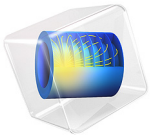


Electron Beam Divergence Due to Self Potential

This model is licensed under the COMSOL Software License Agreement 5.6.
All trademarks are the property of their respective owners. See www.comsol.com/trademarks.

Introduction

When modeling the propagation of a charged particle beam at a high current, the electric field due to the space charge of the beam significantly affects the trajectories of the charged particles. Perturbations to these trajectories, in turn, affect the space charge distribution. In order to accurately predict the properties of the beam, the particle trajectories and fields must be computed in a self-consistent manner. The Charged Particle Tracing interface can use an iterative procedure to efficiently compute the strongly coupled particle trajectories and electric field for systems operating under steady-state conditions. Such a procedure reduces the required number of model particles by several orders of magnitude, compared to methods based on explicit modeling of Coulomb interactions between the beam particles. To validate the model, the change in beam radius from the waist position is compared to an analytic expression for the shape a nonrelativistic, paraxial beam envelope.

Model Definition

This model computes the shape of an electron beam propagating through free space. When the magnitude of the beam current is large enough that Coulomb interactions are significant, the shape of the beam may be determined by solving a set of strongly coupled equations for the beam potential and the electron trajectories,

$$\nabla \cdot \varepsilon_0 \nabla V(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} e\delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{q}_i)$$

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\left(m_\mathrm{e}\frac{\mathrm{d}\mathbf{q}_i}{\mathrm{d}t}\right) = e\nabla V$$

where

- $m_\mathrm{e} = 9.10938356 \times 10^{-31}$ kg is the electron mass,
- $e = 1.602176634 \times 10^{-19}$ C is the elementary charge,
- $\varepsilon_0 = 8.854187817 \times 10^{-12}$ F/m is the permittivity of vacuum,
- V (SI unit: V) is the electric potential,
- N (dimensionless) is the total number of particles,
- $\mathbf{r}$ (SI unit: m) is the position vector,
- $\mathbf{q}_i$ (SI unit: m) is the position of the ith particle, and
- δ (SI unit: $1/\mathrm{m}^3$) is the Dirac delta function.

The beam electrons are assumed nonrelativistic so that magnetic forces can be neglected. Modeling the beam electrons and the resulting electric potential using a time-dependent study would require a very large number of model particles to be released at a large number of time intervals. Instead, this model computes the shape of the electron beam by coupling a **Time-Dependent** analysis of the particle trajectories to a **Stationary** analysis of the electric potential. The two different types of solver are combined using the dedicated **Bidirectionally Coupled Particle Tracing** study step. This algorithm is suitable for modeling beams which operate at steady-state conditions. It consists of the following steps:

1. Compute the particle trajectories in the time domain, ignoring Coulomb forces. Compute the space charge density using the **Electric Particle Field Interaction** node.
2. Compute the stationary electric potential due to the space charge density of the beam.
3. Use the electric potential calculated in step 2 to compute the perturbed particle trajectories. Recalculate the space charge density using these perturbed trajectories.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until a specified number of iterations has been reached, or until some other user-specified convergence criterion has been met.

After several iterations, the particle trajectories and the corresponding space charge density and electric field reach a stable, self-consistent solution. For a nonrelativistic, paraxial beam of electrons, the shape of the beam envelope is given by Ref. 1 should follow the equation

$$z = \frac{R_0 F(\chi)}{\sqrt{2K}} \tag{1}$$

where z (SI unit: m) is the distance from the beam waist, R_0 (SI unit: m) is the waist radius, K (dimensionless) is the generalized beam perveance,

$$K = \frac{eI_0}{2\pi\varepsilon_0 m_e {v_z}^3}$$

χ (dimensionless) is the ratio of the beam radius to the beam waist radius, and

$$F(\chi) = \int_1^{\chi} \frac{dy}{\sqrt{\ln(y)}} \tag{2}$$

In this example, each model particle actually represents a continuous stream of electrons, released at regular time intervals, rather than the instantaneous position of a single charge. For the purpose of modeling particle-field interactions, each model particle leaves behind a trail of space charge in its wake. The contribution of each particle to the total space charge density of the beam is found by evaluating the sum

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = -e \sum_{i=1}^{N} f_{\mathrm{rel}} \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{q}_i)$$

where f_{rel} (SI unit: 1/s) is a proportionality factor that indicates the number of real electrons that each model particle represents. To avoid the infinite potential associated with an infinitesimally small point charge, the space charge density is distributed uniformly over each mesh element before the electrostatics problem is solved.

