Outline of this course

• Computer architecture: laptops/desktops, workstations, servers, cloud and HPC
• Available HPC facilities: getting an account, creating a project
• Connecting to a server, cloud and/or HPC system
• The Linux command line and the Bash shell
• Working with directories and files
• Redirecting standard input, output and error
• Creating, editing and running script files
• Submitting jobs to a HPC cluster, controlling jobs, querying job status

This is *your* course, so ask questions!
“High performance computing (HPC) is the use of large-scale, off-site computers and parallel processing techniques for solving complex computational problems… HPC is typically used for solving advanced problems and performing research activities through computer modelling, simulation and analysis…”

— Intersect Australia

http://www.intersect.org.au/time/supercomputing
Computer architecture: desktops, laptops...

Typical standard PC architecture:

• One processor (CPU)
• DRAM memory
• One graphics processor (GPU)
• Storage: hard drive(s), SSD(s)
• Keyboard
• Display screen: LCD
• Network: GbE
• Other peripherals, power supply, cooling
Computer architecture: workstations

Typical workstation architecture:
• One or two processors (CPU)
• DRAM memory (with ECC)
• One or more GPUs
• Storage: hard drives, SSDs
• Keyboard
• Display screen: LCD
• Network: GbE, 10GbE
• Other peripherals, power supply, cooling
Computer architecture: servers

Typical server architecture:

- One to four processors (CPU)
- DRAM memory (with ECC)
- One or more GPUs (optional)
- Storage: hard drives, SSDs
- Network: GbE, 10GbE
- Power supply, cooling
- Access is almost always via network ports using TCP/IP Internet protocols
Computer architecture: cloud servers

Typical cloud server architecture:

• Standard server architecture

• **Hypervisor software** creates the illusion of multiple individual (virtual) servers

• Virtual servers are usually independent, non-cooperating

• Allows for virtual server migration

• Excellent for interactive processes

• Not “bare metal”: run ~10-15% slower than physical hardware
Computer architecture: HPC

Massively Parallel Distributed Computational Clusters

- Many individual cooperating servers ("nodes"): dozens to tens of thousands
- Multiple processors per node: between 8 and 64 cores
- Interconnected by fast networks: 10Gb, 56Gb, 100Gb+
- Fast networks optimised for interprocess communications, often MPI (Message Passing Interface) using InfiniBand using fat-tree or similar networks
- Almost without exception run Linux, often CentOS 7 or later

Image credit: John Zaitseff, UNSW
Computer architecture: simple HPC

- Compute nodes 1, 2, …, n
- Internal network switch
- Storage nodes
- Disks
- Head node
- Login node(s)
- Data Mover node(s)
- SSH
Computer architecture: more complex HPC

- Compute nodes 1, 2, …, n
- Internal network switches (e.g., for MPI, storage)
- Head node
- Login nodes
- Data Mover nodes
- Admin node(s)
- Storage nodes
- Disks
- SSH
The Katana cluster: katana.unsw.edu.au

For staff and students at UNSW Sydney:

• 149 × Dell, Lenovo and Huawei server nodes (various models)
  – Head/login nodes: katana (katana1, katana2 and katana3)
  – Compute nodes: k001 to k255 (not all nodes present)
• 4904 × Intel Xeon processor cores (various models)
  – Mostly two physical processors per node
  – 16–80 × CPU cores per physical processor
• 36.5 TB of main memory (128–1536 GB per node)
• Over 2 PB of storage (and growing)
• 10Gb Ethernet + 100Gb Infiniband network interconnect
• Currently uses a “buy-in” scheme: ~$15k per node
• Ideal for beginner and intermediate HPC users

https://research.unsw.edu.au/katana
The Gadi cluster: gadi.nci.org.au

For researchers across Australia (national facilities):

• 3074 × compute server nodes
• 155,000 × Intel Xeon Cascade Lake and some older Broadwell and Skylake processor cores
• 50 × compute nodes with 1536 GB of memory
• 640 × NVIDIA Tesla V100 GPU coprocessors
• Over 567 TB of main memory
• Over 62 PB of storage
• 200Gb Infiniband network in Dragonfly+ topology
• High-speed DDN Lustre parallel file system
• Ideal for intermediate and advanced HPC users

Why learn Linux?

