

# Introduction to High Throughput Computing and HTCondor

Monday AM, Lecture 1

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# Overview – 1.1

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- What is *high throughput computing (HTC)* ?
- How does the HTCondor job scheduler work?
- How do you run jobs on an HTCondor compute system?

# Keys to Success

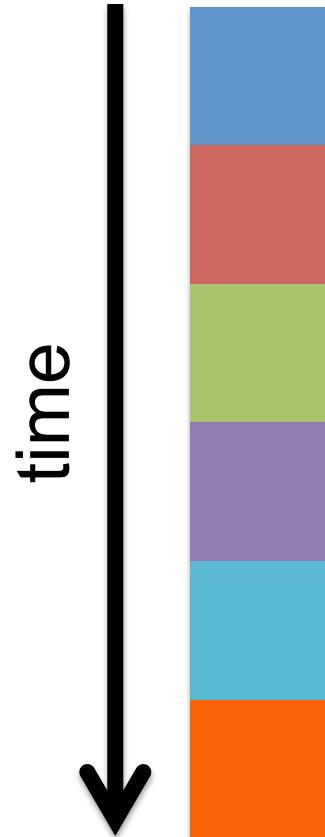
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- Work hard
- Ask questions!
  - ...during lectures
  - ...during exercises
  - ...during breaks
  - ...during meals
- If we do not know an answer, we will try to find the person who does.

# Serial Computing

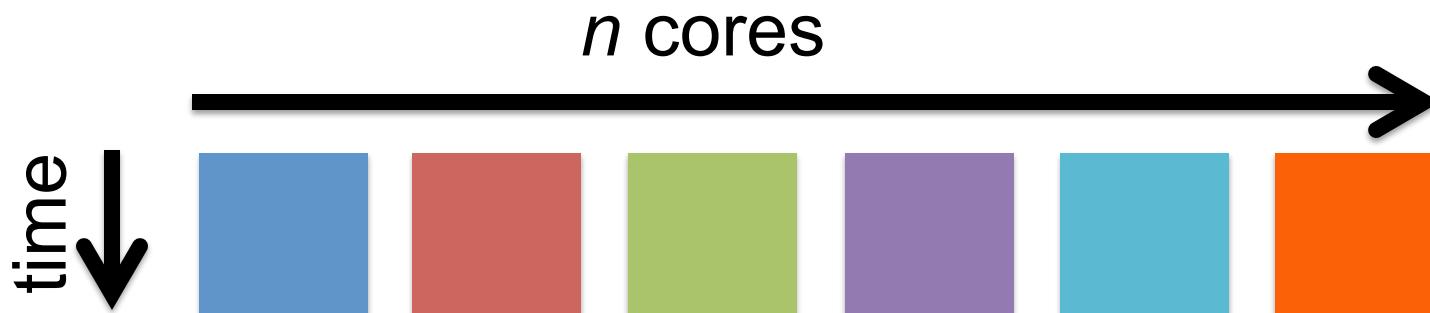
## What many programs look like:

- Serial execution, running on one processor (CPU core) at a time
- Overall compute time grows significantly as individual tasks get more complicated (long) or if the number of tasks increases
- ***How can you speed things up?***

