Kubernetes container orchestration as a framework for flexible and effective scientific data analysis

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European XFEL

- X-Ray Free-Electron Laser mega science research facility
 - High brilliance (10⁹ times more than conventional X-ray source)
 - High frequency: up to 27000 flashes per second
 - Wavelength range: 0.05-4.7 nm
 - Short pulses: less than 100 fs
- Construction start Jan 2009
- First experiments Sep 2017





SPI Experiments

- The goal: Molecule structure at atomic level (1A)
- Big data:
 - 120 Tb per experiment (Dec 2017)
 - 360 Tb per experiment (May 2019)
 - expected to be increased **100x** times!
- Experiments evolve rapidly
- Data Analysis is also under intensive development:
 - Algorithms
 - Software
 - IT services



*Gaffney K. J. & Chapman H. N.// Science, 2007.

The Goal of the Project

- Software Pipeline for automated data processing
- From diffraction patterns to 3D structure in near real-time
- Core Ideas:
 - Integration of software packages for various stages of data analysis in analysis pipeline
 - Simple configuration and deployment
 - Scalability
 - Extensibility, modular architecture
 - Various workflows



XFEL data analysis scheme



A little bit more detailed

Realization Strategy

- Container technology for easy software deployment
- Microservices for individual stages of analysis
- Container orchestration for scalability and management
- Shared network filesystem for data I/O



Testbed

- Dedicated K8s cluster (version v1.15.3) with three nodes
- Dedicated CEPHfs storage
- 1Gbps interconnect
- NVIDIA M2050 GPU cards



Master Node 2x Xeon X5650 24 Gb RAM NVIDIA GF100

Data Exchange Scheme

Master Node

- Data is stored in a shared filesystem (GPFS, Lustre, CEPH) in HDF5 files
- K8s based container orchestration is used for:
 - containers deployment
 - load balancing
 - internal and external communications
 - services monitoring and management
- Native K8s support for CEPHfs volumes



Kubernetes Cluster

Technological Layers

- Software
 Platform Level
- Service/Job Level
- Container Level
- Application level



Container Level

- Information how to build and install application
- Dockerfile syntax
- Result: application is ready to be used inside the container
- Users can use it directly with Docker!

```
FROM ubuntu:18.04
WORKDIR /root
RUN apt update && apt upgrade -y
RUN apt install -y cmake libtiff5-dev libfftw3-dev gsl-bin
RUN git clone https://github.com/FXIhub/libspimage.git
RUN mkdir -p libspimage/build
WORKDIR libspimage/build
RUN cmake -DCMAKE_VERBOSE_MAKEFILE=ON -DBUILD_LIBRARY=ON -D
RUN make && make install
RUN mkdir /opt/xfel
WORKDIR /opt/xfel
COPY phase.py .
```

Kubernetes Services/Jobs Level

- Description of how to run the Application:
 - location of container images for job applications
 - location of volumes with the data
 - parallelization patterns
- YAML syntax
- Result: application is connected to data and is parallelized inside K8s cluster

```
piVersion: batch/v1
kind: Job
etadata:
 name: phaser-sample
spec:
 template:
   spec:
     containers:
     - name: phaser-sample
       image: wn75:5000/phaser
       command: ["/usr/bin/python", "./phase.py",
       volumeMounts:
          - mountPath: "/ceph"
           name: cephfs
     volumes:
     - name: cephfs
       cephfs:
          monitors:
          - ceph55.sandbox.g3.computing.kiae.ru
          user: cephfs
          secretRef:
           name: ceph-secret
          readOnly: false
      restartPolicy: Never
 backoffLimit: 4
```

Platform Level

- Data processing platform as a set of Kubernes objects:
 - Services/Jobs
 - Data Volumes (CEPHfs)
 - Configuration Parameters
 - Set of users and user roles, access patterns
- Helm Templates Syntax: charts, releases, deployments
- Available as a package from repository, can be installed in a simple manener:

\$ helm repo add stable https://bio1.grid.kiae.ru/repo/xfel \$ helm repo update \$ helm install stable/xfel_pipeline --generate-name

Use Cases: Orientations Determination

- Dragonfly
 - EMC algorithm for orientations reconstruction
 - High quality code
 - MPI
 - GUI interface
- It is the bright case where HPC application meets HTC (Cloud)!





= ?

HPC vs HTC

- Different focus, history, architecture, ecosystem
 - HPC parallel computing. Intensive communications between nodes
 - HTC data and services centric. Loosely coupled services
- Possible scenarios of combined usage
 - application code refactoring
 - run HTC workloads in HPC systems (Singularity, Shifter)
 - virtualize HPC infrastructure in HTC systems
 - maintain separate infrastructures

Dragonfly scaling benchmarks



- Kubernetes jobs vs bare metal Centos 6 installation
- Kubernetes is approx. 4% faster than bare metal!



Components: Phase retrieval

- Orientation Determination
 - Libspsim package
 - Python wrapper to parse input/ouput, compute
- At Docker level: Ubuntu 18 based image, CUDA support
- At K8s level: Works as K8s Job with CEPH filesystem volumes
- Use JSON format as Input/Output
- Use HDF5 to store output

GUI applications as a web K8s service

- autoplot.py as a HTTP service
- realtime EMC monitoring from browser





Summary

- Docker and Kubernetes is a suitable platform to build data analysis pipelines
- K8s infrastructure allows various scenarios of software usage:
 - Data parallel applications
 - MPI applications
 - SMP/Cuda applications
 - GUI applications as web services
- From XFEL data analysis testbed to wider applications

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