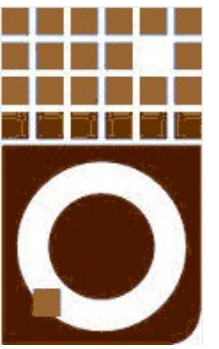


damien.francois@uclouvain.be  
UCL/CISM



# An introduction to checkpointing for scientific applications

November 2017  
CISM/CÉCI training session





What is  
checkpointing



\$ ./count

```
$ ./count  
1
```

\$ ./count

1

2

```
$ ./count
```

```
1
```

```
2
```

```
3
```

\$ ./count

1

2

3^C

\$

\$ ./count

1

2

3^C

\$ ./count



```
$ ./count
```

```
1
```

```
2
```

```
3^C
```

```
$ ./count
```

```
1
```

Without checkpointing:

```
$ ./count
```

```
1
```

```
2
```

```
3^C
```

```
$ ./count
```

```
1
```

Without checkpointing:

```
$ ./count
```

```
1
```

```
2
```

```
3^C
```

```
$ ./count
```

```
1
```

With checkpointing:

```
$ ./count
```

```
1
```

```
2
```

```
3^C
```

```
$ ./count
```

```
4
```

Without checkpointing:

```
$ ./count
```

```
1
```

```
2
```

```
3^C
```

```
$ ./count
```

```
1
```

```
2
```

With checkpointing:

```
$ ./count
```

```
1
```

```
2
```

```
3^C
```

```
$ ./count
```

```
4
```

```
5
```

Without checkpointing:

\$ ./count

1

2

3^C

\$ ./count

1

2

3

With checkpointing:

\$ ./count

1

2

3^C

\$ ./count

4

5

6

Without checkpointing:

With checkpointing:

## Checkpointing:

'saving' a computation  
so that it can be resumed later  
(rather than started again)

MAIN /

# GAME MENU

RETURN TO GAME

LOAD LAST CHECKPOINT

RESTART MISSION

OPTIONS

EXIT TO MENU

QUIT

CURRENT MISSION

OPERATION SWORDBREAKER



DIFFICULTY

EASY

OBJECTIVES

◇ RENDEZVOUS WITH COLE

◇ MOVE OUT WITH SQUAD



# The idea:

Save the program state  
every time a checkpoint is encountered  
and restart from there upon (un)planned stop  
rather than bootstrap again from scratch

Values in variables  
Open files  
...

The diagram consists of three light green rectangular boxes with thin black borders. The top box is connected to the word 'state' in the main text by a thin grey line. The middle box is connected to the word 'checkpoint' in the main text by a thin grey line. The bottom box is connected to the word 'bootstrap' in the main text by a thin grey line.

Position in the code  
Signal or event  
...

starting loops at iteration 0  
creating tmp files  
...

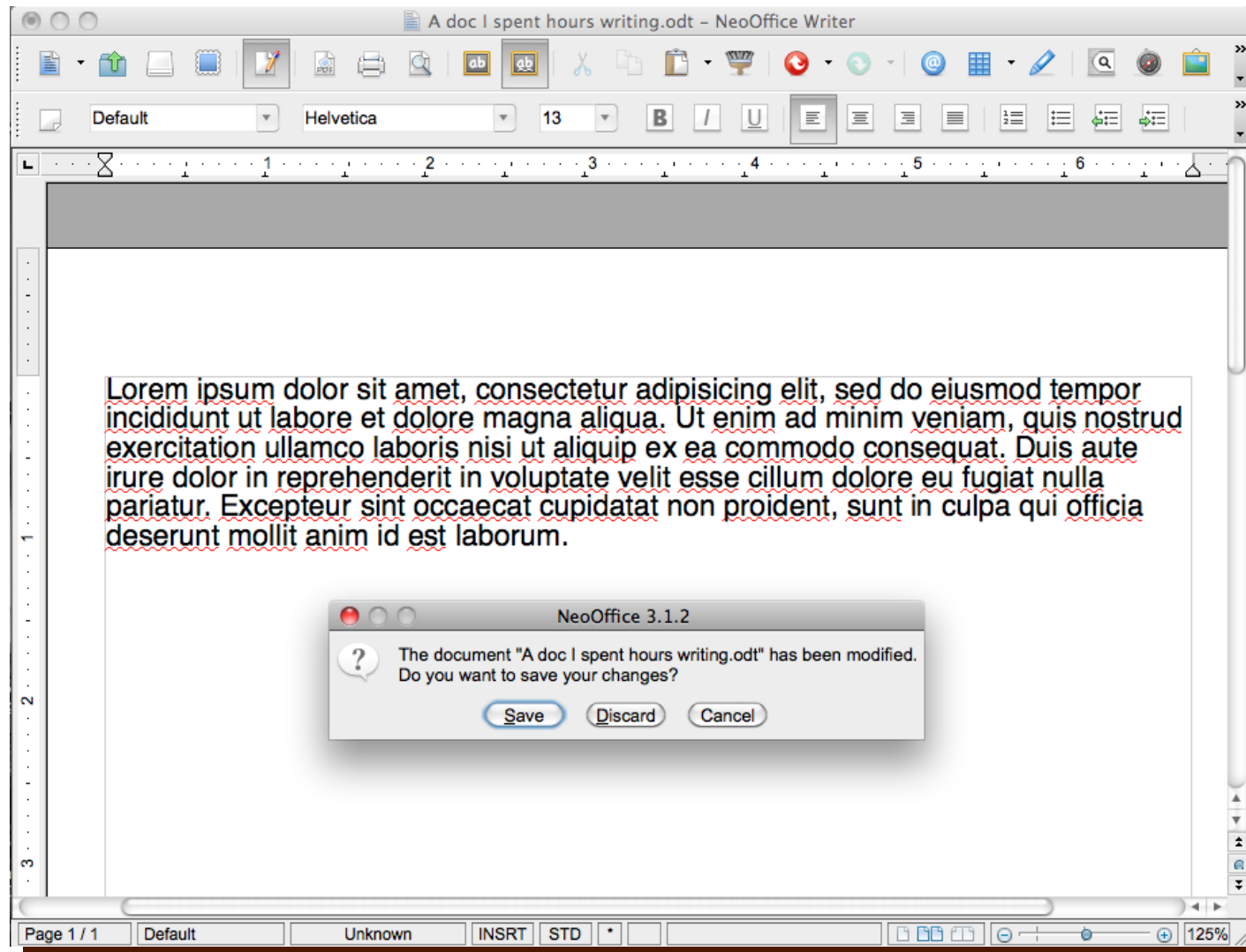




Why do we need  
checkpointing



# Imagine a text editor without 'checkpointing' ...



# Goals of checkpointing in HPC:

1. Fit in time constraints
2. Debugging, monitoring
3. Cope with hardware failures
4. Job preemption



How do we do  
checkpointing



# Software level vs system level

Checkpointing at the **software** level

The software you use has checkpointing built-in	No	Yes
You are the author	You have some work to do.	Good job!
You are just a user	Keep listening...	Read the manual

Checkpointing at the **system** level

# Software level vs system level

Characteristics	System Level	Application level
Triggered by:	User/system	Application
Basic idea	Full memory dump	Save relevant information
When to checkpoint?	Any time	Pre-fixed places
Requires modification of application	No (some technologies require re-compilation)	Yes
Resulting file size	Big	Small
Overhead in exec. time	~1-2%	negligible



1

Software with built-in checkpointing.

# Working with checkpoint-restart-able software



## Gaussian 09 Frequently Asked Question

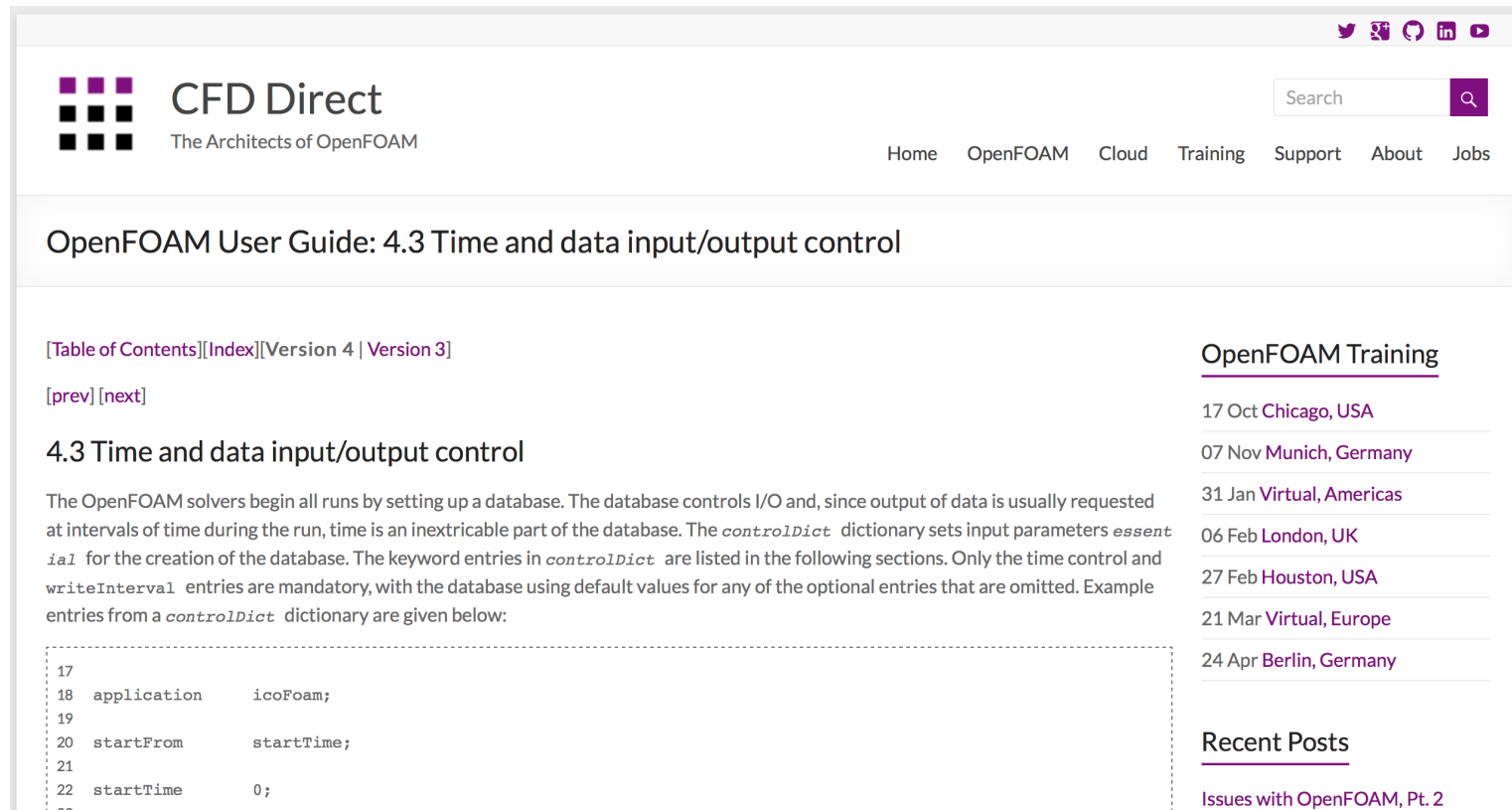
### *How can I restart a job that was interrupted?*

Many Gaussian jobs that are stopped prematurely — e.g., due to a machine crash, a power failure, manually killing the job — can be restarted. These include geometry optimizations, frequency calculations, and CCSD and EOM-CCSD calculations. The technique to restart the jobs varies depending on the type of job. This FAQ will discuss some common cases.

