

STAR - environment setup

Particle physics users workshop: from STAR to EIC

Alexandr Prozorov, Ondřej Lomický, Michal Vranovský

CTU in Prague

30. 1. - 2. 2. 2025



Everything for Mac, Win, and Linux

- Git
 - Installation
 - Connecting with GitHub
 - Graphical interfaces?
- RCF Account
- Connecting to RCF
 - SSH
 - Alias
 - Nodes, passwordless login for a week, etc.
 - Downloading files
- File Browser
 - How to set up the connection
 - When (not) to use it
- ROOT
- IDE: Development Environments
 - VS Code
 - CLion

Git: Installation

Debian-based systems (Debian, Ubuntu, ...):

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt upgrade
sudo apt install git
```

Red Hat-based systems (Red Hat, CentOS, Fedora, ...):

```
sudo yum upgrade
sudo yum install git
```

macOS System:

```
/bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL
  https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/HEAD/install.sh)"
brew doctor
brew install git
```

Windows System:

Download and install: <https://gitforwindows.org/>



- Register on GitHub
 - <https://github.com/signup>
- GitHub Education: <https://education.github.com>
- GitHub Repository:
 - https://github.com/aprozo/star_workshop
- To get the necessary scripts for this presentation, use the following commands:

```
git clone git@github.com:aprozo/star_workshop.git
```

RCF Account

- RCF - RHIC Computing Facility
- Procedure described here:
<https://drupal.star.bnl.gov/STAR/comp/sofi/facility-access/general-access>
- First, the council representative of your university must send information about you to BNL Liz (**Elizabeth Mogavero**)
- Check that you are in the phone directory (**Phone Book**), here:
<https://www.star.bnl.gov/central/collaboration/phonebook.php>
 - Sometimes errors occur, and you are not listed. In that case, RCF may work, but you will not have an assigned space. Contact Liz to resolve this.
- You will also need a Guest ID (Takes a long time, even for renewal, about 30 - 90 days)
 - Apply here: <https://guest.bnl.gov/> → New registration
 - Purpose of visit: Research
 - Facility Code: RHIC
 - Type of Research: STAR
 - Type of Access Requested: Open research
 - Subject Code for this Visit/Assignment: General Physics
 - You will need to submit a CV
 - Date of arrival: Even if you are not going, choose the latest possible date

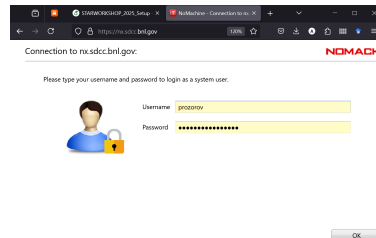
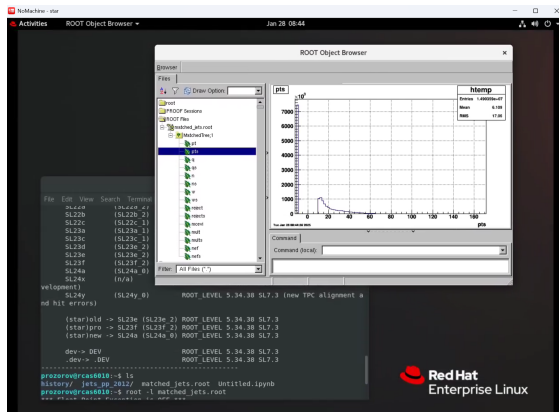
RCF Connection - SSH Key

- SSH - Secure Shell
- A unique key for your computer. You cannot (easily) connect from another computer
- More information at: <https://www.sdcc.bnl.gov/information/ssh/generate-ssh-key-pairs>

Windows:

- PuTTY - download and run puttygen.exe
- <https://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/latest.html>
- Generate → enter Passphrase → save Key fingerprint to a text file
- “Save public key” as rsa_putty.pub, “Save private key” as rsa_putty.ppk
- Conversions → Export OpenSSH key, Conversions → Export ssh.com key
- 4 files: public and private keys for PuTTY and private keys for ssh.com and OpenSSH
- Upload the fingerprint and OpenSSH public key here:
<https://web.sdcc.bnl.gov/Facility/SshKeys/UploadSshKey.php>

No Machine service



- Do remote work on servers in your browser
- Better than X11 option in *ssh*
- Inspect large root files without waiting
- Run scripts in background and return to machine state anytime

<https://www.sdcc.bnl.gov/information/nxnemachine-service-sdcc>
<https://nx.sdcc.bnl.gov/>

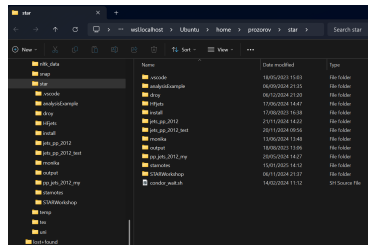
SSHFS Mounting

Replace your account name in example below:

