

# A Common Tracking Software for particle and nuclear physics experiments and GPU-accelerated tracking

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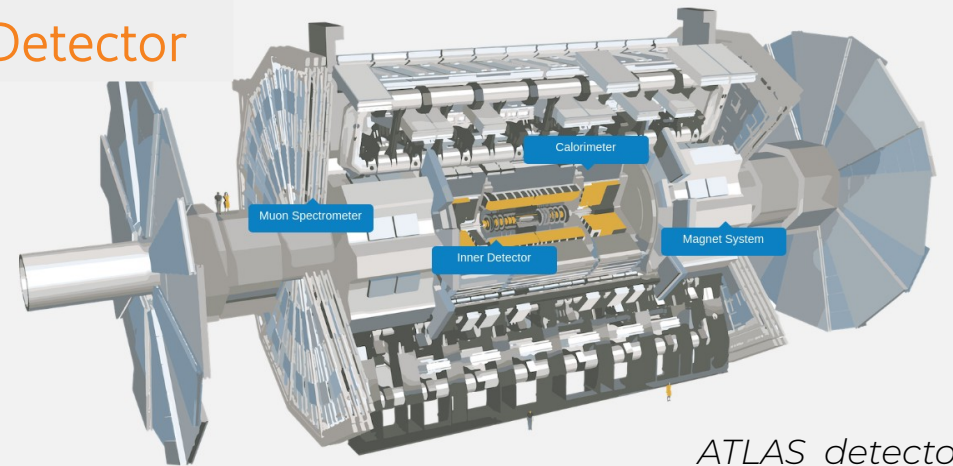
**What is tracking?**

# What makes a particle and nuclear experiment?

## Accelerator

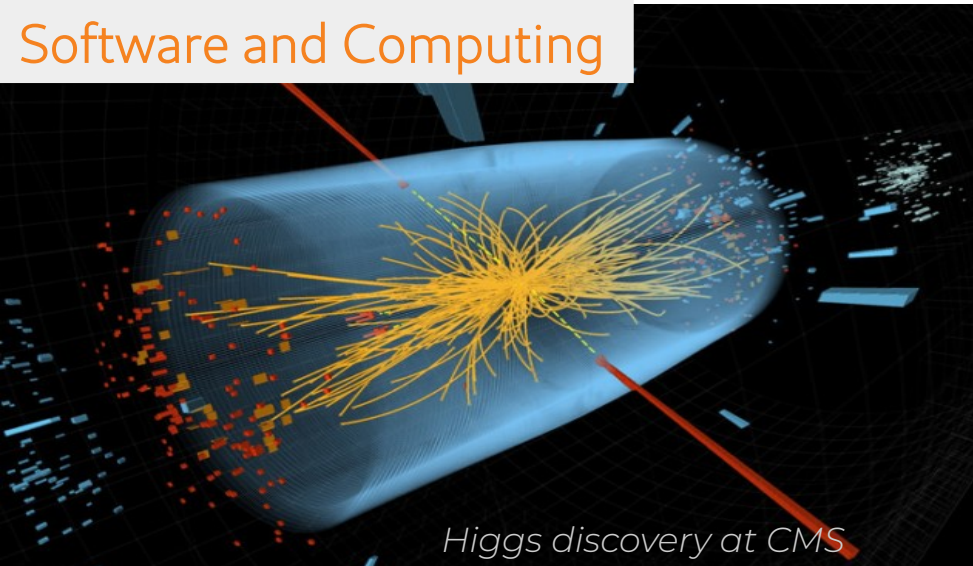


## Detector



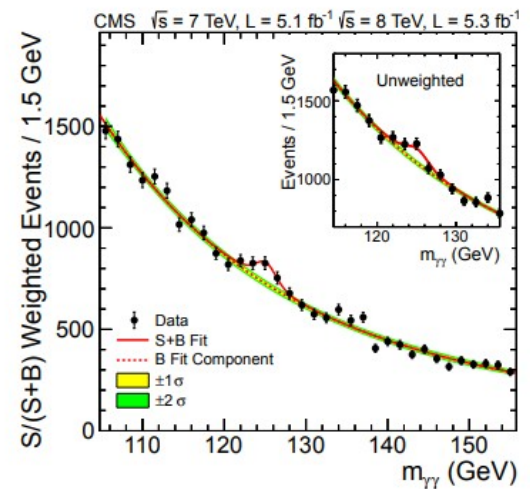
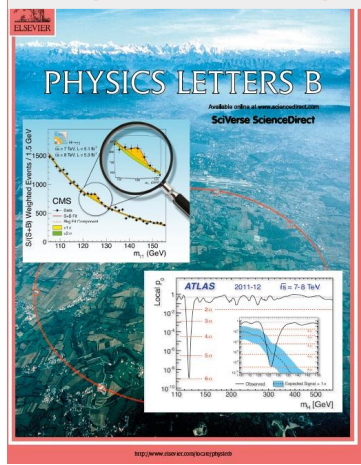
ATLAS detector

## Software and Computing



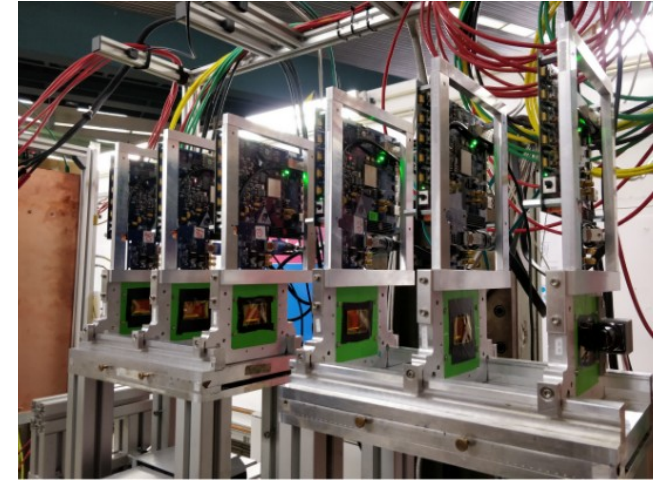
Higgs discovery at CMS

## Physics Analysis



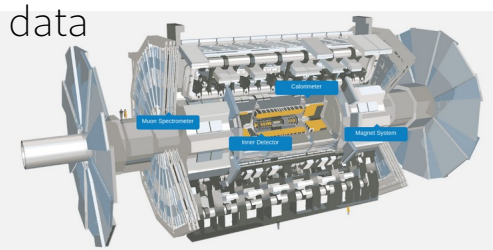
# What is the role of software and computing in HEP&NP?

- Guide and support the **design, characterization and construction** of detector through **detector simulation**
- Turns the recorded data by detectors into physics **objects** for ultimate extraction of physics signals
  - Reconstruction, identification, calibration

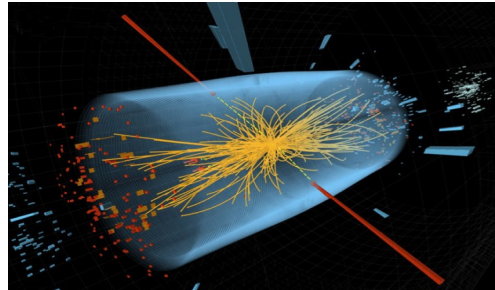
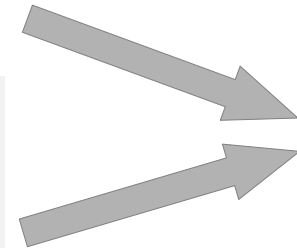


ALPIDE Addendum telescope at DESY

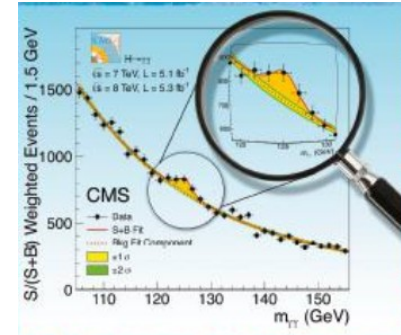
MC: event generation + simulation + digitization



data



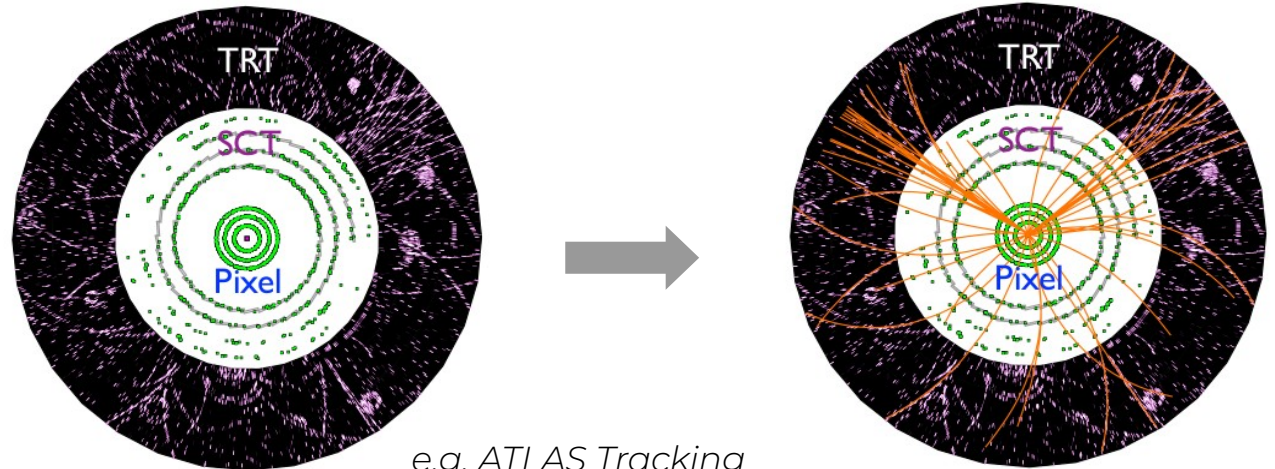
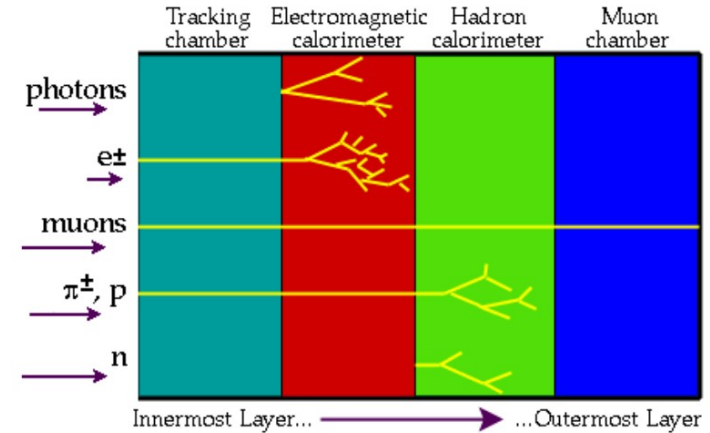
Particle position, drift time, flight time, deposited energy...