Be aware that all restarts require the checkpoint file from the previous job. Some job types also require the read-write file. If the required file(s) have been deleted, then the job cannot be restarted.



# Working with checkpoint-restart-able software



The screenshot shows the CFD Direct website. The header includes the CFD Direct logo (a 3x3 grid of squares) and the tagline "The Architects of OpenFOAM". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The navigation menu includes links for Home, OpenFOAM, Cloud, Training, Support, About, and Jobs. The main content area is titled "OpenFOAM User Guide: 4.3 Time and data input/output control". Below the title, there are links for [Table of Contents], [Index], [Version 4], and [Version 3]. The main text describes the OpenFOAM solvers' database setup and the `controlDict` dictionary. An example `controlDict` is provided in a code block. On the right side, there is a section for "OpenFOAM Training" with a list of events and a "Recent Posts" section with a link to "Issues with OpenFOAM, Pt. 2".

CFD Direct  
The Architects of OpenFOAM

Search

Home OpenFOAM Cloud Training Support About Jobs

## OpenFOAM User Guide: 4.3 Time and data input/output control

[\[Table of Contents\]](#)[\[Index\]](#)[\[Version 4\]](#) | [Version 3](#)

[\[prev\]](#) [\[next\]](#)

### 4.3 Time and data input/output control

The OpenFOAM solvers begin all runs by setting up a database. The database controls I/O and, since output of data is usually requested at intervals of time during the run, time is an inextricable part of the database. The `controlDict` dictionary sets input parameters *essential* for the creation of the database. The keyword entries in `controlDict` are listed in the following sections. Only the time control and `writeInterval` entries are mandatory, with the database using default values for any of the optional entries that are omitted. Example entries from a `controlDict` dictionary are given below:

```
17
18 application      icoFoam;
19
20 startFrom        startTime;
21
22 startTime         0;
23
```

### OpenFOAM Training

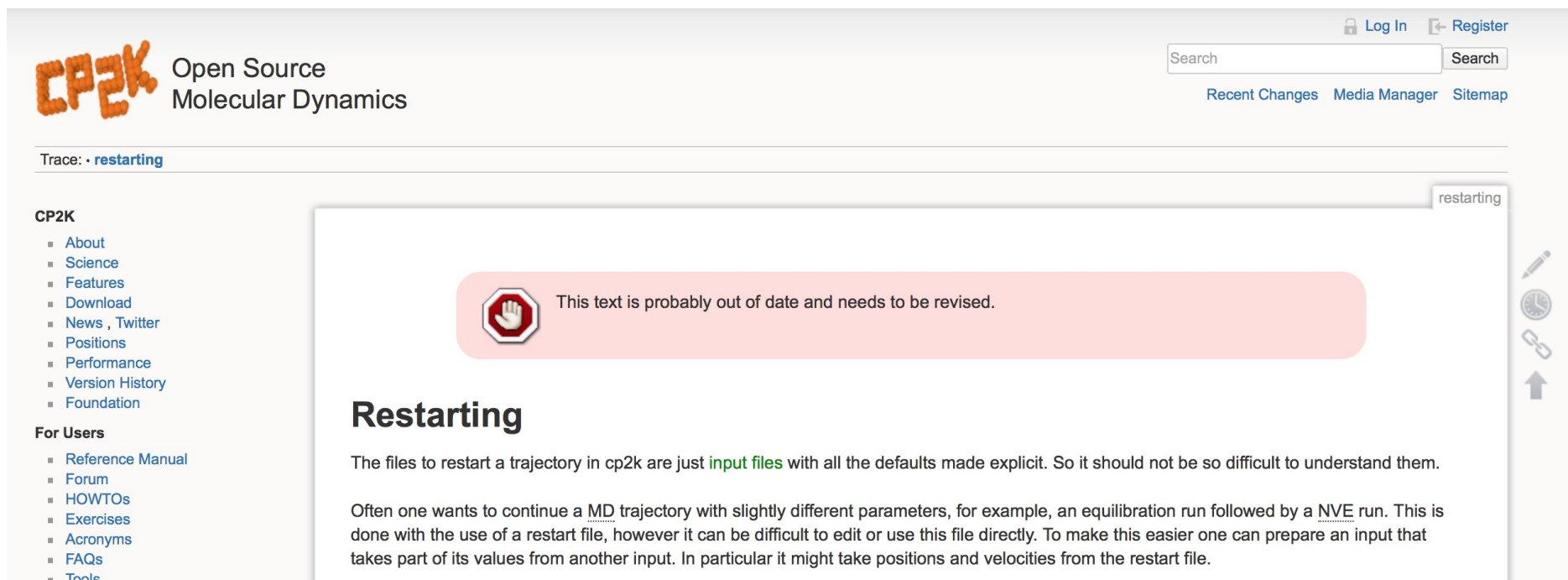
- 17 Oct [Chicago, USA](#)
- 07 Nov [Munich, Germany](#)
- 31 Jan [Virtual, Americas](#)
- 06 Feb [London, UK](#)
- 27 Feb [Houston, USA](#)
- 21 Mar [Virtual, Europe](#)
- 24 Apr [Berlin, Germany](#)

### Recent Posts

- [Issues with OpenFOAM, Pt. 2](#)

<http://cfd.direct/openfoam/user-guide/controlDict/>

# Working with checkpoint-restart-able software



CP2K Open Source Molecular Dynamics

Log In Register

Search Search

Recent Changes Media Manager Sitemap

Trace: • [restarting](#)


CP2K

- About
- Science
- Features
- Download
- News , Twitter
- Positions
- Performance
- Version History
- Foundation

For Users

- Reference Manual
- Forum
- HOWTOs
- Exercises
- Acronyms
- FAQs
- Tools

restarting

 This text is probably out of date and needs to be revised.

## Restarting

The files to restart a trajectory in cp2k are just **input files** with all the defaults made explicit. So it should not be so difficult to understand them.

Often one wants to continue a MD trajectory with slightly different parameters, for example, an equilibration run followed by a NVE run. This is done with the use of a restart file, however it can be difficult to edit or use this file directly. To make this easier one can prepare an input that takes part of its values from another input. In particular it might take positions and velocities from the restart file.

<https://www.cp2k.org/restarting>

# Working with checkpoint-restart-able software

[manual](#) [quickstart](#) [instguide](#) [update](#) [basis](#)

Next: [19.3 Variables](#) Up: [19 Advanced features of](#) Previous: [19.1 Memory control](#) [Contents](#)



## 19.2 Restarting calculations

By default, and in all examples shown so far, scratch files are used to store all intermediate data MOLPRO needs, and the user will normally not see these files at all. However, it is possible to save computed data as orbitals and energies in named (permanent) files and use these for restarting a calculation at a later stage. MOLPRO uses a number of different files, but only one or two of them are needed for a restart. File 1 holds the one- and two electron integrals and related information, while on file 2 the wavefunction information like orbitals, orbital energies, and optionally CI-vectors are stored. Thus, file 2 is essential for restarting a calculation, while the integrals on file 1 can either be restarted or recomputed.



**Molpro Quantum Chemistry Software**

# Working with checkpoint-restart-able software

[Next](#) [Up](#) [Previous](#) [Contents](#) [Index](#)

Next: [ICHARG-tag](#) Up: [The INCAR File](#) Previous: [MAGMOM-tag](#) [Contents](#) [Index](#)

## ISTART-tag

ISTART= 0 | 1 | 2

Default:

ISTART = 1 if WAVECAR exists  
= 0 else

This flag determines whether to read the file WAVECAR or not.

0	Start job: begin 'from scratch'. Initialize the orbitals according to the flag INIWAV .
1	``restart with constant energy cut-off''. Continuation job -- read orbitals from file WAVECAR (usage is restricted in the parallel version, see section <a href="#">4.5</a> ).



# Working with checkpoint-restart-able software

LAMMPS

Search docs

USER DOCUMENTATION

1. Introduction

2. Getting Started

3. Commands

4. Packages

5. Accelerating LAMMPS performance

6. How-to discussions

7. Example problems

8. Performance & scalability

Docs » Commands » restart command

Website Commands

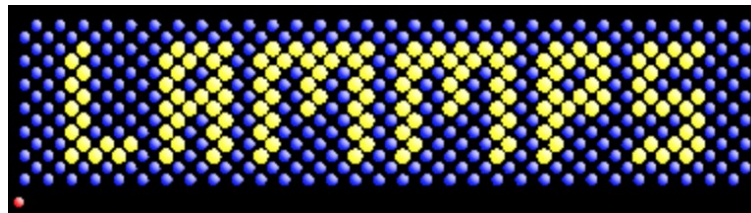
Previous

Next

## restart command

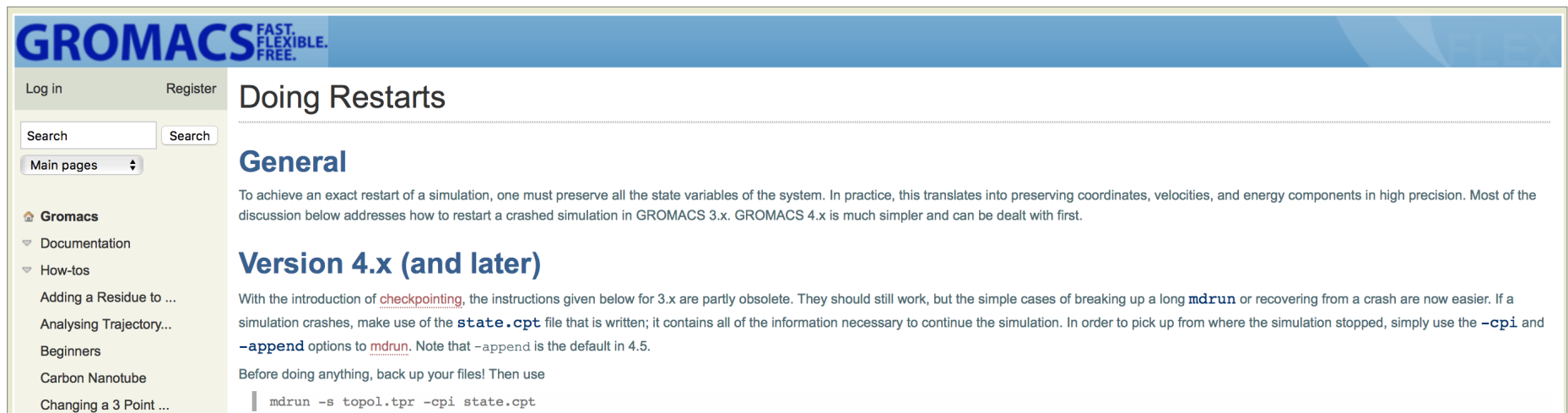
### Syntax

```
restart 0
restart N root keyword value ...
restart N file1 file2 keyword value ...
```



<http://lammps.sandia.gov/doc/restart.html>

# Working with checkpoint-restart-able software



The screenshot shows the GROMACS website interface. The top header features the GROMACS logo with the tagline 'FAST. FLEXIBLE. FREE.' and navigation links for 'Log in' and 'Register'. A search bar is located below the header. The left sidebar contains a 'Main pages' dropdown menu with options like 'Gromacs', 'Documentation', 'How-tos', and 'Adding a Residue to ...'. The main content area is titled 'Doing Restarts' and includes a 'General' section with text about simulation restarts and a 'Version 4.x (and later)' section with instructions on using the `state.cpt` file and the `mdrun` command with `-s` and `-cpi` options.

**GROMACS** FAST. FLEXIBLE. FREE.

Log in Register

Search Search

Main pages ▾

**Gromacs**

- Documentation
- How-tos
- Adding a Residue to ...
- Analysing Trajectory...
- Beginners
- Carbon Nanotube
- Changing a 3 Point ...

