
Grasshopper Documentation

Release 0.0.1

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CHAPTER 1

Motivation

Current particle physics simulations take place largely within small communities developing limited tools for specific areas of study. These particle simulations are essential to evaluating environments outside of the realm of experimentation in the radiation sciences. While multi-use toolkits exist for particles simulation (such as MCNP or SRIM), these computational tools are often difficult for untrained users to adapt into their projects. Geant4 is one such toolkit used widely by physicists in radiology, fission reactor work, and space irradiation studies among many other fields [1]. Geant4 can be adapted for use in other programs using the methods supplied by the open source code provided. In addition, Geant4 relies on various databases shared by institutes such as NIST. Unfortunately, Geant4 and the related libraries are not a common program to install and use for scientific simulation users or the general public interested in this work [2]. However, a widely applicable simulation engine using Geant4, called Grasshopper, has been developed to allow for generating straightforward Monte Carlo simulations for engineers and scientists in a wide range of fields.

CHAPTER 2

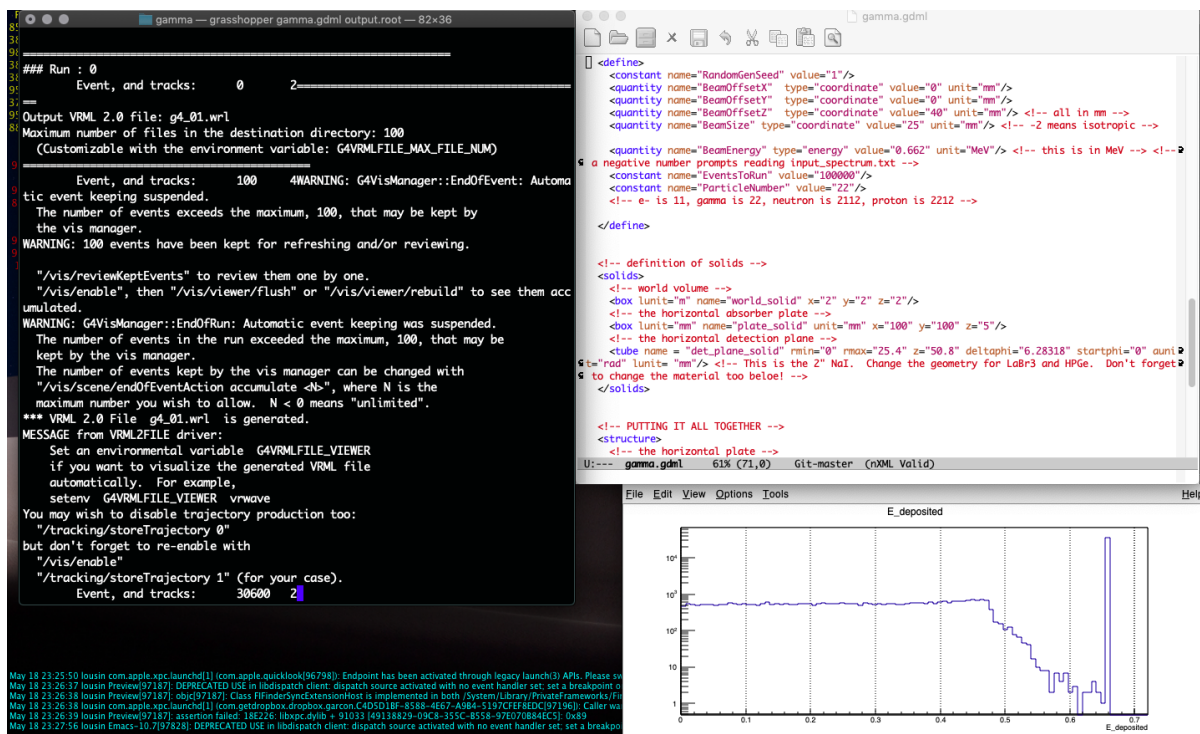
Current Work

Grasshopper is currently being benchmarked against other particle simulation tools. By comparing results of major databases of particle physics constants, we can evaluate the real world similarity of the simulation.

