

Celeritas R&D Summary

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Senior R&D Staff
Scalable Engineering Applications*



CELERITAS

Celeritas core team:

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Celeritas core advisors:

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Marcel Demarteau (ORNL),
Paul Romano (ANL)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Geant4 R&D Review
13 December, 2023

Background

Methods

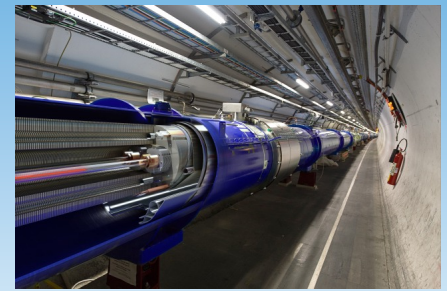
Results

Conclusions

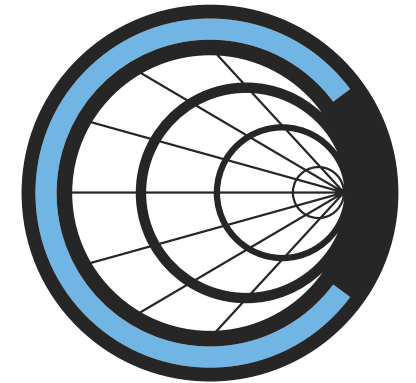


Celeritas project goal

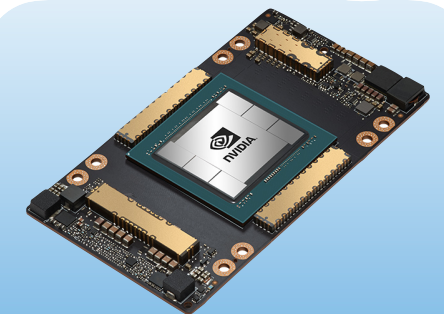
- **Accelerate scientific discovery** by improving detector simulation **throughput** and **energy efficiency** for LHC production simulation
 - Long term goal: as much work as possible on GPU
 - Initial funding: focus on EM physics (but keep door open for more!)
- **Jointly funded by DOE ASCR and HEP**
 - **Research and develop** novel algorithms for GPU-based Monte Carlo simulation in High Energy Physics
 - **Implement** production-quality code for GPU simulation
 - **Integrate** collaboratively into experiment frameworks



LHC beamline ©CERN



C E L E R I T A S

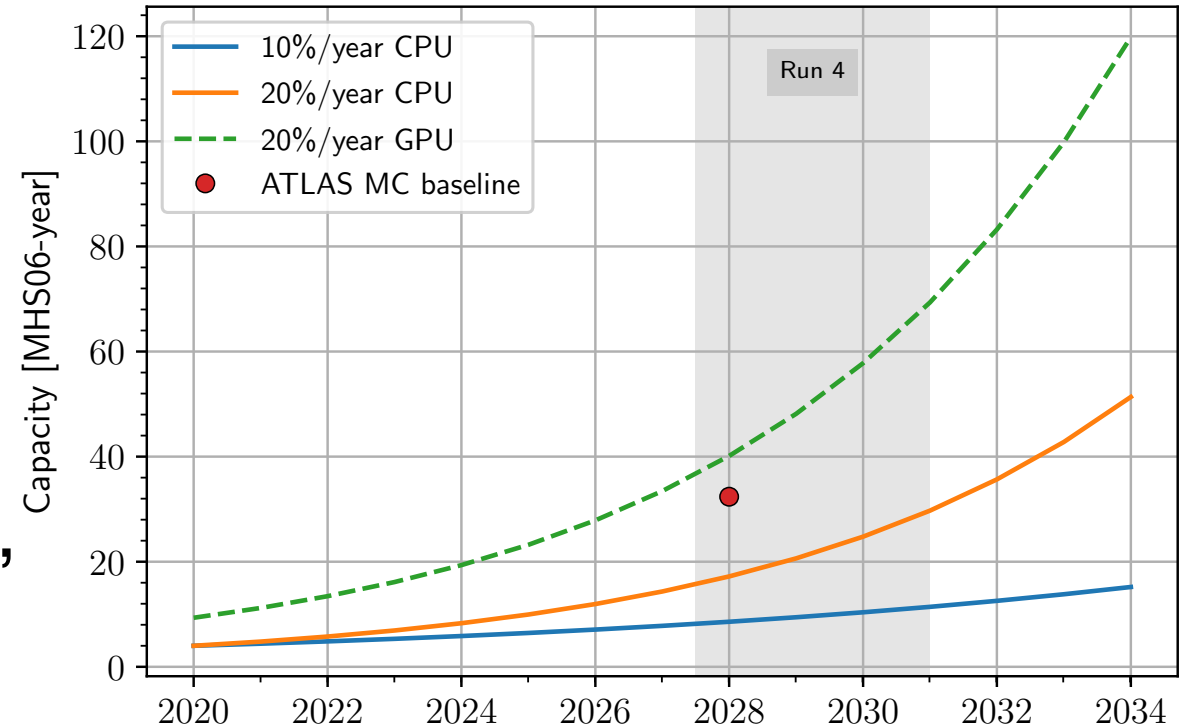


Nvidia A100 GPU @Nvidia



Motivation 1: computational demand

- HL upgrade means 10× higher sampling rate
 - More detector data means more simulations needed
 - Tens of millions of “equivalent 2006-era CPU hours” for analysis
 - 20–25% is from full-fidelity MC
- Even AI/ML based “fast simulation” methods will need lots of training data (possibly directly via GPU)



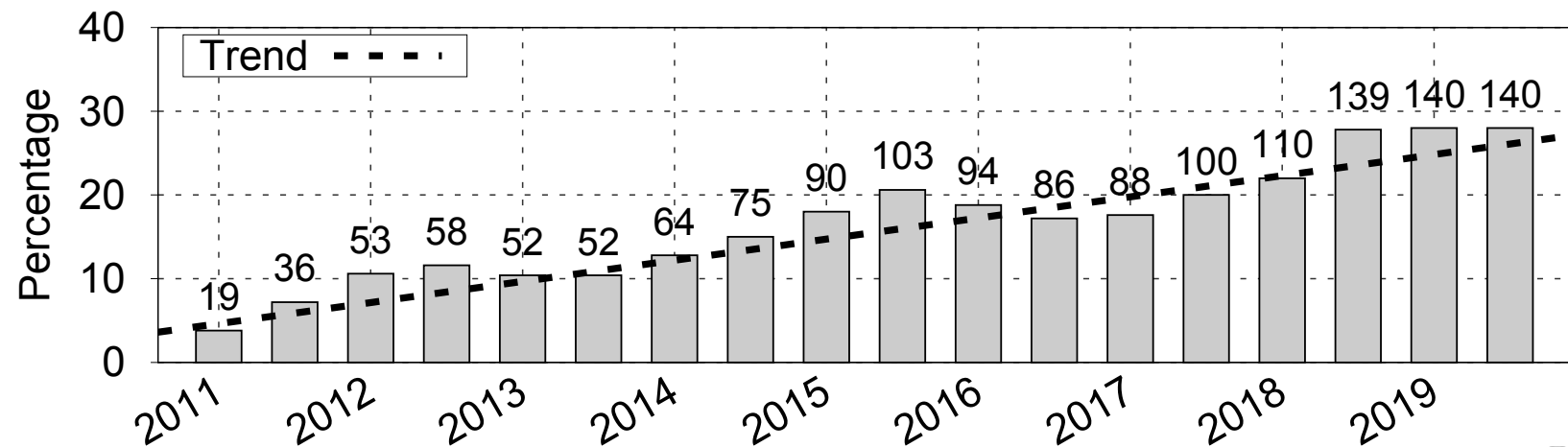
GPU projection based on energy efficiency and speedup of ExaSMR MC code



Motivation 2: computational supply

- “Heterogeneous” architectures are increasingly common in high performance computing
- Scientific codes can run on GPU with much higher energy efficiency
e.g., Perlmutter reports 5× average: <https://blogs.nvidia.com/blog/gpu-energy-efficiency-nersc/>
- Demand for AI/ML training and models **will accelerate this trend**

Top500 supercomputers
with heterogeneous
architectures: >30%



Khan et al., *An Analysis of System Balance and Architectural Trends Based on Top500 Supercomputers*
Reproduced under government license. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3432261.3432263>



...but there's a catch

- Exascale Computing Project (ECP) funded a wide range of scientific libraries and applications to run efficiently on next-generation GPUs
- In *all* cases, performance on GPU requires:
 - Algorithmic restructuring (*reorganizing data, separating states, transposing loops*)
 - New numerical approaches (*targeting higher compute-to-memory ratios*)
 - Alternative physics models (*more favorable to thread-level parallelism*)
 - **Not simply porting code**

Drastically different hardware requires dramatically different software



Celeritas team

- Diverse scientific backgrounds
- Decades of combined experience managing large scientific software projects
- Multi-institution (now international)
- ***Not*** computer scientists steamrolling physicists with mini-apps

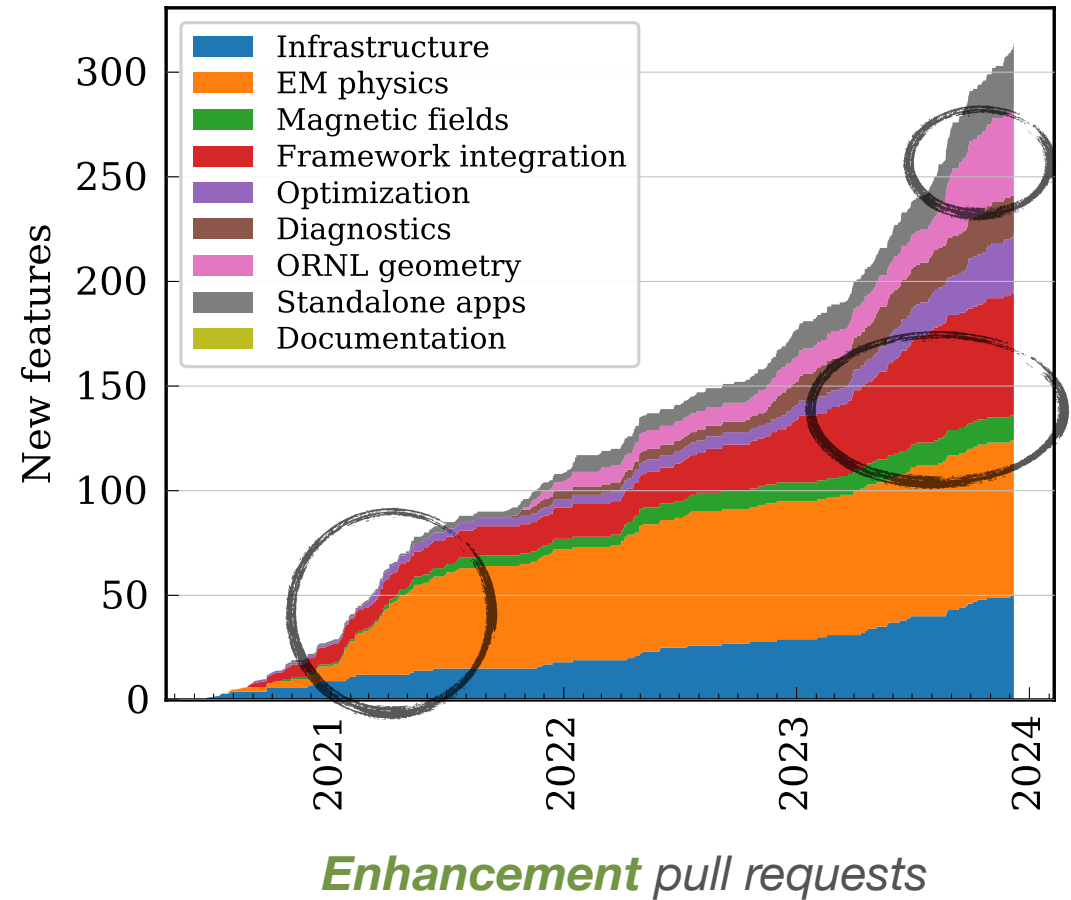
Educational background of core+advisors

| | Bachelor | Master | Doctorate |
|------------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| Physics | 7 | 5 | 5 |
| Engineering | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Computer science | 1 | 3 | |
| Mathematics | 2 | 1 | |



