

# OpenAlea

**A platform for plant modelling,  
analysis and simulation**

C. Pradal, F. Boudon,  
N. Donès, JB Durand, P. Barbier de Reuille,  
C. Fournier, H. Sinoquet, C. Godin



# Plant modelling

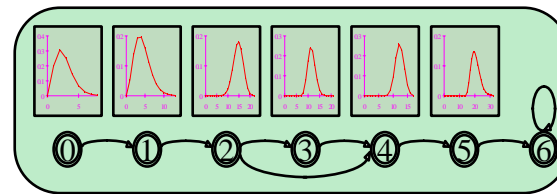
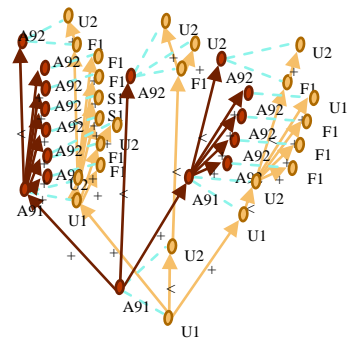
Biological objects



Measure



Modelling



$$\frac{dC_f}{dt} = \frac{C_r - C_f}{R} - k_f C_f$$

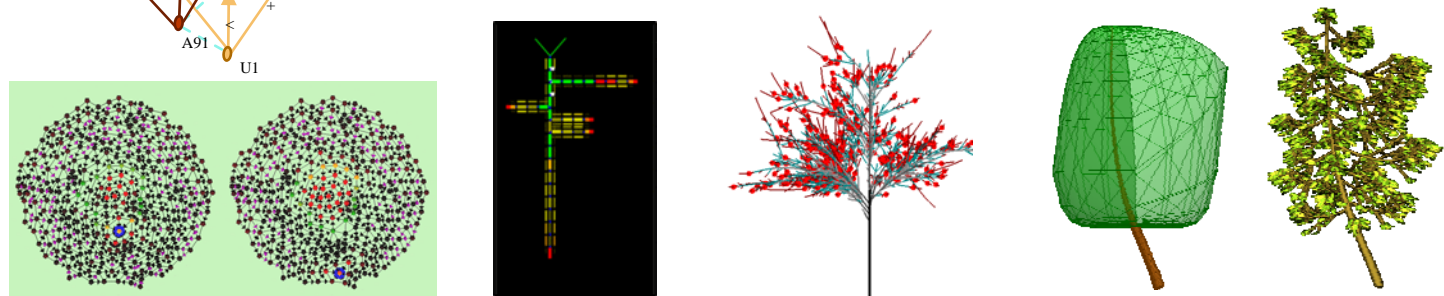
f leaves

$$\frac{dW_f}{dt} = \alpha_f C_f$$

$$\frac{dC_r}{dt} = \frac{C_f - C_r}{R} - k_r C_r$$

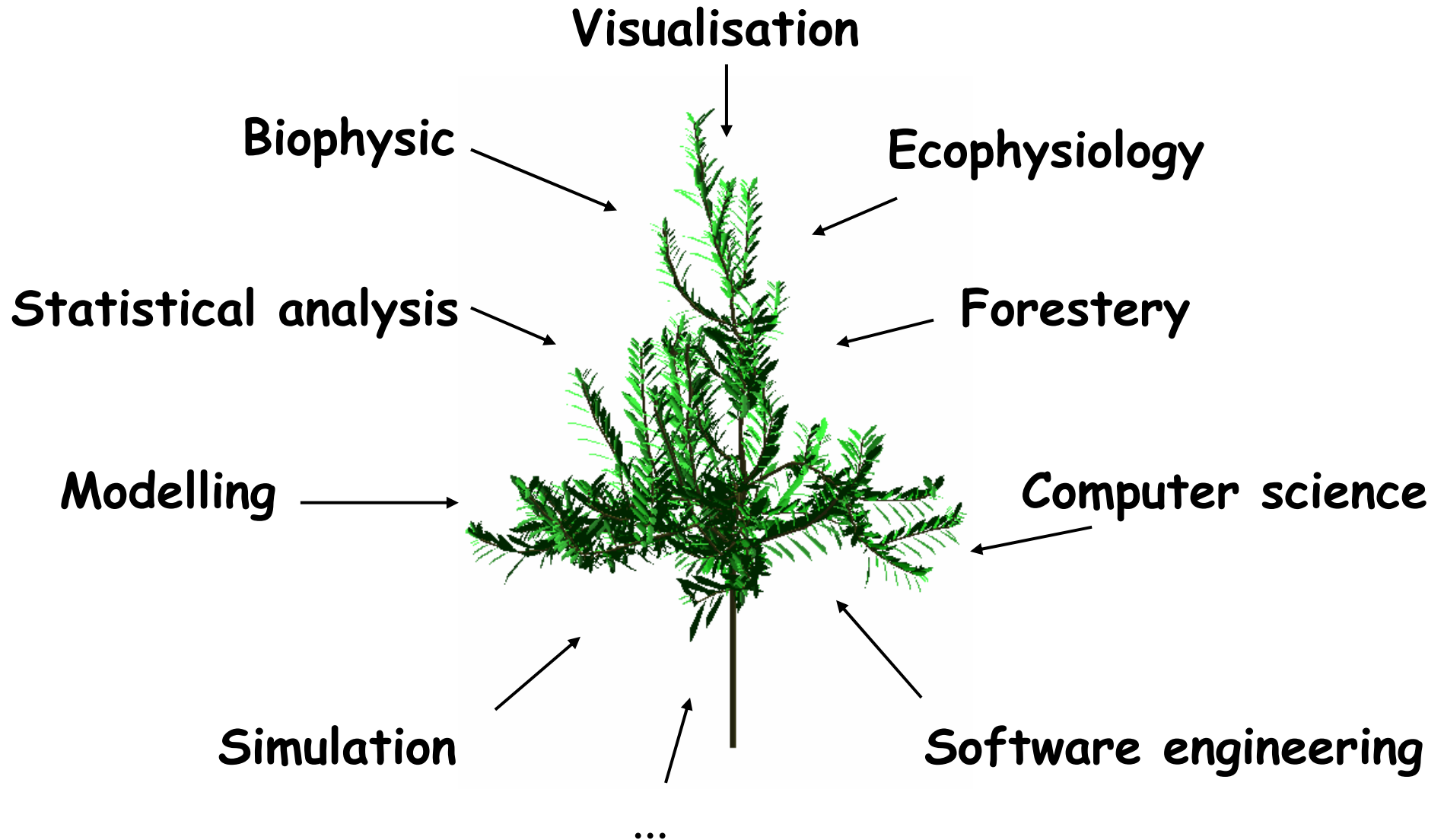
r roots

Simulation



# Pluri-disciplinary research

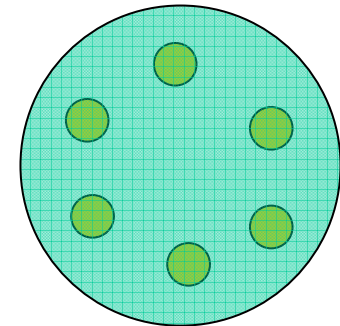
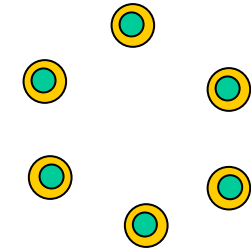
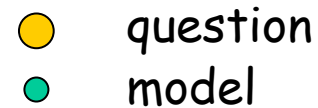
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# Modelling strategy

