Montecarlo Methods for Medical Physics

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Geant4 Tutorial Introduction F.Longo

Summary of the Course

Part1 (Monday)

- General (and brief) introduction to Monte Carlo methods
- Montecarlo methods in Medical Physics

Part2 (Monday)

Introduction to the Geant4 toolkit

Part3

- Fundamentals of a Geant4 application (Tuesday)
- Geometry, Physics, Particle Flux, Scoring needs (Today ...)

Laboratory (Next weeks)

Realisation of an example relevant to Medical Physics



Introduction to Geant4

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OO technology

Openness to extension and evolution
 new implementations can be added w/o changing the existing code
 Robustness and ease of maintenance
 protocols and well defined dependencies minimize coupling

Strategic vision

Toolkit

- A set of compatible components
- each component is **specialised** for a specific functionality
- each component can be refined independently to a great detail
- components can be integrated at any degree of complexity
- it is easy to provide (and use) alternative components
- the user application can be customised as needed

Outline of Part2

General Introduction to G4

- What is G4 ?
- Review of user documentation
- Geant4 as a toolkit
- Basics of OO programming
- Geant4 Kernel and basics of the toolkit
 - Run, Event, Step
 - Particle and Physics processes
 - User classes

Simulation basics

Geant4 simulation toolkit

- Modeling the experimental set-up
- Tracking particles through matter
- Interaction of particles with matter
- Modeling the detector response
- Run and event control
- Accessory utilities (random number generators, PDG particle information, physical constants, system of units etc.)
 - User interface
 - Interface to event generators
 - Visualisation (of the set-up, tracks, hits etc.)
 - Persistency
 - Analysis



Main ingredients of a G4 application

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.

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 crosssection 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.

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.

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.

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.



Particle in Geant4

A particle in Geant4 is represented by three layers of classes.

G4Track

- Position, geometrical information, etc.
- This is a class representing a particle to be tracked.
- G4DynamicParticle
 - Dynamic" physical properties of a particle, such as momentum, energy, spin, etc.
 - Each G4Track object has its own and unique G4DynamicParticle object.
 - This is a class representing an individual particle.

G4ParticleDefinition

- Static" properties of a particle, such as charge, mass, life time, decay channels, etc.
- G4ProcessManager which describes processes involving to the particle
- All G4DynamicParticle objects of same kind of particle share the same G4ParticleDefinition.

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 Geant4 native scorers to get specified quantities (dose, energy release, flux, path length, etc.)

Geometry

Geometry

Role

- detailed detector description
- efficient navigation
- Three conceptual layers
 - Solid: shape, size



- LogicalVolume: material, sensitivity, daughter volumes, etc.
- PhysicalVolume: position, rotation
- One can do fancy things with geometry...



Detector geometry

- Three conceptual layers
 - G4VSolid -- shape, size
 - G4LogicalVolume -- daughter physical volumes,

material, sensitivity, user limits, etc.

G4VPhysicalVolume -- position, rotation



Geometry - Materials

Definition of Materials

- Different kinds of materials can be described:
 - isotopes <-> G4lsotope
 - elements <-> G4Element
 - molecules, compounds and mixtures <-> G4Material
- Attributes associated to G4Material:
 - temperature, pressure, state, density
- Prefer low-density material to vacuum

```
Single element material
double density = 1.390*g/cm3;
double a = 39.95*g/mole;
G4Material* lAr =
new G4Material ("liquidArgon", z=18., a, density);
```

First Homework

- Review G4 web pages
- Find Appropriate documentation
- Find relevant Medical Physics examples
- Define your preferred project
 - Simple geometry
 - Particle distributions
 - Scoring needs

Physics Lists

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Physics

From the Minutes of LCB (LHCC Computing Board) meeting on 21 October, 1997:

"It was noted that experiments have requirements for independent, alternative physics models. In Geant4 these models, differently from the <u>concept of packages</u>, allow the user to **understand** how the results are produced, and hence improve the physics validation. Geant4 is developed with a modular architecture and is the ideal framework where existing components are integrated and new models continue to be developed."

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- You may also want to
 - Visualize geometry, trajectories and physics output
 - Utilize (Graphical) User Interface
 - Define your own UI commands
 - etc.