## Doing Restarts

### General

To achieve an exact restart of a simulation, one must preserve all the state variables of the system. In practice, this translates into preserving coordinates, velocities, and energy components in high precision. Most of the discussion below addresses how to restart a crashed simulation in GROMACS 3.x. GROMACS 4.x is much simpler and can be dealt with first.

### Version 4.x (and later)

With the introduction of [checkpointing](#), the instructions given below for 3.x are partly obsolete. They should still work, but the simple cases of breaking up a long `mdrun` or recovering from a crash are now easier. If a simulation crashes, make use of the `state.cpt` file that is written; it contains all of the information necessary to continue the simulation. In order to pick up from where the simulation stopped, simply use the `-cpi` and `-append` options to `mdrun`. Note that `-append` is the default in 4.5.

Before doing anything, back up your files! Then use

```
mdrun -s topol.tpr -cpi state.cpt
```

# Working with checkpoint-restart-able software

[Go to the top](#) | [Complete list of input variables](#)

## **restartxf**

Mnemonics: RESTART from (X,F) history

Characteristic:

Variable type: integer parameter

*Default is 0.*

Control the restart of a molecular dynamics or structural optimization job.

**restartxf>0 (Deprecated)**: The code reads from the input wf file, the previous history of atomic coordinates and corresponding forces, in order to continue the work done by the job that produced this wf file. If [optcell](#)/=0, the history of [acell](#) and [rprim](#) variables is also taken into account. The code will take into consideration the whole history (if **restartxf**=1), or discard the few first (x,f) pairs, and begin only at the pair whose number corresponds to **restartxf**.

Works only for [ionmov](#)=2 (Broyden) and when an input wavefunction file is specified, thanks to the appropriate values of [irdwfk](#) or [getwfk](#).





# 2

Software you write yourself



# The general recipe

1. Look for a state file

(name can be hardcoded, or,  
better, passed as parameter)

2. If found, then restore state

(initialize all variables with content  
of the file state)

Else, bootstrap (create initial state)

3. Periodically save the state

```
// gcc count.c -o count && ./count
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
void main()
```

```
{
```

```
    int i, the_start, the_end;
```

```
    the_start = 1;
```

```
    the_end = 10;
```

```
    for (i=the_start; i<=the_end; i++)
```

```
    {
```

```
        printf("%d\n", i);
```

```
        sleep(1);
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
~
```

```
count.c
```

```
12,5
```

```
All crcount.c
```

```
3,1
```

```
Top
```

# C recipe

```
// gcc crcount.c -o crcount && ./crrcount
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
void main()
```

```
{
```

```
    int i, the_start, the_end;
```

```
    FILE * file;
```

```
    // Try to recover current state
```

```
    file = fopen("state", "r");
```

```
    if (file)
```

```
    {
```

```
        fscanf(file, "%d", &the_start);
```

```
        fclose(file);
```

```
    }
```

```
    else
```

```
    {
```

```
        // Otherwise bootstrap at 1
```

```
        the_start = 1;
```

```
    }
```

```
    the_end = 10;
```

```
    for (i=the_start; i<=the_end; i++)
```

```
    {
```

```
        // Save current state
```

```
        file = fopen("state", "w");
```

```
        fprintf(file, "%d", i);
```

```
        fclose(file);
```

```
        // Heavy computations
```

```
        printf("%d\n", i);
```

```
        sleep(1);
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

UNIX processes can receive 'signals' from the user, the OS, or another process

SIGHUP	1	Exit	Hangup
SIGINT	2	Exit	Interrupt
SIGQUIT	3	Core	Quit
SIGILL	4	Core	Illegal Instruction
SIGTRAP	5	Core	Trace/Breakpoint Trap
SIGABRT	6	Core	Abort
SIGEMT	7	Core	Emulation Trap
SIGFPE	8	Core	Arithmetic Exception
SIGKILL	9	Exit	Killed
SIGBUS	10	Core	Bus Error
SIGSEGV	11	Core	Segmentation Fault
SIGSYS	12	Core	Bad System Call
SIGPIPE	13	Exit	Broken Pipe
SIGALRM	14	Exit	Alarm Clock
SIGTERM	15	Exit	Terminated
SIGUSR1	16	Exit	User Signal 1
SIGUSR2	17	Exit	User Signal 2
SIGCHLD	18	Ignore	Child Status
SIGPWR	19	Ignore	Power Fail/Restart
SIGWINCH	20	Ignore	Window Size Change
SIGURG	21	Ignore	Urgent Socket Condition
SIGPOLL	22	Ignore	Socket I/O Possible
SIGSTOP	23	Stop	Stopped (signal)
SIGTSTP	24	Stop	Stopped (user)
SIGCONT	25	Ignore	Continued
SIGTTIN	26	Stop	Stopped (tty input)
SIGTTOU	27	Stop	Stopped (tty output)
SIGVTALRM	28	Exit	Virtual Timer Expired
SIGPROF	29	Exit	Profiling Timer Expired
SIGXCPU	30	Core	CPU time limit exceeded
SIGXFSZ	31	Core	File size limit exceeded
SIGWAITING	32	Ignore	All LWPs blocked
SIGLWP	33	Ignore	Virtual Interprocessor Interrupt for Threads Library
SIGAIO	34	Ignore	Asynchronous I/O

UNIX processes can receive 'signals'  
from the user, the OS, or another process

^C —

^D —

SIGHUP	1	Exit	Hangup
SIGINT	2	Exit	Interrupt
SIGQUIT	3	Core	Quit
SIGILL	4	Core	Illegal Instruction
SIGTRAP	5	Core	Trace/Breakpoint Trap
SIGABRT	6	Core	Abort
SIGEMT	7	Core	Emulation Trap
SIGFPE	8	Core	Arithmetic Exception
SIGKILL	9	Exit	Killed
SIGBUS	10	Core	Bus Error
SIGSEGV	11	Core	Segmentation Fault
SIGSYS	12	Core	Bad System Call
SIGPIPE	13	Exit	Broken Pipe
SIGALRM	14	Exit	Alarm Clock
SIGTERM	15	Exit	Terminated
SIGUSR1	16	Exit	User Signal 1
SIGUSR2	17	Exit	User Signal 2
SIGCHLD	18	Ignore	Child Status
SIGPWR	19	Ignore	Power Fail/Restart
SIGWINCH	20	Ignore	Window Size Change
SIGURG	21	Ignore	Urgent Socket Condition
SIGPOLL	22	Ignore	Socket I/O Possible
SIGSTOP	23	Stop	Stopped (signal)
SIGTSTP	24	Stop	Stopped (user)
SIGCONT	25	Ignore	Continued
SIGTTIN	26	Stop	Stopped (tty input)
SIGTTOU	27	Stop	Stopped (tty output)
SIGVTALRM	28	Exit	Virtual Timer Expired
SIGPROF	29	Exit	Profiling Timer Expired
SIGXCPU	30	Core	CPU time limit exceeded
SIGXFSZ	31	Core	File size limit exceeded
SIGWAITING	32	Ignore	All LWPs blocked
SIGLWP	33	Ignore	Virtual Interprocessor Interrupt for Threads Library
SIGAIO	34	Ignore	Asynchronous I/O

^Z —

— kill -9

— kill

— fg, bg

UNIX processes can receive 'signals'  
from the user, the OS, or another process

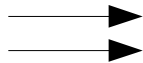
e.g. →  
→

SIGHUP	1	Exit	Hangup
SIGINT	2	Exit	Interrupt
SIGQUIT	3	Core	Quit
SIGILL	4	Core	Illegal Instruction
SIGTRAP	5	Core	Trace/Breakpoint Trap
SIGABRT	6	Core	Abort
SIGEMT	7	Core	Emulation Trap
SIGFPE	8	Core	Arithmetic Exception
SIGKILL	9	Exit	Killed
SIGBUS	10	Core	Bus Error
SIGSEGV	11	Core	Segmentation Fault
SIGSYS	12	Core	Bad System Call
SIGPIPE	13	Exit	Broken Pipe
SIGALRM	14	Exit	Alarm Clock
SIGTERM	15	Exit	Terminated
SIGUSR1	16	Exit	User Signal 1
SIGUSR2	17	Exit	User Signal 2
SIGCHLD	18	Ignore	Child Status
SIGPWR	19	Ignore	Power Fail/Restart
SIGWINCH	20	Ignore	Window Size Change
SIGURG	21	Ignore	Urgent Socket Condition
SIGPOLL	22	Ignore	Socket I/O Possible
SIGSTOP	23	Stop	Stopped (signal)
SIGTSTP	24	Stop	Stopped (user)
SIGCONT	25	Ignore	Continued
SIGTTIN	26	Stop	Stopped (tty input)
SIGTTOU	27	Stop	Stopped (tty output)
SIGVTALRM	28	Exit	Virtual Timer Expired
SIGPROF	29	Exit	Profiling Timer Expired
SIGXCPU	30	Core	CPU time limit exceeded
SIGXFSZ	31	Core	File size limit exceeded
SIGWAITING	32	Ignore	All LWPs blocked
SIGLWP	33	Ignore	Virtual Interprocessor Interrupt for Threads Library
SIGAIO	34	Ignore	Asynchronous I/O



# UNIX processes can receive 'signals' from the user, the OS, or another process

e.g.



SIGHUP	1	Exit	Hangup
SIGINT	2	Exit	Interrupt
SIGQUIT	3	Core	Quit
SIGILL	4	Core	Illegal Instruction
SIGTRAP	5	Core	Trace/Breakpoint Trap
SIGABRT	6	Core	Abort
SIGEMT	7	Core	Emulation Trap
SIGFPE	8	Core	Arithmetic Exception
SIGKILL	9	Exit	Killed
SIGBUS	10	Core	Bus Error
SIGSEGV	11	Core	Segmentation Fault
SIGSYS	12	Core	Bad System Call
SIGPIPE	13	Exit	Broken Pipe
SIGALRM	14	Exit	Alarm Clock
SIGTERM	15	Exit	Terminated
SIGUSR1	16	Exit	User Signal 1
SIGUSR2	17	Exit	User Signal 2
SIGCHLD	18	Ignore	Child Status
SIGPWR	19	Ignore	Power Fail/Restart
SIGWINCH	20	Ignore	Window Size Change
SIGURG	21	Ignore	Urgent Socket Condition
SIGPOLL	22	Ignore	Socket I/O Possible
SIGSTOP	23	Stop	Stopped (signal)
SIGTSTP	24	Stop	Stopped (user)
SIGCONT	25	Ignore	Continued
SIGTTIN	26	Stop	Stopped (tty input)
SIGTTOU	27	Stop	Stopped (tty output)
SIGVTALRM	28	Exit	Virtual Timer Expired
SIGPROF	29	Exit	Profiling Timer Expired
SIGXCPU	30	Core	CPU time limit exceeded
SIGXFSZ	31	Core	File size limit exceeded
SIGWAITING	32	Ignore	All LWPs blocked
SIGLWP	33	Ignore	Virtual Interprocessor Interrupt for Threads Library
SIGAIO	34	Ignore	Asynchronous I/O

# UNIX processes can receive 'signals' with an associated default action

SIGHUP	1	Exit	Hangup
SIGINT	2	Exit	Interrupt
SIGQUIT	3	Core	Quit
SIGILL	4	Core	Illegal Instruction
SIGTRAP	5	Core	Trace/Breakpoint Trap
SIGABRT	6	Core	Abort
SIGEMT	7	Core	Emulation Trap
SIGFPE	8	Core	Arithmetic Exception
SIGKILL	9	Exit	Killed
SIGBUS	10	Core	Bus Error
SIGSEGV	11	Core	Segmentation Fault
SIGSYS	12	Core	Bad System Call
SIGPIPE	13	Exit	Broken Pipe
SIGALRM	14	Exit	Alarm Clock
SIGTERM	15	Exit	Terminated
SIGUSR1	16	Exit	User Signal 1
SIGUSR2	17	Exit	User Signal 2
SIGCHLD	18	Ignore	Child Status
SIGPWR	19	Ignore	Power Fail/Restart
SIGWINCH	20	Ignore	Window Size Change
SIGURG	21	Ignore	Urgent Socket Condition
SIGPOLL	22	Ignore	Socket I/O Possible
SIGSTOP	23	Stop	Stopped (signal)
SIGTSTP	24	Stop	Stopped (user)
SIGCONT	25	Ignore	Continued
SIGTTIN	26	Stop	Stopped (tty input)
SIGTTOU	27	Stop	Stopped (tty output)
SIGVTALRM	28	Exit	Virtual Timer Expired
SIGPROF	29	Exit	Profiling Timer Expired
SIGXCPU	30	Core	CPU time limit exceeded
SIGXFSZ	31	Core	File size limit exceeded
SIGWAITING	32	Ignore	All LWPs blocked
SIGLWP	33	Ignore	Virtual Interprocessor Interrupt for Threads Library
SIGAIOW	34	Ignore	Asynchronous I/O