Code development

- Production-focused scientific software
 - **90%** of source code is reusable library code
 - **1:2** ratio of lines of documentation to code
 - **50k** lines of test code
- Early push for EM physics
- Last year's focus:
 - Integration with Geant4
 - Optimization on GPU (and CPU)
 - ORANGE features for ExaSMR reactor simulation



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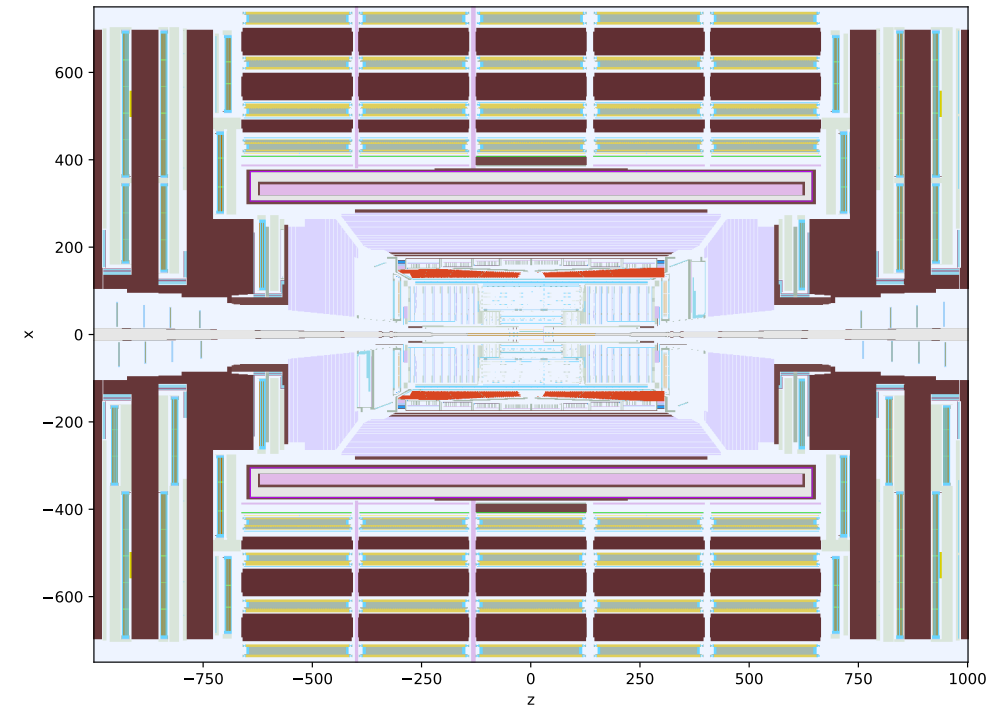
Core design philosophy

- Algorithms and structure *will* need to change due to:
 - Increasing complexity of new physics added
 - Unexpected design requirements from downstream integration
 - Performance bottlenecks found during analysis
- Therefore code needs to be amenable to refactoring
 - Heavy use of composition rather than inheritance or massive functions
 - Data-oriented to allow the same data to be reused in multiple functions
 - Template-friendly interfaces hide underlying data structures



High-level capabilities targeting LHC simulation

- Equivalent to `G4EmStandardPhysics`
...using Urban MSC for high-E MSC; only γ , e^\pm
- Full-featured Geant4 detector geometries using VecGeom 1.x
- Runtime selectable processes, physics options, field definition
- Execution on CUDA (Nvidia), HIP* (AMD), *and CPU* devices



GPU-traced rasterization of CMS 2018

**VecGeom currently requires CUDA:
ORANGE navigation required for AMD*

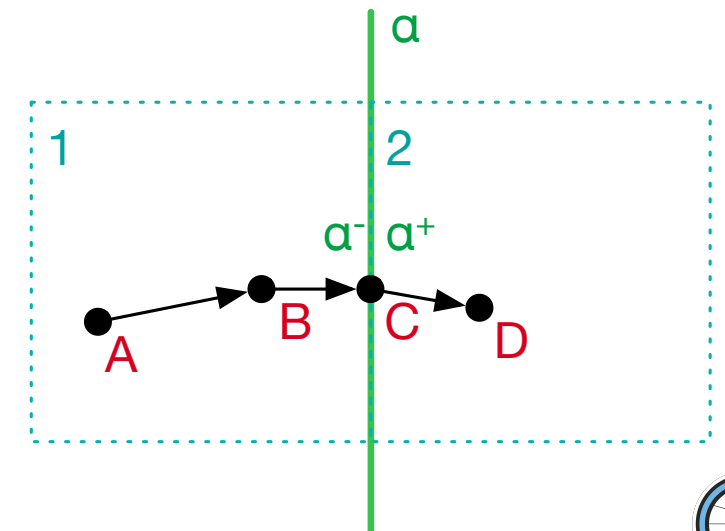


ORANGE: surface-based navigation

- Designed for deeply nested reactor models
- Portable (CUDA/HIP) geometry implementation
- Tracking based on CSG tree of surfaces **constructed from volumes**
- Maximize run-time performance and robustness by preprocessing

| | Position | Volume | Surface+Sense |
|---------------|----------|--------|------------------|
| Initialize | A | 1 | — |
| Find step | A | 1 | — |
| Move internal | B | 1 | — |
| Move to bdy | C | 1 | α inside |
| Cross bdy | C | 2 | α outside |
| Move internal | D | 2 | — |

Discrete state points (avoiding “fuzziness”) are optimal for GPU



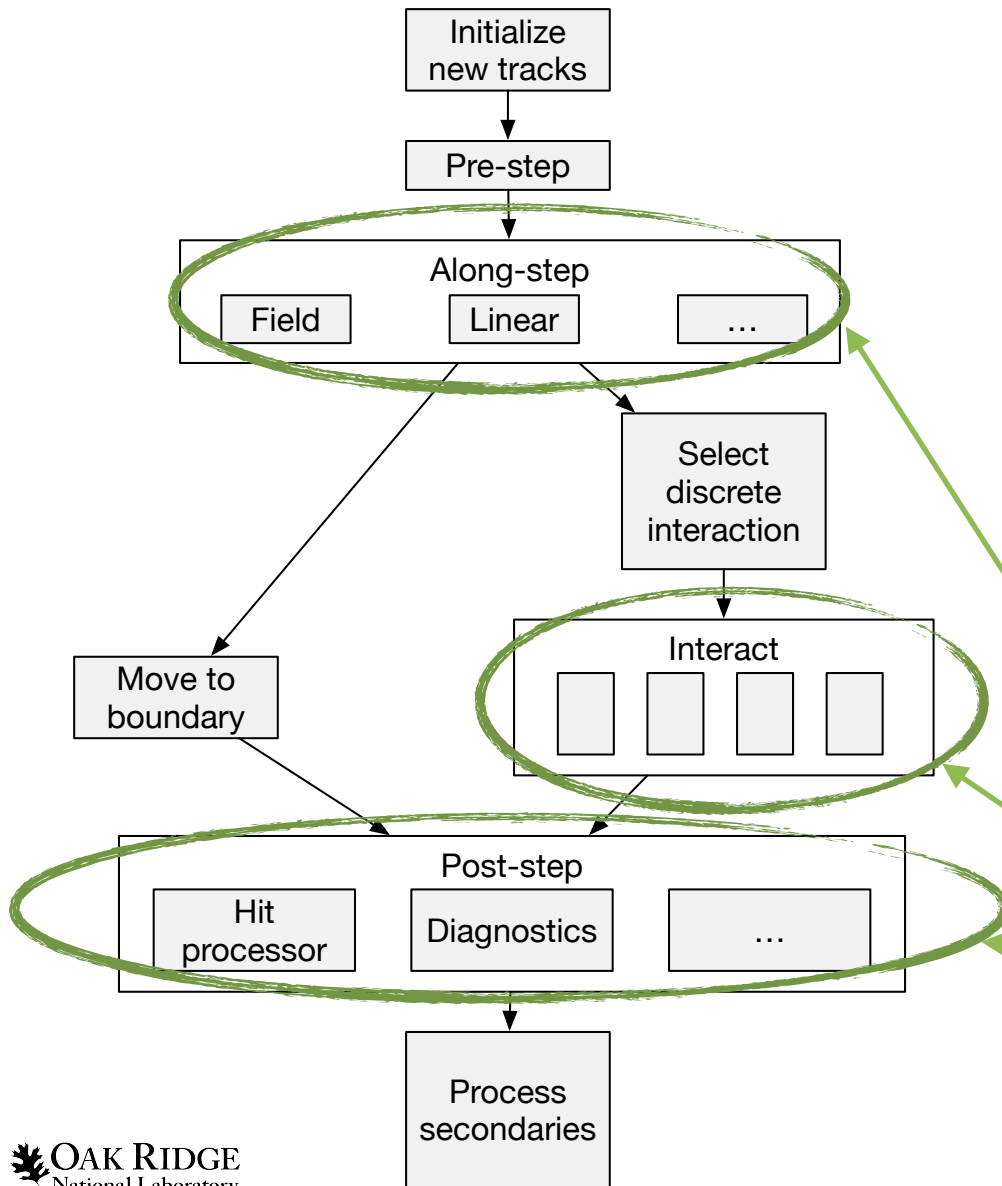
Magnetic field propagation

- Composition based: **P**◦**D**◦**I**◦**E**◦**F**
- Templated for extensibility
 - Built-in “uniform” and “*r-z* field map”
 - Magnetic field (Lorentz) equation
 - Single driver (for now) with runtime step tolerances
 - Runge–Kutta 4 and Dormand–Prince RK5(4)7M integrators
 - Custom field propagator *without* safety evaluation*