Tracks, vertexs, e,  $\mu$ ,  $\tau$ , b/c/light-flavor jet, charged hadrons, neutron,  $K_L$ , missing energy

# What is track reconstruction (a.k.a. tracking)?

- **Reconstruction** (i.e. track finding) of charged tracks and **measurement** (i.e. track fitting) of their quantities, using the signals of trackers (usually in magnetic field)
  - Position
  - Momentum
  - Charge
  - Vertex
  - Velocity ( $dE/dx$ )

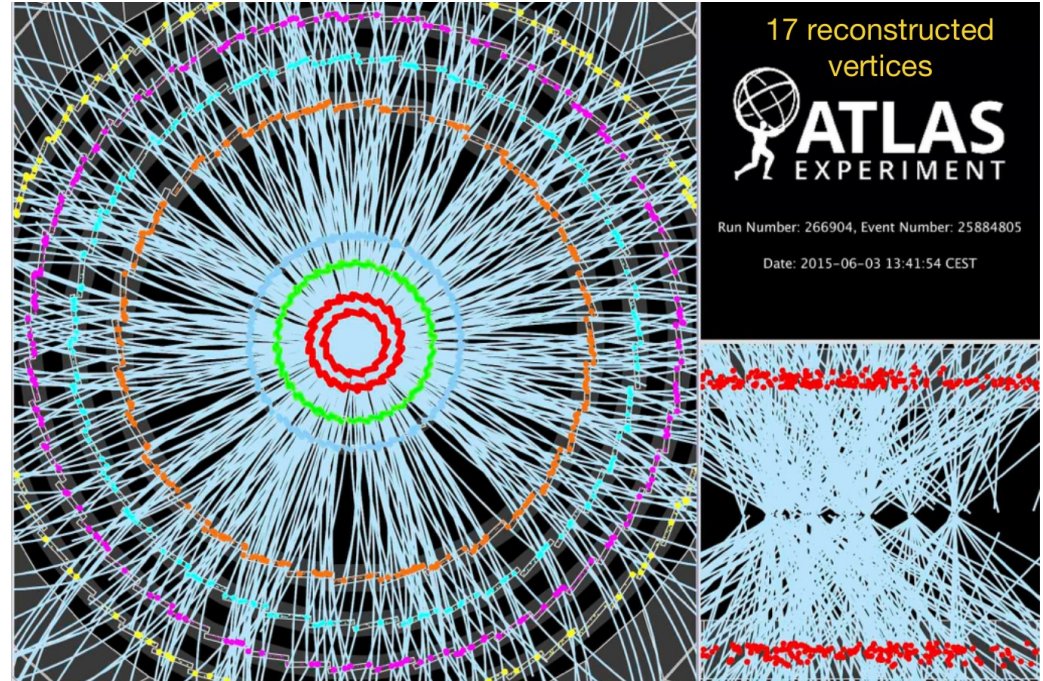


e.g. ATLAS Tracking

**Why tracking matters?**

# Tracking is about vertex reconstruction

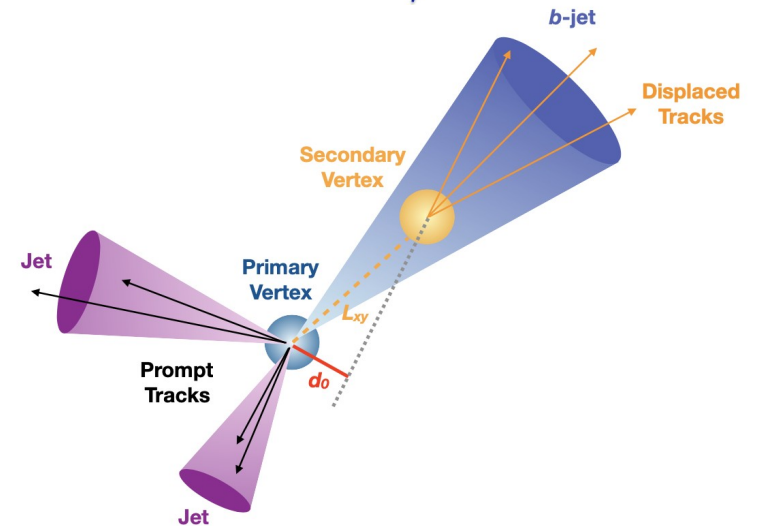
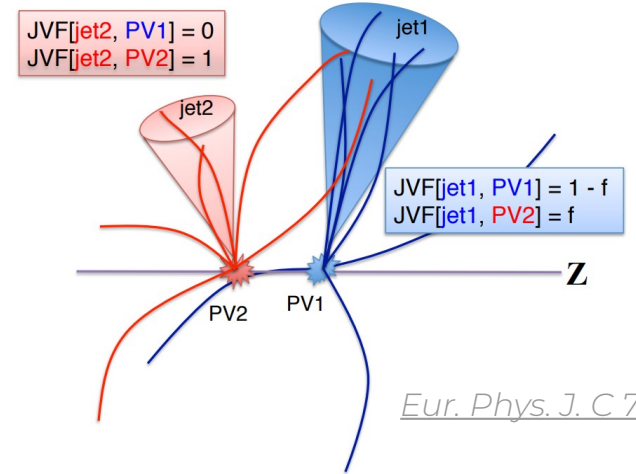
- Primary vertex reconstruction uses estimated track parameters of charged particles as inputs
  - Vertex finding
    - Associate tracks to vertices
  - Vertex fitting
    - Estimate vertex position



Tens to hundreds of additional proton–proton collisions accompanying the hard-scatter interaction, i.e. pile-up ( $\mu$ )

# Tracks/vertices are not just about charged particles

- Jets and missing energy reconstruction
  - Better  $p_T$  resolution for low  $p_T$  tracks and angular resolution provided by tracker
  - Tracks/vertices are crucial for pile-up mitigation (needs precise jet-vertex association)
- Jet flavor-tagging (b, c or light-flavor jet)
  - Impact parameters, secondary vertices and length of flight
- Reconstruction of photon conversion vertex
  - Important input for  $e/\gamma$  discrimination





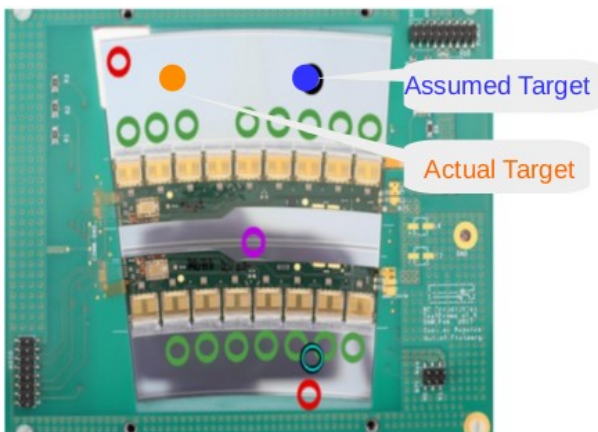
# Tracking is about detector alignment

- Misalignment will deteriorate the track resolution, but tracking can notice and correct the misalignment
  - Track-based alignment is a common practice

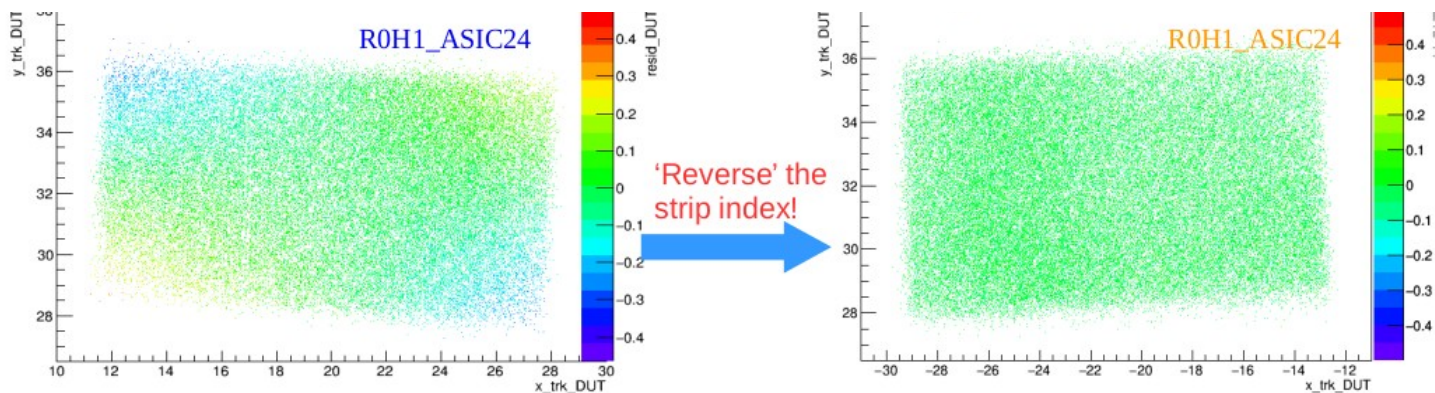
Local track parameters and global alignment parameters

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \chi_i^2 = \sum_i [\vec{m}_i - \vec{h}_i(\vec{x}_i(\vec{\alpha}), \vec{\alpha})]^T V^{-1} [\vec{m}_i - \vec{h}_i(\vec{x}_i(\vec{\alpha}), \vec{\alpha})]$$
$$\left. \frac{d^2 \chi^2}{d^2 \vec{\alpha}} \right|_{\vec{\alpha}_0} \Delta \vec{\alpha} = - \left. \frac{d \chi^2}{d \vec{\alpha}} \right|_{\vec{\alpha}_0}$$