```
1. dfr@manneback (ssh)

// gcc crsigvacount.c -o crsigvacount && ./crsigvacount
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <signal.h>
#include <stdio.h>

volatile sig_atomic_t interrupted = 0;

void catch_signal(int sig)
{
    interrupted = 1;
}

void main()
{
    int i, the_start, the_end;
    FILE * file;

    // Register signal handler
    signal(SIGINT, catch_signal);

    // Try to recover current state
    file = fopen("state", "r");
    if (file)
    {
        fscanf(file, "%d", &the_start);
        fclose(file);
    }
    else
    {
        // Otherwise bootstrap at 1
        the_start = 1;

        the_end = 10;

        for (i=the_start; i<=the_end && !interrupted; i++)
        {
            // Heavy computations that
            // might be interrupted
            printf("%d\n", i);
            sleep(1);
        }

        // Iterations are over or
        // have been interrupted
        // Anyway save the state.
        file = fopen("state", "w");
        fprintf(file, "%d", i);
        fclose(file);
    }
}

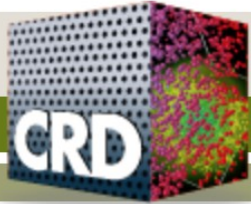
C signal recipe
```





3

Software to checkpoint  
other software



SEARCH...

»GO

COMPUTER LANGUAGES & SYSTEMS SOFTWARE

STAFF

RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS

[Home](#) » [Computer Languages & Systems Software](#) » [Research](#) » [Checkpoint/Restart](#)

# Computer Languages & Systems Software

## COMPUTER LANGUAGES & SYSTEMS SOFTWARE

### Research

[Pagoda](#)

[GASNet](#)

[UPC++](#)

[Berkeley UPC](#)

### Checkpoint/Restart

[Downloads](#)

[Publications](#)

[Flyer](#)

[DEGAS](#)

[FastOS](#)

[Corvette](#)

[ASIM](#)

## Berkeley Lab Checkpoint/Restart (BLCR) for LINUX

Future Technologies Group researchers are developing a hybrid kernel/user implementation of checkpoint/restart. Their goal is to provide a robust, production quality implementation that checkpoints a wide range of applications, without requiring changes to be made to application code. This work focuses on checkpointing parallel applications that communicate through MPI and on compatibility with the software suite produced by the SciDAC Scalable Software ISIC. This work is broken down into 4 main areas:

- Checkpoint/Restart for Linux (CR)
- Checkpointable MPI Libraries
- Resource Management Interface to Checkpoint/Restart
- Development of Process Management Interfaces

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. [News](#)
2. [Documentation](#)
3. [Publications](#)
4. [Downloads](#)
5. [Other Resources](#)
6. [Features](#)

Uses a kernel module  
Complex install, by root  
Only beta version for CentOS7

# DMTCP: Distributed MultiThreaded CheckPointing

[Home](#)

[Downloads](#)

[FAQ](#)

[SF project page](#)

[Browse Source](#)

[Demo](#)

[Supported Apps](#)

[Parallel Computing](#)

[Condor Integration](#)

[Manual/Documentation](#)

[Plugins and other APIs](#)

[Publications](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## About DMTCP:

DMTCP (Distributed MultiThreaded Checkpointing) transparently checkpoints a single-host or distributed computation in user-space -- with no modifications to user code or to the O/S. It works on most Linux applications, including Python, Matlab, R, GUI desktops, MPI, etc. It is robust and widely used (on Sourceforge since 2007).

Among the applications supported by DMTCP are MPI (various implementations), OpenMP, MATLAB, Python, Perl, R, and many programming languages and shell scripting languages. With the use of TightVNC, it can also checkpoint and restart X-Window applications. The OpenGL library for 3D graphics is supported through a [special plugin](#). It also has strong support for HPC (High Performance Computing) environments, including MPI, SLURM, InfiniBand, and other components. See [QUICK-START.md](#) for further details.

DMTCP supports the commonly used OFED API for InfiniBand, as well as its integration with various implementations of MPI, and resource managers (e.g., SLURM). See [contrib/infiniband/README](#) for more details.

[News](#) | [See Also](#) | [Authors](#) | [Acknowledgment](#)

Fully user space  
Can be installed by  
regular users



[Main page](#)  
[Recent changes](#)  
[Random page](#)  
[Help](#)

#### Tools

[What links here](#)  
[Related changes](#)  
[Special pages](#)  
[Printable version](#)  
[Permanent link](#)  
[Page information](#)

#### News

[Google+](#)  
[Twitter](#)  
[YouTube](#)

Not logged in [Talk](#) [Contributions](#) [Log in](#) [Request account](#)

[Main page](#) [Discussion](#)

[Read](#) [View source](#) [View history](#)

Welcome to CRIU, a project to implement checkpoint/restore functionality for Linux.

Checkpoint/Restore In Userspace, or CRIU (pronounced kree-oo, IPA: /kɾɪʊ/, Russian: криу), is a software tool for Linux operating system. Using this tool, you can freeze a running application (or part of it) and checkpoint it as a collection of files on disk. You can then use the files to restore the application and run it exactly as it was during the time of freeze. With this feature, application live migration, snapshots, remote debugging, and **many other things** are possible.

CRIU started as a project of [Virtuozzo](#) and grew with tremendous help from the [community](#). It is currently used by (integrated into) [OpenVZ](#), [LXC/LXD](#), [Docker](#), and [other software](#), and CRIU packages is included into many [Linux distributions](#).

[Tweet](#) [Like](#) 19

### Download

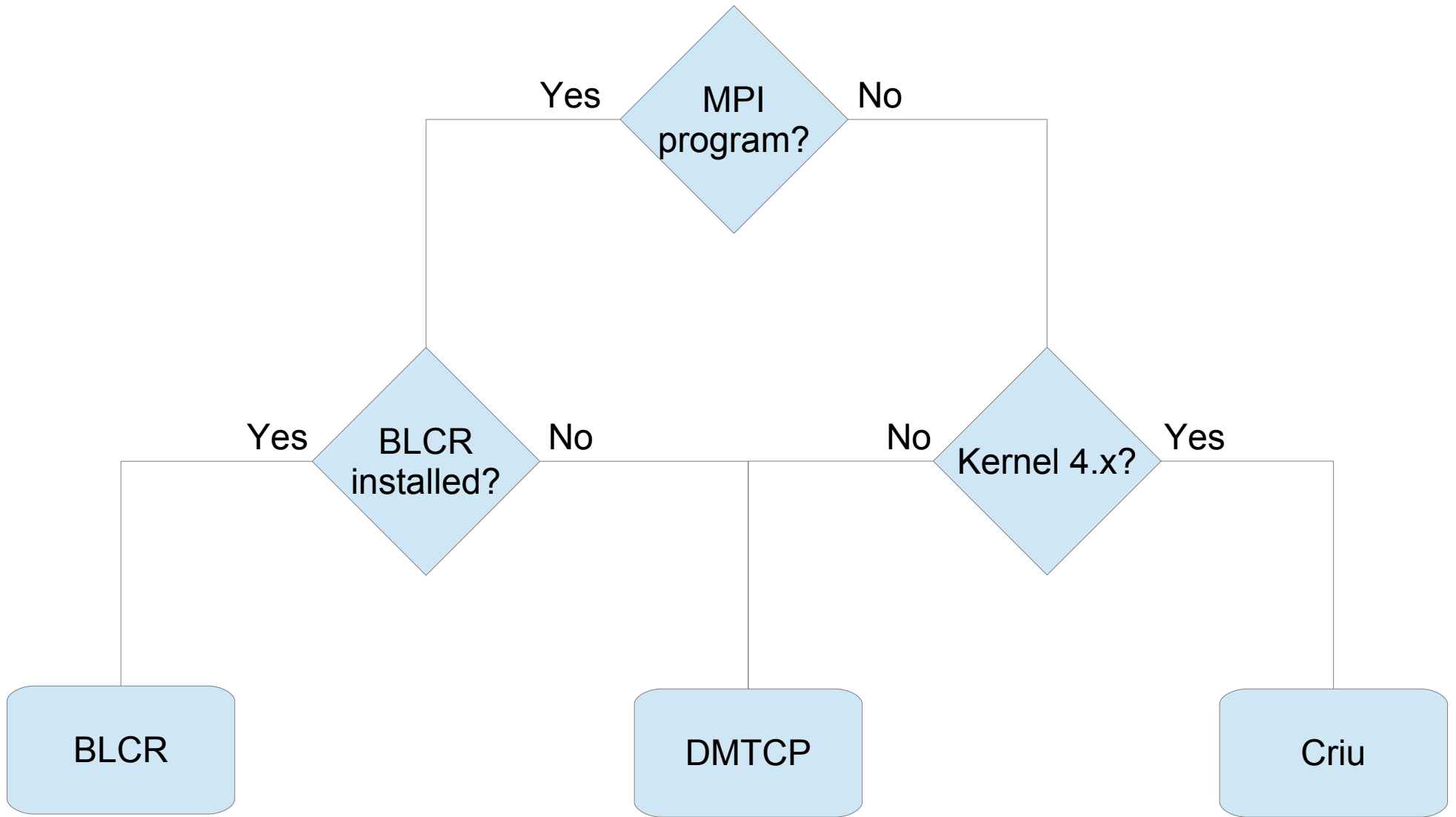
Tarball:	<a href="#">criu-3.4.tar.bz2</a>
Version:	<a href="#">3.4 "Cobalt Swan"</a>
Released:	21 Aug 2017
GIT tag:	<a href="#">v3.4</a>

[Installation](#) • [Usage](#)

[Releases](#) • [Release schedule](#)

Uses a kernel functionality  
Easy install by root  
Requires kernel version 4.x

	CRIU	DMTCP	BLCR
Integration with Slurm	NO	NO * planned	YES
Requires application modification	NO	NO	Recompile app
MPI applications	NO	YES	YES
Can checkpoint running application without preloading	YES	NO	YES* library must be loaded
Overhead besides checkpoint	NONE	Init: sec. CPU: 1-2%	CPU:1-2%
Can checkpoint containers (Docker & LXD)?	YES* we have only tested Docker, not LXD	NO	NO
Infiniband support	N/A	YES	NO* we haven't tried, comes from doc.







# 4 Checkpointing and Slurm

# Slurm integration:

## scontrol checkpoint createlrestart

### checkpoint CKPT\_OP ID

Perform a checkpoint activity on the job step(s) with the specified identification. **ID** can be used to identify a specific job (e.g. "<job\_id>", which applies to all of its existing steps) or a specific job step (e.g. "<job\_id>.<step\_id>"). Acceptable values for **CKPT\_OP** include:

- able** Test if presently not disabled, report start time if checkpoint in progress
- create** Create a checkpoint and continue the job or job step
- disable** Disable future checkpoints
- enable** Enable future checkpoints
- error** Report the result for the last checkpoint request, error code and message
- restart** Restart execution of the previously checkpointed job or job step
- requeue** Create a checkpoint and requeue the batch job, combines vacate and restart operations
- vacate** Create a checkpoint and terminate the job or job step

Acceptable values for **CKPT\_OP** include:

**MaxWait=<seconds>** Maximum time for checkpoint to be written. Default value is 10 seconds. Valid with **create** and **vacate** options only.

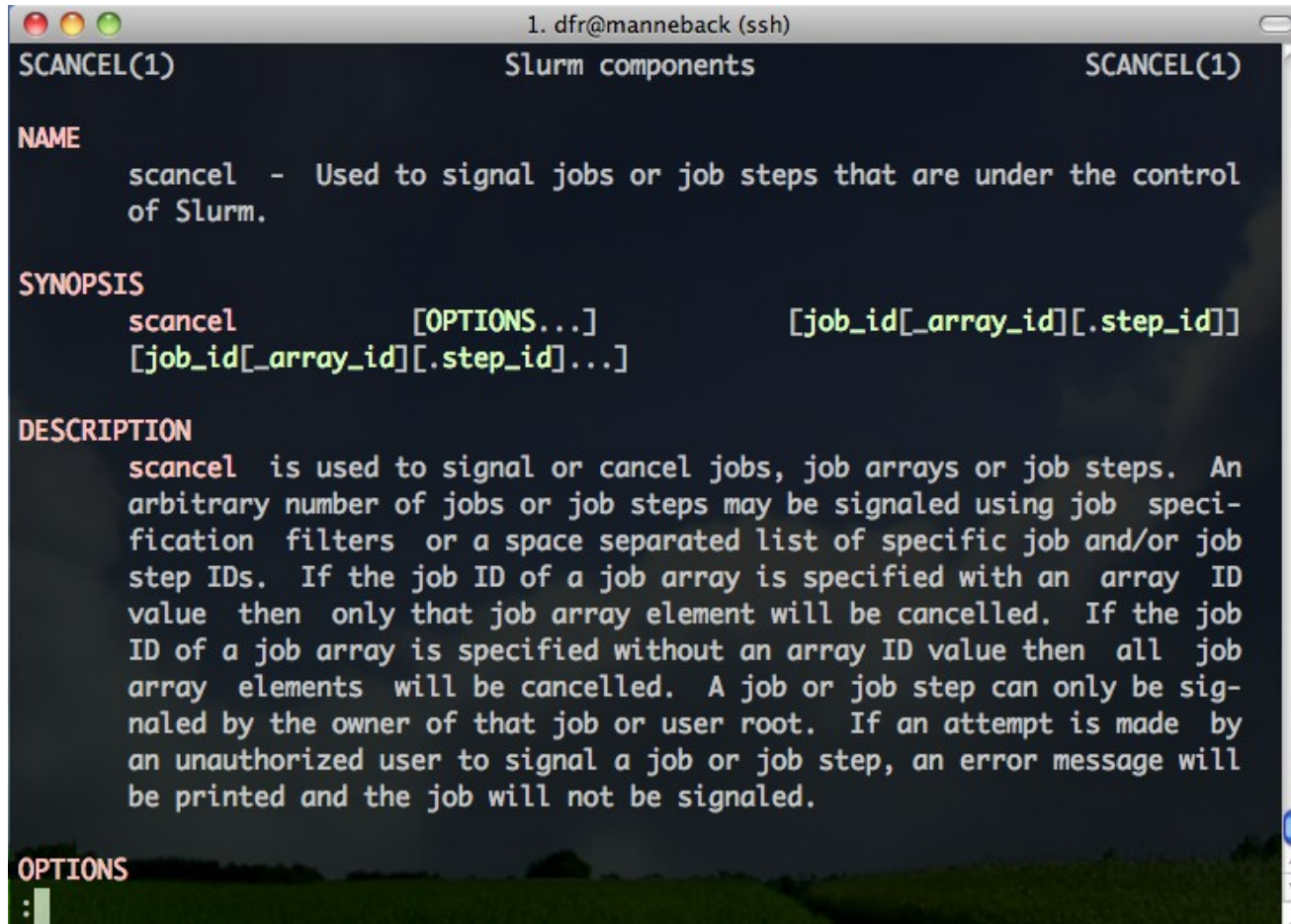
**ImageDir=<directory\_name>**

Location of checkpoint file. Valid with **create**, **vacate** and **restart** options only. This value takes precedent over any **--checkpoint-dir** value specified at job submission time.

**StickToNodes** If set, resume job on the same nodes are previously used. Valid with the **restart** option only.



# scancel is used to send signals to jobs



A terminal window titled "1. dfr@manneback (ssh)" displays the man page for the `scancel` command. The window has a dark background with light-colored text. The man page content is as follows:

