



# Getting Started with ARC

Hilary Term 2026

The ARC Team

<https://www.arc.ox.ac.uk>

<https://www.it.ox.ac.uk>

# Advanced Research Computing (ARC)



ARC provide generalised **High Performance Computing (HPC)** resources that provides support for:

- Diverse research computing needs (across all categories);
- High-performance storage and data management;
- User support and application optimisation.

## Why use an HPC Cluster

- **Efficiency:** Don't monopolise your personal machine;
- **Volume:** Handle multiple, lengthy tasks;
- **Speed:** Achieve faster results with parallel processing,  
Supports job parallelism of serial tasks.
- **Resources:**  
Enhanced storage capacity;  
Greater memory allocation;
- **Capabilities:**  
Access specialised software on the cluster;  
Utilise GPUs for accelerated processing;
- **Support:** Benefit from dedicated ARC assistance.

# Parallel Processing Models

# Models of Parallelism

## Distributed Memory

### Distributed Memory Programming Model:

- **System Type:** Multi-core where each core has its dedicated memory;
- **Memory Access:** A core's memory is private and cannot be accessed directly by other cores;
- **Parallelism Unit:** The process, where a programme consists of multiple processes;
- **Information Exchange:** Communication between processes requires explicit message passing;
- **Dominant Programming Standard:** Message Passing Interface (**MPI**) is the predominant framework for implementing this model.

### Distributed Memory Hardware:

- **Traditional Model:** Conceptually like many PCs linked together (resembling a Beowulf cluster);
- **Modern Approach:** Incorporates multi-core nodes, often in high-density blades, each equipped with its own dedicated memory, using high bandwidth, low-latency networking for efficient communication; Modular, off-the-shelf components such as premium CPUs, standard storage drives;
- **Significance:** Underpins the most expansive HPC systems;

Distributed Memory ARC systems: the **ARC** cluster (but any machine can be programmed using this model).

# Models of Parallelism

## Shared Memory

### Shared Memory Programming Model:

- **System Type:** Multi-core;
- **Memory Access:** Each core taps into a unified memory space;
- **Parallelism Unit:** Threads, where a single program consists of multiple threads running concurrently;
- **Information Exchange:** Threads communicate via shared variables;
- **Dominant Programming Standard:** OpenMP.

### Shared Memory Hardware:

- conceptually, this resembles a single computer, with a large memory pool and multiple processing cores;
- includes both small and cost effective systems like desktops, as well as high-end configurations featuring premium, high-bandwidth memory access.

Shared Memory ARC Systems: **HTC** cluster and any single node of the **ARC** cluster.



# ARC HPC Services

# HPC Clusters

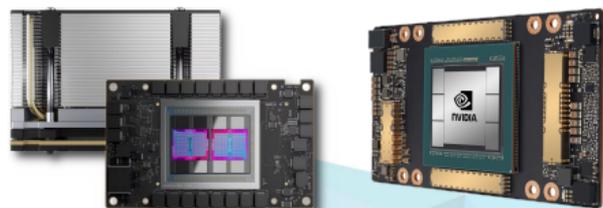
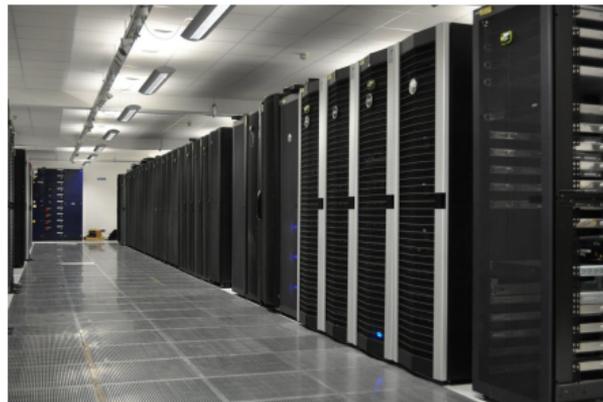
## Cluster services:

- HTC - high throughput (Shared Memory)
- ARC - large scale parallel (Distributed Memory)

## GPU architectures on HTC nodes include:

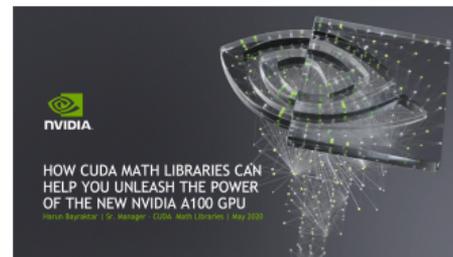
Pascal, Volta, Turing, Ampere, Grace Hopper, Ada Lovelace, and AMD Instinct.

