LESSON PLAN: Introduction to High Performance Computing (HPC)

Instructor: Jens Mueller

Requested TAs: Jason Bracken

Logistics:

Software needed: NX Nomachine from nomachine.com, WinSCP from winscp.net (Windows), filezilla from filezilla-project.org (MAC) MobaXTerm from https://mobaxterm.mobatek.net/ (Windows)

What needs to be done in advance?

- Install packages on the students personal (laptop) computers
- Have Redhawk cluster student accounts created 2 weeks prior to workshop
- Have premade scripts and datasets on cluster ready for Exercises
- Have problem sets for students to deal with for Day 2
- Make cluster reservations for class 2 weeks prior to workshop

Lesson plan, Day 1 (10am-12:30pm)

Intro - Overview of HPC: 50 min

- Historical background of high performance computing (HPC)
- Application areas of HPC
- Overview of current HPC systems in the world and in the US
- Overview of the Redhawk cluster

Break 10 min

Accessing HPC systems 25 min

- Shell access
- Desktop access via NX Nomachine and MobaXterm
- File system overview and file transfer

Break 5 min

Interactive: Configuring access for users and connecting to Redhawk 60 min

- Configuring NX, WinSCP, MobaXTerm, filezilla
- Configuring ssh keypairs (optional)
- Launching shell and accessing compute nodes

Lesson plan, Day 2 (10am-12:30pm)

Intro to compute jobs: 40 min

- Designing, configuring and submitting compute jobs (interactive, batch)
- Monitoring processes, resource usage and compute jobs

- Managing Input/Output (I/O)
- Overview of parallel compute jobs

Break 10 min

Exercises I 35min

- Design of a basic compute job (R, Matlab, Python ...)
- Submission and monitoring of compute job
- Postprocessing

Break 5 min

Exercises II 45 min

- Design of parallel compute job (Matlab)
- Submission and monitoring of compute job
- Postprocessing

Q&A: 15 min











