LabVIEW

ISOTDAQ 2024

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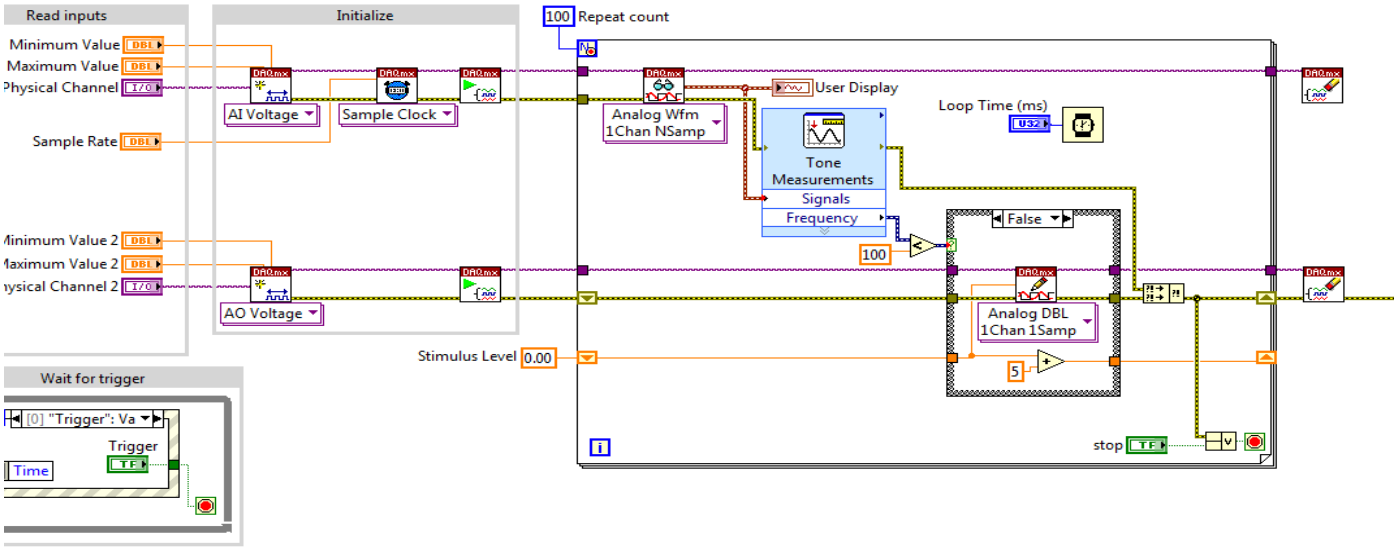
Agenda

- Introduction to LabVIEW
- Instrumentation and Data Acquisition
- Application Development
- LabVIEW for Accelerators and Detectors
- Other Research Applications

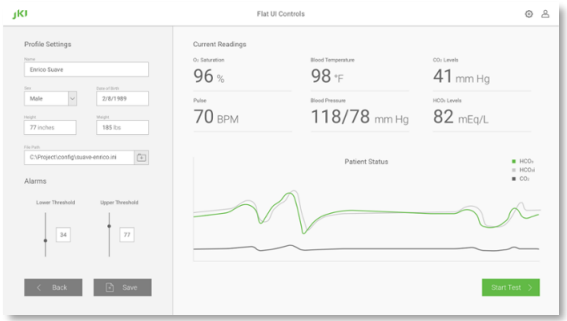
What is LabVIEW?