Hosted at Begbroke Data Centre



# HTC Cluster

- Minimum job size: 1 core
- CPU and GPU node on this cluster include:
  - ▶ High Memory Nodes
  - ▶ Single Precision GPU Compute Nodes
  - ▶ Double Precision GPU Compute Nodes
- Available GPUs include:  
V100, A100, P100, Titan RTX, RTX A6000, V100-LS,  
GH200, L40S, ...



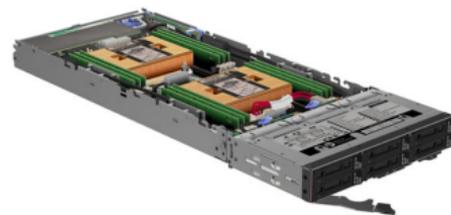
# ARC Cluster

ARC provides a capability cluster comprising of:

- ~270 general compute nodes; designed for multi-node parallel computation
- OS: AlmaLinux 9.4
- 4 nodes for legacy software running CentOS 8.1
- Scheduler: SLURM

**>15 000 CPU cores**

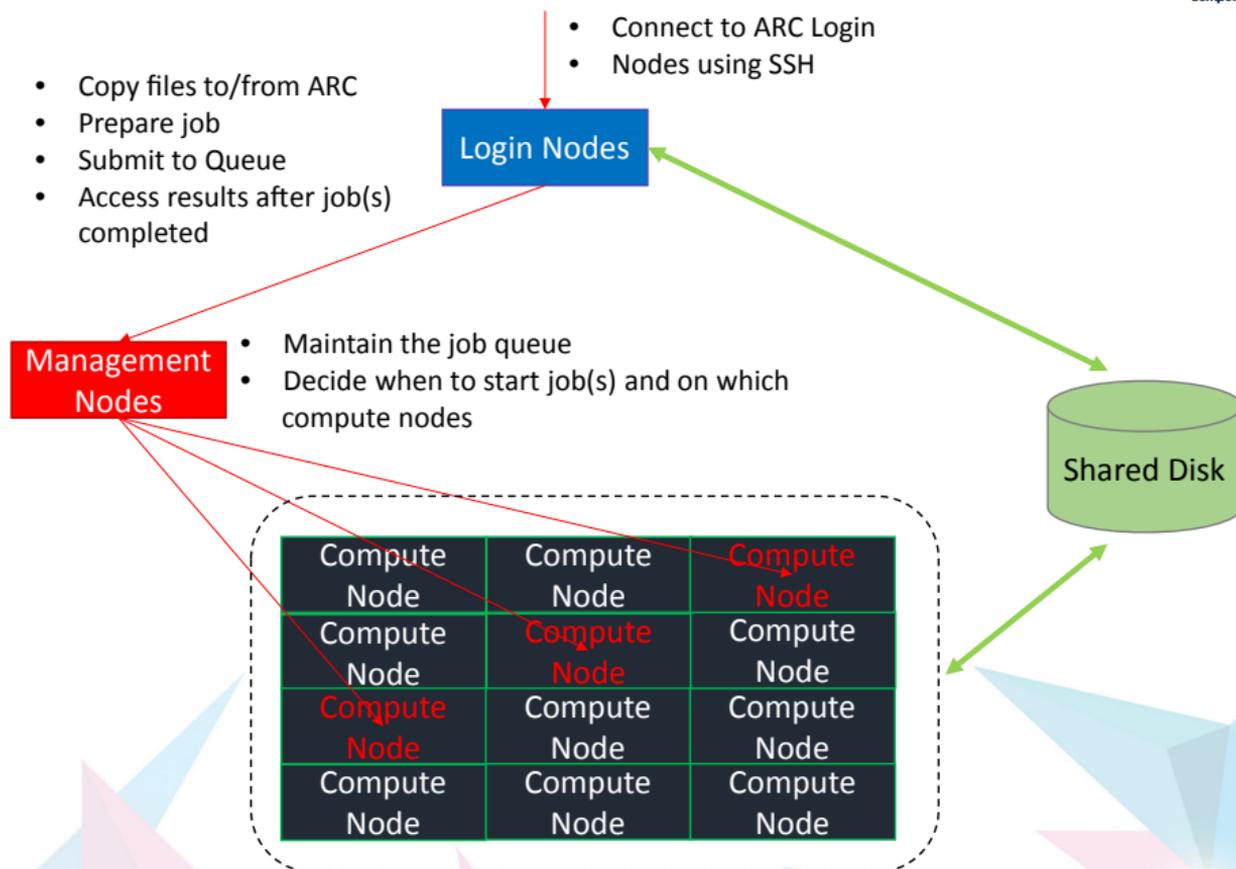
All connected with fast low-latency network/interconnect (InfiniBand)





