GEANT4 PYTHON INTERFACE

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Geant4 Collaboration Meeting 2016

PYTHON

SHELL ENVIRONMENT

- CLI : *UI terminal*
- script language : *UI macro*

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE

- oop, much easier than C++ : barrier to start
- multi-language binding (C-API)
- dynamic binding
  - modularization of software components
  - many third-party modules
  - software component bus (glue)

BRIDGING C++ TO PYTHON FOR GEANT4

generally easy, also different ways :

- boost::python, Py++, swing, pyrex/cython, ctypes, …

still some tricky parts exist in Geant4 :

- global object for singleton
- object life-time : depends on
- consider life-time of returned pointer : who has it?
- copy by value, reference of existing obj (potential danger)

boost::python :

“all you need to write is c++ code and there's no additional script, interface definition file, etc.”

PYTHON BRIDGE

IMPROVING FUNCTIONALITIES OF GEANT4 UI

- more powerful scripting environment
- flow control, variables, arithmetic operation

FLEXIBILITY IN THE CONFIGURATION OF USER APPLICATIONS

- Modularization of user classes with dynamic loading scheme
  - DetectorConstruction, PhysicsList, PrimaryGeneratorAction, UserAction-s
  - helping avoid code duplication.
- quick prototyping and testing

SOFTWARE COMPONENT BUS

- interconnectivity with many Python external module : analysis tools, e.g. ROOT, matplotlib
- middleware for application developers : GUI applications/web applications

RUNTIME PERFORMANCE

- Depends on usages : interpreter << thin wrapper

Geant4Py

"Geant4Py" was included in "environments/g4py/"

"Natural pythonization" of Geant4

- not specific to particular applications
- There are no invention of new conceptual ideas and terminologies!
  - same class names and their methods
  - *>>>gRunManager.BeamOn(10)*
- keeping compatibility with the current UI scheme
- exposing secure methods only
  - avoiding to expose "internal" methods

NOT all methods are exposed.

- only safe methods : getting object attributes, limited setter methods

Both Python2 and Python3 supported

Perspective for MT: thin wrapper might be possible.

EXPOSED CLASSES

Over 100 classes in different categories are exposed to Python.

CLASSES FOR GEANT4 MANAGERS

- G4RunManager, G4EventManager, …
- automatically instantiated as global variables
  - *gRunManager, gEventManager, …*

CLASSES OF BASE CLASSES OF USER ACTIONS

- G4UserDetetorConstruction, G4UserPhysicsList, G4UserXXXAction
  - PrimaryGenerator, Run, Event, Stepping,…
- can be inherited in the Python side

CLASSES HAVING INFORMATION TO BE ANALYZED

- G4Step, G4Track, G4StepPoint, G4ParticleDefinition, …
- Only safe methods are exposed.
  - Getting internal information are exposed. Some setter methods might be dangerous.

CLASSES FOR DESCRIBING USER INPUTS

- G4ParticleGun, G4Box, G4PVPlacement, …
- G4String, G4ThreeVector, G4RotationMatrix,… as utility classes

HOW TO EXPOSE

```
#include <boost/python.hpp>
#include "G4Step.hh"
using namespace boost::python;

void export_G4Step()
{
  class_<G4Step, G4Step*>("G4Step", "step class")
    .def("GetTrack",                  &G4Step::GetTrack,
         return_value_policy<reference_existing_object>())
    .def("GetPreStepPoint",           &G4Step::GetPreStepPoint,
         return_internal_reference<>())
    .def("GetPostStepPoint",          &G4Step::GetPostStepPoint,
         return_internal_reference<>())
    .def("GetTotalEnergyDeposit",     &G4Step::GetTotalEnergyDeposit)
    .def("GetStepLength",             &G4Step::GetStepLength)
    …
    .def("GetDeltaEnergy",            &G4Step::GetDeltaEnergy)
    ;
}
```

GEANT4PY MODULE STRUCTURE

PYTHON PACKAGE NAME :

- **Geant4** (should be geant4?)
- It consists of a collection of submodules same as Geant4 directory structure.
  - run/event/particle/geometry/track/…

```
#__init__.py
from G4global import *
from G4run import *
from G4event import *
…
```

FROM USERS SIDE,

- >>> from Geant4 import *
- ENV vars:
  - (DY)LD_LIBRARY_PARH is not necessary in most cases
  - PYTHON_PATH should be specified.

