Scientific Workflows at scale using GNU Parallel

Ketan Maheshwari (km0@ornl.gov) Oak Ridge National Laboratory Tutorial presented at eScience 2023



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1 https://workflows.community

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Part 1: Overview and Logistics

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Overview: What shall we learn

- Familiarize with GNU Parallel features
- How to utilize HPC with GNU Parallel
 - Resource Management
 - Working with multicore architectures
- Running workflow tasks asynchronously
 - Data dependencies and Parallelism
- Strategies to run applications and production tasks with GNU Parallel

Slides and Practice Data for Download

• Slides and practice files available:

github.com/ketancmaheshwari/escience23tut

tinyurl.com/4v4b8pch



/data has data used for exercises.

/src has code discussed in the tutorial (except the one liners).

About You and Me

- Basic exposure to Linux is assumed but feel free to interrupt and ask questions
 - common commands, basic understanding of files and directories, process. eg. cd, ls, pwd, cat, date, seq
- About Me
 - Sr. Linux Engineer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory
 - Command line and Linux terminal enthusiast

About the Slides

- 8 Parts, each part has 4-10 slides
- Lots of examples in slides
- Summary and Practice Exercises We try to solve them here (if time permits)
- Solve it offline if we run out of time
- Plan to publish solutions around Nov 10, 2023, on Github



Part 2: Introduction to GNU Parallel

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What is GNU Parallel

- A terminal tool to parallelize processes
- Easy to install, highly configurable
- Well suited to run many single-core / single-thread tasks on:
 - Compute nodes leveraging multicore architectures
 - Bag of workstations such as testbeds
 - Works well with Resource Managers and Job Schedulers
- Mature (20 years old), Simple and Powerful!

Installation

```
    Download the latest version:
curl -s https://ftp.gnu.org/gnu/parallel/parallel-
latest.tar.bz2 -o parallel-latest.tar.bz2
```

```
• Untar and cd into it:
tar zxf parallel-latest.tar.bz2
cd parallel-20230822
```

```
• Install:
```

```
./configure --prefix=$HOME/parallel-install
make install  # needs libevent
```

```
    Set PATH and it is ready to go:
export PATH=$HOME/parallel-install/bin:$PATH
which parallel
```

Many sources for getting help

- link to youtube videos by Ole Tange: <u>www.pi.dk/1</u>
- <a>www.gnu.org/software/parallel/parallel_cheat.pdf
- Searching for "gnu parallel" on Hacker news, Reddit, Stack Exchange yields many helpful links

```
man parallel
```

man parallel_tutorial

parallel --help # summary of most imp options

```
parallel --max-line-length-allowed # max size of cmdline
```

```
parallel --number-of-cpus && parallel --number-of-cores
```

Anatomy of a GNU Parallel Command



Another Form of the same command



Aside1: Command line Navigation

MAC users: terminal pref > profile > keyboard settings > Use option as meta key



ctrl-] <char> moves cursor to 1st occurrence of <char> to right

ctrl-alt-] <char> moves cursor to 1st occurrence of <char> to left

Aside2: command line Deletion



use ctrl-y to paste back the deleted

GNU Parallel Alternatives

- xargs, make -j, find + exec, and others are often cited as alternatives
- A comparison is made and summaries available: gnu.org/software/parallel/parallel_alternatives.html
- An insightful read, though it may or may not be unbiased! ③



Part 3: Features and Examples - I

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Basic Syntax and Semantics

Triple colon: Run <command> in parallel for each of the input parameters: parallel [options] <command> ::: <args>

```
Quad colon: Run <command> in parallel for each line in input file; -a is alternative syntax to quad colon parallel [options] <command> :::: <input_file> parallel [options] -a <input_file> <command>
```

Semantics: Run <command1> in parallel for each line of the standard output from <command0> as arg

```
<command0> | parallel [options] <command1>
```