```
SCANCEL(1)                                Slurm components                                SCANCEL(1)

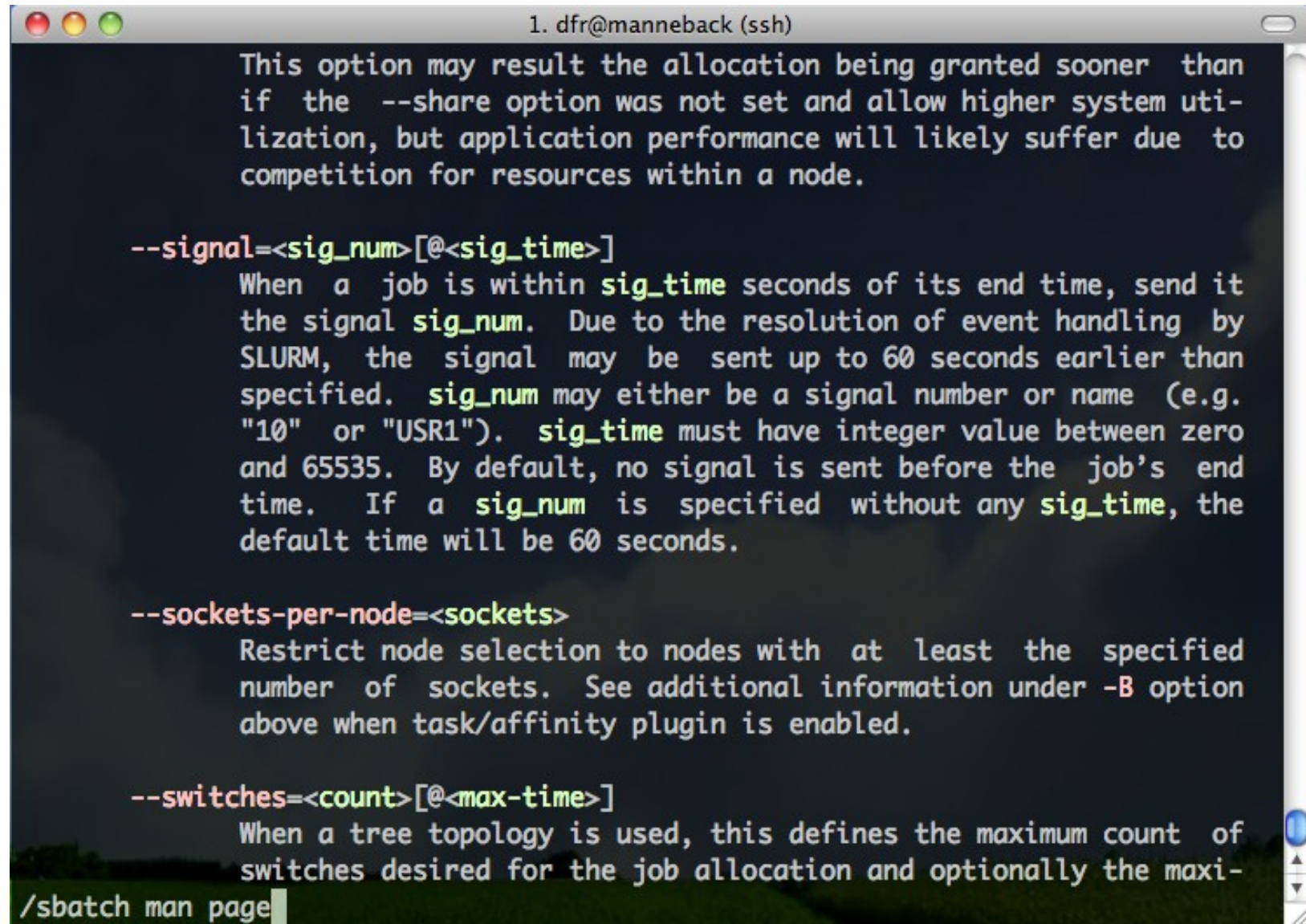
NAME
    scancel - Used to signal jobs or job steps that are under the control
    of Slurm.

SYNOPSIS
    scancel          [OPTIONS...]          [job_id[_array_id][.step_id]]
    [job_id[_array_id][.step_id]...]

DESCRIPTION
    scancel is used to signal or cancel jobs, job arrays or job steps. An
    arbitrary number of jobs or job steps may be signaled using job speci-
    fication filters or a space separated list of specific job and/or job
    step IDs. If the job ID of a job array is specified with an array ID
    value then only that job array element will be cancelled. If the job
    ID of a job array is specified without an array ID value then all job
    array elements will be cancelled. A job or job step can only be sig-
    naled by the owner of that job or user root. If an attempt is made by
    an unauthorized user to signal a job or job step, an error message will
    be printed and the job will not be signaled.

OPTIONS
    :
```

--signal to have Slurm send signals automatically before the end of the allocation



```
1. dfr@manneback (ssh)

This option may result the allocation being granted sooner than
if the --share option was not set and allow higher system uti-
lization, but application performance will likely suffer due to
competition for resources within a node.

--signal=<sig_num>[@<sig_time>]
When a job is within sig_time seconds of its end time, send it
the signal sig_num. Due to the resolution of event handling by
SLURM, the signal may be sent up to 60 seconds earlier than
specified. sig_num may either be a signal number or name (e.g.
"10" or "USR1"). sig_time must have integer value between zero
and 65535. By default, no signal is sent before the job's end
time. If a sig_num is specified without any sig_time, the
default time will be 60 seconds.

--sockets-per-node=<sockets>
Restrict node selection to nodes with at least the specified
number of sockets. See additional information under -B option
above when task/affinity plugin is enabled.

