









Distributed Processing, Monte Carlo and CT interface for Medical Treatment Plans

http://www.ge.infn.it/geant4/talks

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ICATPP Conference

Como, 6 -10 October 2003

Including contributions from:

S. Agostinelli, S. Garelli *(IST Genova)* L. Archambault, L. Beaulieu, J.-F. Carrier, V.-H. Tremblay *(Univ. Laval)* M.C. Lopes, L. Peralta, P. Rodrigues, A. Trindade *(LIP Lisbon)* G. Ghiso *(S. Paolo Hospital, Savona)* 

# The goal of radiotherapy

Delivering the required therapeutic dose to the tumor area with high precision,

while preserving the surrounding healthy tissue

Accurate dosimetry is at the basis of radiotherapy treatment planning

#### **Dosimetry system**

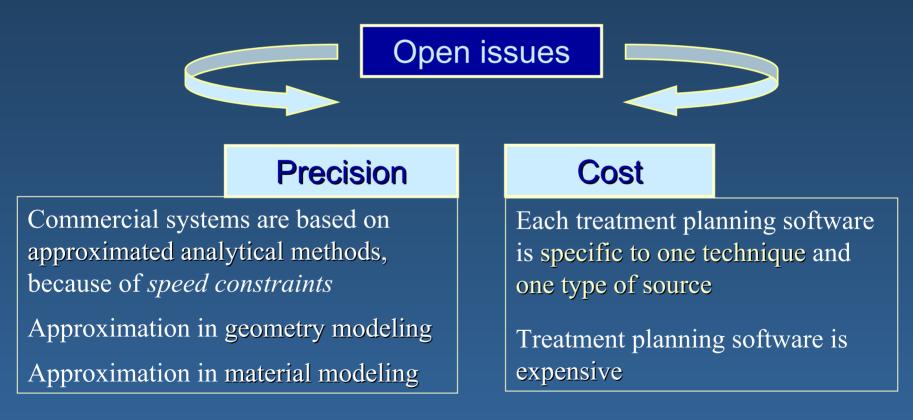
Calculate the dose released to the patient by the radiotherapy system

#### precision

- accurate model of the real configuration (from CT)
- speed adequate for clinical use
- user-friendly interface for hospital usage

# The reality

- Treatment planning is performed by means of commercial software
- The software calculates the dose distribution delivered to the patient in a given source configuration



# Commercial factors

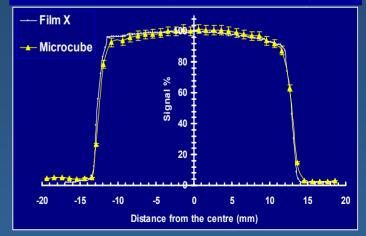
- Commercial treatment planning systems are governed by commercial rules (as any other commercial product...)
- i.e., they are produced and marketed by a company only if the investment for development is profitable



- No commercial treatment planning systems are available for nonconventional radiotherapy techniques
  - such as hadrontherapy
- or for niche applications
  - such as superficial brachytherapy

Treatment planning systems for hadrontherapy are quite primitive

not commercially convenient so far



### Monte Carlo methods in radiotherapy

Monte Carlo methods have been explored for years as a tool for precise dosimetry, in alternative to analytical methods

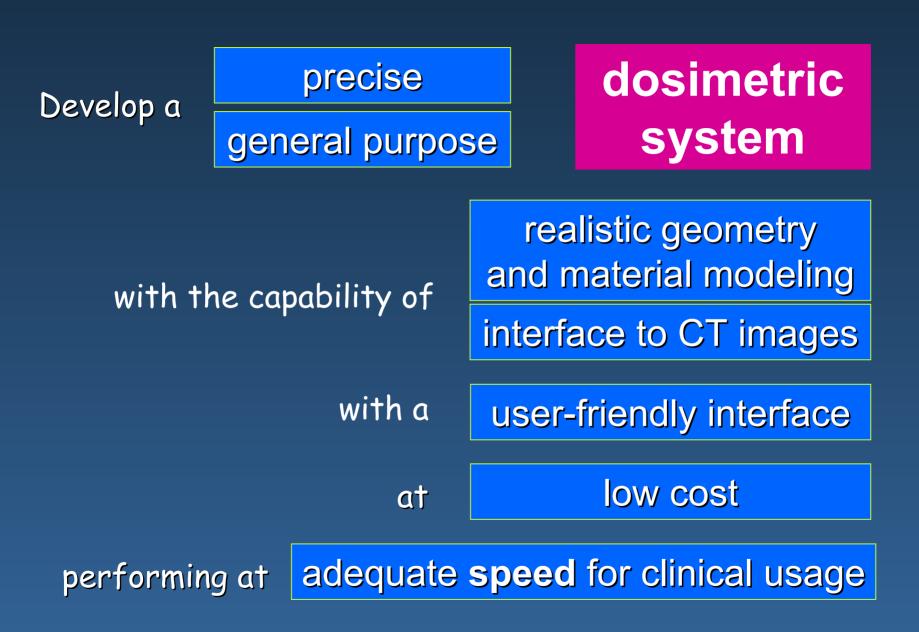
#### de facto,

Monte Carlo simulation is not used in clinical practice

(only side studies)

- The limiting factor is the speed
- Other limitations:
  - reliable?
  - for "software specialists only", not user-friendly for general practice
  - requires ad hoc modeling

# The challenge



# A real life case

### A dosimetric system for brachytherapy

(but all the developments and applications presented in this talk are general)

# The prototype

- Activity initiated at IST Genova, Natl. Inst. for Cancer Research (F. Foppiano et al.)
  - hosted at San Martino Hospital in Genova (the largest hospital in Europe)
- Collaboration with San Paolo Hospital, Savona (G. Ghiso et al.)
  - a small hospital in a small town

#### Major work by **Susanna Guatelli** (Univ. and INFN Genova)

MSc. Thesis, Physics Dept., University of Genova, 2002 http://www.ge.infn.it/geant4/tesi/



Brachytherapy is a medical therapy used for cancer treatment

Radioactive sources are used to deposit therapeutic doses near tumors, while preserving surrounding healthy tissues



Techniques:
endocavitary

lung, vagina, uterus

interstitial

prostate

superficial

skin





### Commercial software for brachytherapy

- Various commercial software products for treatment planning
  - eg. Variseed V 7, Plato BPS, Prowes
- No commercial software available for superficial brachytherapy with Leipzig applicators

#### Precision

Based on approximated analytical methods, because of *speed constraints*Approximation in source anisotropy

• Uniform material: water

#### Cost

Each software is specific to one technique and one type of source
Treatment planning software is expensive (~ hundreds K \$/euro)

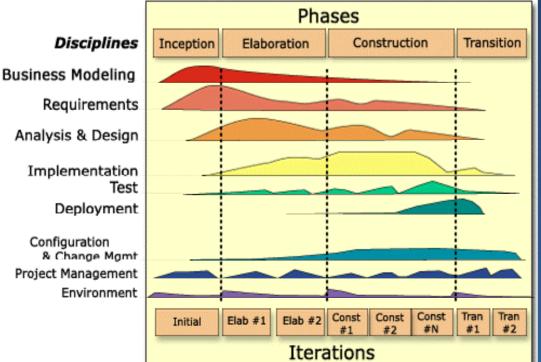
# An open-source dosimetry application

OO Design Geometry Modeling & CT interface Dosimetric analysis User Interface Distributed processing Outlook

# The software process

# The project is characterized by a rigorous software process





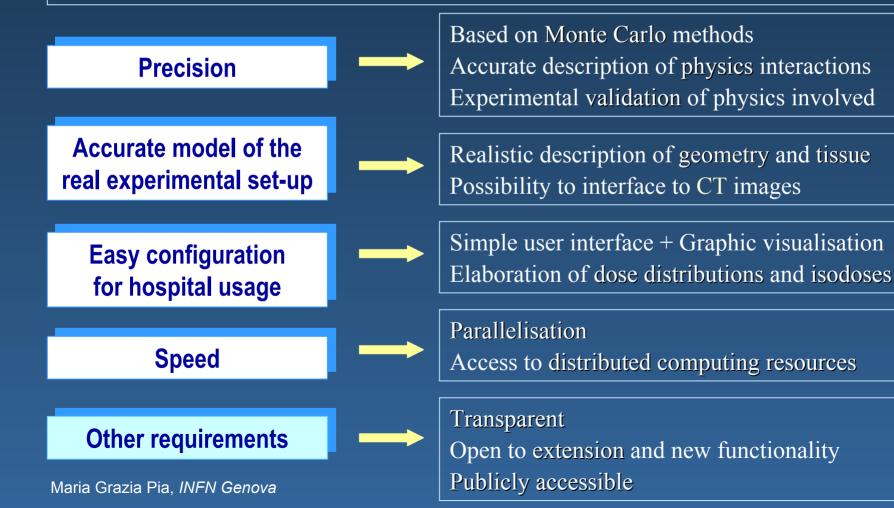
The process follows an iterative and incremental model

