

# Single Mode Fiber-to-Fiber Coupling

# Introduction

Optical fibers can be used to efficiently transmit optical signals over large distances with minimal losses. Among the wide variety of fibers that exist, one important categorization criterion is if the fiber is multimode or single mode. In a single mode fiber, only one spatial mode can exist. Radiation profiles that do not match that mode's profile will not be bound to the core and, thus, have high losses. As the name already suggests, a multimode fiber, on the other hand, can support a set of spatial modes that can be transmitted almost without loss. For step index fibers, if the fiber or waveguide parameter

$$V = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} a \sqrt{n_{\rm core}^2 - n_{\rm clad}^2}$$

is below 2.405 only one spatial mode is supported. Here, n is the refractive index, a is the radius of the fiber core, and  $\lambda$  is the vacuum wavelength.

A common way to couple light into an optical fiber is to start with a free space beam and use a lens to focus the light onto the fiber end. When a light field enters a fiber, it is decomposed into the set of modes that can exist in the fiber. As the fibers are modeselective, we have to make sure that the mode impinging onto the fiber tip will be coupled in to the fiber. In the case of a single mode fiber, where only one spatial mode is guided, the input beam has to match this one specific mode of the fiber. The field emitted by the fiber is the proper input field on the fiber. Field components in other spatial modes will be lost in the cladding as they are not guided.

## Model Definition

This model uses the *Electromagnetic Waves, Beam Envelopes* interface in the unidirectional formulation to model the free space fiber-to-fiber coupling with two identical lenses. The first lens collimates the light emitted by the fiber, while the second lens focuses the collimated light onto the second fiber tip. The unidirectional formulation is a good choice, as all surfaces in this model use single layer anti-reflective coatings to suppress reflections. The geometry is surrounded by *Perfectly Matched Layers* to absorb any outgoing waves.

The anti-reflection (AR) coatings between air with n = 1 and a material with refractive index  $n_{\text{mat}}$  are defined using a *Transition Boundary Condition* that models a thin layer with refractive index  $n_{AR} = \sqrt{n_{\text{mat}}}$  and thickness  $d_{AR} = \lambda/(4n_{AR})$ .

At the fiber tips, the computed effective mode index ewbe.neff\_1 is used when calculating the refractive index of the AR coating. As both fibers are identical, ewbe.neff\_1 = ewbe.neff\_2.

To reduce the necessary number of mesh elements along the optical axis and make efficient use of the beam envelopes method, proper choice of the phase function is crucial. Here, the different domains are assigned local phase functions. In the fibers, the propagation constant ewbe.beta\_1 is solved for in a *Boundary Mode Analysis* study step. Thus, here the phase is defined as ewbe.beta\_1\*x. In the air domain and the lenses, the local freespace propagation constant ewbe.k is used. For these domains, the phase is defined as ewbe.k\*x. Normally, the phase function should be continuous everywhere. However, the *Transition Boundary Condition* allows the user-defined phase function to be discontinuous and, thus, different local phase functions can be used, as described above.

The key metric we want to analyze in this model is the fiber-to-fiber coupling efficiency. How much of the light that is guided in the first fiber will be coupled into the (identical) mode of the second fiber? To compute this value, we use two *Ports* of the *Numeric* type in the model. The *Boundary Mode Analysis* study steps, compute the eigenmodes and propagation constants of the fibers. The final Frequency Domain study step, solves for the electric field in the domains and the S-parameters. The port on the right-hand side is a *Slit Port*, which allows it to be defined on an internal boundary, backed by a *Perfectly Matched Layer (PML)*. Here, the S-parameter is calculated as the overlap of the input field and the fiber mode. The *PML-backed Slit Port* makes sure that all outgoing radiation is absorbed. If a *Slit Port* would not be used, only the fiber (*Port*) mode would be absorbed and reflections would occur for all field components that are not matching the particular fiber (*Port*) mode.

To find the proper lens position, the second lens is moved with a *Parametric Sweep* and the total transmission is analyzed.

