GNU Parallel

Parallel shell jobs

Input ::: / :::: / stdin → split → **Arguments** one per job → fill {} → **Job slots** -j N at a time → group → **Output** per job, in order with -k

CONCEPTS

Think xargs with sane defaults: one job per argument, one job per CPU thread, and output of each job never interleaved.

Several ::: groups give every combination; use ::: + to pair them up instead.

INPUTS

parallel *<cmd>* **:::** *<a> <b> <c>*
Arguments on the command line

<producer> **| parallel** *<cmd>*
One argument per stdin line

parallel *<cmd>* **::::** *<file>*
One argument per line of a file

parallel -0 *<cmd>*
NUL-separated stdin (find -print0)

parallel -d *<delim> <cmd>*
Custom input delimiter

parallel *<cmd>* **:::** *<a> <b>* **:::** *<x> <y>*
All combinations of two sources

INPUTS (cont.)

parallel *<cmd>* **:::** *<a> <b>* **:::+** *<x> <y>*
Pair sources (a-x, b-y)

REPLACEMENT STRINGS

{}
The argument itself

{.}
Argument without extension

{/}
Basename (no directory)

{/.}
Basename without extension

{#}
Job sequence number

{%}
Job slot number, 1 to -j

{1} {2} {-1}
Argument from source n; negative counts from end

With no replacement string in the command, {} is appended. Replacement strings are shell-quoted for you.

RUNNING JOBS

parallel -j *<N>* **...**
Run N jobs at once

parallel -n *<N>* **...**
Up to N arguments per command

parallel -X ...
Pack many args into each command line

SAFETY AND PREVIEW

parallel --dry-run *<cmd>* **:::** *<a> <b>*
Print commands, run nothing

parallel --halt now,fail=1 ...
Stop all jobs at first failure

parallel -q *<cmd>* **'***<arg with $>***'**
Quote the command (simple commands only)

Pipes, redirects and && inside the command need single quotes around the whole command: parallel 'a {} | b > {}.out' ::: ...

Shell functions need export -f <fn> in bash; aliases and zsh/fish functions need env_parallel.

OUTPUT AND PROGRESS

parallel -k ...
Print output in input order

parallel --bar ...
Progress bar on stderr

parallel --tag ...
Prefix each line with its argument

JOBLOG AND RESUME

parallel --joblog *<file>* **...**
Record seq, time, exit code, command

parallel --joblog *<file>* **--resume ...**
Skip jobs already logged

parallel --joblog *<file>* **--resume-failed ...**
Rerun failed jobs, then the rest

SPLITTING STDIN

<producer> **| parallel --pipe** *<cmd>*
Give each job a block of stdin

parallel --pipe -N *<N> <cmd>*
Exactly N records per job

REMOTE HOSTS

parallel -S *<host1>,<host2>* **...**
Run jobs on these ssh hosts

parallel --transferfile {} -S *<host>* **...**
Copy the input file to the host first

RECIPES

Convert files, keep names

```
ls *.png | parallel convert
{} {.}.jpg
# or safe for odd names:
find . -name '*.png' -print0
| parallel -0 convert {}
{.}.jpg
```

Preview, run, log, resume

```
parallel --dry-run gzip
{} ::: *.log
parallel -j 4 --bar --joblog
jobs.log gzip {} ::: *.log
# interrupted? pick up where
it stopped:
parallel -j 4 --joblog
jobs.log --resume gzip
{} ::: *.log
```

Parameter sweep

```
parallel --tag -k ./run.sh
--lr {1} --bs {2} \
  ::: 0.1 0.01 ::: 32 64
```

Big file, many cores

```
cat big.txt | parallel --
pipe --block 20M -k \
  grep -c '<pattern>' |
paste -sd+ | bc
```