Introduction to automation using Nextflow: A tutorial through examples

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 - Executors
 - Nextflow on a cluster (HPC)
 - Scheduler + Docker
 - Amazon EC2

Introduction to Nextflow

Introduction to Nextflow

Introduction

Resources

• https://github.com/phelelani/nf-tutorial

Workflow Languages

Many scientific applications require

- Multiple data files
- Multiple applications
- Perhaps different parameters

General purpose languages not well suited

- Too low a level of abstraction
- Does not separate workflow from application
- Not reproducible

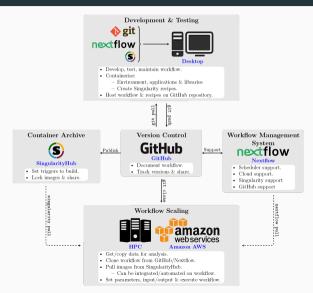
Workflow Languages

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- Perhaps different parameters

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Nextflow

Groovy-based language

- Expressing workflows
- Portable
 - o works on most Unix-like systems
- Very easy to install
 - o NB: requires Java 7, 8
- Scalable
- Supports Docker/Singularity
- Supports a range of scheduling systems

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Key concepts of Nextflow

- Processes:
 - o actual work being done (usually simple).
 - o call program that does the analysis.
- Channels:
 - o for communication between processes.
 - o handles inputs and outputs.
- When all inputs ready, process is executed.
- Each process runs in its own directory (files are staged).
- Supports resumption of previous partial runs.

Introduction to Nextflow

Nextflow Script

Exercise 1

You have an input file with 6 columns (see below), where column 2 is an "index" column. Identify rows that have identical indexes (column 2) and remove them from the file.

Your input file looks like this:

```
11 11:189256 0 189256 A G
11 11:193788 0 193788 T C
11 11:194662 0 194062 T C
11 11:194228 0 194228 A G
11 11:193788 0 193788 A C
```

Simple Example: Using BASH

Input is a file

Introduction to Nextflow 00000000000000

- With 6 columns
- Column 2 is an index column
- Identify rows with identical field 2
- Remove identical rows

```
11:189256
11
                     189256
    11:193788
                     193788
11
11
    11:194062
                     194062
11
     11:194228
                     194228
11
     11:193788
                     193788
```

Using BASH:

```
cut -f 2 data/11.bim | sort | uniq -d > dups
grep -v -f dups data/11.bim > 11.clean
```

Simple Example: Using nextflow

```
#!/usr/bin/env nextflow
     nextflow.enable.dsl=2
     input ch = Channel.fromPath("data/11.bim")
     process getIDs {
         input:
         path(input_ch)
10
         output:
         path("ids"), emit: id ch
         path("11.bim"), emit: orig ch
13
14
         ...
15
         cut -f 2 ${input_ch} | sort > ids
16
17
18
19
     process getDups {
20
         input:
21
         path(id ch)
22
23
         output:
24
         path("dups"), emit: dups ch
26
          ...
27
         unia -d ${id ch} > dups
28
         touch ignore
29
30
```

Simple Example: Using nextflow

```
#!/usr/bin/env nextflow
     nextflow.enable.dsl=2
     input ch = Channel.fromPath("data/11.bim")
     process getIDs {
         input:
         path(input_ch)
         output:
         path("ids"), emit: id ch
         path("11.bim"), emit: orig ch
13
14
          ...
15
         cut -f 2 ${input_ch} | sort > ids
16
17
18
19
     process getDups {
20
         input:
21
         path(id ch)
22
23
         output:
24
         path("dups"), emit: dups ch
26
          . . .
27
         unia -d ${id ch} > dups
28
         touch ignore
29
30
```

```
31
     process removeDups {
32
         input:
33
         path(dups ch)
34
         path(orig ch)
35
36
         output:
37
         path("clean.bim"), emit: output
38
39
          . . .
40
         grep -v -f ${dups_ch} ${orig_ch} > clean.bim
41
42
43
44
     workflow {
45
         getIDs(input_ch)
46
         getDups(getIDs.out.id ch)
47
         removeDups(getDups.out.dups ch. getIDs.out.orig ch).
            subscribe { print "Done!" }
48
```