# Cluster Workflow

# Cluster of Compute Nodes





# Software Environment

# Linux Operating System

All ARC systems operate on the Linux Operating System, rather than on platforms like Windows or MacOS.

## Why Linux is the Preferred Choice for HPC:

- Cost-Efficiency
- Dependability
- Optimal Performance

To use ARC, a basic knowledge of Linux and the command line interface is essential. Numerous online resources are available to help you acquire this understanding.

See the ARC training pages for more information: <https://www.arc.ox.ac.uk/training>

## ARC Software Environment

The software environment of ARC/HTC encompasses a blend of commercial applications, tools constructed with the EasyBuild framework, see: <https://easybuild.io/>

To integrate applications into your ARC/HTC environment, utilize the environment modules system through the module command.

Given that the EasyBuild framework introduces numerous module components, the most efficient method to locate a desired application on the system is by employing the module spider command.

For those interested in exploring a comprehensive list of ARC modules online, it's available here: <https://arc-module-list.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

## Environment Modules

The 'module' utility in Linux is designed to manage the working environment, particularly in preparation for executing applications installed on the ARC systems.

When you load the module for a specific application, the associated environment variables for that application are automatically set or adjusted.

To find a specific application on the system, you can use the `module spider` command. For instance:

```
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ module spider MATLAB
```

```
-----  
MATLAB:  
-----
```

```
Versions:
```

```
MATLAB/R2019b  
MATLAB/R2020a  
MATLAB/R2020b  
MATLAB/R2021b  
MATLAB/R2022a  
MATLAB/R2022b  
MATLAB/R2023a  
MATLAB/R2023b  
-----
```

To then load the most recent version of MATLAB, you would input:

```
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ module load MATLAB/R2023b
```

## Module load example

Loading MATLAB via the linux module load command on the terminal:

```
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ matlab
-bash: matlab: command not found
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ module load MATLAB/R2023b
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ matlab -nojvm -nosplash
MATLAB is selecting SOFTWARE OPENGL rendering.
```

```
< M A T L A B (R) >
Copyright 1984-2023 The MathWorks, Inc.
R2023b Update 7 (23.2.0.2515942) 64-bit (glnxa64)
January 30, 2024
```

For online documentation, see <https://www.mathworks.com/support>  
For product information, visit [www.mathworks.com](http://www.mathworks.com).

>>

Accessing installed software applications:

<https://arc-software-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/arc-modules.html>

## Using Python Anaconda on ARC clusters

The ARC team maintain central Python Anaconda installations for Anaconda 2 and Anaconda 3.

For example:

```
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ module load Anaconda3
```

Or use

```
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ module spider Anaconda
```

And use the specific Anaconda version you need.

For example:

```
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ module load Anaconda3/2025.06-1
```

If a python module you require is not available on the central Anaconda installations we suggest you follow our instructions to set up your personal Anaconda virtual environment:

[https://arc-software-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/python/anaconda\\_venv.html](https://arc-software-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/python/anaconda_venv.html)

## Adding Python Anaconda modules

Follow the steps below, on an interactive node:

```
[user@arc-login ~]$ srun -p interactive --pty /bin/bash
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ module load Anaconda3
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ export CONPREFIX=$DATA/myenv
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ conda create --prefix $CONPREFIX
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ source activate $CONPREFIX
```

You can now install the modules you need:

```
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ conda install <modulename>
```

For a GPU version same commands on an interactive node on the HTC cluster, adding:

```
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ module spider CUDA
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ module load CUDA/<version>
```

## Using R on ARC cluster

```
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ module spider R  
[user@arc-interactive ~]$ module load R/4.4.2-gfbf-2024a
```

The base install has many popular R packages installed.

