Interaction with the Geant4 kernel – part 1

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A lot of material by G.A.P. Cirrone, L Pandola and J. Pipek

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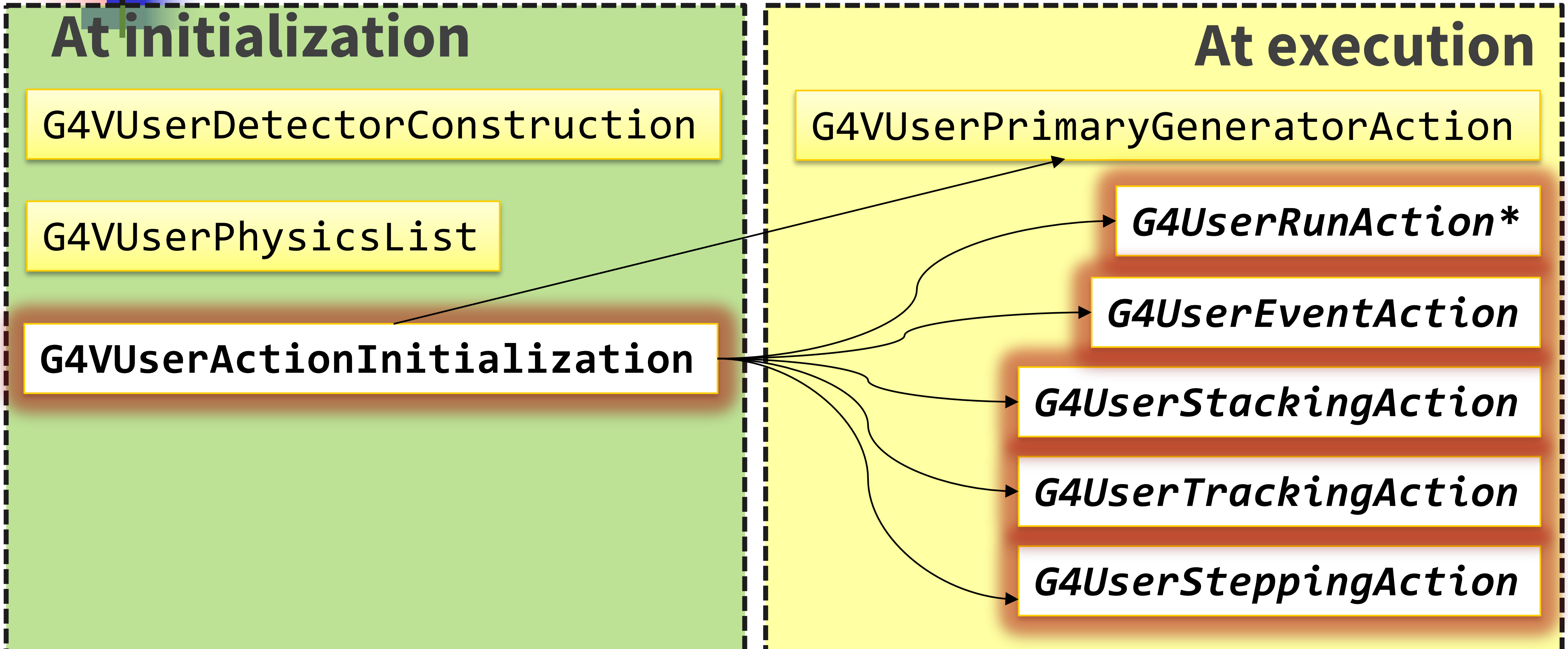
… User classes (cont'd)



At initialization

`G4VUserDetectorConstruction`

`G4VUserPhysicsList`

`G4VUserActionInitialization`

At execution

`G4VUserPrimaryGeneratorAction`

`G4UserRunAction*`

`G4UserEventAction`

`G4UserStackingAction`

`G4UserTrackingAction`

`G4UserSteppingAction`

Global: only one instance exists in memory, shared by all threads.

Local: an instance of each action class exists for each thread.

(*) Two RunAction's allowed: one for master and one for threads

Outlook

- Run, Event, Track, …
  - a word about multi-threading
- Optional user action classes
- Command-based scoring
- Accumulables

- Analysis tools

Part I: The main ingredients

Geant4 terminology: an overview

- The following keywords are often used in Geant4
  - **Run, Event, Track, Step**
  - **Processes**: At Rest, Along Step, Post Step
  - **Cut** (or production threshold)
  - Worker/master thread (for MT)

Run, Event and Tracks

Run

Event 0
track 1
track 2
track 3
track 4

Event 1
track 1
track 2
track 3

Event 2
track 1

Event 3
track 1
track 2
track 3
track 4

The Run (G4Run)

- As an analogy with a real experiment, a run of Geant4 starts with ‘**Beam On**’
- Within a run, the User **cannot change**
  - The detector setup
  - The physics setting (processes, models)
- A Run is a collection of events with the same detector and physics conditions
- At the beginning of a Run, geometry is optimised for navigation and cross section tables are (re)calculated
- The **`G4(MT)RunManager`** class manages the processing of each Run, represented by:
  - **G4Run** class
  - **G4UserRunAction** for an optional User hook

The Event (G4Event)

