Package ‘rslurm’

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Type Package

Title Submit R Calculations to a ‘Slurm’ Cluster

Description Functions that simplify submitting R scripts to a ‘Slurm’ workload manager, in part by automating the division of embarrassingly parallel calculations across cluster nodes.

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Introduction to the \texttt{rslurm} Package

Description

Send long-running or parallel jobs to a Slurm workload manager (i.e. cluster) using the \texttt{slurm\_call} or \texttt{slurm\_apply} functions.

Job submission

This package includes two core functions used to send computations to a Slurm cluster: 1) \texttt{slurm\_call} executes a function using a single set of parameters (passed as a list), and 2) \texttt{slurm\_apply} evaluates a function in parallel for each row of parameters in a given data frame. The second, \texttt{slurm\_apply}, automatically splits the parameter rows into equal-size chunks, each chunk to be processed by a separate cluster node. It uses functions from the \texttt{parallel-package} package to parallelize computations across processors on a given node.

The output of \texttt{slurm\_apply} or \texttt{slurm\_call} is a \texttt{slurm\_job} object that serves as an input to the other functions in the package: \texttt{print\_job\_status, cancel\_slurm, get\_slurm\_out} and \texttt{cleanup\_files}.

Function specification

To be compatible with \texttt{slurm\_apply}, a function may accept any number of single value parameters. The names of these parameters must match the column names of the \texttt{params} data frame supplied. There are no restrictions on the types of parameters passed as a list to \texttt{slurm\_call}.

If the function passed to \texttt{slurm\_call} or \texttt{slurm\_apply} requires knowledge of any R objects (data, custom helper functions) besides \texttt{params}, a character vector corresponding to their names should be passed to the optional \texttt{add\_objects} argument.

When parallelizing a function, since any error will interrupt all calculations for the current node, it may be useful to wrap expressions which may generate errors into a \texttt{try} or \texttt{tryCatch} function. This will ensure the computation continues with the next parameter set after reporting the error.
Output Format

The default output format for get_slurm_out (outtype = "raw") is a list where each element is
the return value of one function call. If the function passed to slurm_apply produces a vector
output, you may use outtype = "table" to collect the output in a single data frame, with one row
by function call.

Slurm Configuration

Advanced options for the Slurm workload manager may accompany job submission by both slurm_call
and slurm_apply through the optional slurm_options argument. For example, passing list(time
= '1:30') for this options limits the job to 1 hour and 30 minutes. Some advanced configuration
must be set through environment variables. On a multi-cluster head node, for example, the
SLURM_CLUSTERS environment variable must be set to direct jobs to a non-default cluster.

Examples

```r
## Not run:
# Create a data frame of mean/sd values for normal distributions
pars <- data.frame(par_m = seq(-10, 10, length.out = 1000),
                   par_sd = seq(0.1, 10, length.out = 1000))

# Create a function to parallelize
ftest <- function(par_m, par_sd) {
  samp <- rnorm(10^7, par_m, par_sd)
  c(s_m = mean(samp), s_sd = sd(samp))
}

sjob1 <- slurm_apply(ftest, pars)
print_job_status(sjob1)
res <- get_slurm_out(sjob1, "table")
all.equal(pars, res) # Confirm correct output
cleanup_files(sjob1)

## End(Not run)
```

cancel_slurm  Cancels a scheduled Slurm job

description

This function cancels the specified Slurm job by invoking the Slurm scancel command. It does not
delete the temporary files (e.g. scripts) created by slurm_apply or slurm_call. Use cleanup_files
to remove those files.

Usage

```r
cancel_slurm(slr_job)
```
cleanup_files

Arguments

slr_job    A slurm_job object.

See Also

cleanup_files

cleanup_files    Deletes temporary files associated with a Slurm job

Description

This function deletes all temporary files associated with the specified Slurm job, including files created by `slurm_apply` or `slurm_call`, as well as outputs from the cluster. These files should be located in the `_rslurm_[jobname]` folder of the current working directory.

Usage

cleanup_files(slr_job, wait = TRUE)

Arguments

slr_job    A slurm_job object.
wait    Specify whether to block until slr_job completes.

See Also

`slurm_apply, slurm_call`

Examples

```r
## Not run:
sjob <- slurm_apply(func, pars)
print_job_status(sjob) # Prints console/error output once job is completed.
func_result <- get_slurm_out(sjob, "table") # Loads output data into R.
cleanup_files(sjob)

## End(Not run)
```
get_job_status  

Get the status of a Slurm job

**Description**

This function returns the completion status of a Slurm job, its queue status if any and log outputs.

**Usage**

```r
get_job_status(slr_job)
```

**Arguments**

- `slr_job`: A `slurm_job` object.

**Details**

The `queue` element of the output is a data frame matching the output of the Slurm `squeue` command for that job; it will only indicate portions of job that are running or in queue. The `log` element is a vector of the contents of console/error output files for each node where the job is running.

**Value**

A list with three elements: `completed` is a logical value indicating if all portions of the job have completed or stopped, `queue` contains the information on job elements still in queue, and `log` contains the console/error logs.

