

LHC Monte Carlo WG: kickoff meeting

ALICE perspectives



alidist *github*
lxplus *alisw* *github.io*
LCG *gitlab* *AliRivet*
CVMFS *jenkins* *rivet.sh*

EPOS4 *Pythia8*

Herwig7



Outline

I. ALICE context of data taking

- real-data taking strategy
- CPU performances by MC generators (*Examples of EPOS4, Pythia8*)

(II. existing PHENOMenal meetings)

III. ALICE topics for LHC MC WG

I.1 – Context foreword : ALICE data collection strategy

ALICE focus = on low p_T and/soft physics ($0 < p_T < 2-10$ GeV/c, typically)

→ ALICE targets *physics of bulk*

(\approx QCD various expressions in the overall context of the event)

over *physics of rarity*

(\approx intrinsic properties of a given particle/rare process)

Consequence : difficult to enhance signals of a given physics process
without distorting the QCD context of the event

→ **Data:**

ALICE₂ in Run 3+ = strategy of data collection based on **continuous** readout (\approx triggerless),
i.e. huge samples of Min. Bias data

(ex: 2023 pp $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 13.6$ TeV \approx [9.5 pb⁻¹ \leftrightarrow 760. 10⁹ events] recorded)

2024 pp $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 13.6$ TeV \approx [53.1 pb⁻¹ \leftrightarrow 4248. 10⁹ events] recorded

2023 Pb-Pb $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5.36$ TeV \approx [1535 μb^{-1} \leftrightarrow 12. 10⁹ events] recorded

(NB : recorded ... i.e. not only delivered and inspected...)

(See LHCC open sessions, 155th, [Sept 2023](#) + 156th, [Nov 2023](#) + 160th, [Nov 2024](#))

→ **Simulations:**

default option = in correspondence, i.e. plain simulation of complete **inelastic** collisions

I.2 – Context : Pythia8 “performances”

Core Intel i7-12800H / 32 GB RAM

MC	version	Pythia8 config param.					System	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$	"Centrality"	Evt counts	CPU time	CPU.evt ⁻¹	HEPmc size
		Base	SoftQCD	Parton Level	Angantyr	Hadron Level					duration	s.evt ⁻¹	plain kB.evt ⁻¹
Pythia8	v8304-alice1-13	Monash 2013	all	MPI+CR	-	off	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+04	00h 00min 31s	0,003	81,94
		Monash 2013	all	MPI+CR	-	Rescatter	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+04	00h 00min 47s	0,005	111,20
		CR Mode 2	all	MPI+CR	-	off	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+04	00h 00min 30s	0,003	79,74
		CR Mode 2	all	MPI+CR	-	Rescatter	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+04	00h 00min 46s	0,005	111,19
		Monash + Rope	all	MPI+CR	-	off	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+04	00h 01min 09s	0,007	90,84
		Monash + Rope	all	MPI+CR	-	Rescatter	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	2.00E+04	00h 02min 51s	0,009	118,52
		Monash + Rope + Shoving	all	MPI+CR	-	off	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+04	00h 01min 17s	0,008	102,93
		Monash + Rope + Shoving	all	MPI+CR	-	Rescatter	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+04	00h 01min 38s	0,010	133,06
Pythia8	v8304-alice1-13	Monash 2013	all	MPI	Glissando	off	Pb-Pb	5.02 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+03	00h 08min 53s	0,533	7 238,22
		Monash 2013	all	MPI	Glissando	Rescatter	Pb-Pb	5.02 TeV	MinBias	2.00E+01	00h 53min 12s	159,600	33 146,78

Some physics options:

- Colour Reconnection, in
- With Colour Junctions ? (i.e. *CR mode 2*, *Skands*, [arXiv:1505.01681](https://arxiv.org/abs/1505.01681))
- With Rope hadronisation ? ([arxiv:1412.6259](https://arxiv.org/abs/1412.6259))
- With Rope hadronisation + Rope shoving ? ([arXiv:1710.09725](https://arxiv.org/abs/1710.09725))
- Late-hadronic interactions allowed or not ? ([arXiv:2005.05658](https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.05658))

