



# ICECUBE SUMMER SCHOOL

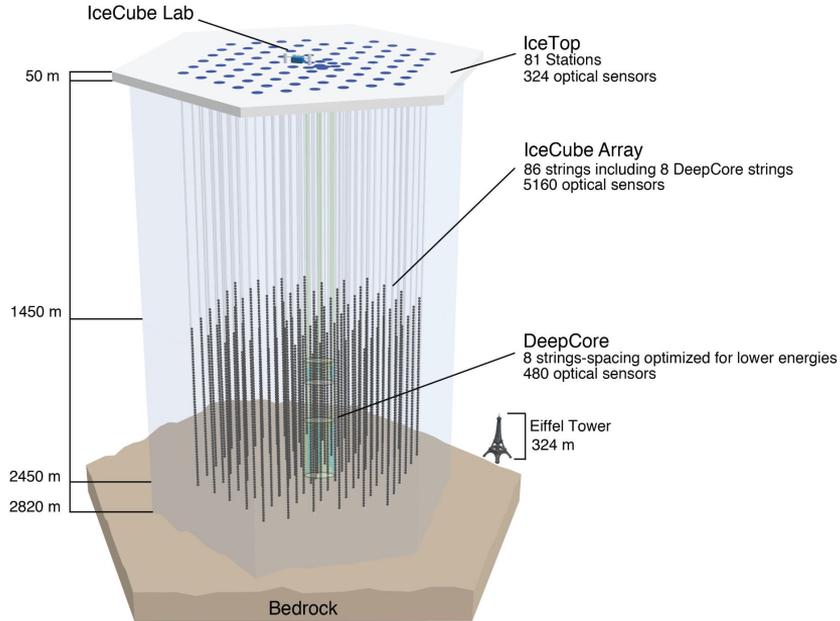
JUNE 2-6, 2025 • MADISON, WI

## IceTray

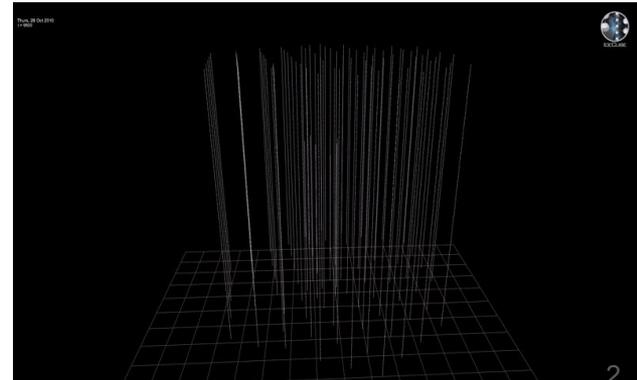
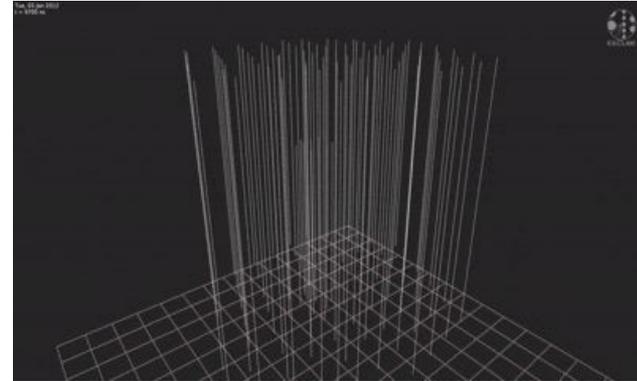
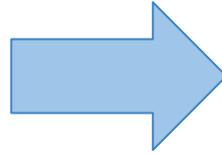
Hannah Erpenbeck, Maxwell Nakos

Presentation heavily adapted from Kevin Meagher

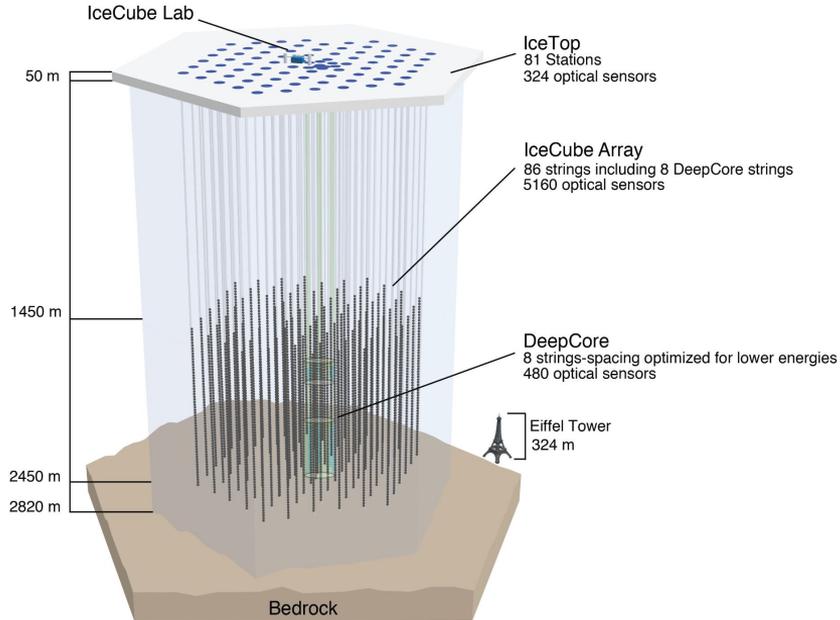
# From IceCube the detector to neutrino events



?



