Quality assurance for CORAL and COOL

within the LCG software stack for the LHC experiments

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Outline

Introduction to CORAL and COOL

- Software quality and testing for CORAL and COOL
 - Functional tests
 - Performance tests

Conclusions



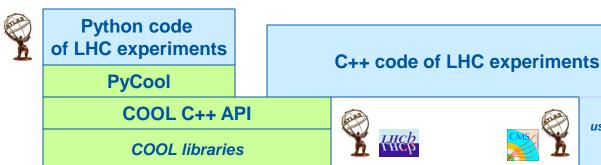
CORAL & COOL – introduction

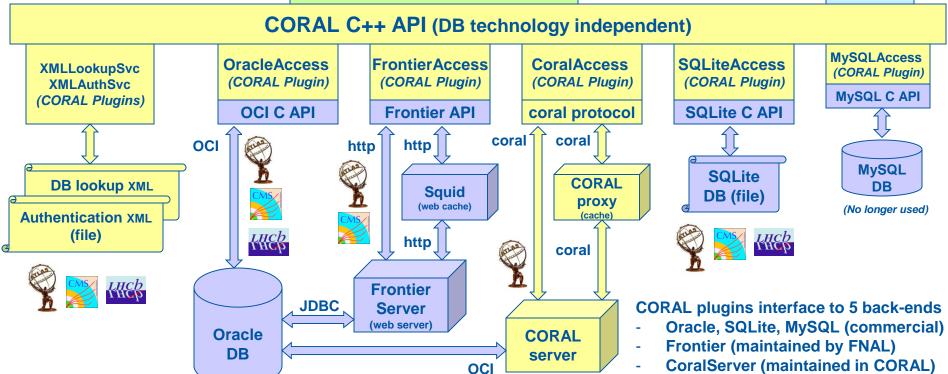
- CORAL: a generic relational database access layer
 - Used by ATLAS, CMS and LHCb and internally by COOL
 - Conditions data, trigger configuration data, geometry data...
 - Main entry point to physics data in Oracle (directly or via Frontier)
- COOL: a set of libraries and tools for handling time variation and versioning in "conditions databases"
 - Used by ATLAS and LHCb throughout LHC data taking
 - Example: detector calibration for Sep 2015 from latest algorithm
- Both COOL and CORAL are written in C++
 - Bindings for *Python* also exist (PyCool and PyCoral)
 - COOL also implies developing and optimizing SQL queries



Component architecture

CORAL and COOL mainly provide client software components (CORAL server / proxy are the only exceptions)







use CORAL

directly

CORAL – generic DB access layer

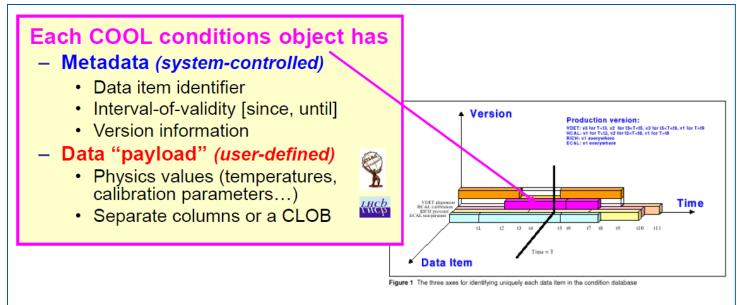
CORAL provides a DB-independent and largely (but not completely)
SQL-free C++ API for accessing data stored using relational DB technologies.
It takes care of executing user requests using the appropriate SQL.

```
coral::ConnectionService svc;
                                                                   Example: table creation
session = svc.connect( URL, coral::Update );
                                                                   through the CORAL API
session.transaction().start( false );
coral::TableDescription tableDescription;
                                                                                SQLite
tableDescription.setName( "myTable" );
                                                                      URL = "sqlite_file:mydatabase.db"
tableDescription.insertColumn( "ID", "long long");
tableDescription.insertColumn( "Data", "double" );
                                                                     CREATE TABLE "myTable"
tableDescription.setPrimaryKey("ID");
                                                                     ("ID" SLONGLONG,
session.nominalSchema().createTable( tableDescription );
                                                                     "Data" DOUBLE,
                                                                     PRIMARY KEY("ID"))
                                                                       MySQL
          URL = "oracle://server/myschema"
                                                            URL = "mysql://server/myschema"
    CREATE TABLE MYSCHEMA."myTable"
                                                     CREATE TABLE "myschema". "myTable"
    ( "ID" NUMBER(20),
                                                     ("ID" BIGINT NOT NULL,
    "Data" BINARY_DOUBLE,
                                                     "Data" DOUBLE PRECISION.
    CONSTRAINT "myTable PK"
                                                     CONSTRAINT "myTable"
    PRIMARY KEY ("ID"))
                                                     PRIMARY KEY ("ID"))
```