Examples

- Triple colon: parallel echo ::: {1..4} parallel du -h ::: */* May use -N0 when no commands have no arguments (still need to provide :::) parallel -N0 date ::: xyz
- Quadruple colon: parallel echo :::: /etc/passwd parallel -a /etc/passwd echo # same as above
- Another example of the pipe form:

```
find /somedir/subdir -iname '*.txt' -print | parallel echo
"File: "
```

Examples

• With multiple : : : all **combinations** will be generated **parallel echo** : : : A B C : : : 1 2 3

is equivalent to a nested for loop:

```
for i in A B C; do
  for j in 1 2 3; do
    echo $i $j
    done
done
```

--link to map the args 1:1:
 parallel --link echo ::: A B C ::: 1 2 3

Examples

• Use { [n] } to put nth set of arguments in multiple commands / args:

```
parallel "mkdir -p /tmp/dir.{1} ; fallocate -1 1K
/tmp/dir.{1}/file.{2}" ::: {1..4} ::: {a..d}
```

- Other patterns may be put in { } to treat args in special ways:

 {.} remove extension, eg. /tmp/afile.txt --> /tmp/afile
 {/} extracts just the filename, eg. /tmp/afile.txt --> afile.txt
 - {#} sequence number of the job
 - {%} slot number of the job

```
parallel echo "sequence {#} slot {%}" ::: {1..100}
parallel echo {2.} {1} ::: 1 2 ::: afile.txt bpic.png
```

Highly Configurable I

- --keep-order/-k will ensure the output order is preserved parallel -k "sleep {}; echo {}" ::: {5..1}
- --jobs/-j to control the job slots (limited by available cores)
 parallel -j 2 echo ::: 5 4 3 1 2
 0 means as many jobs as possible, default is all cores on a machine. May be provided as %. Silently ignores if value is greater than cores available.
- -N to limit the arguments received at a time parallel -N3 echo ::: {A..F}
 A B C
 D E F

Highly Configurable II

--timeout: kill a job if it takes more than a certain time (sec)
 parallel --timeout 1000 ./runtask ::: {1..100}

may be specified as a percentage value of the median runtime (<100% won't make sense) parallel --timeout 200% ./runtask ::: {1..100}

- --progress, --eta, --bar: show progress of a run, in terms of estimated time, tasks, nodes etc.
- --wd <dirlocation>: provide a working directory (cwd) for commands
- --dry-run: show what will run in standard output but will not run anything, very useful

Checkpoint and Resume

--joblog, --resume: Allows for monitoring progress, checkpointing
and resuming an interrupted / partially failed run

parallel -j 16 -N 100 --joblog /tmp/job.log --resume
gzip {} :::: filelist.txt

Additionally, --retry-failed (reads from log) and --resumefailed (resumes afresh) to try failed jobs again.

Saving Output in Files, Variables, Databases

- Outputs may be saved in files:
 parallel --files echo ::: A B C # will be saved in /tmp
- Saving output in CSV file: parallel --results my.csv echo ::: A B ::: C D
- Saving to an SQL database: DBURL=sqlite3://mydatabase; TABLE=\$DBURL/mytable parallel --sqlandworker \$TABLE echo ::: A B ::: C D
- Saving to shell variables:

 env_parallel --install # activate parset, restart shell
 parset myvar1,myvar2 -j2 echo ::: a b
 echo \$myvar1 \$myvar2

Config Profiles I

Specific configuration profiles may be saved in files and used in combinations:
 /etc/parallel/config for systemwide configuration
 ~/.parallel/config for user-level configuration which will override systemwide:

```
$ cat ~/.parallel/savesql
--sqlandworker sqlite3://user:passwd@host:9900/mydatabase/mytable
-N256
```

parallel --profile savesql <analytics_process> ::: <1m args>

Multiple Config Profiles may be used together

- cat ~/.parallel/benice
 - --nice 17
 - -N100
 - --timeout 300%
- cat ~/.parallel/dryv
 - --vv # useful when used with ssh
 - --dry-run
- parallel --profile benice --profile dryv <heavy_process> :::
 <args>

