e d i g e c e i e a i a a i -
 a b e .

Findings on Bug Patterns	Implications
(1) Se a ic b g i he d i a ca e (264 f 349) f he e a i ed MP-b g .	M e e f f h d b e i a a i c a d e e c i g , e i g a d e a i g e a i c b g .
(2) Nea 60% (168 f 289) f he -ae MP-b g a e c e e d b ^w i e a e : he message level bugs a d he connection level bugs.	T h a i e d d e e c , e e a e e a g e a i g e a e d b g c a f c h e e ^w a b g c a e g i e ^w h i c h a e i e e a i g f .
(3) O ab 20% f he MP-b g ^w i i e d i a e b i g d ^w a h e e f a i g g e .	P e a c h b g e a i g c a h a d e a a i f MP-b g .
(4) C i c a i a e h a a e c e e d b M P I a e a e a e i MP-b g	N e a e e e d e d h a d e h e h e c i c a i a e e a e d M P - b g ^w h i c h a e a d d e e d b h e e i i g ^w .
Findings on Manifestation Conditions	Implications
(5) The a i f e a i f (312 f 340) e a i e d M P - b g i e a e (< 6) d e .	M f h e M P - b g c a b e d e e c e d b i i g a e a i e a e ^w h i c h e d c e e i g c e i ^w i h i g b g e i g c a a b i i c h .
(6) A a h e e a i e d M P - b g f A c i e M Q i e e h a 2 b e .	2 b e a e e g h f h e e i g f a h i c a e d e i a b i f e a e , c h a d a b e e a g e , f a i e b e , e c .
(7) Nea 40% f he MP-b g i A c i e M Q a e e a e d f a i e ^w h i c h i f a e h a h e a i f c e d i g c d e e g i .	M P - b g e i g c d a e a e i h i d f b g .
Findings on Bug Fixing	Implications
(8) Ab 40% f MP-b g a e d e e i i c ^w h i c h i c h e h a h e e f e i d i e g e e a b g .	B g d i a g i ^w i e e d i c a e e c h i e (c h a i e - a i g i c i g h e a d c h e d i g) i d e d c e f a i e d e h e e b g i a i e a i g .
(9) The i e e e d e d f i g a M P - b g i e e a h a e a g e .	T h i f a c b h e e e d f b e e b g e a i g e c h i e .
(10) The a c h e f M P - b g a e a a ; a b 60% f h e a c h e c a i e h a 20 i e f c d e a d f h e a c h e a f f e c 1 e .	T h e h a d e f i g a M P - b g a i c c e a e d i a g - i g ^w h i ^w i h a e , h e f ^w i g i g e .
(11) The a c h f 79 (f 349) M P - b g ^w e c h e c e d i b g g i a d e a e .	P g a e e e d h e i e h e a i f h e i a c h e ; f e a e , h e a c h e i c a i .

TABLE I: Mai n d i g f h i d a d h e i i c a i .

B. Bug selection

The b g g e d a b a e f h e e e c e d a i c a i c a i a e a g e b e f b g . Th^w e a a i c a i e e d b g h a a e i e b e e a b e f i g a e a c h e h e b g e d a b a e . W e e a c h e d h e b g e d a b a e f b g h a c a i e d e^w d c a c i a e d^w i h M P - b g , f e a e , ' e a g e () , ' , ' d i c a e ' , () a c ' , ' d e ' , e c . I a d d i i h i^w e e a c h e d f b g^w h e a^w a c e d , e d , e e d (i . e . , b g h a e g e d e a a i b h e d e e e) , b e c a e h e h e b g e h a a e a e d a c e d (i c e e , e c .) a e i e h a e e g h i f a i f d . F h e h a d f b g e h a c a i a e a e e^w d f h e a b e e^w d e^w e a d a e d a b e (a b 200) f h e b g f e a c h a i c a i a d a a a a - z e d h e .

Pha e	O c e M P I	Z e M Q	A c i e M Q
T a c e d b g	955	204	2,165
A a - z e d b g	81	109	159

TABLE II: B g c f d i f f e e a i c a i .

The a a i e c i e e a e d h a e f h e b g h a a c h e d h e e a c h e a e e a g e a i g e a e d a d^w e a e c d e d h e . I a d d i i^w e a e c d e d b g f^w h i c h h e c e d i g b g e d e c - a i e g h i f a i a a - z e h e . A f e i e i g^w e

b a i e d a^w a e f 349 a a - z e d M P - b g , a b e h a i c e (e e e i) h e b e f b g a a - z e d i a e i d i e h e i d f b g [9], [15], [16]. T a b e I I h^w h e b g c f d i f f e e a i c a i .

