CONTAINERIZING HPC APPLICATIONS WITH SINGULARITY/APPTAINER

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What to expect from this workshop?

Objectives

- What are containers and why should we use them?
- Singularity/Apptainer basics
- How to use apptainer to containerize your own applications
- Deployed containers on RCAC clusters



Containerizing HPC applications with Singularity/Apptainer

Containers



The struggles from our users

- My application requires glibc 2.26, but the cluster only has 2.17, could you update glibc?
- My application run without issues on another cluster, but it does not work in this cluster.
- My code worked 3 months ago, but it does not work now. I need to repeat the analysis for my paper.
- Could you give me sudo privilege? I need it to install my application.
- I can install the package easily on my laptop, why the installation on the cluster failed?
- My whole group needs to run this application, could you help us install it?

Solution - 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.



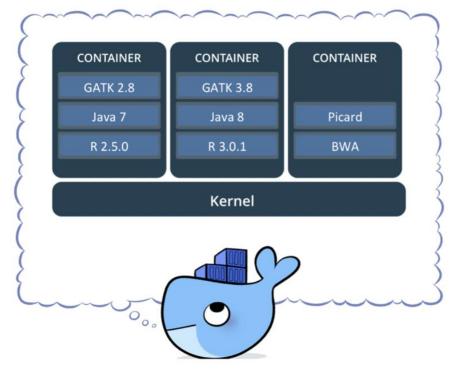


GitHub Container Registry



Why use containers

- Getting organized: containers keep things organized by isolating programs and their dependencies inside containers.
- Solution State State
- Reproducibility: containers can ensure identical versions of apps, libraries, compliers, etc.



Installing applications into containers is much easier than installing them directly into our clusters.

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.



apptainer



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

\$ singularity --version 3.8.5-2.el8

- Anvil
- Bell
- Brown
- Workbench

\$ singularity --version apptainer version 1.1.6-1

- Negishi
- Gilbreth
- Scholar

Containerizing HPC applications with Singularity/Apptainer

Singularity/apptainer basics



Singularity/apptainer pull

Download or build a container from a given URI.

singularity/apptainer pull [output file] URI

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

custom name URI

Supported URIs include:

- Iibrary: 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

Singularity/apptainer 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/apptainer exec

A container may contain many executables/scripts.

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

singularity/apptainer exec image.sif command

For example:

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

apptainer exec blast.2.13.0.sif **blastp** \ -query protein.fasta \ -db nr -out blastp.out

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
- Bell
- Brown
- Workbench



\$ singularity build
\$ apptainer build

\$ singularity --version apptainer version 1.1.6-1

- Negishi
- Gilbreth
- Scholar

Definition files

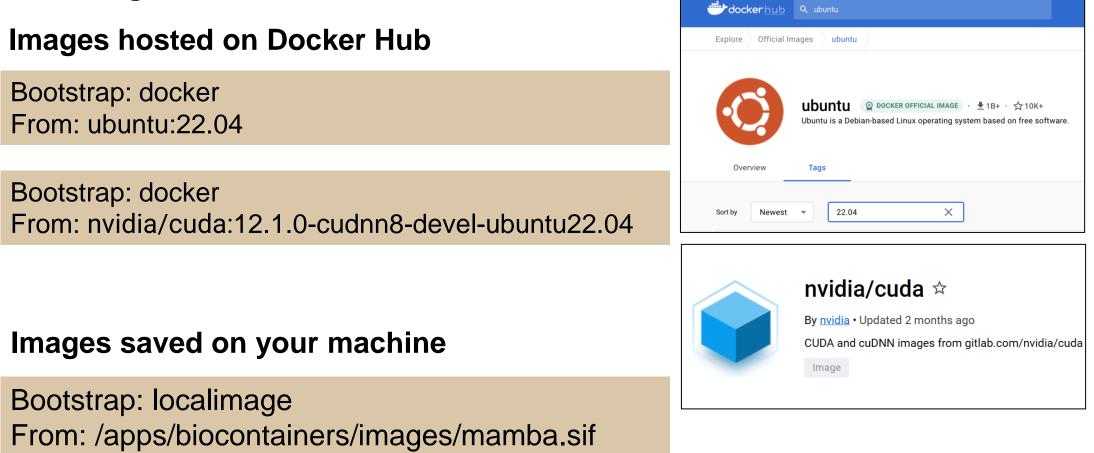
A **definition** file, or **def** file, is a recipe to build a container image with singularity. It is divided into two parts:

- 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
 - Iabels
 - environment
 - > post
 - > runscript

▶ ...