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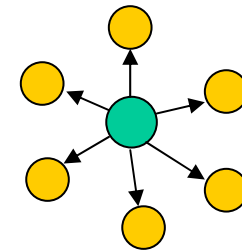
1. Construct the best model (efficient & simple) for each new situation



2. A general unified model

3. Defining common phenomenon, concepts and methods:

- Common to different situations
- Extensible



# Python as a modelling language [Sanner 06]

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Python as a scripting environment

Python as a component framework

- 3D scene graph
- Visualisation
- Graph Data structure
- Plant models

Python as a software Bus

# OpenAlea

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## **ALEA: Atelier Logiciel en Ecophysiologie et en Architecture 3D des plantes**

- use, evaluate and build experimental models

### **Users**

- biologists and modellers

### **Components**

- various tools and models for studying plant architecture and its development

### **Partners** (French research institutes)

- INRA, CIRAD, INRIA, LABRI, INPG.

# Objectives

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## Share knowledge

- Reuse softwares & tools
- Share development between various team
- Exchange experience & data
- Share training effort

## Component based software architecture

- Integration of existing softwares & tools
- Rapid development of new models
- Quality rules

# OpenAlea community

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## Designers

- kernel development
- modellers counsel, training and assistance

## Modellers

- Models and tools development and integration
- users counsel, training and assistance