C. Limitations

O e h d g ' i i a i h d b e c i d e e d^w h e i g i e e i g e . L i e h e e i c a d i e , b g^w e a e i e d b h e i d f a i c a i a d^w a e b g^w e e d . W h i^w e b e i e e h a h e a i c a i a d b g^w e e a i e d^w e e e e a a g e b d f M P - b g^w e d i e d d^w a g e e a c c i a b a h e a a g e a i g e . I a i c a^w e h d e h a a f h e c h a c e i c a d i g b a i e d i h i d a e a c i a e d^w i h h e h e e a i e d a i c a i a d h e g a i g a g a g e h e e a i c a i e . T h e e f e , h e e h d b e a e^w i h h e e c i c a i c a i a d e a a i e h d g i i d .

M e e^w e f c h e b g h a a e f d i h e i e e a i f e a g i g e e e e e . T h d a e c h e c h a c e i c f h e e f b g , c h a h e i e f a a g e a i g e .

I e f e a i a i e h d g^w e a a a a - z e d h e b g e f h e a e d M P - b g . W e h a e e a i e d e e i e c e f i f a i e a e d e a c h e a i e d b g , i c d i g g a e ' e a a i , f d i c i , c e c d e a c h e , a d h e b g - i g g e i g e c a e . I

Dimension	Category	Description
R Ca e	e	B g ca ed b i e ha d i g f e b e c c .
	c c e c	B g ha ha e i i-h eadi g (i- c e e) e i e .
	e a ic	I c i e w i h h e i g i a d e i g e i e e h e g a e ' i e i .
I ac	e age-ee	B g ha i ac h e d e i c i g f e e e a e age .
	c e c i - e e	B g ha a e e a e d h e c e c i b e e e w d e .
	de-ee	B g ha e i h e e i a i f h e c e e e e c e f h e e c a e e e i e c i f h e d a a .
	ae	B g ha w i a f f e c h e e ' c e c e i e d i a e .
C Pa e	e d- e c e i e	D e i e i g e a g e b e e w a i .
	c e c i e	C i c a i h a i e a h e c e e i a g i c a g f d e .
	d c e- c e	E a c h d c e d e a g e w i b e c e d b e a d e c e .
	b i h- b c i b e	A h e e a g e b i h e d b h e b i h e w i b e e c e i d b a h e b c i b e .
	g e a	B g h a d e c c e c e c i c a i a e (e . g . , b g h a e a e d a i d f c e c i) .

TABLE III: Ca eg ie f he h ee di e i . Some categories and definitions are borrowed from BugBench [17].

addi^w, e a e a f a i i a^w i h h e e a i e d a i c a i ,
i c e^w e h a e e d h e i a f e i e c c .

III. BUG PATTERN STUDY

T b i d a e e i a b e a a g e a i g e , i i i -
a d e a d h e e f b g h a a e e a e
a d h e i c a a e a c M P - b g . S i c e d i f f e e
f b g e i e d i f f e e a a c h e d e c a d e a e ,
h e e^w e - g a i e d b g a e i d e e f i f a i
d e e e a d b i d e a i e .

I d e i d e g i d e i e f f e e e a c h M P -
b g , i h i e c i^w e f c h e e a i c a d i e i :
Root Cause, Impact and Communication Pattern. S e c i -
c a , i) a g h e c a e d i e i^w e c a i f h e M P - b g
i h e e d i^w c a e g i e b a e d h e i c a e ; ii) f
h e i a c d i e i^w e a a e d h e M P - b g^w i h e e c
h e i c e e c e h a a e e d h e e , a d d i d e d
h e e i a c i f c a e g i e a d 13 b - c a e g i e ; a d
iii) ^w h e i c e h e c i c a i a e^w e h a e
a b e e d^w e d i f f e e d e . A h e e a e d d e i i
a e g i e i T a b e I I I a d T a b e I V .

A. Partition by root causes

W e^w e e h e a a i e b a e d h e b g ,
c a e . A e i e d b e f e^w e c a i f h e M P - b g i
h e e d i^w c a e g i e : *memory, concurrency, and semantic.*
F i g e 1^w h i c h h^w h e a b e f e a c h e f b g
a c d i f f e e a i c a i , a i z e i e i g a i
e .

Finding (1): S e a i c b g i h e d i a c a e
(264 f 349) f h e e a i e d M P - b g .
Implication: M e e f f h d b e i a a i -
c a d e c i g , e i g a d e a i g e a i c b g .