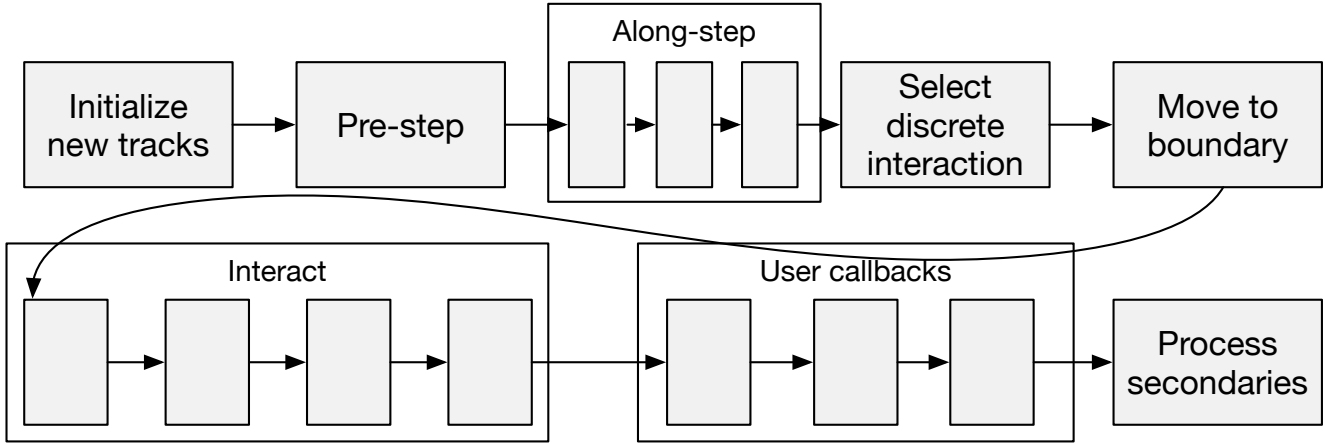
| Operator | Input | Output |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Field | \mathbf{x} | \mathbf{B} |
| Equation of motion | $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{B}$ | \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{p}' |
| Integrator | $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, h$ | $\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{p}^*, e$ |
| Driver | $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{p}, s$ | $\mathbf{x}^*, \mathbf{p}^*, s^*$ |
| Propagator | $\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\Omega}, E, s$ | $\mathbf{x}^*, \boldsymbol{\Omega}^*, s^*$ |



Stepping loop on a GPU



Process large batches of tracks through all kernels (10^3-10^6)



Topological sort: a loop over kernels

Using many small kernels improves extensibility



Celeritas/Geant4 integration

- **Imports** EM physics selection, cross sections, parameters
- **Converts** geometry to VecGeom model without I/O
- **Offloads** EM tracks from Geant4
(Via *G4UserTrackingAction*, *G4VFastSimulationModel*, or *G4VTrackingManager*)
- **Scores** hits to user “sensitive detectors”
(Copies from GPU to CPU; reconstructs *G4Hit*, *G4Step*, *G4Track*; calls *Hit*)
- **Builds** against Geant4 10.5–11.1 with no patches required

*Celeritas has production quality interfaces
to simplify user application integration*

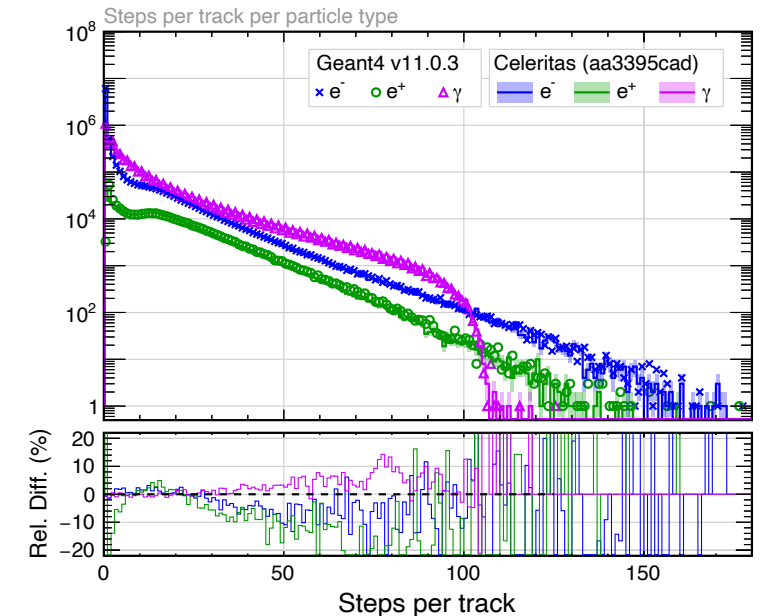
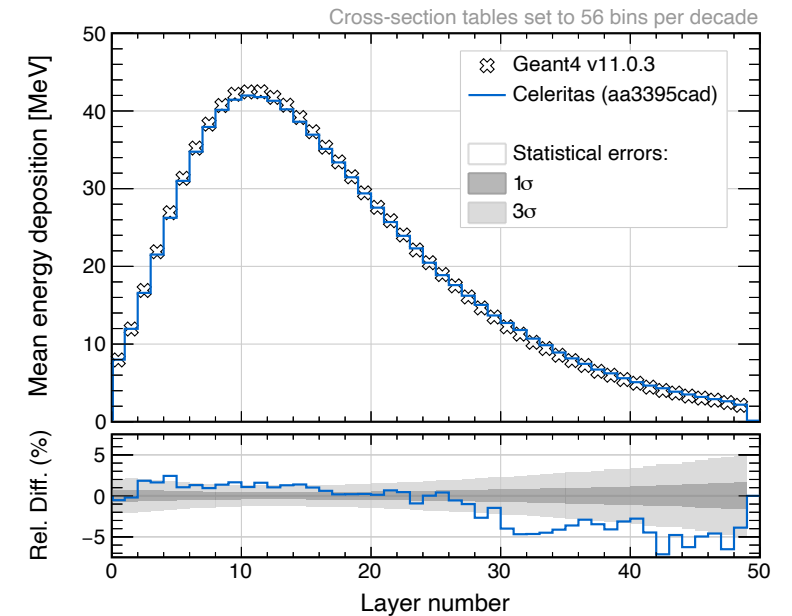


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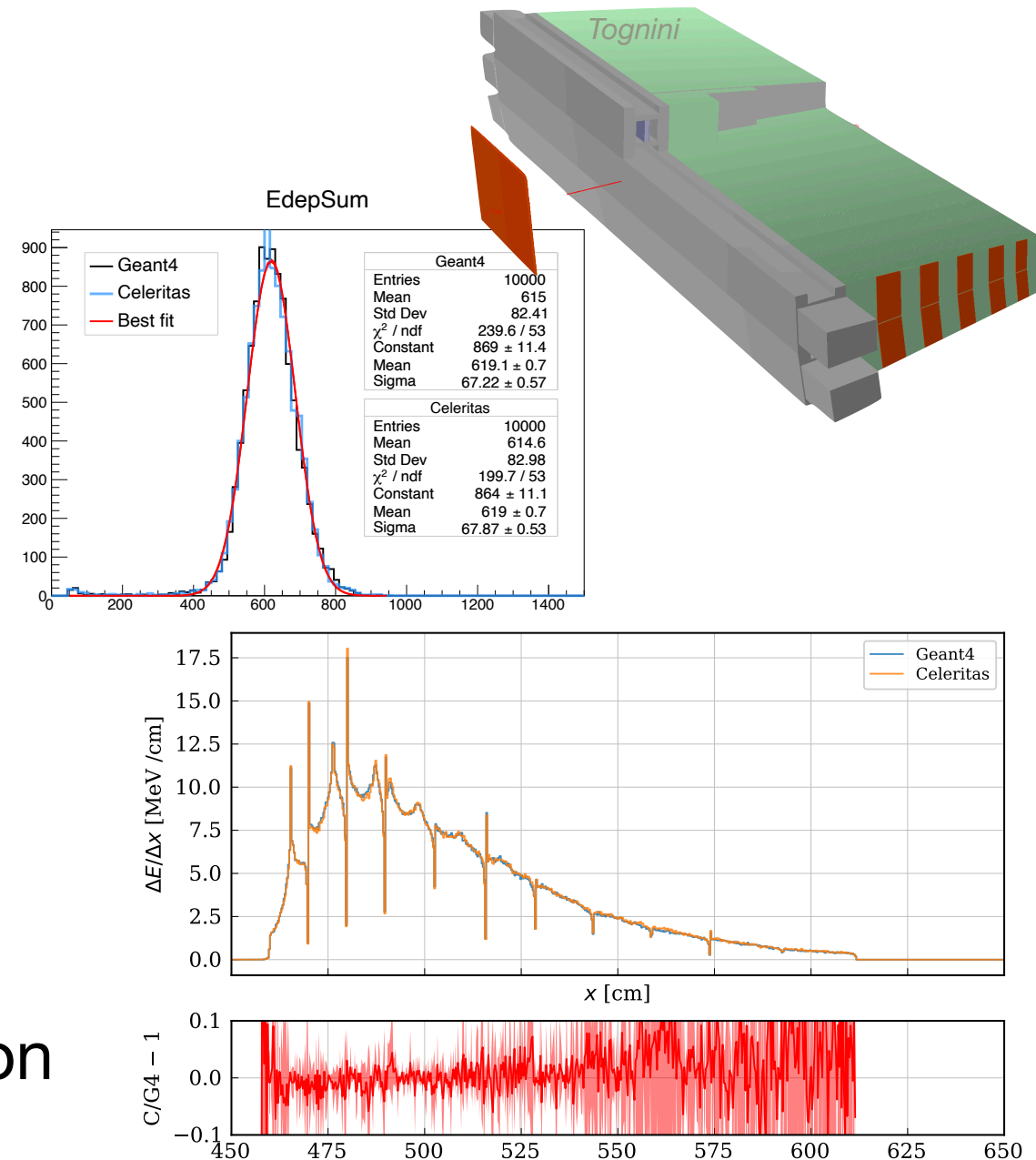
Physics verification

- Single-model distributions
- Volume-dependent hit count and energy deposition distributions
- Step-per-track distributions (same total steps to within half a percent)
- Most significant disagreement remaining: Urban MSC