## Users

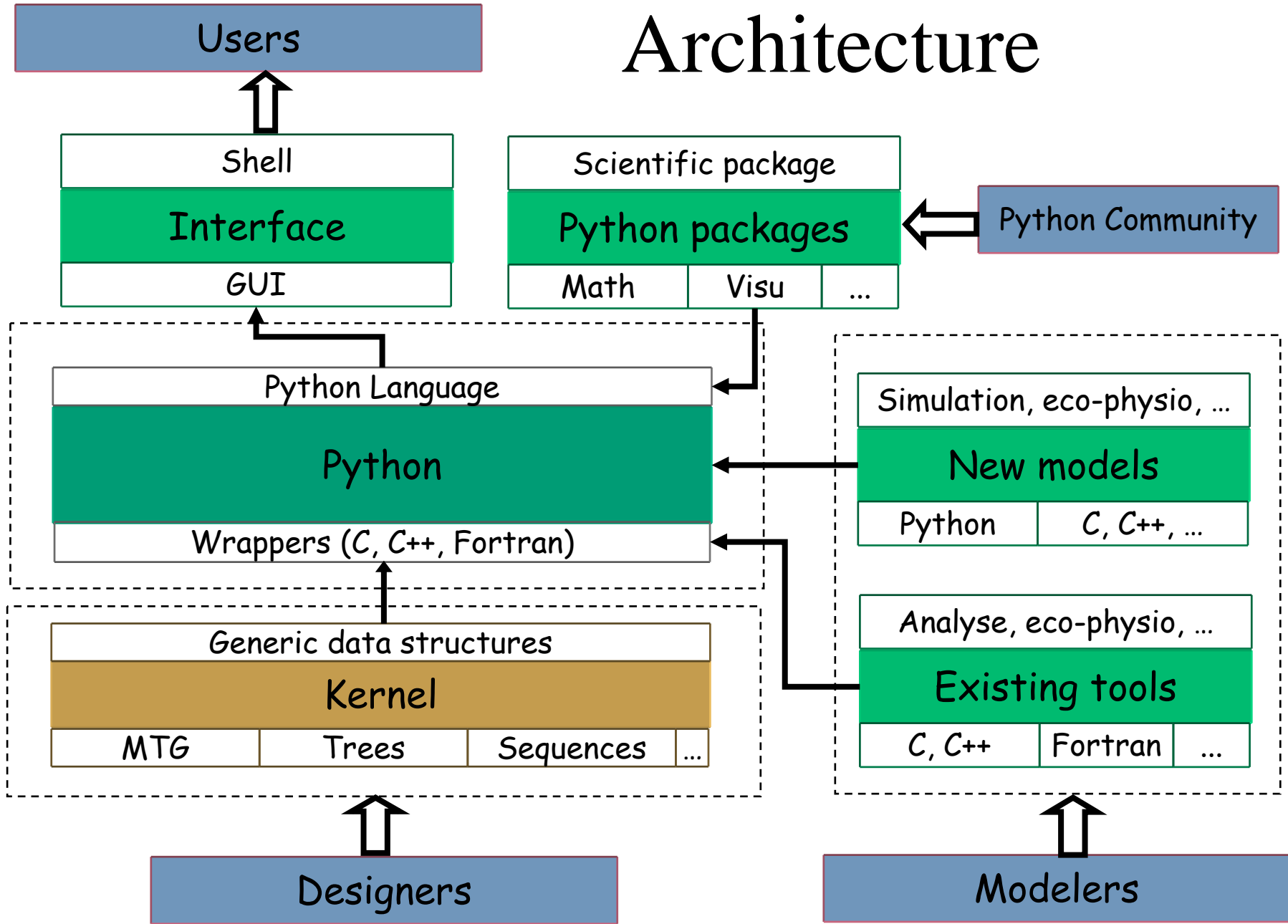
- define scenario and provide feedback

## Open Source Community

- Free kernel licence: LGPL
- Distribution rules



# Architecture



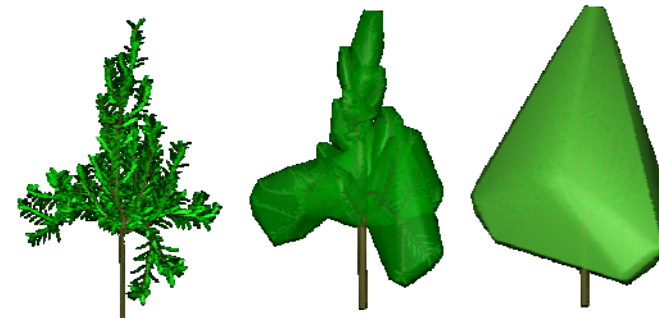
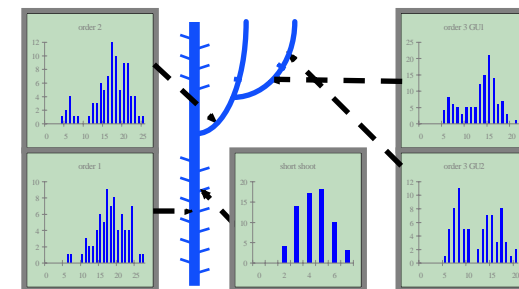
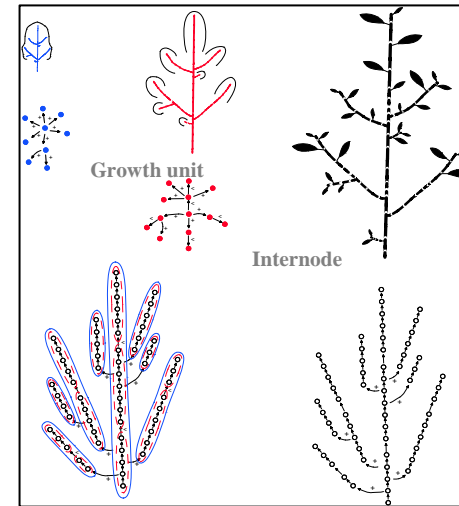
# Data structures

## Common data structures

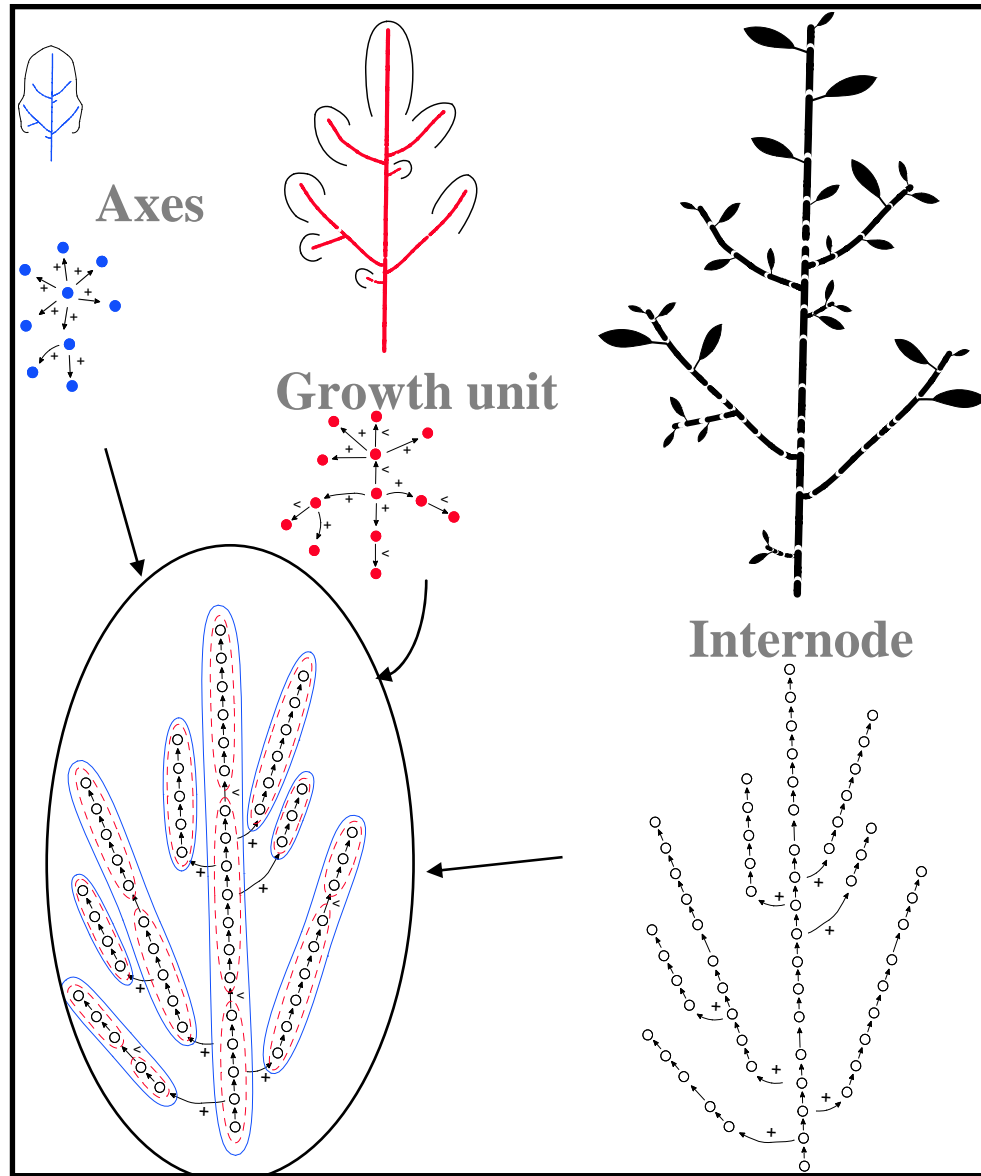
- Sequences
- Graph (Topology)
  - Tree
  - Directed graph
  - Hierarchical tree (**MTG**)
- Scene graph (Geometry)
  - Hierarchical scene graph

## Interfaces and adaptors

- Zope.Interface
- Well defined interfaces
- Different implementations



# Multiscale representation of trees



Multiscale Tree  
Graphs (MTG)

(Godin, Caraglio 1998)

# Development tools

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## OS

- Linux and Windows

## Languages

- C, C++, Fortran and Python

## Wrappers

- Swig, Boost.Python and f2py

## GUI

- PyQt

## Test

- py.test (Python) and Boost.Test (C++)

## Documentation

- epydoc and doxygen

# Building and Installing

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## Scons

- Build C, C++ components and their wrappers

## Scons\_utils

Extend **scons** for OpenAlea developers

- Hide the complexity of the build system
- Default options for each tools (Linux, Windows):
  - opengl, boost.python, qt, bison, flex, compilers, ...
- Unify the build process for the different packages

```
ALEALibrary('mylib', '*.cpp')
ALEAInclude('mylib', '*.h')
ALEAWrapper('mywrapper', '*.cpp')
ALEAProgram('prog', '*.cpp')
```