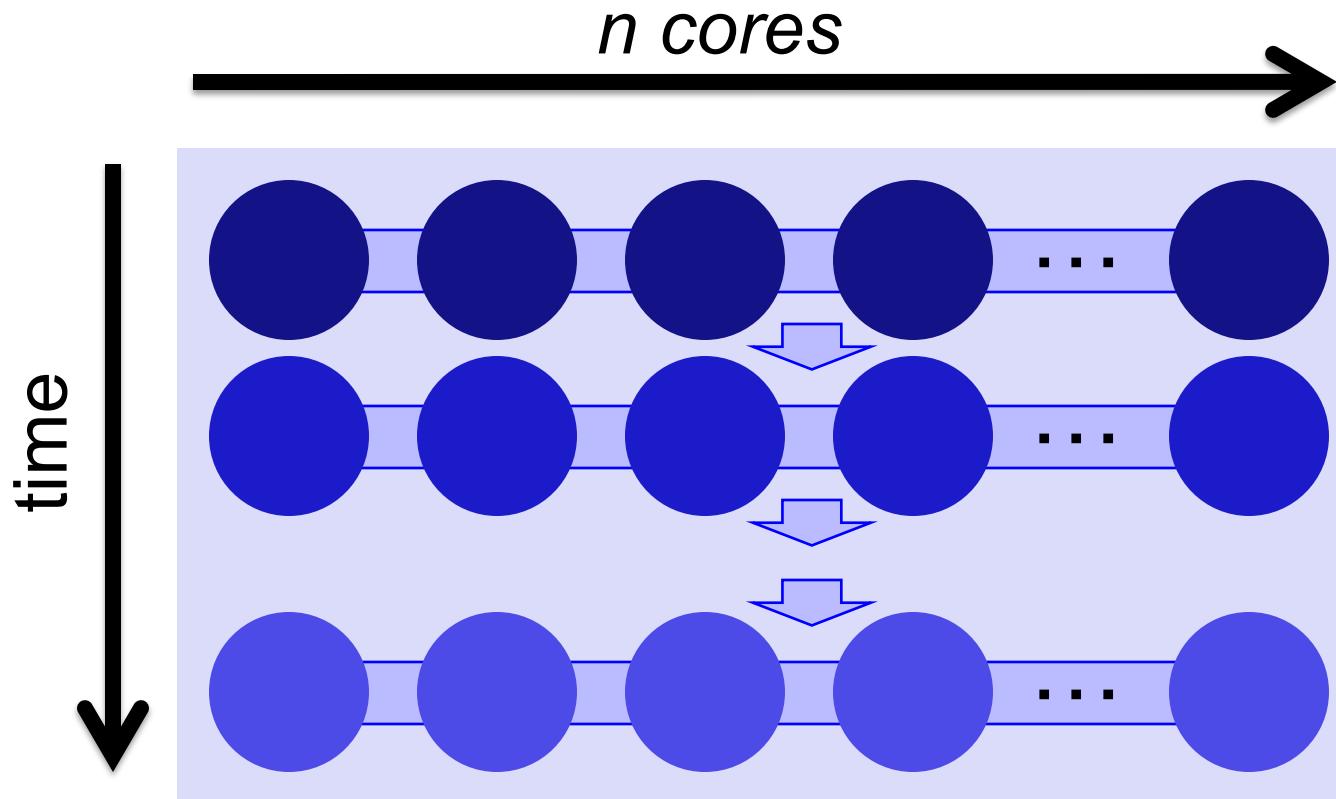


# High Throughput Computing (HTC)

- Parallelize!
- Independent tasks run on different cores

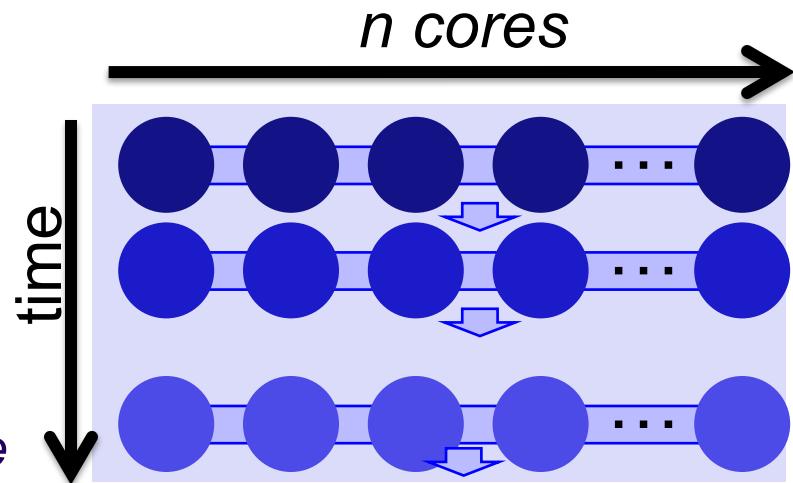


# High Performance Computing (HPC)

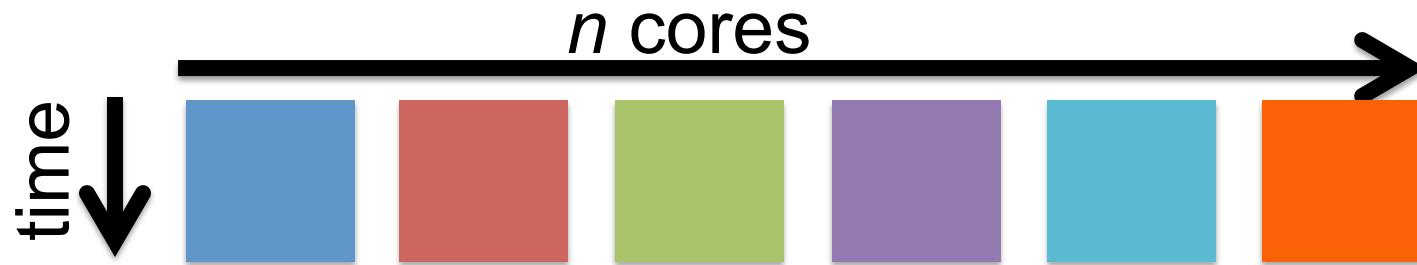


# High Performance Computing (HPC)

- Benefits greatly from:
  - CPU speed + homogeneity
  - Shared filesystems
  - Fast, expensive networking (e.g. Infiniband) and servers co-located
- Scheduling: **Must wait until all processors are available, at the same time and for the full duration**
- Requires special programming (MP/MPI)
- ***What happens if one core or server fails or runs slower than the others?***



