

CONTAINERIZED BIOINFORMATICS APPLICATIONS FOR HPC

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What to expect from this bioinformatics workshop?

Objectives

- What are containers and why should we use them
- How to use singularity to pull, run and build containers
- Containerized bioinformatics applications deployed on Anvil

Containerized Bioinformatics applications for HPC

Containers

What are containers?

- ❖ The arrival of modern shipping containers changed our transportation industry.
- ❖ Container is a standardized way to package items together into one shipment.
 1. Standard packaging
 2. Isolation and efficiency
 3. Separation of concerns
 4. Portable



Containers

A **container** is an abstraction for a set of technologies that aim to solve the problem of how to get software to run reliably when moved from one computing environment to another.

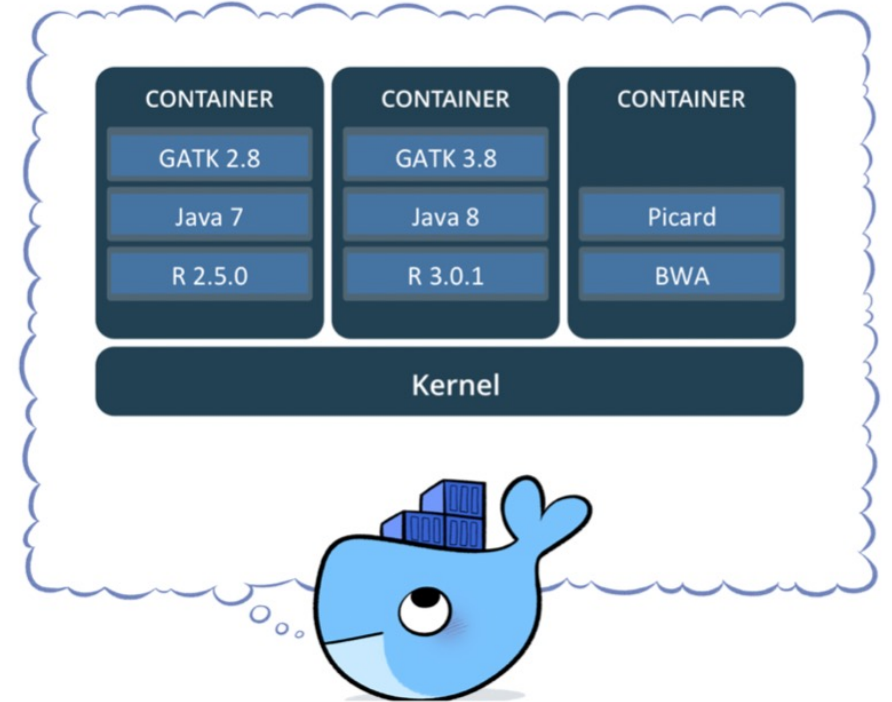
A container **image** is simply a file (or collection of files) saved on disk that stores everything you need to run a target application or applications.

Registry: a place to store (and share) container images.



Why use containers

- ❖ **Getting organized:** containers keep things organized by isolating programs and their dependencies inside containers.
- ❖ **Build once, run almost anywhere:** containers allow us to package up our complete software environment and ship it to numerous operating systems.
- ❖ **Reproducibility:** containers can ensure identical versions of apps, libraries, compilers, etc.

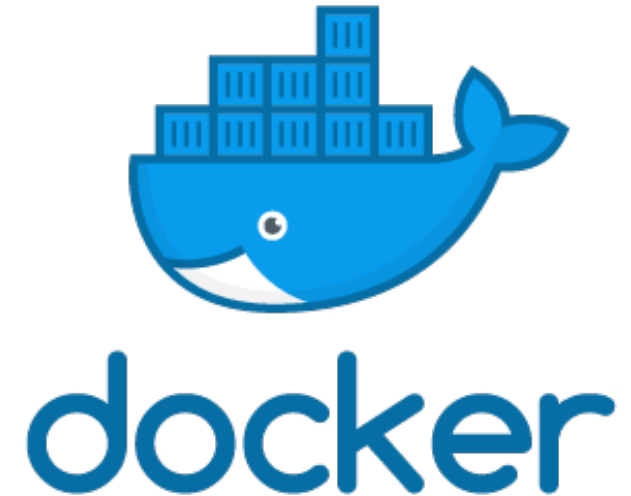


Docker

The concept of containers emerged in 1970s, but they were not well known until the emergence of Docker containers in 2013.

Docker is an open source platform for building, deploying, and managing containerized applications.

Some concerns about the security of Docker containers in HPC: Docker gives superuser privileges, but we do not want users to have full, unrestricted admin/ root access.