Results and Discussion

After several iterations, the model reaches a self-consistent solution for the electron trajectories and the beam potential. The trajectories are shown in Figure 1. The expression `r-at(0,r)` is used to define a color expression for the trajectories. The `at` operator is used to evaluate an expression at the initial time, rather than the current time. Thus the color expression gives the radial displacement of each particle from its position at the waist.

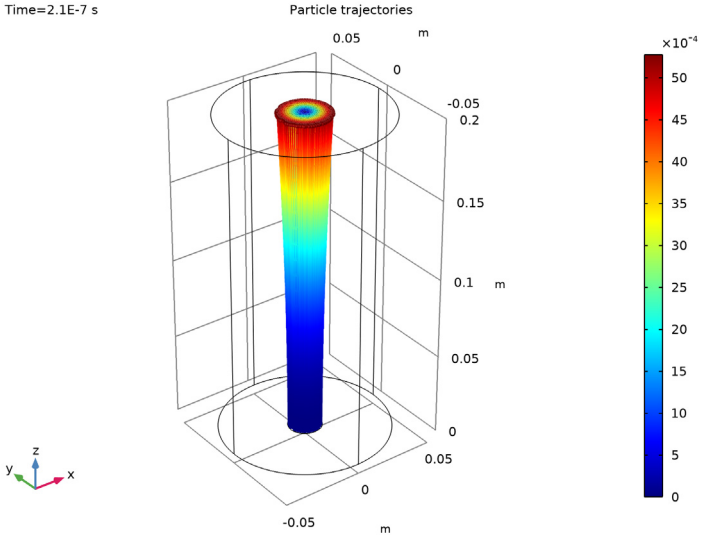


Figure 1: A beam of electrons with a waist located at z = 0 diverges due to transverse beam forces. The color represents the radial displacement of each electron from its initial position.

The electric potential distribution in the beam is shown in Figure 2. Since the beam propagates from left to right, and the beam electrons initially move in the positive z direction, the left end of the plot corresponds to the beam waist. This is also the location where the beam radius is smallest in magnitude.

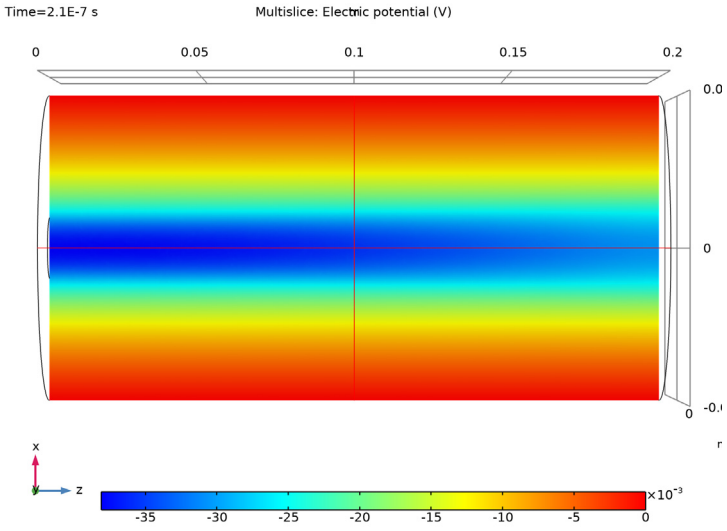


Figure 2: Plot of the electric potential of the electron beam. The potential is greatest in magnitude close to the beam waist.

A **Global Evaluation** is then used to compare the shape of the beam envelope to the analytic solution given by Equation 1. The results differ only by a few percentage points, which can be attributed to discretization error since the contribution of each particle to the space charge density is discretized using constant shape functions over each mesh element.