--switches=<count>[@<max-time>]
When a tree topology is used, this defines the maximum count of
switches desired for the job allocation and optionally the maxi-
/sbatch man page
```

Example: send SIGINT 60 seconds before job is killed  
(so, here, after 2 minutes)

```
#!/bin/bash

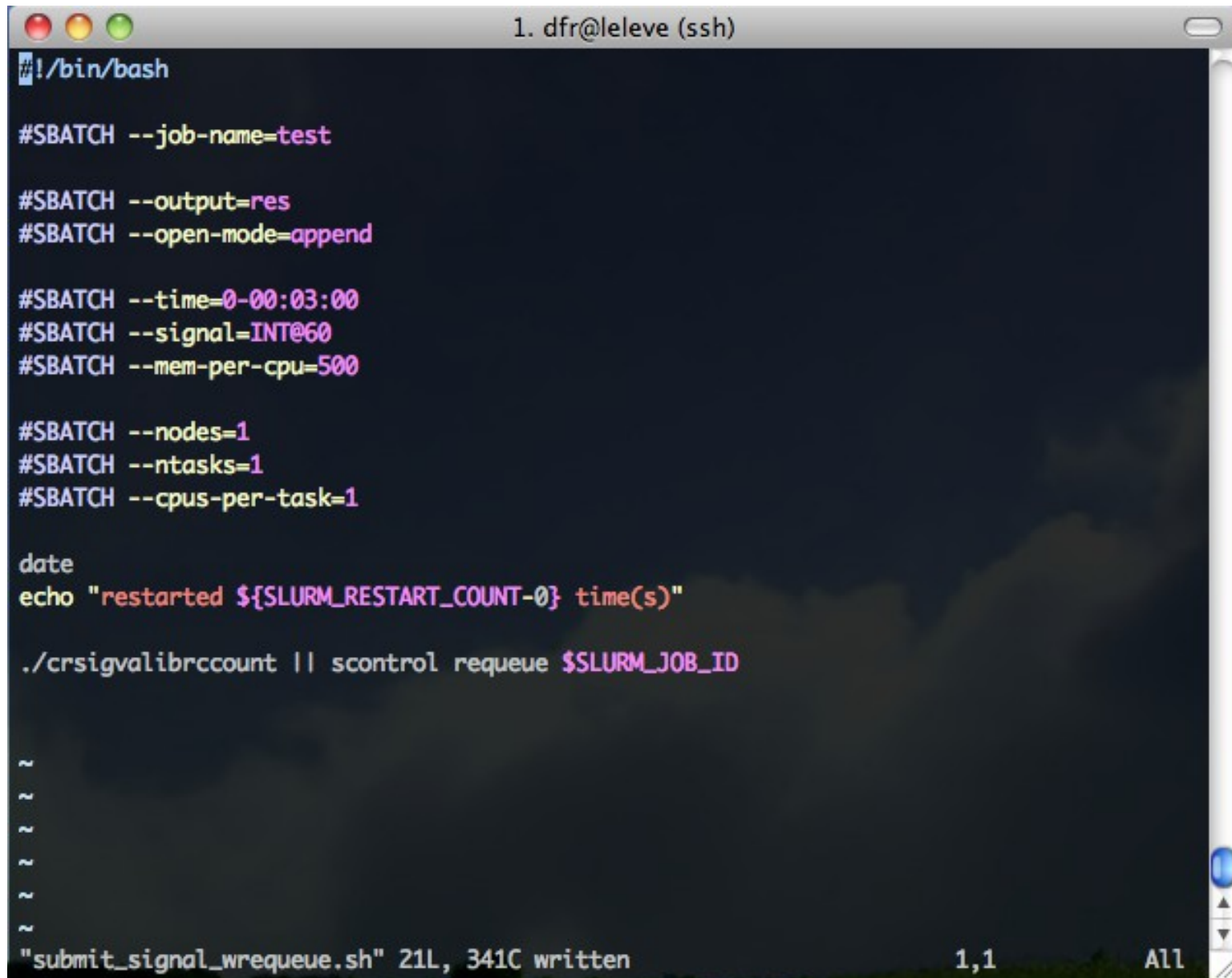
#SBATCH --job-name=test

#SBATCH --output=res

#SBATCH --time=0-00:03:00
#SBATCH --signal=INT@60
#SBATCH --mem-per-cpu=500

#SBATCH --nodes=1
#SBATCH --ntasks=1
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=1
```

# scontrol requeue



A terminal window titled "1. dfr@leleve (ssh)" with standard macOS window controls (red, yellow, green buttons). The terminal shows a bash shell with a script for scontrol requeue. The script includes several #SBATCH directives for job configuration, followed by a date command, an echo statement for logging, and a call to ./crsigvalibrccount. The terminal also shows a vertical bar of tilde characters (~) and a status bar at the bottom indicating the script file and line/character counts.

```
#!/bin/bash

#SBATCH --job-name=test

#SBATCH --output=res
#SBATCH --open-mode=append

#SBATCH --time=0-00:03:00
#SBATCH --signal=INT@60
#SBATCH --mem-per-cpu=500

#SBATCH --nodes=1
#SBATCH --ntasks=1
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=1

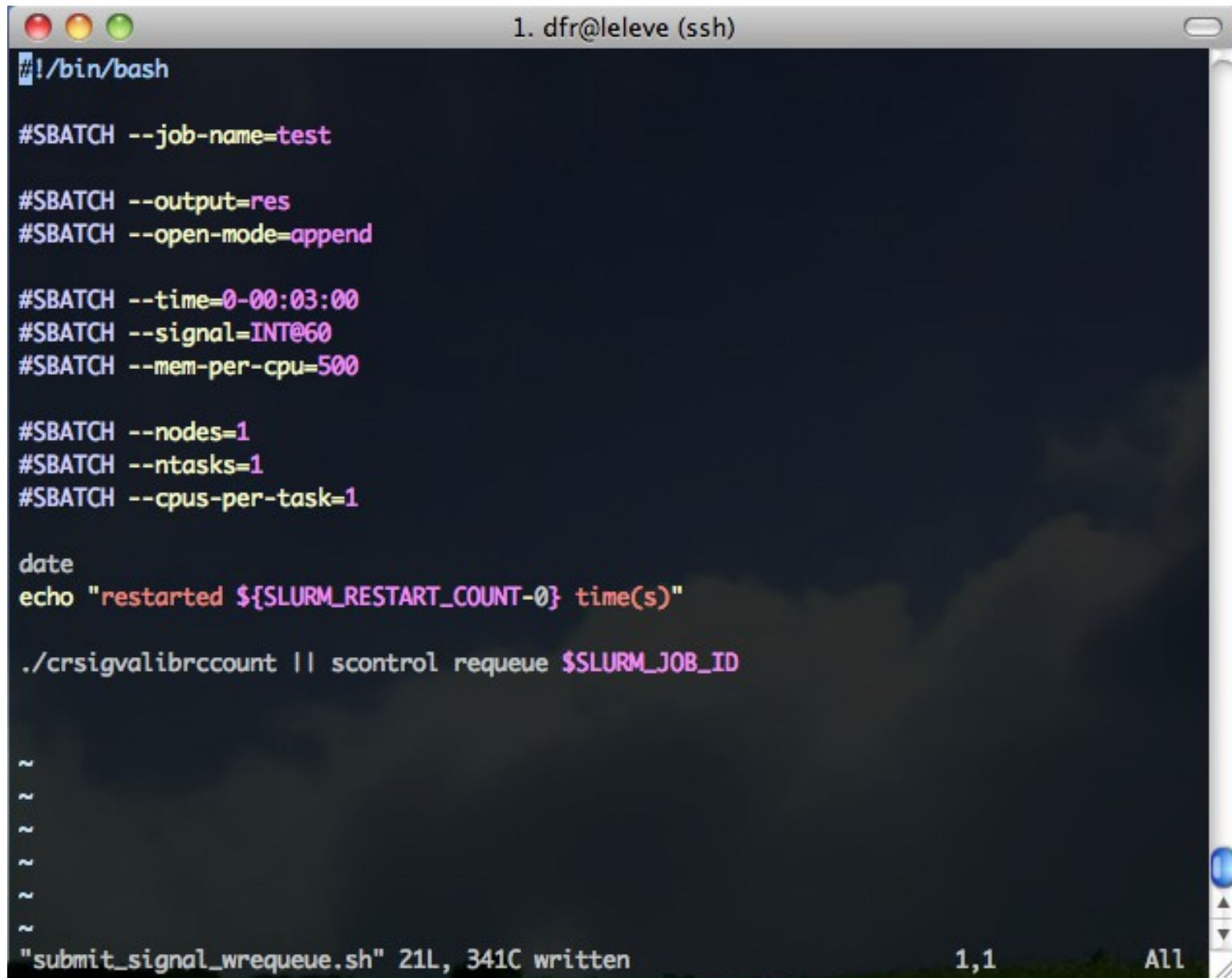
date
echo "restarted ${SLURM_RESTART_COUNT-0} time(s)"

./crsigvalibrccount || scontrol requeue $SLURM_JOB_ID

~
~
~
~
~
~
~
"submit_signal_wrequeue.sh" 21L, 341C written 1,1 All
```



Note the `--open-mode=append`

A terminal window titled "1. dfr@leleve (ssh)" with a dark background and light-colored text. The window contains a Slurm sbatch script. The script starts with a shebang line, followed by several #SBATCH directives for job configuration. It then executes a 'date' command, an 'echo' command that includes a Slurm environment variable, and a command to run a script and requeue the job. The terminal shows several tilde characters as output, and a status bar at the bottom indicates the script's size and the current cursor position.

```
#!/bin/bash

#SBATCH --job-name=test

#SBATCH --output=res
#SBATCH --open-mode=append

#SBATCH --time=0-00:03:00
#SBATCH --signal=INT@60
#SBATCH --mem-per-cpu=500


#SBATCH --nodes=1
#SBATCH --ntasks=1
#SBATCH --cpus-per-task=1

date
echo "restarted ${SLURM_RESTART_COUNT-0} time(s)"

