

# Portable event generation on GPU-accelerated hardware

Max Knobbe  
@ WLCG/HSF Workshop at DESY



Gefördert durch



# About

## Touch on multiple Community tools:

- **PEPPER**: **P**ortable **E**ngine for the **P**roduction of **P**arton-level **E**vent **R**ecords
- LHAPDF
- (Sherpa?)

## About this Talk

- General overview, discuss performance/portability aspects
- Some slides borrowed from E. Bothmann's talk at [ACAT@2024](#)

## About the Team

The team photo features three groups of members. The first group, from Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, includes Enrico Bothmann and Max Knobbe. The second group, from Fermilab, includes Stefan Höche, Joshua Isaacson, and Walter Giele. The third group, from Argonne National Laboratory, includes Taylor Childers. Below the photo, a grey bar indicates 'Particle Physics' and a pink bar indicates 'SHERPA'. A grey bar below Taylor Childers indicates 'Computer Science'.

**GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT GÖTTINGEN**  
IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP SINCE 1837

**Fermilab**

**Argonne NATIONAL LABORATORY**

Enrico Bothmann Max Knobbe

Stefan Höche Joshua Isaacson Walter Giele

Taylor Childers

Particle Physics

SHERPA

Computer Science

## Why improve computing performance?

- High statistics at HL-LHC & excellent detector performance
    - Need for precise MCEG simulations
    - Poor MCEG performance can limit experimental success
- [HSF Physics Event Generator WG] [arXiv:2004.13687](#), [arXiv:2109.14938](#)

## What dominates the computing budget?

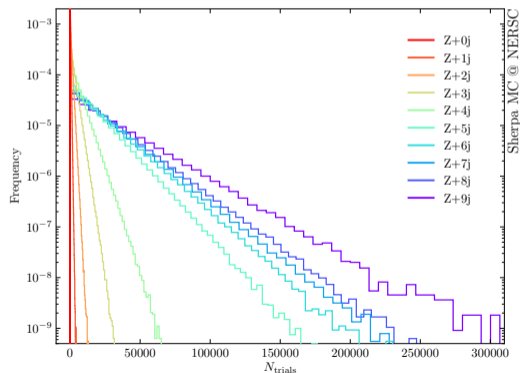
- Which physics processes?
- Parton or particle level?
- Which final-state jet multiplicities?



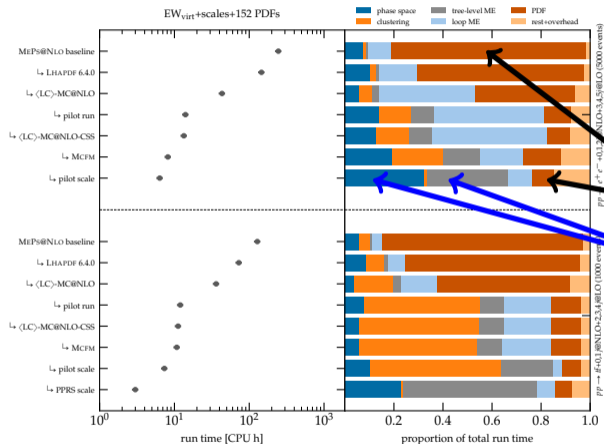
# Current state of the art

- ATLAS' state-of-the-art SHERPA samples
  - ▶  $pp \rightarrow e^+e^- + 0, 1, 2j@NLO + 3, 4, 5j@LO$
  - ▶  $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} + 0, 1j@NLO + 2, 3, 4j@LO$
- Reason: low unweighting efficiencies and expensive ME for high jet multiplicities

[Höche,Prestel,Schulz] [arXiv:1905.05120](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.05120)