These results show that a self-consistent solution for the particle trajectories and the fields due to their space charge density can be obtained using an iterative solver sequence. This requires much less time and memory than a fully coupled time-dependent study of the individual beam particles and their fields.

Reference

1. S. Humphries, *Charged Particle Beams*, Dover Publications, New York, 2013.

Application Library path: `Particle_Tracing_Module/Charged_Particle_Tracing/electron_beam_divergence`

From the **File** menu, choose **New**.

NEW

In the **New** window, click **Model Wizard**.

MODEL WIZARD

1. In the **Model Wizard** window, click **3D**.
2. In the **Select Physics** tree, select **AC/DC>Particle Tracing>Particle Field Interaction, Non-Relativistic**.
3. Click **Add**.
4. Click **Study**.
5. In the **Select Study** tree, select **Preset Studies for Selected Physics Interfaces> Charged Particle Tracing>Bidirectionally Coupled Particle Tracing**.
6. Click **Done**.

GLOBAL DEFINITIONS

To save time, the parameters can be loaded from a file.

Parameters 1

1. In the **Model Builder** window, under **Global Definitions** click **Parameters 1**.
2. In the **Settings** window for **Parameters**, locate the **Parameters** section.
3. Click **Load from File**.
4. Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file `electron_beam_divergence_parameters.txt`.

GEOMETRY 1

Cylinder 1 (cyl1)

1. In the **Geometry** toolbar, click **Cylinder**.
2. In the **Settings** window for **Cylinder**, locate the **Size and Shape** section.
3. In the **Radius** text field, type `r0`.
4. In the **Height** text field, type `L`.
5. Click **Build Selected**.

Work Plane 1 (wp1)

1. In the **Geometry** toolbar, click **Work Plane**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Work Plane**, locate the **Plane Definition** section.

3 From the **Plane type** list, choose **Face parallel**.

4 On the object **cyl1**, select Boundary 3 only.

It might be easier to select the correct boundary by using the **Selection List** window. To open this window, in the **Home** toolbar click **Windows** and choose **Selection List**. (If you are running the cross-platform desktop, you find **Windows** in the main menu.)

5 Click **Show Work Plane**.

Work Plane 1 (wp1)>Circle 1 (c1)

1 In the **Work Plane** toolbar, click **Circle**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Circle**, locate the **Size and Shape** section.

3 In the **Radius** text field, type `r0beam`.

4 Click **Build Selected**.

MATERIALS

Material 1 (mat1)

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)** right-click **Materials** and choose **Blank Material**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Material**, locate the **Material Contents** section.

3 In the table, enter the following settings:

Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group
Relative permittivity	epsilonr_iso ; epsilonrii = epsilonr_iso, epsilonrij = 0	1	1	Basic

DEFINITIONS

Variables 1

1 In the **Home** toolbar, click **Variables** and choose **Local Variables**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Variables**, locate the **Variables** section.

3 In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Unit	Description
qr	sqrt(qx^2+qy^2)	m	Radial distance from beam axis
qrmax	cpt.cptmaxop1(qr)	m	Beam radius
z_avg	cpt.cptaveop1(qz)	m	Average z-coordinate
chi	qrmax/at(0,qrmax)		Ratio of beam radius to waist radius

CHARGED PARTICLE TRACING (CPT)

Particle Properties 1

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)>Charged Particle Tracing (cpt)** click **Particle Properties 1**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Particle Properties**, locate the **Particle Species** section.

3 From the **Particle species** list, choose **Electron**.

Inlet 1

1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Inlet**.

2 Select Boundary 5 only.

3 In the **Settings** window for **Inlet**, locate the **Release Current Magnitude** section.

4 In the I text field, type `Ibeam`.

5 Locate the **Initial Position** section. From the **Initial position** list, choose **Density**.

6 In the N text field, type `1000`.

7 Locate the **Initial Velocity** section. Specify the $\mathbf{v}_0$ vector as

0	x
0	y
v0beam	z

Electric Force 1

1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Electric Force 1**.

