

Key4hep

The common software stack for future experiments

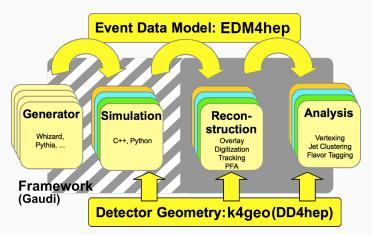




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Thomas Madlener for the Key4hep developers WLCG/HSF Workshop May 14, 2025

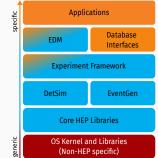
From generation to analysis - the general workflow



- Many steps involved from generating events to analyzing them
- Hundreds of SW packages
 - Building & deploying
 - Consistency
 - Reproducibility
- Try to give an overview of the **Key4hep** SW ecosystem

Key4hep - A (very) brief introduction

- Future detector studies rely on well maintained software for studying their potential
- Maintenance of a consistent HEP SW stack is non-trivial
 - Ecosystem of interacting components
- Sharing the burden allows everybody to reap the benefits
 - Make best use of scarce (human) resources
- Regular contributions from ILC, CLIC, FCC, CEPC, EIC, (MuonCollider), ...
- Support from major R&D initatives
 - CERN R&D for Future Experiments, <u>AIDAinnova WP12</u>, ECFA



- Provide and maintain a consistent SW stack that allows to do physics studies for **all projects**
- Ensure interoperability of the necessary building blocks
- Reuse existing solutions where possible
 - A lot of experience from LHC experiments and LC communities
- Focus new developments on EW/Higgs factory specifics
- Share knowledge, processes, workflows and resources
 - Best practices, tutorials, documentation, ...

Non-goal

• Develop and maintain project specific software and workflows

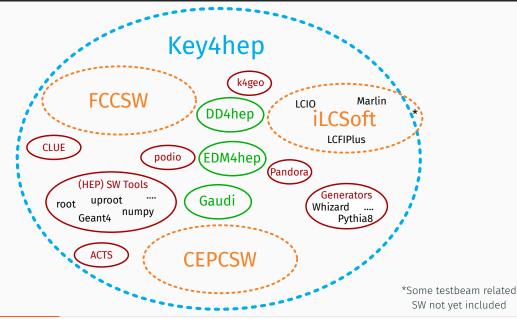


Photo by Stewart B. / CC-BY



tkcd.com/927

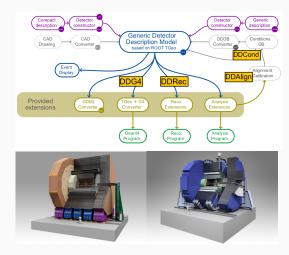
Key4hep (simplified) overview



DD4hep - Detector description

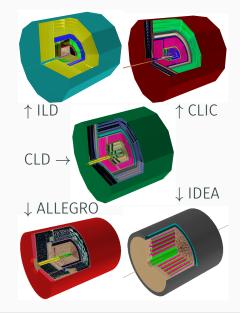
- Complete detector description
 - Geometry, materials, visualization, readout, alignment, calibration, ...
- From a single source of information
 - Simulation, reconstruction, analysis
- Comes with a powerful plug-in mechanism that allows customization
- More or less "industry standard" now
 FCC, ILC, CLIC, EIC, LHCb, CMS, ODD, ...
- ddsim standalone simulation executable

dd4hep.web.cern.ch

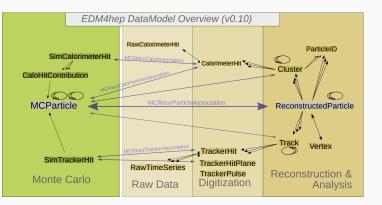


k4geo - The detector geometry repository

- · iLCSoft/lcgeo \rightarrow key4hep/k4geo
- Many existing detector models from LC studies
- Migration of detector concepts from <u>HEP-FCC/FCCDetectors</u>
 - ALLEGRO (Noble liquid)
 - IDEA
- \cdot New ARC detector concept in CLD
- Central repository for detector models (and drivers)