# Results and Discussion

Figure 1 shows that the coupling loss is minimized when the lenses are moved  $4 \mu m$  closer to the fiber ends than the nominal focal length of the lens.

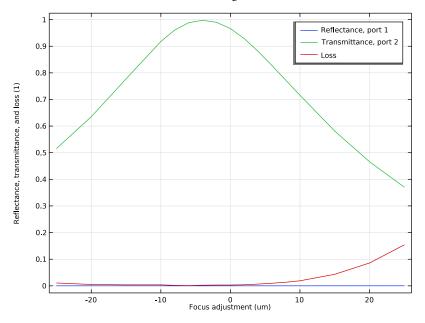


Figure 1: The plot shows the reflectance (blue), transmittance (green), and loss (red) for the fiber-to-fiber coupling system. As shown, the loss is minimized when the lenses are moved  $4 \,\mu m$  closer to the fiber end than the nominal focal length.

Figure 2 shows a field plot for the case when the lenses are located in the position for minimum coupling loss. It is clear from both Figure 1 and Figure 2 that the anti-reflection coatings, modeled using the Transition boundary condition, eliminate the reflections at

the fiber ends and at the lens surfaces. Thus, justifying the use of the unidirectional formulation.

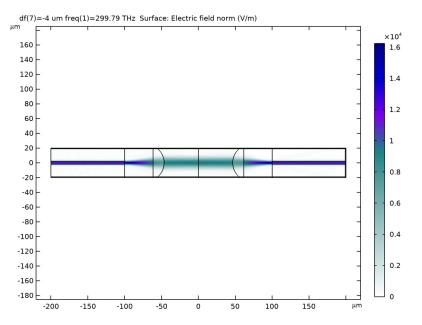


Figure 2: The norm of the electric field, when the lenses are in the position for minimum losses.

**Application Library path:** Wave\_Optics\_Module/Waveguides\_and\_Couplers/ single\_mode\_fiber\_coupling

# Modeling Instructions

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

#### NEW

In the New window, click Solution Model Wizard.

#### MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click **2D**.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Optics>Wave Optics>Electromagnetic Waves, Beam Envelopes (ewbe).

- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click 🔿 Study.
- 5 In the Select Study tree, select Preset Studies for Selected Physics Interfaces> Boundary Mode Analysis.
- 6 Click M Done.

#### **GLOBAL DEFINITIONS**

Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 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 single\_mode\_fiber\_coupling\_parameters.txt.

#### GEOMETRY I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Geometry I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Geometry, locate the Units section.
- 3 From the Length unit list, choose µm.

#### Rectangle 1 (r1)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 📃 Rectangle.
- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type 1\_fiber.
- 4 In the **Height** text field, type h\_core.
- 5 Locate the Position section. From the Base list, choose Center.
- 6 In the x text field, type -1\_fiber/2-1\_dom.

#### Rectangle 2 (r2)

- I Right-click Rectangle I (rI) and choose Duplicate.
- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the **Height** text field, type h\_clad.
- 4 Click to expand the Layers section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Layer name	Thickness (µm)
Layer 1	t_PML

**5** Select the **Layers on top** check box. The **Layers on bottom** check box is selected by default.

Rectangle 3 (r3)

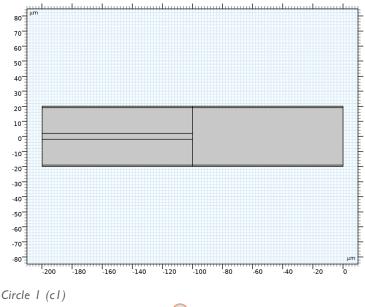
- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Rectangle.
- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type 1\_dom.
- 4 In the Height text field, type h\_clad.
- 5 Locate the Position section. In the x text field, type -1\_dom.
- 6 In the y text field, type -h\_clad/2.
- 7 Locate the Layers section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Layer name	Thickness (µm)	
Layer 1	t_PML	

8 Select the Layers on top check box.

9 Click 틤 Build Selected.

**10** Click the **I Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.



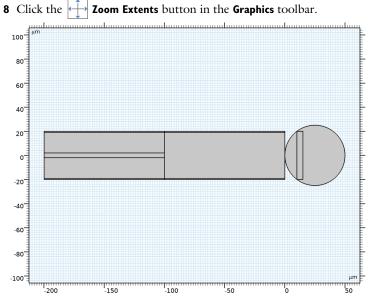
I In the **Geometry** toolbar, click (•) **Circle**.