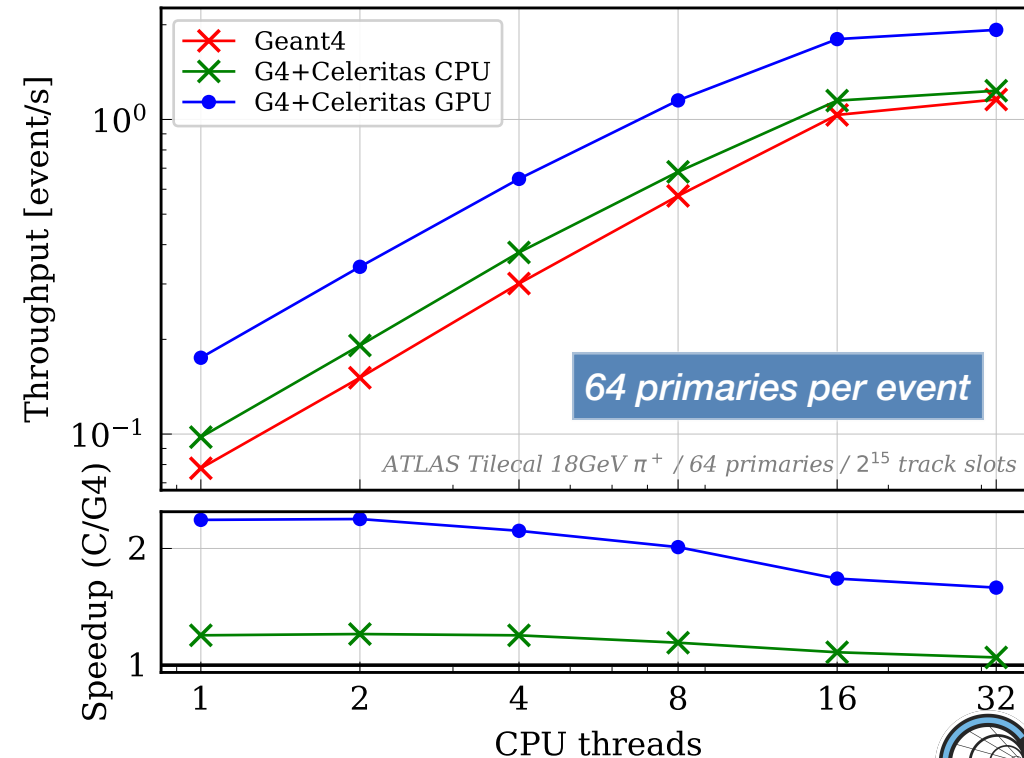
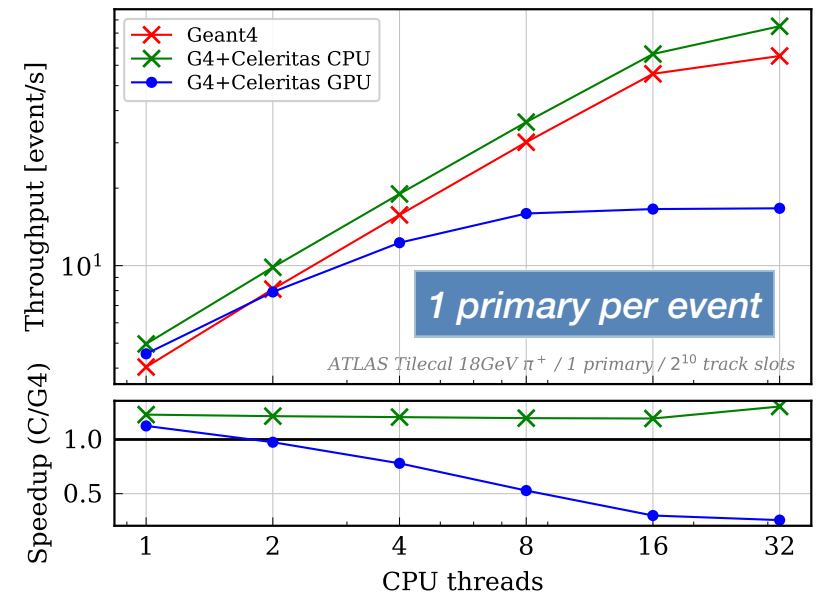
EM offloading with FullSimLight

- ATLAS FullSimLight: hadronic tile calorimeter module segment
 - 64 segments in full ATLAS, 2 in this test beam
 - 18 GeV π^+ beam, no field
 - FTFP_BERT (default) physics list
(includes standard EM)
- **~100 lines of code to integrate**
 - Offload e^- , e^+ , γ to Celeritas
 - Celeritas reconstructs hits and sends to user-defined G4VSensitiveDetector
- **Good agreement** in energy deposition



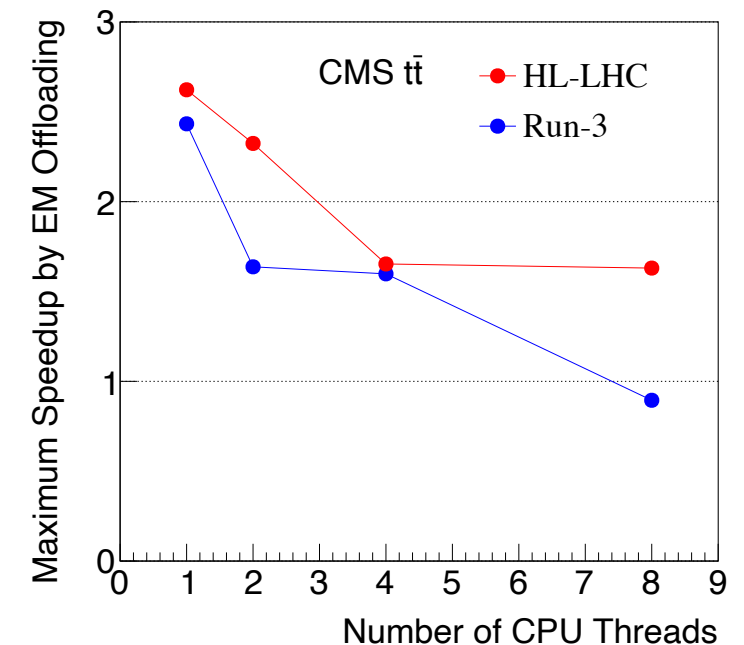
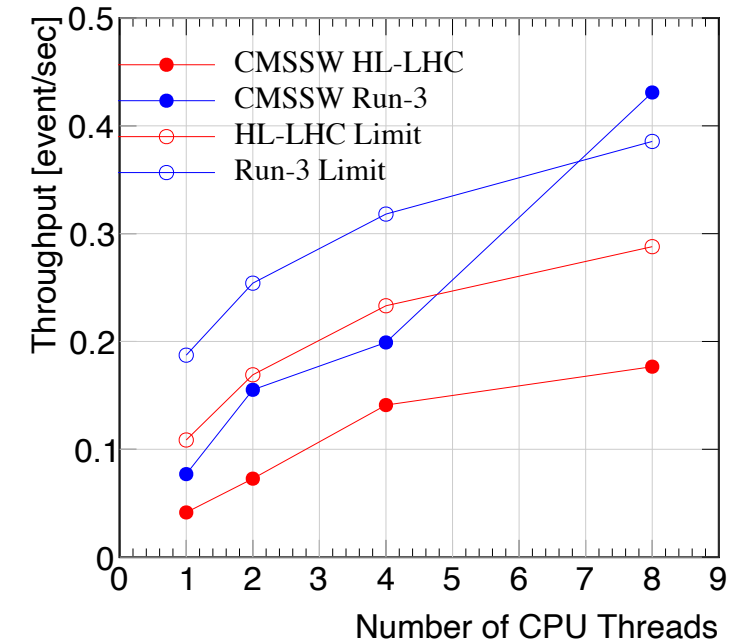
Offload performance results

- 1/4 of a Perlmutter (NERSC) GPU node
16 cores of AMD EPYC, 1 Nvidia A100
- Time **includes** startup overhead, Geant4 hadronic physics, track reconstruction, and SD callback
- GPU speedup: **1.7x** at full occupancy
Using all CPU cores with a single GPU
- CPU-only speedup: **1.1–1.3x**
- Theoretical maximum speedup: **2.2–2.5x**
Instantly killing e^- , e^+ , γ when born
- **LHC-scale energy per event (>1 TeV)**
is needed for GPU to be effective
- **One GPU is effective with many-CPU Geant4**



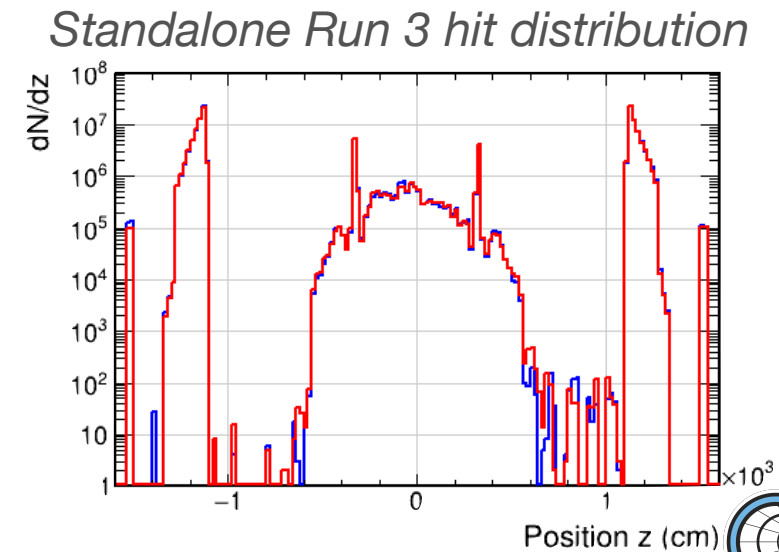
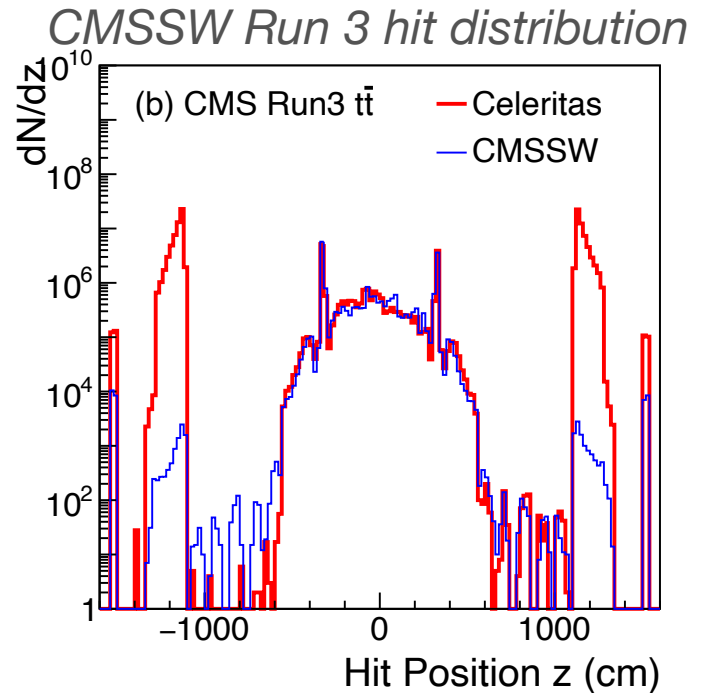
CMSSW integration

- Initial CMSSW integration complete
 - 500 lines of code
 - Complications from extra user track state
- Performance isn't comparable due to different physics
 - Lots of region-dependent cuts, parameter changes
 - Fast simulation bypasses transport loop
- Strong collaboration with CMS
 - **CMSSW has agreed** to integrate Celeritas as an external
 - CPU-only for now to facility software infrastructure
 - **Maximum speedup for offloading EM: ~2.5x**



CMS Run 3&4 Standalone Simulations

- Standalone Geant4 app celer-g4
- 32 $t\bar{t}$ events from Pythia
- FTFP_BERT physics
 - Geant4 simulates hadronics
 - All EM tracks offloaded to Celeritas
 - Lepto-nuclear reactions neglected
- Multiple field options
 - No magnetic field
 - Uniform 4T field
 - Discretized+interpolated RZ field (901×481 points)
- CMSSW/Geant4 throughput: **8×**
(we're simulating a harder problem than necessary, but we now have an equivalent test problem)