# High Throughput Computing (HTC)



- Scheduling: only need **1 CPU core for each** (shorter wait)
- Easier recovery from failure
- No special programming required
- Number of concurrently running jobs is *more* important
- CPU speed and homogeneity are *less* important

# HPC vs HTC: An Analogy



# HPC vs HTC: An Analogy



# High *Throughput* vs High *Performance*

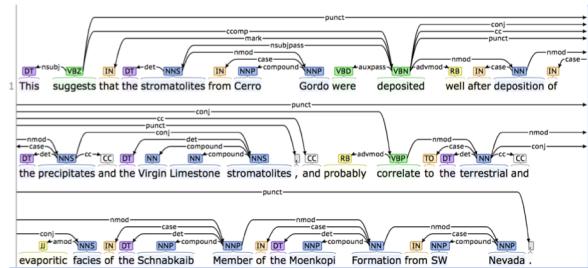
## HTC

- Focus: Large workflows of *numerous, relatively small, and independent* compute tasks
- More important: maximized number of running tasks
- Less important: CPU speed, homogeneity

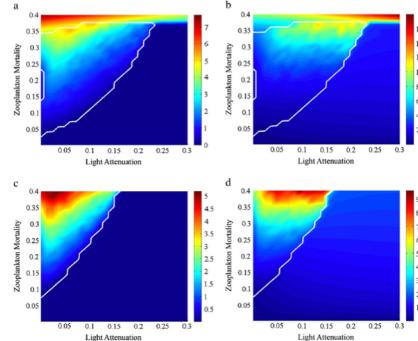
## HPC

- Focus: Large workflows of *highly-interdependent* sub-tasks
- More important: persistent access to the *fastest* cores, CPU homogeneity, special coding, shared filesystems, fast networks

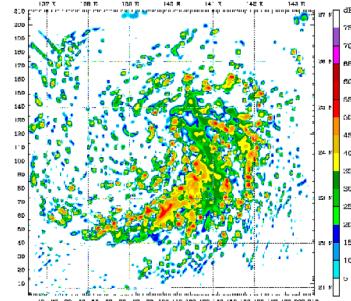
# HTC Examples



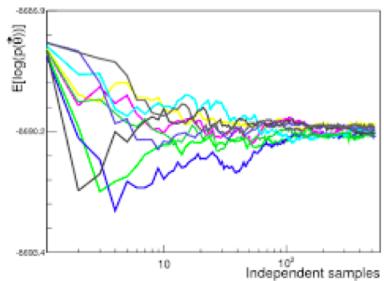
text analysis (most genomics ...)



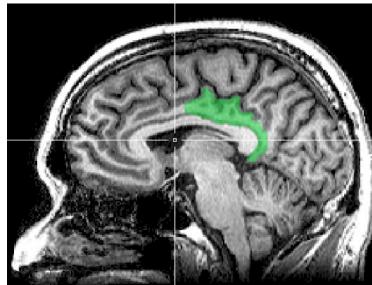
parameter sweeps



multi-start simulations



statistical model optimization  
(MCMC, numerical methods, etc.)



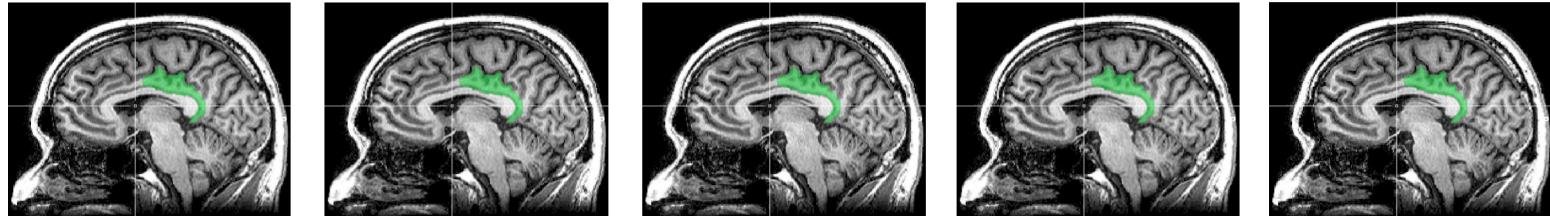
multi-image and  
multi-sample analysis

# Is your research HTC-able?

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- *Can it be broken into relatively numerous, independent pieces?*
- *Think about your research! Can you think of a good high throughput candidate task? Talk to your neighbor!*

# Example Challenge



You need to process 48 brain images for each of 168 patients. **Each image takes ~1 hour of compute time.**

**168 patients x 48 images = ~8000 tasks = ~8000 hrs**

Conference is next week.

