Generating Primary Particles

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Overview

• Mandatory user classes

• Primary generator action class

• Primary generators
  ➢ G4ParticleGun
  ➢ G4GeneralParticleSource

• Decay tables & external decayers
Mandatory User Classes

In order to run a simulation using the Geant4 toolkit the user has to define three mandatory User Classes and the program’s main-method.

- **G4VUserDetectorConstruction** – Creates the simulation geometry
- **G4VUserPhysicsList** – Defines processes to be simulated
- **G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction** – Creates initial particles

Invoked at initialization using using G4RunManager::SetUserInitialization()

Invoked during event loop using using G4RunManager::SetUserAction()
Creating a Primary Generator Action

The primary generator class is derived from G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction:

```cpp
class myPrimaryGenerator : public G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction {
    public:
        myPrimaryGeneratorAction(); // constructor
        virtual ~myPrimarygeneratorAction(); // destructor

        virtual void GeneratePrimaries(G4Event*);
};
```

At the beginning of every event loop G4RunManager calls `myPrimaryGenerator.GeneratePrimaries(G4Event*)` in order to generate simulation particles.
Generating Primaries

• A Geant4 event begins with a \textit{G4PrimaryVertex} object which holds a number of \textit{G4PrimaryParticle} objects

• \textit{G4PrimaryParticle} and \textit{G4PrimaryVertex} are completely independent of \textit{G4Track} or any particle definitions

• \textit{G4PrimaryParticle} and \textit{G4PrimaryVertex} should not be created directly by the user – instead an instance of a \textit{G4VPrimaryGenerator} object is created and its \textit{GeneratePrimaryVertex(G4Event*)} method is called
The simplest example of a `G4VPrimaryGenerator` derived class is `G4ParticleGun`.

```cpp
#include "G4ParticleGun.hh"

G4ParticleGun particleGun;

myGeneratorAction::GeneratePrimaries(G4Event* anEvent) {
    particleGun->SetParticleDefinition(G4Electron::Definition());
    particleGun->SetParticleMomentum(G4ThreeVector(1.0,0,0));
    particleGun->SetParticleEnergy(100.0*keV);
    particleGun->GeneratePrimaryVertex(anEvent);
}
```

- Particle momentum must be a unit vector
- Can use `G4ThreeVector::unit()` to normalize
• It is also possible to set polarization and global time for primary particles using \texttt{G4ParticleGun}:

```c++
myGeneratorAction::GeneratePrimaries(G4Event* anEvent) {
    particleGun->SetParticleTime(G4double);
    particleGun->SetParticlePolarization(G4ThreeVector);
    ...
}
```

• For a point source, use \texttt{G4RandomDirection()}:

```c++
#include "G4RandomDirection.hh"

myGeneratorAction::GeneratePrimaries(G4Event* anEvent) {
    particleGun->SetParticleMomentum(G4RandomDirection());
}
```
Methods provided by G4ParticleGun

• It is possible to pre-assign the decay chain for primaries

  void SetParticleDefinition(G4ParticleDefinition*)
  void SetParticleMomentum(G4ParticleMomentum)
  void SetParticleMomentumDirection(G4ThreeVector)
  void SetParticleEnergy(G4double)
  void SetParticleTime(G4double)
  void SetParticlePosition(G4ThreeVector)
  void SetParticlePolarization(G4ThreeVector)
  void SetNumberOfParticles(G4int)

• NOTE: To achieve multiple particles with random properties, need to call the relevant set methods + GeneratePrimaryVertex() multiple times. SetNumberOfParticles will create identical particles.
G4GeneralParticleSource

• A sophisticated implementation of G4VPrimaryGenerator

• *G4GeneralParticleSource* should be instantiated and used just like *G4ParticleGun* (it provides *GeneratePrimaries* method)

• *G4GeneralParticleSource* has been created with space applications in mind and can generate particles from point sources, on the surface or throughout the volume of 3D objects

• *G4GeneralParticleSource* provides a number of interactive UI commands. A full Users‘ Manual can be found at http://reat.space.qinetiq.com/gps/
G4GeneralParticleSource - II

• *G4GeneralParticleSource* can be implemented in exactly the same way as *G4ParticleGun*

```cpp
// instantiate in constructor
MyPrimaryGeneratorAction::MyPrimaryGeneratorAction()
{ generator = new G4GeneralParticleSource; }

// call GeneratePrimaryVertex from GeneratePrimaries method
void MyPrimaryGeneratorAction::
    GeneratePrimaries(G4Event* anEvent)
{ generator->GeneratePrimaryVertex(anEvent); }
```

• Instead of setting the properties of the particles to be created in the constructor or in *GeneratePrimaries*, the particle properties are set using UI commands
**G4GeneralParticleSource** UI commands can be used from a macro or entered straight into the UI.

```
/gps/particle gamma
/gps/pos/type Plane
/gps/pos/shape Square
/gps/pos/centre 1. 2. 1. cm
/gps/pos/halfx 2. cm
/gps/pos/halfy 2. cm
/gps/ang/type cos
/gps/ene/type Lin
/gps/ene/min 2. MeV
/gps/ene/max 10. MeV
/gps/ene/gradient 1.
/gps/ene/intercept 1.
```

• Many more examples are available from [http://reat.space.qinetiq.com/gps/examples/examples.htm](http://reat.space.qinetiq.com/gps/examples/examples.htm)
Decay products of primaries

• It is possible to pre-assign the decay chain for primaries

• This is done by using the `SetDecayTable(G4DecayTable*)` method of `G4ParticleDefinition` before calling in `G4UserPhysicsList::ConstructParticle();`

• `G4DecayTable` contains a number of `G4 Decay Channel` entries, which specify decay modes as well as the relative branching ratio of those modes
Building Decay Tables

• Example Muonium decay table:

```cpp
//create decay table
G4DecayTable* MuoniumDecayTable = new G4DecayTable();

//Add decay channel to table
MuoniumDecayTable -> Insert(new G4MuonDecayChannel("Mu",1.));

//Add decay table to particle definition
G4Muonium::MuoniumDefinition() -> SetDecayTable(MuoniumDecayTable);
```

• In the example above, `G4MuonDecayChannel` inherits from `G4DecayChannel`, with the decay physics pre-defined and only muon type and branching ratio set in the constructor.
External Decayer

• In particular, external decayers are used for heavy flavor decays not implemented by Geant4 (c, b, baryons, tau...)

• External physics generators are managed using the G4VExtDecayer class

• An example using the Pythia external decayer can be found in $GEANT4SOURCE/examples/extended/eventgenerator/pythia/
Summary

• *G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction* is a mandatory user action class that has to be registered with G4RunManager

• Events are generated by *G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction::GeneratePrimaries()*

• The user does not create primary vertices directly but uses implementations of *G4VPrimaryGenerator* like *G4ParticleGun* or *G4GeneralParticleSource*

• When the primary particles are short lived, external decayers can be used to control the decay