## Packaging

- Extend distutils with scons as a build system

# Working together

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## Collaborative development

- gforge
- Subversion
- Wiki



## Coding sprint

- Pair programming
- Specification and development

## Training

- **Elearning** platform for modelers and users
  - Python
  - 3D Plant Architecture
- France, Thailand and Brasil



# Components

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## **AMAPmod (Godin, Guédon et al.)**

- Analysis of plant architecture

## **PlantGL (Boudon, Pradal et al.)**

- Plant Geometric Library & 3D viewer

## **TreeAnalysis (Durand et al.)**

- Hidden-Markov Tree Models

## **RATP (Sinoquet et al.)**

- Radiative transfer, transpiration and photosynthesis

## **Archimed (Dauzat et al.)**

- Modelling biophysical processes on 3D plant models

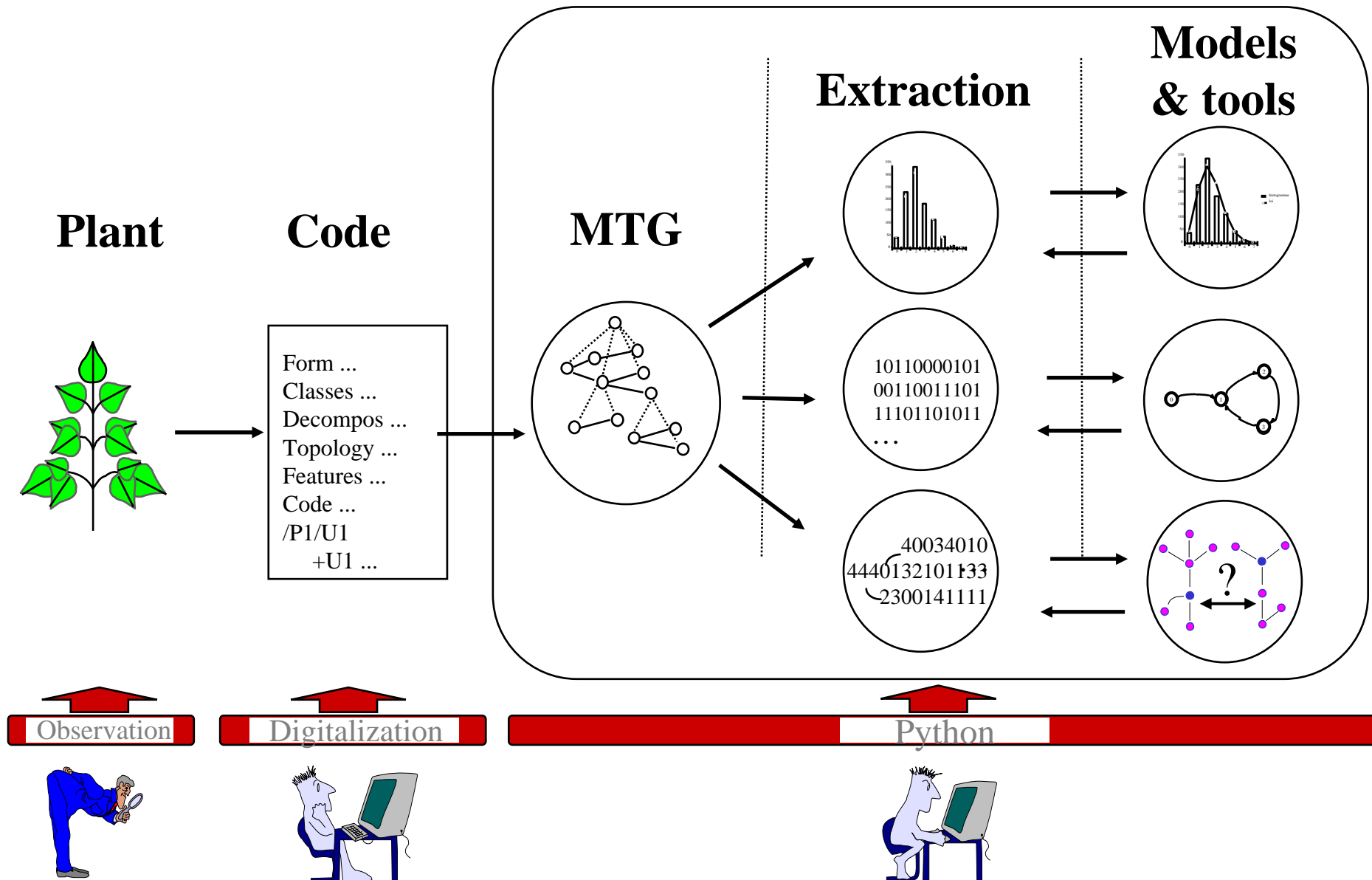
## **PyCaRiBu (Fournier, Chelles et al.)**

- Simulation and radiative transfer (Maize and wheat)

