

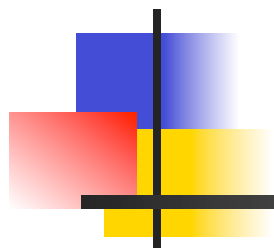
# Interaction with the Geant4 kernel

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Based on a presentation by G.A.P. Cirrone (INFN-LNS)



# The main ingredients

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# Optional user classes - 1

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- Five concrete base classes whose virtual member functions the user may override to gain **control** of the simulation at various stages
  - G4User**Run**Action
  - G4User**Event**Action ← e.g. actions to be done at the **beginning** and **end** of each event
  - G4User**Tracking**Action
  - G4User**Stacking**Action
  - G4User**Stepping**Action
- Each member function of the base classes has a **dummy implementation** (**not** purely virtual)
  - Empty implementation: **does nothing**



## Optional user classes - 2

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- The user may **implement** the member **functions** he desires in his/her derived classes
  - E.g. one may want to **perform some action** at each tracking step
- Objects of user action classes must be **registered** with **G4RunManager**

runManager->

```
SetUserAction (new MyEventActionClass) ;
```



# Geant4 terminology: an overview

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



# The Run (G4Run)

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- 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 G4RunManager class **manages** the **processing** of each Run, represented by:
  - **G4Run** class
  - **G4UserRunAction** for an optional User hook



# The Event (G4Event)

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- 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)

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- 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 for tracking