GLOBAL VARS/FUNCS, AUTO INSTANCE

Some global variables/functions starting with "***g***" are pre-instantiated at the importing time.

singleton objects :

- *gRunManager*
- *gEventManager*
- *gVisManager, …*

short cuts methods :

- *gControlExecute()*
- *gApplyUIcommand()*
- *gStartUISession()*

All of available visualization drivers (OpenGL, VRML, DAWN, …) are automatically registered.

CO-WORK WITH G4UIMANAGER

Geant4Py provides a bridge to G4UImanager.

- keeping compatibility with current usability

UI COMMANDS

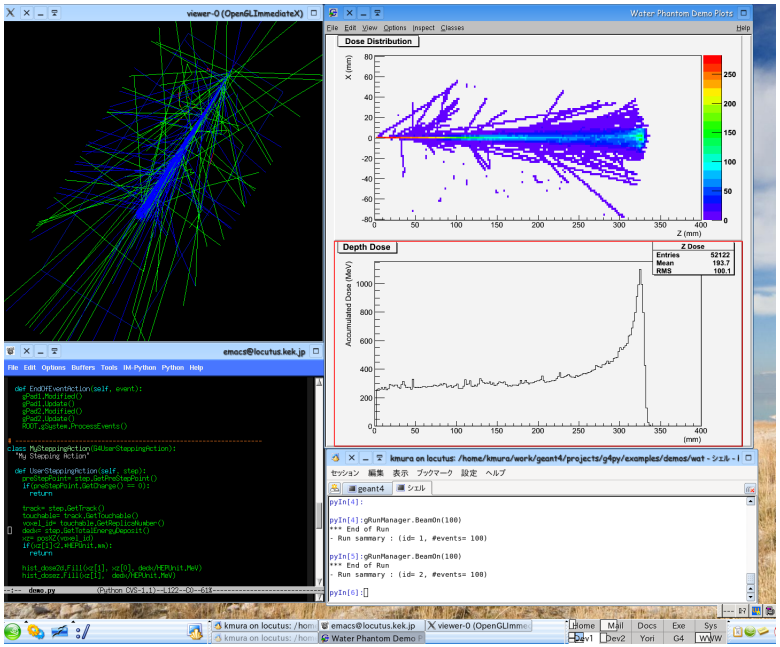
- some shortcuts are provided.
- gApplyUICommand("/xxx/xxx") allows to execute any G4UI commands.
- Current values can be obtained by gGetCurrentValues("/xxx/xxx").
- G4 macro files can be executed: gControlExecute("macro_file_name")

