Floating-point profiling of ACTS using Verrou

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Numerical stability is not only critical to the correctness of scientific computations, but also has a direct impact on their software efficiency as it affects the convergence of iterative methods and the available choices of floating-point precision.

Verrou is a Valgrind-based tool which challenges the stability of floating-point code by injecting random rounding errors in computations (a restricted form of Monte Carlo Arithmetic). Through bisection techniques, this tool is able to locate which parts of a codebase are correlated with significant losses of numerical accuracy.

The ACTS project aims to establish a experiment-agnostic track reconstruction toolkit. It originates from the ATLAS Run2 tracking software and has already received strong adoption by FCC-hh, and is being evaluated for possible use by the CLICdp and Belle 2 experiments.

We have used Verrou to evaluate the numerical stability of ACTS' Runge-Kutta track propagation. As this step is known to be a reconstruction bottleneck for many experiments, we expect significant performance gains to be achievable by introducing reduced-precision arithmetic in it. In this talk, we will present the results of this study and discuss the more general applicability of Monte Carlo arithmetic to High Energy Physics software.

Authors: CHAMONT, David (LAL); GRASLAND, Hadrien Benjamin (Université Paris-Saclay (FR))

Co-authors: Mr FÉVOTTE, François (EDF); LATHUILIÈRE, Bruno

Presenters: GRASLAND, Hadrien Benjamin (Université Paris-Saclay (FR)); LATHUILIÈRE, Bruno

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