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

- 3 In the Radius text field, type r\_lens.
- 4 Locate the **Position** section. In the **x** text field, type r\_lens.

Rectangle 4 (r4)

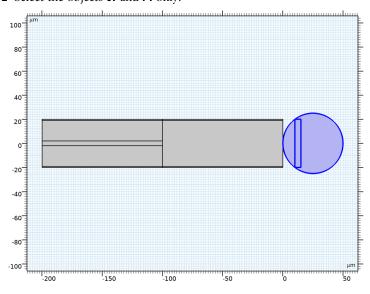
- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 📃 Rectangle.
- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type t\_lens-(r\_lens-sqrt(r\_lens^2-h\_clad^2/4)).
- 4 In the **Height** text field, type h\_clad.
- 5 Locate the Position section. In the x text field, type r\_lens-sqrt(r\_lens^2h\_clad^2/4).
- 6 In the y text field, type -h\_clad/2.
- 7 Click 틤 Build Selected.



Union I (uniI)

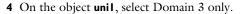
I In the Geometry toolbar, click i Booleans and Partitions and choose Union.

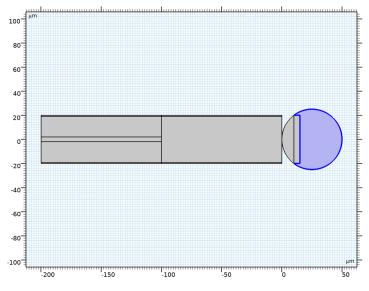
2 Select the objects **cl** and **r4** only.



Delete Entities 1 (del1)

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Geometry I and choose Delete Entities.
- 2 In the Settings window for Delete Entities, locate the Entities or Objects to Delete section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.





#### Union 2 (uni2)

I In the Geometry toolbar, click 🔲 Booleans and Partitions and choose Union.

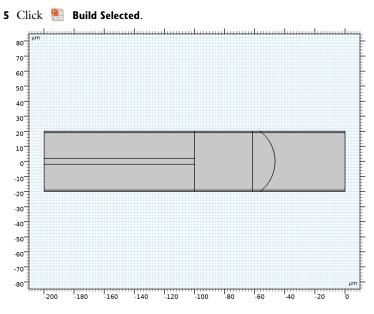
- 2 Select the object dell only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Union, locate the Union section.
- 4 Clear the Keep interior boundaries check box.

#### Rotate I (rotI)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 📿 Transforms and choose Rotate.
- 2 Select the object uni2 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Rotate, locate the Rotation section.
- 4 In the Angle text field, type 180.

#### Move I (movI)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 💭 Transforms and choose Move.
- 2 Select the object rot I only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Move, locate the Displacement section.
- 4 In the x text field, type -t\_lens/2+f\_lens+df-l\_dom+t\_lens.



# Mirror I (mirl)

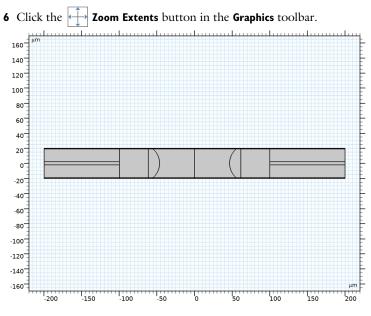
I In the Geometry toolbar, click 📿 Transforms and choose Mirror.

2 Click the **Select All** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.

3 In the Settings window for Mirror, locate the Input section.

4 Select the Keep input objects check box.

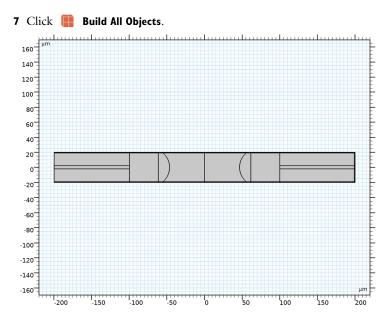
5 Click 🔚 Build Selected.