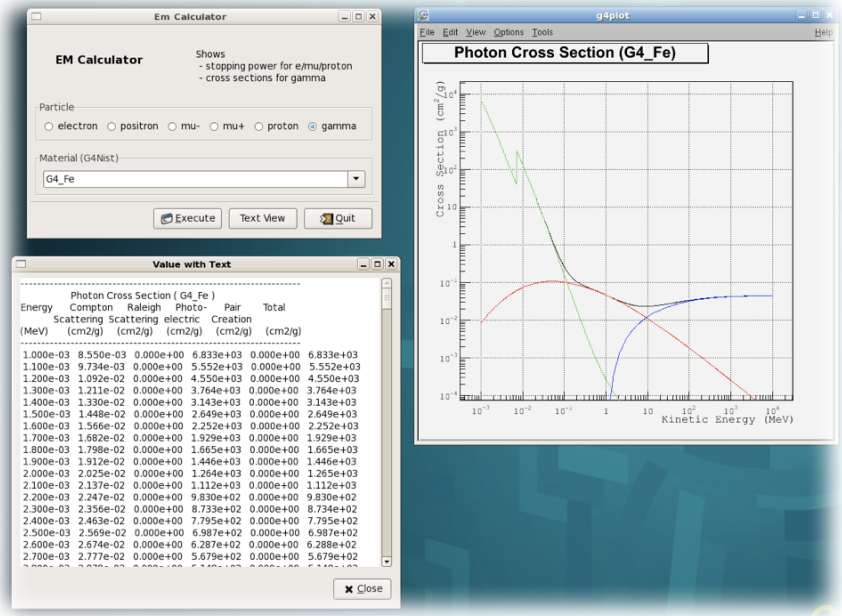
UI SESSION

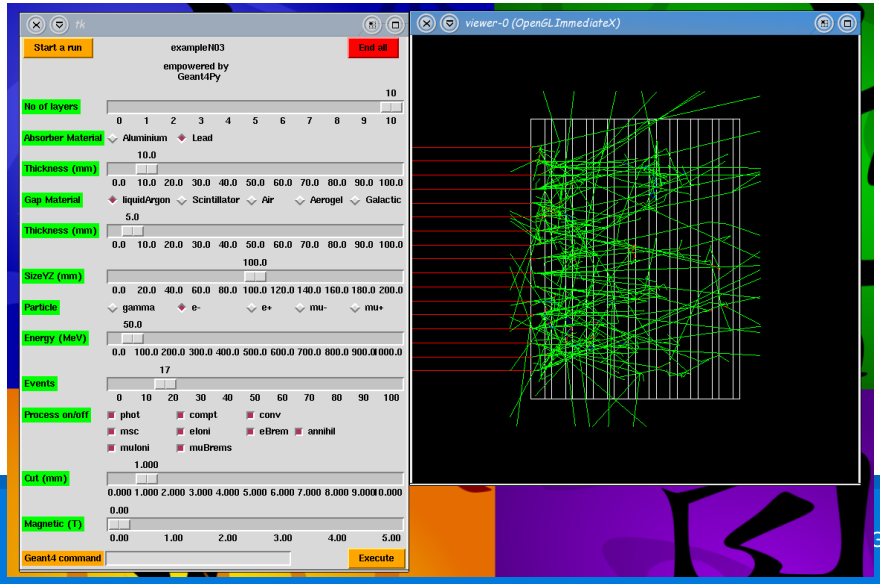
G4 frontend shell can be used from Python.

- gStartUISession() starts G4UIsession.
- g4py(Idle): // invoke a G4UI session
- when exit the session, go back to the Python front end

APPLICATION EXAMPLES







EM Calculator :

- pyGTK is used.
- Show stopping power for e/mu/proton and cross section for gamma.
- Select a particle and select/set a NIST material.
- Show stopping power / cross sections on ROOT graph and text data

GUI control panel for educational uses

DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS

CMake migration was done.

- installation is much easier than before

using the following find_packages :

- find_package(Geant4 REQUIRED)
- find_package(PythonInterp REQUIRED)
- find_package(PythonLibs REQUIRED)
- find_package(Boost)
- find_package(XercesC)
- find_package(ROOT)

Env. vars might be required for searching in non-default paths

- *GEANT4_INSTALL* as a path hint of find_package(Geant4)

RPATH is embedded in a module.

ToDo items : CTest item for system testing & unit tests scheme

Jupyter

Former IPython notebook

IPython is much more powerful frontend than python CLI.

IPython notebook works on web browser

- save session logs
- inline interactivity : plots, images, …
- familiar with github

Other external language (R, Julia, SQL,..) can be run on Jupyter.

Jupyter and Geant4

- Geant4Py can run on Jupyter as native Python script
- Alternative : Jupyter external kernel of Geant4 as other language support?

Idea : still open question

- A list of UI commands are defined as Jupyter kernel?
- Some shortcuts for global / static obj / funcs

PERSPECTIVES

load_ext g4 : how does it work?

- provides another UI terminal instance
- connecting to user applications
- retrieves a command set like GAG approach
- sever-client model : zeromq for distributed messaging
- not only local client but also cloud service
- cout/cin/cerr are redirected to Jupyter

UI command like shell

- command completion
- argument list
- command guides

Vis. component, still open

- showing images, interactivity,…

SUMMARY

Geant4Py is a python interface with Geant4.

- boost::python can exposer C++ classes
- can control Geant4 applications on Python
- can build application with Python
- from thin wrapper to scripting

Dev. aspects:

- CMake migration was done. unit testing fw is under consideration.
- Play with Jupyter : geant4py can work on Jupyter.
- Potentially, alternative UI session – shell (server-client)
- Implementing Jupyter external kernel as another language support
  - UI commands, some util. stuffs