Bioinformatics session

3rd Annual workshop on bioinformatics and variant interpretation in InPreD

https://inpred.github.io/25-06_bioinfo_ws/bioinfo_ws



1. Unit testing

What is unit testing?

- test smallest piece of code that can be logically isolated in software application (function, subroutine, method)
- the smaller the better more granular view of what is going on; also faster
- should not cross systems (database, filesystem, network) -> integration and functional tests

Example

```
# calculator.py
def add(x, y):
    """add numbers"""
    return x + y
```

```
# test_calculator.py
import calculator

def test_add():
    assert calculator.add(1, 2) == 3
```

Why do we need unit testing?

- early defect detection
- code quality improvement
- facilitates refactoring
- faster development cycles
- better documentation
- enables more frequent releases

How to design a unit test?

- identify the unit (function, method)
- what is its functionality?
- what is the input (correct and incorrect)?
- how to handle incorrect input? (edge cases, invalid data)
- what does it return?
- positive and negative results should be tested

Set up unit testing for your functions

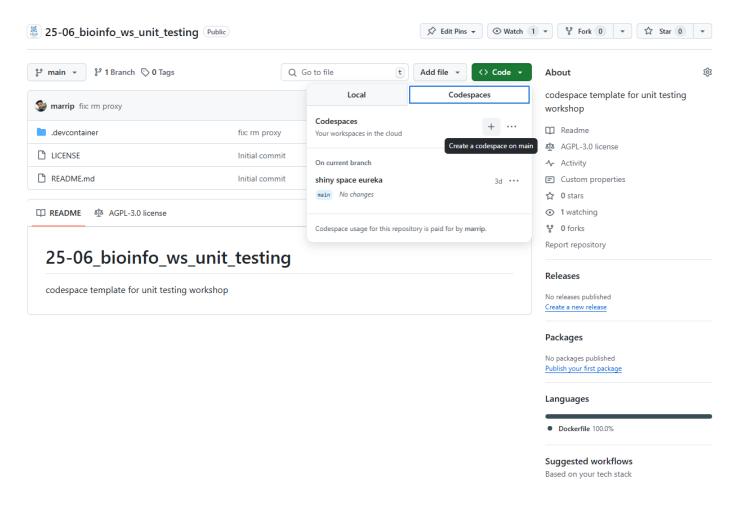
install pytest

```
$ pip install pytest
```

- add your function to a module at my_module/my_module.py
- add your unit test at my_module/tests/my_module_test.py
- in the test file import your module from my_module.my_module import my_function

First exercise

• go to https://github.com/InPreD/25-06_bioinfo_ws_unit_testing



First exercise



First exercise

- pytest was already installed in the codespace
- the suggested layout was already applied
- create a branch for your work:

```
$ git checkout -b unit-tests-<your name>
```

- start with the first exercise in first/tests/first_test.py
- whenever you are done, commit your changes (use commit message conventions):

```
$ git add first/tests/first_test.py
$ git commit -m "test: <your commit message>"
```

• and we push them to GitHub:

```
$ git push --set-upstream origin unit-tests-<your name>
```

Handle exceptions in unit tests

- functions can raise exceptions and we would like to test for those
- import pytest to have access to raises()
- add with -block to handle the exception:

```
import calculator
import pytest

def test_add_exception():
    with pytest.raises(TypeError):
        assert add("one", "two") == None
```

Second exercise

- continue with the second exercise in second/tests/second_test.py
- whenever you are done, commit your changes (use commit message conventions):

```
$ git add second/tests/second_test.py
$ git commit -m "test: <your commit message>"
```

and we push them to GitHub:

```
$ git push
```

Make unit tests table-driven by using parametrize

- having more than one test case results in repeating a lot of code (one function per test case)
- to condense this as much as possible (ideally one unit test per function), we can use the pytest decorator parametrize
- again, import pytest to gain access to the decorator
- add the decorator @pytest.mark.parametrize as a header to your function
- define the required variables (input, exception, output)
- add your test cases as a list of tuples (one tuple per case)
- also use nullcontext from the module contextlib to account for cases without exceptions

```
import calculator
import pytest
from contextlib import nullcontext
@pytest.mark.parametrize(
    "x, y, exception, want",
        (1, 2, nullcontext(), 3),
        ("one", "two", pytest.raises(TypeError), None)
def test_add(x, y, exception, want):
    with exception:
        assert add(x, y) == want
```