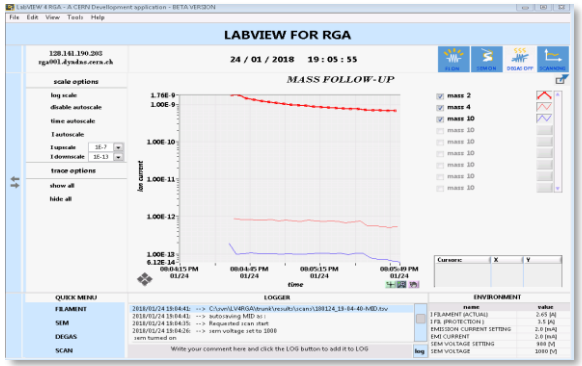
Application development

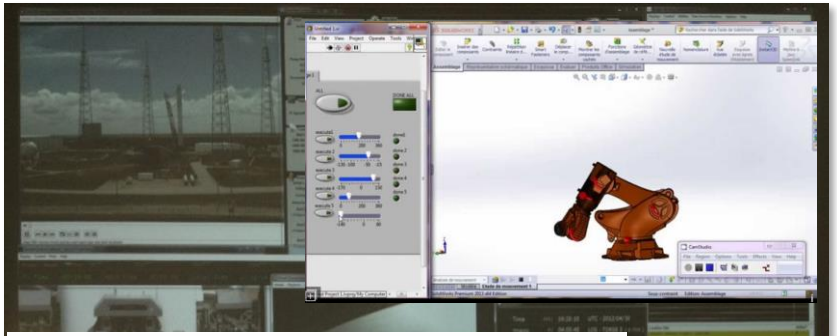
- Program as you think

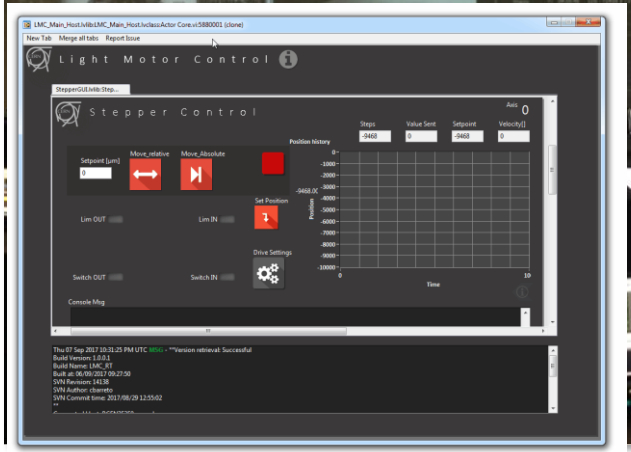


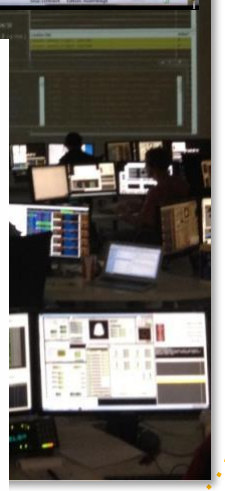
Graphical interface



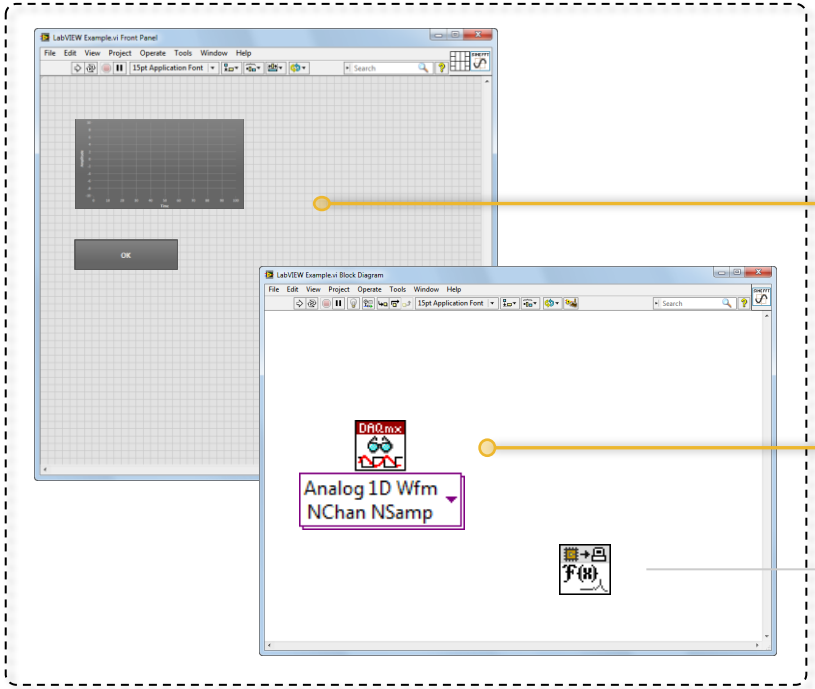








Application development



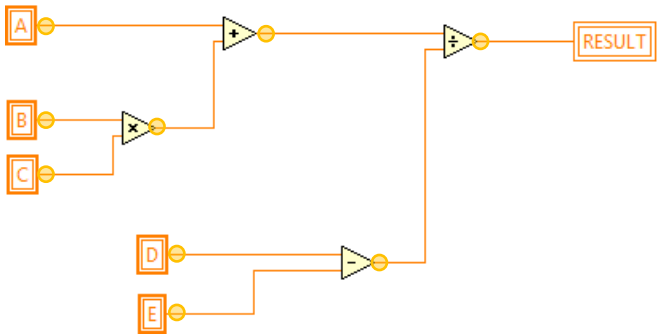
LabVIEW Front Panel
The user interface of a VI