Header: Bootstrap and From

References the kind of base you want to use, and which registry stores the base image.



%label and %help

The **labels** section allows you to define metadata for your container.

The help section show the user-defined help for an image.

%labels Author "Yucheng Zhang <zhan4429@purdue.edu>" Version 4.3.1

%help

This is an Ubuntu 20.04 container with R/4.3.1 and Rstudio/2023.06-2

\$ singularity inspect --labels <image path>
\$ singularity run-help <image path>

%files and %environment

If you need to copy files from host into container, you do so in **%files**. Each line in **%files** is a pair of source and destination paths, where source is on your host, and destination is a path inside container.

%environment allows you to define environment variables for your container. These variables are available when you run the container, not during its build.

```
%files
install.sh /opt/install.sh
example_data/ /opt/example_data
%environment
export PATH=/opt/myapp/bin:$PATH
export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=/opt/myapp/lib:$LD_LIBRARY_PATH
export LC_ALL=C
```

%post

%post is where you can download files from the internet with tools like git and wget, install new software and libraries, write configuration files, create new directories, etc.

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

%environment export PATH=/opt/kalign2:\$PATH

%runscript

The **%runscript** section will be executed when the container is run. The runscript can be triggered with the **run** command, or simply by calling the container as though it were an executable.

%runscript exec python3 "\$@"

%runscript rstudio "\$@"

%runscript cellphonedb "\$@"

Inspect the runscript

singularity inspect --runscript image.sif singularity inspect -r image.sif

Execute runscript

Using singularity run singularity run image.sif ## Use image as exectuable ./image.sif

localimage: R/Rstudio container

Bootstrap: localimage From: /apps/base_images/r_rstudio/r_4.3.1_rstduio_2023.06.sif

%post

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

Install Seurat5
Rscript -e "devtools::install_github('satijalab/seurat', 'seurat5', quiet = TRUE)"

zhan4429@login01.negishi:[4.3.1] \$./seurat5_monocle3.sif

RStudio (on login01.negishi.rcac.purdue.edu)

- Addins -

File Edit Code View Plots Session Build Debug Profile Tools Help

Go to file/function

Console Terminal × Background Jobs ×

😱 R 4.3.1 · ~/ ⇔

0 . OR

R version 4.3.1 (2023-06-16) -- "Beagle Scouts" 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)

Loading required package: SeuratObject Loading required package: sp The legacy packages maptools, rgdal, and rgeos, underpinning the sp package, which was just loaded, will retire in October 2023. Please refer to R-spatial evolution reports for details, especially https://r-spatial.org/r/2023/05/15/evolution4.html. It may be desirable to make the sf package available; package maintainers should consider adding sf to Suggests:. The sp package is now running under evolution status 2

localimage: mamba/conda

Bootstrap: localimage From: /apps/base_images/mamba/mamba_1.4.2.sif

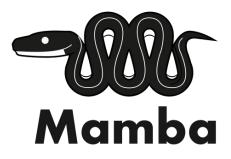
%labels

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

%post

mamba install -c bioconda fastqc trim-galore samtools \ bowtie2 star subread hisat2 salmon \ picard bedtools stringtie

Mamba can speed up your conda installs by 50-80%.



Bind host directories

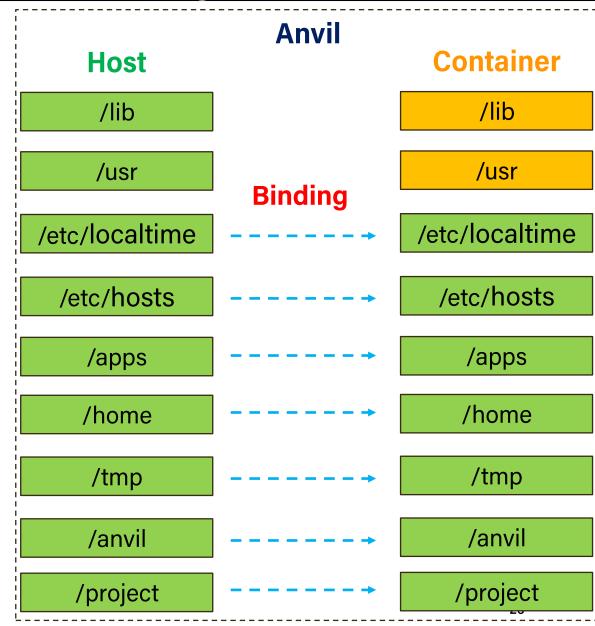
- Programs running inside a container will not have access to directories and files outside of your home and the current directory.
- Singularity allows you to map directories on your host system to directories within your container using bind mounts.

