

columnflow

Refactoring of Task Array Functions

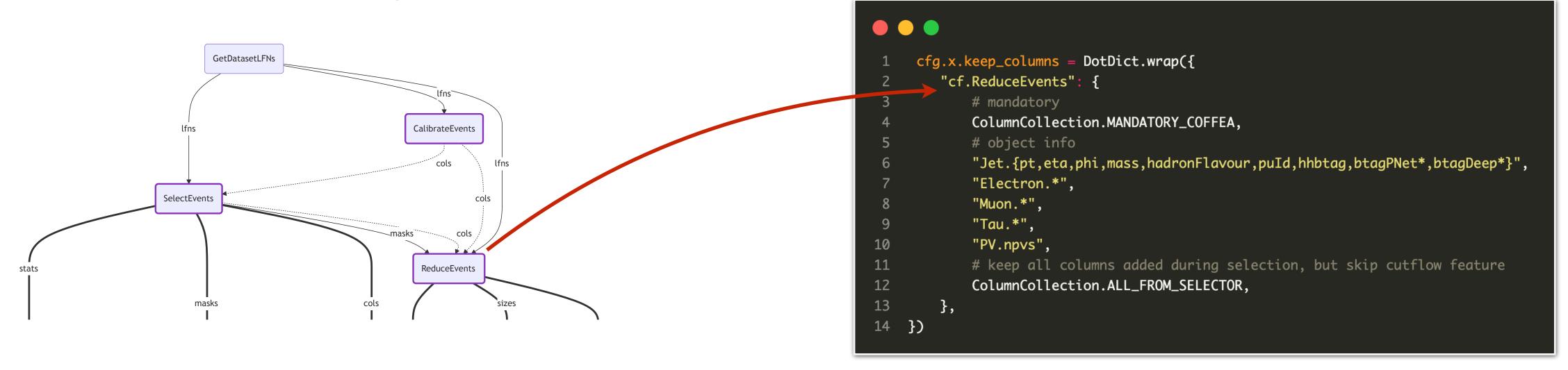
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UHH Framework Meeting

28.2.2025



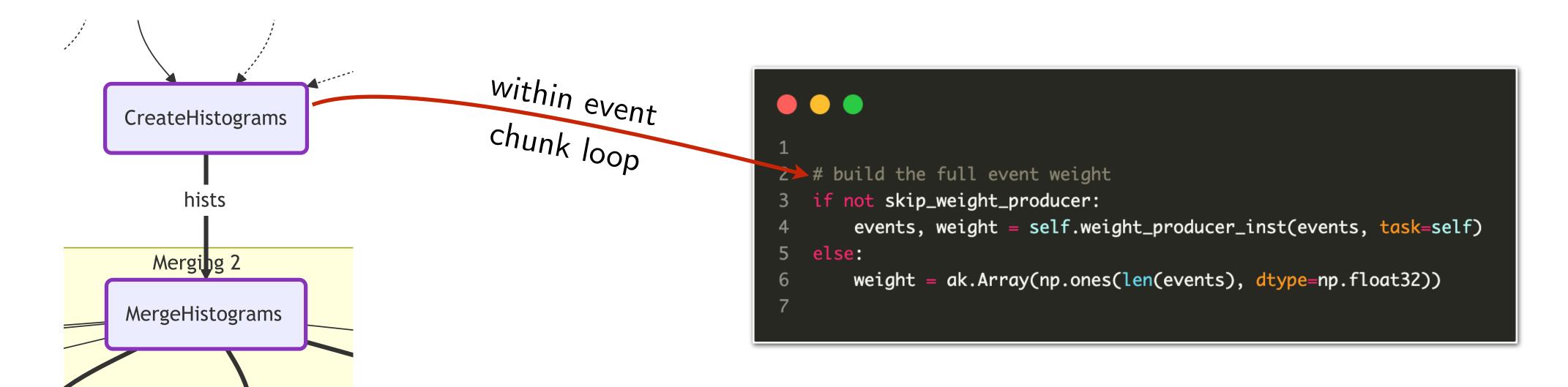
- Our usual "interface" for defining columns to keep: produces set defined by task array functions
- Only difference: columns saved by ReduceEvents task
 - Columns are defined in config under keep_columns field