# IceTray - A Swiss Army knife for IceCube analysis.



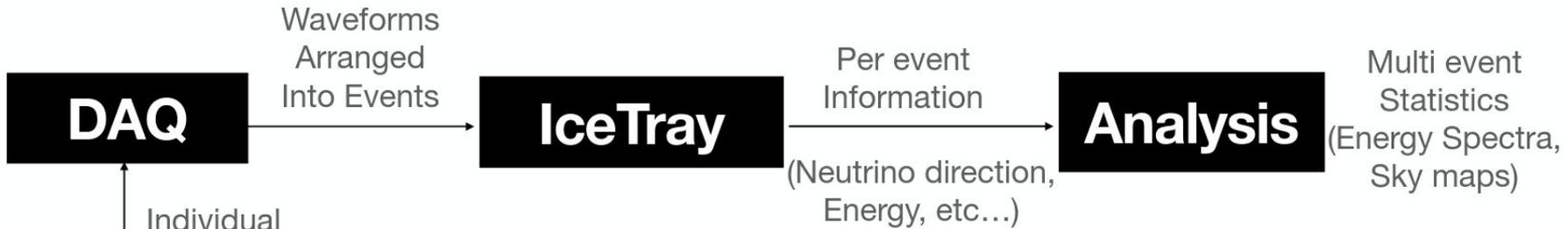
IceTray is IceCube's Framework for serial processing of IceCube Data.

- ❖ 5160 DOMs send information
- ❖ One event  $\sim 10 \mu\text{s}$

Reconstruct the event including energy and direction

<https://docs.icecube.aq/icetray/main/info/quickstart.html>

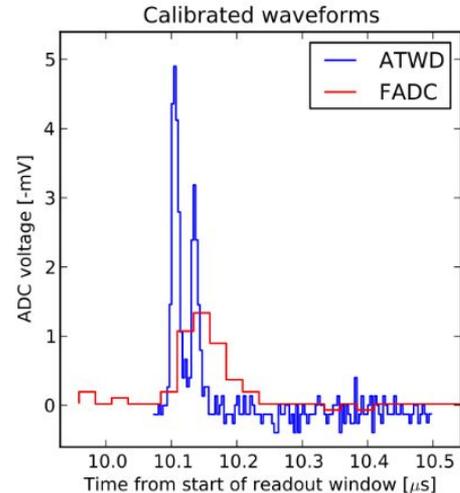
# Overview of IceCube Processing Pipelines