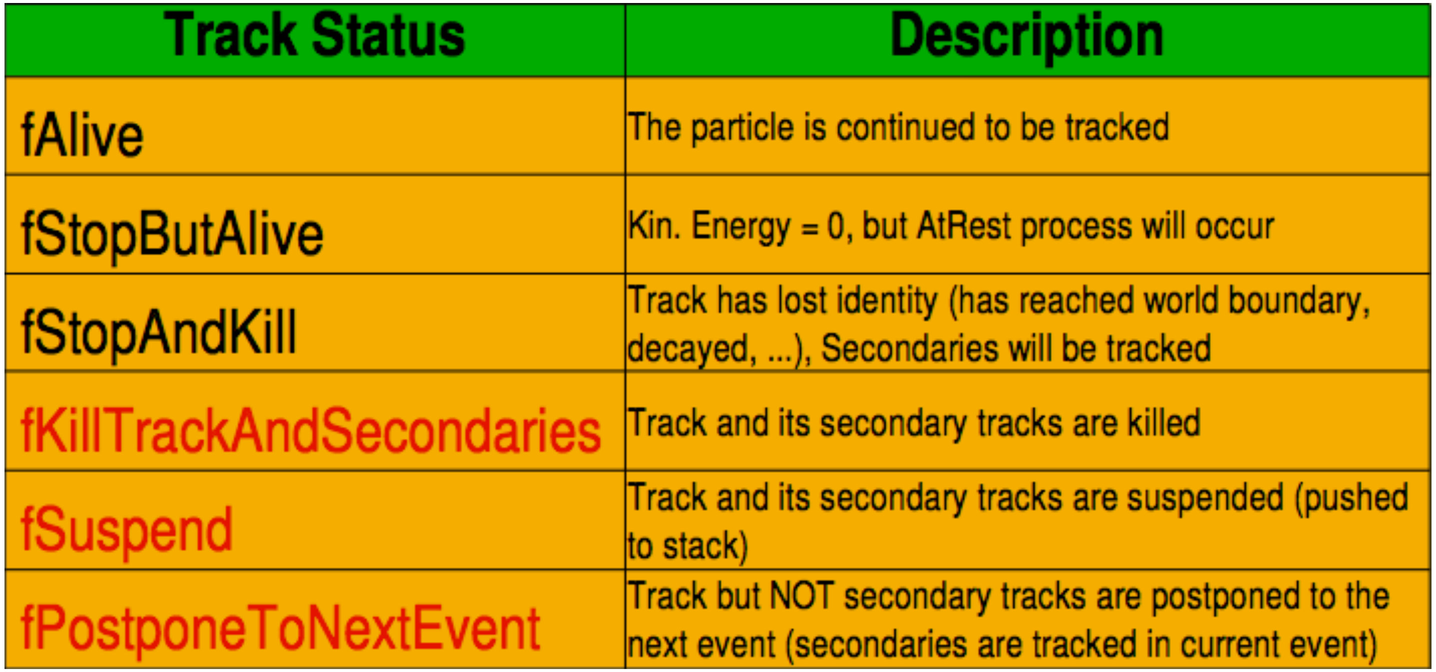
- An Event is the basic unit of simulation in Geant4
- At the beginning of processing, primary tracks are generated and they are pushed into a stack
- A track is popped up from the stack one-by-one **and 'tracked'**
  - Secondary tracks are also pushed into the stack
  - When the stack gets empty, the processing of the event is completed
- **`G4Event`** class represents an event. At the end of a successful event it has:
  - List of primary vertices and particles (as input)
  - Hits and Trajectory collections (as outputs)
- **`G4EventManager`** class manages the event
- **`G4UserEventAction`** is the optional User hook

The Track (G4Track)

- The Track is a **snapshot of a particle** and it is represented by the **`G4Track`** class
  - It keeps 'current' information of the particle (i.e. energy, momentum, position, polarization, ..)
  - It is updated after every step
- The track object is **deleted** when
  - It goes outside the world volume
  - It disappears in an interaction (decay, inelastic scattering)
  - It is slowed down to zero kinetic energy and there are no 'AtRest' processes
  - It is manually killed by the user
- No track object **persists** at the end of the event
- **`G4TrackingManager`** class manages the tracking
- **`G4UserTrackingAction`** is the optional User hook

G4TrackStatus

- After each step the track can change its state
- The status can be (red can only be set by the User)



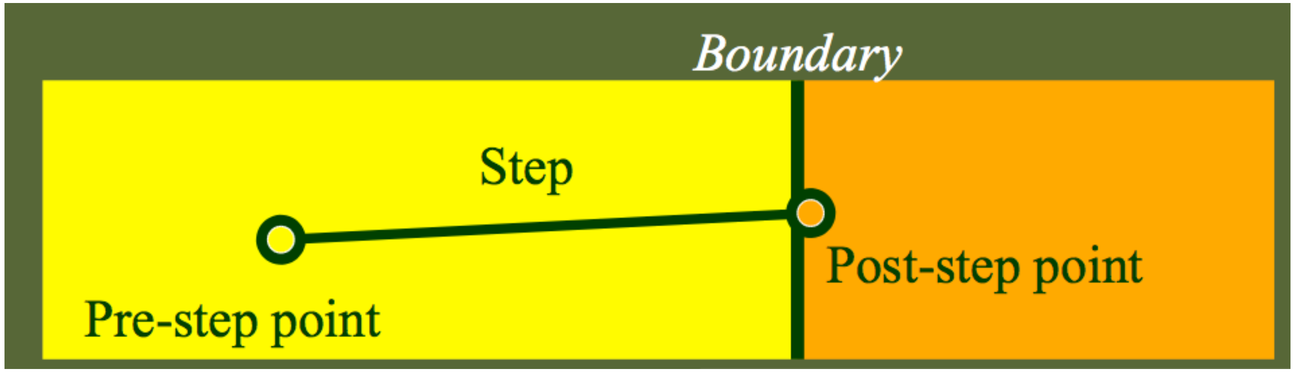
Track Status	Description
fAlive	The particle is continued to be tracked
fStopButAlive	Kin. Energy = 0, but AtRest process will occur
fStopAndKill	Track has lost identity (has reached world boundary, decayed, ...), Secondaries will be tracked
fKillTrackAndSecondaries	Track and its secondary tracks are killed
fSuspend	Track and its secondary tracks are suspended (pushed to stack)
fPostponeToNextEvent	Track but NOT secondary tracks are postponed to the next event (secondaries are tracked in current event)

The Step (G4Step)

- `G4Step` represents a step in the particle propagation
- A G4Step object stores transient information of the step
  - In the tracking algorithm, G4Step is updated each time a process is invoked *(e.g. multiple scattering)*
- You can extract information from a step after the step is completed, e.g. in
  - **`ProcessHits()`** method of your sensitive detector (*see later*)
  - **`UserSteppingAction()`** of your step action class file

The Step in Geant4

- The G4Step has the information about the **two points** (pre-step and post-step) and the **'delta'** information of a particle (energy loss on the step, …..)
- Each point knows the volume (and the material)
  - In case a step is limited by a volume boundary, the end point physically stands on the boundary and it logically belongs to the next volume