F h e^w g e^w e c a b e e h a e a i c b g i
h e d i a c a e f M P - b g . I c 67% -
84% f h e e a i e d M P - b g . O e i b e e a f h i
f a c i h a e a i c b g a e a i c a i e c i c . A
g a e c a e a i i d c e a i c b g d e a a c
f h g h d e a d i g f h e e , i e i e e i
e c i c a i . T h i i c h h a d e a a i c a d e c
h e . I c a , h e c a e f e a d c c e c
b g a e g e e a f a a i c a i^w h i c h e a h a h e

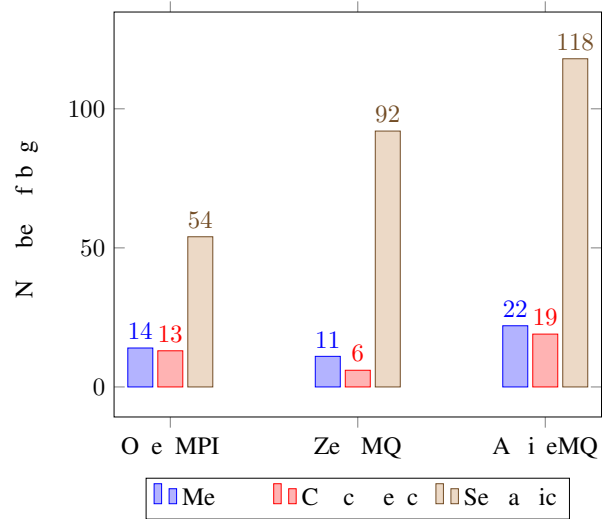


Fig. 1: D i b i f c a e .

d e e e c a e g e e a f e i g h e . A a
i a i , V a g i d [18] i a a i e a i f a e -
^w f b i d i g d a i c a a i . T h e e a e a
a e V a g i d [19], [20] h a c a a a i c a d e c a
f e a a g e e a d c c e c b g . M e e ,
h e e a e i e c h i e [21], [22], [23] h a i e d
e a e h e e b g - h e i h e d c i . T h e c a
h e h e e a i d f a i e , e e^w h e h e b g i a e a d
i g g e d .

A h g h h e e i a i e b i^w e h a h e 81.1% -
86.7% e e d i a e i g e e a b g c h a a c e i c d
[24] (b g e c d i g e b g a d c c e c b g) ; i
i i e i g i c a . T h e e f e , h e e i d b h a e
e f f h d b e i a a i c a d e e c i g , e i g
a d e a i g e a i c b g .

B. Partition by impacts

A^w e h a e d i c e d a b e , a a g e i f M P - b g
a e c a e d b a i c a i e c i c e a^w h i c h h i d e h e
i i g f g a e ' i e i . A a e , i i h a d
a a i c a d e c e a e h e e b g . H^w e e , f
h e e a g e a i g e a e d b g h e e i^w i d f

Category	Sub-category	Description	Abbr.
Message Level Bug	Cached message	The message received in the cache is stale.	C.
	Duplicate message	The message received twice.	D.
	Local message	One message is delivered to the local processor before the other (i.e., the order of delivery is not preserved).	L.
Connection Level Bug	Unordered message	Received in order.	Uc.
	Failed garbage collection	The garbage collection failed due to a race condition (i.e., the garbage collector was in a state where it could not be added to the garbage collection).	T.
	Failed garbage collection	The garbage collection failed due to a race condition (i.e., the garbage collector was in a state where it could not be added to the garbage collection).	Rec.
Node Level Bug	Offline	The processor is not available for execution (e.g., it is in a state where it cannot be added to the execution).	Od.
	Cache	Secondary cache is not available.	Ch.
	Empty	One failed to be executed due to a race condition.	E.
Latency Bug	Hang	One message is not delivered (e.g., it is in a state where it cannot be added to the execution).	Hg.
	Leak	Some memory is freed after execution (e.g., the memory is not freed).	Lea.
	Performance	The execution is slower than expected (e.g., it is CPU bound).	Pe.
Bug	Uninitialized variable	The hardware is not initialized.	U.

TABLE IV: Bug Categories and Definitions. This table shows the definitions of various MP-bug consequences.

Message related intensions: The message is stale, duplicate, or local.

Connection related intensions: The message is unordered, garbage collection failed, or offline.

Node related intensions: The processor is offline, cache is not available, or empty.

Latency related intensions: The message is hanging, leaking memory, or performance is slow.

Table V shows the distribution of bugs. Node level bugs are the most common, followed by message level bugs.

