A quick and dirty primer on how to use high-performance compute cluster

Getting onto MIDWAY

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Outline

- Make first steps on a Linux Cluster
 Login via ssh, remotely, short overview of basic unix commands like cd, pwd, cp, scp,...
- How to submit and manage jobs / computations

https://rcc.uchicago.edu

For this course, we use the Uchicago's **Midway** compute cluster.

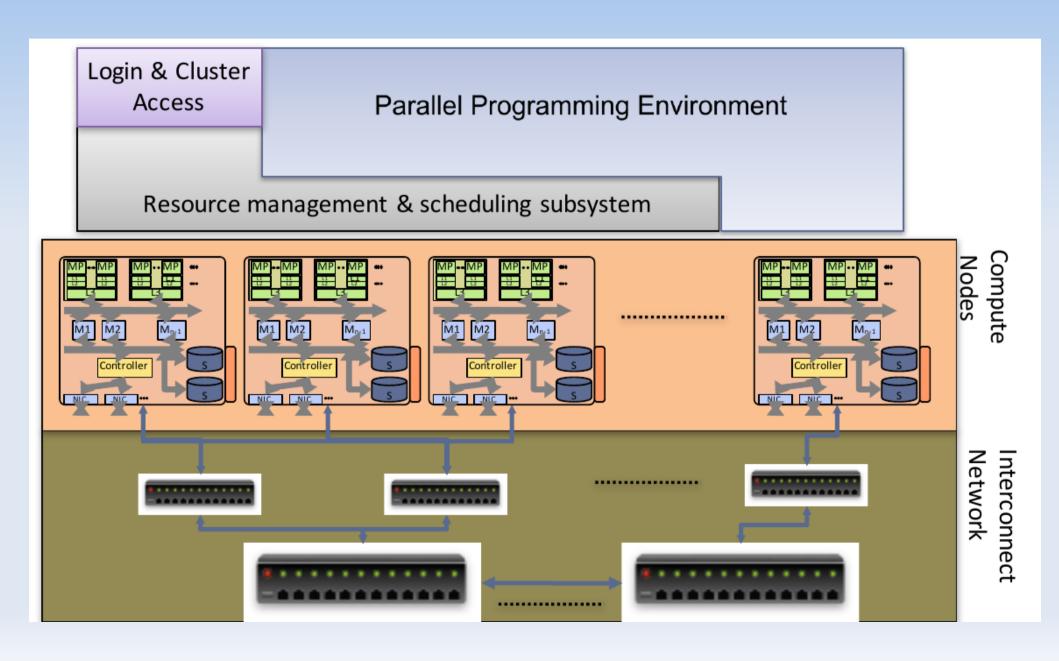
It is managed by the Research Computing Centre

→ Its setup is very similar to any other top system

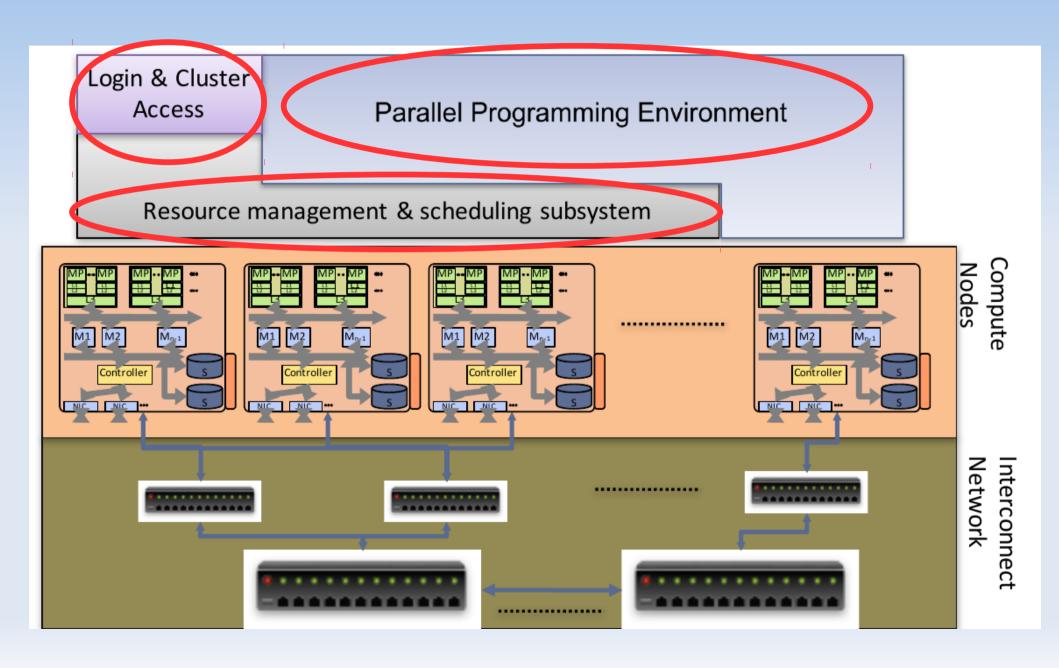
For the RCC Manual see the documentation site at

