



Introduction to Snakemake

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Before we get started

Check out the repository:

git clone https://github.com/dkoppstein/ngsschool-snakemake-tutorial

Install Miniconda3 and Snakemake according to the instructions, e.g. on Linux:

curl -O https://repo.anaconda.com/miniconda/Miniconda3-latest-Linux-x86_64.sh

sh Miniconda3-latest-Linux-x86_64.sh

conda config --add channels defaults

conda config --add channels bioconda

conda config --add channels conda-forge

conda create -n ngstutorial -c bioconda snakemake

Follow along by looking at/executing the Snakefiles in green: e.g. exercises/exercise1/Snakefile





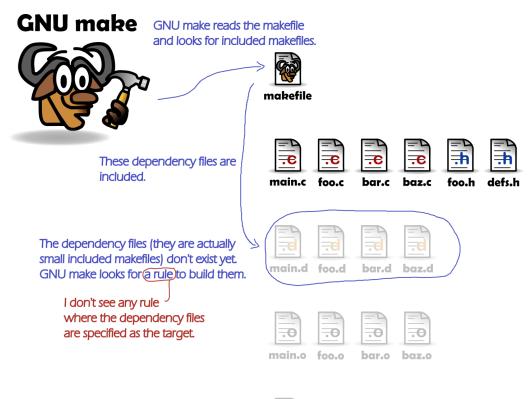
- Software to create reproducible and scalable workflows
- Large and active bioinformatics community (3 citations per day!) due to ease of use and interoperability
- Easy to prototype workflows due to embedded Python scripting
- Feature-rich and configurable: Over 80 different command-line options and many ways to configure rules
- Designed by Dr. Johannes Köster (also lead developer of Bioconda)

















GNU Make uses a declarative domain-specific language (DSL)

Create some output file...from some input files...

hellomake: hellomake.c hellofunc.c gcc -o \$@ \$< -I.

...using the following shell command

(\$@ and \$< mean "output" and "input" files respectively)



From a set of rules, one can generate complex yet reproducible workflows



Problems with Make

- Not a full-fledged programming language: Only simple functions available for storing variables, writing for loops, etc.
- Difficult to read verbose
- Cryptic debugging messages
- Limited support for cluster and cloud execution

https://github.com/csoneson/NativeRNAseqComplexTranscriptome/blob/master/Makefile





...from some input files...

Create some output file...

```
rule hellomake:
   input: ["hellomake.c", "hellofunc.c"]
   output: "hellomake"
   shell:
      "gcc -o {output} {input} -I."
```

...using the following shell command

({input} and {output} are wildcards for the input and output files, and are parsed with Python string formatting rules)



Declarative language

Tell Snakemake what to create, and it will find a way to make it for you!

```
rule hellomake:
    input: ["hellomake.c", "hellofunc.c"]
    output: "hellomake"
    shell:
        "gcc -o {output} {input} -I."

rule all:
    input: "hellomake"
```

On-the-fly coding in Python

exercises/exercise1/Snakefile

Outside of rules, we can use arbitrary Python!

expand: a special Snakemake function to create a list of strings from a pattern

(returns ["input_data/file1.txt",
"input_data/file2.txt"])

```
import os
input_data = "input_data/{id}.txt"
ids, = glob_wildcards(input_data)
rule concatenate:
   input: expand(input data, id=ids)
    output: "output/concatenated.txt"
    shell:
        "cat {input} > {output}"
rule all:
    input: rules.concatenate.output
```

glob_wildcards: a special Snakemake function to look for all files matching a certain pattern (returns ["file1", "file2"])

Input and output files are just strings, and can be manipulated as such.

You can also access the output of previous rules programmatically.

Example execution of a Snakefile

snakemake --printshellcmds -- all

```
[dkoppst@murphy:/data/rajewsky/home/dkoppst/src/github.com/dkoppstein/ngsschool-snakemake-tutorial/exercises/exercisel]
Building DAG of jobs...
Using shell: /usr/bin/bash
ules claiming more threads will be scaled down.
                                                  Use snakemake --printshellcmds to see the executed
              all
                                                  commands
              concatenate
                                                                                              Good practice to specify the target rule at the end,
Wed Aug 12 22:48:34 2020]
                                                                                              after two dashes to clarify that it is not an argument
   input: input data/file2.txt, input data/file1.txt
   output: output/concatenated.txt
cat input data/file2.txt input data/file1.txt > output/concatenated.txt
[Wed Aug 12 22:48:34 2020]
Finished job 1.
of 2 steps (50%) done
[Wed Aug 12 22:48:34 2020]
                                                      Automatic logging is placed in the .snakemake directory by default
localrule all:
   input: output/concatenated.txt
Wed Aug 12 22:48:34 2020]
finished job 0.
 mplete log: /data/local/rajewsky/home/dkoppst/src/github.com/dkoppstein/ngsschool-snakemake-tutorial/exercises/exercisel/.snakemake/log/2020-08-12T224834.853528.snakemake.log
```

