Basic Concepts and Structure of Geant4

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Slides courtesy of SLAC GEANT4 Team

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GEANT4 Terminology

- The following keywords are often used in GEANT4:
  - Run, Event, Track, Step ...
  - Processes: (At rest, Along step, post step)
  - Cut (Production threshold)

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Run in Geant4

- As an analogy of the real experiment, a run of Geant4 starts with "Beam On".
- Within a run, the user cannot change
  - detector setup
  - settings of physics processes
- Conceptually, a run is a collection of events which share the same detector and physics conditions.
  - A run consists of one event loop.
- At the beginning of a run, geometry is optimized for navigation and cross-section tables are calculated according to materials appear in the geometry and the cut-off values defined.
- G4RunManager class manages processing a run, a run is represented by G4Run class or a user-defined class derived from G4Run.
  - A run class may have a summary results of the run.
- G4UserRunAction is the optional user hook.

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Event in Geant4

- An event is the basic unit of simulation in Geant4.
- At beginning of processing, primary tracks are generated. These primary tracks are pushed into a stack.
- A track is popped up from the stack one by one and "tracked". Resulting secondary tracks are pushed into the stack.
  - This "tracking" lasts as long as the stack has a track.
- When the stack becomes empty, processing of one event is over.
- G4Event class represents an event. It has following objects at the end of its (successful) processing.
  - List of primary vertices and particles (as input)
  - Hits and Trajectory collections (as output)
- G4EventManager class manages processing an event. G4UserEventAction is the optional user hook.

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Track in Geant4

- Track is a snapshot of a particle.
  - It has physical quantities of current instance only. It does not record previous quantities.
  - Step is a "delta" information to a track. Track is not a collection of steps. Instead, a track is being updated by steps.
- Track object is deleted when
  - it goes out of the world volume,
  - it disappears (by e.g. decay, inelastic scattering),
  - it goes down to zero kinetic energy and no "AtRest" additional process is required, or
  - the user decides to kill it artificially.
- No track object persists at the end of event.
  - For the record of tracks, use trajectory class objects.
- G4TrackingManager manages processing a track, a track is represented by G4Track class.
- G4UserTrackingAction is the optional user hook.

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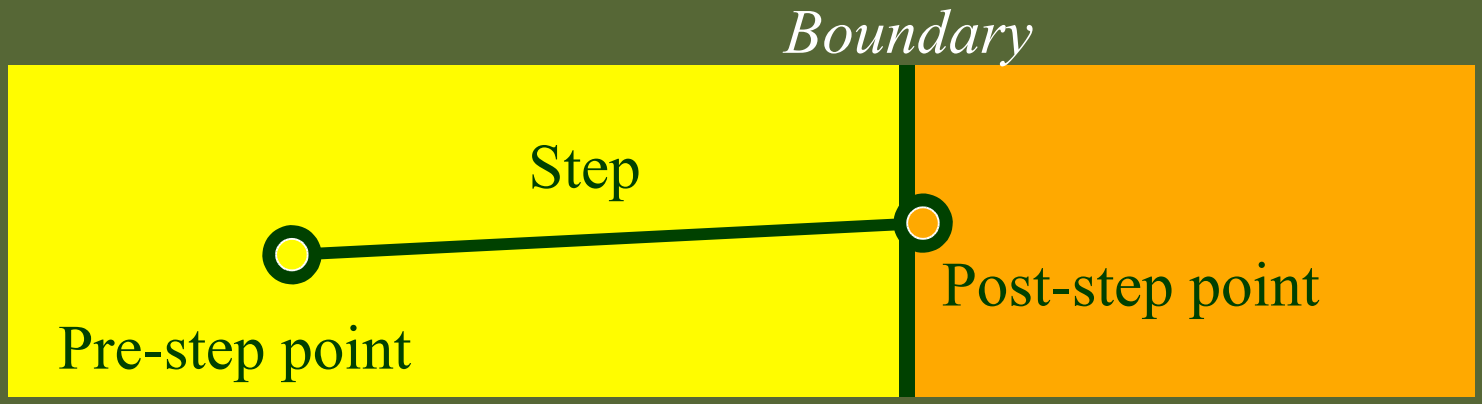
Step in Geant4

- Step has two points and also "delta" information of a particle (energy loss on the step, time-of-flight spent by the step, etc.).
- Each point knows the volume (and material). In case a step is limited by a volume boundary, the end point physically stands on the boundary, and it logically belongs to the next volume.
  - Because one step knows materials of two volumes, boundary processes such as transition radiation or refraction could be simulated.
- G4SteppingManager class manages processing a step, a step is represented by G4Step class.
- G4UserSteppingAction is the optional user hook.