COOL - conditions data model

While CORAL is a generic access layer, COOL includes the design of a relational schema and the optimization of SQL queries for a specific data model for conditions data



COOL provides a technology-independent C++ API to handle the time variation and versioning of the conditions data of the LHC experiments. This is implemented using relational databases, based on CORAL.



Lifecycle and collaborations

- CORAL and COOL started over 10 years ago (2004)
 - As separate subprojects of LCG Persistency Framework
 - Two teams, overall O(10) developers from IT and LHC experiments
 - Example of successful common software project of LHC experiments
 - Now managed together and largely in maintenance mode
 - Single team with minimal manpower, overall less than O(1 FTE)
- External collaborations for infrastructure and testing
 - PH-SFT: external packages, nightly/release builds and tests
 - See <u>yesterday's presentation</u> by Patricia Mendez Lorenzo
 - IT-DB and experiment DBAs: Oracle service and support
 - Essential interaction during the optimization and testing phases



Development process overview

- Activity is driven by LHC experiment requirements
 - Release on demand, with no predefined schedule
 - CORAL and COOL largely in maintenance mode now
 - Releases mainly due to external software upgrades (e.g. Boost, ROOT), new compiler ports, new infrastructure (e.g. cmake)...
 - The move from ROOT5 to ROOT6 especially triggered a lot of work
 - Essentially no new feature requests, only the occasional bug fixes
- CORAL & COOL built as part of LCG software stack
 - Release installation on AFS by PH-SFT (for ATLAS & LHCb)
 - Agreed set of software versions (e.g. LCG_79) and platforms
 - Internal build with cmake, integration with lcgcmake
 - Nightly builds and tests using Jenkins and CDash



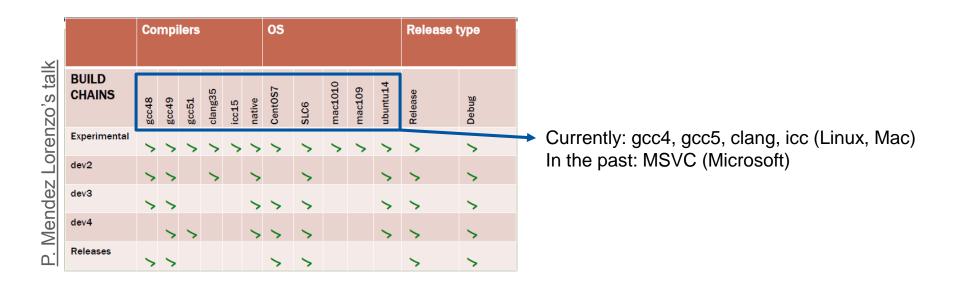
CORAL & COOL – testing and QA

- A priority but no formal method, just common sense
 - Believe that early tests/QA save you time in the long term!
 - Mainly functional tests, but also other tests and QA policies
- COOL used ~ test-driven development from the start
 - Write unit tests as (or before) you write the implementation
 - Deterministic approach you know what your code should do
 - This also helps the design of interfaces what should code look like