On-the-fly coding in Python in rules

exercises/exercise2/Snakefile

We can use the **"run"** keyword to drop into Python within the rule itself!

Here, the special variables "output" and "input" are passed to the Python script by Snakemake as a list of strings.

```
input_data = "input_data/{id}.txt"
ids, = glob wildcards(input data)
rule concatenate:
    input: expand(input data, id=ids)
    output: "output/concatenated.txt"
    run:
        with open(output[0], "w") as outh:
            for fname in input:
                for 1 in (open(fname)):
                    print(l, file=outh, end="")
rule all:
    input: rules.concatenate.output
```

Parallel processing with wildcards

What if we want to process many files in parallel, rather than concatenating them all at once?

Then, creating a generic rule for processing them, and combining them at the end, is ideal.

Parallel processing with wildcards

exercises/exercise3/Snakefile

Here, the {id} wildcard matches any string that contains .

Wildcards must be consistent between input and output files.

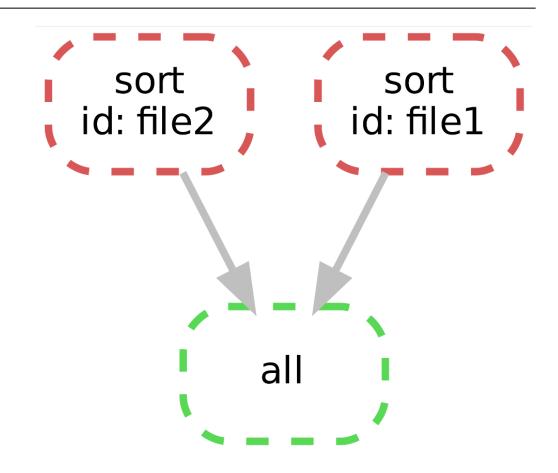
Advanced tip: we can also restrict the wildcards using regular expressions: For example, we can use {id,[A-Za-z0-9]+}.txt to constrain the ID to alphanumeric characters.

We can also use the keyword wildcard_constraints either per-rule or globally.

```
input_data = "input_data/{id}.txt"
ids, = glob wildcards(input data)
rule sort:
    input: "input data/{id}.txt"
    output: "output/{id}.sorted.txt"
    shell:
        "sort {input} > {output}"
rule all:
    input: expand(rules.sort.output, id=ids)
```

Visualizing the workflow

snakemake --dag -- all | dot -Tpdf > dag.pdf



Parametrizing rules

Often in bioinformatics, one would like to run a generic rule differently based on the type of sample being used

Or, you might want to run the same rule several times, using different sets of parameters.

Here, we discuss two new ideas:

- 1. Specifying input files using input functions
- 2. Specifying parameters using the params directive

exercises/exercise4/Snakefile

GOAL 1: Map file 1 to human index, file 2 to mouse index

GOAL 2: Subsample 1e3 or 1e4 reads for both samples

Use input functions to determine the input of a rule based on the matching wildcard of the output Input functions take a single variable: the Wildcards object

Use the **params** keyword to add additional non-file parameters to the rule

We can **name files** and refer to them in the shell script as e.g. **{input.index}**

The params object also gets passed to the **shell** directive and can be accessed in a similar way

Lexical scoping is useful!

```
input data = "input data/{id}.fastq"
ids, = glob wildcards(input data)
subsampling = [1000, 10000]
                                              Create a dictionary telling
sample_dict = {"file1": "index/human.idx",
                                              which mapping index to
              "file2": "index/mouse.idx"}
                                              use for which sample,
                                              then look up the ID using
rule dummy mapping:
   input:
                                              the lambda function
       fastq=input_data,
       index=lambda wc: sample dict[wc.id]
   output: "output/{id}_subsample-{subsample}.bam"
   params:
       subsample="--subsample {subsample}"
   shell:
       "dummy mapper -f {input.fastq} "
                                          Here, we add an additional
       "-i {input.index} "
                                          subsample parameter and
       "-o {output} "
       "{params.subsample} "
                                          run each mapping twice
                                          using this parameter
rule all:
   input: expand(rules.dummy_mapping.output, id=ids, subsample=subsampling)
```

Side note: Lexical scoping and string formatting

How do these variables actually get expanded?