Type	Category	MPI		MQ		eMQ	
		O	Z	A	C		
Message Level Bug	C.	27	26	45	13		
	D.	1	0	7	23		
	L.	1	12	23	2		
Connection Level Bug	Uc.	2	2	2	2		
	T.	6	6	15	21		
	Rec.	0	25	10	16		
Node Level Bug	Od.	0	0	0	2		
	Ch.	20	22	39	10		
	E.	9	45	15	9		
Latency Bug	Hg.	10	8	18	18		
	Lea.	3	3	6	14		
	Pe.	5	14	6	20		
Bug	U.	3	2	40	6		

TABLE V: Distribution of MP-bugs.

Finding (2): Nearest neighbor (60% of 168) found 289 failures. The most common bug is message level bug (60%), followed by connection level bug (20%).

Implication: The hardware is not initialized, leading to performance degradation. The garbage collection is not working properly, leading to memory leaks. The cache is not available, leading to performance degradation.

Analysis of the bugs shows that the hardware is not initialized, leading to performance degradation. The garbage collection is not working properly, leading to memory leaks. The cache is not available, leading to performance degradation.

Future work includes checking the hardware initialization, improving the garbage collection, and ensuring the cache is available.

... e ai a ig f he e di g b ffe . If he e age da a e c ec de i eed he eeci i g b ffe a i dica ed b he MPI ca , F^w Chec e e he b g a d ide diag ic i f ai , ch a fa MPI f ci ic ec daa e e , he i i he ca e . T i i , F^w Chec e ca be ed de e ca he f b-ca eg ie f e age e e b g i MPI. A ^w e ca ea i a i ca e ha i a eh d ca be ed f he he a i ca i (a a f MPI).

A f he c eci e e b g , a a db i g/ g e ca be ed a a e f e e c f he e i ca i (i e he chec ech i e ed i de eci g e age e e b g). I ce a i g he e ' e i a b i b i e e i g i e f c i a e i a e g a ^w h i c h i b a e d he ca i c i d e a f n- e i g a i g [27], ha a e ad bee c c e f e d i a he e d . A a i a i , E FS [28] i e e a h i VFS- i e a e ea he f e e a e i c a e e e (e.g., e 3, R e i e FS, JFS) a d e a i - c e e a e c e c d e i e he e i e fa beh a i fa d e i g c d i c h i d e e e . H^w e e , e d (a fa a^w e^w) , d a a e ha ca ha d e c e c i e e b g , a h gh he acc f a g e a i^w he e i a b i i i e e d .

Finding (3): O ab 20% f he MP-b g^w i i - edia e b i g d^w a he e f a i g g e .
Implication: P e a ch b g e a i g ca ha d e a a i f MP-b g .

A g a he 13 b-ca eg ie f he MP-b g , *Crash* a d *Hang*^w i i edia e b i g d^w a he e f a i g g e . Thi g i e a c e a ch b g e a i g . Th a i , he e ca he e age a - i g e i a d e^w i h a d a i c e i ca i (e.g., F^w Chec e , a db i g/ g e). O c e b e i g a b g' ha e i g , a he e edia e ca d e e ec e (e.g., e e d i g , e c e c i g , e a i g). A e a i c a e i c i g a he e age a i g e , a d h e i ^w i b e ha d e d b he c i e a i ca i a i a e .

C. Partition by communication patterns

Fi a ^w e d he di b i f c i ca i a e a g MP-b g .

Finding (4): C i ca i a e ha a e c - e e d b MPI a e a e a e i MP-b g .
Implication: N^w a e e e d e d ha d e he he c i ca i a e e a e d MP-b g^w h i c h a e a d d e d b he e i i g^w .

A^w e ha e e i e d b e f e , a fa a^w e^w , f he e i MP-b g d e c i e e a c h e [2], [?], [5] a e f c e d MPI^w h i c h a e c a i e d i a i ca - i b a c i ca i a e . H^w e e , he e h^w ha he a e a e a i a . M e e , he e c e e d a e (i.e., d c e - c e , b i h - b c i b e) ca be c e e d i - - i c i ca i e a i ; b e ca e e i f a i , ch a he c e e^w , g , i e e d e d e i f h e i c e c e . Th a i , a h gh

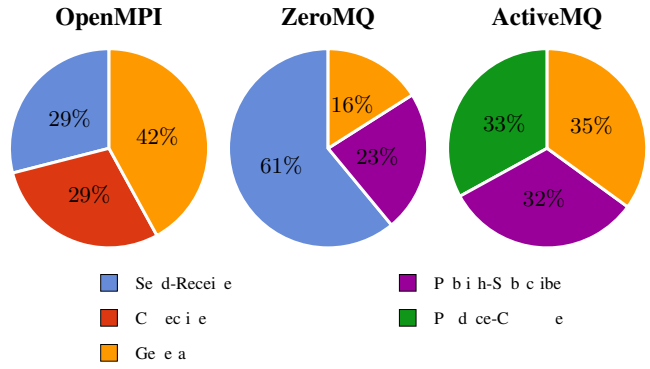


Fig. 2: Di b i f c i ca i a e .

i a a d e a e , he e he a e ha e bee ^w e d i e d b e i e e a c h e . Th a b g^w i b e i e d b he e i g MP-b g d e c ,^w h i c h a i f c e d - e c e i e b g c e c i e b g ha ca be b e d i MPI.