Singularity

- ❖ Singularity was developed in 2015 as an open-source project by researchers at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory led by Gregory Kurtzer.
- ❖ Singularity is emerging as the containerization framework of choice in HPC environments.
 1. Enable researchers to package entire scientific workflows, libraries, and even data.
 2. **Can use docker images.**
 3. **Does not require root privileges to run.**





- ❖ Singularity was recently renamed to Apptainer and hosted by the Linux Foundation.
- ❖ Apptainer uses the command **apptainer** to replace the previous command **singularity**.
- ❖ The **singularity** command also works, because it is alias for the command **apptainer**.
- ❖ The variable prefixes are **APPTAINER_** and **APPTAINERENV_** instead of the previous **SINGULARITY_** and **SINGULARITYENV_**.

Containerized Bioinformatics applications for HPC

Singularity basics

singularity pull

Download or build a container from a given URI.

singularity pull [output file] URI

Example: **singularity pull blast_2.13.0.sif docker://staphb/blast:2.13.0**

custom name URL

Supported URIs include:

❖ **library:** Pull an image from the currently configured library

`library://user/collection/image[:tag]`

❖ **docker:** Pull a Docker/OCI image from Docker Hub, or another OCI registry.

`docker://user/image[:tag]`

❖ **http, https:** Pull an image using the http(s?) protocol

`https://depot.galaxyproject.org/singularity/hisat2%3A2.2.1--he1b5a44_2`

Recommended container registries for bioinformatics

- **DockerHub** (<https://hub.docker.org>)
 - The largest repository of Docker container images.
- **Biocontainers** (<https://biocontainers.pro/registry>)
 - A community-driven project for bioinformatics containers.
 - 10.6K tools, 45.5K versions, 228.5K containers and packages (As of March, 2023).

singularity shell

Users can go inside the container to run interactive commands

```
[zhan4429@login06.anvil:[images] $ singularity shell r_4.1.1_scrnaseq.sif
[Singularity> R

R version 4.1.1 (2021-08-10) -- "Kick Things"
Copyright (C) 2021 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing
Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)

R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.

Natural language support but running in an English locale

R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.

Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.

[> library(Seurat)
Attaching SeuratObject
```

singularity exec

A container may contain many executables/scripts.

singularity exec can be used to select which executable/script to run.

singularity exec image.sif command

For example:

```
singularity exec blast.2.13.0.sif blastn \  
-query nucleotide.fasta \  
-db nt -out blastn.out
```

```
singularity exec blast.2.13.0.sif blastp \  
-query protein.fasta \  
-db nr -out blastp.out
```

singularity build

Build using a singularity definition file

```
sudo singularity build image.sif definition.def
```

If you really need write access to a container you can use a writable sandbox.

```
sudo singularity build --sandbox container-sand definition.def  
sudo singularity shell --writable container-sand  
Singularity> apt-get update  
Singularity> apt-get install -y packageName  
sudo singularity build container.sif container-sand
```

apptainer build

Regular users don't have need sudo privilege to build containers.



\$ sudo singularity build

\$ singularity --version
3.8.5-2.el8

Anvil, Brown, Bell, Gilbreth,
Scholar, Workbench

\$ singularity build

\$ apptainer build

\$ singularity --version
apptainer version 1.1.6-1

Negishi

Definition files

A **definition** file, or **def** file, is a recipe to build a container image with singularity. It is divided into two parts:

- 1. Header:** the Header describes the core operating system to build within the container.
 - Bootstrap
 - From
- 2. Section:** each section is defined by a % character followed by the name of the particular section. Different sections add different content or execute commands at different times during the build process.
 - help
 - setup
 - files
 - labels
 - **environment**
 - **post**
 - runscript
 - ...