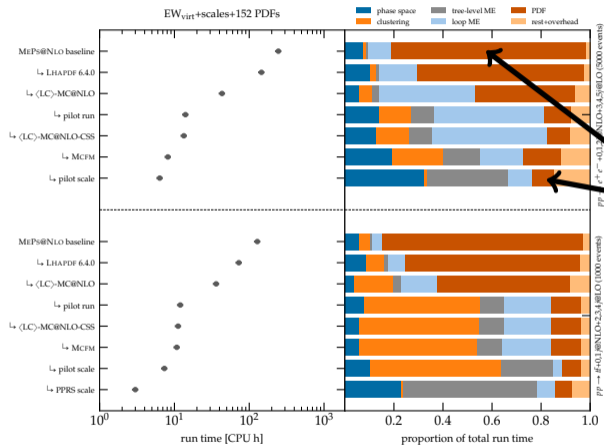


# What components should we focus on?



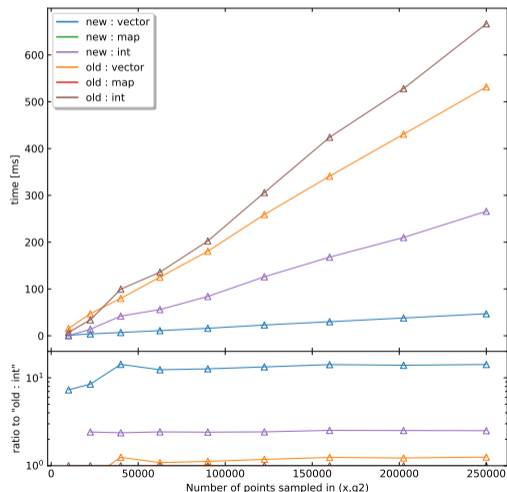
- C.f. Chris' talk: Sherpa baseline performance for
- 1. PDF performance
- 2. How to further improve? (Phase-space + matrix elements)

# What components should we focus on?



- C.f. Chris' talk:  
Sherpa baseline performance for
- **1. PDF performance**
- **2. How to further improve?**  
(Phase-space + matrix elements)


- PDF interpolation library
  - Performance gain, cf. Chris Gütschow's talk
    - 3-10x speedup per pdf-evaluation
    - more possible by changing MC workflows
  - OpenMPI used for efficient initialisation
    - constant init time vs. infinite init time
- [Höche, Prestel, Schulz] [arXiv:1905.05120](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.05120)
- Added CUDA + Kokkos interface/version
    - excellent computing performance / accuracy
    - portable version used for the remaining talk
    - performance numbers in the end

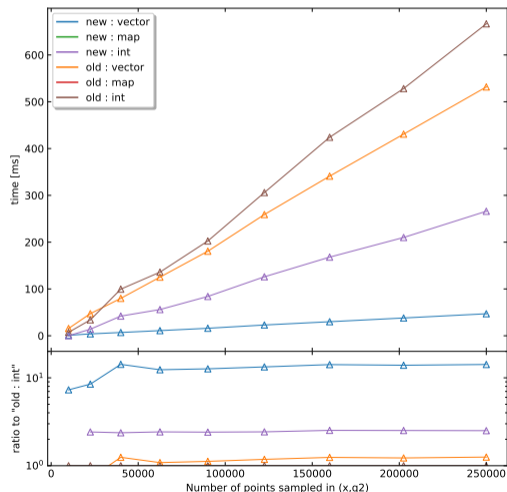




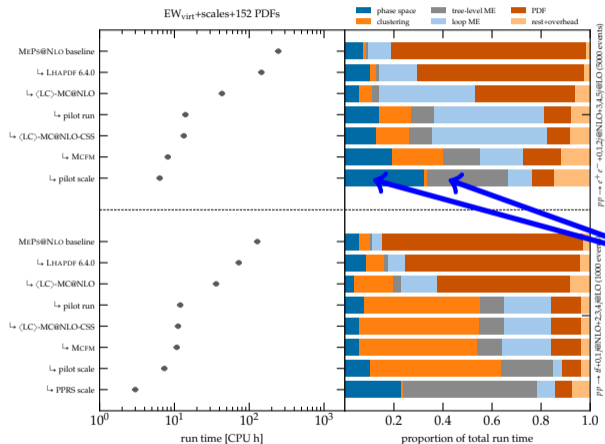
- PDF interpolation library
- Performance gain, cf. Chris Gütschow's talk  
→ 3-10x speedup per pdf-evaluation  
→ more possible by changing MC workflows
- OpenMPI used for efficient initialisation  
→ constant init time vs. infinite init time

[Höche, Prestel, Schulz] [arXiv:1905.05120](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.05120)

- A new interface/version  
→ performance / accuracy  
→ the remaining talk  
→ the end
- 
- The logo for MCnet features a stylized sunburst or starburst pattern in shades of red and orange, with the text "MCnet" in a bold, sans-serif font below it.