- Lead to misunderstandings in the past, but wasn't too unusual
- The need for an additional feature changes this
 - Use case: save only specific GenPart's for use in e.g. ProduceColumns
 - Right now we need to save them in output columns of SelectEvents
 - Waste of resources since only selected events will be stored
- Idea: add a new reducer, which is actually just a producer
 - On the cli: law run cf.PlotVariables1D --selector foo --reducer bar ...
 - Name be encoded into output paths
 - Add new @reducer or just create them via @producer? Name clashes?

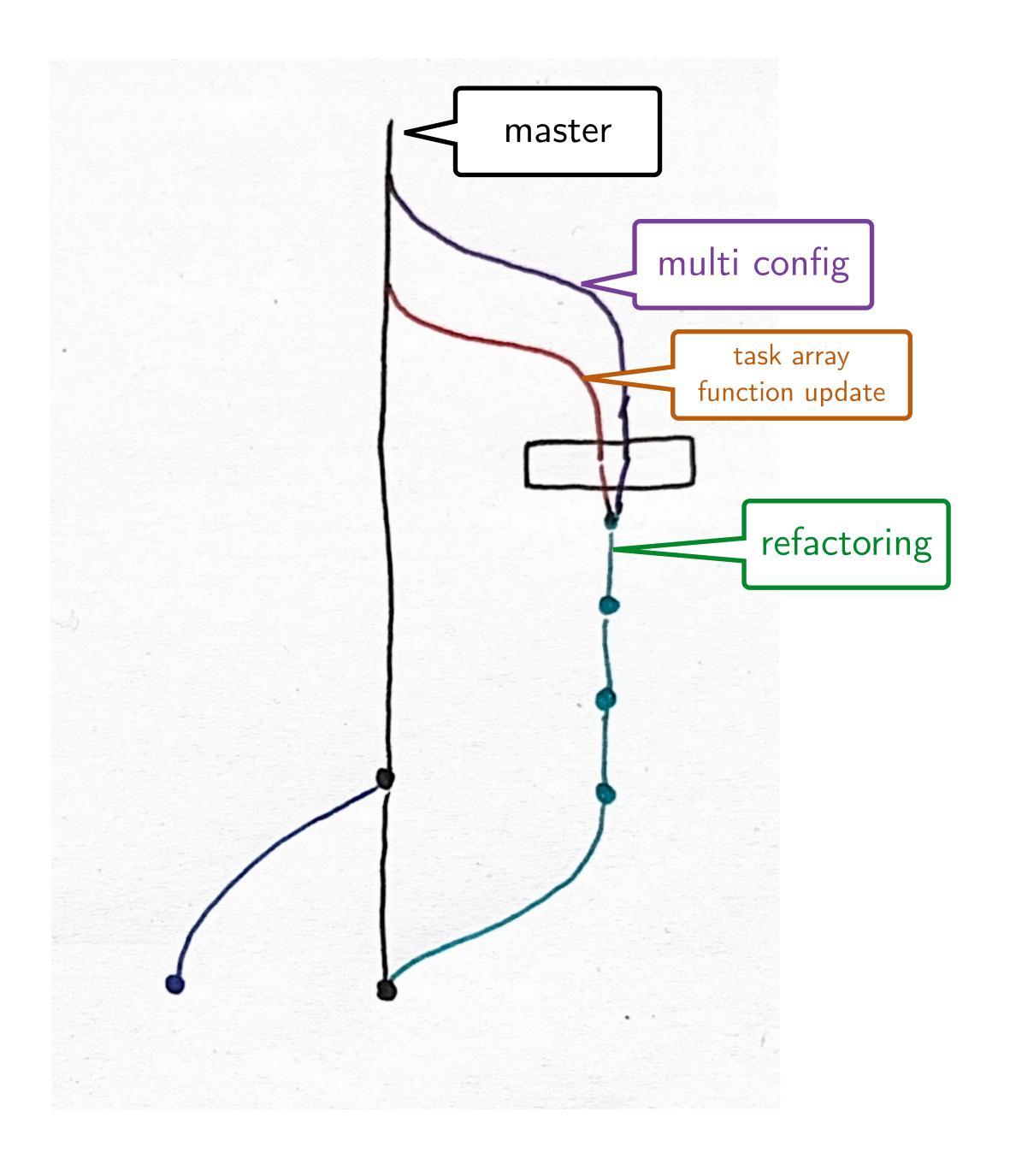


- We have a weight_producer in place that
 - computes the event weight to be applied, and
 - can also impose a late-stage selection