To install packages in your own R Library follow the instructions on our software pages:

[https://arc-software-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/R/arc\\_r\\_intro.html](https://arc-software-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/R/arc_r_intro.html)

## Software Containers on ARC

ARC offers support for containerized applications through **Apptainer**, formerly known as Singularity.

In addition to executing its proprietary containers, **Apptainer** also has the capability to run **Docker** containers.

Since **Apptainer** is integrated into the OS, there's no need to execute a module load command.

More details can be found on the Apptainer documentation at:

[https://apptainer.org/docs/user/1.3/docker\\_and\\_oci.html](https://apptainer.org/docs/user/1.3/docker_and_oci.html)

# The Scheduler

ARC uses the SLURM scheduler. SLURM stands for:

## Simple **L**inux **U**tility for **R**esource **M**anagement

### **Job and Node management with SLURM:**

- SLURM oversees the job queue, dictating the start time, sequence, and allocation of nodes for each job.
- It handles the administration of compute nodes.
- SLURM assigns tasks to available compute nodes.
- It also supports 'accelerator cards', including those from Nvidia like GPU nodes.
- The ARC and HTC clusters both utilise the SLURM scheduler.

## Connecting to ARC systems — SSH

The SSH protocol is used for all remote user connections to our systems.

Windows users can use well-known SSH clients 'MobaXterm' or 'Putty' or the built-in openssh available in Windows 10 and later versions.

Linux and Mac users can use the Linux terminal and run the built-in ssh client.

Open a terminal and from the prompt enter your ARC username and password:

```
[user@host ~]$ ssh <userid>@arc-login.arc.ox.ac.uk
```

Or if you want X to forward graphics applications:

```
[user@host ~]$ ssh -X <userid>@arc-login.arc.ox.ac.uk
```

For more details see

<https://arc-user-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/connecting-to-arc.html>

## Job submission

### Creating a Submission Script for SLURM

- A submission script specifies the resources you want SLURM to allocate for your task.
- It also includes the commands to run your desired application(s) and any necessary setup for those applications.
- Use a Linux text editor, like nano or vi, to create your script. `nano submit.sh`
- Important: For optimal functionality, we advise crafting and modifying submission scripts directly on the cluster. Editing them on a Windows machine can introduce issues.

#### Please note:

We recommend creating and editing submission scripts on the cluster rather than editing them on a Windows machine, as this can introduce issues.

## Job submission (Example)

Here is a simple Linux shell script (simple text file) with instructions to SLURM.

The SLURM instructions, or directives, (the lines starting with *#SBATCH*) request cluster resources. The other shell commands say what to do in job.

Example (MPI or Message Passing Interface job)

```
1  #!/bin/bash
2  #SBATCH --nodes=2
3  #SBATCH --ntasks-per-node=48
4  #SBATCH --time=08:00:00
5  #SBATCH --partition=short
6  #SBATCH --clusters=arc
7
8  module purge
9  module load mpitest
10 mpirun mpihello
```

## Partitions on ARC clusters

The clusters have the following time-based scheduling partitions available:

- **short** (default run time 1 hour, maximum run time 12 hours)
- **medium** (default run time 12 hours, maximum run time 48 hours)
- **long** (default run time 24 hours, maximum run time 30 days)
- **devel** (maximum run time 10 minutes – for batch job testing only)
- **interactive** (maximum run time 24 hours, can oversubscribe, for pre/post-processing and building software)

Jobs in the short and medium partitions are scheduled with higher priority than those in the long partition; however, they will not be able to run for longer than the time allowed on those partitions.

### Note:

QOS (Quality of Service) for co-investment nodes overrides partition time limits. In other words you may see jobs running for more than 12 hours on the short partition, these jobs belong to members of Research groups who have purchased the co-invested nodes. All other users will have a time limit of 12 hours on the short queues.