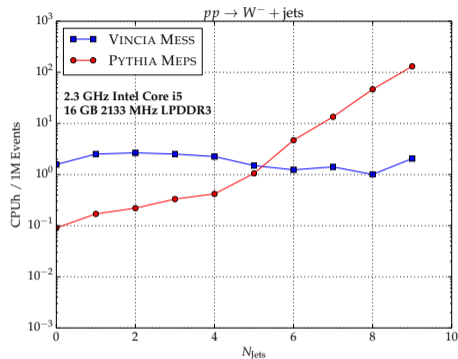
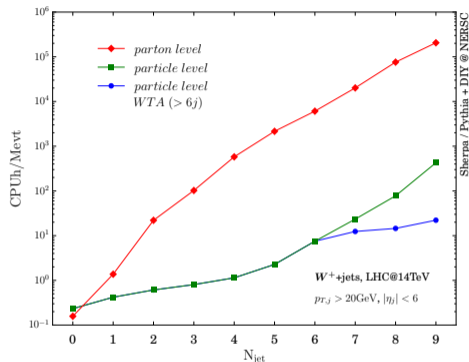


# What components should we focus on?



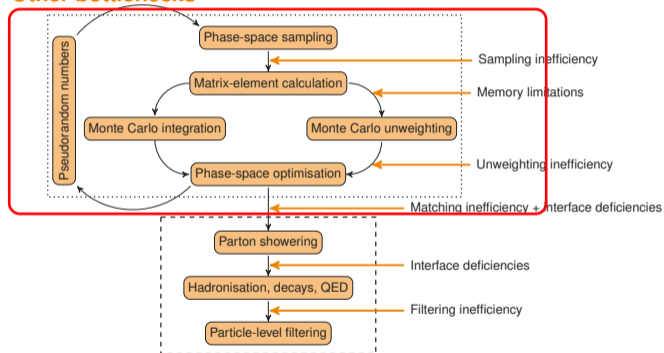
- C.f. Chris' talk:  
Sherpa baseline performance for
- 1. PDF performance
- **2. How to further improve?**  
(Phase-space + matrix elements)

# Timing distribution: scaling with multiplicity



- Hard scattering simulation much more demanding than particle-level remainder [Höche,Prestel,Schulz] [arXiv:1905.05120](https://arxiv.org/abs/1905.05120)
- Complexity of merging ME&PS can be reduced to achieve linear scaling using sector showers [Brooks,Preuss] [arXiv:2008.09468](https://arxiv.org/abs/2008.09468)  
so not a problem in principle

## Other bottlenecks



→ Lack of active development on infrastructure tools (LHE, HepMC, ...) set to become major bottleneck going forward ( → upcoming [IPPP workshop] on MC support tools)

## Figure of merit

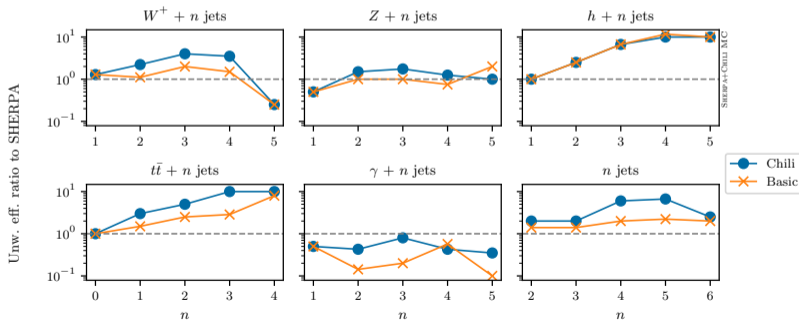
unweighted event generation throughput for highest jet multiplicity

e.g.  $pp \rightarrow e^+e^- + 5j$ ,  $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} + 4j$  or more

- Berends–Giele recursion for best multi-jet scaling behaviour
- Colour summing for lockstep GPU evaluation
  - ▶ Use minimal colour basis developed by amplitude community  $\mathcal{O}((n-1)!^2) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}((n-2)!^2)$   
[Melia] [arXiv:1304.7809](https://arxiv.org/abs/1304.7809) [arXiv:1312.0599](https://arxiv.org/abs/1312.0599) [arXiv:1509.03297](https://arxiv.org/abs/1509.03297)  
[Johansson,Ochirov] [arXiv:1507.00332](https://arxiv.org/abs/1507.00332)
  - ▶ Our implementation generalises it to  $\ell\ell$ +jets amplitudes
- Helicity sampling to avoid additional  $2^n$  scaling