User classes

main()

Geant4 does not provide main().

Note : classes written in yellow are mandatory.

- 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

Physics in Geant4

- It is rather unrealistic to develop a uniform physics model to cover wide variety of particles and/or wide energy range.
- Much wider coverage of physics comes from mixture of theory-driven, parameterized, and empirical formulae. Thanks to polymorphism mechanism, both cross-sections and models (final state generation) can be combined in arbitrary manners into one particular process.

Geant4 offers

- EM processes
- Hadronic processes
- Photon/lepton-hadron processes
- Optical photon processes
- Decay processes
- Shower parameterization
- Event biasing techniques
- And you can plug-in more

What is a Physics List?

- A class which collects all the particles, physics processes and production thresholds needed for your application
- It tells the run manager how and when to invoke physics
- It is a very flexible way to build a physics environment
 - user can pick the particles he wants
 - user can pick the physics to assign to each particle
- But, user must have a good understanding of the physics required
 - omission of particles or physics could cause errors or poor simulation

Why Do We Need a Physics List?

- Physics is physics shouldn't Geant4 provide, as a default, a complete set of physics that everyone can use?
- No:
 - there are many different physics models and approximations
 - very much the case for hadronic physics
 - but also the case for electromagnetic physics
 - computation speed is an issue
 - a user may want a less-detailed, but faster approximation
 - no application requires all the physics and particles Geant4 has to offer
 - e.g., most medical applications do not want multi-GeV physics

Why Do We Need a Physics List?

- For this reason Geant4 takes an atomistic, rather than an integral approach to physics
 - provide many physics components (processes) which are de-coupled from one another
 - user selects these components in custom-designed physics lists in much the same way as a detector geometry is built

Physics Processes Provided by Geant4

• EM physics

- "low-energy" Livermore/ Penelope valid from 250 eV to ~ PeV
- optical photons

• Weak physics

- decay of subatomic particles
- radioactive decay of nuclei

Hadronic physics

- pure hadronic processes valid from 0 to ~100 TeV
- \bowtie γ^- , μ -nuclear valid from 10 MeV to ~TeV
- Parameterized or "fast simulation" physics

Pre-packaged Physics Lists (1)

- Our example deals mainly with electromagnetic physics
- A complete and realistic set of EM physics lists are provided
 - add to it according to your needs
- Adding hadronic physics is more involved
 - for any one hadronic process, user may choose from several hadronic models to choose from
 - choosing the right models for your application requires care
 - to make things easier, hadronic physics lists are now provided according to some use cases

Pre-packaged Physics Lists (2)

- Originally referred to as "hadronic physics lists" but include electromagnetic physics already
- Can be found on the Geant4 web page at
 - PhysicsList Guide
- Caveats:
 - these lists are provided as a "best guess" of the physics needed in a given case
 - The user is responsible for validating the physics for his own application and adding (or subtracting) the appropriate physics
 - "Trust, but verify."
 - they are intended as starting points or templates

Reference Physics Lists

Reference physics lists attempt to cover a wide range of use cases

- Extensive validation by LHC experiments for simulation hadronic showers
- Comparison experinents for neutron production and transport demonstrates good agreement
 - QGSP_BIC_HP, QGSP_BERT_HP
- user feedback, e.g. vi hypernews, is welcome
- Users responsible for validating results
- Documentation available from G4 Physics List manual
- Physics Lists User forum for questions and feedback

G4 home page

https://geant4.web.cern.ch/



Geant4

User Support

- 1. Getting started
- 2. Training courses and materials
- 3. Source code
- a. Download page
- b. LXR code browser
- c. doxygen documentation
- d. GitHub 🖗
- e. GitLab @ CERN 🖉
- 4. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) ₪
- 5. Bug reports and fixes
- 6. User requirements tracker
- 7. User Forum 🖉
- 8. Documentation
- a. Introduction to Geant4 [pdf]
- b. Installation Guide: [pdf]
- c. Application Developers degree [pdf]
- d. Toolkit Developers Guide [pdf]
- e. Physics Reference Manual [pdf]
- f. Physics List Guide [pdf]
- 9. Examples 🗗
- 10. User Aids
- a. Tips for improving CPU performance
- 11. Contact Coordinators & Contact Persons

Hands On

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Work on Medical Physics Example

- Check the Example documentation or the source code.
 - Find the geometrical info
 - Find the physics list
 - Find the particle source mechanism
 - Find the particle scoring mechanism
- Start designing your application ...