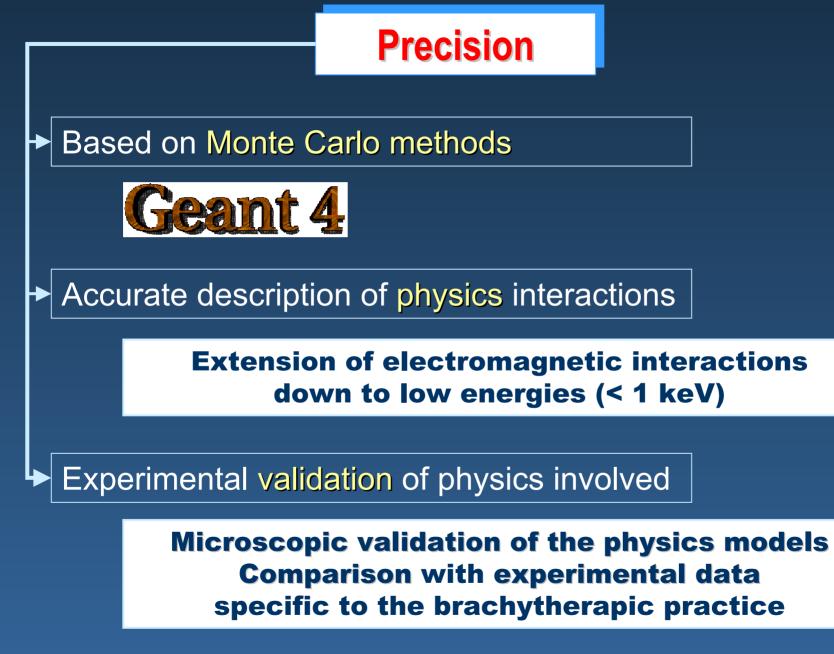
Process based on the Unified Process, especially tailored to the specific context of the project

RUP used as a practical guidance to the process

# Requirements

#### Calculation of 3-D dose distribution in tissue Determination of isodose curves







# The foundation

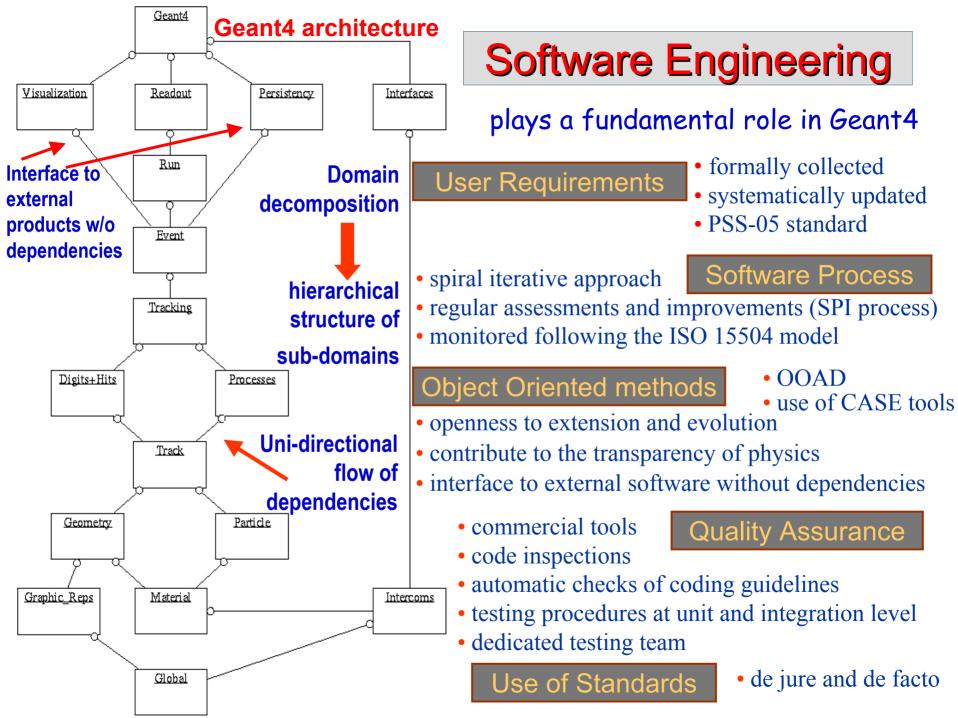
### What characterizes Geant4

The fundamental concepts, upon which all the rest is built



From the Minutes of LCB (LHCC Computing Board) meeting on 21 October, 1997:

"It was noted that experiments have requirements for independent, alternative physics models. In Geant4 these models, differently from the concept of packages, allow the user to understand how the results are produced, and hence improve the physics validation. Geant4 is developed with a modular architecture and is the ideal framework where existing components are integrated and new models continue to be developed."





# The functionality

### What Geant4 can do



- Run, Event and Track management
- PDG-compliant Particle management
- Geometry and Materials
- Tracking
- Detector response
- User Interface
- Visualisation
- Persistency
- Physics Processes

Code and documentation publicly distributed from web

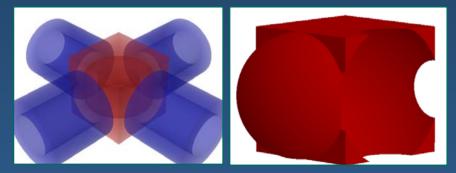
- Ist production release: end 1998
  - 2 new releases/year since then
- Developed and maintained by an international collaboration of physicists and computer scientists



# Geometry

Detailed detector description and efficient navigation

Multiple representations Same abstract interface



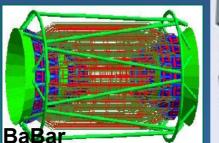
- CSG (Constructed Solid Geometries)
   simple solids
- BREPS (Boundary REPresented Solids)

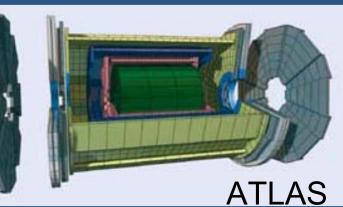
   volumes defined by boundary surfaces
   polyhedra, cylinders, cones, toroids etc.

   Boolean solids
  - union, subtraction...

CAD exchange: ISO STEP interface

Fields: variable nonuniformity and differentiability







# Physics processes

#### Transparency

- Tracking independent from physics
- Final state independent from cross sections
- Use of public evaluated databases

#### Object Oriented technology

- implement or modify any physics process without changing other parts of the software
- open to extension and evolution

#### Electromagnetic and Hadronic Physics

- Complementary/alternative physics models

- Multiple scattering
- Bremsstrahlung
- Ionisation
- Annihilation
- Photoelectric effect
- Compton scattering
- Rayleigh effect
- $\gamma$  conversion
- e<sup>+</sup>e<sup>-</sup> pair production
- Synchrotron radiation
- Transition radiation
- Cherenkov
- Refraction
- Reflection
- Absorption
- Scintillation
- Fluorescence
- Auger

### Electromagnetic Physics

electrons and positrons γ, X-ray and optical photons muons charged hadrons ions

- High energy extensions
  - needed for LHC experiments, cosmic ray experiments...

#### Low energy extensions

- fundamental for space and medical applications, dark matter and v experiments, antimatter spectroscopy etc.
- Alternative models for the same process

### Hadronic physics

- Data-driven, Parameterised and Theoretical models
  - the most complete hadronic simulation kit on the market
  - alternative and complementary models
- Cross section data sets: transparent and interchangeable
- Final state calculation: models by particle, energy, material

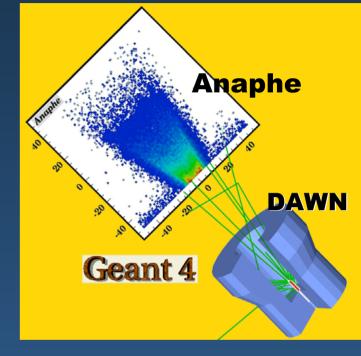
# Interface to external tools

Through <u>abstract interfaces</u>

no dependence minimize coupling of components

Similar approach

- Visualisation
- (G)UI
- Persistency
- Analysis



Gean

**ř 4** 

The user is free to choose the concrete system he/she prefers for each component

U

AIDA (analysis)

- Anaphe
- JAS
- Open Scientist

Maria Grazia Pia, *INFN Genova* 

- command-line
  X11/Motif
  GAG
  MOMO
- MOMO
- OPACS...