Snakemake creates the following "special" variables as objects:

input, output, params, wildcards, log, threads, resources, config

These are then passed to the **shell** directive and expanded using the .format(**vars) string formatting function

This is useful! You can also refer any variable within the scope of the rule, including external variables defined

exercises/exercise4/Snakefile

```
rule dummy_mapping:
    input:
        fastq=input_data,
        index=lambda wc: sample_dict[wc.id]
    output: "output/{id}_subsample-{subsample}.bam"
    shell:
        "dummy_mapper -f {input.fastq} "
        "-i {input.index} "
        "-o {output} "
        "--subsample {wildcards.subsample} "
```

For example, {input[0]} refers to the first file in input, {external_variable} refers to some external variable, etc.

Parametrizing rules

dummy_mapping id: file1 subsample: 1000 dummy_mapping id: file2 subsample: 10000 dummy_mapping id: file1 subsample: 10000 dummy_mapping id: file2 subsample: 1000

all

Parametrizing rules: config files

exercises/exercise5/Snakefile

```
# use a config file to store our metadata
configfile: "config.yaml"

rule dummy_mapping:
    input:
        fastq=input_data,
        index=lambda wc: config["sample_index"][wc.id]
```

exercises/exercise5/config.yaml

```
sample_index:
  file1: index/human.idx
  file2: index/mouse.idx
```

Alternatively, specify on command line with **snakemake --configfile config.yaml**Or per-variable with **snakemake --config "my_var=foo"**

Parametrizing rules

Best practice: Store all sample information in a "tidy" CSV file, then load it with pandas

```
##### load config and sample sheets #####

configfile: "config_all.yaml"
#validate(config, schema="schemas/config.schema.yaml")

samples = pd.read_table(config["samples"]).set_index("sample", drop=False)
#validate(samples, schema="schemas/samples.schema.yaml")

units = pd.read_table(config["units"], dtype=str).set_index(["sample", "unit"], drop=False)
units.index = units.index.set_levels([i.astype(str) for i in units.index.levels]) # enforce str in index
#validate(units, schema="schemas/units.schema.yaml")
```

It is also possible to create custom R, Julia, and Python scripts in case a **run**: statement gets too complicated.

When using the **script**: directive, a special variable called **snakemake** is made available within the script.

snakemake has the same variables embedded within it as are available from the shell and run directives: input, output, params, wildcards, log, threads, resources, config

For example, we can use **snakemake.input[0]** to get the first file in Python. In R, we would use **snakemake@input[[1]]**.

exercises/exercise6/Snakefile

```
ids, = glob_wildcards("input_data/{sample}_in.txt")

rule all:
    input: expand("output/{sample}_out.txt", sample=ids)

rule hello:
    input: "input_data/{sample}_in.txt"
    output: "output/{sample}_out.txt"
    script:
        "scripts/script.py"
```

Use the **script** directive to give a path to a script that will contain the special **snakemake** variable with all its parameters (input, output, etc.)

With the **snakemake** object, we can access both the **output** variable as well as the **wildcards** variable, which itself contains the **sample** wildcard for this particular rule

```
import sys

with open(snakemake.output[0], "w") as outh:
    for handle in (outh, sys.stderr):
        print("I am processing file {}".format(snakemake.wildcards.sample), file=handle)
```

exercises/exercise6/scripts/script.py

```
Thu Aug 13 12:38:30 2020]
rule hello:
   input: input data/sample2 in.txt
   output: output/sample2 out.txt
   jobid: 2
   wildcards: sample=sample2
 am processing file sample2 _
Thu Aug 13 12:38:30 2020]
finished job 2.
 of 3 steps (33%) done
Thu Aug 13 12:38:30 2020]
rule hello:
   input: input data/samplel in.txt
   output: output/samplel out.txt
   jobid: 1
   wildcards: sample=sample1
 am processing file samplel
```

The script correctly prints the wildcard.sample variable that was matched from the given snakemake object

Specifying the computational environment is critical for reproducible workflows.

Since Johannes Köster is also the lead developer of Bioconda, **Snakemake** works exceptionally well with **conda**.