EDM4hep - The common EDM for Key4hep



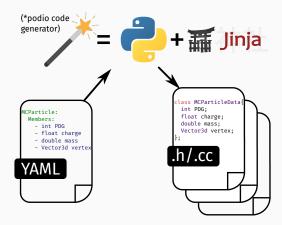
key4hep/EDM4hep

edm4hep.web.cern.ch

- Based on LCIO and FCC-edm
 - Focus on usability in analysis
- Quite stable over the last two years
 - Some breaking changes recently for v1.0!
- \cdot Can easily be extended
 - Used by EDM4eic
 - Prototyping!
- Generated via podio

The podio EDM toolkit

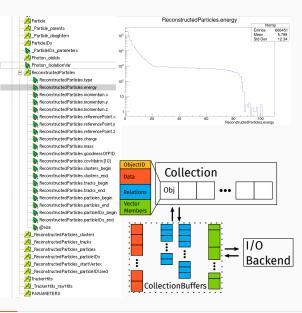
- Implementing a performant event data model (EDM) is non-trivial
- Use podio to generate code starting from a high level description
- Provide an easy to use interface to the users
- Main customers and feature drivers
 - 🖸 key4hep/EDM4hep
 - 🖸 <u>eic/EDM4eic</u>





podio supports different I/O backends

- Default **ROOT** backend
 - Effectively flat TTree / RNTuple
 - Files can be interpreted **without EDM library**(!)
 - Can be used in RDataFrame (FCCAnalyses) or with uproot
 - Also with Julia
- Adding more I/O backends is possible
 - Alternative SIO backend exists
 - Working on RDataSource for better RDataFrame integration
- Generated interfaces provide many "convenience features"





- Gaudi, originally developed by LHCb, now also used by ATLAS, FCCSW and smaller experiments
 - Supports concurrency
 - "Battle-proven" from data taking during LHC operations
- Key4hep has decided to adapt Gaudi as its experiment framework
 - Contribute to its development where necessary
- Integration and migration of iLCSoft algorithms into Key4hep with the help of a Marlin→Gaudi wrapper

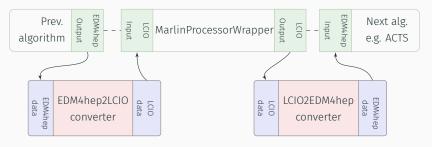
k4FWCore - The core Gaudi components

- Data Service for EDM4hep / podio inputs & outputs
 - Dedicated DataHandles to handle podio::CollectionBase
- k4run for running Gaudi options files
 - Some special casing for handling Gaudi exit codes
 - Custom arg parser to make algorithm parameters configurable
- Support for Gaudi::Functional
 - Ongoing work for proper multithreading support



k4MarlinWrapper

- Wraps Marlin processor in a Gaudi algorithm and allows to run them unchanged
- $\cdot\,$ Automatic, on-the-fly conversion between LCIO and EDM4hep
 - (Incrementally) build parallel events in memory
- $\cdot\,$ Allows to "mix and match" existing reconstruction algorithms with new developments
 - \cdot Working horse for many studies at the moment



Keyhep releases and nightlies

- (Rolling) latest release of the complete Key4hep software stack
 - Full stacks for AlmaLinux9, CentOS7, Ubuntu22.04

/cvmfs/sw.hsf.org/key4hep/setup.sh
/cvmfs/sw-nightlies.hsf.org/key4hep/setup.sh

- Documentation
 - key4hep.github.io/key4hep-doc
 - Includes tutorials & How-tos
 - Partially checked by CI
- Release early and release often
 - Make fixes available early



If you have any issues, comments or requests, open an issue at https://github. com/key4hep/key4hep-spack/issues

• Discover problems and collect feedback as early as possible

Spack for Key4hep

- Spack is a package manager
 - Independent of operating system
 - Builds all packages from source
- Originaly developed by the HPC community
 - Emphasis on dealing with **multiple configurations** of the same package
- + Basic building block is a formalized build procedure \rightarrow spack recipe
 - Build instructions, dependencies, versions and location of source code
 - $\cdot~\sim$ 8000 packages currently available from spack
 - Many Key4hep packages in **()** key4hep/key4hep-spack
- The whole Key4hep software stack can be built from scratch using spack

spack install key4hep-stack



- Spack is still under active development
 - No split between package updates and package manager updates (yet)
 - Resorted to picking Spack commit and cherry picking package updates
 - Move spack for nightlies every few weeks
- New(-ish) spack *concretizer* works quite well
 - Re-uses existing (installed) packages where possible
 - Might silently drop some *variants* (feature flags) if not explicitly required
 - \cdot Specific configuration for some packages
- Adding a new compiler / OS build usually uncovers some issues
 - Recently managed to build (slightly reduced) Key4hep stack on macOS
- \cdot Working quite well for our purposes