CMS Run 3&4 Standalone Results

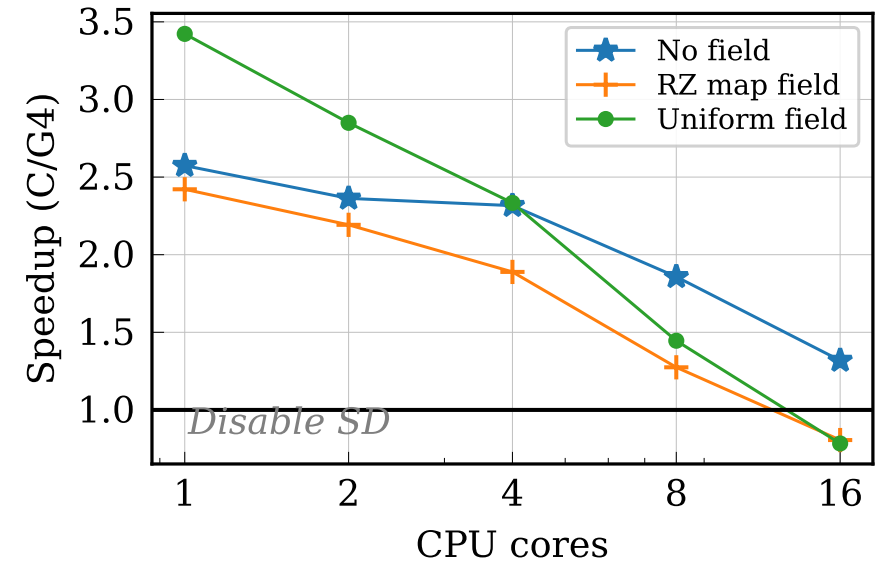
- Promising performance

- SD reconstruction adds <15% overhead
- Initial comparison of hits shows good agreement
- Run 3: 25%–190% improvement at 8 cores
- With task-based framework we might see better (due to less GPU contention)

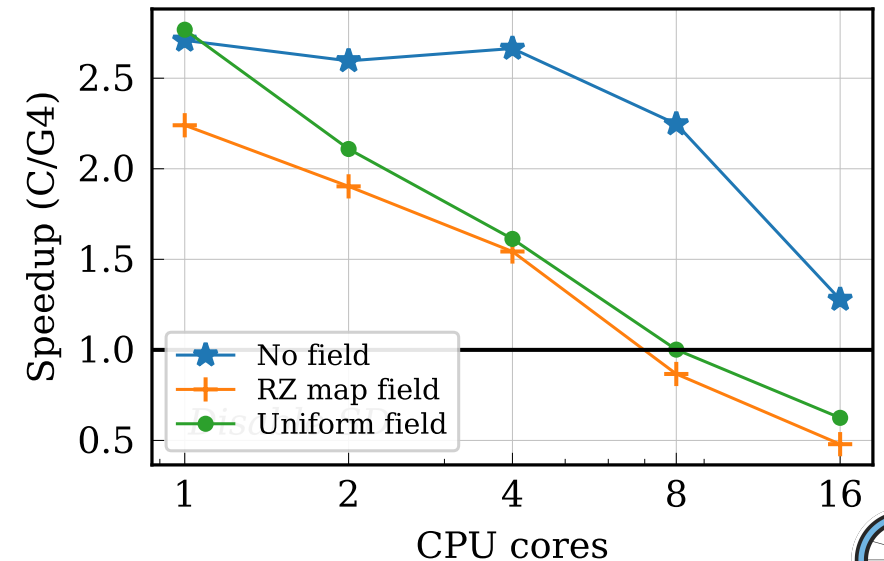
- Possible future improvements:

- Magnetic field propagation
- Activating track sorting to get smaller kernel grid sizes
- Single-precision? (Especially on consumer cards)

Run 3; Nvidia A100



Run 4 (HL-LHC); Nvidia A100



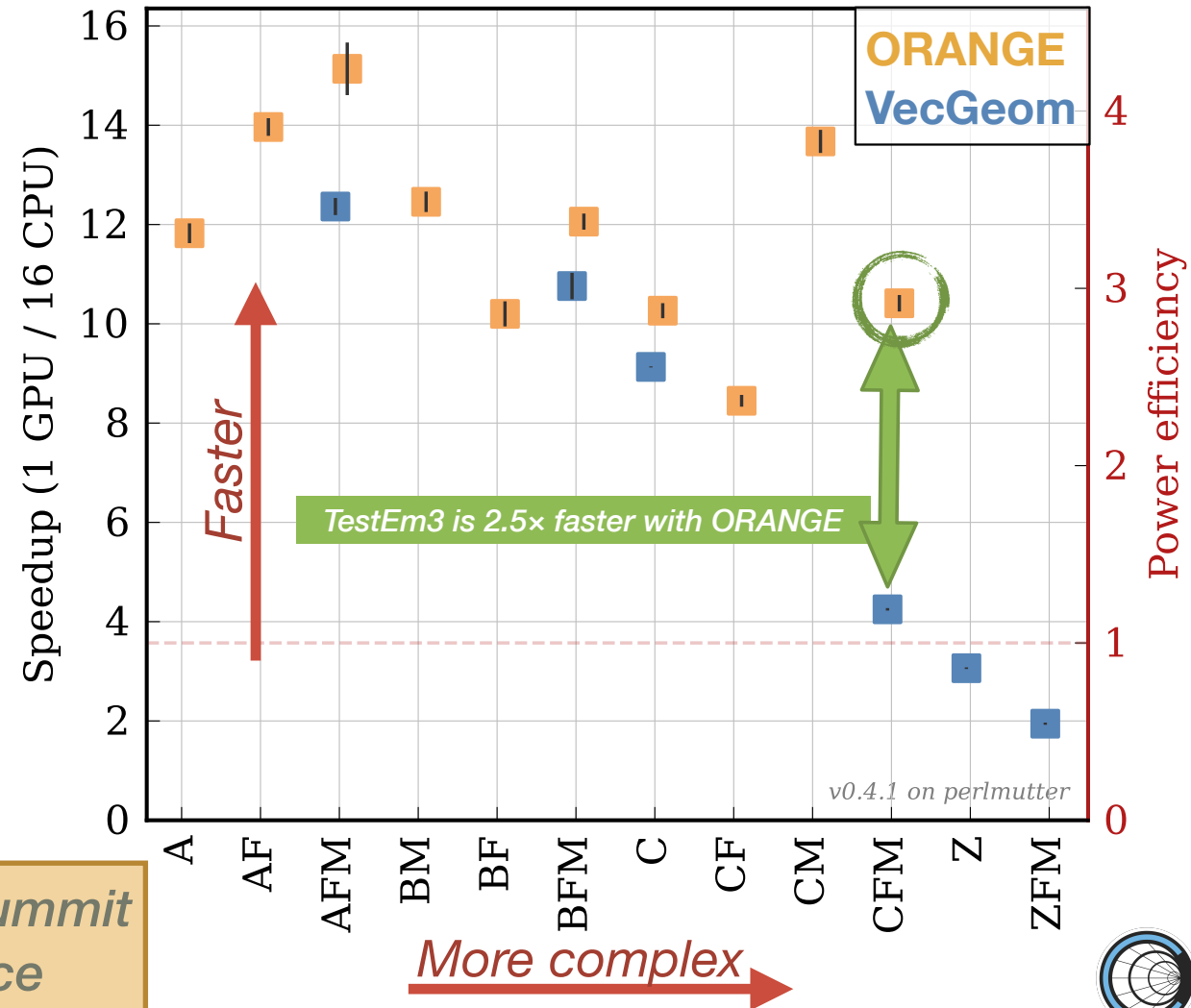
Nvidia A100 vs AMD 7532 EPYC



Standalone EM performance

- 1300 × 10 GeV e⁻, 16 events
- ¼ Perlmutter node (NERSC)
1 × Nvidia A100 GPU, ¼ × 64-core AMD EPYC 7763
- Celeritas GPU vs CPU
CUDA (1 CPU thread) vs OpenMP (16 CPU threads)
- Key metrics favor GPU
 - *Capacity: 50–94% loss* if GPUs are ignored
 - *Efficiency: up to 4x* performance per watt

| Problem definition | | Modifier | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------|--------|
| A | “infinite” medium | F | +field |
| B | simple-cms | M | +msc |
| C | idealized calorimeter | | |
| Z | cms2018 | | |



Previous versions of this slide used Summit which has slower CPU performance



Speedup with respect to Geant4

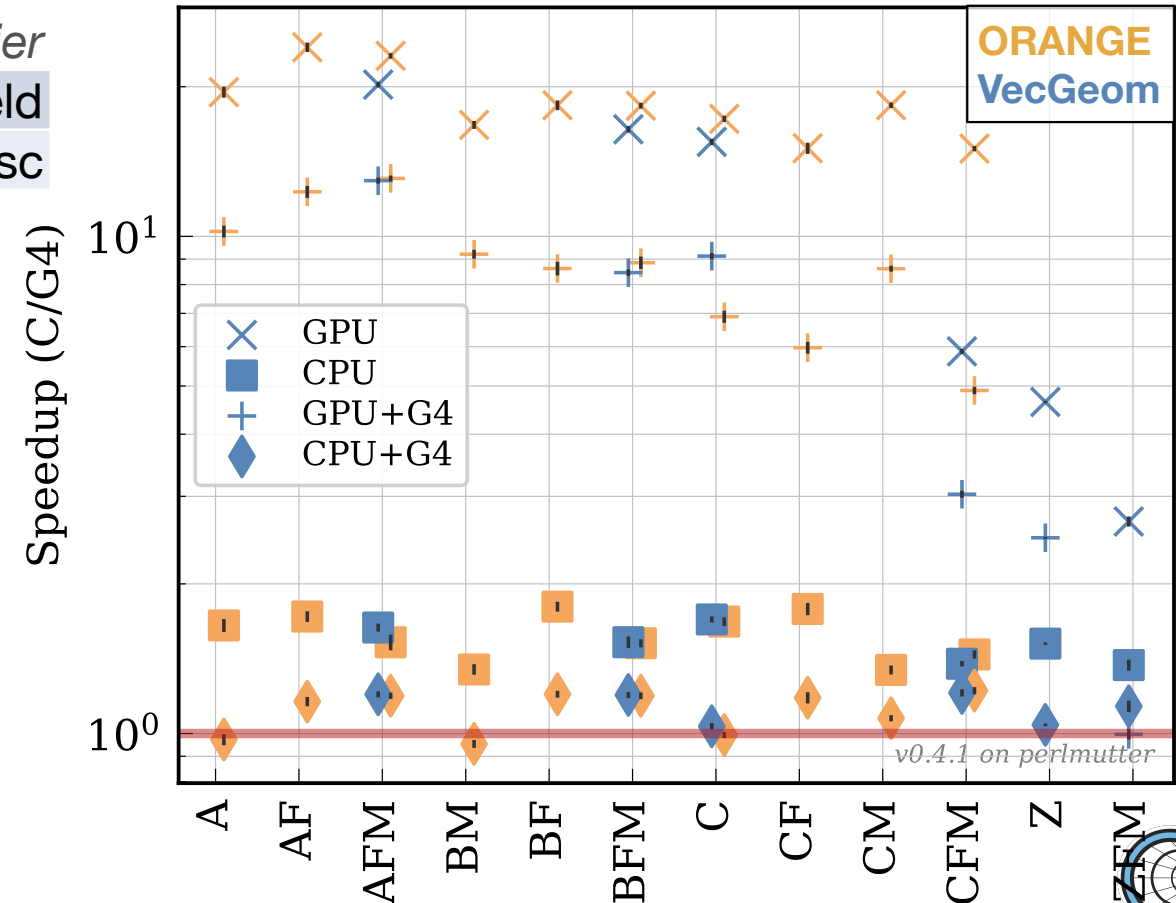
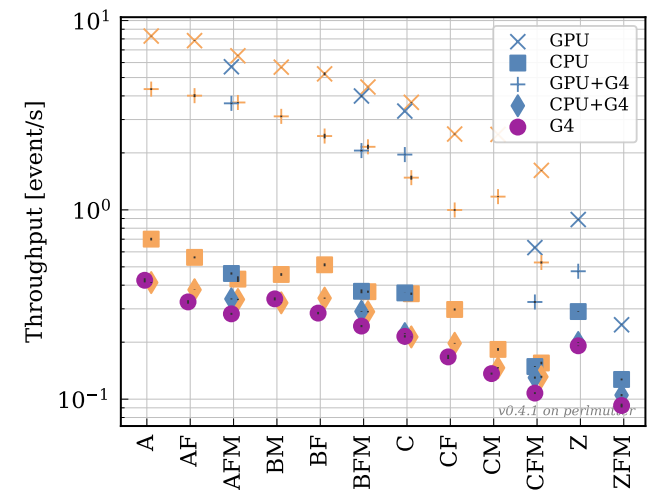
- Standalone Celeritas on CPU is **~50% faster** than Geant4 for EM test suite
- GPU/G4 throughput: **2.5–20×**
- Still investigating disparity between “+G4” (offloaded from Geant4) versus standalone app