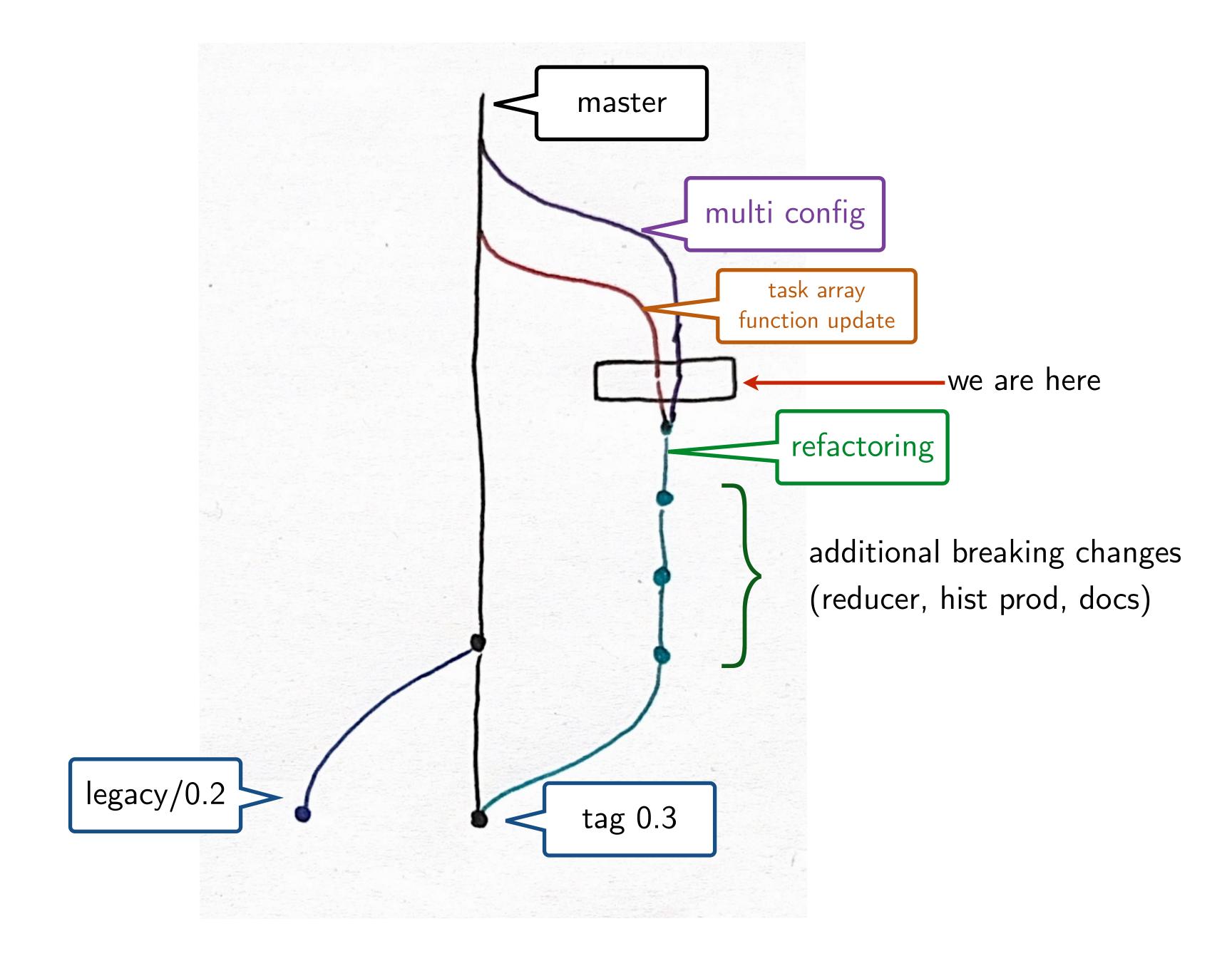


- However, multiple analyses could profit from more flexibility for customizing
 - histogram axes
 - different hist storage (int, double, float*) and weight types
 - ! the way that events and weights are filled
 - many use cases
- Generalizing weight_producer to hist_producer (?) might come in handy