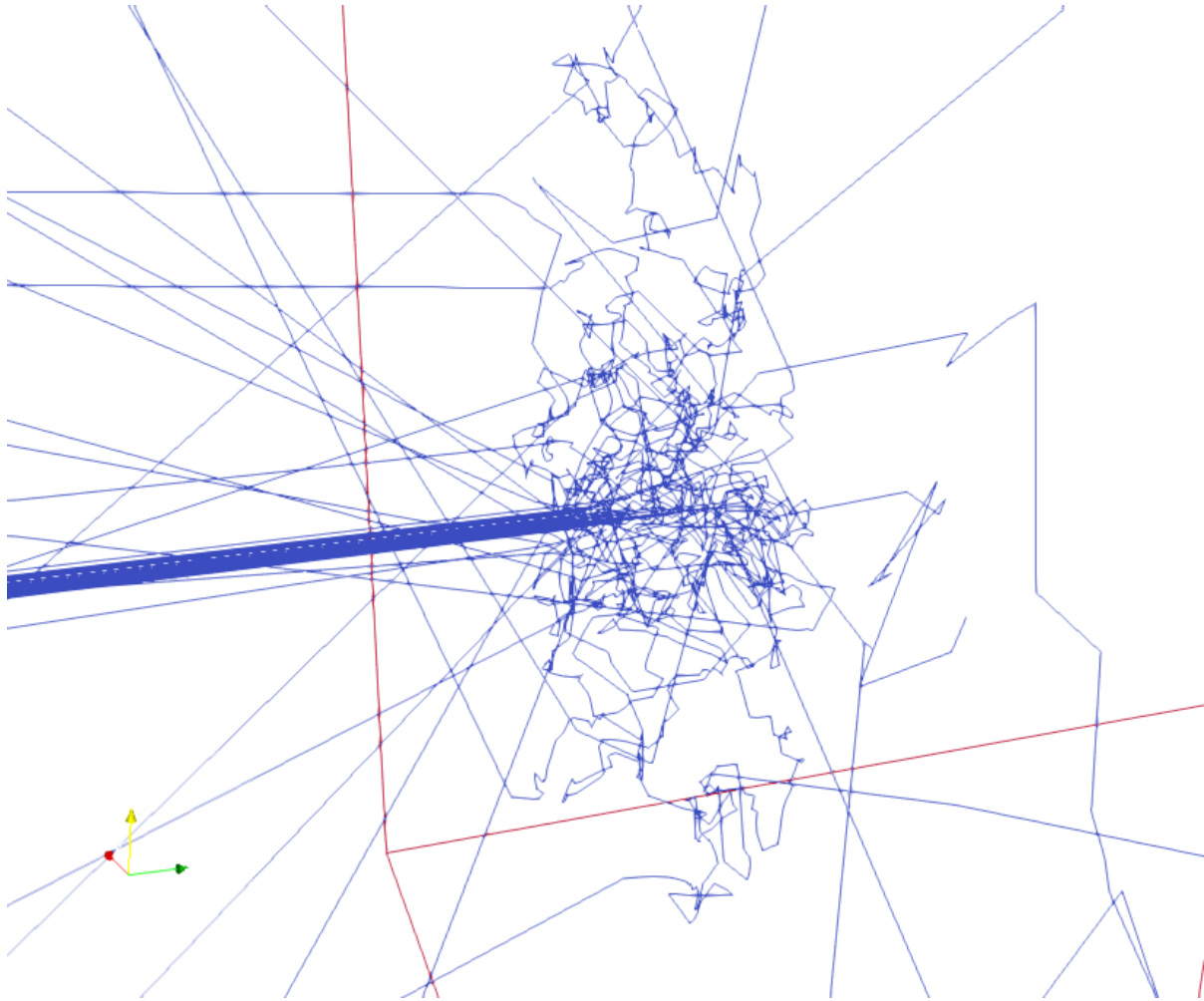
CHAPTER 3

Screenshots from Grasshopper

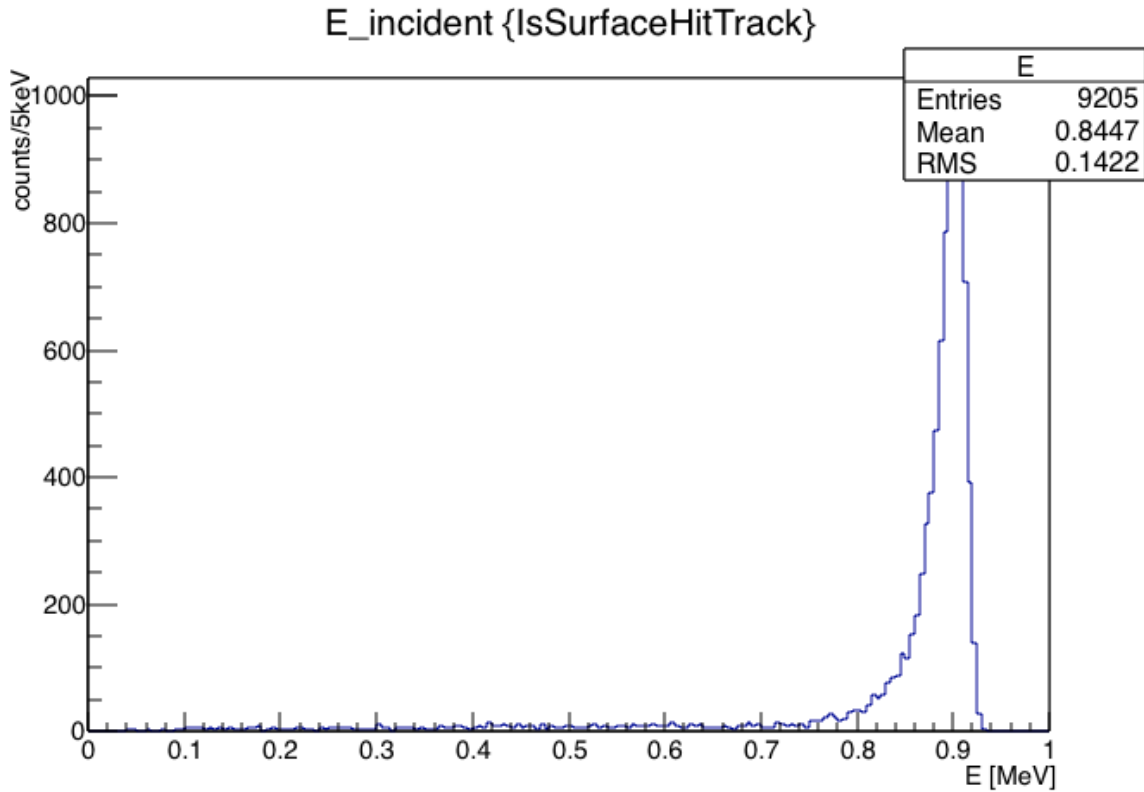
A view of your workspace:



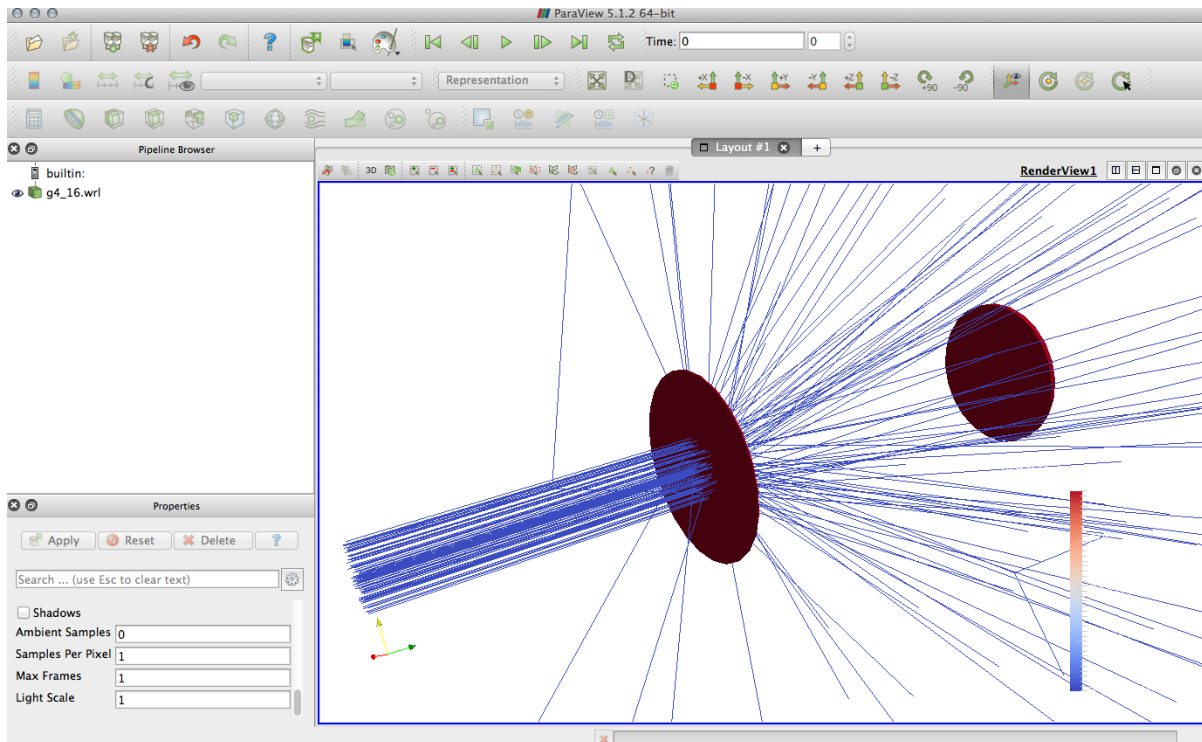
A visualization of a 1 MeV neutron beam entering a water volume, undergoing thermalization.