## **Merrysim (Barbier de Reuille et al.)**

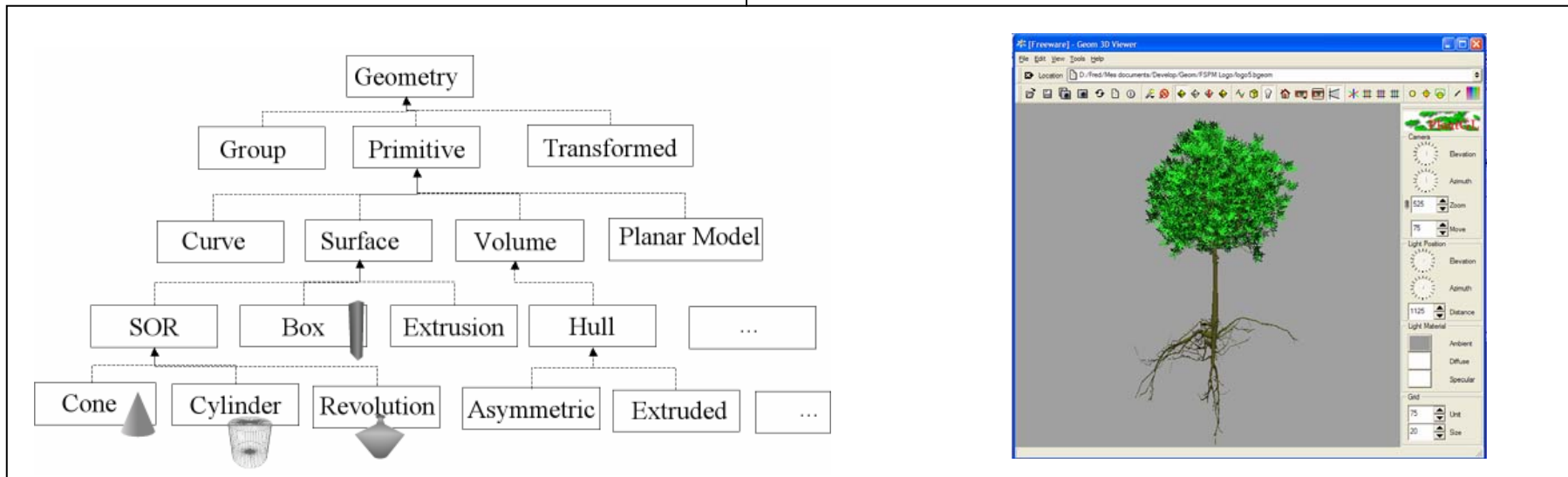
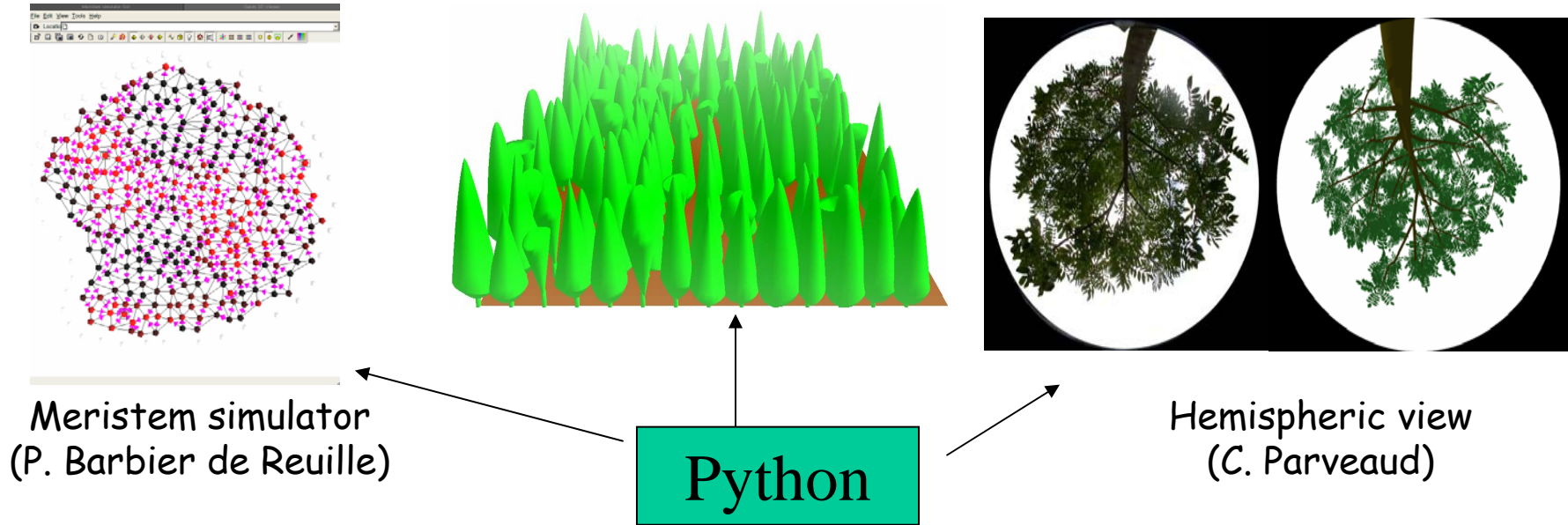
- Simulation of virtual meristems

# AMAPmod – AML/C++

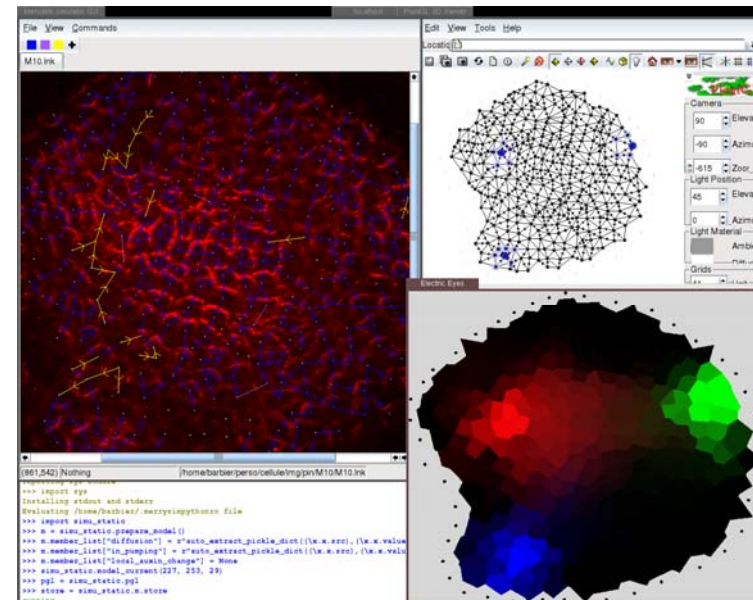
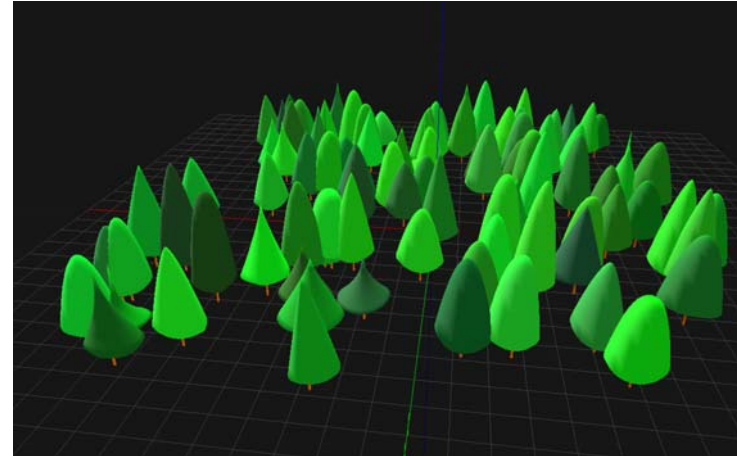
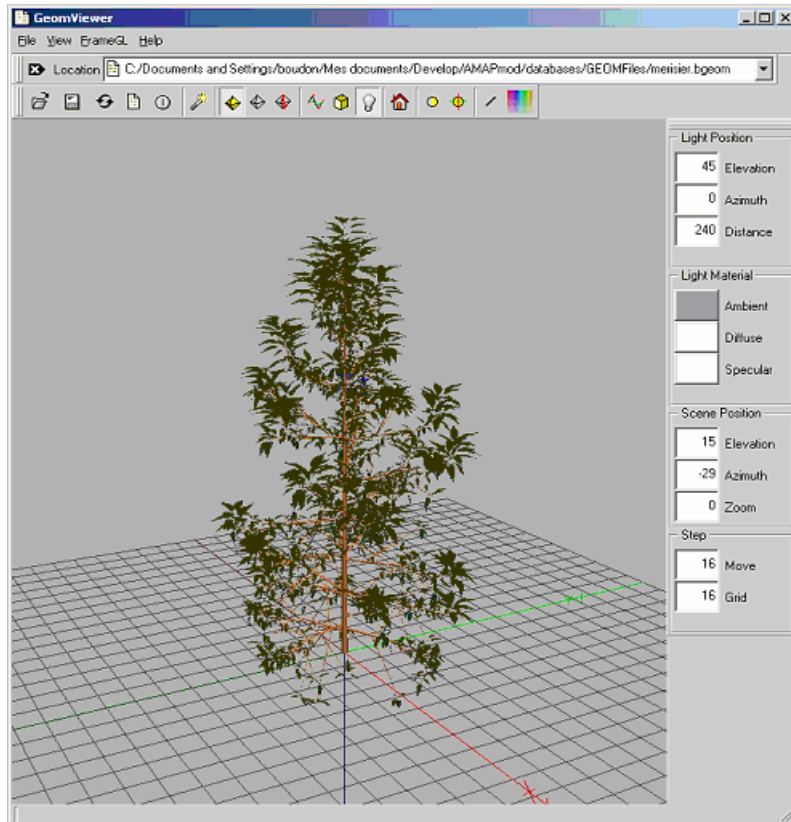