- To use High Performance Computing, you need to know how to use Linux
- Every single Top500 HPC system in the world uses Linux (see https://www.top500.org/). So does almost every other HPC system in the world—as well as cloud, workstations…

**Why?** “Linux is efficient, well-understood, battle-tested. It *works* and it’s free.” — Steve R. Hastings, *Why is Linux the preferred OS for supercomputers?*

- **Scalable:** from mobile phones to the Fugaku HPC system in Japan with 7,630,848 processor cores (422 Pflop/s, 29.9 MW)… and everything in-between
- **Free Software / Open Source:** full source code provided with permission to modify and redistribute (you can fix it yourself)
- **Based on the principles of Unix:** in use since 1969, encouraging minimalist, modular, extensible software development
“But Linux is hard!”

- Desktops/laptops with Linux do have nice graphical user interfaces (KDE, Gnome, …)
- HPC systems normally use the Linux command line

Why? **Scriptable:** the ability to automate tasks


1. Write programs that do one thing and do it well.
2. Write programs to work together.
3. Write programs to handle text streams, because that is a universal interface.

**Analogy:** Linux provides you with the tools you need to build a house, skyscraper, shack…
An easy-to-use interface on Katana

Katana On Demand

• For jobs “just a bit bigger” than your desktop/laptop

• For graphical interactive jobs
  – “Quick and dirty” testing
  – Setting up for a longer job (e.g., Ansys/Fluent/CFX meshes)

• Uses your web browser: go to https://kod.restech.unsw.edu.au/

• If not on campus, requires using the UNSW Virtual Private Network at https://vpn.unsw.edu.au/
An easy-to-use interface on Katana

Available applications

• Ansys Workbench
• COMSOL
• Matlab
• ParaView
• Jupyter Notebook
• RStudio Server
• File browser
• Command line

This list is growing!
Using Katana On Demand shell access

Try it now:

• Make sure you are connected to the UNSW VPN (https://vpn.unsw.edu.au/)
• Open your web browser to Katana On Demand (https://kod.restech.unsw.edu.au/)
• Log in using your zID and zPass
• From the menu at the top of the page, select Clusters, then Katana shell access
• You will get a command line prompt: something like z9693022@katana1:~ $ 
• Press Ctrl and = (Equals) to increase the font size, Ctrl and – (Minus) to decrease it
• To exit, type exit and press ENTER
Some common questions

• Why does my browser refuse to connect to Katana On Demand (KOD)?
  – You need to be connected to the UNSW VPN ([https://vpn.unsw.edu.au/](https://vpn.unsw.edu.au/))

• Why do I get “Your username and/or password do not match” from KOD?
  – You may be typing your zID and/or zPass incorrectly
  – You must apply for a Katana account before you can use KOD

• Why don’t I get a green prompt like that in the screenshot?
  – This is part of a custom setup created by John Zaitseff, which you can also use

(Optional) Try it now (but please read the comments after “#”):

```bash
source ~z9693022/.bashrc  # ... to get a green prompt temporarily (until exit)
cp -p ~z9693022/.bashrc ~  # ... to get John’s custom setup permanently
```
Connecting to a HPC system directly

Use the **Secure Shell** protocol (SSH):

- **Under Linux or macOS:**
  - Open a terminal and type: `ssh username@hostname`
    (for example, `ssh z1234567@katana.restech.unsw.edu.au`)

- **Under Windows:**
  - Use **PuTTY**: can be downloaded from [https://www.putty.org/](https://www.putty.org/)
  - Start PuTTY, select Window » Appearance on left-hand side, change the font to **Consolas, Regular**, size 16
  - Can also use **MobaXterm** ([https://mobaxterm.mobatek.net/](https://mobaxterm.mobatek.net/)) but check licensing
  - Under Windows 10, can use SSH under **Windows Subsystem for Linux** (WSL)
  - Can also install **Cygwin**: “that Linux feeling on Windows” ([https://www.cygwin.com/](https://www.cygwin.com/))
Connecting to a HPC system directly

Try it now:

- If you are running Windows, start PuTTY
- Specify Host Name as **katana.restech.unsw.edu.au**
- Select Window » Appearance on left-hand side, click Change, change the font to **Consolas, Regular**, size **16**, click OK
- Click Open
- At the “login as:” prompt, enter your zID (e.g., z1234567), press ENTER, then enter the password (nothing will be shown) and press ENTER again
- You will get a command line prompt: something like **z9693022@katana1:** $  
- To exit, type **exit** and press ENTER
Typing in commands

• Use the keyboard to enter commands

• Commands consist of:
  – the program name (which command to run)
  – command line arguments (optionally in quotes)
    each of which must be separated by one or more spaces

• Commands and arguments are case-sensitive!