Problem definition

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| A | “infinite” medium |
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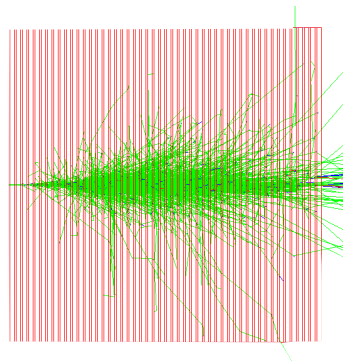
Modifier

| | |
|---|--------|
| F | +field |
| M | +msc |



TestEM3 performance disparity

- “No” divergence (all boxes)
- Performance parity on CPU
- *Physics* time parity on GPU
- Step counts are equivalent
- ORANGE faster on GPU
 - Neutral propagation: 1.4x
 - Field propagation: 3.6x
 - Boundary crossing: 1.5x



Throughput vs Geant4

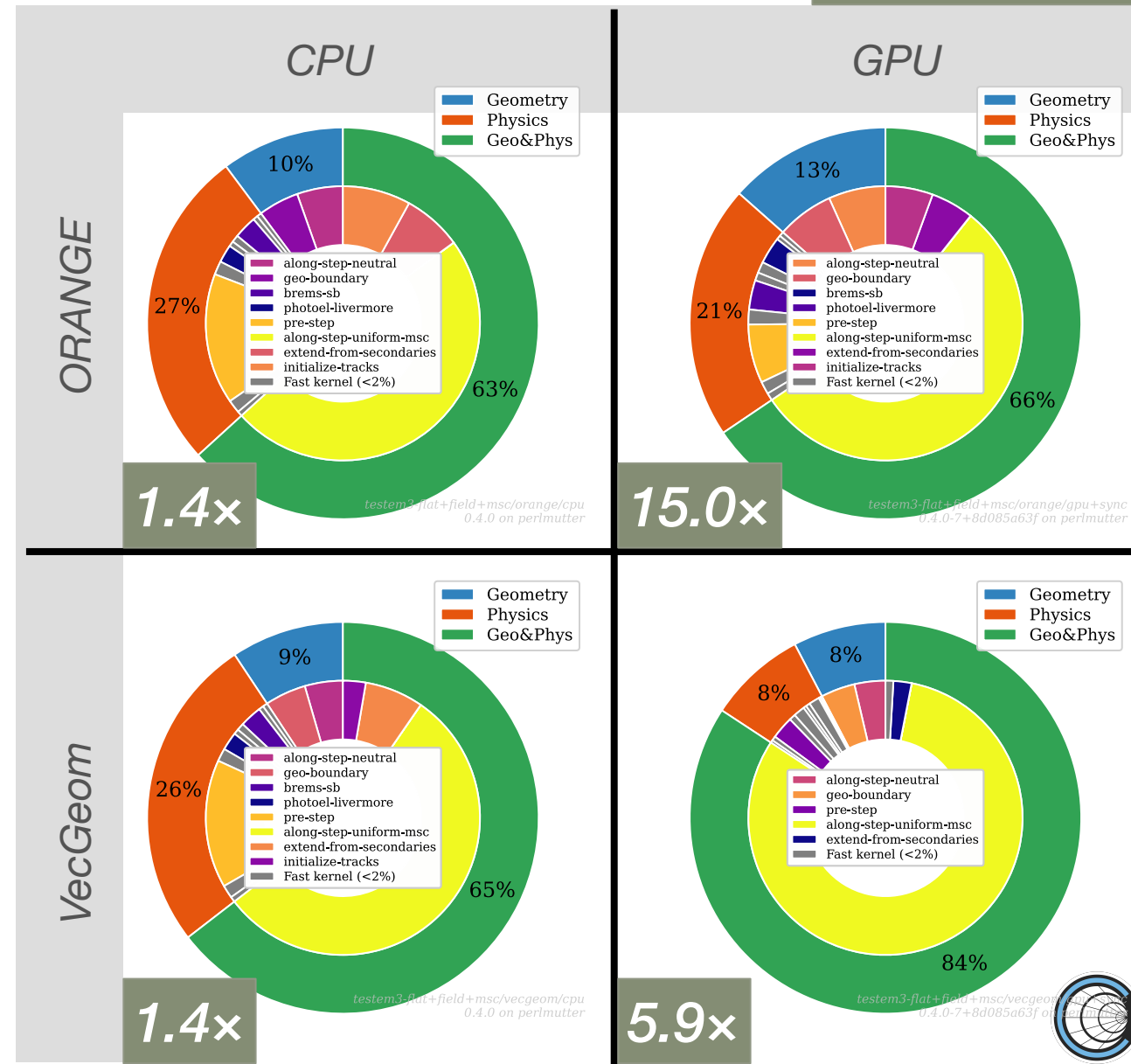
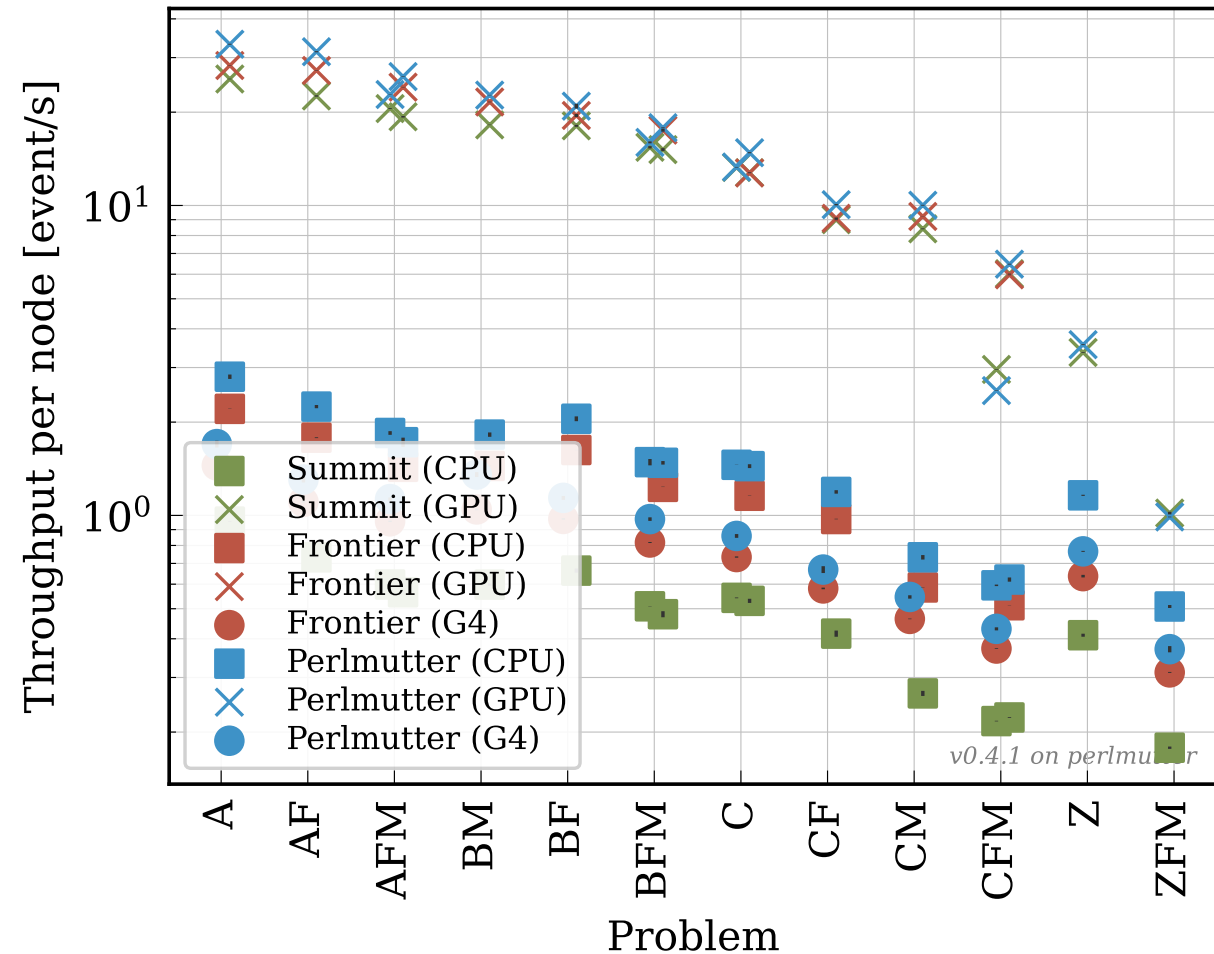


Figure of merit: throughput

- GPUs *cannot* be ignored if present
- AI/ML “revolution” guarantees more coprocessors at all scales

Per-node stats for DOE supercomputers

| Machine | Arch | Card | TDP (W) | Cores* | Cards |
|------------|------|---------------|---------|--------|-------|
| Summit | CPU | IBM Power9 | 190 | ‡22 | 2 |
| | GPU | Nvidia V100 | 250 | 80 | 6 |
| Perlmutter | CPU | AMD EPYC 7763 | 280 | 64 | 1 |
| | GPU | Nvidia A100 | 250 | 108 | 4 |
| Frontier | CPU | AMD EPYC 7453 | 225 | ‡64 | 1 |
| | GPU | AMD MI250x | 500 | ‡220 | ‡4 |





*or SMs;