LabVIEW Block Diagram
The source code of a VI

Functions:
Virtual
Instruments

Dataflow

- Data driven execution

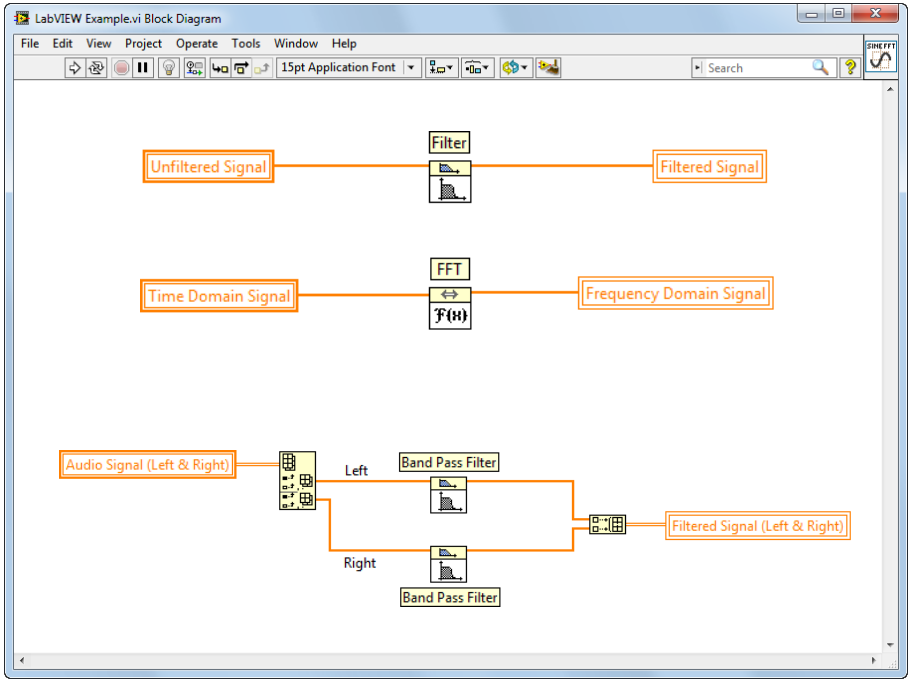


Intrinsic **Parallelism**

Intrinsic **Synchronisation**

Dataflow

- Data driven execution

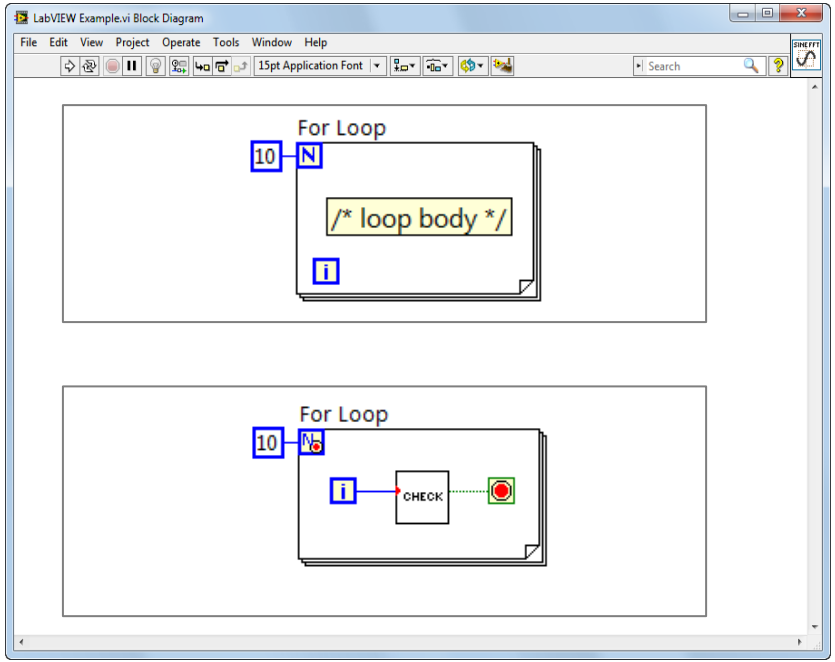


Intrinsic Parallelism

Comparison with text

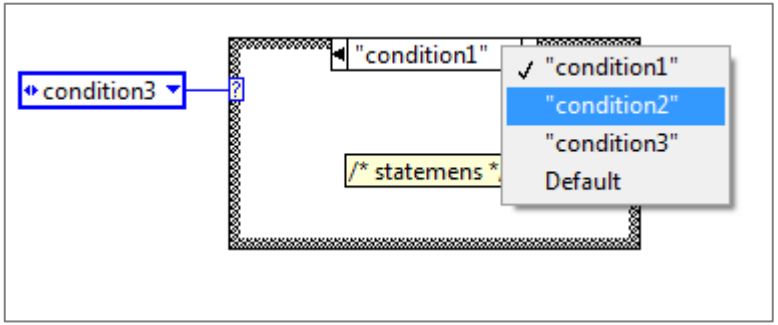
```
for (i = 0; i < 10; i++)
{
    /* loop body */
}
```

```
for (i = 0; i < 10; i++)
{
  if(check(i)) break;
}
```

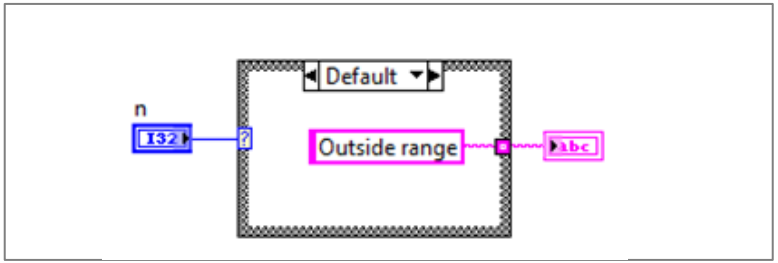


Comparison with text

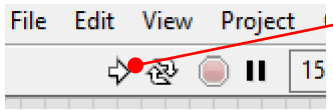
```
if condition1 then
  -- statements;
elseif condition2 then
  -- more statements