2 Select Domain 1 only.

3 In the **Settings** window for **Electric Force**, locate the **Electric Force** section.

4 From the $\mathbf{E}$ list, choose **Electric field (es/ccn1)**.

5 Locate the **Advanced Settings** section. Select the **Use piecewise polynomial recovery on field** check box.

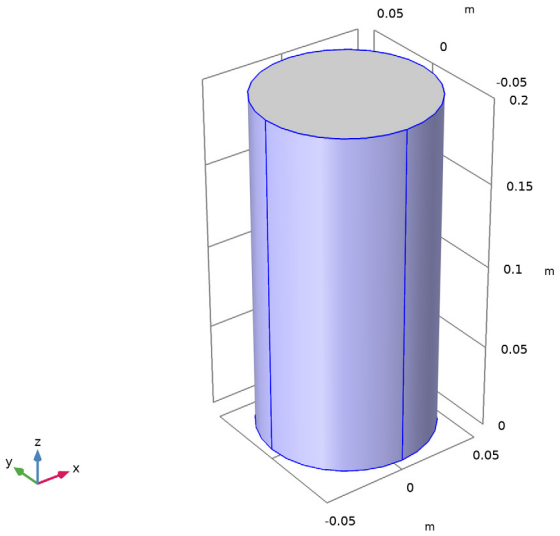
ELECTROSTATICS (ES)

In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)** click **Electrostatics (es)**.

Ground 1

1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Ground**.

2 Select Boundaries 1, 2, 6, and 7 only.



MESH 1

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)** click **Mesh 1**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Mesh**, locate the **Mesh Settings** section.

3 From the **Sequence type** list, choose **User-controlled mesh**.

Size

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)>Mesh 1** click **Size**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Size**, click to expand the **Element Size Parameters** section.

3 In the **Maximum element size** text field, type `hmax`.

4 Click **Build All**.

STUDY 1

Step 1: Bidirectionally Coupled Particle Tracing

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Study 1** click **Step 1: Bidirectionally Coupled Particle Tracing**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Bidirectionally Coupled Particle Tracing**, locate the **Study Settings** section.

3 Click **Range**.

4 In the **Range** dialog box, type `1e-8` in the **Step** text field.

5 In the **Stop** text field, type `21e-8`.

6 Click **Replace**.

7 In the **Settings** window for **Bidirectionally Coupled Particle Tracing**, locate the **Iterations** section.

8 From the **Termination method** list, choose **Convergence of global variable**.

9 In the **Global variable** text field, type `qrmax`.

10 In the **Relative tolerance** text field, type `1E-5`.

11 In the **Relative tolerance threshold** text field, type `0.015`.

12 In the **Maximum number of iterations** text field, type `8`.

13 In the **Home** toolbar, click **Compute**.

RESULTS

Plot the trajectories of the electrons, using a **Color Expression** to observe their radial displacement over time.

Particle Trajectories 1

1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Results>Particle Trajectories (cpt)** node, then click **Particle Trajectories 1**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Particle Trajectories**, locate the **Coloring and Style** section.

3 Find the **Line style** subsection. From the **Type** list, choose **Line**.

Color Expression 1

1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Particle Trajectories 1** node, then click **Color Expression 1**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Color Expression**, locate the **Expression** section.

3 In the **Expression** text field, type `qr-at(0,qr)`.

4 In the **Particle Trajectories (cpt)** toolbar, click **Plot**.

5 Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar. This plot should look like Figure 1.

Electric Potential (es)

1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Electric Potential (es)**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **3D Plot Group**, locate the **Color Legend** section.

3 From the **Position** list, choose **Bottom**.

4 Click the **Go to ZX View** button in the **Graphics** toolbar. This plot should look like Figure 2.

Global Evaluation 1

1 In the **Results** toolbar, click **Global Evaluation**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Global Evaluation**, locate the **Data** section.

3 From the **Time selection** list, choose **Last**.

4 Locate the **Expressions** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Expression	Unit	Description
`rObeam/sqrt(2*K)*integrate(1/sqrt(log(s)),s,1+eps,chi)`	`m`	`Expected z-coordinate for beam width`
`z_avg`	`m`	`Average z-coordinate`

5 Click **Evaluate**.