Third exercise

- continue with the third exercise in third/tests/third_test.py
- whenever you are done, commit your changes (use commit message conventions):

```
$ git add third/tests/third_test.py
$ git commit -m "test: <your commit message>"
```

and we push them to GitHub:

```
$ git push
```

Use GitHub action to automatically run tests on push

• add .github/workflows/main.yml:

```
name: Python test
on: push
jobs:
  test:
    name: Run unit tests
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
        name: Check out the repo
        uses: actions/checkout@v4
        name: Set up Python 3.12.8
        uses: actions/setup-python@v4
        with:
          python-version: 3.12.8
        name: Install dependencies
        run: pip install -r requirements.txt
        name: Unit testing
        uses: pavelzw/pytest-action@v2
        with:
          verbose: true
          emoji: true
          job-summary: true
          custom-arguments: -q
          click-to-expand: true
          report-title: 'Bioinfo workshop unit testing'
```

Use GitHub action to automatically run tests on push

• if you don't want to write all of that, merge the branch containing the file into your branch:

\$ git merge add-github-action

Fourth exercise

- write unit tests for the functions in fourth/fourth.py
- whenever you are done, commit your changes (use commit message conventions):

```
$ git add third/tests/third_test.py
$ git commit -m "test: <your commit message>"
```

and we push them to GitHub:

```
$ git push
```

Thank you for your attention!

Day 1 done!



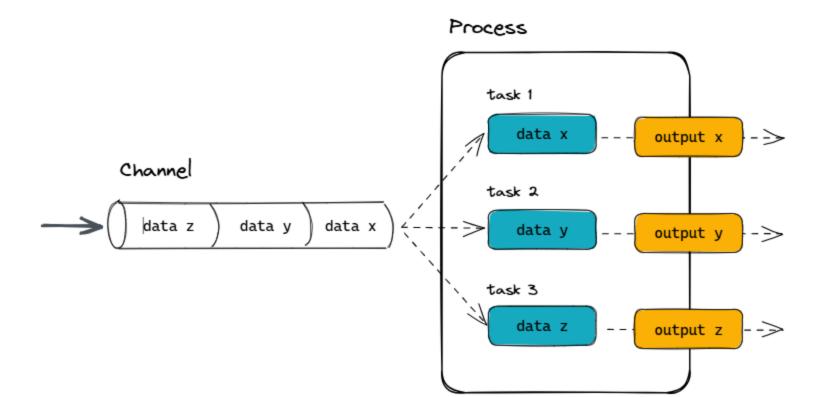
2. Nextflow

What is nextflow?

- workflow orchestration engine, domain-specific language (in contrast to general-purpose language, e.g. python)
- easy to write data-intensive computational workflows
- extension of groovy which is a superset of Java
- core features:
 - portability and reproducibility
 - scalability of parallelization and deployment
 - integration of existing tools, systems, and industry standards

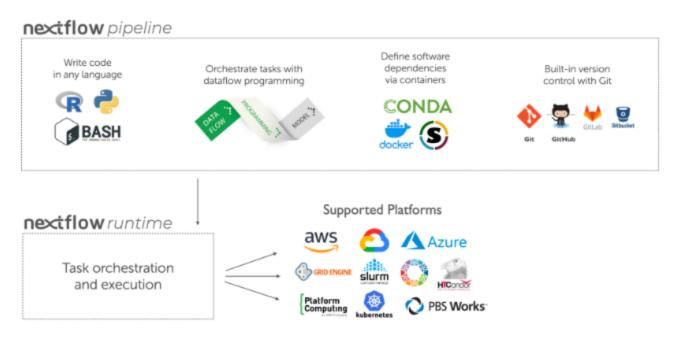
Processes and channels

- different processes joined together each written in any language that can be executed by Linux platform
- independently and isolated processes not sharing common (writable) state
- communication via asynchronous first-in, first-out (FIFO) queues, called channels



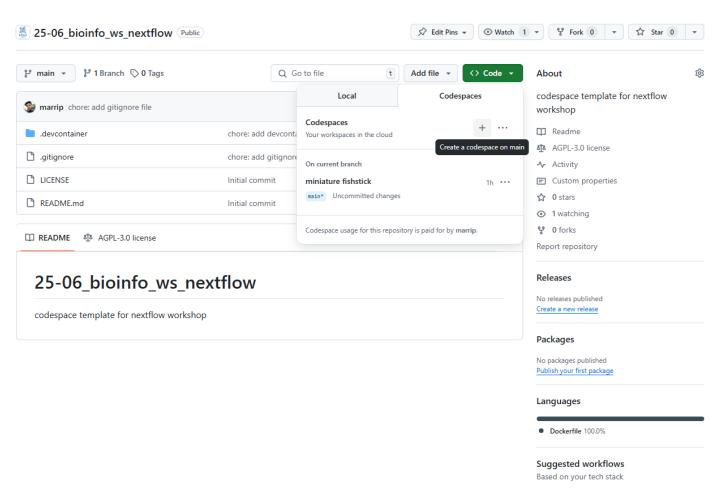
Execution abstraction

- process = what is executed <-> executor = how it is executed
- provides abstraction between workflow's functional logic and underlying execution system/runtime
- workflow runs seamlessly on local computer, HPC cluster or cloud