elseif condition3 then
  -- more statements;
else
  -- other statements;
end if
```

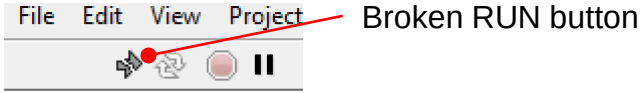



```
switch (n) {
  case 5:
    printf("Small number.");
    break;
  case 100:
    printf("Large number.");
    break;
default:
    printf("Outside range");
    break;
}
```

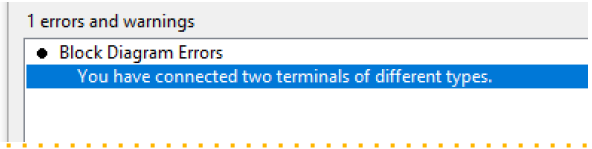


The LabVIEW Compiler I

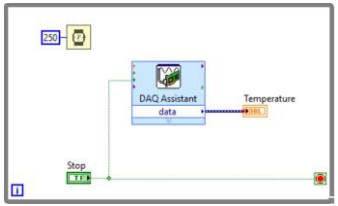
- The LabVIEW environment continually parses the block diagram
  - Valid code -> 

  - Invalid/incomplete code -> 

- If code is valid, clicking on the RUN button causes LabVIEW to compile the code and then execute it
- Click on a broken RUN button to get detailed information on the error