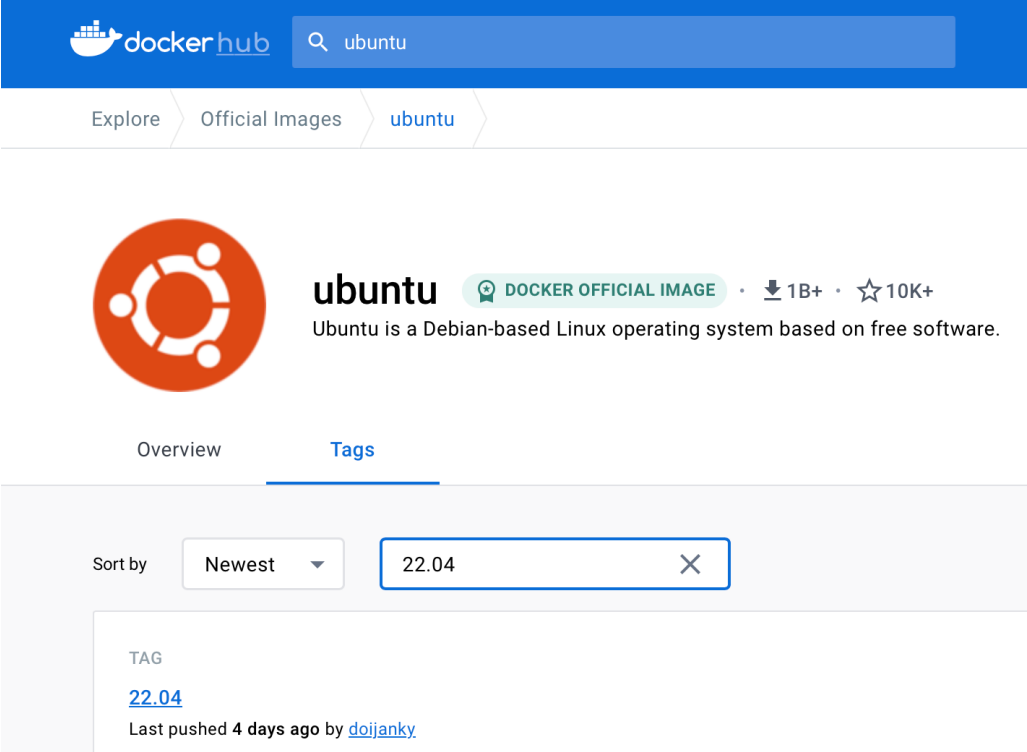
References the kind of base you want to use (e.g., docker, debootstrap, shub).

Images hosted on Docker Hub

```
Bootstrap: docker  
From: ubuntu:22.04
```

Images saved on your machine

```
Bootstrap: localimage  
From: /apps/biocontainers/images/mamba.sif
```



The screenshot shows the Docker Hub interface for the 'ubuntu' image. At the top, there is a search bar with 'ubuntu' entered. Below the search bar, there are navigation links for 'Explore', 'Official Images', and 'ubuntu'. The main content area features the Ubuntu logo, the name 'ubuntu', and a badge indicating it is a 'DOCKER OFFICIAL IMAGE'. It also shows download statistics: '1B+' and '10K+'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Overview' and 'Tags'. The 'Tags' tab is active, showing a list of tags. The first tag is '22.04', which is highlighted. Below the tag, it says 'Last pushed 4 days ago by dojjanky'.

Anatomy of a definition file: Reciprocal Smallest Distance

Bootstrap: docker

From: ubuntu:18.04

%post

Update and install system libraries

apt-get -y update

apt-get -y install --no-install-recommends --no-install-suggests build-essential libssl-dev wget

KALIGN 2.0.4

cd /opt && mkdir kalign2

cd kalign2 && wget http://msa.sbc.su.se/downloads/kalign/current.tar.gz

tar -xvf current.tar.gz && ./configure && make

RSD

cd /opt && git clone https://github.com/todddeluca/reciprocal_smallest_distance

cd reciprocal_smallest_distance

python setup.py install

%environment

export PATH=/opt/kalign2:/opt/reciprocal_smallest_distance/bin:\$PATH

Anatomy of another definition file: phylofisher

Bootstrap: localimage

From: /apps/biocontainers/images/mamba.sif

%labels

Author "Yucheng Zhang <zhan4429@purdue.edu>"

%help

This container contains phylofisher version 1.2.5.

%post

```
mamba install -c bioconda -c conda-forge \  
python=3.7.10 phylofisher=1.2.5
```

```
sudo singularity build phylofisher_1.2.5.sif phylofisher_1.2.5.def #singularity  
singularity build phylofisher_1.2.5.sif phylofisher_1.2.5.def #apptainer
```



Mamba

PHYLOFISHER

Anatomy of the 3rd definition file: R/Rstudio

Bootstrap: localimage

From: /apps/biocontainers/images/r4.2.3_rstudio2023.sif

%post

```
apt-get update
```

```
apt-get -y install libgdal-dev
```

monocle3

```
Rscript -e "BiocManager::install(c('BiocGenerics', 'DelayedArray', \
    'DelayedMatrixStats', 'limma', 'lme4', 'S4Vectors', \
    'SingleCellExperiment', 'SummarizedExperiment', \
    'batchelor', 'HDF5Array', 'terra', 'ggrastr'))"
```