IV. BUG MANIFESTATION STUDY

The a i f e a i c d i f a MP-b g i a a e c i c d e a g a e f e age e e e . I h i c e i ,^w e d he ch a a c e i c f e a^w d MP-b g' a i f e a i . We^w i d i c he e a e d g i d e i e f MP-b g e i g a d d e c i g b a e d b e a i .

A. How many nodes are involved?

Finding (5): The a i f e a i f (312 f 340) e a i e d MP-b g i e a f e (e ha 6) d e .
Implication: M f he MP-b g ca be d e c e d b i i g a e a i e a^w h i c h e d c e e - i g c e i^w i h i g b g e i g c a b i i c h .

Fi d i g (5) e ha e e h gh he e a i e d e age a i g e a d e e d i a a g e^w (h d e d f d e), i ca e , a a b e (e ha 6) f d e a e i e d i he a i f e a i f a MP-b g .

The d e i g e a f h i i ha e age d c e i e a c^w i h a d e , a d c i ca i a d c a b a i i c d c e d b^w e e a g f d e . A a e , he a i f e a i c d i f MP-b g d i e a d e . M e e , 234 f he 340 c c e f a a - z e d MP-b g ca be a i f e d i he i e^w g (2 f MPI/Ze MQ, 3 f A c i e MQ).

We h d e ha h i d i g i e he c a b e a i ha MP-b g a e e i e e a i e a i f e a a h e a^w a d i a a g e^w . The h e a - a d^w i i c e a e he e c e c e i i a d c e

A ica i	≥ 6 de	5 de	4 de	≤ 3 de
O e MPI	9	0	8	55
Ze MQ	5	0	5	99
Ac i eMQ	14	7	38	100

TABLE VI: The be f de i ed i MP-b g . Some bugs are omitted if not enough information is given.

w i c h i e i . I h e f e i c e a e h e i b i i f h i g c e a i d e h a c a i g g e h e b g . T h e a i f e a i c d i i i i e a f e d e .

Finding (6): A a h e e a i e d M P - b g f A c i e M Q i e h a 2 b e .
Implication: 2 b e a e e g h f h e e i g f a h i c a e d e i a b i i f e a e , c h a d a b e e a g e , f a i e b e , e c .

W e f h e d h e b e f b e i e d i h e M P - b g f A c i e M Q . T h e e a e g i e i F i g e 3 . I h ^w h a a a h e e a i e d M P - b g f A c i e M Q i e h a 2 b e , ^w h i c h e a h a 2 b e a e e g h f h e e i g f a h i c a e d e i a b i i f e a e , c h a d a b e e a g e , f a i e b e , e c .

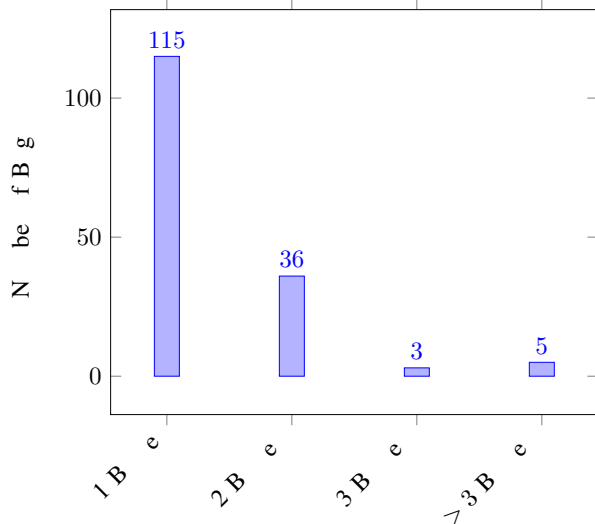


Fig. 3: The be f b e i ed i MP-b g f A c i e M Q .

O e a , ^w d i g i e h a h e e i g f M P - b g c a f c a ^w . S c h e i g e c h i e c a e e h e e i g c e i f i c e a i g e e i a ^w i h h e b e f d e . A h e e a i e , ^w M P - b g ^w d b e i e d . S c h i i c a i i a e c e a c d i i f a c i c a d e c h e c i g f e a g e a i g e .

