

HPC-101

Onboarding

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June 9, 2016



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Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 University of Hawai'i Cluster
- 3 Sustainability
- 4 Cluster Interaction
- 5 Problem Reporting
- 6 Cluster Etiquette
- 7 Policies
- 8 Related Services
- 9 Frequently Asked Questions



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Parallel Computing

- High Performance Compute
 - Each separate process can send and receive data amongst other processes (MPI & OpenMP)
 - If processes must communicate for the overall program to proceed, high-speed networking is needed (only MPI)
- High Throughput Compute
 - *Pleasantly Parallel* – Processes are independent and no communication is necessary



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Cray CS300 – History

- Initial investment of 1.8 Million by the University of Hawai'i (UH)
- Delivered in October of 2014
- Accepted in December of 2014
- Early adopter testing started in January 2015
- Opened for general use in April 2015
- March 2016, 92 new nodes added to cluster, raising total core count from 3,800 to 5,876 cores
- As of March 2016, more than 257 users have been granted access to the cluster



Cray CS300 – Compute Nodes

- All nodes are diskless with some RAM used for the Operating System
- 178 Standard nodes
 - Two 10 core Intel® Ivy-Bridge processors (*20 cores total*)
 - 128GB of physical RAM with \approx 118GB of useable RAM
- 6 Large memory nodes
 - Four 10 core Intel® Ivy-Bridge processors (*40 cores total*)
 - 1TB of physical RAM with \approx 1000GB of useable RAM
- 1 GPU node
 - Two 10 core Intel® Haswell processors (*20 cores total*)
 - 128GB of physical RAM with \approx 118GB of useable RAM
 - 2 Nvidia Tesla K40 GPUs
- 91 Owner nodes
 - 33 nodes have two 10 core Intel® Haswell processors with 256 GB of RAM
 - 58 nodes have two 12 core Intel® Haswell processors with 128 GB of RAM
- CentOS Linux



Two storage options are currently available on the Cray CS300

① Lustre®

- High performance parallel filesystem
- Available on all the cluster nodes
- Freely available to all users

② ValueStorage

- Network attached scale out storage
- Only available from the login nodes
- Available as a for fee service



Cray CS300 – Storage → Lustre®

- The Cray CS300 has \approx 582TB of storage space
- Primarily used as scratch space for jobs (Input and Output)
- User do not have a usage quota (soft or hard)
- Certain directories are subject to a 90 day purge policy
- **Data is not backed up! Users are responsible for their own data**
- Lustre® utilizes RAID 6 arrays, and is fairly robust but ...
RAID is not a backup



- 500TB of scale out storage
- Purchased annually in 0.5TB increments

ValueStorage Pricing

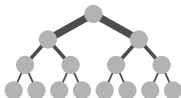
Product	Annual Cost
0.5TB	\$65.00
0.5TB + Replication	\$130.00

[More Information](#)

All prices are subject to change



- 40Gb Infiniband inter-connects (QDR)
 - High speed inter-connect between compute nodes, Lustre® storage and Login nodes
 - low latency ($\approx 1.3\mu s$)
 - Utilizes the *fat tree network topology*