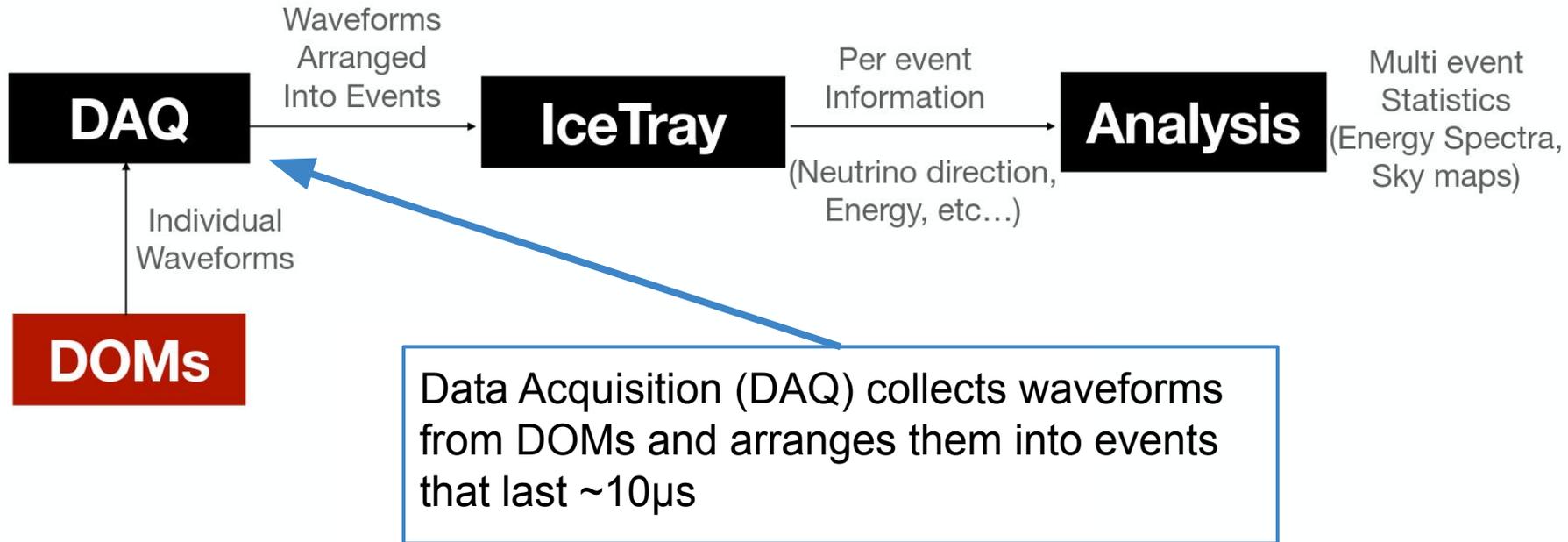
**DOMs**

Individual Waveforms

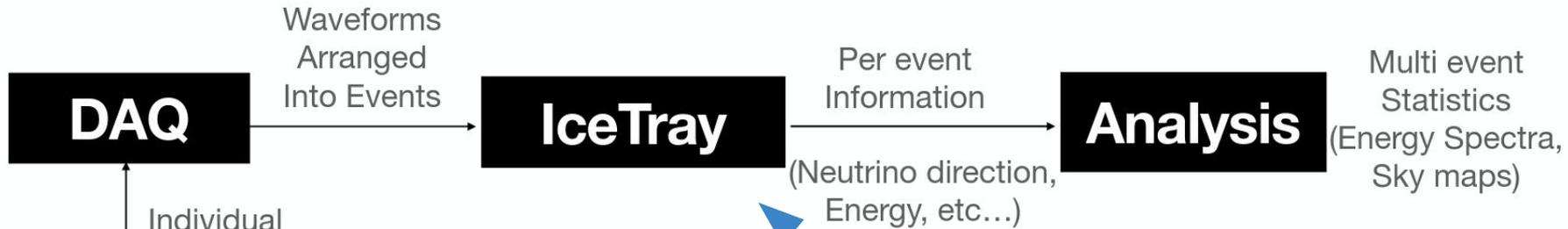
DOMs record light from the PMT and save a time series as a waveform



# Overview of IceCube Processing Pipelines



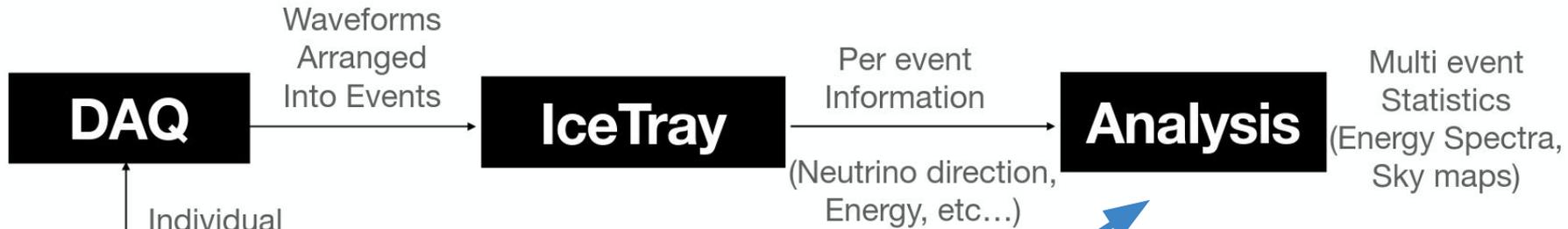
# Overview of IceCube Processing Pipelines



IceTray processes the waveforms into pulses and performs reconstructions on those pulses to record information about the specific event.