---

get_slurm_out  

Reads the output of a function calculated on the Slurm cluster

**Description**

This function reads all function output files (one by cluster node used) from the specified Slurm job and returns the result in a single data frame (if "table" format selected) or list (if "raw" format selected). It doesn’t record any messages (including warnings or errors) output to the R console during the computation; these can be consulted by invoking `print_job_status`.

**Usage**

```r
get_slurm_out(slr_job, outtype = "raw", wait = TRUE, ncores = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- `slr_job`: A `slurm_job` object.
- `outtype`: Can be "table" or "raw", see "Value" below for details.
- `wait`: Specify whether to block until `slr_job` completes.
- `ncores`: (optional) If not null, the number of cores passed to `mclapply`
Details
The `outtype` option is only relevant for jobs submitted with `slurm_apply`. Jobs sent with `slurm_call` only return a single object, and setting `outtype = "table"` creates an error in that case.

Value
If `outtype = "table"`: A data frame with one column by return value of the function passed to `slurm_apply`, where each row is the output of the corresponding row in the params data frame passed to `slurm_apply`.
If `outtype = "raw"`: A list where each element is the output of the function passed to `slurm_apply` for the corresponding row in the params data frame passed to `slurm_apply`.

See Also
`slurm_apply`, `slurm_call`

---

**slurm_apply**

*Parallel execution of a function on the Slurm cluster*

Description
Use `slurm_apply` to compute function over multiple sets of parameters in parallel, spread across multiple nodes of a Slurm cluster.

Usage
```
slurm_apply(f, params, jobname = NA, nodes = 2, cpus_per_node = 2, 
preschedule_cores = TRUE, add_objects = NULL, 
pkgs = rev(.packages())), libPaths = NULL, rscript_path = NULL, 
r_template = NULL, sh_template = NULL, slurm_options = list(), 
submit = TRUE)
```

Arguments
- **f**
  A function that accepts one or many single values as parameters and may return any type of R object.
- **params**
  A data frame of parameter values to apply `f` to. Each column corresponds to a parameter of `f` (*Note: names must match*) and each row corresponds to a separate function call.
- **jobname**
  The name of the Slurm job; if `NA`, it is assigned a random name of the form "slr####".
- **nodes**
  The (maximum) number of cluster nodes to spread the calculation over. `slurm_apply` automatically divides `params` in chunks of approximately equal size to send to each node. Less nodes are allocated if the parameter set is too small to use all CPUs on the requested nodes.
**slurm_apply**

**cpus_per_node**  The number of CPUs requested per node, i.e., how many processes to run in parallel per node. This argument is mapped to the Slurm parameter `cpus-per-task`.

**preschedule_cores**  Corresponds to the `mc.preschedule` argument of `parallel::mcmapply`. Defaults to `TRUE`. If `TRUE`, the jobs are assigned to cores before computation. If `FALSE`, a new job is created for each row of `params`. Setting `FALSE` may be faster if different values of `params` result in very variable completion time for jobs.

**add_objects**  A character vector containing the name of R objects to be saved in a .RData file and loaded on each cluster node prior to calling `f`.

**pkgs**  A character vector containing the names of packages that must be loaded on each cluster node. By default, it includes all packages loaded by the user when `slurm_apply` is called.

**libPaths**  A character vector describing the location of additional R library trees to search through, or `NULL`. The default value of `NULL` corresponds to libraries returned by `.libPaths()` on a cluster node. Non-existent library trees are silently ignored.

**rscript_path**  The location of the Rscript command. If not specified, defaults to the location of Rscript within the R installation being run.

**r_template**  The path to the template file for the R script run on each node. If `NULL`, uses the default template "rlslurm/templates/slurm_run_R.txt".

**sh_template**  The path to the template file for the sbatch submission script. If `NULL`, uses the default template "rlslurm/templates/submit_sh.txt".

**slurm_options**  A named list of options recognized by `sbatch`; see Details below for more information.

**submit**  Whether or not to submit the job to the cluster with `sbatch`; see Details below for more information.

**Details**

This function creates a temporary folder ("_rslurm_[jobname]") in the current directory, holding .RData and .RDS data files, the R script to run and the Bash submission script generated for the Slurm job.

The set of input parameters is divided in equal chunks sent to each node, and `f` is evaluated in parallel within each node using functions from the `parallel` R package. The names of any other R objects (besides `params`) that `f` needs to access should be included in `add_objects`.

Use `slurm_options` to set any option recognized by `sbatch`, e.g. `slurm_options = list(time = "1:00:00", share = TRUE)`. See [http://slurm.schedmd.com/sbatch.html](http://slurm.schedmd.com/sbatch.html) for details on possible options. Note that full names must be used (e.g. "time" rather than "t") and that flags (such as "share") must be specified as `TRUE`. The "array", "job-name", "nodes", "cpus-per-task" and "output" options are already determined by `slurm_apply` and should not be manually set.

When processing the computation job, the Slurm cluster will output two types of files in the temporary folder: those containing the return values of the function for each subset of parameters ("results_[node_id].RDS") and those containing any console or error output produced by R on each node ("slurm_[node_id].out").
If `submit = TRUE`, the job is sent to the cluster and a confirmation message (or error) is output to the console. If `submit = FALSE`, a message indicates the location of the saved data and script files; the job can be submitted manually by running the shell command `sbatch submit.sh` from that directory.

After sending the job to the Slurm cluster, `slurm_apply` returns a `slurm_job` object which can be used to cancel the job, get the job status or output, and delete the temporary files associated with it. See the description of the related functions for more details.

**Value**

A `slurm_job` object containing the `jobname` and the number of nodes effectively used.

**See Also**

`slurm_call` to evaluate a single function call.

`cancel_slurm`, `cleanup_files`, `get_slurm_out` and `get_job_status` which use the output of this function.

**Examples**