For this particular simulation, you can see the energy distribution of the electrons hitting the detector in the plot below (from ROOT):



Here is the view of a '.wrl' file in Paraview:



Important: Recommended publication for citing A. Danagouliau, J. Miske “Grasshopper: A Geant4 code for

- [genindex](#)
- [modindex](#)
- [search](#)

4.1 Getting Started

This section details how to start using Grasshopper to generate simulations that utilize Geant4.

4.1.1 Requirements

4.1.2 For MIT Nuclear Science Students

At a minimum you will need to login to `nsecluster.mit.edu`. From a terminal run `ssh -Y yourusername@nsecluster.mit.edu` the windows users can either use cygwin, PUTTY or some ssh client for additional (good, detailed, recommended) instructions, please see [here](#) and [here](#). you will also need to have some minimum ability of working in linux environment. See [here](#) for a brief tutorial. Optional, but highly recommended – install paraview on your laptop. This will allow you to inspect the visualization VRML files generated by grasshopper (one picture's worth a thousand words, a 3D rendering is worth a billion).

Installing Geant4 on your own machine

If you are not a MIT NSE student with access to the pre-existing Grasshopper cluster. You can install Grasshopper and the necessary dependencies on your own computational machine of choice.

Please start by installing the main dependency, Geant4 itself, at the following link.

<http://geant4-userdoc.web.cern.ch/geant4-userdoc/UsersGuides/InstallationGuide/html/index.html>

4.1.3 On Linux (Ubuntu)

In addition:

The Grasshopper program is offered through Launchpad as a personnel package archive (PPA).

4.1.4 On Mac

- 1) Unpack the source and create a build directory next to it as suggested by the build instructions.

```
$ tar xzf geant4.10.00.tgz
$ mkdir geant4.10.00-build
$ cd geant4.10.00-build
```

Run cmake with appropriate flags to turn on GDML use.

The GDML is so it can read geometry converted from HDDS to GDML using the ROOT TGeoManager->Export() utility. Note that GDML requires xerces and that it be given explicitly.

```
> cmake -DCMAKE_INSTALL_PREFIX=/usr/local/geant4/geant4.10.00.$BMS_OSNAME
-DGEANT4_USE_GDML=ON
-DXERCESS_ROOT_DIR=$XERCESSROOT
-DXERCESS_INCLUDE_DIR=/usr/local/include/
-DXERCESS_LIBRARY=/usr/local/lib/libxerces-c.so
-DGEANT4_BUILD_MULTITHREADED=ON
-DCMAKE_BUILD_TYPE=RelWithDebInfo
-DCMAKE_C_COMPILER=clang
-DCMAKE_CXX_COMPILER=clang++
/Users/"Fill in for your machine"/"Desktop"/"GEANT4"/geant4.xx.xx
```

Note the last line where you must specific your path to where Geant4 is downloaded and the version.

