A Plea for a Common Generator Output Format

Henry Frisch
University of Chicago

Low-brow problem I'm addressing: output format of generators is not standardized- the Les Houches 'Accord' is helpful, but is not a format. Cannot just interchange generators- need to have separate custom interfaces. Not necessarily a problem for interfacing to shower MC's, but hard on those who want to work at generator level. Apologies to those who know much more about it than me- I just work here.

Reasons to have a standard *format*:

- Want to encourage students to explore the physics with generators- work at generator level. Example- the infamous W2jet-tagged channel.
- The broader the use the better- make the mechanical tools easy and accessible so that less effort goes into the drudgery and more into the intellectual questions.
- The availability of the Grid and similar networks can exploit that commonality of formats - we should strive to make MC, both generator level and after showering, one of the main motivators of the shared dataset concept. Reach out beyond the collaborations.
- Prevent mistakes. Having a common format allows easy comparison, and less custom code for folks working at the generator level.