I.3 – Context : EPOS4 “performances”

Core Intel i7-12800H / 32 GBRAM

MC	version	EPOS4 config param.					System	$\sqrt{s_{NN}}$	"Centrality"	Evt counts	CPU time	CPU.evt ⁻¹	HEPmc size
		Ninicon	core	hydro	EoS	hacas					duration	s.evt ⁻¹	plain kB.evt ⁻¹
EPOS4	v4.0.0-alice3	1	full	hllc	x3ff	full	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+02	01h 38min 30s	59,100	24,82
		1	PFE	off	off	full	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+03	00h 03min 06s	0,186	21,94
		1	PFE	off	off	off	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+03	00h 01min 24s	0,084	21,23
		1	off	off	off	off	pp	13 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+03	00h 00min 26s	0,026	29,44
EPOS4	v4.0.0-alice3	1	full	hllc	x3ff	full	Pb-Pb	5.02 TeV	MinBias	2.00E+00	00h 17min 40s	530,000	2 223,01
		1	full	hllc	x3ff	full	Pb-Pb	5.02 TeV	0-5%	2.00E+00	00h 39min 26s	1 183,000	5 771,44
		1	PFE	off	off	full	Pb-Pb	5.02 TeV	MinBias	1.00E+02	01h 30min 52s	54,520	1 399,83
		1	PFE	off	off	full	Pb-Pb	5.02 TeV	0-5%	1.00E+02	11h 38min 05s	418,850	5 832,04

Some physics options:

- Full hydrodynamics ? (core)
- Or parametrised hydrodynamics ? (PFE)
- Late-hadronic interactions allowed or not ? (hacas)

<https://klaus.pages.in2p3.fr/epos4/physics/papers>

II.1 – (Parenthesis) : what exists for exchanging in ALICE

∃ dedicated open meetings between ALICE collaboration + MC phenomenologists

= PHENOMenal meetings,

~runs since oct. 2020, 19 meetings,

100% Zoom

typically during ALICE mini-weeks

- Philosophy:

one set of ALICE results presented by ALICE,

a special light shed by 1-2 MC theorists

< 2h-long meeting

- Organisers:

- Valentina Zacco, Trieste

- Christian Bierlich, Lund

- Indico category : <https://indico.cern.ch/category/8420/> + [GoogleDoc list of agendas](#)

- E-groups: [alice-phenomenal](#)

III.0 – Topics : non-exhaustive list

1. Integration of the MC generators in the software of various LHC collaborations:
Collab-made **installation** Vs SFT under CVMFS ?
2. **MC validation** via MCplots, for pp physics first ?
3. From *Rivet* for Heavy-Ion systems to **MCplots** for **Heavy-Ion systems**
4. **PDF** and nPDF
5. **Tuning** of MC event generators

III.1 – Topics : MC-generator installations

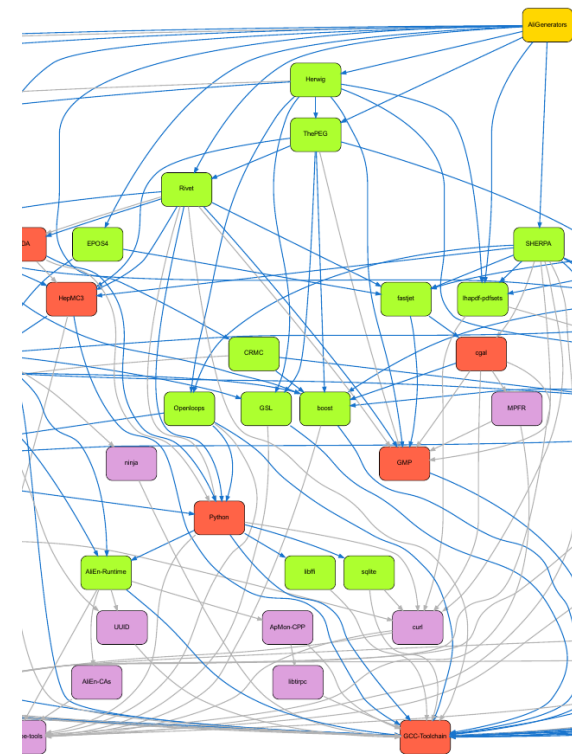
- Integration of the MC generators in the various collaborations
Collab-made installation Vs SFT under CVMFS ?

