

# Lecture 9: Cluster computing

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BIOST 561: Computational Skills For Biostatistics I

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# Motivation

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In Lecture 8, you learned how to compute without R.

Today, you'll learn how to transfer those skills to computing on a **cluster**.

# Examples from my research

Large-scale simulation studies:

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- proof-of-concept examples

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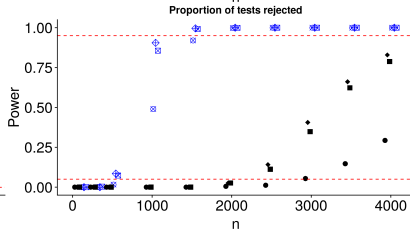
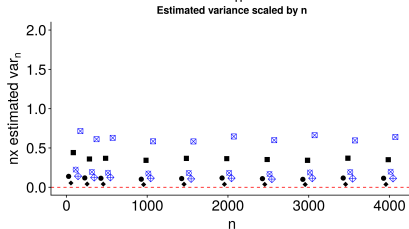
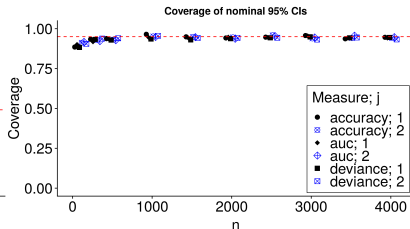
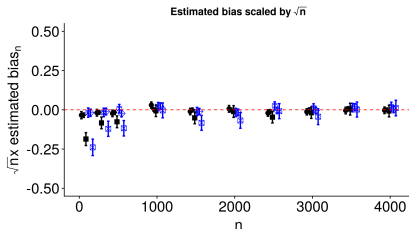
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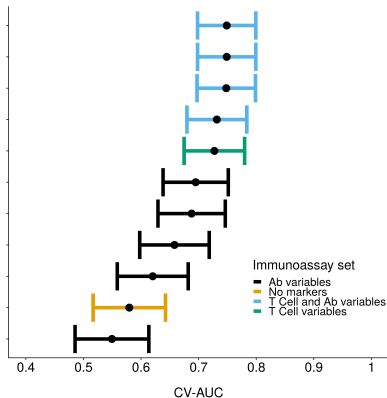
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- cross-validation?
- memory-intensive computations?

Assay combination	CV-AUC [95% CI]
IgG + IgA + IgG3 + T Cells	0.749 [0.698, 0.799]
IgG + IgA + T Cells	0.749 [0.698, 0.799]
All markers	0.748 [0.697, 0.799]
T Cells + Fx Ab	0.732 [0.680, 0.784]
T Cells	0.727 [0.675, 0.780]
IgG3	0.695 [0.638, 0.751]
IgG + IgA + IgG3	0.688 [0.629, 0.746]
IgG + IgA + IgG3 + Fx Ab	0.658 [0.598, 0.718]
IgG + IgA	0.620 [0.559, 0.682]
No markers	0.580 [0.517, 0.643]
Fx Ab	0.550 [0.485, 0.614]



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on my personal machine?

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\*: we will discuss this further!

## Running example: robust standard errors (SEs)

Consider a sample of  $n$  observations generated iid according to

$$X \sim N(0, 1),$$

$$u \sim N(0, 1), \text{ independent of } X;$$

$$Y \mid X, u = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X + \epsilon, \text{ where}$$

$$\epsilon = |X|u.$$

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We will use the cluster to do this!