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Simple Example: Using nextflow

```
$ nextflow run cleandups.nf
N F X T F L O W ~ version 19.04.1
Launching `cleandups.nf` [soggv jennings] - revision: 795e2aa39d
[warm_up] executor > local
executor > local (3)
[84/7e1ad1] process > getIDs [100%] 1 of 1
[19/cc8bf9] process > getDups
                               [100%] 1 of 1
[f9/ed086d] process > removeDups [100%] 1 of 1
Completed at: 31-Jul-2019 09:00:50
Duration
         : 1.55
CPU hours : (a few seconds)
Succeeded : 3
```

```
l--work
  1--90
      --cebf3649d883f88381e32b4912b560
        |--ids -> /Users/phele/dav4/work/b3/aa0380f2a1bca447259b7ffd390083/ids
        I--ignore
  1--90
      --e0ch7d8d26682d7d4a1c44392f2hb3
        |--11.bim -> /Users/phele/day4/data/11.bim
        l--clean him
        |--dups -> /Users/phele/dav4/work/90/cebf3649d883f88381e32b4912b560/dups
  1--h3
      --aa0380f2a1hca447259h7ffd390083
        |--11.bim -> /Users/phele/day4/data/11.bim
        I--ids
```

Exercise 2

Change the script so that you use **stdin** or **stdout** in the **getIDs** and **getDups** processes to avoid the use of the temporary file ids. You can see the solution: **ex2-cleandups-stdin.nf!**.

Introduction to Nextflow

Partial Execution

Partial Execution

If execution of workflow is only partial

- Because of error
- Only need to resume from process that failed

nextflow run cleandups.nf -resume

Introduction to Nextflow

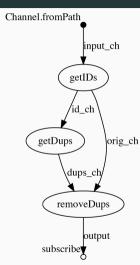
Visualising the Workflow

Visualising the Workflow

Nextflow supports several visualisation tools:

-with-dag

nextflow run cleandups.nf -with-dag <file-name>



Visualising the Workflow

Nextflow supports several visualisation tools:

-with-dag

nextflow run cleandups.nf -with-dag <file-name>

-with-timeline

nextflow run cleandups.nf -with-timeline <file-name>



Visualising the Workflow

Nextflow supports several visualisation tools:

-with-dag

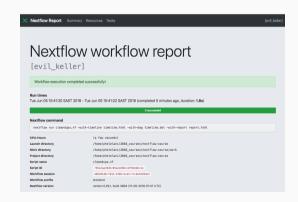
nextflow run cleandups.nf -with-dag <file-name>

-with-timeline

nextflow run cleandups.nf -with-timeline <file-name>

-with-report

nextflow run cleandups.nf -with-report <filename>





Extending the Example

- Parameterise the input
- Want output to go to convenient place
- Workflow takes in multiple input files processes are executed on each in turn.
- Complication : may need to carry the base name of the input to the final output;
- Can repeat some steps for different parameters.

Generalising and Extending

Parameters

Parameters

In Nextflow file:

input_ch = Channel.fromPath(params.data)

And run it like this

nextflow run phylo1.nf --data data/polyseqs.fa

Generalising and Extending

Channels

Data Types in Channels

Channels support different types:

- path
- stdin
- env
- tuple

Creating Channels

```
Channel.create()
Channel.empty
Channel.from("blast","plink")
Channel.fromPath("data/*.fa")
Channel.fromFilePairs("data/{YRI,CEU,BEB}.*")
Channel.watchPath("*fa")
```

Many, many operations you can do on channels and their contents

bind	buffer	close
filter	map/reduce	group
join, merge	mix	сору
split	spread	fork
count	min/max/sum	print/view