(Dealing with :

- compilation,
- (inter)dependences among packages
- and central deployment for execution...)

LHC Situation ?

- ALICE = Standalone, no use of SFT LCG compilations
- ATLAS = use of LCG compiled code !
- CMS = Standalone, no use of LCG compilations
- LHCb = mix, SFT LCG + local builds



III.2 – Topics : MCplots as validation tool

- **MC validation** via MCplots, for pp physics first ?

→ Pure-MC analyses, as benchmark
(compare reference MC with new release MC)

Rivet: **ok!** / MCplots: **ok!**

for validation of MC with Mcplots: <http://mcplots.cern.ch/?query=allvalidations>

For ALICE, that could be:

identified hadron production = $f(p_T, y, \text{event activity})$,
incl/excl feed-down

→ multiple-run analyses:
. multiple \sqrt{s} and ratios among colliding energies
(e.g. pp 5.36 TeV Vs pp 13.6 TeV)

Rivet: **ok!** / MCplots: \emptyset ?

→ multiple-job analyses:
large MC dataset needed for validation (often $>10^8$ - 10^9)
i.e. multiple jobs to manage with MCplots (LHC@home)

Rivet: **ok!** / MCplots: \emptyset ?

III.3 – Topics : MCplots in AA ...

- MC validation via MCplots, for pp physics first ?
- From Rivet for Heavy-Ion systems to **MCplots for Heavy-Ion systems**

→ multiple-run analyses:

Rivet: **ok!** / MCplots: **∅ ?**

- multiple \sqrt{s} and ratios among colliding energies
- +
- multiple systems (pp, p-Pb, Xe-Xe, Pb-Pb, next year p-O, O-O) and ratios among systems
- calibration (e.g. centrality) and then analysis

III.4 – Topics : PDF

PDF and nuclear PDF constraints by LHC

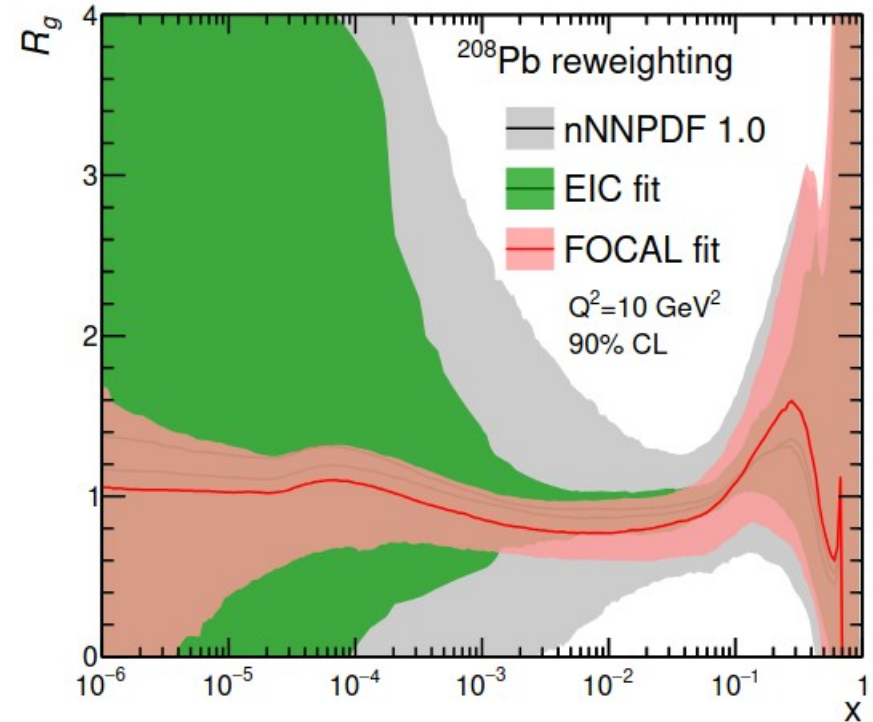
To come :

