



# Introduction

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Getting Started with **Geant4** at CERN, Geneva (Switzerland), 21-23 January 2020

- What is **Geant4**?
- What is our goal in these 3 days?
- Documentation and installation
  
- Key concepts of **Geant4** tracking
- The main: user initialisation and mandatory actions
- Our step-by-step plan

Introduction

# WHAT IS GEANT4?

- **Geant4 is a toolkit:**
  - for simulating the passage of particles through matter
  - toolkit i.e. there here is no main program
  - provides all the necessary **components** needed to **describe and to solve** particle transport **simulation** problems
  - **problem definitions/description:** geometry, particles, physics, etc.
  - **problem solution:** step-by-step particle transport computation
  - while providing **interaction points** for the user
- **Toolkit vs program?**
  - as a toolkit, **Geant4** does **not** provide a main **program**
  - each simulation problem requires different configuration (geometry, scoring, particles, physics, etc..) that the user needs to define
  - **Geant4**, as a **toolkit**, provides all the necessary **components** in form of **interfaces** (called actions in **Geant4** terminology but see soon)

Introduction

**WHAT IS OUR GOAL IN THESE 3 DAYS?**

- **Goal:**

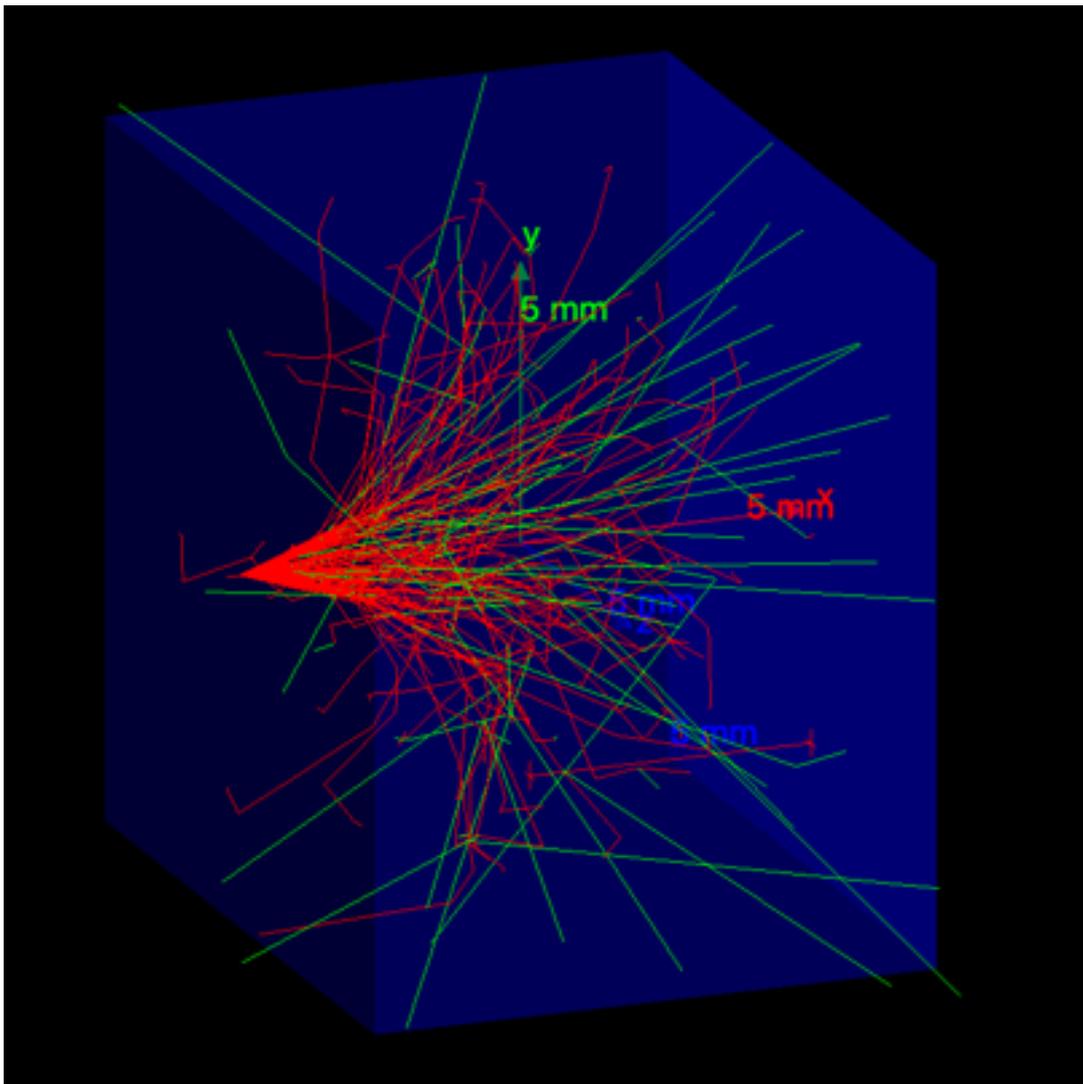
- introduce all the **mandatory** and some of the important **optional components** that needs to/can be utilised when writing a **simulation application** based on the **Geant4** simulation toolkit
- show source of information that can be useful when writing such an application (documentation, **Geant4** source code, etc..)
- become familiar with the *best practice* when developing your own application