4.1.5 On PC

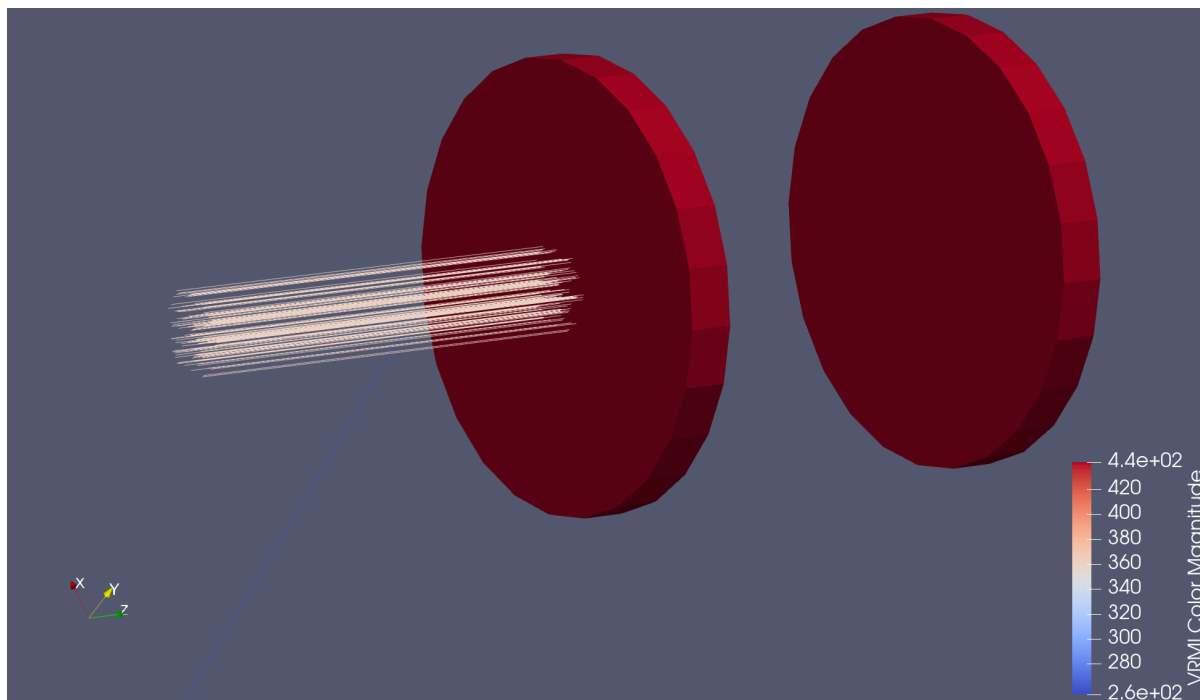
Coming later. The Geant4 website has details on installing Geant4 through PC, which can be done via Cygwin.

4.2 Examples

This page shows some examples of a Grasshopper GDML input file.

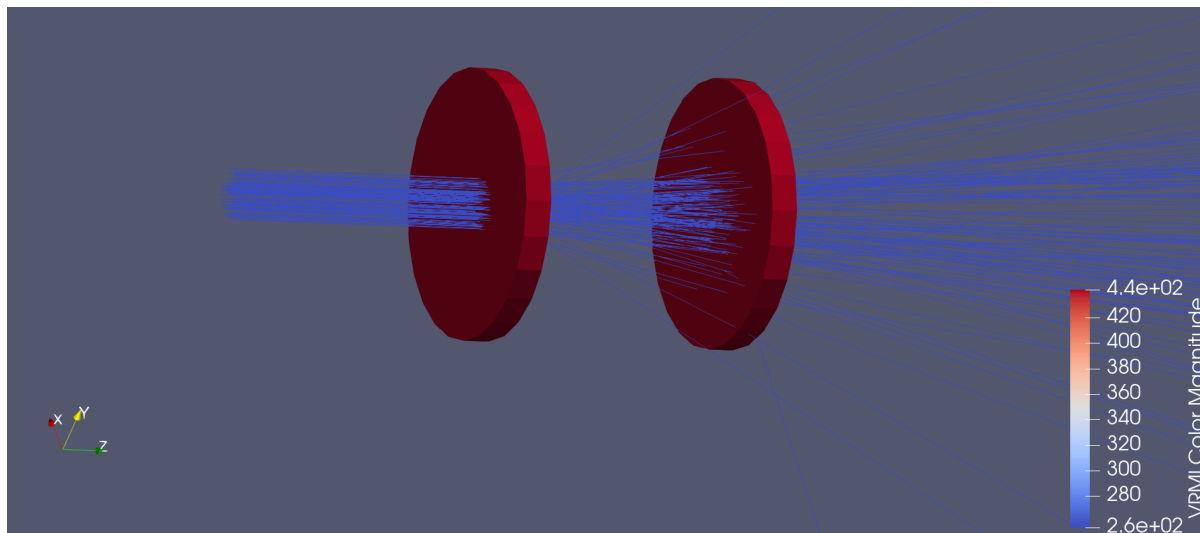
4.2.1 Example Alpha Particle Energy Loss

The world volume consists of Air at 1e-4 atm of pressure. The first red disk is Air at 1 atm and the second red disk is the detector volume made of G4_Si.



4.2.2 Example Beta Particles in Water Transmission

The world volume consists of Air at 1e-4 atm of pressure. The first red disk is G4_WATER and the second red disk is the detector volume made of G4_Si.