(NB: mamba is also a new alternative that is faster than conda)

Conda is usually sufficient for prototyping; for production, Singularity or Docker are preferred

We can also combine them by running Conda in a Singularity environment!

exercises/exercise7/Snakefile

Run the entire Snakefile in a Singularity container

Run this rule in a particular conda environment within that container

(Can also run containers on a per-rule basis if needed)

```
container: "docker://continuumio/miniconda3"

rule plot:
    input:
        "input_data/table.txt"
    output:
        "output/myplot.pdf"
    conda:
        "envs/ggplot.yaml"
    script:
        "scripts/plot-stuff.R"
```

exercises/exercise7/envs/ggplot.yaml

```
channels:
    r
    dependencies:
    r
    r    r
```

Create conda environment YAML files using conda env export > env.yaml

Run with: snakemake --use-singularity --use-conda

(NB: need to have singularity installed separately; for now, run this just using --use-conda)

We can also compartmentalize software using wrappers, which also define the execution environment using conda

A repository of wrappers for commonly-used bioinformatics tools lives in

https://snakemake-wrappers.readthedocs.io/

Wrappers are easy to create - add your own!

exercises/exercise8/Snakefile

```
rule samtools_view:
    input:
        "input_data/input.sam"
    output:
        "output/output.bam"
    params:
        "-b" # optional params string
    wrapper:
        "0.64.0/bio/samtools/view"
```

Be sure to use the --use-conda option when using wrappers!

All wrapper code is available on the snakemake wrappers website

```
__author__ = "Johannes Köster"
__copyright__ = "Copyright 2016, Johannes Köster"
__email__ = "koester@jimmy.harvard.edu"
__license__ = "MIT"

from snakemake.shell import shell

shell("samtools view {snakemake.params} {snakemake.input[0]} > {snakemake.output[0]}")
```

More advanced wrappers

```
rule star_pe_multi:
   input:
        # use a list for multiple fastq files for one sample
       # usually technical replicates across lanes/flowcells
       fq1 = ["reads/{sample}_R1.1.fastq", "reads/{sample}_R1.2.fastq"],
        # paired end reads needs to be ordered so each item in the two lists match
       fq2 = ["reads/{sample} R2.1.fastq", "reads/{sample} R2.2.fastq"] #optional
   output:
        # see STAR manual for additional output files
        "star/pe/{sample}/Aligned.out.sam"
   log:
        "logs/star/pe/{sample}.log"
    params:
        # path to STAR reference genome index
       index="index",
       # optional parameters
        extra=""
    threads: 8
    wrapper:
        "0.64.0/bio/star/align"
                                                             https://snakemake-wrappers.readthedocs.io/
```

Parallelizing your workflow: Locally

There are several options for parallelizing your workflow. On a single node with many cores, you can use

snakemake -j \$NUM_THREADS

Each rule is assumed to take 1 thread by default; you can use the **threads**: keyword to specify how many threads each rule takes.

NB: make sure multithread rules use the **threads** parameter accurately, or you can end up running more threads than expected!

Parallelizing your workflow: Locally

exercises/exercise9/Snakefile

Use threads: to specify how many cores a rule takes

The **threads** keyword is accessible in the shell directive through lexical scoping.

NB: If -j is less than threads, threads will be reduced to -j.

Parallelizing your workflow: On the cluster

There are several options for parallelizing your workflow on the cluster.

Use the --cluster to provide specific keywords when submitting

For example, to run on the Max Cluster at MDC in Berlin, I use:

--cluster "qsub -V -I h_stack={cluster.h_stack} -I h_vmem={cluster.MEM}
-m abe -M david.koppstein@mdc-berlin.de -b y -pe smp {threads} -cwd -q {cluster.q}" --cluster-config max-config.yaml

{threads} corresponds to the threads: directive for each rule

Parallelizing your workflow: On the cluster

The variables {cluster.h_stack}, etc. are defined the cluster configuration file (here, max-config.yaml)

By default, rules take resources corresponding to those annotated in __default__

For specific rules that require more resources, you can annotate them specifically using the **rule name** (e.g. bismarck_se; attributes not explicitly stated are inherited from __default__)

max-config.yaml

```
__default__:
MEM: 8G
q: all
h_stack: 128m

bismarck_se:
MEM: 20G
h_stack: 256m
```

Parallelizing your workflow: On the cluster

Other options:

--drmaa for robust execution and sending Ctrl-C to process (if you have drmaa bindings installed)

Use in the same way as --cluster

--profile [profile] for seamless submission of jobs to specific commonly-used architectures, i.e. SLURM

Check out https://github.com/Snakemake-Profiles/doc for more details on profiles, and feel free to contribute your own architecture!