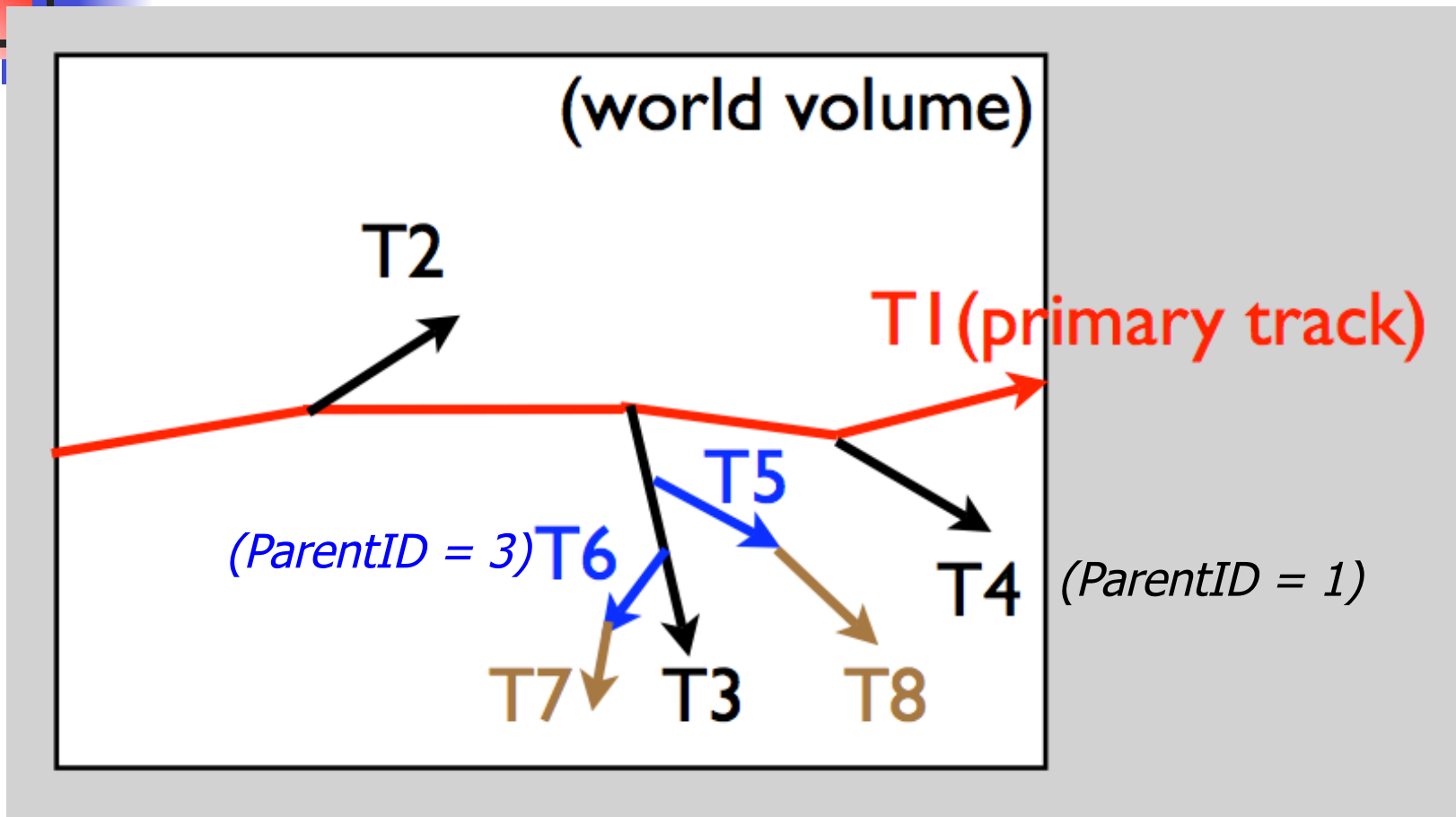


# Run, Event and Tracks

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- **One Run consists of**
  - Event #1 (track #1, track #2, .....)
  - Event #2 (track #1, track #2, .....)
  - .....
  - Event #N (track #1, track #2, .....)

# Example of an Event and Tracks



- Tracking order follows **'last in first out'** rule:  
T1 -> T4 -> T3 -> T6 -> T7 -> T5 -> T8 -> T2

\*\*\*\*\*

\* G4Track Information: Particle = e-, Track ID = 87, Parent ID = 1

\*\*\*\*\*

Step#	X(mm)	Y(mm)	Z(mm)	KinE(MeV)	dE(MeV)	StepLeng	TrackLeng	NextVolume	ProcName
0	-1.87e+03	5.63	-5.52	0.0326	0	0	0	0	physicalTreatmentRoom initStep
1	-1.87e+03	5.85	-4.72	0.032	0.000545	0.924	0.924	0	physicalTreatmentRoom msc
2	-1.87e+03	5.92	-3.9	0.0317	0.00036	0.928	1.85	0	physicalTreatmentRoom msc
3	-1.87e+03	5.89	-3.65	0.0289	0.00013	0.3	2.15	0	physicalTreatmentRoom eIoni
:----- List of 2ndaries - #SpawnInStep= 1(Rest= 0,Along= 0,Post= 1), #SpawnTotal= 1 -----									
:	-1.87e+03	5.89	-3.65	0.00258			e-		
:	----- EndOf2ndaries Info -----								
4	-1.87e+03	5.81	-2.87	0.0279	0.00104	0.928	3.08	0	physicalTreatmentRoom msc
5	-1.87e+03	5.35	-2.11	0.0273	0.000654	0.928	4.01	0	physicalTreatmentRoom msc
6	-1.87e+03	5.01	-1.28	0.0248	0.00249	0.928	4.94	0	physicalTreatmentRoom msc
7	-1.87e+03	5.03	-0.37	0.0231	0.00163	0.928	5.87	0	physicalTreatmentRoom msc
8	-1.87e+03	4.78	0.503	0.022	0.00109	0.928	6.79	0	physicalTreatmentRoom msc
9	-1.87e+03	4.64	1.35	0.0202	0.00184	0.928	7.72	0	physicalTreatmentRoom msc
10	-1.87e+03	4.68	2.26	0.0181	0.00204	0.928	8.65	0	physicalTreatmentRoom msc
11	-1.87e+03	4.63	2.46	0.0165	0.000345	0.231	8.88	0	physicalTreatmentRoom eIoni
:----- List of 2ndaries - #SpawnInStep= 1(Rest= 0,Along= 0,Post= 1), #SpawnTotal= 2 -----									
:	-1.87e+03	4.63	2.46	0.00133			e-		
:	----- EndOf2ndaries Info -----								
12	-1.87e+03	4.6	2.49	0.0125	0	0.0383	8.92	0	physicalTreatmentRoom eIoni
:----- List of 2ndaries - #SpawnInStep= 1(Rest= 0,Along= 0,Post= 1), #SpawnTotal= 3 -----									
:	-1.87e+03	4.6	2.49	0.00402			e-		
:	----- EndOf2ndaries Info -----								

