

# How can I write out a subset of an existing collection?

The correct way to write out a subset of an existing collection, for example a subset of `MCParticles` or `ReconstructedParticles` is to flag the subset collection using the corresponding meta-data object in the event. This ensures that the subset is written as a set of references to the parent collection, rather than as a new set of objects.

**subset.java**

```
List<MCParticle> particles = event.getMCParticles();
List<MCParticle> half = new ArrayList<MCParticle>();
int i = 0;
for (MCParticle particle : particles)
{
    if (i++ % 2 == 0) half.add(particle);
}
event.put("SomeParticles",half);
event.getMetaData(half).setSubset(true);
```