Laboratory

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Procedure

- 1) Copiate l'esempio basic B3 nella vostra directory
- 2) Entrate nella vostra directory B3
- 3) Costruite la sottodirectory dove compilerete
- 4) Entrate nella directory B3/build
- 5) Eseguite il comando per creare i makefiles
- 6) Compilate l'esempio
- 7) Entrate nella directory B3/build/B3a
- 8) Lanciate l'esempio exampleB3a

Procedure

- cp -r /gpfs/glast/Geant4/G4_10.5.p01/geant4.10.05.p01install/share/Geant4-10.5.1/examples/basic/B3.
- 2) cd B3
- 3) mkdir build
- 4) cd build
- 5) cmake ../
- 6) make
- 7) cd B3a
- ./exampleB3a

Particle Generation

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 - G4UserStackingAction
 - G4UserTrackingAction
 - G4UserSteppingAction

Primary particle generation

G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction

- This class is one of mandatory user classes to control the generation of primaries.
 - This class itself should NOT generate primaries but invoke GeneratePrimaryVertex() method of primary generator(s) to make primaries.
- Constructor
 - Instantiate primary generator(s)
 - Set default values to it(them)
- GeneratePrimaries() method
 - Randomize particle-by-particle value(s)
 - Set these values to primary generator(s)
 - Never use hard-coded UI commands
 - Invoke GeneratePrimaryVertex () method of primary generator(s)

Built-in primary particle generators

G4ParticleGun

- Concrete implementations of G4VPrimaryGenerator
 - A good example for experiment-specific primary generator implementation
- It shoots one primary particle of a certain energy from a certain point at a certain time to a certain direction.
 - Various set methods are available
 - Intercoms commands are also available for setting initial values
- One of most frequently asked questions is :

I want "particle shotgun", "particle machinegun", etc.

- Instead of implementing such a fancy weapon, in your implementation of UserPrimaryGeneratorAction, you can
 - Shoot random numbers in arbitrary distribution
 - Use set methods of G4ParticleGun
 - Use G4ParticleGun as many times as you want
 - Use any other primary generators as many times as you want to make overlapping events

G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction

```
void T01PrimaryGeneratorAction::
         GeneratePrimaries (G4Event* anEvent)
{ G4ParticleDefinition* particle;
  G4int i = (int) (5.*G4UniformRand());
  switch(i)
  { case 0: particle = positron; break; ... }
  particleGun->SetParticleDefinition(particle);
  G4double pp =
    momentum+(G4UniformRand()-0.5)*sigmaMomentum;
  G4double mass = particle->GetPDGMass();
  G4double Ekin = sqrt(pp*pp+mass*mass)-mass;
  particleGun->SetParticleEnergy(Ekin);
  G4double angle = (G4UniformRand()-0.5)*sigmaAngle;
  particleGun->SetParticleMomentumDirection
           (G4ThreeVector(sin(angle),0.,cos(angle)));
  particleGun->GeneratePrimaryVertex(anEvent);
```

You can repeat this for generating more than one primary particles.

Primary vertices and primary particles

- Primary vertices and primary particles are stored in G4Event in advance to processing an event.
 - G4PrimaryVertex and G4PrimaryParticle classes
 - These classes don't have any dependency to G4ParticleDefinition nor G4Track.
 - They will become "primary tracks" only at Begin-of-Event phase and put into a "stack"



G4ParticleGun

- Concrete implementations of G4VPrimaryGenerator
 - A good example for experiment-specific primary generator implementation
- It shoots one primary particle of a certain energy from a certain point at a certain time to a certain direction.
 - Various C++ set methods are available
- Intercoms commands are also available for setting initial values
 - /gun/List

/gun/particle

/gun/momentum

/gun/direction

/gun/energy

- List available particles
- Set particle to be generated
 - Set momentum direction
- /gun/momentumAmp
- /gun/position
- /gun/time
- /gun/polarization
- /gun/number
- /gun/ion

Set kinetic energy Set momentum Set absolute value of momentum Set starting position of the particle Set initial time of the particle Set polarization Set number of particles to be generated (per event) Set properties of ion to be generated [usage] /gun/ion Z A Q

Motivation for GPS

After first simple tutorial trials, modelling sources in realistic set-up soon requires relatively more complex sources

G4ParticleGun can be used in most cases

 (as in the series of examples during this tutorial), but
 users still needs to code (C++) almost every change and
 add related UI commands for interactive control

Requirements for advanced primary particle modelling are often common to many users in different communities
 E.g. uniform vertex distribution on a surface, isotropic generation, energy spectrum,...