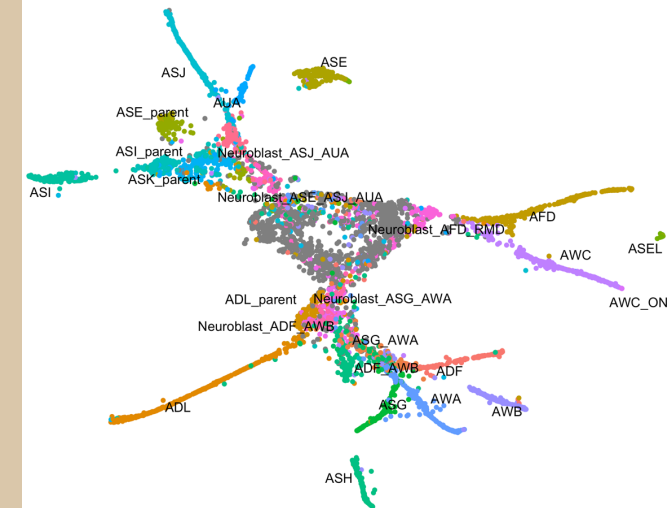
```
Rscript -e "devtools::install_github('cole-trapnell-lab/monocle3')"
```

Seurat

```
Rscript -e "install.packages('Seurat')"
```

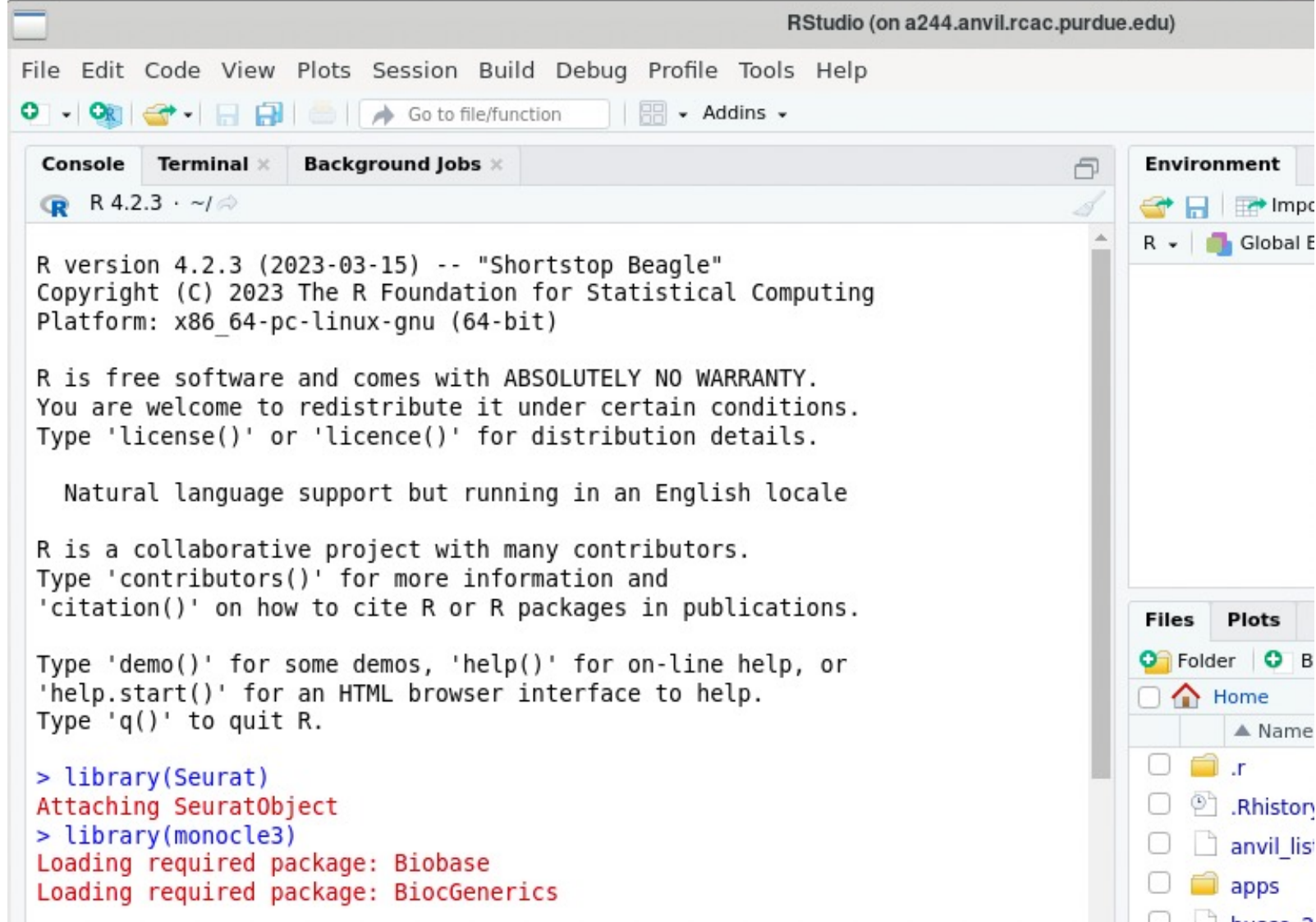
%runscript

```
rstudio "$@"
```



customized Rstudio app for scRNAseq

```
zhan4429@a244.anvil:[zhan4429] $ ./monocle3_seurat4.sif  
Arguments received:
```