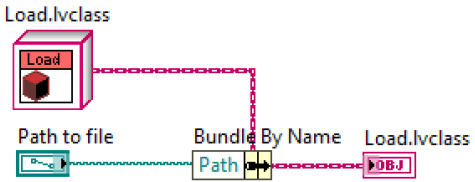


The LabVIEW Compiler II

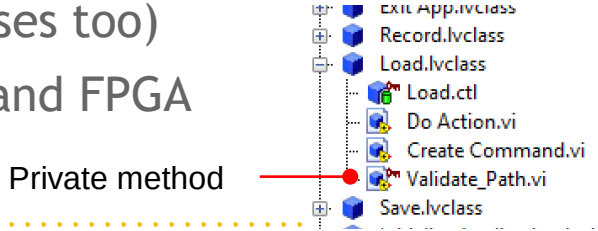


- When developing/debugging LabVIEW code it can be run and tested within the LabVIEW environment
- Once the code is working as desired it can be compiled into an executable (.exe etc), then launched like any other program
  - LabVIEW supports both 32 and 64-bit OS: Windows, Linux and MacOS
- Code can also compile into a windows library (.DLL) or Linux library (.SO)
  - Calls to DLL or SO require knowledge of the function prototypes – LabVIEW will generates the appropriate documentation
- LabVIEW can call functions within other DLL and SO libraries

LabVIEW OOP



- LabVIEW has object-oriented capabilities – encapsulation & inheritance
- But **BEWARE**
  - LabVIEW is a by-value language, including its objects
    - Most other OO environments use by-reference objects
  - All data is private
    - Explicit accessor methods must be used to access the data
- Methods are public by default but can be made private (called by class's methods only) or protected (called by child classes too)
- LabVIEW objects are supported on Desktop, RT and FPGA



DAQ & Instrumentation

Measurement challenges

- Conflicting programming approaches
- Disparate drivers
- Timing, triggering, and synchronization
- Fixed soft/hardware
- Changing requirements
- …

temperature

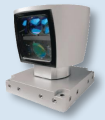
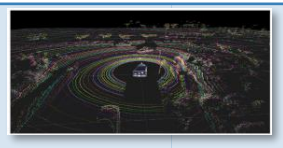
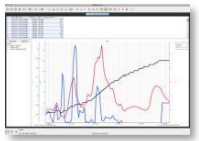
storage

LiDAR

RGA

Heterogeneous systems

Measurement challenges

Sensor	Interface	Conditioning?	Software
		no	
		yes	
		yes	-
		no	

Heterogeneous systems

Test

Monitor

Embedded

Control

Cyber Physical

LabVIEW™

Desktops and PC-Based DAQ

PXI and Modular Instruments

NI CompactRIO

GPIB IEEE-488

ETHERNET

HI-SPEED CERTIFIED USB

Open Connectivity With Third-Party I/O

Modular Instruments

Compact DAQ

PXI

Compact RIO

PXI/PXIe modules

chassis

DAQ Comparison

Software Used for Data Acquisition and Instrument Control

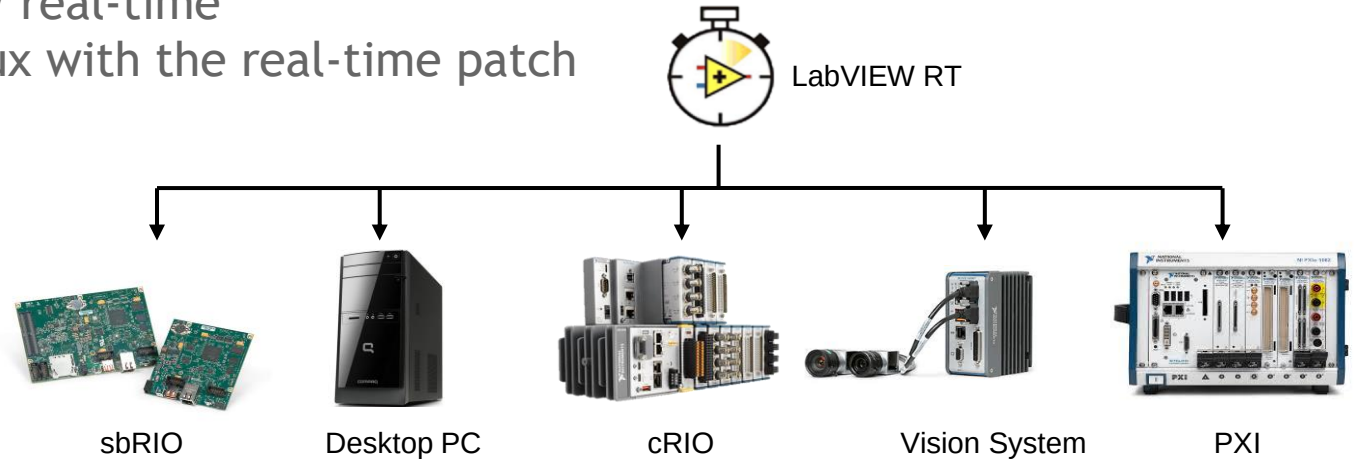
OPTIONS	C++/C#/JS/VB	LabVIEW	MATLAB	DASYLab
Ease of programming (novice)	Difficult	Easy	Medium	Easy
Programming Community size	Very large	Large	Large	Medium
Complex Applications	Yes	Yes	No	No
Built-in DAQ Support	No	Yes	Some	Yes
Built-in Analysis	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Embedded Systems

