

The H1 Data Preservation Project



David M. South*, Michael Steder* on behalf of the H1 collaboration
 *Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, Hamburg, Germany

Future Governance of the H1 Collaboration

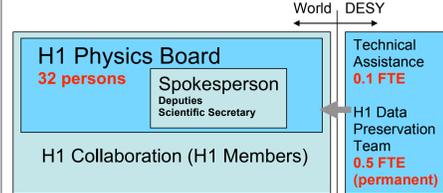


Figure 1: The new organisational model of the H1 Collaboration, which will be adopted in July 2012.

A new model for long-term governance of the H1 Collaboration was adopted in 2011, where the transition from the current model will take place in July 2012. In the new model, the current H1 Collaboration Board (H1CB), which includes representatives from all participating institutes and the H1 Executive Committee, which is a smaller structure elected by the H1CB to meet more regularly, will be replaced by the H1 Physics Board (H1PB). The mandate of this board, which comprises a broad selection of H1 members from all physics and technical working groups is: to be the general contact point for H1 physics and data beyond the collaboration lifetime; to communicate with the host lab (DESY) and other experiments; to supervise the H1 data; to maintain contact with the global DPHEP initiative; and to overview further publications using H1 data. The new organisational model is illustrated in the figure 1.

H1 Data and MC Samples

The good and medium quality H1 raw data comprises around 75 TB and is the basic format to be preserved. A full set of Compressed Data Storage Tape (CDST) data for the 1996-2007 period is about 15-20 TB, and the analysis level files (H1OO) are around 4 TB. Other data, such as random trigger streams, noise files, cosmic-data, luminosity-monitor and other calibration data amounts to only a few TB. Standard MC sets for preservation will also be defined, where the total data volume likely to be similar to real data. The total preservation volume, including MC and non-collision data, is conservatively estimated to about 0.5 PB.

Data Preservation Models

As certain analyses may require the production of new simulated signals or even require a re-reconstruction of the real and/or simulated data, the H1 Collaboration plans to keep the full software chain from raw data to analysis level functional ("level 4"). It is clear that this level of preservation will necessarily include the full range of both experiment-specific and external software dependencies, although attempts to minimise the latter should be carried out in the initial step. However the clear benefit of such a model is that the full physics analysis chain is available and full flexibility is retained for future use.

Experiments	Preservation Model	Use Case
H1	1. Provide additional documentation	Publication related info search
H1	2. Preserve the data in a simplified format	Outreach, simple training analyses
H1	3. Preserve the analysis level software and data format	Full scientific analysis, based on the existing reconstruction
H1	4. Preserve the reconstruction and simulation software as well as the basic level data	Retain the full potential of the experimental data

Table 1: Levels of data preservation as suggested by the DPHEP study group.

Simulation, Reconstruction and Analysis Level Software

Simulation and Reconstruction Software

The H1 reconstruction and simulation software, which creates DSTs from the raw data is written mainly in Fortran, but also contains some C and C++. The MC simulation takes the generator files as input and passes them through GEANT 3, taking the relevant run conditions from a database, to produce MC events in the same format as the data - with some additional information. The same reconstruction software as used on the data is then applied to the simulated MC events. As new theory or new experimental methods are likely to be the prime reasons for re-analysing the H1 data, scenarios may arise where only a full preservation model will provide the necessary ingredients, for example if a cut in the current reconstruction turns out to have been too harsh, or a new simulation model, written in an alternative computing language, requires a new interface to the existing code.

Analysis Level Software

The majority of physics analysis performed by the H1 Collaboration is done using a common C++ analysis framework, H1OO. This has had huge benefits in terms of shared analysis code, expert knowledge and calibrations, working environments and, perhaps most importantly, handling the actual data, where the whole collaboration uses the same file format, and more often than not the same physical files. The common H1OO files comprise in reality of two persistent file formats: the *H1 Analysis Tag* (HAT), containing simple variables for use in a fast selection and the larger *micro Object Data Store* (mODS), which contains information on

identified particles. A third H1OO file format, the *Object Data Store* (ODS) is accessed transiently during analysis and is equivalent in content to the DST. The H1OO framework is based on ROOT, and uses its functionality for I/O, data handling, producing histograms, visualisation and so on. ROOT also provides attractive solutions for code documentation, which are fully utilised by H1. Given the level of use in the HEP community, especially at the LHC, it is expected that ROOT will continue to be supported in the long term. Major development of the analysis software is essentially completed with the recent 4.0 release series, which was developed for and in parallel to DST 7.

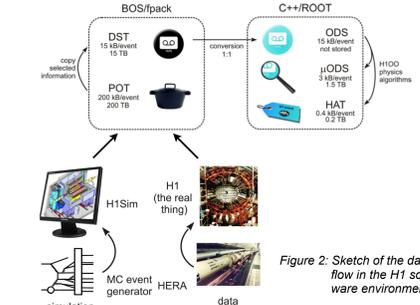


Figure 2: Sketch of the data flow in the H1 software environment.