# Distributed Computing

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- Use many computers, each running one instance of our program
- Example:
  - **1 laptop (1 core) => 4,000 hours = ~½ year**
  - **1 server (~20 cores) => 500 hours = ~3 weeks**
  - **1 large job (400 cores) => 20 hours = ~1 day**
  - **A whole cluster (8,000 cores) = ~8 hours**

# Break Up to Scale Up

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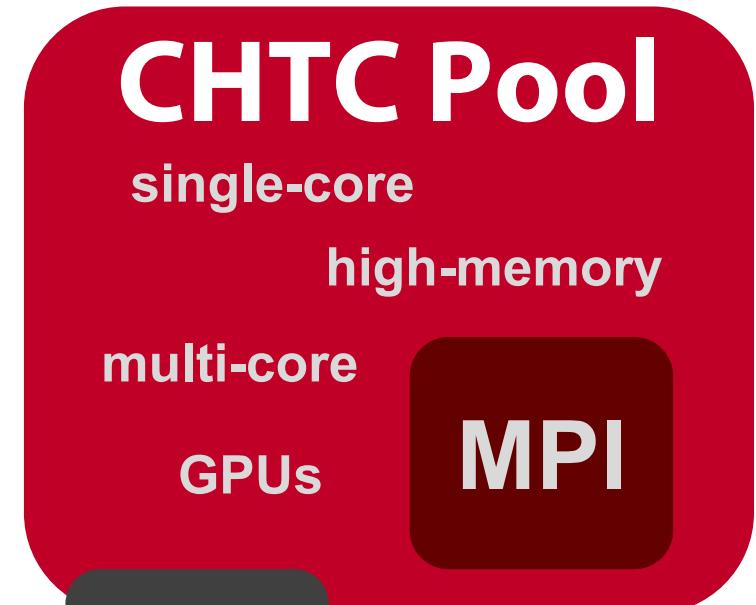
- Computing tasks that are ***easy to break up*** are ***easy to scale up***.
- To truly grow your computing capabilities, you also need a system appropriate for your computing task!

# What computing resources are available?

- A single computer?
- A local cluster?
  - Consider: What *kind* of cluster is it? Typical clusters tuned for HPC (large MPI) jobs typically may not be best for HTC workflows! Do you need even more than that?
- Open Science Grid (OSG)
- Other
  - European Grid Infrastructure
  - Other national and regional grids
  - Commercial cloud systems (e.g. HTCondor on Amazon)

# Example Local Cluster

- UW-Madison's **Center for High Throughput Computing (CHTC)**
- Recent CPU hours:
  - ~130 million hrs/year (~15k cores)
  - ~10,000 per user, per day (~400 cores in use)



# Open Science Grid

- **HTC for Everyone**

- ~100 contributors
- **Past year:**
  - >420 million jobs
  - >1.5 billion CPU hours
  - >200 petabytes transferred



- Can submit jobs locally, they backfill across the country
  - interrupted at any time (but not too frequent)
- <http://www.opensciencegrid.org/>

# HTCONDOR

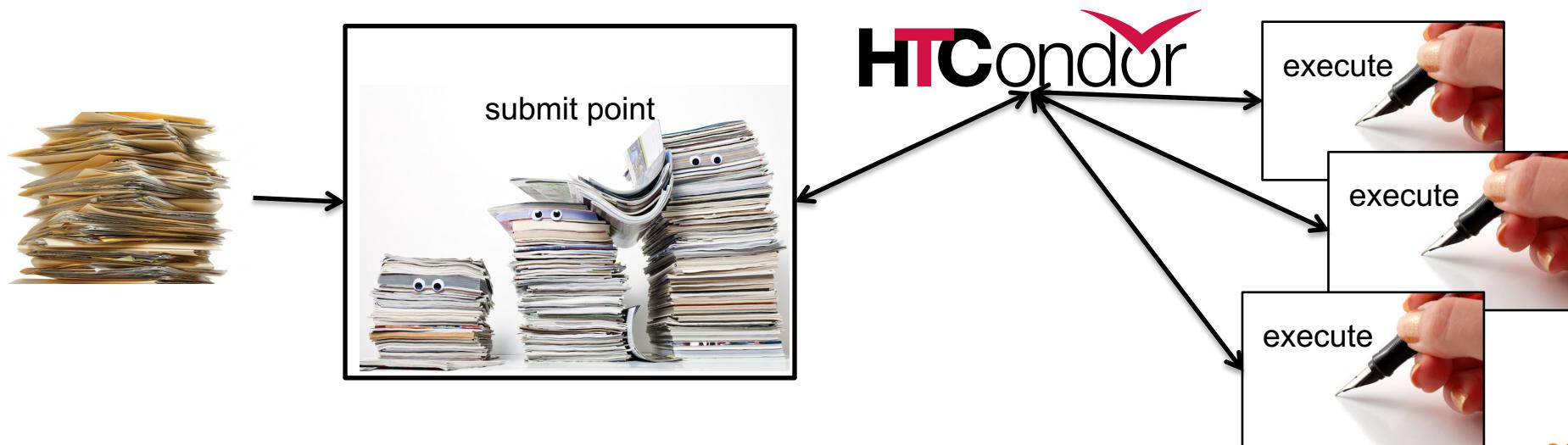
# HTCondor History and Status

- History
  - Started in 1988 as a “cycle scavenger”
- Today
  - Developed within the CHTC team by professional developers
  - Used all over the world, by:
    - Dreamworks, Boeing, SpaceX, investment firms, ...
    - Campuses, national labs, Einstein/Folding@Home
    - **The Open Science Grid!!**
- Miron Livny, CHTC Director and HTCondor PI
  - Professor, UW-Madison Computer Sciences