Part 4: Features and Examples - II

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Resource Management

- --load: To avoid overloading systems, look at the load before starting another job.
 parallel --load 100% echo ::: "Load less than 1 job per CPU"
- --noswap: Check if the system is swapping and run only when not. parallel --noswap echo ::: "System is not swapping now"
- --memfree: Run only when enough memory is free.
 parallel --memfree 1G --retries 5 echo ::: "1G is free now."
 note: max memory is the "available" on the **free** command
- --delay <x.y> adds x.y sec delay in dispatching tasks to prevent overwhelming the system

Combine Data and GNU Parallel in One Script

• With the --shebang flag like so: #!/usr/bin/parallel --shebang -r echo

data_item1 data_item2 data_item3

 Parallelize existing scripts with --shebang-wrap #!/usr/bin/parallel --shebang-wrap /bin/bash echo "Arguments \$@"

```
chmod u+x parbash.sh
./parbash.sh 1 2 3
```

Working with Remote Systems over SSH

• General Syntax:

parallel -S server1, server2 commands flags ::: args

- Example: parallel -S u@vm1.org,u@vm2.org "hostname; echo {}" ::: foo bar --sshloginfile flag allows to read the remote ssh config from a file, eg. .ssh/config
- Remote ssh hosts may be divided into groups and jobs may be selectively run on them: parallel --hostgroup -S @grp1/\$server1 -S @grp2/\$server2 \
 - echo {} ::: run_on_grp1@grp1 run_on_grp2@grp2

GNU parallel can transfer data to / from remote

- --transferfile to transfer files. Uses rsync to do transfer
- --return to return files from remote via rsync
- --cleanup to remove files from remote once job is done

```
echo "This is input file" > input_file
parallel -S remote_server --transferfile {} cat :::
input_file
echo "This is input file" > input_file
parallel -S $remote_server1 --transferfile {} --return
{}.out cat {} ">" {}.out ::: input_file
• --trc to combine the three options (--transferfile, --return,
and --cleanup)
```

Real-World Examples working with ssh I

```
• parallel -S
rage1,rage4,rage7,rage8,rage9,rage10,rage11,rage12
${scan_cmd} ::: \
${scan_path}/{44..51} \
>> scanperf.8proc.8node.out
```

• parallel -S rage4 --jobs 30 'nats -s rage2:4222 \
pub migration.files.request --count 1 \
"{\"path\": \"/lustre/crius/migagenttests/{1}/file.{2}\"}"'\
::: {0..63} ::: {1..3000}

Real-world examples working with ssh II

```
• parallel -S rage4 --jobs 30 "touch -d '-1 week'\
/lustre/crius/{1}/file.{2}" ::: {0..63} ::: {1..3000}
```

```
• parallel -k -S \
rage1,rage2,rage4,rage5,rage6,rage7,rage8,rage9 \
/lustre/crius/scripts/measure_lfsfind.sh ::: {28..35} \
>> lfsfindperf.8proc.8node.out
```

PoliMOR: A Policy Engine "Made-to-Order" for Automated and **Scalable Data Management in Lustre**

Anjus George, Christopher Brumgard, Rick Mohr, Ketan Maheshwari, James Simmons, Sarp Oral,

Jesse Hanley

National Center for Computational Sciences, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Oak Ridge, TN, USA

{georgea,brumgardcd,mohrrf,maheshwarikc,simmonsja,oralhs,hanleyja}@ornl.gov

ABSTRACT

Modern supercomputing systems are increasingly reliant on hierarchical, multi-tiered file and storage system architectures due to cost-performance-capacity trade-offowbenpicesented sat PDSW/23 at Stars Stars and include purging old files to recover tems, data management services are required to maintain healthy utilization, performance, and capacity levels. We present PoliMOR.

management challenging. Data management practices must minimize wastefulness of storage resources, promote fair usage, and satisfy application I/O needs (ideally in a systematic and automated disk space, staging data to a tier with higher performance, or migrating data to tape. Sites could potentially handle some of these