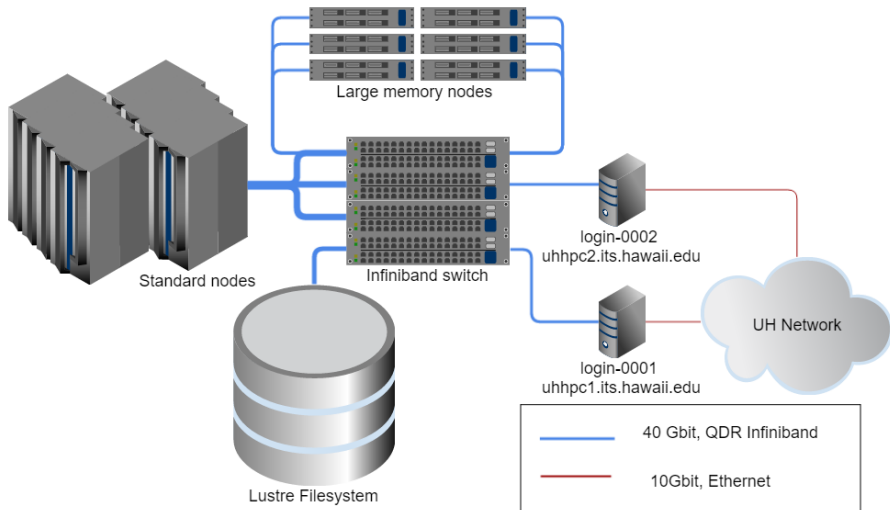


Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fat_tree

- 10Gb login node internet connectivity
 - Speed test from UH to CERN clocked transfer speeds up to 2+ Gb/s



Cray CS300 – Layout



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Community Resources

- The initial investment in the cluster provides resources for free to all faculty, staff, and students affiliated with the University of Hawai'i
- All users can run on the publicly accessible partitions:
community.q, exclusive.q, lm.q, gpu.q, sb.q, kill.q, htc.q
- For some users, the publicly available resources may not be enough . . .



Condo Model

- The Condo model allows users to buy nodes (*condos*) to incorporate into the cluster
- Node owners are provided with priority access to their purchased hardware
- All nodes have a *5 year warranty*
 - Once a nodes warranty has expired, it will be removed from the cluster
- Condo owners are given early access to purchased nodes
 - Access is granted as soon as the funds land in our accounts
 - The 5 year warranty will not begin until newly ordered nodes are installed
- Condo owners are also given the option to purchase 1TB of Lustre® storage per node purchased



Service Units

- In some cases, users will not require owning a node, but still need priority access
- An alternative to purchasing a node, is to purchase service units (*SU*)
- SUs come in two flavors:
 - Standard node units
 - 20 core hours, with access to 128GB of ram on a standard node
 - Large memory node units
 - 40 core hours, with access to 1TB of ram on a large memory node
- A minimum order totaling \$500 is required



Condo Price Card

Product	Cost	Product	Cost
Standard	\$6,600.00	Standard + 2 GPUs (Nvidia® K40)	\$13,600.00
Large Memory	\$33,900.00	1 TB Lustre® Storage for 5 years	\$600.00

Service Unit Price Card

Product	Cost	Minimum Order
Standard node	\$0.50 per SU	1,000 SU (\$500.00)
Large memory node	\$2.00 per SU	250 SU (\$500.00)

All prices are subject to change



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- Connecting to a cluster @ UH
 - Login to the cluster
 - Verify user permissions
- User directories
- Transferring files
 - Globus
- Software
 - Modules
 - Acquiring software
 - Compilers
- Managing user jobs
 - Job scheduler
 - Using SLURM
 - Partitions
 - Submitting jobs (Examples)



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Connecting to a cluster @ UH

- To connect to the cluster, an SSH client is required
- Linux and MacOS X, typically have a SSH client already installed
- Windows typically needs a 3rd party SSH client
- Suggested SSH clients for Windows include:
 - SSH Secure Shell (SSH 3.2.9)
 - Putty
 - MobaXterm
- The Cray CS300 has two login nodes:
 - uhhpc1.its.hawaii.edu
 - uhhpc2.its.hawaii.edu

Let's attempt to login!



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Windows

- If SSH 3.2.9 installed (Lab PCs have it installed)
- Open the start menu, and type “SSH” and you should see a program called “SSH Secure File Terminal Client”
- Click “Quick Connect” and enter the following information:
 - Host Name:** uhhpc1.its.hawaii.edu –OR– uhhpc2.its.hawaii.edu
 - User Name:** Your UH User name e.g., user99
 - Port:** 22
- Press “Connect”
- Enter your UH user password when prompted and press the return key



Mac & Linux

- Open a terminal window
- Enter one of the following:
 - ssh <UH User name>@uhhpc1.its.hawaii.edu
 - ssh <UH User name>@uhhpc2.its.hawaii.edu
 - **Example:** ssh user99@uhhpc1.its.hawaii.edu
- Enter your UH user password when prompted and press the return key



On Initial Login ...