# Rectangle 5 (r5)

I In the **Geometry** toolbar, click Rectangle.

- 2 In the Settings window for Rectangle, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Width text field, type t\_PML.
- 4 In the **Height** text field, type h\_clad.
- **5** Locate the **Position** section. In the **x** text field, type 1\_dom+1\_fiber-t\_PML.
- 6 In the y text field, type -h\_clad/2.





Air

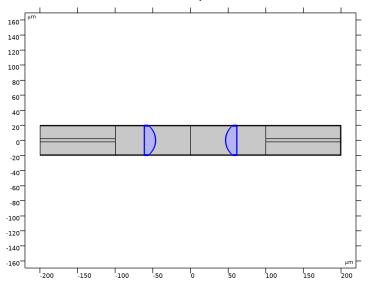
- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (comp1) right-click Materials and choose Blank Material.
- 2 In the Settings window for Material, type Air in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Material Contents section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group
Refractive index, real part	n_iso ; nii = n_iso, nij = 0	1	I	Refractive index
Refractive index, imaginary part	ki_iso ; kiii = ki_iso, kiij = 0	0	I	Refractive index

Lens

I Right-click Materials and choose Blank Material.

2 In the Settings window for Material, type Lens in the Label text field.



**3** Select Domains 9–11 and 18–20 only.

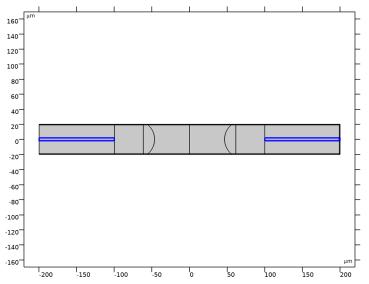
**4** Locate the **Material Contents** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group
Refractive index, real part	n_iso ; nii = n_iso, nij = 0	n_lens	I	Refractive index
Refractive index, imaginary part	ki_iso ; kiii = ki_iso, kiij = 0	0	I	Refractive index

#### Core

I Right-click Materials and choose Blank Material.

2 In the Settings window for Material, type Core in the Label text field.



**3** Select Domains 3, 26, and 31 only.

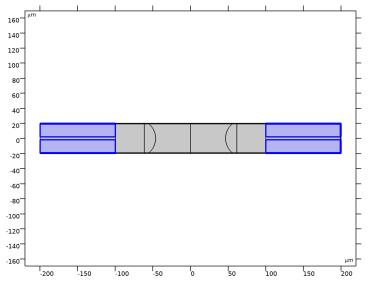
**4** Locate the **Material Contents** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group
Refractive index, real part	n_iso ; nii = n_iso, nij = 0	n_core	I	Refractive index
Refractive index, imaginary part	ki_iso ; kiii = ki_iso, kiij = 0	0	I	Refractive index

# Cladding

I Right-click Materials and choose Blank Material.

2 In the Settings window for Material, type Cladding in the Label text field.



**3** Select Domains 1, 2, 4, 5, 24, 25, 27–30, 32, and 33 only.

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

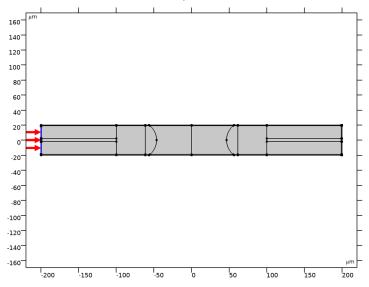
Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group
Refractive index, real part	n_iso ; nii = n_iso, nij = 0	n_clad	I	Refractive index
Refractive index, imaginary part	ki_iso ; kiii = ki_iso, kiij = 0	0	I	Refractive index

#### ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES, BEAM ENVELOPES (EWBE)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Electromagnetic Waves, Beam Envelopes (ewbe).
- **2** In the Settings window for Electromagnetic Waves, Beam Envelopes, locate the Components section.
- 3 From the Electric field components solved for list, choose Out-of-plane vector.
- 4 Locate the Wave Vectors section. From the Number of directions list, choose Unidirectional.
- 5 From the Type of phase specification list, choose User defined.
- 6 In the φ<sub>1</sub> text field, type psi. This variable will be defined after all physics features have been added.

