First steps on the clusters

This page explains what to do after having successfully connected to one of the clusters.

Step-by-step guide

1. What is installed on the clusters

To see the list of installed software (modules), load the compiler and the MPI implementation you intend to use and do

```
module spider
```

2. Getting the examples

Once you have logged in to the machine, we suggest you download the examples with the command:

```
git clone https://c4science.ch/diffusion/SCEXAMPLES/scitas-examples.git
```

3. Running the examples

Enter the directory scitas-examples and choose the example to run by navigating the folders. We have three categories of examples: Basic (examples to get you started), Advanced (including hybrid jobs and job arrays) and Modules (specific examples of installed software).

To run an example, e.g. HPL-mpi of the Advanced category, do:

```
sbatch --partition=debug hpl.run
```

or, if you do not wish to run on the debug partition,

```
sbatch hpl.run
```

4. Running interactive jobs

An interactive job allows you to connect directly to a compute node and type commands that run on the compute node. Simply type the command `Sinteract` from the login node to start an interactive session with 1 core and 4GB of memory for 30 minutes.

You can use the parameters to `Sinteract` (for help type: `interact -h`) to request more resources or more time.

```

options:
  -c cores per task (default: 1)
  -n tasks number of tasks (default: 1)
  -t time as hh:mm:ss (default: 00:30:00)
  -m memory as #[K|M|G] (default: 4G)
  -p partition (default: parallel)
  -a account (default: phpc2017)
  -q qos as [normal|gpu|gpu-free|mic|...] (default: )
  -g resource as [gpu|mic]:[count] (default is empty)
  -r reservation reservation name (default is empty)
```
e.g. to run an mpi job with 16 processes for one hour using 32 GB of memory on a debug node:

```sh
Sinteract -n 16 -t 01:00:00 -m 32G -p debug
```

Related articles

- [Connecting to the clusters](#)
- [Using software on the SCITAS clusters](#)
- [First steps on the clusters](#)
- [Ask for help](#)