Parallelizing your workflow: In the cloud

Cloud computing with Snakemake has improved a lot in the last two years!



(with --google-life-sciences option)



Kubernetes: generic cloud execution (with **--kubernetes** option)



(with --tibanna option)

See https://snakemake.readthedocs.io/en/stable/executing/cloud.html for more details

See https://github.com/snakemake/snakemake-tutorials for in-depth Google Life Sciences tutorials

Debugging your Snakefile

Use the **log**: keyword to capture STDERR automatically, or you can print to it explicitly (as shown here)

You can use **pdb** (Python debugger) to step through rules and examine variables at each step

exercises/exercise10/Snakefile_incorrect

```
my_vars = ["A", "B", "C"]

rule incorrect:
    output: "output/test.txt"

    log: "log.txt"
    run:
        import pdb; pdb.set_trace()
        with open(output[0], "w") as outh, open(log[0], "w") as logh:
            print("Running incorrect rule...", file=logh)
            print(my_vars[3], file=outh)
```

Debugging your Snakefile

```
$ snakemake -s Snakefile incorrect --debug
Building DAG of jobs...
Jsing shell: /usr/bin/bash
Provided cores: 1
                                                      Use the --debug flag to enable pdb in run or script
Rules claiming more threads will be scaled down.
Job counts:
                                                      directives
       count jobs
               incorrect
 Thu Aug 13 10:02:37 2020]
 ob counts:
               incorrect
 /data/local/rajewsky/home/dkoppst/src/github.com/dkoppstein/ngsschool-snakemake-tutorial/exercises/exercise8/Snakefile incorrect(12) rule
incorrect()
> /data/local/rajewsky/home/dkoppst/src/github.com/dkoppstein/ngsschool-snakemake-tutorial/exercises/exercise8/Snakefile incorrect(13) rule
incorrect()
(Pdb) n
IndexError: list index out of range
> /data/local/rajewsky/home/dkoppst/src/github.com/dkoppstein/ngsschool-snakemake-tutorial/exercises/exercise8/Snakefile incorrect(13) rule
incorrect()
(Pdb) my vars
['A', 'B', 'C']
(Pdb) my vars[3]#
*** IndexError: list index out of range
(Pdb) my vars[2]
```

Debugging your Snakefile

exercises/exercise10/Snakefile

```
my_vars = ["A", "B", "C"]

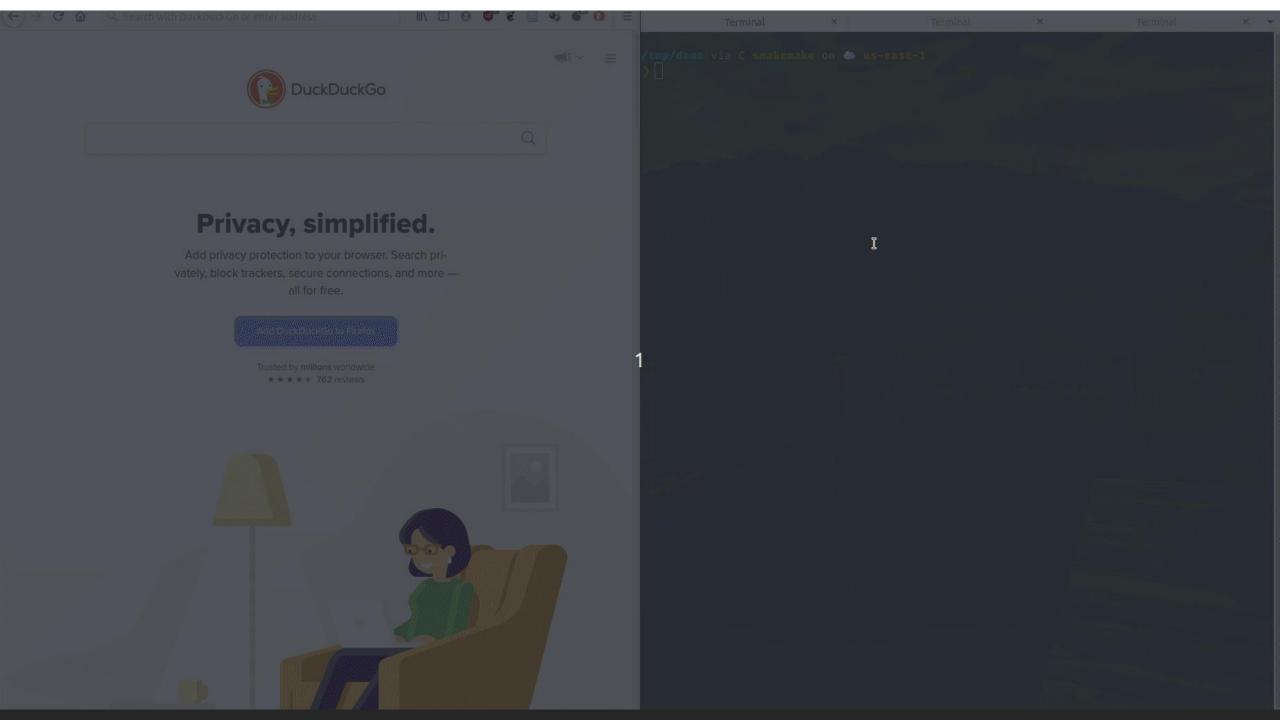
rule correct:
    output: "output/test.txt"
    log: "log.txt"
    run:
        import pdb; pdb.set_trace()
        with open(output[0], "w") as outh, open(log[0], "w") as logh:
            print("Running correct rule...", file=logh)
            print(my_vars[2], file=outh)
```