## The devel partition

The devel partitions should be used to test your submission script.

On ARC (for CPU usage) devel partition has two nodes, 48 cores each.

On HTC the devel GPU partition has one GPU.

To use the devel partition add the following line to your submission script:

```
#SBATCH --partition=devel
```

Note, maximum time limit on this partition is 10 minutes, so you must also adjust your time requirement accordingly:

```
#SBATCH --time=00:10:00
```

## Submission to interactive partition

An interactive job logs you in to a compute node and gives you a shell.

This allows users to interact with the node in real time, much like one would interact with a desktop PC, or the login nodes.

You **must** use interactive jobs in order to run pre/post processing and software build activities.

To start an interactive session, you need to use the srun command:

```
[user@arc-login ~]$ srun -p interactive --pty /bin/bash
```

or for a session that allows graphical interfaces (via X forwarding):

```
[user@arc-login ~]$ srun -p interactive --x11 --pty /bin/bash
```

This would allocate 1 core on one interactive node and log you in to the system (giving you a shell on the system). Multiple cores, memory, or other resources can be requested the same way as for sbatch.

Exiting the the shell ends the job. It will also be aborted once it exceeds the time limit.

## GPU submission

GPUs are only available on compute nodes which are part of the HTC cluster.

The most basic way you can access a GPU is by requesting a GPU device using the gres option in your submission script:

```
#SBATCH --gres=gpu:1
```

The above will request 1 single GPU device (of any type)

Note that — as with CPUs and memory — you will only be able to see the number of GPUs you requested.

You may also request a specific type of GPU device, for example:

```
#SBATCH --gres=gpu:v100:1
```

To request one V100 device

## GPU submission (continued...)

You can add constraints to specify GPU type or capability:

*# By model*

```
#SBATCH --constraint='gpu_sku:V100'
```

```
#SBATCH --constraint='gpu_sku:A100'
```

```
#SBATCH --constraint='gpu_sku:GH200'
```

*# By generation*

```
#SBATCH --constraint='gpu_gen:Pascal'
```

```
#SBATCH --constraint='gpu_gen:Volta'
```

```
#SBATCH --constraint='gpu_gen:Ampere'
```

```
#SBATCH --constraint='gpu_gen:Hopper'
```

*# By capability / specs*

```
#SBATCH --constraint='gpu_cc:3.7'
```

```
#SBATCH --constraint='gpu_mem:32GB'
```

```
#SBATCH --constraint='nvlink:2.0'
```

Current list of GPUs on HTC cluster can be found on:

<https://arc-user-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/arc-systems.html#gpu-resources>

## High memory nodes

On HTC there are several generally available high memory nodes:

- 2 nodes with 96 CPU cores & 3 TB memory
- 4 nodes with 168 CPU cores & 2.2 TB memory
- 4 nodes with 168 CPU cores & 1.5 TB memory
- 18 nodes with 84 CPU cores & 1.1 TB memory

You can use the high-memory nodes by adding a value between 400G and 3000G in the `--mem` option, e.g.:

```
#SBATCH --mem=1500G
```

to request 1.5 TB

Email [support@arc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:support@arc.ox.ac.uk) for more details

## ARC graphical nodes

You can access the Graphical nodes via a web browser or the client software

You can connect directly via web browser to <https://nx.arc.ox.ac.uk> via the webbased client connection (which is lower quality in terms of visual display).

To access the Graphical nodes via the client software

Download the NoMachine Enterprise Client and install this on your local machine.

More details here: <https://arc-user-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/connecting-to-arc.html#connecting-using-arc-graphical-nodes>



# Job Submission Demonstration

## Submission script example

For this demonstration we will connect to the ARC cluster and we will ask for the following resources:

- 2 compute nodes;
- 48 processes per node (using MPI);
- with one CPU per task (the default);
- and a 10 minutes wall time on the 'devel' partition.