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\* G4Track Information: Particle = e-, Track ID = 242, Parent ID = 87

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Step#	X(mm)	Y(mm)	Z(mm)	KinE(MeV)	dE(MeV)	StepLeng	TrackLeng	NextVolume	ProcName
0	-1.87e+03	6.1	5.41	0.00138	0	0	0	0	physicalTreatmentRoom initStep
1	-1.87e+03	6.11	5.39	0.000253	0.00112	0.0481	0.0481	0	physicalTreatmentRoom msc
2	-1.87e+03	6.12	5.39	0	0.000253	0.0088	0.0569	0	physicalTreatmentRoom eIoni



# Example: retrieving information from tracks

*// retrieving information from tracks (given the G4Track object "track"):*

```
if(track -> GetTrackID() != 1) {  
    G4cout << "Particle is a secondary" << G4endl;  
  
    // Note in this context, that primary hadrons might loose their identity  
    if(track -> GetParentID() == 1)  
        G4cout << "But parent was a primary" << G4endl;  
  
    G4VProcess* creatorProcess = track -> GetCreatorProcess();  
  
    if(creatorProcess -> GetProcessName() == "LowEnergyIoni") {  
        G4cout << "Particle was created by the Low-Energy " <<  
            << "Ionization process" << G4endl;  
    }  
}
```



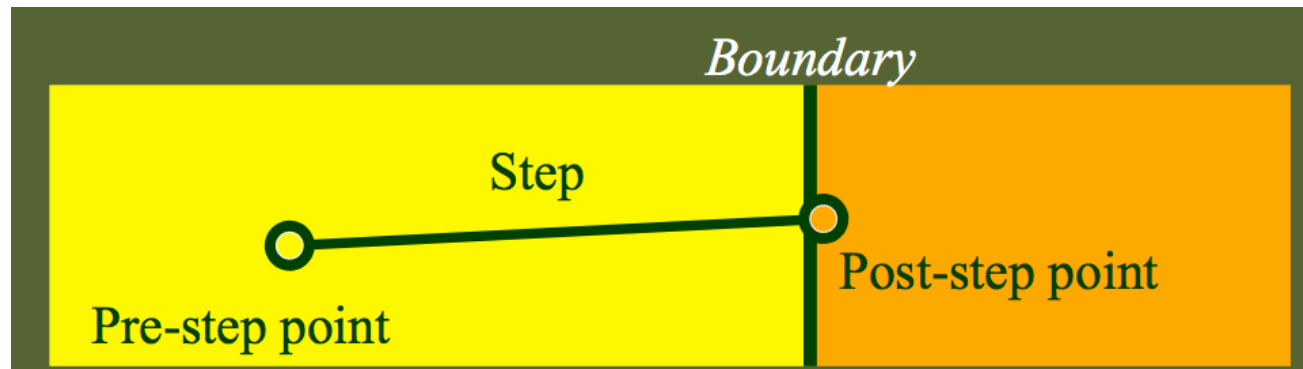
# The Step (G4Step)

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- **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
- You can **extract information** from a step after the step is completed
  - Both, the **ProcessHits()** method of your sensitive detector and **UserSteppingAction()** of your step action class file get the **pointer** of **G4Step**
  - Typically, you may **retrieve information** in these **functions** (for example fill histograms in Stepping action)

# 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**



- `G4SteppingManager` class manages processing a step; a 'step' is represented by the `G4Step` class
- `G4UserSteppingAction` is the optional User hook



# The G4Step object

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- A **G4Step** object contains
  - The **two endpoints** (pre and post step) so one has access to the **volumes** containing these endpoints
  - **Changes in particle properties** between the points
    - Difference of particle energy, momentum, .....
    - Energy deposition on step, step length, time-of-flight, ...
  - A pointer to the associated **G4Track** object
- **G4Step** provides **various Get methods** to access these information or object instances
  - **G4StepPoint\*** `GetPreStepPoint()` , .....



