

Get Started

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Get Started

Summary

The main idea is to run NetLogo's [BehaviorSpace](#) in "[headless](#)" mode. Experiments in BehaviorSpace is split into a number of separate simulations, each of which is submitted to HPC as a separate job and run in parallel.

Four steps are required to run NetLogo models on HPC:

1. Install an [SSH](#) client to connect HPC (For Mac OS users, this is not required).
2. Download NetLogo software and unzip it to your project directory on HPC.
3. Add an experiment in the BehaviorSpace of your NetLogo model.
4. Make a copy of the templates in this repository, revise and run your model.

Steps 1 and 2 are to set up work environment, and are only need to be done once.

Set Environment

Install SSH Client on Your PC

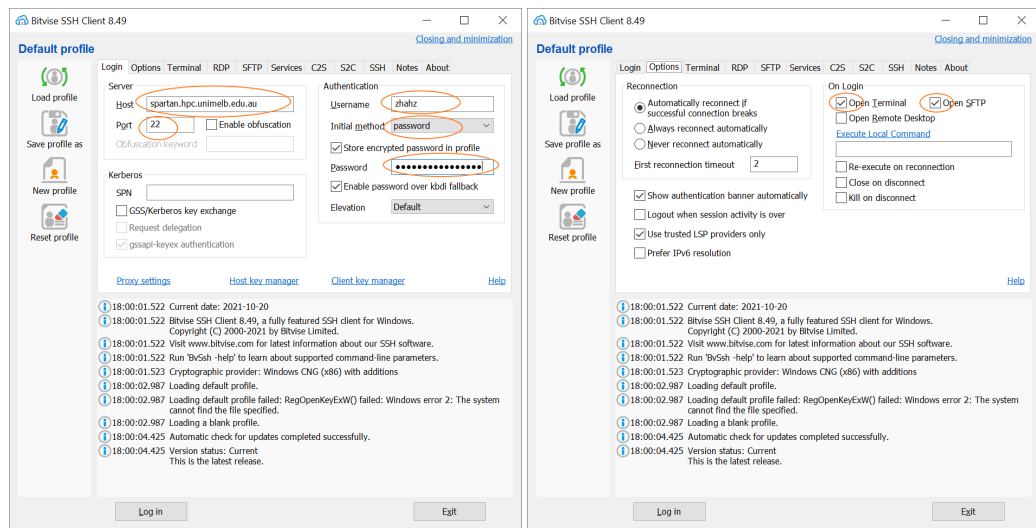
This part is only required for Windows users. Mac (OS X) already has an SSH client built-in, so Mac users can skip this step.

1. Install an SSH client such as [PuTTY](#), [Bitvise](#), or [MobaXTerm](#).

Here we use [Bitvise SSH Client](#) as an example.

2. Set up Bitvise SSH client

- Tab **[Login]**: Set **Host** as `spartan.hpc.unimelb.edu.au` (change here to use the host by your institute), **Port** as `22`, **Username** as your `username`, **Initial method** as `password`, **Password** as your password.
- Tab **[Options]**: Tick **Open Terminal** and **Open SFTP**.



3. Save profile

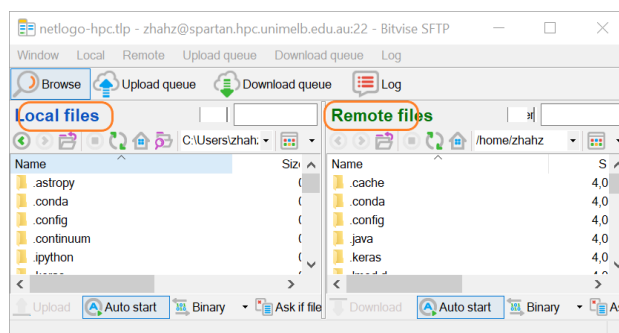
Click **[Save profile]** on the left panel, so that next time you do not need to type all these settings.