http://docs.rcc.uchicago.edu

An abstract compute cluster



An abstract compute cluster



The size of a HPC cluster





Login for participants

- If you don't have an account on Midway request one (infrastructure for this course) https://rcc.uchicago.edu/docs/using-midway/index.html
- For MS-Windows users: Download and install Putty
 - → http://the.earth.li/~sgtatham/putty/latest/x86/putty.exe
 - → Download and install Winscp
 - → http://winscp.net/download/winscp576setup.exe
- Mac and Linux users
 - → you need an terminal

Basic Linux commands (1)

Command	Description	
pwd	Print name of current/working directory	
cd [Directory]	Change directory (no directory \rightarrow change to home)	
ls [Directory]	List directory contents (no directory $ o$ list current)	
cat FILE	Concatenate files and print on the standard output	
mkdir DIRECTORY	Make directories	
mkdir -p DIRECTORY	Make directories, make parent directories as needed	
cp SOURCEDIRECTORY	Copy files and directories	
cp -r SOURCEDIRECTORY	Copy files and directories, copy directories recursively	
mv SOURCEDIRECTORY	Move (rename) files	
man COMMAND	An interface to the on-line reference manuals	

Basic Linux commands (2)

Command	Description
ssh -X foo@host.com	OpenSSH SSH client (remote login program), access to host.com with user foo
scp foo@host.com:/home/bar ./	Secure copy (remote file copy program), copy file bar from /home on host.com to directory
scp bar foo@host.com:/home/	Secure copy (remote file copy program), copy file bar from the local host to /home on host.com
git clone git@github.com:whatever folder-name	The stupid content tracker, Clone a repository (whatever) into a new directory (folder-name).
git checkout	Checkout a branch or paths to the working tree.

Getting on Midway – step-by step

First login, get lecture notes

(MS-Windows: Putty, Linux/MacOS: Terminal)

```
> ssh -X USERNAME@midway1.rcc.uchicago.edu
> git clone ***lecture-folder*** #clone lecture
> cd ***lecture_folder*** #go into folder
> ls # list content of folder
```

Step-by-Step (2)

→ Perform some basic operations on the cluster

```
> ssh -X USERNAME@midway1.rcc.uchicago.edu
> pwd
/home/USERNAME
> mkdir -p firstFolder/secondFolder
> 1s
FirstFolder
> ls firstFolder
secondFolder
> cd firstFolder
> pwd
/home/USERNAME/firstFolder
> 1s
secondFolder
> exit
```

Step-by-Step (3)

- How to copy folders and files to your PC?
- MS-Windows, start WinSCP
 - → Host-Name: midway1.rcc.uchicago.edu
 - → User: USERNAME
- Linux/MacOS, replace /YOUR-LOCAL-PATH/
 - → with /home/LOCAL-LOGIN-NAME/ for linux
 - → with /Users/LOCAL-LOGIN-NAME/ for MacOS

Step-by-Step (4)

- Copy folders and files from your notebook create a file named firstFile in firstFolder
 - → MS-Windows: use WinSCP to copy the directory back
 - → Linux/MacOS

Check that file is there by

```
>ssh -X midway1.rcc.uchicago.edu
> ls
FILENAME
>cat FILENAME #shows content of file
```

Environment setup

Supporting diverse user community requires supporting diverse tool sets (different vendors, versions of compilers, debuggers, libraries, apps, etc)

User environments are customized via modules system (or softenv)

- > module avail #shows list of available modules
- > module list #shows list of modules loaded by user
- > module load module_name #load a module e.g. compiler
- > module unload module_name #unload a module

Using an editor on a cluster

Compute clusters like Midway's infrastructure have a variety of simple text editors available.