Non-digital Documentation

A general survey of the state of the non-digital H1 documentation has been performed. There is a great deal of paper documentation: H1 physics and technical talks from pre-web days; detector schematics and blueprints; artefacts from the experimental hall like older logbooks. A future location large enough to store all the documentation for preservation has been secured in the DESY-Library. However, the cataloguing and organisation of large quantities of documentation is also a significant task that can only be done by someone with expert knowledge of the H1 Collaboration.

Cooperation with INSPIRE

The INSPIRE project has offered, via the DESY-Library, to aid the documentation effort and several pilot projects are underway with the HERA collaborations: including the ingestion of internal notes, digitisation of these and electronically cataloguing the publication histories (preliminary results, TO and referee reports, versions of the paper draft). The larger scale digitisation of older H1 documentation is also underway, although given the volume of material, this again has required prioritisation, where preference has been given to plenary meetings.



Figure 3: Jan scanning old log books, H1 storage in library basement.

Structure of the H1 Data Preservation Project

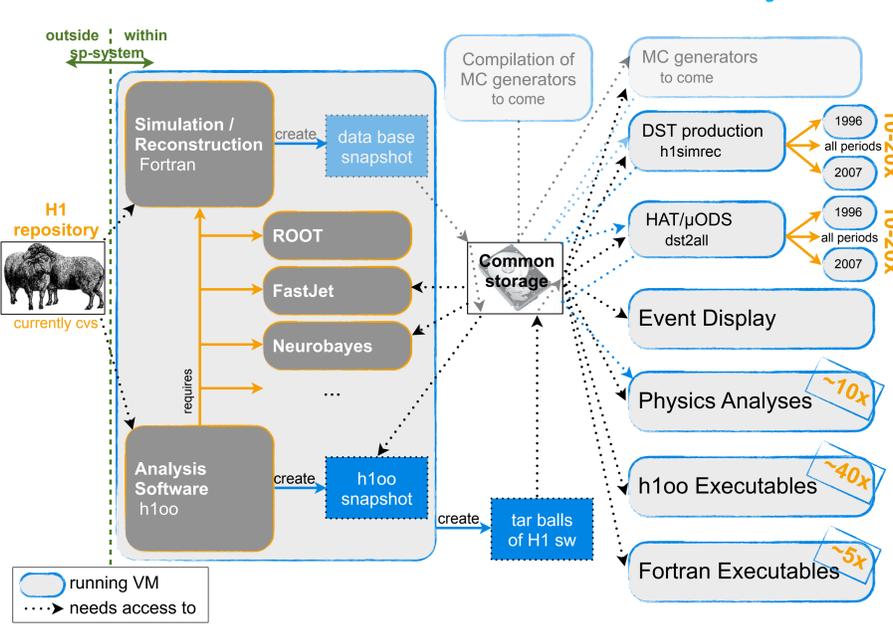


Figure 4: Structure of the H1DP project. The left part summarises the compilation of the full reconstruction and analysis software chain, and its external dependencies. The right part indicates all envisaged validation tests, starting with MC generation/raw data via simulation/reconstruction to physics analyses.

Digital Documentation

A great deal of digital H1 documentation exists, mainly but not exclusively on the official webpages. This includes published papers and preliminary results, review articles and expert notes. In addition, talks from meetings, conferences, lectures, and university courses are also available. There are also many unpublished articles, such as H1-notes and the internal wiki pages that are extensively used by H1. Data quality information (physics and technical) and other electronic documentation like H1 software manuals and notes also contribute. In-house DDL documentation of Fortran software (h1banks) should be updated and/or completed. As mentioned above, the H1OO analysis level software benefits from the automatically generated ROOT documentation in HTML, but only if the code is correctly written, and any missing information should be addressed. Old online shift tools contain much metadata and are particularly vulnerable to loss. Such information has mostly not updated since July 2007 and electronic logbooks (shift, trigger and other detector components) and detailed run information contained in the system supervisor should be secured. Calibration files may still exist on old hardware: in excess of 20 online machines were employed during data taking.



Figure 5: Screenshots of the H1 internal notes on Inspire (password protected).

Software Validation within the DESY-IT sp-system

In order to substantially extend the lifetime of the analysis capability it is beneficial to migrate to the latest software versions and technologies for as long as possible. In collaboration with DESY-IT a framework has been developed to automatically test and validate the software and data against such changes and upgrades to the environment, as well as changes to the experiment software itself. An illustration of this software preservation system (sp-system) is given in figure 6. Technically, this is realised using a virtual environment with different configurations of operating systems (OS) and the relevant software, including any necessary external dependencies.

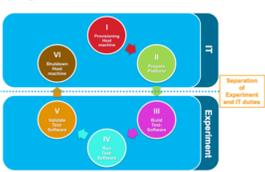


Figure 6: An illustration of the basic idea behind the generic validation framework being developed at DESY.