First ATLAS ITk Endcap strip RO module at testbeam in 2017



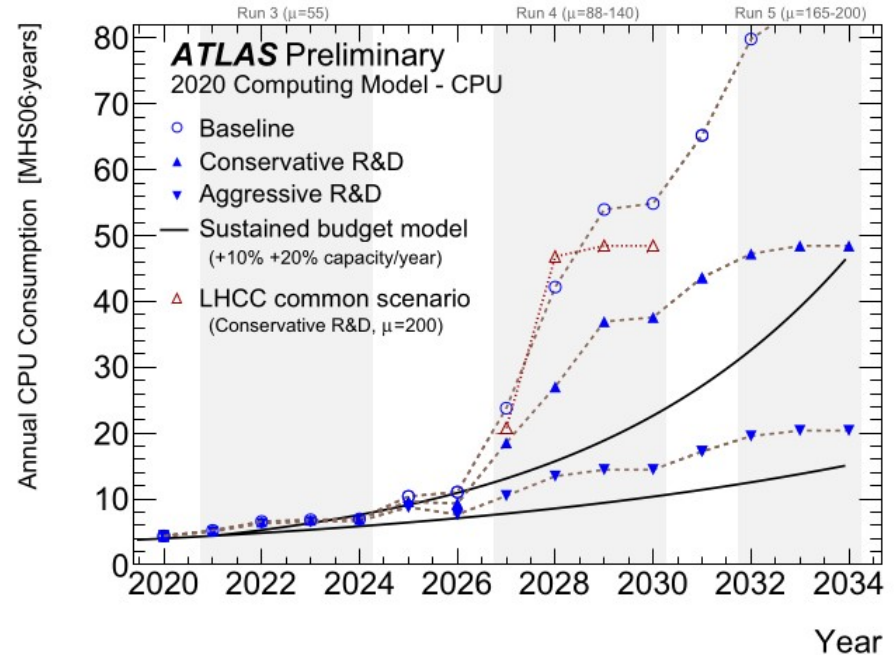
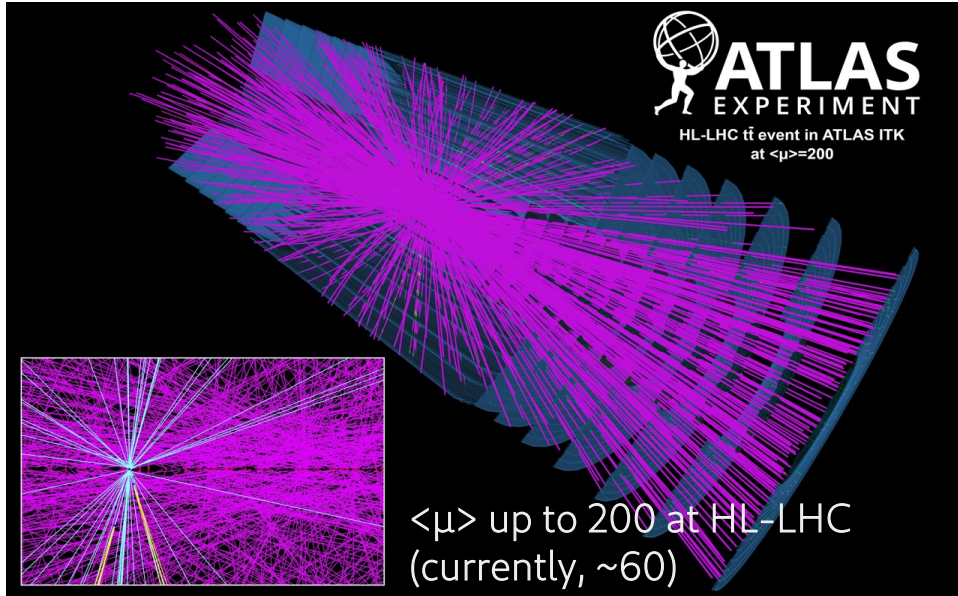
A mistake of moving DUT to wrong target is detected by alignment!



**Tracking is challenging**

# Much more dense environment

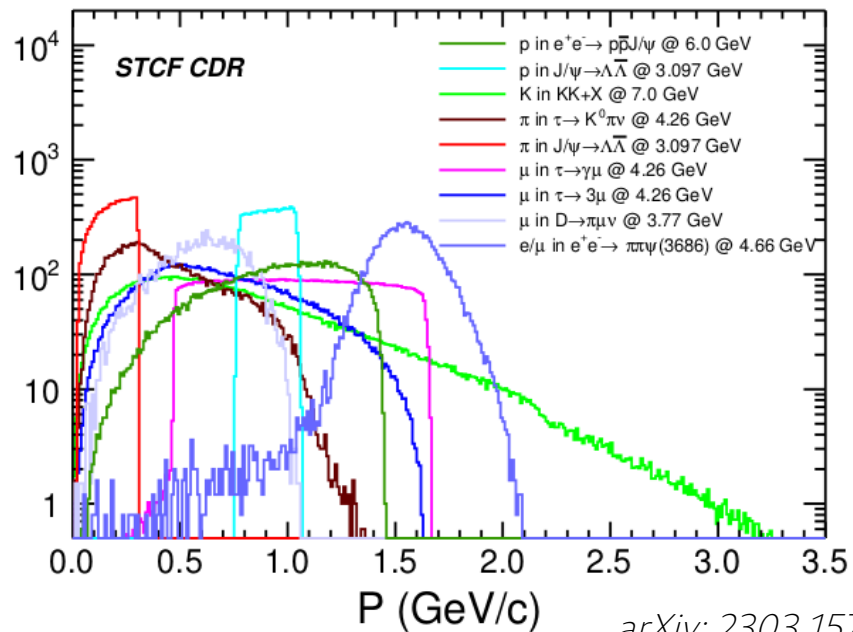
- Future colliders tend to have much increased luminosity => higher pileup, e.g.
  - $\langle\mu\rangle = 200$  at HL-LHC,  $\langle\mu\rangle = 1000$  at FCC-hh
- Much increased combinatorics, data rate and CPU needs
  - $\sim 7k$  particles/event at HL-LHC



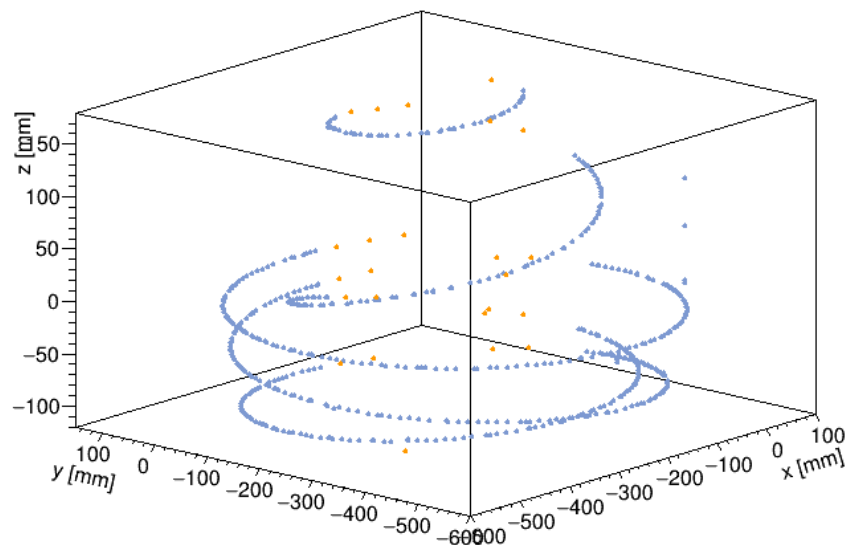
# More strict tracking requirements

- Tracking of **low  $p_T$  tracks** is very important at future flavor factories
  - e.g. tracking eff.  $> 50/90/99$  % with  $p_T > 50/100/300$  MeV at STCF (important to probe CPV in  $\tau \rightarrow K_S \pi \nu_\tau$  and  $J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda \bar{\Lambda}$ )

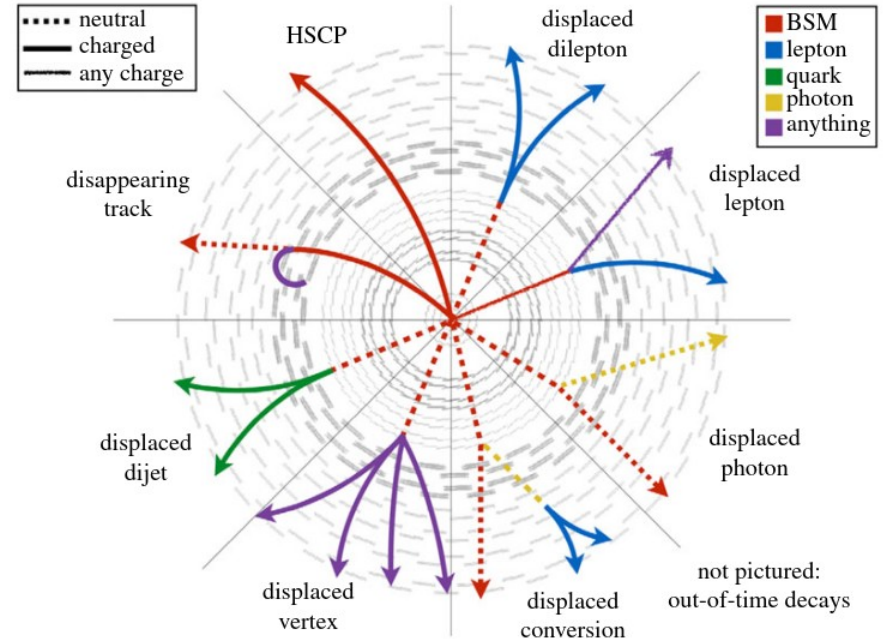
Momentum distributions of charged particles



An example of muon trajectory ( $p_T = 100$  MeV,  $\theta = 90^\circ$ ) at STCF

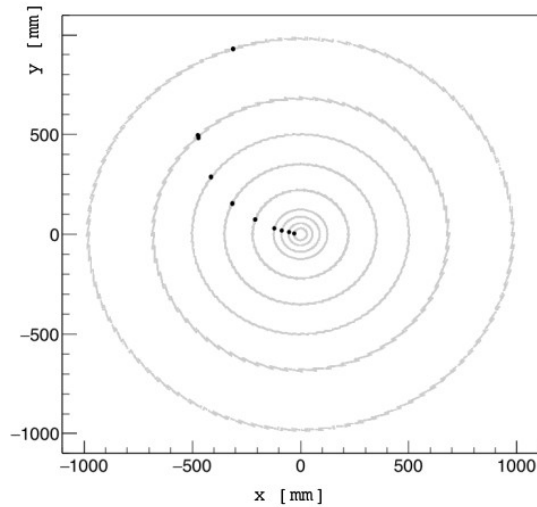


- Tracking of **long-lived particle (LLP) signatures** is important for New Physics search:
  - Displaced tracks
  - Disappearing tracks
  - Anomalous Ionization
  - Magnetic monopole
  - Fractional/multiple Electric Charge

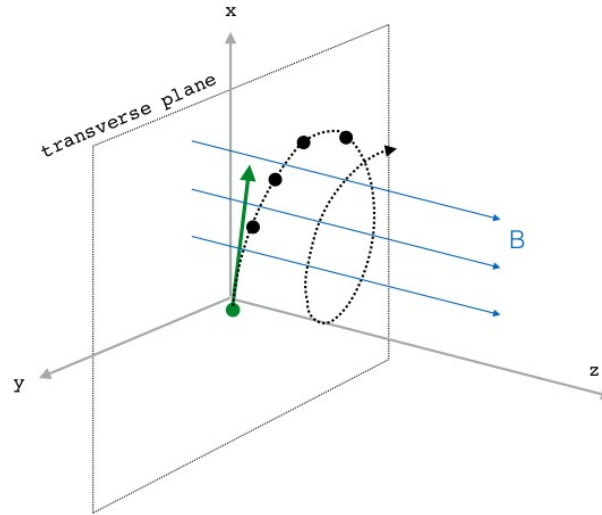


# Tracking strategies

# A helix trajectory in homogeneous magnetic field



*arxiv:1904.06778*



$$\frac{d^2\mathbf{r}}{ds^2} = \frac{q}{p} \left[ \frac{d\mathbf{r}}{ds} \times \mathbf{B}(\mathbf{r}) \right]$$