Multi-platform support & SW quality

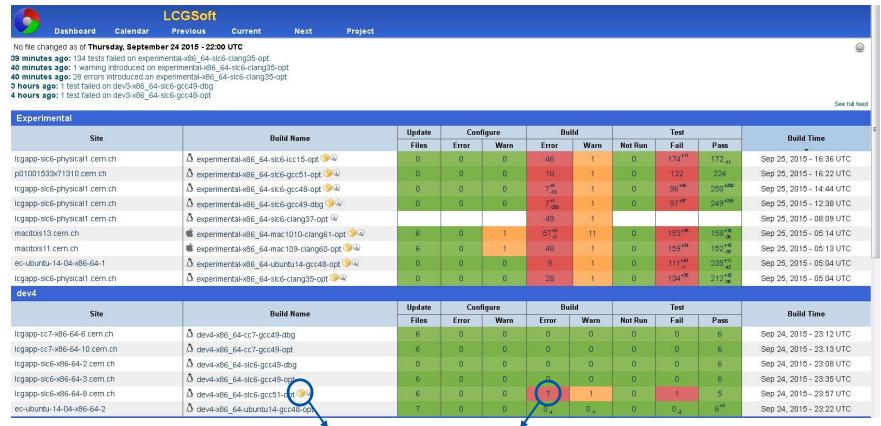
- CORAL & COOL are built on a range of platforms
 - Using different C++ compilers/linkers enhances SW quality
 - Same code for all, only minimal platform-dependent sections
 - As a general rule, all build warnings are fixed, not ignored





Nightly builds and tests – CDash

- CDash dashboard: main access to see nightly results
 - Individual CORAL or COOL logs available on failures



Get details of failing package (not necessarily CORAL or COOL!)



Nightly builds and tests – Jenkins

- The Jenkins dashboard provides additional low-level information that has not been propagated to CDash
 - The full lcgcmake driver log is available here





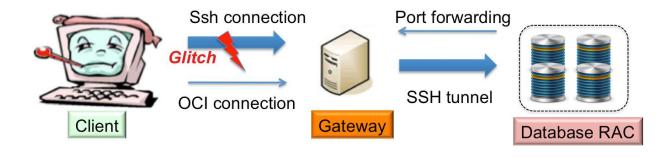
Functional test suites

- Mainly CppUnit (C++) and unittest (Python) assert-based tests
 - Blurred border between "unit" and "integration" tests name is irrelevant
 - Most tests involve external software packages (ROOT) and services (Oracle)
- Rather "large" coverage, but no explicit metric
 - Years ago we used gcov for a while to improve coverage
 - Bugs reported by users systematically lead to new tests (reproducibility!)
- All database back-ends are systematically tested
 - Oracle (also with Frontier or CoralServer read-back), SQLite, MySQL
 - Also requires maintenance of server infrastructure (partly dedicated, partly shared)
 - Careful test speed optimization for Oracle (slow DDL from table creation/deletion)
- Functional test suites assembled using QMTest
 - Very old, but does the job! might move to ctest at some point
 - Long suites for full tests (~ 2 hours), shorter for Jenkins/CDash nightlies



CORAL "network glitch" tests

- Complex implementation issues require complex test design!
 - Here's just one representative example
- A few CORAL segmentation faults observed around 2010
 - Due to buggy legacy implementation of reaction to lost connections
 - Ad-hoc testing framework was developed to reproduce these issues
 - Using synchronized killing of SSH tunnels to simulate a lost connection
 - This test framework was essential to allow a proper fix / reimplementation
 - Now part of the standard functional test suite