Examples:

```
ls /apps                           — command “ls”, argument “/apps”
~z9693022/bin/cmdline a1 a2       — command “~z9693022/bin/cmdline”, 2 arguments
~z9693022/bin/cmdline a1 a2 "a3 with spaces" — command with 3 arguments
```
Command line options

- Many commands (programs) have optional command line options
- By convention, command line options appear as the first argument(s)
- Two forms of options: long options and short-form options
- Long options start with two hyphens, “--”, followed by a word
- Short-form options start with one hyphen, “-”, followed by one letter or digit
- By convention, short-form options can be combined, usually in any order: options in “ls -a -l -F” can be combined as “ls --allF” or “ls --format=long” or…
- Most (but not all!) short-form options have a corresponding long option: “ls -a” is the same as “ls --all”, but “ls -l” is “ls --format=long”
- Some options have arguments, some of which may be optional: “tail -n 20 myfile” or “tail --lines=20 myfile”
- Many, many inconsistencies after almost 50 years of Unix history!
Getting help

How to remember all the command line options and parameters to commands? Don’t try!

- For a brief summary of command line options, try “command --help”
- For some (Bash shell built-in) commands, try “help command”
- For a full explanation, try “man command”
- For some commands, try “pinfo command”
- To quit the man or pinfo commands, press “q” (the Q key, no need to press ENTER)
- To search for a keyword in the Unix manual: “man -k keyword”
- Conventions: [] indicate optional arguments, italics indicate replaceable parameters
- Remember, “Google is your friend!” 😊
Some simple commands with help

Try it now:

- `cd ~z9693022/src/trader-7.16` # Change directory to ~z9693022/src/trader-7.16
- `ls` # List the contents of the directory
- `cd src; ls` # Multiple commands on one line, separated by “;”
- `pwd` # Comments start with “#”, no need to type them in!

- `ls --help` # Over five pages of summary information!
- `cd --help` # Does this work?
- `help cd` # But this does…
- `man ls` # SPACE or PGDN to go to the next page, “q” to quit
- `pinfo coreutils` # Remember: “q” to quit

- `ls -a -l` # “-a”: also list files starting with “.”; “-l”: list using a more detailed format
- `ls -al` # Combining command line options…
- `ls --all -l` # Mixing long and short-form options
Directories and files: paths and pathnames

• Files and directories are organised into a single hierarchical tree structure
• The top of the tree is called the root directory (root), and is denoted as / (slash)
• Directories are containers (or folders) for files and directories

Example: (partial tree only)
Absolute pathnames

- Any file or directory can be uniquely represented as an *absolute pathname*:
  - gives the full name of the file or directory
  - starts with the root “/” and lists each directory along the way
  - has a “/” to separate each *path* (or *pathname*) component

Example:

```
Directory /apps/matlab/2020b
```
Relative pathnames

• When a program (command) is running, it is called a process.
• Every process has a *current working directory* or *current directory* (“the directory I am currently in”).
• When you log in, the system sets your current working directory to your *home directory*, something like `/home/z9693022` or `/home/561/jjz561` (highly system dependent).
• Any process can change its current working directory (“cd directory”) at any time.
• A *relative pathname* points to a path relative to the current directory.
  – does *not* start with “/”
  – path components are still separated with slashes “/”
• Current directory is denoted by “.” (dot)
• The directory above the current one (parent directory) is denoted by “..” (dot-dot)
• Relative pathnames often just contain a filename with no directories (i.e., no slashes “/”).
Examples of relative pathnames

- Assume current directory is `/home/z9693022/src/trader-7.16`:
  
  - README → `/home/z9693022/src/trader-7.16/README`
  - `src/trader.c` → `/home/z9693022/src/trader-7.16/src/trader.c`
  - `../trader-7.16.tar.xz` → `/home/z9693022/src/trader-7.16.tar.xz`
  - `src/..../README` → `/home/z9693022/src/trader-7.16/README`
  - `.README` → `/home/z9693022/src/trader-7.16/README`
Important directories

- Home directory (system dependent): on Katana, `/home/zID`
- Binary directories for utility programs:
  - `/usr/bin` — for essential utilities and some applications
  - `/usr/local/bin` — for local utilities and applications
  - `/home/zID/bin` — for your own utilities
- On Katana, scratch directory for temporary files: `/srv/scratch/zID`
- On Katana, applications: `/apps`
- On Katana, module files: `/apps/modules`

Note synonyms: *path, pathname, filename*
More with pathnames

• To change directories: “\texttt{cd dir}”

• To change to your home directory: “\texttt{cd \sim}” or “\texttt{cd} (by itself)