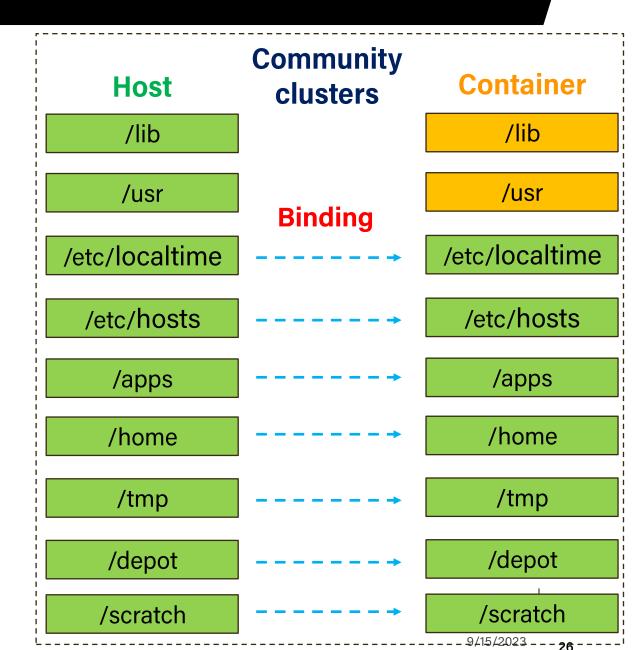
singularity/apptainer shell/run/exec --bind hostdir:containerdir image.sif

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.

binding





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

singularity pull --disable-cache URI

Or specifying a custom cache directory

export SINGULARITY_CACHEDIR=/tmp/\$USER

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 (Bell and Negishi):

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

For NVIDIA GPUs (Anvil, Gilbreth, and Scholar):

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

Multi-node MPI

While singularity/apptainer has always supported MPI-enabled applications, it can be tricky to get them working on multiple nodes.

Two old ways (https://apptainer.org/docs/user/latest/mpi.html):

1. the hybrid model 2. the bind model The new way: ♦ PMI ↓ Memory ↓ Memory

An Introduction to Parallel Programming by Peter Pacheco and Matthew Malensek

Hybrid mode

This model is called hybrid because it requires both an MPI implementation on the host and another implementation in the container image.

The host MPI provides the **mpirun** or **mpiexec** command and start ranks or containers on computing nodes.

MPI in the container image is used to run the application.

Host and container MPI need to be "**compatible**" since they need to tightly interact with each other.

module load openmpi/XXX ## load the MPI module compatible with your container mpirun -n \$SLURM_NTASKS singularity exec mpi_container.sif mpi_program

Bind mode

Similar to the Hybrid mode, the Bind mode is to start the MPI application by calling the MPI launcher (e.g., mpirun) from the host.

The main difference between the hybrid and bind mode is the fact that with the bind mode, the container usually does not include any MPI implementation.

This means that singularity/apptainer needs to mount/bind the MPI and high-speed interconnect libraries available on the host into the container.

Technically this requires two steps:

- 1. Know where the MPI implementation on the host is installed.
- 2. Mount/bind it into the container in a location where the system will be able to find libraries and binaries.

This mode sounds simple, but binding the complete paths is difficult and inconvenient.