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Particle in Geant4

- Particle in general has the following three properties:
  - Particle position, geometrical info
    ==> G4Track class (representing a particle to be tracked)
  - Dynamic properties (momentum, energy, spin, etc)
    ==> G4DynamicParticle class (representing an individual particle)
  - Static properties (rest mass, charge, life time, etc)
    ==> G4ParticleDefinition class
- All G4DynamicParticle objects of the same kind of particle share the same G4ParticleDefinition

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Processes in Geant4

- In Geant4, particle transportation is a process as well, by which a particle interacts with geometrical volume boundaries and field of any kind.
  - Because of this, shower parameterization process can take over from the ordinary transportation without modifying the transportation process.
- Each particle has its own list of applicable processes. At each step, all processes listed are invoked to get proposed physical interaction lengths.
- The process which requires the shortest interaction length (in space-time) limits the step.
- Each process has one or combination of the following natures.
  - AtRest
    - e.g. muon decay at rest
  - AlongStep (a.k.a. continuous process)
    - e.g. Celenkov process
  - PostStep (a.k.a. discrete process)
    - e.g. decay on the fly

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Cuts in Geant4

- A Cut in Geant4 is a production threshold.
  - Not tracking cut, which does not exist in Geant4 as default.
    - All tracks are traced down to zero kinetic energy.
  - It is applied only for physics processes that have infrared divergence
- Much detail will be given at later talks on physics.

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Extract useful information

- Given geometry, physics and primary track generation, Geant4 does proper physics simulation "silently".
  - You have to add a bit of code to extract information useful to you.
- There are two ways:
  - Use user hooks (G4UserTrackingAction, G4UserSteppingAction, etc.)
    - You have an access to almost all information
    - Straight-forward, but do-it-yourself
  - Use Geant4 scoring functionality
    - Assign G4VSensitiveDetector to a volume
    - Hits collection is automatically stored in G4Event object, and automatically accumulated if user-defined Run object is used.
    - Use user hooks (G4UserEventAction, G4UserRunAction) to get event / run summary

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Unit system

- Internal unit system used in Geant4 is completely hidden not only from user's code but also from Geant4 source code implementation.
- Each hard-coded number must be multiplied by its proper unit.

```
radius = 10.0 * cm;

kineticE = 1.0 * GeV;
```

- To get a number, it must be divided by a proper unit.

```
G4cout << eDep / MeV << " [MeV]" << G4endl;
```

- Most of commonly used units are provided and user can add his/her own units.
- By this unit system, source code becomes more readable and importing / exporting physical quantities becomes straightforward.
  - For particular application, user can change the internal unit to suitable alternative unit without affecting to the result.

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Partial List of Available Units in GEANT4

- g, kg, mg, ...
- mm, cm, m, km, angstrom, fermi, cm2, m3, barn, ...
- s, ms, ns ...
- degree, radian, steradian, rad, mrad ...
- watt, newton, joule, eV, keV, MeV, GeV...
- kilovolt, volt, megavolt, ohm ...
- ampere, milliampere, microampere, nanoampere...
- weber, tesla, gauss, kilogauss, henry, farad...
- hertz, kilohertz, megahertz ...
- perCent
- kelvin, mole...

- Complete list of units is given in G4SystemOfUnits.hh

G4cout, G4cerr

- G4cout and G4cerr are ostream objects defined by Geant4.
  - G4endl is also provided.

```
G4cout << "Hello Geant4!" << G4endl;
```

- Some GUIs are buffering output streams so that they display print-outs on another window or provide storing / editing functionality.
  - The user should not use std::cout, etc.
- The user should not use std::cin for input. Use user-defined commands provided by intercoms category in Geant4.
  - Ordinary file I/O is OK.