4. Log in Spartan

Click **[Log in]** button at the bottom, type your password and click **[OK]** to login. This should open a command prompt window and a SFTP window.

The command prompt is where you type and run your scripts. The SFTP window provides a graphical user interface where you can create/copy/delete files and folders, upload files to Spartan by dragging a file from left to right, and download files to your laptop by dragging files from right to left.

```
netlogo-hpc.tlp - zhahz@spartan.hpc.unimelb.edu.au:22 - Bitvise xterm ...
- To check your home disk space, you can run check_home_usage.
- To check your project disk space, you can run check_project_
- Do NOT try use use sudo on Spartan - it will not work. If yo
contact us.
- To see the current batch system utilisation, type spartan-we
To see these messages, type motd at the terminal. You can run
[zhahz@spartan-login3 ~]$
[zhahz@spartan-login3 ~]$
[zhahz@spartan-login3 ~]$
```



Download NetLogo to HPC

In this example, we download NetLogo to this folder

`/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc`. In SFTP window, right click mouse and Create Folder `netlogo_hpc`.

Then, in command line,

1. Run

```
cd /data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc
```

to change current directory to `/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc`.

2. Run

```
wget https://cc1.northwestern.edu/netlogo/6.2.0/NetLogo-6.2.0-64.tgz
```

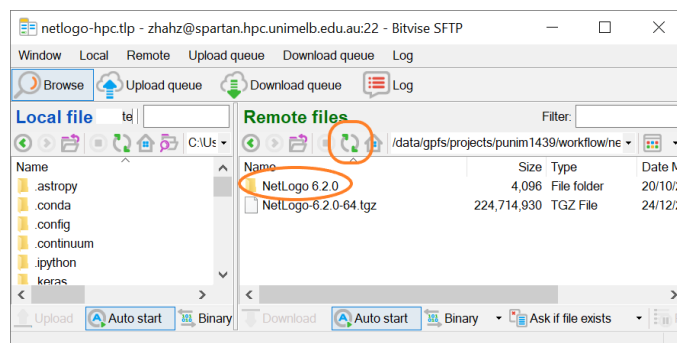
to download NetLogo installation file to current directory.

3. Run




```
tar -xzf NetLogo-6.2.0-64.tgz
```

to install (unzip) NetLogo to current directory.

Click **Refresh**, and you should be able to see the NetLogo 6.2.0 folder.



Tips:

- Copy and paste in command prompt: **Right Click** mouse  in command prompt to paste content from clipboard.
- Press up arrow key  and down arrow key  in keyboard to recall command history.

Run Experiment

Set Model BehaviorSpace

1. We used a `wolf_sheep_predation.nlogo` model as an example.

This model is adjusted on top of a NetLogo sample model `NetLogo`

`6.2.0/app/models/Sample Models/Biology/wolf Sheep Predation.nlogo`. We created an

`HPC_Experiment` in the BehaviorSpace, added a global variable `repetitions` with 100

values, and removed `user-message "The sheep have inherited the earth"`.

Experiment

Experiment name: **HPC_Experiment**

Vary variables as follows (note brackets and quotation marks):

```
[repetitions 8523 8128 5851 5917 4056 6743 3232 8378 8421 514]
[wolf-gain-from-food 18 19 20 21 22]
[show-energy? false]
[wolf-reproduce 3 4 5 6 7]
[initial-number-wolves 50]
```

Either list values to use, for example:
["my-slider" 1 2 7 8]
or specify start, increment, and end, for example:
["my-slider" [0 1 10]] (note additional brackets)
to go from 0, 1 at a time, to 10.
You may also vary max-picor, min-picor, max-pycor, min-pycor, random-seed.