The Pipe Mode to Process Large Data I

- When data is sent over a Linux pipe to parallel command, it is treated as arguments for command to run: cat data.txt | parallel echo
- In the pipe mode, the data is delivered to the parallel command as standard input aka stdin:
 cat data.txt | parallel --pipe wc -1
- The "--pipe" input may be controlled for block-size / number of lines and number of jobs:
 cat data.txt |\
 parallel --pipe --block 2M -j4 --round-robin wc -1

The Pipe Mode to Process Large Data II [1]

- --pipepart may be used when using large data. Same as pipe but faster, has a few limitations [2]
- --recend <string> splits record at this string
- --line-buffer may be used to buffer output by line

parallel -a <file.json> --pipepart --keep-order

--line-buffer --block 100M --recend '}\n' "jq <query>"

[1] <u>thenybble.de/posts/json-analysis/</u>
 [2] <u>www.gnu.org/software/parallel/parallel_design.html#pipepart-vs-pipe</u>

Part 5: HPC and GNU Parallel

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A SLURM Workload Manager Primer I

• **salloc** Obtain a job allocation.

• sbatch

Submit a batch script for later execution.

• srun

Obtain a job allocation (as needed) and execute an application. Option we will use: --wait=0 means do not terminate other tasks if one finishes

• squeue

View information about jobs.

• sinfo

View information about nodes and partitions.

A SLURM Workload Manager Primer II

- At runtime, SLURM offers several environment variables that could be leveraged to steer executions:
 - **\$SLURM_NTASKS** Same as -n, –ntasks. The number of tasks.
 - \$SLURM_CPUS_PER_TASK Number of CPUs per task.
 - **\$SLURM_NODEID** The node id of the current node. Starts from 0.
 - \$SLURM_NNODES Total nodes allocated to current job.
 - \$SLURM_NODELIST A list of nodes allocated to current job.

srun parallel vs parallel srun?

```
srun="srun --exclusive -N1 -n1 -c1"
parallel -j $SLURM_NTASKS "$srun ./runtask.sh {1}" :::
{1..112}
VS
srun --ntasks-per-node=1 parallel -j $cores_per_node
app_invocation
Consensus: srun ... parallel ...
Reasons:
```

- 1. Higher overhead in invoking multiple srun allocations
- 2. Leveraging SLURM's srun and environment variables

Working with HPC Schedulers: SLURM, 1 node

```
#!/bin/bash
```

code in Github: src/singlenode

- **#SBATCH** -J singlenode
- **#SBATCH** -o %x-%j.out
- **#SBATCH** -e %x-%j.err
- **#SBATCH** -t 0:10:00
- **#SBATCH -N 1**

```
srun parallel --jobs 8 ./payload.sh argument_{} ::::
input.txt
```

Using --dry-run to generate parallel commands

```
#SBATCH --job-name=parallel_job
#SBATCH ...
```

find infiles/*.txt | parallel --dry-run ./process_data {}
>commands.txt

##OR

```
find infiles/*.txt | parallel --dry-run Rscript
R array test.R {} >commands.txt
```

```
parallel -j $SLURM_NTASKS < commands.txt</pre>
```

Multinode Execution in SLURM

```
#!/bin/bash
```

code in Github: src/multinode

- #SBATCH -J multinode
- #SBATCH -o %x-%j.out
- #SBATCH -e %x-%j.err
- #SBATCH -t 0:20:00
- #SBATCH -p batch
- #SBATCH -N 4

srun --no-kill --ntasks-per-node=1 --wait=0 driver.sh \$1

Driver and Payload codes

```
# Deliver tasks depending on the nodeid
cat $1 |
awk -v NNODE="$SLURM_NNODES" -v NODEID="$SLURM_NODEID"
'NR % NNODE == NODEID' |
parallel ./payload.sh argument_{}
```

#!/bin/bash

```
H="$(hostname)"
echo "This is the payload script. \
$1 is the argument passed to it. Ran on machine $H."
```