- **How?**

- we will write a **Geant4** simulation application together from scratch
- the application:
  - **setup**: a simple box target with configurable thickness and material hit by a configurable particle source (see the next slide)
  - **goal**: collect information regarding the energy deposit in the target
- we will do **mainly coding instead of lectures** with short explanations
- more and more functionality will be added when time goes
- both the agenda and the final state of our application is flexible

What is our goal in these 3 days?

## 4 [MeV] electrons in Silicon (1 [cm])



Introduction

# **DOCUMENTATION**

- **Documentation :**

- all documentation can be found at the Geant4 webpage under the **User Support** menu
- the **Book For Application Developers** will be our main source of documentation in the next 3 days
- it is important that all of **you have a working version of the Geant4** toolkit available on your machine (either on the VM or installed) before we go any further:
  - we will have a look to the **Installation Guide** now together
  - build/try one of the example applications that Geant4 provides (/examples/basic/B1)
  - inspect the installation directory structure (and understand the role of `-DGeant4_DIR` **Geant4** cmake variable with a simple example)
  - let's do it by ourself... :-)

Introduction

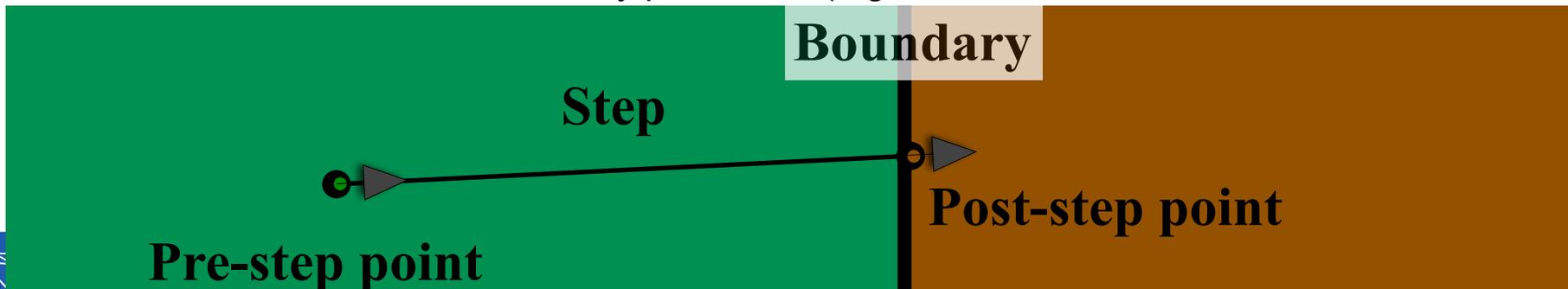
# **KEY CONCEPTS OF GEANT4 TRACKING**

- **G4Track:**

- a **G4Track** object represents/describes **the state of a particle** that is under simulation in a given instant of the time (i.e. **a given time point**)
- a snapshot of a particle **without** keeping any **information regarding the past**
- its **G4ParticleDefinition** stores **static** particle **properties** (charge, mass, etc.) as it describes a particle type (e.g. **G4Electron**)
- its **G4DynamicParticle** stores **dynamic** particle **properties** (energy, momentum, etc.)
- while all **G4Track**-s, describing the same particle type, share the same, unique **G4ParticleDefinition** object of the given type (e.g. **G4Electron**) while each individual track has its own **G4DynamicParticle** object
- the **G4Track** object is propagated in a step-by-step way during the simulation and the dynamic properties are continuously updated to reflect the current state
- manager: **G4TrackingManager**; optional user hook: **G4UserTrackingAction**
- step-by-step? what about the difference between two such states within a step?