Track propagation is solved numerically using fourth-order Runge-Kutta-Nyström method

# Track parameterization

- Described by five parameters (three for transverse + two for longitudinal)

ATLAS parameterization (no assumption of helix):

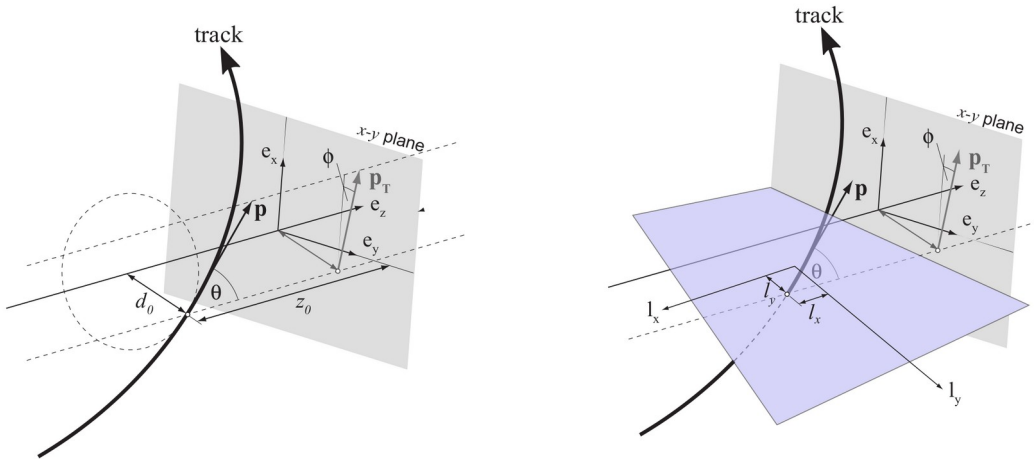
$(loc0, loc1, \phi, \theta, q/p)$

$loc0, loc1$ : track position

$\phi, \theta$ : track direction

$q$ : charge

$p$ : momentum



From E. Moyses

BESIII, Belle II... parameterization:

$(d_0, \phi, \kappa, d_z, \tan\lambda)$

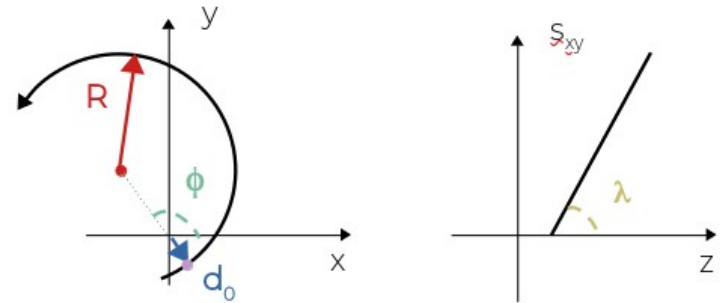
$d_0$ : distance between reference point to track on xy plane

$\phi$  ( $\phi_0$ ): azimuthal angle of line connecting reference point and circle center on xy plane

$\kappa(\omega)$ : (signed) circle curvature

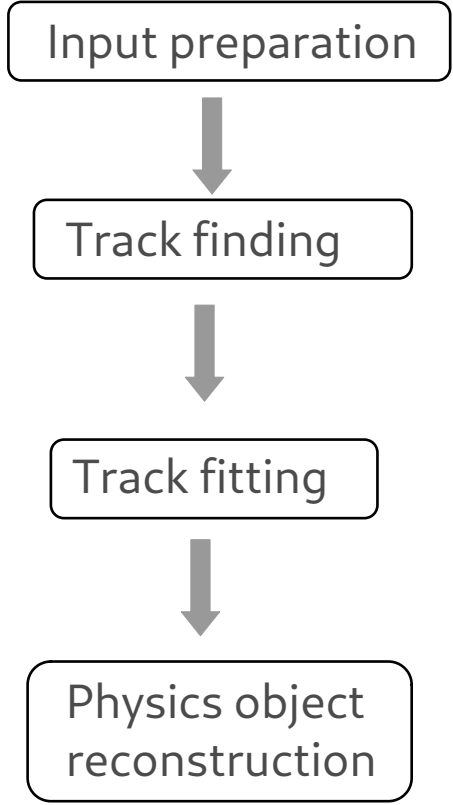
$d_z$ : z coordinate of POA

$\tan\lambda$ : ratio of path length on xy ( $s_{xy}$ ) and along z

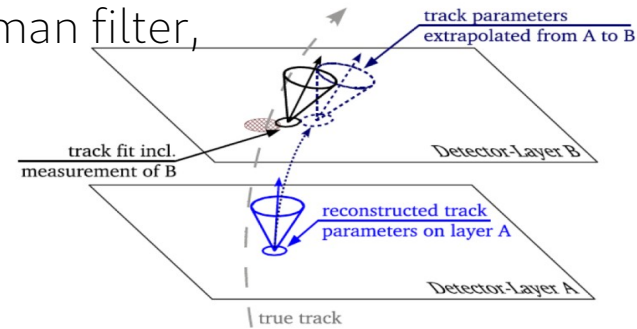
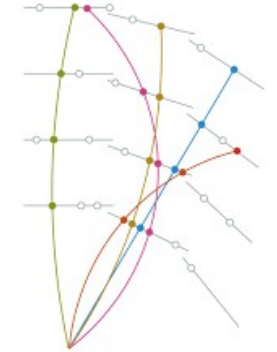
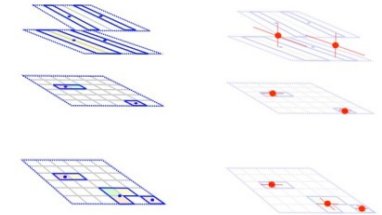




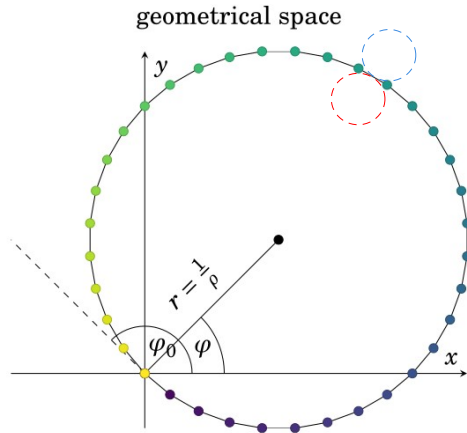
# How to find & fit tracks ?



- Raw data converted to cluster/drift circle
- Formation of 3D space point
- Identify measurements to individual tracks
  - Global approach: Hough transform, Graph Neural Networks
  - Local approach: Cellular automaton, Combinatorial Kalman Filter (CKF)
- Estimate the track parameters
  - Least-square fitter (superceded by Kalman filter, can resolve left/right ambiguity)
  - Kalman-filter

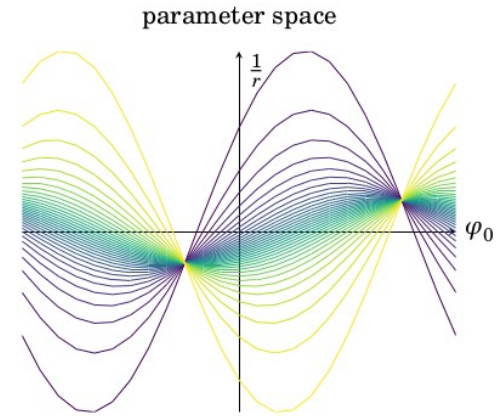


- Each point  $(x, y)$  or a drift circle in geometrical space is transformed to a curve (described by two circle parameters) in parameter space
- Track finding becomes finding crossing points of curves in parameter space



e.g. a point  $(x, y)$  on the helix circle:

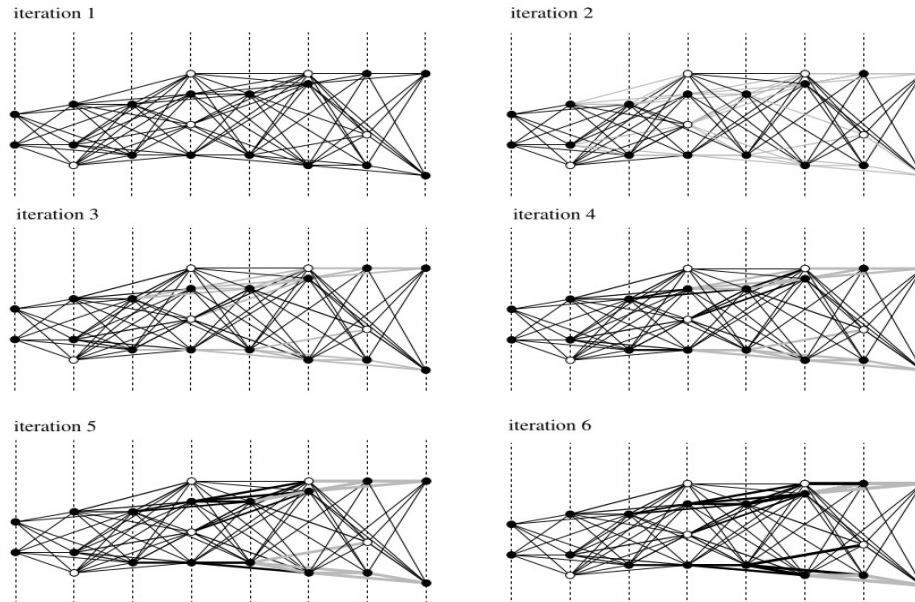
$$0 = x^2 + y^2 - 2r \cdot (x \cdot \cos \varphi + y \cdot \sin \varphi)$$



$$\frac{1}{r} = \frac{2}{r_P} \sin(\varphi_0 - \varphi_P)$$

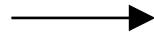
$$r_P = \sqrt{X^2 + Y^2}, \alpha_P = \arctan(Y/X)$$

- A cell is a duplet (two hits) with state (describing the “depth” of the cell in a track)
- Evolution of depth of cells following certain “game life”
  - In one evolution, simultaneous revisiting of all cells (increment of the cell depth by one if there is compatible left-sided/inner neighbor and its depth is the same as the neighbor)