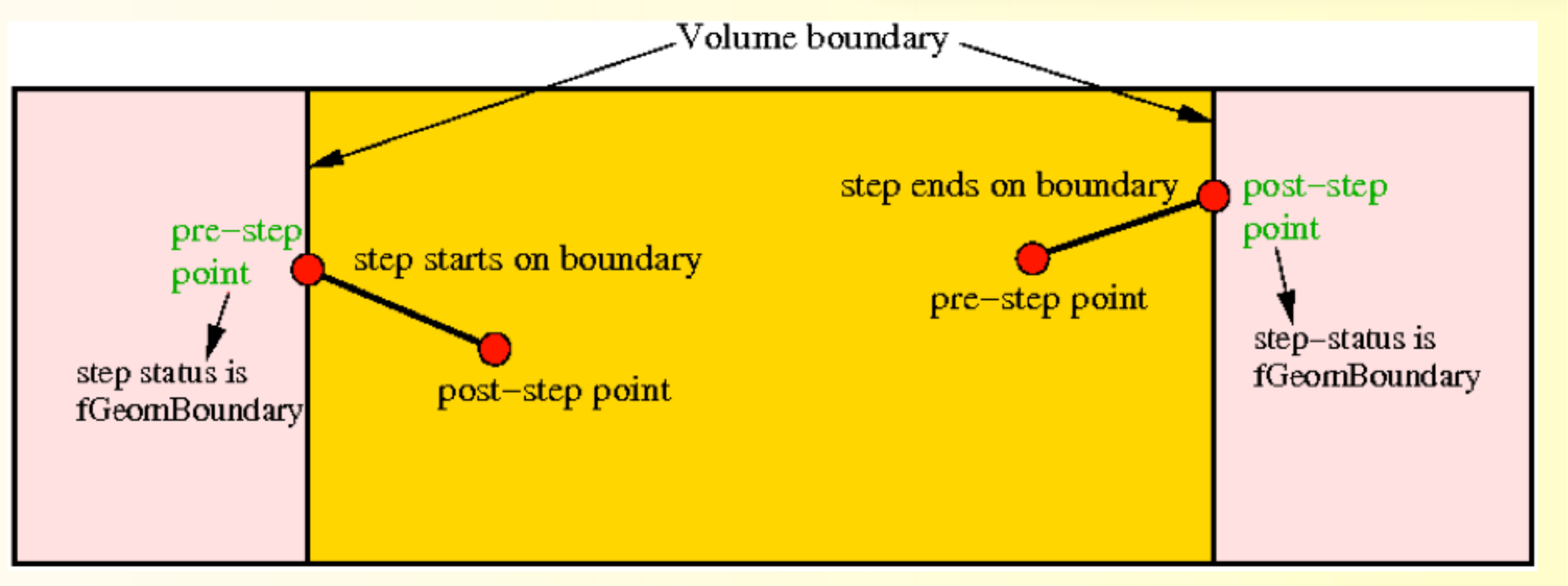


- **`G4Step`** provides many Get… methods to access information or object istances
  - **`G4StepPoint* GetPreStepPoint(), …….`**

The geometry boundary

- To check if a step ends on a boundary, one may compare if the physical volume of pre and post-step points are equal
- One can also use the **step status**
  - Step Status provides information about the process that restricted the step length
  - The pre has the status of the previous step, the post of the current step
  - If the status of POST is **`fGeometryBoundary`** the step ends on a volume boundary (does not apply to word volume)
  - To check if a step starts on a volume boundary you can also use the step status of the PRE-step point

Step concept and boundaries



Example: parent track and process

```
if (track->GetTrackID() != 1)
{
    G4cout << "Particle is a secondary" << G4endl;

    if (track->GetParentID() == 1)
    {
        G4cout << "But parent was a primary" << G4endl;
    }

    // Get process information
    G4VProcess* creatorProcess = track->GetCreatorProcess();
    G4String processName = creatorProcess->GetProcessName();
    G4cout << "Particle was created by " << processName << G4endl;
    }
}
```

Example: boundaries

```
G4StepPoint* preStepPoint = step -> GetPreStepPoint();
G4StepPoint* postStepPoint = step -> GetPostStepPoint();

// Use the GetStepStatus() method of G4StepPoint to get the status of the
// current step (contained in post-step point) or of the previous step
// (contained in pre-step point):
if(preStepPoint -> GetStepStatus() == fGeomBoundary) {
    G4cout << "Step starts on geometry boundary" << G4endl;
}
if(postStepPoint -> GetStepStatus() == fGeomBoundary) {
    G4cout << "Step ends on geometry boundary" << G4endl;
}

// You can retrieve the material of the next volume through the
// post-step point:
G4Material* nextMaterial = step->GetPostStepPoint()->GetMaterial();
```

Example: step "deltas"

```
MySensitiveDetector::ProcessHits(G4Step* step, G4TouchableHistory*) {
  // Total energy deposition on the step (= energy deposited by energy loss
  // process and energy of secondaries that were not created since their
  // energy was < Cut):
  G4double energyDeposit = step -> GetTotalEnergyDeposit();

  // Difference of energy, position and momentum of particle between pre-
  // and post-step point
  G4double deltaEnergy = step -> GetDeltaEnergy();
  G4ThreeVector deltaPosition = step -> GetDeltaPosition();
  G4double deltaMomentum = step -> GetDeltaMomentum();

  // Step length
  G4double stepLength = step -> GetStepLength();
}
```

Example: particle info

```
// Retrieve from the current step the track (after PostStepDoIt of
// step is completed):
G4Track* track = step -> GetTrack();

// From the track you can obtain the pointer to the dynamic particle:
const G4DynamicParticle* dynParticle = track -> GetDynamicParticle();

// From the dynamic particle, retrieve the particle definition:
G4ParticleDefinition* particle = dynParticle -> GetDefinition();

// The dynamic particle class contains e.g. the kinetic energy after the step:
G4double kinEnergy = dynParticle -> GetKineticEnergy();

// From the particle definition class you can retrieve static
// information like the particle name:
G4String particleName = particle -> GetParticleName();

G4cout << particleName << ": kinetic energy of "
    << (kinEnergy / MeV) << " MeV" << G4endl;
```