# The geometry boundary

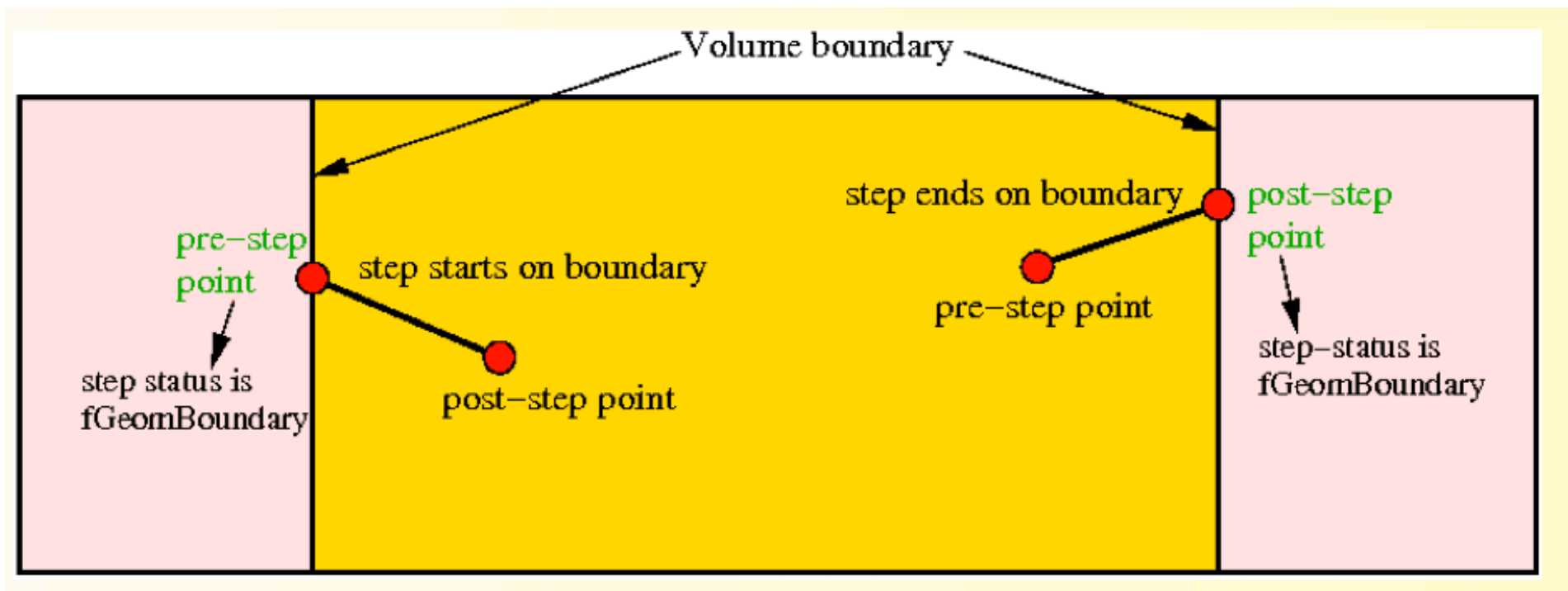
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- To check, if a step **ends on a boundary**, one may compare if the **physical volume** of **pre** and **post-step** points are **equal**
- One can also use the **step status**
  - Step Status provides information about the **process** that **restricted** the **step length**
  - It is attached to the **step points**: 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: if the **status** of the PRE-step point is "**fGeomBoundary**" the step **starts on a volume boundary**