## Submission script for arc cluster

For this the following submission script would be used:

```
1  #!/bin/bash
2  #SBATCH --nodes=2
3  #SBATCH --ntasks-per-node=48
4  #SBATCH --time=00:10:00
5  #SBATCH --partition=devel
6  #SBATCH --job-name=Primes
7
8  module load mpitest/1.0
9  for i in {1..4}; do
10     mpirun mpiprimes 1000000
11     sleep 5
12 done
```

If you would like to experiment with this script it may be found at:  
[/apps/common/examples/training/2022/mpi\\_submit/submit.sh](/apps/common/examples/training/2022/mpi_submit/submit.sh)

## Submitting the job

A SLURM submission script is submitted using the sbatch command:

```
[user@arc-login ~]$ sbatch <name of submission script>
```

e.g.

```
[user@arc-login ~]$ sbatch submit.sh
```

SLURM will respond with an output that looks like this:

```
submitted batch job <jobid> (e.g. 273812)
```

queue monitor the queue

scancel cancel a job (made a mistake?)

seff view job efficiency

ls -l to see the output from the job (must be run from the same directory you submitted the job from)

# Managing Jobs

## More on submission of Jobs

- To re-queue your jobs:

```
[user@arc-login ~]$ sbatch [--requeue | --no-requeue]
```

- Jobs dependencies:

```
[user@arc-login ~]$ sbatch -d afterok:<jobid>
```

- Job arrays:

```
[user@arc-login ~]$ sbatch -a 1-20
```

- Requestion GPUs:

```
[user@htc-login ~]$ sbatch --gres=gpu:1
```

# Submission queue

Command: squeue

```

7120226 short FC2_KH2P mert3235 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c032
7120227 short FC2_KH2P mert3235 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c032
7120293 short FC2_KH2P mert3235 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c033
7120302 short FC2_KH2P mert3235 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c033
7120303 short FC2_KH2P mert3235 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c033
7120304 short FC2_KH2P mert3235 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c033
7120305 short FC2_KH2P mert3235 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c033
7120366 short FC4_KH2P mert3235 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c034
7120367 short FC4_KH2P mert3235 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c034
7120368 short FC4_KH2P mert3235 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c034
7119188 short FC4_Na3P mert3235 R 3:18:48 1 arc-c033
7119189 short FC4_Na3P mert3235 R 3:18:48 1 arc-c034
7119190 short FC4_Na3P mert3235 R 3:18:48 1 arc-c035
7119191 short FC4_Na3P mert3235 R 3:18:48 1 arc-c036
7119192 short FC4_Na2C mert3235 R 3:18:48 1 arc-c038
7119186 short FC4_Na3P mert3235 R 3:26:23 1 arc-c039
7119185 short FC4_Na3P mert3235 R 3:30:01 1 arc-c096
7119166 short FC2_K2C2 mert3235 R 3:30:01 1 arc-c288
6992125 short r3dep_5 hert5155 R 6:16:08 8 arc-c[019-020,029,041,043-045,307]
7119094 short cwX3 phys2414 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c035
7119212 short qising phys2414 R 1:04:12 1 arc-c036
7120682 short pz_EoS_M magd4268 R 18:15 1 arc-c056
7106802_1235 short SnS ball5018 R 10:19 1 arc-c242
7106802_1236 short SnS ball5018 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c055
7106802_1237 short SnS ball5018 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c057
7106802_1238 short SnS ball5018 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c058
7106802_1239 short SnS ball5018 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c067
7106802_1240 short SnS ball5018 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c069
7106802_1241 short SnS ball5018 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c071
7119431 short Droplets exet5317 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c072
7119432 short Droplets exet5317 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c078
7119184_1251 short SnS ball5018 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c079
7119184_1252 short SnS ball5018 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c080
7119184_1253 short SnS ball5018 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c083
7119184_1254 short SnS ball5018 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c084
7119184_1255 short SnS ball5018 R 1:11:56 1 arc-c085
7119370 short MACE ball5018 R 10:18 1 arc-c301
[ouit0578@arc-login03 ~]$