Extending the LabVIEW environment

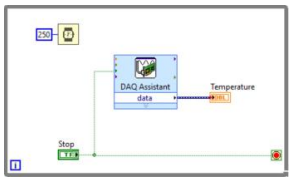
Real-time Systems

- Deterministic code operation
- Distributed control/test/acquisition systems
- LabVIEW real-time
  - Linux with the real-time patch



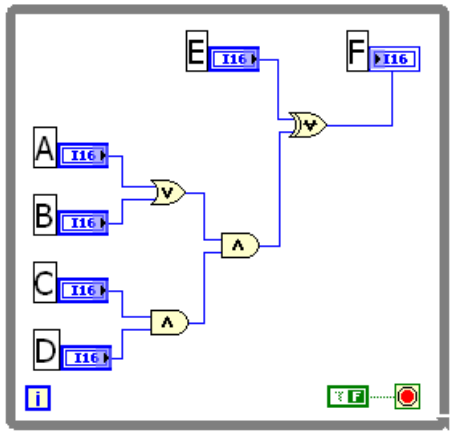
Compiling LabVIEW for RT Systems

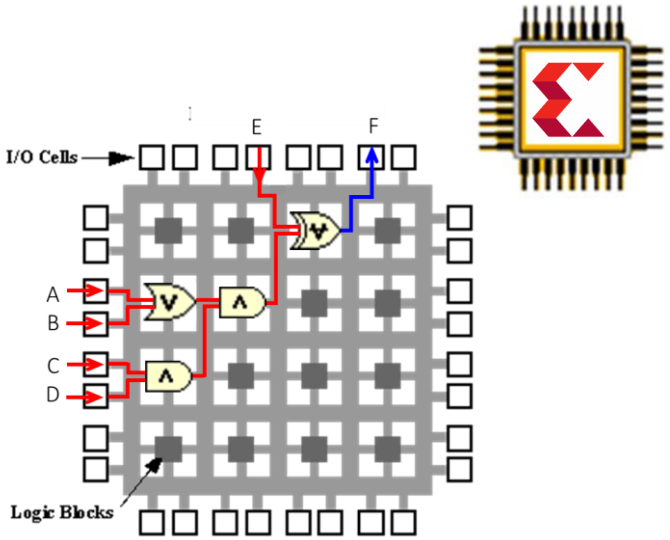
- LabVIEW can run RT code within the development environment
  - Code is executed on the RT system
  - User interface is on the desktop/development system
- Code can usually be run on different RT targets with only minimal changes (file paths, hardware interfaces etc)
- Once the code is running as expected, compile the code into an RT executable
  - Executable can be deployed on RT system
  - Executable starts running once the RT has powered up and loaded its operating system
  - Code is usually designed for running 24/7