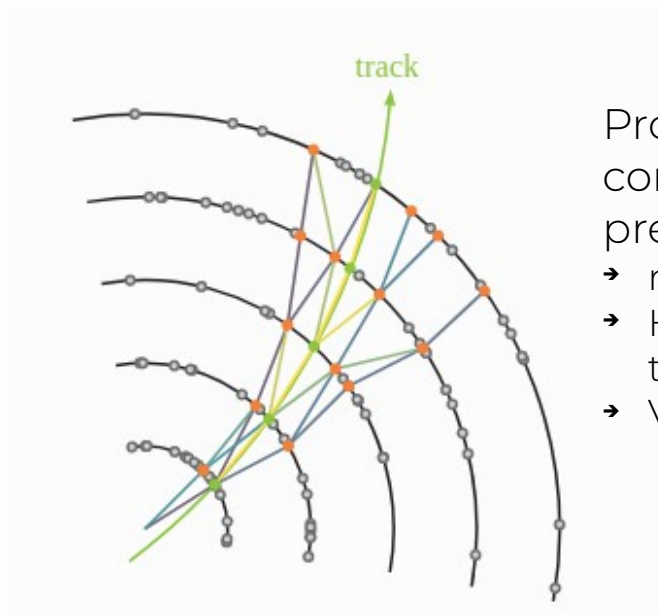
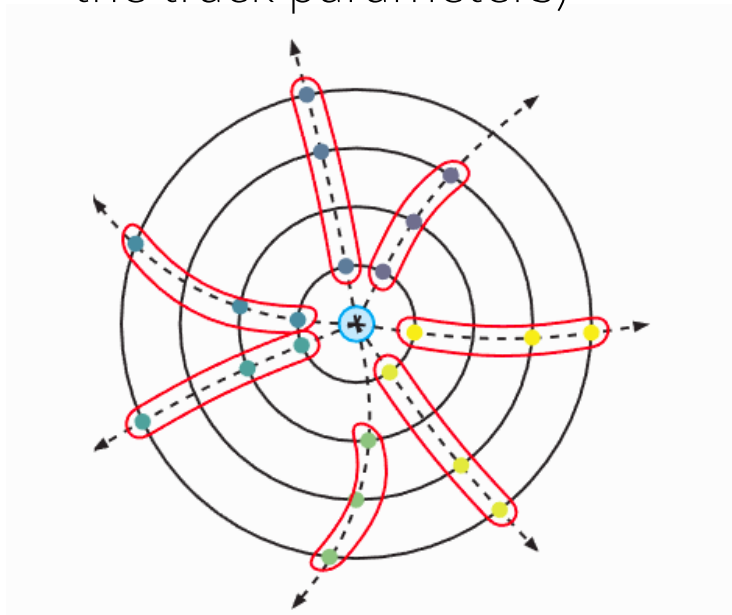


NIMA 489, 389

Seeding  
(provides initial estimate of  
the track parameters)



Combinatorial Kalman Filter  
(track finding through KF fitting)



Progressively associate  
compatible hits to tracks based on  
prediction  $\chi^2 = r^T (HCH^T + V)^{-1} r$ .

- $r$ : residual
- $H$ : projection from track parameters  
to measurement
- $V$ : measurement covariance

**Towards a modern, efficient, accurate and  
fast common tracking software**

# Why a common tracking software?

- Tracking is a necessity at particle and nuclear physics experiments
- Tracking experience can be shared with different experiments
- Common software can save manpower from duplicated development and facilitate the long-term maintenance
  - e.g. great success of GEANT4, ROOT, DD4hep...!
- Understanding and optimizing old tracking software which is usually >20 years old is never easy!

# A Common Tracking Software (ACTS) project

- A modern open-source **detector-independent tracking toolkit** for current&future HEP experiments (ATLAS, ALICE, sPHENIX, FASER, MUC, CEPC, STCF...) based on LHC tracking experience
- A **R&D platform** for innovative tracking techniques (ML) & computing architectures (GPU)

- Modern C++ 17 (→ 20) concepts
- Detector and magnetic field agnostic
- Strict **thread-safety** to facilitate concurrency
- Supports for **contextual** condition
- Minimal dependency (only Eigen as algebra library)
- Highly configurable for **usability**
- Well documented and maintained
- Flight time in track parameterization (facilitate time measurement):

$$\vec{x} = (l_0, l_1, \phi, \theta, q/p, t)^T$$



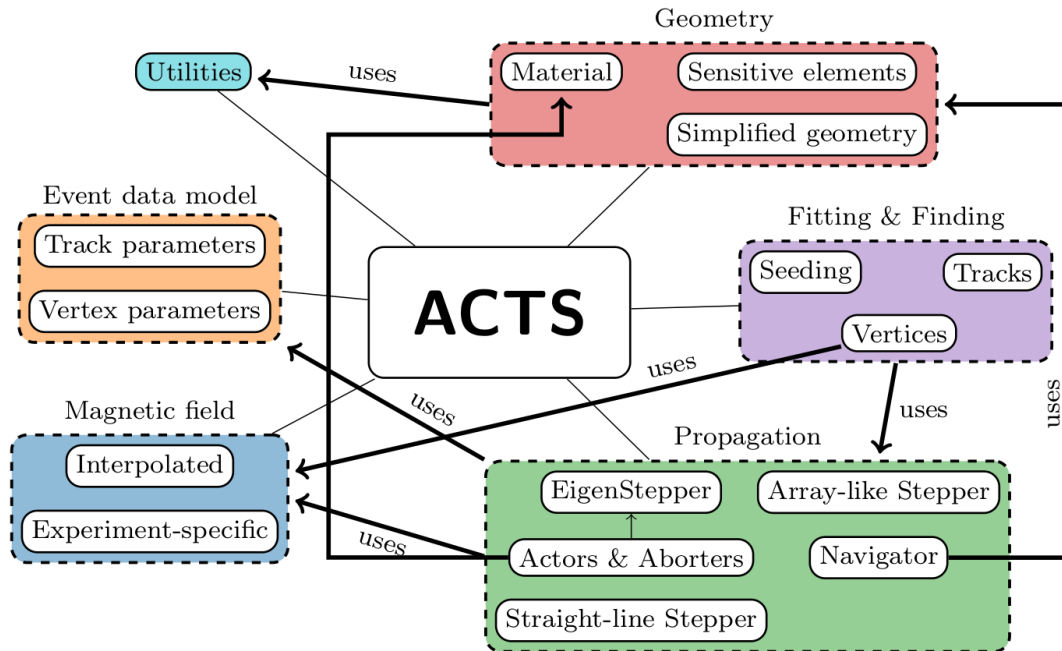
Github:

<https://github.com/acts-project/acts>

Readthedocs:

<https://acts.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>














# The core tracking&vertexing&alignment tools in ACTS



<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41781-021-00078-8>

- Track fitting:
  - ✓ (Extended) KF well, Gaussian Sum Filter, Non-linear KF
  - ◆ Global chisq fitter in WIP
- Track finding
  - ✓ Seeding, CKF, Graph Neural Networks
  - ◆ Hough Transform in WIP
- Vertex finding&fitting
  - ✓ Primary vertex: AMVF, IVF
- KF-based Alignment in WIP

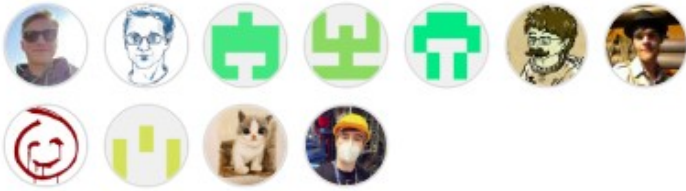


 Autodiff
 Cuda
 DD4hep
 EDM4hep
 ExaTrkX
 Geant4
 Identification
 Json
 Legacy
 Mlpack
 Onnx
 Sycl
 TGeo

- Supports experiment applications, R&D on ML and GPU...
  - Geometry: Geant4, DD4hep, TGeo
  - GPU: Cuda, Sycl
  - ML: Onnx, Mlpack, ExaTrkX
  - Configuration: Json
  - EDM: EDM4hep
  - Math tool: Autodiff

- 10~15 active developers on Core project

Contributors 54



+ 43 contributors



supported by



cooperations



ACTS is one of the four projects in IRIS-HEP (Institute for Research and Innovation in Software for High Energy Physics)

→ \$25M, i.e. ~0.17 B CNY, funded by National Science Foundation

<https://iris-hep.org>

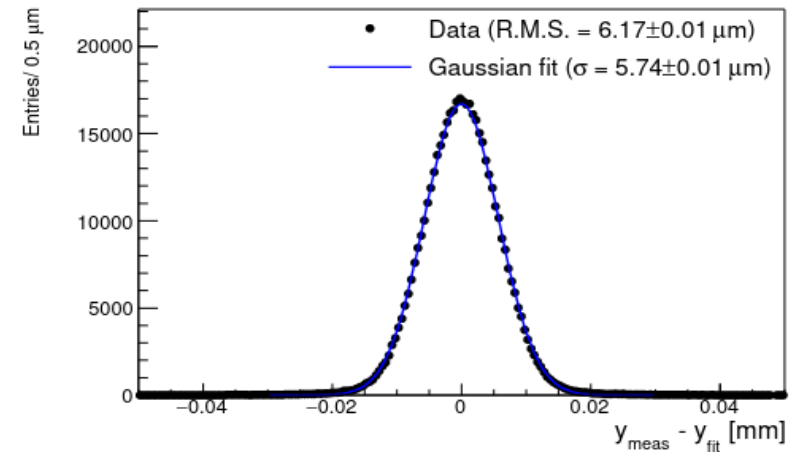
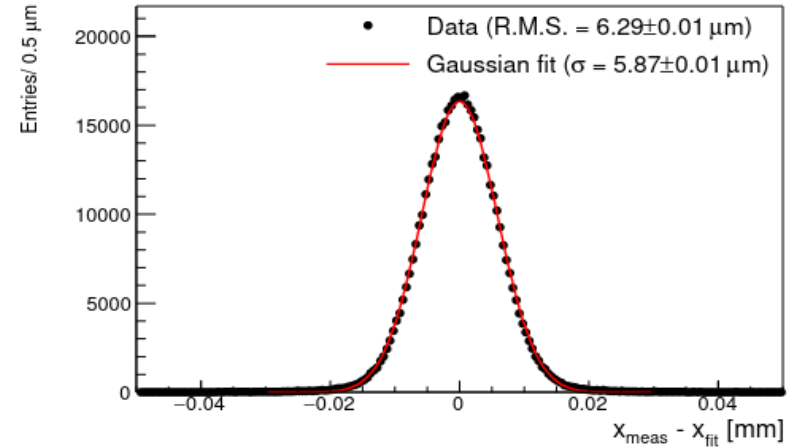
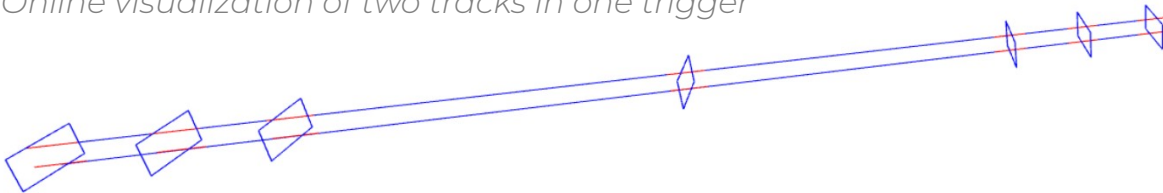
- World-wide users from particle and nuclear physics, collider and non-collider experiments
  - >10 experiments
  - >15 institutes : CERN, LBNL, ORNL, UC Berkeley, Stanford University, DESY, ZZU, ...
  - 119 Forks
- Regular/irregular discussion between developers and experiment users
  - ATLAS, FASER, sPHENIX, ALICE, EIC...