# PlantGL – C++

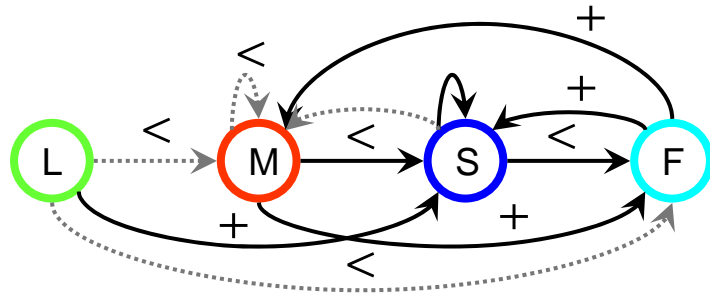


# Biological objects at different scales

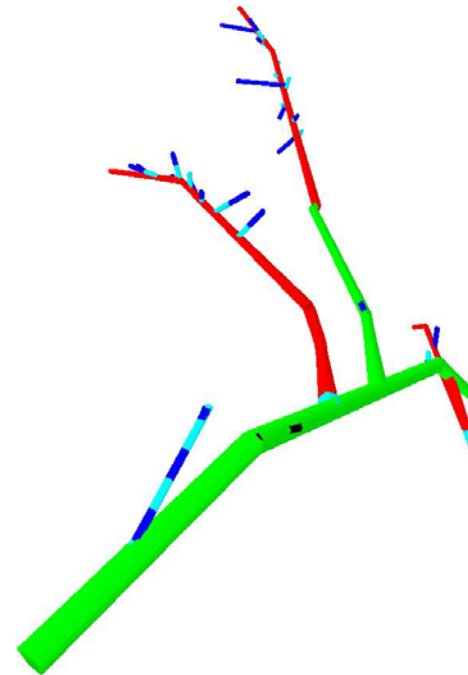
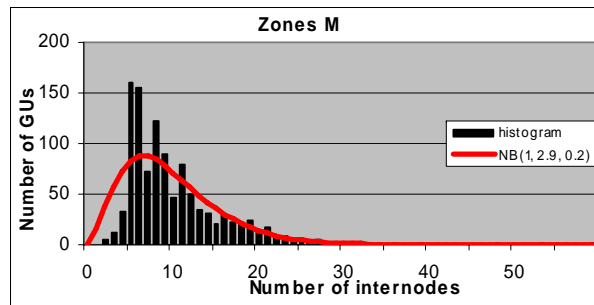
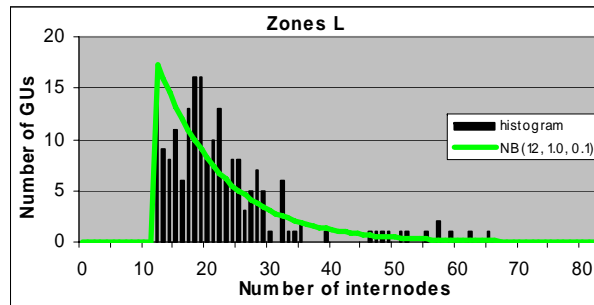


# TreeAnalysis – C++

## Hidden-Markov Tree model



- Long, Medium & short Growth Unit (GU)
- Alternation vegetative & flowering GU.

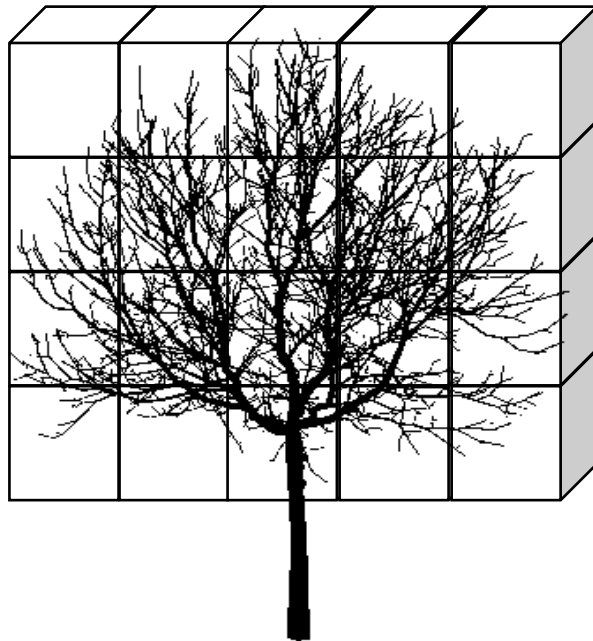


Durand, J.-B., Gonçalves, P. & Guédon, Y., (2004), *IEEE Trans. Signal Proc.*  
Durand, J.-B., Guédon, Y., Caraglio, Y. & Costes, C. (2005), *New Phytologist*

# R.A.T.P. – Fortran

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## Radiation Absorption, Transpiration, Photosynthesis