Part II: Optional User Action classes

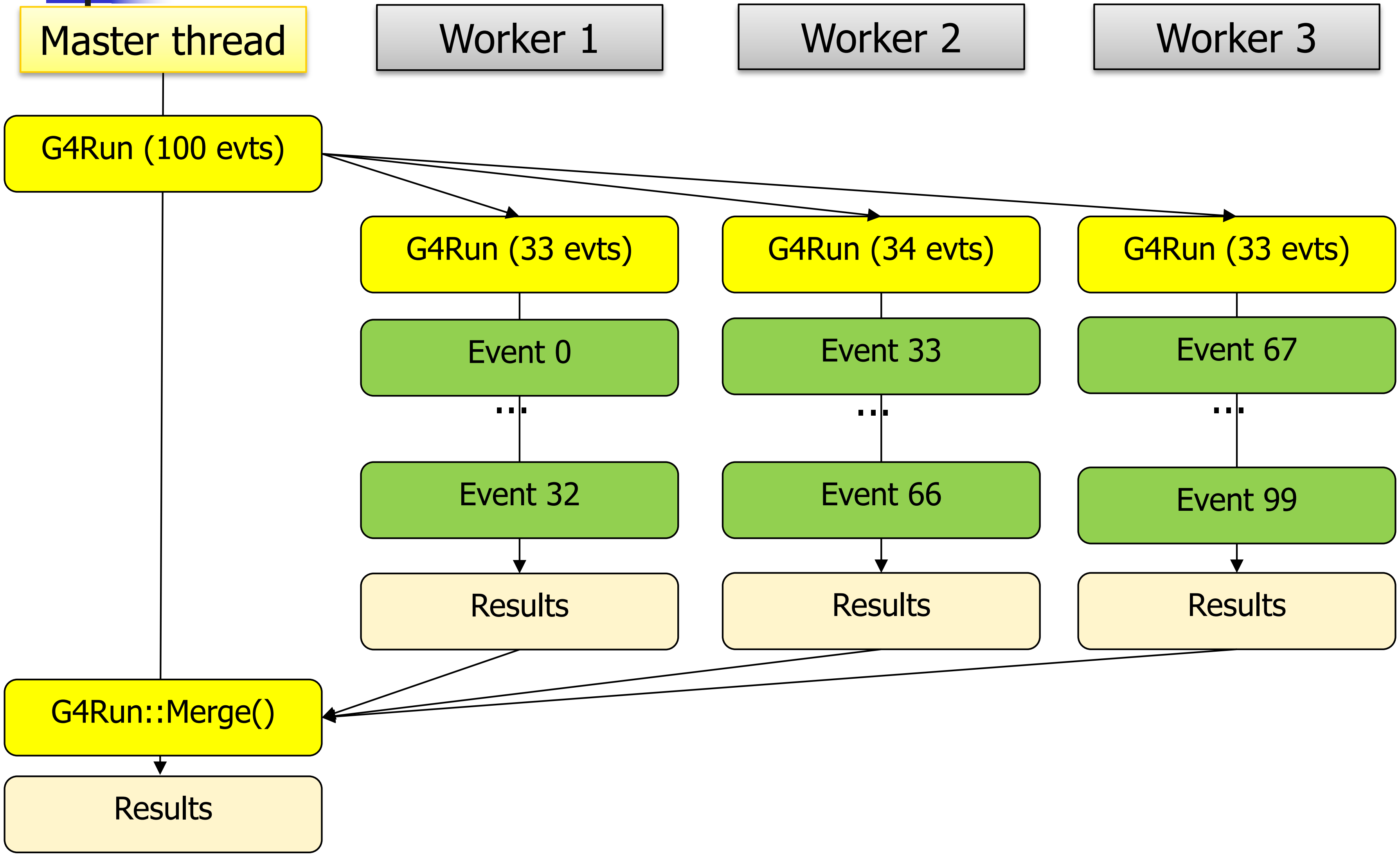
Optional user classes

- Five base classes with virtual methods the user may override to step during the execution of the application ("user hooks“)
  - G4User**Run**Action
  - G4User**Event**Action
  - G4User**Tracking**Action
  - G4User**Stacking**Action
  - G4User**Stepping**Action

e.g. actions to be done at the beginning and end of each event

- Default implementation (**not** purely virtual): **do nothing**
- Therefore, **override** only the methods you need.

Multi-threaded processing of events



Master thread

Worker 1

Worker 2

Worker 3

G4Run (100 evts)

G4Run (33 evts)

G4Run (34 evts)

G4Run (33 evts)

Event 0

Event 33

Event 67

…

…

…

Event 32

Event 66

Event 99

Results

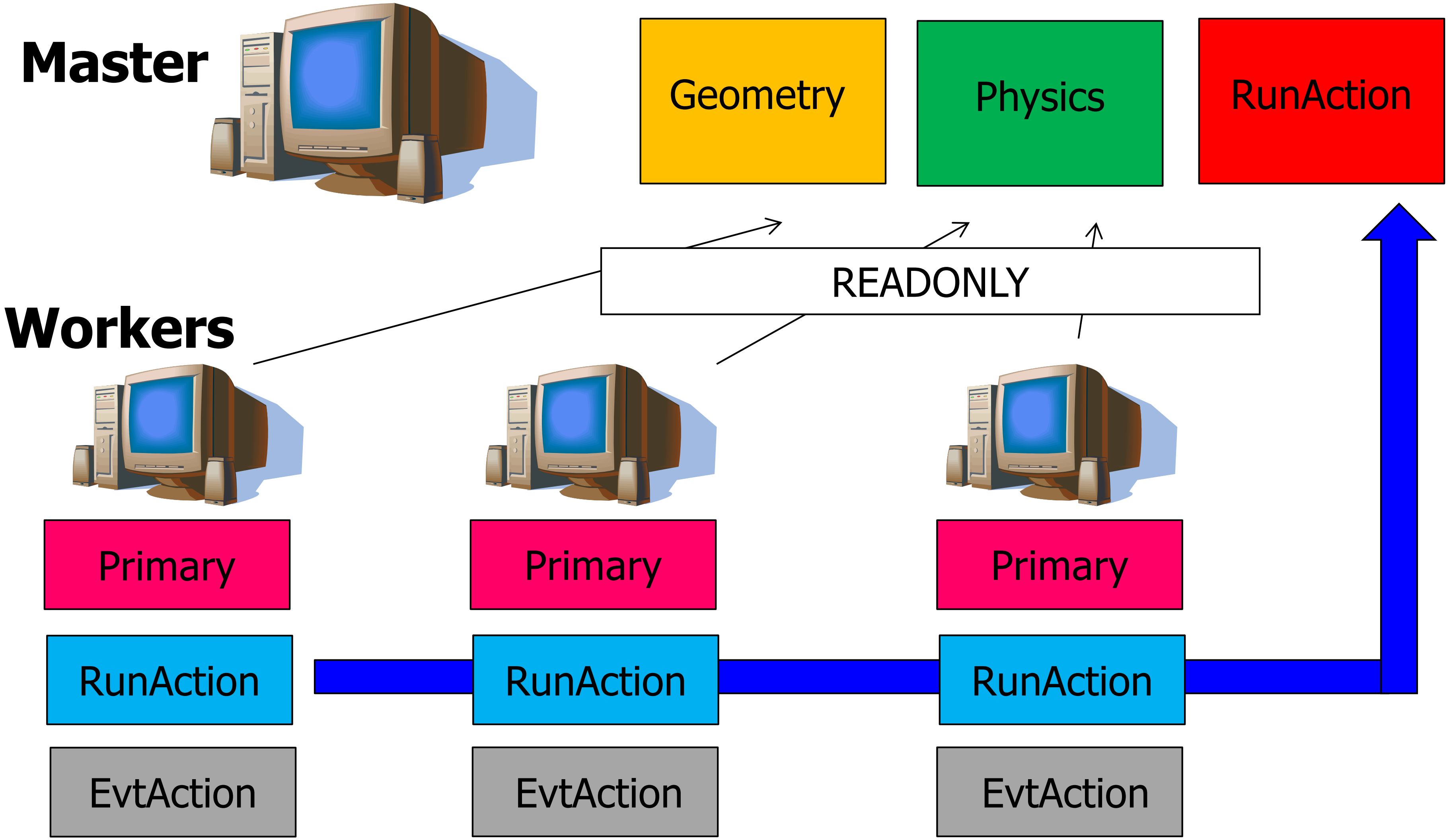
Results

Results

G4Run::Merge()