4.2.3 Example Hand Calculations for 20 Situations

5 particles, 2 shields, 2 energies

ID	Particle	Shield	Energy
01	Proton	Water 1cm	1 MeV
02	Proton	Water 1cm	10 MeV
03	Proton	G4_Fe 1cm	1 MeV
04	Proton	G4_Fe 1cm	10 MeV
05	Neutron	Water 1cm	1 MeV
06	Neutron	Water 1cm	10 MeV
07	Neutron	G4_Fe 1cm	1 MeV
08	Neutron	G4_Fe 1cm	10 MeV
09	Electron	0.5 Air 1cm	1 MeV
10	Electron	0.5 Air 1cm	10 MeV
11	Electron	1.0 Air 1cm	1 MeV
12	Electron	1.0 Air 1cm	10 MeV
13	Alpha	0.5 Air 1cm	1 MeV
14	Alpha	0.5 Air 1cm	10 MeV
15	Alpha	1.0 Air 1cm	1 MeV
16	Alpha	1.0 Air 1cm	10 MeV
17	Gamma	Water 1cm	1 MeV
18	Gamma	Water 1cm	10 MeV
19	Gamma	G4_Fe 1cm	1 MeV
20	Gamma	G4_Fe 1cm	10 MeV

4.2.4 Equations used

Transmission (Differential Cross Section):

$$I = I_0 e^{-\Sigma(E)x}$$

Use tables,

Parameters:

- c : speed of light
- ϵ_0 : Vacuum permittivity
- β : the ratio of v to c
- e : electron charge
- m_e : electron mass

ID	Particle	Shield*	Energy	Stopping Power	Transmission
01	Proton	Water 1cm	100 MeV	7.289e0 cm2/g	6.8e-4
02	Proton	Water 1cm	1 GeV	2.211e0 cm2/g	1.1e-1
03	Proton	G4_Fe 1cm	100 MeV	0.05043 cm2/g	6.7e-1
04	Proton	G4_Fe 1cm	1 GeV	0.00157 cm2/g	9.88e-1
05	Neutron	Water 1cm	1 MeV		
06	Neutron	Water 1cm	10 MeV		
07	Neutron	G4_Fe 1cm	1 MeV		
08	Neutron	G4_Fe 1cm	10 MeV		
09	Electron	0.5 Air 1cm	100 MeV	2.41e0 cm2/g	9.97e-1
10	Electron	0.5 Air 1cm	1 GeV	1.46e1 cm2/g	9.82e-1
11	Electron	1.0 Air 1cm	100 MeV	4.82e0 cm2/g	9.94e-1
12	Electron	1.0 Air 1cm	1 GeV	2.91e1 cm2/g	9.65e-1
13	Alpha	0.5 Air 1cm	1 MeV	9.62e2 cm2/g	3.08e-1
14	Alpha	0.5 Air 1cm	10 MeV	2.32e2 cm2/g	7.53e-1
15	Alpha	1.0 Air 1cm	1 MeV	1.92e3 cm2/g	9.47e-2
16	Alpha	1.0 Air 1cm	10 MeV	4.64e2 cm2/g	5.67e-1
17	Gamma	Water 1cm	1 MeV		
18	Gamma	Water 1cm	10 MeV		
19	Gamma	G4_Fe 1cm	1 MeV		
20	Gamma	G4_Fe 1cm	10 MeV		

- water is liquid state

Additionally the following formula could be used but is unnecessary for these high level estimates.

Energy Loss (Bethe Block Formula)

$$-\left\langle \frac{dE}{dx} \right\rangle = \frac{4\pi}{m_e c^2} \frac{n z^2}{\beta^2} \left(\frac{e^2}{4\pi\epsilon_0} \right)^2 \left[\ln \left(\frac{2m_e c^2 \beta^2}{I(1-\beta^2)} \right) - \beta^2 \right]$$

4.3 Release Notes

Release Notes

4.4 Theory and Methodology

4.4.1 Theory

Grasshopper utilizes tools in Geant4 to generate Monte Carlo (MC) particle simulations. In computing, a Monte Carlo algorithm is a randomized algorithm whose output can be incorrect to a certain range in probability. One such examples of an MC algorithm is the Karger–Stein algorithm.

The name refers to the grand casino in the Principality of Monaco at Monte Carlo, which is famous around the world as an icon of gambling. The term “Monte Carlo” was first introduced in 1947 by Nicholas Metropolis.

Las Vegas algorithms are the subset of Monte Carlo algorithms that can always produce the correct answer. Because they make random choices as part of their working, the time taken might vary between runs even with the same input.

