

# Primary particles

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Geant4 User's Tutorial  
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Talk from previous tutorial by Giovanni Santin  
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# Outline

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## **General concepts**

G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction class

Primary vertex and primary particle

## **Built-in primary particle generators**

G4ParticleGun

Interfaces to HEPEVT and HEPMC

General Particle Source (GPS)

# User Actions and Initializations

- **Initialization classes**

- Use `G4RunManager::SetUserInitialization()` to define.
  - Invoked at the initialization
    - `G4VUserDetectorConstruction`
    - `G4VUserPhysicsList`
- } ← mandatory

- **Action classes**

- Use `G4RunManager::SetUserAction()` to define.
- Invoked during an event loop
  - `G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction` ← mandatory
  - + `G4UserRunAction` / `G4UserEventAction` / `G4UserStackingAction` /  
`G4UserTrackingAction` / `G4UserSteppingAction` / ...

⇒ **Main program** (.cc file in your root development tree) :

```
// mandatory User Action classes
```

```
G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction* gen_action = new PrimaryGeneratorAction;
runManager->SetUserAction(gen_action);
```

# G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction

- This class is one of the mandatory user classes and controls the generation of primaries ⇒ what kind of particle (how many) what energy, position, direction, polarisation, etc
- This class should NOT generate primaries itself but invoke **GeneratePrimaryVertex()** method of the selected primary generator(s) to make primaries
- **G4VPrimaryGenerator** class provides the primary particle generators

## G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction class description :

- Constructor (& destructor)  
Instantiate primary generator and set default values
- **GeneratePrimaries (G4Event \*)** method
  - Randomize particle-by-particle value(s)
  - Set these values to primary generator(s)
  - Invoke **GeneratePrimaryVertex ()** method of primary generator <sup>4</sup>

# Primary vertices and primary particles

- Primary vertices and primary particles are stored in G4Event in advance to processing an event.
  - **G4PrimaryVertex** and **G4PrimaryParticle** classes
  - They will become “primary tracks” only at Begin-of-Event phase and put into a “stack”

**MyPrimaryGenerator**  
(G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction)

Computes desired  
primary properties

**MyParticleGun**  
(G4VPrimaryGenerator)

Vertices and  
Primary particles  
are created

**G4Event**

Primaries are stored  
for later tracking

# Primary vertices and primary particles

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- Capability of bookkeeping decay chains
  - ⇒ primary particles may not necessarily be particles which can be tracked by Geant4
    - Pre-assigned decay channels attached to particles
    - Also, “exotic” particles can be imported from Particle Generators, followed by either decay or user defined physics processes  
(e.g. Higgs, W/Z boson, SUSY particle, ...)

# Built-in primary particle generators

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- **Geant4 provides some concrete implementations of G4VPrimaryGenerator.**
  1. G4ParticleGun
  2. G4HEPEvtInterface, G4HEPMCInterface
  3. G4GeneralParticleSource

- **Concrete implementations of G4VPrimaryGenerator**

It shoots one primary particle of a certain energy from a certain point at a certain time to a certain direction.

( a complete set of function is available )

- **UI commands are also available for setting initial values**

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



# G4ParticleGun : complex sources

- **G4ParticleGun is basic, but it can be used from inside UserPrimaryGeneratorAction to model complex source types or distributions:**
  - Generate the desired distributions (by shooting random numbers)
  - Use (C++) 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

# G4ParticleGun : complex sources

## Example of user PrimaryGeneratorAction using G4ParticleGun

```

void T01PrimaryGeneratorAction::GeneratePrimaries(G4Event* anEvent){
  G4ParticleDefinition* particle;
  G4int i = (int)(5.*G4UniformRand());
  switch(i){
    case 0: particle = positron; break;
    case 1:
      ...
  }
  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);
}

```

← choose particle

← set particle

← set kinetic energy and momentum

← generate event

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

# Interfaces to external event generators

## Concrete implementations of G4VPrimaryGenerator

- Good examples for experiment-specific primary generator implementation
- Interface to external physics generators

### ⇒ G4HEPEvtInterface

- Event record structure based on **HEPEVT** common block
- Used by (FORTRAN) HEP physics generators
- Developed and agreed on within the framework of the 1989 LEP physics study
- ASCII file input

### ⇒ G4HepMCInterface

- **HepMC** Event record for MC generators. Object Oriented, C++
- Used by new (C++) HEP physics generators
- ASCII file input or direct linking to a generator through HepMC

# User actions for external event generators

Adapted from `examples/extended/eventgenerator/HepMC/HepMCEx01` and `examples/extended/runAndEvent/RE01`

```

PrimaryGeneratorAction::PrimaryGeneratorAction() {
    // HepMC
    m_currentGenerator = new HepMCG4AsciiReader();
    // HEPEvt
    // G4String filename = "pythia_event.data";
    // m_currentGenerator = new G4HEPEvtInterface(filename);
}

PrimaryGeneratorAction::~~PrimaryGeneratorAction() {
    delete m_currentGenerator;
}

void PrimaryGeneratorAction::GeneratePrimaries(G4Event* anEvent) {
    m_currentGenerator->GeneratePrimaryVertex(anEvent);
}

```

+ UI macro commands     `/generator/hepmcAscii/open filename`  
                              `/run/beamOn 1`

# G4GeneralParticleSource (GPS)

- An advanced concrete implementation of G4VPrimaryGenerator
  - First development (2000) University of Southampton (ESA contract), maintained and upgraded now mainly by QinetiQ and ESA
  - Extensive up-to-date documentation at <http://reat.space.qinetiq.com/gps>
- 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
- All features can be used via C++ or command line (or macro) UI

## Features available in GPS:

**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

# User Actions for GPS

## Example of user PrimaryGeneratorAction using GPS

```
MyPrimaryGeneratorAction::MyPrimaryGeneratorAction() {  
    m_particleGun = new G4GeneralParticleSource();  
}  
  
MyPrimaryGeneratorAction::~~MyPrimaryGeneratorAction() {  
    delete m_particleGun;  
}  
  
void MyPrimaryGeneratorAction::GeneratePrimaries(G4Event* anEvent) {  
    m_particleGun->GeneratePrimaryVertex(anEvent);  
}
```

+ all user instructions given via macro UI commands

Many examples are available here :

<http://reat.space.qinetiq.com/gps/examples/examples.htm>

- Example 1

```
/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
```

```
/run/beamOn ...
```

mono energetic beam  
500 Mev



planar emission from a z×x plane  
along -y axis