• To get current working directory: “\texttt{pwd}”

• To list files in a directory: “\texttt{ls}”

• In full, using Unix conventions: “\texttt{ls [options] [pathname \ldots]}”

• Some options for \texttt{ls}:
  – “\texttt{-a}” for \textit{all} files, including those starting with “.\texttt{”}
  – “\texttt{-l}” (lowercase letter L) for \textit{long} (detailed) listing

• To show the directory tree structure: “\texttt{tree}”, “\texttt{tree -d}” (show directories only)

• To view a file page by page: “\texttt{less filename}”, “\texttt{q}” to quit, “\texttt{h}” for help
Playing with pathnames

Try it now:

```
cd ~z9693022/src/trader-7.16  # Change directory to ~z9693022/src/trader-7.16
pwd  # Should show “/home/z9693022/src/trader-7.16”
ls  # List the contents of the directory
ls -al  # List the contents of the directory (all files, long format)
tree -d .  # Show the directory tree structure starting from “.”
```

```
ls -l README  # Look at the listing details for README
ls -l src/README  # Is it the same as src/README?
cd src  # Now change to src subdirectory
pwd  # Should show “/home/z9693022/src/trader-7.16/src”
ls -l README  # Are the details the same as the previous “ls -l” line?
ls -l ../README  # And which README are we referring to now?
cd ..  # Now change to the parent directory
pwd  # Should show “/home/z9693022/src/trader-7.16” again
```
The Bourne Again (Bash) shell

• Official manual page entry ("man bash"): 
  Bash is an sh-compatible command language interpreter that executes commands read from 
  the standard input or from a file. Bash also incorporates useful features from the Korn and C 
  shells (ksh and csh).

  Bash is intended to be a conformant implementation of the Shell and Utilities portion of the 
  IEEE POSIX specification (IEEE Standard 1003.1). Bash can be configured to be POSIX- 
  conformant by default.

• Interprets your typed commands and executes them
• Just another Linux program: nothing special about it!
• By default, started by the system when you log in
• You can then start another shell, if you like (e.g., ksh, tcsh, even python)
• You can start a subshell by running “bash”
• To exit a subshell (or the main shell): “exit”
Some features of Bash

• Powerful command line facilities (shortcuts) to make life easier for you:
  – Tab completion (press the TAB key to complete commands and pathnames, TAB TAB to list all possibilities)
  – Command line editing: try ↑ (Up-Arrow) to recall previous commands, CTRL-R (C-R or ^R) to search for previous commands, ← and → to move along current command line

• A full programming and scripting language:
  – Variables and arrays
  – Loops (for; while; until), control statements (if … then … else; case)
  – Functions and coprocesses
  – Text processing (“expansion” and “parameter substitution”)
  – Simple arithmetic calculations
  – Input/output redirection (e.g., redirect output to different files)
  – Much, much more! (The man page runs to over 5,900 lines)
File and directory patterns

• The Bash shell *interprets* certain characters in the command line by replacing them with matching pathnames
• Called *pathname expansion*, *pattern matching*, *wildcards* or *globbing*
• This globbing is a feature of the Bash shell, *not* the operating system itself
• At the start of a filename: “~” is replaced with your home directory, “~user” is replaced with the home directory of user user.
• For existing pathnames: “*” matches any string, “?” matches any single character, “[abc]” matches any one of the enclosed characters (in this case, “a”, “b” or “c”)
• Glob patterns “*”, “?” and “[…]” only match existing pathnames
• Even for pathnames that do *not* exist: “{alt1,alt2,…}” lists alternatives, “{n..m}” lists all numbers between n and m, “{n..m..s}” from n to m in steps of s
  – Technically called *brace expansion*
Playing with pathname expansion

Try it now:

```
cd ~z9693022/src/trader-7.16/src
alias z=~z9693022/bin/cmdline

z arg1 arg2
# Show how arguments arg1 and arg2 are passed to programs
z arg1 "arg2 with space"
# Bash handles the quoting characters, too
z ~
# Show how Bash expands “~”
z ~z9693022
# … and for user z9693022’s home directory

z *c
# Show how Bash expands “*c”: all filenames ending in “c”
z ????.c
# … all filenames six characters long (4 + “.c”) ending in “.c”
z M*m
# … all filenames starting with “M” and ending with “m”
z [it]*
# … all filenames starting with either “i” or “t”
z ../lib/uni*
# … all filenames in ../lib starting with “uni”
z ../*//*.c
# What does this do?
```
Playing with brace expansion