- **G4Step:**

- a **G4Step** object can provide the information regarding the **change in the state of the particle** (that is under tracking) **within a simulation step** (i.e. **delta**)
- has two **G4StepPoint**-s, pre- and post-step points, that stores information (position, direction, energy, material, volume, etc...) that belong to the corresponding point (space/time/step)
- these are updated in a step-by-step way: the post-step point of the previous step becomes the pre-step point of the next step (when the next step starts)
- **(important)** if a step is limited by the geometry (i.e. by a volume boundary), the post-step point:
  - **physically stands on the boundary** (the step status of the post step point i.e. `G4Step::GetPostStepPoint() -> GetStepStatus() is fGeomBoundary`)
  - **logically belongs to the next volume**
  - since these “*boundary*” **G4Step**-s have information both regarding the previous and the next volumes/materials, boundary processes (e.g. reflection, refractions and transition



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  - **logically belongs to the next volume**
  - since these “*boundary*” **G4Step**-s have information both regarding the previous and the next volumes/materials, boundary processes (e.g. reflection, refractions and transition radiation) can be simulated
- the **G4Track** object, that is under tracking i.e. generates information for the **G4Step** object, can be obtained from the step by the `G4Step::GetTrack()` method and the other way around `G4Track::GetStep()`
- manager: **G4SteppingManager**; optional user hook: **G4UserSteppingAction**

- **G4Step** - **G4UserSteppingAction**:

- optional user action class with the possibility to obtain information after each simulation steps
- **virtual UserSteppingAction(const G4Step\* theStep)** method:
  - is called at the end of each step by **G4SteppingManager**
  - providing access to the **G4Step** object representing the simulation step that has just done (see this class in Geant4 /source/tracking/include/G4UserSteppingAction.hh)
- users can implement their own **YourSteppingAction** class by:
  - extending the **G4UserSteppingAction** class
  - providing their own implementation of the method mentioned above
  - creating and registering the corresponding object in the **ActionInitialisation::Build()** interface method (see later)

How to get information regarding the simulation when the **G4Step\* theStep** is given?

How to get information regarding the simulation when the `G4Step* theStep` is given?

```
// get the pre-step point
G4StepPoint*      preStp = theStep->GetPreStepPoint();
// get the volume which the step was done
G4VPhysicalVolume* physVol = preStp->GetPhysicalVolume();
// get the energy deposit and length of the step
G4double          stpEdep = theStep->GetTotalEnergyDeposit();
G4double          stpLength = theStep->GetStepLength();
// get the track
G4Track*          theTrack = theStep->GetTrack();
// get the static and dynamic particle properties
const G4ParticleDefinition* partDef = theTrack->GetParticleDefinition();
const G4DynamicParticle*    partDyn = theTrack->GetDynamicParticle();
// get the charge of the particle that is under tracking in this step
G4double          partCharge = partDef->GetPDGCharge();
// get the post step point kinetic energy
G4double          postStpEkin = theStep->GetPostStepPoint()->GetKineticEnergy();
// or since the track is already updated to reflect the post-step point
// G4double          postStpEkin = partDyn->GetKineticEnergy();
// which is different in case of the pre-step point kinetic energy that can be
// obtained only from the pre-step point as
G4double          preStpEkin = preStp->GetKineticEnergy();
```