Developing Key4hep

- For single packages / repositories k4_local_repo (bash function)
 - Changes environment variables to point to a local build / install
 - Works well for "leaf packages"
 - Dependency management for multiple packages offloaded to user
- Can also use *spack develop* environments
 - Not really the main intended way of using spack
 - $\cdot\,$ Need to know quite a bit of spack for initial setup
 - Works quite well once setup
 - Used for features spanning multiple packages
- Works but there is room for improvement $\ensuremath{^{\text{IMHO}}}$
 - Could make the onboarding experience better

- Key4hep aims to provide a common software stack for all future collider projects
- Very successful in bringing together communities and focusing on common approaches
- In use for physics studies by several communities already
- Finalizing core components
- Ongoing efforts towards more "native Key4hep algorithms"
- No shortage of work



Supplementary Material

May 14, 2025

T.Madlener | WLCG/HSF

Spack for nightlies (and releases)

- Building everything from scratch every day is not feasible
- Spack does not separate package (version) updates from core updates
- Pick a spack commit / tag and build a "base stack" with major dependencies
 - Use all previosly installed packages as **spack upstream** in nightlies
 - Move this roughly monthly to newer spack version
- Cherry-pick package version updates / fixes for *central spack repository*
- Use latest version of Key4hep package repository
- Define latest commit as "version" for Key4hep packages
 - $\cdot\,$ Simple script to collect them all

Key4hep packages

- k4FWCore
 - Core Key4hep framework providing core functionality, e.g.
 - $\cdot\,$ Data Service for EDM4hep / podio inputs
 - $\cdot\,$ Overlay for backgrounds
- k4SimDelphes for Delphes fast simulation
- k4MarlinWrapper Marlin proc. wrapper
- Many packages migrated from FCCSW to Key4hep
 - k4SimGeant4 for Geant4 simulation integration
 - k4Gen for generic generator interface
- Ongoing work to integrate more components
 - ACTS tracking framework
 - CLUE fast clustering algorithms

• ...

key4hep/k4FWCore

key4hep/k4SimDelphes

key4hep/k4MarlinWrapper

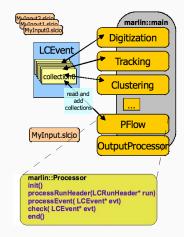
HEP-FCC/k4SimGeant4
HEP-FCC/k4Gen

O acts-project/acts | O key4hep/k4ActsTracking

₩.cern.ch/kalos/CLUE | 💭 key4hep/k4CLUE

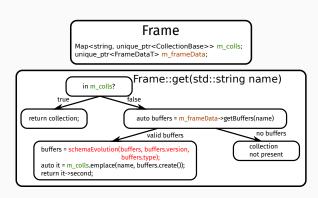
Reconstruction and Analysis with Marlin

- Marlin framework from iLCSoft has been tried and tested in ILC and CLIC studies
 - Marlin Processors are the working units
- Complete (low level) reconstruction chain available in iLCSoft
 - Digitization, tracking, particle flow (Pandora), ...
- Many high level analysis algorithms for various tasks
 - Jet flavor tagging, isolated lepton finding, ...
- On a high level very similar to Gaudi framework
 - Differences emerge at various "lower" levels



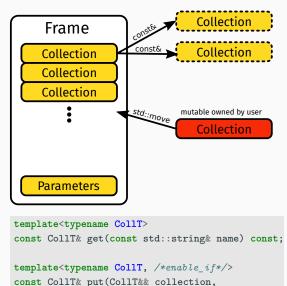
Schema evolution - Technical details

- Called as early as possible and as late as necessary
 - Earliest point where we have collection buffers from all backends is in Frame
- Schema evolution functions available from SchemaEvolution singleton
 - Populated during shared library loading
- \cdot Schema evolution can be a no-op



The Frame - A generalized (event) data container

- *Type erased* container aggregating all relevant data
- Defines an *interval of validity /* category for contained data
 - Event, Run, readout frame, ...
- Easy to use and thread safe interface for data access
 - Immutable read access only
 - Ownership model reflected in API
- Decouples I/O from operating on the data



const std::string& name);