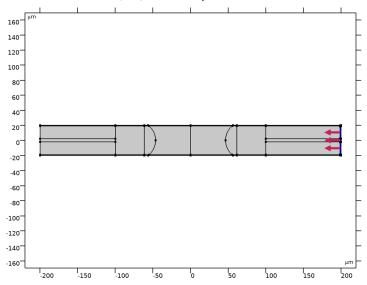
#### Port I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Port.
- **2** Select Boundaries 3, 5, and 7 only.



3 In the Settings window for Port, locate the Port Properties section.

- **4** From the **Type of port** list, choose **Numeric**.
- Port 2
- I In the Physics toolbar, click Boundaries and choose Port.



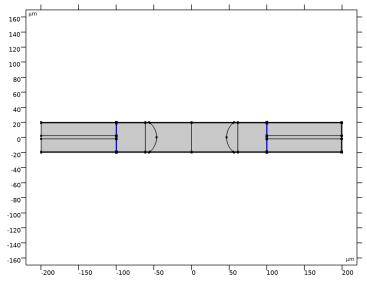
2 Select Boundaries 63, 65, and 67 only.

- 3 In the Settings window for Port, locate the Port Properties section.
- 4 From the Type of port list, choose Numeric.
- **5** Select the **Activate slit condition on interior port** check box.
- 6 From the Slit type list, choose Domain-backed.

#### Transition Boundary Condition I

Now, add a **Transition boundary condition** feature, to model anti-reflection (AR) coatings on the fiber ends.

I In the Physics toolbar, click — Boundaries and choose Transition Boundary Condition.



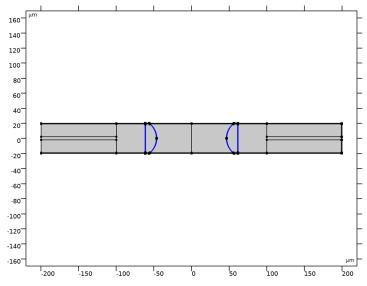
2 Select Boundaries 12, 14, 16–18, 50, 52, 54, 56, and 58 only.

- **3** In the Settings window for Transition Boundary Condition, locate the Transition Boundary Condition section.
- 4 From the n list, choose User defined. In the associated text field, type sqrt(ewbe.neff\_1), to define the refractive index for the AR coating layer.
- 5 From the k list, choose User defined. In the d text field, type lda0/4/ sqrt (ewbe.neff\_1), to define the thickness of the AR coating layer.

#### Transition Boundary Condition 2

Next, add a **Transition boundary condition** feature, to model AR coatings on the lens surfaces.

I In the Physics toolbar, click — Boundaries and choose Transition Boundary Condition.



**2** Select Boundaries 21, 23, 25, 43, 45, 47, and 77–84 only.

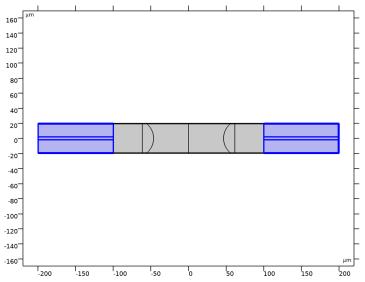
- **3** In the Settings window for Transition Boundary Condition, locate the Transition Boundary Condition section.
- **4** From the *n* list, choose **User defined**. In the associated text field, type **sqrt(n\_lens)**.
- **5** From the k list, choose **User defined**. In the d text field, type  $1da0/4/sqrt(n_lens)$ .

#### DEFINITIONS

Now, add expressions for the user-defined phase, that is used by the Electromagnetic Waves, Beam Envelopes interface.

#### Variables I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (comp1) right-click Definitions and choose Variables.
- 2 In the Settings window for Variables, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.



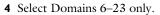
**4** Select Domains 1–5 and 24–33 only.