Part 6: Asynchronous Workflow Execution

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Asynchronous Execution of Workflows



proc1.sh:
#!/bin/bash
sleep \$(shuf -i 20-60 -n 1)
shuf \$1 > ./out/proc_\$(basename \$1)
echo "./out/proc_\$(basename \$1)" >> jobqueue

proc2.sh:

#!/bin/bash

shuf \$1 > ./out/f_\$(basename \$1)
echo "Done for \$1"

workflow.sh:
#!/bin/bash
parallel ./proc1.sh {} ::: ./inputs/*.txt &
>jobqueue; tail -n+0 -f jobqueue | parallel -u ./proc2.sh {}

A DAG Workflow Example



- Six processes
- Data dependencies
- May work independently with file inputs
- Branch Parallelism
- Asynchronous execution desired when multiple inputs

Sequential Bash Script Representation for one set of inputs

```
#!/bin/bash
#p1.sh
if test "$#" != 2 ; then
    echo "wrong
invocation..exiting."
    exit 3
fi
if [ -f "$2" ] ; then
    rm -v "$2"
fi
cat $1 >> $2 || exit
echo "processed by p1" >> $2
echo "$2" >> ./q.p1
```

```
#!/bin/bash
p1/p1.sh inputs/in1.txt
p1/out1.txt
p2/p2.sh p1/out1.txt p2/
```

p2/p2.sh p1/out1.txt p2/out2.txt p3/p3.sh p1/out1.txt p3/out3.txt p4/p4.sh p2/out2.txt p4/out4.txt p5/p5.sh p3/out3.txt p5/out5.txt

```
p6/p6.sh p4/out4.txt p5/out5.txt
outputs/out6.txt
```

GNU Parallel version

```
#!/bin/bash
mkdir -p p{1..5}/outdir outputs
parallel --link p1/p1.sh {1} {2} ::: inputs/in{1..6}.txt :::
pl/outdir/out{1..6}.txt &
touch q.p1 ; tail -n+0 -f q.p1 | parallel -u --link p2/p2.sh {1} {2} :::: - :::
p2/outdir/out{1..6}.txt &
touch q.p1 ; tail -n+0 -f q.p1 | parallel -u --link p3/p3.sh {1} {2} :::: - :::
p3/outdir/out{1..6}.txt &
touch q.p2; tail -n+0 -f q.p2 | parallel -u --link p4/p4.sh {1} {2} :::: - :::
p4/outdir/out{1..6}.txt &
touch q.p3 ; tail -n+0 -f q.p3 | parallel -u --link p5/p5.sh {1} {2} :::: - :::
p5/outdir/out{1..6}.txt &
```

(stdbuf -oL paste <(touch q.p4 ; tail -n+0 -f q.p4) <(touch q.p5 ; tail -n+0 -f q.p5)) | parallel -u --link p6/p6.sh :::: - ::: outputs/out{1..6}.txt

Part 7: A Real Application

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A Real Application: Bioinformatics

- HMMER3 Takes a protein sequence and compares it to a probabilistic profile that describes a protein domain.
- It reports when there is a statistically significant likelihood that the protein and the domain share the same evolutionary origin.
- This basic comparison is repeated for all combinations of many protein sequences and many domains.



Download App Package and Data

- Download the hmmsearch package: hmmer.org/download.html wget http://eddylab.org/software/hmmer/hmmer-3.4.tar.gz
- Download the protein HMM searchable library here: wget ftp.ebi.ac.uk/pub/databases/Pfam/current_release/Pfam-A.hmm.dat.gz
- Download the fasta file: wget

https://ftp.uniprot.org/pub/databases/uniprot/current_releas e/knowledgebase/complete/uniprot_sprot.fasta.gz

Install the hmmsearch package

- tar zxf hmmer-3.4.tar.gz
- cd hmmer-3.4/
- ./configure --prefix=\$PWD/install ... output ... HMMER configuration:

```
compiler: gcc -03 -pthread
host: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
linker:
libraries: -lpthread
```