Generalising and Extending

Generalising Our Example

Workflow: Multiple Inputs

```
#!/usr/bin/env nextflow
     nextflow.enable.dsl=2
     params.data dir = "data"
     input ch = Channel.fromPath("${params.data_dir}/*.bim")
     process getIDs {
         input:
         path(input)
         output:
         path("${input.baseName}.ids"), emit: id ch
13
         path("${input}"), emit: orig_ch
14
15
         . . . .
16
         cut -f 2 ${input} | sort > ${input.baseName}.ids
17
         ...
18
19
20
     process getDups {
21
         input:
         path(input)
23
24
         output:
         path("${input.baseName}.dups"), emit: dups ch
26
27
         . . .
         uniq -d ${input} > "${input.baseName}.dups"
29
         touch ignore
30
```

Workflow: Multiple Inputs

```
#!/usr/bin/env nextflow
                                                                           32
                                                                                 process removeDups
     nextflow.enable.dsl=2
                                                                           33
                                                                                     publishDir "output", pattern: "${badids.baseName}.bim".
                                                                                        overwrite:true, mode:'copy'
                                                                           34
     params.data dir = "data"
     input ch = Channel.fromPath("${params.data_dir}/*.bim")
                                                                           35
                                                                                     input:
                                                                           36
                                                                                     path(badids)
     process getIDs {
                                                                           37
                                                                                     path(orig)
         input:
                                                                           38
                                                                           39
         path(input)
                                                                                     output:
                                                                           40
                                                                                     path("${badids.baseName}_clean.bim"), emit: cleaned_ch
                                                                           41
         output:
         path("${input.baseName}.ids"), emit: id ch
                                                                           42
                                                                                     ...
13
         path("${input}"), emit: orig ch
                                                                           43
                                                                                     grep -v -f ${badids} ${orig} > ${badids.baseName} clean.bim
14
                                                                           44
15
         . . .
                                                                           45
                                                                           46
16
         cut -f 2 ${input} | sort > ${input.baseName}.ids
17
         ...
                                                                           47
                                                                                 workflow {
18
                                                                           48
                                                                                     getIDs(input ch)
19
                                                                           49
                                                                                     getDups(getIDs.out.id ch)
20
     process getDups {
                                                                           50
                                                                                     removeDups(getDups.out.dups ch. getIDs.out.orig ch)
                                                                           51
21
         input:
22
         path(input)
23
24
         output:
         path("${input.baseName}.dups"). emit: dups ch
26
         . . . .
         unig -d ${input} > "${input.baseName}.dups"
```

29

30

touch ignore

```
$ nextflow run cleandups.nf
Launching `cleandups.nf` [distracted hodgkin] - revision: 29fdb384a6
[warm up] executor > local
executor > local (9)
[1a/431eb7] process > getIDs [100%] 3 of 3 |
[cc/fc0aaa] process > getDups [100%] 3 of 3
[03/c31154] process > removeDups [100%] 3 of 3
Completed at: 31-Jul-2019 10:26:23
Duration : 2s
         : (a few seconds)
CPU hours
Succeeded : 9
```

Exercise 4

Now try adding a process to our Nextflow example and for splitting the file but using different split values (solution: ex4-cleandups-multi-params.nf).

Workflow: Multiple Parameters

Now try splitting the file but use different split values

```
split -l 400 data.txt dataX
```

will produce files dataXaa, dataXab, dataXac and so on ...

Try:

```
splits = [400,500,600]

process splitIDs {
    input:
    path(bim)
    each split

output:
    path(**-$split-**), emit: output_ch

"""
split -l ${split} ${bim} ${bim.baseName}-$split-
"""

14
}
```

Have a look at the modified Nextflow script: ex4-cleandups-multi-params-mod.nf.