- **G4Event:**

- a **G4Event** is the basic simulation unit that represents a **set of G4Track objects**
- **at the beginning** of an event:
  - **primary G4Track object(s)** is(are) **generated** (with their static and initial dynamic properties) and pushed **to a track-stack**
  - **one G4Track object** is **popped from** this track-stack and transported/tracked/simulated:
    - \*the track object **is propagated in a step-by-step way** and its dynamic properties as well as the corresponding **G4Step** object are updated at each step
    - \*the step is limited either by physics interaction or geometry boundary
    - \***transportation** (to the next volume through the boundary) will take place in the later while **physics** interaction in the former case
    - \***secondary G4Track-s, generated by these physics interactions, are also pushed to the track-stack**
    - \*a **G4Track object** is kept tracking till:
      - + leaves the outermost (World) volume i.e. goes out of the simulation universe
      - + participates in a destructive interaction (e.g. decay or photoelectric absorption)
      - + its kinetic energy becomes zero and doesn't have interaction that can happen "at-rest"
      - + the user decided to (artificially) stop the tracking and kill
    - \*when one track object reaches its termination point, a **new G4Track object** (either secondary or primary) is popped from the stack for tracking
  - processing an event will be terminated when there is **no any G4Track objects in the track-stack**
- **at the end** of an event, the corresponding **G4Event** object will store its input i.e. the list of primaries (and possible some of its outputs like hits or trajectory collection)

- **G4Event - G4UserEventAction:**

- optional user action class, with the possibility to get the control before/after an event processing
- virtual `BeginOfEventAction(const G4Event* anEvent):`
  - **called before a new event processing starts by the G4EventManager**
- virtual `EndOfEventAction(const G4Event* anEvent):`
  - **called after an event processing competed by the G4EventManager**
- in both cases, the **G4EventManager** provides access to the corresponding **G4Event** object (see this class in Geant4 /source/event/include/G4UserEventAction.hh)
- users can implement their own **YourEventAction** class by:
  - extending the **G4UserEventAction** class
  - providing their own implementation of the two methods mentioned above
  - creating and registering the corresponding object in the **ActionInitialisation::Build()** interface method (see later)
- at the beginning of the event (`BeginOfEventAction`) we usually clear some data structures that we want to use to accumulate information during the processing of the current event (populated after each step in the **UserSteppingAction**) while at the end of the event (`EndOfEventAction`) we usually write the accumulated information to an upper (Run global) level

- **G4Run:**

- **G4Run** is a collection of **G4Event-s** (a **G4Event** is a collection of **G4Track-s**)
- during a run, events are taken and processed one by one in an event-loop
- **before the start of a run** i.e. at run initialisation (`G4RunManager::Initialize()`): the **geometry is constructed** and **physics is initialised**
- **at the start of a run** (`G4RunManager::BeamOn()`): the **geometry is optimised** for tracking (voxelization), the event processing starts i.e. entering into the event-loop
- as long as the event processing is running, i.e. during the run, the user cannot modify **neither the geometry** (i.e. the detector setup) **nor the physics** settings
- they **can be changed** though **between run-s** but the **G4RunManager** needs to be informed (re-optimise or re-construct geometry, re-build physics tables):
  - if the **geometry** has been changed, depending on the modifications:
    - `GeometryHasBeenModified()` re-voxelization but no re-Construct
    - `ReinitializeGeometry()` complete re-Constructor with the UI commands `/run/geometryModified` or `/run/reinitializeGeometry`
  - same for the **physics**: `PhysicsHasBeenModified()` or `/run/physicsModifie`
- manager: **G4RunManager**; optional user hook: **G4UserRunAction**

- **G4Run - G4UserRunAction:**

- optional user action class, with the possibility to get the control before/after a run and to provide custom run-object (see later)
- virtual `BeginOfRunAction(const G4Run* aRun):`
  - **called before the run starts** i.e. **before the first event processing** starts by the **G4RunManager**
- virtual `EndOfRunAction(const G4Run* aRun):`
  - **called after a run completed** i.e. **after the last event processing** completed by the **G4RunManager**
- in both cases, the **G4RunManager** provides access to the corresponding **G4Run** object (see this class in Geant4 /source/run/include/G4UserRunAction.hh)
- users can implement their own **YourRunAction** class by:
  - extending the **G4UserRunAction** class
  - providing their own implementation of the two methods mentioned above
  - creating and registering the corresponding object in the **ActionInitialisation::Build()** interface method (see later)
- note, at the beginning of the run (`BeginOfRunAction`) we usually allocate/initialise some data structures/histograms that we want to use during the whole run to collect the final simulation results that we usually print out at the end of the run (`EndOfRunAction`)

- **G4Run - G4UserRunAction:**

- an additional method, `virtual G4Run* GenerateRun()` is also available:
  - users can implement their own **YourRun** class by:
    - \*extending the **G4Run** class and defining their own run-global data structure (i.e. quantities, objects to be collected during the complete run as the result of the simulation/run)
    - \*instantiation of these custom **YourRun** object needs to be done in this `GenerateRun()` method of **YourRunAction**
- this will be invoked by the **G4RunManager** at initialisation to generate **YourRun** instead of the (base) **G4Run** object
- the generated **YourRun** object can be accessed during the simulation as the Run (in UserAction-s) and can be populated by information
- then the final information, collated during the run into **YourRun** object, can be printed out e.g. by calling the summary method of **YourRun** from the `EndOfRunAction` method of **YourRunAction** class
- in case of MT: we will cover this in the MT extension of our application !