Try it now:

```
cd ~z9693022/src/trader-7.16/src
alias z=~z9693022/bin/cmdline  # Make a temporary shortcut “z” to the cmdline script

ls test-*  # “No such file or directory”
z test-*  # What is passed as argument 1?
z test-{one,two,three}  # What three arguments does Bash expand this to?
z somedir/{one,two,three} # … and this?

z test-{1..100}  # Expand to “test-1”, “test-2”, …, “test-100”
z test-{001..100}  # … with zero-padding
z test-{1..100..3}  # … by steps of three
z test-{100..1..-3}  # … by steps of negative three
```
Naming files and directories

- Linux allows any characters in filenames except “/” and the NUL byte
- You may create filenames with “weird” characters in them:
  - spaces and tabs
  - starting with “-”: conflicts with command line options
  - question marks “?”, asterisks “*”, brackets and braces
  - other characters with special meanings: “!”,”$”, “&”, “#”, “"”, etc.
- Just because you can does not mean you should!
- To match such files: use the glob characters “*” and “?”
- Linux file systems are case-sensitive: README.TXT is different from readme.txt, which is different from Readme.txt and ReadMe.txt!
- File type suffixes (e.g., “.txt”) are optional but recommended
- Filenames starting with “.” are usually hidden from globs and ls output

Recommendation: Use “a” to “z”, “A” to “Z”, “0” to “9”, “-”, “_” and “.” only.
Managing directories

• To create a directory: “mkdir dir ...”
• To create intermediate directories as well: “mkdir -p dir ...”
• To remove an empty directory: “rm dir ...”

Try it now:

```
cd; ls  # Change to your home directory and list its contents (should be empty)
mkdir test1  # Create the directory test1
cd test1  # ... and change to it
mkdir sub{1,2,3}  # What does this do?
mkdir ../test2  # Where is the directory test2 created?
cd ../test2  # Change to it
mkdir sub{04..10}  # How to make lots of subdirectories in one go!
cd ~  # Go back to the home directory
tree -d  # What does the directory tree structure look like?
```
Managing files

- To output one or more file’s contents: “cat filename ...”
- To view one or more files page by page: “less filename ...”
- To copy one file: “cp source destination”
- To copy one or more files to a directory: “cp filename ... dir”
- To preserve the “last modified” time-stamp: “cp -p”
- To copy recursively: “cp -pr source destination”
- To move one or more files to a different directory: “mv filename ... dir”
- To rename a file or directory: “mv oldname newname”
- To remove files: “rm filename ...”

Recommendation: use “ls filename ...” before rm or mv: what happens if you accidentally type “rm *”? or “rm * .c”? (note the space!)
Managing files and directories

- To copy whole directory trees: “cp -pr filename ... destination”

- To copy to and from another Linux or macOS system (e.g., from Katana to Gadi), use Secure Copy: `scp [-p -r] source ... destination`
  
  - Either source or destination (but not both) can contain a remote system identifier followed by a colon: “[user@]hostname:”

- Can use `rsync`: “rsync -vauSH [--delete][--dry-run] srcdir/ destdir/”
  
  - Powerful command but tricky! Note the trailing “/” on the directory arguments

Examples: (remember, don’t type in the examples!)

  `cp -pr ~z9693022/src/trader-7.16 .`
  `scp -p ~/file1.txt jjz561@gadi.nci.org.au:file2.txt`
  `scp -p john@zap.org.au:src/README .`
  `rsync -vauSH --delete ~/src/ jjz561@gadi.nci.org.au:~/src-unsw/`
Playing with pathname expansion

Try it now:

```bash
cd ~; mkdir src; cd src

cp -pr ~z9693022/src/trader-7.16 . # Copy directories recursively to “.” (current directory)
cd trader-7.16 # Change to the newly copied directory
cat build-aux/bootstrap # Display the contents of this file
ls */*.c # List all files matching “*/*.c”
rm */*.c # … and then remove them!
ls */*.c # What happens now?

mv README my-new-filename # Rename the README file
cp INSTALL new # Make a copy of INSTALL and call it “new”
lst -l INSTALL new # What is the difference between the listings?
cp -p INSTALL same # Copy INSTALL, preserving time-stamps
ls -l INSTALL same # Verify the two files have the same date and time
```
Transferring files to the outside world

• To copy files to another Linux or macOS system: use “scp” or “rsync”
  – same as within a HPC/Linux system