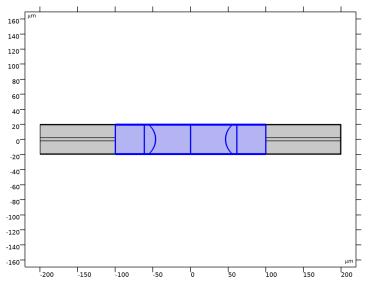
5 Locate the Variables section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Unit	Description
psi	ewbe.beta_1*x	rad	

#### Variables 2

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Definitions and choose Variables.
- 2 In the Settings window for Variables, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Domain.

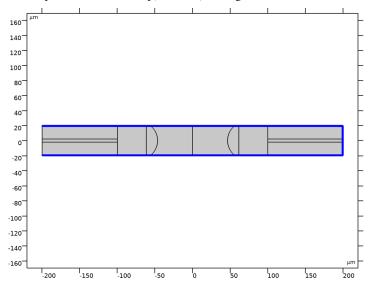




5 Locate the Variables section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Unit	Description
psi	ewbe.k*x	rad	

Perfectly Matched Layer I (pml1) I In the Definitions toolbar, click W Perfectly Matched Layer.



**2** Select Domains 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11–13, 15, 17, 19–21, 23, 24, and 28–33 only. This corresponds to the thin top, bottom, and right-most domains.

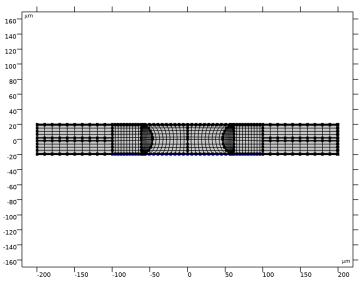
#### MESH I

Define a mesh that resolves the variations of the field envelope.

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (comp1) right-click Mesh I and choose Build All.
- 2 In the Settings window for Mesh, locate the Sequence Type section.
- 3 From the list, choose User-controlled mesh.

#### Distribution - Air Space

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Mesh I click Distribution I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Distribution, type Distribution Air Space in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Boundary Selection section. Click 🚺 Clear Selection.



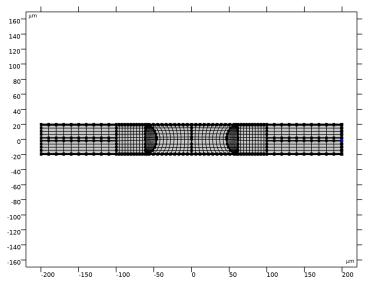
4 Select Boundaries 13, 28, 33, and 44 only.

5 Locate the Distribution section. In the Number of elements text field, type 15.

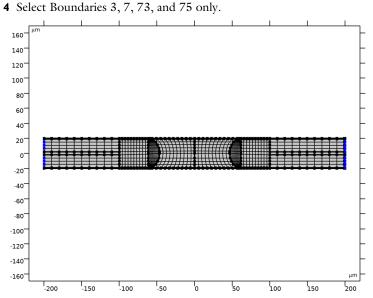
Distribution - Core

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Mesh I click Distribution 2.
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Distribution**, type **Distribution Core** in the **Label** text field.
- 3 Locate the Boundary Selection section. Click 🚺 Clear Selection.

4 Select Boundaries 5 and 74 only.



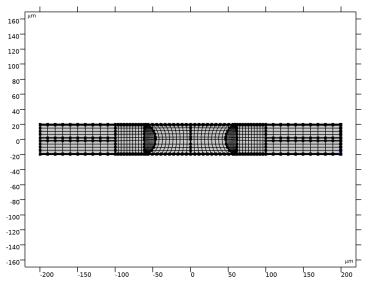
- 5 Locate the Distribution section. In the Number of elements text field, type 22.
- Distribution Cladding
- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Mesh I click Distribution 3.
- 2 In the Settings window for Distribution, type Distribution Cladding in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Boundary Selection section. Click 🚺 Clear Selection.