Fixed!

NB: the --verbose option is also very useful for debugging execution of the Snakefiles themselves

Jupyter Notebook Integration

- Similar to scripts, it is now possible to integrate Jupyter Notebooks into the pipeline itself!
- This enables rapid and reproducible production of reports for a particular pipeline
- In this way, you can write an Ipython Notebook to analyze one set of output, and then parallelize it to apply it to all the outputs!
- Use --edit-notebook [TARGET] to create a Jupyter notebook on the fly for a specific output file.
- If your Jupyter notebook is on a remote server, use the --notebook-listen [IP:PORT] option to specify a particular port when using SSH port forwarding.
- See exercises/exercise11/Snakefile



Creating reports

Use e.g. **reports**: **"workflow.rst"** keyword with the **--report** commandline option to create HTML reports on the fly

Reports contain captions using the "Restructured Text" format (commonly used in Python documentation, similar to Markdown)

Output files to include in the report are marked using the report() function

See https://koesterlab.github.io/resources/report.html

See https://snakemake.readthedocs.io/en/stable/snakefiles/reporting.html for further details

Best practices workflows

See https://github.com/snakemake-workflows/rna-seq-star-deseq2

Useful keywords and functions

- You can use the **priority**: keyword or **--prioritize TARGET** on the command line to increase the priority of a file (for example, if your PI is bugging you about some particular figure).
- Use the **temp()** function around files that you do not need, and they will be automatically deleted when no rules depend on them anymore.
- Use protected() around important files to protect them from accidental deletion.
- Use directory() to indicate the creation of a directory (by default, Snakemake only recognizes files)
- The **remote()** function allows you to download files via S3, Google, Dropbox, https, ftp, etc.
- Use the include: keyword to include sub-Snakefiles and better organize your code.

Useful command line arguments

- Use --forceall to rerun an analysis from scratch.
- Use --keep-going to prevent your workflow from stopping if a step fails.
- Use --until or --omit-from to stop the pipeline at a certain step.
- Use --delete-all-output to remove all files generated by the workflow.
- Use --lint to make your code pretty
- Use --rulegraph | dot -Tpdf > ruledag.pdf to print an overview of the workflow
- Use **--archive** to create a gzipped tarball of the entire workflow, including Conda packages, to upload to e.g. Zenodo
- And many, many more!

Other useful features

- Between workflow caching
- Tracking of parameter and code changes between runs
- Piping between jobs
- Conditional execution based on output
- Shadow directories for per-rule execution
- Various cluster submission features (specifying file latency, bulk submission of jobs, etc.)

Useful resources

- Snakemake wrappers (https://snakemake-wrappers.readthedocs.io/)
- Snakemake on Stackoverflow
 (https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/snakemake)
- Snakemake Github: Submit issues here! <u>https://github.com/snakemake/snakemake</u>
- Google Cloud Snakemake tutorials: <u>https://github.com/snakemake/snakemake-tutorials</u>
- Bioconda (https://bioconda.github.io/)
- Cluster profiles (https://github.com/Snakemake-Profiles)

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