Validate that all system permissions are correct for your user

- 1 Test that you can list files in your home: `'ls -la'`
- 2 Test making a file in your home: `'touch test.txt'`
- 3 Go into ~/lus: `'cd ~/lus/'`
- 4 Test making a file in your lus directory: `'touch test.txt'`
- 5 Go into ~/apps: `'cd ~/apps/'`
- 6 Test making a file in your apps directory: `'touch test.txt'`

Result

Did you get any errors? Let us know if you did

Notes:

- On login you are placed in `/home/<username>/`
- By default, `~` is equivalent to `/home/<username>/`



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Home

```
[user99@login ~]$ ls -l
total 0
lrwxrwxrwx 1 user99 user99 23 Jan 15 20:38 apps -> /lus/scratch/usr/user99
lrwxrwxrwx 1 user99 user99 19 Jan 15 20:38 lus -> /lus/scratch/user99
lrwxrwxrwx 1 root   root   37 Jan 15 20:41 purge -> /lus/scratch/log/purge/current/user99
```

- ~/ is not on the Lustre® filesystem and **should not be used for job data!**
- ~/lus/ is a symlink to the Lustre® scratch
 - This is where all your job data files should live
 - Items in this directory **are** subject to our 90 day purge policy
- ~/apps/ is a symlink to where programs should be stored
 - Items in this directory **are not** subject to our 90 day purge policy
 - Directory is monitored for abuse
- ~/purge/ is typically a dead symlink
 - Symlink becomes active if the user has files that are part of the next automatic purge
 - When ~/purge/ is active, the directory containing two files – *purge_list.txt* & *totals.txt*
 - An email is sent to users if they have files that will be purged
 - Email notification is sent out 14 days before the purge takes place



Filesystems

```
[user99@login ~]$ df -h
```

Filesystem	Size	Used	Avail	Use%	Mounted on
10.10.0.3:/ha_cluster/home	1.8T	888G	851G	52%	/home
10.12.0.51@o2ib:10.12.0.52@o2ib:/scratch	582T	429T	125T	78%	/lus/scratch

- /home/<username> exists on a NFS mounted filesystem
 - Only has 1.8TB of useable space
 - Using all this space may cause problems for the entire cluster
 - Not a high performance filesystem and small in size
- /lus/scratch/ is the Lustre® filesystem
 - Has 582TB of useable space
 - ~/apps/, ~/lus/, and ~/purge/ all point to directories on this filesystem
 - High performance and a lot more space for users to use
 - No hard or soft quotas are in place
 - Utilization is managed through the 90 day purge policy



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Available File Transfer Protocols

- The cluster has the following options for transferring files:
 - scp (RCP+SSH protocol)
 - rsync (rsync protocol with SSH transport)
 - SFTP (SSH FTP protocol) – Filezilla, Cyberduck
 - Globus (Grid FTP protocol)
- All options are widely used, and have clients that can be found for on most major operating systems

SFTP, scp, and rsync are fairly common on Linux systems,
but Globus is not as common ...



What is Globus?

The Globus transfer service provides high-performance, secure, file transfer and synchronization between endpoints.

Globus handles all the difficult aspects of data transfer, allowing application users to easily start and manage transfers between endpoints, while automatically tuning parameters to maximize bandwidth usage, managing security configurations, providing automatic fault recovery, and notifying users of completion and problems.

Definition

An **endpoint** is one of the two file transfer locations – either the source or the destination – between which files can move. Once a resource (such as a server, cluster, storage system, laptop, or other system) is defined as an endpoint, it will be available to authorized users who can transfer files to or from this endpoint.

<https://www.globus.org/file-transfer>



How do I get Globus?