B. How many MP-bugs are related to failover?

H ^w h a d i h e a c h i e i g f e i a b e e a g e a i g ? T a ^w e h i e i ^w e e a i e h e b e f b g h a

O e MPI	Ze MQ	Ac i eMQ
3 (4%)	14 (13%)	59 (37%)

(a) B A ica i .

Me	C c e e	Se a ic
7 (15%)	11 (29%)	58 (22%)

(b) B R Ca e .

Me age-e e	C e c i - e e	N -d e e e	La e
12 (12%)	34 (49%)	20 (17%)	10 (15%)

(c) B I ac .

TABLE VII: Fai e Re a e d B g . This table shows the number and percentage of the bugs related to failover in MP-bugs.

A ica i	De e i i ic	I T i g De e de	N -d e e i i ic
O e MPI	57	1	23
Ze MQ	77	12	20
Ac i eMQ	88	28	43

TABLE VIII: S Re d c i b i C h a a c e i i c .

a e e a e d h e f a i e c e d e (e.g., e c e c i g a e a e d d e) . A c c d i g i e i g a i , a b g ^w e f d a e i c -c a e c d e a h b a h e i h e e a f a i e -h a d i g c a e . T h i e f b g i c i i c a f h e e a g i g a e ' b e , i c e h e a h i d e h e f ^w e f g a e ' i e i e i a b i i e . I h e e f h i e c i ^w ^w i a i f b g c c e c e f a i e -h a d i g a h ; T a b e V I I (a) , (b) a d (c) e e i e i g a i e .

Finding (7): N e a 40% f h e M P - b g i A c i e M Q a e e a e d f a i e ^w h i c h i f a e h a h e a i f c e d i g c d e e g i .
Implication: M P - b g e i g c d a e a e - i h i i d f b g .

A ^w e c a e e f h e a b e , a f e b g a e e a e d f a i e i O e M P I , i c e i i d e a e - e d c h e c i e . B h e i a c e f f a i e - e a e d b g i c e a e ^w i h h e i c e a i g e i e e f e i a b i i ; a a , e a 40% f h e M P - b g i A c i e M Q a e e a e d f a i e ^w h i c h i f a e h a h e a i f c e d i g c d e e g i .

W h e b e d ^w b b g e a d i a c i h e e c d a d h i d a b e ^w e c a e e h a g h 20% f e a i c b g c c h e f a i e a h a d i d e e e b g . W e h i h i c a b e a h e b e a h g h f i f e i g h e g a e ' i e i f e a i c b g .

V. BUG FIXING STUDY

A. Bug reproducibility

R e d c i g b g i a e e i i e f e f - i g a a i c b g d i a g i . I h i e c i ^w e b c a h e

MP-b g b hei e d cibi i . Tha i , ca he b g be e d ced de ad? A dd b g ha e cha ace i ic ha ea e hi de a a ic b g diag i ? Tab e VIII a i ze e ; he b g a e ca i ed a ei he de e i i ic, i i g de e de , -de e i i ic.

A fai e de a W a e b gi be ed be de e - i i ic if he fa igge he a e each i e he a icai i W ih he a e e fi e e i he a e de , a ed a chi ec e/OS af a da ed e e c g ai . O he W ie, he b gi -de e i i ic. We a i ge a ecia ca e f -de e i i ic W a e b g a ed i i g de e de . A b gi de e da i i g de e de if he i i g f he i e e i addi hei de de e i e W he he a i igge ed a d if W hich . I c a , if he c e e ce f he de e d i i g i e ha a e be d he cie ' c (e.g., he head ched i g f c c e c b g) W e i ca if ch fai e a -de e i i ic, a i i g de e de .

N e ha d i c e a i e W ih e ec he de i i f -de e i i . M e ec i ca W e ca if a b g a -de e i i ic if, acc di g he b g e , he () c d be e d ced c i e f a ea (e.g., he a e i a be a a i a be a f he i e igh ha e cha ged). I i be ha ch b g a e de e i i ic, b W e c e a i e a e ha he a e . A , de i i f de e i i i e e ic i e . We be i e e ha a f he de e i i ic b gi d a e ac a de e i i ic ac diffe e i e a d c g ai a , i a ca e , fai e a e e d ced b de e e diffe e f he e W he e he b g a e de ec ed . B beca e b g e fe ac i cie i f ai ab he b g ' beha i ac diffe e e i e W e ch e de e de e i i ic ea e d cibi i i a ed e i e . I e b g e , he fai ec d be e d ced W a e difi c e d ce (a i cc ed i fe e). We c e a i e ca i ed ch b g a -de e i i ic.