# ACTS application example: ADENIUM beam telescope

- Beam telescope is a key instrumental tool for particle detector prototyping
- Combined tracking fitting and finding with CKF much ease the tracking process
- Good time performance allows **online track reconstruction and visualization**
  - Event processing rate up to 20 kHz in a single thread!
- **First application of ACTS for real data processing!**

Online visualization of two tracks in one trigger

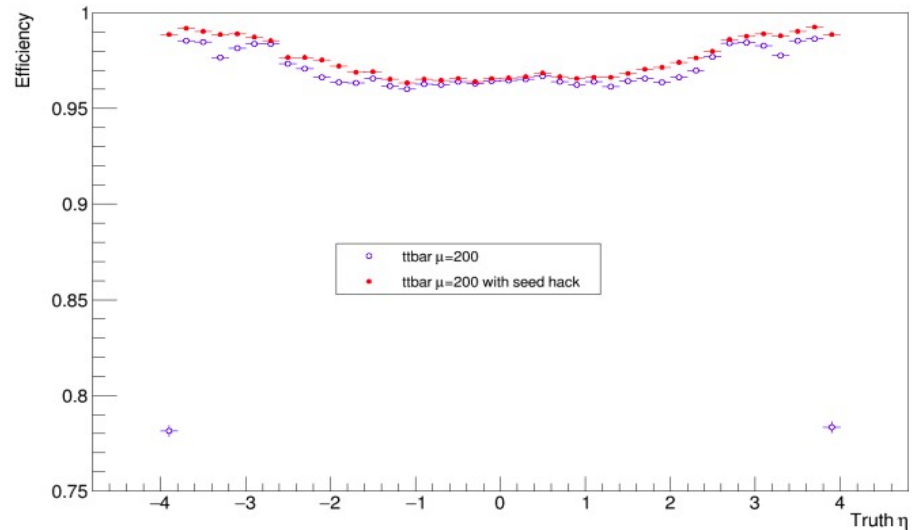
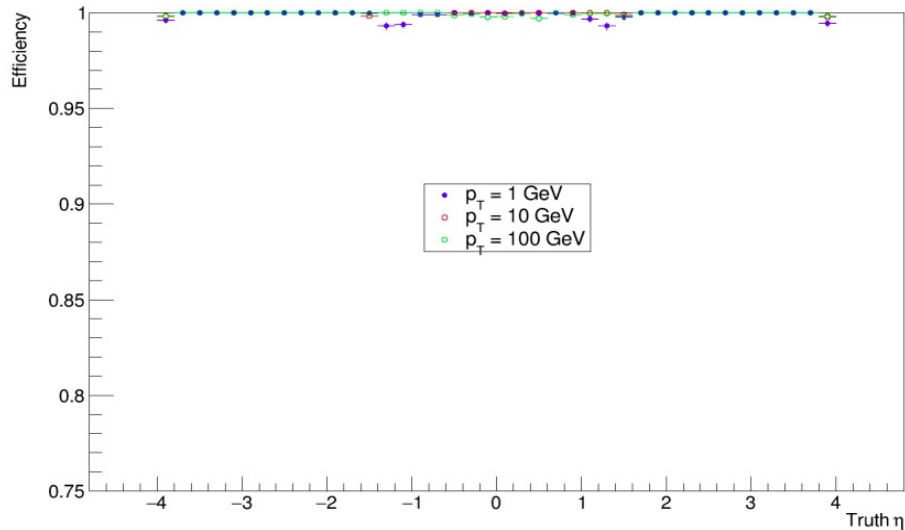
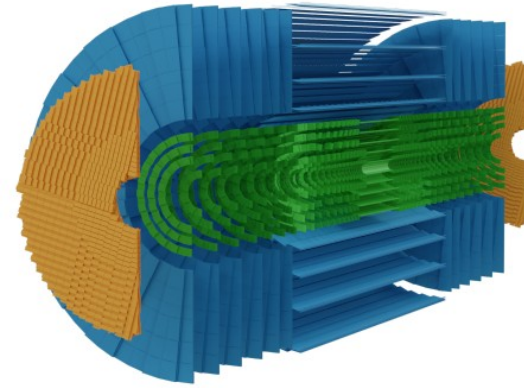


ADENIUM beam telescope

Y. Liu et al. arXiv: 1907.10600

- For example,  $>95\%$  track finding efficiency for  $t\bar{t}$  with  $\mu = 200$  for ATLAS ITk

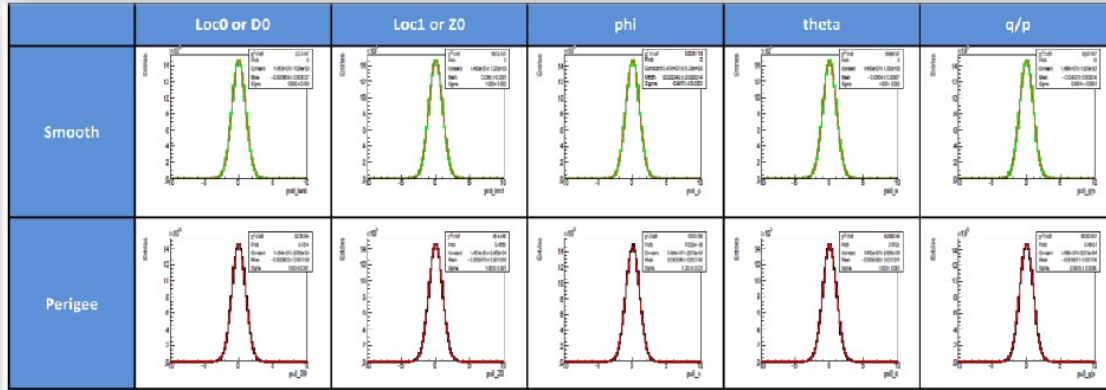
ATLAS ITk (HGTD)



# Application for CEPC

- Truth fitting using ACTS KF shows compatible performance with CDR

Figure from J. Zhang's slides at CEPC workshop in 2021

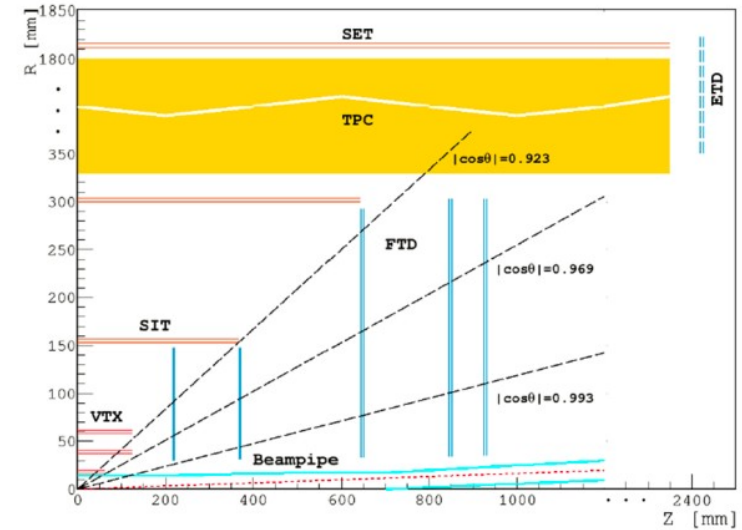
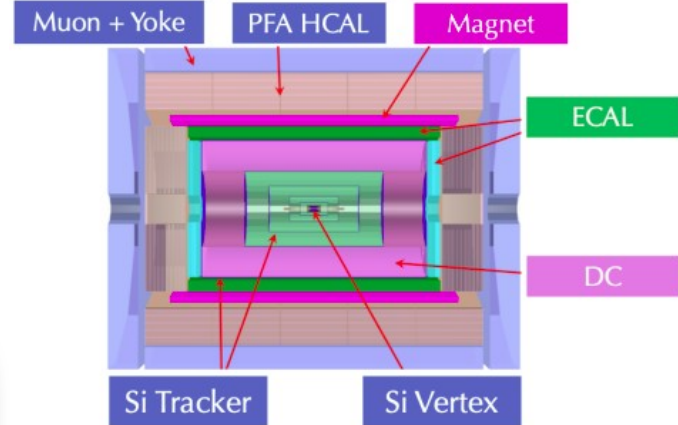
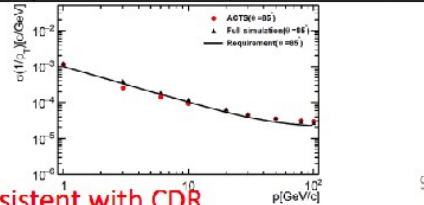