Examples include: Zenith, azimuth, total charge, muon energy

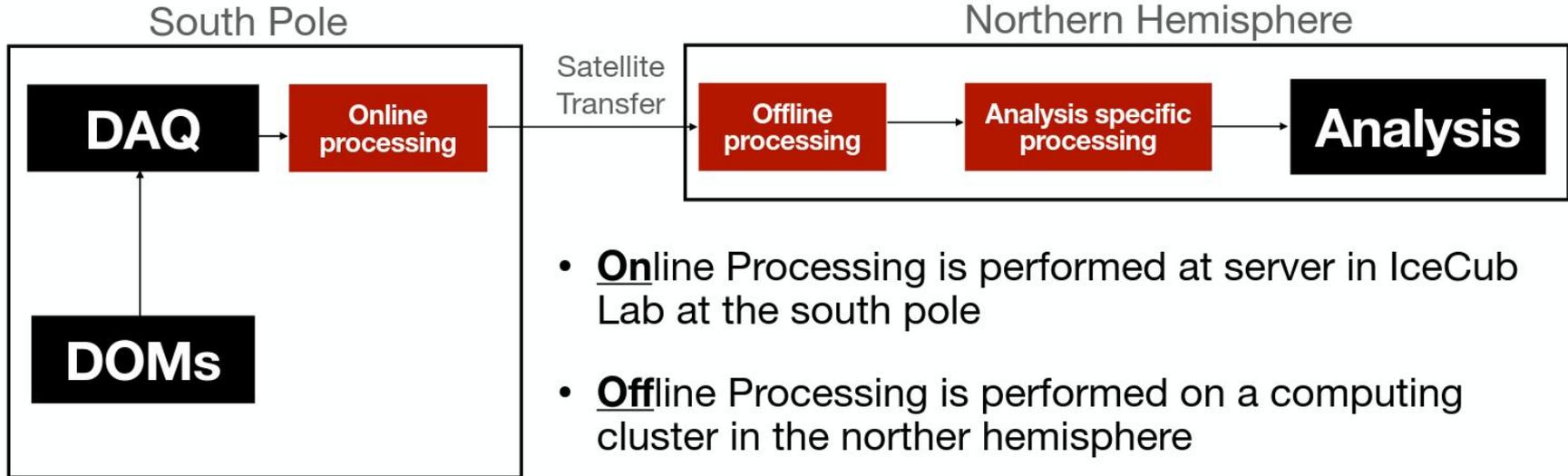
# Overview of IceCube Processing Pipelines



Analysis combines individual reconstructed quantities from multiple events and combines them into a statistic

Example: Zenith and azimuth from all the events to form a skymap or energy from each event to form an energy spectrum

# More detailed view of processing



- **O**nline Processing is performed at server in IceCub Lab at the south pole
- **O**ffline Processing is performed on a computing cluster in the norther hemisphere
- Most analyses require additional processing beyond what is provided by offline processing, usually handled by working groups

# Getting Help

IceTray is a framework that has grown a lot over time

- Works great for IceCube
- Very specifically designed for IceCube
- Many people have used it for more than 10 years and still need help
- There are experts for every part of it

IceTray Documentation : <https://docs.icecube.aq/icetray/main/>

Ask for help on slack: **#software**

If documentation is missing or unclear or incorrect please file an [issue on github](#)

# Detailed Look at IceTray

# Building Blocks of IceTray

## **I3 File**

example.i3  
compressedExample.i3.zst

- Standard file format for IceCube data
- Used for both experimental data and simulation
- I3 files are used for serial processing of data
- The frame is the fundamental unit of an i3 file

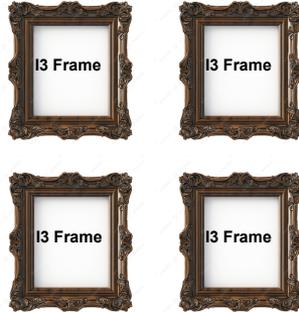
[https://docs.icecube.aq/icetray/main/projects/dataio/portable\\_binary\\_archive.html#i3file](https://docs.icecube.aq/icetray/main/projects/dataio/portable_binary_archive.html#i3file)

# Building Blocks of IceTray

## I3 File

example.i3  
compressedExample.i3.zst

## I3 Frame



- I3Frames are a data container that stores all information about a particular event ( $\sim 10\mu\text{s}$ )
  - Raw waveforms, processed pulses, and reconstruction results
- Any data structure that IceTray supports can be put into a frame
- Every object in the frame has a name or key
- I3Frames are what is written to disk (in I3Files) to save data

# Building Blocks of IceTray

## I3 File

example.i3  
compressedExample.i3.zst

## I3 Frame

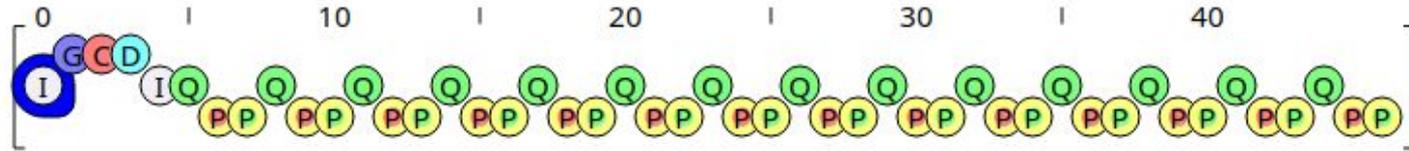


...

## I3Frame Types

- I I3Frame::TrayInfo
  - G I3Frame::Geometry
  - C I3Frame::Calibration
  - D I3Frame::DetectorStatus
  - P I3Frame::Physics
  - Q I3Frame::DAQ
- and others (special)

# I3 Frames



Metadata (usually once per file):

“I” (TrayInfo): Information on how the file was previously processed

Detector and Run specific information:

“G” (Geometry): Geometric coordinates of each DOM

“C” (Calibration): Calibration constants relating to the photomultiplier tubes

“D” (Detector Status): How the data acquisition system was configured for this particular (8 hour) run. E.g. which DOMs were on.

