

Amber Cluster Appropriate-Use Policy Supplement

Harvey Mudd College
Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science

The mathematics and computer-science departments maintain a parallel-computing (“Beowulf”) cluster that can be used by faculty, students, and staff of Harvey Mudd College, other Claremont Colleges, and other educational or research institutions by special permission.

The cluster is maintained and administered by the mathematics department’s systems administrator. Use of the cluster is governed primarily by the mathematics department’s Appropriate-Use Policy (available from <http://www.math.hmc.edu/computing/policies/appropriate-use/appropriate-use.pdf>).

This document is a supplement to that document, and may reinforce, more tightly restrict, or otherwise modify conditions of use described in the broader appropriate-use policy.

By signing the Amber account-request form you are agreeing to both the general appropriate-user policy and to this supplement.

1 Appropriate Work

The Amber cluster systems may only be used to do work that is directly related to the project that is described on your cluster-account application form. Reading e-mail, browsing the web, and other “normal” activities should be performed on the department’s other machines, leaving the cluster nodes available to devote processing time to relevant research projects.

You may pursue additional computationally intensive or parallel-computing projects, however, you are expected to update the cluster’s administrators about changes in the projects on which you are working.

2 Acknowledgment of Cluster Use

You must acknowledge your use of the Amber cluster resources in any publication that you produce as a result of your work.

We suggest a statement similar to the following:

This research was performed in part using the Amber parallel cluster operated by Harvey Mudd College’s Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science.

If you would like to use (or suggest) an alternate wording for this statement, please send a sample to beowulf@math.hmc.edu for approval, comment, or consideration.

3 Grant of Publicity

In order to demonstrate the value of the cluster, we require users to share information about their projects with us, so that we may, in turn, share that information through our own departmental publications, grant applications, websites, and so forth.

We ask that you provide the Harvey Mudd College mathematics and computer-science departments with descriptions of your cluster-related work, and grant full permission to both departments to use this information in any departmental publications (including print, electronic, and other forms).

Should the details of your project change, please submit updates to us at beowulf@math.hmc.edu.

We would also appreciate receiving citations or offprints of research articles, photographs of posters or conference presentations, and other materials that show the end results of projects that used the cluster.

4 Installing Software and System Stability

Because the cluster is a shared resource, and because the cluster relies on standardized software installs to maintain peak performance, you must not install software that might affect the cluster’s stability or performance.

If there are packages that you need to run your application, send mail to beowulf@math.hmc.edu to request the installation of that software. Systems staff will examine your request and determine whether it

is possible to accommodate your needs without interfering with the operation of the cluster for other users.

Once a determination is made, the software will be installed by systems staff or you will be told that the software cannot be installed and why it cannot be installed. We are sorry if the lack of that software makes it impossible for you to complete your research program using the Amber cluster.

5 Scheduling Policy

You must abide by the current scheduling protocols for use of the cluster. These protocols may be subject to change based on use levels, software improvements, and other conditions. The current protocols will be made available via the mathematics department's computing website. Any questions can be answered through discussion with the department's systems administrator, at system@math.hmc.edu or through the beowulf@math.hmc.edu list.

6 Consequences

Consequences for violating the terms of this agreement are much the same as those for violating the terms of the general appropriate-use policy.

For Amber cluster users, loss of access to the cluster is an additional risk that may occur immediately, should your behavior require quick action to protect other users from the consequences of your actions, or may be imposed after other, lesser sanctions should your behavior demonstrate a continued lack of respect for other users and the systems' integrity.

7 Changes to Departmental Policies

Changes to this policy may be made by the mathematics department's systems staff and will be posted as system notices, on the department's computing-resources website, or by electronic mail.

Users are responsible for reading and complying with all such policy statements.

8 Questions and Comments

Questions, comments, and other matters may be addressed to the department's systems-administration staff at system@math.hmc.edu.