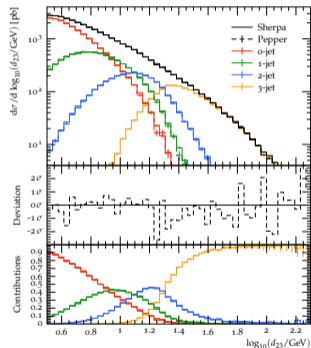
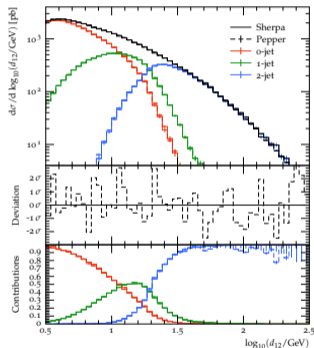
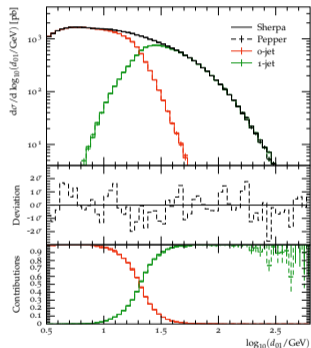
# Algorithms: phase space

- CHILI phase-space generator uses simple (MCFM-inspired) structure: one  $t$ -channel + adjustable number of  $s$  channels [EB et al.] [arXiv:2302.10449](https://arxiv.org/abs/2302.10449)
  - ▶ Portable (ported builtin CHILI in PEPPER)
  - ▶ RAMBO-like speed
  - ▶ Efficiency on par with recursive COMIX phase-space
    - Ideal to provide on-device ML training data for many jets



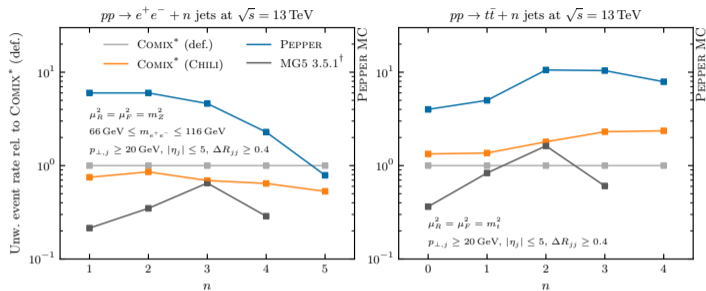
# Algorithms: I/O and toolchain integration

- PDF via LHAPDF, ported to CUDA and Kokkos
- Particle-level simulation via SHERPA or PYTHIA  
→ LHEH5-based framework [EB et al.] [arXiv:2309.13154](https://arxiv.org/abs/2309.13154) → Chris' talk



- Test of complete LHEH5-based simulation pipeline with PEPPER+SHERPA [EB et al.] [arXiv:2309.13154](https://arxiv.org/abs/2309.13154)
- Additional 3× speed-up for ATLAS MEPS@NLO  $pp \rightarrow e^+e^- + \text{jets}$  set-up → SHERPA v2.3.0 (Sep '23)

# Baseline unweighted event generation performance



- Unweighted event throughput compared to COMIX\*
- Constitutes baseline single-threaded performance of currently available competitive algorithms
- Novel standalone PEPPER performs better than COMIX, but PEPPER's real goal is portability [EB et al.] [arXiv:2311.06198](https://arxiv.org/abs/2311.06198)

Numbers generated on Intel Xeon E5-2650 v2

\* Partonic processes split into to  $g/q$  groups (not SHERPA standard)

† Modified to match efficiency convention of [Gao et. al] [arXiv:2001.10028](https://arxiv.org/abs/2001.10028)



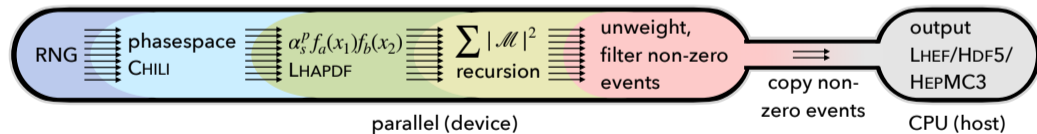
# Why portability?