Results

User actions in MT mode



Master

Geometry

Physics

RunAction

READONLY

Workers

Primary

RunAction

EvtAction

Primary

RunAction

EvtAction

Primary

RunAction

EvtAction

G4UserRunAction

```
void BeginOfRunAction(const G4Run*)
void EndOfRunAction(const G4Run*)
G4Run* GenerateRun()
```

Uses:

- Book/output histograms and other analysis tools
- Custom G4Run with additional information
- Define parameters

MT

G4UserEventAction

```
void BeginOfEventAction(const G4Event*)
void EndOfEventAction(const G4Event*)
```

Uses:

- Hit collection and event analysis
- Event selection
- Logging (e.g. output event number)

G4UserStackingAction

```
G4ClassificationOfNewTrack
      ClassifyNewTrack(const G4Track*)
void NewStage()
void PrepareNewEvent()
```

Uses:

- Pre-selection of tracks (~manual cuts)
- Optimization of the order of track execution

G4UserTrackingAction

```
void PreUserTrackingAction(const
     G4Track*)
void PostUserTrackingAction(const
     G4Track*)
```

Uses:

- Track pre-selection
- Store trajectories

G4UserSteppingAction

`void UserSteppingAction(const G4Step*)`

Uses:

- Get information about particles
- Kill tracks under specific circumstances

MT

User-defined run class

```
class MyRun : public G4Run
{ ... };
```

Virtual methods

- `RecordEvent()`
    - called at the end of each event
    - **alternative to EndOfEventAction()** of the EventAction class
- `Merge()`
    - Called at the end of each worker run by the **master**

When/why to use it?

- In **MT-mode** it allows the **merging** of information (global quantities) from **thread-local runs** into the master
    - UserEventAction is thread-local

Registration of user actions

- In sequential (multi-threading) mode, objects of user action classes must be **registered** to the **`G4(MT)RunManager`** via a user-defined action initialization class

```
runManager->SetUserInitialization(
         new MyActionInitialization);
```

- In sequential mode, the actions can *also* be registered to the run manager directly (not recommended→you cannot switch to MT)

```
runManager->SetUserAction(new MyRunAction);
```

MyActionInitialization

- Register thread-local user actions

```
void MyActionInitialization::Build() const
{
  //Set mandatory classes
  SetUserAction(new MyPrimaryGeneratorAction());
  // Set optional user action classes
  SetUserAction(new MyEventAction());
  SetUserAction(new MyRunAction());
}
```

Also the primary generator

- Register RunAction for the master (optional)

MT

```
void MyActionInitialization::BuildForMaster() const
{
  // Set optional user action classes
SetUserAction(new MyMasterRunAction());
}
```

Multiple user actions

- `G4MultiRunAction`
- `G4MultiEventAction`
- `G4MultiTrackingAction`
- `G4MultiSteppingAction`
- **no** `G4MultiStackingAction`

```
auto multiAction = new G4MultiEventAction{ new MyEventAction1,
        new MyEventAction2 };
//...
multiAction->push_back(new MyEventAction3);
SetUserAction(multiAction);
```

Containers enabling to have **multiple user actions** of the same "kind", implemented as customized std::vector's.