H1 Data Preservation Project

The preliminary structure of the tests to be installed by the H1 experiment to validate the full analysis chain is shown in figure 4. The left part details the compilation of experimental and external software. This is considered as a series of tests, where the compilation of approximately 100 individual packages is carried out. The resulting binaries are stored as tar-balls on a central storage facility within the validation framework, where they are then accessible and used in the predefined tests, described on the right of the figure. These tests are wide reaching, examining all areas of the H1 software including among others file production ("DST production" and "HAT/mODS"), comparison of analysis histograms ("Physics Analyses") and execution of experiment specific tools and macros ("h1oo/Fortran Executables"). H1 estimates a total of around 250 tests are required, to successfully validate the complete analysis chain, although it should be noted the implementation is still within the development phase.

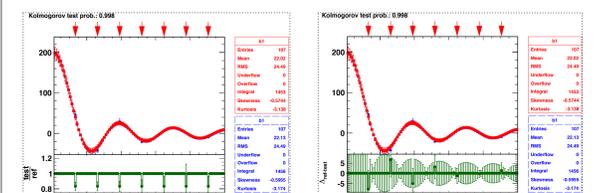


Figure 7: Output of the Root file validation tool (arbitrary histograms), along with the histograms, the ratio or absolute difference can be plotted.

Detailed Status of the H1 Data Preservation Project

Reference Operating System

The main OS used within H1 is Scientific Linux DESY 5 (SLD5), this OS is fully supported by DESY-IT and support is expected from the distributor until at least 2017. The migration to SLD5, which is the base level for the preservation project, was used to streamline the software and identify potential future problems. The default for H1 is SLD5/32-bit.

Migration to 64-bit Systems

The focus of the H1 Software Validation Project right now is on the full migration to 64-bit operating systems, starting with SLD5/64-bit. Compilation of all H1 simulation, reconstruction and analysis level software works with only minor modifications, external dependencies are included in the compilation as long as they are not centrally provided (e.g. Root, Neurobays,...). Incorporating compilation of MC generators is on-going. Files can be produced and accessed, using libraries and executables created within the sp-system. First checks in the validation system yield very promising results and the sp-system allows SLD5/64-bit compatibility to be evaluated by the H1 collaboration.

Next Steps

As soon as SLD5/64-bit is fully validated (by the end of this year), the system will be rigorously tested against SLD6. This next generation OS will only be available in 64-bit, demonstrating the value of the current evaluation. Furthermore, lack of 32-bit support of next generation hardware might make use of a 64-bit OS inevitable well before 2017.

Process	SLS 32bit				SLS 64bit			SL6 64bit		
	Reference	5.26	5.28	5.30	2005	2006	2.3.3	2008 Neuro-0312 bytes	Neuro-3.3.0 bytes	Neuro-3.3.0 bytes
Compilation of s/w	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Generating MC files	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Producing DST files	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Producing h1oo files	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Accessing h1oo files	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Accessing ndb snapshot	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK
Validation	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK	OK

Table 2: Status of the individual steps of the H1 software validation project for different external dependencies.

Display of Results and Book-keeping

Every single job started in the sp-system is related to a unique ID, all scripts and input files used in the test as well as all output files are kept. This allows to validate all version against one another or even to reproduce the result in case that it's lost. In addition to this UID given by the sp-system, all jobs started in the H1DP project are tagged with a description, indicating which software versions were used, and the unix timestamp of the execution to ease the book-keeping.

Display of Software Compilation Result

A script-based webpage lists all available runs for a given description and indicates the status of the compilation for the individual packages with a colored table cell, which is linked to the corresponding output file.

Display of Validation Results

The headline cells of this table open another web page displaying the results of the various validation tests run for this version. Again the results are indicated by colored table cells, which are linked to additional information, like the created histograms or produced Root files.

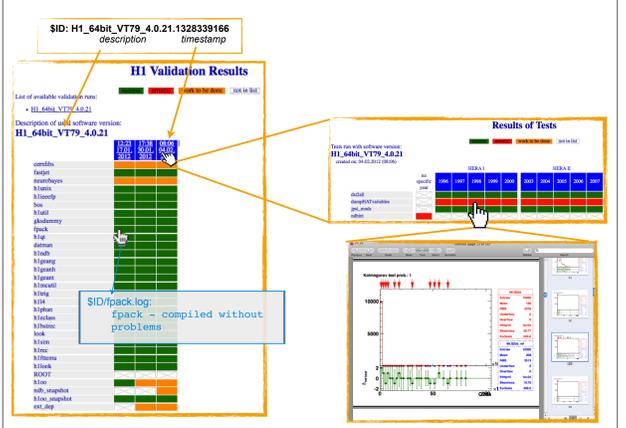


Figure 8: Screenshots of the web pages displaying the result of the compilation for the individual packages (left part) and the results of the validation tests for a given version (right part).