➤ Resolution of vertex and momentum

- Full simulation data are according to CDR
- The CEPC physics program requires

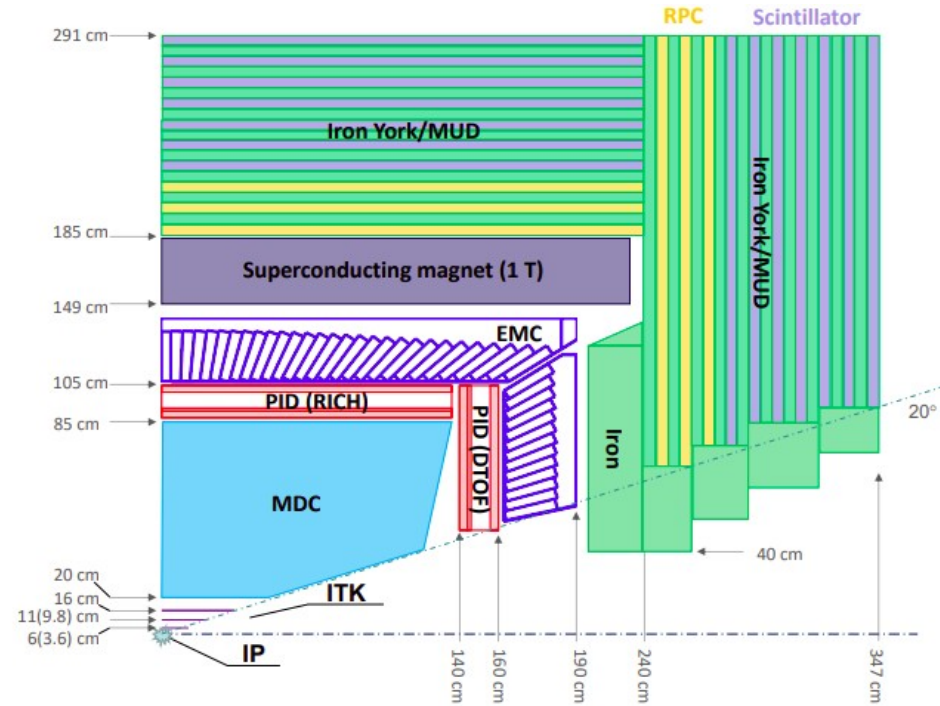
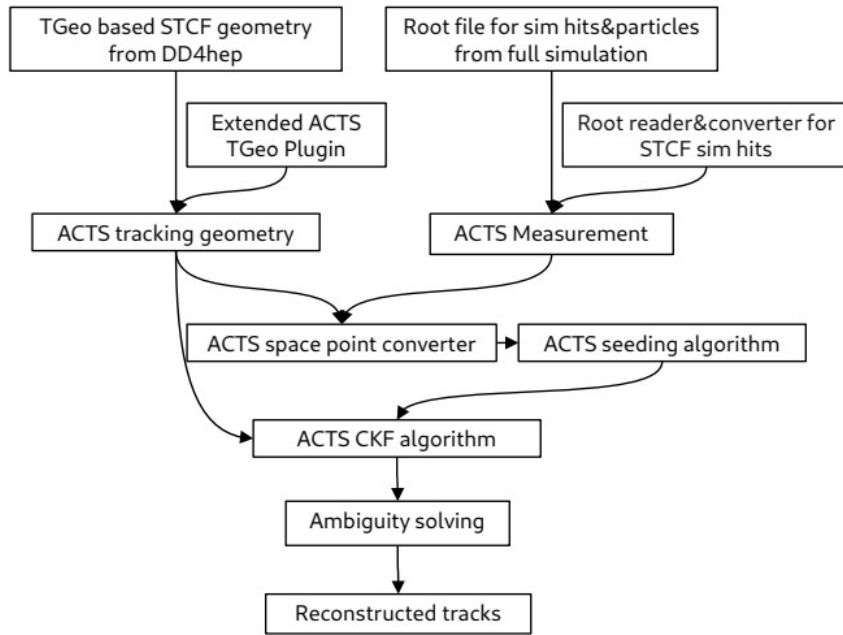
$$\sigma_{1/p_T} = a \oplus \frac{b}{p \sin^{3/2} \theta}, \quad a \sim 2 \times 10^{-5} c/GeV \text{ and } b \sim 1 \times 10^{-3}$$

➤ **Fitting results are convincing and are consistent with CDR**



# Application for STCF

- First application of ACTS CKF for a drift chamber!

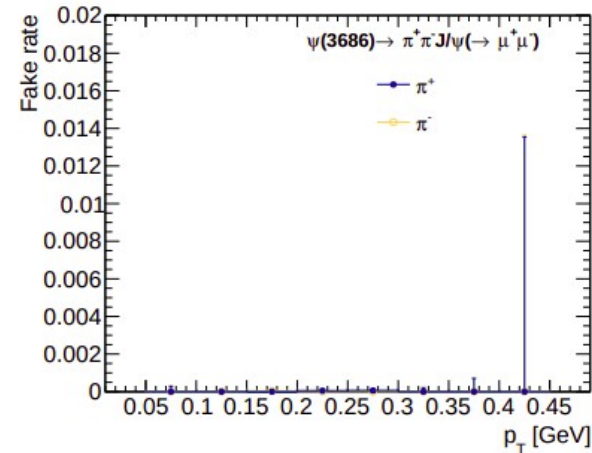
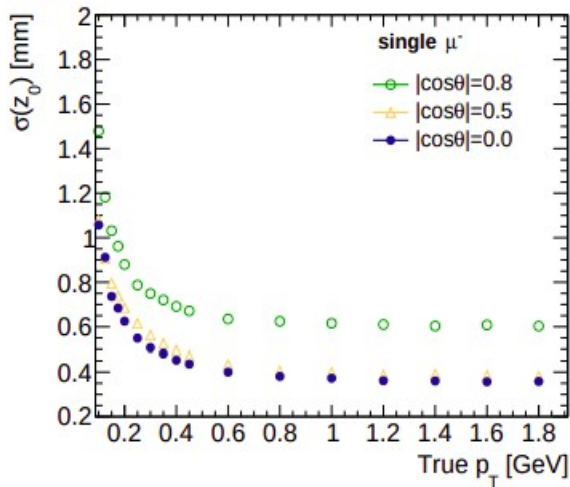
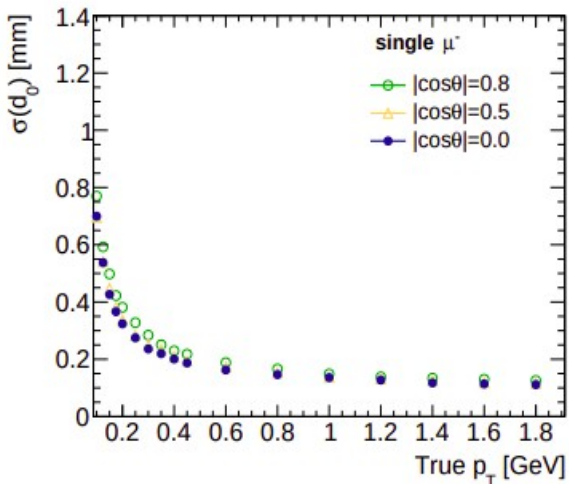
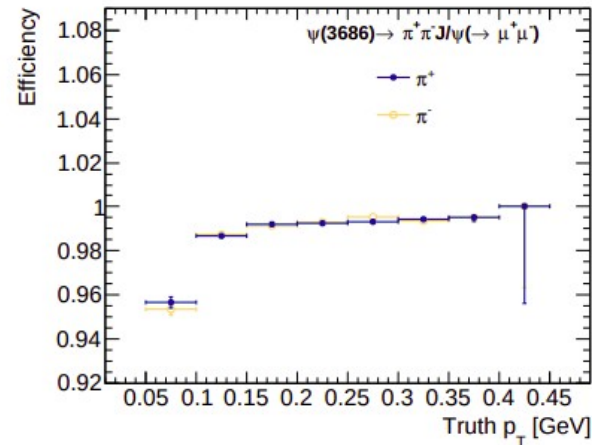
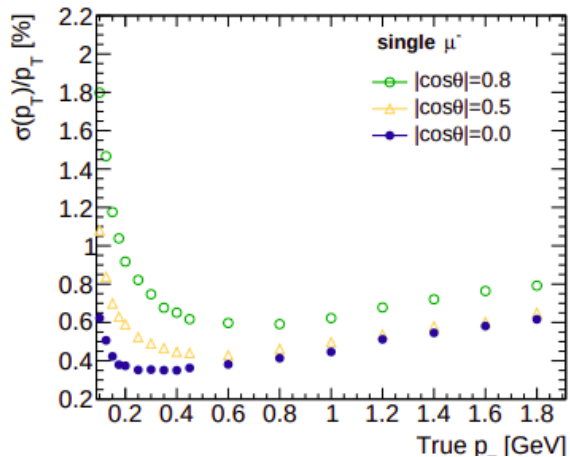


ITK: 3 layers,  $\sigma_{r-\phi} \times \sigma_z \approx 100 \text{ um} \times 400 \text{ um}$

MDC: 48 layers,  $\sigma_{\text{drift dist}} \approx 120 \sim 130 \text{ um}$

# Tracking performance for STCF

- ✓ For  $p_T = 1$  GeV,  $\theta = 90$  deg:
  - $\sigma(p_T)/p_T < 0.5\%$ ,  $\sigma(d_0) \sim 150$   $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $\sigma(z_0) \sim 400$   $\mu\text{m}$
- ✓  $>95\%$  track eff. for  $p_T$  in  $[50, 100]$  MeV in  $\pi^+\pi^-J/\psi$

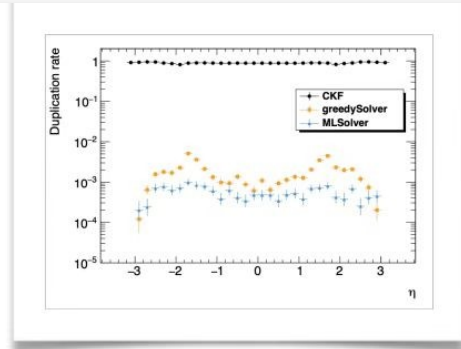
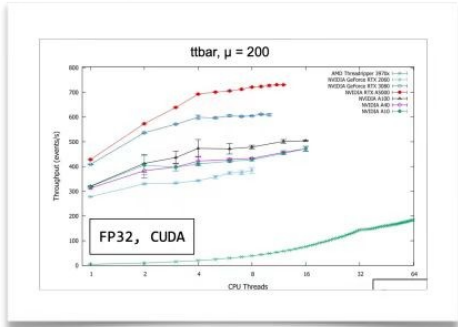




# Highlight of Track 3 - Offline Computing of CHEP2023

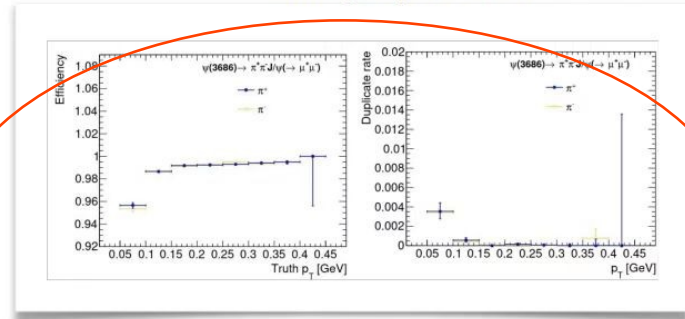
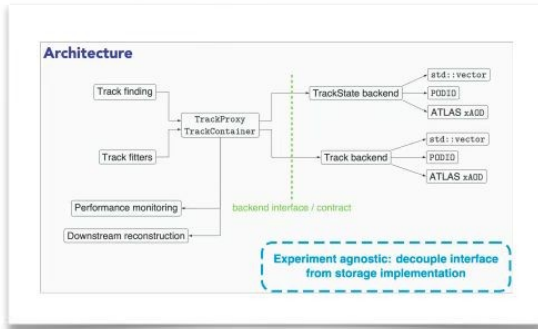
Slides of M. Bandieramonte at CHEP2023

## Reconstruction



clustering + Ranking neural network  
**ambiguity resolver**

**tracc** - GPU becoming competitive at high pileup



Performance of track reconstruction at the **Super Tau Charm Facility** using ACTS

Flexible and experiment agnostic **EDM**



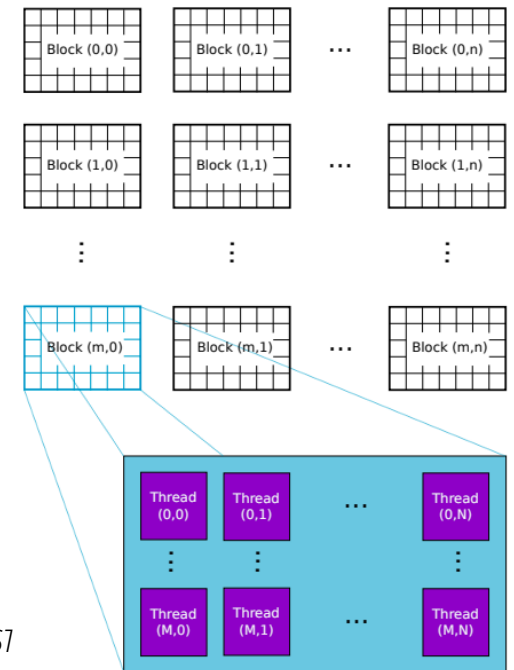
# GPU-accelerated tracking

- CPU needs increase rapidly while CPU budget is limited in future HEP&NP experiments
- Heterogeneous computing is modern computing paradigm for speedup
  - Host processor: steers the computing
  - Device processor: accelerator with many cores specialized for parallel processing
  - Additional overhead from data transfer between host and device
  - API: CUDA, SYCL, Kokko...

