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PAT: the CMS Physics Analysis Toolkit

We review the options for performing user analysis at CMS. The recent work emphasized the improvement of
the Physics Analysis Toolkit (PAT), a high-level analysis layer enabling the development of common analysis
efforts across and within Physics Analysis Groups. PAT aims at fulfilling the needs of most CMS analyses,
providing both ease-of-use for the beginner and flexibility for the advanced user. The main PAT concepts are
described in detail and some examples from realistic physics analyses are given.

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