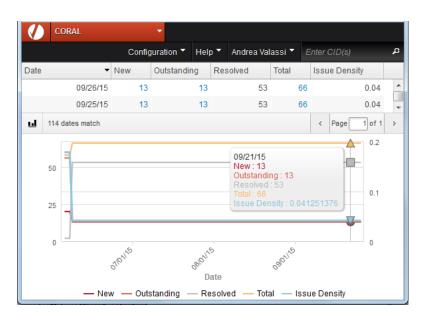




CoralServer tests for ATLAS HLT

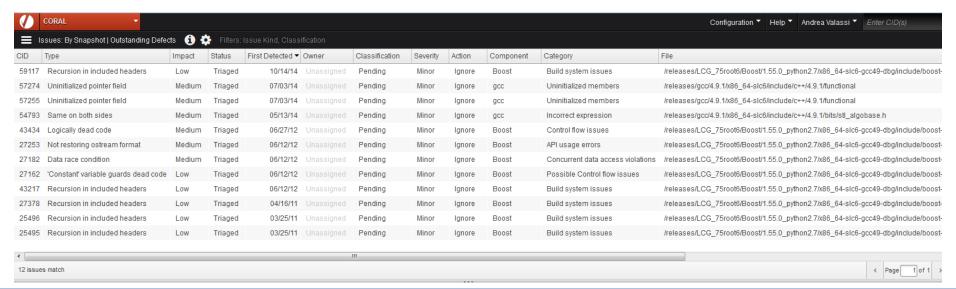
- CoralServer is an essential component of the ATLAS High Level Trigger system since data-taking in October 2009
 - From design through implementation to deployment in only 9 months
 - Aggressive timescale was only possible thanks to rigorous testing!
- Two complementary sets of tests
 - Artificial ad-hoc unit tests
 - Standalone integration test application using full ATLAS HLT software
- Need for testing included upfront in modular component design
 - Clean separation of networking, marshalling and RDBMS components
 - Allowed them to be implemented and tested independently of each other





Static code analysis

- Coverity (PH-SFT service)
 - Advantage of having own instance: keep history and triage defects!
- One-off scans all CORAL or COOL defects now fixed
 - Ignore issues from external packages (Boost, gcc, Qt...)





Profilers and other tools

- Various profilers have been used for CORAL and COOL
 - Most recently and effectively: valgrind, lgProf and gperftools
 - Mainly ad-hoc "campaigns", no systematic use of any of these
- Memory profiling valgrind
 - Successfully used in the past to fix a few CORAL memory leaks
 - May run the full test suite through it but seldom do so
- CPU and elapsed time profiling gperftools
 - Successfully used in the past to fix CORAL unneeded DB roundtrips
 - But SQL speed optimization is generally more relevant (next slide)
- And then of course other very different debugging tools
 - When hope is almost lost: gdb, strace...



COOL – Oracle performance tests (1/2)

- COOL involves the design and optimization of the relational schema and SQL queries for its data model
 - SQL speed is more relevant than C++ speed for COOL
- Main issue: unstable Oracle SQL execution plans
 - Comprehensive test and QA strategy (Oracle tutorial 2013)
 - Stabilization of execution plans using SQL hints
 - One-click tool to run client tests and build a detailed performance report including plots and info gathered from server-side trace files
 - No large-scale stress tests: small-scale tests on O(100k) rows are enough to extrapolate scalability (it's only the slope that matters...)



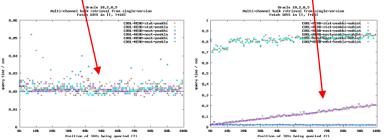
Flat = OK! (Production, with hints)

Slope = NOT OK! (Control test, no hints)

1. Use case SV_R

(COOL-preview on Oracle 10.2.0.5.0)

Oracle Database 10g Enterprise Edition Release 10.2.0.5.0 - 64bit Production Instance test11 (Linux 186_64 on itrac507) on 2011-12-13



