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A compact water window X-ray source based on inverse Compton scattering

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X-rays in the water window (2.33 nm to 4.40 nm wavelength) can be used to provide high quality images of wet biological samples. Given the limited availability of current generation light sources in this energy range, table-top water window X-ray sources have been proposed as alternatives. We present start-to-end simulations in RF-Track of a water window X-ray source based on inverse Compton scattering. A brazing-free electron gun with a maximum beam energy of 7 MeV is considered, providing photon energies covering the full water window range. Performance estimates for the gun operating with copper and cesium telluride cathodes are presented. The cesium telluride cathode, combined with a burst mode Fabry-Perot cavity, allows for an increase in flux by orders of magnitude compared to single bunch copper cathode operation. A beamline of 1 m was determined to be sufficient to produce a high photon flux.

Footnotes

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