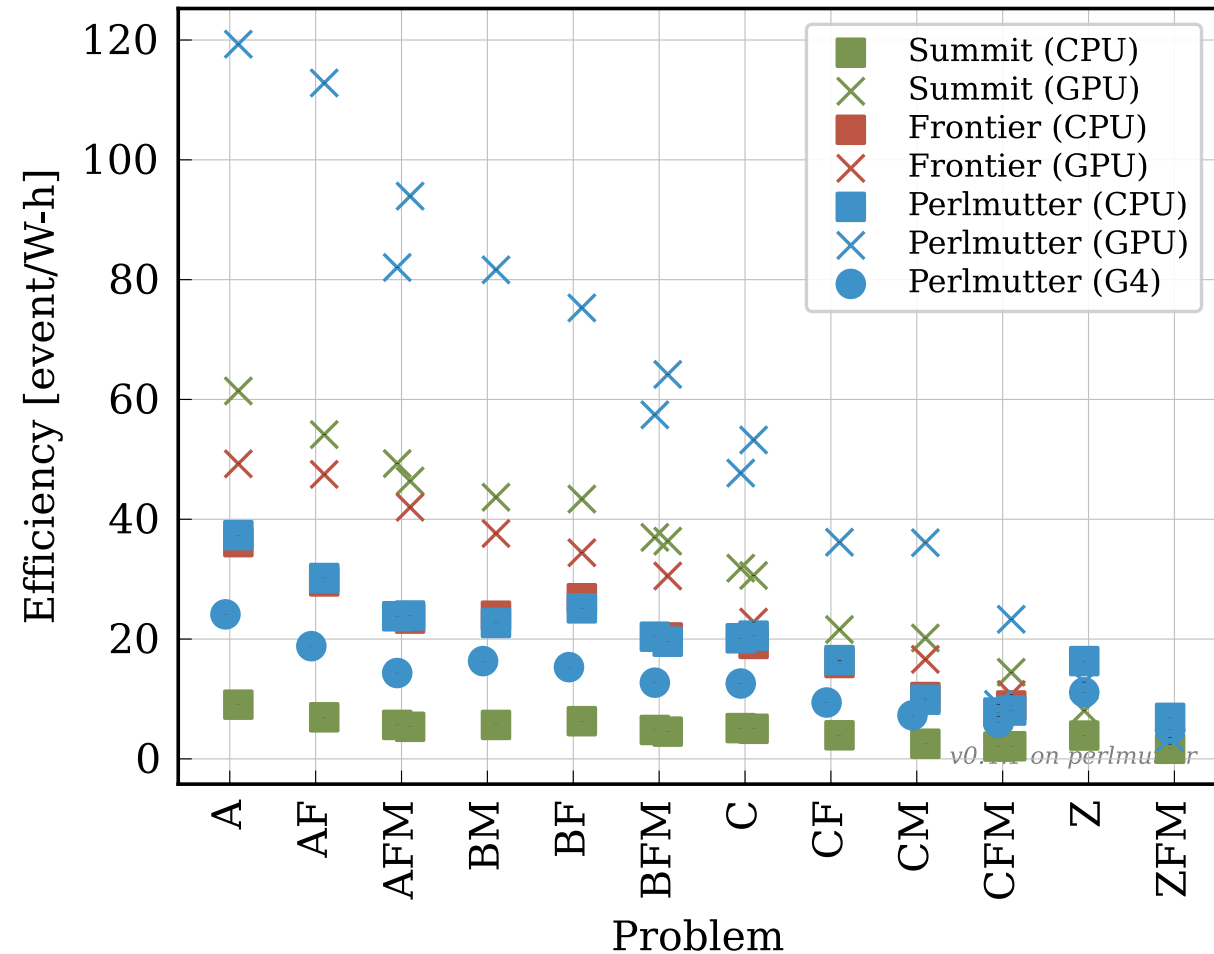
‡Each card has 2 GPUs

‡One core reserved per GPU



Figure of merit: **efficiency**

- Estimated using reported Thermal Design Power (TDP)* and Celeritas throughput
- GPU consistently shows higher energy efficiency 
 - Reduced operating costs
 - Higher compute density (fewer nodes, smaller data centers)
- A100:EPYC price is ~4x 



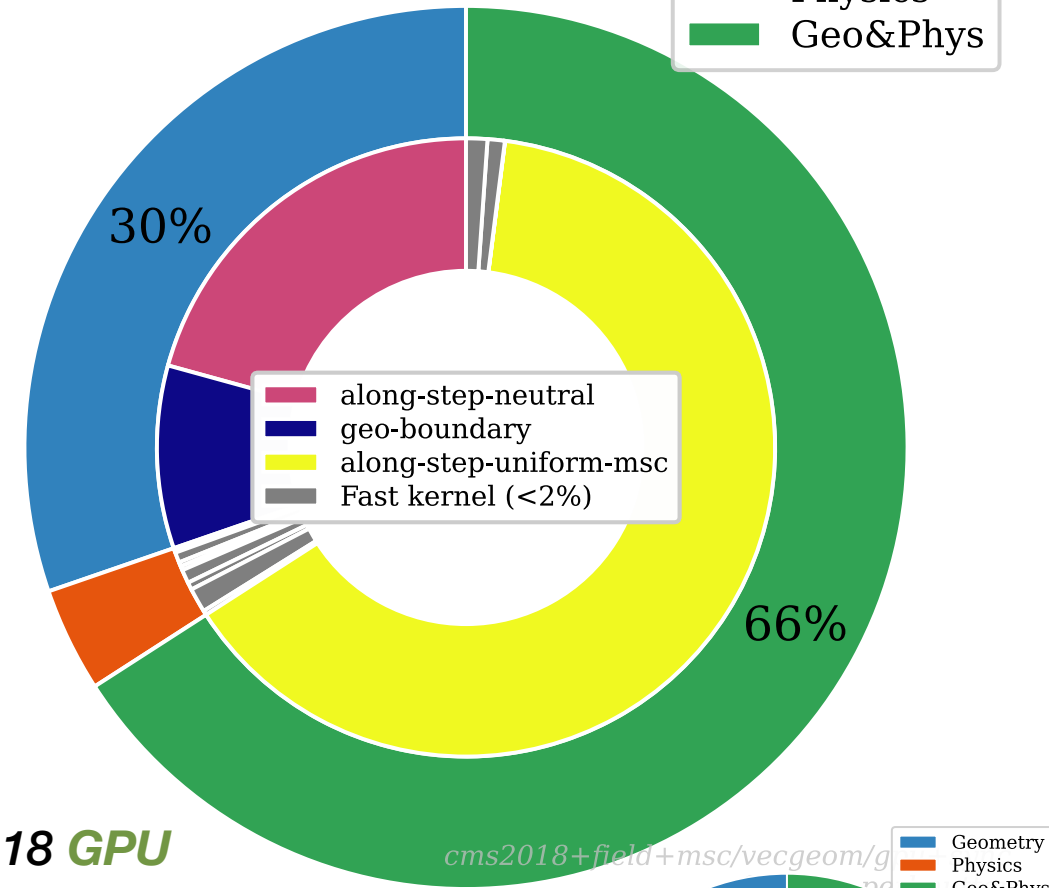
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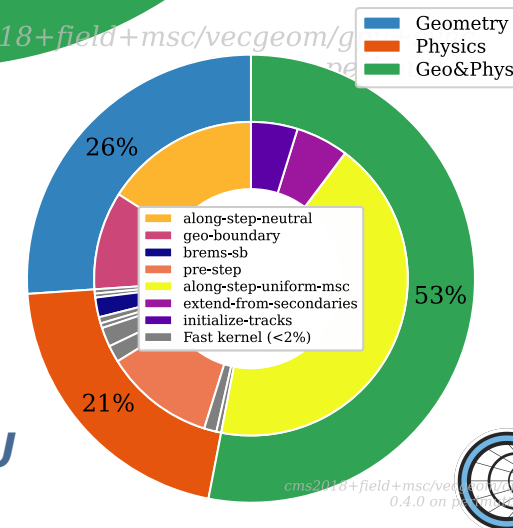
Ongoing work

- Integration
 - CMSSW
 - Athena (ATLAS) framework
 - ...and more!
- Verification & validation
 - EM test problems
 - CMSSW workflow
- Optimization and geometry
 - **96%** of standalone runtime in CMS2018 is in geometry routines
 - GPU native sensitive detectors
 - ORANGE navigation
 - Track sorting

CMS2018 GPU



CMS2018 CPU



Funding outlook over next 2–3 years

- **Current**

- 2 FTE* extension for optical physics
- ¾ FTE through SWIFT-HEP

- **Future (high probability)**

- 2 FTEs/year from HEP-CCE 2 for 5 years
 - Cross-cutting geometry for HEP
 - Optical photon transport
- ½ FTE/year SciDAC extension for 3 years
 - Neutron physics

- **Future (possibility):**

- 1 FTE for muon physics

- **Previous funding**

- Primary SciDAC 5 almost expended (3–4 FTE)
 - EM physics and Geant4 integration
 - Performance goals: 2× per watt vs CPU (efficiency), 160× CPU:GPU (capacity)
- ECP money expended (3–4 FTE)
 - Initial Geant Exascale Pilot work
 - Celeritas prototype
 - LBL/NERSC funding
 - Recent ORANGE work targeting ExaSMR

Increasing support from DOE and interest from experiments

P5 recommendations (\$9M) align with further Celeritas development



Future avenues for Geant4/AdePT integration

- Share common dependencies but leave integration to users
- Include offloading as an “example” in Geant4
 - Separate Celeritas example (CPU/HIP/CUDA; VecGeom required)
 - Combined AdePT/Celeritas interface being developed this week (CUDA+VG required)
- Enable as an optional library in Geant4 for installation
 - Add high-level Geant4 offload library for directly exposing AdePT/Celeritas
 - Convenient options for dedicated fast sim or tracking manager

Stronger coupling

Both Celeritas and Geant4 benefit from increased collaboration

Conclusion: by the numbers

100

lines of code

to integrate Celeritas into a FullSimLight tile calorimeter test application, with no modifications to Geant4

1.8x

full-simulation speedup

including hadronics and SD hits, by using 1 Nvidia A100 with 16 AMD EPYC cores for the ATLAS test beam application *[NERSC Perlmutter]*

2–20x

throughput

when using Celeritas on GPU (compared to Geant4 MT CPU) for EM test problems *[NERSC Perlmutter]*

4x

performance per watt

for TestEM3 (ORANGE geometry) using Celeritas GPU instead of Geant4 CPU *[NERSC Perlmutter]*



Acknowledgments

Celeritas v0.4 code contributors:

- Elliott Biondo (@elliottbiondo)
- Philippe Canal (@pcanal)
- Julien Esseiva (@esseivaju)
- Tom Evans (@tmdelellis)
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- Seth R Johnson (@sethrij)
- Soon Yung Jun (@whokion)
- Guilherme Lima (@mrguilima)
- Amanda Lund (@amandalund)
- Ben Morgan (@drbenmorgan)
- Stefano C Tognini (@stognini)

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- Vincent R Pascuzzi (@vrpascuzzi)
- Paul Romano (@paulromano)