Finding (8): Ab 40% f MP-b g a e de e i - i ic, W hich i ch e ha he e f e i die ge e a b g .
Implication: B g diag i W i eed i c - a e W ech i e (ch a i e - a i g i c i g head ched i g) i de e d ce fai e de he e b g i a i e a i g .

The e e i e a e ef , a i W i de e i W he he e diag i ca e i ab e d ce he fai e . A d f a e , he e H W ha ab 60% f he b g de a e de e i i ic beha i W hich ea he ca be e d ced b gi e he a e e fi e e i he a e de .

H W e e he e a i g 40% f MP-b g W hich a e de e i i ic, a e a -ig a be . Thi e i ch e ha e i Sah ' e (17%) ge e a b g [9]. O e i be ea i ha a MP-b g a e e a ed W a d i e de W hich a e ch c e . Addi a , he e i i g b g de e c i ca effec i e ed ce he diag i a de i i e f de e i i ic b g .

A a e , i ce he a i f MP-b g a e de e i i - ic, b g diag i h d be a be e d ce he b e a i g i . B he e i e i a age b d f MP-b g ha a e -de e i i ic. Th b g diag i W i eed i c a e W ech i e (ch a i e - a i g i c i g head ched i g) i de e d ce fai e de he e b g i a i e a i g .

B. Bug fixing complexity

Fi a W e c a ed MP-b g f diffe ca eg i e W ih e ec hei c e i f i g he , acc di g he b g e ed ha ecif he e e i e . F ea i g he c e i f i g b g W e ed he e e ic ha ca be e ac ed f he b g e : i e W he b g , be f i e i ed i he a che , a d i e f c de cha ged . A h gh e f he e e ic i e fec , i c bi ai he he e i a e he c e i f i g he e b g .

Caeg	Ti e	Fi e	L C
Me	102/17	3/1	115/8
C c e c	207/59	4/2	70/22
Se a ic	140/20	2/1	68/14
T a	142/21	2/1	75/15

TABLE IX: C e i f i g MP-b g . For each class of bugs we present the average/median for each of the three metrics: time to fix the bug in days, number of files in the patches and line of code changed.

We e e ac a i f he he e c e i e ic i Tab e IX. Si ce e f he e ed c ai i g i ca i e , i addi e e i g he a e age f a he e e ic W ea e e he edia .

Finding (9): The i e eed e d f i g a MP-b g i e e a h a e age .
Implication: Thi fac b he eed f be e b g e a i g ech i e .

O a a i f he i g c e i e ea ed ha he b g i i gi ha di e fc ed i e . I a a e e e a h a e age W ab g . Thi fac b he e i e e f b g e a i g ech i e , i ce e e he b gi de ec ed he e i eed W ai a a ecia be e id f i e bef e i g ac ec e i f c de . A d he ech i e ha ca a a i ca ge e a e a a ach (i e L [29] f c c e c b g) a e a ef .

Finding (10): The a che f MP-b g a e a a ; ab 60% f he a che c ai e ha 20 i e f c de a d f he a che affec l e .
Implication: The ha de f i g a MP-b g ai c ce a e diag i g W h i W i ha e , he f W i g i g e .

H W e e , he b g ' i g c e i i ha a a e i e f ach i ze . A W e ca e e f he a be , f he a che a e a . A d , acc di g i e i g a i , ab 60% f he a che c ai e ha 20 i e f c de a d f he a che affec l e . We ca i fe f

hi fac ha he had e f i g a b g i c ce ae i
diag i g^w h i^w i ha e , he f^w i g^w i g e .

C. Mistakes during bug fixing

A he i dica f he had e f i g a MP-b g i
ha a ache eea ed b ga e ae i b gg .
I de i e igae he a e f b gg ache^w ec
he be f ache a ied each b g , a d he e ai
b^w ee b g .

Finding (11): The ach f79 (f349) MP-b g ^w e chec ed i b gg i ade ae. Implication: P ga e eed he i e he ai f hei ache ; f ea e , he ach e i - cai .

O d d ha he ach f79 (f349) MP-b g^w e chec ed i b gg i ade ae ; 32 f he e b g a e e i c i e e ed b he de e e^w hich ea ha he ga e ce ic ec de e i e he b g be ed a f e hei e i g . A g he e di i c b gg ache , e f he de ce a e he ce e ce babi i f he i gi a MP-b g , b fai i he b g c ee . A d , e i a , 19 f he i d ce^w b g . Thi h^w ha ga e eed he i e he ai f hei ache ; f ea e , he ach e i cai .