# HTCondor -- How It Works

- Submit tasks to a queue (on a submit server)
- HTCondor schedules them to run on computers (execute server)



# Terminology: *Job*

- ***Job***: An independently-scheduled unit of computing work
- Three main pieces:
  - Executable**: the script or program to run
  - Input**: any options (arguments) and/or file-based information
  - Output**: any files or screen information produced by the executable
- In order to run *many* jobs, executable must run on the command-line without any graphical input from the user

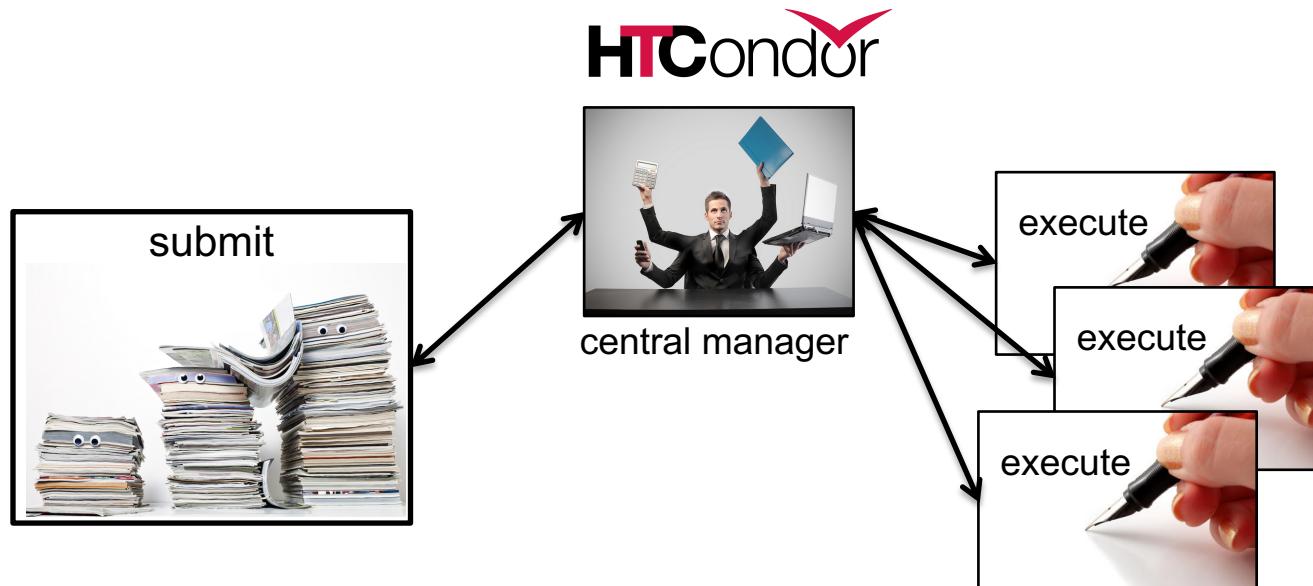
# Terminology: *Machine, Slot*

- **Machine**
  - A whole computer (desktop or server)
  - Has multiple processors (**CPU cores**), some amount of **memory**, and some amount of file space (**disk**)
- **Slot**
  - **an assignable unit of a machine (i.e. 1 job per slot)**
  - most often, corresponds to one core with some memory and disk
  - a typical machine may have 4-40 slots
- HTCondor can break up and create new slots, dynamically, as resources become available from completed jobs