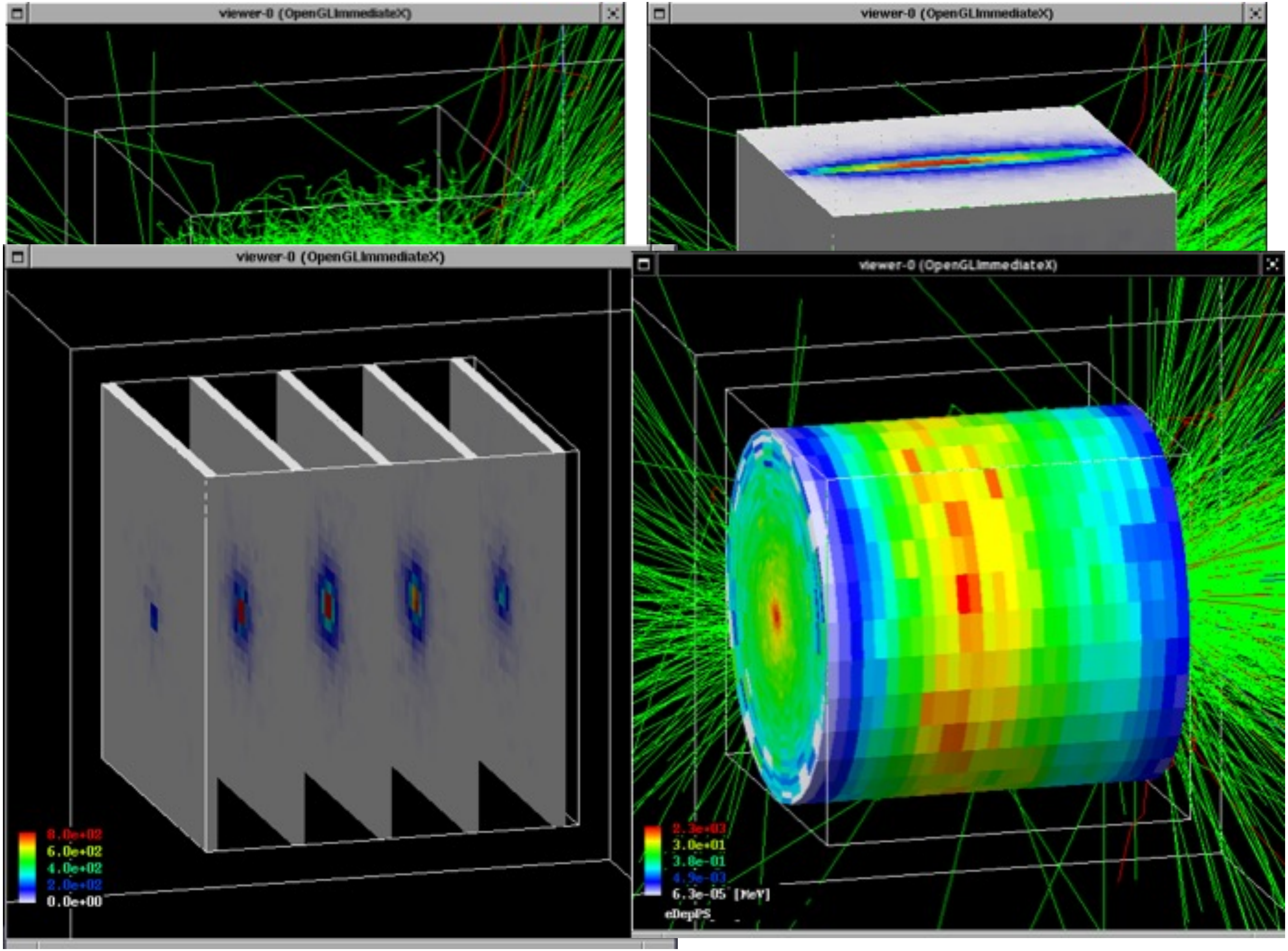
Part III: Command-based scoring

Command-based scoring

UI commands for scoring → no C++ required, apart from instantiating **G4ScoringManager** in `main()`

```
int main() {
     …
 G4ScoringManager::GetScoringManager();
…
}
```

- Define a **scoring mesh**
  - /score/create/boxMesh <mesh_name>
  - /score/open, /score/close
- Define **mesh parameters**
  - /score/mesh/boxsize <dx> <dy> <dz>
  - /score/mesh/nbin <nx> <ny> <nz>
  - /score/mesh/translate,
- Define **primitive scorers**
  - /score/quantity/eDep <scorer_name>
  - /score/quantity/cellFlux <scorer_name>
  - currently **20 scorers** are available
- Define **filters**
  - /score/filter/particle <filter_name> <particle_list>
  - /score/filter/kinE <filter_name> <Emin> <Emax> <unit>
  - currently **5 filters** are available
- **Output**
  - /score/draw <mesh_name> <scorer_name>
  - /score/dump,
  - /score/list


viewer-0 (OpenGLImmediateX)
viewer-0 (OpenGLImmediateX)
viewer-0 (OpenGLImmediateX)
viewer-0 (OpenGLImmediateX)
8.0e+02
6.0e+02
4.0e+02
2.0e+02
0.0e+00
2.3e+03
3.0e+01
3.8e-01
4.9e-03
6.3e-05 [MeV]
eDepPS

G4analysis tools

(detached session)

Geant4 analysis classes

- A basic analysis interface is available in Geant4 for histograms (1D and 2D) and ntuples
  - Make life easier because they are thread-safe
    - ROOT is not! Manual text output usually not!
    - No need to worry about the interference of threads
- Unique interface to support different output formats
  - ROOT, AIDA XML, CSV and HBOOK
  - Code is the same, just change one line to switch from one to an other
- Everything done via `G4AnalysisManager`
  - **UI commands** available

g4analysis

- Selection of output format is performed by including a proper header file
- **All** the rest of the code **unchanged**
  - Unique interface

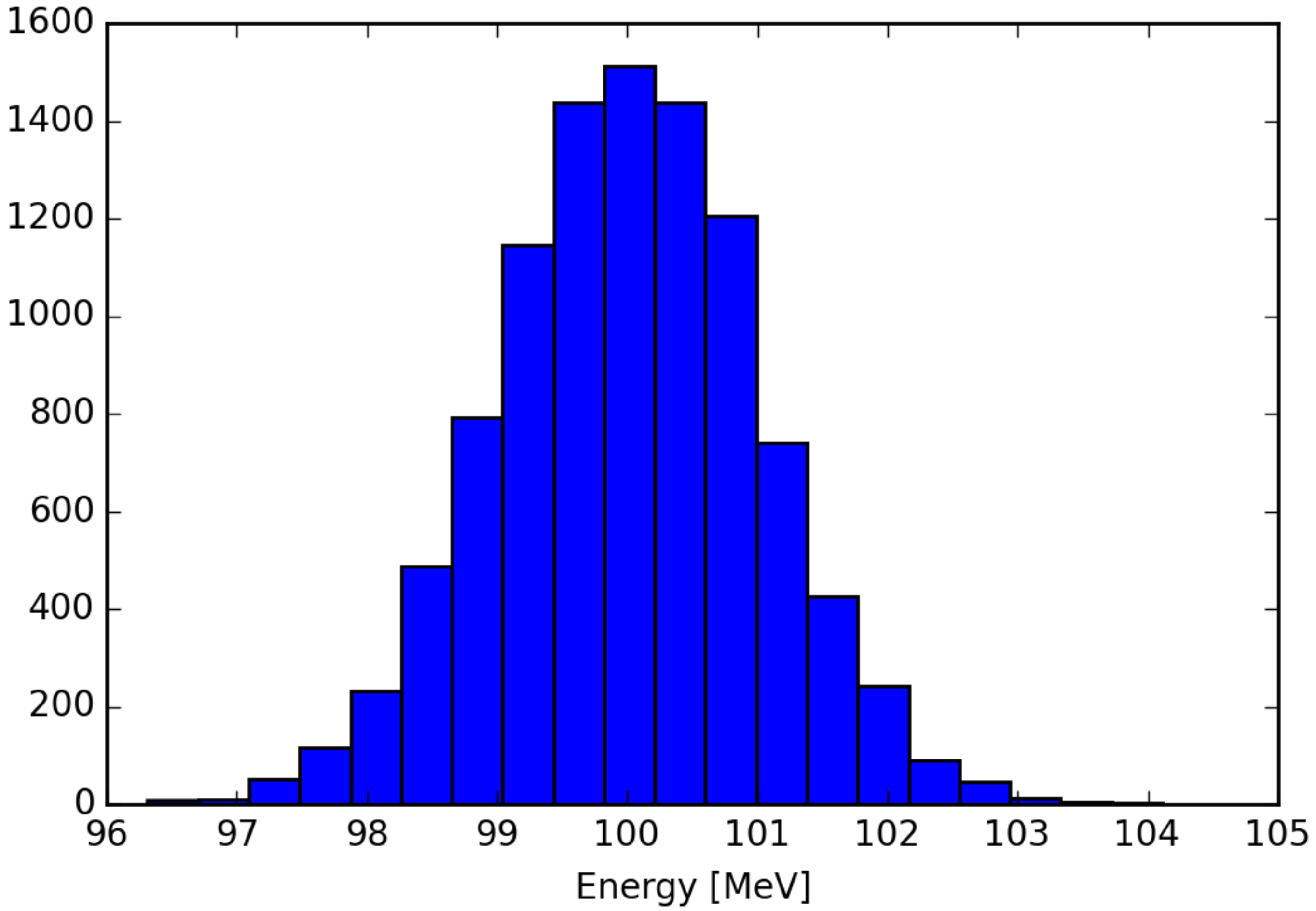
```
#ifndef MyAnalysis_h
#define MyAnalysis_h 1

#include "g4root.hh"
//#include "g4xml.hh"
//#include "g4csv.hh"  // can be used only with ntuples

#endif
```

⚠ **Advanced topic:** It is possible to use more formats at the same time. See documentation.