Optimized for high-throughput tasks

Application code

Better at sequential tasks

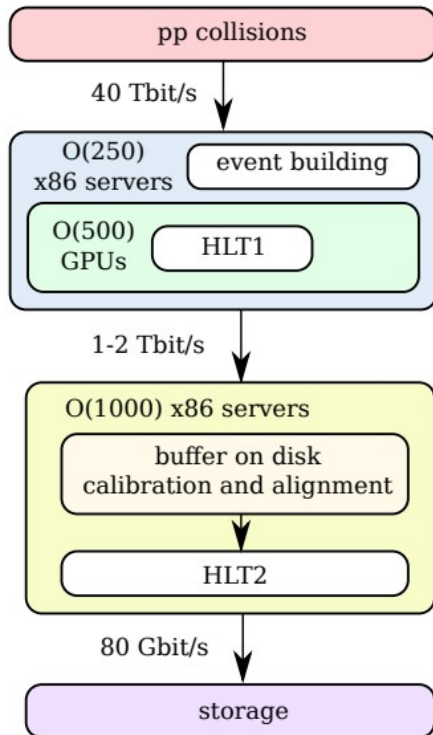


- Event generation
  - e.g. Madgraph4gpu: GPU development for the Madgraph5\_aMC@NLO event generator software package
- Simulation
  - e.g. GPU accelerated and parameterized calorimeter simulation at ATLAS with parallelization at event-level, intra-event, or particle-/hit-level parallelization
- Reconstruction
  - e.g. track finding/fitting
- Analysis
  - e.g. GPU Partial Wave Analysis (arXiv:1108.5882.pdf)

# GPU accelerated High Level Trigger

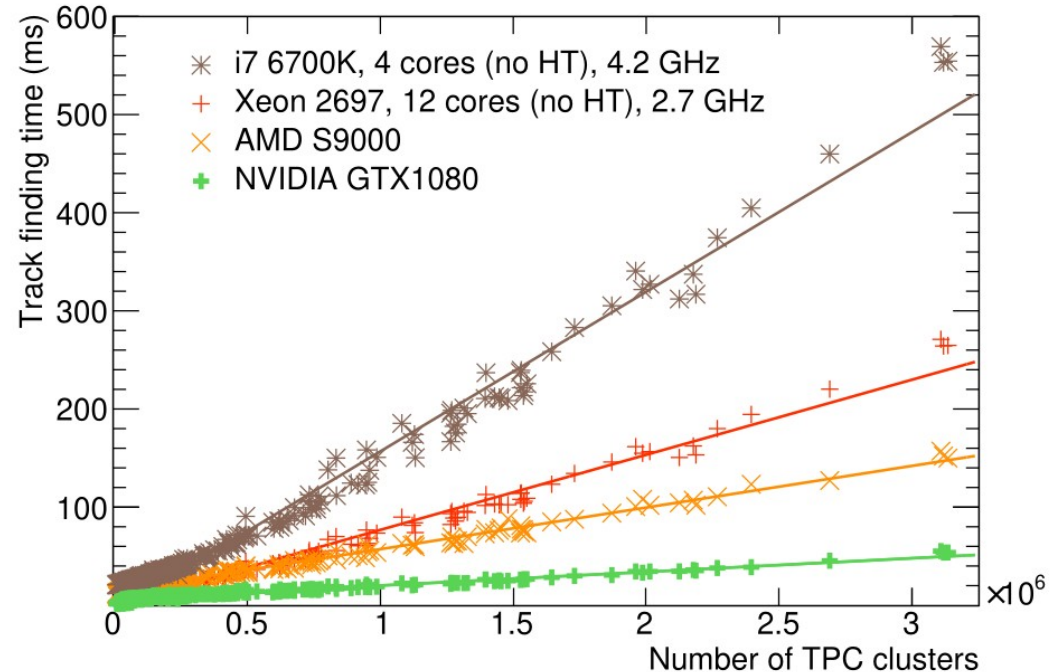
LHCb Allen: facilitates a 'triggerless' trigger strategy by using  $O(500)$  GPUs

*arXiv: 1912.09161*



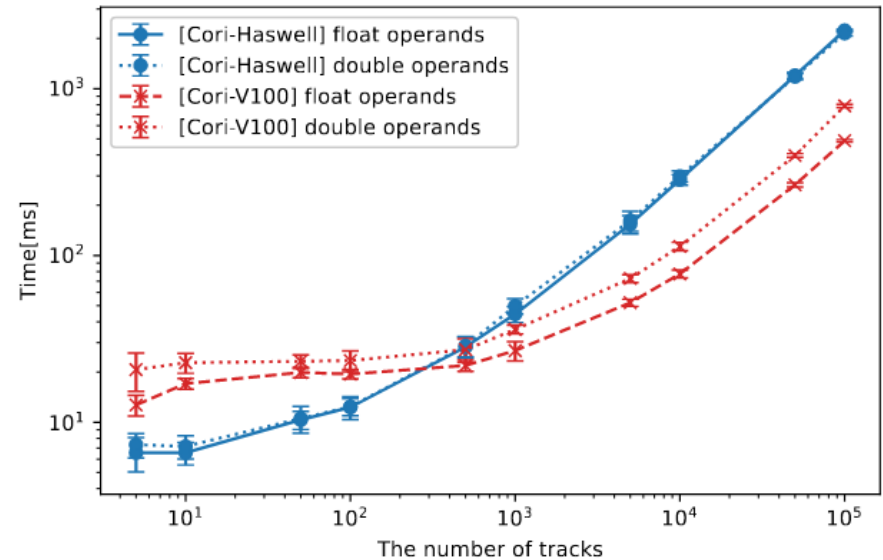
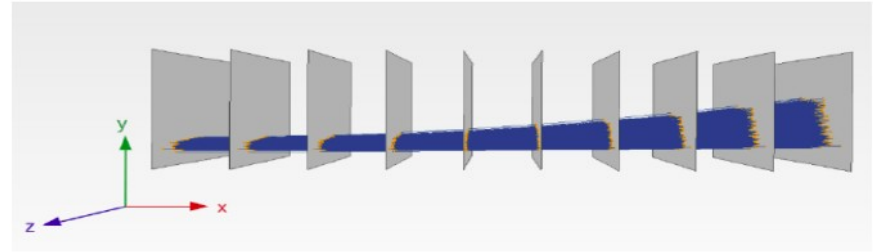
GPU-accelerated track finding with Cellular Automaton for ALICE HLT

*CERN-EP-2018-337*



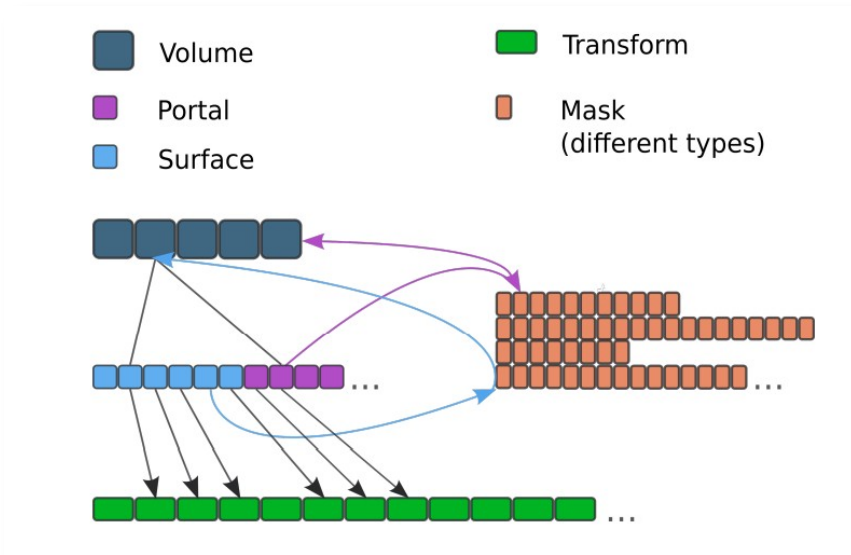
# Not every code fits into GPU

- Dynamic polymorphism based on virtual methods are not applicable on GPU Kernel!
- Dynamic memory allocation and deallocation is difficult on GPU
- Branching between different threads is very common in HEP, which slows down the execution on GPU
- Limited resources for each GPU core
- Limited support of external libraries (e.g. Eigen NOT supported on GPU)



# Towards a common GPU-accelerated tracking strategy

- VecMem: implement a vectorised data model for heterogeneous computing
- Detray: implement geometry without polymorphic inheritance structure
- Traccc: demonstrator tracking chain for accelerators



From J. Niermann

Category	Algorithms	CPU	CUDA	SYCL	Futhark
Clusterization	CCL	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Measurement creation	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Spacepoint formation	✓	✓	✓	○
Track finding	Spacepoint binning	✓	✓	✓	○
	Seed finding	✓	✓	✓	○
	Track param estimation	✓	✓	✓	○
	Combinatorial KF	●	●	○	○
Track fitting	KF	✓	✓	✓	○

✓: exists, ●: work started, ○: work not started yet

<https://github.com/acts-project/traccc>

# Summary&Outlook



- Tracking is pivotal to event reconstruction in HEP&NP
- Tracking is very complicated and will become much more challenging in the future
- ACTS is an international project to develop an open source and highly performant tracking software
  - Becomes very popular in recent years and interest keeps growing
  - Still a lot remain to be developed and optimized
  - Application of ACTS for more real data experiments is foreseen
    - Already used at FASER and ALPIDE telescope at DESY
- GPU-accelerated tracking is a trend (though challenging) for future high luminosity HEP&NP experiments