- **G4Run - G4UserRunAction:**

- an additional method, `virtual G4Run* GenerateRun()` is also available:
  - users can implement their own **YourRun** class by:
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# Time to add our own user actions to the application!

Introduction

# **THE MAIN: USER INITIALISATIONS AND MANDATORY ACTIONS**

## The main: user initialisations and mandatory actions



- As mentioned before, **Geant4** do not provide a main program:
  - there are components of a simulation, like the **geometry**, **physics** settings and the **primary** particle **generation** that are changing from problem to problem
  - therefore, the **user needs to provide these settings in the main method** of their **Geant4** application

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  - therefore, the **user needs to provide these settings in the main method** of their **Geant4** application
- 1. **Create a G4RunManager object (mandatory):**
  - the **only mandatory manager object** that user needs to create: all others (**G4EventManager**, **G4SteppingManger**, etc.) are created and deleted automatically
  - the **G4RunManager** is responsible to **control the** flow of a **run**, the top level simulation unit
  - this includes **initialisation of the run** i.e. building, **setting up the simulation environment**
  - all problem specific information need to be given to the **G4RunManager** by the user through the interfaces provided by the **Geant4** toolkit (we will see them one by one):
    - **G4VUserDetectorConstruction**(mandatory): how the geometry should be constructed, built
    - **G4VUserPhyscsList**(mandatory): all the particles and their physics interactions to be simulated
    - **G4VUserActionInitialization** (mandatory):
      - \* **G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction** (mandatory): how the primary particle(s) in an event should be produced
      - \* additional, **optional user actions** (**G4UserRunAction**, **G4UserEventAction**, **G4UserSteppingAction**, etc..)
  - **MT note:** **G4MTRunManager** object needs to be created in case of **Geant4 MT**

The main: user initialisations and mandatory actions (**G4RunManager**)



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  - there are components of a simulation, like the **geometry**, **physics** settings and the **primary** particle **generation** that are changing from problem to problem
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# See more when we write the main method of our own application!

should be produced

\* additional, **optional user actions** (**G4UserRunAction**, **G4UserEventAction**, **G4UserSteppingAction**, etc..)

- **MT note:** **G4MTRunManager** object needs to be created in case of **Geant4 MT**

The main: user initialisations and mandatory actions (**G4VUserDetectorConstruction**)



## 2. Create **YourDetectorConstruction** object and register it in your **G4RunManager** object (mandatory):

- the **G4VUserDetectorConstruction** interface is provided by the **Geant4** toolkit to **describe the geometrical setup**, including all volumes with their shape, position and **material definition**
- its **G4VUserDetectorConstruction::Construct()** interface method (pure virtual) is invoked by the **G4RunManager** at initialisation
- **derive your own detector description**, e.g. **YourDetectorConstruction** class from this base class and implement the **Construct()** interface method:
  - create all materials will need to use in your geometry
  - describe your detector geometry by creating and positioning all volumes
  - return the pointer to the root of your geometry hierarchy i.e. the pointer to your “World” **G4VPhysicalVolume**
- create **YourDetectorConstruction** object and register it in your **G4RunManager** object by using the `G4RunManager::SetUserInitialization` method (see this in the source!)
- **MT note:** the **Construct()** interface method is **invoked only by the Master Thread** in case of **Geant4 MT** (i.e. only one detector object), while the other `ConstructSDandField()` interface method is **invoked by each Worker Threads** (i.e. thread local objects created)

The main: user initialisations and mandatory actions (`G4VUserDetectorConstruction`)



2. Create `YourDetectorConstruction` object and register it in your `G4RunManager` object (mandatory):

- the `G4VUserDetectorConstruction` interface is provided by the `Geant4` toolkit to describe the geometrical setup, including all volumes with their shape, position and