Generalising and Extending

Managing Grouped Files

Grouped Files

Use **PLINK** as an example.

```
## Short version of the command
plink --bfile /path/YRI --freq --out /tmp/YRI

## Long version of the command
plink --bed YRI.bed \
    --bim YRI.bim \
    --fam YRI.fam \
    --freq \
    --out /tmp/YRI
```

Problem:

- Pass the files on another channel(s) to be staged
- Pass the base name as value/or work it out

Pros/Cons

- Simple
- Need extra channel/some gymnastics

Grouped Files

Use PLINK as an example.

```
## Short version of the command
plink --bfile /path/YRI --freq --out /tmp/YRI

## Long version of the command
plink --bed YRI.bed \
    --bim YRI.bim \
    --fam YRI.fam \
    --freq \
    --out /tmp/YRI
```

Problem:

- Pass the files on another channel(s) to be staged
- Pass the base name as value/or work it out

Pros/Cons

- Simple
- Need extra channel/some gymnastics

RECAP CLOSURES

Simply, a closure is an anonymous function

- Code wrapped in braces {, }
- Default argument called it

```
[1,2,3].each { print it * it }
[1,2,3].each { num -> print num * num }
```

14 15

16 17

Grouped Files - Version 1: map

```
#!/usr/bin/env nextflow
nextflow.enable.dsl=2

params.dir = "data/pops/"
dir = params.dir
params.pops = ["YRI", "CEU", "BEB"]

Channel
    from(params.pops)
    .map { pop ->
        [ file("$dir/${pop}.bed"),
            file("$dir/${pop}.bim"),
            file("$dir/${pop}.fam")]
    }
    .set { plink_data }

plink_data.subscribe { println "$it" }
```

```
#!/usr/bin/env nextflow
nextflow enable dsl=2
params.dir = "data/pops/"
dir = params.dir
params.pops = ["YRI","CEU","BEB"]
Channel
    .from(params.pops)
    .map { pop ->
        [ file("$dir/${pop}.bed"),
          file("$dir/${pop}.bim").
          file("$dir/${pop}.fam")]
    .set { plink data }
plink_data.subscribe { println "$it" }
```

14 15

16 17

```
[data/pops/YRI.bed. data/pops/YRI.bim. data/pops/YRI.fam]
[data/pops/CEU.bed, data/pops/CEU.bim, data/pops/CEU.fam]
[data/pops/BEB.bed, data/pops/BEB.bim, data/pops/BEB.fam]
```

Grouped Files - Version 1: map

```
#1/usr/hin/env nevtflow
     nextflow enable dsl=2
     params.dir = "data/pops/"
     dir = params.dir
     params.pops = ["YRI","CEU","BEB"]
     Channel
         .from(params.pops)
         .map { pop ->
             [ file("$dir/${pop}.bed").
               file("$dir/${pop}.bim").
               file("$dir/${pop}.fam")]
14
15
         .set { plink data }
16
     plink_data.subscribe { println "$it" }
```

```
16
     process getFreq {
17
       input:
18
       tuple path(bed), path(bim), path(fam)
19
20
       output:
21
       path("${bed.baseName}.frg"), emit result
22
        ...
23
24
       plink --bed $bed \
25
         --bim $bim \
26
         --fam $fam \
27
         --freq \
28
         --out ${bed.baseName}"
29
30
31
32
     workflow {
33
       getFreq(plink data).view()
34
```

```
[data/pops/YRI.bed. data/pops/YRI.bim. data/pops/YRI.fam]
[data/pops/CEU.bed, data/pops/CEU.bim, data/pops/CEU.fam]
[data/pops/BEB.bed, data/pops/BEB.bim, data/pops/BEB.fam]
```

Use from File Pairs

 Takes a closure used to gather files together with the same key

```
x ch = Channel.fromFilePairs( files ) { closure }
```

- Specify the files as a glob
- Closure associates each file with a key
- fromPairs puts all files with same key together
- Returns a list of pairs (key, list)

Use fromFilePairs.

