



University  
of Glasgow

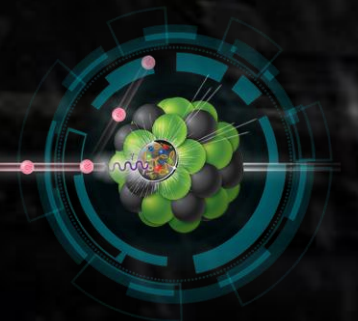
# EIC Timeframe Building

Merging events with backgrounds in simulation input/output

27<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Physics and Detector Simulation Meeting

Simon Gardner



# Main Updates

1. Renamed and moved to eic GitHub organization.
  - [eic/TimeframeBuilder](#)
2. Refactored to separate frequency and time sampling from data merging
  - HepMC3 merging now implemented (Can use same config just different file names)
  - Could dry run without data to show distributions for each event (not implemented)
  - Can “easily” develop other merging backends
3. CI set up
  - Tests compilation in eic\_shell
  - Tests HepMC3 merging from XRootD, followed by simulation and reconstruction
  - Tests EDM4hep merging from XRootD, followed by reconstruction
  - Still needs some check that the output of the reconstruction is valid.

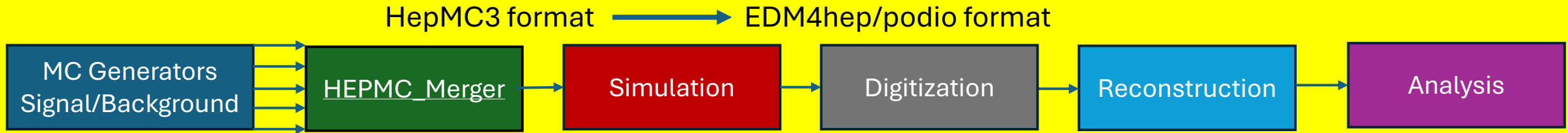
# Bugs

- Segfault on larger file - associations appear to be a little broken.
- Benchmarking over XRootD is limited by data transfer.

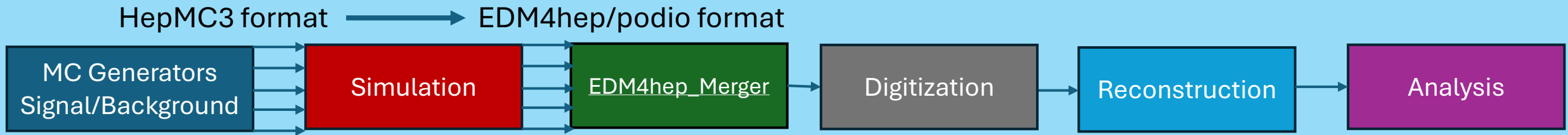
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# Motivation – MC background merging

## Hepmc3 merger workflow:



## EDM4hep merger workflow:



- Digitization is the first stage MC samples interact
- Merging just before digitization allows the simulated events to be reused

# Merging EDM4hep vs HepMC

## Advantages

- Only need to simulate each MC event once – Simulation is slow.
- Can use exactly same events to:
  - Build background samples for different beam currents
  - Overlay different simulated signal events onto identical backgrounds
- GeneratorStatus of particles produced in simulation can be controlled.

## Disadvantages

- Increased storage - Need to store raw simulation output and merged samples.
- HepMC merging is fast – If simulated events will only ever be used once would be faster
- EDM4hep merging can be slow due to data io rather than processing.
- Workflow becomes less linear
  - Waiting for multiple simulations to finish before reconstruction.
  - Persist simulation output for longer.
- Data per hit and associations make this trickier to build which is why this hasn't been previously available.

# Features – Configuration Interfaces

## Config File

```
# Example configuration for the standalone podio timeslice merger
output_file: merged_timeslices.root
max_events: 100
time_slice_duration: 2000.0 # in ns
bunch_crossing_period: 40.0 # in ns
introduce_offsets: true
sources:
- name: signal
  input_files:
    - input3.root
  static_number_of_events: true
  static_events_per_timeslice: 1
  use_bunch_crossing: true
  generator_status_offset: 0
- name: minbias
  input_files:
    - input3.root
  static_number_of_events: false
  mean_event_frequency: 0.000083 # in GHz
  use_bunch_crossing: true
  generator_status_offset: 0
  repeat_on_eof: true
- name: bethe_heitler
  input_files:
    - input3.root
  static_number_of_events: false
  mean_event_frequency: 1.8 # in GHz # Check value
  use_bunch_crossing: true
  generator_status_offset: 7000
  repeat_on_eof: true
```