Let's get started

go to https://github.com/InPreD/25-06_bioinfo_ws_nextflow



create a branch for your work

```
$ git checkout -b nextflow-<your name>
```

- create a new file hello_world.nf
- write a workflow which outputs a file containing "Hello World!"

```
#!/usr/bin/env nextflow
 * Use echo to print 'Hello World!' to a file
process sayHello {
    output:
        path 'output.txt'
    script:
    11 11 11
    echo 'Hello World!' > output.txt
    11 11 11
workflow {
    // emit a greeting
    sayHello()
```

• try to run it

\$ nextflow run hello_world.nf

```
root@52abc3ecdd95 /w/25-06_bioinfo_ws_nextflow (main)# nextflow run hello_world.nf
Nextflow 25.04.1 is available - Please consider updating your version to it

NEXTFLOW ~ version 24.10.4

Launching `hello_world.nf` [boring_rubens] DSL2 - revision: 595ea09581

executor > local (1)
[33/7106de] process > sayHello [100%] 1 of 1 ✓
```

- check if you can find work/33/7106de/output.txt (the hashes are randomly generated by nextflow so check with work/*/output.txt if you are unsure which hash to use)
- explore the other files that are in work/33/7106de/

add a directory to which results should be published

```
process sayHello {
    publishDir 'results', mode: 'copy'
    output:
        path 'output.txt'
    ...
}
```

• add a greeting variable

```
process sayHello {
    publishDir 'results', mode: 'copy'
    input:
        val greeting
    output:
        path 'output.txt'
    script:
    11 11 11
    echo '$greeting' > output.txt
    11 11 11
workflow {
    // emit a greeting
    sayHello(params.greeting)
```

```
$ nextflow run hello_world.nf --greeting 'Heisann!'
```

move the params.greeting into the hello_world.nf:

```
params.greeting = 'Heisann!'
process sayHello {
   publishDir 'results', mode: 'copy'
   ...
}
```

```
$ nextflow run hello_world.nf
```

```
$ nextflow run hello_world.nf --greeting 'Hejsan!'
```

transform greetings into a channel

```
process sayHello {
    input:
        val greeting
    output:
        stdout
    script:
    11 11 11
    echo '$greeting'
    11 11 11
workflow {
    greeting_ch = Channel.of('Alo', 'Salut', 'Sunt eu').view()
    // emit a greeting
    sayHello(greeting_ch) | view
```

\$ nextflow run hello_world.nf -ansi-log false # run it several times

Channels

- processes communicate through channels
- two major properties:
 - Sending a message is an asynchronous (i.e. non-blocking) operation
 - Receiving a message is a synchronous (i.e. blocking) operation
- please refer to the nextflow docs about channels

• create a .csv file containing our greetings which will serve as input

```
Alo
Salut
Sunt eu
```

• create channel from the file using the channel factory fromPath()

```
workflow {
    greeting_ch = Channel.fromPath(params.greeting).view()
    // emit a greeting
    sayHello(greeting_ch) | view
}
```

\$ nextflow run hello_world.nf -ansi-log false --greeting greetings.csv

• try to manipulate a channel by using the operators <code>splitCsv()</code> and <code>map()</code>

```
$ nextflow run hello_world.nf -ansi-log false --greeting greetings.csv
```

please refer to the nextflow docs about channel operators

• add a second process

```
process convertToUpper {
    input:
        val lower
    output:
         stdout
    script:
    11 11 11
    echo '$lower' | tr '[a-z]' '[A-Z]'
    11 11 11
```

• include the process in the workflow and link it to the first one

```
workflow {
    greeting_ch = Channel.fromPath(params.greeting)
                         .view( it -> "Before splitCsv: $it" )
                         .splitCsv()
                         .view( it -> "After splitCsv: $it" )
                         .map( item -> item[0] )
                         .view( it -> "After map: $it" )
    // emit a greeting
    sayHello(greeting_ch) | view
    convertToUpper(sayHello.out) | view
```

\$ nextflow run hello_world.nf -ansi-log false --greeting greetings.csv

• run first process inside a container

```
process sayHello {
    container 'ubuntu:24.04'
    input:
         val greeting
    output:
         stdout
    script:
    11 11 11
    echo '$greeting'
    11 11 11
```