```
sudo apt install sshfs
mkdir ~/star
alias starmount='sshfs -o
    reconnect,ServerAliveInterval=15,ServerAliveCountMax=3
    prozorov@sftp.sdcc.bnl.gov:/gpfs01/star/pwg/prozorov ~/
    /star' # add this line to your .bashrc or .bash_aliases
starmount
```

```
prozorov@rcas6014:/gpfs01/star/pwg/prozorov$ ls -ltrh
total 22M
drwxr-xr-x  6 prozorov 256K Aug 17 2023 install/
drwxr-xr-x  7 prozorov 8.0M Aug 18 2023 output/
-rw-r--r--  1 prozorov 3.4K Feb 14 2024 condor_wait.sh
drwxr-xr-x  3 prozorov 512 May 20 2024 pp_jets_2012_my/
drwxr-xr-x  3 prozorov 512 Jun 13 2024 monika/
drwxr-xr-x 18 prozorov 256K Jun 17 2024 HFjets/
drwxr-xr-x  6 prozorov 256K Sep  6 15:35 analysisExample/
drwxr-xr-x  8 prozorov 256K Nov  6 21:37 STARWorkshop/
drwxr-xr-x  5 prozorov 256K Nov 20 03:56 jets_pp_2012_test/
drwxr-xr-x 15 prozorov 1.0M Nov 21 08:22 jets_pp_2012/
drwxr-xr-x 18 prozorov 256K Dec  6 15:20 droy/
drwxr-xr-x 10 prozorov 512 Jan 15 08:12 starnotes/
prozorov@rcas6014:/gpfs01/star/pwg/prozorov$

prozorov@XPSpro: ~/star$ ls -ltrh
total 11M
drwxr-xr-x  1 101490 31012 256K Aug 17 2023 install/
drwxr-xr-x  1 101490 31012 8.0M Aug 18 2023 output/
-rw-r--r--  1 101490 31012 3.4K Feb 14 2024 condor_wait.sh
drwxr-xr-x  1 101490 31012 512 May 20 2024 pp_jets_2012_my/
drwxr-xr-x  1 101490 31012 512 Jun 13 2024 monika/
drwxr-xr-x  1 101490 31012 256K Jun 17 2024 HFjets/
drwxr-xr-x  1 101490 31012 256K Sep  6 21:35 analysisExample/
drwxr-xr-x  1 101490 31012 256K Nov  6 21:37 STARWorkshop/
drwxr-xr-x  1 101490 31012 256K Nov 20 09:56 jets_pp_2012_test/
drwxr-xr-x  1 101490 31012 1.0M Nov 21 14:22 jets_pp_2012/
drwxr-xr-x  1 101490 31012 256K Dec  6 21:20 droy/
drwxr-xr-x  1 101490 31012 512 Jan 15 14:12 starnotes/
prozorov@XPSpro: ~/star$
```



SFTP

- For secure downloading or uploading of files to RCF, it is advantageous to use the SSH File Transfer Protocol (SFTP).
- Login via terminal, download, and upload files:

```
sftp username@sftp.sdcc.bnl.gov
get file.txt
put file2.root
```

```
exit          Quit sftp
get [-afpR] remote [local] Download file
help          Display this help text
lcd path      Change local directory to 'path'
lls [ls-options [path]] Display local directory listing
mkdir path    Create local directory
ln [-s] oldpath newpath Link remote file (-s for symlink)
lpwd          Print local working directory
ls [-lafhlNrSt] [path] Display remote directory listing
lumask umask Set local umask to 'umask'
mkdir path    Create remote directory
progress      Toggle display of progress meter
put [-afpR] local [remote] Upload file
pwd           Display remote working directory
quit          Quit sftp
```

- Commands are similar to SSH, and by adding "l" before each command, you can control the local computer.
- Alternatively, if downloading just a single file:

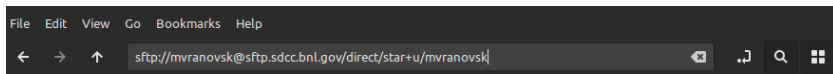
```
sftp username@sftp.sdcc.bnl.gov:/path/to/file/on/RCF/file.root /local/path/.
```

- Or define a function in your local .bashrc to simplify downloading:

```
getFile() {
    sftp username@sftp.sdcc.bnl.gov:$1 $2
}

getFile /star/u/path/to/file /local/path/.
```

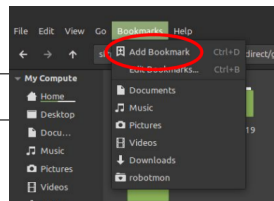
File Browser



- SFTP can also be used in a file browser.
- For Linux, enter the following in the "location entry":

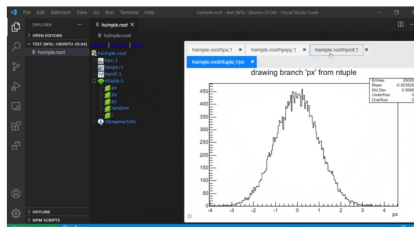
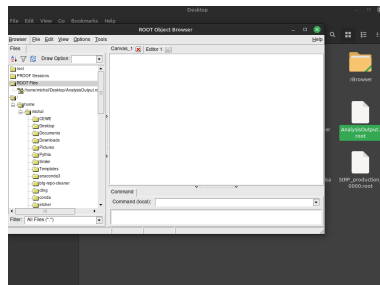
`sftp://username@sftp.sdcc.bnl.gov/direct/star+u/username`

- Then, add a bookmark by pressing Ctrl + D.
- For Windows and Mac, it is more complicated; an SFTP client is required.
- The most commonly used client for Windows is [WinSCP](#).
- For Mac, several options are available, such as [Cyberduck](#), [FileZilla](#), and [CrossFTP](#).

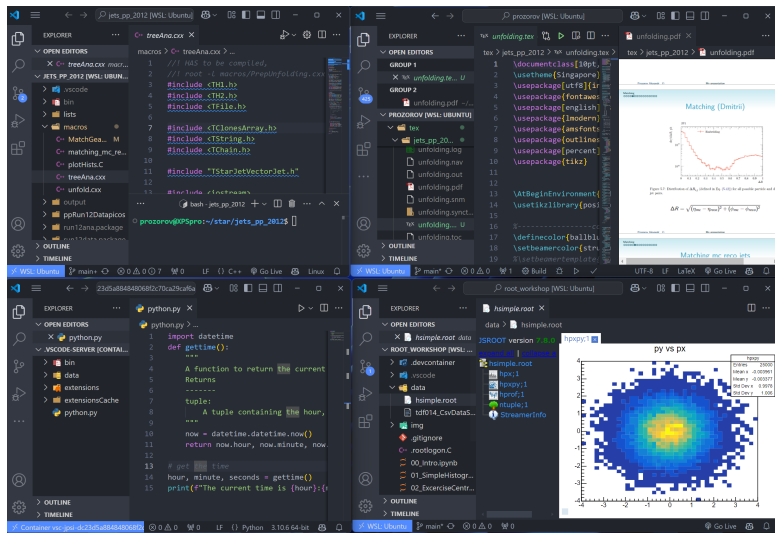


RootFileOpener

- **What is this?** Opening .root files in TBrowser directly from the file browser
- For Mac and Linux: [Instructions and code on GitHub](#)
- There is no equivalent for Windows, BUT .root files can be viewed in VS Code. [Instructions](#).



IDE: VS Code



Some features (out of infinity)

- Run/compile cpp code
- Terminal built-in
- Latex environment
- All other languages (python example here)
- Containerization
- ROOT extension for inspecting files
- Extensions (inc. Copilot)

Everything-in-one setup (and free)

IDE: VS Code

Visual Studio Code <https://code.visualstudio.com/download>

(please, download and install Windows version for WSL2)

Then open a terminal and test it:

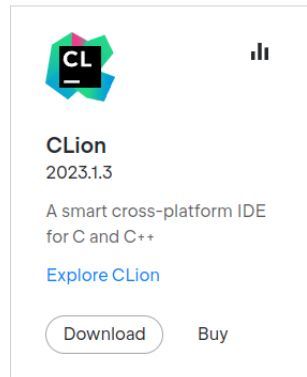
```
code .
```

Helpful extensions (paste inside WSL2/Linux/Mac terminal):

