**Instructions to use Cheaha GPU Server for Deep Learning**

*Sai Sumana Narva*, *Da Yan* ([yanda@uab.edu](mailto:yanda@uab.edu))

**UAB Department of Computer Science**

**Step 1:** Login to Cheaha

* For Mac/Linux users:

ssh [[your\_Blazer\_ID]@cheaha.rc.uab.edu](mailto:username@cheaha.rc.uab.edu)

* For Windows users:

Using putty to log in

After typing your Blazer password, you will be on the Cheaha login server node login001

**Step 2:** Now we need to get another machine to run our deep learning job (**do not** use login001 to run or you will get warned by IT people). Use the following command to ask for a GPU server.

* srun --ntasks=4 --cpus-per-task=4 --mem-per-cpu=32000 --time=08:00:00 --partition=pascalnodes --job-name=JOB\_NAME --gres=gpu:4 --pty /bin/bash

You may change the green parts according to your need. You must ask for --mem-per-cpu=32000, as if it is small, you are very likely to get assigned somewhere with many users running their jobs.

Now, you should be assigned to a GPU node c0xxx

Note that you have a time limit of 08:00:00 hours here and you can request more; be sure to turn on TensorFlow’s checkpointing so you can recover the weight parameters from the latest checkpointed parameters next time to continue training.

You can bypass the time limit by directly ssh to c0xxx once you know such a host exists, but please do not do that as you will get warned by IT people.

**Step 3:** **If this is your first time using Cheaha GPU server (skip this step if you have done it before),** please follow the instructions below:

* echo ". /share/apps/rc/software/Anaconda3/5.2.0/etc/profile.d/conda.sh" >> ~/.bashrc
* echo "conda activate" >> ~/.bashrc
* source ~/.bashrc

This will set up your conda so that you can enter an conda environment using “conda activate” in the future.

Now we need to create a conda environment, let’s call it “deep”:

* git clone https://gitlab.rc.uab.edu/rc-data-science/horovod-environment.git /data/user/$USER/nbotw (--- download environment “nbotw” meaning ‘notebook of the time’ maintained by UAB IT)
* module load cuda10.0/toolkit (for using GPU)
* module load Anaconda3/5.2.0
* cd /data/user/$USER/nbotw
* conda env create -f nbotw.yml --name deep (--- this command copies “nbotw” into “deep”, it will take a while as it needs to install all packages into “deep”)

**Step 4:** Please make sure you have done Step 3. Now if you have set up your conda environment, say “deep”, as in Step 3, you can now enter the environment (*Note: if you just installed, we find that you may not be able to see GPUs unless you exit and restart from Step 1*):

* module load Anaconda3/5.2.0
* conda activate deep
* module load cuda10.0/toolkit

Now you entered your previously created environment “deep”.

**Step 5:** To confirm if GPU is being used user can start python and run the following commands:

* from tensorflow.python.client import device\_lib
* device\_lib.list\_local\_devices()

Make sure you see the GPUs, not just CPU.

**Step 6:** You may start Jupyter Notebook server on c0xxx by running the following commands

* unset XDG\_RUNTIME\_DIR
* jupyter notebook --no-browser --ip=$host

You should see Jupyter Notebook running and provide you an URL like:

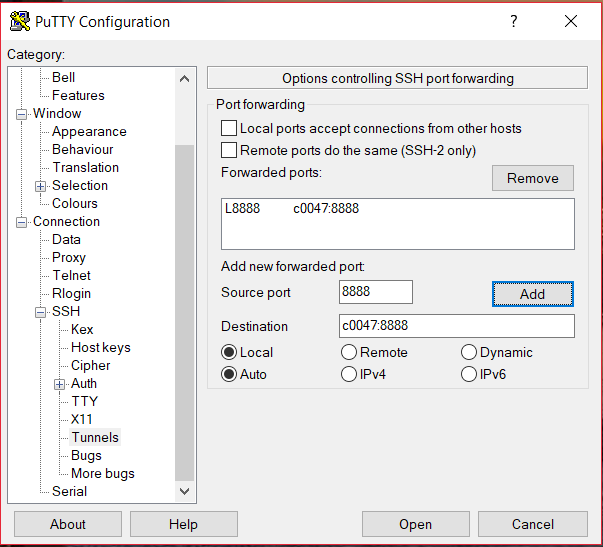
* <http://c0047:8888/?token=73da89e0eabdeb9d6dc1241a55754634d4e169357f60626c&token=73da89e0eabdeb7d6dc1241a55754634d4e169357f60626c>

Next, you want to use a browser in your local machine to connect to the Jupyter Notebook server. Run the following command on your local machine:

* For Mac/Linux users:
* ssh -L 88XX:c0XXX:88XX [[your\_Blazer\_ID]@cheaha.rc.uab.edu](mailto:username@cheaha.rc.uab.edu)

c00xx is the hostname of your assigned GPU server where you started Jupyter Notebook.

* For Windows users:



1

2

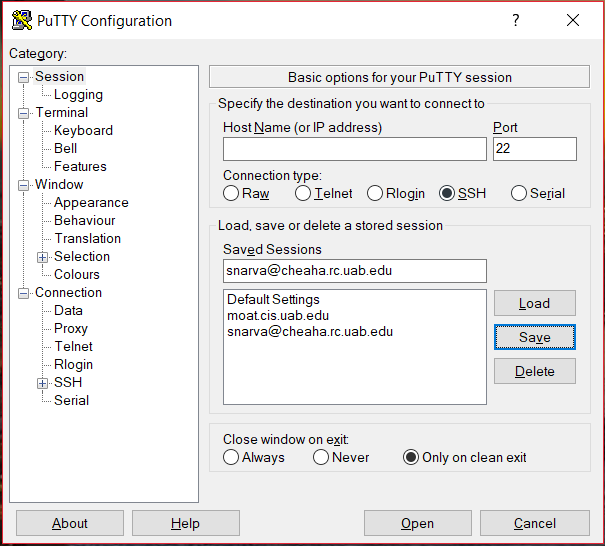
3

4

Open Tunnels on putty, enter the source port and destination hostname:port. Be sure to click the ADD button.

Now, go back to Session, click session [[your\_Blazer\_ID]@cheaha.rc.uab.edu](mailto:username@cheaha.rc.uab.edu), and then click the SAVE button.

Then log in by typing the hostname [[your\_Blazer\_ID]@cheaha.rc.uab.edu](mailto:username@cheaha.rc.uab.edu).



6

1

2

4

3

5 [blazer\_id]@cheaha.rc.uab.edu

Now you can open browser on local system and paste the URL returned by the Jupyter Notebook server by replacing the hostname of the server with localhost (i.e. localhost:8888 instead of c0047:8888).

**Step 7 (If you want to monitor your GPU usage):** open a new console and log in to Cheaha following Step 1. Then directly ssh to your previously assigned node c0xxx.

* ssh c0xxx

Now you are on c0xxx, run the following to monitor GPU usage

* module load cuda10.0/toolkit
* watch nvidia-smi

Run command “exit” to end the ssh session when done.