

# News and progress from the ACTS workshop

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TrackOpt Meeting  
27<sup>th</sup> April 2026

# ACTS workshop @ NIKHEF

- Hackathon-style mini workshop.
  - Few talks, more time for discussion.
  - Sit with the experts, and do work.
- Activities planned beforehand:
  - Include the information of the first hit of each reconstructed track.
  - Develop a robust simulation setup for dataset generation.

ACTS Workshop 2026 @ NIKHEF

20–24 Apr 2026  
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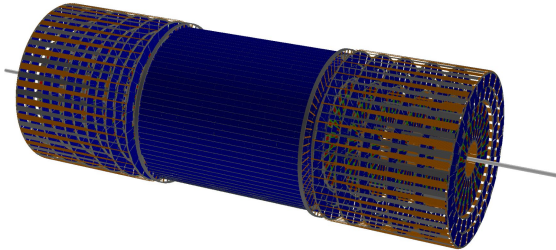
# ACTS: A Common Tracking Software

- Evolved from *ATLAS Common Tracking Software*
- Key Features:
  - Flexible tracking geometry description.
  - Simple and efficient event data model.
  - Algorithms for seed finding, track propagation, track fitting and primary vertexing.
- Designed in modern C++ (C++17/20): emphasis on parallel execution.
- Existing primary vertexing algorithms in ACTS:
  - Iterative Vertex Finder (IVF)
  - Adaptive Multi-Vertex Finder (AMVF)

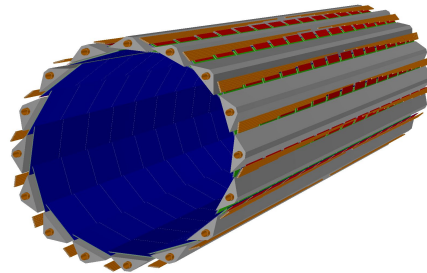


# ODD: Open Data Detector

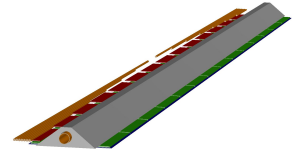
- Designed for algorithm research and development.
  - Based on the detector used in the [TrackML](#) challenge.
  - Provides a template for an HL-LHC detector, inspired by ATLAS Inner Tracker (ITk) upgrade.
- ODD serves as a crucial platform for testing and benchmarking ACTS track reconstruction algorithms. It provides a full reconstruction chain.
  - We extend the ACTS+ODD ecosystem for our secondary vertexing research for HL-LHC.



The full Open Data Detector



Innermost layer ( $r = 36$  mm)



A single stave

# News #1: The ColliderML dataset

- ODD has been extended to include calorimeters (ECL and HCL).
  - Plans to include muon system as well.
- A official simulated dataset is now available on [Hugging Face](#).
  - Includes both inner tracker and calorimeter information.
  - Contains everything we need for our secondary vertexing research.
  - Available in ML friendly parquet format.



The dataset is organized into multiple configurations, each representing a combination of:

- Physics process (e.g., [tbar](#), ggf, dihiggs)
- Pileup condition (pu0 = no PU, pu200 = HL-LHC PU)
- Object type (particles, tracker\_hits, calo\_hits, tracks)

# More info on the ColliderML dataset

- Provides standard data-ingestion pipeline.
  - Eliminates (most of) the problem we had in sharing our dataset with computer scientists.
  - Comes with a dedicated python package to manage this huge (~ 20 TB) dataset.
    - For download:

```
colliderml download --channels ttbar --pileup pu0 --objects particles,tracker_hits,calo_hits,tracks --max-events 200
```
    - For ingestion:

```
from colliderml.core import load_tables, collect_tables
cfg = {
    "dataset_id": "CERN/ColliderML-Release-1",
    "channels": "ttbar",
    "pileup": "pu0",
    "objects": ["particles", "tracker_hits", "calo_hits", "tracks"],
    "split": "train",
    "lazy": False,
    "max_events": 200,
}
tables = load_tables(cfg)
frames = collect_tables(tables) # dict[str, pl.DataFrame]
# e.g. frames["particles"], frames["tracker_hits"] – one row per event, list columns
```
- Also compatible with the Hugging Face *datasets* package.

```
from datasets import load_dataset
ds = load_dataset("CERN/ColliderML-Release-1", "ttbar_pu0_particles", split="train", streaming=True)
```

# News #2: pyACTS

- Install (part of) the ACTS package using a single command:
  - `pip install pyacts`
- Lets you write your own “algorithm” in pure python:
  - Perfect for quick prototyping, specially when the expensive “tool” is written in C++.



```
ProcessCode CppTrackFinder::execute(const AlgorithmContext& ctx) const {  
    const auto& spacepoints = m_spacepoints(ctx);  
    ProtoTrackContainer prototracks{};  
    m_prototracks(ctx, std::move(prototracks));  
    return ProcessCode::SUCCESS;  
}
```



```
def execute(self, ctx):  
    spacepoints = self.spacepoints(ctx.eventStore)  
    prototracks = acts.examples.ProtoTrackContainer()  
    self.prototracks(ctx, prototracks)  
    return acts.examples.ProcessCode.SUCCESS
```

# More info on pyACTS

- [pyACTS](#) is designed to work with the [ColliderML](#) dataset.
  - Support for reading parquet file is coming soon!
  - It can already read ROOT files using uproot.
  - Lets us build flexible data-ingestion pipeline.
    - For example, perform “track-pair billoir fit” by calling appropriate “tool” on-the-fly.
- Already created my first [pull request](#) to the ACTS project to improve the uproot based ROOT file readers.


perf(python): Implement buffered access in uproot based readers

#5379 


 Open

[diptaparna](#) wants to merge 6 commits into [acts-project:main](#) from [diptaparna:limit-uproot-nevents](#) 

# Planned work #1: Include the information of the first hit

- The hits used to reconstruct a track are stored as a linked list.
  - The head points to the last hit.
    - This is required because of the way Kalman Filter and ambiguity resolution works.
  - Needs a special step to create the backward-links.
    - The ACTS expats at the workshop immediately pointed out this technicality.
- Plans (as of now):
  - Locally modify the TrackSummaryWriter to include this info. 
    - This won't be merged into the upstream ACTS project.
  - Information of all the hits is already present in the ColliderML dataset.
    - Trivial to get the last hit associated with a track, as part of data-ingestion pipeline.

# Planned work #2: A robust simulation setup

- Currently, we were running our ODD simulation on OMNI cluster in this way:
  - Use Geant4 and other dependencies from CVMFS.
    - Broken CVMFS access was the greatest hurdle.
    - Spent countless hours to fix that, but with only partial temporary success.
  - Work in a EL9 container.
    - OMNI cluster runs on EL8, which is not supported by LCG stack.
    - Manually compiling all the dependencies for EL8 was practically impossible.
- Suggested workaround: Migrate to the new [spack](#) based package system.
  - Absolutely no CVMFS access needed.
    - The Geant4 data files (~ 5 GB) are also downloaded locally.
  - Full ACTS+ODD chain is now running on a Ubuntu based OS on my laptop. 
  - Next step: implement the same on OMNI cluster.

# Next steps

- Implement on-the-fly track-pair Billoir fit as part of the data-ingestion pipeline to use the official ClusterML dataset for our vertexing research.
  - Using pyACTS or by some other means.
- Implement spack-based ACTS+ODD full gem+sim+reco pipeline on OMNI.
  - Fully offline, no CVMFS access, preferably without using any container.
- Resume the actual ML research using the HyperGraph based approach.
  - Already got several ideas from DPG:
    - CAT Finder and BAT Finder at Belle II.

