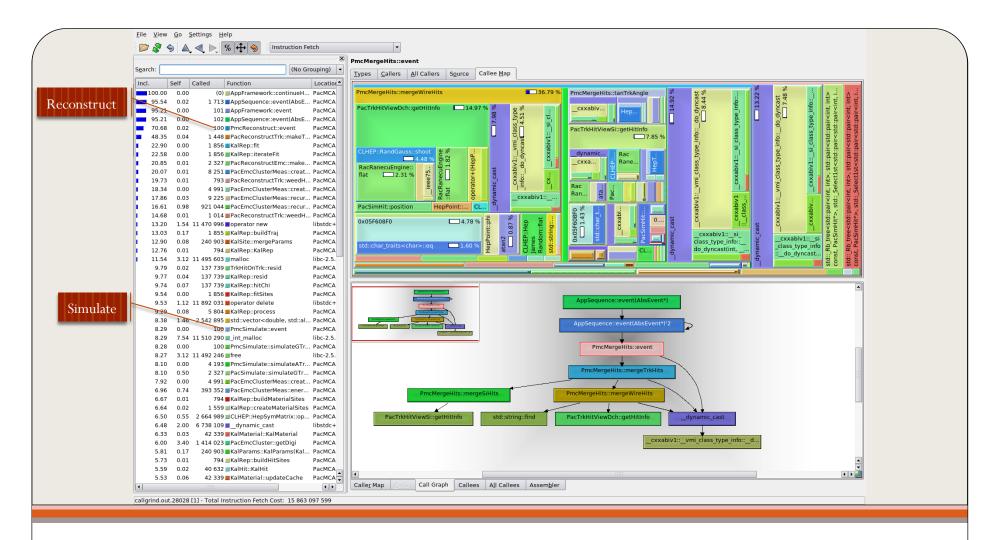
Speed Improvements in Hit Merging

Doug Roberts
University of Maryland

Overview

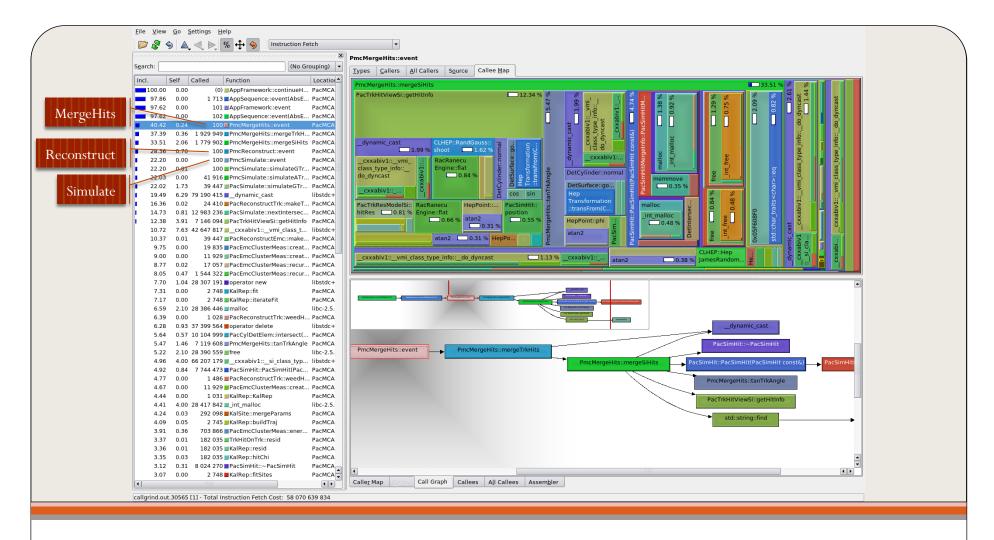
- Prior to the introduction of backgrounds in FastSim, the Hit Merging code ran at a reasonable speed relative to other code
- However, with backgrounds the time spent in hit merging jumped way up.
- Reminder: the merging is basically a double-nested loop over SimHits. The more SimHits, the more time spent.
- Ran tests using:
 - V0.2.2
 - PacMCApp
 - callgrind
- Background mix used for tests was Bhabha, RadBhabha, Pair



V0.2.2 Out-of-the-Box, no Background

PmcMergeHits::event doesn't appear above; it's too far down the list

Total Cost: 803,531,975 (5.07%) (not sure what the units are?)



V0.2.2 Out-of-the-Box with Background

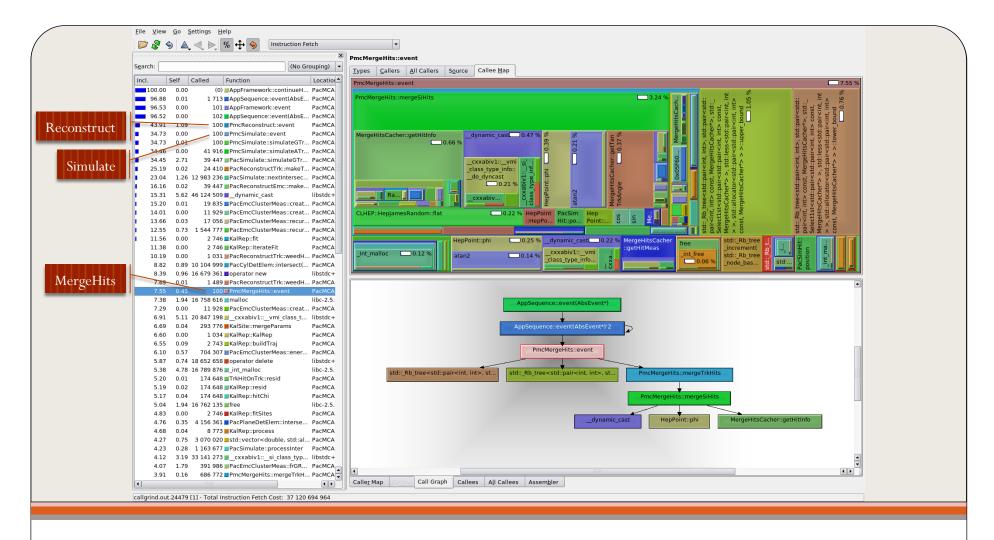
PmcMergeHits jumps above PmcReconstruct and PmcSimulate! Becomes single most expensive module

Total Cost: 23,470,429,356 (40.42%)

Nearly a factor of 30 increase in cost

Speed Improvements

- Using callgrind output, it was pretty easy to see where the time was being spent
- Strategy:
 - Cache any expensive calculations
 - Created a new object to store the cached info
 - Easy. There was no dynamic data.
 - Includes caching results from some expensive dynamic_cast calls
 - Rearrange cuts: cheap early, expensive late
 - Found some functions that were passing objects as arguments instead of pointers
 - Lots of copy c'tor calls
 - Got rid of a std::string::find() call



After speed fixes, with background

Total Cost: 2,804,375,274 (7.55%)

More than a factor of 8 improvement

Only ~3.5 times slower than original no-background version

For comparison, Simulate is ~ 10 times slower, Reconstruct is only ~ 1.5 times slower

Conclusion

- Able to get the merging code's speed to a (hopefully) acceptable level
- There should be virtually no difference in the output. It's just faster
- callgrind is a useful tool!