The screenshot shows the RStudio interface. The terminal pane displays the following text:

```
R version 4.2.3 (2023-03-15) -- "Shortstop Beagle"  
Copyright (C) 2023 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing  
Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)  
  
R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.  
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.  
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.  
  
Natural language support but running in an English locale  
  
R is a collaborative project with many contributors.  
Type 'contributors()' for more information and  
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.  
  
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or  
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.  
Type 'q()' to quit R.  
  
> library(Seurat)  
Attaching SeuratObject  
> library(monocle3)  
Loading required package: Biobase  
Loading required package: BiocGenerics
```

The Environment pane on the right shows the R environment with a 'Global Environment' entry. The Files pane at the bottom right shows the current directory structure, including folders like '.r', '.Rhistory', 'anvil_lis', and 'apps'.

Bind host directories

- ❖ Programs running inside a container will not have access to directories and files outside of your home and the current directory.
- ❖ Singularity allows you to map directories on your host system to directories within your container using bind mounts.

```
singularity shell/run/exec --bind hostdir:containerdir image.sif
```

Singularity binds several directories into the container image automatically.

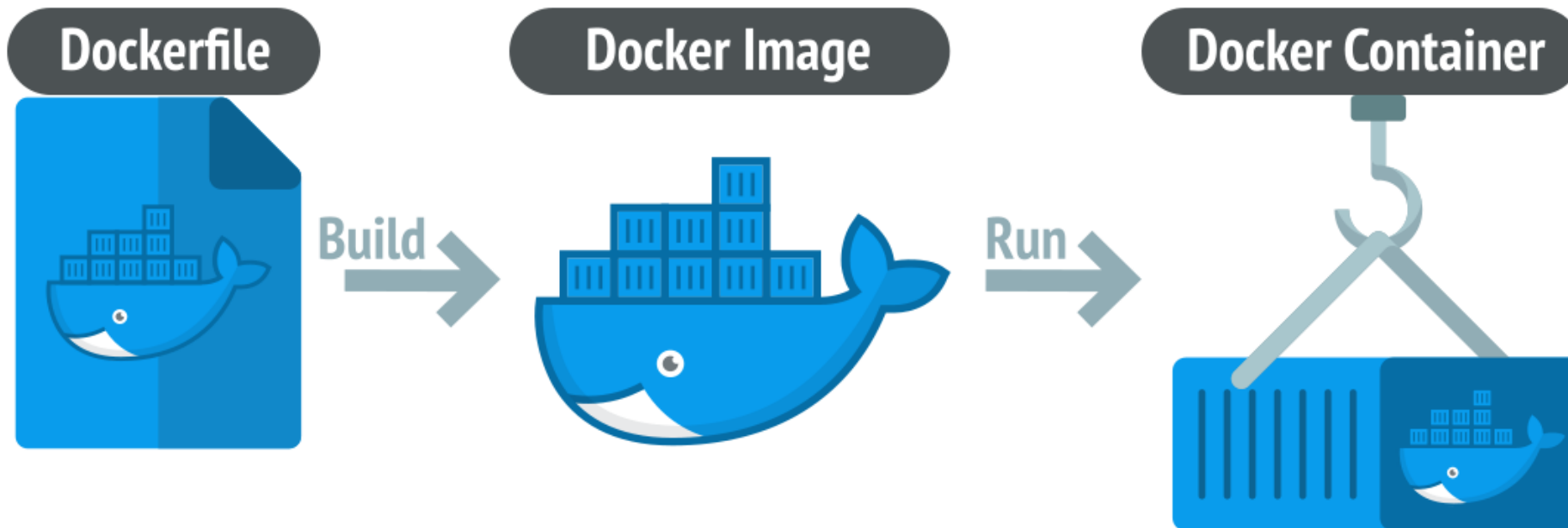
\$HOME, **/tmp** and **\$PWD** is the default list.

We also configured singularity to bind **/apps**, **/depot**, and **/scratch** on Purdue community clusters, to bind **/anvil**, and **/apps** on ACCESS Anvil.