• To copy files to and from a Windows machine: use WinSCP, FileZilla, or “scp” or “rsync” under Windows Subsystem for Linux or Cygwin
  – WinSCP may be downloaded from https://winscp.net/eng/index.php
  – FileZilla may be downloaded from https://filezilla-project.org/
  – both of these programs use a “drag-and-drop” graphical interface
  – the MobaXterm client (https://mobaxterm.mobatek.net/) has a built-in Secure Copy interface as well
More Linux commands

- What machine am I on? “hostname”
- What is the date and time? “date”
- What files contains a particular string? “grep 'pattern' filename ...”
- What is the difference between two files? “diff [-u] file1 file2”
- How do I rename multiple files at once? “rename” or “prename”
- Where is a file named filename? “find dir ... -name filename”
- How big is a file or directory? “du -h [filename ...]”
- How much space is available in a directory? “df -h [dir ...]”
- How much disk quota do I have? On Katana, “disk-usage”, on Gadi “lquota” or (on other systems) “quota” or “quota -s”
  - On Katana: quota for your home directory is 10.0 GB
Everything is a file

• Every process (running program) can read from or write to any file
  – process must have appropriate read or write permissions!
  – data files, configuration files, pathnames passed on the command line, …
• Three files are automatically opened for each process:
  – standard input (`stdin`)
  – standard output (`stdout`)
  – standard error (`stderr`)

In Unix, everything is a file!

• Keyboard and screen are represented by the file `/dev/tty`; use CTRL-D to signify the end of input
• Some other special files: `/dev/null` (an empty file), `/dev/zero` (an infinite number of binary zeros—will use up your disk quota in a hurry!)
Redirecting input and output

• Standard input, standard output and standard error can be redirected to/from a file or even piped to another program
• To redirect output to filename, use “>filename”
• To append output to filename, use “>>filename”
• To redirect input from filename, use “<filename”
• To connect the output from one program to the input of another (a pipe), use “program1 | program2”
• To redirect output to filename and the screen, use “| tee filename”
• Multiple pipes are allowed: “program1 | program2 | ... | programn”
• Output of a process can be substituted into a command line: “$(commandline)”
• Many Unix programs are designed to be used in this way, as filters
Playing with file redirection

Try it now:

```
cd ~z9693022/src/trader-7.16

ls > ~/dir-list1  # Redirect the output of ls to ~/dir-list1
cat ~/dir-list1   # Show what is in that file
ls src >> ~/dir-list1  # Append the output of “ls src” to ~/dir-list1
cat ~/dir-list1  # What does the file contain now?
wc -l < ~/dir-list1  # Run “wc -l” (count lines in a file), but use ~/dir-list1 instead
                    # of /dev/tty (the keyboard), the default stdin file

cat ~/dir-list1 | wc -l  # Use a pipe from cat to wc (output of cat becomes input of wc)

ls -l /usr/bin | grep Oct  # Which files were last modified in October?
ls -l /usr/bin | grep Oct | sort -nk5  # … numerically sorted by the file size (5th field)
```
Simple scripting

• Shell scripts are just files containing a list of commands to be executed
• First line (“magic identifier”) must be “#!/bin/bash”
• Comments are introduced with “#”
• The script file must be made executable: “chmod a+x filename”

Variables:

• To set a variable, use “varname=value” (no spaces!)
• To use a variable, use “$varname” or “${varname}”
• Variable names start with a letter, may contain letters, numbers and “_”
• Variable names are case-sensitive (as with most things Unix)
Simple scripting, continued

For loops:

```bash
for varname in list ...; do
    process using ${varname}
done
```

Control statements (multiple “elif” allowed; “elif” and “else” clauses are optional):

```bash
if [ comparison ]; then
    # Use literal “[” and “]” characters
    if-true statements
elif [ second-comparison ]; then
    if-second-true statements
else
    if-false statements
fi
```
Simple scripting, continued

While loops:

   while [ comparison ]; do
      while-true statements
   done

Until loops:

   until [ comparison ]; do
      while-false statements
   done

Examples of comparisons:

- string1 = string2 — strings string1 and string2 are equal
- number1 -lt number2 — number1 is less than number2
- file1 -nt file2 — file1 (e.g., a data file) is newer than file2 (e.g., output file)

   - See the manual page for test (“man test”) for more information
Simple scripting, continued

Functions:

```bash
funcname () {
    body of function, parameters are accessed using $1, $2, ...
}
```

– Called using “`funcname arg1 arg2 ...`” within the script

• Many, many other programming features available!
• Read the reference and manual pages: “`pinfo bash`”; “`man bash`”
• Some books:
Editing files under Linux