## Command line

```
# Create signal and background sources with specific settings
./install/bin/timeslice_merger \
  --source:signal:input_files signal1.root,signal2.root \
  --source:signal:frequency 0.5 \
  --source:signal:static_events false \
  --source:background:input_files bg1.root,bg2.root \
  --source:background:static_events true \
  --source:background:events_per_slice 2 \
  --source:background:status_offset 1000
```

## Config and command line

```
# Use config file but override specific source configuration
./install/bin/timeslice_merger --config config.yml --source:signal:input_files new_signal.root --source:signal:frequency 0.8
```

# Features – I/O Configuration

## Yml Config File

```
# Example configuration for the standalone podio timeslice merger
```

```
output_file: merged_timeslices.root
```

```
max_events: 100
```

```
time_slice_duration: 2000.0 # in ns
```

```
bunch_crossing_period: 40.0 # in ns
```

```
introduce_offsets: true ← Legacy to be removed?
```

```
sources:
```

```
- name: signal
```

```
  input_files:
```

```
    - input3.root
```

```
  static_number_of_events: true
```

```
  static_events_per_timeslice: 1
```

```
  use_bunch_crossing: true
```

```
  generator_status_offset: 0
```

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- name: minbias
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```

```
  repeat_on_eof: true
```

**Output file** - Hopefully self explanatory, no subdividing available at the moment.

**Max events** – Depends on number of events in sources and if looping enabled.

**Sources** – Any number of named sources can be added  
**Input Files** – Any number of files can be passed to a source

# Features – Frequency and Timing

## Yml Config File

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      - input3.root
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    repeat_on_eof: true
```

## Global Timing

**Time slice duration** – Period over which an initial random time can be drawn from

**Bunch Crossing period** – Time to round random event time to. (10ns@5&10 GeV, 40ns@18GeV electron beam)

## Sampling

**Static number of events** – Static/frequency based sample

**Static events per timeslice** – Actual number to sample

**Mean event frequency** – Frequency to sample from

**Repeat on eof** – Allows source to repeat

**Generator status offset** – Tag MCParticles from source with a GeneratorStatus offset

# Features – Frequency and Timing

## Yml Config File

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```

## Source Timing

**Use bunch crossing** – Attach an event time to the bunch crossing time period. All that is needed for IP samples otherwise destroy afterburner.

**Attach to beam** – Adjust time by z offset.

**Beam angle** – Angle the beam is approaching from.

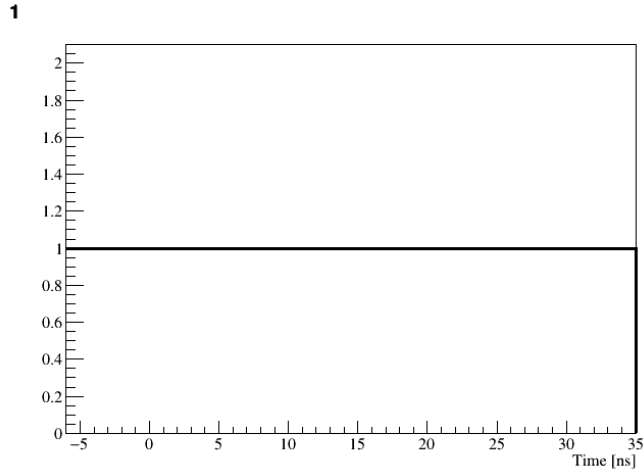