Repetitions: **1**
run each combination this many times

☒ Run combinations in sequential order
For example, having ["var" 1 2 3] with 2 repetitions, the experiments' "var" values will be:
sequential order: 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3
alternating order: 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3

Measure runs using these reporters:

```
count turtles
```

one reporter per line; you may not split a reporter across multiple lines

☐ Measure runs at every step
if unchecked, runs are measured only when they are over

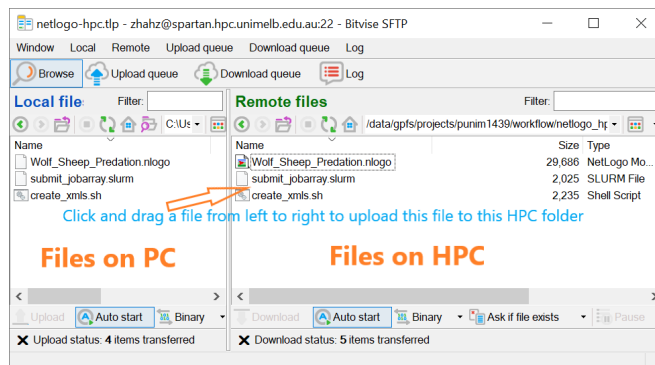
Setup commands: **setup** Go commands: **go**

Stop condition: the run stops if this reporter becomes true Final commands: run at the end of each run

Time limit: **150**
stop after this many steps (0 = no limit)

OK Cancel

2. Upload `wolf_sheep_Predation.nlogo`, `create_xmls.sh` and `submit_jobarray.slurm` to HPC folder.



💡 Tips:

If your model is on GitHub, clone the repo (for example <https://github.com/JTHooker/COVIDModel>) directly to HPC using:

```
git clone https://github.com/JTHooker/COVIDModel
```

Revise and Run `create_xmls.sh`

1. Edit `create_xmls.sh` (using text editor notepad++, notepad, etc)
 - BEHAVIORSPACE_NAME= 'HPC_Experiment'
 - NETLOGO_MODEL= '/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/wolf_sheep_Predation/wolf_sheep_Predation.nlogo'
2. End of Line (EOL) Conversion

From Bitvise command line, change directory to `wolf_Sheep_Predation`:

```
cd /data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/wolf_Sheep_Predation
```

Then, run

```
sed -i.bak 's/\r$//g' create_xm1s.sh
```

to convert Windows (CR LF) line ending to Unix (LF)

3. Run `bash create_xm1s.sh`

From Bitvise command line, run

```
bash create_xm1s.sh
```

to create xm1s folder and 100 xml files under this folder.

💡Tips:

MS-Windows to Unix like operation systems are using different End of Line (EOL).

If you want to see line ending in Notepad++, click menu **View > Show Symbol > Show All Characters**, then you will see Windows has line ending with invisible characters **CRLF**, while Unix has **LF**. Click menu **Edit > EOL Conversion > Unix (LF)** to convert MS-Windows to Unix EOL, as HPC is using Unix like operation systems.

Command `sed -i.bak 's/\r$//g' create_xm1s.sh` did the same thing, using string editor to convert EOL of `create_xm1s.sh` to Unix removing all **CR**, and the original file is backed up as `submit_jobarray.slurm.bak`.

Revise and Run `submit_jobarray.slurm`

1. Edit `submit_jobarray.slurm` (using text editor notepad++, notepad, etc).

- `#SBATCH` are script directive for Spartan. This script creates a job array of **100** jobs. Each job requires **1** computer node and **8** CPU cores on **snowy** cluster for a maximum wall time of **2** hours. When all jobs are ended, an email notification will be sent to `--mail-user`. In `#SBATCH` directive, `--qos`, `-A`, `--job-name`, `--mail-user`, `--mail-type` are optional, and can be deleted.
- `BASE_FOLDER`: current directory of `submit_jobarray.slurm`, and the upper directory of `xm1s` folder.
- `NETLOGO_SH`: file path of `netlogo-headless.sh` under NetLogo 6.2.0 directory.
- `NETLOGO_MODEL`: file path of `wolf_Sheep_Predation.nlogo`
- `OUTPUT_FOLDER`: name of output folder.