Event Info: ( ~10 us of data):

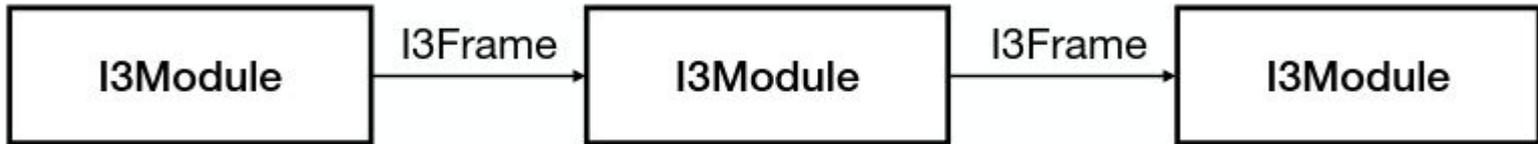
“Q” (DAQ): Waveforms recorded for this event

“P” (Physics): High level pulse information and reconstructions



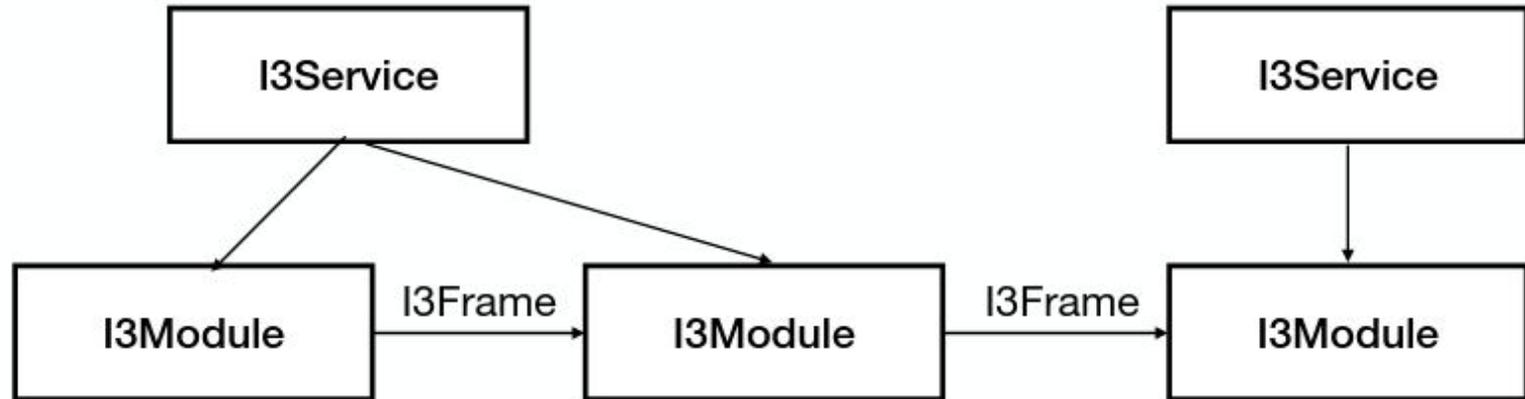
# I3Module

- I3Modules take data from I3Frames and process them and add more data to the frame
- Modules are arranged in a “Tray” which passes frames from one module to the next
- Each frame is processed serially — Every module will process a particular frame before the tray moves on to the next event (frame)



# I3 Service

- Services provide code to multiple modules
- Modules can access services such as a random number generator



# Using IceTray



# Visualization: - Dataio-shovel

## Useful commands:

- “enter”: open an object in a cleaned human readable format
- “x”: open a module in XML format
- “q”: exit an object or the file
  
- “e”: go to an event number
- “g”: go to a frame number
- “}”: go to last frame
- “{“: go to first frame
  
- “i”: enter a python shell
- “L”: import a library
  
- “?”: show all available commands

# Dataio-shovel Demo



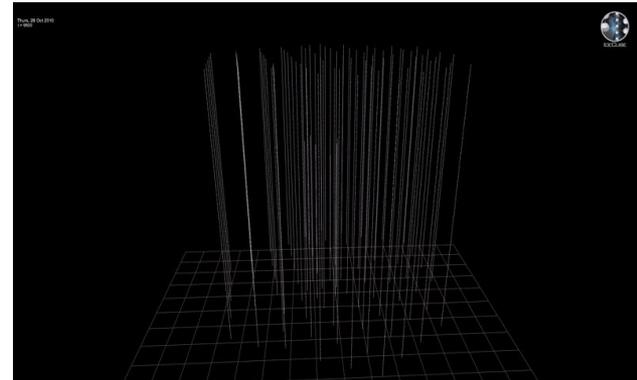
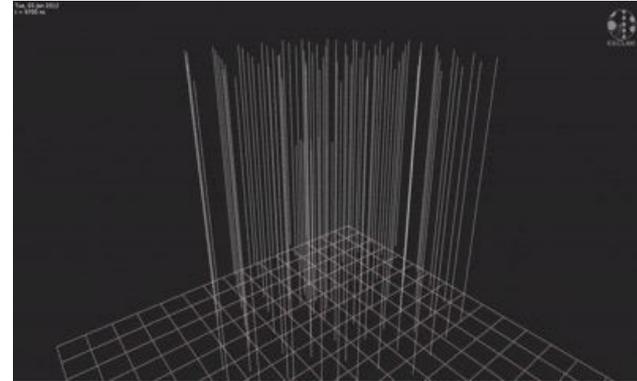
# Visualization: - Steamshovel