Visualisation drivers • OpenGL

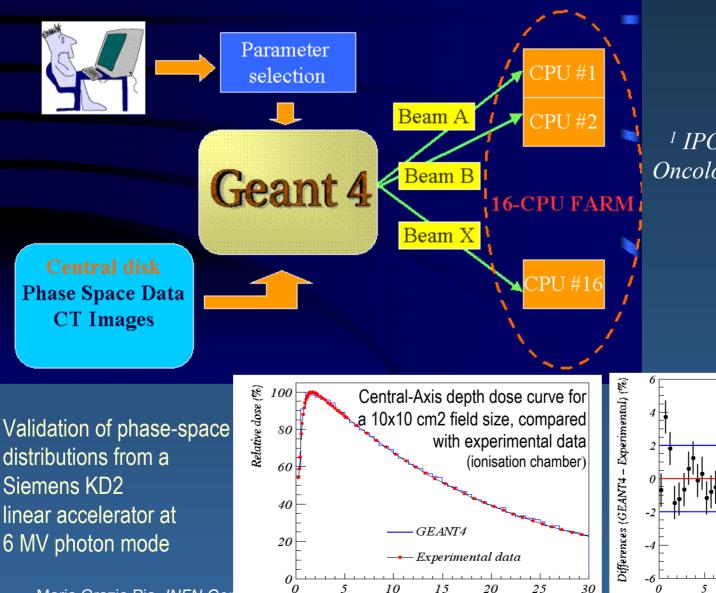
- OpenInventor
- **X**11
- Postscript
- DAWN
- OPACS
- HepRep

VRML...

# Monte Carlo methods in radiotherapy

# Studies of Geant4 and commercial treatment planning systems

#### **GEANT4** Dose Calculation



Depth in water (cm)

Maria Grazia Pia, INFN Ger

M.C. Lopes <sup>1</sup>, L. Peralta <sup>2</sup>, P. Rodrigues <sup>2</sup>, A. Trindade <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> IPOFG-CROC Coimbra Oncological Regional Center

<sup>2</sup> LIP - Lisbon

15

De pth in water (cm)

10

20

25

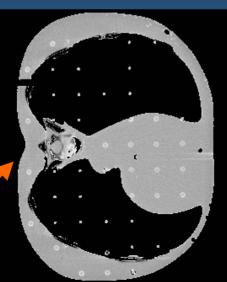
30

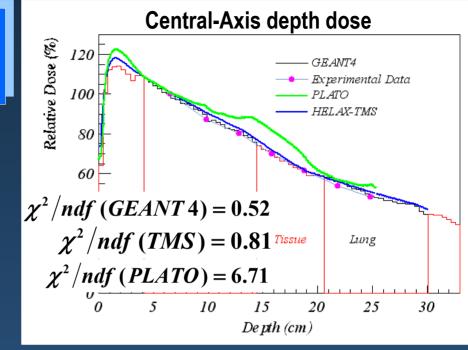
# Comparison with commercial treatment planning systems

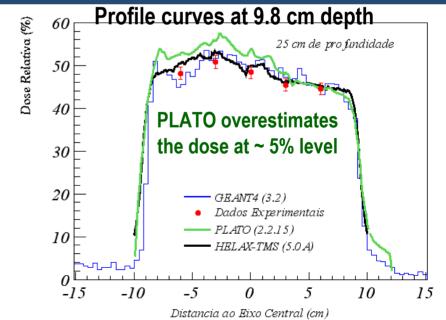
M. C. Lopes IPOFG-CROC Coimbra Oncological Regional Center L. Peralta, P. Rodrigues, A. Trindade LIP - Lisbon

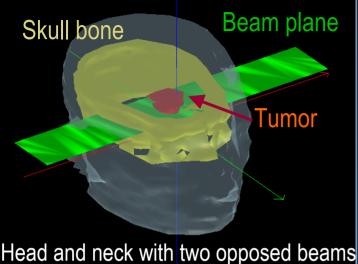
CT-simulation with a Rando phantom Experimental data with TLD LiF dosimeter

CT images used to define the geometry: a thorax slice from a Rando anthropomorphic phantom









Head and neck with two opposed beams for a 5x5 and 10x10 field size

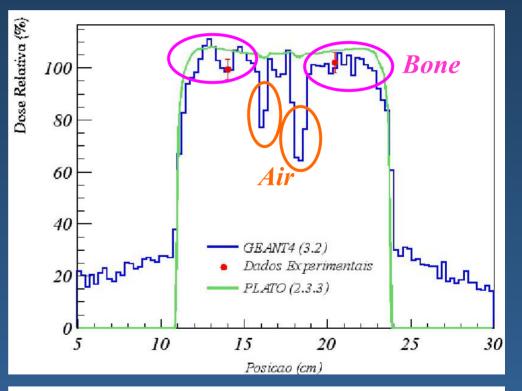
An off-axis depth dose taken at one of the slices near the isocenter

PLATO fails on the air cavities and bone structures and cannot predict accurately the dose to tissue that is surrounded by air

Deviations are up to 25-30%

### A more complex set-up

M. C. Lopes<sup>1</sup>, L. Peralta<sup>2</sup>, P. Rodrigues<sup>2</sup>, A. Trindade<sup>2</sup> <sup>1</sup> IPOFG-CROC Coimbra Oncological Regional Center - <sup>2</sup> LIP - Lisbon



In some tumours sites (ex: larynx T2/T3-stage) a 5% underdosage will decrease local tumour control probability from ~75% to ~50%

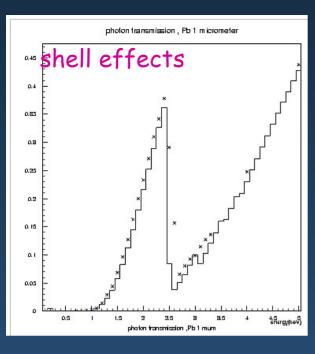


### Physics models in Geant4 relevant to medical applications



### Low Energy Electromagnetic Physics

- A set of processes extending the coverage of electromagnetic interactions in Geant4 down to "*low*" energy
  - 250 eV (in principle even below this limit) for electrons and photons
  - down to approximately the ionisation potential of the interacting material for hadrons and ions
- Processes based on detailed models
  - shell structure of the atom
  - precise angular distributions
- Specialised models depending on particle type
  - data-driven models based on the Livermore Libraries for e<sup>-</sup> and photons
  - analytical models for e<sup>+</sup>, e<sup>-</sup> and photons (reengineering of Penelope into Geant4)
  - parameterised models for hadrons and ions (Ziegler 1977/1985/2000, ICRU49)
  - original model for negative hadrons

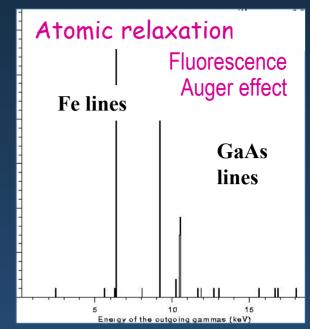




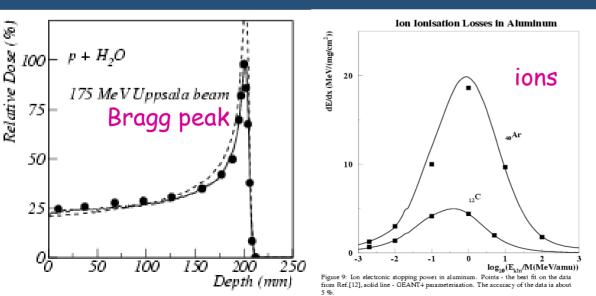
e,γ down to 250 eV EGS4, ITS to 1 keV Geant3 to 10 keV

Based on EPDL97, EEDL and EADL evaluated data libraries

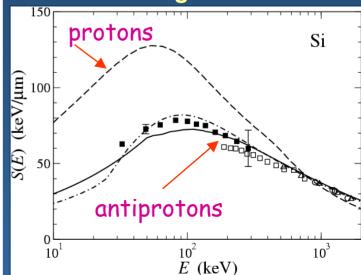
Based on Penelope analytical models



Hadron and ion models based on Ziegler and ICRU data and parameterisations



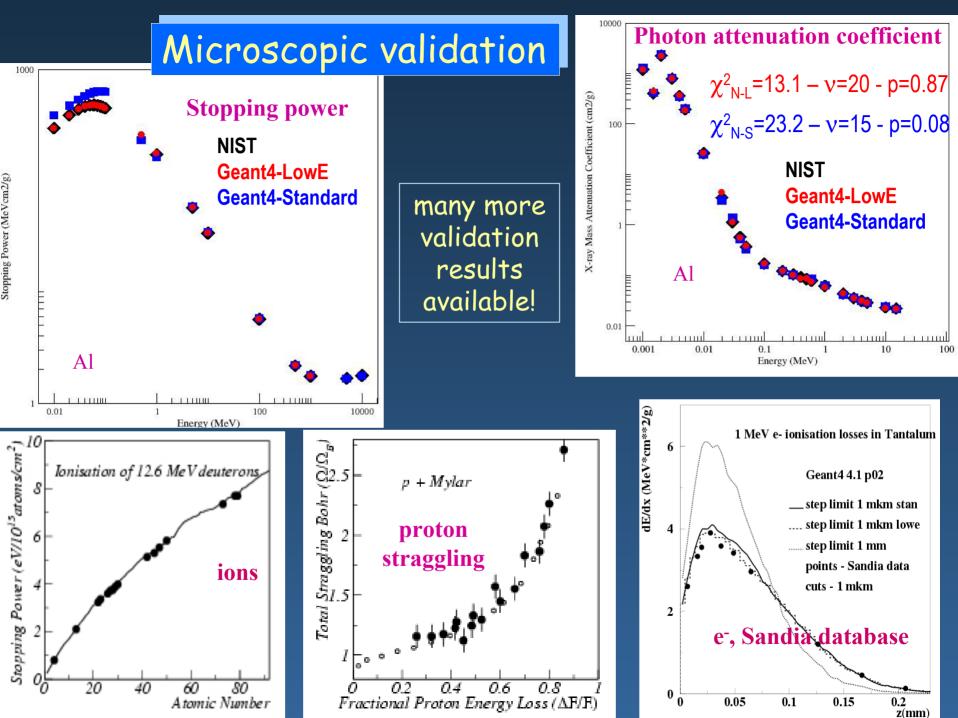
## Barkas effect (charge dependence) models for **negative hadrons**