- FoCal single-arm calorimeters
(= E.m. calo with [Si+W] + Hadronic calo)
at forward rapidities [$3.4 < \eta < 5.8$],
in LHC Run 4 (≥ 2030)
→ access to gluon (n)PDF, at very low x ($< 10^{-5}$)
via direct- γ detection

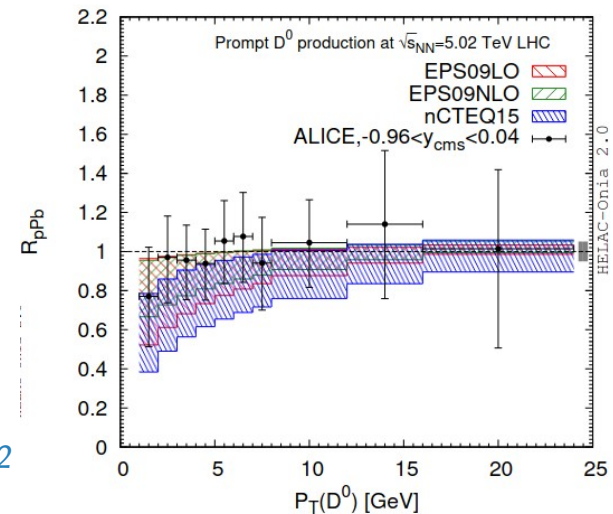
In the meantime, already things to do ?

- Ex: [D^0 , η_c , J/ψ , $Y(nS)$] meson production in pp, p-Pb
measured by 1. LHCb + 2. Others LHC
→ nPDF constraint

HELAC-Onia [arXiv:1610.05382](https://arxiv.org/abs/1610.05382)



Nuclear modification of gluon PDF in ^{208}Pb
(FoCal, Lol Fig.41)



III.5 – Topics : MC tuning

- Tuning
(Nascent effort in ALICE...)

- Professor Vs Apprentice ?
- Any **good practice** or no go ? (experience in ATLAS, CMS, ... + MC authors)
e.g. definition of uncertainties ? Agreed protocol to derive them ?
- **benchmark set** of Rivet analyses to be default core results to be reproduced ?
- \exists physical **burning** questions that we may want to address in common ?

III.5 – Topics : MC tuning

Example of addressed question :

baryon production, for different valence quark flavours

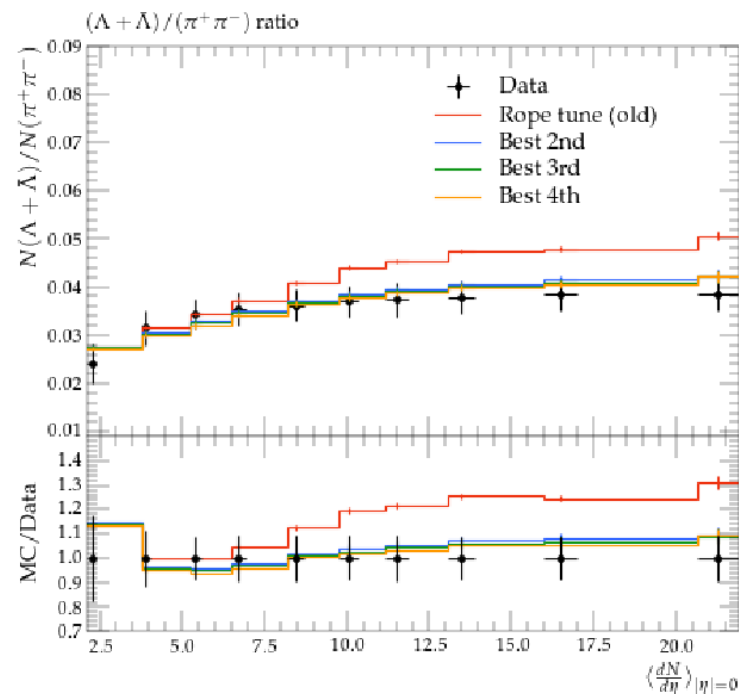
Two recent works performed recently with Pythia8 (summer 2024)