Docker build

Using docker to build containers is another option:

1. Docker has a large, active, and stable ecosystems of container images.
2. Singularity can use docker images.



cache

\$ ncd u \$HOME



```
ncdu 1.16 ~ Use the arrow keys to navigate, press ? for help
--- /home/zhan4429 -----
2.8 GiB [#####] /.singularity
 1.0 GiB [#####] /apps
971.5 MiB [#####] /spack
902.6 MiB [#####] /.conda
670.7 MiB [#####] /scripts
653.9 MiB [#####] /R
498.5 MiB [###] /svn
177.2 MiB [#] /.m2
168.3 MiB [#] /.cache
115.0 MiB [ ] /rcac
 98.8 MiB [ ] /.vscode-server
 84.1 MiB [ ] /.nv
 73.6 MiB [ ] /courses
  6.6 MiB [ ] /.beast
  5.4 MiB [ ] /.npm
  5.2 MiB [ ] /.spack
  3.6 MiB [ ] /.local
  1.3 MiB [ ] /myapps
  1.0 MiB [ ] /.config
```

To mitigate this, users can either run the singularity pull command with argument **--disable-cache** or manually clean **\$HOME/.singularity/cache**
singularity pull --disable-cache URI

GPU support

For many applications, CPU compute resources provide sufficient performance. However, for a certain class of applications, the massively parallel compute power offered by GPUs can speed up operations by orders of magnitude.

Run a container with GPU acceleration

For AMD GPUs:

```
singularity shell/run/exec --rocm myimage.sif [command] [argument]
```

For NVIDIA GPUs:

```
singularity shell/run/exec --nv myimage.sif [command] [argument]
```

Containerized Bioinformatics applications for HPC

Biocontainers on RCAC clusters

NGC container environment modules

NGC container environment modules are lightweight wrappers that make it possible to transparently use NGC containers as environment modules.

1. Allow HPC users to utilize familiar environment module commands.
2. Leverage all the benefits of containers, including portability and reproducibility.

Simplifying HPC Workflows with NVIDIA NGC Container Environment Modules

By [Akhil Docca](#) and [Scott McMillan](#)

[Discuss \(2\)](#) [Like](#)

Tags: [AI](#), [Deep Learning](#), [HPC / Supercomputing](#), [machine learning](#), [NGC](#), [singularity](#)



How to use biocontainers?

~800 modules for ~600 applications (As of March. 2023)

Load biocontainers

module load biocontainers

Check available applications

module avail

Load and run specific tools

module load samtools/1.16

samtools idxstats input.bam

Biocontainers documentation

\$ module load biocontainers

User guides for each biocontainer module can be found in <https://biocontainer-doc.readthedocs.io/en/latest>

The screenshot shows the website for RCAC Biocontainers documentation. The page has a blue header with the site name and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation menu with categories like 'FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS', 'SINGULARITY', and 'APPLICATION LIST'. The main content area features a large word cloud of various bioinformatics tools and software packages, including tools like bowtie2, kallisto, and samtools. Below the word cloud, there is a paragraph of text: 'This is the user guide for biocontainer modules deployed in Purdue High Performance Computing clusters. More information about our center is available here (<https://www.rcac.purdue.edu>).

Example job using GPU

Warning

Using `#!/bin/sh -l` as shebang in the slurm job script will cause the failure of some biocontainer modules. Please use `#!/bin/bash` instead.

Note

Notice that since version 2.2.0, the parameter `--use_gpu_relay=True` is required.

To run alphafold using GPU:

```
#!/bin/bash
#SBATCH -A myallocation      # Allocation name
#SBATCH -t 20:00:00
#SBATCH -N 1
#SBATCH -n 24
#SBATCH --gres=gpu:1
#SBATCH --job-name=alphafold
#SBATCH --mail-type=FAIL,BEGIN,END
#SBATCH --error=%x-%J-%u.err
#SBATCH --output=%x-%J-%u.out

module --force purge
ml biocontainers alphafold

run_alphafold.sh --flagfile=full_db_20221014.ff \
  --fasta_paths=sample.fasta --max_template_date=2022-02-01 \
  --output_dir=af2_full_out --model_preset=monomer \
  --use_gpu_relay=True
```

r-rnaseq and r-scrnaseq



R-RNAseq

Customized R container for RNAseq analysis.

- ComplexHeatmap
- DESeq2
- DEXSeq
- edgeR
- ggrepel
- Limma
- pheatmap
- tidyverse



R-scrNAseq

Customized R container for scRNAseq analysis.