# Validation

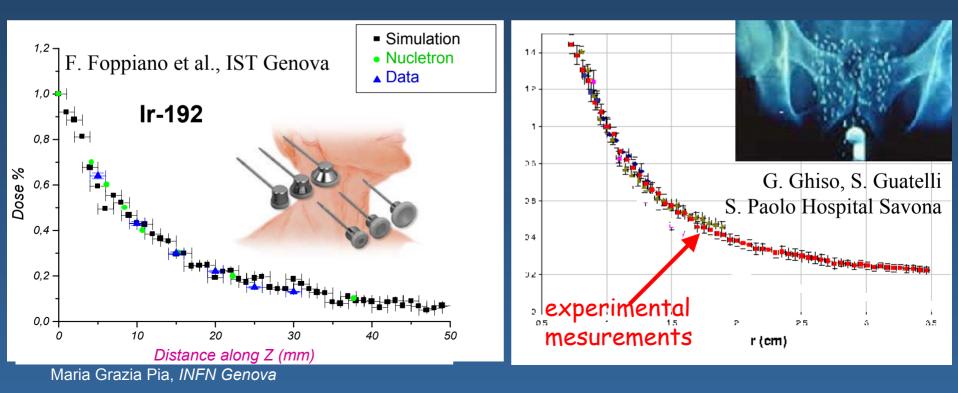
Microscopic validation: verification of Geant4 physics

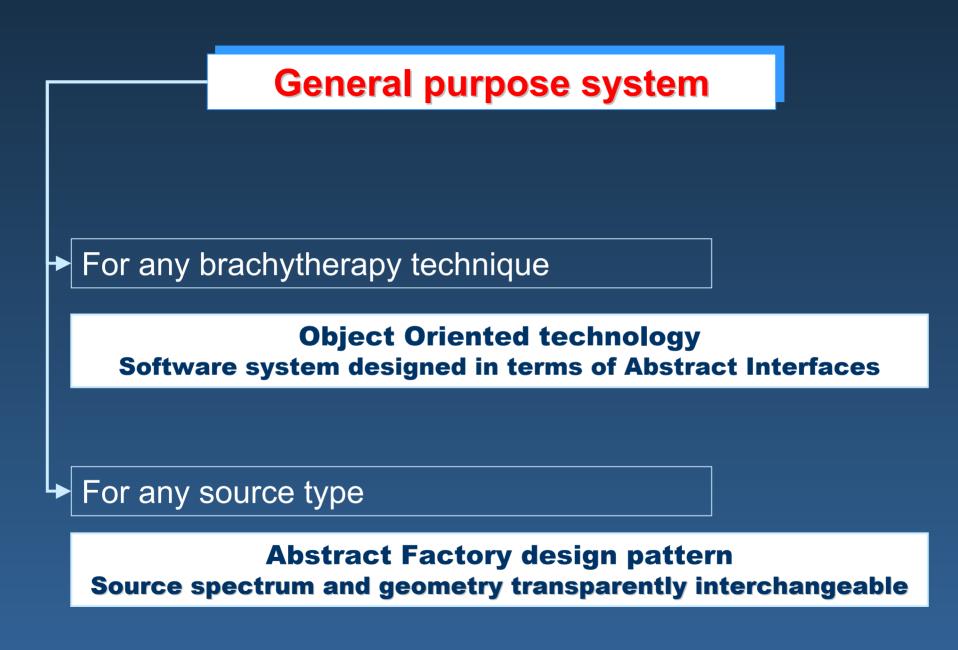
Dosimetric validation: in the experimental context



# **Dosimetric** validation

#### Comparison to manufacturer data, protocol data, original experimental data

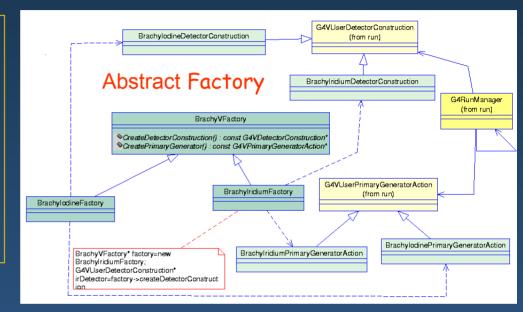




# Flexibility of modeling

#### **Configuration of**

- any brachytherapy technique
- any source type
- through an **Abstract Factory** to define geometry, primary spectrum



#### **CT DICOM interface**

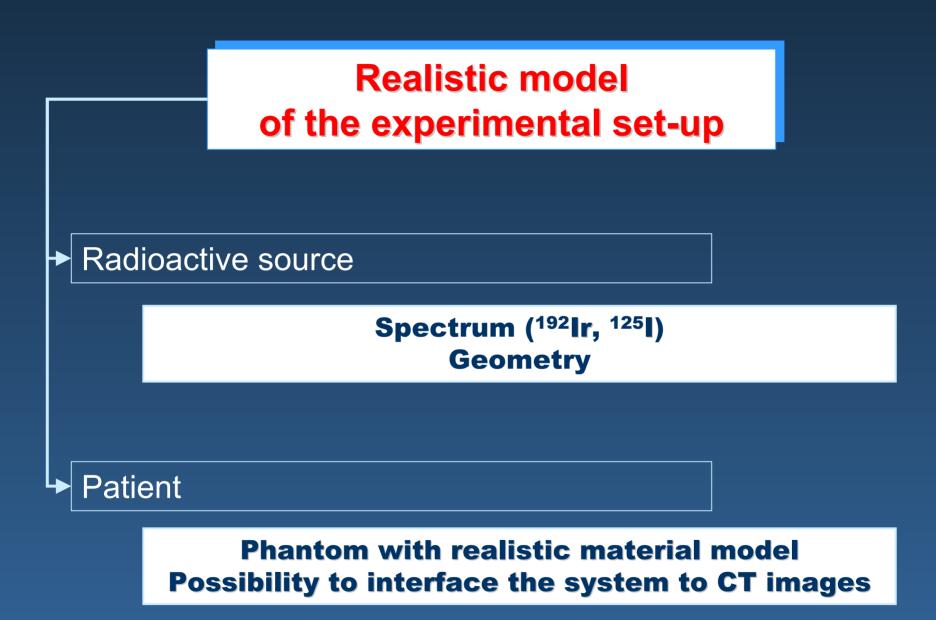
through Geant4 parameterised volumes parameterisation function: material

#### Phantom

- various materials
  - water, soft tissue, bone, muscle etc.

General purpose software system for brachytherapy

No commercial general software exists!



# Modeling the source geometry

Precise geometry and material model of any type of source



#### I-125 source for interstitial brachytherapy

#### Iodium core:

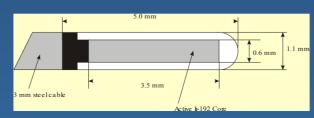
Inner radius :0 Outer radius: 0.30mm Half length:1.75mm

#### Air:

Outer radius:0.35mm half length:1.84mm

#### Titanium tube: Outer radius:0.40mm Half length:1.84mm

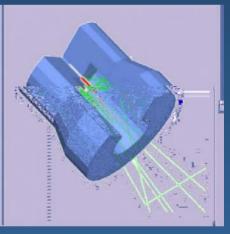
Titanium capsule tip: Box Side :0.80mm





- Air
- Titanium capsule tip
- Titanium tube



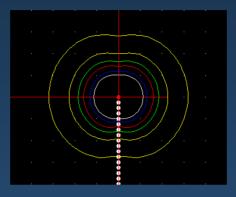


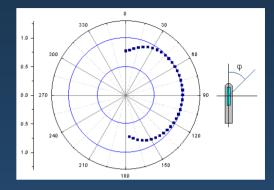
Ir-192 source + applicator for superficial brachytherapy