### Structure

LAD, inclinaisons

### Radiation transfer

leaf irradiance and light regime  
leaf N content  
 $g_{smax}$ ,  $V_{cmax}$ ,  $J_{max}$

### Wind Speed

Boundary layer conductance

### Energy Balance

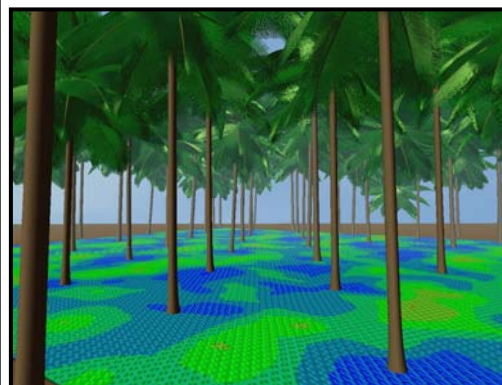
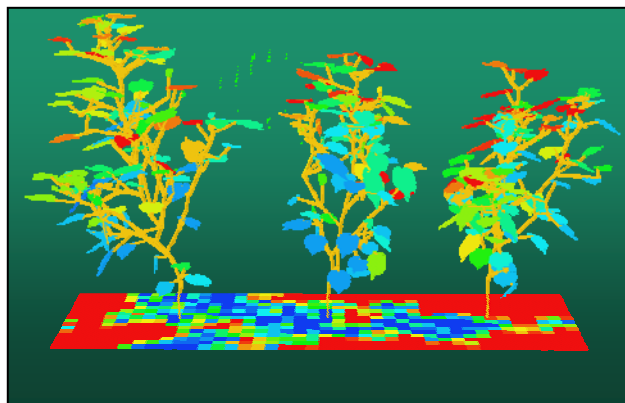
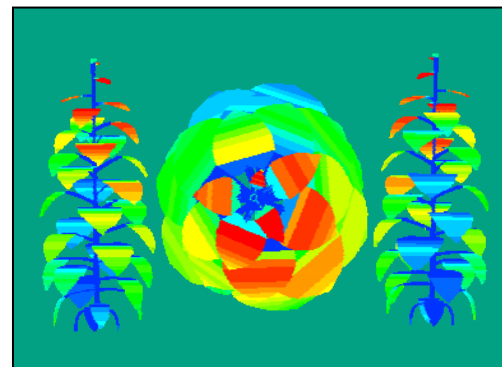
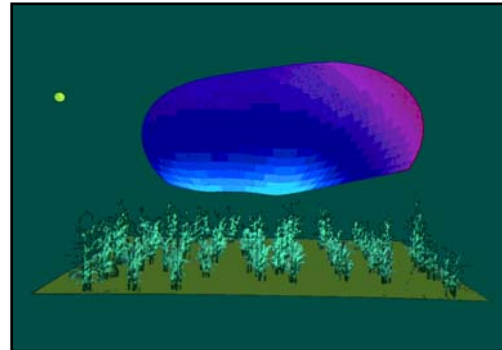
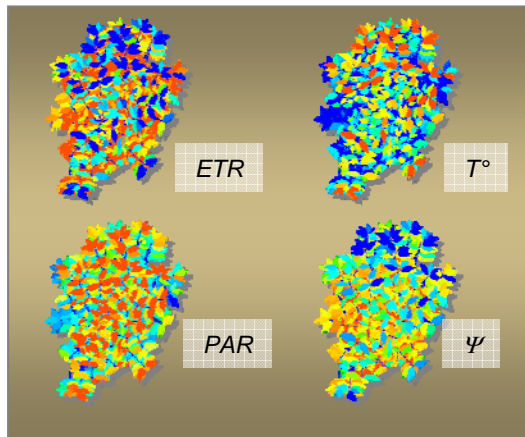
stomatal conductance  
transpiration  
leaf temperature

### Photosynthesis

net  $CO_2$  assimilation

# Archimed – C

**A**rchitectural  
**R**ectangular  
**C**ylindrical  
**H**ierarchical  
**I**terative  
**M**odelling  
**E**nvironment  
**D**ependant



## Modelling biophysical processes on 3D plant models

- reflectance
- irradiation
- light transmission
- photosynthesis
- energy budget
- sap flow
- transpiration

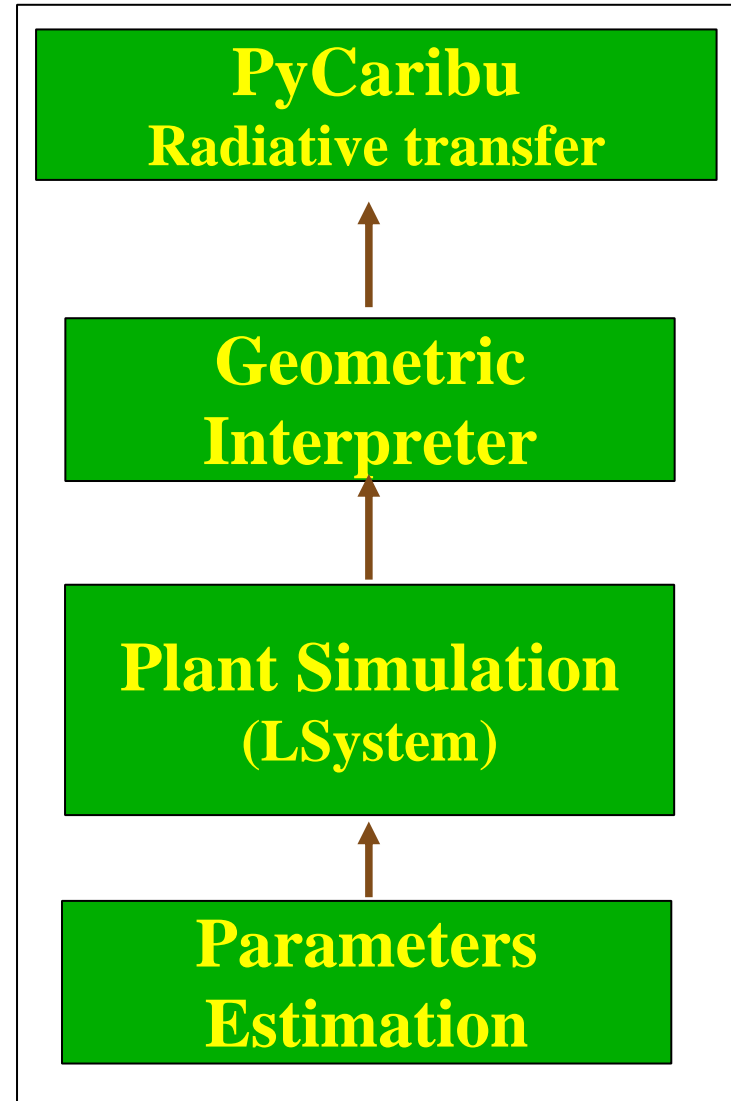
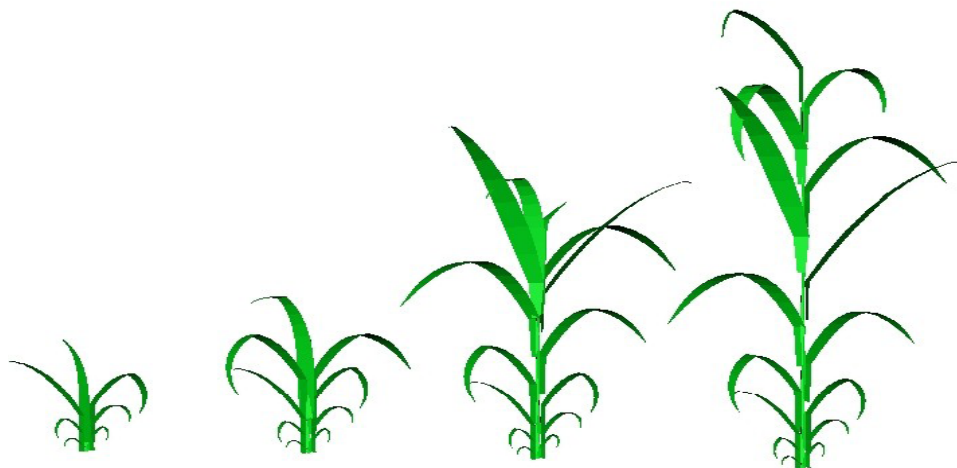