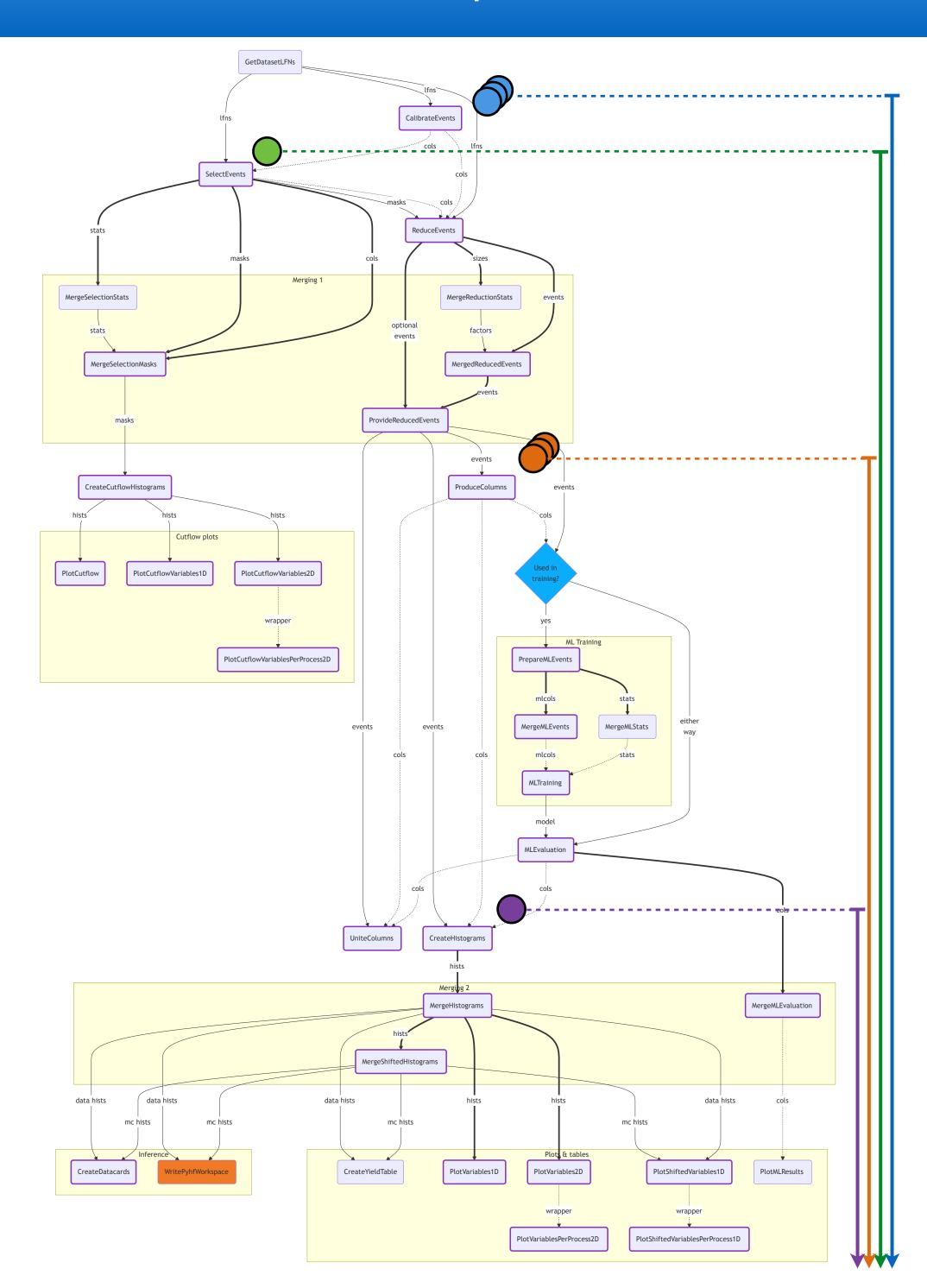






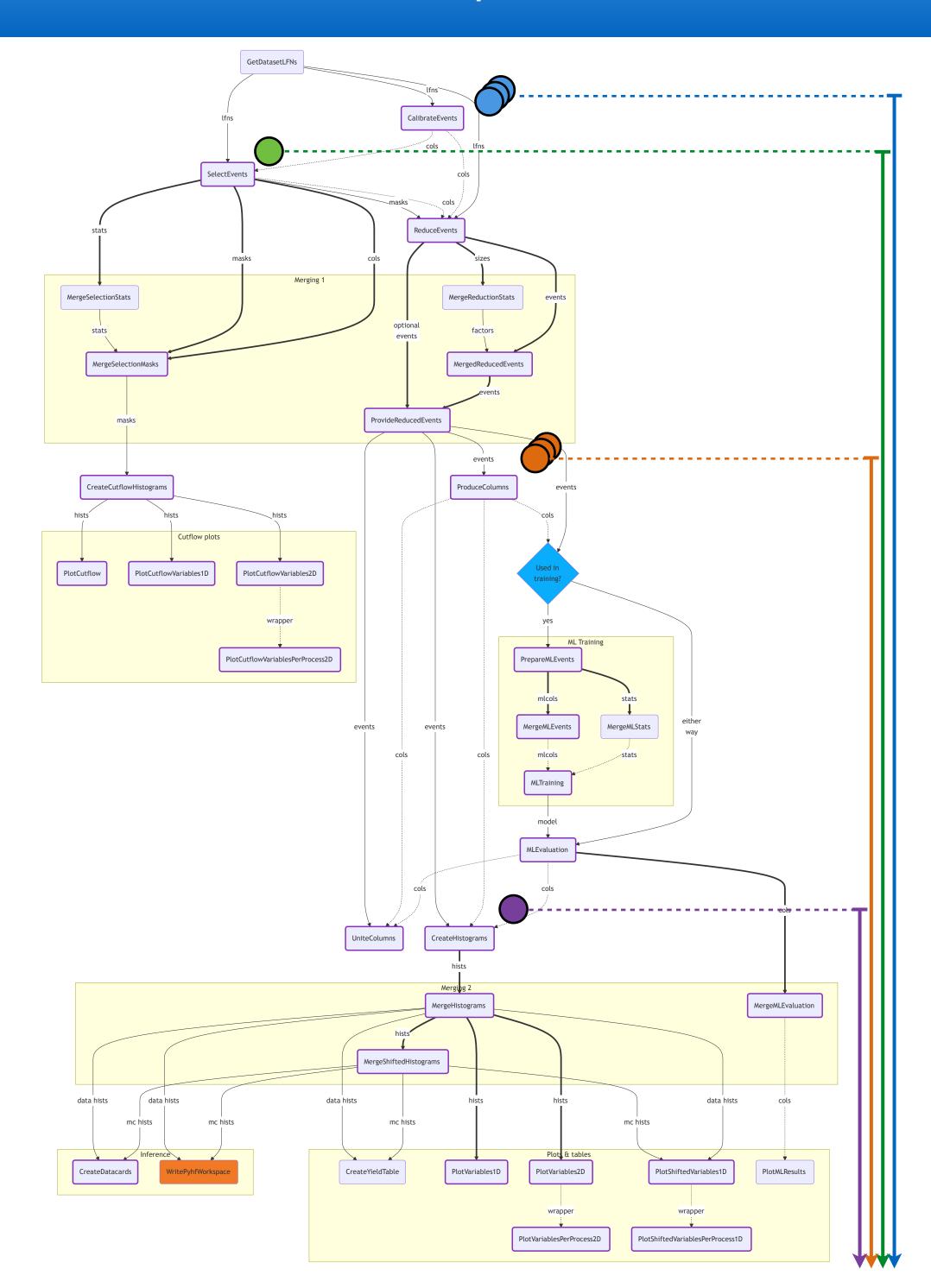
Backup