To utilize Globus, follow the following steps:

- Register for a Globus Online account – <https://www.globusonline.org/signup>
- Sign in to Globus Online (using your Globus Online username and password) – <https://www.globusonline.org/signin>
- Select 'Start Transfer' under 'File Transfer', or from the drop down menu in the top bar
- You can view the list of available endpoints by clicking the button on the 'Endpoint' drop down box
 - Each of the login nodes is also an endpoint: ***hawaii#UHHPC1*** & ***hawaii#UHHPC2***
- Once you select an endpoint, a login window will pop up. You can access the UHHPC endpoints by simply using your UH username and password. Enter your UH accounts username in the 'Username' field and UH accounts password in the 'Password' field and click 'Authenticate'.
- You will see a listing of the contents of your home directory on the UH HPC. Double click on a directory to view its contents
- Select a file or directory and click on the highlighted 'arrow button' to initiate the transfer

These instructions can also be found on the Cyberinfrastructure website:

<http://www.hawaii.edu/its/ci/hpc-resources/hpc-tutorials/globus-quick-start-guide/>



- In order to transfer data from the Cray CS300 to your personal computer, a client called the Globus Connect Personal (<https://www.globus.org/globus-connect-personal>) needs to be installed
- The Globus Connect Personal, turns your personal computer into a private endpoint that is only useable with your personal Globus Online account.
- If you want to install Globus on your own server, Globus Connect (<https://www.globus.org/globus-connect-server>) is required
- If issues arise while trying to install Globus Connect or Globus Connect Personal, please contact us and we will be more than happy to help



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Modules

A tool to help users manage their Unix or Linux shell environment, by allowing groups of related environment-variable settings to be made or removed dynamically.¹

- We globally install frequently requested software packages and create modules for all users to access
- Access to modules is via the **module** command
 - 'module avail' – list installed modules
 - 'module show <module name>' – Show what actions a module performs
 - 'module load <module name>' – Loads the named module
 - 'module purge' – Unload all loaded modules
- Installing software in your ~/apps directory is suggested to prevent us from being a bottleneck

¹[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environment_Modules_\(software\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environment_Modules_(software))



Acquiring Software – Binaries and/or Source

- You can transfer software source, binaries or scripts into your ~/apps directory on the Cray CS300
 - Binaries compiled as x86_64 (64-bit) for CentOS 6.5 or RHEL6.5 should work
- You may also download tar or zipped software/source code directly from the login nodes using tools like **wget** & **curl**
- You may also clone source repositories using the correct software revision tool: **git**, **svn**, **hg**, **cvs**, etc.



Compilers

- We have the Intel®, GNU (gcc, g++), Cray® & PGI® compilers
- Compiling must take place on a compute node
 - Interactive sessions are useful for compiling software
 - Sandbox nodes mirror the environment the compute nodes provide and are ideal for compilation
 - Login nodes **do not** load all the software and libraries found on the compute nodes
- Intel® compilers are recommended for best performance
 - Intel® 2013 compilers:
 - module load intel/ics – Loads Intel® compilers: `icc`, `ifort`, `icpc`
 - module load intel/impi – Loads Intel® MPI wrapper: `mpiicc`, `mpiifort`, `mpiicpc`
 - Intel® 2016 compilers:
 - We have 2 floating seats for Intel® 2016 compiler
 - `intel_2016/ics`
 - `intel_2016/impi`



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Managing User Jobs

User jobs all come in different shapes and sizes:

- Require multiple nodes working in concert towards a common goal (MPI)
- Require a single node, in which they use multiple threads work together (OpenMP, pthreads)
- Require a lot of cores to process a lot of data in an identical manner, yet none of the inputs have dependencies on another (HTC)

The Cray CS300 is capable of handling many different types of jobs, but with so many users in a multi-user environment, how do we impose order on this chaos?

This looks like a job for a ***job scheduler!***



Purpose

To control and prioritize the execution order of unrelated jobs

Basic features expected of a job scheduler:

- Provides a user interface for users to request resources and monitor work
- Allocates access to resources for the requested duration of time
- Starts, monitors and terminates work on allocated resources
- Arbitrates contention for resources by managing queues of pending work

The Cray CS300 uses the **S**imple **L**inux **U**tility for **R**esource **M**anagement or simply known as the *SLURM scheduler*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slurm_Workload_Manager

<http://slurm.schedmd.com/slurm.html>



How are jobs scheduled?