# Job Matching

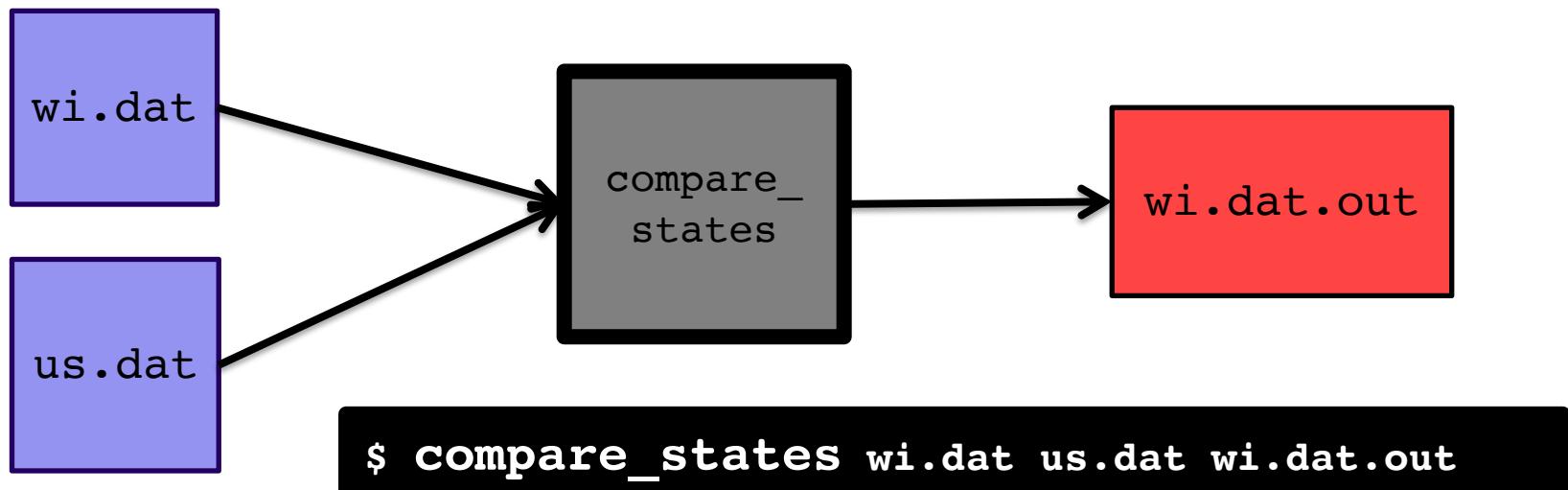
- On a regular basis, the central manager reviews **Job** and **Machine** attributes and matches jobs to **Slots**.



# BASIC JOB SUBMISSION

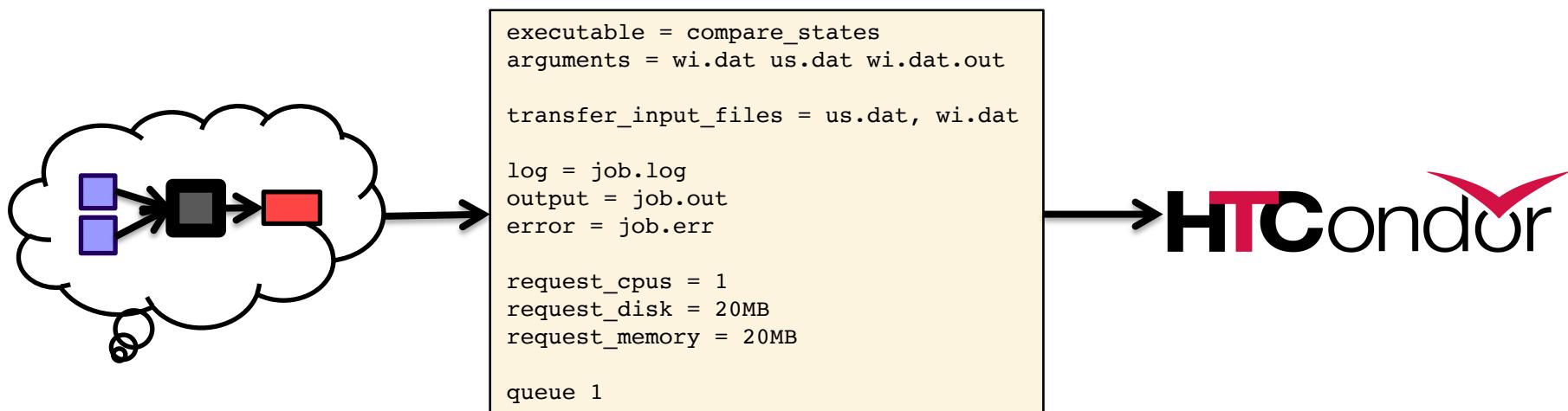
# Job Example

- program called “compare\_states” (executable), which compares two data files (input) and produces a single output file.



# Job Translation

- ***Submit file:*** communicates everything about your job(s) to HTCondor



# Basic Submit File

```
executable = compare_states
arguments = wi.dat us.dat wi.dat.out

transfer_input_files = us.dat, wi.dat

log = job.log
output = job.out
error = job.err

request_cpus = 1
request_disk = 20MB
request_memory = 20MB

queue 1
```

# Basic Submit File

```
executable = compare_states
arguments = wi.dat us.dat wi.dat.out

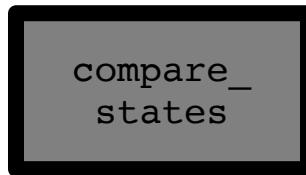
transfer_input_files = us.dat, wi.dat

log = job.log
output = job.out
error = job.err

request_cpus = 1
request_disk = 20MB
request_memory = 20MB

queue 1
```

- List your **executable** and any **arguments** it takes



- Arguments are any options passed to the executable from the command line

```
$ compare_states wi.dat us.dat wi.dat.out
```

