Monitoring batch jobs at Prince

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Where is my job in the queue - or on the system - and why?

The simplest queuing algorithm is “first come, first served”. The queuing of jobs on the HPC cluster is a little more sophisticated as we pursue several goals:

- Minimal queuing times, especially for short jobs. Nobody wants to spend 4 hours in the queue for a 1-hour job.
- Efficient use of the available resources. If there is a job ready which can use hardware that would otherwise be idle, run it, even if it’s not next in the queue.
- Fair use of resources. If you’ve made heavy use of the cluster recently, jobs belonging to a user who has had less CPU time will get higher priority.

At NYU “recently” means “the last 24 hours”, so users with large workloads are not excessively penalized.

Should you need more resources than the fair share allocations because of critical deadlines such as a grant application, a publication deadline, or class use, please email hpc@nyu.edu to make special arrangements.

Special consideration for HPC Stakeholders. NYU HPC uses a “condo” model in which we manage HPC resources owned by specific schools and departments, in exchange for allowing the rest of the NYU HPC community to use those resources when the owners are not.
Slurm supports these goals by calculating a priority for each submitted job and placing the job in the queue according to its priority. The schedule of which job will run where and when is built from the job queues. When a job finishes earlier than scheduled (due to an overestimated walltime request), Slurm attempts to fill the newly-available space by scanning the queue for the first job which will fit without delaying an already-scheduled, higher priority job. In this way low-priority jobs with smaller resource requirements can jump ahead and be run early.

Monitoring jobs with Slurm

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To see the status of a single job - or a list of specific jobs - pass the Job IDs to `squeue`, as in the following example:

```
$ squeue -j 7037,7039
```

```
JOBID PARTITION     NAME     USER ST       TIME  NODES NODELIST(REASON)
7037       gpu     wrap     ab33  R       3:25      1 gpu-01
7039    c01_25    dathg     ab33  R       1:30      1 c17-01
7043    c01_25     wscr     ed35 PD       0:00      1 (ReqNodeNotAvail, UnavailableNodes:c23-03)
7042    c01_25     nmad     fd48 PD       0:00      1 (JobHeldUser)
```

Most of the fields in the output are self-explanatory.

The column "ST" in the middle is the job status, which can be:

- **PD** - pending: waiting for resource allocation
- **S** - suspended
- **R** - running
- **F** - failed: non-zero exit code or other failures
- **CD** - completed: all processes terminated with zero exit code
- **CG** - completing: in the completing process, some processes may still be alive

The column "NODELIST(REASON)" in the end is job status due to the reason(s), which can be:

- **JobHeldUser**: (obviously)
- **Priority**: higher priority jobs exist
- **ReqNodeNotAvail**: requested node maybe down, in use, reserved for other jobs
- **BeginTime**: start time not reached yet
- **Dependency**: wait for a depended job to finish

Other, less common job flags are described in the manual (`man squeue`).

To list all jobs owned by you or any specific friend, use:

```
$ squeue -u NetID
```

For example:

```
$ squeue -u $USER
```

```
JOBID PARTITION     NAME     USER ST       TIME  NODES NODELIST(REASON)
7046    c01_25 data_cru     johd CG       0:00      1 c13-01
7047    c01_25 data_cru     johd  R       0:01      4 c13-[02-04],c14-01
7045    c01_25 data_cru     johd  R       2:01      1 c17-01
```

In Unix, the shell sets an environment variable USER to your username (at NYU this is your NetID). In the example above this environment variable is used instead of explicitly typing my NetID.
While a job with steps is running, `sstat` can show its memory usage and a lot other information (run `sstat --helpformat` to see what other quantities available), e.g.

```
$ sstat -j 7051 --format JobID,NTasks,nodelist,MaxRSS,MaxVMSize,AveRSS,AveVMSize
  JobID  NTasks         Nodelist     MaxRSS MaxVMSize AveRSS AveVMSize
  -------- ----- ----------------- ---------- ---------- ---------- ----------
  7051.0    2      c17-[02-03]    141068K   370880K    139004K   370868K
```

If your job seems stuck in the queue, `scontrol` can give useful hints about why:

`scontrol` is mainly for administrators to view and/or update system, job, step, partition or reservation status. Users can also list detailed job and step information, e.g.

```
$ scontrol show job -dd 7051
JobId=7051 JobName=mpiexec-test
  UserId=johd(2761180) GroupId=johd(1002761180) MCS_label=N/A
  Priority=108683 Nice=0 Account=users QOS=normal
  JobState=RUNNING Reason=None Dependency=(null)
  Requeue=0 Restarts=0 BatchFlag=1 Reboot=0 ExitCode=0:0
  DerivedExitCode=0:0
  RunTime=00:00:03 TimeLimit=12:00:00 TimeMin=N/A
  SubmitTime=2017-01-11T15:40:02 EligibleTime=2017-01-11T15:40:02
  StartTime=2017-01-11T15:40:02 EndTime=2017-01-12T03:40:03 Deadline=N/A
  Partition=c01_25 AllocNode:Sid=log-0:153794
  ReqNodeList=(null) ExcNodeList=(null)
  NodeList=c17-[01-03]
  BatchHost=c17-01
  NumNodes=3 NumCPUs=84 NumTasks=12 CPUs/Task=7 ReqB:S:C:T=0:0:*:*
  TRES=cpu=84,mem=360G,node=3
  Socks/Node= Nodes=c17-[01-03] CPU_IDs=0-27 Mem=122880
  MinCPUsNode=28 MinMemoryNode=120G MinTmpDiskNode=0
  Features=(null) Gres=(null) Reservation=(null)
  OverSubscribe=OK Contiguous=0 Licenses=(null) Network=(null)
  Command=/home/johd/test_slurm/openmpi/run-openmpi.sh
  WorkDir=/home/johd/test_slurm/openmpi
  StdErr=/home/johd/test_slurm/openmpi/slurm-7051.out
  StdIn=/dev/null
  StdOut=/home/johd/test_slurm/openmpi/slurm-7051.out
  BatchScript= #!/bin/bash
  #SBATCH --job-name=mpiexec-test
  #SBATCH --nodes=3
  #SBATCH --tasks-per-node=4
  #SBATCH --cpus-per-task=7
  #SBATCH --time=12:00:00
  #SBATCH --mem=120GB

module purge
module load openmpi/intel/2.0.1

cd /home/johd/test_slurm/openmpi
mpiexec ./pi
```

---

**Exercise**

Request an interactive batch session on Prince cluster. When it starts (or immediately, in another window), use `squeue` to see it in the queue. Try `scontrol show job -dd <job_id>` too.