• Takes a closure used to gather files together with the same key

```
x_ch = Channel.fromFilePairs( files ) { closure }
```

- Specify the files as a glob
- Closure associates each file with a key
- fromPairs puts all files with same key together
- Returns a list of pairs (key, list)

A more complex example – default closure

```
Channel
Channel
fromFilePairs
("${params.dir}/*.{bed,fam,bim}",size:3, flat : true)
ifEmpty { error "No matching plink files" }
set { plink_data }

plink_data.subscribe { println "$it" }
```

Use from File Pairs

 Takes a closure used to gather files together with the same key

```
x ch = Channel.fromFilePairs( files ) { closure }
```

- Specify the files as a glob
- Closure associates each file with a key
- fromPairs puts all files with same key together
- Returns a list of pairs (key, list)

```
#!/usr/bin/env nextflow
     commands = Channel.fromFilePairs("/usr/bin/*", size:-1) {
                     it.baseName[0]
     commands.subscribe { k= it[0]:
       n=it[1].size():
       println "There are $n files starting with $k":
10
```

A more complex example – default closure

```
Channel
    fromFilePairs
        ("${params.dir}/*.{bed,fam,bim}",size:3, flat : true)
    .ifEmpty { error "No matching plink files" }
    .set { plink data }
plink data.subscribe { println "$it" }
```

```
[CEU, [data/pops/CEU.bed, data/pops/CEU.bim, data/pops/CEU.fam]]
[YRI. [data/pops/YRI.bed. data/pops/YRI.bim. data/pops/YRI.fam]]
[BEB, [data/pops/BEB.bed, data/pops/BEB.bim, data/pops/BEB.fam]]
```

```
process checkData {
   input:
   tuple val(pop), path(pl_files)

  output:
   path("${pl_files[0]}.frq"), emit: result

   """
   plink --bfile $base --freq --out pl_files[0].baseName
   """
}
```

10 11

```
process checkData {
    input:
    tuple val(pop), path(pl_files)

output:
    path("${pl_files[0]}.frq"), emit: result

"""

plink --bfile $base --freq --out pl_files[0].baseName
"""

"""

11 }
```

```
process checkData {
   input:
   tuple val(pop), path(pl_files)

output:
   path("${pop}.frq"), emit: result

"""

plink --bfile $pop --freq --out $pop

"""

11
}
```

Grouped Files - Final Version

```
#!/usr/bin/env nextflow
     nextflow.enable.dsl=2
     params.dir = "data/pops/"
     dir = params.dir
     params.pops = ["YRI"."CEU"."BEB"]
     Channel
 9
         .fromFilePairs("${params.dir}/{YRI.BEB.CEU}.{bed.bim.fam}".size:3) {
10
             file -> file.baseName
11
         .filter { kev. files -> kev in params.pops }
         .set { plink data }
14
15
     process checkData {
16
         input:
17
         tuple val(pop), path(pl files)
18
19
         output:
20
         path("${pop}.frg"), emit: result
21
22
         ...
23
         plink --bfile $pop --freq --out $pop
24
         . . .
25
26
     workflow {
27
       checkData(plink data).view()
28
```

Exercise 5

Have a look at ex5-weather.nf. In the data directory are set of data files for different years and months. First, I want you to use paste to combine all the files for the same year and month (paste joins files horizontal-wise). Then these new files should be concated.

Generalising and Extending

On absolute paths

Absolute paths

```
input = Channel.fromPath("/data/batch1/myfile.fa")

process show {
   input:
   path(data)

   output:
   path('see.out')

"""
   cp ${data} /home/scott/answer

"""
   ...
```

Nextflow and Docker

Nextflow and Docker

Docker & Singularity Containers

Docker & Singularity Containers

Light-weight virtualisation abstraction layer

- Currently runs on Unix like systems
 - Linux
 - o macOS
- Windows support coming

Can create images locally or get from repositories

```
## Docker
docker pull ubuntu
docker pull quay.io/banshee1221/h3agwas-plink
## Singularity
singularity pull docker://ubuntu
singularity pull docker://quay.io/banshee1221/h3agwas-plink
```

Running images

```
## Docker
docker run <some-image-name>
## Singularity
singularity exec <some-image-name>
```

- Docker/Singularity often run images in background
- Can also run interactively

```
## Running Docker interactively
sudo docker run -t -i quay.io/banshee1221/h3agwas-plink
```

```
## Running Singularity interactively singularity shell docker://quay.io/banshee1221/h3agwas-plink
```