# Basic Submit File

```
executable = compare_states
arguments = wi.dat us.dat wi.dat.out

transfer_input_files = us.dat, wi.dat

log = job.log
output = job.out
error = job.err

request_cpus = 1
request_disk = 20MB
request_memory = 20MB

queue 1
```

- Comma separated list of **input files to transfer** to the slot

wi.dat

us.dat

# Basic Submit File

```
executable = compare_states
arguments = wi.dat us.dat wi.dat.out

transfer_input_files = us.dat, wi.dat

log = job.log
output = job.out
error = job.err

request_cpus = 1
request_disk = 20MB
request_memory = 20MB

queue 1
```

- HTCondor will transfer back all new and changed files (output) from the job, automatically.

wi.dat.out

# Basic Submit File

```
executable = compare_states
arguments = wi.dat us.dat wi.dat.out

transfer_input_files = us.dat, wi.dat

log = job.log
output = job.out
error = job.err

request_cpus = 1
request_disk = 20MB
request_memory = 20MB

queue 1
```

- **log:** file created by HTCondor to track job progress
  - *Explored in exercises!*
- **output/error:** captures stdout and stderr from your program (what would otherwise be printed to the terminal)

# Basic Submit File

```
executable = compare_states
arguments = wi.dat us.dat wi.dat.out

transfer_input_files = us.dat, wi.dat

log = job.log
output = job.out
error = job.err

request_cpus = 1
request_disk = 20MB
request_memory = 20MB

queue 1
```

- **request** the resources your job needs.
  - *More on this later!*
- **queue**: keyword indicating “create 1 job”

# SUBMITTING AND MONITORING

# Submitting and Monitoring

- To submit a job/jobs: `condor_submit submit_file`
- To monitor submitted jobs: `condor_q`

```
$ condor_submit job.submit
Submitting job(s).
1 job(s) submitted to cluster 128.

$ condor_q
-- Schedd: submit-5.chtc.wisc.edu : <128.104.101.92:9618?... @ 05/01/17
10:35:54
OWNER  BATCH_NAME          SUBMITTED      DONE      RUN      IDLE    TOTAL JOB_IDS
alice   CMD: compare_states 5/9 11:05        -         -         1         1 128.0

1 jobs; 0 completed, 0 removed, 1 idle, 0 running, 0 held, 0 suspended
```

# More about `condor_q`

- By default, `condor_q` shows your jobs only and batches jobs that were submitted together:

```
$ condor_q
-- Schedd: submit-5.chtc.wisc.edu : <128.104.101.92:9618?... @ 05/01/17
10:35:54
OWNER  BATCH_NAME          SUBMITTED      DONE      RUN      IDLE    TOTAL JOB_IDS
alice   CMD: compare_states 5/9  11:05        -         -         1         1 128.0
1 jobs; 0 completed, 0 removed, 1 idle, 0 running, 0 held, 0 suspended
```

$\text{JobId} = \text{ClusterId}.\text{ProcId}$

- Limit `condor_q` by username,  $\text{ClusterId}$  or full  $\text{JobId}$ , (denoted  $[\text{U/C/J}]$  in following slides).

# More about `condor_q`

- To see individual job details, use:

**`condor_q -nobatch`**

```
$ condor_q -nobatch
-- Schedd: submit-5.chtc.wisc.edu : <128.104.101.92:9618?...
      ID          OWNER        SUBMITTED      RUN_TIME ST PRI SIZE CMD
    128.0       alice     5/9 11:09 0+00:00:00 I  0   0.0 compare_states

1 jobs; 0 completed, 0 removed, 1 idle, 0 running, 0 held, 0 suspended
```

- We will use the **`-nobatch`** option in the following slides to see extra detail about what is happening with a job

# Job Idle

```
$ condor_q -nobatch
-- Schedd: submit-5.chtc.wisc.edu : <128.104.101.92:9618?...
 ID          OWNER      SUBMITTED      RUN_TIME ST PRI SIZE CMD
128.0        alice      5/9 11:09 0+00:00:00 I 0   0.0 compare_states wi.dat us.dat

1 jobs; 0 completed, 0 removed, 1 idle, 0 running, 0 held, 0 suspended
```

## Submit Node

```
(submit_dir)/
    job.submit
    compare_states
    wi.dat
    us.dat
    job.log
    job.out
    job.err
```

# Job Starts

```
$ condor_q -nobatch
-- Schedd: submit-5.chtc.wisc.edu : <128.104.101.92:9618?...
 ID          OWNER      SUBMITTED      RUN_TIME ST PRI SIZE CMD
128.0       alice      5/9 11:09      0+00:00:00 < 0   0.0 compare_states wi.dat us.dat

1 jobs; 0 completed, 0 removed, 0 idle, 1 running, 0 held, 0 suspended
```