**Beam speed** – Speed of the beam, correlate time with offset.

**Beam spread** – Gaussian time width of the bunch.

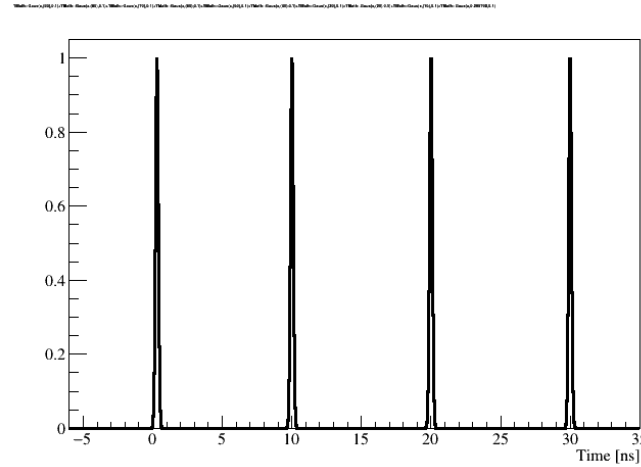
```
- name: electron_synchrotron
  input_files:
    - input3.root
  static_number_of_events: false
  mean_event_frequency: 3.324 # in GHz
  use_bunch_crossing: true
  attach_to_beam: true
  beam_angle: -3.141592653589793 # in rad
  beam_speed: 0.299792458 # in m/ns
  beam_spread: 0.003 # in ns
  generator_status_offset: 2000
  repeat_on_eof: true
```

# Time offsetting

Uniform



Bunch attached

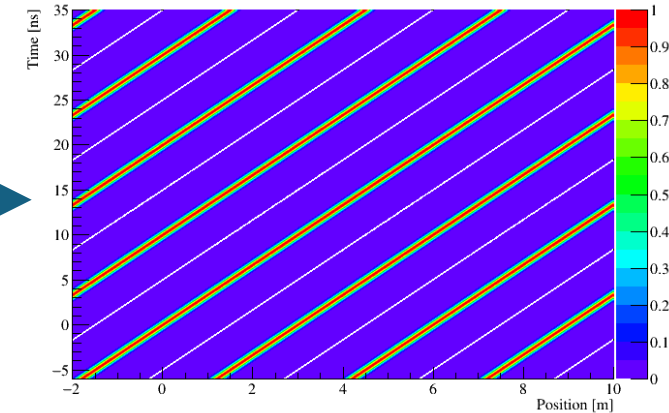
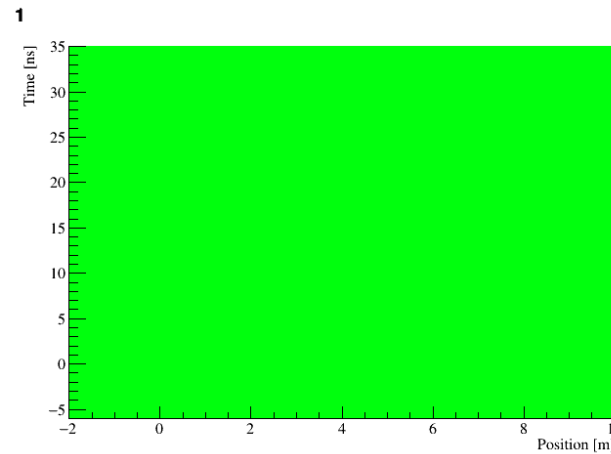


**Afterburned events just need attaching to bunch crossing, already have time structure.**

- Add uniform offset rounded to bunch crossing period.

**Background events need attaching to bunch crossing, offsetting based on position and smearing by bunch shape.**

- Add uniform offset rounded to bunch crossing period.
- Offset time based on position along beampipe and velocity
- Random offset by bunch shape (currently Gaussian 300/30ps)



# Implementation

ROOT::TTreeReader – Simplest data driven approach which is also efficient.

- Loop over all MCTParticle, SimTrackerHit, SimCalorimeterHit collections.
  - Builds a hard coded map of expected associations and names.
- Loop over event sources
  - Loads event from file
    - Create new time offset based on settings (and first generatorStatus==1 MCTParticle position)
    - Loop over collections
      - Update MCTParticles with GeneratorStatus offset
      - Updating time of MCTParticle, SimTrackerHit, CaloHitContribution collections
      - Update association indices based on length of array after previous event.
      - Concatenate vector of data to end of combined vector.
    - Save event
- Abuses edm4hep::EventHeader to keep track of events which came from – Future dedicated data type.

# Proposed Improvements and open questions.

## Organization

Request testers  
Benchmark workflows

## Implementation

Still feels very slow for what is actually being done  
Investigate making podio/edm4hep feature for zipping of data at any level – Will require large revision.

## Time Offsetting

**Currently hits are kept on the primary event level – Sometime extending far beyond the timeframe.**

Timeframe will have hits from events occurring earlier in previous timeframes.

Keep track of global clock offset relative to bunch crossings throughout sequential time slices.

To recreate a realistic timeslice, events need to be simulated outside of the period with understanding of how the DAQ will chop up the data from different detectors.

# Benchmarking – to come

- Want to demonstrate the results of this are the same as the HepMC merger but more efficient over multiple samples.

# Conclusions

- Ready for testing and to use locally.
- Requires a deeper revision of campaign resources before potentially adoptable as default.