1. Tuning of rope hadronisat° model (using Professor2)

Focus \approx identified light-flavour hadrons,
incl. strangeness, in pp
e.g. p/π^\pm , $\Lambda/\pi^\pm = f(dN_{ch}/d\eta \text{ multiplicity}, p_T)$

Basis: Pythia8 with Ropes

- . 6 Pythia parameters
- . exchange with Christian Bierlich on Ropes



III.5 – Topics : MC tuning

Example of addressed question :

baryon production, for different valence quark flavours

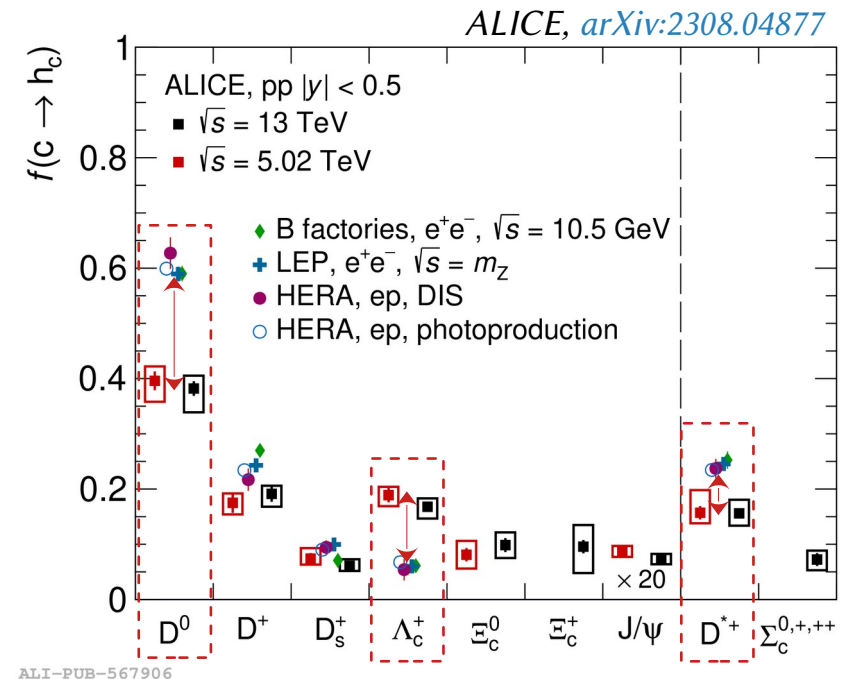
Two recent works performed recently with Pythia8 (summer 2024)

2. Tuning of enhanced CR tune Mode 2 (using Apprentice)

Focus \approx identified charm hadrons,
and notably charm baryons, in pp
e.g. Λ_c^+ / D^0 production = $f(p_T)$

Basis : Pythia8 CR Mode2 ([arXiv:1505.01681](https://arxiv.org/abs/1505.01681))

- . 2 Pythia parameters
- . exchange with Andy Buckley on Apprentice,
- . exchange with Peter Skands on Junctions



– The end –

III.6 – Topics : GPU usage for MC generation ?

Any GPU usage for MC ?

- \exists farm of GPU in ALICE (Event Processing Nodes, EPN)
and farm of FPGA (First-Level Processors, FLP)
→ heavily use for our online reconstruction of real data (continuous readout)

But so far not much for MC generations...