nd@zeus-1:openfoam\$ module show singularity	1
/pawsey/sles12sp3/modulefiles/devel/singularity/3.5.2.lua:	
help([[Sets up the paths you need to use singularity version 3.5.2]]) whatis("Singularity enables users to have full control of their environment. Singularity containers can be used to package entire scientific workflows, software and libraries, and even data.	
For further information see https://sylabs.io/singularity") whatis("Compiled with gcc/4.8.5") setenv("MAALI_SINGULARITY_HOME","/pawsey/sles12sp3/devel/gcc/4.8.5/singularity/3.5.2") prepend_path("MANPATH","/pawsey/sles12sp3/devel/gcc/4.8.5/singularity/3.5.2/share/man") prepend_path("PATH","/pawsey/sles12sp3/devel/gcc/4.8.5/singularity/3.5.2/share/man") setenv("SINGULARITYENV_LD_LIBRARY_PATH","/usr/lib64:/pawsey/intel/17.0.5/compilers_and_lid) setenv("SINGULARITY_BINDPATH","/astro,/group,/scratch,/pawsey,/etc/dat.conf,/etc/libibverf2,/usr/lib64/libdaplofa.so.2.0.0,/usr/lib64/libdat2.so.2,/usr/lib64/libdat2.so.2.0.0,/usr libibverbs.so,/usr/lib64/libibverbs.so.1,/usr/lib64/libibverbs.so.1.1.14,/usr/lib64/libmlx/ usr/lib64/libmlx5.so.1.1.14,/usr/lib64/libnl-3.so.200,/usr/lib64/libnl-3.so.200.18.0,/usr libibverbs.so.200,/usr/lib64/libnl-genl-3.so.200,/usr/lib64	bs.d,/usr/lib64/libdaplofa.so. /lib64/libibverbs,/usr/lib64/l 5.so,/usr/lib64/libmlx5.so.1,/ /lib64/libnl-cli-3.so.200,/usr 200.18.0,/usr/lib64/libnl-idia ibnl-nf-3.so.200.18.0,/usr/lib
Pawsey Supercomputing Research Centre	9/15/2023 31

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV4JmbWUirc&t=4s

srun and PMI

The basic idea behind this approach is to put the entire MPI framework into a container along with the MPI application and then to use a tool (e.g. slurm) that implements one of the *PMI* standards to launch the MPI jobs.

MPI inside container need to be built with the same PMI standard support.

On RCAC clusters, **PMI-2** is recommended.



Home / CIQ Blog / Apptainer / Singularity

A New Approach to MPI in Apptainer

Dave Godlove • June 27, 2023

https://ciq.com/blog/a-new-approach-to-mpi-in-apptainer/

srun and PMI: usage

module purge # mainly purpose is to unload host mpi modules srun --mpi=pmi2 singularity/apptainer exec mpi_image.sif mpi_application

zhan4429@bell-fe02:~ \$ module purge The following modules were not unloaded: (Use "module --force purge" to unload all):

1) xalt/1.1.2

zhan4429@bell-fe02:~ \$ srun --mpi=pmi2 -N 4 -n16 --ntasks-per-node=4 singularity exec openmpi_4.1.4_pmi2.sif /opt/hello_world srun: job 27685396 queued and waiting for resources

srun: job 27685396 has been allocated resources

Hello world from processor bell-a093.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 14 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a091.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 4 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a091.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 7 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a091.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 5 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a093.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 12 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a093.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 13 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a093.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 15 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a092.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 9 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a092.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 8 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a092.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 11 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a090.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 1 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a090.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 2 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a090.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 3 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a091.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 6 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a092.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 10 out of 16 processors Hello world from processor bell-a090.rcac.purdue.edu, rank 0 out of 16 processors zhan4429@bell-fe02:~ \$

Build your own MPI containers

raxml-ng-mpi_1.2.0.def

Bootstrap: localimage From: /apps/base_images/MPI/openmpi/openmpi_4.1.4_pmi2.sif

%labels

Author "Yucheng Zhang <zhan4429@purdue.edu>" Version v1.2.0

%post

Install dependencies
apt-get -y update
apt-get -y install flex bison libgmp3-dev
Download and install raxml-ng
cd /opt
git clone --recursive https://github.com/amkozlov/raxml-ng
cd raxml-ng
mkdir build && cd build
cmake -DUSE_MPI=ON ..
make
make install

apptainer build raxml-ng-mpi_1.2.0.sif raxml-ng-mpi_1.2.0.def

#!/bin/bash

#SBATCH -A standby #SBATCH -t 4:00:00 #SBATCH -N 2 #SBATCH --ntasks-per-node=1 #SBATCH --cpus-per-task=128 #SBATCH --iob-name=raxml-ng #SBATCH --iob-name=raxml-ng #SBATCH --mail-type=FAIL,BEGIN,END #SBATCH --output=%x-%J-%u.err #SBATCH --output=%x-%J-%u.out

module purge srun --mpi=pmi2 apptainer exec \ raxml-ng-mpi_1.2.0.sif \ raxml-ng-mpi --msa input.fas \ --model GTR+G --prefix output \ --threads 128