NB: different vertical scales

SELECT /*+ NO BIND AWARE QB.NAME(MAIN) INDEX (@MAIN COOL.J3@MAIN (CHANNEL.DI IOV_SINCE IOV_UNTIL.))
LEADING (@MAIN COOL.Z2@MAIN COOL.J3@MAIN) USE-NL@MAIN COOL.J3@MAIN) INDEX (@MAIN COOL.J3@MAIN) INDEX (@MAIN COOL.J3@MAIN) INDEX (@MAIN COOL.J3.@MAIN) INDEX (@MAIN COOL.J3.@MAIN) INDEX (@MAIN COOL.J3. CHANNEL.DI AS "CHANNEL.DI",
COOL.J3.SYS_INSTIME AS "SYS_INSTIME", COOL.J3.IOV_UNTIL.AS "IOV_UNTIL.", COOL.J3.USER_TAG_ID AS "USER_TAG_ID",
COOL.J3.SYS_INSTIME AS "SYS_INSTIME", COOL.J3.IOV_UNTIL.AS "IOV_UNTIL.", COOL.J3.SYS_TAG_ID AS "USER_TAG_ID",
COOL.J3.SYS_INSTIME AS "SYS_INSTIME", COOL.J3.IASTIMOD_DATE AS "LASTMOD_DATE", COOL.J3.ORIGINAL.ID AS
"ORIGINAL_ID", COOL.J3.NEW_HEAD_ID AS "NEW_HEAD_ID", COOL_J3."S4R" AS "S4R" "FOOM]
AVALASSI." SSY_RCWD_FOOD_ICLANNEL.DI AND COOL_IS.IOV_SINCE>=COALESCE((SELECT /*+ QB_NAME(MAX1) */
MAX(COOL.II.IOV_SINCE) FROM AVALASSI.SYS_RCWD_FOOD_IOVS**
COOL_J3.ICHANNEL_ID=COOL_C2.CHANNEL.JD AND COOL_J1.IOV_SINCE<="""""""", ""sinc3s") AND
COOL_J3.IOV_SINCE<="""""""", ""unit3" AND COOL_J3.IOV_UNTIL.>: "sinc3e" ORDER BY COOL_J3.CHANNEL_ID ASC,
COOL_J3.IOV_SINCE ASC

Main hint in alternative SQL statement (hint option='-nohint'): /*+ NO_BIND_AWARE QB_NAME(MAIN) */

Identified 3 execution plan(s) from 12 trace files (in/tmp/avalassi/ALL/10.2.0.5/SV_R on lxmrra5001):

Trace file	Exec	Bind variables				Hints	
(stat)-(peek)-(hint)	plan	:since1	:sinc3s	:until3	:sinc3u	Used	Unused
stat-peekhi	#1	99000	99000	99010	99000	6	0
stat-peeklo	#1	0	0	10	0	6	0
nost-peekhi	#1	99000	99000	99010	99000	6	0
nost-peeklo	#1	0	0	10	0	6	0
emst-peekhi	#1	99000	99000	99010	99000	6	0
emst-peeklo	#1	0	0	10	0	6	0
stat-peekhi-nohint	#1	99000	99000	99010	99000	2	0
stat-peeklo-nohint	#2	0	0	10	0	2	0
nost-peekhi-nohint	#1	99000	99000	99010	99000	2	0
nost-peeklo-nohint	#2	0	0	10	0	2	0
emst-peekhi-nohint	#3	99000	99000	99010	99000	2	0
emst-peeklo-nohint	#3	0	0	10	0	2	0