User submitted jobs are assigned a priority using a fairshare algorithm. Factors such as the following are all used to assign a priority to a given job:

- Runtime
- Amount of resources requested
- Age of job
- Amount of core hours a user has used in recent history



SLURM commands

SLURM has a series of commands, each of which allow users to interact with the job scheduler

- ***srun*** – Used to submit a job for execution or initiate job steps in real time
 - ***sbatch*** – Used to submit a job script for later execution. The script could contain one or more *srun* commands
 - ***squeue*** – Reports the state of jobs or job steps
 - ***scancel*** – Used to cancel a pending or running job or job step. It can also be used to send an arbitrary signal to all processes associated with a running job or job step
 - ***sinfo*** – Reports the state of partitions and nodes managed by Slurm. It has a wide variety of filtering, sorting, and formatting options
 - ***sacct*** – Used to report job or job step accounting information about active or completed jobs
 - ***scontrol*** – The administrative tool used to view and/or modify Slurm state. Note that many *scontrol* commands can only be executed as user root
-
- Examples usage of the SLURM commands can be seen on *schedmd*'s [quickstart](http://slurm.schedmd.com/quickstart.html)
 - Each command should have a 'man' page, or displays help when the -h flag is used

<http://slurm.schedmd.com/quickstart.html>



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What is a partition?

A partition can be thought of as a group of nodes/resources divided into possibly overlapping sets. Each partition can be considered as a job queue, each of which has an assortment of constraints such as job size limit, job time limit, users permitted to use it, etc. Priority-ordered jobs are allocated nodes within a partition until the resources (nodes, processors, memory, etc.) within that partition are exhausted.²

- The Cray CS300 currently has seven public partitions:
community.q, exclusive.q, lm.q, gpu.q, sb.q, kill.q, htc.q
- Jobs submitted to kill.q and htc.q can be preempted by jobs in other partitions

²<http://slurm.schedmd.com/quickstart.html>



Partitions

Cray CS300

htc.q

community.q

exclusive.q

lm.q

gpu.q

sb.q

kill.q

p1.q

p2.q

i.q

bb.q

a.q

c.q

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Partition Details

Partition	Time	Nodes per job	Priority	Shared	Preempt Mode	Memory per CPU (MB)
community.q	Default: 0-00:10:00 Max: 3-00:00:00	Min: 1 Max: 20	10	NO	OFF	Default: 3250 Max: ∞
exclusive.q	Default: 0-00:10:00 Max: 3-00:00:00	Min: 1 Max: 20	10	EXCLUSIVE	OFF	Default: ∞ Max: ∞
gpu.q	Default: 0-00:10:00 Max: 3-00:00:00	Min: 1 Max: 1	10	NO	OFF	Default: 3250 Max: ∞
kill.q	Default: 0-00:10:00 Max: 3-00:00:00	Min: 1 Max: 12	10	NO	REQUEUE	Default: 3250 Max: ∞
htc.q	Default: 0-00:10:00 Max: 3-00:00:00	Min: 1 Max: 1	1	NO	REQUEUE	Default: 3250 Max: ∞
lm.q	Default: 0-00:10:00 Max: 3-00:00:00	Min: 1 Max: 1	10	NO	OFF	Default: ∞ Max: ∞
sb.q	Default: 0-00:05:00 Max: 0-01:00:00	Min: 1 Max: 2	10	NO	OFF	Default: 3250 Max: ∞

Partition details also available on the [Cyberinfrastructure website](#) or by using the following command:

```
[login ~]$ scontrol show partition <partition name>
```



Interactive Job with SLURM

Interactive session

```
[login ~]$ srun --immediate --partition sb.q --nodes 1 --cpus-per-task 1 --tasks-per-node 1 --time 0-01:00:00 --pty /bin/bash
```

```
[login ~]$ srun -l -p sb.q -N 1 -c 1 -n 1 -t 0-01:00:00 --pty /bin/bash
```



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SLURM sbatch – Submission Script File (MPI Job)

```
[login lus]$ cat mpi.slurm
```