# See more at the Detector Construction lecture!

## We will write together the `DetectorConstruction`.

- **MT note:** the `Construct()` interface method is invoked only by the Master Thread in case of `Geant4 MT` (i.e. only one detector object), while the other `ConstructSDandField()` interface method is invoked by each Worker Threads (i.e. thread local objects created)

### 3. Create `YourPhysicsList` object and register it in your `G4RunManager` object (mandatory):

- the `G4VUserPhysicsList` interface is provided by the `Geant4` toolkit to **describe the physics setup**, including **definition of all particles** and their physics interactions, **processes**
- its `G4VUserPhysicsList::ConstructParticle()` and `::ConstructProcess()` interface methods (pure virtual) are invoked by the `G4RunManager` (actually by the `G4RunManagerKernel` and process construction is invoked indirectly) at initialisation
- **derive your own physics list**, e.g. `YourPhysicsList` class from this base class and implement the `ConstructParticle()` and `ConstructProcess()` interface methods:
  - create all particles in the `ConstructParticle()` method
  - create all processes and sign them to particles in the `ConstructProcess()` method
- create `YourPhysicsList` object and register it in your `G4RunManager` object by using the `G4RunManager::SetUserInitialization` method (see this in the source!)
- constructing physics list as described above is **recommended only for advanced users!**
- `Geant4` provides possibilities with different level of granularity to build up or obtain even complete pre-defined physics list

### 3. Create `YourPhysicsList` object and register it in your `G4RunManager` object (mandatory):

- the `G4VUserPhysicsList` interface is provided by the `Geant4` toolkit to **describe** the **physics setup**, including **definition of all particles** and their physics interactions, **processes**

# See more at the Physics List lecture!

# We will use one of the pre-defined physics list.

- `Geant4` provides possibilities with different level of granularity to build up or obtain even complete pre-defined physics list

The main: user initialisations and mandatory actions (**G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction**)



#### 4. Create **YourPrimaryGeneratorAction** object (mandatory, see next slide how to register):

- the **G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction** interface is provided by the **Geant4** toolkit to describe how the primary particle(s) in an event should be produced
- its **G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction::GeneratePrimaries()** interface method (pure virtual) is invoked by the **G4RunManager** during the event-loop (in its `G4RunManager::GenerateEvent()` method)
- **derive your own primary generator action**, e.g. **YourPrimaryGeneratorAction** class from this base class and implement the **GeneratePrimaries()** interface method:
  - describe how the primary particle(s) in an event should be produced
  - we will use a **G4ParticleGun** object, provided by the **Geant4** toolkit, to generate primary particles: one particle per event with defined kinematics
- note:
  - the **Detector-Construction** and the **Physics-List** need to be **created directly in the main program** and **registered directly in the G4RunManager** object
  - all **User-Actions** needs to be **created and registered** in the **User-Action-Initialisation** (including the only mandatory **Primary-Generator-Action** as well as all other, optional **User-Actions**)
  - see more on this and on the **G4VUserActionInitialization** in the next slide

The main: user initialisations and mandatory actions (**G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction**)



#### 4. Create **YourPrimaryGeneratorAction** object (mandatory, see next slide how to register):

- the **G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction** interface is provided by the **Geant4** toolkit to describe how the primary particle(s) in an event should be produced
- its **G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction::GeneratePrimaries()** interface method (pure virtual) is invoked by the **G4RunManager** during the event-loop (in its **G4RunManager::GenerateEvent()** method)

# We will write together the **PrimaryGeneratorAction**.

- note:
  - the **Detector-Construction** and the **Physics-List** need to be **created directly in the main program** and **registered directly in the G4RunManager** object
  - all **User-Actions** needs to be **created and registered** in the **User-Action-Initialisation** (including the only mandatory **Primary-Generator-Action** as well as all other, optional **User-Actions**)
  - see more on this and on the **G4VUserActionInitialization** in the next slide

5. **Create YourActionInitialization** object and register it in your **G4RunManager** object (**mandatory**):