2. End of Line (EOL) Conversion

From Bitvise command line, run

```
sed -i.bak 's/\r$//g' submit_jobarray.slurm
```

3. Run `sbatch submit_jobarray.slurm`

```
sbatch submit_jobarray.slurm
```

to submit 100 jobs to Spartan. You will receive an email when the computation ends.

💡 Tips:

- Run `squeue -u yourusername` to see current jobs, replacing `yourusername` with your username.
 - Check log files `slurm-jobid_taskid.out` in `wolf_sheep_predation` folder for any error.
 - Run `scancel -n wolf_sheep_predation` to cancel a job, replacing `wolf_sheep_predation` with the value after `SBATCH --job-name=` (file `submit_jobarray.slurm`).
 - Run `spartan-weather` to see usage of all partitions (optional).
 - Run `clear` to clear screen.
 - Run `exit` to quite command line.
4. Move all `slurm_*.out` files to `slurm` folder (optional)

When all jobs finished, run

```
cd /data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/wolf_sheep_predation
mkdir -p slurms
mv ./slurm-*.out ./slurms/
```

to create a folder `slurms`, and move all `slurm-*.out` files to `slurms` folder.

Merge CSV Results

```
cd
/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/wolf_sheep_predation/outputs

awk '(NR < 8) || (FNR > 7)' *_table*.csv > MergedResults.csv
```

This will create a file `MergedResults.csv` as the final output file.

Other Notes

1. `cd`

Change directory command is to avoid always typing the absolute path when running script files.

```
cd /data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/wolf_sheep_predation

bash create_xmls.sh

sbatch submit_jobarray.slurm

cd outputs
awk '(NR < 8) || (FNR > 7)' *_table*.csv > MergedResults.csv
```

is the same as using

```

bash
/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/Wolf_Sheep_Predation/create_xm1s.sh

sbatch
/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/Wolf_Sheep_Predation/submit_jobarray.sbatch

awk '(NR < 8) || (FNR > 7)'
/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/Wolf_Sheep_Predation/outputs/*_table_*.csv >
/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/Wolf_Sheep_Predation/outputs/MergedResults.csv

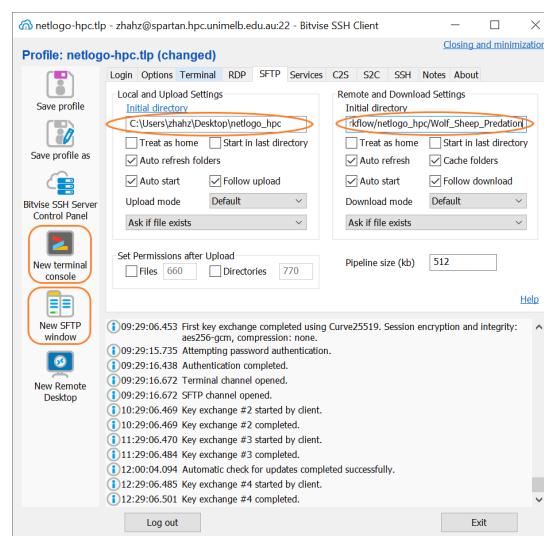
```

2. In command prompt, put file path or directory path in “ ” if filename includes space, for example

```
cd "/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/NetLogo 6.2.0"
```

3. Bitvise

Click **[New terminal console]** to open a new command window. Click **[New SFTP window]** to open a new SFTP window. Set the **Initial directory** in Tab **[SFTP]** and Save profile, to specify initial directories for your new SFTP windows.



4. NetLogo RAM

To run models that require large memory, you need to change NetLogo's RAM of Java virtual machine (JVM).