## To use:

1. Navigate to the build folder of your IceTray
2. Enter the IceTray environment  
`./env-shell.sh`
3. Open steamshovel `steamshovel`
4. Open 1) the GCD file and then 2) an event I3 file in steamshovel

## Documentation:

<https://docs.icecube.aq/icetray/main/projects/steamshovel/index.html>



# Tutorial

# Connect to the cobalts

```
ssh *user*@pub.icecube.wisc.edu
```

```
ssh *user*@cobalt.icecube.wisc.edu
```

Information:

[https://wiki.icecube.wisc.edu/index.php/  
Computing\\_Services](https://wiki.icecube.wisc.edu/index.php/Computing_Services)

[https://wiki.icecube.wisc.edu/index.php/  
SSH#config](https://wiki.icecube.wisc.edu/index.php/SSH#config)

Or setup .ssh/config with:

```
Host pub*.icecube.wisc.edu
  User *****
  Compression yes
  GSSAPIAuthentication yes
  GSSAPIDelegateCredentials yes
```

```
Host cobalt.icecube.wisc.edu
  User *****
  ControlMaster auto
  ForwardAgent yes
  KeepAlive yes
  GSSAPIAuthentication yes
  GSSAPIDelegateCredentials yes
  LocalForward 5555 localhost:5555
  ProxyJump pub.icecube.wisc.edu
```

# Load IceTray and try dataio-shovel

1. In your terminal connect to the cobalts
2. `eval `/cvmfs/icecube.opensciencegrid.org/py3-v4.4.0/setup.sh``
3. `/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/icetray/build/env-shell.sh`

Then i.e. either run a python script (that imports icetray) or use dataio-shovel:

4. `dataio-shovel`  
`/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/i3_files/Level2_IC86.2023_data_Run00138`  
`821_84_781_GCD_withSLCcal2.i3.zst`  
`/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/i3_files/example_Run00138821_Subrun000`  
`00000_00000000.i3.zst`

# An example of a Simple Tray

## Tray:

```
1 # Import icetray and dataio
2 from icecube import icetray, dataio
3
4 # Create a new Tray
5 tray = icetray.I3Tray()
6
7 # Add a module that produces an
8 # infinite number of empty frames
9 tray.Add("I3InfiniteSource")
10
11 # Add a module that prints the
12 # contents of each frame
13 tray.Add("Dump")
14
15 # Start the execution of the tray
16 # But only do 10 frames
17 tray.Execute(10)
```

## Output:

```
----- This is frame number 1 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 2 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 3 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 4 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 5 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 6 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 7 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 8 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 9 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
----- This is frame number 10 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
]
NOTICE (I3Tray): I3Tray finishing... (I3Tray.cxx:525 in void I3Tray::Execute(bool, unsigned int))
```

# Add an I3MCTree to the frame

```
1 # Import icetray and dataio
2 from icetube import icetray, dataio, dataclasses
3
4 def generator(frame):
5     # Add tree containing Monte Carlo particles
6     # to the frame
7     frame["tree"] = dataclasses.I3MCTree()
8
9 # Create a new Tray
10 tray = icetray.I3Tray()
11
12 # Add a module that produces an
13 # infinite number of empty frames
14 tray.Add("I3InfiniteSource")
15
16 # add generator to the
17 tray.Add(generator, streams=[icetray.I3Frame.DAQ])
18
19 # Add a module that prints the
20 # contents of each frame
21 tray.Add("Dump")
22
23 # Start the execution of the tray
24 # But only do 10 frames
25 tray.Execute(10)
26
```

Modules  
written  
Python

Modules  
written  
In C++

```
----- This is frame number 1 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 2 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 3 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 4 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 5 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 6 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 7 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 8 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 9 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 10 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'tree' [DAQ] ==> TreeBase::Tree<I3Particle, I3ParticleID, i3hash<I3ParticleID>> (unk)
]
NOTICE (I3Tray): I3Tray finishing... (I3Tray.cxx:525 in void I3Tray::Execute(bool, unsigned int))
```