./crsigvalibrccount || scontrol requeue $SLURM_JOB_ID

~
~
~
~
~
~
~
"submit_signal_wrequeue.sh" 21L, 341C written      1,1      All
```

# Or chain the jobs...



**slurm**  
workload manager  
**Version 2.6**

**About**

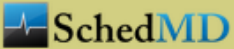
- Overview
- Meetings
- What's New
- Publications
- Testimonials
- SLURM Team

**Using**

- Tutorials
- Documentation
- FAQ
- Getting Help
- Mailing Lists

**Installing**

- Download
- Installation Guide
- Platforms



## **-d, --dependency=<dependency\_list>**

Defer the start of this job until the specified dependencies have been satisfied completed. *<dependency\_list>* is of the form *<type:job\_id[:job\_id] [type:job\_id[:job\_id]]>*. Many jobs can share the same dependency and these jobs may even belong to different users. The value may be changed after job submission using the *scontrol* command.

### **after:job\_id[:jobid...]**

This job can begin execution after the specified jobs have begun execution.

### **afterany:job\_id[:jobid...]**

This job can begin execution after the specified jobs have terminated.

### **afternotok:job\_id[:jobid...]**

This job can begin execution after the specified jobs have terminated in some failed state (non-zero exit code, node failure, timed out, etc).

### **afterok:job\_id[:jobid...]**

This job can begin execution after the specified jobs have successfully executed (ran to completion with an exit code of zero).

### **expand:job\_id**

Resources allocated to this job should be used to expand the specified job. The job to expand must share the same QOS (Quality of Service) and partition. Gang scheduling of resources in the partition is also not supported.

### **singleton**

This job can begin execution after any previously launched jobs sharing the same job name and user have terminated.

## **-D, --workdir=<directory>**

Set the working directory of the batch script to *directory* before it is executed.

Using a signal-based watchdog  
to re-queue the job just before it is killed

[illegible]



# 5 Example



# DMTCP: Distributed MultiThreaded CheckPointing

[Home](#)

[Downloads](#)

[SF project page](#)

[Browse Source](#)

[Demo](#)

[Supported Apps](#)

[Condor Integration](#)

[Manual/Documentation](#)

[API](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Publications](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## About DMTCP:

DMTCP (Distributed MultiThreaded Checkpointing) is a tool to transparently checkpoint the state of multiple simultaneous applications, including multi-threaded and distributed applications. It operates directly on the user binary executable, without any Linux kernel modules or other kernel modifications.

Among the applications supported by DMTCP are Open MPI, MATLAB, Python, Perl, and many programming languages and shell scripting languages. Starting with release 1.2.0, DMTCP also supports [GNU screen](#) sessions, including vim/cscope and emacs. With the use of TightVNC, it can also checkpoint and restart X Window applications, as long as they do not use extensions (e.g.: no OpenGL, no video). See the [QUICK-START](#) file for further details.

DMTCP supports InfiniBand internally as of Aug., 2013, and will soon be released.

DMTCP is also the basis for [URDB, the Universal Reversible Debugger](#). URDB was an experimental project for reversibility for four debuggers: gdb, MATLAB, python (pdb), and perl (perl -d). It is now obsolete, and work is continuing on a newer internal project, which will be released as open source in the future.

[News](#) | [See Also](#) | [Authors](#) | [Acknowledgement](#)

## Announcement!

We are currently looking for well qualified applicants who are interested in joining a Ph.D. program in order to do research on checkpointing and reversible debugging. Interested applicants should write to Gene Cooperman (gene@ccs.neu.edu) at Northeastern University.

# Advertised Features

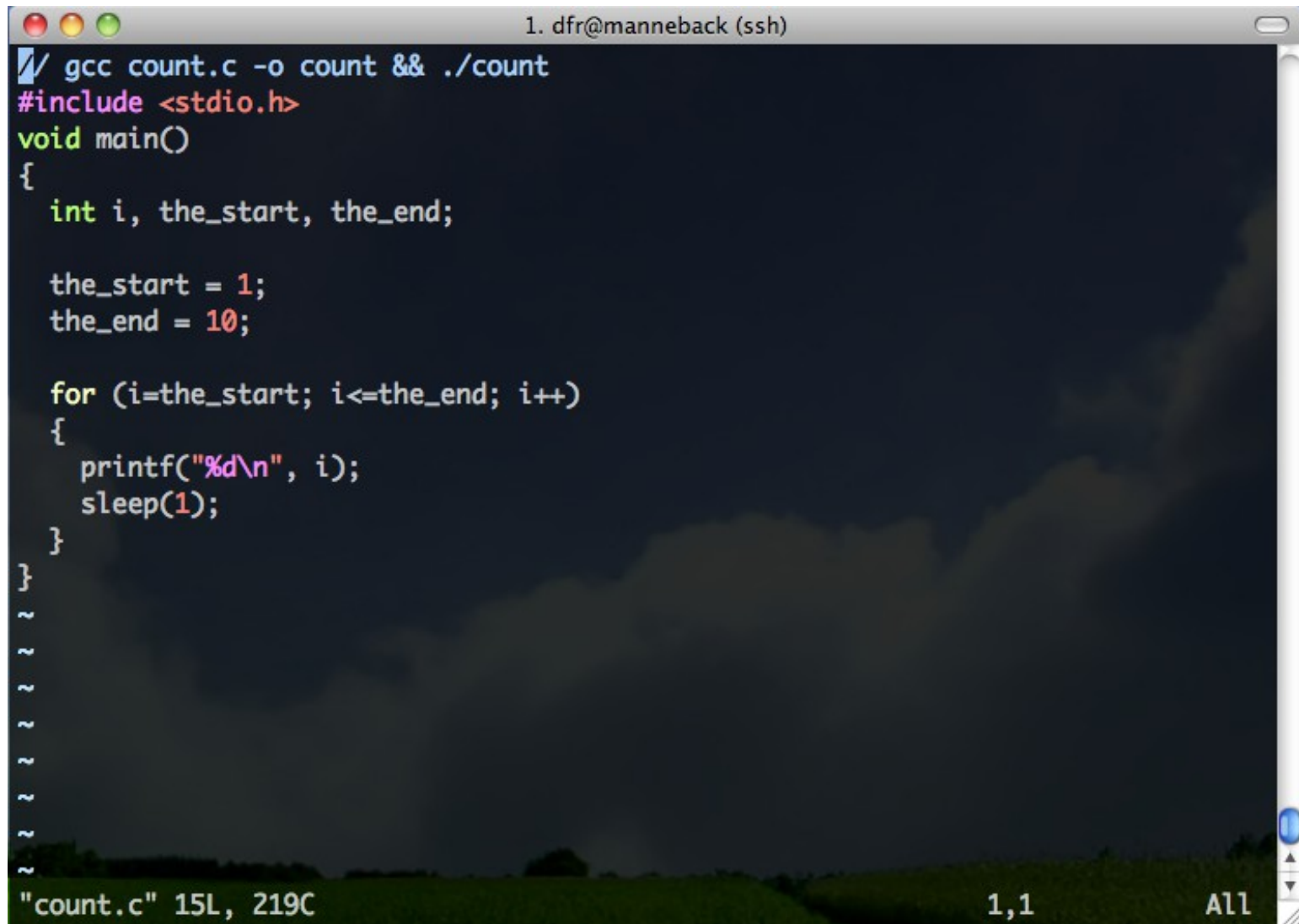
- Distributed Multi-Threaded CheckPointing
- Works with Linux Kernel 2.6.9 and later
- Supports sequential and multi-threaded computations across single/multiple hosts
- Entirely in user space (no kernel modules or root privilege)
- Transparent (no recompiling, no re-linking)
- Written at Northeastern U. and MIT and under active development for 5+ years
- LGPL'd and freely available
- No remote I/O
- Supports threads, mutexes/semaphores, forks, shared memory, exec, and many more

From their FAQ:

“ **What types of programs can DMTCP checkpoint?**

It checkpoints most binary programs on most Linux distributions. Some examples on which users have verified that DMTCP works are: Matlab, R, Java, Python, Perl, Ruby, PHP, Ocaml, GCL (GNU Common Lisp), emacs, vi/cscope, Open MPI, MPICH-2, OpenMP, and Cilk. See [Supported Applications](#) for further details. Our goal is to support DMTCP for all vanilla programs. If DMTCP does not work correctly on your program, **then this is a bug in DMTCP**. We would be appreciative if you can then [file a bug report with DMTCP](#). ”

# Imagine a non-checkpointable program



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "1. dfr@manneback (ssh)". The terminal displays the compilation and execution of a C program named "count.c". The code is as follows:

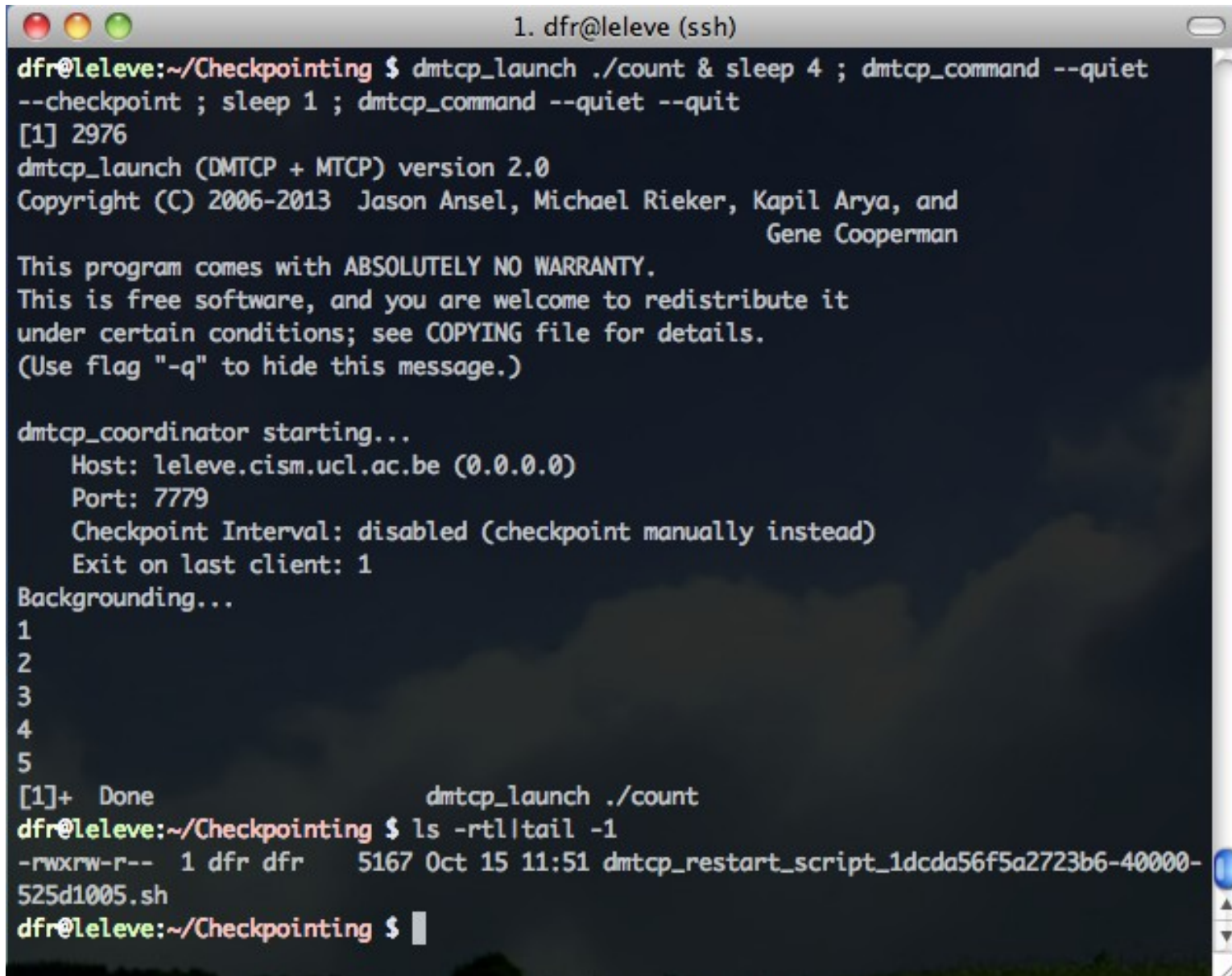
```
// gcc count.c -o count && ./count
#include <stdio.h>
void main()
{
    int i, the_start, the_end;

    the_start = 1;
    the_end = 10;

    for (i=the_start; i<=the_end; i++)
    {
        printf("%d\n", i);
        sleep(1);
    }
}
~
~
~
~
~
~
~
~
~
~
```

The status bar at the bottom of the terminal shows the file path and line/column information: "count.c" 15L, 219C. On the right side of the status bar, the cursor position is indicated as "1,1" and the search scope is set to "All".

# Run with dmtcp\_launch (runs monitoring daemon if necessary)



```
1. dfr@leleve (ssh)
dfr@leleve:~/Checkpointing $ dmtcp_launch ./count & sleep 4 ; dmtcp_command --quiet
--checkpoint ; sleep 1 ; dmtcp_command --quiet --quit
[1] 2976
dmtcp_launch (DMTCP + MTCP) version 2.0
Copyright (C) 2006-2013 Jason Ansel, Michael Rieker, Kapil Arya, and
Gene Cooperman

This program comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
This is free software, and you are welcome to redistribute it
under certain conditions; see COPYING file for details.
(Use flag "-q" to hide this message.)