LabVIEW on FPGA

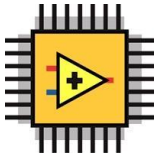
- LabVIEW FPGA

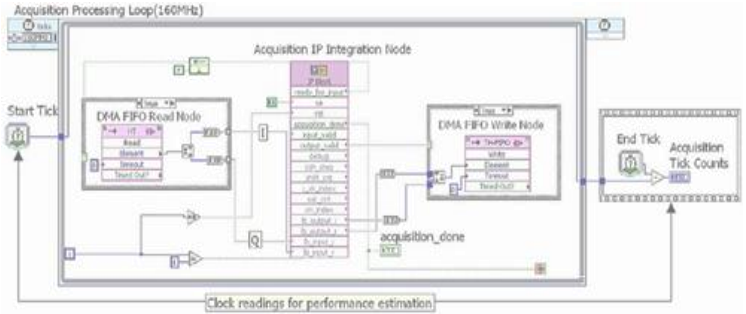




LabVIEW on FPGA

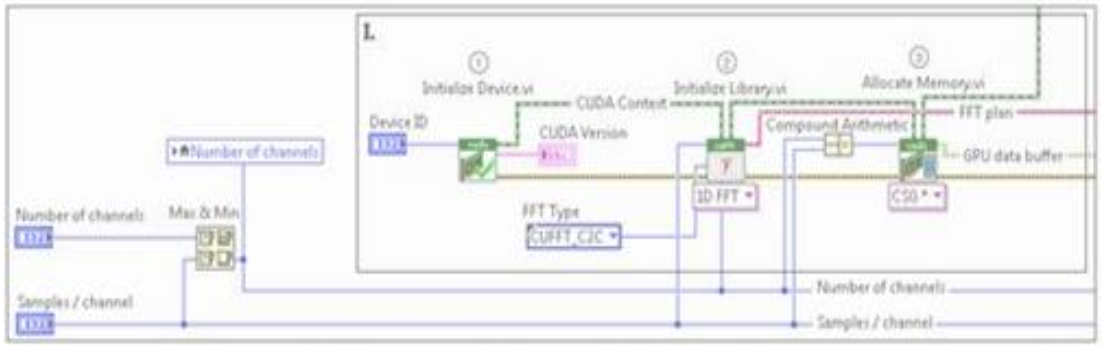
- Xilinx FPGA
  - IP integration
  - Vivado Export





- NVIDIA CUDA GPU

NVIDIA
CUDA



Compiling LabVIEW for FPGA

- Many LabVIEW functions are available for FPGA
  - ***Some exceptions:***
    - Unbound arrays, queues, strings
    - Double precision numbers (Single is permitted)
    - Non-homogeneous arrays of objects
- LabVIEW FPGA code needs to be compiled – automatically launches and uses the Xilinx Vivado environment. Can add existing VHDL IP
- The RT system accesses the FPGA using:
  - Front panel controls and indicators (latency of ms)
  - Direct memory access, DMA (very fast, up to GB/s depending on backplane)
  - Interrupts (latency of µs)

LabVIEW for Accelerators and Detectors

LabVIEW at CERN

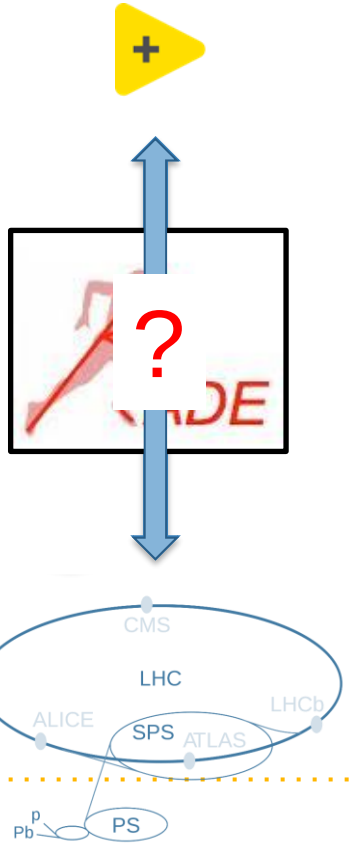
550 LabVIEW Users

30+ Project clients

CERN LabVIEW Support

LabVIEW™ Center of Excellence

The access challenge



Custom hardware

P X I

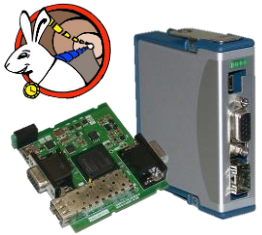
Accelerator timing
CTRP-PMC
(CERN)