- the **G4VUserActionInitialization** interface is provided by the **Geant4** toolkit to **create** and **register**:
  - the only one **mandatory G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction** user action
  - all other **optional user actions** (**G4UserRunAction**, **G4UserEventAction**, etc..)
- its **G4VUserActionInitialization::Build()** interface method (pure virtual) is invoked by the **G4RunManager** at initialisation
- **derive your own action initialisation**, e.g. **YourActionInitialization** class from this base class and implement the **Build()** interface methods:
  - **create** an object from **YourPrimaryGeneratorAction** (see next slide) and **register** by calling the corresponding **G4VUserActionInitialization::SetUserAction()** base class method
  - **create all** additional, **optional user action** objects and **register them** similarly
- **MT note**:
  - the above **Build()** method is invoked **by all Worker Thread** while the additional **BuildForMaster()** method is invoked **only by the Master Thread** in **Geant4 MT**
  - the **only user action**, that is supposed to be created in this **BuildForMaster()** method, is the **G4UserRunAction for the Master Thread**
  - this **G4UserRunAction** is the same or different compared to that used in case of the **Worker Threads**
  - but contains a **G4Run** generation that will generate the **run-global, thread-global** i.e. **Master G4Run object** to **which all other Worker G4Run objects will be Merged at the end** by calling the **G4Run::Merge** method
  - the **BuildForMaster()** method is invoked only in case of **Geant4 MT**

The main: user initialisations and mandatory actions (**G4VUserActionInitialization**)



5. Create **YourActionInitialization** object and register it in your **G4RunManager** object (mandatory):

- the **G4VUserActionInitialization** interface is provided by the **Geant4** toolkit to **create** and **register**:
  - the only one **mandatory G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction** user action
  - all other **optional user actions** (**G4UserRunAction**, **G4UserEventAction**, etc..)
- its **G4VUserActionInitialization::Build()** interface method (pure virtual) is invoked by the **G4RunManager** at initialisation
- **derive your own action initialisation**, e.g. **YourActionInitialization** class from this base class and implement the **Build()** interface methods:
  - **create** an object from **YourPrimaryGeneratorAction** (see next slide) and **register** by calling `SetUserAction()` base class method

# We will write together the ActionInitialization.

- but contains a **G4Run** generation that will generate the **run-global**, **thread-global** i.e. **Master G4Run** object to which all other **Worker G4Run** objects will be **Merged at the end** by calling the **G4Run::Merge** method
- the **BuildForMaster()** method is invoked only in case of **Geant4 MT**

Introduction

# **OUR STEP BY STEP PLAN**

## I. Write the application including only the bare minimum that is needed to run the simulation:

- develop all the mandatory components mentioned before:
  - **YourDetectorConstruction:**
    - \*a simple **box** (shape) as the detector/**target** filled with **silicon** as material
    - \*placed in a **box** (shape) "**world**" volume filled with **low density hydrogen gas**
  - **YourPhysicsList:** we will **use** one of the **pre-defined**, ready-to-use **physics list provided** by the **Geant4** toolkit (therefore no need to write any user physics list class like in our case)
  - **YourPrimaryGeneratorAction:**
    - \*a simple **particle gun (G4ParticleGun):** generates a **single primary** particle **per event** with **pre-defined** particle **type** and **kinematics** pointing toward to our target
  - **YourActionInitialization:**
    - \*implement the construction and registration of our **YourPrimaryGeneratorAction** object
- develop the `main` method of the application and execute the simulation
- inspect the results

## II. **Extend our application:** to have more control over the simulation

- add **functionality** to the `main` method of our application to be able to **run the application**:
  - in **interactive** or **batch mode**
  - with or without **visualisation**
  - write the corresponding macro files
- become familiar with all possible modes of executions, understand their advantage and find your most comfortable one

### III. **Extend our application:** optional User-Actions to obtain simulation results

- add **optional User Actions** (run-, event-, stepping-actions):
  - simulate mean value and sigma of the energy deposited in the detector/target per event
- become conformable with all of these optional user actions that provide access to the simulation workflow, data, states to the application developer (and eventually to the user)

#### IV. **Extend our application:** add more flexibility regarding the configuration

- define and add **User Interface (UI) commands** to the detector construction to be able to **configure the target material and thickness**
- become familiar with developing your own UI commands to your **Geant4** application that can increase significantly the flexibility of your application

#### IV. **Extend our application:** (if time permits)

- implement all modifications that are necessary to be able to use our application both in Sequential and **Multi-Threaded Geant4** builds
- your application can exploit the full computing power of your computer (provided by multicore machines) with very small additional effort