```
code --install-extension albertopdrf.root-file-viewer # root trees explorer
code --install-extension GitHub.copilot # copilot
code --install-extension tomoki1207.pdf # view pdf files
code --install-extension ms-vscode.cmake-tools # for C++ highlightning
code --install-extension ms-vscode.cpptools # for C++ highlightning
code --install-extension ms-vscode.cpptools-extension-pack # for C++ highlightning
code --install-extension ms-vscode.cpptools-themes # for C++ highlightning
code --install-extension xaver.clang-format # beautify C++ code in universal style
```

IDE: CLion

- You can use CLion as your development environment (for C++) or PyCharm (for Python)
- Link [here](#)
- Download and install
- On Linux, you can simply use: `sudo snap install clion --classic`
- Log into CLion using your JetBrains account
- New project/create



Advantages

- Free for students
- Integrated command line within the environment
- GitHub Copilot can be installed
- Advanced debugger
- CMake support

How to run locally StRoot with cons

```
prozorov@XPSpro: ~/dev/sta x + v
2025/01/28 14:24:15 info unpack layer: sha256:e17991797d8c14eac10542e50a
c509eb15964c557cd2b86feb446c1bd8e55ead
2025/01/28 14:24:19 info unpack layer: sha256:5da1b5b356f6935a021886e84b
83f1695ce90a50628686b5c113d464fc69fd02
INFO: Creating SIF file...
Singularity> ls
Singularity> l
total 0
Singularity> ls
Singularity> bash
prozorov@XPSpro:~/dev/star/containers$ root4star
*****
*                                     *
*      W E L C O M E to R O O T      *
*                                     *
*   Version   5.34/38      12 March 2018   *
*                                     *
*   You are welcome to visit our Web site *
*         http://root.cern.ch              *
*                                     *
*****

ROOT 5.34/38 (v5-34-38@v5-34-38, Mar 12 2018, 15:49:39 on linuxx8664gcc)

CINT/ROOT C/C++ Interpreter version 5.18.00, July 2, 2010
Type ? for help. Commands must be C++ statements.
Enclose multiple statements between { }.
*** Start at Date : Tue Jan 28 14:26:15 2025
root [0] █
```

Container for STAR

- Here is the README file for containers for star-software [click](#)
- Then you can compile your StRoot files using *cons* command as in SDCC but locally without connecting to SDCC itself
- A [link](#) on how to install singularity.

In short:

```
singularity run docker://ghcr.io/star-bnl/star-sw:main-root5-gcc485 bash -l
```