# Step concept and boundaries


Illustration of step starting and ending on boundaries



# Geant4 terminology: an overview

	Object	Description
<b>Run</b>	G4Run	Largest unit of simulation, that consist of a sequence of events: <b>If a defined number of events was processed a run is finished.</b>
<b>Event</b>	G4Event	Basic simulation unit in Geant4: <b>If a defined number of primary tracks and all resulting secondary tracks were processed an event is over.</b>
<b>Track</b>	G4Track	A track is NOT a collection of steps: It is a snapshot of the status of a particle after a step was completed (but it does NOT record previous steps). <b>A track is deleted, if the particle leaves world, has zero kinetic energy, ....</b>
<b>Step</b>	G4Step	Represents a particle step in the simulation and includes two points (pre-step point and post-step point).

# Example of usage of the hook user classes - 1



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- **G4UserRunAction**

- Has **two methods** (`BeginOfRunAction()` and `EndOfRunAction()`) and can be used e.g. to **initialise, analyse** and **store** histogram
- **Everything** User want to know at **this stage**

- **G4UserEventAction**

- Has **two methods** (`BeginOfEventAction()` and `EndOfEventAction()`)
- One can apply an **event selection**, for example
- Access the **hit-collection** and perform the event analysis

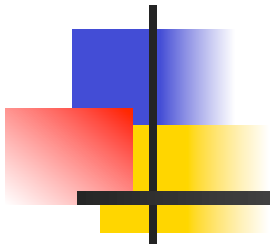
# Example of usage of the hook user classes - 2



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- **G4UserStakingAction**
  - Classify priority of tracks
- **G4UserTrackingAction**
  - Has **two methods** (`PreUserTrakingAction()` and `PostUserTrackinAction()`)
  - For example used to decide **if trajectories** should be **stored**
- **G4UserSteppingAction**
  - Has a method which is invoked at **the end of a step**

# Retrieving information from steps and tracks





# Example: check if step is on boundaries

*// in the source file of your user step action class:*

```
#include "G4Step.hh"
```

```
UserStepAction::UserSteppingAction(const G4Step* step) {
```

```
    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 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 information in SD

*// in source file of your sensitive detector:*

```
MySensitiveDetector::ProcessHits(G4Step* step,
                                  G4TouchableHistory*) {

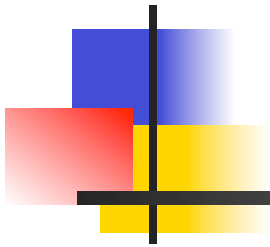
    // Total energy deposition on the step (= energy deposited by energy loss
// process and energy of secondaries that were not created since their
// energy was < Cut):
    G4double energyDeposit = step -> GetTotalEnergyDeposit();

    // 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();