- Use an editor to edit text files
- Many choices, leading to “religious wars”!
- Some options: GNU Emacs, Vim, Nano
- Nano is very simple to use: “nano filename”
  - CTRL-X to exit (you will be asked to save any changes on the bottom of the screen)
- GNU Emacs and Vim are highly customisable and programmable
  - For example, see the file ~z9693022/.emacs on Katana — currently over 2500 lines
Creating your first script

Try it now:

```bash
mkdir ~/ex1; cd ~/ex1
nano ./script1
```

# Create the ~/ex1 directory and change into it
# Start the Nano text editor with the file script1

Enter the following text:

```bash
#!/bin/bash
echo "I am user $(whoami), running on $(hostname)"
echo "Dates and times:"
date # Print the date and time
sleep 30 # Do nothing for 30 seconds
date # Do it again
```

Press CTRL-X to save the file and exit the editor (follow the prompts on the bottom of the screen), then:

```bash
chmod a+x ./script1
./script1
```

# Make script1 executable
# Execute the script! (Note the use of “./”)
A script with loops

Try it now:

```
qsub -I  # After pressing ENTER, wait about 5 minutes until
        # a new command line prompt is printed
mkdir ~/ex2; cd ~/ex2  # Create and change to ~/ex2
cp -p ~/z9693022/doc/hpc-tutorial/examples/make-matlab-scripts .  # Don't forget the trailing ".
less ./make-matlab-scripts  # Examine the make-matlab-scripts script
./make-matlab-scripts  # Run the make-matlab-scripts script
```

Answer the following questions:

1. What does the `make-matlab-scripts` do?
2. How does it do it?
3. What files are generated by the script? Hint: use the `ls` command
4. What type of files are they? (Data files, programs, input files, …)

Once you have answered these questions, type "exit" and press ENTER
Applications on the cluster

- Applications are managed using the *module system*
- On Katana, applications are stored in */apps*
- On Katana, module files are stored in */apps/modules*
- Module files set shell environment variables such as *PATH*
- *PATH* controls where applications are searched (the *search path)*
- To see available applications: “*module avail [application]*”
- To see currently loaded applications: “*module list*”
- To load an application: “*module load application[/version]*”
- To unload an application: “*module unload application[/version]*”
Seeing the applications

Try it now:

```bash
module avail
# What applications are available?
module list
# What applications are currently loaded?

echo $PATH
# See the current value of the PATH variable
module load matlab/2020b
# Set the PATH to include Matlab 2020b
echo $PATH
# What does PATH look like now?
module unload matlab/2020b
# We don’t want to use Matlab 2020b any more…
echo $PATH
# PATH no longer contains the Matlab directory
```
HPC architecture revisited

- Compute nodes 1, 2, …, n
- Internal network switch
- Runs the PBS scheduler
- Storage nodes
- Disks
- Head node
- Login node(s)
- Data Mover node(s)
- SSH

We've been running jobs (scripts, programs) on a login node: a bad idea!
Submitting jobs to the cluster

• To submit a job to the cluster compute nodes:
  – Create a shell script file as per normal
  – Add #PBS directives as required directly after “#!/bin/bash”
    (These look like shell comments, but are interpreted by the PBS scheduler)
  – Add “cd $PBS_O_WORKDIR” after the #PBS directives
  – Execute “qsub ./scriptfile”
  – Wait for the job to run, checking its status as required

• **Warning:** If you have not submitted a job using qsub (or equivalents such as sbatch on other systems), you are almost certainly running your job on a login node!

• Running jobs on login nodes bypasses the power of the HPC cluster
Common PBS directives

• Some common #PBS directives on Katana (see https://unsw-restech.github.io/, “man qsub” and “man pbs_resources” for full details); many options have reasonable defaults:
  
  - #PBS -N scriptname — Set a name for the script
  - #PBS -l select=n:ncpus=m:mem=sizeGB — Request $n$ compute nodes with $m$ processor cores and $size$ memory in GB in each
  - #PBS -l walltime=hh:mm:ss — How much time is required for running the job
  - #PBS -M email — Send notifications to the email address
  - #PBS -m abe — What notifications to send by email
  - #PBS -j oe — Join standard output and standard error into a single file instead of creating two files
Checking your job status

• Submit your jobs using “qsub”
  – You will be given a job identifier: save this somewhere

• Check job and queue status: “qstat [jobid] [-u zID]”

• Check status of each node on Katana: “pstat | less -S”

• Many systems have an overall system status page
  – On Gadi, the live status page is https://nci.org.au/our-systems/status

Try it now: view the Gadi live status page.
Managing your jobs

• To see jobs belonging to you: “qstat -u $USER”

• To delete a queued job (whether running or not): “qdel jobid ...”