\rightarrow vi, vim

```
>vi helloworld.cpp
#include <iostream>
int main()
{
   std::cout << "Hello World!" << std::endl;
   return 0;
}</pre>
```

More low bandwidth editors

Depending on network and preference, you may want to use an editor without a graphical user interface; common options:

- vi/vim
- emacs
- nano

emacs: Two modes – insertion and command mode

Insertion mode begins upon an insertion

Undo: C- [ESC] returns to command mode

Find/create file: C-x C-f Command mode options:

:w save

Save file: C-x C-s :wq save and exit

:q exit as long as there are no changes

Exit Emacs: C-x C-c :q! exit without saving

Quit: C-g Insertion:

i (insert before cursor)

Deletion: x

a (append)

Motion: h (left) k (up)

j (down) l (right)

Slurm Workload Manager

http://slurm.schedmd.com/

Simple Linux Utility for Resource Management (SLURM).

Open-source workload manager designed for Linux clusters of all sizes.

Provides three key functions:

- 1) It allocates exclusive and/or non-exclusive access to resources (computer nodes) to users for some duration of time so they can perform work.
- 2) It provides a framework for starting, executing, and monitoring work (typically a parallel job) on a set of allocated nodes.
- 3) It arbitrates contention for resources by managing a queue of pending work.
 - > sbatch submit_helloworld.sh (submit job)
 - > squeue -u NAME (status of job)
 - > scancel JOBID (cancel job)

Run an executalbe with "slurm"

https://rcc.uchicago.edu/docs/running-jobs/index.html#running-jobs

```
#!/bin/bash -I

#SBATCH --ntasks=1 ## how many cpus used here

#SBATCH --time=01:00:00 ## walltime requested

#SBATCH --output=slurm_test.out ## output file

#SBATCH --error=slurm_test.err ## error

### executable
./helloworld.exe
```

Run an executable on MIDWAY

https://rcc.uchicago.edu/docs/running-jobs/index.html#running-jobs

```
#!/bin/bash
# a sample job submission script to submit an MPI job to the sandyb partition on Midway1
# set the job name to hello-world
#SBATCH -job-name=hello-world
# send output to hello-world.out
#SBATCH --output=hello-world.out
# receive an email when job starts, ends, and fails
#SBATCH --mail-type=BEGIN,END,DAIL
# this job requests 1 core. Cores can be selected from various nodes.
#SBATCH --ntasks=1
# there are many partitions on Midway1 and it is important to specify which
# partition you want to run your job on. Not having the following option, the
# sandby partition on Midway1 will be selected as the default partition
#SBATCH --partition=sandyb
# Run the process with mpirun. Notice -n is not required. mpirun will
# automatically figure out how many processes to run from the slurm options
./helloworld.exe
```

Interactive sessions on MIDWAY

https://rcc.uchicago.edu/docs/using-midway/index.html#interactive-jobs

Interactive Jobs

After submitting an "interactive job" on Midway, the Slurm job scheduler will connect you to a compute node, and will load up an interactive shell environment for you to use on that compute node. This interactive session will persist until you disconnect from the compute node, or until you reach the maximum requested time.

sinteractive

The command sinteractive is the recommended Slurm command for requesting an interactive session. As soon as the requested resources become available, sinteractive will do the following:

- 1. Log in to the node.
- 2. Change into the directory you were working in.
- 3. Set up X11 forwarding for displaying graphics.
- 4. Transfer your current shell environment, including any modules you have previously loaded.

To get started (with the default interactive settings), simply enter sinteractive in the command line:

\$ sinteractive

By default, an interactive session times out after 2 hours. If you would like more than 2 hours, be sure to include a -time=HH:MM:SS flag to specify the necessary amount of time. For example, to request an interactive session for 6 hours, run
the following command:

\$ sinteractive --time=06:00:00

At the moment, this is what you are interested in!