# Use a random service

```
1 # Import everything
2 from icecube import icetray, dataio, phys_services
3
4 # Module that gets a random number and prints it
5 class PrintRandom(icetray.I3Module):
6     def __init__(self, context):
7         icetray.I3Module.__init__(self, context)
8     def DAQ(self, frame):
9         #get a random number from the random number service
10        rnd = self.context["I3RandomService"].uniform(1)
11        #print that number
12        print(rnd)
13
14 # Create a new Tray
15 tray = icetray.I3Tray()
16
17 # add a random number service to the context with seed = 42
18 tray.context["I3RandomService"] = phys_services.I3GSLRandomService(42)
19
20 # Add a module that produces an
21 # infinite number of empty frames
22 tray.Add("I3InfiniteSource")
23
24 # add the module we defined above to the tray
25 tray.Add(PrintRandom)
26
27 # Start the execution of the tray
28 # But only do 10 frames
29 tray.Execute(10)
30
```

```
0.37454011430963874
0.7965429842006415
0.9507143115624785
0.18343478767201304
0.7319939383305609
0.7796909974422306
0.5986584862694144
0.5968501614406705
0.1560186385177076
0.4458327575121075
NOTICE (I3Tray): I3Tray finishing... (I3Tray.cxx:525 in void I3Tray::Execute(bool, unsigned int))
```

# Add a random number to the frame

```
1 # Import everything
2 from icecube import icetray, dataio, dataclasses, phys_services
3
4 # Module that gets a random number and prints it
5 class AddRandomToFrame(icetray.I3Module):
6     def __init__(self, context):
7         icetray.I3Module.__init__(self, context)
8     def DAQ(self, frame):
9         #get a random number from the random number service
10        rnd = self.context["I3RandomService"].uniform(1)
11        #add that number to the frame as an I3Double
12        frame["random_number"] = dataclasses.I3Double(rnd)
13        # You need to pass the frame on to the next module
14        self.PushFrame(frame)
15
16 # Create a new Tray
17 tray = icetray.I3Tray()
18
19 # add a random number service to the context with seed = 42
20 tray.context["I3RandomService"] = phys_services.I3GSLRandomService(42)
21
22 # Add a module that produces an
23 # infinite number of empty frames
24 tray.Add("I3InfiniteSource")
25
26 # add the module we defined above to the
27 tray.Add(AddRandomToFrame)
28
29 # add module to print each frame
30 tray.Add("Dump")
31
32 # Start the execution of the tray
33 # But only do 10 frames
34 tray.Execute(10)
```

```
----- This is frame number 1 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 2 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 3 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 4 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 5 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 6 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 7 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 8 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 9 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 10 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
```

```

1 # Import everything
2 from icecube import icetray, dataio, dataclasses, phys_services
3
4 # Module that gets a random number and prints it
5 class AddRandomToFrame(icetray.I3Module):
6     def __init__(self, context):
7         icetray.I3Module.__init__(self, context)
8     def DAQ(self, frame):
9         #get a random number from the random number service
10        rnd = self.context["I3RandomService"].uniform(1)
11        #add that number to the frame as an I3Double
12        frame["random_number"] = dataclasses.I3Double(rnd)
13        # You need to pass the frame on to the next module
14        self.PushFrame(frame)
15
16 # define filter that removes half of the events
17 def filter(frame):
18     return frame['random_number']<0.5
19
20 # Create a new Tray
21 tray = icetray.I3Tray()
22
23 # add a random number service to the context with seed = 42
24 tray.context["I3RandomService"] = phys_services.I3GSLRandomService(42)
25
26 # Add a module that produces an
27 # infinite number of empty frames
28 tray.Add("I3InfiniteSource")
29
30 # add the module we defined above to the frame
31 tray.Add(AddRandomToFrame)
32
33 #add filter to the tray
34 tray.Add(filter, streams = [icetray.I3Frame.DAQ])
35
36 # add module to print each frame
37 tray.Add("Dump")
38
39 # Start the execution of the tray
40 # But only do 10 frames
41 tray.Execute(10)