• add nextflow.config containing

```
docker.enabled = true
```

please refer to the nextflow docs on configuration

check your docker images

\$ docker images

now run

\$ nextflow run hello_world.nf -ansi-log false --greeting greetings.csv

check your docker images again

\$ docker images

- restructure you workflow a bit by moving the processes in a modules/ subfolder
- each process should get its own file, e.g. modules/sayHello.nf

```
#!/usr/bin/env nextflow
process sayHello {
    input:
         val greeting
    output:
         stdout
    script:
     11 11 11
    echo '$greeting'
    11 11 11
```

• include the modules in the header of your workflow file

\$ nextflow run hello_world.nf -ansi-log false --greeting greetings.csv

nf-core

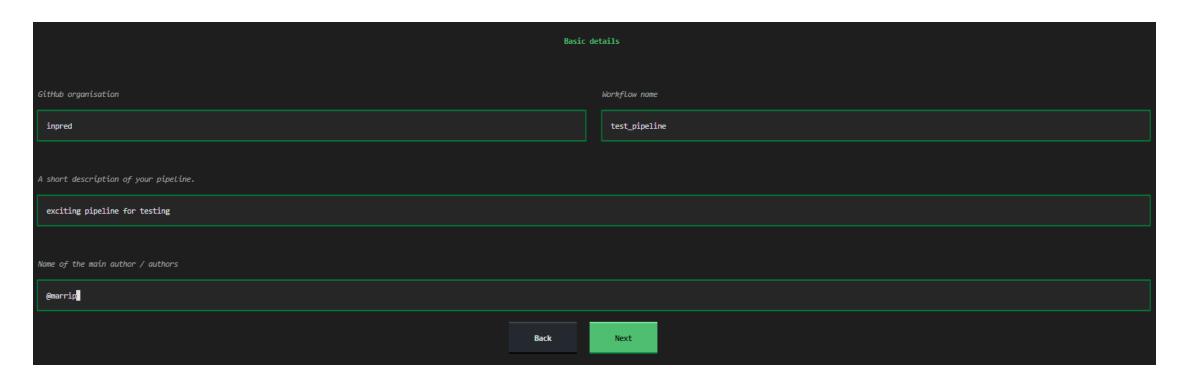
- diverse project spread across many groups (Seqera, SciLifeLab Sweden, Centre for Genomic Regulation etc.)
- community effort to collect a curated set of analysis pipelines built using nextflow
- standardised set of best practices, guidelines, and templates
- modular, scalable, and portable pipelines can easily be adapted and executed using your own data and compute resources
- open development, testing, and peer review -> pipelines are robust, welldocumented, and validated against real-world datasets

- 113 nf-core pipelines (October 2024):
 - o 68 released
 - 32 under development
 - 13 archived
- please refer to the nf-core website for more information and resources

• create a pipeline template using nf-core tooling

\$ nf-core pipelines create

• in the tui we choose Let's go > Custom (OBS! Name should not contain -)



- unselect Toggle all features and select the following:
 - Add configuration files
 - Use code linters
 - Use fastqc
 - Use nf-core components
 - Use nf-schema
 - Add testing profiles
- continue with Continue > Finish > Continue > Finish without creating a repo > Close
- take a look at the output

- **stubbing** = quickly prototype the workflow logic without using the real commands; comparable to dry-run
- prepare for a stub run by adding mock fastq file to assets/

```
$ touch assets/sample1_R1.fastq.gz assets/sample1_R2.fastq.gz assets/sample2_R1.fastq.gz
```

• update assets/samplesheet.csv like so

```
sample, fastq_1, fastq_2
SAMPLE_PAIRED_END, assets/sample1.fastq_R1.gz, assets/sample1_R2.fastq.gz
SAMPLE_SINGLE_END, assets/sample2.fastq_R1.gz
```

• run your first nf-core pipeline

\$ nextflow run . -stub --input assets/samplesheet.csv --outdir results # -ansi-log false

add the nf-core module bwa/mem

```
$ nf-core modules install bwa/mem
```

• add it to workflows/test_pipeline.nf

```
include { BWA_MEM
                                 } from '../modules/nf-core/bwa/mem/main'
include { FASTQC
                                 } from '../modules/nf-core/fastqc/main'
   ch_versions = ch_versions.mix(FASTQC.out.versions.first())
    // MODULE: Run bwa mem
    BWA MEM (
        ch_samplesheet,
```

• in the stub section of modules/nf-core/bwa/mem/main.nf , change the version command string to

```
"""
...
cat <<-END_VERSIONS > versions.yml
"${task.process}":
   bwa: mock
   samtools: mock
END_VERSION
"""
```

\$ nextflow run . -stub --input assets/samplesheet.csv --outdir results # -ansi-log false

• try to add other modules from nf-core/modules, e.g. trimmomatic or cutadapt, and link them to bwa/mem Thank you for your attention!

Day 2 done!