What is GPS?

 The General Particle Source (GPS) offers as pre-defined many common options for particle generation (energy, angular and spatial distributions)

- GPS is a concrete implementation of G4VPrimaryGenerator (as G4ParticleGun but more advanced)
- G4 class name: G4GeneralParticleSource (in the event category)
- User cases: space radiation environment, medical physics, accelerator (fixed target)
- First development (2000) University of Southampton (ESA contract), maintained and upgraded now mainly by QinetiQ and ESA

G4GeneralParticleSource

A concrete implementation of G4VPrimaryGenerator

Suitable especially to space applications

Detailed description
 <u>Geant4 GPS manual</u>
 <u>LXR code browser (expgps)</u>

Summary of GPS features

- Primary vertex can be randomly positioned with several options
 - Emission from point, plane,...
- Angular emission
 - Several distributions; isotropic, cosine-law, focused, …
 - With some additional parameters (min/max-theta, min/max-phi,...)
- Kinetic energy of the primary particle can also be randomized.
 - Common options (e.g. mono-energetic, power-law), some extra shapes (e.g. black-body) or user defined
- Multiple sources
 - With user defined relative intensity
- Capability of event biasing (variance reduction).
 - By enhancing particle type, distribution of vertex point, energy and/or direction

G4GeneralParticleSource (GPS)

- An advanced concrete implementation of G4VPrimaryGenerator
- Offers as pre-defined many common (and not so common) options
 - Position, angular and energy distributions
 - Multiple sources, with user defined relative intensity
- Capability of event biasing (variance reduction).
- All features can be used via C++ or command line (or macro) UI

Example: Proton source

- Vertices on rectangle along xz at edge of World
- Parallel emission along -y
- Monoenergetic: 500 MeV

Macro

/gps/particle proton

/gps/ene/type Mono /gps/ene/mono 500 MeV

/gps/pos/type Plane /gps/pos/shape Rectangle /gps/pos/rot1 0 0 1 /gps/pos/rot2 1 0 0 /gps/pos/halfx 46.2 cm /gps/pos/halfy 57.2 cm /gps/pos/centre 0. 57.2 0. cm

/gps/direction 0 - 1 0



GPS Example 6

- Vertex on sphere surface
- Isotropic emission
- Pre-defined spectrum (black-body)

Macro

/gps/particle geantino

/gps/pos/type Surface /gps/pos/shape Sphere /gps/pos/centre -2. 2. 2. cm /gps/pos/radius 2.5 cm

/gps/ang/type iso

/gps/ene/type Bbody
/gps/ene/min 2. MeV
/gps/ene/max 10. MeV
/gps/ene/temp 2e10
/gps/ene/calculate



GPS Example 7

- Vertex on cylinder surface
- Cosine-law emission (to mimic isotropic source in space)
- Pre-defined spectrum (Cosmic Diffuse Gamma)

Macro

/gps/particle gamma

/gps/pos/type Surface /gps/pos/shape Cylinder /gps/pos/centre 2. 2. 2. cm /gps/pos/radius 2.5 cm /gps/pos/halfz 5. cm

/gps/ang/type cos

/gps/ene/type Cdg /gps/ene/min 20. keV /gps/ene/max 1. MeV /gps/ene/calculate



GPS vs G4ParticleGun



GPS control: scripting UI

All features can be used via C++ or command line (or macro) UI

Example of isotropic emission in UserPrimaryGenerator C++ code: examples/advanced/human_phantom/src/G4HumanPhantomPrimaryGeneratorAction.cc

```
G4double a,b,c;
G4double n;
do {
    a = (G4UniformRand()-0.5)/0.5;
    b = (G4UniformRand()-0.5)/0.5;
    c = (G4UniformRand()-0.5)/0.5;
    n = a*a+b*b+c*c;
} while (n > 1 || n == 0.0);
n = std::sqrt(n);
a /= n;
b /= n;
c /= n;
G4ThreeVector direction(a,b,c);
particleGun->SetParticleMomentumDirection(direction);
```

Equivalent GPS (script)

/gps/ang/type iso

Position distributions /gps/pos/...