```

## Information about the Cluster

slinfo reports the state of partitions and nodes managed by SLURM on the clusters ARC or HTC:

```
[ouit0578@htc-login03 ~]$ slinfo
PARTITION AVAIL  TIMELIMIT  NODES  STATE MODELIST
short      up    12:00:00    4  drain* htc-c034,htc-g[020-021,025]
short      up    12:00:00    2  down*  htc-g[028,033]
short      up    12:00:00    2  comp   htc-g[035,048]
short      up    12:00:00    3  drng   htc-g[004,045-046]
short      up    12:00:00    4  drain  htc-g[030-032,034]
short      up    12:00:00    8  resv   htc-g[022-024,026-027,029,043,052]
short      up    12:00:00   29  mix    htc-c[005-007,010-013,033],htc-g[001-003,005-006
,010-011,013-018,036-038,044,047,049-051]
short      up    12:00:00   37  alloc  htc-c[008-009,014-032,035-046],htc-g[009,012,041
-042]
medium     up    2-00:00:00    1  drain* htc-c034
medium     up    2-00:00:00    1  comp   htc-g048
medium     up    2-00:00:00    2  drng   htc-g[045-046]
medium     up    2-00:00:00   18  mix    htc-c[006-007,010-013,033],htc-g[010-011,013-018
,044,047,049]
medium     up    2-00:00:00   35  alloc  htc-c[008-009,014-032,035-046],htc-g[009,012]
long*      up    infinite      1  drain* htc-c034
long*      up    infinite      1  comp   htc-g048
long*      up    infinite      2  drng   htc-g[045-046]
long*      up    infinite     18  mix    htc-c[006-007,010-013,033],htc-g[010-011,013-018
,044,047,049]
long*      up    infinite     35  alloc  htc-c[008-009,014-032,035-046],htc-g[009,012]
devel      up    10:00         1  idle   htc-g039
interactive up    12:00:00     1  mix    htc-g040
[ouit0578@htc-login03 ~]$
```

## More info about your job

scontrol show JobID=<jobid>

gives more information about jobs's starttime and endtime, nodes allocated, ...

```
lout0578@arc-login03 ~]$ scontrol show JobID=6992125
JobId=6992125 JobName=r3dep_5
  UserId=hert5155(5869) GroupId=internal(1001) MCS_label=N/A
  Priority=1583 Nice=0 Account=chem-amais QOS=standard
  JobState=RUNNING Reason=None Dependency=(null)
  Queue=1 Restarts=0 BatchFlag=1 Reboot=0 ExitCode=0:0
  RunTime=06:16:46 TimeLimit=12:00:00 TimeMin=N/A
  SubmitTime=2024-01-08T01:31:01 EligibleTime=2024-01-29T20:08:49
  AccrueTime=2024-01-29T20:08:49
  StartTime=2024-02-01T08:28:38 EndTime=2024-02-01T20:28:38 Deadline=N/A
  SuspendTime=None SecsPreSuspend=0 LastSchedEval=2024-02-01T08:28:38
  Partition=short AllocNode:Sid=arc-slurm:1145388
  ReqNodeList=(null) ExcNodeList=(null)
  NodeList=arc-c[019-020,029,041,043-045,307]
  BatchHost=arc-c019
  NumNodes=8 NumCPUs=384 NumTasks=384 CPUs/Task=1 ReqB:S:C:T=0:0:*:*
  TRES=cpu=384,mem=3000G,node=8,billing=384
  Socks/Node=* NtasksPerN:B:S:C=48:0:*:* CoreSpec=*
  MinCPUsNode=48 MinMemoryCPU=8000M MinTmpDiskNode=0
  Features=cpu DelayBoot=00:00:00
  OverSubscribe=OK Contiguous=0 Licenses=(null) Network=(null)
  Command=./mlp_lammps_varMQ_11.sh -c u16_m1.5_fw0.1_PQ1k_G18_scratch.mtp -s /home/hert5155/scripts/lammps/sc1M.dat

  WorkDir=/data/chem-amais/hert5155/GAP_to_MTP/varMQs/1M_u16_r3
  Comment=[ "Department": "Inorganic Chemistry (DH)", "Division": "MPLS" ]
  StdErr=/data/chem-amais/hert5155/GAP_to_MTP/varMQs/1M_u16_r3/slurm-6992125.out
  StdIn=/dev/null
  StdOut=/data/chem-amais/hert5155/GAP_to_MTP/varMQs/1M_u16_r3/slurm-6992125.out
  Power=
  NtasksPerTRES:0
```

## Why does my queued job not start?

Jobs may be queued for various reasons. A job may be waiting for resources to become available. Or you might have hit a limit for the maximum number of jobs that can be running on the system. One way to determine why a job is queuing is to use the `scontrol show JobID=<num>` command.