# PyCaRiBu – C++

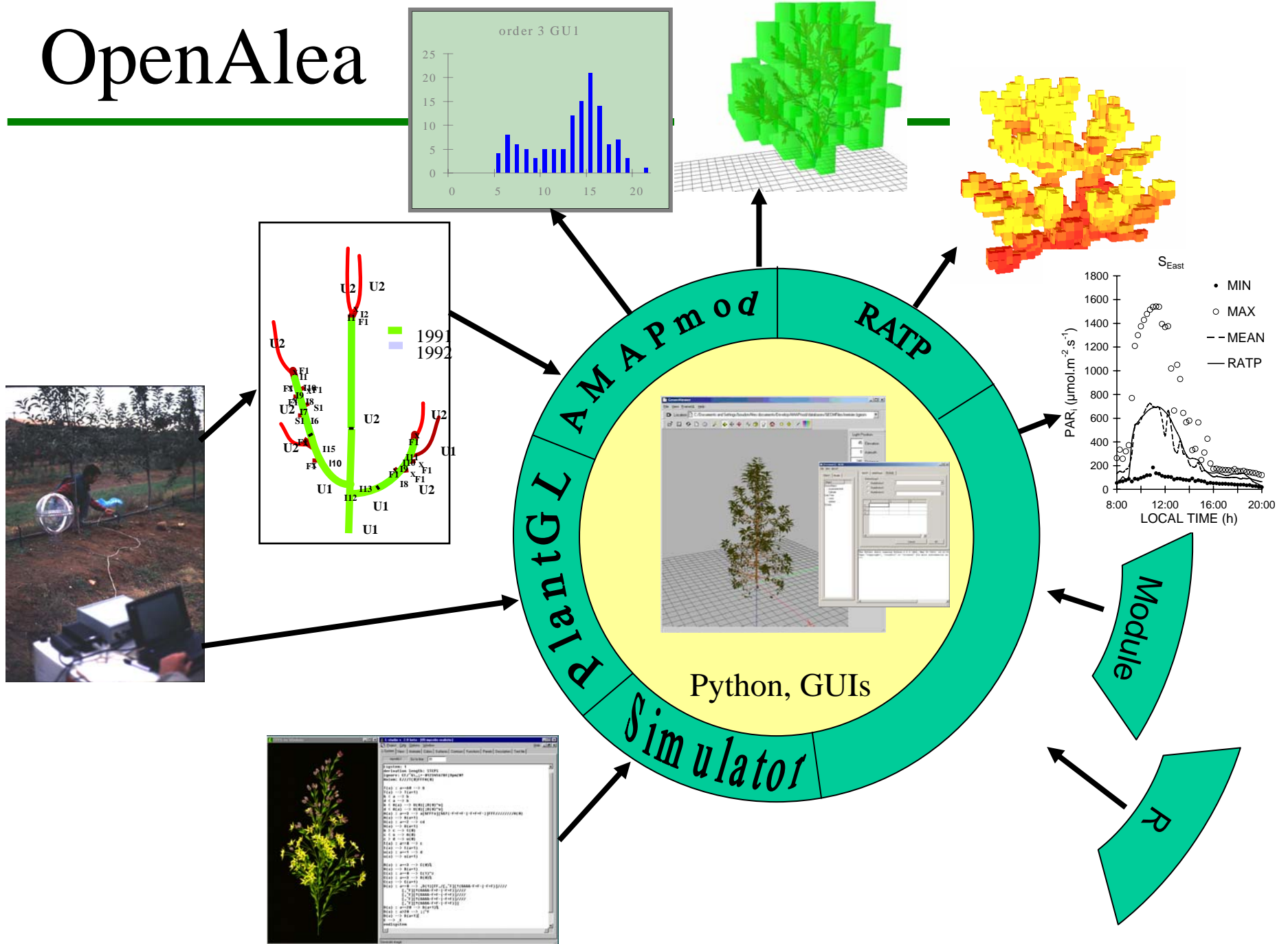
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Maize simulation



# OpenAlea



# Conclusion

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## Toward a visual programming environment?

- Vision [Sanner et al. 02]
- Orange [Demsar et al., 04]
- TraitsUI [anvisage, enthought]

## Python as a modelling language

- Easy to learn, even for botanists.

## Python as a software bus

- Glue together Fortran, C and C++
- Large scientific community



# Acknowledgements

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- OpenAlea community

  - INRIA Sophia (VirtualPlants),

  - UMR AMAP (Montpellier),

  - UMR PIAF (Clermont-Ferrand),

  - UMR EPC (Paris-Grignon),

  - Labri (Bordeaux),

  - Joseph Fourier University (Grenoble)

  - UMR SAGAH (Angers),

  - UMR BEPC (Montpellier),

  - CEMAGREF (Clermont -Ferrand),

  - INRA (Orléans), INRA (Lusignan), INRA (Nancy)

- Guido von Rossum & Python community