```

# Use a filter to remove Events based on the contents of the frame

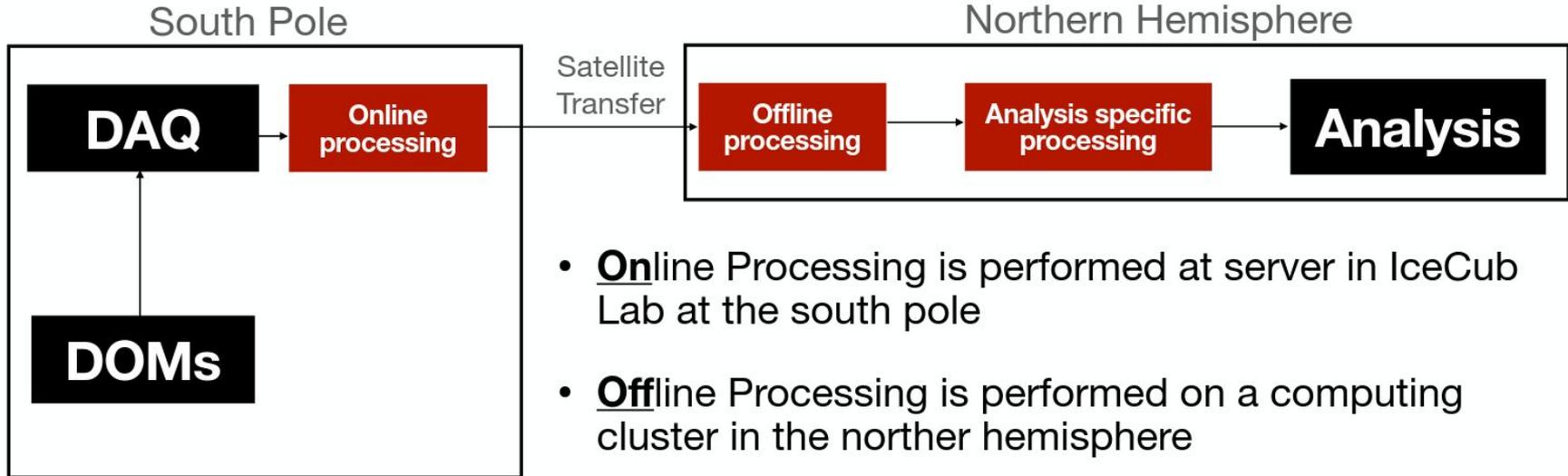
```

----- This is frame number 1 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 2 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 3 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
----- This is frame number 4 -----
[ I3Frame (DAQ):
  'random_number' [DAQ] ==> I3PODHolder<double> (unk)
]
NOTICE (I3Tray): I3Tray finishing... (I3Tray.cxx:525 in void I3Tray::Execute(bool, unsigned int))

```

# Offline Filter example

# More detailed view of processing



- **O**nline Processing is performed at server in IceCub Lab at the south pole
- **O**ffline Processing is performed on a computing cluster in the norther hemisphere
- Most analyses require additional processing beyond what is provided by offline processing, usually handled by working groups

# Read in a file and then use existing information

```
#The traysegment for the charge filter
@icetray.traysegment
def ChargeFilter(tray, name):

    #It is common to apply a filter to only specific frames
    #In this case, we want to apply the filter only to InIceSplit frames
    #also we want to use the Online Filtering information
    #So we check for two online filters.
    def online_filters_passed(frame):
        """Return True if frame passed any of the specified filters."""
        if not which_split("InIceSplit")(frame):
            return False

        filter_names = ["OnlineL2Filter_23", "SoftwareSMT12Filt_23"]
        return any(frame["OnlineFilterMask"][filter_name].prescale_passed for filter_name in filter_names)

    # apply HomogenizedQTot to the SplitInIcePulses
    # it calculates the charge of an event using the given pulse
    #The output is an I3Double named HomogenizedQTot with the total charge in photoelectrons
    from icecube import VHESelfVeto
    tray.AddModule("HomogenizedQTot", name+"_qtot_causal",
        Pulses="SplitInIcePulses",
        Output="HomogenizedQTot",
        If = online_filters_passed)

    # Cut on the newly calculated charge of the event
    # Save the result of the cut in a boolean I3Bool named Charge_Cut_Bool
    def cut(frame):
        cut_passed = frame["HomogenizedQTot"].value>100.
        if cut_passed:
            print(f"Cut passed for event {frame['I3EventHeader'].event_id} with charge {frame['HomogenizedQTot'].value:.2f} PE")
            frame["Charge_Cut_Bool"] = icetray.I3Bool(cut_passed)

    tray.AddModule(cut, "cut", Streams=[icetray.I3Frame.Physics], If=online_filters_passed)
```

# Reading in a file, writing new keys and saving them in another file

```
#Now open the i3 file and apply the filter
# Create a new Tray
tray = icetray.I3Tray()

# a gcd file and an i3 file with data
files = ["/data/user/herpenbeck/bootcamp/i3_files/Level2_IC86.2023_data_Run00138821_84_781_G

#load i3 file
tray.Add(dataio.I3Reader, "reader",
         filenamelist=files)

# Add filter to the tray
tray.AddSegment(ChargeFilter, "ChargeFilter")

# save the output to a new i3 file
output_file = "ChargeFilter_output.i3.zst"
# Write the physics and DAQ frames
# Also write TrayInfo frame which lists modules and services, along with their configuration
tray.AddModule("I3Writer", "EventWriter",
              filename=output_file,
              Streams=[icetray.I3Frame.TrayInfo,
                      icetray.I3Frame.DAQ,
                      icetray.I3Frame.Physics,
                      ])

tray.Execute(100)

# Stop the tray
tray.Finish()

# Print the output file name
print(f"Output written to {output_file}")
```

# Build your own icetray on the cobalts

<https://docs.icecube.aq/icetray/main/info/quickstart.html> = Instructions

Our changes: `git clone git@github.com:icecube/icetray.git src`

Or use a cvmfs version, example:

1. `eval `/cvmfs/icecube.opensciencegrid.org/py3-v4.4.0/setup.sh``
2. `/cvmfs/icecube.opensciencegrid.org/py3-v4.4.0/RHEL_7_x86_64_v2/metaprojects/icetray/v1.13.0/bin/icetray-shell`