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --job-name=MPI_example
#SBATCH --partition=exclusive.q
## 3 day max run time for community.q, kill.q, exclusive.q, and htc.q. 1 Hour max run time for sb.q
#SBATCH --time=3-00:00:00 ## time format is DD-HH:MM:SS
## task-per-node x cpus-per-task should not typically exceed core count on an individual node
#SBATCH --nodes=4
#SBATCH --tasks-per-node=20
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=1
#SBATCH --error=hello-%A.err ## %A - filled with jobid
#SBATCH --output=hello-%A.out ## %A - filled with jobid
## Useful for remote notification
#SBATCH --mail-type=BEGIN,END,FAIL,REQUEUE,TIME_LIMIT_80
#SBATCH --mail-user=user@test.org

source ~/.bash_profile #if you want to use modules or need environment variables, source your bash profile

## All options and environment variables found on schedMD site: http://slurm.schedmd.com/sbatch.html
## Intel MPI manual: https://software.intel.com/en-us/mpi-refman-lin-html
export OMP_NUM_THREADS=${SLURM_CPUS_PER_TASK}
export I_MPI_FABRICS=tmi
export I_MPI_PMI_LIBRARY=/opt/local/slurm/default/lib64/libpmi.so

srun -n ${SLURM_NTASKS} ./hello_mpi.intel
```



SLURM sbatch – Submission Script File (Non-MPI Job)

```
[login lus]$ cat hello_world.slurm
```

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --job-name=example
#SBATCH --partition=community.q
## 3 day max run time for community.q, kill.q, exclusive.q, and htc.q. 1 Hour max run time for sb.q
#SBATCH --time=3-00:00:00 ## time format is DD-HH:MM:SS
## task-per-node x cpus-per-task should not typically exceed core count on an individual node
#SBATCH --nodes=1
#SBATCH --tasks-per-node=1
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=5
#SBATCH --mem=11000 ## max amount of memory per node you require
#SBATCH --error=hello-%A.err ## %A - filled with jobid
#SBATCH --output=hello-%A.out ## %A - filled with jobid
## Useful for remote notification
#SBATCH --mail-type=BEGIN,END,FAIL,REQUEUE,TIME_LIMIT_80
#SBATCH --mail-user=user@test.org

source ~/.bash_profile #if you want to use modules or need environment variables, source your bash profile

## All options and environment variables found on schedMD site: http://slurm.schedmd.com/sbatch.html
export OMP_NUM_THREADS=${SLURM_CPUS_PER_TASK}

./hello_world
```



SLURM sbatch – Submission Script File (Job Array)

```
[login lus]$ cat job_array.slurm
```

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --job-name=example
#SBATCH --partition=community.q
## 3 day max run time for community.q, kill.q, exclusive.q, and htc.q. 1 Hour max run time for sb.q
#SBATCH --time=3-00:00:00 ## time format is DD-HH:MM:SS
## task-per-node x cpus-per-task should not typically exceed core count on an individual node
#SBATCH --nodes=1
#SBATCH --tasks-per-node=1
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=5
#SBATCH --mem=11000 ## max amount of memory per node you require
#SBATCH --error=myprog-%A_%a.err ## %A - filled with jobid. %a - filled with job arrayid
#SBATCH --output=myprog-%A_%a.out ## %A - filled with jobid. %a - filled with job arrayid
## Useful for remote notification
#SBATCH --mail-type=BEGIN,END,FAIL,REQUEUE,TIME_LIMIT_80
#SBATCH --mail-user=user@test.org
```

```
source ~/.bash_profile #if you want to use modules or need environment variables, source your bash profile
```

```
## All options and environment variables found on schedMD site: http://slurm.schedmd.com/sbatch.html
```

```
export OMP_NUM_THREADS=${SLURM_CPUS_PER_TASK}
```

```
./worker_bee -i input_${SLURM_ARRAY_TASK_ID}.dat -o output_${SLURM_ARRAY_TASK_ID}
```



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SLURM sbatch – Submission Script File – GPU