Histograms


1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
Energy [MeV]

Open file and book histograms

```
#include "MyAnalysis.hh"

void MyRunAction::BeginOfRunAction(const G4Run* run)
{
  // Get analysis manager
  G4AnalysisManager* man = G4AnalysisManager::Instance();
  man->SetVerboseLevel(1);
  man->SetFirstHistoId(1);
```

Start numbering of histograms from ID=1

```
  // Creating histograms
  man->CreateH1("h","Title", 100, 0., 800);
  man->CreateH1("hh","Title",100,0.,10);
```

ID=1

ID=2

```
 // Open an output file
  man->OpenFile("myoutput");
}
```

Open output file

Fill histograms and write on file

```
#include "MyAnalysis.hh"
void MyEventAction::EndOfEventAction(const G4Run* aRun)
{
  auto man = G4AnalysisManager::Instance();
  man->FillH1(1, fEnergyAbs/MeV);
  man->FillH1(2, fEnergyGap/MeV);
}

void MyRunAction::EndOfRunAction(const G4Run* aRun)
{
  G4AnalysisManager::Instance()->Write();
}

int main()
{
  ...
  G4AnalysisManager::Instance()->CloseFile();
}
```

ID=1

ID=2

Ntuples

EventID	Energy	x	y
0	99.5161753	-0.739157031	-0.014213165
1	98.0020355	1.852812521	1.128640204
2	100.0734469	0.863203688	-0.277949199
3	99.3508677	-2.063452685	-0.898594988
4	101.2505954	1.030581054	0.736468229
5	98.9849841	-1.464509417	-1.065372115
6	101.1547644	1.121931704	-0.203319254
7	100.8876748	0.012068917	-1.283410959
8	100.3013861	1.852532119	-0.520615895
9	100.6295882	1.084122362	0.556967258
10	100.4887681	-1.021971662	1.317380892
11	101.6716567	0.614222096	-0.483530242
12	99.1083093	-0.776034456	0.203524549
13	97.3595776	0.814378204	-0.690615126
14	100.7264612	-0.408732803	-1.278746667

Ntuples support

- g4tool supports ntuples
  - Any number of ntuples
  - Any number of columns per ntuple
  - Supported types are **int/float/double**
- For more complex tasks (e.g. full functionality of ROOT TTrees) have to link ROOT directly
  - And take care of thread-safety

Book ntuples

```
#include "MyAnalysis.hh"
void MyRunAction::BeginOfRunAction(const G4Run* run)
{
  // Get analysis manager
  auto man = G4AnalysisManager::Instance();
  man-> SetFirstNtupleId(1);

  // Creating ntuple
  man->CreateNtuple("name", "Title");
  man->CreateNtupleDColumn("Eabs");
  man->CreateNtupleDColumn("Egap");
  man->FinishNtuple();

  man->CreateNtuple("name2","title2");
  man->CreateNtupleIColumn("ID");
  man->FinishNtuple();
}
```

Start numbering of ntuples from ID=1

ID=1

ID=2

Fill ntuples

- File handling and general clean-up as shown for histograms

```
#include "MyAnalysis.hh"
void MyEventAction::EndOfEventAction(const G4Run* aRun)
{
  auto man = G4AnalysisManager::Instance();
  man->FillNtupleDColumn(1, 0, fEnergyAbs);
  man->FillNtupleDColumn(1, 1, fEnergyGap);
  man->AddNtupleRow(1);

  man->FillNtupleIColumn(2, 0, fID);
  man->AddNtupleRow(2);

}
```

ID=1,
columns 0, 1

ID=2,
column 0

`G4Accumulable<T>`

- Templated class to **collect** simple information
  - Thread-safe
  - Accumulable during Run
  - Value merge at the end (explicit) MT
  - Scalar variables only (otherwise, expert)
- Alternative to ntuples/histograms
- Managed by `G4AccumulableManager`

⚠ Geant4 10.2: Previously named **`G4Parameter`**!

► G4Accumulable.hh

G4Accumulable – C++ (1)

1) Declare (instance) variables (of RunAction)

```
G4Accumulable<G4int>    fNElectrons;
G4Accumulable<G4double> fAverageElectronEnergy;
```

2) Register to accumulable manager (in RunAction constructor)

```
G4AccumulableManager* accManager = G4AccumulableManager::Instance();
accManager->Register(fNElectrons);
accManager->Register(fAverageElectronEnergy);
```

3) Reset to zero values (in `RunAction::BeginOfRunAction`)

```
G4AccumulableManager* accManager = G4AccumulableManager::Instance();
accManager->Reset();
```

4) Update during run (e.g. in Stacking action)

```
fNElectrons += 1;     // Normal arithmetics
```

G4Accumulable – C++ (2)

MT

5) Merge after run (in **`RunAction::EndOfRunAction`**)

```
G4AccumulableManager* accManager = G4AccumulableManager::Instance();
accManager->Merge();
```

6) Report after run (in **`RunAction::EndOfRunAction`**)

```
G4AccumulableManager* accManager = G4AccumulableManager::Instance();
if (IsMaster())
{
    if (fNElectrons.GetValue())
    {
        G4cout << " * Produced " << fNElectrons.GetValue();
        G4cout << " secondary electrons/event. Average energy: ";
        G4cout << fAverageElectronEnergy.GetValue()/keV/fNElectrons.GetValue();
        G4cout << " keV" << G4endl;
    }
    else
        G4cout << " * No secondary electrons produced" << G4endl;
}
```

More slides…

Output stream (`G4cout`)

- `G4cout` is a `iostream` object defined by Geant4.
  - Used in the same way as standard `std::cout`
  - Output streams handled by `G4UImanager`
  - `G4endl` is the equivalent of `std::endl` to end a line
- MT-handling: will display also the threadID

```
WT1> I am here
WT5> I am here
```