## Submit Node

```
(submit_dir)/  
    job.submit  
    compare_states  
    wi.dat  
    us.dat  
    job.log  
    job.out  
    job.err
```

→  
compare\_states  
 wi.dat  
 us.dat

## Execute Node

```
(execute_dir)/
```

# Job Running

```
$ condor_q -nobatch
-- Schedd: submit-5.chtc.wisc.edu : <128.104.101.92:9618?...
 ID          OWNER      SUBMITTED      RUN_TIME ST PRI SIZE CMD
128.0        alice      5/9 11:09    0+00:01:03 R 0   0.0 compare_states wi.dat us.dat

1 jobs; 0 completed, 0 removed, 0 idle, 1 running, 0 held, 0 suspended
```

## Submit Node

```
(submit_dir)/
    job.submit
    compare_states
    wi.dat
    us.dat
    job.log
    job.out
    job.err
```

## Execute Node

```
(execute_dir)/
    compare_states
    wi.dat
    us.dat
    stderr
    stdout
    wi.dat.out
```

# Job Completes

```
$ condor_q -nobatch
-- Schedd: submit-5.chtc.wisc.edu : <128.104.101.92:9618?...
 ID          OWNER      SUBMITTED      RUN_TIME ST PRI SIZE CMD
128         alice       5/9   11:09     0+00:02:02 > 0   0.0 compare_states wi.dat us.dat

1 jobs; 0 completed, 0 removed, 0 idle, 1 running, 0 held, 0 suspended
```

## Submit Node

```
(submit_dir)/  
    job.submit  
    compare_states  
    wi.dat  
    us.dat  
    job.log  
    job.out  
    job.err
```

stderr  
stdout  
wi.dat.out



## Execute Node

```
(execute_dir)/  
    compare_states  
    wi.dat  
    us.dat  
    stderr  
    stdout  
    wi.dat.out
```

# Job Completes (cont.)

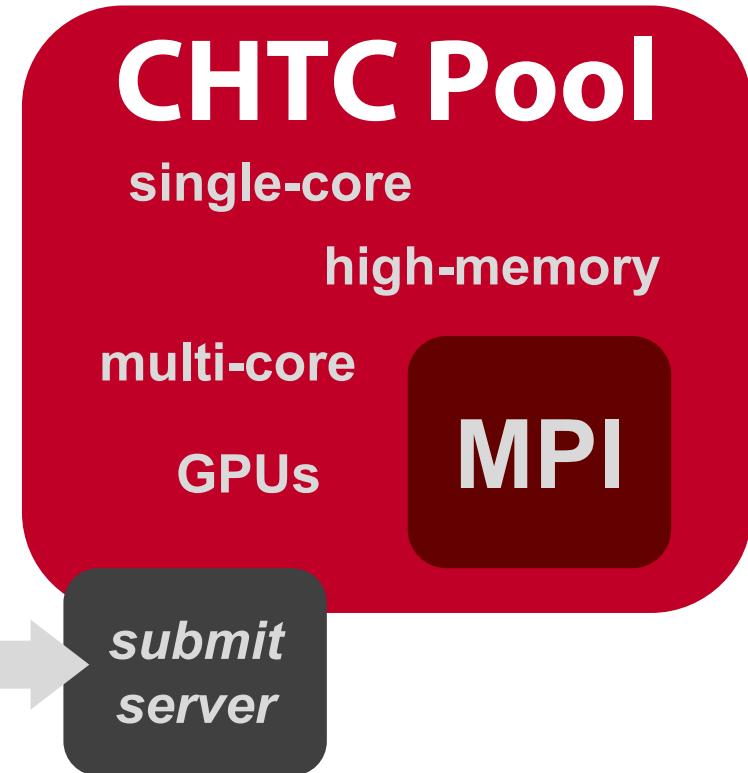
```
$ condor_q -nobatch

-- Schedd: submit-5.chtc.wisc.edu : <128.104.101.92:9618?...
 ID      OWNER          SUBMITTED      RUN_TIME ST PRI SIZE CMD
0 jobs; 0 completed, 0 removed, 0 idle, 0 running, 0 held, 0 suspended
```

## Submit Node

```
(submit_dir)/
    job.submit
    compare_states
    wi.dat
    us.dat
    job.log
    job.out
    job.err
    wi.dat.out
```

# YOUR TURN!



# Thoughts on Exercises

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- Copy-and-paste is quick, but you **WILL** learn more by typing out commands (first) submit file contents
- **Exercises 1.1-1.3** are most important to finish THIS time (**see 1.6 if you need to remove jobs!**)!
- If you do not finish, that's OK – You can make up work later or during evenings, if you like. (There are even “bonus” challenges, if you finish early.)

# Exercises!

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- Ask questions!
- Lots of instructors around
- Coming next:
  - Now: Hands-on Exercises
  - 10:30 – 10:45 Break
  - 10:45 – 11:15 Submitting Many Jobs
  - 11:15 – 12:15 Hands-on Exercises