Navigating the Biostat computing environment

The BIT site

The BIT committee web site (http://www.biostat.jhsph.edu/bit/) should be your first stop. It has information about the computing environment, Education, High Performance Computing as well as a handful of basic How-to's.

Departmental mailing lists

The department of Biostatistics maintains two internal email lists for user support. The bitsupport list (bitsupport@jhsph.edu) responds to technical issues pertaining to HPC system and administration issues as well as Biostat computing systems. It is monitored by the systems support staff (Marvin Newhouse and Jiong Yang) as well as subset of the BIT committee. The bit-help list (bit-help@jhsph.edu) if for application or programming questions, e.g. questions about R, Bio-conductor, Perl,SAS, C, etc. If you want to ask a "How-To" question, send it to bit-help. bit-help is monitored by computationally-inclined members of the Biostatistics Department as well as many very experienced users. This includes faculty, postdocs and students. Join the bit-help list if you want to contribute your wisdom.

Computing books and manuals

JHU has a site license to http://safaribooksonline.com. This site provides on-line access to a huge variety of technical books. The site is particularly rich in Computer Science books, e.g. books from the O'Reilly publisher. This is a tremendous resource.

Biostat Student Computing Club

Biostat students run a computing club that hosts lectures on various introductory computing topics. The current (2011-2012) student organizers are Alyssa Frazee afrazee@jhsph.edu and Shelley Herbrich (sherbric@jhsph.edu). For more information please refer to the computing club page (http://www.biostat.jhsph.edu/bit/compintro/).

The High Performance Scientific Computing Core (HPSCC)

The High Performance Scientific Computing Core is a service center in the Biostat department. The main resource consists of a computing cluster with 400 64-bit cores (as of the end of Aug. 2011) and over 100TB of formatted mass storage. The facility provides computing services on a cost-recovery basis and is open to users outside the department. The HPSCC is directed by Dr. Fernando Pineda. The system support team consists Marvin Newhouse and Jiong Yang. More information about the HPSCC is available at the BIT page (http://www.biostat.jhsph.edu/bit/) and the HPSCC page (http://www.hpscc.jhsph.edu/).

The BIT committee

The Biostatistics Information Technology committee (BIT) advises the department on computing matters and oversees the High Performance Scientific Computing Core (see below). It meets on the second Friday of every month at 11:30 in room E2527. Feel free to contact any of the BIT members with computing issues that need a departmental response. In particular, the student representative is Jonathan Gellar (jgellar@jhu.edu). As of August 29, 2011, the membership of the committee consists of:

Jonthan Gellar	Graduate Student, Biostat
Cynthia Hockett	Departmental Administrator, Biostat
Ben Langmead	Research Associate, Biostat
Ross McKenzie	Director, Information Services
Marvin Newhouse	HPSCC Computing Systems Manager, Mol. Microbio. & Immun.
Dr. Michael Ochs	Associate Professor, JHMI/Oncology
Dr. Roger Peng	Associate Professor, Biostat
Dr. Fernando Pineda	Associate Professor, Mol. Microbio. & Immun., (BIT Chair)
Dr. Ingo Ruczinski	Associate Professor, Biostat
Jiong Yang	System Engineer, Biostat

Updates:

Fernando. J. Pineda, 2010-08-23
Updates:
2011-08-29/FJP