```r
## Not run:
sjob <- slurm_apply(func, pars)
get_job_status(sjob) # Prints console/error output once job is completed.
func_result <- get_slurm_out(sjob, "table") # Loads output data into R.
cleanup_files(sjob)
## End(Not run)
```

---

**slurm_call**  
*Execution of a single function call on the Slurm cluster*

**Description**

Use `slurm_call` to perform a single function evaluation a the Slurm cluster.

**Usage**

```r
slurm_call(f, params, jobname = NA, add_objects = NULL, 
            pkgs = rev(.packages()), libPaths = NULL, rscript_path = NULL, 
            r_template = NULL, sh_template = NULL, slurm_options = list(), 
            submit = TRUE)
```
slurm_call

Arguments

f

Any R function.

params

A named list of parameters to pass to f.

jobname

The name of the Slurm job; if NA, it is assigned a random name of the form "slr####".

add_objects

A character vector containing the name of R objects to be saved in a .RData file and loaded on each cluster node prior to calling f.

pkgs

A character vector containing the names of packages that must be loaded on each cluster node. By default, it includes all packages loaded by the user when slurm_call is called.

libPaths

A character vector describing the location of additional R library trees to search through, or NULL. The default value of NULL corresponds to libraries returned by .libPaths() on a cluster node. Non-existent library trees are silently ignored.

rscript_path

The location of the Rscript command. If not specified, defaults to the location of Rscript within the R installation being run.

r_template

The path to the template file for the R script run on each node. If NULL, uses the default template "rslurm/templates/slurm_run_single_R.txt".

sh_template

The path to the template file for the sbatch submission script. If NULL, uses the default template "rslurm/templates/submit_single_sh.txt".

slurm_options

A named list of options recognized by sbatch; see Details below for more information.

submit

Whether or not to submit the job to the cluster with sbatch; see Details below for more information.

Details

This function creates a temporary folder ("_rslurm_[jobname]") in the current directory, holding .RData and .RDS data files, the R script to run and the Bash submission script generated for the Slurm job.

The names of any other R objects (besides params) that f needs to access should be listed in the add_objects argument.

Use slurm_options to set any option recognized by sbatch, e.g. slurm_options = list(time = "1:00:00", share = TRUE). See http://slurm.schedmd.com/sbatch.html for details on possible options. Note that full names must be used (e.g. "time" rather than "t") and that flags (such as "share") must be specified as TRUE. The "job-name", "ntasks" and "output" options are already determined by slurm_call and should not be manually set.

When processing the computation job, the Slurm cluster will output two files in the temporary folder: one with the return value of the function ("results_0.RDS") and one containing any console or error output produced by R ("slurm_[node_id].out").

If submit = TRUE, the job is sent to the cluster and a confirmation message (or error) is output to the console. If submit = FALSE, a message indicates the location of the saved data and script files; the job can be submitted manually by running the shell command sbatch submit.sh from that directory.
After sending the job to the Slurm cluster, \texttt{slurm\_call} returns a \texttt{slurm\_job} object which can be used to cancel the job, get the job status or output, and delete the temporary files associated with it. See the description of the related functions for more details.

\textbf{Value}

A \texttt{slurm\_job} object containing the \texttt{jobname} and the number of \texttt{nodes} effectively used.

\textbf{See Also}

\texttt{slurm\_apply} to parallelize a function over a parameter set.
\texttt{cancel\_slurm, cleanup\_files, get\_slurm\_out} and \texttt{get\_job\_status} which use the output of this function.

\begin{verbatim}
slurm_job

\textit{Create a slurm_job object}
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{Description}

This function creates a \texttt{slurm\_job} object which can be passed to other functions such as \texttt{cancel\_slurm, cleanup\_files, get\_slurm\_out} and \texttt{get\_job\_status}.

\textbf{Usage}

\texttt{slurm\_job(jobname, nodes)}

\textbf{Arguments}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{jobname} The name of the Slurm job. The rslurm-generated scripts and output files associated with a job should be found in the \_rslurm\_[\texttt{jobname}] folder.
  \item \texttt{nodes} The number of cluster nodes used by that job.
\end{itemize}

\textbf{Details}

In general, \texttt{slurm\_job} objects are created automatically as the output of \texttt{slurm\_apply} or \texttt{slurm\_call}, but it may be necessary to manually recreate one if the job was submitted in a different R session.

\textbf{Value}

A \texttt{slurm\_job} object.
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