- Output strings may be displayed in another window (Qt GUI) or redirected to a file

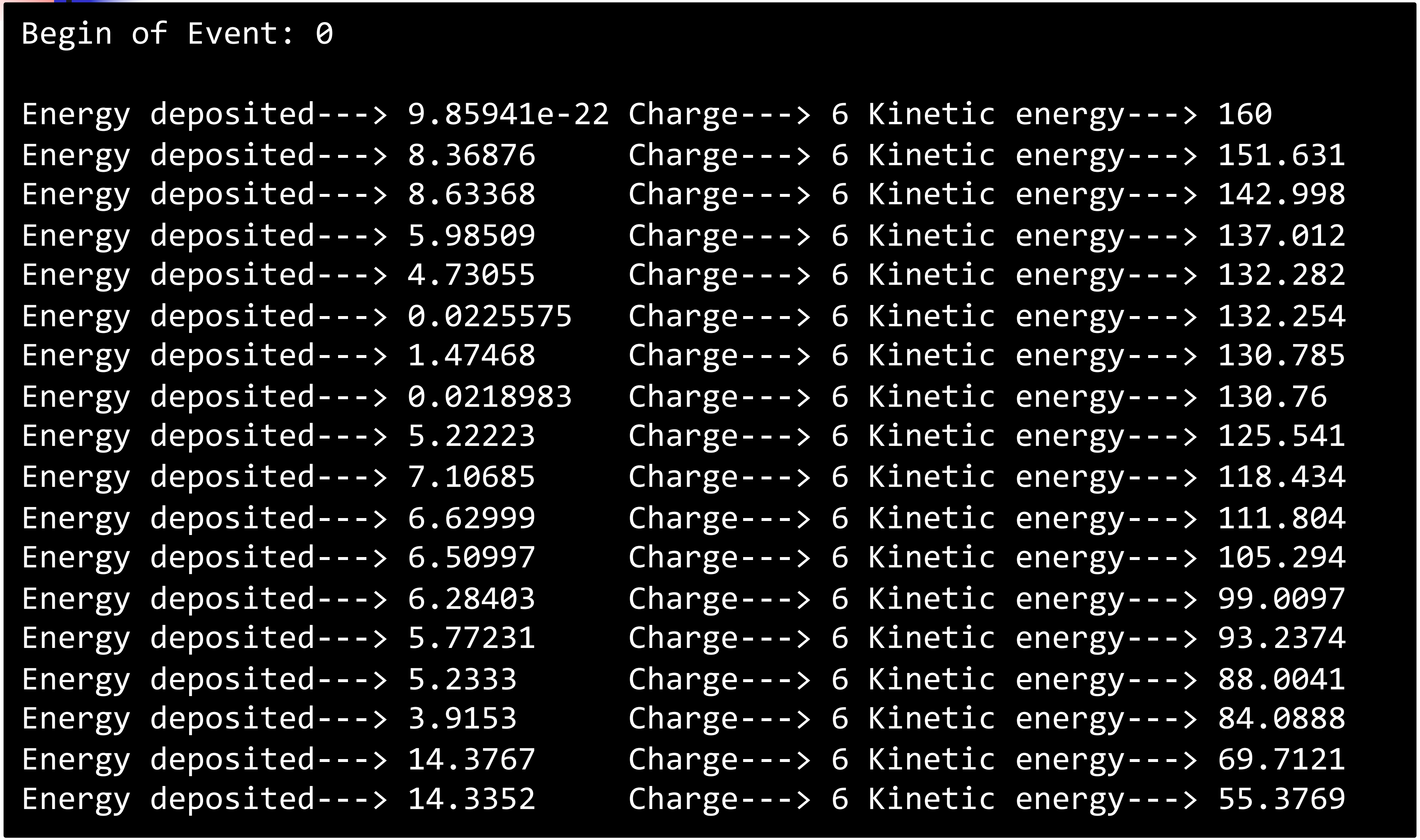
Example: output on screen

```
void SteppingAction::UserSteppingAction(const G4Step* aStep)
{
    // Collect data
    G4Track* theTrack = aStep->GetTrack();
    G4DynamicParticle* particle = theTrack->GetDynamicParticle();
    G4ParticleDefinition* parDef = particle->GetDefinition();

    G4double edep = aStep->GetTotalEnergyDeposit();
    G4double particleCharge = particle->GetCharge();
    G4double kineticEnergy = theTrack->GetKineticEnergy();

    // The output
    G4cout
      << "Energy deposited--->" <<  " " <<  edep << "
      << "Charge--->" <<  " " << particleCharge << " "
      << "Kinetic Energy --->" << "  " << kineticEnergy << " " <<
G4endl;
}
```

Output on screen: an example



```
Begin of Event: 0

Energy deposited---> 9.85941e-22 Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 160
Energy deposited---> 8.36876     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 151.631
Energy deposited---> 8.63368     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 142.998
Energy deposited---> 5.98509     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 137.012
Energy deposited---> 4.73055     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 132.282
Energy deposited---> 0.0225575   Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 132.254
Energy deposited---> 1.47468     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 130.785
Energy deposited---> 0.0218983   Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 130.76
Energy deposited---> 5.22223     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 125.541
Energy deposited---> 7.10685     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 118.434
Energy deposited---> 6.62999     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 111.804
Energy deposited---> 6.50997     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 105.294
Energy deposited---> 6.28403     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 99.0097
Energy deposited---> 5.77231     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 93.2374
Energy deposited---> 5.2333      Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 88.0041
Energy deposited---> 3.9153      Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 84.0888
Energy deposited---> 14.3767     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 69.7121
Energy deposited---> 14.3352     Charge---> 6 Kinetic energy---> 55.3769
```

Example: output to an ASCII file

MT

```
#include <fstream>

class SteppingAction{
    // ...
    std::ofstream fout;
};

SteppingAction::SteppingAction() : fout("outfile.txt") { }

void SteppingAction::UserSteppingAction(const G4Step* aStep)
{
    G4Track* theTrack = aStep->GetTrack();
    G4double edep = aStep->GetTotalEnergyDeposit();
    G4double kineticEnergy = theTrack->GetKineticEnergy();

    // The output
    fout
      << "Energy deposited--->" <<  " " <<  edep << " "
      << "Kinetic Energy -->" << "  " << kineticEnergy << G4endl;
}
```

Hands-on session

- Task4
  - Task4a: User Actions
  - Task4b: Command-based scoring

- **http://geant4.lns.infn.it/alghero2025/task4/task4a.html**

- **http://geant4.lns.infn.it/alghero2025/task4/task4b.html**