```
[login lus]$ cat gpu.slurm
```

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --job-name=GPU_example
#SBATCH --partition=gpu.q
#SBATCH --time=3-00:00:00 ## time format is DD-HH:MM:SS
## task-per-node x cpus-per-task should not typically exceed core count on an individual node
#SBATCH --nodes=1
#SBATCH --tasks-per-node=1
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=10
#SBATCH --gres=gpu:NV-K40:2 ## request both GPUs in the GPU node.
### To request only 1 of the two GPUs in the node, you would do: gpu:NV-K40:1
#SBATCH --error=hello-%A.err ## %A - filled with jobid
#SBATCH --output=hello-%A.out ## %A - filled with jobid
## Useful for remote notification
#SBATCH --mail-type=BEGIN,END,FAIL,REQUEUE,TIME_LIMIT_80
#SBATCH --mail-user=user@test.org

source ~/.bash_profile #if you want to use modules or need environment variables, source your bash profile
module load GPGPU/cuda/samples/7.5

## All options and environment variables found on schedMD site: http://slurm.schedmd.com/sbatch.html
export OMP_NUM_THREADS=${SLURM_CPUS_PER_TASK}

bandwidthTest; cudaOpenMP; deviceQuery; simpleMultiGPU
```



SLURM sbatch – Executing & Monitoring Jobs

To execute a submission script you use the `sbatch` command

Example – Non Job Array

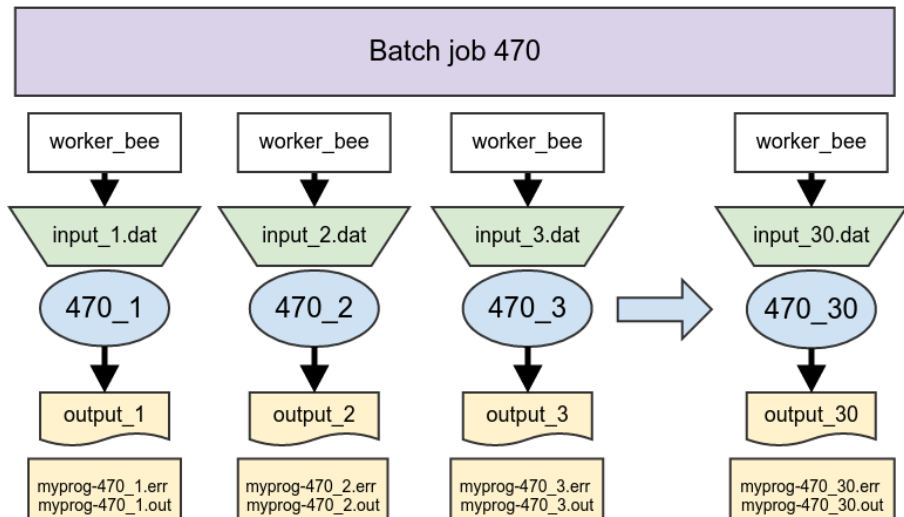
```
[login lus]$ sinfo
PARTITION    AVAIL  TIMELIMIT  NODES  STATE NODELIST
community.q  up     3-00:00:00  2      idle  compute-[0001-0002]
[login lus]$ sbatch hello_world.slurm
sbatch: Submitted batch job 469
[login lus]$ squeue
JOBID PARTITION  NAME      USER    ST  TIME  NODES  NODELIST(REASON)
469    community.q  example   user99   R   00:01  1      compute-0001
```

Example – Job Array

```
[login lus]$ sinfo
PARTITION    AVAIL  TIMELIMIT  NODES  STATE NODELIST
community.q  up     3-00:00:00  2      idle  compute-[0001-0002]
[login lus]$ sbatch --array=1-30 job_array.slurm
sbatch: Submitted batch job 470
[login lus]$ squeue
JOBID      PARTITION  NAME      USER    ST  TIME  NODES  NODELIST(REASON)
470[1-30]  community.q  example   user99   PD  00:00  1      (resource)
470_1     community.q  example   user99   R   00:01  1      compute-0001
470_2     community.q  example   user99   R   00:05  1      compute-0002
```



Slurm Job Array



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- 6 Cluster Etiquette
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Problem Reporting

- Always email UH-HPC-Help@lists.hawaii.edu
- For batch jobs . . .
 - Job ID, path to submission script, submission command, error file location, output files
- For other problems . . .
 - State the problem, command issued, host, directory, remote host, error messages