VI. OTHER CHARACTERISTICS

Many bugs rely on specific system architecture: I d^w e d a b g a e e ied e ec i c e a chi ec e e e he c e ai f achi e^w i h e e a ec i c a chi ec e . The a^w i f he e b g a e e a ed he ac i g / ac i g ced e f he e age . B e f he ae ch ic ie . F ea e , b g *OpenMPI#213* i ca ed b he diffe e a i g e a eg f diffe e a chi ec e . S ec i ca , he e ec i e g a eg e ai fa ca ed b SIGBUS^w he i g he f^w i g i e :

```
hdr->hdr_match.hdr_ctx =  
sendreq->req_send.req_base  
.req_comm->c_contextid;
```

A f e i e i g a i , he de e e d ha he h d^w ed a be dd a i g ed i SPARC^w hich ca ed he c de e a SIGBUS beca e h d^w ctx e i e a 2 b e a i g e . Th he ga e i he b g b a a addi g he a i ab e .

Bug severity: B g e e i i ab he i ab g e i f i ge i h^w id . U a he e e i fab g ca be g he f^w i g e [30]: *i) Critical:* The fai ed f c i i ab e a d he e i acce abe a e a i e h d achi e he e i ed e . *ii) Major:* The fai ed f c i i ab e b he e e i a acce abe a e a i e h d achi e he e i ed e . *iii) Minor:* The defec de e i e i a i , b ca e he e d ce i c ec , i c ee i c i e e . *iv) Trivial:* The defec de e i e i a i , de da age he abi i f he e a d he de i ed e ca be e a i

b ai ed b^w i g a d he defec . We d he MP-b g^w i h e ec hei e e i , acc di g he b g e ed ha ec i f he e e i e . We f d ha 70 f 349 MP-b g a e abe ed a c i ca^w hich ea ha a acce abe a e a i e e h d ca be f d f he b g . I a i e he i bi i f i e e i g b g e a i g

Some MP-bugs cross many layers: N^w ada , he^w a e bec e e ad ec e . S e i e he a h fa e age- e di g e e^w i a e e a a e . A d he e e a a ea diffe e a each a e . F ea e , a e age- e di g e e i JB MQ^w i i c ac e d i g e age e di g i he de i i g Ac i e MQ . Thi , i e i E he e ac e ac he^w , a d a ead a he e age- e ce i g e e a he c e d i g e e . We a d b g ha c a a e^w i hi e^w a e . A a i a i , a e age i Ze MQ ca be i i a b- e age , a d each b- e age i a i ed i de e de . Th he e di g f he^w h e e age a d he e di g f each b- e age ca be de e i ed a^w a e . Thi e a e a e i g i c e a e he had e f b g diag i . T ha ca a a i ca i - i he igh a e^w i be e he f .

VII. RELATED WORK

Bug characteristic studies Gi e he i a ce f^w a e e i abi i a d he e a e ce f b g , a die b g cha ac e i c ha e e i bee d e . The^w ha e died a a ec f a i i d f b g , i c di g hei a e , i ac , e d cibi i , a d e [15], [7], [8]. A d a f he ide eci i f a i he i e^w a e e i abi i f diffe a ec , cha b g de ec i g , fa e a ce , fai e ec e , a d e i g , ec [16], [9].

B f a e , die ha e bee c d ced ea^w d MP-b g cha ac e i c . Pe i , e ea che ha e c d ced e e i i a^w he i e f MPI [11], [12]. B he a ec ai ed i a ec i c^w a e , e e a i ec i ca i a e , a d^w i h b e fai e abi i e . I c a ,^w ide a ch ec che i e d ge e a MP-b g .

MPI bug detection The Me age Pa i g I e face i b a i e f he a e age a i g a e i acice , a d i bei g ac i e de e ed a d ed h gh e e a i e e a i de i g ed a e h a fa chi ec a af . Th a c e i a deb ggi g ha e bee de i g ed f MPI ga , cha he I e Me age Chec e [2]. The e a e i^w f de ec i g he b g i he de e i g f MPI i b a i e . F ea e , F^w Chec e [26] ca e ac ga i e i f e age a i g , a d chec^w he he he e i e i a e f^w ed c ec b he de i g MPI i b a i e , i e^w he he e age a e de i e d c ec f ec i ed ce ec i ed de i a i . If , i e he b g a d ide diag ic i f a i . A he i e f cha Sca T ace [31] a d MPI Wi z [32] ec d MPI ca i a acce a e a d e hi i f a i de e i i ca e a he ga . O^w i c e e a he^w , i ce i ha he e ia g ide a d i a e he de e f he e i d f ech i e a da ache .