dmtcp_coordinator starting...
  Host: leleve.cism.ucl.ac.be (0.0.0.0)
  Port: 7779
  Checkpoint Interval: disabled (checkpoint manually instead)
  Exit on last client: 1
Backgrounding...
1
2
3
4
5
[1]+  Done                  dmtcp_launch ./count
dfr@leleve:~/Checkpointing $ ls -rtl|tail -1
-rwxrwx-r--  1 dfr dfr    5167 Oct 15 11:51 dmtcp_restart_script_1dcda56f5a2723b6-40000-
525d1005.sh
dfr@leleve:~/Checkpointing $
```



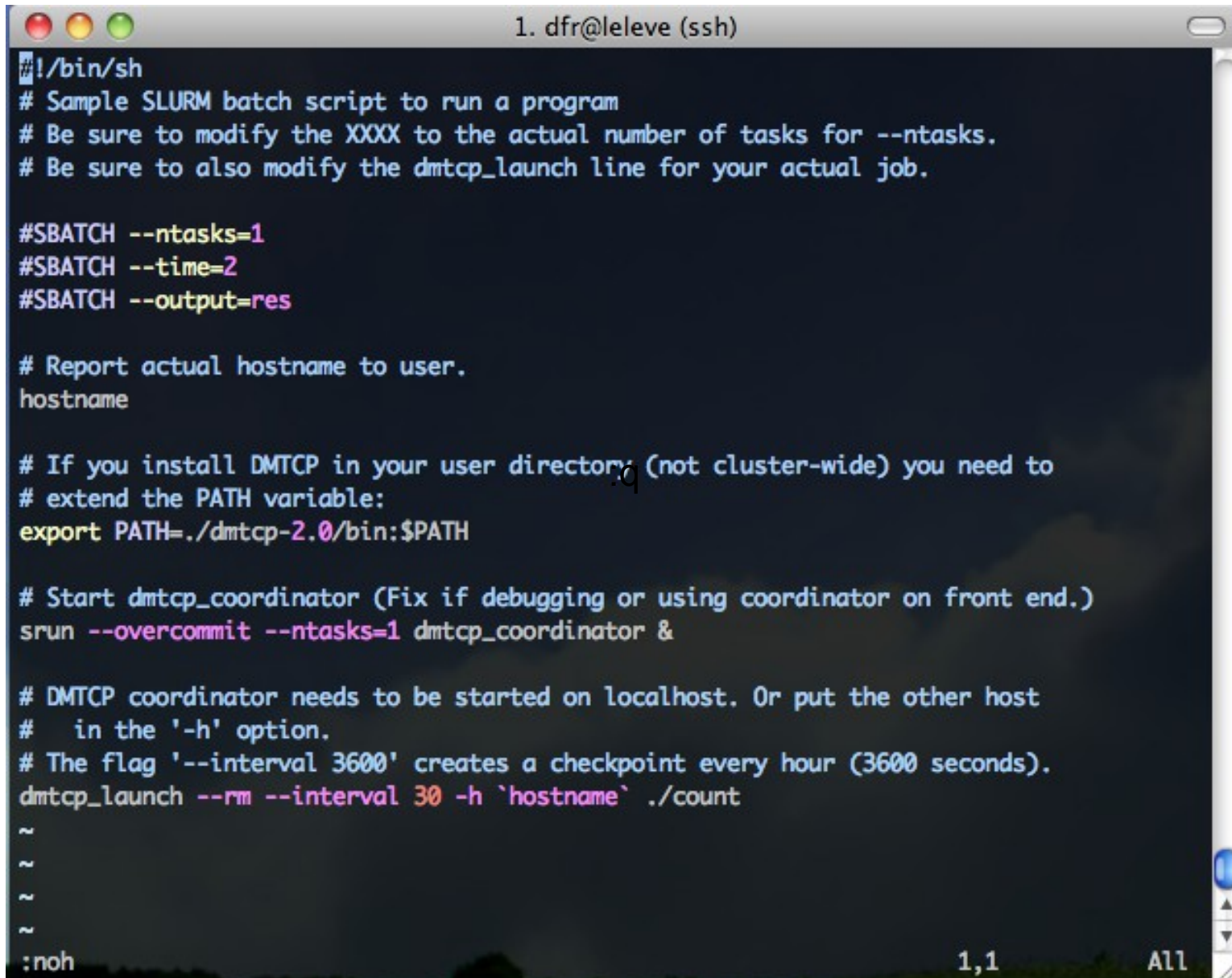
# Restart with dmtcp\_restart\_script.sh

```
1. dfr@leleve (ssh)
5
[1]+  Done                  dmtcp_launch ./count
dfr@leleve:~/Checkpointing $ ls -rtl|tail -1
-rwxrwx-r-- 1 dfr dfr 5167 Oct 15 11:52 dmtcp_restart_script_1dcda56f5a2723b6-40000-525d1043.sh
dfr@leleve:~/Checkpointing $ ./dmtcp_restart_script.sh
dmtcp_restart (DMTCP + MTCP) version 2.0
Copyright (C) 2006-2013 Jason Ansel, Michael Rieker, Kapil Arya, and
                        Gene Cooperman

This program comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
This is free software, and you are welcome to redistribute it
under certain conditions; see COPYING file for details.
(Use flag "-q" to hide this message.)

dmtcp_coordinator starting...
  Host: leleve.cism.ucl.ac.be (0.0.0.0)
  Port: 7779
  Checkpoint Interval: disabled (checkpoint manually instead)
  Exit on last client: 1
Backgrounding...
5
6
7
8
9
10
^C
dfr@leleve:~/Checkpointing $
```

# Launch the coordinator and the program with automatic checkpointing every 30 seconds



```
1. dfr@leleve (ssh)
#!/bin/sh
# Sample SLURM batch script to run a program
# Be sure to modify the XXXX to the actual number of tasks for --ntasks.
# Be sure to also modify the dmtcp_launch line for your actual job.

#SBATCH --ntasks=1
#SBATCH --time=2
#SBATCH --output=res

# Report actual hostname to user.
hostname

# If you install DMTCP in your user directory (not cluster-wide) you need to
# extend the PATH variable:
export PATH=./dmtcp-2.0/bin:$PATH

# Start dmtcp_coordinator (Fix if debugging or using coordinator on front end.)
srun --overcommit --ntasks=1 dmtcp_coordinator &

# DMTCP coordinator needs to be started on localhost. Or put the other host
# in the '-h' option.
# The flag '--interval 3600' creates a checkpoint every hour (3600 seconds).
dmtcp_launch --rm --interval 30 -h `hostname` ./count
~
~
~
~
: noh                                     1,1                                     All
```

# Launch coordinator and restart program

```
1. dfr@leleve (ssh)
#!/bin/sh
# Sample SLURM batch script for restart
# You'll also need to customize the SBATCH lines below.
# The script, ./dmtcp_restart_script.sh, will have been created for you
#   by a checkpoint during the initial run.

#SBATCH --ntasks=1
#SBATCH --output=res
#SBATCH --open-mode=append

# Report actual hostname to user.
hostname

# If you install DMTCP in your user directory (not cluster-wide), you'll
# need to extend PATH variable:
export PATH=./dmtcp-2.0/bin:$PATH

# Start dmtcp_coordinator (Fix if debugging or using coordinator on front end.)
srun --overcommit dmtcp_coordinator &
export DMTCP_HOST=`hostname`

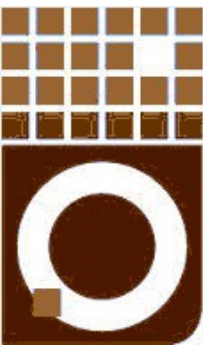
# The flag '--interval 3600' creates a checkpoint every hour (3600 seconds).
./dmtcp_restart_script.sh --interval 30
~
~
~
~
"submit.dmtcp.restart.sh" 23L, 742C 20,1 All
```



```
1. dfr@leleve (ssh)
leleve01.cism.ucl.ac.be
dmtcp_launch (DMTCP + MTCP) version 2.0
[...]
dmtcp_coordinator starting...
Backgrounding...
1
srun: error: leleve01: task 0: Exited with exit code 99
2
3
[...]
16
17
slurmd[leleve01]: error: *** JOB 93 CANCELLED AT 2013-10-15T15:28:04 DUE TO TIME LIMIT ***
leleve01.cism.ucl.ac.be
dmtcp_restart (DMTCP + MTCP) version 2.0
[...]
dmtcp_coordinator starting...
Backgrounding...
srun: error: leleve01: task 0: Exited with exit code 99
17
18
19
[...]
25
26
27
"res" 29 lines --3%-- 1,1 Top
```



damien.francois@uclouvain.be  
UCL/CISM

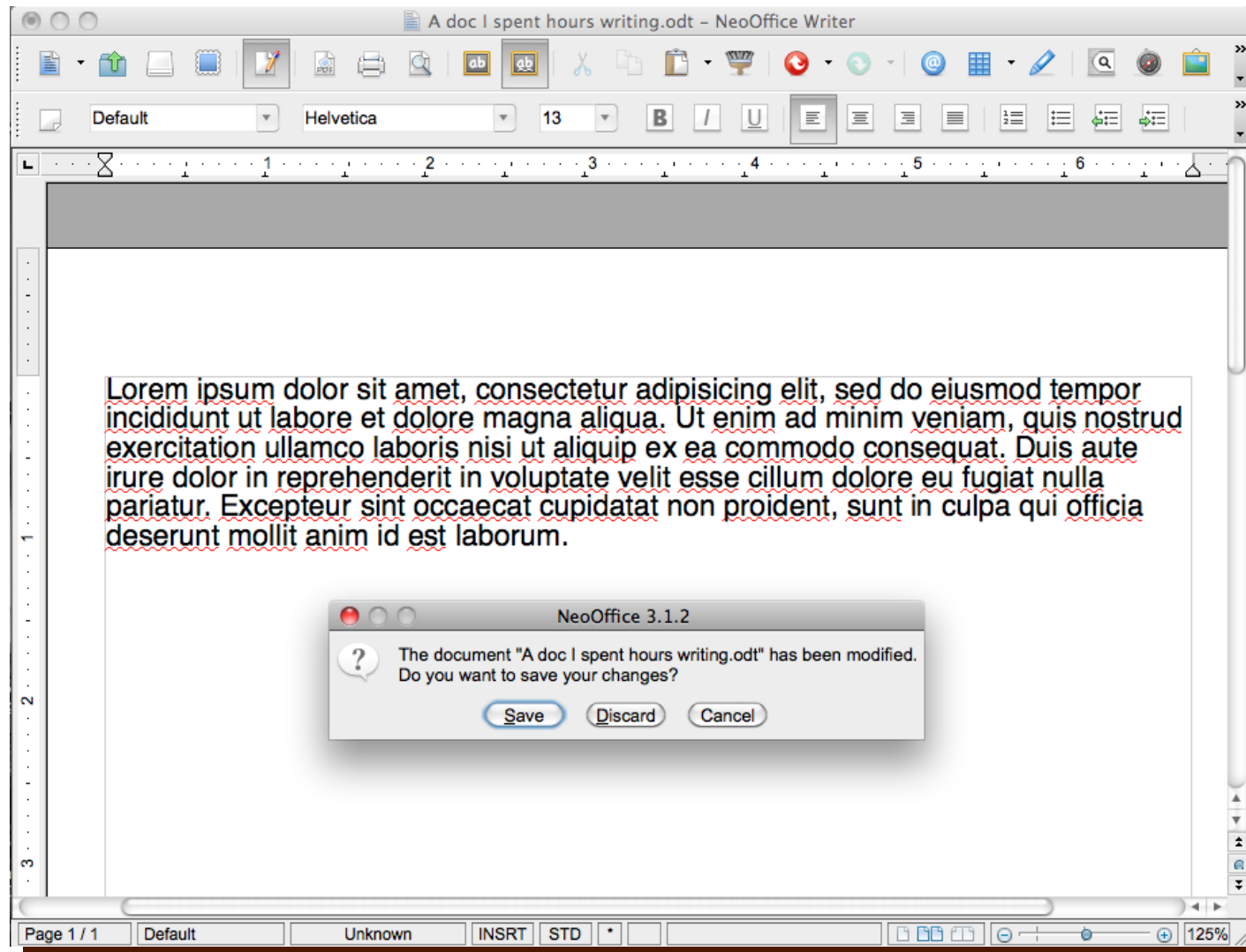


# Summary, Wrap-up and Conclusions.

October 2014  
CISM/CÉCI training session



# Never click 'Discard' again...



## The submission script(s)

- Either one big one or two small ones
- Checkpoint periodically or --signal
- Requeue automatically
- Open-mode=append