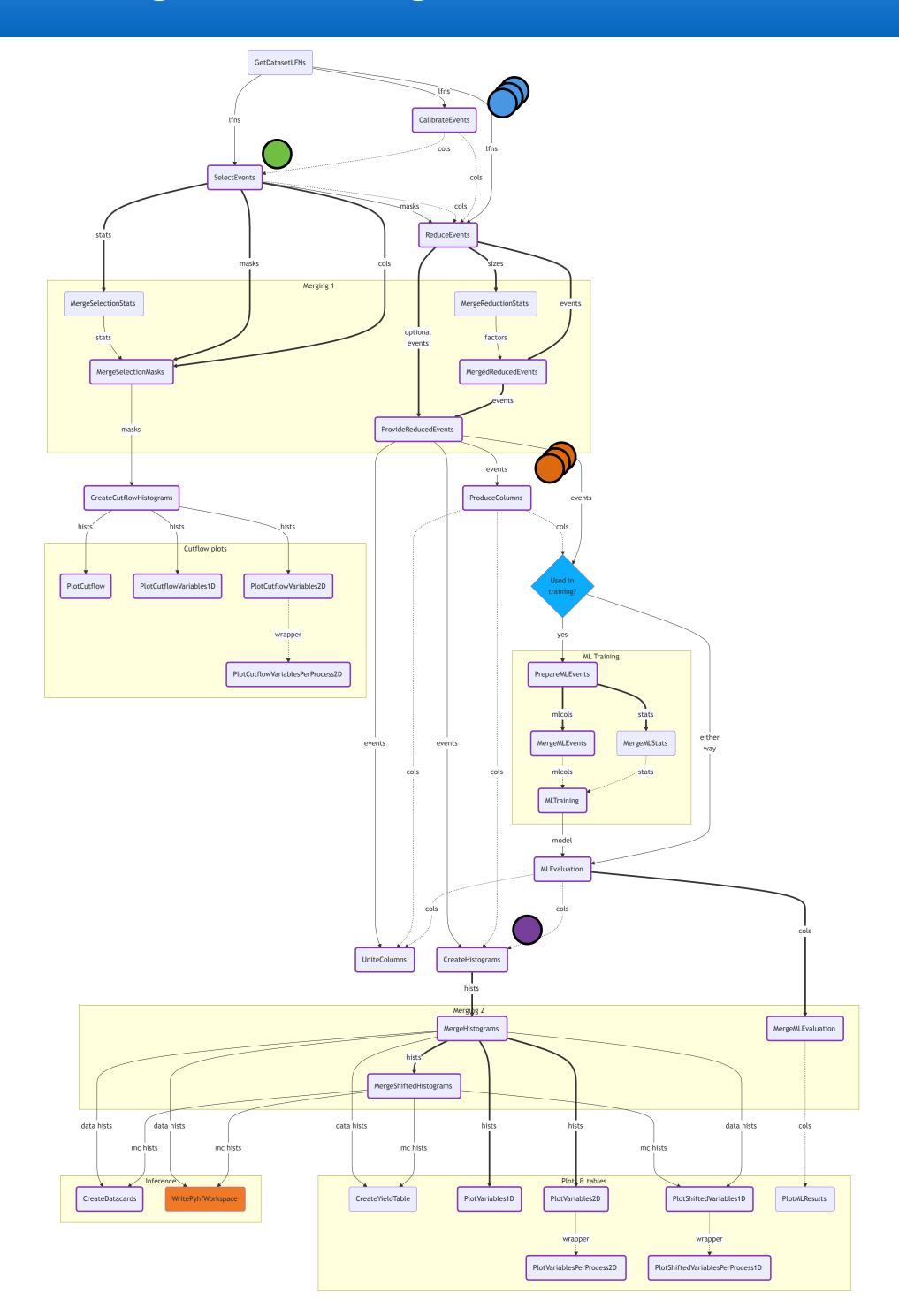
- Task array functions are **actually invoked** at four locations **O**
 - Calibrators
 - Selector
 - Producers
 - Weight producer
- Parameters like --calibrators known by all downstream tasks ----