- Make a copy of netlogo-headless.sh (e.g. netlogo-headless-10g.sh)

```

cd "/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/NetLogo 6.2.0"
cp netlogo-headless.sh netlogo-headless-10g.sh

```

- Edit netlogo-headless-10g.sh : Line 15, Change **-Xmx10240m** to **-Xmx10g** to increase 1GB RAM to 10GB RAM.

```
JVM_OPTS=(-Xmx10g -XX:+UseParallelGC -Dfile.encoding=UTF-8)
```

Notes: You can either edit `netlogo-headless-10g.sh` using any text editors, or edit in line on command prompt by running

```
nano netlogo-headless-10g.sh
```

After editing, press Ctrl + X to exit, type Y to save changes, then press Enter to overwrite file.

5. NetLogo extensions

If your model requires an extension which is not a default extension of NetLogo software, the extension should be copied to the same folder of the NetLogo model or can be placed in the extension's folder in the NetLogo extensions directory. Refer [here](#) for where to find extensions.

For example, we can copy `rngs` folder from `C:\Program Files\NetLogo`

`6.2.0\app\extensions\.bundled\rngs` on our laptop to

`/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/NetLogo`

`6.2.0/app/extensions/.bundled/rngs` on HPC.

6. Single run

If your experiment only has **one run** that cannot be split (Note the `HPC_Experiment` of `wolf_Sheep_Predation.nlogo` has 100 runs), or you just want to run your model by submitting one job to HPC, then you can simply save the following script as `submit_single_job.slurm` (i use Unix EOL), and run

```
sbatch submit_single_job.slurm
```

after you [Set Model BehaviorSpace](#) You do not need to run [Revise and Run](#) [create_xmls.sh](#), [Revise and Run](#) [submit_jobarray.slurm](#) and [Merge CSV Results](#).

```
# -- file submit_single_job.slurm --
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH --nodes=1
#SBATCH --partition interactive
#SBATCH --time 1:00:00
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=8

module load java
cd "/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/wolf_Sheep_Predation"
"/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/NetLogo 6.2.0/netlogo-headless.sh" \
  --model "wolf_Sheep_Predation.nlogo" \
  --experiment "HPC_Experiment" \
  --table "output_file.csv"
```

You can also run NetLogo headless mode on Windows PC (if JAVA_HOME has been set or system PATH has included java.exe), using


```
cd "C:\Users\zhahz\Desktop\netlogo_hpc"
"C:\Program Files\NetLogo 6.2.0\netlogo-headless.bat" ^
--model "wolf_Sheep_Predation.nlogo" ^
--experiment "HPC_Experiment" ^
--table "output_file.csv"
```

7. 🐞 Use [create_xm1s_nested.sh](#) to split model by more than one variables
- BEHAVIORSPACE_NAME= 'HPC_Experiment'
 - NETLOGO_MODEL= '/data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/wolf_Sheep_Predation/wolf_Sheep_Predation HPC.nlogo'
 - **SPLIT_BY_VARIABLES=** ("wolf-gain-from-food" "wolf-reproduce") to split the experiment by two variables "wolf-gain-from-food" and "wolf-reproduce".

Notes: In this case, [create_xm1s.sh](#) using “repetitions” variable is only one special case of [create_xm1s_nested.sh](#), which equals to setting SPLIT_BY_VARIABLES=("repetitions").

Cheat Sheet

```
# change work directory
cd /data/gpfs/projects/punim1439/workflow/netlogo_hpc/wolf_Sheep_Predation

# create experiments
sed -i.bak 's/\r$//g' create_xm1s.sh
bash create_xm1s.sh

# check which partition has more available CPUs
spartan-weather

# submit jobs
sed -i.bak 's/\r$//g' submit_jobarray.slurm
sbatch submit_jobarray.slurm

# check job status
squeue -u yourusername

# clean log files
mkdir slurms
mv ./slurm-*.out ./slurms/

# merge results
cd outputs
awk '(NR < 8) || (FNR > 7)' *_table_*.csv > MergedResults.csv

# cancel job
scancel -n wolf_sheep_predation
```