## **Part I: coding for the cluster**

# Coding for the cluster

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-



## Coding for the cluster: modular code

## Coding for the cluster: setting the seed

## Coding for the cluster: saving output

# Coding for the cluster: debugging

# Coding for the cluster: compiling output

## **Part II: using the cluster**

# Using the cluster

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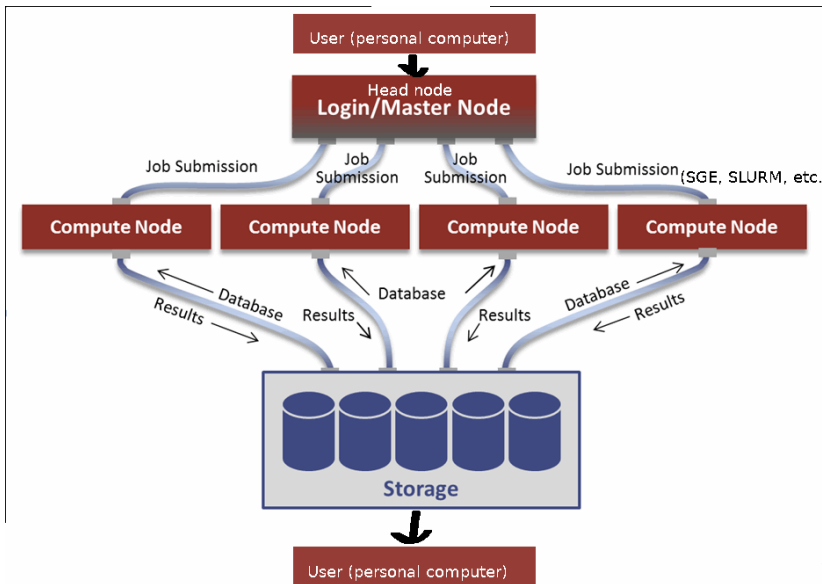
A cluster consists of:

- a head node (where you are)
- compute nodes (where your code gets run)
- submission system (how your code gets run)

\*other groups have similar resources, e.g.,

- **hyak** (managed by UW-IT)
- pearson (statistical genetics group only)
- gizmo (Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center only)
- Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services (AWS)

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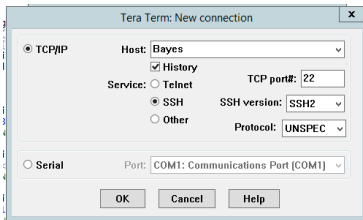
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We'll practice good habits for being nice as we go along.

# Using the cluster: logging in (Windows, incl. box)

1. Open TeraTerm [or your favorite secure shell (SSH) client]
2. Enter the address of your favorite cluster, e.g.,  
bayes.biostat.washington.edu
3. Make sure that the “New connection” window is filled out as in the figure, except for “Host” (screenshot from box)
4. Click OK, enter your UW BIOS T username and password when prompted (user and pass you use for box)



# Using the cluster: logging in (Mac/Linux)

1. Open a Terminal window
2. Type `ssh mynetid@cluster.washington.edu`
  - replace `mynetid` with Your UW NetID, and
  - replace `cluster` with Your cluster, e.g., `bayes`
3. Enter password (same password as box) when prompted (the field will remain blank but your password will be received)

# Using the cluster: logging in

Your turn!

1. Log into the cluster
2. What is the name of the directory that you are when you log in?
3. Create a directory called `robust_ses` in your home directory
4. Create a directory called `robust_ses` on **your** computer, under `biost561/lecture9`

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- navigation,
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- commands, and
- shell scripts

are all used **in exactly the same way!**

# Using the cluster: jobs

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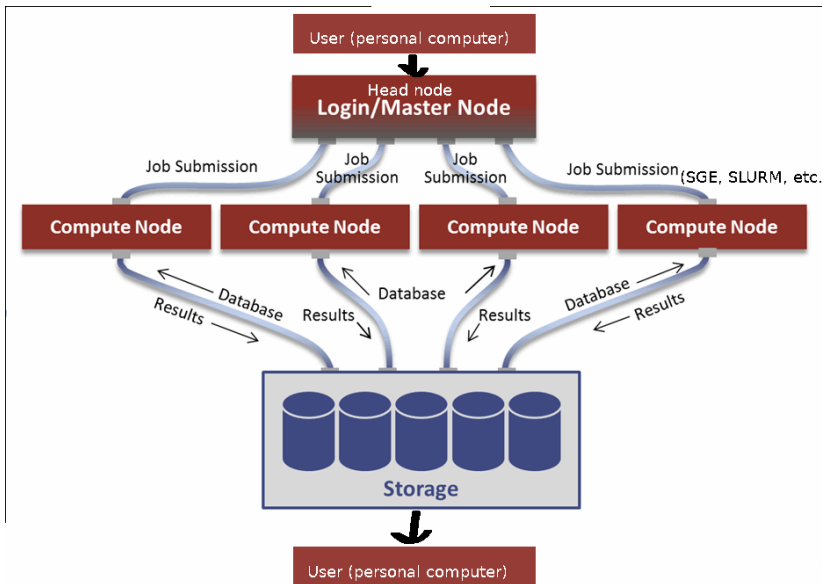
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Example job:

# Using the cluster: jobs



# Using the cluster: submitting jobs

Workhorse command on SGE: `qsub`

Many options, including:



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Options are specified with a single `-`, as you saw in Lecture 8.

Using the cluster: checking jobs

## Using the cluster: other helpful SGE commands

## **Appendix: other useful cluster things**

Useful things: Windows file compatability