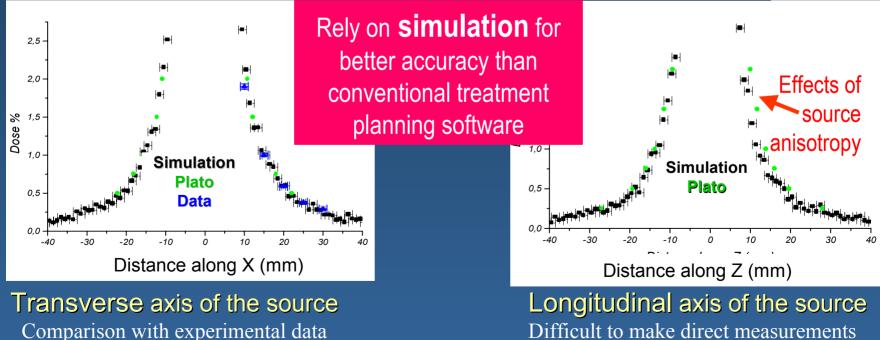
### Effects of source anisotropy

Plato-BPS treatment planning algorithm makes some crude approximation  $(\phi \text{ dependence})$ no radial dependence)

Maria Grazia Pia, INFN Genova



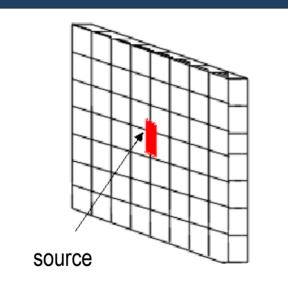




Difficult to make direct measurements

## Modeling the patient

### Modeling a phantom



of any material (water, tissue, bone, muscle etc.) thanks to the flexibility of Geant4 *materials* package

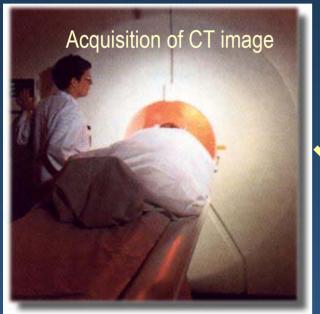
### Modeling geometry and materials from CT data



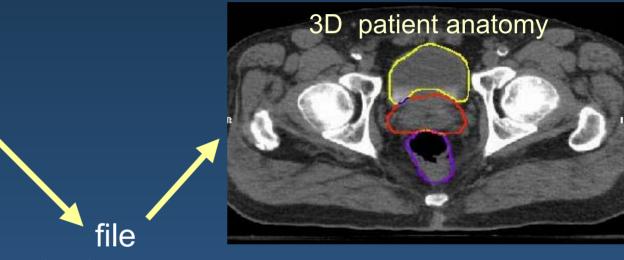
### DICOM

### Digital Imaging and COmunication in Medicine

### Computerized Tomography allows to reproduce the real 3D geometry of the patient



DICOM is the universal standard for sharing resources between heterogeneous and multi-vendor equipment Maria Grazia Pia, *INFN Genova* 



......DICM....UL ..0B.....UI..1.2.840.10008. 5.1.4.1.1.2....UI, 1.3.12.2.1107.5. 1.4.40238.5.0.14178572411846....UI.. 1.2.840.10008.1.2.1....UI..1.3.12.2 .1107.5.1.4....SH..SIEMENS\_S5VA30A ..CS..ISO\_IR 100....CS".ORIGINAL\P RIMARY\AXIAL\CT\_SOM5 SPI....UI..1.2. 840.10008.5.1.4.1.1.2....UI..1.3.12 2.1107.5.1.4.40238.5.0.141785724118 46...DA..20020109..!.DA..20020109.. .DA. 20020109. #.DA. 20020109. 0.TM .093934.657000 ..1.TM..094310.18600 ..2.TM..094324.432987 ..3.TM..0943 24.432987 ...P.SH....'.CS..CT...p.LO.. SIEMENS ....LO...HOTEL-DIEU DE QUEBEC ....ST\$.COTE DU PALAIS.QUEBEC.QUEBEC CANADA ....PN.....SH..HNCT40238

### Pixels

grey tone proportional to material density



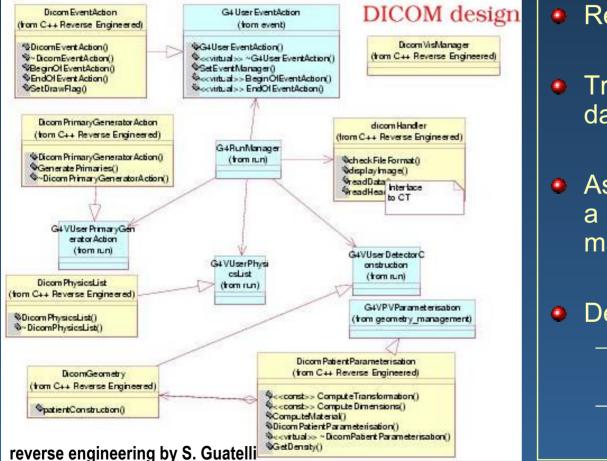




GENTRE DE RECHERGHE Pavillon L'Hôtel-Dieu Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec

- Developed by L. Archambault, L. Beaulieu, V.-H. Tremblay (Univ. Laval and l'Hôtel-Dieu, Québec)
- Donated to Geant4 for the common profit of the scientific community
  - under the condition that further improvements and developments are made publicly available to the community
- Released with Geant4 5.2, June 2003 in an extended example
  - with some software improvement by S. Guatelli and M.G. Pia
- First implementation, further improvements foreseen

### From DICOM image to Geant4 geometry

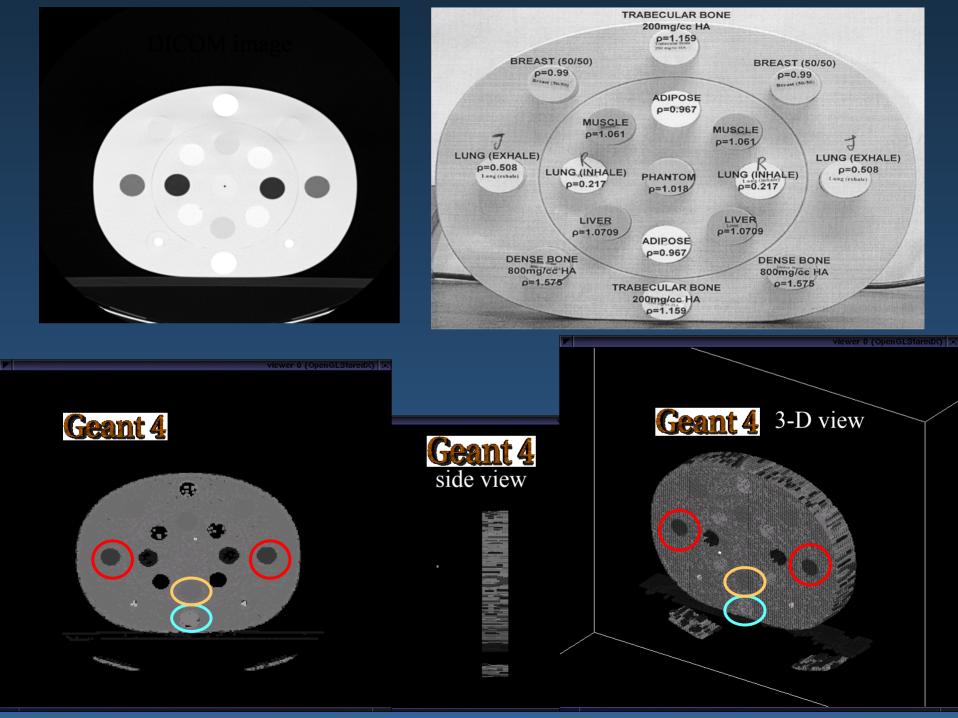


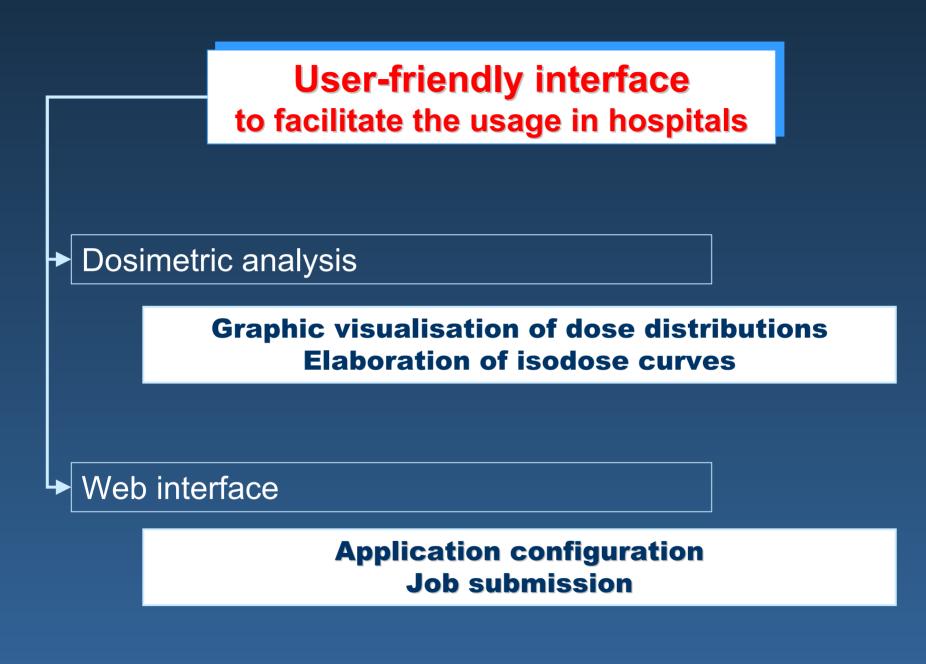
Reading image information

- Transformation of pixel data into densities
- Association of densities to a list of corresponding materials