• To modify the resources of a job in the queue: “qalter options jobid ...”

• To place a job on hold: “qhold jobid ...”

• To release a job currently on hold: “qrls jobid ...”

• To rerun a job (kill it and then restart it): “qrerun jobid ...”

• To see the status of all nodes on Katana: “pstat | less -S”

  – The columns are node name, queue name (indicates nominal owner of the node), node state, number of processor cores used/total, memory used/total, and a list of jobs using that node * number of processor cores requested in each job.
Your first HPC job!

Try it now:

```bash
mkdir ~/ex3; cd ~/ex3  # Create and change to ~/ex3
cp ../ex1/script1 job1  # Copy script1 into job1
nano ./job1  # Start the Nano text editor with the file job1
```

Enter the following text directly after the “#!/bin/bash” line:

```bash
#PBS -M yourEmailAddress@unsw.edu.au
#PBS -m abe
#PBS -l walltime=00:05:00
#PBS -l select=1:ncpus=1:mem=1GB
cd $PBS_O_WORKDIR
```

Press CTRL-X to save the file and exit the editor (follow the prompts on the bottom of the screen), then:

```bash
qsub ./job1  # Submit the job to the cluster
qstat -u $USER  # Check the queue status (you may need to run this more than once)
# … but please wait at least half a minute before doing so!
```
Did my job finish successfully?

- If your job script contains the “#PBS -M email” directive, you will receive an email once your job starts and a second email once it finishes.
- Check `Exit_status` in the second email: it should be zero for a successful job.

**Example completion email:**

```
PBS Job Id: 1133074.kman.restech.unsw.edu.au
Job Name: job1
Execution terminated
Exit_status=0 — Successful job!
resources_used.cpupercent=0
resources_used.cput=00:00:00
resources_used.mem=2652kb
resources_used.ncpus=1
resources_used.vmem=2652kb
resources_used.walltime=00:00:31 — 31 seconds out of 5 mins requested
```
Where did my output go?

- PBS automatically redirect standard input, standard output and standard error:
  - standard input from /dev/null
  - standard output to script.ojobid
  - standard error to script.ejobid (should be empty for successful runs)

Try it now:

```
cd ~/ex3; ls  # What files are present?
less job1.e*  # View the error output (should be empty); remember: “q” to quit less
less job1.o*  # View the standard output
```

Answer the following questions:

1. What difference is there between the output of job1 and ../ex1/script1? Hint: “running on …”
2. What else appears in the standard output file?
3. How could you use this information for future runs of this job?
Running interactive jobs

- **Remember:** Running jobs on login nodes bypasses the power of the HPC cluster
- But running interactively is useful for debugging!
- Solution: Start an *interactive job*
  - Replace the script name with "-I"
  - For programs with a graphical user interface, use "-I -X" if you have an X11 server
  - Specify all **PBS** directives as command line options to "qsub":
    
    ```
    #PBS -l walltime=hh:mm:ss
      → "qsub ... -l walltime=hh:mm:ss ..."
    #PBS -l select=n:ncpus=m:mem=sizeGB
      → "qsub ... -l select=n:ncpus=m:mem=sizeGB ..."
    ...
    ```
Running interactively

Try it now:

```bash
cd ~/ex1
hostname  # Where am I running? *katana1–katana3* are login nodes
qsub -l walltime=0:10:00 -l select=1:ncpus=1:mem=4GB -I
  # Request an interactive job (you may need to wait)
```

Once a command line prompt appears:

```bash
hostname  # Where am I running now? *kNNN* is a compute node
./script1  # Run *./script1*, but now on a compute node
exit  # Finish the interactive job and return to the login node
```
Where to from here?

• Read the documentation for your HPC system:
  – Katana User Documentation:  https://unsw-restech.github.io/

• Talk to your colleagues and/or supervisor about how they use High Performance Computing: with permission, copy their scripts to get started

• Undertake additional training through Research Technology Training:
  – Over 50 free courses run every year!
  – Sign up at  https://research.unsw.edu.au/research-technology-training

• Come to Hacky Hour with your questions, problems with code, HPC, data and more:
  – Currently via  Microsoft Teams  every Thursday 3–4pm
Conclusion

You have begun your journey to using Linux and High Performance Computing effectively. Well done!

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Please fill out the following two-minute survey:

https://goo.gl/forms/vdZl1XHfXXebuFy1

Keep in contact:

https://restech.unsw.edu.au/
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