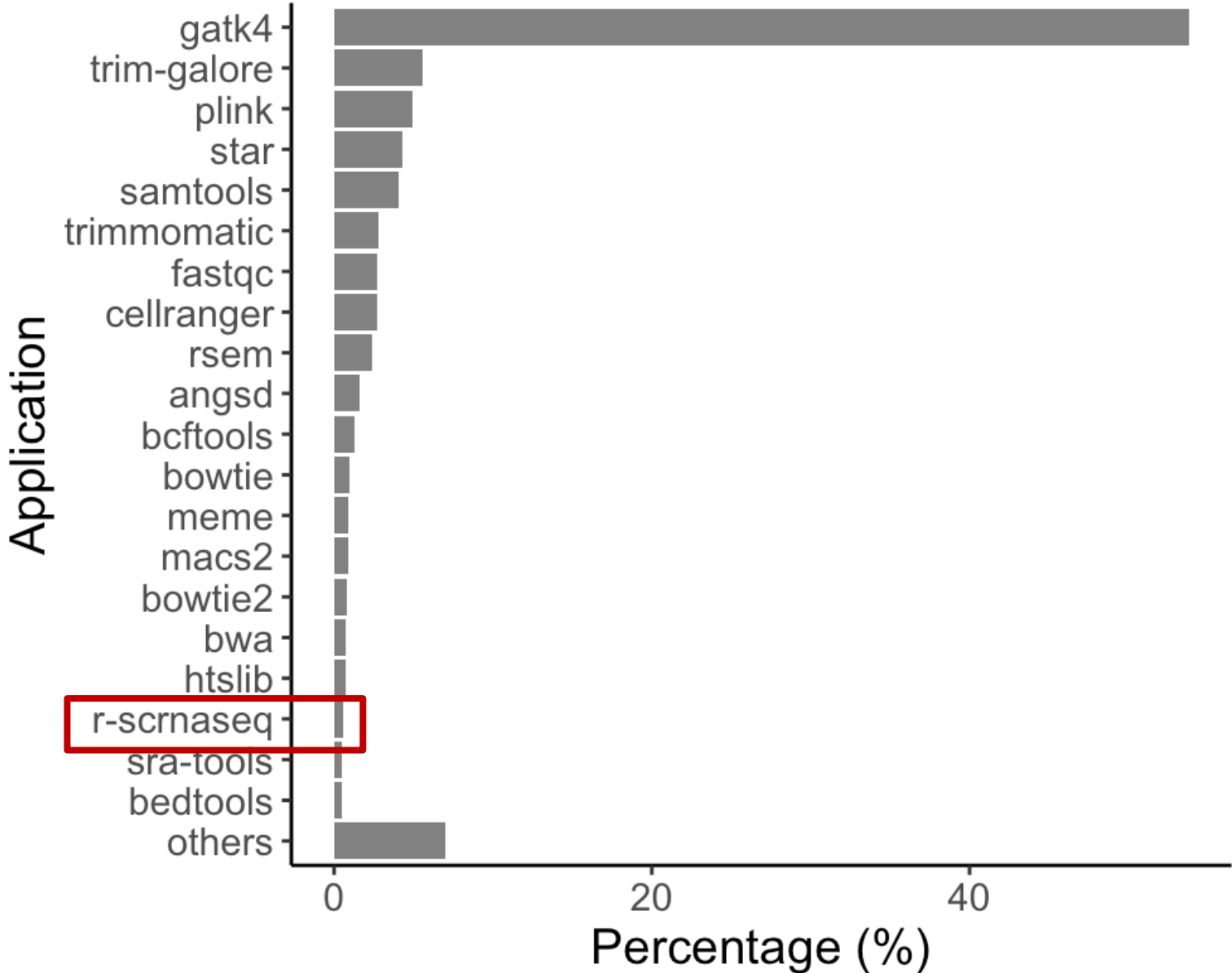
- CellChat
- CoGAPS
- DESeq2
- doSNOW
- DropletUtils
- edgeR
- Limma
- miQC
- monocle
- monocle3
- Nebulosa
- ProjecTILs
- rLiger
- scCATCH
- scDblFinder
- SCHNAPPs
- scMappR
- Seurat
- Seurat-wrappers
- SingleR
- SnapATAC
- SoupX
- tidyverse
- tricycle
- velocity.R
- And more



<https://biocontainer-doc.readthedocs.io/en/latest/source/r-rnaseq/r-rnaseq.html>

<https://biocontainer-doc.readthedocs.io/en/latest/source/r-scrnaseq/r-scrnaseq.html>

r-scrnaseq is one of the most popular biocontainer apps



Open OnDemand Interactive Apps

The screenshot shows a web browser at `ondemand.anvil.rcac.purdue.edu` with the 'Dashboard - Anvil' page. A navigation bar at the top contains 'Clusters', 'Interactive Apps', and 'The Data Mine'. The 'Interactive Apps' menu is open, displaying a list of applications: Bioinformatics Apps, Integrative Genomics Viewer, MEGAN, MaxQuant, QualiMap, Tassel5, and scRNAseq RStudio. Below the menu, a large text area reads 'single access point for all of your HPC resource'.