5 Locate the Distribution section. In the Number of elements text field, type 80.

Distribution - PML

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Mesh I and choose Distribution.
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Distribution**, type **Distribution PML** in the **Label** text field.
- 3 Locate the Boundary Selection section. Click [ Clear Selection.



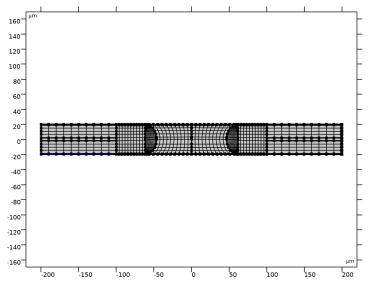
4 Select Boundaries 1, 9, 61, 64, 69, and 70 only.

- **5** Locate the **Distribution** section. In the **Number of elements** text field, type **10**.
- 6 Right-click Distribution PML and choose Move Up.

Distribution - Input Fiber

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Mesh I and choose Distribution.
- 2 In the Settings window for Distribution, type Distribution Input Fiber in the Label text field.

**3** Select Boundary 2 only.

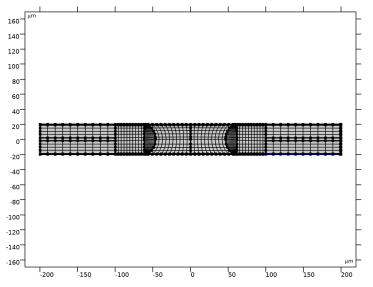


4 Locate the Distribution section. In the Number of elements text field, type 10.

Distribution - Output Fiber

- I Right-click Mesh I and choose Distribution.
- 2 In the Settings window for Distribution, type Distribution Output Fiber in the Label text field.

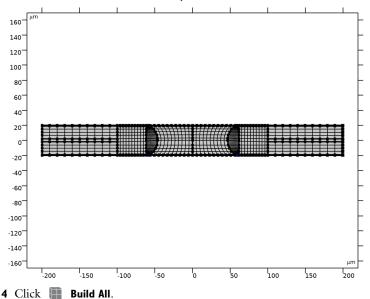
**3** Select Boundary 51 only.



4 Locate the Distribution section. In the Number of elements text field, type 20.

Distribution - Lens

- I Right-click Mesh I and choose Distribution.
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Distribution**, type **Distribution** Lens in the **Label** text field.



**3** Select Boundaries 22 and 41 only.

#### STUDY I

Step 1: Boundary Mode Analysis

- I In the Model Builder window, under Study I click Step I: Boundary Mode Analysis.
- 2 In the Settings window for Boundary Mode Analysis, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 In the Mode analysis frequency text field, type f0.
- 4 Select the Search for modes around check box. In the associated text field, type n\_core.

Step 3: Boundary Mode Analysis 1

- I Right-click Study I>Step I: Boundary Mode Analysis and choose Duplicate.
- 2 In the Settings window for Boundary Mode Analysis, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 In the Port name text field, type 2.
- 4 Right-click Step 3: Boundary Mode Analysis I and choose Move Up.

Step 3: Frequency Domain

- I In the Model Builder window, click Step 3: Frequency Domain.
- 2 In the Settings window for Frequency Domain, locate the Study Settings section.
- **3** In the **Frequencies** text field, type **f0**.

Parametric Sweep

- I In the Study toolbar, click **Parametric Sweep**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parametric Sweep, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 Click + Add.
- **4** In the table, click to select the cell at row number 1 and column number 1.
- **5** In the table, enter the following settings:

Parameter name	Parameter value list	Parameter unit
df (Focus adjustment)	-25 -20 -15 range(-10,2, 10) 15 20 25	um

6 In the Study toolbar, click **=** Compute.

#### RESULTS

In the default reflectance and transmittance plot, replace the term absorptance everywhere with loss, as reflectance and transmittance here refer to what is reflected back into the guided mode of the input fiber and what is coupled into the guided mode of the output fiber, respectively. The light that is not transmitted to the guided mode of the output fiber is not absorbed by any material, but lost to radiation modes other than the guided mode of the output fiber.