Given a procedure for verifying whether the answer given by a Monte Carlo algorithm is correct, and that the analytical probability of a correct answer is bounded above zero, then with probability one running the algorithm repeatedly

while testing the answers will eventually give a correct answer. Whether this process is a Las Vegas algorithm depends on whether halting with probability one is considered to satisfy the definition. [1]

4.4.2 GDML

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no" ?>
xmlns:xsi
xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation
```

Materials section

Consists of objects that are materials, isotopes, elements, etc.

Define section

Solids section

Structure section

Setup

References

[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monte_Carlo_algorithm

4.5 User's Guide

Welcome to the Grasshopper User's Guide!

This tutorial will guide you through the essential aspects of using OpenMC to perform simulations.

4.6 Developer's Guide

4.6.1 Bugs

Grasshoppers hate bugs. The code has been tested fairly well, however there are probably still some bugs in it. If you run against a strange behavior, please prepare a brief report with the following information

- the platform you are running it on
- the gdml file (attach it)
- a description of the symptoms, along with the relevant part of the screen output

Email the bug report to <mailto:aregjan@mit.edu>.

Please generate a GitHub pull request if you believe that you have source code changes to make in order to avoid the bug.

4.6.2 Grasshopper Specific Files

The base of Grasshopper which interacts with G4 is written in C++.

The files included in the src/ and include/ directories from root are as follows.

src/

Analysis.cc

AnalysisManager.cc

DADEphysicsList.cc

DMXMaxTimeCuts.cc

DMXMinEkineCuts.cc

DMXPhysicsList.cc

EventAction.cc

EventActionMessenger.cc

GammaNuclearPhysics.cc

PhysicsList.cc

PrimaryGeneratorAction.cc

RunAction.cc

StackingAction.cc

SteppingAction.cc

VisManager.cc

src/

Analysis.hh

AnalysisManager.hh

DADEphysicsList.hh

DetectorConstruction.hh

DMXMaxTimeCuts.hh

DMXMinEkineCuts.hh

DMXPhysicsList.hh

DMXSpecialCuts.hh

EventAction.hh

EventActionMessenger.hh

GammaNuclearPhysics.hh

PhysicsList.hh

PhysicsListLowEnergy.hh

PrimaryGeneratorAction.hh

RunAction.hh

StackingAction.hh

SteppingAction.hh

VisManager.hh

4.6.3 Contributing to Grasshopper

Thank you for considering contributing to Grasshopper! We look forward to welcoming new members to the community and will do our best to help you get up to speed. The purpose of this section is to document how the project is managed: how contributions (bug fixes, enhancements, new features) are made, how they are evaluated, who is permitted to merge pull requests, and what happens in the event of disagreements. Once you have read through this section, the workflow section outlines the actual mechanics of making a contribution (forking, submitting a pull request, etc.).

The goal of our governance model is to:

- Encourage new contributions.
- Encourage contributors to remain involved.
- Avoid unnecessary processes and bureaucracy whenever possible.
- Create a transparent decision making process which makes it clear how contributors can be involved in decision making.

Overview

Grasshopper uses a liberal contribution model for project governance. Anyone involved in development in a non-trivial capacity is given an opportunity to influence the direction of the project. Students working with the project head Areg have supplied code. Project decisions are made through a consensus-seeking process rather than by voting.

Docs

Documentation is managed through ReadTheDocs. This platform allows us to use the Sphinx documentation engine. While the Sphinx library is designed for use with Python projects, ReadTheDocs has extensions for many sorts of code bases.

The RTD getting started page (Link)[<https://docs.readthedocs.io/en/stable/index.html>].

Terminology

- A *Contributor* is any individual creating or commenting on an issue or pull request.
- A *Committer* is a subset of contributors who are authorized to review and merge pull requests.
- The *TC* (Technical Committee) is a group of committers who have the authority to make decisions on behalf of the project team in order to resolve disputes.
- The *Project Lead* is a single individual who has the authority to make a final decision when the TC is unable to reach consensus.

Contribution Process

Any change to the Grasshopper repository must be made through a pull request (PR). This applies to all changes to documentation, code, binary files, etc. Even long term committers and TC members must use pull requests.

No pull request may be merged without being independently reviewed.

For non-trivial contributions, pull requests should not be merged for at least 36 hours to ensure that contributors in other timezones have time to review. Consideration should be given to weekends and other holiday periods to ensure active committers have reasonable time to become involved in the discussion and review process if they wish. Any committer may request that the review period be extended if they are unable to review the change within 36 hours.

During review, a committer may request that a specific contributor who is most versed in a particular area review the PR before it can be merged.

A pull request can be merged by any committer, but only if no objections are raised by any other committer. In the case of an objection being raised, all involved committers should seek consensus through discussion and compromise.