- Task array functions are **actually invoked** at four locations O
 - Calibrators
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- Parameters like --calibrators known by all downstream tasks -----
- Right now, each TAF and all dependencies are instantiated
 - in each downstream task
 - by each workflow and branch task
 - unnecessarily multiple times
 - ► Tens of thousands of redundant calls
- Weird situations emerge
 - Unclear when (e.g.) init is called and which attributes are available
 - "It's called everywhere, so it hopefully works at some point!?"



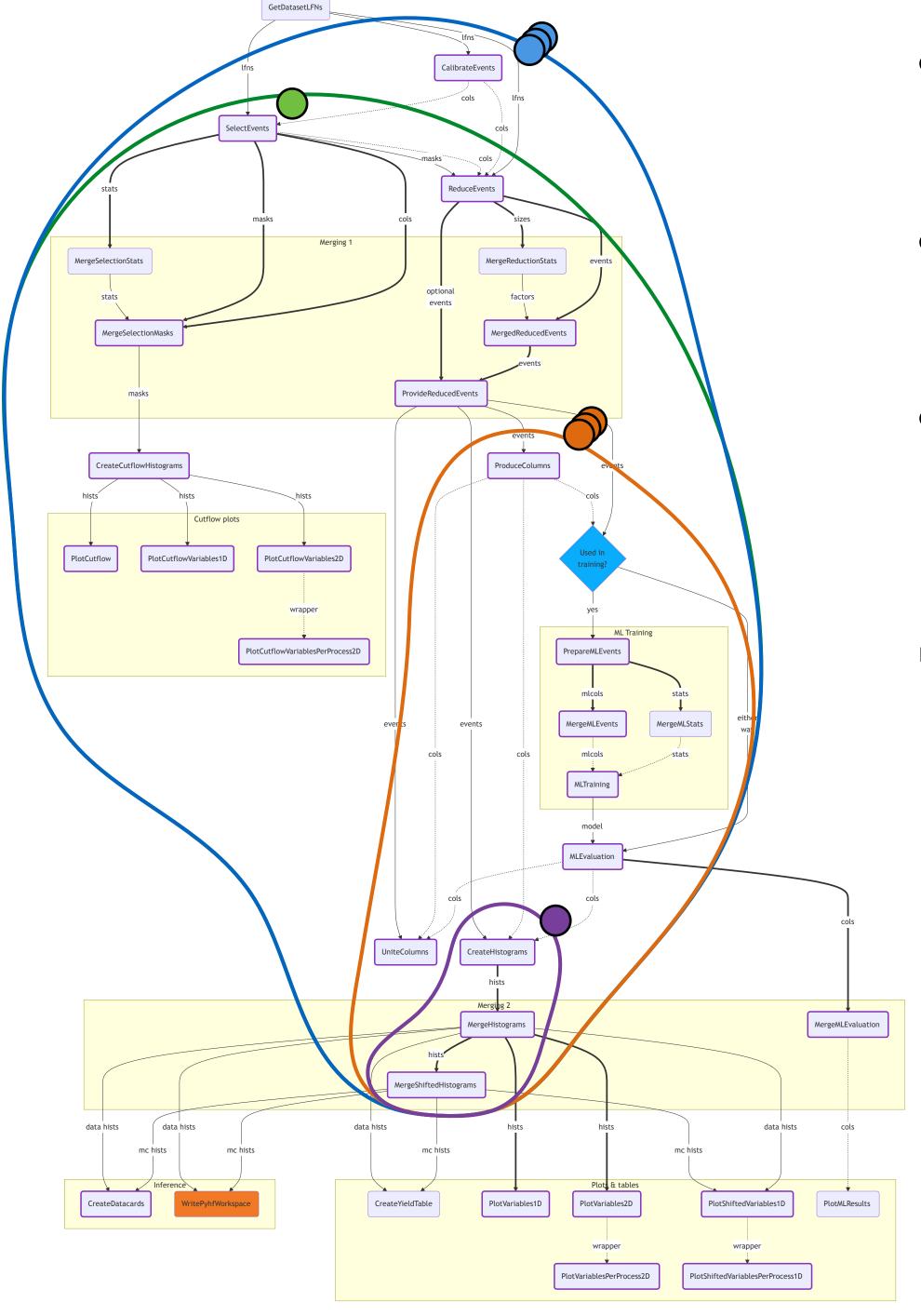


- Task array functions are bound to three objects
 - analysis instance
 - config instance
- "constants"
- dataset instance
 - ► They will never change throughout its lifetime.
- Depending on these, TAFs can have dynamic behavior
 - Used / produced columns
 - Other TAFs they depend on
 - Which **shifts** they yield to the analysis
 - Example: once JEC is invoked, your analysis *can* depend on JEC shifts
 - Highly important for tasks to understand where
 - Decisions can depend on the three "constants" above and even runtime conditions
 - Example: era-dependent number of DY weight uncertainties
- My main take-away
 - Shifts cannot be part of these "constants"
 - Currently they are and this causes a lot of headaches
 - Fixing this could lead to a heavily improved TAF handling

UHI **#**

- Upon creation, $\{analysis, config, dataset\}_{inst}$ are passed to the TAF as members \rightarrow they define the *state*
- Hooks called thereafter in various places
 - @pre_init(self)
 - New, called before dependency creation, can be used to control deps_kwargs, fixes current duplication issue
 - @init(self)
 - Controls used / produced columns and other TAFs as dependencies, as well as shifts
 - @skip(self)
 - Called during init, can decide whether TAF should be removed from dependencies
 - @post_init(self, task)
 - New, can control used / produced columns (using task info and resolved shift), but no additional TAF deps
 - @requires(self, task, reqs)
 - Allows adding extra task requirements
 - @setup(self, task, reqs, inputs, reader_targets)
 - ► Allows setting up objects needed for actual function calls
 - __call__(self, events, task, **kwargs)
 - @teardown(self, task)
 - New, called after processing, but potentially before chunk merging, allows reducing memory footprint





- Task array functions can be created once and passed to upstream tasks within
- Tasks outside these bubbles don't need access to TAF instances, but just they class
- Shifts in "overarching" tasks like plotting can be simply gathered through upstream tasks
 Still under development, ETA next week
- Objects like {ML,Inference}Model can be treated similar, however, implications not as deep