DP implementation: sse

• make -j install # hmmer will be installed.

gunzip and split the Fasta File

```
gunzip uniprot_sprot.fasta.gz
```

```
awk -v chunksize=$(grep ">" uniprot_sprot.fasta -c)
'BEGIN{n=0; chunksize=int(chunksize/256)+1 }
/^>/ {
    if(n%chunksize==0){
        file=sprintf("uniprot_%d.fasta",1+(n%256));
        }
        print >> file; n++; next;
    }
{ print >> file; }' < uniprot sprot.fasta</pre>
```

Part 8: Putting it all Together

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HMMSearch Command line

```
hmmsearch --cpu 8 --noali -o output.txt \
```

Pfam-A.hmm input.fasta

ls | head -3 uniprot_100.fasta uniprot_101.fasta uniprot_102.fasta

find \$PWD -type f | grep fasta > inputs.txt

First Approach: srun ... parallel

srun --no-kill --ntasks-per-node=1 --wait=0

parallel -j 8 \$HOME/hmmer-3.3/install/bin/hmmsearch

--cpu 4 --noali -o {//}/output {/}.txt

\$SCRATCH/Pfam-A.hmm {} :::: inputs.txt

Second Approach: Distribute Tasks

#driver.sh

cat inputs.txt |awk -v NNODE="\$SLURM_NNODES" -v NODEID="\$SLURM_NODEID" \ 'NR % NNODE == NODEID' | parallel ./payload.sh {}

#payload.sh [untested]
\$HOME/hmmer-3.3/install/bin/hmmsearch
--cpu 4 --noali -o {//}/output_{/}.txt
\$SCRATCH/Pfam-A.hmm \$1

Summary

- GNU Parallel is an effective tool that could be useful in day-to-day tasks on the terminal as well as for larger workflows
- Many options to choose from to customize a parallel operation
- Very handy for quick prototyping
- May be well suited for some production level work

Practice and Exercises : Titanic Data Challenge

Data: in Github, Titanic.csv

- Problem 1. What characteristics are shared by all passengers whose fare is 0?
- Problem 2. How many married women over age 50 embarked in Cherbourg? (Married women are denoted by "Mrs.")
- Problem 3. Which embarkation city had the highest-paying passengers on average?
- Problem 4. What is the most common last name among passengers? What is the average number of passengers per last name?
- Problem 5. What's the survival rate for passengers in the three different classes, i.e., what fraction of passengers in each class survived?

Practice and Exercises : MIT Datacenter Challenge

- <u>dcc.mit.edu</u> A 2.6T dataset pertaining to cluster operations
- Partial data available on Github at data/datacenter-challenge
- Although geared towards AI based models, **GNU Parallel** could help gain insight on patterns from existing data
- Scheduling Characterization
- Workload Characterization
- File System Characterization
- Error Characterization

Credits, references and resources

- gnu.org/software/parallel
- <u>rcc.uchicago.edu/documentation/_build/html/running-jobs/srun-parallel/index.html</u>
- <u>ulhpc-tutorials.readthedocs.io/en/latest/sequential/basics</u>
- <u>docs.ycrc.yale.edu/clusters-at-yale/guides/parallel</u>
- www.vanderbilt.edu/accre/documentation/parallel
- <u>docs-research-it.berkeley.edu/services/high-performance-computing/user-guide/running-your-jobs/gnu-parallel</u>
- omgenomics.com/parallel
- <u>curc.readthedocs.io/en/latest/software/GNUParallel.html</u>
- thenybble.de/posts/json-analysis
- stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/gnu-parallel
- unix.stackexchange.com/questions/tagged/gnu-parallel

Other Possible Venues to look for challenges

- data/sales-data.csv
- <u>annas-blog.org/worldcat-scrape.html</u>
- <u>smc-datachallenge.ornl.gov</u>
- www.reddit.com/r/DataHoarder

Thank you for your time and attention Questions?

km0@ornl.gov