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Cluster Etiquette

- Never run anything on the login nodes
- Try to request only the resources that your job needs. Leaving unneeded resources available, allows other users to use them
- Test your application in an interactive session before scheduling a long running job
 - This can help identify what resources your job will require, and potentially aid you in correctly sizing what resources you request.
- Use the nodes in the sb.q to validate your slurm script runs as intended
 - This helps to reduce the chance of you having a small error that kills your job prematurely after waiting for resources
- Always run jobs from within ~/lus/ directory to ensure output is written there and does not fill up the system filesystem



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Login Node Usage Policy

The login nodes are a shared resource and are the only access to the cluster for hundreds of user and are meant to provide the following functionality for all users:

- Providing ssh shell access
 - Facilitate the transfer files to and from the cluster:
Globus, sftp, scp, rsync
 - Launching and monitoring SLURM jobs (batch and interactive)
 - Modifying text files with a text editor: vi/vim, emacs, nano
-
- If we identify or are notified that a user is running computation on the login nodes, the application will be killed
 - If we determine that a user repeatedly violates the login node policy, even after being warned, the repeat offender can have their cluster account disabled

Login node usage policy is subject to change
Users will be notified via email prior to changes taking effect



Lustre® Filesystem Purge Policies

Due to users not having any quotas on the Lustre® filesystem, we need some policy in place which removes older files from the system. To accomplish this, we have currently implemented a purge policy, for any file that is older than 90 days.

- Which of my directories are subject to the purge policy?
 - **Answer:** All files and folders found in `~/lus/` are subject to the 90 day purge policy. Symlinks are excluded from the purge, and are not followed by the purge bot.
- How frequently are files for purging identified?
 - **Answer:** Taking into account the fill rate of the Lustre® filesystem, a purge is performed as usage approaches 80%.

***Purge policy is subject to change
Users will be notified via email prior to changes taking effect***



Questions?



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- MATLAB Distributed Computing Server™
 - Requires user to already have a license for MATLAB
 - User must also have access to at least the Parallel Computing Toolbox™
 - Provides users access to up to 64 workers
 - Requires some additional configuration
 - Email us to request access to this additional service



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- Are files on the cluster backed up?

- **Answer: NO!** User files on the cluster *are not backed up*. It is up to you as the user to validate and maintain your own backups. The CI-Team takes no responsibility for any data that is lost due to human or mechanical error.

- Help I have been trying to compile an application without success, can the CI-Team help?

- **Answer:** We are willing to help, just send us an email at uh-hpc-help@lists.hawaii.edu with a description of what you have attempted as well as a link to the software you are trying to compile, and/or where it is located on the cluster.

- HELP! My job needs more time and does not support check-pointing. What can I do?

- **Answer:** We understand that jobs may not all fit within the 3 day timelimit or unforeseen issues during the execution can cause a job to run long. The CI-Team does review and potentially approves requests to extend jobs in a one off fashion. A request to extend a job can be denied, since we need to take into account factor such as: how busy the cluster is, the number of time extension requests a user has made in recent history. If it is known before the job is submitted that more than 3 days is required, we would ask that you contact us first so we can verify that you truly will need more time.
If a job is already running and just doesn't look like it will complete in time, please send us a request with the jobid number and what you want the job extended to e.g., please extend my jobs run time to 7 days.
Please remember the CI-Team is small and we are also human. Depending on when you make your request we may not be able to immediately respond or act. It is best to make your request at the first signs you need more time, in hopes that you can provide us with ample time to act.



- Can I run a display program on the cluster?
 - **Answer:** Yes, but not from the login nodes. To follow cluster usage policies, please run X11 applications from a compute node. Please see the following steps.

Interactive session with X11

- 1 Connect via SSH using the -Y option, X11 forwarding enabled
- 2 run `srun.x11` to start a session on a node

```
[local ~]$ ssh -Y user99@uhhpc1.its.hawaii.edu  
[login ~]$ srun.x11 --immediate --partition sb.q --nodes 1 --cpus-per-task 1 --tasks-per-node 1 --time 0-01:00:00  
[compute-0001 ~]$ xterm
```

