

A COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR THE CALCULATION OF TANDEM ACCELERATOR BEAM TUBE OPTICS*

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A FORTAN II computer program for the calculation of particle trajectories through inclined-field or straight accelerating tubes of the type commonly used in Tandem Van de Graaff accelerators

is described. Details of the program and results of tube optics calculations are discussed.

Accelerator tubes are one of the most expensive and vulnerable parts of a tandem accelerator. In an accelerator using "straight" tubes, i.e., tubes with electrode surface perpendicular to the direction of acceleration, a faulty acceleration gap can be shorted out without greatly impairing the operation of the accelerator. However, with the introduction of inclined-field tubes¹⁾ by High Voltage Engineering Corporation, the shorting of a single accelerator gap can radically alter the trajectory of particles through the accelerator and seriously damage the performance of the machine. Moreover, many considerations of accelerator development and improvement require some detailed information on the optics of the accelerator. Such information is not, unfortunately, provided by the manufacturer. For these reasons, an elementary computer program has been written in FORTRAN II for the computation of particle trajectories through inclined (or straight) acceleration tubes, as well as other optical elements in an accelerator system.

In the writing of this program, it was first necessary to derive the transfer equations which apply to electrostatic inclined-field accelerating tubes. This was accomplished by considering the non-relativistic equations for a non-inclined acceleration gap, and then performing a rotation of the coordinate system from the field axis to the tube axis. The transfer equations given below are the result of this derivation.

The equations for the position and inclination (x_1, \dot{x}_1) of a single charged particle emerging from an accelerating gap, in terms of the entrance position and inclination (x_0, \dot{x}_0), the potentials V_0 and V_1 of the entrance and exit acceleration electrodes, the length L of the gap, and the inclination angle θ of the electric field in the accelerating gap, are:

$$x_1 = x_0 + L[\{2\dot{x}_0/(1+R)\} + \text{tang}\theta],$$

$$\dot{x}_1 = (\dot{x}_0 \cos\theta + R \sin\theta)/(R \cos\theta - \dot{x}_0 \sin\theta),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{x}'_0 &= (\dot{x}_0 \cos\theta - \sin\theta)/(\dot{x}_0 \sin\theta + \cos\theta) = \\ &= \text{particle inclination with respect to field,} \\ R &= (V_1/V_0)^{\frac{1}{2}}. \end{aligned}$$

Here we have used the convention that all potentials are referred to a zero potential at which the charged particle has zero velocity. Thus R above represents the ratio of exit to entrance velocity. Unfortunately, these equations are non-linear, so that the usual matrix methods²⁾ can not be used. This non-linearity does not present any serious problems in the calculation, as examination of the program will show.

Several approximations were used in preparing the computer program, and they are enumerated here. The first was the assumption of non-relativistic kinematics. The principal justification for this assumption is that the uncertainties in tube and resistor construction introduce errors of such a magnitude that the refinement of relativistic mechanics is not warranted. A second assumption was that all magnetic fields due to electron-suppression magnets, etc., could be neglected. A third assumption was that the particle in passing through each acceleration gap covers a distance along the tube axis equal to the axial gap width. This is not quite true because inclined field gaps have slanting boundaries, so that if a particle enters low and exits high it may traverse more (or less) than one gap width between boundaries. However, errors due to this assumption will tend to average out. A fourth assumption is that of the aperture lens formula given by eq. (5-20) of Livingston and Blewett³⁾. This formula is applied to describe the lens action which occurs when a particle passes from one gap to another and the two gaps have different electric fields. Finally, a gap which is a transition element between a straight section and an inclined field section is treated as having half the inclination of the inclined field section.

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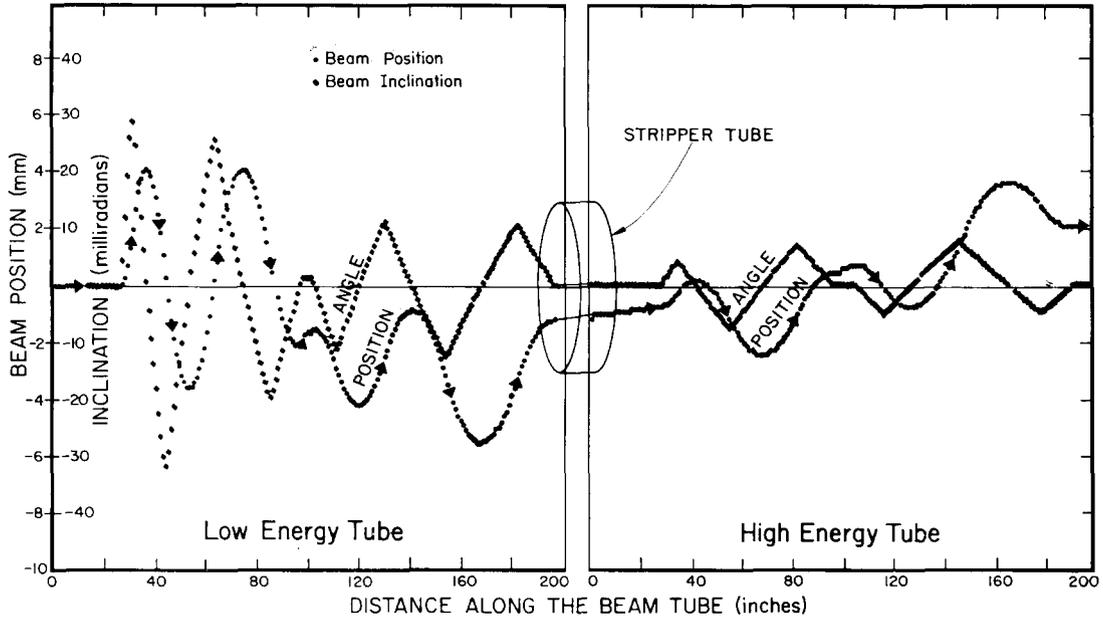


Fig. 2. Typical particle trajectory through the University of Washington FN tandem accelerator, as calculated by the program described here. Beam is injected on-axis at 60 keV. The terminal potential is 5.46 MV.

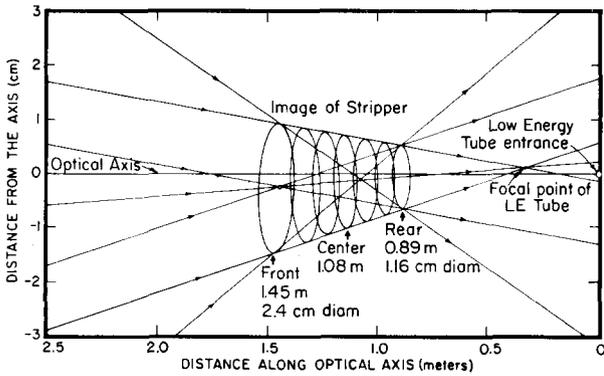


Fig. 3. Image of stripper formed just in front of entrance to low energy tube, assuming 60 keV protons injected, and a 5.46 MV terminal potential.

calculations and was kind enough to send some of his results for comparison.

References

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