}
```

# Some more detail on information retrieving







# Something more about tracks

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- After each step the track can change its state
- The status can be (in 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)



# Particles in Geant4

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- A particle in general has the following **three sets** of **properties**:
  - **Position/geometrical** info
    - `G4Track` class (representing a particle to be tracked)
  - **Dynamic** properties: momentum, energy, spin,..
    - `G4DynamicParticle` class
  - **Static** properties: rest mass, charge, life time
    - `G4ParticleDefinition` class
- All the `G4DynamicParticle` objects of the same kind of particle **share the same** `G4ParticleDefinition`



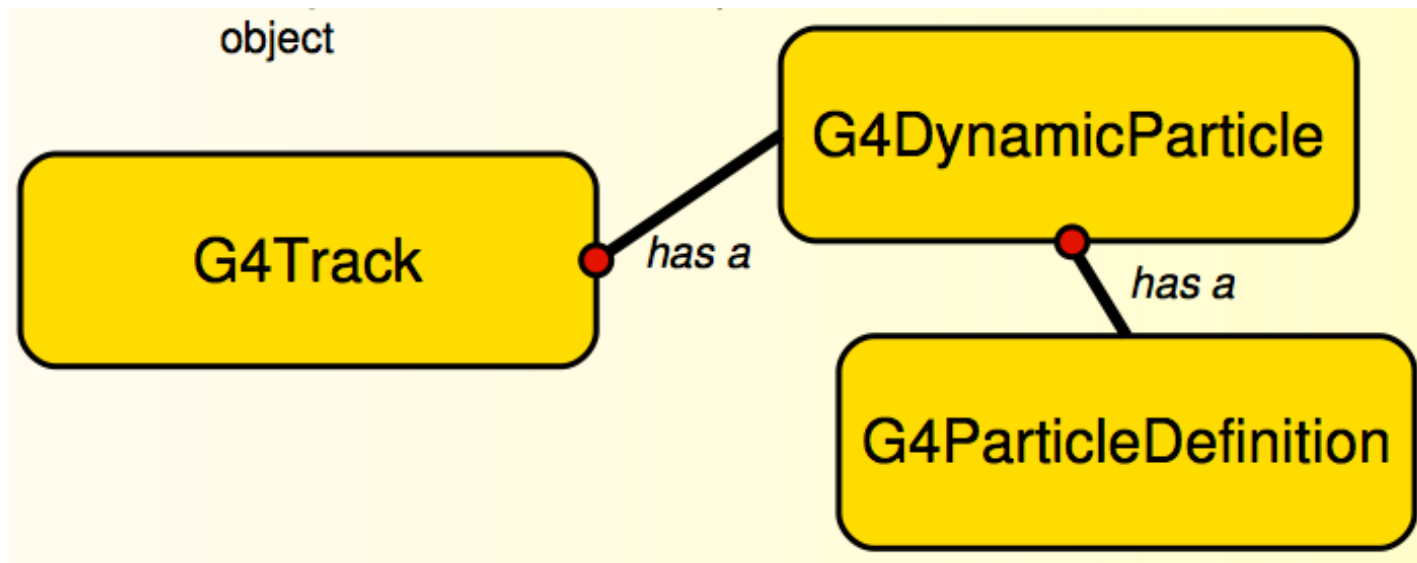
# Particles in Geant4

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Class	What does it represent?	What does it contain?
G4Track	Represents a particle that travels in space and time	Information relevant to tracking the particle, e.g. position, time, step,..., and <i>dynamic information</i>
G4DynamicParticle	Represents a particle that is subject to interactions with matter	Dynamic information, e.g. particle momentum, kinetic energy, ..., and <i>static information</i>
G4ParticleDefinition	Defines a physical particle	Static information, e.g. particle mass, charge, ... Also physics processes relevant to the particle

# Class hierarchy

- **G4Track** has a pointer to a **G4DynamicParticle**
- **G4DynamicParticle** has a pointer to a **G4ParticleDefinition**
- All information accessible via **G4Track**





# Example: static particle information

---

```
#include "G4ParticleDefinition.hh"  
#include "G4ParticleTable.hh"  
  
G4ParticleDefinition* proton = G4Proton::Definition();  
  
G4double protonPDGMass = proton -> GetPDGMass();  
G4double protonPDGCharge = proton -> GetPDGCharge();  
  
G4int protonPDGNumber = proton -> GetPDGEncoding();  
  
G4String protonPartType = proton -> GetParticleType(); // "baryon"  
G4String protonPartSubType = proton -> GetParticleSubType(); // "nucleon"  
  
G4int protonBaryonNmb = proton -> GetBaryonNumber();  
  
G4ParticleTable* ptable = G4ParticleTable::GetParticleTable();  
G4ParticleDefinition* pionPlus = ptable -> FindParticle("pi+");  
  
G4bool particleIsStable = pionPlus -> GetPDGStable();  
  
G4double pionPlusLifeTime = pionPlus -> GetPDGLifeTime();  
  
G4double pionPlusIsospin = pionPlus -> GetPDGIsospin();
```



# Examples: particle information from step/track

```
#include "G4ParticleDefinition.hh"  
#include "G4DynamicParticle.hh"  
#include "G4Step.hh"  
#include "G4Track.hh"  
  
// 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;
```