- Many computing vendors, heterogeneous architectures
- (Pre-)Exascale computing systems intentionally diverse



# Portability is baked into PEPPER

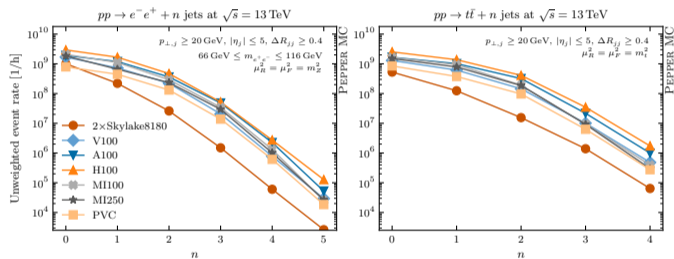
- Focus on highest multi (e.g.  $e^+e^- + 5$ ,  $t\bar{t} + 4$ )  
this is beyond small scale computing  $\rightarrow$  WLCG / HPC
- 10–20 years ago: Homogeneous CPU+RAM architectures
- This is undergoing a big change (partly due to AI trends)
  - ▶ HPC moves to exascale era  $\rightarrow$  **scalability**
  - ▶ GPU acceleration  $\rightarrow$  **portability**
- PEPPER addresses both aspects with **MPI**, **HDF5** and **Kokkos**
- PEPPER **parallelises** the entire parton-level event generation:



- Tested Xeon CPU, Intel/AMD/Nvidia GPU, HPC systems
  - ✓ Covers all (pre-)exascale architectures on previous slide
  - ✓ Scalable from a laptop to a Leadership Computing Facility

# Comparing runtimes on relevant architectures

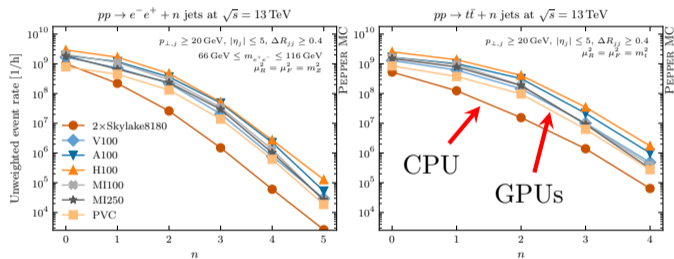
- Excellent performance across a wide range of architectures
- Portability provided by Kokkos: one code-base compiled for different architectures



MEvents / hour	2xSkylake8180	V100	A100	H100	MI100	MI250	PVC
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} + 4j$	0.06	0.5	1.0	1.7	0.4	0.3	0.3
$pp \rightarrow e^- e^+ + 5j$	0.003	0.03	0.05	0.1	0.03	0.03	0.02

# Comparing runtimes on relevant architectures

- Excellent performance across a wide range of architectures
- Portability provided by Kokkos: one code-base compiled for different architectures



MEvents / hour	2xSkylake8180	V100	A100	H100	MI100	MI250	PVC
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} + 4j$	0.06	0.5	1.0	1.7	0.4	0.3	0.3
$pp \rightarrow e^- e^+ + 5j$	0.003	0.03	0.05	0.1	0.03	0.03	0.02

# Portability: Aurora example

- Estimate “roughly 330 billion [leptonically decaying  $V$ +jets] events” required for HL-LHC

[ATLAS] [arXiv:2112.09588](https://arxiv.org/abs/2112.09588)

- ▶ “Sherpa 2.2.11 setup would exceed budget by 16%”

- ▶ Assume all 330 billion events are Z+4j

Production cost at parton-level would be:

- ★ 240M CPUh COMIX @ Intel E5-2650 v2 CPU
- ★ 380k GPUh PEPPER @ Nvidia A100 →

**This would be 8h on Aurora (with PVC)**



## Status

- ✓ Portable parton-level multi-jet event generator PEPPER  
Achieves scalability from a laptop to a Leadership Computing Facility

## Outlook

- Use synergies PEPPER/CHILI  $\leftrightarrow$  on-device training  $\leftrightarrow$  ML
- Add more processes to PEPPER, work towards NLO

## Discussion points

- Regularly updated per-process event generation cost data from ATLAS & CMS?  
(time/energy/money/...)
- Can we get together and establish HPC/GPU workflows with hep-ex & LCFs? (Usability  $\leftrightarrow$  Flexibility, Portability ...)
- Expected adoption of HPC resources by LHC computing?