Nextflow supports Docker & Singularity

Nevtflow and Docker 00000000

- Well designed script should be highly portable
- Each process gets run as a separate image call
 - o Under the hood, a docker run or a singularity exec is called
- Can use the same or different images for each process
 - o Parameterisable

Assuming all processes use the same image:

```
## For Docker
```

nextflow run plink2.nf -with-docker quav.io/banshee1221/h3agwas-plink

For Singularity

nextflow run plink.nf -with-singularity docker://guav.io/banshee1221/h3agwas-plink

Nextflow and Docker

Directory & File Access

Directory & File access

Nextflow Docker/Singularity support highly transparent - but pay attention to good practice

- For each process Docker/Singularity mounts the work directory for that process on the Docker/Singularity image.
- Files can be staged in and out using Nextflow mechanisms.
- Other files available: directories mounted through Docker/Singularity run time options or on the Docker image
- No other files on the host machine including the current directory
- Process executes in the Docker/Singularity environment

Directory & File access

```
#!/usr/bin/env nextflow
     nextflow.enable.dsl=2
     data = Channel.fromPath("data/pops/YRI.bim")
     process see {
         publishDir "count out", overwrite:true, mode:'move'
         echo true
         input:
         path(bim)
         output:
         path(count)
         ...
         hostname
         echo "Path is \$( pwd )\n "
19
         echo "Parent directory has \$( ls .. )\n"
20
         echo "Mv home directory has \$( ls /home/phele )\n"
21
         wc -l ${bim} > count
         1 c
         . . .
24
25
26
     workflow {
27
         see(data)
28
```

```
N F X T F L O W ~ version 0.21.2
Launching show env.nf
[warm up] executor > local
[94/597f09] Submitted process > see (1)
89ad448ae0h2
Path is /home/scott/witsGWAS/dockerized/work/94/597f09ca6cc01c7be
Parent directory has 597f09ca6cc01c7be
My home directory has witsGWAS
VRT him
count
```

Neytflow and Docker 000000000

Directory & File access

Note that although the script's pwd shows: /home/scott/witsGWAS/dockerized/work/94/597f09ca6cc01c7be

- Only these specific directories are mounted
- Only the files in the innermost directory are available

Any absolute paths (other than those used in staging) will result in error.

Profiles

In nextflow.config

```
profiles {
    ...
docker {
    process.container = 'quay.io/banshee1221/h3agwas-plink:latest'
    docker.enabled = true
}
}
```

Now can run as:

```
nextflow run gwas.nf -profile docker
```

This can be extended in many ways

- Different processes can use different containers
- Can mount other host directories
- Can pass arbitrary Docker parameters



Executors

A Nextflow *executor* is the mechanism which Nexflow runs the code in each of the processes

• Default is local: process is run as a script

Many others

- PBS/Torque
- SLURM
- Amazon (AWS Batch)
- SGE (Sun Grid Engine)

Selecting an executor Annotating each process

- executor directive, e.g. executor 'pbs'
- resource constraints

Or, nextflow.config file

• either global or per-process

Nextflow on a cluster (HPC)

Running Nextflow on a cluster (HPC)

Script runs on the head node

- Nextflow uses the executor information to decide how the job should run
- Each process can be handled differently
- Nextflow submits each process to the job scheduler on your behalf (e.g, if using PBS/Torque, qsub is done)

Example

LACCULOI

Scheduler + Docker

Scheduler + Docker

```
process.container = 'quay.io/banshee1221/h3agwas-plink:latest'
docker.enabled = false

process {
    executor = 'pbs'
    queue = 'batch'
    scratch = true
    cpus = 5
    memory = '2GB'
}
```

Amazon EC2

Amazon EC2

Netflow has native support for EC2

- You need an account on EC2
- Image (AMI) with the appropriate support

Launch your code:

nextflow cloud create GenomeCloud -c 5

If successful, Nextflow will give you the name of the headnode of your cluster

- ssh into into it
- run Nextflow on it.

Afterwards shut down:

nextflow shutdown GenomeCloud