The screenshot shows the configuration page for the MaxQuant application. The breadcrumb trail is 'Home / My Interactive Sessions / MaxQuant'. The 'Interactive Apps' sidebar is visible, with 'MaxQuant' selected. The main content area shows the following configuration options:

- Allocation:** asc170016 (76508.8 SUs remaining)
- Queue (partition):** shared
 - GPU-only allocations MUST use the 'gpu' queue
 - CPU-only allocations MAY NOT use the 'gpu' queue
- Wall Time in Hours:** 1
- Cores:** 1
- Software Version:** 2.1.4.0

Containerized Bioinformatics applications for HPC

Interactive and batch Jobs

Interactive Jobs on Anvil

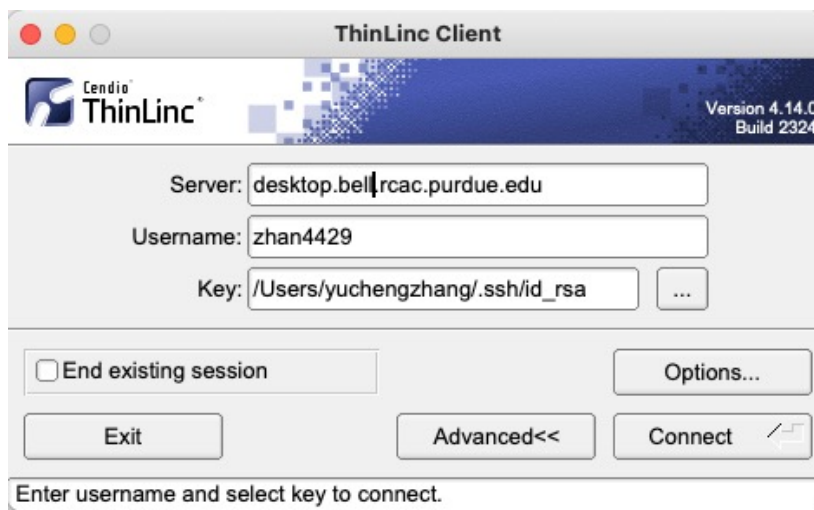
Interactive jobs are run on compute nodes, while giving you a shell to interact with. They give you the ability to type commands or use a graphical interface in the same way as if you were on a front-end login host.

1 node, 24 cores, and 10 hours walltime

```
sinteractive -N1 -n24 -p shared -t10:00:00 -A myallocation
```

1 node, 12 cores, 1 GPU and 4 hours walltime

```
sinteractive -N1 -n12 -p gpu --gpus-per-node=1 -t4:00:00 -A myGPUallocation
```



<https://www.cendio.com/thinlinc/download>

Batch Jobs in Anvil: CPU

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

```
#SBATCH -A myallocation # Allocation name
```

```
#SBATCH -t 20:00:00
```

```
#SBATCH -N 1
```

```
#SBATCH -n 24
```

```
#SBATCH -p shared
```

```
#SBATCH --job-name=star
```

```
#SBATCH --mail-type=FAIL,BEGIN,END
```

```
#SBATCH --error=%x-%j-%u.err
```

```
#SBATCH --output=%x-%J-%u.out
```

```
#SBATCH --mail-user=useremailaddress
```

```
module --force purge
```

```
module load biocontainers star/2.7.10a
```

```
STAR --runThreadN 24 --runMode genomeGenerate \
```

```
  --genomeDir ref_genome \
```

```
  --genomeFastaFiles ref_genome.fasta
```

%x: job name

%j: jobid

%u: userid

Batch Jobs in Anvil: GPU

```
#!/bin/bash

#SBATCH -A myGPUallocation # GPU Allocation name
#SBATCH -t 20:00:00
#SBATCH -N 1
#SBATCH -n 24
#SBATCH -p gpu
#SBATCH --gpus-per-node=1
#SBATCH --job-name=parabricks
#SBATCH --mail-type=FAIL,BEGIN,END
#SBATCH --error=%x-%j-%u.err
#SBATCH --output=%x-%J-%u.out
#SBATCH --mail-user=useremailaddress

module --force purge
module load biocontainers parabricks

pbrun haplotypcaller \
  --ref FVZG01.1.fsa_nt \
  --in-bam output.bam \
  --out-variants variants.vcf
```



THANK YOU

ACCESS Help Desk:
<https://support.access-ci.org>