#### Defining the voxels

- Geant4 parameterised volumes
- parameterisation function: material

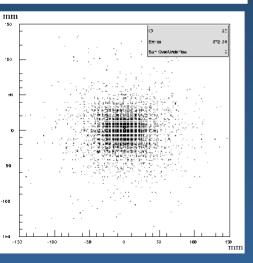






Simulation of energy deposit through Geant4 Low Energy Electromagnetic package to obtain accurate dose distribution

2-D histogram with energy deposit in the plane containing the source



Analysis of the energy deposit in the phantom resulting from the simulation

AIDA + Anaphe

for analysis

Python

Dose distribution

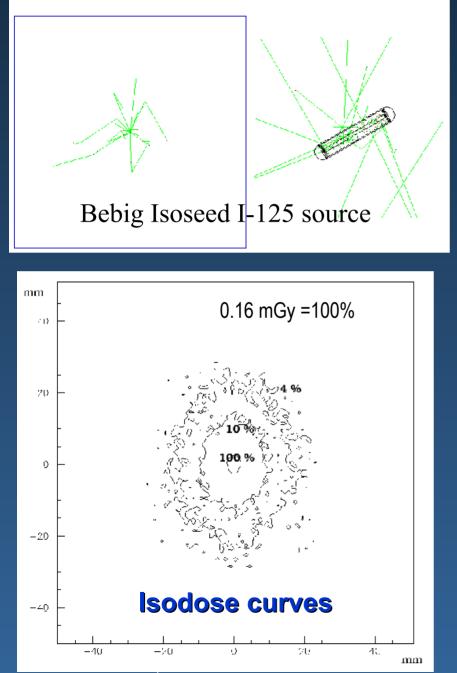
Isodose curves

for interactivity

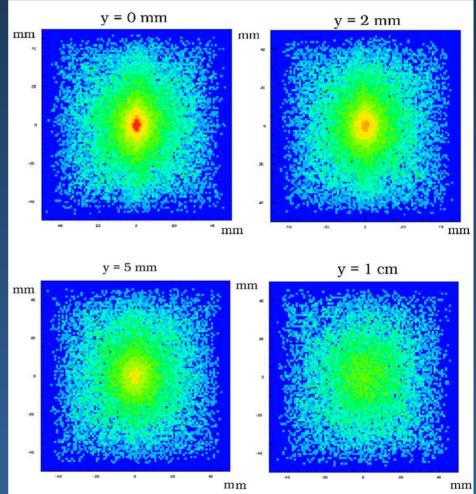
may be any other AIDA-compliant analysis system

Maria Grazia Pia, INFN Genova

Production threshold: 100 µm

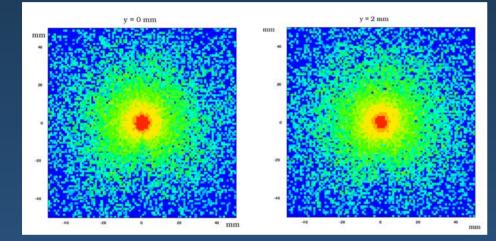


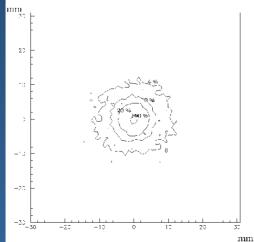
### **Dosimetry** Interstitial brachytherapy



### **Dosimetry** Endocavitary brachytherapy

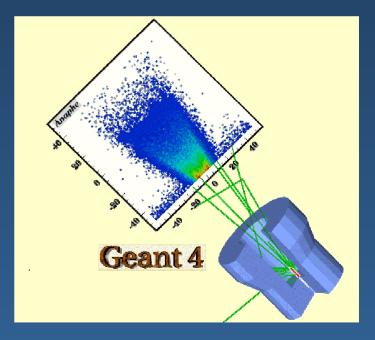
#### MicroSelectron-HDR source



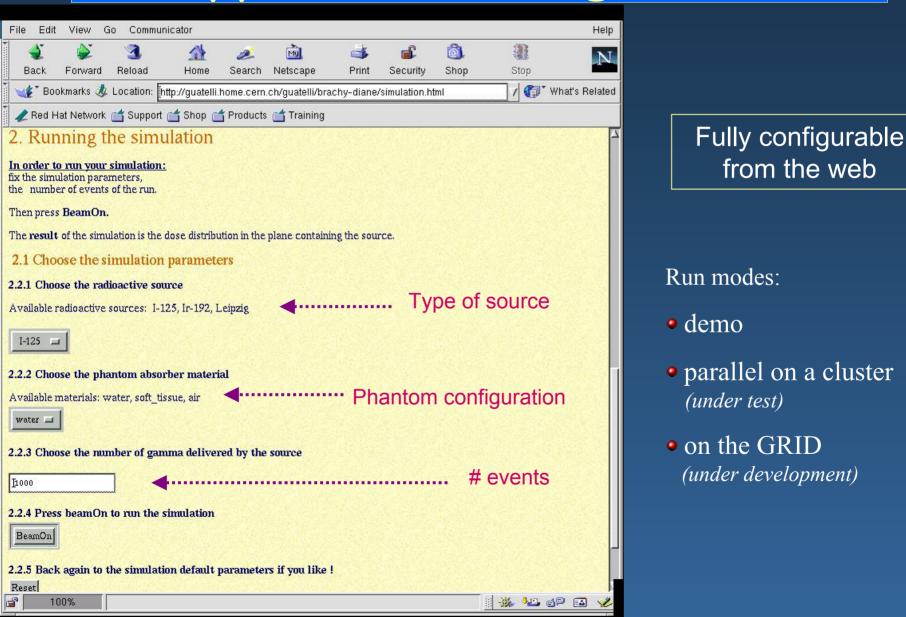


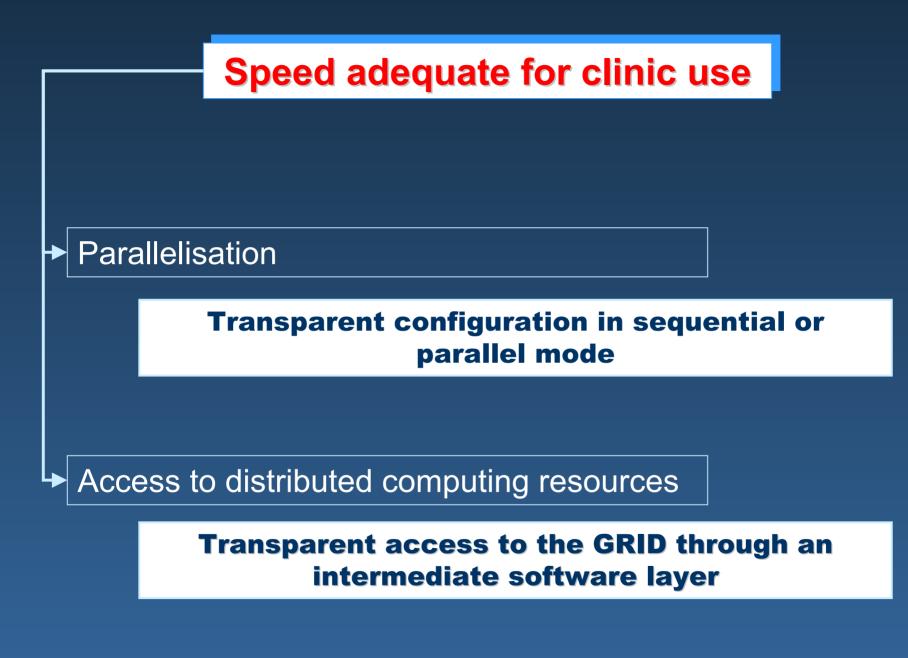
### **Dosimetry** Superficial brachytherapy