#### Reflectance, Transmittance, and Loss(ewbe)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Reflectance, Transmittance, and Absorptance (ewbe).
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, type Reflectance, Transmittance, and Loss(ewbe) in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the **Plot Settings** section. In the **y-axis label** text field, type Reflectance, transmittance, and loss (1).

#### Global I

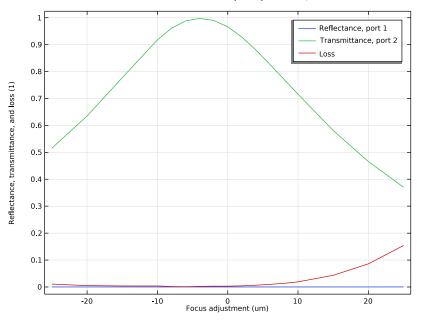
- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Reflectance, Transmittance, and Loss(ewbe) node, then click Global I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Global, locate the y-Axis Data section.
- **3** In the table, click to select the cell at row number 3 and column number 1.
- 4 Click **Delete**, to delete the less interesting variable representing the total transmittance and reflectance.

Replace also the description for the Absorptance variable with Loss.

**5** In the table, enter the following settings:

Expression	Unit	Description
ewbe.Atotal	1	Loss

6 In the Reflectance, Transmittance, and Loss(ewbe) toolbar, click 🗿 Plot.



The coupling loss can be obtained from the plot above. The minimum value is found when the lenses are  $4 \,\mu m$  closer to the fiber ends than the nominal focal length.

### Electric Field (ewbe)

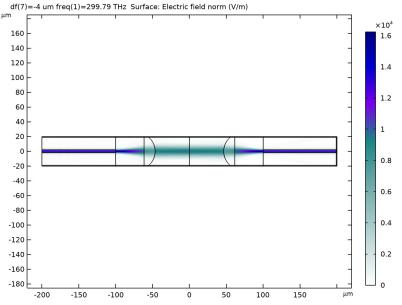
Now, plot the field under conditions of maximum fiber-to-fiber coupling.

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Electric Field (ewbe).
- 2 In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Parameter value (df (um)) list, choose -4.

#### Electric Field

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Electric Field (ewbe) node, then click Electric Field.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Coloring and Style section.
- **3** Click **Change Color Table**.

- 4 In the Color Table dialog box, select Aurora>AuroraAustralis in the tree.
- 5 Click OK.

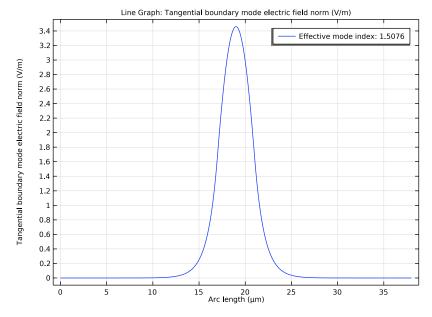


6 In the Electric Field (ewbe) toolbar, click 💿 Plot.

Now inspect the mode field plot and the effective mode index resulting from the boundary mode analysis performed for each port.

Electric Mode Field, Port I (ewbe)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Electric Mode Field, Port I (ewbe).
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- **3** From the **Parameter selection (df)** list, choose **First**, as the model fields are the same for all values of df.



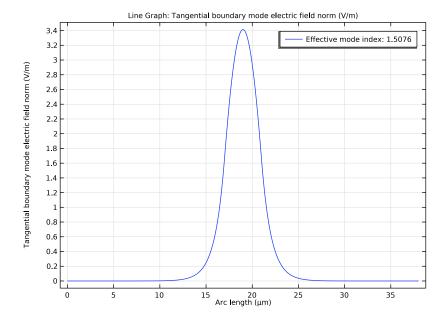
#### 4 In the Electric Mode Field, Port I (ewbe) toolbar, click 💿 Plot.

Electric Mode Field, Port 2 (ewbe)

I In the Model Builder window, click Electric Mode Field, Port 2 (ewbe).

2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, locate the Data section.

3 From the Parameter selection (df) list, choose First.



# 4 In the Electric Mode Field, Port 2 (ewbe) toolbar, click 💿 Plot.