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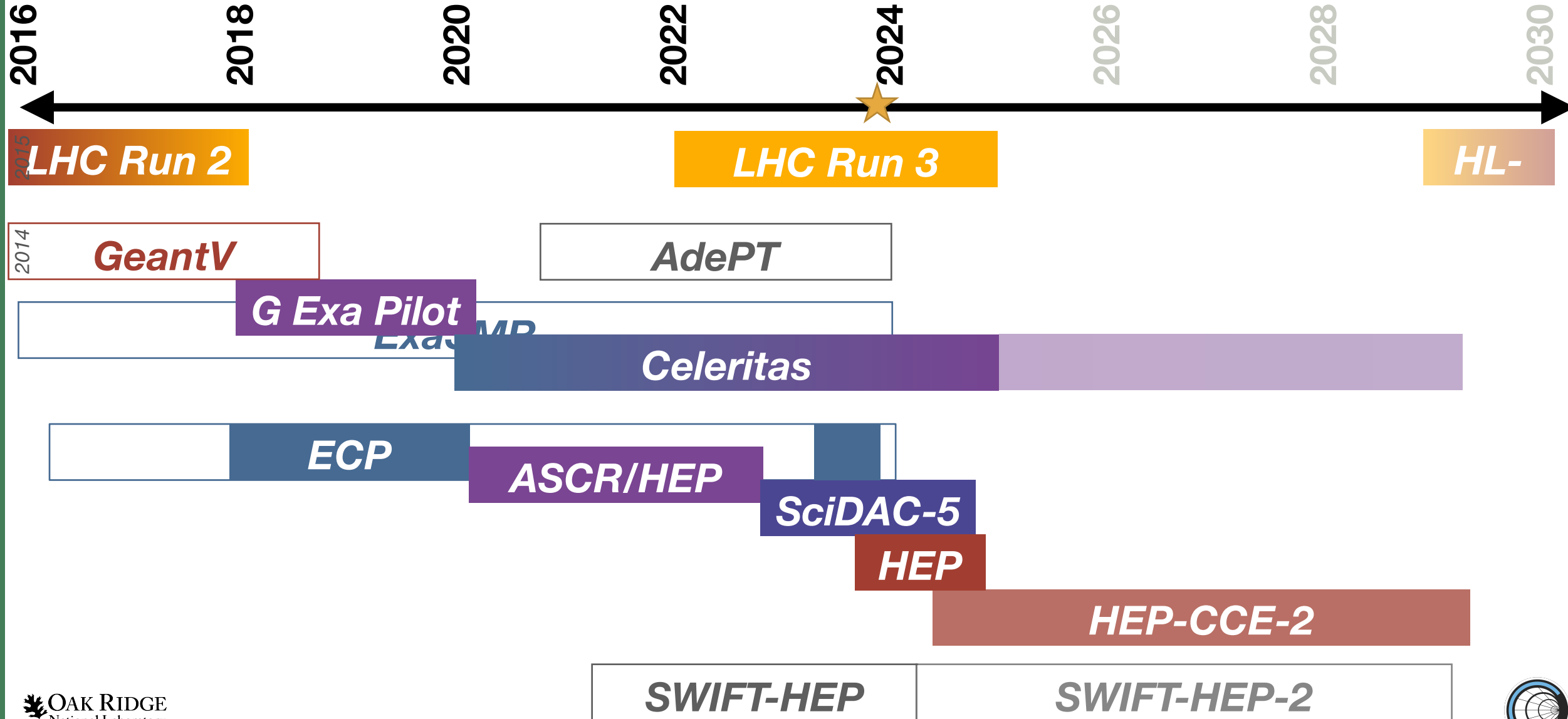
<https://github.com/celeritas-project/celeritas>



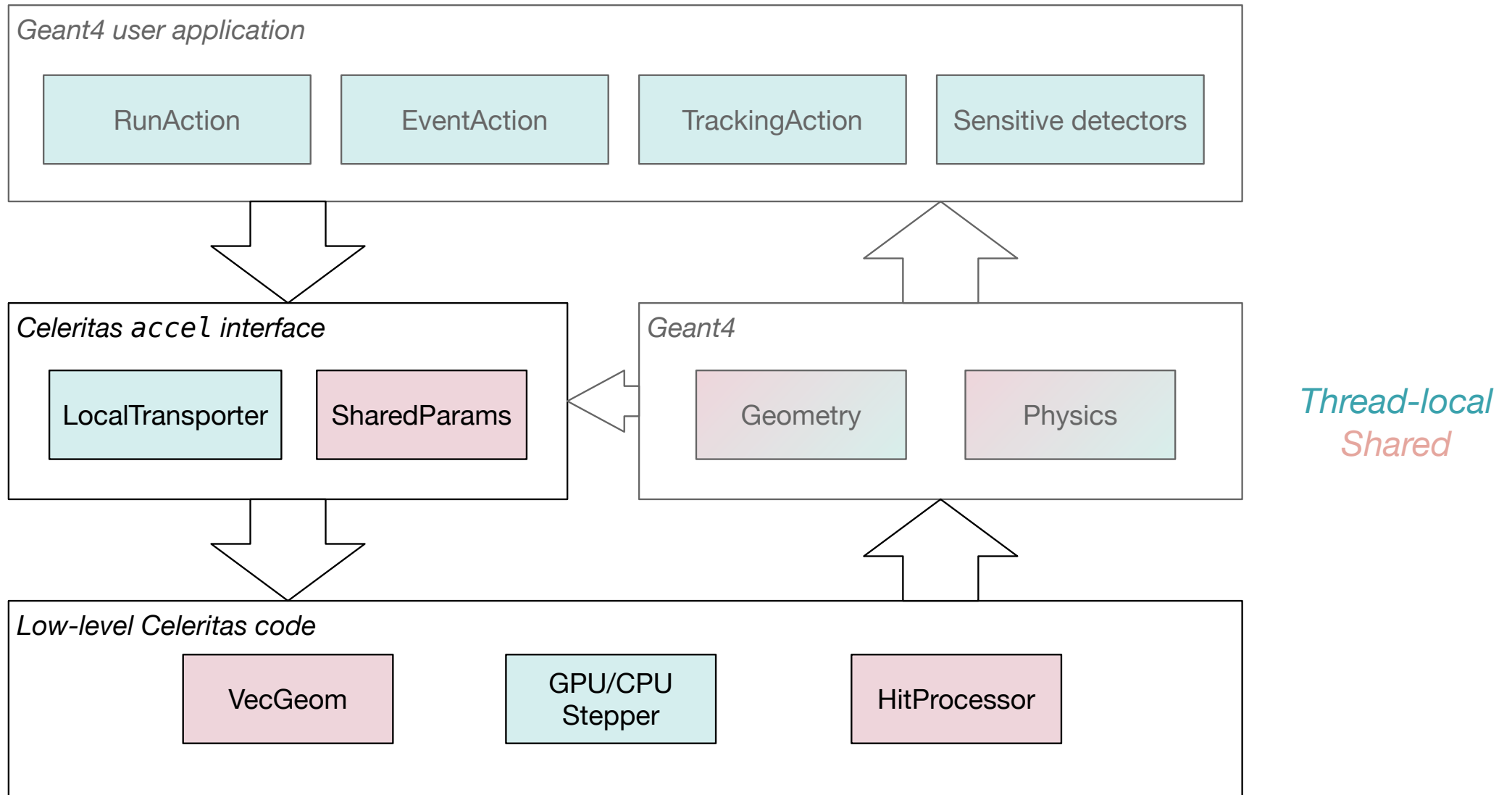
Backup slides



Historical context



Geant4 interface library

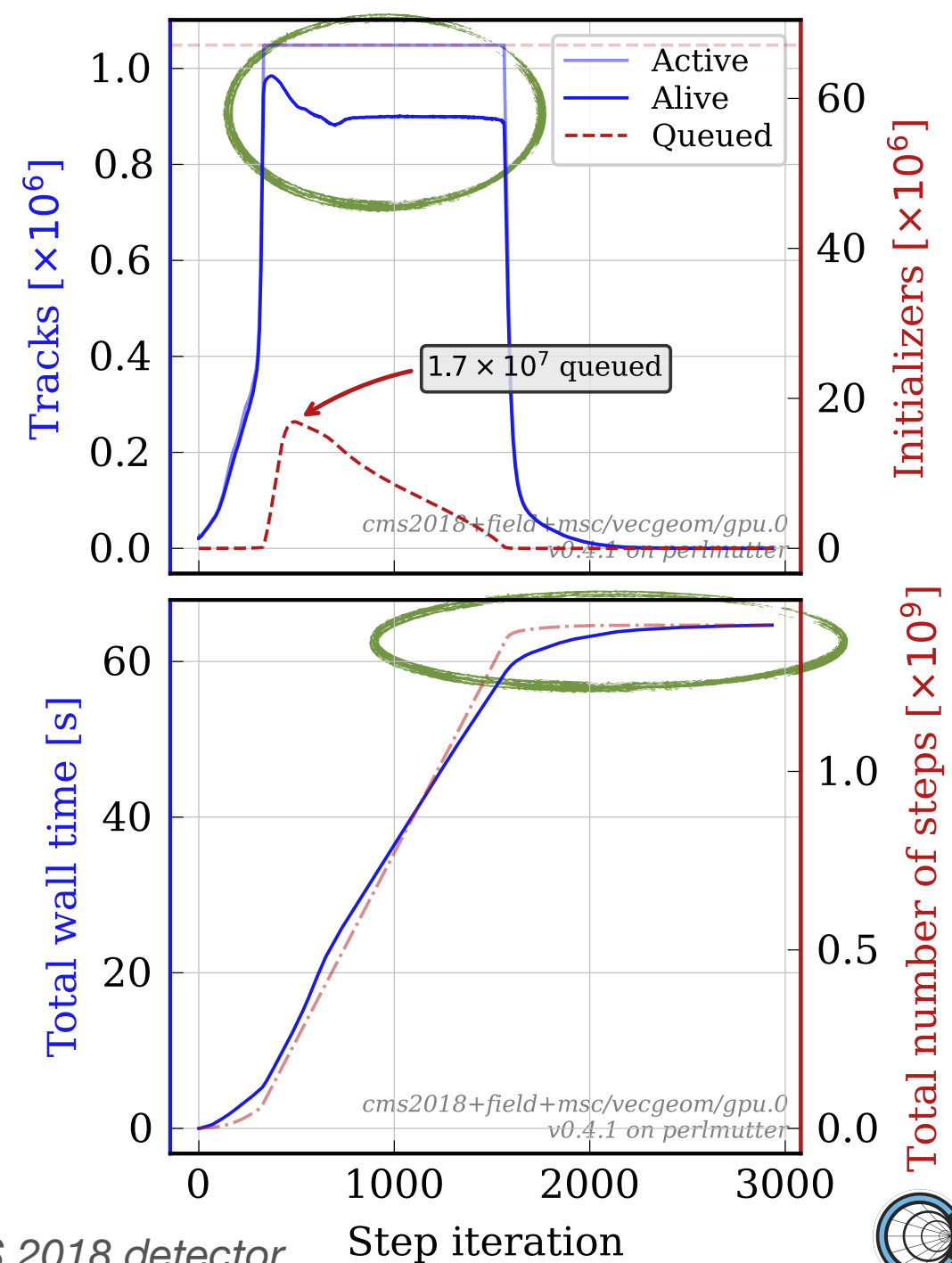


<https://celeritas-project.github.io/celeritas/user/index.html>



Step-dependent behavior

- Number of active particle tracks changes drastically due to EM shower
- Saturated GPU takes the most time but <50% of step iterations
Despite using masking instead of sorting!
- Converting the tail of long-lived tracks does *not* kill us



Code development (flip side)

- 1 fix for every 2 enhancements
- Integration campaigns critical for finding bugs/issues
 - ATLAS integration at LBL, Feb. 2023
 - CMS integration at ORNL, June 2023
- Bug fix rate is decreasing though!
 - Most fixes are for new features
 - Each PR requires a new unit test that fails without the fix and passes after