Containerizing HPC applications with Singularity/Apptainer

Deployed containers on RCAC clusters



NGC container environment modules

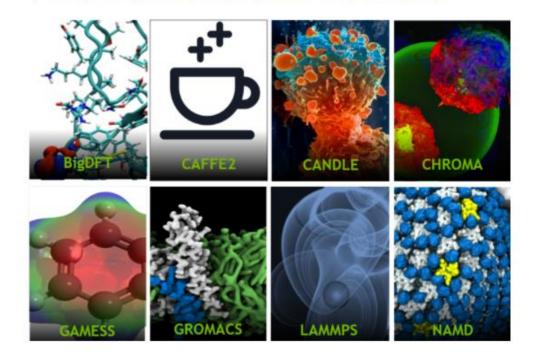
- NGC container environment modules are lightweight wrappers that make it possible to transparently use NGC containers as environment modules.
- 1. Allow HPC users to utilize familiar environment module commands.
- 2. Leverage all the benefits of containers, including portability and reproducibility.

https://github.com/NVIDIA/ngc-container-environment-modules

Simplifying HPC Workflows with NVIDIA NGC Container Environment Modules

By Akhil Docca and Scott McMillan

Discuss (2) O Like Tags: Al, Deep Learning, HPC / Supercomputing, machine learning, NGC, singularity





Nvidia GPU-optimized tools for deep learning, machine learning, and highperformance computing.

https://catalog.ngc.nvidia.com/

NGC containers are deployed on Anvil, Gilbreth and Scholar.

module load modtree/gpu ## This is only required on anvil

Load ngc module load ngc

Check available applications module avail

Load and run specific tools module load tensorflow/21.09-tf2-py3

Note: to use NGC containers, you also need to use GPU nodes equipped with Nvidia GPUs.

AMDAROCm

AMD GPU software containers for HPC, AI & machine learnin.

https://www.amd.com/en/technologies/infinity-hub

NGC containers are deployed on Bell and Negishi.

Load ngc module load rocmcontainers

Check available applications module avail

Load and run specific tools

module load pytorch/1.10.0-rocm5.0-ubuntu18.04-py3.7

Note: to use AMD containers, you also need to use GPU nodes equipped with AMD GPUs.

Biocontainers

>800 modules for ~600 applications (As of August, 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

Compilers

User guides for each biocontainer module can be found in https://www.rcac.purdue.edu/knowledge/biocontainers

PURDUE UNIVERSITY.	ROSEN CENTER FOR ADVANCED COMPUTING	A Login					
NEWS 🗸 EDUCATION 🗸 ACCOUNT	✓ COMPUTE ✓ STORAGE ✓ ANVIL ENVISION PURCHASE ✓ SERVICES ✓ ABOUT ✓	🎽 🎬 in 💿					
łome / Knowledge Base / Biocontainers							
	Search knowledge base Submit	Expand Topics					
Compute							
> Bell User Guide	Biocontainers						
> Weber User Guide	What is BioContainers						
> Gilbreth User Guide	The BioContainers project came from the idea of using the containers-based technologies such as BioContainers Flow Docker or rkt for bioinformatics software. Having a common and controllable environment for						
Scholar User Guide							
> Data Workbench User Guide	running software could help to deal with some of the current problems during software	running software could help to deal with some of the current problems during software					
Brown User Guide	development and distribution. BioContainers is a community-driven project that provides the						
> Geddes User Guide	infrastructure and basic guidelines to create, manage and distribute bioinformatics containers with a special focus on omics fields such as proteomics, genomics, transcriptomics and metabolomics.						
> Hammer User Guide	For more information, please visit BioContainers project .						
> Anvil User Guide							
» Negishi User Guide	Deployed Applications						
	○ <u>abacas</u>						
Datasets	• abismal						
> iGenomes	 <u>abpoa</u> ○ abricate 						
	◦ <u>abyss</u>						
Software Catalog	° <u>actc</u>						
	 <u>adapterremoval</u> ○ advntr 						

One more thing: bash wrappers

cd \$HOME mkdir containers myapps export PATH=\$HOME/myapps:\$PATH

pull images to \$HOME/containers cd \$HOME/containers singularity pull docker://staphb/samtools:1.18

create the wrapper stored in \$HOME/myapps cd \$HOME/myapps vim samtools chmod +x samtools

use wrapper to run the image samtools help

#!/bin/bash

image_dir="\$HOME/containers"
image_name="samtools_1.18.sif"

cmd="\$(basename \$0)"

args="\$@"

singularity exec \$image_dir/\$image_name \$cmd \$args

THANK YOU

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







Rosen Center for Advanced Computing