### Leipzig applicator

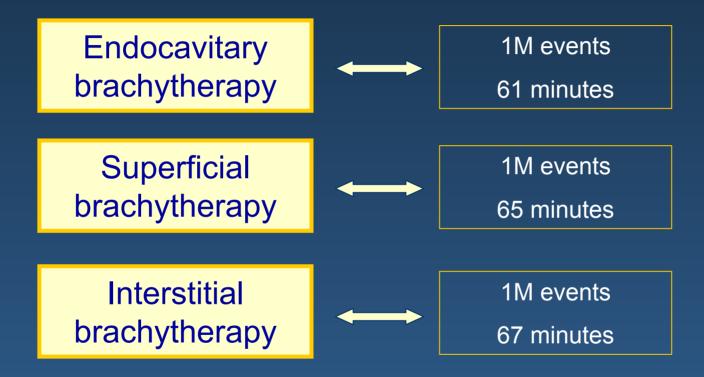


## Application configuration





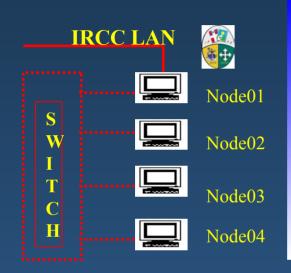
## Performance



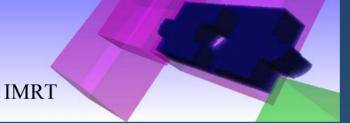
on an "average" PIII machine, as an "average" hospital may own

Monte Carlo simulation is not practically conceivable for clinical application, even if more precise

## Access to distributed computing



Geant4 Simulation and Anaphe Analysis on a dedicated Beowulf Cluster S. Chauvie et al., IRCC Torino, Siena 2002



**Parallelisation** 

Previous studies for parallelisation of a Geant4 based medical application

speed OK

Access to the GRID

DIANE

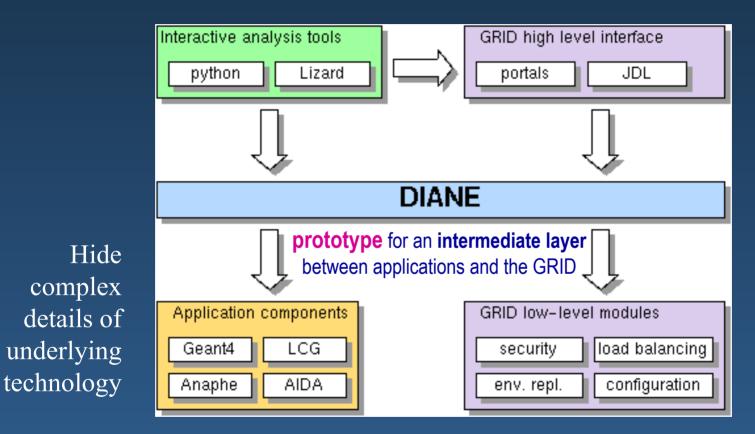
**Transparent** access

to a distributed computing environment

 but expensive hardware investment
 + maintenance

Alternative strategy

## DIANE Distributed ANalysis Environment

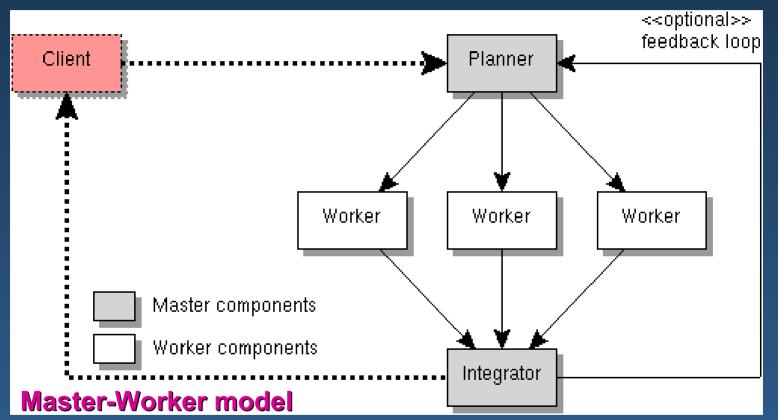


Developed by J. Moscicki, CERN http://cern.ch/DIANE

#### Parallel cluster processing

- make fine tuning and customisation easy
- transparently using GRID technology
- application independent

## **DIANE** architecture



Parallel execution of independent tasks Very typical in many scientific applications Usually applied in local clusters

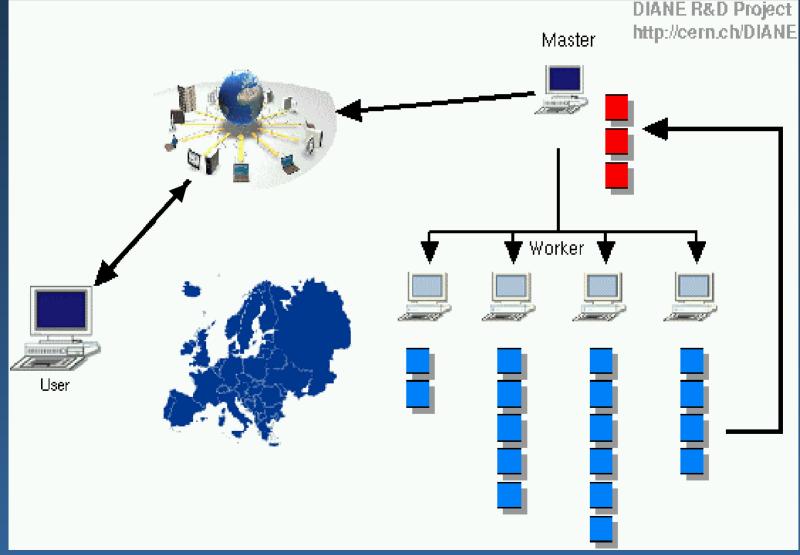
R&D in progress for Large Scale Master-Worker Computing

### Running in a distributed environment

The application developer is shielded from the complexity of underlying technology via DIANE

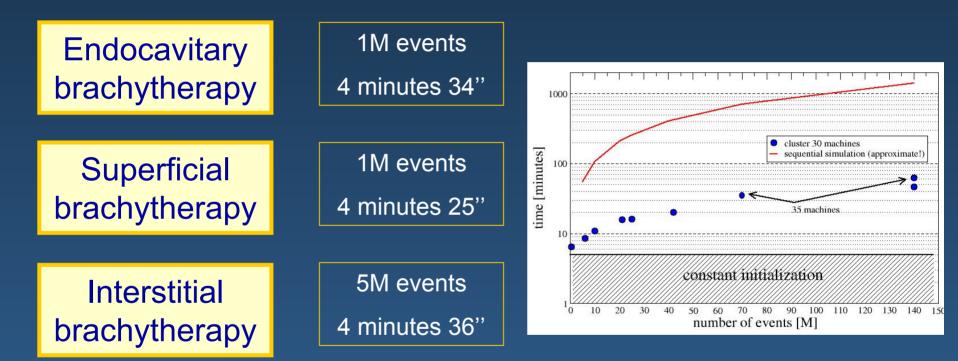
- Not affecting the original code of application
  - standalone and distributed case is the same code
- Good separation of the subsystems
  - the application does not need to know that it runs in distributed environment
  - the distributed framework (DIANE) does not need to care about what actions an application performs internally

### Parallel mode: local cluster



preliminary: further optimisation in progress

## Performance: parallel mode



on up to 50 workers, LSF at CERN, PIII machine, 500-1000 MHz

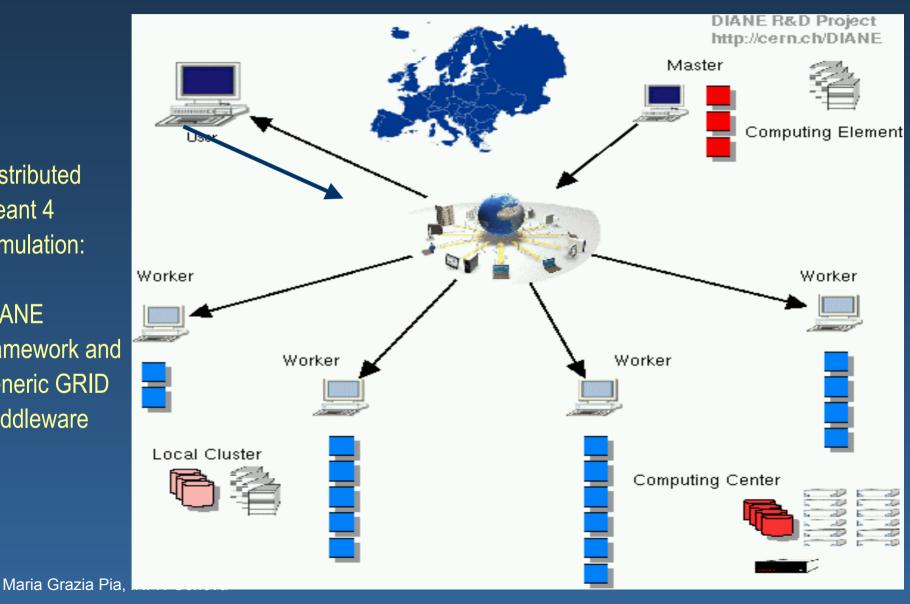
Performance adequate for clinical application, but...