For example, if the job ID is 12345:

```
[user@arc-login ~]$ scontrol show JobID=12345
```

If the Reason value of the job state is JobHeldUser:

This means your job is held because your ARC project has run out of compute 'credit'.

Please contact [support@arc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:support@arc.ox.ac.uk) for a top up.

You can release user held jobs using the command:

```
[user@arc-login ~]$ scontrol release 12345
```

More information on non-running jobs can be found here:

<https://arc-user-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/slurm-faq.html>

## Checking Credit Balance

Users are given a credit allocation, usually shared with other users of the same project. You can check the number of credits at any point using the command `mybalance`

The command shows the existing number of credits and the number of credits reserved from jobs for all users sharing the same project.

```
[ouit0578@arc-login03 ~]$ mybalance
Please wait: Calculating balance ...
You are a member on the following project(s): system,system-priority,system-basic,engs-unified-model,engs-unified-model-priority,engs-unified-model-basic
and your current balance is: 812601212 credits (~225722 core hours)

Detailed account balance:

```

Id	Name	Amount	Reserved	Balance	CreditLimit	Available
51	system	580134892	0	580134892	0	580134892
5723	system-priority	89993921	0	89993921	0	89993921
5725	system-basic	89999752	0	89999752	0	89999752
93490	engs-unified-model	52472647	0	52472647	0	52472647
93491	engs-unified-model-priority	0	0	0	0	0
93492	engs-unified-model-basic	0	0	0	0	0

```
[ouit0578@arc-login03 ~]$
```

# Managing Data & Storage

## User and Project ARC Storage

ARC provides users with a number of storage areas on the high performance file-system.

`$HOME` /home/<username>

Small quota. Used during login. (15 GiB)

`$DATA` /data/<projectname>/<username>

Large quota shared between project members (5 TiB per project)

You should also note `$TMPDIR` is local to a compute node, `$SCRATCH` is on a shared file-system and available to all nodes in a job, if a job spans multiple nodes.

Use the `myquota` command to check your `$HOME` and `$DATA` storage use.

<https://arc-user-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/arc-storage.html>

## Data Integrity and Backup

ARC makes best effort to ensure the integrity of data stored on our facilities. However, we are under no obligation to guarantee the integrity or availability of data – **This is the responsibility of the individual user.**

### **NO BACKUPS**

Limited snapshots of `$HOME` are taken. However, ARC does not accept any liability, financial or otherwise for loss of data.

We recommend that users employ standard industry practice for their important data and store it at sites other than ARC, for example, on their department servers.

# Transferring data to/from ARC

## Copying files to the ARC systems

Make sure you know the full path to the destination directory on ARC. The best way to do this is to log in to ARC, change to that directory and run the command `pwd`. This will show you the full path to the directory.

See details on our website:

<https://arc-user-guide.readthedocs.io/en/latest/arc-copying-data.html>

**More Information...**

## Further Training

- **Introduction to Linux**

external training for essential Linux command line knowledge

<https://www.netacad.com/courses/linux-unhatched/>

<https://ryanstutorials.net/linuxtutorial/>

- **Introduction to ARC**

Prerequisites introduction to working with the clusters

<https://www.arc.ox.ac.uk/introduction-arc>

- **Getting Started with ARC** (This one)

- **Effective Use of HPC Clusters**

Advanced online training of more experienced users

<https://www.arc.ox.ac.uk/effective-use-hpc-clusters/>

- **Oxford Research Software Engineering Group**

<https://www.rse.ox.ac.uk/training>

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<https://www.arc.ox.ac.uk/training/>

# ARC User Documentation

- Main ARC website:  
<https://www.arc.ox.ac.uk/>
- ARC User Guide:  
<https://arc-user-guide.readthedocs.io/>
- ARC Software Guide:  
<https://arc-software-guide.readthedocs.io/>
- Website includes policy documents and information on costs for purchasing priority compute credits  
<https://www.arc.ox.ac.uk/arc-accounting/>  
<https://www.arc.ox.ac.uk/arc-service-level-agreements/>

Thank You!

# Any Questions?