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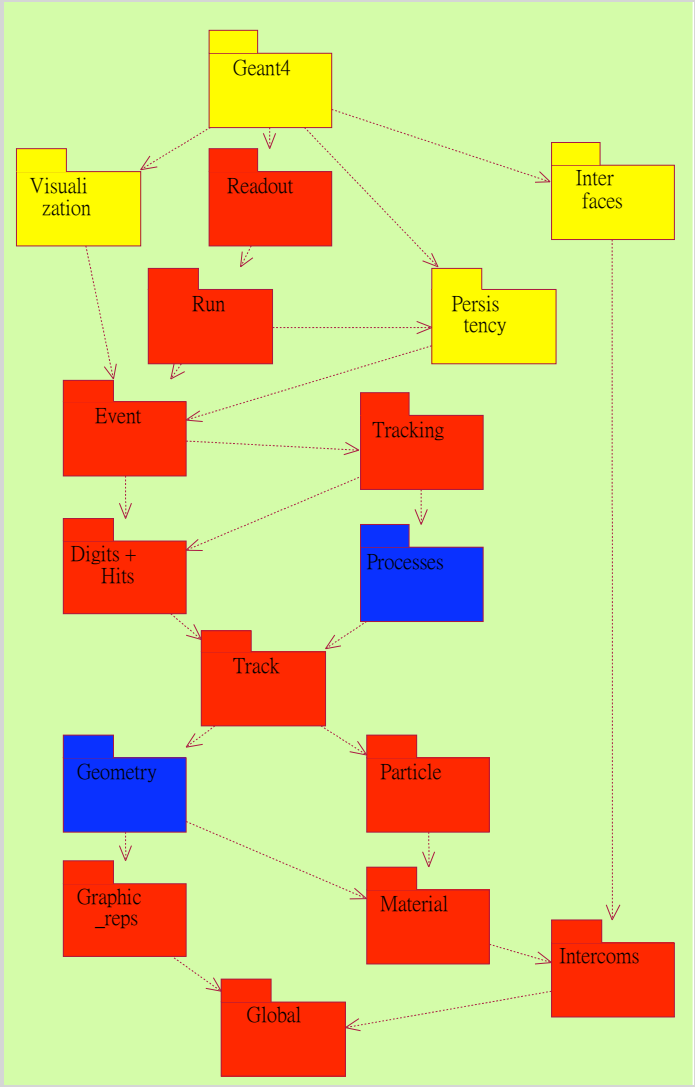
GEANT4 Kernel

- Geant4 consists of 17 categories
  - Each category is independently maintained by a working group
- Geant4 Kernel:
  - Handles run, event, track, step, hit, trajectory
  - Provides a frameworks of geometrical representation and physics process



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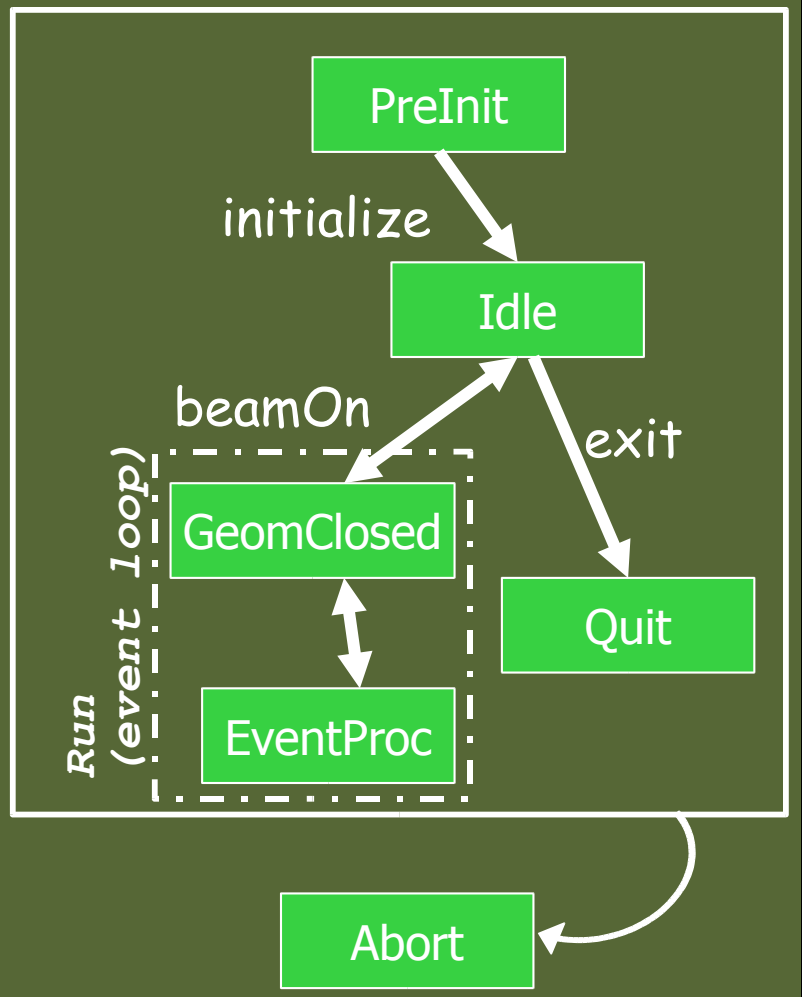
Geant4 as a state machine