PMC carrier
(Kontron)

Fine delay-FMC
(CERN)

FMC carrier
(INCAA)

c R I O

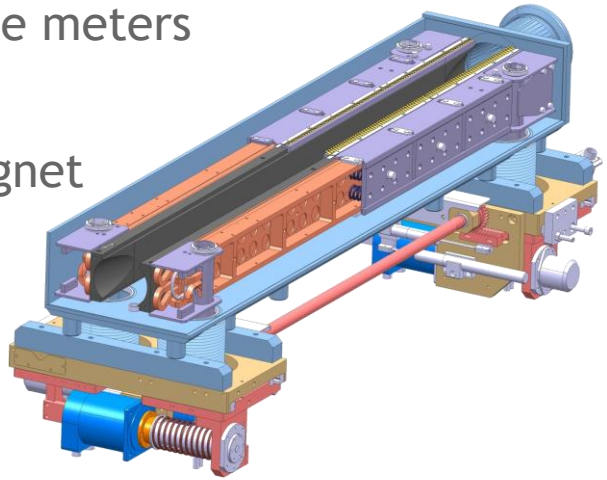


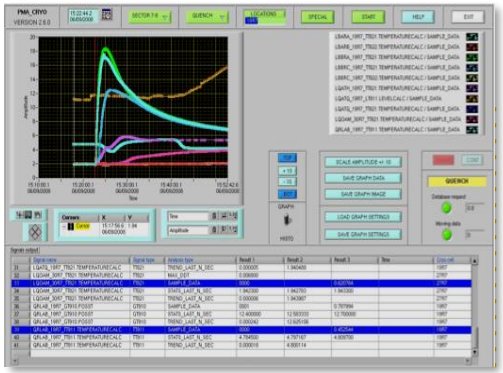
White rabbit timing (CERN)

Fibre-based triggering
(ANGARA Technology)

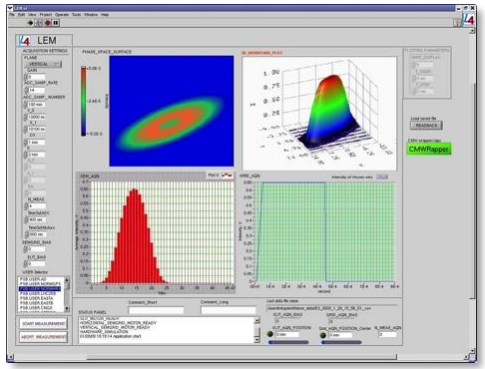
Example applications

- LHC collimators
- LINAC4 emittance meters
- Kicker Magnets
- Experiments magnet protection
- AWAKE
- ISOLDE
- CLIC RF test
- …





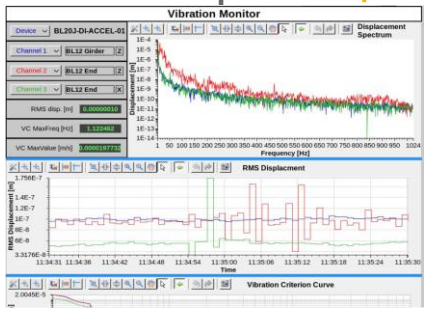
Post-Mortem analysis



Linac4

LabVIEW and Middleware

- EPICS support built-in
  - Create EPICS IOCs to run (usually) on Embedded systems
  - Create EPICS Clients on both Embedded and Desktop systems
  - Several third-party solutions that improve performance or the scope of data-types (LNLS, ANL etc)
- CMW (Controls Middleware) at CERN
  - The MTA group has created RADE
    - Embedded systems running LabVIEW can read/ write to the standard CERN tools/databases
- TANGO
  - Third-party support from some European and US labs



Other Applications

LabVIEW Web Module

- Compile LabVIEW and run within web-page (Javascript)
- View compiled code on any device

- Try *www.webvi.io*

Support for emerging technology

- Extensive HW and SW support of RF
  - Vector Signal Transceiver (VST) with accessible FPGA
  - 6G research and metrology (1 Tbps)
- Autonomous vehicles
- Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT)

Thank you

Credits

- NI (now part of Emerson)
- CERN BE-CEM group