it is not realistic to expect any hospital to own and maintain a PC farm

### Parallel mode: distributed resources

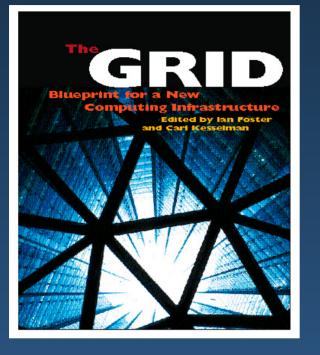
Distributed Geant 4 Simulation:

DIANE framework and generic GRID middleware



## Grid

Wave of interest in grid technology as a basis for "revolution" in e-Science and e-Commerce



Ian Foster and Carl Kesselman's book:

"A computational Grid is a hardware and software infrastructure that provides dependable, consistent, pervasive and inexpensive access to high-end computational capabilities"

An infrastructure and standard interfaces capable of providing transparent access to geographically distributed computing power and storage space in a uniform way

### Many GRID R&D projects, many related to HEP











European projects

## Running on the GRID

#### Via DIANE

- Same application code as running on a sequential machine or on a dedicated cluster
  - completely transparent to the user

A hospital is not required to own and maintain extensive computing resources to exploit the scientific advantages of Monte Carlo simulation for radiotherapy

### Any hospital

 even small ones, or in less wealthy countries, that cannot afford expensive commercial software systems –

may have access to

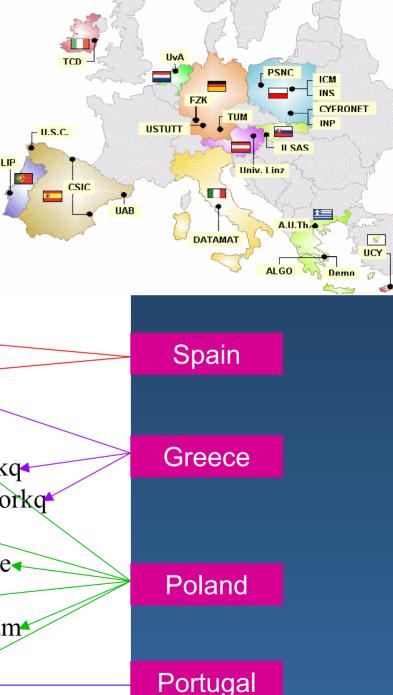
advanced software technologies and tools for radiotherapy

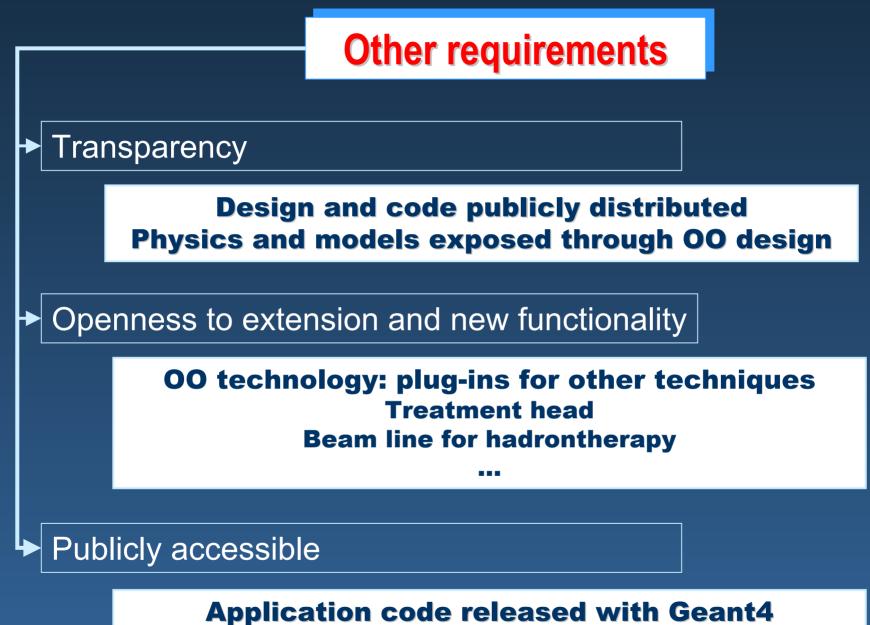
### Traceback from a run on **CrossGrid** testbed

#### Resource broker running in Portugal

Current #Grid setup (computing elements): 5000 events, 2 workers, 10 tasks (500 events each) matchmaking CrossGrid computing elements

- aocegrid.uab.es:2119/jobmanager-pbs-workq
- bee001.ific.uv.es:2119/jobmanager-pbs-qgrid
- cgnode00.di.uoa.gr:2119/jobmanager-pbs-workq
- cms.fuw.edu.pl:2119/jobmanager-pbs-workq
- grid01.physics.auth.gr:2119/jobmanager-pbs-workq
- xg001.inp.demokritos.gr:2119/jobmanager-pbs-workq
- xgrid.icm.edu.pl:2119/jobmanager-pbs-workq
- zeus24.cyf-kr.edu.pl:2119/jobmanager-pbs-infinite
- zeus24.cyf-kr.edu.pl:2119/jobmanager-pbs-long
- zeus24.cyf-kr.edu.pl:2119/jobmanager-pbs-medium
- zeus24.cyf-kr.edu.pl:2119/jobmanager-pbs-short
- ce01.lip.pt:2119/jobmanager-pbs-qgrid

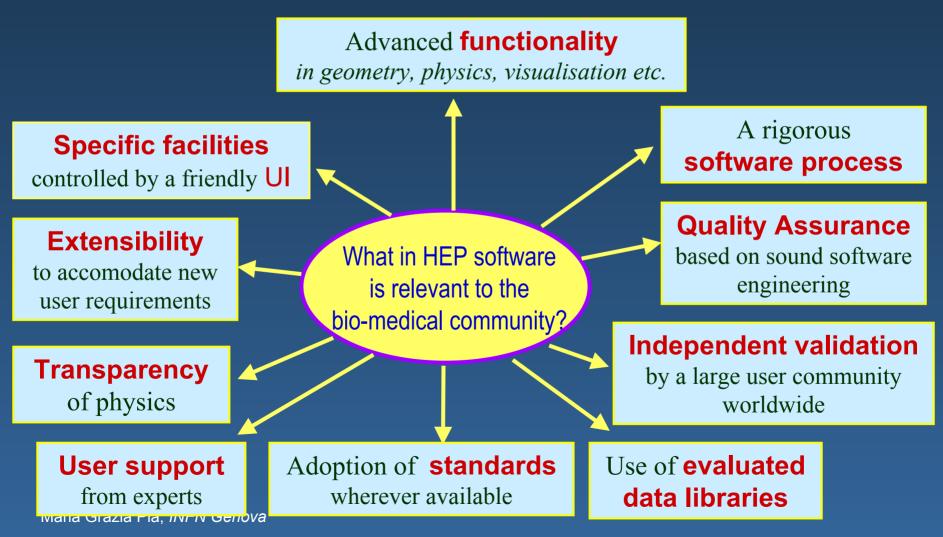




**Based on open source code (Geant4, AIDA etc.)** 

## Transparency

Medical physics does not only require fast simulation and fancy analysis...



## Extension and evolution

**Configuration of** 

any brachytherapy technique

any source type

System extensible to any source configuration without changing the existing code

### General dosimetry system for radiotherapy

extensible to other techniques
plug-ins for external beams
(factories for beam, geometry, physics...)

#### **Plug-ins in progress**

- treatment head
- hadrontherapy

• ...

# Conclusions

## Summary

- A precise dosimetric system, based on Geant4
  - Accurate physics, geometry and material modeling, CT interface
- Full dosimetric analysis
  - AIDA + Anaphe
- Simple interface
  - configuration from WWW
- Fast performance
  - parallel processing
- Access to distributed computing resources
  - GRID

The dream of medical physics for the past 40 years...

**Beware: R&D prototype!** 

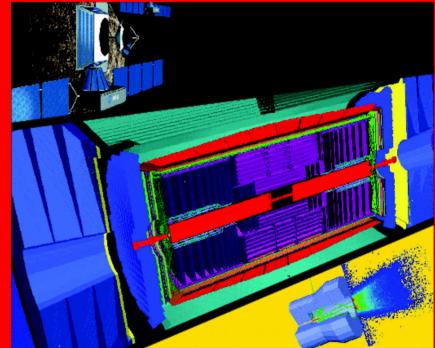
## Technology transfer

Particle physics software aids space and medicine

"Geant4 is a showcase example of technology transfer from particle physics to other fields such as space and medical science" INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS



VOLUME 42 NUMBER 5 June 2002



### Simulation for physics, space and medicine http://www.cerncourier.com

#### NEUTRINOS

Sudbury Neutrino Observatory confirms neutrino oscillation p5 Electropolishing steers superconducting cavity to new record p10

#### COSMOPHYSICS Joint symposium brings CERN, ESA and ESO together p15

## Thanks!

Geant4 has fostered a collaborative aggregation of contributions from many groups all over the world

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