- Geant4 has six application states.
  - G4State_PreInit
    - Material, Geometry, Particle and/or Physics Process need to be initialized/defined
  - G4State_Idle
    - Ready to start a run
  - G4State_GeomClosed
    - Geometry is optimized and ready to process an event
  - G4State_EventProc
    - An event is processing
  - G4State_Quit
    - (Normal) termination
  - G4State_Abort
    - A fatal exception occurred and program is aborting



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To use Geant4, you have to…

- Geant4 is a toolkit. You have to build an application.
- To make an application, you have to
  - Define your geometrical setup
    - Material, volume
  - Define physics to get involved
    - Particles, physics processes/models
    - Production thresholds
  - Define how an event starts
    - Primary track generation
  - Extract information useful to you
- You may also want to
  - Visualize geometry, trajectories and physics output
  - Utilize (Graphical) User Interface
  - Define your own UI commands
  - etc.

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User classes

- main()
  - Geant4 does not provide main().
- Initialization classes
  - Use G4RunManager::SetUserInitialization() to define.
  - Invoked at the initialization
    - G4VUserDetectorConstruction
    - G4VUserPhysicsList
- Action classes
  - Use G4RunManager::SetUserAction() to define.
  - Invoked during an event loop
    - G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction
    - G4UserRunAction
    - G4UserEventAction
    - G4UserStackingAction
    - G4UserTrackingAction
    - G4UserSteppingAction

Note : classes written in yellow are mandatory.

The main program

- Geant4 does not provide the main().
- In your main(), you have to
  - Construct G4RunManager (or your derived class)
  - Set user mandatory classes to RunManager
    - G4VUserDetectorConstruction
    - G4VUserPhysicsList
    - G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction
- You can define VisManager, (G)UI session, optional user action classes, and/or your persistency manager in your main().

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Three Mandatory Classes

- Three important classes that users must implement:
  - Define material and geometry
    ==> G4VUserDetectorConstruction class
  - Select appropriate particles and processes and define production threshold(s)
    ==> G4VUserPhysicsList class
  - Define the way of primary particle generation
    ==> G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction class

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Describe your detector

- Derive your own concrete class from G4VUserDetectorConstruction abstract base class.
- In the virtual method Construct(),
  - Instantiate all necessary materials
  - Instantiate volumes of your detector geometry
  - Instantiate your sensitive detector classes and set them to the corresponding logical volumes
- Optionally you can define
  - Regions for any part of your detector
  - Visualization attributes (color, visibility, etc.) of your detector elements

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Select physics processes

- Geant4 does not have any default particles or processes.
  - Even for the particle transportation, you have to define it explicitly.
- Derive your own concrete class from G4VUserPhysicsList abstract base class.
  - Define all necessary particles
  - Define all necessary processes and assign them to proper particles
  - Define cut-off ranges applied to the world (and each region)
- Geant4 provides lots of utility classes/methods and examples.
  - "Educated guess" physics lists for defining hadronic processes for various use-cases.

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Generate primary event

- Derive your concrete class from G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction abstract base class.
- Pass a G4Event object to one or more primary generator concrete class objects which generate primary vertices and primary particles.
- Geant4 provides several generators in addition to the G4VPrimaryParticlegenerator base class.
  - G4ParticleGun
  - G4HEPEvtInterface, G4HepMCInterface
    - Interface to /hepevt/ common block or HepMC class
  - G4GeneralParticleSource
    - Define radioactivity

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Optional user action classes

- All user action classes, methods of which are invoked during "Beam On", must be constructed in the user's main() and must be set to the RunManager.
- G4UserRunAction
  - G4Run* GenerateRun()
    - Instantiate user-customized run object
  - void BeginOfRunAction(const G4Run*)
    - Define histograms
  - void EndOfRunAction(const G4Run*)
    - Analyze the run
    - Store histograms
- G4UserEventAction
  - void BeginOfEventAction(const G4Event*)
    - Event selection
  - void EndOfEventAction(const G4Event*)
    - Output event information

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Summary

- GEANT4 is a toolkit which consists of 17 categories.
- Run consists of Events, Tracks, and Steps.
- Track is a 'snapshot' of a particle:
- Particle is tracked until zero kinetic energy (production threshold must be set)
- Users need to implement three mandatory classes for materials&geometry, selecting physics processes, and primary particle generation

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