Point

E.g. /gps/pos/type Point /gps/pos/centre 0. 0. 0. cm

Beam

E.g. /gps/pos/type Beam /gps/pos/shape Circle /gps/pos/radius 1. mm /gps/pos/sigma_r 2. mm

Plane

Shape: Circle, Annulus, Ellipsoid, Square or Rectangle

E.g. /gps/pos/type Plane /gps/pos/shape Rectangle /gps/pos/halfx 50 cm /gps/pos/halfy 70 cm

Surface or Volume

- Shape: Sphere, Ellipsoid, Cylinder or Para
- Surface: zenith automatically oriented as normal to surface at point

E.G. /gps/pos/type Surface

/gps/pos/shape Sphere

/gps/pos/radius 1. m

Position distributions /gps/pos/... (2)

Some shared UI commands

- /gps/pos/centre
- /gps/pos/halfx | y | z
- /gps/pos/radius
- /gps/pos/inner_radius
- /gps/pos/sigmar
- /gps/pos/sigmax | y
- /gps/pos/rot1
- /gps/pos/rot2
- When usinig Volume type, one can limit the emission from within a certain volume in the "mass" geometry

/gps/pos/confine your_physical_volume_name

Angular distributions /gps/ang/...

Isotropic (iso)

- Cosine-law (cos)
 - See next slides for more information
- Planar wave (planar)
 - Standard emission in one direction
 (it's also implicitly set by /gps/direction x y z)

Accelerator beam

- 1-d or 2-d gaussian emission, beam1d or beam2d
- Focusing to a point (focused)
- User-defined (user)

Energy distributions /gps/ene/...

Kinetic energy of the primary particle can also be randomized, with several predefined options:

- Common options (e.g. mono-energetic, power-law, exponential, gaussian, etc)
 - mono-energetic (Mono)
 - linear (Lin)
 - power-law (Pow)
 - exponential (Exp)
 - gaussian (Gauss)
- Some extra predefined spectral shapes (bremsstrahlung, blackbody, cosmic diffuse gamma ray,...)
 - bremsstrahlung (Brem)
 - black-body (Bbody)
 - cosmic diffuse gamma ray (Cdg)
- User defined
 - user-defined histogram (User)
 - arbitrary point-wise spectrum (Arb) and
 - user-defined energy per nucleon histogram (Epn)

Multiple sources

- Definition of multiple "parallel" sources
- One source per event is used
- Sampling according to relative intensity
- First source is always already present (implicitly created)
 - one can add intensity information

/gps/source/intensity 5.

 Additional sources must be added explicitly

/gps/source/add 10.

Macro

beam #1
 # default intensity is 1,
 # now change to 5.
 /qps/source/intensity 5.

/gps/particle proton /gps/pos/type Beam

in the y-z plane

/gps/pos/rot1 0 1 0 /gps/pos/rot2 0 0 1

the incident surface is

the beam spot is centered

with a 1 mm central plateau

/gps/pos/centre 0. 0. 0. mm

at the origin and is
of 1d gaussian shape

/qps/pos/shape Circle

- Two-beam source definition (multiple sources)
- Gaussian profile

 Can be focused / defocused

/gps/pos/radius 1. mm /gps/pos/sigma_r .2 mm # the beam is travelling # along the X_axis # with 5 degrees dispersion /gps/ang/rot1 0 0 1 /gps/ang/rot2 0 1 0 /gps/ang/type beam1d

the beam energy is in # gaussian profile centered # at 400 MeV /gps/ene/type Gauss /gps/ene/mono 400 MeV /gps/ene/sigma 50. MeV

/gps/ang/sigma r 5. deg

beam **#**2

2x the instensity of beam #1
/gps/source/add 10.

this is a electron beam 68

GPS Example 31