In the case of an objection being raised in a pull request by another committer, all involved committers should seek to arrive at a consensus by way of addressing concerns being expressed through discussion, compromise on the proposed change, or withdrawal of the proposed change.

If objections to a PR are made and committers cannot reach a consensus on how to proceed, the decision is escalated to the TC. TC members should regularly discuss pending contributions in order to find a resolution. It is expected that only a small minority of issues be brought to the TC for resolution and that discussion and compromise among committers be the default resolution mechanism.

Becoming a Committer

All contributors who make a non-trivial contribution will be added as a committer in a timely manner. Committers are expected to follow this policy.

TC Process

Any issues brought to the TC will be addressed among the committee with a consensus-seeking process. The group tries to find a resolution that has no objections among TC members. If a consensus cannot be reached, the Project Lead has the ultimate authority to make a final decision. It is expected that the majority of decisions made by the TC are via a consensus seeking process and that the Project Lead intercedes only as a last resort.

Resolution may involve returning the issue to committers with suggestions on how to move forward towards a consensus.

Members can be added to the TC at any time. Any committer can nominate another committer to the TC and the TC uses its standard consensus seeking process to evaluate whether or not to add this new member. Members who do not participate consistently at the level of a majority of the other members are expected to resign.

In the event that the Project Lead resigns or otherwise steps down, the TC uses a consensus seeking process to choose a new Project Lead.

Team

The team consists of the following individuals:

- [Areg Danagoulian](#)
- [Jacob Miske](#)

4.6.4 Style Guide

In developing C++ code, please follow the standards of the C++ linter.

In developing Python code, please follow the standards of the PyLint linter.

Welcome to the Grasshopper Developer's Guide!

This guide documents how contributions are made to Grasshopper, what style rules exist for the code, how to run tests, and other related topics.

In addition, the Dev Guide serves to brief Grasshopper users on the functionality of each file in the codebase of the Grasshopper program. For devs, the shorthand for Grasshopper can be GRSHPR, a recursive acronym for "Grasshopper Realistically Simulates High-Energy Particles & Radiation".

4.7 Python API

Python API

Grasshoppers base functionality can be accessed with a python library.

ESTAR API

<https://physics.nist.gov/PhysRefData/Star/Text/ESTAR.html>

PSTAR API

<https://physics.nist.gov/PhysRefData/Star/Text/PSTAR.html>

APSTAR API

<https://physics.nist.gov/PhysRefData/Star/Text/ASTAR.html>

4.8 Grasshopper Formats

Grasshopper is built to accept an input file in the form of a GDML file. Use of other interfaces to generate the GDML input are available.

4.9 Publications

4.9.1 Overviews

4.9.2 Benchmarking

A thesis project to benchmark the Grasshopper program against other physics simulations tools is currently in progress.

4.10 License Agreement

The Grasshopper software uses the GPL 3.

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Version 3, 29 June 2007

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The “System Libraries” of an executable work include anything, other than the work as a whole, that (a) is included in the normal form of packaging a Major Component, but which is not part of that Major Component, and (b) serves only to enable use of the work with that Major Component, or to implement a Standard Interface for which an implementation is available to the public in source code form. A “Major Component”, in this context, means a major essential component (kernel, window system, and so on) of the specific operating system (if any) on which the executable work runs, or a compiler used to produce the work, or an object code interpreter used to run it.

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- c) Convey individual copies of the object code with a copy of the written offer to provide the Corresponding Source. This alternative is allowed only occasionally and noncommercially, and only if you received the object code with such an offer, in accord with subsection 6b.

d) Convey the object code by offering access from a designated place (gratis or for a charge), and offer equivalent access to the Corresponding Source in the same way through the same place at no further charge. You need not require recipients to copy the Corresponding Source along with the object code. If the place to copy the object code is a network server, the Corresponding Source may be on a different server (operated by you or a third party) that supports equivalent copying facilities, provided you maintain clear directions next to the object code saying where to find the Corresponding Source. Regardless of what server hosts the Corresponding Source, you remain obligated to ensure that it is available for as long as needed to satisfy these requirements.

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A separable portion of the object code, whose source code is excluded from the Corresponding Source as a System Library, need not be included in conveying the object code work.

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