Oracle 10.2.0.5

COOL – Oracle performance report

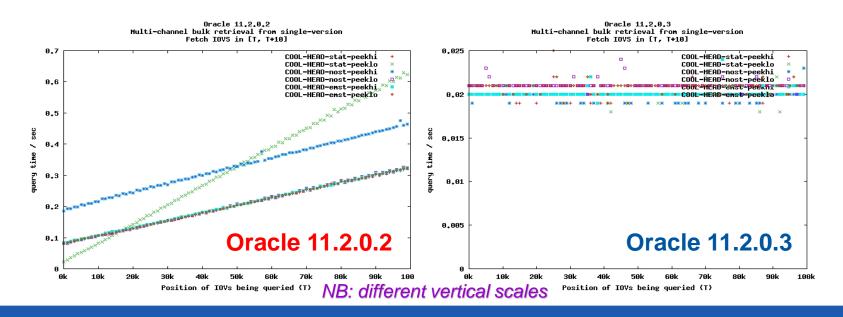
SQL execution plan (from server-side trace file)

```
SV_R / Execution plan #1
                                                       (COOL-preview on Oracle 10.2.0.5.0)
Id Operation
     SELECT STATEMENT
      SORT ORDER BY
                                                XSV_RCWD_F0001_IOVS
       TABLE ACCESS BY INDEX ROWID
         NESTED LOOPS
                                                XSV RCWD F0001 CHANNELS PK
          INDEX FULL SCAN
            SORT AGGREGATE
                                               XSV_RCWD_F0001_IOVS_CSU_3INDX
               INDEX RANGE SCAN (MIN/MAX)
           INDEX RANGE SCAN
                                                XSV_RCWD_F0001_IOVS_CSU_3INDX
            SORT AGGREGATE
             FIRST ROW
               INDEX RANGE SCAN (MIN/MAX) XSV_RCWD_F0001_IOVS_CSU_3INDX
4 - filter(COALESCE(.:sinc3s)<=:until3)
7 - access("COOL_I1"."CHANNEL_ID"=:B1 AND "COOL_I1"."IOV_SINCE"<=:since1)
8 - access("COOL_I3","CHANNEL_ID"="COOL_C2","CHANNEL_ID" AND
"COOL_I3"."IOV_SINCE">=COALESCE(,:sinc3s) AND "COOL_I3"."IOV_UNTIL">:sinc3u AND
"COOL_I3"."IOV_SINCE"<=:until3 AND "COOL_I3"."IOV_UNTIL" IS NOT NULL)
8 - filter("COOL_I3","IOV_UNTIL">:sinc3u)
11 - access("COOL_II"."CHANNEL_ID"=:B1 AND "COOL_II"."IOV_SINCE" <=:since1)
   BEGIN_OUTLINE_DATA
      IGNORE_OPTIM_EMBEDDED_HINTS
      OPTIMIZER_FEATURES_ENABLE('10.2.0.5')
     ALL ROWS
     OUTLINE_LEAF(@"MAX1")
      OUTLINE_LEAF(@"MAIN")
      OUTLINE(@"MAX1")
      OUTLINE(@"MAIN")
      INDEX(@ "MAIN" "COOL_C2" @ "MAIN" ("XSV_RCWD_F0001_CHANNELS","CHANNEL_ID"))
      INDEX ( @ "MAIN" "COOL_13" @ "MAIN" ("XSV_RCWD_F0001_10VS"." CHANNEL_1D"
"XSV_RCWD_F0001_JOVS"."IOV_SINCE" "XSV_RCWD_F0001_JOVS"."IOV_UNTIL"))
     LEADING(@"MAIN" "COOL_C2"@"MAIN" "COOL_I3"@"MAIN")
      USE_NL(@"MAIN" "COOL_I3"@"MAIN")
      PUSH_SUBQ(@"MAX1")
      INDEX (@ "MAX1" "COOL_11" @ "MAX1" ("XSV_RCWD_F0001_IOVS","CHANNEL_1D"
"XSV_RCWD_F0001_IOVS"."IOV_SINCE" "XSV_RCWD_F0001_IOVS"."IOV_UNTIL"))
   END_OUTLINE_DATA
                                                      Oracle 10.2.0.5
```



COOL – Oracle performance tests (2/2)

- Was it worth all this effort? Yes, definitely!
 - Test infrastructure was developed to react to issues, but became a tool for proactive QA (e.g. in software upgrades)
 - Oracle server migration 10g to 11g: detecting a problem in Oracle 11.2.0.2 (and its resolution in 11.2.0.3) was a matter of days
 - Oracle server migration 11g to 12c: very fast validation checks





Conclusions

- Testing and QA are top priorities in CORAL / COOL
 - Tests account for 30% of software (100k/300k lines of code),
 probably for even more of the development time and effort
 - Functional tests (from unit tests to complex integration tests),
 performance tests, static code analysis and other QA tools...
- Test-driven development pays off (and is fun!)
 - Including tests upfront is easier and more efficient than trying to add them a posteriori (and preventing is better than fixing)
- Designing and implementing tests is just as important as developing libraries and applications!

